

Sven Meinhardt (L) of Germany and Indian Harpreet Singh contest for the ball during their World Cup hockey encounter at Sydney's Homebush Stadium yesterday. Germany won 2-1.

Bovelanders powers Dutch

SYDNEY, Nov 29: Floris Jan Bovelanders struck three times Tuesday as defending champions Netherlands downed South Korea 4-2 and sealed a place in the semifinals of the World Cup field hockey tournament, reports AP.

minute as Germany maintained their unbeaten record in the tournament. The Germans now have two victories and two draws to their credit.

team to advance from the group unless they suffer an unlikely heavy loss to Belarus on Wednesday.

STANDINGS

Standings after the seventh day of the eighth men's World Cup hockey tournament...

More tales from China

BEIJING, Nov 29: Dozens of Chinese gymnasts have been injured and some of them permanently handicapped in sports accidents, according to an official survey published in the Press Digest newspaper on Monday, reports Reuter.

The three-year investigation into athletes from 13 sports was carried out by the health committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, an advisory body to the parliament.

Slim hopes for Strasbourg

PARIS, Nov 29: World soccer chief Joao Havelange on Monday told the organisers of the 1998 World Cup in France to reconsider Strasbourg as one of the sites for matches in the finals, reports Reuter.

Tignes will have the honour

OBERHOFEN, Switzerland, Nov 29: The French resort of Tignes will host the delayed opening races of the men's World Cup season this weekend, reports AP.

Maradona means movement

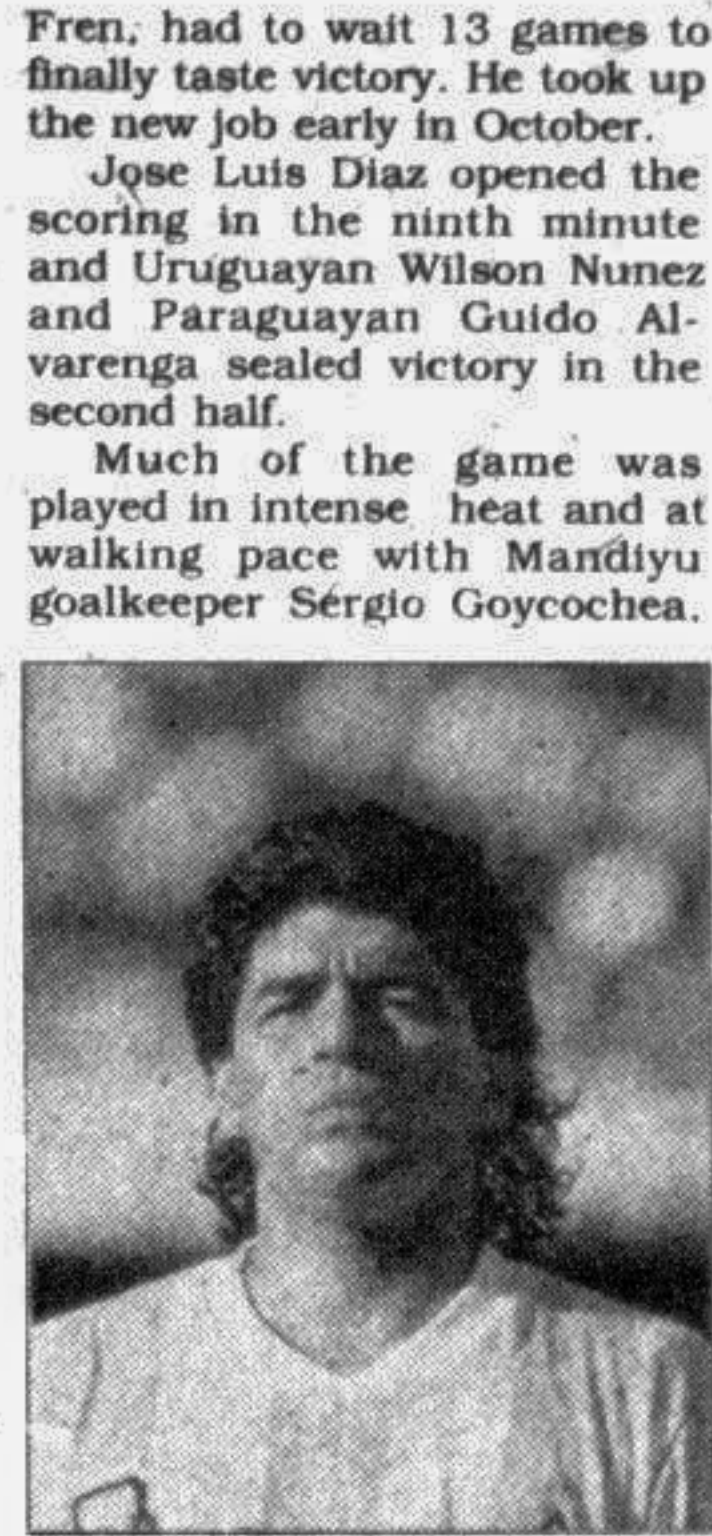


BUENOS AIRES, Nov 29: Controversial Diego Maradona, whose career was dented by drugs and scandals, said on Monday he was considering calling a soccer players strike against mass drug tests, reports Reuter.

Maradona's anger was triggered by an ongoing probe initiated last June by a federal judge who ordered 32 players to undergo tests after an anonymous caller accused them of being 'junkies'.

FINALLY A VICTORY

Meanwhile, Maradona's long wait for his first win as a coach finally ended at the weekend when his Deportivo Mandiyu team beat Gimnasia de Jujuy 3-0 at home in the Argentine First Division championship.



MARADONA

Maradona's teammate at the last two World Cups, Hardly troubled. Mandiyu's Carlos Casartelli had to be treated in hospital for heat exhaustion afterwards. He was later released.

Ex-Soviet reign threatened

ISTANBUL, Nov 29: War and strife plus a dire shortage of cash threaten the supremacy of the former Soviet republics who dominated the men's categories in the World Weightlifting Championships, reports Reuter.

Brazilian coach for Vietnamese soccer squad

HANOI, Nov 29: Vietnam have appointed Brazilian Edson Araujo Tavares to coach their national team as a first step towards launching professional soccer in the country, a Vietnam Soccer Federation spokesman said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Little goes right for Little

LONDON, Nov 29: Brian Little's homecoming party as manager of English Premier league side Aston Villa was spoiled as Sheffield Wednesday held them to a 1-1 draw on Sunday, reports Reuter.

But 108-kg champion Timur Taimazov still felt the need for his own coach and sponsor in wrestler-turned-businessman Viktor Ardishev.

WTA's top 20

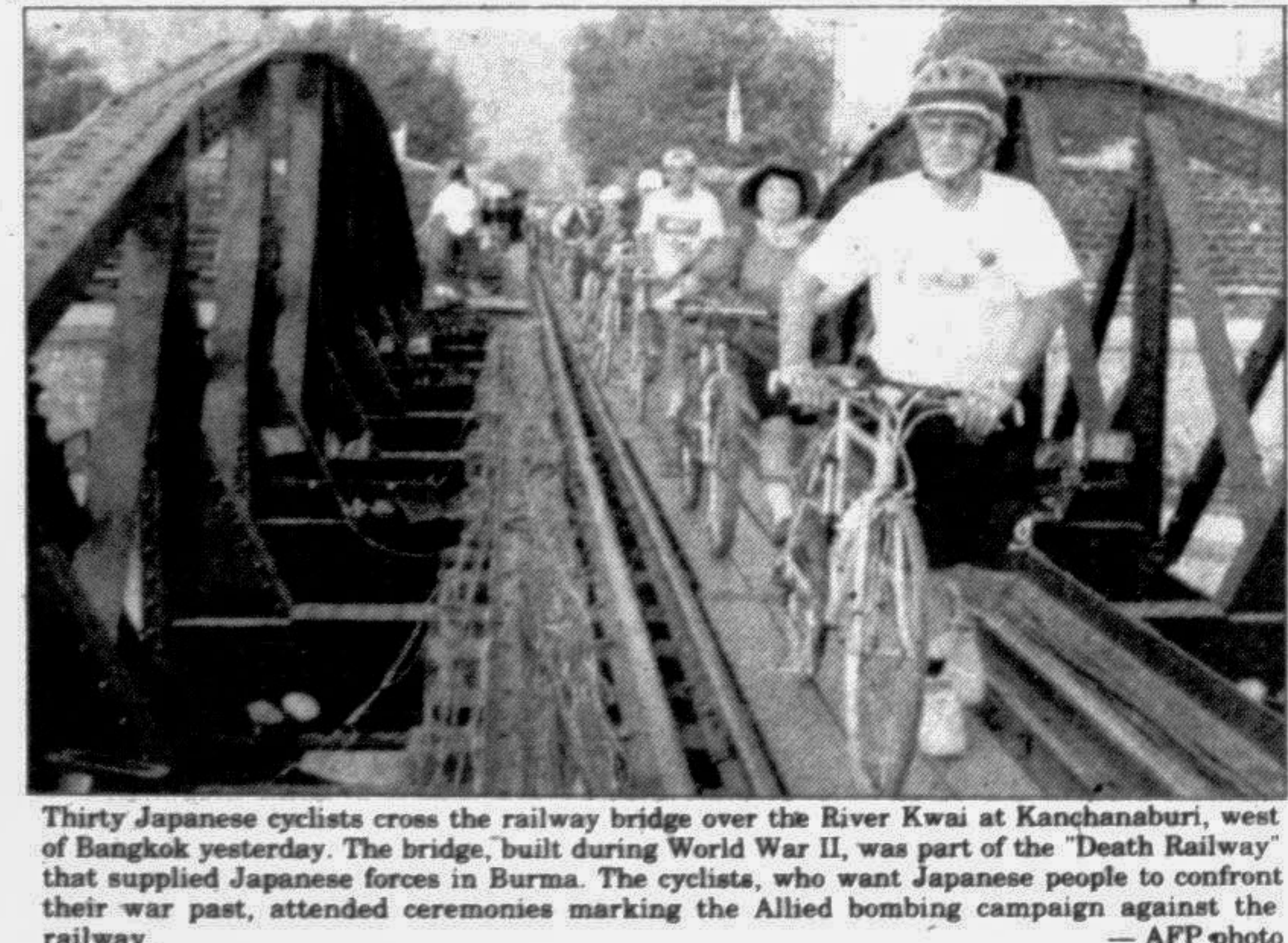
- ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Nov 29: Top 20 rankings as released by the WTA on Monday reports Reuter.

Engagement of a nat'l hero

DEVA, Romania, Nov 29: Nadia Comaneci set the seal on the celebrity engagement of the gymnastics world on Monday with American athlete Bart Conner, reports Reuter.

ment of seven 'perfect 10s' when she was just 14. 'I saw my kids were very touched to help Nadia through this blessing, I think the little kids knew Nadia only as a gymnast. Now they see her as a woman,' said the coach of the Romanian national gymnastics team, Octavian Bellu.

explain what drove her to escape the country just a month before Ceausescu fell or why it has taken her so long to return.



Thirty Japanese cyclists cross the railway bridge over the River Kwai at Kanchansaburi, west of Bangkok yesterday. The bridge, built during World War II, was part of the 'Death Railway' that supplied Japanese forces in Burma. The cyclists, who want Japanese people to confront their war past, attended ceremonies marking the Allied bombing campaign against the railway.



Regina Halmich (L) of Germany and Britain's Cherryl Robertson in action during a European women's professional bout in Karlsruhe, Germany on Nov 27. Halmich won the match and the title.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

GLPIGGLMBE VFIBBWBW SD GLV PEBM THVP USDPG OBIHFVB GB LV HTT PGFUV. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COULD THE BUNGLING COOK BE STOPPED FROM MAKING A HASH OF HIS CAREER? Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals C.