

Decision on Kapil soon

PATNA, Sept 4: A day after the cricket board dropped Mohammad Azharuddin, Nikhil Chopra and Ajay Jadeja from probabilities for next month's ICC knockout competition, Minister of State for Sports Shahnawaz Hussain yesterday suggested BCCI would take a decision soon about national coach Kapil Dev, reports PTI.

Welcoming the BCCI decision to exclude the three cricketers who are facing investigations on charges of match-fixing, he suggested the board would soon take a decision on others including Kapil Dev.

Afridi takes it sportingly

KARACHI, Sept 4: Popular cricket all-rounder Shahid Afridi said Monday punishment for "misconduct" would have a positive effect on his career and make him more responsible, reports AFP.

"I am satisfied that I didn't commit any mistake but I accept this punishment. It will have a positive effect on my career," Afridi told this news agency.

Afridi and two other players — Hasan Raza and Atiquzzaman — were fined 50,000 rupees (900 dollars) and suspended for one tournament after women were found in their hotel room during a recent training camp.

The board has accepted that there was no evidence of the incident and I maintain that nobody came in my room but punishments are for our betterment, to make us more responsible," he said.

Pakistan Cricket Board held an inquiry into the affair and its Chairman General Tauqir Zia decided to penalise the trio over the August 15 incident, board Director Yawar Saad said.

The inquiry team manager Brigadier Mohammad Nasir found the incident was grossly exaggerated as there was no evidence except that some female fans barged into the players' room," he said.

England break

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helmet as he slid in.

The luckless batsman needed prolonged on-field attention before third umpire Barrie Leadbeater gave him out for 27 made off 31 balls including four fours.

West Indies were 140 for five and two runs later they lost their sixth wicket when Ridley Jacobs on one was surprised by a Caddick delivery that bounced sharply and was caught by Graeme Hick at second slip to the delight of a capacity 18,500 crowd.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the fifth day of the fifth and final Test between England and the West Indies at The Oval on Monday:

ENGLAND: First innings 281 (M Atherton 83, M Trescothick 78, C Walsh 3-68, N McLean 3-80)

WEST INDIES: First innings 125 (C White 5-32, D Cork 3-23)

ENGLAND: Second innings 217 (M Atherton 108, Walsh 4-217, McLean 3-60)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 33-0)

Campbell c Hick b Gough 28
Griffith c Stewart b Caddick 20
Lara lbw b Gough 47
Hinds lbw b Caddick 7
Adams c White b Caddick 15
Sarwan run out 27
Jacobs c Hick b Caddick 1
Nagarmootoo lbw b Gough 13
Alenah not out 23
Ambrose c Atherton b Cork 28
Walsh lbw b Cork 0
Extras: (lb-3; w-1; nb-2) 6
Total: (All out in 70 overs) 215

Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-50, 3-58, 4-94, 5-140, 6-142, 7-150, 8-167, 9-215

Bowler O M R W
Gough 20 3 64 3
Caddick 21 7 54 4
White 11 2 32 0
Cork 15 1 50 2
Vaughan 3 1 12 0

Never again

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years, although this has been veiled behind the West Indies horrible run of form.

And finally there is that intangible factor, the fight in the old dog, that mere statistics will not presume to analyse. Rather leave that to the captain and close friends who have always appreciated the guts of Ambrose and Walsh.

Anyone who saw Ambrose and Cuddy walk off The Oval to the cheers of the crowd will have known that they did their best because that is what they always did. Thanks for the memories fellas.

Romario's roaring return



UNDATED, Sept 4 (Reuters/AP): Veteran ace Romario made a scintillating comeback for Brazil in a white-wash at Bolivia while there was a thumping win for Uruguay and a tricky victory for table-toppers Argentina in Sunday's CONMEBOL Zone qualifiers for the 2002 World Cup.

BRAZIL - 5, BOLIVIA - 0

RIO DE JANEIRO, Living up to the hopes pinned on him by fans, Romario scored three goals in his comeback to international play as Brazil thrashed Bolivia 5-0.

Romario's hat-trick confirmed fans expectations that Romario's offensive power would put an end to Brazil's mediocre play that had disappointed fans and led to a humiliating 3-0 loss to Chile last month.

"I was called to the team to score goals," 34-year-old Romario said after the match. "It was great to be here for the great

goal area. Romario didn't waste the opportunity and lofted the ball over Soria, who had come out to stop the play, and into the goal.

Brazil's fourth and Romario's third came two minutes later in the 35th minute of the second half on another movement from Vampeta. This time, Vampeta crossed to Rivaldo who was hovering near the goal. Rivaldo let the ball pass to Romario who's touch rolled into the goal.

In the 43rd minute, Marques received a pass from Julinho and got off a shot after charging into the area from the left. The ball bounced off Bolivian defender Sandy and into the net for Brazil's fifth.

Fans who packed Rio's legendary Maracana stadium despite the pouring rain cheered Romario wildly at the end of the game.

Vampeta, who had scored two of Brazil's goals in a 3-1 victory against Argentina, was another standout in the game — he had two assists and helped

emburgo.

Luxemburgo spent the month of August facing a storm of criticism for Brazil's loss against Chile and denying accusations that he evaded taxes and profited from an illegal scheme buying and selling soccer players.

ARGENTINA - 2, PERU - 1

LIMA: Argentina's march to the World Cup finals continued with a resolute victory over Peru in Lima.

The South American group leaders overcame their recent defeat against Brazil, and held out against Peru's last-gasp efforts to grab an equaliser.

This was not a brilliant performance, but Argentina always possessed the quality that would make the difference between the two sides.

Hernan Crespo continued to stake his claim to be an able replacement for the injured Gabriel Batistuta, striking a powerful right-footed goal on 27

Argentina held on to their four-point lead in the South American qualifying group.

URUGUAY - 4, ECUADOR - 0

MONTEVIDEO: Dario Silva was the inspiration as Uruguay thrashed Ecuador 4-0.

The first goal came after Olivera was tripped overlapping down Ecuador's right flank. Magallanes' 15th minute free kick sailed into the top corner, giving goalkeeper Joao Francisco Cevallos no chance.

Silva notched an opportunistic goal on 37 minutes, out-leaping Cevallos and the rest of the Ecuador defence to connect with Olivera's floated free kick.

Uruguay stepped up the pace in the second half and Silva continued to cause problems.

Olivera put the game beyond reach with a superbly taken goal on 55 minutes. Magallanes dropped the ball behind the Ecuador defence, and the midfielder looped the ball over the stranded Cevallo.

Gabriel Cedres completed the demolition on 81 minutes, latching on to a clever turn by substitute Sebastian Abreu.

Romesh returns to Lanka squad

COLOMBO, Sept 4 (Internet report): Wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana and fast bowler Pramodya Wickremasinghe have been recalled to the Sri Lanka squad for October's ICC Knock-out tournament in Nairobi.

Kaluwitharana was dropped during the Singer triangular one-day series, making way for an outstanding debut by Kumar Sangakkara in the Test series against South African which followed.

Meanwhile, Avishka Gunawardena established his credentials as opening partner to captain Sanath Jayasuriya.

There is again no place for veteran Aravinda de Silva, dropped from the one-day squad following an unsuccessful experiment as opener during the Asia Cup at the end of May.

Wickremasinghe, who missed the August series due to a neck strain, replaces left-arm pace bowler Sajeeva de Silva in the 15 that defeated South Africa in the final of the Singer series.

Sri Lanka play West Indies in their opening match of the tournament. If they fail to reach the final, they will return home before taking off to Sharjah for the tri-nation tournament with India and Zimbabwe later in the month. Further changes may be made to the squad following the Kenya tournament.

TEAM

Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu (vice-captain), Avishka Gunawardena, Russell Arnold, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara (wicketkeeper), Romesh Kaluwitharana (wicketkeeper), Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Pramodya Wickremasinghe, Erik Upas-hantha, Muthiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Kumar Dharmasena.



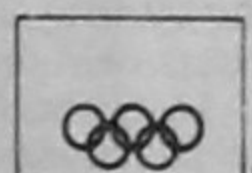
BACK WITH THREE BANGS! Brazilian superstar Romario (No 11) is ecstatic after completing his hat-trick against Bolivia in a World Cup 2002 qualifier at Rio de Janeiro on September 3.

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Points
1. Argentina	8	6	1	1	18	7	19
2. Colombia	8	4	3	1	8	4	15
3. Brazil	8	4	2	2	14	9	14
4. Uruguay	8	4	2	2	11	5	14
5. Paraguay	8	4	2	2	11	8	14
6. Chile	8	3	1	4	11	10	10
7. Ecuador	8	3	1	3	9	9	10
8. Peru	8	2	2	4	6	7	8
9. Bolivia	8	1	2	5	4	14	5
10. Venezuela	8	1	0	7	5	20	3

Note: Top four qualify for the World Cup in 2002. Fifth team plays off against the winners of the Oceania region.

Munich massacre revisited



LONDON, Sept 4 (Internet report): An Oscar-winning film to be broadcast on BBC's domestic television channel tells the real story behind the massacre at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

The world looked on in horror 28 years ago as Israeli athletes were taken hostage by Palestinian terrorists in the Olympic Village. Eleven were murdered.

Narrated by actor Michael Douglas, *Storyville: One Day in September* — which will be shown on Tuesday night — reveals a tale of mystery, conspiracy, tragedy and ineptitude.

Jamal Al Gashey, the lone surviving member of the Black September guerrillas, gives his first interview since the killings.

The 1972 Games had been a great success for the first 10 days.

Swimmer Mark Spitz, a Jew, won seven gold medals, while Russian gymnast Olga Korbut captured the hearts of millions.

But the picture darkened on 5 September when a group of eight Palestinian terrorists raided the Israeli team headquarters.

The gripping documentary examines how events unfolded, mixing archive footage with the interviews of key figures in-

cluding athletes, police, and relatives of those who died.

For several hours, the International Olympic Committee resisted pressure to suspend the Games but eventually gave way to protests.

Zvi Zamir, the then chief of Israeli secret service Mossad, questions the priorities of the authorities in Germany.

"To let the Olympic Games carry on, this was their main objective. The Israeli team and its rescue was second to that," he says.

Meanwhile, the German government and police bungled their attempts to rescue the hostages.

One bid to storm the building with a squad of volunteers had to be abandoned when it became clear the targets could see what was happening on television.

When the terrorists requested a jet to fly them out of Germany, a plan was hatched to lay on a decoy plane filled with a police squad who could overpower them.

But the team felt they were not trained for this task.

Fearing a suicide mission, they pulled out just seconds before two helicopters containing the Palestinians and Israelis landed at the airport.

Even at this late stage, the Germans thought there was only four or five terrorists,

rather than eight, and positioned just five snipers at the airport.

The programme tells how a sniper and a fleeing helicopter pilot were shot and seriously injured by members of their own side.

Armoured police cars were called in late as reinforcements, and were then caught in traffic as crowds clogged the roads in an effort to see the drama.

The terrorists finally killed the athletes by throwing a grenade into one helicopter and firing a round of bullets into the other.

Yet as the shoot-out was happening, a German government spokesman claimed the operation had been a success, prompting "They're free" headlines around the world.

Ankie Spitzer, widow of the murdered Israeli fencing coach Andre, says: "At midnight came the official announcement from a spokesman of the German government who said all the Israelis are safe and all the terrorists are dead."

It was several hours before she learned the awful truth.

The three terrorist survivors were never tried, and were handed over to Libya in exchange for the freedom of hostages when a jet bound for Frankfurt was hijacked seven weeks later.

DD 7 (BANGLA)

8:40 Khas Khabar 9:05 Amrito Katha 9:30 Sangbad 9:30 Khela Ar Khela 10:30 Jamnadin (Birthdays Greet-Ins) 10:30 Game Gane 10:35 Shree Ram Krishna 11:00 Hay Mohajebon 11:15 Classical/Folk

12:40 Horror Show 1:05 Sasroy Barta 1:50 Business File 1:50 Focus 2:00 Drama: Chitti 3:00 Bangla Cinema: Amor Prem 6:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 6:10 Music 6:40 Mancholik 7:15 Drama: Sayanvora 8:00 Bangla Cinema Satodher Gane 8:40 Drama: Hate 9:05 Sasroy Barta 9:15 Anandohara 9:50Focus 10:00 Sanglap 11:00 Bangla Cinema: Khuasa 12:00 Magazine: Suvho Rattri.

CHANEL-I

6:15 Drama-Everyday: Fifti Fifti 7:00 Special programme 7:40 Horror Show 8:00 Din Protidin 8:25 Business File 8:50 Focus 9:00 Drama: Chitti 10:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 10:10 Aker Vithor Pauch 10:40 Music 11:15 Drama: Fifti Fifti 12:00 Special programme

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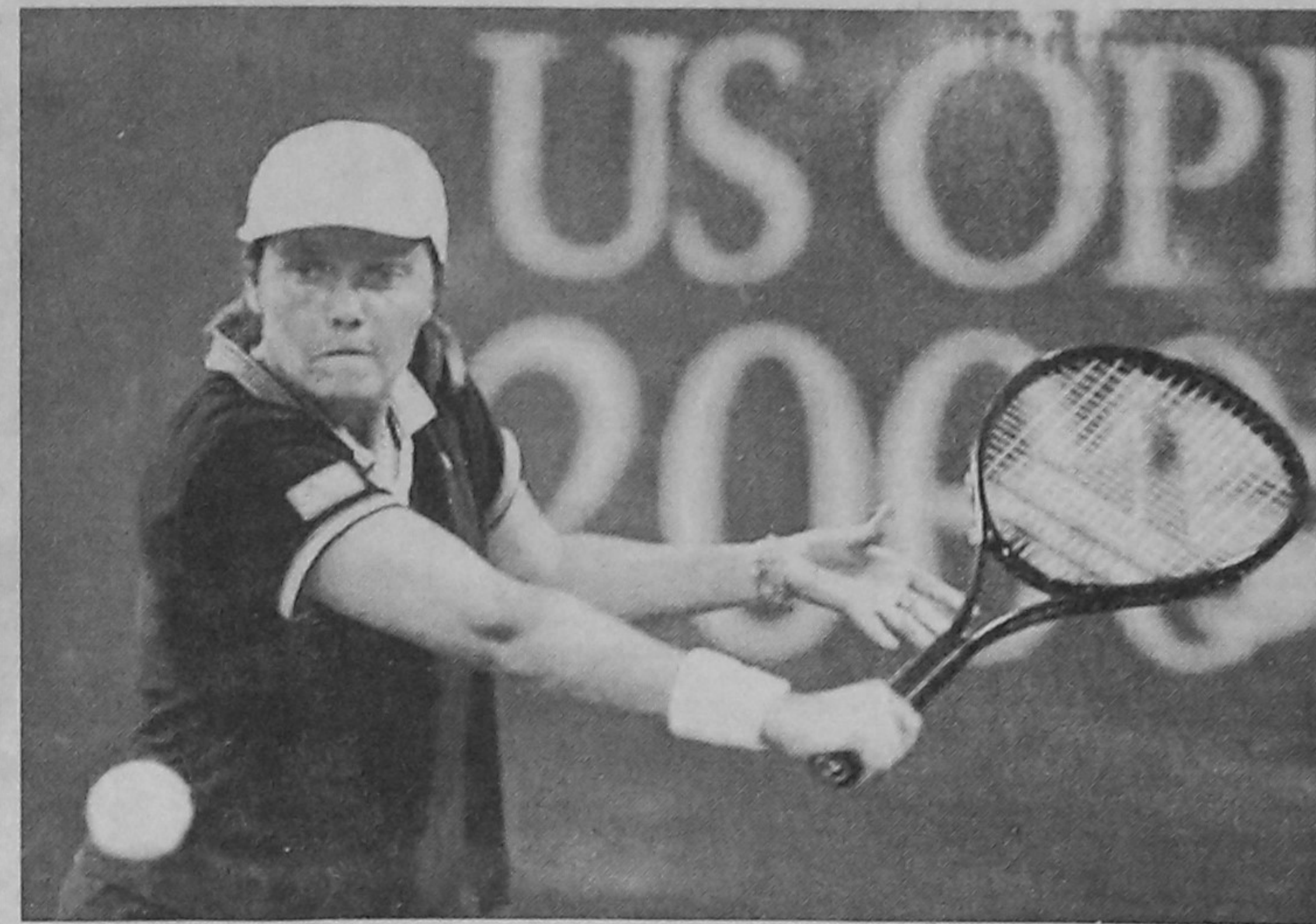
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Nathalie Tauziat of France hits a backhand return against Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario at the US Open on September 3.

— AFP photo

Norman, Safin survive scares



NEW YORK, Sept 4: Third-seeded Magnus Norman and sixth-seeded Marat Safin were stretched to the

limits on a rainy Sunday at the US Open, with both players needing to win fifth-set tiebreakers to survive, reports Reuters.

Norman, the highest remaining seed following the early upsets of top-seeded 1999 champion Andre Agassi and second-seeded French Open winner Gustavo Kuerten, recovered from the more dangerous situation.

The 24-year-old Swede clawed his way back from two sets down and saved four match points before claiming a 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, 7-6 (11-9) victory over relentless serve-and-volleyer Max Mirnyi of Belarus.

"It's an unbelievable feeling," said Norman, who won on his third match point of the tiebreaker when he whipped a backhand crosscourt passing shot that Mirnyi dove for at the net but could not return.

Safin won the first two sets but then had to fight for his Open life against Sebastian Grosjean of France, who battled the 20-year-old Russian valiantly before falling 6-4, 7-6 (7-3), 1-6, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5).

Australian qualifier Wayne Arthurs of Australia, who ousted Kuerten in the opening round, go five sets before vanquishing compatriot Richard Fromberg 7-6 (7-3), 1-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero,

the 12th seed, needed to win a fourth-set tiebreaker that was also interrupted by the rain before dismissing Swiss Roger Federer 7-5, 7-6 (8-6), 1-6, 7-6 (8-6) to earn a fourth-round match against Safin.

American Jan-Michael Gambill also needed a fourth-set tiebreaker to advance past Thomas Johansson of Sweden 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-1).

Earlier, 14th-seeded Nicolas Kiefer of Germany stayed dry by scooting into the fourth round with a straight-sets win over Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands.

The 23-year-old Kiefer won the battle of former US Open boys' singles champions 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 in the only match completed before the rains came.

He will meet Norman in the fourth round.

The women's seeds marched steadily into the quarterfinals, with all the winners advancing without the loss of a set.

Wimbledon winner Venus Williams extended her win streak to 23 matches and declaring herself ready for a run at her second consecutive Grand Slam title.

The 20-year-old American ousted 33rd-ranked Magui Serna of Spain 6-2, 6-2 in 53 minutes. Third seed Williams rolled to a 4-0 lead in only 12 minutes and took the first set in 26.

"I feel more warmed up now, more in a groove and ready to compete," Williams said. "I'm feeling a lot more clear on my serve. It was a lot more effective and the pace on my second serve

was more effective. I can put it where I want."

Williams has not lost since the French Open, a title run that includes the All-England Club plus US Open hardcourt tuneups in Stanford, San Diego and New Haven.

The American next faces France's Nathalie Tauziat, the eighth seed who beat Spain's Arantxa Sanchez for the first time in 12 tries by a 6-3, 6-2 score. Tauziat had taken only one prior set from Sanchez.

Monica Seles scored a 6-3, 6-4 fourth-round victory over 16th-ranked Jennifer Capriati on Sunday to secure her sixth consecutive US Open quarterfinal berth and keep alive another noteworthy streak.

In 10 losses in 53 matches played this year, she has never fallen to a player ranked below her.

All of the fifth-ranked Seles's defeats have been to the four players ranked above her. She lost to Martina Hingis twice, Lindsay Davenport three times, Mary Pierce twice and Venus Williams twice.

Seles could face another test against a player ranked above her in the quarterfinals if world number one Martina Hingis prevails against 11th-ranked Sandrine Testud of France in a late Sunday night match.

The day ended the way it began, with play postponed for the night because of another cloud-burst with Todd Martin leading Cedric Pioline 7-6, 6-3, 2-0; Hingis leading Testud 6-2, 1-0; and Carlos Moya leading Alex Corretja 7-6, 2-1.

Hungary hold Italy



LONDON, Sept 4: Giovanni Trapattoni endured a frustrating start to his reign as Italy coach on Sunday, as his new charges were held to a draw by Hungary in their opening World Cup qualifying fixture, reports Reuters.

Italy coach Trapattoni's first match in control of the Azzurri since replacing Dino Zoff, the man who had guided Italy to the final of Euro 2000.

There were also mixed fortunes on Sunday for other nations who had illuminated Euro 2000.

ITALY-2, HUNGARY-2

Trapattoni was close to pulling off a major coup in his baptism with Italy in their first match since Euro 2000 at Budapest.

They were beaten by a 'golden goal' in extra-time of the final against France in July and Trapattoni is under considerable pressure to maintain Italy's resurgence on the international stage.

The former Juventus and Inter Milan coach has promised to give Italy a more attacking feel and his decision to play Roma's Francesco Totti behind a front pairing of Filippo Inzaghi and Alessandro Del Piero looked to have paid off against Hungary.

Inzaghi scored in the 26th and 35th minute but Trapattoni's masterplan was thwarted with equalising goals from Horvath in the 29th and 78th minute.

SLOVENIA - 2, FAROE ISLANDS - 2

Heroics were also produced in Toftri, where the Faroes scored twice in the last three minutes to deny Slovenia victory in their group one qualifying match.

Saso Udovic and Milan Ostergave Slovenia the advantage with just five minutes left, before strikes by the Faroes' Uni Arge and Ossur Hansen salvaged a point.

PORTUGAL - 3, ESTONIA - 1

In Tallinn, Portugal cruised to a 3-1 win over Estonia in their group two World Cup qualifier.

Portugal struck in the 14th minute through Manuel Rui Costa, before a free-kick goal from Luis Figo and a header from Ricardo Pinto ensured that Estonia's response — an

Maldini joins Zoff

BUDAPEST, Sept 4: Paolo Maldini equalled Dino Zoff's record of 112 appearances for Italy when he took the field against Hungary in a World Cup European group eight qualifier on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The 32-year-old AC Milan defender made his international debut in a friendly against Yugoslavia on March 31, 1988.

He has been a regular at left back in the Italian team ever since, playing in three World Cup final tournaments.

84th minute effort from Andres Oper — was a mere consolation.

ROMANIA-1, LITHUANIA-0

Ionel Ganea was up to his usual tricks for Romania in their group eight 1-0 qualifying win over Lithuania in Bucharest.

Ganea, who scored a last-minute, winning penalty as a substitute against England in Euro 2000, came on for his country again on Sunday and found the net with one minute remaining.