

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 will take part in the Dhaka Run that would start from the Army Stadium at 6 am, he said, adding that it would pass through Mohakhali, Cantonment Gate, Farmgate, Sonargaon, Bangla Motor, Shabagh, 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: David 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," Rienzis Wijetilleke, chairman of the interim committee running the cricket board, told local newsmen.

"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 authori-

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 Britain's 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 darkness-delayed 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.

Andrei 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 natural grass-court 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 Shing 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 Annamarie Foldenyi 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Earlier, world number one Martina Hingis was humiliated 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.

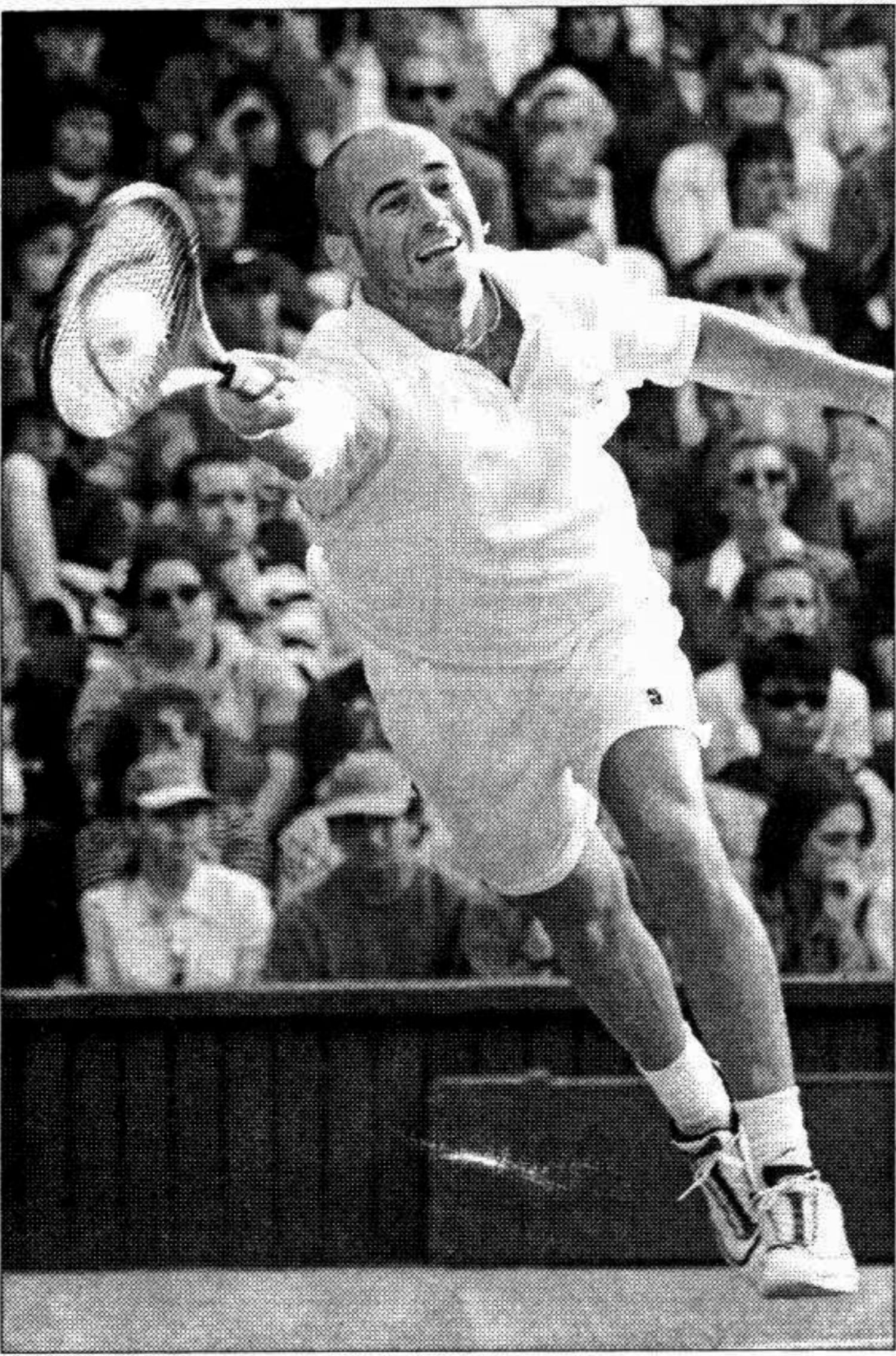
Hingis, the top seed, was outclassed and outplayed in every department by Dokic in an astonishing Court One performance.

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

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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."

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