

Div I cricket

Orient down Wanderers

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

ORIENT SC: 216 for eight in 50 overs (Amir Ishaque 49, Jewel 32, Masum 31, Tapu 27, Boglu 3/27, Tareque 3/34)
DHAKA WANDERERS CLUB: 195 all out in 49.1 overs (Tapan 60 n.o., Javed 52; Babu 3/29, Dalim 2/37, Jockey 2/39)
Result: Orient Sporting Club won by 21 runs.

Title aspirants Orient Sporting Club registered their third successive win in the First Division cricket super league with a 21-victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sent in to bat Orient scored 216 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs with one-down Pakistani recruit Amir Ishaque hammering highest 49 off 61 balls inclusive of four boundaries. Opener Jewel (32) Masum (31) and Tapu (27) were the other notable run getters.

Wanderers bowlers Boglu and Tareque evenly shared six wickets among themselves conceding 27 and 34 runs respectively.

In reply, Dhaka Wanderers Club were bundled out for 195 in 49.1 overs.

Babu, Orient's new-ball bowler, ripped through the top orders, finished with 3 for 29. He was equally supported by Dalim and Jockey who captured two wickets each.

Tapan, with 60 off 78 balls, and Javed, with 52 off 85 balls were the leading contributors to the Wanderers total.

Tasmania in top spot

HOBART, Feb 14: Tasmania went to the top of the Sheffield Shield cricket competition with a comprehensive 10-wicket victory over champions Queensland on the final day here today, reports AFP.

Tasmania, set 202 for victory, cruised to the target with an unbeaten opening partnership of 204 between Dene Hills and Jamie Cox.

Hills was unbeaten on 121 and Cox was 71 not out to guide the island state to victory half an hour after tea.

Tasmania, yet to win the Shield, lead the standings by six points, although second-placed Western Australia can join them at the top with an outright victory over New South Wales in their match which began in Perth today.

The depleted Queensland attack, which lost spinner Geoff Foley after he was called by the umpires for throwing, was unable to contain Hills and Cox, who made light work of their target.

Campbell's narrow miss

TIMARU, New Zealand, Feb 14: Zimbabwe's batting crisis eased a little today when captain Alistair Campbell hit a career-best 196 in the tourists' four-day cricket match against Canterbury at Timaru, securing them a 322-run lead by stumps on Day Two, reports Reuters.

Campbell was one of four batsmen in need of an innings of substance before the first Test against New Zealand at Wellington, starting on Thursday.

Only Grant Flower and Murray Goodwin have had runs of late but Campbell joined them with a magnificent knock before being cruelly run out in a mix-up with Heath Streak.

Streak played a ball to backward square and Campbell set off for the single, but Streak wasn't the slightest bit interested and Campbell failed to make his ground at the non-striker's end.

At his dismissal Campbell declared the innings closed at 422 for eight, but was clearly annoyed and stormed off the ground ahead of his teammate despite having bettered his previous best of 135 against a Pakistan Eleven in the 1994-95 season.

Campbell and Paul Strang took the game away from Canterbury with a seventh wicket partnership of 261.

Bjorkman in semis

DUBAI, Feb 14: Number one seed Jonas Bjorkman defied unusually strong winds to beat Carlos Moya 7-6 (7-3), 6-1 on Friday and reach the semifinals of the one million dollars Dubai Open, reports Reuters.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group IV competition: (Venue: National Tennis Complex)
 Bangladesh vs Bahrain
 Jordan vs Iraq
 Oman vs UAE
Janakantha Premier Cricket League:
 Biman vs Brothers Union Club (Dhaka Stadium)
First Division Cricket Super League:
 Sadharan Bima KS vs Gopibagh FA (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)
Premier Division Football Relegation League:
 Rahmatganj vs Agrani Bank SC (Mirpur Stadium, 5 pm)
First Division Football Super League:
 Badda Jagarani vs Dhaka Wanderers Club (Mirpur Stadium, 3 pm)



Minhazul Abedin (R), the veteran Mohammedan batsman receives a few words of wisdom from 'captain cool' Arjuna Ranatunga after his epic unbeaten 108 against Surjo Tarun in a Janakantha Premier Division fixture yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium. The Sri Lankan skipper is playing for Mohammedans in the league. —Star photo

Minhazul lords over Tarun

Sports Reporter

Minhazul Abedin rediscovered his brilliant self with a superb unbeaten century to help Mohammedan Sporting Club register a resounding 43-run win over giant-slayers Surjo Tarun in a Janakantha Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The experienced batsman smashed a dazzling 108, his first ton of the season, as Mohammedans, electing to use the wicket first, scored an imposing 250 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs.

Surjo Tarun, in their chase, were off to a rollicking start with his opener Zahid Razzak plundering 54 runs in an absorbing 93-run partnership for the first wicket with Javed Omar.

But once the tall former national opener, who reached his fifty with a massive sixer over long-off against Hasibul Hossain, was undone by a direct hit from mid-off, Surjo Tarun lost their way, losing two more wickets in successive deliveries from Rafique.

Rafique, who ended the wonderful innings of an aggressive Zahid with an accurate throw at the bowlers' end, effectively shattered Surjo Tarun's hopes of scalping Pakistani Shahid Saeed (3) and Nurul Abedin (0) in successive deliveries in the 23rd over.

After those quick blows, Surjo Tarun had never recovered despite a valiant effort from their skipper Javed Omar, who scored a sedate 59 off 110 balls embellished with half a dozen fours. The mediocre Premier league outfit eventu-

ally ended up with 207 losing all of their wickets in 48.1 overs.

But the day certainly belonged to Minhazul. Coming into bat at number three, he made the most of two dropped catches earlier in his innings. He reached his hundred with a four down the extra cover followed by a quick single in the penultimate over of the innings from Surjo Tarun's left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman.

The seasoned middle-order bat, who was dropped from the national team after the Colombo Asia Cup for his poor performance, smote seven

Hossain fell for a duck in the first over. An in-form Parvez scored a patient 43 off 65 balls before being caught and bowled by Surjo Tarun skipper Javed Omar, who with his occasional leg-break bowling had also claimed two vital wickets on the day.

With the regular bowlers failing to make any impression on Mohammedan batsmen, Javed gave his more illustrious opponents a brief scare by dismissing his counterpart Aminul Islam (14) and star Sri Lankan recruit Arjuna Ranatunga in quick succession.

The Lanka skipper flew in the city on Friday night. But the delight of a strong band of Mohammedan supporters turned into despair as he lasted for only 16 deliveries before offering a tame catch at cover after making 11 runs.

But Minhazul, who was dropped by Zahid Razzak at gully while on 22 and by Biplob at square leg eight runs later, got the much-needed support from Mohammad Rafique after that stunning slide, which left Mohammedans reeling at 170 for five.

Together with Rafique, who smote a huge sixer over square leg in his breezy 29, Minhazul put on 54 runs to ensure Mohammedans cross the 200-mark.

It was Mohammedans' ninth win on a tort to lead the table with 18 points, two points clear of their nearest rivals and holders Abahani Krira Chakra. For Surjo Tarun, it was their fourth defeat to complete their eleven first round matches with 14 points.



sweetly-timed hits across the rope in his 139-ball rule at the crease.

On reaching the magical three-figure mark, an extremely elated Chittagongian, kissed the ground as if to bid those bad days bye which kept him out of the national team after a decade-long international appearance.

In a timely reminder to the selectors, he shared 101 runs for the second wicket with opener Parvez after Mehrib

Sound start for MSC

Sports Reporter



A goal in each half gave defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club a flying start to the super league of the Premier Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedans, who finished atop the ten-team Premier league points table at the end of the return leg last month with 41 points, defeated Farashganj Sporting Club by two goals to nil in the opening match of the five-team super league.

Striker Alfaz gave the black and whites an early lead through a penalty kick while midfielder Manik sealed the old towners' fate with a low grounder immediately after the breather.

Mohammedans, who missed the services of their two hard-working Nigerian midfielders — Ladi Baba and Bode Baba on disciplinary and injury grounds, began positively.

In the sixth minute referee R Alam awarded a penalty after Farashganj defender Kajal handled the ball while trying to clear the ball. Alfaz converted from the spot with a low grounder past the diving custo-

dian Nurul.

With the goal, Alfaz, the dark and dapper forward, joined his partner Don at the top of the leading goalscorers' list having scored nine each. Muktiyoddha and Abahani forwards Nakib and Amin Rana follow them with eight apiece.

In the 49th minute Manik's 25-metre effort took a wicked deflection before entering the net.

Farashganj had two good chances to score in the second session. Ritu spoiled the first opportunity in the 77th minute when he got the ball inside the danger area with only the keeper to beat. But he failed to keep his cool and could only shoot straight at Ponir.

Mohammedans, with their 13th win in 19 matches against five draws and a defeat, raised their tally to 44 points, four more than Mahanagar Cup champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad while Federation Cup champions Abahani have 36 points.

It was the tenth defeat for Farashganj in 19 matches against five wins and four losses which kept them or 23 points.

The next super league clash will be held between Muktiyod-

dha Sangsad and Brothers Union Club on February 17.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir, Faisal, Nazrul, Munna Senior, Ruhul Amin, Manik (Azim), Parvez, Munna Junior, Arman, Don (Ranjana) and Alfaz.

FARASHGANJ SC: Nurul (Manu), Din Mohammad, Kajal, Jahangir (Amin Khan), Dulal, Montu, Selim, Chanchal (Tofazzal), Ritu, Babu Das and Farhad.

Referee: R Alam.

SHANTINAGAR-1, BANGLADESH BOYS-1

Earlier, in the day's first match, Shantinagar Club and Bangladesh Boys Club shared points in a First Division relegation league encounter.

Kabir put Boys ahead in the 35th minutes while Siraj leveled the match for Shantinagar in the 57th minute.

With the draw, Shantinagar remained atop the five-team relegation league having raised their tally to 24 points from 19 matches while Boys increased their account to 20 points on completion of their 19th engagement.

Nat'l women's chess

Qualifiers from today

Sports Reporter

The qualifying round of the 19th national women's chess championship begins at the NSC chess room today at 3 pm under the auspices of the Bangladesh Chess Federation.

Interested players who have not yet registered their names, have been asked to be present at the federation office today by 2 pm to make their entries.

Six players will be selected ultimately for the final round from the five-round Swiss league qualifiers.

England 85/5

Sports Reporter

England were 85 for five at an hour into the post-lunch session on the second day of the third Test at Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad, according to Star Sports monitored last night.

MSC-SURJO TARUN SCOREBOARD

MOHAMMEDANS SC		
Parvez c & b Javed	43	0
Mehrab c Tuhin b Anis	0	11
Minhazul not out	108	11
A Ranatunga c Shamsul b Javed	14	1
Aminul Islam c Rafique b Javed	14	1
S Shaded run out	1	29
Rafique run out	29	1
Jahangir Talukder	29	1
b Khairuzzaman	4	3
Hasibul b Khairuzzaman	4	3
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-3, w-20)	33	
Total: (for 8 wks in 50 overs)	250	
Fall of wks: 1/2: 2/101; 3/124; 4/158; 5/170; 6/224; 7/229; 8/250		

SURJO TARUN		
Anisur Rahman	10	0 56 1
Khairuzzaman	10	1 52 2
S Saeed	5	0 24 0
Rafique	6	0 31 0
Javed Omar	10	0 43 3
Shamsul	9	0 34 0

SURJO TARUN		
Zahid Razzak run out	54	
Javed Omar b Aminul	59	
S Saeed b Rafique	3	
Nurul Abedin c Aminul b Rafique	0	
Biplob c Morshed b Minhazul	35	
Rehan c Parvez b Minhazul	7	
Tuhin not out	21	
Anis c Hasibul b Rafique	15	
Shamsul st Nasir b Rahmatunga	1	
Khairuzzaman c & b Rafique	1	
Rafique (did not turn up)	11	
Extras: (lb-4, nb-6, w-1)	11	
Total: (All out in 48.1 overs)	207	
Fall of wks: 1/93; 2/97; 3/97; 4/154; 5/162; 6/170; 7/198; 8/206; 9/207		

Bowling		O	M	R	W
Jahangir	7	1	29	0	
Morshed	4	0	21	0	
A Ranatunga	6	0	19	1	
Hasibul	8	1	38	0	
Rafique	8.1	0	31	4	
Minhazul	10	1	39	2	
Aminul Islam	5	0	26	1	

Result: Mohammedan SC won by 43 runs.

Raqib collects IM norm

Bangladesh's Abdullah Al Raqib earned a norm for International Master title beating Indian Grand Master Prabeen Mohadev Thipsay in the ninth round of the Godricke international chess competition at Calcutta yesterday, according to a message received here, reports BSS.

He has earned five-and-a-half points so far.

International Master Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh reached the second position with six points at the end of the ninth round. He drew with British Grand Master Nigel Short.

Another Bangladeshi Rifat bin Sattar collected four points from his nine matches.

Int'l jr tennis at Rajshahi tomorrow

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Feb 14: The seven day long Rajshahi International junior tennis championship 98 under 18 will start at Rajshahi Tennis Complex from February 16.

Addressing a news conference at the auditorium of the tennis complex this evening the director of the tournament Mostaque Ahmed said sixty players from eight countries including hosts Bangladesh are expected to participate in the tournament jointly organised by Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) and Rajshahi Tennis Complex. The International Tennis Federation has also given its approval.

All preparations have already been completed for holding the week-long tournament which will be sponsored by the IFIC Bank.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof. Zinatunnesa Talukder is likely to present at the inaugural function as chief guest.

Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 14: Shaheed Sentu-Rintu Smriti Sangsad outplayed Nazrul Pathagar by 130 runs in the First Division cricket league at the local stadium today.

Batting first Shaheed Sentu-Rintu scored 233 runs all out in 39.4 overs.

In reply Nazrul Pathagar scored 103 runs losing all wickets in 24.3 overs.

Jewel of the winning team scored highest 41 while Raqib of Nazrul Pathagar scored highest 24.

Sohan of Shaheed Sentu-Rintu took 3 wickets for 37. Arunodip Krira Chakra will face Iqbal Smriti Sangha tomorrow at the same venue.

South Africa 296 for eight

Sports Reporter

A remarkable ninth-wicket partnership between debutant wicketkeeper Mark Boucher and spinner Pat Symcox powered South Africa to 296 for eight at close on the opening day of the first Test against Pakistan at the Wanderers at Johannesburg yesterday.

Symcox hammered a typical aggressive 77 not out while Boucher was unbeaten on 50 as South Africa averted a possible batting disaster after being eight for 166 at one stage.

The 130-run stand between Symcox and Boucher was the highest by a South African ninth-wicket pair and is only seven short of the world record.

AP adds: Adam Bacher hit an unbeaten 44 as South Africa crawled to 75 for two at lunch.

South Africa, sent into bat, lost skipper Gary Kirsten and No 3 Jacques Kallis, but Bacher and Daryll Cullinan played out the final 32 minutes of the 24 overs before the break.

Let Greenidge 'work'

Syed Ashfaqul Haque



Come a foreign tour for Bangladesh cricketers come a drama unpleasant around the national coach, the master batsman from Barbados — Cuthbert Gordon Greenidge. For sheer consistency, such an spectacle has now become routine.

As part of its development programme, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is sending

now too busy with club cricket and not many appear bothered about national interest. The way things are moving at the moment it seems our cricketers are destined to feature in yet another demanding meet without having any substantial preparation of mind and body.

After the ICC tournament, Bangladesh took part in four major tournaments — the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, the President's Cup in Kenya, two first-class fixtures in New Zealand and the

sioned. The irony is that Greenidge wants to work continually and purposefully, but the BCB perhaps expects him to put his feet up and enjoy TV programmes and unofficial vacations.

This is what I've been trying to know from the Board for the last few days. Why don't you people ask the organisers? ... I've not yet been communicated, shot back the frustrated coach when he was questioned about his next assignment by the Daily Star at the BCB office a couple of days back.

But, nobody was found in the cricket board office that evening who could answer this pertinent question satisfactorily. Occasionally, the demeanor of some BCB officials makes transparent their apparent preoccupation with attaining Test status through some mysterious management and the issue of Greenidge's apparent 'unemployment' looks to them as extremely trivial.

Greenidge is being heavily paid for his job or 'no job' in Bangladesh. Our main aim in employing Greenidge is to groom juniors for the future. Guiding the young lot will be more beneficial for us than coaching only the national team," said the BCB president, Sabir Hossain Chowdhury, while outlining Greenidge's job responsibility. But, in reality, Greenidge is neither grooming young kids nor is he helping the national team at present. Since there is virtually no assignment for him, he comes to the stadium everyday, watches some action of the Premier league and then goes home to sleep. What a waste of time, talent and taka? Has the great 'Flash' Gordon, as he was adorably called by the cricket aficionados, failed to convince the organisers that he can do better than what he did in Malaysia a year ago?

Last year, after the ICC triumph, amidst fervent demonstration of zeal and adulation, the former West Indies opener was awarded honorary citizenship as well as being showered with other gifts. But the saddest aspect of his Bangladesh experience is that till today Greenidge, the BCB director of coaching, does not have a chair to sit nor a table to work on in the BCB office, albeit he has got a green passport.

Much has been written about what could be done and what not to, but wise words they may be, they have fallen on deaf ears of the high-flying cricket bosses. When our aim should be to become a Test-playing nation in the shortest possible time, quite sadly the game's ruling body is apparently only engrossed with the notion of establishing Dhaka as an international cricket venue. It is obviously great to be a good host. But the Board should realise that it is not possible to become a Test-playing country by only extending world-class hospitality. The foremost objective of the Board should be to establish Bangladesh as a cricketing force by engineering overall development of the game.

The Board should give Greenidge plenty of rope, as much as he needs. Greenidge is very much capable of guiding Bangladesh to its ultimate goal — the ivy league of cricket. Take his symbolic passport away, but give him a chair to sit on, and capitalise on his profound talent and ability. For the sake of Bangladesh's cricket, use him in good stead.

Hosts earn promotion

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh have qualified for the Group Three of the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone after recording their fifth straight win in Group Four at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

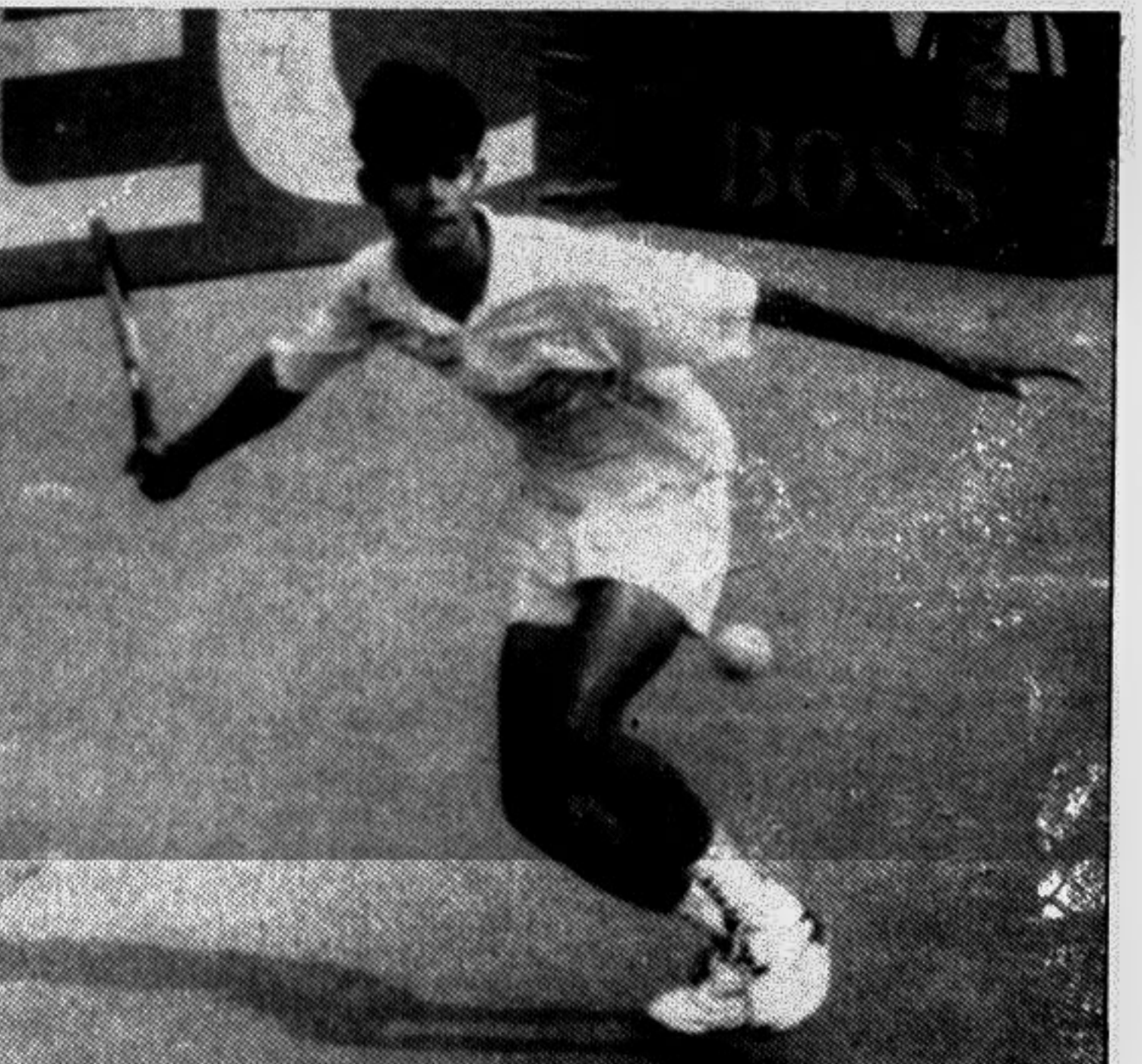
The hosts defeated Iraq 3-0

in their penultimate game in the seven-nation tourney to stay atop the table having five points along with Bahrain, who have also earned promotion to the next phase of the cup. The Gulf state overcame Arabian rivals Jordan 2-1.

In the day's encounter, although the locals, who were rel-

STANDINGS

Standings after sixth round encounters: (Tabulated under ties, match won, set won, set lost, game won and game lost, points)									
Country	T	MW	SW	SL	GW	GL	Pts		
Bangladesh	5	13	28	8	186	108	5		
Bahrain	5	13	27	6	189	84	5		
Jordan	5	10	21	13	161	131	3		
Iraq	5	9	22	13	172	122	3		
Oman	5	5	11	21	116	156	1		
UAE	5	2	5	26	72	178	1		
Brunei	4	2	5	32	104	221	0		



Bangladesh number one Shibulal is about to return the ball against Iraqi Saddam Hussain Kadhim during their Davis Cup engagement at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. —Star photo

egated to Group Four last year, secured a straight-matches victory they had to face strong resistance from their Iraqi opponents.

In the other match of the day Oman tasted their first victory in the tournament beating all-

Blaglad number two Dilip Passia upset the home fans losing first set to Mohammad A Ibrahim 1-6 in the morning, but immediately he recovered to win 6-3, 6-2 the next two sets of the first match.

In the second singles, local number one Shibulal also struggled hard to overcome Saddam Hussain Kadhim 6-3, 1-6, 6-4.

In the doubles, Bangladesh introduced two remaining players of the squad Sheikh Moinuddin Waliullah Jilan and Muammer Hussain Khan who beat Iraqi pair Haider Hussain Kadhim and Hussain Ahmed Rashid 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 in the afternoon.

Bangladesh meet Bahrain in the title-decider at the same venue today.