

Nat'l b'ball from today

Sports Reporter
The 16th national basketball championship for the BGIC Cup will be held from December 19 to 25 at the wooden-floor gymnasium. Incorporated with the fifth Bangladesh Games, a quadrennial sporting meet scheduled to be held in Dhaka from December 18 to 25, this year's national championship will feature 14 teams divided into four groups.

Gymnasts have long way to go

Sports Reporter
The hastily organised two-day inaugural national invitational gymnastic championships, under the aegis of the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation, concluded yesterday at the National Coaching Centre gymnasium.

Participated by 40 gymnasts including a dozen girls, performances in the ten events included in the lacustrine meet only helped to underline the infantile stage of the sport in this country. Despite the rather lenient scoring by the local - qualified or otherwise



Marzina Chowdhury won the women's balance beam gold in the first national invitational gymnastics competition, which concluded yesterday at the NSC gym. - Star photo

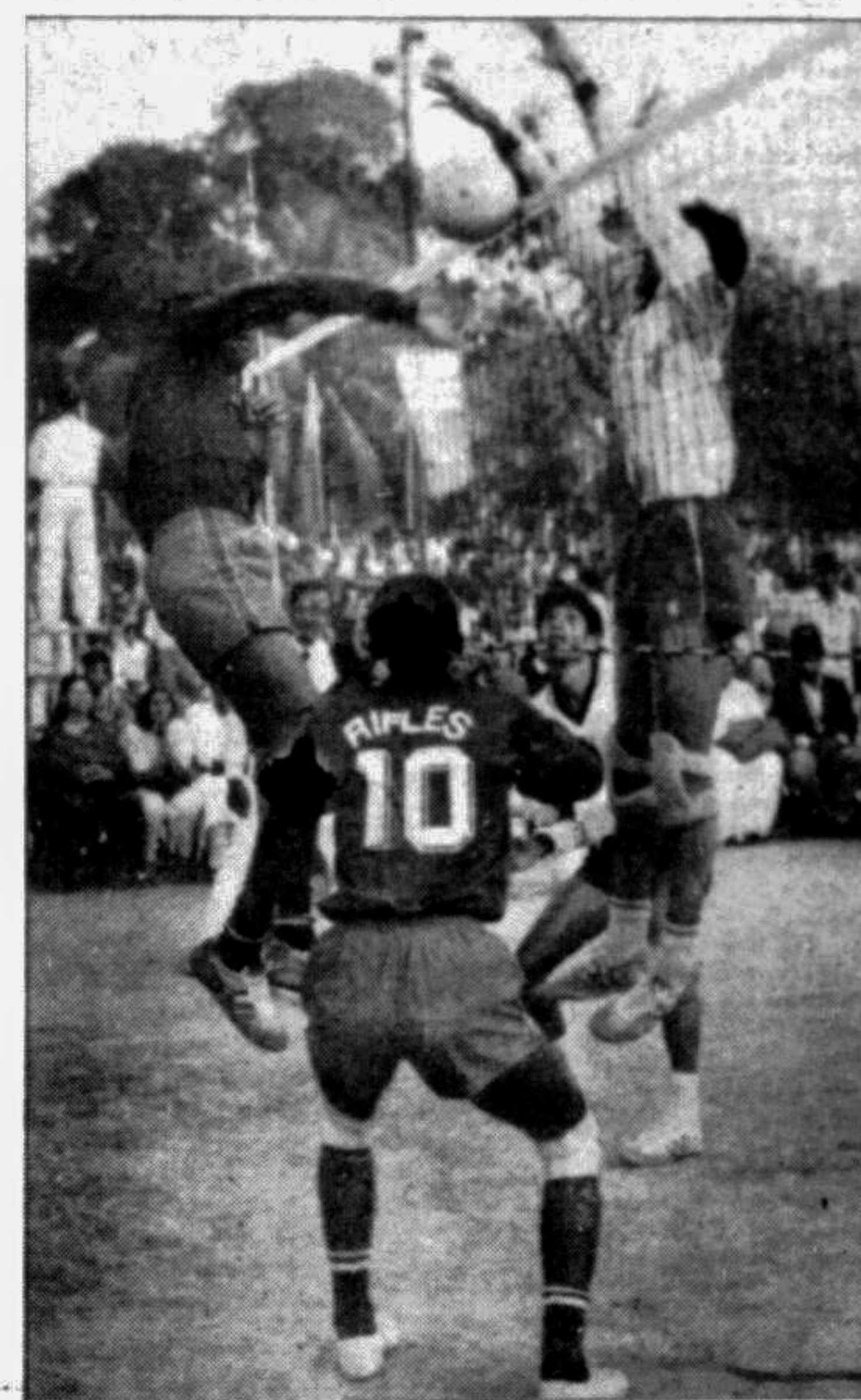
one's shoulders in commiseration. Returning to the results of the current meet, six out of the ten events were decided yesterday. Two male gymnasts from Ansars - Akhtaruzzaman Shaheen and Saiful Islam - bagged two gold medals each. Aslam Hossain picked up the two other gold medals at stake in the men's section by winning the horizontal bars and the floor exercises, both events held yesterday.

Nat'l badminton gets underway

Sports Reporter
The seventeenth national badminton championships got underway at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday. Organised by the Bangladesh Badminton Federation, the tournament features 123 shuttlers including 13 women from 24 teams.

BJMC girls face Ansars for title today Army, Navy in repeat final

Sports Reporter
Just like last year, it's to be another Bangladesh Army versus Bangladesh Navy final for the honours of the 16th national men's volleyball championship for the BGIC Cup at the Outer Stadium Volleyball court this afternoon.



A Navyman smothered a Rifles spiker's smash during the BGIC national volleyball championship semifinal at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday. Last year's runners-up Navy beat Rifles to set up a repeat final with defending champs Bangladesh Army. - Star photo

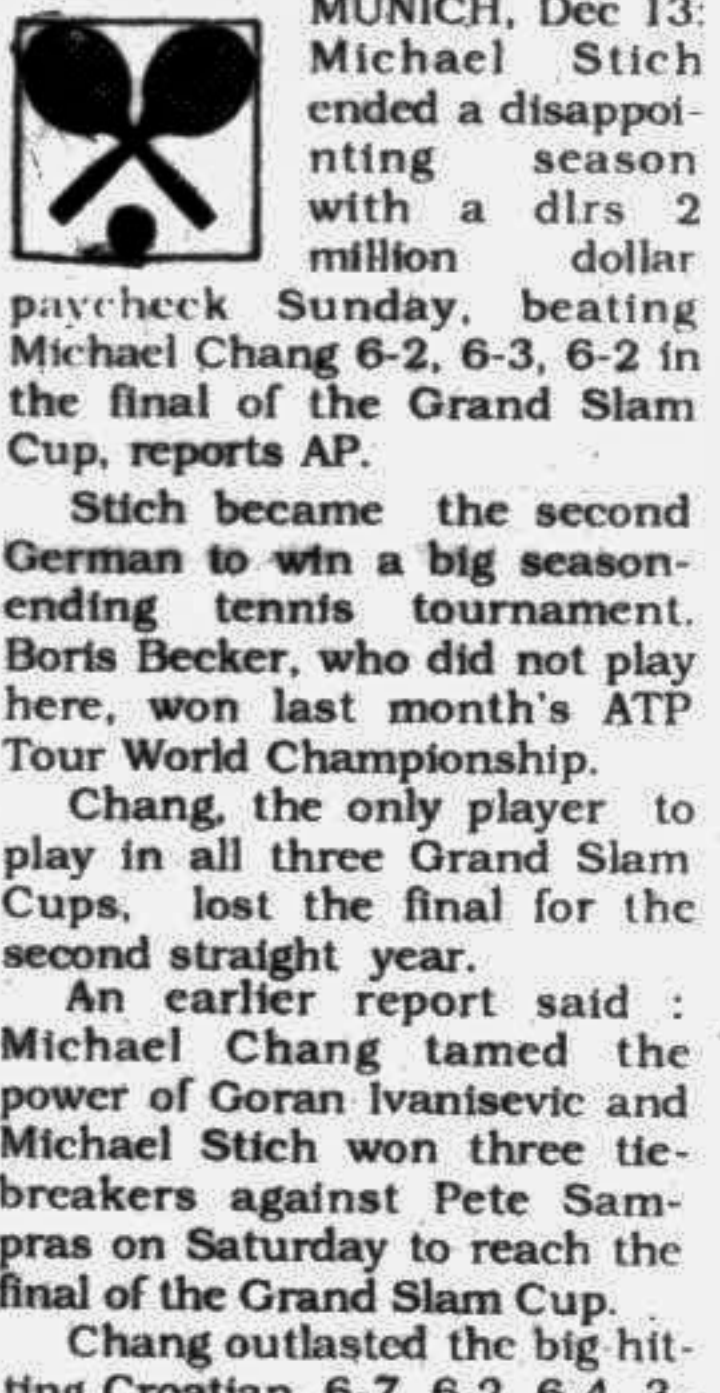
Earlier this afternoon, starting at 3:30 pm, defending champions Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) will take on Bangladesh Ansars in the final of the 10th women's national meet at the same venue. Yesterday's semifinals of both the men's and women's events produced some exciting volleyball with three of today's four finalists having to rally from behind to book their berths in today's title-deciding clashes. The star-studded BJMC girls provided the only exception by outclassing last year's beaten finalists Rangpur DSA by three straight sets 15-4, 15-2 and 15-5.

Stich richer by \$ 2 m

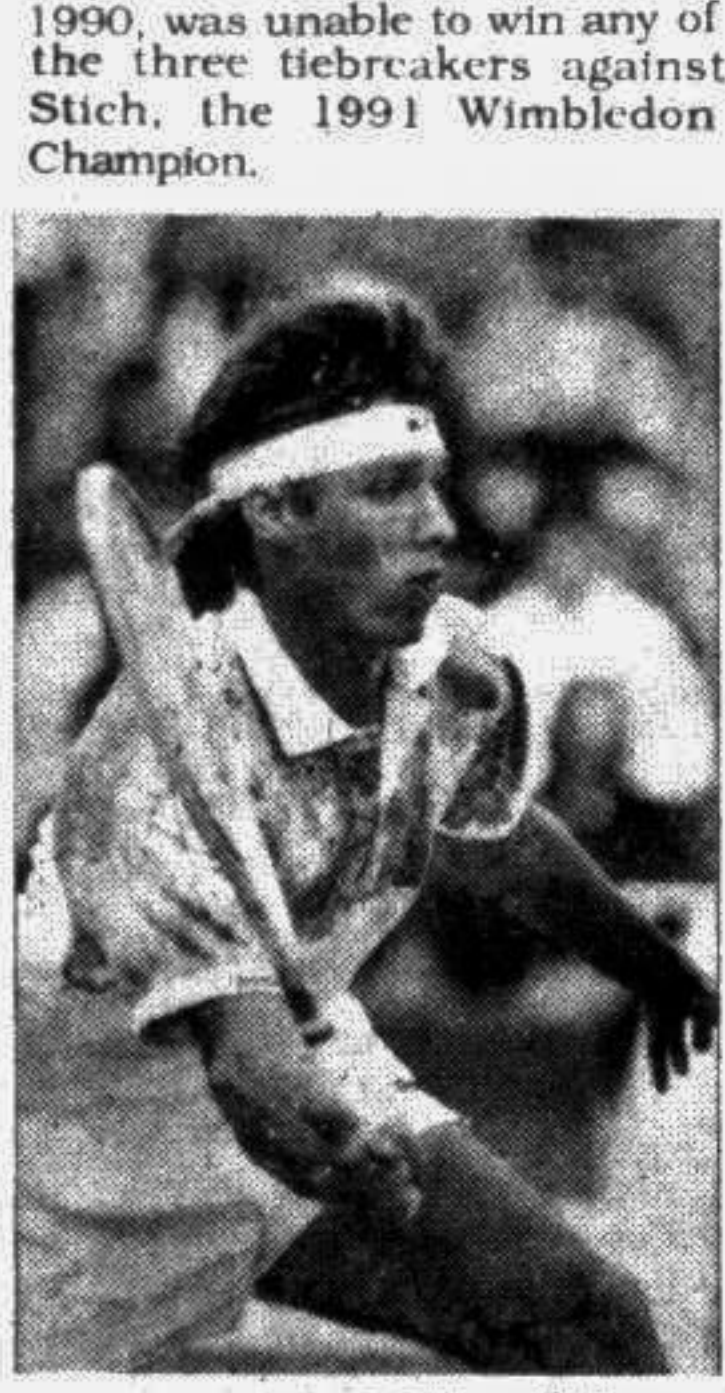
MUNICH, Dec 13: Michael Stich ended a disappointing season with a dlr 2 million dollar paycheck Sunday, beating Michael Chang 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the Grand Slam Cup, reports AP.

1990, was unable to win any of the three tiebreakers against Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon Champion. Chang, the youngest of the four semifinalists at 20, could not match Ivanisevic's power, but his steadier game at the end prevailed over the erratic Croatian, who was penalized a point after an earlier warning following several outbursts.

fourth set. Cheered on by 11,000 home fans in Munich's Olympiahalle, Stich had the chance to serve out the match. Chang, the youngest of the four semifinalists at 20, could not match Ivanisevic's power, but his steadier game at the end prevailed over the erratic Croatian, who was penalized a point after an earlier warning following several outbursts.



MICHAEL STICH ... \$ 2m



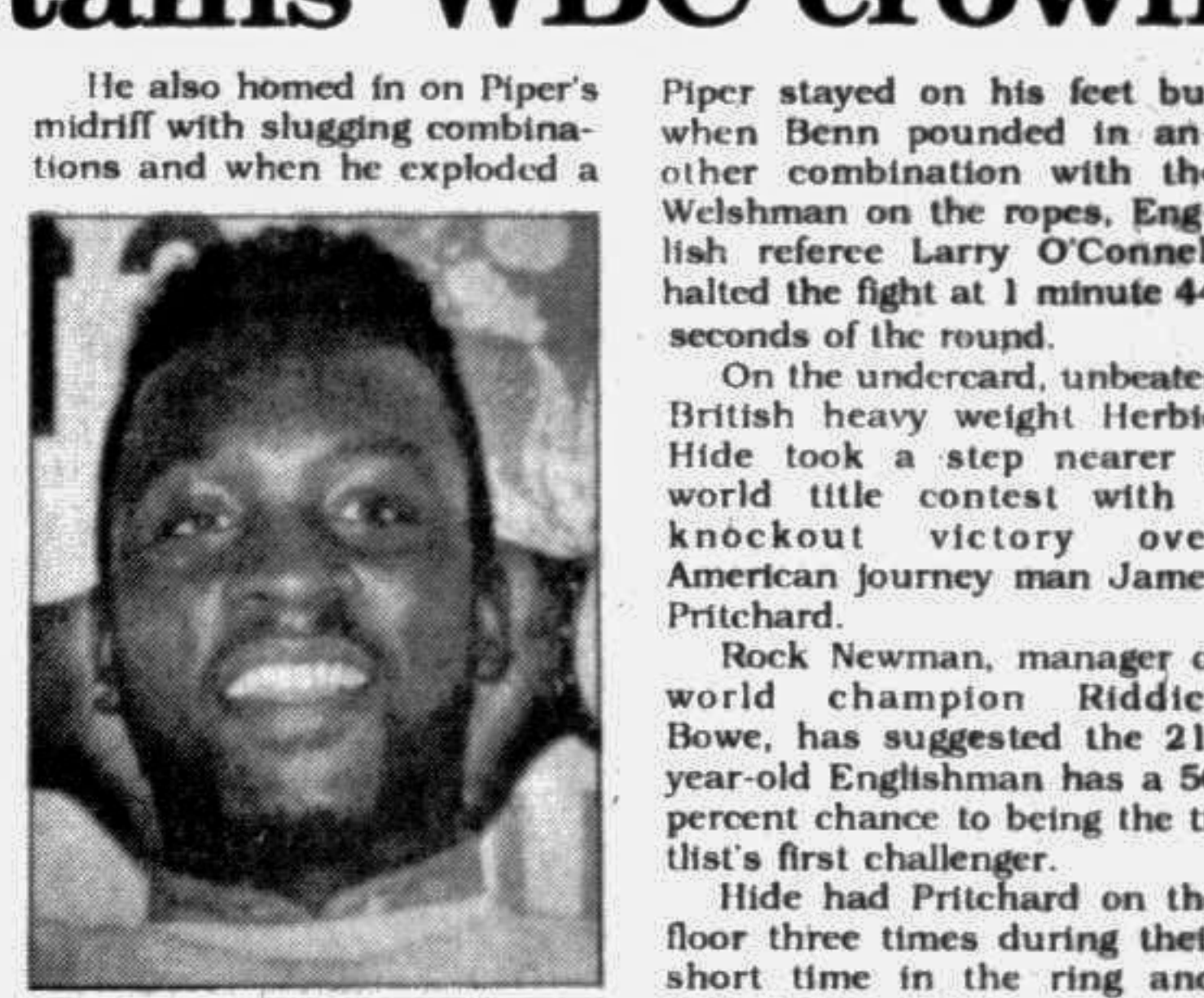
He was furious after losing the second set on a Stich serve he thought was long. But he rebounded in the third, breaking Stich for a 4-2 lead.

BUET's field day

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), aided by a fine hat-trick from centre-forward Shueb Mohammad Asaduzzaman, trounced outstation Pirojpur District Sports Association (DSA) 6-0 in the 15th national hockey championship at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Benn retains WBC crown

LONDON, Dec 13: Nigel Benn floored Nicky Piper with a left hook in the 11th round and followed it up with a fight-ending combination to keep his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title on a knockout Saturday, reports AP.



NIGEL BENN

He also homed in on Piper's midriff with slugging combinations and when he exploded a left uppercut flush on the challenger's face late in the sixth he knew he had found a way through. By the ninth, Benn's shots were landing in combination and he shook Piper three times in the 10th.

American Michael Chang awaits a Goran Ivanisevic serve during the Grand Slam Cup semifinal in Munich, Germany on Saturday, Chang outlasted Ivanisevic 6-7, 6-2, 6-3, 3-6 and 6-3 in a 3-hour 39-minute tie. - Star TV photo

American Michael Chang awaits a Goran Ivanisevic serve during the Grand Slam Cup semifinal in Munich, Germany on Saturday, Chang outlasted Ivanisevic 6-7, 6-2, 6-3, 3-6 and 6-3 in a 3-hour 39-minute tie. - Star TV photo

Sweet revenge for Mizoguchi, Tamura
FUKUOKA, Japan, Dec 13: Noriko Mizoguchi and Ryoko Tamura Sunday made up for their defeats in the Olympic finals by picking up three titles in the two-day Fukuoka international women's judo tournament, reports AP.



American Michael Chang awaits a Goran Ivanisevic serve during the Grand Slam Cup semifinal in Munich, Germany on Saturday, Chang outlasted Ivanisevic 6-7, 6-2, 6-3, 3-6 and 6-3 in a 3-hour 39-minute tie. - Star TV photo

Title retained
PHOENIX, Arizona, Dec 13: American Michael Carbajal retained his International Boxing Federation light-flyweight title when he knocked out Panamanian Robinson Cuesta at 2:04 of the eighth round on Saturday, reports Reuter.