

Bangladesh go down to India 1-2

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 16: India survived an early scare when they beat Bangladesh by a narrow 2-1 margin in the Group B preliminary round match of the second Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament at the Tan Razak Stadium here today, reports PTI.

Unbeaten after three matches, the Indians qualified for the semi-final with only a match against Singapore in hand to be played on Friday.

In the other group, defending champions Pakistan thrashed Japan 5-0 to post their third straight victory and move into the semifinal. They too have just one match against hosts Malaysia.

The Indian juniors suffered a setback when in the second minute Akhtar Hossain of Bangladesh scored to put his team ahead of the favoured Indians.

The Bangladeshi juniors displayed spirit and determination to keep the Indians at bay. At times, they even went on the offensive to send their opponents deep into the defence.

The Indians experience helped them in the game and to pull themselves out of embarrassment through a goal from Sandeep Somshe in the seventh minute. This came off a penalty corner work-out.

Captain Harpreet Singh converted a penalty stroke in the 30th minute, which became the match-winning goal.

STANDINGS

Standings after Wednesday's games in the 2nd Asian Junior Cup:

Group A:	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pakistan	3	0	0	25	0	6
Malaysia	3	0	0	13	3	6
Japan	0	1	2	4	10	1
Omran	0	1	2	3	17	1
Sri Lanka	0	0	2	0	15	0
Group B:	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
India	3	0	0	10	3	6
South Korea	2	0	1	12	4	4
Bangladesh	1	1	1	8	4	3
China	0	1	2	0	5	1
Singapore	0	0	2	2	16	0

Cottee scores twice for Everton

LONDON, Sept 16: Former England striker Tony Cottee celebrated his return to action after knee surgery with two goals as Everton prevented Blackburn Rovers returning to the top of the English Premier League with a 3-2 win, reports AFP.

Brought in after two successive defeats, he responded by netting in the 22nd and 81st minutes to hand Blackburn their first league defeat of the season, despite another double from their British record signing, Alan Shearer.

The England international fired the home side ahead with a 12th minute penalty and added a second in the 74th minute to climb to the top of the league's scoring charts with eight goals in as many matches.

However, it was a costly win for Everton, whose other goal came from midfielder John Ebbrell in the 39th minute.

They had winger Mark Ward carried off after just eight minutes with a bad leg injury and also lost striker Paul Rideout with a recurrence of his shoulder trouble.

In the first Division, West Ham coach Harry Redknapp was interviewed by Police after crowd trouble towards the end of the London team's 5-1 romp at Bristol City.

Redknapp was reported by a spectator for allegedly making an obscene gesture to the crowd.

Violence flared in the grandstand shortly after the incident and one supporter needed treatment for a back injury after the game.

On the field Clive Allen and Trevor Morley score two goals each, while Mark Robson hit the other in the Hammers' easy win.

At Oxford there was trouble both on and off the pitch as the home side crushed Cambridge 3-0.

Jim Magilton, Oxford's Northern Ireland international, was sent off for kneeing Cambridge's Paul Raynor in the face while he was lying on the ground and seven other players were booked.

Shortly after the dismissal Cambridge goalkeeper Jon Sheffield was struck by a coin thrown from the crowd, and collapsed on the goal line. He carried on after treatment.

Navy volleyball

KHULNA, Sept 16: The annual volleyball championship of the Bangladesh Navy concluded at BNS Titumir here on Tuesday, an ISPR press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

BNS Shaheed Moazzem team won the title defeating BNS Isaa Khan team 13-15, 15-10, 19-9 and 15-13.

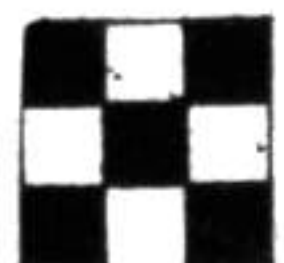
KA Alam of BNS Titumir team was adjudged the best player of the meet.

Assistant chief of Naval staff, Commodore Fakhruddin Ahmed was the chief guest and gave away the prizes.



Chess players engrossed in deep thought during the sixth-round matches of the qualifying tournament at the NSC chess room yesterday. —Star photo

Fischer in no hurry to return home



SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 16: American chess prodigy Bobby Fischer does not plan an immediate return home to face allegations he breached UN sanctions by playing chess in Yugoslavia, an informed source said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

"Fischer is going to stay in Yugoslavia for at least a year," said the source, who is close to organizers of the 5 million dollar replay series between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky in the Montenegrin resort of Sveti Stefan.

Fischer, kept far from journalists by tight security and 15 bodyguards, was not available to confirm this. Early this month he said he was planning to back, but did not say when.

"He will not be immediately going back to the United States. Instead, he plans to stay either in Sveti Stefan or Belgrade and shuttle between Budapest and Germany," the source said.

Bobby's girlfriend, 19-year-old Hungarian chess champion Zita Rajcsanyi, said he is instrumental in his comeback, is from Budapest.

The question whether the controversial American will return to the United States arose early this month when he publicly challenged US authorities.

He spat in contempt on a letter by the US Treasury Department warning him not to play in Yugoslavia because of UN sanctions.

On Monday he told reporters he will not pay his income tax.

Considering the highly punitive nature of US laws on tax evasion, the promise amounted to an open admission he was not going back home.

The source also confirmed that Fischer would continue to play tournament chess.

"Fischer will not play big tournaments, he thinks he is



BOBBY FISCHER

Fischer starts 9th game with a motive to extend lead

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, Sept 16: Bobby Fischer used a variation of a favourite opening Wednesday as he attempted to extend a two-game winning streak in the ninth game of his dlr 5 million chess rematch with Boris Spassky, reports AP.

Fischer, playing his first competition since winning the World Championship 20 years ago, was seeking to extend his 3-2 lead in the match after winning the previous two games on Saturday and Sunday.

The eccentric American chose the Ruy Lopez opening, as he has in previous game in which he played white, but eschewed the main line in favour of the Exchange Variation in his fourth move.

too old for that, but will play smaller and blitz matches," he said.

After winning the world chess title from Spassky in Reykjavik in 1972, Fischer disappeared from the chess world to surface only a month ago to play the Sveti Stefan series.

His return caused a storm among chess enthusiasts, caught between curiosity to see the comeback of a legend—and fears that it would be no more than a sad, twilight performance by two has-beens.

Their form during the match oscillated sharply and both players only occasionally showed a glimpse of their former glory.

Fischer leads the score with 3-2, with three draws. The first player to score 10 points, draws not being counted, wins 3.5 million dollar. The loser gets 1.5 million dollar.

Jhenidah DC Cup from tomorrow

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Sept 16: The 1992 Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament will begin tomorrow (Friday) at the Jhenidah Stadium.

Sixteen teams will take part in the knock-out tournament, the final of which will be held on October 9.

The teams are, Narail Players' Samity, Kushtia DSA, Magura Players' Samity, Khulna Victoria Club, Nawapara Players' Samity, Khulna Brothers Union, Ishwardi Brothers Union, Jhenidah Red, Pabna Shikharhati Sports Institute, Jessore Upashahar Club, Rajbari Sports Club, Khulna Young Abahani Mitra Chakra, Chuadanga Players' Samity, Mongla Port, Satkhira PK Union Club and Jhenidah Green.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will inaugurate the tournament as the chief guest.

Sources close to the Jhenidah DSA, the organisers of the meet, said that Narail Players' Samity will play Kushtia DSA in the inaugural match tomorrow.

Badminton results

LONDON, Sept 16: South Korean badminton hope Ra Kyung Min failed in her bid to win the Wimbledon women's singles title here on Saturday night, reports AFP.

She lost a close final to English champion Fiona Smith, who recaptured the trophy with an 11-2, 8-11, 11-4 victory.

The men's crown was won by England number one Darren Hall, who avenged his national title defeat by Anders Nielsen with a 15-8, 15-12 success.

An effort to make weightlifting a Las Vegas affair

SYDNEY, Sept 16: The world's top weightlifters, more at home in the sweat of the gymnasium, will be competing between courses at a black-tie banquet this weekend in an Australian move to raise the sport's profile, reports Reuters.

"We want to make it a Las Vegas affair," Australian Weightlifting Federation president Sam Coffa said on Wednesday.

More than 400 dinner-suited guests will attend Saturday's invitation event, to be held in a banquet centre in Melbourne and aimed as a run-up to Australia playing host to next year's world weightlifting championships.

There has never been a weightlifting event anything like this before," according to Australian Olympic coach Paul Coffa who dreamt up the Australian 200 dollar (150 US dollar) a head nine-course dinner.

The Olympic gold medalists, five lifting under the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) flag, will compete against a rest of the world team.

Their opponents will include a number of Barcelona silver medalists and medalists from previous Olympic Games, including Bulgarian lifters now resident in Australia.

Chess results

Sports Reporter

Abul Kashem Bhuiyan and ANM Quddus shared a point in their sixth-round match of the qualifying competition for the forthcoming international tournament scheduled for early October but maintained their position at the top of the table.

In the other matches of the day at the NSC chess room, Ali Amjad Mintu drew with Hasibul Hassan Hanif, Almasur Rahman beat Waliullah Patwary, Mizanur Rahman Labu defeated Sharfuddin Reza and Rezaul Kabir Liton outplayed Khalequzzaman.

Mintu, Almas, Labu and Liton share the second spot with five points each.

Edberg has to win Seiko Super to stay atop

TOKYO, Sept 16: Defending champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden will spearhead the million dollar Seiko Super men's tennis tournament October 12-18, but he must keep the title to stay as the world number one player, reports AFP.

For the 26-year-old Swede, who regained the top spot from Jim Courier by retaining the US Open trophy Sunday, has only a three point lead over his American rival in the rankings.

Edberg, who won three consecutive tournaments last year at Flushing Meadow, Australian Indoor and Seiko, will aim for his third crown here on the fast artificial indoor courts at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

Edberg, also the winner in 1987, is expected to face threats from the Australian and French open winner Courier, big serving Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia and two-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of Germany.

Other favourites are current Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi, the 1989 French Open winner Michael Chang, both from the United States and former world number one Ivan Lendl, the winner here in 1983, 1985 and 1990.

The 48-eight strong field also include Barcelona Olympic men's doubles silver medalist Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, the Australian Open semi-finalist Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands and baseline specialist Emilio Sanchez of Spain.

They will vie for the top prize money of 1,35,000 dollars and 230 points counting toward the ATP computer rankings.

The runner-up will collect 72,600 dollars and 173 points.

Hughes outpoints Trotter

LONDON, Sept 16: Australian Craig Trotter lost a disputed points decision to England's Mickey Hughes for the vacant Commonwealth light-middleweight title here on Tuesday night, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old Trotter, who twice challenged unsuccessfully for the crown in England last year, was just half a point behind as British referee Roy Francis gave Hughes the fight 118-117 1/2.

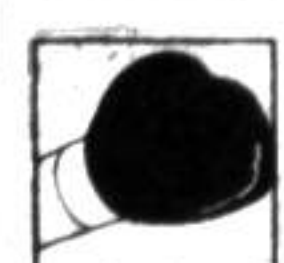
In the early rounds Hughes remained at a distance, with the elusive Trotter countering effectively.

Hughes, 30, altered his style in the fourth and enjoyed some success at close range, but the Australian appeared much stronger and his mobility allowed him to build a clear lead.

However, in the ninth Hughes finally landed his powerful left hook and for moment the Australian looked hurt.

Hughes desperately tried to repeat the shot, but had to chase Trotter throughout the last three rounds.

Islam is Ali's mission in life



NEW YORK, Sept 16: Muhammad Ali's hands tremble constantly. His speech is slurred and repetitive. His memory is faded. He walks with a shuffle. His face is puffy. And he is very serious, not the jovial, fun-loving, poem-spouting braggadocio he was when he was heavyweight champion of the world, reports AP.

Yet, he is the most recognised athlete in the world — and perhaps the most recognised individual in the world, ahead of politicians and entertainers. Wherever he goes, in his wide travels, he is mobbed for autographs and handshakes.

"People, old ladies, coming out of rice paddies in China, in Peking, who never had a TV (came to see me)," Ali said, putting his fists into a fighting pose, then moving them up and down quickly to illustrate how the women greeted him on a trip to China this year.

Last year, Ali, trying to preach the Muslim religion and the teachings of Islam throughout the world, took "182 flights."

Despite his physical deficiencies caused by Parkinson's Syndrome, Ali the ambassador has not slowed down. His plans for the remainder of the year include trips to Bosnia to help the destitute and war-ravaged citizens there, China again to help promote a fight, and possibly Russia and Somalia.

"My main purpose in life is to be the world's greatest ambassador, to spread the word of Islam," said Ali, 50, whose expression only becomes animated when he discusses religion.

Otherwise, he is subdued and low-key when he speaks. There are times, however, when he won't even talk at all.

Tuesday, following moments of silence after questions, Ali finally opened up.

discussing his life at present, not his past accomplishments, including his three-time reign as heavyweight champion.

He and 24 of the greatest athletes and coaches in history were honoured at induction ceremonies at Madison Square Garden for the newly established "Walk of Fame", similar to the entertainers' "Walk of Fame" in front of Mann's Chinese Theatre, formerly Grauman's, on Hollywood Boulevard.

Joining Ali in the ceremonies, honouring the most memorable athletes in the Garden's history, were basketball players Wilt Chamberlain, Oscar Robertson, Bob Cousy and George Mikan, hockey players Maurice Richard and Gordie Howe, former Knicks coach Red Holzman, the widows of track and field greats Jesse Owens and Glenn Cunningham and boxer Sugar Ray Robinson, and Richard Lapchick, son of former coach Joe Lapchick.

Others whose plaques were



MUHAMMAD ALI

unveiled in the Garden lobby were basketball players Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Larry Bird,

Bill Bradley, Michael Jordan, Willis Reed and Bill Russell, coach Nat Holman, boxers Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis and Jack Dempsey, hockey players Wayne Gretzky and Bobby Orr, and tennis player Rod Laver.

Ali's most memorable fight in the Garden was March 8, 1971, when he suffered the first loss of his professional career and was beaten for the undisputed world heavyweight title, being outpointed by champion Joe Frazier in 15 rounds.

The bout was watched on television by 300 million people worldwide, with the fighters splitting a record dlr 5 million.

He came back against Frazier on Jan 28, 1974, outpointing him in 12 rounds and retaining the North American Boxing Federation title he had won four months after losing to Frazier in 12 rounds.

Asked about those two brawls, plus a third, the memorable "Thrilla in Manila" on Oct 1, 1975, in which Ali stopped Frazier in 14 rounds, he said, "Frazier was the toughest."

Boxing, however, is far from Ali's mind now.

"Boxing made me famous," he said. "This (his religious pursuits) is the real thing. My main goal is to work for Allah."

To accomplish that goal, Ali stood in the Garden lobby, handing out religious pamphlets with his autograph. He wakes up early every morning, signing between 300 and 500 of the pamphlets, then stuffs them into a suitcase, which he insists on carrying himself, for distribution to his many fans wherever he goes.

"More people in the world know Ali," he said. "Ali is the most popular man in the world."

He proved it again Tuesday, overshadowing all the other sports greats around him.

Ashe collection to be introduced



NEW YORK, Sept 16: A national sports apparel company said it will introduce an Arthur Ashe collection as part of its spring 1993 line and three per cent of the sales will be donated to the Arthur Ashe Foundation to defeat AIDS, reports AP.

Ashe, who is hospitalized in stable condition after suffering a minor heart attack unrelated to his AIDS infection, has endorsed the Le Coq Sportif line for more than 13 years. But this is the first time the company has created an Ashe signature line.

"I believe it's the first effort on behalf of a company to utilize the sponsorship of someone who has AIDS," said Andrew Gross, president and chief executive officer of New Jersey-based Le Coq Sportif America. "The purpose is really to promulgate the message."

Gross said his firm's donations is just one step in its goal of raising nearly dlr 1 million to fight AIDS.

"We are trying to organize the retail community into doing the same thing — voluntarily donating 3 per cent of the sales to the same foundation," he said. "And each item of clothing will have a 'Smash AIDS' hang tag with a message encouraging the purchaser to make a similar donation."

Ashe announced the formation of the foundation late last month. The former tennis star set a goal to raise dlr 5 million during the next 15 months.

"We feel a strong sense of loyalty to Arthur," said Gross, who purchased the company in March. "He has been an outstanding spokesperson for Le Coq Sportif."

"We wanted to show our loyalty to Arthur in a powerful

way and decided the greatest impact we can produce is to combine our company's sales with a fund raising effort to battle AIDS. We hope to develop a network of 2,000 businesses and thousands of consumers to assist in the fight."

Gross said the Ashe collection is composed of 25 different styles in tennis shirts,



ARTHUR ASHE

shorts, warmups, T-shirts and fleece pullovers. The clothing, which retails in a range from approximately dlr 50 to dlr 180, will be in stores in February and March.

Ashe scored his greatest triumph in 1975 when he defeated Jimmy Connors to capture Wimbledon, becoming the first black man to win the Grand Slam tournament.

Ranked No. 1 in the world in 1968 and 1975, Ashe accomplished a feat in 1968 that will never be repeated. As an amateur, he won both US championships played that year — the last US Nationals, for amateurs only, and the first US Open, where he defeated a

professional, Tom Okker, in the final. He thus became the only amateur to win the US Open.

Ashe won the Australian Open in 1970 and was runner-up in the year's first Grand Slam tournament three times: in 1966, 1967 and 1971. He lost the US Open final in 1972 to Ilie Nastase.

In 1979, at the age of 36, Ashe suffered a heart attack and later underwent a quadruple bypass operation. The next year, he announced his retirement as a player.

Ashe apparently acquired the AIDS virus through a blood transfusion.

Hodkinson retains WBC crown

TOULOUSE, France, Sept 16: Paul Hodkinson of Britain retained his World Boxing Council feather-weight title Saturday when the referee stopped the contest in the 10th round when challenger Fabrice Benichou of France was injured, reports AP.

Hodkinson dominated the fight, advancing regularly and sending Benichou to the canvas in the fourth round.

In the early rounds, Hodkinson, a 26-year-old from Liverpool, kept up the pace with a jab that he came in behind. Then Hodkinson would score with a damaging right.

In the fourth round, with 35 seconds left, two sold lefts by Hodkinson sent Benichou reeling backwards and Hodkinson got in another right to send the Frenchman down.

Benichou was up at four but took the full eight count before continuing without any more trouble in the round.

However, Benichou appeared to tire over the next two rounds while Hodkinson was scoring with rights and combinations. In the last 15 seconds of the sixth round, Benichou was on the verge of going down but the bell saved him.

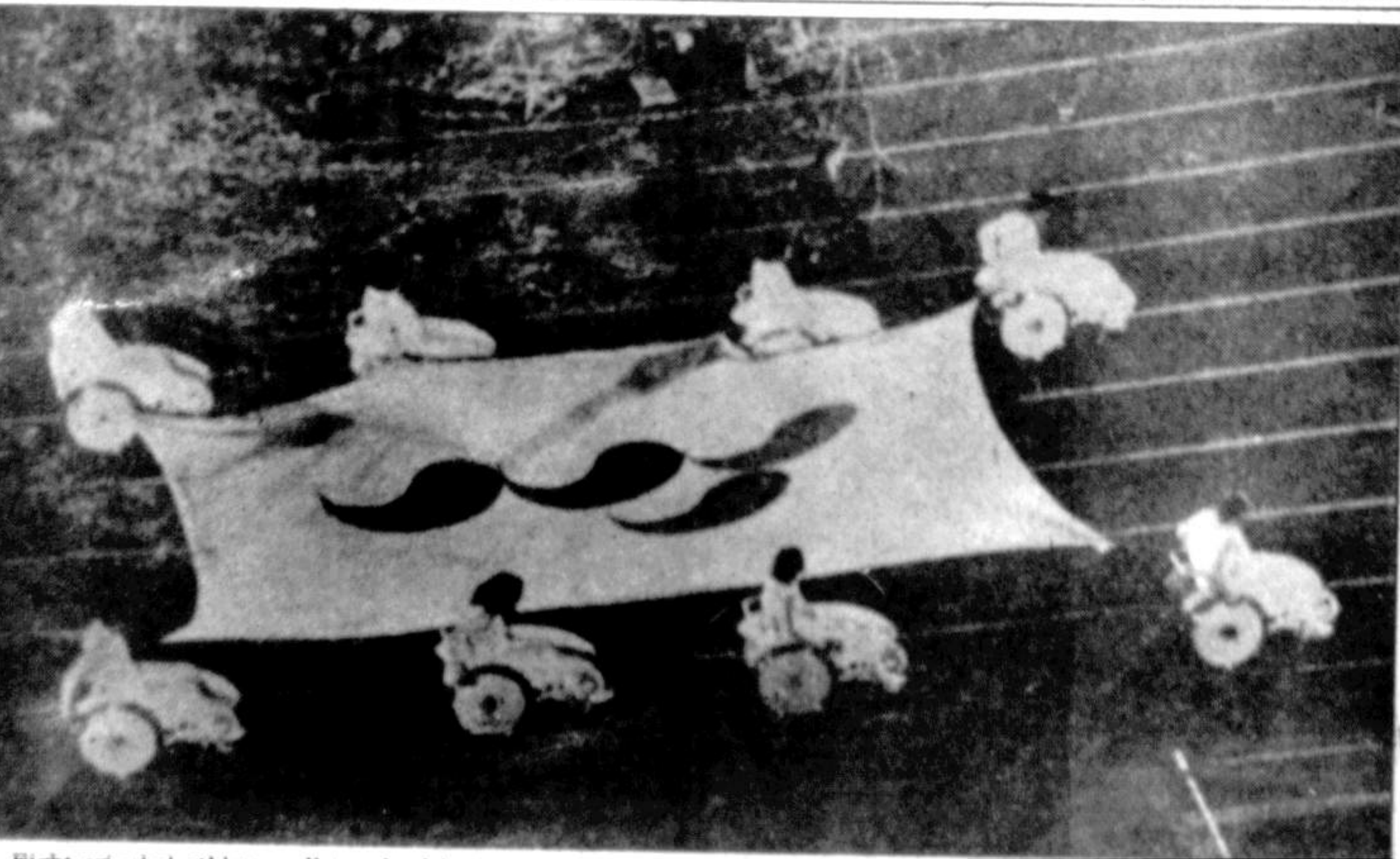
Benichou came back in the eighth round and managed a few solid shots to Hodkinson who was momentarily staggered by a right. By the end of the round Hodkinson was in command again.

In the 10th round, a series of lefts and a punishing right by Hodkinson opened up a cut on the upper lip of Benichou. The referee, Frantz Marty of Switzerland, stopped the fight to have the cut examined by the ring doctor.

After the checkup, Marty ended the bout and gave the decision to Hodkinson. Marty said the injury was caused by normal blows.

"I checked with all three judges and they agreed that it was done by normal punches," Marty told a television commentator. "And I do, too."

Benichou insisted that the injury was the result of a head butt. Throughout the fight, both boxers were warned against head butts in clinches.



Eight crippled athletes, all in wheelchairs, carrying the Olympic flag during the closing ceremony of the Paralympic Games in Barcelona on September 14. — AFP photo