

Nannoo leads by example

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club, out of this year's title race, gave themselves some thing to cheer about by beating arch-rivals Abahani Krita Chakra in the needle match of the Navana Premier Division cricket league which ended at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Set an imposing target of 288 for victory, reigning champions Abahani lost the match by 62 runs, their third defeat of the league in eight outings. Mohammedans, too, have suffered three losses, leaving the championship race to Brothers Union who have 14 points from their eight games

and Bangladesh Biman who have 12 from seven matches. Abahani, who had inserted their opponents after winning the toss, owed their total of 225 all out in 70.4 of the stipulated 75 overs to a fighting knock of 91 by Nishanta Kanungo, younger brother of the Sri Lankan Test captain Arjuna Ranatunga. Nishanta hit seven boundaries in his 91, made off 131 deliveries.

Other notable Abahani scorers were all-rounder Ehsan who remained 34 not out, Sohail who made 25, Javed Omar Golla with 17 and Pappu with 15. Extras added another 27 runs to the Abahani total.

For Mohammedans' skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannoo it

proved a doubly satisfying match. Not only did he join Biman's Jahangir Alam and The Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club's Gazi Ashraf Lipu by scoring his second century in successive innings — he also finished as the most successful bowler for his side by picking up three Abahani wickets at a personal cost of only 36 runs off 15 steady overs. Nannoo got the prize scalps of Nishanta whom he clean bowled nine short of a deserving hundred, former Sri Lankan Test skipper Duleep Mendis — also clean bowled for just one — and Nadir Shah whom he had caught by another Sri Lankan the lanky pacesman Gamaggee.

Leg-spinner Wahidul Ghani lent Nannoo able support by claiming his three wickets for 27 runs.

Earlier, on Saturday, Nannoo top scored in the Mohammedan innings with a fine unbeaten 123. Selim Shahed made 58 and Azhar Hossain Shantoo 37. Nadir Shah returned figures of three wickets for 45 for Abahani.

Both Abahani and Mohammedans have one more match to play each. On March 22-23 Abahani play their last encounter against bottom-of-the-table Rupali Bank who are ordained to play in the Milnars First League next season while Mohammedans meet Lalmitia Club on March 20-21.

Pika settles personal score

Sports Reporter

Lalmitia's little Anisuddin Bhuiyan Pika, whose bowling was so mercilessly savaged by the Brothers Union batsmen on Saturday, got his measure of revenge by becoming the twelfth batsman this season to score a century in the Navana Premier Division cricket league. Pika's unbeaten 108, the fifteenth century of the league, was made with the help of eight fours and two sixes off 141 balls.

Lalmitia, needing an improbable 357 runs to beat the league leaders, were restricted to 298 for five wickets in their allotted 75 overs.

Brothers Union, whose batsmen found scoring such an easy proposition on Saturday,

posting the season's highest total of 356 in 71.2 overs, found wicket-taking a much harder task as the Lalmitia batsmen refused to be daunted by the imposing target. Led by the diminutive Mymensingh lad Pika, who batted as if he had a personal score to settle for having been mauled for a high 89 runs the day before — mainly by Brothers' Sri Lankan paceman T L Fernando. — Lalmitia always gave the impression that they were determined to make a match of it despite the heavy odds.

Pika was given excellent support by Jahangir who made 62, with seven fours and a six, and Sumon who hit a fine 61 with three boundaries and two sixes.

Although Lalmitia gradually fell behind the asking rate,

there was no respite for the Brothers fielders who were made to run all over the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium ground as long as these three Lalmitia batsmen were at the crease.

Fernando, whose blitzkrieg with the bat brought him the fastest century of the season — 103 off 56 balls — finished with just one Lalmitia wicket. Salahuddin, Arif, Akram Khan and skipper Atahar Ali shared the other four Lalmitia wickets to fall.

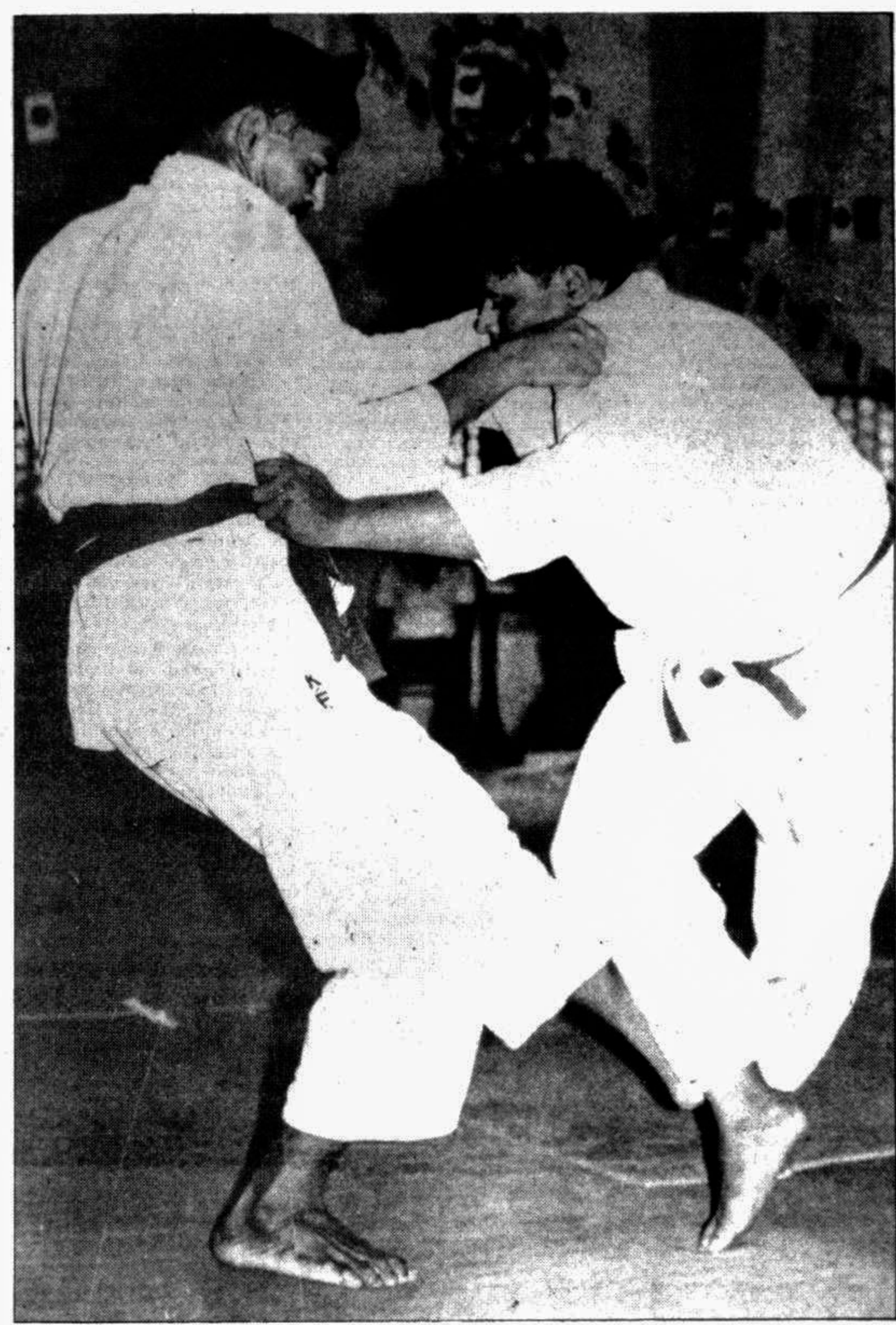
Brothers now have 14 points from eight games with one more game to play — against Gulshan Youth on March 20-21. Their closest rivals for the championship honours, former champions Bangladesh Biman have 12 points from seven games and

play their remaining games against Kalabagan and Gulshan Youth.

Lalmitia Club have played their eight matches for a haul of just four points from two wins. Their last game is against Mohammedan Sporting Club on March 20-21.

The highlight of the Brothers innings Saturday, other than Fernando's fireworks, was a rolling eight wicket partnership between the Sri Lankan and West Bengal left-hander Arup Bhattacharya that produced 130 runs off only 85 deliveries. Arup made 51. Zahed Razaq Masoom made 56, Atahar Ali 44 and Farooq 36 in that huge Brothers total.

Shaon took four Brothers wickets for 83 while Sanjewa got two for 67.



Action from the 9th Japan Cup judo championships which concluded at the National Coaching Centre yesterday. — Star photo

Wiranata too good for Foo

LONDON, Mar 17: Master craftsman Ardy Wiranata won his first All-England badminton title on Saturday, beating Malaysia's Foo Kok Keong 15-12, 15-10, reports Reuter.

The Indonesian had survived two match points against China's Wu Kenkai in Friday's semifinals but there were no

such alarms against Foo.

Wiranata, an economics student, is in a rich vein of form at present and the world championship in May looks well within his scope.

Apart from Saturday's victory successes in the past few months include the Indonesian, Japanese and Swedish Opens.

Wiranata has been a joy to watch all week and the final

was no exception.

His cross-court smashes, astonishing powers of recovery, stamina and deftness at the net made for a formidable armory.

Foo, who eliminated titleholder Zhao Jianhua of China in the semifinals, put up a brave and skillful display in the biggest test of his career.

The Malaysian, ranked 10th in the world, has had an excel-

lent week and thoroughly deserved his place in the final.

Some highly athletic returns of Wiranata's most fierce smashes almost defied description. It was only in the last five minutes of the one-hour encounter that Foo gave less than his best.

The Indonesian led 8-5 in the opening game and then 13-9. Foo won three points in succession before Wiranata imposed himself.

The second game was tight all the way to 12-10 for Wiranata, when service changed seven times as both men struggled for control.

But then Foo unwisely hit a serve out and Wiranata, the number two seed, won the next two points with identical cross-court smashes.

The end came soon afterwards, with Wiranata at the net wrong-footing his opponent and sending the shuttle over his head.

It was the first success by an Indonesian in the men's event here since 1981 and, with Susi Susanti Winign the women's title, the first time the country had won both all-England singles tournaments in the same year.

Wiranata, the Grand Prix points leader and ranked world number two, picked up a throat infection during his victory in the Swedish Open last week and has been taking medicine. He said he now planned two week's rest.

The Indonesian's ambitions over the next two years take in the world championships and Barcelona where badminton makes its debut as an Olympic sport.

Washington spurs US win

LOS ANGELES, Mar 17: Young forward Dante Washington scored early in the first half to spur the United States to a 2-0 win over Canada in the final match of the North American Nations Cup triangular soccer tournament Saturday, reports Reuter.

The win gave the United States, which drew 2-2 against Mexico on Tuesday, second place in the tournament.

Mexico won the tournament of goal difference from its 3-0 victory over Canada on Thursday.

Washington, 20, in just his third match with the US team, headed in a pass from defender Alexi Lolas from just outside the goal in the 14th minute.

Saturday's goal was Washington's second in international play.



Indonesians Ardy Wiranata (L) and Susi Susanti proudly display their trophies after winning the men's and women's singles titles of the All-England badminton championships at Wembley, London, March 16. — AFP photo

BAAF committee announced

Sports Reporter

The ad-hoc executive committee of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF) was announced in a National Sports Council (NSC) press release yesterday.

The newly constituted body will take over charge immediately and submit necessary proposals for amendments to the constitution of the Amateur Athletics Federation.

The proposals will be later considered and approved by the general council of the BAAF.

If any member of the new ad-hoc body desires to contest the future elections to the Federation, he will have to resign before submitting his nomination paper.

Following is the ad-hoc committee:

President Brigadier Ahsanullah; Vice-President K K Altaf Hossain; General Secretary Abdul Wadud Khan; Joint Secretary M. A. Mannan; Joint Secretary Jahangir Fotr; Treasurer Altaf Hossain.

Susanti retains title

Sports Reporter

LONDON, Mar 17: Susi Susanti retained her all-England women's badminton title on Saturday, recovering from the trauma of losing the first game 11-0, reports Reuter.

In an extraordinary hour-long match, which ranged from the tedious to the inspired, Susanti beat Indonesian compatriot Sarwendah Kusumawardhani 0-11, 11-2, 11-6.

Susanti had enjoyed a trouble-free passage to her third final here in succession and nobody was prepared for her first game collapse.

Playing for long periods from the back of the court, Susanti was matched stroke for stroke.

Kusumawardhani, who beat Susanti to win the World Cup championships in Jakarta in November, looked totally at ease.

With the shuttle spending a lot of time in the air at least one theatrical yawn was

heard from the crowd, accompanied soon after by the advice: "smash".

Susanti succumbed in 11 minutes and had to wait another three minutes before scoring her first point.

The advice from the crowd appeared sound and the champion, varying her tactics, stretched way to win the second game in 18 minutes.

Susanti looked in charge at 5-1 in the decider but her opponent managed to recover to 5-7.

But at 5-8 she appeared upset by a ruling that she had touched the net, an illegal move in badminton, and Susanti once more took charge.

The relief on the champion's face was clearly visible as Kusumawardhani's final hit was a centimeter over the baseline.

It was Susanti's second victory from her three all-England final appearances.

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Seles lives up to her mark

Sports Reporter

KEY BISCAYNE (Florida), Mar 17: Monica Seles of Yugoslavia won her first match as world number one as she beat unseeded American Hialeah Cioffi 6-1, 6-3, on Saturday in her opening match at the 2.55-million dollar international players championships, reports Reuter.

Seles, who enjoyed a first-round bye, advanced to the third round with her victory.

But the 17-year-old Seles, who ended Steffi Graf's long reign as number one last Monday, still has not yet come fully out from behind the shadow of the German.

Since the women's draw here was based on the March 4 rankings, Seles is seeded second behind Graf, now ranked

number two after a record string of 186 weeks on top.

Graf had an even easier time reaching the third round taking only 45 minutes to dismiss American Erika De Lone 6-1, 6-2.

Seles, the youngest woman ever to reach number one, took command of her match from the beginning and Cioffi never held serve in the first set.

Police lift Japan Cup

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Police lifted the 9th Japan Cup judo championship winning six gold, one silver and a bronze medals in the two-day meet which concluded at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

Bangladesh Ansars, who led the table at the end of the first day's competition Saturday, finished runners-up with a haul of four gold, three silver and four bronze medals.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) judokas placed third by claiming three golds, two silvers and two bronzes.

Organised by the

Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation, the meet was sponsored by the Japanese embassy in Dhaka. Japanese ambassador-designate Toshio Saito attended the closing ceremony yesterday as chief guest and gave away the trophies.

BJKF chief M. Sirajuddin, Member Planning Commission, was also present.

Eighty-six judokas, including 17 ladies, from eleven teams took part in the 16 categories of competition. The participating teams were: Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Ansars, BTMC, Village Defence Party, Rangpur, Narail,

Kushtia, Khuina, Bogra and Chuadanga districts. Among them only Bogra DSA failed to win a medal in the championship.

MEDAL TABLE

	G	S	B
B. Police	6	1	1
B. Ansars	4	3	4
BTMC	3	2	2
VDP	2	3	1
B. Rifles	1	4	2
Kushtia DSA	0	2	0
Khuina DSA	0	1	0
Rangpur DSA	0	0	3
Narail DSA	0	0	1
Chuadanga DSA	0	0	1

Ruddock risky for Tyson

Sports Reporter

LAS VEGAS, Mar 17: Mike Tyson's code of conduct is simple.

"When anybody challenges me, I don't back off," he said.

A lot of people, however, feel that Iron Mike should have backed off from fighting Donovan "Razor" Ruddock Monday night at The Mirage, reports AP.

It's not that most observers think Tyson won't win he was a 4-1 favorite it's just that they wonder why he wants to meet a power-puncher and risk losing a chance to regain the undisputed heavyweight title this year.

Tyson is ranked No.1 by the International Boxing Federation, World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association.

As such, he is in line for a mandatory challenge against the winner of Evander Holyfield's defense against George Foreman April 19 at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Another defeat a little more than a year after his shocking could end Tyson's career before his 25th birthday.

"He won't end my career," Tyson said. "If anything, this will be his last fight."

A loss probably would push back by a couple of years the 27-year-old Ruddock's chance of getting a title bid. A quick defeat could ruin his chances.

If Tyson wants to fight while waiting to get a shot at the title, boxing insiders wonder why he doesn't pick up a good paycheck by fighting someone with less ability than Ruddock, who is ranked second by all three governing bodies.

Also, should Tyson beat Ruddock, he eliminates a big-money opponent should he regain the title.

A Tyson-Ruddock match now does benefit promoter Don King.

Tyson was scheduled to defend the title against Ruddock Nov. 18, 1989, but the fight was called off when Tyson became ill. Tyson then fought Douglas Feb. 11, 1990, at

Tokyo.

When King failed to save the Tyson-Ruddock fight, Murad Muhammad, who promotes Ruddock, filed a breach-of-contract suit against King.

"The suit will be dropped when the bell goes ding (Monday night)" Muhammad said.

Should Ruddock upset Tyson, King and Muhammad will co-promote his fights.

When he lost his title shot, Ruddock accused Tyson of ducking him. Perhaps that is the challenge that Tyson can't resist.

While there is no title at stake, the fight is one of the most interesting matches that can be made. For boxing purists, it is a better bout than Holyfield's defense against the 42-year-old Foreman.

The Holyfield-Foreman fight, however, has caught the imagination of the public and figures to be the biggest grossing fight in history, with Holyfield topping his 20-million-dollar guarantee and Foreman bettering his 12-million-dollar guarantee.

Monday night's show, however, reportedly is besieged by financial problems.

"Rumors abound," King said. "This fight already is a financial success. All the fighters already have been paid."

Tyson is guaranteed 6 million dollars, and Ruddock's purse is 3 million dollars. Welterweight champions Simon Brown and Maurice Blocker each are guaranteed 1 million dollars, and junior wel-

terweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez is guaranteed 2 million dollars.

In two title fights, Brown will risk the IBF 147-pound (66.6-kilogram) title, against his close friend, Blocker, who will risk the WBC championship, and Chavez will defend the IBF and WBC 140-pound (63.4-kilogram) titles against John Dupplessis.

In a 10-round super middleweight bout, Roberto Duran, a former champion in four weight classes, will fight Pat Lawlor.

Meanwhile AP from Albany New York adds: A judge tossed out a 10-million-dollar lawsuit filed by Mike Tyson's ex-trainer, who sued for breach of contract after the former heavyweight boxing champion fired him.

U. S. District Judge Con Cholakis on Friday dismissed the lawsuit filed by former Tyson trainer Kevin Rooney of Catskill, New York.

Tyson fired Rooney in 1988 after the trainer made comments about the boxer's personal life and his marriage to actress Robin Givens.

Rooney said he had achieved his goal, which was "causing Tyson problems."

"I did it as a matter of Principle," Rooney said. "I know it cost Tyson a lot of money in legal fees."

In his lawsuit, Rooney claimed he made an oral contract with the late Cus D'Amato, Tyson's mentor, guaranteeing Rooney 10 percent of Tyson's boxing income.

Rain the damper

POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, Mar 17: Australia's bowlers lost the chance of valuable match practice when heavy rain washed out the second day of their three-day cricket match against Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Bruce Reid and Terry Alderman had been hoping to press their claims of a place in the team for the second Test which starts in Georgetown, Guyana, next Saturday.

Trinidad scored 206 for six on the rain-affected first day.

Ajax, Dhanmondi win in Div II

Sports Reporter

Ajax Sports Club and Dhanmondi club won their respective matches in the second phase of the Rank Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday at different city grounds.

Ajax thrashed Lalbagh Anwar S.C. by five wickets at the Mohakhali T&T ground.

Lalbagh Anwar batting first were skittled out for a paltry 56 runs. Zahid, 18 and Mamoon, 12 were the two Lalbagh batsmen to reach double figures.

Shawkat was the wrecking-chief capturing five Lalbagh scalps for 12 runs. Liton helped him with three for 17 runs.

In reply, Ajax, going for the quick runs, lost five wickets to score 57 runs.

Biplob (jr) top scored with 20 runs. Amir of Lalmitia took two wickets for seven.

In another match, at the Mirpur Pallabi ground, Dhanmondi club scored a narrow two-wicket win over Orient S.C.

Orient S.C. scored 143 for four wickets in 40 overs and in reply Dhanmondi club scored 148 for the loss of eight wicket.

TODAY'S MATCHES

City Club vs Nabin Sangha (Mohakhali)
Victoria S.C. vs Gandaria C.C. (Mirpur)

Tewksbury sets record in short course

BONN, Mar 17: Mark Tewksbury of Canada on Saturday became the first swimmer to set a world short course record with a time of 52.71 sec in the 100 metres backstroke in the World Cup meeting here, reports AFP.

Tewksbury had also set the previous world best time of 52.88 sec in a 25 metre pool in Toronto, Canada on February 21.

Hladkey betters his best

BONN, Mar 17: Germany's Josef Hladkey betters his own world best time for the men's 100 metres individual medley when he clocked 54.66 seconds at a World Cup swimming meeting on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Hladkey set the previous best of 55.31 in the same Bonn pool in February 1989.

Rosi retains title

ST. VINCENT (Italy), Mar 17: Gianfranco Rosi scored a unanimous decision over American Ron Amundsen on Saturday and retained his International Boxing Federation junior middleweight title, reports AP.

Rosi was nearly knocked down in the ninth round, taking a powerful left on jaw. The 33-year-old Italian was knocked off balance and grabbed Amundsen to stop from falling to his knees.

Dazed, Rosi managed to clear his head and last the round.

The fifth successful defense of his IBF belt improved Rosi's record to 51 wins and three losses.

Moon bashes Konadu

Sports Reporter

ZARAGOZA (Spain), Mar 17: South Korea's World Boxing Council (WBC) super-flyweight champion Moon Sung-Kil retained his title against former champion Nana Yaw Konadu of Ghana in Zaragoza on Saturday when the referee stopped the fight in the fourth round, reports Reuter.

At the end, Konadu was swaying under non-stop punishment meted out by Moon.

Too weak to protect his face, the Ghanaian's legs buckled under the impact of two uppercuts. He straightened up but Moon landed a couple of good hooks before US referee Joe Cortez stopped the fight.

Konadu, 26, had dominated the first round with his telling left jabs, leaving Moon stumbling against the ropes at the end.