

B'ball squad to leave for KL today

Sports Reporter
A 16-member Bangladesh basketball team is to leave the capital today to take part in the 14th ABC junior (U-19) basketball championship, scheduled to begin in Malaysia from September 1.

Bangladesh, who have been placed in a strong Group B along with China, Kazakhstan and Japan, will play their first against Japan on the inaugural day of the 10-day meet which will conclude on September 10. Bangladesh will play their second match against China on the following day while take on Kazakhstan in their last group league match on September 3.

Only the top finishers from the group will qualify for the next stage.

The team includes 12 players, three officials and a referee.

The twelve players are: Faisal (cap), Sayed, Fazaia Rahim, Khaleed, Suhul Azim, Farhan Hasan, Hasim Ahmed, Blaze Costa, Sarwar Hoshmooin, Rajin Ashraf, Iftekhar Ahmed, Mansur Ahmed and Sadique Qudus.

The officials are: SK Sajed Ullah (manager), ASM Mamun (asst. manager), Mahatabur Rahman Bulbul (coach) and Sayed Akhlah Hossain (FIBA referee).

Pete starts in style

NEW YORK, Aug 28: Defending champion Pete Sampras was in a comfort zone on Tuesday despite starting against an unexpected opponent, report agencies.

World number one and top seed took less than 90 minutes to beat Jimmy Szymanski 6-2, 6-2, 6-1. The lucky loser from Venezuela stepped in for Romanian Adrian Panait, who pulled out shortly before the match with a sprained ankle.

Third seeded Austrian Thomas Muster followed Sampras into the second round with a 6-1, 7-6 (7/2), 6-2 victory over Argentina's Javier Frana.

"I could tell from his grip changes that he was probably a clay court player and he's from South America," the American deduced. "For a first round match I played pretty well."

Fourth seeded Croatian Goran Ivanisevic beat Russian Andrei Chesnokov 1-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 and 10th-seeded Chilean Marcelo Rios beat Andrei Pavel of Romania 4-6, 8-1, 6-4, 6-2.

Ousted on the hardcourts of the National Tennis Centre were No. 14 Alberto Costa of Spain and No. 15 Marc Roset of Switzerland.

Gibbs' big break

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 28: Western province batsman Herschelle Gibbs was the only uncapped player in South Africa's 14-man squad named today for a quadrangular one-day series in Kenya next month, reports Reuter.

Kenya, South Africa, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will take part in the series.

Cappellini's 6th in a row

John Player Gold Leaf driver Jon Jones and Paul Blackburn put in one of their better performances of the season in the Gold Leaf Grand Prix-China, but Italian Guido Cappellini stole the show with his 6th consecutive win in the UIM Formula 1 World Championship, says a press release.

As well as the battle for the top position, the huge crowd were delighted to see Chinese driver Peng Lanwu finish the race.

Jones just missed out on the podium finish, but was pleased with his result, he came in 4th.

Cappellini made the most of his pole position as he blasted away from the start and held on to the lead throughout the 55 lap race. He was challenged in the race by his fellow countryman Massimo Ruggiero in the 6th lap when he moved up to the 2nd spot but bad luck struck when he crashed out of the race in the 18th lap.

From then on Jon Jones, Michael Warner put constant pressure on Cappellini but were unable to catch him throughout the race.

It was not a day for John Player Gold Leaf driver Paul Blackburn as his start from the slot was very bad and was placed in the 14th position but gradually moved up to the 7th spot and claimed enough points to place him in the overall classification.

In the day's fastest lap was run by John Player Gold Leaf driver Jon Jones but it did not help him to squeeze past Cappellini in his ultimate standing position in the race was 4th.

The John Player Gold Leaf team has modified the boat for better performance in the race and the result reflected in the Grand Prix of China. The team is looking forward to spoil the party in Campeon by Cappellini as they plan to hold the 1st spot.

Sanath spoils Sachin's joy

COLOMBO, Aug 28: Sri Lanka's explosive openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluwitharana took apart the Indian attack today to lead the world champions to a nine-wicket win in the Singer World Series here, reports AFP.

once before the top two clash in the September 7 final worth 50,000 dollars to the winners.

Earlier, deposed Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin contributed 58 in a valuable stand of 129 with Tendulkar, after Sri Lanka had reduced the

Cup one-day international between India and Sri Lanka on Wednesday:

INDIA:					
Jadeja	run out			0	
Tendulkar	run out			110	b
Ganguly	c De Silva				
Dharmasena				16	



The pair hammered 125 by the 22nd over as the Sri Lankans, chasing India's modest 226 for five, romped home with 34 deliveries to spare in the day-night international.

Left-hander Jayasuriya made an unbeaten 120 off 128 balls and Kaluwitharana contributed 53 off 66 to ruin what promised to be a memorable first day in office for India's new captain Sachin Tendulkar.

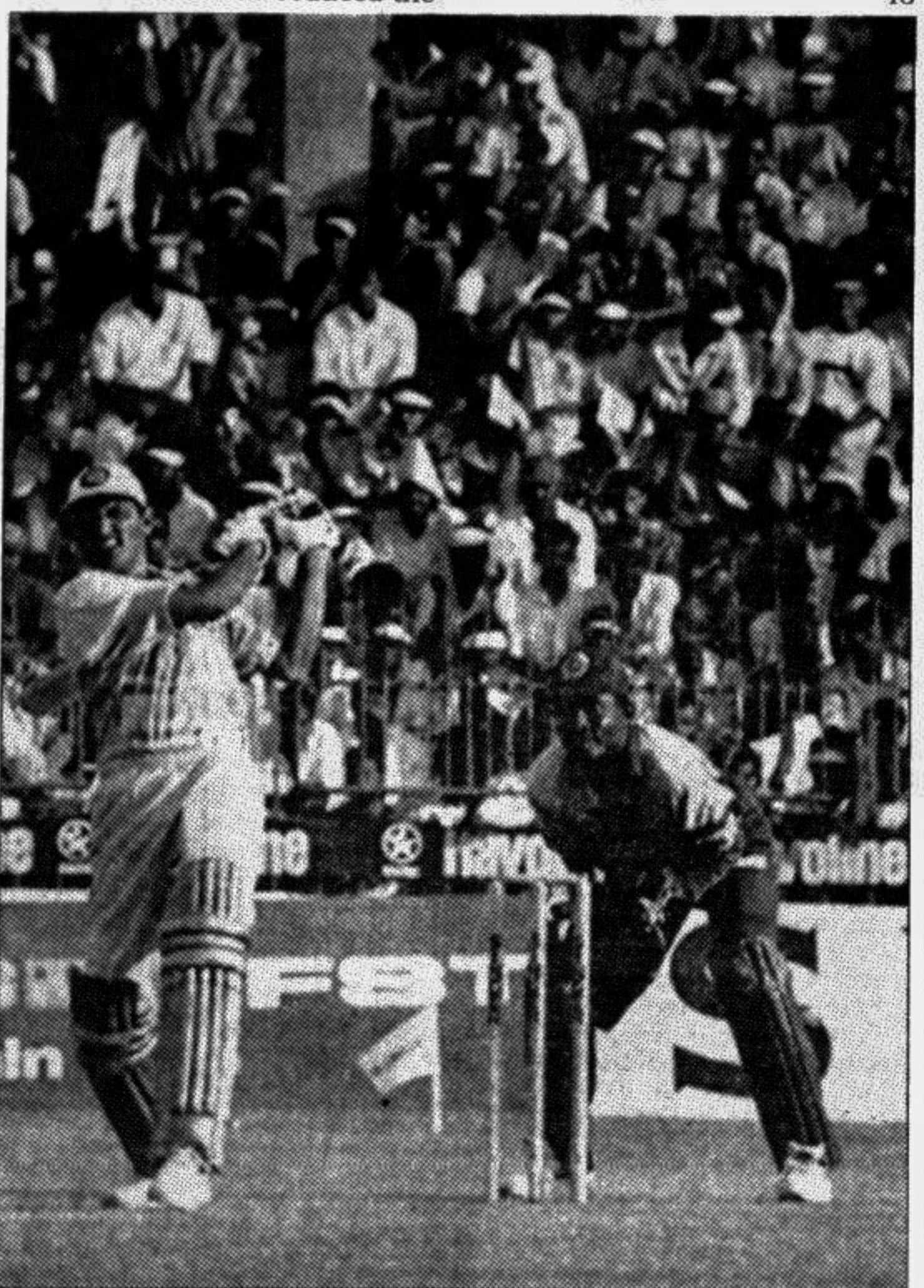
The 23-year-old, who opened the batting after winning the toss, defied the spot-on Sri Lankan bowlers till the 49th over to make 110 — his ninth limited over hundred.

Tendulkar then chipped in with the wicket of Kaluwitharana but could not deny the Sri Lankans victory in their first match on home soil since March's World Cup triumph.

Cheered by a full house of 25,000 home fans at the Premadasa Stadium, Jayasuriya and Kaluwitharana defied the slow wicket to launch a blistering attack on the hapless Indian bowlers.

The pair put on 51 by the ninth over and brought up the century stand in the 16th, taking 13 runs in seamer Venkatesh Prasad's second over and 17 off-spinner Ashish Kapoor's second.

Jayasuriya, who made a world record 48-ll century at Singapore in April, was stuck on 90 for seven deliveries before a single off Anil Kumble in the



Former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin pounces on a Muttiah Muralitharan spinner for an ambitious shot while Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Kaluwitharana looks on during their Singer World Series match at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday. Azhar went on to score 58 before being stumped by Kaluwitharana. — AFP/UNB photo

Indians to 57 for two by the 17th over.

Tendulkar, who twice escaped being run out, was also lucky to see Kaluwitharana miss an easy stumping off spinner Muttiah Muralitharan when he was on 38.

But he held his ground against the inspired Sri Lankan attack, which was backed by sharp fielding.

Lankan seamer Chaminda Vaas conceded just seven runs in his first six overs to restrict India's start to 20 runs by the 10th over.

Tendulkar's opening partner Ajay Jadeja fell in the third over without scoring — run out by a direct hit from mid-on by Asanka Gurusinha.

Saurav Ganguly, the hero of the recent England tour with centuries in his first two Tests, made 16 before off-spinner Kumara Dharmasena had him caught in the covers.

The steady home attack kept the Indian batsmen on a tight leash, allowing just one boundary between the 14th and the 40th overs.

India and Sri Lanka have now played 41 one-day internationals. The Indians have won 25 of them and Sri Lanka 14. Two matches didn't yield a result.

The match was Indian pace bowler Jagavall Srinath's 100th one-day game.

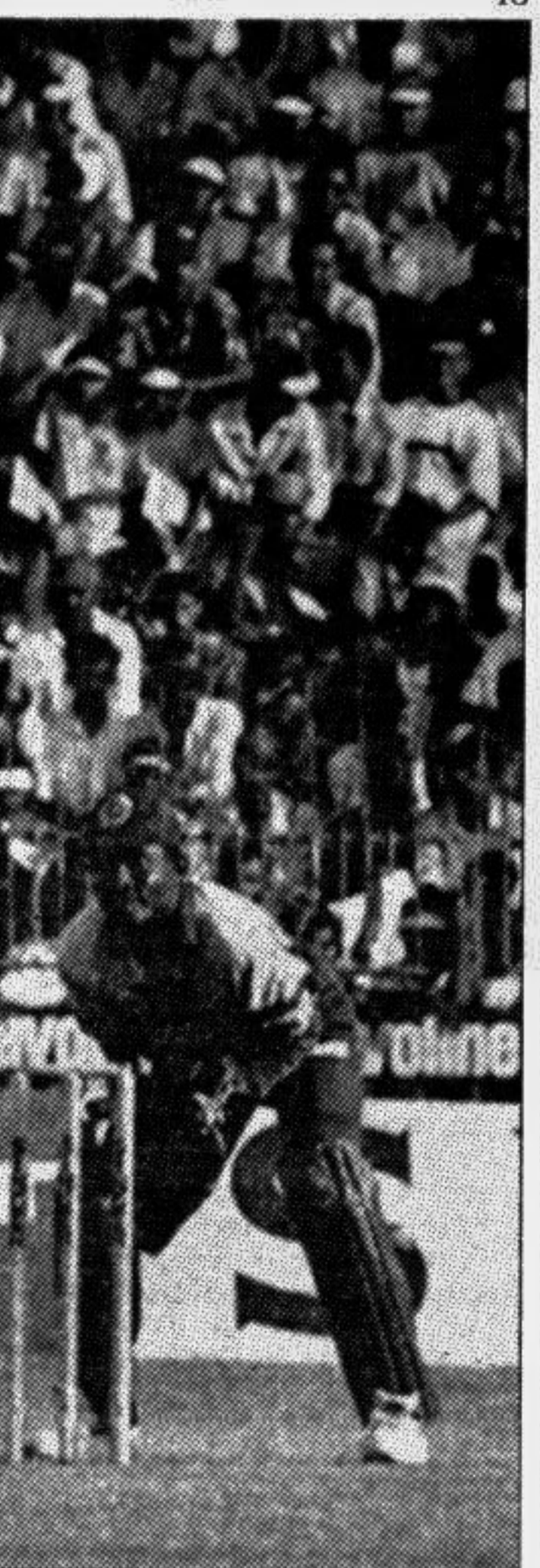
There was strict security at the stadium.

Each spectator was frisked. Sniffer dogs were posted at different entry points to guard against anyone smuggling in explosives.

Wednesday's match was the first between the two on either side's home ground since their world Cup encounter ended in a fiasco with crowds in a Calcutta pelting players with missiles. That match was awarded to Sri Lanka, but in a game in Singapore later India exacted revenge.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the Singer



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SL to tour NZ next March

WELLINGTON, Aug 28: World Cup cricket champions Sri Lanka will play two Tests and three one-day internationals in a tour of New Zealand next March, officials said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

New Zealand cricket spokesman said the Sri Lankans would play Tests in Hamilton and Wellington and one-dayers in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin, following hard on the heels of a tour by England.

New Zealand will also line up against Sri Lanka and Pakistan this November in a one-day champions trophy competition in Sharjah. The team will go on to tour Pakistan, playing two Tests and three one-day internationals.

Surrey want Lewis

LONDON, Aug 28: Surrey defied a request from Lord's to omit England bad boy Chris Lewis from their vital championship match with Warwickshire today, reports AFP.

The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) had asked title challenger Surrey to leave all-rounder Lewis out of the team to face defending champions Warwickshire on Thursday.

His requested omission was intended to be part of the TCCB disciplinary action taken against him for reporting late for the Test against Pakistan on Sunday.

Lewis' tardiness cost him his place in the England squad for the one-day internationals against the tourists and cost him a minimum of 3,000 pounds (about 4,500 dollars) in match fees alone.

The TCCB then asked the county to extend his punishment by leaving him out of the Warwickshire match.

But Surrey chairman, Michael Soper, who supported the action taken against Lewis, stressed: "We feel that this punishment is harsh but fair and that it should not be taken forward to prevent him playing for his county to whom he is contracted."

Lewis, originally picked in the 13-man squad to face Pakistan at Old Trafford on Thursday and at Edgbaston and Trent Bridge over the weekend, was dropped on Sunday after turning up 55 minutes late for England's morning practice session, claiming he suffered a puncture.

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Healy lures Lankan lady!

COLOMBO, Aug 28: A former Sri Lankan beauty queen was briefly detained outside Australian skipper Ian Healy's hotel room here and freed without pressing charges, police sources said, reports AFP.

The woman, identified as Shivanthi, and in her mid-20s, was stopped at the tightly-guarded Oberoi hotel shortly before midnight as she tried to enter Healy's room, police said.

"The woman had been hanging around at the hotel for a few days to gain entry," a police source said. "Security stopped her and sent her out. There was no arrest made."

There was no immediate reaction from Healy.

Players from Australia, India and Zimbabwe who are taking part in the four-nation Singer World Series are provided with tight security by police commandos and ministerial security division.

Liam makes Ian proud

LONDON, Aug 28: Liam Botham demonstrated his father Ian's golden touch today shortly after making his county debut for Hampshire, reports Reuter.

Botham dismissed Mike Gatting with his seventh ball when the former England captain pushed a half-volley to square-leg on the first day of the four-day match against Middlesex at Portsmouth.



Promoter Don King (C) poses with Mike Tyson (L) and Bruce Seldon after press conference in Los Angeles on August 27. — AFP/UNB photo

Foes held cordial clash

LOS ANGELES, Aug 28: As boxing news conferences go, Tuesday's Mike Tyson-Bruce Seldon get-together was a virtual love-in, with the exception of a few taunts of Seldon from a member of Tyson's entourage, AP.

Otherwise, there were kind words all around. And Tyson, appearing more relaxed than usual at these type of gatherings, spent time afterward chatting with fans and signing autographs.

Tyson, the WBC heavyweight champion, and Seldon, the WBA title holder, will meet for Seldon's crown Sept. 7 at the MGM Grand Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas.

The 12-round bout had been scheduled July 13 at the same site, but was postponed because Tyson was suffering from bronchitis.

Tyson and his entourage arrived nearly a half-hour late. Then, promoter Don King, in his inimitable style, addressed what he called rumours that the fight wouldn't come off as rescheduled.

"We're going to have a fight Sept. 7," he said. "The menu is going to be fantastic. ... This is a prize fight's prize fight."

As king dined on, Tyson, dressed in a T-shirt and sweatpants, appeared bored.

About Seldon, King said, "I'm very proud of this young man."

He's a terrific fighter." Later, Tyson spoke for some 20 seconds before taking questions.

"I'm just in great shape," he said. "I'm ready to fight. I'm ready to do my thing on Sept. 7. I'm fine. I'm ready to get it on. I'm here to render my services. He (Seldon) knows what I can do. If he doesn't, he's going to find out."

When asked what his professional future was after the fight, assuming he won, Tyson said, "I live my life one day at a time. I don't have any idea."

John Horne, Tyson's co-manager, said Team Tyson was very happy the fight did not come off as scheduled July 13.

"Mike was not 100 per cent," Horne said.

About Seldon, Horne said, "I've been watching Bruce Seldon for a long time. I knew some day he would be an opponent for Mike. Nobody gets to this level without being a great fighter."

Seldon, 33-3 with 29 knockouts, will be making the second defense of the WBA heavyweight title he won on April 8, 1995 by stopping Tony Tucker in the seventh round.

Seldon, 29, successfully defended his crown against Joe Hipp on Aug. 19, 1995 by stopping Tony Tucker in the seventh round technical knockout.

"I'm thankful, I'm grateful. I'm blessed," said Seldon, dressed in a white tank top and

blue shorts and a baseball cap with his name on it. "I'm not going to say anything bad. I'm not going to start up anything. I look at (the postponement) as a blessing. It was an emotional setback for a minute. I'm in great shape. It got me ready."

"I know the opposition who's in front of me."

Everybody knows Mike Tyson, everybody knows his style. I truly believe I have the style that's going to beat Mike Tyson. I am the heavyweight champion of the world. I have confidence in me."

Tyson, 30, is 44-1 with 38 knockouts. He last fought March 16, stopping Frank Bruno in the third round to win the WBC heavyweight crown. It was Tyson's third fight since he was released from prison in March 1995.

The man taunting Seldon was wearing full camouflage gear.

"Fight time, hand-to-hand combat, greatest fighter of our era," he said in a loud voice as the news conference was about to begin. "Going to retain that WBA title. You've got to give that WBA up. Bruce, Ten days (actually 11) until the wakeup, thunder is coming. Ready to go to war right now. Funeral next week."

While others laughed, Seldon mostly ignored what was being said. Occasionally, though, he smiled.

Stefan shows his stuff

NEW YORK, Aug 28 (AP): Stefan Edberg's diving return winner on the first point offered a clue that his last stand in a Grand Slam tournament would be something special.

A classic backhand volley that left Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek looking helpless moments later offered more evidence.

By the time Edberg finished his vintage victory, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3, Tuesday in the first round of the US Open, he had convinced everyone by unleashing all the beautiful shots in his repertoire, from high-kicking serves to the most elegant volleys in tennis.

It was a poignant performance amid a parade of championships — Pete Sampras, Steffi Graf, Monica Seles, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario — and the unsuccessful, though not unhappy, return of Jennifer Capriati.

The 30-year-old Edberg, playing in a record 54th straight and final Grand Slam event, covered the court as lightly and quickly as he did when he won his second consecutive US Open in 1992. That year, Edberg was seeded No. 2 and had to come back from a service break down in the fifth set in a fourth-round match against Krajicek that lasted nearly 4 1/2 hours.

This time, Edberg came in unseeded, ranked No. 28, and Krajicek was the No. 5 seed after winning his first major title at Wimbledon. But from the first

point, when Edberg's desperate stab at a good serve by Krajicek flew past the Dutchman, the players and the crowd sensed that the quiet, highly regarded Swede, garbed unassumingly in all white, might be around a while longer.

The crowd gave Edberg a warm greeting and cheered him

since he made only 53 per cent of his first serves. Edberg sneaked in enough surprising returns to break him twice in the first set, once in the second, and twice in the third set, the last on a double fault on match point.

Krajicek, treated for a nose bleed in the second set, seemed distracted throughout the match. Jets roaring overhead, fans moving during points, linesmen making a few questionable calls — all conspired to throw him off.

Krajicek's loss means no man will win two majors this year. Australian winner Boris Becker is out with an injury, and French champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov is sitting out in protest of his No. 7 seeding.

Edberg, enjoying the moment, recalled that he played the best match of his life on the same stadium court when he beat Jim Courier in the 1991 final.

"It's a special court," Edberg said, adding that it's also the perfect place to say good-bye to tennis.

"I don't really want to hang around playing tennis out there if I can't perform the way that I want to perform. I haven't performed over the last year and a half. I want to be in the top 10 and really have a chance of winning a Grand Slam. Those years are pretty much over next year. Once you go past 30, 31, 32, the chances of you winning a Grand Slam is so little."

"I've been on the tour for many, many years. It's time for me to go now before it's too late."

Seles keeps going well

Wimbledon, but arrived at the Open off a victory in the warm up at Montreal.

The results are not as important as the way she has been playing. The injury has forced her to favour the shoulder, and that won't go away. Sometimes it subsides a bit, but ultimately it's always there, a reminder that she can't hit the ball as well as she might.

It hardly mattered on Tuesday when she wiped out Anne Miller 6-0, 6-1 at the US Open.

Except to Seles. She held up her arm to indicate how restricted her stroke is by the torn muscle in her shoulder. It was probably significant that the left-hander used her right arm for the demonstration.

"My shoulder is the same," she said, sounding uncharacteristically somber. "It is not better, but it's not worse. That's good. I think this tournament, it is going to be the same as it's been the last three months."

And that's not very good. Injured in the Australian Open, her first Grand Slam victory since coming back after being stabbed by a spectator at Hamburg in 1993, Seles has struggled through a difficult summer.

She lost in the quarterfinals at the French and the Olympics and in the second round at

there's one spot where it's hurting the least. Sometimes I can find it. Sometimes I don't."

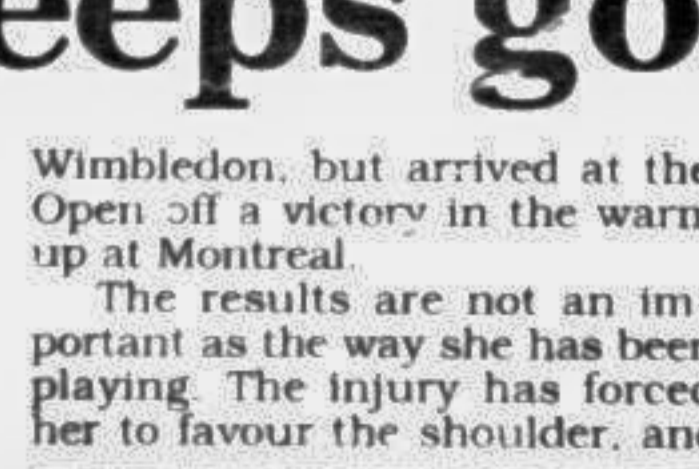
Seles said she intends to play through the pain for now and through the Fed Cup. Then, she might face surgery, a decision that weighs heavily on her right now because the recovery would probably sideline her for six months.

"It's a long rehab, that's for sure," she said. "I don't want to think about that because there's maybe a chance of avoiding it," she said. "There are a few other things to try. I heal pretty quick. That's why everybody is surprised this hasn't been healing well."

The pain is not the only problem. The injury has altered Seles' serve, making it flatter and easier to return. It hardly interfered against Miller, who put up little opposition. Facing Seles was an experience for the youngster.

"I consider my ground strokes to be probably the best part of my game," Miller said. "I mean a lot of times, they're pretty penetrating. Against Monica, it didn't even faze her. She just hits the ball back deeper and wider."

"Imagine what it would be like if Seles were healthy."



MONICA SELES

that changes her game. "I don't have the power," she said. "That's to me, the hardest. Each time I serve, every third serve, there's just a pain. You're used to it now. I try to mix up my ball toss because I know

Date, Majoli bite dust

NEW YORK, Aug 28: It wasn't supposed to be this hard for defending champion Steffi Graf to win her opening match at the US Open on Tuesday night, report agencies.

But the script that called for the usual first-round demolition by the top-ranked top seed was rewritten by 29th-ranked Indonesian Yayuk Basuki playing with nothing to lose abandon.

Graf, of course, prevailed 6-3, 7-6, but not before some tense moments that even had the German superstar thinning the match was going three sets.

"I won the second set, which I didn't think I would do, being down 5-2 and the chances she had at 6-5," Graf recalled.

Several of the other women's seeds eased into the second round with more typical Graf-like efficiency.

As afternoon turned to evening, fourth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez took Romanian Ruxandra Dragomir apart in 58 minutes, one more than second seed Monica Seles, who opened the second-day programme by crushing American Anne Miller 6-0, 6-1.

Third seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the 1994

champion, and eighth-seeded Olympic gold medalist Lindsay Davenport dropped three games each en route to the second round.

But the day was not without its casualties.

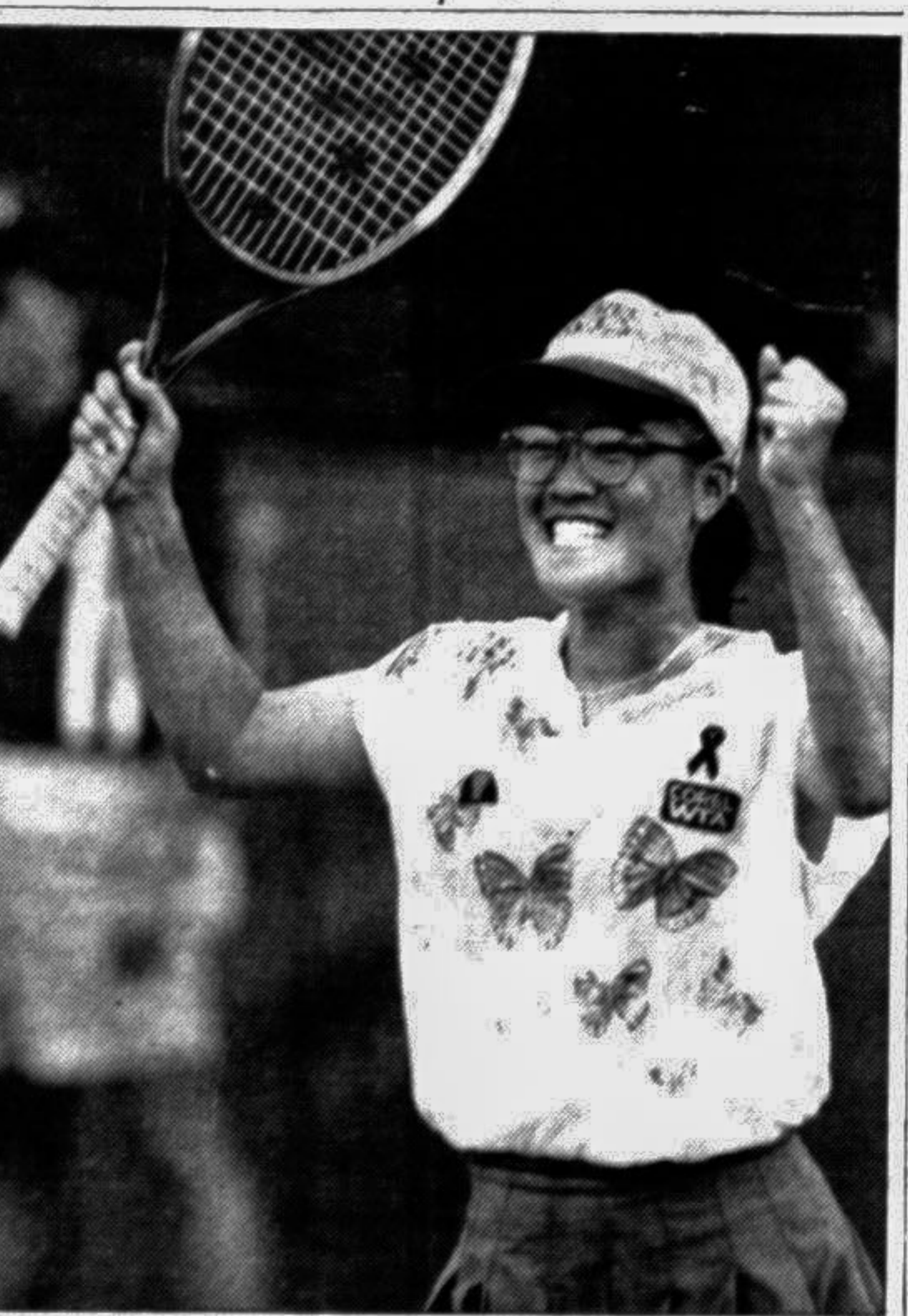
Fifth-seed Iva Majoli of Croatia was picked off by Austrian Judith Wiesner and Wimbledon semifinalist Kimiko Date of Japan, the 10th seed, fell 6-2, 7-5 to American Kimberly Po.

The losses by Date, and the exits by Anke Huber and Magdalena Maleeva, opened up the bottom quarter of the draw for Seles, who won't have to play a seeded player until the semifinals.

Basuki, a first-round loser here for the fifth consecutive year, was clearly going for winners, hitting the lines and running Graf around the court as she broke the top seed twice in the second set to grab that shocking 5-2 lead.

Graf ran off the next three games to restore some semblance of order.

But Basuki, her long black ponytail flying as she raced for shots, held her serve and twice had set point on Graf's serve at 6-5 before she unleashed a forehand pass to force the tie-break.



Kimberly Po of the United States exults after defeating Yayuk Basuki