

Sport

Haile honoured

HENGELO, Netherlands, June 2: Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia has been made an honorary citizen of the Dutch town of Hengelo following his new world best for two miles here on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Gebrselassie has been nicknamed "Mr Hengelo's" by the local population because of his annual attempts to set world best times at the Fanny Blankers Koen Stadium in the town.

In 1995 he set a world best for 10,000 metres at the Grand Prix meeting there.

However he dismissed suggestions that he would be following in the footsteps of his elder brother Tekeye, who has been given political asylum in the Netherlands and is considering seeking Dutch citizenship.

"I will always run for Ethiopia," said Gebrselassie in Hengelo on Sunday.

US beat ROK in eves' hockey

BERLIN, June 2: A second half goal by substitute Carla Tagliente carried the United States to a 1-0 victory over Olympic silver medalists South Korea in the opening match of the Women's Champions' Trophy hockey tournament on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Just as they did at the Atlanta Olympics last year when they won 3-2, the Americans upstaged their more fancied rivals thanks to Tagliente's goal four minutes into the second half.

Kelly James fed a free-hit to Tara Maguire who pulled the ball back for Tagliente to score.

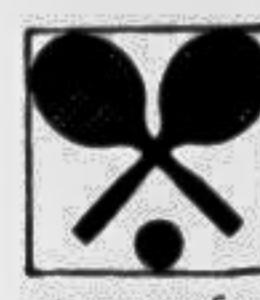
A few minutes later Korea's Eun-Yopung Lee was carried off and taken to hospital after the ball hit her in the neck.

The United States defended superbly, holding out the Koreans who had seven clear chances from corners.

Britta Becker's penalty conversion five minutes from time earned Germany a 1-1 draw with Olympic champions Australia.

The Australians had taken the lead in the 29th minute when Alyson Annan, top scorer at the Atlanta Games, scored with a corner shot.

Steffi set for a toughie



PARIS, June 2: Steffi Graf and South Africa's Amanda Coetzer — the player, the defending champion prefers not to see the other side of the net — reached a potentially explosive women's



STEFFI GRAF singles quarterfinal showdown at the French open on Sunday. report agencies.

LATEST

PARIS, June 2: Sergi Bruguera upset second-seeded Michael Chang in a battle of two former champions to reach the quarterfinals of the French Open Monday, reports AP.

Bruguera, champion in 1993

and 1994, rallied to win 3-6, 6-

4, 6-3, 6-4 in two hours, 54 minutes, knocking out the highest

ranked man left in the field.

There were two much bigger

upsets, when unheralded Gustavo Kuerten and Galo Blanco

also made it to the last eight.

Kuerten, conqueror of

Thomas Muster, reached the

last eight when he completed a

five-set victory over Andrei

Medvedev.

Kuerten won 5-7, 6-1, 6-2, 1-

6, 7-5 in a match that had been

suspended by darkness Sunday

at 2-2 in the fifth set.

Blanco, a Spaniard ranked

No 111 in the world, beat Petr

Korda 1-6, 6-1, 7-5, 6-4. Korda

was runner-up here in 1992.

The 16th-seeded Bruguera,

who has been battling injuries,

broke Chang to go up 5-4 in the

fourth set. Chang saved one

match point but Bruguera converted

the next with forehand on the line.

Kuerten became the second

Brazilian to reach the quarter-

finals at Roland Garros, after

Thomas Koch in 1968.

Kuerten No 66 in the

world, held a match point at 5-4

with Medvedev serving, but the

Brazilian hit a forehand into the net.

The Brazilian squandered

two more match points, both on

forehand errors, with Medvedev

serving at 6-5 for Kuerten.

In the next point, Kuerten raced

forward to retrieve a drop shot,

flipping a short lob over Medve-

dev's head. The Ukrainian

raced back but hit a backhand

into the net to give Kuerten the victory.

Kuerten's opponent in the

quarterfinals will be defending

champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Fifth-seeded Lindsey Dav-

enport was not so fortunate.

The powerful American was put

out by Croatian ninth-seed Iva

Majoli who scored a 5-7, 6-4, 6-

2 win.

Majoli will next play Roma-

nia's Ruxandra Dragomir, who

earlier defeated Nocila Arendt

of the United States, who put

out Jana Novotna in the previous

round, for the loss of just

two games.

Three-time champion Moni-

ca Seles kept her concentra-

tion to defeat Mary Pierce and a

partisan home crowd and reach

the last eight.

The big-hitting baseline du-

el finally ended with a 6-4, 7-5

victory for the American — but

the match had to be halted for

several minutes late in the sec-

ond set when the enthusiastic

home fans started a series of

"Mexican waves."

Seles had finally taken what

appeared to be a decisive advan-

tage when she broke the tenth

seeded Pierce in a marathon

seven game of the second set.

The crowd's intervention

came two games later as she

served for the match at 5-4. She

was so affected by their reaction

— she promptly dropped her

serve.

Pierce, who had been taken

ill earlier this week with stom-

ach flu, tried desperately to go

clear but she immediately

dropped her serve. And when

she served for the match at 5-4. She

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