



Czech Helena Sukova examining her racket during a change over in her fourth round match against Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario yesterday. Sukova squeezed past Sanchez-Vicario to earn a quarterfinal place. — Star TV photo

Courier, Masur hit hard

WIMBLEDON, June 28: American Jim Courier was fined 1,500 US dollar and Australian Wally Masur 750 US dollar on Monday for swearing during their third round matches at Wimbledon on Saturday, reports Reuter. Courier was fined for uttering an audible obscenity during his clash with Australian Jason Stoltenberg, which he won in four sets. He was assessed a code violation at the time and admitted afterwards that he had sworn and deserved the penalty. "It was the heat of the moment," he said. "Wish I didn't do it but my temper flared. I can't take it back but I wish I could." Masur, who beat Arnaud Boetsch of France in five sets, received a code violation for screaming "F..... you" in the direction of the net. Last week American Patrick McEnroe, Dutchman Paul Haarhuis and German Patrik Kuehnen were fined for swearing, while Croatian fifth seed Goran Ivanisevic was docked 2,000 US dollar for ducking an obligatory press conference and a further 500 US dollar for hurling his racket to the ground.



Fourth seed Boris Becker of Germany about to unleash a boomer during his fourth-round match against South African Wayne Ferreira in the Wimbledon men's singles at the All-England Club yesterday. Becker moved into the quarterfinals with 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win. — Star TV photo

Jansher expected at HK Open

HONG KONG, June 28: Hopes are high that Pakistan's Jansher Khan will be able to attend this year's Hong Kong Squash Open, set for August 22-29, organizers said Monday, reports AFP. In announcing the date, they said Australia's Chris Dittmar, ranked number two in the world behind Jansher, has confirmed he will attend the yearly tournament at the Hong Kong Squash Centre. Jansher conquered the event for five years running, from 1987 through 1991, but was unable to attend last year for personal reasons, making way for Australia's Rodney Martin to claim his crown. Major wants to be at centre of it LONDON, June 28: British Prime Minister John Major said on Monday he will travel to Monte Carlo to support Manchester's bid for the 2,000 Olympics when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) vote on September 23, reports Reuter.

Graf stretched a little

LONDON, June 28: The Steffi Graf steamroller that has crushed everything in its path so far was briefly delayed in the fourth round at the Wimbledon championships on Monday, reports AFP. The German top seed and defending champion, who had powered through the first three rounds for the loss of only three games, conceded five in a 6-1, 6-4 win over American qualifier Meredith McGrath to reach the quarterfinals. Despite the convincing scoreline, Graf failed to find the outstanding form of the first three rounds and the normally phlegmatic champion was lucky to escape a warning in the second set after slamming her racket down in frustration at yet another error on her backhand. McGrath, ranked 148 in the world but set to leap to the 70s after her performances here, held a break point after three backhand errors from Graf in the opening game of the match. But she failed to convert it, allowing the German to get into her rhythm and run away with the first set. At that point McGrath looked like she was about to collapse but the American, wearing wrap-around fluorescent sunglasses, pushed Graf ahead of the tougher tasks ahead. "She definitely is a grass court player and even though I played very well in the first set she started serving much better in the second set and my returns did not work as well. "It was definitely a good second set I had to play some good points." Graf, who takes on Jennifer Capriati for a place in the semifinals, knows there will be no room for complacency in her matches from this stage. "From now on I am going to have different opponents. That is for sure. I have to be aware of that and concentrate on every match now." But Graf admitted she felt more confident than ever before at Wimbledon as she bids for her fifth title in six years. "The last few years I played pretty well here so I feel more confident coming in than I have done in the years before."



STEFFI GRAF to 4-4 in the second before the champion stepped up a gear to break to love and earn a chance to serve for the match. A serve and volley left McGrath scrambling to get the ball back on Graf's first match point and the champion popped an easy second volley

Maroneys keen to make history

SYDNEY, June 28: Six Australians will make their second attempt to become the first family to swim the English Channel after freak weather stopped them a year ago, their sponsor said today, reports Reuter. The Maroney family from Sydney will try the 45-km (28-mile) crossing from Dover to Calais in the last two weeks of July, Westfield Shoppingtown said. The family includes Susie Maroney, 18, who first made the crossing in 1990 when just 15 and in 1991 made the fastest double crossing by a woman in 17 hours 14 minutes. She will be joined by mother Pauline, 50, Michael, 26, Karen, 24, Lindy, 21, and twin brother Sean. Lindy swam the English Channel in 1991 in nine hours 44 seconds, one of the fastest crossings by a woman. The Maroney family waited for more than two weeks last year for bad weather to improve and finally had to abandon the swim when Michael Maroney suffered hypothermia in the unseasonably cold conditions. "The Maroney family's swim will attempt to create history by becoming the first family ever to swim the English Channel," a Westfield spokeswoman said. "Susie's father Norm will not attempt the swim but the sponsors said a successful crossing by the rest of the family would still be considered the first by a family."

Russia's dream Euro Cup debut

ROME, June 28: Russia celebrated their first appearance in their own right at the European Cup by triumphing in both the men's and women's sections of the nine-nation tournament on Sunday, reports Reuter. Competing along with Ukraine in place of the now defunct Soviet Union, the men from Moscow had a margin of just four points over Britain, with France a further point back in third. It was hard luck on the British, controversially condemned to second place in the 1991 edition of the Cup. Britain's seven wins on the track in Rome's sparsely populated Olympic Stadium this weekend proved to be no avail, although Russia won only two events. "We got pipped by a great Russian team. They beat us fair and square this time," said Kriss Akabusi, part of the British 4x400 metres relay team which came home first in the conclusive race. Romania with Ukraine third. Britain will be cheered, however, by a superb high hurdles performance from European champion Colin Jackson who destroyed the field to win his race in a time of 13.10 seconds, the fastest time this year. The Soviet Union took the Cup in Frankfurt two years ago when the international jury overturned a decision to disqualify them from the 4x400 metres relay, a ruling which left a bitter taste in British mouths. Dmitry Golovastov, at the centre of that 1991 row over running out of lane, returned to haunt Britain as he anchored the Russians to second place in the decisive 4x400. The pole vault lived up to its promise of a fine joust. Bubka, the compulsive record breaker, twice failed at 6.05 metres, an earlier clearance of 5.80 gave him second place behind Gataullin with Spanish Olympic bronze medalist Javier Garcia third. The Soviet Union won the women's event in 1991 but later had to hand it over to Germany after it emerged that high jumper Yelina Rodina had failed a dope test. On the evidence here it will take a lot to wrench the title from the Russian grip when the European Cup becomes an annual event next year. Sprinter Irina Privalova defied the hot, sunny conditions to complete an outstanding personal triple with victory in the 200 metres. Privalova and French 400 metres Olympic champion Marie-Jose Perec were both timed at 22.30 seconds but the Russian took the race on the nod. Privalova won her own 100 metres and ran the anchor leg for the victorious 4x100 metres Russian relay team on Saturday. There were mixed fortunes for Germany's town Olympic champion jumpers. Heike Drechsler leapt 7.02 metres on her sixth and last attempt to deny Yelena Sinechukova yet another win for Russia in the long jump. But her compatriot Heike Henkel missed out in the high jump, won by Galina Astafef of Romania. Astafef cleared 2.00 metres to rump Henkel by four centimetres and reverse their Barcelona Olympic placings.

Mutola flashes in Durban

DURBAN, June 28: Mozambique's Maria Mutola set the fastest time in the world this year in winning the women's 800 metres at the African athletics championships on Sunday, reports Reuter. Mutola also broke the Africa record, pulverising the rest of the field to come home first in 1 minute 56.36 seconds, nearly five seconds clear. Kenyan Simon Chemoywo's 13:09.68 also set a world best for the year in the men's 5,000 metres. Chemoywo battled the dual Ethiopian challenge of Haile Selassie and Worku Bikila throughout the race before bursting away in the final stretch to take the gold medal. Kenyan teammate Paul Bitok, the silver medalist at the Barcelona Olympics, dropped off from the leading trio three laps from the finish and finished out of the medals. But all eyes were on Mutola whose fine time was the result of virtual solo effort after she quickly outpaced the opposition. The American-based 21-year-old was 0.20 seconds faster than the previous world best for 1993 which she set in

New York last month. Mutola told reporters she felt "one 80 per cent fit" and would do even better at the World Championships in Stuttgart. Her African record was the only one set at the four-day championships. Nigerian Obinna Eregubu looked to have broken the men's long jump African mark with a distance of 8.32, but the wind factor of 2.70 ruled him out. South African athletes, buoyed on by the home crowd, provided three other day's shock results in the men's 200 metres, women's 3,000 metres and the women's high jump. Sprinter Johan Rossouw edged out favoured Nigerian Oluymet Kayode, an Olympic relay medalist at Barcelona, in the 200 metres, while Ivory Coast's African champion Lucienne Nda lost her crown to veteran Charmaine Weavers in the high jump. Gwen Griffiths beat off seven East African runners to win the 3,000 metres title. Erick Keter of Kenya, a World Championship finalist in Tokyo in 1991, won the men's 400 metres hurdles, while compatriot Sammy Kibet ran 1:45.43 seconds for gold in the

men's 800 metres. Nigerian Mary Onyiah overcame injury worries to win the women's 200 metres in 22.71 seconds. South Africa ended top of the medals table for the second successive championship with 50 out of a possible 123. Nigeria finished with 18 medals in second place and Kenya were third with 17. Sixteen out of 31 participating nations won medals at the championships.

MEDALS TABLE. The final medals table at the African athletics championships in Durban on Sunday. Gold Silver Bronze Total. South Africa 15 16 19 50. Nigeria 8 9 1 18. Kenya 8 5 4 17. Ethiopia 2 4 6 12. Algeria 2 1 0 3. Madagascar 2 1 0 3. Mozambique 2 0 0 2. Ghana 1 1 3 5. Central African Republic 1 0 0 1. Ivory Coast 0 2 0 2. Mauritius 0 1 1 2. Seychelles 0 1 1 2. Senegal 0 0 3 3. Benin 0 0 1 1. Burundi 0 0 1 1. Egypt 0 0 1 1.

Beijing promises to be hospitable if it gets the nod

BEIJING, June 28: Chinese President Jiang Zemin has roped Confucius into Beijing's bid to host the 2000 Olympics, saying on Wednesday that the ancient philosopher's teachings on hospitality would be fully honoured if China gets the nod, reports Reuter. In a letter to members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Jiang "Reaffirmed that the Chinese government and whole Chinese people support Beijing in its bid for hosting the Olympic Games in the year 2000," the official Xinhua news agency said. "The world famous Chinese philosopher Confucius once said: 'A visit by friends from afar brings special joy.' Jiang was quoted as saying. "I sincerely hope for a joyous gathering of all members and friends of the Olympic family in the open city of Beijing in the year 2000." China has pulled out all the stops in its drive to secure the 2000 Games, lavishing praise on IOC members and launching a propaganda campaign proclaiming openness and friendship before the IOC makes its decision on September 23. Beijing is competing against fellow front-runner Sydney as well as cities including Berlin and Manchester for the Games, which would represent a possible economic windfall and a definite political boost to the world's last major communist government. "As a developing country with a population of 1.1 billion, China is concentrating on its economic development and committed to promoting world peace. It is ready to contribute to the spread of the Olympic ideal in China and the world over and to promoting the Olympic movement," Jiang was quoted as saying. "If Beijing can be honoured to host the 2000 Olympic Games, we will see to it that the Games be a grand celebration of the advent of the new century and carry on the true Olympic spirit," Jiang said.



World Boxing Council (WBC) super-middleweight champion Nigel Benn of Great Britain sends compatriot Lou Gent to the ropes with a powerful combination in their title bout in London on June 26. Benn defended his crown when the referee stopped the match after the British champion floored his challenger five times. — AFP photo

Ratanaphon runs all over Vorapin

BANGKOK, June 28: Thailand's Ratanaphon Sor Vorapin retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) mini-flyweight title here Sunday with a seventh-round technical knock-out over Ala Villamor of the Philippines, reports AFP. Villamor, who was given a standing count by the referee in rounds five and six, finally fell to the canvass in the seventh under a remorseless barrage of left and right hooks from Ratanaphon. As the referee moved in to stop the fight, Villamor's corner threw in the towel. Ratanaphon dominated the fight from the third round, putting his taller challenger under intense pressure with furious combinations to the head and body. Ratanaphon took the title in December and successfully defended it in March against Nico Thomas of Indonesia. His record now stands at 14 wins with ten knock-outs, one draw and two losses.



World number three Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario readies to serve against Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic during her pre-quarterfinal encounter in the Wimbledon tennis championship yesterday. Sanchez-Vicario bowed out of the race after being beaten in a thrilling three-setter. — Star TV photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 Pasty, 4 Take five, 8 Window part, 12 All Those Years (81 song), 13 Always, 14 Jai, 15 Barbary, 17 Moving vehicles, 18 High note, 19 Drilling chips, 21 Avedon's necessity, 24 Recent prefix, 25 Clerical garment, 26 sum (Chinese delicacy), 28 Country singer, 32 On Your (musical), 34 Chihuahua, e.g., 36 Skier's hope, 37 Ice mass, 39 Charlotte's creation, 41 Opponent. DOWN: 2 hem, 4 Units of length, 46 Woody Allen, 50 Paper money, 51 Yoked beasts, 52 Georgia's oldest city, 56 Landlord's due, 57 Trolley, 58 Be indebted, 59 Dates to beware of, 60 Comfort, 61 Mend a, 2 hem, 21 Lynx and cougar, 22 Lotion ingredient, 23 Help, 27 Clip the grass, 29 Raging fires, 30 One of Monty Hall's three-some, 31 Female sheep, 33 Learned scholars, 35 Precious stone, 38 Half a French dance?, 40 Grew, 43 Sip, 45 Cask, 46 Soprano, 47 Chopped, 48 Hawaiian goose, 49 FDR's mother, 53 Anatomical vessel, 54 Reverential fear, 55 Cut.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with numbers 1-61. The clue is: Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHEN LOCAL BARKEEPER WAS SENT TO PRISON HIS BUSINESS WAS ON THE ROCKS.

CRYPTOQUIP. CY XJ YOERICKU ZIJ DQUOPUI DOP IUXREU KACM MKOCP C'QQ TOJ ACX RP KAU MTRK. Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHEN LOCAL BARKEEPER WAS SENT TO PRISON HIS BUSINESS WAS ON THE ROCKS. Today's Cryptogram clue: E equals V. The Cryptogram 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 words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.