

Sydney Games The Koreans together?

SEOUL, June 1: South Korean Olympic chief Kim Un-Yong said on Thursday that athletes from the two Koreas could march hand-in-hand behind the Olympic flag at the opening of the Sydney Games in September, reports AFP.

"South and North Korean athletes can enter the main stadium at the opening ceremony with national Olympic committee flags flying together behind the Olympic flag," the Korea Olympic Committee president told reporters.

Kim, a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said South and North Korean sports officials could discuss the formation of joint teams for international competitions after an inter-Korean summit next month.

His comments came in response to a letter sent last week by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch to South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung.

Samaranch has proposed South and North Korean athletes march together under the Olympic flag at the opening of the Sydney Games.

"Knowing that the Korean people wish to have a joint team in the coming Sydney Olympics, marching under the Olympic flag, followed by two NOC flags but with independent participation, will not only contribute to peace in the region but will also allow joint training and mutual co-operation in many areas," Samaranch said in his letter.

Singles

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squad arrived in Dhaka ahead of the main contingent.

As soon as left-hand batsman Saeed Anwar, all-rounder Azhar Mahmood and off-spinner Shoaib Malik stepped off the air-conditioned bus at 1.45 pm, the waiting lensmen in the lobby began buzzing with excitement.

The cameras started clicking before the trio could enter the elevator. They did not spare even Anwar's wife Lubana or their little daughter Shahnaz.

HOW THEY DEPARTED

Before the Indians departed for the Bangabandhu National Stadium three principal characters — Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil Dev and Mohammad Azharuddin — gave varying degrees of expression to the waiting public.

Star batsman Tendulkar moved towards the exit as if he was attending a funeral and Kapil rushed out like a 100m sprinter. Only Azhar enjoyed the spotlight. The former skipper before leaving did not forget to greet match referee John Reid with a simple 'Hi John'.

WASIM UNITY BOUND

Pakistan fast bowler Wasim Akram is expected to fly to England as soon as the Pepsi Asia Cup ends. He will play for Aston Unity, a Birmingham League side, as their overseas player for the rest of the season.

The 33-year-old former Pakistan skipper played for Unity's league rivals, Smethwick, last season but his involvement proved short-lived as the club's major sponsor departed in mid-season in acrimonious circumstances.

Pakistan

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rounder Azhar Mahmood to bolster the Pakistan attack.

BANGLADESH VOW TO DELIVER

The Bangladesh team is eager to prove that their World Cup upset was no fluke. They however realise that there has to be an overall improvement in their cricket from the performance of the first two matches if they are to pose a challenge for the mighty Pakistanis.

"In our first game (against Sri Lanka) we had a poor outing with the bat. While our batting improved remarkably in the next encounter (against India), our bowling badly let us down. We hope to put up a competitive show both with the bat and ball against Pakistan," said Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam.

The hosts who are already out of the tournament following successive defeats, are also sure to make adjustments to the team that played against India.

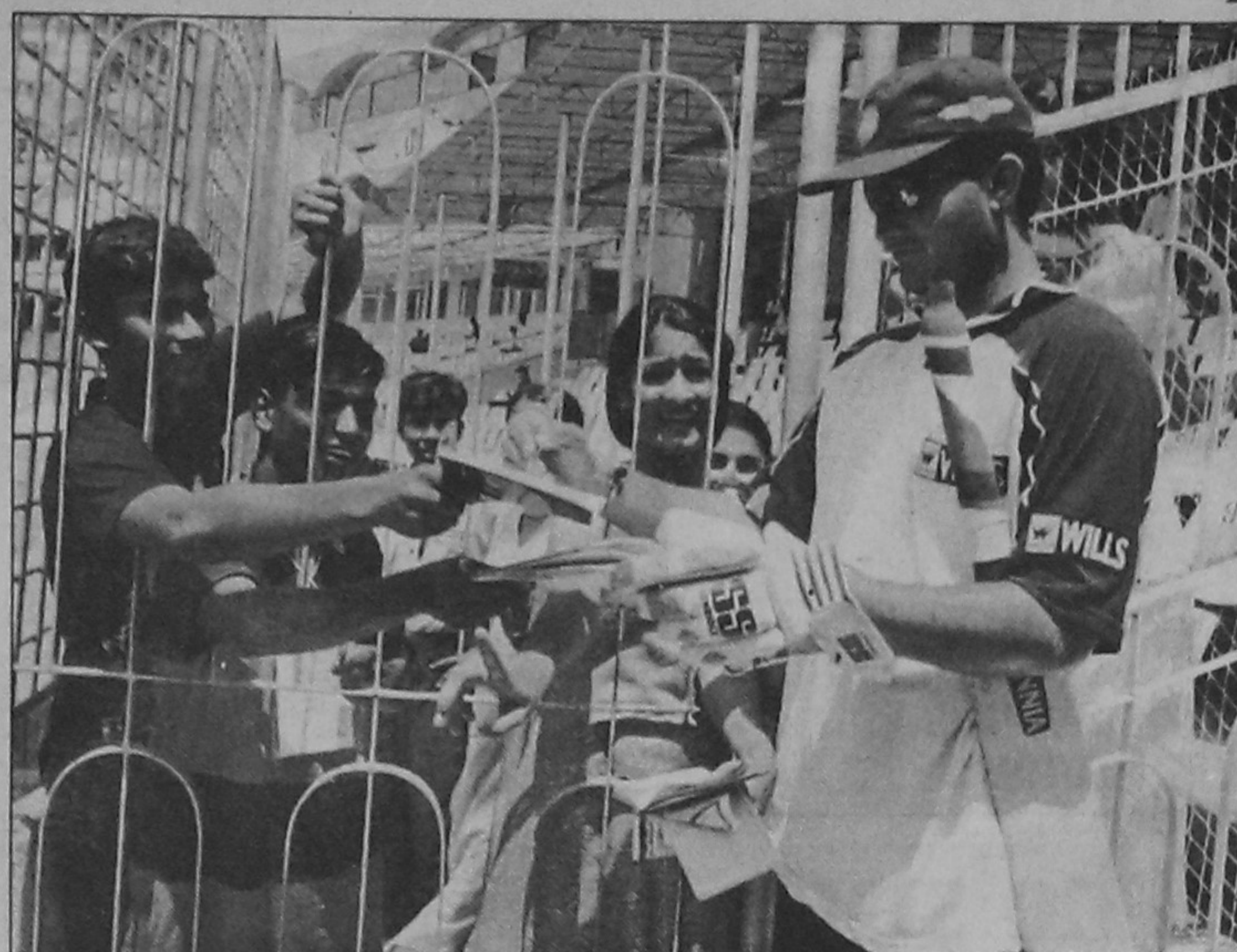
"There will be some changes in the side", informed coach Sarwar Imran without elaborating. "We will try to be more aggressive in our approach too," he added.

In case of changes, left-arm paceman Manjural Islam is most likely to make way for fellow quickie Shafiqul Islam. Experienced all-rounder Khaled Mahmud, the hero of the conquest of Pakistan, is also expected to return in place of Mushfiqur Rahman.

TEAMS

Bangladesh (From): Aminul Islam (captain), Javed Omar, Shahriar Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Akram Khan, Naimur Rahman, Khaled Masood (wicketkeeper), Khaled Mahmud, Rafique, Enamul Hoque, Shafiqul Islam, Mushfiqur Rahman, Hasibul Hossain and Manjural Islam.

Pakistan (From): Moin Khan (captain), Inzamam-ul-Haq (vice-captain), Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Imran Nazir, Mohammad Wasim, Younis Youhana, Abdul Razzaq, Azhar Mahmood, Wasim Akram, Mohammad Akram, Sabir Ahmed, Arshad Khan and Shoaib Malik.



SAURAV'S FAN CLUB: Indian captain Saurav Ganguly obliges autograph hunters at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

An umpire nothing more, nothing less

Lenin Gani

Bulathsinghalage Cyril Cooray, or BC Cooray as he is better known, relishes being an umpire. The durable 59-year-old Sri Lankan has survived the test of time to hold onto his National Grid place. Since making his Test debut in 1992 the former right-hand batsman and wicketkeeper makes a conscious effort to uphold the code that binds the gentleman's game. Besides his cricketing activities he is a senior executive at Sri Lankan Insurance Corporation Limited.

He is married and has a son doing a PhD in management at Keele University, Staffordshire.

BC Cooray gave an interview to *The Daily Star Sport* yesterday at his hotel room yesterday.

Following are the excerpts: **Daily Star Sport:** How did you enjoy the match between Bangladesh and India?

BC: I enjoy standing in any match it doesn't really matter whether it is Test cricket or one-day internationals or any other kind of game. Because as long as I'm enjoying umpiring and the game of cricket itself, I will continue to stand as an umpire. The match between Bangladesh and India was a good one. The home team battled well but because their bowling is still weak they lost the game. Also the Indians played very well be-

DSS: During a World Cup match in 1996 you were struck on the head by Richie Richardson. Comment on the incident.

BC: Although it was a very rare occurrence at the time, however, it happened again during the under-19 World Cup held recently in Sri Lanka. Anyway in that 1996 World Cup semifinal match against Australia Richie had played the ball to square leg, and until the ball came within say two feet of me, I couldn't see it. That was because the light towers at Mohali were very short in height due to the location of a nearby airport, so the 18 or more lights were focused on my ears. Anyway I was alright and continued standing in the match which had 23 overs to go. Only afterwards I became scared since I didn't know whether there was any internal bleeding. So I went home to see a specialist. Fortunately nothing was wrong. During the U-19 World Cup this year a Zimbabwe player fielding at mid-off threw the ball at the stumps but it my head. And I was in hospital for one week and in bed at home for another three weeks.

DSS: Is there any reason why you have appeared in more ODIs than Tests?

BC: I started my international career in 1985 and dur-

question to answer. All the Tests and ODIs have been memorable. The reason is simple I take every match seriously. Still if I had choose one particular ODI it would have to be the Independence Cup match between India and Sri Lanka. I and Mr. K.T. Francis stood together and watched India win by six runs in high-scoring contest. I think India made over 300 runs and the hosts fell six runs short.

I think the players, umpires and viewers enjoy close games. They want lots of runs scored by both teams.

A close finish is good game always. Recently in Bangladesh the Rest of the World led by a brilliant hundred by Michael Bevan almost snatch victory from the Asians.

DSS: How does it feel when you make an error in judgement?

BC: If I made a mistake it's caused endless sleepless nights because it takes a long time to get over the slip. For some time it recurs again and again. Although every effort is made to ensure a mistake-less match they do happen and the umpire does feel very low.

Take for instance the one involving Nasser Hussain. I gave him out lbw when I thought the ball had taken the edge of the bat. And the way I

I have great respect for the journalist and media personnel and I hope they will look at umpires very kindly.

B. C. COORAY
01.06.2000



B C COORAY

ing that time until about 1992, I didn't have any Test matches at home because of the ethnic problems in Sri Lanka. Other teams were a bit reluctant to come over. I was selected to officiate in several one-day internationals in Sharjah on a number of occasions. Since then I have stood in 69 ODIs, 17 Test matches and 12 U-19 World Cup games.

DSS: Do you prefer umpiring to sitting behind a television?

BC: Even though the third umpire concept is acceptable there have been times when he runs into difficulty. Take for instance the game between Bangladesh and India the umpire didn't refer a run out decision to the man in front of the TV because it wasn't working due to a technical fault. Even in the best of places it happens. That is why the third umpire will immediately inform his colleagues if the TV is not working before an incident occurs.

DSS: How do you prepare for a Test or one-day?

BC: As you know Test matches very long and thus umpires require 100 per cent concentration over five days, maybe 30 hours so it is not easy to officiate in such matches. Whereas in one-dayers one much more has to be observed in 100 overs. Luckily they are relieved of duty when the game ends. I hope the journalists should look at umpires very kindly in future.

Like the players before a match an umpire should be both physically and mentally fit.

As for me it involves a lot of exercising, reading about the game and getting to know about the teams well in advance.

Cricket has become so global that our actions are ruthlessly scrutinised through the eyes of the media. Failure to maintain the standards set by the ICC means an official can be removed from the international panel. It is difficult to come to the top and is even harder to remain at the top.

DSS: Pick one memorable Test and ODI match and why?

BC: Well that's a difficult

saw it was the bat hitting the ground, it (the bat) did hit the ground and the ball hit the pad. There were two sounds and at the speed Lance Klusener was bowling I couldn't hear or see the ball hitting the bat.

Fortunately they were all out for 126. And when Nasser was out it was only first session of the fourth day. So it would have been a miracle to have survived six whole sessions. I had three excellent days but just one mistake which I accept is a mistake.

"We all try and do a good job then we can go home and sleep well. That is the satisfaction an umpire receives. It cannot be valued in terms of currency."

DSS: How many countries have you visited? Are there any places still to go to?

BC: I have officiated in all the Test playing countries besides Bangladesh and Sharjah. I have only Kenya to go.

DSS: If you had one last wish before retiring what would it be?

BC: Perhaps may be officiate in Bangladesh's first-ever Test match at home.

DSS: Thank you for sparing your valuable time.

BC: You are welcome.



GOODFELLAS: Azhar Mahmood (L) and Saeed Anwar at the Hotel Sheraton yesterday. — Star photo by Lenin Gani

Dream debut for Taylor

LONDON, June 1: Gloucestershire batsman Chris Taylor wrote a new chapter in English cricket history on Wednesday when he became the first player ever to make a Lord's century on his County Championship debut, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old hit 104 out of Gloucestershire's 259 all out in their Division Two clash to rescue his team from 29 for four at the home of cricket.

Taylor's ton -- only the second by anyone on debut for Gloucestershire -- came up in 179 balls and contained 15 fours.

His and Jeremy Snape's (52) efforts transformed the match, after Middlesex seamers Angus Fraser and Richard Johnson (five for 83) had put the visitors in early trouble.

Left-arm swing bowler Mike Smith then made an early breakthrough to shift the Londoners' opener Andrew Strauss for a duck before Ben Hutton and Justin Langer recovered to 45 for one by stumps.

In Division One on the first day of the current round of matches, Leicestershire's England discard Darren Maddy (63) finally broke the ice this season after a poor run.

His half-century and another from much-travelled all-rounder Phil DeFreitas (70) helped their team reach 256 all out against a depleted Yorkshire attack in the top-of-the-table clash at Headingley.

Yorkshire openers David Byas and Vic Craven then safely negotiated two overs to reach one without loss.

Former England seamer Peter Martin got Lancashire back on track after their Benson and Hedges Cup semifinal defeat, taking five for 44 as Derbyshire mustered 170 all out at Old Trafford thanks to 42 at the top of the order from Steve Stubblings.

The hosts replied with 36 for one by close of play.

In the other top-flight match Kent struggled to post a decent first-innings total against the Durham seamers at Tunbridge Wells.

John Wood (three for 33) took most advantage on a day when none of the home batsmen managed to get set but captain Matthew Fleming (37 n.o.) provided most resistance in a total of 171 for eight.

Back in Division Two, batting was also difficult for Northamptonshire against Essex at Ilford where paceman Ricky Anderson (six for 34) gave the visitors a torrid time on their way to a paltry 114 all out.

Essex quickly took opener Paul Prichard -- the first of three victims for seamer Darren Cousins who was playing against one of his former counties -- but they were able to march into a first-innings lead with power to add to 147 for three by the close, thanks principally to Paul Grayson (47).

The hard-working Adrian Dale (75) and up-and-coming Michael Powell (46) were the main contributors for Glamorgan, who totalled 185 all out against Sussex at Hove despite the efforts of left-arm swing bowler Jason Lewry (four for 40) and his fellow pacemen James Kirtley and Robin Martin-Jenkins.

Sussex wasted little time making inroads into their target, as Richard Montgomerie and Toby Peirce progressed to 62 for none.

Enqvist aims to end Swede drought

PARIS, June 1 (AFP): A new generation of Swedes are hell-bent on ending a 12-year drought in the men's singles at the French Open.

The Roland Garros fans all loved Bjorn Borg and Mats Wilander -- who bagged nine singles titles here in a golden era between 1974 and 1988 -- although previous few would remember Sven Davidson's 1957 triumph.

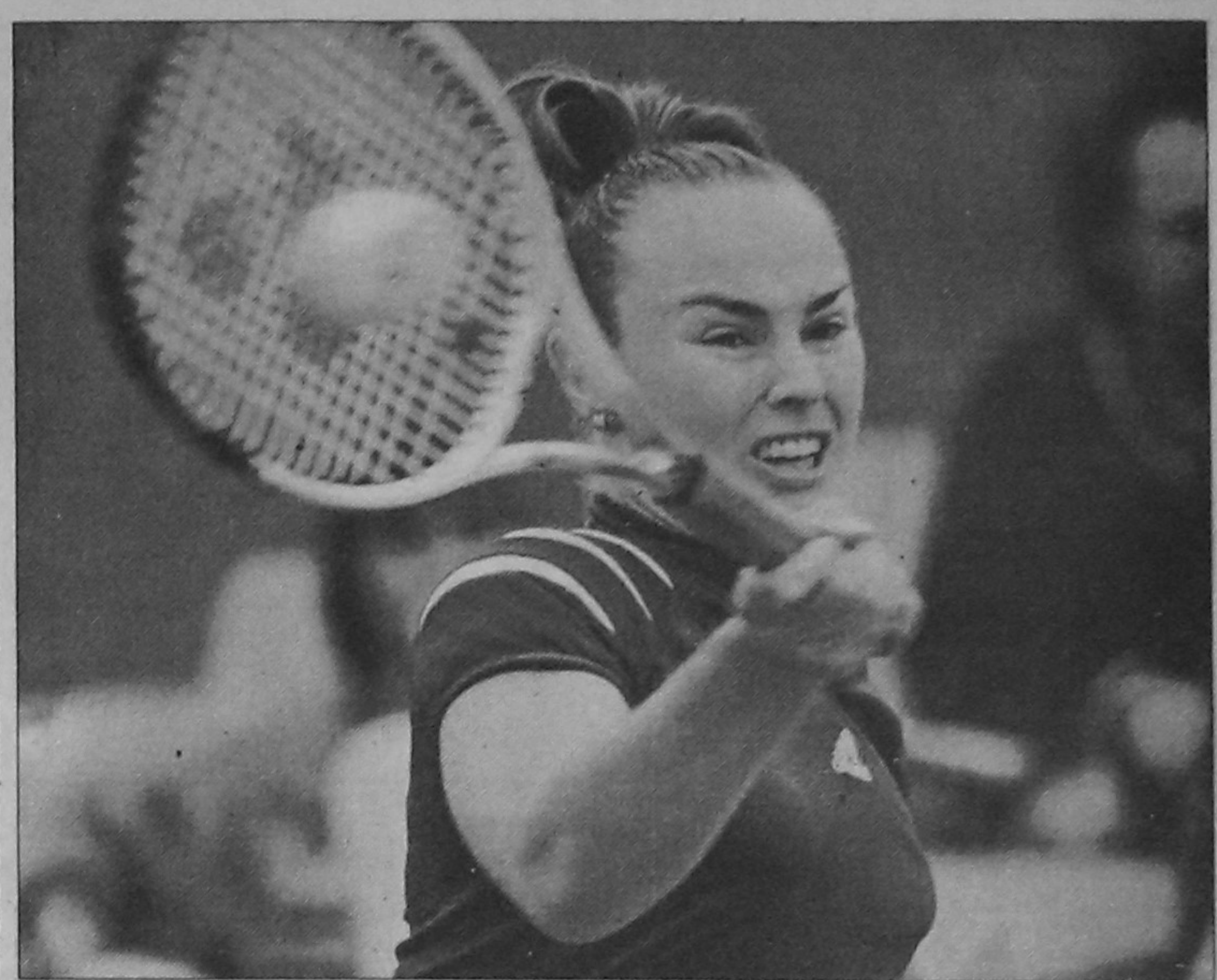
But the crowds here are only just coming to terms with the latest crop of Swedes, led by Magnus Norman, who heads the ATP Champions Race standings.

And they're not at all sure about Thomas Enqvist -- even if he is the seventh seed.

Enqvist, who broke into the world top five last year, is emerging from Norman's shadow this week after showing himself to be the speed merchant of the tournament.

In the opening round he beat Christophe Rochus of Belgium for the loss of just two games in just 66min.

Gaudio made the third round last year on his Grand Slam debut and had the ammunition to trouble Enqvist with his clay record for the year the eighth best on the men's circuit -- bearing comparison with Norman's.



Martina Hingis of Switzerland plays a forehand return against German Julia Abe during their French Open second round encounter in Paris yesterday. — AFP photo

Seles cruises, Hingis crawls



PARIS, June 1: Martina Hingis and Monica Seles scored dramatically contrasting second-round

women's singles wins Thursday as Hingis struggled desperately to beat German qualifier Julia Abe 6-4, 7-5 in 1hr 36min while the go-for-broke German then broke serve again and held a 4-2 lead in the second set.

Hingis took the first set by winning five straight games but the go-for-broke German then broke serve again and held a 4-2 lead in the second set.

Hingis got back to 4-4 only to be broken again in a long ninth game but she held her nerve, clawed her way back and sealed the win with three games in succession.

"I thought it was a great match," said Hingis. "Long rallies and good points. She played very well. I knew her from other tournaments and the surface suited her quite well."

Abe, ranked 156th, had played in nine WTA Tour events coming into Roland Garros -- winning just one match. She nonetheless provided Hingis with a stern test frequently matching the world number one from the baseline and finding some excellent angles.

Seles has won the French title three times -- in 1990-91-92 -- and has managed to revitalise her career at the age of 26.

The Yugoslav-born American, whose last Grand Slam title was at the 1996 Australian Open, took just 23min to take the first set against the elegant but outgunned Gagliardi.

The Swiss player got on the scoreboard midway through the second set -- but it was her only hurrah.

Hingis, 19, has twice been a beaten finalist on the red clay

at Roland Garros and is hoping to win here this year to complete her collection of Grand Slam titles. She battled all the way against Abe.

The stick-thin 24-year-old German, making her Roland Garros debut this year, made it tough for her from the start, moving into a 3-1 lead before being pegged back.

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Seles, who has won a career 47 titles including nine Grand Slams, was the youngest-ever Roland Garros winner in 1990 at 16 years, six months.

The experienced left-hander has already won three titles since returning to action in February this year after being sidelined for five months with a stress fracture of her right foot and was again in sizzling form.

"I've been playing really well," Seles said. "She was very nervous today but all of us have been in that situation. No-one took mercy on me when I was in that situation."

Kveta Hrdlickova of the Czech Republic stunned teenage Australian star Jelena Dokic 6-3, 6-1 while Fabiola Zuluaga of Colombia, who surprised 15th-seeded Jennifer Capriati in the first round, continued her fine run with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Petra Mandula of Hungary.

Tathiana Garbin of Italy of Italy downed American Lisa Raymond 6-1, 3-6, 6-4, while Natasha Zvereva of Belarus, a finalist here way back in 1988, beat Els Callens of Belgium 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

A total of 32 women's singles second-round matches and 16 second-round men's singles were scheduled to be played Thursday as organisers hoped to catch up after Tuesday's complete washout -- the first in 27 years.

Play began Thursday -- a public holiday in France -- under dark, cloudy skies and in cold conditions, although the forecast was for improved weather later in the day.

Wake-up call for Martina



PARIS, June 1 (AFP): Top-ranked Martina Hingis is still on course to land the only Grand Slam singles title she has never won. But if she plays like she did on Thursday she'll be hard pressed to get past the semifinals.

That's because the top-seeded Swiss teen Hingis will face old rival and triple champion Monica Seles in the semis here if the draw holds up -- and Seles is in red-hot form.

While Hingis was labouring past German qualifier Julia Abe, third-seeded veteran Seles was slaughtering Emmanuelle Gagliardi of Switzerland 6-0, 6-1.

Hingis revealed afterwards she has been relaxing in beach movies by watching films, including Mission to Mars.

But against Abe she was

about as far from her best form as the Earth is from the red planet.

"I thought it was a great match," Hingis insisted. "Long rallies and good points. She played very well. I knew her from other tournaments and the surface suited her quite well."

Yet it should have been a thrashing along the lines of that Seles meted out to Gagliardi.

The 156th-ranked German had played in nine WTA Tour events coming into Roland Garros -- winning the sum total of one match -- and she is playing at the French Open for the first time.

Yet for much of the encounter, played out in dull and cold conditions, she matched the world number one from the baseline and found some excellent angles.

"She had a similar game to

mine. She's physically quite strong," was Hingis' excuse.

Hingis is only just beginning to win back the fans after her tantrums in last year's final defeat to the now retired Steffi Graf and was grateful for that.

"I think the people have so far been very nice to me. They kind of respect me," said the 19-year-old Slovakian-born baseline.

Hingis took the first set by winning five straight games but the German then broke serve again and held a 4-2 lead in the second set.

Hingis got back to 4-4 only to be broken again in a long ninth game but she held her nerve, clawed her way back and sealed the win with three games in succession.

She admitted to reporters that tennis is "a very selfish game" because of its incessant demands and the toll the professional game takes on a player's social existence.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Parlor piece
5 Hot tub
8 Bayot locale
12 Calm
14 Lawyer Dershowitz
15 Censure openly
16 Margarita garnish
17 Predelermine
18 Noose
20 Assume a catcher's pose
23 Partner of Foote and Beeding
24 Tom's pal
25 Dudley Do-Right, e.g.
28 Be indisposed
29 March leader
30 Popular game-show prize
32 Lea
34 Relocate
35 Bridge position

DOWN
1 Norm (Abbr.)
2 Tram cargo
3 Bleacher-ite
4 Parka
5 Vocalized 6 Snapshot
7 Pub
8 Billfold
9 Hit bottom?
10 Put in an appearance
11 Lolla-palooza
13 Give up
19 King of Slam's employee
20 Na Na
21 Willy remark
22 Bruins' home
23 Fronton, e.g.
25 Lamb-and-eggplant recipe
26 PC symbol
27 Roof feature
29 Celebrity
31 Castilian king
33 Play-ground fixture
34 Blue period?
36 Kong
37 Eves' mate
38 OPEC nation
39 Show-room auto
40 Gemini-Cancer time
43 Pouch
44 Coach
45 Paraglean
46 Pronto
47 Freight weight

Solution time: 22 mins.

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