

Lankans level the series

COLOMBO, Sept 4: Sri Lanka levelled the three match one-day series with an exciting 44-run win over South Africa in the third and final one-day international here today, reports AFP.

South Africa chasing a target of 199, crashed to 154 all out in the first ball of the 47th over in front of a massive crowd that had gathered for this second day-night clash at the Khetarama Stadium.

The South Africans, however, grabbed the spotlight in the

Jarvis terminated

LEEDS, England, Sept 4: England pace bowler Paul Jarvis was sacked by Yorkshire on Friday, less than four months after facing Australia, reports AFP.

The 28-year-old, who played in the one-day international, has been troubled by a leg strain recently and this was a major factor in Yorkshire's decision. Jarvis has been plagued by injuries during his 12 years with the county.

Opening batsman Ashley Metcalfe has also been released. The 29-year-old has failed to regain a regular place in the Yorkshire side since being dropped in May last year, when he was vice-captain, a position he has since lost.

dying stages when their last pair of Richard Snell and Fanie de Villiers produced 51 runs to delay the Sri Lankan victory. Snell was last man out for a brave 51. With this win Sri Lanka avenged their 124-run defeat at the hands of the tourists in the second one-day match on Thursday.

The first one-day game ended without a result due to rain.

The architects of the Sri Lankan win were vice-captain Aravinda de Silva who made an unbeaten 61 to help his side reach 198-9 in 50 overs. Then, seamer Champaka Ramanayake made a great come-back to the side with a one-day best of 4-17.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third and final one-day cricket international between Sri Lanka and South Africa today.

SRI LANKA:

Mahanama st Richardson 41

b Symcox

Hathurusinghe c Richardson

b Donald 2

Tillekeratne c Richardson

b McMillan 15

De Silva not out 61

Ranatunga c Donald b Snell 30

Jayasuriya b Donald 5

Wickremaratne st Richardson

b Symcox 1

Kalpage c and b Snell 9

Dassanayake run out 14

Wickremasinghe b De Villiers 0

Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-14) 20

Total: (for 9 wickets-50 overs) 198

Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-53; 3-73; 4-127; 5-136; 6-141; 7-156; 8-191; 9-198.

Did not bat: C Ramanayake

Bowling O M R W

Donald 10 0 35 2 (2w)

De Villiers 10 1 31 1

Snell 10 0 52 2

McMillan 10 0 41 1

Symcox 10 1 35 2

SOUTH AFRICA:

Hudson c Dassanayake

b Wickremasinghe 1

Wessels lbw Ramanayake 16

Cronje c Dassanayake

b Ramanayake 2

Cullinan b Ramanayake 3

Rhodes b Kalpage 27

McMillan c Mahanama

b Hathurusinghe 7

Richardson run out 5

Symcox c Kalpage

b Hathurusinghe 3

Snell c Kalpage b

Ramanayake 51

Donald b Kalpage 0

Villiers not out 12

Extras: (lb-3, nb-5, w-19) 27

Total: (all out, 46.1 overs) 154

Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-10; 3-18; 4-38; 5-56; 6-72; 7-77; 8-101; 9-103

Bowling: O M R W

Ramanayake 8.1 0 17 4

Wickremasinghe 6 2 24 1

Hathurusinghe 10 2 18 2

Ranatunga 6 0 24 0

Kalpage 10 0 36 2

Jayasuriya 6 0 32 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by 44 runs

Toss won by Sri Lanka

Umpires: KT Francis and P

Manuel.

Moin-ud-Dollah Cup opener washed out

The inaugural match of the Moin-ud-Dollah Gold Cup invitational cricket tournament was not held yesterday in the Indian city of Hyderabad due to rain, reports UNB.

The postponed match between the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven and the Hyderabad Eleven will now be played at Lalbadur Stadium on Monday (Sept 6).

The BCCB Eleven, placed in Group D, will play their second and last group match against the Chemples team on Wednesday (Sept 8).

MPC to be set up at Hotel Purbani

The Main Press Centre (MPC) of the 6th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games with adequate modern facilities will be set up at the Hotel Purbani annexe building at Diluksha C/A, reports UNB.

The SAF Games, to be participated by all the seven SAARC nations, will be held December 20-27 in Dhaka for the second time after the 2nd SAF Games in 1985.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting of the Games media committee with its chairman, Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary M Fajur Razzak, in the chair.

The meeting decided to provide six fax, three telex, four ISD telephones and 15 English typewriters as well as seating arrangements for nearly 200 local and foreign journalists at the MPC.

Television sets, national newspapers, magazines, Games bulletins and light refreshment facilities will also be available at the press centre.

Besides, three media sub-centres — one each at Mirpur indoor stadium complex, Dhanomdi gymnasium and Gulshan shooting range — will also be set up with fax and telephone facilities.

Four hot lines will link the Main Press Centre with the three sub-centres and the Dhaka Stadium, the venue for football and the opening and closing ceremonies.

The media committee will publish daily SAF Game bulletin during the Games.

Special bulletins will be published before the Games on October 15, November 1, November 15 and December 1.

Shuttle buses between the Main Press Centre and different venues will run regularly according to the Games schedule.

The media committee will arrange sight-seeing trip for the journalists at a convenient time during the Games.

Essex score sets record

LONDON, Sept 4: A record for the number of runs scored in a match in England was set at Hove on Friday as Essex beat Sussex by seven wickets after being set 411 to win, reports Reuters.

The four-day game produced 1,808 runs, beating the 1,723 amassed in the Test between England and Australia at Leeds in 1948.

The previous aggregate record for a County Championship match was 1,650 when Surrey played Lancashire at the Oval in 1990.

Seven players hit centuries in the Hove match.

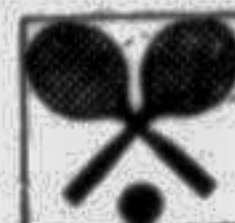
Essex clinched victory with eight overs remaining after John Stephenson and Nasser Hussain had put them firmly on course with a second-wicket partnership of 215 in 51 overs.

Hussain hit 16 fours in his 118 made off 138 balls while Stephenson struck a six and 13 fours in his 122 off 206 balls.

Captain Graham Gooch (74 not out) and Salim Malik (63 not out) then steered Essex home with an unbroken partnership of 143 in 22 overs.

Gooch cracked two sixes and seven fours in his 69-ball stay.

Becker sizzles, Wilander wobbles



NEW YORK, Sept 4: Boris Becker strode off the sizzling griddle of the US Open stadium court, looking no worse for the ordeal of playing in 108-degree (42 C) heat just 18 hours after his two-day first-round match, reports AP.

"You know," he said with just a hint of a smile, "I'm a strong son of a gun."

Strong, spry and surprisingly quick, Becker scorched Jakob Hlasek 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 in just 1 hour, 47 minutes and was thankful it didn't go any longer. "Straight sets — perfect," Becker said.

Gone was the angry Becker who stormed the court and screamed at the umpire in a five-setter that began Wednesday night, was suspended by rain to Thursday afternoon, was suspended again by rain and finished on Thursday night.

Becker, admittedly tired, came out tame this time, content to beat Hlasek from the baseline or at the net when the opportunities were there. Becker served just four aces, but he didn't need his big serve. All he had to do was rally a bit, then come in and put the ball away, which he did 45 of the 56 times he approached the net.

"I know Boris quite well," Hlasek said. "And it seems to me always when he is tired he plays better. Because he knows that he cannot play long points. He has to go for two, three quick shots. I think that is where he is the most dangerous."

To which Becker responded:

"Well, I also play pretty good when I am not that tired. No one was more tired than Mats Wilander, the 1988 champion, and Mikael Pernfors, a former two-time NCAA champion at Georgia. The two Swedes ended the day 10 hours later with a glorious 4-hour, 1-minute duel that concluded at 2.26 am — the latest singles match in Open history."

Wilander, who left the tour for a less hectic life, rode his wild-card bid into the third round with a 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 1-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-4 victory.

Long, brilliant rallies from the baseline, punctuated by occasional forays to the net by Wilander and perfect lobs by Pernfors, produced a match that kept a couple of thousand hardy fans cheering until the end.

Wilander is ranked No 558, Pernfors No 37, but no one could tell it by the gusty way they played.

Pernfors left skid marks on the court as he dove for a drop volley and shot back a winner crosscourt to start the fourth-set tiebreaker. As he lay on the court a few moments, Wilander just stared at him in disbelief.

But Wilander showed his own resolve and stamina, bouncing around while Pernfors massaged his cramping leg muscles, and pushed the match to a fifth set.

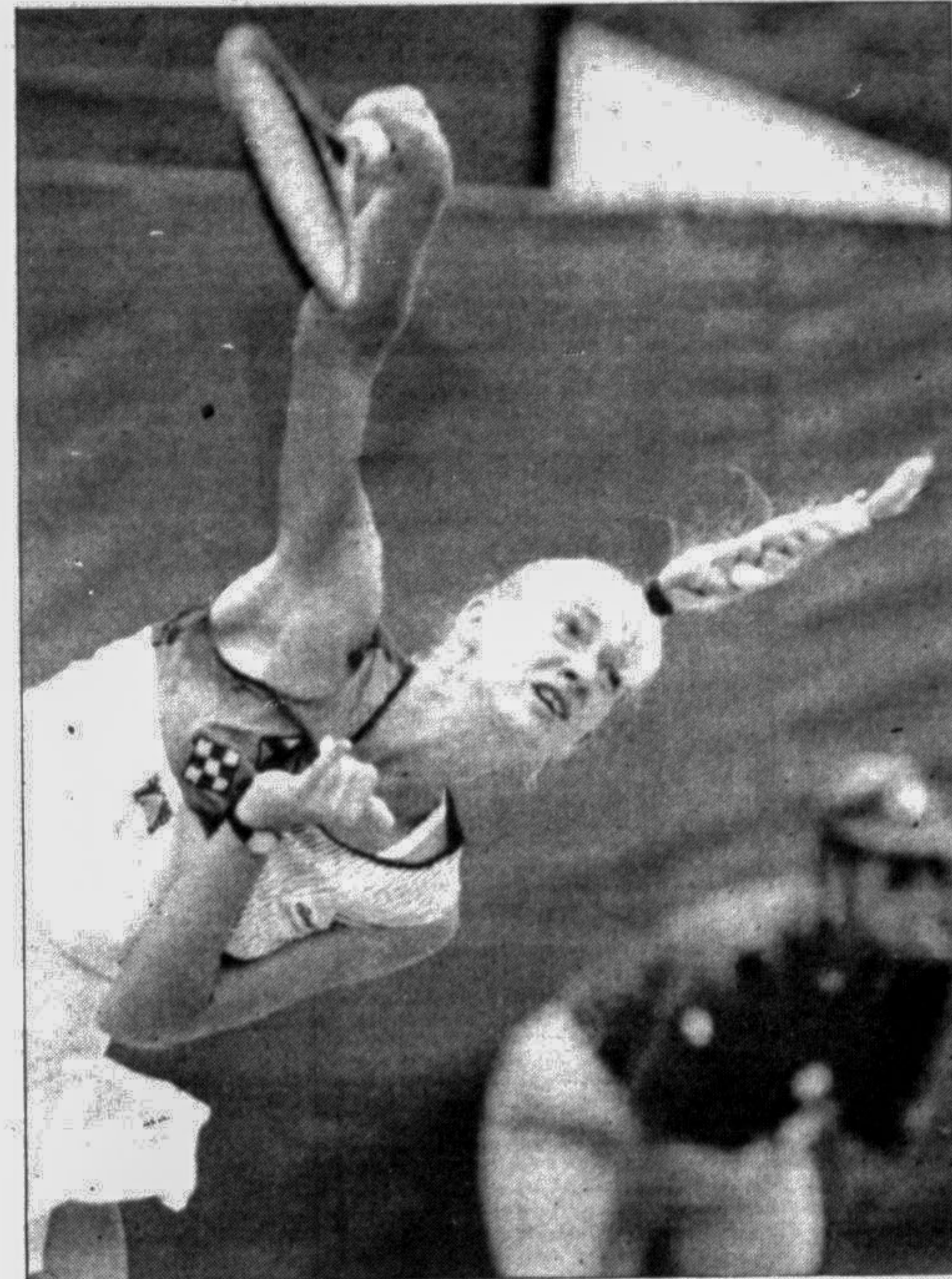
Pernfors ached throughout the final set and started taking the riskier shot to shorten the rallies. Wilander, steady as ever, refueled himself with bananas and fluids and never relented. He broke Pernfors at love to take a 4-2 lead that seemed to clinch the match. Yet Pernfors somehow found a way to break back to 4-3.

It was 2:13 by that point, and giddy fans started doing the wave round and round the stadium during the change over.

The match resumed on serve to 5-4, Wilander leading. Then on Pernfors serve, Wilander amazingly achieved match point at 30-40 by keeping alive a rally with a desperate scoop of a lob backwards from behind the baseline. Pernfors netted a ball a few shots later, and lost the match with a forehead long on the next point.

Exhausted, the compatriots and friends embraced as the crowd rose in a long ovation. Wilander beat Pernfors in straight sets in the third round en route to his Open title, and a repeat of such a feat would be truly incredible.

When Jim Courier speaks of survival games here, he doesn't



Mary Pierce of France is through with a serve against Brenda Shultz of the Netherlands on September 3 in one of the third round matches of the 1993 US Open tennis championship at Flushing Meadow, New York.

mean firing paint balls in forests. He's talking about the rumble of invisible jets in the haze, potholes on the practice courts, sweltering heat, fans gabbling during points and dangerous floaters pulling upsets.

He hates the tiny locker room and the crowded lounge, complains there's "really nowhere for us to hide." The whole place is "always kind of crazy," he says. "I just try to put the mute button on when I am on the court."

And that is how he is getting through the Open when all around him chaos reigns. Six seeded men dropped before the No 1 Courier reached the third round by beating Michael Joyce 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

Another seeded player vanished a little while later, No 11 Goran Ivanisevic falling to Carlos Costa 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-5). Never in US Open history have so many seeded men fallen in the first two rounds.

Ivanisevic led 5-0 in the third-set tiebreaker before Costa swept the next seven points. Costa reached match point on a spectacular diving backhand drop-volley and won on a forehand wide by Ivanisevic, who flung his racket in disgust from the baseline to

he net. "If I can't win, up 5-0 in a tie-break, I don't know what I can win anymore," Ivanisevic said. "I had six chances to come in and I didn't come in once. I just didn't do anything, even with those short, little balls."

Costa had beaten Ivanisevic on clay, Costa's preferred surface, but was surprised to beat him on the Open hard courts.

"I didn't expect to win," said the Spaniard, ranked 31st. "He gave me opportunities. I took them and I played very well."

No 8 Andrei Medvedev reached the third round, Friday night, beating Richey Reneberg 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, 6-3. The match was delayed twice in the fourth set, once by a bottle and other trash that blew onto the court from the catwalk overlooking the grandstand, and then by a brief, light shower.

"It was fine," Medvedev said of the garbage. "After my practice yesterday, I spent all day in Manhattan and it was just the same."

The women's No 1, Steffi Graf, had an easy time, getting a walkover into the fourth round when Judith Wiesner withdrew because of a sinus infection two minutes before

their match.

No 4 Conchita Martinez beat Nicole Pietrangola 6-3, 6-1 and No 8 Jana Novotna, who lost to Graf in the Wimbledon final, advanced 6-4, 6-3 against Laura Golarsa. Novotna next plays Kimiko Date, who upset No 9 Anke Huber 6-3, 6-2. Gabriela Sabatini, No 5, also moved into the fourth round by beating Ginger Helgeson 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

"I prefer to play," said Graf, who next meets No 13 Mary Pierce, a 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) winner over Brenda Schultz. "I practiced and was ready for my match. Even if the conditions are hot and humid today, still I would have wanted to play. It is a match less, and maybe it is better to have a match in between Wednesday and Sunday, but I just take it the way it is and accept it."

Courier does the same, taking the distractions and his opponents in stride.

"I am mentally in the groove," he said. "If I am mentally there, then the physical part seems to follow."

Courier could have less fun in the next round when he goes against MaliVai Washington, a 7-6, 6-3, 6-2 winner against Doug Flach.

Xiaoqing's first World Cup final



NEW DELHI, Sept 4: Lim Xiaoqing of Sweden stormed into her first World Cup women's singles final Saturday with an upset victory over fancied Ye Zhaoying of China here, reports AFP.

Xiaoqing, who migrated from China three years ago, played the match of her life to run over the world number two 11-2, 1-11, 11-6 in an absorbing semi-final at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here.

It was the migrant's second win in two days over a former team-mate. She had beaten Lu Yuhong in the final group match Friday to qualify for the semi-finals.

"I am happy because it was an important match for me," a delighted Xiaoqing said later. "It feels good to defeat a player of Zhaoying's class."

Xiaoqing's opponent in Sunday's final will be up against badminton queen Susi Susanti of Indonesia who swamped Thailand's Somharuth Jaroensiri 11-0, 11-9 in the other semi-final.

Susanti, the reigning world and Olympic champion has beaten Xiaoqing in all their five meetings so far, but her opponent is undaunted by the tough task ahead.

"If I play as well as I did today, anything can happen," she said. "Don't write me off yet."

The men's singles final will be an all-Indonesian affair between world Champion Joko Suprianto and number two and Olympic gold medalist Allan Budi Kusuma.

The 27-year-old Suprianto showed glimpses of the form that gave him the world title in Birmingham in June during an emphatic 15-9, 15-3 win over Malaysian star Rashid Sidek.

Kusuma rallied from 6-11 down in the first game to score a facile 15-11, 15-5 victory over team-mate Hermawan Susanto, the finalist in both the previous

Krishnan-Paes dispute resolved

NEW DELHI, Sept 4: Indian Davis Cup stars Ramesh Krishnan and Leander Paes and the All-India Tennis Association (AITA) have resolved a money dispute just three weeks ahead of their semi-final against Australia, reports AFP.

The AITA said Saturday that Krishnan and Paes would receive 66,500 dollars each, more than double what had been previously offered to the players.

The AITA upped the amount "after considering the demands made by the players, the prestige and honour of the country and the interest of the players," tennis association president R Khanna said.

Non playing captain Naresh Kumar had appealed for an early settlement to the dispute so that the team can get down to practice ahead of the September 24-26 tie in the Northern city of Chandigarh.

Krishnan and Paes, who led India to upsets of Switzerland and France, had demanded at least half of the money the AITA is to receive for India reaching the semi-finals.

World Cup and the Birmingham tournament.

Of the four singles semi-finals, the match between Xiaoqing and Zhaoying was the closest as the pendulum swung from one extreme to another.

Xiaoqing appeared to lose concentration in the second game after taking the first at 11-2, managing to score just two points against the stylish Chinese girl.

But Xiaoqing took hold of a 8-3 lead in the decider to pin Zhaoying against the wall and romp home a 11-6 victory.

In the men's doubles, world champions Rexy Mianaky and Ricky Subagja of Indonesia defeated holders Cheah Soon Kit and Soo Beng Kiang of Malaysia in straight games 15-9, 15-11.

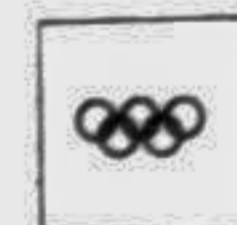
Their opponents in the final will be the winner of the second semi-final between Gunnar Jonsson and Peter Axelsson of Sweden and China's world number two pair of Chen Hongyong and Chen Kang to be played late Saturday.

The mixed doubles final will be contested by the Indonesian pair of Ariono Miranet and Eliza (eds: one name only) and Axelsson and Gillian Gowers of England.

The Indonesians were given a tough fight by the Swedish pair of Jonsson and Maria Bengtsson before emerging victorious in three games 17-14, 7-15, 15-9.

Axelsson and Gowers had an easier time against England's Nick Ponting and Gilliane Lark, winning 15-12, 15-11 in under 40 minutes.

China comes up with one more



BEIJING, Sept 4: With an eye on boosting Beijing's bid for the 2000 Olympics, China on Saturday kicked off its Seventh National Games with an opening ceremony extravaganza designed to impress visiting Olympic officials, reports AP.

The 12-day sporting event is scheduled to end just one week before the International Olympic Committee meets in Monte Carlo to choose a site for the 2000 Games.

Sydney, Australia, is widely viewed as the leader of the five candidate cities. The Beijing bid is also considered strong, but is being opposed by Western critics of China's human rights policies.

The other cities bidding for the 2000 games are Manchester, Britain; Istanbul, Turkey; and Berlin.

China's communist leadership believes staging the Olympic Games will bolster its prestige and will be an affirmation that the nation has arrived in the modern world.

All of China's top leaders, including President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng, attended the opening ceremony at the 70,000-seat Beijing Workers Stadium. Invited guests included 11 IOC members, Prince

Nordom Sihanouk of Cambodia and Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, the highest-ranking Vatican official to visit communist China.

They saw an elaborate ceremony involving thousands, including flag-bearers, dancers in native costume and the nation's best athletes, who paraded into the stadium according to province a la the march of nations that begins each Olympics.

"If the (national) Games are a success, they will testify to Beijing's capabilities to undertake the Olympics in seven years time," the official China Daily said in a commentary Saturday.

Chinese Olympic officials say Beijing's hosting of the 1990

Dalai Lama opposes Beijing bid

BONN, Sept 4: The Dalai Lama has spoken out against China's bid for the 2000 Olympics because of the regime's human rights violations, reports AFP.

In Monday's issue of the German weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* the spiritual head of the Tibetan Buddhists said:

"The international community must give a sign and encourage those in China who are risking their life for democracy and freedom."

The religious leader did not accept the argument a Chinese Olympics might bring about a more liberal political climate.

"If the world now promises the games to China," he added, "it will show it is indifferent to the regime which rules there."

The International Olympic Committee decides the hosts on September 23 in Monaco and the race is between Beijing, Berlin, Sydney, Istanbul, and Manchester. Brasilia pulled out of the race on August 12, and will make a bid for the 2004 Games.

Asian Games and Shanghai's holding of the inaugural east Asian Games this May prove the country is ready for the Olympics.

The 200-member Chinese delegation going to Monte Carlo to lobby IOC members before the Sept. 23 vote will be eager to point to a smooth running of the national games as further proof Beijing can handle the 2000 Olympics.

Chinese officials also hope that some of the more than 4,200 athletes in Beijing will be able to break Asian or world records, underlining the nation's rapid rise as a sports power.

In the run-up to the national games, Beijing has sought to beautify its drab appearance by lining streets with colourful banners and displays of potted plants and flowers.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain is getting introduced with the participants of the first Litmond badminton tournament at the National Women's Complex yesterday. The three-day meet for women shuttlers was inaugurated yesterday. The 32-player meet shoots off today from 10 am.

Going gets tough for Gaby



NEW YORK, Sept 4: This one was not easy for Gabriela Sabatini, and American teenager Lindsay Davenport, her next opponent at the US Open, promises the next one won't be, either, reports AP.