Bruguera wins

Monte Carlo title

Sergi Bruguera stormed

through the second set

Monday to win the rain-de-

layed final of the Monte Carlo

Open, 7-6 (7-2), 6-0, ending Frenchman Cedric Pioline's bid for his first pro title, re-

It was the first title of the

The final, postponed from

year for Bruguera, 22, and the

seventh overall. He also won

Sunday because of heavy rains,

was interrupted for 90 min-

utes by another downpour

Monday and then moved from

the uncovered centre court to

second major final, trailed 5-6

in the first set when play was

halted after 45 minutes. The

interruption seemed to work

against him, because he won

only two points in the

tiebreaker and put up little re-

a best-of-five-sets match, but

was shortened because of the

the world, was the 11th seed

here in a field that included

Stefan Edberg, Boris Becker

Edberg in the semifinals, was

unseeded and ranked 29th en-

Pioline, 23, who beat

The final initially was to be

Bruguera, ranked 16th in

sistance in the second set.

postponement.

and Ivan Lendl.

Pioline, playing in only his

a covered secondary court.

ports AP.

here in 1991.

MONTE CARLO, Apr 26:



Japanese long-distance runner Mitsuyo Yoshida lets her joy show as she crosses the finish line to win the Paris Marathon on April 25. Yoshida finished the course in 2hrs 29mns -AFP photo 16secs.

Mexicans thrash Canadians 4-0



Apr 26: Canada goalkeeper Craig Forrest had a nightmare game as his team were

outclassed 4-0 by Mexico in a World Cup qualifier on Sunday, reports Reuter. Two of the four goals came

following mistakes by Forrest as Mexico took the lead in the final round of the CONCACAF qualifiers.

The previously unbeaten Canadians appeared intimidated by a capacity 120,000 crowd at the Aztec Stadium and also suffered in Mexico City's high altitude.

Mexico dominated from the start and took the lead in the 20th minute when Forrest failed to hold a low cross by Ramon Ramirez and deflected the ball into his own goal.

Fourteen minutes later veteran striker Hugo Sanchez, who missed last week's win over El Salvador through in-

Kempes bids

adieu VALENCIA, Spain, Apr 26: Mario Kempes, star of Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning team, is retiring from football, reports AFP.

Kempes will bow out after a final appearance in a friendly match between PSV Eindhoven and Valencia, the club which bought him for three million pounds from River Plate of Argentina 1980.

The 38-year-old striker, who now works in Spain as a TV and radio commentator, was twice the leading goal scorer in the Spanish league, as well as being top scorer in the 1978 World Cup finals.

jury, split the Canadian defence with a perfect pass for Ramirez, who scored with a left foot shot.

Mexico goalkeeper Jorge Campos was not called upon until the 42nd minute when he saved a shot by Paul Peschisolido.

Forrest was again at fault in the 53rd minute when he failed to hold Luis Flores header. Alberto Garcia Aspe added the fourth goal from the penalty spot in the 68th

Forrest partially made up for his mistakes with four fine saves which kept the score down as Mexico continued to

Cyprus win 3-1

LIMASSOL, Cyprus, Apr 26: Panicos Xouroupas, Andros Soteriou and Yuni Arge spotted Cyprus to a three-goal lead Sunday, enabling Cyprus to casily beat the Faroe Islands 3l in a meaningless World Cup qualifier among soccer minnows, reports AP.

4.000, Cyprus dominated from the opening kickoff and took the lead only seven minutes in on close-range shot by Xouroupas. The Faroe Islands tightened their defence by Soteriou managed to break through again two minutes before halftime on a diving

Playing before a crowd of

header. loannou ended any Faroe hopes in the 75th with another header, but Yuni Arge gave the Danish island some consolation with a close-range goal in the 82nd.

The Faroe Islands, playing in their first World Cup qualifying tournament, fell to 0 0-6.

dominate.

Mexico lead the four-team group by one point from Canada, with both countries having two games left to play.

HONDURAS WIN 2-0

Meanwhile, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, playing their first game under new coach Flavio Ortega, beat arch-rivals El Salvador 2-0 on Sunday to keep alive their slim hopes of reaching the World Cup finals.

Forward Eduardo Bennett scored both goals as his team ran out comfortable winners in the World Cup CONCACAF third-round qualifying match.

Honduras dominated the game and could have added to their tally.

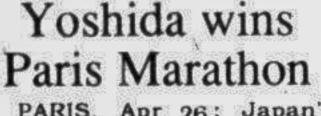
El Salvador only came out of their desensive shell after Bennett's second goal in the 63rd minute and rarely threatened Honduras goalkeeper Wilmer Cruz.

The result put Honduras third in the four-team group, two points behind Canada with

two games left to play. "With this result we can still hope to finish second," said Offega, appointed last week following the resignation of much-criticised Jose

Estanislau Malinowsky. El Salvador, who began their campaign brightly with a home win over Mexico, are now bottom of the group and virtually out of the running for a place in the finals.

The group winners qualify automatically for the World Cup finals while the secondplaced team face the winners of the Oceania group. The winners of that match then play the runners-up of South America Group A for a place in the finals.



PARIS, Apr 26: Japan's Mitsuyo Yoshida showed her male colleagues the way as she won her first marathon in Paris here on Sunday, reports

While the men's challenge, headed by World Cup marathon winner Yoshito Hashiguchi, crumbled badly before the 30 kilometre (25 km) Yoshida coasted home alone in the French capital.

The 27-year-old from Osaka, who has been running marathons for three years, produced a personal best time of 2hr 29min 16sec, beating her previous best by over a minute.

She was challenged by Russia's Ilyna Nadejda until the 35 km mark (21.5 miles) before making a decisive break.

Hashiguchi, of whom so much had been expected, faded badly to finish in 21st position in 2hr 14min 36sec, while compatriot Toru Mimura, who also figured prominently in the first half of the race, dropped back to finish in 27th place in 2hr 16min 42sec.

McEnroe to copy Foreman's tactic

NEW YORK, Apr 26: Tennis star John McEnroe has decided to copy boxer George Foreman and carefully choose his opponents, reports AFP.

McEnroe said here on Saturday evening, after losing to baseball player Tom Seaver at squash in aid of charity: "I'm going to start calling myself the George Foreman of tennis. I'll handpick my opponents and play exhibitions."

McEnroe, three times Wimbledon champion and four times US Open winner, added: "I have given enough over 15 years on the tour. If by a miracle, I rediscovered the speed in my legs and service, I might start playing again."

Foreman, heavyweight boxing champion before Muhammad Ali, took the title away from him in the "Rumble in the Jungle" bout in Zaire in 1974, made a moneyspinning comeback.

But age saps speed, vital in iennis, more than the brute strength required in heavyweight boxing. So McEnroe is unlikely to rediscover any thing like the form of his third Wimbledon triumph in 1984, believed by Britain's former "Voice of Tennis" Dan Maskell as the "greatest exhibition of grass court tennis in history."

But McEnroe will continue his interest in top tennis by commentating for American television station NBC during the French Open in Paris next month.

Jansher too good for Gregory

NEW YORK, Apr 26: Top seed Jansher Khan of Pakistan opened his bid for the squash Tournament of Champions in devastating style as he swept aside former British champion Paul Gregory 15-3, 15-6, 15-6 in only 33 minutes on Sunday, reports Reuter.

World champton Jansher. beaten just twice in the last 16 months, hardly raised a sweat as he sent Gregory scurrying around the court in desperate defence.

Gregory, a 24-year old Londoner, admitted: "I thought played pretty well, but in this mood Jansher just makes you look silly. He played every shot in the book - and made a few up of his own."

Pakistan had some more success as qualifier Mir Zaman Gul beat seventh seed Gary Waite of Canada 15-13, 15-12, 15-9 in 41 minutes.

It was a blow for Waite, who is trying to improve his world number 13 ranking having just taken over as number one in the North American hardball version of squash.

A mix-up leaves Beblo winner

PARIS, Apr 26: Poland's Leszek Beblo won the Paris Marathon Sunday after officials sent Ethiopian Belay Wolashe the wrong way while leading near the finish Sunday, reports

Beblo won in 2 hours, 10 minutes, 47 seconds. He and Wolashe were running together over the last few kilometers (mile) after breaking away from a small group of

With less than 400 meters (yards) to go, Wolashe started a sprint that seemed to be able to hold off Beblo. However he was directed the wrong way and Beblo took over the lead. After Wolashe was sent the right way, he had lost his mo-

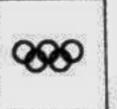
mentum and was trailing Beblo who went on to win easily. Algerian Ali Sakhri took



Chuck Adams of the US hits a return on way to winning the final of the Korean Open 6-4, 6-4, against Todd Woodbridge of Australia in Seoul on April 25.

-AFP photo

Sanguine Sydney officials not worried by Beijing's tactics



SYDNEY, Apr 26: Sydney, a frontrunner with Beijing in the race for the 2000 Olympics, dismissed to-

day suggestions China could buy the votes needed to win Septembers ballot, reports Reuter. Bruce Baird, the state min-

ister in-charge of Sydney's bid, said it was totally untrue that the 91 International Olympic Committee (IOC) delegates who pick the host could be bought with gifts and favours.

It is one of the things that is bandied around But the reality is that the great majority of people there are concerned only with sport and have come up through a strong sporting tradition, he told a news conference.

If anybody started to offer anything untoward, the great majority would be absolutely outraged, he added

The competition to be Olympic host, which pits Beijing against Sydney, Berlin, Manchester, Brasilia and Istanbul, will be decided by the IOC in Monte Carlo on September 23. Baird agreed with a recent

unofficial IOC poll and odds from British book makers that Sydney and Beijing were the current joint favourites.

I think there is a great chance on September 23 that it will be either Beijing or Sydney, he said.

China has mounted an aggressive public relations campaign to win the Games, but last week denied presenting visiting Olympic dignitaries with thousands of dollars worth of gifts and ancient China's Olympic committee

chief He Zhengliang said overseas media reports of a US dollar 40,000 gift basket to each member of a recent IOC delegation were complete rumour. Baird was asked if he was

concerned that China was using foreign aid as a means to get votes. Undoubtedly China is doing

a lot, we know they are, in terms of the African countries, other developing countries in addition. They have given a lot of aid and are reminding people that they have given the aid, he said. They have got a legitimate

role in doing that ... If we had given the extent of aid that they have we would also be doing that, Baird said.

But it is going to be determined by more than the aid that they have given, he said.

The edge we have is that we have been to every modern Olympic Games, we have a very strong technical bid, we have the world's greatest city, we have no security problems and we have a great environment, Baird said.

China is the world's most populous country, but they have their own problems which I won't enumerate, he added

Olympic watchers have said Beijing's bid could be hurt by concerns about human rights following the military's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in and around Tiananmen Square in June 1989, and pollution.

Baird was launching the public release of the Sydney bid book aubmitted to the IOC on February 1. Sydney has stressed that it

is the only city guaranteeing that all venues for sporting events will be within 30 minutes travel of the Olympic vil-

US beat Norway enroute to gtrs



DORTMUND, Germany, Apr 26

Tony Amonte and Darren Turcotte scored 40 seconds apart to spark the United States to 3-1

victory over winless Norway Saturday and a berth in the quarterfinals at the ice hockey World Championship, reports Amonte and Turcotte's

goals rallied the United States, who for the fourth straight game trailed 1-0. First two ended in 1-1 ties against the Czech Republic and Finland. The United States then trounced France 6-1.

The victory put the United States in second place in the Pool 13 standings behind the

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Czech Republic, who routed France 6-2. Germany and Finland have also qualified for the playoffs starting in Munich on Tuesday.

In Pool As, Sweden dumped Russia 5-2 and Canada routed Italy 11-2, giving the Canadians an unblemished 4-0-0 record and clinching the group title.

Adam Graves added two goals and one assist and Dave Gagner had two goals for the Canadians.

In Munich, Eric Lindros had his second straight sixpoint game, scoring five goals and setting up one goal as unbeaten Canada trounced Italy

The Philadelphia Flyers' center now has a tournamentleading nine goals and five assists for 14 points.

"The pucks seem to be going in and we just got to keep hitting them," Lindros said.

The Americans, who conclude round-robin play against host Germany Sunday, played sloppy hockey in the first period except-for the first five minutes.

Svein Enok Norstebo, who plays for a team in Lillehammer, site of next year's Winter Olympics, converted a nice pass from Per-Christian Knold to give Norway the lead at 11:27 in the opening period. It was Norway's first goal in the tournament- a span of 191 minutes and 27 seconds

tering the tournament, but was assured of moving up at least six places because of his show-

ing here. Pioline, now France's second-ranked player behind Guy Forget, lost to Pete Sampras last October in Lyon in his only

previous final. No Frenchman has won at Monte Carlo since Pierre Darmon in 1963.

Sanchez lifts Barcelona Open BARCELONA, Apr 26:

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain set her sights on the world number one position after earning an easy victory over compatriot Conchita Martinez at the Barcelona Open here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Sanchez, who has now won three consecutive tourna ments, said she "hoped to be number one within two years."

She won 6-1, 6-4 in a one side final at the 375,000 dollar event, watched by a disappointing crowd of 2,400, well below the 7,000 capacity at the Olympic Centre.

The tournament was marked by the late withdrawal of world number one Monica Seles due to illness.

The Yugoslav's absence elevated Sanchez to the top seed position, enabling the in-form Spaniard to burn through the competition without losing a

The 22-year-old Sanchez will have to wait and see if her good form will carry over to the French Open, which she won in 1989.

Fencing result

BEIJING, Apr 26: Sabine Bau of Germany, the 1988 Olympics silver medalist, took first place Sunday at the World Cup Masters Foil fencing tournament, reports AP.

Bau, 24, beat China's Wang Huifeng 2-1 and took the 100,000 francs top prize, the Xinhua News Agency reported. Wang, who was the 1992 Olympics silver medalist, won the second prize of 50,000 francs, it said.

Third place went to Reka Lazar of Romania, and fourth to Margheri Zalaffi of Italy

Polish Leszek Beblo pours water on his head during the Paris Marathon which he won in 2hrs 10mns 47secs on April 25. -AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 39 Employ-3 Reserva-24 Terrorist's tion ment

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CRYPTOQUIP

KRJDRMRHZ'H NRBDVBRUMA

SIH HZBRMNRMN

IDJMN Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OWNER OF FRANK-FURTER STAND DID NOT USUALLY RELISH HIS WORK.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: N equals G The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one

letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short 51 Society words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.