

Sport

MSC-Abahani clash today

Sports Reporter

Reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club take on arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in the finale of the first phase of this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium today.

champions Bangladesh Biman played havoc with Mohammedan's second successive abortive quest for unbeaten championship with a stinging five-wicket defeat.

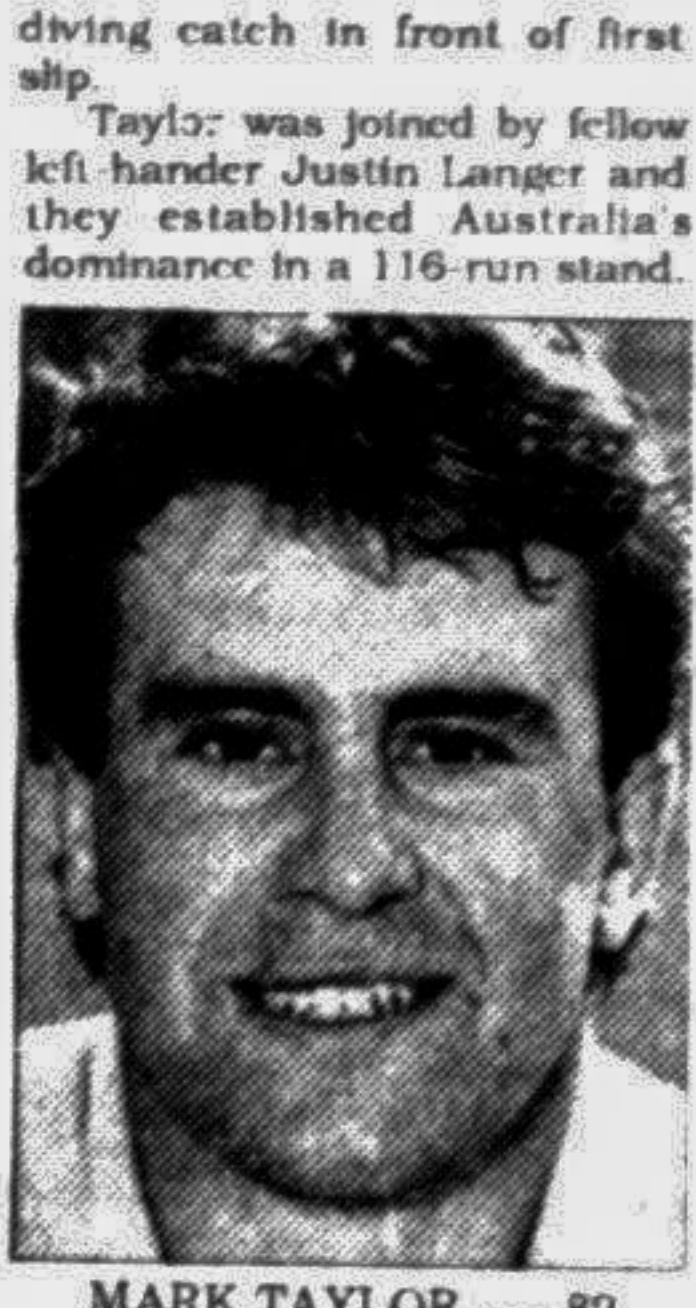
GULSHAN WIN
Meanwhile, all other clubs barring Abahani and Mohammedan have finished their first phase engagements with the penultimate being played between Gulshan Youth and Surja Tarun Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.



Australian batsman Justin Langer in action on the first day of the first cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand in Christchurch yesterday. Langer finished the day 63 not out.

Taylor puts Aussies on top

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 25: A dogged 82 on a green wicket by opener Mark Taylor put Australia on top at the end of the first day of the first cricket Test against New Zealand today, reports Reuter.



MARK TAYLOR ... 82

runs behind the wicket and interspersed long periods of intense concentration with the odd wild swing. Crowe dropped him on 37 off Patel, who bowled well in spells.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps at the end of the first day of play in the first cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand here today.

7th jr int'l finals today

Faisal Syed Haq and Sheikh Moynuddin Wailullah Jhilan created history for Bangladesh when they qualified for the boys' doubles final of the seventh Bangladesh international junior tennis championships at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

The Indian girl beat Sarana Sangakkara of Sri Lanka 6-4, 6-3 while the Thai girl eliminated another Lankan Anowshka Boralessa 6-2, 6-1 in the semifinals yesterday.

Liza Andriyani and Vinca Rumpen of Indonesia and the Thai-Lankan combination of Ratchaniwan and Upekha Wijeratne will clash in the girls' doubles final at 2:00 pm.

Masum, Moni for Colombo doubles

Zahid Razzak Masum of Brothers Union and Enamul Huq Moni of Bangladesh Biman are expected to leave Dhaka today to take part in a double-wicket cricket championship in Sri Lanka.

Faisal and Jhilan take on Lasith Dissanayake and Previn Wass of Sri Lanka in the final today at 2:00 pm.

Hodgson's win
Quite expectedly Julian Hodgson, the English Grandmaster, won his adjourned match against compatriot GM David Norwood in the ongoing Grandmasters' chess tournament at the Jaisaghar of Hotel Purbani yesterday.

Bobby Moore is no more

LONDON, Feb 25: Bobby Moore, who died on Wednesday after a two-year battle against cancer, was not only England's finest soccer captain but was revered for epitomising a spirit cherished in leaders of sport, reports Reuter.



Daily Star file photo shows Bobby Moore (R) with 1966 World Cup-winning teammate John Conner (holding Cup replica) during Silver Jubilee celebrations of England's famous win on Oct 21, 1966.

Pakistan hit record low

CAPE TOWN, Feb 25: South African cricket chiefs threatened to stop using Newlands as an international venue after West Indies trounced Pakistan in less than three hours on the controversial pitch on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The groundsman was disciplined last week after the covers were left off during a thunderstorm two days before West Indies played South Africa. But even then both sides reached three figures.

WEST INDIES
D Haynes lbw b Waqar 0
B Lara not out 26
P Simmons c Malik b Wasim 2
C Hooper c Mushtaq b Wasim 1
R Richardson not out 7
Extras (7-lb, 2-rib) 9
Total (3 wks in 12.3 overs) 45

Youth cricket

Tangail, Rajbari, Satkhira, Jhenidah and Gaibandha moved into their respective zonal semifinals of the qualifying meet for the Beximco 13th national youth cricket championship which began at five different venues across the country yesterday.

Nat'l youth volleyball

The 1993 Rahma Food national youth volleyball championship will be held from March 13 to 17 at the Rajshahi Stadium under the joint auspices of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF) and the Rajshahi DSA, says a press release.

Pioneer soccer

Two hatricks were scored in two matches of the Janata Bank Pioneer football league at the Bashabo ground yesterday. Akbar Hossain slammed three goals for Titus Sporting Club when they beat Madartek Club by three goals to one.

England still seek a silver lining

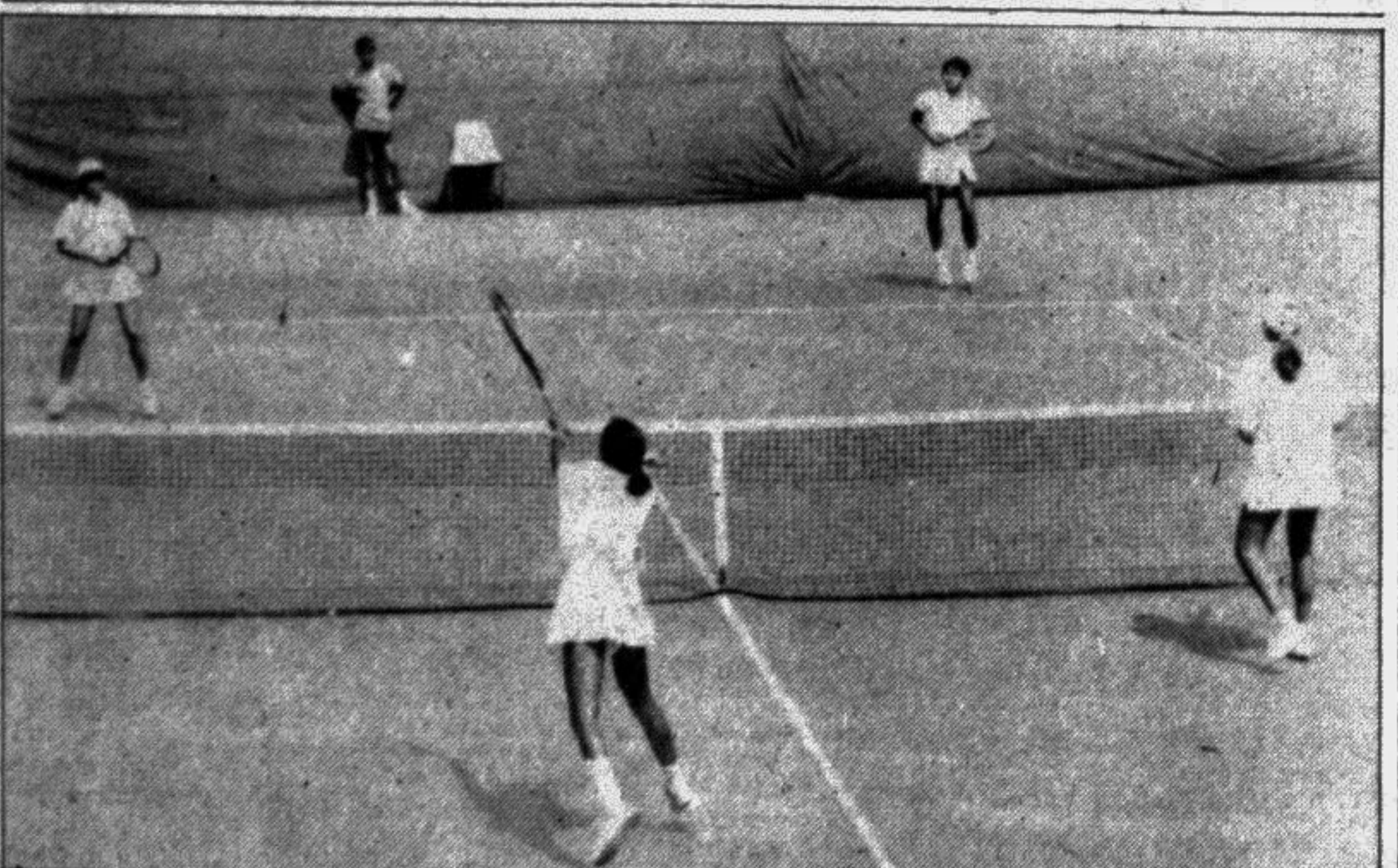
BOMBAY, Feb 25: England's beleaguered cricketers still hope to return home with their heads high despite their 3-0 Test series drubbing by India, reports Reuter.

England still seek a silver lining

Allan Lamb. Young batting talent Mark Ramprakash, left out of the tour to India and Sri Lanka for disciplinary reasons, is also back in the reckoning.

But Fletcher insisted the team could not be faulted for effort, saying: "They trained, practised and played hard."

The Test series exposed the lack of young English talent — or a reluctance to risk it. India's top run-scorers Vinod Kambli and Sachin Tendulkar and leading wicket-takers Anil Kumble and Venkat Raju are all under 24 years old.



Action from yesterday's girls' doubles semifinal between Indonesia and Sri Lanka at the Ramna Tennis Complex. The Indonesian duo — Liza Andriyani and Vinca Rumpen — beat Sarana Sangakkara and Anowshka Boralessa 6-4, 6-3.

Compromise!

CAPE TOWN, Feb 25: Cricket-mad Muslims agreed not to boycott Thursday's one-day international between Pakistan and West Indies after a pledge that Pakistani players would refrain from breaking the Ramadan fast in public, reports Reuter.