

Satellite tennis from November

The Gold Leaf Thailand-Bangladesh satellite tennis circuit masters' leg will be held in Dhaka in the fourth week of November, reports BSS.

The third-leg of the circuit will be held at Rajshahi in the third week while the first and second legs will take place in Thailand.

Bangladesh along with Pakistan organised the satellite circuit in 1991 and 1992. As Pakistan will organise a complete circuit this year, the International Tennis Federation allocated Bangladesh's proposed circuit with Thailand for the year 1993.

Bangladesh tennis federation, in its executive committee meeting Saturday with federation president and Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan in the chair, has taken some steps for the smooth holding of the circuit in Dhaka and Rajshahi.

Besides, five standing committees have been formed to run the federation activities properly and smoothly.

The officials heading the committees are: Fazlur Rahman Chowdhury, convener, Development, Promotion and Coaching Committee; Atiqur Rahman, convener, Maintenance Committee; Prof Rashiduddin Ahmed, convener, Selection Committee; M Mosharraf Khan, convener, Finance Committee and M Akmal Hossain, convener, Security and Discipline Committee.

The convener of the tournament committee will be announced later.

Schools kabaddi from Sept 17

The metropolis kabaddi league, organised by the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation, will begin from September 17 at the kabaddi court of the Outer Stadium, reports UNB.

The league, earlier scheduled for a September 10, start will begin a week late due to unavoidable circumstances, a federation press release said yesterday.

On the opening day, Mirpur Jubo Sangha will take on Anirban Sangskritik Sangha of Patiala at 4:00 pm while BRA Recreation Club will face Manda Sangsad at 5:00 pm.

Sixteen teams, divided in four groups, will contest in the round-robin league basis matches.

The teams are: Mirpur Jubo Sangha, BRA Recreation Club, Anirban Sangskritik Sangsad, Manda Sangsad, Sonali Bank Club, Anirban Sangsad, Jagannath Sangsad, Surja Kamal Club, Juraini Samiti Club, Maniknagar Unnayan Samiti, Bangladesh Boys' Club, Sriji Samad, Azad SC, Dilkusha SC, Bangladesh Bank Club and Faruq Smriti Sangsad.

Participating teams are requested to complete their registration by September 10.

An affirmative denial

SYDNEY, Sept 5: A senior Olympic official said on Sunday Sydney had everything going for it to stage the 2000 Games but denied a report he had told Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating the city was the frontrunner, reports Reuter.

"I did not say you were going to win. I said you had everything for winning," Mario Vazquez Rana, president of the Association of National Olympic Committees, told a news conference.

"I told (Keating) you have a lot of things that will help you win, but the other cities also have things that will help them win."

"Under the banner headline 'It's ours,' Sydney's Sun-Herald newspaper said Rana has told Keating at a meeting on Friday that Sydney was now the frontrunner, reports Reuter.

Rana had personally switched his support to Sydney from Beijing, said the report.

Besides Sydney and Beijing, Manchester, Berlin and Istanbul are also vying for the Games.

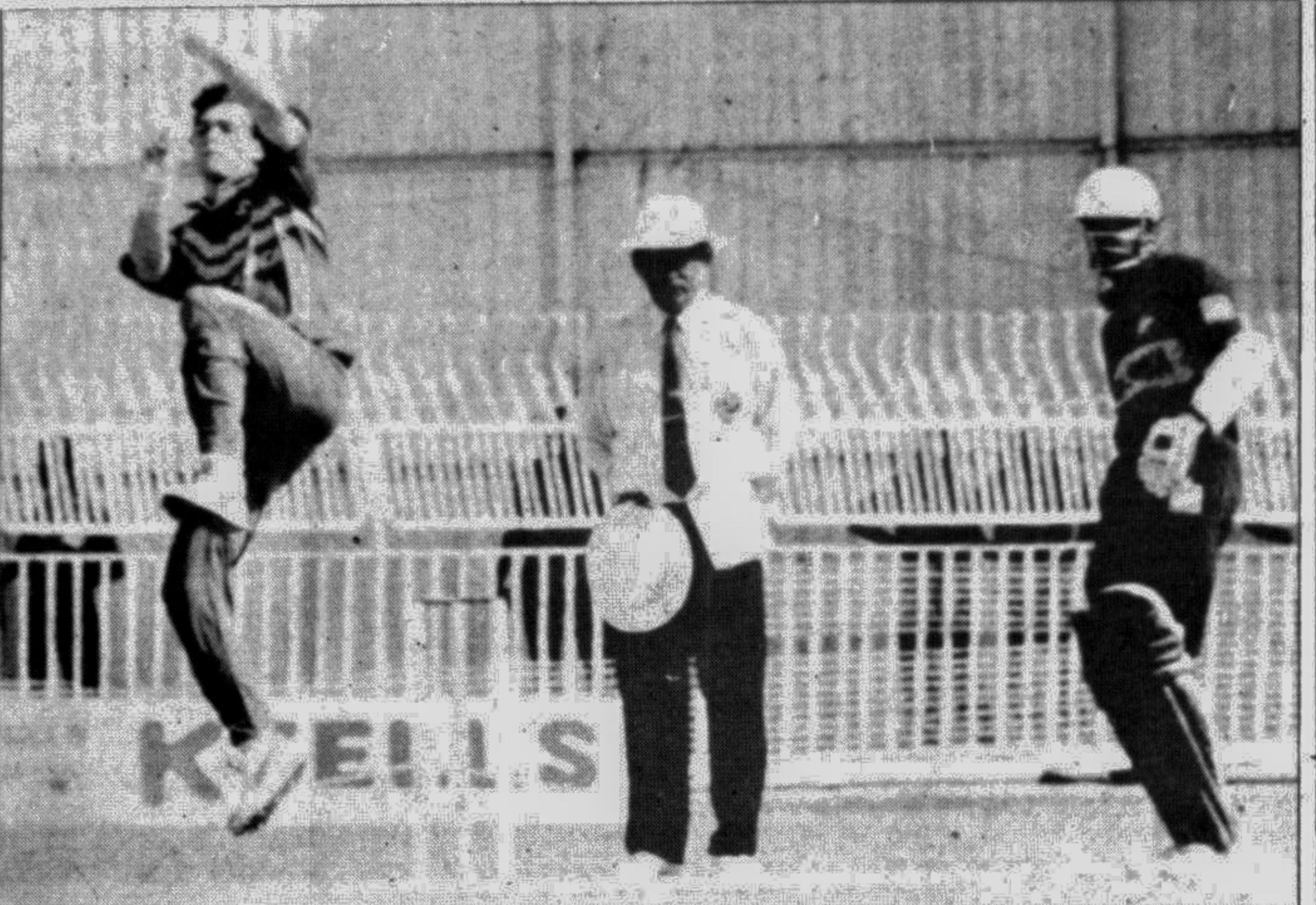
The International Olympic Committee (IOC) meets in Monaco on September 23 to decide on the venue.

The Sun-Herald said Sydney bid officials were confident of 25 to 30 primary votes from the 191 IOC members — enough to ensure victory. Rod McGeough, chief executive of the Sydney bid committee, said the report did not reflect the committee's view.

"We regard it as an extremely hard race, we are not confident, we are very concerned that we get there on behalf of all the people in Australia," he said.

Rana, who is also Mexico's IOC member, would not be drawn on whether human rights issues would affect the Beijing bid nor whether he had any concerns about Australia's treatment of aborigines.

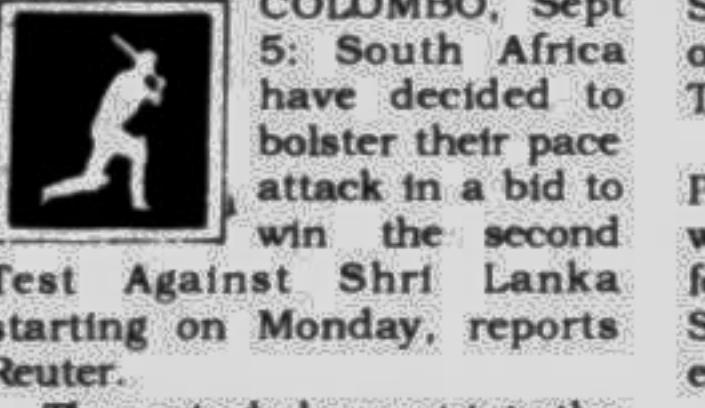
"There is no single country that respects human rights 100 percent and I think that the human rights issue can damage any of the cities," he said.



ON THE GO: Richard Snell, the cute South African fast medium bowler takes the final leap before letting go a delivery in the third and final day-night one-day international between South Africa and Sri Lanka in Colombo on September 4. Roshan Mahanama, the Sri Lankan opening batsman is watching from the non-striker's end.

— AFP photo

SA trace back to tradition



COLOMBO, Sept 5: South Africa have decided to bolster their pace attack in a bid to win the second Test against Sri Lanka starting on Monday, reports Reuter.

Springbok coach Mike Procter said the touring team were contemplating playing a fourth pace bowler in Richard Snell or Fannie de Villiers at the expense of a batsman.

Snell is expected to be the first choice because he is useful with the bat as well.

Jimmy Cook will probably be the batsman to be left out.

Off-spinner Pat Symcox, who has proved his value as an all-rounder, will be the only spinner in the side.

Shri Lanka are sticking to their original plan of playing three spinners but the combination has been changed.

Piyal Wijetunge and Jayanada Warnaveera have been dropped and Asanka Gurusingha is out because of a groin injury.

Left-arm spinner Sanath

Jayasuriya has been brought in to join Ruwan Kalpage and Muthiah Muralidharan.

Champaka Ramanayake and Pramodya Wickremasinghe will provide the pace.

TEAMS

SHRI LANKA: Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Roshan Mahanama, Chandika Hathurusinghe, Hashan Tillakaratne, Aravinda de Silva, Sanath Jayasuriya, Pubudu Dassanayake, Ruwan Kalpage, Pramodya Wickremasinghe, Muthiah Muralidharan, Champaka Ramanayake, Kumara Dharmasena, Upul Chandana.

SOUTH AFRICA: Kepler Wessels (captain), Andrew Hudson, Hansie Cronje, Darryl Cullinan, Jimmy Cook, Jonty Rhodes, David Richardson, Brian McMillan, Pat Symcox, Allan Donald, Brett Schultz, Richard Snell, Fannie de Villiers.

Litmond badminton on

Thirteen singles and three doubles matches were decided on the opening day of the Litmond women's badminton tournament yesterday at the Dhamondi Women's Sports Complex, reports UNB.

In the women's singles, Marium (Vikarunnessa Noon School) beat Tahira (Dhaka) 11-3, 11-1; Rupa (Dhaka) defeated Sabera (Vikarunnessa), by 11-5, 11-3; Kiti (Dhamondi) overcame Shahinroo (Barisal Div) by 11-10, 10-12, 11-7; Ruma (BKSP) beat Aklima (Barisal Div) by 5-11, 11-5, 11-7; Mohsina (Dhaka) outplayed Noor (Rajshahi Div) by 11-3, 11-1; Noor-e-Nargis (North Jatrabari) defeated Mukta (Dhaka) 11-6, 11-3; Naznin (Dhaka) beat Kamruzzahar (Vikarunnessa Noon School) by 11-1, 11-3; Zinat (Rajshahi University) beat Noor-e-Nargis (North Jatrabari) by 12-10, 11-2; and Lipi (Dhaka) beat Shraboni (Madaripur) 11-0, 11-1.

Kehoksha (Chittagong) got walk-over against Sabha Parveen (Vikarunnessa Noon School), Dara Kesa (Chittagong) got walk-over against Shahana (Pirer Bagh) and Sabina (Dhaka) got walk-over against Mobina in the other women's single engagements.

In women's doubles, Nurin and Ruma (BKSP) beat Shahinur and Aklima (Barisal Div) 15-3, 15-2; Sabina and Dil Afroz (Dhaka) defeated Tamara and Marium (Vikarunnessa Noon School) 13-9, 15-8, while Liza and Lipi (Dhaka) defeated Kiti and Shraboni 15-5, 15-0.

Speight provided the spark that set the Sussex innings alight, driving freely and fiercely as he sped to his half century in 50 deliveries with eight fours and a six.

Smith put on 103 for the second wicket in 17 overs with Speight, and added 119 in 16 overs with Lenham, who completed his half century from 42 overs.

Warwickshire, needing a record total to win a final of 322, faced the last over from West Indian fast bowler Franklin Stephenson wanting 15 more in gloomy light.

The resourceful Reeve plundered 13 from the first five deliveries, including two fours.

In an astonishing finish, Roger Twose drove the winning runs from the last ball to secure a magnificent victory at 322-5, ousting the 321-6 of Sussex.

Man-of-the-match Asif's century — he reached three figures from 103 balls — ultimately overshadowed an outstanding 124 from Sussex opener David Smith, who figured in a blazing batting display with Martin Speight (50) and Neil Lenham (58).

It was the second day in succession Sussex had been on the wrong end of cricketing record books.

On Friday they lost to Essex in a County Championship match which yielded a record 1,808 runs.

Saturday's match produced the highest aggregate of runs for a final in the 31-year history of the competition.

The winning runs from Twose came from the only delivery he faced at the end of a most remarkable day's cricket.

A single would have done on the basis of losing fewer wickets but Warwickshire did it in style.

Sussex, whose total beat the previous highest for the competition's final of 317 by Yorkshire against Surrey in 1965, revelled in ideal batting conditions.

With their South African fast bowler Allan Donald on his country's tour of Sri Lanka, Warwickshire's attack lacked their cutting edge and were rarely able to contain the rampant Sussex batsmen.

Only Neil Smith's off-spin commanded any measures of respect. Smith bowled his quota of 12 overs at a cost of 37 runs and took the wicket of Sussex captain Alan Wells for 33.

Warwickshire made a decep-

Pakistan's Rana Mujahid Ali (L) tries to caress the ball past a watchful Klaus Michler of Germany during the Pakistan-Germany encounter in the Four Nations hockey meet in Hamburg, Germany on September 4.

— AFP photo

'Love birds' relive sensation



NEW DELHI, Sept 5: Indonesian love birds Allan Budhi Kusuma and Susanti relived last year's Olympic glory by winning both the World Cup singles titles here Sunday, reports AFP.

The pair, who won individual gold medals in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics few months after being engaged, won their final matches in contrasting styles at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here.

The 27-year-old Kusuma, ranked number two in the world, wasted four match points before ousting top seeded teammate Joko Suprianto 15-8, 17-16 in a hard-fought men's singles final lasting an hour and nine minutes.

Susanti, 22, the reigning queen of women's badminton, showed her class by outwitting Swedish import Lim Xiaqiang 11-7, 11-5 to regain the women's title she last won in 1989.

The duo completed a successful campaign for Indonesia which saw the badminton superpower grab three of the five titles in the 180,000-dollar invitation tournament.

Indonesia's world champion pair of Rexy Matinay and Ricky Subagja took the men's doubles

title by defeating second seeded Chen Kang and Chen Hongyong of China 15-9, 12-15, 15-9.

Indonesia's hopes of a fourth title went away as Aryono Miranat and Eliza lost the mixed doubles final to Peter Axelson of Sweden and Gillian Gower of England.

The Indonesians do not figure in the women's doubles final to be played later today.

Sunday's twin success was the fourth time Kusuma and Susanti have won singles titles together. Besides the Olympics, they also swept the 1991 Thailand Open and the 1992 German Open.

Kusuma, who had a 1-1 record against Suprianto going into this match, called it "his greatest win" after picking off the winner's purse of 10,400 dollars.

"I must concede the pressure was on Joko Suprianto since he was the world champion, but I attacked from the start to snatch the initiative," he said. "The game plan worked well."

An uncharacteristic serve into the net by Suprianto when he was a point away from taking the second game gave Kusuma the chance to fight back and take the title.

Kusuma said he was "nervous" when he wasted four match points but the prospect

of playing third game did not worry him. "I was not tired and was mentally prepared to go into the decider," he said.

"The heat did not bother me much today."

In the women's singles final, Xiaqiang's dream of winning her first World Cup final evaporated after Susanti took the first game 11-7 in just 15 minutes and led 8-3 in the second.

Xiaqiang took the next two points, but admitted later that she was "too tired" to make a match of it.

"I have been playing singles and doubles matches continuously over the last four days which took its toll," said Xiaqiang, who migrated from China two years ago.

"I gave it my best but obviously it was not enough to bother a great player like Susanti."

Susanti, who took the Sweden

on guided tour of the court with her deaf placards, said she felt comfortable right through the match.

"My game improved as the tournament progressed and this was easily one of my better matches," said Susanti, who picked up 8,000 dollars for her efforts. Xiaqiang received 5,000 dollars.

lems," he said.

"I have a problem to hit my forehand and he was a problem to make a living. It is different problems completely. Just to talk to those people, it is a different experience. It is great."

Medvedev next meets Germany's Karsten Braasch, with a possible quarter-finals date with top-seeded world number one Jim Courier ahead. Neither this nor the horror stories about New York violence face the Ukrainian.

"It is fun. It is fun. Seriously. Since you don't get shot, it is loads of fun," he said with the timing of a stand-up comedian. "Nobody asks for your wallet or your watch, it is really funny, but it is exciting to me."

"Because we are tennis players we don't see much of the real life. We are always playing in country club, good hotels and nice food and many people think that we are the different world. But we are the same people, like you, we have two legs, one body and a head, two hands."

Medvedev hopes his Open run will carry him through another week in the city.

"Seeing the different life, seeing the life outside the tennis is a completely different experience and you know being inside of it, even for two weeks, it is great."

"I don't want to live in Manhattan so far but being there for a little while, it is great."

Medvedev's brave new world



NEW YORK, Sept 5: The bad seeds of the US Open have left gaping holes into the men's draw, but the world number one at lively post-match banter, Andrei Medvedev, is thankfully still alive, reports Reuter.

The trash is flying around, the people make some noise. It is incredible," Medvedev said for starters after his second-round victory over American Richy Reneberg. "I realize that just two weeks a year you can spend in Manhattan because it is so crazy."

Two-time defender Stefan Edberg, former Wimbledon champions Andre Agassi and Michael Stich and a quartet of other seeds have been drummed out early at the National Tennis Center, casting a pall over the proceedings.

Saving the show has been the talented Medvedev, a just-turned 19-year-old from Kiev, who is making his debut upon the New York stage.

Medvedev's running commentary on his impressions of life in New York city and at the concrete jungle of the National Tennis Center have provided some of the best entertainment at this year's Open.

"This is like a completely different lifestyle," Medvedev observed on Friday night about the Big Apple. "The people are just crazy. It is nice. They are crazy. They are nice."

"It is funny, you find out there is life going on. Other people have their own problems.

"Seriously, you go in the street, they walk so fast, you

can't explain it. It is so nice."