



Rehana Parveen (R) of Bangladesh Customs leaves behind Lovely Begum (C) and Kaniz Fatima, both of BJMC, on her way to winning the ladies' 100-metre sprint with a time of 12.51 seconds at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo by Enamul Haq

**Nat'l basketball
Army, Air Force
humiliate foes**

Sports Reporter

Rajshahi DSA suffered their second drubbing in as many days when they went down to Bangladesh Army by an appalling margin of 151-42 in their Pepsi 18th National Basketball Championship match at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday.

The soldiers seemed to have put the northerners in a trance in the first-half when they allowed their opponents to score only 18 points while caged 76 themselves.

Wahed and Rahim caged 38 and 32 respectively for the men in green while Azad tried to salvage some pride for the Rajshahi team with 14 points to his name.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Air Force humiliated Hobiganj DSA 98-59. The winners led the match 48-26 at half time.

Sharif scored 40 for the airmen while Titash caged a valiant 25 for Hobiganj.

Meanwhile, in a match played on Thursday, Dhaka University was instrumental in handing Rajshahi DSA a deserved routing when they whooshed passed their opponents 101-58. The students led 52-24 at the breather.

In another match, also held on Thursday, Khulna DSA broke the dominance of the services in the tournament when they gunned down Bangladesh Police 105-73. In a relatively closely contested opening half, Khulna led 45-34.

Monju scored an emphatic 36 points for the civilians while Swapan chipped in with 27.

**Black Spider
EC formed**

Sports Reporter

S A Ruzzak Raju was elected president and Mostafa Shariful Haq general secretary of the executive committee of the Black Spider Karate Organisation, says a press release.

The 12-member committee was elected during the annual general meeting of the organisation on Wednesday last.

**Brazil spikers
on a roll**

HAMAMATSU, Japan. Sept 8: Brazil beat Japan in three straight sets on Friday to move closer to winning the last spot in the final stage of the two million dollar women's volleyball World Grand Prix, reports AFP.

The Brazilian spikers, runners-up to Cuba at the World Championships last year, coasted to a 15-13, 15-12, 15-8 victory for their sixth win against four defeats.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

- Lifeguard Premier Division football league:**
Mohammedans vs Brothers Union 5:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)
- Lifeguard First Division football league:**
Eskaton Sabuj Sangha vs Badda Jagoroni 4:30 pm (Mirpur Stadium)
- Bangladesh Boys vs Shantinagar Club 6:30 pm (Mirpur Stadium)
- 17th national hockey championship:**
Bangladesh Army vs Bangladesh Police 2:30 pm (BKSP)
- BUET vs Rajshahi DSA 3:45 pm (BKSP)
- 18 national basketball championship:**
Venue: Dhanmondi gymnasium.
- Chandpur DSA vs Jessore DSA 8:00 am
- BAF vs Rajshahi DSA 9:30 am
- Dhaka DSA vs B Baria DSA 3:30 pm
- Bangladesh Navy vs Bangladesh Police 5:00 pm
- BDR vs Habiganj 6:30 pm

**Fourth summer meet ends
Two more nat'l marks set**

Sports Reporter



New national marks were set in long jump and shot put on the concluding day Friday of the fourth summer athletics competition at the Mirpur Stadium.

Boni Amin of Bangladesh Army bettered the jump

mark by .03 metres when he travelled 7.43 metres over the sand pit.

Raquibul Alam of Bangladesh Navy added .02 to the old shot put record with a record put of 14.12 metres.

Bangladesh Customs produced the fastest version of both the male and female on the medals table.

Bimal Chandra Tarafdar, the fastest man in South Asia, maintained his home circuit supremacy by clocking 10.65 seconds.

Rehana Parvin dashed the distance in 12.51 seconds to clinch the women's 100 metres gold.

Bangladesh Army topped the medals table with a haul of 13 golds, 10 silvers and seven bronges. BJMC took the team second place with 10 golds, as many silvers and eight bronges. Navy were third with seven golds, as many silvers and six bronges.

State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain was the chief guest on the closing day.

FINAL MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B
Bangladesh Army	13	10	7
BJMC	10	10	8
Bangladesh Navy	7	7	6
Bangladesh Customs	4	3	3
Bangladesh Air Force	1	2	4
Rajshahi Education Board	0	2	1
BTMC	0	2	0
BDR	0	0	1

NB: Two silvers were given in one event and no bronze medals were given in some events.



THE BEAMING CHAMPIONS: Fastest man Bimal Chandra Tarafdar shares his delight with his female counterpart Rehana Parveen at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo



Raquibul Alam of Bangladesh Navy takes guard on his way to breaking the national shot put record at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

**India, Pakistan to tour
England next year**



LONDON, Sept 8: India will play back to back one-day internationals next year when they face England at Headingley and Old Trafford on May 25 and 26 respectively, cricket officials said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The Indians, who will play three Tests against England, arrive on April 30 and have their first fixture at Arundel on May 5.

England will also play Wang's victorious return to track

BEIJING, Sept 8: China's world 10,000-metres record-holder Wang Junxia made a victorious return to the track on Thursday when she won the event at a national athletics meet in Changchun in northern China, the Xinhua news agency said, reports Reuter.

"I am satisfied with my result today," Xinhua quoted her as saying after the race. "Now I am mainly preparing for the coming Asian Athletics Championships slated for later this month in Jakarta of Indonesia."

The former world champion clocked 31 minutes 23.24 seconds, her best time this year, but 19 seconds slower than reigning world champion Fernanda Riberiro of Portugal, who clocked 31.04.99 at the World Athletics Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, in August, Xinhua said.

Wang was challenged by two runners from the south-eastern Yunnan province in the early stages of the race, but surged forward to lead from the twelfth lap.

three Tests against Pakistan, who are due to arrive on June 22.

They face England in back

to back one-day internationals at Edgbaston and Trent Bridge on August 31 and September 1.

ITINERARIES

- India**
May 5: v Duchess of Norfolk's XI, Arundel
May 6: v England National Cricket Association XI, venue to be announced
May 8-10: v Worcestershire, Worcester
May 11-13: v Gloucestershire, Bristol
May 16-18: v Sussex, Hove
May 19: v Middlesex, Lord's
May 21: v Northamptonshire, Northampton
May 23: First one-day international, the Oval (Reserve day 24)
May 25: Second one-day international, Headingley (No reserve day)
May 26: Third one-day international Old Trafford (Reserve day 27)
May 28-30: v Essex or Glamorgan or Somerset v Leicestershire, Leicester
June 1-3: First Test, Edgbaston
June 6-10: v Derbyshire, Derby
June 20-24: Second Test, Lord's
June 26-28: v Combined Universities, Cambridge
June 29-July 1: v Hampshire, Southampton
July 4-9: (Rest day 7)
Pakistan
June 27: v England NCA Six, venue TBA
June 29-July 1: v Glamorgan, venue TBA
July 3-5: v Somerset, Taunton
July 6-8: v Northamptonshire, Northampton
July 11: v Minor Countries, venue TBA
July 14: venue TBA
July 17-19: v Warwickshire, Edgbaston
July 20-22: Kent, Canterbury
July 25-29: First Test, Lord's
August 1: v Scotland, venue TBA
August 3-5: v Durham, Chester Le Street
August 6-12: Second Test, Headingley
August 14-16: v Leicestershire or Sussex
August 17-19: Essex, Chelmsford
August 22-26: Third Test, The Oval
August 29: First one-day international, Old Trafford (Reserve day 30)
August 31: Second one-day international, Edgbaston (No reserve day)
September 1: Third one-day international, Trent Bridge (Reserve day 2)
A South Africa A team will also be in England from June 28 to play four four-day games, five three-day fixtures and three one-day matches.

**Americans annex
US Open mixed
doubles**

NEW YORK, Sept 8: First time partners Meredith McGrath and Matt Lucena became the first all American team to win the US Open mixed doubles title since 1989 on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The unseeded team of McGrath and Lucena upset the third seeded team of American Gigi Fernandez and Cyril Suk of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-4. They shared 50,000 dollars for the win. Fernandez and Suk shared 25,000 dollars.

We just decided in the first match we were going to go out there and have fun and we weren't going to get stressed out, Lucena said.

Both he and McGrath were originally scheduled to play with other partners who failed to materialise. So, we were stuck with each other, McGrath said.

The last American team to win the US Open mixed title was Robin White and Shelby Cannon, who defeated McGrath and her partner Rick Leach in the final.

Fernandez and Suk were denied the Wimbledon mixed doubles title in July when they lost in the final to Martina Navratilova and Jonathan Stark.

Fernandez remains the only one of the four never to win a Grand Slam mixed doubles title.

Suk won the Wimbledon mixed doubles title in 1992 with Larisa Neiland and the French Open mixed doubles title in 1991 with sister Helena Sukova.

**FIFA-UEFA
"vision" war
begins**

ZURICH, Switzerland. Sept 8: Soccer's governing body FIFA deferred a crucial decision Friday over the organisation of the world's most popular sport, reports AP.

FIFA's emergency committee met in rare session to discuss European proposals which would slash the role of UEFA, give more power to the regional confederations and rotate the World Cup finals on a geographical basis.

After the 90-minute session, FIFA president Joao Havelange said the 7-man emergency committee had agreed to delay any decision until a full meeting of the executive committee Dec 11 on the eve of the World Cup draw in Paris.

The so-called "vision" documents, drawn up by UEFA president Lennart Johansson of Sweden, were a direct challenge to the authority of Havelange, a 79-year-old Brazilian who has ruled FIFA for 21 years.

Johansson said he was satisfied with the outcome of the meeting but refused to go into further details.

Havelange previously said the plans would demote FIFA to a "simple coordinating body."

On the table was Johansson's document entitled "Vision I." This proposes giving more powers to the regional confederations — like UEFA — in rule enforcement and international competitions, and changing the composition of FIFA's powerful executive committee.

Another focal UEFA proposal would be to rotate the World Cup finals evenly on a geographical basis every four years.

This would avoid the multi-million-dollar politicking that has typified the bid between Japan and South Korea to host the 2002 finals.

FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter said a decision on whether the 2002 contest goes to Japan or South Korea would be taken June 1.

There had been reports that FIFA might bring the selection date forward given the bitterness of the campaign between the two rivals.

**FIFA to name
2002 WC host
on June 1**

ZURICH, Sept 8: FIFA will name the hosts for the 2002 World Cup on June 1 next year, the International Football Federation said Friday, reports AFP.

Japan and South Korea are the only candidates which means the finals will be held in Asia for the first time.

Because of aggressive lobbying, FIFA had been expected to bring the date for a decision forward to February.

**Buster Mathis
passes away**

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan. Sept 8: Buster Mathis, a round heavyweight fighter who lost to Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali before retiring in 1972, has died after being in poor health for years. He was 51, reports AP.

**Sampras blasts Black out
Chang courts with disaster**



NEW YORK, Sept 8: Former world number one Jim Courier battled back three times when Michael Chang was on the verge of winning sets to snatch a 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-3), 7-5 US Open quarter final triumph here Thursday, reports AFP.

Fifth seed Chang had four set points in the first set, one in the second and served for the match in the third but could not overcome the 14th seed when it mattered most in their first Grand Slam meeting.

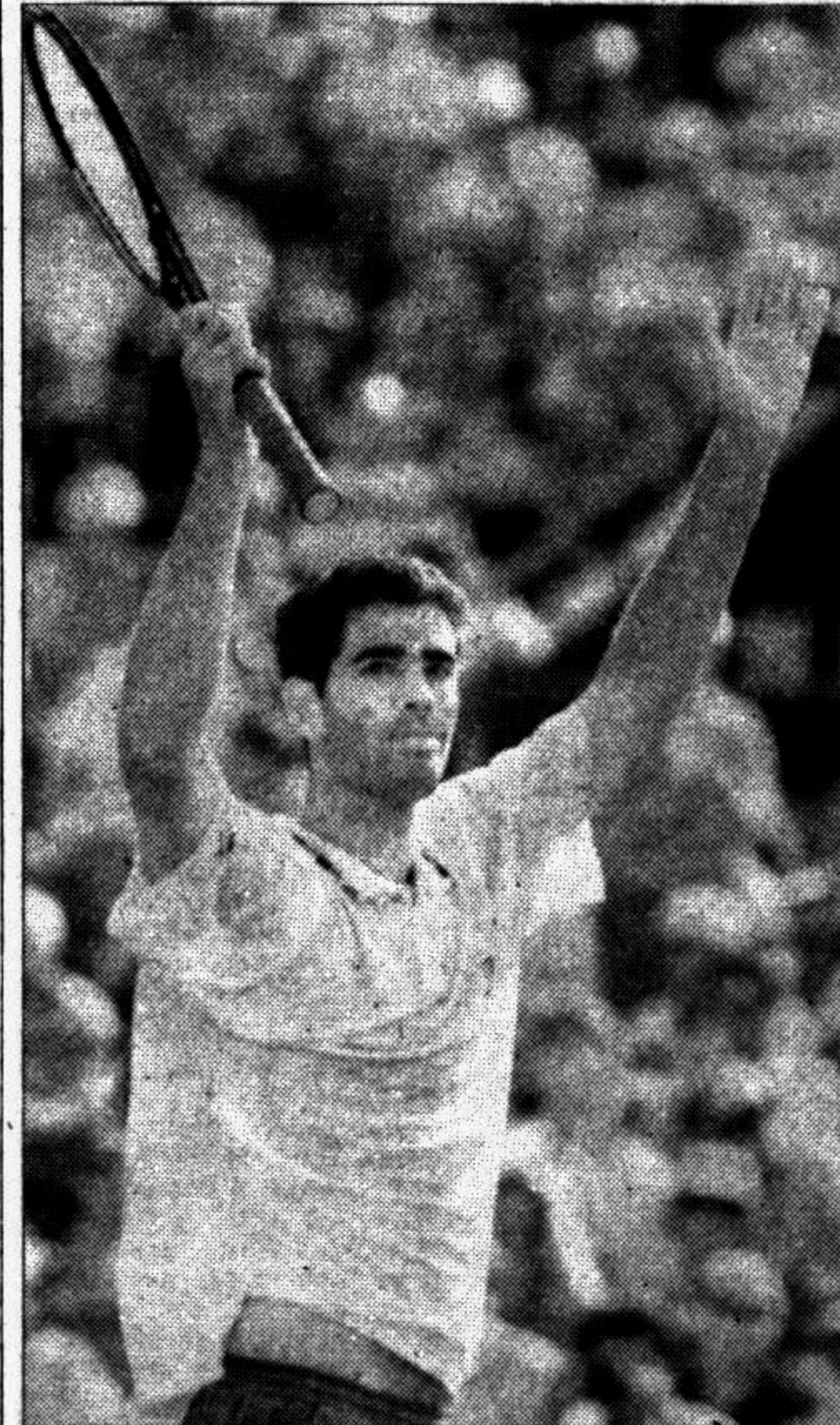
"I let him serve for all

don't happen. You have to capitalize on one of those opportunities at least. It's a little disappointing not to come through."

Courier advanced to a Saturday semifinal matchup with world number two Pete Sampras, the man who beat him here in the 1992 semifinals to drop Courier from the world's top ranking.

Sampras, the three-time reigning Wimbledon champion reached his fourth US Open semifinal in six years by beating 70th ranked Byron Black of Zimbabwe 7-6 (7-3), 7-4, 6-0 at the 9.86 million dollar tennis tournament.

Saturday's other semifinal



World number two Pete Sampras acknowledges his fans after blacking-out Byron Black of Zimbabwe 7-6, 6-4, 6-0 in the quarterfinals of US Open at Flushing Meadows, NY on September 7.

— AFP/UNB photo

three sets and somehow managed to break him each time. That's a good sign for me," Courier said. "I was always fighting."

Chang, who lost here to the eventual champion the past four years, served at 5-4 in the first and third sets and 5-3 in the second but was thwarted by Courier at every turn, eventually double faulting away the final point to lose in three hours and seven minutes.

"The times we've played have always been pretty close matches," Chang said. "It turned on a few points here and there. At the US Open you hope those things just

match is between reigning US Open champion and world number one Andre Agassi and fourth seed Boris Becker of Germany, this year's Wimbledon runner-up.

Courier's victory was his 100th in Grand Slam play and evened the series between the Americans at nine triumphs each. The two-time Australian and French Open champion reached his only US Open final in 1991, losing to Stefan Edberg. He was ousted in the second round here last year.

Chang led the third set 5-3 and forced Courier to deuce five times but could not reach set point. Courier then scored three of the first

four points off Chang's serve and broke back to pull even. Courier held for a 6-5 edge and reached double match point on three unforced errors. Courier sent the first of them into the net with a baseline volley but Chang sent his second serve into the net to give away the final point.

"Normally I'm the one who's behind and Michael is the one who's ahead," Courier said. "It was nice for it to work out this way."

Chang led 6-5 in the third set and had a break point on Courier's serve. But Courier won with a strong serve and slam combination and held to force the second tie-breaker.

Neither player had a successful first serve in the tie-breaker, in which Chang committed six unforced errors and dropped the final five points.

Chang broke in the fifth game of the first set and served for the set at 5-4. But Courier survived four break points, two on winners and two on errors by Chang, and went on to get the break he needed.

In the first tie-breaker, Courier grabbed a 4-1 edge. Chang then won three straight points before Courier hit three winners to claim the set.

Sampras fired 22 aces and won 35 of 37 first-serve points to subdue Black, who had earlier ousted eighth seed Michael Stich and ninth seed Thomas Enqvist.

"That's the best I have played all week," Sampras said. "I'm playing well and that's when I'm pretty tough to beat. When I'm serving well, I just want to stay on top and not let him back into the match."

Sampras broke Black in the sixth game of the first set and was serving to win it at 5-3 when the two-handed gripper rallied. Black hit a pair of winners and Sampras made an error and double faulted on triple break point to bring Black even at 5-5, setting the stage for the tie-breaker.

Black sent three straight baseline volleys into the net to trail 5-2. Sampras led the next point with a wide forehand, but hit a service winner and then slapped a running baseline forehand winner down the right side of the court.

"He really blew me off the court," Black said. "He has such a great serve. I really didn't have a weapon that could hurt him. It was kind of a downer."

Sampras broke Black in the second set and survived a break to take the set, completing the job with an ace before sweeping out the Zimbabwean in the third, claiming the final point with a 204 kmh ace.

"Nothing seems to faze him too much," Black said. "You can break him and he still comes right back firing. I was really struggling every time on my serve."

The verdict favours Andre



NEW YORK, Sept 8: Tennis aficionados are eagerly awaiting the fireworks of the Andre Agassi-Boris Becker Grand Slam rematch, but those in the know give the edge to the top-ranked American in their US Open semifinal clash, reports Reuter.

"It's a classic match-up," US Davis Cup captain Tom

Gullikson said of the showdown between top-seeded defending champion Agassi and fourth seed Becker in a rematch of the Wimbledon semifinal won by the German.

"Two superstars, two personalities, two different game styles and they are both really good big-match players," Gullikson said.

But an informal survey of coaches and former players around the National Tennis

Centre has Agassi beating the 1989 US Open champion, reversing the four-set loss he suffered to Becker at Wimbledon this year.

"You got to go with Andre," said Australian Paul McNamee, winner of four Grand Slam men's doubles titles and now the Australian Open tournament director.

"Andre should be the odds-on favourite," said American Brian Gottfried, the 1977 French Open runner-up.

Agassi has built the momentum this summer to make him an overwhelming favourite.

Since losing to Becker at Wimbledon, Agassi has not lost a match, scooping up hardcourt titles at Washington, Montreal, Cincinnati and New Haven. He takes a 25-match winning streak into Saturday's big re-match.

"Andre has a great summer, he's full of confidence and he plays very well on hard courts. This is his best surface," Gullikson said of the 26-year-old world number one.

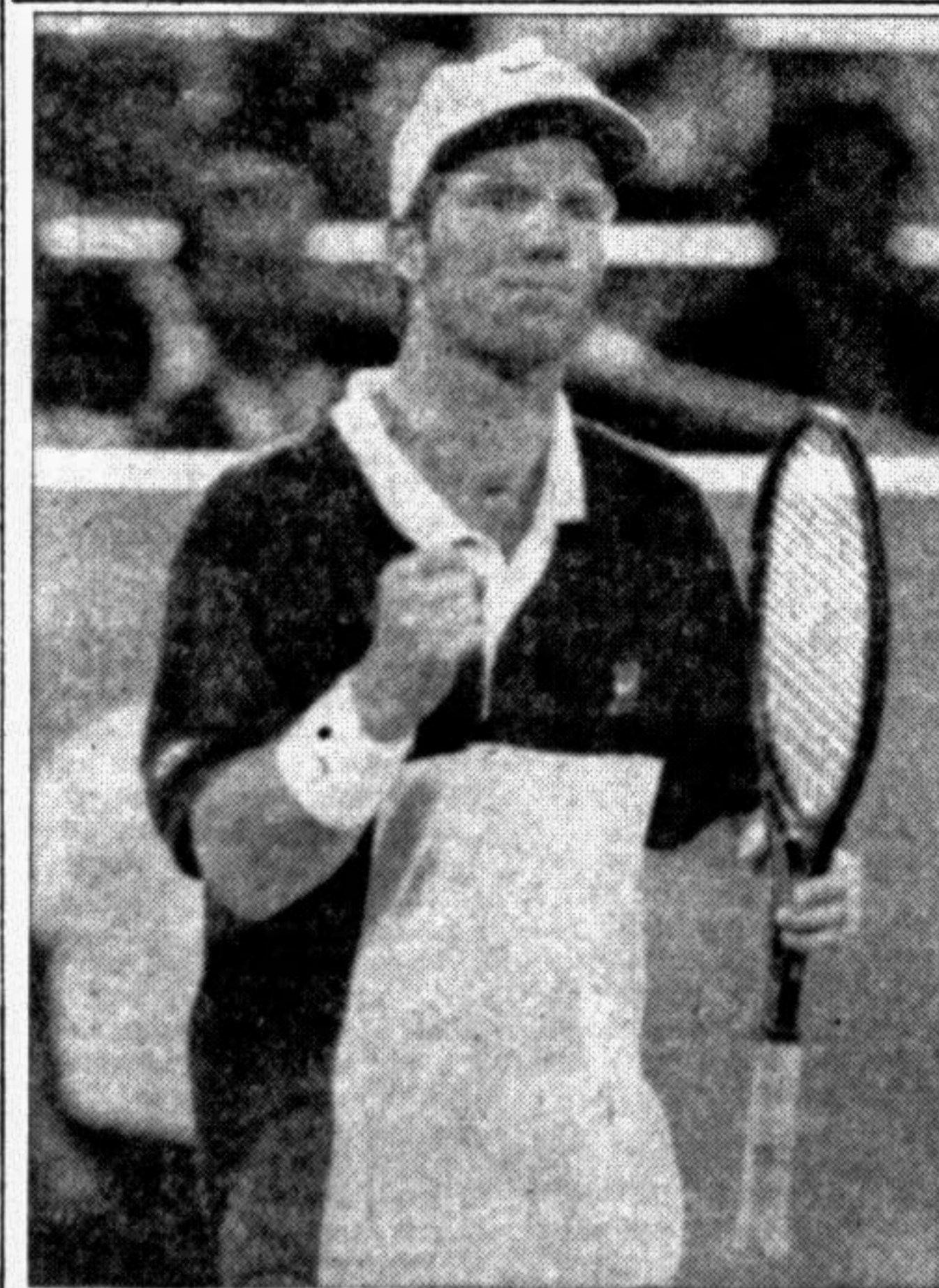
Agassi has reached the final of all nine hardcourt tournaments he entered this year, winning seven, including the Australian Open.

"I would put my money on Agassi," said Tomas Smid, who coached Becker in 1991. "But you can not write Becker off."

Becker proved Smid's point at Wimbledon when he charged back from a set down and 1-4 in the second to beat Agassi.

But that was Wimbledon which holds a special place in Becker's heart.

"Boris was protecting his turf," McNamee said of the three-time Wimbledon champion. "Wimbledon is his backyard."



Jim Courier, the fourteenth seed shows little emotion after overpowering his gritty compatriot Michael Chang 7-6, 7-6, 7-5 in the US Open quarterfinals at the National Tennis Centre in New York on September 7.

— AFP/UNB photo