

Top seed out of ITF tennis

Casey Owen of Ireland bowed out from the third leg of the ITF Gold Leaf Thailand-Bangladesh Circuit tennis tournament when unheralded Milligan Luke of England handed the top seed in the meet a shocking 6-3, 6-4 defeat in one of the eight-second round matches at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex yesterday.

In another match of the day, second-seeded Van Scheppingen of the Netherlands got tough resistance from his compatriot Belgraver before squeezing into the quarterfinal with a 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (3) win.

Bok Martijn, another Dutch in the circuit who had a relatively easier opponent in the like of English player Davidson recorded a 7-6, 7-5 win.

In the other engagements of the day, seventh-seeded Appelqvist Joakim of Sweden sauntered past Baglin Nick of England 6-0, 6-1 while sixth-seeded Wilson Glenn of New Zealand, who conceded the first set to Srichaphan of Thailand finally prevailed over with a 6-2, 7-6 (6), 6-2 win.

However, Burner Eric was the only American made it to the last eight when he beat compatriot Lamper George by 7-5, 6-3.

Besides, four doubles quarter final matches were decided on the day.

Malik wields willow well

MIDRAND, South Africa, Dec 1: Salman Malik hit a shading 135 off 107 balls on Wednesday as Pakistan, warming up for Friday's opening match with Sri Lanka in a four-nation series, drew a one-day match against the Nicky Oppenheimer XI, reports Reuter.

Captain Malik hit 18 fours and two sixes, both off South African Test spinner Clive Eksteen, before retiring after 133 minutes.

Vice-captain Rashid Latif scored 50 not out as Pakistan took advantage of friendly bowling to declare at an impregnable 349 for seven in 55 overs.

The home side had no chance of scoring the runs, but Northern Transvaal batsman Mike Rindell, drafted into South Africa's one-day Squad, enjoyed useful practice as he cracked 100 not out from 85 balls, including 14 fours and one six.

Sir Richard Hadlee, who took 431 Test wickets for New Zealand, bowled six overs off a short run, but failed to take a wicket in the Pakistani innings. When he batted, he hit a breezy 27 before falling to a catch in the deep by Aaqib Javed.

When Rindell reached his hundred, the match was called off with seven overs remaining and the Oppenheimer XI on 168 for five wickets.

Atherton optimistic

BOWRAL, Australia: Morale is still high in the England cricket camp despite a 184-run defeat against Australia in the first Test in Brisbane, England captain Mike Atherton said Thursday. reports AP.

The tourists will play the traditional match against a Sir Donald Bradman XI in Bowral, southwest of Sydney, on Friday.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Skipper Tariqul Islam scored a sparkling half-century as Azad Sporting Club beat Mirpur Nabin Krira Chakra by 28 runs in one of the three Acme Second Division cricket league matches played at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Tariqul shared 117 runs with Habibullah for the fifth wicket to guide Azad to a mammoth 241 for five from the stipulated 40 overs.

Tariqul, who set the field astir, hit four sixes and five fours in his unconquered 76 off only 52 balls while Habibullah's quickfire 61 included three over boundaries and four fours.

Chasing a daunting task of scoring over six runs per over, Mirpur Nabin could manage 213 before being all out in 38.3 overs.

Mahbub with 45 was the top scorer for the losers while Rabibul chipped in with a 49-ball 40.

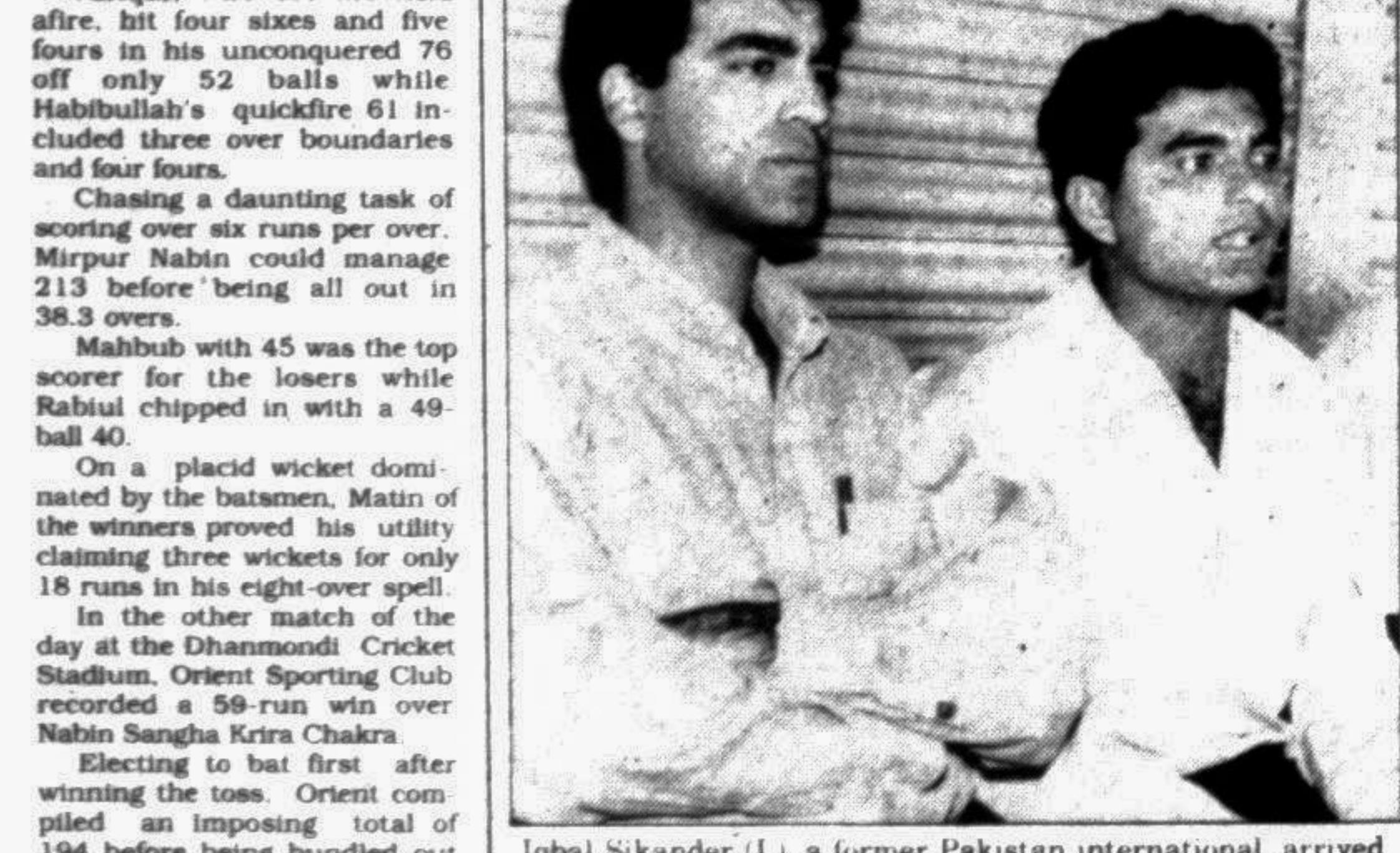
On a placid wicket dominated by the batsmen, Matin of the winners proved his utility claiming three wickets for only 18 runs in his eight-over spell.

In the other match of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Orient Sporting Club recorded a 59-run win over Nabin Sangha Krira Chakra.

Electing to bat first after winning the toss, Orient compiled an imposing total of 194 before being bundled out with four balls remaining in the 40-over-a-side engagement.

In reply, Nabin Sangha were skittled out for 135 in 37.2 overs with Cezanne and Abid contributing 24 and 26 not out respectively in a poor total.

Star photo



Iqbal Sikander (L), a former Pakistan international, arrived yesterday along with compatriot Manzoor Akhtar to play for Abahani in the 15th Damal Summer cricket tourney. While the champions roped in the leg-spinning duo for the curtain-raising meet only, their arch-rivals Mohammedans took part in yesterday's match against Brothers, for the upcoming Premier league.

Star photo

Brothers bounce back in style

Sports Reporter

Bowlers have given Brothers Union a new lease of life.

From the verge of an early ouster from the 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament they came back in the reckoning for a semifinal slot with a 19-run victory over former champions Mohammedans.

He induced Sajid to nick one behind for 26, bowled

manfully slamming Naveed Bhatti for a massive sixer over long on to launch a partnership with fellow paceman Sajal that actually proved Brothers' winning investment, at the day's end.

Together with Sajid, who contributed 21, Mofiz added 61 off 82 balls for the eighth wicket. He remained unbeaten on 37.

While Morshed completed his nine overs for a haul of three for 29, the other seamers were more or less ignored by Mohammedans skipper Aminul Islam who instead of going after the wickets opted to lay a siege with his spinners and wait the batsmen to make the mistakes.

Brothers were all out for 171 in 44.2 overs and Mohammedans were up against it right from the first over as the mettlesome young new-ball bowler Sajal Chowdhury removed openers Sajjad Mansur and Nurul Abedin for 13 only.

Sajal's partner Khairuzzaman, who finished with a commendably economical analysis of one for 17 from nine overs, then dealt Mohammedans a body blow by getting rid of Shahid who was middling the ball beautifully.

Although Indian Test-discard Parveen Amre, who arrived only late Wednesday night, laboured to a 62-ball 27 on a wicket where the ball generally kept low making stroke play extremely difficult, hopes raised though of a Mohammedan resurgence were blown away by Aamer Hanif who recovered from a traumatic first over replete with illegitimate deliveries to capture three key wickets including that of skipper Amin who made 18.

Bowler Naveed Bhatti and Hasibul Hossain made 23 and 18 respectively but the target of 172 was little too long for the tail and Mohammedans were bowled out for 152 in 42.5 overs.

Hanif's three wickets cost him 27 while Sajal bagged two for 30.

Abahani, who are in a must-win situation for a semifinal place, take on GMCC today at the Dhaka Stadium.

Four-team World Series begins

Aussie-Zimbabwe tie today



PERTH, Dec 1: The first quadrangular World Series gets underway, with mixed feelings amongst players and administrators, when Australia face Zimbabwe on Friday, reports Reuter.

Previously only three teams have contested the series of one-day internationals, with the top two qualifiers taking the top in best-of-three final.

But now, Australian cricket officials have introduced a fourth team, Australia A, along-side the home team, England and Zimbabwe.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) have justified the move by claiming it is an ideal opportunity to showcase the growing amount of young cricketing talent in Australia.

But detractors of the idea have claimed the move could devalue both the domestic Sheffield Shield competition and international honours and also believe it is a way of simply earning extra revenue to counter what the ACB fear may be Zimbabwe's limited drawing power at the turnstiles.

Australian captain Mark Taylor has already expressed his reservations about the presence of Australia A and has suggested the senior side will

be on a hiding to nothing against their junior opponents.

Former Test player David Hookes has also come out against the idea. Speaking in the magazine "Inside Edge" he said: "When you play for your country, you wear your cap to play international cricket not to play a second rate team, no matter how good it's going to be."

New South Wales coach Steve Rixon said the introduction of the concept will do nothing for domestic four-day cricket.

Rather, he believes, the removal of the best young players will further devalue the Sheffield Shield which already takes place in near-empty grounds without many of the top players for most of the season due to international commitments.

But ACB chief executive Graham Halbisch has justified the exercise, saying it will give the youngsters who cannot break into a settled Test side a taste of international cricket.

Many of the A squad have been trained at the Australian cricket academy which was set up seven years ago to improve the skills of the young players who emerged.

"We wanted to give them exposure and we felt that one-

day internationals gave you room to do that," claimed Halbisch, speaking in "Australian Cricket."

One thing the move has ensured is that interest in the competition — and the "domestic" matches in particular — is high. The Australia versus Australia A clash at the Gabba on January 8 sold out in early October, while sales for the game at the Adelaide Oval on December 11 are also excellent.

Both Zimbabwe and England agreed on the new format, but they are aware of the potential for embarrassment with two former Australian captains, a team coach Greg Chappell and Allan Border believing the tyros have a great chance of making the finals in January.

Defending champions Mohomedan Sporting Club and title contenders Biman along with Shellit will be in the finals at the Mirpur indoor stadium yesterday.

In the men's final, the Khulna spikers overcame a first-set deficit to beat Tangail 13-15, 15-6, 15-13, 15-13 while on the women's earned a rather facile 15-13, 15-5, 15-2 win over Narayanganj.

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Star photo

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Mohammedans in trouble

Sports Reporter

Brothers' hopes of raising a healthy total took a nosedive when Mohammedans' left arm paceman Morshed Ali Khan took three wickets in the 21st over with the score stranded for a while.

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manfully slamming Naveed Bhatti for a massive sixer over long on to launch a partnership with fellow paceman Sajal that actually proved Brothers' winning investment, at the day's end.

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The other two sides in the tournament, who do not open their campaign until next week, are the hosts South Africa, and New Zealand.

Boosted by their 137-run win in the first Test this week New Zealand will be confident that they can make the final.

Fast bowler Dion Nash is currently out of action with a strained side, but the return of Chris Pringle from injury will strengthen their bowling.

South Africa, meanwhile, may struggle to make the cut. In the recent triangular one-day tournament in Pakistan they lost all six matches and, including a defeat by the Netherlands in the Hague at the end of their tour, of England, they have now lost their last 11 one-day internationals.

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