

Sri Lankans lead 2-0

Sports Reporter

Bangladeshi Davis Cuppers lost both the opening singles of their Asia/Oceania Group Two second round tie to the superior Sri Lankans at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

The Sri Lankans went to bed last night happy in the thought that their 2-0 lead, achieved with a fair degree of facility, put them in good stead to wrap up the best-of-five series at the end of today's doubles clash.

Sri Lankan skipper Arjun Fernando set the tone by easily clinching his opening match against former five times Bangladesh national champion Sarder Iftekhar 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 in the morning.

In the second rain-interrupted encounter, that ended in the afternoon, Bangladesh champion Shovon Jamaly was outplayed by Rohan De Silva 6-4, 6-2, 7-5 in a match lasting nearly 95 minutes. Rain kept both players waiting for nearly two hours after the score was level 2-all in the second set.

Arjun Fernando, the 34-year-old experienced Sri Lankan number one, who has been doing Davis Cup duty for his country since 1975, conceded only two games to Iftekhar in their hour-long battle.

A seasoned veteran who fine-tuned his tennis skills on the National Collegiate circuit in America, Fernando matched

Martina still learning tennis

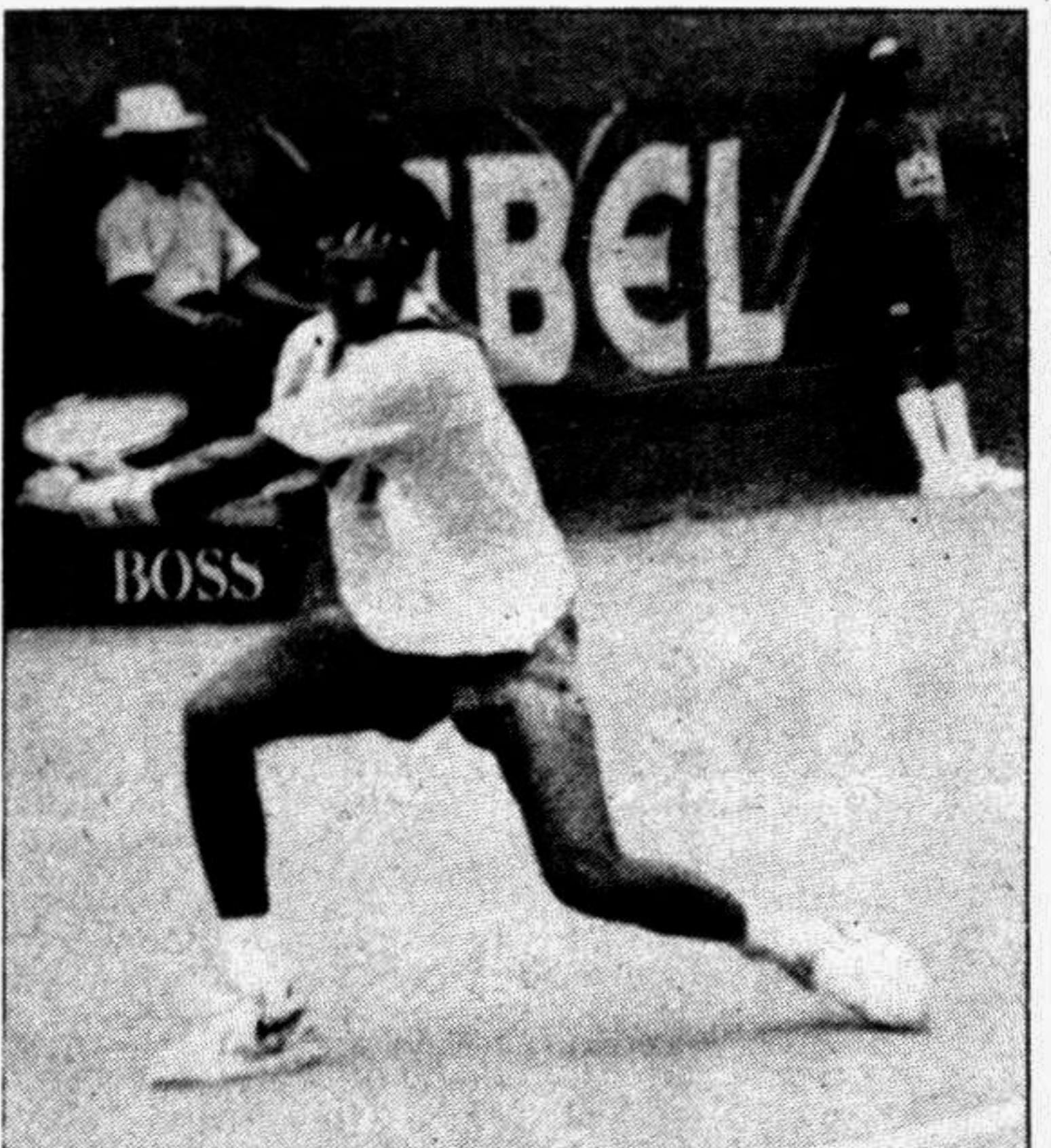
BIRMINGHAM, England, June 14: Top seed Martina Navratilova admitted she was still learning how to play the game after crushing Japan's Maya Kidowaki 6-0, 6-2 in the third round of the Edgbaston women's grass court tournament on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"Sometimes I'm amazed how I win knowing as little as I do," said the 34-year-old American, who later this month will begin the defence of her Wimbledon crown.

"There are always new techniques to learn as far as hitting the ball and learning to it are concerned."

Navratilova plays fifth seeded compatriot Lori McNeil, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over another American, Ann Henriksson, in the quarter-finals today.

Second-seeded American Zina Garrison.



Lankan skipper Arjun Fernando unleashes a powerful backhand on way to his straight sets victory over Sarder Iftekhar.

— Star photo.

pace and that was exactly what the cunning Lankan wanted him to do. It was obvious from the way he played that De Silva liked the pace and was happy to return fire with fire. By surrendering the net, Shovon allowed De Silva to take nine of the 11 points in the second set when the players returned after the rains at 2-all in the second set.

Some remarkable passing shots that punctuated long rallies gave Sarder little room to manoeuvre and he lost the second set 6-1. It was a similar story in the third and deciding set with similar scoreline.

Shovon Jamaly, too, couldn't play his usual steady game against the younger Rohan De Silva despite rallying well in the second and third sets. At five-all in the third, Shovon appeared to have a chance of making a comeback but the left-handed De Silva won the tie-break to clinch the match at 7-5.

Shovon, the deaf and mute prodigy of the country, was left searching for solutions by the hard-hitting De Silva. The absence of someone who could communicate with him in sign language at the sidelines made it all the more difficult for the young man to find the answers.

A serve-and-volleyer who likes to hit the ball hard, Shovon, for some inexplicable reason, felt shy to come to the

DOUBLES TODAY

The doubles will be played today at 10 am in which Shovon Jamaly and Sarder Iftekhar face Arjun Fernando and Rohan De Silva.

Earlier in the morning State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka inaugurated the tie. He was introduced to the players.

Cabinet Secretary Siddiqui Rahman, Education Secretary ANM Yusuf, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Alfred K David and high civil officials and diplomats were present.

E Bengal win

CALCUTTA, June 14: East Bengal managed to beat Kumbartuli by a solitary goal in a Super Division soccer league match today marked by mispasses and insipid display by East Bengal, reports PTI.

The match winner was scored by medio Bikash Panji in the closing minutes of the first half following a move by young winger Somnath Parui.

Connors, 38, whose ranking of 218 is too low to qualify for the tournament without a wild card, was one of three men's wild cards announced Thursday. The others were Britons Nick Brown and Chris Wilkinson.

Connors, who won the Grand Slam tournament in 1974 and 1982 and was a finalist four other times, was not among the five men who received wild cards on Tuesday. Tournament officials said then they were still considering Connors' request for a wild card. A tournament spokesman said Thursday the delay was a matter of whether he was fit or not. Connors received a doctor's approval to play in Wimbledon earlier this week.

Connors had not originally planned to play in Wimbledon because of his commitments as a television analyst and because he thought it might be difficult to play on grass following wrist surgery this winter. He forced Michael Chang into a fifth set in a dramatic third-round match at the French Open, then had to withdraw because of exhaustion and a sore back.

TENNIS TIDBITS

Connors gets wild card



WIMBLEDON, June 14: Two-time champion Jimmy Connors was given a wild card Thursday to play in Wimbledon as the 128-player men's field was completed for the grass-court event beginning June 24, reports AP.

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Stich, Hlasek move up

R OSMALEN, Netherlands, June 14: Michael Stich of Germany and Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland decisively knocked out their opponents Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the Continental Grass Court Trophy tennis tournament, reports AP.

However, fifth-seeded US player Richey Reneberg was ousted by unseeded Diego Nargiso of Monaco. Nargiso claimed the first two sets on tiebreakers and won 7-6, 7-6. Stich, the No. 2 seed at the 250,000-dollar tourney, trounced Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-3.

Fourth-seed Hlasek also won in two sets, beating Dutchmen Jan Steiner 7-6, 7-5. Andrei Olgovskiy of the Soviet Union, who upset the tournament's top seed, Guy Forget, on Tuesday, also made it to Friday's quarterfinal round. He defeated Kylie Everenden of New Zealand 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. In the closest match of the day, Israeli Amos Mansdorf ousted sixth-seed Soviet Alexander Volkov 6-7, 7-6, 6-3.

A Sanchez-Gilbert quarter

N EWPORT, Rhode Island, June 14: Emilio Sanchez, No. 12 in the world, will meet No. 17 Brad Gilbert to begin the Spain-United States match in the Davis Cup quarterfinals on Friday, reports AP.

The winner of the three-day match on the grass courts of Newport Casino will meet Germany in the semifinals in September. Yugoslavia and France already have secured their places in the semifinals. John McEnroe, No. 14 and Tomas Carbonell, No. 70, will play the second match on the opening day.

Jim Pugh and Rick Leach will face Sergio Casal and Emilio Sanchez in doubles on Saturday. Pugh and Leach are ranked sixth and seventh, respectively. Casal and Sanchez are 13th and 15th. The closing day of the quarterfinal round, Sunday, will see McEnroe and Sanchez in the first match, and Gilbert and Carbonell in the second.

HK leads Singapore 2-0

S INAPORE, June 14: Hong Kong took a 2-0 lead over Singapore after the first two singles matches in their Asia/Oceania Zone Group 11 second round tennis tie today, reports Reuter.

Results (Hong Kong names first): Colin Grant beat Liu Wai Yaw 6-0, 6-0, 6-0; Michael Walker beat Fredrik Ho 6-1, 6-0, 6-1.

England names Test side

LONDON, June 14: England named a squad of 13 on Friday for the second cricket Test against West Indies starting at Lord's next Thursday, reports Reuter.

Graham Gooch (captain), Mike Atherton, Graeme Hick, Allan Lamb, Mark Ramprakash, Robin Smith, Jack Russell, Derek Pringle, Phillip DeFreitas, Richard Illingworth, Devon Malcolm, Steve Watkin, David Lawrence.

Malik takes a short break

CHELMSFORD, England, June 14: Pakistan batting star Salim Malik is taking a short break from his run feast with English county side Essex, reports AFP.

Peter Edwards, Essex's secretary cum general manager, said that 28-year-old from Lahore had flown home for family reasons and would miss Essex's Sunday League game against Hampshire here this weekend.

However, Edwards stressed that Malik, who has scored three county championship centuries this season, would return for the next match in the competition against Sussex at Morsham starting next Friday.

The training camp began yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

The players have been picked from the three day open trial held June 11-13 in which 70 players from different county participated.

Sixteen men, six women and eight boys are included in the camp.

The selected players are:

Men: Rohit, Saadi, Happy, Mustafa, Anhki, Badal, Ripon, Jhinu, Rashed, Munna, Mohammed Ali, Ritu, Pappu, Maroof, Sohel and Iqbal.

Women: Zulqha, Linu, Shamima, Bacchi, Rinu, and Bina.

Boys: Rubel, Selim, Shaon, Manish, Bulbul, Shamim, Asif and Maheed.

Eight players — three men, three women and one players from boys section — will finally be selected for the Games.

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