

PILCOM announces fixture



KARACHI, June 16: Pakistan announced the itinerary for the 1996 cricket World Cup, allocating seven venues for 16 matches they will host including the final of the 12-nation tournament, reports AFP.

The World Cup, being jointly hosted by Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan, is scheduled to start on February 14, 1996 with England facing New Zealand in the Indian city of Ahmadabad.

Arif Abbasi, chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) here said 16 matches would be played at seven selected venues in Pakistan while the final has already been allotted to Lahore.

India will host 17 matches including the two semifinals while four matches are scheduled in Sri Lanka, three in the capital Colombo and one in Kandy, he said.

In Pakistan, four matches will be played at Lahore while Karachi, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi will have three matches each. Two matches will be played at Peshawar and one at Gujranwala. Sheikhupura has been made an optional venue, he said.

For the first time the Pakistan-India-Sri Lanka World Cup Committee (PILCOM) has allocated the rain days in the itinerary. "In all future World Cup tournaments the host countries will make arrangements to continue this practice," Abbasi told reporters.

During the previous World Cup in 1992, the semifinal between England and South Africa created controversy when England won the rain-hit match. Pakistan defeated England to become the world champions.

This maiden arrangement of having reserve days for inclement weather has been

made "in an effort not to disrupt the matches," Abbasi said.

A total of 12 teams will participate in the World Cup in which the fixture of quarter-finals has also been introduced for the first time, he added.

India and Sri Lanka have already announced their venues for World Cup

WC COMPLETE ITINERARY

Following is the complete itinerary of the cricket World Cup matches to be played in Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.

Matches to be played in India:

England vs New Zealand February 14 (Ahmadabad)
West Indies vs Zimbabwe February 16 (Hyderabad)
Holland vs New Zealand February 17 (Baroda/Rajkot)
India vs Kenya February 18 (Cuttack)
India vs West Indies February 21 (Gwalior)
Australia vs Kenya February 23 (Visakhapatnam)
Kenya vs Zimbabwe February 25 (Patna)
Australia vs India February 27 (Bombay)
Kenya vs West Indies February 29 (Pune)
Australia vs Zimbabwe March 01 (Nagpur)
India vs Sri Lanka March 02 (New Delhi)
Australia vs West Indies March 04 (Kanpur)
India vs Zimbabwe March 06 (Kanpur)
Second quarterfinal March 09 (Bangalore)
Fourth quarterfinal March 11 (Madras)
First semifinal March 13 (Calcutta)
Second semifinal March 14 (Mohali).

Matches to be played in Pakistan:

South Africa vs United Arab Emirates February 15 (Rawalpindi)
England vs United Arab Emirates February 18 (Peshawar)
New Zealand vs South Africa February 20 (Faisalabad)
England vs Holland February 22 (Peshawar)
Pakistan vs New Zealand February 24 (Lahore)
England vs South Africa February 25 (Rawalpindi)
Pakistan vs Holland February 25 (Lahore)
New Zealand vs United Arab Emirates February 27 (Faisalabad/Sheikhupura)
Pakistan vs South Africa February 29 (Karachi)
Holland vs United Arab Emirates March 01 (Lahore)
Pakistan vs England March 03 (Karachi)
Holland vs South Africa March 05 (Rawalpindi)
Pakistan vs United Arab Emirates March 06 (Gujranwala)
First quarterfinal March 09 (Faisalabad)
Third quarterfinal March 11 (Karachi)
Final at Lahore on March 17

Matches to be played in Sri Lanka:

Sri Lanka vs Australia February 17 (Colombo)
Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe February 21 (Kandy)
Sri Lanka vs West Indies February 25 (Colombo)
Sri Lanka vs Kenya March 06 (Colombo).

matches.

The first match in Pakistan will be played on February 15 between South Africa and United Arab Emirates (UAE), one of the three qualifiers along with Kenya and Holland.

Pakistan are to play their opening match against New Zealand on February 24 at Lahore.



Fireworks light up the sky above the Salt Lake City's county building as a "beacon to Budapest" on Thursday prior to the International Olympic Committee's decision as to who will host 2002 Winter Games. — AFP/UNB photo

It's party time in Salt Lake City

SALT LAKE CITY, June 16: Salt Lakers are already partying in the expectation that Salt Lake will win its bid for the 2002 Winter Games on Friday. But that doesn't mean everyone is sold on the Olympics idea, reports AP.

"It think it would be great ... if we weren't burdened by taxes to pay for it," said Jeanine Perry, a Job Service employee who took her break Thursday on the plaza of the City-County Building, where "The Party of the century" is under way.

Perry and a half-dozen other Utahns said they love the idea of Salt Lake landing in the international spotlight, and they'd like the fun of the

Games.

But they're skeptical of political and bid leaders' promises that public money won't be needed, and they doubt they'll be able to afford tickets to the Games.

"I have mixed feelings," said Dale Clay. "I think it's going to cost us a beak of a lot. But it would mean some recognition for Salt Lake. We're always left out."

Ambivalent as they are, many Utahns joined the party.

The festivities began Thursday and were building toward Friday's announcement by the International Olympic Committee meeting in Budapest, Hungary. In its fifth bid for the Winter Olympics, Salt Lake is matched against Quebec, Siou, Switzerland, and Osterund, Sweden.

Three IOC members believed to be supportive of Salt Lake City's bid Games will not be voting.

Slobodan Filipovic died at home Wednesday night while Jose D Vallarino Veracierto of Uruguay and Prince Faisal Fahd Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia were excused.

Some 50,000 people are expected to crowd into the city-county plaza for the announcement, just after the Mormon Tabernacle Choir leaves the stage and skydivers decked in Olympic ring colours land on State Street.

The IOC announcement will be broadcast live on a big screen from Budapest.

But if Salt Lake strikes out for a fifth time since 1966, those who came to celebrate will quickly gather up their toys and go home.

"It'll be silence and devastation," party spokeswoman Alison Barnett said. "If we don't get the bid, the party's over at noon. No one will feel like celebrating."

McNeil eyes Wimbledon again

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 16: American Lori McNeil, who sent Steffi Graf crashing out of Wimbledon last year, insisted on Thursday: "I genuinely felt I can win the title now."

The 31-year-old from Texas, who went on to lose a tight semifinal to champion Conchita Martinez in the semifinal at Wimbledon, is ranked only 19th in the world and is unlikely to even be seeded at the all-England club championships later this month, reports AFP.

But after last year's feat of becoming the first player for 32 years to knock out a reigning Wimbledon champion in the first round, she believes firmly in her chances of another surprise success.

McNeil moved closer to completing hatrick of titles at the women's classic tournament here by moving into the quarterfinals on Thursday with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Australian Kristin Godridge.

Wimbledon live on Star TV



Star TV brings live and delayed coverage from the grass courts of Wimbledon on Prime Sports. Star TV's 24-hours sports channel, Prime Sports, recently signed a three year contract with the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club enabling live broadcast of this historical and most traditional of all Grand Slam events through 1997, says a press release.

Prime Sports' commentary team will bring tennis fans all the inside angles from Wimbledon throughout the two week event. In the booth, Brian Langley and Vijay Amritraj will join Americans Andrea Jaeger and Barry Thompson to present the English language coverage.

Prime Sports will broadcast over 180 hours of Wimbledon 1995 beginning on 26 June. Live coverage of Day One begins Monday, 26 June 1995 at 7:00 pm extending through to the men's finals (delayed) on 10 July at 10:00 pm and 9 July at 10 pm.

Former champion and new world number one, Andre Agassi, and Asia's hero, Michael Chang will be going all out to prevent reigning

champion, Pete Sampras, from winning his third consecutive Wimbledon title. The ladies championships will be just as competitive with last year's champion, Conchita Martinez trying to hold off the powerful Sanchez-Vicario, Graf and Pierce.

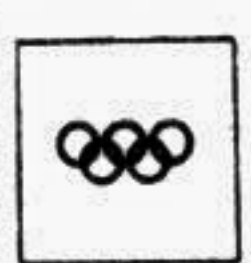
Grand Slam tennis action

on Prime Sports continues throughout the summer with live coverage of the US Open from New York starting 28 August to 10 September. Later this year, Prime Sports will feature more live international tennis with the Beijing Open from 16 to 23 October.

BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Date	BST	Round	Coverage
June 26	7:00 pm	1st Round	Live
June 27	10:00 pm	1st Round	Repeat
June 27	7:00 pm	1st Round	Live
June 28	10:00 pm	1st Round	Repeat
June 28	7:00 pm	2nd Round	Live
June 29	10:00 pm	2nd Round	Repeat
June 29	7:00 pm	2nd Round	Live
June 30	10:00 pm	2nd Round	Repeat
June 30	7:00 pm	3rd Round	Live
July 1	10:00 pm	3rd Round	Repeat
July 1	5:00 pm	3rd Round & Round of 16	Live
July 2	10:00 pm	3rd Round & Round of 16	Repeat
July 3	6:00 pm	Round of 16	Live
July 4	10:00 pm	Round of 16	Repeat
July 4	7:00 pm	Ladies Quarter-Finals	Live
July 5	10:00 pm	Ladies Quarter-Finals	Repeat
July 5	6:00 pm	Men's Quarter-Finals	Live
July 6	10:00 pm	Men's Quarter-Finals	Repeat
July 7	10:00 pm	Ladies & Men's Semi-Finals	Delayed
July 7	10:00 pm	Ladies & Men's Semi-Finals	Repeat
July 8	10:00 am	Men's Semi-Finals	Delayed
July 8	10:00 pm	Men's Semi-Finals	Repeat
July 9	10:00 am	Ladies Finals	Delayed
July 9	10:00 pm	Ladies Finals	Repeat
July 10	10:00 am	Men's Finals	Delayed
July 10	10:00 pm	Men's Finals	Repeat

Bitter blow for Samaranch



BUDAPEST, June 16: International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio

Samaranch suffered a crushing personal defeat on Thursday when opponents in the IOC blocked a rule change that would have allowed him another term in power, reports Reuters.

IOC members meeting in Budapest to choose the hosts of the 2002 Winter Olympics, were asked whether they should amend the organisation's age limit of 75.

Samaranch, who turns 75 in July and will have to retire at the end of his current term in 1997, needed the limit changed to enable him to carry on until the 2000 Sydney Games.

In a preliminary ballot, members voted 62-27 in favour of changing the age limit.

Presented with three options for change, including one that would have exempted Samaranch personally,

ally, they voted by simple majority to scrap the age limit altogether.

But in a final ballot the proposal failed by two votes to win the two-thirds majority needed to amend the Olympic charter.

It was the first time that Samaranch, who became IOC president in 1980 and has overseen a transformation in its fortunes, has had his authority seriously challenged.

Samaranch's rivals within the organisation, including Canadian IOC member Dick Pound, appeared delighted by the decision.

"I'm satisfied. It was a wonderful afternoon of democracy in action," said Pound, who has been tipped as a possible successor to the Spaniard and who campaigned for the retirement age to be kept.

"It's not a victory for me, it's not a defeat for Samaranch — he's a very good president ... but rules of age limits are designed by organisations to protect themselves."

Samaranch's supporters immediately pointed out that the issue was not yet dead. It could come up at the next full IOC session before next year's Summer Games in Atlanta.

"The first vote showed how much we support the president," said Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Japan's World Cup Bidding Committee declined to comment on the proposal to bring the Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea, forward to 2001.

And Sheikh Ahmad dismissed claims the Koreans had already sewn up the Asian votes.

But if Salt Lake strikes out for a fifth time since 1966, those who came to celebrate will quickly gather up their toys and go home.

"It'll be silence and devastation," party spokeswoman Alison Barnett said. "If we don't get the bid, the party's over at noon. No one will feel like celebrating."

But after last year's feat of becoming the first player for 32 years to knock out a reigning Wimbledon champion in the first round, she believes firmly in her chances of another surprise success.

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eration and a close Samaranch ally.

Because IOC members first decided that a change was necessary, the IOC's 11-member executive board will have to think up new proposals — even though the three obvious options were exhausted on Thursday.

"I don't know of any other solution. It will have to be thought out very carefully," IOC director-general Francois Carrard told a news conference.

"It was a defeat for the procedure not for the president," said German IOC member Thomas Bach. "It was not well prepared and it was too complicated."

A dwindling number of IOC members are exempt from the age limit because they were elected before its introduction some 30 years ago.

Ironically, Samaranch was the first IOC member elected after the rule change.

The age limit was raised from 72 to 75 in 1985.

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Flott's double distinction



LONDON, June 16: Essex pace-man Mark Flott grabbed a hat-trick in the season's best haul of nine for 19 that sent county championship leaders Northamptonshire crashing to 46 all out at Luton on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Flott dismissed Jeremy Snape, Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble and Neil Malender with successive deliveries, all lbw, as 30 wickets tumbled on the first day of the four-day match.

Northants' total was their lowest since World War Two and the worst championship score since Lancashire routed Essex for 43 in 1989.

When Essex, having been bowled out for 127 in their first innings, batted again with a lead of 81, the clatter of wickets continued as Paul Taylor went close to emulating fellow left-arm paceman Flott by taking seven for 50.

Essex crumbled for 107 and Northants, needing 189 to win, were one without loss at the close.

Despite the staggering tally of wickets, umpires Bob White and David Constant confirmed there was no question of the pitch being reported as unfit.

Flott's career-best nine victims came in the space of 36

balls, producing a magnificent display of swing bowling on his return after missing two games with a groin injury.

His hat-trick of leg-before was only the sixth time the feat had been achieved in first-class cricket, and the first since south African Mike Procter did it for Gloucestershire against Yorkshire at Cheltenham in 1979.



MARK FLOTT

England batsman Robin Smith struck his second century of the season to underscore his claim to be retained in the Test side, his 136 hauling Hampshire from 16 for three to 323 for nine against Gloucestershire at Bristol.

Smith, who failed as an England opener against West

Indies in the first Test at Headingley, batted for just under four hours and hit 18 fours.

South African Test batsman Daryll Cullinan hit his third championship hundred as Derbyshire made 376 against Somerset at Derby.

Cullinan, who scored 120 in boundaries, finished with 161 from 228 balls, only Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed easing Somerset's plight with five for 107.

Yorkshire captain Martyn Moxon, fit again after breaking a thumb, hammered an unbeaten 158 to put his side in a commanding position against Kent at Headingley.

Moxon hit 25 fours, having reached three figures in 210 balls and featured in an opening stand of 132 with Michael Vaughan (71) to flit Yorkshire to 346 for three.

England skipper Mike Atherton batted at number eight for Lancashire against Worcestershire due to a back injury, although he insisted it would not affect his availability for the second Test against West Indies at Lord's next week.

Atherton was out for nought, a victim of Test teammate and left-arm spinner Richard Illingworth, who took four for 63 as Lancashire were dismissed for 206 at Worcester.

Bowe-Gonzalez brawl on



LAS VEGAS, June 16: Riddick Bowe and Jorge Luis Gonzalez dislike each other so much they were forced to have separate news conferences Wednesday to discuss their 12-round heavyweight fight, reports AP.

The Nevada Athletic Commission ruled Bowe and Gonzalez could not appear together at the MGM Grand Hotel or at Thursday's weigh-in following an April 20 incident in which the fighters almost came to blows.

When they meet in the ring Saturday night, the fight will be a culmination of a feud that began after Gonzalez outpointed Bowe 3-2 in the super heavyweight semifinal bout eight years ago in the Pan American Games at Indianapolis.

"There's a lot of hat that goes back to 1987 in Indianapolis when I was there with the Cuban team and Riddick Bowe came in and said what he was going to do to me," said Gonzalez who de-

fected from Cuba in April 1991.

Although the decision was only 3-2, Gonzalez knocked Bowe down in the first and third rounds. He also made Bowe take a standing 8-count in the first; Gonzalez took one in the third.

Bowe recalls being knocked down once and taking a standing 8-count while forcing Gonzalez to take two standing 8-counts.

"Only three more days, his butt is going to be nicely kicked," Gonzalez who appeared first before the media, said through an interpreter.

"I'm going to kill him, make him bleed from his

Navy h'ball

CHITTAGONG, June 16: BNS Haji Mohsin clinched the Bangladesh Navy annual handball championship beating Khulna Squadron 17-11 in the final of the four-day meet that concluded at the BNS Issa Khan ground here yesterday, reports BSS.

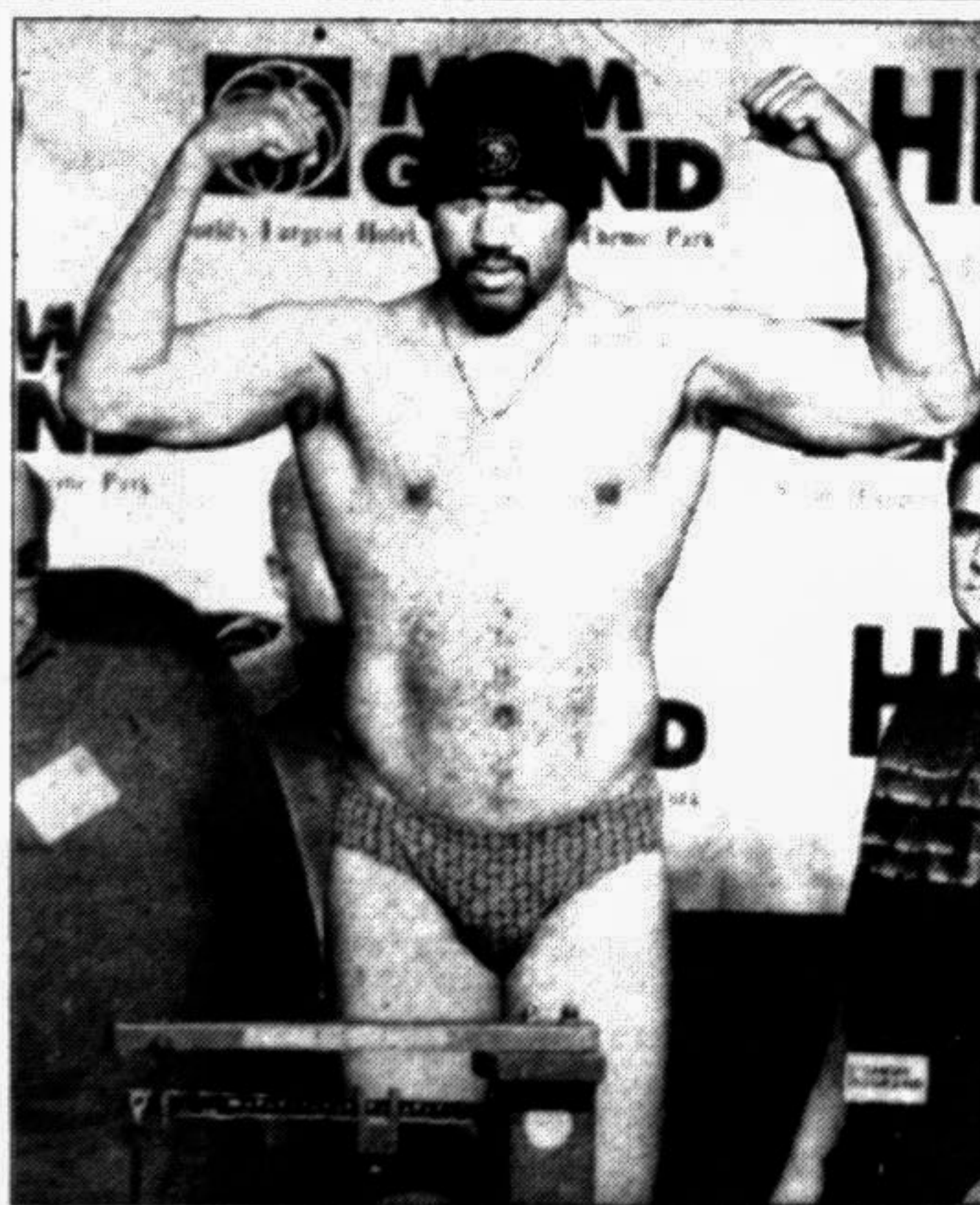
mouth," added Gonzalez, wearing a black suit with no shirt, with a gold medallion dangling from a chain around his neck. "I'm going to do it. It's not just talk."

Gonzalez, 30, has a 23-0 record with 22 knockouts, but Bowe, 28, a former undisputed champion, was a 3-1 favourite to retain the WBO title. Bowe's record is 36-1 with 30 knockouts.

Bowe, however, has contributed to the tasteless comments made by the two fighters, their managers and other members of their camps at previous news conferences.

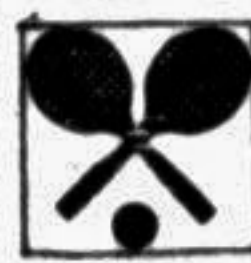
Referring to Bowe's wife, Judy, who was overcome by emotion when a paraglider crashed into the ring during the seventh round of Bowe's title losing fight to Evander Holyfield in 1993, Gonzalez said: "The Fan Man gave her a heart attack. Wait until she sees what I do to Riddick."

Luis has a lot of mouth," Bowe said. "You'd think he was a fighter. He sounds like a killer, but he couldn't bust a grape in a food fight."



Cuban boxer Jorge Luis Gonzalez poses as he is weighed in at the MGM Grand hotel in Las Vegas on June 15 in preparation for his bout against American Riddick Bowe today. — AFP/UNB photo

Edberg, Martin stumble



LONDON, June 16: Five of the top seeds including holder Todd Martin and former champion Stefan Edberg, tumbled out of the London grass court championships in the third round on Thursday, reports Reuters.

The leading three seeds Pete Sampras, Boris Becker and Goran Ivanisevic, all won but the carnage removed the fourth to eighth seeds from the event.

Fifth seed Martin, the 1.98-metre tall American who beat then world number one Sampras to win last year's title, went down 6-4, 6-4 to fired up Frenchman Guy Forget, the 11th seed.

Edberg, the 1991 Winner and twice Wimbledon champion, showed signs of his continued decline as he bowed out 6-3, 0-6, 6-4 to 10th seed Jason Stoltenberg of Australia. Edberg, was seeded seventh.

Fourth seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa lost a marathon 7-5, 6-7, 10-8 deci-

sion to 682nd ranked American Derrick Rostagno that may haunt him for a while.

Ferreira was a set and 4-0 down but squared the second set at 5-5, then won the tie-break 7-2 to force a decider against Rostagno who is returning from a lengthy injury break.

The South African broke Rostagno early but lost his own serve for 4-4. He broke serve again for 5-4 but lost