

Sport

Gold Leaf ITF Satellite Circuit first leg concludes

Tielemans justifies his seeding

Sports Reporter

Laurence Tielemans of Italy justified his top seeding in more ways than one by lifting the men's singles title in the first leg of the four-leg inaugural Bangladesh-Pakistan ITF satellite tennis circuit at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

In the final against Owen Casey, the number two seed from Ireland ranked 537, Tielemans prevailed 6-3, 7-5 to pocket the winners' purse of \$12,500 US dollars. Casey collected \$6,250 dollars.

Tielemans also picked up ITF 21 circuit points while Casey increased his points tally by another 15.

The doubles title went to the Pakistani pair Mushaf Zia and Mohammad Khalid who beat Americans Mark Avedikian and Robert Pellizzi 7-5, 7-6 in a keen final played earlier in the afternoon.

The win was worth \$93,750 dollars for the Pakistanis while the American pair will share

206,250 dollars. Besides, the winners will split 15 ranking points and the losers 10 points.

Playing before a good holiday crowd, Tielemans' powerful serves appeared to give him the edge over Casey in a battle of two right-handed baseliners. The dark-haired Italian, the highest ranked player in the 32-man field enjoying an ATP computer ranking of 429, needed only 90 minutes to clinch the issue.

In the first set Tielemans twice broke Casey's service, in the fourth and fifth games. The second set, tied 5-5 after ten games, produced some brilliant strokes from either player and drew loud applause from the stands. Tielemans' superior court craft and speed helped him to outwit and outplay his Irish challenger.

In the semifinals on Thursday, Tielemans had beaten American Mark Avedikian 6-2, 6-1 while Casey rallied from being a set down to win 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 against

his Dutch opponent Joost Wijnhoud in a thrilling encounter.

A student of the legendary Nick Bollettieri's tennis academy in Florida, USA, Tielemans started playing tennis at the age of seven.

The runner-up of the Thailand-Philippines satellite tennis circuit earlier this year, Tielemans has to his credit the experience of playing about a dozen professional tournaments. He is confident of improving his ATP rankings further before the year ends.

The double final between the winning Pakistani pair and their American rivals was a more absorbing affair than the singles final, producing a series of long rallies and some fine attacking shots.

The semifinals Thursday saw Zia and Khalid beating Tielemans and his fellow Italian Sylvano Simone 7-5, 6-3 while Avedikian and Pellizzi prevented an all-Pakistan final by beating Rashid Malik and Hamidul Haq 6-4, 6-3.

Minister for Planning

Zahiruddin Khan gave away the trophies as the chief guest on the concluding day of the week-long tournament which drew competitors from a dozen countries.

Talking to this correspondent, the Pakistani doubles champions Zia and Khalid said they felt quite at home playing here and had no grievances regarding the arrangements. Asked for his views, singles runner-up Owen Casey confessed he had never expected the facilities to be as good as they have been and gave every credit to the officials of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation, organisers of the meet in Bangladesh. In fact, so delighted was Casey with the arrangements and hospitality that he expressed his readiness to come again if invited.

The circuit now moves north to Rajshahi for the second leg beginning tomorrow, Nov 10. Lahore and Karachi, the two Pakistani cities, host the third leg and the Masters event later this month.



Top seed Laurence Tielemans of Italy won the men's singles title of the first leg of the Bangladesh-Pakistan ITF Satellite Tennis Circuit beating second seeded Owen Casey of Ireland in yesterday's final at the Ramna Tennis Complex. — Star photo

Biman crash to Ansars paddlers

Sports Reporter

Star-studded Bangladesh Biman suffered their first setback in this year AB Bank table tennis league when they were rudely brought down to earth by fellow title-aspirants Bangladesh Ansars in the super league clash at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Biman, with several top national players in their ranks, including the national number one Musaddequl Haq Rofi and number two Nasimul Hassan Kochi, lost 2-3 in the best-of-five-sets team encounter.

It was Biman's first defeat in the super league after having finished their six-match preliminary robin league unbeaten.

Ansars have lost twice, to VDP and BTMC.

In another match yesterday, defending champions Armanitola Juba Sangha who have suffered three super league defeats already, beat Armanitola Juniors, also by 3-2 sets.

Azimpur Young Star defeated Wari Club in straight sets 3-0 while Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation also posted a 3-0 sets win over Village Defence Party.

Goalless draws in Div Two hockey

Sports Reporter

Both matches of the Green Delta Second Division hockey league ended in goalless draws at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Barnak Samaj were held goalless by Young Star while Rakim Sangha and Udit Club also failed to produce a goal later in the afternoon.

On Thursday, PWD trounced Rayer Bazar 7-0 to post their second successive win while in another encounter on the day, Dikusha Club beat Combined Sporting Club 2-1.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Hockey Club vs Rayer Bazar SC (2:30 pm) Shantinagar SC vs Uttara Hockey Club (3:45 pm)

N'ganj soccer

Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 8: Nitaiganj Krira Chakra defeated Shuktara Juniors by a solitary goal in the Muldhara First Division football league match held at the local Osmani Stadium today.

Swapan scored the lone goal of the match for the winners in the eighth minute of the second half.

Both teams presented a superb display of soccer, trying hard to score all the time.

Shuktara, though a goal down, never gave up and sought the equaliser right until the final whistle. They controlled play in the last ten minutes and forced Nitaiganj on the defensive.

Three players of the two teams received yellow cards. They were Swapan of Nitaiganj KC and Liton and Hossain of Shuktara.

Meanwhile Sher-e-Bangla Club defeated Jalparbaban Sangha by a solitary goal in Thursday's match.

Selim scored the only goal four minutes after the breather.

TODAY'S MATCH

DSS Club vs Gothaal Shibir

Aga Khan School cricket match

The annual sports meet of the Aga Khan School in the capital began Thursday with a cricket match held at the Dhanmondi playground, reports UNB.

The Group A team recorded a comfortable victory defeating Group B by 59 runs.

The winners batted first and piled up 135 runs for nine wickets in 25 overs.

In reply, Group B were skittled out for only 76 runs in 18.3 overs.

Amyr Dhamant of Group A was adjudged the man-of-the-match. He scored 43 runs and took seven wickets.

BFF XI beat NSC in exhibition tie

Bangladesh Football Federation Eleven blanked a National Sports Council Eleven 3-0 in an exhibition match at the National Stadium Thursday to mark the observance of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day, reports BSS.

The Federation Eleven led the first half 1-0.

Mohsin opened the score-sheet for the winners in the first half while Zakir and Raja scored one each in the second half to increase the margin.

Veteran booters Enayet, Mohsin, Mala, Zakaria Pinto, Nazir, Sr Batu, Nowsher, Benu and Babu were, among others, who played in the match.

Players of both the teams were introduced to the National Sports Council Chairman Major General Mahabur Rahman, before the start.

Udity, Tarun win Damal ties

Sports Reporter

Udity Club scored an encouraging 29-run win over newcomers Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in a Group A tie

on the second day of the 13th Damal Summer cricket tournament yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Udity Club, led by BKSP cricket coach Imran who top-scored with 68, made 170 for the loss of nine wickets in the match curtailed by two overs to 43 overs a side. In reply, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, who earned promotion to the Minlars First Division league

Chinnaswamy passes away

BANGALORE, Nov 8: The former president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the 91-year-old Mr Chinnaswamy, died here at the early hours of today, reports PTI.

Mr Chinnaswamy was the first Indian cricket administrator on whom the MCC showered its distinguished honour of enrolling him as a member in recognition of his contribution to cricket.

Mr Chinnaswamy, the most respected father figure in the Indian cricket scene, had a glorious career spanning more than four decades.

Ever since he took over the reins of the Karnataka State Cricket Association here, Mr Chinnaswamy toiled hard day in an day out for about forty years to raise the status of cricket to the international level. He built a 50,000 capacity stadium for KSCA in the heart of this garden city, which was befittingly named after him.

Mr Chinnaswamy is survived by a son.

The mortal remains of the doyen of Indian cricket and a world figure in cricket administration, Mangalam Chinnaswamy, were consigned to flames at the electric crematorium here this afternoon.

Mr Chikkanna, director of Youth Services and Sports, placed a wreath on behalf of the Karnataka government.

last year from Division Two, could muster only 141 before being all out in 42.4 overs.

The tall, hefty built Imran, who also brought along several of his Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Protisthan students to play for his old club side this year, was in punishing mood, dispatching the inexperienced Eskaton bowling for three huge sixes and five boundaries. Opener Sajid, the son of former Bangladesh captain Roquibul Hassan, made 29 and Rahul 21 for Udity.

Opi and Faruq were the most successful Eskaton bowlers claiming three and two Udity wickets each for 25 and 32 runs respectively.

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha made a spirited start but sustained bowling by Rakan and Rahul, who picked up three and two wickets each for 20 and 31 runs respectively, restricted the newcomers to 141 all out with just two balls remaining of their 43 over quota.

Sohel top scored with 29. Opi had a good all-round day making 19 while Biddyt with 16 was the other prominent Eskaton scorer.

Udity will now play Kalabagan Krira Chakra on Nov 14 at the Dhaka Stadium.

In the inaugural match of the 22-team limited-overs competition on Thursday, Surjo Tarun beat Wari Club by a convincing margin of 67 runs.

Winning the toss, Tarun elected to bat and thanks to a fine 78 by Javed Omar Belim Golla, made 194 for four wickets in their 45 overs.

Nurul Hadi, and old Tarun hand, made 41 while Sri Lankan all-rounder Rodrigo who moved over from Abahani this year, remained unbeaten on 47 there were as many as 14 extras in the Tarun Total. Kajal, Ripon and Rafiqul picked up a wicket each for Wari for 23, 27 and 34 runs respectively.

Going in to bat, Wari lost their first wicket with only 28 runs on the board. Suman and Ripon then steadied the boat by adding 44 runs for the second wicket but disaster struck when Wari had reached 82, losing three wickets at that

score.

Dipu, Rafiq and Biddyt then batted with the sole purpose of preventing the fall of wickets instead of going for the target, which by then had become an impossible proposition.

In the end War finished on 127 for five wickets when their 45 overs ran out.

Ripon top scored for Wari with 24, Suman made 19, Dipu 17, Rafiq 13 not out and Raju ten.

Shoaib took two wickets for Tarun at a cost of 22 runs while left-arm medium-pacer Suppi took one for 29 and Babu one for 16.

Surjo Tarun play the reigning champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting on Nov 13.

State Minister for Youth and sports Sadeq Hossain formally inaugurated the meet, comprising 22 teams in four groups, under the aegis of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board.

TODAY'S MATCH

Young Pegasus vs City Club (Dhaka Stadium)

Big sponsorship for Springboks

CALCUTTA, Nov 8: The South African cricket team which landed here today will be getting 2.50 lakh rands (around rupees 25 lakh) from a multinational electronics company which will be sponsoring the Indian tour of the Springboks, reports PTI.

According to a journalist associated with a news agency in South Africa, who accompanied the team to the Indian tour, the deal between the electronics company, and United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) was struck just before the team left Johannesburg.

The journalist further added that each player of the South African team would be given 10,000 rands (around rupees one lakh) for the three match series and UCBSA had promised that any income from the current tour would be ploughed back into the development of cricket in South Africa.

Bush sorry for Magic Johnson

ROME, Nov 8: President George Bush has voiced his sadness that AIDS has forced Magic Johnson to retire from basketball, reports AFP.

"Oh, it's sad," he told reporters as he arrived for the final session of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation summit here on Friday.

Johnson, who led the Lakers to five National Basketball Association titles in 12 seasons, was a 'good man,' Bush said.

The 32-year-old American announced Thursday that he had tested positive for the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome virus.

200 cases of beer!

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 8: South Africa's cricketers, heading for sultry India on Thursday, have decided to take their own beer with them, skipper Clive Rice said here, reports AFP.

Two hundred cases were loaded on the plane, usually used by President Frederik De Klerk on his foreign trips, which is taking the team to India on the first tour abroad by South Africa since 1965.

Rice said the team had been warned about the water in foreign climes, so they were taking "some liquid refreshment just in case anybody gets thirsty."

Imported beer is not on sale in India where the local brews often receive a mixed reception from foreign drinkers.

Down to business

CALCUTTA, India, Nov 8: South Africa's Springboks got down to serious business and came out onto the lush green Eden Gardens turf for a strenuous practice session within hours of their arrival here Friday, reports AFP.

"It is fantastic to come to Indian and play," Clive Rice remarked to the press, after the team flew in here on a special chartered flight.

Abahani face E Bengal today

CALCUTTA, Nov 8: Calcutta Super Division champions East Bengal are expected to utilise the home advantage to the fullest when they take on Abahani Krira Chakra, the Bangladesh champion outfit, in the second leg match of the Asian Cup Winners' Cup soccer championship match at the Salt Lake Stadium here tomorrow, reports PTI.

East Bengal has to win tomorrow's match to qualify for

the proper group of the tournament and even a one-all draw will be beneficial for the Bangladesh outfit. The first leg match between the two teams in Dhaka on November 3 had ended goalless.

The Abahani Krira Chakra team led by Md. Mohsin had arrived here yesterday and today they did a strenuous workout at the football ground of the National Institute of Sports, Salt Lake.

On the other hand, the East Bengal team under their coach Md. Naimuddin went through

their practice session at their club ground in the Maidan.

Though the East Bengal-Abahani match was completely overshadowed by the build up for the India-South Africa cricket match scheduled for November 10, yet a large number of East Bengal supporters are looking forward to the match and a good turnout of spectators is expected at the 1.20 lakh capacity Salt Lake Stadium tomorrow to provide the moral backing to the local outfit.

Benfica eye Gascoigne

LISBON, Nov 8: Benfica have expressed interest in buying England midfielder Paul Gascoigne if his 8.8 million dollar deal with Lazio falls through, his Tottenham club chief executive Terry Venables said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The Portuguese side have been reported to be ready to pay 10.7 million dollars for Gascoigne, who faces a medical examination on his injured

knee on May 31 before the move to Lazio can go ahead.

Venables, arriving in Porto for Tottenham's European Cup Winners' Cup tie against Porto on Thursday, confirmed he had been approached by Benfica.

"They would like to be competitors for him but this could only happen if the Lazio thing fell through," Venables said.

"There have been no negotiations with Benfica but I have promised to keep their people

informed of any developments."

"As far as we are concerned he still goes to Lazio and I have to tell Benfica that there have been no negative waves from the Italians," he added. "I believe they are still as keen as they ever were."

Venables said Gascoigne was recovering well from his injury and could be fit to play for Tottenham in the third round of the Cup Winners' Cup in March, assuming the London side went through.

McEnroe ponders his future

BIRMINGHAM, England, Nov 8: Humbled by a first-round loss to a player known mostly for being Steffi Graf's former boyfriend, John McEnroe is more convinced than ever that his career is nearing an end, reports AP.

The man who has won seven Grand Slam titles displayed plenty of bad temper but little in the way of tennis artistry as he lost to Germany's Alexander Mronz 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 Wednesday night in the Birmingham indoor tournament.

Mronz is ranked 110th in the world, 82 places behind McEnroe.

"I certainly plan on doing a lot better next year but for me to turn around and continue playing would mean winning a major," McEnroe said.

McEnroe won Wimbledon four times and the US Open three times.

McEnroe is considered by many to be the last of a generation of players more concerned with touch than power. But McEnroe thinks he won't be the last of the touch artists.

Many others dwell on his temper that attracted just as many fans to McEnroe's matches as his talent.

Women's TT

Zoom Express, VDP and Swamibagh Table Tennis Sangha won their respective matches in the AB Bank women's table tennis league at the National Coaching Centre yesterday, reports BSS.

Zoom Express routed Mariners Young Club 3-0, VDP outplayed Victoria Sporting Club by the same margin and Swamibagh TTS outclassed Lalmitia Club, also by 3-0 sets.

Peruvian girls down ROK spikers

TOKYO, Nov 8: Seoul Olympic silver medalists Perumade a great start towards gaining a ticket for the Barcelona Olympic Games when they narrowly downed South Korea at the World Cup Women's volleyball tournament here Friday, reports AFP.

The Peruvians, who had failed to secure an Olympic berth by finishing runners-up in the South American championships in September, clinched the crucial final point in the last-set rally point system for a 3-2, (15-2, 12-15), 17-15, 13-15, (17-16) victory in Group A.

Twelve teams are divided into two groups in the preliminary round robin competition and the top three teams from each group will advance to the

Navy volleyball

Sports Reporter

KAPTAI, Nov 8: The annual volleyball championship of the Bangladesh Navy concluded at BNS Shaheed Moazzam here on Wednesday.

BNS Haji Mohsin team emerged champions defeating the BN Frigate Squadron team by 3-1 sets of 9-15, 15-6, 15-5 and 15-6. Besides, M Rahman of the winner team was adjudged the best player of the four day meet.

The Commodore Superintendent BN Dockyard, Commodore M Shahabuddin witnessed the final match as the chief guest and later distributed the prizes, the press release added.

final round.

China, Cuba, the Soviet Union, Brazil, Spain and Japan have already booked places in the Olympics, and the highest finishers among the remaining six countries will be able to go to Barcelona next year.

Peru, South Korea and the United States are favoured to win the final seat in the Olympics.

"I have a mixed feeling that we defeated South Korea, said

south Korean park Man-bok, who has coached the Peruvians since 1974."

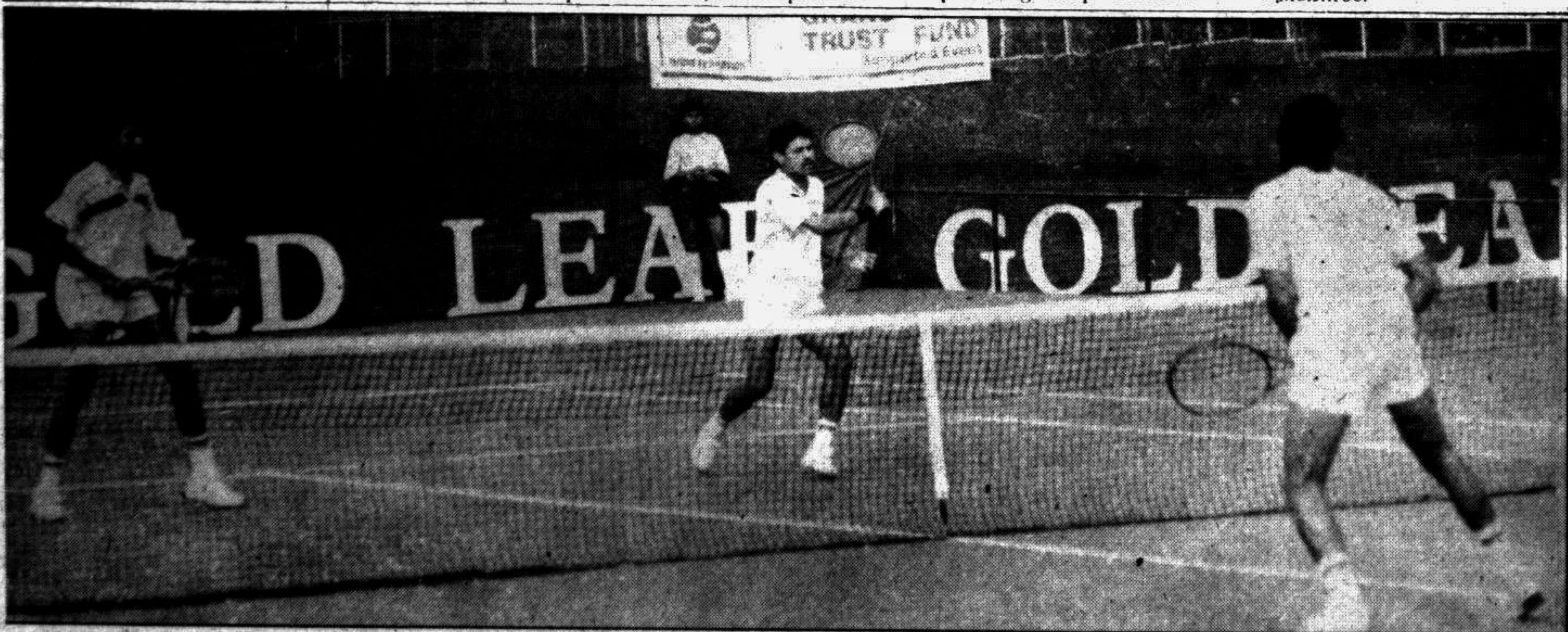
"I thought South Korea would gain an advantage in the final set, but my girls didn't make errors, on the contrary."

The United States, the bronze winners at the World Championships, were also stretched the distance to beat South American champions Brazil 3-2, (17-15, 8-15, 15-12, 7-15, 15-9) in Group B

Sendai City, North of Tokyo.

In other first-day competition, world and Olympic champions the Soviet Union overwhelmed Spain 3-0 (15-1, 15-10, 15-2), while hosts Japan defeated Canada 3-1 (15-10, 15-8, 11-15, 15-5) in Group A.

China outgunned Germany 3-0 (15-6, 15-6, 15-10), and defending champions Cuba trounced Kenya 3-0 (15-3, 15-5, 15-2) in Group B.



Mushaf Zia (L) and Mohammad Khalid won the doubles title of the Gold Leaf ITF Satellite Circuit beating Americans Mark Avedikian and Robert Pellizzi in yesterday afternoon's final at the Ramna Tennis Complex. — Star photo.