

Sport

Nat'l Cycling starts today

Sports Reporter
The Oranta 25th National Cycling Championship begins at the Bangladesh Rifles ground at Pikhana in the city this morning.

Rajshahi soccer

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, May 4: A brilliant hat-trick by Jahurul paved the Kajirganj Sporting Club's way to make a 7-1 victory over Helenabad Colony of the Rajshahi First Division football super league played at local stadium today.

Guyana Test

From page 13
Pakistan will do everything to get him ready, since losing both him and Anwar would be a double whammy for the batting which, like West Indies, would be without a truly world-class batsman.

In both the batting and bowling, Pakistan has quality reserves upon whom they can call.
Waqar Younis and Mohammad Akram can easily fit into place for Shoaib and Razzaq, while either Mohammad Wasim or Wahajuddin Wasti can take Inzamam's position.

Pakistan however, will be hoping for the best as they try to reverse their recent run of wretched results which saw them lose to Australia in Australia and Sri Lanka at home.
No surprises are expected from West Indies. Unless the selectors have a few bright ideas or they too, are afflicted by a last-minute injury worry, the final 11 is very predictable with batsman Rameshwar Sarwan, leg-spin bowler Mahendra Nagamootoo and fast bowler Nixon McLean to sit out.

West Indies have been on a roll for the last two months. They completed a 2-0 series win over minnows Zimbabwe and played competitively throughout the 2000 Trophy series, though they lost 2-1 in the three-match final to Pakistan.
With Pakistan blessed with a formidable bowling attack, West Indies batting will come under the microscope one more time throughout this series.

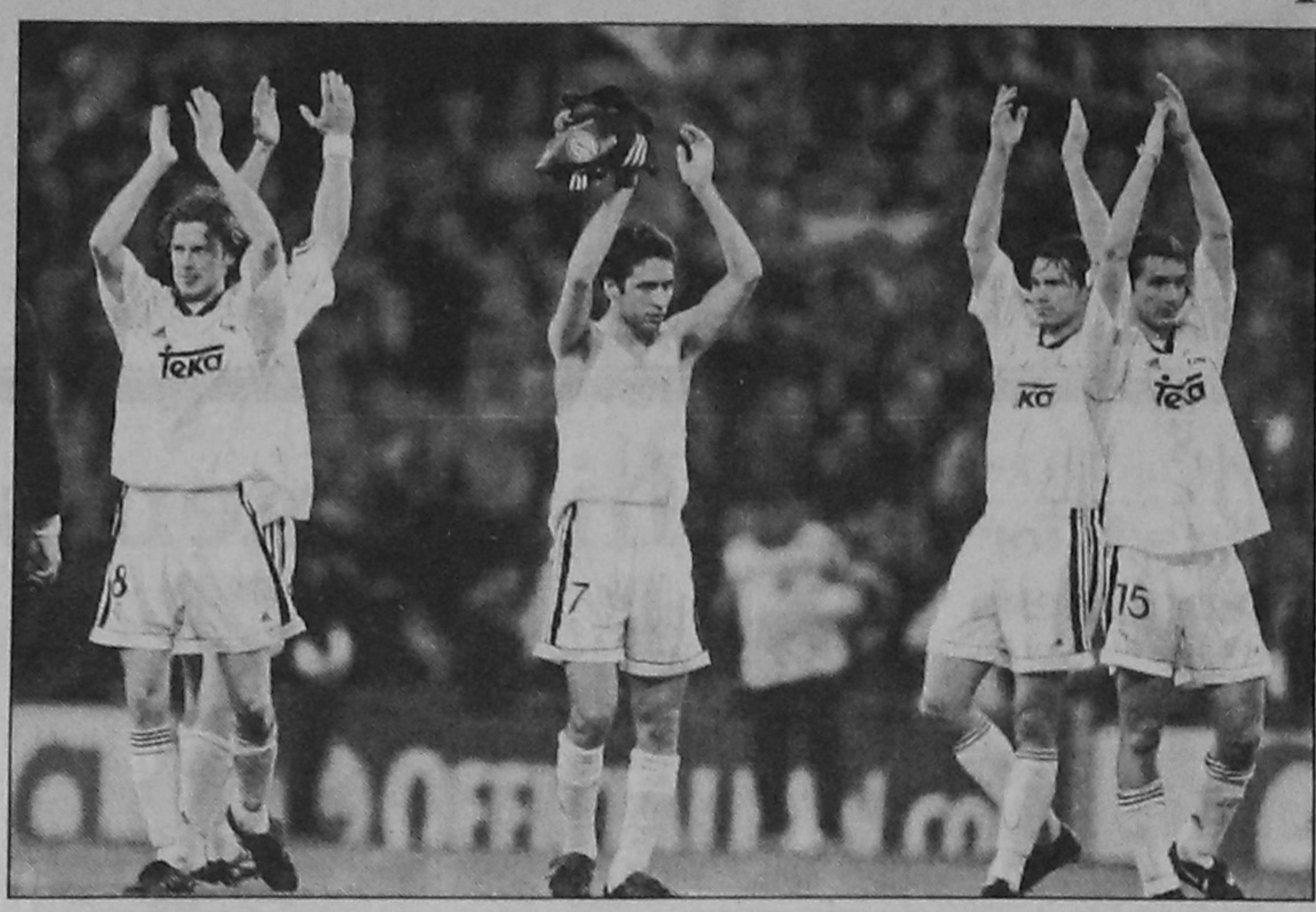
The four-pronged fast bowling attack comprising aging warriors Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh, the leading wicket-taker in Test cricket, along with young bucks Reon King and Franklyn Rose showed they were the strong link during the Zimbabwe series.
All but Walsh played in the limited-overs series, where they again bowled superbly, particularly in the last of three finals in Port-of-Spain, where Pakistan needed 45 overs to reach a mediocre victory target of 115.

The batting however, remained a big problem for West Indies. It struggled against an ordinary Zimbabwe attack and totally collapsed in that last 2000 Trophy final in Port-of-Spain against some of the bowlers they are going to face in the Test.
Left hander Shivanine Charnerpaal, who missed the limited-overs series after complaints of exhaustion, has been passed fit, warmed up with a century in Jamaica's club competition and returns to add some depth to the batting.

His form, along with that of captain Jimmy Adams and opening batsman Sherwin Campbell, upon whom West Indies pin their batting hopes, has been patchy in the last few months.
Without the gifted Brian Lara, still in self-imposed exile from the game, West Indies' batting looks very thin on paper.
Adams however, has preached total commitment and it has brought some results, but even he feels there is room for improvement.

Whenever international cricket is played in this South American nation, one eye is kept on the match and the other on the weather.
The last few weeks have been very wet, but looked to be improving over the last few days.
The Bourda pitch is usually slow and low, but the spin bowlers could make an impact over the last two or three days when it normally begins to crumble and get dusty.

WEST INDIES (from): Jimmy Adams (captain), Sherwin Campbell (vice-captain), Adrian Griffith, Chris Gayle, Shivanine Charnerpaal, Wavel Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Franklyn Rose, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Reon King, Rameshwar Sarwan, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Nixon McLean.
PAKISTAN (from): Moin Khan (captain), Inzamamul Haq (vice-captain), Imran Nazir, Shahid Afridi, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Abdur Razaq, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar, Mushaq Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shahid Khan, Wahajuddin Wasti, Mohammed Wasim, Mohammed Akram.



Real Madrid players respond to crowd's applause after their victory over Bayern Munich in the Champions' League on May 3. —AFP photo

Real outshine Bayern

MADRID, May 4: Real Madrid's expensive misfit Nicolas Anelka finally came good when it mattered here Wednesday, scoring the first goal in his club's 2-0 win over Germany's Bayern Munich in their Champions League semi-final first leg tussle at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, reports AFP.

Real, stung by two heavy defeats at Bayern's hands in the second group phase, elected to opt for an ambitious attacking line-up with French international Anelka joining Raul - the Spaniards' hero at Old Trafford in the last round - as well as Fernando Morientes, recovered from a toe injury that had threatened his place.

Morientes eventually gave way to Brazilian Savio on the hour, by which time Real were two goals to the good with the unfortunate Jens Jeremies putting through his own goal for the second goal on 33 minutes.
The winners of the tie are likely to face Valencia, who hammered Barcelona 4-1 in the all-Spanish semi on Tuesday in the final on May 24.

"I believe that with the team in their current form we can hold on to our advantage," said Real coach Vicente Del Bosque. We played very well in the first half and kept our discipline in the second."
The whole team played very well, especially the defence, tonight was a big step forward. But we have to be realistic, it's not over yet. Bayern can still win their home leg," he added.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said he was disappointed with his team's showing but said that he knew they were capable of overturning the deficit.
"The early goal was a dreadful start for us and threw us off balance. Thereafter we were always chasing the game.
"We were having great difficulty keeping possession and by the time we got it together we were 2-0 down after an unlucky own goal. We also failed to make many clear-cut chances.
"but I am optimistic. I know we can play a lot better. We still have a chance," he added.

Wednesday's encounter brought together two of the most successful sides in Champions Cup history with 27-times Spanish champions Real having won a record seven titles in all and Bayern three.
Real last won the event two seasons ago, seeing off Juventus 1-0 in Amsterdam for their seventh crown. But since then they have fired four coaches with former player Del Bosque now in charge.
Bayern, losing finalists last

season as well as in 1982 and 1987, have been waiting 24 years for a fourth continental title and have had to steer through the tournament's latter stages this year without talismanic libero Lothar Matthaus, now playing with the MetroStars in New York.
Since their two earlier reverses against Bayern earlier in the season, a 4-2 beating on their own patch and a 4-1 setback in Germany, Real have kickedstart their season with a 3-2 victory in England last month to eliminate defending champions Manchester United in the quarter-finals hugely boosting morale - Del Bosque described that as the best result of his career.

Anelka, who like England winger Steve McManaman has not found settling in an easy process, earlier in the week vowed he wanted to stay at the club despite his much-documented problems in Spain this year.
Although Morientes won his fitness battle the hosts were without experienced skipper Fernando Hierro, while Bayern also were not at full strength with skipper Stefan Effenberg and Alexander Zickler ruled out.

The Bavarians, desperate to atone for their defeat-from-the-jaws-of-victory in last season's final in Barcelona, have also been struggling to keep up with Bayer Leverkusen as they attempt to win another Bundesliga title.
Real's gamble to attack paid a handsome early dividend when they took the lead after just three-and-a-half minutes through Anelka, who, despite a strong hint of offside, took a ball through the inside left channel from Raul before lifting a right-footed shot past keeper Oliver Kahn into the net.

Despite the ups and downs which have dogged Anelka since his 37 million-dollar move from Arsenal last summer, the gangly Frenchman was striking up a good understanding with Raul in particular.
In fact, Real were making a conscious effort to give Anelka the space he thrives on and he chose the perfect moment to score his first goal of the tournament - club president Lorenzo Sanz had predicted earlier that "tonight Anelka is going to do something special."

Bayern had their first chance on 16 minutes when Brazilian Giovane Elber, partnering Paulo Sergio in an all-Brazilian attack, turned smartly to drive straight at Real's teenage keeper Iker Casillas.
But the Bayern threat receded as quickly as it had arisen in what was an un-

spired showing by the Germans.
Two minutes later Anelka, dubbed "Anelka Kaiser" by Wednesday's Spanish press, almost set up Morientes but his low cross was deflected away for a corner which came to nothing.
Bayern were struggling to hold their back line together and had a let off after 21 minutes when Raul set up Morientes for a close range finish which was ruled out for offside.
Real's Aitor Karanka was booked by Swedish referee Anders Frisk on the half hour for bringing down Paulo Sergio, meaning the Spaniard will miss the return match in Munich next week as will Michel Salgado, who was booked before going off injured in the closing stages.

Bayern's luck proved to be out with the second goal as international midfielder Jeremies, in trying to cut out a pass from Raul into the box intended for Salgado, could only turn the ball past the spreadeagled Kahn.
Bayern attempted to respond and Michael Tarnat sent a long-range effort flashing just wide of Casillas' left hand post. Casillas then blocked a Paulo Sergio effort with his legs as Bayern pressed in vain for an away goal.

After the break Kahn had to be alert to block a Morientes effort before Mehmet Scholl sent a right footer over the bar for Bayern on 59 minutes.
Elber followed suit ten minutes later as the visitors continued to lack any real urgency up front.
At the other end, Savio forced Kahn into a good stop with a ferocious low drive from the left.
Temperatures almost boiled over near the end as Reals Brazilian wingback Roberto Carlos was yellow-carded for hacking down Thorsten Fink.

With 12 minutes remaining Bayern boss Hitzfeld, who led Borussia Dortmund to the 1997 title at the expense of Juventus, made a double switch to rejig his side's tepid forward line as Carsten Jancker came on for Bosnian Hasan Sallhamidzic and Paraguayan striker Roque Santa Cruz replaced the disappointing Giovane Elber.
But their introduction was to no avail.
Real, who took off the tiring Anelka and sent on Elvir Balic for the final ten minutes, almost managed a third when Kahn tipped over a vicious 25-yarder from Raul.

As time started to run out on the Germans defender Markus Babbel came up for a Mehmet Scholl corner from the right but his header flashed wide.
Ironically, even though he was able to wake up Thursday to the unusual sensation of being the hero of the hour Anelka is only now getting over the after-effects of his training no-show.
Although he returned from his first-team exile after three weeks his fine still applied across the original 45-day ban the club handed him although the punishment has now run its course.
If things are looking up on the pitch, off it Anelka maintained his habitual post-match routine, disappearing into the Madrid night without a word, though he reportedly had time to plant two kisses on the cheek of Mari Luz Sanz, the wife of Real president Lorenzo Sanz.

Such affectionate behaviour could be reciprocated should Anelka find the target again in the return leg.
And should he score again at the Stade de France if the 'Meringues' make it to the final just 20 kilometres from his home town of Trappes young Nicolas might just move a little closer to Raul and sidekick Fernando Morientes in the popularity stakes.

DAEI FANCIES LEEDS MOVE
BERLIN, May 4: Iranian international Dai Daei of German First Division club Hertha Berlin could join English Premiership outfit Leeds for next season, the media reported Wednesday, reports AFP.

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Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, May 4: Altaf Smriti Sangha recorded a 123-run win over Gold Star Club in the second Siraj Memorial Kishor cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Medical College ground today.
Winning the toss, the winners managed 195 for six in the stipulated 25 overs. Rajib with 55 was the top-scorer. Faisal followed him with 52, Sanju (22) and Rimon (12). Kamrul and Imon claimed two wickets each.

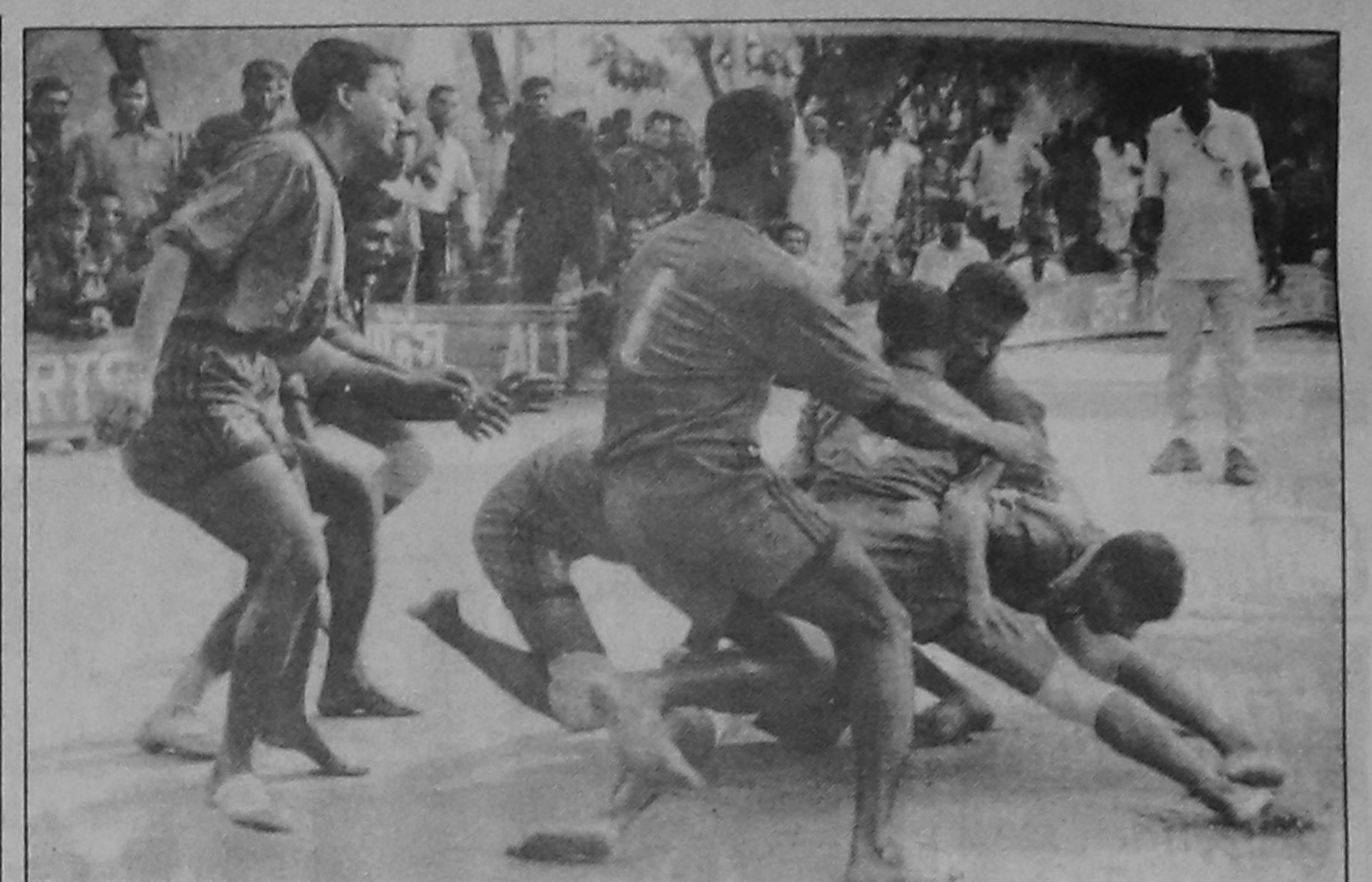
In reply, Gold Star were bundled out for 72 in 16.3 overs. Korras, Imon, Ritu and Roni scored 10 runs each. Rajib grabbed three wickets giving away seven runs.
CHESS
Sayed Mahafuzur Rahman Imon emerged champion in the first Nabo Boro open chess tournament organised by Rajshahi Chess Development Association at Kajirganj office today.
Imon earned five points, Saju and Kawsar All earned four points each.
A total of 24 player took part in the tournament.

OLYMPIC FLAME ALLOWED TO FLY
SYDNEY, May 4: The Australian Civil Aviation Authority granted permission Thursday for the Olympic flame to be flown from Greece to Sydney, reports AFP.
A specially-designed cradle, fitted to aircraft seats, will carry the flame on its 23 flights during the torch relay.
The flame will fly business class, under the constant supervision of a Sydney Olympic Games Organising Committee representative and with at least one fire extinguisher within reach at all times.
The torch must not be refilled on board the aircraft and cannot be refuelled on board.
CASA's Director of Aviation Safety Mick Tolley said: "Naturally taking a flame and dangerous fuel on an aircraft in normal circumstances is totally prohibited -- but for the Olympics CASA has found a safe and simple solution."

The Olympic flame will be traditionally lit using the sun's rays and a parabolic mirror at the Temple of Hero in Olympia, Greece, next Wednesday.
After a 10-day relay in Greece, the flame will be handed over to Australia.
J-LEAGUE
FUJITA TAKES JUBILO BACK ATOP
TOKYO, May 4: Midfielder Toshiya Fujita scored a hat-trick of penalties as defending champions Jubilo Iwata overwhelmed Kawasaki Frontale 5-1 to regain the lead in the J-League football on Wednesday, reports AFP.
"I was given the best part of the game," smiled Fujita after duly netting his goals in the 44th, 49th and 86th minutes -- the first-ever penalty hat-trick in the J-League.

It was Iwata's seventh win against two defeats for 20 points, ahead of Shimizu S-Pulse with 19 points, Yokohama Marinos on 18 points, Cerezo Osaka, FC Tokyo and Kashiwa Reysol with 17 points.
Shimizu staged a comeback victory in the last four minutes to score a 2-1 win over FC Tokyo, whose side lacked Brazilian strikers Tuto and Amaral.
Yokohama crashed to a 0-2 defeat to Sanfrecce Hiroshima to slip from the top of the table, while Cerezo bowed to Gamba Osaka 1-2. Kashiwa defeated JEF United Ichihara 2-1.
In other games, Kim Kyun-Seok of South Korea scored his seventh and eighth goals of the season to lead Verdy Kawasaki to a 3-0 victory over Kashima Antlers.
Vissel Kobe stopped their match-losing streak at five by scoring a 2-1 victory over Nagoya Grampus Eight thanks to Takao Nunohe's decider in injury time.

"We never gave up, I thought we would have a chance... that resulted in the goal," said Nunohe, scoring his first goal of the season.
Avsipa Fukuoka were 4-3 winners over regular bottom placers Kyoto Purple Sanga.
Leicester's Frank Sinclair rises above Liverpool's Emile Heskey to clear the ball during their Premiership clash at Anfield on May 3. —AFP photo



Action from yesterday's Premier Division Kabadi League encounter between Bangladesh Army and Sonali Bank at the court near Bangabandhu National Stadium. —Star photo

Premiership

Leeds gain as Liverpool falter

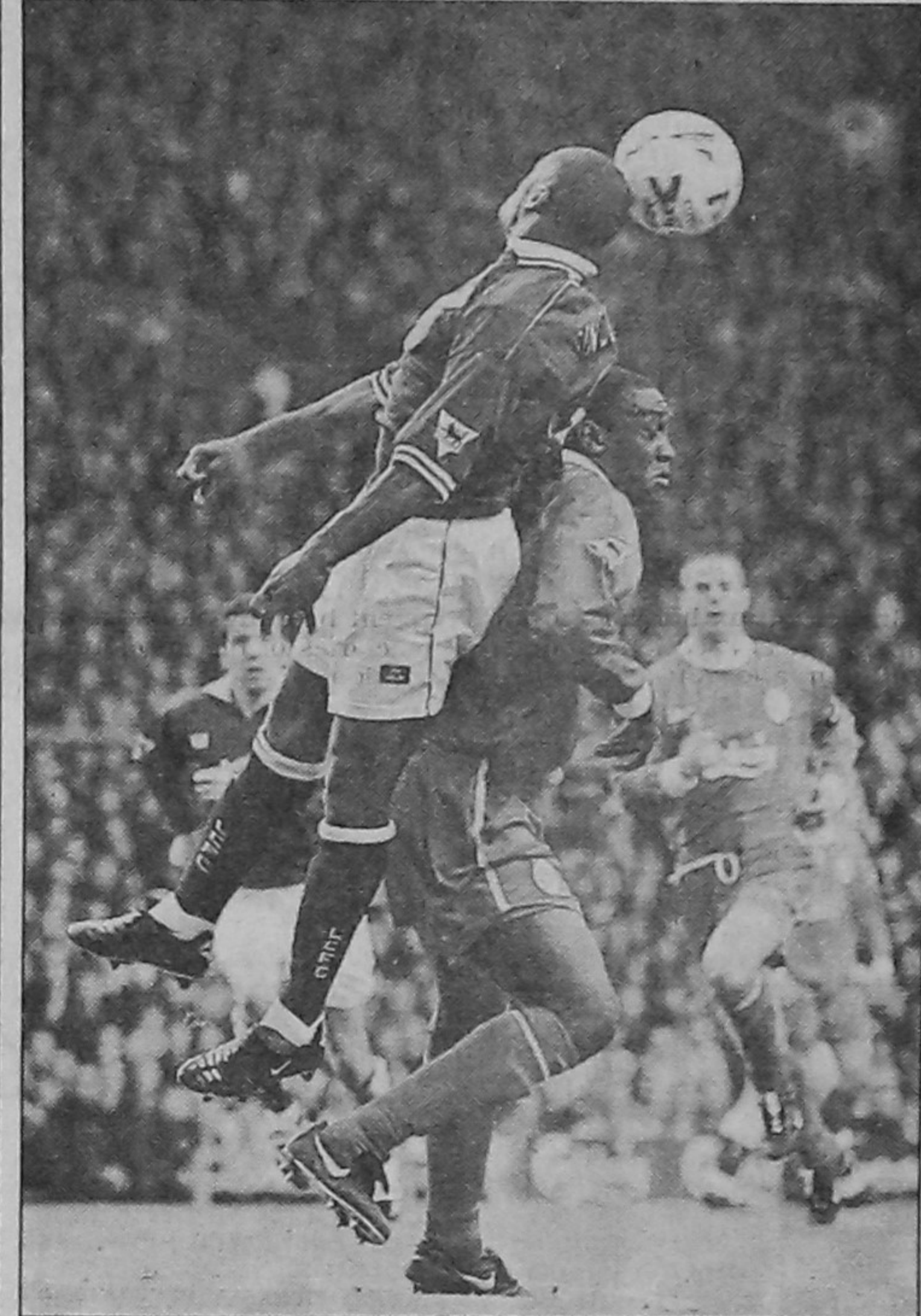
LONDON, May 4: Leeds moved a step nearer their multi-million pound dream of Champions League football next season with a 3-1 home win over doomed Watford on Wednesday, reports AFP.
Michael Bridges put the host ahead but Dominic Foley levelled for the visitors.
Further strikes by Michael Duberry and Darren Huckerby sealed the victory for Leeds which takes them above rivals Liverpool who lost 2-0 at home to Leicester - Tony Cottee and Phil Gilchrist on target for

their wounds as they will now definitely set an unwanted Premiership record of the fewest amount of points in one season.
Graham Taylor's side went into the game needing to win their last three matches if they were to overhaul the previous worst total of 27 points set by Ipswich in 1994-95.
Foley and Darren Ward had both gone close for Watford before Bridges struck in the 20th minute. After scoring in his previous two matches following an eight-game barren run, Bridges had nudged his way onto 19 in his first full season in the top flight following his

place at the right time to lash home a Stephen McPhail chipped free-kick into the roof of the net just after the interval - his first goal in any competition since November 2 1996.
Starting his first game since Boxing Day, Huckerby scored his first goal for seven months as he delightfully curled home the third in the 52nd minute to complete Watford's misery.
Liverpool's own Champions League dreams were dealt a savage blow when battling Leicester won at Anfield for the third successive season.
A few weeks back they were gloating over a 13-match unbeaten run; now that confidence of a glowing future looks misplaced.

Worthington Cup winners Leicester, having already booked their ticket to ride in Europe, made life mighty tricky for a Liverpool outfit who have still not had their passport stamped for next season.
Any thought that O'Neill's side would be a pushover was dispelled inside two minutes.
They caught the Anfield men cold with a first goal after one minute 58 seconds, with Neil Lennon's neat chip into the box catching out Stephen Henchoz and finding Cottee.

Leicester's top scorer, who inflicted considerable damage on Liverpool in his Everton days, chested the ball down and scampered into the box to drill his shot wide of Sander Westerveld's left hand.
Four minutes after the break things got even worse for Liverpool.
Muzzy Izzet's corner swung in from the left and Dominic Matteo got a touch in the box that wrong-footed keeper Sander Westerveld and the ball fell for Gilchrist to nod in on the line.



Leicester's Frank Sinclair rises above Liverpool's Emile Heskey to clear the ball during their Premiership clash at Anfield on May 3. —AFP photo

Martin O'Neill's men.
Leeds move up to third on 67 points, one ahead of fourth-placed Liverpool.
David O'Leary's side have targeted a place amongst Europe's elite since a long and arduous campaign started last August and are now just 180 minutes away from realising their ambition.
Victories over Everton at Elland Road on Monday and then at West Ham on the final day of the season guarantees Leeds at least third place in the Premiership and with it the riches of European football's most highly-prized competition.

For Watford, whose Nationwide League fate has been awaiting them for some considerable time, each goal rubbed salt into summer move from Sunderland.
With confidence soaring again, Bridges seized upon a weak clearance out of the Watford defence and after one touch to give himself a clear sight of goal he then beat goalkeeper Chris Day with a cracker from the edge of the area.
It seemed the perfect platform on which to build, but the lead lasted just five minutes as Foley then scored his first goal this season for Watford.

David Perpetuumi's left-wing cross was met at the far post by a downward header from Heidar Helguson, the ball then bouncing kindly into the path of Foley allowing him to drill home from eight yards past Nigel Martyn.
But Duberry was in the right

Turkish Cup Galatasaray's

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, May 4: UEFA finalists and Turkish league leaders Galatasaray won the Turkish Cup Wednesday with a 5-3 victory over Antalyaspor, ranked 15th in the league, reports AFP.
The game went into extra-time after the two sides were level after 90 minutes at 2-2. Galatasaray's Umit Davala hit the opening goal in the 13th minute and Mustafa Gursel responded minutes before the end of the first half.

The second half saw Zafer Demiryol of Antalyaspor score before Brazilian Marcio Santos replied for Galatasaray.
Antalyaspor took the lead in the fifth minute of the extra period through Kamil Cakir, but Galatasaray's Hakan Unsal quickly levelled again.
The Istanbul club clinched the victory in the second extra time period with goals by Mehmet Yozgatli and star striker Hakan Sukur, dubbed the Bull of the Bosphorus.
This is the 13th Turkish Cup win for Galatasaray in the 38-year-old history of the tournament.

Scottish Premiership Rangers roll past Hibs

GLASGOW, May 4: Scottish champions Rangers strolled to a comprehensive 5-2 win over Hibernian at Ibrox on Wednesday, reports AFP, reports AFP.
The home side secured a comfortable interval lead with Barry Ferguson putting them in front on 11 minutes and his international colleague Billy Dodds striking six minutes later.
When Shaun Dennis put through his own goal after 47 minutes this looked another routine win, but a swift reply from Kenny Miller was followed by a powerful Dirk Lehmann strike for Hibs on 72 minutes.

Rangers were called upon to step up a gear, but this season that has been their strength and Jorg Albertz duly delivered a late double, the first a penalty, to give the scoreline an emphatic feel.
Having marched to the title in such commanding fashion, Rangers are now very much a team on parade and they turned on the style against Hibernian for long periods.

Rare love for Anelka

MADRID, May 4 (AFP): Love at first sight it certainly wasn't - but nine months after arriving in town a tentative affair is, belatedly, just starting to blossom between Nicolas Anelka and Real Madrid football club.

Anelka, painted as an ill-advised bad boy for risking a premature move from English Premiership side Arsenal, swapped his London misery to take on the role of 37 million-dollar conquering hero with Real - only to take half a season to score a goal, fall out with his teammates and then skip training to pick up a suspension and a huge fine.

Just a month ago he was training on his own in disgrace after preferring a weekend off to the hard slog of preparing for matches.
Such barefaced truancy brought a 45-day ban and with it a financial penalty estimated at more than 300,000 dollars.
Given his form up until then, some Real fans would almost have accepted that as a leaving fee.
"We would even have offered him to Barcelona" - the ultimate insult - opined one home fan ahead of Wednesday's Champions League semi-final first leg clash with Bayern Munich at the Bernabeu stadium.
But whoever said football supporters weren't fickle? For, just four minutes into the match there was the gangly Frenchman haring confidently into the penalty area and striking a sweet effort past Oliver Kahn and into the back of the

Bayern net.
A Jens Jeremies own goal later and seven-times continental kings Real - Real is the Spanish word for Royal - had a foot in the final with a 2-0 lead to take back to Munich.
And then, the unthinkable - praise for Monsieur Anelka from a habitually vicious Spanish press, which had dubbed him "Anelka Kaiser" more in hope than expectation before kickoff.

"Anelka, you are forgiven," was the reaction of sports daily Marca, which praised Anelka for linking up so effectively with Raul, who turned provider this time after his two goals which sank Manchester United in the last round at Old Trafford.
He connected with Raul and opened the way to victory," said Marca, adding that "Anelka is now finding his rhythm with Real" having broken his Champions League duck in style.
El Mundo was equally effusive in its praise of the man who could yet emerge from a nightmare season to spearhead the challenge of world champions France at Euro2000 in less than six weeks time.

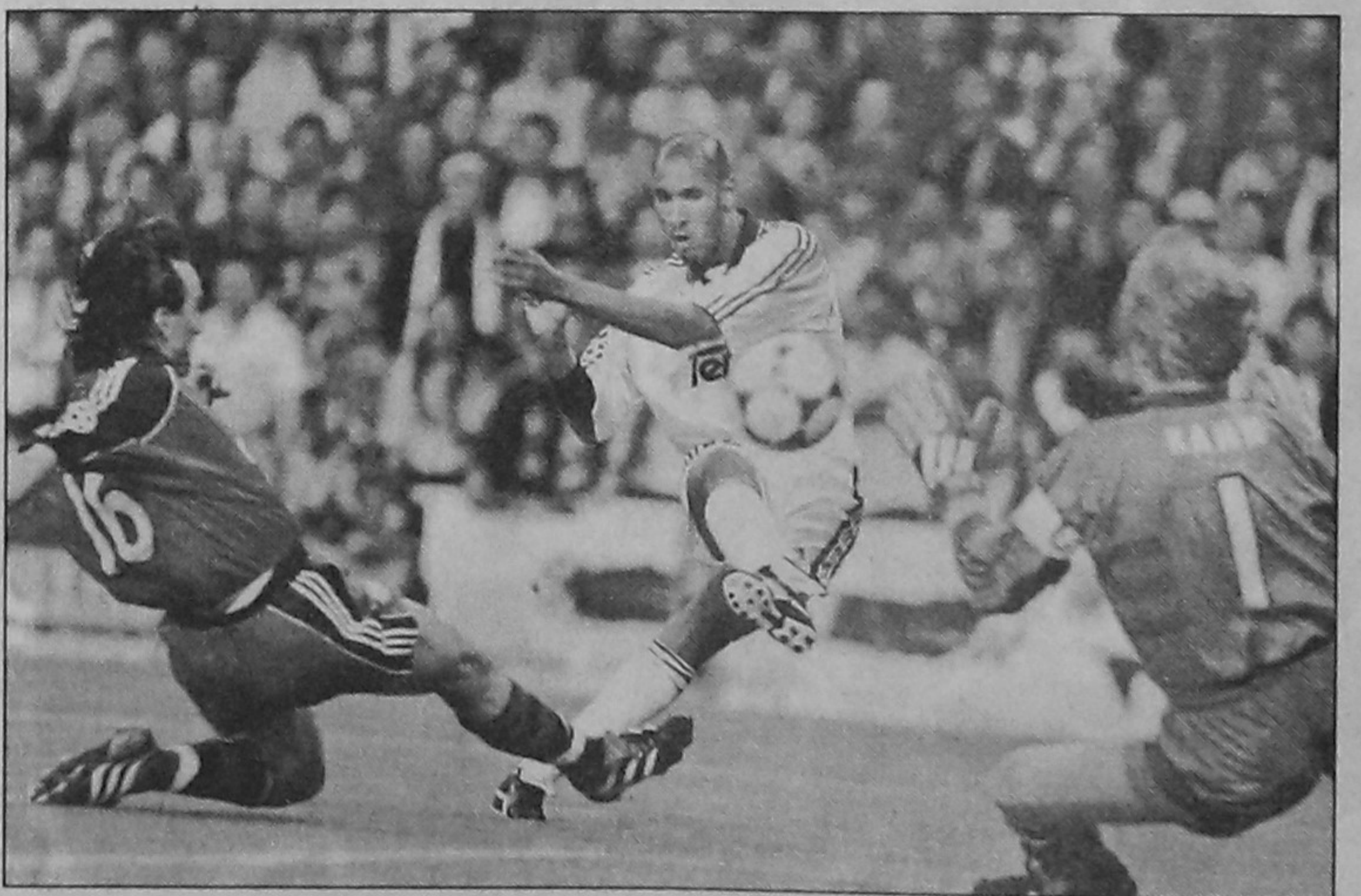
"Anelka's exploits set Real on their way to an all-Spanish final," was El Mundo's assessment.
"The most singular thing was how Anelka and the crowd reacquainted themselves with each other. The reconciliation has been consummated!"
The ABC daily was no less generous.
"Anelka produced a clinical finish for the goal and fought

tigerishly throughout."
Ironically, even though he was able to wake up Thursday to the unusual sensation of being the hero of the hour Anelka is only now getting over the after-effects of his training no-show.
Although he returned from his first-team exile after three weeks his fine still applied across the original 45-day ban the club handed him although the punishment has now run its course.
If things are looking up on the pitch, off it Anelka maintained his habitual post-match routine, disappearing into the Madrid night without a word, though he reportedly had time to plant two kisses on the cheek of Mari Luz Sanz, the wife of Real president Lorenzo Sanz.

Such affectionate behaviour could be reciprocated should Anelka find the target again in the return leg.
And should he score again at the Stade de France if the 'Meringues' make it to the final just 20 kilometres from his home town of Trappes young Nicolas might just move a little closer to Raul and sidekick Fernando Morientes in the popularity stakes.

Daei fancies Leeds move

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Real Madrid's troubled French striker Nicolas Anelka (C) outwits Bayern Munich's Jens Jeremies (L) and custodian Oliver Kahn to score during their Champions' League semi-final first leg at Madrid on May 3. —AFP photo