

Biman in rough weather

Sports Reporter

MI Title-aspirants Bangladesh Biman suffered a severe jolt when they crashed to 154 all out against Lalmatia Club on the first day of their two-day 75-over-a-side match of the Navana Premier Division cricket league yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Lalmatia Club, in reply, were also struggling at 44 for the loss of three wickets in 23 overs when he stumps were drawn for the day.

Former champions Biman currently share the lead at the top of the league table with Brothers Union, each side having lost one game.

A defeat at the hands of Lalmatia could prove disastrous for Biman's championship hopes, as it would leave them level with Abahani Krira Chakra, the defending champions who have lost two games already.

Ashish Malik, Lalmatia's skipper, invited Biman to bat first and his decision paid early dividends when Biman lost their first wicket with just

two runs on the board. Experienced opener Ahmed Iqbal Bacchu fell for one, being caught behind off Zeeshan. When the Biman score reached 28, Jahangir their prolific in-form batsman, departed, also caught behind by Sri Lankan keeper Saman Kumara off Raja for eight runs. Sumon 12, Bulbul 5, and Piyal 7, followed in quick procession, leaving Biman staggering at 49 for five wickets.

Skipper Shanewaz Shanu and south paw all rounder Enamul Haque Moni added 49 valuable runs for the sixth wicket before Shanu was out for 30. Moni watched Dulu, 5, and Rafiq depart in succession to leave the airlines' total on 105 for eight wickets. Biman's number ten batsman off-spinner Anwarul Amin Azhar stopped the rot by adding 49 priceless runs for the ninth wicket. Moni top scored with 43. Last batsman wicket keeper Shamim fell without adding a run.

Biman were finally skittled out for 154 runs, their lowest of the season, off 63 overs. The young medium-pacer

Zeeshan was the leading Lalmatia bowler with three wickets for 48 runs. Raja, two for 27, Sanjeeva, two for 37, and Shaon, one for 12, were the other successful Lalmatia bowlers.

Lalmatia, in reply, also found batting very difficult to finish the day on 44 for three wickets in 23 overs. Jahangir, 11, Raja, 5, Shippar, were the Lalmatia batsmen dismissed. Pika and Uttam were at the crease with eight and four runs respectively.

From the way the wicket is playing, Biman's experienced spinners could still pull their side from the present dire straits.

Lalmatia resume their innings today needing 110 for victory in 52 overs with seven wickets remaining.

Aruna's ton

Sri Lankan Aruna de Silva's sparkling 141 not out helped Surja Tarun pile up a massive 355 runs for the loss of six wickets in 75 overs the other Navana fixture against Gulshan Youth at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Gulshan Youth in reply, were crawling at three without loss after four overs.

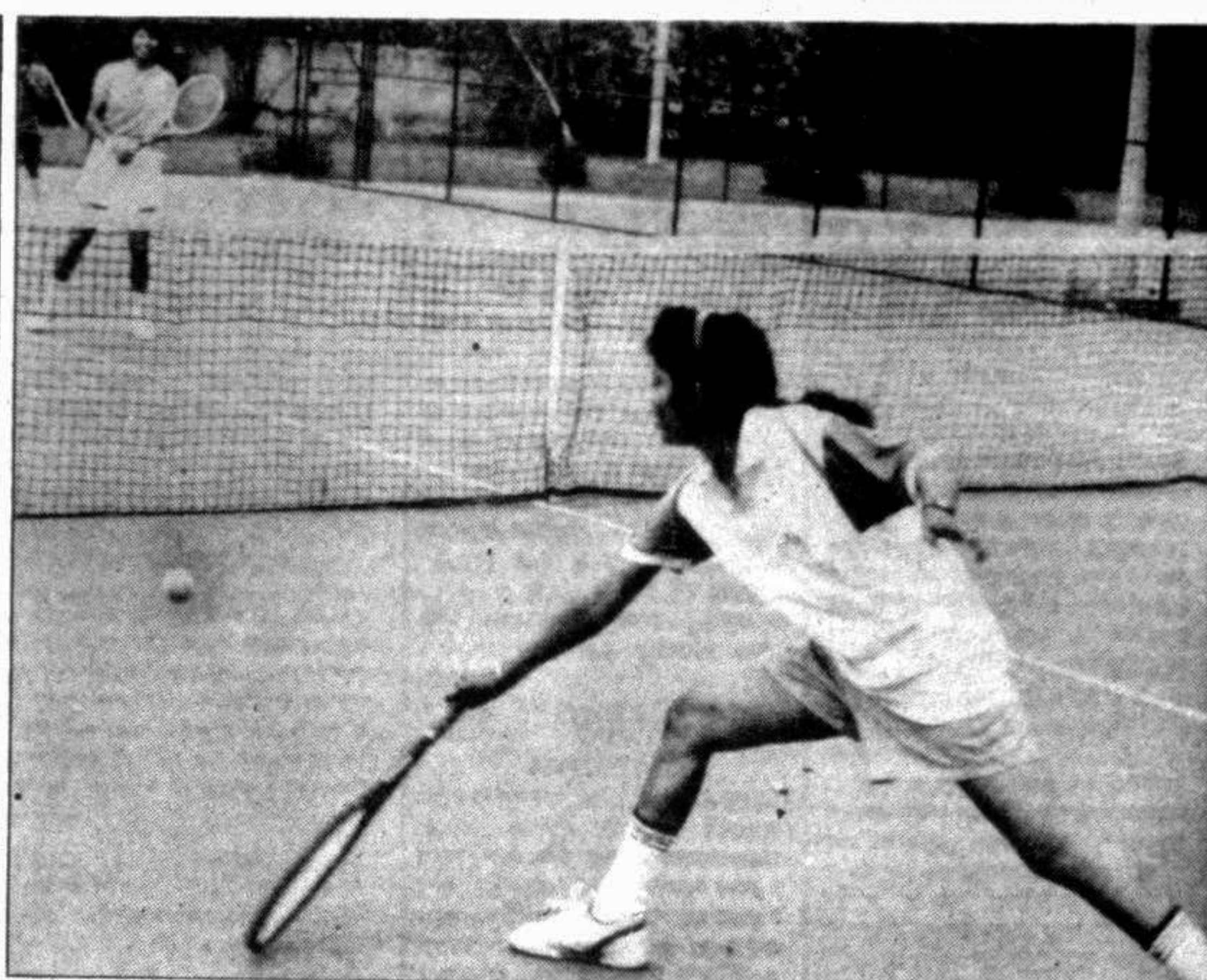
Surja Tarun made full use of the placid track when they were asked to bat first.

Zakaria, 53, skipper Shaheen, 56, Hadi, 24, Rupom, 18, Arif, 14, and Suppi, 20 not out, were the other notable scorers for Tarun.

Aruna De Silva's century was the eleventh of the league and the fourth by a foreign player. His knock of 141 not out came off only 175 balls, studded with ten glorious boundaries and one towering six. Aruna was especially harsh on Gulshan's Indian recruits Ashoke Malhotra and Arun Lal whose spin bowling came in for a bit of stick.

Malhotra conceded 67 runs for his one victim while Arun Lal was bashed around for 97 runs for his one scalp.

Gulshan Youth need another 332 for victory off the remaining 71 overs. Every thing depends on Arun Lal and Malhotra if Gulshan are to overhaul Surja Tarun's in posing total today.



Action from the national tennis championships at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday. —Star photo

Nat'l tennis

Sports reporter

The top seeds in the men's singles yesterday all reached the quarterfinals of the national tennis championships, now on at the Ramna Tennis Complex.

Defending national champion Shovon Jamaly, second-seeded Hira Lal, Titon, national junior champion Shibu Lal, Byzid Rashid, Maroof Rahman, former national number one Sarder Iftekhar and Sami Razzak all posted comfortable wins on the third day of the six-day meet yesterday to reach the last eight stage. The quarterfinal matches start at 2.00 this afternoon.

Today's other fixtures include the women's doubles semifinals.

Four pairs, Goodyear and Wanie, Rina and Monica, Marina and Sathi and Lopa and Mithun won their respective quarterfinals yesterday.

The finals of the various events are scheduled for Friday, Mar 15.

New breed threaten old guard

SEVILLE(Spain), Mar 12: A new wave of young talent, hungry for success and eager to take on the old guard, emerged to shake up the established hierarchy of the track at the world indoor athletics championships, reports Reuter.

American Andre Cason and Irina Sergeyeva of the Soviet Union, both only 22, set the pattern by winning the men's and women's 60 metres finals on the opening day of the three-day meeting on Friday.

Their shock victories over entrenched favourites Linford Christie of Britain and Jamaican Merlene Ottey, both 30, sounded a warning that the old order may be changing.

With the world outdoor championships in Tokyo less than six months away and the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona drawing nearer, some track veterans may be forced to scale down their ambitions.

Christie received a second jolt in the 200 metres when he came off second best to yet another 22-year-old, the powerfully built Bulgarian Nikolai Antonov.

"It was my dream to beat Christie. He's a great sprinter," said the star-struck newcomer.

But generally the new generation showed scant respect for their elders of the track.

Algerian Noureddine Moreel, only 21 but already inviting comparisons with the great Moroccan middle-distance runner Said Aouita, simply destroyed the opposition in the men's 1,500 metres when he tore the field apart with his merciless turn of pace.

Frenchwoman Marie-Pierre Duros, 23 and without any major credits to her name previously, boldly took the women's

gold in the men's 800 metres at the Seoul Olympics, was among the few to retain his indoor title though he won only after the disqualification of compatriot William Tanui for breaking lanes too early.

In the field events, the old order looked much more solid with Soviet pole vaulter Sergei Bubka clearing six metres once again to win gold.

Swiss shot putter Werner Guenthoer and German women's high jumper Ilke Plenk also claimed their titles as expected.

There were five outright world indoor records at the meeting with reunited Germany claiming brilliant wins in the men's and women's 4x400 metres relays, thanks to magnificent anchor legs from Thomas Schoenicke and Grit Breuer.

Mikhail Schennikov of the Soviet Union recaptured the world record in the men's 5,000 metres walk and German Beate Anders beat her own best time the women's 3,000 metres walk.

Inessa Kravets of the Soviet Union also broke the record in the women's triple jump, an invitation event.

China pulled off a notable coup by producing their first gold medalist at either a world championship or Olympic athletics event when shot putter Sui Xinmei heaved her way to victory.

But some things never change and even a reunited German team was unable to put the Soviet squad in the shade.

The Germans claimed six golds but the Soviets stayed on top of the medals table with 17 places on the victory rostrum, including seven golds.



YOUNG BEATS OLD: Andre Cason (l) of the US, 21, beat Ben Johnson, 30, over 60 metres at the world indoor in Seville last week.

3,000 metres from the front and beat a host of more experienced runners.

Ludmila Rogachova of the Soviet Union capped a bad meeting for the old guard by winning the women's 1,500 metres where defending champion Doina Melinte of Romania finished out of the medals.

Kenyan Paul Ereng, who came from nowhere to win

At only 23, Ereng is in the vanguard of the young generation anyway.

Not that the established stars were incapable of fighting back. Ottey showed that when she exacted revenge on Sergeyeva in the 200 metres final, equaling the 22.24 seconds world record she set seven days earlier.

The best performance by a veteran came from 32-year-old American Greg Foster, crown-

BJMC riders top nat'l cycling

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) riders won two of the four titles at stake in the day-long 16th national cycling championships held yesterday at the Mohammadpur Physical Education College playground.

BTMC men also rewrote the standing national record for the 100 km road team trial of 2 hours 40 minutes and 50 seconds by clocking 2 hours 39 minutes, a minute and 50 seconds quicker.

The Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation riders took the silver in this event by timing 2:47 minutes while Dinajpur DSA finished third with a time of 2:48:00 secs.

BTMC's second gold medal came in the men's elimination race which was won by Shahidur Rahman with a time of 7 minutes 02.89 seconds.

BJMC's Selina Begum won the 4000m scratch with a time of 8 min 51.28 secs, ahead of BTMC's Rahima Khatun who got the silver and Anwara Hossain, another BTMC rider, who got the bronze.

The 1000m time trial for men was won by Atiqur Rahman of the Bangladesh Rifles with a time of 18 min 33.13 secs. Mozaffar Hossain of BJMC won the silver while his teammate Rafiqul Islam settled for the bronze.

Sixty-five cyclists from ten teams, including eight women, took part in the meet held under the auspices of the Bangladesh Cycling Federation.

Gullit on Milan's woes

MILANELLO (Italy), Mar 12: As AC Milan's hopes of a third successive European Cup triumph hang by a thread, their inspirational Dutch international Ruud Gullit accepted that the world's best teams stay at the top for no more than three or four years, reports Reuter.

In a week when Milan were held 1-1 at home by Marseille in the European Cup and coach Arrigo Sacchi ruled them out of the Italian title race after losing to Sampdoria, Gullit implied that their reign may be coming to an end.

"It's difficult to stay at the top, habit sets in. The second season it's difficult because they all want to beat you," Gullit said.

"If (in the second season) you win something they look at you and say: 'They're very good,'" he said in an interview at Milan's training camp.

"Big teams stay at the top for three, four years, then they slip below the top level, look for players and slowly, slowly go back to the top," he said.

AC Milan won the league in 1988 and the European Cup and World Club championship twice, in 1989 and 1990.

Gullit pointed to Real Madrid, Spanish Champions for the past five seasons but about to be dethroned, as a major European Club currently hitting a bad cyclical patch.

Gullit said that what divided the best team in the world from the rest was always getting a good result.

"If you play badly, you (still) win," he said.

"This season Milan had played badly several times in the league but were let off the hook."

"By luck or less attention of some players, we had the opportunity to get a draw," he said.

home in over two years of European competition.

Their apparent decline was further confirmed with a 2-0 league defeat by Sampdoria four days later, leaving them three points off the pace.

After that game coach Sacchi said: "We've been the best side for a long time. At the moment, we're just not there anymore."

Gullit said that after a defensive World Cup teams at all levels were attacking and pressing more.

"Everyone saw that with that kind of football you can't achieve anything. Everyone is looking more to attack, do more pressing."

As for the vital second leg to Marseille on March 20, Milan were not going to change their game. "But you have to change your attitude and the way of playing," he said.

"If you don't play well, you play like that (the home leg) you play in hope."

Gullit, who sidelined for nearly all of last season with a knee injury, is uncertain how many more years he has left at the top.

"When my contract with Milan ends in 1993 I will be nearly 31. I'll have to consider well if I can still handle this level," he said.

One thing he is certain of is that he will not be going into coaching.

"Look what happened to (Johan) Cruyff and (Kenny) Dalglish."

"There's too much stress, too many interests, too many players who think they are clever," he said laughing.



RUUD GULLIT

Angels march on

Sports Reporter

Angels Club chalked up their fifteenth straight win in the Partex First Division basketball league drubbing Dhaka Winners Club by 86 points to 65 at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The victory further enhanced Angels' championship prospects and they have just two more games to play against Dhaka Wanderers and Vega Sports Club. While Angels should face little difficulty in overcoming Wanderers, their clash against second placed Vega Sports, who have lost only one of their matches, should be a thrilling contest.

But the city basketball enthusiasts will have to wait a while before they can watch the remaining fixtures of the league programme which have been suspended with effect from today to allow the Mohammedan-Zakaria Enterprise badminton tournament to be held at the wooden-floor gym.

In another match yesterday, Dhaka Wanderers eked out a narrow, three-point win over Greta Club, the final score reading 72-69 in favour of the winners.

Kasparov in lead

LINARES (Spain), Mar 12: World chess champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union headed the field after the 11th round of the 13-round Linares international tournament on Monday.

But Vasily Ivanchuk, half a point behind Kasparov, seemed certain to level after adjourning an all-Soviet encounter against Mikhail Gurevich in a winning position.

Experts said he looked better placed to clinch the title as Kasparov faced a tougher challenge in the last two games.

Alexander Beljavsky, who had been on top of the standings until Monday, fell behind following defeat by fellow Soviet Valery Salov after 37 moves of an English opening.

Kasparov drew with Viswanathan Anand of India, who played a Russian opening, Anand, with black pieces, played the game in only 40

minutes while Kasparov took one hour and 26 minutes.

American Gata Kamsky, at 16 the world's youngest Grandmaster, adjourned a game against former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union after 63 moves of Nimzo-Indian defence with Karpov in a winning position.

Other results in the 11th round:

Jan Timman (Netherlands) drew against Ljubomir Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) after 25 moves of a Sicilian defence;

Jonathan Speelman (Britain) beat Jan Elhvest (Soviet Union) after 60 moves of Nimzo Indian defence;

Boris Gelfand (Soviet Union) drew against Artur Yusupov (Soviet Union) after 60 moves of a queen's gambit;

In the 12th round today Ljubojevic plays against Kasparov while Ivanchuk takes on Gelfand and Beljavsky confronts Kamsky. The tournament ends on Thursday.

Nat'l weightlifting from today

Sports Reporter

The sixteenth national weightlifting championships, under the auspices of the Bangladesh Weightlifting Federation, begin today at the National Coaching Centre.

About seventy lifters from a dozen teams will be competing in various weight classes in the three-day meet which concludes Friday.

MSC-Zakaria badminton from today

Sports Reporter

The Mohammedan-Zakaria Enterprise badminton tournament '91, organised by the Mohammedan Sporting Club and sponsored by Zakaria Enterprise Limited begins today at the wooden-floor gymnasium.

Eight teams are taking part in the five-day tourney under the supervision of the Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF).

Mohammed Zakaria, MD of the sponsoring company Mustafa Maksudur Rahman, chairman of Mohammedan Sporting Club's badminton committee, Wadud Chowdhury, general secretary of the BBF and Qamrunahar Dana, secretary of the tournament committee addressed a press conference at the MSC pavilion Monday.

Seventy-two players, including twelve women, will be taking part in the tourney. Thirty-two thousand Taka in prize money and prizes and trophies worth Tk 26,000 will be at stake.

Six events the men's team, singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles and the mixed doubles will be contested by the players representing Mohammedans, Shetch Club, Dhaka Badminton Club, Dilkusha Club, China Rose Club, Jessore district, Chittagong district and Sher-e-Banglanagar Club.

Jianhua faces big challenge

LONDON, Mar 12: Defending champion Zhao Jianhua faces a big challenge to his supremacy when the All-England championships, badminton's unofficial number one showdown, open on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Indonesia Ardy Wiranata looks to be the biggest threat to Zhao after warming up with another Grand Prix victory in Sweden on Sunday when he beat compatriot Pung Permadi in the final.

Over the years, the All-England championships have become the Wimbledon of badminton, winning a special place in the affections of players and spectators alike.

Whether they will continue to hold such sway now that badminton is an Olympic event remains to be seen.

But in the meantime the

usual array of talent is gathered at Wembley, headed by China's Zhao and women's champion Susi Susanti of Indonesia.

Susanti has the form and pedigree to retain her title easily but Zhao faces a much harder task in the men's event.

As is often the case with the Chinese, his appearances in intermediate events have been limited, with his coaches preferring to keep something back for the big occasion.

But in his last major clash, the final of the World Cup event in Indonesia in November, Zhao lasted only 23 minutes.

The winner that day was his compatriot and rising star Wu Wenkai, seeded joint third.

Wu followed up that victory with three more final appearances, losing the Taipei masters and the Japan Open but taking the South Korean title in some style.

He also has to his credit success over Yang Yang, the now-retired world champion and a former winner here.

Wiranata, the man who beat Wu in Japan, has had the chance to acclimatise himself to European conditions. Unless first round Chinese opponent Liu Jun causes an upset, the number two seed should have an untroubled run at least to the quarter finals.

In the 1980s Denmark's Morten Frost played a major role at the All-England championships. He took the title four times, outgunning all the agile Asians with his long legs and astonishing defensive powers.

Now in his mid-30s, however, Frost finds that success arrives less readily and he faces a tough second round against Allan Budi Kusuma, one of several Indonesians capable of rising to great heights.



Gandaria Famous Sporting became the Pioneer soccer league champions beating Bashabo Tarun Sangha in yesterday's final at the Outer Stadium. —Star photo



Pioneer soccer runners-up Bashabo Tarun Sangha who along with Gandaria Famous Sporting, will play in Division Three next season. —Star photo

Gazza undergoes surgery

LONDON, Mar 12: Tottenham's international midfielder Paul Gascoigne underwent surgery on a long-term injury on Monday and faces a difficult fight to be fit for next month's English FA Cup semifinal, reports Reuter.

Club officials said Gascoigne, for whom Italian club Lazio has made a 12-million-dollar offer, had an operation on torn stomach muscles. The injury has been troubling him since mid-January.

Iraqi soccer

BAGHDAD, Mar 12: Despite the country's internal turmoil, the Iraqi football championship will resume after two months suspension on Thursday, officials said here, reports AP.

Training for the Iraqi first divisions 14 clubs resumed last week. National Federations for other sports are to meet in the next few days to decide on whether to restart activities after the war.

Gandaria Famous Pioneer champs

Sports Reporter

Gandaria Famous Sporting Club emerged champions in the Pioneer football league when they beat Bashabo Tarun Sangha 4-3 in the tie-break in the final held at the Outer Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The regulation period of the match had ended with the teams locked one-all.

Razzag scored for Gandaria Famous while Shahabuddin netted Bashabo's goal.

Both Gandaria and Bashabo, by virtue of finishing one and two in the league, have earned promotion to next season's Third Division league.

Cabinet Division Secretary Siddiqur Rahman, who is also chief of the Bangladesh Football Federation, witnessed the match as chief guest and gave away the trophies.