

Four seeds in last eight

Sports Reporter

Half of the top eight men's singles seeds fell by the wayside as the Gold Leaf ITF Bangladesh-Pakistan satellite circuit Dhaka leg tournament reached the quarterfinal stage at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

Topseeded Laurence Tieleman of Italy, who enjoys an ATP computer ranking of 429, took his appointed place in today's quarterfinals against number eight seed Kenneth Lee of the United States.

Vowels of the United States packing, Tieleman won 6-4, 6-2.

Second seeded Owen Casey of Ireland, whose ATP ranking is 537, needed even less time to dispose of unseeded Fabrizio Bertani of Italy 6-0, 6-3.

Hira Lal, a former national junior champion, and the sole

Bangladeshi to have survived the opening round Monday, bowed out of the tournament losing both his singles and doubles matches yesterday.

Hira Lal found his Pakistani opponent Rashid Malik, who had shocked seventh seed Youreck Heidenreich on the opening day of the four-day meet, too superior for his skills and lost 3-6, 3-6.

Later, in the first round of the 16-pair doubles competition which began yesterday, Hira Lal along with fellow wildcarder Byazid Rashid, lost 2-6, 4-6 to the American pair Mark Avedikian and Robert Pellizzi.

Sixth seeded Italian Alessandro Fornaro justified the seedings by reaching the last eight stage with a 5-2 victory over his Dutch opponent number five seed Jeroen Heinhuis who conceded the match by retiring after trailing 2-5 in the opening set.

In today's quarterfinals Fornaro will take on Rashid Malik.

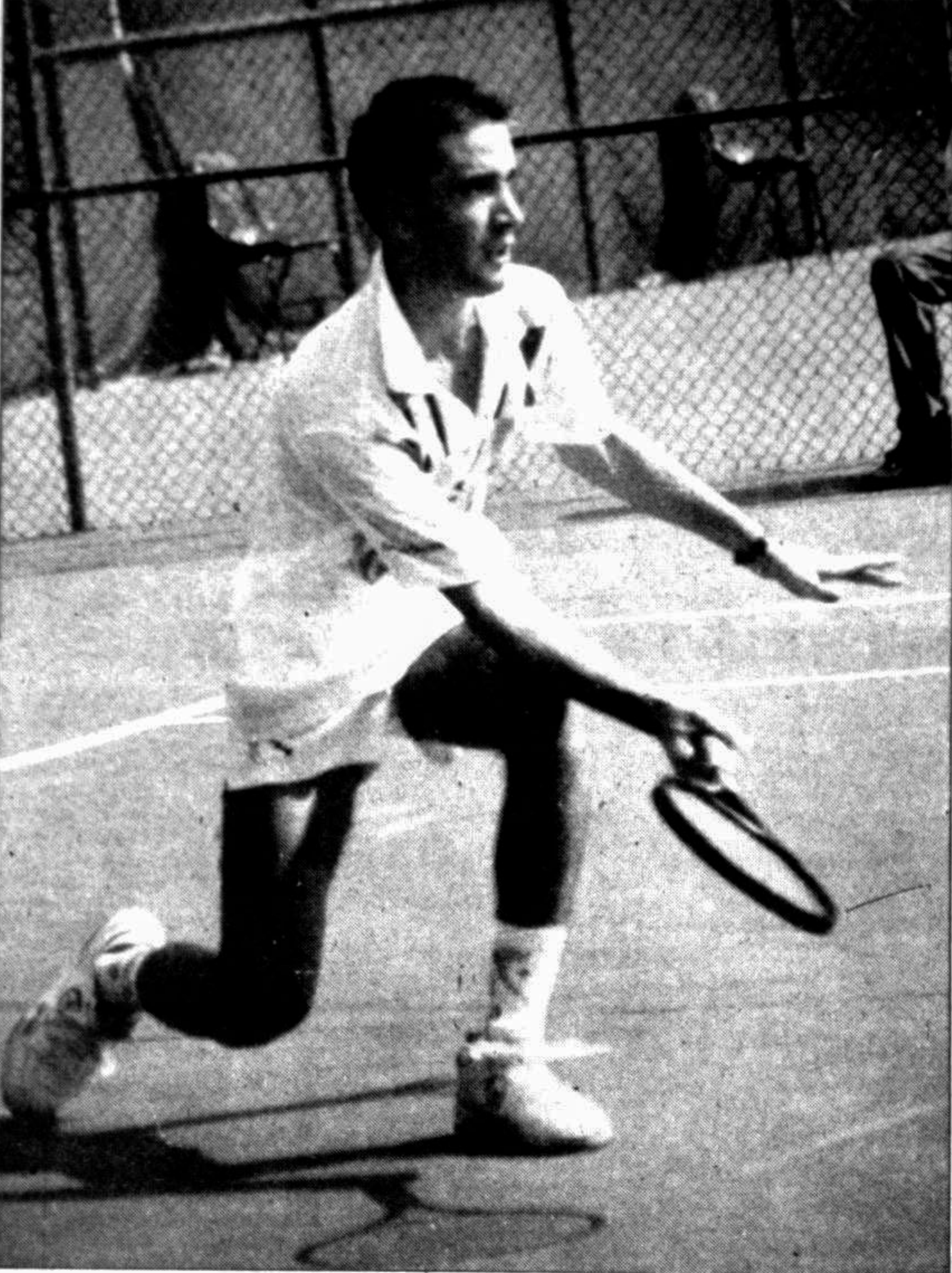
The two other seeded players who failed to reach the quarterfinals are Mario Carnavale of Italy who lost 4-6, 2-6 to Mark Avedikian and Brad Koontz of the United States who conceded a walkover to his Italian opponent Sylvano Simone.

Eights seeded Kenneth Lee of the USA needed three sets to overcome a determined Musaf Zia of Pakistan. Having lost the opening set 3-6, Lee clawed his way back into contention by winning the tie-break in the second to prevail 7-6. The deciding set saw the Pakistani going down 4-6.

Joost Wijnhoud of the Netherlands beat Mario Pastore of Italy 6-4, 7-6, (7-4) to fill the remaining quarterfinal berth.

In the doubles competition which began yesterday, Tieleman and his fellow Italian partner Sylvano Simone moved into the quarterfinals beating compatriots Fabrizio Bertani and Mark Carnavale 6-2, 6-3.

Pakistani pair Mohammad Khalid and Mushaf Zia overcame Yasushi Morishita of Japan and Mario Pastore of Italy 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 while the Americans Kenneth Lee and Scott Vowels beat Swede Josef Janussi and his German partner Yorck Heidenreich 6-2, 6-2.



Fabrizio Bertani of Italy went down 0-6, 3-6 to Irish number two seed Owen Casey in the second round of the men's singles event of the Gold Leaf ITF Bangladesh-Pakistan satellite circuit at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday afternoon. —Star photo by Mohsin

Agassi to skip Grand Slam Cup

LONDON, Nov 5: Andre Agassi, the flamboyant American at the centre of a row over the inaugural Grand Slam Cup last year, has turned down an invitation to play in this year's event, organisers said on Monday, reports Reuter.

But the 1991 Cup, to be played in Munich next month with a prize fund of six million dollars, has attracted a top field, including all the year's Grand Slam champions.

Boris Becker, Jim Courier, Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg will join the 16-man battle for the top prize of two million dollars.

Ivan Lendl, runner-up to Becker in the Australian Open final, and veteran favourite Jimmy Connors will also appear.

Agassi, who lost this year's French Open final to Courier, provoked a row last year when he broke a contract by pulling out of the Grand Slam Cup at the last minute, saying it was not an important event.

He was later fined 25,000 dollars.

Several other players criticised the Cup, saying its prize money was too large and it was an attempt by the Grand Slam chairman and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to overshadow the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) own year-ending tournament.

ITF spokesman Ian Barnes said organisers were disappointed that Agassi would not play next month.

His agent said he still feels 'some negatives' about the event, Barnes said.

"I think it is disappointing for the fans not to see such an attractive player because there is no doubt that he is one of the charismatic players currently around but it is a very strong field even so."

Last year's winner, American Pete Sampras, qualified only as one of the two alternates this time, based on his Grand Slam performance over the year, and decided to give up his place to the next in line, Australian Todd Woodbridge. Sampras didn't want to come to Europe without the certainty that he would play, Barnes said.

The field also includes Australian Open semifinalist Patrick McEnroe and his American compatriot David Wheaton, who reached the last four at Wimbledon.

Other results: Pablo (USA) and Anand Vandendoren (India) beat Heinhuis and Hulshof (Holland).

M. Azem (Pak) and Mahesh Bhupathi (Oman) beat Samiur Razzak and Shahed Mirza (Ban) 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

Wijnhoud (Hol) and Owen Casey (Ire) beat Nestel and Koontz (USA) 6-0, 6-3, and Malik and Haq (Pak) beat Wullschlaeger (Swi) and Fornaro (Ita) 7-6 (7-5) 6-2.

Gomez starts well

SAO PAULO, Nov 5: Andres Gomez of Ecuador made an impressive start in the 250,000 dollar ATP tournament here Monday when he defeated opponent Mark Kovermans in straight-sets, reports AFP.

The left-handed 31-year-old South American, the 1990 French Open champion, scored a 6-1, 6-3 victory.

Sabatini hopes for a year-ending flourish

NEW YORK, Nov 5: Gabriela Sabatini moved into the world number three ranking spot six months ago and feels time is her ally in continuing the climb to number one, reports Reuter.

"I'm not in a hurry, I know I'll get there," the 21-year-old Sabatini said in a tele-conference on Monday from her Buenos Aires home. "I think I'm still learning and improving."

At the moment, the 21-year-old Argentine is most concerned about the improvement of her injured back, which she hurt four weeks ago in Zurich.

Sabatini, who had to pull out of a tournament in

Filderstadt, Germany, is eager to return at next week's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia ahead of the season-ending three million-dollar Virginia Slims Championships in New York.

"Right now I feel very, very good," said Sabatini, who resumed playing late last week.

Though she failed to win a Grand Slam title this year, the 1990 US Open champion Sabatini feels this season has set the stage for her overtaking world number one Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and number two Steffi Graf of Germany.

"I proved this year I can be number one because I've already beaten everybody," said Sabatini who notched victories over every member of the world's top five this year.

Winner of five tournaments this year and the Wimbledon runner-up to Graf, Sabatini has a history of finishing the year strongly.

Three years ago she won the Virginia Slims Championships and last year in the final she battled Seles in the first five-set women's match in 89 years.

Sabatini said strong fan support and the chance to battle all the top players for the 225,000-dollar first prize were ingredients for her late-season success.

"But most important, at is the last tournament of the year so for me it is very, very important," she said.

Savchenko wins

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, Nov 5: The power of Larisa Savchenko ended the hopes of Japan's Maya Kidowaki in the first round of the 150,000 dollar women's tennis tournament here on Monday, reports AFP.

The 22-year-old from Tokyo showed steady groundstroke but had to surrender in straight sets 2-6, 3-6 to the experienced 25-year-old from the Ukraine.

Birmingham tennis

BIRMINGHAM, Nov 5: Up and coming South African Wayne Ferreira stormed into the second round of the men's indoor challenge tennis tournament in Birmingham on Monday, reports Reuter.

The 20-year-old Springbok, who in less than a year has jumped from 173 to 50 in the world rankings, beat Sweden's Niclas Kuitl 6-3, 7-6 in the new national indoor arena.

Earlier, compatriot Gary Muller earned the distinction of being the first winner in the stadium with a 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 victory over another Swede, David Engel.

The tournament, which has been moved from Wembley to Birmingham this year, has Americans Michael Chang and John McEnroe as the top two seeds.

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Bugner's son set to make pro debut

MIL ON KEYNES, England, Nov 5: Joe Bugner Junior will make his professional boxing debut here next week, reports AFP.

At six feet six inches and more than 16 stone, the 21-year-old will be larger than father Joe was at the start of a career which took him to a world heavyweight title challenge against Muhammad Ali.

The son of the former British, European and Commonwealth champion will be managed by Andy Smith, the same man as his father, for a six-round fight against David Jules on November 12.

Niaz earns gold

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed earned a gold medal in the ninth Asian chess team championship, which concluded at Penang, Malaysia on November 3, according to a message received here Tuesday, reports BSS.

Manager of the Bangladesh team in the meet, Manzurul Islam Khan Tojo said Niaz achieved the feat collecting the highest six points out of eight in the first board.

Tojo, who returned home yesterday with the team, also said, Bangladesh finished joint third in the nine-day competition with Indonesia bagging an equal number of 21 points.

Bangladesh beat Indonesia 3-1 in the last round.

A record 18 teams took part in the championship in which China won the title and the Philippines finished runners-up.

Bangladesh was placed ninth in the earlier championship.

China clinched the title while the Philippine became runners-up.

Those who made up the Bangladesh team were Niaz Murshed, Ziaur Rahman, Zillur Rahman Champak, Younus Hassan, Rifat bin Sattar and Ziaul Quader Tuhtin.

Pakistani spikers beat Bangladesh

ISLAMABAD, Nov 5: Pakistan defeated visiting Bangladesh 3-2 in the third volleyball Test at the Liaquat Gymnasium here Monday, reports AFP.

The victory gave Pakistan a 3-0 lead in the six-Test series.

The visitors won the first two sets 15-10 and 15-11 but lost the remaining set 5-15, 5-15 and 12-15.

Bangladesh is to play the fourth Test at Wah near here, on Wednesday.

PWD trounce Tejgaon 6-0

Sports Reporter

Ishaf's four superb goals enabled Bangladesh PWD Club to drub Tejgaon Agrabami 6-0 in a one-sided match of the Green Delta Insurance Second Division league yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

PWD led 4-0 at the breather.

Ishaf slammed his goals in the very first, 21st, 26th and 54th minutes of the match. All his goals came from stizzling penalty corner hits.

Sohrab added more misery for Tejgaon with goals in 12th and 45th minutes.

In the other match of the day, Cantonian Sporting Club scored an easy 2-0 victory over Farashganj Sporting Club.

Masud Rana in the 28th and Enamul in the 34th minutes scored for the Cantonians.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Young Star Club vs Uttara Hockey Club
Udity Club vs Mukttijoddha KC

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Nov 5: Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra lost full points to Chittagong Steel Mills after conceding a 0-1 defeat in the CUKP Elite First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here this afternoon, reports BSS.

Steel Mills scored the match winner in the 35th minute when their striker Gowtham's shot hit the net touching Abahani's defender Rouf Babul's leg. Gowtham received the ball into the box following a misunderstanding of Abahani's two defenders Salauddin and Debashish, (1-1). On the other hand Steel Mills played very confidently.

Narinda School lifts Bata title

Sports Reporter

Eleven school teams took part in this year's tourney.

Major General Mahabubur Rahman, Chairman of the National Sports Council witnessed the final as chief guest and later gave away the trophies among the winners. Bata Shoe Company's Managing Director Michael Oldroyd was also present during the prize-giving ceremony.

Narinda Government Boys High School clinched the fourth Bata schools handball tournament title after scoring an exciting 18-16 victory over Shaheed Nabi High School in the delayed final match yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

The champions led 12-9 at the breather.

Ansars and VDP High

TEAMS

Narinda School : Kajal, Taribul Islam, Jamal, Asif, Afzar, Saiful (Sr), Saiful (Jr), Rafiq, Swapan (captain) Dewan Haroon, Qamruzzaman and Bishnu.

Shaheed Nabi : Bappi, Salauddin, Arif, Dipok, Yousof, Ganchah, Dastagir, Nayyan, Iqbal, Kabir, Alam and Zakir.



Narinda Govt. Boys High School became the champions in the fourth Bata handball tournament beating Shaheed Nabi High School 18-16 in yesterday's thrilling final at the Outer Stadium. —Star photo

Biman paddlers win

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman's paddlers maintained their uninterrupted flight while defending champions Armanitola Jubo Sangha's hopes of retaining the title almost vanished after they suffered their second defeat in the eight-team super league matches of the Arab Bangladesh Bank Metropolitan table tennis league yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

Star-studded Biman recorded their third consecutive win crushing Wari Club by 3-0 sets.

BTMC surprised everyone when they coasted to a comfortable 3-0 sets victory over the reigning champions Armanitola JS.

Bangladesh Ansars chalked up their second win in three super league defeating Azimpur Young Star by 3-1 sets.

Armanitola Juniors registered their first win in three matches outplaying Village Defence Party by 3-0 sets.

WOMEN'S TT

Bangladesh Ansars and the Village Defence Party women's table tennis teams remained unbeaten by winning their respective matches of the AB Bank women's league yesterday at the same venue.

Ansars and VDP, who field separate teams these days scored identical straight sets, 3-0 wins over Lalmatia SC and Dhaka Mariners Young Club respectively.

In the other encounter of the day, Swambagh TTS scored their first win when they defeated Victoria Sporting Club, also in straight sets.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Men's Super League : Armanitola JS vs Wari Club
Bangladesh Biman vs BTMC
Armanitola Juniors vs Azimpur Young Stars
Bangladesh Ansars vs VDP
Women's League : Bangladesh Ansars vs Dhaka Mariners
VDP vs Lalmatia Club
Victoria Club vs Zoom Express

Narayanganj soccer

From Our Correspondent

Eastern Football Club defeated Mohsin Club by 2-1 goals in the Muldhara First Division Football league at the local Osman Stadium yesterday evening.

Moazzem of the Eastern Football Club scored the first goal at the tenth minute while Salauddin equalised the score for Mohsin Club ten minutes after the breather.

Deluar then scored the final goal for the Eastern Football Club on 79th minute to give them a 2-1 lead.

Organised by the Narayanganj District Sports Association, the First Division league resumed yesterday after a two years gap with newcomers Sonakanda White Club surprisingly winning over the defending champions BSEC (Dockyard) Club 3-0.

Earlier Narayanganj District Deputy Commissioner and Narayanganj DSA president Md. Habibur Rahman inaugurated the meet.

ROK eye 12 golds in Barcelona

SEOUL, Nov 5: South Korea aims to capture 12 gold medals and place 10th in the 1992 Summer Olympics, top sports officials said Tuesday, reports AP.

Sports and Youth Minister Park Chul-un and Korea Amateur Sports Association President Kim Jong-yol reported to President Roh Tae-woo that all sports organizations will be put under a special Olympic system beginning Wednesday for efforts to meet the target.

South Korea won 12 gold medals and ranked fourth in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, after the Soviet Union, East Germany and the United States.

Park said he expected the United States, Western Europe and China to perform strongly in the 1992 Olympics, with Soviet and East European athletic fortunes declining in the wake of political upheavals.

Exhibition soccer tomorrow

Sports Reporter

A National Sports Council (NSC) XI will play against a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) XI in an exhibition football match in observance of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day tomorrow, Nov 7, at the Outer Stadium ground.

The match will start at 4.15 pm.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain Khoka will be present as the chief guest.

SA delays decision on an Olympic return

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 5: Sports administrators reached a decision Sunday on whether to send a South African team to the 1992 Olympic games—but refused to announce it reports AP.

All signals suggest South Africa will return to the Olympics next summer in Barcelona, Spain, after a 32-year absence because of its apartheid policies.

But Sam Ramsamy, head of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa, said the decision would not be made public until Wednesday.

"We had a very, very fruitful meeting," Ramsamy told journalists following a day of talks among committee members and other top sports officials, "We have to wait until the sixth of November when the decision will be announced."

Ramsamy, who for years led the international sports boycott against South Africa, now favors accepting the invitation from the International Olympic Committee.

Most leading anti-apartheid groups, including the African national Congress, also say they would support sending an integrated South African squad to the Games.

However, sports administrators have been squabbling among them selves for months. All sports at the top level are integrated, but some governing bodies are still in the process of racial unification. For example, track and field meets have been integrated for years. But the separate governing bodies for whites, blacks and mixed-race athletes are still trying to settle their differences.

The Olympic Committee also has been trying to resolve such issues as what flag and anthem the country should use. Some anti-apartheid groups feel the current flag and anthem symbolize white domination and should be changed.

Ramsamy said he would notify the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland before announcing South Africa's Olympic plans at a dinner Wednesday night in Johannesburg.

South Africa, which last participated in the 1960 Summer Games in Rome, could field medal contenders in sports ranging from track and field to boxing to yaceting.

There has been speculation that South Africa may send a small team to the 1992 Winter Games in France. Ramsamy said that issue also would be addressed Wednesday.



Some of the players taking part in the current ITF satellite meet cool off in the shade at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday. —Star photo