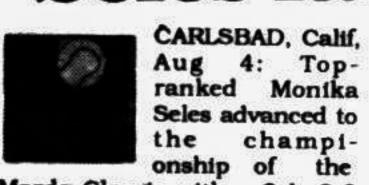


Indian skipper Pargat Singh is surrounded by his teammates as he holds aloft the Sultan Azlan Shah hockey trophy in Ipoh, Malaysia Aug 3.

Seles faces Capriati in Mazda final



Mazda Classic with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over sixth-seeded Nathalie Tauziat on Saturday night, reports AP. The final Sunday will match

Seles against Jennifer Capriati, who earlier surged past second-seeded Conchita Martinez 6-4, 6-0 by winning the last nine games.

Seles, playing her first tour event since bypassing Wimbledon because of a sore leg, needs to win this tournament to keep the No.1 ranking that she has held since March 11. The 17-year-old Yugoslav relied on a steady ground strokes against Tauziat, ranked 14th, of France, in reaching a tournament final for the 13th

consecutive time since October, 1990.

Seles has won four titles in eight tries this year, including her last one June 8 at the champi-French Open.

The final will be a re-match between players who last met two weeks ago at an exhibition in Mahwah, N. J. where Capriati won 6-3, 7-5.

"I learned from that match, no question," Seles said.

"Jennifer has been playing great. I just have to play more of my game, to go for my shots. That's the key." Capriati, ranked 10th in the

world, said she hopes to build on what she did in their previous meeting. "It gave me more confi-

dence," she said. "If I did it there, why not again?"

In the first set of her semifinal, Seles made only three players stayed mostly to the baseline.

Tauziat broke service for the only time to open the second set and jumped to a 40-0 lead in the next game, but Seles rebounded for the victory to start a streak of four straight winning games.

"She can hit great shots but also miss other ones," Seles said. "I think I played well. I didn't want to let her get back in the match. I wanted to finish her off."

Capriati lost only seven points after evening the score 4 - all in the first set on her first service break against Martinez, who later said she entered the match with a leg muscle strain that intensified as play progressed.

"If she was injured, she should've stopped," Capriati said. "People start making exunforced errors while the cuses. She wasn't moving in

the second set, but she wasn't even trying."

Martinez, who said she had her left leg examined Friday, indicated that the ailment has persisted for some degree for almost a month.

In the second set, with her unforced errors mounting, Martinez won just five points. She hardly moved in the closing game when Capriati finished with three strong winning shots. Capriati won her first ser-

vice break in the match's longest game, lasting 13 points. She prevailed on her second break point when Martinez committed her third straight error.

"I'm very happy with the way that I'm playing," Capriati said. "My ground strokes have been the best part, I've improved a lot coming to the net, and also, I'm serving well."

SA still divided on Tokyo participation



South African officials failed on resolve diff-

an invitation to this month's World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, reports

Reuter. Jannie Momberg, a former athletics official trying to mediate between groups at loggerheads over the invitation, said no decisions had been

made at an informal meeting at his home in Cape Town. In Port Elizabeth, Fante Van Zvl. President of the South African Milers' club, told state-

run television that delegates to another meeting remained divided on Saturday. The newly-formed non-racial South African Amateur

Athletics Association (SAAAA) angered athletes last weekend

by declining, on a majority vote, the invitation to Tokyo from the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

political reforms justified the turn to international arenas.

In Port Elizabeth, the SAAAA met members of the radical South African Congress of Sport (SACOS) which wants the anti-apartheid sports boycott maintained until white rule is replaced by non-racial democracy.

Van Zyl said he had insisted that South Africa should end its decades of isolation and might go to court over the is-

"We are going to Tokyo," he said in apparent defiance of the SAAAA.

Momberg said he believed South Africa should wait until next year's Olympics in Barcelona.

"I'm not interested in

short-term solutions. If any team competes outside South The IAAF felt South African Africa it must be seen by all South Africans as their team country's recognition and re- and not just another white decide," he said. project," he said. Momberg, a liberal member

of the white parliament who launched the career of middledistance star Zola Budd, gathered athletics officials at his home for an informal meeting with African National Congress(ANC) mediator Steve Tshwete, who helped South African cricket achieve unity earlier this year.

"I think Steve's message was that unity should take precedence over competition in Tokyo and that we should wait for next year," Momberg

'It was an informal gather-

ment on the meeting.

ing. I don't want to pre-empt anything that others might yet

Tshwete confirmed he had

seen athletics officials on

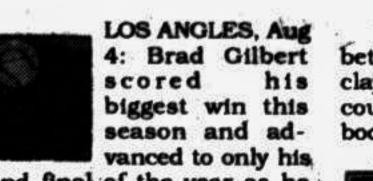
Friday but declined to com-

Bridge results

The following are the results of Post Eid special bridge contests, organised by Dhaka Metropolis Bridge Association last Friday at the Bangladesh Bank Club premises, states a press release :

MORNING SESSION (Mini bridge league for teams) : First Azimpur Community Centre (Blue); second — Bangladesh Bank Club (Blue) and third -Azimpur Community Centre

Gilbert edges Edberg to reach final



second final of the year as he upset top-seeded Stefan Edberg at the Volvo Tennis tournament on Saturday, reports AP. Gilbert, the fourth seed.

beat an injured Edberg 7-6 (7-2), 6-7 (1-7), 6-4 and will face second seed Pete Sampras, a 6-3, 6-1 winner over Italy's Stefano Pescosolido. "It was good to win after

eight months," Gilbert said. "It helps me a lot to play well. I wish I had put it away at 5-4. He played some great

After breaking Edberg in the second set to go up 5-4, Gilbert was serving for the match when the Swede came back to force a tiebreaker. Gilbert hit the final two volleys into the net, giving the set to Edberg.

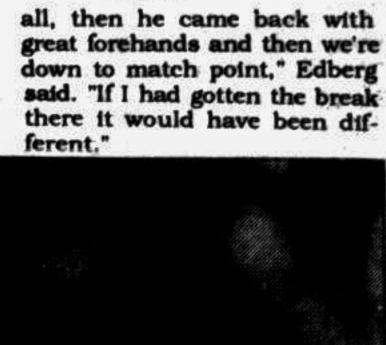
Earlier, play was stopped while Association of Tennis Professionals trainer Bob Norris treated Edberg's sore left knee.

Edberg said the recurring injury kept from playing his

"I had problems pushing off, which made me a little bit sour today," said Edberg, playing in his first tournament since Wimbledon. "I had problems pushing off with my forehand,"

"After it was treated it was better, but I've been playing on clay, then grass and now hard court. It's very tough on your

After winning the second



BRAD GILBERT

set, Edberg lost only two points and the score went to 4-4. But Gilbert got up a break and went on to the victory. "I had a few chances at four-

In the first set of the nearly three-hour match, Gilbert held on to his serve in the 11th game despite trailing 0-40. He fought back three triple-break

points and won the game on a service ace clocked at 100 mph (160kph) to advance to

In the first tiebreaker, Gilbert went ahead 5-0 and Edberg could not regain momentum. Edberg only got 43

per cent of his first serves in during the first set, while Gilbert had two aces. For the match, Edberg

managed to get in only 46 per cent of his first serves. Sampras, the US Open

champion, needed only 71 minutes to defeat Pescosolido, who upset third-seeded Michael Chang in the second round.

Sampras registered 10 aces, and Pescosolido was hurt by six double faults. "I've never seen anyone

serve harder or faster," Pescosolido said through an interpreter.

Sampras has had an up and down year and said he would like to head into the US Open on the upswing.

"Gilbert is playing good tennis," he said. "It would be nice to leave LA on top. I'm close to my goal but I won't celebrate or get down on myself if I lose."

Singles semifinal results on Saturday:

Brad Gilbert, United States, (4) beat Stefan Edberg. Sweden, (1) 7-6 (7-2), 6-7(1-7), 6-4.

Pete Sampras (2), United States, beat Stefano Pescosolido, Italy, 6-3, 6-1.

Cubans canoe to 5 golds

HAVANA, Aug 4: Cuba is set to become a world canoeing power after surprising Canada and the United States by sweeping up five gold medals on Saturday's first day of the Pan American Games, reports Reuter.

The Caribbean island's strong showing was led by Angel Perez who upset the world's second best paddler Mike Herbert of the United States to become the tournament's first triple gold medal-"He surprised me with a

world class race," said Herbert individual and doubles Kayak silver-medalist in last year's World Championships in Poznan, Poland.

"Mike was number two in the world, now he's number two in the hemisphere", said US coach Charles Dambach.

Perez, a 20-year-old student with just six years experience in the sport, edged out Herbert by 0.62 seconds in the individual 500 metres kayak. With Cuban crowds cheer-

ing from the banks of the irrigation reservoir where the races are held 20 miles southwest of Havana, Perez also led Cuba to victory in the doubles and team events.

In an indication of how the Cubans have improved, they managed only one medal at the last Pan-American Games in Indianapolis in 1987.

The only sour note in a triumphant day for Cuba was a complaint by the Canadian team that Cuban boats were assisting their paddlers by pacing one race. But they did not

lodge an official protest after officials assured them the Czechoslovak-built course would be cleared. Canada brought their B-

team, with top canoers tied up in training in Europe for the World Championships in Paris at the end of the month. Cuba won the individual and

doubles men's canoe races with Canada and Mexico sharing silver and bronze medals. Canada's Corrina Kennedy squeezed out Cuba's Tatiana

Valdes in the women's individual and doubles kayak events. Cuba began specialising in canoeing a decade ago and is now poisd to win the World Championships team race in

Paris. "They have an excellent programme, with 20 coaches on the national team, "US trainers Dambach said. "We have only four".

They follow the east Ger man sports philosophy and only enter people that are really competitive", Dambach

The small Caribbean island has begun exporting its talent with Cubans coaching the Mexican and Venezuelan

Sports protocol

SEOUL, Aug 4 : China has agreed to sign a protocol with South Korea on sports exchanges between the two countries, South Korean Minister of Sports and Youth Park Chul-Un said

Working level officials are to draft the protocol, to be signed probably when Mr Wu visits Seoul this autumn.

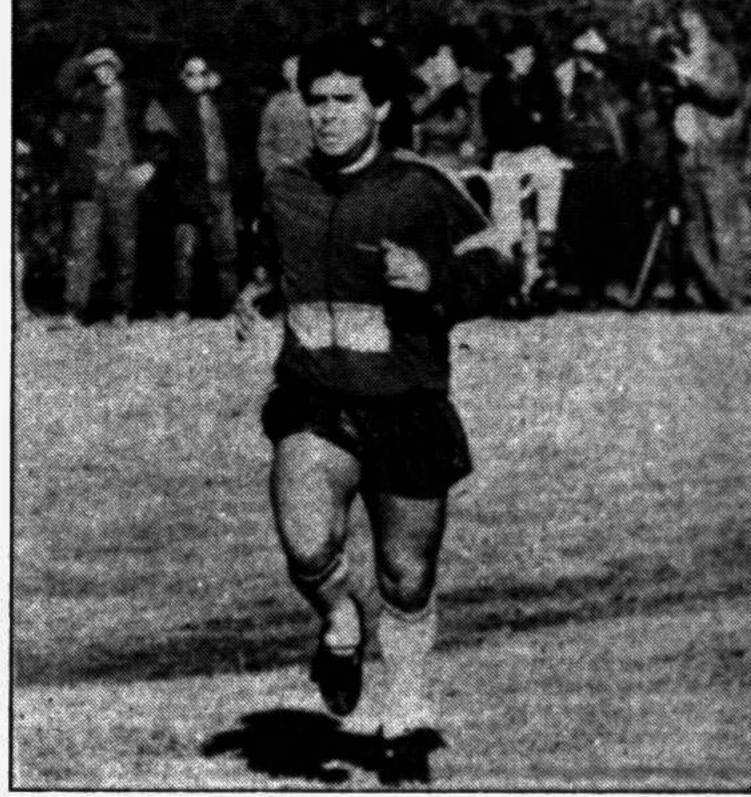
Maradona's hattrick BUENOS AIRES, Aug 4: Diego Maradona scored



a hat-trick but still ended up a loser on Saturday when he played his first full match since he was banned from the professional game for failing a dope test, reports Reuter. Maradona, whose presence attracted a 20,000

capacity crowed, shone in a team made up largely of actors. But they lost the charity game 5-4 to a side of former footballers. The ex-Napoli captain said: " I'm going to dedicate myself

completely to five-man indoor soccer. I'm going to play some matches here in Buenos Aires and then I plan to go on a tour in the provinces."



For his first goal, he chested the ball down before shooting home. The second was a header and the third a curling free-

A television poll on Friday suggested 75 per cent wanted him to return to professional soccer.

Actor Ricardo Bauleo said: "Before Diego announced on Monday that he was playing we had sold less than 1,000 tick-"By Friday we were sold out and the city's government

promised to match every dollar we raised." Ticket sales raised 64,000 US dollars for a local hospital.

Monaco menace Marseille



Champions Marseille, fired by marksmen Abedi Pele and Jean-Pierre Papin, went top of the

French soccer league with a 2l victory at Rennes on Saturday, reports Reuter. But Marseille may lead for only 24 hours because

Monaco, runners-up last season, are just one point behind and play at Cannes today. Ghananian Pele thrust Marseille ahead after 34 min-

utes before Papin made it 2-0 with 15 minutes to Brazilian Baltazar scored for Rennes six minutes later. England international Chris Waddle, who had been given a defensive role in the French champions' last two matches

by new trainer Tomislav Ivic, was restored to the attack along side Pele and Papin. Auxerre lost 1-0 at Caen to drop from second to sixth place. France's Stephane Paille, who joined Caen after disappointing season with

Portuguese side Porto, headed the winner in the 37th minute. Metz impressed by crushing Toulouse 4-0 to jump to third place, one point behind Marsetlle.

Le Havre, who managed a 1-1 draw at Parts St German, and Caen also have six points after four matches. This is our best match so

far", said a delighted lvic. "All the players gave all they had." Waddle, who showed glimpses of his old form, also had a huge smile on his face after the match. "We played like last year and that's exactly

what we've got to do," he said. It was the fourth consecutive draw for Paris St German, who have a solid defense after signing Brazilians Ricardo and Geraldo.

Paris St German chairman Bernard Brochand, who bought eight new players to contest Marseille's supremacy, said he was unhappy with his team's sequence of draws.

There obviously is a physical problem because the players get tired after one hour. It could be due to training," he added,

SOCCER SCENARIO

Parker prepared to quit QPR



LONDON, Aug 4: England defender Paul Parker and international Keith Curle agreed to quit London and move north to Manchester on Saturday in transfers totalling 3.7 million pounds, reports AFP. Parker decided to leave Queen's Park Rangers for Manchester United in a 1.7 million-pound deal. Curle waved goodbye to Wimbledon in favour of a two million-pound switch to Manchester City.

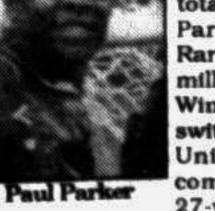
competition from Tottenham to sign the 27-year-old Parker, whose transfer will be

to us with his versatility," said Ferguson.

City will also complete the Curle transfer on Monday, They are then likely to enter the market as sellers by offloading winger Mark Ward to Everton for 900,000 pounds and ex-

US booters beat Wednesday

World Cup booters beat English first division side Sheffield Wednesday in a friendly here, reports AFP. After a goalless first half, goals from Murray in the 52nd minute and a long shot from Quinn on the hour brought the 44,000 crowd to life.



United manager Alex Ferguson beat off

finalised on Monday after a medical. "I'm delighted to have got Paul, who will be a great asset

Parker's arrival will also ease Ferguson's selection problems as United defend the European Cup Winners' Cup. New UEFA regulation mean only four foreign players can be included in 16-man squads for each tie and United already

have seven on their staff. England striker Clive Allen to Luton for 300,000 pounds.

D HILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania, Aug 4: The United States'

Backboard-busting US cagers crush Cubans

HAVANA, Aug 4 : Under the glowering gaze of revolutionary hero Che Guevara, America's back-boardbusting basketball team got off to a smashing start against Cuba in the Pan American Games, reports

Thomas Hill, the smallest of three players from NCAA champion Duke, sent glass flying Saturday with his doublepump reverse dunk in warmups, a demolition job that brought roars of delight from the 15,000 fans packing the Sports City Coliseum. But it was easier to dispose

quick Cuban team, which led most of the first half and cut a 14-point second-half deficit to two with 10 seconds left before falling 92-88. The US women's team didn't break anything more than the spirits of the Canadian team in posting an 87-70 victory to begin a quest

of the backboard than the

straight international victory for the women's team. Cuba, the man and the country, captured the first

for a third straight Pan-Am

gold medal. It was the 42nd

gold medal of the games. Alberto Cuba, at home on hilly terrain made more grueling by the intense heat and humidity, gave his countrymen an unexpected thrill by winning the closest marathon in Pan Am history.

Cuba, competing in only his third marathon, finished in 2 hours, 19 minutes, 27 seconds - just two seconds ahead of Brazil's Jose Santana. "I thought the Mexicans

were the favorities, I never

thought I would win the race,"

Cuba said after being lofted

into the air by excited fans. "I dedicate this victory to the people of Cuba and Fidel

His father, Alfredo, said his

technician and reservist in the Cuban armed forces, would give the gold medal to

President Fidel Castro. As Cuba, a former 10,000-



Cuban athletes run with the Pan American Games torch up 70th street in the Havana suburbs on July 30.

track stadium for the final 400 meters, fans chanted "Cuba, Cuba, Cuba," - a joint exhortation for the runner and the country that helped the weary

Cuba hold off Santana. meter runner, entered the In the women's marathon, Olga Avalos of Mexico set a games record of 2:43:36, followed by Cubans Martbel Durruty (2:46:04) and

> gold in the men's 500-meter kayak race, with Mike Herbert of the United States second. Diver Kent Ferguson grabbed the first gold for the United States and teammate Mark Bradshaw added a silver

Emperatriz Wilson (2:48:48).

Cuba's Angel Perez won the

in the men's 3-meter spring-Debbte Doom of the United States threw a perfect game as the US women beat Netherlands Antilles 4-0 in women's softball. Doom, whose pitches have been clocked at 65 mph (100 kph), struck out

16 of 21 batters. American Bob Ginger nearly matched that as he threw a nohitter in a 3-0 victory over Netherlands Antilles.

The US basketball coach

was relieved at the victory. "We had scouted Cuba enough to know they were very good", US coach Gene Keady of Purdue said. "They just killed us on the boards in the first half. The main thing was our kids were a little uptight, a little tentative, a little too

United States has not won a

major international men's title

since 1986.

The following is the medals table at the end of the first day of Games on Saturday : ready as far as wanting to win." Jimmy Jackson of Ohio State led the Americans with 2 Cuba points, and Duke's Christian Canada Laettner scored 19. The

Keady chewed out Hill for his power dunk, which delayed the game about a half-hour. Keady said he had just told the team to take it easy dunking in warmups because the rims weren't breakaways, as they are in most US arenas.

"I was shocked," Hill said of his feat. "That was the first time, I'm not that strong, but everybody thinks about doing it like Darryl Dawkins did. "I just stood there because I couldn't believe I had done it."

In fact, it may not have been Hill's fault at all. The players noticed a slight crack in the backboard before warmups. When Hill hung from the rim after his dunk it may have put too much stress on the glass, causing it to shatter and send bits of glass raining down on

Cuba led 50-47 at halftime, but the United States took the lead for good at 55-54 on a low move by Laettner and never trailed. After Cuba scrambled back, Terry Dehere made two free throws with 2 seconds left for the final margin.

the players.

enthusiasm here from the fans, with the wave and everything," said Jackson. "They showed us a warm welcome and it really was a great thrill to play here."

MEDALS TABLE

"I was surprised by all the

Mexico Argentina