

Nat'l age-group tennis results

Sports Reporter

Raj, Rohan, Turja and Ripon moved into the 12-year-old age group boys' singles semifinals of the national age-group tennis championship at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

On the third day of the five-day meet yesterday, Raj beat Kanchan 6-1, 6-2. Rohan of Chittagong thrashed Deep 6-1, 6-0. Ripon prevailed over Guddu 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, and Turja ran away with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Subhash in the other quarter-final of the day.

Meanwhile, Yasmin Ahmed, Urmi, Mithun, Lucky and Sathi Sarker stepped into the last four in the girls' singles of the 16-year section.

AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter

Brothers Union, Wari Juniors and Armanitola Juniors all lost their unbeaten records in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league in the match-ups of unconquered at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Brothers Union, aspiring to break Bangladesh Biman's monopoly, caved in easily to the Wari Club paddlers while reigning champions Biman extended their unbeaten streak to nine matches at the expense of Armanitola Juniors, who walked into the gymnasium with eight consecutive victories under their belts.

The youngsters from Wari also featured in a 3-0 affair like their seniors but on the wrong end of the table against Inter Sports.

The other match of the day saw Armanitola Jubo Sangha carving a facile 3-0 victory over Swamibagh TTS.

H'ball results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Air Force won their respective matches of the M A Khan memorial handball tournament at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match, Police outplayed Bangladesh Navy 23-17 with Shahiduzzaman notching highest 11 goals.

Alim with five goals was the other notable scorer for the winners while Halim, the top marksman for the vanquished, got five goals.

Bangladesh Air Force earned a facile 33-14 win over Christian Youth Club in the other match of the day.

Shafi with 10 goals was the leading scorer for Air Force followed by teammate Mujib who notched nine while Shahadat netted five goals for the losers.

DU soccer

Sports Reporter

The Department of Social Welfare earned a convincing 3-1 win over Journalism in the inter-department football tournament of Dhaka University at the university football ground yesterday.

Lipu, Tawar and Shahdat notched one goal each for the winners while Munir netted the consolatory one for the future media professionals.

Maradona may coach Mandiyu

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 4: Diego Maradona, serving a 15-month ban for failing a doping test at the World Cup, said on Monday he had agreed to coach Argentine soccer Club Deportivo Mandiyu, reports Reuter.

Maradona told local radio he would start on Tuesday alongside current coach Carlos Fen at Mandiyu, a club from the City of Corrientes, 800 miles (1,100 kms) north of Buenos Aires.

His playing days over, Maradona, 33, has often pondered a future in soccer management. He assisted Boca Juniors coach Cesar Menotti last month in a series of training sessions.

Under Argentine Football Association rules, Maradona needs to complete a two-year coaching course before officially taking up a post in soccer management.

In August he expressed a passing interest in taking over the reigns of the Argentine national youth side.

Langishing near the foot of the First Division, Mandiyu last month signed Maradona's former international teammate goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea in a bid to stave off relegation.

"Diego will give our squad a tremendous boost and is just what we need," club president Jorge Cruz told reporters Monday.

It was not immediately clear what the terms of his contract with Mandiyu were.

Becker rallies

SYDNEY, Oct 4: Boris Becker struggled to shake off the cobwebs of a five-week break from tennis before rallying to oust qualifier Sadon Stolle in the first round of the Australian indoor championship today, reports Reuter.

Abahani too strong for PWD

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra began their last lap for regaining the league title with a vengeance when they more than settled the score with Public Works Department (PWD) in a massive 4-0 victory in a Star Premier engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The winners, who consolidated their position at the top of the table with 22 points from 13 matches, four points clear of the nearest rivals Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, led the first half by a solitary goal.

Riding high following arch antagonists Mohammedans' third loss in the Premier league at Mirpur, Abahani blanked the office team 4-0.

Monday, the skyblues toyed with one of the sensational low profile teams of the first leg who had snatched a point each from both Abahani and Mohammedans.

The worksmen were, however, totally blotted out last evening with Abahani having put the grey grind behind them cracking the whip right through the ninety minutes of a thrill-lorn affair, so starkly contrasting to that of the previous night.

However, for the DMFA Cup champions' fans, there was no dearth of delight as Abahani's latest Russian recruit Vladimir played an inspirational role ensuring a steady stream of lethal passes that left even the goal-starved forwards stifled in a

ion of two goals, pushed upfront stollenbosching Vladimir for a while, forwarded a through six minutes later and Nazir, one of the three foreigners out in action for Abahani, guided the ball in to notch up the third goal for the only unbeaten team in the Premier league.

With PWD proving such an inexplicably transformed lot since those heady days of early inspiration, Abahani's fourth goal was never in doubt and it duly came in the 71st minute.

Azmat handled the ball in the dreaded to thwart a menacingly poised Zulfiqar Mintu and Vladimir earned himself a richly-deserved reward by converting the penalty

other high scoring and quite entertaining match for the second consecutive day in the Star First Division league.

Don scored twice while Parvez and Akku got one each, to get the better of Muslim Institute's three goals coming from the boots of Hakim, who was twice on target and Sayeed.

With yesterday's two points Eskaton's haul goes up to 12 from 14 outings while the promotes Muslim stand in the line of fire with four points only — also from 14 matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

RMFS vs Bfma 4-30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)
BU vs Muktijoddha 6-30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

India edge past Bangladesh

HIROSHIMA, Oct 4: Indian captain Jude Felix was sent off giving his team some anxious moments before beating lowly Bangladesh with a single goal in the Asian Games men's hockey here Tuesday, reports AFP.

Felix, who will miss the next match against China on Friday, earned the dreaded red card after striking Bangladesh's Zahid Hossain on the forehead with his raised stick four minutes before half-time.

A bleeding Hossain was carried off the field on a stretcher and taken to hospital for stitches over his left eyebrow.

The suspension of their star midfielder came as a big blow to the Indians, who hope to challenge Pakistan and South Korea for the gold medal.

Reduced to 10 men, the Indians appeared to play without purpose and were lucky to earn full points from their Group B encounter after waiting 15 penalty corners and numerous scoring opportunities.

They heaved a sigh of relief when Shaheer Ahmed scored off a penalty stroke in the 47th minute after Bangladesh defender Zahir Islam wrongly tackled Ravi Nayakar inside the circle.

"We were lucky to win today," team coach Zafar Iqbal conceded. "No team deserves to win if they can't convert penalty corners and waste chances to score."

"We will have to do much better if we are to win a medal. I will be doing much of the talking at the team meeting tonight," the former international said.

Bangladesh, who play South Korea on Friday, defended stoutly for most part of the match until Islam's costly error gave India, the face-saving winner.

TEAMS

India: Ashish Ballal, Mohammad Arif (Anil Aldrin), Rajnish Mishra, Harpreet Singh, Jude Felix, Shaheer Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Ravi Nayakar, Baljit Singh, Mohammad Riaz, Davinder Kumar (Dhanraj Pillay).

Bangladesh: Jahangir Alam, Rabiuddin, Khwaja Quader, Mamunur Rashid, Zahirul Islam, Abu Zafar, Harun Mahbub, Haider Alam (Musa Mian), Mohammad Sadek, Alamgir Alam, Rafiul Islam.

China: FJ Idenberg (Netherlands) and Mohammad Hasan (Pakistan).

ROK RIDE WELL

Earlier, title contenders South Korea overcame brilliant goalkeeping by China's Chen Dekang to record a 4-0 win in the opening match.

Chen kept a clean sheet in the first half, but the fast-moving Koreans bounced back afterwards to slam in four goals and take full points from the Group B match.

Skipper Park Shin-Heum hit two, including a penalty stroke. Kim Young-Kyu and Choi Jung-Ho contributed one each.

Chen blocked five penalty corners in the first half to confuse the Koreans, regarded the strongest challenges to defending champions Pakistan.

But the Koreans, who won the Asia Cup here last year, were not to be denied victory in a match they dominated from the start.

JAPAN TOO GOOD

Hosts Japan brushed aside unfancied Oman 3-1 in a Group A match.

Div II hockey

Raktim Sangha and Mukta Bihanga TS registered their second consecutive victories in the metropolis Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha beat PWD Sporting Club by a solitary goal.

The match winner for Mukta Bihanga came in the 26th minute through a field goal by Abul Kalam Azad.

In the other match, Raktim Sangha defeated East End Green Club by 2-0 goals at the same venue.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Oct 4: Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra beat Shatadal Club by a solitary goal in the CJKP First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

The first half was goalless.

In the 67th minute Abahani's Ekram scored the all-important goal with a spectacular header.

Customs and Excise Club also defeated Regency Club 1-0 in another match.

Asfar netted the lone goal.

Lankans in command

HARARE, Oct 4: A six-wicket haul by off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan and a fluent 73 not out from the recalled Asanka Gurusinha gave Sri Lanka flying start to their cricket tour of Zimbabwe on Monday, reports Reuter.

After dismissing Mashonaland Country Districts for 177, Sri Lanka were 135 for one at the close on the first day of their three-day opening match.

Mashonaland won the toss but were undermined by pace-man Ravindra Pushpakumara, who maintained an accurate line and found a degree of outswing to take three for 37, and Muralidharan, who found some turn to capture six for 55.

The local side collapsed to 134 for nine but a last-wicket partnership of 43 in just under 11 overs between Gary Steyn and John Gibson provided a useful late flourish.

Sri Lanka made an authoritative start with openers Gurusinha and Dulip Samaraweera sharing a stand of 133 in 41 overs.

Samaraweera struck 10 fours in his 53 before he surprisingly succumbed to the occasional spin of Mark Stannard and was given out leg before as he stretched well forward.

Gurusinha, dropped for the recent four-nation limited overs tournament in Sri Lanka, drove sweetly and straight for 11 fours and one six.

SL U-19 team cuts short India tour

COLOMBO, Oct 4: A junior cricket team from Sri Lanka is to cut short its three-week tour of India and fly home on Wednesday following the outbreak of pneumonic plague, cricket board officials said, reports AFP.

"We did not want to take any chances," former Test captain Bandula Warnapura said today. "We also thought that Sri Lanka flights out of Madras might be cancelled so we decided last week to bring them back."

Warnapura, who is also the Sri Lankan cricket board's director of coaching, was instrumental in organising the tour by Sri Lanka's under-19 cricketers from September 20 to October 11.

Sri Lanka's national carrier, Air Lanka, suspended its flights to Bombay and New Delhi due to the spread of plague in India.

However, the itinerary of the Sri Lanka youth side, which was to have returned on October 11, did not include any plague-affected areas. The team had already played four matches during the current tour.

Sri Lanka has enforced strict measures to prevent the spread of plague, including medical checks on visitors arriving from neighbouring India and ordering about 10 ships from India to remain outside the port of Colombo.

In the only positive detection of plague in Sri Lanka, a Russian seaman from a Russian feeder vessel that arrived here last week from India has been placed under quarantine after doctors confirmed he was suffering from bubonic plague.

The bubonic plague is a less virulent type of the plague that has caused some 50 deaths in India.

Graf back in action

LONDON, Oct 4: Steffi Graf, who has not played since injuring her back at the US Open last month, returns to action when she bids for her seventh Brighton tournament title later this month, the organisers said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The German world number one heads a strong field for the 250,000-pound (\$394,000 dollars) event which begins on October 18 with her main challenger likely to be defending champion Jania Novotna of the Czech Republic.

European champions AC Milan are fourth in Italy's Serie A, three points behind leaders Parma. Barcelona, beaten in last season's European Cup final by Milan, are ninth in Spain. Bayern Munich are fourth in Germany. Paris St Germain sixth in France and Manchester United fourth in England.

AC Milan, chasing a fourth successive domestic title, returned to form with a 1-0 win

Both Pakistan, Aussies to bank on pace

Rawalpindi Test from today

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Oct 4: Pakistan, flushed by their thrilling one-wicket victory in Karachi, are expecting Australia to fight back in the second Test, starting in Rawalpindi on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"We know the Australians will make an all-out effort to snatch a victory to level the series," said Pakistani manager Intikhab Alam, but he added the win had also fired up the home side.

Australia and Pakistan are both expected to field three pace bowlers to take full advantage of Rawalpindi's greenish pitch.

A fitness question hangs over Australian fast bowler Glen McGrath, but front-line paceman Craig McDermott is certain to play after missing the first Test with a sore toe. Fast bowler Damien Fleming, 24, could make his Test debut.

"McGrath is not 100 per cent. I'm not sure about him as he has not bowled in the nets," Australian captain Mark Taylor said.

Taylor said he was happy with the way his team had played in the nail-biting Karachi match which could have gone either way.

"We are not playing with the memories of the loss on the back of our minds," he said.

Taylor made no reference to wicket-keeper Ian Healy's missed chance to stump Inzamamul Haq off what proved to be the last ball of the Karachi game, when the winning runs came from byes.

INTEKHAH ALAM

Pakistan: Salim Malik (captain), Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Zahid Fazal, Aamir Malik, Inzamamul Haq, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Akram Raza, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Asif Mujtaba, Mohsin Kamal, Kabir Khan.

TEAMS

Australia: Mark Taylor, Ian Healy, Jo Angel, Michael Bevan, David Boon, Damien Fleming, Justin Langer, Craig McDermott, Glen McGrath, Tim May, Gavin Robertson, Michael Slater, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh.

NZ's India tour to go ahead

WELLINGTON, Oct 4: New Zealand Cricket (NZC) today confirmed its tour of India and South Africa will go ahead as planned and named two new caps in a team notable for its weak bowling attack, reports Reuter.

Test bowler Danny Morrison ruled himself out of the team to give himself more time to recover from a groin injury and hernia operation, leaving the inexperienced Dion Nash to spearhead the attack.

Premier batsman Martin Crowe was named vice captain but will miss the Indian section of the tour after having requested more time to recover from a knee injury.

Wicketkeeper Lee Gernon and his Canterbury teammate, batsman Darrin Murray, are the two new caps in the team, while long-serving batsman Mark Greatbatch was left out of the 16-man squad.

NZC confirmed the team will depart for India on October 23 as planned, removing uncertainty about the tour due to an outbreak of pneumonic plague in India.

The start of the West Indies tour of India was delayed for a week to October 12 as a precaution, but the tri-series involving the New Zealand team will take place as scheduled.

New Zealand will play four one-day matches in India en route to South Africa in a build up to a century summer season.

Meanwhile, an earlier AFP report said: Indian cricket officials have contacted New Zealand Cricket (NZC) to advise that everything is "completely and absolutely under control" in preparation for New Zealand's three-game tour

later this month, NZC executive director Graham Dowling revealed.

The game's governing body here has been concerned about the situation in India, where there has been an outbreak of pneumonic plague.

Travel agents have been warning people not to go to India and travel insurance companies are advising travellers to check their insurances carefully.

But the Indian fax message, and advice received Monday from New Zealand's high commission in India, provided reassuring news on the tour's prospects of continuing.

Jagmohan Dalmiya, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, assures us that normalcy has returned. Its domestic cricket competition has started and veterans' cricket teams from the West Indies and England are continuing their tours without any problems.

"Overseas players Desmond Haynes and Angus Fraser are also playing in the one-day domestic competition," he said.

MARK GREATBATCH

When the West Indies said it would not be able to participate in New Zealand's four-nation century series this summer and New Zealand needed another country to fill in, India agreed to do so.

In return, New Zealand agreed to play in India on their way to South Africa.

KIWI SQUAD

Ken Rutherford (captain), Martin Crowe (vice captain), Richard de Groen, Simon Doull, Stephen Fleming, Lee Gernon, Chris Harris, Matthew Hart, Blair Hartland, Darrin Murray, Dion Nash, Adam Parore, Chris Pringle, Murphy Su'a, Shane Thomson, Bryan Young.

Euro giants lag behind

LONDON, Oct 4: It could be because of the demands of the European Champions' League, or just the vagaries of form and luck, but none of the teams who won last season's major leagues are leading their domestic championships after this weekend's action, reports Reuter.

European champions AC Milan are fourth in Italy's Serie A, three points behind leaders Parma. Barcelona, beaten in last season's European Cup final by Milan, are ninth in Spain. Bayern Munich are fourth in Germany. Paris St Germain sixth in France and Manchester United fourth in England.

AC Milan, chasing a fourth successive domestic title, returned to form with a 1-0 win over Brescia following last weekend's loss to Crenonese.

Marco Simone, who scored twice in Wednesday's 3-0 Champions' League win over Salzburg was on target again, but Milan's next big fixture may not prove to be quite so productive.

The club faces a UEFA hearing on Thursday following a bottle-throwing incident in which Salzburg's goalkeeper was hit on the back of the head.

If UEFA find Milan guilty, the Italians are likely to be severely punished and may be ordered to replay the match.

Parma beat Torino 2-0 to stay top on goal difference from Roma, who beat Sampdoria 1-0.

Spanish champions Barcelona and arch-rivals Real Madrid were both surveying the wreckage of defeats, but the results provoked strikingly different reactions from their respective coaches.

For Johan Cruyff, coach of a Barcelona side beaten 2-1 at Real Zaragoza and still failing to spark, the picture was all black and he blamed his players for lack of effort and concentration.

Real Madrid coach Jorge Valdano was much more phlegmatic about his side's 1-0 defeat at Sporting Gijon, which knocked them off the top.

German champions Bayern Munich's uncertain start to the season continued as they fought back from a two-goal halftime deficit to draw 2-2 at Cologne. Christian Ziege and Alexander Zickler scored for Munich, who together with Karlsruhe and Kaiserslautern, are one point behind joint-leaders Werder Bremen and Borussia Dortmund.

Werder, however, could move two points clear when they face Hamburg on Thursday.

Goals from Francis Ilacer and Brazilian midfielder Ral gave French champions Paris St Germain a 2-1 win at bottom-of-the-table Caen but PSG stay seven points behind unbeaten league leaders Nantes who were involved in a remarkable 3-3 draw with Bordeaux where the drama continued long after the final whistle.

While Bordeaux's Huard attacked the referee in his match, the normally ultra-diplomatic Chelsea player-manager Glenn Hoddle criticised England's World Cup referee Philip Don who sent off one player and booked seven others when West Ham beat Chelsea 2-1 on Sunday.

Hoddle, who could be punished by the English FA for his remarks, said: "I think some common sense has got to be shown with the new laws introduced this season and the referee certainly did not do that."

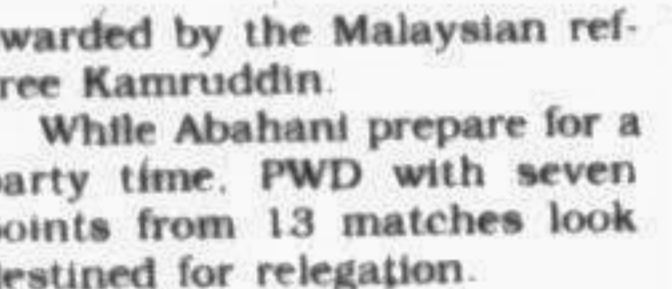
Leaders Newcastle, chasing their first league title since 1927, maintained their unbeaten start to the season with a 2-0 win at Aston Villa. Champions Manchester United played lethargically and had to rely heavily on an outstanding performance from Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel to beat bottom of the table Everton 2-0.

Malaysian coach in trouble

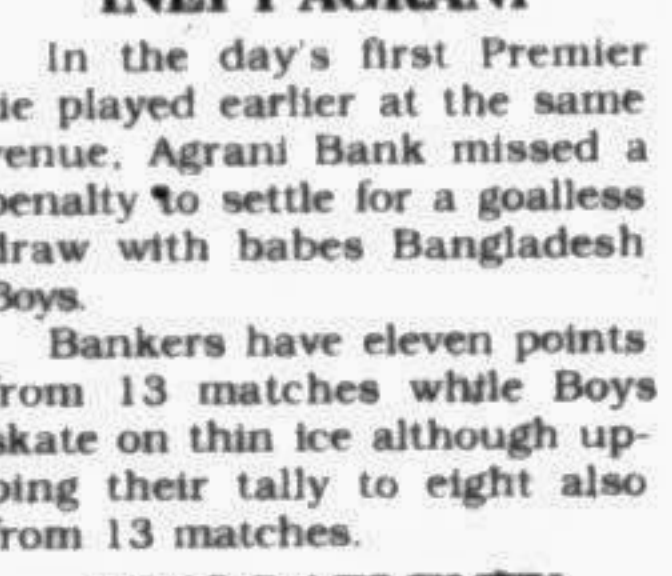
KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 4: A Malaysian national athletics coach pleaded not guilty when he was charged in a local court today with molesting two teenaged female athletes about two years ago, reports AFP.

Ramanathan Chelliah, 57, a national coach for 25 years until he was suspended March 24 pending the sexual-harassment probe, was allowed bail of 8,000 ringgit (\$3,200 dollars) pending trial.

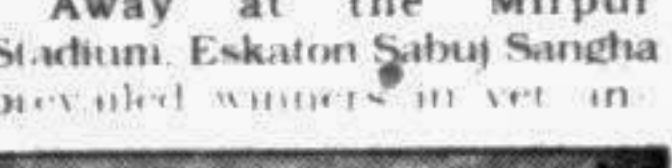
He was asked to surrender his passport.



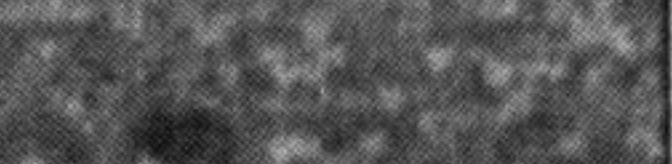
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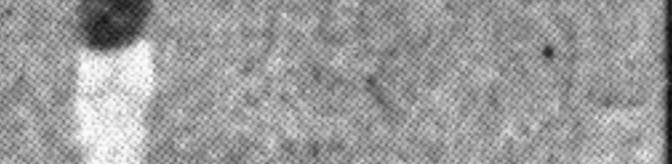
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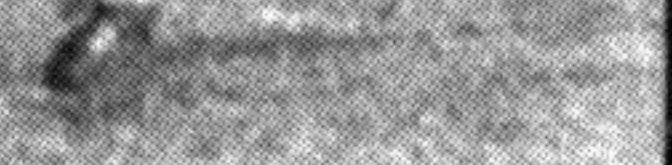
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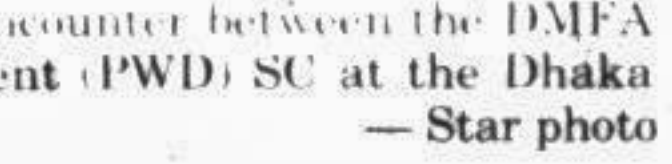
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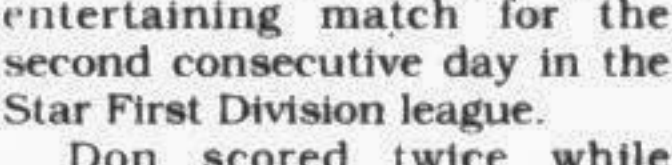
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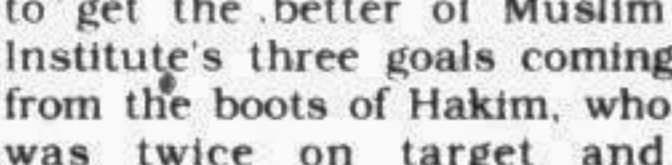
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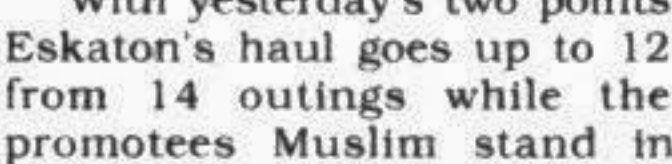
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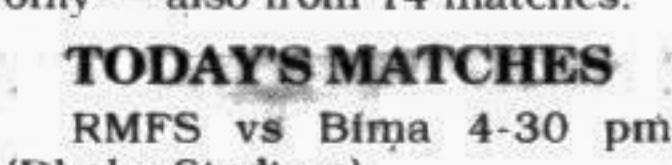
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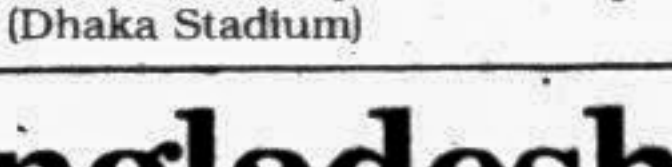
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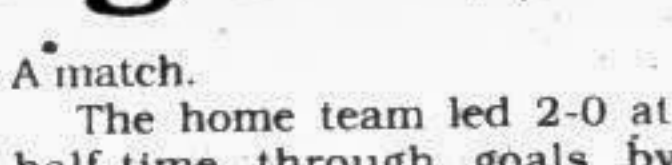
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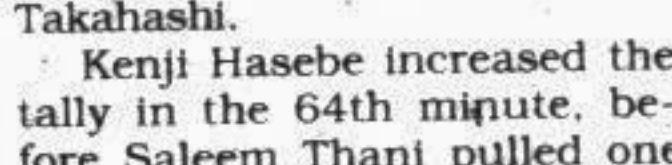
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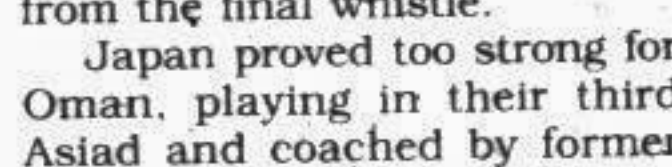
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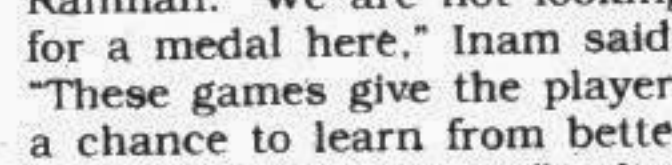
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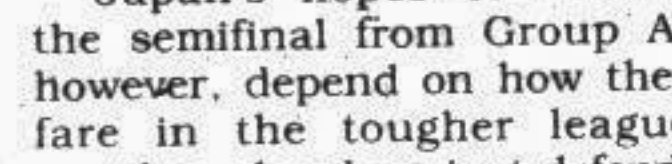
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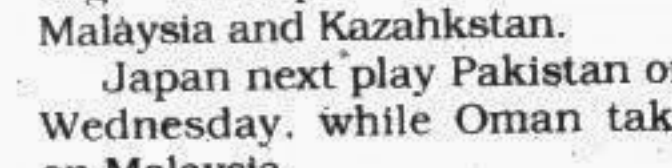
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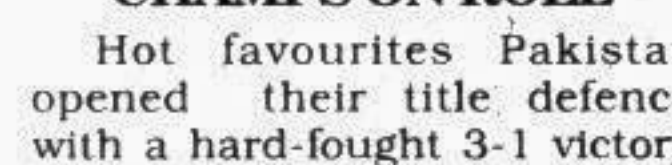
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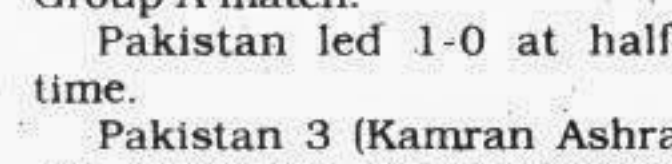
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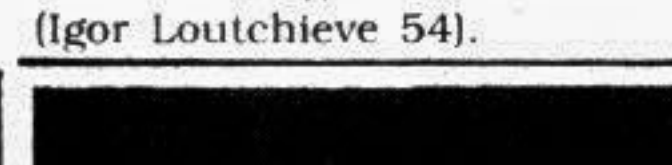
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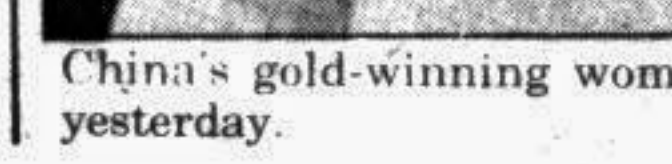
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