returns my serve better than

anyone I've played against." he

world No 9 after a brief stint at

No 1 last year, is ending a mixed

year. He was the Olympic

champion and won three tour-

naments, but failed to capture a

nals of the event put him in

good position to qualify for the

year-ending ATP Tour World

Championships in the German

city of Honover from Nov 19-24.

The top-eight ranked players

The need to pile up computer

ratings points to gain a berth in

that event is one reason why ev-

ery top player, except injured

world No 19 Cedric Pioline of

France, showed up for the Euro-

one time in his tennis career he

might have played as well as

Friday's match against Agassi

- the 1990 US Open final.

Sampras could recall only

Fittingly, he also played

Agassi that day, ripping him in.

But reaching the quarterfi-

Grand Slam.

qualify.

card Open.

straight sets.

Agassi, who has slumped to

The World Cup snooker will be held in Bangkok from October 29 to November 10, according to a press release of the Asian Billiards and Snooker Federation, reports BSS.

Twenty countries including eight qualifiers from all over the world will take part in the championship.

The countries are: England, Scotland, Northern Ireland. Wales, the Republic of Ireland. Malta, Pakistan, South Africa, Australia. New Zealand. Canada, Belgium, Iceland, Singapore, China, the Netherlands. Malaysia. Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates, and hosts Thailand.

General secretary of Asian Billiards and Snooker Federation Syed Mahboob, who is also general secretary of Bangladesh Snooker and Billiards Federation, has been invited to the tourney.

Qatar beat Bahrain

MUSCAT, Oct 26: Mahmoud Souti and Mohammed Salem Al Enizi scored first-half goals to pace Qatar to a 2-1 victory over Bahrain on Friday and move them into the lead at the Gulf Cooperation Council Cup, reports AP.

The victory kept Qatar the only unbeaten team in the sixnation event, and 10 points with only Monday's showdown with second-place Kuwait remaining.

Qatar need only a draw Monday to win their second Gulf Cup title. It last won in 1992. Kuwait are the only team that can beat out Qatar, and require a victory on Monday to accomplish it.

Soufi gave Qatar the lead by lobbing the ball over Bahrain's veteran goalkeeper Hmoud Sultan in the 33rd minute. Al Enizi made it 2-0 two minutes before halftime with his third goal of the tournament.

Bahrain, finally scored with two minutes remaining through midtielder Khamis Eid.

Magpies breathe sigh of relief

LONDON, Oct 26: Newcastle said they were hoping Alan Shearer might not be out of ac tion for as long as they first feared after the England skipper's groin operation was hailed "a complete success" on Friday, reports AFP.

Shearer had the operation at London's exclusive Princess Grace Hospital on Thursday and, after staying in overnight. he returned home to rest.

Early predictions were that the world record 15 million pound signing would be out for six to eight weeks - ruling him out of England's World Cup date in Georgia on November 9. Newcastle's UEFA Cup return leg against Ferencearos on Tuesday and several Premier ship games.

But Newcastle press officer Graham Courtney said Friday: "Fingers crossed, the six to eight weeks we suggested might be longer than it takes for him to recover



German Boris Becker plays backhand against Swede Magnus Gustafsson during a Eurocard quarterfinal in Stuttgart on Oct 25. -AFP/UNB photo

Alania on verge of title

MOSCOW. Oct 26: Alania Vladikavkaz went top of the Russian league on Friday after an unexpected slip by

main challengers Spartak Moscow and are now favourites to retain their title on the last day of the season, reports

Alania, who have trailed Spartak and outsiders Rotor Volgograd for much of the season, won 2-0 at already relegated Tekstilshchik Kamyshin while Spartak needed an 85th minute goal to secure a 1-1 home draw against mid-table Rostselmash Rostov.

Both sides are on 69 points but Bakhva Tedeyev's goals in the 37th and 87th minutes put Alania top because they have one more win. They also appear to have the easiest closing fixture on November 3 when they play Lokomotiv Nizhny Novgorod at home.

Spartak face a difficult away tie at Zenit St Petersburg, whose coach Pavel Sadyrin detests the Moscow side and inspired his team to a fine 2-0 away win over them in July.

Rotor. leaders before last weekend's games, stumbled again by losing 2-0 at Lokomotiv Moscow and stay on 67 points, dropping to third place. They face struggling Ural-

mash Yekaterinburg next week but can only win the title in the unlikely event of both Spartak

ATHENS, Oct 26:

Greece remains

bitter over the se-

lection of Atlanta

to host the Cen-

tennial Olympics

and Alama losing. Spartak started the day in top spot, knowing they could virtually clinch the title if second-placed Rotor lost.

The Moscow team - who won the Russian championship three years in a row from 1992 to 1994 — attacked from he start but were defied by their opponents' rugged defence and the woodwork.

Spartak looked down and out in the 83rd minute when veteran defender Sergei Gorlukovinch conceded a free-kick 20 metres out and Rosteselmash midfielder Alexei Gerasimenko scored with a beautiful curling shot into the top corner.

Spartak pushed forward and two minutes later were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the box. Rostselmash expected a blasted shot but were undone when Forlukovich chipped the ball gently over the wall into the net to atone for his earlier

Rotor have been in reverse gear over the last few weeks and their defeat at Lokomotiv came as no surprise with Ukrainian striker Oleg Garas netting in the 20th and 86th minutes. Last week. Rotor lost two

crucial points in a 0-0 draw at struggling Chernomorets Novorossiisk and then accused a linesman of being drunk after he had ruled out a goal.

reports AP

But Chernomorets showed the result was no fluke by pulling off a stunning 3-1 win at to mis cuest

fourth-placed CSKA Moscow who until last week had an out side chance of the title.

Lada Togliatti and Tekstilshchik are already relegated and the third team to join them looks likely to be Uralmash, who lost 2-0 to Dynamo Moscow.

The Yekaterinburg side face the wrath of Rotor next week while Kamaz Naberzhnye Chelny are away to Rostselmash. If both sides lose Kamaz will stay up because they have recorded one more win than their rivals.

Meanwhile, more than 55 people were injured when 500 angry soccer fans battled with police after CSKA's shock de-

The riot was the latest in a series of violent incidents to mar football games in the country, where until recently holliganism was almost unheard of.

A spokesman for the Russian Soccer Union said that CSKA would be fined heavily and could be thrown out of the

In September, Rotor were forced to play a home game behind closed doors because fans hurled bottles and stones at Dynamo Moscow players after their side lost.

In May, Krylya Sovetov Samara were banned from playing at home for three matches after fans threw bottles and stones at visiting Spartak players and officials.

Sampras-Becker showdown

STUTTGART, Germany, Oct 26: Pete Sampras ran his winning streak to 21 matches Saturday, reaching the final of the Eurocard Open with a tough straight-set win over upset specialist Jan Siemerick, reports

He will face Boris Becker who ousted world No 2 Michael Chang, 6-4, 6-3 at the dlrs 2.2 million tournament, which started with a field boasting 29 of the world's Top 30 ranked players.

Sampras won 6-3, 6-4 against the unseeded Dutchman, but had to struggle at times just one day after routing rival Andre Agassi and playing what he called perhaps the best tennis match of his ca-

"Maybe it wasn't a show like yesterday, but it wasn't bad," Sampras said. "But maybe I didn't play my best tennis."

Becker, cheered on by 7,000 German spectators, fell behind 2-4 in the first set. But he recovered to run off the next four games against Chang, who was also his victim in the finals of

this year's Australian Open. "My engine suddenly shifted into high gear and then I was fortunate to get some breaks. said Becker, who ran his career record to 5-1 against Chang.

The serve of the world No 6 has been dominating. It has only been broken once in four matches at the event.

"I don't have an explanation why it's so good, but then I don't like to examine such good luck." Becker said.

Siemerick had fought his way into the semifinals with upsets over Top 10 players Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia and Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov. Siemerick broke Sampras's

serve to take a 2-0 lead in the second set, then lost a chance to win the next game when his volley hit the top of the net and flew out.

Sampras, who is undefeated indoors this year, last was beaten on Aug 4 by Thomas Enqvist. The longest winning streak of his career came in 1994 when he posted 29 straight

Brolin hoping against hope

LONDON, Oct 26: Swedish international Tomas Brolin revealed Friday he could still have a future at Leeds despite a series of feuds with the struggling Premiership club which has left him in the football

after their last meeting broke player did not want to return.

by his Leeds contract from playing any more for loan club FC Zurich, told the Yorkshire Evening Post that the he never slammed the door on his Leeds

"I never said I wouldn't play for Leeds again." he told the paper. "What I did say was that it would be hard for me to come back at the moment because am not fit enough to do myself

need to speak to Leeds again to see if we can find a solution to this situation.

Brolin was signed by former Leeds boss Howard Wilkinson last year, but struggled with in jury and lack of form at the end of last season.

FC Zurich on loan and claims he had a gentleman's agreement with Wilkinson to stay there until December in order to regain his match fitness.

ing, as he is under contract with them, that he either plays for them or faces an 18-month pe riod out of the professional

have improved by staying and

now, I would not have been fit enough and the last thing I wanted to do was let down the Leeds fans who have been so good to me.

am not playing at all. I have missed three or four matches with Zurich now when I really want to be playing."

Tug-of-Dundee gets a new twist

have stepped into the row over whether Karlsruhe's South African striker Sean Dundee should be granted German citizenship, reports Reuter.

Dundee, the Bundesliga's leading scorer who hopes to play for Germany, is using a fast track method reserved for cases of "public interest" in his bid to be naturalised.

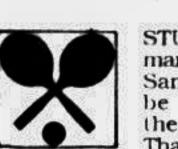
tion Greens Party, complained in Friday's Rhein-Necker Zeitung newspaper: "Every time Dundee scores, we read he is closer to citizenship. The same law should apply for everyone. But government sports spo-

kesman Klaus Riegertristian backed the rule allowing sports people to jump the queue. "If a sports star wins a medal, the whole country is pleased," he

Dundee's decision also provoked anger in his native country, where some politicians have accused him of turning his back on South Africa.

tion backs Dundee's claim but insists it has not put any pressure on the interior ministry to approve the application so the player can make his debut against northern Ireland in a World Cup qualifier next · month

Pete wins fellows' fight



many, Oct 26: Pete Sampras seems to be invincible at the moment.

That's what his old rival. Andre Agassi, found out when he caught him on a near-perfect day Friday at the Eurocard Open, reports AP. Sampras beat Agassi 6-4, 6-1

at the 2.2 million dollars tournament in just 57 minutes. winning his third straight between the two players. "No matter what I tried, ev-

erything went in. These are the days you dream of," Sampras said. "To play all the way through like that - I can't think of when that's happened." The world No. 1 ran his

year's best winning streak to 20 matches, ran his record against Agassi to 11-8 and remains untested at an event that started with 29 of the world's Top 30 players in the field. "I knew from the first ball

contact today, the first exchange that I felt good," Sampras said. "I don't like to sound arrogant, but I think it would have been tough for anyone to beat me today." Sampras next faces Jan

Siemerink in Saturday's semifinals. The unseeded Dutchman upset Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

But Sampras was not the

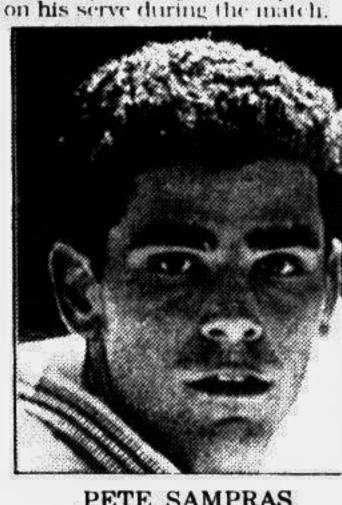
Opportunity knocks Agassi

PARIS, Oct 26: Andre Agassi has an immediate opportunity to avenge Friday's crushing defeat by world number one Pete Sampras in Eurocard Open when the two Americans reappear at next Week's Paris Open, reports Reuter.

The pair are seeded to meet again in the quarterfinals at a tournament which also features world number two Michael Chang, former Paris winners Boris Becker and Goran Ivanisevic and ex-Wimbledon champions Stefan Edberg and Stich Edberg and Stich have been drawn against each other in the first round, with the winner facing world number three Thomas Muster.

only player in top form at the Eurocard. Boris Becker ripped Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson 6-2. 6-2, in his latest lopsided

The three-time Wimbledon winner yielded just six points



PETE SAMPRAS

"I keep outdoing myself." Becker said. I don't know if I've ever played as well as I'm doing

Becker plays Michael Chang after the world No 2 won a base line duel with Chile's Marcelo

Rios 6-4, 6-3. Sampras and Agassi traded seven breaks on their serves during the first set, ripping passing shots down the lines

and pounding them into the Agassi fell behind 3-5, but lashed one of his game-best returns to gain a break and scramble back into the match against Sampras, whose winning streak dates back to an

Aug 4 loss to Sweden's Thomas But in a pattern repeated all day, Sampras slammed Agassi's first serve in the following game deep into the corner and

went on to take the set. "Maybe if Andre had held serve, he might have won, Sampras said. "But I don't know when I've ever hit returns like

that before. For Sampras, the win was especially satisfying, coming against an opponent he calls one of the toughest he's faced. "He's always dangerous. He

"I was in a zone that day too," Sampras said.

Same old Samaranch

COPENHAGEN, Oct 26: International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch said here on Friday that he will be continuing the war against performance enhancing drugs in sport, reports AFP. "The war against doping is

not over but the IOC has won some battles," said the 76-yearold Spaniard, on a visit to the Danish capital. "We are both pleased and proud to have been the first and, at the time, the only ones to

lead the crusade against drugs starting as early as '68 in Mex-"I am happy to see national and international federations now joining in the IOC's combat particularly in Seoul in 1988 where the most important competitor in those Games was dis-

qualified — Ben Johnson the 100m champion," he went on to

Bangladesh Gas Fields **Company Limited** (A Company of Petrobangla)

Court Road Brahmanbaria-3400

Asian Development Bank Loan No. 1293-BAN(SF): Third Natural Gas Development Project, Part-A

International Invitation of Bids for Procurement of Engineering Services, Dated 23.10.96

Bangladesh Gas Fields Co. Ltd. (BGFCL), a company of Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) invites sealed offers (bids) under International Shopping (IS) procedure for procurement of engineering services required for drilling of 7 (maximum) development wells at Titas & Habigani gas fields and workover/recompletion of 6 (maximum) existing wells at Titas & Bakhrabad gas fields under the Third Natural Gas Development (TNG) Project, Part-A. Engineering services have been grouped in the following categories and will be procured under separate bidding as under:

> Tender Document No. Category

BGFCL/TNG(Sv)/025 Mud Logging and Core & PVT Analysis BGFCL/TNG(Sv)/027 Drill Steam Testing BGFCL/TNG(Sv)/028 Wireline Operation

Scope of services, bid price schedule, provision of equipment, tools & materials and personnel, the information required to be furnished by the bidders, bid submission procedures, terms & conditions of contract etc. pertaining to the procurement are detailed in the tender document.

The foreign currency cost for procurement of the engineering services will be met

out of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1293-BAN(SF), received by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) towards financing of the TNG project. The local currency cost will be financed by GOB through its Annual Development Programme (ADP). Only reputed & experienced services companies/firms inlcuding joint ventures

from ADB member countries are eligible to participate in the bidding. Bidders must have proven international experience in providing similar services. The equipment, tools & materials to be provided on purchase or rental basis and the proposed personnel must also be from ADB member countries. Bidders may submit their bid for any or all of the above tenders. However,

separate bid must be submitted against each tender and no alternative bid will be accepted.

Bidders shall be required to furnish an acceptable bid bond in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order or Bank Guarantee issued by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh or a scheduled foreign bank operating in Bangladesh and acceptable to BGFCL amounting to 2% of their quoted total bid price for the services under each tender and valid for 180 days from the date of closing of the tender.

Bidders shall bear all costs associated with preparation and submission of their bids and BGFCL will, in no case, be responsible or liable for these costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

Tender documents will be available from 31.10.96 to 14.12.96 between 0900 hrs & 1400 hrs BST on all working days on payment of following price (non-refundable) from BGFCL's Liaison Office at 97, Purana Paltan (Bijoynagar), Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh (Telephone 404209, Telex 642903 BGFCL BJ, Fax 880-2-836267):

> Tender Document No. Price per set BGFCL/TNG(Sv)/025 BTK. 2,000.00 or USD 50.00 BGFCL/TNG(Sv)/027 BTK. 2,000.00 or USD 50.00 BGFCL/TNG (Sv)/028 BTK. 1,500.00 or USD 40.00

Tender document may also be obtained through the express airmail service on receipt of the price of the tender document plus additional US Dollar 25.00 as mail charge (non-refundable) for each set of the tender document in the following account of BGFCL:

STD Account No. 22 Sonali Bank Brahmanbaria Branch Brahmanbaria Bangladesh

Bids will be received at the Liaison Office of BGFCL at 97, Purana Paltan (Bijoynagar), Dhaka-1000 up to 1100 hrs BST on 15.12.96 and will be opened on the same day at 1130 hrs BST in presence of the bidders representative(s), if any.

Bangladesh Gas Fields Co. Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at any stage of bidding process without assigning any reason whatsoever. PRS-9/042(TNG)/96

D-1156

Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (A Company of Petrobangia)

and should never bid again if its

candidacy for the 2004 Games

fails. Greek President Costis

P.O. Box-8 Brahmanbaria-3400

988

Asian Development Bank Loan No. 1293-BAN (SF): Third Natural Gas Development Project, Part-A International Invitation of Bids for Procurement of

Wireline Unit and Associated Facilities, Dated 23.10.96 1. Bangladesh Gas Fields Co. Ltd (BGFCL), a company of Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) invites sealed offers (bids) under International Shopping (IS) procedure for procurement of wireline unit and associated facilities for

various wireline operations and completion of different wells of BGFCL under the

Third Natural Gas Development (TNG) Project, Part-A. 2. Scope of supply, terms of supply, the information required to be furnished by the bidders, mode & submission procedures of bids etc. are detailed in the tender

document. 3. The foreign currency cost will be met out of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1293-BAN(SF), received by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) towards financing of the TNG project. The local currency cost will be financed by GOB through

its Annual Development Programme (ADP). 4. Only reputed & experienced manufacturers/fabricators/suppliers from ADB member countries are eligible to participate in the bidding. Materials will also to be mined/produced in ADB member countries.

5. Bidders shall be required to furnish an acceptable bid bond in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order or Bank Guarantee issued by a registered scheduled bank in Bangladesh or a scheduled foreign bank operating in Bangladesh and acceptable to BGFCL amounting to 2% of the quoted C&F value and valid for 150 days from the

date of closing of the tender. 6. Bidders shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of his bid and BGFCL will, in no case, be responsible or liable for these costs, regardless

of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process. 7. Tender document will be available from 31.10.96 to 14.12.96 between 0900 hrs & 1400 hrs BST on all working days on payment of Bangladesh Taka 1500.00 (nonrefundable) at the following address:

Bangladesh Gas Fields Co. Ltd. Liaison Office 97, Purana Paltan (Bijoynagar) Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh Telephone: 880-2-404209 (Dhaka) : 642903 BGFCL BJ

Fax: 880-2-836267

8. Bids will be received at the Liaison Office of BGFCL at 97, Purana Paltan (Bijoynagar), Dhaka-1000 up to 1100 hrs BST on 15.12.96 and will be opened on the same day at 1130 hrs BST in presence of the bidders or their representative(s), if any. 9. Bangladesh Gas Fields Co. Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all

bids at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever. PRS-9/043(TNG)/96 D-1155

Greeks harp on same tune Stephanopoulos said Friday "No other city awaits with such impatience the IOC's decision than Athens," Stephano-The sharp remarks, made poulos said. "However, I express during a meeting with visiting IOC officials, revived a contromy bitterness over losing the 'Golden Olympics.' I believe versy which Greek officials had that in case our country does previously sought to put behind not win these Olympic Games, it them. The comments are unshould never again submit its likely to help the bid's chances.

candidacy. When Atlanta was chosen in 1990 to host the Games, Greeks at the time accused the IOC of selling out to Atlanta-based Coca Cola and other major American commercial inter-

The Modern Olympic Games were revived in Athens in 1896 and Greece insisted it should be granted the Centennial Games The president made his re-

panel assessing the bids of the 11 candidate cities for the 2004 Three months after the pipe bomb explosion at the Atlanta Games. Bach said Athens and the other bidding cities will not

marks to Thomas Bach, a Ger

man IOC member who heads the

be judged on stricter security "Security requirements have not increased." Bach said. Bach, heading the 19-member IOC evaluation commis sion, said, "Security has al ways been a matter of concern but we have to realise that in such public events, as the Games there can not be com

plete, 100 per cent security. In July, a bomb exploded in Atlanta's Centennial Park killing one person and injuring 111. A Turkish cameraman rushing to the scene also died of a heart attack.

For years, Greece has been

the venue of a string of terrorist

attacks, the deadliest of which

continue to be waged by the November 17 urban guerilla group. Much of the IOC inspection team's four-day review will include tours of sports facilities near Athens and infrastructure projects under construction,

including the Athens Metro. Athens organisers say that 75 per cent of the sports complexes needed to host the world's biggest sporting event are completed.

to four or five finalists in March. The host city will be elected in September. Coppola the

The IOC evaluation commit-

The IOC will narrow the race

tee's tour is due to wrap up Dec

11 in Cape Town, South Africa.

main culprit! BUENOS AIRES, Oct 26: The Argentine judge who indicted soccer star Diego Maradona's manager for dealing in cocaine said on Friday he believed Guillermo Coppola was just a middleman in a major drugsmuggling organisation, reports Reuter.

"We're only halfway into our investigation into this drugtrafficking network," judge Herman Bernasconi told

wilderness, reports AFP. Brolin called for fresh talks with manager George Graham up with the club claiming the

But the Swede, who is barred

or the club justice. "I need to play football and I

In the close season, he joined

But now Leeds are demand

Brolin added: "I have a problem with my stomach muscles and this is something I would

playing in Zurich. "If I had come back to Leeds

"But Leeds have gone back on a gentleman's agreement now I

BONN, Oct 26: Politicians

Cem Ozdemir, of the opposi-

The German soccer federa-