

Sohail braves a losing battle

Warne warns tourists off

BRISBANE, Nov 11: Aamir Sohail led Pakistan's fight to avoid an innings defeat in the first Test against Australia today with a superb 99 after spinner Shane Warne routed the tourists to force the follow-on, reports Reuter.

The aggressive left-handed opener fell one run short of a deserved third



WARNE ... 7 for 23

Test century when Pakistan batted again after collapsing for 97, their fourth lowest total in Test history, in reply to Australia's first innings 463.

At close of play on the third day at the Gabba, Pakistan were 197 for three, still needing another 169 runs to make Australia bat again.

Earlier, Warne claimed seven for 23 from 16.1 overs in a devastating display of leg-spin bowling.

It was Warne's second best Test performance following his eight for 71 against England on the same ground last year.

In one stunning period before lunch, Warne claimed the last six Pakistan wickets to fall in 56 balls at a cost of ten runs.

Aamir Sohail, the only batsman to offer any resis-

tance in the first innings with a swift 32, hit 15 fours during a second stay at the crease that lasted three hours and 20 minutes.

He received staunch support from Inzamam-ul-Haq who remained unbeaten on 56 at the close alongside Basit Ali on 11.

The only blemish on Aamir Sohail's otherwise outstanding innings came with his score on 34 when all-rounder Greg Blewett failed to hold on to a diving chance at point.

Sohail was finally dismissed one hour before the close when fast bowler Glenn McGrath, who took all three second innings wickets, yoked him.

Opener Salim Elahi completed a miserable Test debut when he failed again in the second innings.

The right-hander fell for two after deflecting a catch off his gloves to wicket-keeper Ian Healy with the total on 30.

It was Healy's 250th dismissal in Test cricket and he quickly added to his total when number three Rameez Raja top-edged an attempted hook shot.

The tourists were further hampered in their first innings when former captain Salim Malik did not bat because of a cut hand sustained on Thursday.

Resuming today on 40 for three, the tourists lost their last six wickets in less than two hours before lunch, ending the innings in the 42nd over.

The two teams will take a rest day on Sunday before returning for the fourth day on Monday.

Pakistan's lowest score in Test cricket came in 1981-82 when they collapsed for 62 against Australia. Pakistan were dismissed for 87 and 90 by England in 1954.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the first Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Gabba today.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 463 (Steve Waugh 112 not out, Mark Taylor 69, Mark Waugh 59, Greg Blewett 57, David Boon 54)

PAKISTAN: First innings

Elahi c Taylor b McDermott	11
Sohail st Healy b Warne	32
Rameez c Taylor b Warne	8
Saqin lbw McGrath	0
Inzamam c S Waugh b Warne	5
Basit c Taylor b Warne	1
Moin c McDermott b Warne	4
Wasim c Boon b Warne	1
Waqar not out	19
M Akram c Blewett b Warne	1
Malik absent hurt	0
Extras: (nb-6, lb-5, b-4)	15
Total: (41.1 overs)	97



SOHAIL ... cameo 99

Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-37; 3-40; 4-62; 5-66; 6-70; 7-70; 8-80; 9-97.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
McDermott	11	4	32
McGrath	14	3	33
Warne	16.1	9	23

PAKISTAN: Second innings

Elahi c Healy b McGrath	2
Sohail b McGrath	99
Rameez c Healy b McGrath	16
Inzamam not out	56
Basit not out	11
Extras: (b-2, nb-11)	13
Total: (for 3 wkts, 63 overs)	197

Fall of wickets: 1-30; 2-88; 3-167

Bowling:

O	M	R	W
McDermott	11	0	47
McGrath	17	5	55
Reiffel	12	2	45
Warne	18	6	42
S Waugh	2	1	3
M Waugh	3	2	3

ITF masters' leg tennis in Dhaka from Nov 20

The masters' leg of the ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit tennis tournament will begin at the Ramna National Tennis Complex here on November 20, report agencies.

The third-leg matches of the four-leg tourney will be held in the northern city of Rajshahi November 13-19 while the first two-leg matches held in Thailand October 30-November 12.

Twenty-four seeded players out of 50 professionals from Europe, America and Asia will compete in the five-day masters' leg, sponsored jointly by SABINCO and Kader Synthetic Fibres Ltd.

The countries the players will be representing are: Netherlands, Ireland, Austria, Italy, Denmark, Slovak, USA, Yugoslavia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Estonia, Japan, Poland, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Switzerland, Thailand, Sweden and hosts Bangladesh.

The masters' leg matches will be conducted by ITF nominated referee Tom Johnston, chair umpire Paul Davies and ATF nominated umpire Ales Yeo.

Paul Davies arrived there yesterday and he will leave for Rajshahi today.

Malaysian Selvas Veerasingam and Dutch Martijn Bok were the champion and runner-up in the last year's tournament.

Biggies ousted from China

BEIJING, Nov 11: Top-ranked male and female players were eliminated in the semifinals of the 1995 China Open badminton in the southwestern city of Chengdu, reports AFP.

Friday's results also mean the world's top nation at the sport, Indonesia, will not be represented in the finals.

Among the men, world number one Joko Suprianto of Indonesia was outclassed by Denmark's Erik Hoyer-Larsson, the top European player, in two sets 15-5, 15-12.

Hoyer-Larsson will meet China's Dong Jiong in the final, after the later beat another Dane, Peter Rasmussen, in two sets 15-8, 15-2.

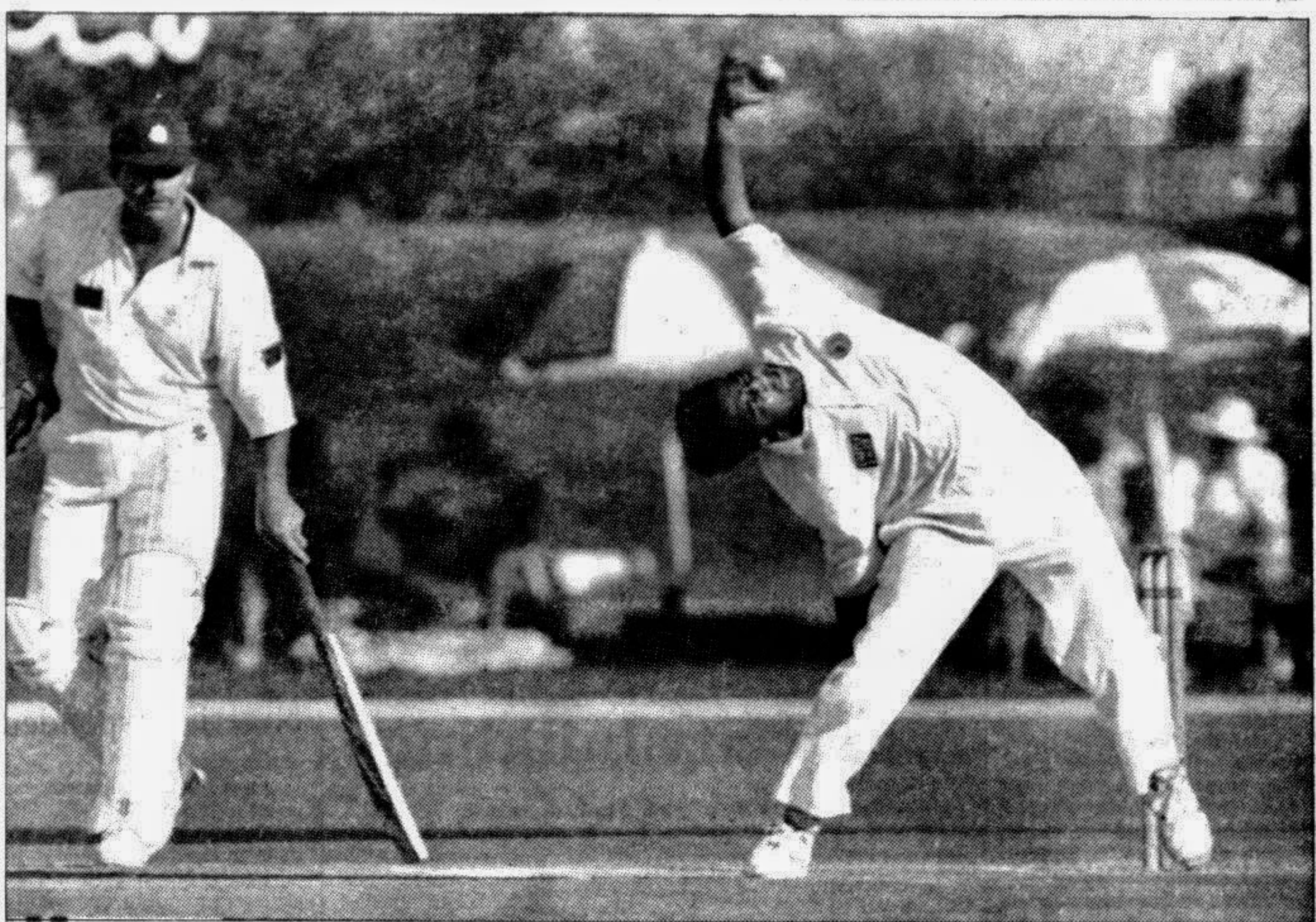
Among the women, South Korea's Bang Soohyun defeated Susi Susanti of Indonesia in the semifinals 11-2; 12-10. She will take on China's Ye Zhaoying. Ya eliminated her compatriot Yao Han in two sets 11-6, 11-9.

Iraq beat Iran

TEHERAN, Nov 11: Iraq's Talabeh beat Iran's Bahman 1-0 here on Friday in the first club match between the two countries since they were at war in the 1980s, reports AFP.

Watched by a crowd of 65,000, Talabeh's Sabah Joumeir scored the decisive goal in the third minute, giving his side a precious 1-0 lead to take to Baghdad for the second-leg of the Asian Champions' Cup tie.

The two national sides met for the first time since the 1980-88 war in October 1993, playing in the Asian Zone qualifying tournament for the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States. Iraq won the match 2-1.



England wrecker South African "A" debutant spinner Paul Adams (R) caught in painful action as he conjures up yet another devilish delivery with England's Robin Smith looking quizzical during a four-day match last Friday. — AFP/UNB photo

New wrist-wizard on the block England at a low ebb



KIMBERLEY, South Africa, Nov 11: England were dismissed for 308 on the third day of the four-day match against South Africa A on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Earlier, an 18-year-old left-arm wrist-spinner wrecked England's top order batting with three wickets for only one run in the space of four overs.

England's senior batsmen must have thought the mirror image of Australian spin wizard Shane Warne had arrived to haunt them as Paul Adams sent them reeling from 55 without loss to 59 for four.

Somewhat surprisingly it was the out of form Robin Smith, fighting for his Test place and renowned as a poor player of spin, who aided captain Mike Atherton in a partial recovery to take England to 127 for four by the close of the second day.

But in response to South African A's first innings 470 for nine declared, it left England still with a huge mountain to climb in this final match before next week's first Test.

Adams, playing in his first representative match, said afterwards: "the guys looked after me out there. The last few weeks have been a bit

bewildering, but my goal is to play Test cricket."

If Adams was bewildered, so too were England's batsmen as the spinner rapidly dismissed Alec Stewart (34), Graham Thorpe (one) and Graeme Hick for nought.

After a solid opening partnership of 55 between Atherton and Stewart, Adams stuck with his second ball, bowling a clearly bemused Stewart by spinning a Chinaman, the left-armers' version of the googly, past the outside edge of a defensive bat.

As a significant moment it rivalled Mike Gatting's dismissal by Warne's first ball at the Old Trafford Test in 1993.

In his fourth over Adams had Thorpe caught off bat and pad by Lance Klusener and four balls later Hick tamely prodded back a full-toss to be caught and bowled.

South African-born Smith survived a strident appeal for lbw next ball and also appeared to be dropped behind the stumps by Steve Palfreman off Adams when he had made 18.

Although regularly beaten by the young spinner, Smith fought through doggedly to help Atherton revive England's hopes of avoiding a humiliating defeat, although they still remained 194 runs

away from the follow-on target of 321.

By contrast Atherton seemed to pick Adams' variations and was rarely in trouble. His undefeated 49 was a model of concentration, coming from 168 balls with five fours.

Another youngster, 20-year-old Jacques Kallis, who cracked a fluent 93 in South Africa A's first innings, added to England's woes by dismissing Mark Ramprakash for a single with his medium pace seamers.

England's bowlers were again made to look ordinary as the home side built on their overnight score of 325 for five before declaring in mid-afternoon.

Lance Klusener reached 61 before being bowled to a Darren Gough full toss and after lunch pace bowler Steven Jack smashed 44 from 45 balls with three sixes and three fours before falling to the off-spin of Mike Watkinson.

Adams finished with three for 33 from 18 overs and England will be grateful for the fact he has not been included in the South African squad for the first Test. However, it looks highly likely he will be in action against them before the five-Test series is over.

Maradona's last charade?

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 11: One of soccer's most celebrated and controversial international careers could finally be over with Diego Maradona's announcing on Friday: "I don't have the energy to play for Argentina anymore."

Maradona, back in Argentina after addressing Oxford University students in England on Monday, spoke after leading his Boca Juniors team to their sixth win since he returned to action in September following his 13-month ban for testing positively for drugs during last year's World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

"I believe the national team needs other players. I'm on my way down. I can't do the national team any good," said Maradona, 35, last week, who captained Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

"Only want to think about Boca," he said, although he stopped short of actually saying he was retiring from being considered for the national side. He has played 90 times for Argentina, scoring a joint-record number of 33 goals.

While Maradona - not for the first time - is talking of quitting international soccer, Argentines do not appear ready to see him step down, especially at a time when the national squad has been mired in a slump and never so much in need of creativity and talent.

On Wednesday night, Argentina lost 1-0 to Brazil in a game marred by poor playing, lack of ingenuity and personality.

Fierly Argentine fans lashed out at coach Daniel Passarella, no great fan of Maradona, singing in unison the coach's dreaded chant: "Maradona, Maradona."

Courier, Edberg crash in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM, Nov 11: Top seed Jim Courier was beaten in the Stockholm Open quarterfinals on Friday but veteran Richey Reneberg preserved an American tradition in the event with a spot in the semifinals, reports Reuter.

Courier, heading for the ATP final next week, succumbed to Germany's David Prinosil 6-3, 7-6 and failed for the eighth consecutive time to win the title.

"I didn't lose the match, he won it," Courier said. "Prinosil basically blew me off the court."

"This was my breakthrough. I have never played better than this," Prinosil said.

Prinosil, ranked 71st in the world, plays Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch, who beat Swedish qualifier Mikael Tillstrom 7-5, 6-4 today.

Reneberg set up a last-four clash with second seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden.

The doubles specialist reached his first singles semifinal of the year with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Swede Magnus Larsson.

Enqvist confirmed he is Sweden's best tennis player with his straight sets victory over Stefan Edberg.

While Enqvist has qualified for the ATP finals next week, Edberg has slipped to 23rd in the rankings.

Edberg saved two-match points but on the thirds his passing shot hit the net cord and bounced out.

Boetsch almost missed Stockholm because his wife gave birth to a son, Lucas, on Monday.

Pete's status at stake



BONN, Nov 11: Andre Agassi's withdrawal has taken much of the spice from next week's ATP Tour World Championship but Pete Sampras still faces a fight to keep his number one spot at the year-ending event.

Agassi, who had a superb chance of dislodging Sampras at the Frankfurt tournament, was forced to pull out on Thursday because of a nagging chest muscle strain he first sustained playing for the United States in a Davis Cup semifinal in September, reports Reuter.

His absence is a major disappointment since the indoor event offered the prospect of one of its most fascinating finales for years, with three players in the hunt of finish 1995 at the top of the rankings.

Now Sampras' main opposition will come from Austria's French Open champion Thomas Muster, who has enjoyed the best year of his life and is hungry to prove he belongs at the top of the game.

Muster, who has won an ATP Tour record 12 events this year, has a chance to take over the prestigious position if he wins the tournament and Sampras goes out in the semifinals, ATP officials said on Friday.

The tussle for the top spot provides rare excitement at an event which so often in the past has been irrelevant to the number one ranking and has rarely lived upto its

billing as the climax of the season.

Since the event started in 1990 there have been years when the world's top eight players have come to Frankfurt in November knowing it was impossible to dislodge the number one player.

The tournament has never matched the prestige of the well-known event it replaced on the circuit, the Masters which was held in New York. In terms of atmosphere, Frankfurt's Festhalle is no Madison Square Garden.

After the glamour of the Grand Slams at Wimbledon and the Australian, French and US Opens, which are all held outdoors during summer, some tennis followers have seen the trip to Frankfurt, usually wet and windy in mid-autumn, as an anti-climax to the year.

The fact that the event, which moves to the central German city of Hanover next year, has rarely provided a real race for the number one spot and, therefore, not produced a true world champion, has added credence to

that perception.

It has been difficult for the public to see the difference between Frankfurt and the Grand Slam Cup in December in Munich which brings together the best performers from the Grand Slams but is largely an exhibition with no influence on the rankings.

This year's battle might help to redress the balance. Sampras and Muster are joined by Germany's triple Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, Americans Michael Chang and Jim Courier, Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Sweden's Thomas Engvist. South African Wayne Ferreira comes into the field after Agassi's withdrawal.

The draw for the round-robin stage will not be clear until the latest ATP rankings appear on Monday. The players contest early-round matches in two groups of four which are based on the rankings with the leading two players advancing to the semifinals. The group matches get under way on Tuesday.

Jansher, Harris in World Open final

NICOSIA, Nov 11: England's Del Harris will meet defending champion Jansher Khan in the World Open squash final today after beating Australian Craig Rowland 10-15, 15-13, 15-4, 15-8 in Friday's semifinals, reports Reuter.

Seventh seed Harris dropped the first game but as the match progressed he outran the Australian and from the third game began to outplay him.

"I was trying to force the pace as I have been through the tournament," Harris said. "I felt him tiring in the longer rallies."

Rowland had the better short game, but Harris usually reached the front of the court to retrieve the ball.

His superior stamina showed in the final game, where he played eight outright winners to win.

Jansher, bidding for a record seventh world title, outclassed eighth seed Anthony Hill of Australia 15-7, 15-12, 15-6 in a niggling semifinal littered with arguments between both players and the referee.

Some 50 lets were called in the 45-minute encounter.

Higuaita out of action

BOGOTA, Nov 11: Colombia's eccentric national team goalkeeper Kene Higuaita will be out of action for at least three months after tearing knee ligaments in a charity match in Europe on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"Rene's injury is more serious than was first thought," said Colombia national team doctor Hernan Luna, who examined the injury to Higuaita, who plays his club football for Medellin's Atletico Nacional, on his return to Colombia.

Higuaita, famous for his charismatic and sometimes reckless style of goalkeeping, was playing for an America XI against a Europe XI in Barcelona on Tuesday when he was injured.



ON DEADLY GROUND! Players of Tehran's Bahman club (light jerseys) and Baghdad's Talabeh are involved in an aerial tussle during the first soccer match between Iranian and Iraqi teams in Teheran on Nov 10 since the 1980-88 conflict. — AFP/UNB photo