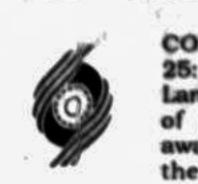
the bronze.

## Hosts, India resume gold hunt today



25: India and Sri Lanka, sharing 26 of the 28 golds awarded so far at the fifth South Asian Federation

(SAF) Games, are tipped to win medals when compétition resumes here Thursday after the Christmas break, reports AFP.

Indian athletes are expected to haul in a string of first places in the 25 track and field (vents, while the Sri Lankans are firm favourities for six more golds in the swim-

Only if India's top swimmer Sebastian Xavter, who has yet to produce his best, comes out of his shell in the remaining events, could Sri Lanka's wimmers have a fight on their

But local duo Julian Bolling and his cousin Dipika Channugam, who have already snapped seven golds and seven new Games records for Srt Lanka, are still expected to collect more golds in the pool. Apart from athletics and swimming, India and Sri Lanka will also be fighting for honours in shooting and ten-

Pakistan hold the aces in the boxing, with nine finalists against India's six and Sri Lanka's five.

Pakistan is also expected to shine in basketball, table tenhis and the glamour track and field events traditionally dominated by their arch rivals India. TUESDAY'S ROUND-UP

An earlier AFP report said: Indian athletes grabbed the spotlight for the first time as Sri Lankan swimmers continued to smash records on the third day of Games Tuesday.

Sri Lanka's SAF Games captain Julian Bolling and local women's star Dipika Chanmugam each set up two more records in swimming to give their side a total of eight

swimming golds as against four golds by the favourites

Boliting broke, his own records in the 400m individual medley and 200m freestyle, both the previous marks being established at the third SAF

years ago. Besides Dipika, compatriot

erased the previous record of

2 min 22.25 secs in the

women's 200m freestyle

though finishing second to

Dipika. It was first set up by

India's Anita Sood at the inau-

gural Games in Kathmandu six



REETH ABRAHAM long jump gold for India

Tehani Weerasinghe also broke the existing women's 100m breaststroke record of 1 min 22.19 secs established by Indian Persis Madan in the 1984 Games. India's Jossey Mathew ran

his best-ever race to win the men's 800m final from Pakistan's Nadir Khan in 1 min 49.94 secs. Jossey said afterwards it was the toughest race he had run.

India won five of the seven golds on offer in the athletics events Tuesday.

Sri Lanka's star sprinter Sriyantha Dissanayake collected the solitary gold for the home side when he won the

Pakistan's Ghulam Abbas established the day's only track and field record when he bettered his own SAF timing in the men's 400 meters hurdles clocking 50.14 secs.

Abbas had run it in 50.68 secs in the fourth SAF Games in Islamabad in 1989.

India won two golds in tennis when it defeated Sri Lanka in the finals of the men's and women's team championships.

Pakistan and Bangladesh, he losing semi-finalists in both sections, shared the bronze medals. Sri Lanka added to its gold

haul winning two in the shooting events which are being held for the first time in the SAF Games.

Maldives recorded a 120 win over Nepal in a Group B football match while reigning champions Pakistan kept their hopes alive by defeating Bangladesh by a solitary goal in a Group A game.

The Maldives' victory. which came off a goal by forward Ismail Asif in the 30th minute, shattered Nepal's chances of a berth in the final. The Nepalese team had earlier drawn their match against hosts Sri Lanka.

Maldives now meet Sri Lanka on Thursday to decide who would go into the final from their three-nation group. After a blank first half

against Bangladesh, Qazi Mohammad Ashfaq scored the winning goal for Pakistan in the 83rd minute. The win took Pakistan to the top of Group A. They were earlier held to a draw by India.

Faisalabad Test may be shifted after umpires called off the second Test on the fifth and final day because of poor light.

The start of the women's 100m freestyle swimming at the fifth SAF Games in Colombo on Dec 23. The event was won by

India's Bula Choudhury (R), with the silver going to Sri Lankan R M Dhammika (L) while India's Sangitha Rao (C) took

With weather ruining second Pak-Lanka Test at Gujranwala

The two teams had been idle since Friday when bad light cut short the first day's play after only 36 overs. Since then, showers and drizzle have made parts of the

ground in October.

outfield unplayable. The outfield was damaged by heavy machinery brought in to build a platform for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to address a public meeting at the

Loose earth which was sprinkled in a bid to repair the ground turned to mud and all efforts to dry out the trouble spots proved fruitless.

Sri Lanka put Pakistan in to bat after winning the toss on Friday. Pakistan made 109 for two in their first innings, los-

ing the wickets of opener Shoatb Mohammad for one and Zahid Fazal for 21. Opener Rameez Raja re-

mained not out for 51 and Javed Miandad was not out on

had played well in the first Test at Stalkot, which also ended in a draw due to bad weather, but said the bowling needed improvement.

from Friday. Scores: Pakistan first in-

three-day match against the

bad weather. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second cricket Test between Pakistan and Sri

Lanka today: Pakistan: First innings Rameez Raja not out Shoaib Mohammad Tillekeratne b Ratnavake Zahid Fazal C Tillekeratne b Wickremasinghe

- AFP photo

Javed Miandad not out Extras (lb-10 nb-6) Total (two wickets, 36 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-59

Did not bat: Salim Malik. Imran Khan, Motn Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aakib Javed, Salim Jaffer. Bowling: Ratnayake 3 39

Ramanayake Wickremasinghe7 Hathurusinghe 2 Anurasiri Gurusinha Ranatunga

Result: Match abandoned as a draw due to bad weather.

scored the second goal

the rival custodian Delwar fol-

lowing a lob from Tipu (2-0).

Five minutes later, Uttam

Uttam's perfect header beat

# 1991: Magic deals a body blow to US sport

WASHINGTON, Dec 25: The world of Ame-rican sports suffe-red one of its biggest body blow ever in 1991 when basketball star Magic Johnson became the first sporting hero to reveal he had contracted the HIV virus, reports AFP.

Johnson's admission had the effect of a bombshell - but as a positive influence in world attitudes towards AIDS sufferers, it could not have been more effective, whatever Martina Navratilova might have to say about it.

The fact that Johnson picked up the virus through heterosexual contact upset Navratilova and much of the gay lobby in the states, but in the long run it will have taken away much of the stigma of the disease as a "gay plague."

Johnson's revelation overshadowed everything else that happened in American sport this year, which was highlighted by some rags to riches tales.

Bulls and Chicago Pittsburgh Penguins won their first championships and the Minnesota Twins and Atlanta Braves met in the 'worst-tofirst' World Series.

The Bulls, led by superstar Michael Jordan, ended a 25year quest for the National Basketball Association title when, after losing the first game of the finals to the Los Angeles Lakers. At home, they swept the next four games.

"When I came here, we started from scratch," said Jordan, who joined them in 1984. "I vowed we'd make the play-offs every year, and each year we got closer. I always had faith I'd get this (championship) ring one day." One of the keys to Chicago's triumph was the fact that the players surrounding Jordan began to play more than just supporting roles. In particular, Scottie

DIPIKA CHANMUGAM

Lankan queen of the pool

Nineteen-year-old Dipika

erased records in the women's

200m freestyle and 100m

breaststroke to collect her

fourth gold medal after her

record-breaking performance

in the 100m backstroke and

400m individual medley on

India's Sangita Rao also

Monday.

Pippen evolved into a scoring threat who took some of the pressure off of Jordon and, after the season was completed, he earned a spot on the US Olympic team.

In the National Hockey League, the Pittsburgh Penguins wrote a similar script, winning their first-ever Stanley Cup by defeating the Minnesota North Stars, who rode a wave of emotion through the play-offs despite having entered the post-season with a losing record.

Prior to 1991, Pittsburgh had finished no higher than second in their division and had never before even reached the Stanley Cup finals. This time they could thank Canadian star Mario Lemieux, who overeame back problems that forced him to miss the first 50 games of the regular The team really started to

gel when Lemieux returned and general manager Craig Patrick traded for defensemen Larry Murphy and Peter Taglianetti, along with Ulf Samuelsson and Grant Jennings.

Tragedy struck in the offseason, however, when coach Bob Johnson, who led the team to victory in just his first season, died of a brain tumor. Johnson's motto, "stay

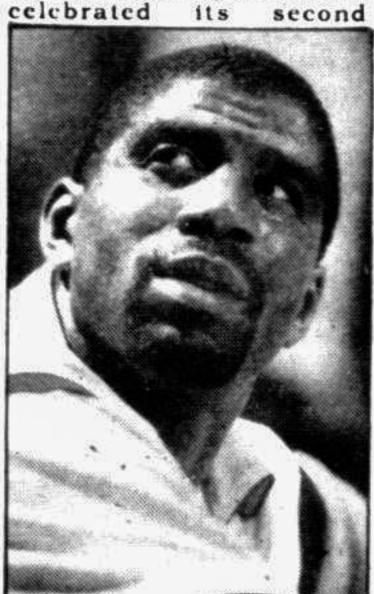
focused," has remained with the Penguins as they attempt to repeat this season.

Perhaps the greatest "rags to riches" story of the year occurred in baseball, with two teams rising from the basement to the penthouse and then producing one of the most memorable World Series

"This was, I think, the greatest World Series ever, said Major League baseball commissioner Fay Vincen after the Minnesota Twins edged out the Atlanta Braves 1-0 in the 10th inning of Game

It was a fantastic finish to a Cinderella story, leaving both teams with something positive. "The whole series was like a

storybook and tonight was chapter seven," said Twins manager Tom Kelly as his team



MAGIC JOHNSON

championship in four years. "I don't know who played better. We probably should cut it (the trophy) in half." Youth played a major role in

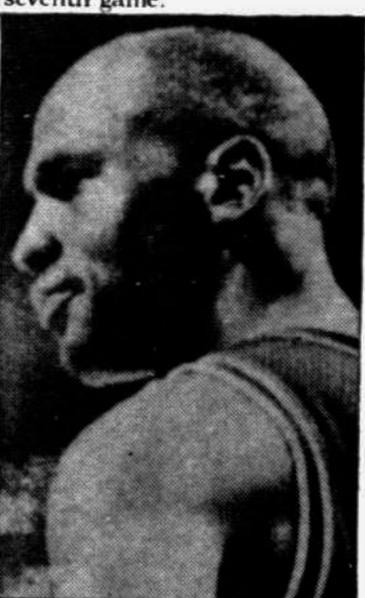
the success of both clubs, embined with the resurgence of a pair of veterans most experts had given up on.

Terry Pendleton, cast off the year before by the St Louis Cardinals, led the National League in batting and was voted "most valuable player."

His leadership proved invaluable to some of the

team's younger players. including Ronnie Gant, who paced the club with 33 home runs, and pitchers Tom Glavine, John Smoltz and Steve Avery — who pitched a pair of shut-outs against the Pittsburgh Pirates in the play-

The Twins received similar inspiration from veteran pitcher Jack Morris, who was voted "most valuable player" of the World Series, having gone the distance in the decisive seventh game.



MICHAEL JORDAN

"I just kept fighting and, somehow, we figured out a way to win this thing," he said.

Twins' second baseman Knoblauch Chuck characterized the youthful drive of the team and he was named "rookie of the year" in the off-season.

In American football, the New York Giants won their second Super Bowl title in four years, defeating the Buffalo Bills 21-19 in one of the most exciting contests in recent

As in the other major sports, the Bills made a long climb to the top after years of struggling just to get out of the Using the innovative no-

GUJRANWALA,

Pakistan, Dec 25:

Pakistan and Sri

Lanka abandoned

their ill-fated

second cricket

Test as a draw today and

agreed to shift the venue of the

third and final Test if bad

weather threatened it, reports

played in Faisalabad on January

2-7. But Pakistan captain

Imran Khan agreed to a pro-

posal by Sri Lankan team man-

ager Duleep Mendis to move it

to play cricket," Mendis said

"We have come to Pakistan

The third Test is due to be

Reuter.

if necessary.

huddle offense. Buffalo's offense acquired a reputation as unstoppable, led by quarterback Jim Kelly, allpurpose running back Thurman Thomas and wide receivers Andra Reed and James Lofton.

In the Super Bowl, played amid tight security during the Gulf war, the Giants discovered that the only way to keep the Bills from scoring was to keep the ball away from their offense.

New York led by back-up quarterback Jeff Hostetler, set a new record for time of possession, using a conservative ball control offense that produced drives lasting more than eight minutes.

Giants head coach Bill Parcells retired following the Super Bowl and the Giants have struggled this season missing the play offs.

The Bills, on the other hand, have used last January's disappointment as a motivation for this year and are headed for another Super Bowl appearance, leading the American football conference with a 13-2 record.

Their opponents promise to be the surprising Washington Redskins, who made a bid for a perfect season losing only to the Dallas Cowboys. In keeping with the theme

three teams - the Atlanta Falcons, Detroit Lions and the Cowboys - have made the play offs this year after after long absences from post-season

Rain the spoiler Sports Reporter

The Navana Premier Division cricket league engagement between Brothers Union and Rupali Bank fell through due to inclement weather.

It was the second successive day when the unscasonal rains prevented matches from being held. Incessant rain also spoiled

the Railway versus Ajax match of the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground. The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board in a press release yesterday, said that the

cricket programme of both the Milnars and Navana leagues will resume from Sunday because of the unplayable ground conditions following the past two days' downpour. The fixtures of both the leagues will be bodily shifted.

The foul weather also wrought havoc with the first semifinal of the 1991 Victory Day Shah Sports hockey tournament between Abahani Krira Chakra and Ajax Club scheduled for yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

The match, according to a Bangladesh Hockey Federation press release, will now be held at 3.00 pm on Friday, December 27. The second semifinal, be-

tween Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and Bangladesh Army, will be played on Saturday, December 28, also at 3.00 pm.

Tickets for the semifinals have been fixed at Taka ten

Meanwhile, the Federation Cup handball matches also fell through at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Mendis said his batsmen

Lahore City Crieket Association nings 109 for two, after which

Sri Lanka are due to play a

no play could be held due to

### Zia Gold Cup on in Ctg

through Uttam



CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: Uttam's hattrick helped Aloshiri to register a 5-0 victory against Monsurabad Kishore San-

gha in the inaugural match of the Zia Memorial Gold Cup kishore football tournament being held under the auspices of the Chittagong Zia Sishu Kishore Sangathan at the Chittagong Stadium here this afternoon, reports BSS.

Aloshiri led the first half 3-O. Besides Uttam's hattrick, Tipu scored twice. The Aloshiri boys domi-

nated the match, and forward Uttam, Tipu and Saiful played very well. Aloshiri took the lead in the

first minute through Tipu who netted the ball with a spectacular placing (1-0). In the 20th minute Aloshiri scored his second goal after receiving a pass from Tipu inside the rival box (3-0). In the 45th minute Monsurabad's defenders fouled

Satful inside the box and the referee pointed to the spot. Uttam made no mistake in sending the ball home (4-0). Tipu completed the tally (5-0) six minutes later.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury inaugurated the tournament as the chief guest. Nineteen teams are participating in the tournament.

The two games scheduled for yesterday will now be played today, of course, the weather permitting.

#### Indian reign threatened



COLOMBO, Dec 25 : Will India be able to maintain its status as 'super power' among SAARC countries?

This is the question on everybody's lips here when the athletes are taking a break from the fifth South Asian Federation Games to celebrate Christmas today, reports PTI. India, which had won 44

gold, 28 silver and 16 bronze in the last Games at Islamabad (1989), have been put in a tight spot by hosts Lanka who had claimed just seven gold, 11 silver and 19 bronze while finishing second.

The hosts, who spent money lavishly during their serious preparation, have already won 15 gold, eight silver and eight bronze.

India are still struggling in their bid to catch up with the

. Though India's performance was better, especially in athletics on the third day yesterday, they are lying at the second spot with only 11 gold, 11 silver and eight bronze.

What is worrying the Indian camp is that the Lankans have improved tremendously in almost all disciplines except

the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Pyongyang, which boycotted

the 1988 Games, at the truce

village of Panmunjom at an

greatly with the landmark rec-

onciliation agreement signed

by the North and South Prime

fielded joint teams for the

World Table Tennis

Championships in Japan last

April and for the World Youth

Football Championship in

Atlanta might see South Africa,

the Ukraine, Russia, Belarus

and perhaps a group of central

Asian republics competing

alongside the Baltic states,

The 1996 Olympics in

South and North Korea

Ministers in December.

Portugal in June.

The prospects improved

early date.

Seoul is seeking talks with

#### perhaps table tennis. 1991: Political upheavals redraw the world's sporting map

rites are being performed over Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, the greatest sporting empire ever seen, as 1991 expires, but the painful rebirth of South African sport is in the last stage of labour now apartheid has officially been killed off, reports AFP.

The year opened with the East German sports machine refusing to die quietly in a unifled Germany as the full tale of drug abuse and political manipulation seeped from the

The self-destruction of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia closed 1991, leaving a huge question mark hanging over the world sporting map. The breakup of the sporting

superpower, whose 1,221 medals since 1952 were more than any other country's, leaves chaos and confusion.

Out with the corrupt communist system, which demanded top sports honours to prove the superiority of the Kremlin system, went the structures that supported top performers in a cradle-to-

The all-powerful Soviet Gosskomsport has been wound up and axed funding to 25,000 athletes and 1,200 coaches two months before the Winter Olympics in Albertville and only half a year ahead of the

Into the vacuum have rushed only airy statements from officials that Soviet teams will survive in one form or another, but the pledges may prove no more than mere words as the emerging republics flex their sporting muscles.

Summer Games in Barcelona.

Already the independent Baltic states of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia will field their own teams in Albertville and in Barcelona.

The other 12 Soviet republics had agreed to send a united team, but the two biggest - Russia and the Ukraine - have since sought recognition International Olympic Committee.

Soviet Olympic Committee

desperately fighting to main-State Sports Council tain at least the facade of a joint team under whatever name can be agreed - commonwealth of independent states or whatever.

He needs 800,000 dollars

for the Winter Games and 3.3 million for the Summer and has started an Olympic lottery. Sports giant Adidas has pulled out of an 800,000 dollar annual sponsorship deal. The optimistic Smirnov has

come up with a new flag - still red but with a flame in the centre and a star tin the middle of that -to replace the hammer and sickle. But the bickering continues over an anthem. The glory days when the

Soviets took 55 gold medals in the 1988 Seoul Olympics or 29 medals at the 1991 athletics World Championships in Tokyo are over. Sergey Bubka, the world pole vault record holder who

guarantees gold medals, is

Ukrainian, and proud of it,

even if he has joined the

"brawn drain" and now lives and trains in the West.

Borzov, the 'Ukraine's Olympic

Committee president, who won 100m and 200m golds in Munich, is a man with a mission - to give the republic a strong presence on the world stage. Borzov points out that there are 53 million Ukrainians only a couple of million short

of the population of Britain or

France — and he has no inten-

tion of toeing an anachronistic Soviet line for the good of a hated entity that no longer ex-"It's perhaps also the collapse of a system that is not totally sporting," Borzov admitted. Lurid tales of drugs, hormones and suppression of the

individual can be expected shortly. The ex-sprinter backed a united team for the Olympics, but the Ukraine Parliament has since asked the IOC to be allowed an independent representation at Barcelona.

Such confusion over who

will and who won't be there is

mirrored in numerous sports as the individual federations His Sports Minister Valery take over responsibilities held previously by Gosskomsport. Latvia and Estonia, finding

it too late to qualify for

Olympic rowing and volleyball,

have reluctantly agreed to let

oarsmen and players compete for places on the Soviet team. Similarly the draw has already been made for the 1993 Basketball Championships naming the USSR as sole contenders from

#### the empire. SAFRICANS RETURN

South Africa pencilled themselves back on to the world sporting map - minus the famous Springbok emblem - as the various black and white federations moved hesitantly towards unity after 30 years in the international wilderness.

A leading anti-apartheid sports official has been appointed to solve the squabbles which are blocking South African athletes from competing in Barcelona.

The three feuding athletics

bodies must unite by January 23 or miss the Games.

The Cricket Boards sorted themselves out swiftly and were rewarded with a surprise trip to India while the rugby World Cup looks set to be staged in South Africa in 1995.

But South African football, clominated by blacks and long since racially integrated, ironically failed to settle differences in time to make the qualifying draw for the 1994 World Cup.

#### YUGOSLAV DILEMMA

In Yugoslavia, despite the bloodshed and bitterness, the national football team qualified the European Championship finals in Sweden.

However, no-one is betting on their chances of turning up, particularly with Germany dragging Europe into early recognition of Croatia and Slovenia. And the odds on the commonwealth of independent states holding together a team from the old Soviet Union for the tournament next June look extremely slim.

Slovenes are already com-

peting in the skiing World Cup under their own colours rather than the flag of federal Yugoslavia.

The year also saw Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania go into the hat for the World Cup qualifiers, only a few months after the tiny Faroe Islands put their name on the international sporting map with a stunning victory over Austria in the European Championship group

It was also the year Israel joined Europe for World Cup qualifiers after many Asian nations refused to play against the Jewish state.

Israel is expected to benefit as a sporting power with the arrival of top class sportsmen and women among the tens of thousands of Soviet jews who are pouring into the country.

KOREAN THAW The final Cold War frontier between North and South Korea shows encouraging signs

South Korea is still hoping

to unite with North Korea for

sports are concerned.

of coming down as far as

divisions, dare anyone believe that the dramatic events of 1991 will usher in a new era in which athletes throughout the world at last compete for the good of sport and not an ideo-

Croatia, Slovenia and even a united Korea. But after boycotts, bans and

logical propaganda point?