

Pakistanis off to England

KARACHI, Apr 29: Pakistan's 17-men cricket team, led by Javed Miandad, left here today on a 117-day tour of England that will include five Tests, five one-day matches and 25 county and side fixtures, reports AFP.

Miandad, who has more than 8,000 runs in Tests and 6,000 runs in one-day matches to his credit, is leading the Pakistani side against England for the second time, the first on England's home ground.

"I will try to go for decisions in the coming tour by making best use of all departments of the game of cricket despite challenging English playing conditions," the 35-year-old cricketer said before leaving.

For Pakistan it will be their ninth tour of England since 1954, when they gained a historic win at the Oval as newcomers to international cricket.

This time they will be without Imran Khan, who has decided not to play because of a shoulder injury from the World Cup in Australia.

The two sides have played 47 Tests since 1954, of which 29 were in England. Pakistan won three and lost 12 there, while the rest ended in draws.

In Pakistan, they have played 18 Tests, of which the home side won two and lost one, with 15 ending in draw.

The two sides played 29 one-day internationals before the World Cup, with Pakistan winning 10 and losing 19.

The upcoming series follows the controversial 1987-88 home Test series against England, when Miandad led Pakistan.

That time, Test umpire Shakoor Rana and England captain Mike Gatting nearly came to blows at Faisalabad because of their opposing views on some of the judgments, and the match was stopped for a day, resuming only after the England captain offered a written apology.

Manager and coach Intikhab Alam, who has himself led the Pakistan side, said the tour would be "closely fought between two equally balanced teams."

Sceptical about his team's performance in early fixtures because of a lack of practice since the World Cup, Alam said he hoped the right combination would soon be achieved.

Pakistan has only seven returnees from the 1987



WAQAR...key bowler

England tour, including skipper Javed Miandad and vice-captain Salim Malik, who played for Essex last year and came 28 short of 2,000 runs.

Rameez Raja, Lancashire's Wasim Akram, all rounder Asif Mujtaba, Shoaib Mohammad and left arm pace bowler Saleem Jaffer are also staging a comeback.

The Pakistan squad included the star pacesman Waqar Younis, 21, who missed the World Cup because of a back problem, but will be the main bank in the absence of Imran Khan.

Younis, who took 113 wickets with an average of 14.65 runs in the 1991 English season, was named among Wisden's five cricketers-of-the-year for his outstanding debut for his country Surrey.

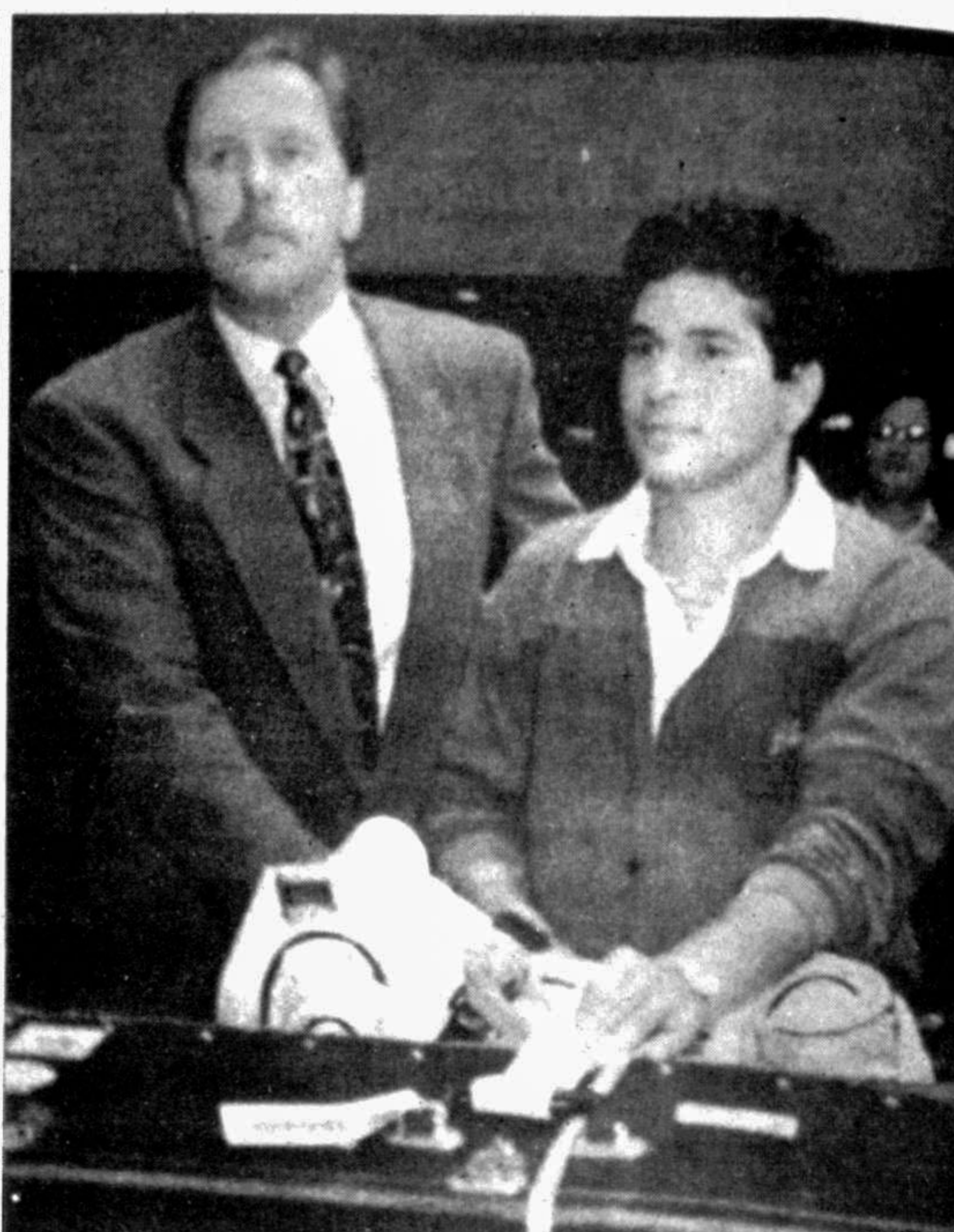
He practised his arm at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore Tuesday.

Two new caps are Rashid Latif, who plays for the United Bank and was a leading wicketkeeper with 23 catches in the domestic season this year, while Tanveer Mehdhi is a fast bowler playing for Lahore.

The Pakistan side also include Aamir Sohail, Inzamamul Haq, Zahid Fazal, Moin Khan (the wicketkeeper who led Pakistan under-19s on a tour of England in 1990), Mushtaq Ahmed, Aaqib Javed and fast bowler Naveed Anjum, who will be visiting England for the first time with the side.

Except for the new entrants all the Pakistani players have toured abroad.

The Pakistan side will depend heavily on fast bowlers during the upcoming tour and only one specialist leg-spinner, Mushtaq Ahmed, is included.



Star Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar (R), the first coloured cricketer to be signed by Yorkshire county, is greeted by team manager Steve Oldham upon his arrival from Heathrow Airport in London on April 28. — AFP photo

Tendulkar joins Yorkshire

LONDON, Apr 29: Indian batting prodigy Sachin Tendulkar linked up with Yorkshire here on Tuesday

and immediately declared that he expected no trouble from their much-criticised fans, reports AFP.

The county have been plagued by racist taunts from a section of their supporters over the years.

But the 19-year-old, who is breaking Yorkshire's 128-year tradition of selecting home-grown players, insisted: "I think the Yorkshire crowd will support me."

"I don't think there will be any problem. There were no problems when we were touring over here in 1990. I had a very nice experience with all these players and supporters two years ago. They were very good to me."

Tendulkar's straight bat to racism fears was backed by Yorkshire president and chairman Sir Lawrence Byford, who believes the young Indian will encourage the country's large Asian population.

"I'm convinced the Yorkshire public will give Sachin a very warm welcome indeed," said Byford. "Nothing will suit me better than to have an Asian, who has come from

our conveyor belt, playing for Yorkshire."

Sachin will have a great deal of influence on the youngsters in the large areas of ethnic population in Bradford, Dewsbury and elsewhere.

"I think they'll start coming to the club and they will become more interested in Yorkshire cricket."

Yorkshire have won the championship 29 times since 1890, but the last occasion was in 1968 and Tendulkar aims to

end the drought.

He said: "I'll try to serve my county as best I can. It's a great honour for me to be playing for Yorkshire. I'd love to see Yorkshire become champions. "I'm not going to set myself any specific targets. I'll just try to get as many runs and centuries as possible."

Tendulkar, who is expected to bat at number four for Yorkshire, makes his debut in the Benson and Hedges Cup tie against Kent at Hedingley on Thursday.

Broad ton spurs Notts

LONDON, Apr 29: Former England opener Chris Broad stroked a flawless century as Nottinghamshire's county championship campaign got underway with an eight-wicket win over Warwickshire at Trent Bridge, reports Reuter.

Broad took advantage of an attack affected by injuries to front line bowlers Tim Munton and Gladstone Small to hit 17 boundaries in 104 as the home county stroled to a 202-run target.

Earlier, Dominic Ostler competed an impressive century for Warwickshire, but their last six wickets tumbled for 40, with wicketkeeper Bruce French snapping up five catches.

Paul Parker hit his second

half-century of the match as Durham battled back against Leicestershire at Durham.

The county championship newcomers were looking likely to lose their first match well inside the distance when they slipped to 30 for two in their second innings, still 148 behind.

But with former Sussex captain Parker hitting an unbeaten 79 to follow his first knock off 77, the home county had edged ahead by five runs with six wickets left at the close of the third day.

Parker, at the crease for four hours, was helped in his rearguard fight by a determined Dean Jones, who toiled for two and a half hours for 32. The match ends on Wednesday.

Sampras struggles, Connors doesn't



ATLANTA, Georgia, Apr 29: Top seed Pete Sampras struggled to hold serve but survived to win

his first round match in the 260,000 dollar AT and T challenge tennis tournament on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Sampras, who reached third in the world on Monday, suffered three breaks against his usually reliable serve in the second set, but held on for a 7-6, 7-5 win over unseeded Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay.

Thirty-nine-year-old Jimmy Connors, seeded seventh, also advanced to the second round with a 7-6, 6-4 win over Argentinian-born Belgian Eduardo Masso.

But fourth seed Brad Gilbert was upset by fellow American Todd Witsken in a see-saw battle, 6-4, 0-6, 6-4.

Sampras, far more dangerous on a fast surface, struggled to match the clay court skills of his 80th-ranked opponent.

After both players held serve through the first 12 games, Sampras built a 6-3 tiebreak lead and took the set when Filippini double-faulted.

The American got the early break in the second set and jumped out to a 4-1 lead, before both players suddenly became error-prone. They exchanged a run of six service breaks in seven games that left Sampras leading 6-5.

Despite his problems from the service line, Sampras regained his composure and served out the match.

"The conditions were tough and there was severe wind out there," Sampras said. "Late in the match my serve let me down and he got back into it."

Looking ahead to the French Open, Sampras said: "I

need to get a lot of matches in (on clay) before the French."

Connors looked comfortable throughout his first rounder against the 100th-ranked Masso and was only briefly threatened by a break in the fifth game of the second set.

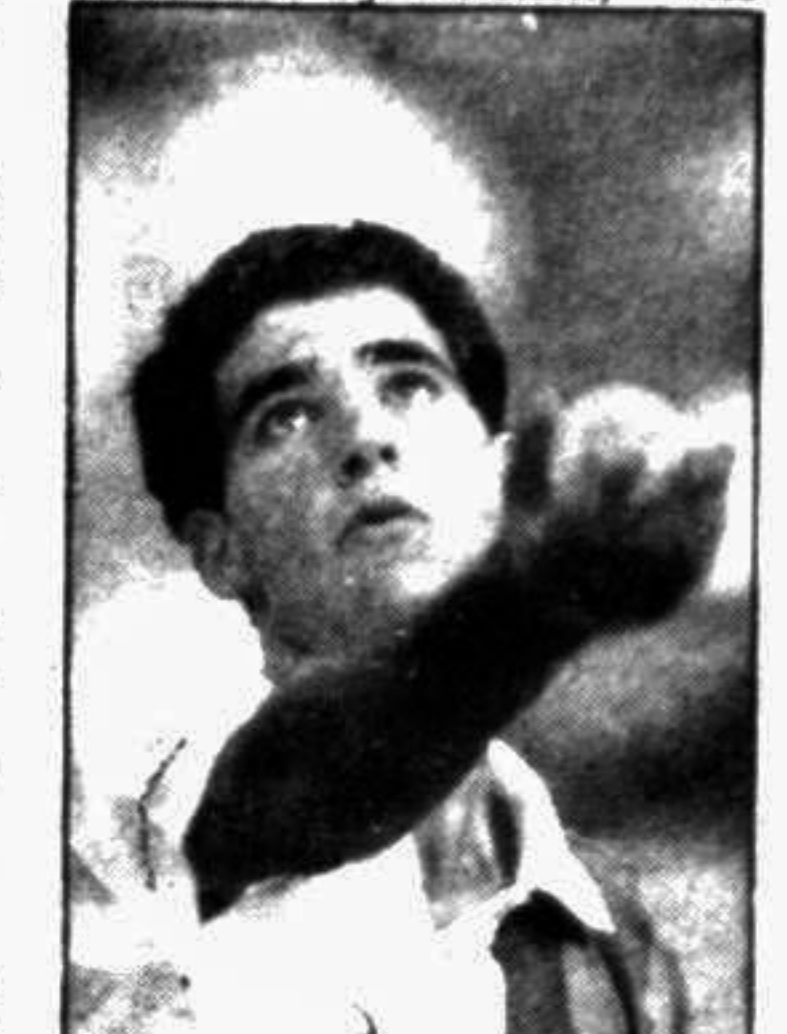
"The thought I hit the ball okay," Connors said. "I've been uninspired the last three or four weeks and today I had a better attitude."

Gilbert's defensive play cost him in a match in which he appeared to have seized the momentum from Witsken.

Witsken was the aggressor in the first set as he produced the crucial service break for 5-4 and served out the set.

The fourth seed took control in the second set and rolled through without dropping a game.

But Gilbert got sloppy in the final set. Selecting rash moments to come to net, he was victimised by Witsken, who



PETE SAMPRAS

sent the fourth seed packing with a forehand pass on the fifth.

Catalans may discomfit Barcelona bosses

BARCELONA, Spain, Apr 29: The Olympic opening ceremony should be spared the

embarrassment of protest from nationalist groups campaigning for a separate team to represent the Spanish region of Catalonia, reports Reuter.

Catalan Olympic Committee (COC) president Josep Miro said threatened protests at the Barcelona Games would do more harm than good to the groups current bid to gain official recognition from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Past protests to seek recognition for a separate Catalan presence at the Games being held in the region's capital from July 25 to August 9 have done little to promote their cause with the IOC and its president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

In spite of promises to carry the campaign for official recognition into the opening ceremony, to be attended by Samaranch and Spain's King Juan Carlos, and during other Major Olympic events, Miro said protest could harm the groups bid.

"The recognition of the COC will not come through demonstration," Miro declared. He said there would be no action from the group which might spoil the opening ceremony.

But he would not rule out other forms of protest outside Olympic installations to persuade the authorities into promoting the Catalan identity of the Barcelona Games.

The COC has claimed the same rights for Catalonia as for the former republics of the Soviet Union, competing in Barcelona under a common banner but granted the right of their own anthems and flags if individual athletes win gold.

The 1989 inauguration of the main Montjuic Olympic Stadium during the athletics World Cup led to lively nationalist protests against Juan Carlos's presence and controversy within Spain and Catalonia.

Lifters face a choice

SYDNEY, Apr 29: Five top East European weightlifters now living in Australia may have to return temporarily to Europe to qualify for the Barcelona Olympics, Australian weightlifting officials said today, reports Reuter.

Australian Weightlifters Federation (AWF) president Sam Coffa said the men, all medal prospects, would have to make a decision in the next couple of weeks in order to qualify for the Games which begin in late July.

Borg suffers humiliating defeat

MUNICH, Apr 29: Bjorn Borg suffered his worst defeat on the comeback trail Tuesday, losing

1-6, 0-6 to Goran Prpic of Croatia in the ATP Men's tennis tournament, reports AP.

Prpic thrashed the former Swedish tennis great in just 47 minutes in the opening round of the dlr\$ 300,000 tournament.

Borg has now lost all four of his comeback matches on the pro tennis tour, and Tuesday's was by far the worst.

Germany's Michael Stich breezed through the first round with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Christian Bergstrom of Sweden, and American Aaron Krickstein defeated Swede Jan Gunnarsson 6-3, 6-4.

The 35-year-old Borg, who left the professional tennis world nine years ago with five Wimbledon victories and six French Open titles, remained optimistic.

"This wasn't a setback here.

Swiss fed opts for fast surface

ZURICH, Apr 29: Switzerland will stage their Davis Cup tennis semifinal against Brazil in Geneva on a fast indoor court, the Swiss Tennis Association said today.

Association director Daniel Gundelfinger said the carpet surface had been chosen to favour Switzerland's serve-and-volley specialists Jakob Hlasek and Marc Rosset, who put out holders France in the previous round.

I'll keep going. The problem is that everyone is expecting too much of me," Borg said.

"I had expected more of Borg — he plays too slow," Prpic said.

TIRIAC'S ADVICE

AFP adds: Borg, who could once boast that he won almost every tournament he entered, tasted defeat in the first round for the third week running on Tuesday.

After his disappointing performances in Nice and



BJORN BORG

Monte Carlo, Borg slumped to a crushing straight-sets defeat in which he won just one game.

Borg was never able to live up to the promise he made last week when he said he was getting better with each match.

Although he claims to be

enjoying his latest comeback, Borg could well consider taking the advice of Romanian impresario Ion Tiriac, who urged him to pack up now and not carry on sullyng the legend of his youth.

"If it's a question of money," Tiriac said, "Bjorn should just pick up the 'phone and call John (McEnroe) or Jimmy (Connors) or me. We all owe him a lot."

STICH WINS

Top-seeded Stich needed just one hour and 17 minutes to defeat Bergstrom. The German advanced to the second round to face countryman Arne Thoms, who beat Bart Wuyts of Belgium 6-4, 6-4.

Krickstein will play Bernd Karbacher of Germany, who defeated Lars Koslowski of Germany 5-7, 6-1, 6-3 a day earlier.

Also Tuesday, Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine beat third-seeded defending champion Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden 6-4, 6-0.

Davis Cup player Henri Leconte of France lost a marathon 7-6, 6-7, 2-6 match against Magnus Larsson of Sweden.

Omar Camporese of Italy defeated Ronald Agener of Haiti 6-4, 6-3 and Guillermo Perez Roldan of Argentina beat Jonas Svensson of Sweden 6-2, 6-4.

Lars Joensson of Sweden beat Thomas Muster of Austria 7-5, 6-4 and Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia defeated Lars-Anders Wahlgren of Sweden 7-6, (7-4), 6-3.

Meet promoters await IAAF ruling on Krabbe case

LONDON, Apr 29: Organisers of the world's leading athletics meetings are unlikely to ban Germany's double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe if the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) decides she is not guilty of manipulating dope tests, reports Reuter.

This week the assistant director of the Stockholm Grand Prix, Pers-Andres Persson, said the Stockholm organisers had decided not to invite Krabbe to their meeting on July 2.

Persson said several organisers would probably also ban Krabbe and added that the matter would be considered at a spring meeting of promoters in Stockholm this weekend.

"Our decision not to invite Krabbe is not a statement on whether we think she is guilty or not," he said.

"It has to do with the feelings of other athletes, who apparently don't want her around, who feel they are not competing on equal terms."

But a survey of other Grand Prix promoters did not show any support for Persson's stand which followed the decision by the German Athletics Federation (DLV) decision this month to lift its four year ban on former East German Krabbe, the 100 and 200 me-

tres world champion, for allegedly manipulating dope tests.

That decision, which also cleared Krabbe's team-mates Grit Breuer and Silke Muehler, will be considered by the IAAF



KATRIN KRABBE

council in Toronto next month who will then decide whether to refer the case to their own arbitration panel.

Most promoters agreed with Res Bruegger, organiser of the Zurich Grand Prix, the world's wealthiest meeting, who preferred to wait for the IAAF decision.

"It is too early to take a stand on this issue," Bruegger said. "We must wait and see what the IAAF does. Anyway I

must emphasise it is the prerogative of the organiser to invite whom he wants. That is up to the organiser."

Manfred Germar, director of the Cologne Grand Prix, said he did not endorse a boycott.

"What's decisive is whether Katrin Krabbe run at the Olympics," Germar said. "If the IAAF clears her, then she will run with us."

The directors of the Seville meeting, Leonardo Chaves, said he did not wish to pre-empt the issue.

"Until there is a decision that she is guilty, we will not take any strong action," Chaves said. "At the moment we are fully in favour of Krabbe taking part."

Nice meeting director Robert Bertojo said the question was largely irrelevant as the leading Germans would be undertaking pre-Olympic training at the time of his meeting.

But he added: "There is a basic principle of justice that people are innocent until proved guilty. If you start pointing the finger at athletes on grounds of suspicion, you could point it at everyone... once the IAAF makes a decision, the situation may be different."

His position was echoed by Wilfried Meert, organisers of the Brussels Grand Prix, who said: "If the IAAF suspends

Krabbe then it's simple. If the IAAF releases her we can still talk. There's no use in talking about it, if the IAAF upholds the suspension there's no discussion, she's gone for four years."

US promoters said they had heard no talks of boycotts.

"She was deemed not guilty by the German Federation and as far as I am concerned I would love to have her," San Jose meeting director Bert Bonanno said.

New York meeting director Allan Steinfeld said he had considered inviting Krabbe before the doping incident.

"Not knowing whether she would make it back or not we went forward and spent the budget on other athletes," Steinfeld said.

"But had the incident been decided very, very quickly we would have invited her, because we were thinking of inviting her to begin with."

If the IAAF decides not to overturn the DLV decision, Krabbe will be on course to win the Barcelona Olympic sprint double and raise further her already huge commercial potential.

And as Berlin Grand Prix chief Rudi Thiel asked rhetorically: "Can you imagine Krabbe becoming Olympic champion, in Barcelona and we not inviting her to Grand Prix meetings?"

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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| 1 Word with apple or grass | 35 Chinese association | 1 Ailuro-ophile's pet? | 22 God of love |
| 5 Invitation to dance? | 36 Farm sound | 2 Capek drama | 23 Actress Moreno |
| 8 Weight allowance | 37 Discovers tree | 3 Brazilian macaw | 24 Earthenware pot |
| 12 Nimbis | 41 It might be | 4 Highwayman | 26 Twin brother of Hypnos |
| 13 Eskimo knife | 42 Lyric poems | 5 Clump of trees | 27 School on the Thames |
| 14 Dill weed | 43 Divide by cutting | 6 Pub pint | 28 Await settlement |
| 15 Change from one bus to another | 48 Take out | 7 Following upon | 29 Labels |
| 17 Roman journey | 49 Heating fuel | 8 Contaminates | 31 Greek letters |
| 18 Polka follower | 50 Buffalo's lake | 9 Against | 34 Rope loops |
| 19 Typical of old age | 51 Corrodes | 10 Lively dance | 35 Sham splendor |
| 21 Louvre's locale | 52 Health resort | 11 French verb | 37 Merriment |
| 24 Gowdy of sports | 53 Bail | 16 Distress call | 38 Method or form |
| 25 Fail to include | | 20 Sea bird | 39 Brainstorm |
| 26 Part of a cross-shaped church | | | 40 Dissolve |
| 30 Decompose | | | 41 Festive occasion |
| 31 E.T.'s need | | | 44 Irving's deep sleeper |
| 32 Afternoon carry on | | | 45 Pitching stov. |
| 33 Carry on, as | | | 46 Div. of Scotland Yard |
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