Umpire Ponir ruins it all

cket league champtonship

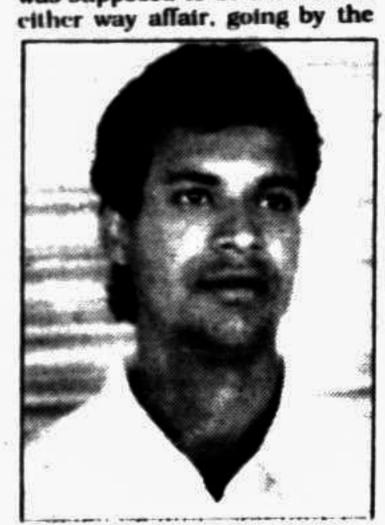
on with the proceedings when they were reduced to 108 for seven in 24.5 overs following the dismissal of left-handed all-rounder Enamul Haq Mont who was unjustly given out by umpire Wajed Ali Khan Ponir despite clearly appearing to have made good his ground while going for a run. The decision, coming in the wake of a few other previous controverstal rulings by the diminutive man in the white coat, forced the exasperated Biman officials to call back their men and refuse to take any further part

the Dhaka Stadium can by no definition of the word be called cricket. Incompetent umpiring, unsporting attitudes on the part of the officials on either side and the abject failure of the Bangladesh Cricket all combined to keep the crucial match being taken to its sue of this year's league honours has been left unresolved until the BCCB league later today to rule on the fate

batsmen justifying skipper

Windies umpire

umpire Wajed Ali Khan Ponir made the first of his scries of blunders. Although the match was supposed to be a 45- overs



Z. RAZZAQ MASOOM

clock Pontr decided to come off for lunch at exactly 12.30 with two overs still to be bowied 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 incertain terms.

Brothers' good showing with the bat was facilitated by a fine knock of 70 by opener Zahed Razzaq 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 Borthers

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

while Farooq made 24 were 14 extras.

Left- arm spinner Enamul Haq Mont 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 Tarequzaman Munir leg before, the first of three Ibw 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 Narayangani, 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 paceman Golam Nowsher 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.

enough, former skipper Ahmed Igbal Bachchu, who has featured in several match-winning stands for his team this season, was adjudged lbw to Prince by the same umptre for

As if things were not bad

behind off Fernando for three to make the score four for 13.

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

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

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

Both Biman and Borthers Union had finished the tenteam 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

- Star photo title- deciding play-off at Dhaka Stadium.

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 sixwicket 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 Sheikhdi A. M. High School by ten wickets at the Mahakhali T and T ground.

BRTC ends Eskaton dream

Sports Reporter



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

Several Italian newspapers

devoted up to two pages to the

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 Milon. In the 20th minute Litu

took a rainbow corner kick which was superbly headed home by Ata (1-0).

Twelve minutes later Eskaton's Milon 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 Milon 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 their team.

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 Joddha (3: 15 pm)

Peter Taylor stakes claim

Apr 3: Peter Spinner 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 be-

ing dismissed, the youngsters, trailing by 144, looked set for defeat when they lost five wickets wheile scoring 27 runs in mid-afternoon.

But James Adams batted for

from Linden Joseph (35), kept Australia at bat and forced a

162 for nine, 18 ahead. Taylor played the last of his 10 Tests in Wellington just

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

Greg Matthews in poor form and the Queen's Park Oval at Prot-Of-Spain likely to take spin. Taylor could be in line for an unexpected return in

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

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.

overnight 390 for six.

Maradona to retire for good somehow is motivated by Arsentence by mid-April.



MILAN, Apr 3: Diego Maradona, faced with a suspension from soccer for using cocaine, on Wed-

nesday 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-yearold 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 re-

porters 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 player in the world, tested positive for cocaine use following a league game last month and faces a suspension from six months to two years.

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 expeets 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.

tence 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

Maradona case, describing the past feats and the recent problems of one of the best soccer In addition to the doping case. Maradona is involved in a paternity case in a Naples

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, what-

Boskov, the Yugoslav coach of league leader Sampdoria of

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

will return only on holiday or for a judicial citation." Maradona's business manager Marco Franchi said Tuesday after they arrived home from

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

nouncement by the Italian Soccer Federation.

hinted - without offering proof - that the incident

gentina's victory over Italy in last year's World Cup semifinal. and Maradona's expressed desire to break his contract with Napoli and play for another

"I am certain that the clouds will be dispelled soon. Maradona said in a statement distributed in Rome by the Italian news agency ANSA. "I sincerely hope to return to soccer with a clean image which in vain someone is trying to alter."

After eluding reporters and photographers at Ezeiza international airport, Maradona told them tersely at his parents' house. "Enough was said on this issue in Italy. I have nothing to add.

There, he celebrated his daughter Dalma's fourth birthday. A TV camera caught him booting a tennis ball soccerstyle against a wall and bouncing it off his head.

In response to a question whether Maradona ever used cocaine, Franchi looked uncertain how to respond, but said several times. "No way."

The Italian league's 11lawyer disciplinary commission is set to rule Saturday on the length of Maradona's suspension. The suspension automatically will be extended worldwide by the International Federation of Football Association (FIFA), soccer's governing

"We don't think we have to go into action on a big scale because of this case," FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter said in Zurich. Switzerland. "The reasons behind it probably have little to do with sports. If everything one reads is confirmed, it is a somewhat tragic case for him personally and as role model in soccer. But he hasn't been that for a while, because of his general

Argentine sports commentators have wondered whether Maradona could return to pro soccer after a long absence. He has a chronic back problem, a damaged left ankle and tendency to put on weight. The fall from grace has

been steep. At the 1986 World Cup. won by Argentina, Maradona was the most valuable player. He led Napoli to its first league title in 60 years in 1987 and did it again last season. He then captained the Argentine national team that lost last summer's World Cup final

1-0 to West Germany Argentine fans remain loyal to the player they've idolized since he moved up to the national team at the precocious age of 15. But the government of President Carlos Menem. who made Maradona his "sports ambassador" last year, has not rallied to his defense.

In response to calls that Maradona resign the honorary position, presidential press secretary Humberto Toledo said. "You have to wait for justice to take its course."

Others at government House said quietly that Maradona should "have the grace" to step down on his own, the private news agency Diariosy Noticias reported.

The head of the national anti-drug programme, Alberto Lestelle, said flatly in an interview broadcast by Radio Rivadavia that Maradona should resign for failing to set "an example for the youths of this country (and) the world."

In recent months, Maradona has been beset by controversy. He has refused to practice and play for Napoli, been questioned by police investigating drug trafficking and prostitution, and been named in a paternity suit.

His contract with Napoli runs through 1993. He earns 2 million dollars a year from that, and more from commercial endorsements and appear-

It is precisely soccer that is hurt the most," said Abilio d Almeida of Brazil, a member of

FIFA's executive committee. "People not connected with the sport will think that this is

common, that it happens all the time.

"And it's worse because it involves a player of international renown. If he were a second or third-rate player, no one would pay any attention."

Sanchez to leave Real hockey begins



Sanchez.

goalscorer in the Spanish league, said on

prolific 32-year-old marksman told reporters. His contract was due to end on June 30 but

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.

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 ligament in his left knee during training last Friday, and could be out of action for six months.

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.

month.

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

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

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.

not out and, with good support He bowled cleverly against

draw The under-23s ended on

over a year ago when Australia

But, with front-line spinner

five-over period. However, after the underthan to his own recent per

> In the morning captain Allan Border, who finished with an unbeaten 38, had batted on instead of declaring, as had been expected, at the

the third Test which starts on nearly three hours to make 58 Agassi advances, Connors doesn't

ORLANDO, Florida, Apr 3: Topseeded Andra 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

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 225,000dollar event. Agassi, 20, dominated Garrow by alternating lobs and

Sampres needed only 53

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

HEAD

HILTON South led a seeded

charge into the third round of the 500,000-dollar Family Circle Magazine Cup tennis tournament with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over South African Amanda Coetzer on Tuesday. Top seed Navratilova, who

along with the other top eight seeds, struggled with her serve during her first match in six weeks but was able to correct the problem. "I was rushing and was more worried about where to hit the serve rather than

Navratilova, a four time champion here. 'Once I slowed everything down, I was better." All seeded players in action on Tuesday posted straight set victories, but none as emphatic

as Gabriela Sabatini's.

The second seeded just 47

the lob is really effective". Connors, 38, attempting to came back after a wrist injury. appeared slow and couldn't find his rhythm for most of the

"I was really sluggish and

didn't see the ball well," said

Open champion bristled at the suggestion his play showed that his career may be over "Why don't you let me get back and play a few matches

get myself back into playing shape. Next year will tell the briefly excited the partisan crowd by taking three straight

Sampres , the defending US Open champion, served eight aces while winning 75 of his

service points and allowing Seeds sail smoothly

Carolina Apr 3: Defending surface. champion Martina Navaratilova tougher matches early." said Sabatini." I knew her game

won so easily." Other easy winners included third-seeded former French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, who turned back received a first round bye Argentine Bettina Fulco 6-2. 6and fourth seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia.

> Jennifer Capriati overcame a sluggish start to reach the third round. Capriati, runner-up here last year, fell behind 2-5 before running off 11 of the next 12 games for a 7-5, 6-1 victory

over compatriot Audra Keller.

"I think I really just didn't get into the groove," said Capriati, who turned 15 last week." Then I said to myself, "try to get shots in, but go for

opportunity. "I really didn't let Brad get into the match," Sampras said I kind of took to to him. "I served really well and

Pearce only one break point

that put a lot of pressure on him to hold serve. Sampres, 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 sec ond 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 Ja-

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 re-

laxed and thought he couldn't

come back," said the 21-year-

hangir beat Spain's Asutin

Adarraga 15-11, 15-10, 15-13.

Basten's blunder ends Milan hopes

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

aggregate after holding the outgoing European champions in the first leg in Milan last

players ever.

court and has been questioned in connection with a drug traf-

ficking and prostitution investigation. "The bitter aspect of this case is that soccer has lost a protagonist," said Lothar Matthaeus, the German midfielder of Internazionale who was Maradona's rival in last

year's World Cup final between

ever the outcome of this case "He has been the best soccer player in the world for ten years. He can't end his career this way," commented Vujadin

"One thing is certain: He

Maradona, 30, faces worldwide suspension for at least six

most acclaimed soccer player in the world, has refused to comment since Friday's an-

Maradona and Franchi have

today Sports Reporter The Yuasa 11th national youth hockey championship.

match at 3:30 pm. Shamsul Islam Khan. Minister for Industries, will formally inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

Rangpur DSA will take on

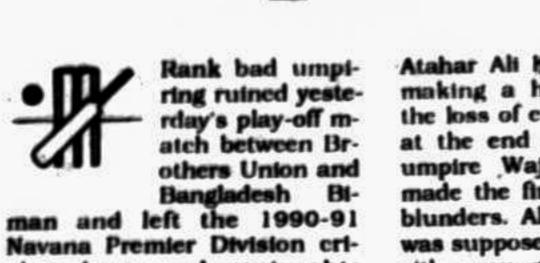
Hockey Federation, begins to-

day at the hockey stadium.

Tuesday he would not play for the struggling champions next season, reports Reuter. My contract will terminate at the end of this season, the

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

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



Biman, chasing Brothers Union's 214 for eight wickets in 43 overs, refused to carry

in the proceedings. What happened vesterday at Control Board (BCCB) officials logical conclusion and the iscommittee, whose job it is to run the competition, meets

of the game. Brothers Union won the toss and elected to bat, their

left out KINGSTOWN, St Vincent Apr 3: Clyde Cimberbatch, the umpire who controversially gave Dean Jones out in the second Test between West Indies and Australia in George town, has not been asked to stand in the third match of the series beginning in Trinidad

sented by an umpire in their home Test and it was expected that Cumberbatch, Trinida

on Friday, reports Reuter.

It is customary for each

host island in a West Indian

domestic series to be repre-

David Archer will officiate Jones run out after he had walked from his crease having been howled by a no-ball, stood

in the Port-Of-Spain Test

against England last year.

Seraj cricket Sports Reporter Comilla DSA qualified for the final round of the Seraj memorial national junior cricket when they become

the zonal final played at the Barisal Stadium yesterday. Comilla, batting first, scored 228 for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated 40

were all out for 130 runs in 31

Sumon's crown Sports Reporter Sumon emerged champion of the Independence Day bad minton championship defeat ing Shakil 12-15, 15-13 and 15-3 in the final held yester-

day at the wooden-floor gym-

nasium. Dhaka Mohammedan

SC organised this tourney with

Sheltech Private Limited as

Sports Mirza Abbas gave away

State Minister for Youth and

the sponsor.

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

Rifles Public School and Jatrabari Faroog Smriti Sangshad moved into the final after winning their respective semifinal matches of the Independence Day youth kabaddi championship yesterday at the Outer Stadium

April 7. Noah for more dope tests

dian, would stand in Port-Of-Barbadians Lloyd Barker and Cumberbatch, who gave

champions of Zone B beating Jhalakhati DSA by 98 runs in overs. In reply, Jhalakhat

Sports Reporter

The final will be held on thinking about tempo", said

> Agrentine needed minutes to crush American

get a lot closer to the net so

Connors. But the five-time US first?" Connors asked. "I've

16 months and just started back. This year is just a test to Trailing 6-1, 5-1, Connors

been out of tennis for almost

games from the fourth-seeded Rostagno before finally bowing

Linda Harvey-Wild 6-0, 6-0 despite a slow clay playing "I would like to have had

pretty much and that's why I

who ousted German veteran Basten, whose goals have Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-1, 6-2. Sixth-seeded American

old from Peshawar. ROME, Apr 3: Marco Van

Amedeo Carboni into his own Roma reached the final 1-0 four groups, will take part in the nine-day tourney, spon-Company.

The penalty will be decided

"We will not appeal the sen-

National youth

Narayanganj in the inaugural

organised by the Bangladesh

both Sanchez and the club had options on another year. Sixteen teams, divided into sored by Yuasa Battery

The Mexican in his sixth season at Real after moving

We are going to wait two

Sports Reporter nought. Three for ten. Another Atahar Ali Khan's decision by three runs later Biman were Ferando 14, Akram Khan 15 making a handsome 214 for plunged into deeper waters not out, and Arup Bhattacharya the loss of eight wickets when. when Sumon was given caught 12 before being run out. There at the end of the 43rd over.