

Nirman cricket Dhanmondi Govt, Scholastica in final

Sports Reporter
Dhanmondi Govt High School and Scholastica moved into the final of the 12th Nirman Schools cricket championship for Dhaka zone winning their respective semi-finals at two different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Dhanmondi Govt High School recorded a facile 84-run win over Udayan Bidalay to ensure a passage to the finale.

Sent into bat, Dhanmondi were all out for 219 in 34.5 overs.

Sundries deposited the highest contribution 45 while Munna and Sumon contributed 33 each followed by Arju (27), Dipu (23) and Anjan (18).

Prince, the most successful Udayan bowler, claimed three wickets for 21 runs while Moin and Shanto took two wickets apiece.

Chasing 220 for victory Udayan were capitulated for 135 runs in 31.3 overs after being strongly placed at 76 for two in 14 overs.

Tanvir, who dazzled with the ball had did most of the damage claiming five wickets for only 12 runs. He was well assisted by teammate Shaon who took two for 26.

The notable scorers for Udayan were Raihan (31), Khadim (20) and Asad (18 not out) while extras amounted 35.

In the other match of the day, Scholastica earned a 57-run victory over Govt Laboratory School on the western strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Batting first, Scholastica scored 157 for seven in the allotted 35 overs and then went on the skittle Govt Laboratory out for 100 with more than two overs to spare.

Yasir, the most successful Scholastica batsman, hammered 59 followed by Rubaiyat who contributed 20.

In the Govt Laboratory innings, three batsmen — Jony (22), Faruque (24) and Rumi (12) made it to the double digit.

Mahtab took four wickets for 21 runs for the winners while Samir and Junaed bagged two wickets each.

The final between Dhanmondi Govt School and Scholastica will be held at the Dhanmondi Club ground on Wednesday.

The losing semifinalists Udayan Bidalay and Govt Laboratory School qualified for the final round by virtue of having booked berths in the last four form Dhaka zone.

The final round of the championship comprising 23 district zonal school finalists and the four semifinalists from Dhaka zone will be held sometime in April.

Colts' cricket final round from today

Sports Reporter

The final phase of the 18th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship comprising nine teams divided into two groups will begin in the capital today.

Salman F Rahman, vice chairman of BEXIMCO, the sponsor of the competition, will inaugurate the meet at the Dhaka Stadium at 9 am.

The teams — Chittagong, Jessore, Dinajpur and Dhaka will play in group 'A' while Sylhet, Satkhira, Rajshahi, Comilla and BKSP in group 'B'.

Four matches will be held on the opening day.

Comilla will face Rajshahi at the Dhaka Stadium, BKSP will take on Sylhet at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (East), Dhaka meet Dinajpur at the Pallabi City Club ground while Chittagong will play Jessore in the other match of the day at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Orange Free State all out for 264

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Feb 28: Orange Free State were all out for 264 in their first innings in reply to Australia's 450 for eight declared at the close of the second day of their four-day cricket match at Springbok Park on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Scores:
Australia 1st innings: 450/8 declared (M Waugh 154, S Waugh 102, M Slater 65).

Orange Free State 1st innings: 264 (L Wilkingson 53, M Arthur 51; T May 5/98).

Old Ideals Tokai h'ball

Sports Reporter

The Old Ideals Tokai handball competition '94 under the auspices of Bangladesh Handball Players Welfare Association will commence on March 5.

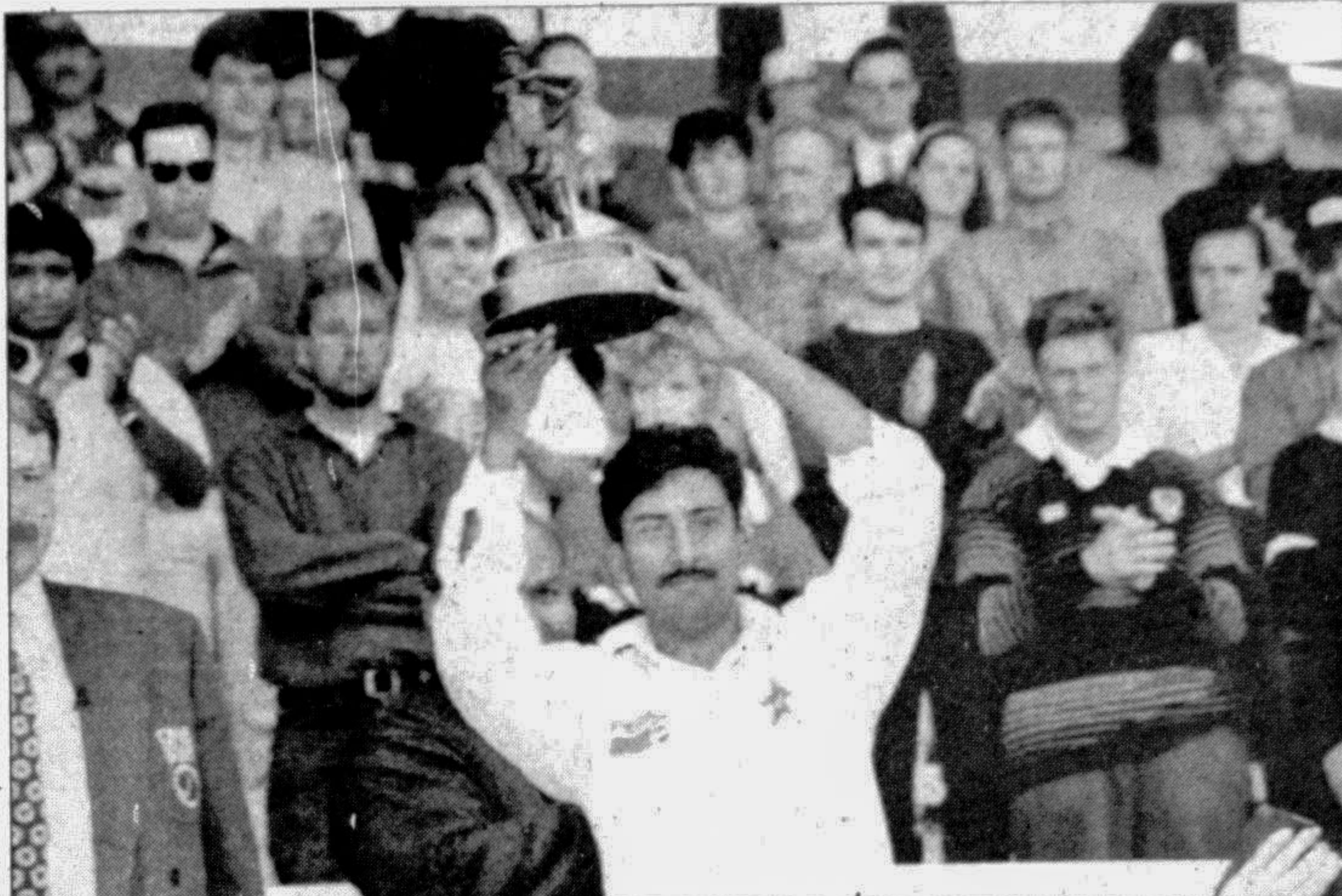
Interested times are requested to file their entry within March 3 at the Handball Federation office.

Jadukar Samad soccer begins today

Sports Reporter

The Jadukar Samad Smriti football tournament begins at the Outer Stadium today.

Twelve teams divided into four groups will take part in the round robin league competition. Shajahan Smriti Sangsad will take on Begumganj Udayan Juba Sangha in the opening match at 3 pm.



Pakistan captain Salim Malik holds aloft the trophy after winning the three-Test series against New Zealand 2-1. New Zealand defeated Pakistan in the third and final Test in Christchurch yesterday.

Tenacious Thomson times maiden ton sweetly Some solace for New Zealand

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 28: A maiden Test century by Shane Thomson steered New Zealand to a five wicket win over Pakistan on the last morning of the third and final Test today, reports Reuters.

Set 324 to win, New Zealand started the day needing just 47 with six second innings wickets standing and completed their task within an hour. Their previous highest score to win a Test was 278 for eight, also against Pakistan, in Dunedin in 1985.

Pakistan won the first two Tests by five wickets and an innings and 12 runs respectively to take the series 2-1.

Captain Salim Malik brought himself on in the 10th over of the morning to bowl his occasional leg spinners and Blair promptly dispatched his third ball over the mid wicket boundary for six.

Malik then turned to part-timer Saeed Anwar and Blair hit the last ball over long off for four to win the match.

The match was turned around by a 154-run partnership between Thomson and Bryan Young, whose maiden Test century in his fourth Test anchored the innings.

The New Zealanders took just 52 minutes to get the runs in the morning despite facing another barrage of hostile bowling from Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram.

Their only real hiccup came as Young's innings of nearly seven hours spread over three days ended when Akram bowled him.

Thomson kept attacking the bowling and was well supported by wicketkeeper Tony Blair. Thomson finished 120 not out and Blair on 11. Akram took 25 wickets in the series.

After being dismissed for 200 in their first innings they trailed by 144, but they gave themselves a glimmer of a chance when, led by fast bowler Danny Morrison, they rolled Pakistan out for 179 in their second innings.

At 133 for four and with their most experienced batsmen out by mid-afternoon on the fourth day, New Zealand's hopes seemed to have evaporated.

Young's innings was one of massive concentration, including just seven fours in his 416-ball innings.

Thomson, on the other hand, attacked the bowling and was never afraid to hook and pull Waqar and Akram.

Thomson, 93 overnight, gave the crowd a few anxious moments until he flicked an Akram bouncer over the wicket-keeper's outstretched gloves to reach his first century in his seventh Test.

He celebrated in the next over by on-driving and cutting

bowling from Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram.

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Thomson, 93 overnight, gave the crowd a few anxious moments until he flicked an Akram bouncer over the wicket-keeper's outstretched gloves to reach his first century in his seventh Test.

He celebrated in the next over by on-driving and cutting

Young for two fours and hooking him for another two.

In all, the 25-year-old hit 15 fours and two sixes in his 167 ball innings.

Scoreboard in the third Test between New Zealand and Pakistan today.

PAKISTAN: First innings 344 (Basit Ali 103, Saeed Anwar 69).

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 200 (A Jones 81, Waqar Younis 6-78).

PAKISTAN: Second innings 179 (Basit Ali 67, D Morrison 4-66).

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings Young b Akram 120

Hartland c Inzamam b Akram 10

Jones run out 26

Rutherford lbw b Akram 13

Greatbatch c Inzamam b Waqar 1

Thomson not out 120

Blair not out 11

Extras: (lb-5, nb-18) 23

Total: (for five wickets) 324

Fall of wickets: 1-22; 2-76; 3-119; 4-133; 5-287

Bowling: O M R W

Akram 38 6 105 3

Waqar 27 6 84 1

Nazir 16 0 59 0

Raza 19 5 49 0

Sohail 2 1 5 0

Malik 4 1 13 0

Anwar 1 0 4 0

New Zealand won by five wickets.

Pakistan win series 2-1.

Ignorance or indifference?

NEW YORK, Feb 28: With the World Cup about four months away, only 20 per cent of Americans even realise it's being played in the United States, reports AP.

A Harris Poll released Sunday said only 25 per cent of Americans know that the World Cup involves soccer and just 18 per cent are aware it will be played in 1994.

Fifty-three per cent of Americans said they aren't interested in watching a World Cup game on television, and 62 per cent said they have no interest in attending one of the games.

The survey of 1,252 adults was conducted from Feb. 2-6 and has an error margin of 3 per cent.

Soccer officials last week expressed approval for the job they've done in promoting the World Cup, which will be played in nine cities from June 17-July 17.

Alan Rothenberg, chairman of the US organisers, said it was unrealistic to expect more coverage without a major national league. Joao Havelange, the head of soccer's world governing body, said in December he was happy with any improvement.

It appears all of the approximately 3.5 million tickets for the 52 games will be sold, but a large percentage was designated for foreigners and insiders in the US soccer community.

The 20 per cent who are aware the tournament is in the United States represents an increase — up from 13 per cent in a similar Harris Poll last October. The 18 per cent who know the World Cup will be played in 1994 was up from 11 per cent in October.

The 25 per cent figure of those who are aware the World Cup involves soccer is up from 21 per cent last autumn. Those not interested in watching games on television decreased 2 per cent and those not interested in attending games declined 7 per cent.

Those very interested in attending a game rose to 15 per cent from 10 per cent, and those very interested in watching a game on television rose to 17 per cent from 13 per cent.

Seven more in zonal finals

Sports Reporter

Kushtia trounced Sirajganj by eight wickets to move into the zonal final of the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship at the Pabna Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat, Sirajganj were all out for 129 in 38.1 overs.

Nayan top scored with 29 while Ross hit 27 for Sirajganj. Kallol claimed three for nine for Kushtia.

Saidul knocked a sparkling 62 in the process of Kushtia's win. Shafiqur made 37.

Six other teams also advanced to the zonal finals winning their respective matches held across the country yesterday.

At Sylhet, a superb bowling performance by Iqbal earned his team Mymensingh an easy seven-wicket win over Sherpur.

Batting first, Sherpur were bundled out for 68 in 29.1 overs.

Iqbal, who took seven wickets for only 11 runs, was well assisted by Liton with two for 17 and Nasim one for two.

Mymensingh then wrapped up the match posting 69 for three in 12.4 overs.

Liton remained not out on 30 for the winners.

At Jhenidah, Barisal recorded a 13-run win over Khulna. Barisal batted first and piled up 195 runs for nine in the allotted 45 overs.

Asif hit a half-century while

Monu made 36. Zitu captured three wickets giving away 30 runs for Khulna. In reply, Khulna could muster 182 before being bowled out with five balls to spare.

Nasir, Ansar, Zitu with 43, 25, and 30 respectively were the Khulna mainstay.

Niaz with three for 25 and Mazbi with three for 27 were successful amongst the Barisal bowlers.

At Chandpur, Dhaka recorded a massive 96-run win over Madaripur.

Dhaka scored 237 for seven in the stipulated 45 overs.

Durjoy with 56, and Sumon with 50 made two brilliant half centuries in Dhaka innings.

Chasing a huge target of 238 to win, Madaripur were all out for 141 in 44.1 overs.

At Rangpur, Bogra beat Nawabganj by two wickets to reach the zonal final.

Nawabganj were all out for 186 in 44.4 overs. Pinki with 59 contributed most with the willow for the losers.

Bogra gathered 190 runs for eight in 44.5 overs.

Sahidul top scored with 41 not out for the winners.

Rangpur trounced Kurigram to advance to the Dinajpur zone final encounter.

Kurigram innings were bundled out for 53 in 20 overs.

Babul with four for 17 and Pavel with three for 10 performed the two best bowling

figure for Rangpur. Rangpur reached their target 54 at the cost of two wickets in 22.4 overs.

At Barisal, Jhalakathi defeated Jhenidah by four wickets.

Jhalakathi piled up 205 for five in the allotted 45 overs.

Jiban, Shaheen and Pranab with 42, 27 and 23 respectively were the main run getters for Jhenidah.

Jhalakathi comfortably fulfilled their winning target posting 208 for six with two overs to spare.

Jhalakathi aided by two superb half centuries from Chayan with 65 and Liton with 53.

Sobel and Mizan shared four Jhenidah wickets apiece amongst themselves.

Meanwhile, at Comilla, Rajbari moved into the zonal semifinals when they beat Noakhali by 87 runs. Batting first, Rajbari were all out for 168 in 35 overs.

Rajbari innings was featured by a superb knock of 86 from Himrul.

Swapon and Babar took three and four wickets respectively for the losers.

Noakhali who could barely cope with a devastating spell by Himrul and Kallol were skittled out for 81 runs in 25.1 over.

Kallol took five wickets giving away 19 runs while Himrul captured three for twelve.

Graf in groove, none need move

INDIA WELLS, California, Feb 28: Top seeded Steffi Graf of Germany continued her domination of women's tennis by beating sixth-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-0, 6-4 in 57 minutes to win the 400,000 dollars Evert Cup on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Graf, who has not lost a set in 17 matches this year, captured her third title of 1994. In January, the top-ranked Graf won the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam event of the year.

Graf earned 80,000 dollars for her fourth consecutive win in as many matches over Coetzer, while Coetzer collected 36,000 dollars.

Graf dominated the first set, dropping only four points on her serve, and took a 1-0 lead over Coetzer in the second set, without allowing the South African baseliner to find any rhythm on her groundstrokes, her strong suit.

Coetzer, 16 in the world, held her serve for 1-1 and the crowd cheered loudly in hopes that the match would become

more competitive, but Graf kept Coetzer pinned to the baseline and took a 5-2 lead.

As Graf seemed to lose concentration, Coetzer brought the set back on serve to 4-5

when she broke Graf in the ninth game with a backhand passing shot, but Graf hit two powerful forehands to unnerv Coetzer and close out the match.

Graf's concentration wavered in four of her five matches at the hard court tournament this week, but she repeatedly said that winning is not tedious.

"I'm not bored," said Graf. "Sometimes it would be nice to be in a tighter situation. I had a little trouble today. I made a few mistakes, which was upsetting because I wasn't under any pressure when I made them."

Coetzer, who lost the final here last year to American Mary Joe Fernandez after having two match points, said that the only way to beat Graf is to play aggressively.

"I think you have to be able to come to the net to beat her," said Coetzer. "You can't do it from the baseline, but playing the net is not one of my strong points. She does give you some opportunities, but you get so anxious when you get one, that you can't do anything with it."

STEFFI GRAF

Agassi makes light of lay-off

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Feb 28: Andre Agassi, two months after undergoing wrist surgery, overcame a sluggish start to beat Luiz Mattar of Brazil 6-4, 6-3 to win the Arizona men's tennis championships on Sunday, reports Reuters.

"I was happy with the way I got through it," said Agassi, who defended his title and collected the winner's check of 42,000 dollars.

"It's been a long road for me, and I knew it was going to be very difficult coming back," said Agassi, who swept past five opponents without losing a set. "To have a rusty performance and win in straight sets is impressive for me."

"I did not anticipate to come in here to win the tournament, and feel like I can beat any one in the world," said Agassi, 23. "And right now I do. I feel I'm ready to play the

biggest players in the biggest matches. I'm looking forward to it.

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his 20th career title" but there's no question I was definitely pushed. If he'd gotten the right points at the right times, we'd still be fighting it out."

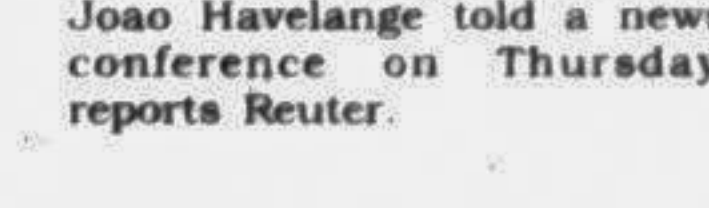
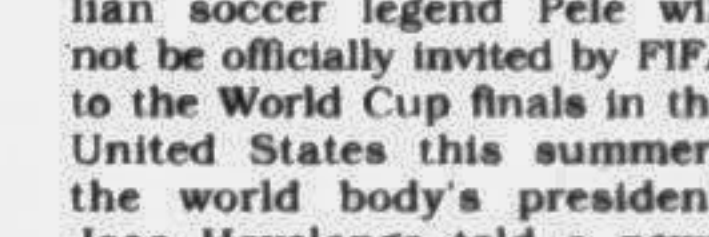
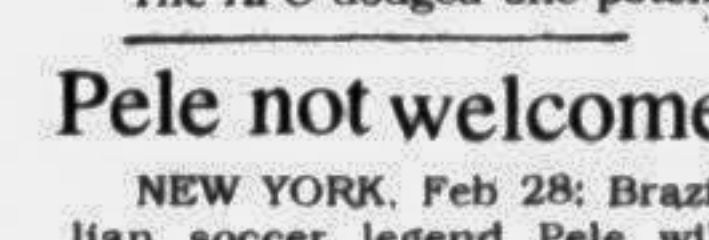
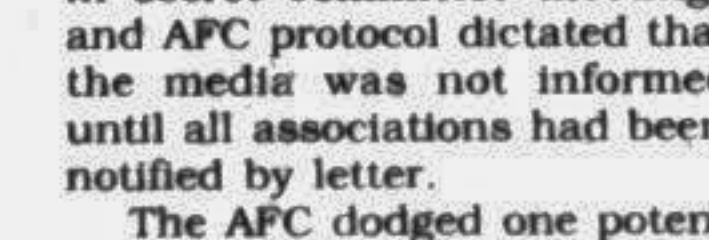
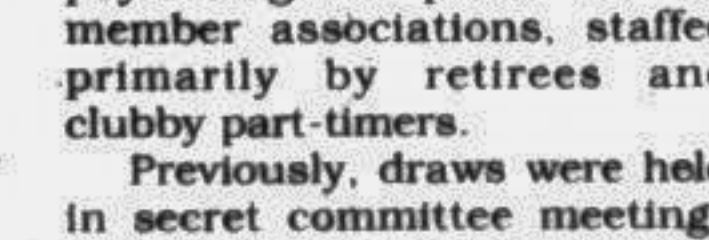
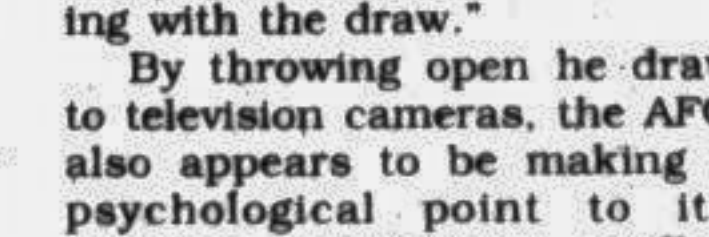
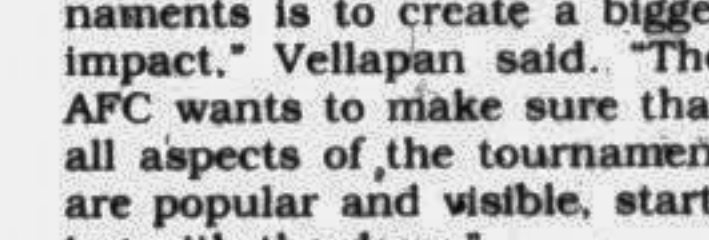
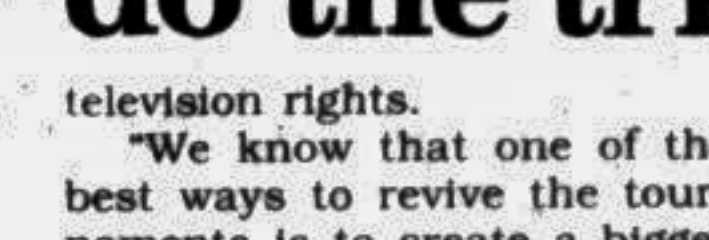
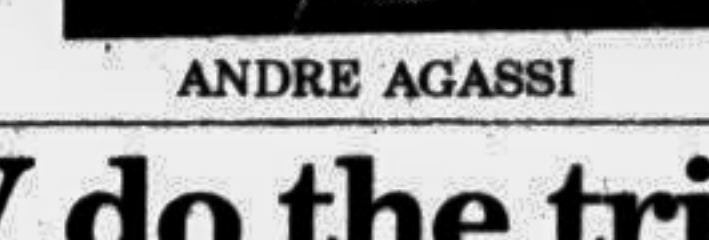
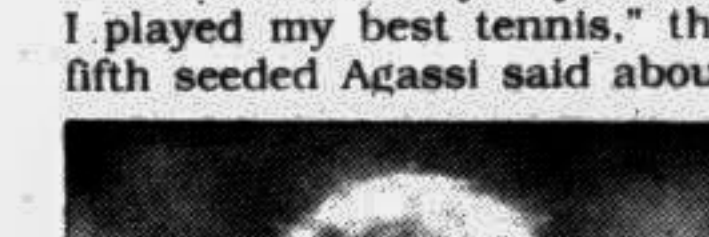
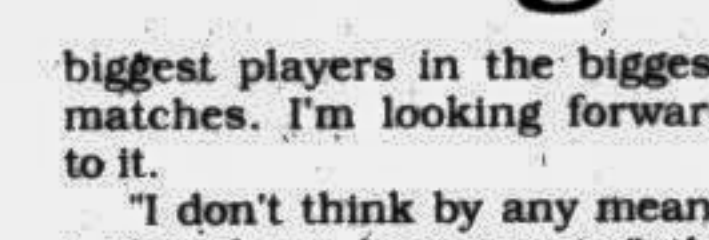
Mattar was bidding to become the first Brazilian to win an ATP Tour title outside of his native country.

Mattar broke in his first two services but could not keep it up as Agassi began to find the mark with his searing groundstrokes.

After levelling the first set at 4-4 with a service break, Agassi held for 5-4 before the Brazilian double-faulted at set point.

Agassi built a 5-3 advantage in the second set with a break in the eighth game to seal the victory.

"He played the big points well. Everytime I went to the net, he was passing," said Mattar, ranked 70th in the world.



AFC to take cue from UEFA

Sports Reporter

HONG KONG, Feb 28: The Asian Football Confederation is set to take a leaf from big brother UEFA's competition format with the start of the Asian Super Cup, reports AFP.

If the proposed Super Cup follows the UEFA format it would pit the Thai Farmers side, surprise winners of the Asian Club Championships earlier this month, against the winners of the upcoming Asian Cup Winners Cup final between South China of Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia's Al Qadisiyah.

The Cup would be decided over two legs, according to O'Brien.

The 25 per cent figure of those who are aware the World Cup involves soccer is up from 21 per cent last autumn. Those not interested in watching games on television decreased 2 per cent and those not interested in attending games declined 7 per cent.

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