

## African Nations Cup

## Senegal move closer

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 9: Senegal regained pole position in the race for the final place at the 2000 African Nations Cup with a 2-0 win over Zimbabwe in Dakar at the weekend, reports AFP.

Moussa Ndiaye put the Lions ahead after 15 minutes in the West African city and Ousmane Diop converted a 90th-minute penalty kick to seal a significant success.

Senegal and Zimbabwe have six points each after three matches and the Lions top the standings thanks to a plus-five goal difference while Zimbabwe have scored and conceded three.

Eritrea, the other team in a mini-league necessitated by the transfer of the finals from ill-equipped Zimbabwe to Ghana and Nigeria, visit Harare on August 15 and host Senegal six days later.

The winners will join holders Egypt, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Togo and Zambia at the biennial.

Senegal, beaten at home only once in 32 Nations Cup qualifiers since 1967, dominated opponents lacking star striker Peter Ndlovu and could afford the luxury of missing a penalty.

Ndiaye broke the deadlock when a free kick rebounded into his path, but he failed to convert a 67th-minute spot kick after Omar Traore had been crudely tackled.

Diop succeeded where Ndiaye failed in the last minute, leaving Senegal well placed to reach the African football showpiece after failing to qualify for the 1996 and 1998 tournaments.

## ROK workers leave for DPRK

SEOUL, Aug 9: A team of South Korean trade unionists Monday left for North Korea to play in a landmark inter-Korean soccer matches in Pyongyang this week, the Unification Ministry said.

Some 37 workers belonging to the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) left today to participate in the matches, an official of the KCTU, one of the two umbrella union groups in South Korea said.

"This game is special in a sense that the workers are taking the initiative in a bid to overcome the partition between the two Koreas."

The soccer match, organised by non-governmental groups, between workers from both sides of the world's last Cold War frontier will be held on August 12.

The KCTU play a team from North Korea's General Confederation of Trade Unions on Thursday ahead of another game Friday, with each team fielding with a mixture of workers from the two Koreas.

The South Korean players will arrive in Pyongyang on Tuesday via Beijing. They will return through the true village of Panmunjom on the border between the divided countries.

Despite tensions following a naval clash in the Yellow Sea in June and fears the North is planning to test-fire another ballistic missile, civic groups here continue to approach North Korea.

"We agreed with the North Korea last May that the inter-Korean soccer match will be held once a year alternately in Seoul and Pyongyang," the KCTU official said.

South and North Korea have remained technically at war since the 1950-1953 Korean conflict ended with the signing of armistice.

The two Koreas have held sport exchanges but they were stalled in July 1991 when a North Korean judo competitor defected to the South.

## Sandeno snatches gold

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug 9: Hours after arriving here on an early morning Kaitlin Sandeno won the 400-meter individual medley in the Phillips 66 National Swimming Championships, reports AP.

Sandeno arrived at 6 am Sunday from Winnipeg, Manitoba, after winning two gold medals at the Pan American Games last week. Hours later, she swam in the preliminaries at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

Sandeno's time of 4 minutes, 42.92 seconds earned the 16-year-old her second national title.

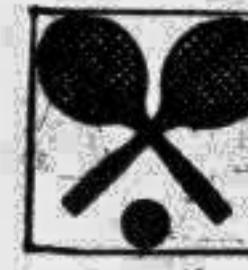
Jenny Thompson recorded another national championship by winning the 200-meter freestyle in 2:00.19. It was the 22nd career national title for Thompson, 26. Who moved into 10th place on the career list. She is the winningest active swimmer in the United States.

Ugur Taner won his second title in as many nights, taking the 200-meter freestyle championship away top-seeded Chad Carvin. Taner swam a 1:49.19 to follow up Saturday's 200-meter victory.

Robert Margalis, 17, earned a victory in the men's 400 individual medley with a time of 4:19.70. Coming in second was top-seeded Eric Donnelly (4:20.42), who arrived from Winnipeg on the same bus as Sandeno early Sunday morning. Donnelly won the silver medal at the Pan Am Games in the same event at 4:17.86.

About 1,400 swimmers are competing in the five-day meet, which should produce 10 additional qualifiers for the US team at the pan Pacific games Aug 22-28 in Sydney, Australia.

## Martina's majestic show



CARLSBAD, California, Aug 9: Martina Hingis celebrated her return to the number one ranking by beating Venus Williams 6-4, 6-0 to win the WTA Tour's TIG Tennis Classic on Sunday, reports AFP.

The win took just 61 minutes and earned the number two seed \$80,000 dollars. The victory marked an impressive turnaround in her fortunes, after her dramatic capitulation to Steffi Graf in the French Open final and first round exit to qualifier Jelena Dokic at Wimbledon.

"It was one of my best matches ever," said Hingis. Both players came out firing from the baseline, and the four breaks of serve in the opening four games was not an indication of weakness by either player. Instead, it was a measure of their commitment to attack regardless of the consequences.

Although both continued to face break points after the first four games, it was Hingis who made the vital move by breaking to lead 5-4 as Williams netted a backhand. But after the competitiveness of the first set there was no indication that Hingis would be able to dominate the second so completely.

"She played well, but I was just too tired," Williams admitted.

Williams was in Italy (for the Fed Cup) and then went straight to Stanford (where she also reached the final) and then here."

Hingis drew great satisfaction from seeing the month of work she put in before the tournament pay dividends.

"I was able to stay in the long rallies and it seemed like it was back and forth, never ending, cross-court and down the line," said Hingis. "It was like practice almost. That's what I was doing at Saddlebrook, and the hard work really paid off. I was in great shape today."

"I just kept her running most of the time, right left, right left, and she was more tired than I was. She was playing doubles and it was her third week, and in the end I was more fresh and able to keep doing what I was doing."

It such a tightly contested match, Hingis considered that getting the opening set gave her an important edge.

"Mentally I think it was very important for me to win the first set because it was great tennis, and she had to think she had to be out there for another two sets and that wasn't easy for her, I guess," said Hingis.

Having come through the toughest period of her career, Hingis saw the week as an opportunity to assess where her game was now. The outcome was a relief.

That was a great match for me today. It was a good test for me to see where I'm at, and I feel right now I'm pretty good. Beating Venus four and love, and especially in the second set not letting down and being focused. I used to have ups and downs in the match, but not today," she said.

MARTINA HINGIS

bouncing before reaching the net, led to Hingis breaking to lead 1-0, and Williams was unable to rebound.

While Hingis continued to pound her groundstrokes cross-court or down the line, Williams failed to find the mark. At 4-0 another serve bounced before the net, and it was obvious the number four seed would not find a way back.

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Hingis drew great satisfaction

MONTREAL, Aug 9: Thomas Johansson overcame a groin injury to win the du Maurier Open men's tennis championship with a 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 upset of third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia, reports AP.

The Swede, the 11th seed, became the first player in eight years to win the du Maurier in his first appearance at the event, also known as the Canadian Open. Andrei Chesnokov of Russia did it in 1991.

"It's been a great week," said Johansson, 24, who outbattled the world's fourth-ranked player to earn \$61,000 dollars Sunday. "It's a great start to my (north American) tour."

"To win a Super-Nine event is an incredible feeling."

The Swede earned his third career ATP Tour victory and first this year.

Johansson took two timeouts during the match — one while he was down 0-3 in the first set and another in the third set. A tournament spokesman said Johansson strained his right groin during the match.

But Kafelnikov wasn't convinced that Johansson was hurt.

"He wasn't injured," Kafelnikov said. "Iowing the retirement of Deng Yaping, a living legend in her native country.

But, at 20, the pugnacious left-hander revealed she was worried that she might not reign for too long.

Wang said: "We (herself and Li) could be regarded as older players. This time I think Li Nan, Zhang Yining and Zhang Yining played great games."

Li was unheralded before this tournament and like Zhang Yining is 17, while Zhang Yining is only 16.

Wang again displayed the team ethic when asked if she was disappointed to miss a third gold in the mixed doubles.

She said: "I can't be too greedy. I was not too regretful because I lost to a Chinese couple."

To be fair China were already dominant in the women's game with the main opposition coming from Chinese-born players based in Europe.

New men's champion Liu Guoliang was diplomatic to European sensitivities after a championship in which they were simply outclassed.

He said: "I would say that between Europe and Asia it is very much 50-50. I think the confrontation between Europe and Asia will continue for some time."

But, even though victory against compatriot Ma Lin gave Liu the one title to elude him in his glittering career, the new champion indicated that the collective hunger for success was greater than ever.

When asked if he was eager to defend his Olympic crown at Sydney next year, Liu retorted: "The most important title for China is the world team title."

"This (the World Team Championships in Malaysia next February) is more imperative than the Sydney games because it is closer."

In fact these were indeed the individual World Championships but you would never have guessed it, judging by the way the Chinese delegation bonded as a team.

Liu said: "In our training camp we have 20 or 30 very good players together."

"In Europe most of the good players are with different clubs so it is difficult for them to come together."

"But our training camp is a big advantage."

And the new Millennium promises an even brighter future for the Chinese if Wang Nan, their new women's singles champion is to be believed.

Wang, who with Li Ju also took the women's doubles crown, was understandably jubilant as she ensured the singles title remained in China fol-

owing the retirement of Deng Yaping, a living legend in her native country.

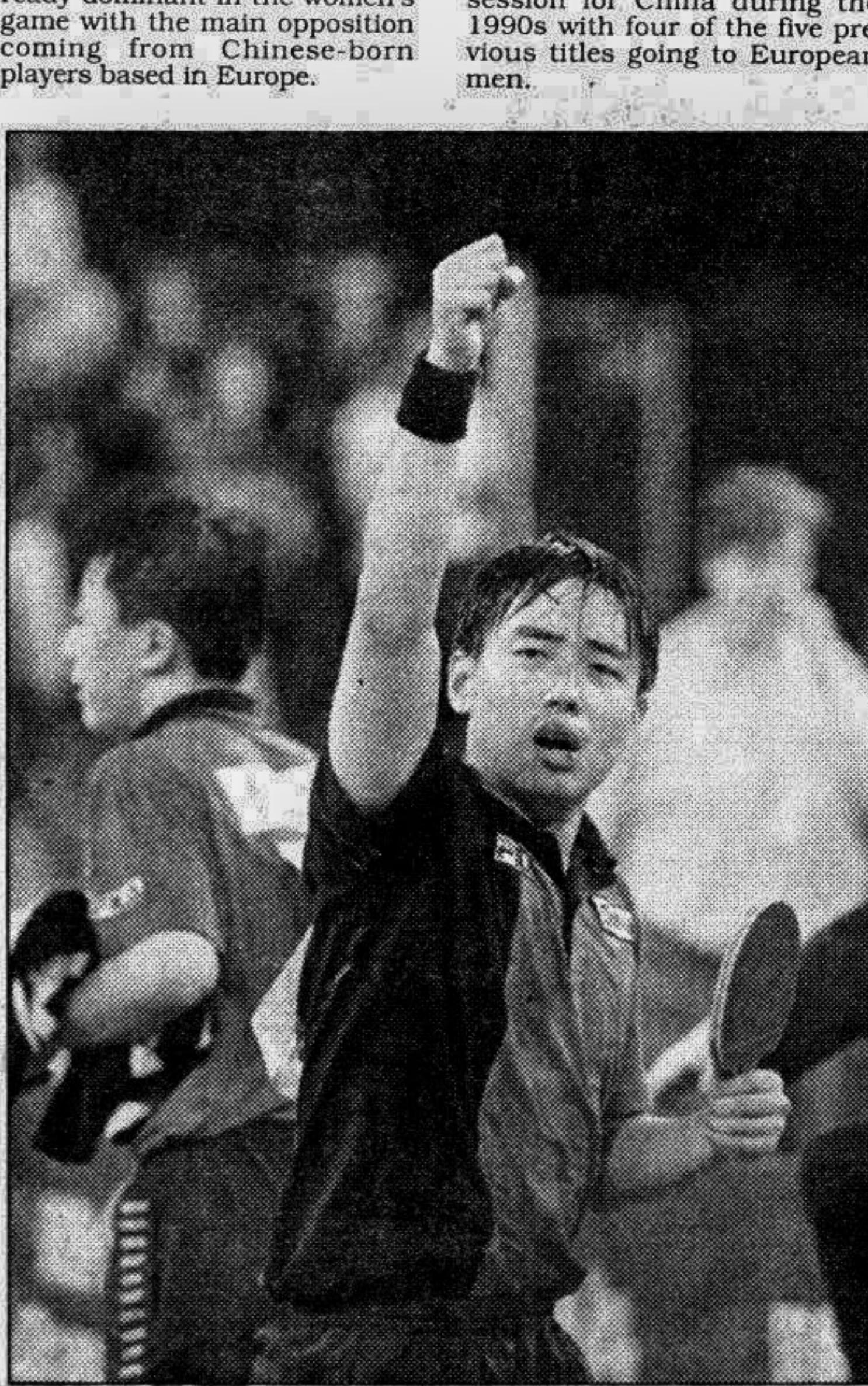
But now the balance of power looks to have shifted definitively from Europe to the world's most populous country in the men's game too.

The team event will be played in Kuala Lumpur in February but — on this evidence — the International Table Tennis Federation could put all other 182 member countries into one Rest of the World side and China would still be in a league of their own.

In Sunday's other final Wang Nan and Li Ju defeated Yang Ying and Sun Jin.

Liu and Kong Linghui, the Olympic champions, were crowned men's doubles kings on Saturday while Ma and Zhang Yingying lifted the mixed doubles Friday.

Victory in the men's singles has been something of an obsession for China during the 1990s with four of the five previous titles going to European men.



China's Liu Guoliang celebrates after defeating compatriot Ma Lin in the men's final at the World Table Tennis Championships on August 8. — AFP photo

## Sport

## More foreigners For Wimbledon

LONDON, Aug 9: English Premiership club Wimbledon on Monday completed the signings of Norwegian defender Trond Andersen and Israeli midfielder Waleed Badir, reports AFP.

Under-21 international Andersen joined the Dons for 2.5 million pounds (3.8 million dollars) from Molde.

Badir, who agreed terms with Wimbledon's Norwegian manager Egil Olsen last month, has got his international clearance and completed his 1 million pound switch from Hapoel Petah Tikva.

Both players could make their debuts in Tuesday's Premiership clash with Middlesbrough.

## Sanchez-Lorenzo lifts Sanex Trophy

KNOKKE, Belgium, Aug 9: Spain's Maria Antonia Sanchez-Lorenzo won her first WTA final Monday, coming from a set down to defeat Denisa Chladkova of the Czech Republic in the rain-interrupted final of the Sanex Trophy, reports AP.

The Barcelona-based No 4 seed lost the first set on a tiebreak Sunday before rain halted play. It was the first set Sanchez-Lorenzo had lost in the whole tournament, but she bounced back in style under the Monday morning clouds, overpowering the unseeded Czech 6-4, 6-2 to claim the \$16,000 first prize.

Both players were making their debuts in a WTA final.

Sanchez-Lorenzo, the world's 49, had looked upset by the freak conditions Sunday, when showers twice forced long interruptions before halting play. The 21-year-old Spaniard handed Chladkova the first set on a series of unforced errors.

With the rain holding off Monday, Sanchez-Lorenzo recovered her confidence and used her strong forehand to advantage on the slow clay of the Royal Zoute club, giving no chance to Chladkova.

The 20-year-old Czech can take some consolation from her play earlier in the tournament when she upset second seed Silvia Talaja of Croatia and third seed Slovak Karina Habsanova on her way to the final.

Victory in the \$16,000 tournament continues a good year for Sanchez-Lorenzo who recorded one of the biggest upsets at the 1999 Australian Open when she downed Jana Novotna 6-3, 6-0 to reach the fourth round.

The Swede, ranked 22nd but due to move into the world's top 20 by reaching the final, did not play a seeded player until beating Nicolas Kiefer in the semifinals.

Kafelnikov, the 1996 French Open champion ranked fourth in the world, was coming off a masterful two-set victory over second-seeded Andre Agassi in the semifinals, while Sanchez-Lorenzo was a surprise finalist.

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