

Bangladesh beaten again



HIROSHIMA, Oct 10: China beat Bangladesh 1-0 in the Group B of the Asian Games men's hockey tournament today, reports AFP.

Jia Wei scored the all important goal in the 46th minute of the keenly-contested match.

In the other matches of the group, held earlier, Bangladesh lost 0-1 to India and 0-10 to South Korea.

TEAMS
CHINA: Liu Shuangquan, Jin Zhihong, Liu Chengjun, Wang Haifeng, Yuan Xin, Gao Feng, Ouyi Yingbiao, Ren Baode, Zhuang Xiaodong, Li Gang, Jia Wei.

BANGLADESH: Jahangir Alam, Rabiuddin, Khwaja Irtiza, Mamunur Rashid, Zahurul Islam, Abu Zafar, Mahbub Harun, Haider Alam, Mohammad Sadek, Alamgir Alam, Rafiqul Islam.

Meanwhile, India threw open the meet with a stunning 3-1 upset of powerful South Korea in a crucial Group B match here today.

India went top of the group with an all-win record and avoided a semi-final against arch-rivals Pakistan, the de-

fending champions and Group A winners.

India will meet the runners-up of Group A, to be decided later in the day, in Wednesday's second semi-final.

South Korea will take on Pakistan in the other semi-final, a replay of last year's Asia Cup semi-final here which the Koreans won 4-0.

Cheered by their Sports Minister Mukul Wasnik and some 150 compatriots from the nearby Athletes Village, the Indians played brilliant hockey to upset South Korea in murky conditions. Striker Dhanraj Pillay was the hero, setting up the first two goals with lightning raids down the middle that bewildered the usually solid South Korean defence.

India took the lead in the 21st minute when Pillay's well-directed pass from the top of the circle was pushed home by an unmarked Sanjeev Kumar.

The Koreans responded by forcing four penalty corners on either side of the interval. Shin-Seok-Kyu equalised for South Korea in the 53rd minute when he slammed in the second penalty corner after the break.

But three minutes later,

Pillay dribbled his way past the Korean defence from the 25-yard line and passed to Baljit Singh to push in the second goal.

India forced a penalty corner in the next minute and tall defender Anil Aldrin drove home to make it 3-1.

The Koreans forced two penalty corners in the dying seconds, but were thwarted by the rejuvenated Indian defence.

Indian coach Zafar Iqbal was delighted at his team's victory but warned them against complacency.

"We played well today, but still a lot remains to be done," he said. "It will be very tough after this, but this win has given us confidence."

TEAMS
SOUTH KOREA: Koo Jin-Soo, Shin Seok-Kyu, Han Beung-Kook, Yoo Myung-Kyun, Cho Myung-Jun, Park Shin-Heum, Kang Keon-Wook, Choi Jung-Ho, Jeong Yong-Kyun, Yoo Seung-Jin, Kim Young-Kyu.
INDIA: Ashish Ballal, Rajnish Mishra, Harpreet Singh, Jude Felix, Shakeel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Dhanraj Pillay, Baljit Singh, Anil Aldrin, Mohammad Riaz, Sanjeev Kumar.

Bangladesh in 12th Asiad: Day 8

Bangladesh performance in different disciplines on the eighth day of the 12th Asian Games at a glance:

Hockey:
Bangladesh 0 China 1
Track and Fields:
100-metre sprint: Bimal Chandra Tarafdar — 10.84 seconds (finished fifth among eight in the preliminary heats)
400-metre hurdle: Abdur Rahim Naim 54.36 seconds (finished eighth among eight in the preliminary heats)
200-metre sprint (women's): Feroza Khatun — 26.48 seconds (finished fifth out of five in the preliminary heat)
Soft Tennis: Bangladesh 0 China 3

Nat'l junior gymnastics on

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) swept the board on the opening day of the eleventh national junior gymnastics championships, winning all the four gold medals on offer at the National Sports Council gymnasium yesterday.

Morsheida Akhter won the gold in girl's side horse event while teammate Sharmin Sultana Sumi finished first in the floor exercise.

In the boy's pommel horse, Akhter Hossain scored 17.35 points to clinch the gold ahead of Atiqur Rahman had 17.30.

Zahidul Islam captured the gold in the parallel bars while Akhter took the silver.

Fifty gymnasts including 15 girls from eight different teams are taking part in the meet.

SL-Zimbabwe XI match drawn

HARARE, Oct 10: Last-wicket pair Ujesh Rancho and Evron Matambanadzwa survived the final 14 balls of the match to earn the Zimbabwe President's XI an unlikely draw against Sri Lanka in their three-day match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Faced with a massive first innings deficit of 406, the home side held out for 91 overs to finish on 188 for nine after Rancho had been dropped at slip in the penultimate over by Sanath Jayasuriya off left-arm-ranger Chaminda Vaas.

Comfortably placed at 147 for three, the President's XI lost their next six wickets for only 39 runs to ensure a tense finish which had seemed improbable when they were bowled out for 96 in their first innings.

Resuming on their overnight score of 68 for six, they were swiftly dismantled by Vaas, who took a career-best five for 41, and 19-year-old Ravindra Pushpakumara, whose figures of five for 38 also surpassed his previous best haul.



Japan's Yukari Kawamoto performs with the ball in the final of the rhythmic gymnastics individual multiple event at the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima yesterday. Kawamoto won the gold with a total score of 37.350.

— AFP photo

China stays way ahead

HIROSHIMA, Oct 10: Chinese walked, rowed and paddled their way to a big haul of Games gold medals Monday, and gained another from a rare letdown by South Korea's world-class women archers, reports AP.

The Koreans stormed back in the men's team archery event, beating Japan in the final with a world record 259 to 236. The Japanese had set the former mark of 254 in July.

The Korean women lost 237-236 to Indonesia in the women's archery semifinal, but bounced back to beat Taiwan for the bronze 248-226. The 248 was a Games record. China took the final 240-231 from the Indonesians.

On the first rainy day in the Games' eighth full day of competition, only tennis matches were halted while other events went on as scheduled.

China piled up 19 gold medals for the day, bringing its total to 92 — approaching the goal of 100 it had set before the Games, which end on Sunday.

South Korea was far behind in second with 33, including two on Monday. Japan captured four golds, but still were one behind the archrival Koreans' total. Kazakhstan had 13 and Iran eight, including six in wrestling.

In total medals, China had 170 to 127 for Japan, 97 for South Korea and 43 for Kazakhstan.

The Chinese missed out on only one of the day's four track and field golds — in the men's 10,000 metres — which they didn't enter.

Japan's Toshinari Takaoka won that race in a Games record 28 minutes, 15.48 seconds, pulling away in the final stretch from teammate Jun Hiratsuka, who took the silver in 28:18.10. Takaoka broke the Games record by 11.26 seconds.

The Chinese split canoeing golds with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, with each nation taking two, but captured 11 of the 12 rowing events. Japan again was the spoiler, winning the men's lightweight double sculls race. China won silver in that race.

Uzbekistan's Ivan Kireev came out of the canoeing competition with three gold medals, in the 500- and 1,000-metre singles canoe races and the four-man kayak event.

In track and field, China placed 1-2 in both the men's 20-kilometer walk and the women's 10-kilometer event, setting the best times ever in an Asian Games although no formal records are kept because courses vary widely.

Chen Shaoguo was the men's winner in one hour, 21 minutes, 15 seconds, with

tion Sunday with a victory in the marathon. The Chinese women hold all but one Asian record in track and field, and have three world records.

Their strength is expected to help bring China the lion's share of the 43 gold medals at stake in track and field. Chinese women already had gone 15-for-15 in the swimming pool.

South Korean weightlifter Kim Tae-Hyun helped his nation stay just ahead of Japan when he won the over 108-kilogram division weightlifting in the day's last event. He and silver medalist Wei Tiejian of China both lifted a total of 415 kilograms, but Kim placed ahead because of his lighter body weight.

At 108 kilograms, China's Cui Wenhua won with 392.5.

Kuwait's Fahad Aldeehani won the men's double trap shooting title with a total of 187, including a world record 145 for the first 150 targets.

American Joshua Lakatos set the old record of 143 in 1993. Wang Yujin of China won the women's event with 148, including a world record 112 for the first 120 targets. American F Strodman set the old record of 107 in June.

For the second consecutive night, Iran won three out of five wrestling gold medals. Monday's winners were Behroz Yari Kalani at 74 kilograms, Rasoul Khadem at 90, and Ebrahim Mehraban at 130. Kazakhstan's Maoulen Mamayrov won at 52 and Japan's Takahiro Wada at 62.

Japan also had a gold from Yukari Kawamoto in rhythmic gymnastics, making its Asian Games debut here. Victory was based on the total score from hoop, ball, club and ribbon competition.

Kazakhstan won the men's epee team fencing gold by beating China in the final.

Fortune favours Fakirerpool

Sports Reporter

Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club scattered the relegation clouds hovering over them a bit when they made the most of lady luck and ineptitude of their rivals in yesterday's second of the two Star Premier ties billed for the Dhaka Stadium.

This year's Premier promotion, from city's commercial area came out of the ordeal of a spotkick unscathed, erased a lone goal deficit, scored twice more to drive in probably the third last nail in PWD's coffin.

In an existential battle of the minnows, PWD, one of the relegation casualties besides babes Bangladesh Boys, took a very early lead when promising Bulbul cashed in on a defence lapse to find the net in the very first minute.

PWD had a golden opportunity to consolidate their position few minutes later when they earned a penalty in the 17th minute with Fakirerpool's Ibrahim paving the way to pile on his fatal first minute mistake by infringing Saiful in the forbidden area.

Sabbu, who did not find it a problem to hit the net from eleven yards against Mohammedans in the last match, could not dodge the Fakirerpool custodian flitting it away.

The spurning of a gift was all that Fakirerpool needed as Asker Babu took first step to restoration by pulling back one at the tag end of the first half.

Asif forced Fakirerpool ahead in the second minute of the second half with a spectacular header.

Substitute Sattar, one of the four hatrick notchers of the Premier league this year, ensured Fakirerpool's eleven points from 15 matches.

PWD are in dire straits with seven points from 15 matches. In the day's first match, Wari seemingly allowed giant killers Arambagh to a safety victory by the odd goal in three.

Babu Das, whose goal gave his team a memorable win over holders Mohammedans a week before, scored twice while Apu scored once for Wari.

Wari have 13 and Arambagh 12, points from 15 matches each.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bima vs Shantinagar (Mirpur, 6 pm)

Victoria vs East End (Dhaka Stadium, 4:30 pm)

BU vs B Boys (Dhaka Stadium, 6:30 pm)

Div II hockey

Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha qualified for super league of the metropolis Green Delta Second Division hockey as they drew one-all with Dhaka Hockey Club yesterday, reports AP.

By virtue of his draw at the Hockey Stadium, Mukta Bihanga secured eight points from all the four outings to reach the super league from Group A. Raktim Sangha, who collected 10 points also reached the league.

Larsson's second

TOULOUSE, Oct 10: Sweden's Davis Cup hero Magnus Larsson maintained his excellent form to win the 400,000 dollar Toulouse tournament, crushing American Jared Palmer in straight sets on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Three weeks after scoring Sweden's decisive point by beating American Todd Martin in Gothenburg in the Davis Cup semifinals, Larsson won his second tournament this season, beating Palmer 6-1, 6-3 in less than an hour.

"I've been playing well all week. It was wonderful. With the Davis Cup my confidence went sky high," said the sixth-seeded Swede.

First Test against Zimbabwe today

Batting Lankan strength



HARARE, Oct 10: Arjuna Ranatunga, with hundreds in each of Sri Lanka's two tour games, heads a powerful batting lineup in the first Test against Zimbabwe starting on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The Sri Lankan skipper hit 119 against Mashonaland Country Districts and an unbeaten 100 in the match against a Zimbabwe President's XI.

Centuries have also been scored by his vice-captain Aravinda De Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Asanka Gurusinha and Hashan Tillekeratne on Sri Lanka's inaugural tour of Zimbabwe.

"Our batting, in particular, is in good shape at the moment," Ranatunga said.

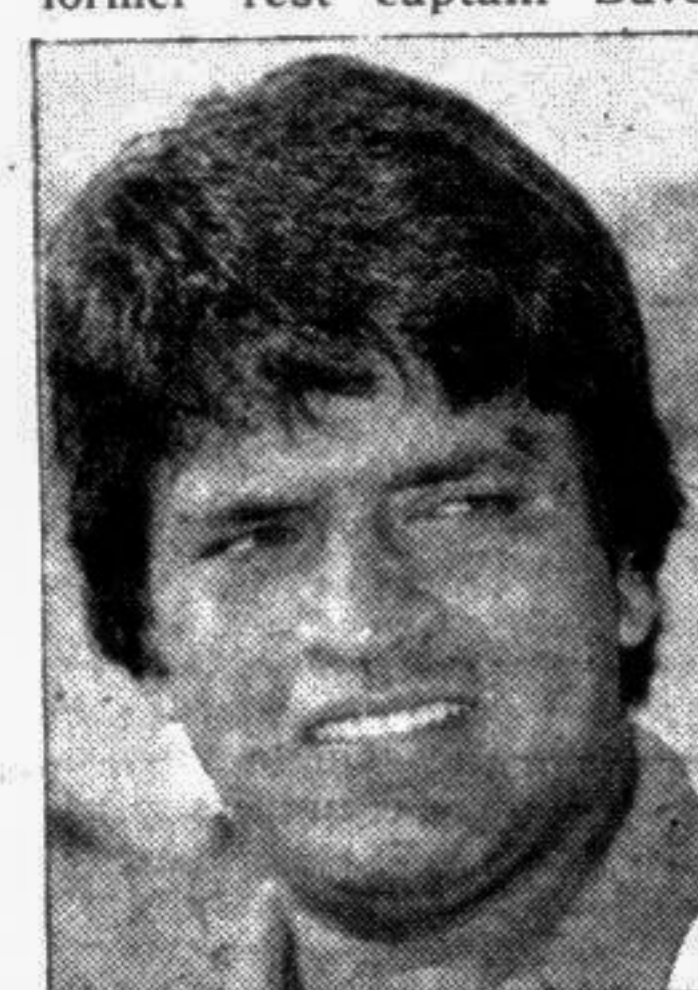
"In our two warm-up games, we have fielded some of our younger players but, when it comes to Test cricket, it is a totally different ball game. We are very positive, very confident and I think the boys are very keen to take on Zimbabwe as soon as possible."

Sri Lanka name their 12 after today's practice with

their attack likely to revolve around seamers Pramodya Wickremasinghe, Ravindra Pushpakumara and Chaminda Vaas backed up by off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan.

Zimbabwe will take the field without 31-year-old strike bowler Eddo Brandes, who has been suffering from an ankle injury.

Their batting relies on the two Flower brothers, captain Andy and opener Grant, former Test captain Dave



A RANATUNGA

Houghton and the attacking left-hander Alistair Campbell, who performed well against Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram during the away series in Pakistan.

Zimbabwe coach John Hampshire, a former England player, said his team had a healthy respect for Sri Lanka.

"We've played them twice in the last couple of years, in India and in Sharjah, and they gave us a bit of a drubbing on both occasions. But I think we have every chance of causing an upset in this series."

SQUADS

ZIMBABWE: Grant Flower, Mark Dekker, Alistair Campbell, Dave Houghton, Andy Flower (captain), Wayne James, Guy Whittall, Gary Martin, Heath Streak, David Brain, Stephen Peall, Malcolm Jarvis.

SRI LANKA (probable): Roshan Mahanama, Asanka Gurusinha, Sanath Jayasuriya, Sanjeewa Ranatunga, Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Hashan Tillekeratne, Pubudu Dassanayake, Muttiah Muralidharan, Pramodya Wickremasinghe, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Chaminda Vaas.

Newcastle leave it late



NEWCASTLE, Oct 10: English Premiership leaders Newcastle United had to scramble a late equaliser

here on Sunday to salvage a face-saving 1-1 draw with Blackburn Rovers, reports AFP.

Newcastle might have England's most prolific strike force in Andy Cole and Robert Lee, but it needed a lucky swipe from midfielder Steve Howey to salvage a nine-month unbeaten home record with only two minutes left.

England striker Alan Shearer had put Blackburn in front in the 58th minute, expertly converting a spotkick after United goalkeeper Pavel Srnicek had hauled down Jason Wilcox as he raced into the penalty area.

Newcastle piled on the pressure and were rewarded in the 88th minute when 22-year-old Howey slammed a loose ball through a crowded goalmouth after Darren Peacock had flicked on Scott Sellars' corner.

The shot defied Rovers' desperate attempts to clear, flying in off goalkeeper Tim Flowers back to deny Rovers their first win on Tyneside for 36 years.

Howey's first Premiership goal also sent Kevin Keegan's two points clear at the top, ahead of Nottingham Forest, who had similarly needed a late equaliser to draw 3-3 with Manchester City on Saturday.

But the two men England coach Terry Venables most

wanted to flourish in the run-up to Wednesday's friendly against Romania at Wembley were disappointing.

Peter Beardsley, earmarked for a return, was almost anonymous, restricted by the thigh strain which made him doubtful for this game.

Robert Lee, captain David Platt's probable replacement, was easily kept quiet by Blackburn's hard-working midfield and could not add to this season's 11-goal tally.

An early goal would have lifted the game, but Shearer missed the best chance of a disappointing first half after only four minutes, leaping above Howey on to Stuart Ripley's cross, but powering his six-yard header across the face of goal and wide.

The Blackburn striker's frustrations were increased when he was booked for volleying over, even though he could not have heard the offside whistle. Chris Sutton, too, was punished for an innocuous foul on Steve Watson.

But with Newcastle careless at the back, the visitors looked more dangerous than a home side who struggled to get out of the tactical strait-jacket Dalglish wrapped round them.

Jason Wilcox and Mark Atkins concentrated on keeping Lee quiet, while the pacy Paul Warhurst stayed on Cole's shoulder, booked in the 49th minute for pushing the 22-year-old, whose performance justified Venables' decision to keep waiting for his England chance.

Cole got away from Warhurst in the 25th minute but his shot, strait at Tim Flowers, was a blot on his reputation.

Both Darren Peacock and Lee stumble over corners that begged to be punished, while Wilcox was just as wasteful from a chance set up by Sutton and half time was a respite rather than an interruption for a disappointed crowd.

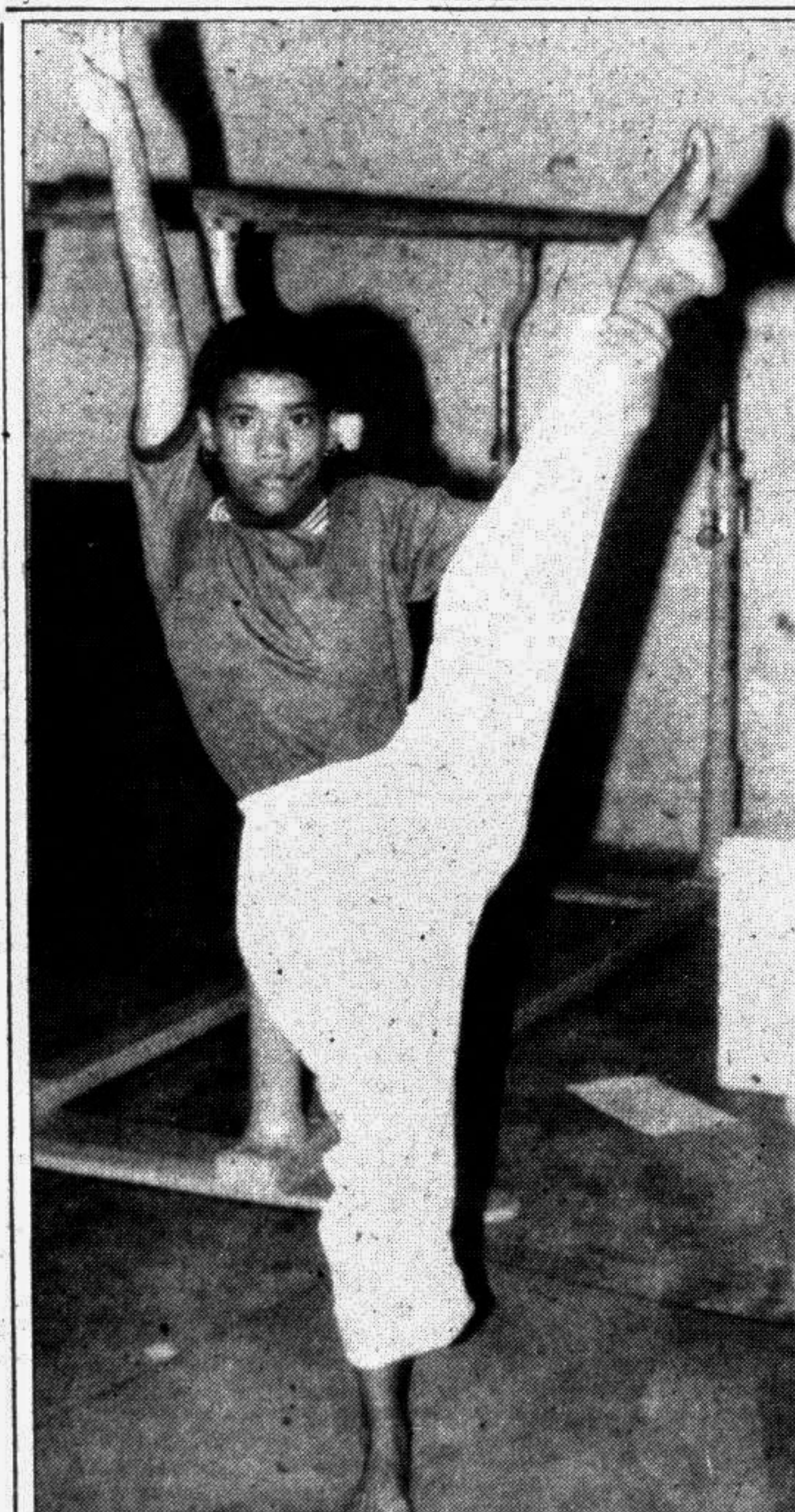
Both sides picked up the pace after the break, but Flowers got well behind Fox's stinging shot, while Shearer's low right-foot drive in the 52nd minute had Srnicek sprawling full-length to save.

Cole, at last showing his old self, twisted into a 56th minute shot pounced on superbly by Flowers, who looks set to take over from David Seaman and England goal-

keeper against the Romanians.

Twice the woodwork saved Blackburn as Newcastle were stung into retaliation by the penalty.

First Flowers tipped Lee's header on to the top of his crossbar from a Sellars free kick and then, when Beresford got away from Warhurst, Beardsley volleyed his cross against the same spot from 20 yards.



Shumi of the Bangladesh Textiles Mills Corporation (BTMC) performs her floor exercise on the opening day of the 11th national junior gymnastics competition.

Clash of regional rivals



HIROSHIMA, Oct 10: It is the game many critics expected to be the championship-decider at the Asian Games soccer tournament: Japan vs South Korea.

Instead, the regional archrivals will face each other in a quarterfinal Tuesday night with more than prestige and the chance of a gold medal at stake, reports AP.

Japan and South Korea both are bidding to be named host for the World Cup finals in 2002 and victory is perceived as being likely to strengthen the winners' case.

The highly paid Japanese squad — paced by the industry of midfielder Tsunashi Kikawa, the guile of Italian-based Kazu Mura and the power of striker Takuya Tagaki — clinched its quarterfinal spot with a 5-0 victory over Burma Sunday night.

It was the first victory after two draws for the Japanese, who must now find a way to halt the impressive scoring threat of South Korean striker Hwang Sun-Hong, who leads the tournament scoring list with eight goals from three games in which the Koreans have recorded two victories and a defeat against Kuwait.

Chun Mong-Joon, president of the South Korean Football Association, has added heat to the battle by proposing this week that the South Koreans may consider inviting North Korea to play host to some matches in 2002 if their bid is successful.

"If we could co-host the tournament successfully on the Korean Peninsula, I think FIFA president Joao Havelange will be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize," said Chun in a piece of unabashed politicking.

The Koreans have won the

Asian Games soccer tournament three times and were bronze medalists four years ago in Beijing. Japan's best result is a third-place finish in Bangkok in 1966, but their standards have been boosted over the past two years by the introduction of the successful professional J-League.

The quarterfinals also feature two other matchups between near neighbours with the United Arab Emirates facing Kuwait and tournament newcomers Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan playing each other.

The other quarterfinal pits Saudi Arabia, a World Cup finalist earlier this year and the

AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman stretched their unbeaten run to 12 while Brothers Union succumbed to their fourth successive defeat in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

Brothers, who got off to a resounding start winning eight matches on a trot, found the reigning champions too hard a nut to crack. The only matter of solace for the Gopibagh outfit was that they managed to snatch one match from the airlines team.

Joining Biman in the elite league of unconquered clubs were Armanitola Jubo Sangha, Inter Sports, 3-0 winners over Wari Juniors and Swamibagh TTS respectively.

Wari Club recorded a 3-0 win over Armanitola Juniors in the other match of the men's league.

In the women's fray, Armanitola JS, Brothers and Swamibagh TTS posted victories.

1986 Asian Games silver medalist, against China.

The Saudis have looked to the future in fielding a new-look experimental team in this tournament and the team's Brazilian coach, Ivo Wortmann, said Monday that he was confident of more success.

"I've talked to the coaches of Bahrain and Yemen about the Chinese and we know that they are a very fast, strong team," Wortmann said.

China will be without two suspended players: Fan Zhiyi and Hu Zhijun.

The Saudis will rely heavily on powerful stopper and captain Abdullah Zebermawi — who blunted the Hong Kong attack in his team's 2-1 win on Sunday — and the seed of Saud Al Qanat in attack.

Uzbekistan will be hot favourites against Turkmenistan after winning all their first-round matches in impressive style. They play in a patient European style.

Turkmenistan needed two second-half goals to salvage a 2-2 draw with Bahrain on Sunday that clinched second place in Group A behind China and eliminated Bahrain.

The Emirates will be minus Mohamed Abdul Rasool and Saad Bakht Saad — both suspended — when they play Kuwait.

All quarterfinal games will be played on Tuesday evening, with the semifinals on Thursday and the final next Sunday before the closing ceremony.

In women's soccer Monday unbeaten gold medal contenders Japan and China played to a 1-1 draw.

Zhao Lihong shot China ahead in the 17th minute and Kyoki Kuroda leveled for Japan in the 52nd minute.

Japan and China both have two wins and a draw from their three games.