

# 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 Stadium.

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 championship.

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 toss - 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 Ishtaq, 19, and Munir with 16 were the other Kalabagan batsmen to reach double figures.

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.

Medium-pace Piyal captured two wickets for 11 runs. Rafiq, Bacchu and Shanu also chipped in with one wicket each.

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.

Sami and Tamin took one wicket each for Kalabagan.

## NAVANA POINTS TABLE

	M	W	L	P
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



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

## Tennis fans worried

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh will meet Bahrain in the Asia-Oceania Zone Group Two Davis Cup tie in Bahrain May 3-5.

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 time 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

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh Road and Transport Corporation (BRTC) 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 Albania

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.

ber and opened the account in the very first minute of the second half. Midfielder Riaz sprinted down and snatched the ball from Chittagong's defender Safu to slot it home (1-0).

Litu doubled the margin in the 72nd minute of play. His thunderous shot deflected into the net ricocheting off a defender's feet.

Both the teams failed to live up to the expectation and completely disappointed the sparse crowd.

Rubel and Milan received yellow cards for fouling their rivals.

BRTC SC : Moslem, Aatur, Farhad, Milan, Rubel Sr, Sujit, Riaz, Tutul, Prasanta (Noman), Litu (Mansoor) and Rubel Jr.

Chittagong Division : Naju, Babu Sr, Iqbal, Ayub, Safu, Babu Jr, Masud, Sanker, Tpu, Lokman (Munna) and Mamun (Tusher).

Referee : Monirul Islam.

TODAY'S MATCH

Muktijoddha vs Dhaka Div (3.15 pm)

# Leonard's lack of control



LOS ANGELES, Mar 30: Sugar Ray Leonard admitted 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 multimillion-dollar out-of-court 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 use cocaine as a drug he used, mentioning only alcohol



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 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 manager, 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 appeared together in nationally televised anti-drug public service announcements in May and June of 1989 and made 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 bed. 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 me."

Leonard was largely retired during the mid-1980s, fighting only once between February 1982 and April 1987, when he won the middleweight championship from Marvelous Marvin Hagler.

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 retirement.

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

## Seraj cricket

Sports Reporter

Mymensingh, Barisal, and Chittagong District Sports Association qualified for the zonal finals of the Seraj memorial national junior cricket championships yesterday at different zonal venues.

In the Zone 'E' semifinal match at Rajshahi, Mymensingh outplayed Narail DSA by 109 runs. Mymensingh DSA scored 226 for eight wickets in their allotted 40 overs.

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

Barisal DSA chalked up a thumping 10 wickets victory over Manikganj 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 turn-up for the semifinal encounter of Zone 'C' at Mymensingh.

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 Barisal.

## 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 Biddhapati while Tokai Sporting take on Manikganj Primary School.

# The tragic fall of a demigod



ROME, Mar 30: Diego Maradona, the ball artist who rose to the summit of soccer in the 1986 World Cup, fell finally from grace when it was confirmed on Friday he had used cocaine, reports Reuter.

The Argentine, in trouble all this season with his club Napoli and the Italian football authorities, failed a dope test taken after a league match 12 days ago.

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 return 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 I was before. Some day or other it had to happen," 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 image.

A stocky man only five feet five inches (1.64 metres) tall, Maradona's almost magical reading of football compensated 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 didn't," Maradona once said.

God, according to Maradona, was favoured him in 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 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 coached 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



## Seles-Graf final likely

RENNE, France, Mar 30: Henri Leconte and Guy Forget both laboured to difficult four-set victories to take France to a 2-0 lead over Israel on the first day of their Davis Cup World Group first round tie on Friday, reports Reuter.

In Prague, Karel Novacek earned himself a birthright present on Friday, keeping Czechoslovak hopes alive in their Davis Cup World Group quarter-final against Yugoslavia.

Novacek, 26 today, beat Slobodan Zivojnovic 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 to level the tie at 1-1 after the first day's play.

In Mexico City, Steady veteran Brad Gilbert gave the defending Davis Cup champion United States a hard-earned 1-1 split on Friday after lightly-regarded Mexican Luis Herrers surprised Cup novice Jim Courier in the opening singles.

Gilbert, feeling the pressure 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 Group tie even.

"If I didn't win today we would have been in big trouble," said Gilbert.

closer to an anticipated final round showdown after each brushed aside quarter-final opponents at the 225,000-dollar US women's hardcourt tennis championships, reports Reuter.

Seles, new world number one and tournament defending champion, dispatched American Erika De Lone 6-2.

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 Zealand Ross Norman in the Scottish Open quarter-finals, reports Reuter.

Jahangir, 28, is bidding to win a 10th successive British Open title.

## Jahangir tunes up for British Open

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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 another speedy 46-minute affair.

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 assignment.

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

## 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 five-point league lead, have said they would send their reserve team to Brest if forced to play on April 6, three days after a French second round Cup tie with Dijon.

## Chaban-Delmas ready to rescue Bordeaux

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 extinction.

Chaban-Delmas told a news conference after a city council meeting that he was ready to 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 right road," he said. "But if it were the last solution, I would 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.

The receivers said this week they were working on a two-week rescue plan to stave off liquidation and were in touch with potential investors.

Fans are planning a mass demonstration in Bordeaux today to launch a public appeal to save the club, the dominant force in French soccer during the 1980s.

## 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.

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

he often acts as the Argentine's spokesman, said: "Diego is tired and fed up with everything that's going on around him."

## Second dope scandal

It is the second case of doping to rock the Italian league, regarded as the world's best, this season.

Last October, AS Roma's Andrea Carnevale and Angelo Peruzzi were suspended for a year after testing positive for the amphetamine fentermine following a league match.

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 proceedings."

Maradona also faces a paternity suit brought against him by a former girlfriend, Cristiana Sinagra, who named her son born in 1986 Diego Armando Junior.

"The first thing that disillusioned Maradona was the Sinagra case. From that moment Diego has not recovered," Signorini said.

He was referring to a judge's ruling late last year that the player should undergo a blood test to determine paternity. Maradona has not yet complied with the order.

Maradona's personal fitness

trainer Fernando Signorini,

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.

He had an unhappy two sea-