

Zahid, Tuhin's hero

Sports Reporter
Zahid captured five wickets for 17 runs to help Tuhin SS emerge group champions with a 69-run victory over Rahmatganj in one of the three Lotus Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket matches played at different city venues yesterday.



Abahani's young defender Imdadul sends the ball nestling into the net from a penalty to pave the way for sky-blues thrilling 2-1 win over star-studded Mukhtijoddah Krira Chakra Sangsad in the second semifinal of the third DMFA Cup at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Akram spell sinks Somerset

LONDON, May 29: Pakistan left-arm paceman Wasim Akram seized two wickets with consecutive deliveries during an incisive display that set up Lancashire for an emphatic county championship win over Somerset on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Brian Lara shrugged off his disappointment at missing a world record 24 hours earlier by striking a superb 55 not out for Warwickshire against Middlesex at Lord's.



WASIM AKRAM

Akram completed a first-innings haul of five for 117 and then captured three for 21 when Somerset followed on 248 behind on the third day of the four-day match at Southampton.

Left-arm pace bowler Alan Mullally, born in England but brought up in Australia where he played Sheffield Shield cricket for Western Australia and Victoria, grabbed four for 38 to help put Leicestershire on top against Kent.

Mullally and fellow paceman David Mills (3-51) dismissed Kent for 157 on the third day at Leicester, giving the home side a first innings lead of 47.

Skipper Nigel Briars (82) pressed home their advantage in a first wicket stand of 78 with West Indian opener Phil Simmons, who slammed 42 off 50 balls with five fours and two sixes. The pair spurred Leicestershire to 210 for four at the close, a lead of 257.

Paceman Andy Pick gave Nottinghamshire the chance to secure their third championship win of the season with a telling late burst against Derbyshire at Ilkeston. Pick brought his match haul to nine by grabbing the last three wickets to fall for just four runs as Derbyshire slipped from 218 for seven to 221 all out.

Rutherford, Young plunder Essex attack

SHELMESFORD, England, May 29: Skipper Ken Rutherford and Bryan Young hit centuries against Essex on Saturday to lift New Zealand's morale ahead of the first Test against England, reports Reuter.

Rutherford, who was seething in his criticism of the side crushed by an innings by Yorkshire on Thursday, finished unbeaten on 111 in New Zealand's 314 for three.

He put on 191 for the second wicket with opener Young who made 122.

The New Zealanders were in sore need of a good day. Their batting has been at best indifferent so far on the tour and they have been beset by injury problems in the pace bowling department.

Seamer Simon Doull has already returned home and strike bowler Danny Morrison broke down in the first one-day international earlier this month.

Michael Owens, Doull's replacement, was ruled out of the three-day match against Essex — New Zealand's last before the Test — with a hip injury.

And Chris Pringle, in Morrison's absence the New Zealanders' most experienced seamer, withdrew from the current match when he suffered a muscle spasm in his lower back in early morning warm-up.

Rutherford was clearly determined that the batting failures of recent weeks against Yorkshire, Middlesex and Somerset should be put behind him.

He completed his century from 145 balls, hitting 10 boundaries, and played with great composure despite the day-long poor light.

Young's 222-ball innings was spread over four and a quarter hours. He too, timed the ball excellently, scoring 17 fours.

Ali wins another title

NEWTON, Mass., May 29: Floats like butterfly, stings like a Pit.

Muhammad Ali won another title Saturday, an honorary law doctorate from little Mount Ida College, reports AP.

"I've been called the king. I've been called the greatest. I've been called champ." Ali said in receiving his first college degree. "And now I can be called the doc."

The three-time heavyweight champion wore a black cap and gown, marching onto the stage with Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and other honorary degree recipients as a brass quintet played "Pomp and Circumstance."

Paul Dunphy, the college's vice president for student development, drew a standing ovation when he said the honorary degree for Ali was long overdue.

Bryan Carlson, president of

the leafy private school in suburban Boston, said he first met Cassius Clay — who later changed his name to Muhammad Ali — at a world title fight

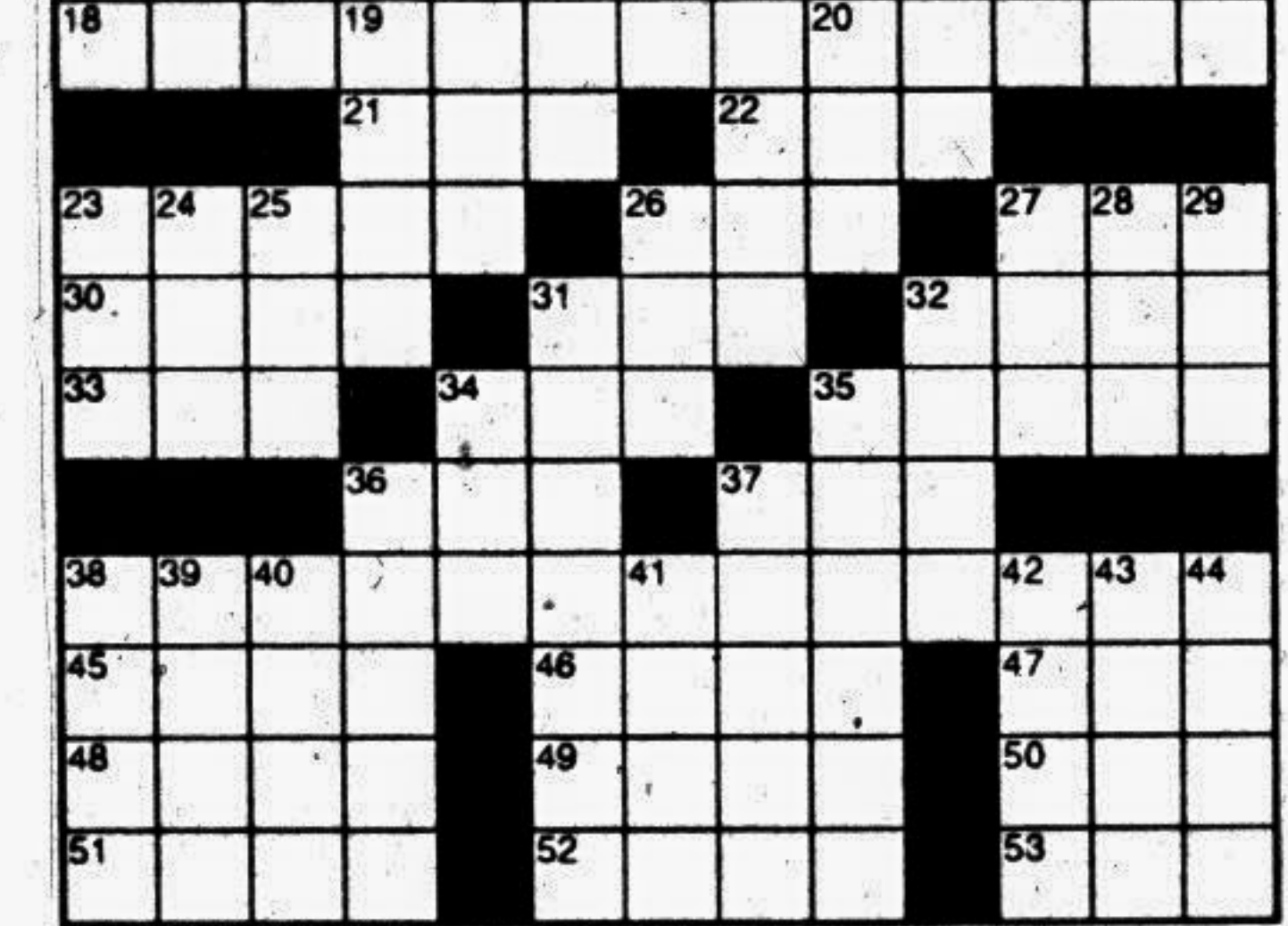
weight bout, in which the 23-year-old Clay knocked out Sonny Liston in the first minute.

College officials said Ali was honored Saturday as a humanitarian and an activist for peace and racial harmony, not as a fighter.

The fists that once ruled the world now playfully perform magic tricks. Ali makes a red handkerchief disappear in his left fist, using it as an example of how he says people can be deceived.

Ali, slowed by Parkinson's disease, now spends much of his time travelling the world to promote his Islamic faith. He distributed autographed pamphlets about the religion to students and other admirers before the graduation.

The school also established a Muhammad Ali Award, to be given annually to a student who has helped promote a multi-racial community at Mount Ida School officials said Ali will help select the winner each year.



MOHAMMED ALI

at Lewiston, Maine, in May 1965. Carlson was then a college sophomore. He said he pretended to be a journalist so he could sneak into the heavy-

England Test squad named

LONDON, May 29: New chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth named his first Test squad Sunday, choosing three uncapped players and retaining only five for the team that played the final Test in the winter tour of the West Indies, reports AP.

The three players with a chance to make their Test debuts against New Zealand, at Trent Bridge starting Thursday, are all-rounder Craig White, left-handed spin bowler Richard Stemp and wicket-keeper Steve Rhodes.

All three have Yorkshire connections. White, 24, was born in the county but was raised in Australia and represented that country at youth level. The right-handed batsman and spin bowler returned to England and made his Yorkshire debut in 1990.

He's come through very quickly," said Illingworth, who watched White hit an unbeaten century and take seven wickets for 85 runs last week against Essex. "He's a good batsman, good anywhere in the field and particularly fine at slip. He changed from off-spin to seam-up last year and has increased sharply in his pace."

Stemp, 26, joined Yorkshire from Worcestershire in 1993, while 29-year-old Rhodes has been with Worcestershire since 1985 after playing for Yorkshire from 1981-84.

Illingworth's squad included only five specialist batsmen, including England's all-time run-scorer in Test cricket and former captain Graham Gooch, who opted to skip the disappointing tour of the West Indies.

Captain Mike Atherton, Alec Stewart, Robin Smith and Graeme Hick were retained from England's previous Test to provide the balance of the batting attack. Medium-fast bowler Angus Fraser was the other player held over from the last Test.

There were recalls for left-handed paceman Mark Ilett, Derbyshire all-rounder Phil DeFreitas and Essex spinner Peter Such, none of whom travelled to the West Indies. Fast bowler Devon Malcolm, who made the trip but missed the last Test, was also named.

Illingworth said the unavailability of injured pacemen Andy Caddick, Darren Gough and Chris Lewis, plus spinner Phil Tufnell's absence from the game due to personal problems, had given the other bowlers their chance.

Sepak takraw may debut at 2000 Olympics

BANGKOK, May 29: Sepak takraw, a traditional village pastime that has become one of Southeast Asia's most popular sports, may make it to the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, the Bangkok Post reported today, reports AP.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Juan Antonio Samaranch suggested sepak takraw be included because of its acrobatic action and exciting play, the Post quoted Thai Olympic official Santiparb Tejavjanja as saying.

"It's too early to make any predictions, but I feel that the chances are good," Santiparb told the Post on his return from a meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in Hiroshima. Santiparb is OCA treasurer.

Sepak takraw, which made its entry into international sports at the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing, is played on a badminton sized court, divided by a net, by two three man teams.

The teams have to get a rattan ball from one side of the court, to the other, using any part of the body, except hands. It started as a traditional village sport played in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Burma. Malaysia were the first Asian Games champions.

Because of reluctance to add new sports to the packed Olympic lineup, sepak takraw could be included under another name such as "acrobatic volleyball," Santiparb said.

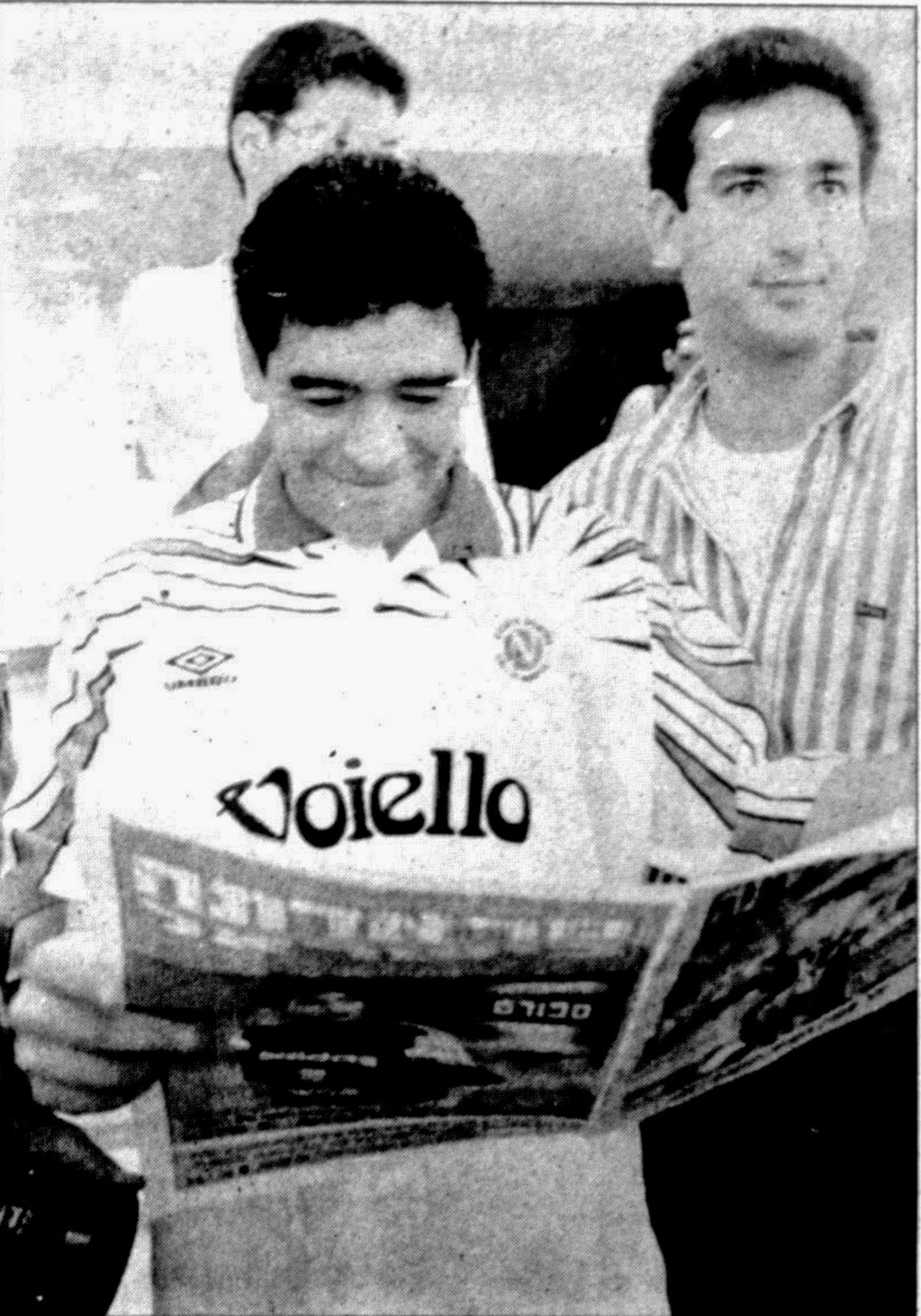
Samaranch ends visit to Sydney

SYDNEY, May 29: Beijing, which lost a close vote to Sydney to host the 2000 Summer Olympics, should try again for the 2004 Games, International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch said Sunday, reports AP.

"We would like them to bid again," he told a news conference. "It would be very good for the Olympic movement" if Beijing hosted the Games.

Sydney won the 2000 Games in a vote among Olympic committee members in Monte Carlo last Sept 23.

Samaranch left Sydney on Sunday after a four-day visit, flying to Western Samoa for an Oceania National Olympic Committee conference.



A beaming Diego Maradona, wearing a Napoli shirt, glances through a story in the sports page of an Israeli newspaper that tells about the Argentine soccer stars arrival in Tel Aviv yesterday. Argentina play Israel in friendly match tomorrow. — AFP photo

Arantxa, Pierce power home

PARIS, May 29: No 12 seed Mary Pierce powered into the French Open quarterfinals with a record-setting 6-1, 6-1 rout Sunday of South Africa's Amanda Coetzee, reports AP.

Pierce, based in Florida but playing for France, has now lost only four games in four matches and won her 21st straight game at 4-0 in the first set before Coetzee snapped the streak. Both are modern-era French Open records.

Joining her in the quarterfinals was second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who beat error-plagued Anke Huber of Germany, 6-3, 6-2, and unseeded Julie Halard of France, who upset seventh-seeded Natalia Zvereva of Belarus, 7-6 (7-2), 7-5.

Pierce, on track for a semifinal showdown with top-seeded Steffi Graf, shut out American Lori McNeil in the third round after winning her first two matches 6-1, 6-0 and 6-0, 6-1.

Coetzee, ranked 18th in the world, battled gamely, but Pierce repeatedly rocketed ground strokes and service returns out of her reach.

Sanchez Vicario had little trouble ousting the 11th-seeded Huber, who committed 45 unforced errors. Even a bad fall in the sixth game of the second set didn't slow the 22-year-old Spaniard, who along with Pierce is considered one of the few serious threats to Graf.

Huber, now 1-7 against Sanchez Vicario, reached the semifinals here last year before losing to Graf. Neither she or Sanchez Vicario had lost a set in their first three rounds, and their match was the only one of 16 fourth-round contests in the upset-riddled tournament to pair two seeded players.

Wilson told the AP he had seen Capriati using "heroin, smoking crack and marijuana and using pills." He said the pills were depressants that drug users call "ruffles," which make people feel as though they are drunk.

Rubin called it a coverup. MIAMI, May 29: A lawyer known for becoming involved in off-beat cases plunged into the Jennifer Capriati drug case Saturday, alleging a coverup to protect the young tennis star, reports AP.

Ellis Rubin's latest client is Nathan Wilson, 18, who was with Capriati when she and two others were arrested at a drug party. Wilson was not arrested when police raided the motel room May 16.

Rubin would not allow his client to speak during the news conference, but let him answer a few questions in an interview with The Associated Press.

The lawyer said there may be a coverup because two people at the party were charged with using crack cocaine or heroin, and Capriati was charged only with possession of marijuana.

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All four were playing Sunday against relatively unknown players — Sampras against Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden, Medvedev against Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands, Bruguera against Australian Patrick Rafter and Courier against Olivier Delaitre of France.

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American Michael Chang lies on the court after falling during his match against Peruvian Jaime Yzaga in the third round of the French Open in Paris on Saturday. Yzaga won 6-2, 6-3, 5-7, 1-6, 7-5. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution for the word 'CRYPTOQUIP' and a list of words found in the puzzle.

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle section with a grid of letters and instructions for solving it. Includes a solution for the word 'CRYPTOQUIP'.