

## Azlan Shah hockey Pakistan baffle New Zealand

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 5: Pakistan, the former world champions, moved closer to entering the final with a 5-2 victory over New Zealand on Monday in the ninth Sultan Azlan Shah Cup tournament at Malaysia's National Hockey Stadium, reports AP.

New Zealand took the lead at the outset when John Radovich scored via a penalty corner in the 22nd minute. But New Zealand's joy was short-lived as Pakistan tied the match with a similar shot from Sohail in the 24th minute.

New Zealand, with a 4-1 win against Malaysia and a 3-0 loss to Germany, grabbed the lead again in the 38th minute as Bevan Hari scored.

But Pakistan's penalty corner specialist, Sohail Abbas, scored a hat-trick to emerge as the leading goal scorer of the tournament with seven goals in three matches.

Muhammad Sarwar scored in the 51st minute and Sohail got his name on the score sheet again from penalty corner attempts in the 53rd and 59th minutes.

Pakistan's captain, Atif Bashir, sealed up the game with a goal in the 70th minute, his sixth in the tournament.

**ROK ROUT CANADA**  
Meanwhile, South Korea beat Canada 5-2 in a fast moving game.

Former Asian Games champions South Korea had been defeated by Germany (3-4) and Pakistan (2-6) in the six-nation competition.

But on Monday the South Koreans rebounded with speed and clean moves to wear down their Canadian opponents.

It was Canada's second loss in three matches after being bested by Pakistan 3-6 and edging out Malaysia 2-1.

Jeon Jong Ha put the Koreans into the lead early, scoring in the sixth minute when he connected a penalty corner rebound for the only goal of the first half.

South Korea, who had beaten Canada 4-2 last year in the classification match of the World Cup finals in Utrecht, Holland, dominated the second half.

Song Seung Tae broke away from a tight midfield to score the second goal through a solo run in the 39th minute. Lee Young Hwang added the third goal in the 49th minute before Canada responded with a goal by Ken Pereira in the 53rd minute.

Shortly afterwards, Lee Jung Seon consolidated the margin and Korean team captain Kang Keon Wook made it 5-1 in the 61st minute.

Canada reduced the deficit when Andrew Griffiths scored in the 65th minute.

## Seedorf demands respect

MADRID, Apr 5 (Reuters/Internet): Real Madrid midfielder Clarence Seedorf, stung by recent criticism from the Bernabeu crowd, has hit back at the Real fans for their lack of respect.

The Dutch international, who has endured a disappointing season at the heart of Real's struggling side, was booed by sections of the crowd as he was substituted after 70 minutes of his side's 3-2 win at home to Alaves on Sunday.

And the former Ajax and Sampdoria player, in his third year at Madrid, revealed his frustration at the relentless criticism from the terraces.

"Some of the fans don't have much of a clue about football," Seedorf complained. "I don't like to criticise but some of them come with their eyes closed."

"They're showing very little respect towards me. This is not going to affect my game but I'm getting tired of it."

Seedorf received little sympathy from coach John Toshack and club president Lorenzo Sanz, both of whom told him to concentrate on his football rather than the crowd.

"The customer is always right," Toshack said in the wake of the crowd's booing of both Seedorf and Croatian international Davor Suker, who was also below par in Sunday's game.

Sanz, who sought to play down the incident, said: "Seedorf can think whatever he likes but the club members are the ones that pay and you have to respect them. In any case, Seedorf was applauded as he left the field."

Seedorf's dip in form this year has coincided with a series of bust-ups with team mates.

Seedorf and Fernando Hierro were both fined by Real in March after they were involved in a dressing-room fracas following a European Cup quarter-final draw with Dynamo Kiev.

In Tokyo, during preparations for the World Club Cup against Brazil's Vasco da Gama, Seedorf and defender Iván Campo were caught on camera fighting.

And the Dutchman was involved in another televised row in January as he and Predrag Mijatovic traded insults amid a 4-0 defeat at Deportivo Coruna.

## Inter-college cricket

MEHERPUR, Apr 5: The final of the inter-college Gold Cup cricket tournament was held at the Meherpur Government College playground on March 29, reports BBS.

The tournament was sponsored by the Jessore Education Board and organised by the Meherpur Government College.

Meherpur won the title and the Jessore Upashahar became runners-up.

# Family Circle Cup Hingis'



HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina, Apr 5 (Reuters/Internet): Eighteen-year-old world number one Martina Hingis overcame 17-year-old Russian Anna Kournikova 6-4, 6-3 in the final of the one-million-dollar Family Circle Cup on Sunday.

Kournikova, now 0-2 in finals, threatened only once in the match, when she broke Hingis' service in the seventh game of the match for a 4-3 lead.

On the changeover, however, Hingis removed her white baseball cap as if to say it was time to get serious. And the 1997 Family Circle champion and owner of five Grand Slam singles titles did just that, winning the next six games en route to a 66-minute victory.

The turning point came in the ninth game of the match when Kournikova took a love-40 lead but then committed three errors in succession.

"That was a very important game when I was down love-40 at 4-4," Hingis said. "Somehow I just said to myself try to hang in there and try to make the next two, three points and then she got a little bit shaky."

The only other critical moment came with Kournikova serving at 30-40 in the sixth game of the second set when Hingis charged in and smashed a high forehand to the back-

hand corner for a 4-2 lead. "That's why Martina is number one," said Kournikova. "She knows how to play those tough points, and I tried to go for too much a little bit. I was pretty tired out there, so I tried to finish points quicker than I should have."

Kournikova committed 30 unforced errors to just 13 for Hingis. Kournikova also had four double faults to none for Hingis.

As for taking off the hat, Hingis said: "It wasn't that sunny. I suddenly realized. So I

was like, okay, take it off. You might play better. Actually, it was funny because after that, it was like 4-4 and I won like six straight games."

The victory gave Hingis her 23rd singles title. She won 150,000 dollars to increase her WTA-leading earnings total for the year to 964,571 dollars. Kournikova, ranked 20th in the world and the tournament's seventh seed, earned 70,000 dollars.

Hingis improved to 6-1 all-time against Kournikova, her partner in winning this year's Australian Open doubles title.



MARTINA HINGIS

# Slovakia stop Sweden



LONDON, Apr 5: Sweden surrendered the Davis Cup in a first round home defeat by Slovakia on Sunday as Karol Kucera scored his second singles victory of the weekend, reports Reuters.

Kucera's 1-6, 3-6, 2-6, 4-6 triumph over Swedish number one Thomas Enqvist in Trollhattan, cut short the home sides hopes that they could complete a revival from 2-0 down just as they had done in the opening round last year in Slovakia.

"I had my chances but every time I did something good he would come up with something even better," Enqvist said. Sweden's Thomas Johansson closed out the tie with a 6-4, 4-6 defeat of Dominik Hrbaty in a meaningless rubber that made the final score 3-2.

The problems for Sweden, who won the cup in 1997 and 1998 had begun on Friday when Kucera beat Johansson 6-1, 7-6, 2-6, 6-3 in the opening match. Hrbaty ranked 31st in the world then contributed a second precious point with a surprise 7-5, 4-6, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Enqvist.

The doubles pair of Jonas Bjorkman and Niklas Kulti kept Sweden's hopes alive with a come-from-behind 4-6, 7-6, 6-1, 6-3 victory on Saturday. In Spain, Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten won a personal dual against Carlos Moya in a battle between the last two French Open champions.

Kuerten the 1997 winner, crushed present champion Moya 6-2, 6-4, 6-1 for his third victory of the weekend to give

his side a winning 3-1 lead, cut to 3-2 in the dead final rubber. After breaking the hapless Moya twice to love in the final set, Kuerten popped a bottle of champagne on court.

In Harare, Australia ensured their progress to the next round against the United States as Patrick Rafter gave them a winning 3-1 lead and Mark Philippoussis won the dead fifth rubber.

Rafter accounted for Byron Black 6-4, 7-6, 6-2 for the decisive victory and his second singles win of the weekend and declared himself ready to add to his two major victories at the

last two US Opens. Russia won both singles on the final day against Germany and probably ended Boris Becker's appearances for his country.

Becker helped Germany to win the doubles on Saturday but said he would play again for Germany only if they won this tie.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov crushed Tommy Haas 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Marat Safin delivered the winning point 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 over Nicolas Pietrangeli and his second singles win of the weekend and declared himself ready to add to his two major victories at the

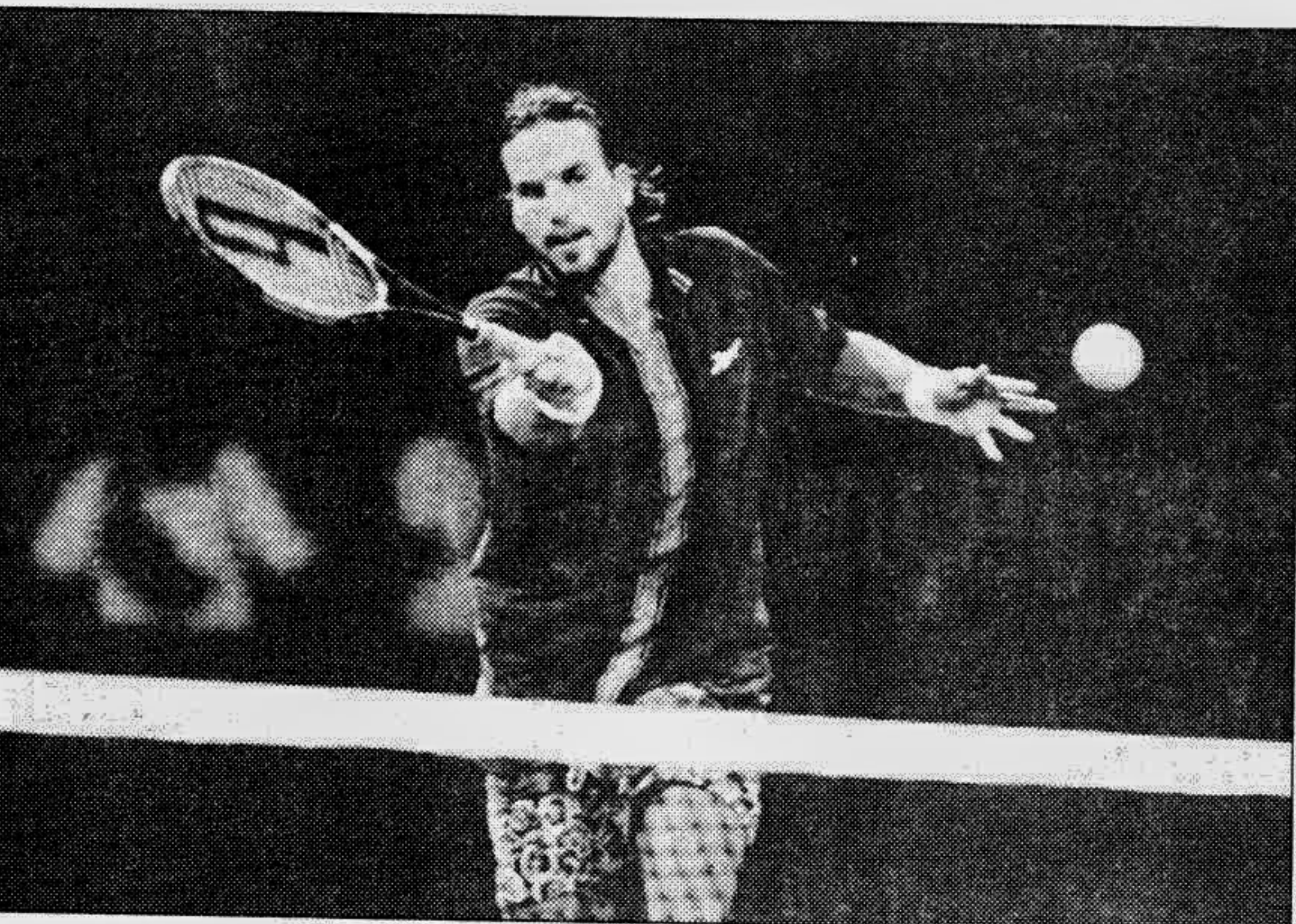
## Agassi wants a Grand Slam

HONG KONG, Apr 5 (Reuters/Internet): Andre Agassi went in search of match practice at the 350,000 dollar Hong Kong Open on Monday in his continuing hunt to end a four-year Grand Slam drought. And anything will do, including doubles.

"Last year I didn't do well in the grand slams. I want to win the big ones this year. I don't care if I finish ranked 50 this year as long as I win the grand slams," Agassi said.

The former world number one has won three grand slam titles - Wimbledon in 1992, the U.S. Open in 1994 and the Australian Open in 1995.

He slumped to 141 in the world in 1997 but began a comeback in 1998 and ended the year ranked sixth. He is currently 12th.



Australian Patrick Rafter plays a forehand against Byron Black of Zimbabwe during their Davis Cup tie in Harare on April 4. — AFP photo

# Atletico face familiar job



MADRID, April 5 (Reuters/Internet): Atletico Madrid coach Radomir Antic could be forgiven for feeling a sense of déjà vu as he prepares for Tuesday's UEFA Cup semi-final against Parma.

But the Yugoslav boss will be hoping desperately that history does not repeat itself, as for the second successive season, he finds himself facing an Italian test that will make or break Atletico's season.

Antic was in charge last year when Atletico lost out to Lazio at the semifinal stage, a result that spelled the end of his three-year reign at the club.

However, the failure of his replacement Arrigo Sacchi to improve the side's league performances saw the Italian walk out in February and, after Carlos Aguiar's brief spell as caretaker, Antic was persuaded to return in March.

Antic, a Serb, was back in the dug-out wearing a black armband in protest at the NATO strikes against Yugoslavia for

Atletico's creditable 1-1 draw at title hopefuls Deportivo Coruna on Saturday.

He believes his players showed enough quality in that game to suggest they can clear the semifinal hurdle this time and take their place in the showpiece final in Moscow on May 12.

"I was very pleased with my team's performance against Deportivo," Antic said. "The attitude of the players was absolutely correct."

Antic will largely stick with the side that started against Deportivo, with the exception of recent signing Giorgio Venturini who is ineligible after playing for Lazio in the Cup Winners' Cup earlier this season. Oscar Mena is likely to replace him in the midfield.

Atletico appeared to have learned their Italian lessons well as they saw off the challenge of AS Roma at the quarter-final stage, winning 2-1 away to complete an impressive 4-2 aggregate victory.

It was against Atletico that Parma launched their successful European career in 1993

when they won in Madrid in the semifinals en route to lifting their first major trophy - the European Cup Winners' Cup.

But Parma, who also won the 1995 UEFA Cup, have had problems of their own this season. They have all but conceded defeat in the serie A title race despite an investment of around \$60 million on players.

Alberto Malesani's side play some of the most attractive football in Italy but often fail to score when it counts.

"I don't know why but we play really nice football yet always seem to lack the killer touch," admitted Malesani.

**PROBABLE TEAMS**  
**ATLETICO MADRID:** Francisco Molina; Carlos Aguiar, Santi Denia, Jose Antonio Chamot, Michele Serena; Juan Carlos Valero, Juninho, Oscar Mena, Vladimir Jugovic; Santiago Solari, Jose Mari Romero.

**PARMA:** Gianluigi Buffon; Luigi Sartor, Nestor Sensini, Lilian Thuram; Paolo Vanoli, Alain Boghossian, Dino Baggio, Diego Fuser; Juan Vero; Enrico Chiesa, Hernan Crespo.

## Coles may yet carry torch

SYDNEY, Apr 5 (Reuters/Internet): Troubled IOC official Phil Coles could yet carry the Olympic torch across his beloved Bondi beach, despite being stripped of his role in organising the torch relay for Sydney's 2000 Games, Australian media said on Monday.

Sydney Games organisers ousted Coles from his official relay duties last week after the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which has already reprimanded Coles, said it would investigate fresh gift-taking allegations against him.

But the Daily Telegraph newspaper reported that Coles, who denies the latest allegations, had now accepted an offer to carry the torch on one of the most prominent legs of its 27,000 km (17,000 mile) journey around Australia.

"It is something I have always dreamed of...I was delighted to take up the offer," the newspaper quoted Coles as saying.

The new torch relay organiser, Anna Booth, did not explicitly confirm the report but said Coles' achievements as a former Olympic canoeist would make him a suitable torch bearer.

"He's a three time Olympian, he's worked tirelessly for the Olympic movement, notwithstanding the recent controversy surrounding his involvement with the IOC, and I'm sure that would count in his favour," Booth told Australian radio.

Coles, 67, is a former surf lifesaving champion who lives close to Bondi beach. He narrowly escaped expulsion from the IOC last month for having accepted free holidays in Salt Lake City, the 2002 Winter Games host city, and now faces a further inquiry over allegations linked to Athens' failed bid for the 1996 Games.

He had expressed bitter resentment at being stripped of his role in organising the relay for the Olympic torch, which will arrive in Australia at Uluru (Ayer's Rock) on June 8, 2000, and tour the country before the Games start on September 15.

## Soccercide

RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 5: A Brazilian teenager was shot to death on Sunday in a fight among rival soccer fans at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana Stadium two hours before a game between the city's Flamengo and Fluminense teams police said, reports Reuters.

Bruno Pereira Lirio was killed by a bullet in the head as tensions outside the massive stadium escalated into violence. The skirmish started at about 3 pm local time (1800 GMT), with fans of the teams throwing stones and sticks at one another, a police spokesman said.

Police have made no arrests in the shooting.

The Flamengo-Fluminense games usually draw some 100,000 fiercely loyal fans, many from Rio's teeming shantytowns, and pre- and post-game violence is common.

## Bayern's Basler out for Kiev match

BONN, Apr 5 (Reuters/Internet): Bayern Munich midfielder Mario Basler, in poor form, will be left out of the squad for Wednesday's European Cup semifinal first leg at Dynamo Kiev, Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said on Monday.

Basler is struggling to recover from a knee injury and was substituted at halftime in Saturday's 2-2 draw at Borussia Dortmund.

"He came to me and asked if he could stay at home to train and get fit for our match against Schalke 04 on Saturday," Hitzfeld said.

Bayern will also be without French left back Bixente Lizarazu and Brazilian striker Elber, both nursing torn knee ligaments and facing lengthy lay-offs.

Midfielder Jens Jeremies is a doubtful starter because of a sore thigh muscle.

## Opportunity for Moya

MADRAS, Apr 5: Carlos Moya, briefly exposed to the glory of being No 1, has a chance to surpass Pete Sampras and regain the top spot in tennis during India's Gold Flake Open beginning Monday, reports AP.

Moya, the only Spaniard ever to lead the ATP rankings, had just two weeks at the top last month before Sampras returned to his familiar slot. But Moya only needs to reach the finals of the hard-court tournament in southern India to again dump Sampras, who has no tournament play this week.

Seeded behind Moya was Karol Kucera, fresh from leading Slovakia to surprising Davis Cup victory over reigning champions Sweden.

Moya's prospects for a berth in the final were high, facing a field of Thomas Johansson of Sweden, Australian Andrew Ilie, Wayne Black of Zimbabwe and Armenian Sargis Sargsian.

Kucera's half of the draw included Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom, who won this tournament in 1997 and lost last year in the final to Pat Rafter.

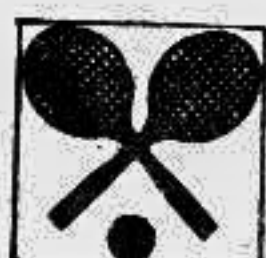
Indians will be closely watching their doubles squad, Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi. The partnership is ranked third in the world but the team hasn't won a title so far this year and is reportedly undergoing off-court strains.

Results in Madras can be unpredictable because of the unpredictable weather. Play begins in the evening and is mostly under lights to avoid the peak heat of the day.



BORIS BECKER

# Becker bids bye to Davis Cup



BONN, Apr 5 (Reuters/Internet): An era ended for German tennis as Boris Becker made his last Davis Cup appearance.

Becker teamed up with David Prinosil in Saturday's doubles to give his country a 2-1 lead over Russia in their first round tie.

There is a slight chance I might play in the next round if we qualify," he said after the pair achieved a thrilling five-set win over Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olkhovsky.

But Russia claimed both Sunday's reverse singles to win 3-2 and advance to the quarterfinals. So disappointed was Becker that he shunned the closing press conference and left Frankfurt straight away.

Becker, three times Wimbledon champion, plans to retire completely as player by the summer but will remain German team manager, continuing to work alongside captain Carl-Uwe Steeb.

The former world number one, who steered Germany to victory in 1988 and 1989, has a unique Davis Cup record.

He has won 38 of the 41 singles matches he has played in 28 ties. The only men to have beaten him are Spaniard Sergio Casal, who did it twice, and Dutchman Paul Haarhuis.

Arguably the most formidable fighter in the history of the game, Becker, who had been concentrating on doubles lately, was the perfect Davis Cup player.

"I wish every man could once hear his national anthem played for him," he once said. "Suddenly, your hands are wet and you get those goose pimples and you don't know why. That's Davis Cup."

He made his debut as a 17-year-old in 1985, shortly after his first Wimbledon triumph, helping Germany reach the final, which they lost 3-2 to Sweden in Munich.

Two years later in Hartford, Becker kept Germany in the world group with a memorable five-set win over John McEnroe which took six hours and 39 minutes.

In 1988, Becker and Steeb presented Germany with their first Davis Cup victory by defeating Sweden in the final in Gothenburg. The real hero was Steeb who tamed Mats Wilander, then the world number one, in five sets in the decisive singles.

The following year, Germany beat the same opponents in the final in Stuttgart, with Becker outclassing Wilander.

"I was in the best place to admire the best player in the world," Wilander said at the time.

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game of the match and maintained a tight control with his fearsome forehand until midway through the second set.

The Canadian-born Briton then began to mix his game up instead of trying to overpower Courier and earned three set points in the 10th game, all of which he failed to convert.

He wasted another in Courier's next service game but made no mistake in the tiebreak, taking it 7-3 with his service game in perfect order.

To mirror three days of fluctuating tennis, it was now Courier who took control as a Rusedski double fault left him 3-1 down in the third set.

Courier one of the game's street fighters, duly won the set but Rusedski, thrashed in three sets by Todd Martin on Sunday, was not finished.

He found his length from the baseline again, cranked up his ferocious service another notch and raced to a 5-0 lead before taking it 6-1 against a player

ranked 43 places below him.

As tension among the 9,500 hollering fans rose to fever pitch, the two men traded service games until the ninth game when courier has a break point that he wasted.

Finally with Courier leading 7-6, Rusedski cracked. He served a double fault, volleyed into the net and hit a forehand too low to give the American three match points. He needed just one to leave Rusedski and the British crowd distraught.

The US now play host to Australia, who beat Zimbabwe in the quarterfinals in Boston.

The tie was a repeat of the first cup match won 3-0 by the US in Boston in the year tennis celebrates the Davis Cup's centenary.

The Americans won both singles matches on Friday with Courier beating Henman and Martin crushing Rusedski, but the two Britons combined for the doubles victory on Saturday over Martin and Alex O'Brien.

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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Jackson 5  
4 "Safe" or "out"  
8 Fairy-tale villain  
12 Cartoonist  
13 Columbus' home  
14 Picnic hamper  
15 Ostrich's look-alike  
16 Shell-shaped cake  
18 Knapsack part  
20 Satchel  
21 Navigator's stack  
24 On top of the world?  
28 Fourth First Family  
32 Proboscis  
33 Fodder for little lambs  
34 "Now you see it