

BOA polls end tamely

The much-talked about election of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) saw all its office-bearers and members being elected unopposed...

Renowned sports organiser Zafar Inam emerged as the first elected secretary general of BOA...

Deputy secretaries general: Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chinnu (patron nominated), SM Imtiaz Khan Babul (basketball)...

Now goes other Williams It's Hingis-Capriati finale



MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Martina Hingis stamped her authority on the Australian Open Thursday...

on in leaps and bounds in the last year. "I was fit last year, but I think I'm maybe stronger now..."

"I was really determined before the match today and just gave it everything I've got."

"We're friends, she's a great girl. I'm not happy she's in the final, I want to be there, but it's great for her to come through all she has."

Her easy win over Venus was the first time she had beaten both sisters in the same tournament in three attempts.

"I was very focused on my game plan on what I had to do out there today. I wanted to get as many first serves in as possible and not make any unforced errors."

"All the hard work I've been doing has definitely paid off. I am fitter now and taking the ball earlier and I think that helps me when I play power players like the Williams."

"I think I've played lots of good matches but not this good against a top player," said Capriati who ran off the rails amid drugs and shoplifting scandals in 1994.

"I was real proud of myself for not letting the moment get to me, and just being able to still focus and concentrate and play my game."

"It was sweet revenge for Capriati who was beaten by Davenport in straight sets at the same stage here last year."

final. Has won five Grand Slams (Australian 1997-99; Wimbledon 1997; US 1997). Claimed nine titles in 2000. Australian Open win-loss: 38-3.

Jennifer Capriati (USA), Age 24. Seeded 12. Playing in her first Grand Slam final. She reached the semifinals of the 1990 French Open as a 14-year-old...



JENNIFER CAPRIATI champion Lindsay Davenport on the way to the final. Has spent just over eight hours on court for her six matches here.

MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Arnaud Clement and Sebastian Grosjean's friendship stands firm even though they square off against each other in an all-French semifinal at the Australian Open here Friday...

They practiced together on the eve of the final Thursday, but the mateship will be put on hold when they play off for a place in their first-ever Grand Slam final.

Head-to-head: MELBOURNE, Jan 25 (AFP): The head-to-head record of the women's finalists at the Australian Open to be played here Saturday.

FINALISTS' PENPICS

MELBOURNE, Jan 25 (AFP) - Penpics of Martina Hingis and Jennifer Capriati for their women's singles final at the Australian Open here Saturday.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

MELBOURNE, Jan 25 (AFP): The head-to-head record of the women's finalists at the Australian Open to be played here Saturday.

Davenport can't defend!



MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Lindsay Davenport says she's more disappointed in missing another one. That's more disappointing...

"My friends, I've played with her in the Fed Cup. She's really nice, she's a great girl and it's great for her... she's been through a lot."

"I'm just disappointed because in all the semifinals I've ever played this was probably the most disappointing in the way that I showed up to play."

"I've lost close ones, not so close, but I never felt like today... I came all this way and didn't play all that well."

"As disappointed as Davenport was to lose, she praised Capriati's feat in fighting back from her young troubled past to reach her first Grand Slam final."

"When you play like she did today, obviously you have a chance against anybody."

"She didn't think she was very hard, she was hitting the balls hard and in. In these fast conditions, that's really hard to control."

"Davenport said she was off to Tokyo for a tournament next week and would then take a three-week break before a series of hardcourt tournaments in the United States."

AUSTRALIAN OPEN NOTEBOOK

MELBOURNE, Jan 25 (AFP): A rejuvenated Jennifer Capriati is a different person to the confused teenager who went off the rails. But she's still a suspicious sort...

DAD-HOOD CALLS FOR SAINT PAT The real reason behind Pat Rafter's decision to take a break from tennis at the end of the year has been revealed.

I'm sure he does want kids one day, when the time is right," she said. "He'd be a great dad."

Kids might be on the agenda, but there are no plans as yet for wedding bells. "We're just happy now but maybe (it will happen) in the future," she said.

old beauty who has been a regular fixture at Rafter's matches since they met at the end of 1997, said both of them were tired of the grind of life on the circuit.

They practiced together on the eve of the final Thursday, but the mateship will be put on hold when they play off for a place in their first-ever Grand Slam final.

It's the first Gallic semifinal at a Grand Slam since the 1983 French Open when Yannick Noah beat Christophe Roger-Vasselin on his way to the title.

Sharing the same trainer Daniel Gilbert, the pair saw no reason to change their usual practice plans and had a half-hour hit-up on an outside court Thursday.

Aside from the Williams sisters, it was difficult to imagine any other players practising together the day before such a high-stake match.

Grosjean and Clement bring a refreshing change to the Open with the victor going on to play either defending champion Andre Agassi or Australian 12th seed Patrick Rafter in Sunday's final.

"It's unbelievable. We've been practising together for six years and we grew up together, now we're playing each other in a Grand Slam semifinal," said Clement.

"One of us will be playing in the final, that's unbelievable."

Clement, seeded 15, out-scattered last year's runner-up Yevgeny Kafelnikov, to win a thrilling quarterfinal, 6-4, 5-7, 7-6, 7-6 in three hours 11 minutes.

So exhilarated was 23-year-old Clement that he took off his shirt, shoes and socks and hurled them into the crowd, leaving the court with just his shorts to tumultuous acclaim.

While Clement is a jet-setting playboy, Grosjean, 22, keeps a low profile and lives away from France in Florida with his wife and toddler daughter.

Grosjean stands only 1.75 metres (5'9") tall and was once told by the French Tennis Federation that he would not make it because he was too small.

This came after he left home at 12 to link up with the federation and travel around France developing his game.

His itinerant youth was, he thinks, a reason why he sought the security of a wife and family at a young age.

Grosjean was more successful as a junior than Clement, as he was the world's top junior in 1996.

He made his first senior impact as a 20-year-old qualifier at Wimbledon where he made it through to the fourth round.

going to hit her at the net or do anything bad."

Lara Feltham, the 31-year-



Venus Williams of the United States is shattered after going down to Swiss Martina Hingis in the semifinals of the Australian Open yesterday.

India turning hi-tech



BANGALORE, India, Jan 25: The Indian cricket team has acquired a new computer software product that will allow quicker and more accurate analysis of players' performances...

watch a spell of six overs interrupted and a batsman could watch his entire innings of 50 runs scored off 100 balls in less than 30 minutes.

"Right now it is virtually impossible to do so as all that we can get is unedited (video) tapes," he said.

"A batsman can watch his whole innings or his backward defensive play or his attacking off-drive or any shot he wants to have a look at," Wright said.

"We could then copy all that on a computer disk and players can look it up on their laptops," Wright, who has said he aims to inject passion back into India's national sport, said the software was tested in the team's recent two-test home series against Zimbabwe which India won 1-0.

"We hope to implement it starting with the Australian series," he said referring to the three-Test home series starting next month.

India's coach said the software would also allow users to build a historical video database of rival teams from video tapes of their earlier performances.

Sisters reach doubles final

MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Venus and Serena Williams secured revenge of a sort over Martina Hingis, who eliminated them both from the Australian Open singles, when they beat the world number one and Monica Seles to reach the final of the women's doubles Thursday...

The American sisters won 7-5, 6-2 to advance to Friday's final against Lindsay Davenport and Corina Morariu.

Barry queries Tendulkar's credentials

DUBAI, Jan 25 (Internet report): Former South African great Barry Richards has expressed doubt that India's Sachin Tendulkar is entitled to as great a reputation as he enjoys...

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CRYPTOQUIP JOVN VBMUNOEL GXQOLEJXQ PJX YXJD BOCXBD UMNPYX GXXH HMVXCUXQ Yesterday's Cryptoque: PILOTS ARE OCCASIONALLY INDECISIVE GUYS AND LEAVE EVERYTHING UP IN THE AIR. Today's Cryptoque Clue: B equals L.

TV GUIDE

Table with 4 columns: Time, Channel, Program Name, Description. Includes shows like EKUSHEYTV, Morning India, News 11:30, and various entertainment and news programs.