

Sport

Jansher in HK Open final

HONG KONG, Sept 2: World champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan had to use his full repertoire of shots to defeat the tenacious Chris Walker of England in a five-game Hong Kong Open semifinal today, reports Reuter.

The final will match Jansher against Australian fourth seed Brett Martin on Sunday, winner of the title in 1993. Martin enjoyed a 13-15, 17-14, 15-13, 8-15, 15-12 victory over second-seeded compatriot Rodney Eyles in his semifinal.

Jansher, the top seed and defending champion, was stretched to the limit by fifth seed Walker before triumphing 11-15, 15-11, 15-7, 14-17, 15-4 in 79 minutes.

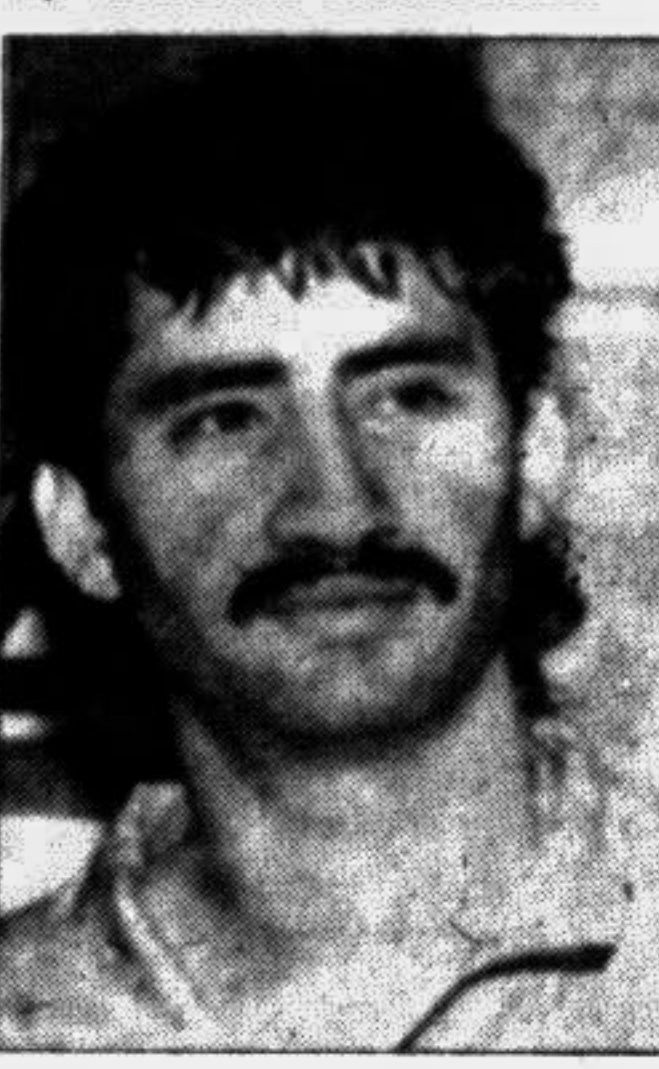
"I have played Walker many times before but today he performed better than before," said Khan, who is on the verge of his seventh Hong Kong Open title.

"In the deciding game I decided to take the ball early and kill it. I knew if I built up an early lead it would be difficult for him to come back."

"Physically I feel fine and against Martin I will play long rallies and look for a chance to kill the ball."

Old friends Martin and Eyles served up a classic, fast-paced encounter for the capacity crowd.

"It was just like our practice matches, we tend to beat up each other on the court —



JANSHER KHAN anyway it feels like that when you come off," said the 32-year-old Martin.

"I have never beaten Khan — he does not seem to mind

my game. If I wear him down I have a chance but it will be pretty hard," he added.

Earlier on Friday, England's Chris Walker upset third-seeded Scot Peter Nicol in the quarter-finals to set up a semifinal clash with Jansher Khan.

Nicol, runner-up last year, came into the tournament after a two-month break and his lack of match fitness was exposed by Walker as he stormed to a 15-13, 15-5, 15-8 win.

Jansher eased into the semis with a 15-5, 15-5, 15-13 victory over number seven seed Del Harris of England.

"Harris played well in the third game and it's good to have a little bit of pressure before playing a semifinal. If you suddenly face a pressure situation in an important match it can be worrying," Jansher said. "I am improving day by day and am happy with the way I am playing."

Eyles hit top form to oust qualifier Gary Waite of Canada 15-10, 15-13, 15-10 in just 28 minutes while Martin played his best squash for some time to beat last week's Malaysian Open winner Simon Parke of England 15-10, 13-15, 15-7, 15-13.

Klinsmann hits back at Sugar

LONDON, Sept 2: Juergen Klinsmann hit back at Tottenham Hotspur chairman Alan Sugar on Friday as a bitter war of words between the two former allies intensified, reports Reuter.

Sugar said on television earlier this week he was a "mug" to re-launch Klinsmann's career at the English Premier League club last season, and theatrically threw away a team shirt the German marksman had signed for him.

After training with Bayern Munich, for whom he signed after leaving Tottenham, Klinsmann responded in an interview with another British television channel.

"Sugar didn't re-launch my career. Before I came to Tottenham I played a great World Cup and I didn't need Alan Sugar to re-launch my career," said Klinsmann.

"If he doesn't want the shirt I wore in my last Tottenham game any more I'm sad I didn't keep it myself. It means something special to me."

Sugar also accused Klinsmann of making "damaging and devastating" statements about the club when he said he left because Sugar would not guarantee cash for new players so manager Gerry Francis could make a league title bid.

But Klinsmann countered: "What he said about me is a lot more damaging. I always had a clause in my contract saying I could leave at the end of one year anyway."

"I went to see Mr Sugar and Gerry Francis about what was happening the next season but I didn't get any answers."

Grampus Eight keep slim lead

TOKYO, Sept 2: French striker Franck Durix fired the winning shot in the extra period Saturday, leading the front-running Nagoya Grampus Eight to a 2-1 victory over the Yokohama Flügels in the J League, reports AP.

More than 22,000 spectators saw Durix net in a 66-foot (20-metre) free-kick two minutes into the 15-minute first extra period.

Second-half substitute Shin Tanada left-footed the winner in the 37th minute of the second half as the Kashwa Reysol beat the Yokohama Marinos 3-2, extending Kashwa's winning streak to five. Argentine midfielder David Bisconti scored twice for the Marinos before a crowd of 12,123 in Yokohama.

Kazuyoshi Miura scored a hat-trick, his first since joining the J-League on Aug 12 after a stint in Italy, as Verdy Kawasaki, the 1993-1994 league champion, crushed the Kashima Antlers 5-1 before 16,628 fans at Kashima Stadium, northeast of Tokyo.

The Grampus Eight, Reysol and Verdy all have 5-1 records, but the Grampus Eight kept the lead on goal differences.

Second-half substitute Toshinobu Katsuya slammed in a winning shot on a pass from Brazilian national team captain Dunga as Jubilo Iwata came from behind to edge Cerezo Osaka 2-1 before 16,506 spectators at Iwata, southwest of Tokyo.

German midfielder Uwe Bein and Masahiro Fukuda each scored twice as the Urawa Red Diamonds trounced Gamba Osaka 4-1 before 15,181 in Osaka.

Before 35,040 spectators at Tokyo's National Stadium, Brazilian Carlos Dias headed in a centering pass from Italian Daniele Massaro with one minute remaining in the second half as the Shimizu S-Pulse scored a 1-0 win over JEF United Ichihara.

Gaby's date with a tiro

NEW YORK, Sept 2: Argentine Gabriela Sabatini has always played well at the US Open, and her performance on Friday night was no exception, reports Reuter.

The tournament's ninth seed and 1990 champion overwhelmed Belgian Sabine Appelmans 6-1, 6-1 to cruise into the fourth round.

"I really thought maybe today I could beat a top

Vialli may be recalled

FLORENCE, Italy, Sept 2: Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi said on Friday that striker Gianluca Vialli, banished from the national squad since 1992, would be recalled soon, reports Reuter.

Sacchi, who has suggested Vialli's eccentric personality disrupted the cohesion of his team, said the Juventus star would have been called up for Wednesday's European Group Four qualifier against Slovenia had he not been injured.

"Now we will have to wait for the (October 8) match against Croatia," Sacchi told reporters.

The conditions now exist for him to be recalled. The time is right. There has been a clarification which has involved pretty much everybody. I spoke to him (Vialli) and it was a chat between two people who respect each other," he said.

The shaven-headed Vialli, 30, was a key player in helping Juventus wresting the Serie A title from Milan last season and the media has long put pressure on Sacchi to recall the on-form striker. He last played for Italy in December 1992.

player, but I was not even close," Appelmans said.

Sabatini has been a consistent top player at the Open, having reached the quarter-finals or better every year since 1987.

"I feel very comfortable on the hard courts," said the 25-year-old Sabatini, a semi-finalist a year ago. "New York



GABRIELA SABATINI is a place I like to visit because it's fun and the crowd is special and really get involved."

"It's special to play here." There will be a sense of something extra special in Sabatini's next match as she will take on 14-year-old Swiss sensation Martina Hingis.

The rising star reached the fourth round at a Grand Slam for the first time in her career by outlasting Canadian Patricia Hy-Boulais 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

"She is one of the players coming up very strong," Sabatini said of Hingis, who upset eighth seed Magdalena Maleeva in the previous round. "She has a solid game from the baseline, she moves

well and she is very strong mentally."

If Sabatini beats Hingis, she is seeded to face defending champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain in the quarter-finals.

Sanchez had as easy a time as Sabatini in the third round, beating Mari Jose Gaidano 6-3, 6-0. The third-seeded Sanchez yielded just nine points to the Argentine in the 63-minute workout.

Sabatini trailed only once in her 68-minute match against Appelmans when she double faulted to lose her serve to begin the second set.

Otherwise Sabatini was in command, wearing down the left-handed Belgian with groundstrokes deep in the corners.

"She made me run a lot," said Appelmans, who committed 33 unforced errors. Sabatini took her latest Open victory in stride.

"I played my shots very deep and close to the lines and I was able to take control," she said.

"I always play good in this tournament."

Marsh leaves Galatasary

ISTANBUL, Sept 2: Former Liverpool and Coventry City midfielder Mike Marsh has left Turkish First Division club Galatasary after serving only five weeks of a two-year contract, club officials said today, reports Reuter.

Marsh, whose family apparently found it hard to settle in Turkey, is due to join English First Division club Southampton.

On Friday Galatasary, managed by former Scotland international Graeme Souness, signed US international goalkeeper Brad Friedel from Danish club Brøndby.

Ascent of an Armenian

NEW YORK, Sept 2: Sargsian wished his opponent a happy 21st birthday before handing him the five-set defeat.

"We know each other pretty well but we haven't seen each other for the past four or five years," said Sargsian of his earlier rivalry with Medvedev. "When we were 15 and 16 he was beating me, so he was playing better than me."

After watching Medvedev and another former Soviet teammate, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, rise to the world's top 10, Sargsian started to believe he could make it.

"That gave me a little confidence," Sargsian said. "I really thought that I could at least break the top 50." Sargsian is currently ranked 392.

Standing between Sargsian and a meeting with Agassi is American hopeful Jared Palmer.

Sargsian first arrived in the United States as part of the Armenian national tennis team. He was persuaded to stay, eventually attending Arizona State university where he won the national college championships this year, earning him a wild card into the Open.

Sargsian took full advantage of the opportunity, beating American Michael Joyce in five sets in the first round, then upsetting childhood friend and rival, 16th-seeded Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, in another five-setter on Thursday.

Sargsian's rise to the world's top 100 has been a story of perseverance and hard work.

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Winners of the "Golden Four" series (left to right), Sonia O'Sullivan (women's 5,000m), Natalya Shikolenko (women's javelin), Michael Johnson (men's 100m) and Gwen Torrence (women's 200m), hold chocolate in gold-bar shape at the end of the Berlin Grand Prix on Friday. The athletes will share the 20-kilogram gold prize for winning the top IAAF meetings this season. — AFP/UNB photo

'Golden Four' series ends Jackpot just eludes Christie

BERLIN, Sept 2: Olympic sprint champion Linford Christie lost out on the most lucrative prize in athletics by the thickness of a dollar bill, as the 250,000 dollars "Golden Four" jackpot was shared by four athletes on Friday, reports Reuter.

On a cold evening far from ideal for sprinting, the 35-year-old Christie was just pipped by Canadian world champion Donovan Bailey in a photo finish in the men's 100 metres at the Berlin Grand Prix meeting, the climax to the "Golden Four" series.

"There was only one thousandth of a second between the two sprinters who both clocked 10.10 seconds. The margin cost Christie tens of thousands of dollars."

Christie watched Americans Gwen Torrence, Michael Johnson, Belarus javelin thrower Natalya Shikolenko and Ireland's distance runner Sonia O'Sullivan win their events to share the jackpot which is paid out in 20 one-kilo gold bars. They all earned 62,500 dollars.

Christie was one of five stars who came to the German capital with the chance of sharing the jackpot which is given to athletes who win their events in Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin.

O'Sullivan produced the most dramatic of performances in the autumnal conditions when she held off Portugal's world record holder Fernanda Ribeiro to win a fascinating women's 5,000 metres.

Ribeiro, competing for the first time since she won the 10,000 metres and finished second behind O'Sullivan in the 5,000 at last month's World Championships, was ahead at the bell.

But the Irishwoman, who has been through some tough racing on the Grand Prix circuit since the Gothenburg

come home in 14 minutes, 41.40 seconds. Ribeiro took second in 14:45.10.

"I wouldn't say this was my greatest race of the season but it was maybe the most satisfying," O'Sullivan said. "I felt that Ribeiro badly wanted to win this one. You can, of course, train you kick but I dare to say mine is Gold's gift."

O'Sullivan and Johnson both won the jackpot for the second time after sharing it with five athletes in the inaugural year in 1993.

Johnson, who completed an historic double in Gothenburg over 200 and 400, looked in complete control of the men's 400 metres which he won in 44.56 seconds.

American Gwen Torrence earned some financial consolation for her failure to win a sprint double at the World Championships when she won the women's 200 metres easily in 21.98 seconds.

Jamaica's world 200 metres champion Merlene Ottey pulled up after 100 metres with what looked like a leg muscle strain.

Torrence, who had crossed the line first ahead of Ottey in the Gothenburg Championships but was later disqualified for running out of lane, said: "I was very motivated but not mainly because of the gold, I wanted to run a good race and beat Merlene."

Natalya Shikolenko took her share of the Jackpot by winning the women's javelin with a throw of 67.72 metres.

The outcome of the series was tough on Christie who had beaten Bailey at the lucrative meetings in Zurich and Brussels since his campaign to defend his 100 metres title was thwarted by a hamstring injury in Gothenburg.

But running against a headwind, Bailey came through strongly in the second 50 metres to just dip ahead of the Olympic champion, American John Drummond finished third in 10.17.

The race which most warmed the hearts of the spectators who braved the bitter cold, however, was the men's 5,000 metres at the end of the meeting.

Ethiopian world record holder Haile Gebrselassie ran the second fastest time in history of 12 minutes, 53.19 seconds to defeat Kenya's former record holder Moses Kiptanui.

Gebrselassie had smashed Kiptanui's old record by nearly 11 seconds when he clocked 12:44.39 in Zurich on August 16. The Ethiopian burst past Kiptanui with 600 metres to go to beat the Kenyan's old record again. Kiptanui took second in 13:00.90.

One of the biggest roars of the night went to Germany's former world 400 metres silver medalist Grit Breuer who produced a solid performance on her return to top-class competition after a doping ban.

Breuer, who has missed most of the last four seasons after being involved in two doping scandals with former double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe, finished second behind Australian Cathy Freeman in the women's 400 metres.

South African Okkert Brits, who became the second-best pole vaulter in history when he cleared 6.03 metres in Cologne last month, took the scalp of world record holder Sergei Bubka.

Brits won the competition with 5.95 metres to Bubka's 5.90 and gave Bubka the unusual experience of watching attempting to break the Ukrainian's world record of 6.14.

But the South Africa, who went close to 6.15 in Cologne, never really looked capable of achieving the height in his three attempts despite the enthusiastic support of the crowd.

Zidane zaps Nantes PARIS, Sept 2: Two goals by international Zinedine Zidane helped Bordeaux crush champions Nantes 3-0 in the French League on Friday, reports Reuter.

Bordeaux, whose battles with Nantes were the highlights of French soccer in the 1970s, went in front thanks to a superb free-kick by Zidane after 31 minutes and made it 2-0 seven minutes later through Christophe Dugary.

Perhaps angered by critics after his latest outing with the national team, a dull 1-1 draw last month against Poland, Zidane put the issue beyond doubt with a header 10 minutes from time.

For Nantes, who set a record of 32 unbeaten matches on their way to the title last season, it was a second defeat in seven matches since the league restarted last July.

Lyon, who finished runners-up to Nantes last season, could only manage a 1-1 home draw against Strasbourg in the other of two matches postponed last month to allow Bordeaux and Strasbourg to play Intertoto Cup matches.

World University Games Hosts annex soccer gold

FUKUOKA, Sept 2: Japan regained the World University Games gold medals lead by winning the soccer final Saturday after the Americans had gone ahead briefly by trouncing the Japanese in basketball, reports AP.

It was Japan's first university football medal of any kind, lifting the host nation over the United States again in gold-medal haul to a 22-21 lead with one day left in the 12-day Games.

The 1991 football champions South Korea, who lost to the Czech Republic in the final at the 1993 Buffalo Games, were stunned in the opening minute when Shigeyoshi Mochizuki booted home a left-footer from inside the penalty area.

Kiyotaka Ishimaru doubled the penalty margin in the 52nd minute.

Russia beat Ukraine 3-1 for the bronze.

Japan and Hungary were the rainy day's only double gold medal winners.

For Japan, Yasuyuki Watanabe delighted his hometown spectators by taking the lead on the last lap and winning the men's 10,000 metre run. Then the Japanese shut out archrival South Korea for the soccer gold.

fourth consecutive men's basketball gold medal by drubbing Japan 141-81 in the final, Canada won the bronze, 80-72 over the Czech Republic.

China and Russia each had 13 golds after each won a track and field gold Saturday.

South Korea had 10 after beating Spain 13-15, 17-15, 9-15, 17-13 in a 2 1/2-hour men's volleyball final. Italy beat Israel for the bronze.

Hungary boosted its gold total to eight as Dezzo Szabo claimed the title of top all-around athlete by winning the decathlon and Hungary's men's foil team edged Ukraine 45-44 for a fencing gold.

Kenya and Madagascar each won their first medals. Kenya's Daniel Muturi won the men's 3,000-metre steeplechase, and Madagascar's Nicole Ramalalanirina edged Ukraine Elena Ovcharova by .05 second in the women's 100-metre hurdles.

Mexico and Italy won the day's two walking races. Watanabe won the 10,000 metres in 28 minutes, 47.78 seconds — 7.24 seconds ahead of Kenya's Stephen Mayaka. Mexico's Gabino Apolinario was another 12.93 behind.

In the women's hurdles, Nigeria's Tatwo Aladeba took the early lead but caught her toe on the seventh hurdle and crashed into the eighth. Ramalalanirina won in 13.02, with Ovcharova second in 13.07.

Szabo won the decathlon with 8,051 points. Sebastian Chmara of Poland was second with 8,014. Dmitri Soukhomazov of Belarus third with 7,971 and Long fourth with 7,970.

China finished 1-2 in the women's shot put. Wu Xianchun won at 18.31 metres (60 feet, 1 inch), Cheng Xiaoyan was second at 17.95 (58 10 3/4), and Corrie de Bruin of the Netherlands took the bronze at 17.82 (58-5 3/4).

Russia's Viktoria Fedorova and Kazakhstan's Svetlana Zalevska both cleared 1.92 metres (6-3 1/2) in the women's high jump, but Fedorova needed only two tries and Zalevska needed three. Belgium's Natalia Jonckheere took the bronze at 1.88 (6-2).

Italy's Annarita Sidoti's 10-kilometre walk of 43 minutes, 22 seconds was the fastest ever in the games. Teammate Rossella Giordano was second in 43:30 and Russia's Larissa Ramazanova third in 43:56.

Mexico's Daniel Garcia won the men's 20-kilometre race, ahead of two Italians. Garcia finished in 1 hour, 24 minutes, 11 seconds. Giovanni Perricelli in 1:24:19 and Arturo Di Mezza in 1:24:33.



German Michael Stich makes a low down return against Argentina's Herman Gummy in the 2nd round match of the US Open at Flushing Meadows on Friday. — AFP/UNB photo