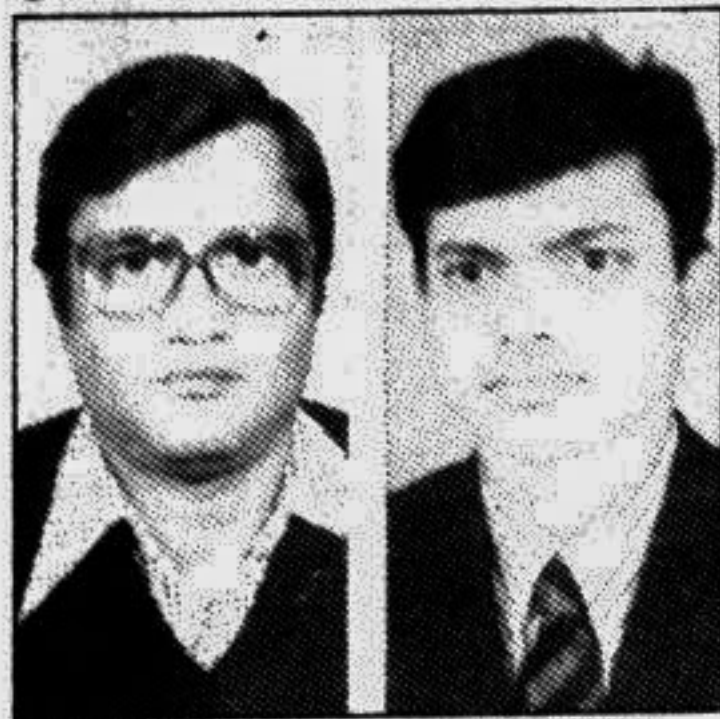


Zahed Ali Chowdhury heads Mohammedan cricket committee

Sports Reporter
Mohammedan Sporting Club yesterday formed a powerful 29-member cricket committee for the upcoming 1998-99 season, says a press release.



ZAHED

Members are ASM Faruque, Shaiful Kabir, Mahmudul Hasan Sajju, Wahidul Ghani, Wasim Khan, Kawsar Zaman Bappi, Mizanur Rahman, Harssa Keldera, GM Nowsher Prince, M Hanif Bhuyan, Illias Siddique, Sayeed Muzibul H. Mohammad, Hasan, Farhad Zaman, Shaheen, Azhar Hossain Santu, Shakil Rizvi, Rafiqul Islam, Ahmed Imon Iqbal, Ali Hossain, Fakhrul Alam, Khaled Imam, Amin Rasul Sagar, Nasir Ahmed Nasu and M Anwarul Islam.

Besides, Mohammedan Sporting Club has also named a three-member technical committee for cricket with former national cricketer Tanveer Haider in the chair. The other two members of the technical committee are former national skipper ASM Roquibul Hassan and former national speedster Dowlatzuzman.

Notably absent from the MSC cricket committee are Aminul Huq Moni, former BCCB general secretary and Khaled Hasan, former Joint Secretary of the board.

Zia Active chess champ

International Master Ziaur Rahman of Biman emerged unbeaten champion in the Bengal Airlift Holiday Active chess competition held at the federation office yesterday, reports UNB.

Ziaur secured 6.5 points, from seven matches. He drew with Ahmedul Haq in the first round, but earned full points from the remaining six matches.

Another International Master, Reefat Bin Sattar, also of Biman, became runner-up with six points.

JU cricket

JU Correspondent
Department of Economics handed Department of Pharmacy a 23-run defeat in the inter-department cricket tournament of Jahangirnagar University yesterday.

Batting first, the winners managed 110-run for six in 30 over-a-side match with Imaral contributing an unbeaten 29. Surja contributed 11. Oil and Sujon evenly shared four wickets for Pharmacy. Chasing the target of 111 runs, Pharmacy lost their all wickets for only 87 in 27.5 overs with a highest of Ekram's 13. Kutu claimed three wickets for 16 while Mim and Raju took two wickets each for Economics.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

MAKE THE ASSUMPTIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO LAND THE CONTRACT (Hand # 134)

Table with 4 columns: North, West, East, South (D). Contains card counts for various suits.

Bidding: East-West were vulnerable

Table with 4 columns: South, West, North, East. Contains bidding results for different contracts.

Artificial opening
Artificial, showing 10-12 HCP.

South made an artificial opening indicating the absence of a 5-card major. North showed 10-12 HCP under the bidding system followed by the partnership. South did not like to pass 1 No Trump, nor could he bid 4-card minor as their bidding system would show 5 cards. Hoping that partner might bid a good suit South temporised with a 2 Club bid. North found it suitable for No Trump and hence bid the game contract.

THE PLAY

East opened 2 of Hearts against 3 No Trumps contract. The 8 was played from the dummy, West played the Queen and the declarer ducked the trick. On winning the Heart return in the dummy, the declarer reassessed the situation. He had 7 tricks on top but needed to develop two more tricks to fulfill the contract. As there would not be enough time to set up the Clubs, the required two tricks must come from the Spade suit. He therefore made the necessary assumption that West must have at least one honour and the 9 for the contract to succeed. Accordingly, he led the Jack of Spades from the dummy, West covered with the Queen and the declarer won with the Ace. Next he entered dummy in Diamond and played a small Spade, and when West played low, the 8 was played from the closed hand losing to the King in the East hand. East cashed the King of Clubs but when West did not encourage, he returned the Jack of Hearts which was won with the Ace in the closed hand and as the Spades were well distributed, 3 No Trumps were made. The declarer made 3 Spade, 2 Heart and 4 diamond tricks.

Asian basketball Bangladesh has all the room to improve

Masood Akhtar

Holder China once again proved that they were the best basketball playing nation in Asia by defeating the mighty Qatar in a low-scoring match in the final of 15th ABC championship played at the Netaji indoor stadium last week. The game started with a slight edge to the Chinese shooters. Accurate passing around the court had given them the 1st lead. But the Qataris also repulsed the Chinese attack with counter-attacks and rebound on both the rings with their four (eight footer) cagers.

The Chinese attack was spearheaded by Liu Wei who scored 25 points followed by Li Dong Zhang and Wang Van with eight each.

On the other hand for Qatar, B Ahkowiari, Ali Saleh and Mansoud scored eight points each. Despite the height advantage, the Qataris could not penetrate the Chinese 'great wall'.

China and Qatar became champion and runner up at the 14 ABC held at Malaysia in 1997. Final score 62-44 in favour of China.

The closing ceremony was attended by many dignitaries including the ABC president Carl Ching.

A South Asian Basketball Journalists Association was formed with Rajib as the president and this correspondent as the secretary.

Eight prizes were awarded by different organisations to popularise basketball in Asia. (1) Molten top scorer award: Fumid (Japan), (2) Tiger Beer best playmaker: Yuta Tabuse (Japan), (3) Anway most valuable coach: M A Lianbo (China), (4) Anway most valuable player: Yao Ming (China), (5) 4th place award: Chinese Taipei, (6) 3rd place award: Japan (7) 2nd place award: Qatar (8) Winner trophy: China.

Final standings: (1) China (2) Qatar (3) Japan (4) Taipei (5) Iran (6) Kazakhstan (7) Philippines (8) Malaysia (9) Korea (10) Hong Kong (11) India (12) Kuwait (13) Lebanon (14) Pakistan (15) Bangladesh.

After the game this reporter met Yeo Cho Hook secretary-general ABC and asked him about his programme for the development of the game in Asia. He assured this reporter of setting up a basketball academy under the supervision of ex-NBA players so that our coaches could be trained without having to go to Europe. He suggested for more tournament and sponsors for rapid development of the sport in Bangladesh. Exchanges of tours among neighbouring countries should be developed.

Thomas MacCarthy, senior executive ABC promotion, pledged all possible help in future for coaching at grassroots level. It may be mentioned that he held a coaching camp at Dhaka for the coaches in December 1998 in collaboration with the IOC. Without coaches development is not possible at all in Bangladesh. He also suggested for holding more tournaments with proper administration.

The Media should be encouraged by the government because they are an important partner in any success, as noticed in the past, commented the ex-NBA star.



Players of the Social Welfare Institute, who emerged champions in the Dhaka University inter-department football tournament beating Islamic History 7-6 in tie-breaker yesterday, receive the trophy from Pro-Vice Chancellor prof Shahid Uddin Ahmed (2nd from left) after the final at the university football ground.

Lazio chief demands improvement

ROME, Nov 21 (Reuters/Internet) : Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti, furious with his side after successive defeats by bottom sides Salernitana and Venezia, has demanded a positive reaction from his team when they face AC Milan at the San Siro on Sunday night.

Cragnotti was the biggest spender in Italian soccer this summer, splashing out in excess of 100 million dollars on a side which has so far picked up only 13 points from nine league games.

Cragnotti, who is also club president, summoned his players for a Friday night meeting at which, according to his assistants, he was set to vent his frustration at recent poor results.

In particular, Cragnotti is said to be worried at the destabilising effect recent defeats have had on Lazio share price quotations on the stock market. Last May Lazio became the first Italian club to be floated on the bourse.

Experienced Lazio striker Roberto Mancini, however, had some reassuring words for Cragnotti this week, saying: "It's true that it's unacceptable to lose to Venezia but you have to remember that, for all that, we're only five points behind the leaders while we've also qualified for the quarterfinals of both the Cup Winners' Cup and the Italian Cup."

The place in the last eight of the Italian Cup was earned at the expense of AC Milan - a 3-1 win in Rome and a 1-1 draw in Milan - meaning Sunday's clash will be their third in the space of a month.

Milan, too, come into the game under a cloud following unconvincing recent draws against Bari, Inter Milan and Piacenza.

New Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni has yet to revamp the side along the lines which saw him guide Udinese to third and fifth place finishes in the last two Serie A seasons.

Milan's German striker Oliver Bierhoff hopes that this game will prove third time lucky for his side and mark a turning point in the Milan season.

"Lazio are not an easy side to play against, they are very ambitious and have lots of class players," said Bierhoff.

Milan will be without suspended Croat midfielder Zvonimir Boban while German midfielder Christian Ziege is out injured.

Massimo Ambrosini steps in for Boban while either Argentine Andres Guglielminetto or Brazilian Leonardo will replace Ziege.

Bierhoff will be partnered by Liberian George Weah and Maurizio Ganz in attack while 24-year-old defender Luigi Sala makes his San Siro debut for Milan at right-back.

Lazio continue to have injury problems with Croat striker Alen Boksic, striker Christian Vieri and defender Alessandro Nesta all ruled out.

Furthermore, Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved is a doubtful starter and will play only with the help of a pain-killing injection while both midfielder Roberto Baroni and Portuguese defender Fernando Couto are suspended.

Mancini will be partnered by Chilean ace Marcelo Salas in attack while Argentine Matias Almeyda, Yugoslav Dejan Stankovic, Giorgio Venturini and Portugal's Sergio Conceicao form an impressive midfield.

Milan are currently three points behind leaders Fiorentina, who play host to sixth-placed Inter Milan in an enticing clash on Sunday.

Second-placed AS Roma, a point behind the Florence side, look to build on last week's impressive win over Juventus when they host Bari on Saturday.

Sheikhupura ODI today

SHEIKHUPURA, Pakistan. Nov 21: Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell today vowed a spirited fight to level the series after losing the first one-day match against Pakistan, reports AFP.

The two meet in the second match here Sunday. Pakistan won the opening one-dayer at Gujranwala by four wickets on Friday.

"We spoiled the good initial work and had we scored 270 plus we would have won but this time we will double our efforts," Campbell said.

He is suffering from stomach upset but hopes to fit before the match.

Pakistan were relieved after their first one-day win in the current home season. They lost all three limited-over games against Australia earlier this month and the only match of the Willis International Cup against West Indies in October in Dhaka.

"I always look for consistency in a team's performance and for that I am here. The boys need time and once they are set the team will perform consistently," Pakistan coach Javed Miandad said.

The third and final one-day match will be played in Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Pakistan and Zimbabwe will also play a three-match Test series. The first Test begins in Peshawar on November 27. Two more follow in Lahore and Faisalabad.

'Rome was not built in a day'

BONN, Nov 21: German World Cup legend Franz Beckenbauer said Friday he believed it would be many years before his country could return to the summit of world football, reports AFP.

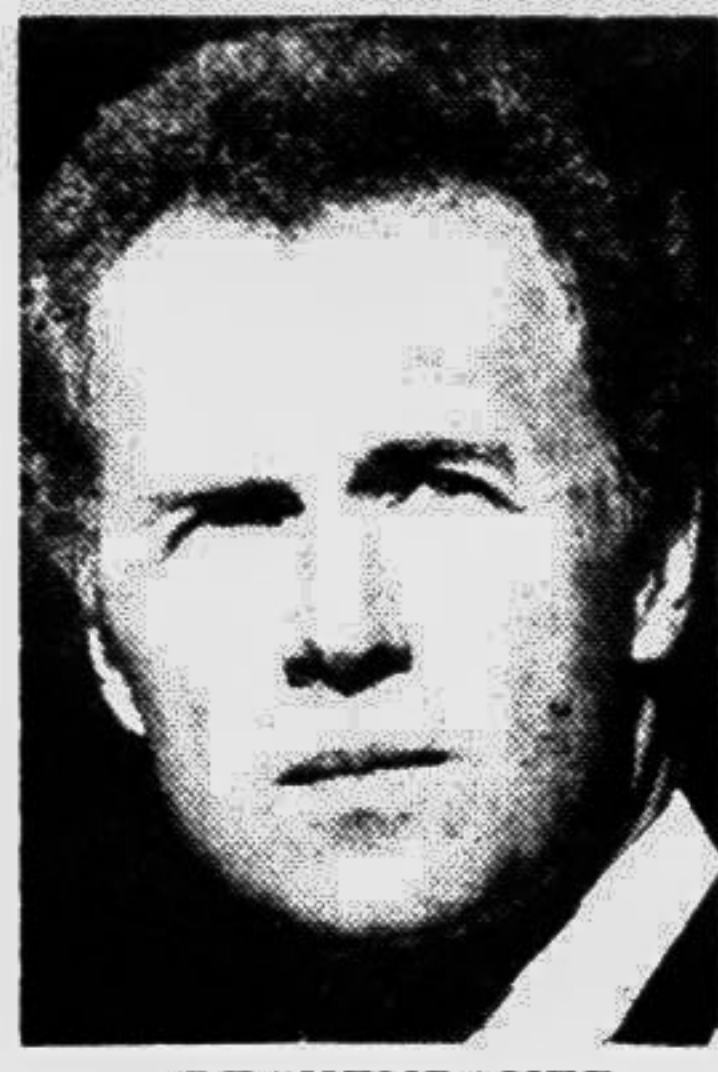
Beckenbauer, who led the world champions of 1974 and then lifted the World Cup again as coach in 1990, told the daily Bild that Germany had to accept the fact that for the time being they were a long way from more glory.

"Getting back to the top won't happen overnight. It will be a process which will take years," forecast Beckenbauer, now president of Bundesliga title favourites Bayern Munich.

Bild showed the impatience of the fans by castigating the team of new coach Erich Ribbeck following Wednesday's 1-1 draw at home to Holland in a friendly, blasting that German football had fallen to Second Division level.

And Beckenbauer pleaded with the coaches of league clubs to take on the responsibility of helping lift the German game given that "the national side is a reflection of the Bundesliga."

He said the result against the Dutch, whom he called the world's best team, showed just



BECKENBAUER

how much of an improvement was required.

"We will still win some matches because fortunately we won't always be playing the Dutch. But we have to work hard to close the technical and tactical gap," he insisted.

This year had proved a traumatic one for the Germans, who have lived on a diet of success since winning the first of three World Cups in 1954.

After a poor World Cup brought elimination by Croatia in the quarterfinals, Beckenbauer's successor Berti Vogts resigned in September after eight years in the job.

And on Wednesday's evidence, Ribbeck faces a long struggle to bring the squad up to standard if the defending European champions are to make an impression at Euro 2000.



A French First Division match involving Lens and Bastia at the weekend. —AFP photo

Steve denies Real's claims

HANOVER, Germany. Nov 21 (Reuters/Internet) : With no Boris Becker to cheer this year, it is likely the fans at this week's ATP Tour world championship will make Andre Agassi their favourite.

German hero Becker, who won the season-ending event for the world's top eight players in 1992 and 1995, is now semi-retired and has dropped out of the top 20.

But Agassi, who was nowhere to be seen this time last year, is back in Hanover and can count on the crowd's support.

After an awful 1997 season which saw him slump to 141st in the rankings, the American is back in the top five for the first time in more than two years.

Once the infant terror of the tennis world, Agassi, now 28, has re-discovered his appetite for the game and recaptured his best form.

"It was a straight decision to work hard and take every opportunity," he said of his amazing comeback in an interview released on the ATP Tour's website. "The difficult part is staying with it."

Currently fourth on the ATP Tour list, he could jump a couple of places with a good performance in the northern German city.

"I am not interested in the number one ranking right now as much as proving that I can be there," said the former world number one, who was 122nd during the week of Hanover last year. "I want to win big tournaments, that is the most important thing for me."

While Pete Sampras was cruising to victory here a year ago, Agassi was sweating on the unglamorous Challenger circuit in the United States.

"I remember playing in Las Vegas and Burbank," he said. "They were great weeks, they really were. During a difficult time for me, I got a lot of support."

The year-end tournament brings back sweet memories to Agassi, who was a young star when he won it in 1990, beating Stefan Edberg in the final. The event, formerly known

PSG earn full points

PARIS, Nov 21: Brazilian winger Adailton inspired Paris St Germain to their second victory in six days 2-1 at home to Rennes in the French First Division on Friday, reports Reuters.

PSG, who had a disastrous start to the season and replaced coach Alain Giresse with former boss Artur Jorge, continued their climb to sixth, 14 points behind leaders, Olympique Marseille.

Marseille, at home to big rivals PSG in their next league match on November 29, lost their unbeaten record when they were beaten 2-1 at Olympique Lyon on Thursday.

Revalut dived at the base of the goal from close range header by Yanovski and a shot by substitute Jerome Leroy — on for injured Nigerian Augustine Okocha in the 37th — from a superb pass by Adailton.

Rennes equalised in the 64th minute, seconds after yet another superb save by Revalut from Adailton.

A mistake at the back let in Burundi international Shabani Nonda for his seventh goal of the season with a shot that beat goalkeeper Bernard Lama.

But PSG recovered their lead within three minutes. Revalut failed to hold Adailton's low in-swinging corner at the near post and Leroy stabbed home the loose ball.

Rennes, coached by former PSG defender Paul Le Guen, could have equalised again in the final minutes but captain Stephane Gregoire hit the bar and Nonda brought Lama to a

Rakib loses in fourth round

Abdullah-Al-Rakib lost his board in the fourth round match of the 37th junior world Chess Championship held yesterday at Calicut in the Indian state of Kerala, reports UNB.

Rakib, national junior champion of Bangladesh, lost to FIDE Master Jenny Florian of Switzerland in the 53rd move.

In the third round matches held on Friday, Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib won their respective boards.

Rakib beat GM NE Alexander of France while Rajib defeated Gillfort of India.

At the end of the fourth round, International Master Sadvakasab Damer of Kazakhstan and IM Hirtos Banikas of Greece jointly leading the points table with four points each.

Div I chess from Dec 5

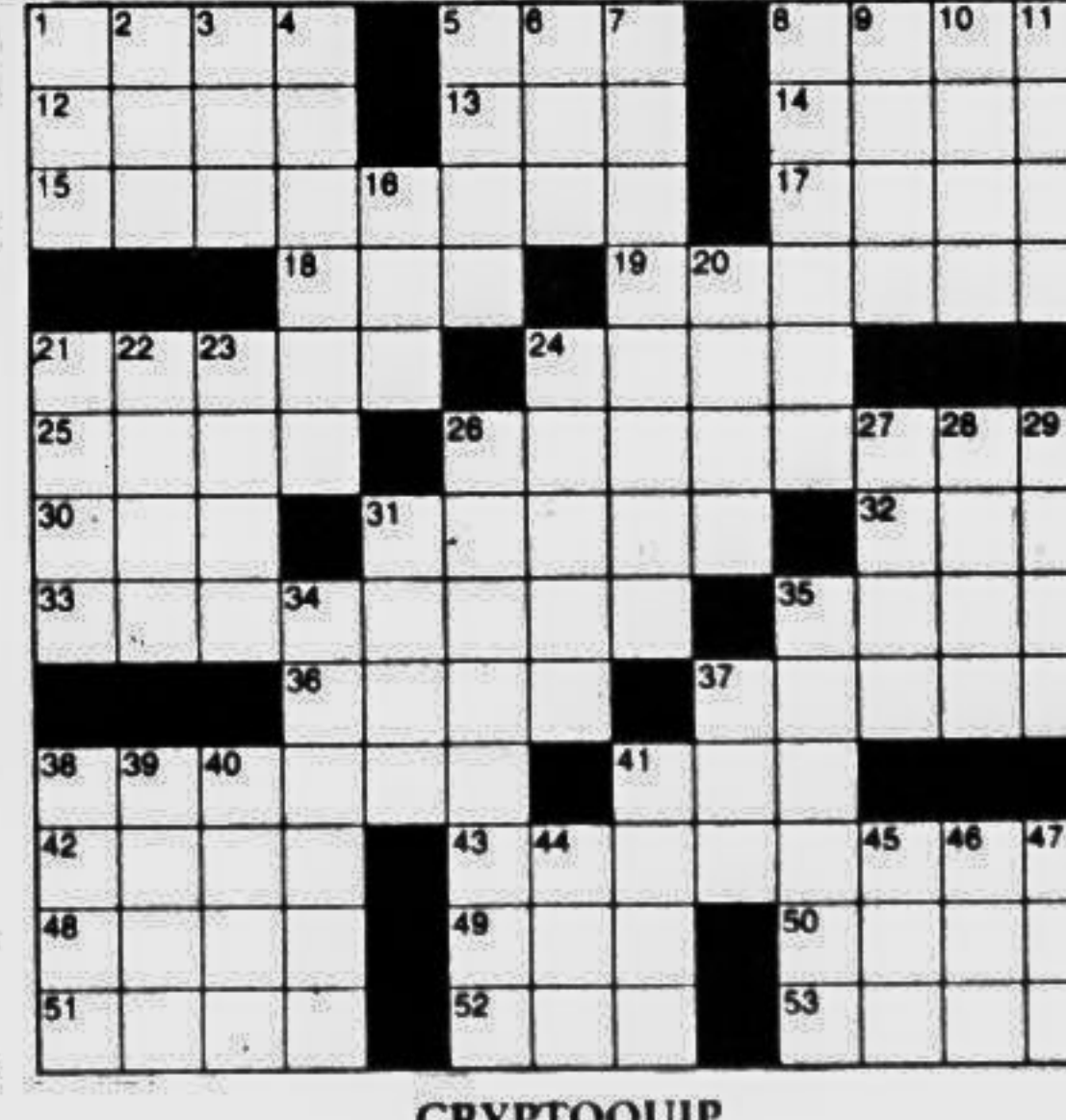
The First Division chess league will begin from December 5 at the Bangladesh Chess Federation, reports UNB.

14 teams will participate in the round robin league tournament.

All the teams have been requested to register the names of their players at the federation office by December 4.

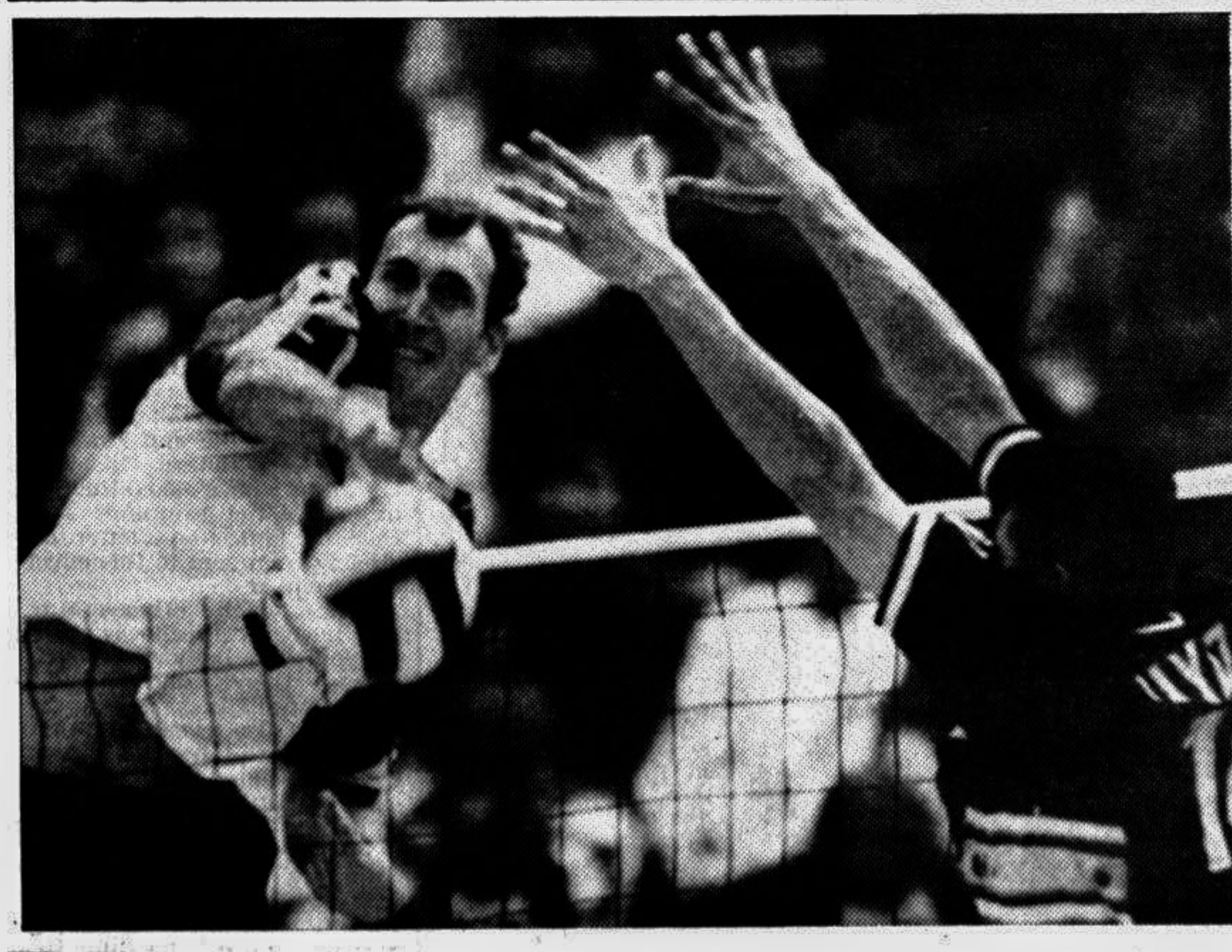
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Tranquil, 41 Poke, 20 Cod's cousin, 5 Tucker's partner, 43 Crow's nest, 8 Lip, 12 La Scala hit, 13 Literary collection, 14 Exemplar of craziness, 15 Strikes Hangout for Kermit?, 18 Shade provider, 19 North Sea feeder, 21 Connection, 24 Prejudice, 25 Jalopy, 26 Barbarees, 30 Stick figure?, 31 Fling up, 32 Dynamic principle of life, 33 Exercise sessions, 35 One of the three B's, 36 2.54 centimeters, 37 Rodeo outcry, 38 'Jeopardy!'



- 20 Cod's cousin, 21 Third place, 22 Elie's son, 23 Teri of 'Tootsie', 24 1865 villain, 26 Laughs a bit, 27 Beehive State, 28 Filled tortilla, 29 Section of London, 31 Corn recipe, 34 Put the (on), 35 Monkey, 37 Run up the phone bill, 38 Just one of those things, 39 Four-star review, 40 by Leaguers, 41 Minor prophet, 44 Eggs, 45 E.T.'s carriage, 46 Scale members, 47 Pippin

CRYPTOQUIP
U U A G R U J O P N G P
G I X W K H P O K T P N O I O X P
X O G X W J P W I H T G
P L G A C W K U J O U X X C L U J R
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IT'S REALLY GHASTLY HOW INSENSITIVE WATERFOWL HAVE NEVER FELT ANY EGRETS.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: C 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.



Action from the men's World Volleyball Championship encounter between Brazil and Japan in Hiroshima yesterday. The Brazilians won 15-11, 15-9, 15-13. —AP/UNB photo