

# Agassi honoured

INTERNET, undated

**US OPEN**  
It was like old times at Arthur Ashe Stadium as U.S. Open fans gave Andre Agassi a rousing ovation as the former champion was honoured before Monday's opening night programme at Flushing Meadows.

Eight-times grand slam champion Agassi, the U.S. Open winner in 1994 and 1999, was one of four athletes saluted on centre court as part of a celebration of the community work done by them.

Agassi was joined by former basketball player David Robinson, football quarterback Doug Flutie and women's soccer player Mia Hamm, but it was the tennis champion who won a standing ovation and blew kisses to the four corners of Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"Over the years I've shared this court with many great athletes but I'm extra proud tonight to share this court with athletes who are not only great, but doing great work," said Agassi, one of only six men to win a career grand slam.

In 1994, the year Agassi won his first U.S. Open title at the age of 24, he started the Andre Agassi Foundation dedicated to improving public education in his hometown of Las Vegas.

In June the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy graduated its first senior class

and had a 100 per cent college acceptance rate.

"There has not been a single match, a single tournament, a single accomplishment on the tennis court that comes even close to the fulfillment I feel with what it is our

foundation is doing," Agassi said in a video message played to the crowd.

Agassi said it was special to return to New York, where he appeared in a record 21 consecutive Opens during a career in which he evolved

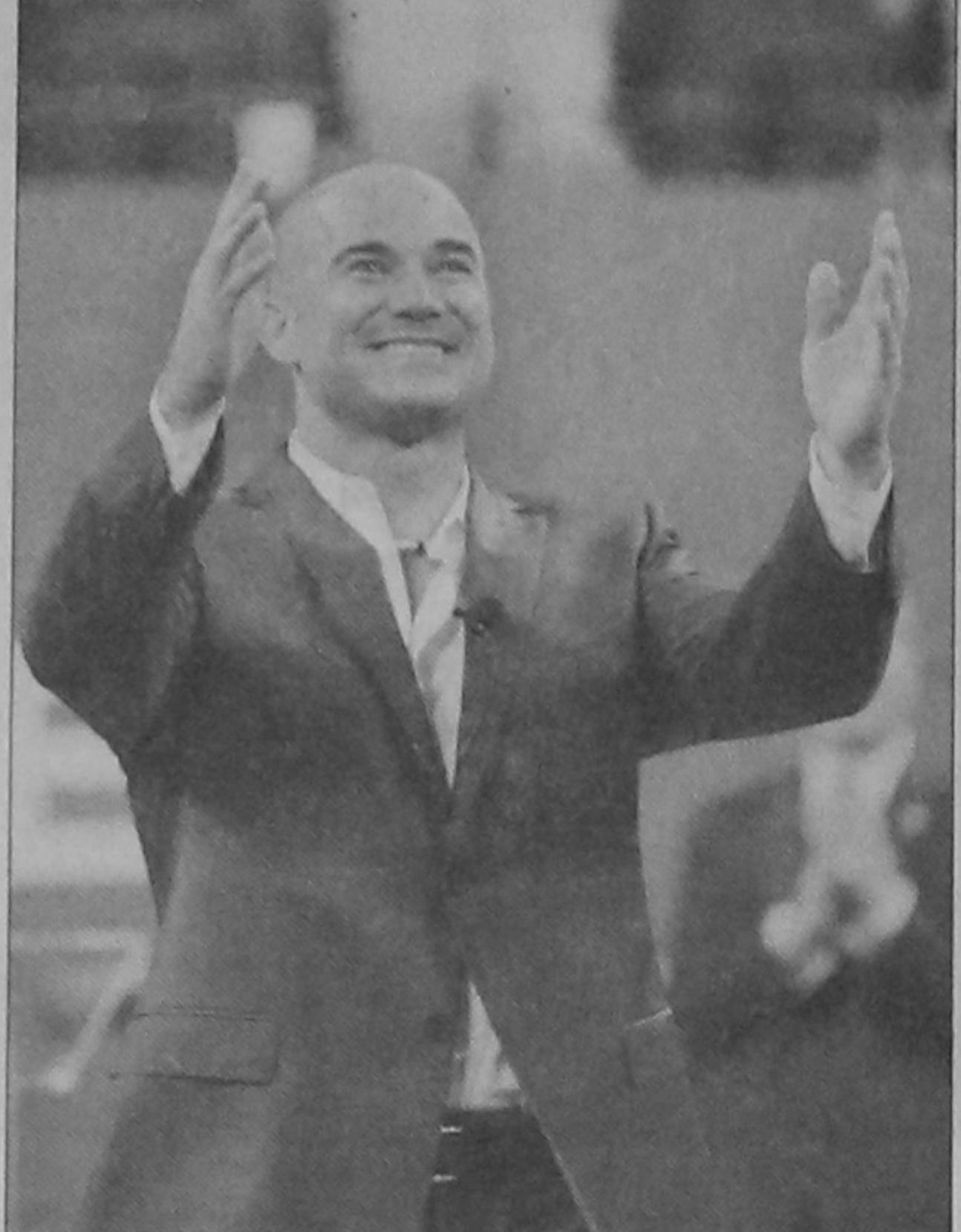


PHOTO: AFP

Tennis legend and two-time US Open winner Andre Agassi acknowledges the applause of the crowd as he is being honoured for his philanthropic work during the Opening Ceremony of the US Open at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York on Monday.

## Gay plans surgery

AFP, Gateshead

American sprinter Tyson Gay revealed he is set to have surgery on a groin injury after cruising to 100m victory in the British Grand Prix in Gateshead on Monday.

Gay won in 10.15secs despite a headwind of two metres per second as he returned to the track after his second place finish behind world record-setting Jamaican Usain Bolt at the recent World Athletics Championships in Berlin.

"I'm looking forward to Brussels on Friday and maybe one more race and then I'll have surgery," said Gay, who clocked the third-fastest time in history behind Bolt in the German capital.

## Bhajji in SUV

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Harbhajan is also looking forward to shifting to a new home.

The house is under construction in the New Baradari area of the city. The plot was given by the state government for his outstanding performance in the 2001 home series against Australia.

However, he has no plans to sell off his ancestral home where he was brought up.

"It has memories of my late father Sardev Singh," he said.

## Butt's wrong

FROM PAGE 17

Before making the deal with the ICC, Ijaz had claimed that Pakistan would get a substantial compensation for settling its court case with the ICC over the staging of the World Cup.

The PCB had issued a legal notice to the ICC early this summer after the game's governing body moved Pakistan's share of matches out of the country because of security concerns.

## BFF stringent

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The players will report to BFF on Thursday and travel to the Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) for a long-term training before heading for Thailand.

Coach Shafiqul Islam Manik was however cautious to set his target this early.

"It is too early to say anything as I am yet to start the camp and I can only give you an idea about the team after the training goes on for one-and-a-half months," said Manik.

## SQUAD

Goalkeepers- Nurul Karim, Shakil, Sohel, Bidyut. Defenders- Md.Mofa, Saddam, Rubri, Nahidul, Shumon, Shaikat, Saidul, Al-Amin, Milon, Javed, Rasel. Midfielders- Saddam, Shahed, Emon Babu, Sohel Rana, Shohag, Krishna, Shohag, Bipul, Asif, Naimul, Shahed, Forwards- Sui Khai Marma, Saifuddin, Kanon, Sohel.

## BCCI profits decline

**Cricket**

INTERNET, undated

The income and the profits of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) declined for the first time in five years in the financial year ending March 2009.

According to the income and expenditure account for 2008-09, a copy of which is with The Indian Express, BCCI's total income was Rs 726 crore, down from Rs 1,000 crore in 2007-08.

This came after a consistent year-on-year rise in income over the previous four years.

The board's surplus, which is the net of income after accounting for expenditure, also declined.

The surplus, which had risen about 600 per cent in 2006-07, and 31 per cent in 2007-08 to Rs 303 crore, was down 82 per cent to Rs 53.7 crore in 2008-09.

The income and expenditure account is being vetted by the top board members. BCCI's governing council will meet on September 2 to approve the financial

accounts.

BCCI president Shashank Manohar said that the board would "discuss all this" in a meeting today, but declined to comment on the board's financial performance.

The financial statement suggests that a drop in the "income from grant of media rights" was one of the reasons for the decline in revenues.

The BCCI had earned around Rs 559 crore from media rights in 2007-08 as against Rs 465 crore in 2008-09.

Mumbai-based Nimbus Communications had won the four-year media rights to all BCCI matches for 612 dollars million in 2006.

The deal, however, was renegotiated after Nimbus argued that the loss of exclusivity, because of the mandatory sharing of the telecast of the matches with public broadcaster Doordarshan, would limit its ability to generate revenue.

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## Top seeds safely thru'

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one or the back one?" -- she stepped up and served the next ball into the net.

She fell behind 6-5 and Dushevina answered Williams' angle volley with a running crosscourt backhand for the winner and the set.

It stayed uncomfortable for Venus through most of the second, as well.

"I had 5-4 in the second set and it was maybe little chance," Dushevina said. "It was love-15, but the next few points, she played so great."

The third set wasn't a breeze, but went more to form, with Williams getting an early break and hanging on.

The next big question is how bad her knee really is, and whether it will be ready for the next match.

"I'm not one to complain," Williams said. "Everyone has injuries they're dealing with. I did my best tonight despite everything I was going through. In the next round, I'm just going to do my best to prepare."

Before the Americans took their places under the spotlight, Sania Mirza and Somdev Devvarman sparked off celebrations in their homeland as Monday marked the first time a man and a woman from India reached the second round of the same major.

"For a long time... I was the only one playing singles in the main draw for the grand slams, and it's great that Somdev is playing so well. I'm really happy that we have two Indians in the second round of a slam," Mirza told reporters after beating Belarusian Olga Govortsova 6-2, 6-3.

## Referees' day

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bring foreign referees in the inaugural one-crore taka Super Cup in the face of participating teams' demand.

"To be honest, the players, the club officials and supporters are not up to date with modern rules and that's why they often criticise us and create barriers to carry on the game," said referee Jalaluddin, who is also a physical trainer of the Dhaka University.

Agassi repaid fans in grand fashion at his last Open in 2006, when at the age of 36 he won an epic second-round match against a cramping, eighth-seeded Marcos Bagdatis of Cyprus.

Buoyed by a cortisone injection to soothe his aching back, Agassi kept his final tournament going with a 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 7-5 victory. Afterward he was seen limping on his back in pain in the National Tennis Centre car park.

"I didn't know how I was going to get off the parking lot floor and get to the car, let alone come back and play. But I had to walk through that door," he said.

Agassi's playing career ended in his next match, a four-set struggle against 112th-ranked Benjamin Becker of Germany.

"The scoreboard said I lost today but what the scoreboard doesn't say is what it's I've found," Agassi told the crowd after the 2006 defeat as tears streamed down his face.

"Over the last 21 years, I've found loyalty. You have pulled for me on the court and also in life. I have found inspiration."



Local referees attend a procession marking the Asian referees' Day 2009 organized by the Bangladesh Football Federation in front of the BFF House yesterday.

## Voges in Aus ODI squad

**Cricket**

AFP, Manchester

Australia have added Adam Voges to their squad for the one-day leg of their tour of England.

Western Australia batsman Voges, already in England for the two Twenty20 internationals, the second of which is set to take place here at Old Trafford later Tuesday, has replaced Brad Haddin in the squad.

Meanwhile, a referee inside the capital gets Tk 1,000 to conduct a match while a referee from outside Dhaka receives Tk 3,500 for a match.

Hossain also suggested the upcoming referees to follow the whistle, running and instruction of a referee who he likes.

end of the England ODI series.

His inclusion now gives the 29-year-old Voges a chance to find some form before that event.

Andrew Hilditch, chairman of Australia's National Selection Panel (NSP), said in a Cricket Australia statement: "With Brad Haddin's injury, the NSP has taken the opportunity to add Adam Voges to Australia's squad for the seven one-day internationals against England."

"Adam will now stay with the squad for the remainder of the tour of England before travelling with the team to the ICC Champions Trophy in South Africa."

Voges has played two ODI and two Twenty20s for Australia, the second of which was Monday's washed-out series opener against England at Old Trafford where he made an unbeaten 11.

His maiden one-day century in 2004/05, off 62-balls, was then the fastest in Australian domestic history.

Voges has also played English county cricket for Nottinghamshire and it was soon after scoring his maiden Championship century for the Midlands side in August that he was recalled to the Australia squad for the Champions Trophy.

He had previously withdrawn from the squad for the ODI and Twenty20 leg of Australia's tour of South Africa earlier this year because of a clash of dates with his wedding.

## Anger grows over IMG issue

**Cricket**

INTERNET, undated

The Indian board's decision to sever its IPL contract with IMG continues to generate heat, with the sports management firm indicating that it might take the legal route to resolve the dispute, and three more franchises expressing their concern over the development.

Replies to the BCCI's letter on Friday informing IMG that it would not use any of its services following a disagreement over payments for the second IPL in South Africa, Andrew Wildblood, a senior vice-president at the firm, said that there were no grounds for the termination. IMG, he pointed out, had a legally binding 10-year agreement with the BCCI and would "reserve all of our rights and remedies at law under and in respect of the contract".

The issue will be discussed at the Indian board's annual general meeting (AGM) in Mumbai at the end of the month. The IPL governing council is scheduled to meet in Mumbai today but that's expected to be a 30-minute meeting to ratify accounts and reports related to the second season.

The Indian board's decision has been opposed by the IPL franchises, four of whom wrote to the BCCI over the weekend expressing their disappointment at the unilateral manner in which it was taken and concern that the league's value will be diluted. On Monday, two more franchises --

Deccan Chargers and Kings XI Punjab -- sent similar letters to the BCCI, while Vijay Mallya, who owns Bangalore Royal Challengers, is believed to have spoken to Sharad Pawar, the former BCCI president, over phone. Chennai, which is owned by N Srinivasan, the BCCI secretary, is the only franchise to remain silent on the issue.

"These are all important decisions," Shah Rukh Khan, the Bollywood star who co-owns Kolkata Knight Riders, said on Monday. "All we want is to keep it in the loop. A lot of our sponsorships depend on the backbone of the IPL."

Srinivasan had claimed in his letter to IMG that its fee was disproportionate to the services rendered. IMG played a key role in conceptualising the IPL and implementing it, including drafting the Indian and foreign players' contracts, putting the logistics in place and managing the day-to-day running of the tournament. The BCCI claimed to have paid IMG Rs 42.92 crore (US 9.54 million dollars) for the inaugural IPL edition, with the fee for the second edition said to be around Rs 33 crore (US 7.33 million dollars).

Reports suggest that IMG's initial contract with the BCCI, which was signed in September 2007, stipulated a commission-based payment of 10 per cent of the board's revenue. The contract was subsequently negotiated to a fixed retainer payment of roughly Rs 33 crore but this was objected to by some members of the BCCI's working committee, who are keen that the Indian board take over the running of the IPL entirely.

## Fisichella to switch to Ferrari!

INTERNET, undated

If Giancarlo Fisichella puts his signature on a five-race deal to finish the season with Ferrari, he is likely to then stay with the Maranello-based team next year and beyond as test driver.

The news means that not only does Luca Badoer face immediately losing his opportunity to race in injured Felipe Massa's race boots, but his long tenure as test driver dating back to the late nineties might also be over.

The suggestion is that Tony Liuzzi is set to move into the Force India race seat full time next year, and immediately if Fisichella's Ferrari switch is completed ahead of the Italian Grand Prix.

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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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