

## Sport

Sydney Games  
The Koreas  
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 Lubhana 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  
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 Pakistani 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

From page 13

rounder Azhar Mehmud to bolster the Pakistan attack.

BANGLADESH VOW  
TO DELIVER

The Bangladeshi 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 Bangladeshi 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 Imdan without elaborating.

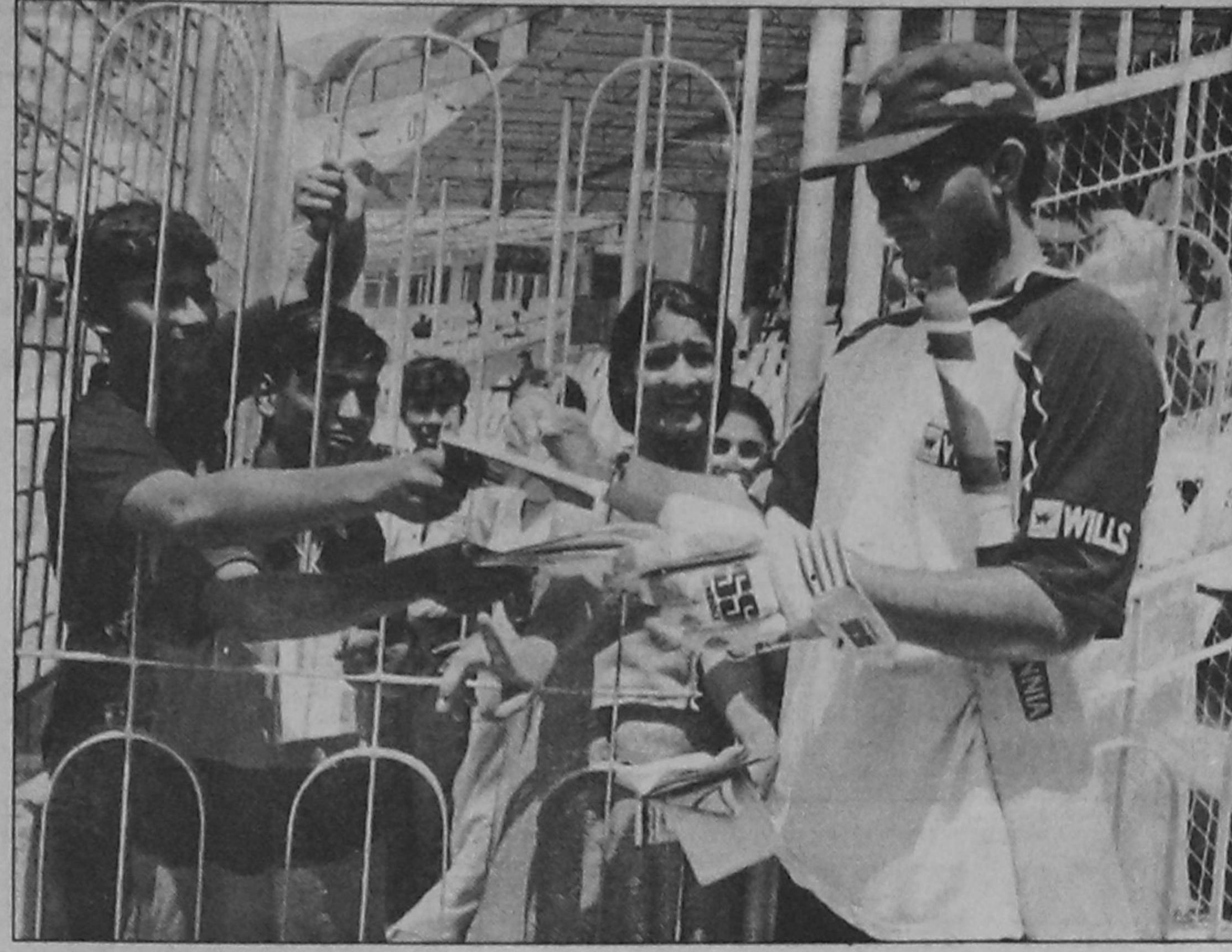
"We will try to be more aggressive in our approach too," he added.

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

## TEAMS

**Bangladesh** (From): Aminul Islam (captain), Javed Omar, Shahriar Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Akram Khan, Nurul Rahman, Khaled Masood (wicketkeeper), Khaled Mahmud, Rafige, Enamul Hoque, Saeed Anwar, Md. Mushfiqur Rahman, Hasibul Hossain and Manjurul Islam.

**Pakistan** (From): Moin Khan (captain), Inzamamul Haq (vice-captain), Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Imran Nazir, Mohammad Wasim, Younis Youhana, Abdur 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 batted well but because their bowling is still weak they lost the game. Also the Indians played very well be-

cause they 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.

**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 occurs 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

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 place(s) still to go to?

**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. So I don't see any reason why they won't improve and play top-class cricket in future.

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

**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.

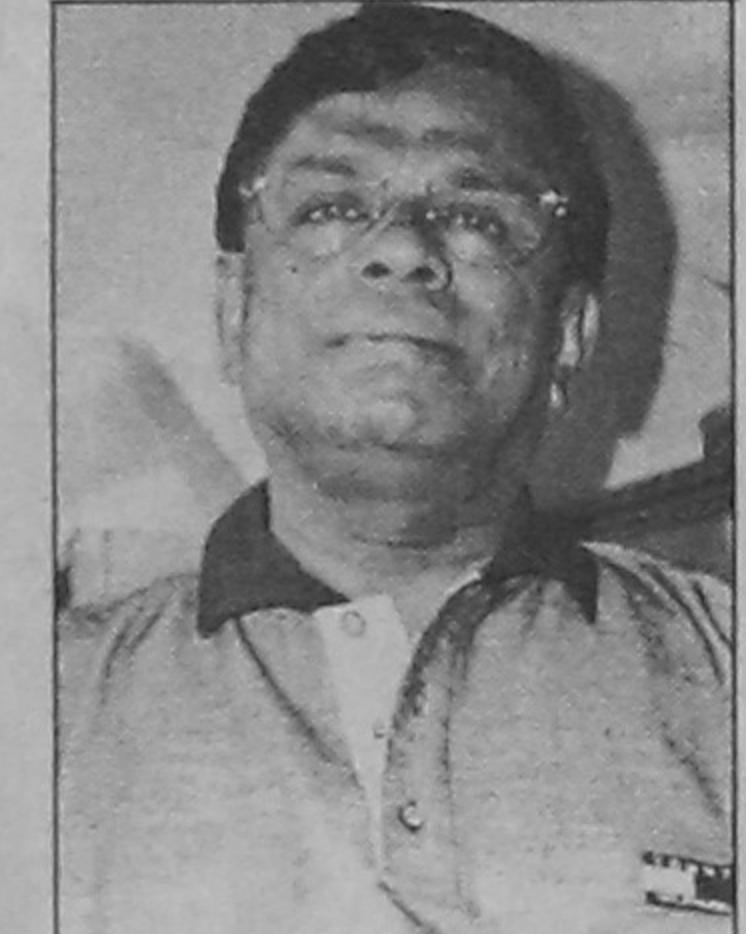
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For me it involves a lot exercising, reading about the game and getting to know about the teams well in advance.

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



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

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.

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## 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 296 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 Stubbing.

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 lost 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.

In the men's singles, seventh-seeded Swede Thomas Enqvist advanced to the third round by compatriots Nathalie Tuziat, the seventh seed, and 10th-seeded Sandrine Testud.

Tuziat walloped Florencia Labat of Argentina 6-1, 6-3 and Testud was even more efficient in downing Rita Grande of Italy 6-3, 6-4.

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Enqvist, who was 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



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