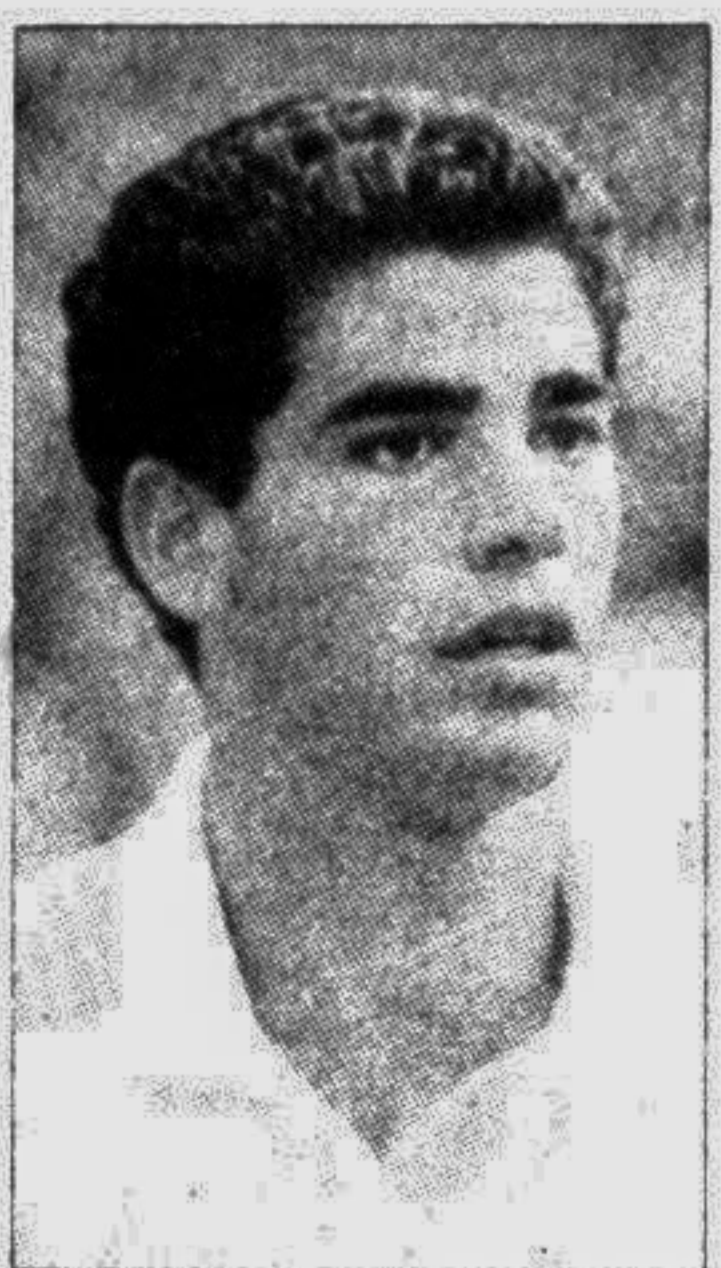


# Sampras, Courier in HK final

HONG KONG, Apr 17: The world's top two tennis players, American Pete Sampras and Jim Courier will clash in the final of the 300,000 US dollar Hong Kong



PETE SAMPRAS

lier in the week — had better not rest on his laurels. Exuding new-found confidence, Courier took 93 minutes to overwhelm crowd favourite Chang. "I'm looking forward to tomorrow. I'm playing much better than I did in Japan," said a contented Courier. An impetuous Sampras, the second seed here, was given a bit scare by Mansdorf, ranked 30, before prevailing in three sets.

Mansdorf, who a fortnight ago beat Courier in the semifinals of the Salem Osaka Open, seemed on course Saturday to repeat that upset, taking the first set 6-2.

That set was interrupted by rain, with Sampras leading 1-0. When the players returned to the court after a 15-minute break Sampras was totally out of touch.

Impatient and overhitting, the 21-year-old looked as if he had lost all confidence in himself.

However, he managed to lift his game to win the second set on a tie-break.

In the deciding third set, both players traded service breaks twice before it went to a tie-break again. Sampras once again prevailed to squeeze into the final.

Finding the winners when it mattered, Sampras however felt the pressure—at one point lying flat on the court disputing a line call in the final tie-break.

Arch-rival Courier came to Hong Kong having suffered setbacks in two tournaments in Japan—losing in the semifinals in Osaka and in the third round in Tokyo.

But Courier showed he has recovered his confidence and composure by having so far blitzed all his opponents in straight sets here in an im-

rious march into the finals. The 22-year-old Floridan was completely at ease as he rushed to a 3-0 lead by breaking Chang's first service game. He then held serve and emphasised his superiority by breaking Chang again in the



JIM COURIER

eight game to take the first set comfortably.

The second set went the same way as the first with Courier again taking a 3-0 lead, breaking Chang in the second game and then holding serve to win the match.

Hong Kong favourite Chang, who was seeking his first title in eight attempts here, was forced into errors by the pinpoint accuracy of Courier's flashing forehands.

But Chang had his chances, squandering break points in the third game in both sets.

"I let those opportunities slip by. I started slowly in both sets and never recovered," said a disappointed Chang.

# Palacios puts it down to vendetta

BOGOTA, Apr 17: Ruben "Huracan" Palacios, stripped of his World Boxing Organisation featherweight title because he allegedly failed an AIDS test, claims he was set up by the British boxing authorities, reports AFP.

"They have never forgiven me since I beat Colin McMillan for the title in London last September," he said when he flew in here from London.

"It's a fix," he added. He claimed AIDS tests in Colombia had all been negative.

The British Boxing Board of Control test allegedly revealed he was HIV positive and he flew home on the eve of his title fight with John Davison.

"Davison didn't have a chance of beating me. This is a plot to rob me of my title," added Palacios who was to go for an AIDS test in his home town of Medellin.

# Zarak Jahan in British Open qtrs

LONDON, Apr 17: Zarak Jahan Khan's fairy tale comeback continued when he beat Australia's Mark Carlyon to reach the quarter-finals of the British Open here on Friday, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old Pakistani's 9-4, 9-2, 9-0 victory came two days after beating another Australian, former world champion Rodney Martin, in one of the biggest upsets in Open history.

"I felt so excited after beating Rodney Martin that I found it impossible to sleep properly at night, and I felt tired. But when I got on court I felt all rights," said Zarak.

The Pakistani's high-speed court coverage and relentless pressure was too much for Carlyon, the world number 25. His performance was all the more impressive because his career looked over just a short time ago, in 1991 he missed a year with a serious knee injury, and he was then banned for a further year by the International Squash Players Association.

He had to play six qualifying matches in five days just to reach the senior competition at Wembley, but he could now become the first qualifier to reach the semifinals at the British Open.

His opponent in the last eight will be the 14th seed from England, Simon Parke, who won in straight games against his compatriot Del Harris.

Jansher Khan continued his defence at Wembley with another straight games win that illustrated his extraordinary dominance of the squash world.

The 24-year-old Pakistani reached the quarter-finals by beating Englishman Paul Lord 9-4, 9-0, 9-1 which means in two matches and nine games he has conceded only five points.

First round opponent, world number 21 Julien Bonet of France, failed to win a single point against the Pakistani.

# Satellite tennis result

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 17: Australia's Joshua Eagle defeated Germany's Axel Finberg 6-3, 6-4 in the second leg of the four-leg International Tennis Federation Malaysian Satellite Circuit at the National Tennis Centre here Saturday, reports AP.

Third seeded Finberg, who won the first leg in Kuala Trengganu last week, was defeated by the eighth seeded Australian in 90 minutes.

Eagle won US \$1,625 while Finberg received \$1,125.

The third leg of the \$150,000 circuit will be held in Langkawi, 400 kilometres (240 miles) northeast of here, from April 18 to 25 and the Masters' competition in Kuala Lumpur from April 27 to May 2.

# Tennis squad leaves for Qatar today

A six-member Bangladesh national tennis team leaves the city today for Qatar to participate in the Davis Cup Group C matches of the Asia-Oceania zone, says a press release. The eight-nation week-long ITF tourney, sponsored by MEC, will be held from April 19 to 25.

The participating countries are Bangladesh, Bahrain, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

Farhad Zaman and Md Byazidur Rashid have been elected the manager and captain of the national team. The four players are Hira Lal, Faisal Syed Haq, Shaikh Matnuddin Walullah Jhlan and Shovon Masud Jamaly.

The Bangladesh team will return home towards the end of this month.



Nadia Comaneci, the Romanian who dazzled the gymnastics world with her brilliant performances in the Montreal Olympic Games in 1976, congratulates American Shannon Miller after the latter won the women's all-around individual event in the World championships in Birmingham on April 16.

# Miller denies Gogean gold

BIRMINGHAM, Apr 17: American Shannon Miller edged out Romania's Gina Gogean for the world all-around women's gymnastics title in an enthralling final on Friday, reports Reuter.

The 16-year-old Oklahoma high school student won by the razor-thin margin of 0.007 of a point as she captured the gold from Gogean, who almost snatched victory with the last routine of the night.

Tatiana Lisenko of Ukraine was third with American Dominique Dawes, who led going into the final round, having to settle for fourth after falling when she landed her final vault.

Miller, second in the all-around event at the Barcelona Olympics behind Tatiana Gutsu of the Commonwealth of Independent states who is not competing here, won with a total of 39.062 points.

Gogean compiled 39.055 and Lisenko 39.011.

Miller came through brilliantly on her last two exercises after two mistakes on the beam had dropped her to fifth place halfway through the four-event competition.

She lost balance momentarily after a series of three back Somersaults. Then, more seriously, took three steps back when she dismounted.

"I just didn't go hard enough for the landing," she explained later. She was given a score of 9.625, her lowest of the night.

Dawes, her 15-year-old teammate, had taken over the lead at that point with Gogean second and Lisenko, who won two golds and a silver at the Barcelona Olympics, fourth.

Miller moved up to third on the floor with a stylish routine that captivated the judges, who gave her 9.825, enough to send her to third behind Dawes and Lisenko with only her vault to come.

Her coach, Steve Nunno, had a tough decision at that point because Miller's primary

their final routines and Miller was not yet safe.

Lisenko could manage only 9.750 on the uneven bars, then Dawes, going for a big and difficult vault, almost sat down on landing and plunged out of the medals.

That left it to the petite Gogean on the floor. She gave it her all but a slight mistake left her an eyelash short despite a fine score of 9.800.

"I knew if I did a lifetime best floor exercise I had a small chance to win. But I

# Misiutin upstages Scherbo

BIRMINGHAM, England, Apr 17: Grigori Misiutin of Ukraine upstaged Olympic star Vitali Scherbo to win the men's floor exercise gold medal Saturday at the World Gymnastics Championships, reports AP.

Misiutin scored 9.400 points with the last routine of the eight finalists to capture the gold medal.

Scherbo, a Belarussian who won six gold medals at the Barcelona Olympics, placed equal second with Britain's Neil Thomas, who both scored 9.350.

Miller, second in the all-around event at the Barcelona Olympics behind Tatiana Gutsu of the Commonwealth of Independent states who is not competing here, won with a total of 39.062 points.

Gogean compiled 39.055 and Lisenko 39.011.

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made a small mistake on an artistic move.

"But Shannon has been the steadiest here. She deserved to win," the Romanian said.

Nunno said later Miller had not felt well earlier in the day and had not been sharp in final practice.

"We had to sit her down and settle her," he said.

Miller, who led on all four apparatus in the preliminaries, will now shoot for further golds in the apparatus finals today and Sunday.

"I hope to win all four," she said.

# Martin survives Pernfors' pressure

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, Apr 17: Todd Martin, the second seed in the 275,000 US dollar men's clay court championships, survived a comeback attempt by Mikael Pernfors but survived to advance to the semifinals of Friday, reports Reuter.

Martin, an American ranked 44 in the world, defeated Pernfors, an unseeded qualifier from Sweden and ranked 181, 6-4, 7-5. He will face Peru's Jaime Yzaga in the semifinal.

Third seeded Yzaga, ranked 63, eased past unseeded American, Bryan Shelton, ranked 108, 6-4, 6-4 to advance to the semifinals.

The other semifinal features Switzerland's Claudio Mazardi and Argentina's Horacio De la Pena, both unseeded, who won quarterfinal matches on Thursday.

Martin got off to a quick start against Pernfors, winning the first two games at love. But after training 1-4 the Swede fought back and broke Martin in the seventh game with a topspin lob, his best shot.

Pernfors evened the score at 4-4 but dropped serve two

games later to give Martin the set, 6-4.

Pernfors was the first to get ahead in the second set, leading 3-1 but this time Martin fought back, using his strong serve as a weapon to even the match at 4-4.

Yzaga confined to hit smooth passing shots in the second set and broke Shelton in the opening game with a forehand pass. The Peruvian staved off a break point in the sixth game, then held on to serve out the match 6-4 on another Shelton backhand error.

# Edberg falls to Goellner

NICE, France, Apr 17: German qualifier Marc Goellner upset top seed Stefan Edberg, 6-2, 7-5, Saturday in the semifinals of the \$300,000 Nice Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

In the other semifinal Ivan Lendl was scheduled to meet Frenchman Fabrice Santoro.

Goellner, ranked No. 95 in the ATP Tour list, surprised Edberg, No. 3 in the world, with big serves. The 1.95 metre (6-foot-5) German used a serve and volley game to jump quickly to a 4-1 lead in the first set and hold on to win in 31 minutes.

In the second set, it was all even at 5-5. Then Goellner took the lead at 6-5 and suddenly Edberg was serving to stay in the match. He saved one match point but a service return winner by Goellner sent the German into his first final on the pro circuit.

Earlier on Friday Marc Goellner of Germany cruised into semifinals with a surprise

6-0, 6-2 win over clay court specialist Guillermo Perez-Rolanda of Argentina.

In today's semifinals Goellner, ranked 98th in the world, faces top seeded Swede Stefan Edberg, who needed

only 61 minutes to get past Spaniard Javier Sanchez 6-4, 6-2.

The unheralded 22-year-old German used a strong forehand to tame Perez-Rolanda, who had eliminated world number five Goran Ivanisevic

in the previous round.

"I'm enthusiastic about meeting Stefan Edberg. He is a former world number one and I admire him a lot," Goellner said.

Edberg, who has not met Goellner before, said: "I was expecting stronger opposition. The last time I met Javier on this surface, he got two match points. But I'm feeling very well and my physical condition is excellent."

Veteran Ivan Lendl recovered from a poor start to defeat his former compatriot Petr Korda of the Czech Republic in another quarterfinal.

Fifth seed Lendl lost the first set 6-1 but then took total command, overwhelming last year's French Open runner-up 6-2, 6-0 in the next two sets.

It was Lendl's first win over world fifth ranked Korda in four encounters.

In today's semifinal Lendl will play Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, seeded seven, who won a tough battle over Argentine Franco Davin 7-5, 5-7, 6-2.

But her victory was overshadowed by Kelesis behaviour, which drew complaints not only from Fendick but from Marianne Werdel, who was distracted during play on an adjacent court by the Canadians frequent arguments.

At the end of the first set, an outburst by Kelesi at what she considered a bad line call on set point led to Werdel shouting across to her to shut up.

Kelesi received a warning for unsportsman-like conduct. She then quietened down briefly and turned the match into a closely-fought contest, striking the ball far more positively, while Fendick, beginning to look a little tired, made careless errors.

Kelesi broke serve for 3-2, but Fendick broke back in the next game.

# Basuki regains touch in time

PATTAYA, Thailand, Apr 17: Yayuk Basuki recovered from a disastrous start to defeat Wiltrud Probst and set up a semifinal clash with top seeded Patty Fendick at the women's Open here Friday, reports AFP.

Basuki, the 1991 champion but seeded eighth this year, upset third seeded Probst 7-6, 6-3 after winning just six points in the first four games.

But the Indonesian eventually found her touch and came back to force a tiebreaker, which she won 10-8.

The forehand was by the outstanding feature of Basuki's game and always made her look the classier player.

Having broken serve to lead 3-1 in the second set, she double-faulted twice to help

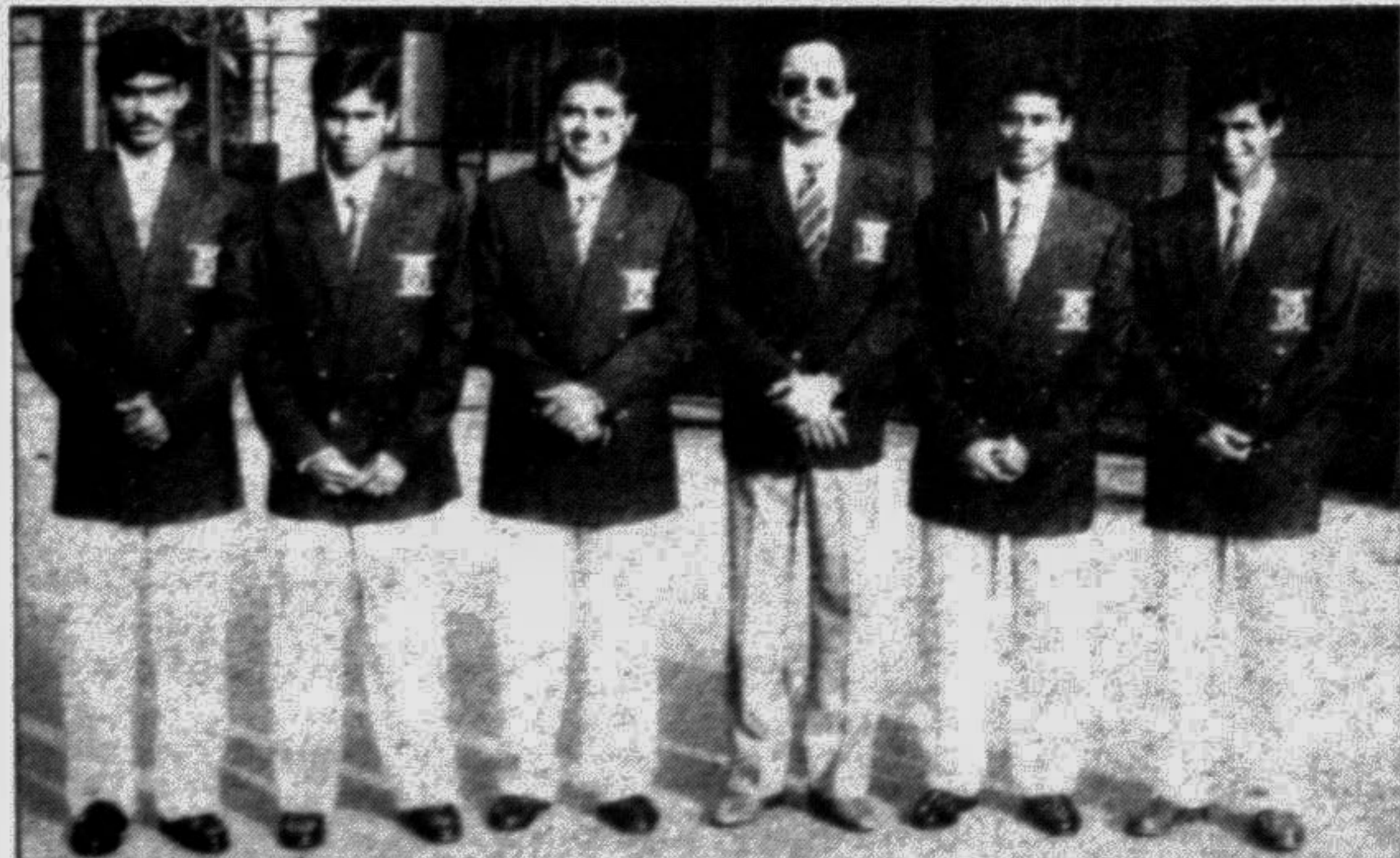
But Basuki, making some good approaches and serves and playing aggressively, regained her lead when Probst double faulted.

Basuki then held off four break points before holding serve for 5-2, and held a match point in the next game, which Probst saved with an overhead.

She eventually closed out the match on her third match point when a powerful serve forced Probst to return the ball wide.

"I was hitting my strokes like a beginner at the start, but at 0-3 my game began to work. I just played point by point to get back into it," said Basuki.

Earlier Friday, Patty Fendick emerged from a stormy clash with Helen Kelesi, winning 6-2, 6-3.



Members of the Bangladesh Davis Cup squad which leaves for Qatar to take part in the Asia-Oceania zone championship today gave the photographers a moment at the National Tennis Complex, Ramna yesterday. (From left) Hira Lal, Faisal Syed Haque, Byzidur Rashid (non-playing captain), Farhad Zaman (manager), S K Moinuddin Walullah Jhlan and Shovon Jamaly. — Star photo

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Like sushi
- Shriver of tennis
- French painter Gustave
- Rarin' to go
- Military assistants
- Merchant
- New York's theater district
- DDE's command
- Obilliterate
- Address abbr.
- Broad smile
- Small songbird
- Pleasant fragrance
- Wire nails
- What four roads equal
- Addition for a role
- New Guinea town

DOWN

- Wilt 'the —' Cham-berlain
- Singer Fogelberg
- Sight in Utah
- The — "Staircase" (movie)
- Black-and-blue
- Asper-sions
- The auld sod
- Map abbrs.
- Carpet, cedar or cent color
- Personal
- Cowboy competi-tion
- Code or rug
- Hollywood oater
- City of Light
- Size of type
- Early Persian
- Local gossip
- "Frome"
- "Wanted" poster
- Personal
- Talks wildly
- Legal instrument
- Strong impulse
- "I'm surprised!"
- Roll of paper money: colloq.
- I.D. marks
- Crawls
- It follows blue or bar
- American pit viper
- Math. subject
- Coins of Iran
- Swagger
- Russian despots
- Pitcher Cone
- Similar
- Actor
- Sparks
- Troubles
- Spend them in Florence

Solution time: 22 mins.

BRAD PIT SHEA  
ROBE ODE TEAL  
ITEM SEAHORSE  
GOTOSEA ORATE  
TOR TIE  
LOPES SEADOGS  
LEW GOT ROE  
SEABIRD BATON  
AMY ROM  
ADAIR SEAPORT  
SEALIONS EPEE  
PERE LEI RUST  
SPED DEN ESTE

CRYPTOQUIP

WMDIS DJQGZXJF SDFYS  
NMD FYXU HMSII XJS  
VZDNZ XI WMS JXZV  
XZQ TGYS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A NERVOUS, MILD-MANNERED GUNSLINGER NEVER SHOOTS OFF HIS MOUTH.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: J 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.