Former Chinese

athlete

sentenced

A court in China's south-

eastern Fujian province sen-

tenced Ni Zhiqin, vice-chair-

man of the provincial sports

commission, to eight years in

in China by breaking the men's

world high-jump record with a

leap of 2.29 metres (7.5 feet)

in Hunan province in central

Fujian sports lottery. Ni twice

took bribes totalling 57,000

yuan (6,760 dollars) from the

manager of a leather goods

company that wanted to run

the lottery, the newspaper

viction and plans to appeal, it

Romantsev still

optimistic

coach Oleg Romantsev, still

smarting from an embarrassing

loss to lowly Slovakia, is look-

ing to his forwards to ensure

victory in next week's crucial

European Group Five champi-

onship qualifier against Scot-

officials today said the coach

who took over after last year's

disastrous World Cup outing,

had included five strikers and

only five defenders in his 20-

Captain Viktor Onopko, who

Young CSKA forward Vyach-

missed the 2-1 loss to Slovakia

earlier this month, returns

eslav Radimov, who came on as

substitute in the 1-1 draw in

Scotland last year, retains his

place while Spartak Moscow

forward Nikolai Pisarev gains a

But there is no place for

Russian Soccer Federation

land, reports Reuter.

man squad.

after injury.

recall.

MOSCOW, Mar 24: Russian

Ni did not accept the con-

As official in charge of the

In 1970, Ni sprang to fame

prison, the newspaper said.

day, reports Reuter.

China, it said.



Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand (L), who beat his American counterpart Gata Kamsky in the PCA candidates final series, is congratulated by Canarias Tourism president in Las Palmas on Thursday. -AFP/UNB photo

Martina back, Seles not ready



KEY BISCAYNE. Florida, Mar 24: Martina Navratilova is back. Momica Seles may never return.

Seles said she's not ready to join a US Fed Cup team that will include retired pro Navratilova in its first-round match April 22-23 against Austria at Turnberry Isle near Miami, reports AP.

New Fed Cup captain Billie Jean King reached the reclusive Seles by telephone before announcing the team.

"I talked to Monica last night," King said Thursday. "She doesn't know if she'll ever play tennis again. One of her dreams is to play Fed Cup. and to be in the Olympics, and she still loves tennis very

"She is practicing off and out. If she becomes more stable in her feelings about playing. think she'll be back. I think deep down she probably does want to play again."

King said she had been wanting to talk with Seles for nearly two years, ever since the young star left the WTA Tour after being stabbed by a deranged fan in Germany.

"It was a long process to get to her," said King, who declined to answer further questions about the former No. 1

The man who attacked Seles, Guenter Parche is being retried this week in Germany. He was convicted in the first trial but given a suspended two-year sentence and set free.

Speculation had been building recently that Seles, 21, would return to tennis this spring. But there's no basis for such speculation, said Anne Person Worcester, chief executive officer for the WTA Tour. "Nothing Monica has said

has indicated one iota that she is considering a return, Worcester said. "The fact we're all in a frenzy about it shows how much she means to women's tennis.

Born in Yngoslavia, Seles now lives in Sarasota, Florida and became an American citizen a year ago, making her eligible for the US Fed Cup and Olympic teams,

King also plans to talk with Jennifer Capriati and 14-yearold Venus Williams about joining the Fed Cup team at some

Along with Navratilova, who

retired from the WTA Tour last year, the lineup against Austria will include Lindsay Davenport. Gigi Fernandez and Mary Joe Fernandez.

King announced the team prior to the women's semifinals at the Lipton Championships.

This year's Fed Cup format will be similar to the Davis Cub. with four singles match and one doubles match per tie. but over two days instead of

King hasn't decided on singles or doubles assignments, but Navratilova and Gigi Fernandez are a likely doubles

"It would be fun to play with Martina — if she practices." Fernandez joked. "Don't worry," King re-

sponded. Navratilova, 38, has a Fed Cup record of 15-0 in singles and 12-0 in doubles. She was a member of Cup championship

Reggiana striker lgor Simutenkov, Russia's player-ofteams in 1982, 1986 and the-year in 1994, who had a poor game for the Olympic Other first-round matches: Bulgaria at Spain, Japan at team in Slovakia. First-choice Germany and France at South striker Igor Kolyvanov of Fog-Africa. If the Americans win, their second-round tie will be

gia is ruled out with a longterm injury. in the United States in July. The axe falls on defenders Sergei Gorlokovich - one of the few bright spots in the World Cup - and Rashid

fielder Oleg Dobrovolsky. SQUAD:

Rakhimov, as well as on mid-

Goalkeepers: Sergei Ovchinnikov. Dmitry Kharin, Stanislav Cherchesov. Defenders —

Dmitry Khlestov, Yuri Nikiforov, Viktor Onopko, Vasily Kulkov, Yuri Kovtun.

Midfielders: Andrei Pyatnitsky. Omari Tetradze, Andrei Kanchelskis, Valery Karpin, Igor Shalimov, Ilya Tsymbalar, Alexander Mostovoi.

Forwards: Dimitry Radchenko, Sergei Kirvakov, Vladislav Radimov., Vladimir Besschastnykh, Nikolai Pisarev.

ACOG signs mercantile deal with China

ATLANTA, Mar 24: Organizers of the 1996 Olympics said they have signed a deal to license Atlanta Games merchandise, including items featuring the blue mascot, in China, reports AP.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, the Chinese Olympic Committee and Zong Ao Physical Development Co. of Beijing did not disclose financial terms of the deal announced on Thursday.

The parties said that under the agreement, Chinese manufacturers who wish to use trademarks, symbols and designations owned by ACOG will apply for a license through Zong Ao. In return for the rights, the manufacturers will return a portion of their sales receipts as royalties to Zong Ao, ACOG and the Chinese Olympic Committee.

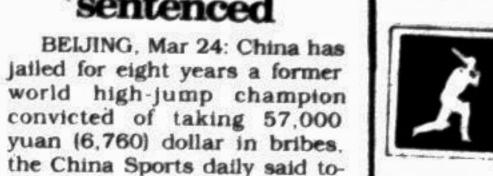
The deal includes a minimum royalties guarantee.

"The agreement covers the Centennial Olympic Games torch marks, the Izzy character, the "Look of the Games" designs and pictograms and English and Chinese translations of "Atlanta 1996," said Bob Hollander, vice president of the Atlanta Olympics marketing organization. ACOG spokesman Darby

Coker said the deal was among the first since a recent US-China agreement aimed at cracking down on piracy of "intellectual properties." That agreement earlier this year averted threatened trade sanctions by both countries.

Coker said it is impossible to predict how much demand there would be for Atlanta Olympics merchandise in populous China, though he noted interest in the Games is high. China last year unsuccessfully bid to host the 2000 Summer Games, and is expected to make a bid for the 2004 Olympics.

Story of Warne's success



PORT OF SPAIN Trinidad, Mar 24 (AP): Both athletes have specialty shoes created for them and reported seven-figure paychecks to

Both are superstars in their

But Chicago Bulls basketball star Michael Jordan had never heard of Australian cricket hero Shane Warne when the two met last summer for the shooting of a couple of Nike commercials - Jordan's for the "Air Jordan." Warne's for the "Air Flipper."

Americans may not know him, but the blond Australian has been widely hailed as the "Michael Jordan of Cricket" since bursting into prominence in the last couple of years with a lethal ball-throwing style.

The 25-year-old Warne is star bowler, cricket's equivalent of a baseball pitcher, for Australia's national team. which is currently dueling the West Indies in the Caribbean.

"He's probably the greatest spin bowler of all time." says Everard Gordan, a Trinidadian cricket expert who played professionally in England in the 1960s. "He can do stuff with the ball you have never. ever seen before."

With his yellow hair, blue eyes, rosy cheeks and playful smile. Warne looks like a surfer. But the angry scab on his arm earned diving for a ball and the diamond stud in his left ear attest to how he earns his paycheck. Warne came very close to

not making it in professional sports. Smoking a Benson and Hedges by a hotel swimming pool on a recent practice day, he said his dream had been to play Australian Rules football, but the husky six-footer (1.8 meters) was cut from the Melbourne team because he was



SHANE WARNE too slow and too short.

"When I got the axe. thought, what do I do now? I didn't want to work." So Warne signed on with a pro cricket team in England, then landed a sport on the Victoria state squad in 1990

Dropped after one season, he played on a youth team for a year and was called back up to the state team for four games before the national team grabbed him for the 1991 series against India. The going was rocky.

I got smashed all over the park." confessed Warne. "I got dropped to 12th man," the

Pan Am Games

Canadian rower pays the price

Sports Organization, said the

federation. That could mean

joined Laumann and easily won

the quadruple sculls final. The

gold medal will now go to Cuba

and the US team moves up

keep her single sculls gold.

won Saturday, because she did

not test positive for ephedrine

in Argentina and her home-

town of Victoria, Laumann, an

Olympic bronze medalist, used

Benadryl, which contains

pseudoephedrine, to treat a

cold. She also suffers from

in the system after more than

a few hours, and Vasquez Rana

said that is why the tablet she

took Saturday night caused her

to have a positive test after the

Canadian physicians were in-

volved in prescribing Benadryl

"and they made the mistake.

We want to be human, but we

have to follow the rules that we

have, we hope the doctors will

be sanctioned and the rower

"A mistake has to be paid

The US boxing team be-

lieves quite a few mistakes

will not be sanctioned.

Vasquez Rana said two

team event Sunday.

Benadryl is not detectable

Laumann will be allowed to

After checking with doctors

Marine, McBean, Diane

merely a warning.

from bronze to silver.

after that race.

lowest active position on the squad. Dangling by his fingertips, he trained hard for the 1992 season, traveled with the team to Srf Lanka and led it to victory. Back in Australia playing for Victoria, he played the "game of a lifetime" in December 1992, and found himself promoted for good.

"That was where my life turned around," said Warne. "It gave me a burst of confidence. started believing in myself."

Since then. Warne has climbed to the top of the game, shutting down batsmen with his unusual ball-throwing

He tries to send curve and knuckleballs instead of fastballs - only his deliveries have names like the leg spin, left arm spin, wrong in googlie and his trademark flipper, a vicious pitch with topspin that bounces upward in front of the

Adjustment to sudden success has brought some growing pains. Warne confessed. In India earlier this year he "snapped." exploding in rage at a batsman and shouting expletives heard on TV sets around the world. He was fined for his behavior, in addition to being thoroughly embarrassed.

Warne plugs an Australian New Zealand jeans company called Just Jeans and is an offseason personality on Australia's Channel 9, which broadcasts cricket in the Land Down Under. The endorsements put him in a different financial strata from other cricketers except world record-holding West Indian batsman Brian Lara.

Lamon Brewster could win a

decision over Cuba's famed Fe-

the whole tournament any-

pected four years ago in Ha-

vana, but it also seems that way

at this Pan Am boxing compe-

tition, where the Cuban pres-

ence is felt throughout the

boxing also has the most influ-

ence in amateur boxing - and

US team members believe

Brewster asked earlier this

Carlos Navarro lose a close de-

cision to Cuba's Juna Despi-

ange. "If we can't knock them

out, we can't win."

week after seeing teammate

"Why are we even here?"

The best team in amateur

Once Unidos athletic club.

they are paying the price.

The Cubans are running

That could have been ex-

lix Savon.

way." Mustin said.

King's 'odyssey' for Tyson

NEW YORK, Mar 24: Promoter Don King missed a Thursday news conference for double heavyweight-title boxing show because he was in Florida preparing for an "odyssey" to Indiana, where former champion Mike Tyson is scheduled to be released from prison on Saturday, reports AP.

"The journey I'm going on is, what do you call it - is the journey that Homer wrote about," King said on a speaker phone from his office in

Florida. "Saturday, I will be Indiana coming out with my friend, my

man — Mike Tyson. So, he will be involved with Tyson's boxing comeback,

King was asked.
"Whatever he chooses," the promoter bellowed. "As long

as he's free, I'll jump for joy." King would not answer questions about the details of Tyson's release from the Indiana Youth Center, at Plainfield where he was sent April 15. 1992. after being convicted

on a charge of rape. King called it an unjust incarceration.

The purpose of the news conference was to promote a pay-per-view television card from Caesars Palace, April 8 at Las Vegas featuring two heavyweight championship fights that involve a former Tyson sparring partner and two men that Tyson has beaten.

The main event on the card, that also includes three other title fights, will be Oliver McCall's WBC, heavyweight championship defence against 45-year-old Larry Holmes, a

former WBC and IBF champion. McCall once sparred with Tyson, who knocked out Holmes in the fourth round of a defense of the undisputed championship Jan. 22, 1988.

The vacant WBA title will be

at stake when Tony Tucker fights Bruce Seldon. Tucker was the IBF champion when Tyson, the WBA-WBC champion, outpointed him Aug 1, 1987, and became the first undisputed heavyweight champion since Leon Spinks in 1978.

Historic soccer sponsorship deal signed

MOSCOW, Mar 24: Russian soccer authorities signed a his-

Danish chewing-gum manufacturer Stimorol will be the main sponsor in a deal which could net this year's Premier Division champions around 500.000 dollars.

when light heavyweight Antonio Tarver won an 11-10 decision on Tuesday against Diosvany Vega of Cuba. Meanwhile, the Cuban base-

That proved not totally true

ball team clinched its seventh straight Pan Am gold medal by beating Nicaragua 6-1. With one game remaining, the Cubans are 8-0 and uncatch-

Stuttgart sign Balakov

STUTTGART, Mar 24: German First Division club VFB Stuttgart have agreed to sign Bulgarian Krassimir Balakov from Portugal's Sporting for about 3.5 million marks (2.48 million dollars), the German sports news agency SfD said, reports Reuter.

toric 9 million dollars threeyear sponsorship deal on Wednesday but only after overcoming last-minute problems which threatened to scupper the agreement, reports Reuter.

A news conference to an-

nounce the deal, the first of its kind in the former Soviet Union, was delayed for more than two hours as officials battled over the length of the contact and whether clubs would retain some television

Under the deal, one match a week will be televised live throughout Russia. The amount each club receives from the sponsors at the end of the season will depend on how many times their games are televised and on their final league position.

The money will come as a shot in the arm to Russian domestic soccer, which is going through troubled times as the best players join foreign clubs and attendances dwindle alarmingly.

Sabatini falls, Sampras sails Biorkman celebrated his 23rd KEY BISCAYNE. shot-making.



Florida, Mar 24: Near the end, pacing behind the baseline, Gabriela Sabatini actually

put her hand to her throat, reports AP.

In a collapse almost identical to her 1993 French Open failure. Sabatini blew a 6-1, 5-1 lead, double-faulted 18 times, squandered three match points and lost to ailing Kimiko Date in Thursday's semifinals of the Lipton Championships.

Date, bothered by a sore shoulder that hindered her serve and forehand, nonetheless rallied to win 1-6, 7-6, [7-2), 7-6 (7-4). "When it was 5-1 (in the

second set), I didn't feel very good," Sabatini said. "I was close to winning the match. but that wasn't the feeling I Date like wise looked less

than confident in advancing to the final against Steffi Graf. "I never thought of winning," she said, "until the last

point."

Remarkably, Sabatini also blew a 6-1, 5-1 lead two years ago in Paris. Mary Joe Fernandez survived five match points to win that quarterfinals match 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 10-8. Sabatini's career went into a

prolonged skid thereafter. In the men's quarterfinals, top-ranked Pete Sampras

shook off a code violation for arguing a call and came from behind to beat Andrei Medvedev, 6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4. In the third set, Medvedev led 3-1 and had three break-point chances before Sampras ral-

Unseeded Swede Jonas

Work on Atlanta Olympic Stadium resumes

ATLANTA, Mar 24: Some construction work resumed on Atlanta's Olympic Stadium, two days after an accident that killed one worker and injured two others, reports AP.

While federal, city and insurance company investigators continued on-site investigations into the cause of Monday's accident, about half the stadium work force returned to their jobs on Wednesday.

Joe Riedel, senior vicepresident of Atlanta Stadium Constructors, the main stadium contractor, said by next week work should resume in all areas except where the accident occurred.

birthday by beating 30-year-old Mats Wilander 6-2, 1-6, 6-5. Wilander blew a 5-2 lead in the third set.

Sampras plays Bjorkman in Friday's semifinals, and second-ranked Andre Agassi meets Magnus Larsson

Date's injury, a strained rotator cuff, could handicap her in the final Saturday against the second-seeded Graf, who beat No 3 Jana Novotna 6-2, 7-

Date will probably be able to play, WTA Tour trainer Jill Gresley said. The injury has bothered her for about four years, and she aggravated it earlier in the tournament.

"I always have this prob-

lem," said Date, seeded seventh. "Once I have enough rest, I can go on." Her 3-hour, 5-minute duel with Sabatini was far from an

artistic success for either player. On a hot, sunny afternoon, the restless crowd moaned, groaned and even laughed at the poor quality of

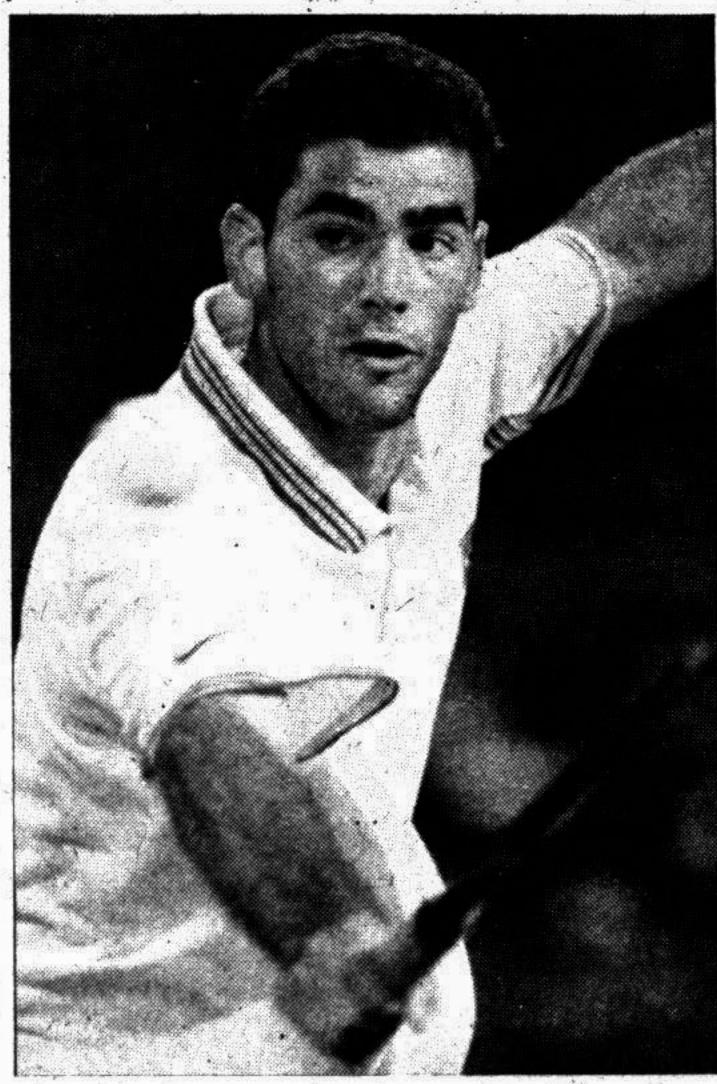
There were a numbing 148 unforced errors - 79 by Date and 69 by Sabatini. But the 115-pound Date stayed fresher

in the 85-degree heat. "Physically she was much better than me." Sabatini said

"That was the difference." The fifth-seeded Sabatini's double faults all came in the final two sets. She doublefaulted to lose the second-set tiebreaker, then did it again to lose the second, sixth and 10th games of the final set giving up the lead each time.

As Sabatini fell behind in the second tiebreaker, she wandered near the baseline, looking stunned and exhausted and rubbing her throat with her right hand.

Earlier she had appeared on her way to an easy win, especially when Date called for a trainer to attend to her aching right shoulder at the end of the first set. Date clutched her shoulder almost every time she missed a serve or hit an unforced error.



American Pete Sampras returns volley to Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine during his quarterfinal match at the Lipton championship in Key Biscayne on Mar 23. Sampras won 6-1, 6-7 (7-5), 7-6. -AFP/UNB photo

executive committee voted to withdraw the gold medal for the quadruple sculls, but would recommend Laumann receive the minimum sanctions from

tina. Mar 24: Canadian rower Silken Laumann stripped of one Pan Am Games gold medal Thursday and allowed to keep the other after testing positive for a stimulation that was in a FISA, the international rowing cold medicine, reports AP.

MAR DEL PLATA, Argen-

Mario Vasquez Rana, president of the Pan American O'Grady and Wendy Wiebe

SEA gymnastics meet from Apr 1

JAKARTA, Mar 24: Some 80 Southeast Asian gymnasts will compete in artistic and rhythmic events in Jakarta Indonesia, between April 1 and 7. reports Xinhua.

Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar and defending champion Thailand will send their best teenage gymnasts. aged between 12 and 18, to the second Southeast Asian Gymnastics Confederation championships, said Andi Darusalam Tabusalla, chairman of the organizing committee.

A total of 17 gold medals will be up for grabs at the Jakarta meet. Seven are in men's individual artistic gymnastics for pommel horse. rings, floor exercises, horizontal bar, vault, parallel bars and

all-around individual. The women's competition will feature 10 events broken

into two categories. The first, artistic category. includes the uneven bars, floor exercises, beam, vault and all-

around individual. The other is the rhythmic events which includes skipping rope, balls, Indian clubs, scarves and a combined event.

ACROSS

5 Fool

cent

12 Hideout

13 "How --

14 Cole

.15 U.S.

16 Possess

from the

soapbox

17 Spout

love thee?"

hometown

Porter's

1 Bona -

8 Compla-

have been made by ringside judges. So coach Tom Mustin wasn't going to waste his time worrying whether heavyweight CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer daddled 19 Oohs' 55 Earl mates 21 Hit the -Grey's ilk

> 41 Eyebrow enhancer target 45 Rue the 47 Feed-bag 3 10, in morsel 49 Partner in crime 50 Hunt 51 Gls

37 DeVito

40 School-

book

portrayal

entertain-

ment grp.

18 Shopping 52 Microquarter 20 Greek X's slangily 22 Chekhov word 26 Fonteyn's 54 Ske-

hopper 31 Infinitesimal bit 32 Prompt 32 Prompt
33 Bill-signing SHAYS CRIER souvenirs

frills

29 Twisted

30 Aussie

34 Erstwhile garment 35 Bart, to Homer 36 Bet both ways

DOWN (go to bed) 23 Tried for a 1 Dieter's home run 24 Extensive

Camera" 25 Come in second Tijuana 26 Acidic 4 Slipup in 27 Beehive State 28 By joint 5 Worship 6 Ms. piggy effort 32 Silhouette 7 Honest 8 Parsley 33 Dorm-wall serving decoration 9 Rhythmi-35 Kinsey subject

10 Grecian

vessel

Solution time: 23 mins.

MAO PGA VERB CARLA MIDIS APOGEE

ACADEMYAWARDS

GEL QUELL AGO

SPAY SHED TOR AVOID PAD

POLICEACADEMY

REDINK

11 Abdomen 38 Quick glimpses 39 Writer Sinclair 42 Col. Mustard's 43 Chase of

36 Waste no

time

Hollywood 44 Caustic solutions 45 Firewood? 46 Bee follower

48 Simile

center

CRYPTOQUIP KDX KDE VEMQZ.

EMUYŁ DWLZE K Z Q Q M J U W M U Y L M J U VZUDI Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ON DISCOUNT AIRLINE, PASSENGERS NEED EXACT CHANGE TO GET ON THE PLANE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals B 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.