

Sport



Grandmaster Niaz Murshid contemplates his next move against his seventh round engagement with Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi in the second United Insurance GMs chess championship at the Jalsha Ghar of Hotel Purbani yesterday. Niaz won.

Delightful day for locals

Niaz Murshid extended his winning streak to three matches when the country's lone Grandmaster beat Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi in a seventh-round encounter as the second United Insurance Grandmasters' chess championship resumed yesterday after a scheduled one-day recess.



Johnson, Joyner-Kersee steal the show

RENO, Nevada, Feb 11: Record-setting performances by Michael Johnson and Jackie Joyner-Kersee stole the spotlight in a meet dominated by glitz and gambling, reports AP.



Chinese Sun Cuiyun, 21, flies over the bar in the women's pole vault competition at the 5th International Olympic Night athletic meet in Berlin on February 10. Sun improved her world record of 4.11 metres up to 4.12.

A draw takes Gata Kamsky further ahead

SANGHINAGAR, India, Feb 11: American Grandmaster Gata Kamsky drew in 107 moves against Valery Salov of Russia in the fourth game of the World Chess Championship semifinals Saturday, reports AP.

Privalova plans to better previous best

BRUSSELS, Feb 11: Russian sprint queen Irina Privalova said on Friday she aimed to break her own world 60 metres indoor record at a meeting in Ghent on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Sun soars higher than ever

BERLIN, Feb 11: China's Sun Cuiyun raised her own women's world indoor pole vault record by one centimetre to 4.12 metres at a 300,000 dollar athletics meeting on Friday, reports Reuter.

Popov proves a point

SAINT VICENT, Italy, Feb 11: Russian Alexander Popov proved he remains the man to beat in freestyle sprint events when he won the 50 metres at a World Cup short course meeting on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

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Familiar foes in final

NEW DELHI, Feb 11: Asian champions South Korea and India set up their third title clash in 15 months with contrasting wins in the semifinals of the Indira Gandhi Gold Cup hockey tournament here, Saturday, reports AFP.

Indian goalkeeper Anand Subbiah brilliantly saved three times in the tie-breaker to fire the hosts to an exciting 5-2 victory over Australia, after the two were tied 2-2 in regulation time.

In the second semifinal, the speedy Koreans secured a 2-1 win over Kazakhstan.

Sunday's final will be the third between the arch-rivals since November 1993, when South Korea defeated India to win the Asia Cup in Hiroshima.

The lanky Subbiah, backed by vociferous 5,000 crowd at the National Stadium, dived to save all three strokes in the tie-breaker taken by Max Diamond, Glen Kingston and Darren Duff.

The Indians converted all their strokes to put a smile on the face of coach Cedric D'Souza, who was distraught at seeing his team struggle earlier against the second-string Australians.

Australia took the lead in the second minute when Kingston scooped a loose ball inside the circle past a diving Subbiah.

But defender Anil Aldrin drew level with a stringing penalty corner in the 16th minute, and Gavin Ferreira put India ahead of five minutes before half time with an indirect shot on goal.

Australia pressed for the equaliser in the second half and were rewarded in the 51st minute when Kingston scored his second goal from a penalty.

Courier stays on course

SAN JOSE, California, Feb 11: Three years to the day he first reached tennis top ranking, Jim Courier kept on track in this quest to climb back by getting past Jim Grabb 6-1, 7-6 (7-5) Friday night at the San Jose Open, reports AP.

Instead of dwelling on his past glory, Courier just wants to think about what's happening now.

"I was happy to end it in two sets," Courier said. Courier, now ranked 11th, earned a meeting with second seed and No. 6 Michael Chang.

There won't be any surprises," Courier said about playing Chang again. "We know each other's game really well."

Grabb, who had 24 aces in his last win, managed just one against Courier. Still, he had the chance to force a split set when he went up 5-4 in the tiebreaker before Courier won three straight points to take the match.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

A crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Clues include 'Seasons', 'King tomorrow', 'Sihanouk's land', etc.

Graf to return next week

PARIS, Feb 11: Former world number one Steffi Graf has confirmed she will make her comeback next week at the Paris women's Open after three months out through injury, organisers said on Friday, reports Reuter.

A spokesman said the German player will attend Monday's draw for the 430,000 dollars indoor event which starts the following day.

Graf has not played since losing to Australian Open champions Mary Pierce of France in the Masters in New York in November because of a lingering back pain and a calf injury.

She lost her number one ranking to Arantxa Sanchez of Spain, losing finalist in the Australian Open, after 276 weeks at the top.

Ferreira in Dubai Open semis

DUBAI, Feb 11: Wayne Ferreira of South Africa booked his place in the semifinals of the 1 million dollar Dubai Open tennis tournament with a convincing 6-1, 6-2 victory over ex-Wimbledon champion Pat Cash on Friday, reports Reuter.

Ferreira, the number four seed, is joined by sixth seeded Petr Korda of the Czech Republic, who beat Germany's Carsten Arriens 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Calling it his best performance in the tournament so far, Ferreira said: "I was returning the ball pretty well and that swung the match in my favour. Pat wasn't serving well and it helped me break his serves easily."

In today's semifinals, Ferreira will take on Spain's Javier Sanchez, who beat Australian Todd Woodbridge 6-2, 6-4, while Korda meets Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy, who went through 6-4, 6-2 against Sweden's Henrik Holm.

Sabatini staves off Rabin

CHICAGO, Feb 11: Second seed Gabriela Sabatini overcame service difficulties on Friday to hold off eighth seed Chanda Rubin 7-6, 6-4 and advance to the semifinals of the 430,000 dollar Ameritech Cup tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Sabatini, ranked seventh in the world, doubled faulted six times, but took advantage of 32 unforced errors by the American to claim her place in the final four.

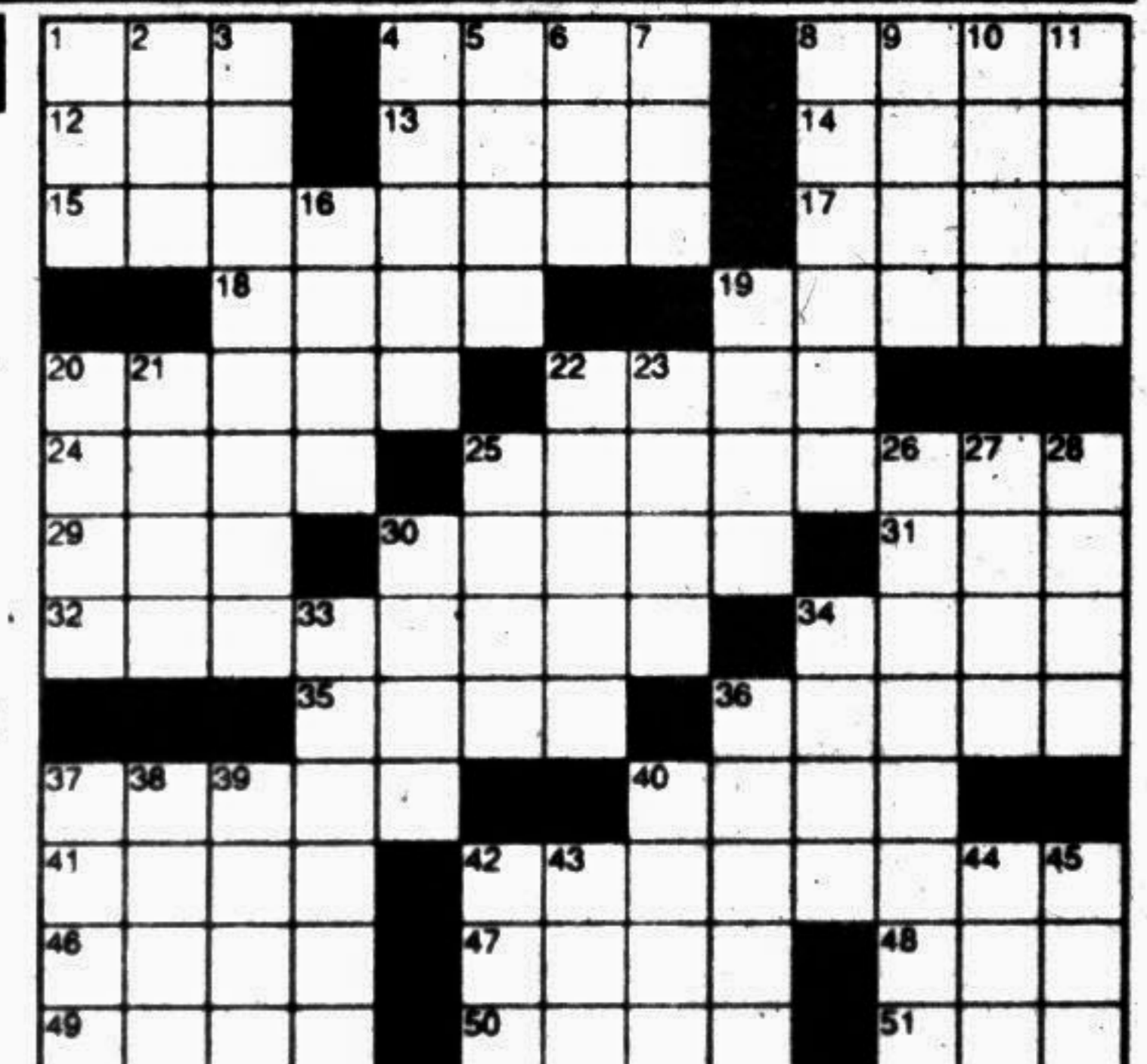
"I'm all right," said the laughing Argentine, who next faces third-seeded Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva, 6-3, 6-3 winner over unseeded Laurence Courtois of Belgium.

Today's other match pits seventh seed Zina Garrison-Jackson against unseeded Lisa Raymond in an 'all-American' semifinal.

Raymond, who picked off top seed, Natasha Zvereva of Belarus in the previous round, claimed her second consecutive seeded scalp with a 6-4, 6-3 win over fifth-seeded compatriot Amy Frazier.

Garrison-Jackson, playing her final year on the tour, upset hard-serving fourth-seed Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) in two and a half hours.

Despite her struggles, Sabatini raised her perfect record against Rabin to 6-0.



CRYPTOQUIP C J Z D Y U Q M M Z U Q R Z U D J Q U G D C W Z R U Z C C Z W - S X C G X I Z M Z I J S X Y I M D J. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SAID SODA, JERK ABOUT HIS STUBBORN COLD: "I JUST CAN'T SHAKE IT." Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals F. 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.