

### Cakewalk for BCCB XI

**Sports Reporter**  
The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven made a resounding start in the All India U-16 invitational tournament defeating Dum Dum Sporting by ten wickets in their inaugural Group A encounter at the Salt Lake Stadium in Calcutta yesterday.

In a rain affected match, the visitors set to score only 45 runs after a revised quota of 15 overs, rattled up the required runs in only five overs with both openers Shaker and Mizan remaining unbeaten on 28 and 17 respectively.

Earlier, sent in to bat Dum Dum Sporting could muster 58 for six at the end of the 20th over before rain washed out their remaining 10 overs.

For the BCCB XI Zahid and Ibrahim took two wickets apiece.

The Bangladesh selection, who have been placed in one group in the 10-team meet, will take on Shiliguri Agrami today.

### Euro-Asia challenge live on Star TV

HONG KONG, May 15: China and Hong Kong teams gear up to host two of English soccer's Premier League legends (Arsenal and Tottenham) and Star TV's 24-hour sports channel Prime Sports will broadcast these matches throughout Asia. Live coverage begins on Wednesday, May 17 with Beijing Guoan Team taking on the mighty men from Arsenal. All four events will be covered live with the exception of Tottenham Hotspur v Eastern Rovers which is on a three day delay, says a press release.

As Dale Temple, who along with Prime Sports' veteran commentator Brian Langley will compare Star TV's English-language match coverage said, "This tour not only represents a golden opportunity for Asian teams to get into the spotlight; you can't buy the kind of experience playing these English teams can bring in terms of match-toughness, skills and confidence on the world stage."

The sentiment was echoed by Prime Sport's presenter Kenneth Lau, who will travel to Beijing and Tianjin to join former China National Team player Ho Kai for the Mandarin-language commentary. "This is what Chinese soccer needs if it is to make the jump to the next level and become a contender on the world stage," said Lau.

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**SCHEDULE**

Date	Matches	BST
17 May	Beijing Guoan v Arsenal	5:00 pm
18 May	Tianjin v Arsenal	5:00 pm
20 May	Arsenal v H K Rangers	6:30 pm
24 May	Spurs v Eastern Rovers	5:00 pm

### Torrence betters own mark

SAO PAULO, May 15: US athletes Michael Johnson and Gwen Torrence both won their 200-metre races Sunday at the opening meet of the 1995 Grand Prix outdoor track and field season, reports AP.

Torrence, the Olympic champion, overcame headwinds to take the women's race in a meet-record 22.43 seconds. Torrence, 29, set the previous mark of 22.49 in 1992.

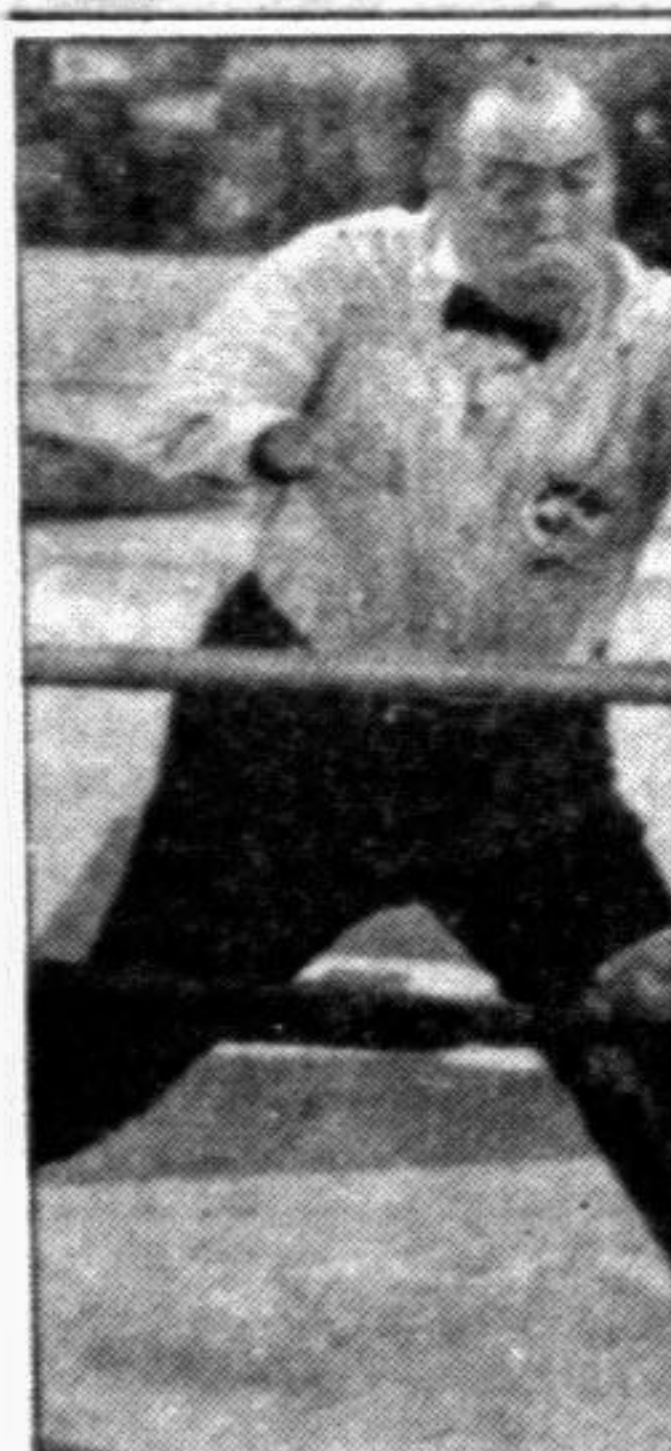
Johnson won in 20.22 seconds, beating Brazilian Robson da Silva by .01.

"I really expected to do better, like 20.01 or 20.00, but considering the headwind I am very happy with the result," the 27-year-old Johnson said.

US athlete Jose Parilla upset Olympic champion William Tanui of Kenya to win the 800 meters in 1 minute, 45.15 seconds.

Maria Mutola of Mozambique easily won the women's 800 in 1:58.79.

"It's my 40th straight win in the 800. The last time I lost was in September 1992 in Berlin," she said.



Referee Marty Jenkins (L) rushes to stop a further assault from Lennox Lewis (R) during his WBC title eliminator bout against American Arco Arena in Sacramento on May 13. The former British WBC champion won the bout by a technical KO. — AFP/UNB photo

# Tapie put behind bars



VALENCIENNES, France, May 15: Bernard Tapie, his high-flying political and business career already in ruins, was sentenced Monday to a year in prison for trying to rig a match involving his former soccer team, Olympique Marseille, reports AP.

The sentence was twice as severe as requested by the prosecutor during a highly publicised trial in March. A panel of judges had been deliberating since then.

Lawyers for the 52-year-old Tapie, one of the best-known men in France, have until May 26 to appeal.

Tapie, following the verdict, indicated he hadn't decided yet whether to appeal, but lashed out at the judges.

"They feel they can do whatever they want," Tapie said. "They tried to crush me with Olympique Marseille. They saw that I wasn't dead, and they started over again... If I step foot in prison, I won't get out again for 10 years."

The match-rigging plot — one of the most shattering sports scandals ever in France — was revealed by players with rival French League club Valenciennes immediately after a match with Marseille on May 20, 1993. Two other Valenciennes players eventually acknowledged they received around 250,000 francs (dfrs 50,000) each to throw the match.

Marseille, the best team in France at the time, wanted their opponent to play below par so they could conserve energy for the European Champions Cup final against AC Milan the next week. Marseille won the cup, but were stripped of their French title because of the scandal and relegated to the Second Division this season.

At the close of the trial in March, prosecutor Eric de Montgolfier asked the court to

sentence Tapie to 18 months in prison, with 12 months suspended. Instead, the court sentenced Tapie to two years in prison, with 12 months suspended.

The verdict culminated a long fall from grace for Tapie, a former tycoon whose financial fortunes and leftist political ambitions crumbled beneath the weight of the soccer scandal and financial debacles.



Tapie served as urban affairs minister in the former Socialist government and was once considered a possible presidential candidate. Declared bankrupt in December, he will be barred from public office for five years if the sentence survives an appeal.

In the past year, Tapie also faced tax evasion and embezzlement charges, and was forced to sever ties with his soccer team. To pay back his loans, creditors seized his pricey furniture, artwork and yacht.

Tapie's former general

manager with Marseille, Jean-Pierre Bernes, received a two-year suspended sentence and a 15,000-franc (dfrs 3,000) fine. Bernes had testified he offered the bribes to the Valenciennes players at Tapie's orders.

Former Marseille player Jean-Jacques Eydelie, recruited by Bernes to deliver the payoffs, received a one-year suspended sentence and a 10,000-franc (dfrs 2,000) fine.

Former Valenciennes players Jorge Burruchaga and Christophe Robert, convicted of accepting the bribes, received six-month suspended sentences and 5,000-franc (dfrs 1,000) fines. Robert's wife, Marie-Christine Robert, received a similar sentence.

Tapie, known for his brash manner and a maverick political style popular with young people, denied any role in the game-fixing scandal until one of his key allies fell apart at the trial.

An aide to Socialist lawmaker Jacques Mellick made on her earlier statement that she and Mellick met Tapie in Paris on June 17 — the same time Valenciennes coach Bruno Primorac claims he spoke with Tapie. Primorac alleges Tapie tried to get him to take the blame for the scandal.

Mellick last month received a suspended jail term and a two-year ban on holding office for pressuring his aide to give false testimony.

A court placed Olympique Marseille in receivership in April after the club ran out of money to pay its players and 240 million francs (dfrs 48 million) in debt. New ownership is being sought.

Once France's most powerful team, Marseille won the French championship five times in a row under Tapie but were stripped of their last title in 1993 because of the payoff scandal.

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### Cubans rule the ring

## Tarver gives US some solace

BERLIN, May 15: Antonio Tarver bashed his way to a gold medal Sunday and helped the United States regain some respect at the World Amateur Boxing Championships on a day when two more Cubans were beaten, reports AP.

Tarver, a left-hander, delighted the crowd with a Muhammad Ali-style shuffle as he outpointed Cuba's Diosvani Vega 7-3 for the light heavyweight title.

"Defence was the key. How can I get beat when I don't get hit?" said the two-time US champion.

It was only the second medal for the US team, whose only worse showing was in 1978. Lawrence Clay-Bey won a bronze in super heavyweight.

"We were subpar," said US assistant coach Tom Coulter. "We brought over a lot of new kids, but that's no excuse."

Cuba settled for four golds, far short of the record eight it claimed at the 1993 World Championships. The Cubans also won two silvers and three bronzes.

Heavyweight Felix Savon won his record fifth title Saturday as the Cubans went undefeated, but they could only win one of three finals Sunday.

Romania's Francisc Vastag survived a late knockdown and boos from the crowd to win his second world title after 1993 with a 12-4 verdict over Cuba's Alfredo Duverger.

Cuba's Hector Vinent, the Olympic champion, defended his light welterweight crown by pouncing out a 7-4 decision over Turkey's Nurhan Suleyanoglu, whom he sent flying to the canvas midway through the third round.

But Cuban fighters couldn't

stop talk that the rest of the world is catching up to their once-dominant fighters.

"I think that's happened. I think it's going to be even harder for them in Atlanta," said Coulter of the 1996 Olympics.

Algeria, Turkey and France were among the emerging boxing nations that won silver medals at the event.

"For me this was the hardest World Championships," said Cuba assistant coach Julian Gonzalez. "It used to be just us, Russia, America and the Germans. Now it is many countries."

Host Germany won a gold Sunday when Romardan-born Zoltan Lunka pounded out a 11-6 decision in the lightweight division over Kazakhstan's Bolat Yumadilov, the Asian Games champion.

Lunka, who installs doors and windows for a living, had never taken a medal at a major international competition.

"This is something I couldn't even dream about a week ago," Lunka said.

Germany, cheered on by a home public, had 10 boxers reach the semifinals. They ended up with Lunka's gold, a silver and eight bronzes.

Bulgaria's speedy Serafim Todorov added another featherweight title to the ones he captured in 1991 and 93 by outpointing Nouredine Medjhou 10-4. Russia's Alexei Lezin won the super heavyweight with a 12-3 decision over Ukrainian Vitaliy Klichko.

In Saturday's finals, Cuban heavyweight stopped Luan Krasniqi in the second round to claim his record fifth world title.

Compatriots Ariel Hernandez defended his middleweight crown and Juan

Hernandez won his third straight title in welterweights.

Other winners were Romania's Leonard Doroftei in lightweight, Bulgaria's Daniel Petrov, in light flyweight and Russia's Raimkul Malachbekov in bantamweight.

**FINAL MEDALS TABLE**

Medals table on the final day of the World Amateur Boxing Championships on Sunday (tabulate under—gold, silver, bronze):

Cuba	4	2	3
Russia	2	1	0
Bulgaria	2	0	1
Romania	2	0	0
Germany	1	1	8
US	1	0	1
France	0	2	1
Poland	0	2	0
Turkey	0	1	1
Kazakhstan	0	1	1
Ukraine	0	1	0
Algeria	0	1	0
Morocco	0	0	2
Lithuania	0	0	2
Armenia	0	0	1
Finland	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	0	1
Yugoslavia	0	0	1

### Nazarov defends WBA crown

TOKYO, May 15: Under-feted Orzubek Nazarov of Kyrgyzstan knocked out South Korean challenger Park Won in the second round Monday night and retained his World Boxing Association lightweight crown, reports AP.

With three seconds left in the second round, Nazarov landed a lightning left uppercut to Park's body. Park fell and rolled over, and referee Carlos Berrocal of Panama counted him out before 2,500 spectators at Korakuen Hall.

Opening the scheduled 12-round bout, Nazarov hit Park with a left and Park countered with a right to the champion's body as they measured each other.

Nazarov unleashed 1-2 combinations, rights and lefts, and Park appeared tense under the barrage before he went down.

"I fought a nice match in good condition. I'm happy to fight and win in Japan," said Nazarov, making his third title defence overall but his first in Japan.

Nazarov has been based in Japan since making his professional debut in February 1990, but had travelled abroad for his first two defences.

Nazarov, 28, improved his record to 21 victories, including 16 by knockout.

For the 24-year-old Park, the WBA's ninth-ranked contender, it was the first defeat after 15 victories — six by knockout — and one draw.

Nazarov and Park each weighed in at 61.2 kilograms (135 pounds).

### Abahani-BU DMFA semi deferred

**Sports Reporter**  
The first semifinal of the Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament between defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra and Brothers Union, scheduled for a 5:30 pm start today has been suspended due to an unplayable ground conditions at the Dhaka Stadium.

The surprise decision came following a plea from the ground sub-committee, who had failed to prepare the pitch due to a heavy downpour in the city yesterday.

According to the revised fixture issued by the organisers last evening, the Abahani-Brothers match will now be held on May 19 while the second semifinal between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC will commence on the following day.

The final will be held on May 22.

The revised schedule of the certain-raiser meet will also affect the commencement of the Federation Cup, which was earlier scheduled to begin from May 21.

Organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), the tournament is now expected to begin from May 26.

### Cantona plays in charity match

PARIS, May 15: Eric Cantona, banned from soccer until September 30, played in a charity match near Paris on Sunday FIFA's approval and thanked the sport's ruling body for being "nice people," reports Reuter.

The controversial Manchester United striker, who was banned from playing after assaulting a Crystal Palace fan during a Premier League match on January 25, scored a goal for an All-Star XI in the 2-2 draw against a local amateur side.

The game was played in front of a few hundred people for the benefit of Michel Platini's foundation to help drug addicts.

"To be able to play again was fabulous. And to do it for a charity is even more fabulous. FIFA's people are nice and respectable people. It shows how kind-hearted they are," said Cantona, who was given the go-ahead to play by FIFA's general secretary Sepp Blatter.

# Martinez queen of Rome



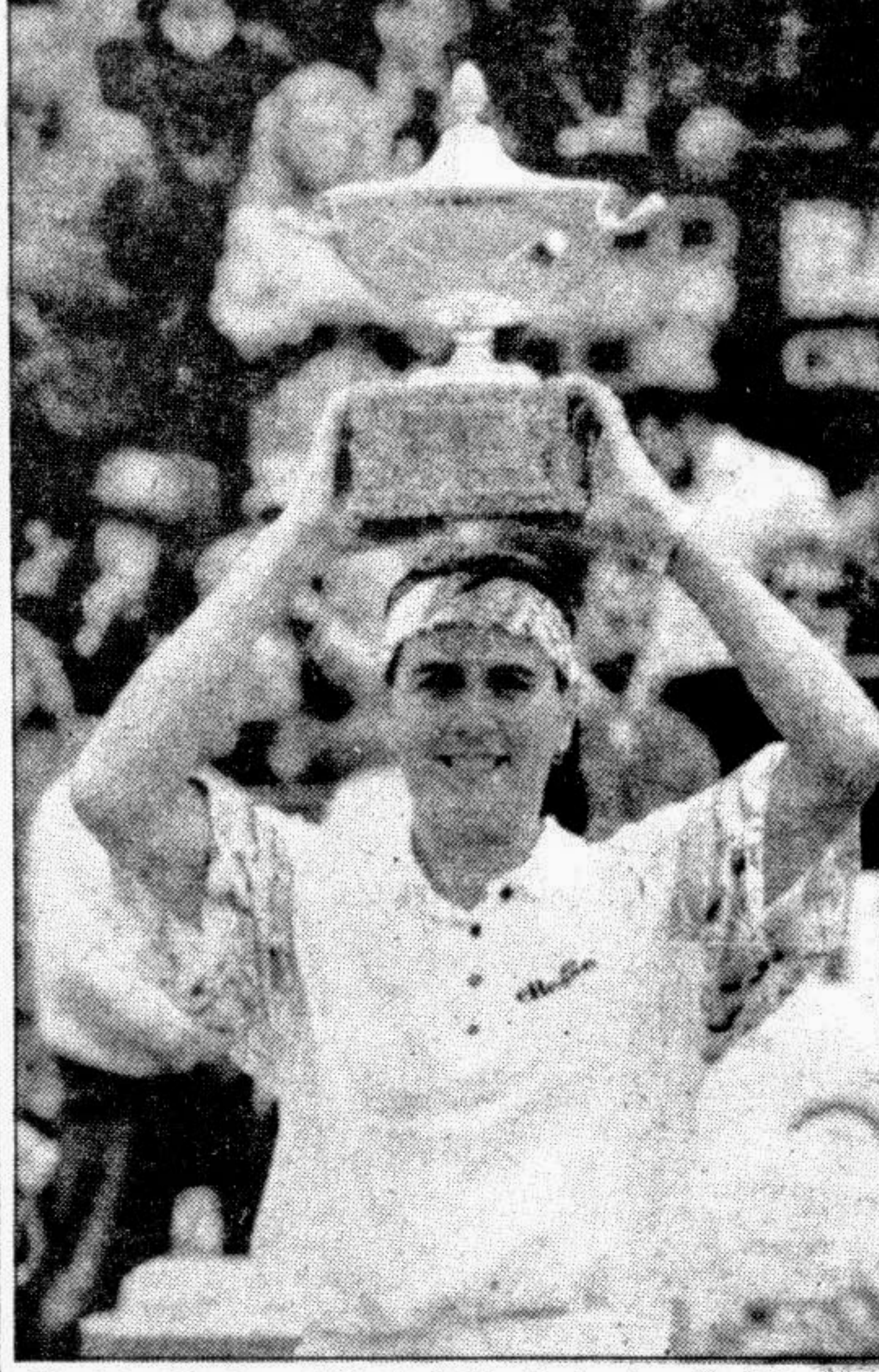
ROME, May 15: Defending champion Conchita Martinez collected her third straight Italian Open title on Sunday with a comprehensive straight sets victory over top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in an all-Spanish final, reports Reuter.

The reigning Wimbledon champion and world number

straight wins when the tournament was played at Perugia in the mid-1980s.

The victory in a final interrupted by rain in the first set earned Martinez her fourth consecutive singles title and stretches a remarkable unbeaten run on clay to 21 singles matches.

Most significantly, Martinez's victory came over the only player to beat her on



Conchita Martinez of Spain holds the trophy after winning the final of the Italian Open against compatriot Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in Rome on Sunday. MARTINEZ won the match 6-3, 6-1. — AFP/UNB photo

four confirmed her dominant form on clay by beating French and US Open champion Sanchez Vicario 6-3, 6-1 in one hour 25 minutes to retain her title.

She is the first woman to win three successive titles at the Foro Italico since Australia's Margaret Court in the 1950s, although Chris Evert also claimed three

clay in the past 12 months and firmly installs her as favourite for the French Open, which starts in Paris on May 29.

On a dark, thundery day, Martinez started powerfully against Sanchez Vicario, racing to a 4-0 first set lead with a string of clean winners that included volleys and drop shots.

But Sanchez Vicario recov-

ered from the error-strewn start to break her compatriot's serve twice and take the next three games, before heavy rain sent the players and crowd scurrying for cover.

After an hour-and-a-half break, Sanchez never regained the initiative, dropping the first two games to lose the first set 6-3.

In the second, games went with serve until the third when Sanchez Vicario double-faulted three times before being broken.

Martinez then took the next four securing victory on her first match point with a confident backhand pass down the line.

For Sanchez Vicario, there was the consolation of knowing that with her run to the final she had regained the world number one spot from Steffi Graf.

The Spaniard briefly held the top spot for seven weeks after the Australian Open in January where she also lost in the final to Pierce.

"I always play well at the Foro Italico and winning is good for my confidence (ahead of the French Open)," said Martinez of her victory.

The world number four will take a break from the women's tour next week before starting her preparations for Paris at home in Barcelona with her coach Carlos Kirmayr, the man who guided Gabriela Sabatini to the US Open title in 1990.

The Spaniard has since taking on the Brazilian Kirmayr, she has won four successive tournaments.

Martinez credits her new coach with adding an aggressive edge to her patient baseline game.

Against Sanchez Vicario, and despite a damp court and heavy balls, Martinez hit 23 clean winners, often venturing to the net to finish off points with confidently struck volleys or surprising her opponent with cleverly disguised dropshots.

"Even if the conditions were really difficult I played really aggressive," she said. "I would have won without the interruption for rain."

Although a despondent Sanchez Vicario, a beaten finalist at Rome in 1989, acknowledged her compatriot's rich vein of form she preferred to blame the wet weather for her unexpectedly heavy defeat.

"She played really well but maybe it would have been different if it hadn't rained," she said. "I started really slowly, but when I had got back into the match it started to rain."

"I hope to do better at Roland Garros. For me, Rome is just a preparation for the French," she said.

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### Aussies win

ADELAIDE, May 15: Australia beat England 4-0 (halftime 4-0) in the third men's hockey Test today, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Australia-Mark Hager (9th minute), Max Diamond (11th), Matthew Smith (20th), Paul Lewis (24th).

Australia lead the six-Test series 3-0.

### Friendly soccer

COCHABAMBA, Bolivia, May 15: Bolivia and Paraguay drew 1-1 (halftime 0-0) in a soccer friendly on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Bolivia — Milton Melgar (75th minute), Paraguay — Francisco Esteche (70th).



The International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch (L) chats with the Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng prior to the start of men's singles final of the 43rd World Table Tennis Championships in Tianjin on Sunday. — AFP/UNB photo

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- Mississippi river
- Prop for Sweeney Todd
- The sugar bowl?
- Put on a pedestal
- Misanthropes, e.g.
- '50s skirt applique
- Census datum
- Oozes "Down"
- Intimidate
- Sign of seatlessness
- From head to foot
- Tube-pan

**DOWN**

- He broke the sound barrier
- It comes from the heart
- Character on the end
- Crew's need
- Coworker of Kent and Lane
- Door knockers
- Fusses visitors
- Wildlife conservation center
- Trial
- Empathize
- A billion years
- Bean tamer?
- Kilmer classic
- Isaac's mother
- Piece of Italian bread?
- Pop
- Claiborne of fashion
- Axl-like tool

**11** Gregorian rendition  
**13** Dissuade  
**18** End for pat or pot  
**21** Spielberg finally got one  
**23** Sanctimonious  
**25** Outdo  
**27** Securities trader, for short  
**29** Amahl's night visitors  
**31** Freebies  
**32** Parka  
**33** Spanish money  
**34** A billion years  
**36** Bean tamer?  
**37** Lion tamer?  
**38** Kilmer classic  
**41** Isaac's mother  
**44** Piece of Italian bread?  
**45** Pop  
**48** Claiborne of fashion  
**50** Axl-like tool

**Solution time: 28 mins.**

**CUFFS** OVA BAG  
**ATILT** SOW AVA  
**MARIA** WILDCAT  
**ETCHED** ROSE  
**COD** KEG VENTS  
**ALOG** DOGIN  
**REGARD** RACHEL  
**LEASE** HAKE  
**FARAD** TAJ NEE  
**ALEX** DATING  
**COPYCAT** HODGE  
**INE** ONE ADOPT  
**EEL** YES DEGAS

**CRYPTOQUIP**

G R L L D E O T C S H I H D E L  
I G T I G R L T S B R I D M T B B  
T L B R R N H O I G R  
C H A A B R D M T O T N  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BASIC ADVICE FOR A LONG LIFE: EAT VEGETABLES FOR NINETY YEARS.  
Today's Cryptoquip clue: S equals B

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.