

Mohammedans blank Army

Sports Reporter



Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club marched into the final of the Independence Day Football tournament when they blanked national champions Bangladesh Army 5-0 in the second semifinal match held yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Mohammedans led 3-0 in a one-sided match at half time. They will clash with their traditional rival and defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra in the final scheduled for tomorrow at 3 pm at the same venue.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will grace the occasion as Chief guest. Dhaka Mohammedans, who disappointed their fans against Muktiyoddha Sangsad in their quarter-final match on Thursday when they scrambled into

the semifinals through the tiebreakers, were a different lot yesterday. They tore their rivals into shreds and completely outplayed national champions Army in every department. They raided their rival defence at their own sweet will and the Army defence collapsed like a house of cards. Army were lucky not to have gone down by a much bigger margin, their goalkeeper Bibhash bringing off some good saves. Some wayward, shooting by the Mohammedan forwards also allowed Army to avoid further humiliations.

Goalkeeper Sayeed Hasan Kanan, Mohammedans' quarter-final hero who saved three penalties, had a very comfortable afternoon with no serious threat from the Army strikers. The defence, led by skipper Kaiser Hamid, Abul, Salahuddin and Johnny looked like the rock of Gibraltar.

Tito, Shabbir and Roxy dominated the midfield and assisted their frontliners with lot of running. The young Mohammedan trio of foreword Nakib, Zakir and Mamun were always menacing. They kept the Army defence on their toes throughout the match.

Army, on the other hand, were completely off-colour. It was a pathetic display by the national champions who failed to create even a single goal-scoring chance throughout the 90-minute proceedings.

Nakib, the budding Mohammedans prize-striker, opened the flood-gates when he coolly tapped the ball inside the net when Mamun's shot off Shabbir's pass deflected to him in the 12 minute of play (1-0).

Two minutes later Mamun pounced upon a backpass by Army defender Shafigue to place past the bemused Army

goalkeeper Bibhash (2-0). Army defender Babul deflected the ball into his own net in the 20th minute when he tried to clear the ball of Mamun's minus (3-0).

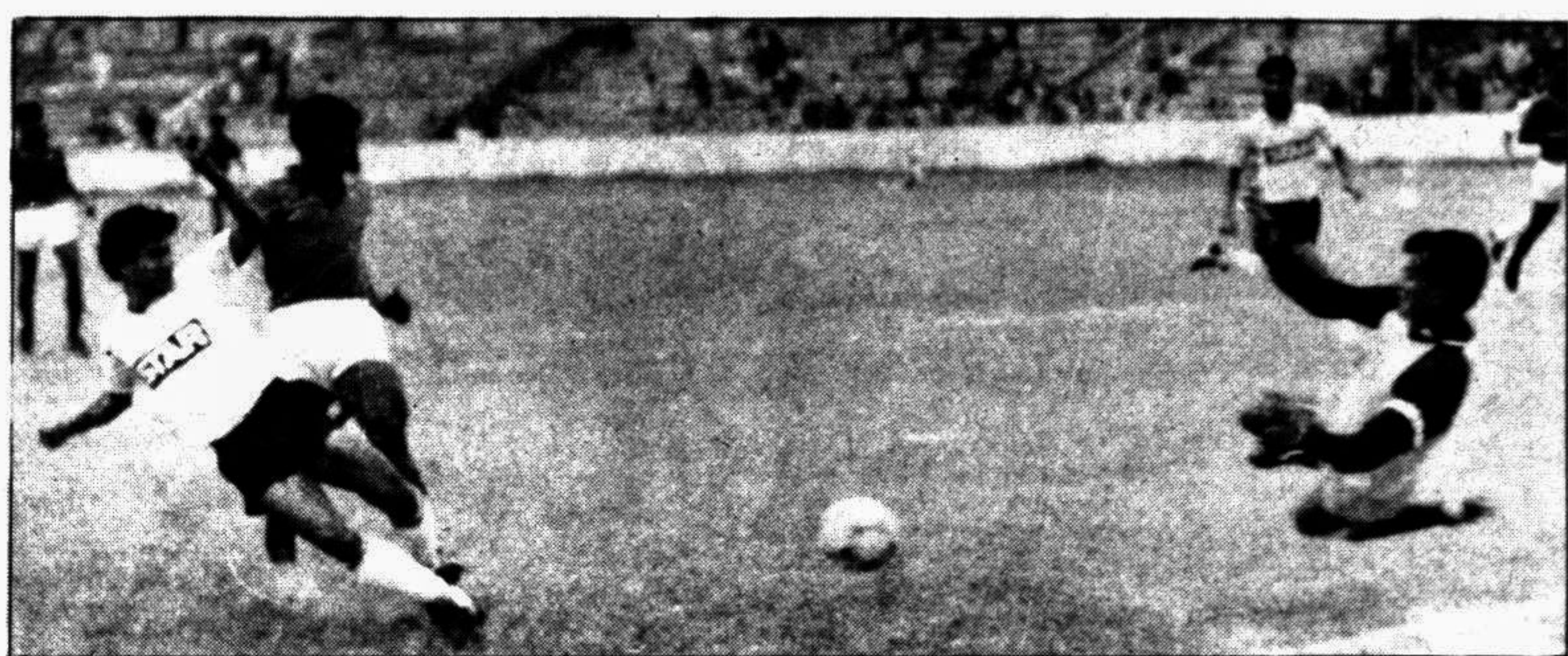
Left-back Imtiaz Sultan Johnny overlapped down the left flank to slam home the fourth Mohammedan goal in the 78th minute.

Medio Roxy, who captained the under-16 national team, completed the tally with a thunderous left-footer two minutes from the final whistle.

TEAMS

Mohammedan SC: Kanan, Abul (Ayaz), Salahuddin, Kaiser, Johnny, Tito, Shabbir (Masud), Roxy, Mamun, Nakib and Zakir.

Bangladesh Army: Bibhash, Shafigue (Dilip), Shahab Ali, Jahangir (Khudram), Mujibur, Mobarak, Jabbar Khan, Ershad, Asgar, Babul, and Rashid. Referee: Abdul Aziz.



Army goalie Bibhash tries to thwart Mohammedan Sporting's Mamun during yesterday's Independence Cup semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo

Maradona barred for 15 months

MILAN, Apr 6: The Italian soccer League on Saturday suspended Diego Armando Maradona for 15 months, saying the Argentine star-forward used cocaine before a league game last month, reports AP.

The decision of the Disciplinary Commission, which followed seven hours of deliberation, was not the stiffest punishment possible under league rules. The maximum penalty invokes a suspension of up to two years.

A league statement announced that Maradona had been suspended through June 30, 1992, for use of cocaine.

The suspension from play of the 30-year-old Argentine star will be automatically extended worldwide by FIFA, the highest international ruling body, possibly ending his career.

Maradona, the captain of Italian major league Napoli and of the Argentine national team, tested positive of cocaine use following the Napoli-Bari game on March 17.

The Argentine player, who joined Napoli in 1984 on a record 12 million dollars transfer fee, returned to his native country Tuesday and did not attend the commission

something," Franchi said. On Thursday evening, a sullen-looking Maradona sporting a designer stubble sped out of his garage in one of his cars. After passing reporters stalking his home, he stopped at the corner, rolled down his window and spoke briefly with a local reporter.

Asked about his supposed doping problem, Maradona said, "I am not going to talk about that. Don't insist. Be-

side, everything that could be said about me has already been said. "I've gone through 25 dope tests and one of them came out positive," he added. "What do you want me to do about it?"

Italian newspapers have virtually pronounced a death sentence on his career in Europe while some local commentators, pointing at his lacklustre form this season, speculated he might have reached the end of the road.

Napoli, after signing Maradona seven seasons ago, won their first two Italian league championships and one UEFA Cup.

But over the past year Maradona skipped practices and missed matches while his name has been linked with drug and prostitution rings.

Napoli officials are suing him for damaging the club's image.

Since arriving in Argentina he has hardly stepped out of his play.

He turned down an invitation from his former First Division club, Boca Juniors, to watch them play Bolivia's Oriente Petrolero on Friday evening — even though Boca's rowdy fans have stood by their former captain.

Pele to star in anti-AIDS ad

BRASILIA, Brazil, Apr 6: Soccer legend Pele will star in a new AIDS preventing campaign that will encourage compassion for victims of the deadly disease, the Health Ministry said Friday, reports AP.

Pele heads a list of 18 well-known Brazilians who will appear in new 30-second television spots beginning next week as part of a Health Ministry campaign.

Brazil is among the world leaders in the number of cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome. As of December, 16,015 AIDS cases had been registered, mostly in

the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

The new campaign takes a different approach than previous anti-AIDS drives, which used scare tactics. One earlier slogan was, "Look out, AIDS is going to get you."

The new television spots will carry such messages as "Understanding doesn't give you AIDS," and "AIDS has no cure, but prejudice does."

"We must work against prejudice, which is not only the result of misinformation," said Eduardo Cortes, head of the AIDS Division of the Health Ministry.

Twins in a Test after 114 years

PORT-OF-SPAIN (Trinidad), Apr 6: Steve and Mark Waugh became the first pair of twins to play together in 114 years of test cricket when they were named in the Australian side to meet the West Indies in the third Test on Friday, reports IBC.



Mark (L) and Steve

The Waughs, born minutes apart on June 2, 1965 in the Sydney suburb of Bankstown, had already played international one-day cricket together.

Steve, fractionally the elder, made his Test debut in December 1985 but Mark had to wait until January of this year — when he played in Adelaide — in place of Steve — and marked it with a century. It took Steve, who had come into a much weaker Australian side, 41 Tests to achieve his maiden Test hundred.

Both are right hand middle order bats and right arm medium pace bowlers. They are the sixth set of brothers to play cricket for Australia, and only the second this century after Ian and Greg Chappell, both of whom captained their country.

The other sibling pairs were — Ted and Dave Gregory (in the very first test in 1877), Alex and Charles Bannerman, George and Walter Gilchrist, Albert and George Truett.

They are the 36th pair in total with the last brothers to play together from any nation being Jeff and Martin Crowe of New Zealand in 1988 against Pakistan.

Meanwhile, younger brother Dean Waugh is a grade cricketer in Sydney and was called into the New South Wales squad this year. An even younger brother, Daniel, is also a promising cricketer.

Nirman cricket

Mohammedpur Government High School and University Laboratory School won their respective matches in the Dhaka Zone matches of the Nirman schools cricket championship yesterday at the Mohakhali T and T ground and Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium respectively.

Mohammedpur School beat Mottijheel Government High School by 34 runs.

Mohammedpur School scored 186 for seven wickets in their allotted 30 overs while Mottijheel School were bowled out for 152 runs in 29 overs.

Dhaka Collegiate School suffered a four-wicket defeat against University Laboratory School. Dhaka Collegiate scored 142 for nine wickets and, in reply, University Laboratory School scored 143 for six wickets in 26 overs.

Wills Little Flower received a walkover against Alimuddin High School.

Rouf off to Malta

M. A. Rouf, Additional Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Youth and Sports left Dhaka last night for Malta to attend the general assembly of the Commonwealth Games Federation, reports BSS.

Rain mars third Test

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Apr 6: Twins were picked to play in the same Test match for the first time in cricket history on Friday but rain prevented either Mark or Steve Waugh from getting on to the pitch on the first day of the third Test, reports Reuters.

Only 23 overs were possible as Australia reached 55 for one against the West Indies the last two sessions were washed out as a result of heavy rain combined with poor covering.

Australia, having been put into bat, lost Geoff Marsh for 10.

Marsh, their most in form batsman, edged Curtly Ambrose low to second slip Carl Hooper with the score on 24.

Opening partner Mark Taylor was unbeaten on 28 at the close and partner David Boon, after taking nearly an hour to get off the mark, was on six.

Although the afternoon downpour was heavy, play might have been possible later in the day had it not been for a leaky cover which left five damp patches, including a large one when it was removed.

Leaking covers are becoming a symbol of the tour with similar incidents occurring in matches in Jamaica and St Vincent.

Australian, captain Allan Border said he understood West Indian grounds had limited financial resources but added the situation was still frustrating and disappointing. "Spectators have paid good

money to watch cricket," said Border, whose team are one-down in the series.

Former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd has called for an international fund to be established to provide financial support for the poorer cricket countries such as the West Indies and Sri Lanka.

Improving the state of covers in those countries was one area such a fund could address and Border said the idea was worth considering.

West Indies captain Viv Richards won the toss and asked the Australians to bat on a greenish track which looked as if it would take spin as the match went on.

"A good toss to lose," was the verdict of several former players and Richards consulted his team for some minutes before making his decision.

But he would have been hopping for more than one wicket in a morning which was interrupted for 21 minutes by 'he rain.

Australia's determination to survive was exemplified by David Boon who took 59 minutes to get off the mark before scrambling a single.

SCOREBOARD

Australia first innings
Marsh c Hooper 10
b Ambrose 28
Taylor not out 6
Boon not out 6
Extras (lb-7 Nb-4) 11
Total (for one wicket) 55
Fall of wicket: 1-36
To bat: A Border, D Jones, M Waugh, S Waugh, I Healy, C McDermott, M Hughes, B Reid.
Bowling:
O M R W
Ambrose 7-3-12-1
Patterson 5-2-7-0
Marshall 6-2-21-0
Walsh 5-2-8-0

West Indies Viv Richards (captain) Desmond Haynes, Gordon Greenidge, Richie Richardson, Carl Hooper, Gus Logie, Jeff Dujon, Curtly Ambrose, Malcolm, Marshall, Patrick Patterson, Courtney Walsh.

No play after lunch because of rain.

MSC in Star semis

CHITTAGONG, Apr 6: A brilliant unbeaten 59 by Mohammedans' Selim Shahed helped his team to move into the semi-final of the CJKP Star summer cricket tournament beating Surja Tarun Club by six wickets at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Mohammedans face Dhaka Premier league runners up Bitan in the second semi-final on April 8.

Put into bat, Surja Tarun scored 120 runs for nine in 35 overs.

Arif was the top-scorer with an unbeaten 28 for Surja Tarun, followed by Rupam 27, and Hadi with 12.

Three Surja Tarun batsmen — Zakir, Shaon and Sufi returned to the tent for ducks.

Shantoo of Mohammedans claimed three wickets for only 11 runs off his seven overs while Minhazul Abedin Nannu took two for 14 off a same number of overs. Saiful, Anis and Rubel took one wicket each for 17, 20 and 26 runs respectively.

Mohammedans had a disastrous start, losing the wickets of Shanto, Nobel and Liton for only eight runs in just six overs. But in the fourth wicket stand two youngsters of Mohammedans — Selim Shahed and Ratan-played responsibly to score 59 runs and pave the way for an easy victory. Ratan soon returned to the pavilion being caught by Shubal of Shaon. Then, in the fifth wicket stand, national skipper Nannu and Selim added another 59 runs to reach 126 for four in 25.2 overs.

Dhaka University first year student Selim Shahed made 59 with four boundaries playing 55 balls.

Nannu hit 36 with two sixes and four boundaries facing only 17 balls.

Partha and Shaon of Surja Tarun took one wicket each for 28 and 31 respectively.

Premier league champions Brothers Union will face Dhaka Abahani in the first semi-final of the tournament tomorrow.

Indian Test discards Manoj Prabhakar and Raman Lamba are expected to play for Brothers in the match.

RU, Sylhet win in national cricket

Sports Reporter

Rajshahi University, PWD SC, Sylhet, Meherpur and Rangpur DSAs moved into the zonal semi-finals of the national cricket championship winning their respective matches at various venues across the country yesterday.

At Patna, Sylhet DSA beat Tangail by 92 runs in their Zone A match.

Sylhet made 222 for seven in 44 overs with Feroque remaining 67 not out, Rizvi making 38, Shahadat 26, Shaheed 19, Hanif 14, Azam took 2 for 48 and Amol 1 for 17.

Tangail DSA were all out for 130 in 35.2 overs. Amol 31, Biddut 21, Anis 17, Saiful 16 were the notable Tangail scorers.

In Zone B, PWD SC recorded a massive 114-run victory over Brahmanbaria DSA at the Faridpur Stadium.

PWD SC made 234 for 9 in 41 overs. Didar made 39, Nazrul 36, Shamim 29, Anwar 28, Sunil took 4 for 41, Bulbul 2 for 20 and Sohel 2 for 46.

Brahmanbaria were 120 for 9 in their 41 overs. Arif remained 64 not out, Nahid scored nine while Anwar claimed six Brahmanbaria wickets for only 20 runs. Babul took two for 20.

At Jessore, Meherpur DSA beat Gopalganj by six wickets in a Zone C match.

Scores: Gopalganj DSA 140 all out in 40.2 overs. Mont 41, Meher 26, Biku 12, Sarafat un-

beaten 13; Pinto 3 for 25, Saman 2 for 37 and Shuja 2 for 17.

Meherpur: 141 for four in 24.1 overs. Dora 51, Pintu 33, Salam not out 23 and Biku one wicket for 22.

In a Zone D match at Nilphamari, Rangpur DSA beat Kushtia by four wickets.

Kushtia: 100 all out in 36.1 overs. Ripon 24, Babu 20, Extras 31; Pavel 3 for 19, Shanta 2 for 4 and Sohel 2 for 18.

Rangpur: 101 for six in 28.2 overs. Dawn 27, Katrik 15, Ripon 11, Extras 35; Colonel 2 for 26 and Sohel 1 for 2.

In Zone F match at Joypurhat, Rajshahi University defeated Jhenaidah DSA by 39 runs.

AFC ask Koreans their intentions

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 6: The Kuala Lumpur-based Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has asked North and South Korea if they intend to field a combined team for next month's Asian Zone Olympic football qualifying tournament and the pre-World Cup rounds scheduled for next year, reports AFP.

AFC general secretary Peter Velappan said Friday that the matter was raised with the two football associations two weeks ago.

"An answer is expected in the middle of this month after the national Olympic committees of both countries have met," he said.

The two Koreas had earlier decided to send a joint team to the sixth world youth championships to be held in Portugal.

Malaysia shares the same pool — East Asian Group D — with South Korea, the Philippines and Bangladesh for the pre-Olympics qualifier.

Cordoba hooks WBA title

MARSEILLE (France), Apr 6: Panamanian Victor Cordoba used his ferocious left hook to devastating effect and took the World Boxing Association (WBA) super-middleweight title from Christophe Tozzo of France on Friday, reports Reuters.

The 28-year-old Cordoba pinned Tozzo to the ropes in the ninth round and reigned in a series of blows to send him to the canvas. The Frenchman, unbeaten in 28 professional fights, staggered to his feet but the referee stopped the bout.

Janet Evans storms back

FEDERAL WAY, Washington, April 6: Triple Olympic champion Janet Evans, trailing after the breaststroke leg, came from behind to win the 400-metre individual medley at the US swimming spring nationals on Friday, reports Reuters.

The 19-year-old Evans, who won a gold medal in the event at the Seoul Olympics, stormed back on the final freestyle leg to catch 16-year-old Kristine Quance.

Evans won in four minutes 44.07 seconds, while Quance, who was fastest in morning qualifying, finished second in 4:44.86.

"I like to swim races like that," Evans said.

"I knew if I kept it close on the breaststroke, which is turning into my weakest stroke, I could catch her on the freestyle," added Evans, who won the 800-metre freestyle on Wednesday.

Former world record holder and 1988 Olympic silver medalist David Wharton won the men's 400 individual medley in 4:16.90. Eric Nemesnik was second in 4:19.50 to edge world 200-metre breaststroke record holder Mike Barrowman, who finished third in 4:19.75.



JANET EVANS

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Niece Haislett, women's world record holder in the 100-metre freestyle, claimed her second victory of the meeting when she clocked 2:00.91 in the 200-metre freestyle.

Haislett, who won the 100 metres on Thursday, beat at Whitney Hedgpeth and Sarah Anderson, who finished in a dead heat for second place at 2:01.45.

Joe Hudcophol recorded the fifth fastest time in history in the men's 200-metre freestyle final with a 1:49.71 victory.

Hudcophol, who was third in Thursday's 100-metre freestyle, out clocked Jon Olsen, who clocked 1:49.93. Melvin Stewart, who just missed a world record in Thursday's 200-metre butterfly, finished third in 1:50.10.

The five-day meeting, which concludes on Sunday, will determine the US teams for the Pan Pacific Championships, the Pan American Games and the World University Games later this year.

Jahangir in angry exchange

PARIS, Apr 6: Six-times world champion Jahangir Khan was involved in an angry exchange with a French Open quarter-finalist on Friday which Jahangir eventually won 15-6, 11-15, 17-15, 15-10, reports Reuters.

The confrontation followed a heavy collision between the players with the Pakistani leading 14-10 in the third game.

"Rodney barged into my back unnecessarily hard in an attempt to win a let decision from the referee," the Pakistani said.

"He would have got the let without making such violent contact with me. I have had serious problems with my back in the past, and I was very angry because I thought Rodney might have damaged it again."

"That would have been disastrous so close to the British Open," added Jahangir, who later this month attempts to win that title for the 10th year in succession.

Jahangir remonstrated angrily with Eyles and the referee, and the two players became embroiled in a heated argument which lasted for some minutes.

The Pakistani was obviously still furious as he lost four points in succession after play resumed, but regained his composure to clinch the game and was always in control through the fourth to take the match in 74 minutes.

Jahangir now faces a semi-final against compatriot Jansher Khan, the reigning world champion who cruised through 15-8, 15-2, 15-11 against Australian Brett Martin, the world number six, in 39 minutes.

Holmes begins comeback

HOLLYWOOD (Florida), Apr 6: Former world heavyweight champion Larry Holmes begins a comeback here Sunday in a bid to get another shot at the title he expects will soon be held by George Foreman, reports AFP.

Holmes, 41, takes on Tim Anderson in a 10-round bout at the Diplomat Hotel, his first fight since getting knocked out by Mike Tyson in 1987.

"I want the shot this year," said Holmes, who next plans to fight a top 10 contender and then hopes to face the 42-year-old Foreman, who gets his shot at the undisputed heavyweight title on April 19 against Evander Holyfield.

"George Foreman is going to open the door for me," Holmes added.

Foreman, who began his comeback in 1987, was heavyweight champion from 1973 to 1974, while Holmes held a heavyweight title from 1978 until 1985, when he suffered his first defeat at the hands of Michael Spinks.

Holmes retired briefly after losing to rematch against Spinks, then came back for the one fight against Tyson.

"I could have beaten Tyson if Don King gave me more time," Holmes said. "He gave me 10 months."

Anderson, 32, has won 25 professional bouts against 13 loss, one of which was against Foreman in 1987.

DDSA in final round

Sports Reporter

Dhaka District Sports Association yesterday swamped Sylhet 4-0 to emerge Group 'B' champions and move into the final round of Yuasa eleventh national youth hockey championship at the hockey stadium.

The winners led 3-0 at half time.

Dhaka DSA stormed into the lead in the very first minute of play. Khawja Fayaz dribbled past a couple of defenders to slam in a beautiful field goal.

Javed Alam made it 2-0, also with a field goal.

Shimul, the fast-moving Dhaka winger, struck twice, once in 34th and again in the 37 minute, to complete the whitewash.

Rajshahi moved into the



John McEnroe allegedly made a grab for the camera when this picture was taken in a Hong Kong pub where he was drinking with a group of US servicewomen April 5. — AFP photo