

DCC to build new stadium at Golapbagh

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) plans to build a stadium with a seating capacity of 15 to 20 thousand at Golapbagh in the metropolis next year, DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif said here yesterday, reports BSS.

He said the proposed stadium would fulfil the need for better sporting facilities.

Talking to sports journalists the city Mayor said, "We are planning to build a number of gymnasiums in different parts of the city to enable the city dwellers to take part in various indoor events."

Despite many constraints, we would like to promote sports through providing facilities in the interest of the people living in the metropolitan city," Hanif said.

BCCB picks 31

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) called up thirty one cricketers to the nets yesterday in connection with the SARC cricket tournament scheduled to begin from December 22.

The cricketers are: Akram Khan, Mithazul Abedin, Jahangir Alam, Enamul Huq, Aminul Islam, Nasir Ahmed, Javed Omar, Mirhab Hossain, Sajid Hassan, Faruq, Sajjad Mansur, Al Shahrir, Naimur Rahman, Selim Shahed, Habibul Bashar, Mustadir, Khaled Masud, Saiful Islam, Sohel Islam, Hasibul Hossain, Morshed Ali Khan, Anisur Rahman, Sharfuddinul Iqbal, Shaheed, Shariful Huq, Zakaria Intiaz, Athar Ali Khan, Rafiq, Naimur Rashid, Zakir Hossain, Jewel Hossain and Anis.

The players have been asked to report to Altaf Hossain at the BUET ground on December 17 at 9 am.

Navana Premier resumes today

The Navana Premier cricket league resumes today with Kalabagan taking on Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) at the Dhaka Stadium after a day of unscheduled recess.

In the other billing of the day, Brothers Union will take on Gulshan Youth at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Ajax win

Ajax recorded an exciting 11-run win over Dhanmondi Club in today's lone Yamaha First Division cricket league match played at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Battling first, the winners collected 172 for nine wickets from their stipulated 45 overs.

Abdul Karim was the top-scorer with 47 followed by Azim who made 21.

Dhanmondi captain Sarwar was the pick of the bowlers with a haul of three for 28.

Shahnawz Kabir bowled commendably to claim two for 22 from nine overs.

Morshed Alam's top score of 48 and a couple of useful knocks in the middle order could not arrest the tide in Dhanmondi's favour as six batsmen failed to make it to the double figures.

Besides Morshed, Masud made 37 and Indian Akbar Baig 33 but Dhanmondi were all out for 161 in 42.4 overs.

Skipper Saiful Azam watched his counterpart in bowling picking two for 24.

Ahmad Kamal also bagged two for 26.

V-Day cricket

Faruq Ahmed and Nasir Ahmad will lead the Shaheed Jewel Eleven and Shaheed Mushtaq Eleven respectively for the customary commemorative cricket match on account of the Victory Day on December 16.

The players selected for Shaheed Jewel Eleven are: Sajid Hassan, Mirhab Hossain, Faruq, Naimur Rahman, Zakaria, Naimur Rashid, Rafiq, Jewel Hossain, Khaled Masud, Hasibul Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Zakaria, Sharfuddinul Iqbal, Shaheed, Masthuddin Ahmed (coach).

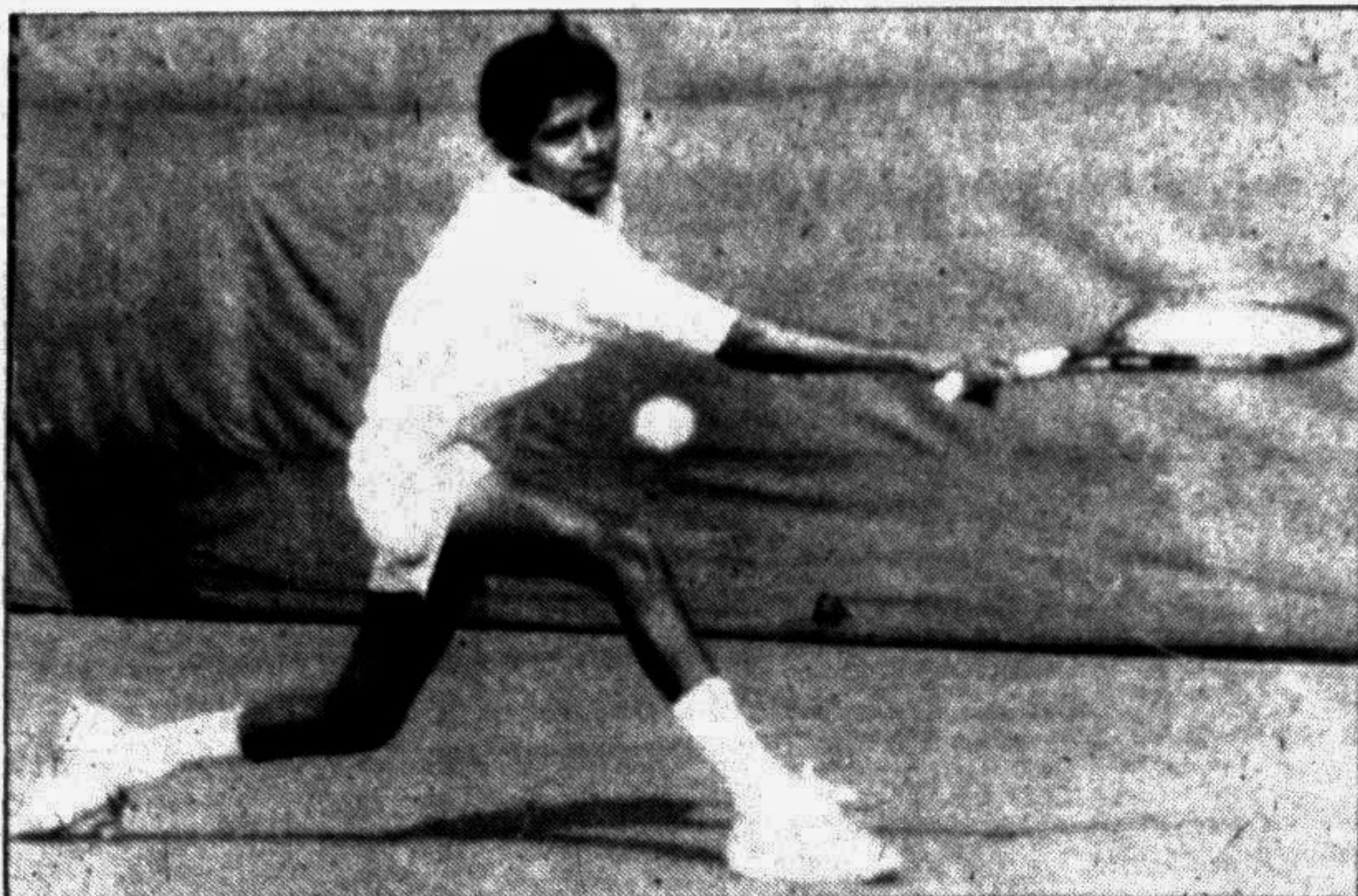
Shaheed Mushtaq Eleven: Sajjad Mansur, Javed Omar, Al Shahrir, Morshed Ali Khan, Selim Shahed, Athar Ali, Mustadir, Sohel Islam, Nasir Ahmad, Saiful, Sojal Chowdhury, Anis, Shariful, Osman Khan (coach).

V-Day v'ball

Bangladesh Navy beat Titus Club in straight 3-0 sets (15-8, 15-9, 15-3) in the opening match of the Victory Day volleyball tournament at the volleyball court yesterday, reports UNB.

Three teams are taking part in the single league tourney, organised by the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation.

Thursday's match: Bangladesh Bitan vs Titus Club.



Nomi Qamar in action against compatriot Ijaz Ahmed in the boys singles final of the ITF Central Asian Circuit tournament at the Rahman Tennis Complex yesterday. Qamar won 3-6, 6-3, 7-5. — Star photo

Sheetal surfs on success

Sports Reporter

Gautam Sheetal of India polished off a remarkable winning streak in the ITF Central Asian Circuit tennis championship clinching yet another double in the third and final of the three-leg meet.

Sheetal, who has already made a grand double in the earlier two legs lifting both singles and double titles in Madras and Colombo, raced to her singles, crown with a 6-0, 6-4 win Konanneni Aparna Suresh and then paired with Suresh to demolish Rekha and Radhika 6-1, 6-1 in the doubles final.

In the boys' draw for the same age group, under-14, Pakistani Nomi Qamar shrugged off his defeat in the singles final at Madras to prevail over compatriot Ijaz Ahmed 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Unlike the 13-year-old Bangalore girl, Qamar began the match at the receiving end with Ahmed unleashing booming services down the middle and conceded the first set in no time.

However, Qamar, the top seed whose double fluted action may lead to remote analogy with American legend Jimmy Connors, pulled his game together and after one hour and 35 minutes wrapped the affair.

In the doubles, Qamar and Ijaz had to fight hard as well before rounding off 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 victory over the Indian duo of Saif Ali and Manoj Mahadevan.

Eight top finishers — four boys and four girls — from this circuit will now play in the Southeast Asian circuit, starting from December 20 in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta.

Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan, who was the chief guest on the concluding day and witnessed the final, distributed prizes among the winners.

Vice president of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) and chairman of the organising committee Prof Rashiduddin Ahmed, who was also present on the occasion, said, "It is the perfect time to groom future tennis players."

But, observers felt when our commitment to the sports was confined to speech only, Pakistan set a perfect example of the aforesaid speech.

The Pakistan Tennis Federation which does not have any tennis court of its own employed Mehboob Khan, a certified tennis professional from the famous United States Profession Tennis Registry (USPTR), to groom the boys.

And the instant success of his one month tenure is the product like Nami and Ijaz, who were in a fine fettle throughout the circuit.

English will definitely be without all-rounder Craig White — the man-of-the-match against Australia A — because White is troubled by a painful pulled muscle in his left side.

With White on the casualty list are: Joey Benjamin (chicken pox), captain Mike Atherton (back), Phillip DeFreitas (groin and calf), Alec Stewart (knee), John Crawley (calf) and Darren Gough (hamstring).

But of those, only White and Benjamin are certain non-starters.

Atherton, who missed the win over Australia A, said he is hopeful of playing.

"I was proud of the way the lads got stuck in at Melbourne, showing passion and pride," he said. "But I don't want to get carried away because we have beaten Australia A, which is something we should do."

"Guy Whittall batted really well. Dave Houghton scored runs and Alistair Campbell had a good knock until the threw it away," Flower said.

He said Zimbabwe would not be concentrating on any particular areas of the England game.

"I don't think you can pinpoint weaknesses in the one-dayers," he said. "Whoever plays best for 100 overs wins — it's as simple as that."

The Zimbabweans will be at full strength for the first time in the tournament, further boosting Flower's optimism.

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Sunny the sheriff

BOMBAY, Dec 14: Sunil Gavaskar, the little master of Indian cricket, was on Wednesday named sheriff of Bombay, the country's commercial and movie capital, reports AFP.

Gavaskar, 44, will hold the largely ceremonial office, established in 1889 during the British Raj, for one year from December 20, an official spokesman said.

Gavaskar was not available for comment, but his wife Marshnel said: "It is a great honour of him." He is the third cricketer to hold the post after Vijay Merchant and Madhav Apte.

The duties of the sheriff originally included witnessing and certifying the execution of criminals. He is now expected to receive dignitaries to Bombay, execute the orders of major courts, and hear public grievances.

A title at last for MSC

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club successfully defended their NBL First Division badminton league title.

In their last match of the league at the National Sports Council wooden-floor gymnasium, Mohammedans, powered on by Aritra Nandi and Sumon, took care of Surjo Tarun to ensure at least one title in an otherwise nightmarish year.

Both Aritra and Sumon won their singles engagements and then teamed up to wrap up the rubber with a handsome victory.

Aritra set the pace for the holders winning 9-15, 15-4, 15-7 against compatriot Ajanta but Surjo Tarun's Rana evened the score when he beat Hamid 15-3, 8-15, 18-14.

Sumon, the national number two, again gave Mohammedans the lead with a 15-3, 15-3 triumph but Tarun turned back immediately afterwards through the pair of Rana and Ajanta, who took care of Hamid and Hashem.

In the decider, Aritra and Sumon fantastically rose to the occasion and demolished Teesta and Jakaria 15-3, 15-2 to ensure Mohammedans their fifth league title.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bima won women's league when they thrashed Mohammedans 5-0 in their last league encounter.

Eight teams took part in the men's draw while seven teams vied for the women's crown.

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: Chandgaon Ekadosh became champions in the Bijoy Cup football tournament beating Abdus Sobhan football team 5-4 in the tie-breaker at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Ripon of Abdus Sobhan was adjudged the best player of the tournament while Bibhas Barua of Nobajitric won the prize of highest scorer with four goals.

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Caribbean tornado leaves India sunk at bay Prestige preserved



CHANDIGARH, India Dec 14: Kenny Benjamin and skipper Courtney Walsh ripped through India's batting to fire West Indies to a sensational series-levelling win in the third and final Test here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Benjamin took five for 65 and Walsh three for 34 as the Indians went from 37 for one overnight to all out for 114 just before lunch on the fifth and final day. West Indies, who scored 443 and 301 for three declared, won by 243 runs.

The tourists, regarded as no-hopers without their experienced quartet of Richie Richardson, Curtley Ambrose,

over when Sachin Tendulkar miscued a drive off Benjamin straight to Keith Arthurton in the covers. That left India on 44 for two.

It was soon 48 for four as Sanjay Manjrekar was caught behind off Walsh and Vinod Kambli fended a short ball from Benjamin to silly point.

There was no respite for the Indian batsmen as the fired up Walsh and Benjamin made the ball bounce around the ears on a wicket which had seemingly lost all pace over the past two days.

Nayan Mongia edged Walsh to the wicket-keeper, and India's resistance ended effectively when skipper Mohammad Azharuddin hooked Ben-

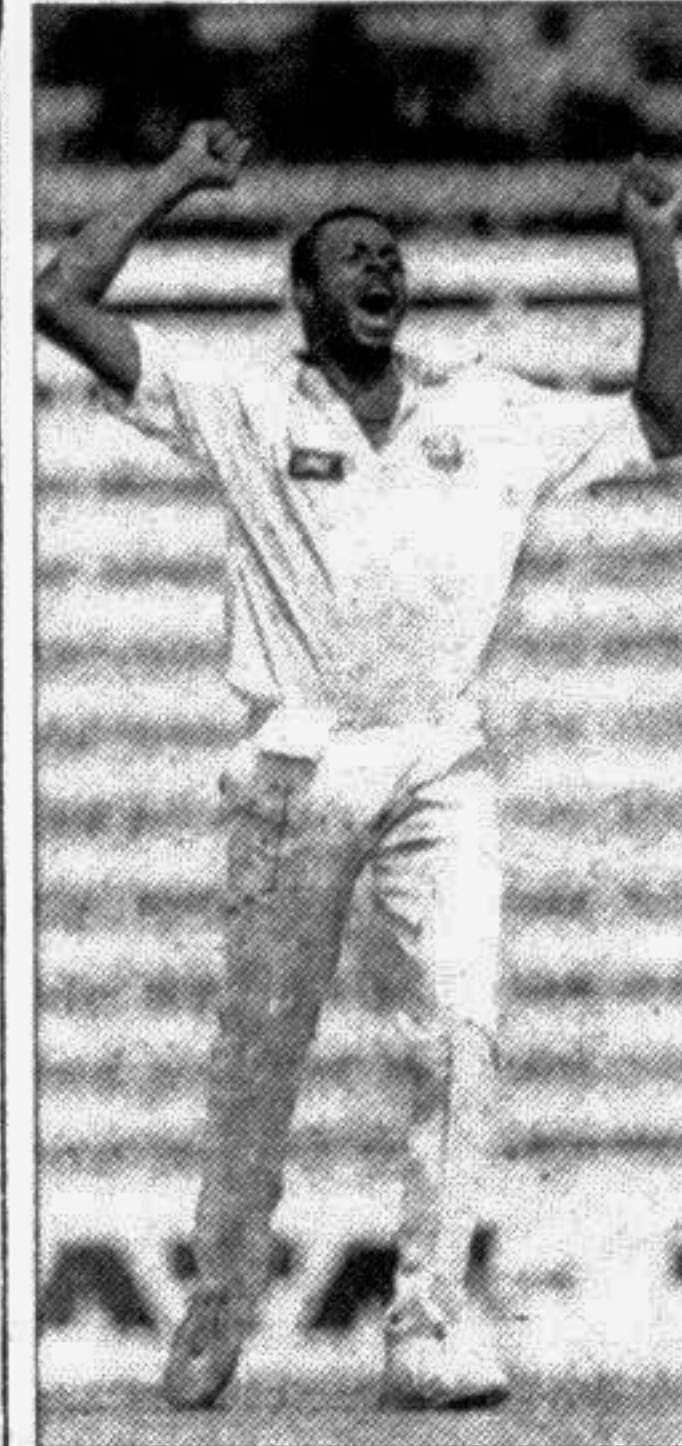
selves together in trying conditions and were rewarded at the very end," he added. "What a way to finish."

Indian skipper Azharuddin complimented the West Indians and hit out at his batsmen for not showing enough application.

"There was nothing in the wicket to warrant such a collapse," he said. "Walsh and Benjamin bowled well, but we aided them with some reckless batting."

"This defeat has taught us not to take anything for granted," he added.

"The string of home wins in the past made us complacent. This one defeat is a big kick in the backside."



WALSH ... 3 for 34

Desmond Haynes and Winston Benjamin, pulled off a remarkable comeback after the 96-run defeat in the first Test.

Victory also enabled the West Indies to maintain their awesome record of not having lost a Test series since 1980.

It was India's first defeat in home soil since New Zealand beat them at Bombay in 1988. The defeat brutally exposed the vulnerability of their batsmen against the short, rising ball.

At 68 for eight and Manoj Prabhakar unable to bat after being hit on the face by a Walsh delivery on Tuesday, the Indians were in danger of being bowled out for their lowest score against West Indies.

But the last-wicket pair of Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Raju put on a defiant 46-stand to help their team overtake the all-time low of 75 runs at New Delhi in 1987.

Raju was caught behind off Cameron Cuffly in the penultimate over before lunch to give a remarkable win for the West Indians.

The rout began in the third



ADAMS ... man-of-series

jamin straight to Anderson Cummin at deep line leg.

Debutant Ashish Kapoor and Anil Kumble scored just one run each to leave India tottering at 68 for eight. But Srinath and Raju teamed up to save the home team from total disaster.

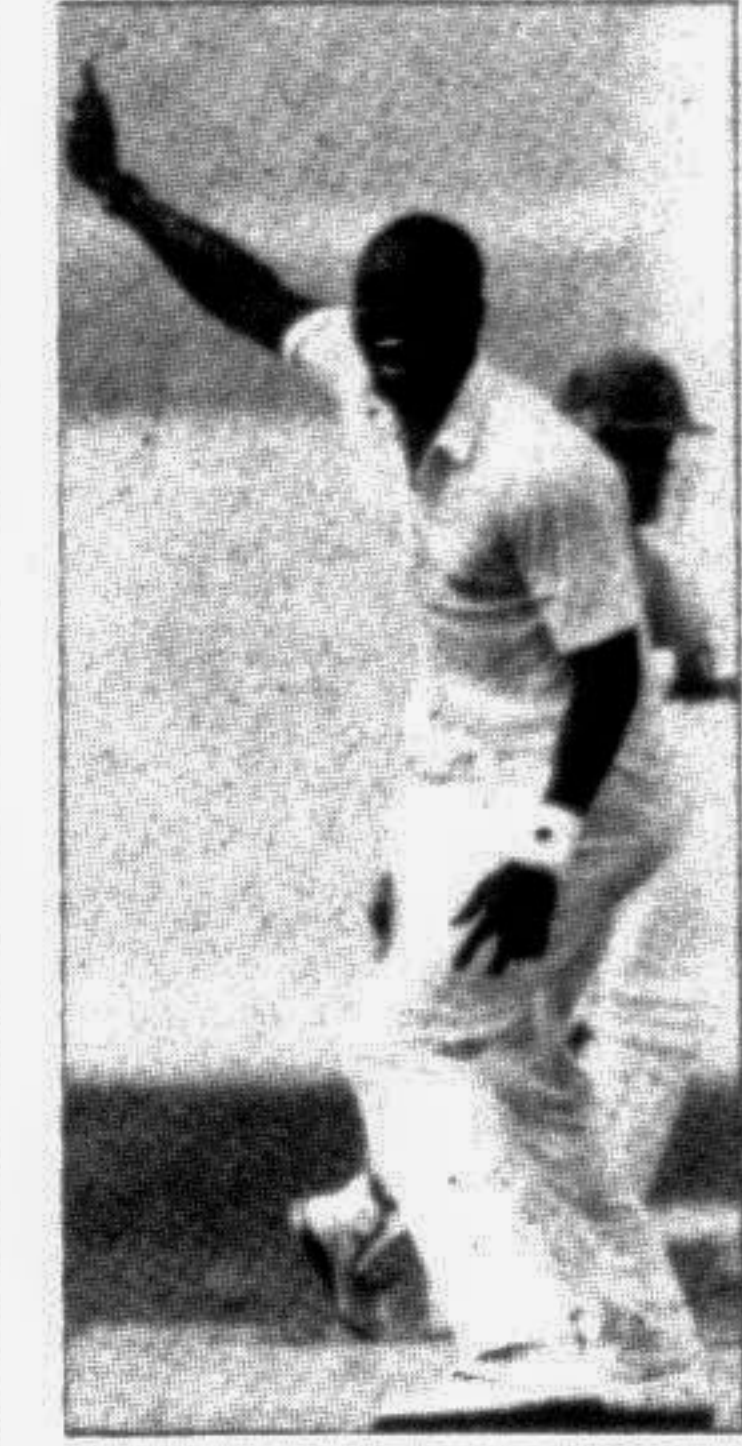
The West Indians jumped with joy and hugged each other after the fall of Raju's wicket while the reserves and manager Rohan Kannahi popped open champagne bottles in the dressing room.

Left-handed Jimmy Adams was voted both man-of-the-match and the series following scores of 174 not out here and 125 not out and 81 in the previous two Tests.

"This is simply great ... one of my best moments in Test cricket," a delighted Walsh said. "We proved that there was not much difference between the two sides despite the absence of our top stars."

"This has been a difficult tour for more reasons than one, but we are simply delighted to end it with a win," Walsh said.

"The boys grouped them-



K BENJAMIN ... 5 for 65

Scoreboard on the fifth day of the third and final cricket Test between India and the West Indies here Wednesday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 443
INDIA: First innings 387

WEST INDIES: Second innings 301 for 3 decl
INDIA: Second innings

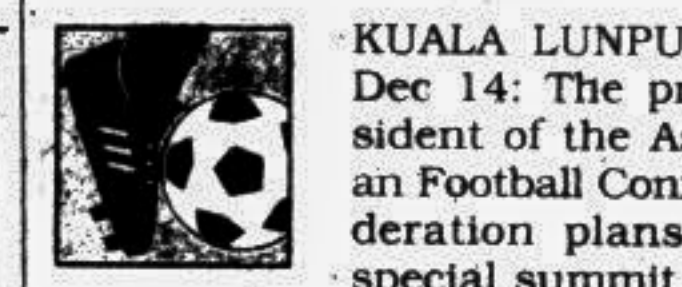
Prabhakar ret'd Hurt 0
Sidhu lbw b Benjamin 11
Manjrekar c Murray b Walsh 17
Tendulkar c Arthurton 10
L Benjamin 10
Azharuddin c Cummins b Benjamin 5

Kambli c sub (Campbell) b Benjamin 0
Mongia c Williams b Walsh 14
Kapoor c Murray b Walsh 1
Kumble b Benjamin 1
Srinath not out 17
Raju c Murray b Cuffly 16
Extras: (b-1, lb-13, nb-8) 22
Total: (all out) 114

Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-44; 3-46; 4-48; 5-66; 6-66; 7-68; 8-68; 9-144.

Bowling: O M R W
Walsh 18 7 34 3
Benjamin 17 3 65 5
Cuffly 0.4 0 1 1

AFC plans reconciliation



KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14: The president of the Asian Football Confederation plans a special summit of world soccer leaders to resolve a growing row with FIFA president Joao Havelange, reports AFP.

Sultan Ahmad Shah said Wednesday he wanted a meeting of the heads of the five continental federations to end a dispute over Havelange's appointments that threatens to undermine the authority of the international governing body.

Havelange has angered the European and Asian federations with his nominations to the FIFA standing committees that run international soccer.

Many of the officials were not supported by the continental federations.

Ahmad said he had lodged a formal complaint with Havelange and received an "unsatisfactory" reply. He said he had proposed a summit of federation leaders at the Intercontinental Championships in Riyadh next month.

Ahmad told an AFC executive meeting in Kuala Lumpur that the Asian body had 23 of its members on the various committees but that two who were not recommended had also been appointed.

He said he was "concerned" by Havelange's action which, he said, undermines the credibility of the AFC.

Lennart Johansson, president of the European governing body, UEFA, warned last week that his organisation may pull out of FIFA over the appointments. Press reports have said the North American Federation, CONCACAF, was also angry.

But Ahmad's call will increase pressure on Havelange, who was to attend the Saudi Arabia tournament in his official capacity.

Informal meetings of the continental leaders have often been used to end disputes on key matters affecting soccer. They met most recently to decide how to share out the extra eight places for the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

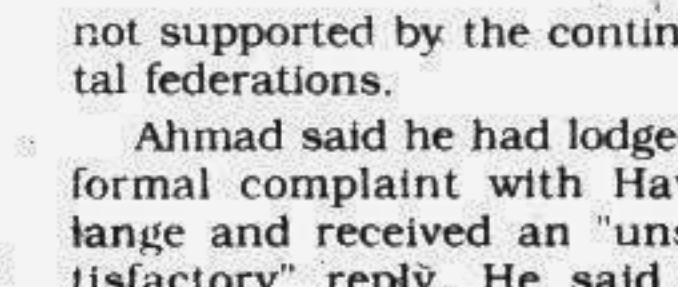
AFC general secretary Peter Velappan, an outspoken critic of Havelange, said Ahmad had the full authority of the executive committee to take on the FIFA leader.

"The delegates fully understand the issue which is that the confederation structure has to be respected to protect the best interests of football," commented Velappan.

Meanwhile the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) executive on Wednesday confirmed that the four-nation Dynasty Cup will be held next February in Hong Kong.

China, South Korea, defending champions, Japan, and

France return to winning ways



TRABZON, Turkey, Dec 14: Jean-Pierre Papin and Patrice Loko each scored to lead France to a 2-0 victory over Azerbaijan in a European Championship qualifying game on Tuesday, reports AP.

Papin beat the Azerbaijan goalkeeper at the near post for the opening goal in the 24th minute, and Loko drove in the second from close range in the 56th minute.

The result gave France their first win and enabled them to stay in contention with Group One leaders Romania and Israel. The French are in third place with six points.

Last-place Azerbaijan have lost all four of their qualifying games without scoring.

The game was played in Trabzon after the European governing body UEFA ordered that Azerbaijan play their home qualifying matches at a neutral site because of civil unrest in the former Soviet republic.

The match was played in a downpour on a muddy pitch, watched by some 4,000 fans, mainly Turkish, in this Black Sea fishing town.

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French striker Patrice Loko (R) gets past an Azerbaijan player score the second goal during a European Championship qualifier in Trabzon, France on Dec 12. France won 2-0. — AFP photo

Acme div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Dhanmondi Progati Sangha won