

Tour of Pakistan India to decide end of Sept

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: Indian cricket authorities said on Wednesday they would decide at the end of this month whether to accept an invitation to tour Pakistan, reports Reuters.

India has not played a full Test series in neighbouring Pakistan since 1989 and the proposed tour remains in doubt due to the ongoing political dispute between the two countries over Kashmir.

The 1983 World Cup winners are due to play three Tests and five one-day internationals from December to February but the Indian government wants to sever sporting links with Pakistan in light of the trouble in Kashmir.

Over the past decade the Indian team have travelled to Pakistan only once, for a one-day series two years ago.

Pakistan broke the Test deadlock between the two nations when they toured India for a three-Test series in 1999, after a gap of 12 years.

"We are going to discuss the proposed tour at a general body meeting on the 29 (of September), J. Y. Lele, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), told by telephone from Baroda.

On Tuesday the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had urged India to end the uncertainty over the tour.

"India must set us a deadline so we can make alternative arrangements. We would either play a series against Bangladesh or invite a World XI in case India refuse to come," PCB chairman General Tauqir Zia said.

"Whenever I meet Indian Board officials they show an inclination to play Pakistan but their decisions are taken by their government."

The two sides were expected to meet in the Sahara Cup in Toronto later this month but India have already pulled out of the tournament.

Ban on Malik doesn't exist?

KARACHI, Sept 7: A lawyer for former Pakistani cricket captain Salim Malik said Thursday the life ban against the player was not legally imposed and his client was ready to challenge it, reports AFP.

"To the best of my knowledge, Malik is not in receipt of any order of Pakistan Cricket Board imposing on him the punishment recommended in Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum's report," lawyer Shahid Hamid told this news agency.

PCB served a show cause notice on Malik asking him why recommendations of Justice Qayyum be not imposed and Malik has given a detailed reply and gave reasons why the punishments be not imposed," he said.

PCB made public Justice Qayyum's report into allegations of match fixing in May last year in which Malik and pacer Ataur Rehman were banned for life and fined one million rupees (20,000 US dollars) each.

Wasim Akram, Saeed Anwar, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq and Akram Raza were each fined between 100,000 to 300,000 rupees following recommendations.

PCB has said the recommendations were implemented immediately.

"The legal process is not followed. Malik has given a comprehensive reply," Hamid said. PCB chairman General Tauqir Zia told reporters on Tuesday that Malik's reply to the notice had been rejected by PCB and should be presented to a court of law.

Malik was given ten days to supply another response to the notice. "I have myself read General Zia's statement in the press, we have not been given anything in writing," the lawyer said.

"Once we get a letter that reply to show cause notice has been rejected we will decide about our next move," he said.

Hamid said his client deserves a personal hearing.

Pistol Pete shoots Richard



NEW YORK, Sept 7: Thirteen-time Grand Slam winner Pete Sampras defeated Richard Krajicek here Wednesday to rally from a set down and four set points in the second set tie-breaker to sub-

duard-serving Dutchman Richard Krajicek and reach the semifinals of the 15 million-dollar Grand Slam hardcourt event, reports AFP.

Up a set and 6-2 in the second set tie-breaker, Krajicek failed to convert on any of his four set points and let Sampras right back into the match as the fourth-seeded American pulled out a 4-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-4, 6-2 victory in two hours and 23 minutes.

"Richard was outplaying me," Sampras said. "I just felt I was going to lose the second set and be down two-sets to love. I thought I was finished. There was nothing I could do. He was doing everything a little better than me."

"The way he was serving, you just pray. My prayers were answered. I got a little bit fortunate in the tie-breaker," he added.

The victory was reminiscent of this year's Wimbledon final between Sampras and Australian Patrick Rafter. There, Sampras also rallied from a set and 4-1 down in the second set tie-breaker before pulling out a four-set victory to claim his 7th Wimbledon crown.

The whole match was a carbon copy of the Wimbledon final. I was thinking about it a lot after the second set. With the tiebreak, the whole match changed within a couple of minutes," Sampras said.

"Richard got maybe a touch down on himself. I started playing a little bit better."

The four-time US Open champion, who only dropped his serve once before his quarterfinal match, was broken in the 9th game of the opening set when his forehand volley sailed wide. The ceaseless net-rushing Dutchman and Sampras exchanged service breaks in the beginning of the second set.

Krajicek opened a 6-2 lead in the tie-breaker and had four set points but Sampras reeled off six consecutive points to even the match at one set apiece.

"I don't think I did anything wrong. I didn't have the feeling I could really blame myself in the

tie-breaker," Krajicek said.

Sampras felt reenergized by the crowd's support, felt stronger as the match progressed and broke the Dutchman early in the fourth set. The crowd really helped me come through tonight," Sampras said.

Krajicek had double break point in the sixth game to even it but Sampras lined up four straight points to maintain the lead, then broke the Dutchman a final time in the 7th game to serve out the match on a 131-mile-per hour first serve winner.

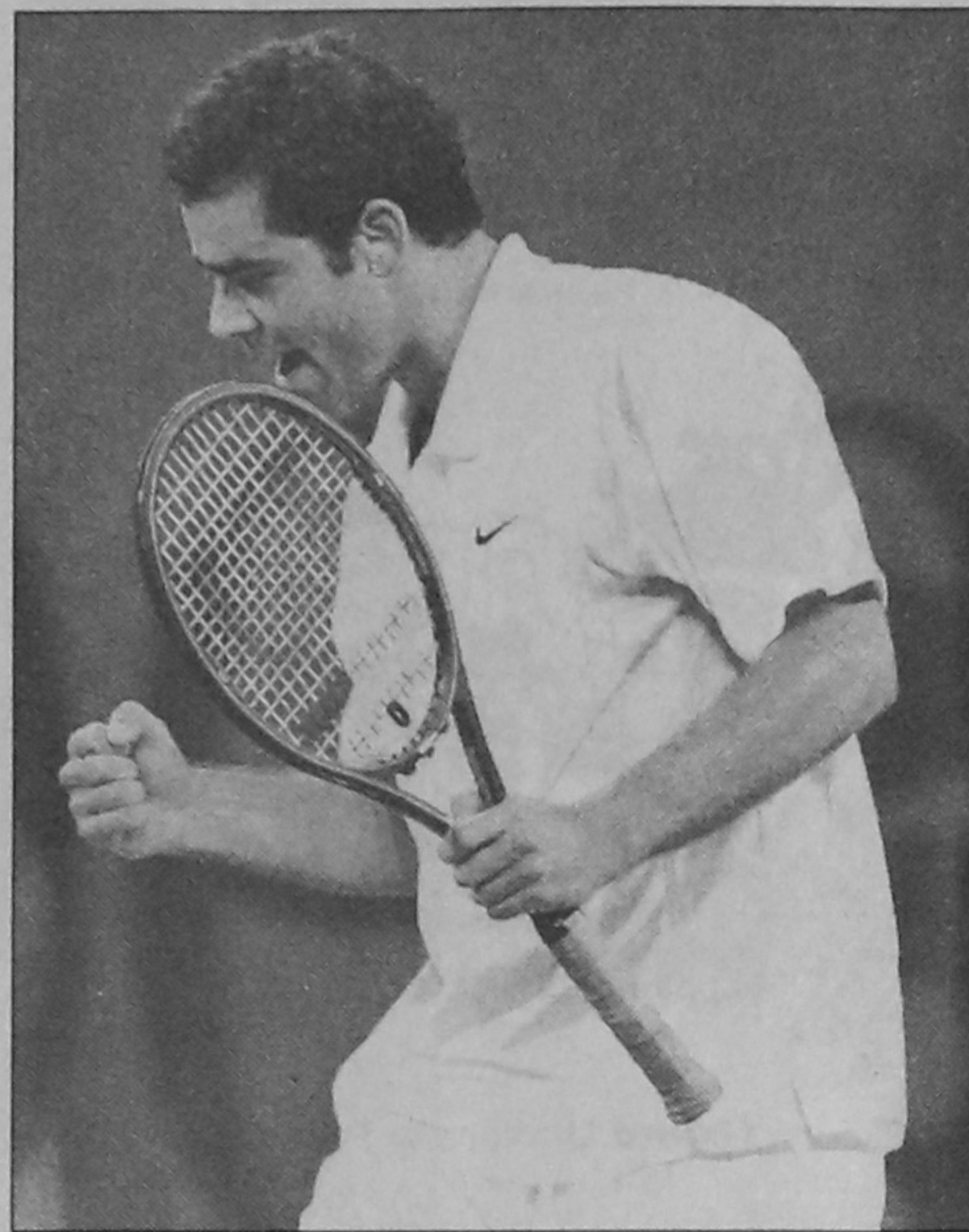
"The fourth set was a disaster. That's the one I'm really disappointed about. I should have stayed with him on serve."

Sampras will face in Saturday's semifinals Australian teen-ager Lleyton Hewitt, who

reached his first Grand Slam Semifinal. The 19-year-old Australian, the number 9th seed, beat 37-ranked Clement 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 in 1 hour and 53 minutes while serving 18 aces along the way.

"Lleyton is playing great," Sampras said. "He gave me a lesson at the Queens Club (Hewitt beat Sampras 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Wimbledon time-up tournament). He's a feisty young guy that's not going to give me any free points. He's one of the futures of the game."

Hewitt, whose ATP high four titles this year match those of Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten, Spain's Alex Corretja and Magnus Norman of Sweden, will be the youngest man to make it to the last four here since Pete Sampras in 1990.



American Pete Sampras is exultant after winning against Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands in the quarterfinals of the US Open in New York on September 6. — AFP photo

SYDNEY SIDELINES

SYDNEY, Sept 7 (AP): When Franklin Servan-Schreiber granted access for a television documentary about the inner workings of the International Olympic Committee, he thought it would help portray the IOC in a positive light.

Instead, the footage ended up in the hands of one of the IOC's most vocal critics — and Servan-Schreiber nearly lost his job.

Servan-Schreiber, the IOC's communications director and chief spokesman, survived pressure for his dismissal Thursday. While his position is safe, at least for now, he will likely have a less visible role during the upcoming Sydney Games.

Servan-Schreiber, a 34-year-old Frenchman, was hired in 1998 to head the IOC's Internet operations. Within months, he was promoted to the PR job at the height of the Salt Lake City bribery scandal.

Earlier this year, he authorized exclusive behind-the-scenes access to a German TV crew in a bid to show how the IOC was opening up and rebuilding after the scandal.

Without the IOC's knowledge, the German producers provided the material to other outlets. The footage was used for a documentary presented by Andrew Jennings, the British journalist and author who has been highly critical of the IOC.

The documentary first aired two weeks ago in Britain on the BBC. It has since been shown in Australia and other countries.

The programme features interviews with Servan-Schreiber and IOC executive board mem-

bers Kevin Gosper of Australia, Dick Pound of Canada, Jacques Rogge of Belgium and Kim Un-yong of South Korea. The commentary is mostly critical and spins off Jennings' new book, "The great Olympic Swindle."

In one particularly embarrassing scene, Gosper argues with Servan-Schreiber over who is in charge during a photo shoot of IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch at Sydney's Olympic Stadium.

In another, Gosper — unaware that he is being recorded — is overheard whispering to Servan-Schreiber about his daughter's controversial role as the first Australian to run with the Olympic torch after the flame lighting ceremony in Greece.

Sydney organising committee chief Michael Knight, who has had tense relations with Servan-Schreiber, met with Samaranch this week to push for his firing, according to Olympic sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The executive board held a special two-hour meeting Wednesday night to watch the programme and assess Servan-Schreiber's position.

NUMBERS CRUNCH
The latest projection for the total number of athletes who will stay in the Olympic village is 10,700 — 500 above the ceiling set by the IOC and Sydney organisers a few years ago.

Jacques Rogge, the IOC official who oversees the Sydney Games, said the number could swell to a maximum of 11,000 but 10,700 was the "reasonable estimate." In addition, about 5,000 officials will stay in the

village, bringing the total population to nearly 16,000.

"The difference lies in the fact that in developing countries more athletes could meet qualifying standards than before," Rogge said, adding that quotas were increased for relays in track and field and swimming.

In some cases, athletes and officials will have to live three to a room, instead of two.

Rogge did not say how the extra athletes would be accommodated, but that the situation was now "fully in order."

VISA MIXUP
The IOC has ironed out a customs and immigrations mix-up that could have left athletes traveling to Australia stranded at airports in Europe and Asia.

IOC executive Jacques Rogge said athletes traveling through Vienna and Bangkok airports had encountered difficulties with airline staff.

The Olympic credential serves as official entry visa to Australia under a special agreement between the Australian government and the IOC.

Rogge said authorities had notified all airlines and airport administrators of the visa arrangements, but the information had not filtered through to all levels.

"Some airline companies were requesting normal visas — those problems have been addressed," he said. "No athlete has been left behind at an airport."

IOC officials declined to name the airlines involved or when the trouble occurred.

BBC World
6:00 BBC World News 6:30 World Living: Talking Movies (Presenter: Tom Brook) 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 Asia Today 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Asia Today 9:45 World Business Report 10:00 BBC News 10:30 World Living: Click Online (Presenter: Stephen Cole) 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Focus: Digital Planet 11:55 Cyberwar 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 Made in India: Moneywise (Presenter: Sucharitha Ghosh) 1:30 BBC World News 1:30 World Living: The Air Show 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Focus: Digital Planet (Presenter: Tim Sebastian) 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 World Living: Talking Movies (Presenter: Tom Brook) 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Focus: Digital Planet

Alpha TV Bangla

6:00 Alaap 7:00 Girisajja 7:30 Bharat Bhromam 8:00 Serial: Din Protidin 9:00 Serial: Kono Ek Din 9:30 Bahari Aahar 10:00 Girisajja 10:30 Serial: Hiyar Majhe 11:00 Serial: Kapurush 11:30 Sa Re Ga Ma 12:30 Serial: Shoni Bhoi 13:00 Serial: Ek Akasher Niche 20:00 Serial: Andolon 2:30 Bangla Movie 5:00 Serial: Ek Akasher Niche 5:30

Khela 10:25 Janmadin (Birthday Greetings) 10:35 Daily Soap: Shree Ram Krishna 11:00 Daily Soap: Hay Mohajebon 11:15 Classical/Folk Songs 11:30 Parliament Hour/Musical 12:00 Bengali Movie 2:30 Khas Khabar 3:00 Daily Soap: Maha Prabhu 3:55 Daily Soap: Bhul Thikanay 4:20 Nepali Prg 5:05 Drama 5:30 News 5:40 Camera Chochhlye 5:50 Palli Katha 6:10 Sopnar Gaan 6:40 Khas Khabar 6:50 Daily Soap: Janmabhumi (Sabbaysachi, Anuradha, Shankar) 7:30 Bangla Sambad 8:00 Batighor 8:30 East Backland Road (Serial) 9:00 Daily Soap: Janmabhumi (Sabbaysachi, Anuradha, Shankar) 9:30 Daily Soap: Shree Ram Krishna 10:00 Khas Khabar 10:20 Mokho Mukhi 10:50 Sambad 10:20 Bangla Movie

DD 7 (Bangla)
8:40 Khas Khabar 9:05 Amrito Katha 9:20 Sangbad 9:30 Khela Aar

All about Hewitt

NEW YORK, Sept 7 (AFP): Just a few short years after watching on television as compatriot Patrick Rafter performed his winning heroics at the U.S. Open, teenage talent Lleyton Hewitt will be taking the stage as a semifinalist at the same venue.

The 19-year-old booked in to the biggest Grand Slam date of his short, fast-rising career Wednesday, destroying Frenchman Arnaud Clement, the man who knocked holder Andre Agassi out in the first round, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

Given his tender age and no doubt some parental supervision regarding bedtime Down Under when the tennis was being played in the States, Hewitt's memories of Rafter's trophy runs here in 1997 and 1998 are understandably hazy.

"I probably took more interest at that time because he was an Australian playing in the Open final," said Hewitt. "It's tough to win two back-to-back matches in five-set tennis."

"I look up to Pat a lot, he's been a great champion and has done so much for Australian tennis. I think he's got a few great years left in him."

"He's definitely going to win a few more Grand Slams in my opinion. Obviously he's struggled this year."

Hewitt, carefully schooled in classic Aussie tennis lore and manners, is careful not to sing his own praises after achieving his best performance in his short Grand Slam career.

"Pat made an early exit here, which was a surprise to everyone. But he didn't play a lot of matches. (Mark) Philippoussis (the 1998 finalist against Rafter) has been in a bit of a slump."

"It's fantastic to be up with those boys who made the final of the event in the past," he added.

Four-event winner Hewitt, aged 19 years, six months, was the youngest quarterfinalist at a Grand Slam event since German Hendrik Dreekman at the 1994 French Open.

He is now the youngest man reach the New York semi since Pete Sampras a decade ago on the way to his first Grand Slam title.

Hewitt has no complaints about his on-form game, which has improved with each match this summer on hardcourt.

"Of course, I'm hitting the ball well. Apart from losing the first set of the tournament, I've won 15 sets on the trot now. Anyone through to the semis feels like they're giving themselves a chance."

Holland tipped for hockey gold

KARACHI, Sept 7: Pakistani starlets today tipped Holland to retain Olympic gold in the field hockey competition at the Sydney Olympics starting next week.

"Holland has the variety in combination that makes it the best bet to win Olympic gold," former Pakistan captain Manzoor Hussain Atif told AFP.

Holland won the Olympic gold for the first time at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 and later won the World Cup and the Champions Trophy in 1998 and 2000 to complete a Grand Slam.

"Germany and Spain are two other teams that can finish on top in Sydney," Atif, also Vice President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), said.

Holland is drawn in Pool A alongside Pakistan, European Champions Germany, Pan American Champions Canada, 1988 Olympics champions Great Britain and Malaysia.

Pool B has hosts Australia, Asian Champions South Korea, Argentina, silver medalists in the 1996 Olympics Spain, eight times Olympic champions India and Poland.

Atif, winner of the first Olympic order in field hockey, sees no chance of a medal for Pakistan.

"The manner they have prepared I can't see them win four matches. Miracles do not happen these days," said Atif, who brought home the gold from Los Angeles for Pakistan as team manager in 1984.

Serena's reign over



NEW YORK, Sept 7: World number two Lindsay Davenport reached the semifinals of the US Open defeating defending champion Serena Williams in straight sets here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The 24-year-old American, the 1998 champion here, blitzed her Olympic teammate Serena Williams 6-4, 6-2 in 89 minutes.

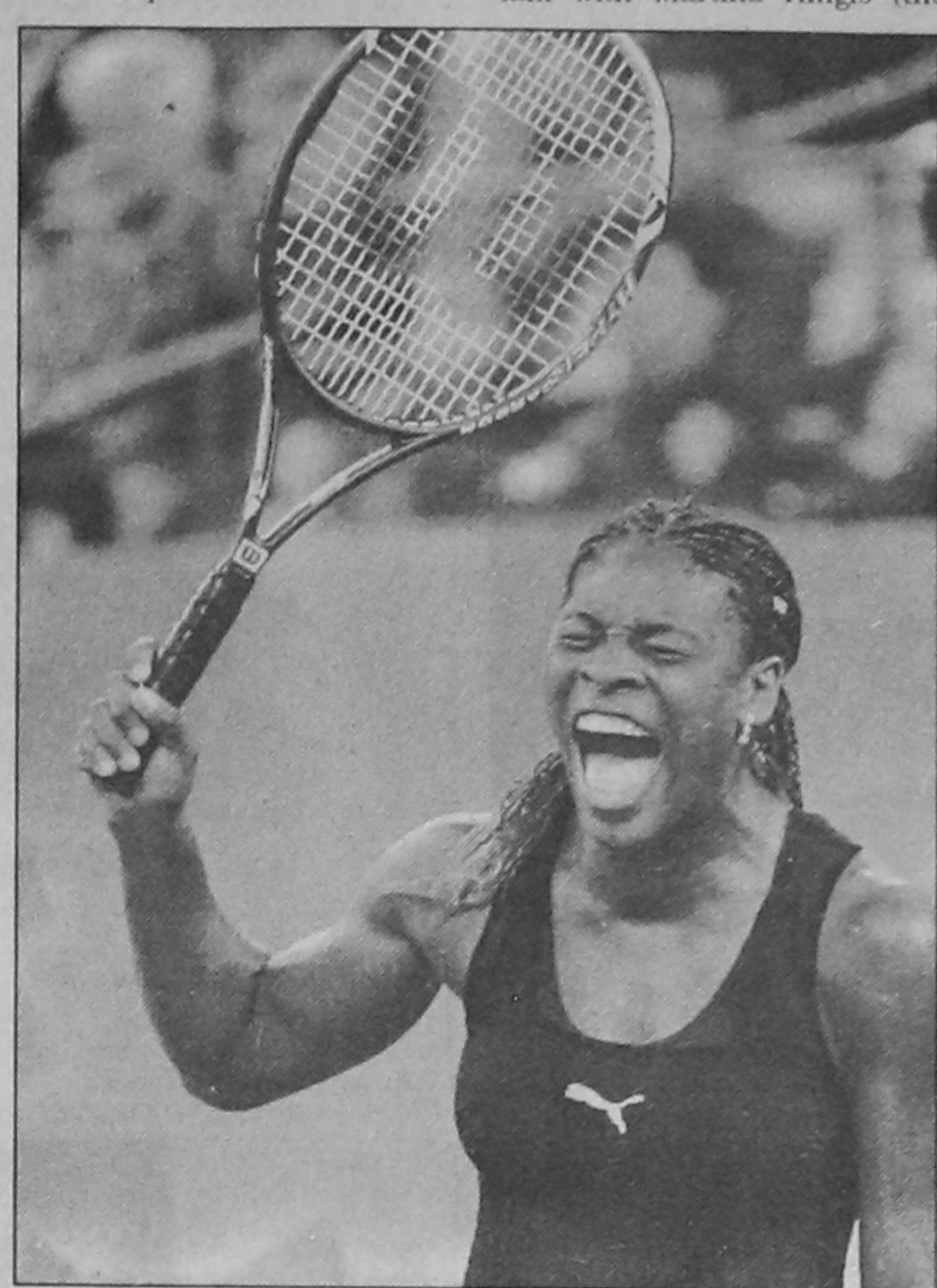
Her foe Friday for a place in the final will be unseeded Russian Elena Dementieva, who upset tenth-seeded Anke Huber of Germany in three-sets. "It just wasn't my best game today," Serena said. "I wasn't serving well. This is the best she's ever played against me."

Davenport, who lost to

William sisters. Despite the victory, Davenport still trails 2-5 in head-to-head meetings against Serena. "It feels great to get over the hurdle of beating her," Davenport said. "I went out today and played the way I was supposed to. I wanted to be more aggressive and be in control of the points. I felt I was able to dictate play."

"It's hard to go for your shots and have a consistent margin. But I was able to do that," she said. With her win, the tall-Californian, a three-time Grand Slam winner, prevented the possibility of a final between Serena and her sister Venus.

"Everyone was expecting an all-Williams final but we had a talk with Martina Hingis (the



American Serena Williams shouts in disgust after losing a point to compatriot Lindsay Davenport during their quarterfinals of the US Open on September 6. Serena lost 4-6, 2-6. — AFP photo

Serena in their last five meetings, averaged her loss of last year's semi-final, when she was knocked out of the hard-court tournament as the defending champion by the younger of the

top-ranked player on the women's tour) and we didn't want it to happen," Davenport said.

Serena feels the confrontation with her sister in a Grand

Koreas may march as one



SYDNEY, Sept 7: Athletes from North and South Korea may still march together during the opening ceremony of the Sydney Games, Olympic officials from both countries said Thursday, reports AP.

International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch has proposed that athletes from the divided peninsula parade as one behind the Olympic flag during the September 15 ceremony.

Samaranch said Wednesday he was "not very optimistic" the joint march would take place because, while the South Koreans have supported the plan, the North Koreans have not responded.

But the IOC members from South and North Korea said Thursday there was still time to work out a solution.

Kim Un-Yong, South Korea's IOC executive board member, said South Korean ministers raised the issue with their counterparts during recent conciliation talks in Pyongyang, the capital of the communist North.

"It's not so complicated to march together," he said. "There is no deadline. We will do everything to promote peace."

dialogue and cooperation. We are willing to go the last minute. The North Koreans never said no."

Chang Ung, the IOC delegation from North Korea, said he would give a reply to the IOC but would not specify when or what he would say.

Kim said he understood the North Koreans were concerned that their team, numbering around 50 athletes, would be barely noticed among the 400-strong South Korean team.

The IOC has proposed the Korean athletes wear identical uniforms, but it was uncertain whether the outfits could be made in time for the ceremony.

Samaranch sent letters to the leaders of both countries

Andre skips Olympics

NEW YORK, Sept 7: Olympic champion Andre Agassi has withdrawn from the Sydney Games in order to stay close to home with his mother, Elizabeth, and sister, Tammy, who are both battling breast cancer.

"It's not so complicated to march together," he said. "There is no deadline. We will do everything to promote peace."

Slam final will occur one day. "It's going to happen in the future, inevitably," she said. "Nobody is going to be able to stop it. Unfortunately, I didn't pull my end up this year."

The two sisters met in the second round of the Australian Open in 1998. Their second meeting in a Grand Slam event occurred last July at Wimbledon.

Hampered by multiple injuries this season, Davenport said she was now fully recovered. "It feels great to play here and be at 100 percent physically," she said. "I haven't had this much freedom on the court since last year."

The reigning US Open champion Serena obtained three break points in the second game of the match but Davenport rallied back to hold on. Both women blasted winners at will with Serena slightly dominating the rallies. But the former Wimbledon champion broke her Olympic teammate at her first opportunity in the 9th game on a forehand unforced error.

"It deflated her when I broke her there," Davenport said.

Serena broke her racket in frustration in the following game, receiving a warning for racket abuse and Davenport closed out the set at her second set point on a Serena missed backhand.

Overhitting, Serena's game began to unravel as she endured a monumental collapse. Davenport broke in the first and third game to go up 4-0, squandered five match points on Serena's serve at 5-1 but finished her off in the next game firing an ace, her fifth, on her sixth match point.

Dementieva, who beat Venus Williams at last year's Fed Cup final, is a surprise semifinalist for everybody except her brother. "He told me I could reach the semis here, she said. He was right. After beating Venus, I knew I could beat top players. That was the turning point for me."

After splitting the two first sets, the 12th ranked Huber, a quarterfinalist here last year, detached herself 2-0 in the decisive set but let her lead evaporate as Dementieva stormed back to take a 3-2 lead, broke Huber in the eight game and served out the match.

"I should have won. I was horrible in the final set. I had a lot of chances and I didn't take them," Huber said. "It was a great chance to make the semis here. I should have taken it."

"But she's a great player. She just plays smart and simple not like the other 18-year-olds who just hit the ball hard."

before June's historic summit between South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang, the capital of the communist North.

Samaranch proposed that all Korean athletes march jointly under the Olympic flag, which would be followed by the flags of each country. South Korea quickly accepted the proposal.

The head of the North Korean national Olympic Committee, Pak Myong Chol, responded in a letter to Samaranch, saying he didn't see the need for the two national flags since the countries' ultimate goal is unification.

In late July, the IOC executive board proposed dropping the national flags from the ceremony, leaving the Korean athletes to march behind the Olympic flag only.

While the solution appeared to be agreeable to both parties, the North Koreans never replied.

It would be the first time the two Koreas marched together at the Olympics.

The Koreans remain technically in a state of war because their three-year conflict in the early 1950s ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

TV Guide

BTV

Morning Prog

9:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation from the Holy Quran and Programme Outline 9:05 Patriotic Song 9:10 Bangla News 9:15 Aalor Disha (Islamic Education for Children) 9:35 NHK Programme 10:00 The News 10:05 Crirajagat/Shuvo Sakaal 10:30 Maner Katha (Programme for Children) 10:55 Manche Nepathye 12:25 A) Programme Outline For 2nd Session B) National Song 12:30 Closing

Evening Prog

3:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation from the Holy Quran and Programme Outline 3:15 Patriotic Song 3:20 Bangla Film 4:00 Bangla News 4:05 Bangla Film Cont 6:05 Sukhi Paribar (Population Based Prog) 6:30 Transmission from Chittagong Centre 7:00 Sambad (Bangla News) 7:05 Malochon (Morden Songs) 7:25 Serial on Nature: Raong Kara Putul 8:00 Bangla News at 8:20 Serial on Health: Timirachamoni 8:16 8:50 Drama Series: Gul Sanobar (Bangla Dub) 9:00 Aasor (Magazine) 10:00 News at Ten (English) 10:20 English Series: The X-Files 11:30 Bangla

News 11:35 English News 11:40 A) Programme Outline for Saturday B) National Song 11:45 Closing

Ekushey TV

2:00 Aikar Potrikay 2:10 Shorashori 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:02 Roshonar Bashona 3:30 Bangla Movie: Mayar Badhon 5:05 Drishti - Public View 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:02 The B's Fight 6:30 Gillette World Sports Special 7:00 Ekushey News Headlines 7:02 Aikar Potrikay 7:20 Pepsodent Braincheck Hosted by: Abdun Nur Tushar 7:45 Ekushey News 8:00 Prohibited 8:30 Bhalobasha Kare Koi 9:00 Shokrobazar Natok: Othili 10:00 BTV News 10:20 Music Hour 11:00 Ekushey Late Night News 11:15 Prohibited 12:00 Ekushey News Headlines

HBO

6:30 Dennis The Menace 8:30 Bert Rigby You're A Fool 10:30 Nothing But Trouble 12:30 My Blue Heaven 2:30 Mad City 5:00 Richie Rich 7:00 Pink Cadillac 9:30 Kindergarten Cop 11:45 The Shadow 2:00 Dennis The Menace 4:00 Pink Cadillac

DD 7 (Bangla)

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