

Australia, England in final

HELSINKI, Nov 17: Holders Australia and England, third last time, reached the World Team Squash Championship final with crushing 3-0 victories on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Australia overpowered Finland despite the absence of injured world champion Rodney Martin while England experienced a similarly one-sided semifinal against Egypt.

Australians Chris Dittmar and Chris Robertson won easily against Sami Elopuro and Pentti Pekkanen respectively after three strings, Brett Martin and Marko Pulli, staged the only real contest.

Although Martin won the first game 9-0, Pulli gained in confidence before losing the next two, 9-7, 9-5.

Egypt offered only token resistance after resting number one, Ahmed Taher.

Number three Amir Wagih, who had made a big contribution to Egypt's progress into the last four, played listlessly to lose the opening tie to Jason Nicol.

Gamal El Amir, Taher's replacement, failed to win a point against Del Harris in the 30-minute match.

Struggling Pakistan lost 2-1 in a playoff against the Dutch.

Even world number one Jansher Khan trailed by two games before beating Raymond Schaeffer.

US golfers win

SAWARA, Japan, Nov 17: US senior golfers won five matches and drew one against a Japanese team Sunday, winding up with a 24-8 triumph in the 550,000 Du Pont Cup Japan-United States Senior golf team competition.

Jr int'l championships begin today

Sports Reporter



The sixth Bangladesh international junior tennis championships, an International Tennis Federation (ITF) rated tournament, gets under way at the Ramna Tennis Complex today.

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafiqur Rahman will formally inaugurate the week-long meet at nine this morning.

The meet, which this year has been upgraded by the ITF into a Group Four event from its previous Group Five ranking, will see competition in four categories — the boys' 18-and-under singles and doubles and the girls' 18-and-under singles and doubles.

The singles winner in the boys' and girls' sections will each earn 40 ranking points while the doubles winning pair will share 30 points. The singles runner-ups will get 30 points each and the doubles runner-up pairs will each share 20 points.

Sixty-four players, including 17 girls, from 13 countries are expected to take part in the championships. Only five countries — India, Thailand, South Korea, Egypt and Bangladesh are competing in the girls' events. Another girl, from Georgia in the USSR, is yet to confirm her arrival.

Hosts Bangladesh will field 15 boys and four girls in the various events.

Meanwhile, 27 boys and eleven girls from six countries out of the total number of foreign entrants are already in the city. According to Bangladesh Tennis Federation,

organisers of the meet, the remainder of foreign participants are expected to reach by today or tomorrow at the latest. Another player, fourth seeded Thomas Sascha Winkler of Germany, was expected to arrive late last night.

Those yet to arrive include two boys from Saudi Arabia, a boy and a girl from the Republic of Georgia (USSR), two boys and two girls from Egypt and a boy each from Hungary and Austria.

After Bangladesh, India are sending the biggest contingent of 13 boys and four girls while the Thais, who have done well in the past meets here, have entered three boys and five girls. There are two boys and two girls from South Korea and two boys each from Poland and Iran.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of the championships, yesterday afternoon at the BTF office, Khandaker Asaduzzaman, president of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation, said an approximate budget of Taka 15 lakhs had been drawn up for the meet which has been a regular feature in the city since the past five years. Then it used to be known as the Ershad Junior Championships.

SEEDINGS

Meanwhile, the tournament committee headed by tournament director Bydzirur Rashid, yesterday announced eight seedings for the boys' singles and four for the girls' singles.

Atip Chotiyangwong of Thailand, who has 150 singles points and 200 doubles ITF

points to his credit, has been made the top seed in the boys' singles. Pakistan's Asim Shafiq has been seeded second.

The remaining boys singles seeds are (3) Vikram Venkataraghavan of India, (4) Thomas Sascha Winkler of Germany, (5) Vikram Singh

Kansuthi of Thailand fourth. The participants, who have paid their own air passage, will be provided local hospitality including food and board by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation.

Except for today's 9:00 am opening, the timings for

for the galleries are Taka 10 each.

There are no cash prizes, with the winners receiving trophies and ranking points.

In addition to the champions and runners-up in each section, the losing semifinalists in the singles will earn 20



BTF chief Khandaker Asaduzzaman (c) addressing newsmen yesterday.

—Star photo

Salluza of India, (6) Vasudev Reddy of India, (7) Bartolomej Sztipka of Poland and (8) Robert Witz of Austria.

The Girls' singles seedings are again headed by a Thai, Sudopee Chartsurhpin who has a world junior ranking of 42. Her compatriot Tanarube Tanasugarn, ranked 104th in the world among juniors, is the second seed.

Falguni Parsana of India is seeded third and Pimpisamai

matches will be from 8:30 am and to 4:30 pm without break on the second and third days (Tuesday and Wednesday) and 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on the remaining days, but with an hour's break for lunch at one o'clock everyday.

Season tickets for the limited VIP enclosure seats will cost Taka 200 while the gallery season tickets are priced at Taka 50. Daily tickets

points each and the quarterfinalists 10 points each. Even a second round loser will collect five points.

In the doubles, the losing semifinalists will earn 20 points per pair, the quarterfinalists 10 points per pair and the pre-quarter-finalists five points per pair.

Following is the list of participants who have arrived: INDIA: Boys: Shail Galada, Vasudev Reddy, Devarshi

Sampras, Courier in all-American final

FRANKFURT, Nov 17: Pete Sampras and Jim Courier won their semifinal against former champions on Saturday to set up the first all-American final of



PETE SAMPRAS

the ATP tour World Tennis Championship for 12 years, reports Reuter.

Sampras routed Ivan Lendl, who has won the year-ending

championship a record five times, 6-2, 6-3 in just 68 minutes.

Courier beat Andre Agassi, the defending champion, for the second time in a major tournament this year, winning 6-3, 7-5.

The two men clashed in the French Open final last June where Courier clinched his first Grand Slam title.

When two Americans last met in the final of this prestigious year-ending championship, formerly known as the Masters, John McEnroe beat Arthur Ashe.

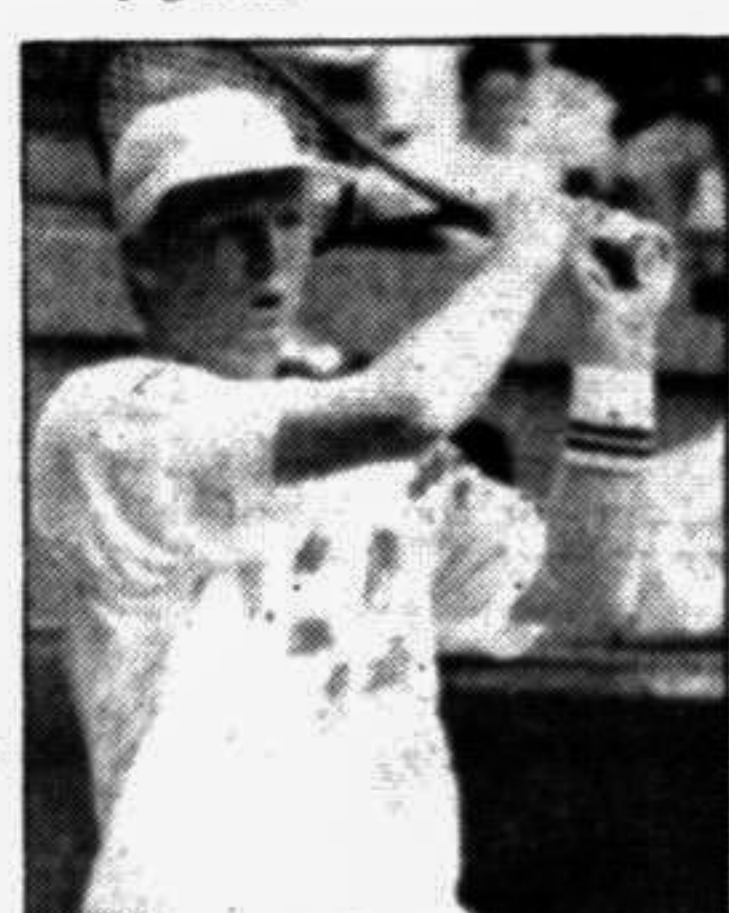
The sight of two US players contesting one of the most sought-after titles outside the four Grand Slams is sure to boost American morale ahead of their Davis Cup final against France later this month.

Sampras, who will play singles against the French in Lyon, said his victory over Lendl had bolstered his confidence "one notch".

"I am not saying that I am going to go to the Davis Cup

playing like I did tonight. But the way I am feeling and playing, hopefully I'll have some pretty good luck there."

Sampras, 11 years younger than Lendl, gave a masterful display of his strong serve-and-volley game.



JIM COURIER

"It's probably the two best sets I have ever played," he said. "I was serving well and returning unbelievably. Everything I hit turned to

gold."

Agassi tried to take too many risks in his largely baseline battle with Courier.

Courier sealed the first set in 38 minutes after a break of serve in the sixth game. Although Agassi took the initiative in the second with a break to lead 4-2, he was broken in the seventh and 11th games.

"I didn't feel I hit the ball as cleanly as I could have," Agassi said. "I don't think he necessarily played great tennis... He just played well at the right points."

Sampras has won three of his four encounters with Courier.

But the French Open champion won in straight sets when they last met in the quarter-finals of this year's US Open.

Courier said Sampras's serving, which has been superb this week, would be a key factor in the final.

"Pete is playing pretty darn well. Because he is serving bombs that gives him a bit of freedom on your serve to really go after you."

Seles faces Capriati in final

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 17: Jennifer Capriati overpowered Gabriela Sabatini with her backhand passing shots to move into Sunday's final against top-seeded Monica Seles in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, reports AP.

Capriati was a 6-3, 6-4 winner of her Saturday semifinal in the 350,000 event. Seles reached her 16th straight final this year with a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Seles, who needed only 65 minutes to beat No 3 Sanchez Vicario, has won eight tournaments in 1991 en route to the world's No 1 ranking.

"It's amazing," Seles said. "Last year, my goal was to get to the semifinals or final of every tournament and I've kept that with me this year. I've been little lucky."

Capriati and Seles last met in the semifinals at the US Open, which Seles won 6-3, 3-

6, 7-6.

"I'm looking forward to playing Monica," Capriati said.

Capriati won the final game of the 1 hour, 14-minute match serving at love.

Capriati hit two cross-court



JENNIFER CAPRIATI

passing shots, a lob that Sabatini tried to stab with the top of her racket, and a return

down the right sideline on match point to win.

Sabatini, 21, the second seed, attacked the net to break Capriati twice in the first set. But after that, her volleying attack vanished as she sought to outduel Capriati on the baseline.

After losing her first game, Capriati won three straight, breaking Sabatini twice as the latter double-faulted and Capriati hit blistering backhand shots.

Sabatini rallied to tie the set at 3-3, but Capriati attacked from the baseline and ran off the last three games to take the set in 39 minutes.

Capriati broke Sabatini's serve at 2-2 in the second set with a deuce game that ended with another backhand passing shot on the line.

Capriati then went up 5-3 as Sabatini twice hit backhands into the net and committed unforced errors.

Seles, who triumphed at the US, French and Australian opens but missed Wimbledon because of injury to cost her a chance at the Grand Slam, won the first nine points of the match, breaking Sanchez Vicario at love in the second game, on her way to a 3-0 lead.

In the second set, Sanchez Vicario lost her serve to fall behind 2-1 but used a backhand passing shot to break right back.

She could not maintain the momentum, however, hitting a forehand shot long to lose her service in the next game and blowing two break points as Seles held for a 4-2 lead.

Reuter adds: Showing on improved serve, the 15-year-old Capriati is playing her first tournament since the US Open, where she lost a third-set tiebreaker to Seles in the semifinals.

Since then the precocious American has put in a rare stint at her Florida High School and worked on her

game.

Capriati, the fourth seed, looked a little rusty in her first-round match but steadily improved during the week.

"I'm very happy," she said.



MONICA SELES

"In the beginning, I didn't feel I was so clean on my shots. Now I like the way I'm hitting."

"Serving is what I've been working on," she said. "It's nice to get some free points without having to work into a point."

"She seems more mature on the court," said Sabatini.

"She's playing smarter and more aggressively. She served very well on both serves and I was playing defensively with my return of serve."

Seles will carry a 3-1 career edge over Capriati into today's match as she shoots for her ninth tournament title.

The 17-year-old Yugoslav said she has enjoyed a great season but things could have been even better.

"A lot of times I would get to the final, but I was not so eager to win," admitted Seles, winner of the Australian, French and US Opens. "That's one I'd like to improve next year — not to have so many final losses."

Cuban spikers win W Cup

OSAKA, Nov 17: Defending champions Cuba won the World Cup women's volleyball tournament, crushing Peru 15-9, 15-12, 2-15, 15-11 in a final round match here Saturday, reports AFP.

The unbeaten Cubans are now assured of the tournament even before their match today against the Soviet spikers who were beaten by China 3-15, 15-5, 7-15, 7-15.

The defending champions' better position in set averages will remain unchanged even if they lose to the Soviet world champions in straight sets and even if China beats South Korea in the other of the three final matches today.

A Chinese and Soviet win would leave Cuba, the Soviet Union and China all with 4-1 win-loss records, but Cuba would still take the title on set averages.

This was Cuba's second vic-

tory in the World Cup, having won in 1989.

The match Saturday at the Osaka Castle Hall was Peru's third loss against one win in the final round, while for the Soviets, the gold medalists in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, it was their first loss against three wins.

The Chinese spikers have won three and lost one in the six-nation final round.

In other action Saturday, the United States beat South Korea 15-10, 15-6, 15-10 for their first win. It was the Koreans' fourth straight loss.

The winner of a match between the United States and Peru today will get the final berth in the Barcelona Olympics next year.

China, Cuba, the Soviet Union, Brazil, Spain and Japan have already qualified for the 1992 Olympics.

Half the 12 teams in the

preliminary round advanced to the final round.

In consolation competitions Saturday, South American champions Brazil overwhelmed Canada 15-5, 15-6, 15-12 for their fourth straight win. It was Canada's third loss against one win.

Spain scored their first win beating Kenya 15-1, 15-5, 15-13. The match was Kenya's fourth consecutive defeat.

Japan outplayed Germany 15-12, 10-15, 12-15, 17-16, 15-8 for their fourth win in a row. It was the German's second loss against two wins.

FINAL STANDINGS

Final standings in the World Cup women's Volleyball.

	Won	Lost
1. Cuba	4	1
2. China	4	1
3. Soviet Union	4	1
4. United States	2	3
5. Peru	1	4
6. South Korea	0	5

Navratilova pursues record

NEW YORK, Nov 17: Martina Navratilova will be chasing history when the Virginia Slims Championships begins its week-long run at Madison Square Garden Monday, reports AP.

The 35-year-old left-hander, who hasn't won the season-ending 3 million tournament since November 1986, is seeking her 158th career title, one more than Chris Evert.

Navratilova tied Evert in her last outing, upsetting Monica Seles in the final of the Virginia Slims of California last Sunday.

"Outside of the Grand Slam, I would have to say this is my most satisfying victory," Navratilova said after joining Steffi Graf as the only players to defeat Seles twice in 1991.

Despite what happens on the Garden's indoor court, the 17-year-old Seles, ranked No. 1 in the world and the top seed in the select 16-player singles field, has clinched the World Champion of Women's tennis title.

Last year, Seles captured the Virginia Slims Championships by defeating Gabriela Sabatini in the first women's match since 1991 to go five sets. The Yugoslav, who hits with two hands off both sides, will begin the defense of her title by taking on Julie Halard, 21, of France.

If she meets Sabatini again this year, the most they can play is three sets since it would be in the semifinals. The title match is the only time during the year that women could play five sets.

Sabatini's first-round opponent is Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria.

Four of Navratilova's career titles have come in the Virginia Slims Championships. She will begin her record-book chase by Graf, the reigning Wimbledon Champion and a two-time winner of this tournament, faces Spain's Conchita Martinez in her first-round match.

If the seedings hold, the semifinals would feature the



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA... chasing record

only four players to win the Slims Championships: Seles against Sabatini (1988) and Navratilova against Graf.

Given a strong chance to break up the "old gang of four" is 15-year-old Jennifer Capriati, who is ranked sixth in the world. Capriati, who upset Navratilova at Wimbledon and lost to Seles in a third-set tiebreaker at the U.S. Open, reaching the semifinals in both Grand Slam tournaments, will open against Nathalie Tauziat of France.

Capriati could play Sabatini in the quarterfinals.

The other pairing in the top half of the draw sends seventh-

Germany to host ATP until 1995

FRANKFURT, Nov 17: Germany is to continue hosting the men's ATP tour world championship tennis finals until 1995, reports Reuter.

The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), which runs the men's professional tour, said it had signed a new three-year contract with a television marketing company that would keep the event in Germany between 1993 and 1995.

Frankfurt is due to host the event next year but the German venues for the following three years have yet to be decided.

seceded Mary Joe Fernandez against Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia.

Other first-round pairings send No. 5 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain against Zina Garrison and No. 8 Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia against Switzerland's Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere, the older sister of Katerina.

The Virginia Slims championships is the richest and best-attended event in women's tennis. Besides the top 16 singles players, the tournament features the top eight doubles teams in the world.

First-round pairings in the doubles send Gigi Fernandez and Novotna against Australians Nicole Provis and Liz Smiley. Mary Joe Fernandez and Garrison against Gretchen Magers and Robin White, Jill Hetherington of Canada and Kathy Rinaldi against Sanchez Vicario and Sukova, and the Soviet pair of Larisa Savchenko and Natalia Zvereva against Navratilova and Pam Shriver, the most successful doubles team in history who have recently reunited.

The singles winner will collect 250,000, with the runner-up getting 120,000. The doubles champions will split 90,000, with 46,000 going to the losing finalists.

Cuban punchers march on

SYDNEY, Nov 17: Cuba's formidable squad looked to be on track for a haul of medals when their boxers won all eight preliminary bouts at the World Amateur Championships on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The Cubans, fancied to win at least five of the 12 gold medals, rounded off a superb day's work when Ramon Garbey trounced American Chris Bryd in the middleweight division by 20 points to six in the evening session.

Earlier their world bantamweight champion Henrique Carrion exemplified the Cubans' clinical efficiency with his first-round demolition of South Korean Soo-Young Setn.

Light-welterweight Candelario Duverger was equally impressive in his defeat of Hungarian Laszlo Szekes.

The European boxer had no answer to the Pan-American Games champion's long reach and rapid punching and the

referee stopped the contest in the second round.

In contrast to the Cubans, the other two leading challengers for medals — the Soviet Union and the United States — had mixed results in the preliminaries.

The Americans won six of their eight bouts but one major casualty was heavyweight John Bray who was outpointed by German Bert Teuchart, a fighter who had beaten him at the Goodwill Games in Seattle last year.

The 21-year-old former sparring partner of professional world champion Evander Holyfield said he had no excuses.

"I was in the best shape ever. I just find it hard to fight southpaws," he told reporters after losing 14-6.

Teuchart, who took the bronze medal at the last world title championships in Moscow in 1989, made it a satisfying day for the Germans who are competing as a unified boxing team for the first time.

through to the next round in their divisions.

The Soviet Union, the biggest threat to the Cubans and Americans, suffered two defeats in their first five bouts with heavyweight Evgeni Sudakov, a silver medalist in 1989, losing on points to south

Australian middle-weight Justen Crawford wound up the local challenge battling out a tough, toe-to-toe 29-21 victory over Scotland's Stephen Wilson.

Jubilant coach Charlie Smith said it was a great day for Australian boxing.

Bangladeshi surrenders

The quickest fight of the championships to date ended after 28 seconds when Ireland's Paul Griffin knocked out Aman Ullah of Bangladesh in a featherweight bout.

On Monday, Cuba's heavyweight champion Felix Savon begins his campaign, hoping to make it a hat-trick of World Championships titles to match the legendary heavyweight and compatriot Teofilo Stevenson.