

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Michelle de Bruin**  
Irish ace swimmer  
"I reaffirm that I have never used any banned substance in my career, nor have I ever been charged by FINA of using any banned substance. I am saddened that my career has ended this way."

While announcing her retirement.

**Boost sports WHIZZ KID**  
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-117

- ✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
July 9, '99 and draw shortly afterwards
- How many matches have been scheduled for the World Cup 99?  
40 41 42
  - Pakistan beat New Zealand in the semifinal by  
9 wks 10 wks 53 runs
  - How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup?  
18 21 20
  - Saqibain Mushtaq scored his hat-trick against which country?  
Kenya Zimbabwe Bangladesh
  - How many runs did Minhazul Abedin score in the World Cup?  
120 140 140

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (If any) .....

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ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

### Div I soccer

Victoria Sporting Club maintained their all-win run in the Metropolitan First Division football league, beating Shantinaragar Club by 3-2 at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Faiz Babu, Pavel and Habib netted one goal each for Victoria, which dominated the first half by 2-1. Belal and Masud scored for the losers.

After the day's outcome, Victoria topped the points table securing full nine points from three straight wins while Shantinagar remained at their previous credit of one point from three outings.

In the previous matches, Victoria beat Prantik KC 2-1 and Dhamondi Club 3-2 while Shantinagar lost to Dhaka Wanderers 2-3 and drew one-all with BRTC.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

BRTC will meet Vart Club at 3 pm while Prantik KC will play the Muslim Institute at 5 pm, both at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

### Mac takes it very badly

LONDON, July 5 (Reuters): John McEnroe is bitterly disappointed to have missed out on a chance to finish his career at Wimbledon with a title.

The three-time men's singles champion, playing alongside women's singles finalist Steffi Graf, had to withdraw from the mixed doubles on Saturday after Graf slightly strained her left thigh. The pair had reached the semifinals of the mixed.

"This is probably my last Wimbledon as a major factor," McEnroe wrote in Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper today.

"I wanted to try to win the championship and what happened still feels like a punch in the stomach."

"It's really hard to speak about it. It didn't feel as though I said a proper goodbye.... I didn't want to go out that way. Maybe no one cares, but I care."

## Holder's first hiccup

Sports Reporter

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra became the latest stumblers in the topsy-turvy Keya Premier Football League when they were held to a goalless draw by Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The defending champions had come into their fourth League match with three consecutive victories under their belt, but returned disappointed, losing their first points to the stubborn old town outfit.

In an eventful match, marked by forays and counter forays, the all reds it seemed were destined to draw as their Nigerian forward Aliou Rahman cracked the ball against the far post from a handshaking distance on the stroke of the final whistle. Earlier, another attempt had returned off the post.

Although the outcome came as a set-back for Muktijoddha, a few thousand loyal football fans of Mohammedan and Abahani, who thronged at the big bowl, looked understandably happy at the end of the day. With this draw Muktijoddha not only missed an opportunity to take the solo lead, but also allowed both Mohammedan and Abahani to bounce back into contention.

Besides, the debacle of Muktijoddha gave Farashganj a chance to dictate the early proceedings of the league. Although it would be a highly unlikely proposition for Farashganj to beat giants Abahani in their next match on July 9, a win, however, will take them to an uncharted territory where no other mediocre team had traveled before.



In the day's match Muktijoddha got few clear chances to break the evening's duck. But all their efforts went in vain due to poor marksmanship.

Former national striker Nakib, who is yet to score a goal in the league, almost ended the jinx when he fired a splendid volley in the 27th minute. But his shot was more spectacularly fisted away by the Rahmatganj custodian Himu for a corner.

Muktijoddha got their second chance to take the lead in the 63rd minute when Effendi, the dapper Nigerian with four goals already to his name, headed a Masud Rana free-kick towards the far corner of the net. But his

header came of the metal-work much to the horror of Muktijoddha.

Rahmatganj also had their share of chances to turn the tide around. In the 82nd minute Saiful came up with a beautiful header, which Muktijoddha's custodian parried off for a corner. But that only opened up the best opportunity for Rahmatganj. Masum took the corner from the left-hand side of the post that sailed over the Muktijoddha defense to an unmarked Milon, who headed the ball past Biplob but only to be denied by the cross-bar.

Muktijoddha made some desperate efforts during the last quarter of the match, but once Aliou missed the sitter a draw was a forgone conclusion.

**Yellow cards:** Effendi, Nakib (Muktijoddha), Masum, Milon and Biplob (Rahmatganj).

### TEAMS

**Muktijoddha:** Biplob, Hasan al Mamun, Jewel Rana, Rajani, Titu, Masud Rana, Tushar (Joy), Liton (Mamun Joarder), Aliou Rahman, Effendi and Nakib.

**Rahmatganj:** Himu, Biplob (Biplob Marmal), Deen Mohammed, Masum, Kamal, Monir (Roman), Nayan, Nurul Islam, Saurav Raju, Milon and Saiful.

Referee: Ibrahim Nesar.



Action from the Premier Division football league match between Muktijoddha Sangsad and Rahmatganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

### Asian Youth Championship

## Bangladesh do it easy

Sports Reporter



Defending champions Bangladesh got off to a sound start in the Asian Youth Championship with a eight-wicket win over Hong Kong at the Kalang ground in Singapore yesterday.

In a truncated 25-over-a-side match, Hong Kong could score 110 for six after being sent into bat by Bangladesh.

In reply, Bangladesh milked the required 111 for the loss of two wickets with nearly ten overs to spare.

Hannan Sarker scored an unbeaten 46 off 50 balls. Coming into bat at number three after opener Nahidul Haq fell for only six runs, the right-hander took Bangladesh close to victory putting on 58 runs for the second wicket with other opener Imran Ahmed. Imran chipped in with a run-a-ball 28. Hannan then found a perfect ally in Rajin Saleh to guide Bangladesh to victory without further damage. They put on 30 runs for the undefeated third wicket. Rajin remained not out on 15. Hannan hammered a quartet of fours in his polished knock.

Earlier, the Hong Kong total

was built around a fine half century from Roy Lambson, who hammered a breezy 56 off 38 ball before being undone by a superb piece of fielding from Bangladesh.

Lambson, who played with purpose, took the Bangladeshi bowlers to the sword. But once the menacingly poised Lambson departed, runs dried up in the face of controlled bowling from Bangladesh.

Naim with two wickets for 22 runs was the most successful among the Bangladeshi bowlers.

Bangladesh will play against Malaysia in their second Group A match today.

### SCOREBOARD

HONG KONG	
G Tundale c Rahim b Naim	1
D Choudhury c Imran b Naim	5
A French c Fahim b Rubel	20
R Lambson run out	56
Arshad c Nahid b Fahim	19
N Savalanni not out	4
Total: (for 6 wickets in 25 overs)	110

Fall of wks: 1/2, 2/8, 3/53, 4/91, 5/110

BOWLER	OM	R	W
Rezaul Haq Nasim	5	1	22
Bikash	5	0	16
Mosaddek Rubel	5	0	18
Fahim Muntasir	5	0	30
Hannan Sarker	1	0	6
Imran Rahim	4	1	16

**BANGLADESH**  
Imran Ahmed c Savalanni b A French 28  
Shaon c Arshad b Brendani 6  
Hannan not out 46  
Rajin not out 15  
Extras: (nb-8; w-12) 20  
Total: (for 2 wickets in 20.1 overs) 111

Fall of wks: 1/23, 2/81

BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Brendani	3	0	23	1
N Savalanni	3	0	25	0
R Lambson	3	0	16	0
E Vyndata	2	0	9	0
A French	5	0	17	1
G Tailor	5	0	14	0

**Result: Bangladesh won by 8 wickets.**



Indian Leander Paes (L) and American Lisa Raymond show the mixed doubles' trophy of the Wimbledon after the final on July 4. The pair beat Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden and Russian Anna Kournikova 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. — AFP photo

### Iraqis for MSC

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club have roped in two Iraqi booters to play in the ongoing Premier football League.

The Iraqi duo who arrived in the city yesterday are Mazin Abdus Sattar and Shamir Jasim Abbas.

Shamir Jasim is a regular club footballer in the Indian. The 29-year-old striker played for Mohanbagan last season. Mazin, a current Iraqi national player, is a 26-year-old midfielder. Mazin plays for Al Zawra, a leading team in the Iraqi first division.

Lokman Hossain, however, said that the registration formalities of the Iraqi duo would be completed after the team's training session today.

Mohammedans will play their next League match against Fakirerpool Youngmens Club tomorrow. And if everything goes according to plan the Iraqi duo, Mohammedans first foreign recruit this season, will don the black and white jersey.

### SERIAL WINNERS

LONDON, July 5 (AP): Following is a list of consecutive Wimbledon winners:

#### MEN

- 1 — Willie Renshaw, 1881-1886.
- 2 — Laurie Doherty, 1902-1906; Bjorn Borg, 1976-1980.
- 3 — Reggie Doherty, 1897-1900; Tony Wilding, 1910-1913.
- 4 — Fred Perry, 1934-36; Pete Sampras, 1993-95, 1997-99.
- 5 — John Hartley, 1879-80; Wilfred Baddeley, 1891-92; Joshua Pim, 1893-94; Arthur Gore, 1908-09; Bill Tilden, 1920-21; Don Budge, 1937-38; Lew Hoad, 1956-57; Rod Laver, 1961-62, 1968-69; Roy Emerson, 1964-65; John Newcombe, 1970-71; John McEnroe, 1983-84; Boris Becker, 1985-86.

#### WOMEN

- 1 — Martina Navratilova, 1982-1987.
- 2 — Suzanne Lenglen, 1919-1923.
- 3 — Helen Wills Moody, 1927-1930.
- 4 — Lottie Dodd, 1891-93; Louise Brough, 1948-50; Maureen Connolly, 1952-54; Billie Jean King, 1966-68; Steffi Graf, 1991-93.
- 5 — Maud Watson, 1884-85; Lottie Dodd, 1887-88; Charlotte Cooper, 1895-96; Blanche Bingley-Hillyard, 1899-1900; Dorothea Douglass, 1903-04, 1910-11, 1913-14; Helen Wills Moody, 1932-33; Althea Gibson, 1957-58; Maria Bueno, 1959-60; Billie Jean King, 1972-73; Martina Navratilova, 1978-79; Steffi Graf, 1988-89, 1995-96.

### Paes, Bhupathi hailed

NEW DELHI, July 5: President K R Narayanan, Vice President Krishan Kant and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee today led the nation to shower encomiums on star tennis pair Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi for their memorable Wimbledon men's doubles title triumph, reports PTL.

The President, in a message, said Paes and Bhupathi had done India proud and had also proved they were the best in the world by their victory coming close on the heels of their French Open triumph.

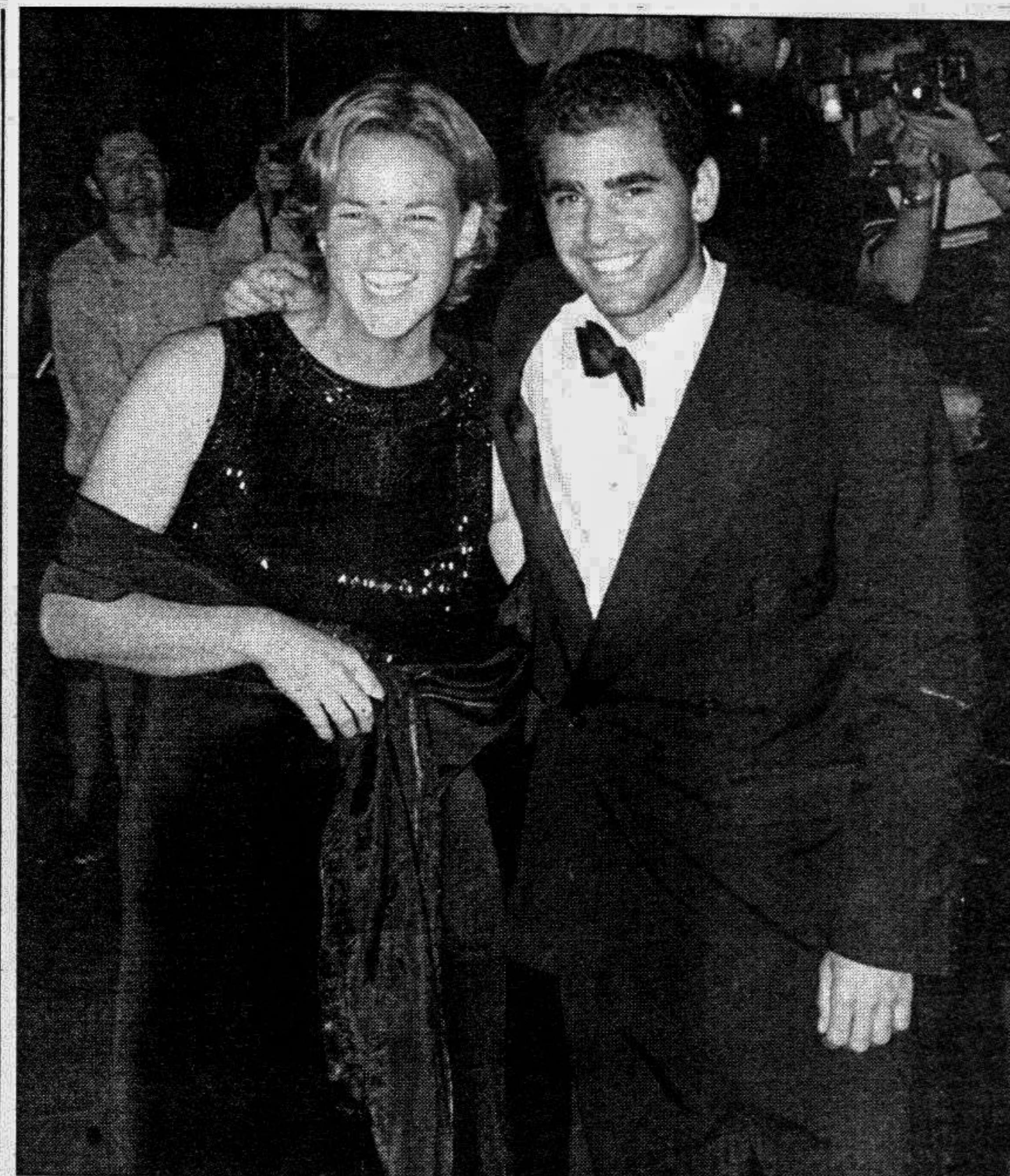
The Vice President conveyed his best wishes to the duo and congratulated them for their splendid victory over Dutch-American pair of Paul Haarhuis and Jared Palmer.

"You have done the country proud," said the Prime Minister. "You have once again proved you are the best doubles pair in the world. I'm glad that you've maintained your winning spree after your grand victory in the French Open (last month)," Vajpayee said in his congratulatory message.

Mahesh Bhupathi's mother, Meera Bhupathi said she was thrilled by her son and Leander Paes' success.

"I am very, very happy and proud to be mother of Mahesh," she said.

Meera said she was feeling great and that a lot of prayers had been answered.



This year's Wimbledon champions Lindsay Davenport (L) and Pete Sampras pose during the ceremonial ball at London's Savoy Hotel on July 4. — AFP photo

## Pete plain and simple



LONDON, July 5 (AFP): Pete Sampras hailed his straight sets obliteration of the Wimbledon final on Sunday as his greatest ever performance.

Sampras won the all-American clash 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 with an inch-perfect Independence Day exhibition of serve and volley tennis which saw him match the all-time Grand Slam win record of 12 held by Australian Roy Emerson.

It was also his sixth Wimbledon title in seven years, surpassing Bjorn Borg's Open era record of five and moving to within one of W.C. Renshaw's all-time record of seven set in the last century.

Sampras, who missed the Australian Open in January citing fatigue and admits he has been lacking motivation, said: "Probably with the way the year's been going and playing who I was, under the circumstances it's got to be the top of my list."

"I'm still spinning a bit. I haven't thought too much about the record, it's a little bit overwhelming to have won what I've won," added the 27-year-old, who has also won four US Opens and two Australian Opens.

"I don't know how I do it. It's gonna take some time to sink in."

"In the middle of the second set I was on fire, I was in the zone. It was as well as I can play, plain and simple."

"With the big occasion, on the fourth of July, to win in straight sets I didn't think was

going to happen. "And really brings out the best in me. No question, he elevates my game to a level that's phenomenal."

The stunning victory clinched Sampras a winner's cheque of 455,000 pounds (£24,133 dollars).

Bizarrely, his world ranking will now fall from one to three, with Agassi, who had been hoping to become the first man to win Wimbledon and the French Open in the same year since Bjorn Borg in 1980, taking the number one slot.

The match had been billed as a shootout between the best serve-volleyer in the game and the best returner of the serve. But Agassi couldn't get close to the famed Sampras delivery in the first two sets and quickly found himself facing a mountain.

Key was the moment when Sampras recovered from love-40 to hold for 4-3 in the first set, and he went on to secured the first set thanks to a break in the next game for 5-3 when Agassi netted a forehand.

The 27-year-old delivered a double whammy by breaking Agassi to love in the opening game of the second set, and it was only a matter of time -- 35 minutes to be precise -- before he was 2-0 up.

Sampras was at his absolute best, impenetrable on serve and out-returning his opponent.

In the third Agassi tried desperately to draw some inspiration from a superb forehand cross court winner which fired up the crowd.

But Sampras was totally unruffled and at 5-5 Agassi

cracked again, losing serve to a backhand into the net as his first serve deserted him when he needed it most.

Sampras was left sprawled on the turf as Agassi bravely battled back from 30-0 to 30 all. Typically, he picked himself up, dusted off a bloodied elbow and hammered his 16th ace for match point.

But the grass master had saved the best for last, crashing a second service ace to take his place among the tennis gods.

Agassi admitted he had been blown away by the man known as Pistol Pete.

"He played some impeccable tennis at important times. When you play Pete you consider 30-all an opportunity to break," the 29-year-old said.

"There was not much I could do. You've just got to play the big points better. He's certainly the champion -- it doesn't matter what kind of year he has, on grass he's always tough to beat. He has a knack for things like that."

"He has accomplished more than anyone else in my opinion."

The Las Vegas lunged towards Sampras as they paraded their trophies before the Centre Court crowd afterwards.

"I felt like whacking him over the head with mine," he joked.

And Agassi confirmed he had not lost his sense of humour when asked why he had not played any warm-up tournaments on grass prior to Wimbledon.

"Because I knew I was gonna be drunk the whole week celebrating the French!" he quipped.

## An American oddity



LONDON, July 5 (Reuters/AP): Lindsay Davenport acknowledged a transformation in her life today that has made her one of the most contented of Wimbledon champions.

The 23-year-old American beat Steffi Graf 6-4, 7-5 in the women's singles final, a match which Graf said afterwards, was her last ever at the Championships.

While Graf contemplates retirement, Davenport is dreaming of greatness.

"It was almost like a dream," Davenport said after her 1 hour 15 minutes win, which was held up for 30 minutes by a rain delay at 4-5 in the second set.

"When I won I was almost more numb than in shock," she said.

"I never thought that it would be my Wimbledon. I was a 15-1 shot to win before and I had struggled on this surface before."

Cradling the famous silver Rosewater Dish, which dates back to 1864, Davenport said: "It's the most beautiful trophy I have ever seen. I have only seen it on TV before. I wish I could take it away with me."

"To win on a surface I had struggled on, to not lose a set (in the championship), to beat Graf and (defending champion Jana) Novotna, two of the best players on grass, makes it just an amazing win."

Three years ago, the Californian was overweight, lacking in confidence and her family life was in turmoil, with her parents going through a divorce.

"After 25 years of marriage, my parents divorced in 1996 as well, and that was really difficult for my family."

"But I couldn't be happier now. I'm very close to my mum, I'm rebuilding my relationship with my father and the family is very close," she said.

Davenport broke her Grand Slam duck by winning the US open last year.

"The victory at the US Open was incredible because it was my first. People who had said I couldn't win the big one, I felt so much pride to tell them they were wrong," Davenport said.

"Now I can't believe I overcame myself on grass to win at Wimbledon. Now I have won the two biggest tournaments there are in the world and few players can say that."

The American also collected the Women's doubles title.

Davenport came back after a breathless round of interviews to partner compatriot Corina Morariu to a 6-4, 6-4 victory over South Africa's Marianne Swardt and Elena Tatarkova of Ukraine.

Czech Jana Novotna won both titles last year, when she beat Nathalie Tauziat in the singles and partnered Martina Hingis to victory over Davenport and Natasha Zvereva in the doubles.

Davenport, who regained her world number one ranking with her success here, is a unique champion by her very normality.

Her age divides her between the "golden oldies" of Graf and Novotna and the teen brigade. And, by her own admission, she has nothing "in her closet" for the newspapers to exploit.

However, after beating Graf to write her name into the record books — and into the membership lists of the All England Club — the only problem facing Davenport was what to wear to the traditional Wimbledon champions' ball on Sunday night.

The final was not played as usual on Saturday afternoon because of rain delays, and Davenport said: "I thought that, even if I won here, I would have time to find a dress today."

### Dvorak shatters decathlon mark

PRAGUE, July 5: World champion Tomas Dvorak of the Czech Republic broke the world decathlon record on Sunday, bettering a mark which had stood for nearly seven years, reports Reuters.

Olympic bronze medalist Dvorak, 27, scored 8,994 points in the 10 events at the European Cup Decathlon Team Championship on Saturday and Sunday.