END OF EXILE: Former world number one Monica Seles

waves and sings towards her fans while receiving a

standing ovation after winning her comeback-match to

the professional circuit against Kimberly Po of the United

States at the Canadian Open in Toronto on Aug. 15. The

Yugoslav-turned-American, currently co-number one

with Germany's Steffi Graf, beat Po in straight sets 6-0, 6-

US Open on Star TV

ROUND

1st Round

1st Round

1st Round

1st Round

1st Round

1st Round

2nd Round

2nd Round

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4th Round

Quarter-finals

Quarter-finals

Men's Final

Ladies Quarter-finals

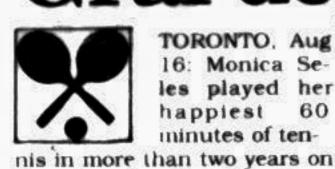
Ladies Quarter-finals

Men's Quarter-finals

Men's Quarter-finals

Men's semi-finals & Women's Final

Ladies Semi-finals



les played her minutes of ten-Tuesday, beating American Kimberly Po 6-0, 6-3 to cele-

Reuter. The 21-year-old Seles' comeback from 28 months off the tour after being stabbed at a tournament in Hamburg was a smashing success as she blasted twohanded groundstrokes with pace and precision to outgun the 133rd-ranked Po.

brate her return to tourna-

ment competition at the

Canadian Open, reports

But in another secondround match, her co-number one seed Steffi Graf was upset 6-3, 2-6, 6-7 (7-5) by South African Amanda Coetzer.

It was Graf's first loss in seven tournaments this year and ended a 32-match winning streak for the 26-yearold German.

Seles lapped up the fans' appreciation of her return. After belting a forehand winner on match point, she shook hands with Po, then ran over to embrace her parents seated in a courtside box. She then walked back out onto the court and spent two minutes waving to spectators who were on their feet applauding.

"For a long time everything was dark. Now I see the sun again," Seles said.

"I think I played pretty well," she said, "But all could ever ask for is just to be out here playing again, so it's great."

Even though it took Po 38 minutes to finally win a game - at 6-0, 2-0 - the match was fairly competitive, with nine of the 15 games going to duce. But Seles was able to hold off Po when she closed to 3-4 in the second set.

Seles was to go back on court to play 17th-ranked Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat less than 18 hours after beating Po.

"It should be a tough

TORONTO, Aug match so I'll have to be ready." Seles said, contrasting it with her exhibition with Martina Navratilova on July 29. "It's not like when I played Martina when I slept

> Giggling, she added: " can't do that.

for a day and a half after-

Po said she enjoyed playing before the enthusiastic Centre Court crowd of 8,206 and noted: "Monica hit deep and with great angles. thought she played really

To a suggestion that Seles was not moving as well as she used to. Po replied: "Maybe



STEFFI GRAF

she seemed a little slow a couple of times when wrongfooted her. But I've only played her once before. Maybe if Steffi played her...."

Graf and Coetzer played in very high humidity and an on-court temperature of 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit). The conditions were extreme enough to qualify for a 10-minute break which Coetzer requested at the end of the second set.

The third set was a seesaw affair in which Graf trailed 2-3 but then led 4-3. 40-15 before Coetzer drew level at 4-4.

Graf eventually served for the match up 6-5 in the final set. But at 30-all Coetzer blasted a screaming forehand service return winner, then won the game when Graf seeded Tauziat.

netted a backhand. In the tiebreak. Graf made two unforced forehand errors and double faulted to trail 0-3.

Down triple match point at 3-6, she rallied to 6-all but then a lame backhand service return into the net and a forehand drive into the alley allowed Coetzer to record her first victory in seven matches with Graf.

"This is without a doubt the best win of my career. said Coetzer, who said she has been helped by new coach Gavin Hopper of Australia.

"I just made too many mistakes," said Graf, who was playing her first tournament since winning Wimbledon on July 8.

Graf said she had been able to practice for only nine or 10 days before the tournament and recently had been unable to train at all for five or six days because of her recurring back problems.

"I can't expect not to practice and get into tournaments and win. That's not something I believe in."

Graf said the spotlight of Seles' return had not contributed to her downfall. "Not at all," Graf said. "All the attention was on her so it made it even easier on me."

Graf said she had spoken briefly with the former Yugoslav, now a US citizen.

"I just said hello and told

her it was good to see her back. I wished her good luck," said Graf. Graf was playing in her

first tournament since her father's arrest in a tax evasion probe, a front-page story in Germany. Graf denied that had any-

thing to do with her loss, but at the end of the English-language news conference. when a German reporter asked a question, she walked out without acknowledging him.

Other seeded players advancing included fifth seed Mary Pierce of France, seventh seed Anke Huber of Germany and the 12th-

# A super Saturday night



LAS VEGAS. USA, Aug 16: With 13 cameras, a boxful of

technological toys and a host of ringside ' celebrities, television producers promise Mike Tyson's comeback fight against Peter McNeeley will be a good show - no matter what happens in the ring, reports

"The telecast is far and away the most ambitious ever," said executive producer Jay Larkin.

Showtime will produce the fight for its pay-per-view channel of Showtime Entertainment Television network. In the States, the broadcast is being sold for up to 50 dollars per household.

Even at that rate, network officials are cautiously optimistic that they will sell to about one million homes. But traditionally 90 per cent of boxing pay-per-view orders are placed on the day of event, so no one will know until Saturday just how well Tyson's first fight in nearly four years will sell.

"It will be tough to know exactly," said set executive vice president and general manager McAdory Lipscomb.

"We're looking for a million homes, maybe slightly more. There's a chance it could become an all-timer. but it's still a little too early to tell.'

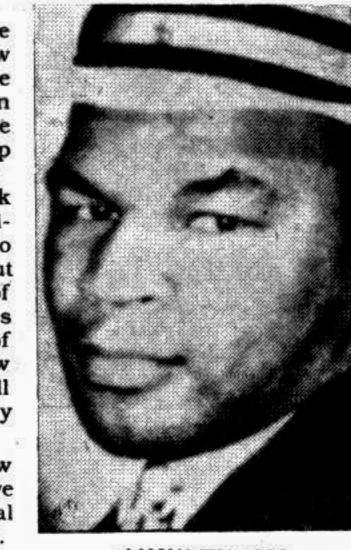
The current record holder is rival TVKO's telecast of George Foreman-Evander Holyfield in 1991, which was bought by 1.36 million homes and grossed 48.9 million dollars.

Tyson, the former undisputed world heavyweight champion fighting for the first time since he served a three-year prison sentence for rape, is the prohibitive favourite to beat McNeeley, a 26-year-old Bostonian whose record of 36-1, with 30 knockouts, does not include any name opponents.

Showtime is making every effort to insure that the likely one-sided bout will not be a

"We're certainly not going to shortchange the public on this one," Larkin said. "Whatever toy or innovation we've got, we'll use. There will be lots of bells and whis-

"We're also promising a very new and exciting entrance for Mike Tyson," he added, although he was coy about the details. "This entrance will be used only once. for Tyson, because the public hasn't seen him in four



MIKE TYSON

Among the innovations in store for US viewers is the first ever use in boxing of the telestrator — the on-screen illustrating device beloved of gridiron commentators.

Four other World Championship fights bolster the card. Bruce Seldon defends his World Boxing Association heavyweight crown against native American Joe Hipp.

World Boxing Council middleweight champion Julian Jackson meets Quincy Taylor and Mexico's Miguel Angel Gonzalez defends his World Boxing Council Lightweight crown against Lamar Murphy. Earlier in the day, World

Boxing Council super welter weight champion Luis against Terry Norris in a bout that will be shown on tape delay on overseas broadcasts. As of Tuesday, the fight was scheduled to be beamed to some 71 countries, including China.

Santana defends his title

### Debate on Kenya's Gothenburg debacle rages

NAIROBI, Aug 16: Kenya's head athletics coach Danson Muchoki said his team could have performed better and were depressed by their showing at the Gothenburg Athletics World Championships which ended on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Returning home late on Tuesday to sharp criticism of the team's overall performance from respected former chief coach Mike Kosgei and Nairobi-based newspapers. Muchoki conceded:

"The mood is unhappy. The team .... could have done better."

Kenya won only two titles at the championships, Moses Kiptanui in the 3,000 metres steeplechase and Ismael Kirui in the 5,000 metres.

Muchoki mentioned dampened spirits stemming from technical problems, but did not elaborate. He also, cited "management problems," for Kenya's poor performance.

Kosgei, sacked in May for criticising Kenya's track body, has blamed Muchoki and his colleagues for failure.

Muchoki would not say whether he would resign. The East African nation with a great history of middle distance stardom placed no one in the finals of the men's 800 and 1,500 metres, had

marathon, and managed only third place in the 10,000. Kenyan women, who have in recent times dominated world cross country running and won some international marathons, had only a bronze

no medal placing in the

medal from Tecla Lorupe in the 10,000. Touretski the terrible

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Courier left in the cold INDIANAPOLIS. into the match. Indiana, Aug 16: Top-seeded Pete Sampras held

to form winning

his second-ro-

und match on Tuesday but fifth-seeded Jim Courier was upset by Jerome Golmard of France at the 1.04 million dollar RCA Championships. reports Reuter.

The second-ranked Samdefeated fellow American Vince Spadea 7-5, 6-4 while the 131st-ranked Golmard beat the 15thranked Courier in a tough 6-7(5-7), 6-4, 7-6(7-1) battle.

"It was very exciting to win a match like this one." said Golmard through an interpreter about his best career victory.

"I got cramps in my thing recognisance at two-all in the third set. Generally when I get cramps. there is no way I can recover. But this time because it was Jim Courier in front of me. I had the motivation to fight as hard as I could. And it cute. worked."

Courier had a number of chances in the final set to secure a third-round berth.

Serving for the match at 5-3. Courier double-faulted twice, including on game-

point, to let Golmard back

At 30-40 on Golmard's serve in the 12th game. Courier had a match-point in which he netted a backhand. "Obviously, I didn't play a

## Ridiculous!

ATLANTA. Aug 16: Three athletes competing in pre-Olympic events were arrested for shoplifting, while a hotel theft left a group of Mongolian wrestlers penniless, officials said today, reports Reuter.

Atlanta police said two Armenian wrestlers were arrested at a department store and charged with stealing this week. men's clothes. They were released on their own

An Iranian athlete was arrested at another department store for allegedly placing items in a shopping bag without paying for them, but the store declined to prose-

Ten Mongolian wrestlers lost 5.500 dollars in a burglary at the downtown hotel room. A theme park held a fund-raiser and collected 2.500 dollars to help them pay their way home.

good game when I served for the match and I paid the price for that," Courier said. "I just didn't take advantage of my chances, and I had some.

Courier never got into the tiebreaker against the lefthanded Golmard, losing the first six points. "I just played a bad

breaker," Courier said. "He didn't have to do anything. I just made mistakes. Sampras, who visibly faded

from the heat to Michael Stich of Germany at last week's ATP Championship. said that although it was still humid Tuesday evening, he was in much better shape "I've learned to deal with

the heat the hard way in Cicinnati." Sampras said. "This summer has been excruciating. It felt good to play at night. It's still humid, so was sweating quite a bit." Sampras never offered the

81st-ranked Spadea a chance to break his serve. Sampras capitalised on two of three service break opportunities in the 11th game of the first set and the ninth game of the second set.

All top eight seeds received first-round byes.

### Big blasters blaze

NEW HAVEN. Connecticut, Aug 16: Fourth-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia and eighth seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands scored 49-minute routs on Tuesday to reach the third round of the 1.4 million dollars Volvo International reports Reuter.

Kafelnikov slammed his groundstrokes with power and accuracy in a 6-1, 6-2 conquest of Germany's Marc Goellner in a second-round match.

Goellner had extended Kalelnikov to a long threesetter when they met in the quarter-finals here last year.

Krajicek is known for his blistering service but the tall Dutchman didn't really need his biggest weapon to get by ailing veteran American player Derrick Rostagno 6-2.

Other seeds advancing to the second round were 11th seed Arnaud Boetsch of France. 13th seed Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands, 14th seed Marcelo Rios of Chile. 15th seed Patrick Rafter of Australia and 16th-seeded American Patrick McEnroe.

Boetsch was a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Stefanlo Pescosolido of Italy,

FUKUOKA, Japan, Aug 16: A small fire broke out at the press centre of the World Student Games here today casting a minor shadow over the opening ceremony of the Athletes' Village built for the Games an official said, reports AFP.

The fire broke out shortly after noon at a 250-seat hall of the press centre in the southwestern Japanese city, burning part of the blackout curtains as well as a light on before sprinklers quelled the blaze.

Some 320 people, including 80 athletes from Canada and Mexico, had been in the press centre when it occurred, but nobody was injured. "The fire department is investigating the cause of the fire now," an official said. National flags were put up

following the opening ceremony at the village, where some 6.000 athletes and officials from 161 countries and regions are expected to arrive for the 12-day competition which will start in a week.

The British team, which arrived in Fukuoka Tuesday. became the first delegation to enter the village.

Unseeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa makes a backhand return during her first

round match against world number one Steffi Graf of Germany at the Canadian Open in

Toronto on Aug. 15. The gritty South African frustrated Graf with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-7 (7-5)

#### on October 10 and is now back in Canberra, but was not available for comment today.



assault charges.

tute of Sport head swimming coach, Russian Gennadi Touretski, was suspended today after being convicted of assault during a

flight across the Pacific, reports AFP. Touretski was fined 10,000 US dollars last weekend and sentenced in Honolulu to 30 days in jail after pleading guilty to four

The 46-year-old former Russian Olympic team coach, who came to Canberra two years ago, admitted poking a fellow passenger in the eye, jumping on another passenger, shoving a flight attendant and biting the forearm of the first officer.

The prosecution alleged Touretski was drunk when he disrupted the United Airlines flight from Sydney to Los Angeles last week, though his defence blamed high blood pressure.

He is due to begin serving his jail sentence in Honolulu Australian Sports

Commission (ASC) executive director Jim Ferguson said Touretski, had been suspended by the ASC board with full pay pending talks on his future. Ferfuson said the ASC

would conduct an urgent investigation into the Touretski case, adding: "No further discussion will be made until the completion of the investigation. During his court appear

ance, a lawyer representing Touretski said he suffered from high blood pressure, develops circulatory problems and gets dizzy when he stands up after sitting too

Under a plea agreement with prosecutors, Touretski pleaded guilty to four counts of misdemeanour assault.

Ferguson suggested last weekend that Touretski may have reacted badly to some sleeping tablets he had been dismissal followed criticism of his behaviour this week by Sports Minister John Faulkner. "For my own part, and I'm

The likelihood of his

sure I speak for every Australian, that sort of behaviour is just totally unacceptable," Faulkner said.

As Russian Olympic coach Touretski guided Alexander Popov to Olympic and World Sprint Championships.

The Touretski incident was another blow for the ASC and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), which has already hit the headlines over its female gymnastics programme and controversy within Australian rowing.

The AIS has also been without a director since February when Robert de Castella, now a member of the ASC board, stepped down after five years in the job.

International Rowing Federation chief executive John Boultbee will arrive next month to take over the vacant AIS director's posi-

## All-Africa Games at stake

prescribed.

HARARE, Aug 16: With barely a month to go before Zimbabwe hosts the All-Africa Games, the continent's premier sporting event, organisers are battling to overcome severe funding problems, reports Reuter.

Officials are publicly optimistic that preparations will be complete before 6,000 competitors and officials from 42 African countries arrive, but in private many are dismayed at government de-

- AFP/UNB photo

lays in providing cash. Organising committee chairman Tommy Sithole told a news conference on Tuesday night that despite "some problems" the Games

"The truth is that there has not been enough money allocated by government When we started preparing we knew that there was not going to be enough money coming." he said. The committee says

would go ahead on time.

President Robert Mugabe's ash-strapped government has spent over 200 million dollars (23.3 million US dollars) on facilities and an Unspecified amount on preparations. In Zimbabwe's 1995-96

national budget announced last month, the government set aside 6, million dollars for National Sports Commission, tasked with over-seeing the September 13-23 Games. But the vote has still to go through parliamentary procedures before the money is handed over.

"There is need for government to quickly disburse the funds which they have set aside for the Games," said Macloud Chaora, the Games' general manager.

"Time is running out and provision of funds is late. If the money is released now, something can be done to salvage the situation."

Organisers have already cancelled some shooting events because the organising committee failed to raise the 350,000 dollars needed for ammunition, targets and building a storeroom. Officials expect further cancellations.

Work on the volleyball venue and refurbishment of the football stadium in Harare have yet to begin.

Toilet facilities at several venues are totally inadequate. as are medical facilities - no physiotherapy equipment, no standby ambulances and only rudimentary first aid at the 18 Games venues in the capital Harare, Chitungwiza and Bulawayo.

The Games' medical committee asked for 550,000 dollars. It got only 70,000 dollars.

Zimbabwean athletes have also been hit by the cash drought, "the biggest headache we have at the moment is the lack of funds to have the team adequately prepared. Time is not on our side." team Manager Edgar

Rodgers said. "I will be the last person to say we have no problems but it is also important to note that we are doing everything in our power to solve these problems," said Sithole.

## China misses Ma's magic

BEIJING, Aug 16: The Chinese official press admitted for the first time since the world famous Ma's army disbanned last year that China missed the era of athletic glory it enjoyed under super-trainer Ma Junren, reports AFP. v

The Beijing Youth Daily's glowing homage published on the front page came after the spectacular defeat of Chinese competitors at the World Athletic Championships in Gothenburg.

## Hager leads the Kookaburras to Europe

SYDNEY, Aug 16: Veteran striker Mark Hager will lead the Australian team on next month's field hockey tour to Europe, which will include the Champions Trophy in Berlin, reports AFP.

Hager, 31, is expected to play his 200th international while in Europe, an Australian milestone only achieved by Ric Charlesworth (227) and Warren Birmingham (22).In the Champions' Trophy, this year's most im-

portant hockey event before

next July's Atlanta Olympics.

Australia will play current world champions Pakistan in the opening match of the tournament of September 23. India, the Netherlands. Germany and England make

up the remainder of the trophy field. Before the Champions Trophy, the Kookaburras will play Asian champions South Korea, France, Canada, India and host nation Italy in a tournament in Cagliari from

September 10-16.

Apart from Hager, who has scored 156 goals in 191 internationals, other teammates expected to reach career milestones in Europe are half-back Lachian Elmer. his 100th Test, and vice-captain Stephen Davies, who needs four games to reach 150 internationals.

## Sunrise Down Under



ADELAIDE, Aus tralia. Aug 16. Australia's shrinking summer

tennis circuit

was given a reprieve with today's announcement here that the Australian men's hardcourt championship would remain on next year's ATP Tour, reports AFP. Tennis Australia an-

nounced that moves to save the international circuit's oldest men's event had been successful after months of speculation that the Adelaide event, played in early January, would be lost to overseas interests.

Australian tennis, once a traditional stronghold of the game, has suffered a series of setbacks with the loss of four tournaments over the last year — the Queensland Men s Open, the Australian Women's Hardcourt, Rio Challenge and the Australian

Indoor. The Australian Men's Hardcourt. slated for January 1-7 and a lead-up tournament to the year's opening Grand Slam, the Australian Open in Melbourne, has been salvaged by support from the South Australian government and will be promoted by Colin Stubs, one-time tournament director of the Australian

Open. Tennis Australia has agreed to transfer ownership of the Australian Hardcourt to stubs in 1999 after four successful stagings.

"Tennis Australia has invested millions of dollars over the years in maintaining a viable support circuit for Australian and overseas players competing in the Australian Open," Tennis Australia president Geoff

"We welcome the involvement of other bodies in accepting the risk of staging major events. The Australian Hardcourt

title has been won in recent

Pollard said in a statement.

vears by Jim Courier. Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Goran Ivanisevic and Thomas Muster. Following the confirmation of the Australian Hardcourt Championships on the

ATP schedule, the 1996 Australian circuit is: Dec 21-Jan 6 Hopman Cup (men and women's teams event) — Perth

Jan 1-7 Australian Men s

Jan-8-14 Tasmanian Women's Open - Hobart Jan 8-14 NSW Open (men and women) - Sydney Jan 10-13 Kooyong

Classic (men) - Melbourne

Hardcourt - Adelaide

## Alves powers Portugal

ESCHEN LIECHTENS TEIN. Aug 16: Second half substitute Paulo Alves hit a hattrick as Portugal swamped Liechtenstein 7-0 in their European Championship Group Six qualifier on Tuesday. reports Reuter.

## Fire scare at World Student Games

AFP/UNB photo

COVERAGE

Day Session

Night Session