

Councillors

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to trash out a solution to acrimony between the district and Dhaka based councillors over the mindless race for posts in the proposed formation of the Board.

According to Zafar, the Dhaka clubs would get 15 out of the 29 member posts while the districts, still being run with the donation of the BCB, would obtain 11 seats. One will be taken from educational institutions and one from the proposed Bangladesh Cricket Development Foundation. Besides, General Manager would be the other representative in the Executive Committee.

The BCB president however had wanted a 22-member Board of Executive Directors with an even representation - 10 each from the two warring parties. One from BDF and the GM would be the other two.

"We are just puppets in a dirty game. And you will see that the desire of the president would eventually be upheld without much opposition," said one councillor, seeking anonymity. "He is an autocrat under the *panjabi*. Even in the Board, he has made sure that his every single desire is passed without any opposition, no matter whether it's logical or not."

Another councillor, who stared blankly at the reporter before recovering, termed the whole situation as a Mickey Mouse game. "Everybody feels that the size of the Board should be trimmed down. But, the problem is that everybody wants to be the last person to lose his position."

It now remains to be seen whether the puzzle of the number game is solved. However, in that case, cricketers like Roquibul has little chance to get the non-cricketing officials out of the race.

"You see, who is going to win the race tomorrow, it's the amateurs who ruled over the professionals today," a witty non-cricketing councillor remarked after the exhibition match between President XI and Quader XI.

The interesting aspect of the exhibition match was that both BCB President Saber (25) and State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader (12 not out) top-scored for their respective side. And both had no cricketing credentials.

The match was however abandoned due to bad lights. Seventeen councillors, mostly from Dhaka based clubs are yet to reach Cox's Bazar.

Interestingly, among the missing representatives two councillors are from two popular clubs - Mohammedan and Abahani. Mohammedan's Aminul Haq Moni and Abahani's Tanveer Mazhar Tanna did not turn up for filing of the report last night.

The all-important AGM begins in the morning tomorrow, with Board general secretary Syed Ashraf Hui presenting his report. BCB President Afzal Rahman Sinha will submit the audit report in the following session. Finally, the councillors will deliver on the proposed reconstitution before voting on the issue.

Eng must

From page 8

spect the different climate, culture and environment in Pakistan." He pointed out that when Pakistan went to England, the team learnt to adjust itself to the different conditions there. "If we didn't do that, we would not be able to play our cricket in a proper frame of mind and would be grumbling all the time."

Pakistan are currently riding high after a sequence of excellent tours, including an away series win in Sri Lanka - England's other opponents this winter.

"Naturally we will want to take advantage of our home conditions. Every country does it, but fortunately for us we are strong in both the pace and spin departments. We will go for sporting tracks," stressed Mohammad.

"Test cricket has changed a lot. In the past we played a maximum 30 hours in five days. Today, because of the 60 overs mandatory rule, playing hours have increased to accommodate the minimum 45 overs per Test quota. This means at least 40 hours per Test and a definite result."

"I am confident we can retain our strong winning streak against the England team."

England's test of the ultimate kind



PARIS, Sep 1: Old enemies France and England meet on Saturday, with Kevin Keegan's men hoping to get their international form back on track by surprising the reigning World and European champions in a prestige friendly, reports AFP.

The two nations have gone in opposite directions since failing to qualify for the 1994 World Cup in America, and such has been France's rise to the peak of world football that England could find themselves embarrassed if they fail to leave behind them the dismal form they showed at Euro 2000.

While France went on to win their first World Cup as hosts in 1998 and followed up with a sensational win at Euro 2000, England could only muster a second round exit to Argentina in 1998 before bowing out neckily after the group phase of the tournament in Belgium and Holland last June.

As holders France qualify automatically for the next World Cup in 2002, but England are preparing to embark on what will be a difficult road to Japan and Korea needing to overcome a tough qualifying group which features their arch rivals Germany.

Keegan has appointed Arsenal stalwart Tony Adams to take over from the retired Alan Shearer as captain and is hoping the reformed alcoholic can finally bring some glory to the country whose only success remains winning the 1966 World Cup.

Adams has not worn the armband for nearly six years but is widely regarded as one of the best skippers in the Premiership.

Former manager Glenn Hoddle preferred Shearer to Adams following England's run to the Euro 96 semi-finals when Terry Venables was boss.

However, Adams' well-documented drinking problems did his image anything but good and at Euro 2000 he lost out to Shearer.

Keegan welcomed back Manchester United striker Andy Cole back to training on Wednesday but such is the injury crisis up front that he is now down to three fit frontmen.

Sunderland's Kevin Phillips was the latest casualty following the withdrawals of Liverpool duo Emile Heskey and Michael Owen.

Manchester United star David Beckham on Thursday backed Keegan as the right man to lead England through to 2002 and beyond, saying the

squad was behind him. Beckham, who Saturday will fill a central midfield role, said it was up to the players to back Keegan, who hinted last week he might be for the chop if England get their World Cup qualifying campaign off to a bad start, to the hilt and perform under him.

France, meanwhile, look strong right through their lineup and even with the departures of captain Didier Deschamps and defender Laurent Blanc, who will leave the international stage following the match, they look set to be a force for many years to come.

Coach Roger Lemerre tried to talk Deschamps out of retirement but the Valencia midfielder said his mind is made up.

It may be a friendly but there is no love lost between these two countries and there is

United keeper Fabien Barthez could miss Saturday night's friendly after hurting his ankle in training at Clairefontaine.

The 29-year-old suffered the injury while tackling Nicolas Anelka and limped off the field. Rennes keeper Bernard Lama, the former West Ham player, is on standby.

The last time the teams met, France were still rising following their World Cup triumph and picked up their first win on English soil comfortably winning at Wembley 2-0 with Anelka picking up both goals.

England however have a better overall record against the French having won 23 of 34 matches with four draws.

It may be a friendly but there is no love lost between these two countries and there is



England midfielder David Beckham showing his skills with the ball during a practice session at the Stade de France in Paris yesterday. England meet world champions France in an international friendly game in Paris today.

—AFP photo

The new captain could come in the form of world player of the year Zidane or stalwart defender Marcel Desailly while the veteran Blanc comes to the end of a glittering career and looks set to be replaced by Frank Leboeuf.

One worrying news for France is that Manchester

a lot of pride at stake.

An English win would re-ignite some dying flames in the hearts of supporters and give optimism going into their showdown with Germany.

France must, in happier contrast, build on their formidable reputation as the best team in the world.

Germany get on the World Cup road

HAMBURG, Germany, Sept 1: Rudi Voller is working hard to keep a lid on unrealistic expectations as Germany go into their first World Cup qualifier against Greece here on Saturday but hopes are high that the good times have finally returned, reports AFP.

Pundits proclaimed the end of German football as we know it after Portugal's B team tore them apart in the final game of Euro 2000 but Erich Ribbeck's replacement as coach Rudi Voller has restored fresh vision and enthusiasm. It was obvious in a 4-1 win over Spain in Hannover two weeks ago but Greece are a totally different kettle of fish.

The Spaniards were lethargic after a long summer break and were far behind in their pre-season training while Germany already had several rounds of Bundesliga under their belt. Greece won't be such easy pickings, especially with the prospect of a spot in the 2002 World Cup at stake.

Voller is not expected to make wild changes to the team which crushed Spain which means captain Oliver Bierhoff will again be watching from the sidelines.

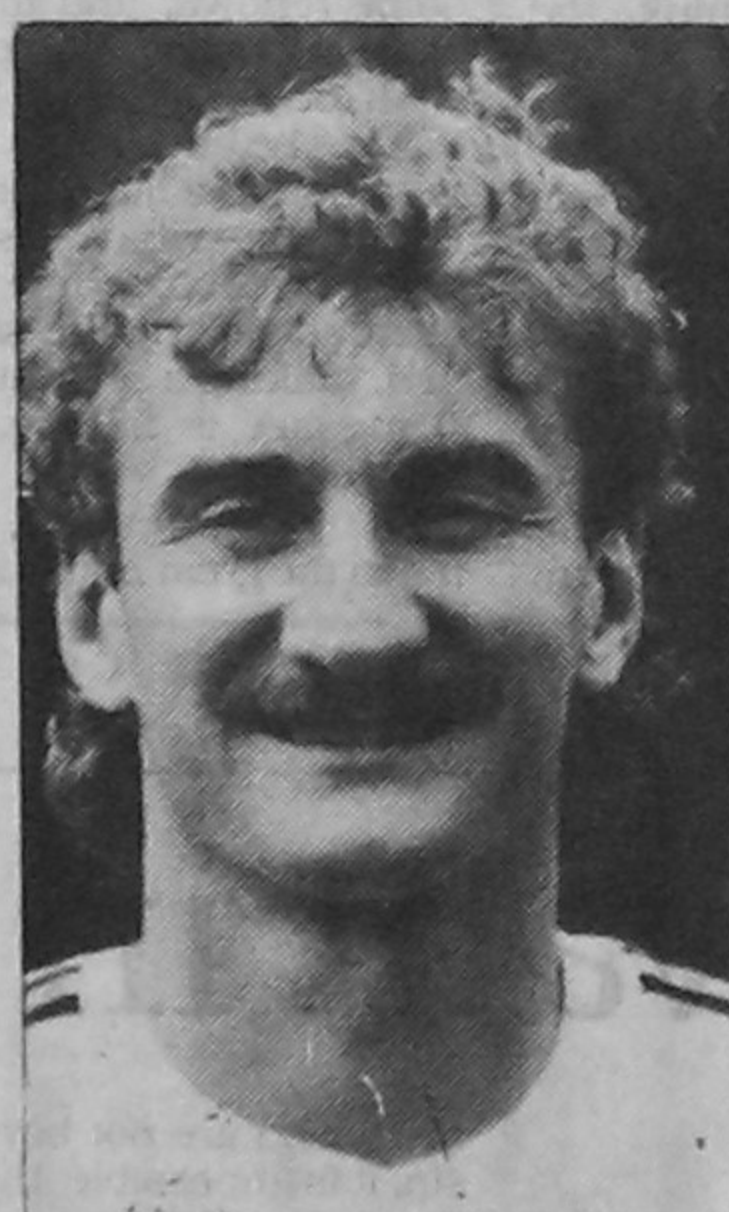
Bierhoff has had a difficult few days at Germany's training camp outside Hamburg after German legend Franz Beckenbauer heavily criticised Voller for keeping the AC Milan striker as captain, calling it a "catastrophic mistake".

Beckenbauer said Bierhoff did not have enough authority in the team because he played outside Germany and recommended Oliver Kahn or Jens Nowotny as replacements.

Bierhoff is short of match fitness though after ripping a



2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN



RUDI VOLLER

calf muscle at Euro 2000. He spent the summer break recovering and is not just having trouble breaking back into the German national side but also at AC Milan.

Voller says the tall striker will definitely be on the bench Saturday while Bierhoff personally has set his sights on playing in the much more attractive World Cup qualifier against England at Wembley on October 7.

The only chance for Bierhoff right now is if Carsten Jancker is injured. The short Bayern forward limped off the training field Thursday with a bruised calf after a heavy tackle by defender Jens Nowotny.

The man Germany will be most relying on to lift their game to a higher level will be Jancker's Bayern teammate Mehmet Scholl. He has been one of this country's most talented young players for years but now, finally, at age 29, he has matured and become accepted as a leader.

It is from him in the offensive midfield that German derives most of its forward torque. The Greece game will only be Scholl's 31st international but already he is looking at retirement.

Voller is relying heavily on Scholl to lead Germany's creative spin, primarily because he is the most talented player in a side not renowned for its ball handling skills.

He's not exactly Brazilian but Scholl can at least take on a defender, dance past and put an opposition goalkeeper under pressure - a skill not to be underestimated in a country whose primary football ethos is based on rigid discipline and determination.

Leander, Mahesh sent packing

NEW YORK, Sept 1: India's

Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes, finalists in all four Grand Slam men's doubles events last year, were ousted in the first round of the US Open here Thursday and also crashed out in mixed doubles, reports AFP.

In their first Grand Slam appearance after an eight-month separation, 1999 Wimbledon and French Open champions Paes and Bhupathi were defeated by Argentina's Daniel Orsanic and Brazil's Jaime Oncins 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2.

The Indian duo had not played together since losing in the final of the World Championship last November until a US Open turnup, reaching the semi-finals at the Hantuk Cup.

Next up for Paes and Bhupathi will be the Sydney Olympics. Paes won a bronze medal in singles at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Navratilova back with a bang

NEW YORK, Sept 1: Martina Navratilova made a triumphant return to the US Open here Thursday, pairing with Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario to defeat Linda Wild and Sabine Appelmans 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) in a first-round match, reports AFP.

The American left-hander, who turns 44 in October, retired from the WTA circuit in 1994 and is second on the all-time Grand Slam list behind Australian Margaret Smith Court's 62 titles with 56 victories, including a record 31 in doubles.

Navratilova made returns in doubles this year at the French Open and Wimbledon and is also entered here in mixed doubles with an opening match Friday alongside compatriot Rick Leach against Americans Brian MacPhie and Alexandra Stevenson.

"I felt like it was the finals," Navratilova said. "We got through it. I was nervous. I hadn't played very much. We were a little lucky to win it. But we'll take it."

Olympic hockey

India bank on Pillay

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: India have long relied on ace striker Dhanraj Pillay to keep them above water in international field hockey, and it will be no different at the Sydney Olympics, reports AFP.

Coach Vasudevan Bhaskaran is so convinced that the 32-year-old holds the key to India's fortunes, that most discussions at the national team's training camp in Bangalore revolve around Pillay.

Hockey is a team game but one person can make a difference," Bhaskaran said. "India simply can't do without Pillay."

The ebony-skinned, long-haired striker is a one-man army that frightens rival defenders with his speed and uncanny ability to sense openings and score goals from impossible situations.

When India regained the Asian Games crown after 32 years at Bangkok in 1998 - which gave them a direct entry into the Olympics - Pillay emerged as the tournament's leading scorer with 10 goals.

The Sydney Games will mark the final bow for the 300-match veteran and he is determined to make a mark in his third Olympics.

Zelezny aims for golden treble

PRAGUE, Sept 1: Czech Jan Zelezny is aiming for a javelin golden treble at the Sydney Olympics next month despite a nagging rib injury that means he will probably not throw again before the Games, reports Reuters.

World record-holder Zelezny, who took gold in Atlanta and Barcelona, told reporters on Thursday before leaving for Brisbane that he suffered the injury during training.

"At the last (examination), doctors could not believe I am throwing 90 metres while I could successfully apply for a pension as an invalid," said the 34-year-old who will compete in Sydney even if the pain does not go away.

Clement astounds Agassi



NEW YORK, Sept 1: France's Arnaud Clement stunned defending US Open champion Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, ousting the top-seeded American in a second-round shocker here Thursday, reports AFP.

"It's the best victory of my career," Clement said. "To win this match, it's unbelievable. Maybe 15,000 people watching. Everybody is for him. It's great."

The 102-minute defeat marked Agassi's earliest exit from Flushing Meadows since 1993, when he was nagged by a wrist injury and made a first-round departure.

"I just got outplayed," Agassi said. "Every time I stepped up I kept missing and he stepped up and got offensive -- just a brutal day."

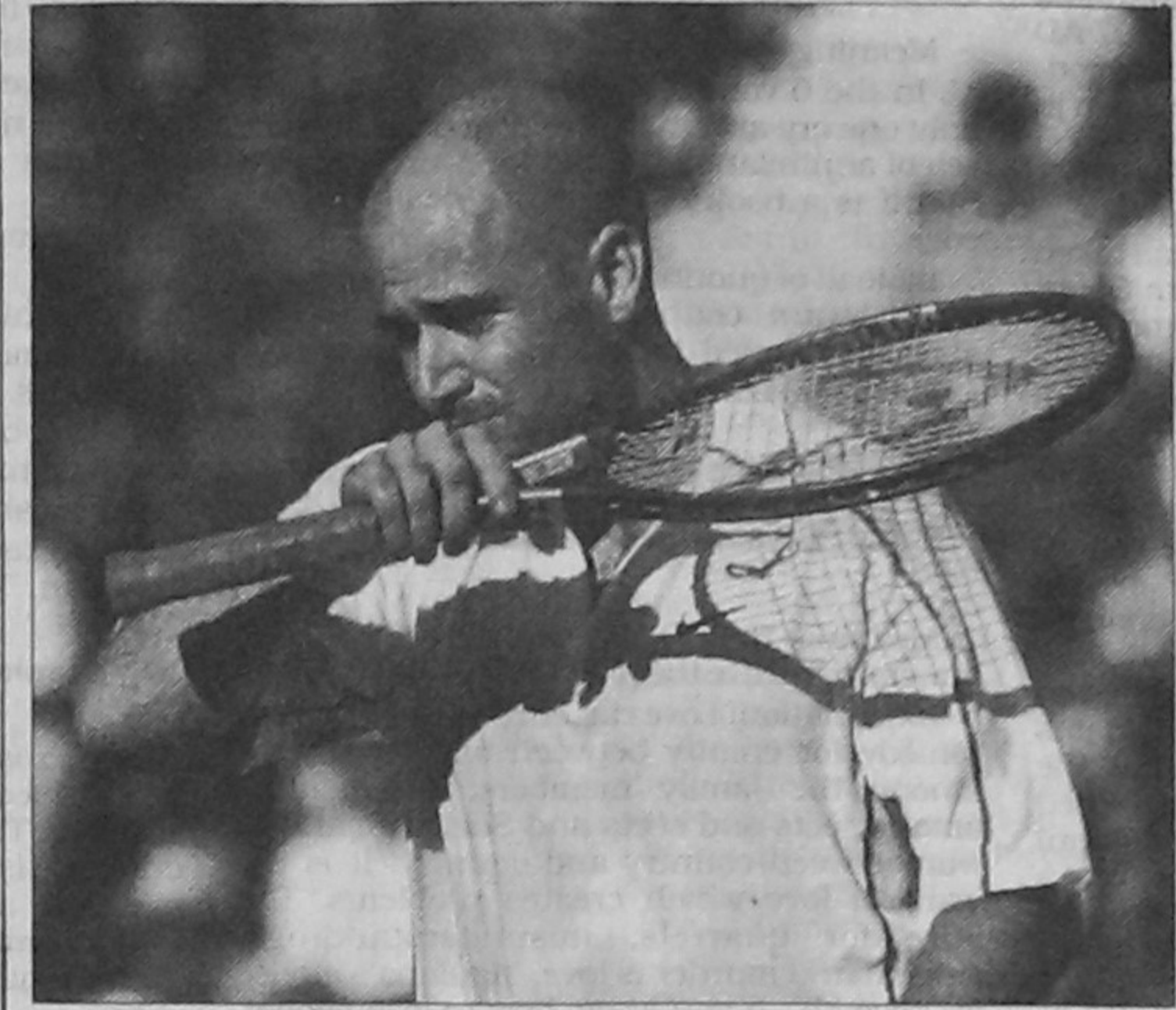
The French Open and fourth round here - each a victory that helped Agassi claim a Grand Slam title.

Agassi led 3-1 before Clement won seven games in a row to seize control, breaking in the sixth and eighth games and again in five points to open the second set.

The champion fought back on Clement's first service game of the second set, battling from 0-40 down to force seven deuces but failing on his only break point chance of the game.

Clement broke Agassi again in the seventh game and swatted a 99-mph ace to hold serve and capture the second set.

Agassi surrendered the only third-set break in the penultimate game, sending a backhand over the baseline before Clement hit a backhand winner to take the break.



American superstar Andre Agassi is in apparent disgust after losing a point on way to his second round exit from the US Open on August 31. Top seeded Agassi was upset by Frenchman Arnaud Clement.

—AFP photo

Agassi joined second seed Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil and two-time US Open champion Pat Rafter of Australia on the scrap heap halfway into round two.

"I never found my quality pay shot that allowed me to dictate without taking too many chances," Agassi said. "Once you start second guessing your shots, your feet aren't moving very well."

Six-time Grand Slam champion Agassi, who in January won the Australian Open title, struggled with back spasms after a July auto accident and was hurt for a crucial moment of preparation for the Open.

Agassi, 30, has also been distracted by health worries for his mother and sister, both of whom have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

But Agassi said neither his back nor his head was to blame for the loss.

Clement, 22, was the only ATP player to reach the semi-finals in three US Open hard-court tuneups - Los Angeles, Cincinnati and last week's Hantuk Cup.

The 37th-ranked right-hander had lost both prior meetings with Agassi last year in Grand Slams, in the second round of

Agassi saved four match points, denying Clement and raising hopes of a miracle rally. But Agassi netted a forehand and Clement went through to a third-round date against Morocco's 41st-ranked Hicham Arazi, who ousted South African Wayne Ferreira 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3.

Agassi's quarter of the bracket opens well for ninth seed Lleyton Hewitt. The 19-year-old Australian beat 101st-ranked Julien Boutter of France 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, 6-4 in two hours and 20 minutes.

Hewitt, whose 49-12 record is second-best on the tour in 2000, will next play for a berth in the round of 16 next against 39th-ranked Czech veteran Jiri Novak, who ousted 29th-ranked Byron Black of Zimbabwe 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 (7/4).

Fifth seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia also struggled to get by 83rd-ranked Alexander Popp of Germany 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in two hours and 44 minutes. Popp swatted 20 aces past the Russian and had 61 winners to 24 for Kafelnikov, but could not overcome 73 unforced errors.

Kafelnikov, the 1996 French Open and 1999 Australian Open champion, next faces 36th-ranked Dominik Hrbaty of

Slovakia for a spot in the round of 16. He reached the 1999 semi-finals here and the Australian Open final in January.

South Korean qualifier Lee Hyung-Taik, playing the best tennis of his life in his Grand Slam debut, finds himself one victory from a possible fourth-round matchup against superstar Pete Sampras.

Lee ousted 13th seed Franco Squillari of Argentina 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, 6-2, here Thursday at the 15-million dollar hardcourt event.

Agassi's ouster from the tournament captured the day's attention, which is fine with Lee, a 24-year-old right-hander ranked 182nd in the world.

"No one is paying attention. That's how I like it," Lee said. "I'm ecstatic. I'm continuing my road."

Lee came through Open qualifying after winning last week's Challenger event in the Bronx. Korea's top-rated player had not played an ATP match until a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) opening triumph here over US Olympian Jeff Tarango.

Eleventh seeded Tim Henman of Britain reached the third round, eliminating Chilean qualifier Fernando Gonzalez 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 in one hour and 42 minutes.

Henman fired eight aces, three of them in the final game, which he took after a double fault when Gonzalez hit a forehand long.

Defending women's champion Serena Williams powered her way to another victory at the Open.

The fifth-seeded Williams served up six aces and hammered home 17 winners in brushing aside Russian Nadejda Petrova.

Australian Open champion Lindsay Davenport rallied to beat 17-year-old Belgian prodigy Kim Clijsters and French Open champion Mary Pierce ousted Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva.

Second-seeded Davenport defeated 30th-ranked Clijsters 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 in 90 minutes, twice the length of her opening match, while French fourth seed Pierce battled a sore shoulder for a 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 victory in 99 minutes.

Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn, ranked 42nd, also advanced, dispatching Spain's Virginia Ruano Pascual 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 to put herself into a fourth round match against Davenport.

Belgium's Dominique Van Roost, the 14th seed, retired from her match with heat illness, allowing American Lilia Osterloh to reach the third round.

Russian Anna Kournikova downed Czech Sandra Kleinova 6-4, 6-1.

Also advancing was Japan's Shinobu Asagoe, ranked 94th on the WTA Tour, who stunned 22nd-ranked Swiss veteran Patty Schnyder 7-5, 6-4. Asagoe broke her four times in the first set and although she only managed to convert 1-of-7 break chances in set two, it was all she needed.

Asagoe, only 3-4 in WTA matches entering the Open, booked a third-round date with 57th-ranked American Lilia Osterloh.

An ex-gangster's Olympic dreams

LAGOS, Sept 1: Nigeria's Taribo West, a former Lagos street gangster who recently turned pastor, travels to Sydney in the hunt for another Olympic gold...

...and to win more souls for Christ, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old AC Milan defender will be in Sydney unlike several of his international teammates who have snubbed the chance to repeat their heroics of four years ago in Atlanta.

For the tough-tackling defender, he owes his life to football and so he is ever willing to show his gratitude by playing the game at any opportunity.

Taribo grew up as an "area boy" or street gangster in the tough neighbourhood of Shomolu, east of the city of Lagos.

His street gang burgled homes, extorted money from passers by and generally terrorised the neighbourhood. This was despite the fact he and his gang lived only a short distance from the local police station.

"Shomolu was a dangerous place, very dangerous," said Taribo of the neighbourhood he

grew up in after leaving his hometown of Port Harcourt at the age of 10.

"I was one of the area boys and anytime I come across them I remember the bad things we did in the past. Most

of my area boy friends no longer come to me. I suspect most of them must be dead by now. If not, they would come around to extort some money from me," he told AFP.

Taribo continued: "I remember that the police usually raided Shomolu because they suspect some people of dealing in hard drugs."

He saw a gang member beaten to death by fellow gangsters to know that he is not cut out for such a brutal and dangerous life.

"I saw somebody I knew from Port Harcourt beaten to death by some area boys. It happened right before my eyes. I can never forget that sordid incident."

"After that boy's death I fled to Port Harcourt to stay with my mother."

It was this point he resolved to make a success of a career in football even though his aggressive style was there to remind everyone of his tough past.

After seven years as a professional in Europe Taribo's life has turned full circle. He has started a foundation to support the poor and needy. He has also given his life to Christ and is a pastor in the little church he founded at his base in Italy.



TV Guide

Saturday 2nd September

(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.)

BTB

Morning Prog.
9:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline 9:05 Patriotic Song 9:10 Khela Dhula 9:40 Sukhi Paribar 10:05 Sastho Tathto: Serial 10:35 Angona (Women Prog.) 10:50 Movie of The Week: Charam Sattru (Bangla Dub) 12:35 A) Programme Outline For 2nd Session B) National Song 12:40 Closing.

Evening Prog.
3:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline 3:15 Patriotic Song 3:20 Tele Film: / Serial: Durer Aakash 4:00 Sambad

(Bangla News) 4:05 Nabagato (New Artist Audition Live Coverage) 5:25 Prothochobi 6:05 Nibedan 6:30 Transmission From Chittagong Center 7:00 Sambad (Bangla News) 7:05 Geetimallo (Song of Robinranath) 7:25 Series: Mowgli (Robi Rana) 8:00 Bangla News At 8:20 Weekly Drama: Aangshiq Rangan 10:00 News At Ten (English) 10:20 Khola Jaanala (Talk Show) 10:50 Mini Series: A Son of Good Earth 11:30 Sambad (Bangla News) 11:35 English News 11:40 A) Programme Outline For Sunday B) National Song 11:45 Closing.

EKUSHEY TV

2:00 Ajker Potrikay 2:10 Jana Ajana 2:35 Classic Cartoons 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:02 Bangla Movie: Prothodhi (Rajjak, Shuchonda) 5:30 Drishtee 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:02 Noorjahan 7:00 Ekushey Headlines 7:02 Ajker Potrikay 7:10 Classic Cartoons 7:20 Circus Circus 7:45 Ekushey News

8:00 Ei Shoptah 8:30 Bangla Movie: Bhai Bondhu (Jafar Iqbal, Shunetra, Ilias Kanchon) 10:00 BTB News 10:20 Bangla Movie: Bhai Bondhu (remaining part) 11:00 Ekushey Late Night News 11:15 Ei Shoptah 11:30 Ekushey News Headline

CHANNEL-1

6:15 Drama Everyday Fifti Fifti 7:00 Your Choice Olle Olle 8:40 Six Million Dollar Man 8:00 Magazine: Din Protidin 8:25 Look 9:00 Drama Gunay Bibi 9:50 I Focus 10:10 Reciting from Holy Quran 10:10 I Music 10:40 Abritti Ar Kazi Arif 11:15 Drama Everyday: Fifti Fifti 12:00 Your Choice Olle Olle 12:40 Six Million Dollar Man 1:05 Saroy Barita 1:15 Look 2:00 Drama: Gunay Bibi 2:50 I Focus 3:00 Bangla Cinema: Matir Ghar (Razzak/Sabana) 6:00pm Reciting from Holy Quran 6:30 Tarar Sangar Synik 6:40 Drama Sangar 7:15 Drama Everyday: Fifti Fifti 8:40

Gar Gherostali 9:05 Sastho Burita 9:15 Sandho Madhuri 9:50 I Focus 10:00 Silpi & Silpo: Abuljalal Al Mamun Drama luboketay 11:00 Bangla Cinema: Zid 12:00 Magazine: Suvo Ratri.

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