

Sport

Div I b'ball

Sports Reporter
Eagles Club and Fleet Club recorded wins in their respective matches in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter
Cantonian Sporting Club recorded a squeaky 12-run victory over Shantinagar A in yesterday's lone Second Division cricket league fixture at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

BTC beat American Express
Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC) beat American Express by three wickets in a friendly cricket match at the BTC ground yesterday, reports BSS.

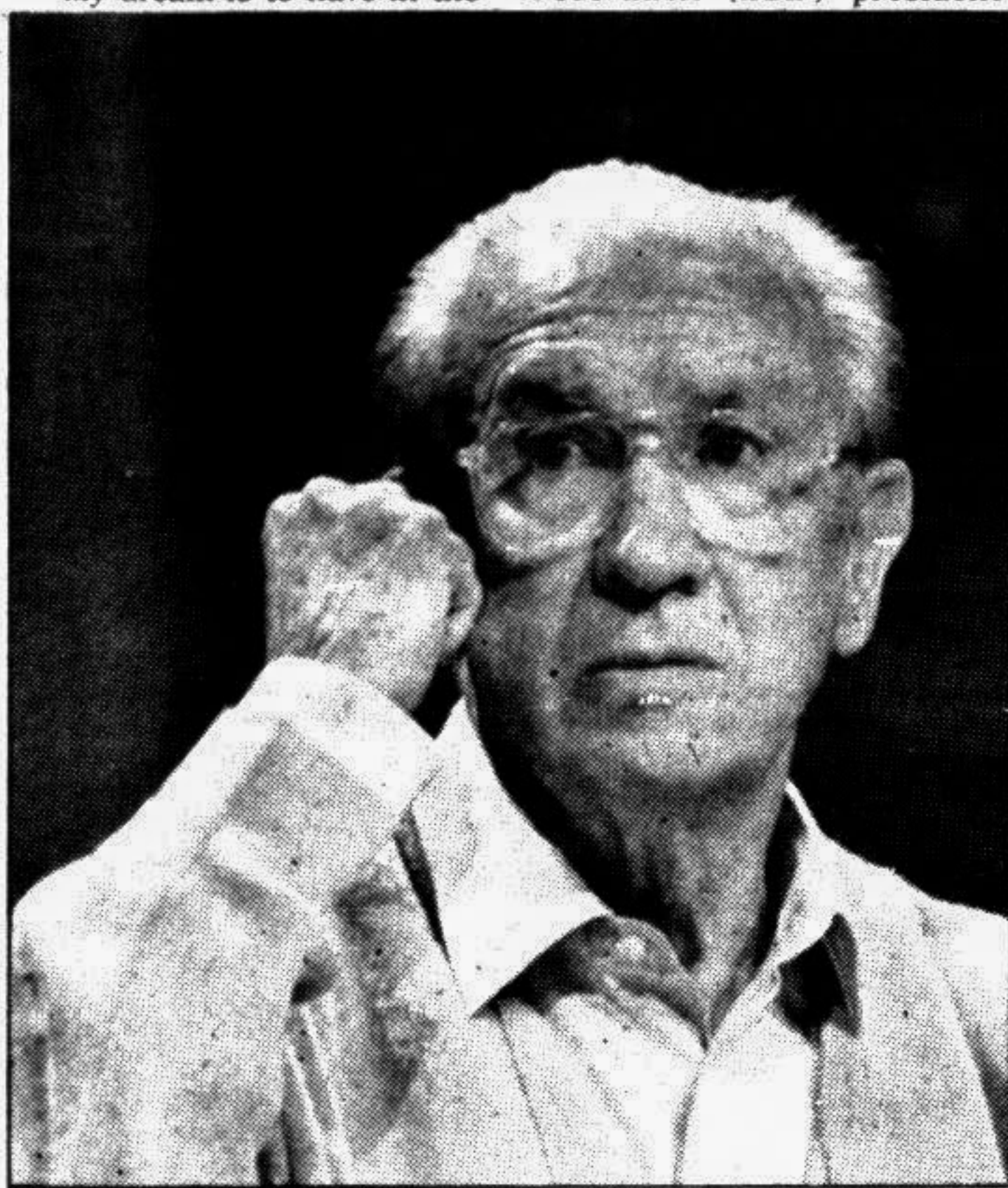
Mahub, Julekha Druti TT champs
Mahub and Julekha became champions in boys' singles and women's singles respectively in the Druti Paribahan sixth mariner youths tennis tournament at the Dhanmondi wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Most romantic Englishman
LONDON, Feb 11: A football fan who proposed to his girlfriend by popping the question on a scoreboard at a soccer match was named Britain's most romantic man on Friday, reports Reuter.

US figure skater Nancy Kerrigan smiles before the training session at the Hamer Olympic Amphitheatre yesterday. It was her first training after she arrived in Lillehammer on Feb 10.

Samaranch pledges reforms

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 11: Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch, stung by persistent Norwegian criticism of lack of democracy in his organisation, said today reforms of the International Olympic Committee would go ahead this year, reports Reuter.



IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch speaks at a press conference in Lillehammer yesterday. He said that he is prepared to rule on whether US skater Tonya Harding should compete at the Games.

IOC undemocratic, inept?

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 11: The International Olympic Committee came under attack on two fronts here Thursday as the president of the Lillehammer Organizing Committee (LOC) joined ski hero Vegard Ulvang in calling the organisation undemocratic, reports AFP.

IOC, but by the end of the day the world body and the organisers were vying to outdo each other with compliments. Vegard Ulvang, the Norwegian Nordic skiing star who had made his own controversial remarks about the IOC, met president Juan Antonio Samaranch to discuss his views.

The organisers, grappling with a second embarrassment, said the show would go on despite Fijdestoel's fall which amply demonstrated the perils of the ski jump stunt. "The lack of democracy and the way people are elected (to the IOC) is unworthy," Heiberg told the Norwegian financial daily Dagens Naeringsliv.

First casualty of Games

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 11: Lillehammer made its peace with the IOC on Thursday but watched aghast as ski jumper Ole Gunnar Fidjestoel tumbled out of Saturday's Winter Olympics opening ceremony, reports Reuter.

IOC director Francois Carrard later denied the organisation had demanded Ulvang was dropped in the world football body FIFA forced Pele out of the World Cup draw in December.

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SA to play in Indra Gandhi hockey tourney

NEW DELHI, Feb 11: South Africa's hockey team are to visit India for the first time to play in the Indra Gandhi Gold Cup men's tournament, an Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) official said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

South Africa are among the five foreign teams competing in India's only international hockey tournament for men which is being staged in Lucknow from February 27-March 5.

Last year's tournament was postponed in January because of Hindu-Muslim violence, then rescheduled for Bombay in October, and finally scrapped after the region was rocked by a massive earthquake which killed several thousand people.

Bobin no more

PARIS, Feb 11: Robert Bobin, France's member of the International Amateur Athletic Federation executive council, died on Friday aged 73, the French Athletics Federation announced, reports AFP.

Bobin died at his home in the Paris region after a long illness, an AFP statement said. Bobin was a former French triple jump champion and represented France at the London Olympics in 1948.

Parreira won't use 3 strikers

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 11: The manager of the Brazilian national soccer squad said he will not start three strikers on the teams front line because he believes it is an outdated strategy, a newspaper reported Thursday, reports AP.

Carlos Alberto Parreira, quoted in the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper, said he would not be influenced by "lobbying" efforts by Barcelona striker Romario and by FIFA president Joao Havelange, a Brazilian, to start Romario with La Coruna's Beбето and Palmeiras striker Edmundo.

Huber in Linz Indoor qtrs

LINZ, Austria, Feb 11: Top-seeded Anke Huber advanced Thursday to the quarterfinals of the Linz Indoor women's tennis tournament with a 6-3, 6-2 defeat of fellow German Christina Singer, reports AP.

Jelena Makarova of Russia crushed the tournament organizers' dream of an all-Austrian quarterfinal match by defeating Beate Reinstadler, 6-4, 6-3. "I just couldn't get into the game," said Reinstadler. "I was out of sync."



Kids play with a mock polar bear in Lillehammer's main street as the host city of the XVII Winter Olympic Games prepares for the opening ceremony today.

Courier cruises to qtrs

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb 11: Top seed and defending champion Jim Courier on Thursday rolled into the quarter-finals of the 675,000 dollars St Jude International indoor tennis tournament on a day that saw three high seeds fall, reports Reuter.

and 11th seed Patrick McEnroe dumped fifth-seeded Russian Andrei Chesnokov 6-3, 6-3.

It is also harder for him to go out and play after the match point," said the 19-year-old Enqvist.

Courier defeated hometown favourite Dave Randall 6-3, 6-3, while second-seeded fellow American Todd Martin, the Australian open runner-up, needed six match points to squeak past Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 7-5, 7-5.

Enqvist survived a match point at 5-6 on his serve in the second set before pulling out the second set tie-break 7-3 and dominating the third set.

McEnroe, whose ranking is up to 47th from 71st at the end of 1993, recorded his first career win over Chesnokov with aggressive baseline play.

But the third, fourth and fifth seeds were all sent packing in third round action.

Karsten Braasch of Germany, seeded 13th, ousted ailing third seed Michael Chang 6-4, 6-3 14th-seeded Thomas Enqvist of Sweden toppled fourth-seeded American Maitvai Washington 6-7, 7-6, 6-1.

Two years ago I was working very hard on my physical training and put aside what tennis is about," said McEnroe.

Tyson loses faith in lawyers

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb 11: Former heavyweight champ Mike Tyson has lost faith in the legal system and now spends his prison time reading and studying in hopes that an education will win him early release, reports AP.

Two years after he was convicted of raping a beauty pageant contestant in a hotel room in Indiana in 1991, Tyson attorney Alan Dershowitz has won a round in court.

Slavens said Tyson isn't looking for special treatment. "We're trying to treat him like any other offender, and he's trying to be like any other offender," Slavens said.

Even if Judge Patricia Gifford of Marion County Superior Court sides with the defence and a new trial is ordered, Tyson will be just 11 months short of his May 1995 release from the Indiana Youth Centre.

Friends say Tyson spends most of his day at the prison west of Indianapolis either in class or studying. His nights are his own, and he spends them studying, working out or making collect calls to friends.

Slavens said Tyson isn't looking for special treatment. "We're trying to treat him like any other offender, and he's trying to be like any other offender," Slavens said.

He's been very discouraged about what has gone on," said the Rev. Charles Williams, one of Tyson's close friends. "I don't think he's staking anything on (the June hearing)."

Williams said Tyson is very interested in history, and reads works by W E B DuBois, Frederick Douglass and Malcolm X. He also has become interested in philosophy, and has read Socrates and Plato, said another friend, Muhammad Siddeeq.

Slavens said Tyson isn't looking for special treatment. "We're trying to treat him like any other offender, and he's trying to be like any other offender," Slavens said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP
KAOK PUN VRRL NOM
MR ARIICZ, LPRNQ
UZWUOVQU DICKCDM
NIRKU CK RYY
Yesterday's Cryptquip: STAR OF CREEPY HORROR FILM, "THE MUMMY'S CURSE," WAS ALL WRAPPED UP IN HIMSELF.