But while Hingis talked

about tennis Williams, kitted

out in a stunning black and red

dress and red shoes, waxed lyri-

The 17-year-old No.3 seed.

who says her favourite place to

visit is a mirror, said: "We

haven't seen anything this ex-

win here unless she improved

dramatically before she faced

She did admit she could not

citing in tennis for a while."

Afghanistan want to be ICC member

KARACHI, Jan 20: Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia want to promote cricket in the war-ravaged country and are trying to join the Interna-tional Cricket Council, Pakistani cricket officials said Thursday, reports AFP.

They have written to us and want us to help recommend them for associate membership of the ICC." said Yawar Saeed, a member of the Pakistan Cricket Board's advisory council.

Pakistan officials will visit Afghanistan to see what cricket facilities the country has.

"We have decided to send a PCB representative to Afghanistan. We would like to help them, there is no doubt about it. But we want to see what they have on ground," Saeed

Pakistani along with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are the only countries which recognise the Taliban, an Islamic fundamentalist militia, as the legitimate rulers of

Afghanistan. Mirza Iqbal, a spokesman for the Pakistan Cricket Board. said two cricket officials had visited from Afghanistan, including Allahdad Nuri, head of

· the Afghan Cricket Federation. The men met with Nasimul Ghani, a former Pakistan cricketer and now the ICC's development officer for Asia.

"Two officials from Afghanistan visited Pakistan and held a meeting and requested help for the promotion of the game in their country." Mirza said.

The Afghans also asked for cricket coaches and funding and said cricket was becoming popular in Afghanistan.

I cannot say anything about the future of cricket there or about Taliban as we have no idea of the existing facilities in Afghanistan," said Saeed.

With Afghanistan still locked in bitter fighting and with much of the country covered with deadly landmines, few people in the country play

Since seizing Kabul in 1996 the Taliban have brought most of Afghanistan under their ultra-orthodox interpretation of Islamic Sharia law, banning women from outside jobs and education and ordering men to grow untrimmed beards.

In 1998, Afghani boxers were banned from participating in an international boxing tournament held in Karachi because they refused to trim their

"We all pray that Afghans adopt not only the technical aspects of the game but the charisma that surrounds the cricketing field," said legendary batsman Hanif Mohammad

"But it is good news as the more children are involved in cricket, the further they will be from the fighting. The atmosphere will change as mothers and fathers come to watch their

children play," he said. "It is good for Afghanistan itself."

Tyson vows clean bout

LONDON, Jan 20: Mike Tyson promised on Wednesday there would be no ear-biting. late blows or illegal clinches in his heavyweight bout against Briton Julius Francis next week, reports Reuters.

"I'm going to follow all the rules...I respect Mr Francis and I'm just looking forward to putting on a good show," said the controversial fighter who met reporters and fans in chaotic scenes at his central London hotel

The "Mr Francis" Tyson was referring to is 64-year-old ref eree Roy Francis, who had warned earlier in the week he would suffer no nonsense on January 29 from either fighter. "If he tries it on, I don't care

whether it's the first minute or the last, I'll send him packing without hesitation." Francis was quoted as saying of Tyson. Tyson, in Britain despite at-

tempts to have him barred for his rape conviction, has a poor recent record after being fined and suspended for biting Evander Holyfield's ears in a world title fight in 1997. He tried to snap the arm of

South African Frans Botha in a clinch in his last fight but one. and his most recent outing against Orlin Norris was ruled a no-contest.

Tyson landed a late punch after the end of the first round and Norris injured his knee as he fell.

The former undisputed world champion, who lost his title in a huge 10th round upset to James 'Buster' Douglas in February 1990 in Tokyo, offered less respect to Julius Francis than his officiating namesake.

"Oh, he's in a lot of trouble," Tyson replied when asked whether he also respected Julious, who served time in prison 10 years ago for grievous bodily harm.

"I hear he's talking a lot of smack, what he's going to do. how he's been to prison. Yeah, okay. We're going to see, tough

Tyson also took a side-swipe at his compatriots, saying that everybody in America was

money-hungry. "It's a rat race and even when you win you're still a freakin' rat," he declared.

He added a much talkedabout meeting with Britain's undisputed world champion Lennox Lewis, who captured two titles from Holyfield last November to add to his WBC belt, was "predestined". Naturally, he said he would

win in the ring. The two men sparred as teenagers, when Tyson knocked Lewis down, but they have not met in the ring since then.

Lazio now wait for Barca's okay?

coach Louis Van Gaal degener-

ate over the course of the sca-

the striker on the left flank,

Van Gaal insists on playing

ROME, Jan 20: Italian giants Lazio are preparing to splash out a world record 100 billion lira. (54 million dollars) for Barcelona's

unsettled Brazilian star Rival-

do, the Corriere dello Sport

The Serie A club, recipients

of the previous record when

they sold Christian Vieri to In-

ter Milan for 90 billion lira

(48.6 million dollars) last

summer, already have a verbal

agreement with the player, the

European -footballer- of -the

-year, has agreed to join the

Italian outfit in July for a five-

year contract worth a total of 60

billion lira (32.4 million dol-

approval of the Catalan cl:).

who have watched Rivaldo's re-

lationship with Dutch team

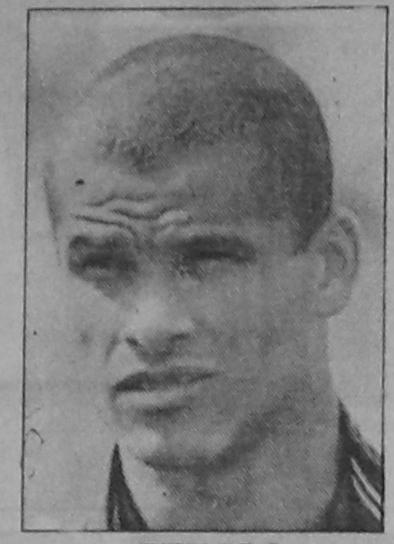
Now Lazio are waiting on 'he

Rivaldo, the newly-crowned

Corriere claimed.

lars), it said.

reported Thursday, says AFP.



RIVALDO

while Rivaldo wants to be in the middle. His colossal transfer fee

could be justified on two counts, according to the Corriere. As a footballer, Rivaldo's CV includes 58 goals in 97 league matches in Brazil and 71 in 128 Liga matches with Deportivo La

Coruna and Barcelona since arriving in Spain in 1996. A member of Brazil's 1998 World Cup squad, he went on to win the Copa America last year. As a promotional figure, he would meanwhile be a precious asset for the Cirio food empire which Lazio's owner Sergio Cragnotti is seeking to build up in South America.

Negotiations for the 27-yearold began earlier this month and are expected to be concluded by mid-April, the paper said.

Van Gaal has reportedly given his blessing to the deal, but is asking Barcelona officials to sign Arsenal's Dutch left winger Marc Overmars as a tactical replacement.



Australian teenager Jelena Dokic (L) about to smash the ball while her American partner Jennifer Capriati looks on during their women's doubles engagement against Spanish pair of Rosa Andres and Conchita Martinez at the Australian Open yesterday. Dokic-Capriati -AFP photo duo won 6-2, 6-0.

Kafelnikov moves on



20: Defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov, known to like the odd flutter, moved

smoothly into the third round of the Australian Open on Thursday and pointed to Pete Sampras as vying for the title in 10 days, reports AFP.

The conditions here definitely favour the player who is relying on one shot and Sampras relies so much on his serve," said Kafelnikov after brushing aside Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-0, 6-1, "I don't see anyone besides

Agassi who can break his serve." Sampras and Andre Agassi are scheduled to meet in the semifinals in the top half of the draw while Kafelnikov has seen five of the seven other seeds in

his half crash out. was favoured to reach the final

from the bottom half of the draw, there was a long way to

"But I can tell you one thing, it definitely feels a lot better with each day," he added. "I know I'm getting slowly to the shape that I would like to

Kafelnikov was the only survivor from last year's semi-

Tenth seed Tommy Haa; of Germany was knocked out by Moroccan Younes El Aynaoui while Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti, seeded seven, retired from his second round match against Frenchman Arnaud Clement suffering the effects of

Losing finalist Thomas Enqvist of Sweden was beaten by Australian Richard Fromberg in the first round.

Lleyton Hewitt's amazing winning steak extended to new Kafelnikov said although he heights in a straight sets humiliation of high-ranking Spaniard Alex Corretja. The perpetually pumped-up

18-year-old Australian routed the former French Open finalist 6-0, 6-0, 6-1 to storm into the third round and chase his 13th consecutive match victory against Romanian Adrian Voinea.

"I'm seeinng the ball like a football," said Hewitt. "I've won 12 on the trot, I suppose I should be seeing it like a football."

So comprehensive was Hewitt's blitz that the centre court crowd gave a Bronx cheer when the hapless Corretja won his first and only game to avoid going through without winning a game.

German fourth seed Nicolas Kiefer beat compatriot Tomas Behrend 7-6, 6-0, 6-2 to set up a third round meeting with Moroccan Karim Alami.

Sweden's 12th seed Magnus Norman swept to a straight sets win over Italian Gianluca Pozzi.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN NOTEBOOK



with something in common, a teenager locked in offcourt controversy and an older player who knows all about it.

Capriati teamed up Thursday to ture national teams. trounce Rosa Andres and Conchita Martinez Granados 6-2, 6-0 in the first round.

trouble with the law and is now making a comeback. Dokic, 16, has drawn a 2,500 dollars fine for showing up late at a news conference and has disputed comments attributed to her by a After the doubles match,

Dokic said she hadn't talked to Capriati about her troubles. WHO'S NEXT

African international tennis players is lagging behind be-

MELBOURNE, Jan cause of the national economy, 20 (AP): They're says the country's No 1 female doubles partners player, Amanda Coetzer.

Cash-strapped companies are unable to sponsor major tournaments due the low value of the Rand, she said. The result is a decrease in the talent pool Jelena Dokic and Jennifer and potential problems for fu-The problems at home, how-

ever, couldn't account for the eight-seeded Coetzer's perfor-Capriati, 23, faltered as a mance in a 6-1, 6-3 secondteen tennis prodigy, got into round loss to American Kristina Brandi.

"She's a very awkward opponent," said Coetzer. "But I should have stuck to my own game — my game in pretty good right now, I feel like I could walk out there right now and be competitive against anyone in the draw.

BUYOUT

Former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson during a

press conference at the Grosvenor House hotel in London

on January 19. Tyson will fight Julius Francis on January

- AFP proto

Australia's Bryanne Stewart The next batch of South celebrated her second-round win Thursday with a shopping spree. She's planning in advance how to spend her guaran teed prizemoney.

Despite a couple of questionable line calls, the unheralded 20-year-old stayed calm and fought back to outlast Swiss player Emmanuelle Gagliardi 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

"I'm very excited, it hasn't really settled in yet. I'm going to go shopping now," said Stewart, one of a breed of up-and-coming Australian players that includes Alicia Molik and Lleyton "I've been going for my shots

a lot more, even when I'm tired. That's the way like to play and it's paying off," said Stewart, who now meets No 13 seeded Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. "I'm looking forward to play-

ing someone of that standard, I've got nothing to lose," Stewart

DOUBLES JEOPARDY

Doubles isn't what it used to be: The only top-ranked male player competing in doubles as well as singles here is Yevgeny Kafelnikov. He's the No 2 seed in singles and, partnering Wyne Ferreira, is the No 15 seed in doubles.

Tennis great Roy Emerson said men's doubles was becoming a non-event because the world's leading players have abandoned it. Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras stick to the demanding task of singles.

It wasn't always that way. John McEnroe, for example, used to awe crowds with his touch and flair in both events. It's different with the women

players. Martina Hingis and Lindsay Davenport are among top competitors who play dou-"Other people, like you guys. don't really pay attention to doubles," Anna Kournikova told reporters at a news confer-

ence Wednesday. She's teamed

up with Barbara Schett in dou-

Thorpe named young Aussieof-the-year

champion swimmer Ian Thorpe was named young Australianof-the-year on Thursday both for his sporting excellence and charity work, reports AP.

Thorpe, 17, is the fourth swimmer after Jon Sieben (1984), Duncan Armstrong (1988) and Kieren Perkins (1994) to be given the title.

MELBOURNE, Jan 20 (AP): Highlights of the day session Thursday on the fourth day of the eight million dollar (12.4 million Australian) Australian

Weather: Cloudy early, clearing to a fine and sunny with a temperature of 82f (28 Celsius).

Attendance: 37,029. Results: Men's singles. No 2 Yevgeny Kafelnikov, No 4 Nicolas Kiefer, No 12 Magnus Norman all advanced. No. 7 Nicolas Lapentti and No 10 Tommy Haas both lost.

Results: Women's singles, No 3 Serena Williams, No 6 Barbara Schett, No 10 Conchita Martinez, No 12 Sandrine Testude, No 13 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, No 16 Elena Likhovtseva all advanced. No 8 Amanda Coetzer lost.

Stat of the Day: Australian Lleyton Hewitt's crushing 6-0. 6-0, 6-1 defeat of Spain's Alex Corretja.

Quote of the Day: "Bad luck mate." Lleyton Hewitt after being asked what he said to the hapless Corretja after the match.

Asians advance

MELBOURNE, Jan 20: Still brimming with confidence after Thailand's charge at the Hopman Cup final, Tamarine Tansasugarn breezed into the third round of the Australian Open with a 7-5, 6-4 win Thursday over Canadian Jana Nejedly, reports AP.

The No 1 Thai was 5-2 up in the first set before Nejedly rallied to level at 5-5. But when it counted her serve was strong, helping Tanasugarn to win the first set and grab a decisive break in the ninth game of the second set.

Japan's Ai Sugiyama and her doubles partner Julie Halard-Decuigis of France continued their winning run, advancing to the second round with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Nannie De Villiers and Jessica Steck of South Africa.

The tenth seeded combination won a warmup tournament in Sydney last week, dispensing with Martina Hingis and Mary Pierce 6-0, 6-3 in the final.

Another Japanese combination, however, was ousted in the first round with Shinobu Asagoe and Yuka Yoshida losing 6-1, 7-6, to Asa Carlsson and Emilie Loit on an outside court. 'Carlsson and Sugiyama are expected to meet Friday in a third-round singles clash.

Dokic denies draw rigging

MELBOURNE, Jan 20: Troubled Australian teenager Jelena Dokic has denied accusing tennis officials of arranging tournament draws to stall her career and demanded a newspaper release a transcript of its interview with her, reports Reuters.

ence at the Australian Open today that the newspaper which published the report on Wednesday had fabricated the entire story. "I just didn't say those

Dokic told a media confer-

things," Dokic said. "I didn't even speak to him about what he wrote." The outspoken Dokic said

she had asked the Herald Sun to release a copy of the interview to prove her innocence and was disappointed the WTA Tour, the ruling body of women's tennis, and her own management team had not supported her. "I just think they could have

stepped behind me a bit more," Dokic said.

"I asked for the tape to come out to see the truth of what the conversation was about and I was the only one that sort of asked that.

WTA spokesman Jim Fuhse said the case had been referred to the Grand Slam committee. who were also keen to hear the tape to determine whether or not to take any action against 'We're assuming the tape will

be produced because there seems to be two very different accounts of what actually happened," Fuhse said. The editor of the Herald Sun

Peter Blunden, said the paper would not release the tape but stood by its version of events. The paper said Dokic had telephoned one of its reporters on Tuesday night and told him overseas officials were conspir-

difficult opponents. Dokic's father Damir scuffled with a television cameraman filming him and his daughter on Wednesday.

ing against her by giving her

Dokic had been fined 2,500 US dollars on Monday for turning up late to a news conference after her first-round loss to Rita Kuti Kis of Hungary. When she did arrive, the 16-

year-old astonished her audience by reading out a prepared statement describing Kuti Kis as someone who "has never been a player and never will be" Asked today whether she regretted those comments or was

concerned in any way that she

may have upset Kuti Kis, Dokic maintained she had nothing to 22 Neverapologise for. theless "I don't look at it like that... 23 Cattle just basically say what I think,' 27 Kegler's she said.

results and things on paper. I should have beaten her." Dokic beat world number SYDNEY, Jan 20: World one Martina Hingis in the first round of Wimbledon last year and got to the quarterfinals but has done little since.

Her ungracious putdown of

"Like I said that first day. if

you look at where she is and the

Kuti Kis did not go unnoticed by the top women players, with world number two Lindsay Davenport saying Dokic had become a laughing stock in the locker rooms.

AUSSIE OPEN Martina, Serena cruise



day, reports AFP.

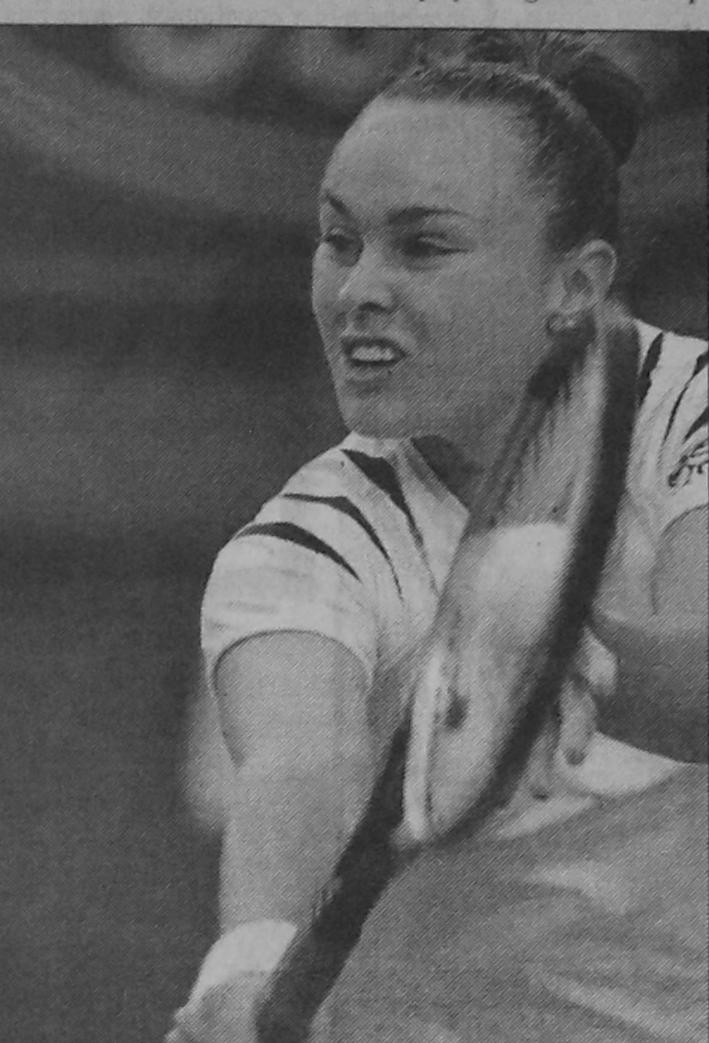
MELBOURNE, Jan 20: Defending women's champion Martina Hingis and Serena Williams, who beat her in last year's US Open final, made startlingly different statements at the

Australian Open here Thurs-

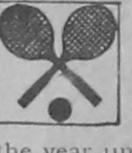
fourth straight title by dismissing Justine Henin 6-3, 6-3, on the 17-year-old Belgian's first trip to Australia, to set up a third round match with bigserving Australian Alicia Mo-

Hingis kept on course for a

Williams beat another Australian Nicole Pratt 7-5, 6-1 and now plays Belgian Sabine Ap-



Swiss top seed Martina Hingis playing against Belgian Justine Henin at the Australian Open yesterday.



20: Three-times Wimbledon finalist Goran Ivanisevic may quit tennis at the end of

the year unless he can find a way to pull himself out of the

the player said today, reports Reuters. Speaking after his 7-6, 6-4, 6-2 loss to Spain's Francisco Clavet in the second round of

the Australian Open, the lanky

Croatian said he was finding it

"I'm goi see ofter this

year (about rearing) but I hope not," he said. "I hope I can get over this . . . but there is a long time to go be-

Ivanisevic, who finished runner-up at Wimbledon in 1992, 1994 and 1998 but has

Once ranked as high as



Croatian Goran Ivanisevic makes a backhand return against Francisco Clavet of Spain in the second round of the Australian Open yesterday. Ivanisevic lost the match. - - AFP photo

variety

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Solution time: 28 mins.

CABARET SAY

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18 Kanga's 57 Oft-

listings

28-year-old finished 1999 ranked 62nd, his lowest end of year rating since he turned professional in 1988. He failed to win a title ir

1999 for the first time in a decade and showed few signs that he is ready to turn his game around as he caved in against Clavet, a player he had beater on each of the five previous times they had met.

own serve, reaching a top speed of 208kph, Ivanisevic was unusually tentative on return pushing and poking at the ball rather than hitting through it.

With the first set going to a tiebreak, he mis-hit five return on Clavet's second serve. He was broken early in the second then twice lost his serve in the third when he had held

is a different kind of thing, Ivanisevic said.

"I've played nearly 50 Grand Slams before but I looked los on the court. I looked around

never seen people before. I'm not going anywhere.

He said after his third round loss at last year's US Open that he was considering seeing a psychologist but said he had now dismissed that idea.

"Maybe I would become more crazy than I am now," ie smiled.

26 Begley Sr. 31 32 33 48 49 50

PKNEDVW

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals D

another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Hingis in a scheduled semifi-"If I want to stay for the whole fortnight I'm definitely going to have to improve my game," she added. Hingis, unbeaten in Melbourne since the 1996 quarterfinals, was her usual confident self after her 62-minute romp. "I'm pretty happy with the

way things are going. I just have to keep my head up and keep going," she said. But she thought Williams posed a real threat.

pelmans.

cal about fashion.

"She's not at her best right now but she gets through her matches and that shows her quality," Hingis said. Austrian sixth seed Barbara Schett beat Swiss wildcard Miroslava Vavrinec 6-4, 6-4 but 13th seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vi-

Raymond 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. French 12th seed Sandrine Testud powered into the third round, hammering Mexican Angelica Gavaldon 6-1, 6-2.

cario was made to fight before

overcoming American Lisa

Russia's Elena Likhovtseva. the 16th seed, beat American Meghann Shaughnes 6-3, 7-5 and former Wimbledo champion Conchita Martinez, the 10th seed, ousted Olga Barabanschikova of Belarus in three However, eighth seed

Amanda Coetzer of South Africa crumbled against Kristina Brandi of the United States, losing 6-1, 6-3. Thailand's Tamarine Tana-

sugarn, a budding lawyer, swept past Canadian Jana Nedjedly 7-5, 6-4, to set up a third round clash with Testud, whom she upset at Wimbledon last year.

Goran ponders quitting number two in the world, the hard to maintain his motiva-



worst form slump of his career.

fore I make any decision.

never won a Grand Slam title. said time was running out for him to achieve his lifelong am-

As reliable as ever on his

game point. He never once got to break-point on Clavet's serve. "It's okay to lose . . . but this

"It's tough to explain, but couldn't move . . . I was blocked I couldn't control my legs.

and everything looked so big. sc many people, it was like I've "I tried to run and it's like I'm running in the same place.

"I don't know what it's going to take. I don't know. Maybe should take some drugs. "He's a good player from the back but he's not the best server in the game and I just couldn'

return. "That was just the wors match I've ever played in my

Despite his loss, Ivanise was still able to keep his sense of humour.

CRYPTOQUIP

KGVW ATWPD HEK HAWC Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I GUESS THAT MOST OF US TEND TO FIND FIRE DRILLS RATHEI ALARMING.

50 Call-day 51 Involuntary

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for