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NEWS LETTER OF THE INDIAN SQUASH PROFESSIONALS

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(For Private Circulation only) Vol 5 No 4 Issue No 20

October 2001

Aamir Khan promotes squash

First Public Squash Court in Maharashtra

Film star kept his cycle and cricket bat aside for a day and wielded a squash racket instead. The occasion was the inauguration of the Mid Day A-H Ansari Squash Academy at Shahu Raje Andheri Sports Complex. "It is a good beginning. It is high time that our country produces a world champion in this lovely sport," said Aamir, suitably impressed.

It was another big day for squash. The academy will give a big boost to the game popularly perceived as elitist. Courts are open to the public for a very nominal rate.

The academy, the first of its kind in the state, is sponsored by Mid Day Multimedia Ltd in memory of its foU and freedom fighter, the late A-H Ansari, for the Squash Racquets Association of Maharashtra (SRAM).

A regular squash player, Khan played a round of exhibition squash with Mid Day Multimedia Managing Director Tariq Ansari, Bhushan Gagrani (Director-General, Information and Public Relations and deputy secretary to the Chief Minister) and U-11 champion Vikram Malhotra after launching the three state-of-the-art courts. SRAM president and Mid Day Multimedia Ltd chairman Khalid A-H Ansari described the occasion as "a dream come true. It has been our endeavour for years to take squash to the masses. We're confident that these public courts will produce future champions. If Pakistan can produce world champions in squash, we believe so can we." Khan also handed out trophies to some of the junior squash players for their performance in the recently concluded Fujifilm Hong Kong Junior Squash Open. Nikita Emanuel (winner in the U-11 category), Alisha Mashruwala (winner in the U-13), Naishad Lalwani (runner-up in the U-13), Supreet Singh and



Aamir Khan with Mr. Bhushan Gagrani (IAS)



SRAM President Khalid Ansari honours Aamir Khan with a memento at the inauguration of the Mid Day A-H Ansari Squash Academy at Andheri complex.

Contd. on page 2



Indian lass is Canada No One

Two Indian sisters in Oakville, Ontario, are making a name for themselves in the sport of squash and they capped off the year by not only winning the Canadian Open in December, but winning it in the next older age category. Ruchika Kumar 16, a Q.E. Park student, won the U-19 division, while Neha Kumar, 12, a Pilgrim Wood elementary school student, won the U-15 division. Both went on to earn bronze at the U.S. Junior Open, both losing in the semifinals to the eventual champion. At the Scottish Open, which wrapped up on Dec. 30, Neha won gold allowing only three points in the entire tournament (in the final game of the best of five

Ruchika Kumar

Contd. on page 2

Pay and play at Pimpri

Second Public Squash Court: Residents of the Pimpri Chinchwad area near Pune can now pay and play squash. The Squash Racquets Association of Maharashtra (SRAM), which has pledged to spread the game state-wide has succeeded in getting a Squash Court at Pimpri-Chinchwad (Pune) for use without payment by members of SRAM from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The court has been made available with immediate effect to SRAM through the good offices of Shri. Anil Digkar, Municipal Commissioner of the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. Members of the Public in Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad wishing to take advantage of the scheme should contact Ms. Steffi D'Souza (10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. except Saturday and Sunday) on 9522-494 2586.



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Khar Gymkhana shower goodies on the kids.

Squash juniors never had it so good. The winners of the **West Zone Inter-Schools and Inter-College Squash Tournament**, sponsored and conducted by **Khar Gymkhana**, at their own courts were showered with television sets, cycles, mobile phones, sim cards and other goodies. **Sahil Vora** gained a double. The top seed from **H R College** in the boys U-17 and U-19 Categories, won both the titles at a canter. **Alisha Mashruwala**, from Bombay International, romped home in the U-15 age group and then put up a sterling display against the 18-year-old **Rachita Vora** of H R College, the top seed in the U-19, before her legs gave way and she lost in five games. Trailing by two games, Alisha, the recent winner of the **Hong Kong Open**, clawed her way back by winning a grueling third game 17-15 and levelled scores by winning the fourth 15-11. However, playing her second match in succession, the tiny legs gave way in the decider against the much taller and stronger Rachita, six years her senior, which she lost 9-15. Barring the boys U-13 final, all the other age group contests went according to seedings, done with great care by **Inderpal Singh**. **Sahil Vora** found the U-17 final more interesting than the U-19 one. He rattled **Supreet Singh** in the boys U-19 final and cruised through. But **Mihir Seth** made him fight for every point in the U-17 final. In the boys U-13 final, second seed **Naishadh Lalwani** upset the top seed **Vikram Malhotra** to win in straight games 15-11 15-10 15-6. There were four entries from Gujarat where some development work is being done in the sport. There were about 30 from the **Jindal school Vashind**. All the winners were presented with **Sansui colour TVs** and **BPL sim cards**, while the runners-up in the U-19 and U-17 categories got

mobile phones and sim cards. The runners-up in the U-15, U-13 and U-11 categories got cycles, sim cards and kit bags from Prince, while the winners of the team events won a two-day all-paid holiday package.

The squash kids should be grateful to the Nairs, Malhotras, Belanis from the Khar squash team for giving them such a boost that will make them the envy of other children playing schools sport in other disciplines. At the prize distribution **Nitin Gadekar**, the **Khar Gymkhana** president, said the club would continue to support the sport and gave the good news that work on two glassback courts would commence by the year-end and they would be able to watch the matches in comfort instead of craning their necks over each other. The presence of Indian squash all-time great **Raj Manchanda**, now a coach in Mumbai, added to the charm of the event.



Results:

Singles finals: Boys: U-19:

Sahil Vora (1) bt **Supreet Singh** (2) 15-5 15-10 15-10. **U-17:**

Sahil Vora (1) bt **Mihir Seth** (2) 15-6 15-11 15-11. **U-15:**

Sandeep Jangra (1) bt **Gautam Kalani** (2) 15-10 13-15 15-11 15-14. **U-13:**

Naishadh Lalwani (2) bt **Vikram Malhotra** (1) 15-11 15-10 15-6. **U-11:** **Vir Seth** (1) bt

Zahan Dastur (3) 15-8 15-10 15-4. **Girls: U-19:**

Rachita Vora (1) bt **Alisha Mashruwala** (2) 15-8 15-

12 15-17 11-15 15-9. **U-15:** **Alisha** (1) bt **Nikita Emanuel** (3) 15-11 15-4 15-0. For 3rd & 4th place: **Boys: U-19:** **Mihir Seth**

(3) bt **Anurag Gill** (4) 13-15 17-15 15-8 15-9. **U-17:** **Vikas Jangra** (4) bt

Anurag Gill (3) 10-15 15-12 15-13 15-13. **U-15:** **Rushabh Vora** (3) bt **Sarvesh**

Chauhan (4) 11-15 15-9 15-6 10-15 15-6. **U-13:** **Jay Bhagat** (3) bt **Jay Dalal**

15-8 15-7 15-5. **U-11:** **Aditya Jagtap** (3) bt **Anuj Chauhan** 15-6 15-9 15-5.

Girls: U-19: **Kanika P.** (3) W/O **Bhaktiveda Dhaul**. **U-15:** **Shaheeda**

Madraswala W/O **Shalilee Shelke**.



Contd. from page 2

Anurag Gill were among the young talents honoured by SRAM. Also present at the inauguration were **Mr Bhushan Gagrani** (IAS), Deputy Municipal Commissioner **D D Jadhav**, **Mr. Mahendra Agarwal** (Hon. Sec. SRAM), **Gautam Thakkar** and **Late Raju Chaitani**. The complex is open for SRAM member on a pay-and-play basis everyday from 10 am and 4 pm. SRAM membership is available to the general public at an annual rate of Rs 120 for players who are U-19 and Rs 240 for above 19. For the peak hour timings players may directly contact officials of Andheri Sports Complex.

Amir Khan with **Chandrakant Pawar** (Dir. ISP), **Riyaz Mohammad** (Mem. ISP) and **Mahendra Agarwal** (Dir. ISP)

championship match) while Ruchika settled for silver after losing the championship match.

Their parents are from India. **Father, Rahul Kumar** is from Chandigarh and **Mother, Sadhana Kumar** is from New Delhi. Her Dad left India when he was 15 years old to study and then moved to Hong Kong. Her parents were married in Delhi and she was born in Hong Kong. She began playing squash (along with other sports-badminton, tennis, swimming, gymnastics etc) at the age of 6 and won her first medal at the age of 7 at the **Hong Kong Jr. championships**.

In Canada when they moved in 1993 both her sister and Ruchika continued to play squash competitively. One tournament led to the next... She has proudly represented Canada twice at the **Junior World Championships**, and hopes to be one of the top Canadians in women's squash in the future. She also enjoys teaching squash to younger children and have completed her Level 1 coaching certificate in Canada.

Contd. from page 2

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Voice of Squash has been silenced

Pradij Vijaykar

How time flies. It seems only yesterday that I was handed a bunch of papers for perusal and consideration for printing in **Sportsweek** the magazine where I was a sub-editor in 1973. Contained in that bunch were profile of India's leading squash players. I okayed them for publishing with a little editing here and there. But I can tell you that he didn't really need any editing. And thus was launched the writing career of **Raju Chainani**. His writings became so prolific in the years that followed that he was veritably, the Voice of Squash. That voice was silenced for good when Raju passed away in Mumbai in August.

Writing came natural to Raju Chainani even though that was not a career he had chosen for himself. A top notch squash junior, Raju was abroad for some time and came back and worked for Killicks. But he couldn't be kept away from the game. He worked for the **Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra** in an honorary capacity. One remembers him organizing a coaching camp involving **Bhuvaneshwari Kumari** India's squash queen in Mumbai squash for the first time. Then came a phase when he began pouring out vitriol on some squash personalities. He couldn't stand people running the sport as if it was their personal freedom. He began attacking them with his pen. He became too personal at times and lost much of his goodwill. But his creative journalism was going along fine with a book practically every year for the past four years in addition to his **Simply Squash** newsletter. He covered the sport for **The Hindu**, **Mid-day** and many papers in the far-east. These are the ones who will miss Raju most. As also the youngsters who needed a lot of push with the pen. For them the voice of squash has been silenced. Someone else may pick up the pen and pick up where he left off. But there won't be another Raju Chainani.

KHALID ANSARI'S TRIBUTE: The grief worldwide - from the United

Kingdom to Australia - over Raju's death is a barometer of the regard and affection, which he enjoyed in the fraternity. Squash was the magnificent obsession for the genial Raju whose dedication to the game, devastating wit and affectionate nature won him friends and admirers among squash players, administrators and journalists all over the world. The setting up of the **MID-DAY A-H ANSARI Squash Academy** at Andheri was a dream come true for Raju, the visionary, to whom many local squash champions are indebted for

his support, guidance and inspiration. To Raju Chainani must go a great deal of credit for getting **MID-DAY** and Malaysia's **PETRA FOUNDATION** together, culminating in the setting up of the Exchange Programme between the two institutions U which promising squash players from Mumbai and cricketers from Malaysia derive the benefit, on a reciprocal basis, of the infrastructure and coaching facilities in the two countries. Raju published **SIMPLY SQUASH** magazine for 12 years despite enormous financial constraints. It was for him a consuming passion, a labour of love in his single-minded endeavor to promote the game.

Raju Chainani awards In memory of squash writer Raju Chainani, who passed away recently, the Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra decided to institute two awards for the Inter-Schools and Inter-College squash tournament -- The Raju Chainani most promising junior award and the Raju Chainani Essay Competition. **Sandeep Jangra** of Jindal Vidyamandir, Vashind won the most promising junior award and was presented with Rs 10,000. For the Raju Chainani essay, schools and college Students below the age of 19 are requested to send in an essay of 500 words on "What squash means to me." The winning entry will win Rs 2,000 and will also be published in **ProSquash**, the newsletter of the **Indian Squash Professionals**.



Late Raju Chainani with Mr Khalid Ansari and Mr Mahendra Agarwal

Steve and Sarah in Trafalgar battle with a difference



Aussie power: Aussie squash queen Sarah Fitz-Gerald with cricket icon Steve Waugh at Trafalgar Square.

A squash battle was enacted at Trafalgar the other day. **Steve Waugh** captain of the Invincible Australian cricket squad played squash with queen **Sarah Fitz-Gerald** at London's famous landmark.

Trafalgar Square? Yes that's right. In an all-glass court erected in London's famous square for the **Commonwealth Games One Year To Go** celebrations on July 25. Squash, Boxing and Gymnastics, three of the sports that will feature at Manchester 2002, took centre stage in the London sunshine and Sarah was joined in the spotlight by Britain's Manchester-based star **Nick Taylor**. When Waugh, accompanied by team-mate **Shane Warne** arrived, he wasted no time in heading straight for the squash court, erected the previous day and dismantled in just four hours after the end of the media call. As Waugh's mother **Beverley** is a former Australian national champion, it's hardly surprising that the eldest of her four sons knows his way about the court -- as he demonstrated in front of decathlon legend **Daley Thompson**. But the Aussie skipper was quick to play down his performance despite the admiring comments from **Thompson** and other onlookers.

"I've always enjoyed a game of squash," said Waugh afterwards. "But there's so much cricket around the world these days that I don't seem to find the time to play too often. In fact it must be something like ten or 12 years since I last picked up a racket."

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

● **WISPA Indian Open Squash, Chennai Final:** Ellen Petersen (Den) bt Omneya Abdel Kawy (EGY) 9-3 9-1 9-2 **Semifinals:** Ellen Petersen (Den) bt Sharon Wee (Mal) 9-2 9-3 9-1 Omneya Abdel Kawy (EGY) bt Chery Beaumont (Eng) 10-8 9-1 9-2.

● **Women's World Junior Championships, Penang, Malaysia 15-28th July 2001 Final standings:** India 8 **For 7th and 8th Position:** New Zealand bt India 2-1: Catherine McLeod bt Supriya Balsekar 9-4 3-9 9-0 9-0; Kylie Lindsay lost to Joshua Chinappa 0-9 9-9 0-9 9-1; Jaclyn Hawkes bt Vaidehi Reddy 10-8 9-5 5-9 9-0; **For 5-8 in group Australia beat India 3-0:** Kasey Brown bt Vaidehi Reddy 10-8 9-5 2-9 7-9 9-2; Amelia Pittom bt Joshua Chinappa 9-4 1-6 9-6-8; Georgina Davis bt Supriya Balsekar 9-7 9-7. **FINAL:** England beat Malaysia 2-1: Alison Walters bt Ooi-Can Teng 9-4 9-0 9-3; Jenny Duncalf lost to Nicol David 1-9 0-3 9-9; Laura Jane Lengthorn bt Patricia Chuah 4-9 9-2 9-9 9-5.

● **FUJIFILM HONG KONG JUNIOR SQUASH OPEN 2001:** **Final:** Girls U-11: Nikita Emanuel (IND) bt Lee Ka Man (HKG) 2-9 9-5 10-8 9-4; U-13: Alisha Mashruwala (IND) bt Leung Shin Nga (HKG) 9-4 9-7 9-7 **Boys:** U-13: Mohd Asyraf (Mal) bt Naishadh Lalwani (IND) 9-3 9-7 9-2; U-17: Patrick Choh (HKG) bt Gaurav Nandrajog (IND) 9-2 4-9 10-8 9-6. **Boys U-19 Semis:** Dick Lau (HKG) bt Supreet Singh (IND) 9-2 9-2 9-0; Q-finals: Supreet Singh bt Au Wing Chi (IND) 9-1 9-2 9-4. U-17 semis: Gaurav Nandrajog (IND) bt Kim Dong Woo (KOR) 10-8 9-3 9-6 9-0 Q-Finals: Gaurav Nandrajog bt Raymond Chi (Hong Kong) 9-4 9-5 9-4. U-13 Semis: Naishadh Lalwani (IND) bt Fung Tsz Cheong (HKG) 0-9 7-9 9-7 9-6 9-7. **Boys U-17 second round:** Anurag Gill lost to Patrick Choh (Hong Kong) 9-2 9-0 9-3 **Girls U-13 Semis:** Alisha Mashruwala (IND) bt Low Wee Wern (MAS) 5-9 9-6 9-6 9-6 9-7; U-11 semis: Nikita Emanuel (IND) bt Chan Pui Kwan 10-8 9-5 9-0.

● **AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP:** 30-9-2001 Matt Reece overcame Harinder Pal Singh in the finals of the Australian Junior Championship in three straight games to clinch U-13 title of the Cadbury Ice Cream Australian Junior Squash Championship. **Final:** Harinder Pal Singh lost to Matt Reece 3-9 1-9 8-10. **Semi-final:** Harinder Pal Singh bt Nathan Kam 2-9 2-9 10-8 9-3 10-8 **Quarter Final:** Harinder Pal Singh bt Zac Alexander 9-2 9-1 conceded 3rd round: Harinder Pal Singh bt Spencer Davis - 10-8 9-4 9-1 **2nd round:** Harinder Pal Singh bt Samuel Downes- 9-0 9-0 9-0 1st round: bye

● **South Zone Inter School Championship Sept 2001 Finals:** Boys U-17: Varun Reddy (Ladny And) bt Vinayak Shetty (Don Bosco) 9-2 9-6 9-6. **Boys U-15:** Vinayak Shetty (Don Bosco) bt V. Abhimanyu (Viadya Mandir) 9-1 9-1 9-6 **Boys U-13:** Arish Ubey (Padma Seshadri) bt Prashant Kumar (St. Michaels) 4-9 9-6 9-10 10-8 9-9 **Boys U-11:** V. Akash (Viadya Mandir) bt Puspit Gangar (The School) 9-0 9-0 9-3 **Girls U-17:** Sonali Philip (Church Park) bt Aarthi (Chettinad) 9-6 9-3 9-5 9-5 **Team Championship:** Ladny And bt Viadya Mandir 2-1 (Varun Reddy bt V. Abhimanyu 9-0 9-3 3-9 9-2; Fahd Vohra bt V. Anvish 9-1 9-1 9-1 Girish Sawlani lost to N. Rohit 3-9 0-9 9-0).

● **Jodhpur Open Squash championship Sept 2001 Mens**

Open: Finals: Gautam Sharma beat Harendra Pal Singh 9-7 6-9 9-1 10-8 **Semi Finals:** Harendra Pal Singh bt Dharmender Khatri 9-3 9-9 6-9 9-0 Gautam Sharma bt Rajender Gurjar 9-10 9-2 9-6 9-15 **Finals:** Prateek Chhaba bt Shalin Jaisinghani 9-2 9-4 9-7 **U-19 Finals:** Nitin Dutta bt Vikas Murari 3-0 **The sponsors were Anar Sports From Jodhpur And Pace International Co. From Delhi Adidas staff was given to the winner and the runner up of the categories.**

● **The Little Masters Junior Squash Tournament :** 29-9-2001 **Results All finals:** Boys U-11: Farman Khan (Del) bt Yuvraj Pathak (MP) 9-6 9-0 9-1 **Boys U-13:** Naishadh Lalwani (Mum) bt Vikram Malhotra (Mum) 9-4 9-7 9-7 **Boys U-15:** Imran Khan (Del) bt Sandip Jangra (Jindal) 9-3 4-9 10-8 9-4 **Boys U-17:** Gaurav Nandrajog (Del) bt Saurav Ghoshal (Koi) 9-3 9-3 4-9 9-1 **Boys U-19:** Gaurav Nandrajog (Del) bt Sahil Vora

(Mum) 9-5 10-8 9-2 **Girls U-19:** Joshna Chinappa (TN) bt Vaidehi Reddy (TN) 9-4 9-3 10-9 **Girls U-15:** Alisha Mashruwala (Mum) bt Sonali Philip (TN) 9-3 9-0 9-0 9-0 **All Semifinals:** Boys U-19 Farman Khan bt Vir Seth 9-0 9-1 9-4 Yuvraj Pathak bt Ravi Dikshit 6-9 9-4 9-1 9-7 **Boys U-13** Vikram Malhotra bt Vir Bhagat 9-4 9-7 5-9 9-3 Naishadh Lalwani bt Vir Seth 9-0 9-0 9-1 **Boys U-15** Imran Khan bt Sarvesh Chauhan 9-5 9-0 9-7 Sandeep Jangra bt Gautam Kalani 9-7 6-9 9-5 10-10 **9-6** Boys U-17 Gaurav Nandrajog bt Mihir Shetty 9-2 9-3 9-4 Saurav Ghoshal bt Anurag Gill 9-2 9-7 9-4 **Boys U-19** Gaurav Nandrajog bt Saurav Ghoshal 6-9 10-8 9-0 9-3 Sahil Vora bt Supreet Singh 9-2 9-2 9-1 **Girls U-15** Alisha Mashruwala bt Nikita Emanuel 9-2 9-0 9-0 Sonali Philip bt Shahnaz Dastur 9-2 4-9 9-5 9-3 **Girls U-19** Joshna Chinappa bt Rhea Bhargava 9-2 9-2 9-0 Vaidehi Reddy bt Rachita Vora 9-1 10-8 9-5

Referee U fire

It is not often that the men in charge of running the game properly themselves get fired for not practicing what they preach. Vaman Apte, former president of the SRAM, experienced this when he was warned by the association about his refereeing. The association believed he was too harsh when penalizing Bikram Uberoi for foot faults at the Otters Open final in May. We give below reactions of the two concerned parties:

VAMAN APTE:

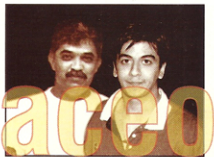
I was surprised to see the report 'Vaman Apte warned for unfair umpiring' in Sunday Mid Day on September 2. The warning is apparently based on a letter written by Bikram Uberoi, the aggrieved player, for being foot-faulted during the final of the Old Castle Otters Club All India tournament in May. Maharashtra has thought it fit to warn a referee for enforcing a specific rule. I would like to enumerate the rule as it reads regarding foot-fault, as laid down by the World Squash Federation. Rule 4.4.1: A service is good, if all the conditions in rule 4.4.1 are met. Specifically, the rule reads as the server has part of one foot in contact with the floor within the service box, without any part of that foot touching the service box line at the time of striking the ball.

The report also says it is believed that I forced my way into the referees' chair, the tournament committee of the Otters Club, if they had felt so strongly, would have asked me not to referee the match! have refereed tournaments all over the world and fortunately, have never been accused of being partisan or unfair for enforcing the rules of the game. This must be a unique case in the history of the game where a referee has been given a warning for enforcing the rules of the game as laid down by the World Squash Federation. This is the only racket game in the world where decisions given in a match can be extremely subjective particularly in the grey areas of player interference, especially lets and strokes.

BIKRAM UBEROI:

I have been playing squash for the last four-five years and have never been foot-faulted by any other referee anywhere in the world. Vaman Apte is continuously doing it against me for the last four years. He is trying to ruin my career. I don't want him to referee the match and I told him that on the eve of the Otters Club match. He gave me the foot fault in the first game itself and after I lost the game I asked for a change in referee because I couldn't afford to concentrate on the referee. I had worked hard for the match and I could have beaten Manish Chotrani that day because I was the fitter player. Then Apte gave me a conduct game. I have never heard of a conduct game in Indian squash - you can give a warning or a conduct. But even after that I had forgotten everything but he sent a letter to SRAM and I had no course but to send one myself.

SRAM Secretary Mahendra Agarwal Adds: The incident would have died a natural death had it not been for Vaman Apte's letter on May 25, asking to ban Bikram. Bikram wrote that he has never been foot-faulted by any other referee in his international career. Now Apte has written to the SRM. We want to protect a Maharashtra boy. In fact the official referee for the tournament was Mr. Chandrakant Pawar and Mr. Apte forced his way through when Pawar had gone out to refresh himself. Since Mr. Apte was former SRAM President Pawar didn't ask him to vacate the chair. Pawar Adds: I had refereed the whole tournament and didn't find any foot fault in Bikram's match till he reached the finals.



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