Liebenberg in scoring spree

KURUNEGALA, Sri Lanka. Aug 19: Prolific run-getter Gerhardus Liebenberg hit a career-best 169 as South Africa made 338 in the first innings on the third day of their second under-24 Test against Sri Lanka here today. reports AFP.

Heavy rain wiped out an hour's play at the Welegedera Stadium but South Africa ended the day with a 142-run lead over the home side, in this northwestern city.

Sri Lanka faced just three balls to be on 0 for 0 at stumps in their second in-

Resuming from an overnight 198 for 3, South Africa easily overtook Sri Lanka's first innings total of 196 thanks to an excellent batting display from Liebenberg who occupied the crease for a marathon 492 minutes.

Liebenberg, who was 114 overnight, made his highest first-class century with 12 boundaries before being trapped leg-before to legspinner Jayantha Silva. Earlier, skipper Dale Benkenstein was dismissed for a wellcompiled 61. Silva finished with best

figures of 4 for 87. Scores:

SRI LANKA UNDER-24 196 and 0 for 0. SOUTH AFRICA UNDER-

24: 338 (G Liebenberg 169, D Benkenstein Masikazana 46. S Pollock 28; J Silva 4 for 87)

Donald won't replace Lara

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 19: South African cricket chief Ali Bacher said on Friday fast bowler Allan Donald would not be replacing Brian Lara as Warwickshire's overseas player next season, reports Reuter.

Lara had asked the English county champions if he could delay his return so he could take a rest, one of his business advisers. David Mannasseh, said earlier on Friday. Bacher, managing direc-

tor of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), told Reuters that Donald, South Africa's premier strike bowler, would stick with is initial offer to be Warwickshire's fast bowling coach next year Donald, who made his

Warwickshire debut in 1988 was due to make way for Lara from 1996 when the West Indies Test batsman was under contract to reappear for the county following his initial stint last year

Mannasseh said: "Warwickshire have been very under standing but obviously, if they cannot get Allan Donald for next season, then Brian will honour his contract."

Bacher confirmed that Donald, like Lara, realised he needed a rest from non-stop cricket, especially with a hectic 1996-97 season in prospect.

'Allan is under contract with us (the UCBSA) for 12 months and, during the 1996-97 season, we go to India for two months." Bacher said. "They (India) then come to us for two months and, after that, Australia tour here for two months.

"That comes to nine Test matches, several one-day in ternationals and a lot of domestic cricket within a six month period, I didn't even have to nudge him (Allan) ... he said to me that next English summer, it's time for a break."

Bacher said Donald had phoned him on Tuesday to say that Warwickshire had asked him to return as their overseas player for the 1996

Dhyan Chand sculpted

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: Prime Minister Narasimha Rao will unveil a statue of hockey wizard Dhyan Chand at the National Stadium on August 29, the legend's birth anniversary day, that has been declared as the national sports day, reports PT1.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate an exhibition titled "India's moments of pride, displaying rare unique and prized photos of India's glorious days in the hockey arena.

Preceding the unveiling ceremony will be a match between an Asian team, comprising star players from Pakistan, Korea, Malaysia and Singapore and an Indian team as part of the legend's birth anniversary celebrations, he added.

The nine feet bronze statue, costing over three lakh rupees, was sculpted by Bimen Bihari Das, principal, Govt College of Art and Craft Calcutta.



against the fourth seeded Frenchwoman at the Canadian Open Championship in Toronto on August 18. Coetzer prevailed 6-4, 5-7, 6-0 in two hours and eight minutes. - AFP/UNB photo

Pierce follows Graf's path

Gaby the last frontier

TORONTO, Aug

19: Monica Seles left little doubt she is capable of a fast return to the top level of women's tennis

after convincingly beating seventh seed Anke Huber of Germany 6-3, 6-2 Friday in the quarterfinals of the Canadian Open, report agencies. In a 65-minute match fea-

turing high-velocity rallies from the baseline. Seles simply overpowered Huber, who was surprised that Seles played so close to the level she maintained before being stabbed in Hamburg 28 months ago. Seles, who also overcame

worries about tendinitis in her left knee after taking anti-inflammatory medication, advanced to a semifinal meeting with sixth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, a 6-2, 6-1 winner over Czech Helena Sukova.

"We all knew that when she came back she knew she was ready," Huber said about Scles. "But she's mentally very tough and nobody expected that."

Seles leads her rivalry with Argentine prodigy Sabatini 9-3. Sabatini is looking forward to the match, much as she did last November, when she beat Martina Navratilova at the Virginia Slims championships at New York. That was the last tournament of Navratilova's career. This is the first tournament of Seles' return.

"I like the opportunity to play in this situation." Sabatini said. "For me, the opportunity to play her will be special, just like the Slims against Martina." With Seles fever consum-

ing the tournament, the gracious 25-year-old said she was just as happy to stay out of the spotlight.

"It helps that all the attention is on her," she said. "It takes the pressure off the others."

Nations Cup hockey semi-

finals with a 3-1 victory over

sive win of the tournament

for the Dutch but a first de-

high class first half. Jacques

Brinkman and Marc Delissen

giving the Dutch a 2-0 lead

before Juan Escarre replied

for Spain and Brinkman

lating hockey at the start. A

hard centre by left winger

Remco van Wijk brought

Brinkman his first goal after

seven minutes. A solobreak by

right winger Stephan Veen

won the Dutch a penalty

after 23 minutes which

Delissen, the Dutch captain,

converted with his customary

tournament made him joint

top-scorer with Andreas

Becker and Sven Meinhardt

Two minutes later, left-

winger Escarre scored the

goal of the tournament. He

took the ball outside the

Dutch defence on his reverse

side at top speed and scored

with a reverse lob on the run.

break. Delissen cleverly fed

Brinkman to allow the inside

forward to add his second

Brinkman in the first half but

he was not given so much

freedom by the Spanish de-

chances in a lower key sec-

fence on the resumption.

Three minutes before the

A host of chances fell to

Spain had a couple of

of Germany.

His fourth goal of the

The Dutch played scintil-

feat for Spain.

added his second.

It was the third succes-

All the goals came in a

Spain today, reports Reuter.

DUBLIN. Aug

19: The Nether

lands moved

smoothly to

wards a place in

the European

Pressure hasn't been a concern for unseeded Amanda Coetzer, who reached the semifinals with a surprising 6-4, 5-7, 6-0 wipeout of No 5 Mary Pierce. Earlier. Coetzer had sent No 1 Steffi Graf and No 17 Sabine Appelmans packing.

Pierce was coming off a flawless 6-0, 6-0 shutout of 14 year-old Swiss sensation Martina Hingis that left her exuberant. When she won the first three games of the first set against Coetzer, it seemed like her path was clear to the semifinals. And then, poof.

"I know she's a bit of an up-and-down player." said Coetzer, ranked 27th in the world and unseeded in this tournament. "She can play extremely well sometimes and she can make mistakes sometimes.

In a flash, a red-hot Coetzer won the next five games and the set.

The second set was almost identical. Again, Pierce started fast, winning the first four games. And then, just as suddenly, it was 5-5. Pierce survived that crisis to win the set but she knew she was in big trouble, drained by the heat and facing a player on a roll. Coetzer blitzed her in the third to take the match.

"Today was the opposite of vesterday when everything was working," Pierce said. "Give credit to Amanda. "I've never seen her play

this good. It was hard for me to do a lot with the ball. She was getting a lot of balls back. She surprised me with how well she played."

The Frenchwoman said she'd had stomach upset for two days, felt dehydrated in the soaring temperatures and had problems with her contact lenses drying out in the heat. But she also did com pliment her 23-year-old opponent's performance.

South African Coetzer will play fourth seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic in the semifinals. Novotna defeated

Dutch get into top gear

ond half but the Dutch, with

their smooth precion pass-

an upright - one by new

corner man Wouter Van pelt

- but each time the ball re-

were the only side with max-

imum points in Group B after

beating a defensive-minded

of Germany. Switzerland and

their third international tour-

na-ment, felt the full force of

German determination to

atone for losing their opening

match 3.2 to England on

European champions re-

bounded by thrashing the

hapless Belarussians 9-0.

sparked by wingers Andreas

Becker with four goals and

Andsven Meinhardt with

the player brought to Dublin

only to take corners, gave his

side the lead which was

padded with two goals from

in their own half whenever

England had the ball, only

threatened on the two

saved by goalkeeper Simon

Mason, the second brought

Poland back in to the game at

2-1 as their captain Slawomir

Lukaszewski flicked home

who has had a knee problem.

was rested in the second half

as the Germans gave all their

It was Germany's most

one-sided win since they beat

Germany's Meinhardt.

corners they forced.

powerfully.

players a run-out.

Poland, who had II men

The first was superbly

left winger Nick Thompson.

For England. Calum Giles

three, all in the first half

The Olympic and

They are two points clear

Belarus, playing in only

bounded into play.

Poland 3-1.

Poland.

Thursday.

Twice Dutch shots struck

Larlier on Friday, England

ing, generally had the edge.

eighth-seeded Iva Majoli of Croatia 6-4, 6-2.

"There were some pretty amazing points," said Seles about her match with Huber "and a lot of hard hitting and a lot of running from both of us. There wasn't an easy point, I had to work for every

Seles admitted later that her knee was still a problem. "It was very sore vesterday (Thursday) but I've gotter treatment on it and taken anti-inflammatories so hopefully it's going to hold up," Seles said. "If it can't hold up here, how's it going to hold up at the (US) Open for two weeks — that's my problem." Huber exchanged bullet

drive on just about every point with Seles and attempted to intimidate with her brute power.

"I tried to play in the middle of the court with no angles and then go for the sides," Huber explained, "But it was difficult because she was hitting the ball so hard."

After the players failed to hold serve through the first four games, both held to 3all. Seles held to go ahead 4-3 but Huber took a 40-15 lead in the following game. "The key game was at 4-3 when I came back after she was ahead," said Seles. "After that I felt I started to gain control."

Seles said she was looking forward to playing Sabatini and ventured some thoughts on her schedule after the upcoming US Open.

"I'll definitely play the WTA Tour Championships in November (at Madison Square Garden in New York), she said. "I'll also play a few tournaments before it but I'd like to take about a month's rest after the US Open." Huber, for one, thinks

Seles can win at Flushing Meadow. "If she's physically ready and plays like today. she can do it," said the 20year-old German.

Gibraltar 10-0 at the 1978

Europeans and it was easily

Belarus heaviest defeat in

their 22 internationals.

COLOGNE, Aug 19: Czech Daniela Bartova and Okkert Brits of

South Africa 4.23.

made pole vaulting history at the Cologne Grand Prix athletics meeting on Friday, report agencies.

Bartova set a new world record for the women's event of 4.20 metres while 22-year-old Brits became only the second man to clear 6.03 metres. proving he could challenge Sergei Bubka's long dominance of the event.

Brits went close to break- * admitted afterwards. ing the Ukrainian's world record of 6.14 with an excellent attempt at 6.15.

The women's field boasted the world's elite in pole vaulting, including the previous world record holder Andrea Mueller of Germany. who set the former best of 4.18 in the German town of Zittau on August 5.

Hiding a multitude of sins!

ATLANTA, Georgia, Aug 19: A judge here ordered two Armenian wrestlers arrested for shoplifting to write let ters of apology even after they went home following a release granted at the request of 1996 Olympic organisers, reports AFP.

"I don't want the world to think we're cutting people's heads off for stealing ninedollar wallets," judge Roy Roberts said. Hopefully, we will be able to sanction them in a way that lets them know the conduct is truly unacceptable but doesn't punish them as to be unreasonable."

Organisers also interceded for an Iranian wrestler accused of shoplifting at a downtown store, which declined to prosecute after persuasion from organisers. But some object to Olympian pressure to coddle accused criminals.

"We think it's wrong," said Bill McGraver, president of the Georgia retail association. "They attempted to steal and should be punished. They shouldn't get favourable treatment because they are from another country." Olympic officials plan to

have more staff and security than competitors here next year in hopes of preventing such incidents.

Euro swimming results

VIENNA, Aug 19: Hungary's Rita Kovacs won the women's 5-kilometre longdistance event at the European Swimming Championships Saturday, reports AP. Kovacs clocked 1 hour

38.3 seconds to beat German Peggy Buechse in second place and Valeria Castrini of Italy in third.

The 22-year-old Hungarian is a 25-kilometre specialist who win silver at last year's championship in Rome, but was also favoured for the shorter event.

Francesca d'Oriano of Italy took the lead in the women's 10-metre platform diving preliminaries, followed by Russian Svetlana Timoshinina and Elena Zhupina of Uk-



Russian Vera Ilyina performs an air-bourne somersault on her way to clinching the 3-metre springboard title at the 22nd European Swimming Championships in Vienna on August 18. Another Russian Yulia Pakalina came second while Germany's Claudia Bockner took third position. -AFP/UNB photo

Brits, Bartova smoothly soar



The competition, in calm. mild conditions, inspired the 21-year-old Bartova to a superb clearance of 4.20 at her second attempt. The Czech then failed with three tries at

Brits just missed out on a medal at this month's World Championships in Gothenburg with fourth place. But his performance in Cologne gave him the honour of being the second best pole-vaulter of all time. "Only Bubka has gone

higher," the South African "But I am really surprised

that I jumped so high. I feel very tired. I only came because my (German) friend Tim Lobinger talked me into

"It was perfect weather

tonight, like in South Africa." The pole vault performances provided the main highlights of the meeting where many of the world's best athletes appeared jaded after their recent efforts in Sweden and Zurich's highclass meeting on Wednesday.

World 110 metres hurdles champion Allen Johnson was an exception. The American bounced back from his defeat by compatriot Mark Crear and world record holder Colin Jackson in midweek with a superb victory in 12.98 seconds, the fastest time in the world this year.

Canada's world 100 metres champion Donovan Bailey also



US sprinter Gwen Torrence rejoices after winning the women's 200 metres dash at the Cologne Grand Prix on August 18. Torrence clocked the best time of the vear — 21.77 seconds. - AFP/UNB photo

lifted himself from his defeat by Olympic champion Linford Christie in Wednesday's richest meeting on the circuit with a smooth victory in 10.11 seconds. Nigerian Olapade Adeniken took second in 10.12

with Jamaican Michael Green third in 10.16. Bailey said: "I beat them clearly (today). I don't think I need to do any more to show everybody that I am the Number One in the world. I

won in Sweden, the most important race of the year." Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan failed to threaten the women's mile record when she clocked four minutes 24.13 seconds in a tactical

The world 5,000 metres champion took off with 200 metres to go to win by several strides from Algeria's Hassiba Boulmerka, who clocked 4:25.29 in second. Portugal's Carla Sacramento was third in 4:25.56.

Kenyan Moses Kiptanui, who ran a world record 3,000 metres steeplechase in Zurich, was unable to lift himself twice in three days and ran 7:28.04 in the 3,000 flat, outside the world record of 7:25.11.

In the women's 200, Gwen Torrence, the American who won the 100 in Gothenburg and then lost the 200 gold medal despite finishing first across the line, beat Merlene Ottey, the Jamaican who got the gold medal after Torrence was disqualified for stepping out of her lane. Torrence stormed to victory

with the fastest time of the year, 21.77. Ottey, who had accused Torrence of cheating there, was a distant second in Not only did she win, but

the American ran in the same time as in Sweden. Another triumph for the

United States came from Kim Batten, who won the 400metre hurdles in 53.30 seconds. Baten, the recordholder in Gothenburg, finished fourth in Zurich.

vanisevic on thin ice portunity. He won 19 of 21 met each other in tournaments. INDIANAPOLIS.



Aug 19: Goran Ivanisevic moved one step closer to a showdown final agai-

nst top seed Pete Sampras. but the Croatian has a most familiar — and pesky — foe to deal with in Saturday's semifinals of the RCA Championships, reports Reuter. The second-ranked Sam-

pras, who has yet to drop a set this week, won a 6-2, 6-2 victor Friday over eighth seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, and Ivanisevic, ranked seventh, prevailed 6-4, 6-4 against seventh-seeded Alberto Berasategui of Spain.

Next up for Sampras is 12th-seeded Bernd Karbacher of Germany, while Ivanisevic takes on his new nemesis, fourth seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden. The Ivanisevic-Enqvist se-

mifinal marks the fourth consecutive week the two have

Enqvist has won the three previous matches — the only three times they've ever played each other — at the Canadian Open, Los Angeles and Cin-

cinnati. "I don't know if I am going to have bad dreams about him (Enqvist) tonight," Ivanisevic joked. "The last three weeks I won the first set. Hopefully, tomorrow I am

love and then I might win." Engvist defeated 131stranked Jerome Golmard of France 6-3, 6-1, while Karbacher beat Richey Reneberg 7-6 (7-3), 7-5 in a series of straight-set quarterfinal mat-

going to lose the first set 6-

Sampras, the Wimbledon champion, improved to 5-1 against Medvedev, but hashad difficult matches in the past against him, going three sets in four of their meetings.

But this time Sampras served big, never allowing Medvedev a break point oppoints on his first serve in the one hour, eight-minute match. "My serve is definitely there, it's at its best."

Sampras said ... "This is my

best match so far this summer. To beat Andrei 2 and 2, I'd say is a pretty good effort." In the first set, Sampras lost only four points in four service games. In the second

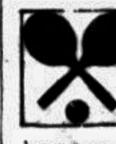
set, he lost seven points in four service games. Ivanisevic, meanwhile, landed an 72 per cent of his first serves and posted 14 aces in his 55-minute victory

over the 16th-ranked Berasategui. He broke serve in the final game of both sets, the only two service breaks in

the match. "I think I served very good today," Ivanisevic said, "my return was not so great.

But twice when I needed the break, I did it."

Boris Becker bows out (7-5), 3-6, 7-6 (7-5).



NEW HAVEN, Connecticut. Aug 19: Defending champion Boris Becker played the cliff-

hanger role one too many times as he fell in a third-set tie-breaker to Richard Krajicek in Friday's quarter-finals at the Volvo International tennis tournament, reports Reuter. The second-seeded Bac-

ker, who came close to elimination against Patrick McEnroe in the round of 16 Thursday, was beaten by the eighth seeded Dutchman 7-6 Sixth ABC Champs'

Cup Sept 17 KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 19:

Nine of Asia's best club teams will compete in the sixth Asian Basketball Confed eration Champions Cup in Kuala Lumpur on Sept 17-24. reports AP. 10 Malaysian basketball

Association secretary Yeoh Choo Hock said Saturday the championship was revived after three years and will be an annual affair from now on. The teams are: Liaoning

from 'China, Hong Fu (Taiwan). Philippine Airlines. Al-Ahli Club (Jordan), Kia Motor (South Korea), Japan Energy (Japan). Punjab Club (India). Sin Kee (Singapore) and Petronas (Malaysia). Saudi Arabia, the Gulf

champions, were unable to participate due to other commitments. Yeoh said each club is allowed to register two foreign

players for the championship. match. Group A consists of China. Taiwan, the Philippines and Jordan while Group B includes Malaysia, South Korea. court in the morning - it was Japan. India and Singapore.

In other matches, top seed Andre Agassi continued his charge with a minimum of difficulty, defeating seventh seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain 6-4, 6-1 to advance to a semifinal match against former world number one Mats Wilander.

A veteran Wilander delighted his new hometown crowd upsetting Marc Rosset. Wilander, a native of

Sweden who now resides in Greenwich, overcame sixthseeded Rosset 6-7 (10-8), 7-5. 7-5 in a late afternoon match that featured numerous extended rallies. "It's the kind of match

that has a lot of twists and turns, like the one yesterday," said Wilander, who will face top-seeded Andre Agassi. With crowd behind him Friday, Wilander, 30, out-

lasted Rosset by saving nine of the 11 break points he faced. Rosset had 49 unforced errors. Krajiceks next opponent will be fourth seeded Russian

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who needed only 55 minutes to put out qualifier Albert Chang of Canada 6-3, 6-2. Becker, who scratched back from one set down and trailing 4-2 in the second to

defeat McEnroe the younger. could not pull off the comeback against big-serving Krajicek. Becker blamed his inability to capitalise on some big opportunities to put his opponent away and also the

him to play an early day "I didn't think it made much sense to put the defending champion on the

scheduling, which forced

bad scheduling," said the German.

As for the match, Becker blew chances to win the first set, and after executing a fine break to go up 4-3 in the third, he wasn't able to hold his own serve in the next game.

old, took a 4-0 lead in the final-set tie-breaker before Becker bounced back to tie at 4-4. Krajicek then hit an ace for 5-4 and went to match point when Becker double faulted. After Becker salvaged a final point with a volley putaway, Krajicek bomed a final ace to end the match. Agassi needed only 62

Krajicek, a tall 23-year-

minutes to complete his conquest of Bruguera, who is more suited to slower surfaces.

One service break in the first game of the match carried Agassi through the first set. He broke the befuddled Bruguera three times in the final set.

IOC snubs Murdoch

NEW YORK, Aug 19: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) ignored a 701 million-dollar offer from Rupert Murdoch for United States television rights to the 2000 Games in making a 1.27 billion-dollar deal with rival NBC, reports AFP.

Francois Carrard, the IOC director general, said an after-dinner pitch from Fox television chairman Chase Carey to IOC television committee president Richard Pound on July 30 in Montreal was not considered a formal