

Chang again lets it slip away

MUNICH, Germany, Dec 14: Michael Chang missed out on the world's richest tennis prize for the second year running on Sunday as he let Germany's Stich take the Grand Slam Cup final, reports AFP.

The former Wimbledon champion ended a very average season with a two-million dollar bonanza and a week in which he has beaten world number two Stefan Edberg, number three Pete Sampras and Richard Krajicek.

Lucky wins girls' u-16 tennis singles

Sports Reporter
Lucky won the singles crown of the girls' under-14 category of the national junior age-group tennis championships at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

She beat Chaiti 6-3, 6-1. Two other titles were also decided with the boys' under-14 doubles crown going to Moni and S A Dipu. They defeated Rumi and James 6-3, 6-3.

In the girls' under-18 doubles Saathi and Urmil clinched the title subduing Chaiti and Lucky 6-4, 6-2.

The finals of the boys' under-14 and under 18 age groups singles and the under-18 doubles final will be played today.

Yesterday, Faisal dumped Falyaz 6-1 and 6-1 in one of the semifinals of the boys' under-18 group.

In the other semi-final Nawaz beat Arjun 6-2, 6-1. In the boys' under-18 doubles semifinal Faisal and Rana outplayed Biplob and Manik 6-1, 6-0.

The second semifinals between the Rony-Falyaz and Jhulan-Bijoy pair was in progress when reports last came in.

Today's matches will start from 2 pm. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will give away the prizes as chief guest.

Stich's other main honour of the year was winning the Olympic doubles with Boris Becker. But he faced little problem in beating Chang 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

Stich shouted "I'm back" to the 10,000 crowd in the Munich Olympia Halle as he celebrated.

Chang, the world number six who was beaten in last year's Grand Slam Cup final by David Wheaton, was inconsistent and made bad mistakes by his high standards.

He had to win back three break points with his first service game. Having troubled Stich in the next, Chang then lost his next two service games.

A series of return faults cost him the second set and he again lost his first service game in the third.

Chang, who had a tiring five set semifinal against Goran Ivanisevic on Saturday, managed a break but then let Stich win the next four games to seal the match and the world record first prize.

The German also had a tough time beating Sampras in his semifinal — needing three tie breaks — but was quicker than Chang to get to the net for territorial advantage.

Chang, who beat Stich in the quarter-finals of the EC Championships in Antwerp, still pricked up one million pounds for his troubles.



German Michael Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon winner, with the Compaq Grand Slam Cup after outplaying American Michael Chang 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 in the final at the Munich Olympic Hall on Sunday. Stich is the only non-American to clinch the trophy since it commenced in 1990. — AFP photo

Accolade for Agassi

LONDON, Dec 14: Andre Agassi was named top foreign personality of 1992 in the British Broadcasting Corporation's annual sports review Sunday after his surprise victory at the Wimbledon tennis championships, reports AP.

On probably his least favourite surface, grass, Agassi adapted his usually back-court game to beat big-serving Croatian Goran Ivanisevic in the final after downing three-time champion John McEnroe on the way there.

Maradona flies home

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 14: Soccer star Diego Maradona returned home Monday for a court-ordered medical check related to his April 1991 arrest for cocaine use, reports AP.

Maradona, now playing for Seville in Spain's First Division, went directly from Ezeiza International Airport on the outskirts of Buenos Aires to the federal court building downtown.

The medical check was ordered by Federal Judge Amalia Berraz de Vidal. Earlier this year, she approved Maradona's departure from Argentina to play in Spain.

In March 1991, Maradona was suspended from Napoli in the Italian League for having tested positive for cocaine use.

Maradona intended to return to Spain later Monday.

Punch may cost Wright dear

LONDON, Dec 14: Temperamental Arsenal striker Ian Wright faces a possible suspension and loss of his England place over a punch he threw at an opponent during a weekend match, reports Reuter.

The Football Association (FA) are expected to launch a probe on Monday into the incident in Arsenal's Premier League derby at arch-rivals Tottenham on Saturday. Arsenal lost 1-0.

Wright struck Tottenham's David Howells in the face, but escaped even a booking as the referee did not see the incident.

Television cameras covering the match, however, show Wright turning on Howells and hitting the Tottenham player as he challenged him from behind.

Film evidence led to a record nine-match ban and a 3,000 pounds sterling (4,640) fine for Arsenal's Paul Davis after he punched an opponent in 1988. Fracturing his jaw. It also brought Aston Villa's Dean Saunders a three-match ban in March when, as a Liverpool player, he elbowed an opponent.

A year ago, Wright was fined 1,500 pounds (2,320 dollar) after being found guilty of making provocative gestures to the crowd at a match at Oldham. He has been booked four times this season.

Wright, in the England side that demolished Turkey 4-0 in their World Cup qualifier last month, was expected to be in the squad to face San Marino in February.

Arsenal manager George Graham, who said he missed the incident, will examine the match video to determine whether to discipline Wright.

"His temperament is something Ian is working hard on, but it is difficult because he gets maximum publicity whatever he does," Graham said.

Ma Wenge clinches TT World Cup

HANOI, Dec 14: China's Ma Wenge beat Kim Taek-Soo of South Korea 3-2 to win the men's table tennis World Cup in Ho Chi Minh City on Sunday, reports AFP.

Ma won 28-26, 21-17, 12-21, 15-21, 21-17 against Kim to collect a top prize of 20,000 dollars in the first world class sporting event ever organised in Vietnam, press reports said.

South Korean Yoo Nam-Kyu was third.

Chavez, Haugen warm up well

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Dec 14: Undeclared World Boxing Council (WBC) super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico and American Greg Haugen won non-title warm up fights on Sunday ahead of their championship bout on February 20 in Mexico City, reports Reuter.

Chavez, now 84-0 with 69 victories inside the distance, triumphed over previously undefeated Marty Jakubowski of the United States when the referee stopped the fight with 18 seconds gone in the sixth round.

Haugen, a former International Boxing Federation lightweight champion now 32-4-1, took a unanimous decision over Armando Campas of Mexico.

Papin participates in Milan's march

PARIS, Dec 14: AC Milan remained unbeaten, but Europe's other top clubs were in trouble at the weekend as Paris St Germain were beaten, Bayern Munich fluked a draw and La Coruna caught up with Barcelona, reports AFP.

League action shared the spotlight with anti-racism protests in Italy and Germany, as players sought to counter the abuse faced each weekend by their talented foreigners.

Jean Pierre Papin saved his career at AC Milan by scoring both goals in his side's 2-0 win over Ancona.

Papin, who has failed to secure a first team slot, had talks last week with club president Silvio Berlusconi, amidst press speculation that he was heading to Real Madrid or back to Olympique Marseille.

But the French captain shrugged off the growing pressure with a scissor-kick special into the roof of the net in the first half and a sweetly struck free-kick on the edge of the box in the second.

"I had to score to justify being European footballer-of-the-year," he said. "The first goal was the sort that I've scored before — a bit less technical than similar ones from Van Basten, but with more power."

Arch-rivals Inter Milan slipped to third place after being hammered 3-1 by Lazio.

Diego Fuser scored the first, black Dutch import Aaron Winter, a target for neo-Nazis, the second, Davide Fontolan pulled one back for Inter but Giuseppe Signori put the issue beyond doubt in the dying minutes.

Florentina edged into second place with a 1-1 draw in Parma, but there is precious little pressure on the Italian champions who have a six-point lead at the top.

Torino finished goalless in their match with AS Roma, while Sampdoria slugged out a 2-2 draw with Pescara.

Juventus were even less fortunate against Foggia, conceding two goals in a devastating five-minute second half spell.

Napoli were another casualty, losing 2-1 to Genoa, with Czech goal ace Tomas Skuhravy scoring both goals for the home side.

While AC Milan rollercoasted their way through another season of the Calcio Serie A, their peers in France and Germany look to be heading off the rails.

BAYERN HELD AGAIN
Bayern Munich, who opened the German season with a dazzling run of victories, needed a late equaliser to earn a point for the third weekend running.

And it took an own goal by Schalke 04's Thomas Linke to salvage the 1-1 draw after defender Steffen Freund had put the visitors ahead in the 53rd minute.

The 30,000 crowd at the Munich Olympic Stadium were far from impressed with Bayern's performance in their last match before the 10-week winter break.

Munich's nearest rivals Eintracht Frankfurt and Werder Bremen also drew, keeping Bayern one point clear at the top.

Eintracht's African stars were in fine form against SV

Hamburg, with the Bundesliga's top scoring Anthony Yeboah of Ghana putting them 1-0 up after only nine minutes.

Uwe Rahn made it 2-0, only for Frank Rohde to pull one back for Hamburg. But Nigeria's Augustine Okocha making it 3-1 before the break and Eintracht looked to be coasting home.

A two-goal blitz in three minutes turned the game. Michael Spies and Thomas von Heesen found a way through what had been the best defence in the Bundesliga.

Bremen, a point further back, finished all-square after a penalty shout-out with reigning champions VfB Stuttgart. New Zealand goal ace Wynton

ked by PSG goalkeeper Bernard Lama.

Nantes, surprise early leaders, picked up their first win since October — while the Parisians consolation was a share of the club record match receipts of 4.6 million francs (875,000 dollars).

Defeat saw them fall to third place in the table as Monaco cruised to a 2-0 victory over Metz that kept them unbeaten in the principality.

Reigning champions Marseille got off to a miserable start at home to lowly Valenciennes. Hungarian international Kalman Kovacs put the visitors 1-0 up and after half an hour, Marseille's new signing Igor Dobrovolski of Moldova was booked on his debut in France.

ference and have a game in hand.

Real Madrid stay third after a narrow victory over Celta, Vigo. Chile's Ivan Zamorano snatched the only goal of the game just seven minutes from time.

The situation was reversed for arch-rivals Atletico Madrid, who lost to a similarly late goal from Osasuna Pamplona's Polish import Roman Kosecki.

Sevilla lost 1-0 against Real Sociedad. Argentinian star Diego Maradona, who is nursing a knee injury, kept a low profile.

PORTO KEEP WINNING

FC Porto continued their winning streak at the top of the Portuguese league, notching a convincing 3-1 away victory over Victoria Guimaraes which put them another point clear of second placed Sporting Lisbon.

Sporting, now coaching by former England manager Bobby Robson, drew 2-2 at Estoril, and are five points off the pace. Benfica fared no better though, drawing 1-1 with Maritimo Funchal to stay third.

In Belgium, the match of the day between FC Bruges and Anderlecht fizzled out to a goalless draw which kept Anderlecht top of the table.

Their rivals had no such difficulty finding the back of the net, with Standard Liege blasting Lierse 4-0 and Mechelin beating Royal Liege 3-0.

Internacional win

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil, Dec 14: Internacional beat Fluminense 1-0 on Sunday to win the Brazil Cup and qualify for the 1993 Libertadores of America Cup tournament, along with national champion Flamengo, reports AP.

Internacional lost the first leg of the final series 2-1 in Rio last week but held the advantage for scoring a goal on the opponent's field.

The goal came on a controversial penalty call with seven minutes left to play. Inter's fullback Pinga fell near the net and the referee whistled a penalty, which all-star defender Celso Silva converted.

The Brazil Cup is a tournament of state champions and runners-up. The winner represents Brazil in the continental Libertadores Cup, together with the winner of the first-division league championship.

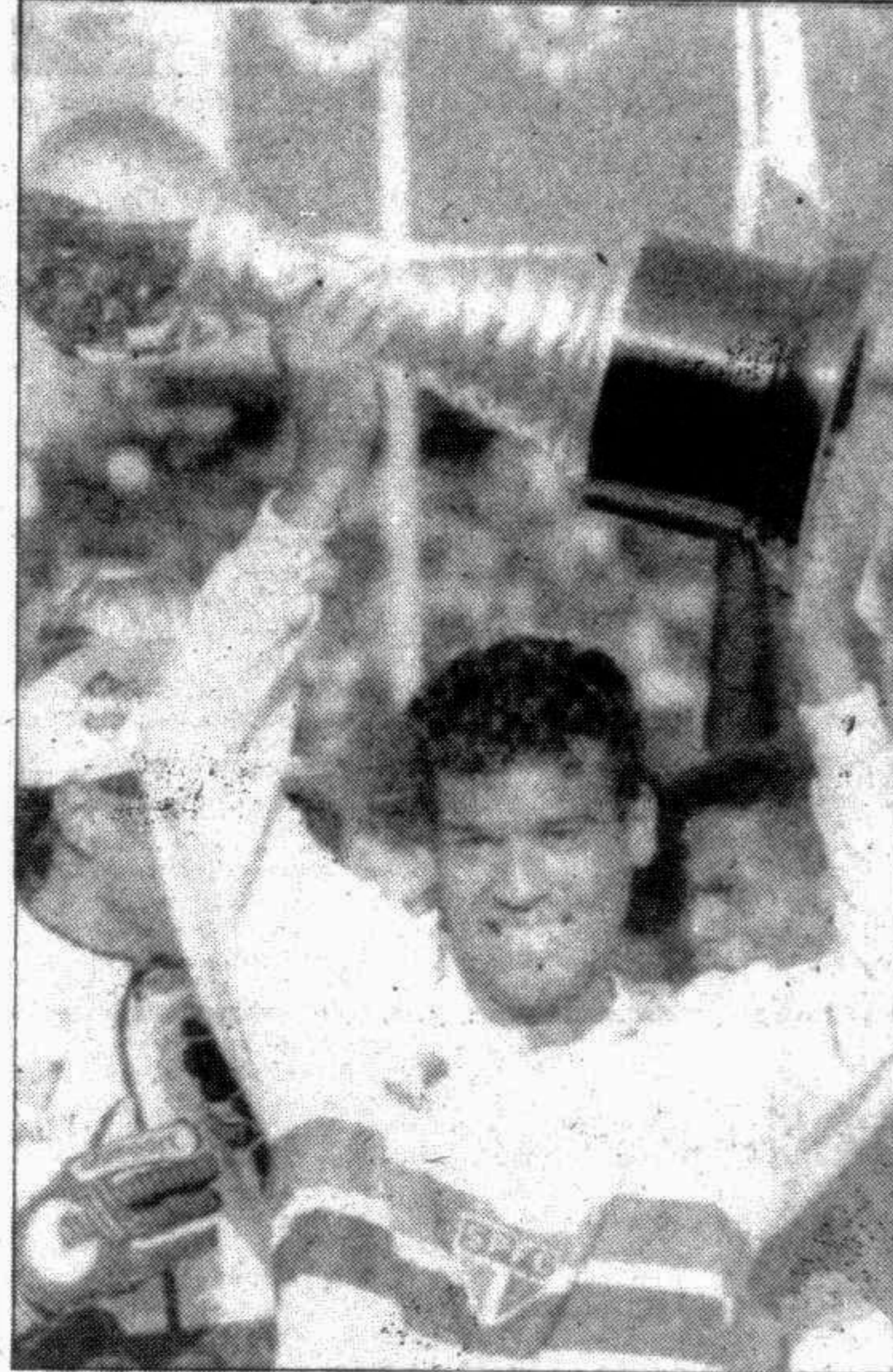
Coaches sacked

MADRID, Dec 14: Real Burgos and Logrones, the two teams at the bottom of the Spanish First Division, have fired their coaches, club officials said, reports Reuter.

Burgos, who have only two wins from 14 matches, sacked Dutchman Theo Vonk after Sunday's 2-0 home defeat by Cadiz.

Logrones, with just one win this season, dismissed David Vidal last week. New coach Carlos Aizman flew in from Argentina on Sunday to take over and said: "I want to save Logrones."

Burgos finished ninth overall last season and Logrones 10th.



Sao Paulo and Brazilian national midfielder Muller holds the Toyota Cup high during the awards ceremony on December 13 after the Brazilians edged Spanish league leaders and European champions FC Barcelona 2-1 in the Inter-Continental Cup tie in Tokyo. — AFP photo

Rufer rattled home the first spot-kick after nine minutes, but Stuttgart's Fritz Walter converted another 80 minutes later.

Borussia Dortmund moved up to fourth place after a 3-1 victory over SC Karlsruhe thanks to two more strikes from Swiss goal-machine Stephane Chapuisat and one from Michael Rummenigge.

Africa's contribution to German football had already been underlined on Friday night, when Senegal's Souleyman Sane scored both of Wattenscheid's goals in their 2-0 win over bottom club VfL Bochum.

NANTES TO THE TOP

Nantes returned to the top of the French First Division after topping league leaders Paris St Germain.

Nicolas Ouedec scored the only goal of the game, converting the rebound after seeing his 31st-minute penalty blocked.

Bowe gives up WBC crown

LONDON, Dec 14: World heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe said on Monday he was relinquishing his World Boxing Council (WBC) title, reports Reuter.

Having announced his decision at a London news conference he took the belt out of a briefcase and dumped it in a garbage can.

"The WBC is wrong and I will not be intimidated by them. I am the heavyweight champion of the world and today I withdraw my recognition of the WBC," he said.

"As long as I am champion I will not recognise or defend this dishonest belt," he added.

The WBC had threatened to strip Bowe of his title if he did not make a mandatory defence against Britain's Lennox Lewis, winner of a heavyweight title eliminator Against Canada's Donovan "Razor" Ruddock in October.

Bowe's manager Rock Newman said he did not know yet who Bowe would fight next in defence of his World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) titles but the likely date would be February 6 in New York's Madison Square Garden.

"What do I want with garbage?" said Bowe, who outpointed then unbeaten champion Evander Holyfield for the undisputed world championship in Las Vegas last month.

Bowe's decision meant British-born Lewis, who knocked out American Bowe in the super-heavyweight division of the 1988 Seoul Olympics, could become Britain's first world heavyweight champion this century.

But Newman who heaped scorn and invective on the WBC, its president Jose Sulaiman and Lewis' management, said the Briton should take nothing for granted.

He warned against trusting the WBC and Don King, manager of former champion Mike Tyson.

"The WBC are now thinking of mandating that Tony Rucker fight Lewis next," added Newman.

Sulaiman, the WBC president, and Don King were involved in one of the more controversial events of recent boxing history in Tokyo in February 1990 when Tyson was knocked out by journeyman fighter Buster Douglas.

King refused to accept his man had been beaten fairly and Sulaiman joined him in declaring initially that Tyson was still champion because of a long count. The WBC later reversed its decision and accepted Douglas.

Newman said that if the WBC recognised Lewis as champion it would be a worthless crown.

"Tyson was as much a champion then (in Tokyo) as Lewis will be if he takes this tainted, soiled and trashy belt."

The WBC does not care about fairness," he said. "They want to strip me anyway because I refused to do business with Don King."

Newman, who said Lewis had been too frightened to meet Bowe on the terms he had offered, accused him and his manager Frank Maloney of cowardice.

"They want to sneak in the back door on the slippery coat-tails of the WBC and Sulaiman," he declared.

Momo lifts girls' singles

Sports Reporter
Sharmin Ahmed Momo won the girls' singles title of the Agrani Bank Victory Day under-16 badminton championships at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

She beat Konkita Adhikary 11-6, 11-2 in the final to avenge the loss in the doubles final on Sunday. Konkita and her partner Noori had beaten Momo and Liza.

Mokhesur Rahman Selim and Zia Hossain defeated Mahbubul Alam Ramzan and Baziar Rahman to annex the boys' doubles crown. The winners took the first set quite easily at 15-5 but faced stiff resistance in the second which they won at 15-10.

The boys' singles final between Zia Hossain and Mohammad Zakaria will be played today at 3 pm.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will give away the prizes as chief guest.

NATL RESULTS

Meanwhile, the second day of the 17th national badminton championships saw 15 matches of the men's doubles category.

Mernaz and Azad of Gazipur got past the BRIC pair of Nasir and Matin 15-13, 15-10. Nayem and Wahed of Rangpur recorded an easy 15-5, 15-7 victory against Nipon and Muskan of Dhaka DSA. Manzur and Khurshid of Pabna crushed past Lokman and Junayed of

Sylhet 15-7, 15-6. Bakkar and Rajjit of Feni fought off Arzu and Firoz of Luxmipur in a three-setter 15-8, 8-15 and 15-1.

Rathindranath and Alok of Khulna got a walk-over against Amin and Masudur Rahman of Pabna. Subir and Amir of Dhaka reaped rich likewise against Moni and Shamou of Kushtia.

Shamim and Mizan of Feni knocked out Ashu and Arif of Rajshahi 10-15, 15-5 and 15-6. Shakil and Peter of Pabna beat Ratan and Mukul of BRIC 15-6, 15-5. Romel and Rinku of Anarsar made short work of Russel and Zaman of Feni 15-7, 15-8. Tinku and Rashid of

Rangpur had an effortless 15-5, 15-8 victory against Hassan and Shahed of Sylhet. Bapit and Kamrul of Khulna overcame Sayeed and Raful of Strajgarj after losing the first set. The victors recovered after conceding the first set 11-15 to win the next two sets quite easily, 15-4, 15-3.

Jahangir and Patal of Rajbari earned a hard-fought win against Arif and Raju of Luxmipur 15-11, 9-15 and 15-10. Milon and Afsar of BRIC downed Ripon and Zakir of Rajshahi 15-1 and 15-5. Mukul and Nitu of Jessore outplayed Ripon and Abu of Feni 15-7, 15-0.



Mokhesur Rahman Momin and Zia Hossain won the boys' doubles title of the Agrani Bank u-16 open badminton competition outplaying Mahbubul Alam Ramzan and Baziar Rahman 15-5, 15-10 in the final at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gym yesterday. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 California fort
 - 4 "— a Smile Be Your Umbrella..."
 - 7 Wharf
 - 11 Chess piece
 - 13 Flightless bird
 - 14 Wavy, in heraldry
 - 15 Moslem magistrate
 - 16 Concern of OPEC
 - 17 Bridge construction engineer
 - 18 "First — equals"
 - 20 Spend them in Rome
 - 22 Candy-counter purchase
 - 24 Piebald ponies
 - 28 Army officer
 - 32 Expert
 - 33 King of Norway
 - 34 To the right
 - 36 Olive genus
- DOWN**
- 1 Killer whale
 - 2 Wander
 - 3 Extinct bird
 - 4 August baby, maybe
 - 5 Author Ludwig
 - 6 Spring flower
 - 7 Widow of a king
 - 8 Merkel of movies
 - 9 Append periods of
 - 10 "Sure!"
 - 12 Lion
 - 19 Fight or fire
 - 21 Narrow inlet
 - 23 One of the March girls
 - 25 Low-caste Hindu
 - 26 Disclose
 - 27 Cotillion line
 - 28 Ember
 - 29 Spicy stew
 - 30 Resting place of
 - 12 Down
 - 31 Race unit
 - 35 Yale grad
 - 38 Altar phrase
 - 40 Spanish gold
 - 42 Pungent bulb
 - 45 Sewing case
 - 47 Brain-storm
 - 48 Sell
 - 49 Make both — meet
 - 50 Legal charge
 - 51 Tokyo, once
 - 52 Continued loud noise
 - 54 Scrap for Fido

Solution time: 24 min.

Q	U	A	R	T	L	I	T	E	R
P	U	N	I	E	R	A	N	O	S
R	I	D	D	L	E	T	I	R	A
O	N	O	Y	A	C	H	T	M	A
A	C	N	E	T	O	E	D	E	M
M	E	E	T	S	P	R	A	I	S
H	E	S	S	U	M				
F	R	E	E	Z	E	R	K	E	B
R	O	L	L	O	U	A	S	U	M
O	B	I	A	U	N	T	S	T	U
S	E	N	A	T	E	T	A	M	A
T	R	O	W	E	L	I	N	A	N
T	R	E	E	S	C	A	R	E	T

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12		13			14	
15					16			17	
18			19		20		21		
		22		23		24		25	26
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41				42		43			
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50	51	52		53		54		55	
56				57				58	
59				60					61

CRYPTOQUIP

Z'Y BGSZFWA YJ HZIQWUZCMF
 TBH UVQ SBYTZNQ WCU
 UC VBWA BNCMWG VQNG
 B W J Y C N Q

Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE PINKISH WINE WE ALL PREFERRED TO DRINK AT LUNCH WAS DELICIOUS AT FIRST BLUSH.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals R

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.