

## Caribbeans mean it

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, July 8: West Indian community leaders announced their full support this weekend for an official bid to host the 2003 World Cup cricket, reports AFP.

At the conclusion of a community heads of government (Caricom) meeting, Dr Denzil Douglas, Prime Minister of Kitt's and St Nevis, said that the event could help raise revenue to support the development of the game.

"This means quite a bit for the people of the Caribbean. It means the private sector will have to become involved and the public sector as well," he stated.

Last month, the new president of the West Indian Cricket Board (WICB), Pat Rousseau, revealed his intentions to launch a bid for the World Cup after the International Cricket Council indicated their interest in the idea.

In a separate move, community leaders backed plans to offer contracts to a pool of West Indian players to encourage them to stay in the country rather than pursue their career elsewhere.

"This would provide the players with an opportunity of financial security and also ensure that when our cricketers are required to play Test cricket, there would be no excuse that they are not on any contract with the WICB."

## Wimbledon enters third week

LONDON, July 8: Wimbledon will go into a third week this year because the mixed doubles cannot be completed on Sunday, reports Reuters.

This was made clear after top-seeded Mark Woodforde of Australia and Larisa Neiland of Latvia beat Britain's Jeremy Bates and Australian Nicole Bradtke 6-4, 6-4 in the third round of the mixed doubles.

Neiland had to play in the women's doubles final with American Meredith McGrath against Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic and Martina Hingis, the 15-year-old Swiss player, following the men's singles final.

Only then could Woodforde and Neiland play their mixed quarterfinal against Americans Patrick Galbraith and Pam Shriver.

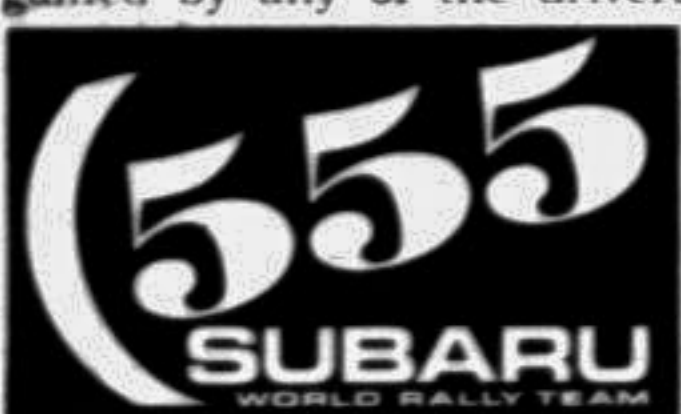
By the time that match is finished there would not be time for both a semifinal and the final of the mixed to be played.

The last time the championships went into a third week was in 1992 when the men's doubles final won by John McEnroe and Michael Stich, was completed and the finals of the mixed doubles, and boys and girls doubles finals were staged.

## Eriksson 3rd in Argentina

555 Subaru World Rally Team driver, Kenneth Eriksson, finished the third and final leg of the 16th Rally of Argentina in 3rd position after a slow puncture on Special Stage 24 lost him 2nd position to Carlos Sainz. Teammate Piero Liatti, in the second Subaru Impreza 555, drove a superb final day, regaining 2 minutes and 46 seconds to overhaul his nearest rival and finish in 7th place after an incident-packed rally robbed him of a potential third position, says a press release.

The opening competitive section of Saturday's stages nevertheless proved frustrating for the World Championship drivers when the correct route at a junction was blocked, causing all the drivers, except Kenneth Eriksson, to take the wrong route. Following a meeting of the Stewards, it was deemed that no time advantage had been gained by any of the drivers



and the times on the stage stood.

Italian ace, Piero Liatti, drove at an incredible pace consistently taking time off Rui Madeira to elevate himself to 7th position. With over a minute splitting the two at the end of the rally, Piero's final day charge paid off and the duo picked up points for the 555 Subaru team and Liatti now lies fourth in the Drivers Championship.

The 1996 FIA World Rally Championship contenders now head to Finland for the 1000 Lakes Rally (23-26 August) for the sixth round of this year's series.

## 424-member Aussie squad for Atlanta

CANBERRA, July 8: Australia is sending a record 424 athletes to the coming Atlanta Olympic Games and aiming to increase more medals than four years ago in Barcelona, reports Xinhua.

Reports from Sydney said in the Barcelona Olympic Games, Australia wrestled seven gold, nine silver and 11 bronze medals.

In Atlanta, the focus of Australia's medal hopes will be largely on the three traditional areas of strength - Swimming, cycling and rowing.

# Third Test heads a draw

Sports Reporter



England look certain to hold on to their 1-0 lead in the series against India as, despite a minor middle order collapse, they managed to win the battle for the first innings lead on the fourth day of their third and final Test at Trentbridge on Monday.

At close England were 550 for seven.

AP adds: England could muster 469 for five, at least following a rejuvenating bowling spells from Indians.

From 379 for two at lunch, England lost three quick wickets and was still 52 runs behind India's first innings 521.

England were off to a bad start even before the fourth day's play began. No 3 batsman, Nasser Hussain, 107 not out before Sunday's rest day, didn't even make it out of the pavilion.

Hussain, who fractured his right index finger after being hit by a Javagal Srinath delivery in the last over of the third day, was forced to retire hurt, leaving his 192-run partnership with captain Mike Atherton unbroken.

In overcast conditions, Atherton resumed on 145 with left hander Graham Thorpe. In the first over of the day by Saurav Ganguly, the England captain reached his 150, which included 18 fours, the last of them brought up with a cover drive off the second ball of the day.

Atherton's 150, his third in Test cricket, was reached after his third escape in the slips. Dropped on by Rahul Dravid on 0, and again on 34 by Mohammed Azharuddin, Atherton was lucky a third time when Vikram Rathore at second slip spilled a chance which was edged off Ganguly.

When he reached 160, with England on 360, his luck ran out. Slashing at a wide, short Prasad delivery, he found an edge and was caught by Sanjay Manjrekar. It ended his highest score in England, lasting 468 minutes and including 20 fours.

Græme Hick then joined Graham Thorpe, who was troubled by the Indian quicks early in his innings, but found his rhythm and hit a number of pulls and cover drives to the boundary to be 45 not out at lunch.

But immediately after lunch

Ganguly trapped the left-hander lbw, denying him his 17th half-century.

All-rounder Mark Ealham came in for his first Test innings, joining Hick, who after innings of eight, one and six in the series so far, was desperate for a big score.

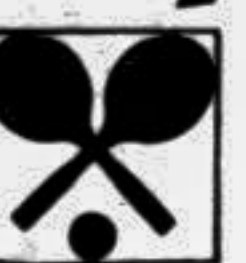
Hick started confidently with a cover drive for four off his second ball, but was then bogged down by the spin of Venkat Raju, taking another 75 minutes to reach double figures.

On 16 Hick lofted Raju over mid-wicket for his third boundary, but in Raju's next over, he attempted to do the same, succeeding only in finding a leading edge to be caught out at mid-on making the score 444 for four.

Jack Russell, the second Test match-saver with scores of 124 and 38, lasted only five balls before edging Prasad to wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia without addition to England's score.

Ealham displayed a wide variety of scoring shots as he went to 34 in his debut innings, as he and fellow all-rounder Chris Lewis (16 not out) held out until the second break.

# Of a volatile virtuoso



ATLANTA, July 8 (AFP): Big serving Croatian Goran Ivanisevic is far from your typical player on the international tennis circuit.

A self-confessed man of God who says he cares little for money - the fiery tempered world number seven is also passionate about the Olympics.

He carried the flag proudly at the head of the parade of Croatian athletes at Barcelona and is tipped to repeat the honour in Atlanta, so highly is 24-year-old from Split revered in his home country.

Ivanisevic also has an excellent chance of improving on his haul of two bronze medals (one for singles and another for doubles), as 1996 has seen the often volatile and unpredictable star settle into a winning rhythm.

Since taking on Vedran Martić as his coach at the beginning of the year, Ivanisevic has enjoyed the most consistently successful period of his career.

Yet he is still haunted by the reputation of being a "tanker" - throwing away matches once they slip from his control.

It seems that if a match is going too easily, then he makes problems for himself and can't fight his way out of trouble.

"Sometimes like when everything is going okay on the court, I become bored. I don't like to win 6-0, 6-0," Ivanisevic admits.

As a result, he experiments with his play, often opting for a

variation on his huge power serve.

But when that goes wrong, Ivanisevic can find himself in a hole, double-faulting, making unforced errors and ultimately throwing his tennis racket in an all too familiar gesture of frustration.



GORAN IVANISEVIC

Ivanisevic says the explosive temper is in his nature, recounting the first time his father took him to play tennis when he was seven.

"He left me to hit the ball, and when he came back after two and a half hours he saw me with a broken racket, so I already had a gift for that," he explains.

On the whole, however, Ivanisevic loves his job.

"It's a great job, a healthy job. And it's sport, with a lot of money - which is not so important. It's primary that you're healthy and it's what you like to do," he added.

In fact, the Croatian donates part of his earnings to charity in Croatia, where he has set up a foundation to help the underprivileged.

One of the members of the foundation board is a Catholic priest, who has brought Ivanisevic back into the folds of the church.

The tennis player says that his temperament on court has calmed significantly since he started returning to mass three years ago, coincidentally the time in which he embarked upon a steady relationship with his girl friend.

Ivanisevic has even had a brief meeting with the Pope Jean Paul II at the Vatican.

"I had my speech for one minute. Along with the Olympics this was maybe the biggest honour in my life which I am never going to forget," he recalls.

Ivanisevic will certainly be hoping for divine inspiration when he one again takes to the court in Atlanta.

# India eyeing Games' gold



NEW DELHI, July 8: Eight-time Olympic champions India hope to clinch a remarkable comeback to the top of international field hockey with a gold medal in Atlanta, reports AFP.

A triumph at the Olympic Games would end a 16-year drought for a nation that was once the dominant international force in the sport.

The Indians, who last won an Olympic gold at the western-boycotted Moscow Games in 1980. Slipped to a humiliating low in 1986 when they finished 12th out of 12 contenders in the World Cup.

But wily coach Cedric D'Souza, backed by a committed administration under police chief K P S Gill, have transformed the ragtag hockey outfit into world-beaters again.

The rejuvenated Indians carry the entire nation's hopes of Olympic glory after victories over gold medalists Germany, world champions Pakistan and powerful Holland over the past 12 months.

"This team knows they are capable of winning the gold, they fear no one," said D'Souza, a former goalkeeper who turned coach after failing to make the national squad in the 70s.

"This is the best India team in a long time. We will return with a medal, hopefully a gold," said veteran defender Pargat Singh, who will be leading the country for a second successive time at the Olympics.

Even the corporate world is gripped by Olympic fever, although hockey offers India's only medal hope in a 50-strong contingent that includes Davis Cup tennis star Leander Paes and pistol prodigy Jaspal Rana.

Multinationals Citibank, Reebok, Nike and Att are bending over backwards to sponsor that team, a far cry from earlier years when Indian Olympians struggled to make ends meet.

One bank has set aside 25 per cent of all transactions from a special Olympic visa card to sponsor India's preparations and clothing manufacturers are also backing team members.

"We have never had such support before," said Indian Olympic Association secretary-general Randhir Singh, a former shooter. "We used to beg for money, now it is pouring

in."

The recent success of the hockey team has been the key to the generous cash flow.

"Olympic medals are rare in India, but this time we stand a great chance in hockey," said one public relations executive. "Nearly 500 million people in India will follow the team's campaign at Atlanta on television. It makes sound business sense to back the team."

While the hockey stars go for gold, the other members of the contingent will at best form the cheering squad once their respective events are over.

Paes and Mahesh Bhupathy, who earned a direct entry for the Olympics after taking India into the Davis Cup quarter-finals this year. Know they have no realistic chance of securing a medal against a world-class field.

"For me, being part of the centennial Games itself is a medal," Bhupathy said. "Anything else will be a bonus."

Any medal hopes for Rana, the 20-year-old Asian Games shooting champion, were quashed when his favorite centre-fire pistol event was not included in the Olympic programme.

## Bolivia justify FIFA's decision

LA PAZ, July 8: Bolivia celebrated FIFA's decision to allow them to play World Cup qualifying matches at altitude in La Paz by thrashing Venezuela 6-1 in their first home game since getting the go-ahead, reports Reuters.

Although FIFA stipulated that clubs must release players 10 days in advance for national teams playing in La Paz, which lies 3,600 metres above sea level, Venezuela chose to fly in three hours before the start - considered the second best option.

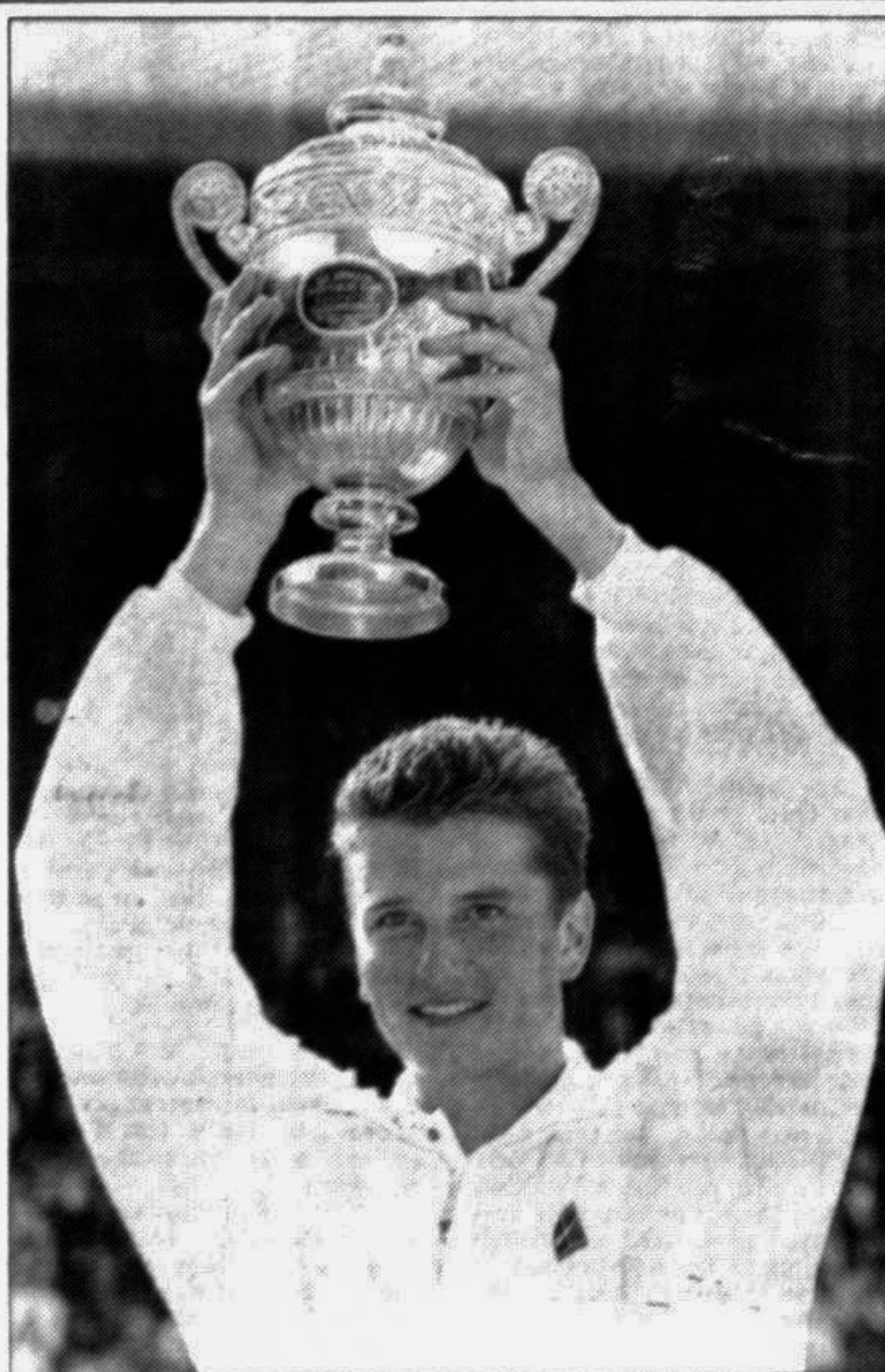
Six different players scored for Bolivia as they threatened a repeat of their 1994 qualifying campaign when a 100 per cent home record in La Paz, including a win over Brazil, helped them reach the finals for the first time since 1950.

South American minnows Venezuela, who came within a minute of only their third-ever World Cup qualifying win before drawing 1-1 with Chile last month, were under pressure from the start, falling behind to a second minute goal by Marco Sandy.

gramme.

Given a wildcard entry for the air-pistol event, Rana says his target is the Sydney Games four years hence. Trap shooter Masher Singh stands a better chance at Atlanta after finishing sixth in the World Cup in Peru earlier this year.

India is also sending archers, athletes, boxers, horse riders, judokas, swimmers, weightlifters and table tennis and badminton players. But they won't improve India's dismal record of solitary medal - the field hockey gold at Moscow - in the last six Olympics.



Unseeded Dutch Richard Krajicek holds aloft the Wimbledon trophy after beating American Malivai Washington in the singles final at the All England Tennis lawn on July 7.

## Pak tail wags in time

NORTHAMPTON, England, July 8: Shadab Kabir missed out on a well-deserved century by one run as Pakistan staged a fine recovery against Northamptonshire on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The elegant young left-hander hit two sixes and 11 fours in his 99 off 193 balls, sharing an eighth wicket stand of 171 in 49 overs with fellow 19-year-old Saqlain Mushtaq (78) to rescue the tourists from deep trouble at 140 for seven.

Pakistan ended on 323 all out and the country side closed the second day of the three-day match on 71 without loss in their second innings, still 100 behind.

Resuming on 79 for one, the touring side collapsed against Northants' makeshift attack which was without five resting first team regulars, plus Neil Mallender who did not take the field because of a bruised foot.

Scott Boswell and David Capel picked up two early wickets a piece to raise hopes of an unexpected first innings lead, but the youngsters retrieved the situation for Pakistan.

The innings of Shadab, who made 74 against England in a World Cup warm-up match in Karachi last winter, earned high praise for tour manager Yawar Saad.

"He is a player of immense promise. It was pleasing not only because he got close to a hundred, but also because of the way in which he made the runs. He will be figuring in Pakistan cricket for a long time of come," he said.

Shadab eventually edged a catch behind off Capel in the third over with the new ball and the ex-England all-rounder, who captured four for 60, then bowled Saqlain to end the innings.

## Atherton stays in the saddle

NOTTINGHAM, July 8: Mike Atherton was re-appointed England captain on Sunday for the forthcoming home series against Pakistan, reports Reuters.

Chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth confirmed on the first day of the third and final Test against India that Atherton would continue in the job. England play three Tests against Pakistan, starting on July 25, followed by a three-match limited overs series at the end of the tour.

Atherton struck a positive note for the rest day by insisting England can pull off victory over India despite a bland Trent Bridge pitch.

England ended the third day on Saturday at 322 for one in reply to India's first innings of 521 all out.

Opener Atherton led from the front with an unbeaten 145 and shared an unfinished second wicket stand of 192 with Nasser Hussain (107 not out) as their side comfortably avoided the follow-on.

But Hussain may not be able to continue his innings on Monday. He was struck on the glove late on Saturday and had an X-ray which revealed a hairline crack of a right finger.

The 28-year-old Essex batsman will have an early-morning get to see if he is fit enough to play.

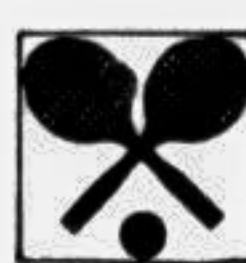
Atherton, whose team lead the series 1-0, said, "We can still win it. There is still time to do that."

"With nine wickets in hand, our aim must be to bat for another four sessions and put some pressure on India."

"Although the pitch is still playing well, it's a mind game, and the mind can play some funny tricks with you when you're under pressure."

Atherton's hundred was his 10th in Tests, and he hit back at suggestions the innings enabled him to recover from a crisis in form.

# Hingis makes the grade



LONDON, July 8: Martina Hingis became the youngest-ever senior champion in the history of the Wimbledon tennis championships here on Monday when she won the

women's doubles, reports AFP. Switzerland's 15-year-old Hingis and Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic beat fourth seeds Larisa Neiland of Latvia and Meredith McGrath of the United States 5-7, 7-5, 6-1 in their delayed final.



HINGIS .... goes down in history

Leading 4-1 in the third set when the final was stopped late Sunday, the eight-seeded Hingis and Sukova did not drop a game when play resumed and raced home.

The Czech-born Hingis, who is just a few days younger than Lottie Dodd who won the singles title at the age of 15 years 285 days in 1887, joined up as the regular doubles partner of the experienced Sukova earlier this year.

They were playing in their third tournament and it was third time lucky against McGrath and Neiland who had beaten them at both their previous tournaments.

Monday's play was delayed by fifteen minutes because more spectators than expected turned up to take advantage of the free seats and watch the final day's play after a week of rain delays.

Still to come was the junior women's doubles final and a mixed doubles quarter-final, semi-final and final.

"It's great to win Wimbledon. For every tennis player this is a big goal but one day I hope it will be the singles too," said Hingis after the win.

Asked if she intended to celebrate her victory, Hingis said: "We already started celebrating a little bit yesterday. We went for dinner and had some fun. We finished pretty late last night and I should have been in Jakarta already for the Fed Cup."

"But it's better to win a Grand Slam."

"I shall fly home to Zurich and then fly to Indonesia tomorrow," said Hingis, who became the youngest-ever junior singles champion here two years ago at the age of 13 years 276 days.

Asked what language they used on court, Sukova smiled: "We always speak Czech ... unless we are playing Novotna. She might listen in and hear what we are saying."

"But when Martina wants to swear at me on court she uses German."

# Tough test for the pros



LONDON, July 8: The "strangest" Wimbledon in living memory has given an unexpected boost to this month's Olympic tennis tournament in Atlanta, even without newly-crowned men's champion Richard Krajicek, reports Reuters.

The likes of Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Monica Seles had already pledged to compete at the Games, but their performances at the All England Club have suddenly raised the event's profile with the US Open just over the horizon.

Seles's fitness remains an area of uncertainty, and the entire women's game is still struggling to convince outsiders there is more strength in depth than has recently been the case.

Grass is not the best surface on which to measure Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's short-term title chances, but Mary Pierce, another Atlanta entrant, is among those for whom success looks further away than it did a year ago.

Wimbledon certainly raised more questions than it answered. If Graf's 20th Grand Slam title merely confirmed her as the outstanding player of her generation, Krajicek's success was less clear-cut.

The most likely explanation is that, at 24, the men's game has a new champion ready to challenge the elite on a regular basis, demonstrating there is no such thing as a fluke Wimbledon winner.

The alternative view is that Krajicek was a fortunate man in a non-vintage tournament plagued by injuries and wet weather which tested the patience of everyone involved.

Few fans would have suspected before the championships that Krajicek would turn in a better performance on Centre Court than Agassi managed.

But the Las Vegas has always had an eye for the big stage and could be the man to watch when the Olympic merry-go-round starts.

Despite the evidence of Wimbledon, normal service may soon be resumed.

## Mauresmo lifts jr singles title

LONDON, July 8: France's Amelie Mauresmo collected her second junior Grand Slam singles title in a month when she won the girls' singles title at Wimbledon on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Mauresmo, winner of the French Open junior title last month and seeded 10th, beat unseeded Maria Serna of Spain 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in one hour 41 minutes. The French girl celebrated her 17th birthday last Friday.

In this year's boys' final, sixth seeded Vladimir Voltchkov of Belarus beat unseeded Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

# Lady lets Malivai down



WIMBLEDON, England, July 8: At the wackiest of Wimbledon, it only figures the men's champion would give credit to a streaker for his first Grand Slam title, report agencies.

Sure, Richard Krajicek's huge serve was the difference in his straight-sets (6-3, 6-4, 6-3) victory over Malivai Washington in Sunday's Wimbledon final.

Sure, he became only the second unseeded champion in history beside Boris Becker in 1985.

Sure, he's the first Dutch player to win a Grand Slam tournament.

Yet even Krajicek paid tribute to the day's other precedent-setting event the appearance of a streaker on Centre Court.

As the players posed for photographs at the net before the match, the 23-year-old topless blond woman leaped from the stands, raced down the side of the court and, in front of the Royal Box, flipped up her only garment, a tiny white apron.

"I was a little bit tight, and then she comes out, and at least for me it put a smile on my face," Krajicek said. "In a way it was good. I think at least for me, it broke the tension a little bit."

Washington, too, said the streaker lightened the atmosphere.

"I thought it was a photographer at first," he said. "Then I looked over and I see this streaker. She smiled at me. She had on an apron. She lifted it up and she was still smiling at me. Then I got flustered and, boom, three sets later I was gone."

Even the normally stuffy guardians of the All England Club found the incident amusing.

"We have never had a streaker on Centre Court before, so I suppose it was inevitable eventually," a club spokesman said in a statement.

Even so, rain disrupted play for the fifth straight day, causing three interruptions totaling 2 hours, 40 minutes during the men's final and forcing some other events to be stretched into a third week.

Besides the rain, the tournament was hit by unthinkable upsets that decimated the men's field during the first week and freak injuries that knocked out Boris Becker and a court coverer.

Krajicek arrived this year with a dismal record on the All England Club grass, having lost in the first round at his last two appearances.

But the injury-dogged Dutchman, known for his erratic temperament, also turned up armed with a calmer, more concentrated approach.

It showed as he ended Pete Sampras's bid for four straight Wimbledon titles in the quarter-finals, after beating 1991 champion Michael Stich in the fourth round.

"I was a little bit surprised I wasn't seeded," Krajicek, ranked 13th in the world, admitted after his 93-minute win.

So many bizarre things occurred that Krajicek wondered whether he might be celebrating too soon after Washington hit a backhand into the net on match point. Krajicek had just dropped to his knees, his hands over his eyes, and rolled onto his back in celebration. In the first Wimbledon final

between two unseeded players, the 6-foot-5 (1.96 m) Krajicek overpowered the American with his serve - hitting 14 aces and losing serve only once. He broke once in each of the first two sets, and twice in the third.

Washington was left lunging time and again as Krajicek fired down serves at speeds of up to 129 mph (207.6 kph).

"The serve was the difference in the match," Washington said. "I venture he averaged a good 120 mph (192 kph) on his first serves. When a guy does that, it's tough to break. It puts everything on you to try to hold."

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