

# Pakistan fancied for Sharjah

**SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 14:** Pakistan is seriously tipped to beat India and the West Indies in the 3-nation Wills Trophy cricket international which starts Thursday in this southern Gulf emirate, reports AP.

The 7-day tournament is organised by the Cricketers' Benefit Fund Series. The Fund has put up nearly one million dollars to stage this cricket fiesta in the desert.

The outfield in the stadium is already lush with mown grass and is being watered 6-7 hours daily. The batting pitch is fine tuned for the speedsters and a team which could score more than 300 runs should win the match.

Each country plays the other twice before the final on Oct 25.

West Indies, once the champion cavaliers of one-day cricket, will have to put forth a new bag of tricks as their old firm of Viv Richards, Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes and Malcolm Marshall are all

missing from the team here. Pakistan have the phenomenal Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram in their bowling attack, while Salim Malik the batsman, is in top form. Javed Miandad, the vice captain whose heroics at Sharjah are legendary, is still regarded as the best middle-order batsman in the world. A back injury has kept him from his best for the past season.

India's Mohammad Azharuddin will lead the Indian campaign. The team has three uncapped players — Vinod Kambli (batsman), and medium pacers Javagal Srinath and Subrato Banerjee.

Although the team includes tried and tested veterans like Ravi Shastri (vice captain), Kapil Dev and Novojit Siddhu, there is fine blend of youth in Sachin Tendulkar, the 18-year old batting sensation and Sanjoy Manjrekar, along with the prowess of captain Azharuddin.

Manjrekar, Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil Dev, Kiran More, Manoj Prabhakar, Anil Kumble, Venkatesh Raju, Javagal Srinath, Vinod Kambli and Subrato Banerjee.

**Pakistan** - Imran Khan (Captain), Sajid Ali, Rameez Raja, Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram, Aaqib Javed, Waqar Younis, Wasim Hyder, Akram Raza, Mushtaq Ahmed, Moin Khan, Ghulam Ali.

**West Indies** - Richie Richardson (Captain), Gus Logie (Vice Captain), Phil Simmons, Clayton Lambert, Carl Hooper, Brian Lara, Keith Atherton, Jeff Dujon, Curtley Ambrose, Ian Bishop, Patrick Patterson, Winston Benjamin, Courtney Walsh and Anderson Cummins.

**SHARJAH FIXTURE**  
 Oct 17: Pakistan vs West Indies  
 Oct 18: Pakistan vs India  
 Oct 19: India vs West Indies  
 Oct 20: Rest day  
 Oct 21: Pakistan vs West Indies  
 Oct 22: Pakistan vs India  
 Oct 23: India vs West Indies  
 Oct 24: Rest day  
 Oct 25: Final.

# Chinese take Chang to heart

**BEIJING, Oct 14:** Michael Chang will be far of the crowd favourite when the Marlboro Championships tennis tournament opens in Beijing on Tuesday, reports AP.

"You have become the hero of the Chinese people," a Xinhua News Agency journalist told Chang at a news conference Monday evening, hours after the Chinese-American player arrived in his ancestral home for the first time.

Other Chinese journalists asked Chang to offer words of advice to young Chinese tennis players and crowded around him for autographs.

Chang, 19, the only player of Chinese descent to reach the world top 10 ranking, said he hoped his example would encourage more Chinese to play tennis.

"To me it doesn't make any sense that the Chinese can be so good in table tennis and not they just haven't given it a try. Part of why I'm out here is I want to encourage Chinese youths to take up tennis."

Chang was born in the United States, but has a 91-year-old great-grandmother he has never met in the southern Chinese city of Canton. He said he did not expect to have time to visit her this trip but hoped to come back.

Tennis still has the status of an elite sport in China. A few of the top leaders play, including the chairman of the National People's Congress, Wan Li. But tennis courts are found only in large cities and then generally only at universities or special sports complexes.

Chang, currently ranked 20th in the world, plays Paul Haarhuis of the first round Tuesday of the Marlboro Championships' round-robin competition. Other rounds will be played in Hong Kong.

Chang has lost in the finals of the Marlboro Championships the past two years. He was defeated by Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecir in 1989 and Ivan Lendl in 1990.

Lendl, ranked fourth in the world, is in the competition again this year. Other ranked players included Spaniard Emilio Sanchez, ranked 12th, and American David Wheaton, ranked 13th.

Chang burst into prominence in 1989 when, at age 17, he became the youngest man ever to win the French Open. He was sidelined later that year with a fractured hip, but said he thinks he's now playing better tennis than before the injury.

Championships promoter Gordon Martin of Ken Catton Enterprises said organizers have been trying for several years to bring Chang to Beijing. Chang said he was to have come in 1989, but "because of the situation in Tiananmen Square I wasn't able to come."

Chang was referring to the massive pro-democracy protests centered around the square in Beijing that were suppressed by the military. The Chinese translator at the news conference, apparently uneasy at the mention of the protests, left out the reference in his translation and also failed to fully translate a question about how Chang felt coming to an officially atheist country.

Chang is known as a devout Christian.

"I've very much pleased to be in Beijing," Chang said. "I am a Christian and I've come to play some good tennis."

MICHAEL CHANG as successful in tennis, he said. "I believe the reason is

# Graf retains title

**ZURICH, Oct 14:** Steffi Graf successfully defended her European indoor title when she won down determined opponent Nathalie Tauziat to take the final 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The world number two's victory was her 15th over Frenchwoman Tauziat in as many meetings.

But the sixth-seeded Tauziat, who knocked out second seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina in the quarter-finals, won the admiration and applause of the capacity crowd for her sparkling serve-and-volley game.

Graf, the top seed, used her formidable forehand to devastating effect throughout the 70 minute match but stayed virtually glued to the baseline.

A service break in the 10th

game gave the German defending champion the first set in just 28 minutes.

Both players had trouble with their service in the second set and traded breaks for the first four games.

The 22-year-old Graf regained the initiative and went 5-4 up with another break before serving out for the match helped by a string of unforced errors from her opponent.

"I expected a hard fight after her good wins in the earlier matches," said Graf, who won the title in 1987 and 1989 as well as last year. "I concentrated on playing steady tennis and in the end wore her down."

The triumph added a further 70,000 dollars to Graf's career earnings which have already topped eight million dollars.

# Vicini faces the axe as Italian coach

**ROME, Oct 14:** Italy's failure to qualify for next year's European Soccer Championship finals looks set to signal the end of Azzeglio Vicini's reign as coach of the national team, reports Reuter.

A scoreless draw with the Soviet Union on Saturday effectively ended Italian hopes of reaching the final stages of the competition. The Soviets drew 0-0 in their defeat against the Italians in Group Three and ensure qualification.

Vicini's long-expected dismissal will probably be settled when the Italian league management meets on Friday. Italian soccer supremo Antonio Matarrese confirmed Vicini would be replaced but would not comment on reports that former AC Milan trainer Arrigo Sacchi would get the job.

"I think it's time to change many things," the league president told Sunday's Gazzetta Sportiva newspaper.

"Above all we need a new, more modern mentality, more in step with today's soccer. We need men who are motivated, who haven't won much and who want to win a lot more," he said.

But Italy's sports press gave Vicini, national coach for the past five years, a warm welcome home from Moscow.

"Italy holds its head high, the end of an era," headlined the Gazzetta Sportiva.

"Addio old Italy," said the Corriere Dello Sport.

Vicini himself was reluctant to be drawn on Italy's future prospects.

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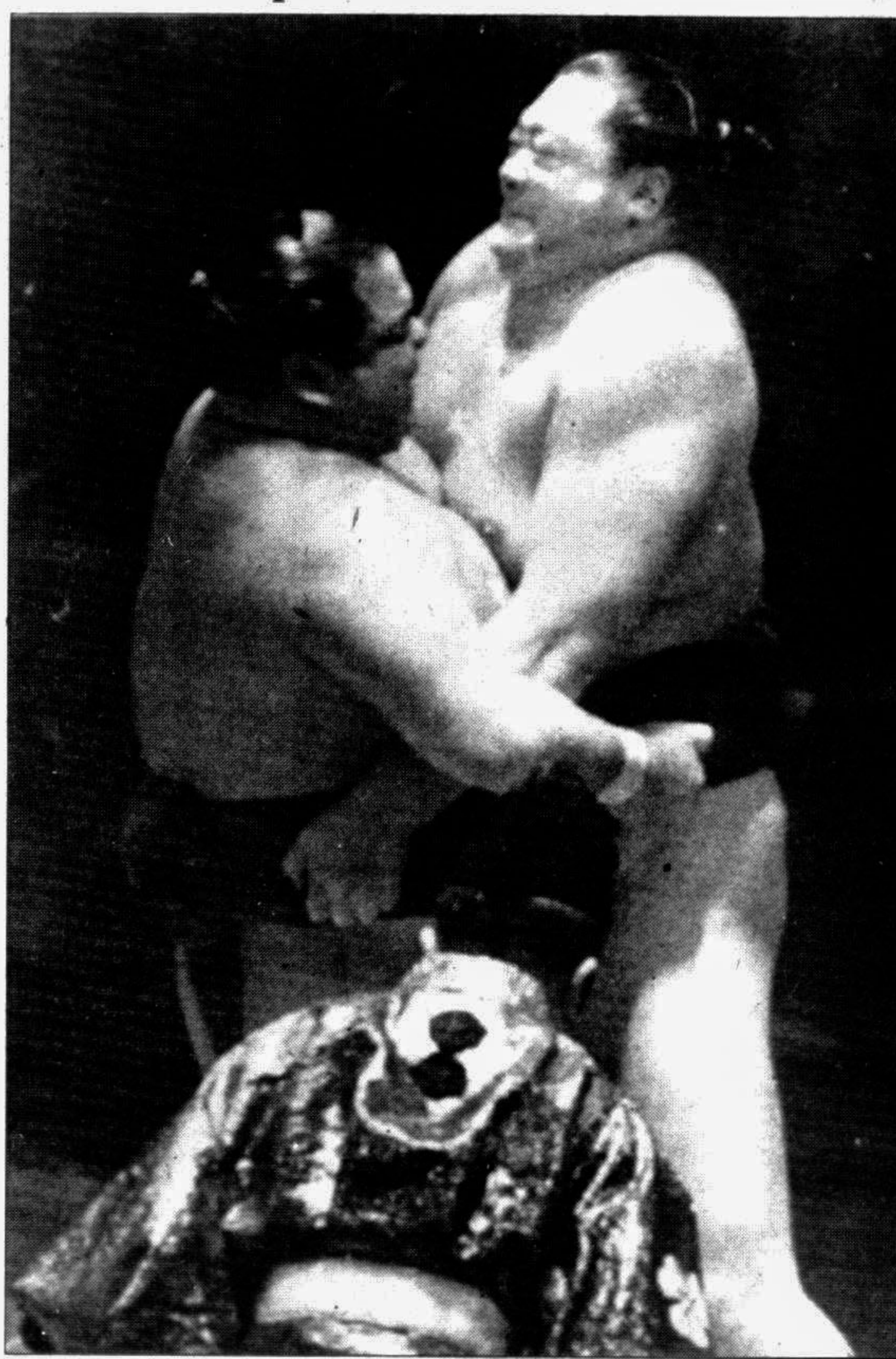
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Nigerian women made a clean sweep of the 200m sprint in last month's All Africa Games in Cairo. From left: Thompson (bronze), Tina Ihegwab (gold) and Fatima Yusuf (silver). The Nigerians once again finished top of the athletics-medal table, edging Kenya by a gold, as they had done in the 1987 meet in Lagos.



Grand champion Hoku Toumi (L) prepares to throw Asahifuji in the Grand Sumo Japan Festival Tournament at the Royal Albert Hall in London on Oct 13. —AFP photo

# Hosts Kiwis shock Soviets

**AUCKLAND, Oct 14:** The Soviet Union men's hockey team, top seeds at the Olympic qualifying tournament and sixth ranked in the world, suffered a shock 2-1 defeat here today to hosts New Zealand, reports AFP.

While foreign commentators had been tipping an easy Soviet win, the Kiwis led by Peter Daji had been quietly confident of their first ever victory over the Russians.

The Kiwis were not helped by only having two substitutes on the bench while their management pleaded poverty and demanded New Zealand pay their meal bills while they are here.

The star for the Kiwis was John Radovonich who worked tirelessly at inside right throughout the 70 minutes and was rewarded with an excellent goal in each half.

The Soviet Union were at a self-inflicted disadvantage.

It was the first time they had been on the water-based turf since arriving in New Zealand Saturday.

In addition, with a team of only 13 players, they had just one field player on the bench and a reserve goalkeeper.

Still, the New Zealanders revelled in the victory over a stronger Soviet Union side than the one they were drawn against three months ago at the six nations tournament in Malaysia.

In that competition the Soviets were without their captain and top goalscorer, Sos

Airapetian, who stopped many New Zealand attacks today in his sweeping role.

Sergei Pleshakov, the 33-year-old twin brother of Soviet goalkeeper Vladimir Pleshakov, scored after a shot from the right went through the legs of New Zealand keeper Ian Woodley.

New Zealand coach Kevin Towns said the result over the top-ranked team was a perfect start to the tournament.

"When they went out, I thought they looked a bit underdone. In the first 20 minutes, we didn't have as much possession as we should have had."

"We've played better. Our 1-1 draw with Australia was a better performance. In fact, our 2-5 loss to Australia was better than this."

Tragically for New Zealand Daji broke his left leg and will not play in the rest of the tournament.

After little more than 40 minutes Daji was struck on the leg near the Soviet circle.

He continued to play for five minutes until "something went crack."

Daji, playing his 123rd international, was carried off the field.

# Kiwis call Soviet bluff

**AUCKLAND, Oct 14:** New Zealand would not be "blackmailed" into paying the food bill for visiting Soviet hockey players, New Zealand Hockey Federation (NZHF) chairman David Appleby said today, reports AFP.

The Soviets, who are the top seeds in the Olympic qualifying tournament here, had threatened to walk out unless New Zealand met their food bill. However they played today, losing to the host team 2-1.

The NAHF is covering the cost of bed and breakfast only for all visiting players and officials, as is standard for international tournaments.

Appleby said the Soviets were well aware of that yet still demanded their entire food bill be paid for by the NZHF.

"This is simply a Russian ploy, like the first move in a chess game. They try it on at most tournaments they go to," he said.

"But we refuse to be blackmailed in this way. There's no way they would expect to be treated differently than the other teams."

Appleby refused to believe the Soviets lacked money for food.

"They'll play, and I don't think they'll go hungry either. They have some pretty good tender in their bags. It comes in bottles," he said.

"They said they couldn't eat. But the tournament rules say we pay for bed and breakfast and they make their own arrangements for other meals. We can't break the rules for them," he said.

Appleby said that when the Soviets threatened to go home unless given the money he told them to go.

The newspaper said the team would visit the Soviet consulate today to ask for help.

# Bondarenko's debut leaves Mota cold

**PORTSMOUTH, England, Oct 14:** Olympic 10,000 metres champion Olga Bondarenko marked her debut over 10 miles here on Sunday by upsetting marathon great Rosa Mota in the Great South Run, reports AFP.

The Russian clocked a world-class 53 minutes 16 seconds after being content to run alongside Mota for first six miles.

Bondarenko then broke away from Portugal's Olympic marathon champion and had opened up a 30-metre gap by seven miles, which she passed in 37 minutes 18 seconds.

The Russian continued to pile on the pressure to win by 22 seconds but Mota was satisfied with second place, having undergone stomach surgery earlier this year.

In the men's race Tanzanian Thomas Naati destroyed the field with an outstanding run of 47 minutes 11 seconds as the first 11 runners dipped under the 50-minute barrier.

British international Paul Evans was second 15 seconds

behind, while last year's London marathon winner, Allister Hutton, was third in 48 minutes 39 seconds.

# IOC members for life ban on drug cheats

**NAIROBI, Oct 14:** Members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Saturday called for athletes caught using performance-enhancing drugs to be banned for life, reports AFP.

The call was led by Peter Talberg, the Finnish head of the IOC's athletics commission.

Attending the meeting were star athletes Sebastian Coe of Britain and Edwin Moses of the United States.

Moses, the 400-metre hurdles world record holder, who recently visited South Africa, said the country should be excluded from the Olympics next year unless all races were allowed to compete equally in all the country's sports associations.



A chess competition began yesterday at the Jatiya Press Club as part of the club's 37th founding anniversary on Oct 19. —Star photo

# TT league begins today

**Sports Reporter**

Defending champions Armanitola JS will take on newcomers Renaissance Club in the inaugural match of the AB Bank Metropolis table tennis league today at the National Coaching Centre.

The other matches billed for simultaneous starts at four this afternoon are Village Defence Party (VDP) against Paschim Jatrabari Young Boys Club against Bangladesh Bank Club and star-studded Bangladesh Biman against Purbachal Parishad.

Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited, sponsoring the league for the second time, will bear the total expense of the league estimated at Taka seventy thousand while the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) will provide the logistic and managerial support.

Twenty-eight city teams, divided into four groups of seven teams each will participate in the first phase of the league which will conclude on October 31. There are nine fresh teams in this year's league.

The participating teams are: Group A: Armanitola JS, Village Defence Party (VDP), Young Boys, Ajax SC, Bangladesh Bank Club, West Jatrabari and Renaissance.

Group B: Bangladesh Biman, Young Stars, Swamibagh TTS.

Pallima Sangsad, Kaipa Taru Club, Kasaitully and Purbachal Parishad.

Group C: Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), Armanitola Juniors, Young Pegasus, Victoria SC, Dhaka Medical College, Combined SC and Swamibagh Boys.

Group D: Bangladesh Ansar, Wari Club, Brothers Union, NMS, Lalmatia Club, Cynthia Sporting and Dhaka Mariners Youngs Club.

Eight teams made up of the two top teams from each of the four groups will qualify for the super league.

The league championship will be decided on the points earned in the super league. The points of first phase will not count in the super league.

Two foreign players will be permitted to play for a team in the league after due approval from the BTTF and clearance of the players' national federation.

# Jansher pulls out due to bad back

**ISLAMABAD, Oct 14:** Jansher Khan, Pakistan's world number one, said on Sunday he would miss the forthcoming United States, Canadian and German Open squash championships because of a back injury, reports Reuter.

"At the moment I do not find myself in rhythm to bring out good competitive squash in the international competitions," the official APP news agency quoted him as saying. The tournaments will be held over the next four weeks.

Jansher, who won both the US and Canadian titles last year, said he received the injury a fortnight ago during practice in Rawalpindi.

He said he was going to the US for medical treatment and was determined to play in December's World Cup in Dubai and the Dutch Open.

Jansher's absence from the US and Canadian championships will increase the chances of arch rival Jahangir Khan, who said last week he was in good form and could win both titles.

Jahangir beat compatriot Jansher in the Pakistan Open last month.

# Bata handball

**Sports Reporter**

K L Jubilee High School scored an exciting 16-12 goals victory over Shaheed Smriti High School in the fourth Bata school handball tournament yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Jubilee School were leading 8-5 at the breather.

Bikash and Sanchit with four goals each and Zafar and Aminur with three goals each were the main goal scorers for Jubilee School.

Altaf with seven and Aftab with three goals fought bravely for Shaheed Smriti School.

The other match of the day between Cosmic International School and Bashantek School was abandoned eleven minutes before the scheduled time due to heavy downpour.

# Fine start by India

**AUCKLAND, Oct 14:** Former Olympic champions India made an impressive start in their campaign to qualify for next year's Barcelona Olympics men's hockey event beating Switzerland 3-1 here today, reports AFP.

In a predictable and skillful match India, the Pool B favourites, made a good start to their Olympic hockey campaign menacing the Swiss for most of the match and taking the break on a comfortable 2-0 lead.

But not to be completely embarrassed the Swiss hit back late in the second-half by applying the pressure which led to a free-hit conversion by Manfred Vogel to make it 3-1.

Countless times, however, the Indians attacked the Swiss goal.

Striker Jagdev Singh weaved his way through the Swiss defence to the delight of the Indian supporters.

The match was marred in the last few minutes when Swiss goalkeeper Frank Schneider threw off his helmet to protest at a penalty corner decision.

After a short face-to-face confrontation with the umpire Schneider returned to his goal to make a quality save.

Despite jetlag, Canadian striker Pat Caruso could still manage two vital goals in his side's first game of the tournament.

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