

Pak-S Africa one-dayer today

KARACHI, Oct 15: South Africa and Pakistan will face each other in the Wills triangular series one-day match at the national stadium here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Having lost a game each to favourites Australia, who won the first two matches, both South Africa and Pakistan are pinning their hopes on Sunday's encounter.

Pakistan's betting, like that of the South Africans, is unreliable and the outcome will depend on how well their batsmen face against the pace and spin attack that each has to offer.

Against Australia at Lahore, only South Africa's Hansie Cronje and Jonty Rhodes stood their ground, making an unbeaten 98 and 42 respectively.

Though handicapped by the absence of their ace pace bowler Allan Donald, who had opted out of the tour to have a rest, South Africa have an impressive bowling line-up in Fannie de Villiers, Brian McMillan, Eric Simon, Hansie Cronje and Tim Shaw.

Pakistan's batting against Australia, in the second match of the series at Multan, was brittle.

Their decision of playing Ijaz Ahmed, after a gap of two years, as well as Aamer Malik, who has limited one-day experience, proved a gross mistake. Only Inzamam ul-Haq, who made 59, and captain Salim Malik, who scored 32, made any impression.

Pakistan have two great fast bowlers in Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, but a weak-looking spin attack.

In their five encounters in the past, Pakistan have won three, two of these during the last World Cup, while South Africa triumphed in two.

"It is a vital match for us and Pakistan is a good side. We do not underestimate them," said South African captain Kepler Wessels.

Pakistani skipper Salim Malik observed: "A win for us is a must. The match against South Africa is crucial for Pakistan."

Korean shuttlers' take three, Indonesians two

HIROSHIMA, Oct 15: Olympic silver medalist Bang Soo-Hyun trounced Japan's Hisako Mizui in straight sets in Saturday's women's singles badminton final as South Korea won three of the five titles at stake in individual Asian Games competition, reports AP.

Bang, a 22-year-old ranked third in the world, swept aside Mizui 11-4, 11-6.

Mizui, who had upset world and Olympic champion Susi Susanti of Indonesia in the semifinals, is ranked more than 70 places lower than Bang and the disparity was obvious.

Bang trailed 2-4 in the second stanza, but then reeled off seven straight points to take command.

Koreans also won titles in the women's doubles and the mixed doubles.

Shim Eun-Suk and Jang Hye-Ock surprised the top-seeded pair of Chung So-Young and Gil Young-Ah 15-9, 15-3 in the women's doubles, while Yoo Young-Sung and Chung took the mixed doubles with a 15-12, 15-10 victory over compatriots Kang Kyung-Jin and Jang, who had been bidding for two golds.

The Koreans were not represented in the men's singles and men's doubles finals — and Indonesia won both.

Herianto Arbi used his athleticism and power to defeat his top-seeded compatriot Joko Suprianto 15-7, 15-1 in the men's singles.

Arbi, the reigning All-England Champion, had the crowd cheering with his powerful overheads. The 22-year-old gold medalist conceded six years in experience to Suprianto.

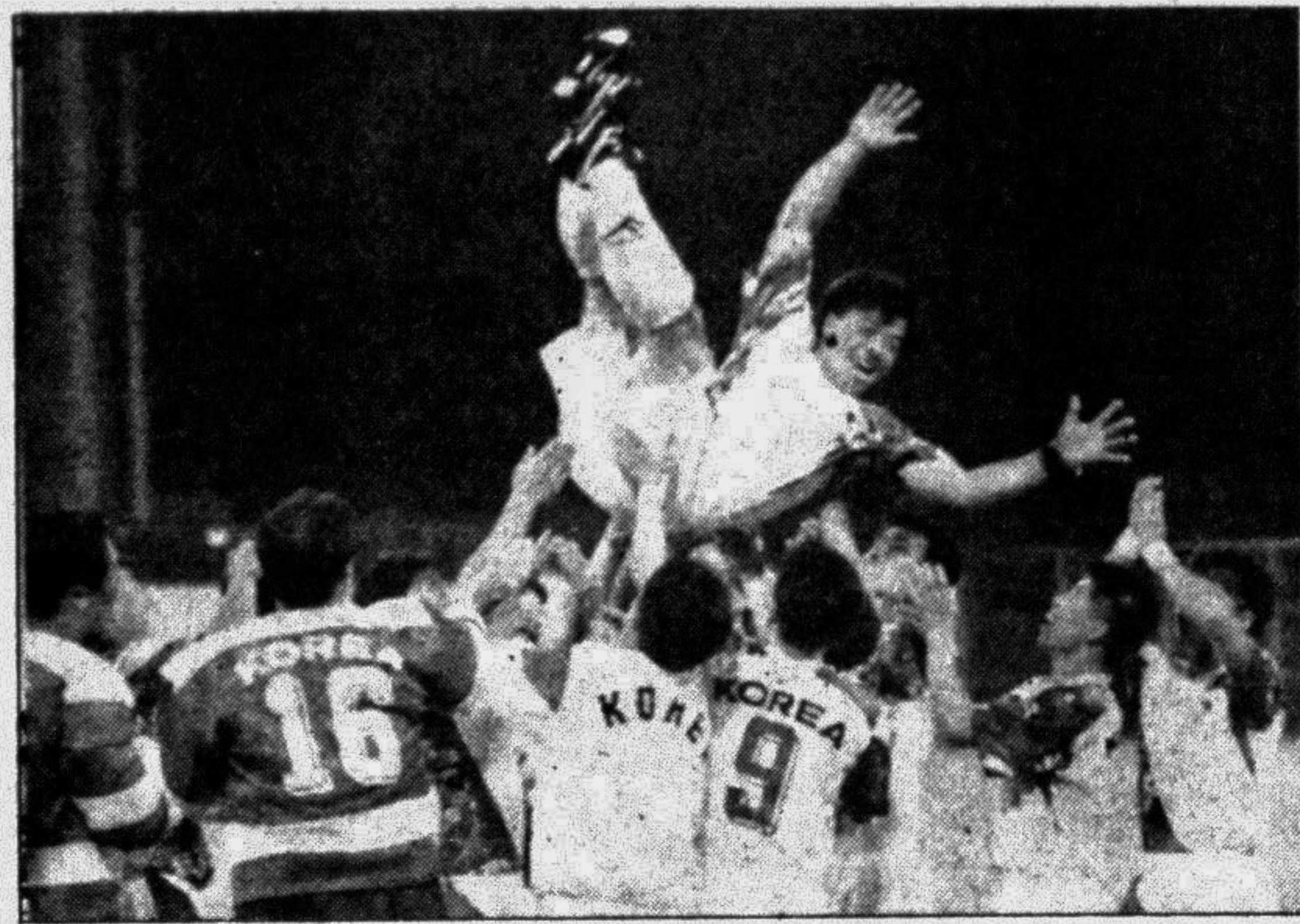
Superlative Sino cyclists

HIROSHIMA, Oct 15: China's three racers stayed together until the finish line and swept all the medals Saturday in the women's cycling road race, two seconds ahead of three rivals, reports AP.

Guo Xinghong, Zhao Haijuan and Wang Shuping all finished 56.48 kilometres (35 miles) in one hour, 57 minutes, 10 seconds, but Guo was awarded the gold, Zhao the silver and Wang the bronze.

Mika Ogishima of Japan, Song Chung-Mi of South Korea and another Japanese, Tomoko Sekiya, took the next three places, all in 1:57.12.

The entire 14-woman field stayed together through the first 42.36 kilometres (26.3 miles), completing that distance in 1:28.03, but the Chinese picked up the pace for the final lap. They averaged 28.923 kilometres (17.97 miles) an hour for the full distance.



South Korean captain Park Shin Heum is thrown in the air as his teammates celebrate the Asiad hockey title win at the 12th Asiad yesterday. Koreans beat India 3-2 in the final.

— AFP photo

ROK ruin Indian dreams



HIROSHIMA, Oct 15: Powerful South Korea crushed India's dream of winning their first Asian Games hockey gold medal in 28 years with a thrilling 3-2 victory in the men's final here Saturday to complete a spectacular grand double, reports AFP.

The Koreans, who had won the women's title on Friday, played brilliant hockey to avenge the 1-3 humiliation by the Indians in the preliminary round.

It was South Korea's second Asiad double after achieving the feat in Seoul eight years ago, and justified their growing reputation as the latest superpower in world hockey.

India, whose only Asiad hockey gold came way back in 1966 at Bangkok, saw their hopes of making a comeback crumble in the face of the Korean assault.

Their only consolation was that they finished ahead of arch-rivals Pakistan, who took the bronze after winning seven of the previous nine titles.

The Koreans could not have asked for better morale-booster ahead of their World Cup debut in Sydney next month.

The fought back after being a goal down in the seventh minute, to lead 2-1 at the end of an enthralling first session.

Full back Anil Aldrin put India ahead by converting the second penalty corner, his fifth goal in the tournament. The Koreans equalised six

minutes later with their first penalty corner when ace marksman Shin Seok-Kyu beat Indian goalkeeper Ashish Ballal with a stinging drive.

The Koreans raided the rival defence and were rewarded with their second goal four minutes before half-time when skipper Park Shin-Heum scooped in a rebound from a penalty corner.

South Korea increased the margin nine minutes after the breather when Park scored his second goal off a penalty corner.

India made it 2-3 two minutes later when Malaysian umpire V Sasidharan penalised Korean goalkeeper Koo Jin-Soo for squatting on the ball and awarded India a penalty stroke.

Midfielder Shakeel Ahmed held his nerves to scoop the ball to the left of the diving Koo.

With 24 minutes still remaining in the match, both teams battled hard for another goal but the rival defences stood firm amid growing tension.

The Koreans leapt in joy as soon as the final whistle blew, and did a lap of honour around the ground, cheered by their colleagues from the nearby Athletes Village.

TEAMS

INDIA: Ashish Ballal (Anjjan Subbaiah), Rajnish Mishra, Anil Aldrin, Mohammad Arif, Jude Felix, Shakeel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Dhanraj Pillay, Baljit Singh, Mohammad Riaz.

KOREA: Koo Jin-Soo, Shin Seok-Kyu, Han Beung-Kook, Yoo Myung-Keun, Cho Myung-Jun, Park Shin-Heum, Kang Keon-Wook, Choi Jong-Hoo, Jeong Yong-Kyun, Yoo Seung-Jin, Kim Young-Kyu.

Umpires: Iury Platonov (Russia) and V Sasidharan (Malaysia).

BRONZE FOR PAKISTAN

Seven-time champions Pakistan took their first Asian Games bronze medal with an easy 6-0 win over hosts Japan in the play-off between the losing semi-finalists.

It was the first time Pakistan were reduced to playing for minor placings in the Asiad, having made the final on all the nine previous occasions.

The Pakistanis, who were ousted in a penalty shoot-out by South Korea in Wednesday's semifinals, toyed with Japan in a dull, one-sided encounter.

Muhammad Shahbaz put Pakistan ahead in time 22nd minute with a field goal after his illustrious namesake Shahbaz Ahmed missed two easy opening shots after the start.

Denish Kaleem hit in a penalty corner in the 41st minute, and Kamran Ashraf and Asif Bajwa completed the tally in a match Pakistan would rather not have played.

Pakistan established a commanding 3-0 lead by the 37th minute as Khwaja Junaid and Rahim Khan pummeled in two goals on either side of the breather.

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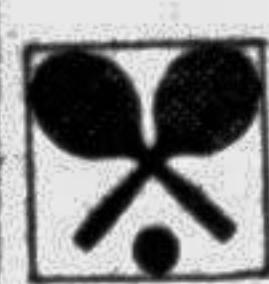
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Edberg out of Seiko Super



TOKYO, Oct 15: With a brilliant mix of serves, volleys and service returns, top seed Goran Ivanisevic, crowd favourite Stefan Edberg 6-4, 6-4 Saturday in the semifinals of the dhs 1 million Seiko Super tennis tournament, reports AP.

Ivanisevic fired Edberg's serves back at the third seed's feet, forcing the Swedish serve-and-volley artist into errors or easy shots to the middle of the court, which the world's No. 2 player hit back for perfect passing shots he made look easy.

"I hit some good returns when I needed to and that helped me," said Ivanisevic, the Wimbledon finalist for the second time this year before failing to world No. 1 American Pete Sampras.

Another crowd favourite, sixth seed Michael Chang, did not make it through to the finals, overcoming 10th seed Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-4.

The aggressive American baseliner also whipped low returns as Eltingh repeatedly rushed the net, breaking the Dutchman in both the first set's seventh game and the final game of the match with wicked backhand crosscourt service-return passing shots.

"I'm very excited to play against Goran. It's going to be a

Japan in men's v'ball final

HIROSHIMA, Oct 15: Japan scored a straight-set victory over longtime rivals South Korea Saturday night and advanced to the final of the men's volleyball tournament at the Asian Games, reports AP.

Japan triumphed 15-7, 15-11, 15-5 to seal a place in Sunday's final, where they will meet China, Yuichi Nakaguchi led Japan with 13 points won.

The Chinese were too strong for Kazakhstan, who had been outstanding in preliminary round play, winning 15-4, 15-7, 15-7 as Zhang Xiang led the way with 13 kills.

South Korea will play Kazakhstan for the bronze medal.

Iran won the playoff for fifth and sixth places, defeating Pakistan 15-12, 15-8, 15-2.

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Kazakhstan's Serguei Korepanov raises his arms as he nears the finish line of the men's 50 km walk at the Hiroshima Asian Games yesterday. Korepanov timed 3 hours 54 minutes and 37 seconds.

— AFP photo

ASIAN GAMES MEDALS TABLE

HIROSHIMA, Oct 15: Following is the thirteenth day medals tally at the 12th Asian Games here on Saturday (tabulated under gold, silver, bronze and total):

	G	S	B	T
China	133	87	59	279
South Korea	62	53	62	177
Japan	56	68	78	202
Kazakhstan	25	26	26	77
Uzbekistan	9	10	18	37
Iran	9	9	8	26
Taiwan	7	12	24	43
India	4	2	15	21
Malaysia	4	2	13	19
Indonesia	3	12	11	26
Syria	3	3	1	7
Philippines	3	2	8	13
Kuwait	3	1	5	9
Qatar	3	0	3	6
Thailand	1	9	12	22
Saudi Arabia	1	3	5	9
Turkmenistan	1	3	3	7
Mongolia	1	2	6	9
Vietnam	1	2	0	3
Singapore	1	1	5	7
Hong Kong	0	5	7	12
Pakistan	0	4	6	10
Kyrgyzstan	0	4	5	9
Jordan	0	2	2	4
UAE	0	1	3	4
Macau	0	1	1	2