

Richard
the critic

LONDON, June 27 (AFP): For former Wimbledon winner Richard Krajicek, serve-and-volley tennis is a dying art.

The 11th-seeded Dutchman showed that he's still an eager practitioner of the grass-court style with his first-round victory Monday over Michael Kohlmann of Germany, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 7-6(7/4).

But Krajicek, who handed six-time Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras his only loss here in the past seven years in the quarterfinals of 1996, said that even the big-hitting American does not use the style in every match.

"He is a great serve-and-volley player on grass, but he doesn't stick to it on hardcourt," said Krajicek, just back recently from another round of the knee surgery which seems to punctuate his career.

Man

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But only a few minutes with the Melbourne real estate executive conveys the impression that he is more sleeves-up than sound bite.

"Now's not the time for visions and gestures," he said.

"It's the time for hard work and trying to make sure we can start to win back the confidence of the sporting public."

There's no doubt we've lost credibility and it's not going to be an easy job or a quick fix to restore that.

His plainspeak even extends to the comment that taking over as the nominal head of state for a sport so badly haemorrhaging is "not necessarily" the biggest challenge he has faced in 40 years of adult life, which has included important posts in real estate, insurance, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) and as deputy chairman of the Bank of Melbourne.

"Unfortunately I'm not 25 and so I've had a few years, but yeah, there have been other challenges," said Gray. ACB chairman from 1986-89.

"I just see this as a job to be done. It's a time of hard work by all of us involved, to deal with the problems and establish the size and the depth and breadth of them, and make sure we use every resolve to do something about it."

"I genuinely think we've come a long way. Not that we've solved the problem or got rid of it, but we've identified the problem, got it out in the open, and I think we have put in good processes to do something about it."

Gray, who will continue to be based in Melbourne, will at least have more processes in place underneath him to deal with corruption than Dalmiya, who is locked in litigation over allegations concerning his involvement in the awarding of cricket TV rights on the subcontinent.

The eruption of the corruption issue has forced the ICC into action by appointing its anti-corruption commission, headed by former London chief of police Sir Paul Condon.

A new \$550 million US dollars TV rights deal for the next two World Cups also gives Gray's organisation considerably more money to spend on that fight.

Gray said a strategy based on education and openness was the best way to tackle the corruption scandal.

"You do it in two ways," he said.

"One is education - that you make sure the players are educated in that there is such a thing going on out there and that they will be tempted in their cricket careers."

"You also need to have the procedures in place with the management of the individuals so it can be identified and brought to the surface very quickly."

Success

From page 13

draw and then shared a 2-2 match with Pakistan, finished the four-team qualifying round with seven points, a point more than the home side.

This is for the fourth time that Bangladesh have qualified for the Asian under-16 final round. Earlier, Bangladesh youth team played in the final round in 1986 (Qatar), 1992 (Saudi Arabia) and 1998 (Qatar).

The victorious booters will return home on June 30.

Bangladesh Team: Munna, Siraj, Polo (Kaisar), Kachi, Sohan, Ruku, Aminul (Tarik), Al-Amin, Pappu, Uzzal (Masud) and Sohail.

Fireworks

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French coach Roger Lemerre has all his experienced squad at his disposal and the tense finale to the Spain game will have tested their match nerves under the highest pressure.

Of course they have the famous back four of Lilian Thuram, Laurent Blanc, Marcel Desailly and Bixente Lizarazu for Portugal to deal with.

It's beginning to look familiar. From the start of the tournament, the French first choice back four in front of Manchester United-bound goalkeeper Fabien Barthez have conceded just two goals - both from the penalty spot.

Two years ago in France the same five completed the World Cup finals with just two goals against, one from the penalty spot.

The French now turn to a semi-final tie against Portugal and now just two matches away from being the first side to win the World Cup and then go on to win the European title.

Sri Lanka praying for rain

Last Test starts today



KANDY, Sri Lanka, June 27: Sri Lanka go into the third and final Test against Pakistan on Wednesday with rain looking like their best bet of avoiding a 3-0 whitewash, reports AFP.

The home side were outclassed in the first two Tests and even their captain Sanath Jayasuriya admits they are likely to struggle at the Asgiriya International Stadium here in Sri Lanka's central hills.

"The Pakistanis are too good for us at the moment," he said. "Whatever we do, nothing is going our way, sometimes we are unlucky also."

Sri Lanka's much vaunted batting line-up faltered repeatedly in the first two Tests.

The Pakistani fast bowlers are bowling superbly with the new ball as well as the old. We cannot afford to relax for a moment. Our batsmen are going through a very hard time," said Jayasuriya.

Sri Lanka have recalled Kumar Dharmasena, the right-arm bowler who bowls fast off-breaks to boost a bowling line-up which was hit for 600 runs in the Galle Test, which finished last Saturday.

Goodwin to bid
Zimbabwe bye

SYDNEY, June 27: Batsman Murray Goodwin has announced he is to cut his ties with the Zimbabwean cricket team from July and return to play for Western Australia next southern summer, reports AFP.

The 27-year-old, who has played 19 Tests for Zimbabwe at an average of 42.84, will not renew his contract with the troubled African country after the one-day series against England and the West Indies next month.

Goodwin is touring in England with the national team but will return with his wife to Perth in August citing personal reasons for the move.

The Harare-born Goodwin's last season for WA in 1996-97 resulted in 428 runs at a healthy average of 61.14 in five Sheffield Shield matches.

Hingis has her doubts



LONDON, June 27 (AFP): Martina Hingis is keeping a wary security eye out at the Wimbledon Championships - even as she strolls through the picturebook streets of the top London suburb.

While the world number one has nothing to fear in leafy, green SW 19, her position at the top of tennis is enough to force her and her family to take their protection seriously.

"I haven't had any problems with security," said the 19-year-old Swiss top seed, a first-round loser here a year ago. "I've been walking around town."

"Of course, people recognise me, but that's pretty much the same everywhere. When I'm practising or when I'm playing - when I'm on the grounds - I feel very safe."

"Security is good here."

Just three months ago, Hingis had a stalker on her

trail at the Miami tournament. Dubravko Rajcic, 45, who travels on an Australian passport, was arrested twice at the event for following the top seed. He told police that he and Hingis have a romantic relationship.

"This guy is obviously a little strange," said Hingis. "I saw him before in Zurich (last autumn). He's maybe a little crazy. I don't know. He's like in love with me, I don't know."

"Actually, in the beginning I tried to tell him. I've got a friend (Czech hockey player Pavel Kubina who plays for Tampa). I'm happy. He just I guess likes the attention."

Hingis, who also has a base in Switzerland, said that while tournament security can easily keep unwanted people away, it's not quite the same at her home in a guarded Florida complex.

"I don't feel great having him around me or too close. When I'm going to go back home, that was on my mind. Anyway, I try

not to go anywhere by myself."

While Wimbledon is far from the wilds of a North American venue, Hingis is glad for the tunnels which allow players to get to some courts without mingling with the fans.

"It's the same everywhere. You have to watch out a little bit. That's everybody's position, especially being a girl, you always have to watch out."

Hingis overcame a minor demon when she scored her 6-1, 6-2 first-round win over Spain's Angeles Montolio Monday. A year ago here, the Swiss was stunned by Australian Jelena Dokic in one of the worst losses of her career.

"I learned a nice lesson here last year, which I think was positive. I think I've shown (since then) with my results and my attitude that I really enjoy what I'm doing."

Hingis concluded: "I'm in better shape than the last year or two. Sometimes you have to experience things."

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nal politics. But within three months he has turned the team into world beaters.

They narrowly lost the Test series in the Caribbean 1-0 and have won three one-day tournaments in a row at Sharjah, in the Caribbean and at Dhaka.

Moin said that they were going for a clean sweep of the series to erase the memory of the 2-1 defeat they suffered at the hands of Sri Lanka at home in March.

SQUADS

PAKISTAN (from): Saeed Anwar, Mohammad Wasim, Younis Khan, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Moin Khan (captain), Azhar Mahmood, Abdur Razaq, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Arshad Khan, Mushtaq Ahmed, Inran Nazir, Shabbir Ahmed.

SRI LANKA (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Russel Arnold, Aravinda de Silva, Mahela Jayawardene, Arjuna Ranatunga, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Prasanna Jayawardene, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumar Dharmasena, Upul Chandana, Dilhara Fernando, Kumar Sangakkara, Avishka Gunawardena.

The venue itself does not give the home country any encouragement. It was here that six years ago, Sri Lanka were shot out for their lowest-ever Test score - 71.

To make matters worse, the two bowlers responsible for the catastrophe were Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, still the spearheads of the Pakistan bowling attack.

The lethal pair have made life almost as difficult for the Sri Lankan batsmen in the present series.

Shoaib could be back in 3 weeks

LONDON, June 27: Pakistan paceman Shoaib Akhtar, who was released from his Nottinghamshire contract after a persistent rib injury, wants to return to the county in the future, reports AFP.

The Rawalpindi Express' expects to be back playing in three weeks and he told Sky Sports Monday: "If an offer came again then I would definitely play for Notts."

He revealed that his season had at first been blighted by a groin injury which was then superseded by a rib problem, meaning that the world's fastest bowler has not bowled a single ball in English first-class cricket this season.

Shoaib's first Test match back in action should be against England in Lahore, in October.

Ragib Ali hockey

2 Pakistanis
for Abahani

Two Pakistani hockey players arrived in the capital yesterday to play for Abahani in the ongoing Ragib Ali Cup tournament, reports UNB.

They are fullback Erfan Mahmood and left-out Shaheed Rabbani. Both are Pakistan International Airline's team players.

Abahani will take on giants Usha Kira Chakra in a crucial super-four match tomorrow at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Meanwhile, Pakistan international Mohammad Saqlain and Mohammad Fayaz have also arrived here on Monday to play for Usha Kira Chakra.

Sylhet football

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 27: Mohanbagan Sporting Club, Sylhet defeated the PDB Kira Sangstha by 4-1 in a match of the First Division Football League held at the Sylhet Stadium this afternoon.

Milon scored a hat-trick and Selim scored a goal for the winners while Komol of the PDB KS netted only goal.

The Sylhet Mohammedan Sporting Club will face the glorious Sporting Club in the tomorrow's match.

B'baria cricket

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, June 27: Surjo Tarun Cricket Club registered a four-wicket win over Provati Cricket Club in a Shaded Rangui Mia Cup cricket tournament clash at the local Shahjadapur Junior High School play ground here today.

Chasing Provati's 120 in 35 overs, Surjo Tarun scored 123 for six in 30 overs with Reaz scoring highest 60.

Reaz was later adjudged as the man-of-the-match.

Earlier, electing to bat, Provati were all out for 120 in 30 overs.

Meanwhile, Brothers Union Cricket Club defeated Three Star Cricket Club by 40 runs in Dana Mia Smriti Cricket Cup at the local Eidgah Maidan today.

Batting first, Brothers Union scored 160 for 8 in the stipulated 40 overs.

In reply, Three Star were bundled out for 120.

Osman of Brothers Union was adjudged man-of-the-match.

'Give my son
a chance'

CAPE TOWN, June 27 (Reuters): The father of disgraced South Africa cricket captain Hansie Cronje has appealed to the nation to give his son a chance to make a new life for himself.

Ewie Cronje's comments appeared in the Cape Times on Monday following his son Hansie's marathon 10-hour testimony to the King Commission regarding his alleged involvement in match-fixing.

At the end of his testimony in Cape Town on Friday, Cronje broke down in tears and had to be helped from the room.

Cronje senior was quoted as saying: "The past 12 weeks have been a very tough time for the entire Cronje family and hopefully we will emerge from it stronger people."

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Pete wins with ease



LONDON, June 27: Men's defending champion Pete Sampras and women's top seed Martina Hingis both progressed smoothly to the second round at the Wimbledon Championships Monday on a gloomy day in south London, reports AFP.

Six-time winner Sampras of the United States hurtled through on Centre Court by hammering Jiri Vanek of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 in just 1hr 23min.

Sampras, 28, is seeking to set an all-time record of 13 Grand Slam singles titles after he equalled Roy Emerson's haul of 12 here last year.

He next faces Karol Kucera of Slovakia, who beat Wayne

up tournament at Rosmalen at the weekend, was happy to have got her first match out of the way on the revamped Court One.

"I learned a nice lesson at the tournament here last year. Losing in the first round as number one seed is quite enough," said Hingis, grimacing at the memory.

Joining Hingis in the second round was Russian under-achiever Anna Kournikova, who shocked French 10th seed Sandrine Testud 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 on Centre Court in a rain-interrupted encounter.

Kournikova, a semi-finalist here in 1997, led 6-5 when the heavens opened and the covers came on.

After the break she promptly wrapped up the opening set and looked to be coasting at 3-0 before dropping serve and allowing Testud to break for 5-4.

Testud then saved two match points to level for 5-5 before taking the second set.

Kournikova broke for 3-1 in the decider but squandered a third match point at 5-2 and then dropped serve.

She eventually triumphed on her fourth match point after 2hr 19min and directed a relieved bow to the ecstatic crowd.

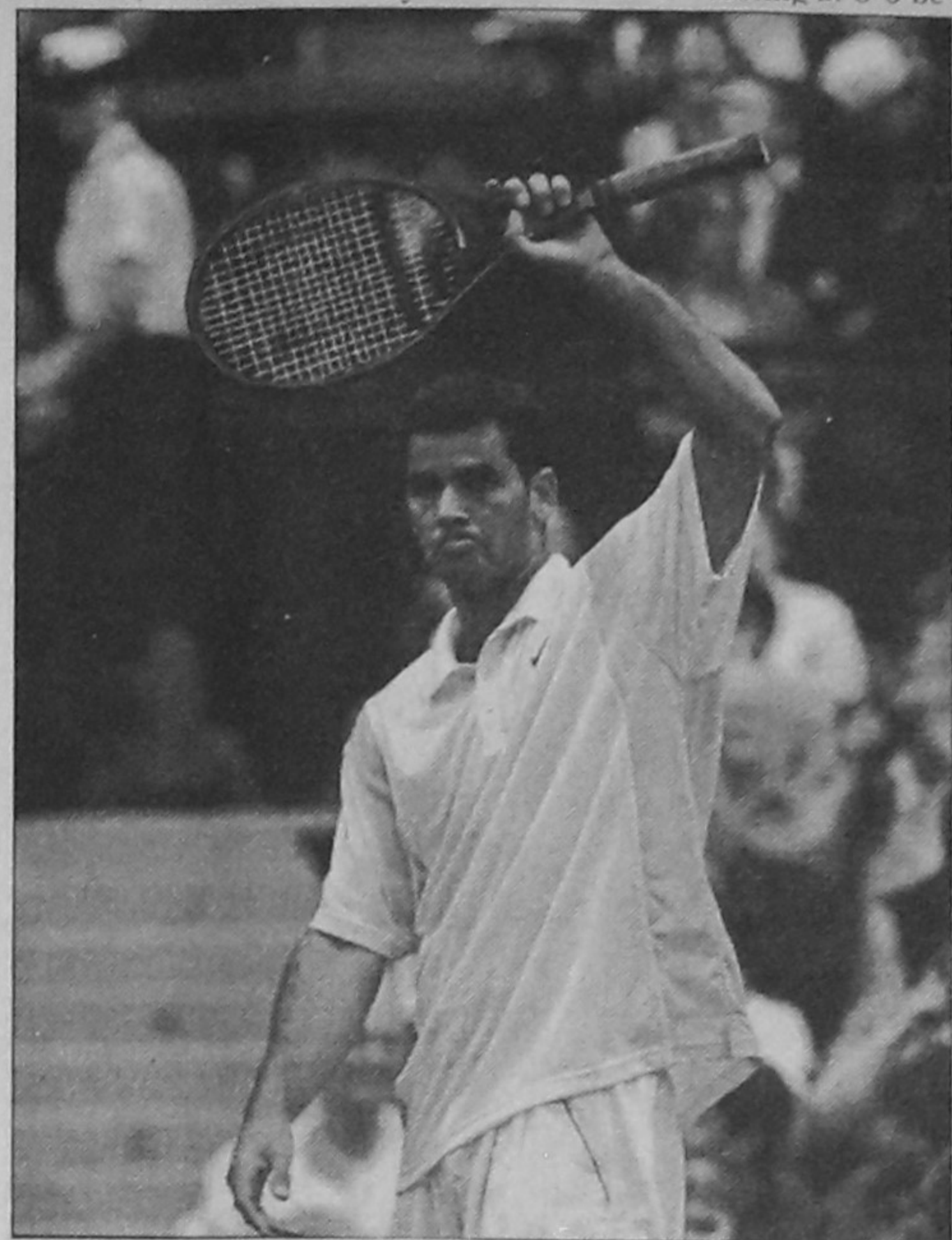
"It was very emotional - very tough. She's the kind of player who polays well when she's behind," said 19-year-old Kournikova.

Olga Barabanshnikova was another Russian to dump a seed, putting out Austria's 15th seed Barbara Schett 6-2, 6-2.

Earlier, US eighth seed Serena Williams breezed through against Sweden's Asa Carlsson 6-3, 6-2.

Williams, US Open champion last year, is making only her second appearance at the All England Club having missed last year's event with injury.

"I love the place - my game is



American superstar Pete Sampras waves to the crowd after winning his first round engagement at the Wimbledon against Jiri Vanek on June 26. —AFP photo

Black of Zimbabwe 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

"It's always nice to be back on that court - it's comfortable surroundings for me," said Sampras.

"Your first match out there you're a little bit unsettled, playing someone I've never seen play. But as the match started to go on I felt my game was getting a little better - though I missed a few balls from the back court."