from grunting

grunting Monica Seles does

during her matches, con-

sider this ultimate o

The No 1 seed and de-

fending champion goes into

the semifinals of the US

Open with - hang on, now

my voice," Seles whispered

after eliminating Patricia Hy

silent Seles going to be

jokes tomorrow in the

papers," she said softly. "But

I just got a cold. I think

there is a virus going

around the locker room. A

lot of players have it. The

thing is, you come off from

practice and you sit in the

locker room and you freeze.

The locker room is about

60 degrees (15 C). It is

freezing in there. Sitting in

there for 2-1-2 hours before

your match, you are bound

days and her temperature

was just over 100 degrees

(38 C) when she turned the

ting five of six break point

opportunities, Seles dispa-

tched her in 55 minutes.

Capitalising on 36 un-

"It was easier than I ex-

pected, but ... it could have

gone either way," Seles

rasped. "I wasn't feeling

Hy posed, coming off upsets

of two seeded players, Je-

nnifer Capriati and Helena

Sukova. "I wanted to keep

could not let her get into

"I think in the beginning

she was probably a little

nervous. She was trying

some different tactics

against me and I was just

responding to them pretty

well. I was playing pretty

Seles said the virus

made her a little dizzy on

the court. Doctors have

prescribed antibioties and

she has two days off before

she must face Mary Joe

Fernandez in the semifinals.

"Hopefully, that is going to

Sidek leads in

Quietly, too.

help me," she said.

her as far from me as

the match," Seles said.

Seles knew the danger

Seles has had it for three

to catch something."

heat on Hy.

very well."

"I have a problem with

"Are you kidding? A

ironies, reports AP.

— laryngitis.

6-1, 6-2 Tuesday.

Lendl beats Becker in marathon match



9: Ivan Lendl advanced to the quarter-finals of he US Open night Tuesday

6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-4 victory over Boris Becker that took a record five hours, report agen-

In fact, Wednesday morning had rolled around when Lendl sealed the see-saw battle with a backhand passing shot with 5:01 showing on the court clock.

The ninth day of the tournament was packed with marathon matches.

Defending champion Stefan Edberg took four hours and 18 minutes to beat Richard Krajicek 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Fourth-seeded Michael Chang beat number 14 MaliVai Washington 6-2, 2-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 in a match that lasted three and a half hours.

In another fourth-round match, Wayne Ferreira beat Emilio Sanchez 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, The Lendl-Backer match

was the longest at the US Open since the introduction of tie-breakers in 1970. The previous record was Mats Wilander's four hour, 55

minute victory over Lendl in the 1988 final. "You have to keep trying, that's the only way," said Lendl. "I finally made some break

points and that turned it around." Becker, who had a 24-9 record in five-setters going into the match, fended off two break points in the seventh game of the decider, before

hand passing shot. "That was the turning point for him," Becker said. "After that he had some air."

Lendl broke him with a fore-

In the final game, every point was greeted by eheers from the keyed up crowd.

Lendl set up double match point with a service winner, then blasted the backhand past the German on the next point. "It was a hard struggle for both players," Becker said.

"I had chances to do something, and I didn't".

Edberg, the second seed, had lost to the 15th-seeded Krajicck in two previous meet-

He said the experience gained in winning five Grand Slam titles stood him in good

"I had an advantage over him, because I have played enough Slams to know that what it takes to come through

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

odd goal in the three won in

the Sonali Second Division

football league yesterday at the

a penalty and Palash doubled

Club pulled back one from a

the day, at the same venue,

Prantik Krira Chakra shared

in the dull encounter under

the blazing sun and sweltering

Prantik while Rezaur Rahman

The league resumes tomor-

SB karate

results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Martial Art

Association was the first man

and Mosammat Jinu of DOHS

Club was the first woman to

pick gold medals on the first

day of the three day-long

Sadharan Bima Karate champi-

onship that got underway yes

National Coaching Centre.

terday at the judo room of the

Ninety-five karatekas in-

eluding 32 women off 56 clubs

from all over the country are

taking part in this competition

which includes 14 weight cat-

In men's open weight divi-

Md Harun of Chandpur Usu

Md Sohel of Bangladesh

In women's 56-kg weight

Afroza Akhtar to Bangladesh

Mahmud Khatun Bobby of

In women's 50-kg weight

Sathi of Young Dragon

Young King Martial Art Centre

category Mosammat Jinu

Judo and Karate Centre settled

Young Dragon Karate Club took

class Maroofa Akhtar Swarna of

Young Martial Fighter Karate

Martial Art Club took the silver

while Tuhin Sultan of Bang-

ladesh Royal Bengal Tiger

Karate Club won the bronze

Earlier, State Minister for

Club notched the gold.

pocketed the bronze medal

DOHS Club won the gold.

sion Md Baset of Bangladesh

Martial Art Association bagged

the gold medal.

for the silver.

the bronze.

medal.

School took the silver.

Mohammed Baset of

Sagar drew level for city.

row after today's break.

points with City Club.

the margin for the winners.

Babu of Muslim scored from

Raja of Lalbagh Sporting

Earlier in the first match of

Both teams scored one each

Fayez Noor scored for

reports Reuter.

champions.

leave the stadium before the

7:30 pm (2330 GMT) start of

the Becker and Lendl fourth-

round showdown of former

time I'm coming here."

"This is the first and last

"I'm even returning the

Tournament officials de-

shirt I bought because I don't

want anybody to know I came

layed the match after the day

session, starting at 11 am,

featured a nearly 4-1/2-hour

match between Stefan Edberg

and Richard Karajicek and a

two-hour quarter-final between

Mary Joe Fernandez and

"At 7:30 we will have up-

Gabriela Sabatini.

Dhaka Stadium.

spot kick.

Muslim Institute by the



Ninth seed Ivan Lendl, the Czeech-born American, yells as he wins match point during his five-hour and one minute marathon match against Boris Becker of Germany at Flushing Meadow on Tuesday. Lendl won 6-7, 6-2, 6-7, 6-



line-call in his epic fourth round US Open clash against Ivan Lendl on Tuesday - Star TV photo the matches," he said. Edberg, who had

relief to get through a tough

"It's good to push yourself physically and mentally," he said. "Playing a match like this is like 20 or 30 hours of prac-

EDBERG EXTENDED

Edberg blew a chance to wrap up the match early when he sloppily slapped two volleys into the net at the end of the tie-breaker, and he looked like a loser when he fell behind 1-3 in the fifth set.

"To be down a break in the fifth set, it was not good news," Edberg said. "But somehow I managed to get back in the match. I fought the way through."

And he had a little help from Krajicek, who let one ball float by that virtually cost him the match.

Krajicek was serving at 30-40, up a break at 3-2 in the fifth set, when he boomed a serve to Edberg's backhand, Ebderg leaped almost horizontally to the court, stretching his racket and body as far as possible, and softly popped a windblown return. Krajicek had come in behind his serve but he had plenty of time to backpedal and put the ball away with an overhead. Instead, thinking it was going long, he let it drift over his head and watched dumbfounded as it landed 6 inches in from the corner.

That break-point was all the encouragement Ebderg needed. He held at love to go ahead 4-3, and after an exchange of services. Ebderg holding off two break points, he watched Krajicek make another crucial mistake - an easy forehand volley into the net at match point.

This was a match I really wanted because I lost to him twice," said Ebderg, who showed more emotion than usual, throwing a towel after losing the second set and punching his fist repeatedly in the fifth set. "I had never beaten Richard. I said to myself before today, I am going to give everything I have."

Chang, the 1989 French Open champion, reached the quarter-finals of the US Open for the first time.

"I was able to play another style other than just at the back," he said. "I was able to attack, I was able to hit a few volley."

Washington, in his first Grand Slam round of 16, said he could not be dissatisfied with the result.

"I thought I did what I wanted to do," he said. "He just came up with better shots."

Malaysian Open badminton KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9:

well."

Defending champion Rashid Sidek defeated India's Ajay Kumar to lead the top seeds into the third round of the 180,000 US dollars Malaysian Open badminton championship here Wednesday, reports AFP

Rashid, Malaysia's number one and seeking a hattrick crown in the five-day meet marred by the absence of notable world class players, bundled out Ajay Kumar 15-5, 15-

Danish Olympic bronze medallist Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen, considered the biggest threat to Sidek, outclassed his weak Malaysian opponent Davincy Saha 15-2, 15-5 in

their second round encounter. The match was his first of the tournament as all seeded players skip the first round.

Lauridsen is seeded number two behind Rashid, although he has beaten the Malaysian irr all their three previous encounters, including in the

quarter-finals at the Barcelona

China's top prospect, third seed Wu Wenkai, beat another Malaystan, Azahan Othaman, 15-4, 15-12 to cruise into the third round. Indonesians Alan Budi Kusuma and Ardy Wiranata, the Olympic gold and silver medallists, are amorig the notable absentees, while China's world champion, Zhao Jianhua, is only playing in the

mixed doubles. In the women's section, top seed and Barcelona bronze medallist Huang Hua met little resistance from Malaysia's Kuak Sicok Choon, winning 11-1, 11-3

Biman meet ends

The 15-day annual indoor games of Biman concluded at the Biman press building in the city yesterday, reports

A total of 174 Biman employees and their family members took part in nine events of the games. State Minister for Civil Avia-

tion and Tourism Abdul Mannan distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest. Biman Managing Director Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury was present on the occasion.

Allahma soccer

Sports Reporter Golapganj Sabuj Sangha and

Shantir Bazar Jubo Sangha shared two points and six goals in their second-leg match of the third Mustafa Allahma Gold Cup soccer tournament played at the Dhaka Dakshin School Stadium yesterday.

Star photo



Top-seeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia makes a doublefisted backhand return in her quarterfinal match against Canadian Patricia Hy at Flushing Meadow, NY on Tuesday. Seles made it to the last four by winning in straight sets.

Veira's prison term halved

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 9: Former Argentine soccer coach Hector Veira, jailed for raping a teenage boy, could be freed shortly, following the Supreme Court's reduction of the charge to attempted rape and halved his six-year prison

sentence, reports Reuter. Local news agencies said on Tuesday that Veira, 48, was overjoyed when his lawyers told him the Supreme Court had overturned an appeals court that had found him guilty in 1990 of rape.

Veira, a former international who coached several local and foreign first division teams, has maintained his innocence.

He was first accused in 1987 of trying to rape the boy. who was 13 at the time. The victim's parents said Veira attacked their son after luring him into his flat promising him an autographed picture.

A local judge first sentenced Vetra to four years in jail in 1989 for attempted rape but that same year an appeals court overturned the decision and cleared him of all charges.

But in 1990 the Supreme Court ruled evidence had been overlooked and sent the case to another appeals court, which found him guilty of rape and sentenced him to six years in jail.

Tuesday's Supreme Court ruling said the second appeals court had overlooked the testimony that found no conclusive evidence that intercourse had taken place. The state news agency Te-

lam said Veira's lawyers will mmediately request their :lient's liberty on bail.

Sabatini, Hy bid bye her place in the final four.



9: World number one Monica Seles brought high-flying Canadian Patricía Hy back do-

wn to earth with a thud on Tucsday as the top-seeded defending champion marched into the semifinal of the US Open championships, report agencies.

Seles, playing with a virus and sore throat, nevertheless needed just 55 minutes to end Hy's upset run 6-1, 6-2, on a hot, sunny day at the National Tennis Centre.

Due to the rash of upsets in the women's draw, Seles will face her first seeded opponent in the semifinals when she takes on seventh-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez.

Fernandez, the Olympic doubles champion, abandoned her usual steady baseline tactics to upset fourth-seeded Argentine Gabriela Sabatini 6-2. -6, 6-2.

The Cambodian-born Hy did Seles a huge favour by taking Olympic champion Jennifer Capriati out in a stunning third-round upset.

Capriati had vowed to avenge last year's narrow semifinal defeat to Seles, but thanks to Hy, never got the chance.

But Seles showed no gratitude on Tuesday, punishing the 36th-ranked Canadian with her relentless, powerful twofisted groundstrokes to take

Sabatini, the 1990 champion, hardly seemed aware that she was playing in the second week of a Grand, Slam

as Fernandez rolled out to a 5-

Sabatini seemed to wake up and took charge in the second set to level the match.

0 first set lead.

"The first five games hardly made any mistakes." Fernandez said. "She started playing a little better in the

Fernandez, taught a painful lesson she never forgot in an Open loss to Sabatini two years ago, reversed roles Tuesday.

Fernandez, seeded No 7, used the same net-rushing, aggressive style that Sabatini suddenly and spectacularly adopted when she won the 1990 Open.

This time it was Fernandez rushing the net, risking winners, forcing the action, and Sabatini staying back. This time when Fernandez took the lead at the critical moment, she kept it, instead of letting it drift away as she did then, 7-5, 5-7, 6-3 after leading the first set 4-1, 40-15.

It took Fernandez months of get over that loss, and it prompted her to change her coach and style. Harold Solomon began tutoring her in 1991, convincing her to get off the baseline and play aggressively at the net, and Fernandez showed just how far she's come against Sabatini.

She broke Sabatini at love in the final game of the third set, on the attack all the way to the last point - a backhand approach that Sabatini drove

The 21-year-old Fernandez, runner-up to Seles in the Australian Open this year, reached the Open semis for only the second time in eight years. Sabatini had not gone out of any other Grand Slam event before the semifinals this year.

"I don't think my personality has changed. I know now that on the court I have to be the aggressor," Fernandez said. "I can't be the one just to get the ball back and wait for things to happen to me.

"I'm taking advantage of it now. I'm playing aggressively. This was a tough match. Even the first set, it looked like ! was winning it easy, but it wasn't that easy. Gaby is one of the toughest players out there. She never gives up and she always finds ways to win, even if she is not playing well. She's definitely been a great example

Sabatini expected Fernandez to be on her heels against

"I guess Seles will probably be aggressive," Sabatini said "She is going to try to go for the shots. I think she was very close to beating Monica a few times, and if she takes risk, she could play a good match, she could win.'

French football pride at stake



LONDON, Sept 9: The pride of France is on the line Wednesday, when the national socc-

er team kicks off their World Cup campaign in Bulgaria after a series of recent disappointments, reports AP. But Scotland and Sweden,

two other teams also starting campaigns to qualify for 1994, hope to build on recent suc-

Noted player-turned-coach Michel Platini resigned after France, boasting a European Championship qualifying record of eight wins from eight games, failed to reach the semtfinals in June.

France was a World Cup semifinalist in 1982 and 1986. but has never won the coveted Jules Rimet Trophy. They disastrously failed to qualify for the 1990 Cup in Italy, winning both home games but losing three away matches.

Houllier's first game charge, a 2-0 loss to Brazil in Paris two weeks ago, was a sorry affair. With a 0-1-4 record against Bulgaria, Houllier has to lift team spirits and scoring rate.

But striker Eric Cantona, currently the highest goal scorer in England's Premier League, has pulled out of the national side, saying he won't represent his country again. If that wasn't enough, Hou-

liter knows the last time France played Bulgarta, in Sofia in 1985, they lost 2-0, and that Bulgaria began their European Group Six campaign with a 3-0 victory in Finland in

Finland hosts surprise European championship semifinalist Sweden in another Group Stx match Wednesday in Helsinki.

Swedish manager Tommy Svensson has lost three key players with injuries for the game - Tomas Brolin who plays with Italian club Parma, defender Janne Eriksson from Germany's Kaiserslautern, and English club Sheffield Wednesday's defender Roland Nilsson.

Despite Finland's opening *round defeat against Bulgaria, Svensson is cautious. 'I saw that match, and the

Bulgarian victory was far too big," he said. "Besides, Finland had virtually a completely new

Sweden qualified for the European semifinals at the top Palmeiras plan to

tempt Maradona BUENOS AIRES, Sept 9:

Brazilian club Palmeiras said on Tuesday it was still very keen to sign Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona to a contract despite his determination to play only for Spanish club Sevilla, reports Reuter.

"Formal talks with Maradona's representatives will be held at the appropriate time," said Miguel Gorrisen, a consultant for the Parmalat Milk Company, which wants to contract the former Argentine captain for Palmeiras.

Maradona, who recently completed a 15-month ban for taking drugs, is fighting for Italian club Napoli to release him from contract so that he can play for Sevilla.

Napoli has insisted he complete his contract, which expires in June next year, despite Maradona's refusal to return to Italy. The dispute is being considered by FIFA's players committee.

of Group One, with defeats of eventual winner Denmark. England and a 1-1 tie with France, but played a disappointing tie against Norway in an exhibition last week.

"We have to return to the attitude we had during the European Championship," Svensson said. "We must not play at only 75 per cent of our capacity, as against Norway re-

The top two teams from each of the six European qualifying groups advance to the World Cup final in the United States in 1994. France, Sweden, Finland, Bulgaria, Austria and Israel make up Group Six.

In Group Five, including the Commonwealth of Independent States, Greece and possibly Yugoslavia - if international sanctions against them are lifted - Luxembourg opens its campaign against Hungary, which slumped to a surprise 2-1 defeat to Iceland in June.

Scotland travels to Switzerland for their opening Group One match, hoping to build on strong performances in the European Championshtp. Despite failing to qualify for the semifinals, the Scots played some of the best soccer seen in Sweden and defeated the CIS 3-0 in their final game. But manager Andy Roxburgh had to cancel the squad's first training session Sunday after torrential rain flooded the Glasgow pitch. Scotland has qualified for the past five World Cups.

Switzerland thumped Estonia 6-0 in their opening game Aug 16, while Italy, Portugal and Malta open their Oroup One campaign in October.



Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain inaugurated the meet.

Boris Becker of Germany is infuriated by a controversial

dropped a set in his previous three matches, said it was a not Angry fans feel cheated

wards of 20,000 people show up and we can not have a Scores of match on Stadium Court that fans became infuriated potentially could run two-three when US Open hours past 7:30;" said tournaofficials suddenly ment director Stephen Devoe switched the eagerly-awaited the prospect of Becker-Ivan Lendi-Boris Becker match Lendl not beginning until from the afternoon to the nearly 6:00 pm. There would

evening session on Tuesday, be a safety problem and a practical problem." They cheated me dut of Those concerns did nothing money," said Rafael Rovito of to alleviate angry fans, who New Jersey, one of 100-150 paid 27 dollars for a ticket. fans who clamoured for satisexpecting to see three Stafaction after begin forced to

dium Court matches. "I'm not coming back," said Matthew Saadat of New York. We are getting two-thirds of the afternoon session, not

the full session." Four Becker fans had ar rived from Germany on Monday just to watch their hero

'It's really bad and we never want to come back again," said Anna Poczta. Though Devoe sympathised

with the fans, he could offer no

The simple thing would be just to schedule to matches on the stadium but that we feel would be short-changing the

Brasilia ATP tour called off

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 9: The 240,000 Brasilia ATP tennis tournament, due to be held in the Brazilian capital from September 12 to 20, has been cancelled because of Brazil's political crisis, the organisers said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Tawaric Promotions said in a statement that the decision was taken because of "the tense political atmosphere in the city and public demonstrations planned from September 11 onwards".

Brazilian cities have been the scene of demonstrations against the government in the

last month. The demonstrations have been peaceful but the Brasilia tournament is traditionally held at a temporary complex near to the congress building. "We decided not to run any risks, " said a statement issued

Jaime Oncins and Luiz Mattar of Brazil, Kaime Yzaga of Peru, Andres Gomez of Ecuador and Brayan Shelton of the United States were among the players due to take part.

assurance it would not happen by Tawaric.