The national Duplicate Bridge championship (team event) concluded at the Officers Club yesterday. Dhaka Club Blue won the national title. Twenty teams participated in the championship which was inaugurated by A Samad, president BBF on January 22, says a press release.

After two days of preliminary league, eight teams were taken to play a single tier robin league to select top four teams for the semifinal.

Dhaka Club Blue, Bangladesh Bank Club Red, Azimpur Red and Motifheel Colony Club qualified for semifinal. The league champion Dhaka Club Blue opted to select Motifheel Colony Club for the semifinal and won the match comfortably while Bangladesh Bank out played Azimpur CC Red in a forty board semifinal.

The eighty board final was played in four sessions of twenty boards over two days. The Bank team had an edge over Dhaka Club Blue in the form of carry over of 7.66 Imp as the Bank won their robin league match against Dhaka

The final was a very keenly contested and close one. Bank Red increased their margin to lead by 14 Imp after first 20 deals while Dhaka Club Blue collated 22 Imp in next twenty boards to take over the lead by eight Imp. In third session the lead again changed hands when Bank won the session by 16 Imp. In the last session Dhaka Club Blue however outplayed the Bank Red to collect 31 Imp and won the title by 23

Dhaka Club Blue was represented by A K Feroze Ahmed (captain) Air Cmdr M A Quddus, M/s. Rezaul Haque, Anwaruzzaman, Obaidullah Khan and M Waliul Haque while Bank team comprised M/s. Mazharul Haque (captain), Jahirul Haque, Shamsul Alam, Humayun Kabir and A Wahab.

N C Saha assisted by Naimul Hassan Tapu conducted the tournament while A B M Ahsanullah convenor of the tournament committee made all the arrangements.

Jabbar Memorial tennis

Sports Reporter

Thirty-six matches of the M A Jabbar Memorial tennis tournament were decided on the opening day at the Engineers' Club tennis court yesterday.

Earlier, the president of the Institute of Engineer's Bangladesh, and Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology M Shahjahan inaugurated the competition.

Ctg cricket

CHITTAGONG, Feb 4: Rising Star Club registered a sixwicket victory over Patharghata Durbar Ghosti in the inaugural match of the CJKP Ispahani cricket league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Patharghata Durbar batted first and scored 133 for six in the stipulated 40 overs.

Mahboob and Morshed scored 48 and 39 respectively for Durbar.

Rasel and Ullash of Rising claimed two wickets each while Subrata and Jamal got one apiece.

In reply, Rising scored 134 for the loss of four wickets in 33.4 overs with Ullash scoring 33. Shahid 31, Nafiz 21, and Istiak 13.

Ryadh, Dipak and Moin of Durbar claimed one wicket

Ten clubs are participating in the league.

SCEMRB sports

The annual sports competiwion of The Society for the Care and Education of the Mentally Retarded, Bangladesh (SCEMRB) was held at the Dhanmondi Club ground here yesterday, reports BSS.

About 100 mentally retarded boys and girls from 27 branches of SCEMRB took part in different events of the meet.

Director General of Social Services Department A T M Giasuddin witnessed the events as the chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners. The SCEMRB President and Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) D P Barua presided over the function.

SCEMRB general secretary Dr Giasuddin Molla and parents of the participating boys and girls were also present.

Leconte sends Becker packing

MARSEILLE, Feb 4: The flambouyant tennis of Frenehman Henri Leconte overwhelmed third-seeded Boris Becker in three sets in a second-round match at the ATP tournament here late Thursday, reports AFP.

Graf, Martina stay on course

Steffi Graf, playing closer to the et than usual. amateur player

crushed Canadian Jan Nejedly Friday in the quarterfinals of the dirs 750,000 Toray Pan Pacific

ports AP. Top-seeded Graf of Germany needed 42 minutes in beat Nejedly, ranked 307th in the world, 6-1, 6-1 on Tokyo Metropolitan Gym's artificial court.

Open tennis tournament, re-

Graf, basically a baseline player, began moving closer to the net in the fourth game of the second set.

"I tried to come in more than usual. Her backhand strokes were good but her weak point was service," said Graf, the world's top-ranked female tennis player.

Also advancing to the semifinals were second-seeded American Martina Navratilova. sixth-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland and Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands.

AFP adds: An outgoing star of the tennis court triumphed over a giant-killing newcomer when Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere beat Marketa Kochta to secure a semifinal berth.

The Bulgarian-born Swiss.

who is going to hang up her racket after playing in Osaka . next week, comprehensively beat the 1989 German junior

champion 6-4, 6-4. Kochta, 18, secured the biggest victory of her career Thursday, beating Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini, but could not add another top 10 scalp with Maleeva-Fragniere determined to quit on winning note.

"When I woke up this morning, I really wanted to get over this match. I rally wanted to win it, and I was already looking forward to tomorrow's match, especially with Martina (Navratilova)," said Maleeva-

"Because I've beaten her in the last few times we played and I'm playing well and I wish for a better and better finish."

Kochta displayed nimble footwork and hard ground strokes to keep things tight in a baseline battle for the first set, saving a total of seven break points.

But Maleeva-Fragniere. often effectively employing drop shots, finally unleashed an cross-court backhand service return to take the set.

The sixth seed served better in the second set but took a 4-2 lead thanks to a double fault by her opponent, who appeared tired in the sixth game and repeatedly mishit her

The German at once broke back to love to trail 3-4, but a forehand shot went long at 4-5. 15-40 to give the semifinal ticket to Maleeva-Fragniere. The 26-year-old Swiss said the key was "hitting the ball hard, even harder than here.

with less mistakes, not being

afraid to hit the ball hard and

not falling into a defensive game." In other action on the artificial indoor court at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium, Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands rallied to a 6-1, 6-4 win over veteran American servé-and-vollever Pam

Shriver. On Saturday, Boogert will take on either world number one Steffi Graf of Germany or Czech-born Canadian qualifier Jana Jehedly.

Defending champion Martina Navratilova gained the chance to avenge her loss to Maleeva-Fragniere at the Zurich Open final in October when she beat Larisa Neiland of Latvia 6-4, 6-4.

It was a repeat performance of last year's final against the Latvian for the veteran Czechborn American, who has also announced 1994 would be her last competitive season in the

Bruguera in Dubai Open qtrs

DUBAI, Feb 4: Top seed Sergi Bruguera struggled to find his rhythm before overcoming a tough challenge from Todd Woodbridge of Australia on Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the Dubai tennis Open, reports Reuter.

Sixth seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa staved off a late rally from another Australian. Mark Woodforde, to enter the last eight with a 6-2, 7-5 vic-

Woodbridge kept Bruguera on his toes early in the game but ran out of ideas in the tie breaker, which he lost 7-2.

In the second set, he made amends and played a powerful serve and volley game to frustrate the Spaniard but he swiftly lost the final set to give Bruguera a 7-6, 3-6, 6-1 vic-

Todd played a brilliant game in the second set. Bruguera said "I had a chance to take a 3-0 lead but somehow I could not hold on to the advantage of a service break and four break points."

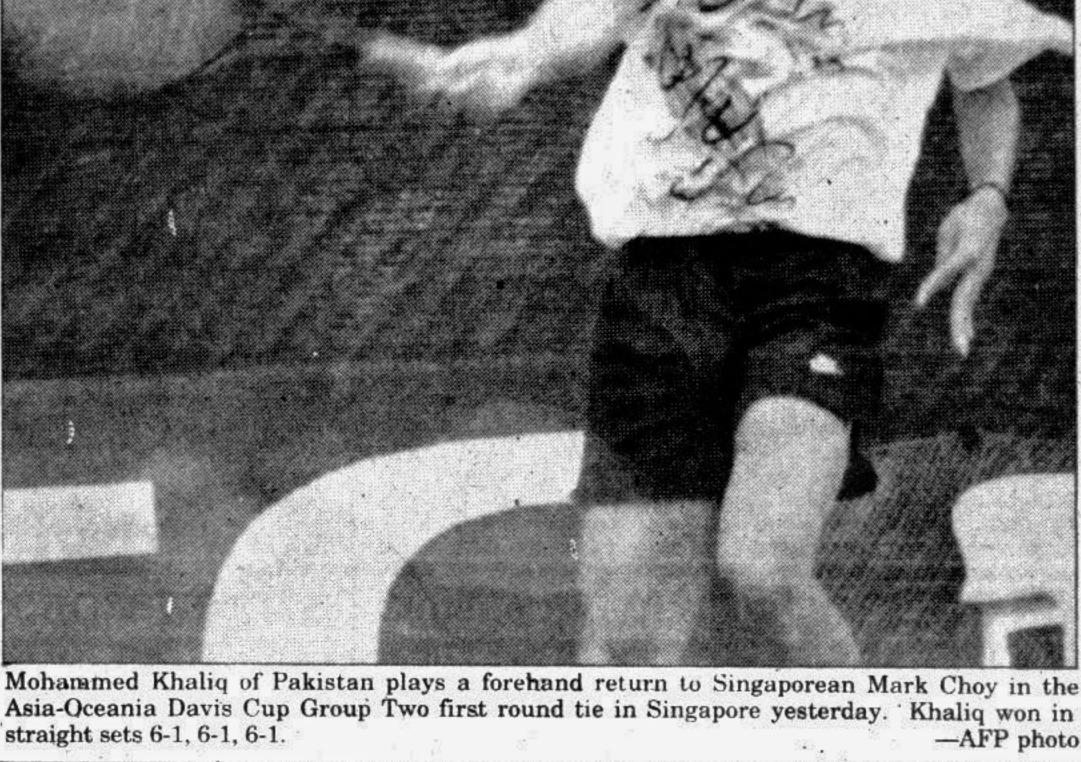
Bruguera at times broke into arguments with the umpire over disputed calls.

Defending champion Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic bowed out of the tournament. losing 7-5, 6-3 to Marc Goellner of Germany in the second round.

Novacek struggled throughout with his service and groundstrokes.

In the second set he tried to dominate at the net, but

- nothing went right for him.



Asia-Oceania Davis Cup Group Two first round tie in Singapore yesterday. 'Khaliq won in straight sets 6-1, 6-1, 6-1. -AFP photo

Record tumbles, hosts revel wed his superiority by winning



MADRAS, Feb 4: Jyothirmoy Sikdar of Railways shattered the 11year-old national mark of Geeta

Zutshi (Rlys) in winning the women's 1500 in grand style while Bahadur Prasad and Shiny Wilson took the spotlight despite coming close second on the opening day of the 33rd open National Athletic Championships here today. The day's honours went to the Railway athletes who won seven of the ten finals, reports PTI.

The presence of foreign athletes in the invitation meet held concurrently proved an inspiration for Indian athletes as expected. J Sikdar, the 24year-old Railway clerk, judged her race to a nicety in the presence of Austrian champion Erica Koning and Bettina Romar-Anderson (Denmark) sprinting away at the finish to clock 4.18.84 secs. Her effort improved upon Geeta's national record of 4.19.33 secs set in the 1982 Asian Games at

Bahadur Prasad, the Asian

5000m champion, was unfazed by the early pace set by Burundi's Venuste Nivogbao and Kenya's Vincent Malakwen in the 1500m. Venuste just managed to stave off Bahadur's challenge with a strong finish, timing 3.38.70 secs, but Bahadur (3.40.06 secs) bettered his own meet mark set in 1990 at Delhi. Shiny almost made up for a

slow first half in the 400-metre coming up with a scorching last 100 metres to almost pip favourite Pauline Davies (Bhamas) at the finish. Pauline timed 52.27 secs while Shiny was home at 52.41 secs, bettering the joint meet mark (52.9 secs) set in 1989 by her and PT Usha.

With a national record erased and two meet marks also bettered, the Indian athletes shared the limelight with their better-known foreign counterparts, here for the invitational meet held alongside.

China's Li Tong, the Asian high hurdles champion, shothe 110 hurdles with effortless ease, clocking 13.88 secs. Similarly top class was performance in javelin, where Dag Wennlung (Sweden) (77.02metre) and Gavin Lovegrove (New Zealand) 75.82-metre shone, pushing Sathir Singh (pol) to a fine 71.82-metre effort for overall third in winning the open event. Narsi Ram in 400 metres

and his Railway colleague. Chanderpat Singh, the national high jump champion, took their events in style while K K Geetha (Railways) and Sushla Behera (FCI) won the women's 100-metre hurdles and the javelin in two events where foreign presence was not there.

The let down was in the women's long jump, where Ukraine's Larissa Bereznaya. one of the world's best, failed to measure up to expectations despite winning at 6.34 metres. Tapasi Baur (Rlys), the National Games winner, was second overall but best among domestic participants with an effort of 5.86 metres.

Serbs not in war with Games



abbr.

abbr.

13 Eggs

15 "Sesame

woman:

BELGRADE. Feb 4: The Bosnian Serbs said on Thursday they planned to stage a mini Winter Olv-

mpics to mark the 10th anniversary of the Games held in Sarajevo, the city they are currently besieging, reports

Reuter. The Games will be held on Mount Jahorina just outside the Bosnian capital from February 13 to 19, said Ljubomir Zukovic, president of the Bosnian Serbs' National Olympic Committee, a body not recognised by the International Olympic Committee.

Olympic facilities on Jahorina have been kept intact as the area remains under many former Alpine skiing. bobsleing and luge venues on the wooded mountains Bristle with Serb artillery and tanks targeting Sarajevo below.

But most of the Olympic facilities in the city of Sarajevo. which has been under attack for nearly 22 months, have been destroyed by the Bosnian Serb gunners in the surrounding hills. Zukovic said invitations had

been sent to 25 national Olympic committees. IOC chairman Juan Antonio Samaranch

21 Do some-

23 Intimidate

25 Penpoints

reindeer

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radical

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patriarch

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till Alaska

35 Pon-

36 One of

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27 Cupid's

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24 Reed

had been asked to attend the games, which will be held at the same time as the official Bosnian Serb control, while Olympics in the Norwegian town of Lillehammer.

> "We are fully aware we will not have a lot of participants because we are still not recognised as a state," Zukovic told a news conference.

The Holiday Inn hotel in central Sarajevo is the only part of the previous Olympic infrastructure still functioning. / It accommodates foreign journalists covering the war and its restaurant still uses cutlery and crockery bearing the symbol of the 1984 Olympics.

Pakistan win

SINGAPORE, Feb 4: Pakistan won both of their singles matches against Singapore Friday in Davis Cup first-round reports AP.

competition at Bukit Course, Pakistan's Omer Rashid took advantage of tense play by Singapore's Adrian Lam to win 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 in the first sin-

gles match, which lasted nearly two hours. In the second match,

Pakistan's Muhammad Khaliq overwhelmed Mark Choy of Singapore 6-1, 6-1, 6-1. The match resumed after a

15-minute break due to heavy Five players each from

Pakistan and Singapore are taking part in the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II first-round tournament, which ends Sunday. · First day singles results:

Omer Rashid, Pakistan, def Adrian Lam, Singapore, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3.

Muhammad Khaliq, Pakistan, def Mark Choy, Singapore, 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

Ma's schedule

LONDON, Feb 4: China's elite women runhers will compete on the European Grand Prix circuit this year, starting with the Stockholm meeting on July 12, reports Reuter.

Ma Junren, coach to Wang Junxia and Qu Junxia who rewrote the record books last year, says he hopes to make 1,000,000 US dollars in prize and 'appearance money in Europe to help finance his team's training camp.

Ma's athletes train both at their home camp at Shenyang in the Northern Province of Liaoning and also at the high altitude training centre near Kunming in Yunnan province.

A provisional list of events for Ma's athletes starts with the London marathon on April Race director David Bedford

is keen to attract Wang, the

world cup champion, but may have to settle for one of Ma's other athletes. A 10-km road race is scheduled for the same day in Jakarta, worth 500,000 US

dollars to the winner if she breaks the world best for the distance. The current mark of 30 minutes 38 seconds, held by

Briton Liz McColgan, is more than a minute slower than Wang's best time on the track. The London race, by contrast, pays a maximum of

150,000 US dollars if the world record falls. . After a two-month break, Ma's athletes return to Europe

for the Stockholm Grand Prix, followed by the Oslo Golden Four meeting 10 days later. Ma then plans to bring his team to the remaining three

Golden Four meetings in Zurich on August 17, Brussels two days later and Berlin on August 30. He also plans to attend the

Cologne Grand Prix on August 21, the Grand Prix final in Paris on September 3 before finishing the season with the World Cup in London from September 8-10.

The volatile Ma threatened to resign last month, claiming Beijing reneged on 152,000 US dollars in subsidies, forcing him to cancel winter altitude training and added that unnamed enemies had conspired to undermine his success and reputation.

South African. AUCKLAND, Feb Gorrochategui, ranked 60th 4: Argen-tinian in the world, kept Price movdeuce points before the fourth seed lnes



Gor-rochategui overcame a pain-

ful neck injury to win her 100,000 US dollars Amway Classic women's tennis quarterfinal 6-3, 6-3 over Tessa Price here Friday.

defeated Kochta 6-4, 6-4.

reports AFP. The 20-year-old, who had her serve affected by a strained neck muscle, played intelligently to cover up her handi-

cap against the tenacious

Ines overcomes injury, Price

Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere plays a backhand return to

Marketa Kochta of Germany in their quarter-final match of

the Toray Pan-Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday. Manuela

Germany's Marketa Kochta plays a forehand return to

Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina in their second round match

of the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Feb 3 Kochta

- AFP photo

defeated Sabatini 7-6 (8/6), 7-5.

ing around the court throughout the match, imparting a lot of top-spin in the bulk of her strokes.

She suffered the injury while playing in a doubles match Thursday when she tripped and hit her head on the floor.

Gorrochategui made a significant breakthrough to wear down the South African's resis tance in the fifth game of the

The pair played out 10 Argentinian finally broke her opponent's serve. "It was very important at

that 'stage of the game," she The psychological edge gave her extra impetus. "Tessa was tentative at the

net when I moved her around

and after that it worked for

in another quarterfinal, which had a delayed start because of intermittent showers early in the afternoon, the tournament's second seed Patricia Hy of Canada. shrugged off early lethargy to power home against American Joelene Watanabe in three

Hy found herself up against an opponent willing to stay at the baseline and play a slugger's game.

Watanabe took the first set 6-4 but then Hy's first serve heated up and combined with her greater variety of strokes. she comfortably won the next wo sets 6-0, 6-1.

Third seeded American Ginger Helgeson was another to cruise home in her quarterfinal over Germany's Voronika Mrtinek 6-1, 6-1. In doing so Helgeson, 25.

secured her first tournament

semifinal appearance. Her game, she said, was starting to come together at the right time as she lifted a notch from her second-round performance and began to string together her first

"It was almost flawless out there. Helgeson's win pits her against Hy, her best friend on

the circuit for the first time.

"It is a bit weird. There were a couple of times when we were supposed to play each other but once Patricia got sick and the other time she lost along the way." Helgeson "But we do hang out a lot

together and we're both going to each other's weddings late this year.*

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 32 "Okla-1 Passbook homa! 5 Service-33 Uppity

34 "- favor,

8 Leaders señor* 35 Proscription 36 Mythical tary educaninesome tion?

37 Shield 40 Hall's rival 2 Othello 41 Highway was one lane 14 Cautious divider

Trebek Street* 47 Marceau monster 16 Server character interfer-49 In neutral 50 Italian ence bread?

pany to the airport 20 Worms, often 22 Seer's

17 "- sow.

18 Accom-

sighting 26 Cagney's partner 29 Museum stuff 30 Kyoto

cummerbund 31 "Diary of — House-

and two together 53 Smaller 54 Zilch 55 Swag

DOWN 26 European 1 lowa city 2 Nat or Natalie 3 Arrive 4 Paraded

5 "The Right 28 Yule choir 32 Reign of Stuff" author 6 "Hail!" 7 Singer with 33 Old timer?

45 Emcee a good seat? 8 Expect 9 Rampart parts 10 Turn on

38 Largest 51 Tray works 11 Go blonde 39 Drive contents 52 Puts two 19 Saute 42 "Oliver!" Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-24

the water-

song, "-Anything" PREP CHIPS
SOILS HELENA 43 Late-show actor Ray 44 Nut-PUBLICADDRESS ARELLOOSELATE PSAND SATYR 45 The PECS ALLY
OAR MADAM SHE whole PRIVATEMATTER SPIRAL NORMA TOILE AGES LEE CAW

cracker's suite? shebang 46 Prevarication 48 "- on

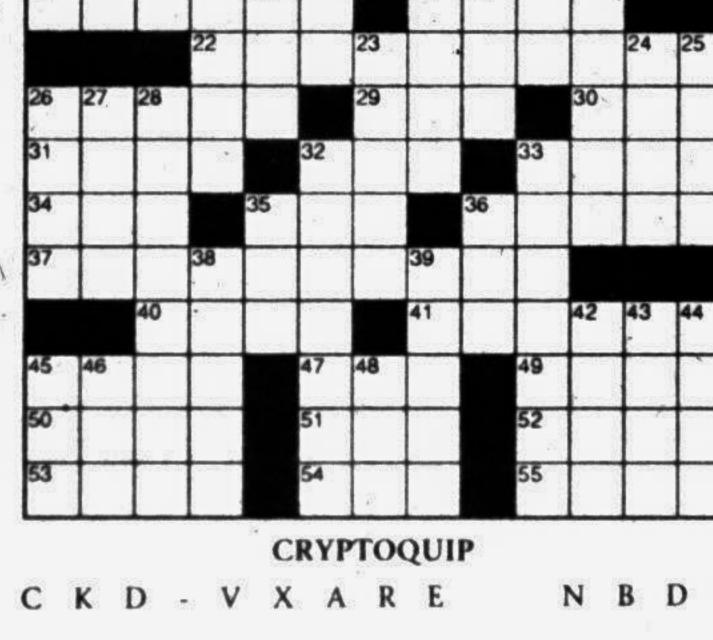
BZN

CBR

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.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DEDICATED PAPER-DOLL ENTHUSIAST KNOWS THAT SHE HAS HER WORK CUT OUT FOR HER. Today's Cryptoquip clue: G equals L

NGZLLRI.



RPRJ NXGRNQXJ

OXPR KXIQ OZIGVIZRJE

parle français"