

Sport

Serena sails

MONTREAL, Aug. 18: On a cold and windy evening, Serena Williams easily advanced to the quarterfinals of the Omnisport Du Maurier Canadian Open in Montreal, defeating Anna Kournikova in straight sets, reports Reuters.

Seeded 4, Williams out-powered her Russian opponent whom she had never played before in front of a full stadium of nearly 11,000 spectators.

Williams, who won in California last Sunday, first broke Kournikova in the third game thanks to three beautiful winners from the baseline, and did it again in the ninth game to close the first set 6-3.

In the second set, Kournikova had her chances for an early lead but couldn't confirm any of her three break points in the third game.

Hitting harder and harder, the younger of the Williams sisters won four straight games, and a little later, closed-out the match 6-3, 6-2 after one hour and three minutes of play.

"Today I was pretty happy of the way I served," said Serena who hit nine aces throughout the match.

"I had played her in doubles so I sort of knew where her serve was going. But I didn't expect her groundstrokes to be so flat."

Her next opponent will be Amy Frazier, a winner over the 6 seed, Germany's Anke Huber.

Bradman

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at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1921 and how he had told him he would never be happy until he played there.

There was no radio or TV in my days as a toddler, but somehow I developed a love of cricket which has stayed with me for nearly 90 years."

In the oration, Howard said it was not Bradman's record alone, nor the times in which he played, but the quality of the man himself which had elevated him to the status of "greatest living Australian."

Even now, in another century, in a world scarcely recognisable to that in which he played, the name Bradman resonates with meaning -- talent, determination, commitment, fair play, honour."

Howard also touched on the match-fixing scandal, saying the allegations represented a challenge to the very fine qualities encouraged by the game of cricket -- "to the very values personified by Sir Donald and so many of our other sporting champions."



Female cricketers who started a long-term training course at the Dhanmondi Indoor nets yesterday.

—Star photo

Tim tames a toughie



INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 18: Cruising on confidence, Briton Tim Henman was able to flee the clutches

Africa in the quarterfinals. Ferreira, who won this tournament in 1994, but has not won a trophy since 1996, captured an easy 6-4, 6-2 third round victory over Belgian Xavier Malisse.

In another third round encounter, red-hot Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, who won

another quarterfinal match.

Hewitt, who leads the ATP Tour with four tournament titles this season, the first teenager since Pete Sampras in 1990 to win four trophies in a year, scored a 6-2, 6-4 win over Albert Costa of Spain in the third round.

Henman will face the winner of the third round match between second-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia and Gianluca Pozzi of Italy which was cancelled to Friday because of inclement weather.

In the other third-round match that did not make it on court because of the storms, third-seeded Marat Safin of Russia will meet Karim Alami of Morocco Friday afternoon.

The winner of that encounter will play Sébastien Grosjean of France, who upset defending champion and sixth-seeded Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador 7-6 (7-3), 6-2 in the third round.

Henman was outplayed by El Aynaoui in the first set, allowing the Moroccan to break serve in the ninth game with an exquisite backhand crosscourt passing shot at ad-out.

Henman had a slight hiccup when serving for the second set in the seventh game, but broke El Aynaoui's serve in the eighth game to even the score in the match.



TIM HENMAN

last week's Tennis Masters Series-Cincinnati title, increased his current winning streak to eight matches with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 win over former world number one Carlos Moya of Spain.

The fourth-seeded Enqvist will take on fifth-seeded Lleyton Hewitt of Australia in

another quarterfinal match.

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