

Asian U-16 soccer Bangladesh open against Malaysia

Bangladesh will face Malaysia in the inaugural Group 9 match of the seventh Asian Youth Under-16 football championship on May 1 in the Japanese city of Nagoya, reports UNB.

The Football Association of Japan, the organisers of the prestigious Asian junior meet, partially changed the fixture due to the withdrawal of Brunei from the tournament, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh will face the hosts in their second match on May 3 while Japan will play Malaysia on May 5 in the last match of the three-nation competition.

Meanwhile, a 25-member Bangladesh team is likely to leave the capital for Japan on April 29 headed by treasurer of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Khairul Anwar Pannu.

National TT begins in Rajshahi May 18

Sports Reporter

The 21st national table tennis championships will be held at the Rajshahi District Sport Association (DSA) gymnasium from May 18 to 24 next, says a press release.

A total of 12 events — men's team, women's team, boys' team, men's singles, women's singles, boys' single, girls' single, men's doubles, women's doubles, boys' doubles, girls' doubles and mixed doubles — will be held during the week-long meet organised by the local DSA in association with the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation.

Interested teams will have to send their entries to the Table Tennis Federation office by May 14, the press release added.

Brolin left out

STOCKHOLM, Apr 17: Sweden forward Tomas Brolin, already enduring problems with English club Leeds, has now been dropped by his national team, reports Reuters.

Swedish coach Tommy Svensson, naming his squad on Tuesday for a friendly against Northern Ireland in Belfast next Wednesday, said: "Brolin is not (playing) at 100 per cent at the moment and it is difficult to say when he will be."

Brolin, who was influential in helping Sweden reach the 1995 World Cup semifinals in the United States, said in a statement issued by the Swedish news agency that being omitted was best for both him and the national team.

"Right now I need to recover in order to get to the capacity needed to add something to the National team," he was quoted as saying.

Brolin's future at Leeds is under a cloud because the Premier League side are apparently concerned about his commitment to them.

Leeds paid a club record 4.5 million pounds sterling (6.79 million dollars) to Italians Parma last November for Brolin, who has been unable to secure a regular place with the English side.

One more for Holmes

BAY ST LOUIS, Miss., Apr 17: Larry Holmes, 46 years old and showing little mobility, nerved the end of a great boxing career Tuesday night with a 10-round unanimous decision over Quinn Navarre, reports AP.

The former heavyweight champion, unable to land a bout with George Foreman, intends to fight one more time before retiring.

"It is a good time to get out," Holmes said. "Foreman doesn't want to have anything to do with me. But I've never closed the door to a comeback."

Holmes was the heavyweight champ from 1978-85, first winning the title at 28, the age of his first opponent, James Holmes, 243 1/2 pounds (110 1/2 kilograms), won by scores of 96-94, 96-94 and 97-93 at Casino Magic in one of the closest decisions in his five-year comeback.

"It was a tough fight. The kid kept coming," Holmes said. "I hit him with some good shots, but I don't train every day like these guys. It's hard to stay focused."

He consistently flashed the jab, rarely mixing it with other shots. But it was enough to improve to 64-5, with 41 knockouts.

Navarre, 226 pounds (102 1/2 kilograms), an obscure fighter from nearby Metairie, Louisiana, dropped to 17-4-1 with his third straight loss.

Holmes set the tone toward the end of the first round when Navarre walked into a left and took a standing 13-count.

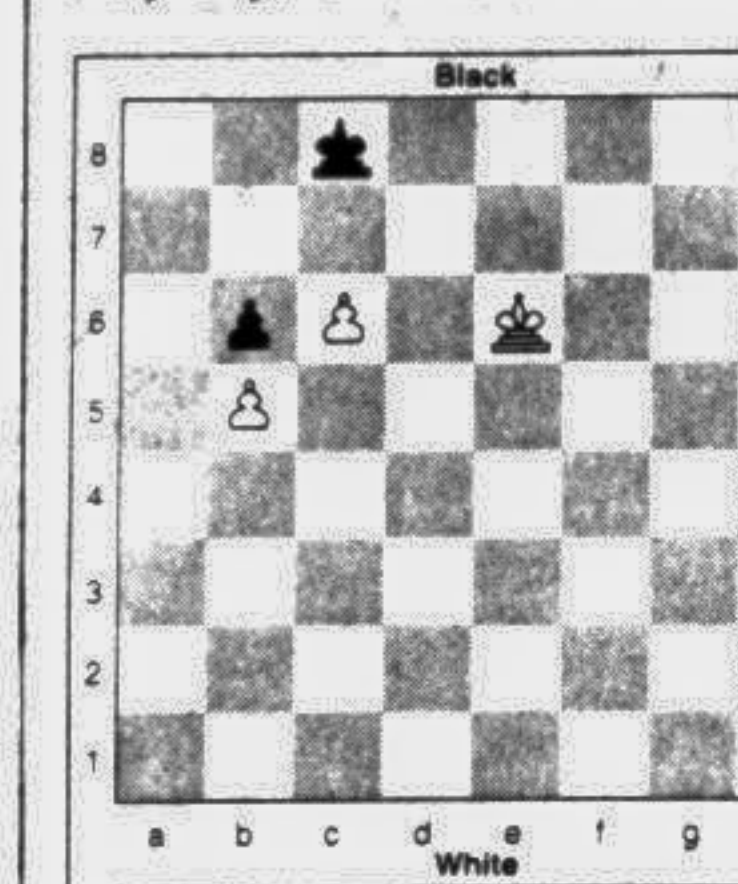
In the third round, Navarre rushed at an off-balance Holmes and connected with solid punches. Holmes, who has been knocked down only three times in his career, went to the mat, but referee Elmo Adolph ruled it a slip.

"I'm easier to hit than my younger day," Holmes said. "The best thing I've got going is my left hand. I haven't lost that."

Later in the third, Holmes used a combination of shots after backing Navarre to the corner, leading to another 13-count. Holmes then slowed the pace.

Niaz Murshed's PAPERCHESS

IMAGINE a tournament hall where some chess games are going on. All the participants are male except for one, which happens to be a computer. Now, all of a sudden, a stunningly beautiful girl walks into the playing hall. Everyone turns their head to look at her. Well almost everybody, the machine is not



distracted. It remains focused on the board.

Do you think the computer has an undue advantage over its human opponent? Well, FIDE (Federation International Des Echecs), the official world chess body, does think so. They say that it is not fair for humans that machines are not unmoved by events outside the



board. Therefore, any player may refuse to play a machine if he or she pleases.

However, the reason used against the machine, most players know, is a bad excuse, since the real difficulty in playing the computer lies elsewhere. It is in fact the machine's calculating abilities that the tournament player fears most. Towards the end of the game when there are less pieces a computer's accuracy becomes deadly. While you can hope for a mistake from a human, against a computer it is better to resign and go home.

Take a look at the diagram. The position being very simple, a computer will calculate a forced winning variation in a fraction of a second. Let's see how long it takes when you try to win with the white pieces.

Solution: White plays 1. c7! Black replies 1... K-c7 and now 2. K-c7 K-b7 3. K-d7 K-a7 4. K-c7 K-a8 5. K-b6 K-c8 7. b6 K-b8 8. b7 K-a7 9. K-c7 and white wins.

★ Sub-continent's first Grand Master

Japan's instant reprisal

TOKYO, Apr 17: Japan has said that South Korea's allegations that the world football governing body is helping Japan's bid for the 2002 World Cup are aimed at drawing European support, a report said on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Japan's Olympic bidding committee thought that South Korea were "highlighting their anti-Havenge colour to woo European vote," the Asahi Shimbun daily said.

Chung Mong-Joon, vice president of the international football federation (FIFA) and head of the South Korean committee said recently that FIFA president Joao Havelange was abusing his position to muster support for Japan's rival bid.

FIFA's 21-strong executive council will decide on June 1 in Zurich, Switzerland, which of the two neighbouring candidates will host the first football World Cup finals in Asia.

The FIFA president from Brazil has come under fire for his alleged high-handed control of world soccer for the first time since he took office 22 years ago.

Sweden's Lennart Johansson, president of the European

football union (UEFA), has declared his challenge to Havelange in the next election to the FIFA presidency.

Chung himself clearly backs Johansson. The system must be changed, FIFA must become more transparent," Chung said.

The wealth and depth of Latin American stars in Japan's professional football league are seen as a factor in the selection of the 2002 World Cup hosts.

Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso reassured his country's support for Japan's World Cup bid when he visited here in March and won massive un-tied loans for infrastructure projects.

In February, visiting Argentine foreign minister Guido di Tella declared his country was behind Japan for 2002.

Brazilian account for a half of the 64 foreigners on the J-League payroll in its fourth year. There are also eight Argentines.

Chung wished that Havelange remember "what neutrality means."

The South Korean football chief also accused Japan of running a "very negative campaign" against himself, Chung, a business tycoon, pointed to a Japanese press report that he

gave a car dealership of his company to Havelange's son-in-law Ricardo Texeira.

The Asahi newspaper quoted one European member of the FIFA executive board as saying that Havelange's leadership is indeed questionable but "it has nothing to do with the selection of the World Cup venue."

Officially, the Japanese bidding committee refused to comment on Chung's criticism while top officials were not available as they are travelling abroad in a last-ditch World Cup campaign.

Ken Naganuma, head of the Japanese football association, and Junji Ogura, general secretary of the bidding committee, are in Mexico to attend a meeting of North and Central American football chiefs. Shunichi, Okana, who head the committee, is in Europe.

"It is hard to verify some of the points expressed by Mr. Chung," said Toshiaki Koyama, the committee's public relations chief.

"His allegations showed a stance quite different from ours. We don't want to compare it with ours," he said. "Japan for its part will keep on honouring fair play in every aspect."

Bayern, Bordeaux in UEFA Cup final

UNDATED, Apr 17: This year's UEFA Cup final will be between Germany's Bayern Munich and French side Bordeaux after both teams came out triumphant in their respective semifinal second leg encounters on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Bayern earned a well-deserved place in the final after beating Barcelona 2-1 in a thrilling match at the Nou Camp Stadium of the Spanish giants.

Bayern took the tie 4-3 on aggregate after escaping from the first leg with a 2-2 draw.

Bayern were led to victory by Mehmet Scholl, who set up his side's first goal after tormenting Johan Cruyff's team

down the left in the first half and then switching wings to create havoc down the right.

Overlapping full-back Markus Babel — whose shocking back pass in the first leg led to Barcelona's second goal — made amends for that mistake by putting Bayern ahead in the 40th minute and the Germans went further ahead seven minutes from time when Marcel Witeczek made it 2-0.

Substitute Ivan de la Pena scored a consolation goal for Barcelona two minutes from time as his side tried desperately to force extra time.

The arrival of De la Pena in the final minutes changed the shape of a game in which Barcelona had badly missed Romanian playmaker George Hagi, missing through injury.

Without a natural set-piece specialist, Johan Cruyff turned to Hagi's compatriot George Popescu to take the series of dangerous free-kicks that the Spaniards forced in the opening 15 minutes.

But neither Popescu nor Bosnian striker Mehmed Kodro — who was twice guilty of wasting passes after being put through by Jordi Cruyff — could make the best of Barcelona's early dominance.

Bayern fought back to go close through Christian Nerlinger and defender Christian Ziege, who beat goalkeeper Cezar Busquets with a fine lob after a fine end-to-end move.

Scholl stamped his name on the game in the 60th minute, when he found space on the left, cut inside and hit a superb shot. Busquets saved it, but Markus Babel was at hand to tuck away the rebound.

Fine work by Scholl after

the break twice left Jurgen Klinsmann with only Busquets to beat, but the international striker forced a fine save out of Busquets on the first occasion and shot high on the second.

At the end of the match Klinsmann had not added to his season's tally of 14 European goals, an all-time record for a European competition he now shares with Jose Alfaini of AC Milan (1962-63) and John Wark of Ipswich town (1980-81).

Boosted by the arrival of De La Pena with 15 minutes to go, Barcelona took control of the game towards the end, only to see Witeczek put his side further ahead with a deflected shot in the 83rd minute.

A deflected De La Pena free kick in the 88th minute left Cruyff's men with a faint chance of saving the game, but time ran out to round off a disastrous week for Barcelona.

Last Wednesday they lost the Spanish Cup final in extra time to Atletico Madrid, saw their basketball side lose what would have been their first European Championship final in the dying seconds on Thursday, and gave away two points in a vital league game on Saturday, also in the last minute.

The defeat also ended Barcelona's unbeaten home record this season.

"We have to be happy — you have to play well to be still playing the competitions at the end of the season," said Cruyff after the game.

Away in France, Bordeaux moved into the last stretch of the Inter-Toto Cup last June when they beat Slavia Prague 1-0.

A goal by strike Didier Tholot a minute after the in-

Botham poses no threat

LONDON, Apr 17: English cricket officials insisted on Tuesday they were not worried at the prospect of Ian Botham being voted onto the national selection panel by the counties this week, reports Reuters.

Botham's nomination earlier this month set alarm bells ringing at Lord's who warned against candidates like Botham with extensive media interests.

But with Botham's campaign gathering pace in the run-up to tonight's voting deadline, Test and County Cricket Board chief Executive Alan Smith said there was "no problem" with any of the eight candidates to join Ray Illingworth's panel.

"I'm perfectly happy with all of them," said Smith. "All eight are very good people and I don't find it unhealthy to have that many candidates. It has created a lot of public interest, which is good."

Smith, who will announce the result on the Thursday, seemed less sure two weeks ago about the wisdom of the 40-year-old Botham's nomination for one of two vacancies.

In a letter to the counties, the chief executive reminded members that selectors have traditionally relinquished any media responsibilities upon their appointment.

"That is a general perception that has existed in the game for 4-50 years," said Smith. "Having said that, the counties can vote for who they wish."

Botham, though, just wants to help revive English cricketing fortunes.

"I would love to serve on the panel because the big challenge now is to turn England into a world power again," said Botham. "I have never been more serious about anything in my life."

Graham Gooch, Kim Barnett, Brian Bolus, John Edrich, David Graveney, Geoff Miller and Chris Cowdrey are the other nominees. All 18 first-class clubs plus MCC and minor counties are entitled to cast two votes apiece.

Army b'ball

Savar, Bogra, Momenshahi and Comilla won their respective robin league matches in the army annual basketball championship at Mirpur Cantonment yesterday, reports UNB.

Savar Area defeated Rangpur Area by 93-85 points, Bogra Area outplayed Dhaka Signals by 101-41, Momenshahi Area beat Log Area team by 85-58 and Comilla Area edged past Jessore Area by 96-91 points.

Belarus steal the show

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Apr 17: Belarus' Ivan Ivankov and Vitaly Scherbo had the best all-round day at the World Gymnastics Championships on Tuesday, reports AP.

Ivankov and Scherbo, a formidable tandem that anchors arguably the best team in the world, finished in the top five spots in five of the six apparatuses in the men's compe-

semifinals.

Ivankov scored a 9.650 to lead the rings competition. He placed second in the floor exercise and the pommel horse, third in the parallel bars and fifth in the high bar.

"I've been working hard," Ivankov, the 1994 all-around World Champion said. "This is the last chance before the Olympics."

Scherbo, a gold medalist in the floor exercise and parallel bars at the 1995 World Cham-

naments," Scherbo, who led the parallel bar and high bar event said.

At the completion of the preliminaries, Italy's Yuri Chechi finished first in the rings with a 9.750 score while Russia's Alexei Voropaev led the floor exercise competition at 9.687.

In the pommel horse, North Korea's Gil Su Pae led the way with the highest score of the night at 9.837 while teammate Hon-Chul Yeo led the vault at 9.712.

Americans Chayne Umphrey and Bill Roth finished a respectable 11th and 12th place, respectively, in the high bar, while Stephen McCain advanced in the floor exercise with a 13th-place finish.

The biggest surprise, however, was Chris LaMorte, who finished tied for third in the rings with a 9.650 score.

There's tremendous pressure out there and we came here to try to win," said Umphrey, a former UCLA gymnast bidding for an Olympic spot. "We want to be world champions and get some respect. We're hosting the Olympics this year."

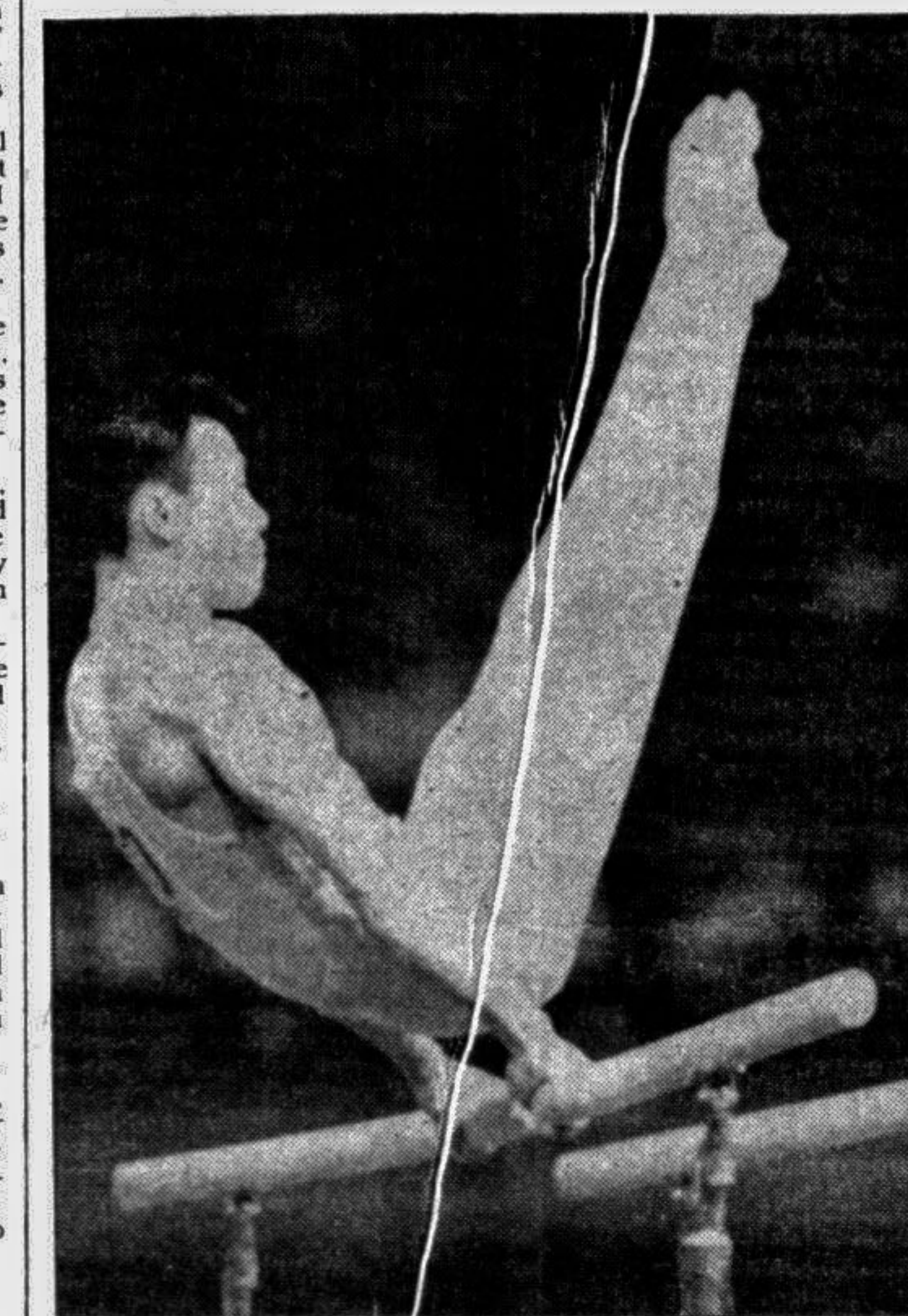
The last time the United States held the Olympics — in 1984 when the Soviet Union led a boycott that included most of Eastern Europe — the US team walked away with 14 medals.

Since then, only three have been won by American gymnasts and only one by a member of the men's team — Trent Dimas' gold medal in the high bar at the 1992 Barcelona Games. The US Olympic trials are in June in Boston.

Among the surprise semifinalists were Cuba's Abel Driggs Santos, a newcomer who finished third in the vault, and Puerto Rico's Diego Lizardi, a 13th-place finisher in the floor exercise and 16th in the rings.

"It was a thrill to compete at home," Lizardi said. "I'm extremely happy about the fact that I get to go out there and do it all over again."

The tournament continues Wednesday with the women's preliminary round.



Naturalised Swiss Donghua Li displays his skills on the parallel bars at the World Gymnastics Championships in San Juan, Puerto Rico on April 16.

— AFP/UNB photo

tion as the Eastern Europeans again showed their dominance of the sport.

But the United States, trying to prove the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics was no fluke, saw four gymnasts reach the

Tyson's accuser appears in public

GARY, Indiana, Apr 17: The woman accusing boxer Mike Tyson of sexually assaulting her in a Chicago nightclub is not out for publicity, one of her lawyers said Tuesday, reports AP.

LaDonna August kept her head bowed as she entered Gary's Genesis Convention Centre, flanked by four attorneys. She remained seated and didn't speak at the 30-minute news conference, often turning her head away from photographers and shielding her face with her shoulder-length hair.

Her attorneys said August's appearance at the news conference was her way of going public with her accusations.

"We feel very comfortable in our client and we believe in our client," said Charles Graddick, one of August's attorneys. "We are not going to engage in any type of activity that has no other purpose than to bring harm or embarrassment to someone."

August had not met Tyson or had contact with him before April 7, when she went to get her coat from a private, upstairs room at the Clitque, a popular nightclub on Chicago's South Side, Graddick said. Someone introduced the 25-year-old Gary beautician to the WBC heavyweight champion, then left the room, he said.

"Immediately after that, there was a confrontation between my client and Mr. Tyson whereupon, according to her, some inappropriate comments and statements were made, followed immediately by inappropriate touching and fondling, which included a sucking... of the left side of her face," Graddick said.

August left the club with friends and went to a Chicago-area hospital. Contrary to earlier reports, Graddick said August reported the incident before she went to the hospital. She filed a complaint April 9 with police.

Tyson has not been charged, but Chicago police spokesman Paul Jenkins said August told police enough during a two-hour interview Monday to keep the investigation alive. Police also have talked to people who saw Tyson at the club and the boxer has said he is willing to be questioned about that night, Jenkins said.

Tyson was convicted in 1992 of raping Desiree Washington, a beauty pageant contestant in Indianapolis. He was released from prison in March 1995, but must serve four years probation.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Director
Rehabilitation Institute & Hospital for the Disabled
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

No. RIHD(Admn)/94-20/M-1/943 Dated 6-4-96

Admission Notice

Applications in prescribed form are invited from Medical graduates intending to be admitted to MS Ortho/Diploma Ortho course at RIHD (Orthopedic Hospital), Dhaka during 96-97 session. Application form shall have to be collected from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Tk 300/- (three hundred) only (non-refundable) for Admission Form, conduct of Test & Supply of Information by 9-5-96 and the application should reach the office of the undersigned by 11-5-96.

- MS Ortho course duration 3 (three) years:
 - The candidate must be a graduate from any Medical College approved by Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council.
 - The candidate should complete one year internship.
 - Should have at least 2 (two) years residential training in general surgery from Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council approved Medical College; prescribed 6(six) months Internship in general surgery without training or 1 (one) year residential training in general surgery & 1(one) year residential training in orthopedic surgery or any one after passing MBBS examination may apply for admission to MS Ortho course, but after passing the first part shall have to complete the above training before joining the second part.
 - In case of those who have obtained diploma in orthopedic surgery from Dhaka University approved educational institution, 6 (six) months residential training will be considered.
- Diploma Ortho course duration 2(two) years:
 - The candidate must be a graduate from any Medical College approved by Bangladesh Medical Council.
 - The candidate should complete 1 (one) year Internship.
 - The candidate must have 6(six) months all-time residential training in general surgery at any approved Govt Hospital prior to 11-5-96 (except prescribed 6 months Internship in general surgery).
- In case of candidates in Govt service at least 1 (one) year experience of govt service at Upazila Health Complex/Rural Health Centre. If the candidate has not completed the above service duration, then bond should be given to the Director General, Health Director that the incumbent shall complete the duration in rural area after completion of the course.
- Candidates for MS Ortho & Diploma Ortho shall have to take part in written test in Basic Science & Surgery on 19-5-96 at 10-00 am while viva voce of the candidates will be held on 21-5-96 & 22-5-96.
- No TA/DA will be admissible.
- Candidates in service should apply through proper channel.
- Where, when & for how many days the candidate was on deputation during post-graduate course.

Prof A F M Ruhul Huq
FRCS
Director
Rehabilitation Institute & Hospital
for the Disabled
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207



Action from yesterday's First Division handball league encounter between Old Ideals and Nawabpur Sporting. Old Ideals won 30-15.

— Star photo