



American speedskater Bonnie Blair races to a gold medal in the women's 500-metre event at the World Cup in Obihiro, Japan, yesterday. Blair won with a time of 41.20 seconds. — AFP photo

# FINA still not satisfied

STAVANGER, Norway, Dec 3: A top International Swimming Federation (FINA) official said on Friday he doubted there was systematic doping in China despite a rash of positive tests at the Asian Games, reports Reuters.

FINA honorary secretary Gunnar Werner, who called for tougher punishment for doping offenders, said action could theoretically be taken against member federations.

"The FINA rules allow suspension or action against any member who violates the rules if it is proved that the (member) federation is itself behind this," Werner said on the eve of the European Sprint Swimming Championships.

Seven swimmers were among 11 Chinese competitors reported to have tested positive at the Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan, two months ago.

Asked at a press conference if there could be any doubt that doping was systematic in China, Werner replied: "Yes, very much so. It's not systematic as far as I understand it."

"We have no reason to believe that the (Chinese) Federation is behind this, absolutely no reason."

The 11 positive samples were taken by Asian Games organisers. Four other swimmers have returned positive dope tests in the past two years.

FINA themselves recently carried out 33 tests — 29 a week before the Games and four during them — and have announced one positive, China's women's world 400 metres freestyle champion Yang Aihua who has been suspended for two years.

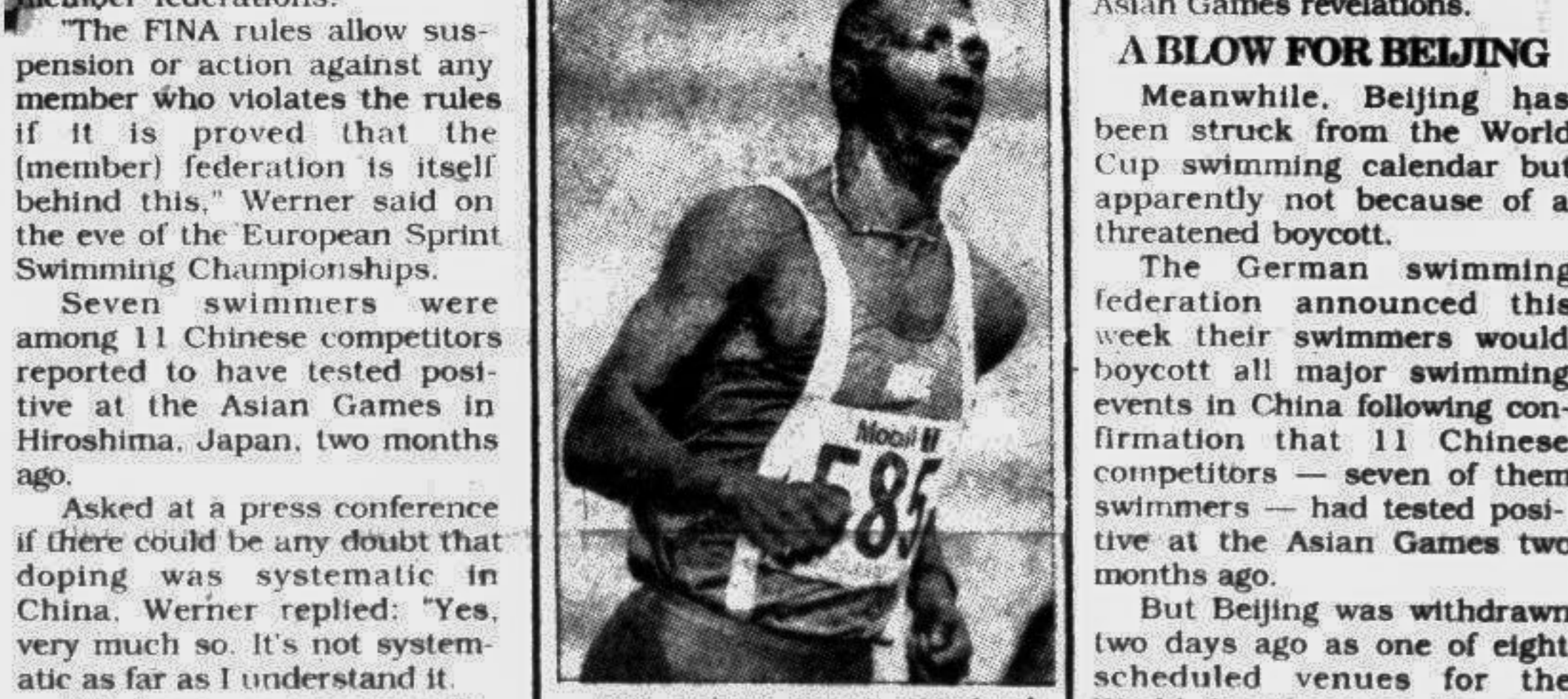
Werner said a second Chinese swimmer — like Yang, among those listed by the Games organisers — had also returned a positive FINA test according to analysis of the first "A" sample.

The Swedish official refused to identify the swimmer but said the second "B" sample would be tested in a Tokyo laboratory next Monday.

Werner said Malcolm Cameron, a member of FINA's medical committee, would try to persuade fellow members of the International Olympic Committee's medical commission to raise the bar for a first serious doping offence from two years to four.

FINA could act unilaterally but it operates with other federations within a framework agreed with the IOC aimed at harmonising anti-doping sanc-

## Michael Johnson honoured



ST. LOUIS, Dec 3: Michael Johnson ran only three races at 400 metres this year, but he made a huge impression.

Johnson, 27, was honoured with the Jesse Owens Award Friday night as track and field's top performer. His victories, the three best times in the world for the year, extended his winning streak in the 400 to 26 in a row, reports AP.

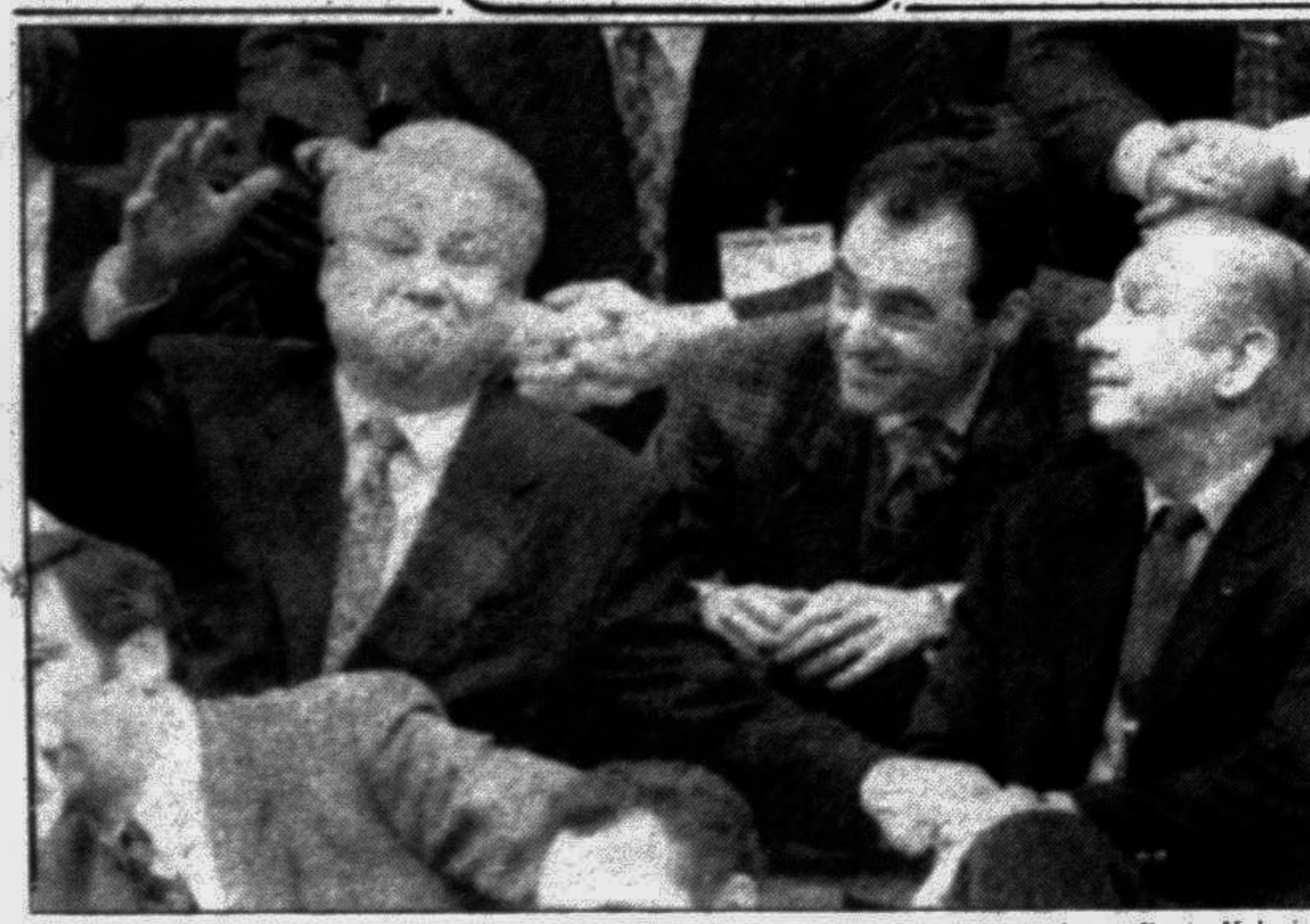
"If you run 10 or 15 races a year, you can slack off on a few," Johnson said. "If you only run three races, you've got to make sure they're all fast."

Johnson, of Rockwall, Texas, hasn't lost in the 400 since 1989. This year he ran times of 44.32 and 44.04 seconds in August, and had a world-best 43.90 in Madrid, Spain, in September.

He also had the fastest time run by an American in 1994 at 200 metres, a 19.94 clocking at a meet in Monaco.

Johnson said he'd run both events next year at the World Championships in Göteborg, Sweden, and also would double in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Johnson edged two-time winner Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who set American records in the long jump, in the closest balloting in history by media and the US athletics community. The award was handed out at the annual USA Track & Field convention.



IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch (R) looks on, as Russian President Boris Yeltsin gestures while watching the Davis Cup tennis match between Stefan Edberg and Alexander Volkov in Moscow on Dec 2. — AFP photo

## Blair blazes in Obihiro meet

OBIHIRO, Dec 3: American Bonnie Blair easily won the women's 500-metre race in the World Cup Obihiro meet Saturday, reports AP.

Blair, the gold medalist in the 500-and 1,000 meter races at the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics, was timed in 41.20 seconds, 0.26 seconds ahead of Germany's Franziska Schenk, who was clocked in 41.46.

The third place finisher was Japan's Shihoko Kusunose in 41.49.

The women's 1,000-metre race and the men's 500- and 1,000 metre races were scheduled for later Saturday.

A field of 71 skaters from 14 nations are competing in the two-day tournament in Obihiro, 1,000 Kilometers (620 miles) northeast of Tokyo in one of Japan's coldest winter areas.

## NBL badminton

Sports Reporter

Title contenders Biman recorded their third successive win in the NBL First Division badminton league with a thumping 5-0 victory over Minnows Dhaka Badminton Club in one of the three matches held at NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

In the best of five sets engagement, Biman Shuttlers Rashed, Sarwar, Mahboob and Rafique were so overwhelmingly powerful that they did not even concede a set.

The pattern was all the same in the Mohammedans-Dilkusha match with the defending champions posting a 5-0 victory for their second consecutive victory.

In the other match of the day, Surja Tarun also earned a 5-0 victory over Sputnik International.

## Orient Bread kabaddi

Sports Reporter

Jurain Janata recorded a facile 42-22 win over newcomers Public Health Employees Welfare Association in one of the two Orient Bread Kabaddi league matches played at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

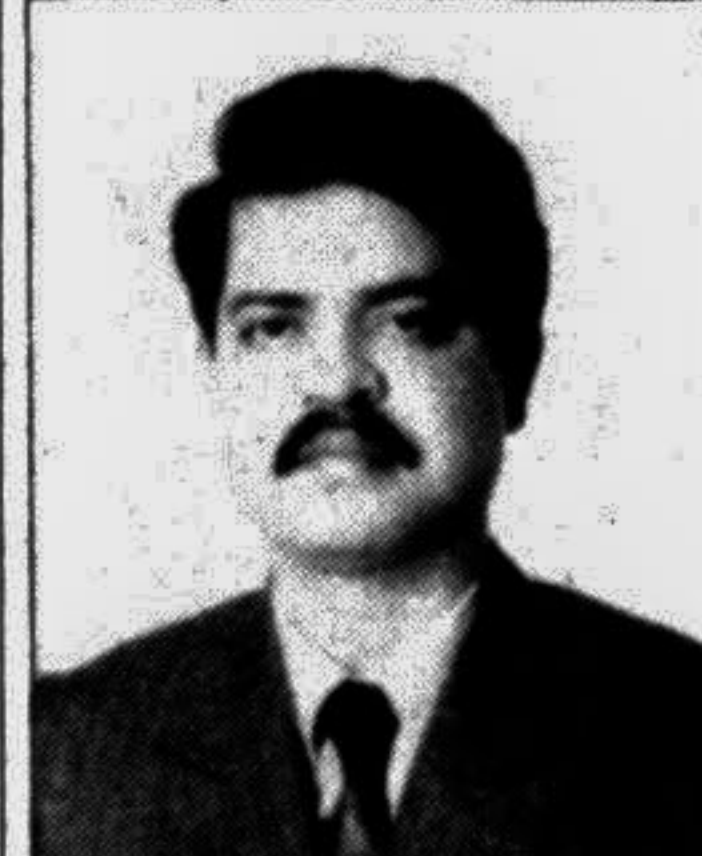
In a rather one-sided affair, the winners took an unassailable 22-6 lead at the breather.

In the other match of the day, Bara Gollia Samaj Kallayan Sangha thrashed Maniknagar Kabaddi Club 51-26.

## Gandaria Famous EC formed

Sports Reporter

Gandaria Famous Sporting Club elected a 39-member executive body for the next two-year term with Saidur Rahman as president.



SAIDUR RAHMAN

Mahbubul Alam Khan is the general secretary while Aminul Islam, the Mohammedan skipper, is one of the three joint-secretaries in the committee formed on November 28.

## Comaneci ends homecoming tour

BUCHAREST, Dec 3: Nadia Comaneci ended her homecoming tour of Romania on Friday, promising to return next year to marry her fiancé and fellow-gymnast Bart Conner, reports Reuters.

Comaneci, who in 1976 became the first gymnast to score an Olympic perfect 10 was feted as a national hero on her first return to Romania since fleeing into self-imposed exile five years ago.

"I'm happy because people didn't forget me," Nadia told reporters at Bucharest's Otopeni Airport.

Conner, a double gold medalist at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, said they would marry next year and have ceremonies in both the United States and Romania.

Their engagement was formally blessed by the Romanian orthodox church during Comaneci's 10-day stay, all carefully crafted and documented for a forthcoming US television story.

The 32-year-old Comaneci also performed in a gymnastics show wearing a crimson leotard and showing that what she had lost in sprightliness she had gained in glamour since winning three gold medals as a 14-year-old in Montreal.

# Pakistan know the score

SYDNEY, Dec 3: Pakistan know exactly what they must do to defeat defending champions the Netherlands in Sunday's final of the World Cup field hockey tournament, reports AP.

Pakistan need to penetrate the Dutch defence with their own free-flowing attacks and to avoid conceding any penalty corners. Easier said than done.

The Dutch have been ruthless from short corners throughout the two-week tournament. Twelve of their 24 goals have come from set piece plays — at which Floris Jan Boveland and Taco van den Honert are devastating.

Their penalty corners are certainly better than ours, so we'll have to be certain not to give them too many opportunities," said Pakistan manager Abdul Rashid. "But if we play our normal game I believe we can best them."

Pakistan are three-time winners of the World Cup but face a Dutch side that is unbeaten in their last 27 games.

Coach Roelant Oltmans led the Dutch women to victory in the World Cup in Sydney four years ago and is looking to complete a double triumph Down Under. He rejects the perception the Netherlands also a "short corner team."

"We have the best short corner specialist in the world in Boveland, but we have scored 12 goals from the field here," Oltmans said. "We certainly don't play only for short corners."

The final is a repeat of the 1990 final, in which the Netherlands beat the host nation 3-1 in front of a 65,000 crowd in Lahore. "That makes it special," said Oltmans.

Boveland scored twice in the 1990 final and also set up this final appearance with two penalty corner strikes as the Dutch downed top seeded Australia 3-1 in their semifinal on Friday.

The Dutch played with tactical awareness in that game, depriving the Australian inners of space and stretching the ball wide when they attacked.

"I think we're still improving and still have to improve some more," said Oltmans. "How your forwards play comes down to how they are fed by the midfield."

"If we can feed our forwards very quickly, which at the moment happens probably only one or two times a game, we can score more goals."

Pakistan's hopes rest largely on captain and midfielder Shahbaz Ahmed, who has been troubled by a hamstring injury over the past week but still played well in Friday's semifinal victory over Germany.

"It is always very hard to play the Netherlands and we know we can't afford to give them penalty corners," Shahbaz said.

After 10 years without a major title, the Pakistanis won this year's Champions Trophy in March, but then failed — for the first time — to make the final of the Asian Games.

In matches played Saturday, India got a 45th minute goal from Mukesh Kumar and defeated England 1-0 in the game to decide fifth and sixth places.

Argentina drew 3-3 with South Korea but then won a penalty shootout 5-3 to seal seventh place in the 12-nation tournament.

In play-offs to decide other placings, Spain drew 1-1 with Belgium and then won 8-7 on penalty strokes and South Africa beat Belarus 3-2 when captain Wayne Graham pounced on a penalty corner rebound with 37 seconds remaining.

Spain and South Africa now will contest 9th and 10th place on Sunday and Belgium and Belarus will play-off for 11th and 12th.

# Yeltsin, Russia's bad luck

MOSCOW, Dec 3: Boris Yeltsin was bad luck for Russian tennis on Friday, and Sweden's Davis Cup team hopes to see him again soon, reports AP.

The Russian President and his entourage interrupted play at a critical moment in the tense fifth set of Stefan Edberg's match against Alexander Volkov. Edberg, energized by the pause, ended Volkov's come-from-behind drive and led Sweden to a 2-0 singles sweep, winning 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (2-7), 0-6, 8-6.

Magnus Larsson, ranked 19th by the ATP Tour, went on to defeat No. 11-ranked Yevgeny Kafelnikov in another five set thriller, 6-0, 6-2, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3.

The losses disappointed the whistling, foot-stomping hometown crowd of 12,000 at Olympic Stadium, and likely doomed Russia's chances of becoming the first seeded team to win the Davis Cup.

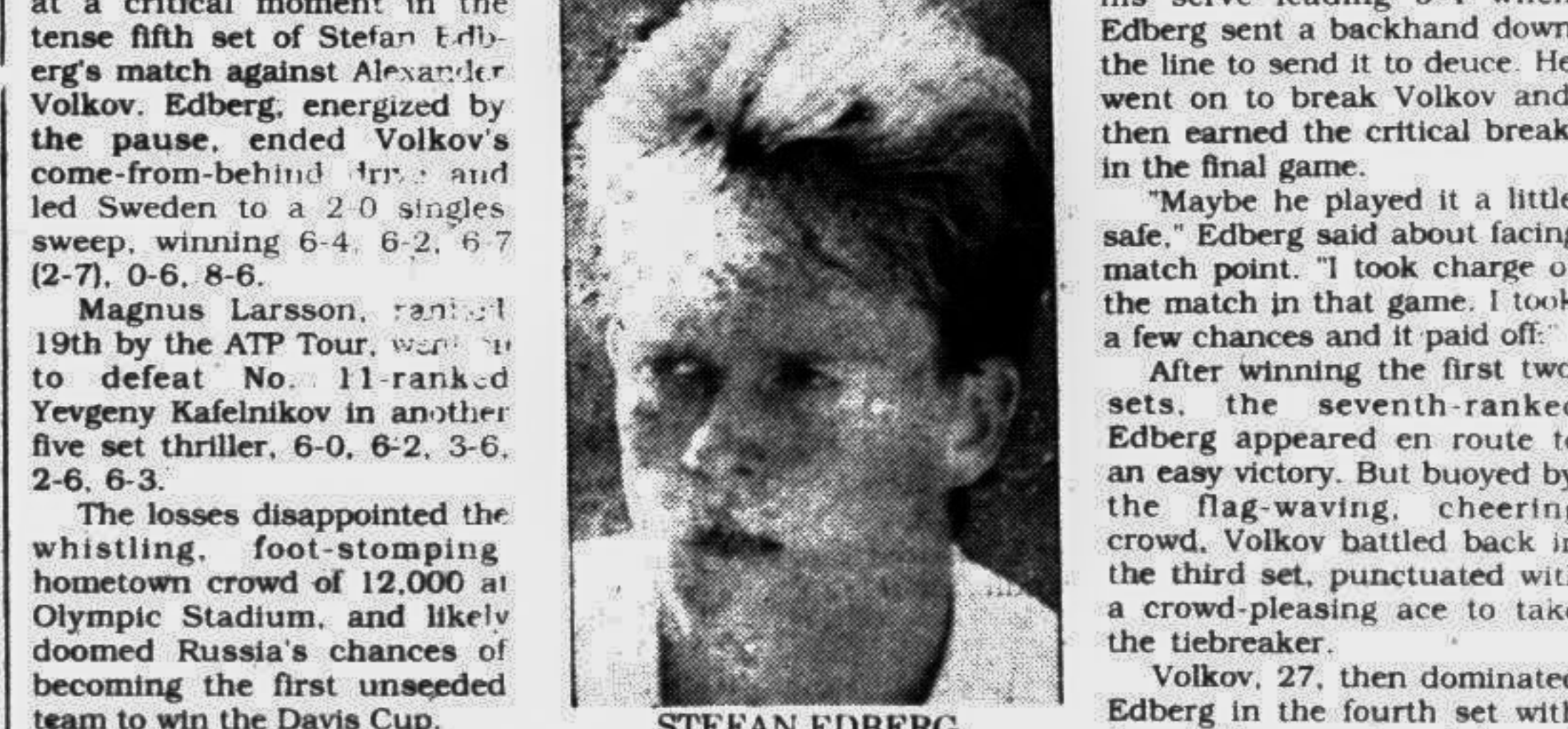
On Saturday, Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy upset the top-ranked doubles team and recently crowned ATP Tour doubles champions Jonas Bjorkman and Jan Apell to keep their hopes alive and send the best-of-five match to Sunday's reverse singles.

Kafelnikov accused Yeltsin of ruining Volkov's concentration. Unlike other fans, a smiling and waving Yeltsin took his seat without waiting for the brief break when the players change sides.

"Do you remember what the score was when the president arrived?" Kafelnikov said later. "It was 5-5. Is there a switch then? What sensible person in a decisive game like this, with the score 5-5, would do something like that in such a tense situation?"

Volkov, however, did not blame Yeltsin.

"I couldn't have failed to



STEFAN EDBERG

## Capriati to play in Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Dec 3: American tennis star Jennifer Capriati will continue her comeback by playing in the Australian Open championship in Melbourne from Jan. 16-30, reports AP.

Australian Open tournament director Paul McNamee, who formerly coached Capriati, said the 18-year-old, who missed most of last season after personal problems including an arrest on misdemeanor drug charges, is also planning to play in the New South Wales Open preparatory tournament in Sydney from Jan. 9.

"Jennifer is just such an exciting talent, it is going to be great to see her," McNamee said.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	43 Acts the stoolie, maybe	5 Witticisms	same-old
1 Hardly the elite type?	47 Par	6 Crafts' mates	25 Police blotter abbr.
5 Mandible	49 Midterm, e.g.	7 "Isn't it rich? Are — pair?"	26 Bribe
8 Funny-man Foxx	50 "Mona —"	8 Unit of measurement about 57.3 degrees	27 First State: abbr.
12 Do nothing	51 Itsy-bitsy	9 Green acres	28 Luncheonette order, briefly
14 Met	52 Flooring, for short	10 Floppy, for one	29 Nickname of baseball's Carl
15 Arabian sultanate	53 The right start?	11 Morse noises	31 "Yes, Virginia..."
16 Miles from Massachusetts?	54 Bandleader or Brown	17 Asta's mistress	34 Wisconsin city
18 Siblings share them	55 Unescorted DOWN	19 Away from SSW	35 Conked out
20 Words from pen pals?	1 Fall into a comfy chair	22 A/C meas.	36 Took the prize
21 Demos, now	2 "— Camera"	23 Tank fill	37 Gabriel's ilk
22 Bikini part	3 Despot	24 Same old	39 Carnival attractions
23 A or F	4 Virgilian epic		40 Christianity
25 Contingency flier			41 Wield a teaspoon
30 Diving bird			42 Possess, biblically
31 Old French coin			43 Grails
32 Guilt-don't note			44 Maze runner's goal
33 Seinfeld's specialty			45 Frog genus
36 Strauss piece			46 Urban pall
38 Still, in verse			48 It does the hole job
39 Nancy's man			
40 Actor Milo			

Solution time: 24 mins.

PROS MUM HEEP  
RENE ANA INDO  
ABET DIMAGGIO  
MARTYR ACHIER  
LEIS YEN  
ARPEGGIO REAP  
MIL GAMUT ELL  
BOAS LOTHARIO  
CPO NLBB  
GLEAVE OUSTER  
HAMRADIO ERGO  
ALCAS ASK NEAT  
PATE MAS TEDS

Yesterday's answer 3-29

## Eyles stands in Jansher's way

DOHA, Dec 3: Only Australia's fourth seeded Rodney Eyles stands between Jansher Khan and his 61st win on the World Circuit when they meet in today's Qatar International squash final, reports Reuters.

The number one seed from Pakistan needed just 36 minutes to defeat unseeded Del Harris of England 15-4, 15-3, 15-10 in Friday's semifinals with a shrewd, slow-paced attack that frustrated the big Englishman's forceful style.

"I am a bit depressed," Harris said. "I just could not get into my game. I was loose and he constantly had me out of position."

Jansher said: "I am always confident when I play Harris. You just have to slow things down and put the ball in the back-court. He goes for the front court and hits the tin."

World champion Jansher may have been less pleased with the result from the other semifinal in which the Eyles defeated Chris Walker of England, the sixth seed, 15-13, 10-15, 15-12, 15-9 in 54 minutes.

Eyles beat Jansher in the Portuguese Open semifinals last year and was in aggressive shot-making form on Friday.

"When the ball sticks in at the front and the back of the court the way it does here, it encourages you to go for the short game," Eyles said. "I am really looking forward to another go at Jansher."

## Donald on Bowe's mind

LAS VEGAS, Dec 3: Riddick Bowe threw one heavyweight title belt in a garbage can and lost two others in the ring. He begins his chase for yet another on Saturday night, not picky anymore about which title he holds, reports AP.

Bowe returns to the ring for only the second time since losing his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles to Evander Holyfield 13 months ago. On Saturday night, he meets undefeated Larry Donald in a scheduled 12-round fight.

This time, though, Bowe finds himself effectively shut off from the major titles and needing a win just to get a shot at the heavyweight crown from the lowly World Boxing Organization.

"I don't care what title I have as long as it indicates I'm heavyweight champion of the world," Bowe said.

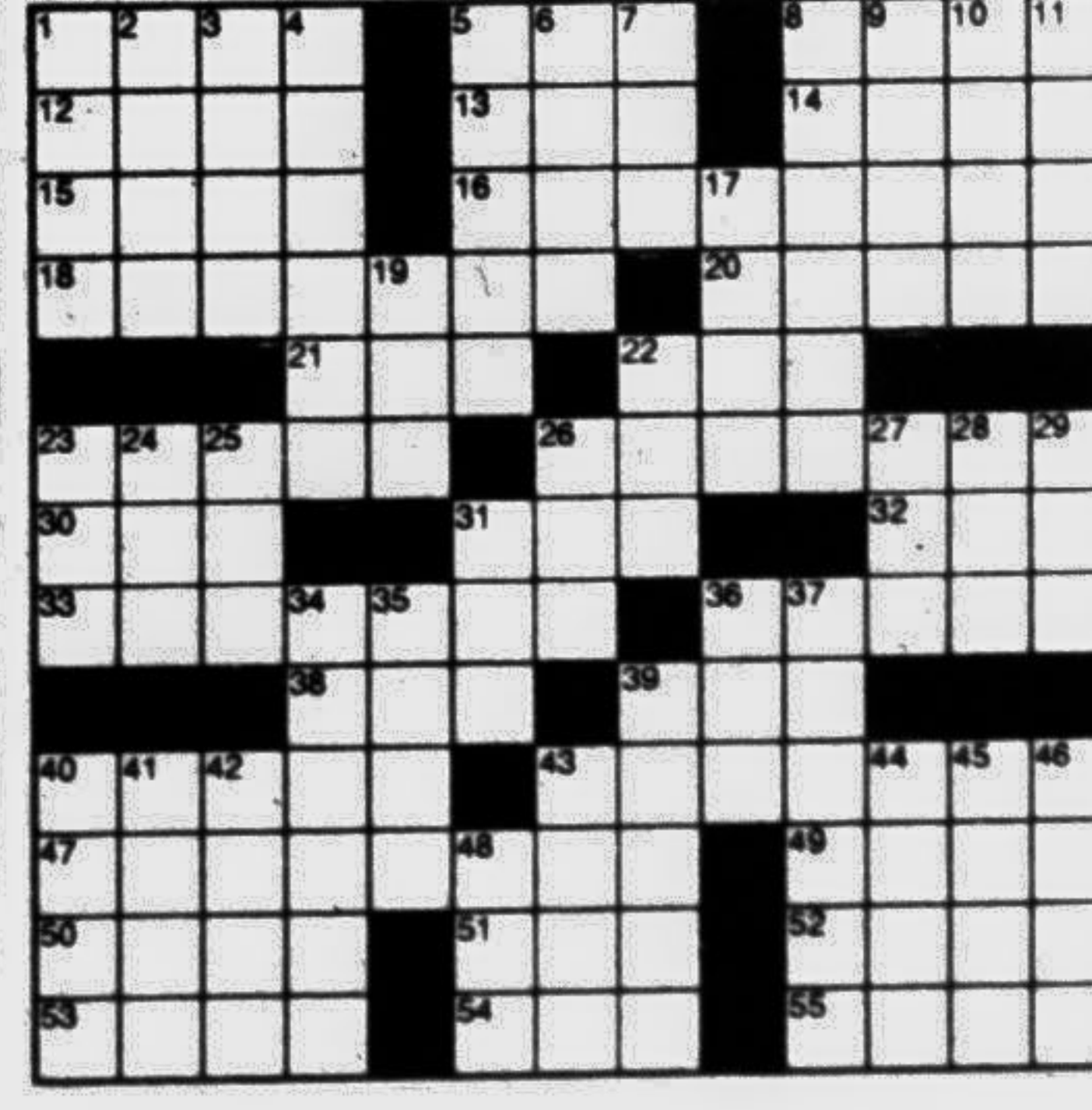
It's a far cry from when Bowe held all three major titles, only to throw the World Boxing Council crown into a garbage can in a show of disdain for the organization.

But with the heavyweight crown now split between George Foreman and Oliver McCall, neither of whom show any inclination to fight the former champion, Bowe can only look toward a fight with WBO champion Herbie Hide in the spring.

"I look at myself as being the uncrowned champion," Bowe said.

First, though, he must beat Donald, a stylish boxer who has won all 16 of his professional fights and who matches up well physically with Bowe.

Bowe, whose only fight since losing to Holyfield was an aborted no contest against Buster Mathis Jr. in August, is taking a calculated risk in meeting an up-and-coming fighter whose style could give him problems.



CRYPTOQUIP

H D H J L E O C I N J J H J  
H U A E D B H O U A J C I  
H V A L B N O V A O

Yesterday's Cryptogram: MY GARDENER'S PERSONALITY PROBLEMS MIGHT BE DEEP-ROOTED.

Today's Cryptogram clue: J equals N

The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.