

Thanks Atiq, for saving grace

COLOMBO, Dec 30: Bangladesh shooters won two gold medals and one bronze in the individual and team events of the men's air pistol 60 shots on the closing day of competition in the 5th SAF Games at the Panagoda shooting range here today, reports UNI.

The individual gold in the event was won by Atiqur Rahman who, along with Abdus Sattar Nini, had won the first international gold medal for Bangladesh in the 14th Commonwealth Games in Auckland in 1990.

Atiq also helped Bangladesh win a second gold on the day in the team event, ably assisted by team mates Asif Hossain and Haider Ali.

Besides Atiq's individual gold, Asif Hossain secured the bronze for Bangladesh in the same individual event.

With these two golds and one bronze, Bangladesh confirmed its fourth place in the Games with a haul of four golds, eight silvers and 29 bronzes.

Till Sunday evening, Bangladesh was trailing Nepal, which got two golds, eight silvers and 29 bronzes, in the medal table.

Atiqur Rahman won the individual gold in the air pistol 60-shots, his favourite event, scoring 562 points.

Asif Hossain claimed the bronze with 557 points.

Ashoke Pandit of India got the silver, scoring 558 points.

The Bangladeshi shooters Atiqur (562), Asif (557) and Haider Ali (539) collectively scored 1658 to win the team title in the event.

A Lityanage (556), G Waligama (555) and D Gunasekara (539) of Sri Lanka scored a total of 1650 points to claim the event's silver



Star file photo of gold-medal winning shooter Atiqur Rahman

while Ashoke Pandit (558), Mohinder Lal (546) and Ramlal (545) of India collected the bronze with 1649 points.

The Bangladeshi shooters had earlier bagged one gold, one silver and four bronzes from the shooting events.

Swimmer Mukhlesur Rahman won gold for Bangladesh in the 200 metre

breast-stroke.

Kazi Shahana Parveen snatched the first gold of the meet for Bangladesh in the individual shooting event of the women's 3x20 standard rifle scoring 548 points. Khaleda Munsour won the bronze in the same event with 543 points.

The Bangladeshi girls also got the team silver in the

event scoring 1612 points. Bangladesh bagged three other bronzes in the team event of the men's 60 shots prone English match, the team event of the men's 3x240 free rifles and in the team event of the women's air rifle 40-shots.

BSS adds: Atiq, who was trained by a Chinese coach in Dhaka and also received training in the United States last month, made a brilliant start scoring 91 out of a possible 100 and then 95 in the second round, followed by scores of 93, 94, 93 and 96 in the last round to take his total to 562 out of a possible 600 points.

Bangladesh thus collected three golds, three silvers and five bronzes in shooting, including today's medals.

Atiq, who expressed his firm determination to win the gold before coming to Colombo, said "I am the happiest man right now."

Former general secretary of Bangladesh Shooting Federation Jalaluddin Ahmad, who is also the director of the International Shooting Coaching Association and an international jury, expressed his gratitude to the Almighty Allah for Atiq achieving this great honour.

MEDALS TABLE

COLOMBO, Dec 30: Final medals table in the seven-nation South Asian Federation Games on Monday (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

	G	S	B
India	64	59	41
Sri Lanka	44	33	41
Pakistan	28	33	24
Bangladesh	4	8	29
Nepal	2	8	30
Maldives	0	1	0
Bhutan	0	0	0

(Note: bronze medals awarded for both third and fourth places in some events and do not tally with gold and silver)

Indians garner more golds but Lankans glitter most

COLOMBO, Dec 30: India were dominant but hosts Sri Lanka sprung the surprise of the South Asian Federation Games which ended on Monday, reports Reuter.

Sri Lanka, whose previous highest gold medal tally was only seven at the Inaugural Games in Kathmandu in 1984, collected a total of 44 golds — including 15 for athletics to India's 10 track golds.

India won 64 gold, 59 silver and 41 bronze medals. Sri Lanka were second with a 44-33-41 tally and Pakistan, second in the last Islamabad Games in 1989, third with 28-33-24.

Sri Lankan athletics took top honours in track events, producing the fastest man and woman in Sriyantha Dissanayake and Damayanthi

Darsha who won the 100-metres with ease. Sri Lanka also produced a winner in the marathon in the person of KA Karunaratne, seventh at the 1989 Games.

The biggest disappointment was India's Shiny Wilson, favourite to win the women's 800 and 400 metres. She finished third in the 400 metres, won by Sri Lanka's Jayamini Illeperuma and did not take part in the 800.

"I was down with flu. I had the lead in the last 50 metres but slowed down as my legs were feeling numb," Wilson said later. "Given another chance I can beat Illeperuma."

The most dazzling performances came in the pool when Sri Lankan cousins Dipika Chanmugam and Julian Bolling won seven and five golds in the women's and men's swimming events respectively.

"My aim now is the

Barcelona Olympics," said Chanmugam, whose gold haul was the biggest by any competitor and won her a gold award plus 2,500 dollars as the best woman performer at the Games.

Bolling, captain of the overall Sri Lankan team and like his cousin a student in the United States, was awarded the same prizes as best male performer.

Lihini Weerasuriya won a tennis treble for Sri Lanka with gold in the women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles.

M United stay top of the table

LONDON, Dec 30: Manchester United kept their two-point lead in the English soccer league on Sunday after a controversial 1-1 draw at second-placed Leeds, reports Reuter.

Both sides had lost only one in the league before the clash, the first of three league and Cup matches at Elland Road in two weeks, but it was a game Leeds could have won.

While there was no arguing against Neil Webb's well-taken 46th-minute volley which put United ahead, Leeds were furious to have what looked like a clear equaliser disallowed.

Lee Chapman, clearly on-

side and beautifully positioned, slotted home only to find the referee had already whistled for a foul seconds before by Webb on Leeds midfielder David Hatty.

While Leeds clearly felt the referee should have allowed play to continue, they refused to be demoralised and picked up a deserved late equaliser with an 80th-minute penalty.

Midfielder Gary McAllister, sent clear by teammate Gordon Strachan, was sent crashing in the area by England defender Gary Pallister and Mel Sterland converted from the spot.

The draw left Manchester United with 48 points while Leeds, who have played two matches more, are now on 46.

After a goalless but fast-paced first half with few scoring opportunities, the match suddenly changed character. United, playing without injured captain Bryan Robson, took the lead almost immediately from a corner.

Webb's right-footed shot, taken first time on the volley

Limpar to follow Lineker

LONDON, Dec 30: Anders Limpar, the Swedish international who plays for English champions Arsenal, wants to move to Japan, reports AFP.

The skilful winger, ruled out on Friday for six weeks because of a broken jaw, is hoping to follow in the footsteps of England captain Gary Lineker, who leaves for Grampus Eight at the end of the season.

"If Arsenal and a club in Japan could agree, then I'd be interested in going before my contract runs out," said the 26-year-old, who is midway through a three-year agreement at Highbury.

"Going to the other side of the world would not frighten me. If the money was right, I would certainly be tempted. It definitely interests me."

International teammate Glenn Hysen is also looking for a move, from Liverpool, because of the unsettled atmosphere at the English First Division side.

Chanmugam, Bolling get Coca Cola awards

COLOMBO, Dec 30: Sri Lanka's Julian Bolling and Dipika Chanmugam, who clinched six and seven gold medals respectively in the men's and women's sections of swimming in the fifth SAF Games, have been adjudged winners of the first prestigious Coca-Cola Gold Medal, as per a decision of the judges here today, reports BSS.

The golden trophies will be awarded to them by the Sri Lankan Prime Minister D B Wijetunge tomorrow.

There is also a 2,500 US dollars cash award for each athlete.

Coca-Cola officials said the award is an incentive to the athletes to achieve higher standards of excellence and to foster keener competitions among the sportsmen and women in the region.

Mr Rouful Hasan, who attended the judges' meeting as the Bangladesh representative, said Coca-Cola, a major sponsor of the Olympics, is likely to award similar trophies and cash prizes in the next SAF Games to be held in Kathmandu in 1993.

The judges comprised one sports journalist from each participating country and representatives of the Games organising committee and sponsors Coca-Cola.

Indian spikers clinch gold

COLOMBO, Dec 30: India beat Pakistan 3-1 in a two-hour final to clinch the gold in the final of the men's volleyball championships on the last day of the South Asian Federation Games here Monday, reports AP.

India won the first two sets but Pakistan came back to take the third set before India completed the victory in the fourth set.

In soccer, Pakistan beat the Maldives 2-0 after a scoreless first half in the final on Sunday night.

Kazi Ashfaq and Mohamed Nauman scored the goals for Pakistan.

It was sweet revenge for India, who had lost to Pakistan 2-3 in the final of volleyball competition in the last SAF Games in Islamabad in 1989.

Bangladesh got the bronze beating hosts Sri Lanka 3-0 yesterday.

New South Asian basketball body

COLOMBO, Dec 30: The South Asian Basketball Association was founded in Colombo, according to a news release here on Sunday, reports Xinhua.

Air Commodore Afzal Khan, president of the Pakistani Basketball Federation, was elected president of the newly-established association. Brigadier C Thuraiya, vice president of the Sri Lankan Basketball Federation, was elected secretary general.

Handball results

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Air Force edged past Brothers Union 15-14 in the 1991 Federation Cup handball tournament yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Brothers Union led the first half 7-5.

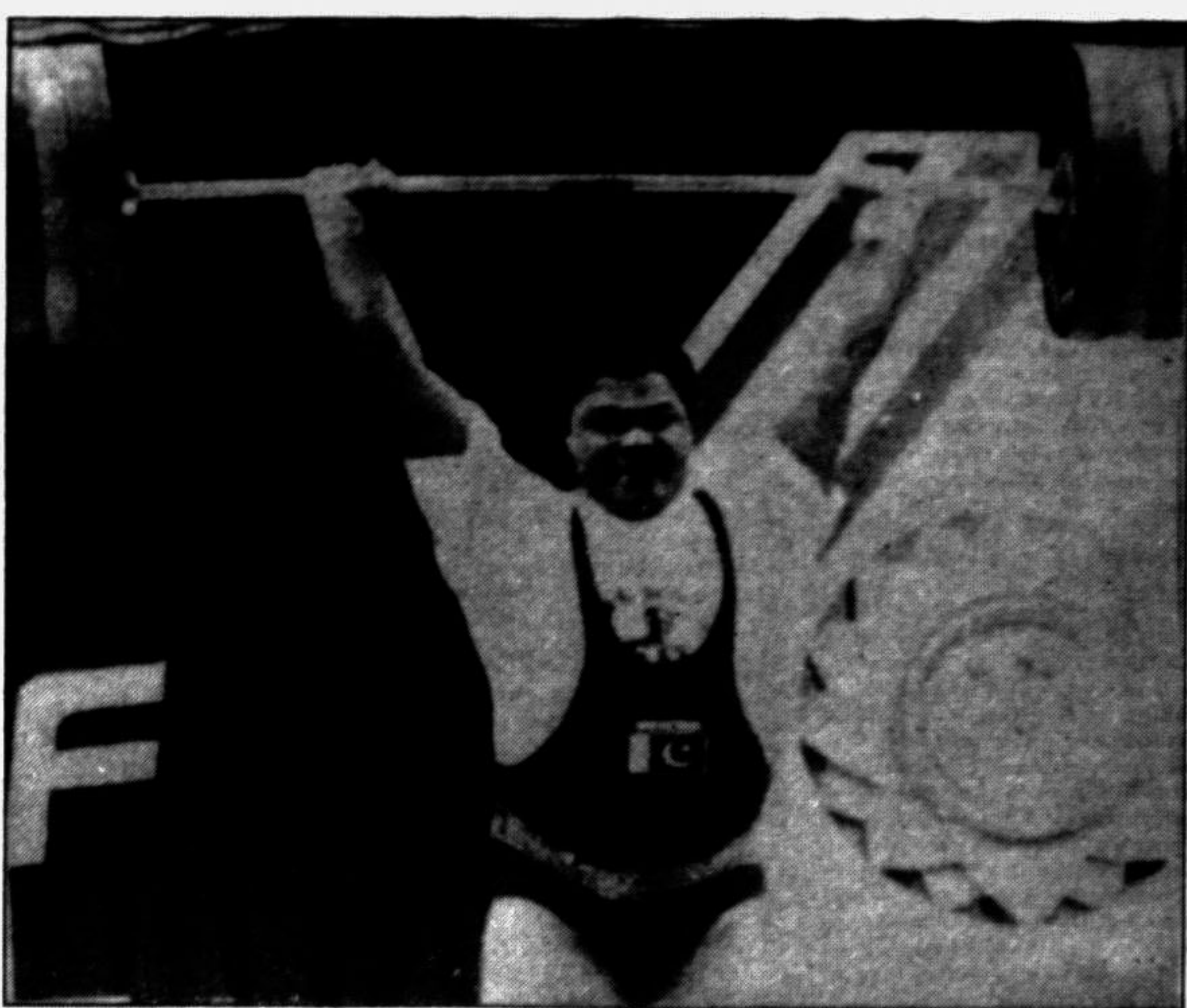
Shafiquddin and Nabuat scored six and three goals respectively for Air Force while Helal and Bobby netted five and four goals respectively for Brothers Union.

The other match of the day, held between Bangladesh Police and Surjodoy Boys Club, ended in a 16-16 draw.

Surjodoy led the first session 11-8. Salam scored four goals and Nazrul, Shahiduzzaman and Alim netted three goals each for Police while Salahuddin and Kamal scored five and three goals respectively for Surjodoy Club.

TODAY'S MATCH

B Ansars vs Police (2:15 pm) BDR vs Air Force (3:30 pm).



Pak weightlifter Khawaja Samiuddin lifts a snatch of 132.50 kgs to win the gold in the 110 kgs-and-over category at the SAF Games in Colombo on Dec 29. Samiuddin, who has three gold medals in the 110kgs class, ended with an overall score of 307.50kgs. — AFP photo

Giants clash today

Sports Reporter

This year's derby trend in the local sporting arena continues with Dhaka Moham-medan Sporting Club meeting arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in a battle royale in the final of the 1991 Victory Day Shah Sports hockey tournament at the Hockey Stadium this afternoon.

The match, which starts at 2.45 pm, is expected to be a crowd pulling clash between the two popular teams.

Abahani powered their way into the final in a dramatic fashion when they upstaged Ajax SC in the semi-final 3-2 by virtue of a stupendous hat-trick by Jumman Lussai after being down by two early goals.

Mohammedans had a rela-

tively quiet entry into the final with a lone goal victory over Bangladesh Army in the second semi-final Sunday.

According to a Bangladesh Hockey Federation press release, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will be present to distribute the prize as the chief guest.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka will also be present as a special guest.

The rate of ticket has been fixed at Taka ten. Tickets will be available at the Stadium counter from twelve noon.

Besides the championship and runners-up trophies, there are awards for the best player, highest scorer and the most disciplined side.

Karpov holds Kasparov

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy, Dec 30: Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov put up a splendid defensive performance on Sunday to salvage a draw in his clash with world champion Gary Kasparov on the highest ranked event in chess history, reports Reuter.

Kasparov, with black pieces, opened with a King's Indian defence in the third round of the international category 18 tournament and looked poised for victory after going two pawns up.

But Karpov fought back, winning one pawn and eventually finding the only route to salvation with both knights left on the board.

The appreciative crowd warmly applauded both players at the end of a six-hour 61-move struggle.

Sunday's games attracted

about 2,000 spectators, many of whom waited for hours to get into one of the three halls. Kasparov meets Vassily Ivanchuk in the fourth round today while Karpov plays Alexander Khalifman.

Third round results (draw 1/2):

M Gurevic 1/2 L. Polugajevski 1/2

V Anand 1/2 A Khalifman 1/2

V Ivanchuk 1/2 V. Salov 1/2

B. Gelfand 1/2 A. Beljavski 0

G Kasparov 1/2 A Karpov 1/2

Standings after three rounds:

Gelfand 2-1/2 points

Anand 2-1/2

Karpov 2

Ivanchuk 1-1/2

Khalifman 1-1/2

Kasparov 1-1/2

Gurevic 1

Salov 1

Polugajevski 1

Bejavski 1/2

Ex-Soviet Grandmasters may play without flags

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy, Dec 30: There are no national flags on view at the highest ranked tournament in chess history which features nine Grandmasters from the former Soviet Union, reports Reuter.

Organisers of the international category 18 tournament decided that placing flags on the table would create too many headaches in view of the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

"Maybe the best solution was to play without flags," said Grandmaster Alexander Khalifman.

"If the organisers had allowed it I would play under the flag of Russia because I lived in

Leningrad," added Khalifman, now resident in Germany.

Lev Polugayevsky also said he would play under the Russian flag despite living in Paris, while Vassily Ivanchuk and Alexander Belyavsky would opt to represent Ukraine.

Boris Gelfand would compete for Byelorussia while exiles Mikhail Gurevich and Valery Salov wanted to display the colours of their adopted countries, Belgium and Spain respectively.

"In the last tournaments I have played under the flag of Belgium. I live in Brussels and have no wish to return to Russia," said Gurevich.

"I would like to get the citizenship of Spain and to play under the flag of Spain," Salov said.

World champion Garry Kasparov and former world champion Anatoly Karpov did not disclose their preferences.

Kasparov played under the Russian flag in his world championship clash with Karpov in 1990 while Karpov stuck to the Soviet Union colours.

Kasparov said he expected to maintain his title until the end of the century but added he would like to defend it against someone other than Karpov in Los Angeles in 1993.

"I would prefer to play my next match with somebody else, not Karpov," he said. "We have played five matches and 160 games and become boring for the audience."

Karpov and Kasparov drew in the third round of the Reggio Emilia tournament on Sunday. The tournament continues until January 6.

Tangail reach Suhrawardy Cup semifinals

Sports Reporter

Tangail DSA reached the semifinals beating Chittagong DSA by two goals to nil in the final round of the eighth national youth under-19 soccer championship for the Suhrawardy Cup yesterday at Naogon Stadium.

After a barren first half Harunur Rashid Chapal put Tangail ahead four minutes after the resumption (1-0).

Chapal scored once again in the 27th minute of the second session to complete the tally for the winners.

Mukhlisur Rahman and Salam Khan of Tangail were shown the yellow card.

Tangail will now meet the winners of the match between Feni and Khulna DSA on January 3 next.

Meanwhile, the seventh Suhrawardy Cup champions Feni DSA will take on Khulna on the New Year's day.

Feni's participation in this year's finals was in some doubt earlier on owing to certain administrative and financial problems encountered by the district sports association. However, the defending champions, who had won the trophy when it was last held in 1988 and who received a bye directly into the current ten-team final round in Naogon, succeeded in overcoming their problems and putting together a side in the eleventh hour.

Nannu, a former Brothers Union defender, has taken charge as the coach of Feni.

TODAY'S MATCH

Pabna vs Jhenaidah

TOMORROW'S MATCH

Feni vs Khulna

Bayern look to Hidalgo as the answer

BONN, Dec 30: Bayern Munich see former French national manager Michel Hidalgo as the man to rebuild the side after their remarkable slide this season, reports AFP.

Hidalgo, who led France to the 1982 World Cup semi-finals and the 1984 European championship, is one of the favourites to take over from Danish coach Soren Lerby when he leaves at the end of the current season, according to the newspaper Bild Am Sonntag.

Among the possible candidates referred to by manager Uli Hoeness are the Yugoslavs Ivica Osim, who is already a member of the Bayern back-room staff, and Sampdoria's Vujadin Boskov.

"But one of the strong favourites is Michel Hidalgo," Bild informed its readers. Hidalgo built a rapport with Bayern vice-chairman Franz Beckenbauer, the former German Manager, during their time together at Olympique Marseille.

Bayern, Bundesliga champions a record 12 times and seven times in the 1980's, ended the first half of the current German season in 11th place in the league and were knocked out of the UEFA Cup by BK 1903 Copenhagen on a humiliating 6-3 aggregate.

Chinese paddlers beat England

ST AUSTELL, England, Dec 30: China squeezed home 4-3 against England here on Saturday night in the first of their seven table tennis international, reports AFP.

The world team Cup champions, fielding an inexperienced side, clinched victory when Yu Shentong and Chen Hongyu easily won the doubles against England's Matthew Syed and Chinese-born Chen Xinhua.

Kolyvanov best Soviet booter

MOSCOW, Dec 30: Dynamo Moscow striker Igor Kolyvanov was named best Soviet soccer player in 1991, the last player to win the award, Tass news agency said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

This month the Ukrainian Soccer Federation said it would withdraw its six First Division sides from the national league, while the Soviet Union no longer exists as an entity.

Tass said a poll of Soviet sports writers placed Kolyvanov — top-scorer in the 1991 season with 18 goals — well ahead of Spartak Moscow striker Alexander Mostovoi. Kolyvanov now plays for Italian First Division side Foggia.

Hearts lead Scottish scene

GLASGOW, Scotland, Dec 30: Heart of Midlothian went on a goal rampage at St Johnstone on Saturday to boost their hopes of a first Scottish league title since 1960, reports AFP.

Their third victory of the season over Saints was by a 5-0 margin as they took full advantage of the 21st minute sending-off of home goalkeeper Lindsay Hamilton for a professional foul.

By then Hearts were a goal up through Ian Baird's ninth-minute header and they rammed home their superiority in the second half with doubles from John Robertson and Scott Crabbe.

The Edinburgh club are still only two points clear of Glasgow Rangers, however, following the champions' late 21 win over bottom club Dunfermline.

Gary Stevens and Dale Gordon scored in the second half for Rangers as they made

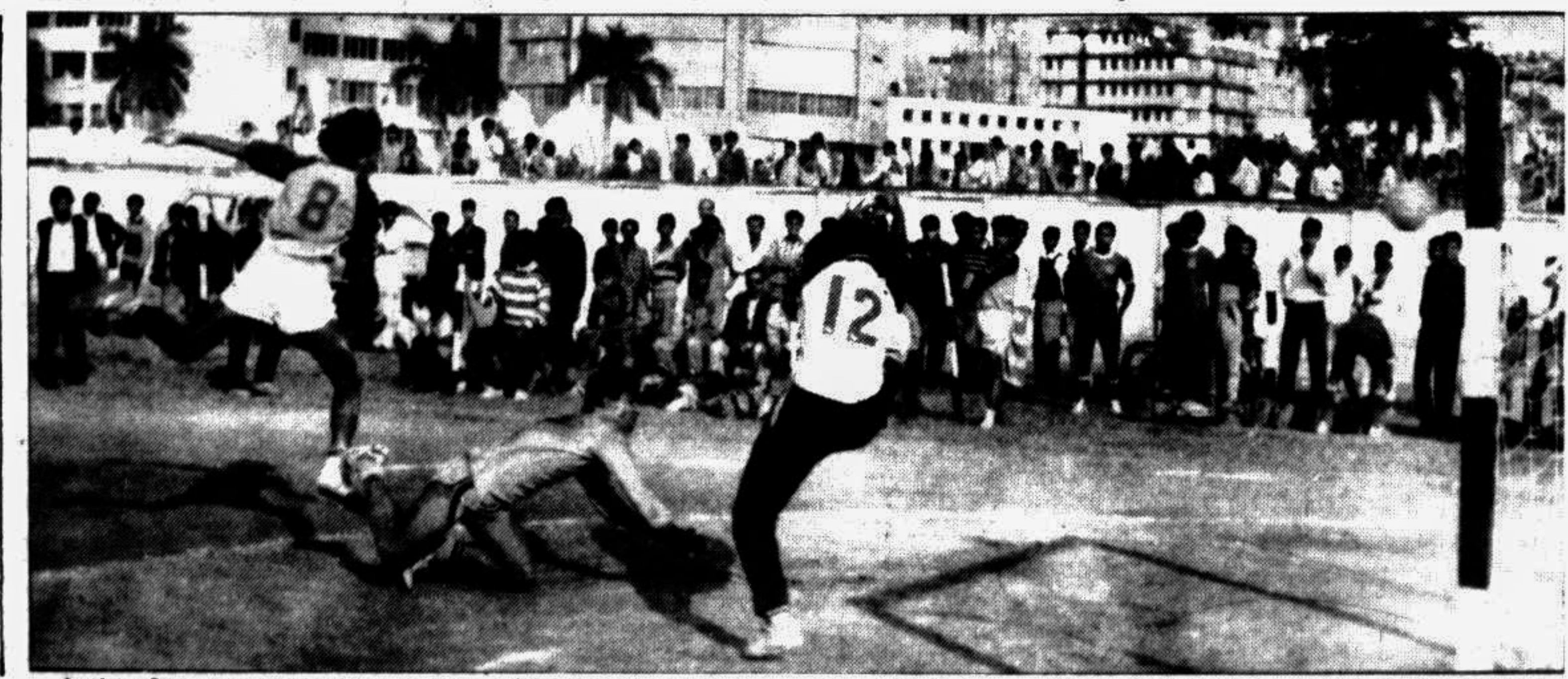
hard work of beating the rock-bottom Pars, who notched a rare away goal when George O'Boyle netted three minutes from the end.

But the performance of the day came from Hibernian, who rattled in three goals in five minutes to beat Dundee United 3-2.

Hibernian, looking down and out following scores by Finnish forward Mixu Paatelainen and Maurice Malpas, staged a remarkable recovery through Gareth Evans, who netted twice, and Keith Wright.

Celtic also bounced back to hold Aberdeen to a 2-2 draw. Aberdeen were two up in 21 minutes thanks to a deflected drive by Dutchman Theo Ten Cate and a header by Eoin Jess.

But Tony Mowbray launched the revival with his first goal for Celtic six minutes after the interval with a shot from 20 yards and substitute Tony Casciaro headed the qualifier within 90 seconds of coming on.



Action from yesterday's Federation Cup handball tournament match between BAF and Brothers Union at the Outer Stadium — Star photo