Biman finish level with BU

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman finished jointly on top of the points table when they recorded a comfortable six-wicket win over hapless Kalabagan Krira Chakra in the Navana Premier Division cricket league match yesterday at the Dhaka Sta-

Biman and Brothers Union finished with 16 points from nine matches each. Both teams lost once each, with Biman losing to last year's champions Abahani Krira Chakra while Brothers Union lost to Biman.

The BCCB league committee will sit in a meeting to decide the date of the play-off match which will decide the champi-

According to an unofficial

source, the play-off match is likely to be held on April 3.

Kalabagan, on the other hand, have been relegated. along with winless Rupali Bank, to the Milnars First Division cricket league following this defeat, their eighth in nine outings.

Mohammedan Sporting, GMCC and Abahani KC all finished with 12 points each. But Mohammedans and GMCC finished ahead of Abahani on a better run rate.

Kalabagan's skipper Tamin elected to bat after winning the loss - a decision that turned sour as wickets kept falling at regular intervals. Kalabagan were finally skilled out for a paltry 103 runs in a mere 40.2 of the stipulated 75 overs.

Pappu with 24, followed by Ishtiag, 19, and Munir with 16 were the other Kalabagan batsmen to reach double fig-

Left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Moni bowled a nagging length to return with the flattering figures of four wickets for only 13 runs off 10 overs. Mcdium-pacer Piyal captured two wickets for 11 runs. Rafiq Bacchu and Shanu also chipped in with one wicket

In reply, Biman flew past their victory target scoring 105 runs for the loss of four

wickets in only 24.2 overs. Bulbul, 43, and Sumon, 40. were the prominent Biman batsmen. Skipper Shanu remained not out with 11 runs.

NAVANA POINTS TABLE

wicket each for Kalabagan.

Sami and Tamin took one

	M	W-	L	F
Biman	9	8	1	16
Brothers	9	8	1	16
MSC	9	6	3	12
GMCC	9	6	3	12
Abahani	9	6	3	12
Surja Tarun	9	5	4	10
Gulshan Youth	9	3	6	6
Lalmatia	9	2	7	4
Kalabagan	9	1	8	2
Rupali Bank	9	0	9	0
	4:500			

Chittagong Division goalie Naju keeps this one away from his net during yesterday's Independence Cup soccer match against BRTC at the Mirpur Stadium.

Drugs may cost Diego dear

who offten acts as the

Argentine's spokesman, said:

"Diego is tired and fed up with

everything that's going on

Second dope scandal

ing to rock the Italian league,

regarded as the world's best,

Andrea Carnevale and Angelo

Peruzzi were suspended for a

year after testing positive for

the amphetamine fentermaine

Maradona's lawyer Vincenzo

Siniscalchi said: "This is only a

verdict by a sports tribunal and

won't influence the civil courts

where Maradona faces other

Maradona also faces a pa-

ternity suit brought against

him by a former girlfriend

Cristiana Sinagra, who named

her son born in 1986 Diego

"The first thing that disillu-

sioned Maradona was the

Sinagra case. From that mo-

ment Diego has not recov-

He was referring to a

judge's ruling late last year that

the player should undergo a

blood test to determine pater-

nity. Maradona has not yet

complied with the order.

following a league match.

It is the second case of dop-

Last October, AS Roma's

around him."

this season.

proceedings."

Armando Junior.

ered," Signorini said.

Tennis fans worried

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh will Bahrain Zone Group Davis Cup tie in

The match was originally scheduled for February but had to be postponed because of the Gulf war. The group also includes Thailand, Pakistan, Sri

Lanka and Chinese Taipei The winners of the Bangladesh-Bahrain tie will play Sri Lanka in the next round.

Meanwhile, tennis fans and players alike have been rather worried at the lack of any initiative on the part of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) to take necessary measures to select and prepare the national squad.

With barely a month to go the BTF is yet to pick the team. It has not even named the non-playing captain. According to observers, picking a side

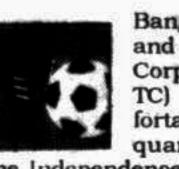
should have been completed soon after the national championships which were held earlier this month. The results of the nationals could have been taken by the ad hoc BTF committee to name the four-man side.

The Davis Cup requires a

certain degree of preparation on the part of the participants, but unfortunately our tennis authorities are still to wake up to the need for intensive training and practice, especially among the doubles pairings. Besides, the players need to be adequately outfitted with proper gear and equipment. Given her record in the competition Bangladesh cannot afford to waste any regarding

preparations. A defeat against lowly Bahrain would be very humiliating for the country for we would then be relegated to the lower division, requiring us to go through the qualification

BRTC win easy



Corporation (BR-TC) sailed comfortably into the quarter-finals of the Independence Day football tournament after recording a 2-0 victory over Chittagong Division yesterday at the

Mirpur Stadium. BRTC will now play against the newly promoted Eskaton Sabuj Sangha on April 3. Eskaton beat the fancied Brothers Union 1-0 in the opening match of the tournament on March 26.

In a lacklustre display. BRTC and Chittagong failed to break the dead-lock in the first half.

BRTC woke from the slum-France beat

PARIS, Mar 30 : France beat

Albania 3-0 (halftime 0-0) in a European under-21 soccer championship Group One match in Angers on Friday, reports Reuter.

sprinted down and snatched fender Saifu to slot it home (1-

up to tic expectation and comsparse crowd.

yellow cards for fouling their

Farhad, Milan, Rubel Sr. Suiit. Riaz, Tutul, Prasanta (Noman). Litu (Mansoor) and Rubel Jr. Chittagong Division: Naju. Babu Sr, Iqbal, Ayub, Saifu,

(Tusher).

TODAY'S MATCH Muktijoddha vs Dhaka Div

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Road and Transport

ber and opened the account in the very first minute of the second half. Midfielder Riaz the ball from Chittagong's de-

Litu doubled the margin in the 72nd minute of play. His thunderous shot deflected into the net ricocheting off a defenders feet. Both the teams failed to live

pletely disappointed the Rubel and Milan received

BRTC SC: Moslem, Ataur.

Babu Jr. Masud, Sanker, Tipu, Lokman (Munna) and Mamun

Referee: Monirul Islam.

(3.15 pm)

Leonard's lack of control



Sugar 30: Leonard during divorce proceedings last year that he physically abused his wife while under the influence of alcohol, a newspaper reported

Saturday, reports AP. In its Saturday editions, the Los Angeles Times published excerpts from Maryland court records of the proceedings last summer. Leonard later agreed to a multimiliton-dollar out-ofcourt settlement with Juanita Leonard, his wife of 10 years.

Juanita Leonard said the former welterweight and middleweight world champion used cocaine on occasion. However, Leonard did not name cocaine as a drug he used, mentioning only alcohol

Seraj cricket

Sports Reporter Mymensingh, Bartsal, and

Chittagong District Sports Association qualified for the zonal finals of the Seraj memorial national funtor cricket championships yesterday at different zonal venues. In the Zone 'E' semifinal

match at Raishahi, Mymensingh outplayed Narail DSA by 109 runs. Mymensingh DSA scored 226 for eight wickets in their allotted 40

In reply, Narail DSA were all out for 117 runs in 35.2

Bartsal DSA chalked up a thumping 10 wickets victory over Manikgani DSA in the Zone 'A' semifinal match at Satkhira.

Manikganj, batting first, were bundled out for a poor 71 runs in 24.5 overs. In reply, Barisal DSA were 74 for no loss in 13.5 overs.

Chittagong received walkover against Sherpur. when the former failed to all this season with his club turn-up for the semtfinal en-Napoli and the Italian football counter of Zone 'C' at Myauthorities, failed a dope test mensingh.

Meanwhile, Kushtia and Khulna moved into the zonal semifinals after winning their respective matches.

Kushtia beat Nilphamari DSA by 84 in a Zone 'D' match at Pabna.

Khulna DSA scored a narrow 12 runs victory over Patuakhali in Zone 'B' outing at

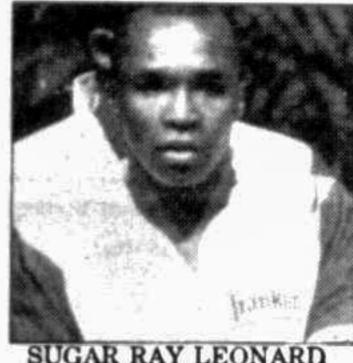
Youth kabaddi begins today

Sports Reporter

The Independence Day youth kabaddi competition for players under fourteen years of age begins at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court today.

Eight teams will be taking part in the meet, to be held on a knockout basis.

On the opening day, BDR School will face Mitali Shishu Biddyapith while Tokai Sporting take on Maniknagar Primary School.



SUGAR RAY LEONARD specifically, according to the documents.

The Times reported that Leonard, 34, admitted under oath to having "a few scuffles, and pushing and shoving his wife and once striking his wife on the head and causing a cut with his ring.

Leonard attributed his alcohol abuse to frustration over his stalled career, according to the records. "There was a period in my

life when my career had ended temporarily and I was going through a state of limbo, and I wasn't particularly happy with my marital situation." he said. Leonard's lawyer and man-

ager. Mike Trainer, said Leonard was unavailable for comment Friday when reached by the Times in Washington.

Trainer told the Times: "If you are writing that during the promotional period for that fight against Thomas Hearns in June 1989 that he, Leonard, was using drugs, that s totally inaccurate." Hearns and Leonard ap-

several appearances before school children, urging them to stay off drugs. Juanita Leonard said under oath that her husband used cocaine. She said she learned of his use in 1986 and that the last time she knew him to be

using the drug was in 1987. In the documents, Juanita Leonard described several incidents of abuse, including one night on which she said her husband threatened to burn down their house when she tried to leave with their two

children. "Over a two-year period he would come home intoxicated, high," she said. He would pull me out of bad. He'd throw me around. He at one point would harass me physically and mentally in front of the children. He cut me across my head one time with a ring when he hit

pionship from Marvelous Marvin Hagler. peared together in nationally

televised anti-drug public service announcements in May and June of 1989 and made retirement.

in New York.

Mason quits

LONDON, Mar 30 : Former British heavyweight champion Gary Mason is quitting boxing because of an eye injury he suffered when losing his title to Lennox Lewis earlier this month, reports Reuter.

Mason, unbeaten in 35 professional bouts before his defeat by European champion Lewis, had an operation for a detached retina a year ago and now faces an operation for a dislodged lens in the same eye.

Mason, 28, was ranked number four heavyweight contender by the World Boxing Association

Leonard was largely retired during the mid-1980s, fighting only once between February 1982 and April 1987, when he won the middleweight cham-

He first retired in 1982 after suffering a detached retina in training. After the injury healed, he came back to defeat Kevin Howard in 1984. Unhappy with his performance, he announced a second

Leonard retired again last Feb 10, immediately after losing a decision to Terry Norris

banned substance at the 1988 to two years after Olympic Games in Seoul. drugs tests showed he had taken Napoli were informed of the result of the original dope test cocaine, the Italian Soccer on March 22, five days after Federation (FIGC) said on the match, a FIGC spokesman

Napoli.

player.

Napoli squad.

specialist who helped to de-

termine that Canadian sprinter

Ben Johnson had taken a

said. He believed Maradona

gated over allegations of in-

volvement in an international

drugs and prostitution ring

and on Monday was questioned

by Naples magistrate Luigi

Cup star, who has run up fines

of more than 50,000 dollars

this season for disciplinary

matters, has shut himself up in

his luxurious hillside home

overlooking Naples Bay since

Tuesday, missing training with

week. I wonder if I'll see him

again," said Italian interna-

tional Fernando de Napoli, one

of his closest friends in the

groups of Napoli fans huddled

round radios and television

sets in bars and social clubs

waiting for news about the

trainer Fernando Signorini,

Maradona's personal fitness

In Naples on Friday anxious

"I've not seen Diego for a

The Argentine 1986 World

Bobbio, judicial sources said.

Maradona is being investi-

was told the same day.

Friday, reports Reuter. "He was found positive for cocaine." it said in a statement. Under Italian soccer rules. Maradona now faces a suspen-

ROME. Mar 30:

Diego Maradona

faces a ban of up

sion of between six months and two years. Maradona, Napoli star and former Argentine captain, has said he plans to quit Italian

soccer anyway at the end of this season. The FIGC ordered a second test to be done on Maradona when a routine urine sample taken after First Division Napoli's league match against

Bari on March 17 showed traces of a banned substance. "The president of the FIGC has informed the disciplinary commission of the professional footballers' league," the state-

ment said

The league will meet next week to consider the length of any ban.

Referral of a case to the league entails automatic suspension.

Friday's test was attended on Maradona's behalf by Manfred Donike, the German

Davis Cup results

Henri Leconte and Guy Forget

Czechoslovak hopes alive in

their Davis Cup World Group

quarter-final against Yugoslavia.

Slobodan Zivojinovic 6-1, 4-6,

6-4, 7-5 to level the tie at 1-1

In Mexico City, Steady ve-

teran Brad Gilbert gave the

defending Davis Cup champion

United States a hard-earned 1-

I split on Friday after lightly-

regarded Mexican Luis Herrers

surprised Cup novice Jim

Courier in the opening singles.

after Courier's loss, rose to the

occasion for a 6-3, 6-2, 6-7, 6-

3 win over Leonardo Lavalle

that left the first round World

would have been in big

trouble," said Gilbert.

Group tie even '

Gilbert, feeling the pressure

after the first day's play.

Novacek, 26 today, beat

Friday, reports Reuter.

RENNES, France, Mar 30

Seles-Graf final likely

both laboured to difficult four-ANTONIO. set victories to take France to Texas, Mar 30: a 2-0 lead over Israel on the Top seed Monica first day of their Davis Cup Seles and second World Group first round tie on seed Steffi Graf moved a step closer to an anticipated final In Prague, Karel Novacek round showdown after each earned himself a birthday present on Friday, keeping brushed aside quarter-final

> dollar US women's hardcourt tennis championships, reports Seles, new world number one and tournament defending champion, despatched

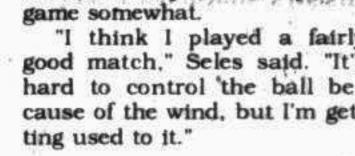
opponents at the 225,000-

American Erika De Lone 6-2. Jahangir tunes up for British Open

GLASGOW, Mar 30 : Jahangir Khan continued his impressive build-up for the British Open squash tournament on Friday with a 15-13, 15-9, 15-8 victory over New Zealander Ross Norman in the Scottish Open quarter-finals, reports Reuter.

"If I didn't win today we Jahangir. 28, is bidding to win a 10th successive British Open title.

6-0 in 53 minutes despite windy condition that forced Seles to adjust her power



matches. My serve was very strong and my game felt solid," said Graf, who allowed the

The tragic fall of a demigod



the ball artist who rose to the summit of soccer

World Cup, fell finally from grace when it was confirmed on Friday he had used coacine. reports Reuter. The Argentine, in trouble

taken after a league match 12 He can expect a suspension of up to two years, effectively

ending his career.

Maradona, 30, said earlier in the season he was tired of the stress in the Italian league and wanted to geturn to Argentina even if its meant retiring from professional football. He has a contract with Napoli until 1993.

"I'm not as strong as I used to be. I can't manage to be like was before. Some day or other it had to happed," he said last November.

In January he said: "At the end of the season I'll give up football . . . I can't continue with everyone on my back."

Maradona is being questioned in connection with a Naples vice ring after police tapped telephone calls in which Maradona is alleged to have asked for drugs and prostitutes. He has described it as a set-up.

The Argentine has missed

training and matches throughout the season and run up more than 50,000 dollars in fines for indiscipline. He is involved in a paternity suit and Napoli are suing him

for damages to the club's im-A stocky man only five feet five inches (1.64 metres) tall, Maradona's almost magical

reading of football compen-

sated for injury and occasional

lack of speed born of a tendency towards overweight. His, talent took him from the slums of Buenos Aires to become one of the world's richest footballers.

"I'm privileged, but only because God wants it that way That's why I always cross myself when I go on to the pitch. I feel I'd be betraying him if I din't," Maradona once said. God, according to

the World Cup in Mexico when he scored the first of his two goals in a quarter-final defeat of England by using his hand to help the ball into the net. That goal has scored "partly by the hand of God and partly

Maradona, was favoured him in

with the head of Maradona," he said in his most famous quote. Although a shadow of his 1986 self, Maradona was only slightly less influential in Italy in 1990 as he coaxed a poor Argentina to a repeat final with

West Germany.

But he incurred the wrath of millions of soccer-crazy Italians when he cast doubts



over the support Italy could summon for its semi-final match against Argentina in Maradona's adopted home town of Naples (-) and then compounded the insult by beating the hosts in a shock penalty shoot-out.

The 1990 final will now probably go down as the last of more than 80 appearances for Argentina.

Diego Armando Maradona was born on October 30, 1960. in the Buenos Aires working class slum of Villa Fiorito, the fifth of eight children of factory worker Diego Senior and Dalma "Tota" Franco de Maradona.

Discovered in street kickabouts by Argentinos Juniors scout Francisco Cornejo. Maradona showed unrivalled ball skills from an early age. He made his First Division

debut for the club 10 days before his 16th birthday and less than a year later played his first match for Argentina. Though left out the 1978 World Cup-winning squad,

Maradona captained Argentina

to victory in the World Youth

Cup in Japan the following Maradona won his first and only Argentine league title with Boca Juniors in 1981 before moving to wealthy Spanish club Barcelona for three militon dollars after the 1982 World Cup.

He had an unhappy two sea-

"I think I played a fairly good match." Seles said. "It's hard to control the ball because of the wind, but I'm get-

Graf played as if she does not plan to be known as former number one for much longer. Not to be outdone by the Woman who ousted her from the top of the rankings. the second-seeded German raced past seventh-seeded American Susan Sloane 6-1, 6-1 in a mere 36 minutes.

"Today was one of my better

Indians through

JAIPUR, Mar 30 : India clinched the Asia-Oceania Group One Davis Cup tie against Indonesia 3-0 after winning the doubles here today, reports AFP.

sons at Barcelona marred by

hepatitis, a broken leg and an

ugly fight with Bilbao players in

a Spanish Cup final watched by

Naples, the poverty-stricken

southern Italian port whose

First Division side Napoli

begged and borrowed the 7.5

million dollars needed to buy

the status of a demi-god and

with the team built around

him, helped transform a club

that had never shone into one

He led Napoli to their first

Italian league thie in 1987 and

repeated the feat again in

1990. The club won their first

European honour with victory

in the UEFA Cup in 1989.

There Maradona enjoyed

It was a different story at

King Juan Carlos.

him in 1984.

of the best in Italy.

French second round Cup tie with Dijon.

BORDEAUX, France, Mar 30 Bordeaux Mayor and former French Prime Minister Jacques Chaban-Delmas said on Friday he was prepared to step in to save the city's First Division soccer club from ex-

Chaban-Delmas told a news conference after a city council meeting that he was ready to

He is the archetypal meright road," he said. "But if it dieval despot with courtiers. were the last solution, I would Neapolitan historian Luciano de Crescenzo said of Maradona. "He only plays well when he feels loved and he has come to

the right place." Maradona was married in a lavish ceremony in Buenos Aires in November 1989 to the girlfriend of his teens, Claudia Villafane, with whom he has two daughters.

He is closely committed to his family and his earnings helped his father retire in the late 1970s to a large house in the middle class Buenos Aires district of Villa Devoto.

matches and training several times this season, notably the European Cup second round second leg match away to Spartak Moscow . He refused to fly to Moscow

Maradona has missed

with the team, turning up 24 hours later in a private jet.

He came on as a second half substitute and Napoli were eliminated on penalties after two 0-0 draws.

Maradona's fines this season, mostly imposed by his club and amounting to the equivalent of over 50,000 dollars, were the result of the following acts of indiscipline: -In August 1990, 10 million

lire for a riotous night in a

disco before a league match.

-In September, eight million lire for failing to turn up for the home match with Cagliari. In October, eight million lire for refusing to undergo medical tests ordered by

Napoli. in November, eight million lire for repeatedly missing training. -In December, eight million

match at Bologna. In March 1991, 500 dollars imposed by the league for a booking he received against. Sampdoria.

lire for missing the away

36th-ranked Sloane to hold

serve once in each set. In the semifinals, Graf takes. on unseeded Julie Halard of France, who beat Czechoslovak Eva Sviglerova 6-1, 6-2 in an-

Seles, who dropped her serve at love in the sixth game before running off the last eight games of the match, has a tougher semifinal assign-

other speedy 46-minute affair.

The Yugoslav power-hitter faces third seed Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland in a rematch of last year's

Marseille to appeal

PARIS, Mar 30: The French league ordered champions Marseille on Friday to play an away league match in Brest on April 6, four days before their European Cup semifinal in Moscow with Soviet side Spartak.

Marseille, who had asked for the match to be postponed so they could prepare for the European Cup tie, said they would appeal to the French Football Federation. The club, enjoying a fivepoint league lead, have said

they would send their reserve team to Brest if forced to play

on April 6, three days after a

Chaban-Delmas ready to rescue Bordeaux

help rescue the club, placed in receivership with debts of around 300 million francs (60 million dollars). " I have met the receivers and I believe they are on the

be ready to create a mixed economy association." Under a mixed economy association, the city council would be jointly responsible for the club's finances.

two-week rescue plan to stave off liquidation and were in touch with potential investors. Fans are planning a mass demonstration in Bordaux today to launch a public appeal to

The receivers said this

week they were working on a

save the club, the dominant force in French soccer during the 1980s.