More tales

from China

injured and some of them

an official survey published in

the Press Digest newspaper on

the results of the survey show

that injuries among Chinese

athletes are rather serious."

into athletes from 13 sports

was carried out by the health

committee of the Chinese

People's Political Consultative

Conference, an advisory body

athletes, 3,832 - or 59.6 per

cent - suffered sporting in-

athlete, the more serious the

nature of the injury," the

newspaper quoted the survey

common in the 70-member

gymnastic team, with many

broken bones and 17 of the in-

jured requiring surgery. Gym-

nasts were treated for injuries

314 times in the three years of

the 1993 Chinese National

Championships, 17 suffered

injuries, while 23 gymnasts

who finished in the top three

in international competition

since 1990, were injured. Half

of all those were described by

medical experts as being

statistics from the state sports

commission reveal that 119

athletes were handicapped

after being injured, the news-

It cited the example of fe-

male gymnast Huanga Ruifen,

the only gymnast to be three

times world-champion in ac-

robatic gymnastics, who is now

handicapped and living on just

200 yuan (23 dollars) a month.

age of 15 when she broke her

leg and injured a tendon, but

continued to compete despite

her injuries and has lost the

Slim hopes for

Strasbourg

use of both her legs, it said.

She was first injured at the

paper said.

From 1978 to 1992, official

permanently handicapped.

Of gymnasts participating in

the investigation, it said.

Injuries were particularly

It found that out of 6,340

"The higher the class of the

"Initial information from

The three-year investigation

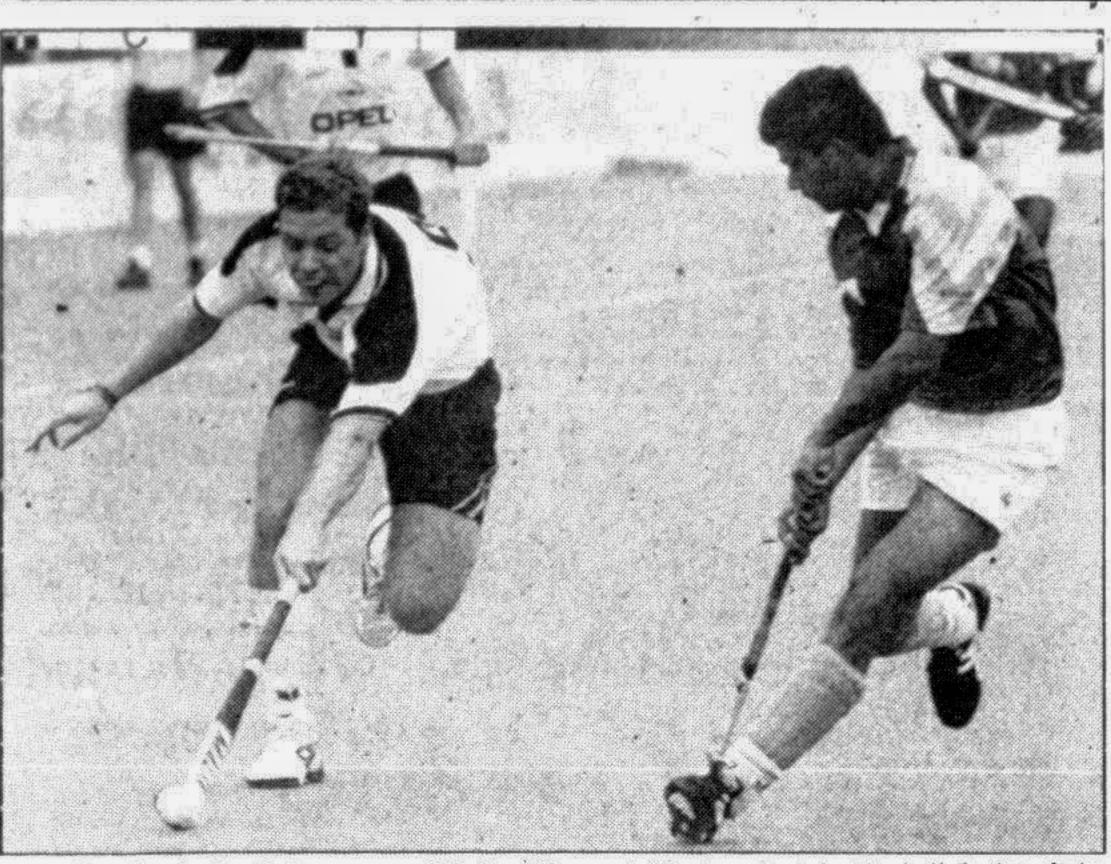
Monday, reports Reuter.

the newspaper said.

to the parliament.

as finding.

BEIJING, Nov 29: Dozens of



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.

Bovelander powers Dutch



Floris Jan Bovelander struck three times Tuesday as defending champions Netherlan-

ds downed South Korea 4-2 and sealed a place in the semifinals of the World Cup field hockey tournament, reports AP: Top seeds Australia also

clinched a semifinal berth by defeating England 2-0.

Olympic champions Germany defeated, India 2-1 and were virtually certain of advancing too. The losses ended the hopes India, England and Asian Games champion South Korea had of progressing to the final four.

Bovelander was on target in the 12th, 27th and 52nd minutes - twice from penalty corners - while captain Marc Delissen netted in the 14th minute after Bovelander created the opportunity. Shin Seok-kyo and Kim Young-kyu were the Korean marksmen.

The Netherlands now have three victories and a draw from their opening four matches in Pool B of the 12nation tournament and are unbeaten in their last 25 internationals.

Boyelander, 28, said he relished playing in midfield after a decade in defence.

"I'm more in the game now, and I think it's good for me," he said.

world on Monday with Ame-

rican athlete Bart Conner.

blessed in an orthodox cere-

mony at the Romanian Olympic

Gymnastics Centre where she

trained after her triple gold

medal-winning performance at

for my religious engagement

than my former high school in

Deva," Comaneci said. "The

place where I worked hard for

creation of communist gym-

nastics hothouse that reached

its peak at Deva, a town in the

forests of the Transylvanian

but little had changed at Deva

where young girls - from age

five to 18 - train under a

strict disciplinary regime for

idolise her for the achieve-

Those who follow Comaneci

at least six hours a day.

Communism may have died

Comaneci, now 32, was the

"There is no lovelier place

Their engagement was

reports Reuter.

Montreal in 1976.

years."

mountains.

Jan-Peter Tewes scored the winning goal in the 53rd

DEVA. Romania.

Nov 29: Nadia Co-

maneci set the

seal on the cele-

brity engagement

of the gymnastics

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

Andreas Becker shot Germany ahead in the 20th minute and Edward Aranha equalized 10 minutes later. Tewes then scored the second-half decider.

German coach Paul Lissek abandoned an experiment with zone defense and reverted to the man-to-man approach, which Indian coach Cedric described as D'Souza "brilliant."

"I was sure this would be a very tough match because the Asian style is very difficult for us (to counter)," Lissek said. "We had many problems

before the World Cup, so we changed tactics a little bit to come back to our man-to-man marking. D'Souza said his team had

been the victim of poor umpiring as the bigger, stronger Germans used their physical advantage to out-muscle the smaller Indians. "Some of the decisions

were atrocious," said D'Souza. Germany had eight penalty corners to India's none and both their goals came from the set plays.

Australia got goals from Stephen Davies in the 22nd minute and Paul Lewis in the 23rd as they scored their 11th straight victory over England and sealed one qualifying spot from Pool A.

Engagement of a nat'l hero

ment of seven "perfect 10s"

touched to help Nadia through

this blessing. I think the little

kids knew Nadia only as a

gymnast. Now they see her as

woman," said the coach of the

Romanian national gymnastics

himself a double gold medalist

in gymnasts at the 1984 Los

Angeles Olympics, is the glam-

our event of the year in world

gymnastics - not least in

stantly replied "yes." Conner

said of his idea to have the en-

gagement blessed in Romania.

Romania five years after she

fled into self-imposed exile in

the United States is national

tator Nicolae Ceasusescu.

Comaneci has not forgotten

the importance of political pa-

tronage in the Balkans, making

a point of spending time with

President Ion Iliescu and

Prime Minister Nicolae

She has declined to fully

A favourite of executed dic-

I asked Nadia and she in-

Comaneci's return to

The engagement to Conner,

"I saw my kids were very

when she was just 14.

team, Octavian Bellu

Romania.

event.

Vacaroiu.

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

In another Pool A game, Argentina surprised Spain 2-1 when Fernado Ferraro scored his second goal of the game with just three seconds remaining.

Ferraro managed to squeeze off a shot near the left goalpost that left Spanish goalkeeper Ramon Jufresa and his defence dumbfounded. The goal came with Argentina reduced to 10 men after defender Daniel Ruiz had been red-carded for a foul.

through came in the 11th First-round matches con-

Ferraro's initial break-

clude on Wednesday. The semifinals will be played Friday and the final on Sunday.

STANDINGS

Standings after the seventh day of the eighth men's World Cup hockey today (tabulate under: played, won, drawn, lost, gaols for, against, points):

	Group A:		36					
	Australia	5	4	0	1	9	4	8
	Pakistan	4	3	0	1	8	4	6
	England	5	2	2	1	4	3	6
	urrererallistes	HEH.		523	-227	1 527	1 18277	Pizzo
	Argentina	5	2	1	2	8	8	5
	Spath	5	1	1	3	7	8	3
	Belarus	4	0	0	4	2	11	0
	Group B:							
	Netherlands	4	3	1	0	16	5	7
	Germany	4	2	2	0	9	2	6

South Korea 4 1 1 2 9 8

explain what drove her to

month before Ceausecu fell or

why it has taken her so long to

still spends a relative fortune

on gymnastics to ensure that

even with the end of commu-

nism the country retains its

top ranking in the gymnastic

Bellu's "girls" in the national

team went on a training strike

last month over non-payment

of promised government

bonuses for championship vic-

tories. Vacaroiu intervened al-

most immediately to promise

the money would be paid and

plead with the girls to go back

Last week the team won

Romania's third World Cham-

pionship. On Saturday Vacaroiu

is due to pay the young women

in the team thousands of

dollars worth of bonuses -

normally 12 million lei (6,800

dollars) each for a gold medal

with extra payments of up to

20 million (11,400 dollars) for

outstanding leadership.

to their exercises.

The Romanian government

escape the country just

4 1 1 2 7 8 3

4 0 1 3 422

India

Belgium

Pakistan will be the other

PARIS, Nov 29: World soc-

cer 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. Strasbourg was ruled out

originally after the municipality decided the cost of repairing the stadium was too high. Havelange told a news con-

ference there were very good reasons to reconsider Strasbourg application. "It is a town of sports and culture and, moreover, it hosts the European Parliament," he said.

But he failed to convince Michel Platini, the former French international player who now chairs the organising committee.

Platini said: "I cannot see how we could go back to Strasbourg. For me, it is out of the question. Local politicians should have made their decision earlier."

Havelange is in France to review seven of the 10 stadiums chosen to host World Cup matches.

Twelve cities were considered and nine - Paris Marseille, Lyon, Bordeaux Toulouse, Nantes, Montpellier, St Etienne and Lens - were eventually selected.

the title.

ACROSS

1 Pocket-

watch

Two stadiums, the Parc Des Princes and the Grand Stade. in which the final is to take place, lie in or near the French capital.

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 week end, reports AP.

A giant slalom will take place Saturday and a sialom Sunday, the international ski federation, FIS, said Tuesday, Both races had been scheduled last weekend for Sestriers in

FIS spokeswoman Sonja Reichen said organisers still had to make a decision if conditions in Tignes were good enough to hold a Super G next week. That, and a downhill, were originally planned for Val d'Isere in France this week-

"We have to many more checks on safety before we can decide," said Reichen. "We can't give an immediate an-

study per. 30 Columbine "We are happy to have even comment wo races," she added. 31 Greatly

32 Skilled

33 Pork cut

35 Wall

34 Terry-cloth

marking

crawler

performer

Unusually warm weather throughout Europe has wreaked havoc with the men's competition. This is likely to lead to overcrowded races later in the season.

The women's circuit, which started in the United States last weekend, has been unaf-

Maradona means movement



BUENOS AIRES. Nov 29: Controversial Diego Maradona, whose career was ditched by drugs and sca-

ndals, said on Monday he was considering calling a soccer players strike against mass drug tests, reports Reuter.

"This cannot go on like this," he told a local radio station. The 34-year-old former soccer superstar said he was calling a players meeting on Wednesday to discuss the

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."

All the players of Platense and Gimnasia Yesgrima la Plata tested negative in June. But two of them failed a second test conducted this month under judge Roberto Marguevich's orders.

"these players are no drug addicts," said Maradona.

"There are strikes everyday. Lots of things can be achieved with a strike," he said. However, he added a note of caution: "But first we have to

Maradona, who earlier this year was expelled from the World Cup finals and banned from soccer for 15 months after himself testing positive to a random test, said players were being harassed by judge Marguevich.

"Someone's head was full of fantasies and someone convinced a judge that 30 guys were on drugs," complained Maradona, whose ban was recently relaxed by the world soccer body FIFA to let him coach struggling Deportivo Mandiyu.

FINALLY A VICTORY

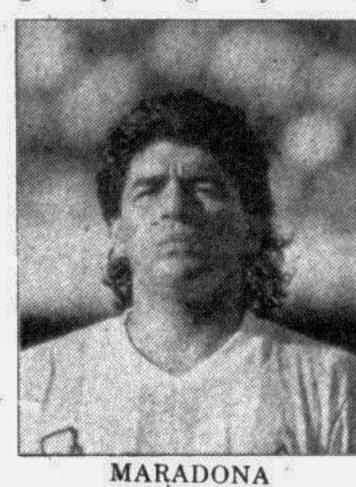
Meanwhile, Maradona's long wait for his first win as a coach finally ended at the weekend when his Deportivo Mandiyu team beat Gimnasia de Jujuy 3-0 at home in the Argentine First Division championship. Maradona, who works as

joint coach of the corrientesbased team alongside Carlos

Fren, had to wait 13 games to finally taste victory. He took up the new job early in October.

Jose Luis Diaz opened the scoring in the ninth minute and Uruguayan Wilson Nunez and Paraguayan Guido Alvarenga sealed victory in the second half.

Much of the game was played in intense heat and at walking pace with Mandiyu goalkeeper Sérgio Goycochea.



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.

After the game, Maradona preferred to criticise the conditions rather than celebrate his win. "We should be happy, but we mustn't forget that Casartelli is in hospital because of the heat," he said. "One day a player will die on the pitch.

* Mandiyu are still struggling to avoid relegation and are third from bottom of the Apertura Championship, the first of two tournaments in the 1994/95 season.

Two teams go down at the end of every season in Argentina, where relegation is decided on an average of points per game taken over the last three seasons. Mandiyu are currently third from bottom in the averages with 0.833 points. River Plate stayed top of the

table after coming from be hind to beat Deportivo Espanol 3-1 away

Regina Halmich (L) of Germany and Britain's Cherryl Robertson in action during a European

3 Bit bunch 26 Music to

symptoms 27 Hit bottom

Leno's

ears

4 Hummable

5 Malarial

Uruguayan international Enzo Francescoli, who returned to the club in August after several seasons in France and Italy, scored 76 goals in 125 games during his two

spells at the club. It was a less happy day for Uruguay's former national team coach Luis Cubilla who saw his Racinga club side thrashed 5-2

at home to Rosario Central.

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.

"Edson Tavares is the first foreign coach we've hired in the last 10 years," the spokesman said. Soviet and Chinese experts trained Vietnamese players in the past. The contract runs from

November 20 to the end. of 1995. The Asian Football Federation proposed the idea and an international cigarette company is providing the "Foreign coaches will bring

in an industrial manner of training ... and sooner or later Vietnamese soccer will have to go in the professional direction," the spokesman said. He said the national federa-

tion expected to make a proposal for professional soccer to the government in 1995.

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. Wednesday full-back Peter

Atherton punished an error by Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich in the 57th minute to rob Little of victory after Dalian Atkinson had given Villa 16thminute lead.

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.

Turkey, who finished second with a team comprising mainly of ethnic Turks from Bulgaria, were the only team in the top six who did not come from former communist bloc

nations. But the ex-Soviet supremacy is under threat on at least two fronts.

The area is a hotbed of strife and coaches from Georgia advise journalists to speak at length to their competitors as they might not live to see another championship.

Olympic champion Kakhi Kakhiashvili left Georgia two months ago and became a late entry for Greece in the 91-kg category while the two bestknown Australians, Nicu Vlad in the 180-kg category and Stefan Botev in the over-180 kgs division, are from Romania and Bulgaira respectively. An even greater enemy for

the former communist nations could be economics.

"Under communism sport had all the money it needed." said Bulgaria's team coach Yorgen Ivanov. "Now we have to rely of private sponsors and there is not much money to go

"The Bulgarian team used to train together for 11 months a year, now we are lucky if they can get together for five. Ironically. Bulgaria were

pushed into third place with a one point deficit by Turkey's overwhelmingly ex-Bulgarian The Ukrainian team, much

weaker than last year's World Championship squad, have found a wealthy sponsor in former super heavyweight Anatoly Pisarenko, who set up business in the United States at the end of his sporting ca-But 108-kg champion Ti-

mur Taimazov still felt the

need for his own coach and sponsor in wrestler-turned businessman Viktor Ardishev Russia's rising super-heavy weight Andrei Chemerkin and

his teammate Alexander Kurlovich of Belarus both said their federations guaranteed their training until at least 2000

WTA's top 20 ST PETERBURG, Florida

Nov 29: Top 20 rankings as released by the WTA on Monday reports Reuter. Steffi Graf (Germany)

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario Conchita Martinez (Spain) Jana Novotna (Czech Re-

public) Mary Pierce (France) Lindsay Davenport (US)

Gabriela Sabatini (Argen Martina Navratilova (US)

Kimiko Date (Japan)

Natalia Zvereva (Belarus) Magdalena Maleeva (Bulga Anke Huber (Germany) Iva Majoli (Croatia) Mary Joe Fernandez (US)

Brenda Schultz (Nether fands) Amy Frazier (US) Lori McNeil (US) Amanda Coetzer (South

Africa) Sabinehack (Germany) Gorrochategui Lnes

women's professional bout in Karlsruhe, Germany on Nov 27. Halmich won the match and - AFP photo (Argentina)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

36 Ring up

37 Garb

39 Verily

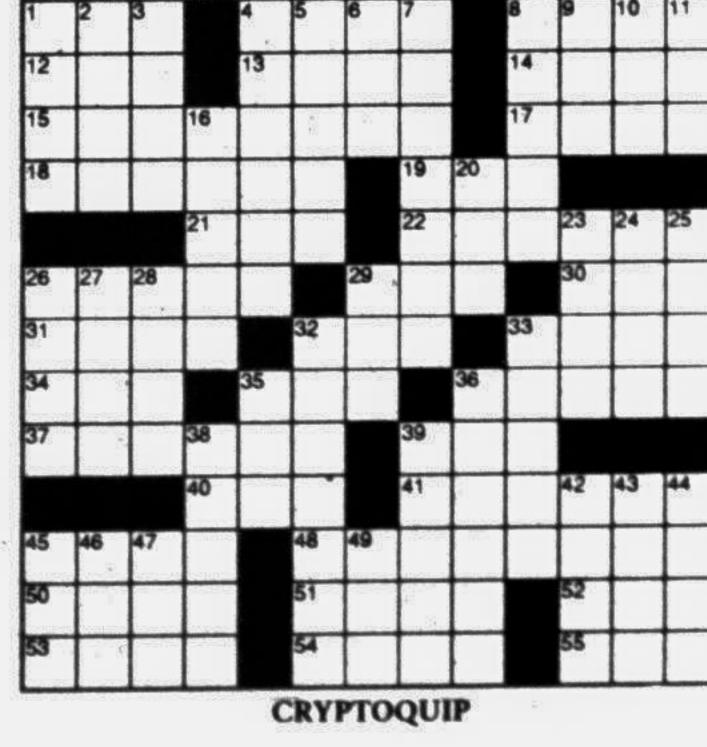
accessory 40 Tavern

28 Sentry's 4 Urban fleet 41 Split in two 6 Founda-8 "Oh, woe!" 45 Benchley station 29 Slick 12 Trouba-7 Amount novel 32 C grade 48 Mason or filtered dour's 33 Yuletide 8 Anticipate Matlock rendition feeling 13 Writer 50 English 9 You can't 35 Nest-egg portraitist, stand to James 1761-1807 have one 14 Carry on acct. 36 Towers to 10 Census 51 Hoodlum 15 Posture 52 Part of guide 17 Summit datum aviators 18 From what "to be" 11 Census 38 "Ghosts" 53 Part of datum source 16 Not author 19 Omega "to be" 39 Man of 54 Fouls up suitable preceder 55 State of 20 Pigs' digs 21 Oohs' many 23 Canyon matter parts? mates 22 Go to DOWN phenom-26 One of 1 Defect enon 2 Four-letter 24 High time? the Seven 25 Info **Dwarts** word 29 Mid-'50s Solution time: 28 mins. environmental

ERLELISA MOONLIGHT SUN 45 Exemplar COHANOI HERA PEGUGLY
AME LAI HOE
MUDD URN STOW CRIMPCLEATS I DE A GRAY 49 Ander-DOLT Yesterday's answer 3-25

42 Sampling of wordplay: abbr. 43 Miles of movies 44 Sightse-46 One of cronies 47 How, to

of patience Tarzan's Hamburgson's "High ---"



VFIIBBWBW GLPIGGLMBE

OBIHFVB GB USDPG HTT PGFUOV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COULD THE BUNGLING COOK BE STOPPED FROM MAKING A HASH OF HIS CAREER?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals C

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.



Thirty Japanese cyclists cross the railway bridge over the River Kwai at Kanchanaburi, 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 - AFP photo | fected. railway.