

Rupu joins Brothers

Sports Reporter



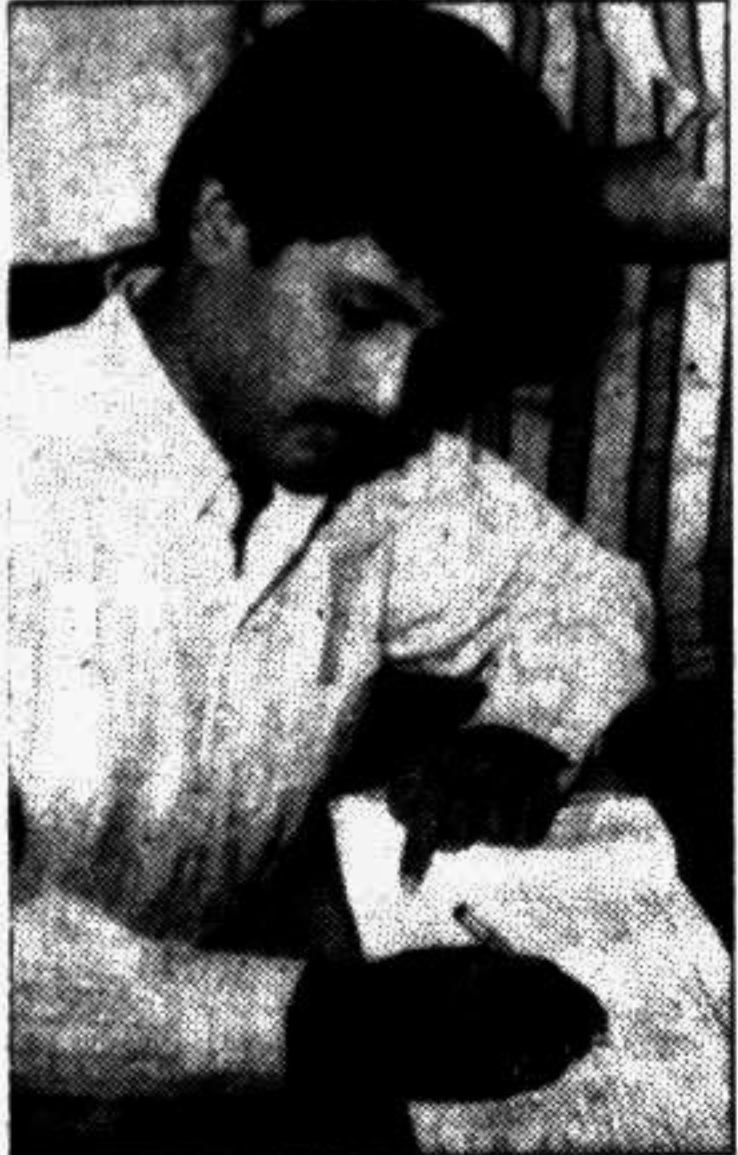
Abahani Krira Chakra media Sattyajit Das Rupu's decision to seek a transfer to Brothers Union and Syed Rumman bin-Wali Shabbir, Mohammedan's national star midfielder deciding to stay another season with the black-and-whites, were the major stories yesterday, the fifth day of the soccer transfers for the 1991-92 season.

Brothers Union yesterday managed to lure another Abahani star, Rupu, their captain to join the Gopibagh team. Waseem Iqbal joined them from Abahani on Wednesday.

Rupu, despite his declining form, played a significant role in Abahani's BTC Club Cup triumph last May-June, captaining the side.

Moon, Brothers' national under-23 right-back, who was

earlier tipped to join Abahani, finally decided to stay on an-



Sattyajit Rupu, the former Abahani captain, signs for the Brothers Union Club yesterday. — Star photo

other season and handed his token yesterday to the waiting Brothers officials. Farashganj defender Azmat also took a transfer in favour of Brothers Union.

Mohammedan Sporting officials gave a sigh of relief when their gifted national media Shabbir handed them his token yesterday. There was a strong rumour that Brothers and Abahani were trying to lure the diminutive dynamo by offering him a very handsome deal. Reza, a defender who played for PWD, also took a transfer in favour of Mohammedans.

Abahani reconfirmed the joining of Mustafa Babu of Muktiyoddha and Emily of Mohammedans when they took their signature yesterday.

So far 108 booters have completed their transfers with 28 doing so yesterday.

Karnaphuli women's volleyball from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

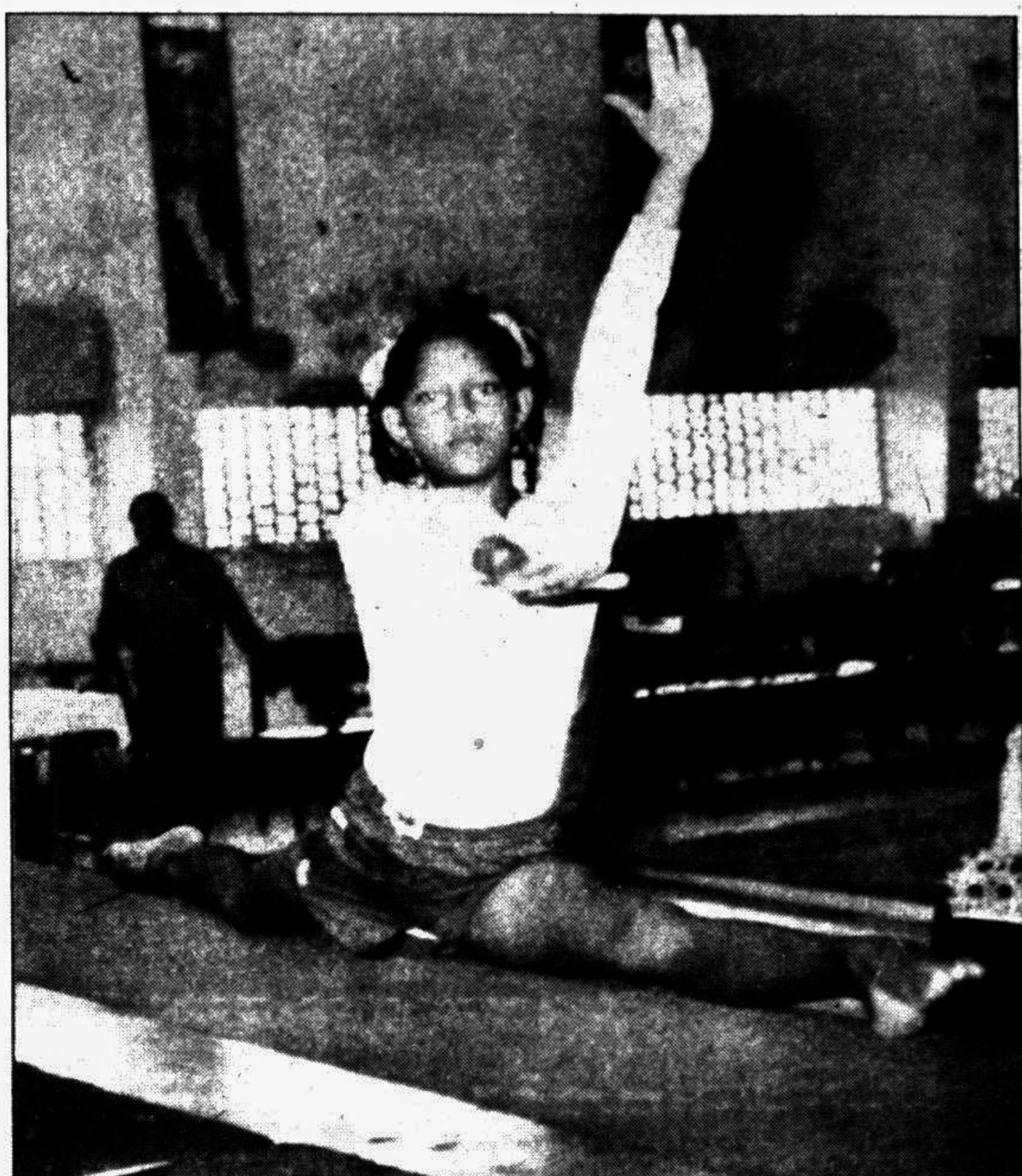
The Karnaphuli women's handball championship '91, organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation, will begin from tomorrow at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

State Minister for Information, Nurul Huda will inaugurate the four-day meet at 4 pm.

Karnaphuli Insurance Company, the sponsors of the tourney, held a press conference yesterday. Chairman of the Karnaphuli Insurance, Nizamuddin Ahmed, Mrs. Hamida Ali, President of the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation, spoke on the occasion.

Eight teams from four divisions along with Bangladesh Ansar will take part in the competition on round robin league basis.

The divisional teams are Rangamati and Bandarban from Chittagong Division, Netrakona and Dhaka from Dhaka Division, Jessore and Chuadanga from Khulna Division.



Parveen Akhtar of BKSP cuts a cute pose to win the balance beam gold on the concluding day of the National junior gymnastic championships at National Coaching Centre yesterday. — star photo

BKSP rule the roost

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Krira Shikkhaya Protisthan (BKSP) gymnasts emerged champions on the concluding day of the eighth national junior gymnastics championships yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

BKSP won six gold, nine silver and four bronze medals in the first six games before Navratilova settled down and served out the match.

Asked about her predictions for the final Graf said, "If she plays like she did today, she can beat anybody."

spot with one gold while Dhaka DSA managed one bronze.

Haroon-ur-Rashid, BKSP's wonder boy, bagged his fourth gold medal of the meet when he took the first position in the floor exercise event.

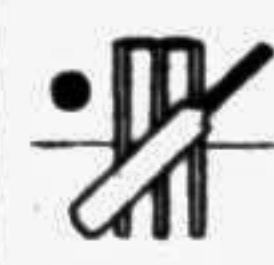
Zahidul Islam and Amir Ali, also of BKSP, were jointly placed in the second position by BKSP's Mamoon-al-Feroze in the third position. Parveen Akhtar of BKSP

bagged the gold in the women's balance beam. Sharmin Sultana of BKSP and Gauhar Sultana of Ansars were jointly placed in the second sport. BKSP's Morshed Akhtar took the bronze medal.

In all, 21 boys and 19 girls from six teams participated in the three-day meet.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka was the chief guest at the closing function.

Essex lead county table



LONDON, Sept 7: Essex completed a crushing victory over Derbyshire on Friday to lift themselves 10

points clear of Warwickshire at the top of English cricket's county championship, reports Reuter.

Both Essex and Warwickshire have two more fixtures to play with Essex now favourites to take the title they last won five years ago.

Essex needed 73 minutes to take the last three wickets on Friday morning to seal victory over third-placed Derbyshire by an innings and 72 runs.

With defeat inevitable, Derbyshire's batsmen went for their shots.

Allan Warner hammered five fours in his 28 before giving left-arm spinner John Childs his sixth wicket while Karl Krikken cracked two sixes and six fours as he made an attractive 56 in 90 balls.

Pakistani Salim Malik, who hit 165 when Essex batted, quickly brought an end to the innings with his leg-spin when he had Krikken caught behind and then dismissed Richard Sladdin to leave Derbyshire 240 all out.

Ian Austin hit the fastest century of the season from 61 balls but finished on the losing side as Lancashire suffered their sixth defeat in their last seven matches by a 48-run margin against Yorkshire at Scarborough.

Set 343 in 80 overs, Lancashire slumped to 99 for seven before a 30 ball 50 from

England all-rounder Phil DeFreitas signalled more determined defiance.

After DeFreitas, who hit left arm spinner Phil Carrick for four sixes in one over, was eighth out at 129, Austin, Dexter Fittton and Peter Martin continued the fightback.

Austin and Fittton (34) added 83 for the ninth wicket in only 11 overs before Fittton was dismissed but Austin continued to attack. He blasted Carrick for five sixes in quick succession to reach his maiden century in 68 minutes with six sixes and 13 fours.

The last wicket pair took Lancashire to 294 before Martin was dismissed, leaving Austin unbeaten on 101.

Phil Tufnell and John Emburey spun champions Middlesex to only their second championship victory of the season as Nottinghamshire, set a target of 351, collapsed to 102 all out at Trent Bridge.

Tufnell finished with five for 30 and Emburey four for 38 as Nottingham's last eight wickets fell for just 27 runs in the space of 64 deliveries.

West Indian-born paceman

Tony Merrick took seven for 99 to inspire a dramatic finish at Hove where the match between Kent and Sussex ended in a tie.

Sussex, chasing a daunting 437, had looked likely winners after centuries from skipper Paul Parker and Alan Wells, but they lost their last six wickets for 58 as Merrick achieved his best bowling performance for Kent.

Sussex needed just one run to win off the last over from spinner Minal Patel but Tony Pigott was caught at slip with four balls left.

They had made an excellent start in chasing the target, Parker putting on 146 for the first wicket with Jamie Hall (52).

Parker, who hit 12 fours in his 111, then added 108 for the third wicket with Wells, whose 162 contained 20 fours and a six.

Wells put on 117 for the fourth wicket with elder brother Colin, before both fell to Merrick, setting up the exciting finish.

Tangail spikers lift Milnar's title

Sports Reporter

Tangail District Women's Sports Association (TDWSA) won the Milner's volleyball title on the concluding day yesterday outplaying Sylhet DWSA 15-0, 15-4 at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

Tangail collected 18 points from six matches while Rajbari (DWSA), who had to be satisfied as runners-up, chalked up 15 points, also from six matches.

Rajbari defeated Narayanganj 15-10 and 15-9 in yesterday's encounter.

Narayanganj and Jessore jointly finished third.

Seven teams took part in the four-day meet on a round robin league.

Major General Mahbubur Rahman, NSC's Chairman, distributed the prizes among the winners.

Ansars, Fire Service in finals

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Fire Service and Bangladesh Ansars qualified for the final round from the Central Zone of the Uttara Motors national kabaddi championship yesterday at Outer Stadium kabaddi court.

Fire Service, despite losing their match yesterday against Bangladesh Rifles 10-14, still managed to qualify for the finals by collecting four points from three matches.

Bangladesh Ansars defeated Bangladesh Police 14-11 yesterday to finish with four points.

The final round of the championship will be held in Dhaka from September 26 to 28.

Shamima's title

Sports Reporter

Shamima of Bangladesh Ansars won the women's singles title of the Saleh Bangladesh Open table tennis championship yesterday at the Chittagong Railway Club.

Shamima scored a thrilling 3-2 sets victory over team mate Zulekha in the final.

Hamlet and Mahboob won the boys' doubles title after a fighting 2-1 victory over Manas and Joyal.

The boys' final, men's doubles final and the men's singles final matches will be held today.

Chinese women shut out rest in Japan Open TT

SAPPORO, Japan, Sept 7:

World champion Deng Yaping breezed past Qiao Hong in an all-Chinese final to win the women's singles crown at the Japan Open table tennis tournament here Saturday, reports AFP.

The top-seeded diminutive Chinese, who eliminated here compatriot Gao Jun in the semifinals, coasted to a 21-10, 21-11, 21-17 victory to grab the 10,000-dollar first prize.

Second-seeded Qiao, who failed to defend her two titles at the World Championships in May, had to be satisfied with 3,000 dollars.

The men's doubles trophy and 2,500 dollars went to fourth seeded Chinese pair of Yu Shentong and Wang Yong Gang, who outmashed Japanese Duo of Hiroshi Shibutani and Koji Matsushita 21-12, 21-19.

The Chinese advanced to the final beating top-seeded Jorgen Persson and Erik Lindh of Sweden 12-21, 22-20, 21-16.

Seles faces the oldest woman in US Open final

Ageless Jimbo inspires Martina

NEW YORK, Sept 7: Second seed Monica Seles of Yugoslavia won a third-set tiebreak in a slug-fest with

Jennifer Capriati to reach the final of the U. S. Open tennis championships where she will meet four-time champion Martina Navratilova, reports Reuter.

Twice the 15-year-old Capriati served for the match, but failed to close it out as Seles fought back for a 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 victory to reach her first U. S. Open final.

The win kept up a remarkable string for Seles, who has reached the final of every tournament she has played this year, winning five including the French and Australian Opens.

Earlier on Friday, Navratilova, who at one month shy of her 35th birthday is the oldest woman in the tournament, turned in a vintage performance against her longtime rival Steffi Graf to reach her eighth U. S. Open final.

Navratilova, seeded sixth, served and volleyed far better than in any of her previous five matches to score a 7-6, 6-7, 6-4 victory and earn a shot at the world number two, who at 17 is half her age.

"Jimmy's still in there and has a chance to win and obviously so do I," said Navratilova, who has gained inspiration from the 39-year-old Connors's stunning run to the semifinals. "It shows what spirit can do, defying the odds."

The women's final will be sandwiched between the men's semifinals in the "Super Saturday" programme at the National Tennis Centre.

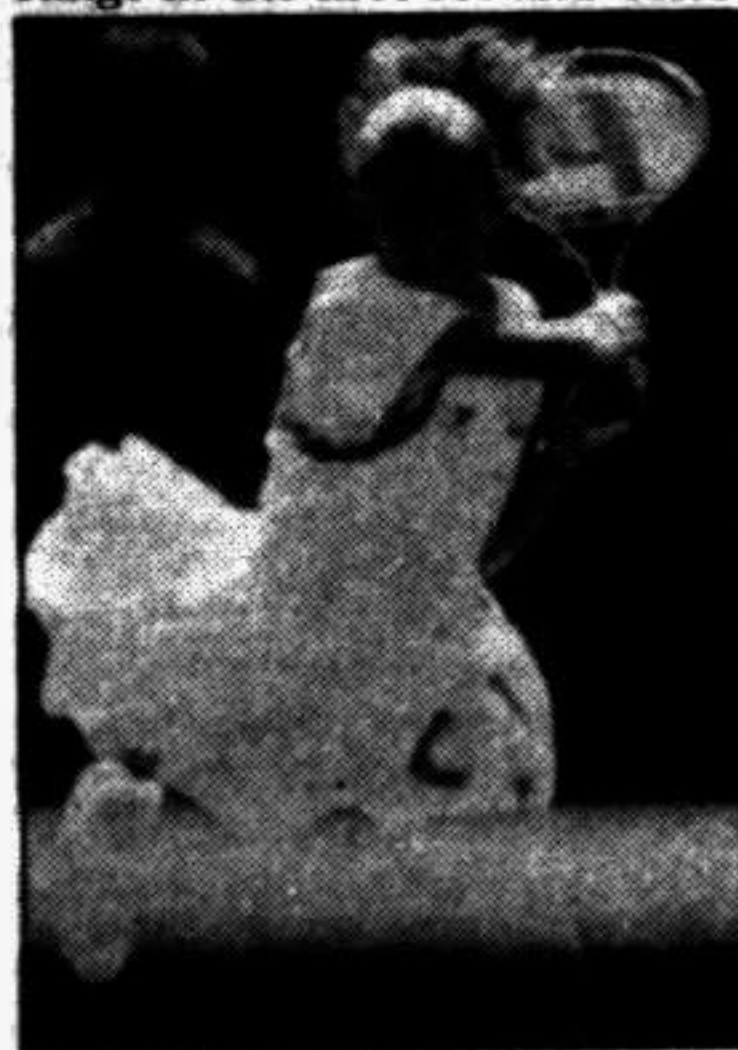
The programme opens with second seed Stefan Edberg playing three-time champion Ivan Lendl, the fifth seed. Following the women's final Connors takes on fourth-seeded French Open Champion Jim Courier.

Seles and seventh-seeded American Capriati are two of the hardest hitters in the women's game, but neither is comfortable at the net.

As a result, the entire match was spent with the two teen Titans bashing away at each other from the baseline, the two fluted groundstrokes

punctuated by Seles's grunting which seems to get louder as the importance of her matches increase.

Capriati, who knocked out defending champion Gabriela Sabatini in the quarter-finals, had some trouble finding her range in the first set and Seles



MONICA SELES — the 17-year-old hard hitter.

won with a single service break in the eighth game.

Seles, who had not faced a seeded player before Capriati, broke the American to open the second set and appeared on her way to a swift victory.

But from 3-1 down Capriati,



NAVATILOVA — the oldest woman finalist in US Open.

who had the packed stadium crowd firmly on her side, began cracking winners as she ran off five consecutive games, breaking Seles in the sixth and eighth to bring the fans to their feet.

In the third set serving appeared to be no advantage to either player.

Capriati scored the first break of the set at love and appeared in control as she fought

off a break point in the next game to hold for 3-1.

But after Seles held for 3-2 there were seven successive service breaks with Capriati failing to hold while serving for the match at 5-4 and again at 6-5.

"I just didn't close it out when I needed to," said a teary-eyed Capriati, who was bidding to become the youngest ever U. S. Open finalist.

"(Losing) is even tougher when you know you could have the match and it's there in your hands and it slips away."

In the tiebreak, in which both players continued to struggle with their serves, Seles was simply the sharper of the two. At 6-3 she took a short ball by Capriati and whipped two-fluted a cross-court winner to end the match.

"I'm pretty mad at myself for not holding serve," Seles said. "Maybe in that madness I relaxed and decided to hit the ball harder."

"At the beginning of the tournament I didn't expect to be in the final," added Seles, who was twice beaten by Capriati this summer, once in an exhibition.

"This is great, I want to win a Grand Slam tournament I never won before," said Seles, who will regain her number one ranking by reaching the final.

Navratilova's relentless attacking game produced volley winners throughout to keep pressure on Graf, the 1988 and 1989 champion who was looking to reach her fifth consecutive U. S. Open final.

Her only difficulty came in finishing off sets. Navratilova served for the first set after breaking Graf for 6-5 and for the match after breaking the top seed for 5-3 in the second set.

But each time the German Wimbledon champion turned up the heat on her passing shots and broke back.

Navratilova, however, dominated the first tiebreak, winning 7-2. In the second tiebreak, Graf ran out to a 6-2 lead only to watch Navratilova battle back to 6-6.

Undaunted, Graf reached her fifth set point and unleashed a backhand volley worthy of Navratilova to send

the match into a third set. After two sets of scintillating tennis, play got ragged in the third as both players struggled.

There were five service breaks in the first six games before Navratilova settled down and served out the match.

Asked about her predictions for the final Graf said, "If she plays like she did today, she can beat anybody."

Becker likely to miss Davis Cup

NEW YORK, Sept 7: Boris Becker apparently will miss this month's Davis Cup competition between the United States and Germany because of a thigh muscle injury, reports AP.

Nikki Pilic, the German Davis Cup captain, said Becker called him Friday to say he was still suffering from the injury and was told to rest it for about two weeks.

The Davis Cup semifinal scheduled for Sept 20-22 in Kansas City, MO Pilic said he will make a decision Saturday on who will replace Becker on the team, which already consists of Wimbledon champion Michael Stich, Carl-Uwe Steeb and Eric Jelen. It is expected that Pilic will select Udo Riglewski.

Jarryd-Fitzgerald win doubles title

NEW YORK, Sept 7: John Fitzgerald of Australia and Sweden's Anders Jarryd won their third successive Grand Slam doubles title when they defeated Americans Scott Davis and David Pate at the US Open on Friday, reports Reuter.

Fitzgerald and Jarryd continued the championship form that carried them to titles at the French Open and Wimbledon, to post a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory.

"It feels great to win three in a row," said Jarryd. "It's always nice to win the big ones and I think that we really played good these two weeks."

Davis and Pate won the year's first Grand Slam title at the Australian open. The winners shared 163,500 dollars, while the runners-up split 81,650.

The triumph by Fitzgerald and Jarryd marked the first time a team has won three Grand Slam doubles titles in one year since Australians John Newcombe and Tony Roche accomplished the feat in 1967.

Asked what he thought was the key to their success, Fitzgerald said, "I'd like to think that we can really get up for the big events. We play our best tennis at the majors."

Year's best by Mike Johnson



RIETI, Italy, Sept 7: Speedy American Michael Johnson and Brazil's Jose Luis Barbosa both recorded

1991 best times on Friday, setting the tone for the finale to a memorable athletics season, reports Reuter.

Johnson, crowned world champion in Tokyo last week, ran the 200 metres in 19.98 seconds, the first wind-unassisted performance under 20 seconds this year. Brazil's Robson Da Silva was second in 20.76, about 10 metres behind.

Barbosa, silver medalist behind Kenyan Billy Konchallah in the World Championships, clocked one minute 43.08 seconds, beating the previous best for the year of 1:43.75, which he himself set in Zurich.

Johnson faced a slight headwind, but it was not as strong as that which probably robbed him of the world record in Tokyo where he ran 20.01.

The American has his sights set on Italian Pietro Mennea's 12-year-old record of 19.72 and believes it could fall before next year's Olympics.

"I'm satisfied, I got plenty of rest back home (after Tokyo). But I wasn't sure how

much the jet lag might affect me today," said Johnson, who flew more than halfway round the world, with a break in the United States, to reach Rieti.

He now races over 400 metres, a distance at which he also holds the year's fastest time, in Cologne on Sunday before returning to 200 metres in Brussels next Friday.

But Johnson has still to decide what distance he will tackle at the Grand Prix finals in Barcelona on September 20.

Barbosa now hopes to run even faster at a meeting in Koblenz next Wednesday, possibly going under 1:43.00.

A fierce competitor who likes to set the pace, the Brazilian found himself 10 metres off the pace at the bell, but stormed round the final bend and down the straight to relegate Kenyan William Tamui (1:43.30) to second place.

Jamaican sprint star Merlene Ottey put some of her Tokyo disappointment behind when winning the women's 100 metres in 10.98 seconds.

Leroy Burrell started favourite for the men's 100 metres but could only finish third in 10.18 behind American teammates Andre Cason (10.11) and Mike Marsh

(10.16).

New world 400-metre hurdles champion Samuel Matete of Zambia won the 400 metres flay in 44.88 ahead of Olympic champion Steve Lewis (45.19) and world champion Antonio Pettigrew (45.66).

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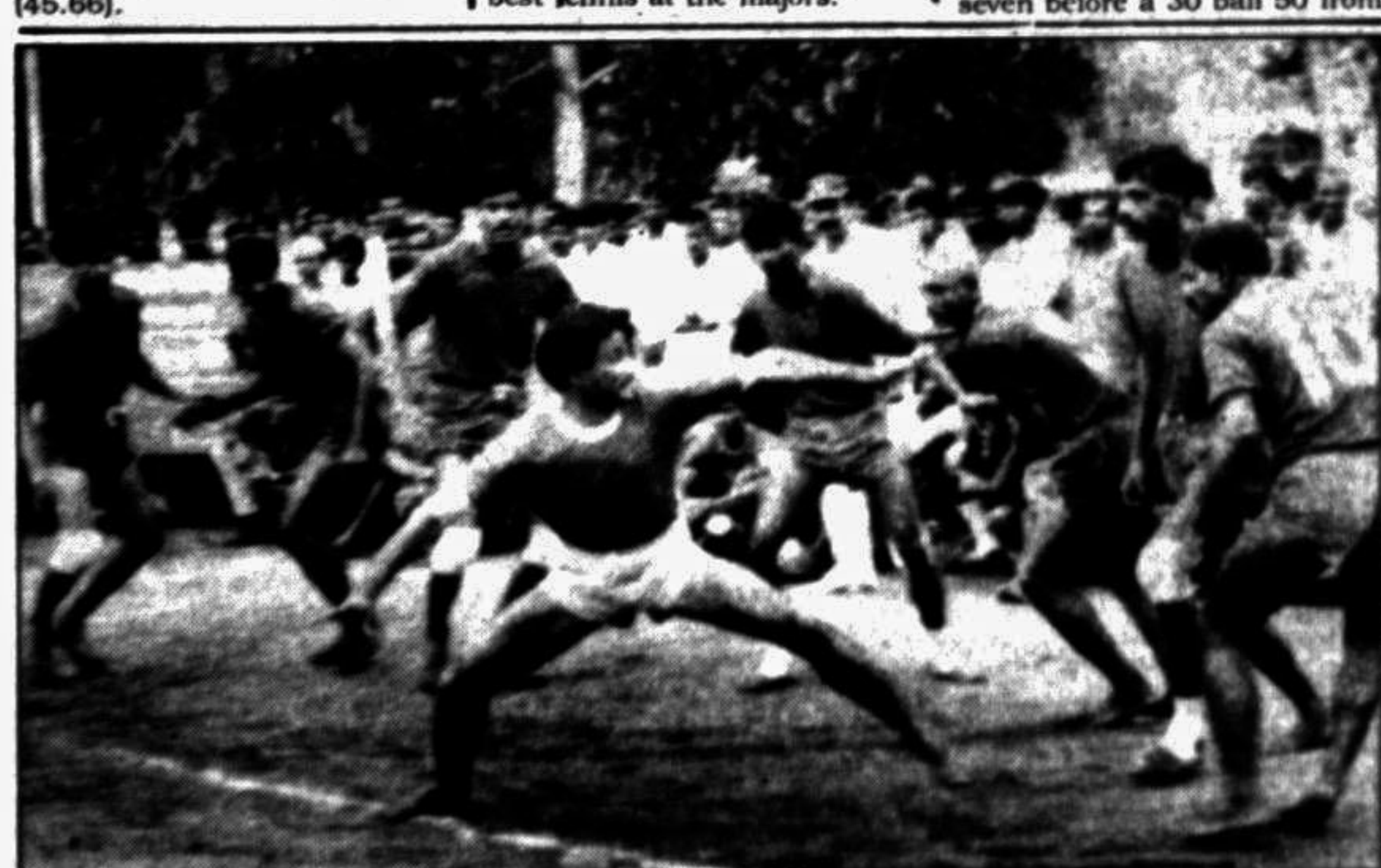
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Action from yesterday's Uttara Motors kabaddi match between Bangladesh Ansars and Police at Outer Stadium kabaddi court. Ansars won the match to qualify for the final round. — Star photo

World gymnastics opens in Indy

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 7: Vice President Dan Quayle, an indoor fireworks display and a poignant plug for democracy

by one of the Soviet Union's leading sports figures officially kicked off the World Gymnastics Championships, reports AP.

The 400 athletes from 51 countries who will compete over the next nine days at the Hoosier Dome were the guests of honour during the 2-hour Friday opening ceremonies extravaganza at market Square Arena in downtown Indianapolis.

The host United States team, the three-member delegation from Kuwait and the favoured Soviet Union squads received the loudest applause from the estimated 10,000 fans who turned out for the event billed as "A Night of Magic."

But it was Yuri Titov, one of the Soviet Union's most decorated gymnasts and now president of the International Gymnastics Federation who echoed a theme that has become most familiar to Eastern bloc residents in recent months.

"I have just come from Russia, where there is a new breeze of democracy," Titov said. "I hope it spreads all over the world and sport will help that."

Titov, who won 19 medals in Olympic and World Championship competition as a gymnast, sat next to and traded kisses with Mary Lou Retton, the American sensation at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles which the Soviet Union and most other Eastern bloc nations boycotted.

It was Retton's gold medal performance at the Games seven years ago that propelled the sport of gymnastics to new popularity in the United States and helped establish the Americans as legitimate contenders in international competition.

The parade of athletes was led by the five-member team from South Africa, which becomes the first athletic squad from that country in 25 years to compete at an international event.

Banned from competition by the stigma of apartheid policies, the International Olympic Committee this summer extended an invitation to South Africa to return to the international sports community following racial reforms in the country. The executive committee of the International Gymnastics Federation voted earlier this week to allow the three women and two men gymnasts from South Africa to compete at the World Championship, which is the qualifying event for next year's Olympics in Barcelona.

The parade of teams included single-athlete delegations from Luxembourg, El Salvador, Guatemala, Poland, Indonesia, Iceland and Bolivia.

Jansher in final

HONG KONG, Sept 7: World number one Jansher Khan of Pakistan kept on target for a remarkable fifth straight title in the Hong Kong Open squash tournament with a 15-6, 15-12, 15-7 semifinal victory over Australia's Chris Robertson today, reports Reuter.

Jansher, who took five games to beat Robertson in the Singapore Open final two weeks ago, was at his devastating best and never allowed the fourth seed into the match.