



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: The victorious Pakistan hockey team celebrates their fourth World Cup after defeating defending champions, and tournament favourites, the Netherlands in Sydney yesterday. Pakistan won 4-3 on penalties after the final ended in a one-all draw. — AFP photo

First Damal semi today

Sports Reporter

Indian Test discard Chetan Sharma is likely to make his Dhaka cricket debut when Brothers Union take on Victoria Sporting in the first semifinal of the 15th Damal Summer cricket championship at the Dhaka Stadium today.

The right-arm medium paceman, who enjoys the unique status of being the only bowler to claim a hat-trick in the World Cup, will increase Victoria's collection of foreign cricketers to three. Pakistani Kaseef Ibrahim and Sri Lankan Tushara Kodikara have played every Victoria match in the tournament so far. However, if Sharma plays today, the Lankan may have to watch the match from the dressing room.

ITF masters' leg from today

Sports Reporter

The masters' leg of the Gold Leaf ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit tennis championships begins at the Ramna National Tennis Complex today.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will inaugurate the fourth and final phase of the four-leg championships in the morning while State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain will also be there as a special guest.

The top 24 from the previous legs will compete in the masters' tournament with the leading eight receiving first round byes. Unfortunately for the local tennis buffs, there won't be any host presence during the week-long meet as this part of the circuit does not allow any wild-card entry.

Qatar Open goes to Jansher

DOHA, Dec 4: World champion Jansher Khan won his 61st title on the world tour by beating Rodney Eyles 15-5, 15-7, 15-2 in the final of the Qatar International on Saturday, reports Reuters.

There were several eye-balling confrontations between the two, with Jansher insisting he should get penalty strokes for the Australian's blocking inside get court and Eyles insisting that the world Champion was picking up double bounces.

At one stage the top-seeded Pakistani was moved to give the fourth seeded Eyles a finger wagging lecture on respect.

DU cricket, football results

Sports Reporter

The Department of Management recorded an emphatic seven-wicket win over Geology in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket championship at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Needing 142 runs for victory in the allotted 30 overs, Management raced to score 142 for the loss of three wickets with eight balls to spare.

Selim hit a sparkling 57 not out to guide Management to an easy victory while Shantonu, the other notable contributor, chipped in with 42.

Earlier, sent in to bat first, Geology scored a moderate 141 for nine with Abu Sayeed notching up the highest 43.

Pappu, the most successful Management bowler, finished with four for 24 in his six-over spell while Majibur with two for 20 gave him good support.

Meanwhile, in the inter-department football championship, Geography edged past Botany by the odd goal in three at the ground adjacent to the central university gymnasium.

World Cup in Pak showcase



SYDNEY, Dec 4: Goalkeeper Mansoor Ahmad provided the heroics as Pakistan upset defending champions the Netherlands, 4-3 in a penalty shootout to life the World Cup hockey title today, reports Reuter.

Mansoor produced a magnificent save to stop Jeroen Delmee's penalty stroke to give his country their fourth World Cup title and spark a pitch invasion by hundreds of jubilant supporters.

The match was decided by penalties after the two sides were locked 1-1 after normal time at Homebush Stadium.

Mansoor, who produced a similar save during Pakistan's penalty shootout victory in their semifinal against Olympic Games champions Germany on Friday, was swamped by his teammates.

His efforts gave Pakistan their first major trophy since the 1984 Olympic Games and avenged their 3-1 defeat by the Dutch in the last World Cup final four years ago in Lahore.

Pakistan, who converted their first four penalties, ap-

peared on their way to victory when goalscorer Floris Jan Bovelander pulled Netherlands' second penalty wide of the goal.

But Pakistan then stuttered too as their fifth stroke-taker, Shafiqat Malik, had his poor shot saved by Dutch goalkeeper Ronald Jansen.

That left Delmee with the chance to take the stroke competition into the sudden death stage but Mansoor Ahmad dived low to his right to pull off the save.

Pakistan should have won the game in normal time after creating a host of chances during the second half.

Bovelander put Netherlands ahead in the 17th minute from their second penalty corner with a direct shot that may have taken a slight deflection.

Pakistan equalised with a fine open play goal four minutes later.

Shahbaz Ahmad, the Pakistan captain, nursing an injured hamstring, opened up the defence with a typical junking run which freed right-winger Asif Bajwa, whose centre was turned in by centre-forward Kamran Ashraf.

Shahbaz was presented with

the World Cup trophy, a fitting end to a brilliant career if he carries out his threat to retire from international hockey.

Shahbaz, who was named player-of-the-tournament, said afterwards: "This was an unforgettable success. It is the storybook tournament of my life."

Shahbaz confirmed his intention to retire from international hockey but said no final decision would be made until his return home.

Pakistan Hockey Federation president, Air Vice Marshall Farooq Umer, told Pakistan Radio after the final that he would attempt to persuade Shahbaz to reconsider.

Manager Abdul Rashid said his side deserved to win during normal time.

"We should have won by three or four clear goals, not penalty strokes but our team also had to overcome a lot of injuries," he said.

Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans said of the country's first defeat in 27 games: "Pakistan earned the title. They played much better than we did in the second half. It was down to goalkeeper that Pakistan didn't score."

Sino dopers pay the price



KUWAIT CITY, Dec 4: The 11 Chinese athletes, who tested positive for performance-enhancing drug at the Asian Games, have been stripped of their medals, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said Saturday, reports AP.

OCA director general Abdul Muttaleb Al-Ahmad said that "it has been proven beyond any doubt that they took hydrocortisone."

The OCA's action confirm reports that have circulated in the Japanese media for more than a week that Chinese athletes had tested positive at the October Games in Hiroshima.

"We're sorry this happened and we hope that the punishment will be stiffened in the future," Al-Ahmad said in a telephone interview.

He stressed that the athletes "will be stripped of other privileges" earned for winning the medals, but did not elaborate.

Al-Ahmad said the athletes, six women and five men, own their medals for swimming, cycling and the decathlon. He said he did not have a list of the athlete's names immediately available.

Earlier this week, a Japanese newspaper identified 11 Chinese athletes it said tested positive at the Games. The newspaper's list, however, comprised six men and five

women and included swimmers, canoeists, a hurdler and a cyclist.

The OCA's confirmation will increase suspicion in the West that the phenomenal success over the past 18 months of Chinese athletes, especially Chinese women, is due to a systematic doping programme within the country.

The International Olympic Committee, which has pointedly refrained from making such allegations, reacted Saturday by calling the incident "very serious," but continued to cite the Chinese doping affair as an example that its drug-testing system is working rather than acknowledging that they may be a widespread problem in China.

"The IOC notes that structures and procedures put in place within the Olympic movement have functioned perfectly, even if it would be desirable for results to be available more quickly," the IOC said in a statement.

"The IOC is also pleased to note the clear and very firm position expressed by China's sporting authorities, particularly the Chinese Olympic Committee. They have cooperated fully with the international bodies at all stages of the procedure."

"They have clearly informed the IOC of their intention to seek out and sanction the true culprits. It is indeed known that in most doping cases the ath-

letes are not the only ones implicated and that the responsibility must also be sought among their entourage, notably their coaches."

COC SHOCKED

The Chinese Olympic committee was "shocked" when the Olympic Council of Asia confirmed the athletes had used hydrocortisone, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. The Xinhua report did not specify what the "severe punishment" would be.

According to Xinhua, the 11 were five women and six men. The women were swimmers Yang Aihua, Lu Bin and Zhou Guanbin, hurdler Han Qing and cyclist Wang Yan. The men were swimmers Xiong Gouming, Hu Bin, Zhang Bin and Fu Yong, and canoeists Zhang Lei and Qiu Suoren.

The Chinese Olympic Committee formed a special panel to investigate and punish the athletes and others involved in the case in line with international sports rules and the COC's own rules against the drugs, Xinhua said.

It said the COC issued a statement saying it has long opposed the use of banned substances in sports.

The statement also said that "It is clear to all the excellent performance of most Chinese athletes was achieved through long-term, hard and scientific training, and their performance could not be totally denied."



The president of the Qatar Youth and Sport Central Authority Sheikh Mohamed Bin Eid Al Thani (3rd from right) poses with world squash champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan (C), who clinched the Qatar Open against Australian Rodney Eyles (2nd from left) in Doha on Dec 3. Jansher won 15-5, 15-7, 15-2. — AFP photo

No luck for Zimbabwe

PERTH, Dec 4: Opener Darren Lehmann scored 85 from 87 balls Sunday to guide Australia A to a five-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in a World Series limited-overs cricket match at the WACA Ground, reports AP.

Australia A scored 167-5 in 35.1 overs after all-rounder Tom Moody helped restrict Zimbabwe to 166-9 from 50 overs. Moody took 3-16 from 10 overs.

The loss was Zimbabwe's second in as many matches in the four-team series that also involves Australia, who beat Zimbabwe on Friday night, and England. Australia and England play Tuesday in a day-night match at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Skipper Rashidul Hassan hit a sparkling half century as Khelaghar SK romped home with a huge 79-run win over Gandaria Sporting Club in one of the three Acme Second Division cricket league engagements held yesterday at different city venues.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Khelaghar compiled a huge total of 208 before being all out in 38.3 overs with Rashidul plundering 67 which included nine hits to the fence.

Aslam and Shamsul contributed 27 each but the latter was more aggressive, clubbing two fours and one six in his 26-ball innings.

In reply, Gandaria were bundled-out for 129 with one over to spare in the 40-overs-a-side engagement with Arif (48 not out) making it to the double figures for the losers.

Hafizur Rahman took three wickets for 29 runs for the winners while new ball bowler Shahidul picked two for 25.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Public Works Department (PWD) beat Spread Eagles by 37 runs in a low-scoring match.

Sent in to bat, PWD scored a modest 152 for nine in the stipulated 40 overs and then restricted the Eagles' flight to 125 with more than two overs to spare.

Islam with 36 was the top willow wielder for the winners.

Away at the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Evergreen Cricket Club defeated Nirman Eleven by three wickets.

Chasing Nirman's 133 in 32.3 overs, Evergreen reached 137 for seven with Feroz and Kamrul scoring 22 and 22 respectively.

Div One hockey from today

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra play promotees Farashganj Sporting Club in the inaugural match of the belated Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium today.

The league, delayed for about nine months, will proceed in a different format.

For the first time in several years the participating teams will be split into two groups for round robin games with the top three from each group advancing to the super league.

At the other end of the table, the two bottomers from these groups will meet in a relegation play-off match to decide who join the Second Division next season.

NBL badminton

Sports Reporter

Aritra Nandi marked his debut for Mohammedan Sporting Club in the NBL First Division badminton league as the defending champions recorded their third successive win with a 5-0 drubbing of Sputnik International at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Aritra Nandi, the promising Indian shuttler playing his first match in the local circuit, earned a facile 15-1, 15-2 first match in the local circuit, victory over Tareque to mark his appearance.

In the other two matches of the day, Shelltech and Surja Tarun also recorded their third consecutive wins with identical 5-0 victory over Dhaka Badminton Club and Dilkusha respectively.

Meanwhile, the Victory Day badminton tournament for the under-16 shuttlers will begin from December 16, says a press release issued by organisers Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BTF).

V'ball leagues start Jan 2

The Dhaka Metropolis First and Second Division volleyball leagues will begin from January 2 at the volleyball court, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, according to a Bangladesh Volleyball Federation press release yesterday, inter-club player transfers will be held on December 20 and 22 respectively.

Adams steers Windies clear from follow-on fear

Nagpur Test heads for draw



NAGPUR, Dec 4: The second cricket Test between India and the West Indies was headed towards a draw after a century from Jimmy Adams saved the tourists from a possible follow-on here Sunday, reports AFP.

Adams remained unbeaten on 125 as India made 95 for two at stumps in the second innings to ensure their 1-0 lead in the three-test series remained intact.

The home-side, who won the first Test in Bombay, begin the final day's play on Monday with an overall lead of 312 runs, hoping for some useful batting practice before the third Test in Chandigarh from December 10.

Adams, who came in on Saturday with the West Indies reeling at 98 for three, batted for six hours and 46 minutes for his second Test century in this central Indian city.

Resuming Sunday with the overnight score at 302 for five, the tourists went through anxious moments before scoring the remaining 45 runs to avert the humiliating possibility of a follow-on.

The visitors slid to 320 for seven, still 27 away from making the hosts bat again, as left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju had both Keith Arthurton (seven) and Shivnarine Chanderpaul (four) caught at silly point by skipper

Mohammad Azharuddin. Two runs later, an edge from Adams, went between wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia and first slip Sachin Tendulkar and raced to the third man fence.

Had the half chance been taken, Adams would have left at his individual score of 80 and opened up the West Indian tail at 322 for seven.

But fortune smiled on the brave Jamaican left-hander, who found an able partner in Murray.

The pair put on 97 for the eighth wicket to brush off any slim chance India entertained of a follow-on.

Murray, who made 85 in the Bombay Test while sharing a 162-run stand for the sixth wicket with Adams, contributed a valuable 54 as the West Indians posted their highest score in the series.

West Indies were all out 54 minutes after lunch with Raju finishing with figures of five for 127 from 50 overs — his third five-wicket haul in as many Tests.

Raju claimed five wickets each in the third Test against Sri Lanka at Ahmedabad in February and the first Test of the current series in Bombay.

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble returned with three for 131 while off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan had one for 97 from 34 overs.

West Indian captain Courtney Walsh raised visions of an upset victory when he removed opener Manoj Prabhakar and Vinod Kambli in quick succession to make India 24 for two in their second knock.

But the lanky seamer left the field with a sprained neck while bowling his sixth over and did not return for the rest of play.

First innings centurians Navjot Sidhu and Sachin Tendulkar took advantage of the depleted attack to grab 71 runs for the unbroken third-wicket partnership.

At stumps, Sidhu was batting on 44, while Tendulkar was on 29.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second cricket Test between India and West Indies today.

INDIA: First innings 546-9 declared (Tendulkar 179, Sidhu 107, Azharuddin 97, Hooper 116-5).

WEST INDIES: First innings Simmons c Manjrekar b Kumble 50, Williams c Azharuddin b Chauhan 12.



R. J. 5 for 127

Cummins c Mongia b Raju 17, Larye c Mongia b Raju 16, Adams not out 125, Hooper c Tendulkar b Srinath 81, Arthurton c Azharuddin b Raju 7, Chander, and C. A. H. 10, 10, 54, Murray b b Raju, Benjamin b L. Kumble, Walsh b Kumble, Extras (b-5, lb-14, nb-6), Total (all out) 320.

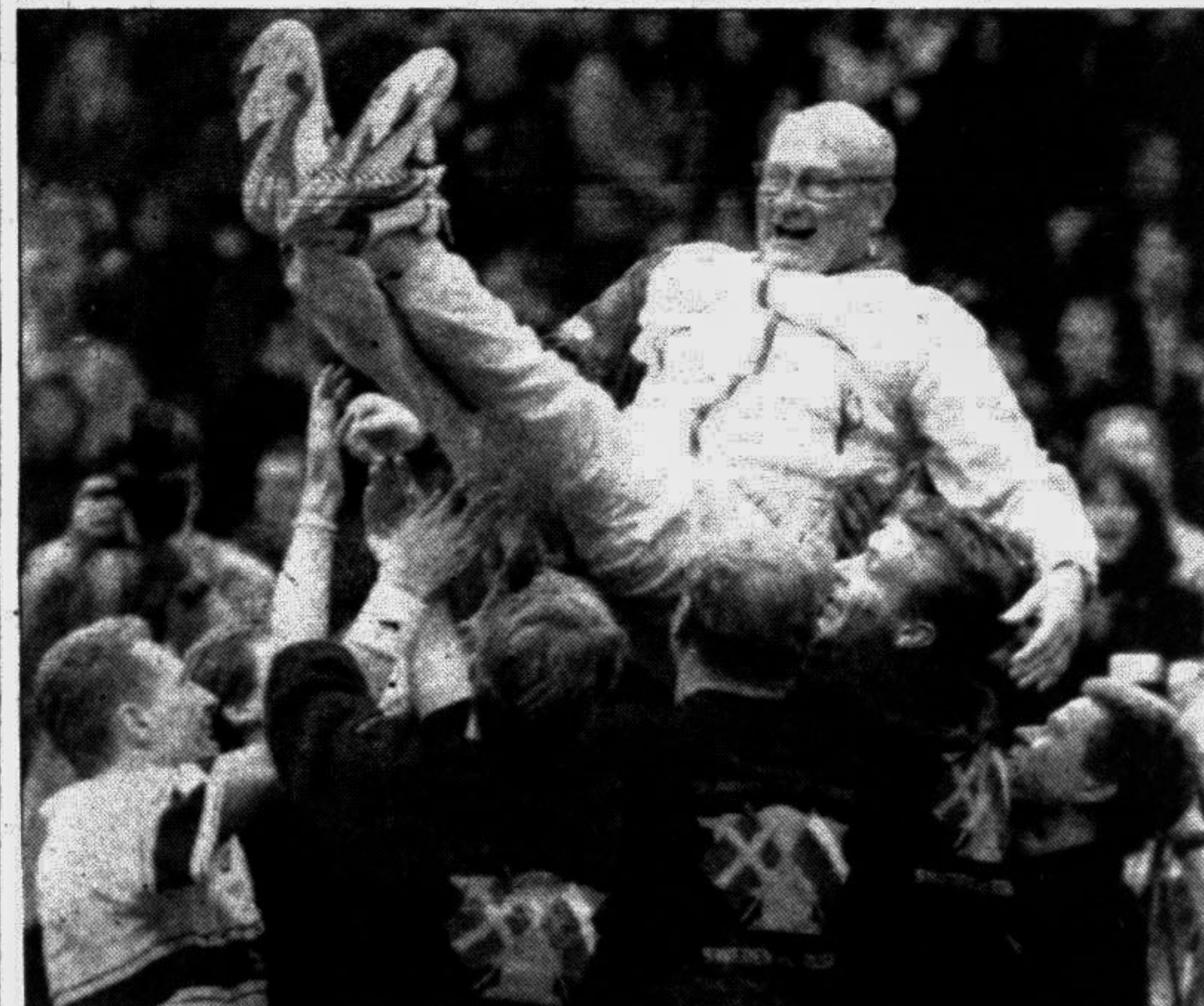
Fall of wickets: 1-110 (2), 3-98 (4-155), 5-268 (6-306), 320: 8-417; 9-422.

Bowling: O M R A
Prabhakar 4 1 15 0
Srinath 14 2 39 0
Chauhan 34 9 97 0
Raju 50 11 127 5
Kumble 51 15 131 0

INDIA: Second innings Prabhakar c Lara b Walsh 5, Sidhu not out 44, Kambli b Walsh 6, Tendulkar not out 29, Extras: (b-3; lb-1; nb-6) 16, Total: (for two wickets) 95.

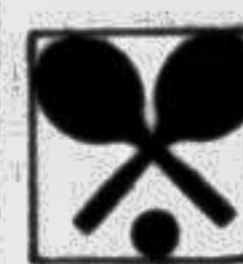
Fall of wickets: 1-9; 2-24

Bowling (to date): O M R W
Walsh 55 3 2 2
Benjamin 9 1 39 0
Hooper 15.1 5 17 0
Adams 4 2 10 0
Cummins 9 0 23 0



THREE CHEERS FOR THE COACH: Sweden's Davis Cup team toss their coach John Anders Sjogren into the air after Jonas Bjorkman and Jan Appel beat Russian doubles partners Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy to give the Swedes an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the final in Moscow on Dec 3. — AFP photo

Davis Cup back in Sweden



MOSCOW, Dec 4: Sweden won the Davis Cup on Saturday when their world champion doubles pair of Jan Appel and Jonas Bjorkman gave them an unbeatable 3-0 lead over Russia in the final, reports Reuters.

Appel and Bjorkman beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy 6-7, 6-2, 6-3, 1-6, 8-6 in a thrilling match to end Sweden's Sweden their fifth Davis Cup title.

In Friday's singles Stefan Edberg beat Alexander Volkov and Magnus Larsson downed Kafelnikov, both those matches also went the full five-set distance.

The entire Swedish team joined the victory celebrations, lifting team captain John Anders Sjogren aloft on court in Moscow's Olympic Stadium.

The Russian duo fought back valiantly in front of a noisy crowd after trailing two sets to one.

In the fourth set, they broke Bjorkman twice to take the set.

But down 7-6 in the fifth, Olhovskiy double-faulted and Kafelnikov then sent a shot wide to give the Swedes the match and the cup.

The Russians squandered three break points at 2-2 in the final set. Appel said that had been the turning point of the match.

The Russians were the more coordinated in the opening set, with Olhovskiy showing lightning reactions close to the net. Appel dropped his serve twice in the tiebreak which the Russians won 7-4.

But the Swedish pair broke both Olhovskiy and Kafelnikov in the second set to take it 6-2. Olhovskiy dropped his serve again in the third set, won again by the Swedes.

They seemed to have the match sewn up at this point but Bjorkman proved the villain of the piece in the next set as he lost his service twice to set up the dramatic decid-

ing set.

Sjogren, in his Davis Cup match before retirement, paid tribute to the pair who won the World Doubles Championship in Jakarta last month.

"Appel and Bjorkman have done a good job. They are very hungry for success," he said.

Kafelnikov said the tension of playing in front of a home crowd had affected his game.

Orient Bread kabaddi

Sports Reporter

Sonali Bank Club and House Building Labourers Union won their respective Orient Bread kabaddi league matches at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Sonali Bank outplayed Garia Thana Welfare Association 45-22 while House Building posted a thrashing 70-16 win over lowly Sriyani Sangsad in the other engagement of the day.

Army athletics

Naik Md. Bani Amin of the Dhaka Infantry clinched gold in the long jump, the only medal at stake on the second day of the annual athletics championship of the Bangladesh Army at the National Stadium at Mirpur yesterday, says an ISPR press release.