

Column One SPORTS TALK



Thomas Muster 'I never ever won a match on my birthday. The fix goes on. Said after his first round defeat to unseeded American Chris Woodruff at Lyon Open.

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

HAT cockfighting is a sport of placing specially trained gamecocks in a pit or on a stage to fight each other. The cocks are placed back to back and then released, fighting until one is killed, can fight no longer, or refuses to fight. Often the cocks are equipped with silver or steel spurs. Betting on the outcome of fights is usual. Cockfighting was practised extensively in ancient Persia, Greece and Rome. Popular in England of centuries, it was prohibited by Parliament in 1849. It is illegal in most of the United States. Cockfighting is still popular today in parts of Asia and Latin America. No wonder the price of chicken is going up by the day.

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-57

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm November 22, 1996

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options for the Sports Whizz Kid competition.

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

Steffi withdraws PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania. Nov 11: World tennis number one Steffi Graf of Germany has pulled out of a 450,000-dollar WTA Tour event here, still troubled by a sore knee, reports AFP.

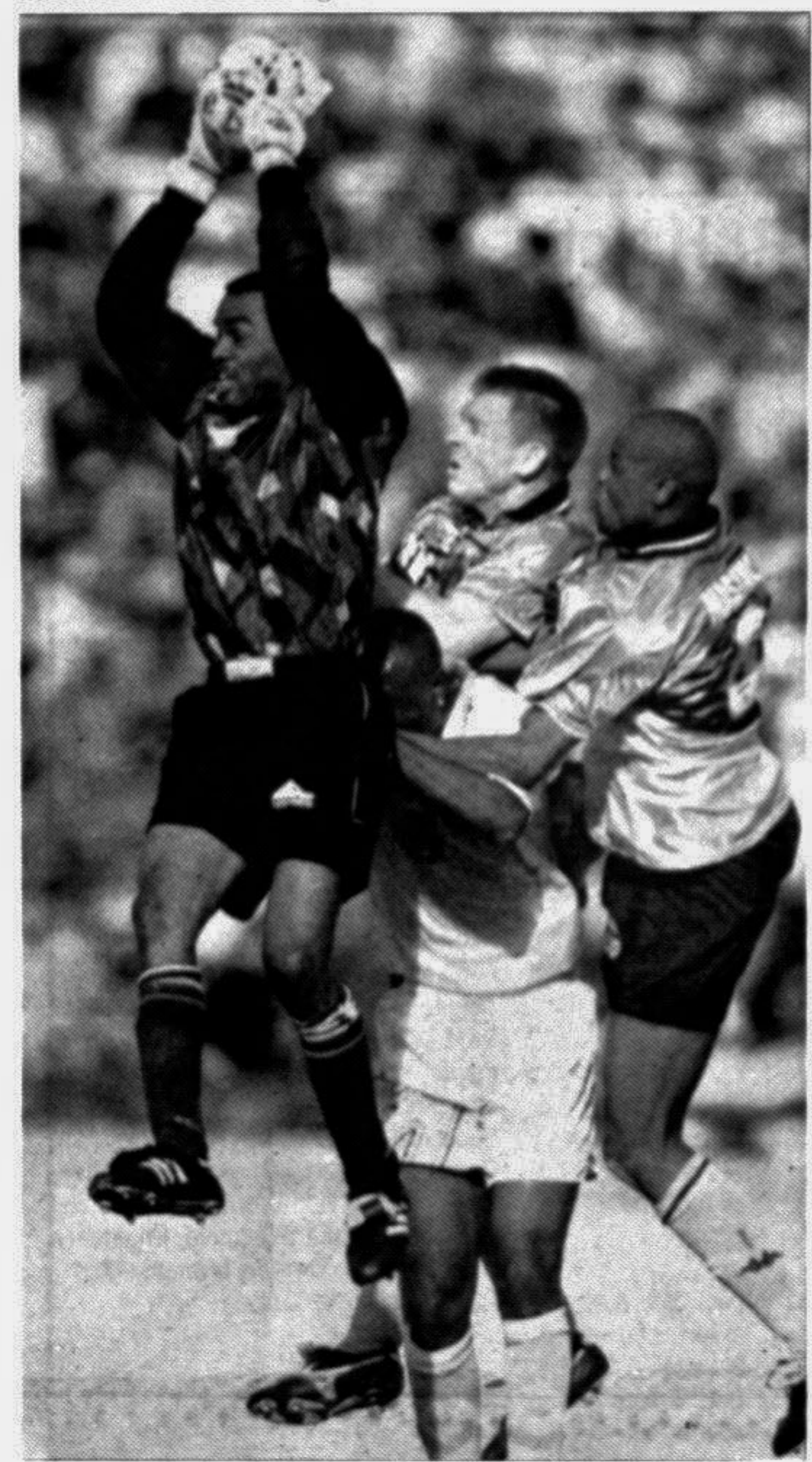
Egypt hog the headlines

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 11: Egypt and Morocco went on scoring spree while Nigeria and South Africa disappointed in World Cup action this weekend, reports AFP. The Egyptians crushed Namibia 7-1 and Morocco outclassed Sierra Leone 4-0, but Nigeria took 86 minutes to seal a 2-0 win over Burkina Faso and South Africa battled to defeat Zaire 1-0.

Fans jammed the streets of Cairo with their cars, waving flags and honking horns, after Egypt became the first country to score seven goals in an all-African tie. Several decades before organized football began on the continent, Was Pharaohs struck seven past Asian representatives Palestine in a qualifier for the 1934 World Cup. Ali Maher was the chief tormentor of Namibia, scoring in the opening minute and going on to complete a hat-trick while veteran Hossam Hassan struck two late goals. Morocco netted three times within eight minutes soon after half-time to complete a 4-0 rout of Sierra Leone, who were drafted in last week after Burundi withdrew due to economic sanctions. Nigeria fielded nine of the

Olympic-winning team against lowly Burkina Faso with Fimidi George and Rashidi Yekini replacing Tijani Babagidi and Nwankwo Kanu, who has a heart problem. The expected goal avalanche never materialised and the capacity 60,000 crowd at the Surulere stadium in Lagos had to wait 46 minutes before George created the first goal for Daniel Amokachi. Jonathan Akpoborie, a consistent scorer in Germany, and 1994 African footballer of the year Emmanuel Amunike were brought on to bolster the super 'Eagles attack'. But the Burkina, who conceded seven goals on their previous visit to Nigeria five years ago, soaked up the pressure until four minutes from full time when Amokachi struck again.

African champions South Africa looked lethargic as they battled to overcome a Zairean team which arrived in Johannesburg less than four hours before the kickoff. The leopards had missed a flight from Turkey, where they set up a training camp, and were missing several European-based stars amid rumours of a pay dispute. Italian-based forward Philemon Masinga snatched the winner after 72 minutes, hammering a low cross from Jerry Sikhosana past impressive goalkeeper Nkombe Tokala. Masinga, often the target of hostile local supporters, immediately ran to a section of the 70,000 crowd at FNB stadium with his hand covering his mouth.



Zairean goalkeeper Tokala gets hold of the ball in an aerial duel with two South African players during a World Cup qualifier in Johannesburg on Nov 8. South Africa won 1-0.

Kremlin Cup goes to Goran

MOSCOW, Nov 11: Croat Goran Ivanisevic rewarded the Kremlin Cup organisers for giving him a wild card entry by winning the title beating Russian favourite Yevgeny Kafelnikov 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 here on Sunday - his fifth title of the season, reports AFP.

Ivanisevic, sporting a newly grown pony-tail, handed Kafelnikov, ranked third in the world one place above the Croat, his second successive final defeat - Sweden's Thomas Enqvist beat him in the Paris Indoor final last week. "I would like to think the organisers who gave me a wild card berth," the 25-year-old Ivanisevic said. "Last Year I shaved my head, lost in the first round and had my ears frozen. This time I decided to change my hair style and look what happened. Ivanisevic added. Kafelnikov, who's ambition is to replace Pete Sampras at the top of the world rankings by the end of the year, seized the initiative in the opening set breaking Ivanisevic to lead 5-3 with a sharp cross-court return. The 23-year-old French Open winner, playing in front of 18,000 fans including Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin, held his serve to take the set 6-3. Ivanisevic, though showed his fighting qualities in the second set, despite some backtracking from the spectators.

He won the match and was awarded 14 times in return. Enqvist, already hailed as the successor to Stefan Edberg who is retiring this year, gained the first break of serve in the third game. The fifth game went through nine deuces before Enqvist took it, then Martin broke back in the 10th game to square the set before the Swede broke him immediately and held serve for the set. By the time Enqvist won the second set after two breaks of serve, the crowd's cheering and looting stamping in support of Enqvist was visibly irritating Martin. "That's too good, Martin

Stockholm Open Enqvist's

STOCKHOLM, Nov 11: Sweden's top player Thomas Enqvist won his second tournament in eight days by retaining his Stockholm Open title with a 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (7-0) victory over American Todd Martin on Sunday, reports Reuter. Third seed Enqvist, who won the Paris Open last Sunday, defeated second seed Martin in a 128-minute battle by racing through the final set tie-break. The victory also secured Enqvist, 22, the reserve berth at the ATP Tour World Championship, the world's most lucrative tennis tournament which starts in Hanover on November 19. ATP spokesman Benito Perez-Barbadillo said Enqvist's triumph put him ahead of South African Wayne Ferreira, a first round loser, for the reserve place in the event which brings together the world's top eight players for a top prize of up to 1.4 million dollars. Just attending as reserve is worth 40,000 dollars, but Enqvist said going as reserve was not the same as being one of the

top eight. "This time it is a little bit different because I am not earning my place," said Enqvist who got through to the semifinals at last year's ATP Tour Championship. "It does not feel the same as it did last year." Enqvist, who also won in Delhi earlier this year, will lead his country against France in the Davis Cup final in Malmo late this month. Martin, 26, seeded Enqvist 21 times in the match and was seeded 14 times in return. Enqvist, already hailed as the successor to Stefan Edberg who is retiring this year, gained the first break of serve in the third game. The fifth game went through nine deuces before Enqvist took it, then Martin broke back in the 10th game to square the set before the Swede broke him immediately and held serve for the set. By the time Enqvist won the second set after two breaks of serve, the crowd's cheering and looting stamping in support of Enqvist was visibly irritating Martin. "That's too good, Martin

against Stockholm," snapped the American. They played in equal terms to 6-6 in the third set before Enqvist sealed his victory in the tie-break. The win capped a season which for Enqvist began indifferently but ended on a high. "I moved really well on the court and that is the big key to playing Martin," Enqvist said. "I played well and I think he didn't play his best. He can play better than this."



Hingis too hot to handle

OAKLAND, California, Nov 11: Sixteen-year-old Swiss sensation Martina Hingis needed just 52 minutes to rout world number-two Monica Seles 6-2, 6-0, here Sunday in the final of the Oakland WTA event, reports AFP. "Seven years ago, I was nine and I would see her on television," Hingis said of Seles. "Now I had her in front of me and I beat. It was like a dream coming true."

Hingis, ranked seventh in the world, picked up a winner's cheque for 79,000 dollars and collected her second WTA title of the year. She also won in Filderstadt last month. "Today I had an almost perfect match. Everything worked well," Hingis said after winning what was her first-ever clash with Seles. "It was much closer than what the score shows." Hingis made it clear that her next aim is to win a Grand Slam crown - starting with January's Australian Open. "Now I would like to win a Grand Slam tournament," she said. "That could be next year." Seles, who had been bidding for her sixth title of the year at the 450,000-dollar event, still earned enough points by reaching the final to ensure she will return to being joint world number-one with Steffi Graf when the new rankings are published on Monday.

WORLD CUP ROUNDUP

LJUBLJANA, Nov 11 (Reuter): Favourites Bosnia handed Slovenia their fourth successive World Cup qualifying defeat when they scored a 2-1 victory in Group One on Sunday. The loss, which left Slovenia with no chance of reaching the World Cup finals, came in the first meeting of the two ex-Yugoslav republics teams since Slovenia gained independence in 1991. It was Bosnia's second victory against two defeats in the group. Bosnia set the early pace and striker Elvir Bolic opened the scoring in the fifth minute when he ploughed through Slovenia's weak defence and fired in a high shot over goalkeeper Bosko Boskovic's head. GREECE HOLD CROATIA ZAGREB, Nov 11 (Reuter): Greece surprisingly held Croatia 1-1 in World Cup qualifier on Sunday to remain top of European Group One. Four Croats and five Greeks were booked in a match riddled with niggling fouls. The Greeks stunned the hosts by taking the lead in the ninth minute when Demis Nikolaidis fired home from the edge of the penalty area. Alen Boksic volleyed against a post but the Croats finally equalised just before halftime when Davor Suker pounced on a loose ball and found a gap between two break defenders and the goalkeeper. Another Suker effort was disallowed for offside and Boksic's low-left-footer shaved a post minutes later. US BEAT TRINIDAD RICHMOND, Virginia, Nov 11 (Reuter): The United States recorded their sixth consecutive shutout in World Cup qualifying and took sole possession of first place in their Concacaf group with a 2-0 win over Trinidad and Tobago Sunday. Sweeper Thomas Dooley broke the scoreless tie in the 52nd minute with a head ball after taking a cross from the right side from Jeff Agoos. Forward Eric Wynalda, off a feed from US captain John Harkes, fired a 25-metre blast past goalkeeper Hayden Thomas for the clincher in the 84th minute. It was the second victory in two matches for the United States, who blanked Guatemala 2-0 last week in Washington. The defeat virtually eliminated Trinidad, who have lost and tied at home. YUGOSLAV'S WIN BELGRADE, Nov 11 (Reuter): Real Madrid striker Predrag Mijatovic fired an 18th minute goal to sustain Yugoslavia's perfect record in their World Cup qualifiers with a 1-0 win against the Czech Republic 1-0 Sunday. Yugoslavia head European Group Six with 12 points from four wins in four matches and an 18-2 goals record, having previously beaten the Faroe Islands twice and Malta. The Czech republic are third, eight points behind the leaders but with a game in hand. Yugoslavia's early offensive was rewarded when Mijatovic slotted the ball past goalkeeper Pavel Srnecic after receiving a pass from Draga. He stormed down the right. NORWAY UNBEATEN BERNE, Switzerland, Nov 11 (Reuter): Midfielder Oyvind Leonhardsen extended Norway's 100 per cent record in their World Cup qualifying campaign with the decisive goal as they beat Switzerland 1-0 on Sunday. Leonhardsen's strike after 32 minutes was enough to keep Norway top of European Group Three with three victories in as many matches. The Swiss, now third in the group and six points off the pace, initially contained the Norwegian attack which had hit eight goals in the two previous games. Stoichkov ends self-exile SOFIA, Nov 11: Volatile striker Hristo Stoichkov has promised Bulgaria's newly elected President Petar Stoyanov that he will play for the national side in their World Cup qualifier away to Cyprus in December, reports Reuter. Stoichkov, who played for Barcelona, missed Bulgaria's first two qualifiers after vowing to quit the team unless the country's soccer chiefs resigned. "I cannot refuse anything to my old friend and Bulgaria's new President," Stoichkov told Stoyanov by telephone from Barcelona, according to local media. Stoyanov, who won Sunday's presidential election, told a news conference in his home town of Plovdiv on Tuesday that Stoichkov would lead the Bulgarians in Nicosia and the team would win. "He (Stoyanov) wants me and Lyuboslav Penev to return to the national side," Stoichkov told Tronud Daily in an interview. But he warned he would keep pressing for the resignation of Bulgaria's football chiefs, who dropped Penev from the national team for using insulting words on local television after the Euro '96 championship in England. Penev is a nephew of ex-national coach Dimitar Penev who was axed in July after Bulgaria's poor showing at Euro '96. The Bulgarian Football Union has scheduled an extraordinary congress for January 9.



Sweden's Kenneth Andersson (R) side tackles Scotland's Colin Hendry during a World Cup qualifying match in Glasgow on Nov 10. The Scots won by a solitary goal. - AFP/UNB photo.

Apathy rules as Magyars' magic moment fades

"You don't see kids playing football in the street any more," laments Ferenc Puskas, one of the greatest soccer strikers of all time. More than four decades after a historic Hungarian victory, Gemini News Service reports on a struggle to pick up the pieces of a national game that has fallen apart. John Perlman writes from Budapest

HUNGARIAN football is being shown on television, but the regulars in the 6-3 Bar in central Budapest could not be bothered to look up from their drinks. This seems surprising, because it was football at its best that gave this little bar its name. But 43 years is a long time, and even glorious memories can fade. On 25 November, 1953 Hungary's footballers went to London to play England in a game now regarded as a watershed in soccer history. It was not just that Hungary tore England apart - it was the way in which they did it. It was, conceded Tom Finney, who played for England that night, "like cart horses playing race horses." A Hungarian observer put it more politely: "What you played was industry; what we played was art." Hungary had some brilliant individuals - the powerful centre forward Nandor Hidegkuti, Sandor Kocsis, and one of the greatest attacking players of all time, Ferenc Puskas. But the most remarkable thing was their team work - which was innovative, flexible and intelligent. The pace and physical strength that had carried England to previous victories was brushed aside. The footballing from that night found eager disciples around the world. There are many who believe the Hungarians invented what the Brazilians later perfected. Forty years later, in 1993, it was hard to believe this was the same footballing nation. Only 1,500 fans turned up at Budapest's Nepszínház - where 100,000 fans saw Hungary beat England 7-1 in 1954, capping their earlier triumph in London to watch the national team play Luxembourg to decide who would finish bottom of their World Cup qualifying group. Now, as another anniversary of 25 November approaches, things are not much better. A recent Hungarian match in the qualifiers for the 1998 World Cup ended in a 3-0 defeat by Norway. What makes it even sadder is that nobody expected much better. "I remember old people crying when we failed to qualify for the 1974 World Cup after blowing a 3-0 lead against Sweden," says Hungarian football writer Attila Balai. "People didn't get to work the next day and there was burning of flags. But when we failed to qualify 1994, and were beaten twice by Iceland, that was just regarded as a sports event and the head coach was allowed to stay. "Now there are no expectations. Fifteen years ago, we won 2-1 in Norway and people were disappointed. Now we go there with the highest purpose, being a

draw. Some tourist guidebooks described the 6-3 Bar as a shrine to that victory in London, but the place seems to be infected by the same apathy that sees crowds of fewer than 5,000 at most top division matches. Only two photographs from the 1953 game still cling to the walls. Puskas, who was briefly put in charge of the national team to try to remedy matters, believes the decay has gone right to the roots. He told Rogan Taylor, an Englishman writing a book on the great Hungarian inside forward. "The system has almost collapsed. In schools, football is no longer a popular sport and even worse, you don't see kids playing in the street any more." After the triumphs over England, Hungary suffered a big disappointment in the 1954 World Cup final, losing to West Germany after leading by two goals. But a much heavier blow came two years later, when Soviet tanks crushed the Hungarian uprising. At the time, some of Hungary's best players were abroad with the leading team, draw. Puskas, who was signed up by Real Madrid, and four others did not return. Nine players from the national junior team, also touring Europe, decided to seek their careers elsewhere. "A whole generation of players was lost," says Balai. There was a brief revival in the 1960s - Hungary was one of the most skillful teams at the 1966 World Cup but a bribery scandal in the early 1970s fuelled cynicism and the collapse of the socialist government in 1989 left teams without the state patronage that had long supported them. "Thirty years ago, there was no money in football," Balai says. "Talent was enough and we could compete at that level. We were overtaken in terms of money and there is now a vacuum." Puskas believes another triumph would fill that vacuum. Hungarians still have a deep love for the game, but they need another great success to inspire them," he says. One man who could play big part in turning Hungarian football around is determined not to wait for something like that to happen. Zoltan Varga recently returned to Hungary after 28 years abroad. He has taken over as coach of his old side, the country's leading club Ferencvaros. He does dwell on the great memories of 1953. Too much of that, he believes, is holding back Hungarian soccer. "One of the biggest problems has been that, like in the fairy tale, people think Hungarian football has fallen asleep and just needs a kiss to wake it up, but I am not prince," Varga says. The past is over and we should concentrate on the present." His first priority is to get things right at his club: "In the first week, I went to watch the youth team, and from what I saw I invited three players to join first team training. The biggest problem in Hungary is that there is youth talent we are not making use of." He has recruited as his assistant Laszlo Racz, an outstanding performer in the excellent Soviet sides of the late 1980s. "If we can get it right at Ferencvaros, it can be an example to the rest of Hungarian football," says Varga. "What we need in Hungary is to have four or five strong teams and a big rivalry. That would be the first step." If it works, it might make the regulars in the 6-3 Bar look up from their drinks. - GEMINI

Spanish soccer scene

MADRID, Nov 11: Barcelona maintained their two-point lead in the Spanish First Division against the odds after both Real Madrid and Deportivo Coruna were held to goalless home draws on Sunday, reports Reuter. Barcelona have 28 points from 12 games after drawing 3-3 in a thrilling game with Atletico Madrid on Saturday. Real's performance against struggling Logrones drew whistles from fans who had come to the Santiago Bernabel stadium hoping for a goal just against a team who had lost 8-0 and 6-0 in their last two away games. Real chairman Lorenzo Sanz responded by saying that he would talk to coach Fabio Capello about tactics. "It was bad... I will tell Capello that the Spanish league is different from the Italian, and that the fans want something more than just results," said Sanz after seeing Real's second consecutive goalless draw at home. Capello, who won the European Cup while at AC Milan, said that he was "tranquil," but recognised that he was looking for reinforcements for his multi-billion peseta squad. Real stay second on goal difference from Deportivo, who had the best of their 0-0 draw with Tenerife despite having French striker Mickael Madar sent off in the 15th minute for an off-the-ball foul on Cesar Sanchez. "About the Author: John Perlman is a South African freelance journalist based in London. He was a reporter on the weekly Mail, Johannesburg, and later chief reporter of the Sunday Star.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 On 35 Simply 5 Part of a Latin trio 9 Intimate or Lopez 13 - me tangere 14 Francois' friend 15 It often has a filling 17 Rating 18 Nut-cracker's 24 Combine 25 Bell-gong 26 Magician's access 30 - Take Romance 31 Photographer Diane 32 Wide-beast 33 Dead as

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and letters.

CRYPTOQUIP SZA ONXXLNADUAN VTRAU SX ONX LTS LN XW XSZAN OAXOVA J WTJSDRAJ. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I PREDICT CROSSING AN OWL WITH A GOAT WILL SURELY PRODUCE A HOOTENANNY. Today's Cryptoquip clue: O equals P The Cryptoquip 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 vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Advertisement for 'জনতা ব্যাংক' (Janta Bank) featuring a logo and text in Bengali. It mentions services like 'পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি' and provides contact information.