

Walsh wins Day 1 for WI

BOMBAY, Nov 18: India's gutsy wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia hit a career-best 80 here on Friday to check a Courtney Walsh-inspired West Indies on the opening day of the first Test, reports AFP.

Mongia and Sanjay Manjrekar (51) put on 136 for the sixth-wicket to help India recover from shaky 99 for five to 272 all out after an absorbing opening day's play at the Wankhede Stadium.

West Indian captain Walsh led his team's revival after their 4-1 defeat in the one-day series with figures of six for 79, the seventh time he has taken five wickets in an innings during his 66-test career.

India had elected to bat first on a dual-paced wicket but it was Walsh and new-ball partner Kenneth Benjamin, who chipped in with three for 48, who revelled in the conditions.

The 32-year-old Walsh began the destruction by forcing opener Manoj Prabhakar to fend the second ball of the match to Jimmy Adams at forward short-leg.

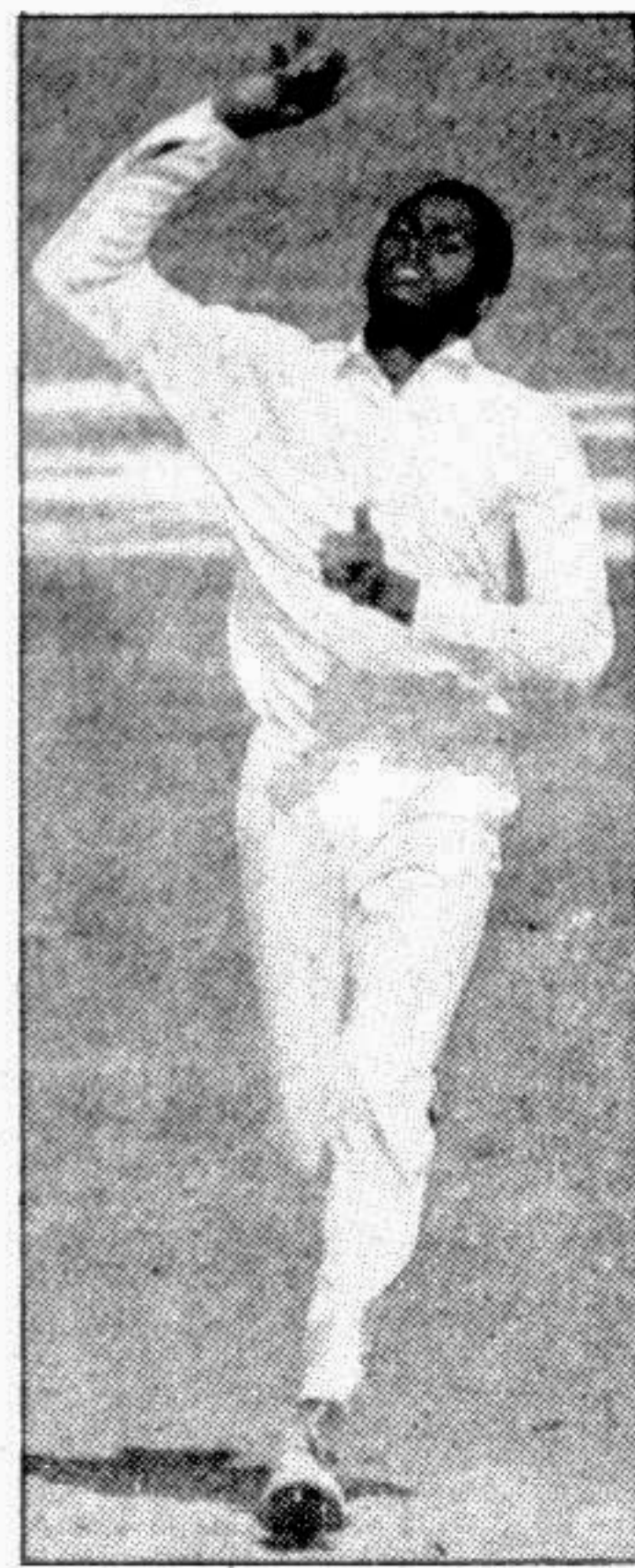
Vinod Kambli counter-attacked with seven boundaries off the West Indian captain, scoring 40 off 39 balls, before Walsh had him caught behind as the Indians reached lunch on 92 for two.

The Indian middle-order caved in immediately after the break as three vital wickets fell in the first three overs, two of them to Walsh.

He trapped vice-captain Sachin Tendulkar (34) and the dour Navjot Sidhu (18) leg before with swinging deliveries. In between, Benjamin removed skipper Mohammed Azharud-

din for no score, slashing a catch to Phil Simmons in the gully.

Manjrekar, omitted for the one-day series, took 38 minutes to get off the mark, but



COURTNEY WALSH, 6 for 79 then played some exquisite drives on both sides of the wicket.

His innings ended when he top-edged a sweep off leg-spinner Rajendra Dhanraj which was well held by Brian Lara, running 20 yards from slip to fine leg.

It was Dhanraj's maiden Test wicket. He is the first West Indian leg-spinner se-

lected since current manager David Holdford played against Pakistan in 1977.

Mongia, whose previous Test-best score was 45 against New Zealand in Hamilton earlier this year, cracked 13 boundaries during his three-and-half hour stay at the crease.

The Indians lost their four remaining wickets for the addition of only 12 runs. Mongia slashed at Benjamin, bowling the second over with a new ball, to be caught by wicket-keeper Junior Murray.

The unstoppable Walsh, who boasts Test-best figures of six for 62 against the Indians in Jamaica in 1989, then removed Venkatapathy Raju and Anil Kumble before Benjamin finished off the innings by having Rajesh Chauhan caught in the slips.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first cricket Test between India and the West Indies here Friday:

INDIA: First Innings	0
Sidhu lbw b Walsh	18
Kambli c Murray b Walsh	40
Tendulkar lbw b Walsh	34
Azharuddin c Simmons b Benjamin	0
Manjrekar c Lara b Dhanraj	51
Mongia c Murray b Benjamin	80
Kumble c Hooper b Walsh	19
Raju c Hooper b Walsh	4
Chauhan c Williams b Benjamin	1
Smith not out	0
Extras: (b-5, lb-7, nb-13)	25
Total	272
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-49; 3-96; 4-99; 5-99; 6-235; 7-265, 8-271, 9-272.	
Bowling	O M R W
Walsh	22 4 79 6
Benjamin	21 3 8 48 3
Cuffy	18 4 63 0
Hooper	9 0 23 0
Dhanraj	15 1 47 1

Kiwis win a thriller

KIMBERLEY, South Africa, Nov 18: In an intriguing finish, New Zealand grabbed a 23-run victory on Thursday when Griqualand West, set 348 in 81 overs, were all out for 324 with 21 balls, remaining on the final day of a three-day game, reports Reuter.

It was the New Zealander's first win of the tour following two draws.

Off-spinner Shane Thomson took the honours with five wickets for 101, although Vlam Michau (95) and Hugh Page (72), put up a valiant performance.

At tea the game looked over as Griquas had scrambled to 157 for four leaving them with the unlikely task of scoring another 191 at just under six an over.

But a superb fifth-wicket partnership of 147 from 141 balls in 106 minutes between Michau and Page brought Griquas right back into the game.

Page added to his first innings 85 by blasting his 72 from 80 balls, hitting Matthew Hart for two big sixes and as well as striking nine fours.

Michau was every bit as effective, attacking the spinners with relish and hitting two sixes and 11 fours in his 96-ball innings.

When the last 16 overs started in the final hour only 80 runs were needed, but the dismissals of Page and Michau to catches in the deep in the space of three overs swung the game.

Earlier, the New Zealanders had batted on longer than expected to give both Darrin Murray, 91 not out overnight, and Adam Parore the chance to score hundreds.

Murray made 109 before edging a catch to the wicket-keeper but the lively Parore just missed out on his century and when he was stumped by Jacob Burger for 96 the New Zealanders declared at 280 for three.

The next tour match, against Orange Free State, starts on Saturday ahead of the first Test with South Africa, beginning on November 25.

Kuwait set precedence

KUWAIT, Nov 18: In a move probably without precedence in international soccer history, Kuwait dropped nine first-team players just before a major cup final because the players went shopping without permission, reports Reuter.

Not surprisingly, the two first-choice players and nine reserves lost Wednesday's match, the prestigious Gulf Cup final, 2-0 to Saudi Arabia who reached the second round of the World Cup finals in the United States in the summer.

Nasr Al-Sowhi, one of the players dropped said after seeing his place go to a reserve squad member: "The team management should have given us a full free day, just like the other Gulf teams had ... to do our shopping. They gave us only three hours, that's why we went to Dubai."

Dubai is about 100 km (62 miles) from Abu Dhabi where the match was played, but the players acknowledged they had gone there without permission.

Some local newspapers reported the players offences were more serious than merely "going shopping" describing them as "immoral", a claim denied by Kuwait team manager Abdul Hameed Mohammad.

He told the local Al-Watan newspaper: "Punishments will vary. The conduct of the players was of course in violation of the regulations."

Mohammad continued: "We are not accusing them of immorality, because we do not have proof. But we have proof that they have violated the delegation's regulations."

The Saudis went into the match leading the final table with seven points and went 1-0 up against the reserves through Fahad el-Mehallal in the 35th minute. Foad Anwar made it 2-0 to the Saudis 20 minutes from time.

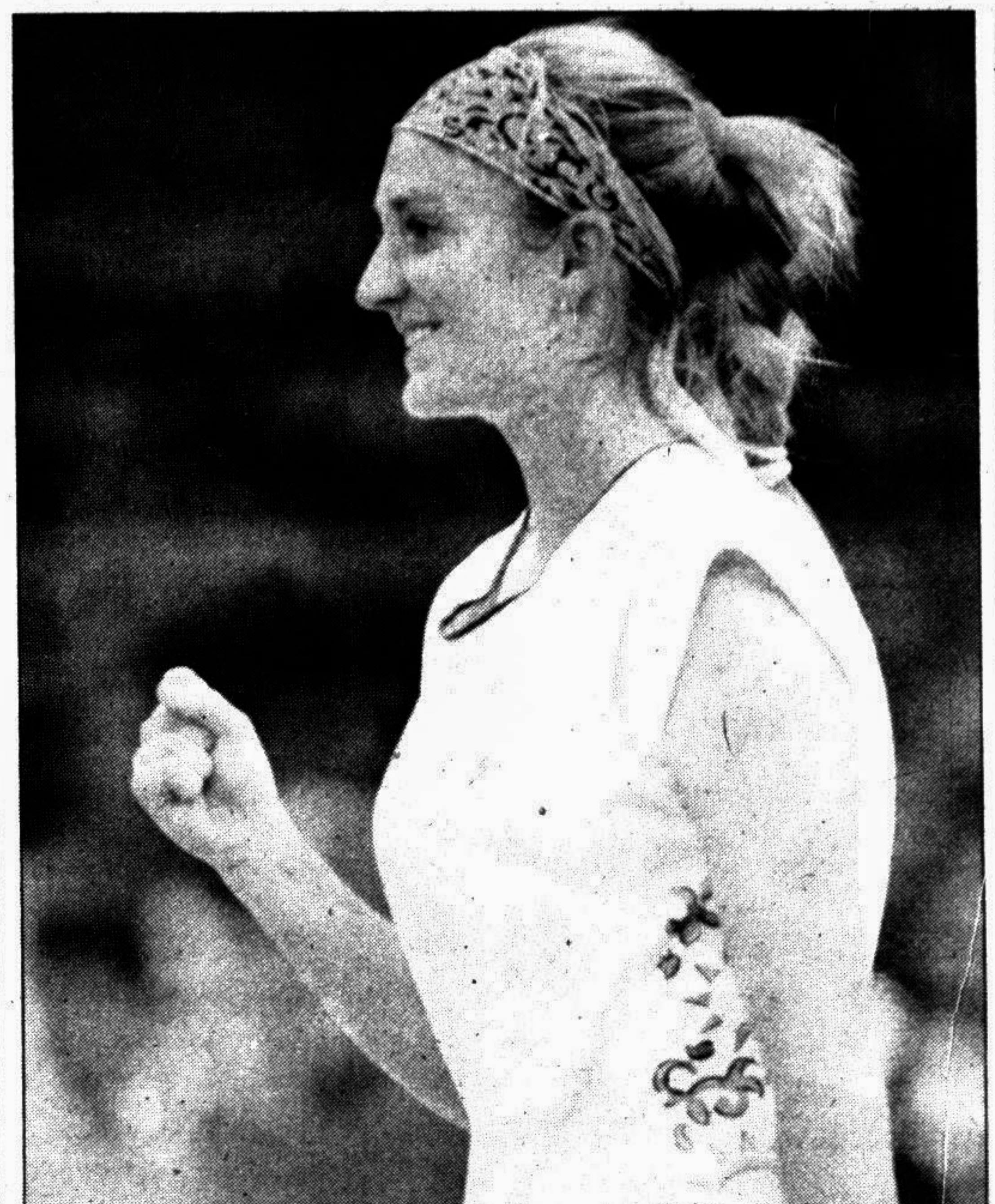
It was Saudi Arabia's first success in the two-yearly tournament which began in 1970. Kuwait have won it a record seven times.

Italy, US spiked

OSAKA, Nov 18: World champions Italy whipped the United States and silver medalists the Netherlands trounced the hosts Japan on the first day of the World Super Four men's volleyball tournament here Friday, reports AFP.

Andrea Siani and Samuele Papi led Italy's attacking to finish the United States, the world bronze medalists, 15-6, 16-7, 17-16 in 80 minutes at the Osaka Castle Hall.

The Dutch squad, relying on their height advantage in blocking, charged back from 5-9 down in the first set to beat the Japanese 15-11, 15-11, 15-12. Japan ran out of breath after scoring seven points in a row from 5-14 in the third set.



Frenchwoman Mary Pierce exults after dispatching top-seed Steffi Graf of Germany from the Virginia Slims tournament in New York on Nov 17. Pierce posted a 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Agassi surfs on success

FRANKFURT, Nov 18: Andre Agassi's remarkable year rolled on as he reached the semifinals of the ATP Tour World Championship on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The US Open champion defeated fellow-American Michael Chang 6-4, 6-4 for his second victory in the round-robin event as he clinched a place in the top two of his Red Group.

The leading two from each group of four players qualify for Saturday's semifinals.

Agassi started the year in 24th position in the rankings and with his wrist in plaster. But victory in the US Open and a defeat of world number one Pete Sampras on his way to the prestigious Paris Open title earlier this month has brought him to the year-ending event second in the rankings.

The long-haired, 24-year-old from Las Vegas again showed the consistency which could bring him the prestigious title for the first time since 1990. Agassi played some brilliant shots from the back of the court against Chang.

While Agassi's place in Saturday's semifinals was secure, the other group was wide open after Sampras came back from behind to beat Stefan Edberg 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 and keep alive his chances of progression.

Sampras, 23, showed why he is rated the best player in the world when he produced his best tennis under pressure.

He lost his opening match to Boris Becker on Wednesday

and, seemed to be heading out of the tournament when he dropped the first set 6-4 against former Wimbledon champion Edberg.

But Sampras produced his best tennis in the crucial final set and clinched the victory by winning the third-set tiebreak 7-3.

Agassi seems to be on a mental and physical high at the moment.

"I feel great. I am playing the best players in the world and I've got to the semis," he said. "My year is ending on a high note. My confidence is as high as it has ever been and I could not feel better."

Part of the American's revival is down to his link-up with new coach Brad Gilbert, the former professional.

"He has helped my game a lot," Agassi said. "My weaknesses are his strengths. It was more in the mind and my strategy towards the game."

Agassi, who was drawn in a group which strong baseline players, must now change his tactics on the fast indoor court for the semifinals where he will play a serve-and-volleyer from the other group. But the American is confident he now has the ability to switch tactics.

The White Group will be decided today when Becker meets Edberg and Sampras plays Ivanisevic.

Both Sampras and Edberg have each won and lost a match. Becker has two wins to his credit. Ivanisevic has lost twice.

With the superb form he showed on Thursday, Edberg

must have a good chance of beating Becker.

Edberg dropped to ninth in the rankings earlier this month, his lowest standing since October 1985. But the Swede now ranked eighth, served brilliantly at times and produced some of the deadly volleys and passing shots which put him on top of the world in 1990 and 1991.

Sampras needed to lift his game in the middle of the second set to avoid dropping out of the tournament.

"I told myself not to panic (after the first set)," Sampras said. "When I play him it is always decided on couple of points. I got them."

"I was a bit overwhelmed after Boris beat me. The confidence was not there and I had to find it. Fortunately I found it in the middle of the second set."

Edberg added: "Once he got ahead, he played too well. I did not have a chance in the tiebreak."

"But I still have a chance (to go further). If I play like this, there is no reason why I do not have a chance tomorrow although it will be a difficult match."

Chang's second defeat put him out of the tournament. As expected, French Open champion Sergi Bruguera clinched the second semifinal place from the Red Group after beating his Spaniard Alberto Berasategui 6-3, 6-2.

Berasategui, who plays virtually all of his tennis on clay, has lost all of his three matches.

Stuer-Lauridsen out of China Open badminton

BEIJING, Nov 18: Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen of Denmark, ranked third in the world, has crashed out of the China Open badminton tournament in northeastern Dalian, the official Xinhua news agency reported today, reports Reuter.

Thirteenth-seeded Marleve Mainaky of Indonesia beat a stubborn Stuer-Lauridsen, seeded second, 15-8, 9-15, 15-12 on Thursday to advance into the men's singles quarter-finals.

Ardy Wiranata of Indonesia, ranked number one in the world, thrashed 12th seed Ong Ewe Hock of Malaysia 15-10, 15-6.

Wiranata, who led his country to win the Thomas Cup earlier this year, got off to a slow start, trailing 5-3 in the first set.

He rallied to tie at 5-5 and the two players changed service four times until Ong made it 6-5 with a smash. After drawing level at 8-8, Wiranata went on to take the match 15-10.

The second set was lopsided with the agile Wiranata toying with his impatient rival and rushing off to an 11-2 lead. Wiranata dropped four points and then wrapped up the match.

"It is a hard match Ong Ewe Hock played quite well," the agency quoted Wiranata as saying. "It is not easy to beat him."

In the women's singles, top seed Bang Soo-Hyun of South Korea, who won the gold in the Hiroshima Asian Games last month, crushed Tang Jieyun of China 11-4, 11-4, to advance to the top eight.

One hundred and seventy-eight players from 12 countries and regions are competing in the five-day tournament, which ends on Sunday.

Olympic Games Africa-bound?

CAPE TOWN, Nov 18: Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch gave a strong hint on Thursday that an African country was favoured to host the 2004 Games, reports Reuter.

"The IOC will be very pleased to come to Africa," he told a news conference in Cape Town. "It is quite important for me, for us ... that Africa is the only continent that has never hosted the Games."

Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), was speaking after meeting President Nelson Mandela in Cape Town, which is bidding to stage the 2004 Games.

Asked if Cape Town had the capacity to host the Olympics, Samaranch said: "Yes, I think so."

He declined to say if he would support Cape Town's bid but added that South Africa would have to improve its infrastructure if it hoped to host the Olympics.

"You need money and public works. You need to improve your airports, your roads, transport systems and communication," he said.

Mandela told reporters the government would do everything in its power to ensure financial support for Cape Town's bid.

"It is in the interest of the entire South Africa that the Olympic Games should come here," he said, adding that the Games would generate resources the country currently lacked.

Pierce again Graf's bane

NEW YORK, Nov 18: Proving Paris was no fluke, Mary Pierce ousted defending champion and top-seeded Steffi Graf on Thursday night to grab the first semifinal berth in the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships, reports AP.

Pierce, who ousted Graf from the French Open, beat her this time 6-4, 6-4 at Madison Square Garden.

Gabriela Sabatini, who ended Martina Navratilova's remarkable career Tuesday night, also won her quarterfinal match, defeating another surprising first-round winner, Julie Halard of France, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Pierce, the No 5 seed, moved into Saturday's semifinals against the winner of Friday's quarterfinal between No 4 Jana Novotna and No 7 Lindsay Davenport. Sabatini will take on either Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez, who is seeded third, or No 8 Kinako Date of Japan.

Earlier, Navratilova made

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Nov 18: Sea Customs Club shared points with Mohammedans Blues in a goalless drawn encounter at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Sea Customs completed their full 18 matches in the league collecting 23 points.

The draw has enabled Mohammedans to become runners-up. They also have collected 23 points but have a match in hand.

Mohammedans will face their traditional rivals Abahani tomorrow in the last match of the league.

Barisal soccer

BARISAL, Nov 18: Water Development Board posted a facile 3-1 victory over Ashis Smriti Club in the Emma Overseas Senior Division football league at a local stadium today.

Faisal, Apu and Jamal netted once each for the winners while the losers only goal came from Musa.

Brothers Union take on Manju Smriti Club tomorrow.



STEFFI GRAF

really well because in everything else I'll be a total beginner.

Neither Sabatini nor Halard was expected to be around in the quarterfinals. One day before Sabatini expunged Navratilova from the field, Halard upset Sanchez Vicario, the French Open and US Open champion.

Halard seemed bent on continuing her surprising run when she broke Sabatini to begin the match. She broke her again in the seventh game before holding through deuce to win the opening set.

Both were hitting with pace, precision and depth, but it was Halard who was in control, keeping Sabatini on the run, then slamming a winner from either side. When Sabatini used drop shots to bring the baseline-hugging Halard to the net, Halard would respond with scoops and chips.

On the final point of her final match, she received serve, and netted a backhand return.

The crowd, smaller than the one that paid tribute to her Tuesday night, gave perhaps the greatest women's player in the sport's history a standing ovation.



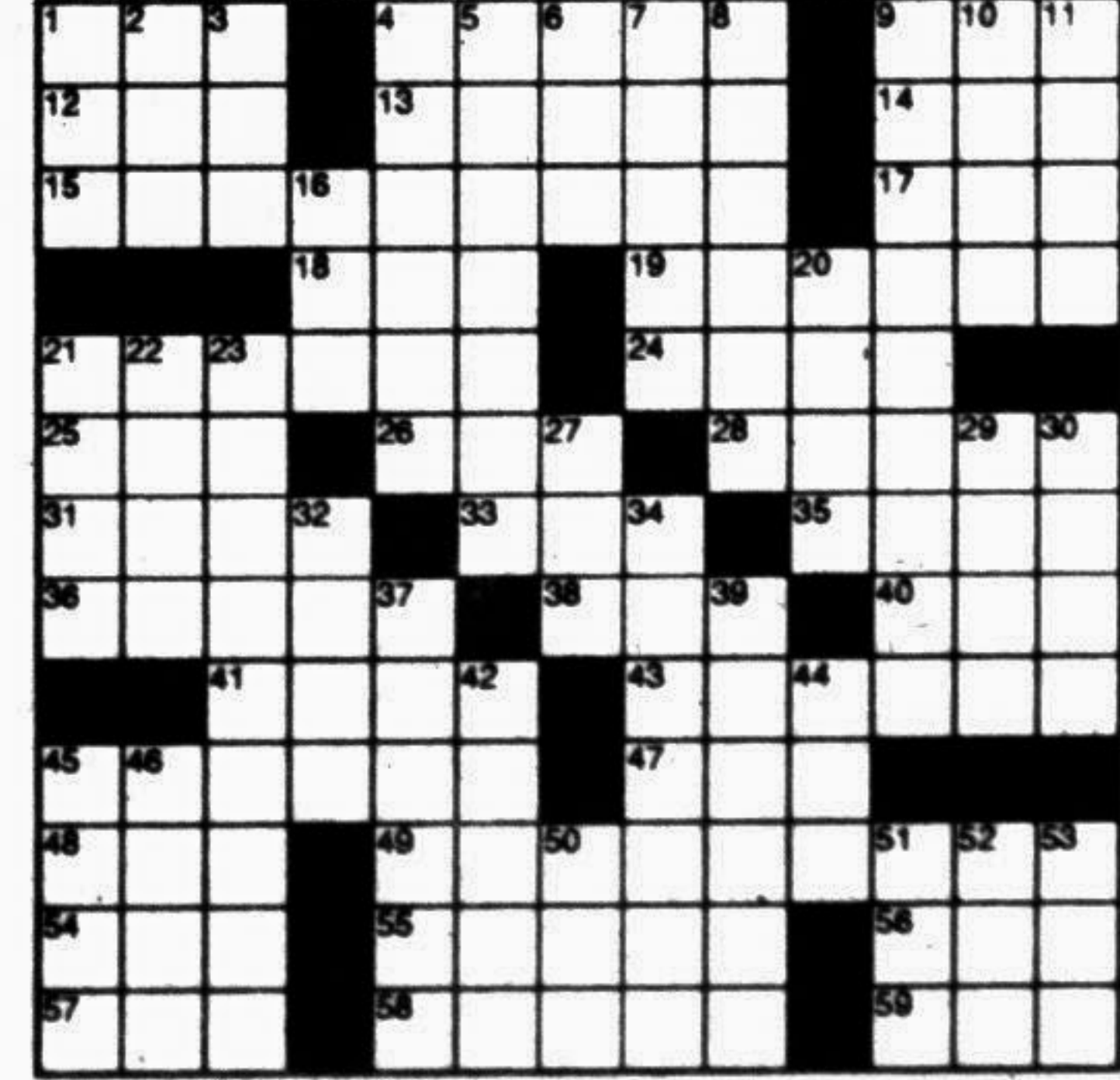
Participants take part in a mini-marathon organised by the Bangladesh Police yesterday. The 15-mile long race began at Fulbaria and ended Uttara. Home Minister Abdul Matin inaugurated the event while State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain was the special guest.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Swab
 - 4 Intimidated
 - 9 Prohibit
 - 12 Copper head
 - 13 Sheepish?
 - 14 Mr. Baba
 - 15 Ballet whirl
 - 17 Fond du - Wis.
 - 18 Stick figure?
 - 19 Actor Estevez
 - 21 "In Cold Blood" author
 - 24 Network
 - 25 Khan man
 - 26 Newsman Donaldson
 - 28 Day in Hollywood
 - 31 One of the seven deadly sins
 - 33 Youngster
 - 35 Pleasant
 - 36 Doc
 - 38 Symbol of intricacy
 - 40 Born
 - 41 Magazine for Parisiennes
 - 43 East Coast airport city
- DOWN**
- 45 Artillery-man
 - 47 "Caught ya"
 - 48 Citric cooler
 - 49 One-legged pose
 - 54 Wildebeest
 - 55 "I cannot - lie"
 - 56 Foul up
 - 57 Clinton's instrument
 - 58 Trusted mount
 - 59 Unearth DOWN
 - 1 Cartographer's creation
 - 2 - Wan
 - Kenobi of "Star Wars"
 - 3 Part of mph
 - 4 Seeks the hand of
 - 5 Pig out
 - 6 Oscar Wilde's forte
 - 7 Stage direction
 - 8 Considered
 - 9 Fonteyn, e.g.
 - 10 Jai follower
 - 11 Puerto -
 - 16 Tic-tac-toe win
 - 20 Lay -
 - thick
 - 21 Low on the Beaufort scale
 - 22 Malarial symptom
 - 23 Two step?
 - 27 Take blades to blades
 - 29 Bakery employee
 - 30 Quest
 - 32 Up to
 - 34 Not without defense
 - 37 Baseball shoes
 - 39 Decapitate
 - 42 Heron's kin
 - 44 "How Green - My Valley"
 - 45 Alger's "before"
 - 46 Writer Ferber
 - 50 Pub notation
 - 51 Proof sign-off
 - 52 Spoon-bender Geller
 - 53 Work unit

Solution time: 27 min.

JEW	APBS	BART
ASI	BLOC	ALOE
VAN	BATH	MOAN
AUDREY	HEP	BURN
ABS	MOI	
DAWNS	DEW	NEP
ERIK	OUR	HERO
LIZ	LIVE	TAXES
ADE	CHI	
TWO	FORT	HERO
HOT	SEAM	TUE
ROLE	ELLE	IRE
ODOR	ELKS	SAD



CRYPTOQUIP

U P P Z Y P Z M L S F M F Q Q F Z

W I S I B F A M P U I Q W P Y Y

X F Z A I L B X M F Z

Saturday's Cryptoquip: BASKETBALL STAR IS TICKLED PINK TO BE THE PROUD FATHER OF A BOUNCING BABY BOY.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals M

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.