Jansher pockets Pakistan Open

KARACHI, Nov 26: World champion Jansher Khan clinched his fifth Pakistan Open squash tournament title beating second seed Rodney Eyles of Australia 15-9, 15-12. 15-8 in the final today. reports Reuter.

On Saturday, Jansher Khan and Rodney Eyles each produced brilliant squash in the semifinals.

Title-holder Jansher raced to a 15-9, 15-8, 15-4 win over Derek Ryan of Ireland in just 30 minutes and the Eyles took only five minutes longer to overpower fourth seed Chris Walker of England 15 12, 15-11, 15-11.

The Pakistani world no 1 who had struggled to win his quarter-final against Jonathan Powers of Canada, left nothing to chance, outclassing the Irishman with a ruthless display.

"I had no difficulty in taking points or winning, it was a comfortable victory," he said after the match.

He recalled his quarter-final match against Powers and said his performance against the Canadian was bad. "It was one of those days when you hit a bad patch," Jansher said.

Ryan expressed admiration for Jansher's play. "Jansher was really good and very fast. Playing against his class of player in the semifinals after some tough matches is difficult. It was difficult to keep pace with a player like him," he said.

At no stage did the Irishman pose any threat to the defending champion.

Jansher hit the tin a number of times in the first game but as the match progressed he found his rhythm and dragged his opponent all over the court with fiercely hit long shots and drops.

Woodies wither Wizardry

EINDHOVEN. Netherlands, Nov 26: Top-seeded Australian duo Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde crashed out of the ATP World Doubles Championship semifinals on Saturday when they lost in straight sets to Grant Connell and Pat Galbraith, reports Reuter. The Canadian-US number

three seeds won 7-6, 6-3, showing perfect form and brilliant play at the net, while Woodforde was well below par, losing his service three

This will be the first time in four years the final will not feature the Woodbridge-Woodforde combination, champions in 1992.

They took the first set to a tie-break which Connell and Gailbraith won 7-5.

The second set started with three service breaks. the Australians losing twice. Woodforde lost his service again in the ninth game, giving the match to the Canadian-US pair.

In today's final, Connell and Galbraith face Dutch pair Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, who beat fifthseeded Cyril Suk and Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-2 in their semifinal.

Champions in 1993, the Dutch number two seeds made few mistakes in front of their home crowd.

Vacek's serve was broken in the sixth game of the first set and again in the first of the second set. Suk was broken in the seventh, despite a good first serve for most of the match.

Haarhuis decided the match with an ace, after he dropped from 40-0 to deuce.

FAM bans six booters for life

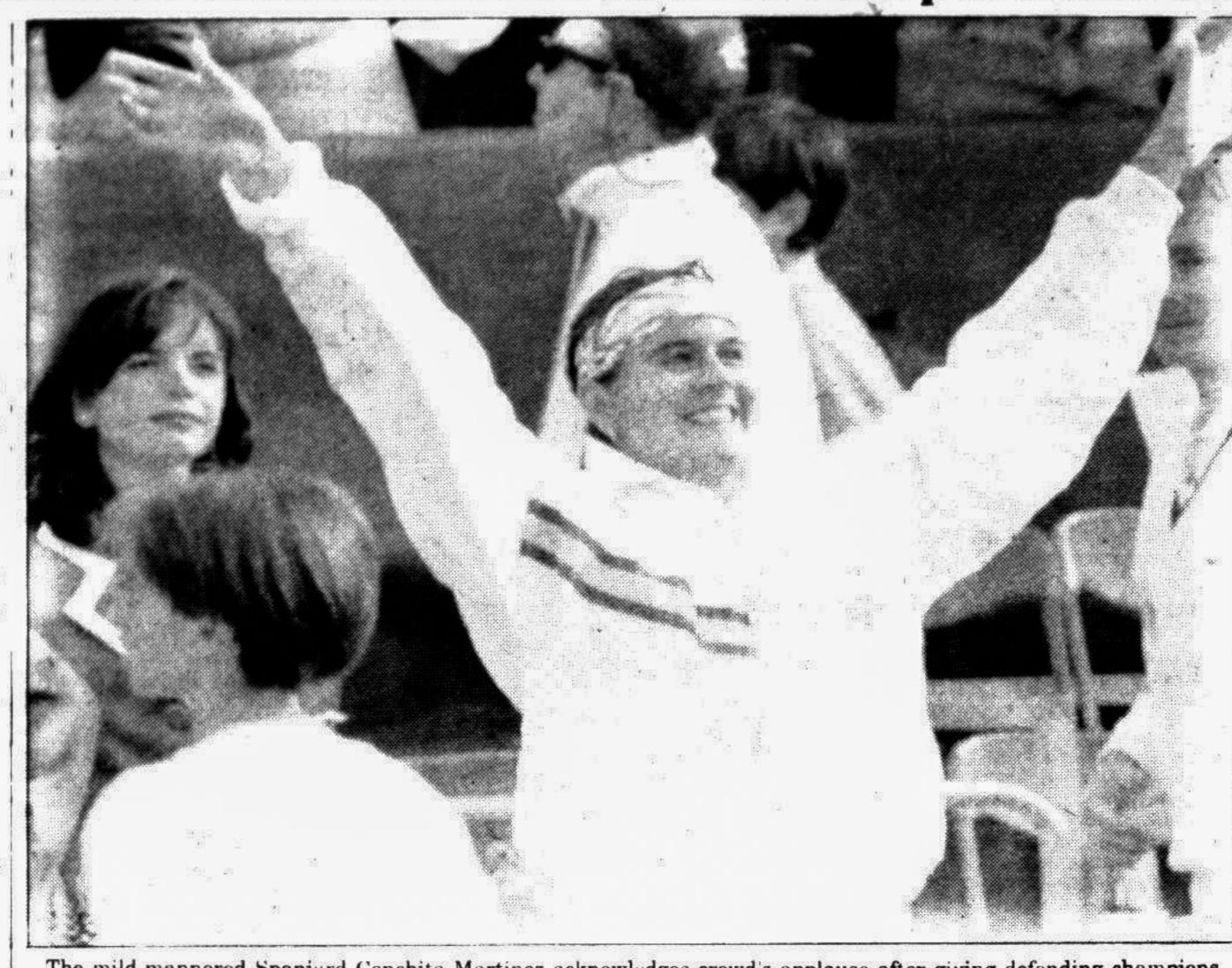
KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26: Malaysia's football federation has banned six footballers for life for match-fixing in an unprecedented move following a protracted bribery scandal, news reports and officials said Thursday, reports

This is the first time a life ban has been meted out by the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM)," a FAM official said

FAM, in a statement released late Wednesday, said players from Malaysia's Eastern Sabah state team, including former national skipper Matlan Marjan, had been banned for life for fixing matches in this season's professional league

The decision was taken after FAM's disciplinary board studied the explanation offered by the players and found them guilty of bringing disrepute to the game and the association, FAM officials said.

FAM officials said the six could not be charged in court as there was insufficient evidence to prove their guilt. The six were instrumental in helping Sabah win the FA Cup over Central Pahang state this season.



The mild-mannered Spaniard Conchita Martinez acknowledges crowd's applause after giving defending champions Spain a solid start to the Fed Cup against the United States, beating Chanda Rubin 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) in the opening match in Valencia on Nov 25. Spain, however, wrapped up the title for the successive third time as Martinez again recorded - AFP/UNB photo a convincing win in her reverse singles match against Marie Joe Fernandez yesterday.

Spaniards' superb treble

in. Nov 26: World number two Conchita Martinez of Spain wrapped up the

Fed Cup for Spain for the third successive year today with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over America's Mary Joe-Fernandez in the first reverse singles, reports Reuter.

Martinez, who complained of neck pain on Saturday after her hard-fought 7-5, 7-6 victory over Chanda Rubin, appeared slow and stiff around the court at first and dropped an early service lacklustre opponent 6-3, 6-2. game in both sets.

But her powerful forehand brought her the points she needed under pressure and

Bordeaux on Saturday and

enable his side to complete

the first half of the French

league season with a solid

seven-point lead over

second-placed Auxerre, re-

Loko the league's top

marksman in the last two

seasons, nodded in a cross

from Vincent Guerin in the

second minute and added a

second after a solo raid in the

The former international

PARIS. Nov 26:

Patrice Loko

struck twice to

lead Paris St

Germain to a 3-

0 victory over

her victory gave Spain an unbeatable 3-0 lead following Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario's 6-3. 6-2 win over Fernandez on Saturday.

Fernandez volleyed well and covered the court today. but sent too many balls into the net and interrupted her concentration by twice contesting line calls.

Martinez was flagging 2-3 in the second set and only just won a service game to even the score. But Sanchez-Vicario had

no problems against Mary Joe-Fernandez, crushing her

Spain have disputed five of the last six finals of this competition, beating the US

also set up his team's third

goal, scored by Brazil's Rai in

the 50th minute after a spec-

seven-point lead over Aux-

erre, who slumped to a 2-1

loss at home to Guingamp,

the Parisians are hot

favourites to recover the

crown they surrendered to

the more spectacular as he

has been treated in a mental

hospital only six weeks ago

for assaulting policemen and

Loko's resurrection was all

With 41 points and a

tacular one-two.

Nantes last season.

in 1991 and 1994 with Martinez and Sanchez-Vicario featuring on both occasions.

This year they have a boisterous home crowd behind them and the advantage of the slow clay surface.

Martinez, who plays world number eight Fernandez in the first reverse singles today, beat the American 6-2, 6-2 in last year's Fed Cup fi-

But she could be hampered by a neck pain which began to bother her in the second set of Saturday's match.

Martinez for the doubles against Gigi Fernandez and Lindsay Davenport.

Sanchez-Vicario plays Rubin and then teams up with

G ride well on Loko season - also confirmed that not picked by Cruyff. PSG, who were led by unheralded Metz at the start of the

season, were firmly back on Metz: who have not won a league match since October 14, had to settle for a goalless draw at home to reigning

Nantes and Metz have enjoyed contrasting fortunes in the first half of the season. Nantes, after a lacklustre start, have not been beaten in their last 10 outings.

champions Nantes.

The draw still allowed

combe said she was overjoyed

my last dream in hockey ...

but I never want to go

through 10 days of such ner-

vous tension again." she said.

"This is the fulfillment of

South Korea had earlier

ensured top place in the

tournament with a hard

fought 1-0 win over Canada.

at qualifying for Atlanta.

passers-by as he was leaving a Metz to close the gap on Auxerre for third spot. Both Rai's goal - his 11th this sides are on 34 points.

Dazzling Dutch display



Nov 26: The Netherlands produced a magnificent display of attacking ho-

ckey to beat Germany 3-2 on Saturday and snatch the final women's qualifying place in next year's Atlanta Olympics. reports Reuter.

The result deprived China. by a single goal on goal difference, of being among the five qualifiers although they had earlier upset Argentina

It also ensured that the Netherlands. - current European champions, 1990 world champions and 1984 Olympic champions - maintained their record of being at every games since women's hockey became an Olympic sport in 1980.

Britain had earlier clinched their trip to Atlanta by beating South Africa 1-0 to finish second in the standings behind South Korea.

Germany and Argentina had already made certain of qualifying.

German captain Fran Hentschel opened the scoring in the sixth minute but Dutch captain Wietske de Ruiter equalised a minute before half time. De Ruiter reverse flicked a through ball over defender Irina Kuhnt's stick before turning and hammering an unstoppable shot past keeper Bright Beyer.

The second Netherlands goal was equally spectacular with Dillian van Der Boogard striking a short corner rebound high into the roof of the net from 10 metres out.

De Ruiter put her team 3ahead with a straight-forward short corner strike 17 minutes before the end, and

although Hentschel pulled one back the Dutch held on

Dutch coach Tomvan van't Heck was barely able to conceal his emotion after his team's victory

"It was the most important game for Dutch hockey for many years, it shouldn't have come down to the last match but it did and we have to accept that, mentally, perhaps we were just not tough enough."

A draw would have been enough to secure Britain qualifying place but they launched regular attacking moves and Rhona Simpson scored in the 30th minute.

The goal, her fourth in the seven tournament matches. was particularly spectacular. coming from a waist-high hook shot after a Jane Sixsmith cross was deflected.

Britain coach Sue Slo-

Sampras, Graf way ahead in rankings

NEW YORK. Nov 26: Pete Sampras of the United States and Steffi Graf of Germany finished the year as the top ranked players in the rankings issued on Monday by the ATP Tour and the WTA Tour. Sampras finished 77 points ahead of fellow-American Andre Agassi in the race for number one, reports Reuter.

Sampras began the year in the top spot, fell behind Agassi in the spring and regained the top ranking late in the year after winning Wimbledon and the US Open.

Graf finished almost 138 points ahead of number two Conchita Martinez of Spain-

A powerful shot by Oscar Garcia put Barcelona ahead just before the break and Johan Cruyff's team had the opportunity to increase their lead early in the second half.

But Real Socieded fought back to equalise through Inaki Indiakez only seven minutes from time.

his second yellow card and was sent off for protesting to the referee over a non-existent offside in the Real Socieded goal.

Guardiola had captained Barcelona in the absence of Jose Maria Bakero, who was

Barcelona must now wait to see how Atletico Madrid and Espanyol, whom they lead on goal difference, fare in their home games against Oviedo and Zaragoza today to find out if they are to remain league leaders.

IFNQAA formed

LAUSANNE, Switzerland Nov 26: An International Fe deration of National Olympic Athletes Associations (IFNO-Swiss city on Tuesday, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced reports Reuter.

The IOC said purpose of order to promote and disprinciples of Olympism.

Twenty-five athletes, hold ing 51 Olympic medals between them, took part in the founding meeting and elected an executive board, it added.

the board was Peter Montgomery of Australia.

Barca left in the lurch

lona could see their week-old lead at the top of the Spanish First Division threatened after being held to a 1-1 draw at Real Socieded on Saturday in a scrappy game affected by rain, reports Reuter.

Josep Guardiola received

zone, who made all the run-

AA) was set up in the this

the new body was to foster the development of relations among Olympic athletes in seminate the fundamental

The IOC said chairman of

MADRID, Nov 26: Barce-

signed from former world

champions the 66th minute. converting a free-kick from midfield general Andy Moeller. Captain Michael Zorc sealed matters with a penalty kick five minutes But it was Uerdingen, hovering above the relegation

ning and were unlucky not to score against a Dortmund side missing international libero Mathias Sammer and midfielder Steffen Freund

both suspended, and injured defender Julio Cesar. The win gave Dortmund. 2-1 winners at Juventus in the Champions' League on Wednesday, a three-point

LONDON, Nov club champions Sao Paulo last 26: England inmonth, made his debut on ternationals Ro-

Cup matches.

bert Lee and

Peter Beardsley

scored two go-

als in 90 seconds as New-

castle United came from be-

hind to beat Leeds 2-1 and

conserve their 100 per cent

home record in the Premier

league on Saturday, reports

their eight home league

matches this season, opened

a six-point lead over Manch-

ester United, who are away to

Nottingham Forest on Mon-

repeating their win at New-

castle last season - the last

time the Magpies lost at

individual effort in the 70th

minute, then Beardsley

promptly ran home the win-

ner after Les Ferdinand's

header from a cross by

Frenchman David Ginola had

rebounded off goalkeeper

the winning side for the first

time for Middlesbrough in

their 2-1 home win over Liv-

two men set off in their

home clash with Wimbledon

but still managed to recover

from two goals down to draw

minutes at the Riverside Sta-

dium, ending a fine move

started by Juninho and con-

tinued by midfield dynamo

five matches after two draws

and a defeat since Juninho.

It was Boro's first win in

Nick Barmby.

Bottom club Coventry has

Brazil's Juninho was on

But Lee equalised with an

Newcastle, who have won

Reuter.

home.

John Lukic.

erpool.

November 4. Liverpool, one of the preseason favourites for the title, have now gone five games without a victory in all competitions after smacking 10 goals past Manchester City in successive league and League

Newcastle going great guns

Defender Neil Ruddock headed Liverpool's equaliser in the 63rd minute, but within a minute Barmby volleyed home the winner from a low corss by Cox.

Swedish international Tomas Brolin, Leeds' record signing from Parma, made For more than an hour his first appearance for the Leeds, who took the lead club as a substitute eight with a Brian Deane header in minutes from time at Newthe 31st minute, looked like castle.

Manchester City, bottom from August until last weekend and win-less in the league until November 4. continued their revival with a 1-0 home win over Aston Villa — their fourth successive game without defeat. Georgian international Ge-

orgi Kinkladze was involved in the telling moments of the match. He was fouled in the 20th minute only for captain Keith Curle to hit the penalty kick wide, but Kinkladze scored the winner five minutes from time.

Villa remain fourth on 27 points, five behind Manchester United and 1 adrift Newcastle. They are level on points with third-placed Arsenal — at home to champions Blackburn today — but Middlesbrough right back behind on goal difference. Neil scored after only two

> Tottenham Hotspur, held 0-0 at Chelsea, are fifth, a point further back and in front of sixth-placed Middlesbrough on goal difference. Liverpool, Leeds and Forest are two points further West Ham beat Queen's

Park Rangers 1-0 with a goal from veteran striker Tony Cottee six minutes from time to move up three places to

Rangers had defender Karl Ready sent off for a second bookable offence two minutes

before Cottee's winner. Everton, who had won their previous three matches. fought back from two goals down to draw 2-2 at home to Sheffield Wednesday. Russia's Andrei Kanchelskis and Nigerian substitute Daniel Amokachi replied to mark Bright's early goals.

At Coventry, Wimbledon went behind after 14 minutes when goalkeeper Paul Heald fisted Kevin Richardson's inswinging corner into his own net.

Midfielder Vinnie Jones equalised with a 28th-minute penalty after defender Paul Williams flicked a goal-bound header from Jon Goodman over the bar with his hands. Williams was shown the red card.

Goodman and Norway international Oyvind Leonhardsen looked to have secured the points for Wimbledon with goals in the 42nd and 58th minutes. But striker Dion Dublin

pulled one back in the 67th minute and David Rennie equalised seven minutes from time, two minutes after defender Richard Shaw was sent off for a second bookable offence, leaving Coventry with nine men. Wimbledon, fifth from

bottom, have not won in 10 league games. Coventry, one from the foot of the table after Bolton's 1-0 defeat at Southampton, have gone 13 without victory. Bolton, sunk by a David

Hughes goal in the 73rd minute, have lost all eight of their away Premier league matches.

ortmund increase lead cushion over Bayern Munich. BONN, Nov 26:

inferior goal difference.

Bayern play their game in Depleted Gerhand at bottom-placed man First Divi-Cologne today but have a far sion leaders

On a day of surprises tmund rode their luck on Saturday to win elsewhere, promoted Hansa Rostock won 2-1 at least sea-2-0 at lowly Uerdingen, extending their lead to three son's runners- up Werder Bremen, and struggling Karlpoints and their unbeaten sruhe walloped fourth-placed run to 12 games, reports Reuter: Borussia Moenchengladbach

Borussia Dor-

Stand-in libero Juergen Karlsruhe's new South Kohler popped up to score a rare goal for the Bundesliga African striker Sean Dundee, scoring at almost a goal a game, was unlucky not to get a hattrick against the German Cup holders. He converted a pass from Manfred Bender in the 54th

minute and struck again in the 75th. But a goal he appeared to have scored in the 62nd minute was eventually ruled to have gone in off Moenchengladbach defender Michael Klinkert. The win was Karlsruhe's

first in six games. It was Moenchengladbach's third straight defeat after a spell when the former champions had looked like mounting a real challenge again.

Bremen, who have now

gone nine matches without a win, looked a shadow of their former selves as coach Aad de Mos opted to leave out wayward midfielder Mario Basler for failing to turn up for training on Friday.

It was only the latest of Basler's escapades. He has claimed to be moving to Italy for most of this season, while his club denies having received a single offer.

"Basler already has rules of his own but if he breaks those, you have to respect the trainer's decision. Basler's teammate Michael Schulz said. Rostock, the season's sur-

prise side, showed no sympathy. Stefan Beinlich scored from a penalty and Hilmar Weilandt netted the winner. Third-placed Bayer Leverkusen kept up the pressure with a 1-0 win at 1860 Mu-

nich and Freiburg lifted themselves off the bottom of the table with a 2-1 win at Kaiserslautern. Schalke, Germany's best-

supported club, kept up what could be their best season years, beating Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0 to stay eighth.

FIFA in fear of chaos



26: Soccer body FIFA expressed concern on Friday that a European court ruli-

ng on player transfers might leave EU countries out of step with the rest of the world, reports Reuter.

After a case brought by Belgian player Jean-Marc

Bosman, the court is expected to follow its own legal advisor and rule soon that UEFA rules on the number of foreigners in a team contravene European Union regulations on free movement.

UEFA, soccer's governing body in Europe, and its 49 member associations have already begun a campaign to head off the court ruling,

which they fear could destroy many small clubs by cutting off vital transfer income. In a statement, FIFA said

it "Views with considerable

concern that 18 of the 193 FIFA member associations might be obliged to disregard transfer regulations which are accepted and respected by all member associations worldwide." There are 18 separate associations in the 15 Euro-

pean Union states because the United Kingom has separate associations for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. "In FIFA's view, it is clear nies cannot be granted an

that a small group of compaexemption from sports regulations which are effective in all parts of the world and which operate successfully and efficiently and for the benefit of football at all levels," the statement added. It said FIFA felt an inter-

national sports organisation could not operate properly unless its rules were applied universally and any other approach would read to "very serious problems" and could even jeppardise the independent status of the 18 EU associations.

"Therefore, FIFA supports the action taken by the (European) national associations and by UEFA," FIFA concluded.

Army athletics

The annual athletic championship of the Bangladesh army begins at the Mirpur National Stadium today, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

More than 500 athletes from 10 teams will take part in the championship.



South Africa on Nov 25. The Hollanders eventually won 3-2 to confirm the last berth in the Atlanta Olympics Games. - AFP/UNB photo