two wickets, Khaled Mahmood

and skipper Aminul Islam, who

bowled really well after a long

time, captured two wickets

apiece for 27 and 38 runs re-

spectively, both from seven

backed up by three relatively

small but very significant con-

tributions from skipper

Mahbubur Rahman (25), com-

patriot Rais Ahmed (22) and

Mizanur Rahman (24), almost

totally overshadowed another

commendable batting display

by Pakistani Aamir Malik for

scored his fourth half century

on a trot as Mohammedans,

put in to bat, collected a fight-

ing but not safe total of 206 for

with the help of half a dozen

boundaries and three massive

Malik made 89 off 99 balls

Opener Nurul Abedin was

again among the runs making

40 while Pakistani Nadeem

Younus and skipper Aminul

Islam chipped in with 28 and

pick of the GMQC bowlers with

ESKATON'S RECORD

picked up their second win at

the cost of a hapless Surja

Tarun, whom they outclassed

by ten wickets in the day's

other Navana engagement

played on the western strip of

the Dhanmondi Cricket

A record 164 run partner-

ship for the first wicket pro-

pelled them to an effortless

win after Tarun, batting first,

claimed three wickets in the

morning did one better scor-

ing a patient 62 to complete a

was, however, the more

prominent of the two Eskaton

day of allround success.

Mofizul Islam, who had

Veteran Rownakul Islam

could make 163 for six only.

Eskaton Sabui Sangha

Mizanur Rahman was the

The Pakistani Test-discard

Hamid's superlative effort.

overs each.

Mohammedans.

29 respectively.

a haul of three for 32.

### Pak parade in local hockey league

**Sports Reporter** 

A host of Pakistani players. led by World Cup-winning Pakistan skipper Shahbaz Ahmed, will hold the centre stage when the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey super league begins at the Hockey Stadium today.

While Shahbaz Ahmed, the mercurial centre forward, and his equally adroit international and PIA teammates Tahir Zaman and Mohammed Irfan are expected to make Dhaka league debut for Mohammedan Sporting Club against another domestic superpower Abahani Krira Chakra, the first day's proceedings will feature a familiar face in the shape of Mumtaz Haider, who a couple years back donned Mohammedan colours.

Joining Mumtaz in the Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club ranks are compatriots Mohammed Selim, Imran Sharfaraz and Zulfigar Hassan. Mariner Youngs, spearheaded by the Pak quartet, shouldn't have much trouble take care of Sonali Bank in the inaugural match of the six-team super league, starting at 3 pm.

Although Abahani's bid to rope in Shahbaz proved abortive and to a great extent, stinging, the Dhanmondi outfit signed three Pakistanis -Salman Wahab, Laiq Ahmed and Aamer Ahmed Khan, to nurse the wound. The trio is very likely to form the Abahani charge against Mohammedans' more balanced and hyped-up three-man attack.

Meanwhile, Usha Krira Chakra, another force in the circuit, have reportedly been trying to persuade a couple of Indian internationals to play for them in the five superleague matches. Usha, who begin their campaign on February 16. however, haven't managed to strike any deal, so far.

While participating sides have been going after foreign recruits, to enhance their strength, organisers, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation, have also had there share of running to plug organisational loopholes.

Following cue from the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA), the federation have called in three foreign umpires to officiate the super league matches in à bid to do away with bickering over bias rulings and overall misharidling of league proceed-

Although the league comprises local outfits, one onlooker may well be confused whether it is a domestic meet or an international one.

#### Ctg football

CHITTAGONG, Feb 13. Padma Kali Sangha beat Registered Parabati Khela Ghar 3-2 in the tie-breaker in the inaugural match of the Mayor Gold-Cup kishore football tournament at the Outer Stadium here today, reports The scheduled 60 minutes

ended in a goalless draw.

In all thirty-two teams are participating in the tourna-

#### Becker gets into groove

MARSEILLE, France, Feb 13: Boris Becker won a battle of big serves against Czech Daniel Vacek to notch his first tournament success of the new season at the Marseille Open on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The German world number three and top seed needed more than two hours to post a 6-7. 6-4, 7-5 win over Vacek, playing in only his second ATP Tour final.

"When a score is that close, the difference is a matter of details," said Becker,

"Vacek's serves are excellent and he forced me to change tactics throughout the

Becker had two break points in the 11th game of a first set in which each player tried to out serve the other.

But the German was unable to convert either and then lost the ensuing tiebreaker 7-2.

It took Becker 10 more

games to earn another break point and this time he did not miss his chance, going on to level the match at one set

The final set proved similar to the first and featured a series of games won to love before the seventh-seeded

Vacek's nerve finally falled. The Czech surrendered at last when he doubled-faulted on Becker's first match point.

"I managed to keep focused because I knew my chances to break him would be very few." Becker said.

"When the tension gets too heavy, it is often the most experienced player who wins it." Vacek, ranked 52nd in the world, was upset with his decisive error.

"It is terrible to lose this way," said the Czech, who added he had fulfilled a dream by playing his first singles match against Becker.



Bespectacled Bangladeshi IM Zillur Rahman makes a move against the Uzbek GM Gregory Serper during a ninth-round engagement of the second United Insurance Grandmasters' chess championship at the Jalsha Ghar of Hotel Purbani yesterday. - Star photo

### Hebden maintains solo lead

Sports Reporter

The top-of-the-table rivalry between English Grandmaster Mark Hebden and his Russian counterpart Mikhail Krasenkov continued with the Briton staying one point clear on completion of the ninth round matches of the second United Insurance Grandmasters' chess corner. championship at the Jalsha Ghar of Purbani Hotel vester-

Hebden was made to manoeuvre for 53 moves by Filipino Intérnational Master Enrique Sivilano for a victory in a game played in the line of Benony system. The Englishman, who played with white pieces yesterday, now has eight and a half points in his account.

Krasenkov played Hebden's Sunday's opponent, local Grandmaster Niaz Murshid and like the Briton, he won too. Niaz, for whom it was the second successive defeat after a three-match winning streak, adopted Modern Defence against the Russian's white pieces and seemed well-placed before he running into time trouble and a couple of bad moves under extreme pressure led to his downfall. The match lasted 41 moves.

Meanwhile. Niaz's compatriot IM Reefat-bin-Sattar, virtually out of contention for a GM norm, refused to let up in the face of Indonesian Grand-

rnia. Feb 13: An-

dre Agassi, sha-

king off only his

second loss in 33

6-3 to capture the San Jose

4 deficit in the third set to

beat Jim Courier in a grueling

semifinal Saturday night, but

the wear-and-tear of that

match may have kept him from

repeating the comeback

Agassi is 8-2 lifetime

against Chang, last losing to

him in 1993 at Cincinnati.

They had never before faced

each other in a tournament fi-

naments he has entered this.

year, following up the

With Chang serving at 1-2

Australian Open title he cap-

Agassi has won both tour-

Sunday night against a well-

Chang had rallied from a 1-

Open, reports AP.

rested Agassi:

tured in January.

ots played this year, turned when he led 30-40 at 2-4, but

back Michael Chang 6-2, 1-6, Agassi won three straight

Top-seed Boris Becker of Germany displays his trophy after

winning the Marseille Open on Feb 12. In the final he beat

- AFP photo

Czech Daniel Vacek 6-4, 7-5.

master Edhi Handoko's stern defence and eked out a win after 90 moves. Playing with white pieces. Reefat managed to push his theoretically superior opposition, who formed his defence in the line of Petrof's variation, to the

The two other Bangladeshis in the 14-man fray, IMs Ziaur Rahman and Zillur Rahman.



BANGLADESH CHESS FEDERATION scooped half a point each from

their respective ninth-round

engagements. From a theoretical point of view, Zillur's efforts were of special significance as he forced the meet's highest FIDE-rated player Uzbek Grandmaster Gregory Serper to a draw.

Employing his white pieces. the bespectacled cerebral warfare made some early ex-

in the third set. Agassi took it

to deuce and closed it out at

break point with a strong, un-

returnable forehand. Chang

came close to breaking back

Chang was game to the end

of fighting off three match

points at 2-5 and finally win-

ning the eight game. He staved

off another match point at 3-5.

15-40 before Agassi closed it

out when Chang netted a re-

Agassi breezed through one

stretch in which he won 19 of

21 points, breaking Chang

twice and establishing clear

ond set, when three straight

ages put Agassi up 40-love

while serving at 0-1. Chang.

struggling to find his game,

suddenly summoned up the

energy to win five straight

points, breaking Agassi for the

It carried over into the sec-

In winning the first set.

points to hold serve.

turn after a long rally.

dominance.

into a deadlock. Serper who adopted a familiar Sicilian Defence, agreed to a draw after 32 moves. Zia's half point came after a

changes to force the match

rather prolonged session of cerebration against Indian counterpart IM Varugese Koshi. Zia pressed on for 56 moves to find a chink in Koshi's Modern Defence before realising it was to no avail.

English Grandmaster Stuart Conquest finally managed a win after a frustratingly long losing streak when the beleaguered Briton won submission from Indonesian IM Ruben Gunawan after 41 moves in a game of Close Sicilian Defence.

The other match between IMs Magaran Magoedov of Tajikistan and Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi of Pakistan also fizzled into dław after 60

#### TENTH ROUND IM Gunawan vs IM Magoe-

GM Conquest vs IM Koshi GM Serper vs IM Ziaur

Rahman GM Handoko vs IM Zillur Rahman

GM Niaz Murshid vs IM Reefat-bin-Satter IM Sivilano vs GM

Krasenkov IM Lodhi vs GM Mark Heb-

Agassi keeps Chang at bay

#### first time to go up 2-0. Agassi, clearly frastrated by the sudden turn, started missing with his first serve. Chang responded with another break and won four of the next

five games to take the set and

level the match.

Ranked No. 2 in the world the 24-year-old Agassi has gone 34-2 in match play since starting his drive to win the US Open as an unseeded player last September. In 1995, Agassi is a perfect 12-0.

Chang was one of Agassi's US Open victims, losing in five sets. Agassi also won in straight sets last November at the ATP Tour Championship.

Agassi's San Jose title pulls him within 643 points of topranked Pete Sampras, whom he beat at the Australian Open. They next play in the same tournament Feb. 20-26 in Philadelphia.

The earliest Agassi could conceivably reach No. 1 would be March 6-13 in the tournament at Indian Wells. California.

Chang, ranked No. 6 in the world, is now 9-2 in match play this year. His other loss was to Sampras in four sets at the Australian Open semifinals.

#### Ferreira wins Dubai Open

DUBAI, Feb 13: Wayne Ferreira, riding high on his recent Davis Cup success, swept to victory in the 1 million dollars Dubai Open tennis tournament on Sunday, defeating unseeded Andrea Gaudenzi of Italy 6-3, 6-3 in the final, reports Reuter. Ferreira, one of South

Africa's Davis Cup heroes, ended the tournament with an authoritative display of serve and volley tennis. The lourth seed, playing an

array of ferocious ground shots, took the initiative in the first game, breaking Gaudenzi when the Italian double faulted. Gaudenzi, making his sec-

ond appearance in an ATP Tour event final, struggled with his timing. He managed to improve his game as the match went on, but too late to break Ferreira's stride.

Ferreiga, ranked 12 in the world, went on to hold serve and successfully served for the set at 5-3.

The second set went much the same way, with Ferreira making the break to 5-3 and then going on to hold serve.

#### **SAF Games sans** Central Asia

Sports Reporter

The South Asian Federation (SAF) Games will remain ex clusively a South Asian sporting carnival, at least for its seventh edition, scheduled to be held in the South Indian city of Madras in December.

Mooted to be a more expansive affair, including a couple of Central Asian countries like Uzbekistan and Afghanistan the biennial Olympic of a sort retained formative attributes according to a Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) press release.

As it has been the case in the previous six meets, the seventh one, for which the organisers have announced three tentative dates, will consist of parent members - the seven South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) members - India, Pakistan. Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal. Maldives and Bhutan in the biggest sporting event of the region.

Although the much expected, speculated and to some extent, feared sense of novelty in the form of strong Central Asian presence has been put off, the next SAF Games in the port city of India will have its share of newness.

Men's hockey, a popular sport in the sub-continent, will make its maiden entry into this seven-nation meet along with athletics, football, basketball, boxing, judo, kabaddi, shooting, swimming, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, weightlifting and wrestling.

A sportive lion clad in shorts and sneakers and a torch in hand has been chosen as the official mascot for the Madras meet while a javelin thrower will be the logo of the ten-day sporting carnival.

#### Karpov beats Gelfand

SANGHINAGAR, India, Feb 13: World champion Anatoly Karpov beat Boris Gelfand of Belarus in the sixth game of the 500,000 dollar FIDE world chess semifinals here Monday. reports AFP.

Karpov forced Gelfand to resign after 49 moves taking a 3.5-2.5 lead, needing just two points more to take him through to the final.

The other match between US-based Grandmaster Gata Kamsky and Valery Salov was adjourned on the 60th move with Kamsky in a very strong position with two pawns up and a 4-1 lead.

The first to reach 5.5 points in either match will clash for the title in August.

The tournament here is organised by the International Chess Federation, the FIDE.

An alternative championship is being organised by the Professional Chess Players' Association headed by the world's number one player and former FIDE champion Garri Kasparov.

#### SOBD games on Feb 17

Special Olympics Bangladesh (SOBD), a foundation dedicated for the cause and benefit of persons with mental retardation - is going to hold its national games on February 17, at the sports centre of the University of Dhaka, according to a press' release vesterday. reports BSS.

The games will pave the way for participation of mentally handicapped athletes of Bangladesh in the Special Olympics International World Games which will be held in New Haven, Connecticut, USA, in July this year.

#### J'ansher heads the field

CALCUTTA, Feb 13: The world's front-ranking squash players, including world champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan and number two Brett Martin, would vie for top honours in the Stroh's Open squash world super series which gets underway at the Tollygunge Club here from February 22, reports PTI.

The tournament director. Robert Edwards told a press conference here that the field of 32-top world ranked players would also include world's fourth ranked player Rodney Eyles of Australia apart from the senior Martin brother.

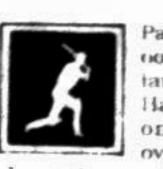
Edwards said that Jansher Khan had confirmed his participation in the six-day tournament which offers a prize money worth US donars 33,000. The tournament would be conducted in India under the aegis of the world squash body, the Professional Squash Association (PSA) and the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRF).

The tournament, to be sponsored by Rajasthan Breweries Limited, would also feature Anthony Hill, Byron Davis, Craig Rowland, John White, Daniel Meddings, Paul Gregory, Mark Crains, Stephen Meads - most of whom figure in the world's top twenty.

Edwards said that the court would be brought from England and installed within a few days at the venue.

# Hamid, Hasib MSC's bane

Sports Reporter



Pakistani Mahmood Hamid's brill tant batting and Hasibul Hossain's prodigal over sent former

champions Mohammedan Sporting Club hurtling to their second defeat in this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league yesterday.

Having seemingly put behind the blues of defeat in their opening match to a resurgent victoria with a series of six straight wins, the popular club came a cropper again. losing their eighth match to Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) by two wickets at the Dhaka Stadium, with three balls to spare in an entertaining contest replète with quality batsmanship.

Hamid, a rather unnoticed member of the Pakistan A team in the recent SAARC cricket tournament who plays for Wagar Younis-led United Bank Limited in Pakistan's domestic championships, was the last batsman to fall as GMCC, chasing 207 for a win in 45 overs, posted 209 for eight in 44.3 overs.

He was out leg before to left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique, one of the Bangladesh international in Mohammedan ranks, for a chanceless 105 off only 97 balls embellished with eleven fours and a sixer.

Although Rafique, who seems to excel for the national side than his club, had the last laugh poeketing the weket of the obvious but unofficial manof-the-match for the day, there were no smiles, let alone laughs, for the Mohammedan players and their large number of fans, who buoyed by an emphatic seven wicket victory over a strong Brothers Union in the previous match. thronged at country's all purpose sports venue.

Hamid arrived at the wicket when GMCC, who were playing their eighth match comprising four wins, were tottering at 31 for four in 13 overs.

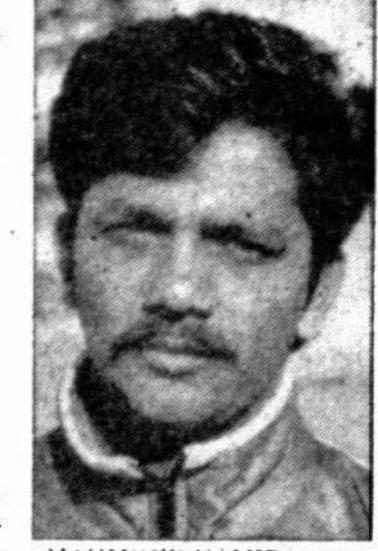
Having done with the problems of acquaintance in the previous match that saw him bear a hand to GMCC's win over Bima with an innings of 61. Hamld was in full cry again

yesterday, notching up the third century of the league after Abahani's Naimur Rahman, Gulshan's Indian Test discard Arun Lal.

Although Hamid was a host in himself, the fate of the match took a decisive swing to GMCC's way in the 41st over. " bowled by Hasibul Hossain Mohammedan's young pace

GMCC, at that stage, needed 48 runs from 30 balls and Hamid, in tandem with Mizanur Rahman, clobbered 19 runs of that fateful over with the Pakistani alone taking 15 runs including three disdainful boundaries.

As if to prove what a funny game cricket is. Hasib. who had given only 12 runs for two wickets from his first five



MAHMOOD HAMID

overs, suddenly found himself out of his depths in the face of terrific assault and the match which only a over before appeared to be more Mohammedans than GMCC's was gone irrevocably the latter's way. Sharfuddowla Ibne Sha-

heed, who had a highly successful stint with one of the Bangladeshi selections in a recent spate of exhibition matches, brought up GMCC's only second win against Mohammedans with a boundary off Rafique. Besides Hasib, whose even-

tual cost stood at 31 for the

batsmen remaining unbeaten on 89, studded with ten boundaries and one sixer.

Stadium.

TODAY'S MATCHES Abahani vs Brothers (DS) Gulshan Youth vs S. Bima

## Ameritech Cup Magdalena's



CHICAGO, Feb 13: Third-seed Magdalena Maleeva, a last-minute entry defeated Lisa Ra-

vmond 7-5, 7-6 (7-2) Sunday to win the 430,000 dollars Ameritech Cup, reports

Reuter. The 79,000 dollars first prize made the Bulgarian the 62nd woman professional tennis player to earn one mil-

lion dollars in a career.

Raymond, who beat three seeded players to reach the final, picked up her biggest paycheck ever, and will move up to a career-high 34th in the. rankings.

"Maggie's tough." Raymond said. "She obviously came into the match with a lot of confidence after beating Gaby (Gabriela Sabatini) yesterday (in the semifinals). I just didn't have it in me today.

This was the third time in her last five events that Maleeva, 19, has reached the final. However, it was her first tour win since Zurich last fall.

Maleeva was a late entry to fill a spot vacated by Mary Joe Fernandez, who withdrew because of illness. Maleeva had not scheduled Chicago because she wanted to go home to Sofia. Bulgaria, for the first

time in two months. However. Maleeva said she

felt some "responsibility" to play. She had an easier time than Raymond in reaching the quarterfinals without playing a match. She received a bye in the first round and won by default over her second-round opponent, who became ill.

"I'll send her (Fernandez) a thank you card," said Maleeva, who had to switch from her favourite racquet after it broke a string. "I got really scared because the other four racquets were soft. I thought, this is going to be a nightmare, but I adjusted."

In the first set, Raymond opened a 4-2 lead; aided by a service break in the fifth game. But Maleeva rallied, tying it 4-4 with a service break in the eighth game, and breaking Raymond at love in the 12th.

Maleeva kept Raymond on the run in the second set, and opened a 4-1 lead. But Raymond came back, matching Maleeva shot for shot. "That game at 5-4 in the

second set, I didn't play aggressively enough," Maleeva said. "I kept hoping she'll miss. That doesn't work. I kept reminding myself that I have to be aggressive."

Maleeva applied that advice



Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria celebrates after beating American Lisa Raymond in the final of the Ameritech Cup in Chicago on Feb 12. Magdalena, 19, won 7-5, 7-6. - AFP photo

in the tiebreaker, opening a 5-0 lead, while Raymond ran out

"I thought I was in a little better shape." Raymond said, "But I was definitely fatigued." Maleeva totalled eight aces,

compared to two by Raymond, but won only four points of 16 (25 per cent at the net) as she relied on her passing game.

It was only the second time Raymond, who turned professional in May 1993, has reached a final. She lost to ·Lindsay Davenport in the 1994 Lucerene tournament. In that event. Raymond beat two seeded players to advance.

#### Kiptanui breaks one, readies

for more

GHENT. Belgium, Feb 13: Kenyan Moses Kiptanui scorched to a world 3,000 metres indoor record on Sunday - and then said he planned to break it again before attacking three outdoor records later

this year, reports Reuter. Kiplanui clocked seven minutes 35.15 seconds, beating by 2.16 seconds his own old record, set in Seville in February 1992.

"I didn't expect to run as fast as this. It's only my secand race (of the season) and I thought it would be too early. It came as a surprise," said

Kiptanui. "I've been mainly training on endurance ... cross-country

(recess) only." But Sunday's record had made the rest of the year look

very promising. The Kenyan plans attacks on the 3,000 and 5,000 metres outdoor marks and will also try to break the eight minutes barrier in the 3,000 metres steeplechase, a record

he himself holds at 8:02.08. But his next goal is to shave his 3.000 world indoor mark

"If I rest well for about two weeks. I may go for it ... maybe in Birmingham (on February 25)," he said. Kiptanui, who ran nearly

half the distance on his own, believed he could have gone even faster on Sunday. He said he lost a second when trying to overhaul two

not expected the Kenyan behind them so soon and stayed in the inner lane. In the women's 60 metres. world record holder Irina Pri-

valova clocked 6.97 seconds -

other athletes who clearly had

0.05 outside her world record Russian Privalova the World 200 metres indoor champion and European 100 and 200 metres title holder was

pushed to the line by Jamaican Merlene Ottey, who finished 0.08 seconds behind in second place