Milnars cricket

Sports Reporter

Agrani Bank kept their super league hopes aline with a 46-run victory over Young Pegasus in a play-off match of the Milnars First Division ericket league match yesterday at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Agrant Bank have now collected 12 points from 11 matches while their nearest rivals, Udity Club, also have 12 points but have played one match less.

If Udity can beat Young Pegasus in tomorrow's crucial match, then Udity will qualify for the super league and if they lose, once again these three teams will play each other to decide which learn plays in the super league.

Agrani Bank, with Towrith's brilliant 69 not out, scored 192 for six wickets in their allotted 40 overs.

In reply Young Pegasus against some tight bowling scored 156 for nine wicked in 40 overs.

Azad Boys and Orient win in Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Azad Boys Club and Orient S. C recorded their second victories in the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket, league matches.

In yesterday's match at Dhanmondi cricket stadium, Azad Boys cruised to a sevenwicket victory owner Eaglets S. C, while Orient S. C due to some light bowling, beat Rayer S. C by 13 runs at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Eaglets, electing to bat, managed 138 for the loss of eight in 35 overs. Sohel with 24 and Tarun with 23 runs were the leading Eaglets bats

Maina with three wickets for 22 and Iqbal Azim with two for 30 runs were the most successful Azad Boys bowlers.

In reply, Azad Boys rattled up 140 for the loss of three wickets in 26.2 overs. Hirok with an unbeaten 58 and Pappu with a cracking 49 also not out guided Azad Boys to victory. In the other match, Orient

put into bat, scored 163 for eight wickets. Masood 48 and Tuhin with 35 rans were the prominent Orient batsman. Farooq with there wickets

for 27 was the most successful Rayer Bazar bowler. Sayed and Pintoo also took two wickets In reply, Rayer Bazar were

bowled out for 150 in 35 overs. Tito topscored with 43 runs, Shahcen was the wrecker-in-chief for Orient with four wickets for 25 runs.

BSWA beat BSJA

Sports Reporter

in a friendly cricket match between hitherto rival bodies, the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA), helped by some dubious umpiring decisions on the part of fellowmember Sanaul Haq Khan, beat Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) by ten runs at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

In reply to BSWA's 152 for nine in 30 overs, the sports journalists managed 142 for nine, with Partha, Sports Rcporter of the Daily Sangbad earning the man-of-the-match award for his brilliant 56 runs and one wicket for the BSJA.

Former Bangladesh skipper Roquibul Hassan top scored for BSWA with 44. Bablee made 40, and Dilu Khandker an unbeaten 15.

Mustafiz Mamoon of the Daink Sangram took two wickcts for 14, SM Mamoon of the Daily Star two for 18, Partha one for 22 and Mujtaba Danesh of the Janata one for 20.

For BSJA, besides Partha's 56 run out, the Daily Star pair MS Mamoon and Afzal Khan made 18 and 12 respectively. Sangbad's Ajay Barua 11 and Janata's Kamal cight not out. Bablee claimed three wickets for 21. Shishir two for 30 and Sohel one for 28.

Biman halt MSC march

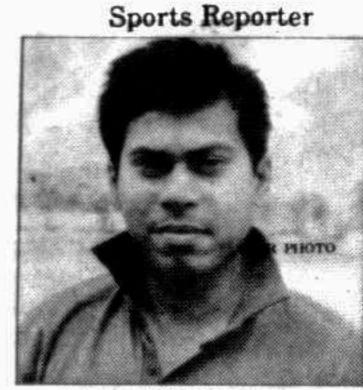
Mohammedan Sporting Club's championship campaign suffered a jolt yesterday when they went

down to Bangladesh Biman by 65 runs in their crucial Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium.

In reply to Biman's 266 all out on Thursday, Mohammedans, resuming at 41 for two wickets, were all out for 202 in 65.3 of their 75 allotted

It was Biman's fourth straight win and brightened their championship prospects to a great extent. Mohammedans have also played four matches.

Having suffered two early



NANNOO

blows Thursday when at one stage their score read 16 for two, Mohammedans yesterday needed determined batting from their formidable lineup to overhaul Biman's total. But unfortunately for them except for a disciplined knock of 82 from

Sports Reporter

Gulshan Youth recorded their second win in the Navana Premier Division ericket league beating Lalmatia Club by four wickets at the Dhanmandi

Chasing Lalmatia's 211 all out, Gulshan Youth finished on 214 for six in 64.3 overs. Resuming at their overnight score of 42 for two wickets

Cricket yesterday.

Gulshan, thanks to a fine all-round performance by Ishtiaque, easily coasted to their second win in four games. Ishtiaque, who had taken two Lalmatia wickets for 39 on Thursday, top scored with 65 made off 117 balls with the help of six boundaries. He and Rome, who made 50 with four fours, added 150 runs for a matchwinning third-wicket stand,

the runs coming in only 42.1

Shabbir made a quickfire unbeaten 37 while Gulshan's former Indian Test opener Arun Lal contributed 28, also hitting four fours.

Zeeshan, Ashish, Rajsree and Shaon claimed a wicket cach for Lalmatia.

in the Lalmatia innings, Ashish Malik had made 57. Ashim 24, Sanjceva 33, Shaon 20 and Jahangir 19. Ashfaque took two Lalmatia

wickets for 39, Ishtiaque two for 39, and Tito two for 43

Lalmatia have one win in four games. TODAY'S MATCH

Brothers Union vs GMCC (Dhaka Stadium)

skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannoo none of the other batsmen, barring opener Azhar Shantoo who was run out for 30, wieket-keeper Ratan, 20, and all-rounder Halim Shah, 23, managed to play themselves in against some controlled bowling by the Biman spinners.

Mohammedans started the day rather disastrously, losing four wickets with the addition of just 46 runs to their overnight score. It wasn't until Nannoo was joined by Halim Shah that a substantive partnership materialised with the pair taking the score from 87 for six to 149 for seven, adding 62 vital runs that momentarily raised hopes of a Mohammedans fightback. But after Halim Shah's departure the Mohammedan batting again faltered and despite the stubborness of the skipper, who was last man out for a well-made 82, the tail gave in -- except for Waheedul Ghani. The scasoned leg-spinner lent brave support to his captain and helped add 32 runs for the tenth wicket, himself making seven of them.

Enamul Haq Moni picked up three wickets for 32 with his left-arm spin, Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu's off-spin brought him two for 28 while Piyal, Sumon and Dulu picked up a wicket apiece to facilitate Biman's tri-

the Biman innings, Aminul Islam Bulbul topscored with 92, Moni with 48, Jahangir 31 and Sumon 21, were among the notable scor-Gamaggee with three wick-

cts for 35 and Shantoo with three for 33 were the more successful Moahammedan bowlers.

Leonard-Norris fight more than a title bout



NEW YORK, Feb 8: Sugar Ray Leonard had a picture of his 3-yearold son stuck in one of his boxing

boots when he won an Olympic gold medal at Montreal, reports AP. Now Ray Jr is a 17-year-old

running back-high hurdler being scouted by college recruiters Meanwhile, dad fights on and Saturday night at Madison

Square Garden his opponent will be Terry Norris, only six years older than Ray Jr. Norris' World Boxing Council super welterweight title

will be at stake in the sched uled 12-round bout, but the title is just an added attraction. The reasons for the match are that Leonard wants to fight in the Garden, where he has

never performed, and that he wants to fight. Period. "You do what your nature is," said Leonard, who will be 35 on May 17. He has wearied of being asked why a man who won world titles in five weight classes and who has carned

lion dollars continues to fight. "This is my job," Leonard said Thursday. "Everyone's trying to bury me. Old ladies,

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 8 :

Czechoslovakia's Slovan

Bratislav scored a 2-0 win over

Malaysia Olympic to reach the

semi-finals of the Merdeka

soccer tournament here

Admira Wacker who became

the first team to qualify for the

win over Thailand to boost

their hopes of reaching the

points, and Malaysia Olympic

lieth Denmark, with three

the Czechs join Austria's

Denmark also scored a 2-0

Thursday, reports AFP.

semi-finals

last four.

Czechs in Merdeka semis

purses of more than 100 mil-

white and black, come up to me and say, I should put you on my lap and spank you (for continuing to fight).

"Boxing has always been here," he said, pointing to his heart, then to his head. "Sure I've retired physically." He announced his retire-

ment after retinal surgery in 1982 and after he got up from a knockdown to stop Kevin Howard in the ninth round in 1984. He said he will never again announce a retirement, but will just stop fighting. When he does, it'll be his

"As far as I'm concerned, I've never lost anything," he said. "I won't allow it to be driven into my head that I've lost something."

"Those things happen," Leonard said of his being knocked down three times in his last three fights (once by Donny Lalonde in 1988 and twice by Thomas Hearns in 1989) and of being cut on the right brow and left eyelid in his victory over Roberto Duran in his last fight Dcc7, 1989. He also was knocked down in sparring in the early day's of his training for Saturday's

He contends that he has not taken undue punishment, hav-

with one point have a chance

of winning the remaining

replacement for Japan opened

accounts in the eighth minute.

collected a loose ball and sent

in a 30-metre shot which hit

the crossbar and deflected

past stunned keeper Chong

The Malaysians, who drew

1-1 with Denmark in their

opening match, had a chance

to equalise in the 12th minute

Kim Bomon into goal.

The Czechs, a last-minute

Striker Timko Jaroslav

semifinal berth from Group B.

almost nine years. His record is 36-1-1, with 25 knockouts. The loss was to Duran in a welterweight title bout in 1980. The draw was against Hearns in the rematch in "I can beat anybody,"

Leonard said. "That's the attitude you must take. People ask me, What happens if you get knocked out; what happens if you lose?' I don't think that

He said, however, that the where I am.

Norris, 26-3 with 15 knockouts, has excellent hand and foot speed and good power.

"He needed someone who was going to help him prove himself," Norris said. "It's a test. He's just taking the wrong

"I think his good days are behind him.

Norris, who has a 26-3 record with 15 knockouts. won the 154-pound (69.3kilogram) title with a first-"round knockout of John "The Beast" Mugabi, a brawling power puncher, last March 31. Leonard contends he's in

some time. "I've had a lot of little things on my mind the last couple of years," he said. Money, however, is not a

reason Leonard is still fighting, he and his attorney, Mike Trainer, said.

"Ray can't spend the inter-900,000 dollars.

Trainer also said he ex pected Leonard's Garden debut to attract about 10,000 people.

ing fought only five times in

Norris match "is a barometer. To fight a young man gives me somewhat of a measuring stick. He can show me where I am physically. Mentally, I know

his best mental condition in

est he's earning," said Trainer, whose company, Victory Promotions, is promoting the fight. Trainer claims Leonard will get at least 4 million dollars and Norris will get about





- Star photo

BKSP boys sink Shapla

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Protisthan (BKSP) boys proved far too strong for the visiting Shapla Youth Force side, walking away with a convincing 4-1 victory in yesterday afternoon's exhibition soccer tie at the Mirpur National Stadium.

The visitors, a band of youthful Britons born of Bangladeshi parents, were three goals down by the 20th minute of play. Yet they displayed good courage by reducing the margin through a penalty seven minutes into the second half. Taleb completed the tally seconds from time.

Rana, who has always scored freely for BKSP, gave his team the lead in the very fourth minute. Six minutes later he doubled it with another fine effort. Masum made it 3-0 in the 20th minute.

Chairman of the National Sports Council Major General Mahbubur Rahman witnessed the match.

Econo TT finals today

Sports Reporter Nasimul Hassan Kochi will

meet Musaddequl Haq Rochi in today's men's singles final of the inaugural Econo Ball Pen table tennis tournament, being held at the National Coaching Centre under the aegis of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Players' Association. Zulckha and Shamima will

clash for the women's singles In yesterday's semifinals,

Zulekha beat Bachehi by three sets to one while Shamima beat Rinu 3-2 sets in an exciting contest. Bangladesh Ansars paddlers

Sclim and Hamlet will clash for the boys' singles title. Yesterday, Selim beat Tanmoy of Azimpur Young Stars 21-19, 21-17, 21-19, while Hamlet beat teammate Ruble 21-9, 21-10, 21-10 in the semifinals.

Today's fare also includes the veterans' final.

Josephite cagers blank Panthers

Sports Reporter

Josephites blanked lowly placed Panthers Club 92-64 in yesterday's only fixture of the Partex First Division basketball league at the wooden-floor gymnasium. The winners led a keenly-

fought first half 35-33. Eddie Smith led the Josephites charge by scoring 25 points while Asif with 22 points was Panthers' top player/ on the

Napoli want Maradona suspended

NAPOLI, Feb 8 champions Napoli

have asked the national federation to suspend Diego Maradona because of the Argentine's repeated absences this season, reports Reuter.

Italian

soccer

If the federation does suspend Maradona, Napoli will be released from their obligation to pay him until the end of his contract in 1993. Maradona, who has said rc-

peatedly he wants to leave

Napoli before his contract expires, has missed numerous practices and has refused to play in both league and cup games this season. Napoli vice-president Francesco Scrao said he told

Maradona of the request after a club training session on Thursday. "Maradona listened attentively. He was unmoved, he

didn't say anything," Scrao told reporters after confronting the stocky midfielder in front of his team mates in the changing rooms. Fans booed Maradona at the

training session. They were angry with the midfielder for



failing to turn up for Sunday's league game againsit secondfrom-bottom Cagliairi which Napoli drew 1-1.

Napoli trainer Albeirto Big on told reporters the decision had been taken "with regret.." "For me the main prob lem

was the effect on the tean's of not knowing whether or not Maradona would play be fore the games," he said.

Italy's soccer tribunal last month fined Maradona 70,000 dollars at the request of his club for missing matches and training. Napoli have refused to confirm or deny Italian press reports that Maradona has been put on a minimum wage.

In Buenos Afres, his agent Marcos Franchi said on Thursday Maradona was set on leaving Napoli by the end of the year even if it meant quitting the game. Franchi said: "It is an irre-

versible fact. The decision by Diego to leave Napoli does depend on what (Napoli) president Corrado Ferlaino might decide. If they agree good terms, all the better. If not, there is no problem because Maradona needs a mental breathing space from the pressure of Italian football, and if he has to leave the game he

But Franchi added the possibility still existed of Maradona fulfilling his wash of playing for Argentine firs t division side Boca Juniors although this would depend on the terms of his departure from Napoli.

l'aylor proposes regular monthly internationalls



England soccer Grahmanager man Taylor has dropped a bombshell on the

nation's overworked league clubs by proposing regular monthly internationals to stop the rust setting in, reports After watching England

produce a disciplined but distinctly unexciting performance against Cameroon on Wednesday night, Taylor said: "The three-month break has taught me how necessary it is to get back in action in February. In fact, there must be some justification for having an international game every month. "If we had played a game already ! think we could have shown more authority. Instead we showed rustiness." With English clubs already

country - some of the England team had played a dozen games in six weeks -Taylor's proposal will come as a blow to club managers. England captain Bryan Robson is a case in point. Robson made his return to the national side for the first time since

the World Cup despite being

facing the busiest league and

cup schedule of any European

Manchester United's only fit first-choice midfielder. In the event Robson was taken off 20 minutes from time once England's 2-0 victory over Cameroon looked sewn up. But United would probably have preferred not to

see their injury-prone star

risk himself for his country at

Robson will have more than enough work to do this Sunday when United host to Leeds in the first leg of their League Cup semifinal.

With Leeds and Manchester United lying fourth and fifth respectively in the First Division, there is little to choose between the two teams. Their only meeting so far this season ended in a 1-1 draw. In Saturday's first division

fixtures new leaders Arsenal entertain Nottingham forest. Although Forest goalkeeper David Seaman should be stretched more than he was at Wembley on Wednesday night,



the gunners are expecited to retain their unbeaten league record at home.

Liverpool, second to / Arsenal en goal difference, face triumphant Everton in the first of two merseyside derbies) over the next two weekends.

seen a dramatic tv their fortunes since to the club of mar Wilkinson. Liverpool's on is that they hav successive viet rivals and have times in 16 1 1985. pounds sterl dollars) in ne Crystal Pa

nine matches, Ev

their unlike! ly title challenge at home to si xth-placed Tottenham. Palace should be couraging Wednesda land mi

behind the

star lan Wright boosted by his en-England debut on ly. Tottenham's Engdilelder Paul Gassuffering from groin unlikely to play.

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ilace, three points

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two million

Milla's mates in fury

coigne,

Footb



ONDON, Feb 8: Roger whose b bycott Came roon's 2-0 defeat by England left more than 60,000 Wei nbley

Thursday, reports AFP. As the unhappy Ai rican lions flew home to lick their wounds after their tame submission to England Wednesday night, their main growls were reserved for the superstar striker's refus al to

fans fuming, faced even more

fury from his teammate s on

"We're very angry about Milla," revealed captain Stephen Tataw." The rest of the players told him: "How can you come over here and then decide you are not going to

play over a cash row.

for us-but there have been a lot of problems . . a lot of problems. Tataw's shake of the head

"He made it very difficult

told the whole story of the Cameroon's ill-fated stay in England. If the 2-0 defeat did not car

it all, there was their feeling

hat the onset of sub-zero eratures had somehow part of the English conspire hen there was Milla's tale. apped up in a blue duffle t, which suddenly made

hir a look every one of his 38

yer ars, he was adamant after-

we ards that he had been right

pull out because be had not

icy had been snubbed by

all Association officials

en paid his fee. The FA and sponsors did not keep their promise about the money," scowled the great man who made his name with his surprising goalscoring ability against top teams at last

year's World Cup finals. "It wasn't me who asked for the money, but our federation was told that someone in England would organise it. Noone came to see me, so I did not play. Roger Milla means what he says."

Milla was not the only Cameroon player to boycott the game. Goalkeeper Thomas N'Kono also walked out on the team presumably believing he should have been chosen ahead of his deadly rival Antoine Bell.

