

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-73

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Competition closes 8 pm, July 11, '97

- Who is the third fastest server in men's tennis circuit at the moment?  
Rusedcki Rosset Krajick
- How many warm-up matches will Bangladesh play before the World Cup in 1997?  
Four Three Six
- How many matches has Shahbaz played for Pakistan?  
219 220 221
- What is the position of Bangladesh in FIFA rankings for June?  
137 138 139
- Who lifted Cote Premier handball league title?  
Ansars Menjis BDR

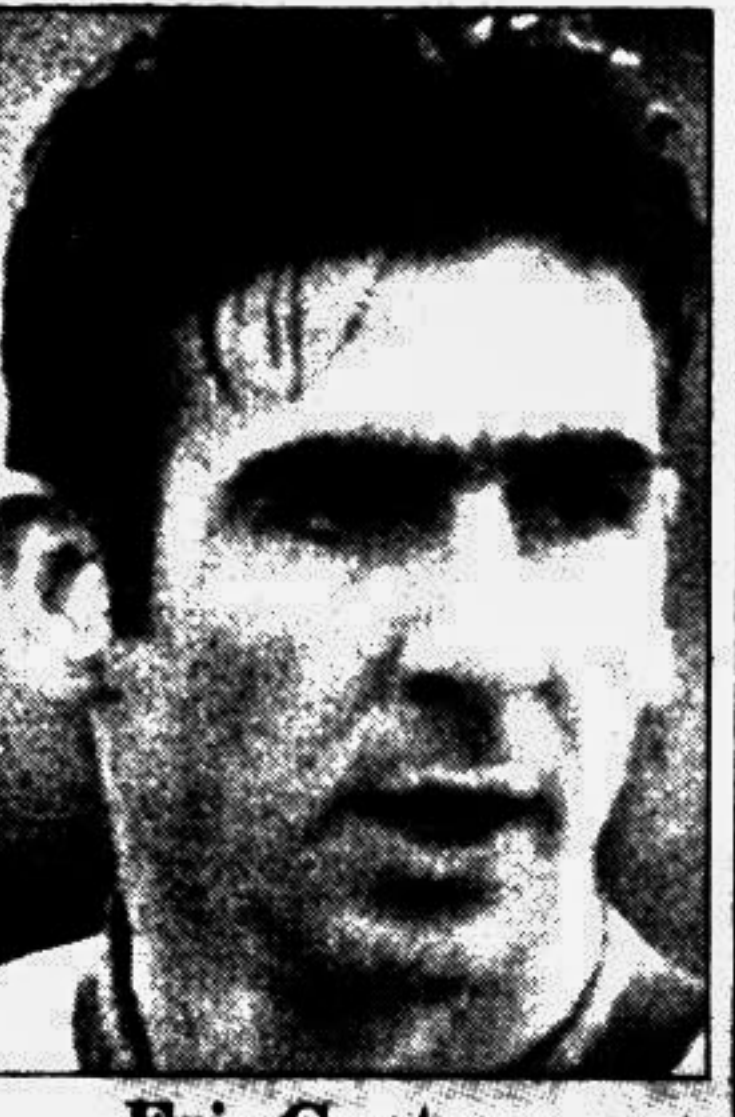
Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

SPORTS TALK



**Eric Cantona**  
(Former French star footballer)  
"Regrets? I regret nothing - good or bad."  
While summing up his maverick philosophy of life.

**Dugarry joins Barcelona**

BARCELONA, July 4: Christophe Dugarry says he's in a dream. He may be mistaking it for a nightmare, reports AP.  
The 25-year-old Frenchman was presented as FC Barcelona's newest addition on Thursday, the obvious although not stated replacement for the departed Brazilian Ronaldo.  
"It's a dream to play here," the 1.88-metre (6-foot-2), 81-kilogram (178-pound) Dugarry said. "I value being here very highly, and that to me is very important."  
Dugarry comes to Barcelona after a season at AC Milan and will have to fill the void created by the departure of Ronaldo, a transfer to Internazionale still disputed by Barca.  
In only one season, Ronaldo led the Spanish league in scoring with 34 goals, nine more than his closest pursuer.  
Dugarry is a central forward like Ronaldo, but he refused to compare himself to the 20-year-old Brazilian.

**Juninho drama continues**

LONDON, July 4: Middlesbrough insisted on Thursday they have accepted an offer for Brazilian midfielder Juninho from Tottenham and no deal had been agreed with Atletico Madrid, reports Reuter.  
"The situation at the moment is that we've accepted a bid from Tottenham and we have given Juninho the opportunity to speak to them," said Middlesbrough spokesman Adrian Bevington.  
The Spanish club claimed they had signed Juninho on Wednesday. "We have confirmed 100 per cent the deal," said Miguel Angel Gil Marin, son of club owner Jesus Gil, on Spanish television.  
Recent Spanish reports suggested Atletico would pay 20.1 million dollars for Juninho compared with Tottenham's bid of 18.4 million dollars.  
Speculation has mounted about Juninho's future since Middlesbrough were relegated from the Premier league last season.  
He has repeatedly said he would prefer a move to Spain but with two years remaining on his contract with Middlesbrough, they appear to hold the key to his future.  
Despite Spanish press report that Juninho's father, who is also his agent, has said he will move to Atletico, Middlesbrough would not be drawn on whether they were in negotiations with the Spanish club.  
"The situation is no comment from Middlesbrough," said Bevington.

**Ali Sports schools kabaddi**

Nawabpur Govt High School beat Maniknagar Govt Primary School by 86-72 points in the opening match of the 7th All Sports Schools Kabaddi tournament at the court, reports UNB.  
In other match of the day, Ansar-VDP High School beat AK High School by 54-47 points.  
Earlier, State Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan inaugurated the 16-team meet.

History beckons Hingis



MARTINA HINGIS  
LONDON, July 4: At 16 years 9 months, Martina Hingis will be the youngest finalist at Wimbledon in the Open era history (starting from 1968).

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan  
She will be playing a vastly experienced Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic who is the World Number 3, currently. Novotna, who is a good 12 years older than Martina became famous in Wimbledon when in 1993 she cried on the shoulders of the Dutchess of Kent at the presentation ceremony having lost to the "queen of tennis" Steffi Graf in the final. This may very well be the last chance for Novotna to win a Grand Slam title. Since 1986 she has reached only three Grand Slam finals in her career including this one. In her road to the finals Novotna has played 15 sets compared to Hingis' 12 and 141 these two have met 5 times on different surfaces and Hingis leads her 3-2. This will be their first meeting on grass. While Novotna was dropped 3 sets in her six matches Hingis has yet to drop one. Besides being Number One in the world today Martina happens to be the youngest player this century to have won a Grand Slam title at Melbourne last January. Jennifer Capriati still remains the youngest semifinalist at Wimbledon.



JANA NOVOTNA

**THE COMPARISON**  
Martina Hingis (1) vs Jana Novotna (3)

All stats going into final match (except prize money)

Martina Hingis	Jana Novotna
Age 16	28
Swiss	Czech
Right-handed	Right-handed
Rank 1	3
Highest career rank 1	3
Head to Head 3	2
Head to Head on Grass Court 3	2
First Meeting 97 Lipton (Hingis won 6-3, 2-6, 6-4)	97 Lipton
1996 W/L 51/16	54/13
1997 W/L 43/1	31/8
Total Career W/L 130/35	469/184
Final W/L 9/6	18/15
Matches W/L at Wimbledon 9/2	39/11
1997 3 Set Matches 12/5	97/78
Career 3 Set Matches 32/15	1/3
1997 Tiebreaks 12/2	58/61
Career Tiebreaks \$1,590,891	\$312,305
1997 Prize Money \$3,139,312	\$6,884,970
Career Prize Money 8	16
Career WTA Titles 0	0
Career Grass Court Titles	
Melanie Molitor Coach	Hana Mandlikova (1981 Finalist) 1993, 1997 Finalist
1997 Finalist	Best Wimbledon result

(Abbreviation: W/L (Win/Loss))

Waldner leads the protest

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida, July 4: Swedish world champion Jan-Ove Waldner walked out of the US Open table tennis championship here Thursday and two compatriots also withdrew, report agencies.  
Players and organizers feuded over match schedules and accommodations and Waldner quit the event, as did 19th-rated Peter Karlsson and 46th-ranked Thomas Von-schee. The Swedes were far from the only unhappy group.  
Players had hoped for changes but event referee Bill Walk, one of only four US officials certified for such an event, denied the protest and said the schedule and facilities were satisfactory.

Clash of the giants

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia, July 4: In a classic South American battle, Argentina will seek their second consecutive and third World Youth Championship in Saturday's final against a Uruguay that is chasing their first World Youth trophy, reports AP.  
Both teams have made it this far through considerable hard work deserving most of their wins while only rarely stomping on any opponent.  
They also play an almost identical style of soccer based on a fiercely disciplined four-man defence system with a pivotal midfield anchorman who feeds two lightning fast and imaginative strikers.  
Uruguay have the better record so far, remaining undefeated since they arrived in Malaysia for the 24-team tournament while Argentina slipped against Australia 4-3 in a preliminary group game.  
Both sides suffered greatly in the semifinals with Argentina

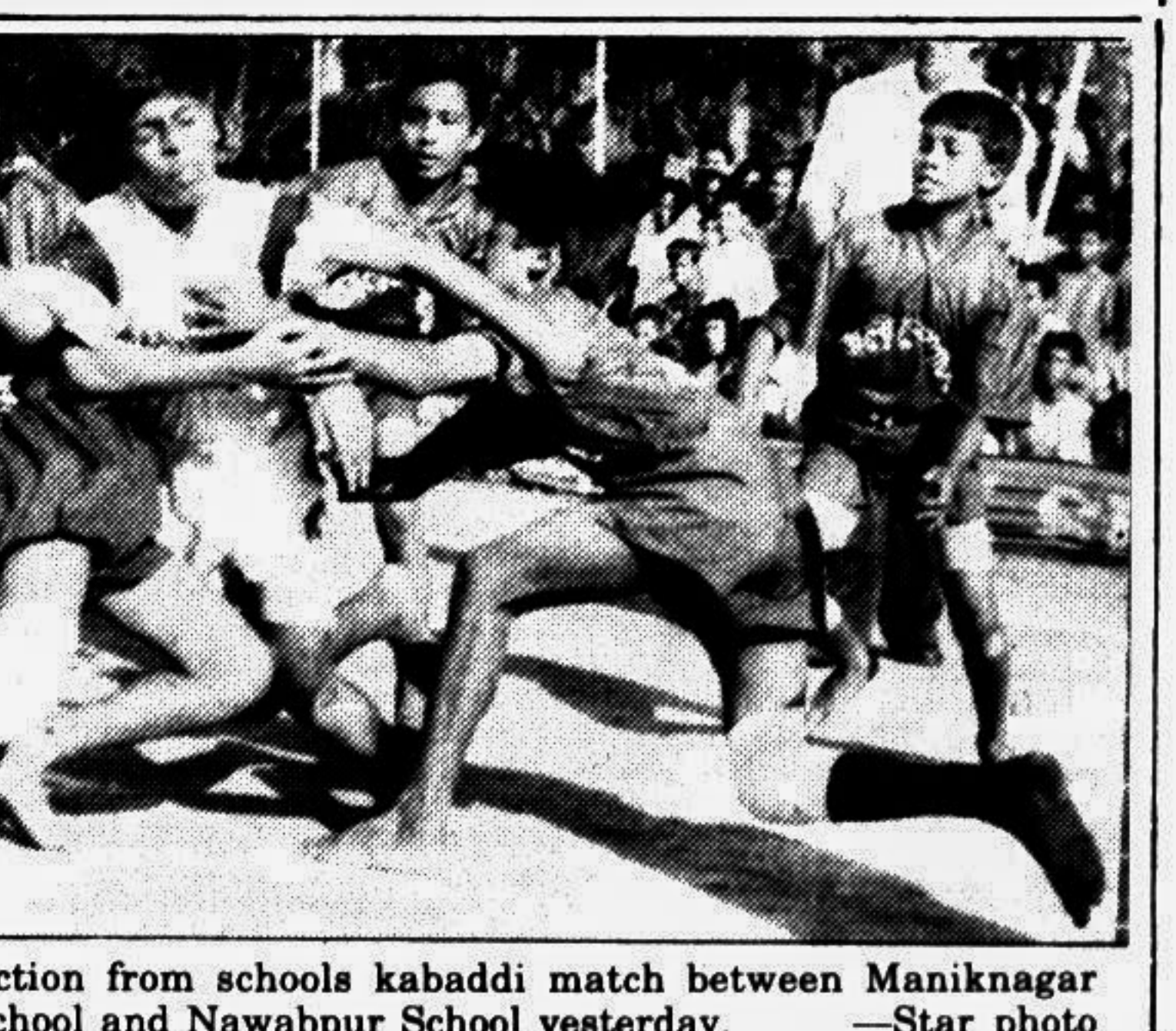
scraping past Ireland 1-0 while fortune smiled on Uruguay when they braved the attacking fire of Ghana to win 3-2 in extra time.  
Uruguay's morale has the edge, given that the present side defeated Argentina 1-0 when they met earlier this year and drew 1-1 in their last meeting.  
"It will be a tough game for both sides, though for Uruguay the most difficult part has been getting here," said coach Victor Pua. "Now we have to play and enjoy it and hopefully celebrate afterwards."  
Both Pua and his Argentine counterpart Jose Nestor Pekerman admitted it would be a game with no clear favourite given their closeness as neighbours and playing strikers.  
"It's impossible to predict a result," said Pekerman. "This will be a classic game between two well-balanced and similar teams and who know each other's style."  
Pekerman, a former player for Argentinos Juniors and Colombia's Independiente of Medellin, coached the national under-20 squad to win their second World Youth Championship when the event was last held in 1995 in Qatar.  
In that match they defeated Brazil, who hold the record of winning the biennial tournament three times since it began in 1977.  
"They say it's harder to retain a title than win it the first time," said Pekerman. "That's probably been true up to now but may be we can change that on Saturday."  
But Pekerman would not be drawn to say whether Argentina would play attacking style, like they did to down England, or defensively as when they ejected tournament favourite Brazil 2-0 in the quarterfinal.  
Once again he can count on defenders Walter Samuel and Leonardo Cufré, who missed the battle against Ireland through sanctions.  
With no injury problems, Pekerman will almost certainly be relying on the midfield commanding skills of Roman Riquelme one of the tournament's most outstanding

Cameroon soccer coach quits

YAOUNDE, July 4: Cameroon's Belgian coach Henri Depireux has quit in the middle of his team's bid to qualify for next year's World and African Nations Cup finals, reports Reuter.  
"There no longer exists any collaboration between me and my employers," Depireux said in a letter of resignation.  
"Cameroonians don't adhere to my methods, for this and other reasons I have decided to abort my two-year contract with the soccer authorities."  
The Indomitable Lion won many fans abroad for their thrilling performance in the 1990 World Cup when they reached the quarter finals. They also qualified for the 1994 finals but failed to reach the last 16.  
Critics of Depireux, appointed in September 1996, say he has been unable to come up with a winning formula.  
They drew 2-2 at home against Gabon in their last outing in the Nations Cup after enjoying a 2-0 lead.  
No replacement has been named. Youth and Sports Ministry sources say five locally-based coaches would be appointed to steer the team through the final qualifying stages of the World and African Nations Cups.

Galatasaray get Popescu

ISTANBUL, July 4: Romanian international midfielder Georgehe Popescu, who captained Barcelona to victory in the European Cup Winners' Cup final in May, has signed for Turkish league champions Galatasaray, the club said today, reports Reuter.  
Popescu, who will be 30 in October, has reportedly signed a hugely lucrative three-year deal worth a reported 4.5 million dollars, the Yeni Yuzul newspaper said.  
"Galatasaray have great ambitions. Their ambitions are realised with great players and Popescu is one of those great players," Galatasaray coach Fath Terim said.  
Popescu, who has previously played for Steaua Bucharest, Universitatea Craiova, PSV Eindhoven and Tottenham Hotspur, joins fellow Romanians Georgehe Hagi, Iulian Filipescu and Adrian Ilie at the Istanbul club.  
Galatasaray, along with Beşiktaş, are in the expanded European Cup next season.



Action from schools kabaddi match between Maniknagar School and Nawabpur School yesterday. —Star photo

WIMBLEDON TIDBITS

LONDON, July 4 (Reuter): Snippets from the 11th day at Wimbledon on Thursday:  
**Quote of the day:** Boris Becker's half whisper "That was it for me" as he announced he had played his last Wimbledon.  
And Pete Sampras stunned tribute: "Wimbledon and Boris went together. This is where he made his mark as a 17-year-old and it was like his living room out there."  
"He was a class act on and off the court."  
**Stats of the day:** Martina Hingis and Jana Novotna have made it to the final but statistics since 1968 show:  
\* The average age of a Grand Slam women's champion is 20 years two months (Hingis 16, Novotna 28)  
\* Most common month of birth is July (Hingis September, Novotna October)  
\* Most common star sign is Sagittarius (Novotna and Hingis both Libra)  
\* Average height is 1.67m (Hingis 1.67, Novotna 1.75)  
\* Most common first name initial is M as in Martina x2, Margaret, Mary, Monica.  
\* Most common nationality is American (Hingis Swiss, Novotna Czech).  
\* Most common place to win first Grand Slam title is at the French Open (Hingis Australian Open, Novotna yet to win).

BTTA secy slams Sunil's comment

CALCUTTA, July 4: The Bengal Table Tennis Association (BTTA) today took strong exception to former Test cricketer Sunil Gavaskar's recent article in which he made certain "uncomplimentary" remarks about sports officials in the country, reports PTI.  
In a statement here, BTTA secretary Gopinath Ghosh condemned Gavaskar's comments and said that the great cricketer had preferred to treat a complex matter as a simple one based on his biased conviction.  
In one of his recent syndicated columns, Gavaskar, while appreciating badminton star Prakash Padukone's venture of floating the Indian Badminton Confederation, hauled up certain officials for their refusal to quit and for using their position for personal gains.  
"A statement has been made that some officials have made a career out of being an official almost in every field. Is it only applicable to the officials? Or equally applicable to the players who have expanded their business interest and thereby personal gains with the help of administrators?" Ghosh asked.  
Gavaskar's description of sports administrators as "Lectures who suck the blood of sports" violates truth as well as all norms of decency, Ghosh said.  
"Is he aware there are sports administrators who do not suck blood but give blood to sports? Is he aware there are countless, selfless sport administrators who have sacrificed an average four hours a day for years together?" he said.  
Ghosh said that Gavaskar had made a bantering remark about the democratic procedure by which sports administrators in this country were elected.  
"He has mentioned that voters of sports bodies include drivers, cooks, peons, clerks and personal assistants, in making such a reference, he has not only humiliated the sports administrators but has made an unfair generalisation without any facts and substance," he lamented.  
Ghosh said a person of Gavaskar's stature, who is an idol of the sporting fraternity, should think twice before passing such a hasty judgement.

Tyson in 'chamber of horrors'

WASHINGTON, July 4: Mike Tyson's notorious boxing champion ear-bite against Evander Holyfield has earned him an unprecedented move in the Hollywood Wax Museum, reports AFP.  
Tyson's statue was moved from the sports' Hall of Fame to the 'chamber of horrors' and is now exhibited next to "Hannibal the cannibal" Lecter, the gory character in the movie "Silence of the Lambs."  
"They just came up with the idea to put him next to Hannibal Lecter as a joke," said museum publicist John Blanche. "It's sort of amusing."

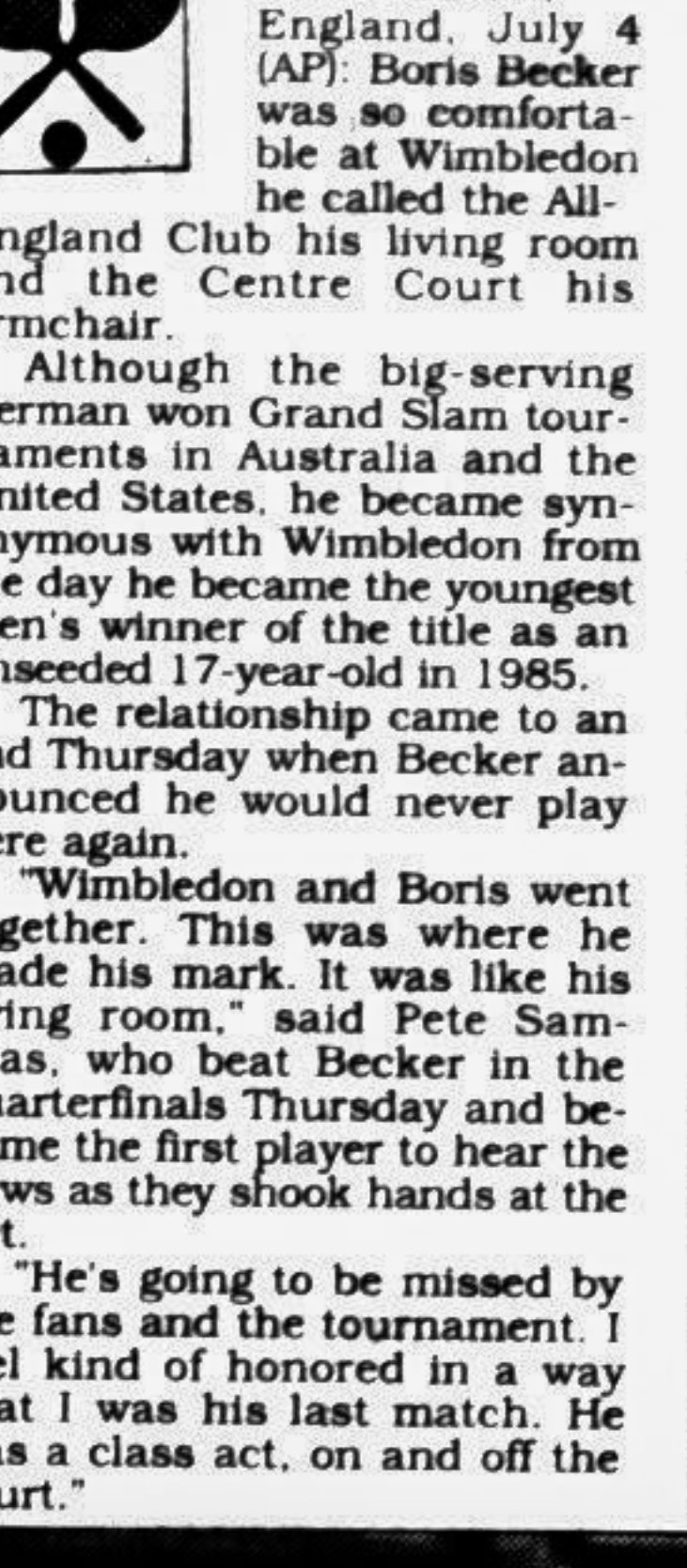
Chitg Cute h'ball

CHITTAGONG, July 4: Cute Mohanagari School handball league under the auspices of Chittagong Mohanagari Sports Association (CMSA) begins at Dampara Police Lines ground here tomorrow, reports BSS.  
Shah Waliullah Institute will face Kazem Ali High School in the opening match.  
18 schools including eight girls' schools will participate in the meet.

Thai boxer keeps WBC title

BANGKOK, July 4: Sirmongkol Singamansak of Thailand pounded his way to a 12-round unanimous decision over Mexican victor Rabanales Friday to retain his World Boxing Council bantamweight title, reports AP.  
The 20-year-old Thai champion, undefeated at 21-0 with 12 knockouts, easily handled the 35-year-old No. 1 contender. He used his longer reach to slip most of the Mexican's wild rights and counter with his own stiff left hooks.  
Sirmongkol was penalised one point in the sixth round for head butting Rabanales.  
The bout opened a cut over the challengers' left eye which continued bleeding throughout the fight in an open air arena in Pattani, 1,050 kilometres (652 miles) south of Bangkok.  
Sirmongkol went to work on the cut, using left jabs and clubbing right crosses to increase the damage so the fight would be stopped.  
But Rabanales kept rushing toward Sirmongkol, unleashing overhand rights that usually missed their mark.

Boris bids All-England bye



BORIS BECKER

John McEnroe, another three-time champion who played against the German and then saw his emerge as a tennis force, was stunned by Becker's announcement.  
"I feel like I have been punched in the stomach," said McEnroe, who's at Wimbledon as a commentator for NBC. "It's a blow to the men's game to lose one of the biggest personalities we've had in 12 years and it just shows how bad the sport of tennis is."  
Wimbledon without Becker will be like strawberries without the cream.  
When he arrived at the championships as a still raw teenager in 1985, he was known to have a huge serve and volley game suitable for the fast grass. But his inexperience was an equally huge negative.  
That didn't seem to matter as he blasted player after player off court until he crushed eighth seeded South African Kevin Curren in four sets in the final.  
The following year he returned as fourth seed behind the experienced Ivan Lendl, Mats Wilander and Jimmy Connors, who were expected to have the measure of the young upstart's game.  
But Becker beat Lendl in three straight sets in the final to win the tournament again.  
Becker was a fan's dream. They loved his booming serve and athleticism around the court. Almost every match, Becker would dive across court to reach attempts to pass him at the net.  
Returning to try and win the title for the third year in a row, Becker was stunned by Michael Doohan in the second round in the 1987. After that, he had three confrontations in a row with Stefan Edberg in the final, losing to the Swede in 1988 and '90 and winning in '89.  
He reached the final again in 1991 but lost to his countryman Michael Stich, who ironically has made this year's semifinals.  
Becker lost in the quarterfinals to the eventual champion, Andre Agasi, in '92, was beaten in the semifinals by Sampras in '93 and reached the last four again in '94, going down to Goran Ivanisevic.  
Until he ran into Sampras this year, Becker was in awesome form and had not lost a set. But he met a player who was quicker and always had the measure of his once intimidating serve.  
Becker said he had made his mind up to end his relationship with Wimbledon even before he was outplayed by Sampras.  
His wife, Barbara, already knew of his decision not to return to Wimbledon and he told Sampras after Thursday's match.  
"He had a sort of shock in his eye," Becker said.  
"I feel very relieved. I feel like I've come to the end of the road with my head held high and I feel like I'm still playing good tennis."  
"I always wanted to go out on top and I feel now I'm on top, on top of the mountain. I can only go down."  
Becker said he would miss the Wimbledon fans.  
"I want to say thank you to all the spectators. I feel like I'm half English," he said.  
"I felt very much at home here and, from my first years, I felt like I was one of them. We can almost talk from a relationship we had because I've been here so many times."  
"That's why I always love to come back here and do well. I miss them as much as they miss me, hopefully."  
"Wimbledon is a very special place for me," Becker said.  
"Next year I will walk in as a fan."



GOODBYE! Boris Becker of Germany acknowledges the Centre Court crowd's applause before leaving the greens of the All-England Club after losing to world No 1 American Pete Sampras in the quarterfinals on July 3. The German lost 1-6, 7-6, 1-6, 4-6. — AFP/UNB photo

Recalling fond memories

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan  
most prestigious tennis title in the Mecca of the game and in the process became the youngest ever men's champion at Wimbledon at the tender age of 17. He came back in 1986 and met the world number one Ivan Lendl in the final. The German overhauled Lendl by sheer power of his serve. I still remember as I had seen in the videos, Lendl putting his racket against the speeding ball which hit the frame of the racket and the ball went into the stands like a rocket. This happened quite a number of times and Becker earned the name of "Boom Boom Boris." Lendl also received the nickname - Ivan "The Terrible." Lendl's dream of winning the only title missing from his dossier was shattered.  
Yesterday's match between these two was the third here and Sampras maintained a clean record of three wins. The previous two being a 1993 semifinal and 1995 final. In his chequered career spanning over a period of 15 years Boris won 6 Grand Slam championships including three in Wimbledon. But he did never win the French Open in his nine attempts on the clay. The best he could do was to reach the semifinals in

1991, 1989 and 1987. Except for a very brief period of time in 1991 (3 weeks) Becker never ranked number one on the ATP Tour rankings. His third Wimbledon title came in 1989 against Stefan Edberg of Sweden. He won the US Open in 1990 and two Australian Open titles in 1991 and 1996.  
Yesterday's match was a meeting of the triple champions but turned out to be a cakewalk for Sampras. Becker played seven finals at the Centre Court.  
**Cricket camp in Tangail**  
TANGAIL, July 4: A fortnight-long cricket training camp began at the local stadium today, reports UNB.  
About 100 cricketers of the district will be trained up in the camp, jointly organised by District Cricket Association and District Sports Association.  
Meanwhile, a day-long Cub Holiday, organised by sadar thana unit scouts, was held at the Bibekanda High School premises today.  
A total of 144 Cubs from 12 primary schools took part in the programme.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- Hot tub
  - Paul Prud'homme, e.g.
  - Piratic potation
  - Sitarist Shankar
  - Address
  - "Diana" singer
  - It takes the singer
  - Talk-show host
  - Cryptographer's aid
  - Prior's night
  - Alley oop?
  - Broker's advice
  - Surprise, as a quiz
  - Unyielding
  - First place
  - Martial art
  - 1960s further ado
  - 1960s incendiary
- DOWN**
- Sans escort
  - Senate employee
  - Latin love
  - Alpine retreat
  - Useful Nevada city
  - Mixed-over matter
  - Hard orchard
  - Four-star review
  - Soldifies
  - "Sesame Street" tail design
  - Bushy clump
  - Related denizen
  - Footholds
  - get's field
  - A big fish story
  - Perry's victory site
  - Hit Broadway musical
  - Entreat
  - Capricorn
  - Cartesian link
  - Obit's need

**CRYPTOQUIP**

V S W Y W R Q B B Q G Q V B R W Y T  
V R Q B S A Y W R V Y A U  
D B V X E W X W Y U G V E  
G Q V D B Q V X G Q R

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THEY'VE OFTEN FIRED BOWLEGGED COWBOYS: THEY CAN'T GET THEIR CALVES TOGETHER

Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals C  
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.