

**Ismail shines for Qatar**

JAKARTA, Sept 23: A meet record in the men's 400 metres by wiry Ibrahim Ismail kept the Gulf state of Qatar second in the medals table on the penultimate day of the Asian Athletics Championships today, report agencies.

Ismail powered ahead over the final 100 metres to win in 44.96 seconds, a full second ahead of Son Ju-Il of South Korea. It was Qatar's third gold medal of the championships.

China's sporting machine continued to dominate the event with 16 gold, 11 silver and four bronze medals.

By the end of the fourth day only 12 championship records had been broken. No Asian records have fallen.

Earlier, Sri Lanka won gold medals in the women's 200-metre dash and the 100-metre low hurdles.

Sri Lanka's 19-year-old Susanthika Jayasinghe won the women's 200-metre dash in 23:00, breaking the 1993 championship record of 23:24 set by China's Chen Zhaojing.

Jayasinghe, who Friday won silver in the 100-metre dash, said she felt very fit today compared to Friday's effort, when she "was out of energy in the last 30 metres."

Sri Lanka's other gold was won by Shriyani Kulawansa in the 100-metre low hurdles.

She finished in 13:29, despite suffering the effects of flu and a throat infection, which landed her in a Jakarta hospital a few days ago.

"This is a most memorable win since I've been running, since I'm ill," Kulawansa said.

Bahrain also earned its first gold through its male sprinter Aziz Matter in the 200 metre dash in 20:76.

**MEDALS TABLE**

Medals table on the fourth day of the 11th Asian Athletics Championship today:

	G	S	B	T
China	16	11	4	31
Qatar	3	2	3	8
South Korea	2	4	0	6
Kazakhstan	2	2	4	8
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	4
Saudi Arabia	2	0	0	2
Japan	1	4	5	10
Taiwan	1	1	1	3
Turkmenistan	1	1	0	2
India	1	0	4	5
Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	3	3	6
Indonesia	0	2	0	2
Thailand	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	0	3	3
Iraq	0	0	2	2
Philippines	0	0	1	1

**All-star gala on Tacconi's farewell**

PERUGIA, Italy, Sept 23: Some of soccer's greatest names, including France's Michel Platini and Brazil's Zico, will play in a charity match next month marking the retirement of ex-Juventus goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi, reports Reuter.

Former Dutch international Marco Van Basten will kick off the October 4 match in Perugia between the Juventus 1983-86 side, coached by former Italy goalkeeper Dino Zoff, and an all-stars team of Swedish veteran Nils Liedholm.

Organisers said the players who had so far indicated they were available to play included Italians Claudio Gentile, Antonio Cabrini, Marco Tardelli and Paolo Rossi who would appear in the Juventus line-up alongside Platini.

The opposing team will include Poland's Zbigniew Boniek, Brazilians Claudio Taffarelli, Junior, Zico, Edinho and Toninho Cerezo, Germany's Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, England's Trevor Francis, Ireland's Liam Brady and Dutchman Wim Kieft.

**Asthmatic or doping?**

HARARE, Sept 23: Ghanaian athlete Andrew Owusu has been suspended for three months for using a stimulant at the All-Africa Games after gaining a silver medal in the long jump. Africa's top athletics official said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Lamine Diack, president of the Africa Amateur Athletics Confederation (AAAC), said Andrew Owusu, an asthmatic, had tested positive after using ventoline.

"That means an automatic three-month ban pending a presentation and hearing from Ghana," Diack said. "But there are mitigating special circumstances in Owusu's case."

Diack said Owusu was on constant medication for his asthma, although he had not declared the medicines before the competition began.

**US take 2-0 lead over Sweden**

**Top two start thriving**



LAS VEGAS, Sept 23: With Andre Agassi playing at home and Pete Sampras playing at his best, the United States is on the verge of turning their Davis Cup semifinal against Sweden into a rout.

Agassi and Sampras rolled to wins Friday on an outdoor court in the shadow of the glittering Las Vegas Strip to give the US team a commanding 2-0 lead after the first day of the best-of-5 match competition, report agencies.

Agassi beat 31-year-old Mats Wilander 7-6 (7-5), 6-2, 6-2 while Sampras needed one more set to dispose of Thomas Enqvist, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, to move the United States within one win of the Davis Cup final with three matches remaining.

"We have three great chances to put this away," Agassi said. "I like our chances of getting one of them."

Agassi, who grew up and still lives in Las Vegas, overcame some first-set jitters before a partisan, flag-waving crowd at Caesars Palace to overpower Wilander, the world's 47th-ranked player.

It was the first time the top-ranked Agassi had played competitively before the hometown fans, and it showed early as he made numerous unforced errors before rallying to take the first set in a tie-breaker.

Agassi blew a 40-0 lead while, serving and tied 5-5 in the first set, then managed to break Wilander's serve to tie the set 6-6.

The turning point came, however, when Wilander's first serve of the tie-breaker split the middle and was ruled in. Agassi screamed an obscenity at the linesman and paced the court, fuming. He began hitting the ball more forcefully and won the final four points of the tie-breaker to take the set.

Agassi, who admitted being apprehensive prior to the match about playing in his hometown, said he tried to concentrate on what was happening on the court and forget about the fact he was in Las Vegas.

Once Agassi got in his rhythm, however, Wilander had little chance. Agassi was simply overpowering as he moved Wilander around the court with his backhand and handled his serve easily.

The outcome of the match had long been determined by the time Agassi drilled a two-fisted backhand down the line past Wilander to make the win official.

Agassi, who has hosted his US teammates for several Las Vegas functions during the week, then smiled broadly and blew a kiss to his girlfriend, Brooke Shields.

Wilander, the former number one who came back from retirement last year, said he blew the match by failing to capitalise on his chances in the first set.

"If I won the first set, the match is completely different," Wilander said. "I made it too easy on his not winning it. He suddenly realises he has a set or two to

play with, and it's a lot easier that situation."

In the first match of the day the American Pete Sampras blew 24 aces past Thomas Enqvist.

The US Tennis Association appeared to have made a good decision in selecting Caesars Palace as the venue for the first time in memory, a US Davis Cup home tie was jammed with screaming fans who psyched up both Sampras and Agassi.

"Davis Cup never got the

"I got the team off to a good start," Sampras said. After cruising through the first two sets without facing a break point, the 24-year-old Wimbledon and US Open champion was looking to close it out quickly in the fourth set.

Sampras battled Enqvist mightily from the baseline in the third game before forcing Enqvist into a forehand cross-court error on the game's sixth break point to take a 2-1 lead.



World number one Andre Agassi of the United States waves to his adopted hometown crowd after winning his Davis Cup semifinal match against veteran Swede Mats Wilander 7-6, 6-2, 6-2 in Las Vegas on Sept 22. The Americans took a 2-0 lead on the first day.

kind of respect it deserves in the United States," Agassi said. "Vegas is giving it respect."

Sampras added: "I remember a lot of times playing in the States in stadiums that sat 17,000 and were half full. Here in Vegas we had 13,000 fans. It was packed. They are really into the match and it's a pleasure to play in front to them."

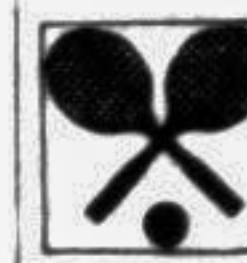
Sampras got an additional kick out of the return of his coach Tim Gullikson, who has been undergoing chemotherapy for a brain tumor and hadn't attended a Sampras match since he collapsed at the Australian Open in January.

Gullikson is the twin brother of US Davis Cup captain Tom Gullikson. "It's great to have him here," Sampras said. "He was yelling out, come on, 'Pistol' during the change-overs and it reminded me of the old times."

"He's going great, he looks great. He's so pumped up to be travelling a little bit."

Enqvist's Davis Cup debut was a baptism by desert fire. Sampras broke five strings during the match, played in soaring heat, but never lost his cool except for a brief let-down in the third set.

**Germans win on beach**



MOSCOW, Sept 23: Boris Becker and Michael Stich won the battle against the Moscow mud on Friday to give Germany a 2-0 lead in their Davis Cup World Group semifinal against Russia on a clay-court that Becker compared to a beach, reports Reuter.

The battle for a final place against either the United States or Sweden began an hour late after near-farical battle to dry out the indoor court with an electric blow-lamp.

The Germans suspected the Russians of deliberately doctoring the surface overnight to favour their own players. Becker publicly accused the hosts of sharp practice.

Becker said the court had been fine and firm during his practice sessions this week. "This morning I was shocked. It was unplayable. I could not believe a clay-court could change so much over 24 hours."

"I have never played on a court like this. It was like jogging on the beach," Becker added. "There are rules about how a court should be. This was sharp practice."

But the German's initial anger was tempered by the fact that the over-watered court backfired on the home team. "I think the Russians were more upset about the condition of the court than we were," Stich said after his victory. "We just got on with it."

Becker overcame Andre Chesnokov 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 7-6 (7-3), 7-5 in a match that lasted nearly four hours and then Stich beat the 21-year-old Russian number one Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-1, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

A dejected Kafelnikov, clearly feeling the pressure, confirmed he was unhappy with the surface: "It wasn't the same as yesterday. To return Michael's serve with an uneven bounce was very difficult. It was very hard to move around fast, my feet got stuck in the sand."

Chesnokov, rated only in the lower half of the world's top 100 players, gave Becker, who is never at his best on clay, a hard battle for his victory in the opening singles.

The world number four began by racing to a 5-2 lead, then suddenly began to struggle on the soggy surface, glaring at his feet on the wet clay as if he had stepped on something unpleasant.

But after losing the first set on a tie break, Becker recovered to take the second

6-3. Though Chesnokov battled strongly from the baseline, Becker's aggressive forays to the net finally paid off and he successfully replied with delicate stop volleys.

He took the third and the fourth set, went with service to 5-5 when Chesnokov saved three match points. But Becker made the break and held serve to win the match.

Becker and Stich will play doubles on Saturday against Kafelnikov and Andrei Olkhovskiy.

Russia had specially installed the indoor clay court to slow down the fast play of Becker and Stich.

Swedish workers who installed it and were supposed to be in sole charge of it denied responsibility, saying they found it mysteriously soaked with water when they arrived at nine AM on Friday.

There were big pools of water, one said. "We watered it last night and were going to water it again this morning but we found somebody had been using our equipment during the night. And they removed our sprinkler."

**Swiss sail over Kiwis**

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Sept 23: Jakob Hlasek and Marc Rosset combined for a straight set victory over makeshift opposition Saturday as Switzerland took a winning 3-0 lead over New Zealand in their Davis Cup World Group qualifying tennis match at the Mystery Creek Pavilion, reports AP.

**Indians irk Croats**

NEW DELHI, Sept 23: India upset Croatia 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) in doubles Saturday to take a 2-1 lead in their Davis Cup World Group qualifying match, reports AP.

Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic netted his return of Leander Paes' serve to end the fourth set tie-breaker, sending jubilant fans onto the grass court in celebration.

The Indian victory set up a singles showdown Sunday between the 6th ranked Ivanisevic and Paes, who is 124th on the ATP rankings. What could be the deciding competition of the best-of-five series will be between the more evenly matched Bhupathi and Sasa Hirszon, both inexperienced in major international competition.

"I was surprised by the way the other two played especially Bhupathi," Ivanisevic said. "They played good tennis. We had our chances. But they won and they deserved it."

The Indian pair surprised themselves by winning the first three games, then dropped five games in a row to lose the first set.

Hirszon double faulted three times in the 12th game of the second set to even the match at one set each.

The turning point of the day came in the 8th game of the third set, when India blasted four clean winners to break Hirszon's serve at love.

Paes was struggling early in the fourth set when, serving at the game's fifth deuce, he was penalised a point for taking too much time to serve, giving the Croatians a break point. Angered at the call, Paes fired off an ace and two service winners to close out the game.

Two weak second serves from Hirszon in the tie-breaker set up winners for the Indians.

**All-Africa Games end S Africa top the table**

HARARE, Sept 23: Back in the sporting fold after years of apartheid-imposed isolation, South Africa held the most medals — 151, with 62 gold — as the All-Africa Games wound up Saturday, reports AP.

With only a handful of wrestling bouts left Egypt had mined 59 golds in its 149 total medals. Nigeria, by far largest contingent in Harare, was taking home 106 medals.

Meanwhile, Egypt beat Zimbabwe 3-1 (halftime 0-0) today to win the gold medal in the games.

**Ali takes trip down memory lane**

MAINE, USA, Sept 23: Muhammad Ali returned Friday to the site of one of his most famous and controversial victories to join in this central Maine city's bicentennial celebration, reports AP.

All drew cheers from about 200 people attending a bicentennial banquet prior to appearing at ringside during a six-bout boxing show at the Central Maine Civic Center.

The arena, then known as the Central Maine Youth Center, was the setting for Ali's first-round knockout of Sonny Liston in a heavyweight championship fight on May 25, 1965.

In the first defense of the title he wrestled from Liston 15 months earlier, Ali ended the bout with a right that skeptics labeled the "phantom punch."

Ali's eyes lit up Friday when master of ceremonies Bruce Glasier recited a poem that Ali, then known as Cassius Clay, wrote before the bout that predicted a "total eclipse of the Sonny."

Although his speech has been slowed by Parkinson's syndrome, Ali demonstrated that he has not lost his sense of humor.

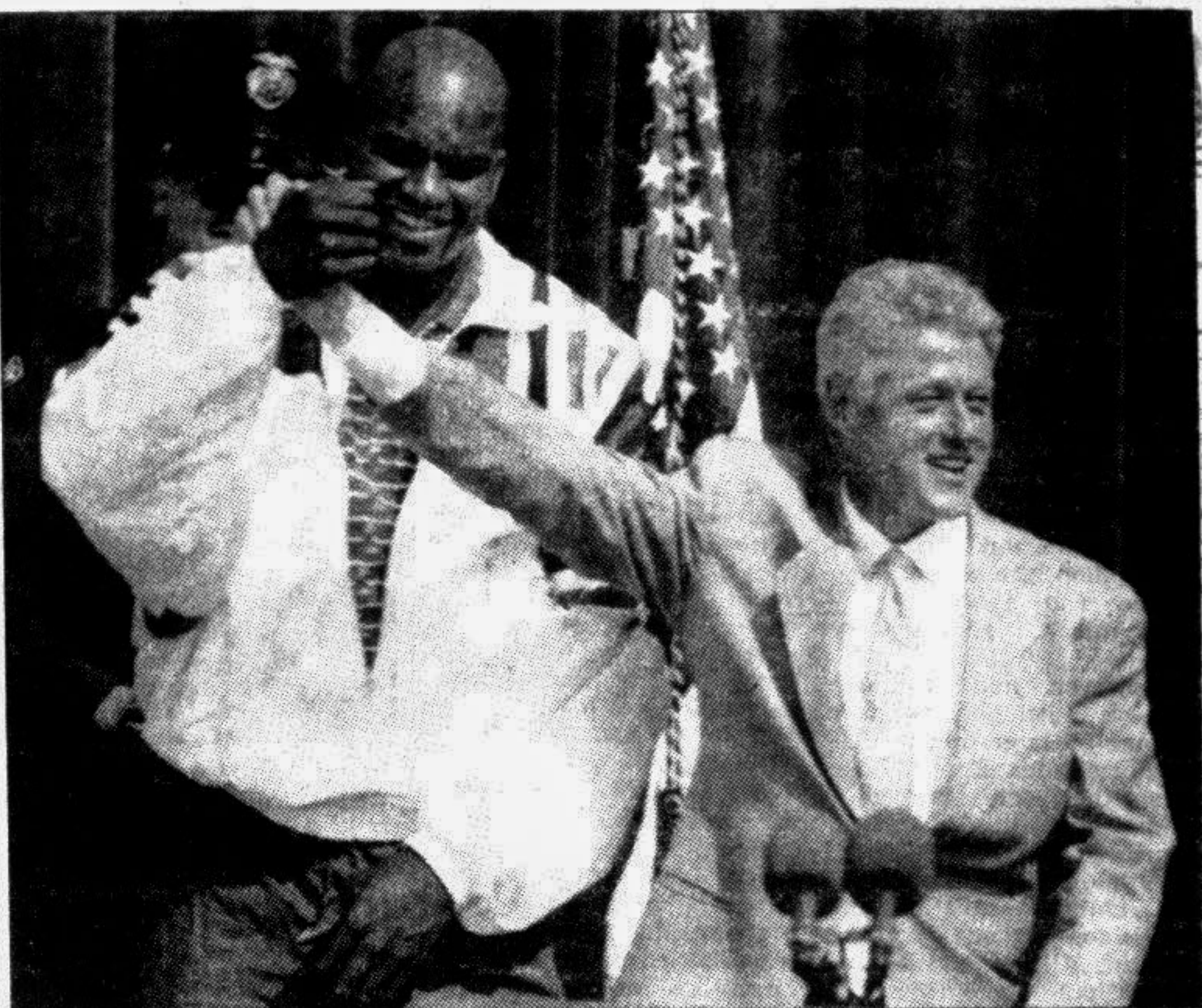
After receiving a gold pen as a gift from Lewiston Mayor John Jenkins, the 53-year-old former champ quipped, "I come all the way to Maine, and this is all I get?"

**Taiwan coasting**

HONG KONG, Sept 23: Taiwan gained an unbeatable 3-0 lead over Hong Kong after winning the doubles match Saturday in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group One tennis competition, reports AP.

Taiwan's Chen Chin-jung and Hung Chiao-hen defeated Hong Kong's Sven Koehler and Thorsten Poelz 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3 in the best-of-five sets tournament.

In the opening singles on Friday, Tsai Chia-yen beat Koehler 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, and Chen defeated Poelz 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1. The meaningless reverse singles will be played on Sunday.



US star basketball player Shaquille O'Neal (L) and President Bill Clinton greet the crowd at the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Ana, California on Sept 22. Clinton helped to launch a national programme for "at risk" teenagers.

**Sanchez, Pierce in final**



TOKYO, Sept 23: Defending champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario

battled her way through to Sunday's final of the Nihirei international women's tennis tournament here beating Gabriela Sabatini on Saturday to set up a re-match against Mary Pierce, report agencies.

The Spaniard, who struggled to regain her top form in beating Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu on Friday, finally found her rhythm and strokes to score a 6-3, 6-3 win over the fourth-seeded Argentine.

France's Pierce, who clinched her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open final in January beating Sanchez-Vicario, powered past Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-0, 6-2 in a surprisingly one-sided match that lasted only 57 minutes.

"It's a very nice feeling when you play well, winning against players who are very good like Sawamatsu and Sabatini. They are very good

defeat in the Canadian Open last month.

Pierce playing near-perfect tennis, won the fifth game of the first set at love and needed just 22 minutes to complete the rout. In the second set, Coetzer broke in the third and games, but Pierce broke in the second, fourth, sixth and eighth games.

Pierce said she was "surprised ... because I was expecting a really hard second set match. She is a very tough competitor, but the first set I was very focused and very concentrated. Everything was perfect for me."

Asked about the final against Sanchez-Vicario, Pierce said: "If I can play the same way as I did in Australia, that will be great, because I think I was playing very smart tennis, the way that I need to beat Arantxa."

"We played quite a few times and we know each other, so who plays smarter will win tomorrow."

**ITF the investigator**



MOSCOW, Sept 23: International Tennis authorities said today they were investigating

the mystery soaking of the indoor clay court where hosts Russia slumped to defeat in the first two singles of their Davis Cup tie with Germany, reports Reuter.

French referee Gilbert Ysern, who delayed the start of the World Group semifinal by an hour on Friday to dry the surface, said today he had cleared the Swedish court maintenance company of any responsibility for the pools of water which turned the court into a soggy beach.

"It was quite obvious to me it couldn't be their fault," said Ysern, adding that he was still looking into the incident.

The Swedes, helped by Russian workmen using a blowlamp and a hairdryer, managed to dry out the court on Friday to enable the opening singles to be played.

Ysern declined to accuse Russian authorities of doctoring the court to slow it down and help their own players — a suspicion which the Germans voiced publicly.

"Obviously somebody had done it overnight," Ysern said. "I want to stick to the facts."

But he made it clear that under International Tennis Federation (ITF) rules, the hosts were responsible for

security at the court — contradicting a statement by Russian Sports Minister Shamil Tarpishevich who said on Friday that the ITF bore the responsibility.

"That is not correct," Ysern said. "I cannot be expected to sleep in the stadium overnight, though to be honest, I considered it."

On Friday, the damp, soft conditions backfired on the Russian team and their number one Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who lost to Michael Stich, was bitterly critical of the state of the court.

"I will send a report to the ITF and I am conducting an investigation myself," Ysern said, confirming that he had come close to cancelling Friday's play altogether.

He said possible sanctions by the ITF's Davis Cup committee could include banning Russia from playing a certain number of Davis Cup ties at home.

Ref No: 25.03/46 Dated: 24 September, 1995

**International Tender Notice for Export of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) between 16-18 October 1995**

- Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation ("the Corporation") hereby invites offer from reputed buyers for export on FOB Chittagong basis of 20,000 Metric Tons (Plus minus 10% at buyer's Option) of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) as per terms and conditions set out hereinafter.
- The lifting of the entire cargo of HSFO will have to be completed between 16-18 October, 1995.
- Tender will be received upto 1200 hours (BST) on 05 October, 1995 and opened at 1205 hours (BST) on the same day at the Corporation's Head Office in presence of the bidders or their authorised agents/representatives who would wish to be present.
- Offers must be valid up to 1200 hrs (BST) on 06 October, 1995.
- Local Agents of reputed buyers interested in the tender may collect tender documents on payment of Tk 400.00 or equivalent US\$ 10.00 on all working days during office hours from (a) the Commercial and Operations Division of the Corporation at its Head Office at HBFC Building, 1/D Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong (b) Liaison Office of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation at 40 Segun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000. No Tender documents will be sold on tender opening day.
- No rights of any kind shall be created in favour of any person by virtue of having tender documents nor shall any right be created in favour of any person by virtue of submitting an offer. The Corporation reserves the right not to accept the highest offer or reject any or all offers in part or in full without assigning any reason.
- Other terms and conditions will be as per general terms and conditions of export of HSFO by the Corporation (Reference No 25.03/46 dated 24 September, 1995).

Despite the big margin of victory, it was an uninspiring return for Bugner, who scored the vast majority of his points with his trademark left jab in an otherwise lumbering display.

**Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation**  
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