Wright right

on target

scored with the very last kick of

the game to give Arsenal a 1-0

win over Sheffield Wednesday in

an uncompromising English

Premier league match on Sun-

into injury time with the referee

blowing for full time before

Wednesday had a chance to

It was the England striker's

20th goal of the season, gave

Arsenal their first win for four

matches and ended Wednes-

day's 13-match unbeaten run

which stretched back to Octo-

The goal came seconds after.

Wednesday's Mark Bright

fluffed a chance at the other

end which would have given his

striking partnership with Bright

when they both played for Crys-

tal Palace, showed his old

teammate how to finish when

he slotted the ball home on the

run after a flick on by Alan

Smith eluded two Wednesday

It was Arsenal's fourth win

moved them up to fourth place

in the table, 15 points behind

Now women

boxers

teur Boxing International As-

sociation will allow women to

compete in the sport the or-

ganisation's president said

istan did not say when the de-

for the first time in public that

women are new allowed to

participate in Olympic-style

boxing providing it will be un-

der the strict patronage of the

international boxing body,"

He said the decision was an

offshoot of the opposite sex

clamor for equal opportunity."

attend a local boxing tourna-

Accolade for

Christie

LONDON, Dec 13: Linford

Christie, Olympic and world

athletics champion, won the

British sports personality of the

year award on Sunday, reports

Olympic gold medalist, won the

100 metres title at the World

Championships in Stuttgart in

who completed her own Oly-

mpic and World Championship

double in the women's 400

metres hurdles, was second in

the British Broadcasting Cor-

Mansell, Formula One motor-

racing world champion in 1992

and Indycar champion this

were named team of the year for

this year's British Open.

England's Rugby Union XII

41 Pearl, e.g.

42 Trifling

Last year's winner Nigel

poration (BBC) poll.

vear, was third.

ACROSS

1 Fluffy

21 Junior

creation

23 Roughly

26 It may be

30 Restrain

31 Help

32 U.S.

33 Signs

35 Den

36 Frigid

38 Doo-

37 "Gosh!"

a balloon

22 Taro

wraps

Teammate Sally Gunnell.

Christie, 1992 Barcelona

Reuter.

August.

Chowdhury was in Manila to

Chowdhury told reporters.

Anwar Chowdhury of Pak-

"We are happy to announce

Tuesday, reports AP.

cision would take effect.

MANILA, Dec13: The Ama-

leaders Manchester United.

Wright who formed a lethal

Wright scored 72 seconds

day, reports Reuter.

restart.

ber 2.

team victory.

defenders.

LONDON, Dec 13: Ian Wright

Lillehammer tickets sell

like hot cakes

OSLO, Dec 13: Lillehammer has set a Winter Olympic record in ticket sales with two months still to go before the start, organisers said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

About 1.13 million tickets, or 81 per cent of the total available, had been sold. No previous Winter Games had managed to fill arenas to close to capacity, they said.

Tickets were still available a Lillehammer for events including bobsleigh, ski jumping, freestyle skiing and super g.

Germans reign at Igls

IGLS, Austria, Dec 13: Germany showed its prowess in luge events Sunday, winning a men's doubles event and taking the first four spots in a women's single race at this fast course near Innsbruck, reports AP.

Stefan Krausse and Jan Behrendt topped the field in the men's doubles race, finishing 27/100ths ahead of an Italian pair, Hansjoerg Raffl and Norbert Huber.

Wilfried Huber and Kurt Brugger were third for Italy, ahead of another German pair, Steffen Skel and Steffen Woeller.

In the women's event, Austria's outstanding Neuner sisters, Angelika and Doris, who swept medals at the last Olympics, could manage only lifth and eighth respectively in the face of a strong challenge from their German rivals. Gabi Kohlisch took the race

in 1 minute 21.234 seconds, ahead of Jana Bode on 1:21.368, Susi Erdmann on 1:21.423 and Sylke Otto on 1:21.477.

The finishing times showed the Germans as strong contenders for medals in the Lillhammer Olympics in February.

Italy's Gerda Weissensteiner, who finished sixth, still tops the overall standings, with 50 points to Kohlisch's 46.

Santana not worth it

TOKYO, Dec 13: Japan gave up plans to sign former Brazil coach Tele Santana to train the national team because of scheduling conflicts and differences over contract money, the **Eyodo News Agency reported on** Saturday, reports Reuter.

A spokesman for the Japan Soccer Federation told Kyodo that Santana would be busy next year during the World Cup finals in the United States as a television commentator.

Th spokesman also said the federation refused Santana's demand that six trainers of his choice be hired together with him because of lack of funds.

Santana, manager of Sao Paulo, was in Tokyo for Sunday's Intercontinental Cup match between his club and AC Milan of Italy.

Hans Ooft, the Dutch coach who recently stepped down after Japan narrowly failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals. took over a local team — Jubilo Iwata - newly promoted to the J-League.

Ooft, 46, took control of the national team in March 1992 and led them to victory in the Asia Cup and the Asia-Africa Championship.

Korda stuns Stich, himself

victory over Stich in three

The Czech player, ranked

12th in the world, could hardly

move on the court because of

cramp in his legs at the end of

hours 47 minutes.



MUNICH, Germany, Dec 13: Petr Korda produced his second courageous five-set performance in 24 hours to pick up the biggest pay

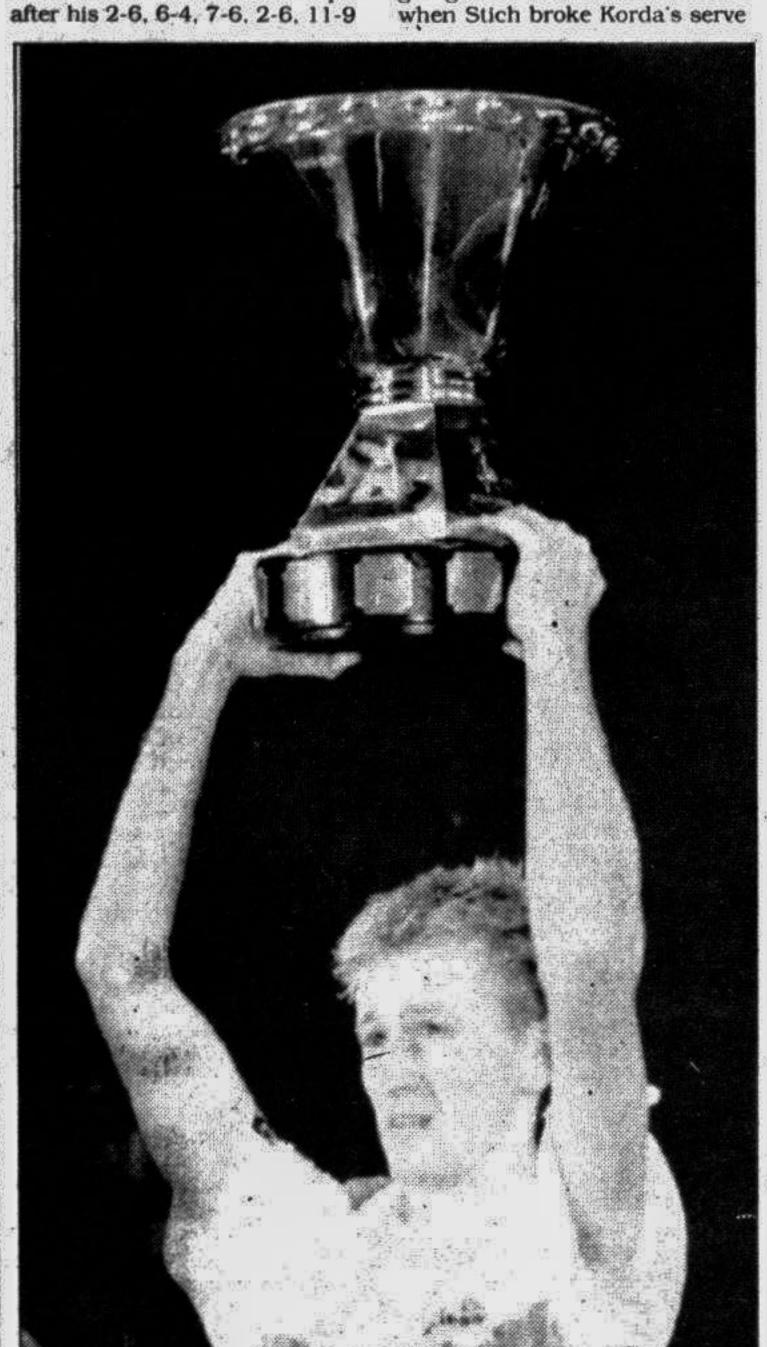
over Michael Stich in the Grand Slam Cup final on Sunday. reports Reuter. . Korda, who won a dramatic four-and-a-half hour semifinal against world number one Pete Sampras on Saturday, collected

a 1.625 million dollars cheque

packet of his career with victory

his marathon semifinal. But Korda showed remarkable nerve and stamina against the German world number two to pocket more money from one tournament than he has earned during the remainder of the

The final looked as if it was going to be a one-sided affair when Stich broke Korda's serve



Czech Petr Korda proudly holds up the Grand Slam trophy after defeating Germany's Michael Stich in a marathon final 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), 2-6, 11-9 in Munich on Dec 12.

- AFP photo

in the fourth game.

He hit a forehand passing shot to break again in the eighth game and take the opening set after just 26 min-

But once the stiffness had gone from his legs. Korda was Stich's equal as the match progressed and he, rather than the German, served with more confidence in the latter stages of an exciting fifth set.

points when Korda was 5-4 up. But there was no escape for him when Korda held another match point in the 20th game of the set. The unseeded Czech hit a brilliant backhand winner and then fell flat on the court, seemingly overwhelmed by his tri-

Stich had to save two match

umph. Both players had shown remarkable stamina in view of their recent heroics on court.

Stich was bidding for his third successive triumph on home soil within a month after winning the ATP World Championship finals in Frankfurt and leading Germany to their third Davis Cup victory in Duesseldorf last weekend.

Korda said after the Sampras match that he was not sure whether he would be fit enough to play Stich. But he relived the semifinal in his mind during the night and woke refreshed.

"I played tennis the whole night against Sampras and I felt okay in the morning," said Korda. "This is certainly the best week of my tennis career.

"My father always told me to be a good fighter and never give up and that is what I did."

Despite his defeat Stich, who for so long has been in the shadow of his more charismatic countryman Boris Becker, ends the year as the most likely man to challenge Sampras for the number one spot.

Becker, who went out of the tournament in the first round, was among the 11,000 Munich crowd who enjoyed the gripping

Stich said Korda had won because he played the big points well.

But the German was not disappointed. He had gone into the tournament feeling no pressure because he felt nobody expected him to win after so much success.

To reach the final on a fast court so soon after his Davis Cup triumph on clay was an achievement in itself.

"It has been a fantastic end of the year for me," Stich said. "I did not expect to be in the final and I am more than satisfied."

over Sheffield Wednesday this year, following victories in the League Cup final in April, the FA Cup final in May and the Premier league in August, and

ROME. Dec 13: Colombian Faustino Asprilla scored his first goal since September to help Parma on

the way to a 4-0 victory over Cagli-ari and a share of top spot with AC Milan in the Italian championship, reports Reuter. late in the first half following

carlo Zola. The European Cup Winners' perbly-struck free kick by Zola. The result left Parma tied on 21 points with champions Milan, who were beaten on Sunday by Brazil's Sao Paulo in the

Earlier, Juventus and Sampdoria both squandered the chance to join Milan at the top of the table.

to form.

Tokyo.

Gascoigne, playing his first

SAARC Chairperson and Chief Patron of the VI SAF Games Organising Committee Prime -PID photo

with a last-minute goal.

headed home.

Juventus had fallen behind

early in the second half to a Ju-

rgen Kohler own goal and soon

after equalising they trailed

again when Croat Alen Boksic

and Dennis Bergkamp together

with an own goal by Vladimir

Jugovic earned Internazionale a

ent form have recently placed

big doubts over the future of

Lack of fitness and indiffer-

3-0 win over Sampdoria.

Gascoigne's Italian career.

Goals from Sergio Battistini

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia receiving the Games emblem from the Committee Chairman Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at the International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday. (Story on page 1)

Asprilla finally finds net

Asprilla opened the scoring neat approach work by Gian-

Cup holders underlined their supremacy in the second half with two opportunist goals from Alessandro Melli and a suInter Continental Cup final in

Juventus slipped to a 3-1 defeat against Lazio for whom England midfielder Paul Gascoigne made an inspired return

league match since mid-October. wrapped up Lazio's victory

However, Gascoigne went a long way towards silencing his critics with a stylish performance which outshone even his opposite number, Roberto Bag-The first half finished goalless but the match burst into life after the interval when a shot from Giuseppe Signori cannoned off the legs off Kohler and into the net for a lucky own Juventus sacrificed safetyfirst defensive tactics and won a free-kick on the edge of the Lazio penalty area. Lazio goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani did well to push Baggio's effort on the crossbar but was helpless to prevent An-

drea Fortunato pushing the rebound into air open goal. Within four minutes Lazio regained the lead as Boksic outjumped the Juventus defence to head a Diego Fuser cross pow-

erfully into the roof of the net. Gascoigne capped a fine afternoon's work when, with only the goalkeeper to beat, he shot at Angelo Peruzzi's legs but made no mistake with the re-

bound. **Dutchman Ruud Gullit made** a poor start to his first match at the San Siro Stadium since

leaving AC Milan for Sampdoria. He completely miskicked the

ball in the opening minute of the match against Internazionale - a portent of what was to follow in a miserable 90 minutes for his side.

Sampdoria fell behind to a fifth minute header from sweeper Battistini, following an accurate cross from Uruguayan Ruben Sosa, and Jugovic added to Sampdoria's woes in the 30th minute, knocking the ball into his own net as he challenged Sosa.

Barcelona honeymoon over



MADRID, Dec 13: Deportivo La Coruna beat Tenerife 1-0 on Sunday to end Barcelona's

24-hour tenure at the top of the Spanish League. reports Reuter. Barcelona, the defending

champions, moved to the head of the traffic jam of teams at the top of the first division on Saturday when they won 4-0 at Valencia, but La Coruna dislodged them out of the way again when they won 1-0 at Tenerife.

With 15 matches played, La Coruna lead with 22 points, followed by Barcelona on 21. Sporting Gijon on 20 and Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao together on 19.

Gijon beat Real Sociedad 3-2 to move into third spot while Real Madrid slipped back to fourth after being held to a goalless draw 'at home by

Athletic Bilbao beat Atletico Madrid 3-2 with a stunning. last-minute goal from 19-yearold Julen Guerrero.

La Coruna won their match with a 66th minute strike from defender Alfredo Santaelena but the home side almost saved a point when Cesar Gomez hit the post in the dying minutes.

Sporting Gijon, who have never won the championship, maintained their challenge with their 3-2 win over Sociedad, despite falling behind to a 25th minute goal by Bosnian Meho

Croat striker Stanic equalised in the 44th minute. Juanele Castano made it 2-1 in the 62nd and two minutes later

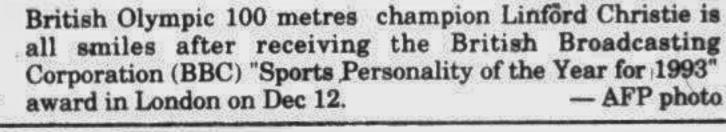
Oscar Celada wrapped up the points. Kodro added his and Sociedad's second with a penalty eight minutes from

Athletic Bilbao were also involved in a five-goal thriller and. as in the Sporting Gijon-Real Sociedad clash, the team who scored first lost.

Atletico Madrid went ahead through Jose Caminero after a 19th minute corner but Bilbao's Josu Urrutia equalised a minute later with a copycat

Madrid's Polish striker Roman Kosecki found the mark in the 51st minute and Ander Garitano gave his side their second equaliser in the 70th.

their victory over New Zealand Bilbao clinched the match at Twickenham last month. when Guerrero's 89th minute BBC overseas sports personality winner was Australian shot found the net via a post. golfer Greg Norman, winner of



24 Derelict

25 Sphere

all smiles after receiving the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) "Sports Personality of the Year for 1993" - AFP photo

Britain's first Asian athlete

by Prasanna Probyn

Gowry Retchakan is Britain's top Asian athlete. Originally from Shri Lanka, the 400 metres hurdler has risen steadily to become the British champion, ranking the fourth best woman athlete in Britain in any track and field event. Sports are a low priority for most Asian families. The tendency of Asian parents is to direct children into academia and the arts. Gerani News Service profiles the athlete who challenges the stereotype.



Amid rumours that the top Asian women's 400 metres hurdler, PT Usha, is returning to the sporting

arena, a lesser known athlete threatens to usurp the title. Gowry Retchakan, Britain's top Asian athlete, is only 78 seconds behind the famous Indian.

Since 1988, the 400 metres hurdler has risen steadily to become the British champion. ranking the fourth best woman athlete in Britain in any track and field event.

Retchakan is from a Shri Lankan family, but, runs for Britain. She believes support and recognition in her adopted country has helped her excel. At 33, she aims to beat her personal record of 54.63 seconds and will continue competing she physically feels the strain. She might at some stage attempt the steeplechase.

To rank among the top ten in the world is no mean achievement for an amateur with a regular nine-to-five job at the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) in London. She shudders at the thought that she might give up her job, wear out her body racing full-time and then not gain any significant success to have made it all worthwhile.

Retchakan proudly claims that she came into sport at a

time when the money was small and athletes competed for the thrill of it. She says: "When people like me, Sally Gunnell and Linford Christie came into the sport, there was no money

"We came for the love of it. Now youngsters come into it for different reasons. There is financial gain to be made from



GOWRY RETCHAKAN 'Media dictate who runs' the sport, and so it goes on into drugs and getting something

whatever the cost." She says that if sportsmen receive more money than women it is because the world is more familiar with the names of male sports personalities than women. The promoters are to blame for the imbalance.

Sportsmen receive more media exposure than their women

counterparts. Retchakan says: "The media dictate who runs in the meetings as it puts up their viewing figures. The athletes federation makes money from the meeting. although it would like to see more equality."

The slim, five feet two athlete trains six days a week and eats a moderate diet. She is married and has a son of six.

Retchakan was born in Britain and brought up in Shri Lanka. Her interest in sports began in Jaffna at the age of 13 as a 100 metres hurdler. She switched to 400 metres hurdles in 1988. Her mother was a runner and her father enjoyed sport. She stresses the importance of parental support at a young age: "You need even more support when you are doing badly than when you are doing

Sports are a low priority for most Asian families. The tendency of Asian parents to direct children into academia and the arts has left much potential untapped. Not even the lucrative prospects in present day sport have lured many. Sporting successes in Asia are many, but its influence among the masses

remains minimal. Retchakan did not get enough encouragement from her home country and she returned to Britain when she was

19. In her first season at 400 metres hurdles, she won the bronze medal in the English Women's Amateur Athletic Association (WAAA) championship, and represented England internationally.

She went on to win the WAAA title in 1990, 1991 and 1992, and in the later two years she was British champion. She first ran for Shri Lanka in the Asian Games in 1982.

So far, success in the major international championships has eluded her. In the 1991 World Championship and at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, she was knocked out in the semi-finals of the 400 metres hurdles. At the World Cup in Havana in 1992, representing Europe, she came a close second behind the world No 1. Sandra Farmer-Patrick of the United States.

Retchakan believes she is heading in the right direction. Her performance is becoming more and more focused.

She says: "I enjoy the races in retrospect. At the time of the race, it is stressful." - GEM-INI NEWS

About the Author: PRASANNA PROBYN grew up south India. She worked for three years as a secretary at Kuwait University before pursuing a career in journalism, and now has a master's degree in international Journalism from City University in London.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 23 Top-notch media hickey

3 Gospels'

follower

26 Greek 4 Visit Vail 5 Pectoral amount 5 Muscle 45 Vicinity consopouch nants 46 Very 8 Church power 27 Casso-6 Assess section close 7 Mighty 48 Right on 12 Defeat: wary's the map? Joe colloq. 28 Actor 49 Push Young, 13 Modern Beatty for one firmly music 29 Give it a 8 Orient 50 Where 14 Emulate Gretel shot (oneself 31 Irving or pushed 9 Horse-Justin Fisher the Witch play? Wilson 34 "The 10 Santa's 51 Opening 15 Last Name of 17 Plumbing laundry the Rose' problem 52 Reverenauthor 11 Heart 18 Super-35 Big rig 53 "South charts: man's 37 "- to the Pacific* abbr. insignia Church lack? 16 Academic 19 Run up on Time" 20 Tarzan's DOWN 38 Titans' offspring 20 Vulner-1 "- Suede Shoes" 21 Purity mother able back-22 Cushion 39 Aya-2 Artist's gammon tollah's pieces

Solution time: 27 mins. PEG JAB GLUM ACOG ETA ROTO CHER TOT EXAM 40 Vivacity 41 What KOREA PISA ACTKISSED BRASHER RICE AIM PLAN ADAMSBABETTE SETOUT NEROSCARE DOPY 47 Stylish, in

ZF

42 Broad WORKS." bean 43 Particular 44 Kelly or Autry 46 Nest-egg acct.

home

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CRYPTOQUIP

HZFUHQFF BUUCNWQJ CMN

ACZWA

UVNCMAV UVQ YCUZCWF. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLOCKMAKER, ORDER-ING LUNCH, MIGHT SUDDENLY SAY, "I WANT THE

YQNQHJ

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals M

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 puzzie. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.