

Diego in depths of despair

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 9: Diego Maradona's penalty nightmare dominated the Argentine sport press on Thursday after he missed his fifth in a row, killing Boca Juniors' title hopes, reports Reuter.

Glamour girls go down



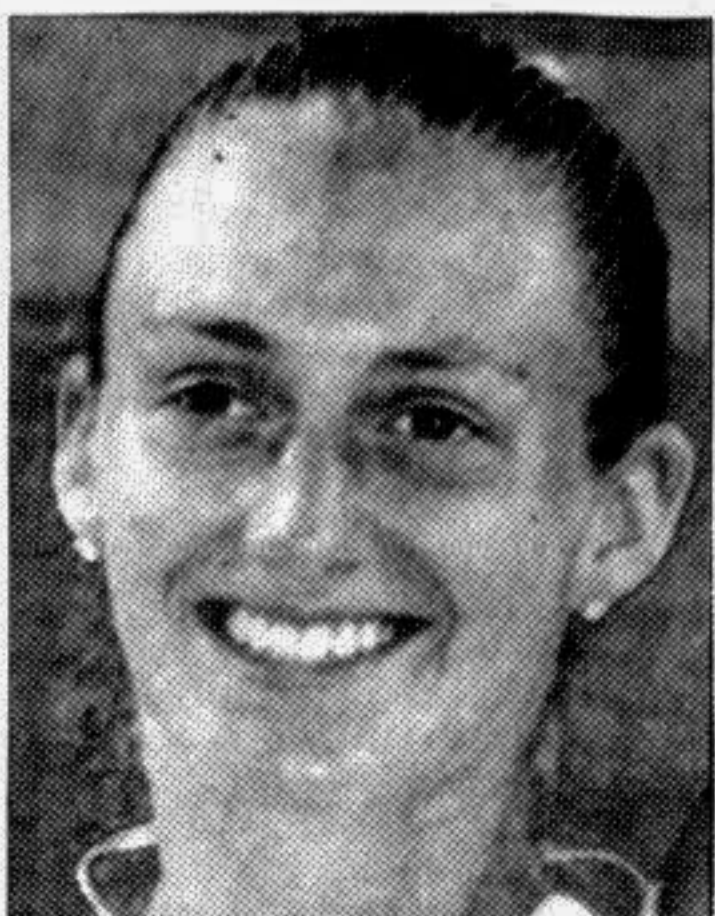
MONTREAL, Aug 9: Monica Seles and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario advanced to the quarterfinals of the 1.3 million dollars du Maurier Open while a hip injury forced Jennifer Capriati's exit, report agencies.



GABRIELA SABATINI

better in these matches. Frazier ousted No. 8 Mary Pierce of France 6-3, 6-3 and Basuki downed No. 16 Elena Likhovtseva of Russia 6-1, 6-7 (7-4), 6-4. Po beat Aussie qualifier Rennae Stubbs.

backhand — it's amazing. Seles said. "It's fun to meet a great athlete like that. He and his family are really nice."



MARY PIERCE

Seles meets No. 6 Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria in Friday's quarters while Sanchez-Vicario takes on Florencia Labat of Argentina, a 6-3, 6-0 winner over Japan's Naoko Kijimuti.

you can keep playing, go ahead. Only once I withdrew from a tournament at Hilton Head last year when I sprained my ankle.

It wasn't that rowdy!

COLUMBIA, South Carolina, Aug 9: The Olympics apparently weren't the beer-guzzling, fight-filled rowdy exhibition some security experts expected, reports AP.

After 17 days, as part of a research team studying daily crime problems, University of South Carolina criminal justice Professor Geoff Alpert says he found a remarkably friendly and peace-loving crowd.

Krajicek sent packing



MASON, Ohio, Aug 9: While top seeded Pete Sampras and Olympic gold medalist Andre Agassi struggled through third round matches on Thursday, reigning Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek was upset at the 2.2 million dollar ATP Championship, reports Reuter.

In a highly entertaining match, Sampras and Woodforde fought to the bitter end and constantly alternated having the advantage.

served a pitiful ninth game. He lost all four points with the final three points double faults.

Paralympics to step into Olympics' shoes

ATLANTA, Aug 9: Paralympic organizers are trying to move into Olympic venues while souvenir hunters and workers are removing the equipment, reports AP.

A rainy, rousing reception

DUBLIN, Aug 9: Torrential rain and strong winds may have kept down the numbers, but did not dampen the spirits of those who did brave the weather to welcome home Ireland's Olympic team, and especially four-medal-winner Michelle Smith, to the Irish capital Tuesday, reports AP.

While Lynch quite properly stressed that the civic welcome was intended to honour all of Ireland's athletes, this was above all else Michelle Smith's day since it was Michelle alone who had won for the country its greatest ever haul of medals, statistics can be a comforting science.

happens more reluctant parents in two, waved plastic tri-colours in the pouring rain.



Matches of the Open International Rating chess tournament being played at the NSC chess room yesterday. — Star photo

Iranians left heartbroken

TEHRAN, Aug 9: The United States has turned down Iranian visa requests for some of their athletes due to compete in the Paralympics which start in Atlanta on August 15, according to the Iranian press agency IRNA, reports AFP.

The Iranian delegation is due to fly to Atlanta on Sunday to take part in the Games which involves 3,500 athletes from 120 countries.

FBI plays foul!

NEW YORK, Aug 9: The FBI was preparing to make what was believed would be its first ever public apology to Richard Jewell, the security guard linked to the fatal explosion at the Olympic Games last month, the CBS evening news said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Jewell, 33, who was never arrested or charged with any crime in the bombing, was the first person to spot the knapsack pipe bomb in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park and helped clear people away before the explosion.

Olympic flag in Sydney

SYDNEY, Aug 9: The Olympic flag arrived here today as the man who will plan the opening of the 2000 Games accused Sydney of being "parochial and insular" following criticism of his contribution to the Atlanta Games closing ceremony, reports AFP.

The segment depicted scenes that supposedly symbolised the next host city — including inflatable kangaroos on bikes, lifesavers in blue lame outfits and dancers dressed as cockatoos.

shame that I have to do it when I'm working in my own home town."

New South Wales Premier Bob Carr, one of the critics of the Sydney segment, said he wanted the city's opening ceremony to reflect the city's character without resorting to cliches.

Kipketer's promise to keep



MONTE CARLO, Aug 9: Wilson Kipketer, arguably the most notable absentee athlete of the Olympic Games,

dollars for a world record and 2,000 dollars for a meeting record.

aims to steal the show from a galaxy of Atlanta medal winners with a world record at the Monaco Grand Prix on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Kipketer, who missed the Atlanta Games because he has not yet been naturalised Danish and would not run for his native Kenya, is planning an assault on Briton Sebastian Coe's 15-year-old 800 metres record.

The 800 metres is one of the few events at Monaco that does not boast Olympic champions and in many cases all three competitors who stood on the podium in their respective disciplines in Atlanta are taking part here.

Bebeto in, Romario out



RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 9 (AP): Exit Romario, enter Bebeto.

and Jardim. In compensation, Brazilian clubs have brought back veteran stars, hoping to relive past glories.

Bebeto's return is a homecoming to the club that projected him to stardom in the 1980s, when Flamengo boasted such all-stars as Zico, Junior, Tita, Leandro and Mozer.

Palmeiras has brought back Colombian star Freddy Rincon, a star on the squad that won the national championship in 1993.

Atlanta news radio WGST said 16 murders was twice the number for the same period in 1995 and represented a three-year high for the city, which became known internationally as an American crime capital during the run up to the Games.

Colombian star Freddy Rincon, a star on the squad that won the national championship in 1993.

Olympic murder count

ATLANTA, Aug 9: Sixteen people were murdered in Atlanta during the Centennial Games, police said on Thursday, despite efforts by a 30,000-strong security force to rid the Olympic city of violent crime, reports Reuter.

The Atlanta police department could not provide statistics to confirm or deny the radio report.



Players of Glentoran and Sparta Prague Horst Siegl fight for the ball during their UEFA Cup Winners' Cup first leg encounter at the Oval in Belfast on Aug 8. — AFP/UNB photo

Miller, Brad McGee, Alyson Annan and Nicole Stevenson and former Olympic stars Murray Rose, Shane Gould, Marjorie Jackson, Shirley Strickland and Raelene Boyle.

International Olympic Committee president Juan Samaranch has meantime appointed Belgian member Jacques Rogge as permanent supervisor of the Sydney Games to try to prevent a repetition of the transport and security problems that plagued Atlanta.

The Olympic committee often advised the organisers, but the advice of the IOC was not always listened to, Rogge said in Brussels.

The problem for the organisers is that it is always their first Games and that they can't have a dress rehearsal. That is where our commission has an important role to play."

Canadian Donovan Bailey, Olympic and world champion, races against Ato Boldon of Trinidad and American Dennis Mitchell, who were third and fourth at Atlanta.

Briton Linford Christie, having run and lost to Bailey's compatriot Bruny Surin at Sestriere, is not now taking part.

Gail Devers, who popped Ottey for gold, is up against fellow American Gwen Torrence and Mary Onyiah of Nigeria in the women's sprint.

There is no shortage of Olympic champions in the field events either, taking the total to more than 20 and the overall total of medal winners to nearly 70.

Our attack is just too much," Bebeto said. "We've got a team that beat anybody."

Even the loss of Romario didn't weaken the team, coach Joel Santana said.

"Flamengo gained in quality," he said. "It moves the ball with ease and extreme quickness. It's quick on the attack and solid on defence."

Palmeiras has brought back Colombian star Freddy Rincon, a star on the squad that won the national championship in 1993.

Without Amral, Rivaldo and Muller, Rincon will share scoring duties with Elvelton and Luizao. The midfield is controlled by versatile Flavio Conceicao, one of the few bright spots in Brazil's bronze medal-winning Olympic team.

For coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo, Palmeiras will be as tough as ever.

"This team has more tactical options," he said. "I guarantee it's as good as before."

Sao Paulo brought back Muller and Valber from the team that won consecutive South American and world titles in 1992 and 1993. Parreira, a tactical wizard, brings instant respect. But the team's title chances probably depend on the performance of young promises Denilson, Edmilson and Serginho.

Defending champion Botafogo seems unlikely to repeat in 1996. High-scoring forward Tulio is back, but the club was forced to sell key players Beto, Donizetti, Leandro and Sergio Manoiel to pay debts.

Gremio, 1995 Copa Libertadores champion, added veteran forward Mauro Galvao to replace Adilson. But it has no adequate substitute for its top scorer Jardim.

Corinthians of Sao Paulo apparently will be without all-star midfielder Edmundo, who insists on returning to Rio even without a contract. The team acquired Alcindo from the J-league, but the 28-year-old forward must prove he didn't leave his best soccer in Japan.

Santos needed a replacement for forward Giovanni, who was dealt to Spain's Barcelona. But it's not clear whether the answer is Colombian veteran Albiero Usuriaga, picked up from Independiente of Argentina. It not, the young team still promises a show of elegant, quick-passing soccer and the occasionally brilliant goalkeeping of Edinho, Pele's son.