

A pest indeed

SYDNEY, Jan 17: A serial pest came out of retirement Wednesday when he ran onto the Sydney Cricket Ground and disrupted Australia's one-day match against the West Indies, reports AFP.

Peter Hore leapt the fence from the members' area and ran bare foot, wearing a black bra and shorts, to the pitch where he sat down cross-legged in front of the stumps.

He waved his arms before lifting off the balls and gesticulating at West Indies batsman Sherwin Campbell early in the tourists' innings as dusk loomed.

Four security guards tackled him heavily to the ground and escorted the 40-year-old from the field.

Hore announced he had 'retired from being a pest' after being fined 300 Australian dollars for running onto the course waving a didgeridoo during the men's marathon at the Sydney Olympics.

His return Wednesday cost him an instant 5,500-dollar fine for trespassing.

In previous years, Hore has interrupted the funerals of rock singer Michael Hutchence and horse trainer TJ Smith.

He also ran onto the course at the 1997 Melbourne Cup horse race just weeks before he ripped the net during Australia's crucial World Cup football qualifier against Iran in Melbourne.

Last January he sprinted on to court during the Australian Open tennis final and in March invaded the floor in South Australian parliament.

Anil's source of inspiration



ANIL KUMBLE

NEW DELHI, Jan 17: India's Anil Kumble will seek inspiration from fellow-leg spinner Shane Warne of Australia in a bid to salvage his cricket career after a shoulder injury.

Kumble, who will undergo surgery in Johannesburg later on Wednesday, is expected to be out of action for at least four months.

The 30-year-old was, however, confident he will follow the example of Warne and Indian pace bowler Javagal Srinath who returned to international cricket after similar shoulder problems.

"I'm looking at this episode in life positively," Kumble told the Telegraph newspaper.

"In any case, I'll draw inspiration from Sri (Srinath) and Warne in particular. Both didn't allow shoulder surgery to hamper their career."

Kumble, India's leading spinner with 276 Test and 274 one-day wickets, was expected to be a potent force during the upcoming home series against Steve Waugh's all-conquering Australians.

He will miss not only the Australian series and the Sharjah tri-series in April, but also the tour of Zimbabwe in May.

The earliest Kumble can hope to play for India again is on a tour of Sri Lanka in July.

"There was no option. To move ahead in my career, I had to undergo this surgery," Kumble told the paper.

"I'm not going to make a hurried comeback... I know I'll have to religiously follow the rehab programme in the months immediately after surgery. Life won't really be the same again."

The leg-spinner refused to comment whether his five-month stint in English county Leicestershire last year had contributed to the injury.

"Bowling continuously for a decade is bound to cause wear and tear," said Kumble, who

first played for India in 1990. Kumble developed pain in the shoulder during the Sharjah tournament in October, forcing him to miss the home series against Zimbabwe.

Indian captain Sourav Ganguly admitted Kumble's absence against the Australians was a blow, but hoped the team will take it in its stride.

"We'll have to make do with whoever is at hand," Ganguly said.

"Anil would have been a big factor, but there is little we can do. His injury did not look good, so it's not a bolt from the blue."

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BAGC starts

Sports Reporter The Partex 16 Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship (BAGC) began at the Kurmitola Golf Club course yesterday.

Chief of Army Staff and president of the Club M Harun-Ar-Rashid inaugurated the four-day prestigious meet.

A total of 114 foreign and local golfers took part on the opening day.

Points of the top ten players at the end of the opening day are as under:

Sadiq Quddus - 71 Siddiqur Rahman - 74 Mohd Milon - 76 Mohd Hossain - 79 Showkat Uz Zaman - 80 Yalamber S Adhikari - 80 Rahib Bashar - 81 Arshi Haider - 81 Raiyan Rab - 81 Syed Iqbal Azeem - 81

Rain stoppage at Wanderers

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 17: Rain stopped play with Sri Lanka in trouble at 21 for three in the sixth and final limited-overs international against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Fast bowler Roger Telemachus, recalled to the South African team in place of Makhaya Ntini, who was rested, took all three wickets for nine runs before a heavy thunderstorm hit the ground.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the sixth and final limited-overs international between South Africa and Sri Lanka at the Wanderers Stadium on Wednesday:

SRI LANKA J/suriya c Boucher b Telemachus 6 Kwitharana lbw b Telemachus 4 Atapattu not out 2 De Silva c Dippenaar b Telemachus 7 Jayawardene not out 0 Extras: (lb-2) 2 Total: (for 3 wickets in 9 overs) 21

To bat: R Arnold, K Sangakkara, C Vaas, N Zoysa, D Fernando, M Muralitharan. Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-12, 3-20.

Bowler O M R W Pollock 5 1 10 0 Telemachus 4 0 9 3 SOUTH AFRICA: S Pollock, H Dippenaar, H Gibbs, J Kallis, N McKenzie, J Rhodes, N Boje, M Boucher, J Kemp, A Donald, R Telemachus.

Rain

From page 13 balls) seriously worrying the Australian bowlers.

While Lara starred for the Windies, it was vice-captain Ricky Ponting who stood out for Australia with a thrilling 93 from 74 balls, an assault embellished with seven boundaries.

Ponting launched his savage attack after Mark Waugh 89 from 94 balls and acting captain Adam Gilchrist (40 from 46) had snatched 98 in the opening 24 overs in another dominant start.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Carlton series, one-day international between Australia and the West Indies at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday:

AUSTRALIA M Waugh c Powell b Samuels 58 Gilchrist c Powell b Williams 40 Ponting c Adams b McLean 93 Bevan c Campbell b McLean 31 Martyn not out 21 Lehmann not out 19 Extras: (lb-9, w-5, nb-1) 15 Total: (for 4 wickets in 50 overs) 277

Fall of wickets: 1-98, 2-109, 3-187, 4-246

Bowler O M R W McLean 10 0 45 2 Black 8 0 49 0 Stuart 8 0 57 0 Williams 10 0 43 1 Samuels 10 1 39 1 Powell 2 0 22 0 Adams 2 0 13 0

WEST INDIES Hinds c Warne b Bracken 1 Jacobs c Warne b Bracken 21 Campbell c Martyn b Harvey 23 Lara not out 116 Samuels c Gilchrist b Harvey 1 Adams b Warne 9 Powell c Bracken b Warne 28 Williams c Gilchrist b Warne 1 McLean lbw b Symonds 0 Stuart not out 3 Extras: (lb-2, lb-1, w-3, nb-2) 8 Total: (for 8 wickets in 42.4 overs) 211

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-31, 3-67, 4-69, 5-94, 6-161, 7-164, 8-166

Bowler O M R W

McGrath 7.4 1 37 0 Bracken 7 1 21 2 Harvey 7 1 16 2 Symonds 9 0 55 1 Warne 10 0 62 3 Martyn 2 0 17 0

Result: Australia won by 28 runs (under Duckworth-Lewis scoring system).

CARLTON SERIES

TABLE Australia P W L Pts 3 3 - 6 W Indies 4 1 - 2 Zimbabwe 1 - 1 -

Agassi, Sampras

From page 13 court one crowd by ripping off his shirt and tossing it into the stands.

FA wants FIFA to rethink

LONDON, Jan 16 (AFP) - Football Association chief executive Adam Crozier on Tuesday waded into the growing row on the future of the European transfer system, saying world body FIFA's proposal to allow players to walk out on their contracts with just three months notice was 'unworkable', reports AFP.

European governing body UEFA has threatened to split from FIFA and enter into discussions with the European Commission on their own unless FIFA withdraws its controversial blueprint.

Crozier warned UEFA against pursuing unilateral talks with the Commission and advised them to return instead to proposals which were initially presented to the EC by the Transfer Taskforce at the end of October.

"The FA is fully supportive of the position taken by the joint UEFA/FIFA working party prior to Christmas and urges all sides to return to these proposals," said Crozier in his letter.

"The FA has considered the new FIFA proposals and believes them to be unworkable."

"There is no question that if football is to be successful at the negotiating table then it needs to unite behind one set of proposals."

"If we are divided then we will almost certainly fail. It is therefore imperative that UEFA and FIFA do everything in their power to get back together on this fundamental issue for the good of football."

Crozier was speaking just ahead of an emergency UEFA Executive Committee meeting which was to last through Wednesday.

The Commission insists the transfer system has to be revamped as it contravenes existing European laws on the free movement of labour.

UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner earlier warned his organisation was quite ready to go its own way.

"We are prepared to put forward proposals to the Commission. We have the possibilities to put forward proposals that are suitable on our own," said Aigner.

A FIFA statement Monday said it was "committed to doing its utmost to find a global solution that will be satisfactory to all parties."

French Football Federation president Claude Simonet, who is on UEFA's Executive Committee, indicated Tuesday the organisation likewise did not want to see an open conflict break out.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter insists FIFA's proposals are only at the discussion stage.

"We've presented a paper to the Commission and said we want to negotiate. This is not the same as an imposition," said Blatter.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAH, Jan 17: Friends Sporting Club recorded a four-wicket victory over Bright Star Club in the Rajshahi Premier Division cricket league today at the Shaheed AHM Qamruzzaman Divisional Stadium.

Winning the toss, Friends invited the opponents to bat first. Bright Star went all out collecting 99 runs in 34 overs.

In reply, Friends reached the target of 100 runs in 33.3 overs losing six wickets.

DIV I CRICKET Kazihata Sporting Club defeated Agamani Krira Chakra by six wickets in the Rajshahi First Division cricket league today at the local district stadium.

Agamani won the toss and batted first to collect 126 runs for all in 37 overs.

In reply, Kazihata reached the target 127 runs in 32.4 overs.

Biman fly

From page 13 yielding fifteen fives, came to an end when he edged a simple catch to Anwar behind the wicket.

Amimul, the lone Test centurion of the country, was batting on 67 along with Sanwar Hossain, who was on 17, when the stumps were drawn.

For Dhaka Metropolis it was a timid day in the middle with their depleted bowling attack, which missed the firepower of right-arm seamer Neeyamur Rashid, tolling hard.

Neeyamur is serving a one-match disciplinary ban along with inform M Shahrir following their unbecoming behaviour in the previous match against holders Chittagong at Comilla.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the four-day Green Delta National League match between Bangladesh Biman and Dhaka Metropolis at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday:

BIMAN: First innings Javed c Anwar b K Mahmud 102 Faruque b Naimur 68 Bashir c K Mahmud b Naimur 1 Amimul not out 67 Sanwar not out 17 Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-1) 8 Total: (for 3 wickets in 105 over) 263

Fall of wickets: 1/133, 2/139, 3/222

Bowler O M R W K Mahmud 20 6 49 1 Mehrab 6 1 26 0 Naimur 26 2 91 2 Ashraf 4 1 15 0 Saikat 25 10 31 0 Mukul 19 5 35 0 Biplob 1 1 0 0 Tariq 4 0 9 0

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the opening day of the four-day match between Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy (CBCA) and CBC XI at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

CBCA: First innings Harris c K Masud b Amimul Jr. 14 Williams c K Masud b Mushfiq 23 Stanton lbw b Hasibul 45 Shaun c K Masud b Mushfiq 92 O'Brien lbw b Mushfiq 11 Kent not out 61 MacDonald c K Masud b Mushfiq 21 Voges not out 19 Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-8, w-1) 11 Total: (For 6 wickets in 90 overs) 297

Fall of wickets: 1/38, 2/40, 3/176, 4/190, 5/201, 6/276

Bowler O M R W Amimul Jr. 19 3 42 1 Hasibul 27 2 70 1 Mushfiq 16 6 73 4 Rafique 17 4 69 0 Fahim 8 2 30 0 Mosaddek 3 1 12 0

Eusebio Sheffield bound

LONDON, Jan 17: Portuguese legend Eusebio will be a guest of honour at English First Division club Sheffield United on Friday, reports AFP.

The star, who shone for his country in the 1966 World Cup and for Benfica against Manchester United in the 1968 European Cup final at Wembley, will be in south Yorkshire to mark the unveiling of a statue of Jimmy Hagan.

Hagan played for Sheffield United and had a spell as manager of Benfica when world star Eusebio was a player. United manager Neil Warnock and former England striker Frank Worthington will also be in attendance at a memorial dinner for Hagan on the same night.

ensured pictures of Venus' cleavage were splashed across almost every Australian newspaper on Wednesday.

Only the austere Financial Review felt able to resist as columnists had a field day denouncing how Venus spent most of her first match tugging at the top and apparently worrying about spilling out of it.

As former player Pam Shriver put it: "Every time Venus tossed up to serve I was thinking: 'Oh no, they won't fall out, will they?'"

Melbourne's Herald Sun daily said Venus' complicated strappy top had made it hard to tell if it was a "too-tiny bra or a two-tone slash-fronted top."

Alan Atwood, from the Melbourne Age, said the outfit looked "as if the moths had got to it."

"Looks like she bought a bikini for Barbie and hung half around her own neck."

Even Williams' compatriot Lindsay Davenport, normally the soul of discretion, admitted the outfit had been "a little bizarre to play tennis in."

"She seemed like she was always trying to pull it up. It didn't look too tennis player-friendly."

Williams herself appeared bemused by all the fuss. "I was under the impression here was to talk about doubles," was her testy response to questions on the subject.

Despite her reservations about Venus' outfit, Davenport said she welcomed the increasing focus on what the women players wear.

"I think that the tennis clothing companies are trying to get more bold in what they're producing and what they're getting the girls to wear. I think that's great."

"Some maybe go really far with it and extreme. That's probably to get some recognition and attention for the company."

Davenport made her own foray into the style wars on Wednesday with a shocking pink skirt with what was, apparently, a Pucci-influenced print. As one uncharitable observer pointed out, that meant it looked like it had been cut from a 1970's shower curtain.

Incidentally, the Williams sisters won their match, effortlessly overcoming Canada's Renata Kolbovic and Nirupama Vaidyanathan of India 6-1, 6-3.

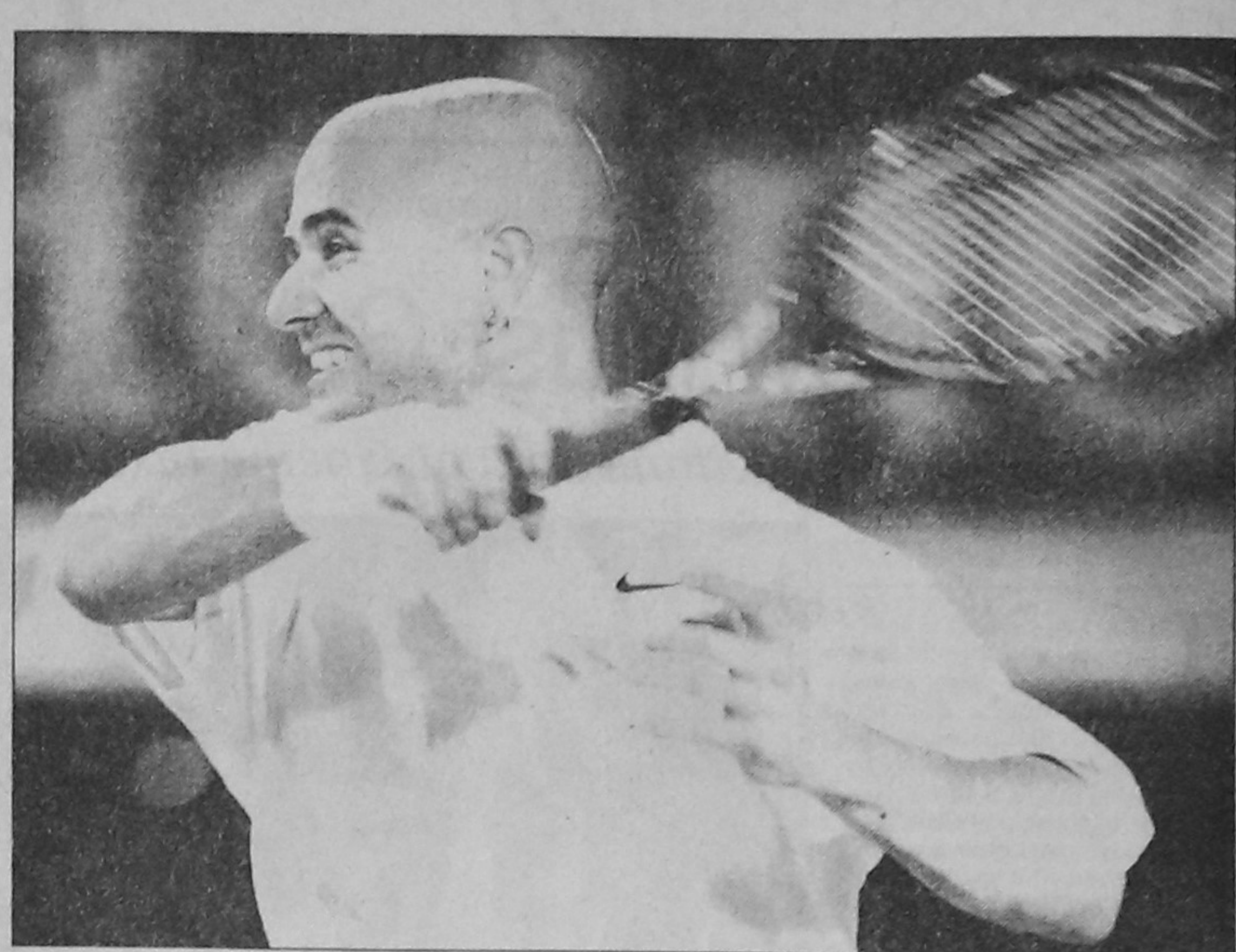
Davis Cup

Ecuador to play Australia in opener

MELBOURNE, Jan 17: Ecuador has little chance of topping Davis Cup giants Australia in their opening round match next month, Ecuador's number one Nicolas Lapentti conceded Wednesday, reports AFP.

Lapentti, ranked 24 in the world, has little confidence his tiny South American nation can beat Australia on grass in Perth from February 9-11.

Australia won the 1999 Davis Cup and were beaten by Spain in last year's final in Barcelona.



American Andre Agassi makes a forehand return against compatriot Paul Goldstein during their second round match of the Australian Open yesterday.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN NOTEBOOK

MELBOURNE, Jan 17 (AFP): The Williams sisters are probably the biggest names in world tennis at the moment. No journalist can afford to miss out on what they have to say. Unless of course the alternative is free booze and food.

Confirmation that the finest traditions of the fourth estate are still alive and well in its sporting branch came on Wednesday when the announcement that the sisters were in the press conference room coincided with the distribution of limited supplies of beer, wine and sandwiches in the adjacent press area.

Even mega-stars are destined to lose some battles: Venus and Serena must have been scratching their heads in wonder at why they were suddenly so unpopular.

RING ME

A new ring on the finger of Belgium's Kim Clijsters, the girlfriend of Australia's young star Lleyton Hewitt, caused a stir of excitement on Wednesday. Lleyton did give it to her but nuptials are not in the offing yet. "It was a birthday present," she revealed.

PITHY PAM

Pam Shriver has won this year's award for plain speaking with a characteristically pithy summing up of what everyone was thinking when Venus Williams appeared on court in a dangerously low-cut top. "Every time Venus tossed up to serve I was thinking: 'Oh no, they won't fall out, will they?'"

THE SWISS MISS

Czech-born Martina Hingis is happy being a Swiss Miss. Asked about the case of Jelena Dokic, who has abandoned Australia for her native Yugoslavia, Hingis said she had never considered switching allegiance. "I might have been born in Czechoslovakia but I

always felt very good playing for the country where I grew up." Hingis moved to Switzerland at the age of eight.

SHIRTLESS

Andrew Ilie has made a name for himself with his shirt-ripping, crowd-pleasing antics but it hasn't done anything for the hordes of tennis sponsors. The Romanian-born Australian is between clothing contracts and admitted he'd seen no financial benefits from tearing his clothes to pieces: "No, I wish I had. I haven't really caught on if that's what you mean."

BOYS ROOM BUSINESS

His entertaining style of tennis though has been a big hit. The say-it-as-it-is Pat Rafter revealed it was a hot topic in the boys room. "I was talking to a guy on the piss today," he said. "We were laughing - laughing at the way he plays and the way he draws a crowd in and how entertaining it is."

2-6,3 victory over Switzerland's Miroslava Vavrinec. "You're here for a Grand Slam tournament," she said. "I'm sure when I come back here as a retired tennis player to enjoy the tournament or the city, I'm sure then I'll look at it and remember the good memories without a doubt."

Despite downplaying Melbourne's significance to her career, it is clearly the scene of some of her greatest triumphs. While Seles has won the French Open three times and the US Open twice, nothing

tops her performances in Australia. "I have always played well here through the years," she admitted. "I enjoy playing here. I really like the court surface."

Despite being a professional since she was 15, Seles said there were no thoughts of retirement. "No, I think the days I stop really enjoying it, especially the practice and travelling side - because that will probably be the first thing that I will stop not liking - I'll stop," she said.

"But I mean, I have so many other interests that I want to do and I'm still so young, so, you know, in some ways I'm looking forward to that life because it will definitely be less stressful than this one."

Stress has played a major factor in Seles career since a crazed fan stabbed her in the back during a changeover at a tournament in Hamburg in 1993.

She was out for two years and it changed her life forever. Reports from Perth during the Hopman Cup earlier this year said a still-touchy Seles was visibly shaken when she was startled by an over-zealous fan tapping her on the shoulder.

But the world No. 4 played it down on Wednesday. "It was so blown out of proportion," she said. "A gentleman asked me for my autograph behind me. I said I'll sign when I move away."

Then the next day it was in all the papers. It was nothing like it. The gentleman apologised about 20 times. Seles will meet Emilie Loit of France in the third round.

MELBOURNE, Jan 17 (AFP): Nobody has a better record than Monica Seles in Grand Slams at Melbourne Park, but the American star hasn't got time to dwell on past glories.

Despite an unmatchable 35 wins to just one loss since 1991, the 27-year-old four-time champion said she was only looking to the future.

"I don't have time to look back," she said after easing into the third round with an easy 6-

2-6,3 victory over Switzerland's Miroslava Vavrinec. "You're here for a Grand Slam tournament," she said. "I'm sure when I come back here as a retired tennis player to enjoy the tournament or the city, I'm sure then I'll look at it and remember the good memories without a doubt."

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'It's not time to savour 'em'

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