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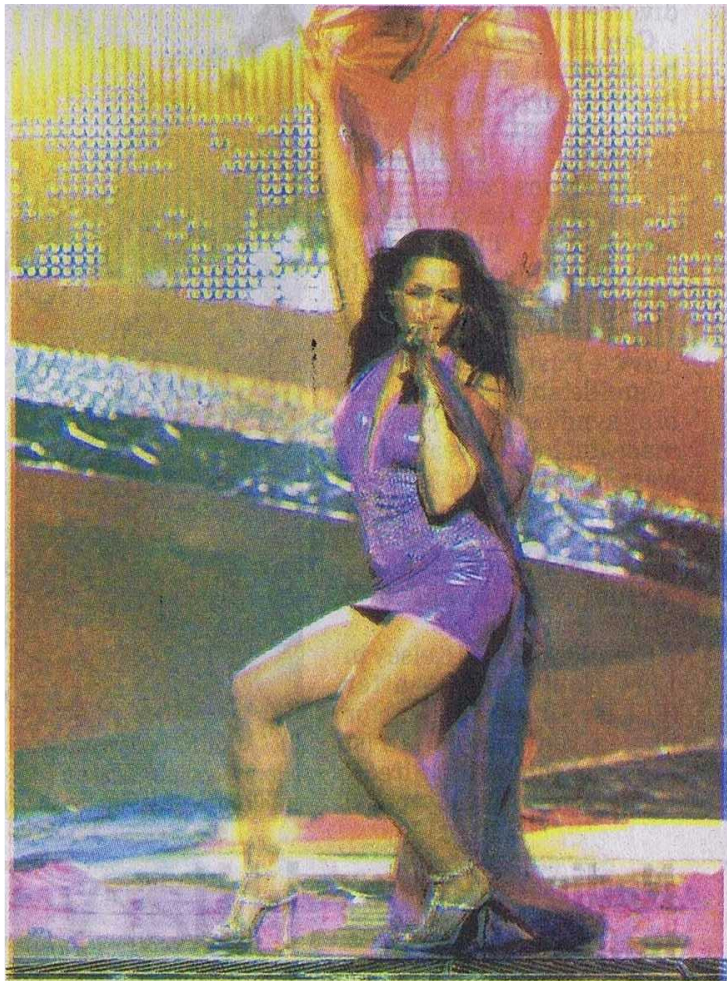
DARMSTADT, Germany: German pop star Nadja Benaïssa admitted on the opening day of her trial Monday not telling sexual partners, with whom she had unprotected sex, that she was HIV positive.

"I am so sorry," the 28-year-old told the court in Darmstadt near Frankfurt..

Benaïssa, a member of the all-female pop group No Angels, was arrested last April and charged in February this year with causing bodily harm. She faces between six months and 10 years in prison if convicted. According to the charge sheet, she had sex on five occasions between 2000 and 2004 with three people and did not tell them she was infected, even though she had known since 1999.

One of the three had since been confirmed as being infected with the HIV virus, which causes AIDS, prosecutors added.

No Angels shot to fame in 2000 thanks to a television talent show and had a string of hits in central Europe before splitting up in 2003. They reformed in 2007 and competed in the 2008 Eurovision Song Contest. A verdict is due on August 26. — AFP



HIV POSITIVE: Picture taken on May 23, 2008 shows German pop star Nadja Benaïssa performing with the No Angels during the 2008 Eurovision Song Contest final dress rehearsal at Belgrade Arena. The trial against German pop star Nadja Benaïssa begins on Aug 16 for not telling sexual partners, with whom she had unprotected sex, that she was HIV positive. — AFP photo