

### Abahani in semis of Independence Day soccer

**Sports Reporter**  
A brilliant hat-trick by outside left Gaus helped Abahani to move into the semifinals of the Independence Day soccer tournament, now in progress in Nowgon of Assam, India.  
According to a message received in Dhaka last night the local league champions drubbed Assam Police 6-0 yesterday.  
The winners led the first half 4-0.  
Swapan, Rumi and Mamun Joarder scored one each in the one sided affair.  
Abahani will take on Nagaland Police in one of the semifinals on Saturday.  
Earlier, Abahani won their first match against Banpur United 2-1 on September 1.

### Div III soccer

**Sports Reporter**  
Purbachal Parishad beat Power Development Board (PDB) Sporting Club by two goals to nil in the only match of the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.  
Abul Hasan scored both goals for Purbachal.  
Masud Kamal Swapan of PDB received the yellow card for rough play.

### IOC instructor in city

**Sports Reporter**  
Olympic instructor WK Low of Hongkong arrived in the city yesterday to conduct two Olympic Solidarity sports leadership courses to be held in Chittagong and Dhaka.  
The first course beginning in Chittagong on September 6 will last till September 11 while the five-day Dhaka programme will start on September 13.  
The International Olympic Committee, which is financing the programme, has already sanctioned 1500 US dollars and will give another 1400 dollars after the completion of the programmes.  
About seventy sports organisers of the country will participate in the courses designed to improve leadership qualities of local sports organisers.  
WK Low will leave Dhaka for Chittagong to conduct the first course on September 5.  
Qamrul Islam, MP, is expected to inaugurate the programme.

**Sports Reporter**  
An exhibition football match organised by Narayanjan Football Players Association (NFFA) and Hafez Mokhtar memorial football tournament committee will be played between NFFA and Dhaka Football Players Association at the Aliganj ground at 4 pm to raise fund for the crippled footballer Shaheen.

### Charity match at N'ganj to raise fund for Shaheen

**Sports Reporter**  
The promising defender who played in Dhaka First Division football league for Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation last year got injured couple of months back while taking part in an unofficial tournament match in this same ground. The injury led to gangrene and the subsequent amputation of one of his legs.  
Players of the NFFA have been asked to report to coach Duhu Effendi today at 2.30 pm at the Osmati Stadium with their kits.

### Ekak Sangha lead Div II chess

**Sports Reporter**  
Strajganj Ekak Sangha led the points table of the Second Division chess league with ten points at the end of the third round yesterday at the chess room of the National Sports Council.  
Strajganj blanked South Kamalapur chess team 4-0.  
Kamalapur Samajkalyan and Kirta Sangsad and Narayanjan Chess Club jointly held the second position with nine half points each.  
The temporary third slot went shares between Jahangirnagar University chess team and Anushilan Daba Chakra with a score of eight and half points each.  
In one of the third round matches Narayanjan chess club got the better of Patuakhali team by 2.5 to 1.5 points.  
In another match Kamalapur Samajkalyan defeated Narayanjan Mashguli Mehfil 3.5-0.5.  
Golden chess club beat Danyia Pathagar by a margin of 3-1.

## Tangail teenagers triumph

**Sports Reporter**  
Tangail DSA emerged as the unbeaten champions of the Ma-o-Moni under-14 national soccer competition by beating Feni DSA 2-1 in the final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.  
Violence, which is a familiar phenomenon in local league football, however marred the final, which otherwise should have been a very enjoyable game of soccer.  
The untoward incident happened when a large number of spectators, allegedly Feni supporters, chased the Tangail fans. They started pelting stones which the opposing side ably countered. Referee Abdul Aziz had to stop play for about three minutes as thousands of spectators made their way to the ground to escape possible injury.  
The inadequate police detachment deployed at the ground had a real hard time bringing the situation under control.  
The moment of jubilation for Tangail came in the 38th minute when their opportunist striker Hanif Prodhan placed the ball past a helpless Feni custodian Bappi from inside the opponents' box (1-0).  
The long-awaited goal acted as a tonic for the Tangail boys and they started with renewed determination in the second half. They kept on attacking the fragile Feni defence and in the process doubled the margin in the 20th minute when midfielder Monwar Hossain found the net from close utilising a neat minus from the right-winger.  
Then ensued the unwanted incident which ruined the ball inside the Tangail box but his powerful volley returned to play after hitting the cross piece.  
The Tangail boys, donned in yellow jerseys, then geared themselves up and by gaining control of the midfield carried out some calculated raids inside the opponents' territory.  
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The proud booters of Tangail DSA, who became champions of the Ma-o-Moni Gold Cup national under-14 football tournament which concluded at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, pose for photographers after the final. Tangail beat Feni 2-1. — Star photo

Tangail, who appeared a well-organised side, led the first half 1-0.  
However, Feni dominated the first ten minutes of the 80-minute encounter and were rather unlucky in not getting a goal in the seventh minute.  
Lenin, the promising Feni striker, who had slammed a hat-trick in the second semifinal against Sylhet, received the rhythm of an otherwise neat game.  
Lenin later reduced the margin for Feni in the 36th minute with a beautiful placing shot, after dodging past the Tangail goalkeeper and captain Mir Kaiser Sadik Sajib (2-1).  
Tangail defender Shafiqul Alam Babu invited the yellow card for rough play.  
Tangail beat Satkhira 3-2 while Feni beat Sylhet 3-1 in their respective semifinals held on Tuesday last.  
Eight teams participated in the final round which began in the city on August 26.  
Earlier, 62 DSAs out of the 64 of the country had taken part in the knockout qualifiers held at eight different venues across the country from August 8 to 17.  
Organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), the meet was sponsored by the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI), a Bangladesh government health project.  
Mohammed Sporting Club clinched the Ma-o-Moni trophy by beating arch rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in the earlier club-level competition held in 1990. Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia witnessed the final as chief guest and gave away the trophies.  
State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain was present as a special guest.  
Director of the EPI AQM Lutfur Rahman and the BFF officials were also present.

### Border expects no cake-walk

**COLOMBO, Sept 3:** Australian captain Allan Border, who is seeking to reverse the one-day series, said that his bowlers ought to be a "bit more ruthless" and warned it was not going to be a "cake-walk" against Sri Lanka, reports AFP.  
Border said that although he was happy with his side's performance they were not playing at their best and was looking forward to the "hustle bustle" of one-day cricket that might help the Australians to perform at their peak.  
"We are still not playing anywhere near our best," (Dean Jones played pretty well in this game, though he had a bit of luck. We just need to get more partnerships going and the bowling is got to be a bit more ruthless," he said).  
The Australian captain was speaking to reporters after the drawn second Test in which the right-handed Jones became the first Australian to score a Test century in their current five-week tour.



### Report doctoring: A new British press theory

**LONDON, Sept 3:** English cricket chiefs have denied newspaper allegations that crucial reports on a match marred by a ball-tampering row were themselves doctored, reports Reuters.  
The Daily Mirror claimed on Thursday that the two umpires had drafted a statement giving a reason for changing the ball during the one-day international between England and Pakistan at Lord's on August 23.  
But the newspaper alleges that when the statement was made public by the International Cricket Council (ICC), the game's world ruling body the reason for the decision had been censored.  
"I know absolutely nothing about this suggestion," said Allan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board.  
The umpires' reports have not been altered in any way, ICC secretary colonel John Stephenson said: "The reports are exactly as submitted."  
Pakistan have maintained throughout that the ball was replaced simply because it had gone soft.  
The ICC took five days to make any statement on the issue and then laid itself open to public ridicule by declaring the matter closed without reaching any kind of verdict, opting not to explain why the ball was changed.  
The Pakistan team are suing the Daily Mirror and another British newspaper over the allegations. On August 26 the Daily Mirror carried a story in which England batsman Allan Lamb accused the Pakistanis of tampering with the ball during the recent Test and one-day series.

### ALLAN BORDER

Australia now play Sri Lanka in the first of two remaining one-day internationals Friday before the third and final Test on September 8. Sri Lanka, who are one-up in the limited over series are a tough

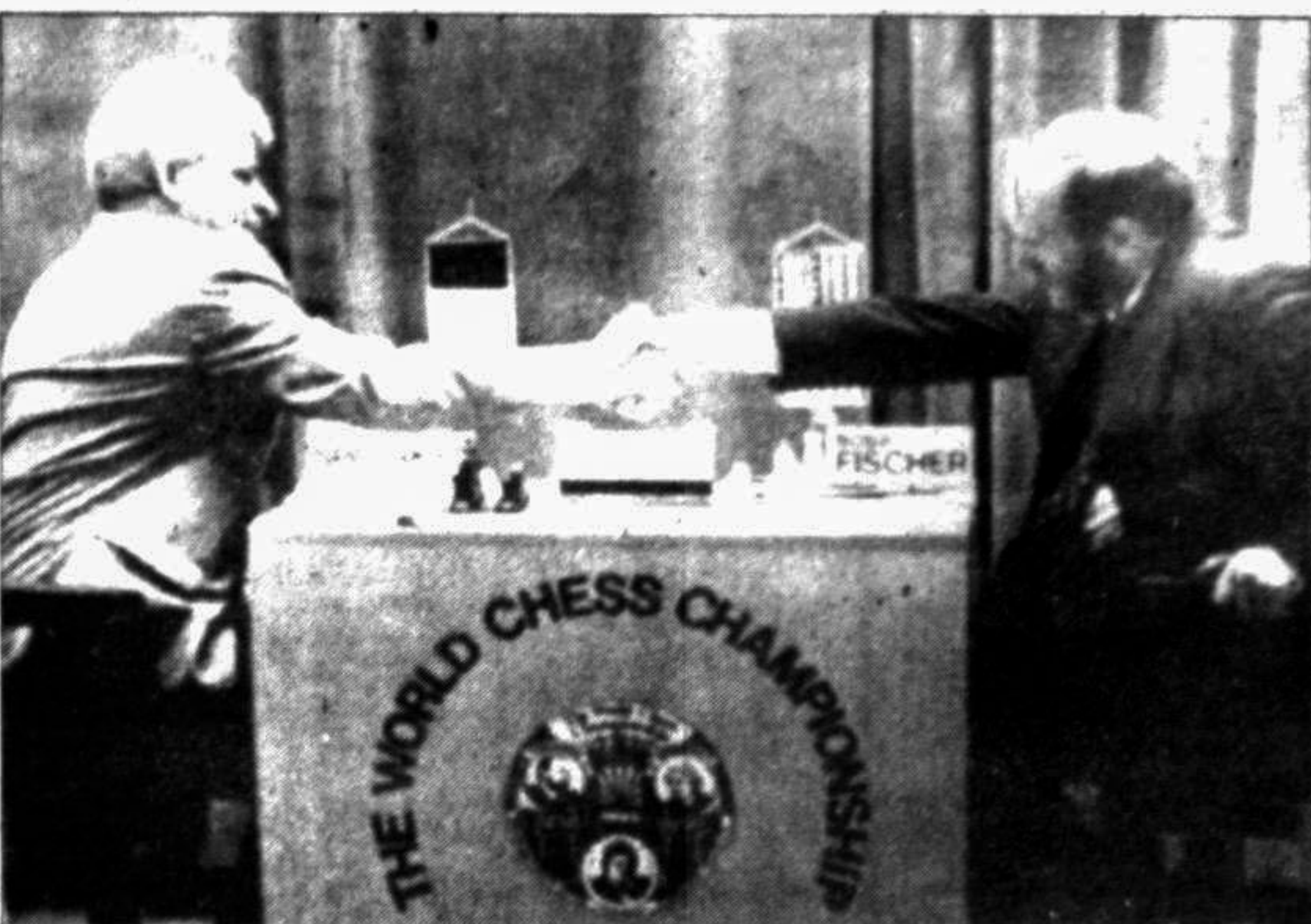
### BCCI wants to know what's going on

**BANGALORE, Sept 3:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) would soon seek an official copy of the autobiography of England cricketer David Gower to ascertain full facts about his alleged comment on Indian bowlers tampering the ball during a Test match in 1990, the BCCI honorary secretary, C Nagaraj said Thursday, reports PTL.

He told PTL here that the BCCI, after making an indepth study into the comments contained in the official copy, would place it before the forthcoming board meeting.  
A decision on the future course of action to be adopted by the BCCI on the matter would be taken at the meeting.  
Nagaraj said the Indian cricket authorities were contemplating seeking only a clarification from the Test and County Cricket Board on the issue and not an apology from the batsman.  
He reiterated that England's tour of India scheduled to commence from January next was not in jeopardy in the wake of Gower's alleged remarks and declared that "We have not said anything of the sort and rumours to that effect are not true."

### Essex's second in a row

**CHELMSFORD, England, Sept 3:** Essex wrapped up their second successive English cricket championship Thursday with an eight wicket victory against Hampshire, reports AP.  
It was Essex's sixth county championship since the first in 1979. Led by Keith Fletcher they won back-to-back titles in 1983-84.  
Fletcher is now England manager and Essex is captained by England skipper Graham Gooch. The two have led the county to 11 major trophies in 14 years.  
Essex dismissed Hampshire for 233 and 229 in the four-day match, scoring 298 in their first inning.  
Needing 165 for victory, opener John Stephenson and Paul Prichard compiled an unbeaten third wicket stand of 133 before Stephenson cut Robin Smith for the winning single.



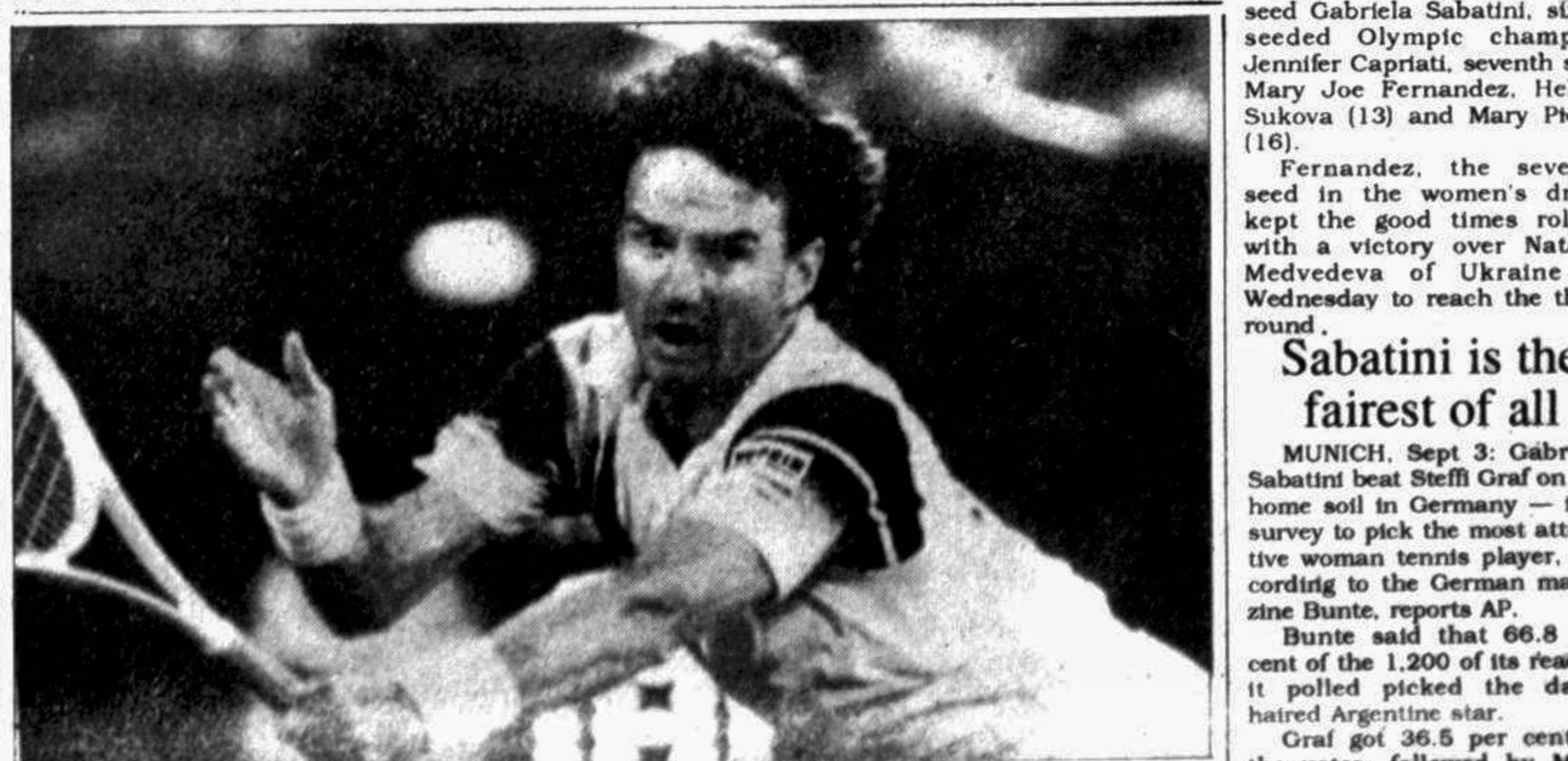
The two arch rivals — Boris Spassky (L) and Bobby Fischer — shake hands before starting the first match of the controversial 5 million dollar series at Sveti Stefan, Yugoslavia on Wednesday. — AFP photo

## Fischer picks up from where he'd left off

**SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 3:** Bobby Fischer picked up where he left off 20 years ago Wednesday, defeating Boris Spassky in the first game of the rematch of the championship he won before slipping out of the limelight, reports AP.  
"I had a good opening, and that was basically it," a jovial Fischer told reporters after Spassky resigned following his 49th move. "It was a pretty good game."  
It was Fischer's first public chess, since he defeated the Russian Spassky in 1972 to become the first and only American world champion.  
Three years later, Fischer was stripped of his title by the International Chess Federation for refusing to defend it against Anatoly Karpov under the federation's ground rules. Fischer would not acknowledge the decision and withdrew into sullen obscurity.  
"We salute the comeback of Robert Fischer to the chess scene and we await impatiently all further news from Sveti Stefan," the federation said in a statement distributed at the match.  
Spassky, 55, and semiretired, accepted the defeat gamely: "Bobby had a good line. He had more space. Eventually, I got killed."  
The dir 5 million match in this plush Adriatic resort — a few score miles (kilometres) from the battlefields of Bosnia-Herzegovina — lasted six hours. Fischer had insisted there be no adjournments.  
Under the ground rules, the first person to take 10 games wins the match. Games are to be played four days a week, on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.  
The big question for chess experts Wednesday was whether Fischer had let his game slip during two decades out of the public eye.  
International Grandmasters at the game were impressed by Fischer's first contest.  
"He is even using new theoretical moves," said Bozidar Evancovic of Yugoslavia. "Fischer played very strongly. He obviously knows the theoretic variations very well."  
Stefan Juric, another Yugoslav Grandmaster, commented, "It was a great game. It shows Fischer is really not on the top but could be in one or two years at the very top level of competition."  
"It shows during the past 20 years that Fischer has been working very hard at chess."  
The bearded, 49-year-old Fischer still considers himself world champion. In deference to him, the organisers hung a banner over the chess board proclaiming the match as the "World Chess Championship," although it is not internationally recognised as such.  
Fischer, playing white, made his traditional opening move of pawn to king 4.  
Spassky followed with black pawn to king 4, and the battle was on.  
Fischer chose the Ruy Lopez, or Spanish, opening, a well-defined strategy that allows both players to settle comfortably into their games.  
Early in the game, Dr Srecko Nedeljkovic, a Grandmaster and former coach of the Yugoslav chess Olympics team, commented, "The position is better for Fischer, but he is not making decisions. He is somehow hesitating. I don't know why." But he said Fischer's nerves "are in good shape" and that Spassky was playing "passively."  
Nedeljkovic added, "He is the real Fischer, according to the moves... This is really some sort of a resurrection."  
It took Yugoslav millionaire Jedinic Vasiljevic, and the encouragement of Fischer's 19-year-old Hungarian girlfriend, Zilka Rajcsanyi, to lure Fischer out of retirement.  
Ms Rajcsanyi, a leading junior chess player in Hungary, watched the game from the first row.  
She said later, "I feel good about it... Bobby's obviously better than Spassky. Spassky is not as good as he used to be."  
The match was ruled a violation of the trade sanctions the United Nations imposed on Yugoslavia for backing Serbian aggression in neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina.  
The US Treasury Department has warned Fischer he faces up to 10 years in prison and a dir 250,000 fine, but he is ignoring the sanctions, as is the 55-year-old Spassky.  
At a news conference Tuesday, Fischer showed he had lost none of his vitriol, lashing out at Jews, Communists, chess officials and others.  
Fischer said he remains world champion and described Garri Kasparov, the current official titleholder, as among the "lowest dogs around."  
He claimed that Karpov and Kasparov had fixed their championship matches in the mid-1980s.

## Birthday boy Connors outplays Oncins

**NEW YORK, Sept 3:** This time there was no dramatic comeback, no blood-and-guts fight, just one quick 40th birthday bash that Jimmy Connors threw at the US Open, reports AP.  
It was all over in less than two hours, a neatly wrapped 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Jaime Oncins on Wednesday that put Connors into the second round against old nemesis Ivan Lendl.  
Connors didn't need all the help he got from his unabashedly adoring fans — the standing ovation when he came in, the serenade of "Happy Birthday" verses, the whistles on Oncins' serves, the cheers on Oncins' errors, the roars on every Connors winner.  
Connors did it on his own, as he ultimately must, with plenty of aid from an erratic, overwhelmed and sometimes indifferent Oncins.  
"I would have done anything to win that match tonight," said Connors, as feisty at 40 as he was at 20. "I would have served and volleyed if I had to. I would have changed my game for this match."  
"He could have accomplished it. His game really is secondary to his mind and his will. Was he willing to stand out there four hours? I don't know. I would have."  
The Brazilian, 22, seemed ready to make a battle of it, diving and rolling on the hard court on a backhand volley winner after a lunging forehand crosscourt by Connors in the second game of the match.  
That brought Oncins back from 15-40, and he followed it with an ace en route to holding serve.  
But the dive also was the start of Oncins' undoing. He scraped the back of his hand on the court, had to have it treated during a changeover, and he won only six points the rest of the set.  
That minor injury, though, couldn't account for all the mis-hits and wild shots Oncins made. And it had nothing to do with the moments of brilliance that Connors still could muster.  
Connors ended the first set with a leaping forehand lob after a long rally that had both players covering the length and breadth of the court. The lob drifted perfectly over Oncins' head, well out of his reach, and he didn't bother to go for it or even look at it.  
Connors waved his hands at the fan, beckoning him to come down to the court and try to play. Connors showed no effect from the thigh muscle he strained last week, but he often used his bright yellow racket as a crutch to keep him upright when he was about to fall in rallies.  
Connors wasn't broken until the eighth game of the third set.  
Fans booed Oncins when he hit a drop shot to score a point off Connors in that break game, but it hardly mattered. The final point was another gift from Oncins, a wildly mis-hit forehand that landed be-



American Jimmy Connors stretches to return a Brazilian Jaime Oncins shot in his first-round match of the US Open at Flushing Meadows on Wednesday. Connors, who turned 40 on the day, gave himself a birthday gift by winning the match 6-1, 6-2, 6-3. — AFP photo

### Fischer-Spassky 2nd match on

**SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 3:** Bobby Fischer, America's bad boy of chess, began Day 2 of his controversial rematch with Boris Spassky on Thursday, leading 1-0 in the series, reports AP.

Spassky, playing white, opened the game at 3:30 pm (1330 GMT) using the Samisch variation, while Fischer responded with a King's Indian defense, drawing appreciative "oohs" from the audience.

"It's going to be a big fight, no question. It's an ambitious opening and an ambitious answer," said Margreit Petursson, an Icelandic grandmaster attending the match.

Observers said it would be interesting to see if Fischer could turn Spassky's theoretical opening advantage to his favour. Fischer had opened Wednesday's match and attacked relentlessly.

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### path taken by Connors, another 14 years on the nonstop tour after he began defence of his US Open title Wednesday with a smooth 7-5, 7-5, 6-2 victory over Luiz Mattar.

"No, I don't think I will be playing at that stage," Edberg said. "He is very exceptional. He has been lucky, hasn't had too many injuries. He has a very light body, and he has been able to keep going, having the motivation. I don't think I can. It would be too tough."

Monica Seles, the women's defending champion and top seed, reached the third round by beating NCAA champion Lisa Raymond, 7-5, 6-0, then smiled about the notion of playing to 40, a lifetime away.

Michael Chang, the No. 4 seed who beat Ellis Ferreira 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(7-1), said, "When Jimmy was 20, the game was not quite as intense. I don't think they played as many tournaments back then. I think now players put more demands on their bodies and minds."

Connors' match was his 114th at the Open, one more than Chris Evert played in her 19 years here. Connors, a five-time Open champion, is the only player to win it on three different surfaces — grass, city and hard courts.

Meanwhile, American Maitavai Washington (14), South African Wayne Ferreira (12) Dutchman Richard Krajcek (15) rolled into the second round of the Open.

Also advancing were fourth seed Gabriela Sabatini, sixth-seeded Olympic champion Jennifer Capriati, seventh seed Mary Joe Fernandez, Helena Sukova (13) and Mary Pierce (16).

Fernandez, the seventh seed in the women's draw, kept the good times rolling with a victory over Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine on Wednesday to reach the third round.

### Sabatini is the fairest of all

**MUNICH, Sept 3:** Gabriela Sabatini beat Steffi Graf on her home soil in Germany — in a survey to pick the most attractive woman tennis player, according to the German magazine Bunte, reports AP.

Bunte said that 66.8 per cent of the 1,200 of its readers it polled picked the dark-haired Argentine star.

Graf got 36.5 per cent of the votes, followed by Mary Joe Fernandez (18.6), Jennifer Capriati (14.7) and Anke Huber (13.3).