

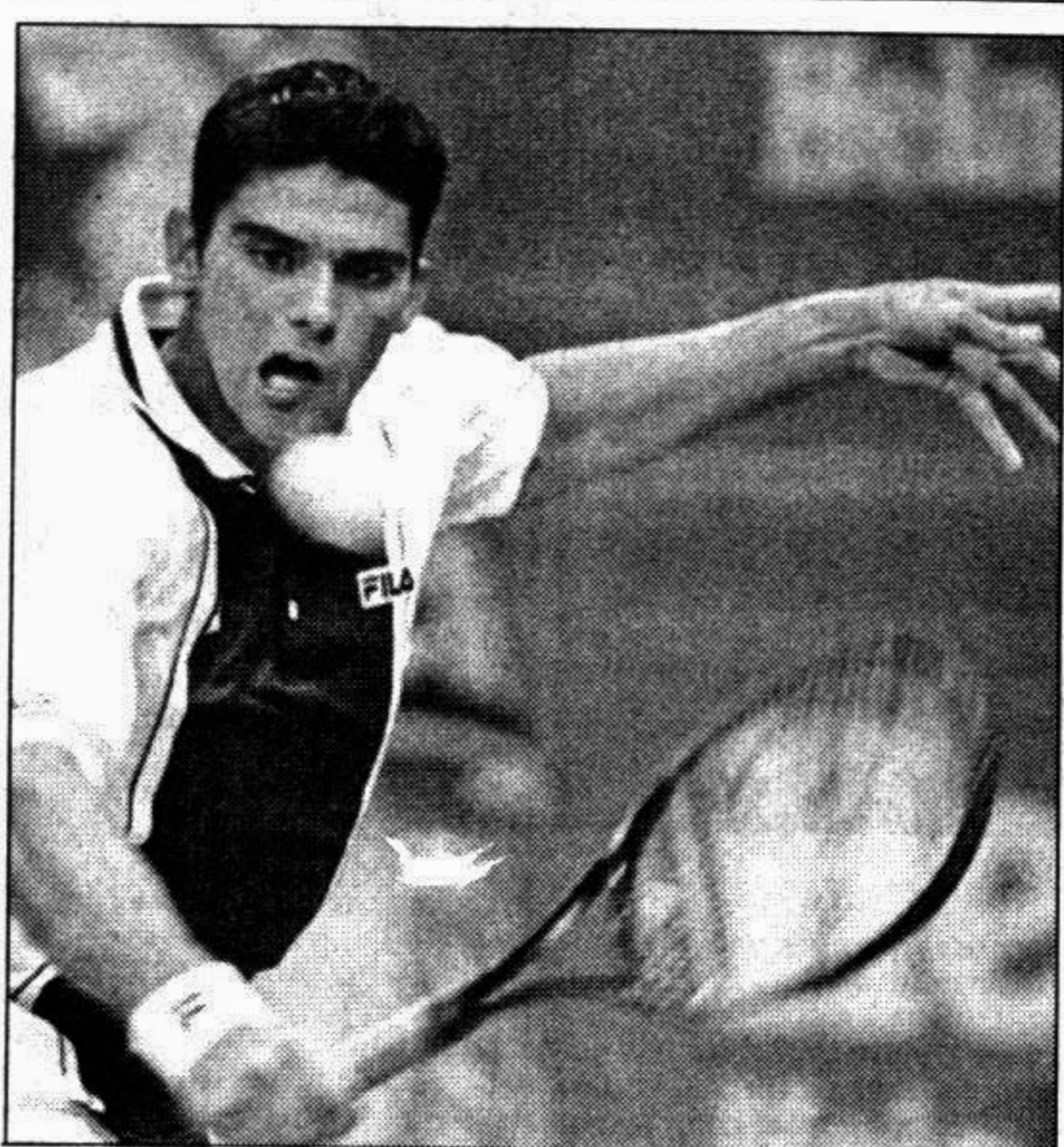
Icelanders for Wimbledon

LONDON, Oct 12: English Premiership side Wimbledon on Monday completed the signing of Icelandic international defender Hermann Hreiðarsson from English Second Division outfit Brentford in a 2.5 million pounds deal (4 million dollars), reports AFP.

Schnyder rallies past Frazier

ZURICH, Oct 12: Patty Schnyder started to win back Swiss tennis fans and sponsors Monday, battling back from a set down to beat American Amy Frazier 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in the first round of Zurich Indoor championships, reports Reuters.

one win for Schnyder, who split with Hanecker in May, to improve on her current ranking of 24 and restore confidence in sponsors, who deserted her when her off-court problems resulted in a failure to show up for a Fed Cup match last April.

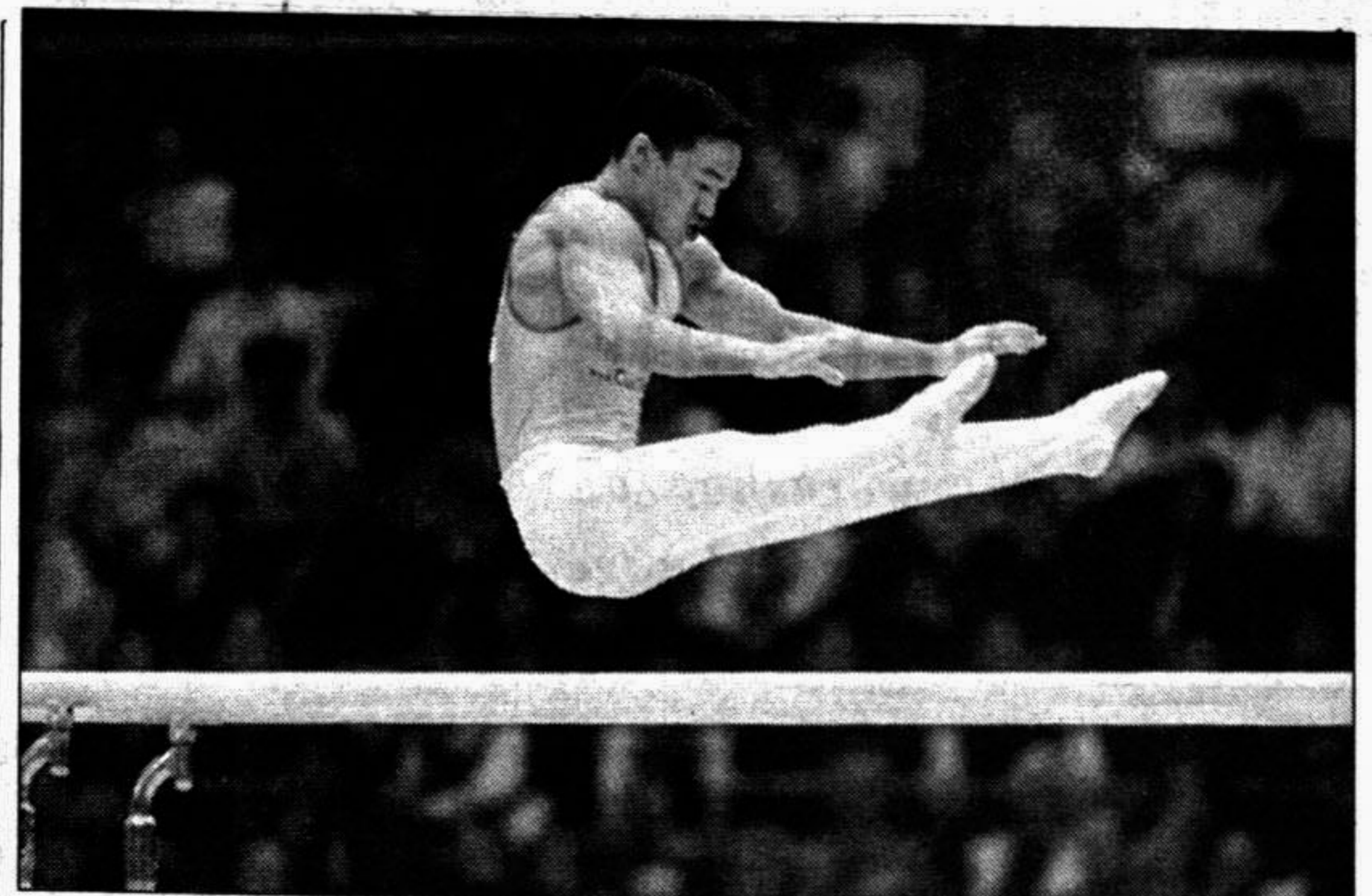


Australian Mark Philippoussis makes a backhand return against Bob Bryan at the Singapore Open yesterday. Philippoussis won 6-4, 6-4.

Rusedski recovers

VIENNA, Oct 12: Fifth seed Greg Rusedski overcame back problems to beat Sweden's Thomas Johansson 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 and advance to the second round of the 800,000 dollars Vienna trophy Monday, reports Reuters.

The Canadian-born Briton, who had to be treated on court during the third set, said the injury was 'just one of those freak sort of things which will pass.'



Chinese Yang Wei performs on the parallel bars at the World Artistic Gymnastics yesterday. — AFP photo

Romania retain title

TIANJIN, China, Oct 12: Romania narrowly defended its world women's gymnastics crown Tuesday as Russia's Svetlana Khorkina fell off the balance beam after performing two of the highest-scoring exercises of the day, reports AP.

and came out ninth among individuals with 38.155. Khorkina was 11th with 37.956. 'We were lucky today,' said Romanian coach Octavian Bellu.

China had two of the top five individuals — Ling Jie, third with 38.418 including a 9.787 on the uneven bars, and Liu Xuan, fifth with 38.275, including a 9.775 on the bars.

Yeboah says he is free

COLOGNE, Germany, Oct 12: Hamburg's Ghanaian striker Tony Yeboah has claimed he has been cleared by judicial authorities of an alleged tax evasion scam during his spell with German Bundesliga outfit Eintracht Frankfurt, reports AFP.

Pak judge gets it done

KARACHI, Oct 12: Pakistan judicial commission probing match fixing and bribery allegations against star Pakistani players finalised its much-awaited report Tuesday, officials said.

does contain evidence against some players and strong recommendations as well,' he told the newspaper.

cricketers 'gamblers and traitors.'

German newspaper reports at the weekend claimed that Yeboah, Frankfurt's former vice-President Bernd Holzenbein and another official at the club were under investigation for involvement in an illegal tax minimisation scheme, which cost the state more than 1 million Marks (\$543,000 dollars).

The commission headed by Lahore High Court (LHC) judge, Malik Mohammad Qayyum, has prepared an 80-page report which would be submitted to President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar within a couple of days, court registrar Abdus Salam Khawar told AFP.

Source said the judge strongly recommended the findings be made public.

Former Pakistan captain Salim Malik offered them a bribe to play poorly.

Job Tilman, however, a spokesman for Frankfurt's public prosecutor, says that is not the case.

The inquiry was initiated in September last year by the PCB following its interim report implicating skipper Waqar Akram and batsmen Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik in match fixing.

The same interim report also described Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Sohalain Mushtaq, Inzamam Haq and Moïn Khan as 'beneficiaries.'

Former Pakistan captain Salim Malik offered them a bribe to play poorly.

There is evidence of a punishable offence, regardless of whether Yeboah has paid off the money or not.

'Now the president has to decide about the future because he is to make the final decision. Our job is over,' Khawar said.

The suspension came amid uproar by angry cricket fans and hostile local press who called Wasim and other star

ATP Tour rankings

PARIS, Oct 12: Latest ATP Tour standings unveiled on Monday, reports AFP.

- Player Points
1. Andre Agassi 4339
2. Yevgeny Kafelnikov 3839
3. Pete Sampras 3544
4. Todd Martin 2969
5. Gustavo Kuerten 2497
6. Marcelo Rios 2357
7. Greg Rusedski 2278
8. Richard Krajicek 2243
9. Tim Henman 2172
10. Alex Corretja 2137
11. Nicolas Pietrangeli 2091
12. Tommy Haas 2069
13. Patrick Rafter 1939
14. Nicolas Pietrangeli 1866
15. Karol Kucera 1819
16. Cedric Pioline 1794
17. Thomas Enqvist 1774
18. Carlos Moya 1765
19. Magnus Norman 1638
20. Felix Mantilla 1536
21. Vincent Spadea 1502
22. Mark Philippoussis 1494
23. Dominik Hrbaty 1480
24. Albert Costa 1482
25. Fernando Meligeni 1316
26. Thomas Johansson 1313
27. Mariano Zabaleta 1250
28. Younes El Aynaoui 1237
29. Jerome Golmard 1233
30. Sebastien Grosjean 1233

SL hurdler admits to doping

COLOMBO, Oct 12: Sri Lankan hurdler Ashok Kumar Jayasundara, who won gold in the 400m men's event in the South Asian Federation Games, admitted taking a banned performance enhancing drug, a newspaper here said today, reports AFP.

Jayasundara confessed after authorities in the recently concluded games in Nepal reported he failed a doping test, the Daily Mirror newspaper said.

It said the athlete had shown receipts for the banned steroid nandrolone he purchased after it was prescribed by a doctor attached to the sports ministry.

However, the Mirror quoted Sports Minister S B Disanayake as saying he was aware of the case and would be reporting the doctor concerned to the Medical Association to have him struck off the list as a medical officer.

The authorities in Nepal had reported two Sri Lankans and an Indian athlete tested positive for banned drugs.

Star cast farewell for Bergomi

MILAN, Oct 12: Italian football bid farewell yesterday to former Inter Milan and international defender Giuseppe Bergomi with a charity match at the San Siro stadium, reports Reuters.

The game was between past and present greats from the two teams he graced for 17 years.

Bergomi, 35, announced his retirement at the end of the 1998/99 season after making 519 league appearances for Inter and winning 81 caps for his country.

'Lozio', the uncle, as he is known to Italian fans, achieved early fame as part of Italy's World Cup winning squad in 1982 when aged just 18.

A regular in the national side through the 80s, he was ignored during much of the 90s but remained a fixture in the Inter line-up, winning three UEFA Cup titles and one league championship.

After a seven-year absence from the national team, Bergomi returned for the 1998 World cup in France at the age of 34.

A host of top players, current and from former days, such as Paolo Rossi, Juergen Klinsmann and Lothar Matthaus, were on display for Monday's 20,000 crowd.

The match, played at leisurely pace, ended 5-5 with AC Milan ex-international striker Maurizio Ganz scoring a hat-trick for the Italian team and Ronaldo on target for the Inter side.



Romanian women team members wave to the crowd after receiving their gold medals yesterday. — AFP photo

ICC puts on war paint

LONDON, Oct 12 (Internet report): The International Cricket Council is going to war against crowd in venues and other security problems at games.

of an action plan approved by its executive board - including the removal of international status should venues not do their utmost to adhere to stated policy.

many.'

Following a series of disquieting crowd encroachments and flash-points - notably during the World Cup in England and Australia's one-day series in the West Indies last winter - the ICC has announced their battle plan to ward off further unacceptable behaviour.

International cricket should be played at all times free of the threat of unwelcome crowd invasions on to the ground and the risk of objects being thrown at players or umpires,' Dalmiya said following a meeting in Dubai.

The power of the ICC referee will be extended to report on instances where the ICC safety policy is violated,' said Dalmiya.

The issue first came to prominence in matches between the Aussies and the Windies in Guyana and Barbados.

'The growing number of incidents of this nature, although they are in the minority, even one such incident is one too many.'

Touring captain Steve Waugh was narrowly missed by a missile in one of the matches in the Caribbean and was again unhappy when streakers were allowed to perform unhindered in a World Cup match against Scotland at Worcester.

ICC has been concerned at the growing number of incidents of this nature. Although they are in the minority, even one such incident is one too many.'

Waugh called for urgent action, fearing a player may be hurt sooner rather than later if nothing was done - and a crowd invasion at Northampton that pre-empted the result of a World Cup match between Pakistan and Bangladesh caused fresh reason for concern.

ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya today reported details

Polish hoodlum to be prosecuted

WARSAW, Oct 12: The hoodlum who injured Parma's Dino Baggio with a thrown knife in a UEFA Cup game late last year is to be formally charged, Polish prosecutors said here on Monday, reports AFP.



Bangladesh cricket coach Eddie Barlow and his wife visiting the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

The 20-year-old Pawel Michalski was allegedly filmed on police video throwing the knife and then celebrating when it hit home.

Michalski, who continually professes his innocence, could serve a prison term of up to 10 years if found guilty.

Army v'ball

MOMENSHAHI, Oct 12: Four more robin league matches of the annual Army volleyball championship were held at the Momenshahi cantonment today, reports BSS.

RFU punish referees

MOSCOW, Oct 12: Four Russian match officials were suspended until the end of the season by the Russian Football Union (RFU) after going on a drinking binge ahead of a UEFA Cup match at which they were to officiate, the RFU press service reported Monday, reports AFP.

A final decision on the case is to be made at a UEFA disciplinary committee hearings on October 22.

Referee Sergei Khusainov and his three assistants, who were supposed to officiate at the UEFA Cup, first round match on September 16 between Israel's Hapoel Haifa and Club Brugge of Belgium were replaced at the last moment after the Russians were reported drunk by Israeli officials.

Khusainov denied any wrongdoing after he returned to Moscow from Israel, saying that provocative reports by the Israeli press were behind UEFA's decision to replace Russian referees with Romanian ones.

FINA to honour Samaranch

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Oct 12: International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch is to receive the top award of world swimming's governing body, reports Reuters.

The International Amateur Swimming Federation (FINA) said in a statement yesterday that its executive bureau had decided on the last day of a meeting in Kuwait to award Samaranch the 'FINA Order.'

It also said that Lynne Bates, aquatics competition manager for the Sydney 2000 Olympics, had reported that all tickets for swimming and for most sessions of diving at the Games had been sold out.

The FINA Bureau's Kuwait meeting ran from Friday to Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 22 mins and a list of words found in the puzzle.

Cryptquip puzzle grid with a 10x10 letter arrangement and a key for deciphering the message.

ALKE ZMILE KH
MHJDNEFMPDN IKFJHXF
HKZX LMN HXA TKTO
TPO? TDJ.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: UNFORTUNATELY, THE MUSIC-LOVING LOCKSMITH SANG VERY OFF-KEY.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: J equals D
The Cryptquip 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.