

National Tennis concludes today

# Shovon, Sarder in final

Sports Reporter

Goodyear and Yanie lifted the women's doubles title of the national tennis championships beating Mehri Anaf and Saathi Sarkar in straight sets 6-1, 6-0 in yesterday's final at the Ramna Tennis Complex.



5-0 lead. As Sarder relaxed, the never-say-die Maroof drew level, winning the next five games. Sarder broke Maroof's serve to proceed to a 6-5 lead only to be broken back by Maroof who made it 6-all.

In the tie-break, Sarder shot to a 6-3 lead. Maroof pulled back to make it 6-6 before Sarder, drawing on all his reserves of skill, stamina and experience, prevailed 8-6 to take the match.

In the men's doubles semifinals, Byzid Rashid and Hira Lal, the second ranked player of the country, beat off a challenge from the much junior pairing of Shibu Lal and Tanveer Rahman Titun, winning 4-6, 6-1, 6-3. Despite taking a first set lead, Shibu and Titun faltered in the next couple of sets, mainly due to Shibu's weak service which had earlier let him down in his clash in the singles against Shovon.

The leading men's pairing of Shovon and Sarder Iftikhar had to work harden to down Maroof Rahman and Sami Razaq 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 in a highly entertaining encounter.

Starting a set down, Shovon had his serve broken only once in the next two sets while Sarder held his serve throughout. On the other hand, both Sami and Maroof had their service broken once each.

Cabinet Secretary Siddiqur Rahman, who is also the chief of the Bangladesh Football Federation, will attend today's finals as chief guest and give away the trophies.

Goodyear, an expatriate representing the American Club, is poised to make it a fine double when she meets Rina in today's final of the women's singles, scheduled for 3:00 this afternoon. Given her performances over the past five days, Ms Goodyear should face very little difficulty in overcoming Rina whose progress to the final has been facilitated in no little measure by the absence of our leading players Daisy Aziz and Shimu — both in the United States — and former national champion Shima who is skipping the meet due to the pressures of her exams.

In other concluding day fixtures today, defending champion Shovon Jamaly takes on five-times former champion Sarder Iftikhar in the men's singles final billed for a 2:30 pm start.

The men's doubles final, pitting the top pairing of Shovon and Sarder against Maroof and Sami Razaq is scheduled to start at four.

In yesterday's men's singles semifinals, while national number one Shovon had a fairly easy sailing over his national junior counterpart Shibu Lal in a baseline duel, winning

Ms. GOODYEAR 6-2, 6-1 a match lasting just under an hour, Sarder Iftikhar, seeded seventh this year for having missed previous tournaments, had a more difficult time against another former champion Maroof Rahman. In a see-saw battle that lasted nearly an hour and a half, Sarder overcame Maroof 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) to proceed to the final. The bespectacled left-hander Sarder took the first set without much effort, but let his concentration lapse in the second set after having taken a

# Wu Wenkai catches the eye

LONDON, Mar 14: Defending champion Zhao Jianhua won through to the last 16 in the All-England badminton championships on Wednesday but it was young Chinese compatriot Wu Wenkai, one of the sport's craftsmen, who caught the eye, reports Reuter.

Already tipped as a future world champion, Wu delighted the crowd with some touch play of the highest quality.

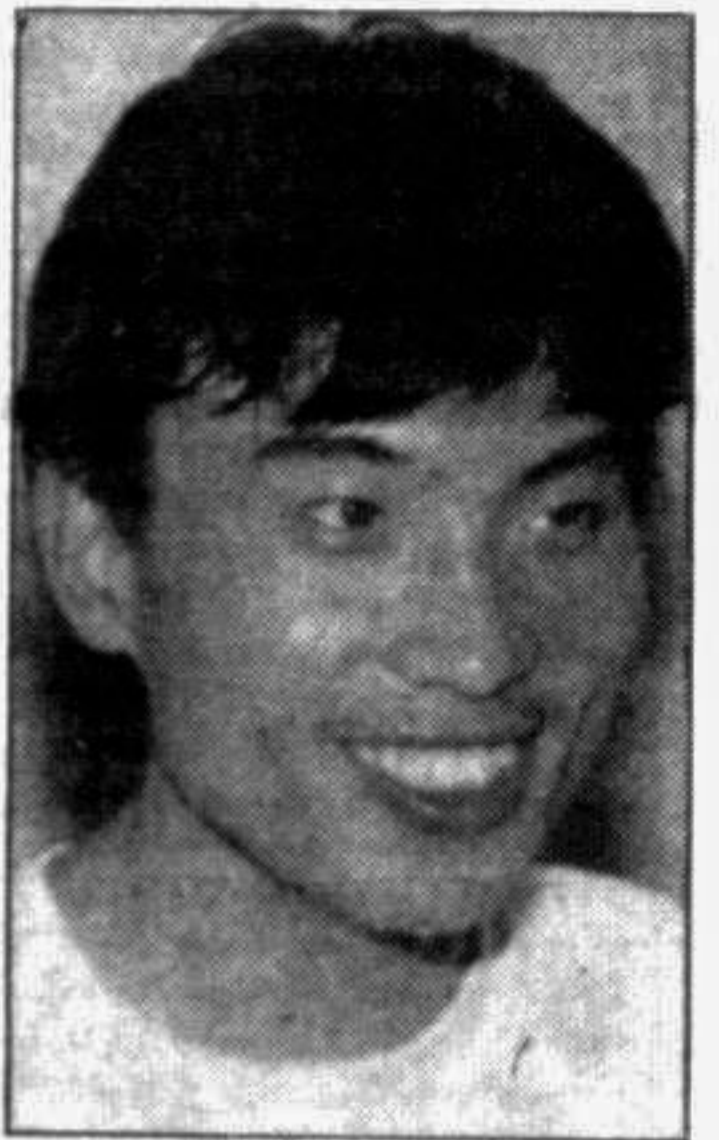
His two opening round victories marked him as a serious proposition, to lift the crown from Zhao.

On the opening day of the tournament dubbed by some the Wimbledon of badminton there were two notable men's casualties, both seeded joint fifth.

Bright prospect Fung Permadi of Indonesia lost in three games to England's Darren Hall, while Commonwealth champion Rashid Sidek of Malaysia was beaten by Dane Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen, also in three games.

Veteran Morten Frost won his opening matches without too much trouble but faces a stiff third round task against Allan Budi Kusuma of Indonesia.

In the women's event, joint fifth seed Helen Troke of England lost in three games to China's Hu Ning but champion Susi Susanti made the next round with the minimum of fuss.



ZHAO JIANHUA

Men's champion Zhao beat Thailand's Sompol Kukasemkij 17-14, 15-9 and followed with a second round 17-14, 15-8 defeat of Indonesia's Joko Suprianto.

But the Chinese had to save a game point against Suprianto and generally looked far from unbeatable.

A year ago he had beaten Suprianto 15-4, 15-1 in a final which lasted just 20 minutes.

On Wednesday the Indonesian detained Zhao for twice as long and with a little more luck, could have taken at least a game from the champion.

Wu, by contrast, was in splendid form, carving his way artistically through to the last 16. Wu, seeded joint third,

started out against 1988 All-England champion Ib Frederiksen of Denmark and won 15-9, 15-4.

The Dane held his own for the first 10 minutes but then Wu took over with delicate placing and splendid defence work.

His second round game against South Korean Lee Kwang-Jin ended in a 15-8, 15-8 win with Wu clearly enjoying every moment.

Second seed Ardy Wiranata, current Grand Prix leader and winner of the Swedish Open on Sunday, was pushed all the way in his first round match by unheralded Chinese Liu Jun.

Liu took the first game 17-14, lost the second 15-4 but at 12-12 in the third a major upset was on the cards. But Wiranata, his right leg heavily bandaged, summoned all his resources to win 15-12 after 57 agonising minutes.

Frost, four times All-England champion in the 1980s, looked untruffled handing out a 15-3, 15-3 lesson to New Zealand qualifier Kerrin Harrison but Kusuma will be a harder proposition.

## Navana tie washed out

Sports Reporter

The scheduled Navana Premier Division cricket league match between Kalabanga KC and Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club could not be held due to overnight down pour.



BJMC's Rahima Khatun won the 1000m time trial gold medal in the national cycling championships at the Physical College Education ground. —Star photo

# BJMC pedal ahead

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation riders shot to the top of the medal table in the national cycling championships with a late thrust yesterday, bagging four of the six golds awarded on the third-day of the meet at the Muhammadpur Physical Education College playground.

BJMC, who had only one gold medal to their credit against three for their arch rivals Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), ended the day on five gold, five silvers and three bronzes compared to the four golds, four silvers and as many bronzes won by BTMC. However, BTMC have lodged a protest with the Bangladesh Cycling Federation,

organisers of the meet, against the cancellation of the women's 2000m individual pursuit yesterday following the withdrawal of two of the four riders entered. BTMC claimed that they were thus denied a gold and a silver medal in the event — which would have given them the championship

— since their two riders, Rahima Khatun and Anwara were the two bets in the country in this particular event.

Yesterday's events, some carried over from the previous day when a norwester had ruined the programme in the afternoon, began with Akashi Sultana of Bangladesh Ansars, who won the 1000m time trial silver on Wednesday, taking the 1000m sprint gold to establish herself as the country's fastest woman cyclist. She clocked 18.36 seconds. Sharmin Akhter Pituli of BJMC and her teammate Selina Begum settled for the silver and bronze respectively.

BJMC's gold hunt began with Muzaffar Hossain clocking 7min 23 secs for the men's 4000m individual pursuit. BTMC's Shahidur Rahman got the silver while Atiqur Rahman of Bangladesh Rifles took the bronze.

BJMC's Selina Rahman, denied much glory in the meet this year in comparison to previous years, except the 4000m scratch gold Tuesday

redeemed her reputation by clinching the women's 2000m point race in a time of 5 min 01 secs. Akherunnessa of Ansars and VDP came second while Akashi Sultana came in third.

BJMC's last gold on a day of excellent performances was won by Muzaffar Hossain — his second — in the 15000 scratch. Shahidur Rahman of BTMC settled for the silver while his teammate Wares Mohammad got the bronze.

BTMC had their moment of glory when their men, who rewrote the national 100km road team trial mark on Tuesday, won the 4000m team pursuit yesterday clocking 6min 40.20 seconds, ahead of BJMC's quartet who took the silver and Dinajpur DSA who won the bronze.

The meet concludes today with the staging of the men's 100km road race which starts from the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Parliament Square at 6:30 this morning. The riders will cover a gruelling course that will take them to Tongi, Savar and Shaipur and back.

# Marsh ton gives Aussies one-day series

BRIDGETOWN, Mar 14: An outstanding century from Geoff Marsh sent West Indies to their first home series defeat in one-day cricket on Wednesday and confirmed Australia's mastery of the limited overs game, reports Reuter.

Australia won the fourth one-day international at Kensington Oval by 37 runs to take a winning 3-1 lead in the five-match series. Having scored an awesome 283 for six in their 50 overs — their best one-day total against West Indies — Australia bowled out their hosts for 246 with three overs left.

Marsh hit 113, an Australian record eighth one-day century, and was ably assisted by captain Allan Border, who hammered 79 in a crucial partnership of 146 with the opener, and Mark Waugh (49 in 31 balls).

According to umpires' report Dhanmondi refused to play claiming both of their opening batsmen were kidnapped just before the start of play. BCCB committee were in a meeting to decide the fate of the match till filing of this report.

Ten teams, divided into two groups are taking part in the second phase. Ajax, sent into bat, struggled to score 136 for the loss of nine wickets in their stipulated 40 overs. Rupam, 38, Nipu, 29, Liton, 15, were the leading scorers for Ajax Club.

Salaudin and Bappi captured three wickets each for 14 and 27 runs respectively. In reply, City Club scored 139 runs for the loss of six wickets in 33 overs. Zakir, 29, Gautam 27 not out, Moni, 19, and Kamrul 17 not out were the prominent City Club batsmen.

Chairman of the National Sports Council Maj. Gen. Mahabur Rahman will inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

Judo, a form of martial-athletic-spiritual art of self-defence originating in Japan has become popular worldwide including Bangladesh since its inclusion as an Olympic sport at the Tokyo Games of 1964.

## Japan Cup judo March 16-17

Sports Reporter

The ninth Japan Cup judo championships, organised by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation with sponsorship of the Japanese embassy in Dhaka, will be held at the National Coaching Centre March 16 and 17.

Chairman of the National Sports Council Maj. Gen. Mahabur Rahman will inaugurate the meet as chief guest. Judo, a form of martial-athletic-spiritual art of self-defence originating in Japan has become popular worldwide including Bangladesh since its inclusion as an Olympic sport at the Tokyo Games of 1964.

# City beat Ajax

Sports Reporter

City Club made a bright start when they beat Ajax Sports Club by six wickets in the inaugural Group 'A' match of the second phase of Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league match yesterday at the Mahakhali T & T ground.

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## Ivanchuk a game away from title

LINARES, Spain, Mar 14: Rising Soviet chess star Vasily Ivanchuk took back the lead of the Linares international tournament from World Champion Garry Kasparov on Wednesday when he won an adjourned game against compatriot Mikhail Gurevich, reports Reuter.

Ivanchuk, 21, looks certain to win the tournament in today's 13th and final round. Sixteen-year-old U.S. Grandmaster Gata Kamsky suffered two defeats in adjourned matches, against Alexander Beliavsky and former world champion Anatoly Karpov.

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## Anirban chess

Sports Reporter

Syed Monturuzzaman, Rezaul Kabir and Zahurul Islam were jointly leading with full three points after the completion of the third round matches of the Anirban Victory Day chess competition yesterday at the Manikdi, Dhaka Cantonment.

Six players, each with two points were placed in the second spot.

# FIFA may scrap extra-time

ZURICH (Switzerland), Mar 14: FIFA are to consider abolishing periods of extra-time in the World Cup soccer finals, reports Reuter.

Joseph Blatter, General Secretary of the International Football Federation, said in an interview published by the Swiss Newspaper Sport on Wednesday that the proposal was among several ideas put forward to improve the tournament.

He said the idea to ban periods of extra-time was suggested by Lars Arnesson, a Swedish member of FIFA's technical committee, and would be studied by FIFA's 1994 World Cup Organising Committee at a meeting on May 3.

The principle was that if a match was drawn after 90 minutes, the teams would go straight into a penalty shoot-out instead of first playing two extra periods of 15 minutes each.

Arnesson believed many coaches used the extra-time to keep the scores level and reach a shoot-out because there was less damage to prestige through losing on penalties.

Blatter did not say what would happen if the World Cup final ended in a draw after 90 minutes. But a FIFA officials said another suggestion before the committee was that a drawn final should be replayed rather than decided on penalties.

He said FIFA aimed to improve soccer through a number of "small surgical interventions" aimed at speeding up play, preventing time-wasting and punishing rough and unfair tactics.

"A separate FIFA working group would begin tackling this task at a meeting on March 25," Blatter said.

He said FIFA had received more than 1,100 letters with suggestions for ways of improving the World Cup after a gen-

erally disappointing competition in Italy last year.

Out of 671 suggestions for rule changes, 146 advocated altering the format of the final series and 144 recommended abolishing penalty shoot-outs.

Blatter said the present system of having six groups of four teams in the finals was the best, although criticised for encouraging dull, safety-first play, and would be kept for the 1994 tournament in the United States.

There were 27 letters backing the idea of having taller and wider goalposts to encourage higher scoring, but Blatter said this was out of the question.

## Weightlifting results

Sports Reporter

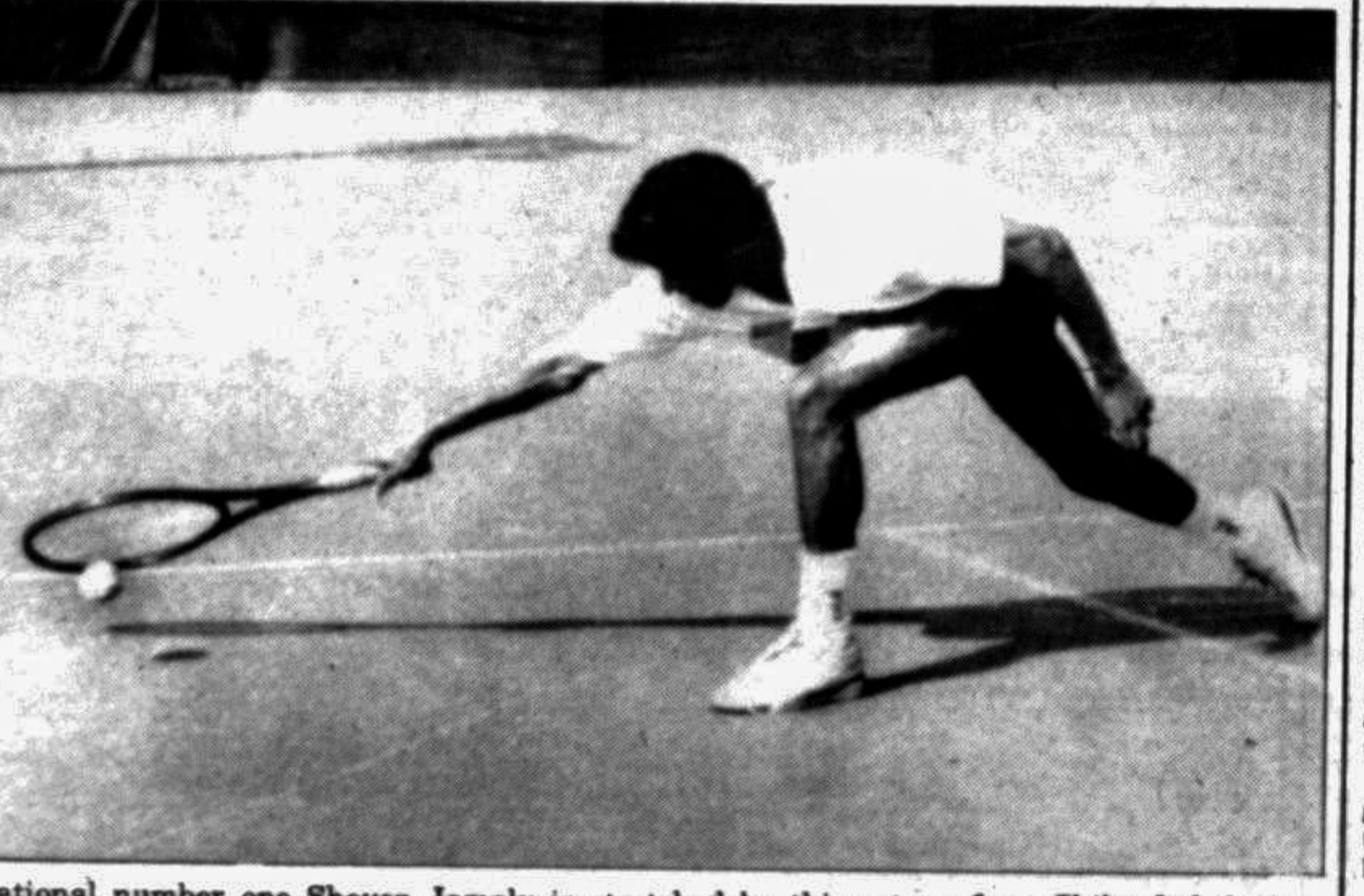
Fatik Dutta of Bangladesh Ansars created a new national record when he lifted 213.5 kgs in the 67.5 kg class to clinch the gold medal on the second-day of the sixteenth national weightlifting championships at National Coaching Centre yesterday.

His teammate Abu Sayeed bagged the silver, while Tajuddin Ahmed of Kushtia got the bronze.

BTMC's Mustafizur Rahman captured the gold in the 75-kg division. The silver medal went to Haroon-ur-Rashid of Khulna while Mahfuzul Islam of Rajshahi University had to be satisfied with the bronze.

Five weight divisions will be decided today, the concluding day of the meet.

National number one Shovon Jamaly is stretched by this return from Shibu Lal during yesterday's men's singles semifinals of the national championships at the Ramna Tennis Complex. —Star photo



# Van Basten sinks Malta

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), Mar 14: European champions the Netherlands, who won 8-0 in Malta last December, scored just once here on Wednesday to

secure victory over the Maltese in a European championship Group Six qualifier, reports Reuter.

The Dutch found it difficult to break down a Maltese side operating a 10-man defence and clearly intent on keeping the scoreline as respectable as possible.

The Maltese rearguard was breached in the 31st minute after AC Milan striker Marco Van Basten had been fouled by Joe Brincat and Czechoslovak referee Dusan Krehna awarded a penalty.

Van Basten, who grabbed five goals in the Netherlands' runaway win in Malta, got up to beat goalkeeper Reginald Cini from the spot for the 1-0 victory.

In the second half Dutch coach Rinus Michels opted for even more striking power as he replaced defender Frank De Boer with Bordeaux striker Willem Kieft.

But the Dutch failed to score again despite creating a string of chances.

The Dutch attack led by Van Basten and AC Milan colleague Ruud Gullit started the game with furious attacks on the Maltese goal, but inaccurate passing and insufficient use of the wings caused most attacks to end in a forest of legs in front of Cini.

When the wall of defenders was successfully penetrated the excellent Maltese goalkeeper kept the Dutch at bay although he could do nothing to stop Van Basten's penalty.

Michels sent Kieft into the fray for the second half and played with just two defenders after seeing his team camped around the Maltese goal in the

first 45 minutes. Kieft, back in the side after walking out on the squad before a qualifier against Greece in November, has a reputation for scoring vital goals as a substitute.

But the big blond striker was unable to do the trick on this occasion as the Dutch failed to reproduce the dazzling wing-play which had unhinged the Maltese defence so often in Valletta three months ago.

Coach Michels was sorry the 40,000 Dutch fans had suffered such a frustrating evening.

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## Wanderers win

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Wanderers Club registered victory over Josephites by 86-74 points in the super league match of the Partex First Division basketball yesterday at the wooden floor gymnasium.

Wanderers led comfortably 50-33 at the breather. Zillur, who is by profession a banker, collected good interest for Wanderers by scoring 22 points, followed by Nahaz with 21 points.

Josephites' two American recruits also scored 22 and 21 points respectively.

## TODAY'S MATCH

Dhaka Winners vs Josephites (3:30 pm)