

Nationals get underway

Sports Reporter

The 16th national table tennis championships got underway at the National Coaching Centre yesterday with five men's and eleven boys' team events preliminary matches being decided on the opening day.

The six-day meet, under the aegis of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, is being participated by 259 paddlers representing 31 teams in three categories — men's, women's and boys' sections. Ten titles are at stake, namely the three team titles, the singles, doubles and the mixed

Pila and other officials attended the opening ceremony. In the boys' team event Bakerganj DSA beat Gaibandha DSA by three sets to one, Tangail beat Rajshahi 3-2, Habiganj blanked Panchagarh 3-0, Mymensingh beat Rangpur 3-2, Patuakhali beat Narail 3-2, Khulna beat Moulvibazar 3-0, Munahiganj beat Nilphamari 3-0, Pirojpur beat Tangail 3-0, Nilphamari beat Khulna 3-0, defending champions Bangladesh Ansars beat Dinajpur 3-0 while Bakerganj posted their second successive win by beating Chittagong 3-1.

Nilphamari, Khulna and Tangail had one win and one

play their first match today, against Nilphamari DSA.

The semifinals and the finals of all the three team events are scheduled for Aug 8.

The doubles and singles competitions also start Aug 8. The men's team competition is being held in two groups with the top two teams in each group qualifying for the cross semifinals. The boys' team event is also being played under the new Swaythling Cup rules while the women's team event is being held under the Corbillion Cup format.

The doubles will be decided in best-of-three sets while the singles matches will be best of

More Dhaka stars for Calcutta

Sports Reporter

Two more Bangladeshi footballers are expected to leave for Calcutta tomorrow, Thursday to play in the Calcutta Super Division Football League, reports UNB.

Salahuddin of Dhaka Mohammedan SC and Roxy of Arambagh KS Tuesday sought permission from the Bangladesh Football Federation to play for Calcutta Mohammedan SC in the Indian league.

Shabbir of Dhaka Mohammedans, Jewel Rana of Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Ponir of Fakirerpool are already playing in the Calcutta League for Mohammedans.

All the five Bangladeshi players are expected to play for Mohammedans in their next vital match against league leaders East Bengal Club next Saturday.

Cricket camp

Sports Reporter

Udity Club, a Milners First Division league side, will hold a talent hunt coaching camp for cricketers under 16 years of age.

The two-month long camp, to be conducted by some well-known top grade cricketers and a former coach of the BKSFP, is expected to start from the third week of this month.

Youngsters interested in taking part have been advised to contact Babar at Rainak Video-Audio Service, BDR Gate No 4, Road 2, Dhanmandi Residential Area, Phone-507737 at the earliest.

ROK students beat up hockey ref

Sports Reporter

SEOUL, Aug 6: South Korean police arrested three university hockey players for kicking and hitting a referee with their hockey sticks after a match, a police spokesman said today, reports Reuter.

"We brought in 10 students for questioning but after investigation we found three were responsible," the spokesman said. The three were arrested on Monday.

Chongju University was beaten 3-1 by the Korea National College of Physical Education in a match on Sunday. Chongju players, blaming referee Woo Jong Oh for their loss, pushed him to the ground, kicked and hit with their hockey sticks.

Woo was admitted to hospital. Officials said we could need up to three weeks of treatment.

Bubka does it yet again



MALMO, Sweden, Aug 6: After soaring to yet another world record, Sergei Bubka lifted his taste buds, report agencies.

"Please, give me a beer," he asked one official after breaking his own pole vault record by one-half inch, clearing 20 feet, 1/4 inch (6.10 meters) at the IDag Galan track meet.

"How about champagne?" said one onlooker.

Bubka agreed. This was a special occasion.

"May be I should have champagne after all," he said.

The 28-year-old Ukrainian's 28th world mark — 15 indoors and 13 outdoors — means he's one of the greatest record-breakers in track and field history.

But coming into the meet, Bubka's chances didn't look bright. He was tired after competing in Monaco on Saturday and he felt pain in his left leg while warming up.

"It was so difficult jumping early in tonight's competition. The wind was changing all the time and I had to wait for the right moment," said Bubka, who made his first two heights

— at 5.70 (18-8 1/4) and 5.85 (19-2 1/4) — on his second attempt.

"I only planned to jump once at 6.10, but the fans motivated me. They gave me power. I felt very fast and very strong."

Most of the 24,657 fans, a record turnout for this meet, were still in the stadium when Bubka made the record on his third and final attempt.

"The atmosphere was great. The fans helped me," said Bubka.

Bubka, whose world indoor record is 20-1 (6.12 meters), set March 23 in France, said breaking the 20-foot barrier both indoors and outdoors made him very happy.

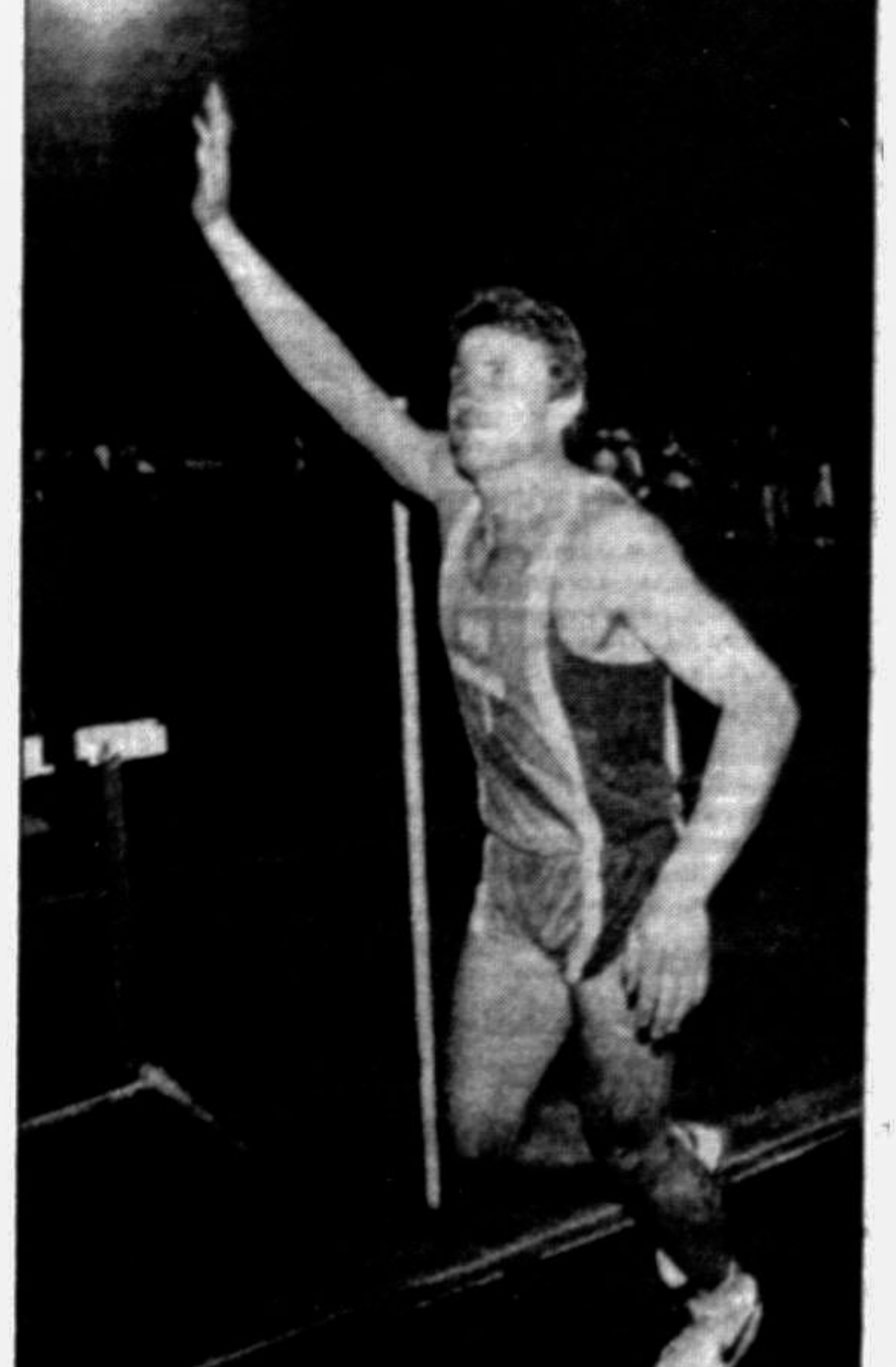
"It was my goal this season to jump 6.10 outdoors," he said. "And I also got another record tonight. This was my eighth record, indoors and outdoors, this year. In 1984, I set seven world records."

Bubka's next meet is the Weltklasse in Zurich, Switzerland, on Wednesday. Then he will go back to the Soviet Union and prepare for the World Championships in Tokyo later this month.

"I will not jump after

Zurich. I'm going to spend a week with the Soviet team in Vladivostok before Tokyo," he said.

5.70 metres, clearing in his second attempt, and also needed two jumps at 5.85 before ordering the bar to 6.10.



Soviet Sergei Bubka salutes fans after setting a new world pole vault record of 6.10m at the international athletics meet in Malmo, Sweden on August 5. Bubka broke his own record of 6.09 set on July 8.

Bubka bettered his previous mark of 6.09 metres set in Formia, Italy, on July 8. He had set records of 6.07 and 6.08 in May and June respectively.

"It was not so easy for me to jump today as I have problems with my left leg. But all the spectators inspired me," said Bubka, who in 1985 became the first man to clear the six-metre mark.

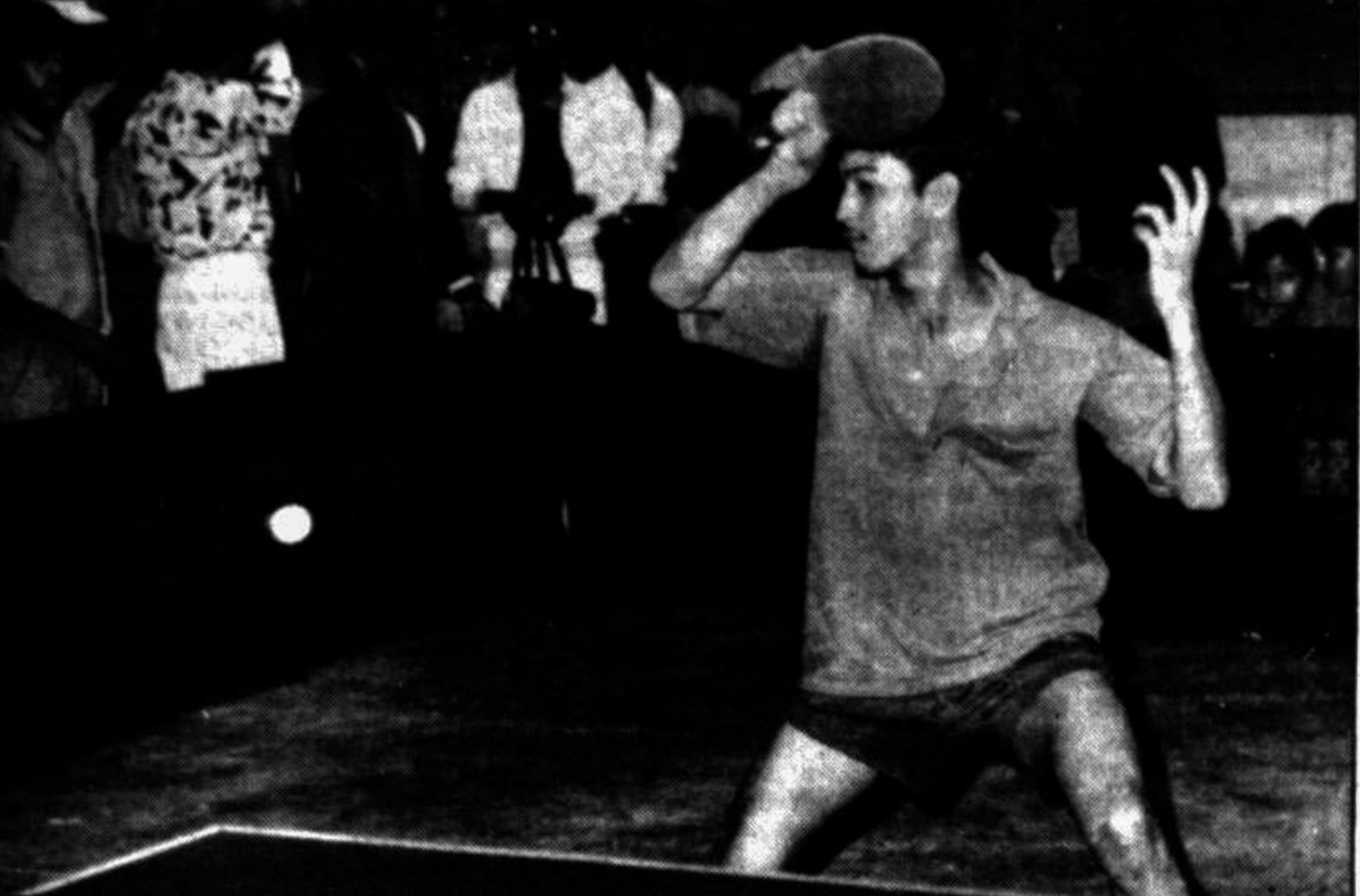
He entered the contest at

"The first attempt was good, the second not so bad, the third was good enough," said Bubka, one of the hottest favourites for the World Championships.

Bubka said he had first planned to make only one attempt because of pain in his left heel, which was packed in ice at the news conference, but changed his mind when he felt he could break the record.

Bubka's pole-vaulting progression

INDOOR	5.81 meters (19 feet, 3-4 inches) — Vilnius, USSR Jan. 15, 1984
5.82	(19-1) — Milan, Feb. 1, 1984
5.83	(19-11-2) — Inglewood, Calif, Feb. 10, 1984
5.92	(19-5) — Moscow, Feb. 8, 1986
5.94	(19-5 3-4) — Inglewood, Calif, Feb. 21, 1986
5.95	(19-6 1-4) — New York, Feb. 28, 1986
5.96	(19-6 1-2) — Osaka, Japan, Jan. 15, 1987
5.97	(19-7) — Torino, Italy, Mar. 17, 1987
6.03	(19-9 1-4) — Osaka, Japan, Feb. 11, 1989
6.05	(19-10 1-4) — Donetsk, USSR, Mar. 17, 1990
6.08	(19-11 1-4) — Volgograd, USSR, Feb. 9, 1991
6.10	(20-0 1-4) — San Sebastian, Spain, Mar. 15, 1991
6.11	(20-0 1-2) — Donetsk, USSR, Mar. 19, 1991
6.12	(20-1) — Grenoble, France, Mar. 23, 1991
OUTDOOR	5.85 meters (19 feet, 2 1-4 inches) — Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, May 26, 1984
5.88	(19-3 1-2) — St. Denis, France, June 2, 1984
5.90	(19-4 1-4) — London, July 13, 1984
5.94	(19-5 3-4) — Rome, Aug. 31, 1984
6.00	(19-8 1-4) — Paris, July 13, 1985
6.01	(19-8 1-2) — Moscow, July 8, 1986
6.03	(19-9 1-4) — Prague, June 23, 1987
6.05	(19-10 1-4) — Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, June 9, 1988
6.06	(19-10 1-2) — Nice, France, July 10, 1988
6.07	(19-11) — Shuzouka, Japan, May 6, 1991
6.08	(19-11 1-4) — Moscow, June 9, 1991
6.09	(19-11 3-4) — Formia, Italy, July 8, 1991
6.10	(20-0 1-4) — Malmo, Sweden, August 5, 1991.



Defending boys' singles champion Rubel of Ansars in action on the opening day of the 16th nationals at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

doubles.

Maj General Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman, National Sports Council inaugurated the meet in the afternoon. The opening ceremony included marchpast by the competing teams and formal oath-taking with defending national men's singles champion Musaddequl Haque Rochi of Bangladesh Biman reading out the Olympic oath.

Syed Yousuf Hossain, President of BTFP, General Secretary Syed Mainuzzaman

loss each after play ended around eight in the evening on Day One.

In the men's team event preliminaries, Rajshahi beat Thakurgaon, Mymensingh beat Pabna, Gaibandha beat Natore, Dhaka beat Pirojpur and Bakerganj beat Panchagarh — all by one-sided three-sets-to-nil margins.

Competition in the women's team event begins today.

Defending men's team champions Bangladesh Biman

five sets from the second round onwards.

The men's and boys' individual doubles and singles competitions will be held in eight groups in the first knockout phase with the top finishers in each group moving to the robin league, to be played among two four-man groups. The champions and runners up of each group will make the semifinals.

The meet is being sponsored by "The New Paper", a local English newsmagazine.

To investigate rape charges against Tyson

Panel to be named next week

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 6: A special panel investigating rape allegations against former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson will be selected next week, a prosecutor said Monday, reports AP.

An 18-year-old contestant in the Miss Black America pageant has accused Tyson of raping her in a downtown hotel on July 19.

Tyson was in Indianapolis for Indiana Black Expo, a week-long celebration of black culture and accomplishments. Through his aides, Tyson has denied the allegations, calling them a cheap shot.

Selection of the six-member grand jury, expected next Tuesday, "usually can be done in a day, and they could begin hearing testimony almost immediately," Marion County Prosecutor Jeffrey Modisett said.

The grand jury, chosen from members of the public, will decide whether to indict

Tyson.

"What we usually do is schedule testimony so they can meet once a week. So they could begin meeting later next week and could meet every week thereafter until all the evidence can be presented to them," Modisett said.

He said he hopes the investigation can be wrapped up by Labour Day.

"That would give us four sessions, but we have to wait until we see how the evidence develop," he said.

Tyson will be ordered to appear before the special grand jury, but won't be required to testify because he is the focus of the investigation, the prosecutor has said.

The Indianapolis Police Department and Marion County Prosecutor's Office have been criticized for withholding early reports on the investigation and for failing to pursue the case more quickly.

However, Modisett said Monday that he is "satisfied the investigation has proceeded in a professional man-

ner."

He said authorities began looking into the rape accusation soon after the woman made the reports on July 20.

"To my knowledge there has been no delay in this case from the time the allegation was made. There were steps taken to investigate. Sometimes you have to take preliminary steps before you take substantive ones," he said.

Modisett acknowledged that some key witnesses, such as Tyson, left town before police could talk with them. However, he said their departures came before police had even learned of the allegation.

Modisett also defended the decision to withhold details of the allegation in the police incident report.

"When it appears as though it is a complex — and I would also add possibly high-profile — case there are instances in which the original report does not have to be filed immediately," he said.

Modisett said authorities withheld some information to gain time to interview witnesses before publicity that might interfere with the investigation.

The woman made the rape accusation on July 20, a day after she says she was assaulted. Law enforcement officials publicly confirmed on July 26 that they were investigating the case.

SOCCER SCENARIO

Croats dropped from Y'slav squad

BELGRADE, Aug 6: Yugoslavia have omitted three regular Croatian players from their squad for a soccer tournament in Italy this week, team officials said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Midfielder Zvonimir Boban, striker Davor Suker and goalkeeper Drazen Ladice, all of Hask Grdijanski Zagreb, were not included after Croatian sports authorities advised all athletes from the republic not to compete for Yugoslavia.

"I intended to call them in but I don't want to make life difficult for anybody," said coach Ivica Osim.

"Let's not make a big fuss about it all. We'll see what the future will bring."

Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25, the move triggering bloody inter-ethnic clashes in the republic in which more than 200 people have died.

Italian clubs sides Genoa and Lazio are competing along with the Czechoslovak national side in the four-team tournament which begins on Wednesday.

Santos sees Botafogo through

TOKYO, Aug 6: Carlos Alberto Santos scored the only goal from a penalty kick in the first-half as Brazil's Botafogo FC shut out English First Division team Leeds United 1-0 in an exhibition match here Monday, reports AFP.

Leeds missed several chances to score in the game which saw both sides give an exciting display of speed and technique in front of some 41,000 spectators at the Tokyo dome.

A penalty was awarded against Leeds goalkeeper Mervyn Day who obstructed Brazilian international Renato Gaucho in front of the goal.

Santos effortlessly slotted the ball into the righthand corner from the spot.

Nabin Samity in semis

JHENIDAH, Aug 6: Nabin Samity moved into the semifinals of the Jhenidah Kishore Football League defeating Saddam Sporting Club by 2-0 goals at the Wazir Ali High School ground on Sunday, reports AFP.

Organised by Kanchannagar Club, Mithu scored both goals for the winners.

Syrians win 1-0

HYDERABAD, India, Aug 6: Favourites Syria struggled to overcome a fighting Lebanon 1-0 under a light drizzle in the Asian Group B pre-Olympic football tournament here Sunday, reports AFP.

Abdul Razak Mahmoud saved the listless Syrians from embarrassment with an opportunistic goal in the 33rd minute at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium.

It was the first match for both teams in the five-nation, round-robin tournament which continues until August 13.

Oman, Kuwait and hosts India are the other three countries taking part with the winner moving to the final qualifying round for next year's Barcelona Olympics.

The Syrians, surprise quarter-finalists at last month's World Youth Cup in Portugal, failed to score more goals de-

Savchenko shocks Kohde-Kilsch

TORONTO, Aug 6: Little-known American Jessica Emmons and Soviet Larisa Savchenko provided first round upsets on Monday, the opening day of the 500,000-dollar Canadian Open women's tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

German veteran Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, seeded 15th, fell to Savchenko 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, while Emmons ranked 159th in the world, claimed a 1-6, 6-2, 6-3, win from 14th-seeded Italian katie Piccolini.

Kohde-Kilsch was serving for the match at 5-4 of the third set, but she was broken at 15 by Savchenko, who went on to take the third set tiebreak 9-7.

Emmons broke the 37th-ranked Italian four times in the middle set and twice more in the decider, while losing her serve just once in that span.

The top eight seeds, including world number three Gabriela Sabatini and 15-year-old sensation Jennifer Capriati, received first round byes.

Capriati, who scored one of the biggest wins of her career when she upset Monica Seles in the Mazda Classic final on Sunday, was not expected to see action until Wednesday.

Four seeds advanced, including 10th-seeded Peruvian Laura Gildemeister, who needed three tough sets and more than two hours to oust American Ann Henricksson 7-5, 5-7, 7-4.

Jarryd, Krickstein pull off upsets

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Aug 6: Anders Jarryd surprised 16th-seeded fellow Swede Jonas Svensson by refusing to fold on his way to a 6-7, 7-5, 6-4 first-round victory at the 1.3 million dollar ATP championships on Monday, reports Reuter.

"I think he was a little bit surprised I kept fighting all the time," Jarryd said. "I think maybe he was waiting for me to fall apart, but I did not do it."

The 31st-ranked Jarryd, a former top-five player who plummeted to 178 in the world last year, said his ability to rebound and win a tough three-setter provided a much needed confidence boost.

"I was very disappointed and was thinking for a while I might quit," said Jarryd, who has been plagued by shoulder and knee injuries. "But then I started working and I decided to give it another try."

Aaron Krickstein provided the day's other upset when he beat 15th-seeded fellow American Richey Reneberg 7-6, 3-6, 7-6.

The ATP championships, a hardcourt tune-up for the US Open, features seven of the world's top-ranked Australian Open champion Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg, Ivan Lendl, French Open champion Jim Courier, Andre Agassi and US Open champion Pete Sampras, all received first round byes.

Two seeded players advanced on Monday. Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek, seeded 11th, crushed American Jimmy Arias 6-1, 6-1 and 10th-seeded Soviet Andrei Cherkasov ousted Australian Todd Woodbridge 7-6, 6-1.

Quentrec, Pierce post easy wins

ALBUQUERQUE, Aug 6: Third-seeded Mary Pierce ran fellow French pro Nathalie Herremann into quick submission with a variety of baseline shots for a 6-2, 6-2, win in Monday's first round of the Virginia Slims of Albuquerque tournament, reports AP.

Earlier, France's Karine Quentrec defeated fifth-seeded Patty Fendick of Sacramento, Calif., 6-2, 6-3, and seventh-seeded Linda Ferrando of Italy ousted Marketa Kochta of Germany, 2-6, 6-1, 6-3.

In other first-round matches, Alexia Dechaume of France beat Caroline Kuhlman of Los Angeles, 6-3, 6-4; Halle Cioffi of Knoxville, Tenn., beat Stacey Martin of Largo, Md. 6-3, 6-3, and 16-year-old Tatiana

Ignatieva of the Soviet Union beat Pascale Paradis-Mangon of France, 6-4, 6-3.

Pierce, a native of Canada who now lives in France, was content to remain on the baseline while firing crosscourt shots at Herremann.

"I played how I wanted to play. I don't normally play that well in the first round and usually get better as I go along," said Pierce, who needed just 63 minutes to advance.

Quentrec, one of nine French players in the 32-player field, took command of the match after dropping the opening game to Fendick.

Ranked No. 69 in the world, Quentrec broke Fendick's serve twice in the first four games, when Fendick had trouble getting her serve in and repeatedly found the

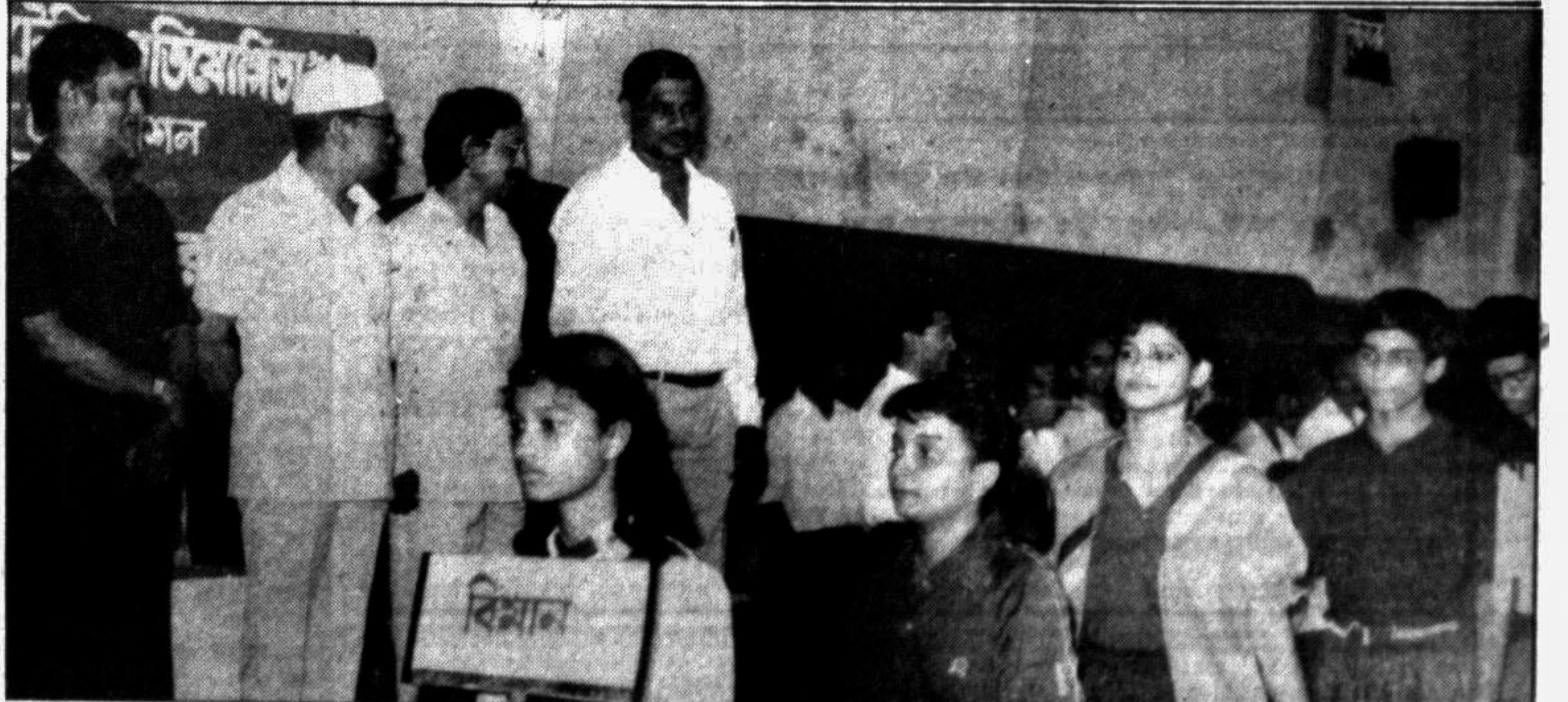
net with her forehand shots.

Most of the players said the mile-high (1.6-kilometer) altitude in Albuquerque played havoc with their game.

"The balls just fly everywhere," said France's Julie Halard, who teamed with Dechaume for a first round doubles victory Monday over Americans Lindsay Bartlett and Lynn Nabors.

Halard, ranked 27th, inherited the top seed when Conchita Martinez of Spain withdrew due to a strained muscle in her left leg.

The withdrawal by seventh-ranked Martinez, a winner earlier this year at Barcelona and the Austrian Open, left Halard as the highest rated player in the 150,000 Albuquerque tournament.



Teams marchpast at the opening of the 16th national table tennis championships at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.