WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-85

✓ TICK THE CORRECT ANSWERS. Competition closes at 8 pm on Dec 26, 1997

In which group have Brazil been drawn for France '98?

How many centuries has Atapattu hit in Test cricket to

Who is the national soccer coach of Saudi Arabia? Who were Bangladesh's opponents in the World Youth Cup cricket qualifiers' final?

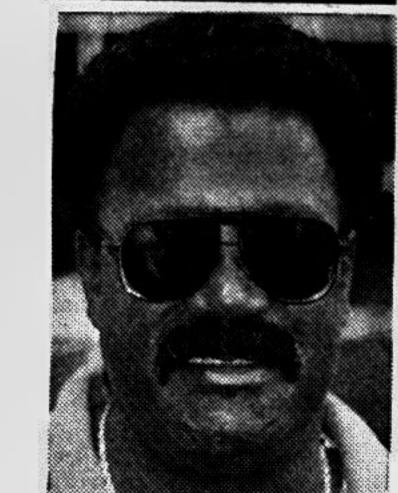
How many teams are taking part in the Premier Division cricket league?

CLASS ROLL NO.

PHONE: (IF ANY)

SPORTS TALK

SCHOOL ADDRESS



Clive Lloyd West Indies cricket man-

"If this continues, there will be wholesale changes." On the Caribbean team's performance during the tour of Pakistan.

Acme Div II cricket on

Sports Reporter

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha Gandaria Cricketers and Kalindi Krira Chakra got off to flying starts in the Acme Second Division cricket league winning their respective group matches at different city venues yesterday.

On the inaugural day of the 32-team league, Eskaton posted a four-wicket victory over Uttara Friends Club at the Dhanmondi Club ground, Gandaria beat Spread Eagles by 58 runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium while Kalindi recorded a two-wicket victory over Young Cricketers at the Mahakhali T&T ground.

Iran soccer

boss sacked

TEHRAN, Dec 25: Iran have named a new head for the country's soccer federation, firing Dariush Mostafavi who had caused controversy by trying to replace popular coach Valdeir Vieira who led them to the World Cup finals, reports Reuters. Newspapers said on Wednes-

day, Mohsen Safaei Farahani, a former official in the ministries of energy and industry who was a member of the federation's board, was named to head Iran's top soccer body.

Mostafavi, who held the post in the past three years, had drawn accusations he delayed Iran's preparations for the World Cup finals by seeking to replace the Brazilian Vieira with Johan Cruyff or Carlos Hi-

> Zia Smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Dec 25: Fulkuri Sangha and Hatem Khan Sporting Club won their respective matches today in the Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament held at Rajshahi Government College ground.

TODAY'S MATCHES Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League:

Victoria SC vs Azad SC (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium) Agrani Bank vs Lalmatia Club (BKSP) First Division Cricket

Gopibagh FA vs GMCC (City Acme Second Division Cricket League:

Dhanmondi Progati vs Jatrabari KC (T&T Ground) Kathalbagan KC vs Lalbagh USC (Uttara Friend's Club) Nabin Sangha vs Amarjyoti Club (Dhanmondi Club) Tejgaon CA vs Young Pega-

sus (Mirpur Outer Stadium).



Action from yesterday's Janakantha Premier Division league match between Wari and Surjo Tarun at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. - Star photo

Surjo Tarun in Super league

BRIEF SCORES

SURJO TARUN CLUB: 224 for eight wickets in 50 overs (Nadim Yunus 81, Biplob 50, Nurul Abedin 21; Amir Wasim 2/48, Sajib Das 2/23) WARI CLUB: 209 all out in 47.4 overs (Tushar 47, Uzzal 30, Amir Wasim 29; Anisur Rahman 3/42, Shahid Saeed 3/46) Result: Surjo Tarun Club won by 15 runs

Surjo Tarun Club confirmed their berth in the six-team Super league of Janakantha Premier Division cricket with a 15run victory over Wari Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Opener Nadim Yunus scored a brilliant 81 as Surjo Tarun. electing to bat first after winning the toss, piled up a commanding total of 224 for eight in their share of 50 overs.

After the good work of the tall Pakistani right-hander, discarded national left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman and Shahid Saeed, with some flery spell, ensured Surjo Tarun a Crucial victory by shooting Wari out for 209 with 16 balls to

The victory now left the new town outfit at par with table leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club with 14 points apiece. But Mohammedans, the only unbeaten team in the 12-team elite echelon with seven wins on a tort, have four matches left Sports Reporter

against Surjo Tarun's one in the first round. Meanwhile, the penultimate tie of Surjo Tarun was equally important for Wari, who were



desperately needing to win their final first phase match to pip Surjo Tarun at the post for a possible sixth slot up for grab.

Before the match, the race was wide open for the two mediocre outfits as they were going even with six wins apiece. But at the end of the day, Surjo Tarun had the last laugh in a match which turned into yet another battle of Pakistani

players in both sides. Nadim Yunus, who scored the first ton in the league, built the backbone of a huge Surjo Tarun total with a dazzling 81. The right-handed stroke-maker clubbed ten fours in his 103ball vigil at the crease.

Nadim was eventually out in the 34th over, leaving his side at 137 for three. But it was a breezy half-century from Biplob that propelled Surfo Tarun

cross the 200-mark. The lower middle order bat, who was responsible for accelerating the pace of scoring wheel, hammered a quartet of fours in his 56-ball knock.

Wari, in their chase got off to horrible start losing their first three wickets for only 46 runs on the board. Although opener Uzzal scored a quickfire 36-ball 30, the traditional giant-slayers suffered a severe blow when their Pakistani hope-bearer Tarique Mehmud departed cheaply

Tarique, who scored a brilliant century in his side's previous match against Lalmatia on Tuesday, made only four before being adjudged caught behind off new-ball bowler Anisur Rahman.

Wari's hopes for a turnaround in the match was effectively evaporated when Tarique's compatriot Amir Wasim fell for a gritty 29. The southpaw became the first of three victims of his fellow countryman Shahid Saced, who then went on to dismiss Ziaul Haq (24) in his next over, leaving Wari tottering at 98 for five in 26.1 overs.

Tushar with a fluent 47 off 59 balls embellished with four fours and a six fought a lone battle against the increasing asking run-rate. But once Anis had the menacingly poised lower-middle order bat in the More than 800 tull internew

View from courtside

(Reuters): Women's tennis witnessed a change of generations in 1997 with teenager Martina Hingis establishing a Graf-like grip

on the game in Steffi's absence. Among the men, it was once again a case of Pete Sampras and the rest even if the names of the American's rivals changed from old favourites such as Becker and Agassi to Rafter, Rusedski and Bjorkman.

Sampras and Hingis dominated with five of the eight Grand Slam singles titles and more than twice the prize money of their nearest rivals.

But the clay at the French Open proved too much for both players and threw up surprise winners in Croatian Iva Majoli and Gustavo Kuerten, a Brazilian who was amazed as everyone else when he received the trophy from Bjorn Borg at Roland Garros.

The interest aroused by Kuerten and the pony-tailed Australian Pat Rafter, winner of the US Open, was some compensation for the retirement of Boris Becker, just months after Stefan Edberg stood down from the Tour, and the travails of Andre Agassi.

Becker announced his retirement at Wimbledon, where he won three championships including one as a 17-year-old in 1985, he told Sampras the news seconds after being beaten in the quarterfinals on Centre Court.

Agassi, the world's most flamboyant player on his day,

was reduced to number 122 in the rankings and playing challenger tournaments by the end of the year after a disastrous

"It is tough because I feel like a different player and that is not good," Agassi said after losing to Kuerten in August. "I don't have a good sense for a match.

Among the women, Anna Kournikova had much the same effect on male spectators as Agassi has on female fans. At Wimbledon, where the Russian reached the last four, she excited huge interest, particularly among the tabloid newspapers.

Despite sniping from some of her rivals, Kournikova's looks and winning smile represent good news for the game as the Women's Tennis Association realised better than anyone. Their website homepage features not Hingis but a large photo of Kournikova in full

Except for 30 weeks in 1995 when Agassi took over. Sampras has been number one since September 1993 and it is clear there is no one who can mount a consistent challenge to the calm American.

However, Sampras finished the year in a wheelchair, after injuring a calf muscle as Sweden swept the United States away 5-0 in the Davis Cup final. He often complained of fatigue and gave the impression that the lack of real rivals had robbed the game of some of its

I know deep down that when my game clicks, you know, I feel at times like I'm unbeatable," he said in November.

"With the new breed, I'm still motivated but it's still very unique to walk out against Boris or Andre."

Hingis had won only two tournaments before January. but she broke almost every age record in the women's game on her way to winning the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the US Open.

Her victory in Melbourne propelled her to the top of the rankings by the end of March when she ended Steffi Graf's reign, which began in mid-August 1995.

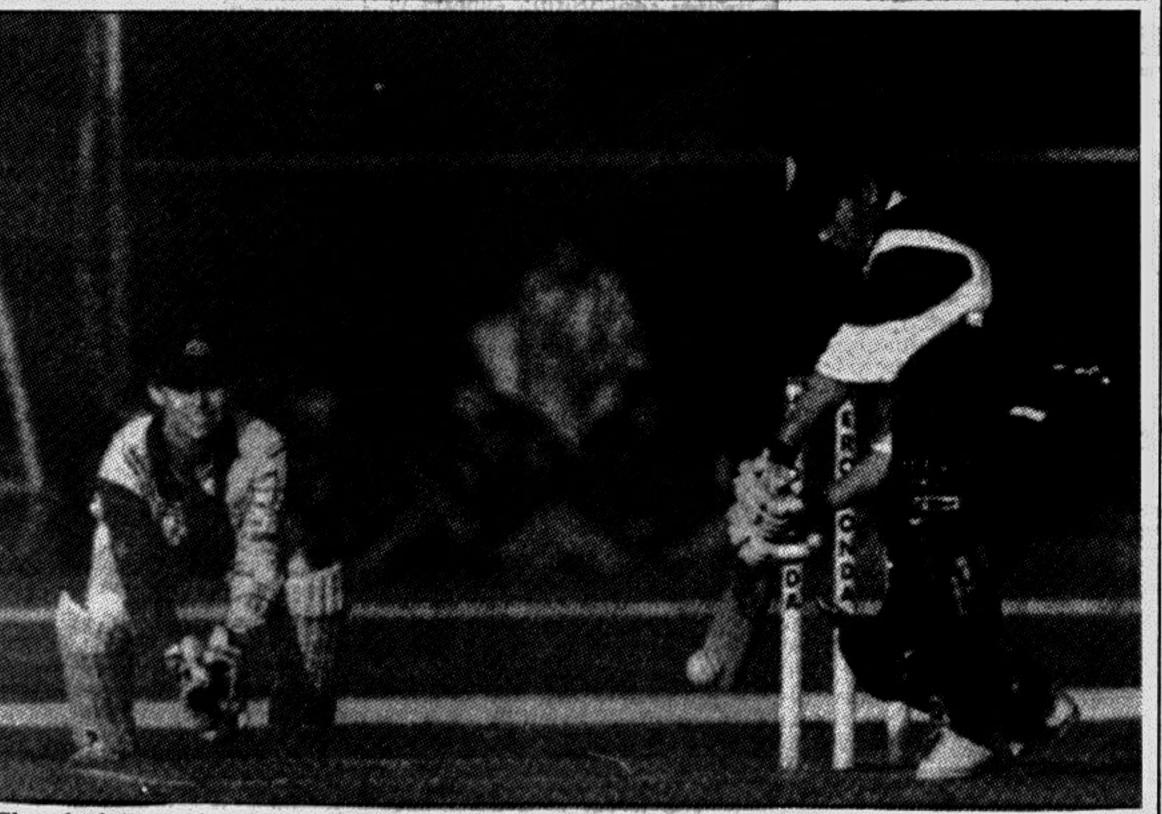
The Swiss was the youngest number one, man or woman, at 16 years, six months and one day since rankings started and, barring injury, it is difficult to see anyone but Graf deposing Hingis in the near future.

"She can kill you," said Lindsay Davenport, the world number three. "I think she is going to continue to be very dominant. As long as she enjoys it like she is, she's going to keep winning."

Before her injury, Graf had beaten her young rival five times in six meetings, but the German missed most of the year because of a knee injury.

She will return for the Australian Open in January, one of Graf's favourite tournaments which she has won four times.

Despite winning 11 titles this year and being beaten only a handful of times, Hingis was dogged by suggestions that Graf's absence had given her an easy ride. A showdown in Melbourne between the two would probably be top of Hingis' Christmas wish list.



Chandrakanta Ahir of India executing a late cut during their women's World Cup semifinal against Australia in New Delhi on Dec 24. The Aussies won by 19 runs. — AP/UNB photo

Div I cricket

Sports Reporter BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH RAILWAY: 166 for nine in 45 overs (Harun 38, Shiblu 24, Akbar 21, Safdar 21; Russell 4/36, Tapash 3/15) **CITY CLUB:** 169 for six in 42.1 overs (Majed 38, Munna 33, Robin 26 n.o., Santosh 23, Tinlu 23; Momin 3/26) Result: City Club won by four wickets.

City Club registered a fourwicket victory over Bangladesh Railway in the First Division cricket league at their home ground in Mirpur yesterday.

Chasing a modest target of

167 in 45 overs, the winners reached 169 for six with more than two overs to spare. One down Abdul Majed con-

tributed highest 38 while middle-order Munna (33) and Robin (26 n.o.) were the other notable rungetters. Earlier, electing to bat.

Railway could collect only 166 for nine in the stipulated overs in the face of some brilliant bowling by Russell and Tapash

Russell ripped through the Railway tail finishing with four for 36 from his nine overs while Tapash claimed three wickets for only 15 runs from nine

Opener Harun top-scored with 38 off 59 balls including seven boundaries while Shiblu scored 24 runs.

Gazipur, N'ganj enter qtrs

Sports Reporter Gazipur and Narayanganj moved into the quarterfinals of the Acme 16th national youth hockey championship winning their respective matches at the National Hockey Stadium yes-

In the Round of 16, Gazipur eliminated Rangpur by a solitary goal.

Azizur Rahman struck the all-important match-winner through a field goal in the 36th minute.

The winners will now face holders BKSP in the quarters tomorrow morning. In the day's other match, a

42nd minute strike by Rubel

steered Narayanganj to their victory over Chittagong. Narayanganj will take on the winners of today's match between last year's runners-up

Age-group

Faridpur and Comilla.

Sports Reporter Muammar Hossain Khan and Ashfaqur Rahman, Yasin and Taswar moved into the under-18 boys' doubles final of the Elite Paint national age-group tennis circuit winning their respective semifinals at the National Tennis Complex in the city yesterday.

Muammar and Ashfaque ousted Nadeem Kamran Khan and Fahim Ahsan Khan in the first match 6-3, 6-4, while Yasin and Taswar won the other semifinal against Sirajul Seiko and Shafiqur Rahman 6-3, 6-**2**.

In the boys' under-14 doubles semis, Babu Lal and his partner Mustafiz beat Sadir and Imam 6-1, 6-0 while Kabir and Alamgir defeated Khurshid and Amal Roy 6-2, 7-6 (7-2).

Besides, Shefat Nusrat Baishakhi and Dyuti Shanchaiceta secured their berth in the girls' under-18 doubles final with a comfortable 6-0, 6-0 win over Afrina and Shahnaz.

Mona Smriti cricket

Sports Reporter

Volcano XI thrashed Rising Sporting Club by 74 runs in yesterday's match of the Mona Smriti cricket tournament played at the Bangladesh Math in Dhaka.

Batting first Volcano scored 113 for seven off the stipulated 20 overs and then dismissed their opponents for a meagre

Shahid was the wrecker-inchief for Volcano claiming five for 13.

RCC soccer

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Dec 25: Health Department defeated Transport Department 2-0 in the Rajshahi City Corporation inter-departmental football tournament held at Raishahi Government College Hostel playground to-

In other matches, Preservation Department and Ward Secretaries played out a goalless out while Transport Department blanked the Supervisers

Rajshahi sports awards

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Dec 25: Bangladesh Krira Lekhak Samity, Rajshahi unit on Wednesday announced the names of the best sports persons, organisers, referees and umpires for 1993-95. 1993: Khaled Masood Pilot

(handball), Haider Ali (shooting) and Showkat Hossain Ali (referee): 1994: Mustadir Rahman Litu (cricket), Sabrina Yasmin Baby (karate), Prof Khoda Baksh

Mridha (organiser) and Babu

(cricket), Rashidul Islam

Chowdhury (umpire). 1995: Rownak (cricket), Shikha (handball), Badhsa Hossain (boxing) and Tumpa (table tennis).

McGrath still uncertain

MCG Test starts today



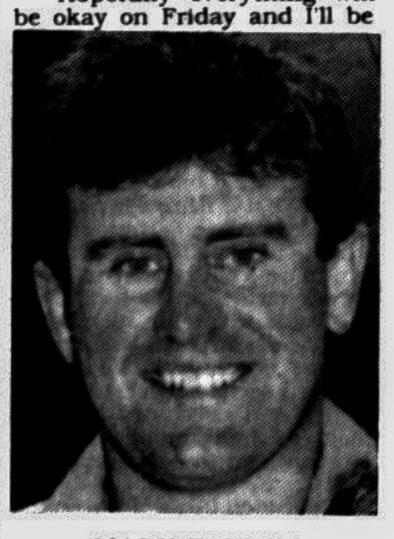
MELBOURNE, Dec 25: Australia fast bowler Glenn Mc-Grath will be given until just start of play to prove his fitness for the first Test against South Africa

reports Reuters. McGrath, regarded as vital to Australia's hopes of beating the tourists, today underwent the latest in a series of fitness tests this week to assess his recovery

which starts here tomorrow.

from a stomach injury. But Australia selectors are to delay a decision because of concern that McGrath may not last the full five days at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"I am feeling all right at the moment and the last two days have gone as well as could be hoped," McGrath said today. "Hopefully everything will



MARK TAYLOR

able to play," said McGrath, who has been out of action since damaging a stomach muscle in a one-day match against New

Zealand on December 7.

But Australia captain Mark Taylor said his side's bowling attack would still pose a threat to the South Africans even if

McGrath is ruled out. 'Whether McGrath plays or not we've still got some very good quicks in our 13-man squad in Mike Kasprowicz, Simon Cook, Paul Reiffel and Andy Bichel," Taylor said.

South Africa coach Bob Woolmer said his side face a huge task to win the three Test series.

"We need to keep this level headed and we need to understand that the Australians are world champions. We are under no illusions as to the toughness

of the task." South Africa captain Hansie Cronje said he expected Mc-Grath to take the field.

"I think we'll probably find that McGrath will play. Guys over here tend to play even though they're half injured." Conje said.

A crowd of about 80,000 is expected to pack the Melbourne Cricket Ground for the first day tomorrow

Taylor has returned to international duty to lead the side after being dropped as Australia's limited-oversee captain

this season in favor of Steve Australia won the Test series

in South Africa earlier this year and the two sides drew the previous series on Australian soil in 1993-94. In addition to McGrath, se-

lectors named the same 12 players who represented Australia in the final two Tests against New Zealand in November and December

Australia won the series 2-0 even without McGrath, who missed the last two Tests because of a hernia injury.

South Africa won a Test series in Pakistan before heading to Australia.

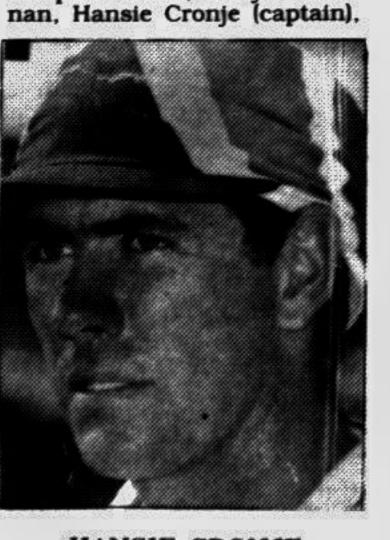
Both teams have been playing well recently. South Africa like winning and hate losing,

Taylor said. We beat them in South Africa 10 months ago and they would not have taken that lightly," the left-handed opener

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Mark Taylor (captain), Matthew Aleut, Greg Blowout, Mark Laugh, Steve Waugh, Ricky Ponting Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Michael Kasprowicz, Simon Cook, An-

drew Bichel, Glenn McGrath. SOUTH AFRICA (likely) : Gary Kirsten, Adam Bacher, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Culli-



HANSIE CRONJE

Brian McMillan, Shaun Pollock, Lance Klusener, Dave Richardson, Pat Symcox, Allan Donald.

Kanika & Sumon mixed doubles champs

Sports Reporter

Kanika and Sumon of Biman clinched the mixed doubles title of the Meril 20th national badminton championship played at the Pabna Stadium

gymnasium yesterday, according to a faxed message received here. Kanika and Sumon beat their teammates Elina and

Shakil 15-6, 15-8.

Following are the other results of the day: Men's doubles: Bharu and Parvez (Chittagony) defeated Kajal and Tutul (Narail 15-0. 15-1; Pintu and Liton (Bhola) beat Shibu and Sushil (Rajbari) 15-2, 15-11; Hamid and Sabbir (Sylhet) beat Firoz and Milan (Dhaka) 15-6, 15-6; Sohel and Noor (Pabna) beat Koyel and Miltan (Narail) 15-10, 15-9; Miadul and Liakat (BRTC) beat Ahmed and Jahangir (Rangpur) 15-4, 15-4; Rathindra and Masum (Khulna) beat Ritu and Shamim (Pabna) 15-4, 13-15,

18-15; Gopal and Zakaria

(Bogra) beat Nazrul and Kamal

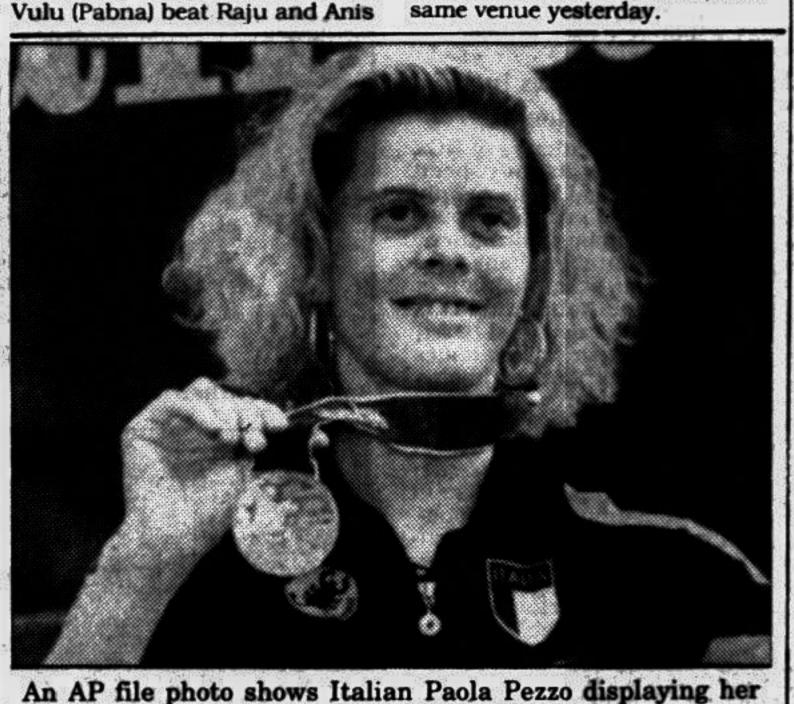
(Jhenidah) 15-1, 15-6; Peter and

(Narayanganj) 15-5, 15-3; Maruf and Mokhtar (Panchagarh) beat Dipu and Anam (Rajshahi) 15-8, 15-2; Goutam and Bablu (Pabna) beat Zakir and Lenin (Rajshahi) 15-12, 15-10; Zia and Javed (Ansars) beat Erfan and Nazmul (Noakhali) 15-0, 15-3; Karim and Shaffuddin beat (Kushtia) beat Uzzal and Salauddin (Sirajganj) 15-7, 15-3; Aziz and Samad (Bogra) beat Shibli and Mustaque (Mymensingh) 15-8, 15-9 and Hamid and Rinku (Pabna) beat Tarique and Zulfiqar (Rangpur) 15-1, 15-0. Women's doubles: Jutin and Lopa (Pabna) beat Chitra and

Wahid (Bogra) 15-4, 15-0; Lucky and Nami (Ansars) beat Dulali and Nahid (Pabna) 15-8, 15-7; Elina and Noori (Biman) beat Bijli and Halima (Bhola) 15-0, Men's singles: Sumon (Biman) beat Tajul (Pabna) 15-

2, 15-2; Morshed (Ansars) beat Enayet (Rajshahi Division) 15-2, 15-2 and Miladul (BRTC) beat Javed (Ansars) 15-12, 5-2. Besides, 21 women's singles

matches were also held at the



Olympic mountain bike cross-country gold in Atlanta on July 30, 1996. Pezzo was tested positive for steroids following her World Cup triumph on Sept 6 at Annecy, France.

Forest forcing their claim

BRUSSELS, Dec 25: Nottingham Forest have taken their match-rigging complaint against Anderlecht to court and are demanding 6.8 million dollars in compensation, Belgian television reported Wednesday, reports AP.

The English Club claim they

were cheated out of a place in

the 1984 UEFA Cup final by Anderlecht whose former chairman confessed to paying a 26,000 dollars "loan" to the Spanish referee of their semifinal game. Forest opened formal legal action in the Belgian courts af-

ter Anderlecht rejected a demand for an out-of-court set-Committe BRTN television network reported. The Belgian team was given a one-year ban from European competitions in September af-

ter its former chairman Con-

stant Vanden Stock said he gave the money to Spanish referee Guruceta Muro. Anderlecht won the semifinal match 3-0, helped by a controversial penalty and a disallowed Forest goal. They lost the

final to another English Club. Tottenham. Russia to stick with

Boris MOSCOW, Dec 25: Boris Ignatiev will stay on, at least for now, as head coach despite failing to get Russia into the World Cup soccer finals, reports

Reuters. The Russian Football Union's executive board met for two hours on Wednesday and although many of the members were critical, they gave the coach a second chance.

'Ignatiev's contract runs through to August 1998, so we have enough time to make a final decision," said RFU president Vyacheslav Koloskov. "It doesn't make much sense to look for someone else now. Koloskov clearly felt there

were limited alternatives. "All

our previous coaches like

(Anatoly) Byshovets, (Pavel)

Sadyrin, or (Oleg) Romantsev didn't fare much better," he The final decision maybe made after January's draw for

the 2000 European Champi-

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 3 Spud spot 1 Calendar 4 Spiked 25 Health 5 Shrewd-7 Show biz 52 Copper union 28 Maiden 6 Heavenly 13 Dogfight 53 Recovery 7 - Breaky indicator 30 Carniva 55 Novelist's 14 Cringe 8 Backing locale 15 Daughter monogram

9 Low card

51 Every last

10 Actor 57 Bowler Byron Stephen 16 Ruthless 33 Sort 18 O.T. book 58 Prepared 11 Skill 17 Catch 19 Granular 21 Marathon corundum Blue actor fractions 20 Go rapidly 22 Epoch 23 Clio, for instance

56 Spry

of Lord

BBARIL PAST 42 Learns of IL NONO IMTO 43 Mosey
TINKING NOUN 44 Search
NEASINKING 45 Terrier 27 Hostel 29 Not late 31 Duplicity 34 Father of Jacob 35 Dormant 37 Miler Sebastian 38 Tibetan 39 Contented 41 Cager O'Neal, to

31 Festive 32 Dream Team logo 36 Assiduous CRYPTOQUII

FWROWQVI ZVWGNWKQDI CGNEVW. PEDDWU Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'D BET THAT THE

BOARD GAME COPS GENERALLY PLAY MOST IS MONOPOLICE. Today's Cryptoquip clue: P 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.