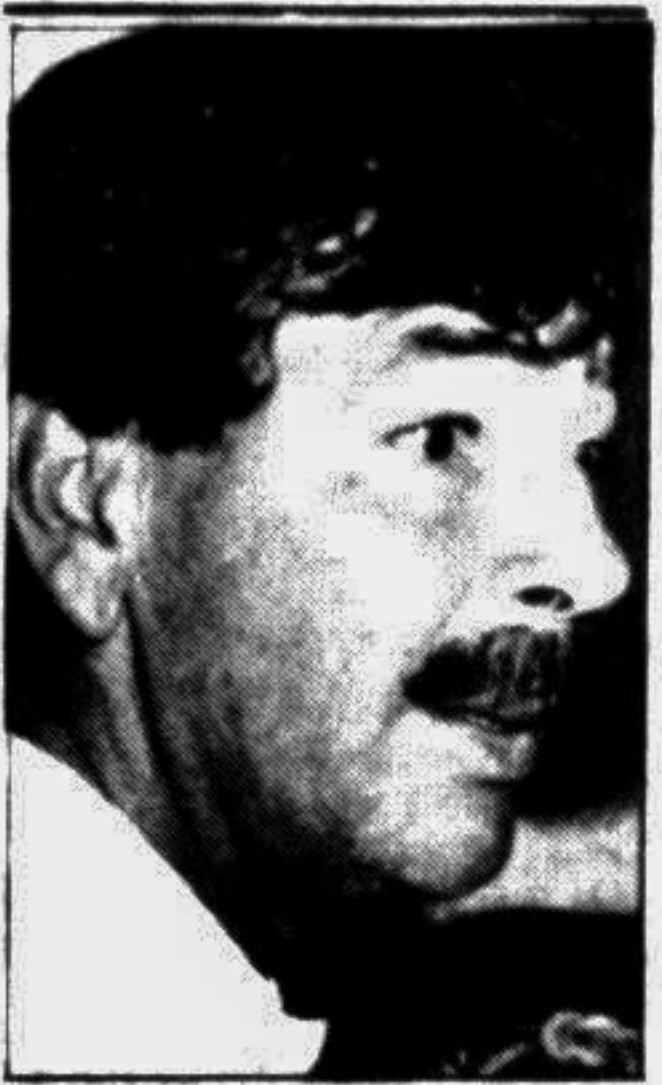


Sport

Column One SPORTS TALK



Rodney Marsh (Former Australian wicket keeper) "This young man is G-R-E-A-T. He's the best bowler I've seen for years!"

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT before authorities decided prior to a Games the fate of buildings and facilities, Olympics were more expensive and least cost effective. Nowadays, Olympic organisers plan in advance the use and users of Games villages, stadia, etc. But, this was not the case in 1964.

A new velodrome was built at Hachioji for the Tokyo Olympics at a cost of £300,000. The Cycling events lasted only four days. Six months after the Olympics, the velodrome was demolished at a cost of £10,000. Why? To make room for a new building. Now, that sort of wastage deserves no medal.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN The rules are published every Saturday.

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-12

Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 p.m. Nov 10, 1995)

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options. Questions include: What is Star TV's sports channel?, What is Brian Lara's middle name?, Pete Sampras won the Wimbledon singles title, The Nawab of Pataudi is married to Ms., Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka in 1995 at Yangon by.

Name: Class: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

Shanghai end decades of drought

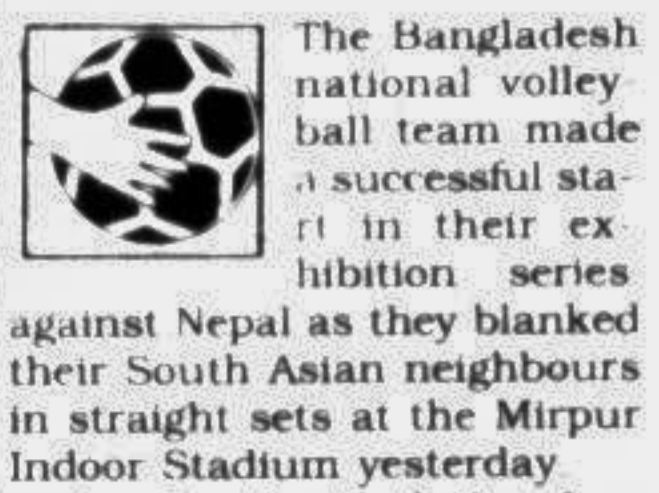
BEIJING, Nov 6: Shanghai Shenhua beat Shandong Taishan 3-1 on Sunday to clinch China's 1995 professional soccer league, their first national soccer title since 1963, reports Reuter.

Rookie Qi Hong scored two goals before a home crowd of 30,000 to ensure the title goes to China's largest city, with two rounds remaining in the 12-team league.

Shanghai lead the standings with 14 wins, three draws and three losses for 45 points, trailed by Guangdong Hongyuan with 39 points.

Plucky start for locals

Sports Reporter



The Bangladesh national volleyball team made a successful start in their exhibition series against Nepal as they blanked their South Asian neighbours in straight sets at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday.

In the first of the four friendlies, part of both the teams' preparations for the forthcoming VII SAF Games, the local outfit breezed past their opponents 15-6, 15-5, 16-14 in 73 minutes.

In front of a sparsely populated gallery, filled mainly with residents of the locality taking advantage of the free entry, the Bangladesh outfit was quick to take control of the exciting yet unimpressive encounter — not much can be said about the quality of which.

Ashit Kumar Nandi and Afzal Hossain were the chief destroyers of the Nepali defence with their effective — although sometimes monotonous — smashes.

Skipper Safuzzudin, who marshalled his men competently, joined in at times as well with his own swifter version of the smash.

The balding figure of SM Alam was influential as well, setting up most of the attacks from the net.

The offensive, however, seemed to be lacking any variation with only a handful of chips and nudges to deviate from the dreary display of powerful spikes.

The local defence, on the other hand, was tested on many occasions by the Nepalese with some smashes and chips of their own but guarded the territory well, having to pull off a few spectacular diving efforts.

Sohrab Hossain and Ali Farhad showed a particular knack for picking up difficult balls.

The local team did show signs of over-confidence in the last set as the visitors

rushed to a 8-0 lead. But they pulled themselves together to capture the lead at 10-9 and ultimately take the set 16-14.

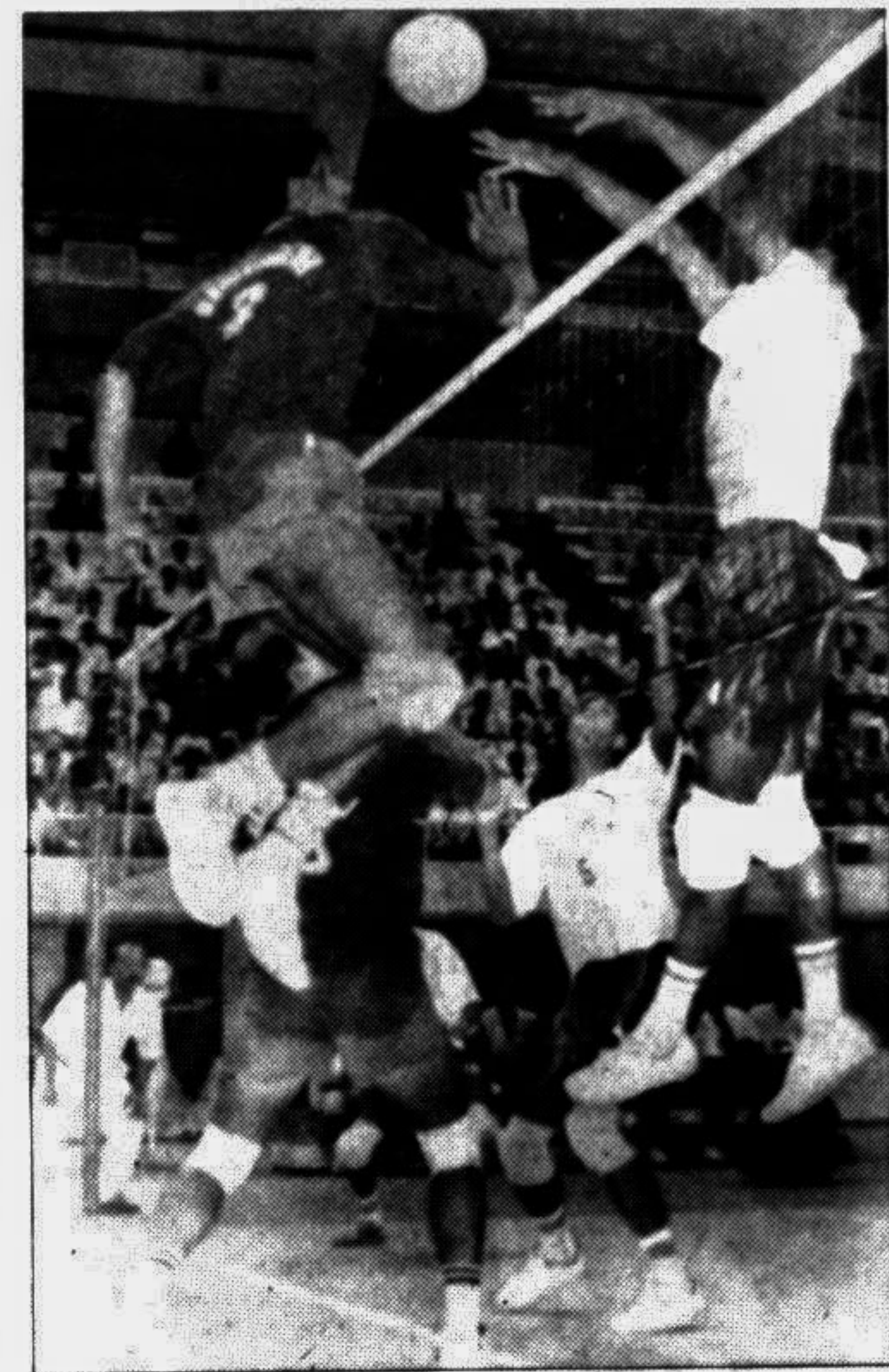
Talking to pressmen, the Bangladesh manager said that he had expected better competition from the visitors but warned not to write the Nepalese off. "After all it is their first match in an alien condition and they may improve significantly in the remaining games," he said.

About the sudden collapse early in the third set, he

stated that his boys were bothered by the floating serves the Nepalese put in.

The Bangladesh team is preparing for the SAF Games which is scheduled to begin in Madras on December 18. They have recently completed a useful tour of Pakistan in this regard.

According to Bangladesh Volleyball Federation officials, our boys will aim to win the bronze in Madras, as they seem to have little chance of overpowering champions Pakistan or runners-up India.



Action from yesterday's exhibition volleyball match between Bangladesh and Nepal at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium.

— Star photo

Jansher history-bound

NICOSIA, Nov 6: Jansher Khan took the first step towards capturing an unprecedented seventh World Open squash title as he won his first round match here on Monday, report agencies.

The 26-year-old Pakistani suffered a hiccup to lose the third set, but turned up the heat in the fourth to beat England's John Ransome 15-11, 15-5, 14-15, 15-3.

And he felt confident about becoming the most titled world champion of all time — he currently holds the record of six with compatriot and namesake Jahangir Khan, now retired, who was undefeated for five and a half years during the 1980s.

"I have won six tournaments this year and that has given me the confidence that I can win a seventh time," said Khan, shortly after his 49-minute win over 35th world-ranked Ransome.

In fact, Khan has won 12 consecutive events since his last loss to Scotland's Peter Nicol, seeded fourth here, in the Welsh Classic in Cardiff — the first event of 1994.

Apart from his 1995 victories in the Portuguese Open, British Open, tournament of Champions in New York, Hong Kong Open, Super Series event in Japan, and US Open, Khan also won six events last year.

He bounced back from his loss to Nicol to dominate 1994 with titles at the Portuguese Open, Austrian Open, French Open, British Open, Hong Kong Open, before adding a sixth World Open to his record.

But he has little problem staying motivated despite his

overwhelming superiority on the circuit. "It's a battle with myself," he said. "I want to get better and better, not just keep winning."

Khan faces the winner of England's world number 14 Danny Meddings and Pakistan's Mir Zaman Gul, ranked 37 in Wednesday's second round.

Jansher went into the World Open facing his real challenge from men no longer there to play him — ex-champions Jahangir Khan

and Geoff Hunt. What do you do when one player is above the rest?" said Egyptian national coach Ahmed Safawat.

Jansher's chances of record seventh win were further boosted last week when England's Peter Marshall, the number two seed, withdrew.

Marshall has spent the last few months recovering from serious liver problems and has ruled himself out of top-class contests for the time being.

His withdrawal left Australian Rodney Eyles, 27, at second seed, followed by Scot Peter Nicol and fellow Australian Brett Martin.

Squash has been dominated by first Hunt, then Jahangir and now Jansher for most of the last 30 years. The three hold 15 of the last 17 World Open titles between them.

Jahangir retired in 1992 aged 27 but came back to challenge and lose to Jansher in the 1993 World Open final.

Prize money for the winner stands at just 17,500 dollars for the runner-up, and only 100,000 dollars in total, less than other competitions on the circuit. But the eight-day tournament offers the undisputed title of the world's best squash players.

Top women players are competing in a 40,000 dollars Grand Prix competition designed to boost the women's professional circuit.

Officials estimate there are currently only about 20 women on the circuit full-time, compared to about twice that for men.

Australian Michelle Martin, 27, is number one seed and strongly favoured over Britons Suzanne Horner and Cassie Jackman at numbers two and three respectively.

In a sense, the real battle is between Jansher, Jahangir



JANSHER KHAN

and Geoff Hunt.

Pakistani compatriot Jahangir, has six titles to his name while Australian hunt also won six world titles, some of them before the World Open was established.

Squash officials and even other contestants' coaches said over the weekend Jansher stood head and shoulders above the rest of the field and was strongly tipped to win, barring a major foul up.

Shuttle-cock controversy

Sports Reporter

With almost all the officials staying away from the locked office of the Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF), apparently to avoid receiving show cause notices imposed by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Court recently, the insipid 18th national championships splan almost all the leading players passed the third day in the northern district of Bogra.

The long-awaited national championship which finally took off after three years lost its charm even before the start of the tournament following a row between federation officials and leading players.

The Badminton Players Welfare Association (BPWA), who termed the present BBF ad-hock body as despotic, boycotted the championship in protest against the suspension of three players.

Among the three enfant terribles, who spoke out against the alleged dubious activities of the BBF, Zahidul Islam Kachi was suspended for two years from all competitions. On the other hand, Jobaidur Rahman Rana and Kazi Hasibur Rahman Shakil, who are leading the players' protest against the BBF, were barred for one year each by the executive committee last month.

The punitive measure, considered harsh by the players, prompted sharp reaction in the badminton fraternity and among the victims Rana took to the matter to the court.

In this regard, the Dhaka CMM Court on November 4 has served show cause notices on six officials including the BBF president State Minister for Finance M Mojbibur Rahman, general secretary Mobin Uddin Ahmed and Quamrunnahr Dana, the latter being in the centre of many controversies in the recent past.

In the notice, the aforesaid officials have been given seven days time from receipt, to show cause why the suspended three players should not be allowed to take part in competitions.

FIFA boss meets Russian PM

MOSCOW, Nov 6: Joao Havelange, the president of FIFA, world soccer's governing body, met Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Sunday to discuss the possibility of Russia hosting the World Cup finals in 2006.

Itar-Tass news agency said, reports Reuter.

The 1998 finals are being held in France, while FIFA will decide next year whether the 2002 World Cup will be held in Japan or South Korea.

Havelange, visiting Russia for the first time for 10 years, is due to hold a news conference today, Sunday's Izvestia newspaper said.

Tass said Chernomyrdin told Havelange that he backed St Petersburg's interest in staging the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

The deadline for bids to be submitted is January 10 with a shortlist of four or five drawn up by the IOC before the final selection is made in Lausanne in September 1997.

Fourteen cities have so far expressed an interest in hosting the 2004 Games including Buenos Aires, Brussels, Cape Town, Istanbul, Milan, Rio De Janeiro, Rome, San Juan, Seville and Stockholm.

Kutubuddin lifts Dhaka Club golf

At the Dhaka Club Open Golf Tournament sponsored by Geocon Limited and held during the week-end, Kutubuddin Choudhury walked away with the champions trophy, turning in a net score of 67, says a press release.

Lutfu N Khan Rummy, a recent entrant at the game of golf, was the runner-up. Rezaur Rahman, a very familiar face at the Dhaka Club Golf Course, lifted the best gross trophy with a score of 90.

Ruhul Ameen, the veteran, in addition to his skills at the 19th hole now appears to be specialising in the 18th hole as well. Besides, coming nearest to the pin once again, he scored birdies in both rounds on this hole.

The complete results are: Champion: Kutub U Choudhury Runner-up: L N Khan Rummy

Best gross score: Rezaur Rahman

Best nett-1st nine: Aftab H Bhuiyan

Best nett-2nd nine: Ruhul Ameen

Longest Drive: M Hafizullah

Yearest to the pin: Ruhul Ameen Junior Champion: Sayeed Aziz



Monem Munna (C), the inspirational captain of the victorious Bangladesh national football team, holds the champions trophy of the Quadrangular Myanmar invitational meet. He is flanked by Naquib (L) and Mamun Joarder (R) — scorers of the 2-1 win over Myanmar in the final.

TIPUS Tuesday TIPS

Strike the ball on the run

Passing

Coaches and coaching manuals used to encourage players always to play off the 'back foot', to put their non-kicking foot alongside the ball. The only accepted technique for the short ball was the side-foot or push pass. Now playing the ball off the front foot on the run is increasingly in evidence at all levels of the game, both for the little lay-off pass and the more forward through ball.

The reason is time. Striking a ball on the run with the inside of your foot means checking your stride to readjust your stance, taking a valuable fraction of a second and telegraphing your intention. Striking it with the front foot means making the pass in your stride, using no extra time and surprising the opposition by playing it 'early'. It is a skill of limited if important scope, the number of situations which actually benefit by it are few, and both distance and direction are proscribed by the nature of the technique.

Playing off the front foot seems to come instinctively to some players, and it may even be argued that it is a prerequisite of a great footballer. Ashraf, Kabir, Muree, Hafiz, Enayet, Salahuddin, Channu, Babul and Sabir are among those who played a high proportion of their game that way, whether dribbling, screening or, most often perhaps, when passing.

In the front-foot pass the ball is played with the leading foot as you move into the next step. The ball is kicked from a central position, with the toes turned inside and a firm ankle, in a flicking motion. Because the ball is taken in your stride there is virtually no backlift or follow-through. Although power is limited, the pass has the assets of natural swerve and surprise, the angle of the pass is determined only after the ankle has stopped turning — and by then the ball is away. It is the perfect ball for the little bending pass down the line for the player on the overlap or for a quick 'give and go' start ball where you can keep moving for a return.

The long pass

The further the ball is kicked, the greater the chances of inaccuracy and the more time the opposition

has to intercept or to cover. The longer passes thus demand a high level of skill if they are to be creative plays rather than rarely hopeful ones. This applies as much to the receiver as the passer, and especially for front men taking balls under pressure from defenders and often on a run.

Apart from the goal-kick, there are four main areas of application for the long pass, (a) the crossfield ball to near the touchline, usually for a winger or fullback moving forward, and played either to feet or into space in front of the receiver, (b) the target ball to a front player from defence or midfield, most often played in the air, (c) the longer type of through ball into space behind the defence, and (d) the cross or centre, particularly to the far post. The tactical aspects of the last two will be mentioned later, here we are concerned primarily with the actual technique of striking the long ball.

This breaks down essentially into two types — the low drive and the 'lofted drive'. The low drive, struck with the instep and the foot pointing down, keeps the ball near or on the ground. The lofted drive, using the instep to get under the ball at an angle, gets height to take the ball over opponents to its target. Both involve a significant change in approach from the push pass, which while reliable because of the wide contact area employed, has a very limited range and by its nature is restricted to being played along the ground.

(To be continued)

Atletico stay the course

MADRID, Nov 6: A goal from Diego Simeone well into the second half maintained Atletico Madrid's lead in the Spanish First Division after a hard-fought win against Cup Winner's Cup holders Real Zaragoza, reports Reuter.

Atletico came close to conceding their first away goal of the season in the first half but took control after the break with Zaragoza showing the strain of their midweek European action in Bruges.

The home squad came out in an attacking mood and kept Atletico goalkeeper Jose Molina busy for much of the first 45 minutes but their loss of concentration after the break saw them suffer their fourth home defeat of the season.

Milinko Pantic almost scored in the 65th minute, but it took Simeone's shot two minutes later to earn the points.

Barcelona crushed struggling Salamanca 4-1 at home in the Camp Nou Stadium to stay in second place, three points behind Atletico.

Romanian international Gheorghe Popescu, under pressure after scoring only once since signing for Barcelona in the close season, answered his critics by scoring with a left-foot shot in the 12th minute and again from a penalty in the 30th.

Bosnian striker Mehlo Kodro had scored Barcelona's second in the 23rd minute with a spectacular diagonal shot while Oscar Garcia headed home a pass from his brother Roger to score the Catalan's fourth in the 49th minute.

Romanian midfielder Ovidiu Stinga took advantage of an error by Barcelona defender Miguel Nadal in the closing minutes to score a consolation goal for Salamanca.

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff was forced to watch the match from the stands after receiving a five-match suspension for insulting the referee during a home match against Valencia two weeks ago.

Real Madrid, who have still not found their form this season, struggled to beat Real Sociedad 3-2 on Saturday and the title-holders are now in sixth place, 11 points behind local rivals Atletico.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

CRYPTOQUIP

Cryptoquip puzzle: YPGGWC'K CPIOM UWKKWBK QW QWCW KP KIIYWBK QW QWCW NPQBWM PUWC. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PLAYING POKER ON THE ARK'S DECK, IT'S LOGICAL THAT NOAH HAD PAIRS. Today's Cryptoquip clue: N equals B



Prize winners of the Geocon Cup Golf tourney held recently.

— Star photo