

Rajshahi h'ball

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, Nov 22: Shiroil Sporting Club and Sepoypara Sporting Club won their respective matches of the Rajshahi District First Division handball league at the Shaheed AHM Qamruzzaman Divisional Stadium today.

Shiroil defeated Abahani Kira Chakra 38-06 in the first match, while Sepoypara beat Cosmos Club 15-09 in the second match of the day.

CRICKET

Padma Garden Cricket School recorded a 68-run win over Firoj Smriti Sangha in the first Shaheed AHM Qamruzzaman Hena Smriti cricket tournament at the Katakhal Adarsha Degree College playground today.

Winning the toss, Padma batted first and collected 213 runs losing all wickets in 22.4 overs.

In reply, Firoj Smriti went all out scoring only 145 runs in 20.3 overs.

CMKS youth h'ball champs

CHITTAGONG, Nov 22: Chittagong Mohanagar Kira Sangha (CMKS) won the title of first national youth handball competition beating Dhaka District 20-14 at the Dampara Police Lines ground here today, reports BSS.

Shantu scored 7 followed by Yunus who scored 5 goals for the winners.

Kanak netted 5 and Hanif 4 goals for the losers.

Tareq of Chittagong was adjudged the best-player-of-the-competition.

Rangpur district won the fair play trophy of the competition.

Nurul Islam, senior vice-president of CMKS distributed prizes.

Fines slapped on Shaun, Craig

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 22: South African skipper Shaun Pollock and New Zealand batsman Craig McMillan have been fined part of their match fees for a verbal exchange during the Test that South Africa won here Tuesday by five wickets, reports AFP.

Pollock will have to forfeit half his match fee and McMillan a third of his for the altercation that took place Monday on the penultimate day of the Test.

Pollock and McMillan apparently swore at each other and the South African also touched McMillan on the shoulder and patted him on the top of his helmet.

Dravid wins

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again in the second, fell to a dubious leg-before decision by Indian umpire Srinivas Venkataraghavan for 70.

Venkataraghavan upheld bowler Ajit Agarkar's loud shout, even though television replays indicated the ball may have missed the off-stump after striking the batsman on the front foot.

The unlucky batsman received a warm applause from the crowd as he trudged back to the pavilion after a heroic vigil at the crease for three hours and 20 minutes.

There were no doubts, however, when the other umpire John Hampshire ruled Heath Streak leg-before against Murali Kartik, the batsman paying the price for not offering a stroke to a straight ball.

The Strang brothers, Paul and Bryan, added a valuable 32 runs for the ninth wicket to prolong India's agony.

SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard on the fifth day of the first cricket Test between India and Zimbabwe at the Feroz Shah Kotla on Wednesday.

ZIMBABWE: First innings 422-9 decl (A Flower 183 not out, A Campbell 70, S Carlisle 58, J Smith 4-81).

INDIA: First innings 458-4 decl (R Dravid 200 not out, S Tendulkar 122).

ZIMBABWE: Second innings G Flower c Dabivha b Smith 0, G Rethebe c Ganguly b Smith 0, Carlisle c Ganguly b Joshi 32, Campbell c Dravid b Smith 8, A Flower lbw b Agarkar 70, G Whitall c Ramesh b Kartik 29, Murphy c Dabivha b Smith 6, Murali lbw b Kartik 26, P Strang not out 14, B Strang c Tendulkar b Joshi 10, Olonga lbw b Smith 10.

Extras: (b-4, lb-9, nb-1, w-1) 15. Total: (All out in 80.1 overs) 225.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-15, 3-25, 4-47, 5-109, 6-144, 7-171, 8-181, 9-213.

Bowler O M R W
Srinath 24.1 5 60 5
Agarkar 16 4 48 1
Joshi 25 7 68 2
Tendulkar 4 1 10 0
Kartik 11 2 26 2

INDIA: Second innings Ramesh c P Strang b Streak 0, Das run out 4, Das run out 70, Tendulkar c Murphy b P Strang 39, Ganguly not out 65, Extras: (b-9, lb-1, nb-1, w-1) 12, Total: (For 3 wickets in 37.3 overs) 190.

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-15, 3-80.

Bowler O M R W
Streak 5 2 18 1
B Strang 3 0 20 0
Olonga 6 0 26 0
Murphy 11 0 56 0
P Strang 4.2 0 26 1

G Flower 1.4 0 10 0
G Rennie 3.3 0 19 0
Campbell 3 1 5 0

Result: India won by seven wickets and take 1-0 lead in the two-Test series.

Man-of-the-match: Javagal Srinath.

Second Test: November 25-29 in Nagpur.



Australian cricketers (L-R) Michael Slater, Stuart MacGil, Ricky Ponting and Glenn McGrath limbering up during a practice session at Brisbane yesterday. — AFP photo

Aussies' chance to go equal

BRISBANE, Nov 22: Traditionalist Steve Waugh has his eyes on a cricket record that may take some topping as the rampaging Australians begin the first of five Tests against the West Indies in Brisbane Thursday, reports AFP.

Australia can equal the 1984 record of Clive Lloyd's terrorising West Indies team of 11 straight Test wins if they beat, as expected, the fallen Caribbean giants at the Gabba.

They would then have the opportunity of setting a new record if they repeat the dose in the second Perth Test from December 1-5.

Although careful not to take things for granted, skipper Waugh believes his players could establish a record that can last for some time.

"If we get there, it's going to be tough to beat," Waugh said Wednesday.

"The record of the West Indies was a great record. They were a great side and for us to get there would be a tremendous achievement."

It stood for a long time and if we get it it's going to stand for a long time to come.

"But you need a lot of things to go your way -- weather and a little bit of luck here and there. We've had our fair share of it but we've played some great cricket as well and it takes a special side to win that amount of games."

Star Sports will show the match live from 5:55am (BST).

The cycle has turned for the West Indies. No longer are they feared in the cricket world as they were back in the 1980s when their quartet of pacemen would intimidate their way to success.

The one-time Calypso Kings are struggling to replace their old greats, with Curtly Ambrose the latest of their magnificent strike bowlers to retire.

And their batting form is equally worrying. Coming off their disastrous 3-1 series loss to England earlier this year with capitulating defeats in the final two Tests, the West Indies don't appear to have recovered from the humiliation.

Last weekend Jimmy Adams' tourists crashed to an embarrassing innings and 63-run defeat to an under-strength Victoria inside three days.

That followed an emphatic seven-wicket loss to Western Australia in Perth.

Bookies have Australia overwhelming favourites to crush the West Indies, some even forecasting a loss inside three or four days.

Waugh is talking up his opponents' chances amid the general consensus that this could become a decidedly one-sided

series this summer. "They have had pretty poor lead-up form and everyone knows about that but Test matches are different," Waugh said.

"They have got quality players there and they're looking for someone to put their hands up."

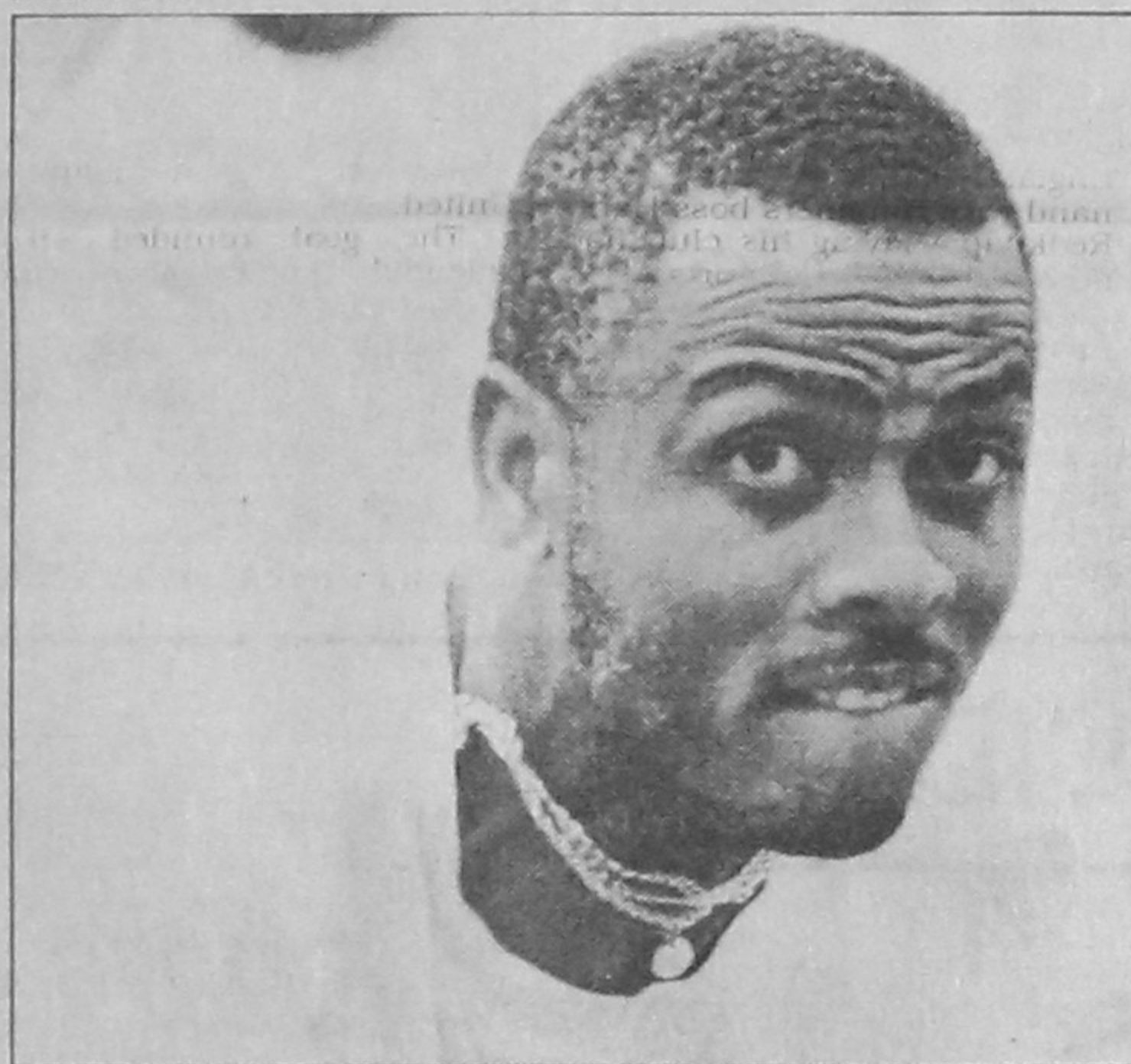
Adams conceded his team faced a big challenge in turning things around and upsetting the unofficial world champions on their own patch.

"In terms of the here and now, playing Australia in Australia is the biggest challenge that would face any international cricketer now," said Adams.

"First and foremost we've come to win a Test series, but looking long-term what we have to come to terms with is an overseas record in recent years that isn't really very good."

"Where we have suffered in the last few years is our consistency in every department and this is a good opportunity for us to start putting that right."

"We all want to win, but we also want to start playing some consistently good cricket away from home."



West Indies superstar Courtney Walsh watches the ball after sending down a delivery in practice at Brisbane yesterday. — AFP photo

AUSTRALIA VS WEST INDIES

BRISBANE, Nov 22 (Reuters): Statistics of total Test matches played by Australia and West Indies cricket teams:

AUSTRALIA					
Matches	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	%Won
607	260	168	177	2	42.83
WEST INDIES					
Matches	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	%Won
364	136	96	129	1	37.91
AUSTRALIA VS WEST INDIES					
Matches	Aus	WI	Drawn	Tied	
70	37	31	21	1	
AUS VS WI AT THE GABBA					
Matches	Aus	WI	Drawn	Tied	
9	3	3	2	1	

ACA admonishes ACB

BRISBANE, Nov 22: Any attempt to punish Mark Waugh for alleged corruption could become a legal minefield, the Australian Cricket Association warned Wednesday, reports AFP.

While Waugh protests his innocence on the renewed claim he was involved with an Indian bookmaker, the ACA said problems could confront the Australian Cricket Board (ACB).

Waugh's reputation has been sullied since an Indian bookmaker claimed three weeks ago that he gave the Australian batsman 20,000 US dollars for information on match, pitch and weather conditions.

Waugh denied he received that amount, insisting he took 4,000 US dollars for a deal in 1994, which was exposed two years ago.

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) anti-corruption unit is investigating the claims to decide whether the allegation refers to the exposed deal or a separate matter.

But if evidence contradicts Waugh's denials, the ACB could face problems punishing its player.

Hypothetically, Waugh's acceptance before such a deal was deemed illegal by



TIM MAY, ACA president, speaking.

Only since last year have players been forced to sign declarations that they will not be involved in any corrupt conduct.

Players could take legal action if they were to be punished by their boards for incidents prior to those declarations, the ACA said.

"I'm sure players would seek protection from legal circles if

such a problem arose," ACA chief executive Tim May said Wednesday.

"It is their job and their vocation and if something wasn't a crime at that particular time then he should be able to play his trade."

"It's an incredibly, incredibly complicated issue."

The players' union said if a player took legal action, a national cricket board could be forced into court to defend a punishment which may have questionable legal grounds.

A potential action against Waugh could be different because he has already been secretly fined by the ACB and forced to give evidence under oath at two inquiries.

Waugh was docked 10,000 dollars (\$2,000 US) by the ACB in 1995 and recently said he had nothing more to add to evidence he gave at the inquiries.

May said the legal issue had been jointly raised by the ACA and the ACB and he was so far satisfied with the follow-up.

"There are some concerns in that regard but I believe that the ACB and the ICC are working closely to determine the legal position," May said.

ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed was unavailable for comment late Wednesday.

ACC Trophy UAE, HK duel in the desert

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Nov 22: An unbroken fifth-wicket partnership of 119 between Nasir Siddiqui and Kashif Khan steered the United Arab Emirates to victory over Malaysia in the semifinal of the Asian Cricket Council Trophy here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Chasing 202 to win in 50 overs, the hosts were in a spot of bother with four top order batsmen back in the pavilion with the score on 85. But Siddiqui and Khan kept their nerve to guide UAE to a six-wicket victory and a berth in next year's Asia Cup one-day tournament.

The UAE will meet Hong Kong in the final, Friday. Both teams have qualified to play in next April's Asia Cup where they will come up against Test-playing nations India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Nasser to play

LAHORE, Nov 22 (Internet report): Captain Nasser Hussain has surprisingly named himself in England's line-up for the three-day match against a Pakistan Cricket Board XI starting at the Bagh-e-Jinnah Stadium here tomorrow.

Hussain was expected to miss the fixture even before suffering a painful blow on the right wrist batting during the drawn opening Test and a recurrence of long-standing back trouble was also expected to keep him out.

But after completing his first net session since the Test today, Hussain was named in a 12-man squad and will lead England providing he passes a fitness test in the morning.

Earlier team's media relation manager Andrew Walpole said, "Hussain has no serious injury but we decided to rest him for the three day game."

Alec Stewart has been pencilled in to captain the side if Hussain suffers a reaction to today's work-out, but will play only as a batsman to give understudy wicketkeeper Paul Nixon only his second run-out of the tour.

Yorkshire's Michael Vaughan, sidelined for more than a week with the calf trouble which ruled him out of the opening Test, was also in the nets today and has been named in the squad with a view to testing his injury during the match.

Graham Thorpe is the only specialist batsman to be rested following his superb century, but all-rounder Craig White and new ball strikeforce Andrew Caddick and Darren Gough are all given a break before the second Test in Faisalabad next week.

Pakistani selectors have left teenage leg-spinner Danish Kaneria out of the squad for the game. Kaneria, who has claimed 36 wickets in the current domestic season, is expected to make his debut in the second Test.

International off-spinner Shoaib Malik is to lead the PCB XI.

ENGLAND (from): M Atherton, M Trescott, N Hussain (captain), M Vaughan, A Stewart, A Flintoff, G Hick, P Nixon (wicketkeeper), A Tudor, A Giles, I Salisbury, M Hoggard.

Henman enters last 16

BRIGHTON, Nov 22: British number one Tim Henman easily booked his spot in the last 16 of the 400,000 dollars Brighton Open here Tuesday with a 51-minute hammering of Michal Tabara, reports AFP.

Top seed Henman triumphed 6-0, 6-2 against the 21-year-old Czech, who has a world ranking of 96.

Despite his run to the last 16 at Wimbledon and two Davis Cup victories against Ecuador, Henman's win was his first ATP Tour success in England this year, following early exits at London Arena, Queen's and Nottingham.

Sir Don's stolen letter found

SYDNEY, Nov 22: A missing letter written by cricket legend Don Bradman has been found by three young boys on a bike ride in Australia's remote north west, reports AFP.

The hand-written letter from The Don was found in a safe which had been stolen earlier this year from the Broome Historical Society.

Three local boys found the safe dumped near a housing estate on the outskirts of Broome during a recent bike ride.

Bradman wrote the letter to Nolan and Terry McDaniel, the cricket-mad sons of a prominent pearling family, who had been unable to travel to Perth to see a match against England in the 1930s.

"So you are both very keen little cricketers -- what a pity you could not come to Perth to see these famous Englishmen in action," Sir Donald wrote.

"Never mind, when you get a little older I'm sure mother will let you make the trip -- perhaps in 1936."

The letter was written on notepaper from the Pacific Hotel, it was underlined.

However, sport historians believe it was written about the time of the famous Bodyline tour of 1932-33, and possibly referred to a warm-up match between Western Australia and England in Perth.

Zatopek passes away



PRAGUE, Nov 22: Legendary Czech athlete Emil Zatopek, 78, a quadruple olympic champion between 1948 and 1952, has died aged 78 at Prague military hospital, hospital sources said Wednesday, reports AFP.

Zatopek died following a long illness, although two months ago he had briefly returned home following an improvement in his condition.

The Czech republic's most celebrated athlete was first hospitalised on September 4 with a mystery virus that was complicated by pneumonia and a weakened heart rate.

Nicknamed "the locomotive" in his prime, Zatopek won four olympic golds, the 10,000m at London in 1948, a feat he repeated at Helsinki in 1952 where he also won gold in the 5,000m and the marathon.

Zatopek set 18 world records and was European champion at 5,000m in 1950 and 5,000 and 10,000 in 1954. Observers said of his style that he ran like a man with a scorpion in both shoes.

A hero in his homeland, Zatopek fell from grace after the Prague Spring where he took the microphone at Wenceslas square to speak out against the presence of Soviet tanks.

Pro-Soviet military officials bounced him out of the Czech army and he was forced into manual jobs at the age of 45.

"I ended up working 600 metres under ground in a uranium mine at Jachymov 130km west of Prague with a miner's helmet on my head," he recalled later.

It was not until 1974, six years after the Soviet invasion, that he was transferred to an administrative post as a documentalist.

Long-time French rival and friend Alain Mimoun said Zatopek's death deeply touched him.

"His death deeply saddens me. I am losing a brother, not an adversary."

"It was fate which me together with such a gentleman. Our friendship was born at Algiers in 1946. On the track we had a ten-year battle, a battle of titans."

"I last saw him at UNESCO



EMIL ZATPEK

in Paris two or three years ago but we kept in touch by phone, said Mimoun, contacted in Paris.

IAAF President of the IAAF Lamine Diack led condolences from the athletics world.

"This is a sad day not only for sports people, who saw emodied in Zatopek all the virtues of a champion, but also for the common people who recognised in Zatopek an honest and intangible defender of the fundamental principles of dignity and freedom of the individual," said Diack.

"Emil Zatopek was one of my

youthful heroes and still today his story stands as an example for all those who start a career in sport, particularly in athletics."

"He showed how seriousness and self-discipline, a passion for everything one does, a sense of duty and the will to overcome the limits of pain are the fundamental arms of the athlete," added Diack in a statement.

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

Brief synopsis of major honours won by Czech athlete Emil Zatopek, who died Wednesday.

Born: Sept 19, 1922

Birthplace: Koprivnica (Cze)

Height: 1.74m

Weight: 67 kg

HONOURS:

Olympics:

5000m: 1st (1952), 2nd (1948)

10000m: 1st (1948, 1952)

Marathon: 1st (1952)

European championships

5000m: 1st (1950), 3rd (1954)

10000m: 1st (1950, 1954)

World records: 18 (including)

5000m: 13min 57.2sec, 30/05/1954 at Colombes (France)

6 miles: 27min 59.2, 01/06/1954 at Brussels

10000m: 28min 54.2, 01/06/1954 at Brussels

10 miles: 48min 12sec, 29/09/1951 at Stara Boleslav (Cze)

20km: 59min 51sec, 29/09/1951 at Stara Boleslav (Cze)

Hour: 20.052 km, 29/09/1951 at Stara Boleslav (Cze)

15 miles: 1hr 14min 01sec, 29/10/1955 at Celakovice (Cze)

25km: 1hr 16min 36sec, 4/10, 29/10/1955 at Celakovice (Cze)

30km: 1hr 35min 23sec, 8/10, 26/10/1952 at Stara Boleslav (Cze)

Fed Cup

Spaniards reach final



LAS VEGAS, Nov 22 (AFP): Mistake-prone Spain almost Czeched out of the Fed Cup earlier than expected.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez struggled to three-set triumph over Czech Republic rivals here Tuesday, giving Spain a ninth Fed Cup final berth in 12 years and hopes for a sixth women's tennis title in a decade.

"I like to fight and win matches like this," Martinez said. "You have better times when you have a fighting spirit. Sometimes you have to fight yourself too. I'm just happy we're in another Fed Cup final. This is a great record."

Fifth-ranked Martinez outlasted 47th-rated Kveta Hrdlickova 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (2/7), 6-4 in two hours and 34 minutes. No. 9 Sanchez took 30 minutes less to beat 17-year-old Daja Bedanova 5-7, 6-4, 6-

3 in the best-of-three semifinal. "She was playing very well," Sanchez said. "I should have won the first set but I let her come back and got a little bit frustrated. But that helped me in the second set. At the end, I played like I was supposed to in the whole match."

Hrdlickova and Bedanova averted a Spanish sweep by winning a dead rubber doubles match 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) over Magui Serna and Virginia Ruano Pascual to make the final margin 2-1.

Spain advanced to the best-of-five championship Friday and Saturday to face the winner of Wednesday's best-of-three semifinal between Belgium and the defending champion United States.