

Sport

Sugar bows to 'new Leonard'

NEW YORK, Feb 10: Terry Norris turned Sugar Ray Leonard's Madison Square Garden debut Saturday night into a retirement party, twice knocking down the winner of five world championships and beating him up over 12 rounds, reports AP.

"This was my last fight," the 34-year-old Leonard said after the one-sided decision was announced. "It just wasn't there."

It was all Norris, as he knocked Leonard down in the second round and against in the seventh to retain his World Boxing Council super welterweight title.

An announced crowd of 7,495 turned out to see the fight. By the eighth round, many of the fans were chanting, "Terry, Terry."

The three judges favoured Norris by from six to 16 points, the fight turned out to be a case of son knows best.

"My son (17-year-old Ray Jr.) told me I was an old man," said Leonard.

The famed Leonard footwork and hand speed were not there. Not to be seen were the dazzling combinations, unless you were looking at Norris.

Leonard wore black, but to some ringsiders, it seemed the great Sugar Ray certainly must be the speedy, talented young man in the white trunks. He was the one performing like the Sugar Ray who beat Roberto Duran and Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns.

Leonard acknowledged as much. "He was a young Sugar Ray Leonard," said the old one. "He's going to get better. If he maintains the same concentration and focus he had against me, he's going to get better."

"It's time for the young guys to take control." Control in this fight was taken in the second round when the Leonard was



Terry Norris, left, dethroned his idol Sugar Ray Leonard at Madison Square Gardens Saturday night.

knocked down again in the seventh round, and has been knocked down five times in his last four fights.

"It's a sad victory," Norris said. "He's my idol; he's still my idol."

Judge Barbara Perez scored it 120-104. Sid Rubenstein called it 119-103 and Billy Costello had it 116-110, all for Norris.

The AP scored it 118-108 for Norris.

Efere the fight, Leonard had said, "I won't allow it to be driven into my head that I've lost something." But Norris drove it in, early and often, with jabs, left hooks and counter punches of amazing speed and accuracy.

Leonard went down from a left hook late in the second round. The punch sent him tottering backwards and he fell in a heap. Norris chased after him and threw a left hand that grazed Leonard's head while he was down.

Leonard got up at 3 and the bell rang.

The second knockdown came with 25 seconds left in the seventh round, when Norris countered from off the ropes with a left hook and a right that dropped Leonard. He bounced up immediately but took a mandatory 8-count.

Leonard never really could get his rhythm. He was flustered and slow, and by the end his face was a mask of pain and exhaustion.

Norris, who weighed 152 1-2 pounds (68.6 kilograms) to 154 pounds (69.3 kilograms) for Leonard, said that if Leonard stood and slugged with him, he'd knock him out. A couple of times, it looked like it might happen, but Norris always kept his poise and never took any undo chances with a fighter he obviously respected.

Leonard lost for the second time against 36 victories and a draw. He had scored 25

knockouts and had won the undisputed welterweight title, a piece of the 154-pound title and pieces of the middleweight, super middleweight and light heavyweight championships.

Norris, of Campo, California, now has a 27-3 record with 15 knockouts. He might have made 500,000 Dollars Saturday night, but he assured himself of some big paydays in the future.

It's doubtful Leonard made the 4 million Dollars his attorney, Mike Trainer, said he would make.

The gross at the Garden was 943,550 Dollars and Showtime reportedly paid 2.1 million Dollars to televise the fight.

A CompuBox computer analysis of the fight said Norris connected on 302 of 669 punches, 45.1 per cent, to Leonard's 189 of 485.39 per cent.

Udity in Milnars super league

Sports Reporter

Young Pegasus, despite a brilliant 126 by Rony, could not salvage losing by five wickets against Udity Club and thus allowing them to qualify for the super league in the Milnars First Division cricket league play-off match yesterday at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

There teams, Agrani Bank, Young Pegasus and Udity Club were battling for the last few days in order to fill-up the one vacant spot left for the super league.

Udity Club with this victory thus joined Wari Club, Bangladesh Railway and PWD Club in the super league for the championship race.

Young Pegasus put into bat, rattled up 252 runs for the loss of six wickets in their stipulated 45 overs.

Rony led the Pegasus run spree with a dazzling 126 runs off 132 balls. His innings included eight well-timed boundaries and six towering sixes. Al-Amin and Rony with a well compiled 56 put on a massive 175 runs for the second wicket partnership off 211 balls. Zia with 32 remained unbeaten. Shahidul, despite the huge Pegasus total, still returned with an impressive figures of four wicket's for 41 runs.

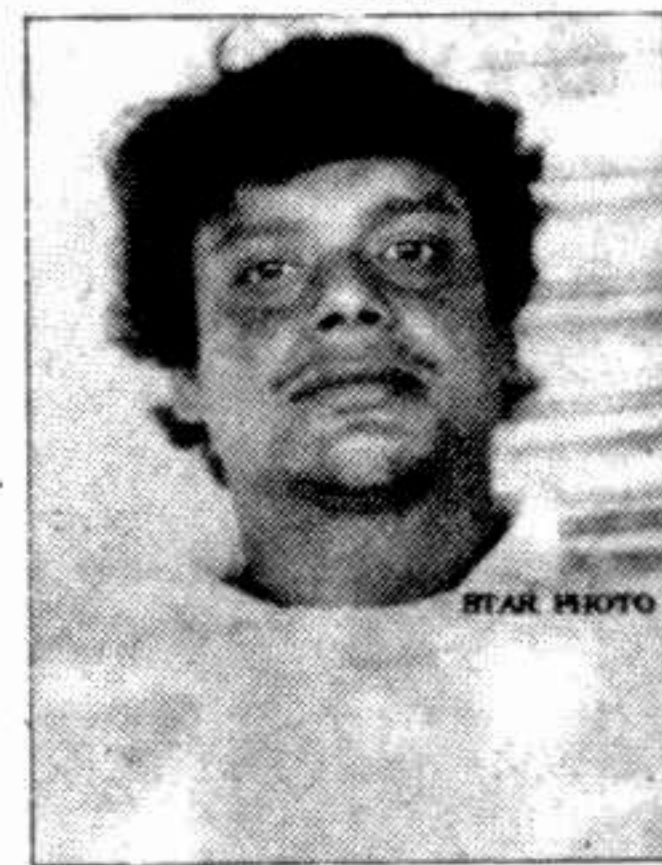
In reply Udity facing a daunting task, surprised everyone by scoring 253 runs for the loss of six wickets in 42.1 overs.

Sajid led the Udity run chase with a sparkling 79 runs off 100 balls. Rinku 39, Tipu 37, Durjoy 21, Fahim 20 and Babar with 13 not out made sure that Udity stayed on course.

Zia with three wickets for 43 and Liton with two wickets for 33 were the successful Young Pegasus bowlers.

Arithmetic fails GMCC

Sports Reporter



ARUP BHATTACHARYA

Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) were once again denied their first points of the league when Brothers Union pipped them to the post in the Navana Premier Division match which ended at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Brothers, who tied GMCC's total of 232, were deemed the winners by virtue of having lost one wicket less than their opponents, who were all out off the last ball of their 75-over quota Saturday.

Scores: GMCC 232 all out; Brothers Union 232 for nine wickets.

It was the most exciting finish yet in this year's league which has produced a few thrillers already, such as reigning champions Abahani's one-run win over Gulshan Youth after Ashok Malhotra had wandered off, or for that matter Brothers' own defeat against Biman after having piled up the highest total of the league.

Brothers, who seemed to have let GMCC off the hook early on Saturday after having them reeling at two down without a run on the board, resumed yesterday morning at their overnight score of 25 for one after 12 overs.

Shovon and Farooq, both on four, added 51 runs for the second wicket to set Brothers off to a reasonable start. Shovon made 25 and Farooq 21. Yet once Farooq was out with the score on 69, two more wickets fell in quick succession. Shovon following him on 73 and skipper Atahar Ali Khan making his exit with the score on 77 with just two runs to his credit. At 77 for four GMCC were very much in the driving seat. But just then Brothers found their saviours

in the burly Akram Khan and left-handed West Bengal all-rounder Arup Bhattacharya.

Akram, who made 84 blistering runs in that game against Biman, and Arup, who came up with two match-winning sixty-plus knocks in Brothers' first two matches, steadied the situation by putting on eighty invaluable runs for the fifty wicket. Akram left on 157, clean bowled by Duminda after making a responsible 34 off 64 deliveries. Suru joined Arup, but only too briefly, leaving after making only two runs.

Arup, batting with increasing authority, found an able partner in Sri Lankan paceman Fernando, who made 11, and then in left-arm paceman Gollam Nowsher Prince, who made a stubborn 16.

As is so likely to happen in cricket, Arup fell when victory had looked so imminent for the boys from Gopibagh. With the total reading 224, and just nine runs needed for victory in the 72nd over Sanwar, who bowled so well throughout the day, enticed Arup to give a

catch to Duminda. Arup's magnificent effort of 77 came off 107 balls with the help of four boundaries.

Arup's departure brought GMCC right back into the game and they grasped the opportunity by dismissing Prince six runs and ten balls later, leaving the last Brothers pair to get three runs for victory off five deliveries.

With the atmosphere electrified, and with their adrenalin flowing by the bucketful, the last Brothers pair of Salahuddin and Shamsul, four and one not out respectively, cautiously inched their way towards the target which had suddenly become so imposing. But all their efforts fell a run short, only two runs coming off the last five balls to tie the score at 232. Salahuddin and Shamsul nevertheless won the day for Brothers by not letting the GMCC bowlers part them. In the end that was the deciding factor. Under the rules of the league, when the scores are tied, the side losing less wickets wins.

Sanwar claimed three Brothers wickets for 33 runs. Ramchand Goala two for 52, while Zakir, Duminda and Shabbir picked up one each.

In the GMCC innings Saturday, Duminda made 43, Shabbir 32, Tutul 27, Zakir 26, Lipu 23, Sanwar 19 and Nasu 13.

Prince took three GMCC wickets for 43. Shamsul two for 24, while Fernando, Arup, Salahuddin and Masoom bagged one each.

This was Brothers Union third win in four games, while GMCC have lost three of their four games, the other one having been washed out.

Sri Lanka 199 for 3 at close

NELSON (New Zealand), Feb 10: Sri Lanka were 199 for three against Central Districts at the close of the second-day of their four-day match here today, reports Reuter.

Scores: Central Districts first innings 353 (S Duff 80, T Blain 57, A Gurusinha two for 25). Sri Lanka 199 (A Gurusinha 106, S Duff two for 41, M Pawson one for 29).

Shantinagar 'A' Dhanmondi win in Div II cricket

Sports Reporter Dhanmondi Club and Shantinagar 'A' recorded big win in their respective matches of the Rank-Xerox Second Division Cricket League yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and Dhanmondi Club ground respectively.

Dhanmondi Club thrashed Millbarracks by 124 runs. Dhanmondi, batting first, scored 185 runs for the loss of four wickets in their allocated 35 overs.

Millbarracks, in reply, were bundled out for a paltry 61 runs in 19 overs.

In the day's other match Shantinagar 'A' crushed Eastern Sporting by 159 runs.

Shantinagar 'A' batting first scored 258 for six wickets in their allotted 35 overs. In reply Eastern Sporting were bowled out for 99 runs in 16.5 overs.

Azad, Wanderers win in basketball

Sports Reporter Azad Boys Club and Dhaka Wanderers Club posted victories in their respective matches of the Partex First Division basketball league yesterday at the wooden floor gymnasium.

Azad Boys beat Hornets Club 59-50 after battling neck to neck 22-22 in the first half. Akhlaque with 19 and Gazi with 12 points were the prominent Azad shooters. Dipok with 20 and Julian with 19 fought gallantly for Hornets. In the second match Dhaka Wanderers defeated Dhumketu Club 50-42 after leading 23-16 at the breather.

Saidur and Titas with 14 points each were highest scorers for Wanderers and Dhumketu respectively.

Hathkola badminton

Sports Reporter Seven matches were held on the second-day of the fourth Hathkola Sporting Club Open badminton championship organised by Hathkola Sporting Club. Six singles and one double matches were decided yesterday.

President's Cup results

JAKARTA, Feb 10: Thailand, Indonesia and the Soviet Union Saturday placed two finalists each, while Burma and the Philippines each had one in the 16th annual President's Cup amateur boxing championship here.

In the pinweight finals, Songsak Kaentao of Thailand will face Indonesia's Jeremias Sally after they respectively beat host team boxer Denny DA Costa and Shakil of Pakistan.

Sally's persistent attacks exhausted his Pakistani opponent so much that in the third round, a staggering Shakil forced referee Chen Chiang Fu of Taiwan to stop the fight.

In the flyweight bout, Soviet fighter Paliani Zourab won on points over Japan's Honda Hiroaki to face Thailand's Vichai Kabpo in the finals. Kapbo took the semifinal match by also winning on points over Australia's Robert Peden.

In the featherweight, a

right straight followed by a left hook from Indonesia's Ramess Naingoolan floored Taiwan's Hung Cheng Tai in the second round.

The Taiwanese stood up again and tried to fight back but after three consecutive counts by Soviet referee Valeri Ratnikov, he was declared unfit to continue the round.

Naingoolan was declared winner and he will face Charlie balena of the Philippines in the finals after the latter beat Indonesia's Ilham Lahia on points.

Burma's light welterweight fighter Tint Lwin and the Soviet Union's Alae Nariman will face each other for the gold medal after they respectively took their match on points against South Korean Jae Young Choi and Canada's Marc Leduc.

In the light middleweight quarterfinals bouts, Canada's Raymond Downey inflicted a cut above the eye of Japan's Moto Hirokuni in the second round and the referee stopped the contest because of his

profuse bleeding.

Others semifinalists in the same division were Zigota Silic of New Zealand, Thailand's Boonrod Suprasert and host fighter Ivan Ploh who all won their matches on points.

In the middleweight fights, Australia's Justann Crawford was allowed to enter the semifinals as his scheduled opponent, Liu Xinjun of China, was moved up the ladder to fight in the light heavyweight.

Albert Papiyaya of Indonesia won on points against New Zealand's Leuit Sam While Canadian Chris Johnson pocketed a free ticket to the semifinals when his Malaysian opponent, Osman Akoh, failed to appear.

In the light heavy weight category, Australia's Rick Temperry so savagely rained punches down on Taiwan's Lin Cheng Sheng that the referee stopped the match in the first round after it was obvious Lin could not offer any resistance.

The Soviet Union's Oleg Senchenko won on points against Liu Xinjun.

Bubka sets new world record



MOSCOW, Feb 10: Soviet pole vaulter Sergei Bubka broke his own world indoor record on Saturday when he cleared 6.08 metres at the Soviet Union's winter athletics championships in Volgograd, Tass news agency said, reports Reuter.

It bettered the 6.05 he cleared in Moscow last March. The vault, his third in the competition, was two centimetres higher than the world outdoor record Bubka set in Nice in July 1988.

Franz Kostyuvich bettered the world indoor record for the five-km walks when he clocked 18 minutes 23.88 seconds at the Volgograd meeting.

The previous record of 18:27.10 was held by compatriot Mikhail Schennikov.

Mekonnen wins Tokyo marathon

TOKYO, Feb 10: Abebe Mekonnen of Ethiopia edged out Japan's Toru Kozasu in the Tokyo International Marathon on Sunday, with both runners crossing the finish line in identical time, reports AP.

The two men covered the 42.195 kilometers (26 miles, 385 yards) in two hours, 10 minutes, 26 seconds.

Mekonnen, who has the fifth fastest marathon time in the world at 2:07.35, said that "because of the cold weather, my running was not so good. It was a close race."

Mekonnen, 27, and Kozasu, 26, ran shoulder to shoulder for the last five kilometers (three miles) of the race, which wound through the streets of Tokyo. Temperatures were about 8 degrees Centigrade (46F) and there was occasional rain.

Ben confident of comeback

OSAKA (Japan), Feb 10: If you're out there Carl Lewis, Ben Johnson says he's got a message for you. "Any time, anywhere."

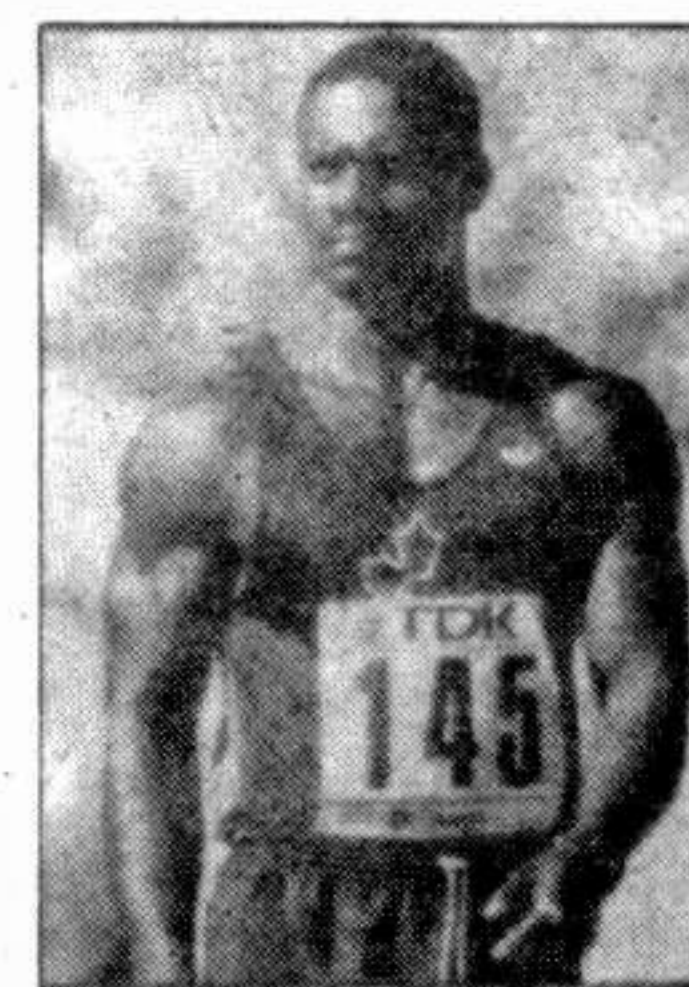
Carl Lewis should know that I'm not afraid to run against him" said Johnson, in Japan to compete in his fourth comeback race after a two-year ban for using steroids.

"I'm not taking anything away from the great runners, but when I'm ready I can do better than anyone," Johnson said.

The 29-year-old Canadian sprinter, stripped of a world record and gold medal after failing a drug test at the Seoul Olympics, is scheduled to race against Lewis in August in Malmö, Sweden.

But at a news conference Saturday, his manager suggested the two may come head-to-head sooner.

"We are hoping that (Malmö) won't be the first race," said Kemeel-Azan. "There is a strong possibility of a match-race sooner... in Europe, or possibly even Canada."



BEN JOHNSON

Azan refused to elaborate. In the meantime, Johnson says he plans to keep a high profile, racing in 24 meets this season.

"I've been banned for two years, while a lot of great runners in the world were competing," he said. "My intention is to run as many races as possible just to be in competition."

So far, Johnson has won one race and finished second in two others in his comeback.

which began Jan. 11. In the process, he has set two Canadian records -- 5.75 seconds over 50 meters and 6.20 seconds in the 55-meter dash.

"No one's talking about Ben going to nightclubs any more, he just sleeps and eats well and works hard," Azan said.

"The stigma of steroids will be with him for a lifetime, but he's hellbent on proving that he can do it without steroids."

In Monday's Osaka Indoor Track and Field Meet, Johnson is to race Cuba's Andres Simon, the 1989 world indoor 60-meter champion, and Jamaican Ray Stewart, who was the top-ranked sprinter at 100 meters in 1989. Monday's race, for which Johnson will earn roughly 100,000 U.S. Dollars, will be 60 meters.

Stewart, back in form after leg injuries ruined most of his season last year, said he respects Johnson's decision to try to redeem himself.

"But he's not going to be like Superman, as you can see from his past few races," Stewart said. "He doesn't have that explosiveness out of the blocks."

Euro soccer

VALLETTA (Malta), Feb 10: Portugal fought off a spirited challenge from Malta to scrape home 1-0 in their European Championship Group Six soccer qualifier on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The only goal came from Paulo Futre in the first half. Malta finished the game with 10 men after Joe Galea was sent off in injury time

Gilbert in final at Agassi's cost

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 10: Third-seeded Brad Gilbert beat top-seeded Andre Agassi 6-1, 6-2, in a 59-minute match on Saturday to advance to the finals of the Volvo-San Francisco tennis tournament, reports AP.

Gilbert had 12 services aces in beating the 20-year-old defending tournament champion. Agassi called it his worst loss since Pete Sampras beat him in the finals of the U. S. Open.

"He steamrolled me," said Agassi, who had beaten Gilbert in two of three career meetings. "He has never served that well. Even the big servers in the game don't serve that well."

Gilbert will face the winner of Saturday night's semifinal between sixth-seeded Darren Cahill and No. 7 Wally Masur, both of Australia.

Gilbert faced only two break points on his serve in the match and broke Agassi twice in each set.

"I never got rolling," Agassi said. "There's not much you can do when he's playing that well. My second serve was a little weak. If he had given me a chance to get in (the match) it might have been different."

AF Rahman Hall sports

Sports Reporter Mizanur Rahman achieved a rare hattrick by emerging the individual champion in the Dhaka University Sir AF Rahman Hall annual athletics competition for the third year in succession.

Gazi Astruddin finished runner-up in the day-long meet held at the Dhaka University central playground.

The meet was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Muniruz-zaman Miah while Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Wakil Ahmed gave away the prizes.

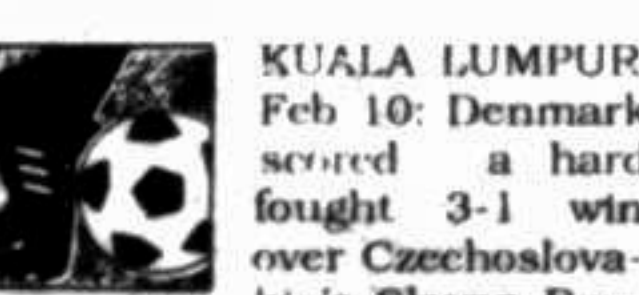
Rajabagh school annual sports

Sports Reporter The Rajabagh Police Lines' High School's annual sports concluded yesterday at the Rajabagh Police Lines' High School ground.

Three hundred boys and girls took part in four different groups.

Nazrul Islam, a class ten student became the champion while Fatema Khatoun, a student of class nine finished runner-up.

Merdeka semis today



KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10: Denmark scored a hard fought 3-1 win over Czechoslovakia's Slovan Bratislav to top Group B and clinch a semi-final berth at the Merdeka soccer tournament here Saturday, reports AFP.

The Danes, represented by their Olympic squad, will face Group A runners-up China in Monday's semi-finals while the Czechs will meet Austria's Admira Wacker, the Group A winners.

Slovan Bratislav, who had scored wins over Thailand and Malaysia Olympic, were the early aggressors but Denmark scored first in the 33rd

minute. Martin Johansen rained in a cross by Michael Hansen, giving keeper Fisan Stanislav no chance.

The Czechs needed only seven minutes to equalise through Kinder Vladimir who sent a dipping shot into goal of a free kick.

Denmark took the lead in the 62nd minute after Chvila Miroslav was penalised for handling the ball. Jens Madsen made no mistake from the spot.

The Czechs launched a series of attacks, leaving their defence vulnerable and the Danes struck in the 88th minute through substitute Michael Johansen who scored

off a sudden counterattack. The Czech club's Timo Jaroslav was given his marching orders for dissent in the closing seconds of the match.

In the other match, Malaysia Olympic salvaged some pride, defeating their neighbours Thailand 2-1.

Thailand struck first in the 24th minute through Abdul Maliphan but the Malaysians regained the upper hand in the second half and equalised in the 63rd minute when Yap Wai Loon converted a penalty.

The home side's winning goal came in the 74th minute after Azman Adnan beat two defenders and flicked the ball past on-rushing keeper Poomert Hungsuwannakul.