LONDON, July 5 (Reuter): Biographies of Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario who contest the Wimbledon women's final on Saturday:

Steffi Graf (Germany)

Age: 27 Seeded: One

Career official prize money: 18.2 million dollars.
Singles titles: 19 Grand Slam titles, 99 overall.

Coach : Heinz Gunthardt.

Grand Slam record: Won the Australian Open in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1994; the French Open in 1987, 1988, 1993, 1995, 1996; Wimbledon in 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995;

the US Open in 1988, 1989, 1993, 1995.

Path to final: Beat Ludmila Richterova (Czech Republic) 6-4, 6-1; Nathalie Baudone (Italy) 7-5, 6-3; Nicole Arendt (US) 6-2, 6-1; Martina Hingis (Switzerland), 6-1, 6-4; Jana Novotna (Czech Rep) 6-3, 6-2, Kimiko Date (Japan) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Playing style: Right-handed, athletic. One of the quickest and strongest players on tour. Relies heavily on her powerful forehand and a consistent sliced backhand. Has won at least one Grand Slam title and at least seven tour titles in every season since 1987. Won last five Grand Slams she has entered.

Personal: Born in Bruehl, Germany, on Jun 14, 1969 began playing at age of four. Height 1.75 metres. Has had turbulent year with father arrested for alleged tax evasion. Yunger brother Peter is a Formula Three racing car driver. Owns three German Shephered dogs and a boxer and collects shorts and T-shirts. Enjoys pasta, impressionist art, reading and photography.

Aranxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)

Age: 24 Seeded: Four

Career official prize money: 10.7 million dollars. Singles titles: Three Grand Slam titles, 24 overall.

Coach: David de Miguel Lapiedra. Grand Slam record: Won the French Open in 1989, 1994; US

Open in 1994. Path to final: Beat Adriana Serra-Zanetti (Italy) 6-3, 6-4; Miriam Oremans (Netherlands) 7-5, 6-3; Naoko Sawamatsu (Japan) 6-4, 6-1; Sabine Appelmans (Belgium) 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; Judith Wiesner (Austria) 6-4, 6-0; Meredith McGrath (US) 6-

2, 6-1. Playing style: Right-handed, two-handed backhand. Solid allround baseline game and excellent mobility around court. Gritty and determined player who will never surrender before the bitter end. Grass is her least comfortable surface, but she reached final here last year, losing to Graf in absorbing threeset match. Renowned for her mental toughness and

Personal: Born in Barcelona, Spain, on December 18, 1971. Father Emilio, mother Marisa. Height 1.69 metres. Started playing at the age of four. Youngest in family of tennis-playing professionals. Elder brothers Emilio and Javier compete on men's tour. Sister, Marisa, works as a sports reporter on Spanish television. Named her two dogs Roland and Garros. Enjoys soccer and basketball, listening to The Beatles and Phil Collins.

Wang ready to roll

BEIJING. July 5: Wang Junxia, one of China's hottest hopes for a gold medal in the Atlanta Olympics, underwent 12 doping tests in the last 12 months and is on track for a strong performance, officials said Friday, reports AFP.

According to Shang Xiutang. the vice-head of the Track and Field Association, Wang is currently under intensive training at a secret location.

The 23-year-old athlete's Olympic programme includes running in layers of clothes and numerous steambaths and saunas to get her acclimatised to Atlanta's weather, he told the Guangming Daily

Meanwhile, the CDCC has passed its annual accreditation test by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Xinhua reported.

Rain plays foul at Wimbledon

Sports Reporter

the scheduled men's semifinals of the Wimbledon Championships last night, according to BBC.

seed Todd Martin and unseeded Malivai Washington were locked at two sets apiece. Washington twice recovered after losing the first and third

heavens opened.

tween Dutchman Richard Kra-Stoltenberg was to follow. Organisers at the All-England Club fear the final on Sunday might have to be put back by day or two.

bunkbeds at local schools and a

chance to see the Games in

* * *

POLICE PUZZLE

suspected sniper after a na-

tional guardsman was wounded

while posted at an Olympic

site, but said later the man

might have only been hit by a

and released for a "graze

wound" at a hospital here late

Thursday, Atlanta police Lt

chest," Olgesby said. "The pro-

jectile did not go into his body

so we don't know whether it

was a bullet or a firecracker.

We can't be sure since we

that it was a firecracker." Lt

"I tend to think, based on

The area was closed down

and searched and no evidence

was found of a sniper, he said,

have a sniper, he doesn't fire

had been reports of fireworks

being set off in the area at the

Borg beyond

reach!

5: Bjorn Borg's record of five

straight Wimbledon victories

in the Open era is safe for now.

Pete Sampras bid for four

straight with a three-set quar-

terfinal victory Thursday that

stretched over two days and

once, and I never really ex-

pected to win here three

times in a row," Sampras said.

"It just happened ... to do what

Wednesday's first portion of

the match and left for the

night a worried man trailing

two sets to none with the third

set tied at 1-1 when the rain-

slowed match was finally sus-

The worry didn't vanish

Thursday — and his serve

never did appear. He finished

with eight aces and eight dou-

ble faults in the match while

the Dutchman stroked 29 aces

en route to the 7-5, 7-6 (7-3).

6-4 victory. The match lasted

2 hours and 3 minutes of ac-

these rain delays, you never

feel like you're really into the

match," he said. "You just feel

like it's so sporadic and you

don't feel like you have

"You know it's tough with all

tual playing time.

pended.

rhythm.

Sampras was out of synch in

(Borg) did is phenomenal."

"My dream was to win here

30 hours, reports AP.

WIMBLEDON, England, July

Richard Krajicek ended

Police said earlier there

There is usually a volley.

don't have the projectile."

The guardsman was treated

"It was a graze wound to his

Police launched a hunt for a

exchange for their work.

ATLANTA NOTEBOOK

firecracker

Olgesby said

John Oglesby said.

ATLANTA. July 5 (Reuter): Following is the Games notebook on Thursday:

ACCOUNTING SCAM

An accountant working for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) allegedly stole 60,000 dollars by diverting cash into a bogus bank account, police said.

They said Stevie Council had been charged with embezzling the money from the Olympic organisers, using the cash to buy a car and a certificate of deposit

A spokesman for ACOG said the committee's security controls had discovered the alleged theft and had notified the police.

The losses were covered by insurance and a full audit was continuing, he added ACOG needs 1.7 billion

dollars to stage the Games. our preliminary investigation. which open on July 19, according to the committee's latest figures, they are just short of their target and expect to make up the shortfall during the Games through adding: "Usually, when you ticket and souvenir sales. * * * just one shot and disappear.

LABOUR SHORTAGE

Food concession booths at the Olympics will likely feature long lines because thousands of temporary jobs serving Games visitors are going unfilled.

"It's a big problem." said David Poythress, Georgia's state labour commissioner. There are not as many people to fill these jobs as employers would like. People waiting for food might have to wait longer."

Workers are in great demand. Nearly 100,000 volunteers and employees will work for Olympic organisers. Private companies have hired another 30,000 people for banquet halls and hospitality rooms.

Stores with concession tents to peddle their wares to hungry Olympic watchers know servers are in short sup-

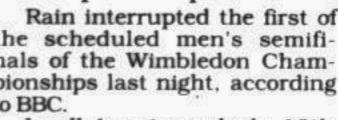
"Employees are scarce." said Robert Tocci, hoping to hire 200 more people for 15 barbecue tents around the Olympic area. "We are spending a lot to get people."

With millions of meals needed each day for people away from homes, Tocci is looking in colleges and bartending schools to find workers at upto 15 dollars an hour.

Mark McAfee is looking for 400 bartenders to work his "I'm going to offer them a

lot of money," he said. "All you got to be is 21 and pull a han-dle."

McAfee's food sales will be manned by 4,000 high school students from across the United States, who are working here in exchange for



In all-American clash, 13th

The scores were 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (8/6) and 3-6 before the

The second semifinal bejicek and Australian Jason

But Graf, who was suffering from a cold and sinus problems needed only 26 minutes to take the third set in bright sunshine Friday.

"I wonder how much longer she could have kept up at that level," Graf said. "All things were favouring her a little bit. At least I felt like I was serving much better than I was vesterday, so I didn't worry too

Date, the first Japanese to reach the Wimbledon semifinals, said she felt she could have won the match had it continued late Thursday.

"It's true I wanted to finish yesterday," she said. "If play would have continued after the second set, I think I would have continued at that level I have pretty good eyesight and (the visibility) didn't bother me at all.

The decisive break Friday came in the sixth game. Graf reached break point when she angled a lucky backhand sliced return just over the net and out of Date's reach. On breakpoint, Date netted a backhand Graf, who had started the day with her third ace of the match after serving poorly Thursday, served two more

aces to hold for a 5-2 lead. Date double-faulted and faced two match points at 15-40 when a backhand return by Graf clipped the netcord and popped over. Graf hit a forehand long to blow one match point, then Date saved the next when she got a lucky netcord.

Graf served out the match in the next game when Date struck four unforced errors, ending with a forehand that

1995 Wimbledon

1996 French Open



mate semifinal victory over Meredith McGrath of the

- AFP/UNB photo — AFP/UNB photo Old foes renew rivalry today

> "I tried to stay very close to her and it worked well at the beginning," Date said. "But still Graf kept her good form in the final set. It was just one set and it means I had fewer . chances.

Saturday's championship match will be the seventh Grand Slam final between Graf and Sanchez-Vicario. Graf won last year's Wimbledon final in three sets and beat Sanchez-Vicario in three for the French Open title last month.

World number one Steffi Graf of Germany hurtles down a

fierce service against Kimiko Date of Japan during her

semifinal encounter at the Wimbledon on July 5.

ly 5: Steffi Graf

advanced to her

eighth Wimble-

don final Friday

pleted a three-set victory over

Japan's Kimiko Date, report

champion defeated the 12th

seeded Date 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 to

set up a replay of last year's fi-

When the match was sus-

pended by darkness Thursday.

Graf had dropped six straight

games to lose the second set

and looked in danger of follow-

ing defending men's champion

Pete Sampras out of the tour-

nal against Arantxa Sanchez-

The defending and six-time

agencies.

Vicario of Spain.

she com-

"Even if people say it's the same match again, I think there has been some spectacular tennts and definitely no boring finals." Graf said. "So it's just going to be another one and hopefully it's going to be another great match."

Sanchez-Vicario cruised into the final Thursday by beating Meredith McGrath 6-6-1 in 61 minutes.

The completion of the Graf-Date match preceded the two men's semifinals, which pitted 13th-seeded Todd Martin against fellow American Malivai Washington, and Krajicek against Jason Stoltenberg of Australia.

On Thursday, the momentum turned Date's way in the 24-point third game of the second set. The game included nine deuces, four game points for Graf and six break points for Date. The Japanese player finally converted with a forehand down the line which forced a backhand error by

Graf looked deflated as Date

quickly ran out the set. But she didn't lose her sense of humour. As she prepared to serve in the seventh game, a man shouted from the stands. "Will you marry me?" Graf chuckled and yelled back, "How much money do you have?"

"Yeah, that was great timing," Graf said Friday. "I lost the game so I ask for a divorce right now."

Sanchez-Vicario, the fourth seeded out-served, out-returned and out-run the unseeded American McGrath.

The 24-year-old Spaniard, playing as if she had an impor tant appointment to keep. Broke the hapless American's serve in the third and fifth games of the first set and three times in the second.

"I didn't want to be out there too long, after waiting all day," said Sanchez-Vicario. forced to wait for delayed men's quarter-finals to finish before they could get on court in late afternoon on another shower-interrupted day.

McGrath, ranked 27th in the world but with a fine record on grass, could not counter the pace and ferocity of Sanchez-Vicario's searing groundstrokes. The 25-year-old from

Michigan played with her right led heavily strapped and needed a time-out in the second set for an injury apparently to both calf and thigh.

"It's just a strained muscle really," McGrath said after wards. "I've been managing it but the last five or six days, it's been getting worse

"I wasn't really able to run around the court the way I'd like to. Sanchez-Vicario took full

advantages of the McCrath's lack of mobility. She lofted tantalising lobs

when McGrath rushed to the net and produced precise drop shots which left her opponent stranded at the baseline. McGrath, winner of the pre-Wimbledon Birmingham

grass court tournament, never

found her attacking rhythm and eventually lost confidence At 5-1 down in the second set she double faulted to go 30-15 down, was lobbed for matchpoint and put Sanchez-

Vicario's determined return long to had her opponent vicsaid to myself I should

start well and I really did play well," said a beaming Sanchez-Vicario.

4-6, 6-1, 7-5

6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 10-8

Havelange usurps **UEFA**



ZURICH, July 5: The balance of power in world soccer shifted subtly back, towards FIFA pre-

sident Joao Havelange on Thursday when the sport's governing body weakened Europe's grip on its decisionmaking executive committee, reports Reuter.

A single-vote victory at FIFA's biennial congress handed an extra seat each on the executive to African, Asia and Oceania and brought accusations of foul play from the Americans.

But, according to some ob-servers, it was Europe who might turn out to be the Liggest losers.

Havelange has been locked in battle with UEFA chief Lennart Johansson, a declared candidate to succeed him as FIFA president in two years time, and has had to accept some setbacks, notably when he was forced to cave in to UEFA's call for the joint host-ing of the 2002 World Cup by Japan and South Korea.

The proposal to add three seats to the executive, bringing it up to 24 members, achieved the necessary 75 per cent majority by just one vote, leaving UEFA with less leverage.

In the past, the Europeans have often been able to get their way on the FIFA executive by calling on their traditional alliance with South America to win a simple majority.

Under the new executive. they would need the support of two, rather than one, other confederation.

UEFA also lost one of its vice-presidents when congress decided the Soviet Union, dissolved five years ago, could no longer keep its permanent place but, in a successful rearguard action, the Europeans were given the right to retain the seat at least on the execu-UEFA now has eight of 24

seats on the executive, while Africa and Asia were both increased to four. South America and the North and Central American and Caribbean region remained unchanged with three apiece. Oceania's single seat and the casting vote of the presidency make up the rest. "If you view it from Europe

versus the president when it makes it a little easier for the president," said one FIFA source. "It's all a question of strate-

gic alliances," said another FIFA source. "But mathematically Europe has been weakened by this decision." The cries of foul play came from the Americas.

"By clever design Africa and Asia have increased their posi-

tion of the executive. It runs against the grain of the concept of fair play." said Chet Greene, general secretary of the Antiguan Football Association and a CONCACAF member. "It defies the concept of family and makes us feel like

illegitimate members of that US Soccer Federation pres-

ident Alan Rothenburg said the decision was unfair for CON-CACAF and South American confederation CONMEBOL. "In the deal-making we got left behind," he said. Earlier, a German bid to

wrest power from FIFA and allow countries more say over the rules governing their soccer leagues was beaten down at the congress. The German football fed-

eration wanted to alter international football federation

Diego Japan's bete noire

TOKYO, July 5: A Japanese soccer team said today that it is holding talks with former Argentine captain Diego Maradona, but has not signed a contract and is doubtful he can get a Japanese visa because of a drug arrest, reports Reuter. A spokesman for Japan

Football League side Tosu Futures said today that the team wants to sign the 35-year-old midfielder if Tokyo authorities will grant him a visa. We would definitely think

about signing him if he expressed interest in coming to Japan," team spokesman Reizo Kato said be telephone from Saga in Kyushu, Japan's southern most main is land. "Under the current Japa

nese rules, however, it is virtually impossible for him to get a visa," he said. Japanese authorities barred

Maradona, currently with Argentine side Boca Juniors. from playing in a warm-up match in Japan before the 1994 World Cup finals because of cases pending involving the use of cocaine. Maradona's manager Gui-

llermo Coppola was quoted by Argentina's state-owned Telam news agency as saying on Thursday that the player was set to sign a 20 million dollar two-year contract with a Japanese club within the next few days. The Japanese club was not named. A spokeswoman for the JFL.

regarded as a "second division" of Japan's four-year-old professional J-League, said no other team had reported signing Maradona. If he is granted a visa.

Maradona would join the club in August, the report said.

Japan's policy of denying visas to individuals with records of arrests for drugs offences has prevented some top foreign rock musicians from touring the country.

statutes to give itself more freedom to make decisions on rule changes independently.

The two federations have been locked in a row over the issue since 1994, when the Germans ordered a Bundesliga match between Bayern Munich and Nuremburg to be replayed after television pictures proved a goal awarded to Thomas

Halmer had not crossed the goal line. FIFA criticised the German decision, which threatened huge repercussions for referees worldwide, but the result of the replayed match stood.

The Germans tried to resolve the row by asking the congress to allow national sports judicial bodies the right to act independently. But they failed by a large

margin to win the 75 per cent majority required and the amendment was defeated by 129 votes to 40. FIFA was adamantly op-

posed to the idea of associations interfering with referee ing decisions, saying it could lead to an abuse of power and cause huge disruption to competitions. "As far as FIFA is concerned the referee's decisions is final,

always has been and always will be," FIFA spokesman Keigh Cooper said. Such a move would disrupt competitions and take authority out of the hands of the ref-

could be a misuse of power." The congress, which also dealt with 18 proposed amendments to the statutes in

eree and potentially there



JOAO HAVELANGE

little more than four hours, defeated an Argentine move to allow players naturalised in one country to play for that country even if they had already represented their country of birth.

African delegates argued against the rule change, saying it would result in players like Liberia's world player-of-theyear George Weah being snapped up by other national teams.

A Scottish Football Associa-

tion proposal to impose an age limit of 70 on FIFA committee members — thereby forcing FIFA's 80-year-old president Havelange from office at the end of his current term in 1998 — was withdrawn before the congress. FIFA formally admitted six

countries as new members -Bosnia, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Guam and Andorra — bringing its membership of national associations to 198. The Palestine Football As-

sociation had its provisional membership ratified

Adidas' aid to Marseille BEZOGENAURACH. Ger-

many, July 5 (Reuter): German sportswear giant Adidas confirmed on Thursday it had made "a major financial commitment" to Marseille, ensuring the French club could realise its "ambitious five-year development plan. Adidas specified, however,

that it did not plan to take over or part-own the club and was seeking partners "on a local, national and international level within the next two months. Thursday's news means the

wheel of fortune has turned full circle for Marseille. The deal was announced

initially by Marseille mayor Jean-Claude Gaudin, club president since businessman and ex-government minister Bernard Tapie was forced to resign over a match-rigging scandal and heavy debts. Tapie, who bought Adidas in

1990 before selling it to new chairman Robert-Louis Dreyfus and two French banks two years later, now sees his former club in the hands of some of his bitterest enemies. Marseille were twice rele-

gated off the pitch in 1994 and 1995 because of debts estimated at nearly 250 million francs (50 millions dollars). but they return to the First Division next season.

Football camps

Sports Reporter The football camps of Youngmen's Club, Fakirerpool

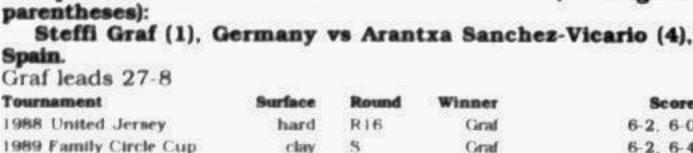
and Arambagh Krira Sangha will begin in the capital from July 7 and 8 respectively. The booters, who took part in the last year's Premier Divi-

sion football league with these two teams, are requested to report of their respective club tents in the afternoon of the given dates.

THE HEAD-TO-HEADS

WIMBLEDON, England, July 5 (AP): Head-to-head matchups of the women's finalists at Wimbledon (seedings in

Spain. Graf leads 27-8				2007-2007-2018/2H
Tournament	Surface	Round	Winner	Score
1988 United Jersey	hard	R16	Graf	6-2, 6-0
1989 Family Circle Cup	clay	5	Grad	6-2, 6-4
1989 Bausch and Lomb	clay	S	Graf	6-3, 6-2
1989 French Open	clay	F	Sanchez V	7-6, (8-6), 3-6, 7-5
1989 Wimbledon	grass	9	Graf	7-5, 6-1
1990 Pan Pacific	carpet	F	Graf	6-1, 6-2
1990 Bausch and Lomb	clay	F	Graf	6-1, 6-0
1990 Citizen Cup	clay	F	Graf	5-7, 6-0, 6-1
1990 US Open	hard	8	Graf	6-1.6-2
1990 Leipzig	carpet	F	Graf	6-1, 6-1
1991 Lufthansa Cup	clay	F	Graf	6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (8-6)
1991 French Open	clay	5	Sanchez V.	6-0, 6-2
1992 Bausch and Lomb	clay	S	Graf	6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 6-3
1992 Citizen Cup	clay	F	Grad	7-6 (7-5), 6-2
1992 Lufthansa Cup	clay	F	Graf	4-6, 7-5, 6-2
1992 French Open	clay	S	Graf	0-6, 6-2, 6-2
1992 Federation Cup	clay	R5	Graf	6-4, 6-2
1992 US Open	hard	9	Sanchez V	7-6 (7-5), 6-3
1992 Virginia Slims of	carpet	F	Grad	6-3, 3-6, 6-1
Philadelphia				
1993 Australian Open	hard	5	Graf	7-5, 6-4
1993 Virginia Slims of Florida	hard	F	Graf	6-4, 6-3
1993 Lipton	hard	F	Sanchez V	6-4, 3-6, 6-3
1993 Family Ctrcle	clay	F	Grad	7-6 (10-8), 6-1
1993 Citizen Cup	clar	F	Sanchez V	6-3, 6-3
1993 San Diego	hard	F	Graf	6-4, 4-6, 6-1
1993 Virginia Slims	carpet	F	Graf	6-1 6-4 3-6 6-1
Championships	SERVICE			Arting University and Arting St.
1994 Australian Open	hard	F	Graf	6-0, 6-2
1994 Delray	hard	F	Graf	6-3, 7-5
1994 Hamburg	clay	F F	Sanchez V	4 6, 7 6 (7 3), 7 6 (8 6)
1994 San Diego	hard	F	Graf	6-2, 6-1
1994 Canadian Open	hard	F	Sanchez V	7-5, 1-6, 7-6 (8-6)
1994 US Open	hard	F	Sanchez V	1-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-4
1995 French Open	clay	F	Graf	7-5, 4-6, 6-0
LOOK WILLIAM	- 23	67		





clay

Action from yesterday's schools Kabaddi championship match between Dholaipar High and Ram Krishna Mission High at the Kabaddi court of Dhaka Stadium. Star photo