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## Kutsenko survives scare from Bose

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Dec 31: The Indian party ended as Gaurav Natekar and Prahlad Srinath failed to catch the quarter-final train in the \$ 10,000 ITF Men's Future Circuit tournament at the DTA courts here on Wednesday.

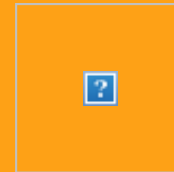
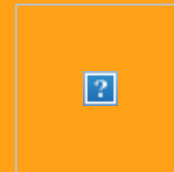
But World No 328 and top seed Vadim Kutsenko just about managed to fix a New Year day last-eight date with American Andrew Rueb after squeezing past German Alex Bose.

Though Kutsenko got a lucky win, Bose was clearly the day's hero. And if his body, under the influence of antibiotics, had not protested, he would have brought off the biggest upset of the tournament today.

The great grandson of Indian freedom fighter Subhash Chandra Bose showcased his amazing racquet skills and closed out the first set 7-5. Very cleverly, Bose allowed Kutsenko have a free run of the second set and conserved his energy for the third.

Though clay courter Kutsenko looked very impressive in his demolition of another orthodox stroking Briton yesterday, the cerebral Bose exposed the top seed's limitations in front of an appreciative audience. After the match, Bose was confident that the Chandigarh leg, being played on grass, will have a different script. "I will definitely beat him," he

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said.

Bose, who plays double fisted on both flanks and has the most ungainly strokes, sliced through Kutsenko's flighted topspin and gave him no pace to feed on. Leading 2-1 after breaking Kutsenko in the third set, Bose clowned around and let the Uzbek off the hook. When Bose held serve to level 4-4, his legs had tired. Kutsenko survived.

In that way, Indian Gaurav Natekar too was unlucky. Fresh from his final showing in the Duliajan grass court nationals, Natekar was leading 4-1 and on the way to bouncing out fourth seeded Israeli Jonathon Erlich before his left groin misbehaved. Still, he managed to pull off the first set 6-1, but that was all he could do.

Erlich, who was throwing away the match, cashed in on Natekar's injury and ran through the next two sets.

In doubles action, the Kirtane brothers, Nitin and Sandeep, avoided an embarrassing defeat to Saurav Panja and Vishal Uppal coming back from 0-5 down in the first set to take the match at 7-6(6), 7-6(3). Vasudeva Reddy and Amod Wakalkar was the other Indian pair to reach the doubles quarters. Results

**Singles:** Pre-quarters: Vadim Kutsenko (Uzbekistan) bt Alex Bose (Germany) 5-7, 6-1, 6-4, Andrew Rueb (US) bt P. Srinath (India) 6-1, 6-2, James Delgado (GBR) bt Rainer Gunther (Germany) 6-1, 6-4, Marcus Hilpert (Germany) bt Andrej Krasevec (Slovakia) 7-5, 6-4, Dmitri Tomasevich (Uzbekistan) bt Lior Kristal (Israel) 6-3, 6-2, Jonathon Erlich (Israel) bt Gaurav Natekar (India) 1-6, 6-1, 6-1, Naom Okun (Israel) bt Matej Pampoulov 7-6(5), 1-6, 6-3, Lior Mor (Israel) bt Andrej Bizjak (Slovakia) 6-1, 6-0Doubles: A Hamadeh-A Rueb bt M Pampolov-D September 6-3, 6-4; V Reddy-A Wakalkar bt A Bizjak-A Krasevec 6-3, 1-6, 6-3, J Erlich-N Okum bt A Radhakrishnan-R Sridhar 6-2, 6-2, M Hilpert-R Gunther bt V Chadha-G Natekar 6-0, 2-0 (ret injured), A Bose-T Meringoff bt M Fregorg-D Morente 7-5, 6-2, V Kutsenko-D Tomasevich bt P Srinath-Fazaluddin 6-4, 7-5, N Kirtane-S Kirtane bt S Panja-V Uppal 7-6(6), 7-6(3), L. Mor-J Delgado bt L Kristal-R Nita 6-2, 6-2.

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