

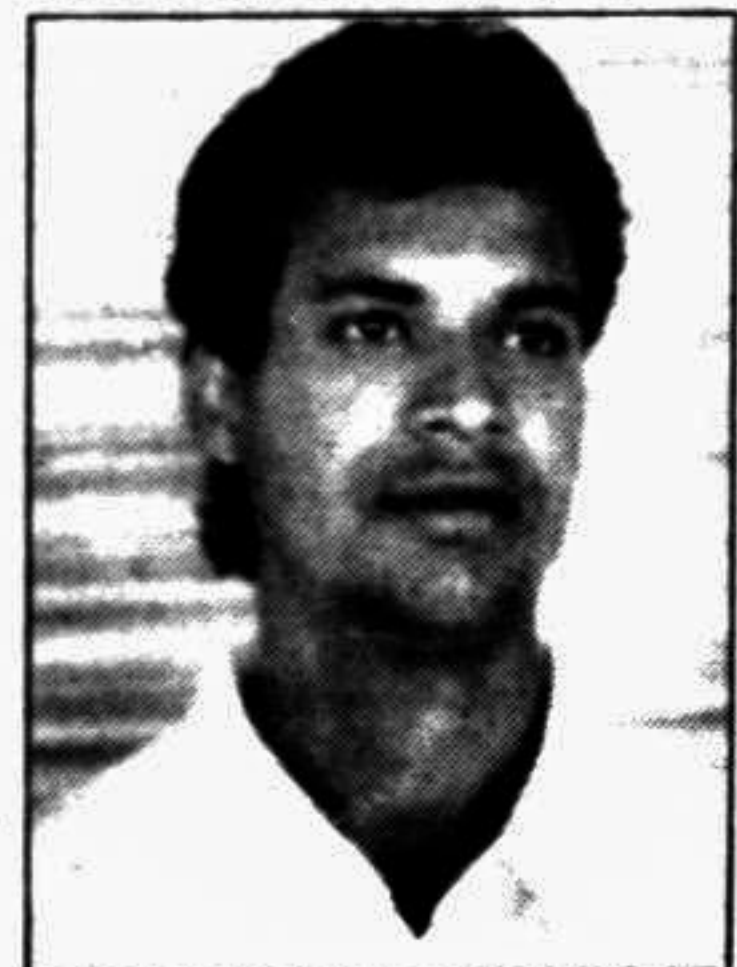
Sport

Umpire Ponir ruins it all

Sports Reporter

Rank bad umpiring ruined yesterday's play-off match between Brothers Union and Bangladesh Biman and left the 1990-91 Navana Premier Division cricket league championship undecided.

Atahar Ali Khan's decision by making a handsome 214 for the loss of eight wickets when, at the end of the 43rd over, umpire Wajed Ali Khan Ponir made the first of his series of blunders. Although the match was supposed to be a 45-overs either way affair, going by the



Z. RAZZAQ MASOOM

clock Ponir decided to come off for lunch at exactly 12.30 pm, with two overs still to be bowled by Biman. This angered the Brothers camp no end and as the umpires and the teams returned to the pavilion Brothers officials and fans aired their displeasure in no incoherent terms.

Brothers' good showing with the bat was facilitated by a fine knock of 70 by opener Zahed Razaq Masoom who chose the right occasion to make up for a rather indifferent season. His 119-ball innings included eight boundaries and laid the foundation for a good Brothers total.

Skipper Atahar Ali did his bit by scoring a quick 42 off 45 balls with the help of two fours

while Farooq made 24. Fernando 14, Akram Khan 15 not out, and Arup Bhattacharya 12 before being run out. There were 14 extras.

Left-arm spinner Enamul Haq Moni and off-spinner Aminul Islam Moni, who both came in for a bit of stick, picked up two wickets each for 58 and 47 runs respectively, off their 16 overs. Dulu, Rafiq and Shanu got one wicket each.

The Biman reply started in the most disastrous fashion and their misery was aggravated by at least two totally preposterous decisions by umpire Ponir. His colleague on the day, Manzur Milky, also gave the Biman camp much to resent by giving opener Tareqzaman Munir leg before, the first of three lbw decisions out of Biman's first four wickets. While Munir protested that he had played the ball with his bat before it grazed his pads, the dismissal of his fellow opener Jahangir Alam appeared cruel to all and sundry.

The young chap from Narayanang, who has been in terrific nick this season becoming the only batsman to rattle up three centuries, was ruled leg before by Ponir off Brothers' left-arm pacesman Golam Nowsheer Prince. Jahangir, then on four, had gone full stretch forward to Prince who was bowling round the wickets. Reduced to two for ten, Biman never quite managed to take off.

As if things were not bad enough, former skipper Ahmed Iqbal Bacheru, who has featured in several match-winning stands for his team this season, was adjudged lbw to Prince by the same umpire for

nought. Three for ten. Another three runs later Biman were plunged into deeper waters when Sumon was given caught behind off Fernando for three to make the score four for 13.

Skipper Shah Nawaz Shanu and young pacesman Piyal took it along to 57 when Shanu was bowled by medium-pace Suru for 21. Piyal fell to the veteran Jahangir Shah Badshah for a gallant 16 to make it six down for 64.

At this point Aminul Islam Bulbul and Enamul Haq Moni got together in a last-ditch bid to stave off disaster. Batting with courage, the pair took the score along to 108 when disaster struck once again and Moni was given run out for 26. Biman had had enough and would take no more of it. They decided to come off the field, come what may.

Brothers Union stayed on the ground for some time before the umpires called it a day.

Prince and Fernando had taken two wickets each while Suru and Badshah got one apiece.

Both Biman and Brothers Union had finished the ten-team league proper with 16 points each from their respective nine encounters.

While Biman have won the championship in the past, Brothers Union went into the match in search of their maiden league title. It's indeed a pity that despite having put up the better showing on the day their achievement was clouded by the incompetent supervision of the umpires.

For the record, Biman had beaten Brothers in a tall-scoring tie when the two met in their league match.



Brothers Union's Arup Bhattacharya pulls Biman spinner Enamul Haq Moni during yesterday's aborted Navana league title-deciding play-off at Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Nirman results

Sports Reporter

Three matches were decided on the inaugural day of the Dhaka Zone matches of the Nirman Schools cricket championship yesterday at different city grounds.

Bangladesh Rifles School drubbed Maryland Kindergarten School by 79 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Bangladesh Rifles scored 172 for seven wickets in their allotted 30 overs. In reply, Maryland School were bowled out for 93 runs in 25.3 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Khilgaon Government High School suffered a six-wicket defeat against Morning Sun School.

Khilgaon School scored 149 runs. In reply, Morning Sun posted 150 for the loss of four wickets in 26.1 overs.

Kakoli High School thrashed Sheikh A. M. High School by ten wickets at the Mahakhali T and T ground.

BRTC ends Eskaton dream

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) yesterday cut short the dream debut of Eskaton

Sabuj Sangha when the qualified for the Independence Cup soccer semifinals with a comfortable 2-0 victory at the Mirpur stadium.

The winners led 1-0 at the breather.

BRTC will now meet defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra in the first semifinal tomorrow at 3:15 pm at the Dhaka Stadium.

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha failed to live up to the expectation they had nailed by upsetting Brothers in the meet opera.

The fire and determination which was so evident in their Senior Division debut against the more

Fancied Gopibagh side was

nowhere to be seen yesterday. British coach Michael Ward's boys yesterday looked a tired bunch of rookies.

The sending off of their midfielder Noman by referee Ruhul Amin in the 32nd minute for fouling Shaheen only helped to create a big gap in their ranks, allowing the BRTC players to take full control of the game.

BRTC, on the other hand, played a rough and tumble game, which their young rivals failed to match. They took control of the midfield soon after the sending off of Milton.

In the 20th minute Litu took a rainbow corner kick which was superbly headed home by Ata (1-0). Twelve minutes later Eskaton's Milton was given marching orders by the referee for cynically charging Shaheen of BRTC. Shaheen

was also shown the yellow card for fouling Noman only five minutes earlier.

Twenty-six minutes into the second half, Sujit floated a curling cross from the left flank. Eskaton's goalkeeper Nizam missed the flight of the ball and Milton intelligently tapped the ball inside the empty net (2-0).

BRTC could have increased the tally but some silly mistakes by their shy forwards deprived them that.

Rinku and Akku of Eskaton Sabuj Sangha came close to scoring once in each half of the match.

BRTC's Noman, Rubel and Shaheen received the yellow card for rough play.

TODAY'S MATCH

Mohammadans vs Mukti Jodha (3:15 pm)

Windies umpire left out

KINGSTOWN, St Vincent. Apr 3: Clyde Kimberbatch, the umpire who controversially gave Dean Jones out in the second Test between West Indies and Australia in Georgetown, has not been asked to stand in the third match of the series beginning in Trinidad on Friday, reports Reuter.

It is customary for each host island in a West Indian domestic series to be represented by an umpire in their home Test and it was expected that Kimberbatch, Trinidadian, would stand in Port-of-Spain.

Barbadians Lloyd Barker and David Archer will officiate.

Cumberbatch, who gave Jones run out after he had walked from his crease having been bowled by a no-ball, stood in the Port-of-Spain Test against England last year.

Peter Taylor stakes claim

KINGSTOWN, St Vincent. Apr 3: Spinner Peter Taylor made an eloquent case for his inclusion in Australia's team for the third Test with five wickets at a cost of only 37 runs against a young West Indies side on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

But his haul, which gave him match figures of eight for 91, was not enough to earn Australia victory against a West Indies under-23 team.

After Australia took their first innings to 451 before being dismissed, the youngsters, trailing by 144, looked set for defeat when they lost five wickets while scoring 27 runs in mid-afternoon.

But James Adams batted for nearly three hours to make 58

not out and, with good support from Linden Joseph (35), kept Australia at bat and forced a draw.

The under-23s ended on 162 for nine, 18 ahead.

Taylor played the last of his 10 Tests in Wellington just over a year ago when Australia lost to New Zealand by nine wickets.

Since then he has been regarded as a one-day specialist and his selection for the tour owed more to the lack of available and in form alternatives than to his own recent performances.

But, with front-line spinner Greg Matthews in poor form and the Queen's Park Oval at Port-of-Spain likely to take spin, Taylor could be in line for an unexpected return in the third Test which starts on

Friday. He bowled cleverly against the young West Indians, beating them in the air and finding the edge on occasion.

In one inspired spell he took four for four in 12 balls and all his wickets came in a five-over period.

However, after the under-23s had collapsed from 50 for one to 90 for seven, he was unable to break through again, denied first by the 65 minute Adams-Joseph eight wicket partnership, and then the final, frustrating 31 minute stand between Adams and last man Rajindra Dhanraj.

In the morning captain Allan Border, who finished with an unbeaten 38, had batted on instead of declaring, as had been expected, at the overnight 390 for six.

Seraj cricket

Sports Reporter
Comilla DSA qualified for the final round of the Seraj memorial national junior cricket when they became champions of Zone B beating Jhalakhati DSA by 98 runs in the zonal final played at the Barisal Stadium yesterday.

Comilla, batting first, scored 228 for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated 40 overs. In reply, Jhalakhati were all out for 130 runs in 31 overs.

Sumon's crown

Sports Reporter
Sumon emerged champion of the Independence Day badminton championship defeating Shakil 12-15, 15-13 and 15-3 in the final held yesterday at the wooden-floor gymnasium. Dhaka Mohammedan SC organised this tourney with Sheltech Private Limited as the sponsor.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas gave away the prizes among the winners. The champion received Taka two thousand while runner-up got Taka one thousand in cash as prize-money.

Youth kabaddi

Sports Reporter
Rifles Public School and Jatrabari Farooq Smriti Sanghad moved into the final after winning their respective semifinal matches of the Independence Day youth kabaddi championship yesterday at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court.

Rifles Public School outplayed BDR School 59-25 points in the first semifinal while Jatrabari Farooq 85 beat Maniknagar Primary School 31-23 points in the other.

Noah for more dope tests

PARIS, Apr 3: Dope tests are to be stepped up at this year's French Open tennis championships at the request of France's new Davis Cup captain Yannick Noah, reports Reuter.

Agassi advances, Connors doesn't

ORLANDO, Florida. Apr 3: Top-seeded Andre Agassi beat Brian Garrow 6-2, 6-4, and No. 4 Derrick Rostagno easily dismissed veteran Jimmy Connors 6-1, 6-4 in the Prudential Securities classic tennis tournament Tuesday, reports AP.

In other first-round matches, second-seeded Pete Sampras needed only 53 minutes to dismiss Brad Pearce 6-2, 6-2 and defending champion Brad Gilbert came back from a sluggish start to defeat Chile's Pedro Rebolledo 2-6, 6-1, 6-1, in the 225,000-dollar event.

Agassi, 20, dominated Garrow by alternating lobs and powerful ground strokes. He said his opponent's size and style dictated the strategy.

"So much depends on the opponent you're playing," said Agassi, who won the tournament in 1989. "He's a little shorter than a lot of guys who play the net, and when you're that short you have to

get a lot closer to the net so the lob is really effective". Connors, 38, attempting to come back after a wrist injury, appeared slow and couldn't find his rhythm for most of the match.

"I was really sluggish and didn't see the ball well," said Connors. But the five-time US Open champion bristled at the suggestion his play showed that his career may be over soon.

"Why don't you let me get back and play a few matches first?" Connors asked. "I've been out of tennis for almost 16 months and just started back. This year is just a test to get myself back into playing shape. Next year will tell the story."

Trailing 6-1, 5-1, Connors briefly excited the partisan crowd by taking three straight games from the fourth-seeded Rostagno before finally bowing out.

Sampras, the defending US Open champion, served eight aces while winning 75 of his service points and allowing

Pearce only one break point opportunity.

"I really didn't let Brad get into the match," Sampras said. I kind of took to it.

"I served really well and that put a lot of pressure on him to hold serve."

Sampras, who has been battling a series of injuries, said it was his best performance since beating John McEnroe in straight sets at the US Pro Indoor Championships in Philadelphia in early February.

Sixth-seeded Jimmy Arias outlasted Australia's David MacPherson 7-6 (7-4), 2-6, 6-4, while eight-seeded David Pate eliminated Chris Garner 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

Mighty Khans sweep ahead

PARIS, Apr 3: The mighty Khans of squash, Jansher and Jahangir, swept into the second round of the French Open here on Tuesday without dropping a game, reports Reuter.

World champion Jansher produced a polished 15-11, 15-13, 15-3 win over English veteran Phil Kenyon, while Jahangir beat Spain's Asutin Adarraga 15-11, 15-10, 15-13.

Jansher, who arrived from London just half an hour before walking on court, was only once under pressure.

In the second game, I was leading by so much that I relaxed and thought he couldn't come back," said the 21-year-old from Peshawar.

Basten's blunder ends Milan hopes

ROME, Apr 3: Marco Van Basten, whose goals have helped AC Milan recover from their European Cup disappointment, ended their Italian Cup hopes on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Roma won their semifinal second leg 1-0 after the Dutch international deflected a 23rd minute shot by defender Amedeo Carboni into his own net.

Roma reached the final 1-0 aggregate after holding the outgoing European champions in the first leg in Milan last month.

Maradona to retire for good

MILAN, Apr 3: Diego Maradona, faced with a suspension from soccer for using cocaine, on Wednesday was quoted by an Italian newspaper as saying he's retiring for good, reports AP.

"I had enough. I am tired of struggling. I am retiring (from soccer) for good," the 30-year-old Argentine player told a correspondent of Milan's Corriere Della Sera.

The captain of Italian major league Napoli and of the Argentine national team gave a brief interview during a flight from Rome to Buenos Aires. He refused to talk to reporters on his arrival in his native country.

Maradona left Italy Tuesday as the disciplinary commission of the Italian league prepared to rule on his doping case.

The Argentine star, one of the best-known and highest paid players in the world, tested positive for cocaine use following a league game last month and faces a suspension from six months to two years.

The penalty will be decided by a 11-member panel of the disciplinary commission in Milan on Saturday.

"Now I want to enjoy life. I want to enjoy my daughters," Maradona was quoted as saying by Corriere.

Maradona's lawyer, Enzo Maria Siniscalchi, said he expects the minimum penalty for Maradona — a six-month suspension — because cocaine can't be considered performance-enhancing if taken several hours before a game.

According to the experts who tested Maradona's urine samples, the player possibly took cocaine 18 to 30 hours before the Napoli-Bari match of March 17.

"We will not appeal the sentence if Maradona is given the minimum penalty," Siniscalchi told Milan's sports daily Gazzetta Dello Sport.

Saturday's decision by the disciplinary commission can be appealed by Maradona's lawyer with the Federal Council, which would give a final

sentence by mid-April. Several Italian newspapers devoted up to two pages to the Maradona case, describing the past feats and the recent problems of one of the best soccer players ever.

In addition to the doping case, Maradona is involved in a paternity case in a Naples court and has been questioned in connection with a drug trafficking and prostitution investigation.

"The bitter aspect of this case is that soccer has lost a protagonist," said Lothar Matthaus, the German midfielder of Internazionale who was Maradona's rival in last year's World Cup final between West Germany and Argentina.

"He has been the greatest soccer player I ever saw in action," said Luca di Montezemolo, vice president of Juventus of Turin and head of the World Cup organization in Italy. "I want to thank him for what he has done to soccer, whatever the outcome of this case can be."

"He has been the best soccer player in the world for ten years. He can't end his career this way," commented Vujadin Boskov, the Yugoslav coach of league leader Sampdoria of Genoa.

Meanwhile AP from Buenos Aires adds: If Diego Maradona plays soccer again, it probably won't be in Italy.

"One thing is certain: He will return only on holiday or for a judicial citation," Maradona's business manager Marco Franchi said Tuesday after they arrived home from Rome.

Maradona, 30, faces worldwide suspension for at least six months and possibly two years. Italian league officials found traces of cocaine in his urine after Napoli's March 17 game against Bari.

The moody forward, the most acclaimed soccer player in the world, has refused to comment since Friday's announcement by the Italian Soccer Federation.

Maradona and Franchi have hinted — without offering proof — that the incident

National youth hockey begins today

Sports Reporter
The Yuasa 11th national youth hockey championship, organised by the Bangladesh Hockey Federation, begins today at the hockey stadium.

Rangpur DSA will take on Narayanganj in the inaugural match at 3:30 pm.

Shamsul Islam Khan, Minister for Industries, will formally inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

Sanchez to leave Real

MADRID, Apr 3: Real Madrid's Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez, five times top goalscorer in the Spanish league, said on Tuesday he would not play for the struggling champions next season, reports Reuter.

My contract will terminate at the end of this season, the prolific 32-year-old marksman told reporters. His contract was due to end on June 30 but both Sanchez and the club had options on another year.

"Sanchez is considering offers from Italian, French and Swiss clubs and the Spanish press named Fiorentina and

Torino, where his former Real colleague Rafael Martin Vazquez is playing his first season, as top options.

The Mexican in his sixth season at Real after moving from Madrid neighbours Atletico, might have played his last game for the club.

Real Madrid doctor Miguel Angel Herrador said Sanchez may need surgery after tearing a ligament in his left knee during training last Friday, and could be out of action for six months.

We are going to wait two weeks to see if there is stability in the knee. If so, he could start playing again two weeks later. If not, recovery could

take nearly six months Herrador said. It was originally thought Sanchez had twisted his ankle.

The injury was his third in two months and seen as a sign that the player once considered the fittest in Spanish soccer, rarely missing a game, was in decline.

Sanchez, who often celebrates goals with a somersault, is equal third highest scorer this season with 12 goals, but talk that his days at Real could be numbered began last month.

"I am a winner and I want to play in a winning club," he said recently.