

# Sampras — a dull, boring champ

WIMBLEDON, July 5: Pete Sampras prepared to fly home to Florida today unfazed by being tagged the most boring Wimbledon champion for many years, reports Reuter.

The 21-year-old American beat compatriot Jim Courier in four sets in Sunday's final, but the match failed to silence critics who felt his victory was not a triumph for those who enjoy charismatic performers.

"The oracle says Pete Sampras is dull and boring, but it just goes in one ear and out the other," the world number one responded.

"Right now it doesn't bother me at all. If people want to try and put me down, let them."

Pocketing a winner's cheque for 305,000 pounds sterling (4,61,300 dollars) was the perfect Sampras riposte to those people who he felt over-reacted to an on-court outburst after his fourth round match against Briton Andrew Foster.

"I think it was blown out of proportion," said Sampras, booted off court after shouting at noisy spectators.

"I know when I show emotion it kind of surprises people, but it kind of builds up inside you. I just didn't feel like playing another set."

The world number one, who would have been knocked off his perch by Courier had he lost the final, also revealed the personal cost of staying at the forefront of the game.

The pair, only a year apart in age, live nearby in Florida and have been good friends since their teenage years, but Sampras now says their professional rivalry has come between them.

"Jim and I are nothing like as close as we were three years ago," he admitted. "It's tough to have a strong relationship when you're trying to beat each other the whole time. You don't see many people in the top 10 making friends with each other."

Sampras now plans to take three weeks off sharpening his golf game amongst other laid-back priorities before turning his attention towards the US hardcourt season.

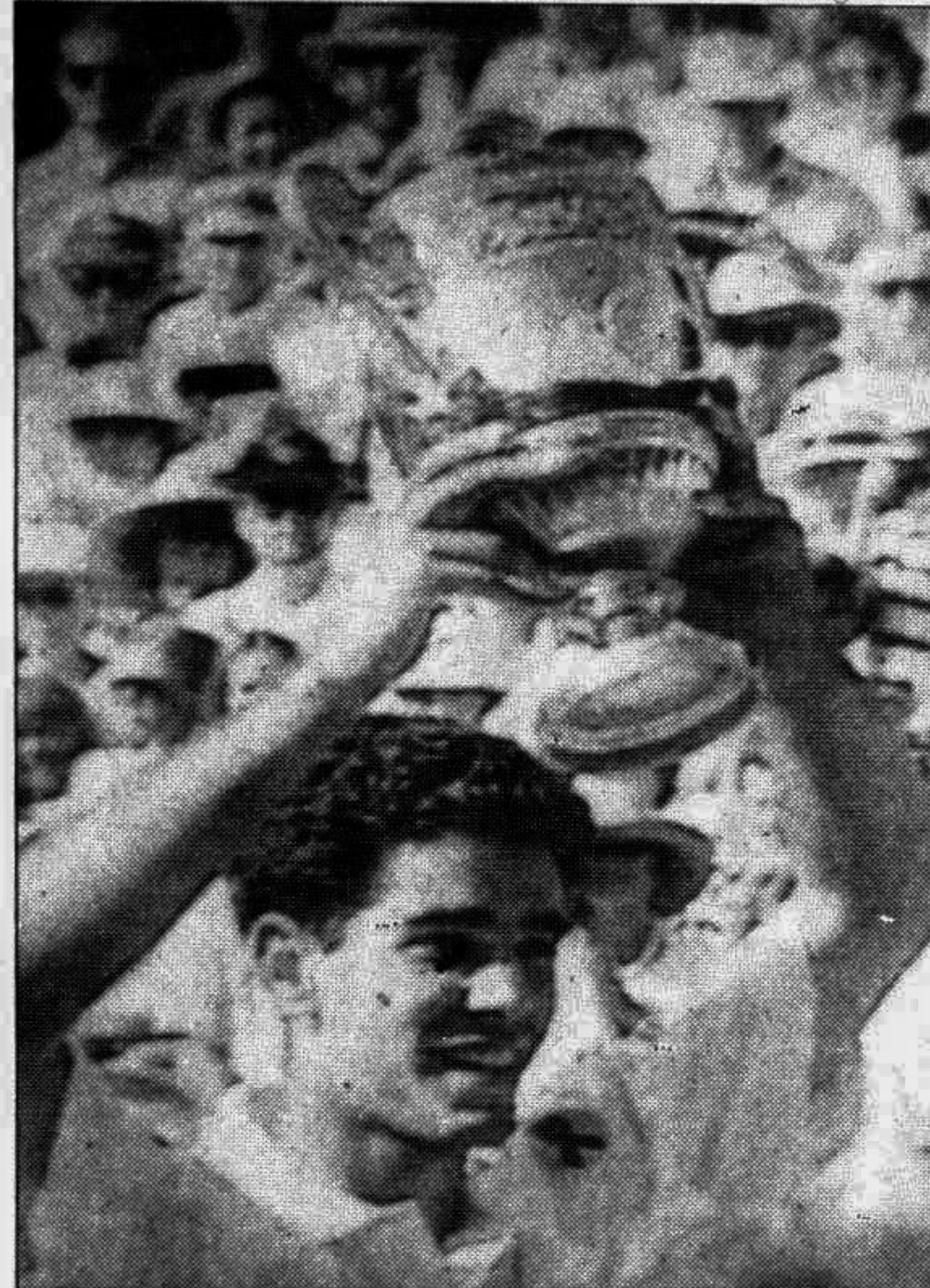
It will give him time to shake off any lingering after-effects, particularly with his shoulder, from a Wimbledon

which will be remembered as a tournament where the computer ruled supreme.

Sampras, women's queen Steffi Graf and both the men's and women's doubles champions all justified their seeding, a rare event at a Grand Slam. It last occurred at Wimbledon in 1984.

new admirers, while Sampras failed to earn a single vote in a poll of 1,000 women asked with whom they would like to share their strawberries and cream.

Luckily for him, the world rankings are based on more prosaic information and he is certain to be among the



World number one American Pete Sampras holds aloft the Wimbledon trophy after beating compatriot Jim Courier in the men's singles final on July 4. Sampras, for whom it was the second Grand Slam title after the 1990 US Open, dispelled doubts over his number one ranking with his first ever Wimbledon triumph.

The statistic hides plenty of factors— notably Jana Novotna's collapse from 4-1 up in the final set of the women's final— but even grass court connoisseurs were forced to admit the 1993 championships were short on vintage moments.

Sampras was often smoothly efficient, yet paled in comparison with last year's champion Andre Agassi, whom he beat in a five-set quarter-final, in the popularity stakes.

The mystery of Agassi's chest hair won him several

favourites of the US Open in New York later this year.

Graf should be equally tipped among the women on the evidence of Wimbledon's first completely dry fortnight since 1976.

But the absence of Monica Seles, still a virtual recluse after being stabbed by a crazed Graf fan in Hamburg in April continues to cast a shadow on the game.

Wimbledon '93 proved yet again that modern tennis does not possess a surfeit of stars.

# Graf missed her coup de grace

LONDON, July 5: Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf fell sick and missed the traditional end-of-tournament champions' dinner on Sunday, officials said, reports Reuter.

"She's not feeling well. The doctor is with her now — it's very sad," Chris Gorringer, chief executive of the All-England Club, told fans outside the Savoy Hotel.

"It's one of those unfortunate things. She simply does not feel well enough to attend but has sent everyone her best wishes," added Wimbledon chairman John Curry.

Gorringer said he did not know what was wrong with the 24-year-old German, who beat Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic on Saturday for her fifth Wimbledon singles crown.

# ATP's top money winners

MONACO, July 5: Leading prize-money winners issued by the ATP tour on Monday, reports Reuter.

1. Jim Courier (US) US dollar 1,444,236
2. Pete Sampras (US) 1,334,275
3. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 1,140,909
4. Michael Stich (Germany) 1,108,751
5. Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 755,169
6. Richard Krajceck (Netherlands) 588,763
7. Boris Becker (Germany) 557,754
8. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine) 549,838
9. Michael Chang (US) 524,429
10. Karel Novacek (Czech Republic) 493,121
11. Wally Masur (Australia) 453,684
12. Petr Korda (Czech Republic) 453,069
13. Thomas Muster (Austria) 429,981
14. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 414,046
15. Mark Woodforde (Australia) 378,262
16. Cedric Pioline (France) 331,289
17. Paul Haarhuis (Netherlands) 328,709
18. Carl-Uwe Steed (Germany) 325,628
19. Anders Jarryd (Sweden) 325,610
20. Richey Renberg (US) 321,168

# ATP's top 20

MONACO, July 5: Leading men's rankings issued by the ATP tour on Monday, reports Reuter.

1. Pete Sampras (US) 4,197 points
2. Jim Courier (US) 3,842
3. Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 3,230
4. Boris Becker (Germany) 2,786
5. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 2,550
6. Ivan Lendl (US) 2,249
7. Michel Stich (Germany) 2,117
8. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine) 2,020
9. Petr Korda (Czech Republic) 1,983
10. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 1,961
11. Michael Chang (US) 1,925
12. Richard Krajceck (Netherlands) 1,888
13. Thomas Muster (Austria) 1,675
14. Karel Novacek (Czech Republic) 1,568
15. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 1,568
16. Malival Washington (US) 1,469
17. Henrik Holm (Sweden) 1,410
18. Cedric Pioline (France) 1,387
19. Alexander Volkov (Russia) 1,355
20. Guy Forget (France) 1,334

# WTA's top 20

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, July 5: Top 20 women's tennis players after the Wimbledon championships, according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Sunday, reports Reuter.

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
2. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
3. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)
4. Martina Navratilova (US)
5. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
6. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
7. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
8. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
9. Jennifer Capriati (US)
10. Anke Huber (Germany)
11. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
12. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic)
13. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
14. Mary Pierce (France)
15. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
16. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
17. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)
18. Kimiko Date (Japan)
19. Zina Garrison-Jackson (US)
20. Sabine Hack (Germany)



Princess of Wales Diana, an ardent tennis lover, watched Sunday's proceedings of the Wimbledon tennis championships. In the picture Lady D is seen appreciating a shot.

# Jansher stripped of No 1 spot

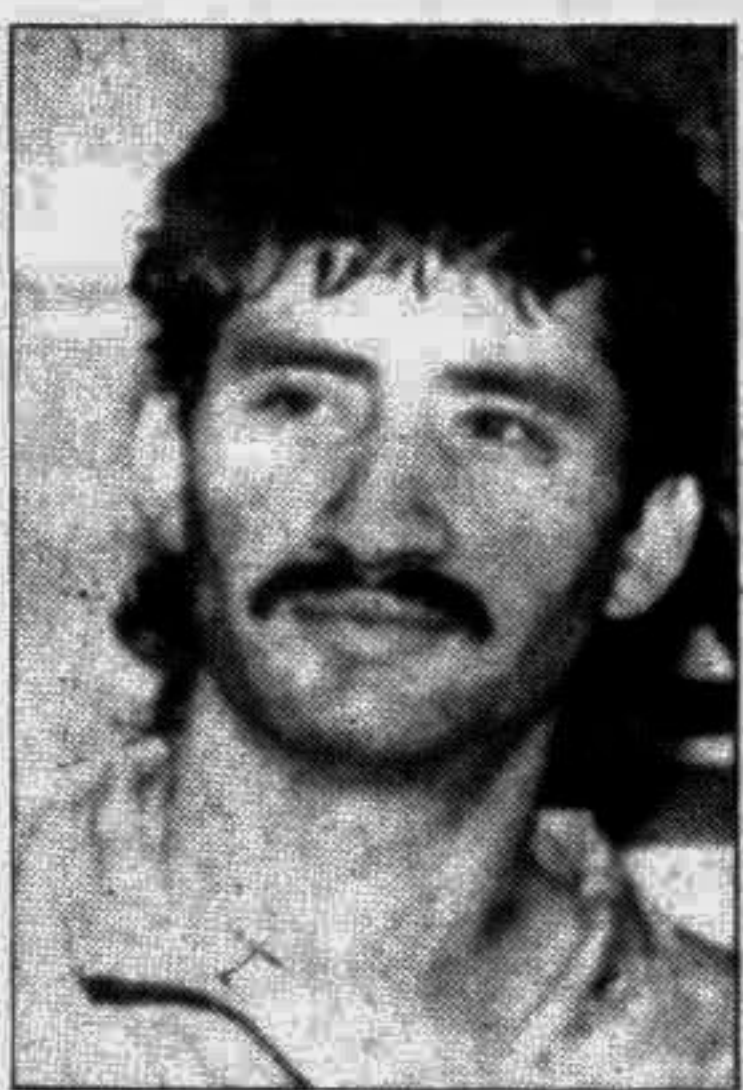
CARDIFF, July 5: Jansher Khan has been stripped of his world number one ranking by the professional Squash Association after pulling out of three tournaments within six months, reports Reuter.

The 24-year-old world champion drops to second in Monday's ranking list with Australian Chris Dittmar — the man he has defeated in 11 successive finals in the past 18 months — taking over as number one.

The PSA board, of which Dittmar is president, has decided to stick rigidly to its rules and award Jansher a zero ranking score for his late withdrawal from the French Open in April when he went home to be with his mother who had suffered a heart attack.

He had previously been given zero scores for pulling out of the European Open in Kiel last November and the Canadian Open in Calgary in January — both through injury. Dittmar made a strong plea to his fellow board members

that Jansher should be excused the penalty on compassionate grounds for missing the French event.



JANSHER... No 1 no more

"I think any player would have done the same as Jansher in the circumstances," said Dittmar. "I made my views very strongly felt, but in the end was outvoted by the rest of the board. I do not consider myself

number one and will not do so until I have beaten Jansher six of seven times."

Jansher's manager, Satinder Bajwa, said: "These things just do not seem to make sense at times... now Jansher will prove by his performances that he is the true world number one."

Jansher and Dittmar are seeded to meet in next month's Hong Kong Open. Victory for Jansher would be enough to reinstate him as world number one.

The rule, which automatically gives a zero ranking score for pulling out of events after the deadline, was instituted in 1985 after a spate of late withdrawals had angered sponsors and promoters and put the future of some tournaments in jeopardy.

"It has always been strictly applied, whatever the circumstances and whatever the player's standing," said PSA executive director Rogger Eady.

Jansher has been number one since May 1992. This year he has already won six events, defeating Dittmar in all of them.

# German cagers just make it

MUNICH, July 5: The German victory in the European basketball championship failed to detract from Russia's emergence as a major basketball force since the break-up of the Soviet Union, reports Reuter.

Russia was expected to win Sunday's final but the occasion and the 10,000-strong German crowd appeared to undermine their young team.

The Germans pulled off one of the biggest upsets in European Basketball history when Christian Welp scored three points in the last three seconds to give them a 71-70 victory.

Germany's previous best placing in the 58-year-old tournament was fifth.

Despite the defeat the Russians were happy with their performance in the tournament and are expected to be formidable challengers at the World Championship in Toronto next year.

"I am happy that we came second. I regard it as a big success," said Russian coach Yuri Selikhov.

"My team is young and they haven't got much international

experience but they have played well in this tournament."

The Soviet Union won the world title a record 14 times but the break-up of the superpower forced the Russians to go it alone without the basketball powerhouse of the Baltic states.

# Wimbledon never so sunny

WIMBLEDON, July 5: The sun shone on the 1993 Wimbledon championships with no rain recorded during the tournament fortnight for the first time since 1976, reports Reuter.

Temperatures on Centre Court topped 40 degree Celsius on the final day on Sunday.

It was all a far cry from the 1991 championships which experienced the wettest first week on record, with Monday's opening day rained off and play staged on the middle Sunday of the tournament for the first time ever to make up for lost time.

over Russia's ability to make the grade on their own, particularly when bronze medalists Lithuania pushed them out of the medals at last year's Barcelona Olympics.

But Russia showed on their way to Sunday's final that they have talent in abundance.

Their leading scorers Sergei Bazarevitch and Sergei Babkov were among the best players of the tournament.

Unfortunately for the Russians their shooting went astray on a noisy, humid night in the Munich arena, but the Germans deserved their victory for sheer perseverance.

Germany head five European teams who will take on another version of the US Dream Team from the Barcelona Olympics at the World Championship next July.

Russia, beaten semifinalists Greece and Croatia and fifth-placed Spain complete the line-up.

US coach Don Nelson, who watched the action in Munich, praised the German victory.

"That was one of the most exciting games I have seen in a long time," he said.

# Nepenthe for Navratilova

WIMBLEDON, England, July 5: Martina Navratilova moved a step closer to Billie Jean King's Wimbledon titles record on Sunday, winning the mixed doubles trophy with Mark Woodforde, reports Reuter.

The Czech-born American and her Australian partner, already the men's doubles champion, beat Dutch pair Tom Nijssen and Manon Bollegraf 6-3, 6-4 in the last Centre Court match of the tournament.

Navratilova, who holds the Wimbledon record for singles championships with nine victories, needs two more titles of any sort to equal King's record of 20.

"I guess I'm within striking distance now," Navratilova, 36, said.

"But I've got enough records. I don't want to get greedy. It's for pleasure... to be out there on the Centre Court with all those people."

Navratilova last won the Wimbledon mixed doubles in 1985 with Australian Paul McNamee. She also has seven women's doubles titles — five with Pam Shriver, one with Chris Evert and one with King herself.

Her last singles victory dates back to 1990. Navratilova, the oldest player in the championship, lost in the semifinals of this year's singles to eventual runner-up Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic and said afterwards she would be back to try again.

She said on Sunday she would also return with Woodforde to defend the mixed title after playing alongside him again at the US Open starting in August.

"If I can walk, I'll play here again," she said.

# A good one for President Ramos

MANILA, July 5: About 100 Filipino athletes, led by Southeast Asia's sprint queen Lydia de Vega, marched to the Presidential Palace on Monday and accused sports officials of inefficiency, physical abuse and sexual harassment, reports Reuter.

Fifteen-year-old diver Catherine Chua told President Fidel Ramos in a meeting witnessed by reporters that a sports commissioner embraced and kissed her after offering her 50 dollars and Ginseng tea when she went to see him at his office.

The commissioner stopped his advances when another visitor arrived, Chua said.

Ramos advised her to file charges against the alleged offender, saying it is your right as a victim. It is really up to you.

He told the athletes he was forming a task force to investigate their complaints.

De Vega and the other protesters represented the country in last month's Southeast Asian Games, capturing 57 gold medals and finishing third behind Indonesia and Thailand.

De Vega won gold medals in the 100 and 200 metre sprints.

The athletes, in a letter to Ramos, also complained against alleged inefficiency of the Philippine Sports Commission, which supervises amateur sports, and its failure to provide them with the equipment they needed.

# Sampras ready to handle this

WIMBLEDON, England, July 5: Pete Sampras will feel more at ease at 21 with his role as Wimbledon champion than he did at barely 19 with the stardom thrust upon him as US Open winner, reports Reuter.

"This is something I'm definitely more prepared for than I was in 1990," he said of his 7-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 triumph over fellow-American Jim Courier on Sunday.

"In 1990 I was very new at being a top player in the world and I had a tough time with that at first."

"But I'm more prepared to handle this. The US Open happened so fast I never really had too much time to really think about what happened."

"Now being a top player a couple of years, I can appreciate what it takes to win a Grand Slam."

"In my mind this is the biggest one and now that I've done it, I feel as happy as I've ever felt."

He also felt satisfaction at completing a notable double so young.

"This I like the US masters in golf. Having this under my belt, and the US Open, there's not too many who have done it and I did it at a very young age."

Sampras felt his win validated the controversial world's

top ranking he snatched earlier this year from Courier, who has two Australian Open and two French Open titles to his credit.

"I've been number one or three months and I'm sure to be for at least another three months. He can't take this title away from me. I don't think there will be any more controversy," Courier added.

"Wimbledon's our number one tournament, he's ranked number one and he won it," he said.

Sampras thought his parents probably did not watch his victory on television at home because it makes them nervous.

"They probably weren't watching live. They probably went for a walk," he said, adding that he was just about to telephone them.

He said his return of serve won him this title but Courier felt it was the Sampras second serve that swung the match.

Sampras said he hit his returns better against Boris Becker in his straight-sets semifinal victory. "That was a big match for me, probably my

best grass-court victory ever. "It was the one shot that was going to win me this tournament. The return of serve — that's what past champions like Agassi, Becker, Edberg did real well and I had to do it real well for two weeks."

Courier's view was that "Pete served a lot bigger on his second serve and I wasn't able to handle it as well as he was able to handle my second serve."

Sampras said: "My game plan was to mix up my second serve and not give him much of a rhythm to hit it."

Sampras, whose boyhood hero was Rod Laver, won his first Wimbledon a year younger than the great Australian was when he won the first of his four titles.

But he can barely remember how he did it. "It's kind of a blur, it happened so quickly," Sampras said when asked how the last point felt.

"It's just something you have to go through. It all happened so fast — and the next thing you know you've won Wimbledon."



Belarusian Natalia Zvereva (L) and American Gigi Fernandez plans a strategy for the next point during their women's doubles final in the Wimbledon tennis championships on Sunday. Zvereva and Fernandez won the title beating Jana Novotna and Larissa Neiland.

# Tit for tat

BLACKPOOL, England, July 5: England's referees and linesmen are preparing to go on strike after rejecting a Premier League pay offer and being snubbed by the football league, reports AFP.

The association of Premier League and football league referees and linesmen want 400 pounds a match to referee Premier League games instead of 145 pounds, but have been offered about half of that.

The football league, meanwhile, have not even bothered to reply to the association's request for 200 pounds a game.

President Neil Midgley said: "The issue is not just about remuneration. It's about the status of match officials and the genuine desire of the association to achieve even higher refereeing standards."

"Although our members have clearly demonstrated their strength of feeling on this issue, I believe that they would much prefer to resolve matters through discussions."

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Make marginalia
- 4 Emulate Tom Glavine
- 9 Suitable
- 12 Rhoda's mom
- 13 Fred's familial partner
- 14 Witness
- 15 Adorned with gems
- 17 "Spring — Sprung"
- 18 Bambi's aunt
- 19 Shocked
- 21 Red Bordeaux wine
- 24 Squad
- 25 Actor Chaney
- 26 Early condensation
- 28 Moe's brother
- 31 Advantage
- 33 "Gun-smoke" medic
- 35 "Zip — Doo-Dah"
- 36 Catcalls?
- 38 Gaiena, for one

DOWN

- 40 Indivisible
- 43 Handy
- 45 Bill of fare listing
- 47 Rock fan's tube selection
- 48 Whom Uncle Sam wants
- 49 Zimbalist of "Remington Steele"
- 54 Music appreciation
- 55 As — (generally)
- 56 Lunch ending?
- 57 "— Na Na" 10 Pod
- 58 Electrician, denizens at times
- 11 Criterion
- 16 Ending for auction or mountain
- 1 Triangular sail
- 2 Pindaric piece
- 3 — Mahal
- 4 Sold temporarily
- 5 Thought
- 6 Aviv lead-in
- 7 Spike of a sort
- 8 Speaks noncommittally
- 9 Mortified by
- 10 Pod denizens
- 11 Criterion
- 16 Ending for auction or mountain
- 20 Joke reaction
- 21 Skelton's Mr. Kaddie-hopper
- 22 It's all in vein
- 23 Bitter bark
- 27 Court
- 29 Computer options list
- 30 Banana eater's garbage
- 32 Basin accessory
- 34 Ball up
- 37 Play-ground feature
- 39 Williams or Rolle
- 42 Lab-dish eponym
- 44 Zsa Zsa's sis
- 45 Peacock-tail designs
- 46 Ark-itect?
- 50 Where to find Ger.
- 51 Neighbor of S.Dak.
- 52 Chit
- 53 Last place

Solution time: 27 min.

CHI CALM CHAP  
OAR OLIO RENO  
WHO LOST ARTS  
LANDOFFTHEFREE  
ANT EAT  
GRAVY ERR FEW  
NAVY ASS GORE  
USE ENS PURGE  
AFT SOL  
LANDTHATILOVE  
OVID ERIS BID  
BONE MILE EIT  
OWED SLED YET

CRYPTOQUIP

N Q S E B T J U W W T W H  
J S R H R B V P J R T T X W J P B  
H U B S X W N Q J N A  
U R P E S N A W P P R N V  
Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE ESCALATOR REPAIR COMPANY I CALLED YESTERDAY IS ON THE UP AND UP.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals L

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.