Pierce to take

Seles' place

DUBLIN, Nov 3: Canadian-

born Frenchwoman Mary

Pierce, ranked 15 in the world,

will replace Monica Seles next

month in a Dublin tennis tour-

nament that planned to feature

Seles' return to competition, re-

she was stabbed in the back by

a crazed fan in Hamburg in

April and Dublin organisers had

expected she would make her

comeback at their December 3-

5 tournament. But they were

upset two weeks ago when Seles

withdrew, her agent saying she

had only recently resumed light

workouts and was nowhere

Germany's Barbara Rittner in

the first round. Former

Wimbledon champion Martina

Navratilova, ranked three, will

play little-known Irish player

Pierce, 18, will meet

near ready to play again.

Seles has not played since

ports Reuter.

Athar Ali Khan, the tall Bangladeshi opener shoulders arm to let go a wasted inswinger from Zimbabwean pacer Streak early on in the Bangladeshi innings. Few spectators could then foresee the impending doom. Bangladesh managed to throw the gift of a chance away losing the - Star photo match by nine runs.

## Another battle in Belfast



BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Nov 3: The World Cup soccer qualifier between the Republic of Ireland

and Northern Ireland will go ahead in Belfast despite security fears, the two Irish soccer associations agreed Wednesday. reports AP.

An upsurge in sectarian violence had prompted officials to consider moving the November 17 game to a neutral site in England or on the European continent.

"The match is going ahead November 17 in Belfast. We're geared up for the north," said a Football Association of Ireland official, who asked that his name not be used.

The decision came, he said, in a meeting between the southern-based FAI and Northern Ireland's Irish Football Association in Belfast

The two organisations were expected to make a formal announcement later Wednesday.

The venue of Belfast's Windsor Park came under scrutiny last week when the British-ruled province was plunged into its worst sectarian violence in more than a decade. Twenty-five people have been slain since Oct 21 — more than half by anti-Irish paramilitaries who have gunned down

Catholics The 10,500-seat stadium is located in a hard-line Protestant neighbourhood of south Belfast The red, white and blue of curbstones reflects the colours of the Union Jack and of the local soccer club, Linfield, which only Protestants support.

Windson Park crowds in the past have fought with fans of teams with Catholic or southern Irish backgrounds. In 1991. Protestant extremists threw a makeshift grenade at Catholic supporters of a north Belfast team, but it exploded harmlessly behind the stands.

Organisers are providing only 400 tickets for the visiting team, and none for sale in the republic. They say this has nothing to do with minimizing friction between fans, because the same restrictions to visitors were applied in the first Northern Ireland-Ireland matehup in Dublin's Lansdowne Park earlier this season.

The uncertainty over where the match should be played provoked hard feelings between the two soccer associations. Some on the Belfast end had felt that the southerners were using the violence as leverage to secure a neutral venue.

Jack Charlton's Irish squad have to win in Belfast to ensure a place in next year's World Cup finals in the United States following a 3-1 loss to Spain last month. Northern Ireland has already been eliminated

from contention. FIFA, the international governing body, admitted it was worried about the safety of players and fans, particularly after Protestant gunmen shot dead seven people in a rural pub Saturday night.

"We have seen over the weekend what has happened and of course we are worried." FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said before Wednesday's decision. "If the Irish want to change the venue we would have no objection."

### Aussies in Chile

SANTIAGO. Nov 3: Australia who drew 1-1 with Argentina in the first leg of their 1994 World Cup qualifier in Sydney on Sunday, arrived here Tuesday to begin preparations for the return match, reports AFP.

The team were to train on Wednesday and play Chilean side Colo Colo on Thursday as they warm up for their November 17 match against Argentina in Buenos Aires.

Colo Colo, the 1991 Libertadores Cup champions, are leading the Chilean league with 12 victories in 18 matches. Their total of 28 points puts them five points clear of their nearest rivals.

### Ruggeri, Simeone recalled to Argentine squad

BUENOS AIRES. Nov 3: Argentina are likely to recall defender Oscar Ruggeri and forward Diego Simeone for their return World Cup match with Australia, reports AFP.

The two players were suspended for the first leg in Sydney last week which finished 1-1.

Coach Alfio Basile, who flew in on Tuesday, described the draw as satisfactory. \"Australia were difficult to

play against. They have good individual players and good tactics," he said. "But I think we did the hard work and can qualify next week."

Diego Maradona, who said his sore right hamstring would be okay next week, said last week's result had proved there were no longer any easy oppo-

"We're confident by but we don't write them off," he said.

He dismissed Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl's comments that he was better when he was fatter.

"That's not a clever thing to say. I had only played two matches in five months. I couldn't run non-stop for 90 minutes," he said.

Maradona lost 12 kg (26 pounds) in a bid to get ready but hardly did more than stroll throughout the match, although he did set up the Argentinian

"That's more important than running everywhere on the pitch," he said. The November 17 match is

being played in River Plate's monumental stadium.

#### Cuba, Vietnam sign sports accord

HAVANA Nov 3: Cuba signed an agreement with Vietnam on Tuesday for sporting cooperation next year, including sending of a sports medicine specialist and trainers to the southeast Asian nation, reports Reuter.

The Cuban news agency Prensa Latina said the sports doctor would advise Vietnam on setting up a specialised centre

A volleyball and athletics coach will also travel to Vietnam.

The communist-ruled Caribbean island, seeking to make its sports more financially selfsufficient, has coaches working in several countries.

#### Ban on pro boxing called for

CANBERRA, Australia, Nov 3: Professional boxing should be banned and amateur boxing, kickboxing and other sports involving deliberate blows to the head should be discouraged. Australia's top medical body said Wednesday, reports AP. "Chronic brain injury is

found more commonly in professional boxers," the National Health and Medical Research Council.

It said all amateur boxers should sign informed written ·consent forms before being allowed to box, with consent from one parent or guardian in the case of young boxers.

Long-term follow up checks on all amateur boxers' mental health should be mandatory and education and research into boxing should be introduced, the council said.

As well as head injuries. boxers may injure their eyes. nose, ears, fists, kidneys and very occasionally neck, the report said.

The report said states and territories which continue to allow boxing should develop registers of boxers and boxing injuries.

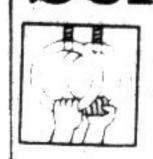
"There is, however, no safe way to box (or kickbox) unless the head is specifically not permitted as a target," the report said.

One of the most worrying effects of boxing on the head is chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), the report said.

Symptoms of CTE, which often develop years after the boxer's career is over, include personality change, intellectual impairment and problems with movement.

The condition was described in 1949 and affected boxers have been called "Punch drunk," "slug nutty," "paper doils" or "Stumble bums."

# Scherbo slates the system



TORONTO, Nov 3: World champion gymnast Vitally Scherbo, winner of six Olympic gold medals in

1992. lashed out on Tuesday at sports officials in Belarus who are demanding he turn over 30 per cent of his earnings, reports Reuter. Scherbo, in Toronto for an

exhibition on Friday, said he learned of the news in a telephone call to his wife, Irina, at home in Minsk. "I work like a buffalo and

they try to take what peanuts I make away from me," said Scherbo in an interview. "I don't trust anybody. I make all the contracts myself to make sure they won't think they got me by the balls."

Scherbo said he earned dollar 5,000 for a 20-city US tour this summer.

The 21-year-old Scherbo said his wife was told by former Olympic gymnast Nelli Kim who heads an umbrella agency for gymnastics in Belarus, that he must hand over 30 per cent of his winnings this year. Scherbo thought he had

der Boris Becker

survived a scare

against Russian

qualifier Andre Ol-

hovskiya before

winning his first match at the

prestigious Paris Open on

Olhovskiya, ranked a modest

75th in the world, came within

two points of sending Becker

out of the star-studded indoor

tournament when he took a 5-4

lead in the tie-break of the de-

a winner in the ultra-modern

Bercy Sports arena, stayed cool

to clinch the tie-break 7-5 on a

backhand pass and take the

match 6-7, 6-2, 7-6 after a

close-fought two hours and 27

tant points but you need luck

when it comes to tie breaks,

said Becker, who alternated

clumsy double faults.

when it comes to aces and

"I'm as happy as can be."

Added the German, who will be

a father in two months. "I still

Martina moves

into qtrs

Top-seeded Martina Navratilova

moved into the quarter-finals of

the 375,000 dollar Bank of the

West Classic with a hard-fought

6-4. 7-6 (8-6) victory on

Tuesday over local favourite

Marianne Werdel, reports

Playing in front of a partisan

crowd, the 37-year-old

Navratilova erased eight break

points, including two set points,

before finally subduing the

tiebreaker by winning six of the

last eight points of the match.

The 20-year veteran finished

the match with an ace, to give

set 6-1 or 6-4 or 7-5, said

Navratilova, the world number

three. "It's getting a little harder

to get up for the first and sec-

ond-round matches, but I made

it exciting. I had to or I wouldn't

In the day's only upset, fifth

seeded Patty Fendick was

ousted by Kimberly Po 4-6, 7-5,

"I could have lost the second

Navratilova pulled out the

53rd-ranked Werdel.

her 10 for the night.

be around.

OAKLAND, California, Nov 3:

"I was a bit lucky on impor-

But the German, three times

Tuesday, reports Reuter.

cider.

minutes.

Reuter.

worked out a different arrangement with the federation.

"After the Olympics, I spoke with my federation, not with Nelli Kim, somebody else, we made an agreement I will give them 10 per cent, but it will be next year," said Scherbo. " don't want to give money to my federation. But I said next year would begin to do it."

Scherbo spoke in English but when he became agitated he lapsed into Russian and his words were translated by a Canadian coach.

Scherbo said he was worried about what may happen when he goes home to Minsk next

"A few years ago when I competed for the Soviet Union. if I would say something they would just kick me out of the team and replace me. It doesn't matter if I am Olympic or world champion," he said.

"Definitely, even now, making these statements can jeopardise my relationship with the (gymnastics) federation."

"They may cut my major competitions were I could build my reputation and make some

Becker comes good in the end

looking forward to going back to

the third seed, won the inaugu-

ral tournament in 1986 and

captured it again three years

later before taking a third crown

play here," he said. "I love the

crowd, I love the city, I love ev-

who won here in 1990 when

Becker retired with injury after

six games in the final, reached

the last 16 in a more comfort-

able fashion by demolishing

French wild card Olivier

not too far from playing good

tennis again," said world num-

ber six Edberg, who like all

seeded players moved directly

towards the end of it. I'm feeling

more relaxed," added the ele-

for the first time since 1986.

gant Swede, out of the top five

Edberg a former world number

one, fell in the first round of the

lucrative 2.6 US million dollar

home, forget about this year

and start fresh next year." said

unseeded Lendl after being

beaten 6-3, 7-5 by fellow

The 33-year old veteran is

Cedric Pioline became the

the oldest player in the draw of

a tournament featuring no less

than 19 of the worlds top 20

first seed to bow out when he

lost in three sets to crowd

favourite Henri Leconte in an

perfect start but Leconte.

cheered by 10,000 roaring fans.

came back from behind to win

Unpredictable Leconte, who

last year knocked out American

Pete Sampras to reach the

quarter finals before withdraw-

ing with injury, served poorly

and missed easy volleys to lose

The gifted left-hander, ran-

ked 84th in the world but

capable of beating almost any-

body when on form, then picked

up his game and pulled out

2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

the first set.

Tenth seed Pioline made a

all-French second round clash.

American David Wheaton.

"All I want to do now is go

Ivan Lendl, like Becker and

"It's been a tough year but

through to the second round.

"It went quite easily and I'm

ervilling.

event.

Delaitre 6-2, 6-3.

"I almost feel French when I

Sixth seed Stefan Edberg,

in devastating style last year.

World number four Becker.

a woman and soon a baby."

I will just be patient. I will come home and I will say what to do. But no compromise (on the money issue)." Scherbo said he must remain on good terms with the Belarus federation in order to make the national team. The federation must also apply on his behalf for visas for foreign travel.

"To leave from Belarus or Ukraine of the former Soviet Union system it is still the same. I must have official invitation and the federation must get my visa."

Scherbo said he was worried about making a safe home in Belarus for his wife and infant daughter, who was born earlier this year in the United States.

my family somewhere. To make them safe," he said.

"I just want to move, to put

Scherbo said that after the Olympics he became a target for thieves.

"Two cars were stolen. In one robbery they took money from my apartment," he said. "Any mafia can come to my home and kidnap my baby. I just want a quiet life with my wife."

taking the contest with an ace.

"I love to play under pres-

sure and I've always felt at

wouldn't like having to play

against myself, it must be ever

round match against eight seed

Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine,

who struggled to overcome 1988

Leconte now faces a third

so hard," he added.

6-37 6-3, 7-6.

home here," said Leconte, "

#### held in Turkey ISTANBUL, Turkey, Nov 3:

UK soccer fans

Police questioned more than a hundred Manchester United soccer fans who were detained after a downtown hotel was ransacked, a British Consulate PARIS, Nov 3: Ho- don't like losing, but now I'm some subsational shots before spokeswoman said Wednesday reports AP.

The incident at the Tamsa Hotel in the Aksaray district occurred late Tuesday after the British fans checked in. The Manchester fans were in Istanbul for Wednesday nights European Champions Cup encounter with Turkey's Galatasaray squad. The teams drew 3-3 in their first-leg

winner Amos Mansdorf of Israel "I wasn't feeling too good before the match but I'm much better now," said rising star anonymity. Medvedev, who last week told French sports daily L'Equipe he

problems. "I almost lost my interest in tennis, but I'm trying hard to concentrate on my game," he added without elaborating.

Twelfth seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic also had to flight hard to dispose of Rustan Andrei Chesnokov.

Korda won 6-3, 6-7, 7-6 to set up an exciting third round duel against Edberg.

### Thailand Open results

BANGKOK, Nov 3: Defending champion Joko Suprianto of Indonesia easily defeated Thai competitor Parpong Thongsari 15-3, 15-3 in the second round of the men's singles match of the 90,000 dollar Thailand Open here Tuesday, reports

In the first round, the topseeded Suprianto defeated Hong Kong's Wong Kwok Wai 15-1.

In other second round matches, No 3/4 seeded Arbi Harivanto of Indonesia defeated India's Sushant Saxena 15-4. 15-7, while No 5/8 seeded Marleve Mainaky of Indonesia beat Chinese national Jing Feng 15-7, 15-11.

Thailand's Sompol Kukasemkit, the 1990 Thai Open champion who is now seeded No 5/8, defeated compatriot Thanes Chuchatpong 15-5, 15-4. Indonesia's Alan Budi Ku-

suma, seeded No-2 and Barcelona Olympic gold medalist and champion here in 1989 and 1991, defeated South Korea's Kim Chul Joong 15-6, 15-10.

Karen Nucent.

"Right now 133 British fans are giving statements to the police about the incident," said the consulate spokeswoman. who spoke on condition of She denied Turkish press

reports that anyone had been was hampered by personal injured or hospitalized. "There were only one or two minor treatments," she said. Hotel employee Birol Cevahir said British fans destroyed 30

> hotel rooms, ransacked the lobby and broke open the hotel safe and stole some money. He said 174 British fans checked into the hotel on Tuesday

"They drank all the time, began to lean out of windows and make obscene gestures with their hands to people passing He also said some of the

ence of alcohol, broke into the room of a woman guest and destroyed the furniture. The unidentified woman was not in at the time, he added.

fans, obviously under the influ-

"They then threw bottles into the street, descended downstairs and destroyed the lobby and argued with the police whom the hotel had summoned, Cevahir said.

Another hotel employee, who asked not to be identified by name, said the British fans also tried to take down a Turkish flag at the hotel entrance. fought with Galatasaray supporters and struggled with the police trying to detain them.

Police declined to comment Headlines in Turkish newspapers reporting the incident read: "Hooligans Turn Aksaray Into a Battlefield" and "Barbarian Englishmen."

Strict security measures prevailed around the Tamsa Hotel. News reports said hundreds of police would be deployed to prevent disturbances at Wednesday night's Manchester United-Galatasaray match.

# Spanish clubs slip up badly



Spanish clubs Va lencia and Atletico Madrid were the big losers as a double giant-kil-

ling act, two hat-tricks and a spate of red cards brought Tuesday's European Cup action to the boil, reports AFP. Valencia, the Spanish league leaders, found themselves on

the wrong end of a 7-0 German thrashing that saw them crash out of the UEFA cup at Karlsruhe, while Atletico Madrid were bundled out of the competition by minnows Ofi Crete after an explosive match saw both sides finish with 10 men. There were no worries for

Italian giants Juventus, how ever, Italy's current top club coasting through to their home second round tie by dispatching Norwegian's Kongsvinger 2-0 to win 3-1 on aggregate. And Ajax also had few problems in the Cup Winners Cup in

Turkey, with Dutch league top scorer Jari Litmanen from Finland netting a treble and paving the way to a 4-0 second leg away win against Besiktas in the Cup Winners' Cup. The 30-year-old Edgar

Schmitt, however, was the leading striker of the evening. He led the Karlsruhe assault

against Valencia with four goals, two in each half, to win the second round tie 8-3 on aggregate after Valencia had won the first leg 3-1 in Spain. The other German goals came from Rainer Schuetterle

in the 37th minute and Russian

international Valerij Schmarov

in the 46th, with Croatian defender Slaven Bilic completing the rout with a last-minute

the opening leg.

Karlsruhe, in contrast, have flopped badly this season in their domestic league, plunder ing in 12th place with only three successes so far in 13

But Schmitt, who joined

### 4 Russian soccer teams charged

MOSCOW. Nov 3: Four Russian Premier Division soccer teams were accused on Tuesday of fixing crucial matches affecting relegation and a place in next year's UEFA Cup. reports Reuter.

ential Russian newspapers.

It said CSKA Moscow and Dynamo Moscow had rigged their 1-1 draw on Sunday, which helped CSKA pull clear of the relegation zone and gave Dynamo a much-needed point in their bid to qualify for next year's UEFA Cup.

openly mocking the teams as players lifted the ball over the bar from good scoring positions several times towards the end. "Look at this spectacle. They're taking us for fools," said

dismissed the game as a farce.

dencia, only beaten once this serious in Spain and having concelled just eight goals in nine games, looked the strong favourites to go through after

The charges came from Izvestia, one of the most influ-

Television commentators

one commentator.

Karlsruhe this year, made a nonsense of the form guide with an opening goal in the 29th minute and netting again five minutes later. His goals after the break came in the 59th and 63rd minutes.

> Greek minnows Off Crete had impressed during their 1-0 first leg defeat to Atletico Madrid, but few expected them to capitalise by ousting the

Spaniards. That is just what they did, however, by winning their home return 2-0.

Nikos Mahlas got the first in the 51st minute from close range and all went wrong for visitors Atletico in the 62nd when a penalty was awarded against them. Joe Luis Aminero was sent

Tsifoutis' shot was punched by the goalkeeper but adjudged to have gone over the line. Off then had Haralmbos Moustakidis sent off five min-

off for arguing and George

utes from time. Ajax, second in the Dutch league, had only managed a 1-0 first leg win but their last two matches at home - which have included eight goals scored and none conceded - suggested they were coming into form.

Litmanen, who has scored

13 goals in the Dutch league.

confirmed that with a 19th

minute goal against the run of play as the side relied on all-out attack. And, as the home side continued to press after the break. Litmanen led a goal spree that

A British survey of neurologists' patients found that of 316 patients with CTE, 294 were saw three more goals come within eight minutes. boxers.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

DOWN **ACROSS** the Lost (suspect) 21 Singer 1 Jackson 1 Watson Ark" extra Laine 36 Year-end and Derek assisted 22 Gad about 2 Tarzan quaffs him 23 Make 5 West of 37 Squareportrayer 3 Driver's Hollywood mesh lace money 24 Bay 38 Firetruck 8 Indication need: abbr. of tired structures need 26 Usher's 4 Gave for 41 Live 42 "I cannot 12 Medley a time handouts 5 Tempera- 27 Autumnal tell ---13 Spindle-43 Tuna type rock top stuff ment 28 Dismantle 6 Melody 14 Gen. 48 Actor 29 Way out 7 Grace Robert -Auber-31 Bacchana-15 Buttonjonois 8 Creed 49 Curly's 9 Actor lian cry wood 34 Certainly Mowbray 17 Kent's brother 10 Hereditary 35 "Family 50 Markey or coworker Feud" 18 Pal of Bagnold 11 Future 51 Off the Wynken team-

payroll

52 Toper

Blynken

19 Profited

21 Hardly an

24 Rid of rind

25 Burden

Rack-

straw's

vessel

30 Listening

device

opposite

eater, this

35 "Raiders of

33 No picky

31 Put up

32 Bellum

26 Ralph

ideal date

53 Calendar prop 38 Zhivago's 20 Smell abbr. Solution time: 24 mins. JAB CHEAP TAW ORELARGE TEDTURNER DON IMPNICKED OCTOPI RAE SEA DRILL ENDS SIR AGIO 44 Card MADAM DEW HEN ANOA VIRTUE 45 A Chorus

CANARDONE ASS TEDKOPPEL 46 20-year SEN LENDA MAX

plant

39 Karras or Trebek

16 Janitorial 37 Brotherly

40 Partake at "21" 41 Help a hood

mates

love

address

Line" song napper 47 Summer NYC hrs.

FUBKPPKPB HVU N W 100 RSRRUHUUCM N S C MHCKPB. WKCMH Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ROOKIE PITCHERS HOPE

TO STRIKE IT RICH. Today's Cryptoquip clue: B 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 words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

