Dhaka to host Asian Club Cup



host the 10th Asian Club Cup football championship, including its semifinals and

finals, reports UNB. The final round will be held in the capital from July 19 to 24 while the semifinals, final and the position-deciding matches will be held from July 25 to 28 at the Dhaka Stadium.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) had earlier selected Bangladesh for holding the final round matches only with the eight qualified Asian teams.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday responded positively to the offer made by the AFC to organise all the matches of the tournament, including the semi-finais and the final

The matches were earlier scheduled to be played on a home-and-away basis with the qualified teams.

The champion teams from eight Asian countries-Jordan.

Oman. China, Indonesia, Iran. North Korea, Thailand and Bangladesh- will participate in the final round of the champi-

onship. The teams, divided into two groups, will contest on a league basis.

The teams are: Group A:

Ramtha Club (Jordan). Al Nasr Club (Oman). P. S. Pelita Jaya (Indonesia) and Liaoning Club Group B: Esteghlal Club

(Iran). Mohammedan SC Bangladesh). Bangkok Bank Club (Thailand) and April 25 Club (DPR Korea).

The group champions and runners-up team will qualify for the semi-finals.

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club qualified for the final of the tournament after beating a Maldivian Club 5-0 and Indian champions Salagaokar Club 2-1 goals in the first round match last year.

BFF will provide air travel costs and local hospitality for the AFC representatives and foreign referees in the

Meanwhile, a BFF press re-

lease vesterday said Harunur

Rashid, General Secretary of

the tederation will be the new

ehef-de-mission of the

Bangladesh under 23 Pre-

Olympic side which leaves for

Seoul tomorrow to take part in

the first leg-of the Olympic

qualifiers with Thailand.

Malaysia, the Philippines and

Earlier, Sadeq Hossain

Khoka, MP, and a Vice

President of the BFF was sup-

posed to lead the Bangladesh

team. But the adverse situation

prevailing in the country fol-

lowing the devastating cyclone

made Mr. Khoka withdraw

from the team for pressing

preoccupations at home.

South Korea.

Rain the spoiler

Sports Reporter

charity yesterday's match with tickets worth Taka one lakh three soccer match bethousand two hundred and tween Mohameighty being sold. medan Spor-ting Club and Abahani

The BFF collected a total Krira Chakra was sum of Taka 1,70,070 from the abandoned at the three matches. The money will Dhaka Stadium yesterday be donated to the Prime midway in the first half due to Minister's Relief Fund. New team leader a strong nor'wester that left

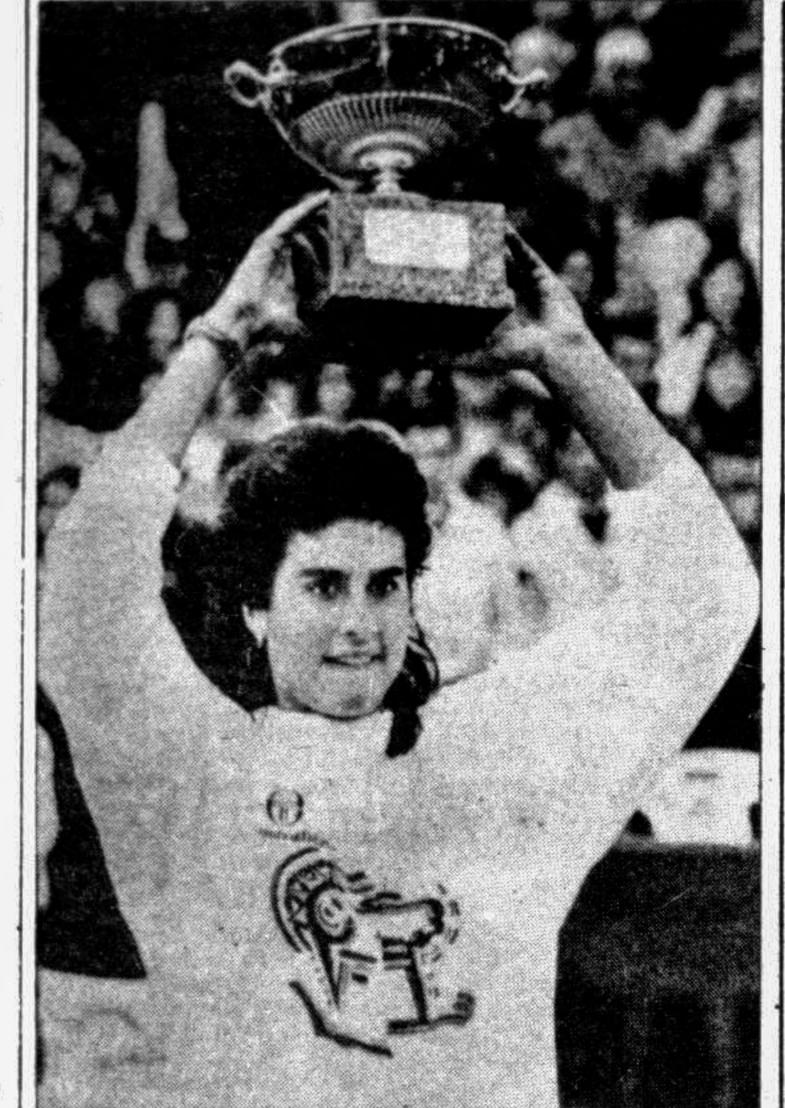
Both teams were locked goalless at the time of abandoning.

the crowd totally drenched.

Ironically, at long last a healthy crowd had turned up to watch the prestige match between the two arch-rival giants of Dhaka soccer compared to the gates for the two proceeding games in the three-match charity series in aid of the country's cyclone victims.

Alas, the seven to eight thousand strong crowd was disappointed by the insipid display by the frontliners of both teams, producing a litary of missed scoring chances.

Nevertheless, the BFF reaped reasonable sum from



Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina holds the winner's trophy of the Women's International Tennis Tournament on Monday (May 13) after defeating world number one Monica Seles of Yugoslavia 6-3, 6-2.

Becker top seed



ROME, May 13 Boris Becker is looking for his first major clay court title and to inch closer to the

No. 1 ranking as the men move into the Foro Italiaco Monday in the 1.2 million-dollar Italian Open, reports AP.

Becker heads the 54 player field that also includes Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Goran Invanisevic. Sergio Brugera and Jim Courier.

To opening day matches include Brad Gilbert of the United States, seeded eighth, against Mark Woodforde of Australia, Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union, 11th seed. against Alex Antonitsch of Austria, and another Soviet, 15th Alexander Volkov, against Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands

A persistent rainfall over the past week marred the women's Open that ended Sunday with World No. 3 Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina soundly beating the world's top-ranked woman, Monica Seles, 6-3, 6-2,

Becker, ranked No. 2 on relegation-bound Bologna to close the the men's tour, has been preparing for the Franch Open, a Grand Slam event played on clay, by enuring Monte Carlo - where he finished second - and now Rome. He is pursuing Stefan Edberg, who is not entered in

> At Monte Carlo, the redhaired German lost to Brugera. a clay court specialist, and may find things together for his power game here. The Foro Italico courts can take the stvice even under ideal condi-

more suited to the court conditions. The American, seeded second, reached the finals two years ago.

ing, and had to play in the qualifying rounds here while Agassi, ranked fourth in the world, was given a wildcard. Like Becker, Sampras,

But Mancini has been slid

seeded third, likes to serve and volley.

The tournament has clay curt specialists. They include Brugera, fellow Spaniard Emilio Sanchez, Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia, the winner at the German Open on Sunday, Swedes Jonas Svensson and Magnus Gustafsson and Guillermo Perez Roldan of Argentina.

While the chase is on for leadership among the men. the battle among the women seems even fiercer.

Seles dethroned Steffi Graf from the top spot in March. But she lost to Graf last week and Sunday to third-ranked Sabatini.

There is no question that Gabriela, Steffi, Martina (Navritilova) and I are all very close, it really depends on who is in better shape that particular week, and who has a little

Sabatini, who says she is playing better every tourna ment, unleashed her full-court game against Seles. She rushed the net, fired top-spin drives from the baseline and won seven points, most in key sit-

week's Lufthansa Cup in Berlin. Sabatini can also move up with strong showings in Berlin and

Agassi's baseline game is

- AFP photo

grips with Tang in the women's singles final, the 22year-old Asian Games champion overpowering fellow joint third seed 11-6,11-1 in only 27 minutes. "She was very good"

patient and waits for the kill."

who during recent months has

found the consistent winning

formula missing from her

match," said Yugoslav Seles, a

popular champion here last

title of 1991, dropped only 13

games in her five matches in

Rome where she has enjoyed

support from a large and vocif-

the fifth and seventh games of

the opening set, winning many

of her points by pinning Seles

to the baseline with a veriety of

She broke the Yugoslav in

erous group of fans.

"Sabatini played a fantastic

Sabatini, clinching her fifth

tional style here Sunday by conceded Kusumawardhani, harvesting three of the five "she has changed her style since I beat her in the All England. She's now more

Singles gold medals for Tang Jiuhong and Zhao Jianhua were followed by a third in succession in the women's doubles for Guan Weizhen, who this time was partnered by Nong Qunhua.

The two other crowns were collected by South Korea, who followed last weekend's Sudirman Cup triumph by winning the men's and mixed

But it is the Chinese who have the most reason to celebrate after the seventh World Championship, especially considering that they lifted only one trophy at Wembley through the men's doubles pairing of Li Yongbo and Tian Bingyi.

was a total failure for us." he admitted.

It went wrong for Indonesia from the moment Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, and Prince Frederik of Denmark took their seats among the 6,000 capacity crowd.

Kusumawardhani never got to

Frost's solace BRONDBY, Denmark, May

13: Morten Frost, the Danish badminton master whose world title hopes here were wrecked in the first round, received some compensation on Sunday with a distinguished service award, reports AFP.

The 33-year-old four-times All England champion, who retired from full-time bad minton after his defeat by unseeded Soviet Andrei Antropov Monday, was presented with a certificate and lape badge by Internationa Badminton Federation President Arthur Jones after the men's singles final.

"Morten has done marve lous service to international badminte a for 15 years, said

Windies beaten

ARUNDEL, England, May 13 The Duchess of Norfolk's XI beat West Indies by two wickets in the traditional tour opening one-day (50 overs) cricket match on Sunday, reports Reuter.



Scores: West Indies 211 for eight innings closed (G.Logic 61) Duchess of Norfolk's XI 212 for eight in 47.4 overs (J. Morris 98)

Sixsmith ensures

BRUSSELS. May 13 England's Jane Sixsmith scored twice to ensure a surprise victory over a strong German side in the final of the European Cup women's hockey here on Sunday, reports AFP.

The first goal came after just eight minutes and Sixsmith added her second after 40 minutes against the

the match and enjoyed 12 penalty corners to O for England. But they managed to convert only one through Franziska Hentschel in the 51st minute as England battled to hang on to their lead.

fore the end for Germany.

minutes with Sabatini leading

strokes to both corners, before

chipping short. Selese had a break of serve before rain halted play for 80 5-3 and trailing 30-15 on the

Yugoslav's serve. The Argentine came back on court to break seles again and clinch the set in 45 min1

Sabatini raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set only for Seles, in a brave bid to reverse her fortunes, to pull back two games with the aid of a service

But Seles' third double fault of the match allowed Sabatini to hit back with a break

After twice going to deuce to hold her service, Sabatini reached match point with Seles serving at 30-40 and did not let the chance slip, forcing a hurried shot by the Yugoslav that went wide.

· Seles had beaten Sabatini in three of their previous four meetings, including this year's Key Biscayne players' championships final.

The Yugoslav has reached the final in all seven Women's Tennis Association tournaments she has played in 1991, but won only three.

Chinese underline strength anew

Another jewel in Sabatini's crown



Reuter.

BRONDBY, Denmark, May 13: China, humiliated at the All England badminton championships in Mar-

ROME, May 13

Resurgent Qabr-

tela Sabatint lan-

women's Italian

Open tennis cha-

third

ded her

mpionship in four years when

she toppled world number one

Monica Seles in straight sets

in Sunday's final, reports

in brilliant form all week, won

the rain-interrupted match 6-

3, 6-2 to add to her Italian ti-

difficult but I think the rain

favoured me," said Sabatini.

"I feel very happy. It was

tles of 1988 and 1989.

The Argentine second seed,

ch, bounced back in sensaworld titles, reports AFP.

Everi Leo Wiranata, assistant manager of their biggest rivals. Indonesia, acknowledged that Sunday was China's day, "Today

Sarwendah

the final. "I was very patient and calm," said the Chinese number one. "My play was also

year-old Indonesian 3-2 in their encounters, agreed with her opponent's assessment of

Tang, who now leads the 23-

TANG JIUHONG

much sharper than Sarwendah's. I didn't expect it to be Zhao struggles

Zhao had a difficult match. Kusuma pushed him to 18-13. 15-4 before the tall left-hander sealed China's fourth world singles clean sweep in a row. "It was hard, especially in

the second set," Zhao confessed. "Allan's defence was very good in that game against my smashes and I started to feel a little bit tired." Zhao was being generous to

the Indonesian, though. The world number three always always looked in control, even when he allowed Kusuma to come back from 7-10 down in the first game to nudge in front 12-10.

The Indonesian number three, who has never beaten Zhao, admitted as much. He played better than me, said Kusuma. He attacked more and his attack was good.

Kusuma now feels that Zhao is the best men's singles player in the world, as does Wiranata, the father of Ardy, who lost to Zhao in the semi-finals.

At the moment there is no player who can beat Zhao, said the Indonesian official. His smashes are so sharp his attacking lob is so good and so is his net play. I don't think any player is as good as him in technique.

But Zhao refused accept the plaudits. You can't say one person who has obtained the title is the best player in the world, because some of the best players have not had very good performances here, he reasoned.

Guan's display, however, she and Nong crushed unseeded Swedes Christian Magnusson

and Maria Bengsson 15-7, 15-4. Park Joo Bong, partnered first by Kim-Moon Soo and later by Chung Myeong Hee, displayed similar doubles expertise to add two more gold medals to the three in his trophy cupboard and disappoint the thousands of Danish fans.



Park and Kim. world champions in 1985.first underlined why they are the game's top

There was no arguing about Lund and Pernille Dupont.



rival athletics bodies cleared the

biggest remaining hurdle to international recognition on Sunday when they announced the formation of a unified, non-racial movement.

But readmittance to the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) is unlikely to

short- but it is possible, IAAF Vice-President Lamine Diack told a news conference.

held in September in Cairo.

"I personally feel we should participate in Africa before we go outside Africa, said Harry Hendricks, chairman of the hardline anti-apartheid South African Amateur Athletics Board.

cials, ending a four-day mission to South African, said they had given the newly-formed

tics Association (SAAAA) a July I deadline to write a constitution and launch a development programme. If they meet the deadline

and President F.W. De Klerk fulfills his pledge to scrap ramaining apartheid laws by next month, South Africa's application for re-entry to the IAAF is likely to be accepted by the sports' world ruling body.

Provisional membership of the IAAF would be granted at a meeting of the world body to be held in Tokyo on May 26. officials said "The IAAF now feels there

should be no obstacle to South Africa's readmittance ... provided the promised official abolition of apartheid takes place in June and (there is) a unified non-racial governing body, the delegation said.

"We are confident this visit represents a significant stage in the return of South Africa to world athletics, it added in a statement.

"I am very optimistic. This is the news we were wanting to hear, said former British international Zola Pieterse, who attended the news conference.

Pieterse, under her maiden name Budd, was controver-

sially granted British citizenship in 1984, allowing her to run in the 3,000 metres at the Los Angeles Olympics in the same year. She has now reverted to her South African nationality and is expected to be one of the country's top medal prospects if the Springboks are allowed to enter next year's Barcelona

Veteran anti-apartheid competition, said he was heartened by the IAAF visit.

He dismissed an application made by a South African Polytechnic Sports Association

Games administration di-London on Saturday, he had been surprised to receive a

order. It should be dismissed out of hand, Ramsamy told Reuters.

Yzaga ends title drought CHARLOTTE, Noa forehand return cross-court



rth Carolina, May 13 : Seventh-seed Jaime Yzaga defeated fifth -seed Jimmy Arias 6-3.

court tennis championships and his first tournament in three years on Sunday, reports Reuter. Yzaga earned 30,960 dollars

in the rain-delayed final. Arias, who won 18,230 dollars, has lost all seven finals he has

replacement HAMBURG, Germany, May

13 : Niki Pilic on Sunday tipped former Czechoslovak Reuter.

sor," said Pilic, also Germany's Davis Cup team chief. The Yugoslav took over as coach to the world number

two in February, replacing Australian Bob Brett. But Pilic decided at the

from the start. I took the job more as a gratitude towards a man who has done the imposstble for tennts in Germany Borts is my friend. But we simply can't make it together.

played since 1983.

Both players, looking to force play during the baseline exchanges, began nervously in the first set. In the fifth game, Yzaga broke Ar'as' serve to go up 3-2 with a decisive backhand pass down the line off a

Yzaga, constantly pressuring the weaker Arias backhand then broke in the seventh and ninth games to take the first set 6-3.

wide on his forehand and then come in to his backhand, and also attack his second serve." said Yzaga, ranked 76th.

in the second set, after both players held to 3-3. Artas showed signs of life as he broke Yzaga in the seventh game. Arias converted on his ninth break point opportunity in the lengthy, 20-point game.

back in the very next game to tie at 4-4.

Yzaga pulled Arias wide on hts backhand and then came in to volley Arias' floating backhand for a winner.

ing point, it took a lot of steam out of me," said Arias, ranked 58th, who started the match with 'heavy legs' due to merves and fatigue.

strong in my head, and kept trying every point." Yzaga said "Both of us were tired. It's

off a shaky Artas second serve

on his fourth match point to

"The second set was just a

take the second set 7-5.

been a long week ... but even after losing those three match points I didn't get discour-

Novacek's title

HAMBURG, Germany, May 13 : Karel Novacek proved match practice pays when he overcame Swede Magnus Gustafsson 6-3, 6-3, 5-7, 0-6, 6-1 in a draining five-set German Open tennis final on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The 26-year-old Czechoslovak, who has already played 15 tournaments this year, held off a courageous comeback from Gustafsson to win the fifth title of his career.

Novacek, ranked 26th in the world, dominated the early part of the march, taking the first two sets 6-3, 6-3 with But Gustafsson staged a re-

markable recovery and battled back to win next two sets 7-5. 6-0 and force a fifth set. Novacek seemed to be

heading for a disastrous defeat but in the deciding fifth set Gustafsson's serve faltered.

SOCCER SCENARIO



rest of the game.

reports Reuter.

ROME, May 13: League leaders Sampdoris were held 1-1 by Torino in Turin on Sunday to be left needing two points from their last two games to clinch their first Italian championship. reports Reuter. Second placed AC Milan recorded a

spectacular 6-0 home win over trick against Bologan gap at the top to three points.

Sampdoria play Lecce at home and Lazio away in their last two games. The Genoese went a goal up after 32 minutes on Sunday when Torino's Gianluca Sordo misjudged a back pass, allowing Sampdoria mid-fielder Giovanni Invernizzi to score.

Sampdoria were forced on the defensive for much of the

They held firm until the 77th minute when mid-fielder Roberto Policano was felled in the penalty box and Giorgio Bresciani stepped up to net the spot kick. Milan had little more than a training game against

bottom-of-the-table Bologna, running in five goals in a hopelessly one-sided second half. Dutch striker Marco Van Basten grabbed a hat-trick while team-mates Alberigo Eveni, Marco Simone and Frank Rijkard

also got on to the score-sheet. Barcelona Spanish champions

MADRID, May 13: Barcelona clinched the Spanish championship on Sunday when second-placed Atlantic Madrid lost

2-1 to Real Socieded, reports Reuter. Barcelona crashed 4-0 at bottom-placed Cadiz on Saturday but Atletico's defeat left the Catalans nine points ahead with four matches left.

1985. Real Madrid have been champions since.

The title was Barcelona's first success in the league since

Anderlecht win Belgian league

BRUSSELS, May 13: Anderlecht won the Belgian champi onship on Sunday after struggling to beat RWD Molebeck 1-0 in their Brussels derby clash, reports Reuter. A goal from Marc Degryse sewed up Andelecht's 21st league title with two matches to go before the season ends.

Although second placed Mechelen are only four points

adrift, the championship here is not decided on goal averages but by the number of victories if two sides finish the season level on points. Anderlecht have won 23 matches, compared to Meche

len's 20, and also have a far superior strike record to boot -74 goals compared to 58. Mechelen enjoyed a 4-0 consolation victory over Courtrai.

Europe next season. La Gantoise were also on form on Sunday, romping home 5-1 over Lokeren.

and with a three-point lead over La Gantoise, look set for

Romania review transfer curbs BUCHAREST, May 13: Romanian soccer authorities are reviewing curbs on the transfer of players abroad after complaints from clubs that the restrictions were hampering their financial growth, a federation official said on Sunday.

Federation ruled that only players with a minimum age of 28 and 40 international matches to their record could be sold abroad. "We must carefully study how to allow all clubs to sell at least two players a year to foreign clubs without restriction." federation General Secretary Adalbert Cassai told Reuters.

At the start of the present season the Romanian Soccer

complaints about the restrictions. Emeric Jenei, Manager of Bucharest's First Division Steauea, said a new exodus of players could not be ruled out yery soon. "Dan Petrescu and Ilie Dumitrescu could bring us lots of

money, which is necessary for building up a strong new team

His declaration came after a wave of club pressure and

capable of competing in a European Cup. Jenet said. Petrescu, one of the most aggressive defenders in the Romanian league with 12 goals scored in 24 matches, has re crived a tentative three-million-dollar offer from the Turkish Club Galatasaray of Istanbul, club sources said.

Rome, for the world's top spot. ing out of the best of a big ser-

AMSTERDAM. May 13: Soviet grandmaster Valery Salov is tipped as the most likely winner of the tough Verenigde Spaarbank international chess

after his eighth round draw with Britain's Nigel Short, reports Reuter. Although both players share first place with 5-1/2 points each, the young British grandmaster faces Soviet exworld champion Anatoly Karpov in the last game, which

tournament which ends today

experts say Short is very unlikely to win. Short, winner here in 1988 and runner-up in 1989, has the additional disadvantage of playing with the black pieces. Salov will hold white in his

strongest of the 10 competi-This category 16 tournament is the toughest in the

final round game against 28-

year-old leelandic grandmaster

Johan Hjartarsson, the ninth

chess calendar. Karpov is just half a point behind the leaders, with Saturday's draws in all five matches leaving positions un-Short and Saloy entered Saturday's game in combative

form, electing for a sharp varia-

tions of the Sicilian defence.

Salov castled queen side and

piled up his queen and rook on

the king's knight file against

the rank of pawns shielding

Short's king. Short replied with pressure in the centre, but after a queen exchange much of the impetus went out of the game which ended in a draw on move 65.

uations, with deft drop shots. "I'm using everything on the court now, everything is coming together. "Graf can regain the top spot with a win in next

Salov closer to title Garry Kasparov is a point behind the leaders and cannot win the tournament. The World champion plays Yugoslav grandmaster Ljubomir

Ljubojevic in the final round.

If Kasparov wins and both

Salov and Short lose, Kasparov will get the 20,000 guilder first prize. Kasparov's form has been in doubt since March when he lost a tournament for the first time in 10 years at Linares in Spain, his first tough tourna-

ment since retaining his world

title against Karpov in

1/2

Scores after eight rounds: Short Salov Karpov Korchnot Hjartarsson Ljubojevic Van der Wiel Timman Gurevich

December.

Jennings wins Washington race WASHINGTON, May 13 Women's cross country world

champion, Lynn Jennings.

comfortably beat Kenya's Susan Sirma to win the Washington 8 km race in record time on Sunday, reports AFP. Jennings came home in 25 min 2 sec. well clear of Sirma's 25:14 and fellow American Judi St. Hilare in

25:40, and also knocking one

second off the course record

set by Norway's Grete Waitz.

run of play. The Germans dominated

Christina Ferneck missed a penalty stroke just minutes be-

JOHANNESBU South African Amateur Athle-RG. May 13 South Africa's

reports Reuter.

be in time for Springbok athletes to compete in August's Tokyo World Championship. It seems to me time is too

Officials said that with Tokyo prospects slipping, a likely venue for South Africa ending its isolation would be the All-Africa Games, to be

Diack and other IAAF offi-

7-5 to win the US men's clay

Pilic picks his

Davis Cup player Tomas Smid to take his place as Boris Becker's coach, reports "He (Smid) has the best chance to become my succes-

weekend he could no longer carry out both jobs. "It was all too much for me

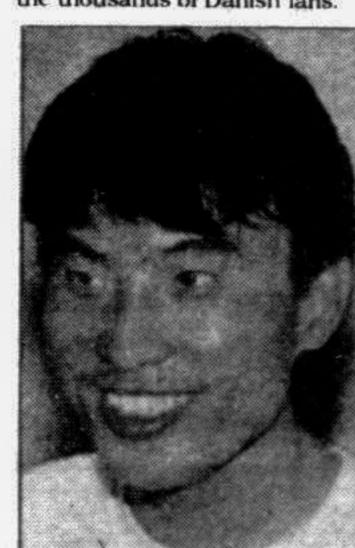
matter of a few points. I felt weak Arias backhand volley.

"I was trying to pull him

His momentum was shortlived, however, as Yzaga broke

This game was a huge turn-

Arias, despite saving three match points on his serve at 4-5, finally ran out of steam in the twelfth game. Yzaga ripped



ZHAO JIANHUA

men's doubles team with a 15-4. 15-6 thrashing of Thomas Lund and Jon Holst-Christensen. Then Chung helped Park retain the mixed title with a 15-5, 15-17, 15-9 success over

sports activist Sam Ramsamy, who is spearheading South Africa's return to international

to take part in the World Student Games in Sheffield, England, this July as out of order. rector Ray Gridley said in

South African application to send a team which would include Pieterse. "The Association making the application had no right to do so. It is completely out of