

Smooth sail for Sabatini

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 12: Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina advanced to the quarterfinals of the 750,000 dollars Virginia Slims of Philadelphia with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over 21-ranked Lindsay Davenport on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Sabatini, the fourth seed, will face unseeded Amy Frazier, who upset seventh-seed Mary Pierce on Thursday 7-6 (11-9), 6-4.

Amanda Coetzer, seeded eighth, defeated qualifier Ann Henricksson, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) and will face top-seed Steffi Graf.

The other quarterfinal pits second-seed Conchita Martinez and ninth-seed Natalia Zvereva.

Unseeded Kimberly Po, who upset sixth-seed Helena Sukova in the first round, beat doubles

partner Marianne Werdel and will face Zina Garrison, who defeated Lori McNeil 6-3, 6-1.

Sabatini has not won a tournament since the Italian Open in May of last year, although she has reached at least the semifinals of nine tournaments this year.

Guillermo Vilas, a former Australian, French and US Open champion has been coaching Sabatini here for the last month.

"I feel more confident with my game," Sabatini said after defeating Davenport. "Now I go into a match with a plan, and I feel more relaxed. We're working on me being more aggressive."

Sabatini used a service break at love in the seventh game to take the first set from Davenport, who had defeated her in March at the Virginia Slims of Florida.

In the second set, she broke

Davenport in the first game, then won the next four games to take control.

Frazier, who took six months off from the tour this year, matched the hard-hitting Pierce stroke for stroke.

Frazier came back from a 2-5 deficit to force a first-set tiebreak, which she won on her fourth set point when she forced Pierce into a backhand error.

Pierce, ranked 15th, rebounded in a second set that featured seven service breaks, but could not hold off Frazier.

"Any win, I feel, is a good win, because everyone is so good now," said the 21-year-old Frazier, whose ranking has dropped from a high of 15 in 1991 to its current 53.

"I'm taking each match, each point, one at a time. I haven't even looked to see who I'm playing next."

Adams makes Becker sweat

ANTWERP, Belgium, Nov 12: Boris Becker survived a first-set thriller to beat American Chuck Adams 7-6, 6-4 and reach the quarterfinals of the European Community tennis championship on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Third-seed Becker converted his third set points when leading 6-3.

Becker became increasingly nervous after Adams broke his serve in the sixth game of the first set and started gesturing and shouting to himself in German after almost every mistake.

The second set hardly went more smoothly for Becker. Many games went to deuce and Becker had to dig deep before converting his fourth match point on Adams' serve after two hours, 20 minutes.

Becker had to win the match to keep alive his hopes of qualifying for next week's ATP Finals.

Becker, who won the season ending finals in Frankfurt last

year, is one of three players in Antwerp who can still qualify for the finals.

The others, Croat Goran Ivanisevic and Frenchman Cedric Pioline seeded fifth and fourth respectively clash in the quarter finals. The winner is expected to meet world number one Pete Sampras, the top seed, in the semifinals.

In form Ivanisevic, who won the Paris Open last week, stayed on course for the ATP Finals by breezing past Belgian Johan Van Herck.

In a match between two wild card entries, Ivanisevic's main problem was sealing the tie, which he did with an ace on his fifth match point to prevail 6-3, 6-3.

Pioline knocked out German Marc Goellner 6-3, 7-6 after saving two set points in the tiebreaker.

"He's a dangerous player, he's got a big serve and a big forehand. If you go into a third set, you never know what might happen," said Pioline, ranked 11th in the world but without a tournament victory to his credit.

Pioline is not too concerned with the ATP Finals. "If I'm in there, fine. If I'm not, too bad, I'll go on holiday," he said.

Chang books ticket to ATP Tour finals

ANTWERP, Belgium, Nov 12: American Michael Chang has clinched the seventh berth in the eight-player ATP Tour finals. ATP officials said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

"Chang is definitely in," one official said. ATP said earlier this week that Chang, who had failed to obtain a wild card for the European Community Championship and is not playing here this week, was not yet certain of a place for Frankfurt.

Three players are in the running for the last spot for next week's finals — Boris Becker, Goran Ivanisevic, who won the Paris Open last week, and Frenchman Cedric Pioline.

Muster's lawyer wants more

MIAMI, Nov 12: A \$2.5 million jury award given to Austrian tennis star Thomas Muster isn't enough to cover damage to his career and earnings ability after a car struck him at a tournament, his attorney said, reports AP.

Muster suffered torn knee ligaments when a vehicle hit him at the Lipton International Players Championship. The accident occurred March 31, 1989, hours after Muster had won his semifinal match.

The jury didn't appreciate the magnitude of losses of a high-wage earner, a pro athlete or entertainer, like Barbara Streisand," said David Gold, one of two Muster attorneys in the case.

Muster's attorneys had sought 8 million dollars in lost earnings to date, and an additional 2.5 million to 12 million

in curtailed future earnings.

Muster, 26, was in Austria when the six-member circuit court jury announced its decision Wednesday after six hours of deliberation.

He was ranked as high as No. 6 in the weeks following the 1989 Lipton, but then dropped out of the top 10. His current ranking is No. 7.

Muster testified he was out of competition more than six months and missed more than 50 tournaments due to his injuries. His earnings also dropped due to product endorsement and appearance fee losses, he said.

Among tennis notables who testified were former coach Nick Bolletieri, former French Open champion and sportscaster Tony Trabert, and players Jay Berger and Eugene Scott.

Muster had sued Lipton Sports and Thomas J. Lipton Inc, the organizer of the Lipton event.

The suit also named General Motors Corp, which owned the tournament car used by Muster; Linda Boyd, the driver of the tournament car put at Muster's disposal; and Robert Sobie, the driver of the car that ran into the tournament car and knocked it into Muster, who was standing behind it.

Sobie was charged with drunken driving that day, and later pleaded no contest to the charge.

Attorney Robert Rudock, who represented Lipton, Boyd and General Motors, declined comment.

Charles Rice, the attorney for Sobie, said the verdict "sounds fair." Sobie was adjudged 90 per cent of the negligence in the case.

The 2.5 million dollars was divided in two parts: lost income and pain and suffering. GM, Lipton, Boyd and Sobie are responsible for a combined total of \$1 million in lost past and future income.

GM, Lipton and Boyd will be

responsible for 150,000 of the 1.5 million dollars in pain and suffering because Sobie was adjudged 90 per cent of the negligence in the case.

Rice said because Sobie was underinsured, for only 100,000 dollars, he will be responsible only for that amount.

Rosset made to run all over the place

MOSCOW, Nov 12: Defending Kremlin Cup champion Marc Rosset squeaked by Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia in second-round play Thursday, 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 7-5, reports AP.

"I'm not in my best shape physically and mentally, and it explains why it was a tough match," the top-seeded Rosset, of Switzerland, told a news conference after the match.

Meanwhile, Alexander Volkov of Russia, the No 2 seed, withdrew from the \$350,000 tournament because of a cold. Russian Andrei Merinov, whom he was to have played, advanced to the quarter-finals Friday.

In other matches, Patrik Kuhnen of Germany defeated fourth-seeded Andrei Cherkasov of Russia 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 with well-placed and consistent ground strokes.

Cherkasov, a two-time Kremlin Cup winner, tried going to the net early to break Kuhnen's momentum, but the German answered with several perfect lobbs. Cherkasov rallied in the second set but Kuhnen forced mistakes to take the match.

Seventh-seeded Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands got off to a slow start before defeating Mark Knowles of the Bahamas 2-6, 6-3, 7-5. And Andrei Olkhovsky of Russia, helped by seven aces, defeated fifth-seeded Jonathan Stark of Medford, Ore. 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.

Brazil turn to an oddsmaker for WC success

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 12: Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira hired the country's most well-known mathematician to help Brazil win the 1994 World Cup. TV Bandeirantes reported Thursday, reports AP.

Oswaldo de Souza, known to Brazilians as soccer and lottery oddsmaker for TV Globo, told TV Bandeirantes talkshow host Amaury Junior Thursday that Parreira hired him to study the odds of possible game opponents after the World Cup's first round.

Modern soccer includes studying the odds, Souza told Junior. And especially in the World Cup, which is a competition in which all teams do not play one another, he added.

The world's soccer elite will be taking mathematicians to the United States as advisers, Souza said. While the team is playing the first round in which 16 of 24 teams qualify, the manager must stay informed to know the effect of results in determining later Cup opponents, which are eliminatory. Souza said.

The mathematician cited world champion Germany as a team which in recent World Cups, tied major first round games to draw weaker opponents later on.

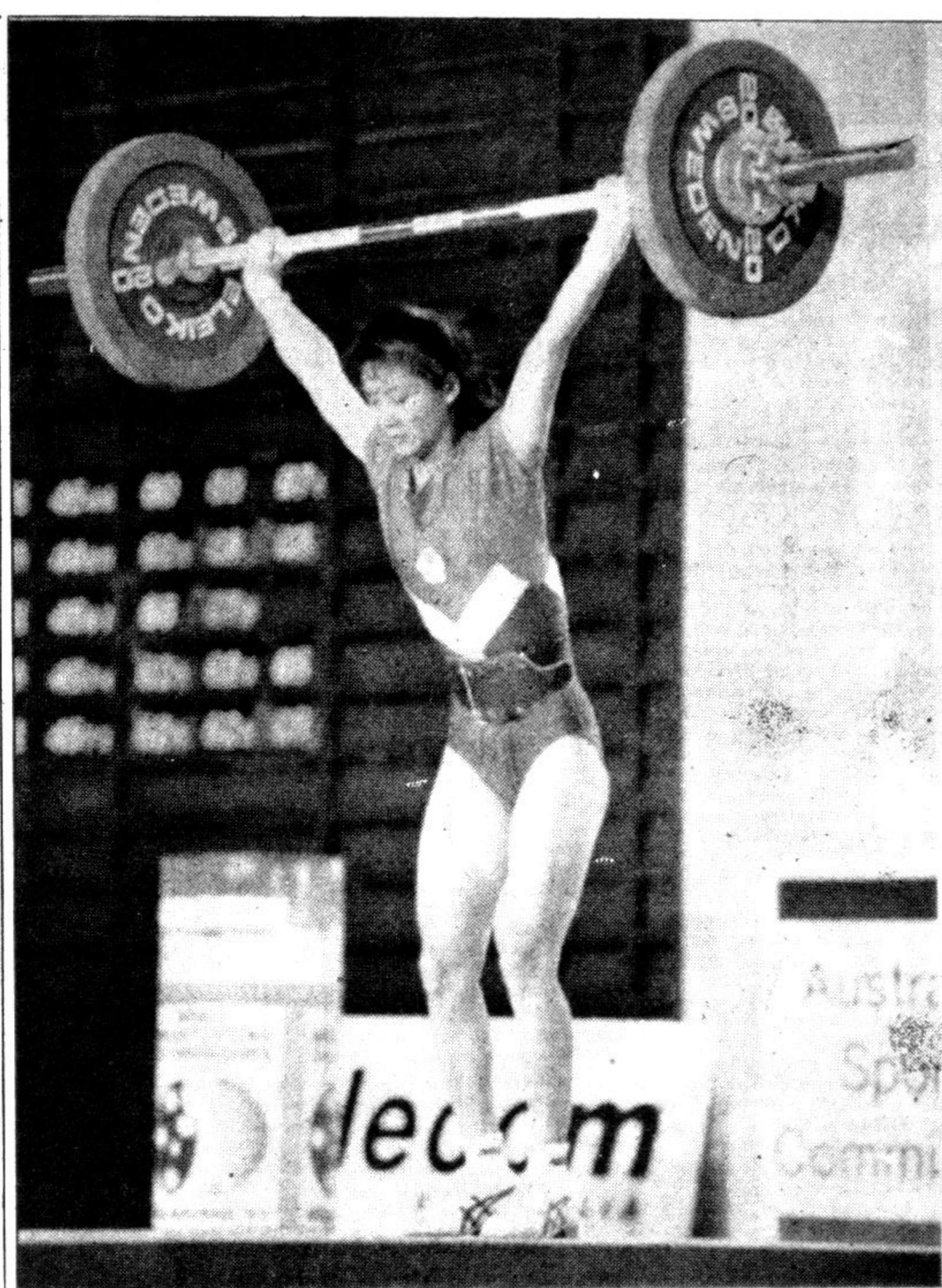
Another TV Bandeirantes commentator said he disagreed with Souza; to win the World Cup a team must play to win all their games.

But Brazil was traumatized in the 1982 World Cup when, heavily favoured, they were eliminated in a 3-2 loss to Italy 3-2 in a game where a tie would have classified the Brazilians.

Brazil came from behind twice to tie, but instead of playing defensively to secure a tie and classification, the team played offensively determined to win.

Manager Tele Santana, at the time, was criticised for his win-or-nothing started.

The Italian victory over Brazil keyed their conquest of the 1982 World Cup.



Chu Nan-Mei from Taiwan lifts 67.5 kilograms for the 46-kilogram women's class to win the gold at the World Weightlifting Championships in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP photo

Ivanov impressive as ever

MELBOURNE, Nov 12: Reigning Olympic champion Ivan Ivanov clinched the 54 kilogram class world title with his final lift for a world record total on the opening day of the 65th world weightlifting championships here Friday, reports AFP.

The 22-year-old Bulgarian hoisted 157.5 kilograms in his final attempt in the clean and jerk to deny young Turk Hall Mutlu by 2.5 kilograms with his world record total of 277.5 kilograms under the International Weightlifting Federation's new standards.

Mutlu, second in the snatch behind China's Bin Yang, led Ivanov by five kilograms after succeeding with 152.5 kilograms in the first attempt at the jerk.

But Ivanov decided to aim for 157.5 kilograms to shade 20-year-old Mutlu and after failing with his second try successfully lifted on his final attempt.

Ivanov, who won Olympic gold at Barcelona last year with an Olympic jerk records, sank to his knees in jubilation, blowing kisses to the spectators in the royal exhibition building.

It was the Bulgarian's eighth senior world gold medal for a career championship tally of 16.

Another gold for ROK

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 12: South Korea's Yong Suk-ki edged Taiwan's Cheng Chih-hao by 0.186 seconds in the 188-kilometre road race Thursday, winning the final gold medal of the Asian Cycling Championships, reports AP.

Yong finished in 4 hours, 41 minutes, 57.286 seconds. Cheng was timed in 4:41:57.472 in the race in Ipoh, with Malaysia's Nor Effandy Rosli third in 4:41:57.624.

It was South Korea's fourth gold in the championships, leaving it second, behind China's six, Kazakhstan had three.

In the junior championships, Yu Halyan and Jiang Cuihua gave China a 1-2, finish in the women's 37-kilometre road race.

Yu finished in 59 minutes, 58.16 seconds. Jiang, who set a world record in the 500-metre time trial, was second in 1:01:09.74, with Taiwan's Lee Chin-wan third in 1:01:10.64.

India to host '97 Asia Cup

NEW DELHI, Nov 12: The fifth Asia Cup hockey championship for men will be held in India in 1997, a spokesman for the Indian Hockey Federation said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) allotted the tournament to India at its meeting in Hiroshima during the Asia Cup currently in progress there, the spokesman said.

The venue and dates would be decided by the hosts after approval by the continental body, he said. India hosted the Men's Asia Cup in New Delhi in 1989.

Cantona learns it the hard way

BERN, Switzerland, Nov 12: Manchester United striker Eric Cantona drew a four-game European Cup suspension for insulting the referee after a Nov 3 game at Galatasaray Istanbul, European soccer's governing body said Friday, reports AP.

The French international was punished for behaving "in a particularly improper manner" toward Swiss referee Kurt Roethlisberger when the English team was eliminated in the second-round, return-leg Champions Cup game. UEFA said.

Roethlisberger sent off Cantona after the final whistle for an outburst including an obscene gesture. The suspension took into account a warning Cantona got in another cup game this season.

The French sports newspaper L'Equipe quoted Cantona as claiming Roethlisberger was "bought."

Tennis brings twelve in town

Sports Reporter

Twelve players from different countries arrived in Dhaka and chair umpire Lawrence D'Welb yesterday to take part in the third and the Masters' legs of the Gold Leaf ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit tennis tournament.

Officials of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation were present at the Zia International Airport to receive them.

The players are: Mark Booras, Page Buch, Mathew Spiege and Jean Guillou from USA, James Baily, Gary Henderson, Barry Cowan, James Fox, and James Davison of Great Britain, Thomas Spinks, Dajji Morri of Japan and Rafale Chaldas, a German.

Third-leg begins at Rajshahi on November 15 and the Masters leg begins at the National Tennis Complex on Nov 23.



Participants from abroad, who arrived here yesterday to take part in the Gold Leaf ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit tennis tournament in Dhaka are seen at ZIA. — Star photo

Women can be good referees

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 12: Women won a big victory this week as referees in the Brazilian soccer league. A female judge proved she has an eagle eye and can withstand physical attacks, reports AP.

Maria Edilene worked the sidelines in the undefeated Corinthians 2-1 victory over Cruzeiro Wednesday in Sao Paulo, the country's largest city.

Edilene is one of 15 women soccer judges working in this year's Brazilian league.

Cruzeiro players became enraged when Maria Edilene validated the second Corinthians goal scored by Rivaldo, claimed to be offside by Cruzeiro.

The goal, breaking up a 1-1 tie, was scored in the game's last minute and spelled doom for the Cruzeiro team, eliminating them from the national championship.

Cruzeiro players advanced on the sideline judge, kicking her. State police had to protect Maria Edilene leaving the field and the stadium.

"The woman has an eagle's eye," said a TV Bandeirantes commentator when playing back the tape of the controversial goal. The tape clearly showed that Rivaldo was not offside.

She told the Folha de Sao Paulo Friday that her head hurt more than the effect of kicks of two Cruzeiro players, threatened with suspension for their aggression.

"I knew I was right and wasn't afraid," Maria Edilene told the Folha. "Women are proving in Brazil they have the competence of judges approved by the International Soccer Federation," she said.

WTA won't let Parche get away

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Nov 12: The Women's Tennis Association has hired a Hamburg attorney to assist in efforts to overturn the suspended sentence given to Monica Seles' attacker, Guenter Parche, the WTA announced Thursday, reports Reuter.

Drilhjo Wandachne Der has agreed to represent the WTA and will serve as the player's association's liaison to the prosecutor, the WTA said.

Parche, who stabbed Seles in the back during a match in Hamburg on April 30, last month was given a two-year suspended by a Hamburg court and sent home.

The Yugoslav tennis star, who was shocked and outraged by the verdict, remains sidelined while recovering from the attacks.

"Our players were outraged by the decision made in the German court, not only because of Monica but also because of their concern for worldwide security measures," Gerard Smith, executive director of the WTA, said in a statement.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Connors contemporary

5 "What Kind of Fool —?"

8 It closes on opening night

12 Vacationing

13 Put on

14 North American lake

15 Longish shorts

17 Croupier's tool

18 Estival quaff

19 "I was kidding!"

20 Tenth president

21 Crib

22 Guy's companion

23 Attack from all sides

26 Kegler's activity

30 Arab potentate

31 Shril bark

32 Notion

33 Re atomic weaponry

35 Simon &

DOWN

1 Rum cake

2 In arrears

3 Steak-house request

4 P.E.

5 Affix

6 Castle protection

7 Democrats, now

8 Light metallic element

9 Exam type

10 Voice amplifier

11 Milwaukee output

16 Condo

20 Playing marble

21 German capitalists?

Solution time: 27 mins.

WHO ALT BONE
HORI BAH URIS
IVAN AMA NEXI
TELLY BRIG
ION PLEASE
AVENUES LEMAY
RIVE WAS JOKE
CLASP PERUKES
HANKER TIM
AGES OPERA
GAST GOD EVER
ACHE IFI RIDE
KEYS SAX LOA

22 Republicans

23 Kingsley or Vereen

24 Ostrich's kin

25 Attack, Rover!

26 Candy purchase

27 Fish of puzzledom

28 Bottom line

29 What to fill 'er up with

31 Tibetan ox

34 Moose's cousin

35 Cager's tactic

37 Brooks of C&W

38 It rises to the top

39 Attitudinize

40 Island music-makers

41 Arizona city

42 Gymnast Korbut

43 Profound

44 Turns blue?

46 Chest protector

47 Corn serving

Yesterday's answer 4-20

CRYPTOQUIP

Q R M U F N N F L N I N Q F
E I O L Q I N F U I Z H F L Z B M
M Q I L N B H E M O R N F

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DEEP-THINKING
FIREFIGHTER MIGHT LIKE TO READ THE POEMS OF
A.E. HOSEMAN.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals H

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.