

Lara's lean spell on

LONDON, June 6 (Internet report): Brian Lara's rehabilitation in the West Indies team suffered a further setback when he was dismissed without scoring on the opening day of their tour against Glamorgan at Cardiff.

The left-hander managed only one run in each innings in the drawn game against Worcestershire and failed to trouble the scorers this time despite spending 15 minutes at the crease.

He was out when he overbalanced attempting to drive former England spinner Robert Croft and wicket-keeper Adrian Shaw completed a neat stumping.

The woes continued after lunch when they lost two more wickets to slump to 127-7 off 49 overs as off-spinner Robert Croft ripped through the tourists.

Croft took 4-14 from 21 overs on a responsive Sophia Gardens track and seamer Alex Wharf bagged three wickets.

Wavell Hinds, man-of-the-series against Pakistan, managed to shore up one end with a composed 73 not out as his more illustrious partners fell around him.

The West Indies began badly, losing Sherwin Campbell for 18 lbw bowled Wharf before the wickets of Chris Gayle, Lara, captain Jimmy Adams and Ridley Jacobs fell at regular intervals.

Gayle fell lbw to Wharf for 17. Lara was stumped by Adrian Shaw off Croft. Adams fell lbw to the former England bowler for one run and Jacobs edged a sharp chance to Australian Matthew Elliott at first slip for one for Croft's third victim.

Leg-spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo shared a stand of 63 with Hinds before he was trapped lbw by Wharf for 22.

West Indian paceman Nixon McLean only faced 12 balls without scoring before Elliott took his second catch of the day off Croft.

Wharf's figures were 3-57 off 13 overs as right-arm seamer Owen Parkin and Dean Cosker were the other bowlers used.

Glamorgan stand-in captain Steve James, deputising for Matthew Maynard who is resting in the overcast conditions and Croft found some turn in the pitch before a shower of rain briefly forced the players off.

The West Indies' five-Test series against England begins at Edgbaston and then moves to Lord's on June 29 before a triangular one-day series with England and Zimbabwe.

TEAMS
Glamorgan: Matthew Elliott, Stephen James (captain), Michael Powell, Wayne Law, Adrian Dale, Keith Newell, Adrian Shaw, Robert Croft, Dean Cosker, Alexander Wharf, Owen Parkin.

West Indies: Sherwin Campbell, Chris Gayle, Brian Lara, Wavell Hinds, Jimmy Adams (captain), Ridley Jacobs, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Nixon McLean, Wayne Phillip, Reon King, Corey Collymore.

Condolence meeting

Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) has arranged a condolence meeting to pay homage to the renowned sports journalist Badi-ud-Zaman at its library room on Saturday at 11 am, reports UNB.

Badi-ud-Zaman, sports in-charge of Daily Ittefaq and a former president of BSWA died on May 22.

'We've to be consistent'



NOTTINGHAM, June 6: Despite a rare series triumph, England must dig deep and lift their game if the home side is to follow it up by beating the West Indies for the first time since 1969, reports AP.

That is what skipper Nasser Hussain thinks after England managed to escape defeat in the second Test against Test-minnows Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge on Monday.

England played well below the high standards they set in the season opener at Lord's when they trounced Zimbabwe by a massive 100 runs and 209 runs. That win enabled the home side to secure their first home series win in two years.

Yet, in Hussain's own admission, England were outplayed in both batting and bowling in the second Test at Trent Bridge.

It was a remarkable turn around, as the Africans put behind a difficult week and increasing pressure and criticism to take honours in the rain-hit Test.

England's first real test of the summer awaits them at Edgbaston when the five-match series against a rejuvenated West Indies gets underway June 15.

Following West Indies' turbulent change of guard in the last 12 months, the critics were quick to tag England the favourites.

But Hussain, a pragmatic captain, is not ready to get carried away.

"We haven't beaten them for 31 years, so I only think of it in terms of football matches," Hussain said. "If a football team hasn't beaten the other one for 31 years I can't see that the next time they play, they are favourites."

"I don't think we are," Jimmy Adams' team, fresh from a morale-boosting win over Pakistan in the final Test to clinch the series, has a point to prove.

"You have to know the right time to give the boys a bit of a rollicking and the times not to," he said.

"You can't just continually jump on their case if they have a bad day because that won't have any value."

"Each individual has to look at their shot and say 'Did they get me out or did I get myself out?' and try and improve on that the next time they bat."

Hussain believes there is a gradual improvement in his side but feels England lack the consistency to threaten the big names like Australia and South Africa.

"They play like we did at Lord's all the time — every time they go out," the England captain said. "It is nothing new to them. That's what Test cricket is — consistency."

"As a side we're still not consistent as we should be. There are plenty of areas we can improve before the next time we put our England sweaters on."

Once the world beaters, they are currently lying sixth of nine in the unofficial Test ranking and a series win here will lift the Caribbean juggernauts for their away series against the top team, Australia.

"It will be difficult if we play

like we did in this game," Hussain said. "But it will be a lot easier if we play like we did in the first Test at Lord's."

"West Indies are a good side, there is no doubting that. On a good wicket they will come at you. They have got four very good quick bowlers, and we will have to improve from this week if we are going to take them on."

"If we play anything like we can, then we have got a very good chance."

Hussain stopped short of criticising his players after one poor Test match.

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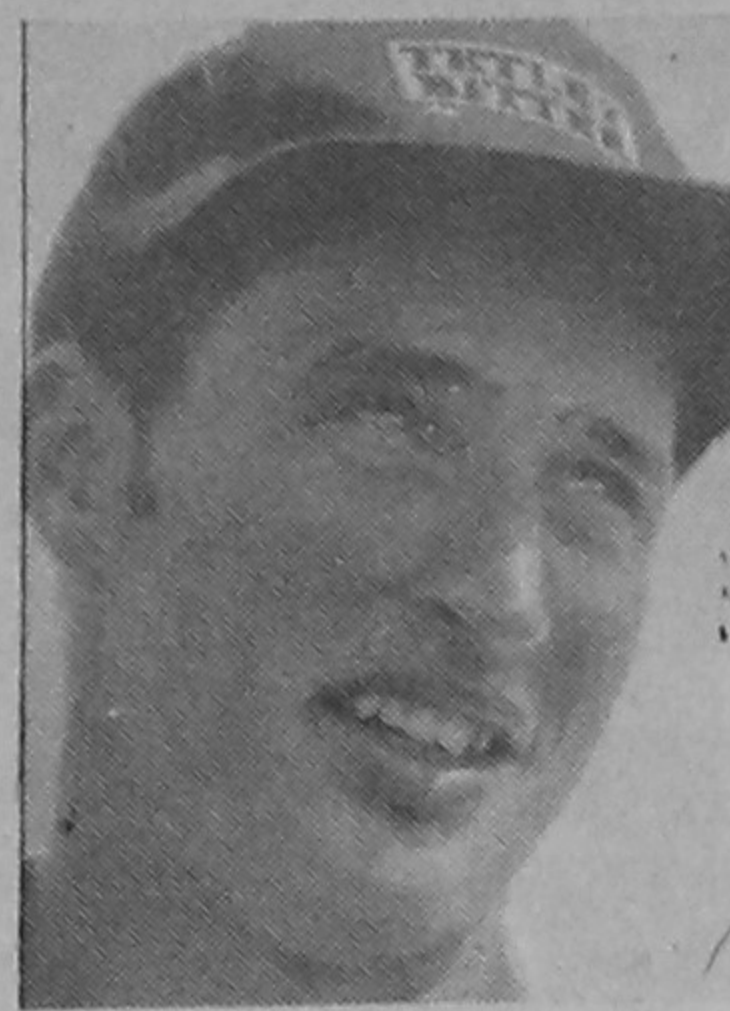
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FRENCH OPEN NOTEBOOK

PARIS, June 6 (AFP): French Open diary on Tuesday:

There are some familiar names in the draw for the junior events at Roland Garros this year.

There's a Hewitt and a Lapentti as well as a Safina, who's the sister of Russian star Marat Safin.

Australian Jaslyn Hewitt, who lost in the first round of the girl's singles, is the sister of Aussie ninth seed Lleyton Hewitt while Giovanni Lapentti is the brother of 11th-seeded Ecuadorian Nicolas Lapentti.

LEGENDS ARE MADE OF THIS

The big names from the past continue to attract the fans at

Roland Garros with John McEnroe and Ken Rosewall heading an impressive line-up in the Legends Trophy at Roland Garros.

The 20 participants in the doubles tournament for golden oldies have racked up 48 Grand Slam singles titles between them.

The tournament is split into two sections - for the over and under 50s.

"Superbrat" McEnroe partnered Henri Leconte to last year's under-50s title and is partnering Iranian Mansour Bahrami this time.

Aussie pair John Newcombe and Tony Roche are after a third straight title in the over-50s category.

LOOK — TWO HANDS!

Players love to put the pressure on their rivals' backhand flank, but the tactic won't work with budding Russian starlet Yevgenia Kulikovskaya.

The first-round women's doubles loser doesn't mind which side the ball is hit - because she's ambidextrous.

GAME SET AND GOAL

A European eleven playing a 'rest of the world' side charity football match linked to the French Open at the Parc des Princes had an unfair advantage. The Europeans fielded Julien Escudé, brother of tennis star Nicolas. Julien happens to be a professional footballer with first division club Rennes.

The rest of the world side included two-time Aussie US Open champion Pat Rafter but he finished on the losing side as the Europeans won 5-2 with French players Stephane Huet, Michael Llodra and Arnaud Di Pasquale among the goals.

GOOD HEALTH

Patrice Clerc, tournament director at Roland-Garros since 1984 who has just announced he is stepping down after this year, will be able to drink his own health well into the summer.

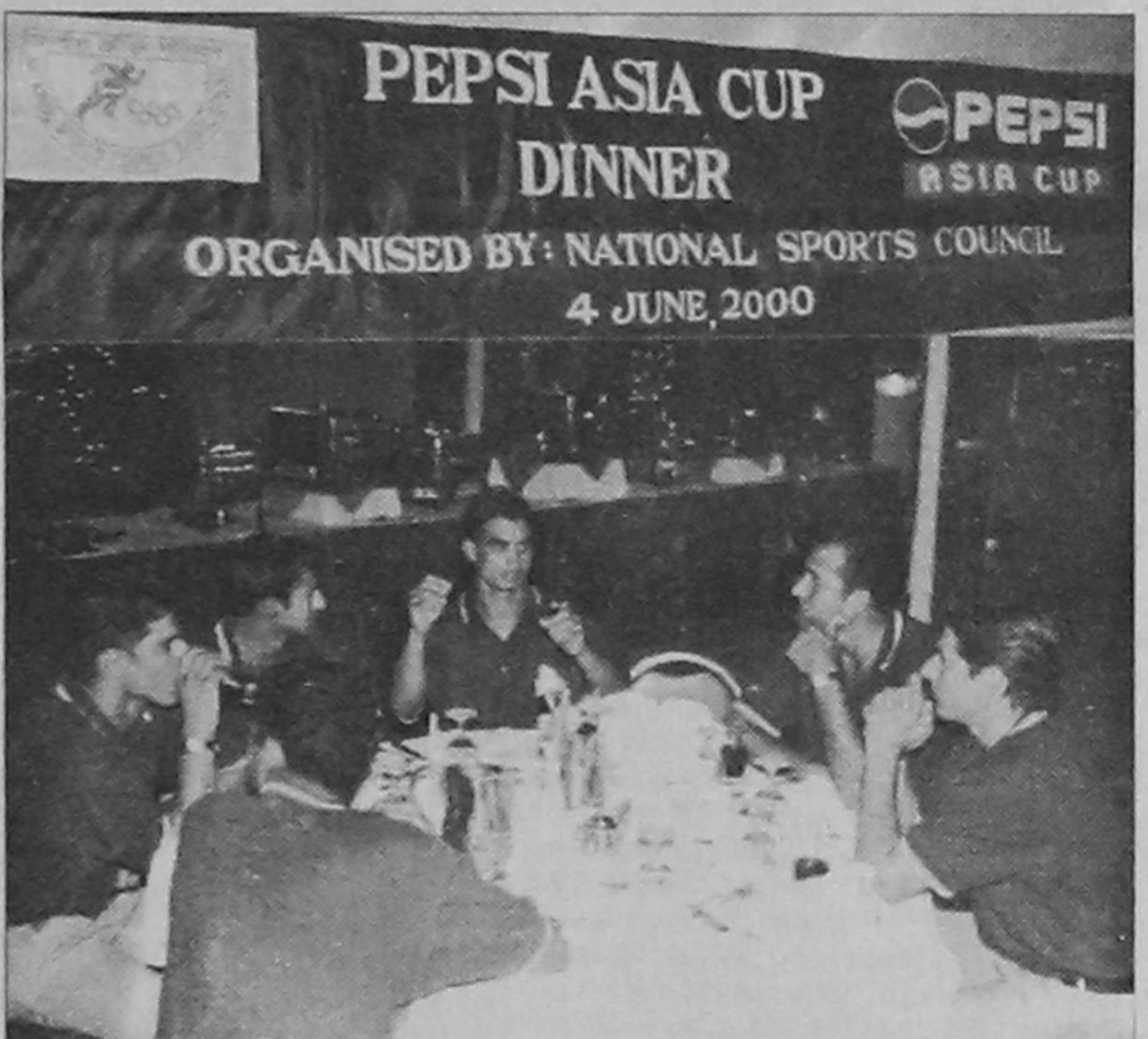
Clerc received a case of 12 bottles of 1996 vintage Beaujolais for his efforts at the French Open's traditional Beaujolais evening.

CARLOS IS JUST THE TICKET

Former women's singles champion Iva Majoli had a pleasant surprise when she took a call on her mobile from a man who identified himself simply as Carlos.

At first she thought it was former men's champion Carlos Moya of Spain until the caller asked if she'd like two tickets to see him in concert.

It was rock guitarist Carlos Santana, who is playing gigs this week in Paris.



Pakistani players (R-L) Shahid Afridi, Arshad Khan, Imran Nazir, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Wasim and Shabbir Ahmed during a dinner hosted by National Sports Council in honour of the players participating in the Pepsi Asia Cup at the Sonargaon Hotel on June 4.

Windies beef up one-day squad

BRIDGETOWN, June 6, (Reuters): The West Indies will be bolstered by two additional players for the triangular one-day cricket tournament in England from July 6 to 22.

Selection panel chairman Mike Findlay has confirmed that the West Indies Cricket Board has agreed to allow the selectors to pick the two extra players for the series which involves the host country and Zimbabwe.

Dashing middle order batsman Ricardo Powell is expected to be one of the two players while hard-hitting opener Philo Wallace, middle order batsman Sylvester Joseph, all-rounder Laurie Williams and fast bowler Mervyn Dillon will be the main contenders for the second spot.

Kapil puts it down to luck

NEW DELHI, June 6: Indian cricket coach Kapil Dev today blamed poor luck for the team's disastrous show in the Asia Cup in Dhaka, reports PTI.

"Luck somehow deserted the Indian team. Losing the toss in all three matches was an indication of that," Kapil told here.

Asked if the match-fixing allegations were at the back of their minds, Kapil said because of that the players were determined to do well and win and, in their anxiety, they made mistakes.

"Sometimes when you are too keen, you tend to make mistakes," he said. "It was also unfortunate that all our batsmen did not click together."

The legendary all-rounder, who is in the thick of match-fixing controversy, admitted that the bowling was inexperienced but defended their selection saying new talent had to be groomed for the future.

"They were the best players available and they need time to get their acts together," he said, adding they could only improve now.

Kapil said two and a half months' gap will help the players regain their focus and expressed confidence that the team would be back with renewed vigour and determination.

Rajshahi hockey

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 6: Primary Krira Training Centre and Kajihata Sporting Club won their respective matches of the Rajshahi First Division Hockey League at local stadium today.

In the first match, Primary beat North Bengal Sporting Club 4-0. Ruman, Saheedul Islam, Chana and Monuwar scored one goal each in the 12, 25, 44 and 56 minutes respectively.

In other match of the day, Kajihata Sporting Club defeated Sepaypara Sporting Club 2-1.

Palan opened the account in the 14 minute and Rasu another in the 41 minute. Erasad reduced the margin in the 56 for Sepaypara.

Magura cricket

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, June 6: The first quarterfinal match in the Econo-Cricket League at the Magura Stadium between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Babul Smriti Sangha was called off due to rain today.

Mohammedan Sporting Club scored 46 runs for seven wickets in 17 overs batting first.

The second innings will be held tomorrow (Wednesday).

Norman, Safin make it



PARIS, June 6: Magnus Norman stayed on target to end a 12-year Swedish drought at Roland Garros while Marat Safin on Monday underlined the seriousness of his French Open title challenge, reports AFP.

Third-seeded Norman raced to a quickfire but rain-interrupted fourth-round men's singles victory over Andrei Medvedev.

"He's so full of confidence at the moment and it was difficult for me to adjust to his game," said Pioline. "He started very strongly — and he exerts a lot of pressure. He's in very good shape and didn't give me many

chances."

Safin, one of the rising stars of tennis, has won 23 of his last 26 matches. He said he had improved his approach to the game under new coach Andrei Chesnokov — and was now keeping calm where previously he would have lost his temper.

"The crowd made it hard for me today," said Safin. "They are pro-French, which I understand, but they were sometimes shouting between the serves, which was hard."

In contrast, nothing got to ice-cool Norman against Medvedev.

"I felt good from the beginning, but it is always difficult when it is raining like this," he said.

"It's hard to be focussed and there is not much you can do while you are waiting. You can hardly go shopping on the Champs-Elysees."

Norman said he had been confident when play resumed after the break — but not too confident.

"I was sure of myself, but you can never be too sure," he said. "In tennis, anything can happen."

Norman is now hoping to play on Centre Court here for the first time since 1997. All his matches so far have been on outside courts.

He is aiming to lift Swedish tennis after players like Bjorn Borg and Mats Wilander used to dominate here.

Wilander, back in 1988, was the last Swedish champion at Roland Garros.

Medvedev, beaten by Andre Agassi in last year's final, had made good-natured fun of Nor-

man in a press conference earlier in the week but the Swede had very much the last word.

The 24-year-old Norman, a semifinalist at the Australian Open in January and winner of two tournaments already this year, was in sublime form as he swept through in a total court time of just 1hr 33min.

He is the highest seed left in the tournament after the early departures of Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras and has reached the last eight without losing a set, or having even played a tiebreaker.

Only two players — Romanian Ilie Nastase and Borg, have won the event without losing a set since 1925.

Norman is hoping to emulate his compatriot Borg, who performed the feat in 1978 and 1980.

The Swede took just 20min to win the first set after the start of the match had been delayed for over an hour by morning rain. Medvedev was able to win just six points.

The Ukrainian had points for a 4-2 lead in the second set but Norman held on, broke for 5-4 and then served it out.

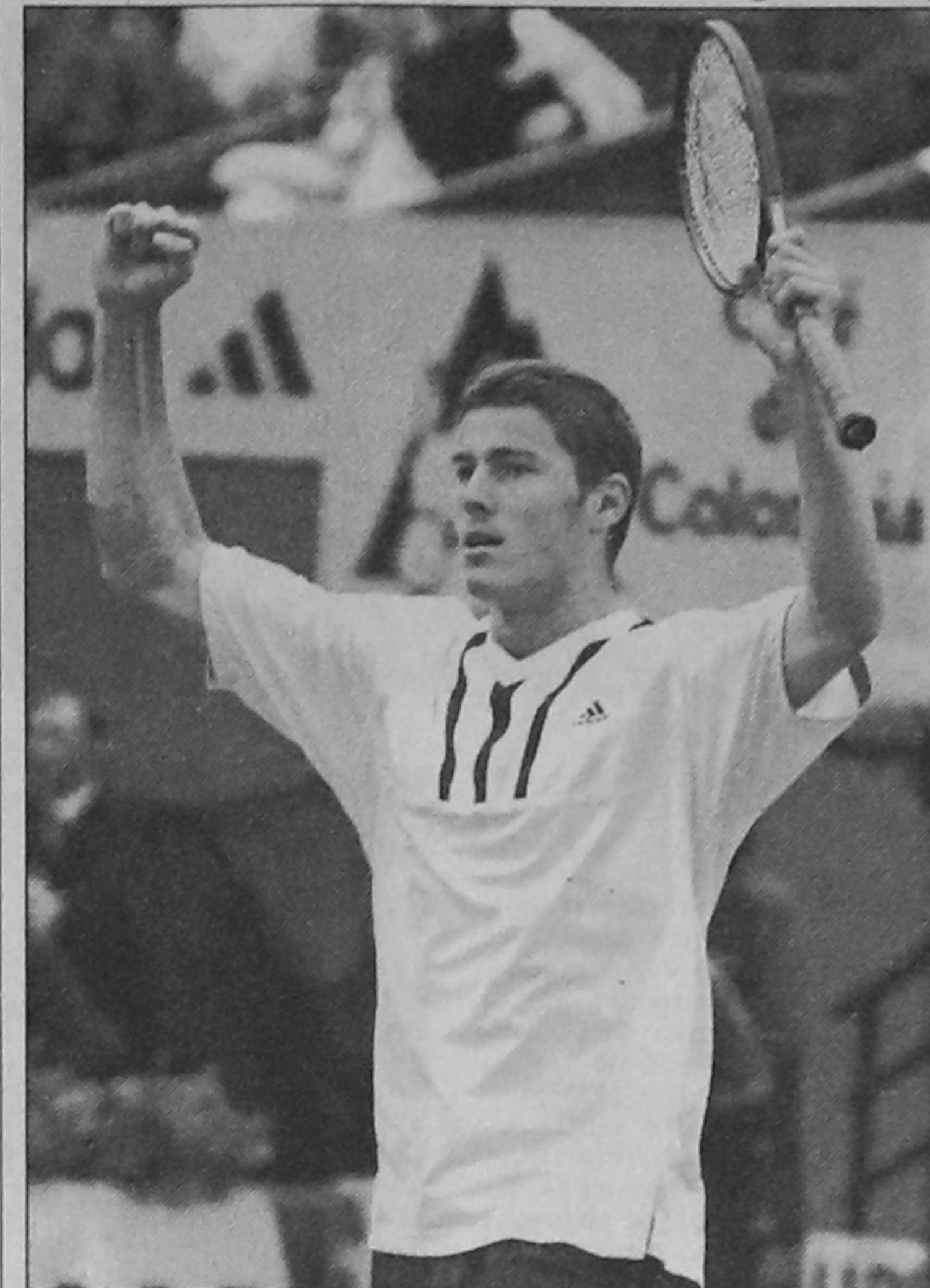
When Norman broke in the opening game of the third set there was no way back for Medvedev.

"Magnus played a good match. Good luck to him," Medvedev said. "I can't blame the conditions. It was the same for both players. I was a bit off, but there is no excuse."

It was the first time the Ukrainian had lost to a Swede on the slow red clay here.

"I'm just trying to take things easy," said Norman, who hammered down eight aces, broke his opponent's serve six times and forced Medvedev into 52 errors.

"I'm enjoying myself and I just hope I can still be here on Sunday."



Russian Marat Safin celebrates after beating Cedric Pioline of France in their fourth round match of the French Open yesterday. —AFP photo

PCB pledges

From page 13

tributed to Pakistan cricket a lot.

"Wasim will continue to play against Sri Lanka and England," Zia said.

Pointing towards emerging trends of financial crimes in the cricketing world, the ACC chief said that Asian Cricket Foundation (ACF), a body under ACC, would uphold the cricketing values.

"ACF is for the cricket and cricketers," he said.

The ACC and the ACF would try to institutionalise cricket in Asia and ask for more funds from ICC for the growth of cricket in the region.

"It is interesting to note that even South America, where cricket is less popular, gets more money from ICC development funds to boost cricket though the international body earns more money from Asia, Zia said.

The foundation will look after three basic issues — marketing, event control and human welfare in the region.

"We have already formed one anti-corruption committee of the ACF to ensure transparency in all financial transactions of the foundation (ACF)," he said.

If Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) requests, Pakistan would provide all types of support that includes development of technical experts, coaching and any administrative service, the PCB chief said.

The ACC will be more careful about its associate members and emerging Test playing nations like Bangladesh as cricketing infrastructures are well established in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Zia said.

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