

Column One

Sports WHIZZ KID

ANNOUNCEMENT  
Now Taka 1000/- !!!  
Hey Kids! Take a look at this. WHIZZ KID will have one winner drawn from all the correct entries each week. The lucky winner will be awarded prize bond worth Tk 1000/- Wow!

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-44

Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. July 5, 1996)

1. Boris Becker won his first Wimbledon tennis title in	1986	1985	1987
2. Sir Garry Sobers once played Sheffield Shield in Australia for	Victoria	Tasmania	South Australia
3. The winner of marathon gold in the 24th national athletics championship is	Solaiman	Yousuf	Safaruddin
4. The new coach of West Indian cricket team is	Roberts	Marshall	Holding
5. The Fair Play Trophy of the Euro '96 was awarded to	Croatia	Czech Republic	England

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

SPORTS TALK



Martina Navratilova

(Former nine times Wimbledon champion)  
"Steffi Graf could run in the quarter-final at the Olympics. If you read the newspapers, you'd think she belongs in hospital, if you look at her today she's running like a gazelle."

While commenting on Graf during the 1996 Wimbledon championships.

Kabaddi wins for Maniknagar, BDR

Sports Reporter  
Maniknagar Model School and BDR School and College recorded their second successive victories yesterday in the ongoing School Kabaddi championship '96.  
In the day's first engagement, Maniknagar defeated Abu Taleb High School by 27-14 points. The winners led the first half 17-5.  
The BDR boys were more aggressive in the next match as they trounced Badda High School by 31-6 points.  
Deepshikha Bidyalaya earned a bye in the days third match against Ansar Academy as the latter failed to turn up on time.

Olympic concerts

ATLANTA, July 3: Organisers of this month's Olympics unveiled on Tuesday the line-up for a 17-day programme of free concerts during the Games, reports Reuter.  
The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) said the concerts, to be staged in a new park in central Atlanta, are a thank-you present to the citizens who had helped win the Olympic bid.  
"It was the public who helped us receive this bid, and we want to help repay that honour," ACOG director Sherman told a news conference.  
Stars will include chart topper Jon Secada, the South African township singers Lady Smith Black Mambazo, Latin jazz veteran Carlos Santana and Cirque du Soleil, a French-Canadian circus/cabaret troupe from Montreal.  
"It is our hope that this will be the inauguration of a new tradition in Olympic history, where the people of every future host city will be able to experience the Games through a free and inclusive entertainment festival," said Russ Nanto, Olympic marketing director for co-sponsor AT and T.  
ACOG also announced a southern jam session to feature in the Olympics' closing ceremony of Aug 4.  
Taking part will be stars of a variety of musical styles, including Hispanic singer Gloria Estefan, blues guitarist B.B. King and rock legend Little Richard, producer Don Mischer said.

Trent Bridge Test today



LONDON, July 3: India may have taken a while to rediscover the traditional art of playing cricket but their new-found form has come in the nick of time to salvage a drawn series against England, reports Reuter.

With England taking a 1-0 lead into the third and final



MD. AZHARUDDIN

Test starting at Trent Bridge on Thursday, India have at last shaken off the hangover from an overdose of one-day cricket.  
The tourists went into the opening Test at Edgbaston with only three Tests under their belts in 18 months and it showed. In just over three days they were left embarrassed after a humiliating eight-wicket defeat.  
The blame was placed squarely on the shoulders of the cricket authorities for sacrificing Test matches for the fast bucks and big crowds of one-day cricket.  
Arriving in England shortly after the World Cup on the sub-continent and the Singer Cup in Singapore, someone forgot to tell India's batsmen to take their time.  
They often fell to rash shots as they battled to make the adjustment from the abridged version of the game.  
The one exception was

Sachin Tendulkar who has managed to master both forms of the Game but the rest of the players were hopelessly lacking the skills of traditional cricket.

India's inept batting ability hit a new low only days before the second Test when they were handed a 10-wicket thrashing by Derbyshire, inside three days.

It was left to two Test newcomers, Saurav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid, to show their more senior teammates the patience and tenacity needed in Test cricket.

Ganguly's 131 and Dravid's 95 in the second Test at Lord's seemed to shake the Indians into life and on Thursday they will take the field with renewed confidence.

Each of their batsmen, apart from Tendulkar, have hit big scores in India's last two outings.

Skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, who has struggled in the Tests, found some form against a weak British Universities side in Cambridge last week when he stroked 73.

Azharuddin is aware he needs more than just a big score to keep the axes at bay. Only a victory will keep the fans and the cricket chiefs back home happy.

Under his leadership, India have won 12 Tests since 1990 but only one abroad and they have not won a Test series since Kapil Dev led them to victory over England 10 years ago.

Azharuddin survived widespread calls for a new captain following India's dramatic semifinal loss to Sri Lanka in the World Cup.  
The Test series had not even started in England when the calls for his sacking started again, this time over Navjot Sidhu's sudden departure over claims of unfair treatment from the skipper and team management.  
India's Achilles' heel leading into the final Test is their

bowling and it is for this reason that they are likely to omit a batsman in order to strengthen their attack. Ajay Jadeja would be the most likely batsman to miss out.

Apart from new ball pair Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad the tourists' attack has rarely looked dangerous. Paras Mhambrey's place in the side as the third seamer is likely to come under pressure from



MICHAEL ATHERTON

Salil Ankola who picked up four Hampshire wickets in Southampton at the weekend.

Selectors will also be tempted, depending on the outcome of the pitch inspection, to play a second spinner alongside Anil Kumble in either Narendra Hirwani or Venkatesh Prasad.

Hirwani, who claimed 16 wickets on his Test debut against West Indies in 1987, has partnered Kumble only twice but is the likely choice.

If Ian Salisbury wins a place in England's XI then spectators in Nottingham will see the unusual sight of three leg-spinners in action.  
**Probable India team:** Vikram Rathore, Nayan Mongia, Saurav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Salil Ankola, Venkatesh Prasad, Narendra Hirwani.

Eeti makes a beginning

Sports Reporter

Ishrat Jahan Eeti clinched the girls' under-16 singles title of the national junior age-group tennis championships at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

Eeti, who lost the first set 2-6, staged a remarkable turnaround to pip Anku Ahsan by winning the next two sets 6-4, 6-2 in an exciting encounter.

Fahim Ahsan Romi and his partner Niranjan Ram clinched the boys' doubles title of the U-16 section with a 1-6, 6-0, 7-5 win over Salauddin and Munir. Romi's search for a double on the day was frustrated by rain as his singles final against Salauddin, scheduled to be held in the afternoon, fell through. The final will now be held at 3 pm today.

Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs, witnessed the matches and distributed prizes among the winners.



Winners of junior age-group tennis pictured with Obaidul Quader (6th from left, standing), State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture. — Star photo

Mayor Hanif for BFF President!

Sports Reporter

A major reshuffle in the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) and its sister concern the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) is in the offing.

According to informed sources, inspirational Awami League leader Mohammed Hanif, the Mayor of Dhaka, is expected to assume the post of the BFF president while Shahidul Islam Chowdhury, the Additional IG of Police, may be nominated as DMFA president.

Shahidul Islam had earlier served DMFA as chairman of the senior division league committee for a long time before quitting the arena more than a year ago.

It may be mentioned here that the most recent post of President BFF has been vacant for about two years after Oli Ahmed, former BNP Minister, quit after expressing utter disgust with the BFF executive committee, terming its members as "incompetent".

The shuffle will mean double loss for M. Azizul Haq, who is doubling as Acting BFF President and DMFA President. He also holds the post of President, Kabaddi Federation. On being relieved of football responsibilities, the seasoned bureaucrat will perhaps be able to concentrate more on kabaddi affairs. According to one DMFA member, his dual role led to several unpalatable confrontations between BFF and DMFA, resulting occasionally on the death of the game itself.

Bangladesh in USA Cosmopolitans struck by Bidyut

Sports Reporter

Young national opener Shahriar Hossain Bidyut, not included in the previous match against Flamengo, celebrated his first overseas match with a dazzling unbeaten half-century as Bangladesh recorded a thumping nine-wicket win over Cosmopolitans Eleven at Van Cort Land Park, New York on Tuesday.

Bidyut cracked an unbeaten 59 off only 78 deliveries as Bangladesh, who had earlier restricted Cosmopolitan to 114/9 in the 40-overs match, posted the required 115, for the loss of one wicket in only 23 overs for yet another resounding victory after their 87-run thrashing on Flamengo on Monday.

The Bangladesh national team, now in the United States on a month-long tour to two associate member-countries including neighbouring Canada as part of their preparation for the next ACC and ICC trophies, will feature in two more exhibition matches in New York against some local outfits before their first major encounter against the American counterparts in Washington on July 5.

Meanwhile, in the day's match, Bidyut apart, Ziaur Rashid Rupon, who played the perfect foil at the other end, scored a 48-ball 35 to propel Bangladesh to their second successive win.

Earlier, winning the toss and electing to use the wicket cosmopolitan, a pot-pouri of sub-continental hybrids, could hardly match the professional approach of their opponents.

Young national new-ball bowler Hasibul Hossain Shanto and an experienced left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman, who were particularly hostile with the cherry shared seven wickets among them.

Shanto took three wickets for only 20 runs in seven economic overs while Anis, rested in Bangladesh's first match, made most of his call with 4/30 in his allotted eight overs.

For Cosmopolitans only Ali with 41 and Goolsaran (20) offered mild resistance with the willow against Bangladesh's fired-up pace attack.

Lennox makes Mike an offer

LONDON, July 3: Britain's Lennox Lewis on Tuesday offered World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion Mike Tyson 30 million pounds (46.6 million dollars) for a title fight against the American, reports Reuter.

Date disposes of Pierce



LONDON, July 3: Kimiko Date became the first Japanese player ever to reach the women's singles semifinals at Wimbledon on Tuesday when she beat Mary Pierce of France 3-6, 6-3, 6-1, report agencies.

Date who reached the quarter-finals here last year now faces defending champion Steffi Graf for a place in Saturday's final.

Date is one of only two players who have beaten the German champion this year. She defeated Graf in a Fed Cup clash in April.

The other player to beat Graf in 1996 was Martina Hingis of Switzerland in the quarter-finals at the Italian Open.

In the fluctuating battle on Centre Court between the 12th and 13th seeds which provided the closest contest of an unremarkable day, Pierce, whose slow moving and over-deliberate service action and constant grimacing won few admirers among the 15,000 crowd, looked to have the match won in the first set as her big groundstrokes found their targets.

But Date, who had been in the same position against Spaniard, Conchita Martinez, capitalised on Pierce's dropping six of the eight service games in the last two sets.

Date deserved to experience her first Wimbledon semifinal, and has now reached the last four at three of the four Grand Slam tournaments.

Steffi Graf sent her rivals back to the drawing-board as she continued her remorseless progress towards a final reunion with Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

It is now 22 months and 33 matches since Graf was last beaten at a Grand Slam event, ironically by the Spaniard in the final of the US Open in September 1994.

But the manner of Graf's 6-3, 6-2 slaughter of Jana Novotna suggested Sanchez-Vicario will need all her fighting spirit and, more importantly, huge slice of luck if the pair do reach the final for a second successive year.

The fourth-seeded Sanchez-Vicario, a 6-4, 6-0 winner over Austrian Judith Wiesner, still has to find a way past American Meredith McGrath, who could become the first un-

seeded women's finalist for 33 years following her 6-3, 6-1 defeat compatriot Mary Joe Fernandez.

Graf, chasing her 20th Grand Slam singles title, continues to cast a huge shadow over the rest of the women's field.

There was a brief glimmer of hope for the opposition when news filtered through that Graf had withdrawn from her mixed doubles match. It subsequently emerged her Partner Heinz Guenthardt had a strained calf, removing yet another distraction from her path.

"It was lot easier than I expected," she agreed after a 61-minute demolition of Novotna, a contest which could not have been further removed from the classic, 1993 final which ended in tears for the mercurial Czech.

"I think she knew she had to do something better and keep on playing closer to the lines. That helped me a lot, especially at the beginning of the first set."

If Graf does win her seventh singles crown, only Margaret Court, with 24 Grand Slam titles will be ahead of her. She insists, nevertheless, that statistics are not her primary concern.

"I'm happy if I win the match and happier if I play well. That's more important to me than records. Maybe at the end of my career that's something I can look back on and be proud of, but not right now."

Sanchez-Vicario's hopes of reaching the final depend on a woman with only one Grand Slam victory in 18 months before she arrived at the All-England Club.

The 25-year-old McGrath had lost in the first round of all her previous six Grand Slam tournaments, save the 1995 French Open, only to emerge from the second locker room where the top players rarely venture to reach the last four.

"I just stopped shaking about five minutes ago I'm really excited," said McGrath, who has been based in Switzerland for the past four years.

"I was just hoping to win the first round. I'm just thrilled to be here and playing as well as I am."

McGrath, who won her third career singles title in Birmingham last month where she beat Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, Nathalie Tauziat and Natasha Zvereva, also won in Eastbourne two years ago by toppling Martina Navratilova in the final.

She clearly enjoys playing on grass and Sanchez-Vicario, who has been a slow starter in most of her matches, is alive to the threat. "She'll probably try to come into the net. I'll have to be ready to make pretty good passing shots, 'concentrate and be more consistent'."

The 27th-ranked McGrath could yet join a distinguished club. There have only been four unseeded women's finalists in the history of Wimbledon and none in the Open era.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Read bar codes  
5 Chap  
8 Catch sight of  
12 Wash the volume  
13 Soften  
14 Have the chutzpah  
15 Particular  
16 Lapidary object  
17 "Casa-blanca"  
18 "The Sound of Music" song  
20 Title  
21 Watch part  
26 No longer bright  
30 Low sound? Mined-over matter  
32 Slapstick missile  
34 Fun 'n' games  
35 "Uplume" writer  
36 Staff

37 Watch part first?  
41 Heckle or Jeckle  
45 Drench  
47 Pump up  
48 Wildcat  
50 Initial chip  
51 Wade  
52 Opponent  
53 Gardner's nuisance  
54 Bando of the baseball  
55 Collections  
1 Headed to 21 Tribute in first, head verse

2 — nine-tails  
3 State  
4 Unbeatable foe  
5 Sorcery  
6 Estival dummy  
7 Candidate  
8 Mrs. Archie Bunker  
9 Bowed in respect  
10 #7, on the phone  
11 Verily  
19 Dr.'s field  
21 Tribute in first, head verse

23 Wicker-work willow  
24 Schnozz  
25 Morse morse  
26 Dress-maker's dummy  
27 Vicinity  
28 Reduce by 10 percent  
32 Softwood trees  
33 Bobbing  
35 Omega precursor  
36 Santa — Calif.  
38 Unadorned  
39 Urge  
42 Noted war correspondent  
43 "Meet Me — Louis"  
44 Former partners  
45 Aphorism  
46 Indivisible  
48 Extinct bird

Solution time: 23 mins.

ICE ADD FROM SWOOP SLAVE PANZER LATER CORNERED LIKE GAUDY MAO DRESS PIGS DROP JAMES ORO STUMP MYS CATAMPTIOUS BLIND DON'T BAPPI ELSA BEA SEE

CRYPTOQUIP

XJK WFF, OLFTAPFLW  
JUXH ATHH FTAP JIPFL  
KO OTLWJU-IJ-OTLWJU

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOW VERY FUNNY: AN ELEVATOR OPERATOR'S LIFE HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: O equals P

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

THE WIMBLEDON DIARY

LONDON, July 3 (Reuter): Wimbledon diary on Wednesday:

BN-mania has gripped Britain, currently enjoying a long-overdue revival in several sports.  
The golden run by Tim Henman at Wimbledon this year — he is the first British quarter-finalist since 1973 — has seen him take over from England's Euro '96 soccer team as the nation's affection.  
In addition to fans sporting face paint in the colours of the English flag, radio stations have started calling the championships 'Wimbledon' and newspapers are giving away Henman T-shirts with every paper purchased.  
Henman, 21, was scheduled to face American 13th seed Todd Martin in the quarter-finals on Wednesday.

The Oxford-reared Henman is certain to have at least one vocal supporter in coming years, even if he doesn't succeed this year.  
Eleanor Carless, from Stafford, stands to collect 10,000 pounds after spotting Henman's talent two years ago and placing a bet of 20 pounds at odds of 500-1 that he would win Wimbledon by the year 2000.

And patriotic fans could also cost another British bookmaker 60,000 pounds if a British man wins Wimbledon before 1999, with a string of bets placed at odds of 200-1 looking more attractive after the unseeded Henman's run.

American Meredith McGrath, the only unseeded semifinalist at Wimbledon this year, is seeking to become the first unseeded finalist since Billie Jean Moffitt (King) in 1963.  
McGrath, who hails from Michigan but has been based in Switzerland in recent years, faces fourth-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario on Thursday's semifinals.  
While there have been four unseeded finalists, no unseeded woman has ever won the sport's top prize. The only unseeded male to have won Wimbledon was Boris Becker in 1985.

There may yet be a temporary reprieve for the old court No 1 at Wimbledon, in use for the last time at these championships.  
Assuming they win their forthcoming tie in Ghana, Britain are said to be "80 per cent certain" to stage their home Davis Cup promotion relegation play-off at the All England Club in September.

Former champion Bjorn Borg has meanwhile turned down an invitation to play an exhibition match against John McEnroe on Sunday to mark the court's official closure.

McEnroe, back at Wimbledon as a television commentator these days, admits the sight of so many seeds tumbling out of the men's singles has aroused his competitive instincts, even at the age of 37.

Visions of a comeback, though, were dashed by a stroll around the outside courts. "There's probably junior players out there who could beat me now," he confessed.

US-Japan Fed Cup semi July 13

WHITE PLAINS, New York, July 3: Monica Seles will lead the United States against Japan in the Fed Cup semifinals in Nagoya later this month, the US Tennis Association announced on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Lindsay Davenport, Mary Joe Fernandez and doubles specialist Gigi Fernandez round out the squad that will represent the United States in the July 13-14 tie.

China's admission

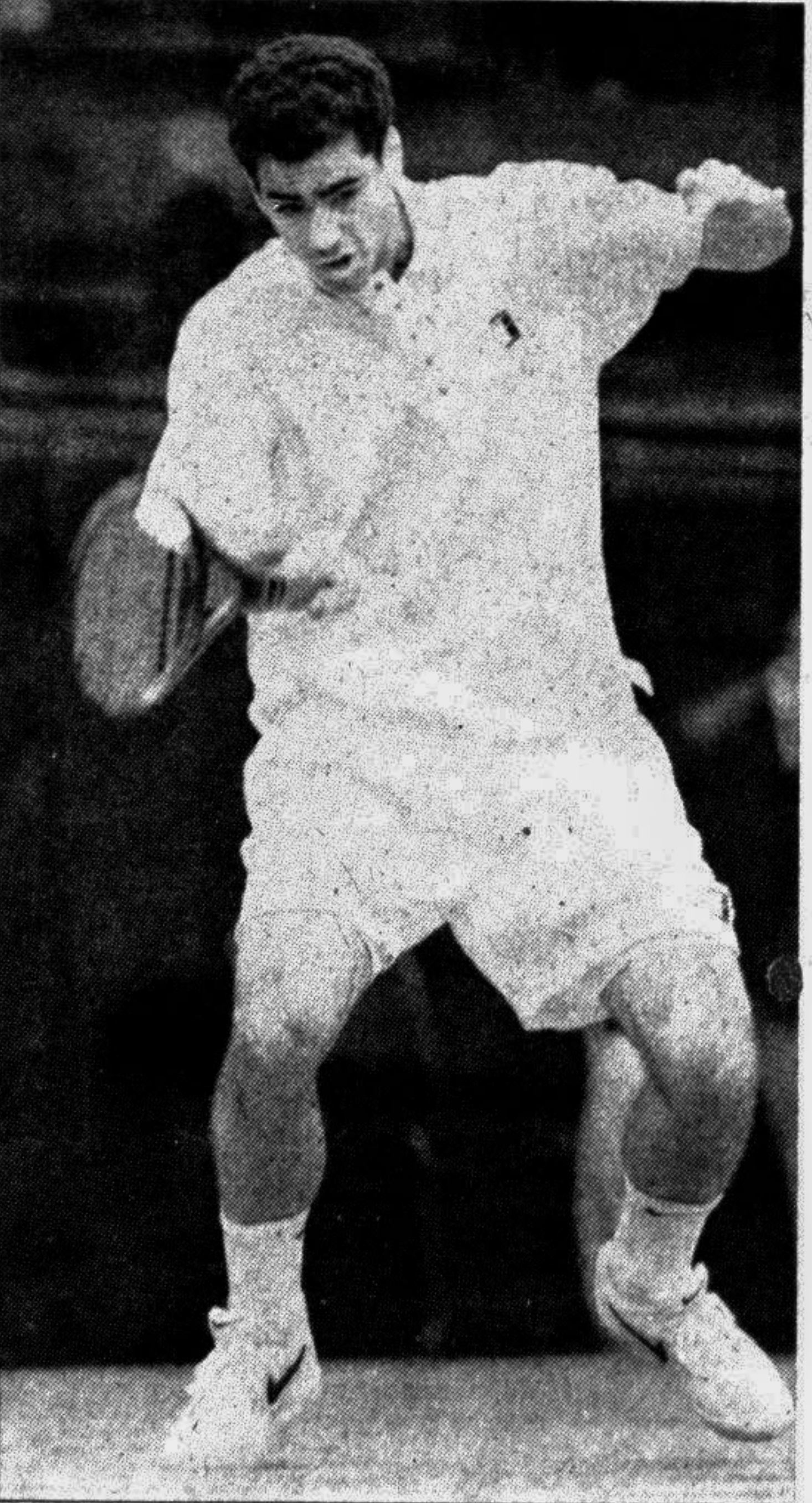
BEIJING, July 3: China's top Olympic official admitted Wednesday drug use had not been completely eliminated from Chinese sport, but called on other countries to fight the scourge cooperatively, instead of trading accusations, reports AFP.

"It's not really possible to say that the drugs problem has been totally eliminated, but the one thing I do know is that we have made every possible effort to stamp out the problem," Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) secretary general Wei Jizhong said.

Highlighting the fact that no Chinese athlete has tested positive in international competition since the beginning of 1995, Wei said it was about time China was allowed to shrug off the cloud that descended on its reputation during the Asian Games in Hiroshima.

Eleven Chinese athletes — including seven swimmers — tested positive in Hiroshima.  
He also pointed out that while Chinese athletes have remained clean, individuals from Australia, the United States and Japan had tested positive.

"I'm not trying to point a finger, just point out that it's an international problem, not just a Chinese one," Wei told reporters.



World No 1 Pete Sampras makes a forehand return against Dutchman Richard Krajicek during their Wimbledon quarterfinal encounter yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo