

Sport



From left: State Minister for Sports Sadeq Hossain, Dhaka Mayor Mirza Abbas, Sri Lankan NOC chief Roy De Silva and Bangladesh Olympic Association president Gias Kamal Chowdhury at yesterday's SAF Games flag handing ceremony at a city hotel.

SAF Games dates, events fixed

Sports Reporter

The sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games will be held from December 20 to 31 in Dhaka next year.

Ten events will be staged during the 12-day meet. The ten disciplines are: athletics, swimming, football kabaddi, shooting, volleyball, judo, table tennis, tennis and wrestling.

However, boxing and basketball may also be included subject to fulfilment of some conditions regarding neutral umpires and game facilities.

The decision regarding the sixth SAF Games agenda was finalised at a meeting of the representatives of the seven SAARC countries — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives — at a local hotel yesterday with the new president of the South Asian Sports Federation (SASF) Gias Kamal Chowdhury in the chair.

Gias Kamal Chowdhury, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), was assisted by the three BOA vice presidents, Capt (retd) Siddique Ahmed, Emadul Huq and Nazrul Islam.

The new SASF Secretary General Bashir Ahmed, who is also the secretary general of the BOA, represented Bangladesh in the meeting along with Zafar Imam and Abdul Quddus Chowdhury — the two BOA

DSOs and the BOA treasurer Akhter Hossain Khan.

President of the Indian Basketball Federation BK Shaha represented India, the secretary of the Pakistan Football Federation Hafiz Salman Butt, MP, and the secretary of the Pakistan Kabaddi Federation Ali Mohammad Khawaja spoke for Pakistan while the President and Secretary General of the Sri Lankan National Olympic Committee (NOC) — Roy De Silva and Prem Pinnawale respectively represented Sri Lanka the last hosts, at the meeting.

The president of the NOC of the Maldives, Zahir Nasir, secretary general of the Nepalese NOC Raj Bahadur Singh represented their countries while an official of the Bhutanese embassy in Dhaka was present for Bhutan at the meeting.

The SASF body also unanimously decided to increase the tariff rates for the athletes and officials of the participating teams from US 16 dollars to 22 per day. The next SAF games will cost a couple of dollars more for each participant.

The meeting, which started at 11.30 am and continued until 2.10 pm, also decided that from now on the participating teams must have a technical delegate or referee for each discipline in which it is partic-

ipating.

Five of the selected disciplines will feature both male and female players. These are athletics, shooting, volleyball, table tennis and tennis. The remaining five disciplines will be reserved for men.

Only five disciplines were held in the first SAF Games in 1984 in Nepal, which were increased to seven in the second Games in 1985 in Dhaka.

Ten disciplines were staged in the fifth SAF Games held in Sri Lankan capital Colombo last December.

A minute's silence was observed in the meeting for the departed sportsmen and organisers of the SAARC countries. The prayer was conducted by Salman Butt.

Earlier in the morning, the immediate past president of the SASF Roy De Silva formally handed over the SAF flag to the Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas, MP at a simple ceremony at another local hotel.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka and the BOA Secretary General Bashir Ahmed were also present.

Bangladesh were awarded the Games last April after Nepal declined to stage the meet for lack of funds.

MSC back out of Asian meet

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club officials have eaten their words by giving Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) a letter apprising it of their inability to take part in the third Asian Cup Winners' Cup.

According to the schedule, Mohammedans were to play Vietnamese side Quangnam Danang Club on October 16 at the Vietnamese town of Danang, 800 km away from the capital Hanoi.

Mohammedans alluded to the 'site' as their main objection. However, sources close to the club said that monetary constraints forced the club to opt out of the tournament.

Mohammedans were to play their home match against the Vietnamese representatives in Dhaka on November 24. If Mohammedans stick to their latest decision then the Vietnamese club would play a Japanese club in the semifinal.

In the event of a backout Mohammedans are almost certain to face a fine from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

BROTHERS' BARGAIN

Meanwhile, Brothers Union have submitted a petition to the BFF for a shift in the date of their away match of the 12th Asian Club Cup championship against Wahab Club of Pakistan, scheduled to be held in Lahore on October 17. The local Federation Cup champs have asked for deferment by two days, October 19 to the precise, as no Biman flight is reportedly available before October 17.

In another development, the BFF aired its intention to comply with Brothers' request for a grant regarding their participation in the Club Cup championship. A decision will be taken in the executive meeting of the BFF on October 14.

India's 'no' to third umpire

NEW DELHI, Oct 12: Indian cricket officials have dropped a proposal to use three umpires in the forthcoming Test tour of South Africa, reports Reuters.

The technical committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) decided last week that the proposed rotation of umpires would mean standards of judgement would differ, BCCI secretary Chandappa Nagaraj said today.

India has also expressed reservation about another South African idea — the use of television replays in close run-out and stumping decisions, Nagaraj said.

The BCCI had originally accepted both proposals.

A 16-member Indian squad leaves for Zimbabwe on Friday for one test and one-day international before beginning the tour of South Africa, where it will play four Tests and seen one-day matches.

It is India's first official tour of South Africa for more than two decades.

South Africa was re-admitted to the International Cricket Council last year after 20 years of isolation because of its apartheid policies.

Army volleyball

RANGPUR, Oct 12: The Savar Area team moved into the final of the Army volleyball championship now being held at the Rangpur cantonment.

Savar beat the Chittagong Area team in straight sets 15-3, 15-8 and 15-13 in the semifinal held yesterday, said an ISPR release.

Put into bat, City Club were shot out for a paltry 83 in 33.2 overs as the Evergreen bowlers — Shahab, Sohail and Babu — shared eight city wickets among themselves.

Al-Amin and Salahuddin were the only two to get into double figures scoring 11 and 12 respectively.

Babu was the pick of the lot taking three for eight from nine overs. Sohail bagged three for 29 and Babu two for 20.

Evergreen openers Shahed Shams and Nehal paved the path for a facile Evergreen victory with an opening stand of 40.

Shams topscored with 18 before being caught by Zakir off Al-Amin.

Nehal made 13 and Nomin 12 not out as Evergreen coasted to a six-wicket victory in 35.5 overs.

TODAY'S MATCH

OMCC vs Eskaton Sabuj Sangha (Dhaka Stadium)

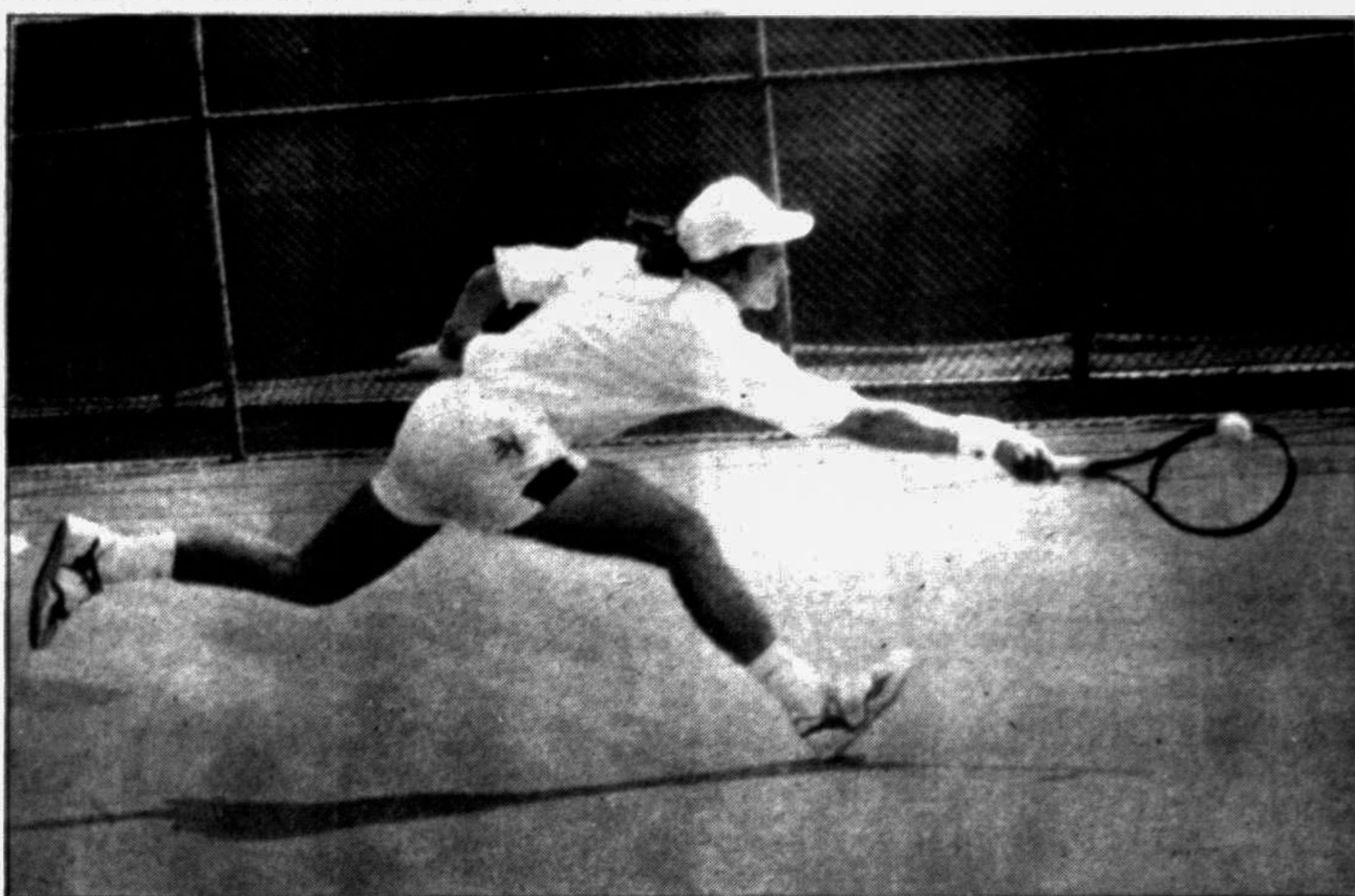
Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Oct 12: The robin league of the Chattogram Jila Krira Parishad (CJKP) Golden Inn Second Division football league began at the Chittagong Stadium here this afternoon, reports BSS.

Bakolia Ekadosh and Bengal Club shared points in a one-all draw. Rustom of Bengal scored in the first half while Musa of Bakolia got the equaliser in the second half.

The Second Division league started on August 18 last with 39 teams.

Twenty teams are participating in the robin league.



Hungarian Karoly Gyorgy, a losing semifinalist in Rajshahi, seen practising at the Ramna Tennis complex yesterday.

UN Day Games in city Oct 16

Sports Reporter

To mark the United Nations Day, October 24, the UNDP Staff Association in Bangladesh will hold a 'mini-Olympics' in the city on Friday, Oct 16, says a press release.

All UN agencies are expected to participate in the various events, namely track and field, tennis, swimming, volleyball, badminton and soccer.

The 'mini-Olympics' will start with a 5-km marathon/walkathon, open to all members of UN agencies and representatives from the donor countries, embassies and government agencies.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain along with Charles H Larstmont, UN Coordinator in Bangladesh, will open the Games at 7:30 on Friday morning in front of the Jatiya Sangsad building.

The marathon/walkathon, which commences on Manik Mia Avenue, will end at the Dhanmandi Women's Sports Complex, the venue for the other sporting events in the programme.

The prize-giving ceremony will be held at 5:00 pm.

Morrison out of Kiwi tour party

WELLINGTON, Oct 12: New Zealand fast bowler Danny Morrison failed a fitness test today and will not now be making the Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka tour beginning later this month, New Zealand Cricket announced, reports AFP.

The news came at the opening day of a coaching camp which captain Martin Crowe also missed due to illness.

He picked up a fever while in Hong Kong with the six-a-side team last week and has been laid low since, but is expected to be well enough to make the tour.

Morrison has been replaced by a newcomer to the team, 23-year-old all-rounder Simon Doull. Morrison underwent a hernia operation in August and has not recovered in time even though he started light running last week.

ITF satellite circuit second leg Main draw from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The week-long second leg of the Gold Leaf-ITF satellite circuit tennis championships got underway at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday under the aegis of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation.

The first of the four-legged tournament was held at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex from October 5 to 11.

Sixteen matches of the singles qualifying round were decided on the inaugural day. Former national champion Khaled Salahuddin along with three other local players—Sukumar Roy, Shibu Lal and Shameen Ahsan Ronny — moved into the second round of the qualifiers.

Khaled outclassed his lowly Indian opponent Amitabh Singh 6-1, 6-0. Shibu Lal beat compatriot Nawaz Ameen 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. Sukumar beat fellow countryman Wahid Siddique 6-3, 6-3 while Ronny registered a straight-sets victory over Shaiful Islam Mukta (6-1, 6-2), another local player from Rajshahi.

Foreigners who have made the sixteen-player qualifying round are Thomas Winkler, Thomas Walter, Raffael Chajdas and Christoph Lagneau of Germany, Erik Brummer and Arné Otterman of the Netherlands, Michael Gagardi and Jeff Morneau of the United States, Pawan Kapoor and Parag Natekar of India, Dennis van Uffelen of Belgium and Thomas Gyorgy of Hungary.

Walter, who made the singles quarterfinals in Rajshahi, beat Stephen Donovan of USA 5-7, 6-1, 6-3; Winkler of Germany, one of the six-lucky losers to have made the 32-

player main draw in the first leg, outplayed Moituddin of Bangladesh 6-1, 6-4; Chajdas of Germany outclassed Siddique Shamsuddoha of Bangladesh 6-0, 6-0 in qualifying matches yesterday.

Erik Brummer of the Netherlands outplayed Thomas Petra of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-4.

Eight matches of the sin-

Lagneau at 3 pm. Eight players from the qualifying round will play in the 32-player main draw beginning from tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Hira Lal and Faisal Syed Huq will play in the main draw as the two Bangladesh wild cards. The other two wild cards have been reserved for Pakistan, the hosts of the third and fourth legs (the Masters) to be held in Lahore and Karachi later this month and early November.

The Pakistani wild card holders are yet to be named.

The 19 players who will be directly playing in the main draw are the defending champion and top-seed Laurence Tieleman of Italy — who failed to make the singles final in Rajshahi — second seed Zeeshan Ali of India, third seed and the singles champion in Rajshahi Sean Cole of Great Britain, Rashed Malik of Pakistan, Robert Kraus of Germany, Jeroen Heinhuis (Ned), Sofronio Palahang (Phil), Gaurav Natekar (Ind), Sandeep Kirtane (Ind), Daiji Morii (Jpn), Mohammed Khalid (Pak), Gakuji Okada (Jpn), Matthias Muler (Ger), Paul Ricar (Ger), Jason Givarrara (USA), Takeshi Murakami (Jpn), Bernd Haberleitner (Aut), Karoly Gyorgy (Hun) and Christopher Steber of Switzerland.

The other berth of the twenty direct entrants will be filled in by one of the lucky-losers in the qualifying round.

The fixtures of the main draw will be finalised this afternoon.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain declared the Dhaka leg open at a ceremony in the morning.



SEAN COLE... Rajshahi leg champion

gles qualifying round will be held today.

Walter will play Khaled, Sukumar will take on Gagardi in the first two matches at 9 am on Court One and Two respectively.

Winkler will clash with Parag Natekar and Otterman will play Morneau at 11 am.

Uffelen will take on Ronny and Thomas Gyorgy, younger brother of Karoly Gyorgy — the losing semifinalist in the singles in Rajshahi — will meet Shibu Lal at 1 pm while Brummer will meet Pawan Kapoor and Chajdas will play

Shelton shuts out Kuehnen

TOKYO, Oct 12: German's Patrik Kuehnen, who only last week produced a stunning performance to beat Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi, returned to earth on Monday with a first round defeat in the 1.1 million dollars Seiko Super tennis tournament, reports Reuters.

Kuehnen, who served 23 aces in 10 service games to undermine Agassi in the Sydney Indoor tournament, experienced a taste of his own medicine as American Bryan Shelton sent down nine aces to clinch the match 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 in nearly two hours.

Shelton's compatriots Todd Martin and Kenny Thorne also advanced in straight sets on a mostly low-key opening day.

Other first-round winners were Goran Prpic of Croatia, Canadian Chris Pridham, Claudio Mezzadri of Switzerland, and Swedish qualifier Niels Kroon.

Angels march on

Sports Reporter

Champions Angels Club kept their march on for a repetition of their last year's feat with a 86-72 win over Dhumketu at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 49-28.

National player Dual was in prolific form scoring 26 while Siddique was the second notable scorer with 18 for Angels.

Tipu with 24 and Titu with 22 were the main scorers for the losers.

TODAY'S MATCH

Grega Club vs Dhaka Winners (5 pm)

Antonitis 6-3, 7-5.

Jim Courier, the world's top-ranked player, and American compatriot Andre Agassi withdrew from the tournament.

Courier, who won both the Australian Open and the French Open this season, was suffering from a viral inflammation while 1992 Wimbledon champion Agassi had flu and thigh pains, officials said.

The singles winner receives \$135,000 and 230 points.

Magic regrets late marriage

NEW YORK, Oct 12: Magic Johnson says telling his wife, Cookie, he'd contracted the virus that causes AIDS was the hardest thing he's ever had to do and he's been left wondering why he waited so long to marry his long-time sweetheart, reports AP.

"At first I couldn't speak when I sat down with her in our den," Johnson wrote in his book "My Life," excerpts of which appear in the upcoming People Magazine. "I wanted to say it right, but I realised there was no right way. I just had to be direct. 'I've got a problem,' I said. 'I tested positive for the AIDS virus.'"

Johnson, who also was interviewed by the magazine, said waiting so long to marry Cookie is the thing he regrets most about his life.

"I said to Cookie, 'If I knew everything was going to be this good, this great, I would've — and should've — done it a long time ago,'" Johnson said.

"I rely on her every day. She's become like my coach, making sure I'm eating right, taking my pills, not overdoing it. But it's Cookie's smile that is the best medicine."

Biman off to a flying start

Sports Reporter

A devastating spell by left-arm paceman Rafique of Biman sent Lalmatia Club hurtling to a crushing 97-run defeat in one of the two matches of the Damal Summer cricket tournament in the city yesterday.

The day augured well for national cricketer Enamul Huq Mont, leading Biman for the first time. He won the toss and decided to bat first on the Dhaka Stadium pitch.

Rupam, recruited this year from Gulshan Youth Club, was promoted to the role of the opener and together with Mahbubur Rahman Selim, another newcomer in the airline team from Abahani, did the spadework for a solid founda-

tion. The pair put on 62 for the first wicket in 16 overs before Selim, the more aggressive batsman of the two, left for 31. Rupam followed 17 runs later for a personal 30.

Zakaria and Shanu picked up singles for a while before Ahmed Fayaz Shaheen came in to play a rollicking knock of 45 off 40 balls, including five fours and one sixer.

Skipper Mont, the south-paw, scored a want on 26 off as many balls.

Biman piled up a not-so-impressive 197 for six wickets from their quota of 45 overs.

Babu was the most successful Lalmatia bowler with two wickets for 35 runs. Atiq claimed one for 31.

Lalmatia ran into trouble

Marsh suffers setback

PERTH, Oct 12: Sacked Australian opening batsman Geoff Marsh received a bitter setback Sunday in his bid to gain early re-selection to the national side, reports AFP.

Marsh, 33, the Western Australia captain, cracked the end of the middle finger of his right hand while fielding in a Mercantile Mutual Cup one-day clash against New South Wales at the Waca ground here.



GEOFF MARSH

The damage was confirmed after he was taken to hospital by a team doctor for X-rays.

Western Australia's assistant coach, former Test wicketkeeper Kevin Wright, said Marsh had been told that the injury could sideline him for up to 10 days.

"It seems that he must be in doubt for the next Cup game, against Tasmania on Saturday, but I believe he has good prospects of being fit for the opening Sheffield Shield game against Queensland the follow-

ing Wednesday," he said. Marsh, who had been vice-captain, was dropped from the Australian side after the fourth Test against India in Adelaide last summer.

He began a determined campaign to regain favour for the approaching series in Australia against the West Indies with a highly convincing half-century in a Cup game against Victoria two days ago.

But the loss of an opportunity to bat in Sunday's match and his likely absence from the crease on Saturday will restrict his opportunities to impress the selectors.

WA BEAT NSW

Another report said: Former Australian batsman Mike Veletta set Western Australia on the road to victory in this Mercantile Mutual Cup one-day clash with New South Wales at the Waca ground here Sunday.

The short right-hander compiled a well-measured 58 as his side reached 207 for two for a comfortable eight-wicket victory over the holders of the Inter-State limited-overs title.

New South Wales made 206 for eight in their 50-over innings, with Test opener and new State captain Mark Taylor laboring for 208 minutes and 147 deliveries to top score with 84.

Score: New South Wales 8-206 (Mark Taylor 84, Steve Small 48, Michael Bevan 41; Bruce Reid 3-19, Brendon Julian 3-31, Joan Gel 2-44) lost to Western Australian 2-207 (Mike Veletta 58, Tom Moody 52 not out, Damien Martyn 49 not out) at Waca ground.



Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic showers the media with champagne after winning the final of the Australian Indoor tennis championships in Sydney on Sunday.