

Senior Division league now from Jan 10

Sports Reporter Hopes of the Dhaka football fans of watching the Metropolitan Senior Division football league this year vanished into blue when the Senior Division League Committee in an emergency meeting yesterday evening, decided to start the league in January 10, 1992, after the completion of SAF Games which is scheduled to begin in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo on December 22.

The League Committee after discussing the issue with the BFF and DAMFA officials following appeals from the participating teams, decided to hold the league next year allowing players camp to train for SAF Games without any hindrance.

The first phase training camp for SAF Games begins from November 15 at the BKSP with 30 players participating.

Sabera's body arrives this afternoon

Sports Reporter The body of late Sabera Huq, wife of Syed Ashrafuul Huq, a former secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, which was scheduled to arrive this morning will instead now reach Dhaka at four in the afternoon.

Family sources told The Daily Star last night that the Biman flight from Abu Dhabi had been delayed and will reach around 4:00 pm today.

As a result, the namaz-e-janaza of Sabera Huq will be held at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Esha prayers. Later she will be buried at her family graveyard at Azimpur.

Sabera Huq was killed in a car accident on the Sharjah-Dubai highway on the night of October 24. Her husband, who is the deputy chairman of the Associate Members of the International Cricket Council (ICC), was also seriously injured in the mishap and needed hospitalization.

Squash semis today

Sports Reporter Shahjahan Sikdar, Bhola Lal Chauhan, Sohel Hamid and Ram Jagadish all moved into the semifinals of the Inaugural Federation Cup squash tournament winning their respective quarterfinal matches at the Dhaka Club court yesterday afternoon.

Former national champion Shahjahan beat Badal 9-4, 9-7, 9-1 while current national number one Bhola Lal outplayed Mohiul 9-6, 9-0, 9-0. Sohel Hamid, the younger brother of football star Kaiser Hamid, disposed of Gopal Chowdhury 9-2, 9-2, 9-6 while Ram Jagadish was not required to shed a drop of sweat when his opponent did him the courtesy (or otherwise) of not turning up for the match. The walkover means Ram Jagadish will have enjoyed more rest than the other three going into today's semifinals.

The final of the meet, organised by the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation, is scheduled for tomorrow, Saturday at four in the afternoon. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka is likely to attend as chief guest.

Cantonians win handsomely

Sports Reporter Cantonian Sports Club registered an impressive 3-0 victory over Combined SC in the Metropolitan Green Delta Second Division hockey league yesterday afternoon at the Hockey Stadium.

Kabir scored twice in the third and 53rd minutes while Abdul Hai netted the other goal in the 50th minute of the proceeding.

The other match of the day between Shishu Kishore and East End Green Club was abandoned ten minutes before the final whistle due to rain. Shishu Kishore were leading by 3-1 goals at that time.

The remaining ten minutes of the match will, however, be held next Saturday at 2 pm. Abdullah, Kamran and Raju scored for the Shishu Kishore while Iqbal netted East End Green's lone goal.

Brazilian booters beat Y'slavs 3-1

VARGINHA, Brazil, Oct 31: Striker Rai scored a first-half goal and assisted on another to lead a refreshed Brazilian national soccer team to a 3-1 exhibition victory over Yugoslavia in this southern city, reports AP.



Fifth round matches of the Second Division chess league in progress yesterday at National Sports Council's chess room.

Italians in town

Sports Reporter

Mario Carnevali and Bertaneli the two Italian players who will participate in the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Bangladesh-Pakistan Satellite Tennis Circuit—to be held in the two countries this month—arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

The seven-day Gold Leaf ITF Satellite Circuit-Dhaka meet begins at the National Tennis Complex at Ramna on November 2. The second leg of the circuit is scheduled to be held November 10-16 in Rajshahi.

Carnevali, ranked 657 in the ITF junior ranking, will be in the main draw while the other Italian player will have to play in the qualifying round to reach the main draw.

Besides, three players from the United States—Kenneth Lee, Thomas Pablo and Schoh Vowels—arrived here Tuesday night to participate in the first-ever professional tennis tournament in Dhaka and Rajshahi.

The Bangladesh Tennis Federation yesterday announced the ticket rates for the Dhaka leg. The VIP tickets (season) will be available at the rate of Taka 300 each and the

gallery tickets at Taka 50 each. Daily gallery ticket rate is Taka 10 each.

RAJSHAHI GEARS UP

Meanwhile a BSS report said: Brisk preparations are underway in Rajshahi city to hold the second phase of the tournament at the local tennis complex from November 10 to 16.

Speaking at a press conference last evening, secretary of the Rajshahi Tennis Complex Mushtaq Ahmed said 20 players from different countries, including eight from the USA, are in the 32-man main draw. The remaining players will be selected from qualifying round.

He said 52 players from different foreign countries, including 14 from Bangladesh, would take part in the qualifying round to reach the main draw of the meet.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain will inaugurate the seven-day competition here. Kabir Hossain, State Minister for Land will attend the inaugural function as special guest.

A 140 member organising committee has been formed for the international tournament.

Ansars, Armanitola Jrs lead groups

Sports Reporter

Armanitola Juniors and Bangladesh Ansars topped groups C and D respectively of the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league robin league which concluded at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Armanitola Juniors finished with a clean slate, winning all six of their seven-team Group C fixtures when they beat Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) by 3-2 sets in their final preliminary league encounter.

Bangladesh Ansars also posted a similar 3-2 sets victory over Wari Club to finish top of Group D with an all-win record. For Wari it was their first defeat in six outings.

However, both BTMC and Wari Club, by virtue of the second-position finishes in their respective groups, have also qualified for the eight-team super league which starts Sunday.

The super league sides are: defending champions Armanitola Juba Sangha, Village Defence Party, Bangladesh Bitman, Azimpur Young Star, Armanitola Juniors, BTMC, Bangladesh Ansars and Wari Club.

Twenty-eight teams, split into four clusters, took part in the 84-match prelims which

began on Oct 15 last. Armanitola's Hamlet won the hard fought first match beating Anki of BTMC 21-19, 17-21 and 22-20. Aklakh levelled the score for BTMC defeating Tapash 21-16 and 21-19.

Hamlet and Mahboob teamed up to give Armanitola 2-1 lead when they easily won the doubles against Aklakh and Zhinu pair by 21-15 and 21-11.

Ankhi again drew level for BTMC when he won against Tapash (2-2).

Mahboob won the deciding match against Zhinu 21-11 and 23-21 (3-2).

In the Ansars versus Wari encounter, Mustafa of Wari beat Munna of Ansars 21-17, 17-21, 21-18. Happy (Ansars) beat Sohel (Wari) 21-18, 21-14.

Munna and Ibrahim (Ansars) defeated Sohel and Shamim (Wari) 21-11, 21-23, 21-16.

Mustafa (Wari) won against Happy (Ansars) 21-14, 21-13. Ibrahim (Ansars) beat Shamim (Wari) 17-21, 21-17, 21-17.

In the other matches of the day, NMS registered their fourth win beating Lalmitia Club by 3-2 sets while Cynthia Club recorded their first win outplaying Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club in straight 3-0 sets.



Viquarunnissa Noon handballers, who won the fourth Bata school girls title, seen with chief guest Prof Mrs Jahanara Begum, State Minister for Cultural Affairs.

Noor-e-Alam Club extends lead

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Noor-e-Alam Khan Memorial Chess Sangsad consolidated their position at the top of the points table with fifteen points after the completion of the fifth round matches of the Second Division chess league yesterday at National Sports Council's chess room.

The other title contenders Dhaka University Chess Club kept their hopes alive with fourteen-and-a-half points occupying the second position. Narayanjan Chess Club

with an outside chance of claiming the title, are placed in the third position with thirteen points.

Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan Krira Sangha, Bagicha Nasir Memorial Sangsad, Chess Club and Bangladesh Television Chess Club were placed fourth jointly with twelve-and-a-half points.

The following are the results of yesterday's matches.

Noor-e-Alam Khan Memorial Chess Sangsad and Dhaka University Chess Club tied ended in a 2-2 draw. Narayanjan Chess Club outplayed Narayanjan Mushgul Mehfil

by 4-0 points. Notre Dame College Chess Club defeated Lalbagh Chess Club by 3-1 points. Kamalapur SKKC also scored an identical victory over Agrani Kishore Sangha. Chess Club recorded a crushing 4-0 win over Sonali Bank Chess Club.

Bangladesh Television C C scored 3.5-5 win over Narayanjan Friends Chess Club. Beta Champion Chess Club scored a 2.5-1.5 win over Bangladesh Bank Chess Club. Nurpur Krira Chakra and Aarony Juba Sangha registered identical 3-1 victories over Chowkosh Sangha and Friends Chess Club respectively.

Int'l tennis in Rajshahi next yr

RAJSHAHI, Oct 31: The Rajshahi Tennis Complex will organise an international tennis tournament here in January next year, reports BSS.

Secretary of the complex said this while talking to journalists here today.

Sharjah accused of favouring Pakistanis

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: An Indian cricket official accused Sharjah officials on Wednesday of favouring Pakistan during last week's triangular tournament, reports Reuter.

Dinendra Binda, a former vice-president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said he had appealed to the International Cricket Council (ICC) to annul the results of the tournament which also featured West Indies.

Binda said he had written to the ICC alleging that the tournament organisers violated rules to enable Pakistan to qualify for the final, despite losing their first two matches.

He said violations included letting Pakistan change three players midway through the tournament and failing to apply a rule for curtailment overs in the last league match, when Pakistan needed 199 runs to qualify for the final at the expense of the West Indies.

The organisers had also ignored the rules by making India bat in fading light in their last league match against Pakistan, he said.

This proved that "cricket in Sharjah is for the Pakistanis, by the Pakistanis and of the Pakistanis," said Binda, president of the Punjab Cricket Association.

Row over Springboks' emblems

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 31: Heated debate here over the emblems South African cricketers will sport during next February's World Cup may see the famous Springbok badge being ousted and the South African team march under a white flag, reports AFP.

While it has already been decided that team members will wear the South Africa's traditional green and gold outfits, the question of an emblem, flag and a national anthem has still to be decided, United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) managing director Ali Bacher said this week.

To the majority of blacks, the current symbols represent decades of exclusion not only from sport, but from the entire political process in South Africa.

But to white South Africans already fearful of the political reforms wrought by President Frederik de Klerk, to tamper with traditional symbols is to tamper with heritage — a sacrilegious act.

Coloured leader Allan Hendrickse said today that political change and unification in sport meant new symbols are necessary.

"The zebra has always struck me as a good symbol. It represents well the South African population of black and white."

He said that retaining the Springbok emblem would create the impression that sportsmen and women were now being allowed into the "old school" from which they had been excluded in the past because of their skin colour.

As opposed to the leaping Springbok which adorns South African rugby jerseys, cricket has been represented by a Springbok head on the cap, blazer and shirt pocket of South African teams.

Sports spokesman for Nelson Mandela's African National Congress, Steve Tshwete, said that as an interim measure, South African athletes should raise a white flag or sing a hymn when competing overseas.

He added that the flag and

anthem were constitutional matters which should be determined during constitutional negotiations between the white minority government and black opposition groups.

World Cup organisers want to know what colours will be worn by the South Africans to be able to order uniforms.

"The shirts and trousers will be dark green with 'South Africa' and the player's name in gold with a dark blue trim around the lettering," Bacher said.

A decision on the emblem still had to be made. "It's a straight choice between the Springbok and the new UCBSA logo."

But political leaders have warned that the issue is potentially divisive.

Invited to Sharjah

NEW DELHI, Oct 31: South African cricket chief Ali Bacher said on Wednesday his country had been invited to play in the Champions Cup limited over tournament in Sharjah next April, reports Reuter.

"Asif Iqbal (Sharjah's cricket tournament organiser) invited South Africa to compete in the Champions Cup next year during our visit to the Emirates for the International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting," Bacher said in a telephone interview from Calcutta.

"I have asked him to send the invitation in writing and it will be placed before the South African Cricket Board's executive committee for approval."

Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), said the UCBSA executive committee would discuss the invitation at its next meeting on December 8.

The recent ICC meeting in Sharjah gave South Africa the go-ahead to take part in the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand next February and March.

McEnroe blows his Davis Cup chance

PARIS, Oct 31: John McEnroe bowed out of the two-million-dollar Paris Open on Wednesday once again amid the kind of histrionics which have dogged his career, reports Reuter.

The American lost 6-4, 6-4 to 11th seed Goran Ivanisevic of Yugoslavia after having a point docketed for swearing at a line judge in an incident which threatened to finish the match.

The controversy erupted as McEnroe, about to serve in a bid to save the match at 3-5 in the second set, went over and swore loudly at a line judge over a previous call.

Brazilian umpire Paolo Pereira, who had earlier warned McEnroe for throwing his racket, gave Ivanisevic a point, provoking more McEnroe ire.

The former world number one went up to remonstrate, called for the tournament supervisor and then sat on his chair as if he intended to stop playing.

When he was finally persuaded to return, he patted the ball innocuously over the net but Ivanisevic sportingly declined to play it to level the score again at 15-15.

"I gave him that point so that he would start playing again," the Yugoslav said. "It's a good thing I did and I'm proud of it."

McEnroe eventually held serve but lost the next game and the match to the tall Croat who fired in 16 aces as he blasted the American off court.

Ivanisevic, who said he was fighting for the freedom of Croatia on the tennis court, goes on to meet American sixth seed Pete Sampras in the

third round.

"I'm fighting for myself and Croatia and all the people who are fighting for freedom," he said. "Everything I'm doing is one more step. I'll fight to the last moment for Croatia on the court."

Earlier, top seeds and finalists in each of the last two years Stefan Edberg of Sweden and Boris Becker of Germany won their opening matches.

Edberg had a hard-fought 6-0, 6-7, 6-3 win over fellow-Swede Thomas Hogstedt but Becker won comfortably 6-2, 6-4 against Horst Skoff of Austria.

Three seeds made their exits, however. American Brad Gilbert, the number 14, who has twice played in the Paris final, was beaten in three sets by Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union.

Thirteenth seed Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland lost 7-6,

4-6, 6-3 to Omar Camporese of Italy and 10th-seeded American David Wheaton fell 6-3, 6-3 to Swedish qualifier Niclas Kuitl.

McEnroe refused to discuss the incident afterwards. "I don't want to talk about it," he said. "I'd already blown it by then."

"It was nice of him to give me the point. Not everyone would have done that but if he had been down, he might not have done it."

The American said the defeat had ended his chances of playing in this year's Davis Cup final against France.

"The way I'm playing, I don't deserve to play singles anyway," he added.

But he said that he would one day like to captain the US Davis Cup team.

CONNORS EXITS

Veteran Jimmy Connors, up against third seed Jim Courier, the man who beat him in the semifinals of this year's US Open, also left the tournament with a crushing 6-3, 6-3 defeat.

The 39-year-old Connors fared no better against Courier than he did in New York where he lost 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 after his brave foray into the last four.

The younger American, winner of this year's French Open in Paris, had far too much speed and power for Connors and clinched victory in one hour 15 minutes.

Top seeds sail on

BANGKOK, Oct 31: Top seeds breezed through to the quarter-finals in the 1991 Thailand Open badminton championships here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Indonesia's top seed Susi Susanti defeated China's Liao Zhiquan 11-0, 11-7

SOCCER SCENARIO

Kuhlmeier goal sinks Karlsruhe

BONN, Oct 31: A brilliant goal by defender Matthias Kuhlmeier allowed Second Division Hannover to upset First Division Karlsruhe 1-0 on Wednesday and reach the semifinals of the German Cup, reports Reuter.

Kuhlmeier beat three opponents before firing in an unstoppable low shot from eight metres.

In Wednesday's only other tie, Bayer Leverkusen needed an own goal by German international defender Guido Buchwald to beat VfB Stuttgart 1-0 after extra time.

Buchwald deflected a low cross from Bayer's Brazilian midfielder Jorginho in the 20th minute of extra time.

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In another quarter-final played on Tuesday, Borussia Moenchengladbach beat Stuttgart Kickers 2-0.

Greeks put 2 past Finns

ATHENS, Oct 31: Greece defeated Finland 2-0 in a Group Six European Championship qualifier on Wednesday to retain the slimmest hope of reaching next year's finals, reports Reuter.

But to get to Sweden for the finals, the Greeks would need to beat Portugal next month and reigning European champions the Netherlands in another qualifying match in defenders.

Two minutes later a brilliant pass by Sarvakos was converted into a second goal by Stephanos Borbokis who beat Finnish goalkeeper Olli Huttunen with a header.

Finnish striker Kimo Tarkkio had a chance to score in the 62nd minute but his powerful shot from 10 metres was saved by goalkeeper Nilos Sarganis.

Hungary held by Norway

ZOMBATHELY, Hungary, Oct 31: Hungary had to settle for a 0-0 draw against Norway in a freezing European Championship Group 3 qualifier here on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

The Norwegians enjoyed most of the possession but failed to pierce the Hungarian defence, while the home side came closest to scoring when Kalman Kovacs, the star of French side Auxerre, hit the post.

Group 3 (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

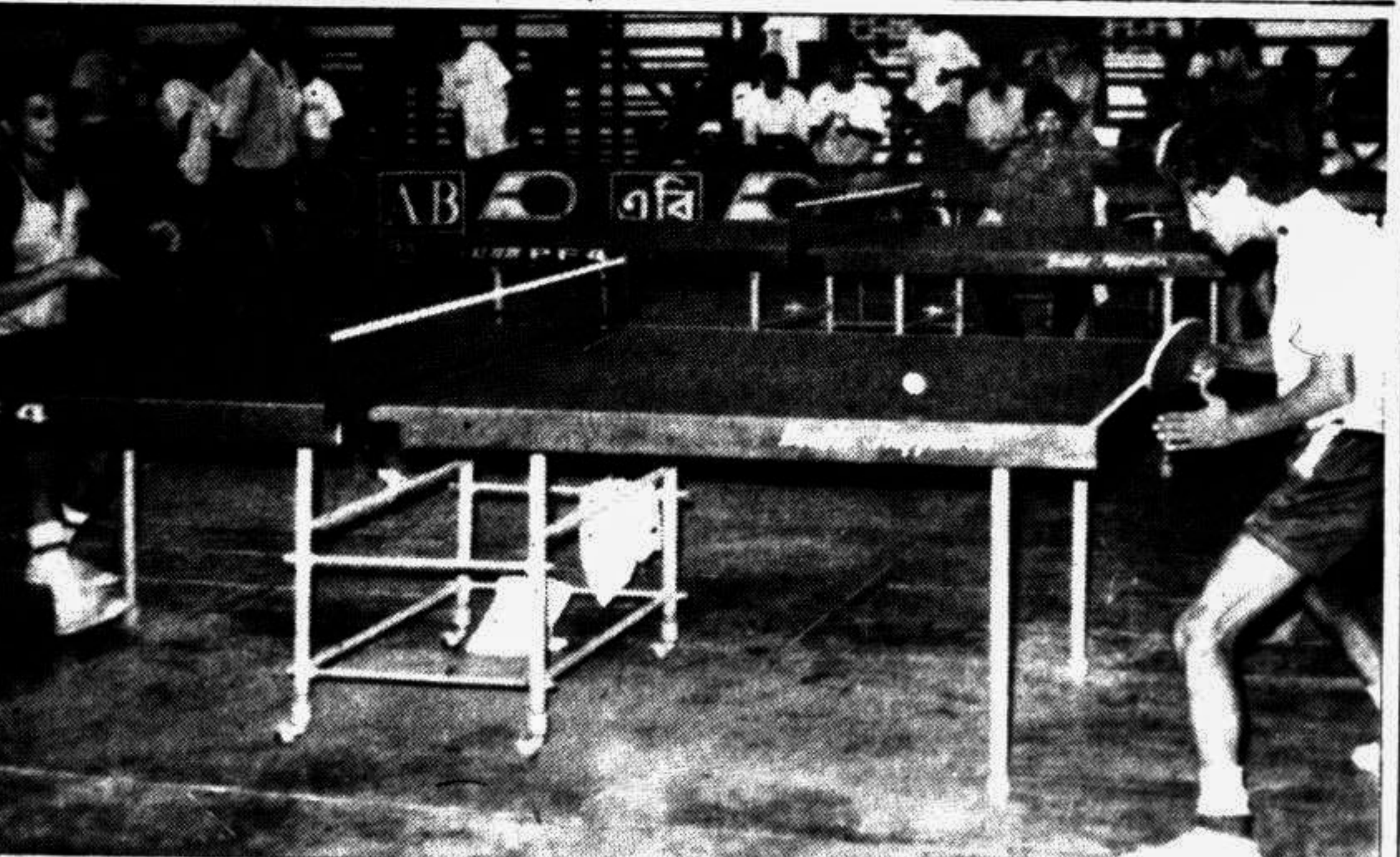
USSR	7	4	4	3	0	10	4	11
Norway	7	3	1	2	2	8	2	8
Hungary	8	2	4	2	1	10	9	8
Italy	6	2	3	1	9	4	7	

FIFA bans Flamengo

ZURICH, Oct 31: Brazilian club Flamengo has been banned from international soccer because of its legal wrangle with the Brazilian Federation, FIFA announced on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

FIFA has suspended Clubs Regatas do Flamengo with immediate effect from any footballing activity at international level until such time as the case it has filed with the civil courts in Brazil has been withdrawn," it said in a statement.

FIFA, soccer's world governing body, last week gave Flamengo three days to withdraw a lawsuit the Rio de Janeiro club had taken out against the Brazilian



Action from yesterday's AB Bank TT league Group D first singles match between Ansars and Wari Club. Ansars wrapped up the final 3-2 to finish group champs.