

Column One

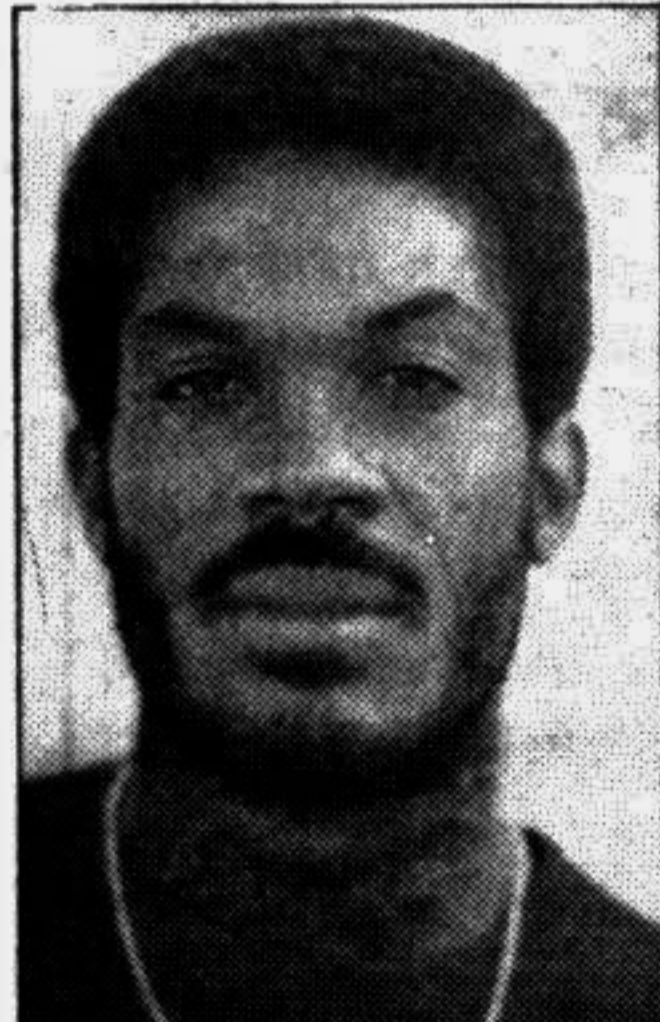
DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT it is not only the National Sports Council which is involved in raising money for sport...

The Yugoslav Committee observed Olympic Week every year during the week...

In Bangladesh, corporate advertisements are now fairly common. There is hardly a vent now in the country...

SPORTS TALK



Michael Holding (Former West Indian fast-bowling great)

There (should) be a World Cup of Test cricket played over 18 months or perhaps two years...

Suggesting on ways to improve the lot of Test cricket.

WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports Whizz Kid competition-15

Tick the Correct Answer

Table with 5 questions about sports events and winners.

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

Diego doesn't change!

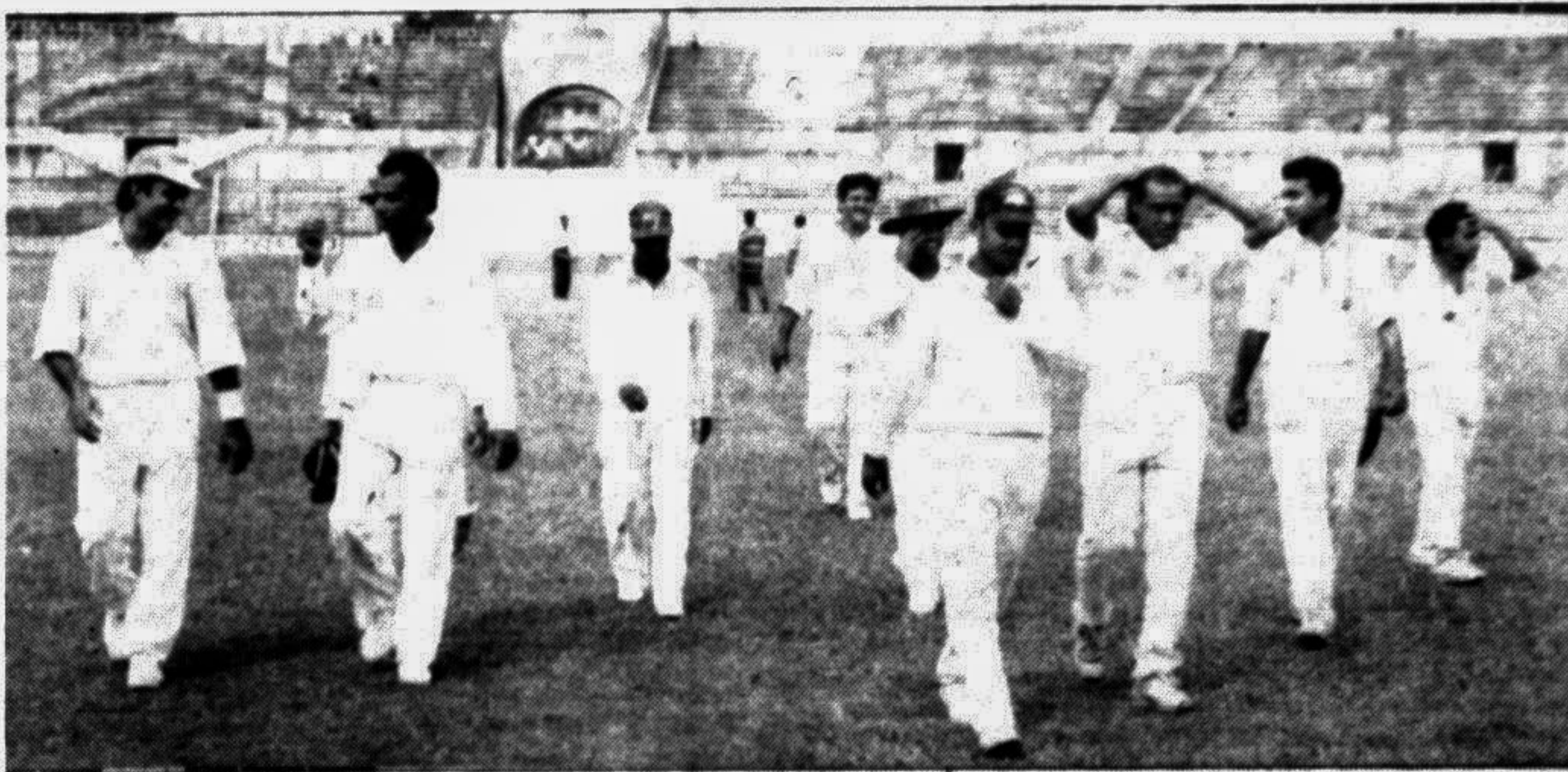
BUENOS AIRES, Nov 24: Diego Maradona mollified Boca Juniors fans on Thursday by changing his mind...

"Yes, I'll play. I don't feel good but still I'll do it for the people of Boca," said Maradona...

"I went through a black week. I would have preferred not to play but I'll do it for the show, for the people..."

Maradona joined Boca in September after a 15-month playing ban for taking illegal drugs during the World Cup in the United States.

Upon his return, Boca bounced back to life from what was then a mediocre campaign.



The satisfied Abahani fielders returning to the pavilion after successfully booking Bangladesh Biman to a paltry 154 in yesterday's Damal Summer Cricket tournament encounter at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani won the match by four wickets.

AKC survive early scare

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

BAHABANI KC: 155 for 6 in 38.2 overs (Moni 36*, Arif 33*, Akram 26; Manna 4/24)



An undefeated seventh wicket partnership of 72 runs from Enamul Hoque Moni and Arif Mahmood of Pakistan steered holders Abahani Kriya Chakra to the semifinals of 16th Damal Summer Cricket tournament...

In a low scoring match which was reduced to 41 overs per innings due to overnight rain, Abahani, the defending champions who were chasing 155 to win...

Witnessed by a large crowd, Abahani dreamt of a big win after they successfully restricted Biman to only 154 runs in the morning session. But things did not happen as per their desire due to a marauding Biman pacer Nizamuddin Manna who ripped through Abahani top order...

way for 11 with the score on 21 in his fourth over. Manna, the promising young bowler from Chittagong, played havoc with the Abahani batsmen.

One down Naimur Rashid Rahul (2) became the first victim of Manna in the third delivery of his fifth over as Nasir Khan at short leg took a brilliant catch.

Augustine Logie (8) was next to go in Manna's next over - the 12th over of the innings. The former West Indian Test batsman who came to Bangladesh as coach of the West Indies under-19 earlier this month and stayed put in the capital to play the tournament for Abahani, opened his account with two pull shots to the square leg in Manna's 3rd and 4th delivery of the over. But he eventually lost his off stump to a Manna in swinger, the latter's fifth delivery.

Manna once again struck in his next over as he bowled the other opener and wicketkeeper Khaled Masud Pilot for 15 with yet another beautiful in swinger which left Abahani tumbling on 46 for four in 13.4 overs.

Manna completed his demolition in his eighth over with Durjoy as his last victim. Durjoy, who was twice named man-of-the-match for national under-19 and BCCB Eleven against West Indies Under-19 last week, failed to do justice to his reputation yesterday when his team needed that most. He was caught at gully by Shaheen scoring only four runs.

Skipper Akram Khan and Moni added 31 runs in the next wicket stand in nine overs to take the score to 83 before the burly national middle order batsman was caught behind of a Jewel Hossain Mona delivery in the 24th over with 26 runs to his credit.

After all this, Moni and Arif took command and pulled Abahani from thick soup. Moni, who joined Abahani from Biman this year, played an unbeaten innings of 36 off 71 balls while Arif was not out on 33 off only 41 deliveries.

Manna conceded only 24 runs in his nine-over spell which included a maiden and bagged four wickets; a spell Abahani will remember for a long time.

Earlier, Abahani captain Akram Khan won the toss and invited Biman to bat. His decision proved reasonable as Biman were booked for only 154 in their stipulated 41 overs.

After national opener Athar Ali (37) and Nasir Khan (41) put on 78 runs in their opening stand for Biman, none of the others were successful in keeping the momentum except skipper Ziaur Rashid Rupom who added 32 off 34 balls. Durjoy, Salauddin and Arif were the successful Abahani bowlers all of whom bagged two wickets apiece. With yesterday's win, Abahani, who beat Brothers Union in their previous match on November 20 by 26 runs, won the group X championship with full four points from two outings and moved into the semifinal of the season's first cricket meet. They will take on group Y runners up, either Kalabagan or GMCC, in the first semifinal billed for November 28.

Brothers Union, who defeated Biman by four wickets on Thursday, became the second team to qualify for the semifinal with this group with two points. The Gopibagh boys will face Mohammedan Sporting Club in the second semifinal on November 29.

On the other hand, Biman, who have lost both their robin league matches were left in the lurch.

Damal Summer rescheduled

Sport Reporter

The last second round group encounter of the 16th Damal Summer cricket tournament between Mohammedan SC and Kalabagan KC will be held tomorrow at the Dhaka Stadium.

Due to unavoidable reasons, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), the organisers of the tournament deferred the match by a day which was scheduled to be held today.

The revised fixture of the tournament is as follows: Nov 26: Mohammedan SC vs Kalabagan KC Nov 28: First semifinal Nov 29: Second semifinal Dec 1: Final

Foreigners in final four

Sports Reporter

Two Indians Radhika Tulpuri and Srudi Dawan along with Gulnoora Khodzova of Uzbekistan and Rokhsana of Tajikistan reached the girls' singles semifinals of the second central Asian tennis circuit for players aged 14 or under.

The quartet won their respective quarterfinal encounters at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday. Radhika routed Camille of Uzbekistan 6-2, 6-0; Gulnoora struggled to get past Indian Rekha Natrajan 6-3, 5-7, 6-2; Rokhsana virtually walked over Sonal Padke of India 6-0, 6-2; and Srudi defeated Olga Dizuba of Kazakhstan 6-1, 6-4.

Radhika will take on Gulnoora while Rokhsana faces Srudi in the last-four stage. In the boys' division, last year's circuit champion and top seed Nomi Qamar blasted into the semifinal stage with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Kamal Khanna of India. Qamar will face Silamsakov of Uzbekistan, a 6-1, 6-4 winner over compatriot Rinat Sikdar, in the semis today.

The other semifinal will be contested between Ijaz Ahmed of Pakistan and MA Salman of India. Ijaz defeated Bangladeshis Syed Aziz 6-2, 6-0 while Salman overcame another localite Nadim Kamran Khan 6-3, 6-4.

Pakistan in shambles

MELBOURNE, Nov 24: Despite five changes to their losing Test side, Pakistan failed to find a winning formula on the opening day in their four-day tour match against Victoria today, reports Reuter.

Their top order batsmen collapsed all out for 154 under Victoria's pace attack.

The home side replied with 134 for three at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Pakistan, who have already lost the three-Test series to Australia, lasted just 52.5 overs before being bowled out against a Victorian line-up lacking internationals Shane Warne and Paul Reiffel.

Their cause was not helped by being able to field only five specialist batsmen, after Salm Malik was again unavailable due to the hand injury that kept him out of the second Test.

Pakistan won the toss and chose to bat, but quickly came under pressure losing three wickets for 48, with Salm Elahi dismissed for one and Ijaz Ahmed losing his wicket for a duck.

Inzamamul Haq and acting skipper Rameez Raja then steadied the innings with a 35-run stand in just 20 minutes before David Saker bowled the dangerous Inzamam for 23 in his first over.

Any hopes Pakistan had of reaching a competitive total were dashed when Rameez was next to go, falling to a loose cut shot off Jason Bakker.

Romario may return to Spain again?

MADRID, Nov 24: Newly-promoted Union Deportivo Salamanca, currently 18th in the Spanish First Division, want to buy Brazilian World Cup star Romario from Flamengo for 500 million pesetas (about four million dollars) reports Reuter.

Club president Juan Jose Hidalgo began negotiating the purchase of Romario during a visit to Brazil last week.

The striker is understood to be unhappy at Flamengo, who have struggled in the Brazilian league this year, and expressed his desire to return to Spain after playing in a charity America versus Europe match in Barcelona last month.

Lankans on the back seat

MACKAY, Australia, Nov 24: Sri Lanka's top order batsmen collapsed again today to leave them 323 runs behind Queensland with one day's play left in their four-day tour match, reports Reuter.

The touring side were 59 for three at the close, after a poor first innings 178, against Queensland's 305 and 255.

Dhaka Assoc soccer champs for the deaf

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Association of the Deaf lifted the championship of second deaf football tournament after beating Dhaka Deaf High School 2-0 at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

With the win, Dhaka Association of the Deaf earned 12 points and remained atop the standings.

Masters' crown Platenik's

Sports Reporter



Vladimir Platenik of Slovakia ran away with the champion's crown of the ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit tennis tournament when he thoroughly outplayed Canadian Jocelyn Robichaud in the final of the masters' leg of the four-leg event at the Ramna National Tennis Complex in the city last afternoon.

Playing in overcast conditions, the unseeded Platenik defeated his North American opponent, who was also unseeded, with a telling scoreline of 6-3, 6-3.

Platenik, who had ended last year occupying the No.8 spot in the ITF world junior rankings, took complete control of the match from the word "go" and looked to be a better bet all the way through. His strong and precise groundstrokes found no match in Robichaud's delicate yet sometimes erratic serve-and-volley game although the lanky Canadian showed signs of his brilliance on occasions.

The East European broke

Robichaud in the seventh game of the first set to take a 4-3 lead and took advantage of two double faults from his opponent to win the set with yet another break of serve.

The second set saw little change in the way the match was progressing as Platenik gradually gained in confidence, hitting a couple of second-serve aces and two beautifully executed lobs. He broke the now faltering serve of Robichaud in the sixth game to lead 4-2 but his stylish opponent refused to give up with a break of his own in the very next game.

But Robichaud, disturbed by a couple of line calls against him, ultimately ran out of steam and handed the match and the 700 dollars winner's cheque to Platenik with a backhand error.

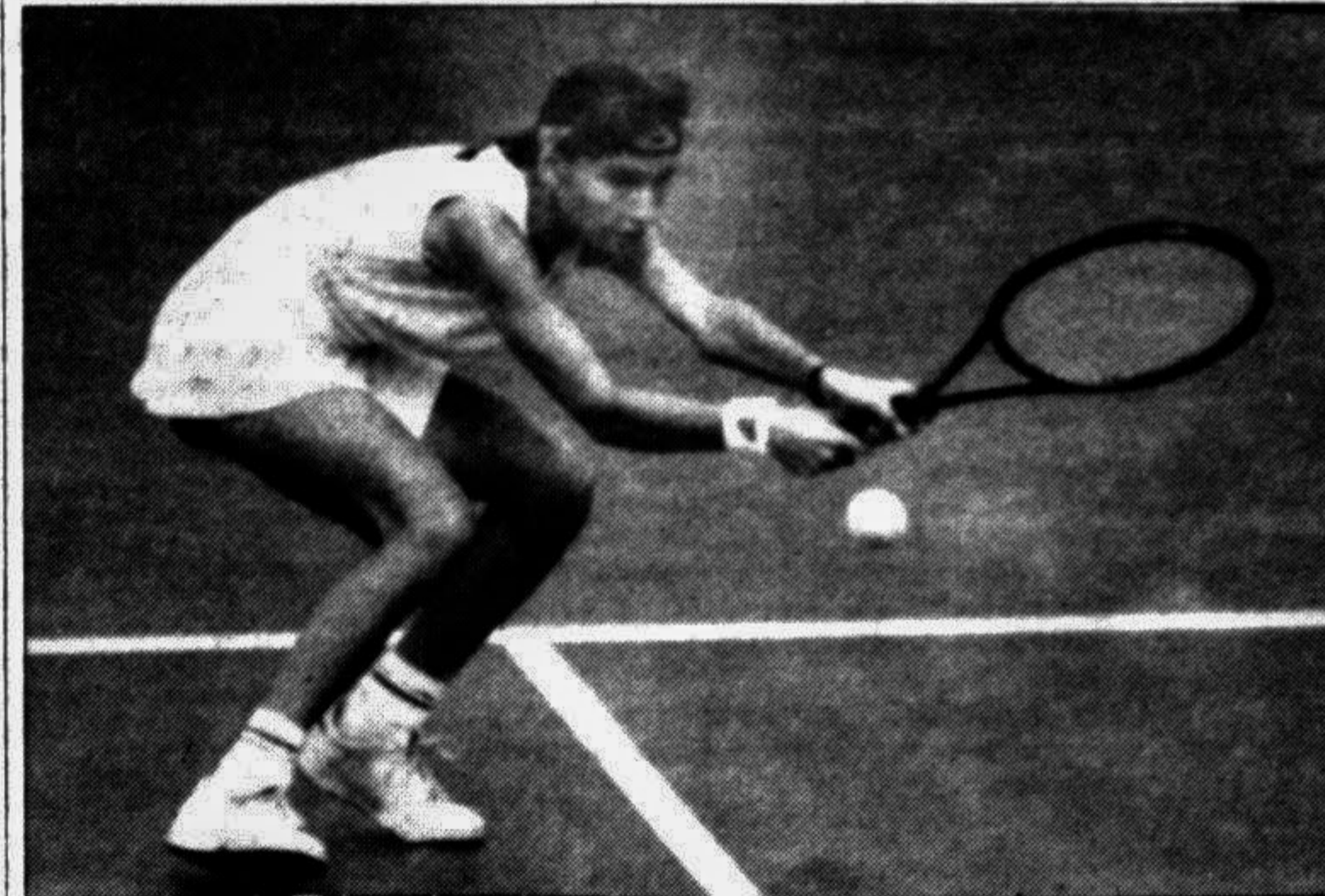
Platenik, who could not cross the second round in his two attempts in Thailand and reached the last eight in the third leg in Rajshahi, was proclaimed the circuit champion despite his failures in the previous legs and collected 31 ATP points. With these points he enters the top 400 in the ATP rankings.

Robichaud collected 23 points.

Talking to this correspondent, the chirpy Slovak said that he went into the final match with a lot of mental pressure as the points he collected through this his first victory at Satellite level are crucial for his future as a professional. About his late surge in the four-leg tourney, Platenik informed in broken English that he had played most of his previous Satellites on clay and needed time to adapt to hardcourts before performing at his best during this masters' leg.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf attended the final and distributed prizes among the participants.

During the award-giving ceremony, the tournament referee Tom Johnston said that the level of umpiring in Bangladesh is not upto Satellite level. He called for development in this regard. He also expressed his dissatisfaction at the standard of the playing courts but informed that the authorities have assured of improvements in the future.



Olga Dizuba of Kazakhstan struggles to make a backhand return during her quarterfinal match against Srudi Dawan of India in the Central Asian tennis circuit for players aged 14 or under at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday. Olga lost the match 2-6, 4-6.

Better days beckon Bayern



BONN, Nov 24: For Juergen Klinsmann, scoring four goals in midweek against one of Europe's top sides is not enough - the former Tottenham striker wants Bayern Munich's fans to have something to cheer about at the weekend, reports Reuter.

Klinsmann was outstanding in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday, scoring all Bayern's goals in their 4-1 demolition of Benfica.

But the player knows Bayern have been rocked by bickering and internal strife for weeks. A fragile peace broke out after a crisis meeting last week involving all the key figures at the club from president Franz Beckenbauer downwards.

"I hope we all pull together now and build up something which the people who come to watch us can really enjoy," the 31-year-old striker said. "That win gives us all a boost."

Bayern resume their duel at the top of the Bundesliga with Borussia Dortmund at the weekend. The two clubs are six points clear of third-placed Borussia Moenchengladbach, with Dortmund ahead on goal difference.

The return of legendary libero Lothar Matthaus, after almost a year-long injury lay-off, has brought some welcome stability back to Bayern.

Now Klinsmann hopes the 13-times champions can capitalise on the mood.

Dortmund travel to mid table Uerdingen on Saturday. If the champions show any signs of tiredness from their stunning 2-1 midweek win over Juventus, Bayern are poised to pounce in Sunday's game with second from bottom Cologne.

Dortmund's Champions' League victory in Turin secured their place in the European Cup quarter finals and brought to an end a series of five games against Juventus which they had failed to win.

A mouthwatering quarter final with Ajax beckons next year.

"Beating Bayern Munich is normal," boasted Dortmund president Gerd Niebaum "when we win against Juventus, we have a really good time."

But Niebaum could have the grin wiped off his face as his club faces Uerdingen without Germany's Footballer of the Year Matthias Sammer and midfielder Steffen Freund, both suspended.

Freund was booked 10 times last season and has already been given the yellow card five times this season.

Completing Germany's trio of sides returning from European action, Werder Bremen take on this season's Bundesliga surprise packages Hansa Rostock.

Friendly cricket

Sports Reporter

Standard Chartered Bank beat American Express Bank by 92 runs in a friendly cricket match held yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Standard Chartered batted first and collected 199 for six in the stipulated 30 overs which included a brilliant innings of 57 scored by Reza Haque. Mamun (54) and Masrur (43) were the other leading scorers for Standard Bank.

In reply, American Express were bundled out for 107 runs in 24 overs. Nasir was the highest scorer for the losers with 22 runs.

Surjoday, Ansars for C'wealth club h'ball

Surjoday, Club and Bangladesh Ansars will take part in the 5th Commonwealth Club men's and women's handball tournament to be held in the Indian state of Kerala from December 2, reports UNB.

The two 20-member men and women teams will leave here by road on Sunday, said an official of the Bangladesh Handball Federation.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues.

Cryptogram puzzle grid.

CRYPTOQUIP NKPR MKIRH XDFJ GTZW. RM WK JZKG DY T FXDFJRZ YTQP GTN. PRQRSH T STQBR RBBISTZW. Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHAT BOOK DO DILGENT GARDENERS LIKE BEST? THE WEEDEE'S DIGEST. Today's Cryptogram clue: B equals G. The Cryptogram 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 words. Solution is by trial and error.