Arbachakov

retains crown

Yuri Arbachakov beat a nagging

cold and waves of counter-

blows from Mexican challenger

Oscar Archinega to retain his

World Boxing Council (WBC)

flyweight title by unanimous

decision Monday, reports AFP.

of the title turned into a slug-

fest as he chased hard from a

slow start to land his deadly

rights but the number-three

contender battled back with

in the 12-round bout, the first

world, title match to be held in

this 1972 Winter Olympic city

for 12 years, and the 28-year-

old champion went ahead on

points with more clear-cut

South Korean Judge David

Chung both scored it 116-112

and Bruce Mactavish of the

Philippines 116-113 in the

The 1989 world amateur

flyweight champion, who made

his professional debut in Tokyo

in 1990 as one of several

"Perestroika" boxers from the

then Soviet Union, said he had

been sapped by a flu after 72

training and tried to do my

best. But I could not show all I

"I've gone through hard

Arbachakov stretched his

unscathed professional record

to 20 wins, 15 of them inside

world title by the 24-year-old

Mexican and his sixth defeat

against 19 wins, including 14

ously fought world-rankers a

few times but never travelled

abroad before, regretted that

he could not send Arbachakov

down although he dazzled with

short uppercuts and body

and chin which seemed vul-

nerable. I really wanted to

Wolves owe

Jones one

keeper Paul Jones kept Wolves

SHEFFIELD, Jan. 31: Goal-

knock him down," he said.

"I attacked on Yuri's body

Archiniega, who has previ-

knockouts, and two draws.

It was the first crack at a

US judge Jerry Roth and

There were no knockdowns

crisp one-two attacks.

blows.

Russian's favour.

rounds of sparring.

had," said Arbachakov.

the distance.

The Russian's sixth defence

SAPPORO, Japan, Jan 31:



BUDDIES ALWAYS: Romario and Hristo Stoichkov pose with their FIFA world player-of-theyear trophies during a ceremony held at the Lisbon Cultural Centre on Jan 30. Romario was named world footballer of 1994 by FIFA. Stoichkov was placed second and Roberto Baggio third.

Sad Sunday for Serie A



ROME, Jan 31: Italian sports officials on Monday tional sporting sion of matches." events due next

Sunday in protest against the murder of a football fan and mass riots at a match in Genoa at the weekend, reports AFP. The decision was an-

nounced by the head of the Italian National Olympic Committee. Mario Pescante, and Italian Football Federation president Antonio Matarrese. Pescante said: "I have said

for some time that there was a risk somebody could be killed. This death will weigh heavily on public opinion and everybody's conscience."

Calls for Matarrese's resignation followed his criticicism of the decision to abandon the game at half-time.

The sports officials ignored a government call for the sports programme to continue for fear that halting it might provoke more violence from unhappy football fans.

Sports officials said the halt would affect all national matches but would not affect Italy's international progra-

Interior Minister Antonio

Brancaccio on Monday told a press conference that: "The cabinet is opposed to general cancelled all na- ' measures such as the suspen-

> Brancaccio had earlier briefed the new Italian cabinet on the murder Sunday of 25year-old Genoa fan Vincenzo

The sixth Italian fan to die in six years was stabbed in the heart just before the match out about the murder from radio reports they went on a ram-

Police intervened and had to use armoured vehicles, tear gas and baton charges to end the rioting.

The difficult decision to cancel all sports events, a bitter blow to the sports-mad country, followed a call by the Vatican Monday for "tough and unpopular measures," including the suspension of the football programme, to stop the violence that has come to plague Italian sporting events.

"The time has come to take unpopular decisions," said the Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano. "To try everything to stop the massacre."

Meanwhile, Brancaccio effectively gave officials licence to cancel matches saying that,

though it might provoke more trouble. "If in individual cases local officials see danger to public safety, they can take it on themselves to cancel the

games in question. He said the government would ask football officials to enforce "tighter control" of supporters and exclude troublemakers from all future matches and said the troublemakers were in some cases are known to the clubs.

Police announced Monday that a 19-year-old suspect, Simone Barbaglia, had been arrested in Milan over the Genoa killing.

"We pretend to live in a civilised world," said the Corriere Della Sera newspaper "But how can we get rid of this evil without drastic action." Spagnolo was knifed shortly

before the kick-off when a group of masked attackers confronted home fans. Some 1,000 AC Milan sup-

porters were escorted back to Milan where the suspect was identified.

Massimiliano Maggi, another Genoa supporter with Spagnolo's group, suffered a fractured skull while six other fans were also injured in the

28th January: Paired with

Sixth BGCC: A tour diary

By Shakil Kasem

Championship: Tee off is at

11:30, but do not get on the

BGCC Open.

round.

over par round.

late an octogenarian. An OB

and a triple bogey later I re-

alise the course has bitten me

in the ankle when I am least

expecting it. Finish 9 over on

the front nine and par 10.

11.12 when the 15th conclu-

sively bury my hopes for a good

through that Sajjad, Salman

and Shawkat are not having a

happy time as well. Tareq

comes in with a tidy score and

Sanjeev Mehra (Fatty) leaves

the field way behind with a one

round, and is well and truly in

contention for the net trophy.

Am very happy for him as he

had struggled all through the

two rounds last year. Craftily

he has passed on the bug to

younger brother Iftikhar, this

year. Mohammad Ali is as con-

sistent as ever with a solid

round. Iqbal comes to terms

with the course quickly this

time, and is certainly the one-

to watch out for tomorrow.

The youngsters tackle the

course in their own diverse

ways. Sadiq playing the waiting

game and Raiyan Rab taking

the bull by the horn. Raiyan has

no inhibitions off the tee. on

both days finishing his tee shot

at the 1st in the greenside

bunker. Sadly, they lack the

experience in taming the

course, and highly promising

rounds eventually fade into

Zulfiqar turns in a great

Meanwhile, news filter

Thursday 26 January: There are three cricket matches lined up till the 29th, because CCFC from Calcutta are in town. But, the call of Bhatiary is as usual overpowering. Plans made well in advance are in place; golf clubs (or rather irons in my case) are at the ready. The only hitch is the Biman flight at 7:30 pm. Even that takes off, "predictably" at 10.15. An eventful flight. Ashfaque Chowdhury takes command of a situation that seems to be getting crazily out of control. The F-28 consequently takes less than its normal flying time as it hurries through the night sky to Chittagong. A totally mesmerised ground staff watch the plane disappear, shell shocked for more reasons than one. Hour and half later, manage to land at Chittagong Club, having missed the welcome party at Bhatiary. Find Dhaka golfers, including mates Shawkat and Igbal, still recovering from the blow by blow account of the club final match which Murad, my good friend and host, has won that afternoon against Mohammad Ali, and is describing it, shot by shot. It promises to be a

long night. The high point is certainly my introduction to Nuru. Chittagong's home grown social scientist of repute, with the most refreshing theories on national politics that one had heard in a long time. His analysis of the present national erisis are pungent, perceptive and unambiguous. One is definitely wiser and more than a little rattled by the encounter. Even the normally uuflappable BR is reeling as Nuru's verbal punches land like so many body blows. Thursday night at Chittagong Club is an educa-

27th January: Day one of the

Maradona's hearing now in April

ROME, Jan 31: A hearing set for Monday into allegations of drug trafficking against Diego Maradona has been put back until April, court sources said here, reports AFP.

Judge Maria Cordova was indisposed, the sources said. without giving details.

Maradona is to answer allegation's made by a former bodyguard Pietro Puglisi who was questioned in 1989 in connection with an international cocaine trafficking ring.

mediocre ones.

tee till about 12 noon, because Sajjad and Salman, all memlitikhar is having problems bers of the class of 92. Salman getting off it. The dubious pars six and double bogeys the record of most OB's off the rest to finish 6 over on the first tee is under dire threat front, while Sajjad finishes 4 from Iftikhar, who as I learn over. Back mine is diabolical. later, is also the holder of the Sajjad religiously three putting previous record. Eight tee every hole that comes his way shots sail conclusively into OB. It is a performance worthy of a before Iftikhar coaxes a pitch-Langer cirea 1986. Meanwhile ing wedge on to the fairway. Salman ensures the day's best Standing on the first tee at gross is his. Out on the course Bhatiary and looking through TJ sharpens his knowledge of the very narrow inlet into the golf rules and barely breaks fairway below is nerve wrack-100. Iqbal meanwhile is burning at the best of times. ing the course with his drives Watching Iftikhar's high definiand for a change sinking his tion performance send cold putts as well. After his downshivers down the collective hiller on the 7th camps itself spines of those waiting to beon the lip of the cup it is plain gin their assault on the 6th he can do nothing wrong today. A round of 81 is an envi-Thankfully, with no regrets able one, good enough to land whatsoever, I cannot match him the 2nd best net for the Iftikhar's class act, and the competition. Zulfigur comes in trusty 3 - iron leaves me with with another good round and only a sand wedge to the wins the Best Net conclusively: green. A bogey, and in a happy an admirable achievement for frame of mind we climb to the this always genial golfer. The 2nd Tee. Two pars and three precise and deliberate Hanil bogeys later. I get to my fa-Parekh barring a few minor vorite 7th hole; a seductive par hiccups enroute, posts the 3rd - 3 that teases the golfer as Best Net, decks himself for the much as a nymphet might titevening, collects the trophy

> the last train to Dhaka. The leader group of Tareq. Fatty and Shawkat play con flicting rounds. Tareq fades away early while Shawkat turns on the after burners as he usually does on the final round. 6, over par is a brilliant round but the damage was already done on the first day. Fatty plays 6 over as well but his first day's 73 leaves him comfortably ahead of the field. Mohammad Ali who can play Bhatiary with his eyes closed, has no problems taking home the third best gross

and vanishes off into night on

Sherry wins the ladies title as usual and doesn't look happy at all. She is such a class above all the rest. For the second year running the rapidly improving Fauzia Khan finishes

Bhatiary reserves it best for the final evening. The food is great, arrangements near perfect, and the entertainment excellent. The tournament committee there are past masters at ensuring that the participants have a great time. Many thanks chaps, and atleast Shawkaf, Iqbal and yours truly would be back again sooner than you think.

PS Murad does not get to speak that night. It would have been a good acceptance speech. I should know, because I am a captive audience on the drive back home.

Romario FIFA's world booter

for 1994 LISBON, Jan 31: Brazilian forward Romario was rianied World footballer-of-1994 by the International Football Federation (FIFA) here Mon-day, reports AFP.

A committee of 100 national selectors gave Roamrio the verdict by a huge margin of 364 points against 100 for Hristo Stoichkov of Bulgaria and 80 for Italy's Roberto

Romario, who played for Brazil in their World Cup triumph last year and was recently transferred to Flamengo of Rio de Janeiro from FC Barcelona, received his award at a gala evening to mark the 50th anniversary of the Portuguese sports paper Abola. attended by FIFA president Joao Havelange and Secretarygeneral Sepp Blatter.

England wander in delight

CALCUTTA, Jan 31: England A added to the smiles of Britain's cricket farls Tuesday by defeating India A in the second five-day international for a decisive 2-0 lead in the three-match series, reports

The tourists made light of a fourth innings target of 254 on a wearing track to romp home by five wickets, a day after their senior team's sensational win over Australia in the Adelaide Test.

The emphatic triumph gave England A the "Test series" on their first ever tour of India and reduced the third and final Test at Chandigarh from Saturday to a meaningless con-

The tourists, who won the opening encounter at Bangalore by four wickets, beat back India's three-pronged spin attack to end the match at the stroke of tea on the final day at the Eden Gardens.

England's hero was Glamorgan left-hander David Hemp. who struck a brilliant unbeaten century, reaching 100 by slamming the winning stroke to point for three runs off spinner Rajesh Chauhan.

Hemp, who came into the side after Mark Ramprakash flew to Australia to reinforce the injury-hit senior team cracked 13 boundaries and two sixes in a breathtaking three-and-half-four stay at the

Skipper Allan Wells contributed a valiant 85, adding 155 for the fifth wicket with Hemp after the home team had reduced England A to 82 for four in the first 15 minutes of the day's play.

Wells fell when 17 more runs were needed, but allrounder Dominic Cork batted for 10 minutes without scoring to allow Hemp to complete his century.

Hemp, was seven short of his century when just six runs were needed for victory. Cork played out a maiden before Hemp struck a boundary, and then took three more runs off Chauhan to reach one-run short of the three-figure mark as well as bring victory to his Earlier, England A lost two

wickets in the space of three balls to slide to 82 for four after resuming at Monday's score of 80 for two.

Nightwatchman Minal Patel was trapped leg before byspinner Sairaj Bahutule in the fourth over. In the next, Nick Knight was stumped off Chauhan for 37.

But Hemp and Wells settled down to beat back the Indian offensive and earn a well-deserved win for their team.

MOSCOW, Jan 31: An enterprising Russian company that sells lavatories, makes shoes and buys property has branched out again, making history by becoming the first owner of a soccer club founded in the Soviet era, reports Reuter

"Factories and other enter prises are bought and sold. Russian Soccer Federation vice-president Nikita Simonyan said on Monday. "So perhaps it's not surprising that someone has finally bought a soccer team.

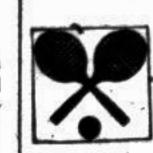
Until now, all professional clubs in Russia - and before that in the communist-ruled Soviet Union - have been run by ministries, city authorities and state-owned enterprises and laterly sponsored by the new monied classes.

But Vladimír Kalina, one of the five co-owners of the lowly First Division Smena-Saturn Club in St Petersburg, believes this must change and that the way ahead is the route long favoured by western teams.

"I'm sure that in our soccer the time when teams lived at the expense of city budgets or sponsors' alms is over," he told Komsomolskay Pravda newspaper. "Each team must have its own boss with a (at wallet."

He said Saturn Company, a joint venture which imports and sells kitchens and British bathrooms as well as dealing in real estate and making shoes, had not purchased Smena-Saturn last year out of charity.

Date dispatches Fendick



quent Australian Open but lost TOKYO, Jan 31: Japan's Kimiko triot Naoko Sawamatsu. Date overcame a slow start and a stomach injury to

beat American Patty Fendick 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the first round of the 806,250 US dollar Pan Pacific Open on Tuesday, reports Reuter... The decisive game came in

ranked Date took a 3-2 lead after playing seven deuces. The fifth seed lost only two

the second set when the 10th

in the third round to compa-Iva Majoli of Croatia, the

eighth seed, scored an easy 6-4, 6-0 win over Pam Shriver of the United States. Top seed Conchita Martinez

of Spain and second seed Mary Pierce of France, the Australian Open champion, had first-round byes. AFP adds: Following the

withdrawal of an injured Steffi Graf. Mary Pierce is now seen



Kimiko Date of Japan serves to Patty Fendick of the United States during her first round match in the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday. Date won 4-6, 6-3,

more games as she clinched her second round place.

"It was true that (a stomach. strain) affected my play, but the strain is getting better and better," said Date.

The injury forced her to retire from the New South Wales Open semifinal against Lindsay Davenport earlier this month. She played in the subse-

llenge to world number one

Pete Sampras after giving

men's tennis fresh impetus in

Sunday's Australian Open final,

Agassi's success at Flinders

reports Reuter.

28 Fielder's

flub

31 Notting-

33 Wooden

35 Taj Mahal

36 Gladiator-

38 Symbol of

ial milieu

shoe

ham cleric

passenger

MELBOURNE.

Jan 31: Andre

Agassi is already

plotting the next

phase of his cha-

as the hot favourite for the tournament

Germany's Graf skipped the defence of her Australian Open due to a damaged calf muscle and failed to recover for another defence in Tokyo this

Pierce, 20, who bowed to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the French Open final last year,

Agassi aims at twin peaks

Park has given him the chance

to become the second player

in the Open era after Aus-

tralian Rod Laver to collect all

four major championships ti-

tles. The feat hinges on a vic-

tory at the French Open in

Even Sampras admits the

24-year-old Las Vegas star, also

the reigning US Open cham-

wreaked revenge over the Spaniard to win her first Grand Slam title at the Aus-

tralian Open last Saturday. "It was like a dream come true for me to win a Grand Slam tournament. Winning the tournament definitely gave me a lot of satisfaction and confidence, because "I've been

happy about that." Pierce said. .When asked about her prospects for the 148,500 top prize, she said: "Everybody here is a great player. I just like to say that I'm going to go out there and play the best in every match and just see what happens."

working hard and I'm very

Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain is seeded top here, but Pierce beat her 6-3, 6-1 in their first encounter at the Melbourne semifinals.

"It seems that I have to meet the Australian Open champion in the final ... it's a long way to reach, because all the players are playing very well. Hopefully, I'll play a very good first match and make my second round," Martinez

Perhaps the greatest challenge to the top two seeds will come from Lindsay Davenport. Pierce crashed to the American at the Virginia Slims Championships semifinals in November.

The top four seeds -Martinez, Pierce, Davenport and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus - received first-round byes.

Pierce's second-round opponent will be either American Debbie Graham or Japan's Kyoko Nagatsuka in the bottom half, which includes Davenport, seventh seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria and sixth seed Anke Huber of Germany. Martinez will play the win-

ner between Shaun Stafford of the United States and Indonesia's number one Yayuk Basuki. . She is in the same half as

Zvereva, local favourite Kimiko Date, who failed to defend the New South Wales Open because of pain in her side, and Iva Majoli of Croatia. Other prominent players

include Lori McNeil, a surprise winner over Graf in the Wimbledon first round last year, fellow American Gigi Fernandez. Japan's number two Sawamatsu, who Naoko reached the best eight at Melbourne, and number three Mana Endo.

pion, could win all three of the

year's remaining major titles if

he stays fit, and Agassi's coach,

Brad Gilbert, was even quicker

to hammer home the message.

ting on the court and I looked

up and he was already talking

about the French," revealed

· "He wants the next two, he

wants Wimbledon and the

French. I said: "At least do me

the favour of just dealing with

the French now, for crying out

A year ago, Agassi was re-

covering from wrist surgery

and the tennis world was re-

signing itself to Sampras

dominating for the foreseeable

Melbourne has created

much-needed rivalry, with

world number two Agassi cur-

rently holding the inside

with that US Open victory be-

cause I really had to dig down

deeper than I ever had to beat

all those players." he said.

"I got over a really big hump

However, the outcome in

future.

track.

- Star photo

"After the match I was sit-

in the FA Cup here on Monday by producing a fine penalty save with just three minutes to

blows.

go against Premiership side Sheffield Wednesday, reports Jones dived to his right to parry Chris Bart-Jones' controversial spot-kick, earning Gra-

team a fourth round replay at home. His feat saw justice was done after a thrilling 90 min-

ham Taylor's First Division

utes dominated by the visitors. For former England manager Taylor, the encounter was

a personal triumph, his side playing the better football throughout. "I think justice was done

because the penalty was a harsh decision. I'm very pleased," Taylor said. Even Chris Waddle, the

winger so often snubbed by Taylor for England, could not fire Wednesday as Wolves took control from the opening min-

Wolves almost went ahead in the third minute when Sheffield born youngster Lee Mills beat the offside trap but scuffed his shot straight at the goalkeeper.

But Wednesday, dominated territorially and failing to click, almost broke the deadlock themselves when former Aston Villa man Guy Wittingham put a free header over after 18 minutes.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** intrigue patience drifters 40 Mend, in 1 Lovers 57 "Skip -10 Writer

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain

distributing certificates among the participants of football

clinic 'Coke Go for Goal' on Monday. Among others, the

function was attended by FIFA coach Jack Galehar (left),

Youth and Sports Secretary Azizul Haq and BFF general

secretary Sheikh Akmal Hossain (right).

quarre Silverstein a way Lou' 5 Ruler: 41 King or 58 Atheist's 11 Roll call abbr. lack queen reply 8 Cry of 43 Height 59 Catches 16 Burden for Heidi contempt some rays 20 Exploit 12 Lolla-45 Cater DOWN 23 Sch. org. palooza 47 Where 1 Glided 24 "Ben- --13 - Amin to find 2 Dark 25 Sandwich 14 Rue the Southfork purple filling 51 Doel tool 3 One of the 27 Blue 52 Cold 15 Insulated Baldwins 29 Tramcar cabinets storage 4 Ziti, e.g. 17 Groucho-5 Sweet age 30 Crude unit? Dressing esque look 54 32 Rogue's 6 Keatsian 18 Proper piece room doings 19 Fall occupant 7 Panor-21 Seek 55 Cigaretteamic view 37 "All the damages Things 8 City near 22 "- sow, Hannibal for short 56 Show 9 They're SO... 23 Key letter Solution time: 21 mins. 42 Losing 26 Choice: abbr.

ABCS APT HOMILIES MAZ EKE OAK LOBE HASCAP CAPON MACHETE ALUMKIDOVA REPEALS KNACK ARMONE PEALE COO BAA AUTO HOMBURGS IRON UMP SEEK DOZE BAH AWES 53 Bill's

34 Cul-de-sac You -39 Mediocre strength 44 Snow movers 45 Nuisance 46 Involved with 48 Islanders

shindig 49 "B" --"boy" 50 Assort-

ments

partner

CRYPTOQUIP

RVTJAWJ BGCCAVR SNWWP BGTAFNCAWJ; WJGCJVR SAZLJATZ TGAX. GTR Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PRESIDENT OF CUSTO-DIANS' UNION CAN SWEEP HIS WIFE OFF HER FEET.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals N

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.

