

Boys join the race

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Boys joined the fray as the competition for one of the two berths in next year's Premier league picks up momentum following their newcomers' important victory against trad Wanderers at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Wanderers, now a ghostly paradigm of their past glorious self, however, led the first half with a 39th minute goal from Sohel.

Perhaps, egged on by the heart-warming example of fellow promotees, East End, who, now, jointly lead the points table, Boys turned in a virtuoso performance in the second half and produced two goals.

Bayezid restored parity with a goal in the 39th minute and Mintu dealt Wanderers the death blow with another goal only a minute before the long whistle.

Although Bangladesh Boys shot up to the top of the points table with 21 from 17 matches, but their not-so-impressive disciplinary record suffered another jolt as their Bhutto received marching order for attacking the referee.

Meanwhile, the relegation play-off match between Rahmatganj MFS and Wari Club will be played today at the Hockey Stadium. Losers of the match will play in the Star First Division league next year alongside already axed Victor Sporting Club.

National King Fan b'ball semis today

Both the semifinals of the National King Fan school basketball tournament will be held today at the wooden floor gymnasium of the National Sports Council, reports UNB.

Group A champions Saint Nicholas School will take on Group B runners-up Nabakumar Institution in the first semifinal at 4 pm while Group B Champions Kurmitola Shaheen School face Group A runners-up Tejoan Shaheen School in the other semis at 5.30 pm.

The final will be held on Monday at 3pm at the same venue.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will be the chief guest in the final match while Managing Director of the sponsor, National King Electrical Industries, Habib Ullah (Abul) will be present as special guest.

In the day's first match, Tejoan Shaheen School outplayed Bangladesh Navy School 50-24 after leading the first half 24-6.

Fahmid caged 14 and Asif 11 points for the winners while Faisal scored 10 and Mazharul 8 for the losers.

In the other match, Saint Gregory's School defeated Rifles Public School 61-35, with the first half 26-20.

Ataur contributed 22 and Fuzala 16 for the Gregorians while Javed made 15 and Moinul 8 for the Rifles school.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation yesterday selected 17 cagers in the second phase to form the national squad for the 17th Asian Basketball Championship to be held November 12-20 in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia.

Seventeen cagers have been chosen after the 10-day first phase trial participated by 29 players who were called up initially.

The second phase selections are Strajful Islam, Nurul Huda, Miji Faruq Ahmed, Nazrul Islam, PK Goswami, Wasif Ali, Ayub Ali, Sudeep Barua, Li Cndr Sohel Farooqi, Shafiqul Alam, Nurul Amin, Khairul Islam, Abdur Rahim, Ayub Hossain, Jahangir Alam, Firoz Alam and Sushanto Anthony Gomes.

The players are requested to report to coach AK Sarkar at the wooden floor gymnasium today at 8 am.

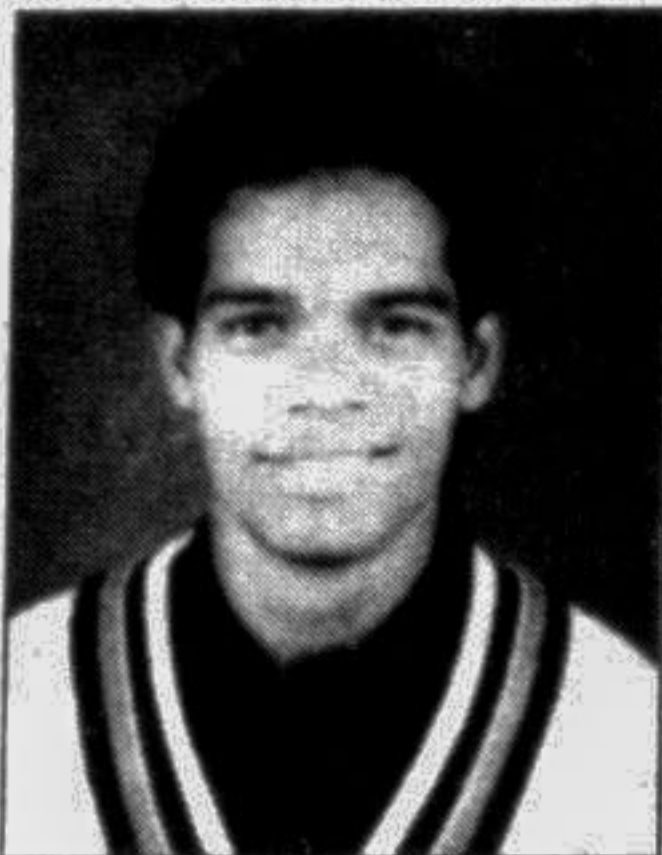
Sixteen players submit tokens on Day 1

Jahangirs catch flight

Sports Reporter



JAHANGIR



JAHANGIR

national airlines as sixteen of the total nineteen token takers submitted their respective tokens on the first day of cricketers' inter-club transfer for the forthcoming 1993-94 cricket season.

The two national players, who recently toured India with the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) XI as a part of Bangladesh's preparation for the ICC trophy to be held in Kenya February next year, submitted their tokens at the BCCB office yesterday.

It was a foregone conclusion as far as these two players were concerned, since Biman officials, who like the previous year, stormed the 'market' ahead of their counterparts,

having done careful homework on their options and resources.

For the second consecutive year, it was an undramatic opening of the transfer market with the ether of the stuffy BCCB room reeking tobacco and a stifling sense of indecision and helplessness on the part of cricketers.

Jahangir Talukdar alias Dulu was the only cricketer, who, among other 'stars' like Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Athar Ali Khan, Nurul Abedin Nobel and Zahid Razzak Masum, appeared to be in his sprightly, jovial self. He had reasons to feel happy as the southpaw returned to the glamour and incentives of his old side after a one-year stint with Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC).

Jahangir Alam, who was underdetermined by the awesome presence of Shri Lankan Athula Samarasekera, had decided to part with Navana Premier league champions Abahani long ago. For the young explosive right-handed opener, it was only a welcome return of the native after being subject to unavoidable apathy and uncommunicable agony.

With Mohammedans, Abahani and Brothers still in slumbers, Biman recruiters, under the astute guidance of BCCB vice-president Raisuddin Ahmed, who is also a highly placed official in the administration of the national airlines held the stage on the inaugural day. They reconfirmed the services of five regular members of last year's team. Solid middle order bats — Zakaria Imitiaz, Shahnawaz Shahid Shanu wicketkeeper Debashish Barua,

left arm paceman Rafiq and Mizanur Rahman Babul, the Willie Watson-like new-ball bowler — submitted their tokens in favour of their old team.

Morshedul Alam Chowdhury, Brothers left-arm



DULU

paceman and Mohammad Ali, a once-promising medium pace bowler, but now a burnt out case, took tokens, but along with Nasirul Hossain Liton of Gulshan Youth went home instead of submitting them.

With every team allowed to register only four players from a pool of 17 national cricketers, the next few days of transfer market are unlikely to produce any upsets.

The 1993-94 cricket season gets underway from the middle of October with Damal Summer, the traditional curtain-raising meet in domestic cricket. Navana Premier league, the main attraction of cricket fans, is scheduled for a November 1 start.

New Zealand stay on course

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Sept 25: Brett Steven and Kelly Evernden combined for a doubles victory Saturday that kept alive New Zealand's hopes of winning their Davis Cup qualifying match against Austria, reports AP.

Steven and Evernden, both of whom lost singles matches on Friday, combined to down Alex Antonitsch and Thomas Buchmayer 7-5, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 6-2.

The New Zealand pair kept the Austrians pinned on the baseline and forced them into numerous errors.

Both served effectively. Steven found his touch at the net with decisive angled volleys, while Evernden dominated from the baseline with some thunderous groundstrokes.

Austria, however, still leads the best-of-five contest 2-1.

New Zealand needs to win both of Sunday's reverse singles to gain promotion to the World Group in 1994, while Austria needs only one victory to keep their spot.

In Friday's singles, Antonitsch downed Steven 7-5, 6-4, 6-4, while Horst Skoff beat Kelly Evernden 3-6, 7-6 (7-2) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Skoff, who has been troubled by a foot injury, in set to play Steven on Sunday with Antonitsch facing Evernden.

"I have to win," said Steven. "If I don't win the team loses, so it's important to get off to a good start. There's nowhere else to go."

The Austrians complained the large crowd made noises at inappropriate times during the doubles and called on match referee Bill Gilmour of Australia.

Gilmour, however, said the crowd was well-behaved and took no action.

Austria lost to France in their World Group match earlier this year, while New Zealand beat Japan to gain their chance of promotion.

The contest is being played on an indoor Supreme surface at the Pioneer Park stadium.

Basile hopes a dramatic return of Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 25: Argentina coach Alfio Basile, back on speaking terms with Diego Maradona, hinted that the former captain could make a dramatic return in the World Cup qualifiers against Australia, reports Reuter.

Maradona and Basile mended fences during a radio show on Thursday, saying they had never seriously been at odds.

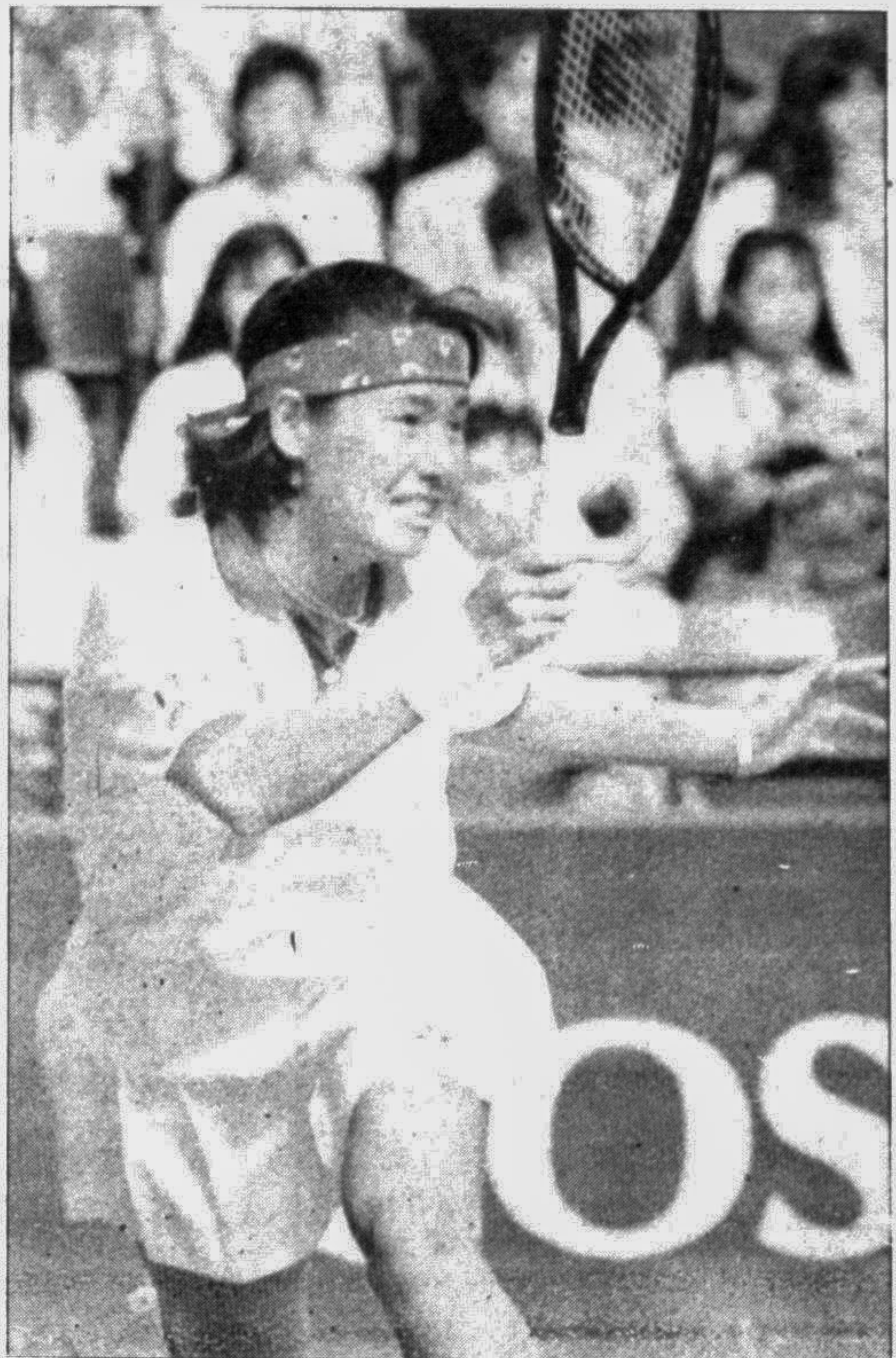
"We're just hotheads," Basile said, dismissing the barbs they swapped earlier this year when Maradona, who was not summoned for the group qualifiers, said the coach's 33-match unbeaten run had gone to his head.

During their radio conversation, Maradona told Basile he was training hard for his debut with his new Argentine First Division Club Newell's Old Boys on October 7.

The coach welcomed the news, saying that if Maradona recovered his shape, it would give him a boost "for October 31."

The two World Cup matches against Australia are in Sydney on October 31 and in Buenos Aires on November 17.

Maradona said he needed to prove himself first with Newell's and should not be seen as the national side's saviour.



Kimiko Date of Japan follows the ball in the semifinal match against Julie Helard of France at the Nichirei women's tennis tournament yesterday in Tokyo. Date defeated Helard by 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) and will meet South Africa's Amanda Coetzer in the final. — AFP photo

Cool Coetzer peaks in time

TOKYO, Sept 25: Amanda Coetzer played the best match of her career and topped-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario one of her worst Saturday to give Coetzer a slot in the Nichirei International ladies tennis championships, reports AP.

Coetzer, of South Africa, upset the top-seeded Sanchez-Vicario 6-3, 6-4 for a chance to play Japan's Kimiko Date for the title.

"I think this was the best match in my career," said the fourth-seeded Coetzer, who is ranked 17th in the world. "I had expected really long rallies. I played patiently and sometimes took risks. I made less mistakes and I was able to put pressure on her."

In the 10th game of the second set, after a pair of deuces, Sanchez-Vicario netted a forehand then hit a lob long to end the match after one hour 32 minutes.

It was the second major upset in the tournament. Second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina made a quick exit, losing American Marianne Werdel 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 in the second round Wednesday.

Date, seeded third, won her final slot by defeating Julie Halard of France, the 8th seed, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) in other semifinal match on the Centre Court of the Ariake Coliseum.

Date, No. 13 in the world, broke the second game of the first set at love but Halard broke back the next game. Date won the next four games, winning the fifth and seventh at love.

In the second set, Date broke the first game as Halard committed her third double fault of the match. Halard had six double faults in the match.

"I was not good, but not bad today," said Date.

Coetzer said she doesn't feel any pressure for her final with Date. "I'll just try my best," she said.

The singles winner earns dls 75,000 and the runner-up dls 33,750 from the total purse of dls 375,000.

Australia in Davis Cup final

CHANDIGARH, India, Sept 25: Australia set their sights on a Davis Cup final clash against Germany after sweeping India's challenge aside here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Formidable doubles pairing Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde won the doubles on Saturday to give Australia a decisive 3-0.

Now they will have to wait to see if Germany, inspired by Michael Stich and Marc Goellner, can kill of Sweden after the visitors took a 2-0 advantage on Friday.

Australia had made a flying start when the 23-year-old Jason Stoltenberg, playing his first cup tie since 1989, ran over Leander Paes in the opening singles 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3.

US Open semifinalist Wally Masur then saw off veteran Ramesh Krishnan 6-2, 6-0, 6-4 at the Chandigarh Lawn Tennis Association (CLTA) courts.

That all but killed off India's hopes of reaching November's final, with the Woodbridge-Woodforde combination, ranked two in the world, recognised by both sides as all but unbeatable.

The Australian pair duly beat Ramesh Krishnan and Leander Paes 6-2, 7-6 (7-3), 6-1.

Germany looked in similarly irrepressible form in Sweden, where world number six Stich was at his best while dismissing Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

That result, however, was soon overshadowed by Goellner's 22 aces and his shock victory over Stefan Edberg.

Goellner won 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), leaving Sweden needing to win the final three matches to reach the final.

In other Davis Cup action, Spain took an unbeatable 3-0

lead over South Korea on Saturday at Seoul on the second day of their World Group qualifying round.

Spanish pair of Carlos Costa and Tomas Carbonell beat South Koreans Chang Ui-Jong and Kim Chi-Wan by 3-1 (6-3), 6-2, 5-7, (6-4) after the Spaniards had won the two singles on the first day. The two reverse singles will be played on Sunday.

Israel beat Switzerland 3-2 after Friday's final two singles matches to join the world's 16 premier nations in next year's event.

New Zealand kept their hopes alive against Austria at Christchurch on Saturday when they won the crucial doubles match.

Brett Steven and Kelly Evernden lost both singles matches on Friday but teamed up to beat Thomas Buchmayer and Alex Antonitsch. New Zealand now trail 2-1. They have to win both reverse singles matches Sunday to beat Austria.

Mark Knowles of the Bahamas gave Malival Washington a fright at Charlotte, North Carolina on Friday before cramps forced him to retire, giving the United States a 2-0 lead in their Davis Cup World Group qualifying tie.

Knowles led Washington by two sets to one at the time.

It was a crushing blow for the Bahamas, who are fighting for entry into the elite World Group, especially since Knowles and Roger Smith are their whole team.

The Americans, the current holders of the trophy, are battling to stay in the World Group after losing in the first round this year to Australia.

Andre Agassi predictably put the Americans 1-0 ahead with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Smith.

Spain qualify

SEOUL, Sept 25: Spain jumped to an insurmountable 3-0 lead Saturday by winning a second-day doubles match against South Korea in their final of the Davis Cup tennis qualifying rounds, reports AP.

Spain clinched a berth in the 16-nation World Group regardless of the outcome of two more singles matches Sunday. Spain took two opening-day singles.

The Spanish pair of Carlos Costa and Tomas Carbonell led most of the way, resorting to powerful serves and drilling passing shots that often left South Korean players helpless.

Spain easily took the first two sets 6-3, 6-4.

The Korean duo of Chang Ui-Jong and Kim Chi-Wan rallied in the third set, forcing Costa and Carbonell to make several errors. After tying at 5-5, the Koreans saved their serve to end the set 7-5.

The Spaniards regained their playing form in the final set, again resorting to power play, and finished 6-4.

The Spanish team including Sergi Bruguera, the world's No. 4 player, had been heavily favored.

The three-day best-of-five series were held at Seoul's hard Olympic court.

Don scored a hat-trick while Sumon completed the tally for the winners.

The other match of the day between Bangladesh Kirta Shiksha Pratishthan (BKSP) and Khulna Division Eleven ended in a one-all draw at the same venue.

Junior soccer

Pioneer Eleven outplayed Chittagong Division 4-0 in a training football tournament for the national Under-14 booters at the Dhaka University playground yesterday, reports UNB.

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Air Force hockey

The annual inter-base hockey championship of the Bangladesh Air Force got underway at the BAF Base Matur Rahman yesterday, reports BBS.

In the inaugural match, the host BAF Base Matur Rahman defeated the BAF Base Pahar Kanchanpur by a solitary goal.