

E Bengal arrive tomorrow

Sports Reporter



East Bengal Club, fresh from their triumphs in Calcutta Super Division football league and the prestigious Durand Cup, arrive in Dhaka tomorrow, November 1, to play their first leg match of the second Asian Cup Winners Cup football championship against Dhaka's NBL Senior Division league champions, Abahani Krira Chakra, on November 3 at Dhaka Stadium.

The return leg encounter will be held on November 10 in Calcutta.

The winners of Abahani-East Bengal matches will take on the winners of Japan vs Singapore ties in the second round which are expected to

be held between November 28 to December 8. Meanwhile, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has appointed S Mani of Thailand as match commissioner for the Abahani-East Bengal ties.

The AFC, in a fax message to the BFF yesterday, named three neutral referees for the match. The referees will arrive tomorrow from Nepal. They are Roshan Kumar, Rupak Raj Sharma and Joshi Gopal Mukanda, all Nepalese.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will arrange the first class return air passage for the three Nepalese referees and the Thai match commissioner.

The BFF will also provide the local hospitality for the referees. They will be given 50

US dollars per day as daily pocket allowances.

UNB adds: The All India Football Association has sent a 22-member players list of East Bengal Club. The team includes three English players — S Prindville, Neil Edmonds and Peter Maguire.

Other members of the team are: Debaasis Mukherjee, Sudip Chakrabarty, Bhuvan Mukherjee, Krishendu Roy, Ilias Pasha, Swarup Das, Tarun Dey, Mastan Ahmed, Aloke Mukherjee, Bikas Panji, Mohiul Islam, Prasanta Banerjee, Tusher Rakshit, Sanjiv Sadhu, Krishanu Dey, Kuljit Singh, Darbar Singh, Ranjit Saha and Rupak Chowdhury.

The East Bengal booters will be staying in Sundarban hotel.

Mohammedans off to Lahore

A 30-member football team of the Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club led by the club's vice president Tanvir Haider left Dhaka yesterday for Lahore to play their return-leg match against Pakistan WAPDA in the Asian Club Cup football championship on November 1, reports BSS.

The members of the team are: Kanan (Captain), Tuhin, Jewel, Kaiser, Mantu, Barun, Shamim, Tito, Johnny, Abul, Shabbir, Naquib, Ayaz Khan, Mizan, Roxy, Chandan, Reaz, Nasser Higgazi (Coach) and Kalkobad (associate coach).

Mohammedans scored a crushing 5-0 win over Pakistan's champion side in their home match in Dhaka on October 26.

Stage set for Satellite Circuit meet

Sports Reporter



With the stage set for the Gold Leaf ITF Men's Satellite Circuit tennis championship, scheduled to start at the Ramna Tennis Complex next week, some of the participating foreign players are already in the city.

Three American players — Kenneth Lee, Thomas Pablo and Scot Vowels — reached Dhaka Tuesday night and went for practice at the Ramna Complex courts yesterday afternoon. Two others — Yeroen Heinhuis and Evert Yan Hulshof, both from the Netherlands — also arrived Tuesday.

Three others are scheduled to reach Dhaka from Brussels some time today.

International referee Peter Malik of India and umpire Laurens De Wals from the Netherlands are expected here by Friday, on the eve of the seven-day tournament. The two-day qualifying competition begins Nov 2 and the 32-man main draw programme starts Nov 4 and runs until Nov 8.

The two-leg Bangladesh part of the inaugural satellite circuit then moves to Rajshahi from Nov 10. After that the circuit moves to Pakistan, with the first leg scheduled for Lahore and the final leg in Karachi later next month.

Leif Dahlgren, development officer of the International Tennis Federation, is likely to reach here by Nov 3 to assess Bangladesh's capabilities to host international tennis tournaments.

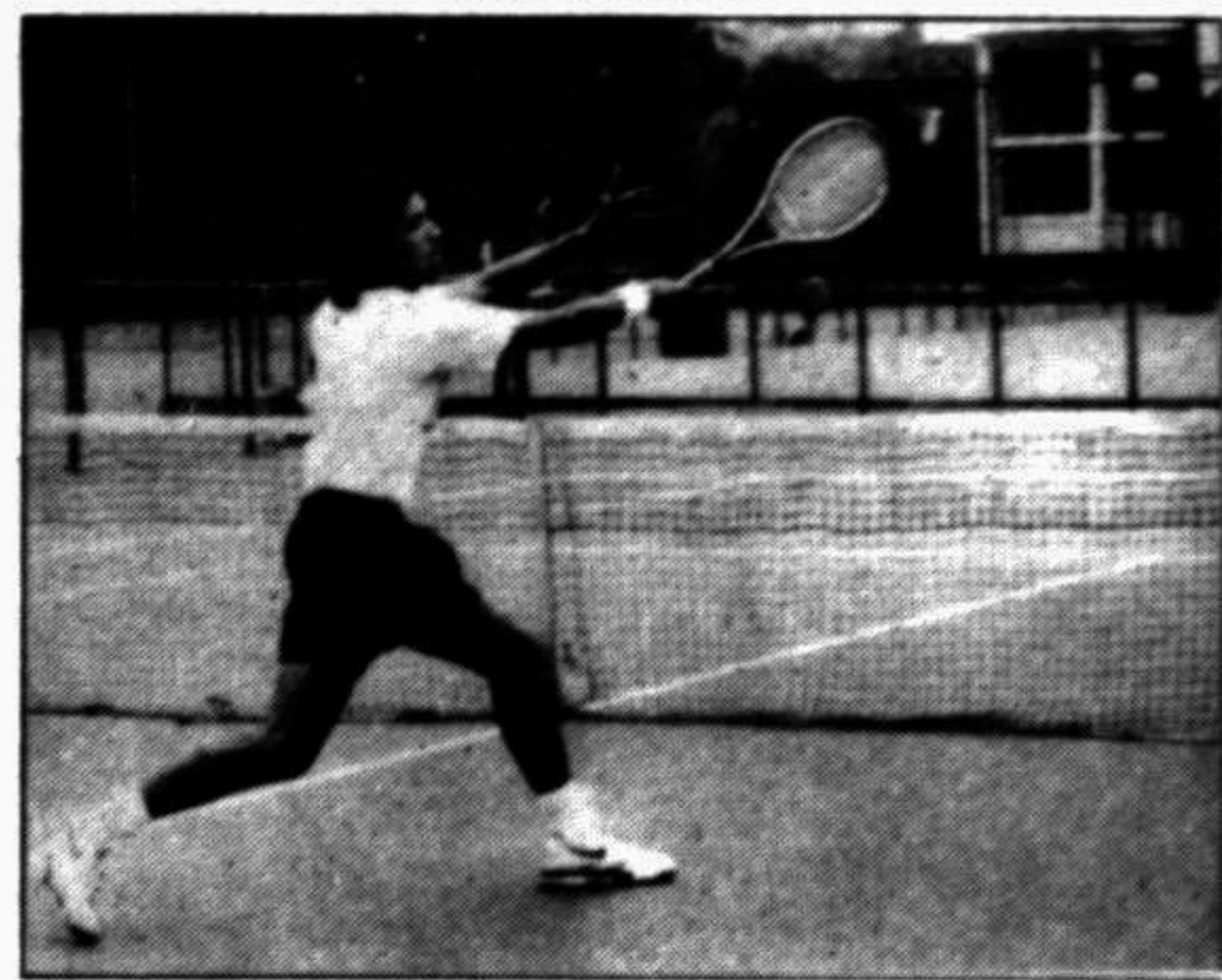
The ITF-sanctioned ranking satellite circuit in Bangladesh and Pakistan is being held with funds provided by the Grand Slam Trust Development Fund, which will provide the total prize money of 25,000 dollars for the four-leg meet.

Bangladesh Tobacco Company Limited are sponsoring the Dhaka tournament, paying for the entire expenses of running the competition.

The satellite tourney is the biggest thing to happen to Bangladesh tennis to date and will for the first time bring together professional players for the ATP ranking competitions in the men's singles and doubles events.

Tickets for the meet go on sale from four this afternoon at the Bangladesh Tennis Federation offices at the Ramna Complex. VIP season tickets are priced at Taka 300 each, Western Gallery season tickets at Taka 50 each and daily tickets for the stands at Taka 10 each.

Top 20 seeds will play in the main draw along with four



One of the three American players who arrived in the city Tuesday for the Gold Leaf - ITF Men's Satellite Circuit tournament beginning Saturday seen practising at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

players — two each from Bangladesh and Pakistan — who will get wild cards for different legs.

The remaining eight slots in the 32-man draw will be filled from the qualifying round.

Fifty-two players — 18 from Bangladesh, six from Pakistan and the remaining 28 from nine other countries will be playing in the qualifiers.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Tennis Federation in a press release yesterday announced the names of eighteen local players who will represent the country in the meet.

The players are as follows: Faiz Ahmed, Imtiaz Ahmed, Al-Khursheed, Hiralal, Moyn Chisthi, Arun Kumar, Mustafa Sarwar, Abu Saleh Rabbi, Masoodur Rahman, Bayazid Rashid, Khwaja Suja, Mohammed Tawfiqul, Mohammed Babu, L. Kashem, Samir Razaq, Sukumar Roy, Kawser Shaheen and Abdul Monju.

A UNB report from Rajshahi said: Preparation are almost complete for holding the second round matches of Bangladesh-Pakistan Satellite Circuit international tennis tournament scheduled to begin in Rajshahi on November 10.

Internationally renowned players from Bangladesh, Pakistan, USA, Italy, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Japan, Oman, Macao and Ireland will participate in the tournament.

Biman unbeaten Group B leaders

Sports Reporter

Star-studded Bangladesh Biman finished top of Group B in the preliminary robin league of the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

In the crucial Group B tie to determine the leaders, Bangladesh Biman with the help of their national stars, turned the match almost into a no-contest by outplaying Young Stars in straight sets 3-0, handing the Azimpur side their only defeat in six robin league encounters. Biman finished with a clean slate of six win in as many games.

But the intensity of the defeat notwithstanding, Azimpur Young Stars have also moved to the eight-team super league by finishing second in their seven-team cluster behind Biman. The super league will commence following the completion of the 84-match, four-group robin league this

— the third spot — with a facile 3-0 win over the medical students who finished their first venture in the league with a two win and four loss record.

The much awaited clash between Biman and Young Star, both coming into the match with an all-win slate after five games each, proved to be an anti-climax when the airlines team outplayed their younger opponents, clinching the issue by winning both the opening singles and the doubles. Compared to the exciting Group A match Tuesday between defending champions Armanitola Juba Sangha and VDP which went to five thrilling sets, yesterday's match disappointed the crowd very much.

National champion Musaddequl Haq Rochi of Biman gave the airlines a flying start by beating Manash of Young Star 21-17, 21-11 in the opening singles. Former national number one Saiful Haq Saadi gave Sagar of Young

beat Tapan 21-10, 21-11 and then Bright and Aminur wrapped up the rubber by defeating Tapan and Rumi of DMC 21-16, 21-9.

Combined Sporting's first win of the league came when Tushar beat Ripon of Swamibagh Boys 21-15, 22-20 in the opening singles and then Reno beat Bappa 21-16, 21-19. Reno and Kamal then took the doubles against Swamibagh's Ripon and Shabbir 21-14, 21-16.

GROUP STANDINGS

Group A	G	W	L
1. Armanitola Juba Sangha	6	6	0
2. Village Defence Party	6	5	1
3. Azimpur Young Stars	6	4	2
4. Renaissance	6	3	3
5. Bangladesh Bank	6	2	4
6. Ajan Club	6	1	5
7. Paschim Jatabari	6	0	6

Group B	G	W	L
1. Bangladesh Biman	6	6	0
2. Azimpur Young Stars	6	5	1
3. Swamibagh TTS	6	4	2
4. Kalpataru	6	3	3
5. Kashatilly Shamaj Kalyan	6	2	4
6. Pallina Sanghad	6	1	5
7. Purbachal Parishad	6	0	6

Air India leaves overweight hockey team behind!

SINGAPORE, Oct 30: The Indian High Commission here came to the rescue of its national hockey team, which had been left stranded in a Sikh temple for one night because they could not afford to stay in a hotel, reports AFP.

The 19-member team, which arrived Monday night from New Zealand on its way to New Delhi, had now been transferred to a hotel, a High Commission spokesman said.

The Indian government is meeting the expenses of the entire team for the duration of their stay at the hotel. They return home Thursday, the spokesman said.

The spokesman added the problem arose over a "technical hitch" when the team arrived from the Bangladesh Olympics qualifying tournament in New Zealand.

Because all the players had excess luggage of around 20 kgs (44 pounds) each, Air India had refused to allow them to board their flight until they paid for it.

The 17 players were carrying total excess luggage of 550 kilos (1,212 lbs) and they refused to pay for the excess, an Air India spokesman said.

Attempts by the High Commission officials to persuade Air India to waive the excess baggage fees failed, leaving the players stranded at the airport.

As they had no money to check into a hotel, Sikh temple officials put them up in one of their temples.

The High Commission transferred all 19 players and officials to the Imperial Hotel today.

India qualified for the Barcelona Olympics after finishing runners-up to the Soviet Union in the 10-nation tournament in New Zealand.

The Soviets beat India 1-0 in the final. New Zealand and Malaysia finished third and fourth respectively.

WTA's top 20

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Oct 30: The top 20 women's singles players according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association on Monday:

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
2. Steffi Graf (Germany)
3. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
4. Martina Navratlova (US)
5. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
6. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
7. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
8. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia)
9. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
10. Zina Garrison (US)
11. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)
12. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
13. Anke Huber (Germany)
14. Leila Meskhi (Soviet Union)
15. Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia)
16. Judith Wiesner (Austria)
17. Julie Halard (France)
18. Natalia Zvereva (Soviet Union)
19. Gigi Fernandez (US)

Women's world Modern Pentathlon

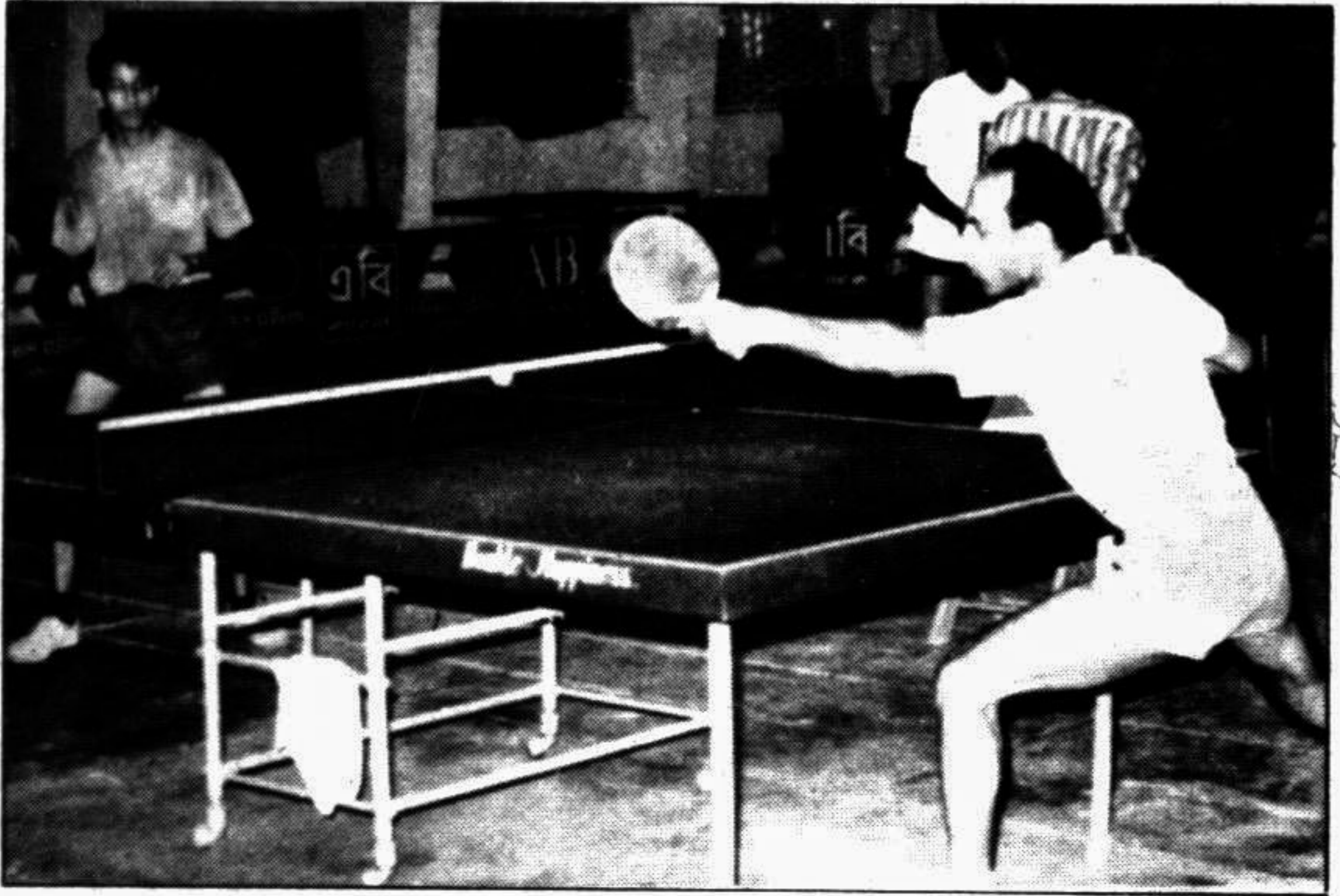
SYDNEY, Oct 30: Defending champion Eva Jfjellerup of Denmark moved into the lead after the fourth stage of the women's world Modern Pentathlon championships here today, reports AFP.

Jfjellerup came third in the cross-country run and with only the show-jumping to come Thursday, she has 4,284 pentathlon points.

Caroline Delemer of France slipped from first place to second after coming 18th in the run, an event which saw two Danes and two Australians among the top seven.

Current team champions Poland are well placed to retain their title, with three women among the top eight overall placings.

Seventeen countries are represented by a total of 63 athletes.



Bangladesh Biman's Mosaddequl Hoq Rochi playing against Manash of Azimpur Young Stars yesterday at the National Coaching Centre. Bangladesh Biman emerged Group B champions defeating Young Stars 3-0 in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league. — Star photo

afternoon. In another Group B engagement yesterday, newcomers Kashatilly posted their second win by beating Purbachal Parishad 3-0 sets in the last group fixture. Purbachal finished bottom of the group, having failed to score a single victory.

The other two matches on the day, between Victoria Sporting and newcomers Dhaka Medical College and Combined Sporting and debutants Swamibagh Boys saw Combined earn their solitary win in the league while for Swamibagh Boys it proved a fruitless maiden league campaign. Victoria improved their own final position in the group

Star no quarter, winning easily 21-16, 21-17. Then Rochi, partnering yet another former national champion Nasimul Hassan Kochi, won the doubles after conceding the first set 18-21 to Sagar and Shaon, eventually taking the following two sets 21-10, 21-12.

Kashatilly Samaj Kalyan beat Purbachal Parishad 3-0 in the day's first fixture, Saifur beating Purbachal's Raquib 21-10, 21-16, Abid beating Royal 21-12, 21-18 and Saifur and Nabi getting a walkover when the Purbachal pair failed to turn up.

Victoria's Aminur won the first singles against DMC's Sumon 21-11, 21-13, Shamim

Group C	G	W	L
1. BTMC	5	5	0
2. Armanitola Juniors	5	5	0
3. Victoria Sporting Club	5	4	1
4. Young Pogman	5	3	2
5. Dhaka Medical College	5	2	3
6. Combined Sporting Club	5	1	4
7. Swamibagh Boys	5	0	5

Group D	G	W	L
1. Bangladesh Ansars	5	5	0
2. Wari	5	5	0
3. Lalmatia Club	5	3	2
4. N M S	5	3	2
5. Brothers Union	5	2	3
6. Cynthia Club	5	0	5
7. Dhaka Meriners Young Club	5	0	5

TODAY'S MATCHES

BTMC vs Armanitola Juniors
NMS vs Lalmatia Club
Cynthia vs Dhaka Meriners
Young Club
Bangladesh Ansars vs Wari Club

Bata schoolgirls' handball final this afternoon

Sports Reporter

A total of six matches were decided on the fifth day of the fourth Bata schoolgirls' handball tournament yesterday at Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex ground.

The six-day long tourney, organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation, will conclude this afternoon.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum will be present as the chief guest at the closing ceremony.

Following are the results of yesterday's matches.

Viqarunnissa Noon School beat Kalabagan Lake Circus School by 13-1 goals. Mohammedpur Preparatory School defeated Kamrunessa Girls School 7-3 and Bangladesh Rifles School outplayed Cosmic International School 22-0 in the morning.

In the afternoon, Dhanmondi Girls High School defeated Siddheswari Girls School 2-1. T&T School defeated Bashaboo Girls School 5-3 and Bangladesh Rifles School overcame Tejaan Girls School by 13-5 goals.

A day of no-contests

Sports Reporter

The inaugural Federation Cup squash tournament entered its sixth day yesterday with eight more matches being decided.

All the matches yesterday were one-sided affairs with the fifth match of the day between Ram Jagadish and Ershad Hossain being the most insipid one.

In this encounter Ershad was no match to the tenacious Ram Jagadish who outclassed his less-experienced opponent in every department with his swashbuckling style, wrapping up the match 9-1, 9-0 in only 22 minutes.

Sohel Hamid registered another emphatic 9-1, 9-2 victory over Ram Jagadish's namesake Jagadish Chowhan in another completely one-sided mis-match. The match, in the eighth of the day, lasted only 28 minutes with Sohel, like Ram, chalking up points at will.

National champion Bhola Lal shrugged off title-aspirant M Mamooin 9-3, 9-1 in the second match of the day.

Aminul Haq, another title contender, disposed of Rashed Chowdhury by an identical margin in the third match while Gopal of hosts Dhaka Club was the other convincing winner against a hapless Barun in the seventh outing of the day.

Ratan and Iftekharuddin tried to offer some resistance against Muhit Lal and Badal Chowdhury respectively but ultimately bowed down to their grumpy opponents with the final scores reading 3-9, 5-9 and 1-9, 4-9 in the day's remaining two matches.

Z Alam's new role

Z Alam, secretary of the Referees Board of the Bangladesh Football Federation, has been made match commissioner for the Thailand-Singapore match in the Asian Club Cup Championship by the Asian Football Confederation, reports BSS.

The match will be held in Bangkok on November 2.

Alam leaves Dhaka on November 1 for Bangkok.



American veteran tennis player Jimmy Connors fell on the ground, but went on to win in Paris on Oct 28. Connors won the match against Haitian Roland Agener 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, in the Paris Open. — AFP photo

Aussie Open promises tough competitions

MELBOURNE, Oct 30: With all but two of the world's top 20 women tennis players lined up to play, January's Australian Open promises to be the strongest ever, organizers said.

"The competition will be intense," tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard said. "There are now at least 10 and probably even more women with a genuine chance to win." They include title-holder Monica Seles and this year's Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf.

Two years ago, when Graf took her third successive Australian title, only four of the world's top ten women entered the tournament.

Last year, when Czechoslovakia's Jana Novotna ended Graf's record-breaking 179-week run as world number one, eight of the top 10 came.

"The exciting battle at the top of women's tennis has led to much greater interest in the women's game, especially in Grand Slam tournaments," Pollard said.

The two-week tournament, starting January 13, is the first Grand Slam event of the calendar year.

The only two high-ranked women players not intending to enter are former world champion Martina Navratlova and 24-year-old French woman Nathalie Tauziat.

Navratlova, 35, was beaten at last week's Flindersstad tournament in Germany by 16-year-old Anke Huber, who has confirmed that she will play in the Australia Open.