

Sport

Biplab's century powers Faridpur

A brilliant century by Biplab helped Faridpur trounce Sherpur by an incredible 232 runs in the Tangail zonal quarterfinals of the national youth cricket championship at Tangail yesterday.

Others who qualified for the zonal semifinals yesterday were Nilphamari, Patuakhali and Bogra.

At Tangail batting first, Faridpur made a massive 261 for the loss of six wickets in 42 overs against lowly Sherpur.

Biplab made an unbeaten 118 while Asad and Pappu scored 34 each.

Rahul took two wickets for Sherpur.

Facing an impossible target, the Sherpur boys soon gave up being booked for a paucity 29 runs in only 13.2 overs with none of their batsmen reaching double figures.

Suman was the most successful Faridpur bowler claiming two wickets for just four runs.

Faridpur will now clash with Narayanganj in the zonal semifinals to be held on April 14.

At Thakurgaon, Nilphamari recorded a single wicket victory over Dinajpur, thanks to Imtiaz's all-round performance.

Dinajpur will now take on Rangpur in the zonal semifinals, also on April 14.

Batting first, Dinajpur were all out for 180 in 40.2 overs with Raju making 49, Saibal 37 and Rais 23.

Imtiaz was the pick of the Nilphamari bowlers claiming four wickets for 30.

In reply, Nilphamari made 181 in 42.2 overs with Imtiaz again scoring a fine 51 and Babu remaining unbeaten on 24.

At Jessore, Patuakhali recorded an impressive four-wicket victory over Meherpur.

Put into bat, Meherpur were dismissed for a poor 101 in 32.5 overs with Kalam making 16 and Saiful and Wahid 15 each.

Mizan, Nazrul and Mohiuddin bagged two wickets each for Patuakhali.

In their turn, Patuakhali made 102 for six wickets in 33 overs with Bappi scoring 29 and Kabir 27.

Kalam took two wickets for Meherpur.

At Pabna, Bogra got a walk-over against Kurigram.

Bogra will meet Thakurgaon in the zonal semifinals on April 14.

The results of the matches at two other venues (Syhet and Barisal) were not available till the filing of this report late last night.

BRTC dent Brothers hopes

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) played havoc with Federation Cup champions Brothers Union's ambition to win their first-ever Senior Division football league title in a match that would be discussed more for the serious irregularities in the administration of local football.

Brothers, however, enjoyed the better of the exchanges, but BRTC defenders Debashish and Shaheen, who dished out virtuoso performances in the rear, beat back the Brothers' attacks.

BRTC's Noman had the first chance of the match when he got inside the box but an infringement spoiled the opportunity.

Uttam, the nimble Brothers' media, was once again poised with a fine chance but his hasty shot from inside the box went wide off the mark.

BRTC were deprived of a golden chance 29 minutes into the second half when Ratan, positioned perfectly well inside the box, headed a Noman lob, but Brothers' custodian Ponir pulled off a great save to keep his team from harm's way.

The goalkeeper again came to the rescue when he gathered a Ratan shot from outside the box. A minute later Waseem weaved his way into the BRTC box but Debashish foiled him.

Brothers were given the scare of the match five minutes before the final whistle when Tipu of BRTC unleashed a powerful volley from a fine pass by Ratan but had the mortification of seeing his shot return to play with Ponir well beaten under the bar.

Brothers now have 22 points from 13 matches while BRTC, who had earlier snatched a point from powerful PWD raise their collection to nine from thirteen matches.

Brothers: Ponir, Nandy, Babul, Moon, Ataur, Pervez, Uttam, Rupu, Manik (Waseem), Wahed, Ripon (Rahim).

BRTC: Moslem, Humayun, Debashish, Shaheen, Sharif, Prosanto, Masud, Noman, Goutam, Ratan, Tipu.

Referee: Muzaffar Hossain.

Miandad's call

KARACHI, Apr 11: Pakistani master batsman Javed Miandad wants World Cup organizers to raise the number of players in a squad from 14 to 16, the English language Dawn reported here Saturday, reports AFP.

Miandad, 36, the second batsman to score 1,000 runs in World Cup matches, said raising the number would "give a side more choice for replacements if needed."

He said he raised the idea during the recent World Cup in Australia and wanted International Cricket Council to discuss it at their next meeting, adding most cricket experts agreed with him.

Waqaar to fly to London soon

ISLAMABAD, Apr 11: Pakistan strike bowler Waqaar Younis will fly to London soon for a medical to determine his fitness for the forthcoming tour to England, reports Reuter.

Pakistan Cricket Board secretary Shahid Rafi said on Friday the Board had sent Waqaar's medical papers to specialists in London.

He said the Board wanted to be sure "without any shadow of doubt" that Waqaar was fit.

He was ruled out of the recent World Cup, which Pakistan won, because of a stress fracture in his back.

Rafi said Waqaar had told him the pain in his back had "subsided to a great extent."

Rafi dismissed newspaper speculation that skipper Imran Khan might not lead the squad to England because of fitness problems and that batsman Javed Miandad might also be missing from the squad.

Ctg, Dhaka reach semifinals

Chittagong DSA and Dhaka DSA moved into the semifinals of the Gold Leaf national cricket championship beating Mymensingh DSA and Barisal DSA respectively at two different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhaka Stadium, star-studded Chittagong drubbed Mymensingh by nine wickets, thanks to Nurul Abedin Nobel's brilliant batting.

Sent into bat, Mymensingh made 171 for the loss of eight wickets in their allotted 45 overs.

Ilfakhar top scored with 42 made off 60 deliveries, an innings that included three hits

and Nobel helped Chittagong cruise past Mymensingh's total, making 172 for the loss of just Masum's wicket in 36:3 overs.

Nobel remained unbeaten on 91, a knock that included as many as eight boundaries. Masum made 42 off 66 balls

with the aid of five fours before being caught off the bowling of Btlu.

The burly Akram Khan, who has been in excellent touch this year, made a whirlwind unbeaten 33 off just 36 balls, dispatching the ball for two sixes and a four.

Chittagong will now take on the winners of today's quarter-final between Bangladesh Biman and Khulna on April 14.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Dhaka centered past Barisal by four wickets.

Electing to bat, Barisal were all out for 166 in 44 overs.

Faruk top scored with 52 while Rafiq made 43 and Kalam 29 for Barisal.

Left-arm spinner Atiq was the pick of the Dhaka attack claiming three wickets for 22.

Ants took two wickets for 27 while Sujon and Jogesh got a wicket apiece.

Dhaka, in their turn, made 168 for six wickets in 42.5 overs.

Opener Javed Omar Belim Golla got a fine 56. It was his third consecutive half-century in the tournament.

Atiq followed up his fine bowling by remaining unbeaten on 25 while Sujon and Halim Shah scored 19 and 17 respectively.

Toton took two wickets while Majbee, Shawkat and Rafiq got a wicket apiece for Barisal.

Javed Omar Golla was adjudged the man-of-the-match.

Dhaka will now meet the winners of the match between Dhaka University and Syhet DSA in the semifinals, scheduled for April 15.

TODAY'S MATCH Biman vs Khulna (Dhaka Stadium)

Goalless draw

Rahmatganj MFS and Dhaka Wanderers Club shared points in the first match of yesterday's First Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium.

Neither side showed any genuine interest to trouble the other and the upshot of it was that Wanderers, fighting for existence in the top league, managed a valuable point to raise their tally to eight from thirteen matches.

They are now just ahead of newly-promoted Police and hapless BJMC who have so far collected five and two points respectively.

TODAY'S MATCHES Adamjee vs Arambagh (6 pm) PWD vs Fakirpool (8 pm)

Courier regains No 1 spot

TOKYO, Apr 11: Jim Courier regained the men's No 1 world ranking on Saturday when Sweden's Stefan Edberg was beaten in the semifinals of the Japan Open tennis championships, reports AP.

Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands had 12 aces in beating the former No 1 from Sweden 6-3, 7-5 ending Edberg's three-year run as Japan Open champion.

Courier downed fellow American Michale Chang 6-2, 6-3 and will face Krajicek in the men's final.

On the women's side, Japan's Kimiko Date, the third seed, captured the singles title by beating second-seeded Sabine Appelmans of Belgium 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, in the final on the hard court of Ariake Coliseum.

Date's first singles victory

match point to snap Chang's winning streak at 15.

The 21-year-old Courier said it was his best match since he won the Australian Open. "Everything went well," he said.

Krajicek beat Edberg, who doublefaulted six, in just 80 minutes.

The Dutchman broke Edberg in the sixth game of the first set, the only break of the set.

In the second set Edberg, down 5-4, broke Krajicek in the 10th game after two deuces. But Krajicek rallied to win the set 7-5 and take the match.

"I was a bit nervous as the game neared the end," said Krajicek of the 10th game.

"I just played my own game," he said. "The return worked very well but my volley is not yet what I want it to be."

"He (Edberg) made unbelievable volleys and missed some easy ones. He hit a lot of tough shots but he did not play his best tennis."

The Monte Carlo-based Krajicek, seeded sixth, played brilliant power tennis, serving 12 aces.

It was the second straight victory for the 20-year-old Krajicek, who beat the Swede 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in their first encounter at last year's New Haven tournament in the United States.

The lanky Dutch player, a surprise finalist in the Australian Open which Courier won, scored his first career title when he defeated Australia's Wally Masur in a Hong Kong tournament last year.

Edberg, who marries long-time girlfriend Annette Olsen on April 18, never looked at ease with his serve-and-volley game.

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Surrey replace Waqaar with SA quickie Bryson

LONDON, Apr 11: Eastern Province pace ace African Rudi Bryson has a hard act to follow when he takes over from Pakistan prodigy Waqaar Younis as Surrey's overseas player for the forthcoming English season, reports AFP.

Waqaar has spread havoc on the county scene in the last two seasons with his pace, swing and devastating yorker.

But new Surrey skipper Alec Stewart holds out high hopes that Bryson can prove more than an adequate replacement for the Pakistani following recommendations from South Africa and Eastern Province captain Kepler Wessels.

Wessels rates Bryson very highly, said the England vice-captain.

"He took a lot of wickets for Eastern Province this winter and was in South Africa's original World Cup squad until it was cut to 14."

"Waqaar is the best bowler in the world and has done a great job for Surrey. He'll be difficult to follow, but we have faith in Bryson to perform well for us."

Stewart confesses to knowing little about Bryson, but Surrey coach Geoff Arnold went on two spy missions to South Africa in the English close season to run the rule over the new acquisition.

In addition, Surrey spinner Keith Medlycott has first-hand experience of Bryson's abilities, having played against him in South Africa.

Medlycott said: "We're short for a fast bowler, but he's very strong and his deliveries really skid through."

Dortmund take Bundesliga lead

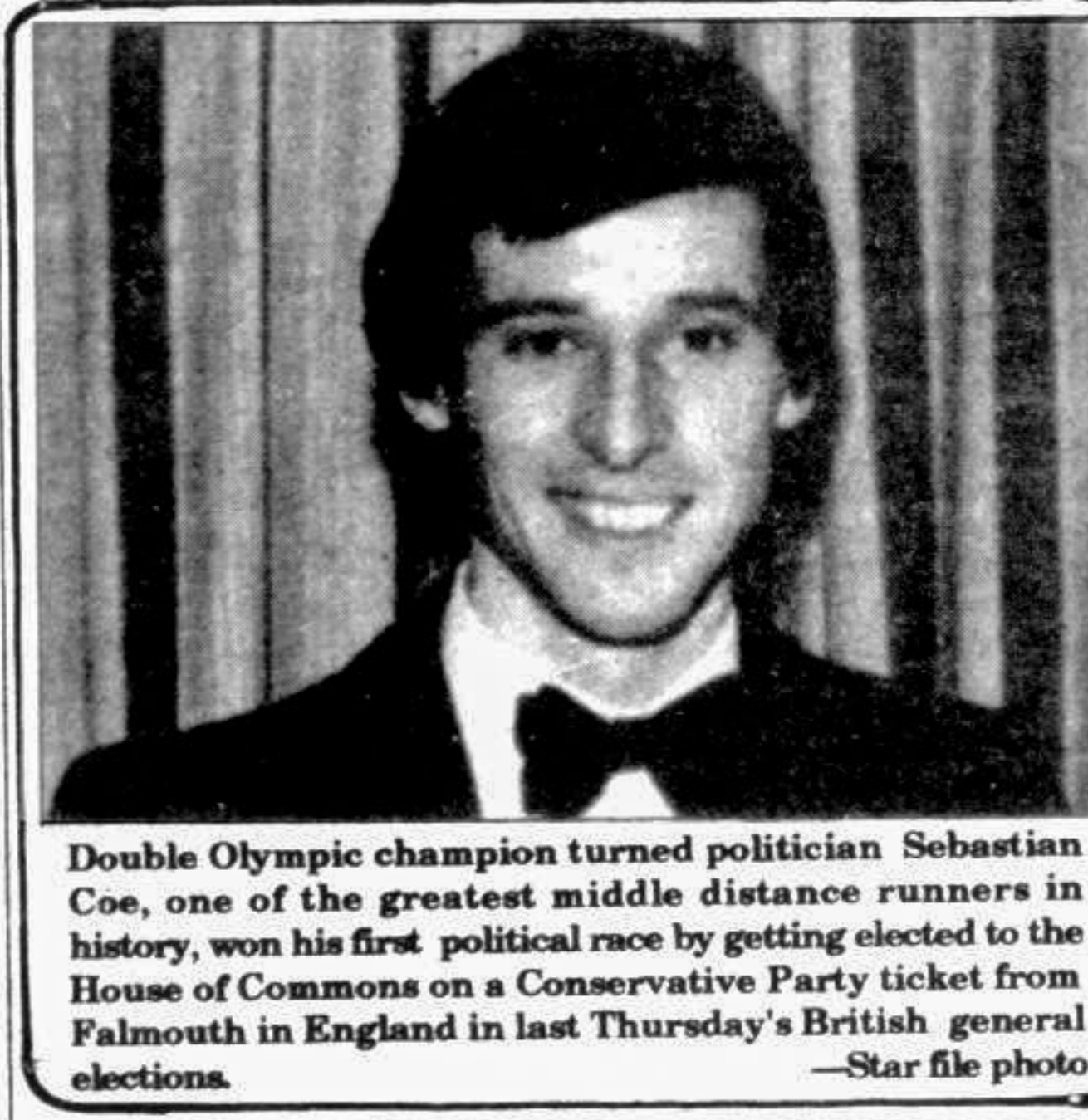
BONN, Apr 11: Borussia Dortmund beat struggling Bayern Munich 3-0 on Friday to break the three-way tie at the top of the Bundesliga and go two points clear, reports Reuter.

Former Munich star Michael Rummenigge set Dortmund on the road to victory in front of a sell-out 56,000 crowd when he stabbed in a rebound in the 19th minute.

Second-half goals from Thomas Franck and Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat - his league-leading 17th of the season - rubbed it in on a disappointing night for Bayern, who had four players booked.

Dortmund, who are seeking their first German League Championship since 1963, are now two points ahead of Eintracht Frankfurt and VfB Stuttgart with six matches to play.

Eintracht, who had topped the table on goal difference, must travel today to Borussia Moenchengladbach, who boosted their confidence by reaching the German Cup final in midweek.



Double Olympic champion turned politician Sebastian Coe, one of the greatest middle distance runners in history, won his first political race by getting elected to the House of Commons on a Conservative Party ticket from Falmouth in England in last Thursday's British general elections. -Star file photo

Top four justify their seedings

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida, Apr 11: Competition at the 350,000 dollar Bausch and Lomb tennis championships was barely evident on Friday as form held up and the top four seeds posted convincing straight set wins to roll into the semifinals, reports Reuter.

Top seed Steffi Graf led the charge by crushing seventh-seeded Lella Meskhi of Georgia 6-0, 6-2 in 55 minutes.

Second seeded defending champion Gabriela Sabatini was kept on court 35 minutes longer and dropped one more game in a 6-2, 6-1 whipping of fifth seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia.

Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the third seed, kept the day's theme going as she toyed with German Sabine Hack, the only unseeded player to reach the final, for a 6-1, 6-2 win in one hour 15 minutes.

Fourth seed Conchita Martinez completed the final four by bouncing eighth-

seeded American Zina Garrison 6-3, 6-1 in the same one hour 15 minutes needed by her countrywoman Sanchez.

None of the top four seeds has dropped a set this week.

The semifinals pit Sabatini against Martinez in a rematch of last week's Hilton Head Island final. Graf will take on Sanchez.

Despite back-to-back lopsided wins for Martinez, the Spaniard is suffering tendinitis of the shoulder and elbow, which she says hurts badly when she's serving. The discomfort could finally be a factor against the formidable Argentine.

"I'm looking forward to (playing Sabatini), but if it hurts too much I will stop," Martinez said. "Until the point I can't play, I will play and fight."

World number two Graf will be hoping for her 11th victory in 13 matches against Sanchez, who defeated the German twice on clay at the French Open.

Graf was flawless for the first eight games against

Meskhi and dropped just five points in the opening set.

"Until 6-0, 2-0, 40-15, it was as good as it gets. It was perfect," said Graf. "After that, she started playing stronger and it wasn't that cast to attack," she said of Meskhi, who managed to hold serve in the third and fifth games of the second set.

Triangular track meet in Sept

PARIS, Apr 11: A united African athletics team, including for the first time athletes from South Africa, will compete in a triangular international in France in September, organisers announced on Friday, reports Reuter.

The triangular match against France and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will take place in Tours on September 12 and 13, the French Athletics Federation said.

Federation officials said Africa and the CIS would send their strongest teams

Sidek to meet Foo in final

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 11: Favourite Rashid Sidek of Malaysia will take on compatriot Foo Kok Keong in the men's singles final while China will fight for the women's title after Friday's Asian Badminton Confederation semi finals here, reports AFP.

Rashid, the defending champion, slogged for a 15-8, 15-8 victory over Joko Suprianto of Indonesia in a 115 minute battle while Foo recovered from a game down to topple Suprianto 11-15, 15-12, 15-10 in his semifinal.

Rashid led the Commonwealth champion trailed 4-6 in the first set but soon increased his pace and piled on eight successive points, capitalising on his opponent's uncharacteristic mistakes.

Suprianto, who is ranked 12th in the world, could only pull away two more points before allowing the 24-year old Malaysian to wrap up the set 15-8 in 35 minutes.

The second set was a strength sapping 15 minute encounter which saw both players fighting point for point after Rashid took a quick 5-1 lead.

The defending champion was on the verge of romping home with a straight set victory leading at 14-13 but 25 year old Suprianto forced a sharp drive inches out on the left.

Suprianto, the 1990 All England runner up, dropped one point before taking the set 17-15 forcing a decider.

Rashid led all the way in the final set with a brilliant display of stroke play often catching his opponent on the wrong side of the court.

The Indonesian, who lacked the killer shot at crucial moments, had his fate sealed when he sent a sharp drop wide on the left.

In the second semifinal, which lasted for 70 minutes Foo, the Malaysian number two, started off sluggishly and dropped the first set 11-15. However, he recovered in style and attacked Permadi relentlessly with an aggressive series of sideline smashes and delicate drops to take the second set 15-12.

Permadi, who is ranked 10th in the world, was a spent force in the decider and was never allowed to get into the game by the 28 year-old Malaysian, who wrapped up the set at 15-10.

The women's singles will be an all-Chinese affair with favourite Ye Zhenyong taking on second seeded Zhou Lei.

Ye, who was in top form, brushed aside a strong challenge from Somharuethai Jaroensiri of Thailand 4-11, 11-3 while Zhou ousted South Korean giant killer Ra Kyung-Min 10-12, 11-8, 11-5.

London to test Mota's grit

LONDON, Apr 11: Rosa Mota, the finest women's marathon runner in history, thrives on adversity, reports Reuter.

Five years ago she overcame beating heat, stifling humidity, Rome's cobbled streets and the world's best distance runners to win the World Championship gold medal.

The following year she won the Seoul Olympic marathon and in 1990 she successfully defended the European title on a demanding hill course in Split, Yugoslavia.

On Sunday the diminutive Portuguese's condition and resolve will be tested to the full when she defends the London title in her first marathon race since pulling out of last year's Tokyo World Championships.

"I had a bad day," Mota reflected this week as she looked back to Tokyo. "I have been running a lot of years and I had one bad day in my life."

Following last year's London race, Mota had an operation to remove an ovarian cyst which interrupted her training for Tokyo.

She told a news conference

that the operation had affected her physically and psychologically in Tokyo but she had now recovered fully and was looking forward to running in London.

Mota has set her sights on this year's Olympics and her quiet confidence was evident when she was asked whom she feared most in Barcelona.

"The hills," she shrugged. "The weather?"

The London men's champion, Yakov Tolstikov from the Commonwealth of Independent States, will also defend his title here in the springtime race which starts at Greenwich, winds its way along the Thames and finishes on Westminster Bridge.

At 32, time is running out for Tolstikov as he strives to make the maximum money possible in a world which has changed beyond recognition since he ran his first marathon in Geneva 10 years ago.

In 1982, athletics was still theoretically an amateur sport and, even when it went openly professional in the following year, no athlete from the then Soviet Union was allowed to keep any prize or appearance money. Tolstikov needs any spare cash he can get his hands on, as he admitted at his news conference on Thursday.

"Politically we are free," Tolstikov said. "But from an economic point of view it has got tougher."

As well as the elite men's and women's runners, the 30,000-strong field will comprise the usual mixture of serious runners, fun runners plus a sprinkling of eccentrics and celebrities.

One of the more colourful entrants is 65-year-old New Zealand farmer Derek Turnbull, who has set six age group world track records since February.

Turnbull, a throwback to another age when athletes ran for pleasure and glory rather than money, has no set training routine and no race plan.

"(Running) is good for the soul and good for the body," he said.

Spence wins marathon trials

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Apr 11: Steve Spence, the 1991 bronze medalist at the World Championships, ran a smart, controlled race Saturday in winning the US men's Olympic trials marathon, reports AP.

Joining Spence on the team that will represent the United States at Barcelona were Ed Eyestone, a 1988 Olympian, and Bob Kempainen, competing in only his second marathon.

Spence, who led for the first time after breaking away from Eyestone and Kempainen between miles 25 and 26 (40.2-41.8 kilometers), was timed in 2 hours, 12 minutes, 43 seconds.

Eyestone was clocked in 2:12:53 and Kempainen in 2:12:53.

Keith Brantly became the first alternate, finishing fourth in 2:14:16 and Bill Reinsnyder, the 1991 Columbus Marathon winner, was fifth in 2:15:44.

It was his third consecutive impressive performance for Spence. The deeply focused Spence had won the 1990

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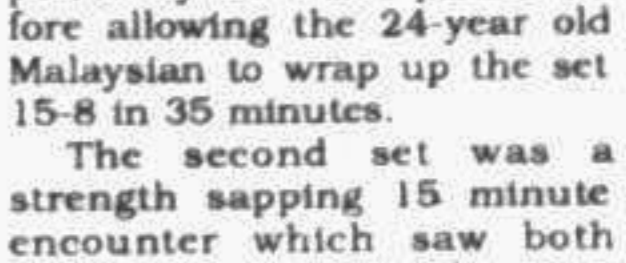
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ROSA MOTA



STEVE SPENCE



YAKOV TOLSTIKOV



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