

Nannoo's second ton

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannoo notched up his second century in successive innings as his side, put in to bat, scored 287 for eight wickets in their 75 overs against archrivals Abahani Kriya Chakra in the Navana Premier division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.



M. ABEDIN NANNOO

Nannoo's unbeaten 123 off 143 balls with the help of six fours and a couple of sixes was the twelfth century in the league and followed his knock of 138 against Rupali Bank on March 4.

Winning the toss Abahani skipper Rafiqul Alam decided to field, a sign perhaps of a defensive attitude on the part of the reigning champions who realise they have lost the title race after having suffered two defeats already. Mohammedans, and especially their in-form captain Nannoo must have marvelled at Rafiq's decision and went about their batting with a serious sense of purpose to post a total that should call for equally determined effort from their traditional rivals if they are to avoid 'ignominy' in such a prestige clash.

Opener Azhar Hossain Shantoo, who scored 37, added 84 runs for the second wicket with Selim Shahed after having

harboured after that early success and effectively laid the foundation of a solid total.

Shantoo's departure with the total on 88 brought Nannoo to the crease and he, with Selim, took the score along to 139 when Selim, looking all set for his second century of the season, chose to run himself out. But once again the Abahani bowlers failed to take much advantage of this fortuitous break.

Wicket-keeper Ratan joined Nannoo but didn't last too long, managing only six before Nadir Shah had him caught by Ehsan. This was Nadir's first of

three victims on the day, easily the best showing by the Abahani bowlers.

Nannoo, by then seeing the ball like a football, chose to take the game by the scruff of the neck and with Halim Shah added 62 runs for the fifth wicket, Halim's contribution being a modest 17.

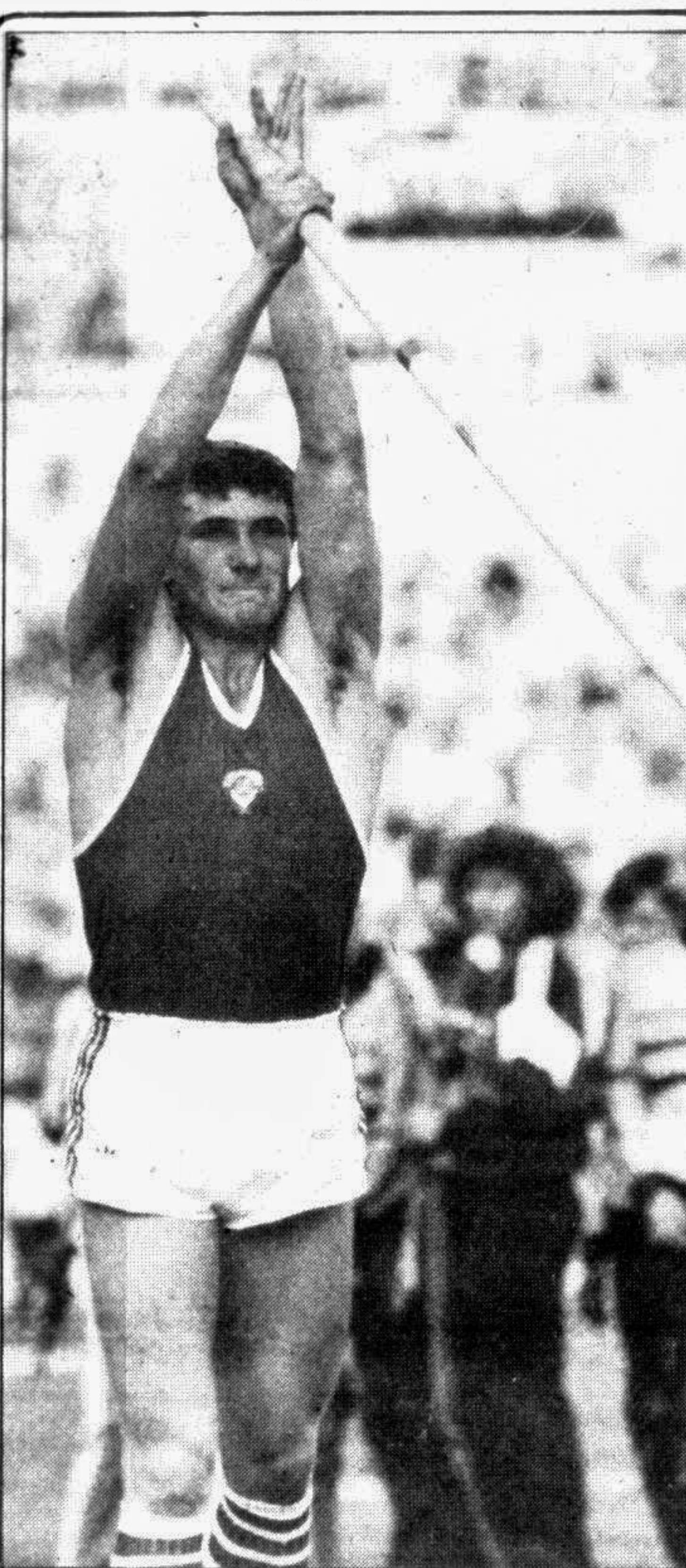
After Halim's dismissal the remaining Mohammedan batsmen — Shahid, Gamaggee, Rubel and Anis, wisely chose to play second fiddle to their captain who was in full cry, cutting, pulling and driving with power and punch to make it a miserable day, for the Abahani fielders.

While Nadir Shah topped the Abahani bowling figures with three for 45 runs, Babu, Rafiq, Ehsan and Asif picked up a wicket each.

By day's end, Abahani, after batting for 11 of their 75 overs, had made 27 without loss and will be needing another 261 runs in the remaining 64 overs if they are to win this match.

Nannoo thus became only the second batsman this season to post two centuries, after Biman's opener Jahangir Alam who hit two tons in his first three Navana innings.

For the record, Mohammedans have lost three of their seven games, thus leaving the title race clear for former champions Bangladesh Biman and Brothers Union.



Bubka leaps to world record



SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain, Mar 16: Soviet pole vaulter Sergei Bubka on Friday became the first man to clear 20 feet (6.10 meters), reports AP.

Bubka's world record vault at an international indoor meet overshadowed a comeback attempt by American Carl Lewis, who finished third in the men's 60 in his first indoor appearance since 1989.

Bubka sailed cleanly over the bar on his first try, surpassing his Feb. 27 record of 6.08 meters (19 feet, 11.4 inches). He failed to clear 20 feet at last weekend's Indoor World Championships in Seville.

"It was very good tonight. I was in good form, and I thought I was going to break the record," Bubka said in a telephone interview from his hotel room.

Lewis, who is the world record holder in the 100-meter dash and has won two Olympic gold medals at that distance, last raced indoors on Feb 28, 1989 in Seville. He won that race in 6.64.

Both Ryzhenkov and Bubka made the record attempt after assuring himself a victory over fellow Soviet Viktor Ryzhenkov.

His last outdoor appearance was last September before undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery late last year.

"I'm happy because this is going to get a lot of attention in America," he said. "I'm going to take a shower now and then I'm going to a party. I'm sorry, but I don't have time to talk more."

Lewis qualified for the final by placing second in his heat, with a time of 6.80, behind Cuban Andres Simon.

The 27-year-old Bubka cleared 5.91(19-4 3/4). But Ryzhenkov missed his three attempts at 6.01(19-8 1/2), and Bubka told officials to raise the bar to the record height. He touched nothing going over.

American Greg Foster repeated his world championship triumph in the 60-meter hurdles, running a season-high 7.42 to beat out Canadian Mark McKoy. McKoy was first off the blocks but finished in 7.61. Cuban Emilio Valle was third with a time of 7.64.

Earlier, Lewis finishing third behind Nigerian Chidi Imoh and Jamaican Raymond Stewart after a two-year layoff from indoor track and arthroscopic knee surgery late last year.

Imoh, the bronze medalist at last weekend's Indoor World Championships in Seville, led all the way and finished in 6.53 seconds. The Nigerian's time was only five hundredths of a second slower than American Leroy Burrell's month-old world record.

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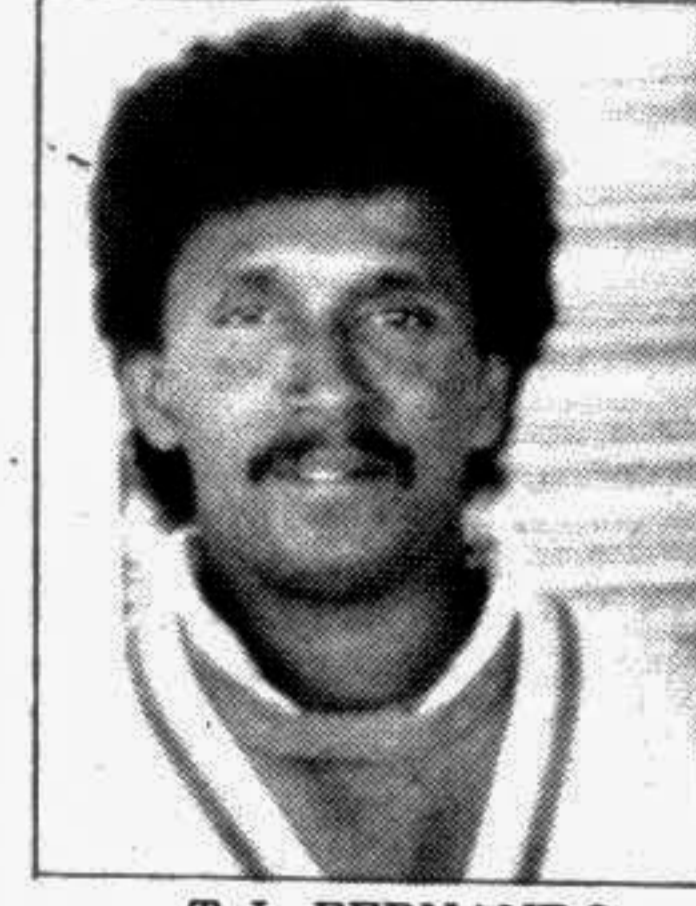
slow off the blocks and needed to fight back from sixth place. He surged to finish in 6.74, behind Stewart, who was second in 6.62.

Fernando's fireworks

Sports Reporter

What happens to the bowling side when a fast bowler in the opposing team decides to go after them with a long handle? The answer — unmitigated suffering and humiliation brought on by a non-stop leather chase in the hot sun.

Swinging at anything, pitched anywhere, Fernando rattled up the fastest hundred of the season, his 103 coming off just 56 deliveries, laced with seven towering sixes and eight fours. His second fifty



T. L. FERNANDO

That's exactly what happened to the poor Lalmitia bowlers during their Navana Premier Division cricket league clash against title-chasers Brothers Union at the Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Thanks to the lusty and effective hitting by paceman T.L. Fernando, Brothers Union piled up a massive 356 all out in 71.2 of their allotted 75 overs — easily the highest total in the league this year. Coming in at number nine, the Sri Lankan all-rounder who moved to Brothers last year from Abahani, ironically became the first centurion this season for the Gopbogh side which has a star-studded batting line-up.

Fernando, who hit a fifty in his last innings against Abahani, teamed up with West Bengal's Arup Bhattacharya to tear the harried Lalmitia bowlers apart, dispatching them to all parts of the field with disdain. The pair added 130 runs for the eighth wicket off just 85 deliveries that took the life out of the Lalmitia players.

Shaun took four wickets for 83 while Sanjeeva got two for

67. One Lalmitia bowler who was savaged by Ferrando was Pika who was punished for 89 runs off his 15 overs.

The match already lost, Lalmitia batsmen gave vent to their frustrations by racing to 14 without loss after two overs of batting when stumps were drawn.

Although there is no last word in cricket, yet it would need more than a miracle — and an atrocious performance on the part of the Brothers bowlers and fielders — for Lalmitia to have a chance of winning this game.

Arup Bhattacharya, Brothers' most steady performer with the bat this season, made 51 off 46 balls while Zahed Razaq Masoom made 56, skipper Atahar Ali 44, Farooq 36 and Jahangir Shah Badshah 21.

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Tularam become inter-college champions

FARIDPUR, Mar 16: Government Tularam College of Narayanganj became the champions of the Dhaka Division Inter College (Higher Secondary) cricket tournament beating Rajendra University College by four wickets, reports UNB.

Dr. Mohammad Muzammel Hoque, Chairman Dhaka Education Board, witnessed the final and gave away the trophies.

Rajendra University College in their homeground batted first and scored 114 runs losing all their wickets facing 29 of the stipulated 35 overs.

Tyson favoured to win

LAS VEGAS, Mar 16: Donovan "Razor" Ruddock labels Mike Tyson "an ignorant little brat," reports AP.

"He has ability," Tyson said. "He is a good fighter."

He's entitled to his opinion, Tyson said.

Tyson was disdainful of Tillman and Stewart, both of whom appeared intimidated, and he was wide open. Neither opponent, however, could take advantage of it.

Of course, the former heavyweight champion can have an opinion, too, and he does about his scheduled 12-round bout against Ruddock on Monday night.

"My best way of making somebody intimidated is by hitting them," Tyson said.

Asked when he thought the fight would end, Tyson replied, "As soon as I hit him."

Ruddock said, "I'm not going in there looking like a Stewart."

The fight will be a battle of the top two heavyweight contenders in the rankings of the International Boxing Federation, World Boxing Co-union and World Boxing Association. Tyson is ranked No. 1 by all three organizations.

The winner should be first in line to challenge the winner of the Evander's Holyfield's undisputed championship defense against George Foreman April 19 at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

While Tyson appears to be the super-confident Iron Mike of old, he is well aware that hard-punching Ruddock could pose a most serious challenge.

"I like Holyfield," Tyson said.

Tyson was supposed to defend the undisputed title against Holyfield in June 1990, but he was knocked out by Douglas.

Douglas got his chance when Tyson became ill and pulled out of a defense against Ruddock scheduled for Nov 18, 1989, at Edmonton, Alberta. Murad Muhammad, Ruddock's promoter, filed a breach-of-contract suit against promoter, Don King.

The suit will be dropped when the bell goes ding," said Muhammad, who is co-promoting Monday's match with King.

There will be two 12-round championship matches on the card and Roberto Duran, a former champion in four weight classes, also will perform.

In a welterweight title bout, Simon Brown, the International Boxing Federation champion, will fight Maurice Blocker, the World Boxing Council champion.

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As in Seville, Foster was charged with a false start. But instead of a poor start this time he surged off the blocks nearly even with McKoy and overtook the Canadian by the first hurdle.

Foster won running away and was only six hundredths of a second off his 1987 world record of 7.36.

Soviet sprinter Irina Sergeyeva finished first in the women's 200 but was denied a chance to avenge her world championship loss to Jamaican world record holder Merlene Ottey.

Ottey did not start because of a fever, so missed a chance to repeat her world championship triumph, where she equalled her own freshly minted world record of 22.24.

Sergeyeva nearly won the race at the blocks, visibly edging her rivals at the start and finishing in a fast 22.45. She fought off a strong challenge from American-born Spantard Sandra Myers, the 400-meter silver medalist in Seville, who finished second in 22.81.

Liliana Allen of Cuba was third, far back, in 24.09.

Trinidad 206 for six

POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, Mar 16: Australia's bowlers had mixed fortunes on the rain affected opening day of their three-day cricket match against Trinidad and Tobago on Friday, reports Reuter.

one-day internationals, looked unhappy on a run-up made wet by rain but was also unable to improve when the field dried out.

The island side, runner-up in West Indies regional competition but without three of their Test players, reached 206 for six at the close.

The start was delayed by more than an hour and the rain returned after just 10 deliveries.

There was joy for Terry Alderman who, after nearly four weeks of inactivity following illness and non-selection, finally took his first wicket of the tour.

But after lunch the weather improved and Alderman had opener Phil Simmons caught by David Boon in the gully for 28.

But for Bruce Reid the day was one of frustration. While he produced a lovely ball to find the edge of the impressive Brian Lara's bat, he bowled too many loose balls and gave stand-in wicketkeeper Mike Veletta a testing time.

With Allan Border and Geoff Marsh rested, Boon captained Australia for the first time in a first-class match.

Reid, who has not bowled consistently in any of the four

Lara, leading the new generation of West Indies batsmen, was dismissed for 33 while Narine Bidhesi made 46 and Surij Ragoonath 37.

Scoreboard on the first-day of the three-day cricket match between Trinidad and Tobago and Australia on Friday: Trinidad and Tobago first innings

Simmons c Boon	28
b Alderman	
Ragoonath lbw b Hughes	37
Lara c Veletta b Reid	33
Bidhesi b P Taylor	46
Smith c Alderman b Matthews	11
Williams not out	11
Stuecham not out	15
Extras (b-8 lb-6 w-4 nb-6)	24
Total (for six wickets)	206

To bat: R Nanan, R.Dhanraj, E Antoine.

Fall of wickets: 1-68, 2-73; 3-76, 4-150, 5-178, 6-184.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Reid	15	3	59	1
Alderman	12	1	32	1
S Waugh	1	1	0	0
Hughes	12	2	50	2
P Taylor	10	3	27	1
Matthews	10	4	24	1

Australia: D. Boon (captain), M Taylor, M Veletta, D Jones, M Waugh, S Waugh, G Matthews, P Taylor, M Hughes, J Alderman, B Reid.

Ruddock baffles experts

LAS VEGAS, Mar 16: To spar or not to spar, that is one of the big questions in the countdown to the Mike Tyson-Donovan Razor Ruddock fight on Monday, reports Reuter.

Ruddock's cornermen insist it is not a big deal, that their man is in peak condition and will knock out the 24-year-old Tyson, who has lost just once in 40 fights. They also said on Friday that Ruddock is not injured.

The question about injury arose because Ruddock, 27, damaged tendons in his right hand while sparring for a fight against Michael Dokes last April. Ruddock, 25-1, did not spar for 17 days before the fight, but was very impressive in knocking out the tough Dokes in the fourth round.

But several respected fight people are surprised that for the biggest fight of his career Ruddock has not sparred since going eight rounds last Friday.

Eddie Futch, one of the most respected trainers in boxing who has trained, among many others, former world heavyweight champions Joe Frazier, Michael Spinks and Larry Holmes, was stunned by the decision to quit sparring.

"I can't imagine myself taking a fighter through six to eight weeks of training and then not have him spar 10 days before a fight," he said.

The 79-year-old Futch, who said he usually has his fighters stop sparring about four days before a fight, said he would be afraid his fighter would lose judgment in distance and timing and some reflexes, if he stopped sparring too soon.

Spinks, in Las Vegas as an adviser to two of the fighters on the Tyson-Ruddock under-

card, said he had heard a rumour that Duddock had hurt his shoulder.

Spinks, who retired after Tyson knocked him out in the first round in 1988, agreed with his old trainer about the dangers of stopping sparring so early.

"I couldn't do it. You gotta keep going. You gotta keep that endurance for the act of fighting. The only way to do that is by sparring. Spinks said.

Azad, Eskaton win in Div II cricket

Azad Boys Club and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha scored comfortable victories over their respective rivals in the second phase matches of the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday at different city grounds.

Azad Boys beat spirited Nabin Sangha by 29 runs at the Mahakkhal T T ground.

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha fared Gandaria S.C. by 43 runs at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Azad Boys, batting first, piled up a big 225 for the loss of eight wickets in their stipulated 40 overs.

Azad Boys' young batsman Hirok slammed 60 runs off only 72 balls. His knock included seven glorious boundaries. Khokon, 43 and Ashraful Haque with 30 were the other leading Azad batsmen. Sazzu with three wickets for 40 and Masood with two for 44 were the most successful Nabin Sangha bowlers.

Nabin Sangha, in reply, were all out for a brave 196 runs in 39.1 overs.

Khokon hit a sparkling 80 runs off 73 balls. Liton followed him with 39 runs.

In another match Eskaton Sabuj put into bat scored 171 runs for the loss of five crickets in a curtailed 33 overs match. Opi scored a punishing 76 runs off 106 balls. Babul 36 and Shabed 22 were the other notable Eskaton batsmen. Kamal was the most successful Gandaria bowler with two for 23 runs.

Gandaria, in reply, were all out for 128 runs in 31.1 overs. Biplob 37, Delu 24, Ataur, 16 and Nasir with 13 runs were the prominent Gandaria scorers.

Opi put on small-round performance claiming four crickets for 24 runs.

Ansars in lead

Sports Reporter

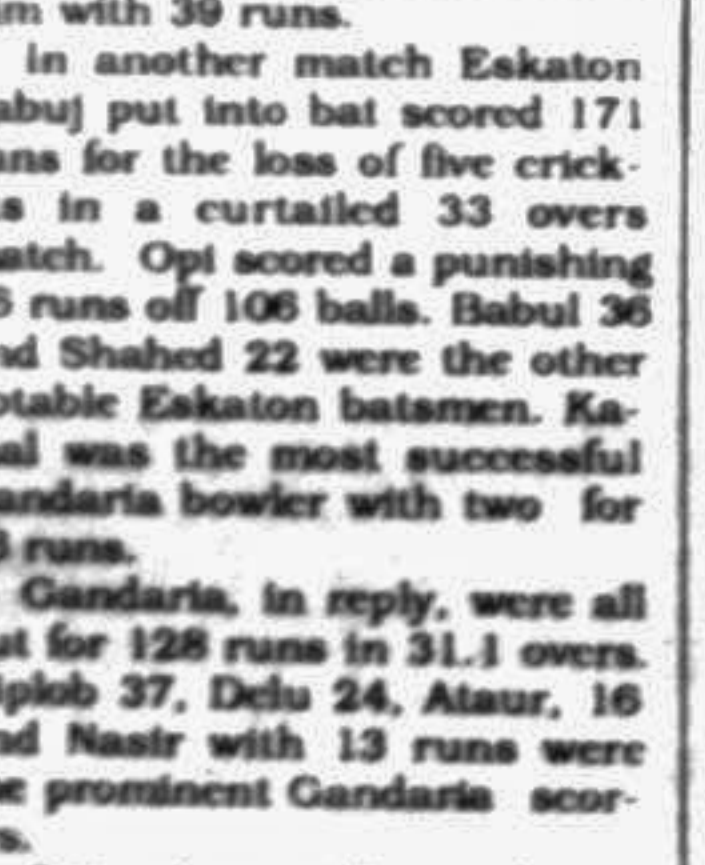
Bangladesh Ansars' judokas were leading the medal tally with four golds and one silver on the inaugural day of the ninth Japan Cup judo competition organised by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation in cooperation with the Japanese Embassy yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

VDP were placed in second position with one gold, three silvers and one bronze, followed by BTMC with one gold, two silvers and two bronzes. Police took the "other" gold medal.

Seven out of 16 events were decided.

A total of 86 judokas, including 17 women, from 11 teams are participating in the two-day meet.

Earlier, in the morning, President of Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation Mohammed Sirajuddin inaugurated the meet.



Action from the ninth Japan Cup judo championships which began at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Bondi's time of 50.22 seconds was only the 12th fastest, ruling him out of the final later on Saturday.

Spitz faces Herculean task

BONN, Mar 16: American swimming legend Mark Spitz, trying to turn back the clock 20 years, will have to defy more than just his age when he returns to competition next month, his compatriot and future opponent Matt Biondi said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The Olympics in Barcelona next year, will race Biondi and compatriot Tom Jager next month in two lucrative head-to-heads over 50 metres butterfly.

Spitz races Jager, the 26-year-old 50 freestyle world record holder, on April 13 in Los Angeles before meeting the 25-year-old Biondi on April 27, probably in nearby Mission Viejo. Both races will be shown on national U.S. television.

Spitz believes he has a chance of winning a medal in Barcelona if he can get into the American Olympic team. But Biondi, who stands to earn 35,000 dollars for winning the race, did not want to speculate on the veteran's hopes.

"I know nothing about his training or his performances," is he said. "All anyone really hears is rumours... it will all be speculation until he actually swims the race."

Biondi, who was only six when Spitz made swimming history and has only vague memories of the Munich games, said he expected to re-

"Not only is the competition much greater now, but techniques have changed, especially on starts and turns. It is going to be a very good challenge with the changes and also his age, Biondi said before this weekend's World Cup meeting here.

The 41-year-old Spitz, bidding to become the oldest swimmer ever to compete in

Anirban chess

Sports Reporter

Moniruzzaman and Rezaul were jointly leading after the completion of the fourth round matches in the Anirban Victory Day chess competition yesterday at the Manikdi, Dhaka Cantonment.

Gazza, Barnes may win best player award

LONDON, Mar 16: Tottenham and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne and Liverpool's stylish striker John Barnes have made the shortlist for the player of the year award, given by the Players' Union.

England manager Graham Taylor will be the guest of honour at the awards dinner, at London's Grosvenor House hotel on March 24.

Vega, Angels win easy

Sports Reporter

Vega Sports Club and Angels Club kept their hope alive with convincing victories in their respective matches of the Partex First Division basketball league yesterday at the wooden floor gymnasium.

Vega beat Dhaka Wanderers by 72-51 points. Wanderers put on a great fight in the first period 33-33 all with a brand of senior players like Manju, Saidur, Zillur, Pervaz, Nahaz and Abul.

Manju, who is an officer in BCSIR, top scored with 18 points for Wanderers. Wanderers, who's first five players' average age is over 35, finished at 4th position in this years league. Zaheer 17, and Asgar 15 were Vega's top scorers.

Angels Club in their match against Regs went amok with a 91-36 point victory to finish the day with their 16th win in a row.

Star photo