

Tennis draw on Dec 18

The draw for the tennis competition in the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games will be held on December 18, officials said here yesterday. reports BSS.

Khaleda Fauzia, Taslima Khatun and Raushin Kabir Mithu lead the Bangladesh challenge.



Speaking at a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday, secretary of the Games transport committee Major Imroz Ahmed said the transport service would be available from December 18 onward.

All the countries except Bhutan are taking part in the tournament beginning on December 20, tournament director Syed Wahid said. There will be seven golds at stake. The events are: men's and women's team events, men's and women's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles. India will field ranked players like Ramesh Krishnan, national runner-up Vasudevan Reddy. National champion Asif Jamil has not been included in the Indian team. Shovon Jamaly, Hira Lal, Faisal S Huq, Sk Moinuddin Jhelan, Nawaz Amin Rumon and Shamit Ahsan Rony will represent Bangladesh in men's group. In the women's group, Sharmin Siddique Sumi, Hosne Ara Begum Rina, Shathy Sarker, Yasmin Ahmed Urmi.

Div II cricket

A third-wicket partnership of 113 runs between Pavel and Babu led Mirpur Nabin Krira Chakra to a 47-run win over Eastern Sporting Club in one of the Second Division cricket league matches at the western strip of the DCS yesterday.

Mirpur batted first and scored 185 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated 40 overs. Pavel made 46 with four boundaries while Babu scored brilliant 62 runs hitting the ball across the rope eight times. The other notable scorer was Mithu with 17.

Chinu bagged three wickets giving away 32 runs while Reefat and Rana claimed two wickets each.

Eastern Sporting Club (Uttara) were bundled out for 138 in 32.5 overs.

Their opening couple Salmon and Alam contributed 97 runs but was of no use as the other batsmen batted indiscreetly to hasten their defeat.

Alam belted the balls over the fence for four times to collect 62 runs in 67 deliveries which also included five boundaries. Salmon made 34.

Runu snatched five Eastern wickets at a cost of only 16 runs.

Mantu and Faruque, bagging three and two wickets each, confirmed Nabin's easy win.

In the other match, held at the Dhanmondi Club Ground, Evergreen Cricket Club outplayed Bangladesh Boys by five wickets.

Bangladesh Boys batted first and were dismissed on 122 in 33.4 overs.

Fahim contributed 25 runs. He was followed by Kamrul with 22 and Zakir with 15. Extras came to 35.

Sujon backed four Boys' batsmen leaving 29 runs only.

Evergreen also collected 35 from extras.

Shamim gathered 24 runs while the other notable scorers were Andil with 19, Naimul and Asad both with 15.

Uzzal took three for 19 runs.

'Superbrat' still game

INGLEWOOD, California, Dec 11: John McEnroe will continue to practice and play exhibitions, just in case he decides to return to the men's tennis tour in 1994, reports AFP.

"I am keeping close enough to keep my options open for next year," McEnroe said here Friday before an exhibition match with Swede Mats Wilander.

"I basically don't plan on playing, but if suddenly it's like I've got to play then I am willing to do what it takes in my mind," McEnroe was ranked 20th in the world at the end of 1992, he did not play a competitive match this year, and he dropped out of the rankings in November.

The 34-year-old said how still had no regrets about his decision to stay of the court, though he admitted he thought about what might have been at this year's upset-strewn US Open.

"I saw guys I felt like I could beat right then in the semifinals," McEnroe said and (Cedric) Pioline was in the final, so you say, what is going on here?



Athletes being put through their paces in a training session for SAF Games at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Zimbabwe stay in saddle

RAWALPINDI, Dec 11: World cricket champions Pakistan were struggling on 40 runs for three wickets after beginning their second innings trailing Test novices Zimbabwe by nine runs on the third day of the second Test here Saturday, reports AFP.

The tourists' bowling trio of Eddo Brandes, Dave Brain and Heath Streak, eager to avenge the 131-run defeat in their first Test at Karachi, didn't allow the Pakistani openers to settle down.

Shoaib Mohammad was dismissed for 13 and Aamir Sohail made just nine runs.

Nightwatchman Aatur Rehman was declared out lbw for a duck.

Earlier resuming at their overnight score of 129 for four, Alistair Campbell and Mark Dekker batted with ease on the grassy pitch of the Rawalpindi Stadium, hitting 63 and 68 respectively.

Zimbabwe's total was 254 in reply to Pakistan's first innings score of 245.

In the post tea session, the

tourist's bowlers were able to swing the ball considerably.

"We are used to playing in such conditions," the beaming Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower said.

Zimbabwe, the youngest Test nation, are yet to win a Test match. Sunday is a rest day and Flower said the first session of play on Monday would be the "most crucial" in deciding the match.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the second cricket Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe on Saturday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 245 (Asif Mujtaba 54 not out, D Brain 4-41, Eddo Brandes 3-83).

ZIMBABWE: First innings (overnight 129 for four) G Flower c Inzamam b Akram 0

Dekker c Inzamam b Younis 68 Campbell lbw b Aatur Rehman 63

Houghton c Mujtaba b Ashfaq 5 A Flower c Akram b Younis 12

Whittall c Inzamam b Ashfaq 29

Streak c Inzamam b Younis 2

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes players like Younis, Rehman, Ali, Akram, Peall, Extras, Total, and Fall of wickets.

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SA-NZ tie washed out

ADELAIDE, Dec 11: The World Series limited-overs cricket match between South Africa and New Zealand was officially abandoned Saturday afternoon after heavy rain fell throughout the day, reports AP.

Both teams received one point for the match. South Africa now have three points from two matches in the triangular series, New Zealand have one point and Australia no points following their loss to South Africa in Melbourne on Thursday.

Australia face New Zealand in Adelaide on Sunday, weather permitting, and prolific opening batsman Matthew Hayden will play his first international match on home soil.

Hayden is set to come into the starting line-up, probably to replace vice-captain Mark Taylor, as part of Australia's policy

of rotating their side in the early bracket of the competition.

Australian coach Bob Simpson said the selectors had decided that Hayden would play, but were not certain whom he would replace.

"We want to give everyone a couple of games, but we're still deciding on a final line-up," Simpson said.

Hayden played three one-day internationals against England on the Ashes tour earlier this year but could not consolidate a place after scoring 29, 14 and four.

The 23-year-old left-hander has been in excellent form so far this summer and has 708 first-class to his name at a remarkable average of 118.00.

Off-spinner Tim May is still recovering from a hamstring strain and is unlikely to play, leaving a spot open for leg-spinner Shane Warne. South Africa will next play Australia in Sydney on Tuesday and captain

Kepler Wessels said the rainout could be a blessing after the busy schedule his team had in India last month.

"We had a very hard game on Thursday night and a few guys felt the pinch yesterday," Wessels said.

"It could be a blessing in disguise to ease the workload on a few guys."

"We would have liked to have played, but it may be of benefit for a few guys to rest."

TEAMS

Australia: Michael Slater, Matthew Hayden, Mark Taylor, Border (captain), Steve Waugh, Ian Healy, Paul Reffel, Shane Warne, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath.

New Zealand: Rod Latham, Bryan Young, Mark Greatbatch, Ken Rutherford (captain), Chris Harris, Chris Cairns, Shane Thomson, Tony Blain, Dipak Patel, Gavin Larsen, Danny Morrison, Chris Pringle.

Capriati in trouble

TAMPA, Florida, Dec 11: Teenage sensation Jennifer Capriati, whose meteoric rise to tennis stardom stalled this year, was issued a police citation after walking away from a kiosk with a 15-dollar ring on her finger, her agent said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The agent, Barbara Perry, denied television reports saying police arrested Capriati, a 17-year-old who was the youngest player ever to turn professional.

Because Capriati is 17, Tampa police said they could not discuss the incident, which occurred Thursday night.

Perry said the ninth ranked women's tennis player was wearing several rings when she stopped at a jewelry kiosk in a Tampa shopping mall.

Perry said Capriati inadvertently walked away with one of the rings from the booth still on her finger. The citation carries no civil or criminal penalties and requires no further action.

When stopped after she and her friends left the booth, she discovered that she was still wearing the ring and the ring was returned, Perry's statement said.

Capriati has tournament earnings of 357,108 dollars for the year with career tournament earnings of 11.49 million dollars. She has earned millions more from lucrative endorsement contracts with Diadora sportswear, Prince rackets and products such as Oil of Olay, Oatmeal, Rolex and Snapple.

A police citation is issued for misdemeanors and is a summons to appear in court, according to one experienced Florida lawyer. In such cases, juveniles often qualify for a pretrial programme that drops the charge and avoids a court appearance.

Capriati burst onto the tennis scene at age 14 in 1990 and was touted as the next Chris Evert.

An employee at the Tampa Bay Centre shopping mall told television station WFLA that he alerted security officers after he saw Capriati walk away from the kiosk with the ring.

"She was over there trying on rings. Both of them were trying on rings and there were a couple she did not take off."

"That's when I alerted security," Doug Fulton, a shopping mall employee, told the television station.

Becker hires Bollettieri's services

MUNICH, Germany, Dec 11: American tennis guru Nick Bollettieri has taken over as Boris Becker's coach Friday, reports AFP.

Becker, who has fallen from world number one to 11, said "Nick Bollettieri is one of the most experienced experts in tennis, with major merits."

"I am convinced that he will be instrumental in achieving the goals I have set for my tennis in 1994."

Bollettieri, who has been helping Becker recently at the American's Tennis Academy in Florida, said: "It is for me, a real honour to be able to team up with one of the very greatest in tennis."

Despite being knocked out of the first round of the Grand Slam Cup here by South Africa's Wayne Ferreira, Becker decided to carry on with Bollettieri after sacking Eric Jelen.

Jelen, who had only been in the job for six months, was his sixth coach in 10 years.

Bollettieri was Andre Agassi's coach until this summer.

Becker, who is to become a father next month, is due to play his next tournament in Marseille, France, from late January to early February.

Saudis come down to earth

RIYADH, Dec 11: The oil-rich Saudis, preparing for their first World Cup final appearance, have lots of hope and a new coach — but little chance of victory, reports AP.

The Saudi passion for soccer and their World Cup finals debut have unleashed a tremendous sense of hope in the country, which 50 years ago was one of the poorest in the world.

The discovery of oil wells — one-quarter of known reserves of the world lie under its deserts — transformed Saudi Arabia into one of the world's richest nations.

Now a soccer team has gushed to the surface and has the chance to make a name for itself at next year's tournament in the United States. Realism tells the Saudis they probably

will struggle. They qualified along with South Korea from the final Asian group played in Qatar in October, but squeezed in after a 4-3 victory over Iran.

The also had coaching troubles during the tournament. Mohammed Al-Kharrashi was rushed to Doha after Brazilian coach Jose Candido fell out with Saudi soccer officials when they insisted on replacing the goalkeeper.

Al-Kharrashi was only a stopgap coach and has been replaced by experienced Dutchman, Leo Beenhakker, who was in charge of the Netherlands' team at the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Under Candido, the Saudis relied on a South American style with flowing attacks from the wing and a strong accent on midfield play. Beenhakker is likely to add

some European steel in defence. Inspirational striker Mohammed Majed, 35, is known locally as the Pele of the Desert, while midfielder Saeed Owairan scored seven goals during qualification and Ahmed Madani impressed at the centre of defence.

But the Saudis' lack of World Cup experience has meant they will be in the group of six teams seeded as weakest. That guarantees they will face three theoretically stronger teams when the 24 finalists are grouped together.

The players can't wait to get to the competition but are bracing themselves for the possibility of being overwhelmed by the strongest teams in the world.

"I can't explain how good the feeling is," said striker Sami Al-Jaber. "But I hope that I have a similar feeling after the World Cup is over."

Blatter calls it 'unfair'

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Dec 11: Joseph Blatter criticised UEFA's new European Cup format on Friday, saying it was unfair to exclude small countries, reports AFP.

The FIFA secretary general believes the action by Europe's governing body is "undemocratic."

"This has bothered us a lot," Rly win big

Bangladesh Railway defeated Agran Bank by nine wickets in the Milners First Division cricket league at the Mirpur City Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Batting first, Agran Bank were booked for 111 runs in 43 overs with Intu top-scoring with 32. Rubel captured four wickets for his Railway giving 31 runs.

Bangladesh Railway, in reply, reached their target, scoring 114 runs, losing only the wicket of Tarek who made 21.

Shahir scored an unbeaten 51 while Rezaul hit 25.

H'ball results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars and Bangladesh Police won their respective Phoenix Insurance handball tournament matches at the handball court yesterday. Ansars trounced Anirban Sangsad 38-3.

The winners led the first half 22-0.

Badsha top scored for Ansars with ten. He was followed by Delwar and Akram who got eight and six goals respectively.

Kamal with two and Liton with one made a rather fanned reply to Ansars' onslaughts.

In another encounter, Police recorded an exciting 17-15 victory over Brothers Union.

In a keenly contested match Police led the first half 8-6.

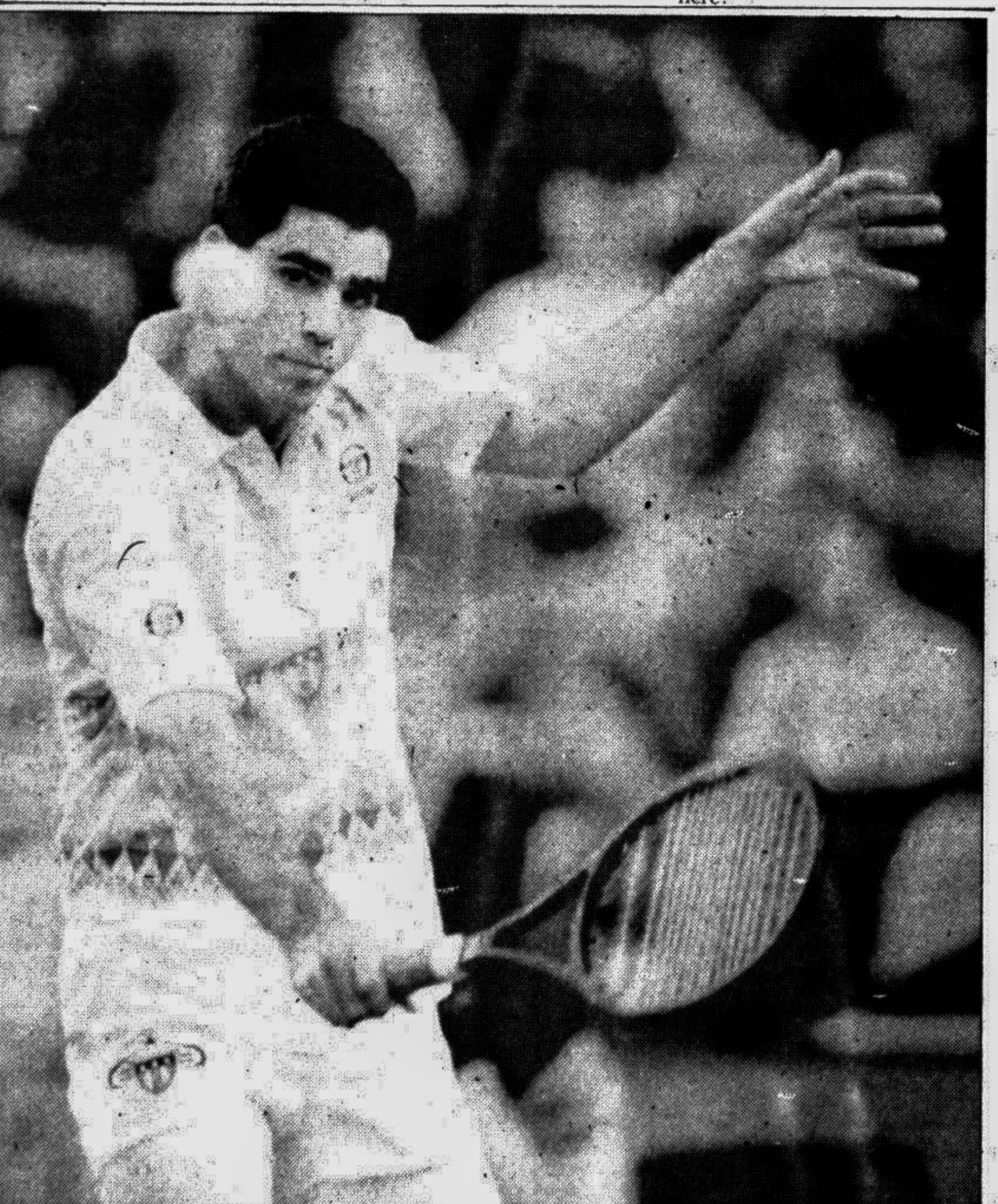
Nurul Islam netted eight times for Police while Helal of Brothers was on target for the same number of times to stand out as the prominent scorers of the game.

Golf results

Sports Reporter

India's Rajeev Mohta clinched the men's title of the eleventh Bangladesh Amateur golf championship with the best score in the final round played yesterday at the Kurmitola Golf Club.

In the women's section, Shri Lanka's Thubashini Selvaratnam was crowned the champion.



World number one Pete Sampras plays a backhand return to his compatriot Michael Chang during their quarter-final at the Grand Slam Cup in Munich on Dec 10. — AFP photo

Chang can't deny Sampras' due

MUNICH, Germany, Dec 11: Michael Chang made world number one Pete Sampras work hard for every cent of more than 900,000 dollars prize money in the all-American battle of the big earners at the Grand Slam Cup on Friday, reports Reuter.

Former French Open champion Chang put up a typically fighting performance before the Wimbledon champion clinched a 7-6, 6-3 victory. He will meet Czech Petr Korda in the semifinals today.

Korda booked his place in the last four with a 4-6, 6-0, 6-4 win over French Open champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain in Friday's second quarterfinal.

Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg will clash in the other semifinal.

Sampras, who has earned a 500,000 dollars appearance bonus for just turning up in Munich because he has won two Grand Slam titles this year, is still on course to cash in on one of the biggest paydays for one event in the history of sport.

If he wins the six million dollars Munich tournament, the US Open champion can walk away from Germany with 2.125 million dollars in his pocket.

While most people would go weak at the knees at the thought of such an enormous payday, the 22-year-old Sampras, who has spent more time on a golf course than a tennis court in the past fortnight, seemed remarkably relaxed at the prospect.

"It is just a little extra Christmas money," he said. "But I definitely wanted to play well here and try to end the year on a positive note."

"Regardless of what happened here, obviously it has been a great year. I didn't really prepare that well and didn't practise too much in the last couple of weeks. And here I am in the semi."

In stark contrast to his opening match against Austrian

Thomas Muster which looked like money for nothing, Sampras had to work hard for his cash on Friday.

Chang had a superb chance to take the initiative in the first set tiebreak when Sampras hit the ball out of the back of the court to give him a 7-6 lead.

But Sampras saved the set point and fired in a superb ace to set up his own set point at 8-6. The Wimbledon champion clinched the set after 51 minutes in the next exchange when Chang netted.

Chang was not discouraged and he broke in the opening game of the second set. But Sampras' strength is his ability to stay cool under pressure.

He immediately broke back and effectively sealed the match when he broke again to lead 5-3.

In this form the American should be too strong for the unseeded Korda today.

Cox's Bazar soccer

Soccer

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 11: Chittagong Kollol Sangha reached the final of the DC Gold Cup after overcoming Abdus Sobhan FC of Potia 3-2 in a tiebreaker.

The match ended in an exciting 1-1 draw after normal time. Cox's Bazar DSA play Chittagong Regency Sporting Club in the second semifinal tomorrow.

Case against 'Magic' dismissed

KALAMAZOO, Michigan, Dec 11: The lawsuit against former basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson accused of knowingly transmitting the AIDS virus, has been thrown out of court here Friday, reports AFP.

Waymer Moore, 32, sued Johnson in November 1992 for having a sexual relationship with her while knowing he was HIV positive. She demanded two million dollars in damages and interest.

Johnson admitted to having the relationship in June 1990, but made it clear he did not know he was infected till several weeks before he retired on November 7, 1991.

Judge Richard Enslin said: "The case is dismissed. The parties are going to get on with their lives. I'm sure Johnson is pleased the case is dismissed."