

Pak booters arrive

Sports Reporter

A 23-member Pakistan contingent arrived in the city yesterday to participate in the Group-3 qualifying round of the fifth Asian youth under-16 football competition beginning from May 3 at Rajshahi.

The Nepali and Maldives teams are already in the capital while the Indian squad is expected to arrive today.

Five teams — India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and hosts Bangladesh — will take part in the competition. The group champions will qualify for the final round, to be held in Saudi Arabia later this year.

Two Thai referees — P Somporn and P Boonchard — also arrived yesterday while the two Sri Lankan referees, Vapa A Mohasena and Mohammad Mohsin Arif, should reach the capital today.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh youth team left Dhaka for Rajshahi yesterday.

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman will inaugurate the 10-day competition at four Sunday afternoon at the Rajshahi Stadium. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will also attend as a special guest.

Hosts Bangladesh will take on the Maldives in the inaugural match at 4:30 pm.

Bangladesh will clash with Pakistan and India, the two favourites other than the hosts, on May 9 and 12 respectively.

Radio Bangladesh, Rajshahi, will broadcast running commentary of all the ten matches of the meet.

The tournament authorities have already renovated the Rajshahi Stadium to accommodate a crowd of 15,000. The rates of daily tickets are Tk 10 and Tk 5 for the galleries.

Lineker takes his English bow tomorrow

Sports Reporter

LONDON, Apr 30: England soccer captain Gary Lineker plays his last English league game Saturday, taking the field for Tottenham against Manchester United in the final regular season round of games, reports AP.

Lineker, this season's leading First Division goal scorer, joins Japanese club Grampus Eight next season. He scored his 48th international goal for England in Wednesday's 2-2 tie against the CIB in Moscow.

He is now just one short of Bobby Charlton's all-time England goal record, and could pass the mark during warm-up games for June's European championships in Sweden.

With the league championship won by Leeds and places in European competition for Manchester United and Sheffield Wednesday already decided, most attention Saturday will focus on the bottom of the First Division table.

Luton, third from the bottom, could escape relegation by winning at already-dropped Notts County, but only if fourth-from-last Coventry loses at Aston Villa.

Torino hold Ajax

Sports Reporter

TURIN, Italy, Apr 30: Ajax Amsterdam emerged as slight favourites to win the UEFA Cup for the first time in their history after a thrilling 2-2 draw with Torino in the first leg of the final of Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Hungary beat Ukraine

Sports Reporter

KIEV, Apr 30: Ukraine, playing their first international soccer game since declaring independence last year, lost 3-1 to Hungary on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Ukraine, urged on by an enthusiastic 13,000 crowd in the western city of Uzhgorod, were missing several players on duty for the Commonwealth of Independent States team playing England in Moscow.

Ukraine, who have agreed their players can compete for the CIS in the European Championship finals in Sweden in June, dominated the first half but failed to score.

Irish lesson for US booters

Sports Reporter

DUBLIN, Apr 30: The United States showed they still had a lot to learn before the 1994 World Cup after losing 4-1 to Ireland in a soccer friendly on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Yet the scoreline probably flattered an unsettled Ireland, who were held 0-0 at halftime with Eric Wynalda missing a good chance for the visitors in the fifth minute.

Ireland boss Jack Charlton, whose team play their first World Cup qualifier at home to Albania next month, was without six of his regular players and it showed at first.

Comilla Zilla School lift tenth Nirman title

Sports Reporter



Hassan, the left-arm spinner of Comilla Zilla School, spun his side to a first-ever victory in the country-wide schools cricket championship as

with an enterprising 28, took the team total to 102 in association with determined Shakil but all hell broke loose with their departure as Hassan bemused the Sylhet middle-order into submission with nagging accuracy.

at point for two with the score reading 16 in the seventh over. Tareq made 15 and Himu one of the mainstays of Comilla Zilla School team, left for 11 and at 44 for three in 11.2 overs the Comilla batsmen seemed to have thrown away



The Comilla Zilla School team, winners of 10th Nirman schools cricket championships, after yesterday's final at the Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo

Comilla Zilla School demolished Sylhet Aided High School by six wickets to lift the tenth Nirman title yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

In an anticlimactic final which saw the Sylhet schoolboys caving in rather unexpectedly the Comilla Zilla School boys outshone their counterparts in every department of the game to add another feather to a district that has over the years produced many fine cricketers.

Sylhet skipper Shakil won the toss and elected to bat on a wicket which looked full of runs and the in-form openers Rahat and Parvez lent credibility to the conviction of their skipper. The pair, who had a century stand in the semifinal, laid the foundation for a good score with a partnership of 61 in 20.2 overs before Parvez fell to Anis for a well-made 25, inclusive of three fours.

Anis, who played a stellar role in Comilla's victory later with an unbeaten innings of 43 and challenged teammate Hassan for the man-of-the-match award, made a further dent in the Sylhet innings by removing Ronny cheaply.

Rahat left at 76 for a patient 27 but Takyoa, who top scored

Sylhet Aided School, which had so far been aided and shielded mostly by their opening batsmen wiled under pressure as the steadily falling run rate engendered indiscretion among the young batsmen.

From 102 for five Sylhet Aided High School slumped to 140 all out with Hassan claiming five wickets for 22 runs from his 7.2 overs that included one maiden. In fact, things could have been much worse for the Sylhetis had the Comilla bowlers been a little more careful about their direction as 24 wides were conceded in a total of 31 extras.

Anis bowled just as well, making things easier for Hassan, with a superb analysis of two for 6 from eight overs. His economy made the 'harakiri' of the Sylhet Aided School batsmen almost inevitable. Rubel took two for 18.

Sylhet began their quest for the title circumspectly with both Sunny and Tareq finding it difficult to break the shackles applied by the Comilla bowlers, particularly Emdad who gave very little away.

Emdad gave Sylhet the first breakthrough when Sunny mistimed a square-cut and Rahat snapped him up smartly

the initiative wrested by their bowlers.

Hassan, inspired by his exploits with the leather, chipped in with a useful 14 but his 32-run partnership with in-form Anis really made things hum again for Comilla. But the situation called for another partnership to tilt the balance in their favour and skipper Lipu joined Anis in the middle to see the side through.

Neither of them brooked any nonsense and put the tin hat on Sylhet's ambitions with an unbroken 65-run partnership for the fifth-wicket as Comilla Zilla School made 141 for four wickets in 37 overs.

Emdad bowled beautifully for the losers, taking one for 12 in eight overs. Kawser and Ronny claimed one each giving away 24 and 23 runs respectively from their quotas of eight overs apiece.

Abdullah Al-Noman, Minister for Forests and Environment gave away the prizes. K Z Islam, the chairman of the sponsors Nirman International, was also present as a special guest.

Hassan of Comilla was named man-of-the-match for his mesmerising spell.

English club side due May 14

Sports Reporter

An amateur club side from England known as the Ambassadors in Sports (AIS) will arrive in the city on May 14 to play some exhibition matches with Bangladeshi teams, said a Bangladesh Football Federation press release.

The twenty-member multinational squad is likely to play two matches in the capital and three more at Cox's Bazar, Khulna and Jessore.

DU cricket

Sports Reporter

An all-round performance by Suman powered Department of International Relations to a convincing ten-wicket victory over Department of Library Science in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket competition at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Batting first, Library Science were skittled out for a poor 81 in 28 overs with Zayed remaining unbeaten on 19 and Mizan making 14.

Suman with three wickets for 13 was the pick of International Relations bowlers while Atiq chipped in with two for 22.

International Relations needed only 11.4 overs to score 85 with ten wickets in hand.

Suman and Ashraf remained unbeaten on 50 and 20 respectively.

Tennis stars to demonstrate musical skills

PARIS, Apr 30: John McEnroe, Pat Cash and Yannick Noah are among the tennis stars who will be demonstrating their musical skills here on May 21 as part of a tennis and music evening planned by former French Open champion Noah, reports AFP.

After an exhibition tournament, designed to lead to a male-female final, the players will treat the audience to their renditions of rolling stones, Eric Clapton and Bob Marley classics.

Former Wimbledon champion Cash has said he wants to play guitar on a number by heavy metal giants, Iron Maiden but has yet to find a singer. Jennifer Capriati could be his ideal partner — she has volunteered to belt out one of her guns and roses favourites.

The deadlocked star plans to record his second album in Los Angeles in July and by next spring could be on the road as a full-time musician, providing, he says, he can find a reliable band.

Gaza to know Lazio's decision by May 26

LONDON, Apr 30: Tottenham midfielder Paul Gascoigne will know by May 26 whether he will join Italian First Division club Lazio next season, reports AP.

Lazio will sign Gascoigne for 9.7 million (pounds 5.5 million) if he passes medical tests on his right knee. Gascoigne has not played for more than a year after injuring the knee and undergoing surgery.

The tests are now scheduled in London between May 19 and 26 — a week earlier than originally planned.

"All parties thought we should do it as quickly as possible," Tottenham chief executive Terry Venables said.

"The Lazio people are happy with what they have seen and the player is happy to do it earlier. It's very straightforward."

"If he passes it, he goes. If he doesn't, he stays. We will know on May 26."

Botham ignites county season



LONDON, Apr 30: Ian Botham left another indelible mark in cricket's record books on Wednesday after

smashing the first championship century for England's newest county Durham, reports Reuter.

The irrepressibly all-rounder who has set a multitude of records for England and his previous counties, Somerset and Worcestershire, cracked five sixes and six fours in a 98-ball effort which marked his 37th first-class century.

He made 105 and was quickly followed to the century mark by Paul Parker, who scored 117 after being overtaken by Botham in the 90s despite a 53-run start.

But their 178-run stand was not enough to save Durham from defeat on their championship debut against Leicestershire, who won by seven wickets after reaching their victory target of 141 for the loss of only three wickets.

Hampshire spinner Shaun Udal destroyed Sussex with a career-best eight for 50 to lead his side to a 150-run victory. Sussex collapsed dramati-

cally after declaring their first innings at 189 for two as the sides agreed to try to contrive a result, with Hampshire forfeiting their second innings.



IAN BOTHAM

cally after declaring their first innings at 189 for two as the sides agreed to try to contrive a result, with Hampshire forfeiting their second innings.

Set 300 for victory, Sussex were bowled out for 149 as Udal began his destruction by dismissing Carlos Remy and Keith Greenfield with his first two deliveries after lunch.

Allan Lamb added a quick-fire 66 to his first innings 101 to put Northamptonshire in sight of victory against Worcestershire but England teammate Richard Illingworth checked the run chase with four wickets for 43, including two from successive balls. Northants ended on 180 for seven, well short of the 274 they needed for victory.

Yorkshire bowlers Darren Gough and Phil Carrick picked up four wickets apiece as Surrey were skittled out for 164 in their first innings and were forced to follow on 331 runs behind.

A last-wicket stand of 60 between Neil Kendrick (31) and Tony Murphy (32) and the weather combined to save Surrey, who were 64 for two in their second innings when bad light stopped play.

Intikhab slams bouncer rule



LONDON, Apr 30: Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam on Thursday criticized new cricket restrictions

on the use of the bouncer, saying the rule could seriously affect his team's pace attack during its four-month, 34-match England tour, reports AP.

"It is not a very good rule for our attack. You are giving too much chance for the batsman," Intikhab said. "I don't think this experiment will last long. It's like asking a spinner not to turn the ball."

Bowlers are allowed one bouncer per over per batsman. A bouncer is a ball which passes over the batsman's head.

Pakistan will rely heavily on pace attack from Wasim Akram, Saleem Jaffer and Aqib Javed. Waqar Younis and former captain Imran Khan may also join the attack if fit.

Intikhab said Imran still in Pakistan, would have ex-

ploratory surgery in England in two weeks on the shoulder injured during Pakistan's successful World Cup campaign early this year.



INTIKHAB ALAM

"Imran was not available for this tour. His injury was really bad. But if he gets fit and is willing, he might be required."

Intikhab said.

Pakistan hopes Waqar, one of the fastest bowlers in the world, would recover from a stress fracture of the lower back in time for the first Test against England starting June 5.

English newspapers have focused on Pakistan captain Javed Miandad, highlighting on and off-field incidents during England's tour of Pakistan in 1987. English players were highly critical of Pakistani umpiring, and alleged on-field criticism from Pakistani players.

"I see no reason why we won't have a pleasant tour. I don't see a problem involving controversy. I have a great regard for English cricketers and umpires," Intikhab said.

Pakistan plays its first one-day international against England May 20 in a replay of the World Cup final. It begins its tour Sunday with a one-day game against the invitation Duchesse of Norfolk's XI at Arundel in southern England.

Markus topples Ivan Lendl



MADRID, Apr 30: Argentine Gabriel Markus, an unseeded 22-year-old upstart, toppled Ivan Lendl 1-6,

7-5, 7-6 (7-3) Wednesday in the first round of the \$1.75 million City of Madrid Grand Prix tennis tournament, reports AP.

Markus, ranked 53rd on the ATP Tour, moved Lendl — who committed repeated unforced errors — from corner to corner with solid ground strokes raised his fist in glee after scoring the final point.

"This is a victory I've thought about a lot, because even if Ivan Lendl is losing games, he's a super difficult player to beat," Markus said.

Lendl became the top seeded player in the tournament after Boris Becker withdrew Tuesday because of a back injury.

Markus' victory left Alberto

Mancini of Argentina, ranked 14th on the ATP Tour computer, the highest rated player in the singles bracket.

"He wasn't my idol," Markus said of the 10th-ranked Lendl, 32. "But he was the player I admired the most."

Lendl dominated the first set with a fierce first serve.

But Markus recovered in the second set, holding his opening serve and eventually breaking Lendl in the sixth game on two unforced errors by the Czech.

Lendl broke back, but lost his serve again in the 12th game after leading 40-love. Tellingly, Lendl lost the set by sending a ball into the net.

"During the first set I was nervous," said Markus, who elicited occasional cries of "Ole!" from the Spanish crowd. "Luckily, I left my nerves behind."

Lendl earned the first break

in the third set in the 'third game, but Markus immediately broke back. Lendl battled inconsistency throughout the set, but led 6-5 before Markus broke him to even the match and send it to a tiebreaker, where he eventually won.

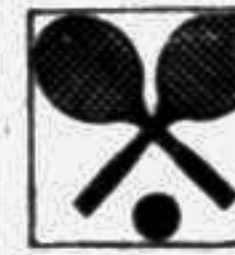
S Africa returns to Davis Cup

TUNIS, Tunisia, Apr 30: South Africa returned to Davis Cup competition Wednesday for the first time since 1978, beating Cameroon in two singles matches at the start of a six-nation qualifying event, reports AP.

Christo Van Rensburg blanked Lionel Kemajou, 6-0, 6-0, and Wayne Ferreira beat Angelin Muogo, 7-5, 6-2.

South Africa won the Davis Cup in 1974 when India refused to play in the final match. It last appeared in the competition in 1978.

Agassi, Volkov in AT and T qtrs



ATLANTA, Georgia, Apr 30: Second seed Andre Agassi celebrated his 22nd birthday on Wednesday with an impressive straight sets

second round victory at the 260,000s AT and T challenge tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Agassi needed just 68 minutes to overwhelm Argentina's Horacio De La Pena 6-3, 6-3 and move into the quarter-finals.

Third seeded Russian Alexander Volkov got off to a

slow start against Jeff Tarango before advancing to the quarters with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-0 victory when the American's game collapsed in the third set.

"For the first two sets I was still on Russian time," Volkov joked afterwards. "In the beginning he played extremely well but I thought may be he would break mentally."

Two seeded players fell in second round play on Wednesday.

Sixth-seeded American Malval Washington was upset

by experienced play court player Pablo Arraya of Peru 7-6, 6-2.

Arraya's eight-seeded countryman Jaime Yzaga, however, was soundly beaten by unseeded Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-0.

Yzaga, ranked 45th, could never get his game going against the 89th ranked Dutchman as errors riddled his game.

Agassi, who had suffered a string of early round defeats this year, appeared to be in top form against De La Pena.

"I can't hit the ball much better," said Agassi, who fired off forehand winners against his left-handed opponent, sending him lunging for shots pounded deep into the court.

Harrison wins triple jump

HIROSHIMA, Japan, Apr 30: Defending world champion Kenny Harrison beat China's Zou Sixin by nearly a meter (yard) on Wednesday, winning the men's triple jump at the Oda Memorial athletics meet, reports AP.

Harrison jumped 17.58 meters (57 feet-8 1/4 inches), 80 centimeters (2-7 1/2) more than Zou and 1.25 meters (4-1 1/4) better than Japan's Hajima Anzai. The tail wind, however, was above the allowable limit of 2.3 meters per second (5.2 miles an hour).

Harrison won the World Championship in Tokyo last August with a jump of 17.79 meters (58-4 1/2), 2.18 meters (7-1 3/4) shorter than the world record of 19.97 meters (65-6 1/4) set by Willie Banks of the United States in 1985.

Banks placed eighth Wednesday with 15.82 meters (51-10 3/4).

Reefat back to winning

Sports Reporter

Reefat Bn-Sattar and Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh Biman and Jamilur Rahman of Ansars remained at the top position with three and a half points apiece at the end of the fifth round of the 18th national chess championship yesterday at the National Sports Council.

Reigning champion Reefat began with a Queen's gambit opening and made a heavy weather initially but recovered to pull off a remarkable victory as MR Hafiz who played with white, of Dhaka Metropolis conceded defeat after 48 moves.

Former champion and FIDE Master Ziaur Rahman, also playing with black opted for a French defence, but his opponent Neyamul Huq Niru of Ansars countered him well with a Tarasch variation and after 34 moves both players agreed on a draw.

Jamilur Rahman of Ansars, Football coaching Sports Reporter

The long-term football coaching programme of the Swadesh Samaj Kailayan Sangha begins today at 4 pm at the Dhaka College ground, instead of Azampur Community Centre ground, says a press release.

Players, who played for the Sangha team in the Pioneer league and interested others have been asked to report to coach Babu or manager Harun.

who adopted the Gurgentz variation with his black pieces, bore down his opponent Amir of Dhaka Metropolis in 33 moves.

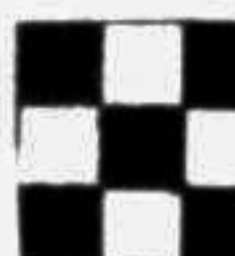
Syed Tahmidur Rahman of Biman, Anisur Rahman of Metropolis, Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu of BTMC and Syed Rabib of Dhaka Metro jointly shared the second position with each having three points.

Anis beat last year's runner up Ziaul Kader Tuhin as the former, playing with white pieces and a King's Indian defence, had his opponent at his wit's end after 41 moves.

Tahmid drew with Khandaker Kayes Hassan after eight moves while Shiplu and Rabib drew after 57 moves. Kalam of Metro defeated Khaleque of Jamalpur after 33 moves.

The match between reigning women's champion Rani Hamid and Nahid Miyazid was in progress till the time of the filing this report. Rani and Miyazid have three and two points respectively after having played four matches each.

Fischer flummoxes followers



NEW YORK, Apr 30: Reclusive world chess champion Bobby Fischer, not seen publicly since the early 1970s, has been found and apparently lost again, reports Reuter.

The syndicated television news programme now it can be told said on Wednesday it tracked down the 49-year-old Fischer last week and secretly photographed him getting into a car outside his Los Angeles home.

Producer Maury Terry said that when the programme returned to the house this week there were signs that the deeply reclusive Fischer had moved out.

It will broadcast its film on Friday and the Fischer it shows is a stark contrast to the well-dressed, deeply intense youth who in 1972 became the first and only American ever to win the world chess championship.

Fischer looks these days like an aging hippie with long hair, a beard and a dishevelled

appearance, Terry said. He was tracked down after a four-month long investigation



BOBBY FISHER

by filmmaker Darney Hoffman, who is making a film called the Bobby Fischer story.

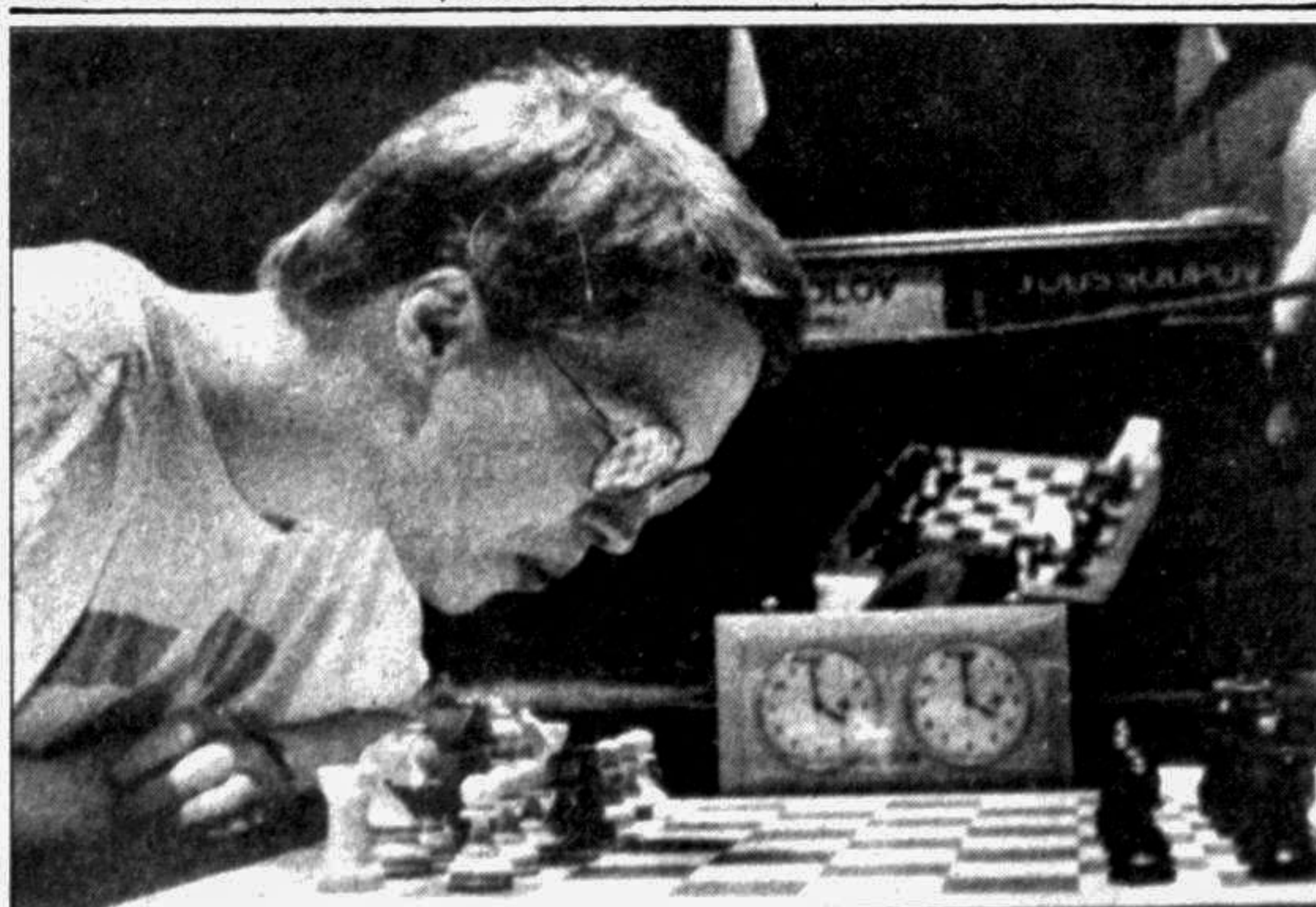
Hoffman, said he tracked down Fischer, who no lives under another name, through sources in the chess underground.

Hoffman said his sources told him that Fischer, who refuses to play chess publicly and has turned down millions of dollars to play again lives on handouts from friends and relatives.

Hoffman added, "I am trying to set up a 10 million match between Fischer and Boris Spassky, who he beat for the world chess championship in 1972."

But Hoffman is not hopeful that Fischer, who has spurned other offers, will accept his. He added, "I am now being told that I am number one on Fischers hate list."

Fischer disappeared from public view in the early 1970s after beating Spassky. He refused to defend his world chess title and the crown went to Anatoly Karpov.



English chess Grandmaster Nigel Short defeated the former world champion Russian Anatoly Karpov to reach the Candidates final of the World Championship in Spain on April 28. He now goes on to play against the other semifinal winner, Jan Timman of Netherlands for the honour of competing against world champion Gari Kasparov in Los Angeles in August, 1993. — AFP photo