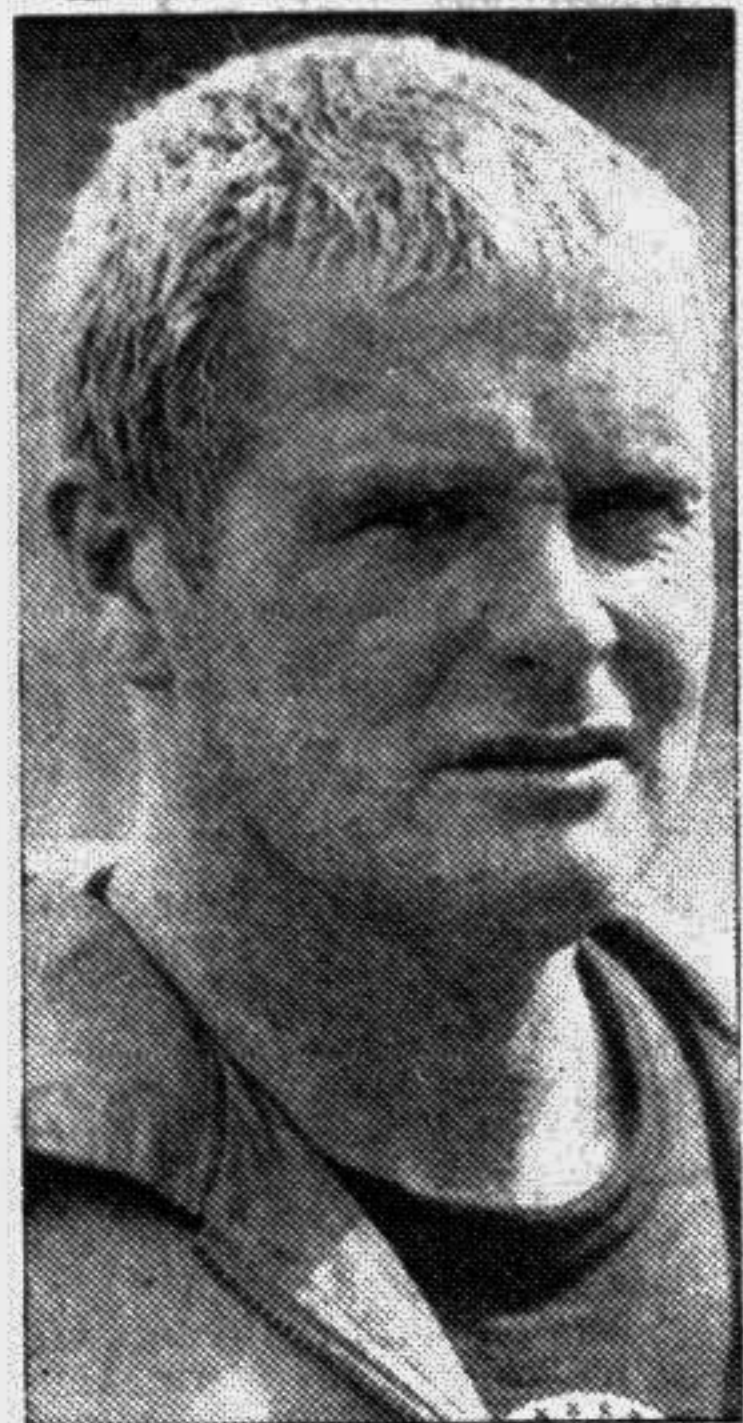


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Paul Gascoigne
(Fallen England football star)
At the moment, I'm just concentrating on getting back into the Middlesbrough side.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-108

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to the Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 18 '98, and draw
shortly afterwards

- National cricket team captain Aminul Islam will play this season for
Biman/Mohammedan/Surjo Tarun
- Who won the Premier league cricket title last season?
Mohammedan/Kalabagan/Abahani
- How many teams play in the Premier league?
10 8 12
- How many overs will be played per side in the Premier league this season?
50 80 100
- How many venues will be used for the Premier league this year?
One Two Three

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Leonine, Biman split points

Defending champions Leonine and runners-up Biman shared points in their opening round match of the First Division chess league when they settled for a 2-2 draw at the NSC chess room yesterday, reports APB.

Leonine's overseas recruits GM Igor Rausis of Latvia and GM Yuri Sulman of Belarus posted wins against IMs Ziara Rahman and Reefat Bin Satter respectively in the first two boards.

In the remaining two boards, Abdullah Al Rakib and Rezaul Haq got the better of Khandkar Kayes Hasan and Rafiqul Islam of Leonine respectively, enabling Biman to draw.

Leonine will face Dhaka University and Biman meet Mahakhali Pradip Sangha in the second round ties today.

In the day's other matches, Titas Club beat Ansars, Kamalpur Samaj Kalyan defeated Sonali Bank, Farashganj SC overcame Anushilan, Pradip Sangha got the better of Narayanganj CPA and Nakhla-para defeated Dhaka University, all by identical 3-1 margins.

Another match between West Jatrabari and Brothers Union ended in a 2-2 draw.

Herschelle drafted

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Dec 7: The South African cricket selectors Sunday made just one change to the squad which beat the West Indies in the first Test at the Wanderers in Port Elizabeth, reports AFP.

Herschelle Gibbs has displaced Adam Bacher as Gary Kirsten's opening partner, the selectors announced.

MSC net Kenyan lions

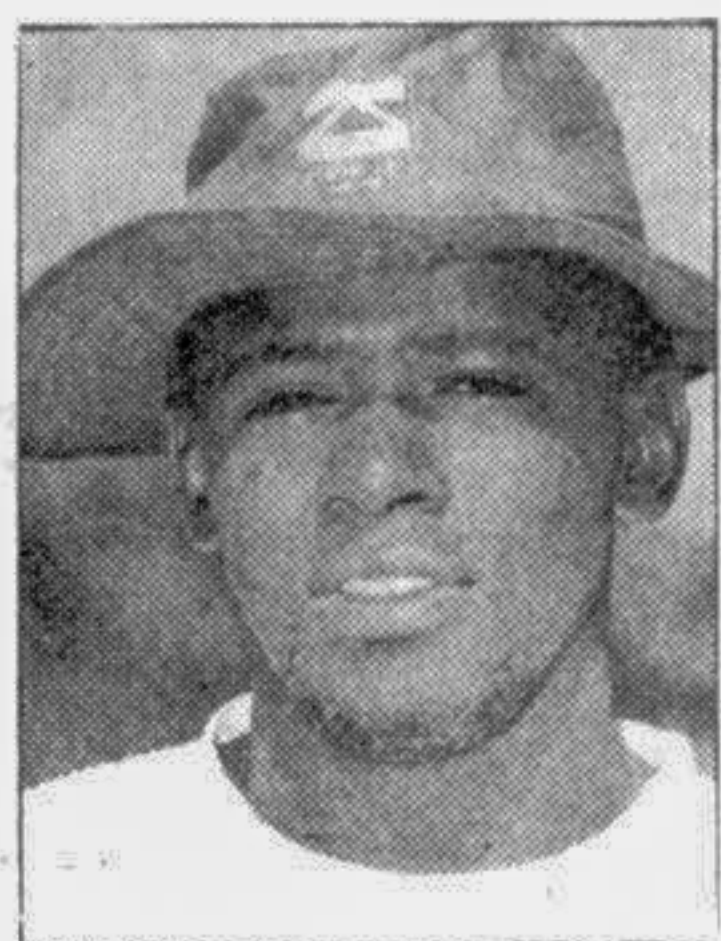
Sports Reporter

Kenyan cricketers Maurice Odumbe and Steve Tikolo will play for Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Janakantha Premier league, which starts today in the city. This was disclosed last night by the club's additional joint-secretary, Tanveer Haider, who received a confirmation fax from the chairman of the Kenya Cricket Association, Jimmy Rayani.

The two star Kenyan batsmen are scheduled to arrive in the city tomorrow and are likely to feature in Mohammedan's first match against Warli Club at the BKSP next Thursday.

According to Tanveer, the duo reached Dubai from Europe Cup b'ball

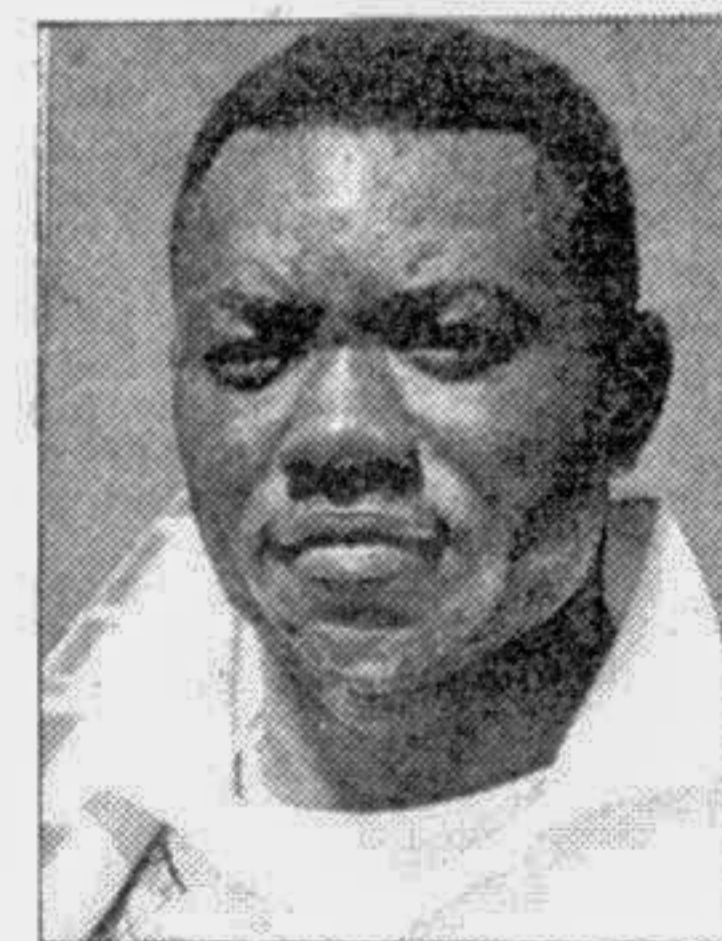
Defending champions Bangladesh Navy trounced Pabna DSA 110-46 in the inaugural match of the Europa Cup 21st national basketball championship at the Dhammondi gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.



MAURICE ODUMBE

Nairobi yesterday. They are scheduled to reach ZIA tomorrow at 9:30 am.

Provided everything goes as per plan, the two will be the first Kenyans to play in the



STEVE TIKOLO

Dhaka league. However, the two experienced all-rounders are not unfamiliar here because of their tour with the Kenyan national team, which was led by Odumbe.

Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League Champs Abahani orient hat-trick of titles

Sports Reporter

Holders Abahani will begin their bid to retain the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League title for third successive season when they take on promoters Orient Sporting Club this morning.

The two-day 80-over-a-side match, introduced after a long break in the domestic cricket, will start at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 9:30 am.

Abahani, on paper the most balanced side, will be led by former national skipper Akram Khan. Winners of the prestigious league for the last two seasons, they are tipped to be favourites to earn their second hat-trick of championships.

Abahani won the league title for a record eleven times, including three in a row in the 1984-85, 85-86 and 86-87 seasons. Their arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club have won it seven times.

In a two-day match in the 12-team league, the fielding side will have to bowl 80 overs. The first session will start at 9:30 am and will continue up to the 40-minute lunch break, which will start at 12 noon. The post-lunch session will break for tea at 2:40 pm for 20 minutes. The final session starts at 3 pm and will end at 4:15 pm.

Although the league was supposed to be conducted by

foreign umpires, it was learnt last night that the organisers, Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM), were yet to finalise the matter, given which today's league opener will be officiated by local umpires.

For matches at the Bangabandhu Stadium, season tickets of VIP seats will cost Tk 3,000, Club House east Tk 1,500 and west Tk 2,000.

Daily tickets will also be available in the following rates: general gallery (east and west) - Tk 20, VIP - Tk 100, Club House (east) - Tk 50, Club House (west) - Tk 75 and international gallery - Tk 40.



Latvian Grand Master Igor Rausis (L) of holders Leonine Chess Club ponders his next move against Biman's International Master Ziara Rahman during their First Division match yesterday. — Star photo

Race row grips South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 7 (Reuters/Intermet): The racial make-up of South Africa's cricket team hit the headlines on Monday as they prepared for Thursday's second test against the West Indies.

"We will put blacks in your team," ran the banner headline in The Star newspaper after a decision by the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB) to make the presence of players of colour in provincial teams mandatory from next season.

At the same time, selectors recalled opening batsman Herschelle Gibbs -- a coloured -- to the squad for the second test against the West Indies in Port Elizabeth.

South Africa are 1-0 up in the five-match series, the first post-apartheid tour by the West Indies.

The appointment of Gibbs forced the 24-year-old opener to enter the debate and defend his selection under the front page headline of "Pick Me on Merit" in The Citizen daily.

"If I was the parent of a national hopeful, I certainly wouldn't feel happy if my son was selected to represent his country simply because he is a person of colour," Gibbs was reported as saying by The Citizen.

The ruling on provincial teams and Gibbs's recall to the test side reflected the racial and political undertones that persist in sport after decades of apartheid which denied opportunities to most non-white sportsmen and women.

The selection of test and rugby international players in the Springboks has become a charged political issue with

critics arguing against "racial quotas" in sports as opponents say it is vital teams more accurately reflect the country's racial make-up.

"We think it is very unfortunate

MacGill recalled for Adelaide

MELBOURNE, Dec 7: Leg-spin bowler Stuart MacGill to-day was recalled to the Australian cricket squad for the third Ashes Test against England, starting in Adelaide on Friday, reports Reuters.

MacGill, who took four wickets to play a leading role in the drawn first Test, missed the second Test last week under Australia's "horses for courses" selection policy.

Australia posted a seven-wicket win in that Test in Perth, on a wicket better suited to pace bowlers, to take a 1-0 lead in the five-Test series.

The Australian selectors also dropped pace bowler Michael Kasprowicz from the third Test Squad.

MacGill's recall and all-rounder Colin Miller's retention suggests two Australian spinners will be used in Adelaide.

That would leave selectors with the unpopular move of making South Australian speedster Jason Gillespie the 12th man.

AUSTRALIA Mark Taylor (captain), Steve Waugh (Vice-Captain), Michael Slater, Justin Langer, Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Ian Healy, Stuart MacGill, Damien Fleming, Colin Miller, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath (12th man to be named).

nate that cricket, which has done more than any other sport to promote development, is being forced into this compromise by politicians," The Citizen said in an editorial.

UCB's ruling on provincial teams followed statements by the ruling African National Congress (ANC), who denounced "lily-white" teams, and Sports Minister Steve Tshwete, who said he was fed-up with the lack of transformation.

South Africa's sports control body, the National Sports Council (NSC), denounced the UCB's move as too little too late and vowed it would enforce the inclusion of black players.

"There is a concerted effort to keep black players from representing the country at the senior level...We cannot fold our arms while black players are deliberately kept out of cricket," NSC President Muleki George was reported as saying by The Star.

Tshwete was also reported as having given selectors a warning not to pick an "all-white" team for the Port Elizabeth test as it had for the opening test in Johannesburg.

Under UCB's ruling, provinces that do not have sufficiently skilled black cricketers available will be provided by a pool of players to be introduced by the UCB.

In future, if the national selectors are unable to name black players in a squad or team due to form or injury, the selection will be referred to a UCB committee.

The committee is also to be empowered to direct the selectors to include players of colour.

Bangladeshis at the Asiad

BANGKOK, Dec 7 (BSS/UNB): Two Bangladeshi boxers — Biplob Hoque and Asadur Rahman — got first round byes in their weight categories in boxing at the Asiad.

The boxing competition started today.

In 51 kg Biplob, in the second round tomorrow, will face Thailand's Pramuan Sak Phosuan, who also got a first round bye.

In all 17 boxers are taking part in the category.

Asad, in the second round 54 kg, will take on Marat Mazimbayev of Kazakhstan on December 9.

A total of 21 boxers are taking part in the event.

HOCKEY Bangladesh will take on China in one of the three opening day matches of the hockey competition tomorrow at the Queen Sirikit Stadium. The match will start at 6:05 pm BST.

Bangladesh have been placed in Pool B with strong India, South Korea, China and Singapore while Pool A comprises Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, Hong Kong and hosts Thailand.

SWIMMING Bangladesh's M. Niaz Ali finished 20th among 24 participants to make early exit from the heats of the men's 100 m freestyle at the Phnom Penh Aquatic Centre today.

Niaz of Bangladesh Navy, in his first International appearance this morning, finished 20th with a timing of 1:12.44 minute, worse than his previous individual timing of 1:10.51.

Like father like son

BANGKOK, Dec 7 (AP): Syedul Haque Mazumdar embraced his 17-year-old son and muttered words of comfort in their native Bengali language.

And then they walked away. Minutes earlier, Mazumdar's son, Syed Mohammad Sajjad, had lost to Kuwait's Waleed Al-hatem 5-4 in the Asian Games snooker final.

Mazumdar, 43, is the leader of Bangladesh's three-member snooker team in the Games that opened in Thailand's capital Sunday.

He paid 2,500 dollars for their air fares from the capital, Dhaka, to Bangkok and for their stay in the Asian Games Village after Bangladesh's government declined to pay, saying that if they wanted to participate they should pay themselves.

Mazumdar is Bangladesh's No 3 player. The No 1 could not afford the trip. The No 2, Mohammad Hussein, got a sponsor.

"I think I took the right decision to bring my son along," Mazumdar said after recovering from the pain of his child's defeat.

"For his age he gave a good fight," said Mazumdar. "Even in defeat I am happy because he got international exposure."

For Mazumdar, who will play his first game Tuesday, cricket was his first love. But that changed in 1982 when his father died and, being the eldest son, Mazumdar had to look after the family business of garments and jute.

"I got attracted to snooker because it is very relaxing," Mazumdar said. He picked up the game after lunch in clubs.

When Sajjad was born, Mazumdar and his wife, Dilruba, dreamed that one day he would shape up as an internationally famed snooker player.

"He is doing well. Let him grow a bit more and you will see a very good player in him."



Mohammedan coach Dawlatuzzaman (2nd from R) briefs the new-look side at a training session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Premier Division Cricket League Preview-V Mohammedan — weakened, but not to be written off

Al-Amin

Few had expected such a dismal face of Mohammedan Sporting Club. The popular Motijheel outfit, known for its glorious legacy of producing a winning team in whatever event they feature in, seem to have lost their way. And, much to the disappointment of their strong band of supporters, Mohammedan offered perhaps the weakest local selection for this year's Premier Division Cricket League.

Mohammedan lost as many as seven recognised players including long-standing skipper Aminul Islam in this year's cricketers' transfer. It was, however, not that the players were reluctant to assemble under the famous 'black and white' tent, but reportedly the attitude of some of the officials drove them to strike better financial deals with other teams.

Mohammedan, who won the league title seven times since its introduction in 1974-75, are considered to be an institution in domestic sport alongside their bitter rivals, Abahani Krira Chakra. But for the last few years, success have eluded Mohammedan. They have finished fourth in the last two seasons and, to rub salt to their wound, they failed to win a single match in the six-team Super league last year.

The officials attributed the reasons for the debacle as 'lack of commitment on the part of the players' and have decided to turn a cold shoulder on financially-motivated players. But their play to influence the play-

ers with only the reputation of their big name eventually backfired as Hasibul Hossain, Mehrab Hossain, Sajid Hasan, Parvez, Minhazul Abedin and Aminul Islam deserted them one after the other.

Mohammedan's shrewd negotiator, Tanveer Haider, known for his famous 'breakfast with Nannu' (Minhajul Abedin), was there during the bourse. Although there were looming speculations that Tanveer, after a successful in-house cleaning operation, will go for action in a bid to save the giants the blush, it never really happened. The outcome was obvious. Mohammedan lost most of their players but in return they found little to cheer about. Only left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique stayed back to regroup the broken club with Morshed Ali Khan and an out-of-touch Selim Shahed.

An ardent Mohammedan supporter may still bet for his beloved team against mounting heavy odds, but on paper, Mohammedan have hardly a chance for an eighth title triumph.

The lull in the air is quite evident during practice sessions, where coach Dawlatuzzaman is struggling to find a playing eleven, and the few loyal fans the names of the new recruits.

"It is true that we will walk into the field knowing little about our strengths. But it does not make any difference. We have had the strongest team last season and you know the

outcome. We finished fourth", said Dawlat while talking to this reporter last Saturday.

Standing among the ruins Dawlat, however, looked confident to hone the new-look side to a winning force.

"We have a very good bowling side. Zakir, Sumon and Monju are quality seamers. They are wicket-takers and have the ability to really kick the ball up. Besides, with off-spinner Salahuddin and a per-severing Rafique around, we have potentially the best twerker-duo in town", claimed Dawlat.

"Although our batting leaves a lot to be desired, Imran Hamid is a good opening batsman. Sumon is young but I think he will not be a bad companion for Imran to open the Mohammedan innings", said Dawlat.

"Selim Shahed will bat at number three, followed by a promising Nasirul Alam Nahid. Wicketkeeper Murtosa is also a very good bat", said Dawlat. But the fire-brand paceman of the 70's admitted that he needed a couple of solid foreign recruits to produce a good batting side. The club was working in that direction, it was learnt then.

"We are looking forward to our foreign recruits. If we can get two solid all-rounders, I believe Mohammedan will be a tough opponent to beat", rounded off Dawlat.

Mohammedan might have produced a depleted side. But history is on their side.

Liu lifts world record

BANGKOK, Dec 7: China's tiny Liu Xihua set a world record with a snatch of 83.5 kilograms Monday on her way to the Asian Games gold medal for 48-kilogram division women's weightlifting, reports AP.

Liu won the gold with a total of 187.5, Myanmar's Kay Thi Win took the silver with 182.5 and Indonesia's Sri Indriyani the bronze with 180.

Barrelling downhill near a park where elephants and tigers

roam, mountain bike racer Phannarong Kongsamut gave host Thailand its first gold medal.

The hosts gained a second gold in the team event of women's air rifle shooting, putting them into a tie with Japan for the early gold medals lead.

Japan gained its two from a victory Monday in the women's mountain bike race and a near-world record Sunday in the women's marathon, the Games' first gold medal race.

Asian powerhouse China had just two bronzes so far, but was likely to gain gold in the swimming pool and the gymnastics hall later Monday.

South Korea's Kim Jung-mi

NBL v'ball

Bangladesh Rifles registered their sixth successive win in the National Bank Premier Division volleyball league, reports UNB.

They defeated Bangladesh Police 15-12, 15-10 and 15-5 at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

In the First Division league, Fire Service outplayed Shantibagh Welfare Association 15-13, 15-2, 15-2.

Tuesday's Premier Division matches: Bangladesh Bank vs Azad SC (6:00 pm) and Titas Club vs Water Development Board (6:00 pm).

Tuesday's First Division matches: East End Club vs Jiban Bima Corporation (7:00 pm), Dilkusha SC vs East End Boys (7:00 pm) and Shantibagh Welfare Association vs Brothers Union (8:00 pm).

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Dec 7: Mohammedan Sporting Club lost another two points following a goalless draw with City Corporation Club at M A Aziz Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Mohammedans collected four points from their three super league matches while City Corporation bagged one point from two encounters.

BCIC drew with Sea-Customs (0-0) in another match of the day.

BCIC and Sea-Customs got two and one point respectively from their two super league matches.

edged Thailand's T. Puriromachai 498.6 to 496.6 for gold in individual women's air rifle shooting, and her team took silver behind the Thais, 1,178 to 1,171.

Kongsamut won the men's mountain bike race in 3 minutes, 43.13 seconds, with Takashi Tsukamoto of Japan second in 3:44.79 and Brain Cook of Hong Kong third in 3:57.65.

In the women's race, Sachiko Kamakura and Mami

had just two bronzes so far, but was likely to gain gold in the swimming pool and the gymnastics hall later Monday.

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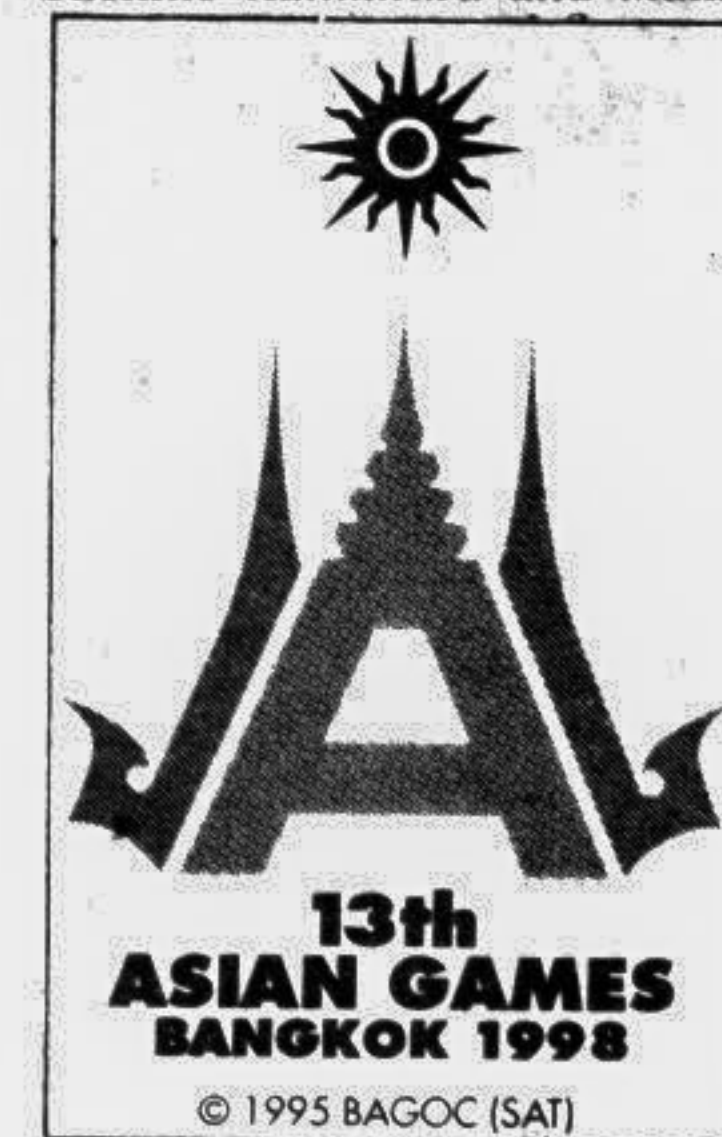
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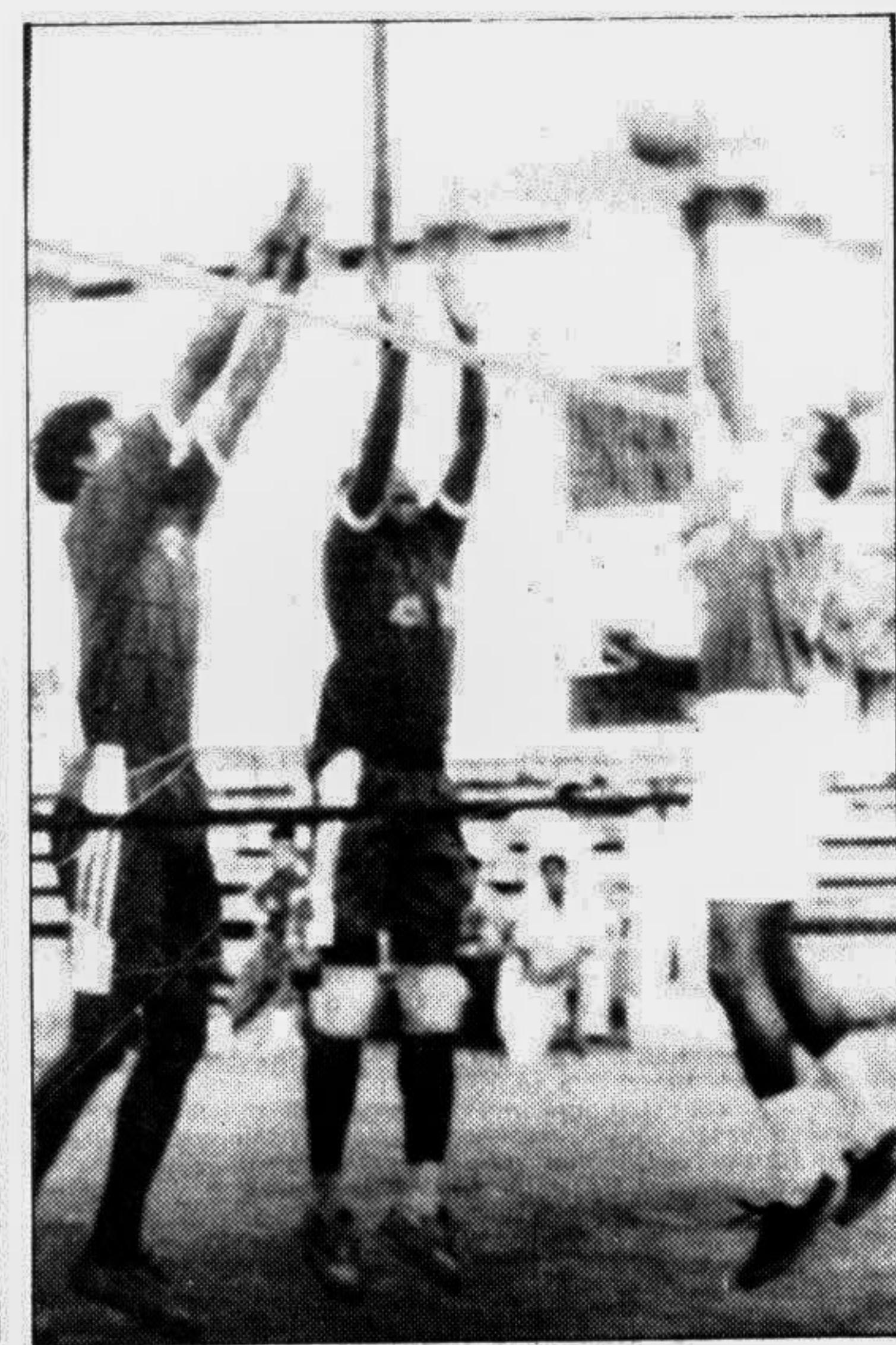
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Action from yesterday's National Bank Limited volleyball league clash between Nabajatak Majlish and Nabajagarani. — Star photo