

Andre 'the pirate' at his peak



NEW YORK, Sept 5: The Andre Agassi juggernaut and the Monica Seles comeback express chugged into the US Open quarter-finals Monday, on a day of little drama at the National Tennis Centre, reports Reuter.

Top seed and defending champion Agassi ran his summer hard-court winning streak to a personal-best 24 in a row with a routine 7-5, 6-3, 6-2 victory over 75th-ranked fellow American Jared Palmer.

Seles faced her toughest opposition since her return to big-time tennis last month from hard-hitting German Anke Huber, the 11th seed.

Still, the 21-year-old superstar dropped just five games en route to a 6-1, 6-4 victory as things settled back to business as usual after Sunday night's upset of women's defending champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario by Mary Joe Fernandez.

Seles took command early, racing through the first set in 23 minutes and sweeping 10 straight points in one stretch. She broke Huber to start the second set. But Huber, who lost to Seles in the Canadian Open, had other plans.

Huber broke back to 1-1 and stayed with Seles until 3-3. Huber covered her eyes with her hand when she blew an easy forehand on Seles' serve in the sixth game, and she might as well have kept her eyes shut the rest of the match.

Badda back on track

Sports Reporter

Badda Jagorani Sangsad, one of the two promotees in the First Division this year, bounced back into the race when they recorded a comfortable 3-1 win over Sadharan Bima in one of the two Lifebuoy First Division football league matches at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

In an exciting encounter Badda led the first half by an 18th minute strike from Bishwajit before Zakir doubled the winners' margin in the 65th minute.

A ten-man Badda, who saw their defender Shahinur get the marching order for a cynical foul midway through the second half, undaunted by the setback added a third in the 84th minute through their striker Abu Zahed.

A beleaguered Bima then pulled off a late consolation goal through Bakul in the 89th minute.

With this win Badda raised their tally to 21 from 13 matches, three points adrift of league leaders East End Club, while the defeat left Bima stuck on their previous collection of 20 points on completion of their 13 league engagements.

Rajib going strong

Sports Reporter

Enamul Hossain Rajib of Bobby Fischer Chess Club leads the International Rating chess tournament with full six points. In his sixth round match at NSC chessroom yesterday, Rajib defeated Biman's International Master Ziaur Rahman after 41 moves.

Zia is currently sharing the second spot with IM Reefat bin Sattar, FM Rezaul Huq, Tayebur Rahman Sumon, Enayet Hossain and Farid Ahmed, all of whom have secured five points.

The seventh round of the meet commences tomorrow after a day's rest.

Speedsters camp from Sept 8

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has announced the name of 23 players for the three week-long training programme for fast bowlers, scheduled to begin at the Dhaka Stadium from September 8.

The players, who have been asked to report to coach Dawlatuzzaman on Thursday at the BCCB office at 5 pm are — Sajal Chaudhury, Rahul Niamur Rashid, Morshed Ali Khan Sumon, Timir, Mohammed Salahuddin, Rakib Hasan Bappi, Mofizur Rahman Munna, Al-Amin, Shamsul Arefin Shihab, Majhi, Babu, Rahat, Hafizul Hossain Shanto, Rashid, Zahid, Humayun Farid, Narayan Chandra Tapu, Saimun, Sajjad, Tasabbur Hossain, Mohammad Talha, Atiar Rahman and Aftabul Islam Kamu.

Among the lot Atiar and Kamu are wicket-keepers.

The coaching programme has been arranged in connection with the tour of a West Indian Under-19 team, expected to arrive in the capital by the second week of November, according to a BCCB source.

year, I've played a lot. It's two different situations," Agassi said. "I'm definitely playing better, ready to peak when I have to. You do what you've got to do to win. That's the key. I've felt pretty focused for a year now, this year especially."

Palmer had what amounted to a free pass into the fourth round with matches against players ranked 250, 145 and 392. World number



World number one Andre Agassi, who seems started playing plucky tennis after wearing pirate-like bandana, unleashes an unusual big-serve during his match against compatriot Jared Palmer at the US Open on Sept 4. The flamboyant American outplayed Palmer in 7-5, 6-3.

—AFP/UNB photo

one Agassi revoked that pass in an hour and 48 minutes despite suffering something of a let-down after having to face the likes of Stefan Edberg in the third round.

Palmer played Agassi tough in the first set before a loose service game at 6-5 allowed the top seed to avoid a tie-break.

Still, Agassi said, even if he had lost the first set, there was no way Palmer was going to beat him.

"My confidence is at an all-time high," said Agassi, who has reached the final of every hard-court tournament

to be concerned about playing her.

Agassi was in control the whole match against Palmer, a serve-and-volleyer who provided a convenient target for Agassi's passing shots.

Agassi's only problem was an unusually high number of aces — six — but he was broken only once.

Agassi is in a different frame of mind than he was a year ago when he came in unseeded and had to beat five seeded players to take the title.

"Last year, I came in without a lot of matches. This

time, I've played a lot. It's two different situations," Agassi said.

"I'm definitely playing better, ready to peak when I have to. You do what you've got to do to win. That's the key. I've felt pretty focused for a year now, this year especially."

Palmer had what amounted to a free pass into the fourth round with matches against players ranked 250, 145 and 392. World number

one Agassi revoked that pass in an hour and 48 minutes despite suffering something of a let-down after having to face the likes of Stefan Edberg in the third round.

Palmer played Agassi tough in the first set before a loose service game at 6-5 allowed the top seed to avoid a tie-break.

Still, Agassi said, even if he had lost the first set, there was no way Palmer was going to beat him.

"My confidence is at an all-time high," said Agassi, who has reached the final of every hard-court tournament

to be concerned about playing her.

Agassi was in control the whole match against Palmer, a serve-and-volleyer who provided a convenient target for Agassi's passing shots.

Agassi's only problem was an unusually high number of aces — six — but he was broken only once.

Agassi is in a different frame of mind than he was a year ago when he came in unseeded and had to beat five seeded players to take the title.

"Last year, I came in without a lot of matches. This

time, I've played a lot. It's two different situations," Agassi said.

"I'm definitely playing better, ready to peak when I have to. You do what you've got to do to win. That's the key. I've felt pretty focused for a year now, this year especially."

Palmer had what amounted to a free pass into the fourth round with matches against players ranked 250, 145 and 392. World number

one Agassi revoked that pass in an hour and 48 minutes despite suffering something of a let-down after having to face the likes of Stefan Edberg in the third round.

Palmer played Agassi tough in the first set before a loose service game at 6-5 allowed the top seed to avoid a tie-break.

Still, Agassi said, even if he had lost the first set, there was no way Palmer was going to beat him.

"My confidence is at an all-time high," said Agassi, who has reached the final of every hard-court tournament

to be concerned about playing her.

Agassi was in control the whole match against Palmer, a serve-and-volleyer who provided a convenient target for Agassi's passing shots.

Agassi's only problem was an unusually high number of aces — six — but he was broken only once.

Agassi is in a different frame of mind than he was a year ago when he came in unseeded and had to beat five seeded players to take the title.

"Last year, I came in without a lot of matches. This

time, I've played a lot. It's two different situations," Agassi said.

"I'm definitely playing better, ready to peak when I have to. You do what you've got to do to win. That's the key. I've felt pretty focused for a year now, this year especially."

Palmer had what amounted to a free pass into the fourth round with matches against players ranked 250, 145 and 392. World number

one Agassi revoked that pass in an hour and 48 minutes despite suffering something of a let-down after having to face the likes of Stefan Edberg in the third round.

Palmer played Agassi tough in the first set before a loose service game at 6-5 allowed the top seed to avoid a tie-break.

Still, Agassi said, even if he had lost the first set, there was no way Palmer was going to beat him.

"My confidence is at an all-time high," said Agassi, who has reached the final of every hard-court tournament

to be concerned about playing her.

Agassi was in control the whole match against Palmer, a serve-and-volleyer who provided a convenient target for Agassi's passing shots.

Agassi's only problem was an unusually high number of aces — six — but he was broken only once.

Agassi is in a different frame of mind than he was a year ago when he came in unseeded and had to beat five seeded players to take the title.

"Last year, I came in without a lot of matches. This

time, I've played a lot. It's two different situations," Agassi said.

"I'm definitely playing better, ready to peak when I have to. You do what you've got to do to win. That's the key. I've felt pretty focused for a year now, this year especially."

Palmer had what amounted to a free pass into the fourth round with matches against players ranked 250, 145 and 392. World number

one Agassi revoked that pass in an hour and 48 minutes despite suffering something of a let-down after having to face the likes of Stefan Edberg in the third round.

Palmer played Agassi tough in the first set before a loose service game at 6-5 allowed the top seed to avoid a tie-break.

Still, Agassi said, even if he had lost the first set, there was no way Palmer was going to beat him.

"My confidence is at an all-time high," said Agassi, who has reached the final of every hard-court tournament

to be concerned about playing her.

Agassi was in control the whole match against Palmer, a serve-and-volleyer who provided a convenient target for Agassi's passing shots.

Agassi's only problem was an unusually high number of aces — six — but he was broken only once.

Agassi is in a different frame of mind than he was a year ago when he came in unseeded and had to beat five seeded players to take the title.

"Last year, I came in without a lot of matches. This

time, I've played a lot. It's two different situations," Agassi said.

"I'm definitely playing better, ready to peak when I have to. You do what you've got to do to win. That's the key. I've felt pretty focused for a year now, this year especially."

time, I've played a lot. It's two different situations," Agassi said.

"I'm definitely playing better, ready to peak when I have to. You do what you've got to do to win. That's the key. I've felt pretty focused for a year now, this year especially."

Palmer had what amounted to a free pass into the fourth round with matches against players ranked 250, 145 and 392. World number

one Agassi revoked that pass in an hour and 48 minutes despite suffering something of a let-down after having to face the likes of Stefan Edberg in the third round.

Palmer played Agassi tough in the first set before a loose service game at 6-5 allowed the top seed to avoid a tie-break.

Still, Agassi said, even if he had lost the first set, there was no way Palmer was going to beat him.

"My confidence is at an all-time high," said Agassi, who has reached the final of every hard-court tournament

to be concerned about playing her.

Agassi was in control the whole match against Palmer, a serve-and-volleyer who provided a convenient target for Agassi's passing shots.

Agassi's only problem was an unusually high number of aces — six — but he was broken only once.

Agassi is in a different frame of mind than he was a year ago when he came in unseeded and had to beat five seeded players to take the title.

"Last year, I came in without a lot of matches. This

time, I've played a lot. It's two different situations," Agassi said.

"I'm definitely playing better, ready to peak when I have to. You do what you've got to do to win. That's the key. I've felt pretty focused for a year now, this year especially."

Palmer had what amounted to a free pass into the fourth round with matches against players ranked 250, 145 and 392. World number

one Agassi revoked that pass in an hour and 48 minutes despite suffering something of a let-down after having to face the likes of Stefan Edberg in the third round.

Palmer played Agassi tough in the first set before a loose service game at 6-5 allowed the top seed to avoid a tie-break.

Still, Agassi said, even if he had lost the first set, there was no way Palmer was going to beat him.

"My confidence is at an all-time high," said Agassi, who has reached the final of every hard-court tournament

to be concerned about playing her.

Agassi was in control the whole match against Palmer, a serve-and-volleyer who provided a convenient target for Agassi's passing shots.

Agassi's only problem was an unusually high number of aces — six — but he was broken only once.

Agassi is in a different frame of mind than he was a year ago when he came in unseeded and had to beat five seeded players to take the title.

"Last year, I came in without a lot of matches. This

time, I've played a lot. It's two different situations," Agassi said.

"I'm definitely playing better, ready to peak when I have to. You do what you've got to do to win. That's the key. I've felt pretty focused for a year now, this year especially."

Palmer had what amounted to a free pass into the fourth round with matches against players ranked 250, 145 and 392. World number

one Agassi revoked that pass in an hour and 48 minutes despite suffering something of a let-down after having to face the likes of Stefan Edberg in the third round.

Palmer played Agassi tough in the first set before a loose service game at 6-5 allowed the top seed to avoid a tie-break.

Still, Agassi said, even if he had lost the first set, there was no way Palmer was going to beat him.

"My confidence is at an all-time high," said Agassi, who has reached the final of every hard-court tournament

to be concerned about playing her.

Agassi was in control the whole match against Palmer, a serve-and-volleyer who provided a convenient target for Agassi's passing shots.

Agassi's only problem was an unusually high number of aces — six — but he was broken only once.

Agassi is in a different frame of mind than he was a year ago when he came in unseeded and had to beat five seeded players to take the title.

"Last year, I came in without a lot of matches. This

time, I've played a lot. It's two different situations," Agassi said.

"I'm definitely playing better, ready to peak when I have to. You do what you've got to do to win. That's the key. I've felt pretty focused for a year now, this year especially."

Lankans crushed

RAWALPINDI, Sept 5: The Pakistan Cricket Board Patron's XI beat Sri Lanka by an innings and six runs on the second day of a three-day match today, reports Reuter.

Scores: Sri Lanka 104 and 171. Pakistan Board Patron's XI 218-9 declared.

Bulbul returns to empty bagicha

Sports Reporter

Aminul Islam Bulbul, who along with Minhajul Abedin Nannu missed the Moin-ud-Dowla bus, returned home last evening.

The vice-captain of the Bangladesh team and a prolific right-handed middle order batsman had earlier left for England two months ago where he played in the minor counties.

However, Bulbul was not available to make any comment whether he was informed by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) about his inclusion in the selection trial for the Moin-ud-Dowla meet now being held in the Indian city of Hyderabad.

Army aquatic

SAVAR, Sept 5: Two more new Army records were set on the fourth day of the Bangladesh Army aquatic meet at Savar today, reports BSS.

The 31-year-old soccer star, who plays for FC Barcelona, is the silent partner in the 20,000 dollars practice he opened Sunday with Amer Al Movzayen, a Syrian dentist and a friend from student days.

The practice, a stone's throw from downtown Bucharest, has four rooms fitted with the latest equipment, a local television station said. Eight dentists and eight assistants will work there, PRO-TV reported. It will open to the public in one week.

Romania's coach, Anghel Iordanescu, who took the Romanian side to the quarter-finals in the 1994 World Cup when they bowed out to Sweden, was the first to sit in the dentist's chair, newspapers reported Monday.

Ex-national striker Gabi Balint, who also attended the opening, said he was relieved to find somewhere he could get his wisdom teeth treated.

"When I won the first set I was in pretty much control," said the 29-year-old McEnroe, whose older brother John, a four-time Open champion, was working as a television commentator for the match.

Next for McEnroe, ranked 42nd in the world, is Becker, in their second Grand Slam match-up this year. McEnroe bounced Becker out of the season-opening Australian Open in the first round.

"I had to play really good tennis and I did in the third set," said Schultz-McCarthy, who finished off the two hour and 13-minute tussle with a service winner.

At court-side, offering her own encouragement was Betty Stove, the last Dutchwoman to get this far when she reached the semi-finals in 1977, back when the Open was still played at Forest Hills.

"When I would walk up to where she was, she would say stay calm and fight," Schultz-

"I've been hanging in the whole US Open," Schultz-McCarthy said of her treble, three-set wins in four matches.

The 6-foot, 2-inch (1.88m) Schultz-McCarthy is the tallest player on the tour and her serve, clocked regularly at more than 100 mph (161 kph), is the fastest in the women's game.

"But there is more to her game now than just her big delivery," said Date.

"Her serve is the main key, however, comparing to the past few years mentally she is steadier, stronger," said Date, a French Open semifinalist this year.

This year Schultz-

"I've been hanging in the whole US Open," Schultz-McCarthy said of her treble, three-set wins in four matches.

The 6-foot, 2-inch (1.88m) Schultz-McCarthy is the tallest player on the tour and her serve, clocked regularly at more than 100 mph (161 kph), is the fastest in the women's game.

"But there is more to her game now than just her big delivery," said Date.

"Her serve is the main key, however, comparing to the past few years mentally she is steadier, stronger," said Date, a French Open semifinalist this year.

This year Schultz-

"I've been hanging in the whole US Open," Schultz-McCarthy said of her treble, three-set wins in four matches.

The 6-foot, 2-inch (1.88m) Schultz-McCarthy is the tallest player on the tour and her serve, clocked regularly at more than 100 mph (161 kph), is the fastest in the women's game.

"But there is more to her game now than just her big delivery," said Date.

"Her serve is the main key, however, comparing to the past few years mentally she is steadier, stronger," said Date, a French Open semifinalist this year.

This year Schultz-

"I've been hanging in the whole US Open," Schultz-McCarthy said of her treble, three-set wins in four matches.

The 6-foot, 2-inch (1.88m) Schultz-McCarthy is the tallest player on the tour and her serve, clocked regularly at more than 100 mph (161 kph), is the fastest in the women's game.

"But there is more to her game now than just her big delivery," said Date.

A genius in disguise



NEW YORK, Sept 5 (Reuter): The US Open had always been an open and shut case for Petr Korda.

Five times the talented Czech left-hander had come to the National Tennis Centre, only to exit four times in the first round and once in the second.

"If you look at the books, my career record in the US Open was no good," admitted Korda, who pulled out of last year's tournament with back and leg injuries.

This year, however, Korda stayed around for a while. He reached the quarter-finals on Monday with a 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 drubbing of Vincent Spadea.

"Right now I feel relaxed and I am just enjoying myself playing," said Korda after taking less than two hours to beat the American who had taken seventh seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov out of his path.

The tournament seemed to begin like all the others for Korda as he found himself engaged in a bitter first-round struggle with Shuzo Matsukoa. The Japanese player was up 2-1 in sets and

6-5 in the fourth when he was struck down by crippling cramping and forced to quit.

"I got that heavy monkey of the US Open off and finally broke through," Korda said of his opening-round escape.

"After that match, I'm much more relaxed. I think I'm enjoying myself and hitting the ball well.

As a member of the world's top 10 in 1991 and again in 1992, the year he reached the French Open fi-

nal, Korda has been recognised as one of the finest ball strikers on the tour.

So even though Korda's ranking and slipped to 39th, when Tony Pickard was hired as coach this year, the focus of his advice was not on mechanics.

"You can't teach him anything about the technique," said Pickard. "He is about as good as anything out there."

Instead, Pickard, who had been instrumental in guiding Stefan Edberg to US Open victories in 1991 and 1992, stressed the mental aspects of the game.

"He has changed me completely. He has put back a little confidence in my tennis," the 26-year-old Korda said. Despite Korda's abysmal US Open record, Pickard is not surprised by the turn around.

"All the people around tennis have seen this guy, it's in him," he said. "We got to keep bringing it out of him."

Flush with confidence, Korda issued a challenge to his next opponent, world number one and defending champion Andre Agassi.

"If somebody wants to beat me, they have to play pretty good tennis," Korda said.

"They know they have to work for every point and I think that makes a lot of difference."

"A Wimbledon quarter-finalist already this year and ranked number 15 in the world, Schultz-McCarthy has come a long way since 1989 when she lost 13 first round matches.

"The whole thing is hanging in there and don't get discouraged when you lose," said the 25-year-old, who got married this April.

"If you learn every time something, then there is going to be one stage that it is all going to come together and right now I have been able to put it together."

"If you learn every time something, then there is going to be one stage that it is all going to come together and right now I have been able to put it together."

"If you learn every time something, then there is going to be one stage that it is all going to come together and right now I have been able to put it together."

"If you learn every time something, then there is going to be one stage that it is all going to come together and right now I have been able to put it together."

"If you learn every time something, then there is going to be one stage that it is all going to come together and right now I have been able to put it together."

"If you learn every time something, then there is going to be one stage that it is all going to come together and right now I have been able to put it together."

"If you learn every time something, then there is going to be one stage that it is all going to come together and right now I have been able to put it together."

"If you learn every time something, then there is going to be one stage that it is all going to come together and right now I have been able to put it together."