# Pankratov's pulsating opus



VIENNA. Aug 24: Russia's Denis Pankratov shattered the oldest men's

swimming world record in a mighty performance at the European Swimming Championships on Wednesday which even outshone the dreams of German golden girl Franziska Van Almsick, reports Reuter.

The 21-year-old Volgorad student carved half a second from the 100 metres butter fly world mark of American Pablo Morales which had resisted all challenges for nine

Pankratov, who broke the 200 metres butterfly world record in Canet in France in June, swept to gold in 52.32 seconds to eclipse Morales' 52.84 set in Orlando, Florida, on June 23, 1986.

Nobody, apart from Morales in that swim, had ever broken 53 seconds but the black-capped Pankratov changed all that as he trounced his nearest rivals by more than a second at the Stadionbad.

Unperturbed by another swimmer's initial false start. Pankratov completed the first half-length in the 50metre pool under water and was 0.01, seconds inside world record scheduled at the turn.

The blond Russian was previously most noted for his prowess in the more gruelling 200 butterfly, in which he was 1993 European and 1994 world champion.

But he demonstrated a ferocious sprinting power to relegate Ukraine's Denis Silantiev and Polish world and defending European champion Rafal Szukala to silver and bronze, a vast 1.05 and 1.13 seconds behind "I prepared myself for a

world record in Vienna but I'd never have believed I'd succeed directly with such a giant step," he said.

Pankratov's triumph followed a day of drama for Van Almsick, who failed to qualify for the women's 200 metres freestyle final but went on to win the consolation B final in

Euro Nations' Cup hockey

#### Germany avoid Dutch in semis

DUBLIN, Aug 24: Olympic champions Germany avoided a semifinal against World Cup finalists the Netherlands as they beat Ireland 2-0 in their last group match in the European Nations' Cup on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Germany seized their chance to top Group A after England had earlier been surprisingly held 4-4 by Switzerland.

Now England, the group runners-up, have to face the Dutch while Germany meet Belgium, who have reached the last four for the first

Germany, the holders. needed to beat Ireland to edge into first place on goal difference over England, who had beaten them 3-2 earlier in the tournament.

Full back Florian Kunz scored the first Gérman goal from a penalty corner after 10 minutes and Christoph Bechmann hit the second on the stroke of halftime with a reverse lob.

England hit problems against the Swiss after only 36 seconds when Rene Schmidli scored the first goal of a hattrick.

England's penalty-corner specialist Calum Giles also hit three goals to become the tournament's leading scorer with seven from five matches. Patrick Stutz scored the

other goal for the Swiss, who led three times, while Russell Garcia hit England's fourth.

Poland beat Belarus 3-2 to claim a place in the 5th-8th place play-offs on Friday. where they meet Walees who drew 1-1 with France.

In the other 5th-8th playoff Spain meet Ireland. The reward for the winners is automatic qualification, along with the semifinalists, for the next European Cup in Padua in 1999.

### Martina won't

seek re-election NEW YORK, Aug 24: Martina Navratilova, saving it's time to take a break from tennis politics, will not seek another term as president of the WTA Tour Players Association, reports AP.

The New York Times also reported Thursday that Navratilova is resigning her spot on the tour's board of directors.

"I gave the job more time than I thought I would and not as much time as it deserves," the tennis great told the newspaper from her home in Aspen, Colorado.

Navratilova had two main goals since becoming president a year ago: the return of Monica Seles and the acquisition of a sponsor for the women's tour.

time nearly three seconds faster than the one which later won fellow German Kerstin Kielgass the gold

In a bizarre repeat of last year's World Championships in Rome. Van Almsick managed only the ninth-fastest time in heats and was a tantalising 0.05 seconds slower than the eighth and slowest qualifier.

**Teammate Dagmar Hase** rescued her in Rome by sacrificing her own place in the final and Van Almsick went on to win the world title in a world record one minute 56.78

But there was no question of a similar gesture from Kielgass to bale her out this

Van Almsick put her failure down to pressure, feeling the weight of expectation as she thought an unprecedented seven golds after winning six and a silver at the 1993 European Championships in Sheffield. England.

"You can talk to people and friends about pressure beforehand but when I'm on the blocks I wonder: "What will happen if I don't win? I'll be the loser of the nation.

tory of sorts for Van Almsick who showed her class in the B final by winning in 1:57.71 and bettering the 1:57.97 championship record she had set in 1993.

That was a dream time the 17-year-old Berliner said. "See how it's turned out. It was perhaps even better like this. After all, it did not have to be a medal.

#### MEDALS TABLE

Medals table after the seventh day of the 11-day European Swimming Cham pionship on Wednesday:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Russia	9	2	_ 3
Germany	7	6	3
Hungary	2	1	0
Finland	2	0	1
Belgium	2	O	0
Netherlands	1	2	0
Sweden	0	4	0
France	0	3	1
Ukraine	0	2	1
Poland	0	1	2
Denmark	0	1	1
Ireland	0	1	0
Italy	0	0	6
Britain	0	0	3
Belarus	0	0	1
Czech Republi	c 0	O	1
Greece	0	0	1

(Note: There were two bronze medals in the women's 200 metres freestyle).

Kielgass won the A final in 2:00.56, with Sweden's Malin Nilsson taking the silver in 2:01.25 having snatched the last final place from Van Almsick.

"Of course it's a pity that Franzi wasn't there but she has to learn from her mistakes." Kielgass said.

Finland's Jani Sievinen. surprise winner of Tuesday's men's 200 metres freestyle final, claimed a second — and this time predictable - gold in the 400 individual medley.

Sievinen, silver medalist in the 400 event at the 1993 Europeans and 1994 worlds, won in a championship record 4:14.75.

Brigitte Becue of Belgium retained her 200 metres breaststroke title. Germany pipped Sweden in the men's 4x200 freestyle relay and there were wins for Russia's Vladimir Timoshinin in the men's highboard diving and Germany's Christof Wandratsch in the men's 25-km long-distance swim.

But the day belonged to Pankratov even though he felt disappointed. Russia had dropped from third to fourth when he swam the anchor leg in the concluding relay.

"Pankratov's world record is simply incredible," world champion Szukala said



Germany's Kerstin Kielgass waves after coming out victorious in the 200 metres freestyle inal at the European Swimming Championships in Vienna on August 23. grafium en seafed the contract of the sea of the sea of the sea

BONN, Aug 24: The father - AFP/UNB photo

## Tarango's trouble mounts



his verbal outburst at Wimbledon has risen to

dlrs 63,000 - and will go higher, reports AP. On Wednesday, the ATP

Tour fined Tarango an additional dlrs 20,000 and suspended him for three weeks for post-match remarks that tour of officials called conduct contrary to the integrity of the game." One day earlier, the

International Tennis Federation's Grand Slam Committee suspended the American from two Grand Slam tournaments, including next year's Wimbledon, and fined him dlrs 28,256. He had been fined dlrs 15,500 at the time of his outburst.

Saying he was completely devastated over the sanctions, believed to be the toughest ever imposed against a player, Tarango on

#### Muster moves into quarters

UMAG, Croatia, Aug 24: Top-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria moved to the quarter-finals Wednesday of the dlrs 375,000 Croatia Open tennis tournament by crushing Spaniard Alejo Mansisidor, 6-3, 6-1, reports

The victory for Muster. third on the ATP list, was his 65th individual triumph this year, tying him with Andre Agassi for the tour lead.

NEW YORK, Aug Wednesday called his 24: The cost to Wimbledon behavior "civil Jeff Tarango for disobedience.

"That's the way I see it." said Tarango, who is in New York to play in the US Open beginning Monday. "To have a civil disobedience act turned into poor sportsmanship, I think, is terrible."

Tarango stormed off the court following a dispute with umpire Bruno Rebeuh of France during a third-round match against Alexander Mornz on July 1. He called Rebeuh "the most corrupt official in the game," and the player's wife, Benedicte, slapped the umpire twice in

the face. At his news conference following the incident Tarango accused Rebeuh of showing favoritism to certain players in exchange for their friendship.

Tarango said the fines were only part of the money he will lose because of the sanctions.

"Each Grand Slam I make dlrs 25,000 on average," Tarango said Wednesday, "considering singles, doubles and mixed doubles. That's as a journeyman, as they say. If I were to break through, it would be much more than

Last year, Tarango earned dlrs 243,000, boosting his career earnings to just under

dlrs 1 million. Tarango did not receive the maximum penalty, which could have been a fine of up to dirs 200,000 and a threeyear ban from one or more Grand Slam tournaments.

A left-hander from Manhattan Beach. California, Tarango will appeal the committee's decision, making him eligible to play in the US Open.

### Sugiyama stuns Martinez

MAHWAH, USA, Aug 24: Top-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez, ranked third in the world, was upset by Ai Sugiyama of Japan on Wednesday at the Pathmark Women's Classic, a tune-up for next week's US Open, re-

port agencies. Martinez, who beat Sugivama earlier this month in a three-set duel, was involved in another extended contest but this time the 19year-old Japanese player prevailed 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in a second-round match.

Fourth-ranked Jana Novotna also lost the first set of her second-round match but came through against Sandra Cecchini of Italy 6-7 (10-12). 6-2, 6-2 in another secondround match.

In other day matches in the US Open tune-up. Marianne Werdel upset No 4 seed Natasha Zvereva 6-3, 7-5 and No 3 Magdalena Maleeva defeated Sabine Appelmans 6-2, 6-3.

Also, Iva Majoli routed Gigi Fernandez 6-3, 6-2, Tatjana Jecmenica downed Miriam Oremans 6-4, 7-5, Judith Wiesner beat Radka Zrubakova 6-1, 6-0, and Nicole Bradke defeated Kristie Boogert 6-2, 6-2,



Elvira Fischer of Austria powers through the pool to win the 200 metres breaststroke at the European Swimming Championships in Vienna on Aug 23. - AFP/UNB photo

#### Germany win friendly football

BRUSSELS, Aug 24: A close range effort by Fredi Bodic seven minutes from time gave Germany a 2victory over Belgium in their friendly soccer match on

Wednesday, report agencies. It was the first event in Belgium's new national soccer stadium, built on the ruins of the ill-fated Heysel Ground in which 39 people died in rioting in 1985.

The match, followed by fireworks which made the German fans rare flares look like candle light, was staged to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Belgian Soccer Union.

But the festive event was marred by incidents with German hooligans before the kick-off.

Belgian police detained nearly 300 unruly German fans and about 30 of them were arrested for vandalism. drug possession or violence and faced criminal charges. Earlier Wednesday, about

50 Gérmans were held as soon as they arrived in the Belgian capital, after body searches showed some had knives, drugs or fake tickets for the match, a police offiwho demanded cial. anonymity, said.

"After causing trouble in town and on the subway, a large group of Germans was rounded up by police just as they were trying to get into the stadium," the police official said about the group of

In a hard-fought encounter between two heavilydepleted squads. Germany opened the scoring after just six minutes when Andy Moeller netted a close-range header.

Belgium equalised 11 minutes later when striker Michael Goossens pounced on a sharply-angled rebound.

Germany were awarded a penalty kick in the 55th minute after Pascal Renier handled the ball but Moeller first saw his low drive saved by Belgian goalkeeper Gilbert Bodart and then hammered the ball high on the rebound.

### **Honesty Peter** Graf's policy

of world number one tennis player Steffi Graf is to open up his tax affairs to German authorities who have arrested him on suspension of tax evasion, the Mannheimer Morgen newspaper reported on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Peter Graf, who handled his millionaire daughter's financial affairs, was arrested three weeks ago to prevent him fleeing the country or concealing evidence from investigators who are also probing the German tennis star.

Now Graf has released his tax advisor Joachim Eckardt from his duty to maintain confidentiality and told him to provide prosecutors with relevant information, the paper said in an advance release from Thursday's edition, citing Graf's lawyers.

The paper said Graf hoped that if he cooperated with authorities and paid substantial bail, they would no longer insist on keeping him in jail.

Peter Graf was transferred to a secure hospital almost immediately after being arrested, and was only moved back to Mannheim prison on Tuesday. There has been no word on what his health problem was.

Steffi Graf has expressed shock at her father's arrest. but says she will stand by him and does not plan to leave Germany as many other wealthy sports stars have done. She says she herself took virtually no part in managing her finances.

Media reports say Peter Graf could have concealed some 20 million marks (13.5 million dollars) of his daughter's income from tax inspectors, who would have claimed about half of it in tax.

Neither Graf's lawyers nor prosecutors could immediately be reached for com-

#### Fiona falters at Rovereto

ROVERETO, Italy, Aug 24: Newly crowned world champion Fiona May disappointed the home crowd on Wednesday, finishing fourth in the women's long jump at the Rovereto track and field meet, reports AP.

May, formerly of Britain and now married to an Italian, had a top leap of 6.52 meters (21 feet, 6 inches). well short of the 6.98 she jumped to win gold earlier this month at Gothenburg, Sweden.

Zambia's Samuel Matete. second at the World Championships, easily won the 400-meter hurdles in 48.08 seconds.

Franz Aigner (C) of Casino Salzburg tries to shake off a challenge from Steaua Bucharest's Aurel Panait (R) during the second leg of the first round Champions League encounter in Bucharest on August 23. Steaua moved into the next phase with a 1-0 win. - AFP/UNB photo

### Euro Champions' League

# IFK's ignominious exit



24: Eastern European teams won berths in lucrative

League as the likes of Anderlecht and IFK Gothenburg crashed out of the European Cup on Wednesday. reports Reuter.

Ferencyaros of Hungary, who reached the Cup Winners Cup final in 1975 and won the Fairs Cup 10 years earlier, disposed of the Belgian champions with a 1-1 draw in the second leg of their preliminary round tie winning 2-1 on aggregate.

Serbian striker, Goran Kopunovic scored the decisive goal four minutes after halftime with a shot from six putting the Hungarian side two up on aggregate.

Gilles de Bilde's 64thminute equaliser was all the, in 1972. Belgians, who sacked their German coach Herbert Neumann last week after losing their first three equaliser to give the Greek matches of the season, could side a 1-1 draw away. The manage in reply despite first leg in Athens ended 0-0. dominating the last half hour.

Gothenburg, who won their instead of Sphi for security group in last season's Champions' League before the Balkans, took a lourthbeing eliminated in the quar- minute lead through Igor

ter-finals, 3-1 on aggregate. The Swedes beaten 1-0 in

the first leg in Warsaw, levelled the aggregate score with Jesper Blomqvist's 25th-minute strike. But goals five minutes, to go through 4 by Leszek Pisz and Jacek 3 on aggregate after losing Bednarz in the final 17 minutes saw the Poles through.

Steaua Bucharest, who won the trophy in 1986. went through by a solitary goal - scored by Adrian Ilie () () draw in Austria two wirks ago.

Dynamo Kiev of Ukraine,

like the Romanians, qualified for the Champions' League for the second season in succession. They beat Aalborg of Denmark 3-1 for a 4-1 aggregate victory. Hajduk Split, however.

failed to make it two in a row, going out on the away goals rule against Panathinaikos, losing finalists Argentine international Juan Jose Borrelli scored the

crucial goal, a 55th-minute The Croatians, playing in Legia Warsaw put out Rijeka near the Italian border

Rosenborg of Norway survived a late onslaught from Turkish champions Besiktas who scored twice in the last the second leg 3-1.

Veteran former German international Stefan Kuntz reduced the arrears after eight minutes, but Besiktas failed to capitalise and Harald Brattbakk equalised in the

The tie seemed over, but Kuntz again narrowed the deficit with an 85th-minute penalty and two minutes later Mehmet Ozdilek made it 3-1 setting up a nail-biting finale. Glasgow Rangers, whose

failure to reach the Champions' League in the last two seasons prompted their off-season team building including the signing of England star Paul Gascoigne, barely scraped through against Anorthosis Famagusta. Held 0-0 by the Cypriot

side, the qualified thanks to

more than this weekend's

the goal scored by Scotland Winger Gordon Durie in the first leg. Rangers lost Gascoigne after only 25 minutes with a groin injury, but the midreasons because of the war in fielder is unlikely to miss

league match.

# Platt repays with interest



24: England captain David Platt scored his first goal for Arsenal

and gave new manager Bruce Rioch his debut win as the Gunners beat FA Cup champions Everton 2-0 Wednesday night in the English Premier Lea-

gue, reports AP. In an evening for firsts. Mark Pembridge found the net for Sheffield Wednesday which upset champion Blackburn 2-1, while Aston Villa kept up their impressive early season form with a 1-0 win over Tottenham.

Platt broke the deadlock in the 70th minute when he latched on to a superb through ball from Paul Merson and put in past Neville Southall from an acute angle. The 4.75 million pounds

7.12 million dollars summer signing from Italian club Sampdoria controlled the Goodison Park midfield all night and was unlucky earlier when he hit the bar from a Merson free kick.

lan Wright wrapped the game/up with a cool finish four minutes from time.

Arsenal dominated and repeatedly breached the impenetrable Everton defence. only to waste several perfect scoring chances in the first Blackburn looked likely to

grab a lucky draw when Alan Shearer scored a typically expert equaliser on the hour to cancel out Chris Waddle's 8th-minute opener.



DAVID PLATT

But new buy Pembridge sent Hillsborough wild with an 82nd-minute winner when he fed full-back Ian

Nolan on the left and raced into the area to meet the incoming cross, sliding into net with a volley from six

Defender Ugo Ehiogu kept Villa at the head of the Premiership when Spurs defence allowed him to the creep forward unmarked to head in Mark Draper's 69thminute corner.

captain's goal gave Villa two wins from two starts following their 3-1 drubbing of Manchester United last Saturday.

The England under-21

Manchester United came back from their opening loss of Villa with a 2-1 win over West Ham at Old Trafford.

Paul Scholes opened up in the 50th minute after a dull first half. Steve Bruce scored an own goal to level for West Ham six minutes later, but Roy Keane hit the winner in the 67th minute. Despite having Dean

Holdsworth sent off, Wimbledon remained in second place with a 3-0 win over Queen's Park Rangers at Loftus Road, with Oyvind Leonhardson, Holdsworth and Jon Goodman scoring.

be fresh mentally and physi-

cally because of all the tour-

naments, the US Open will

take the most out of you,"

said Chang, who reached the

French Open final this year.

falling to Austrian Thomas

I've always been looking for

more and more challenges

and to do better at the Open

thing to be ashamed of as far

as his past US Open perfor-

mances are concerned.

Not that Chang has any-

It has become an adage at

is one of those challenges.

"In my lifetime in tennis

Muster.

### Chang's Grand Slam conquest



Chang has been looking for his second Grand Slam title for

make the most of his last chance of 1995 at the US Open, which begins next week, reports Reuter. "I come to the US Open not just to do well," Chang

said Wednesday at a promo-

six years and he hopes to

attitude should be to go into the US Open trying to win the title. 'In 1989 at the tender age of 17, Chang became the youngest men's French Open champion and the first American player of his gener-

ation to claim a major title. Since then, however, three of Chang's contemporaries have won multiple Grand Slam titles and reached number one in the world, while he has been a steady top-10 player without achieving a second major.

Second-ranked Pete Sampras has won his majors. including the last three Wimbledons, while current number one Agassi' is the reigning US Open and Australian Open champion

and 1992 Wimbledon winner. Jim Courier claimed four Grand Slam titles before sliding to 15th in the world, 10 places below Chang.

To improve his chances of winning the US Open, the now 23-year-old Chang cut back on his summer sched-

tional appearance. "I feel my

MICHAEL CHANG

ule, playing just three events since Wimbledon, including a runner-up finish to Agassi at the ATP Championships two weeks ago.

the national tennis centre in the 1990's that the road to the US Open title goes through Michael Chang. For the past four years, the man who beat Chang went on to win the tournament. In his best Open result

Chang reached the semifinals in 1992, losing a titanic fivehour and 26-minute. five-set struggle to Stefan Edberg. Chang, however, does not look back at those loses and

lament over what might have "I've got to concentrate on the future. Those are the things I/can work to improve

on. Those things in the past I "For the Open you need to can't change."