### Nat'l sub junior chess from Jan 3

**Sports Reporter** 

The fourteenth national subjunior (under-16) chess competition '94 will begin from January 3 under the aegis of the Bangladesh, Chess Federation, according to press release issued in Dhaka yesterday.

Persons interested to take pag the meet are requested to enter their names by January 2 at the chess room of the National Sports Council.

### Nothing to hide

MELBOURNE, Dec 28: The majority of the world's professional tennis players, if not all. were clean of drug-taking, Tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard said here Friday, reports

Pollard said he doubted reported claims in a German newspaper by three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker that players were taking drugs and authorities were doing their best to conceal it.

"There is a regular drug testing programme on the tour which is not unlike the Olympics because it is an

Olympic sport," Pollard said. "It's random, it's regular but there is a confidentiality clause where we don't disclose who

was tested.". Becker was asked in the in terview to be published on Friday by the newspaper Frank furter Allgemeine Zeitung if players had failed tests.

"Yes. I don't mean necessarily anabolic substances, but co caine, amphetamines and mari tuana." he said.

"Why wouldn't there be doping in a sport with so much money at stake?"

The fact that, officially, no player has been positively tested for drugs is a "joke, Becker said.

"The question is whether the ATP can allow itself to register positive drugs lests because that would discredit the entire tennis world and the sponsors would disappear."

Pollard, whose organisation is finalising preparations for next month's Australian Open here, said drug testing in tennis was done at the random choice of tournament and then play-

He said he did not believe the Australian Open, which begins on January 17, had even been subject to drug testing in the past and he did not know if tests would be conducted during play the tournament next

# Top class

TOKYO, Dec 28: Three of the world's top five female players will compete in the dirs 750,000 Pan Pacific Open Tennis tournament in February, organisers said Friday, reports AP.

Along with German Steffi 'Graf, the world's top-ranked female player, American Martina Navratilova, No 3 in the world, and Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, No 5, will compete in the tournament at Tokyo Mctropolitan Gymnasium Feb 1-6.

Other competitors include Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic, No 6, Manuela Malceva Fragniere of Switzerland, No 11 and Kimiko Dae of Japan, No



A general view of the totally flooded La Magdelena sports stadium in Pamplona on Dec 26. Many regions in northern Spain have experienced a very wet Christmas, due to recent heavy - AFP photo rainfall.

# Indonesia had a great year



PARIS, Dec 28: World Champions Joko Suprianto and Susi Susanti made 1993 an - im pressive milestone for Indone

Not since 1980 had Indonesià won both world singles ti tles, but Suprianto's 15-5, 15-11 win over compatriot Herman Susanto, and Susanti's 7-11. 11-9, 11-3 success against South Korea's Bang Soo-Hyun

sian badminton, reports AFP,

ensured a national double. It was no surprise to team manager Leo Wiranata, who claimed: "As far as I'm concerned, six of our players could have won the world title.'

Holders of both singles titles at the Olympic Games and the prestigious All-England championships, Wiranata's players created a historic hattrick.

Europe had its moment of glory in England when Sweden's Jens Olsson came back from a set down to beat top seed Heryanto Arbi in the quarter-finals at Birmingham.

And the Danish/Swedish pairing of Thomas Lund and Catrine Bengtsson claimed the mixed doubles crown at the expense of Jon Holst-Christensen and Grete Mogensen.

But Indonesia, whose Ricky Subagja and Rudy Gunawan took the laurels in the men's doubles, proved themselves the top, nation - perhaps not surprisingly for a nation of 161 millions people where bad-

minton is the national sport. Nong Qunha and Zhou Lei brought some joy in their camp as they earned the women's doubles title at the expense of compatriots Chen Ying and Wu

Yihoing. The Chinese were not helped in their pursuit of world titles by the retirement of Zhao Jianhua, who decided not to defend his singles crown.

Just a week before the May 31-June 6 event, Chinese manager Wang Wenjiao announced Zhao had had enough of big-

time badminton. "Zhao is not suited to singles anymore because he lacks

stamina," Wang had said. In the women's event. China's World Cup winner and defending champion Tang Jiuhong failed to win China's sixth successive women's singles title.

Lim Xiaoqing, the Chinaborn Swede who topped the 1992 grand prix points table. had withdrawn earlier from the women's singles on the opening day of the championships to begin China's problems, Lim had a knee injury.

Later in the year. China were not able to re-establish themselves in the World Cup in New

In a romantic twist, Allan Budi Kusuma and Susi Susanti. the Olympic singles champions in-Barcelona in 1992, were crowned World Cup champions.

The pair, engaged a few months before their Olympic wins, won their finals in contrasting styles at the Indira. Gandhi indoor stadium. Kusuma, 27, ranked number

two in the world, wasted four

### More action less talk

LONDON, Dec 28: The English Soccer Players' Union has criticised an official decision not to charge Wimbledon striker John Fashanu with misconduct for the elbowing incident which nearly blinded Tottenham's Gary Mabutt last month, reports Reuter.

"We can't keep brushing this under the carpet. One of these days it will be too late, when someone has lost an eye or suffered brain damage," said Players' Union chief Gordon Taylor on Friday.

Taylor was speaking after a Football Association (FA) commission of inquiry decided earlier on Friday not to charge Fashanu over the incident in which Toftenham captain Mabutt suffered four fractures of the cheekbone and three fractures of the eye socket.

Fashanu's elbow caught Mabuft seven minutes into a Premier league game at Tottenham on November 24. Mabutt's eye socket was rebuilt in the operating theatre with surgeons inserting a metal plate.

match points before ousting top-seeded teammate Joko "Suprianto 15-8, 17-16 in a hard-fought men's singles final.

Susanti, 22, the reigning queen of women's badminton. showed her class by outwitting Swedish import Lim Xiaoqing 11-7, 11-5 to regain the title she first won in 1989.

The tournament was a successful campaign for Indonesia which saw the badminton superpower grab three of the five titles in the 160,000-dollar invitation event.

Indonesia's world champion pair of Raxy Mainaky and Ricky Subagja took the men's doubles title by defeating second-seeded Cheng Kang and Chen Hong Yong of China 15-9, 12-15, 15-

However, Indonesia were not able to wrest the prestigious Sudirman Cup team event from holders South Korea in Birmingham earlier in the year.

Chung So Young and Gil Young Ah spearheaded a remarkable fightback as the South Koreans clinched a dramatic 3-2 victory in the final against Indonesia.

The trophy looked to be going Indonesia's way when they trailed 2-1 and the All England women's doubles champions were one point away from losing to Lili Tampi and Finarssih in the fourth rubber.

But Chung and Gil, who had faced a similar situation in their semifinal with Denmark, then produced their second escape act in three days to level the match at 2-2.

And Olympic and world men's doubles winners Park Joo Bong and Kim Moon Soo, who came out of a nine-month retirement for this tournament, ensured Chung and Gil's hard work was not wasted with a 15-10, 15-6 drubbing of Ricky Subagja and Udy Gunawan in the crucial rubber.

Gil's achievement was all the more extraordinary since she was suffering from a strained Achilles tendon.

"That was the best match in the history of Korean badminton, because we were losing and then we beat them," admitted team manager Kim Hak

## 'Air' Jordan's retirement best

story of year NEW YORK, Dec 28: He isn't even playing basketball anymore, yet Michael Jordan dominated sports news in 1993 with three stories among the top nine in balloting in the United States for Associated Press Sports Story of the Year, reports

Jordan's stunning decision to retire as a player for the Chicago Bulls was judged the year's top story in nationwide balloting by US sports editors and broadcasters.

That story got 874 points in the voting, followed by the stabbing of Monica Seles (528) and the Toronto Blue Jays second straight World Series championship (369).

Each editor or broadcaster responding to the poll was asked to vote for the top 10 stories, ,which were awarded points on the basis of 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1.

The death of Cleveland Indians pitchers Tim Crews and Steve Olin in a boating accident during spring training was voted No. 4, followed by another Jordan-related story, the Bulls' third straight NBA championship.

Baseball realignment was sixth, followed by the Dallas Cowboy's Super Bowl championship, the aviation deaths of auto racing stars Davey Allison and Alan Kulwicki, the shooting death of Jordan's father, and Reggie Lewis death from a heart attack.

"I never wanted to leave when my skills started to diminish, because that's when I'd feel the foot in my back, pushing me out the door," the 30-year-old Jordan said when he announced his retirement on Oct.

"My skills are still good. I am not on the downside of my career ... This is the perfect time for me to walk away."

Jordan's appeal and recognition factor obviously was not limited to the United States. In earlier balloting of editors worldwide, outside North America, Jordan's unfolding saga was voted the top international sports story of the year, followed by Seles stabbing.

Of the top 10 stories, half involved death or violence of some kind, and only three stories (about the Bulls, Blue Jays and Cowboys) involved victorious performances on the field. Balloting was completed on

Dec. 17, too early to include stories about Fox television network outbidding CBS for its part of the National Football League contract. First world of the Fox bid came on Dec. 17.

### Nigeria need a coach

LAGOS, Dec28: Nigeria are looking for a coach to help current team selector Clemens Westerhoff in next year's World Cup finals, reports AFP.

National sports commission chairman Sylvanus Akinwunmi said: "We need a good coach so that we can take on the good teams in our qualifying group with confidence."

Akinwunmi said Westerhoff should be allowed to devote himself to more technical duties. Some newspapers and soccer officials have demanded that Westerhoff be sacked even though he guided Nigeria to the

Nigeria will be in the same qualifying group as Argentina. Greece and Bulgaria.

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# 'Kaisar' on a comeback trail



ny, Dec 28: Germany's favourite soccer son Franz Beckenbauer took over on Monday at Bayern Munich, the club he captained to three successive European Cup triumphs in the

MUNICH, Germa-

The way for the 'Kaiser' to try to restore the glory days was cleared by the resignation earlier in the day of Bayern Coach Erich Ribbeck. Beckenbauer, the only man

1970s, reports Reuter.

to win the World Cup as captain and coach, is expected to start his new job next week, but he may only stay until the end of the season, team sources said. It is believed Bayern's first

choice was Monaco's Arsene Wenger, although he turned the Germans down, the club is till though to be interested in him. Ribbeck told a news conference on Monday he had to take responsibility for the team's

poor performance in this season's UEFA Cup when they were surprisingly beaten in the second round by England's Norwich City. But he disputed any sugges-

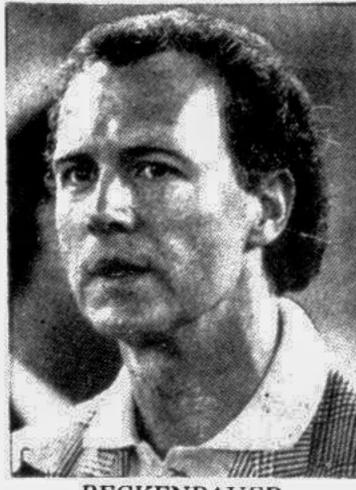
tion he was giving Beckenbauer a second-rate team. "I'm not handing over a team

of nobodies or a pile of rubble. as some people might think," he

"This is a complete team

that's up there at the top. Unfortunately, I must say clearly - and this may in the end be the reason why I'm leaving that it failed in the second round of the UEFA cup."

After a sticky period following the UEFA Cup disappoint-



BECKENBAUER

ment, Bayern did well enough to stand third as the German League went into its winter break.

Bayern have won the Bundesliga a record 12 times. But their last championship was in 1990.

For a club which once dominated Europe, their inability to secure a place in the Champions' Cup in recent seasons has

been immensely frustrating and the defeat by Norwich was a bitter blow.

As club vice-president, Beckenbauer will be aware of

the problems facing him, but his pedigree is unquestioned. As a player he won a record 103 caps for his country, captained West Germany to World

Cup victory in 1974 and to the European title two years earlier. In 1990 he coached the German team to their triumph in Italy.

At club level he steered Bayern Munich to three successive European Cup victories from 1974 to 1976 and won the World Club Cup, the European Cup Winners' Cup and eight domestic trophies.

He was West German footballer-of-the-year a record four times and twice European-footballer-of-the-year.

After his World Cup success in 1990, Beckenbauer had a spell with Marseille, Nominally as technical director but the arrangement only lasted a few months.

Ribbeck, who has had disagreements with several players and management, will receive around 295,000 dollars compensation and a bonus if Bay-

ern clinch the Bundesliga title. Bayern resume their Bundesliga campaign against VFB Stuttgart on February 2.

# Russians reveal dark secret



MONTREAL, Dec 28 A number of Russian players in the NHL have been forced to pay the Moscow unde-

rworld protection money for their families back home, Montreal La Presse reported. reports AP.

The newspaper said New Jersey Devils defenceman Viacheslav Fetisov, whose family lives in Moscow, was among those targeted by the "new Russian mafia." The La Presse report Thurs-

day, by columnist Rejean Tremblay, did not identify its sources.

The newspaper said some Russian players, such as Oleg Petrov of the Montreal Canadiens, fear the extortionists. Others, such as Alexei Yashin of the Ottawa Senators and Igor Larionov of the San Jose Sharks, have brought their families with them to North America.

In some cases, the story said, Russian players bound for the NHL have been forced to sign contracts acknowledging gangster - controlled Russians

living in North America as their agents.

Players who have refused to cooperate have been threatened with having their legs broken or having their families harmed, La Presse said.

The report quoted an unidentified Russian player as saying: "Russian players aren't safe anywhere in the world. The Russian mafia leaders are in league with the former directors of the Communist party. They have all the contacts and control all the channels." It also said the underworld

### Tragic

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador, Dec 28: Hundreds of mourners gathered on Monday for the funeral of Ecuadorean soccer international Carlos Munoz, killed in a car crash near Guayaquil in the early hours of Sunday. reports Reuter.

one of his country's most experienced players and a regular in the national team. He played in the Ecuador side which reached this year's Copa America semifinals.

transfer payments in hard currency for its players who sign with clubs in the NHL or in the richer western European leagues in Switzerland or Ger-An NHL spokesman said the

controls the Russian hockey

league, which receives large

league had no comment on the story. NHL Players Association director Bob Goodenow did not return calls to his office. The New York Times, citing an NHL executive who re-

quested anonymity, said in its Friday editions the league is aware of the situation and the Los Angeles Police Department is investigating at least one suspected case of intimidation. Gord Renwick, vice presiderit

Igor Kuperman, the Russianborn communications assistant for the Winnipeg Jets, said he knew of none of the Jets' half-

approached about making pay ments and none of the Jets players had ever mentioned it.

A player agent who asked not to be identified said he had checked out rumors last summer of underworld involvement with players in Moscow and had found nothing.

### Police sports

### Sports Reporter

Dhaka Metropolitan Police clinched the Bangladesh Police hockey championship '93 title when they beat Chittagong Range 2-0 in the final at the Rajarbagh Police Line ground yes-

Inspector general of police A S M Shahjahan later gave away the prizes as the chief guest.

# New South Africa is not yet ready to bat

After 30 years a South African cricket team is touring Australia. Its arrival has highlighted the legacy of apartheid. No blacks are yet ready to compete on the world stage and the team does not reflect the new multi-racial South Africa now being forged. It will still be a little time, reports Gemini News Service, before blacks bowl and bat overseas for their country in the "gentlemen's game" of cricket.



South Africa's first cricket tour to Australia in 30 vears has barely

te population is once again being reminded how dangerously late it has left the fashioning of a multi-racial society. No sooner had the republic's cricketers arrived Down Under than injuries took such a heavy toll that reinforcements had to be called up

begun, yet its whi-

from back home. Simultaneously, a Transvaal Invitation XI was giving England's Second team a game in an historic opening match in the township of Alexandria near Johannesburg, Included in the home side were two of the best prospects from the controversial township cricket programme. Alas, these lads are still too raw to be considered for the national team.

· It would have been a wonderful boost to hopes of forging a new South Africa had a couple of black teenagers been dispatched to the rescue. That, of course, is hoping for too much

Still, for many South Africans this is a welcome sign. Jus. as the international sporting boycott helped to breach the laager mentality of many whites, the resumption of sporting links has helped the country take its first tentative steps to end its isolation.

Whatever happens in Australia over the next two months. cricket is bringing a ray of hope and a sense of purpose to the most desperate of all domestic

ridicule.

To be fair to the sceptics. even Backer had his doubts

ruly, streetwise adolescents was the sort of challenge many a missionary zealot would have baulked at. But Bacher and his team managed to "convert" thousands.

and white extremists.

Bacher now admits. However his programme survived, largely because the teenagers wanted it

constituencies - the town-The initiative of Dr. All

Bacher, now managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, to introduce cricket to the embattled wasteland of Soweto and Alexandria in 1987, was greeted with either undisguised cynicism or plain

when he stood at the appointed bus terminal waiting for 1,000 children to turn up. "Ten minutes before time," he recalls, "there was not a soul in sight and I began to wonder. And then they came like a swarm of Even so, trying to instil the subtle idiosyncrasies of the gentlemen's game to such un-

It was not easy. Bacher received death threats and mountains of hate mail from black

What became known as "Ali's Cash and Carry" carried on, dispensing biscuits and oranges to hungry kids who absorbed the rudiments of this alien

"It was one tour too many,"

"Most kids in the townships don't have a father in the house," he says. "And they have

problems with money - all of which puts them at a disadvantage to white kids. That's why we had to push really hard but we gave them a purpose."

The results of Bacher's bully-

ing and cajoling, nurturing and

nursemaiding are now begin-

ning to bud - as England's A team has discovered. Of these unlikely converts, two are already thought to have Test match potential. Bowler Walter Masemola, 18, impressed on a tour of England with the South African Under-17 side. One of four children living in a two-bedroom flat with

his parents, against England A he took three wickets for 25 off nine lively overs and clean bowled Mark Lathwell who opened in the Tests against Australia last summer. If Masemola continues to progress, he could well be opening the bowling for South Africa in a couple of years and may not have to wait for the ranks to

become depleted. Captaining the Transvaal side was Geoffrey Toyana, a talented left- handed batsman who topscored for his side with 23 out of 78. Toyana, also 18, comes from a corner of Soweto where the cricket nets have to be protected by razor-wire to stop the carpet surfaces being "borrowed" for more conventional use.

Former South African Test

star and now Transvaal coach.

Eddie Barlow, says of the pair

They both have natural talent

and are probably first-class

cricketers in the making. I know

the world is waiting for South

Test cricketer, but we feel it would be unfair to put too much pressure on them." The townships are tough

have to be guarded round the clock while murders and political revenge killings still occur not a six-hit away. It is also not unknown for players to have to use their bats for self-defence. Even if they do not make it Masemola and Toyana will always be grateful for their time

in white flannels. Masemola

admits: "My mother didn't want

me to be a thief stealing stuff

from white men's houses so encouraged me to join the (cricket) The South Africans on tour in Australia have so far looked good in the field. They are determined, disciplined and expected to give their confident hosts a far tougher test than the hapless New Zealanders did

in the first half of the southern

But skipper Kepler Wessels and all-rounder Hansie Cronje may have to shoulder too much of the burden to worry the Australians. On the eve of the most important Test for 30 years. South Africa has been cruelly deprived of three key players and resources are thin. If only they had started their township programme earlier. - GEMINI

About the Author: BOB **HOLMES** is an Australia-based British freelance sportswriter. He is author of Match of My Life, a collection of great football matches.

NEWS

**ACROSS** Africa to produce its first black

schools - some of the facilities

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### of the International Hockey Federation, said federation president Jan-Ake Edvinsin had just returned from meetings with Russian hockey officials and didn't mention it. "I'd be surprised that if that Munoz, 20, a midfielder, was is rampant over there, he wouldn't have picked up on it,' Renwick said. dozen Russian players being forced to make such payments. He said he had never been



Inspector General of Police A S M Shahjahan giving away the prizes among the winners of the Bangladesh police hockey tournament '93 at the Rajarbagh Police Line ground

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# CRYPTOQUÍP

**AUCTIONEER CRIED "SOLED!"** 

OGP VLTPHZ MDNL

VTLPVTYGOPL,

LPOTLPZ GDBTPLM. BPEETHY Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER OUR HIGH BID FOR IMELDA MARCOS' BIG SHOE COLLECTION,

# Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals F

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.