

Mohammedans dethrone Abahani

S.M. Mamoon



Mohammedan Sporting Club won the local derby beating arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra

4-2 in the tie-breaker after yesterday's final of the Independence Day soccer tournament at the Dhaka Stadium ended in a one-all stalemate in regulation time. Thirty minutes of extra time also failed to resolve the issue. Abahani led at the breather through a 25th minute Aslam goal.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia witnessed the match as chief guest and gave away the trophies. Mohammedan skipper Kaiser Hamid, who had contested Begum Zia for the Gulshan-Cantonment parliamentary seat in the February polls, received the glittering champion's trophy from the smiling Prime Minister. Kaiser, too, smiled.

Also present among the spectators were State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas, chief of the Bangladesh Football Federation Cabinet Secretary Siddiqur Rahman and National Sports Council Chairman Maj General Mahbubur Rahman.

Abahani, the defending champions, have themselves to blame for being denied a longer grip on the title. Although Mohammedans, who displayed such excellent form in their semifinal triumph over national champions Bangladesh Army, appeared to have the better of the exchanges and retaining possession of the ball for larger part of the game, it was Abahani who created more scoring chances only for their erratic forwards to waste those time and again.

The match started at a slow pace with both team taking time to settle down. Abahani drew the first blood when Alamgir sprinted down the left to send a scolding min and Mohammedan goalie Kanan dived bravely at Rumi's feet before the Abahani forward had a chance to push the



Mohammedan skipper Kaiser Hamid (R) denies an Abahani forward during yesterday's Independence Cup final at Dhaka Stadium.

corner kick. Munna (Jr) headed the ball from a goal-mouth melee and Sheikh Aslam, standing unmarked, unleashed a quickly-taken right-footed drive, which gave Kanan no chance whatsoever (1-0).

Four minutes later Aslam's sudden shot was saved by Kanan at the cost of a corner.

Mohammedans first clear chance came in the 31st minute. Overlapping left-back Imitiaz Sultan Johnny sent a beautiful cross and midfielder

their men forward. This created gaps in the defence and three minutes from half-time Kanan had to dangerously come out of the box to stop an onrushing Alamgir. He failed to clear the ball but before Alamgir could take a shot at the empty goal a Mohammedan defender pushed the ball over the sideline. Alamgir's long throw-in saw Kanan again fumble with the ball inside the box. The ball landed near Alamgir and Munna's feet. But both were slow to react and watched helplessly as the ball

was cleared by the anxious Mohammedan defenders.

Mohammedans really pressed for the equaliser before the halftime.

The second session started with Mohammedans looking for equaliser. But despite dominating the proceedings they failed to breach the Abahani defence in the first 20 minutes of the session.

Quite against the run of play, Abahani saw two of their chances go begging. First, Munna failed to beat an advancing Kanan outside the box and then Aslam's thunderous volley was superbly collected by Kanan. Abahani's young defender Masood Rana's shot was again well gathered by Kanan.

Mohammedan equalised in the 70th minute, when a quickly taken corner kick saw Shabbir shoot straight to Mohsin, who inexplicably failed to grip properly and an advancing Naqub tapped the ball past the Abahani custodian to make it 1-1.

Abahani's Rumi spoiled the easiest of chances on the day when he shot over the bar with a helpless Kanan at his mercy barely few second from the final whistle.

Mohammedans dominated the extra-period of play.

In the tie-breaker, Kanan fisted away Abahani's first shot taken by Rumi. The second shot by Munna (Sr) went wide past the left post. Yousof and Masud Rana converted the penalties for Abahani.

For Mohammedans, Kaiser, Naqub, Johnny and Shabbir scored from their penalty kicks.

The teams

Mohammedans : Kanan, Abul, Kaiser, Salahuddin, Johnny, Rumi (Ayaz), Titu, Shabbir, Mamun, Naqub and Zakir.

Abahani KC : Mohsin, Aman, Rehan, Munna (Sr), Masud Rana, Alamgir, Yousof, Rupu, Munna (Jr), Aslam (Krishna) and Rumi.

Referee-Abdul Aziz.

Holmes does a quick fix



HOLLYWOOD, Florida, Apr 8: Larry Holmes came back from a layoff of more than three years

Sunday night and needed 123 seconds to get the job done, reports AP.

The 41-year-old former heavyweight champion stopped Tim "Doc" Anderson at 2:03 of the first round after knocking him down twice.

The 32-year-old Anderson had been the fourth comeback opponent for George Foreman in 1987. Anderson lasted into the fourth round against Foreman, now 42, who will challenge Evander Holyfield for the heavyweight title April 19.

"I've got determination," Holmes said before the fight. The man who was the heavyweight champion from 1978 until 1985 certainly was determined against the smaller, outclassed Anderson.

Holmes hurt Anderson with four right hands to the body 55 seconds into the fight, then knocked him down with two right hands to the body at 1:28.

The end came when Anderson was knocked down again from a right to the body, a right to the head and a right to the body. He got up at the count of five but referee Eddie Eckert stopped it. A ringside doctor said Anderson suffered probable broken ribs on the left side.

Holmes weighed 236 pounds, by far the heaviest of his career, and outweighed Anderson by 33.75 pounds. Anderson had weighed 210 when he fought Foreman, who weighed 243.5.

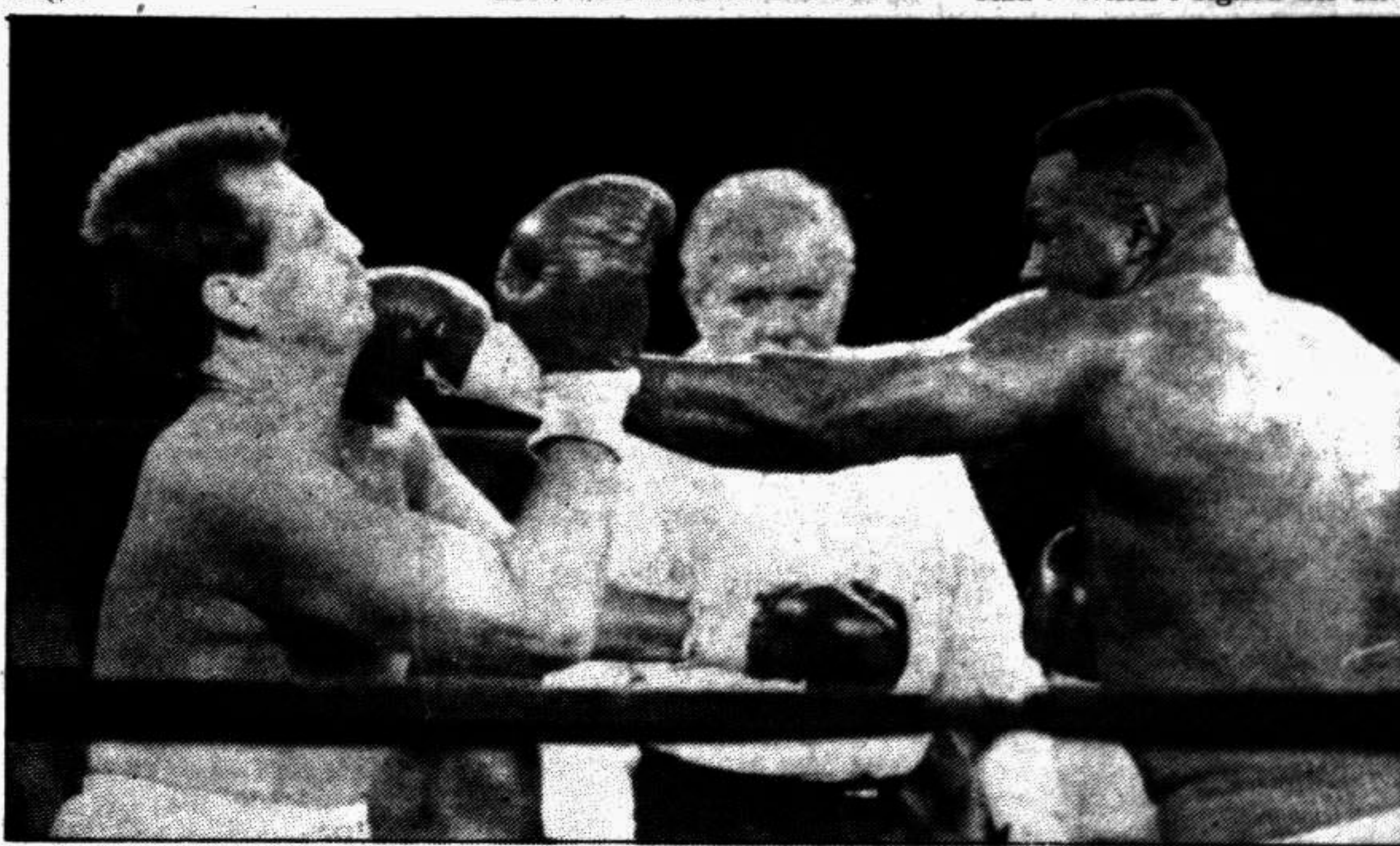
After his postfight news conference, Holmes was involved in a brawl with former opponent Trevor Berbick that spilled onto the street in front of the Diplomat Hotel. No injuries were reported and no arrests made.

Holmes had said he would not again fight Berbick, against whom he successfully de-

fended his crown in 1981. Berbick later, in front of television cameras, blamed a female friend of Holmes for breaking up Berbick's marriage.

no match. With his 11-year-old daughter Kandy and his 8-year-old son Larry Jr. Watching from ringside for the first time, Holmes stormed out of

Marauding Holmes turned him into a sacrificial lamb. Asked when he knew he had beaten his opponent, the confident former champion said: "When I signed the con-



Former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes(R),41,hits Tim "Doc" Anderson in the first round to score a TKO in his first fight since 1988 in Hollywood, Florida on April 7.

Holmes, back in his suite, heard about the comments, found Berbick in front of the hotel and chased him. Punches were exchanged before police intervened.

Both men returned to the front of the hotel, where Berbick shouted, "Everybody saw Larry Holmes kick me and punch me."

At that point, an enraged Holmes bounded over two cars and landed on top of Berbick feet-first before police intervened again.

Holmes hopes to follow the comeback trail of Foreman but hopes to get a title fight much sooner.

It is too early to tell whether Holmes' schedule is too ambitious and whether his goal is possible to reach.

the corner, snapped home his famous jab and immediately went to work on Anderson's body.

Holmes, who earned 150,000 Dollars for his second fight in almost 5 years, won for the 49th time, the 35th by knockout, against three losses, all in a row.

Holmes lost a piece of the heavyweight title on a decision to Michael Spinks on Sept. 27, 1985; and was knocked out in the fourth round of a title bid against Mike Tyson Jan 22, 1988.

Anderson now is 25-14 with 13 knockouts. He has been knocked out 10 times. With the sound of the opening bell still resonating, Holmes launched a relentless flurry of body punches on his sorely outmatched opponent.

Anderson could do little but mount a steady retreat as the

tract." Holmes came within one victory of Rocky Marciano's record unbeaten streak of 49 consecutive wins.

A controversial 15-round points loss to Michael Spinks cost Holmes a shot at boxing immortality and, tiring of the politics of professional boxing, he retired in 1988 after suffering his second loss in a title bout with Mike Tyson.

"I'm older now, I can't dance and float like I used to, so I have to settle down and fight. I'm going to do that with body punches, a strategy I've been working on for a year and a half," said Holmes, who added he intends to prove he deserves another shot at the heavyweight crown.

"Don't judge me my performance tonight," he said. "After three years it's a long way back."

Gooch for a 'sin-bin'



LONDON, Apr 8: England captain Graham Gooch urged cricket's rulers on Sunday to introduce a sin-bin in a bid to help umpires keep the peace on the field, reports AFP.

The Essex batsman made his call because of the increasing number of clashes between players and officials.

"It's time umpires had more teeth," he said. "Why should they have to put up with so much aggro and abuse?"

"If they could dish out instant retribution — a short, sharp punishment like sending off the offender the trouble would soon stop.

"What can an umpire do at the moment? Report the player. That doesn't defuse the situation or solve the immediate problem.

If a player misbehaves, the umpire should have the power to send him off for a time. Playing with 10 men, especially if you've lost one of your

front line bowlers, would soon cut out the nonsense.

Gooch also pressed the International Cricket Conference to consider using three umpires a day in test matches, instead of two, in an attempt to eradicate errors.

"Umpires are under tremendous pressure these days, even without players abusing them," he explained.

"Players are remembered for great innings, bowling performances and catches, but umpires have to live with their mistakes.

"I would support a move to use three umpires, each doing two sessions a day. That would help stop the pressure building up. There's always a reserve umpire present anyway."

PUNJAB PULLS OUT

Meanwhile, a Reuters message from Chandigarh said: Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) said on Sunday it was withdrawing a court case against Indian Cricket authorities and pulling out of the

much-delayed Ranji Trophy championship.

PCA president Inderjit Bindra said it was with drawing the case as its principal complaint had been upheld by a court in the northern town of Patiala last Thursday.

"We are withdrawing the case in the best interests of the game," Bindra told reporters.

In January this year, the Delhi and District Cricket Association changed an umpire during the match between Delhi and Punjab without the consent of the Punjab captain.

The subsequent row has delayed the Ranji Trophy championship by more than a month. Punjab, who 1st the match by nine wickets, went to court against a Board of Control for Cricket in India decision ordering a replay of the match.

The Patiala court awarded Punjab the match but another hearing was set for April 11 to decide whether a replay should be held.

BU in Star final

CHITTAGONG, Apr 8: Brothers Union moved into the final of CUPK Star summer cricket tournament beating Dhaka Abahani Krira Chakra by 77 runs in the first semi-final at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Abahani were all out for 130 runs in 32.2 overs in reply to Brothers' 207 for five.

Brothers will face the winners of Bangladesh Biman and Mohammedan Sporting Club on Apr 10. The second semi-final will be held tomorrow.

Indian Test player Monoj Prabhakars' yorkers ripped during the Abahani batting line-up and he returned with figures of 4 wickets for 24 runs. Masum, Shamsu and Suro took one wicket each for 8.20 and 22 runs respectively.

Abahani, resuming at 64 for 3 this morning the fourth wickets stand of Golla and Selim played confidently adding 43 runs. Thereafter the Abahani batsmen returned to the tents quickly.

Selim topscored with 21 for Abahani followed by Golla 20, Titu 20, Tutul 14 and Rafiq 14. Veteran batsman Lipu and Pappu returned to the pavilion for ducks.

Abahani played this semi-final under protest. They protested against the Indian player Raman Lamba, who was suspended by Indian Cricket Control Board in the Ranji Trophy held in September. Besides, Abahani claimed that Raman Lamba had no clearance certificate.

Seven in running for '98

ZURICH, Apr 8: Brazil, England, France, India, Morocco, Portugal and Switzerland are all still in the running to stage the 1998 World Cup soccer tournament, the International Football Federation (FIFA) said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Fans change mind

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 8: Argentinian soccer fans appear to have changed their minds in support of Diego Maradona, banned by the Italian league on Saturday for using cocaine, reports Reuter.

An opinion poll in the Clarin newspaper on Sunday said 69.5 per cent of those polled still considered him their idol and 63 per cent said they disagreed with his being punished.

The survey contrasted with a private poll taken one week ago in which only eight per cent approved of Maradona.

That previous poll suggested Argentinians were fed up with the wayward behaviour of the Napoli captain who was banned for 15 months by the Italian league's disciplinary board.

Argentine President Carlos Menem told Mexican television that he thought the punishment was "exaggerated", while national coach Alfio Basile spoke out in defence of the player.

"I am an Argentine and I stand by the player, I don't think she took drugs", he told reporters while visiting Chile.

Many of Maradona's peers also defended him saying the whole imbroglio was fabricated to smash the star's career.

Sabatini halts Meskhi run



HILTON HEAD, South Carolina, Apr 8: Gabriela Sabatini halted the upset run of ninth-seeded Soviet Leta Meskhi to win the 500,000-Dollars Family Circle Cup tennis title with an emphatic 6-1, 6-1 victory on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The second-seeded Argentine, brimming with confidence, brushed aside Meskhi in 71 minutes on the slow, green clay at the Sea Pines Racquet Club to claim her third title of the year.

Displaying the tenacity and attacking game that brought

Sabatini last year's U. S. Open title and a string of victories against her great rival, Steffi Graf, the Argentine allowed Meskhi to hold serve just once in the top-sided match.

Sabatini, twice a runner-up in this tournament, was thrilled with her first title here and the 100,000-Dollars prize that made her only the fifth woman to surpass four million Dollars in career earnings.

"It feels very good," she said. "But more important is that I'm playing well and I'm enjoying myself very much. My tennis is improving every day and every week."

The 17th-ranked Meskhi had topped last year's finalists—sixth seed Jennifer Capriati and top-seeded defending champion Martina Navratilova—en route to the final, but she had no chance against Sabatini on Sunday.

The fourth-ranked Argentine set the tone immediately as she broke Meskhi in the first game and raced through the set with an impressive

blend of crosscourt angles, drop shots and winning volleys.

Meskhi finally held serve in the fourth game of the second set when she scooped up a drop shot that clipped the net and came up with a winning drop shot of her own.

But Sabatini just rolled through the next three games displaying a confidence and winning attitude that should have the world's top three worried.

"Today I wanted to win each point and I think I played smart," Sabatini said. "I think I'm playing my best tennis and everyone knows they have to play very good now to beat me."

Jahangir's third

PARIS, Apr 8: Jahangir Khan won his third consecutive Grand Prix tournament when he beat Australian Rodney Martin 10-15, 15-10, 15-13, 15-9 in a hot-tempered French Open final at Marne La Vallee on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Napoli players shocked



ROME, Apr 8: Napoli teammates of Diego Maradona said they are stunned by the 15-month suspension given the Argentine star for using cocaine before a league match, reports AP.

"A sentence as rigid as this one?" said an incredulous Gianfranco Zola, heir apparent to the Argentine forward. "It's as if they'd disqualified the sport of soccer for 15 months."

"An incredible punishment," said Napoli forward Giuseppe Incani. "They should have taken into account the substance in question and the reason he took it, it surely

wasn't to make him play better."

Maradona, the most-acclaimed soccer player in the world, was suspended Saturday.

The Disciplinary Commission of the Italian League barred the 30-year-old forward from playing through June 30, 1992, a ban that will be extended world-wide by the International Federation of Association Football, soccer's governing body.

Maradona, who led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup and the 1990 world Cup final, returned home last week and awaited the decision in Buenos

Aires. He did not make any immediate comment.

"The verdict isn't final because we're going to appeal," business manager Marcos Franchi said. "After that, the corresponding sanction will be known."

Maradona, the captain of Argentina's national team and defending Italian League champion Napoli, tested positive following a game against Bari on March 17.

His attorney, Vincenzo Sinscalchi, has announced plans to appeal on claims that urine samples taken after the match may have been tampered with.

Evans eclipses rest



FEDERAL WAY, Washington, Apr 8: Triple Olympic Champion Janet Evans left the field behind in the 1,500 metre freestyle to claim her fourth victory and earn top performer honours at the US swimming spring national championships on Sunday, reports Reuter.

On the final day of the five-day meeting, the 19-year-old Evans swam the fourth fastest 1,500 metres in US history to win in 16 minutes 11.22 seconds, more than 12 seconds faster than her nearest com-

petitor. Evans previously scored victories in the 400- and 800-metre freestyle and 400-metre individual medley — her three gold medal events at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

"It was a fun met but I'm glad it's over" Evans said.

"I'm tired and I need a little break." Nicole Haislett gave Evans a run for her money for top performer honours by claiming her third victory of the meeting with a 2:16.34 win in the 200-metre individual medley.

Haislett, world champion in the 100 metre freestyle, won

the 100- and 200 metre freestyle events earlier in the week.

Former world record holder David Wharton won the men's 200-metre individual medley in 2:01.99, outstripping Ron Karnaugh over the final 10 metres. Karnaugh clocked 2:02.04 and Mike Barrowman, who had won the 200- and 100-metre breaststrokes, finished third.

Angel Myers Martino, 23, won her first national title since her suspension from US swimming for testing positive for steroids before the Seoul Olympics.



1991 Independence Day soccer champions Mohammedan Sporting Club pictured before the start of yesterday's final at Dhaka Stadium.

Jessore upset BKSP

Sports Reporter



Jessore District Sports Association caused a major upset when they eliminated defending champions and firm favourites Bangladesh Krira Shikha Prothistan by a solitary goal in the Group 'A' final match of the Yuasa eleventh national junior hockey championship yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

Tawfiq Iqbal hit the winner in the 25th minute of the game converting a penalty stroke.

Jessore DSA will now play in the final round which begins today at the same venue.

Faridpur District Sports Association clinched the top spot from Group 'D' to qualify for the final round when they beat Rajshahi District Sports Association 2-0 in the group final.

Shahidul Islam banged the first goal for Faridpur DSA in the 21st minute of the match. Dewan Shaiful Islam sealed the fate of the match when he slammed the second goal two minutes from the final whistle.

Dhaka Education Board also marched into final round after registering a comfortable 2-0 victory over Mymensingh District Sports Association in the Group 'C' final encounter.

Sajjad Hossain was the architect of Mymensingh's victory. He scored both the goals, in the 51st and 63rd minutes of play, respectively. Jessore, Faridpur, Dhaka Education Board and Dhaka DSA are the four teams who have made it to the final round. Jessore will take on Faridpur in the final round match today at 2.30 pm while Dhaka DSA will meet Dhaka Education Board at 4 pm in the other match of the day.



Last year's champions Abahani Krira Chakra.