

Olympic Day Run tomorrow

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) will organise an Olympic Day Run in the city and five other divisional headquarters on June 25 to mark the founding day of the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Movement, reports BSS.

Speaking at a news conference in the city, BOA president and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman said about 15 to 20 thousand sports persons and organisers, government officials, parliament members and general people are expected to take part.

Of the runners, at least 10,000 would take part in the Dhaka Run that would start from the Army Stadium at 6 a.m., he said, adding that it would pass through Mohakhali, Cantonment Gate, Farmgate, Sonargaon, Bangla Motor, Shahbagh, TSC, Shishu Academy, Abdul Gani Road, Zero Point before ending at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

National Olympic committees of different countries also organise similar Run in June every year expressing solidarity with the Olympic Movement.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria will inaugurate the Run at the Army Stadium. State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader and senior government officials will be present.

The runners will be given a certificate and a T-shirt each.

Whatmore for Lankans

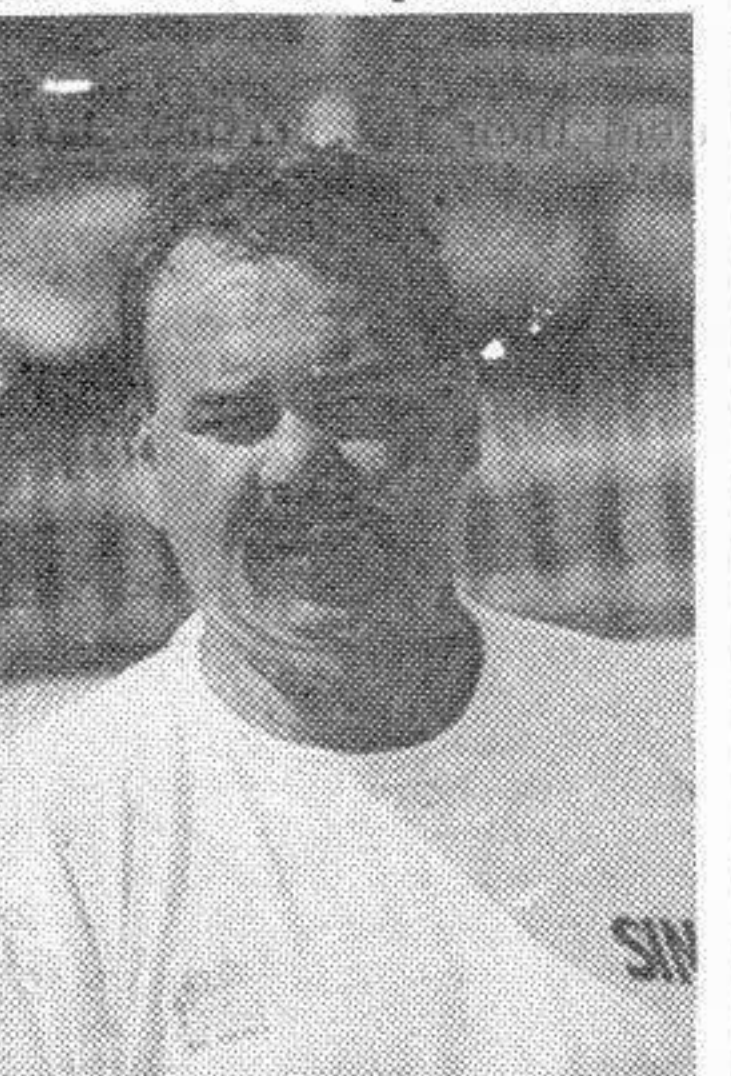
COLOMBO, June 23: Dav Whatmore, who was partly credited for Sri Lanka's success in the 1996 World Cup tournament, has agreed in principle to return as the team's coach, officials said on today, reports Reuters.

They said following negotiations with board officials in London, the Sri Lankan-born Australian cricketer had consented to re-take the job he quit more than two years ago.

"We have worked out a contract on reasonable terms," Rennie Wijetilleke, chairman of the interim committee running the cricket board, told local newspapers.

"No matter who is in administrative control, the appointment of Whatmore as coach would be seen as both sensible and logical by all those genuinely interested in the future of our nation's cricket," Wijetilleke told the independent Midweek Mirror newspaper.

Whatmore was replaced shortly after the World Cup tournament by another Australian, Bruce Yardley, who also resigned last May after a short stint and sport authorities



ties since then have turned to former local cricketers to fill in the slot.

Cricketer board officials said Whatmore is on contract with Lancashire until 2000, but he is expected to seek an early release and will arrive in Sri Lanka in October for a contract that will initially commit him for three years.

Japanese never Japs

GREENVILLE, North Carolina, June 23: A Pitt County commissioner used a disparaging term for Japanese when referring to Special Olympians, then defended the term even when told it was offensive, reports AP.

At a public meeting Monday, Commissioner Dave Hammond referred to the Japanese delegation arriving for the Special Olympics World Summer Games as "Japs".

"How many Japs are coming?" Hammond asked after a brief presentation.

Commission Chairman Eugene James cautioned Hammond, "Don't say it like that."

"I said it like I want to say it, Mr Chairman," Hammond replied.

When asked about his comment, Hammond said he meant it as an "abbreviation," not an insult. He said he did not realise the term was offensive and had heard his uncle use the word.

"If somebody got a problem with it, then I'll apologise and withdraw the statement," Hammond said.

Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "Jap" as "Japanese" — usually used disparagingly.

Eileen Sexton, vice president of communications for the Games, said it was important that athletes be treated respectfully, and that included referring to this delegation as Japanese.

"It's one person," she said Tuesday. "I don't think it's a reflection on the Games. I don't think it's a reflection on North Carolina."

The Games officially open in Raleigh on Saturday and run through July 4.

Herb Yamaniishi, national director of the Japanese American Citizens League in San Francisco, said he would be upset if someone used the term to refer to him.

Becker pulls through



LONDON, June 23: Three-time champion Boris Becker battled from two sets down and saved three match points in the fourth set against Briton Miles MacLagan to keep his final Wimbledon dream alive on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The 31-year-old unseeded German finally subdued the unheralded Scot 5-7, 6-7, 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 for a victory as great as any he achieved in his glory years a decade ago.

He was joined in the second round by third seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov who narrowly avoided defeat when his dark-skinned first round match with Magnus Larsson resumed at two sets apiece and 5-5 in the fifth.

The Russian former world number one eventually squeezed through 6-7, 7-5, 7-6, 4-6, 7-5.

Andre Agassi hardly put a foot wrong on Centre Court as the form that took him to the French Open title this month continued on grass and he thrashed Romanian Andrei Pavel 6-1, 6-2, 6-3.

Second seed Pat Rafter dealt with Cristiano Caratti of Italy 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, while Brazilian 11th-seed Gustavo Kuerten recorded his first victory on grass beating Christ Wilkinson 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

The claycourt specialist looked like a natural grass-courtier as he whipped passing shots past the advancing Briton and confidently punched volleys for winners.

In another match held over at 5-5 in the final set Jennifer Capriati beat Germany's Anke Huber 5-7, 6-3, 9-7. Capriati, who in 1991 became the youngest women's Wimbledon semifinalist aged 15 years 95 days, was joined in the second round by defending champion Jana Novotna who beat Shi-Ting Wang 6-2, 6-1.

Third seed Lindsay Davenport crushed Alexandra Fusai 6-0, 6-3 while Spanish seventh-seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario recovered from a slow start to beat Hungary's Annamaria Földenyi 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Earlier, world number one Martina Hingis was humiliated 6-2, 6-0 by 16-year-old qualifier Jelena Dokic in the first round of the women's singles in the most sensational upset in recent Wimbledon history.

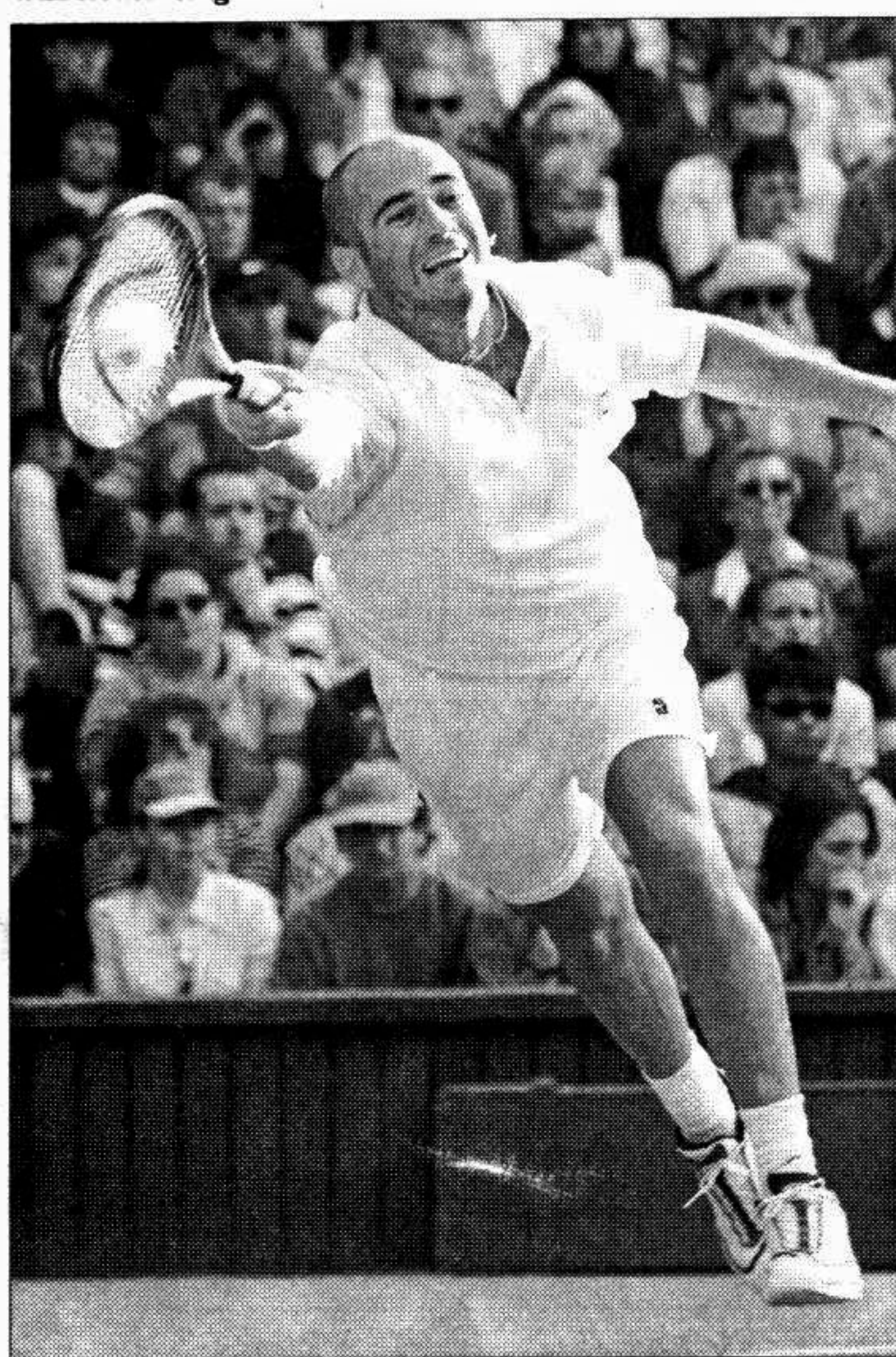
Hingis, the top seed, was outclassed and outplayed in every department by Dokic in an astonishing Court One performance.

She made the Swiss star look like a novice, running her around the court and smashing winners past her at will, before

completing the sensational shock victory in just 54 minutes.

"It's amazing, just amazing," Dokic said as 1987 men's champion Pat Cash embraced her afterwards.

The top seed has only been beaten in the opening round of a Wimbledon singles three times



American Andre Agassi playing against Andrei Pavel of Romania at the Wimbledon on Tuesday. Agassi won 6-1, 6-2, 6-3. —AFP photo

In the 122-year history of the world's most prestigious tournament, and never to a qualifier.

Hingis, who allowed Dokic just three games when they last played in January, said she planned to take a break from tennis and appeared to have split from her coach — her mother Melanie.

"Maybe I just need a break from everything right now. A break would really suit me," she said.

"We just decided to have a little bit of distance and work

on our private lives," Hingis explained. "I wanted to be more independent... make my own decisions, decided when to practice, things like that."

The last time a Wimbledon top seed was beaten in the opening round was when Steffi Graf lost to Lori McNeil in 1994 and Hingis' defeat was as brutal as it



American Andre Agassi playing against Andrei Pavel of Romania at the Wimbledon on Tuesday. Agassi won 6-1, 6-2, 6-3. —AFP photo

was unexpected.

Eighteen and Wimbledon champion in 1997, she has not played a singles tournament since the French Open at the beginning of the month where she was heavily criticised for her petulant behaviour when losing the final to Steffi Graf.

Hingis looked alone and stunned as she shook Dokic's hand at the end. She tried to ring her mother for comfort but could not get through.

"I couldn't pick up my game today," Hingis said afterwards. "She was too good for me today."

WIMBLEDON AT A GLANCE

WIMBLEDON, June 23 (AP): A brief look at what happened Tuesday on the second day of Wimbledon tennis championships.

Weather: Mostly sunny skies. No rain for the second day. High temperature was 18 Celsius (64 Fahrenheit).

Attendance: 39,254, a record for the first Tuesday and very close to the overall record of 39,813. Last year on the second day it was 33,588.

Results: Men winners: No 2 Patrick Rafter, No 3 Yevgeny Kafelnikov, No 4 Andre Agassi, No 5 Richard Krajicek, No 8 Todd Martin, No 11 Gustavo Kuerten, No 15 Nicolas Pietrangeli. None of the top 16 seeded men have lost. No 14 Tommy Haas was tied at two sets each with Peter Wessels when play was suspended by darkness.

Women winners: No 3 Lindsay Davenport, No 5 Jana Novotna, No 7 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, No 9 Mary Pierce, No 11 Julie Halard-Decugis, No 14 Barbara Schett, No 16 Natasha Zvereva.

Upset: No. 1 Martina Hingis by qualifier Jelena Dokic. Hingis is the only seeded player to have lost.

Stat of the Day: Martina Hingis won only 39 per cent of the points against Jelena Dokic.

Quote of the day: "She (his pregnant wife Barbara) was getting very excited, and I turned to her and told her to be quiet, to calm down a little, because otherwise we have a baby on the court." Boris Becker.

Wednesday's match-ups

LONDON, June 23: Defending champion Pete Sampras and British pretender to the throne Tim Henman take centre stage on Day Three of the Wimbledon championships today with both facing modest opponents, reports AP.

French-Canadian Sebastien Lareau, a 26-year-old ranked 100 in the world, should scarcely trouble world number one Sampras, who is chasing his sixth crown here in seven years as they both prepare for battle in Court One.

Henman, second favourite as he seeks to become the first Briton to win the men's singles here since Fred Perry in 1936, will step out on Centre Court against unseeded American Chris Woodruff, ranked a lowly 126.

British fans will hardly know where to turn as no fewer than seven home players — five men and two women — have reached the second round.

Today, aside from Henman, they will avidly follow the all-British clash on Court Two between ninth-seeded Greg Rusedski and the up-and-coming Arvind Parmar, a qualifier ranked 455 in the world.

Among the women, French Open Champion Steffi Graf has a Centre Court date with South African Mariaan de Swardt.

Second-seeded Graf, gunning for an eighth title at the All England Club, has already received a huge boost following Tuesday's first-round defeat of world number one Martina Hingis by Australian qualifier Jelena Dokic.

Even at 30, Graf is still the yardstick for the rest, and she is now the overwhelming favourite.

Hingis pulls out of doubles

LONDON, June 23: World number one Martina Hingis withdrew from the Wimbledon women's doubles on Tuesday after suffering the most sensational upset in the tournament's recent history, reports Reuters.

The Swiss was humiliated 6-2, 6-0 in the opening round of the singles by 16-year-old Australian qualifier Jelena Dokic and said afterwards that she planned to take a break.

Tournament referee Alan Mills issued a statement late on Tuesday evening saying that Hingis had pulled out of the doubles "due to a recurring medical problem."

Hingis and Russian Anna Kournikova were seeded second in the doubles.

Mills said their place would be taken in the draw by American Debbie Graham and Lori McNeil.

Schools h'ball from July 26

The 10th Bata schools handball tournament for girls, organised by Bangladesh Handball Federation, begins on Saturday at the Dhanmondi Sultana-Kamal Women's Sports Complex, reports UNB.

President of Bangladesh Olympic Association and Army Chief Lt Gen Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman will inaugurate the meet. Managing director of the Bata Shoe Company (BD) and the chief patron of the tournament, F Gurshia will be present as the special guest.

Viqarunnissa Noon will take on BCCL at 4 pm in one of the three opening day fixtures. A total of 17 metropolitan teams split into four groups, are expected to participate in the competition.

TEAMS

Group A: Viqarunnissa Noon, Kadamtala Girls High, BCIC and Lake Circus Girls High.

Group B: Scholastica, Mirpur Girls Ideal Institute, Dhanmondi Govt Girls High and Agrani Girls High.

Group C: Narayanjanj Govt Girls High, Ahmed Bawani High, Mohammedan Preparatory and Mirpur Bangla.

Group D: BAF Shaheen School, Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla Railway High, Sher-e-Bangla Mahabiddalaya, Rifles School and College and Ishpani School and College.

Hingis pays the toll?



LONDON, June 23 (Reuters): Teenage girls can be trouble the world over, but add the pressures of professional tennis to their problems and you have an emotional bomb just a hair-trigger away from detonation.

The sudden disintegration of Martina Hingis, until a few weeks ago the undisputed queen of women's tennis, is the latest example of what critics call tennis burn-out.

What can you expect, they say, from an unnatural environment where children win Ferraris before they are old enough to drive?

Where they travel the world first class but spend much of their days alone in hotels and are subjected to pressure every day that most teenagers experience only in the exam room?

And then there's the problem of their parents... Hingis is the latest teenage meteor to have exploded just when they were burning brightest in the tennis firmament.

For some like Tracey Austin, US Open champion at 16, the problems were physical as a young body bent and twisted by hard courts and smashing millions of balls from an early age gave up.

For Jennifer Capriati and Andrea Jaeger, it was a psychological thing as a young mind rebelled after years practising baseline dropshots rather than playing with Barbie dolls.

Capriati, the image of apple pie middle America, reached the world top 10 when she was just 14, younger even than Jaeger when she achieved the feat.

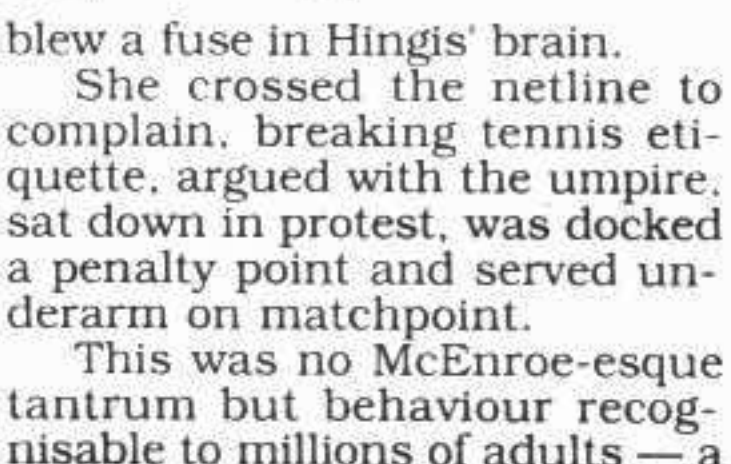
But Capriati lost her way following a first round defeat in the 1993 US Open. She spent a week in bed in the dark. "When I looked in the mirror I actually saw this distorted image. I was so ugly and so fat I just wanted to kill myself."

She moved out of her parents' home, was charged with shoplifting and possession of marijuana, and at one stage was signed into a psychiatric institution.

There is no sign that Hingis' problems are of this magnitude, but her fall from grace has been extraordinary.

On June 3, she destroyed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the French Open semifinal. A few days later, the 18-year-old was leading by one set and 2-0 in the final against Steffi Graf when a line call went against her.

These things happen in every match, in every final, but it



MARTINA HINGIS fed-up teenager seeing how far she could push the boundaries of authority.

The Swiss world number one was roundly condemned for her petulance and Tuesday's Wimbledon defeat by qualifier Jelena Dokic was undoubtedly linked to her frustration at losing that final and what she considered unfair comment on her behaviour.

More importantly, her mother and coach Melanie's role in the Roland Garros affair has led to a split between the two. Melanie persuaded Hingis to come back on court to attend the trophy presentation, very much against her daughter's will.

Martina would not be the first teenager to tell her mother, who was not at court on Tuesday to get lost.

But the pressures of living cheek by jowl, day after day, with the person who knows you best make the tennis circuit a unique test for the parent child relationship.

Melanie has coached Martina since she was two. Graf hit balls to her father across the living room sofa aged four.

Some parents see tennis as a

way of hauling the family out of a mundane, poorly-paid life. Some stay in the background, others take firm control and find it hard to let go when their little girls are little girls no more.

Steffi Graf's father Peter was jailed for three years for tax fraud. Mary Pierce's father slapped her when she lost — he once said: "Mary is a finely-tuned sports car. Well, I built the Ferrari — and now I want the keys back."

Parents everywhere keep a far closer eye on teenage girls than on their boys, but in tennis this is worse.

Most 18-year-old boys on the circuit travel alone or in a group, but worries about sexual tensions in the women's locker room and their youngster travelling with a male coach mean many parents decide to accompany their children on tour.

Melanie and Martina Hingis appeared to get on fine, but there was probably little cause for friction when the 16 or 17-year-old Hingis was sweeping all before her.

Hingis, with her engaging smile, attracted positive reviews wherever she went, unlike the more reserved Graf, Martina Navratilova or Chris "Ice Maiden" Evert in their early days.

It is unclear whether Hingis' split, or it marks the moment when the 18-year-old, her adolescent tantrums delayed by a few years by her tennis triumphs, decided she was adult enough to take over.

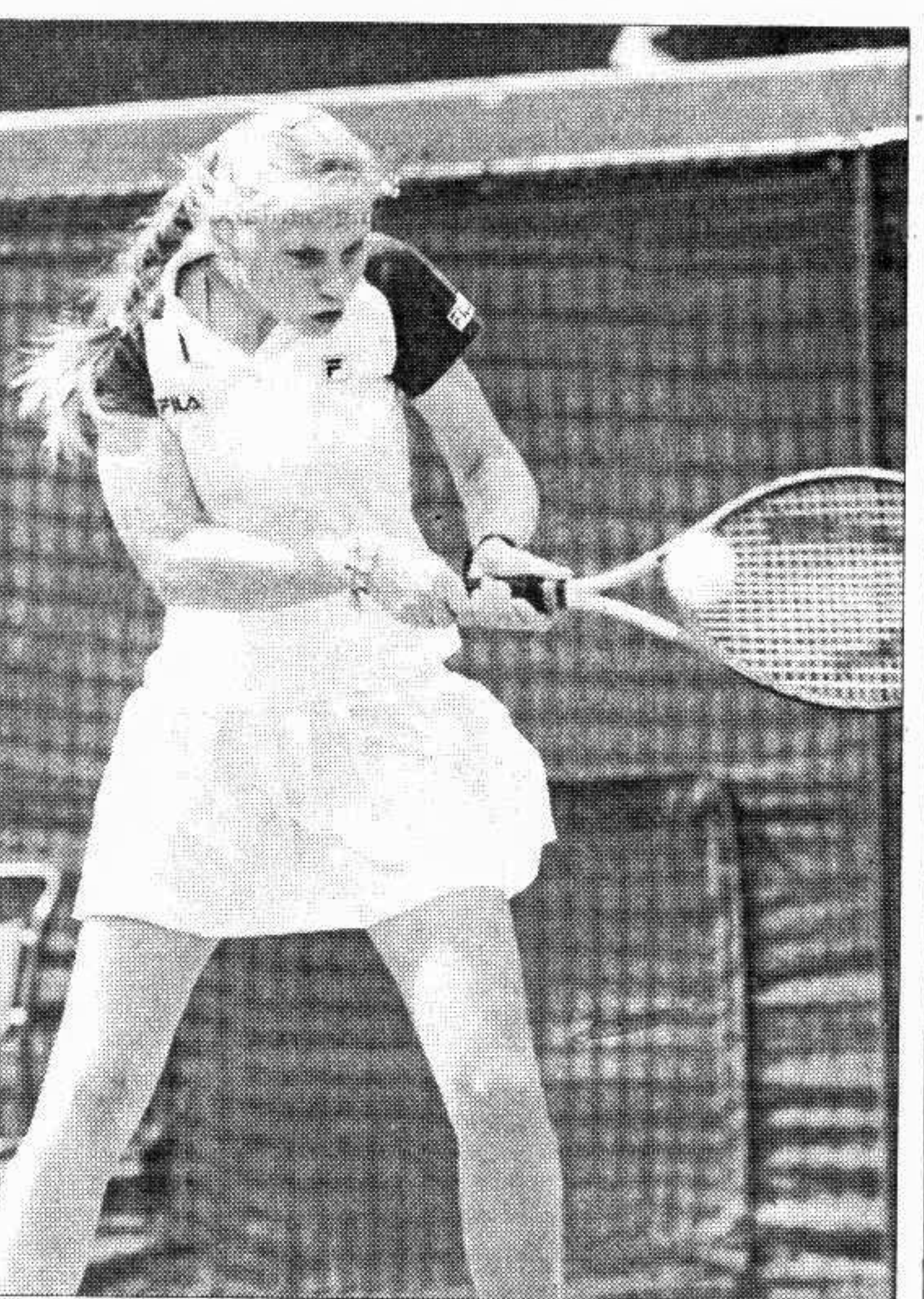
There is no sign that Hingis is about to fly off the rails — she has shown the same kind of dedication that kept Navratilova, Evert and Graf at the top for a decade or more — or that her problems are worse than any other teenager's.

But if she wanted any encouragement that things do get better, just when it seems they cannot get any worse, she just has to listen to Capriati.

On Tuesday, as Hingis was suffering meltdown to Dokic in front of disbelieving Wimbledon crowd, a smiling Capriati was explaining why she was happy again after five years in limbo.

"I can't change the past, so it's better that I just live for the moment now. What happened to me is hard to understand, but it has certainly helped me become a better person."

"I can relax and I just want to play for fun. I've grown up a lot, I'm a mature person now, and I think I'm in touch with everything in my life."



Australia's Jelena Dokic, who upset world number one Martina Hingis in the first round of the Wimbledon Championships, in action against the Swiss star on June 22. —AFP photo

CHAMPIONSHIPS CHIPS

LONDON, June 23 (AFP/Reuters): It's good to talk, according to the phone companies. But not where Boris Becker and Nicolas Pietrangeli are concerned. The two Germans will meet in the second round of the men's singles and are former Davis Cup teammates — but they're not on speaking terms.

The two fell out after a simmering dispute came to a head at the World Team Cup in Düsseldorf, since when they have erected a wall of silence.

Kiefer, who now hopes to become the man to end three-time champion Becker's Wimbledon career, insists: "It's not a problem for me. He doesn't want to talk to me any more but I don't know why and I don't care. I'm here to play tennis."

CAPRIATI, ROLE MODEL

She's had her ups and downs, but former teen star Jennifer Capriati says her well-documented personal problems are firmly in the past and that she now intends to act as a role model for other young players.

The 23-year-old American star, who beat Germany's Anke Huber to reach the second round, was a Wimbledon semifinalist at 15, beating Martina Navratilova on the way, but her career came off the rails five years ago when she was convicted of drugs offences and drink-driving.

Capriati, who was granted an exemption onto the women's tour when just 13 because of her

precocious talent, said: "I hope I can be an inspiration to people of all ages who think they are down and out and without hope."

FRIEND OR FOE

It will be a case of friend or foe for number two seed Patrick Rafter when the Australian takes on Jonas Bjorkman in the second round of the men's singles.

The Swede is his doubles partner. "We know each other's game pretty well, of course, and maybe it will be just a case of who plays better on the day."

Joker Rafter has a secret, if shifty, plan to seal off Bjorkman. "We are playing doubles together before the second round match and so when I serve I'll be trying to hit him on the back of the head."

BIG BUSINESS

Wimbledon is set to make a 46 million pound (65 million dollars) killing by selling five-year guaranteed debenture seats to wealthy fans. The so-called ticket 'white market' will make life even tougher for ticket agents who would otherwise try to sell on spare tickets for the championships.

The All England Club is advertising 2,300 debenture tickets valid from 2001-2005 with each one costing a cool 23,000 pounds.

But ticket agents are angry that Wimbledon authorities make it illegal for them to sell on unwanted debenture tickets. Instead, the All England

Club maintains that right for itself, prompting one agent to tell the Express: "Wimbledon is acting like an unmarked ticket tout."

PARENTS, NO PROBLEM

Pete Sampras has never suffered from overbearing parents, a headache that has afflicted many a rising tennis star in the high-pressure sport.

In fact, they go to the other extreme. Sam and Georgia Sampras have only ever watched their son play live in one Grand Slam final — and that was the 1992 US final which he lost.

Sampras, one of the greatest players in the history of the game, has a deep affection for his parents and rings them back home in Palo Verde, California several times a week.

But the pre-Wimbledon ritual is always the same with father Sam, a retired engineer, telling him: "Pete, you're doing fine without us. Good luck. See you when you get home."

VORACIOUS AUSSIES

Wimbledon is the perfect couch potato's dream for 520 million tennis fans around the globe.

A staggering 5,552 hours of tennis were viewed around the world from Wimbledon last year to 175 countries.

In Taiwan, coverage of the tennis bonanza was confined to just one hour. Tennis fans in Syria, Togo and Tunisia had to make do with only three hours.