sticky wicket

Sports Reporter

South Africa were 112 for four in 28 overs in reply to a fighting Zimbabwe total of 211 in a triangular cricket tournament match yesterday, according to Star TV monitored here late last night.

Skipper Hansie Cronje and Daryll Cullinan, who were at the crease, held the South African innings together after the hosts got off to a disastrous

Earlier. Zimbabwe opener Grant Flower scored a solid 90. but the rest of his side fell to a powerful South African attack led by Allan Donald in their day-night international.

The visitors finished their innings all out in 48.5 overs, with fast bowler Donald seizing four wickets and captain Hansie Cronje two for South Africa.

Acme Div II cricket results Sports Reporter

Indira Road Krira Chakra Nirman Eleven, Lancashire Cricket Club and Rupali Bank won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches held at different venues in the city yesterday.

Indira Road registered an impressive 95-run victory over Shantinagar 'A'. Batting first, Indira Road piled up 248 for four in their allotted 40 overs on the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Middle order Masud hammered highest 85 off 82 balls followed by opener Titu with 68 off 103. In reply, Shantinagar 'A' were restricted to 153 for seven in their share of overs.

At the Uttara Friends' Club ground, Nirman Eleven handed Lalbagh Anwar Sporting Club a 56-run defeat. Opting to bat first, Nirman scored 224 for seven in 40 overs with Rokon scoring an unbeaten 71 off only 49 balls. In reply, Lalbagh Anwar were shot out in 39.4 overs with the board reading 168.

In the day's other two matches. Lancashire handed Udayachal a five-wicket defeat at the Mirpur Stadium while Rupali Bank defeated Rayer bazar Athletics Club at the T&T ground in Mohakhali also by the same margin.

Pak cricketer defends his position

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Jan 25: An 18-year old Pakistani cricketer told a jury the Jamaican woman he is accused of raping in fact seduced him, said a court official, reports AP.

Zeeshan Pervez testified on Thursday in a trial closed to the public, said the official on condition of anonymity.

The promising batsman and university student from Karachi is accused of sexually assaulting the 36-year-old mother of seven on Aug 31, while on tour with the under-19 Pakistani cricket team.

The woman and her family. on vacation from the United States, were staying at the same Kingston hotel as the cricket team.

In an effort to portray himself as the naive non-aggressor. Pervez, who is Muslim, told the jury he was a virgin before the incident happened. It was his first trip outside Pakistan where sexual intercourse outside marriage is against the law, Pervez reportedly said.

On the day of the incident Pervez said he went to the woman's room to lend her a towel. The woman was lying on a bed and she seduced him. She told Pervez not to tell anybody and demanded money. The two had met casually the day before.

Earlier in the week, the victim testified that Pervez had been badgering her for sex.

She said Pervez lent her children some towels and they went to the hotel swimming pool. As she was dozing on a bed in her hotel room with her three-year-old daughter, Pervez walked-in and said he wanted to prove he was better than her husband.

She threatened to scream but he put his hand over her mouth, lifted her to another bed and sexually assaulted her.

She said she was unable to resist because she was wearing a brace to support her injured

A witness for the defence, Dr Herbert Elliott, said he examined the woman and found no

bruises or lacerations. The case is expected to go tothe jury on Monday or Tuesday after prosecution and defence

attorneys present their final arguments.

All sex offense trials in Jamaica are closed to the public and press.

TODAY'S MATCHES **Premier Division Cricket**

League: (super league) Abahani vs Kalabagan KC

(relegation league) Victoria SC vs Lalmatia Club

First Division Cricket League: Ajax SC vs Gopibagh FA

Acme Second Division Cricket League: B Railway vs Young Pegasus

(MOS) Kathalbagan GCC vs Dhan-

mondi Progoti (T&T ground) Khelaghar SKS vs Spread Eagles (Uttara) Mariner Youngs vs PWD SC

East End Club vs Azad Boys Club (DCS, west)

S Africa on a sticky wicket Martina makes her mark

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan

MELBOURNE, Jan

Hingis made ten-

nis history today

in Melbourne. She

took the title wi-

mning 6-2, 6-2 in exactly 59

minutes by sweeping aside Mary

Pierce and thereby becoming

the youngest player to win a

Grand Slam singles title in the

Open era of tennis. It was

Martina's third Grand Slam ti-

tle — she won the doubles here

partnering Natasha Zvereva

and last year won in the Wim-

bledon along with Helena

Sukova. She is not only the

youngest singles champion of

the Ford Australian Open but

also youngest doubles cham-

pion. Monica Seles was the

youngest Grand Slam singles

champion when in 1990 she

won the French Open at 16

years and 6 months. By winning

this tournament Hingis rises to

a career high ranking of

It was a sweet revenge for

Hingis over Mary Pierce who

beat her in their previous three

encounters. While reaching the

finals Hingis did not drop a set

in her previous six matches

while Pierce dropped a set each, against Elena Likhovtseva of

Russia seeded 13 in the first

round and Sabine Applemans

of Belgium seeded 16 in the

quarters. This tournament

proved to be the best for Hingis

who, has been prolific all

through. Hingis had to work

hard to hold her first service

game finally getting better of

Pierce after losing two game

points. But the game that fol-

lowed was as smooth as silk for

the Swiss prodigy. Even with

her weaker service she fired 3

aces and played as intelligently

as could be expected from a

much older and more experi-

enced player. Today she

demonstrated her skill and in-

telligence to which Pierce had

no reply. It was once again ap-

parent as Hingis claimed after

her semifinal win that she was

a 'quick mover' on court. Both

players contested some atro-

cious line calls and complained

Pierce on occasion was su-

perb with her forehand but she

had no answer to Martina's

crosscourt forehand, intelligent

dropvolleys and down the line

passes. The tittle girl with a

head on her shoulders proved

time and again that she was no

ordinary mortal riding on the

Geoff Pollard said, "I am lucky

to have watched history being

made by Martina Hingis". So

Tennis Australia President

AP adds: Rollerblading

through the halls of the Ausi"

tralian Open at the start of the

tournament, Martina Hingis

zipped by photographs of past

champions and dreamed of

whom she was named. Steffi

Graf, Monica Seles, Mary

Pierce, Chris Evert, Evonne

Goolagong, Margaret Smith

champions on the wall when I

came here and I was thinking

hopefully one day I can be on

the wall, too," the 16-year-old

Hingis said Saturday after

thrashing Pierce to become the

youngest winner of a major title

nervously, fending off three

break points in the opening

game, she yielded only two

points in winning the next four

broke Hingis, but the Swiss teen

broke back and breezed through

the second set to close out the

match in 59 minutes and com-

plete a perfect run through the

Pierce finally held serve and

games to take a 5-0 lead.

Though Hingis started off

"I saw all the pictures of

Martina Navratilova, for

joining them.

Court.

in 110 year.

press and her popularity.

to the chair umpire.

number 2 in the world.

Martina



TASTE OF THIS ONE ... SWEETEST: Swiss starlet Martina Hingis kisses her maiden Grand Slam singles trophy after squashing French woman Mary Pierce 6-2, 6-2 in the Australian Open final at Melbourne Park yesterday. The sixteen-year old became the youngest ever - AFP/UNB photo Grand Slam champion in style.

SKETCH OF SWISS MISS

MELBOURNE, Jan 25 (Reuter): Following is a fact-file on Switzerland's Martina Hingis, who became the youngest Grand Slam champion in modern tennis history today.

Born: Kosice, Slovakia, September 30, 1980, named after Czechoslovak tennis great Martina Navratilova. Aged two: Learns to walk and has tennis racquet put in her

hand by mother Melanie, a former Czechsolovak champion who becomes her coach and driving force. Aged five: Played first competitive tennis.

Aged seven: Left Czechoslovakia with her mother for new life in Switzerland. Aged 12: Became youngest junior champion at French Open,

replacing previous record-holder Jennifer Capriati. Aged 13: Became youngest junior champion at Wimbledon. Aged 14: Made professional debut in Zurich, beating Patty Fendick 6-4, 6-3 to become youngest player to win a singles match since tennis became open to professionals in 1968. Broke

into top 20. Aged 15: Became youngest ever champion at Grand Slam event when she won the women's doubles at Wimbledon with Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic.

Aged 16: Broke into top 10 a week after 16th birthday and took first tour title a week later. Beat former number one Monica Seles 6-2, 6-0 in the final at Oakland tournament - the worst defeat of Seles' career. Became the youngest player, male or female, to pass 1 million US dollars of earnings in a season. Signed 10 million dollars five-year endorsement deal with Italian sportswear Label. Became youngest Australian Open champion in women's doubles and youngest Grand Slam singles champion, beating Mary Pierce of France.

Only Lettie Dod, who won Wimbledon in 1887 at the age of 15 years and 10 months, has won a major title at an earlier age but that was before Grand Slams were invented.

tournament without dropping a

on the other side of the net is there for every ball, making great shots off my great shots, said the 22-year-old Pierce. "It's weird because you don't think she's going to get to some balls, and she does and hits great shots.

I was just one level too low to compete

ner's prize, plus the 90,000 dollars she won by taking the doubles title with Natasha Zvereva, put Hingis over the 2 million dollars mark in career earnings. At the start of this tournament, she also signed a 10 million dollars, five-year deal with sportswear company Ser-

that, too," Hingis told the crowd. "But maybe I should give

someone else a chance to win another one.

Hingis laughed, as did the crowd, everyone knowing she's capable now of winning every event she enters. The last player to win both

the singles and doubles at the Australian was the other Martina, who did it in 1985. Hingis cavorted through this

tournament with hardly a care. as though she knew she would win from the start. She rollerbladed down the corridors of the National Tennis Centre. along the beaches and through the park. She went jumping on horseback and laughed about her tumble to the grass.

She didn't will in the heat like the other top players, and she moved up in the rankings from No 4 to No 2. Asked about her next goal, she replied:

"Oh my gosh, just another Grand Slam. Getting better and better and try to get No 1."

Moya enters top ten

MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Win or lose Sunday's Australian Open final against Pete Sampras, Spanish giant-killer Carlos Mova has earned a place in the

six spot if he beats top seed Sampras.

Moya's leap into the top 10 caps a stunning rise through the rankings since 1991, when he finished the year ranked 346.

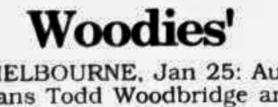
The unseeded Spaniard has claimed two of the game's best players at the Australian Open, ousting defending champion Boris Becker in a stunning first-round upset and then overwhelming second seed Michael Chang in a semifinal on Thursday.

The scattering of the top seeds over the past two weeks at Melbourne Park has reshuffled the world rankings, though Sampras keeps the top ranking

Becker however has paid dearly for his early exit. And will drop out of the top 10 no

Chang's ranking will sink to number two, the highest yearend ranking of his career.

Croat Goran Ivanisevic, who jumps to three.



Doubles title

MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Australians Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde won a record eighth Grand Slam men's doubles title Saturday, beating Se-bastien Lareau and Alex O'Brien 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, 6-3 in the final of the Australian Open, reports

Although Woodforde lost his serve four times, the "Woodies" broke Lareau six times in the three-hour match.

They now have won the Australian title twice, four consecutive Wimbledons and two US Opens.

"It was a really big deal for us." Woodforde said of breaking the record held by John McEn-roe and Peter Fleming. That pair had won seven men's doubles titles at Grand Slam tournaments since tennis' open era began in 1968.

The Woodies also have won the last three Grand Slam tournaments in a row — Wimbledon and the US Open last year and now the Australian.

The French Open is the one they never have won. "The French is one we want,"

Woodbridge said. But even if they win it this year, he said, it would not be considered a real Grand Slam sweep since not all four victo-

ries would be in the same year.

Woodforde said that "no teams have been close" to a sweep in one year, "and I'd rather not think about it all. It's another pressure we can do without.

In Sunday's final, Woodforde had trouble getting his first serve in, seuting 53 per cent for the match and giving Lareau and O'Brien a chance to pounce on second serves. "They're probably the best

returning team, maybe apart from ourselves. If you miss a first serve, the second one is shoved down your throat hard. early, and you have to make tough vollies the whole time. Woodbridge said.

The victory was worth 196,000 dollars for the Woodies. who won 12 titles in 13 finals last year. Their titles included an Olympic gold medal.

Lareau, a Canadian, and O'Brien, an American, shared 98,000 dollars.

Steffi arrives in Japan

NARITA, Japan Jan 25: World number one Steffi Graf ignored reporters on arrival at Narita Airport today following the sentencing of her father to over three years jail for tax evasion, reports AFP. On Friday, her father, Peter

Graf, was sentenced in a Mannheim court to three years nine months in prison, but the German star whisked through the airport here, oblivious to questions hurled by the press. Graf. 58, was charged with

evading tax of over 19 million marks (about 12 million dollars) by failing to declare earnings of some 42 million marks (26 million dollars) which was disguised through front compa-Graf has already spent 15

months in custody awaiting Steffi Graf will spearhead a

star-studded field of the 926,250 dollars Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament here, one of the biggest events other than the Grand Slam series, vying for the title she won in 1986. 1990 and 1994.

The six-day competition also includes Swiss teenager Martina Hingis and defending champion Ivan Majoli of Croa-

Graf had been recovering from injury and illness after her shock fourth-round defeat to South African Amanda Coetzer a week ago in the Australian Open in oppressive heat. It was her earliest exit since her early years on the tour in 1983-1984. She was advised to rest at

her Melbourne apartment to recuperate from an infected toe and a heat-related illness.

Holmes' hopes shattered

COPENHAGEN, Denmark Jan 25: Former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes lost his latest bid at a comeback at age 47. dropping a 12-round split decision to Brian Nielsen of Denmark on Friday night. reports AP. Nielsen, a silver medalist in

the 1992 Olympics, retained his International Boxing Organisation heavyweight title. American judge Pete Pod-

gorski ruled it 119-116 in favour of Nielsen and Denmark judge Jes Andreasen had it 115-113 for Nielsen. Judge Erkki Meronen of Finland gave it to Holmes 116-115. Holmes said he protesting

the narrow decision. IBO president John Dadono said the organisation's executive committee would look into the matter. "Why do they do this to me?." Holmes said. "I'm a nice guy." Holmes started out strong.

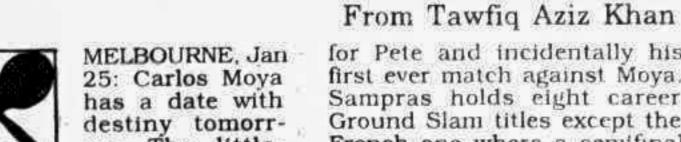
leaving Nielsen, 31, with a bloody nose in the second round. But Nielsen slowly worked his way into the fight, staying on the attack and showing off his superior speed. "I hadn't expected to meet an

elderly man in such a good condition." Nielsen said. Last June, Homes retired after knocking out Anthony Willis in the eighth round.

Spain's Carlos Moya, upsetting Holmes, the world's premier Michael Chang in the semifiheavyweight in the late 1970s and early 80s, has lost six of 71 "I don't really like watching career bouts. He has won 42 tennis," he said. "I watch times by knock-out. enough to kind of feel out who Nielsen is 32-0 with 19 I'm playing or whatever, but you

knock-outs. Holmes weighed in at 246 pounds (110.7 kilograms and Nielsen was 247 1/2 (111.4 kilograms).

Set for a showdown



ow. The littleknown Spaniard. ranked 28 last year will meet a player who has been in the number one spot since 1993 (with short gaps), Pete Sampras.



CARLOS MOYA

Moya it is the first Grand Slam final against world number one who won here in 1994 and lost in the final the next year. It will be the 11th Grand Slam final for Pete and incidentally his

first ever match against Moya. Sampras holds eight career Ground Slam titles except the French one where a semifinal berth in 1996 was the best he could manage till date. Moya has been playing extremely well here and his quick despatch of the persevering Michael Chang in the semifinal is a pointer for



Pete not to take this kid from Palma de Mallorca lightly. AFP adds: While the 25 yearold Sampras is chasing further tennis greatness the 20-yearAustralian Open with upset

old Moya is just beginning to

see his career blossom. Moya a revelation in the wins over defending champion Boris Becker and last year's beaten finalist and second seed Michael Chang is only the fourth unseeded player to reach

an Australian Open final. If he manages to defeat Sampras the dashing Spaniard will become the second unseeded champion here following Australian Mark Edmondson's championship in 1976 against a predominantly home field.

Moya who will become Spain's national number one after the Open, will also break into the world's top ten rankings win or lose in Sunday's fi-

A victory would leave him number six, while a loss would put him at number nine.

Sampras downed rugged Australian baseliner Thomas Muster in Friday's semifinals in straight sets but Moya also had an impressive straight sets victory over Chang. "I still feel pretty fresh," said Sampras after beating Muster.

"I feel I've got one more match left in me and I can have a good break, let the feet heal up and let the arm have a rest." Mova who has won 10 of his

11 matches on hardcourt in Australia this year, is on the crest of a wave.

Mova is certainly confident. "He's number one," he said of Sampras. "He would be the favourite two weeks before but now I don't know if he would be lavourite.

Of happy-go-lucky Hingis "I have a pretty big chance," The Swiss prodigy spoke of



tournament.

Magic team.

ering last week.

Open.

25: Martina Hingis has broken so many records in her young life that today, at the tender age of 16 years and three

A gloomy Steffi Graf bites her lip on arrival at Marita

International Airport in Tokyo yesterday. The German

tennis queen will take part in the Toray Pan Pacific

DOWN UNDER DIARY

MELBOURNE, Jan

25: France's Mary

Pierce has proven

a hit on court at

the Australian

Open — and is

making friends off court too.

The 1995 Australian Open

champion - who faced Martina

Hingis of Switzerland in Satur-

day's women's final - is re-

ported to have had two dinners

with leading Australian bas-

ketball player Chris Anstey, a

member of the Melbourne

watch Pierce's matches at the

Australian Open this week.

lipped about their association.

ets, we've been hanging out and

she's a really nice person," said

Anstey, who met the French

right-hander at a players' gath-

is enjoying her time at the

love the country and the people.

It's good to know there are peo-

ple supporting you and that you

can have some good times af-

PETE'S PASTIMES

chases his ninth Grand Slam

singles-title - but his love of

playing tennis doesn't carry

snatches of his next opponent,

need to get away from it, espe-

cially here because it is always

on ... I tune into something else.

watch the golf, watch

over to being a spectator.

Pete Sampras on Sunday

Sampras watched only

terward," said Pierce.

For her part, Pierce says she

"I just love Australia and

Anstey has been on hand to

But he is remaining tight-

"She got me a couple of tick

months, she found there was only one more to aim at becoming the youngest ever world number one, reports Reuter.

her goal after becoming the game's voungest ever Grand Slam champion by squashing France's Mary Pierce 6-2, 6-2 in the Australian Open final. "Just an injury could hold

me away from that right now. said the new world number two. wearing the cheeky grin which has so annoyed her hapless opponents in this tournament.

sional tennis? so may records already." Hingis breaks records like other players snap racket strings: at age 12 the youngest ever Grand Slam junior champion, at 15 the youngest Grand Slam winner in the doubles at Wimbledon last year, at 16 the lars in a season.

she added

realise her new year's wish to win a Grand Slam title this year and may not need much longer to claim the number one spot from Germany's Steffi Graf. who lost out in the fourth round in Melbourne.

900 points. Good results on the tour and another Grand Slam could bridge the gap. So far, the youngest players to earn the top women's ranking is Monica Seles who shot to

year vounger larussian Natasha Zvereva won

one-sided victory. packed Centre Court crowd today after lifting her second up

of the tournament. She has proven to be as cheeky and playful off the court as she is on it, joking sarcastically to reporters that her first Grand Slam victory meant

The way she hugged her mother and coach, Melanie, on Centre Court after the match told a different story. Both had clearly dreamed of the moment. "I think we are a great team."

body else. Born in Czechoslovakia and raised in Switzerland. Hingis

tennis great Martina Navratilova. Her mother, a former Czechoslovak champion herself, named Hingis after the 18times Grand Slam singles

The Navratilova name is one Hingis does not take lightly. "Oh the big one um". Hingis said. "She's just been such a great athlete and she won so many Grand Slam titles, in

but I don't think anybody else

But I said (to) Natasha, I'm free all the time if she will play."

"Not yet, it's too far away.

- AFP/UNB photo

something else, rent a movie.

you've just got to get away."

women's double title.

6-2, 6-2 in the final

shoulders.

injured.

"You can't be consumed with

the tournament, the tennis,

DOUBLE GLORY

Hingis and Natasha Zvereva

teamed up at the Australian

Open - and walked off with the

going to make it a regular part-

nership, both shrug their

partners," Hingis said after they

beat American pair Lindsay

Davenport and Lisa Raymond

doubles last year with Helena

Sukova, while Zvereva has been

teaming with American Mered-

ith McGrath - currently in-

jured - after splitting with

former partner Gigi Fernandez.

of pray that she's going to stay

doubles at all four Grand Slam

tournaments this year, but ad-

mitted she didn't know who

she'd be teaming with.

Hingis joked Friday. "I kind

Hingis said she hoped to play

Hingis won the Wimbledon

But as for whether they are

"We both have different

Swiss tennis teen Martina

DID YOU KNOW Pete Sampras' eight Grand Slam singles titles are the most of any of player currently on the men's tour. But can you name the person who has the most career Grand Slam singles crowns?

Australia's Roy Emerson leads with 12. Compatriot Rod Laver and Sweden's Bjorn Borg each have 11.

Bill Tilden of the United States has 10, while Jimmy Connors, Fred Perry, Ivan Lendl and Ken Rosewall are tied with Sampras at 8.

"I just want to play very good

tennis at the next tournament

and see what happens in Paris (at the French Open) and the other Grand Slams. Maybe there is a little step to get better and better and just try to make number one. How did she feel to be the youngest Grand Slam singles winner in the history of profes-

"It's just another record for me," Hingis shrugged. "I've had

youngest to win 1 million dol-She took only a few weeks to

Hingis, who earned 739 ranking points at Melbourne Park, still trails Graf by about

world number one in 1991 at the age of 17 years, three months, nine days. Hingis is a On Friday Hingis became the Australian Open's youngest ever title-holder when she and Be-

the women's doubles in another "Next year I'm going to try to win the mixed doubles and win all of them," Hingis joked to the

nothing at all, just another ti-

Hingis said. "In his tournament we were just better then every-

stop giggling when asked if she can emulate the feats of Czech

champion who won more then 300 doubles and singles titles.

singles, doubles and mixed "I've got enough time to pick her up in all these tournaments

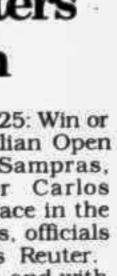
can win so many titles as her." Indonesia joins

the lists? JAKARTA, Jan 25: President

Suharto said on Friday Indonesia hoped to stage the Asian Games in 2006, and the Olympic Games in 2008, the official Antara news agency reported on Friday, says Reuter. The agency quoted Minister

of Youth and Sports Hayono Isman as saying that Suharto had asked him to "study a possibility that Indonesia becomes the host of Asian Games in 2006 and the Olympic Games in 2008." Antara gave no further de-

tails but said the country's economy should have improved tremendously when bot'n Games take place.



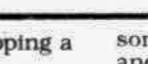
top 10 of men's tennis, officials said on Friday, reports Reuter. Moya, ranked 25th and with just one singles title to his name at the start of the event. will soar to the world number

If he loses, he will become world number nine in the next official rankings, to be released on Monday.

even if he is beaten on Sunday.

matter who lifts the cup. He came into the tournament ranked six. four whoever wins on Sunday after he finished last year as

reached the quarterfinals here, will replace Chang as number two. Australian Thomas Muster, who on Friday lost his semifinal against Sampras,



"It's tough when the person

Hingis' 434,000 dollars win-

gio Tacchini. "Next time I have to play mixed doubles so that I can win

Russian world and Olympic champions Oksana Grishuk and

Yevgeny Platov perform at the European figure skating

championships in Paris on Jan 24. The pair won the

- AFP/UNB photo