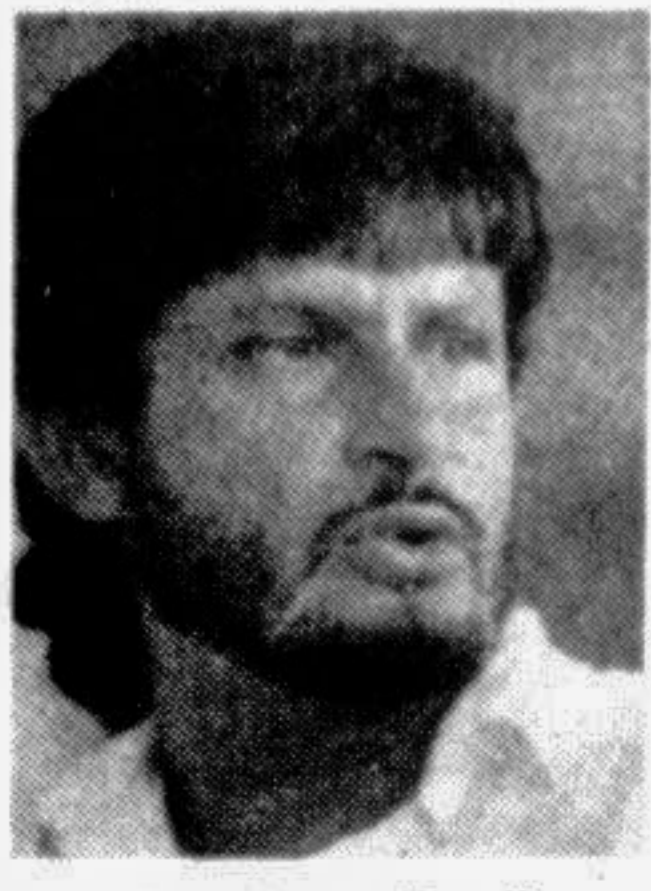


Column One SPORTS TALK



Sandeep Patil

(Former Indian Test player) "Many feel I should have carried on with one-day cricket. But to be honest, I rarely enjoyed one-day cricket. Given a choice I would opt for Test cricket. I feel Test cricket is the real test of a cricketer."

On comments that he was a better player at one-day level than at Test.

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

HAT America's number one sport product has turned out to be the country's least exported item. Strange from a country teeming with entrepreneurs ready to do business with everything they can land their hands on.

Well, the game is baseball. It has penetrated the American society in a manner no other sport has. Indeed, some say that the history of the game is the history of the nation. The sport has been equated with Americanism, democracy, fair play and individual enterprise.

Baseball is the American way of life with virtually every village, town, city, school, college and university in the USA having its own baseball team.

The Americans have been to many places. Yet, they have been unsuccessful in spreading the sport outside America with the exception of Japan, where it is also the number one game. It is also played in a few South American countries.

In Bangladesh, the game is almost unknown. I remember playing it in the early 60s while a student of a convent school in Comilla.

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN The rules are published every Saturday

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-15 Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Dec 1, 1995)

- 1. The World Cup cricket 1996 final will be held in Calcutta Karachi Lahore
2. Test cricketer Hanif Mohammad was born in India Pakistan Bangladesh
3. Besides India, with whom did Australia play a Test tie? England Pakistan West Indies
4. IIT Thiruvananthapuram satellite tennis was played locally in Dhaka and Chittagong Comilla Rajshahi
5. Ajax...? Holland Amsterdam Milan

Name:

Class:

School Address:

Phone: (if any)

Div I arm wrestling

Moulvibazar PTC clinched the top slot of the First Dhaka Metropolis James International arm wrestling competition which concluded at the Mohammad Ali Boxing Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Moulvibazar PTC bagged one gold, two silver and one bronze in the three-day competition.

Nabajug PTC finished second with one gold, one silver and two bronze while Millat PTC became third securing one gold, one silver and a bronze.

Today's fixtures 16th Damsal Summer cricket tournament

Mohammedan SC vs Kalabagan KC (Dhaka Stadium)

2nd IIT Central Asian tennis circuit (U-14) Finals (Ramna Tennis Complex)

Familiar foes in final

Sports Reporter

Top seed and defending champion Nomi Qamar of Pakistan and his compatriot second seed Ijaz Ahmed have reached the boys' singles final of the second Central Asian tennis circuit championships for players aged 14 or under.

In their respective semifinals at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday, Qamar eased his way past unseeded Silamsakov of Uzbekistan 6-2, 6-3 while Ijaz overcame a tough second set fight-back from fourth seed M A Salman of India to advance 6-1, 7-5.

Today's final will be a rematch of last year's title-decider between the two Pakistanis, both of whom seem to have remained under-14 for a few years now. Qamar, the national under-14 champion of his country, came out on top then. Ijaz (surprisingly!) is the national under-18 champion.

Qamar and Ijaz, pairing up together, also reached the boys' doubles final with a 6-1, 6-1 thrashing of the Indo-Kazak duo of Kamla Kannan and Ivan Kovalev. The top seeded duo will face the Indian pairing of Aditya Khanna and Salman. The Indians defeated Ivan Naturin of Kyrgyzstan and Rawadekje of Syria 7-6 (7-1), 1-6, 6-3.

Surjodoy, Ansars leave for India today

Sports Reporter

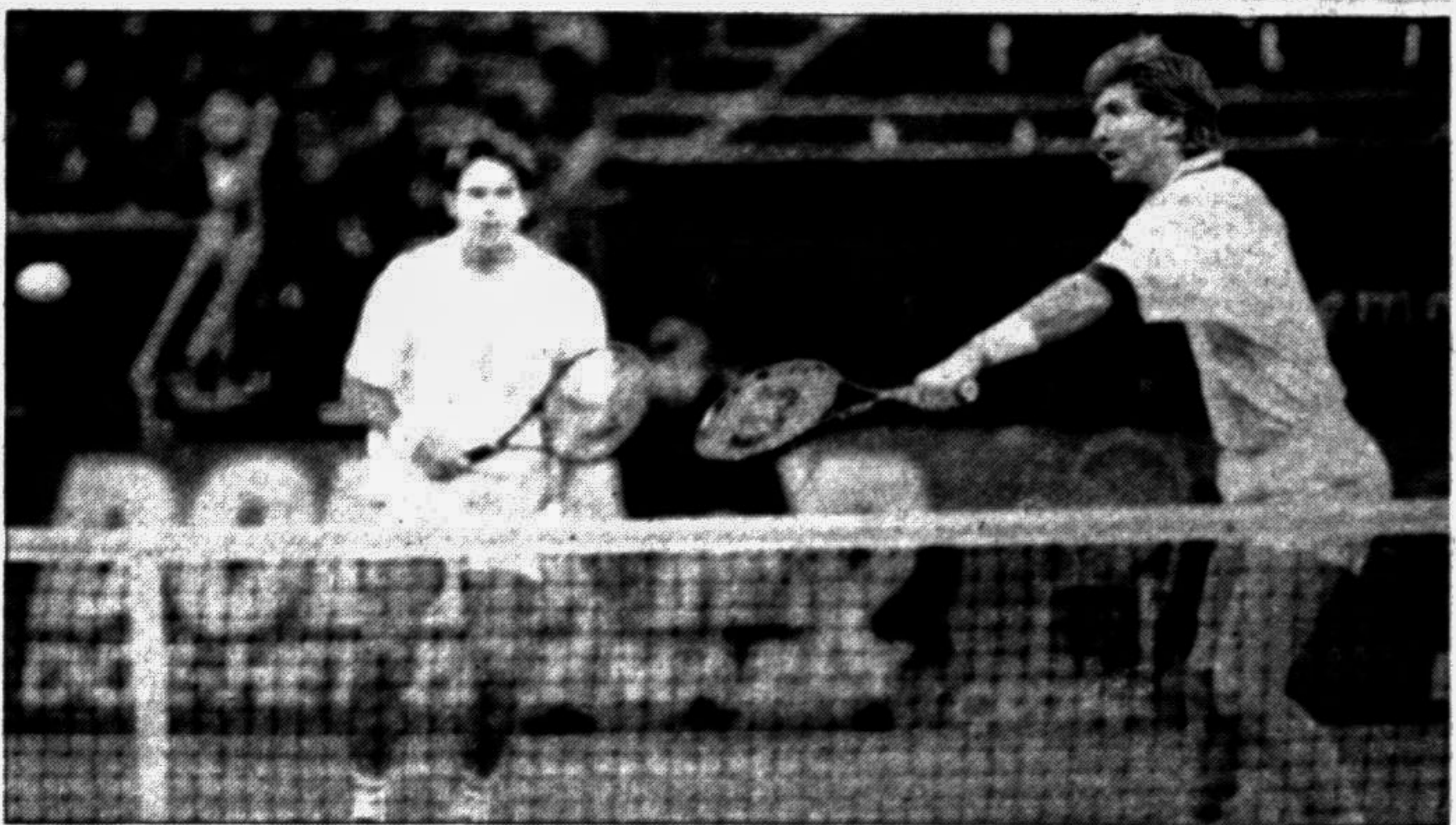
Handball league champions Surjodoy Club and national women champions Bangladesh Ansars will leave the country for Trivandram this morning to participate in the forthcoming fifth Commonwealth Club Cup handball tournament to be held in the south Indian city from December 2.

Eight teams from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, New Zealand and hosts India will compete in the men's group while five teams are likely to take part in the eve's group.

In the girls' singles, Radhika Tulpule and Sonal Phadke, both from India, reached the final posting victories in their respective semis. Top seed Tulpule had a long struggle against third seed Gulnora Khodjaeva of Uzbekistan to win 5-7, 6-3, 6-3. Unseeded Phadke also had to go all the way before overcoming compatriot Shruadi Dhawan 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

The girls' doubles will also witness an all-Indian final with Tulpule and Dhawan facing Phadke and Rekha Natrajan. The two pairs defeated their Sri Lankan and Uzbek opponents respectively in yesterday's semis.

Both the doubles finals will be held this morning while the singles finals are scheduled for the afternoon. The weather permitting, that is.



Australian Mark Woodforde (R) makes a backhand volley as his partner compatriot Todd Woodbridge looks on during their World Championship quarterfinal engagement against Mark Knowles of the Bahamas and Daniel Nestor of Canada in Eindhoven on November 24. The Woodies, as they are popularly known, won the match 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 7-6 (8-6).

Booters begin with a win

Sports Reporter

The visiting Bangladesh football team, who are now in Malaysia to feature in four exhibition matches against different local selections, began their campaign on a winning note when they beat Yayanar Reserves by a lone goal yesterday.

According to a telephonic message received at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) office late last night, strike Mizan struck the all-important goal for Bangladesh in the 27th minute of the proceedings.

The national booters, who are in Malaysia as part of their preparation for the forthcoming South Asian Federation (SAF) Games scheduled to be held in the Indian city of Madras on December 18-28, will play their next match against Chem-pake Lakami Textiles tomorrow.

Biman trio off to Manila

Sports Reporter

Three Bangladeshi chess players - GM Niaz Murshed, IM Ziaur Rahman and IM Reefat-bin-Sattar - left the country for Manila yesterday to participate in the Far East Bank Open chess tournament scheduled to begin in the capital city of Philippines from November 27.

The players are participating the tourney at their own expense after the National Sports Council turned down their application for providing necessary funds. Zia and Reefat are getting some assistance from their team Bangladesh Biman who are providing them free tickets upto Hong Kong. However Niaz has to bear his own travelling expenses.

RMF manager passes away

Sports Reporter

Former Rahmatganj footballer and manager of the old town outfit Abul Hasnat died at his residence yesterday morning. He was 65.

Hasnat, who played for club in the seventies and served as its manager in this year's Lifebouy Premier Division football league, was also a life member.

The deceased left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

President of the Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society, in a press release, has expressed his condolence for the departed soul.

Seventh SAF Games schedule announced

Fourteen sporting disciplines of the seventh South Asian Federation (SAF) Games will be held December 18-27 at ten different venues in the Indian port city of Madras and the adjoining areas, reports UNB.

Bangladesh, which hosted the second and sixth Games, will participate in all the disciplines along with hosts India and Sri Lanka.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the 10-day sports extravaganza of seven SAARC countries will be held on December 18 and 27 at the Madras Jawaharlal Nehru main stadium, according to the Games schedule received here.

Following is the Games schedule with venues:

Table with columns: Discipline, Dates, Venues. Includes Athletics, Football, Boxing, Judo, Volleyball, Wrestling, Table Tennis, Hockey, Kabaddi, Swimming, Shooting, Tennis, Weightlifting, Basketball.

(Rest days: Football Dec 25, Swimming Dec 22)

Navana league format revised

Sports Reporter

The first phase of the forthcoming Navana Premier Division Cricket League will be a 50-over-a-side match while the second phase will be a two-day affair.

This was decided in the meeting of the league committee yesterday evening.

As per Previous decision, the first phase was scheduled to be an 80-over affair with a 50-over format for the super league. But things were made vice versa unanimously in yesterday's meeting where representatives from all the twelve participating clubs were present. The premier league is likely to begin from December 4.

Meanwhile, the First Division Cricket League, which was supposed to get underway today, has been postponed till further order due to an unavoidable circumstances.

According to a press release of BCCB yesterday, the new schedule of the league will be intimated to the participating clubs in time when the new decision is taken.

Battle of a broken heart

HAVANA, Nov 25: Cuban long jumper Ivan Pedroso said on Wednesday he was disappointed by a ruling of the Italian Athletics Federation that scrubbed a world record he set in July after evidence of irregularities, reports Reuter.

But the world champion said he was determined to set a new record by breaking the nine-metre mark next year.

The head of Cuba's Olympic committee meanwhile expressed irritation at the way Pedroso case had been handled.

The Italian Federation FIDAL disciplined three officials, one of them with a life ban, after ruling in Rome on Tuesday that unorthodox actions had prevented accurate measurement of the wind speed which assisted Pedroso's 8.96-metre leap on July 29 at Sestriere.

"The person who is worst damaged (by this) is the athlete, apart from the irregularities committed by the officials," Pedroso told Reuters, interviewed at a sports stadium in the Cuban capital.

"This is a lot of hours of daily dedication, effort, training and sacrifices only to be told that one's mark was not valid," said the 23-year-old athlete.

But Pedroso said he was concentrating hard now on his goals for next year, including hoping to win a gold medal in next year's summer Olympic Games in Atlanta and to leap over the nine-metre mark during the year.

"1996 is going to be another year where I have very ambitious goals, but possible ones, which are to win a gold medal in Atlanta and to break the nine-metre barrier," he said.

Cuban Olympic Committee head Manuel Gonzalez Guerra meanwhile described the affair as incredible.

"The world record itself is not important," Gonzalez told Reuters, adding he was more annoyed at the way the case had been handled.

Gonzalez said Cuban sporting authorities would meet to decide how to react to the development.

The Cuban official added that he could not understand why the case was not settled in a matter of days after the jump.

He also questioned how Italian sports officials had allowed a man to obscure the wind measuring machine used at the event, and then had used an amateur video to prove this obstruction.

But a senior FIDAL official said in Rome he had spoken to Cuban Athletics Federation chief Alberto Juantorena about the case at the Gothenburg World Championships in August, and understood Juantorena was aware the record would not be ratified.

S Africa beat Egypt

MMABATHO, South Africa, Nov 25: Hosts South Africa beat Egypt 2-0 in Mmabatho on Friday to go top of the standings in the four Nations' Cup, reports Reuter.

Earlier Zambia and Zimbabwe drew 1-1 in a match that took more than three hours to complete because of several power cuts to the stadium's floodlights in the first half.

South Africa, who are in the same group as Egypt in the opening round of next January's African Nations Cup, swept to victory with two goals in the first 25 minutes.

Helman Mkhalele fired home from the edge of the box in the 15th minute and Sean Bartlett, playing his first full international, scored eight minutes later.

Jansher scrapes to semis



KARACHI, Nov 25: Defending champion Jansher Khan needed all his energy and skill to overcome a determined Jonathan Powers over five games and win a semifinal berth in the Pakistan Open squash tournament on Friday, reports Reuter.

The 28-year old Pakistani, seeking to clinch the title for the fifth time, had great difficulty subduing the 21-year-old Canadian, who surrendered only after a plucky 69-minute fight that earned him repeated applause from the local crowd.

The world champion looked dull and slow and at times tired in his 15-5, 8-15, 15-4, 13-15, 15-9 win. And afterwards he was far from satisfied with his performance.

"I had a bad day," said Jansher. "Jonathan was good. He was playing carefree because he was not under any kind of pressure. I committed a lot of mistakes."

Powers was happy with the way he had played. "My performance was good enough to win today," said the Canadian who beat World Championship finalist

and fifth seed Del Harris of England in the second round match.

But Powers was unhappy with the refereeing, particularly in the crucial fifth game which he lost 9-15.

"Until the fourth game everything was all right, but in the fifth some refereeing decisions at the fag-end of the game were not good," he said.

Jansher's semifinal opponent will be Ireland's Derek Ryan who defeated Mark Chaloner of England in an energy-sapping five-game quarter-final lasting 85 minutes.

The Irishman fought back from 2-0 down to win 14-17, 12-15, 15-18, 15-3, 15-12.

Number two seed Rodney Eyles of Australia had little trouble disposing of Mark Cairns of England 11-15, 15-10, 15-8, 15-6, and will face fourth seed Chris Walker of England in the other semifinal.

Walker beat sixth seed Zarak Jahan Khan of Pakistan in a closely fought 68-minute match 16-17, 17-14, 15-4, 17-16.

Woodies, Dutch duo in World doubles semis

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands, Nov 25: The two top pairings in the World doubles tennis championship, Australians Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodford and Dutch couple Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis remained unbeaten to reach the semifinals on Friday, reports Reuter.

Second seeds Haarhuis and Eltingh topped the Blue Group without losing a set, while the first seeded Australian duo, dubbed the Woodies, had a more difficult passage, losing three sets in the three rounds of the Red Group.

Wimbledon winners Woodbridge and Woodford needed an 8-6 tie-break in the final set against Mark Knowles of the Bahamas and American Daniel Nestor on Friday to win 6-7, 6-4, 7-6 to retain their unbeaten record.

The match also had an extra edge because it was the first teams from the two countries had played in Iraq since ending a 1980-88 war that killed up to a million men on both sides.

The Iranians wept bitterly as they lost. Some squatted on the ground covering their faces with their hands.

State radio and television interrupted programmes to broadcast national anthems.

"This is how the embargoed people play," blared loudspeakers in Baghdad streets.

"If for them was a match, for us it was a fight," a choir on the state radio sang.

Baghdad streets were almost deserted when the match started.

Members of the Iranian embassy, had whooped and clapped in the stands, buoyed by Khakbour's goal until Jatheer's equaliser silenced them.

Talaba's triumph brought some compensation to soccer crazy Iraqis for the defeat of their Zavra Club by Qatar's Al-Arabi.

The official press had carried articles practically all week analysing the reasons behind Zavra's defeat in Qatar.

Iraqis over the moon



BAGHDAD, Nov 25: About 60,000 fans squeezed into the stadium and the streets of Baghdad were all but deserted for the first major soccer match between Iraq and Iran for 20 years, reports Reuter.

Iraq's Talaba beat Iran's Bahman Club 2-1 on aggregate in the Asian football club championship on Friday.

More than 60,000 people crammed Baghdad Stadium, built for 40,000, raising flags, beating drums, dancing, chanting, and clapping non-stop for two hours.

Talaba had originally beaten Bahman in Iran 1-0 on November 10 in the first leg.

The Iranians struck back on Friday, when Bahman's Mohammed Khakbour scored in the 63rd minute to finish 1-0 up at the end of 90 minutes, forcing extra time because both teams were equal in the overall contest.

But in the third minute of extra time, Talaba's Qahtan Jatheer scored to win a place in the next round for the Iraqis. Uday, eldest son of president Saddam Hussein, who heads Iraq's national Olympic committee, rushed to embrace the players. Wearing a black leather jacket, the

bearded Uday clapped as he elbowed his way through the cheering crowd.

Talaba's coach Ayoub Audisho, hailed by spectators as a hero, was carried on shoulders and saluted by Uday for the triumph.

Iraq, starved of international contact since United Nations sanctions were imposed after it invaded Kuwait in 1990, had waited for the match with keen anticipation.

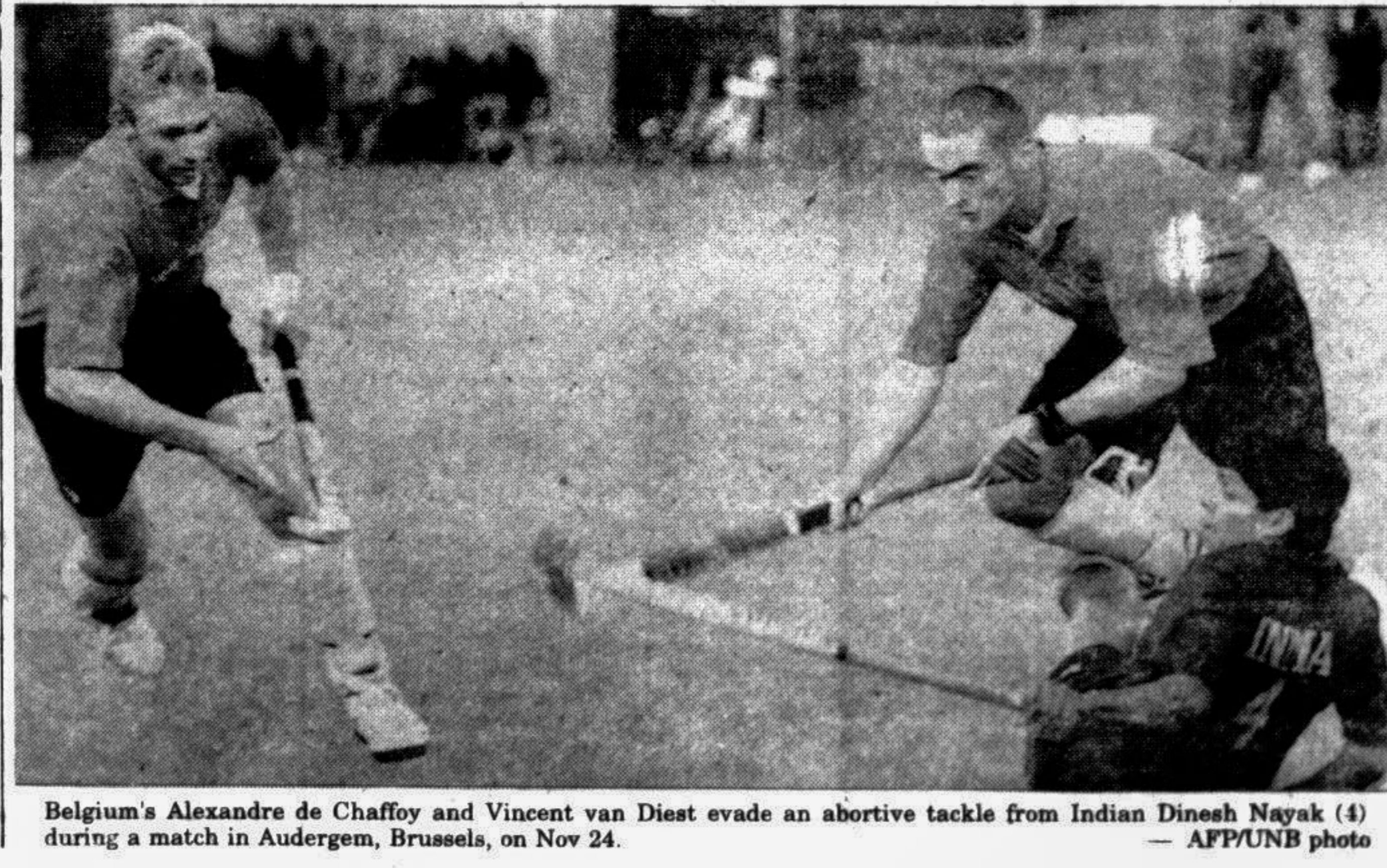
Selection for Javier Clemente's Spanish side seemed to be just a matter of time: but Jordi has been dogged by injury and is currently recovering from inflammation on the left knee.

Cruyff Jr yet to choose flag

MADRID, Nov 25: Jordi Cruyff, son of 1970s soccer legend Johan Cruyff, may have to decide soon whether to play for Spain or the Netherlands after reports that Dutch coach Guus Hiddink wants him for the national team, reports Reuter.

The 21-year-old striker shot to prominence last season at Barcelona, where his father is coach.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword grid and clues for Across and Down words.



Belgium's Alexandre de Chaffoy and Vincent van Diest evade an abortive tackle from Indian Dinesh Nayak (4) during a match in Audergem, Brussels, on Nov 24.