

Sport

Column One

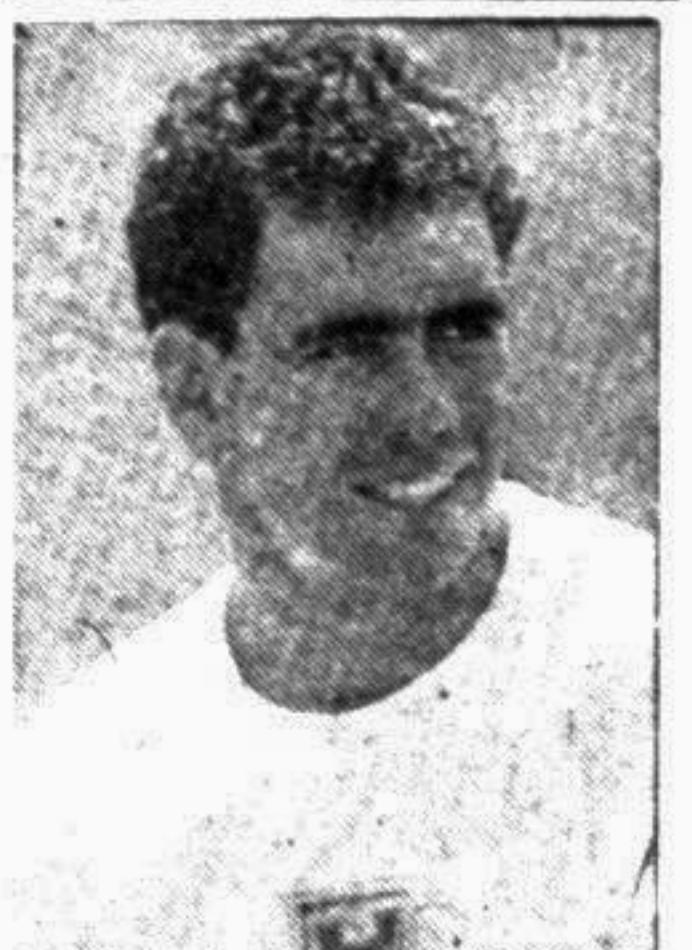
DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT when I think of the gate rush at any big match anywhere, I feel like being a Cuban. I can't believe it but in Cuba, all entrance charges to sporting events were abolished in 1967. Even the football cup final is free to everyone, with spectators being allocated tickets purely on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Now, let's see, what is that much free in Bangladesh? Ah! Got it! Tattoo show. Don't miss it.

SPORTS TALK



Hansie Cronje

(South African captain)

It's nice to win a tournament in our first appearance at Sharjah. The mistake of being a bit complacent in the World Cup was learnt well."

After winning the Pepsi Cup tournament in Sharjah

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-35

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. April 26, 1996)

1. Who won the Pepsi Cup at Sharjah in 1996?	Pakistan	India	South Africa
2. Bayern -	Hoechst	Munich	Fuse
3. Which of these is most modern?	Football	Cricket	Basketball
4. The swimming event combining all strokes is	Medley	Freestyle	Composite
5. A healthy diet means more	ice cream	Sweets	Cereals

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

Bosnia to get a taste of int'l soccer

TIRANA, Apr 24: Albania's national soccer team headed for Bosnia on Tuesday for the first international match to be staged in the former Yugoslav republic, reports Reuter.

The Albanian team were scheduled to pay a visit to Sarajevo before playing the friendly in the mainly Muslim town of Zenica, northwest of the Bosnian capital, on Wednesday.

"It's a pleasure for us to go there at a time when calmness seems to have been established in this war-torn country," Albanian soccer official Gjergj Thaka said.

Thaka said the Bosnian government had given guarantees for the security of the 18 players and accompanying Albanian soccer association officials.

"At the moment we have nothing to fear by going to Bosnia," he added.

The two teams first met in November last year in a friendly in Tirana when Albania won 2-0.

The return match is being held in Zenica as conditions in the stadium in Sarajevo were not considered up to scratch after more than three years of shelling by separatist Bosnian Serbs.

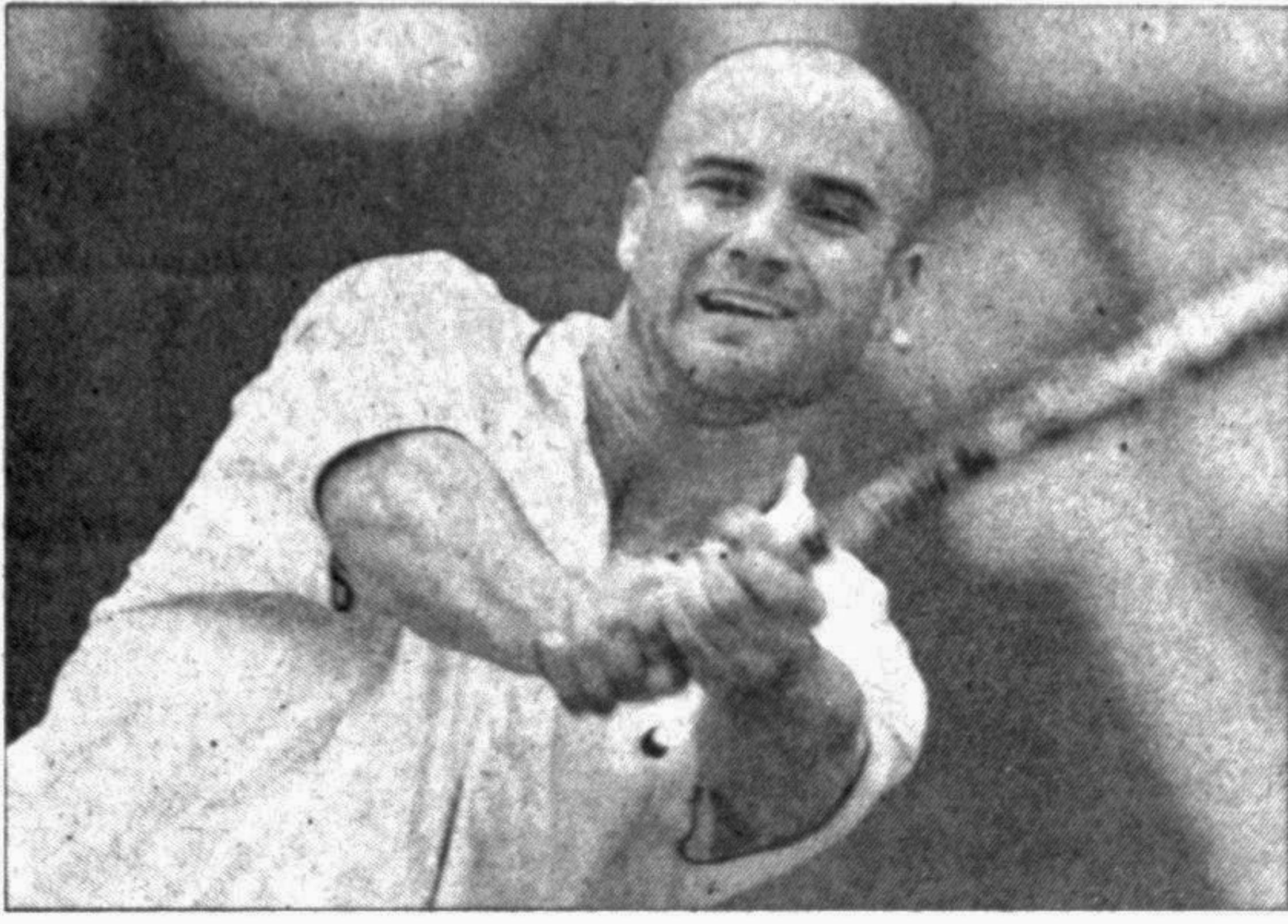
The match is a further sign that life is slowly beginning to return to normal following a Bosnian peace deal signed by Balkan leaders last year.

It is also considered a good test for Albania ahead of World Cup qualifying matches later this year. They are in European Group Nine with Germany, Portugal, Northern Ireland, Ukraine and Armenia.

Bosnia are preparing for their first international soccer competition. They will be vying for a place in the 1998 World Cup finals in European Group One with Denmark, Greece and fellow former Yugoslav republic Croatia and Slovenia.

Army basketball

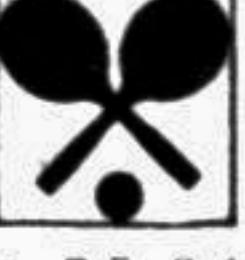
Savar Area became champions in the annual Bangladesh Army basketball championship which concluded at the Mirpur Cantonment yesterday, reports ESS.



World No-3 Andre Agassi of USA executes a backhand against Dutchman Jan Siemerink during their second round encounter of the Monte Carlo Open in Monaco on Apr 23. Agassi won the rain interrupted match 6-2, 6-3.

—AFP/UNB photo

Top seeds in topsy-turvy



MONTE CARLO,

Monaco, Apr 24:

Thomas Muster opened defense of his Monte Carlo Open title with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over Toomas Carbonell in the 2.2 million dollars tournament but four seeded players were eliminated in early second-round matches Wednesday, report agencies.

While Andre Agassi adapted his game to clay and rainy conditions to win his first ever singles match at the Monte Carlo tennis tournament at the expense of Dutchman Jan Siemerink 6-2, 6-3.

The American world number three, playing his first match of the season on clay, was far too consistent for Siemerink, whose powerful serve was not an efficient weapon on a surface made heavier and slower by rain.

Although Siemerink was ranked 24th in the world, he did not give Agassi much of a contest on the wet clay. Agassi was hammering back returns and kept him guessing when Siemerink charged to the net.

Agassi knew how to handle the rain delays. You have to stay focused and maintain your concentration," he said. "It's very difficult because the conditions are very heavy and I think that helped me a little bit today."

Agassi, seeded second, had a first-round bye. In Agassi's other two outings at Monte Carlo, he lost in his first match to Horst Skoff in 1991 and Yevgeny Kafelnikov in 1994. It took the balding American just over an hour and two breaks in each set to finish off the Dutchman, who saved a match point on a dropshot before losing with an unforced error.

The win also boosted his hopes on clay this season, looking forward to the French Open.

"I did a lot better than in the past here and now I hope to get the win I deserve. To come up with a win would be ideal for Roland Garros," he said.

Agassi, who was ill after Key Biscayne and had to withdraw from the Barcelona tournament last week, will be especially eager to settle scores with Austria's Thomas Muster, the top seed the title holder here.

Lewis, a big-headed Brit



NEW YORK, Apr 24:

Lennox Lewis

vowed Tuesday to

come through for

British fight fans

if he gets a shot

at Mike Tyson and make up

for the showing by Frank Bruno

in losing the World

Boxing Council

heavyweight title last

month, reports Reuter.

Tyson just went out there

and beat him up," Lewis said

of the American's third-round

victory over his fellow-Briton.

"Bruno did all that talking

and saying he was going to do

this and do that and really he exposed himself and just embarrassed himself.

"He not only let down himself, but the British public," Lewis, who hopes a judge's ruling will stand and force Tyson to make his next defense against him, said he would put Tyson down and reclaim the title he had held in 1993 and '94.

"It would be just like Buster Douglas but I got better tools than Buster Douglas," Lewis said of the man who knocked out Tyson six years ago in the champion's only defeat.

Lewis believes Tyson would want to fight him to legitimise his claim as the world's top heavyweight.

Lewis, 28-1, will meet 1988 Olympic gold-medal winning American Ray Mercer, 23-3-1, in the second fight on the card.

Former undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, 31-3, takes on fellow-American Bobby Czyz, 44-6, in the featured bout while American Tim Witherspoon, 44-4, fights Jorge Gonzalez of Cuba, 24-1, in the opening bout.

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Martigues' David Mazzoncini (R) clears the ball from the feet of Paris St Germain's Patrice Loko during a French First Division tie in Paris on Apr 23.

Jennifer to join US Fed Cup squad

WHITE PLAINS, New York, Apr 24: Jennifer Capriati, on the comeback trail after a two-year absence from the tour, was named Tuesday to replace Lindsay Davenport on the US team for this week's Fed Cup tie against Austria, reports Reuter.

Davenport was sidelined by a left wrist injury. In addition, Chanda Rubin also was forced to withdraw from the US team due to a right wrist injury.

Capriati joins Mary Joe Fernandez and Gigi Fernandez on the US team that plays Austria on Saturday and Sunday in Salzburg.

The 20-year-old Capriati, who ran a foul of the law and spent time in drug rehabilitation programmes during her absence from competitive tennis, played Fed Cup in 1990 and 1991, compiling a 9-1 singles record.

Capriati won the 1992 Olympic gold by defeating Steffi Graf in the final and ranked in the top 10 in the world from 1990-1993.

Tyson being wise guy

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Apr 24: Boxer Mike Tyson has agreed to abide by new orders from probation authorities to stay out of bars and nightclubs, his probation officers said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Tyson was told to stay away from establishments that serve alcohol or feature erotic entertainment such as his visit to a Chicago dance club two weeks ago that resulted in allegations he sexually molested a beautician.

Tyson is awaiting word at his Southfield, Ohio, home from Chicago authorities on possible charges related to the encounter on April 8 in which Madonna August, 25, charged that Tyson touched and fondled her and "sucked" her cheek when she was jured to a private room at the club.

Tyson aides and managers at the club, the Clique, have denied anything untoward happened to the Gary, Indiana, woman.

The World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, who is on probation from a 1992 rape conviction in Indiana, is under tight travel restrictions pending the outcome of the case. He can leave Ohio only to attend family emergencies or approved business affairs, which could include a prize fight.

In other matches Tuesday two-time Monte Carlo winner Sergi Bruguera, ninth-seeded Muster "paranoid" because the Australian had complained about the shortage of clay tournaments in the ATP Tour season. Muster replied that the American might have eaten too many hamburgers made with British beef.

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Romania preening for princess

BUCHAREST, April 24 (Reuters): Twenty years since she dazzled the world as a tiny teenage gymnast with the first Olympic "perfect