

# Walk-overs mar opening day

Sports Reporter

The sixth Bangladesh International junior tennis championships, a Group Four category ITF ranking tournament, got underway at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday with Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman formally inaugurating the sixty-player meet in the morning.

The opening day's action was marred by several walk-overs in both the boys' and girls' singles events.

While five of the walk-overs were understandable—three

matches, the reason for another non-show by Bangladesh's top junior girl player Mehrin Asaf was most unfortunate and a blow for the Bangladesh Tennis Federations, the organisers of the satellite meet for boys and girls under 18 years of age.

Mehrin failed to take her place on the court against her Indian opponent Sahiba Chandra, after hunting herself during practice before her game yesterday, giving the Indian girl an easy passage into the pre-quarterfinals. For local fans, this was a big disappointment.

The two Bangladeshi girls who were denied match practice yesterday were Yasmin Ahmed whose Egyptian opponent Yasmin Attia failed to arrive and Iflat Amabarin Joya who, too, was disappointed by her scheduled Egyptian opponent Alia El-Shishini.

Saathi Khandaker, the other Bangladeshi girl entered in the meet, bowed out of the singles, beaten 0-6, 0-6 by her superior Thai opponent Pimpisamai Kansuthi.

Other results of the day were: Alex Salehi of Iran beat Munir Chowdhury of Bangladesh 6-2, 6-0; Jirast

Pakistan beat Anirban Dutta of India 6-1, 7-5. In a tragic turn of events, Pakistan's Raja Md. Asaf was forced to concede his match to his compatriot Shah Mohammad Khan despite having taken the first set 7-5 and leading 2-0 in the second set. Raja Asaf retired hurt.

Devashis Mitra of India, Dilip Passa of Bangladesh and Jirapone Rajanavasi of Thailand received walk-overs.

In the girls' section, Seok Eun-San of South Korea beat her Indian opponent Lavanya Manradar 6-1, 6-1 while Arthi Ponappa of India avenged Lavanya's loss by beating South Korean Ki Jun-Chung 6-4, 7-5 in a thrilling contest.

The second round matches begin at 8:30 this morning.

Sixty players including 14 girls, from 13 countries were scheduled to take part in the singles and doubles of the boys' and girls' sections. The participating countries are: India, Pakistan, Thailand, South Korea, Poland, Iran, Germany, Austria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Soviet Union and Hungary, and hosts Bangladesh.

However two boys and two girls from Egypt, two boys from Saudi Arabia, a boy and a girl from the Soviet Union (Georgian Republic) and one boy each from Austria and Hungary had not turned up until yesterday a tournament officials said.

Their opponents would get automatic byes to the next round since the draws cannot be revised.

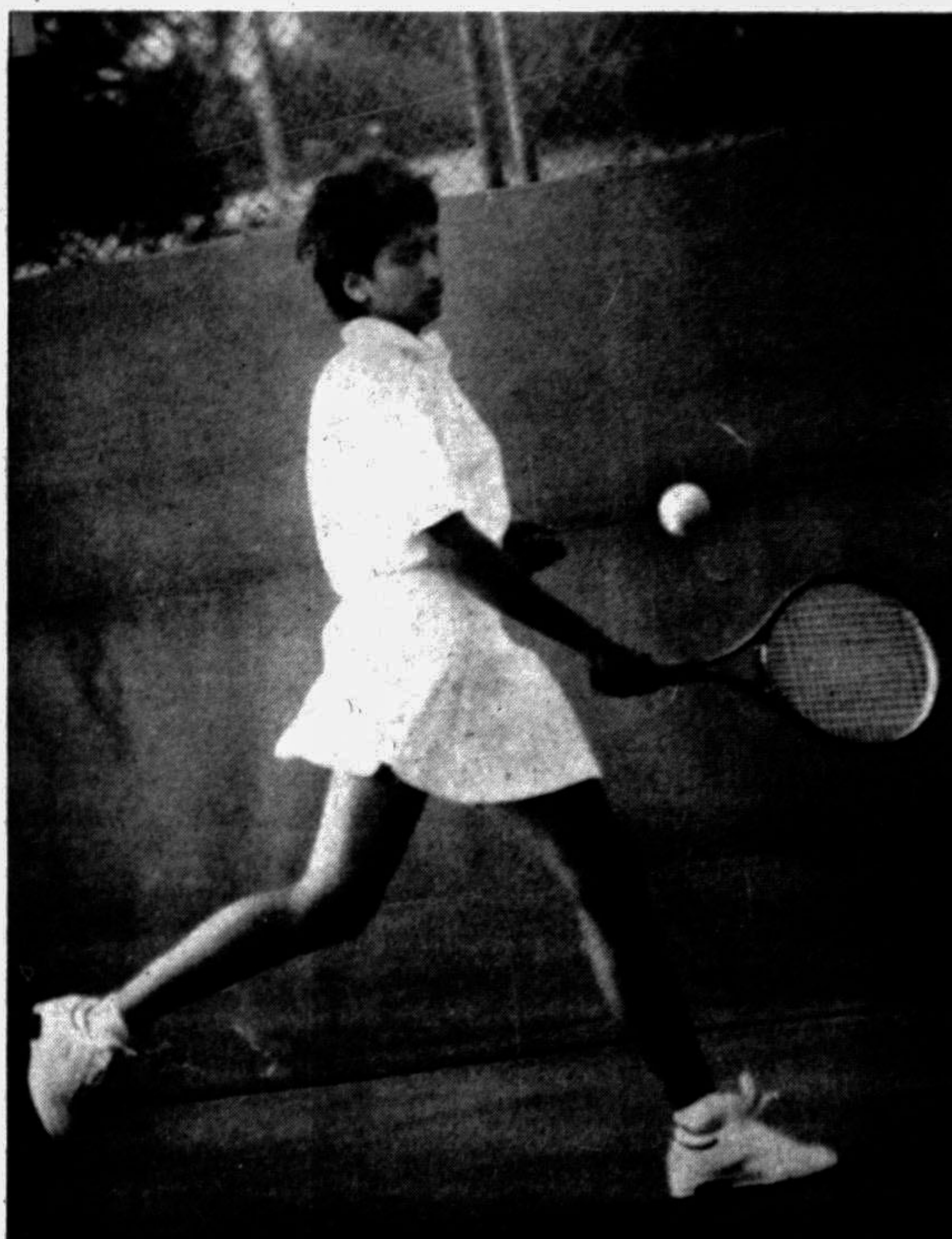
BTF president Khandakar Asaduzzaman, South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Sung Oh-Shin, tournament director Byzidur Rashid, diplomats and federation officials were present at the opening ceremony.



**PIMPISAMAI KANSUTHE**  
Egyptians, a Saudi and an Indian having failed to arrive in time for their opening



**ALEXANDER REZA SALEHI**  
Siricort of Thailand beat Bangladesh's Asif Zaman 6-2, 6-1 and Hassan Mahmood of



India's Arthi Ponappa beat South Korea's Ki Jun-Chung 6-4, 7-5 in her opening match on the inaugural day of the sixth Bangladesh international junior championships at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday

## MSC qualify for Asian Club Cup finals

Dhaka Mohammedan SC has qualified for the final round of the 11th Asian Club Football Championship, reports UNB.

They eliminated host New Radiant Club of Maldives by 2-0 goals in the return leg match of the second round held at Male yesterday (Monday), according to a message received yesterday evening by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The final round of the championship with eight leading clubs of Asia is expected to be held in January next.

Mohammedan SC led the first half 1-0.

Titu put the winners ahead in the 13th minute while Naqib doubled the margin in the 54th minute of the match.

Bangladesh champions Mohammedan beat New Radiant Club 3-0 in the first leg match of the second round at Dhaka on November 11.

Mohammedans earlier reached the second round outplaying Pakistan WAPDA while New Radiant Club qualified for the round overcoming Indian champions Kerala Police in first round encounters.

## Coach for Brazil

M. Khairul Alam Masud a Bangladeshi football coach, will leave Dhaka for Brazil today, (Tuesday) to participate in a coaching programme there, reports UNB.

The coaching camp will be held in Brazil from November 20 to December 15 at the Brazilian Football Academy.

The programme is being organised by the Brazilian Football Federation in cooperation with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

# Seles set to cap rewarding year

NEW YORK, Nov 18: Monica Seles defends her title at the three-million-dollar Virginia Slims Championship starting today knowing that, whatever the outcome, 1991 has been very good to her, reports Reuter.

"The championship is very important because all the top players play and every match is tough, but it won't change my year whether I win or lose it. I'm secure at number one," said Seles, who set the top ranking from Steffi Graf in March.

A successful defence by the 17-year-old Yugoslav in the elite 16-player season finals, which features the only best-of-five final in women's tennis, would be a fitting end to a year in which she won three Grand Slam crowns.

Since her triumph 12 months ago in an electrifying five-set final against Gabriela Sabatini, Seles has powered her way to eight titles, including the US French and Australian Open crowns.

She reached 15 consecutive finals in 1991 including this weekend's Philadelphia tournament for a 69-6 record, her only losses coming at the hands of Graf, Sabatini, Martina Navratilova and Jennifer Capriati.

All four, three of them former champions, are in the

field here.

Wimbledon champion Graf, who battled Seles for number one for much of the year, can set the tone for a run at the top in 1992 by winning her third title at Madison Square Garden.

Five-time winner Navratilova, who missed last year's event due to knee

## Borg to join over-35s' circuit

FRANKFURT, Nov 18: Five-time Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg, who failed in a comeback attempt earlier this year, will play on a new over-35s circuit next year, his management company said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

"Borg's plans for 1992 will include several appearances on the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) senior tour," the management company said in a statement at the ATP World Championships.

The Swede, who turned 35 last June, tried to make a comeback in April but suffered a demoralising defeat by Spaniard Jordi Arrese in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open. He has not played a top tournament since.

The ATP plans at least 10 events on the senior tour, with round robins in the doubles and tie-breaker shootouts in the singles for 16 players over 35.

surgery, returns to the championship on a wave of renewed confidence. The US Open runner-up beat Seles in the Oakland final last Sunday to tie Chris Evert's record of 157 career titles.

"Martina can still beat anybody," Seles said. "She is a legend and will always be a legend, but she is also still one of the four best players in the world."

Sabatini is recovering from a back injury but always raises her game for the enthusiastic New York crowd. The Argentine won in 1988 and last year battled Seles in an epic final that will go down as one of the great matches in tennis history.

At 15 Capriati has qualified for the second successive time. The young American established herself as one of the tour's most dangerous players by topping defending champions Navratilova at Wimbledon and Sabatini at the US Open.

She beat Seles in a July final and only missed the US Open final by losing a third set tiebreak to the Yugoslav.

The talent-laden field also includes energetic Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the French Open runner-up who led Spain to the Federation Cup title, seventh-ranked American Mary Joe Fernandez and Australian Open finalist Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia. Helena Sukova, Zina

Garrison, Conchita Martinez, Nathalie Tauziat, Manuella Maleeva-Fragniere and her sister Katerina Maleeva, Lori McNeil and first time qualifier Julie Halard of France complete the draw.

A delighted Halard said: "I wanted to get to the championships because it shows I am one of the best players in the world, not just one week but every week."

# A day of draws

Sports Reporter

Both the inaugural super league matches of the Green Delta Insurance Second Division hockey ended in draws at the hockey stadium yesterday.

Both the inaugural super league matches of the Green Delta Insurance Second Division hockey ended in draws at the hockey stadium yesterday.

Udity Club split points with Dhaka Young Stars Club when they battled to a goalless draw in the opening game of the day.

In the day's after encounter Bangladesh PWD missed a gifted opportunity and were forced to share the points with Farashganj Sporting Club as both teams were tied 1-1 when the final horn sounded the end of the match.

PWD shot into the lead

ROME, Nov 18: Dutch ace Ruud Gullit was back to his lethal best on Sunday scoring twice in five minutes as AC Milan beat champions Sampdoria 2-0 to stay top of the Italian table, reports AFP.

Gullit struck in the 64th and 69th minutes to keep AC Milan a point clear. That lead should soon widen though, as

they have a game in hand against struggling Genoa next Wednesday. Genoa lost 2-1 to Verona on Sunday.

With 15 points from 10 matches, Juventus kept in touch with the leaders, after Luigi Casiraghi scored the only goal of the game against Torino.

No fewer than four clubs are chasing the leaders on 13 points, headed by the revelation of the season, newly pro-

moted Foggia.

They beat fellow newcomers Cremonese 2-0 with goals from Giuseppe Signori and Francesco Bajano.

Lazio came out 2-1 winners against bottom of the table Bari. England striker David Platt struck Bari's equaliser five minutes after Doll had put Lazio ahead, but Karl-Heinz Riedle grabbed a late winner.

Napoli were luck to come away from AS Roma with a point after Fabrizio Di Mauro put the home side 1-0 just before half time. Gianfranco Zola made it all square with barely 10 minutes to go.

Inter Milan became the last of the title chasers after beating Ascoli 2-1.

Two quick goals from Nicola Bertini and Riccardo Ferri at the start of the second half sewed up the points, while Pedro Troglio got Ascoli's consolation goal in the dying seconds.

Argentinian ace Claudio Caniggia gave Atalanta a 1-0

## Army hockey

COMILLA, Nov 18: The hosts Comilla Area Team earned full points defeating the last year's runners-up, Chittagong area team, by a solitary goal in a robin league match of army Hockey Championship at the Comilla Cantonment today an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

## Korea to meet Soviets in final

CHANDIGARH, Nov 18: Asian Games champions Korea beat hosts India 2-1 to set up a clash with Soviet Union in the final of 4th Indira Gandhi International Gold Cup hockey tournament here today, reports PTI.

India will now take on the other losing semifinalists — holders China — in the match for the third and fourth places.

Earlier, the Soviet Union, aided by Rastuba Elenc, trounced holders China 5-1 in the first semifinal of the day.

An earlier report said, hosts India, defending champions, China and the Soviet Union today joined Asian Games champions South Korea in the semifinals of the fourth Indira Gandhi International Gold Cup women's hockey tournament here.

## United win Sheffield derby

SHEFFIELD, England, Nov 18: Sheffield United won the city's first football derby in 11 years on Sunday and at the same time dragged themselves off the bottom of the English First Division, reports AFP.

United beat their seventh-placed city rivals Sheffield Wednesday 2-0 through goals by Dane Whitehouse and Brian Deane.

United went ahead in injury time of the first half. A Wednesday corner was cleared to the halfway line and the ball ran on as John Sheridan and Paul Warhurst collided.

Ian Bryson's shot was parried by Wednesday's England goalkeeper Chris Woods but Whitehouse followed up to fire home.

Wednesday had been close to scoring when Carlton Palmer's 18-year shot rebounded off the upright, but they were constantly troubled by United striker Deane who caused constant problems on his return from a bout of glandular fever.

In the 57th minute United keeper Simon Tracy made a one-handed reflex save.

# Australia retain team title

HELSINKI, Nov 18: Australia retained the World Team Squash Championship with a crushing 3-0 win over England in the final on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Australia's trio of Chris Dittmar, Chris Robertson and Brett Martin — ranked fourth, fifth and sixth in the world — did not concede a single game against a team marking their first appearance in the final since 1983.

Pakistan, Australia's perennial rivals, were never in the hunt with their depleted lineup and managed only eight points.

Sweden completed the humiliation of the former

champions with a 3-0 trouncing on Sunday which included a 10-9, 6-9, 2-9, 9-7, 9-4 defeat for world number one Jansher Khan by 42nd-ranked Fredrik Johnson.

Australian captain Dittmar clinched the title with a 9-2, 9-2, 9-4 win over Del Harris in 53 minutes after Martin had overcome Chris Walker 9-1, 9-6, 9-2.

"While I was confident we were going to win, I must admit to being nervous when Brett Martin went on for the first match," Dittmar said. "Brett had not been playing well all week and I was worried."

But Martin quickly took control and, despite trailing 6-2 in the second game, needed just 34 minutes to beat Walker.

Robertson completed the rout with a 9-5, 9-3, 9-4 win over Peter Marshall.

"Team spirit was a big ingredient of our success when we took the title from Pakistan in Singapore and, two years later, we still have it intact," Dittmar said.

"All of us have helped each other, played hard and enjoyed ourselves together when relaxing."

"Winning in Pakistan, in 1993, when they may be back at full strength, is going to be a bigger challenge, and mentally our preparation for it begins straight away, today."

Hosts Finland took third place with a 3-0 win over Egypt.

AP from Helsinki adds: Brett Martin gave Australia the lead, defeating England's Chris Walker 9-1, 9-6, 9-2 and Chris Dittmar secured the championship title as Australia defended its squash rackets gold medal Sunday.

Dittmar beat English No. 1 Del Harris 9-2, 9-2, 9-4.

The team's number two, Chris Robertson, kept a clean sheet for Australia with a 9-5, 9-3, 9-4 victory over Peter Marshall.

Finland took the bronze medals by winning all three matches against Egypt.

Dittmar, a 27-year left-hander who is fourth in the world rankings, took over as top player on the Australian team as World champion Rodney Martin was sidelined with a foot injury.



Pakistan's Shah Md. Khan moved into the next round in the boys' singles when his compatriot Raja Md. Asaf retired hurt despite leading 7-5, 2-0 at the Ramna Complex yesterday.

# Lineker weighs his options

LONDON, Nov 18: England captain Gary Lineker said he would quit international soccer next year and was considering an offer from Japan to play in their new professional league, reports Reuter.

He said he had been approached by representatives from Japan to play in their league which is due to be launched in March 1993.

"Always thought that I'd play this season and next season with Tottenham and then finish when my contract finished."

"But the interest from Japan does give me another option and we shall make an announcement when it is necessary," he said on a television soccer show late on Saturday.

Japan, who want to stage the 2002 World Cup, are keen to start their professional super league with major international signings.

Brazilian former and present stars Zico and Careca, among others, have been tempted to take part.

Lineker, England's second-highest goalscorer after 1960's legend Bobby Charlton, was quoted in a Sunday newspaper as saying he would end his international career after next year's European championship.

"I will no longer be available for selection after the European Championship in Sweden. I have had a good run in the England side and have always wanted to go out at the top," he said.

"I didn't want to keep going until the day I was simply bundled out of things. This has happened to so many players in the past," added Lineker, who scored the goal against Poland in Midweek that secured England's place in the European finals.

The England striker is three short of Charlton's England goalscoring record of 49.

"We cannot speak about the affair [with Lineker] at this stage," said the spokesman for the Nagoya Grampus Eight, one of the 10 teams who will make up Japan's new professional league in 1993. Grampus is backed by the car manufacturing giant Toyota.

The spokesman declined to confirm the club had been negotiating with Lineker, captain

of England and the country's second-highest goalscorer after 1960's legend Bobby Charlton about playing in Japan in the future.

The Japanese Kyodo News Service quoted sports sources on Sunday as saying the club had acquired the services of the 30-year-old Lineker on a contract worth three million pounds sterling (about 5.4 million dollars) to the player.

Japanese newspapers said announcement of a deal with Lineker would be made later this week in Nagoya, the site of Toyota's head office.

The report was a major story in sports newspapers today, with fans expressing their delight that such a famous player would be competing in Japan.

# Another title for Seles

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 18: Monica Seles claimed her ninth title of a dream year on Sunday by winning a 7-5, 6-1 slugfest against 15-year-old American Jennifer Capriati at the 350,000-dollar Virginia Slims Philadelphia tournament, reports Reuter.

The last time Seles stepped on court with the sixth-ranked Capriati she also won, in a thrilling three-set struggle in the semifinals of the US Open in September which the Yugoslav won in a last-set tiebreak.

"Here, there was really

nowhere where I had a chance," said Capriati, who has beaten Seles just one in five matches. "At the US Open, I was so close."

The top-ranked Seles added 70,000 dollars to her earnings and heads into next week's Virginia Slims Championships, where she is the defending champion, with an extraordinary record.

Seles, who became world number one in March, has reached the finals of all 15 events she has entered in 1991, and the 17-year-old Yugoslav won three Grand Slam events—the Australian, French and US Open titles.

# 39 hooligans held

SWANSEA, Wales, Nov 18: Thirty-nine people were arrested after rival Welsh soccer fans clashed, breaking windows and wrecking eight buses, police said Sunday, reports AP.

A lawmaker for the Swansea area said the city's main street was littered with wreckage following Saturday evening's violence.

"It was horrendous. Elderly people and families out shopping were caught up in terrifying scenes of violence," said West Glamorgan county councillor Richard Lewis.

Swansea police Superintendent Mel Poole said

23 Cardiff fans and 16 Swansea fans were arrested for assault and criminal damage.

"It was thuggery and nothing to do with the game of football. These people were just intent on causing disorder and gratuitous violence," Poole said.

Police said buses carrying Cardiff fans were attacked with lumps of concrete and bricks. The supporters retaliated by throwing seats from the vehicles and an entire bus window into the street. Eight buses were wrecked, dozens of cars and shop windows were broken along the main street, police said.