Wimbledon live on

Star TV for 3 yrs

TV continues to bring premier

international sporting events

to Asia with live and delayed

broadcast from the grass

courts of Wimbledon. Star TV's

24-hour sports channel, Prime

Sports recently signed a three-

vear contract with the All

England Lawn Tennis and

Croquet Club enabling live

broadcast of this historical and

most traditional of all Grand

Slam events through 1997, the

120th anniversary of Wimble-

TV's Chief Executive Gary

Davey said, "Star TV is proud

to have secured for our viewers

what is perhaps the finest ten-

nis tournament played today.

Tennis continues to gain popu-

larity in Asia, as seen by the

large regionally-generated

sponsorship packages and the

number of local tournaments

attracting top-ranked players.

No tennis event brings greater

joy and excitement than Wim-

Kelly Butler, General Man-

ger of Prime Sports added,

"Tennis fans young and old can

enjoy live action from the

world's best players, com-

plimented by an experienced

commentary team led by Vijay

Amritraj and Brian Langley.

Broadcasting Wimbledon to the

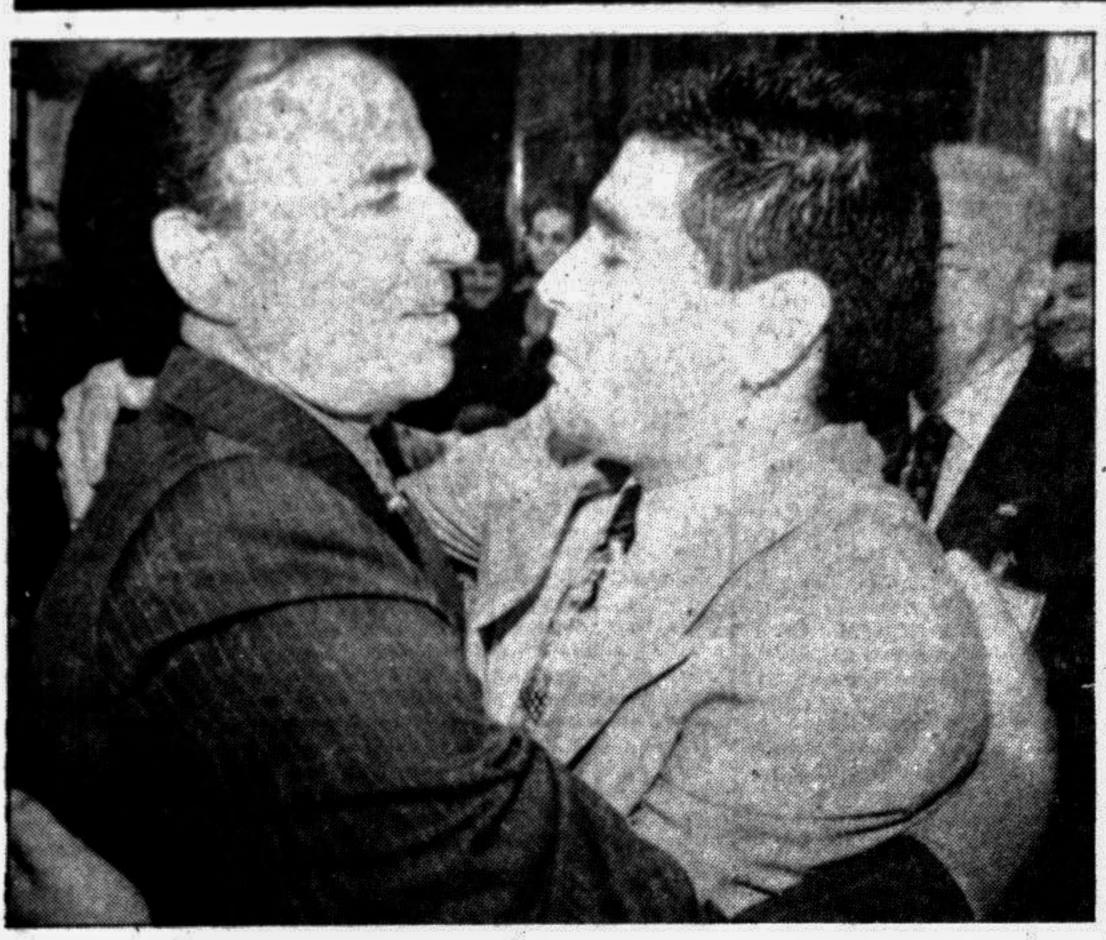
millions of tennis enthusiasts

oledon."

Announcing the news, Start

don, says a press release.

HONG KONG, May 16: Star



Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona congratulates President Carlos Meñem in Buenos Aires on May 14 on his election as President for a second successive term. - AFP/UNB photo

Berlusconi's double standard



MILAN, Italy, May 6: Italian soccer powerhouse AC Milan have contradicted the austerity claims of club

president and former premier Silvio Berlusconi by signing Liberian-born striker George Weah in a deal estimated at 10 million dollars, reports AP. The Milan club did not dis-

close terms of Weah's transfer from Paris Saint Germain. But the deal proves that Berlusconi's club, who face Ajax of Amsterdam next week in the Champions Cup final, are hardly poverty-stricken. Club sources and published

reports indicated that Milan agreed to pay a transfer fee of 12 billion lire (7.5 million dollars) to the French club and about four billion lire (2.5 million dollars) to the player for a two-year contract. Weah. 28, a two-time

African player-of-the-year and the star-forward of Paris Saint Germain for three years, is considered one of the best strikers performing in Europe.

'I'm going to play with one of the best European clubs, in most exciting world leagues," Weah was quoted as saying in Tuesday's Gazzetta dello Sport of Milan, Italy's largest sports daily.

"I will possibly wear the (No 9) jersey which belonged to (Marco) Van Basten, the best world striker of the last 10 years. What else could I wish." Weah scored 15 goals in the last French campaign and has a

16: Mary Decker

Slaney, America's

premier middle

distance runner.

star-crossed

record of 8 goals in 10 Champions' Cup matches. His transfer was finalised in the French resort of Cannes on Monday, following a meeting between AC Milan officials, the

player and PSG's president

Michel Denisot

"It was a difficult negotiation. Both sides had to make concessions," said Adriano Galliani, the managing director of the Milan club who negotiated the deal. "Weah is the player AC Milan needed and we are glad he is with us

Berlusconi, a media tycoon turned politician, said last week that the lira weakness against most currencies had made the cost of foreign players almost prohibitive.

He added that rocketing costs suggested austere transfer campaigns by all Italian soccer clubs for the 1995-96

"Weah is expensive and his transfer to AC Milan looks increasingly difficult." Berlusconi said, addressing the foreign press club in Rome. AC Milan have been a highly

successful and high-spending club for several years and were also criticised for signing players only intended for the substitutes bench.

in 1992 Milan invested more than 30 million dollars to get forward Gianluigi Lentini from Torino.

Lentini's quotation reached record levels as the player was also sought by Juventus of Turin. Milan's rival team which is owned by the Agnelli family of auto tycoons.

Milan badly needed a strongly-built, high-scoring striker such as Weah to make up for the long absence of Dutch centre forward Marco Van Basten, who has been sidelined with a slow-healing ankle injury since May 1993.

Van Basten's return to action is considered uncertain.

Milan's captain-sweeper Franco Baresi said Weah "is the forward Milan has been long missing. ... he's powerful. strong. I'm sure he will score many goals in Italy. Weah was shutout by Milan's

defence when the Italian team and Paris Saint Germain clashed in the Champions' Cup semifinal last month.

Milan advanced on a 3-0 aggregate score and take on Ajax in the May 24 final at Vienna. It's AC Milan's third consecutive final in the most prestigious European competition for clubs as it bids to equal Real Madrid's record of six ti-

At Milan Weah will team with such stars as Montenegrin forward Dejan Savicevic, Croatia's Zvonimir Boban and French midfielder Marcel Desailly and with a number of Italian internationals such as Baresi, Paolo Mal-dini, Demetrio Albertini and Marco Simone.

Weah, a naturalised Frenchman, is expected to travel to Milan this weekend to undergo medical examinations.

Chang tames a Goliath



Michael Chang faced the giant of the tournament und Malivai Washington took on

one of the favorites. They both Monday to lead an American sweep in first round play at the Italian Open, reports AP.

Chang, the No. 2 seed and at 5-foot-9 (1.75 m) one of the shortest players on the tour. extended his winning streak to 11 consecutive matches in dispatching the 6-foot-4 (1.94m) 18-year-old Australian Mark Philippoussis. He did it with seeming ease, 6-4, 6-3.

With his victory over topranked Andre Agassi on the clay in Atlanta two weeks ago. Chang is raising his game for the French Open, the only Grand Slam title he has won. back in 1989.

The bigest opening day upset was pulled by Washington with a 7:5, 6-3 defeat of Alberto Berastegui, the No. 5 seed from Spain and a serious threat on clay.

Jeff Tarango knocked off another seed, downing NO. 11 marc Rosset 7-6. (7-4), 6-3.

Also advancing from the US contingent were No. 10 Todd Martin, who eliminated Alberto Costa in three sets, 7-6 (7-3), 5-7, 6-3; Vince Spadea, a 6-4, 6-3 winner over Carlos Costa, a former Italian Open Richey Champion: and Reneberg, who ousted Italian Stefano Pescosolido, 7-6, (7-2), 7-6 (7-5).

There were other surprises at the start of the two million dollar tournament.

Italy's unseeded Renzo Furlan ousted No. 15 Karel Novacek 6-3, 6-2, And Andrei Chesnokov, down a set against Francisco Clavet and facing match point at 1-5 in the second, came back and broke service, won the set and then the match, 2-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Among the seeds advancing were No. 12 Stefan Edberg, appearing in Rome for the first time since 1984 He opened play on the Foro

Italico with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Arnaud Boetsch. The 29-year-old Edberg, a

he won the French Open at 17, beating Edberg in the finals.

He faced a player in



MICHAEL CHANG

Philipppoussis, who with his height and 202 pounds (92 kilograms) is the kind of modern power athlete now

dominating tennis. "He's very strong and serves well but the clay forces him to play a style he's not quite

familiar with," said Chang. The American's experience and skill on clay showed. He made only 21 unforced errors to 47 for Philippoussis and only one double fault, to six for the Australian, three coming in the penultimate game of the match allowing Chang a

decisive break The next two weeks will be very important for me to prepare for the French," Chang said. "Let's hope I'm in good shape and play my best tennis."

The top seed, Pete Sampras, begins the defense of his Italian title Tuesday in a match against Fabrice Santoro.

Steven sends Pat McEnroe packing



CORAL SPRINGS. Florida, May 16: Fifth-seeded Brett Steven of New Zealand won a

tough 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-0 victory over Patrick McEnroe at the 255,000 dollars America's Red Clay tennis championships on Monday, reports Reuter.

Seventh seeded Jonathan Stark, the only other seed in action on Monday, also went three sets for a 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 6-3 victory over Gaston Etlis of Argentina.

Jensen won a tipsy-turvy 4-6. 6-4. 7-6 (9-7) upset over fellow American 89th ranked Bryan Shelton. Shelton had four match

The 323rd-ranked Luke

points in the third set and Jensen scored big with a winning service return on his second match point. Like many of the other

players, the 48th-ranked Steven found the red clay court here difficult to change on court direction when running for balls. This seemed to bother him throughout much of the first two sets.

The 63rd ranked McEnroe appeared to have the match

. 5-4 with a service break. But McEnroe lost his serve in the 10th game of the second set at love and never recovered.

When McEnroe lost his serve in the opening game of the third set, he flung his tennis racket across the court, hitting his courtside chair, he received a warning for his misconduct.

Playing in his first clay court tournament of the year, the 61st ranked Stark needed time to find be comfortable with the dirt surface.

Both players had an inordinate number of aces for clay play - Stark had 18 and the 191st ranked Etlis had 12. Stark served for the first

set at 5-3, but was forced into a tiebreaker. Etli's confidence started to soared at the end of the first set and carried through the second set. In the third set, Stark final

took advantage of a weak service game by Etlis in the eighth game and at 30-40 blasted a winning crosscourt forehand for a 5-3 lead. I was a little nervous be-

cause it was my first match on clay. Stark said "In the third set I just tried to hold serve everytime and hoped for a few free points on his serve. And that's what happened."

further demonstrates Prime Sports' dedication to bringing our viewers the finest live sporting events." Prime Sports' commentary team will bring tennis fans all the inside angles from Wimb-

ledon throughout the two week event. In the booth, Brian Langley and Vijay Amritraj will join Americans Andrea Jaeger and Barry Tompkins providing English language coverage. In last year's men's final

Pete Sampras defeated Goran Ivanisevic in three straight sets (7-6, 7-6, 6-0) taking his second consecutive title. While on the ladies side Conchita Martinez defeated one of the all-time greats, Martina Navratilova (6-4, 3-6, 6-3) to earn her first Grand Slam victory. Live coverage of Day One

begins Monday, June 26, 1995 at 7:00 pm (BST) extending through to the Men's Finals (delayed) on July 10th at 10:00 pm (BST) and July 9th at 10:00 pm (BST).

WTA's top 20 ST PETERSBURG, Florida.

May 16: Top 20 women's tennis players, according to rankings issued by the WTA Tour, reports Reuter. 1. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

(Spain)

2. Steffi Graf (Germany) 3. Mary Pierce (France)

Conchita Martinez

(Spain) 5. Jana Novotna (Czech

Republic) 6. Lindsay Davenport (US)

7. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)

8. Kimiko Date (Japan)

Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)

10. Natasha Zvereva (Bulgaria) 11. Anke Huber (Germany)

12. Mary Joe Fernandez

13. Iva Majoli (Croatia) 14. Helena Sukova (Czech

Republic) 15. Amy Frazier (US)

16. Naoko Sawamatsu

(Japan)

17. Brenda Schultz (Ne-

herlands)

18. Lori McNeil (US)

19. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)

20. Julie Halard (France)

beating Team Stars and Stripes in five straight races.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** Fitzgerald sound? resort city 44 The voke's 2 Security 1 Polar 23 Lineman on them

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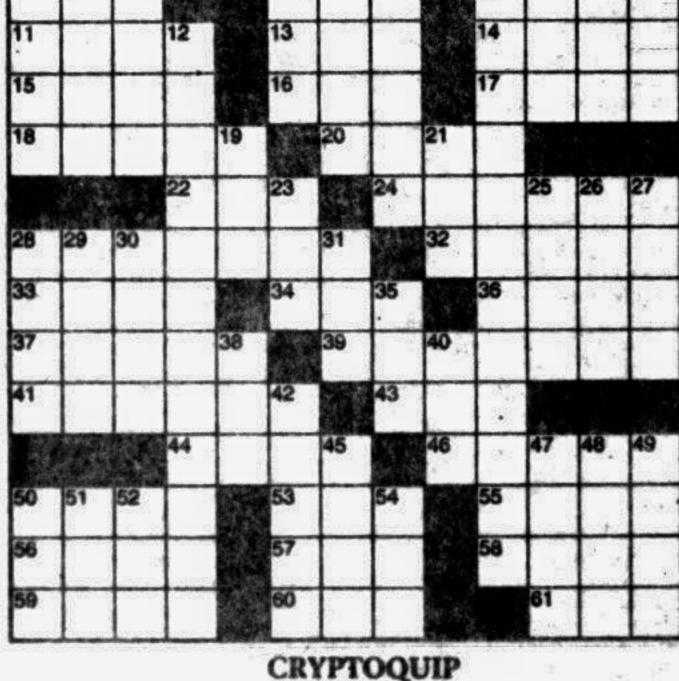
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- AFP/UNB photo

NPKW RUEAT EN VGK-AEE RGI GUW ATW KEEISWH. VPHHPKO Saturday's Cryptoquip: HE'S SO UNAMBITIOUS

THAT HE'S ABLE TO FALL ASLEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF A NAP. Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals M

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.



Belgian capital of Brussels is likely to join the list of candi dates to host the 2004 Summer Olympic Games or ganisers said on Tuesday, re-

has been accomplished. What we lack now is a bit of political courage. organiser Philippe Housiaux told a news conference. Consultancy firm Price

Waterhouse said in a study it believed in the feasibility of Brussels' bid, which also won support and praise from Belgium's governmental planning bureau, most political parties and the Belgian Employers' Federation.

Belgian Prince Alexandre de Merode, deputy chairman of the International Olympic Committee, said he expected no problems for the Brussels bid.

Belgium's Olympic Commi ttee said it was also in favour but would await a political agreement between the federal state, regional authorities and the City of Brussels.

Brussels is due to present its bid by January 10, 1996. along with about a dozen other cities, including Rio de Janeiro, San Juan, Istanbul and Rome, which earlier indicated an intention to bid for the Summer Games.

The International Olympic Committee has said it plans to reduce the candidates to a shopt list of four after an elimination procedure and the host for the Games will be chosen in early 1997.

Slaney, who says she has not run a track race since the summer of 1992, spoke at a news conference on Monday that marked the 10-year anniversary of her triumph as the overall winner of the first IAAF



MARY DECKER SLANEY

Slaney striving for success of two world indoor records and nine American indoor and

outdoor distances.

still be the best is that haven't succeeded at certain things, like the Olympics. "Most of the people in the sport who know me and who know the sport would like to

"What drives me to want to

Slaney knows, though, that her gold medal hopes could be stopped at any moment by her

eries for a variety of leg, foot, and ankle problems. "I think if I was a betting person I would bet against my self. It would be a long shot. but to me it doesn't seem that way," said Slaney, who had surgery on her right foot just

competition until August. "It's like I can do this, like !

"The desire is there. think the ability is there, I just have to get everything together at the right time.

"It would be special."

Everest again KATHMANDU, May 16: Ang Rita, a 47-year-old Sherpa mountain guide, has created history by climbing Mount Everest for the ninth time, the

managing director of his

trekking company said Tues-

Rita scales

day, reports AP. Rita reached the top of the world's highest mountain Saturday from the northern side through Tibet, said Ang Tsering of the Asian Trekking Company in Kathmandu.

With Saturday's achievement. Rita bettered his own record of climbing Mount Everest eight times. His last conquest was in 1983. Tsering said he had re-

ceived a message that Rita had reached the 8.848 metre (29,195 feet) peak without the aid of oxygen cylinders while guiding a Russian expedition.

when he will be told whether the ankle injury has ended his The decision comes a week before his present club AC Milan face Ajax, his former elub, in the European Champions Cup final in Vienna. Van Basten; a three-time

European footballer of-the-

year, has not played since the

1993 European Cup final loss

to disgraced French team

Van Basten

may retire

this week

van Basten, AC Milan's Dutch

international striker, is ex-

pected to announce his re-

tirement this week after losing

a two-year battle with a persis-

tent ankle injury, reports AFP.

Van Basten, aged 30, will

meet Belgian specialist Marc

Martens on Wednesday at

Anvers in northern Belgium

BRUSSELLS, May 16: Marco

Olympic Marseille. The injury forced him to miss last year's World Cup in the United States. In all he has had four operations on his right ankle and his recovery has been much slower than hoped since the last one.

Despite the fact that the Dutch star would not comment on his appointment with



VAN BASTEN

Martens and is expected to return immediately to Milan to discuss his situation with the directors, it is assumed that he will announce his retirement.

Should he confirm his retirement it would bring to an end the 'Dutch' connection that inspired Milan to dominate both Italian and European football in the late 1980s and early 90s. Frank Rijkaard now plays for their European Cup rivals Ajax and Rund Gullit for Serie A team Sampdoría.

Milan appear to be convinced the news will be bad as they have bought the Liberianborn Paris Saint Germain striker George Weah for 7.3 million dollars, a natural successor to Van Basten.

Pele needs more time to sign Maradona

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 16: An attempt by Brazilian soccer king Pele to require two more weeks of negotiations, one of Pele's business partners said

play in Brazil when his 15month playing ban for drugs abuse ends in September.

Roberto Seabra, one of Pele's partners, said lawyers were discussing contract details, a process he expected to take two weeks.

He said that if the deal went through, Pele Sports and Marketing's first option would be to loan him to Santos. where Pele, now his country's Sports Minister, spent 17 years of his career and where he is now a director.

But he added that Maradona, who owns his own transfer rights, could also be loaned to any club in the

world. been on the best of terms, met privately in Rio de Janeiro at the weekend to discuss the deal and were photographed

geniuses understand each other." Seabra said president Carlos Menem of Argentina had helped mediate between the two. Menem met Pele at the

club, winning the World Club Championship and Libertadores Cup twice, but have not done as well since he left. Their last title was the 1984 Sao Paulo Championship. Since his playing ban began

week in March after a marital row and complained of media persecution.

serve" and volleyer from Sweden, is trying to battle back after sliding out of the top 10 for the first time in a decade. Chang has worked on his strength and serve in the years | won when he was serving at 6-

on Monday, reports Reuter. Pele Sports and Marketing. a company in which the great Brazilian is senior partner, is attempting to sign the volatile Argentine and bring him to

The two, who have never

sitting in a hammock together. "They have never not on well," said Seabra. "But it was not difficult to reconcile them. They are both geniuses and

Pan-American Games Argentina in March. Santos enjoyed huge success during Pele's days at the

Maradona has had two unsuccessful stints as a coach with Argentine First Division clubs Deportivo Mandiyu and Racing " He disappeared for one

Dos Passos 53 Check 55 Spirited steed 56 Neighborhood 57 Plata's partner 14 Peregrinate 58 Sluggish

18 Soap Box 20 Painter DOWN 22 Enemy 24 Locomotive 1 Singer

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Team New Zealand syndicate chief Peter Blake (L) and helmsman Russell Coutts (R) hold the

American's Cup at the San Diego Yacht Club on May 15. Team New Zealand won the cup

42 Supply an 45 Not one 47 Let slip

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