

Shafiqul Islam Manik (C), the convener of the Football Players Welfare Association, speaking at a press conference at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Footballers' plea to BFF

Sports Reporter
The Football Player Welfare Association (FPWA), an association of the local footballers, has demanded to start the Senior Division football league by July and declare a new date for inter-club booters' transfer by June 7 next.
This was announced by the leaders of the association at a press conference held at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Chaired by Shafiqul Islam Manik, most of the leading footballers of the country attended.
The footballers claimed that once all the major clubs have agreed to stage the league at the Mirpur Stadium there was no further reason to delay the league till October.
The association demanded the league to be started in July and have their transfers within June.
The FPWA threatened to go for greater movement if the Bangladesh Football Federation do not pay any attention to their demands by June 7.

Maldini names roster

ROME, May 31: Italy coach Cesare Maldini added three new faces and one old one to the team Friday in choosing players for a four-nation tournament in France, reports AP.
Gianluca Pagliuca, who started between the posts for Italy at the 1994 World Cup but had since been dropped, will be the backup to goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi for an exhibition tourney which starts next week and features the host nation, Brazil and England.
Pagliuca plays for Internazionale of Milan, while Peruzzi is one of five Azzurri from Serie A champion Juventus of Turin.
Three players from less-heralded Italian clubs will be making their debuts with the national squad: Vicenza midfielder Gianpiero Maini, Piacenza midfielder Eusebio Di Francesco and Bologna defender Stefano Torrisi.
Forwards Pierluigi Casiraghi and Alessandro Del Piero return to the fold after three-month injury absences. But Fabrizio Ravanello will sit out, still hampered by the leg problems that limited his action at the end of the season with Middlesbrough of the Premier League.
The other foreign-based players who've been regulars under Maldini will travel to France: Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola and Roberto Di Matteo and Christian Panucci of Real Madrid.
Roberto Baggio, who'd come back to the team last month after a nearly two-year absence, will be the team captain.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Angelo Peruzzi, Gianluca Pagliuca.
Defenders: Christian Panucci, Antonio Benarrivo, Alessandro Costacurta, Fabio Cannavaro, Ciro Ferrara, Paolo Maldini, Alessandro Nesta, Stefano Torrisi.
Midfielders: Demetrio Albertini, Dino Baggio, Angelo Di Livio, Roberto Di Matteo, Stefano Eranio, Diego Fuser, Giampiero Maini, Eusebio Di Francesco.
Forwards: Filippo Inzaghi, Alessandro Del Piero, Christian Vieri, Gianfranco Zola, Enrico Chiesa, Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Susanti sent tumbling

GLASGOW, May 31: Susi Susanti's hopes of a second world badminton title were shattered again on Friday, reports Reuter.
The stylish Indonesian was swept aside in the quarter finals 11-5, 11-2 by 19-year-old Gong Zhichao of China.
Susanti, a former Olympic world and all-England champion, has been hinting at retirement for some time now. She is married to long-time fiancé Allan Budi Kusuma.
But despite Friday's defeat she indicated she would be playing on. "I would like to play for maybe one more year," she told reporters. "I'd also like to help train the youngsters who are coming through."
"I'd like to try for other tournaments because I still have the motivation to play and to win," she added.
Whether she can handle the emerging talent, much of it Chinese, remains to be seen.
China dominated last week's Sudirman Cup team event and they have made their presence

WC qualifier PNG earn full points

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea, May 31: Papua New Guinea upset an inexperienced New Zealand team 1-0 in the opening Oceania Zone Group 2 World Cup qualifying soccer match on Saturday, reports AP.
Substitute striker Francis Moyah hit the winning goal late in the second half.
Fiji are the other team in the group.
The winners of the group will play the winners of the Oceania Group 1, which contains Australia, the Solomon Islands and Tahiti.
The winners of that play-off will take on the fourth-ranked team from Asia for a place in the 1998 World Cup finals in France.
Mia Audina, the third seed, 11-6, 11-4 in another big blow for the Indonesians.
With four Chinese fighting out the other two quarter finals it meant that all the women's semifinalists on Saturday will be from China.
Indonesian hopes now rest with men's defending champion Heryanto Arbi, who fought back to beat Denmark's Thomas Stuer-Laurides 10-15, 15-6, 15-1.
In today's semifinals he plays Denmark's Peter Rasmussen, a good 15-2, 18-17 winner over South Korea's Park Sung-Woo.
The other semifinal will be between Olympic champion Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen and former world junior champion Sun Jun of China.
Hoyer-Larsen wobbled for a while against former world champion Joko Suprianto of Indonesia before emerging a 10-15, 15-9, 15-5 winner.
Greater patience and stamina paid off for Hoyer-Larsen, who reported that "in the end it was like looking at a fish and bringing it in."

What a way to turn 21!

PARIS, May 31: AP Magnus Norman, the world's 65th-ranked player, woke up on Friday morning and had a thought: "How about beating Pete Sampras today on my 21st birthday?"
And then he did not.
He didn't expect that he would, and he didn't have much reason to. The Swede had never won a Grand Slam match before this French Open.
Sampras, on the other hand, had won none Grand Slam titles and defeated Norman in their one previous meeting.
But the world No 1 was suffering from stomach problems, and clearly wasn't at his best. Norman added some good tennis of his own to the equation, and the result was one of the biggest upsets of the year.
Norman said he'd gotten a call the night before from friends back home in Filipstad, Sweden, a town of 8,000 people.
"They said, 'Pete Sampras, he's sick, he's sick,'" Norman said. "They had seen on the news."
"But I thought it was just a rumour," he said.
Sampras had indeed come down with a stomach bug,

Desailly extends stay at Milan

MILAN, May 31: French international midfielder Marcel Desailly said on Friday he had signed a one-year extension to his contract with AC Milan in a deal that would keep him in Italy until the year 2000, reports Reuter.
"I'll stay at Milan until 2000. I've just signed a one-year extension to my contract," he told reporters.
Desailly had been linked to Atletico Madrid but he said he wanted to stay at Milan, who made him an improved deal, although less than the Spaniards were offering.



Three members of the Calcutta Racket Club-1, (L to R) Ravindra Malik, Deepak Agarwal and O'Neil Pramanik, pose after winning the Bangladesh Squash Open '97 title at the Dhaka Club Squash Complex yesterday. —Star photo

Bangladesh Squash Open Calcutta Racket Club lift title

Sports Reporter
Calcutta Racket Club-1 clinched the Bangladesh Squash Open title defeating local favourites Biman in an exciting final 2-1 at the Dhaka Club Squash Complex yesterday.
After Biman's Ram Jagadish gave the locals a 1-0 lead winning the first match against O'Neil Pramanik of CRC 15-7, 15-10, 15-4, the visiting West Bengal staged a comeback and won the next two matches.
Ravindra Malik levelled the score 1-1 with a 15-7, 15-5, 17-14 win over Bangladesh national champion Sohail Hamid while Deepak Agarwal confirmed their triumph winning the deciding match 15-10, 15-11, 15-9 against Bhola Lal.
State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader witnessed the final and distributed prizes among the winners.
A total of eleven teams including two teams from Calcutta — Calcutta Racket Club and Saturday Club — participated in the week-long meet organised by Bangladesh Squash Racket Federation.

Int'l hockey series Australia beat Pakistan

CANBERRA, May 31: Australia edged ahead of World Cup champions Pakistan in their international field hockey series winning 3-2 here today to take a one-match lead with the sixth and final international to be played Sunday, reports AFP.
Pakistan won the opening match of the series 3-2 in Perth on May 21 before Australia won back-to-back games 3-2 and 2-1 in Adelaide last weekend.
The Pakistanis levelled the series with a 3-2 victory in Sydney last Wednesday, before Australia pulled ahead after another close tussle here Saturday.
Kiev's fifth
KIEV, May 31: Dynamo Kiev the most successful side in Soviet soccer, clinched their fifth successive Ukrainian league title on Friday with a crushing 6-1 victory over Zirka-Nibas Kirovohrad, reports Reuter.
The home win gave Dynamo an unbeatable 15-point lead over second-placed Shakhtar Donetsk with four games left to play.
The comfortable reassertion of Dynamo's supremacy at home gives newly returned chief coach Valery Lobanovsky, the springboard he needs to try and recapture the club's glory days in European competition.

No FIEA action against Lama

ZURICH, May 31: World soccer governing body FIFA has decided against an international ban on France goalkeeper Bernard Lama after he tested positive for cannabis, reports Reuter.
FIFA said on Friday that it was a decision of the French national federation to ban Lama for five months in May for playing for his club Paris saint Germain.
"FIFA is not going to make it an international ban. Legally it is a matter for the national federation and it must decide whether he is banned or not," FIFA official Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder said after a meeting where the case was discussed.
It also appears that if Lama, who tested positive in February, were to leave France and move abroad, FIFA would be unlikely to intervene. It would also remain a matter for the national federation.

Russians recall Nikiforov

MOSCOW, May 31: Sporting Gijon's Yuri Nikiforov will return from suspension to bolster a strong defensive line-up in the Russian side to face Group Five leaders Israel in next week's World Cup qualifier in Moscow, reports Reuter.
Knowing a win is vital to keep alive hopes of France '98, coach Boris Ignatyev named a squad on Friday that also included the return on Nikiforov's old Spartak Moscow teammate Ramiz Mamedov and 30-year-old Alania back Akkrik Tsvetla, a veteran of 25 Soviet caps who has been out of the squad for years.
He may cover for Roma's Omari Tetradze, who badly damaged ligaments during the 3-0 win over Luxembourg in Moscow in April and will be out for six months.

Pete's Paris jinx persists

PARIS, May 31: Pete Sampras will depart Paris this weekend wondering if he can ever break his apparent French Open jinx after a pre-match stomach upset ruined his chances of success at Roland Garros for another year, reports Reuter.
The American world number one, in sparkling form in his opening two rounds at the only Grand Slam event he has never won, lost in four sets to Sweden's Magnus Norman and later attributed his off-colour display to about of diarrhoea he suffered the previous day.
The 1995 French champion Thomas Muster also bowed out on Friday, beaten 6-7, 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 by little-known Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten, ranked one place below Norman at 66 in the world but, unsurprisingly, it was Sampras' exit which created the biggest stir.
"For the first couple of sets I felt totally disoriented," revealed Sampras, who had successfully asked for his match to be played later in the day to allow him maximum time to recover.
"A 24-hour virus has been going around and a bunch of

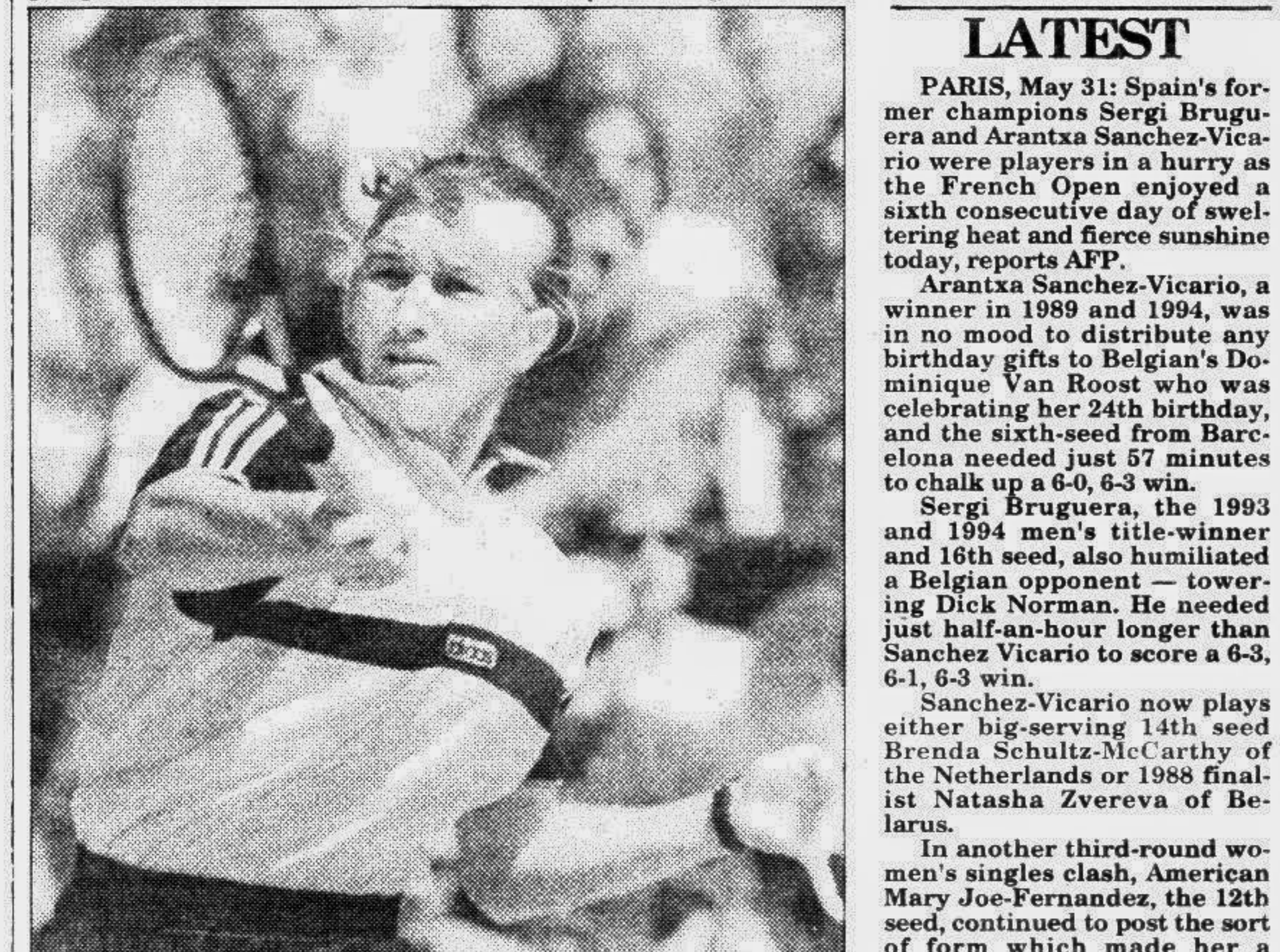


PETE SAMPRAS

crowd.
Muster, seeded fifth this time, survived a five-set examination in the first round while Coetzee faces seventh-seed Conchita Martinez of Spain who beat France's Caroline Dhenin 6-2, 6-1.
If both Graf and Coetzee win, they will play each other for a fourth time this season — Coetzee

Nicolas Escude of France 7-6, 6-4, 6-3.
In the women's singles, there was also a notable casualty in the shape of Jana Novotna, the fourth seed, who was a shock 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 loser to American Nicole Arendt in the final match of the day.
Novotna had been tipped as the biggest potential threat to Steffi Graf and Martina Hingis in the women's draw, but this was her third exit in the opening three rounds in Paris in the past four years.
Defending champion Graf and the player she prefers to avoid, Amanda Coetzer, moved one step closer to a possible quarter-final showdown.
Coetzer produced an impressive 6-4, 6-2 win over Meike Babel of Germany while Graf settled down after a tough first set to beat Spain's 18-year-old Magui Serna 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.
The second-seeded Graf now plays either 13th seed Irina Spirlea or Romania or another Spaniard Virginia Rusanu-Pascual, while Coetzee faces seventh-seed Conchita Martinez of Spain who beat France's Caroline Dhenin 6-2, 6-1.
If both Graf and Coetzee win, they will play each other for a fourth time this season — Coetzee

LATEST
PARIS, May 31: Spain's former champions Sergi Bruguera and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario were players in a hurry as the French Open enjoyed a sixth consecutive day of sweltering heat and fierce sunshine today, reports AFP.
Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, a winner in 1985 and 1994, was in no mood to distribute any birthday gifts to Belgian's Dominique Van Roost who was celebrating her 24th birthday, and the sixth-seed from Barcelona needed just 57 minutes to chalk up a 6-0, 6-3 win.
Sergi Bruguera, the 1993 and 1994 men's title-winner and 16th seed, also humiliated a Belgian opponent — towering Dick Norman. He needed just half-an-hour longer than Sanchez Vicario to score a 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 win.
Sanchez-Vicario now plays either big-serving 14th seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands or 1988 finalist Natasha Zvereva of Belarus.
In another third-round women's singles clash, American Mary Joe Fernandez, the 12th seed, continued to post the sort of form which made her a finalist here four years ago when she beat Flavia Peretti of Italy 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).



Former world number one German Steffi Graf hits a forehand against Spaniard Magui Serna during their third round match of the French Open on May 30. Graf won 7-6, 6-1. — AFP/UNB photo

players have got it, I'm sure I got it from someone here."
It was obvious that all was not well with the top seed when he lost the first set 6-2 with a flurry of unforced errors against an opponent who gleefully seized the opportunity to celebrate his 21st birthday in style.
"I felt sluggish and tired although I felt much better in the third and fourth sets," said Sampras, who eventually went down 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 in two and a half hours.
Half of the top 10 men's seeds have now failed to make it beyond the third round, with Jinal set. He eventually had no answer to the athleticism of Kuerten who he last encountered in a notoriously acrimonious Davis Cup contest between Austria and Brazil in Sao Paulo last September.
Kuerten was one of the players on the other side of the net when Muster stormed off court during the doubles rubber complaining he had been spat on and abused by the crowd, a walkout which led to Austria being fined by the International Tennis Federation.
The 20-year-old Brazilian now plays Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev. Medvedev defeated

Odd stars stare at grass

PARIS, May 31: After crashing out of the French Open on Friday, the grass at Wimbledon will look a little greener to Pete Sampras than Thomas Muster, reports Reuter.
But both will waste little time getting out of Paris, the stinging disappointment of third round losses, enough to spoil anyone's weekend — even in the city of light.
Sampras can now at least look forward to the grass court season and the manicured lawns of the All England Club where he has won the title three times.
And after the way he has struggled on clay this season, even Muster, a man who thought so much of Wimbledon he once threatened to remove all the grass around his home and replaced it with asphalt, might not mind a chance of pace from the slow clay to the tricky turf.
"Calling it a grass court season is maybe a bit too much, it's more like grass court weeks," said Muster, obviously not enamoured with the thought of



THOMAS MUSTER

spending too much time on the surface.
"I'm playing two tournaments before Wimbledon, then after Wimbledon the grass court season is finished."
While the French remains the only Grand Slam crown Muster has won, Sampras continues to find success at Roland Garros cruelly elusive.
"It's hard to say if this tournament is jinxed," said Sampras, who had his best ever-

sult at last year's French Open when he made it to the semifinals.
"I feel like I played well my first couple of matches but it seems like there's always something that comes up."
"It will be a struggle for me to win here, I realise that."
If the red clay courts of Roland Garros are Sampras' nightmare than the same, and worse, can be said about the green lawns at Wimbledon for Muster.
In the four times Muster has even bothered to show up at Wimbledon, he has never won a match and winning the title seems about as possible as him winning on the moon.
Often at odds with All-England Club officials, he has not played there the last two years and has been angry over their failure to recognise his old number one ranking in the seeding list.
For Sampras, who is likely to play the warm-up event at Queen's Club in London, Wimbledon has always provided soothing therapy after the physical and mental beating he has taken at Roland Garros.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

<p>Sunday 1st June (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes).</p> <p>BBC 6:00am BBC World News 6:30 Hard Talk 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 World Focus: Correspondent 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 India Business Report 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Weekend World: Cracking The Code 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: Britain In View 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 India Business Report 12:00am BBC World News 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News — Election Special 1:05 BBC World News — Election Special 2:00 BBC World News — Election Special 2:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 3:00 BBC Newsdesk inc. World Business Report & 24 Hours 4:00 BBC Newsdesk inc. Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World Headlines 5:05 Weekend World: Horizon</p> <p>CHANNEL V 6:00am Soul Curry 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Frame</p>	<p>World News 5:30 Reporters 6:00pm BBC World Headlines 6:05 Weekend World: Cracking The Code 7:00 BBC World Headlines 7:05 Breakfast With Frost 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 Time Out: Holiday 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 World Focus: Horizon 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Top Gear 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Reporters 12:00am BBC World News 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News — Election Special 1:05 BBC World News — Election Special 2:00 BBC World News — Election Special 2:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 3:00 BBC Newsdesk inc. World Business Report & 24 Hours 4:00 BBC Newsdesk inc. Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World Headlines 5:05 Weekend World: Horizon</p> <p>STAR PLUS 6:30am Voltorn 7:00 Wildlife International 7:30 King Arthur 8:00 Dungeons & Dragons 8:30 Denver The Last Dinosaur 8:30 Small Wonder 9:30 Chandrakanta 10:30 Janata Ki Adalat 11:00 Bunyad 11:30 Amul India Show 12:00noon The</p>	<p>By Frame 10:30 Speak Easy 11:00 BPL Oye! 12:00 Videocon Mangia Hai 12:30 Liberty First Day First Show 1:00 Sun Of Time Pass 1:30 Udam Singh 2:00 Videocon Flashback 2:30 Asian Top 20 VJ Trey 4:30 The Vibe Weekend VJ Luv 6:30pm Simply South 7:30 The Indian Top 10 8:30 Soul Curry 9:00 Launchpad VJ Samira 9:30 Mojo Working BB King 10:00 House Of Noise 11:00 The Ride 12:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 Frame by Frame 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Pepsi Chinese Top 20</p> <p>STAR SPORTS 6:30am Super League Rugby 8:00 World Wrestling Federation Blast Off 9:30 Asia Sport Show 10:00 Cricket Week 10:30 Spanish F'ball League 11:30 World Badminton Cham-</p>	<p>ships Mixed Doubles Finals 6 x Semi Final From Scotstoun Leisure Centre, Glasgow. 7:00 Amul India Show 7:30 Priya Tendulkar Show 8:30 Tara Rum Rum 9:30 Reporter 10:30 Star News Sunday 11:30 Priya Tendulkar Show 12:30 India Business Week 1:00 Star News Sunday 2:00 Nobel Prize Specials: "Nobel Peace Prize Documentary" 2:30 Nobel Prize Specials: "Nobel Literature Documentary" 3:00 Movie Classic: "The Big Trees" 5:00 Firm Friends</p> <p>STAR MOVIES 7:00am Super League Rugby 8:00 World Wrestling Federation Blast Off 9:30 Asia Sport Show 10:00 Cricket Week 10:30 Spanish F'ball League 11:30 World Badminton Cham-</p>	<p>Adalat 11:00 Chanakya 12:00 Siaram's Cine Magic 12:30 Burmilla Quiz Contest 1:00 Aashana 1:30 Sissila 2:00 Daak Ghar Anna Ghar 2:30 Usha Uthar Show 3:00 Hindi Feature Film: 6:00 Gaane Anjaane 6:30 Disney Hour 7:30 Kya Sin Hai 8:00 Sunana Safar 8:30 Mier Down 9:00 Jaspal Ki Yeah Zindgi 9:30 Chahat Aur Nafat 10:00 Zee Horror Show 10:30 Zee News & Business 11:00 Showtime Show 11:30 Philips Top Ten 12:30 Yeh Kaha Aagaya Hum 1:00 Hasratun 1:30 Spaghett 2:00 Zee Arabia: Paying Guest 2:30 TMM</p> <p>EL TV 7:00 Yeardon Ki Barat 7:30 Stand By 7:40 Maaang Special 8:00 Hindi Film: 10:30 Hey Ha Hoo 11:00 Cine Smyle 11:30 Akbar Birbal 12:00 Teer Kaman 12:30 Liberty Public Demand 1:30 Archies Top Of The Tops 2:00 Gurjati: Madhur Antikhad</p>	<p>3:00 Ortem Purush Kshetra 4:00 Super Hit Hungama 5:00 HFF: 7:50 Haseena Pal 8:00 The Real Countdown 9:00 TBA 9:30 Fasana 10:00 Ru-Ba-Ru 10:30 Stand By 10:45 Hindi Feature Film: 1:30 Yeh Dunia Gazab Ki 2:00 Tahkikat 2:30 Parag Number One 3:00 Anurag 3:30 Mast Mast Show 4:00 Hindi Feature Film.</p> <p>PTV 8:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Fun Time 9:05 TV Encyclopedia 9:25 Khat Farmaish 9:40 Sports Clinic 10:05 PTV Gold 10:30 English Film: Darkwing Duck 10:55 Mast Mast Sanyo 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Sports Hour 12:05pm Bisop 95-Qasmi Hahani 12:55 Quran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Aaj Di Kahani 1:40 Aaj Di Shaam 2:00 Kinara Ep-71 (Drama Serial) 2:55 Ghost Writer 3:55 Karabar 4:15 Education 5:25 Razi for</p>	<p>9th 5:55 Zameen Per Zindgi (Drama Serial) 6:25 Aiou Cousins 7:00 English News 7:30 English Film: Star Trek Deep Space Nine 8:20 Hawwa Ki Naam 9:00 Break for Headlines News 9:20 Sur Tasver (Pakistani Film 1947-95) 10:00 Khabrain & Commercial News 11:00 Pezwan 11:35 Home Victims (New Serial) 12:35 Music Masters-Raag Rang 1:00 Khas Khas Khabrain</p> <p>DD 7 9:00 Janmadin 9:30 Movie Club Film: Arun Brun Kiranmalia (Alpana Goshwami, Supratpe, Munna, Dilip Roul) 1:00 Aaleya 1:30 Movie Club Film: Prakhsee (Aparna Sen, Ranjeet Malik, Rabi Ghos) 3:30 Geet Sangeet 4:30 Sunday Bangla Film: Rajalakshmi and Sreerant 5:30 News 7:20 Binodan 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Shrooshi</p>	<p>(Serial) 8:25 Geet Sangeet (Drama Serial) 9:00 Paalkatika 9:30 Drama/Interview 10:00 Dance Program 10:30 News/Bengali Sambad 11:00 Closed</p> <p>SONY ET 8:30am Jai Bir Hanuman 9:30 Gaane Jaane Maane 10:00 Jagduru 10:30 Sunday Ki Sunday 11:00 Taj Mahal Takita Dhin 12:00 BSA Star Ki Pasand 12:30 Pehli Mulakat 1:00 Good Show 1:30 Pehchan 2:00 Yeh Sadi Nahi Ho Sakdi 2:30 Premier 3:00 Chahat 3:30 Five Star Xpressit 4:00 O'Mania (Serial) 4:30 Raso Show 5:00 Jeevan 6:00 Take Five 6:30 Boogi Hindi Feature Film: Mughal E Anam (Dilip Mukar, Madhubala, Prethbeera Kapoor) 11:00 Premier 11:30 The Young And The Restless 12:30 Shiddhi (Serial) 1:00 Dekh Bhai Dekh 1:30 Kismet 2:00 Premier 2:30 Closed</p>
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