

# Biman's lucky flight

Sports Reporter



A mesmerising spell of spin bowling by skipper Shahinaz Shau yesterday helped Bangladesh Biman to remain in contention for this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league by averting imminent defeat against Lalmitia Club whom they beat on the basis of a faster scoring rate after both teams tied the score at 154 all out at the Dhaka Stadium. Biman were deemed the winners for having made their season's lowest total Tuesday of 154 off 53.1 overs against Lalmitia to post the same total. The win, albeit with the help of a lot of the help of a calculator, left Biman par on points with Brothers Union at the top of the league table, each team having suffered one defeat in seven outings.

Aminul Islam Bulbul. The left-hander ran to his left and covered at least 20 metres before scooping up the ball inches from the ground. It was an effort that Moni, his teammates and the spectators will remember for a long time.

Resuming at 44 for three after 23 overs, Lalmitia, who have only two wins to their credit, appeared to be cruising



SHAHINAWAZ SHANU towards their third when they were comfortably poised on 101 for the loss of four wickets.

Utam and Pika, the overnight batsmen who came together at 33 for three, took the score along to 90 when Pika left, becoming the first of Shanu's six victims after making a patient 22. The fifth Lalmitia wicket fell at 101, the sixth at 116 and the seventh at 138 — all falling to Shanu's immaculate bowling. With the departure of their Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Samana Kumara for just five with the board reading 138 the Lalmitia camp came under tremendous psychological pressure from which they eventually failed to recover.

Shanu struck the body blow to Lalmitia by capturing the prize wicket of the other Sri

Lankan, Sanjeeva — a century a couple of games ago — for 37 when the score was 148, seven runs short of the victory target. Sanjeeva was fooled into giving a return catch to the Biman skipper. He played for 114 minutes and faced 68 balls, hitting one of the only three boundaries conceded by Biman, a fine reflection on the tidiness of their bowlers' line and length.

Utam made 28 in Lalmitia's knock and Jahangir 11.

Moni picked up two for 24, Rafique one for nine while Shanu's figures read 15 overs, 2 maidens, 32 runs and 6 wickets. Sumon conceded just 13 runs in his ten overs, Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu 11 in his seven and Azhar 18 in his seven overs.

### TARUN TRIUMPH

In the other Navana fixture which concluded at the Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium yesterday, Surjo Tarun, who had made a mammoth 355 for six wickets in their 75 overs Tuesday, beat Gulshan Youth on a faster scoring rate after Gulshan had made 230 for the loss of seven wickets in 67 overs when rains brought an early and abrupt end to the game late in the afternoon. After 67 overs, Tarun were 284 for five.

The highlight of the Tarun innings was a punishing unbeaten 141 by their Sri Lankan batsman Aruna de Silva.

Tito sponsored for Gulshan Youth with 49, Ishiaq made 41, Arif 29 not out and Romc 26. Ex-Indian Test batsmen Arun Lal and Ashoke Malhotra contributed just 26 runs between them.

This was Surjo Tarun's third win in six matches.

### TODAY'S MATCH

Kalabagan vs GMCC (Dhaka Stadium).



Action from the Dhaka Divisional women's athletics championships at the Dhanmandi Women's Sports Complex yesterday. —Star photo

# BTMC riders reign

Sports Reporter

A late afternoon nor'wester marred the second day's programme of the 16th national cycling championships at the Muhammadpur Physical Education College playground yesterday.

Only two of the six events scheduled for the day could be completed before rain left the grassy ground water-logged and unfit for cycling. The four ruined events will now be held today, according to a Bangladesh Cycling Federation press release.

### Div II cricket resumes today

Sports Reporter

The second phase matches of the Rank-Xerox Second Division cricket league will begin today with two encounters scheduled for the day.

Dhanmondi Club will meet Eskaton Sabuj Sangha at the Mirpur Pallabi ground while City Club will play against Ajax Sporting Club at the Mahakhali T and T ground.

### Shooting camp

The National Shooting Federation will organise a 21-day training camp for the national shooting team from March 17.

Noted shooting coach of the country will train the shooters at the Gulshan Shooting range in the capital as a first stage towards preparing them for the forthcoming SAF games.

# Shovon, Shibu in semis

Sports Reporter

National number one Shovon Jamaly will meet national junior champion Shibu Lal in today's men's singles semifinal of the national tennis championships now being held at the Ramna Tennis Complex.

In the other semifinal clash, former champion Sarder Iftekhar will take on another ex-champion Maroof Rahman. Both matches start at 2:00 this afternoon.

Today's other fixtures include the women's doubles final between Mehrin Asaf and her partner Saathi Sarker and the American pair of Ms Goodyear and Yanie. The match starts at 3:00 pm.

The men's doubles semifinals are also scheduled for today, the penultimate day of the six-day championships being held under the aegis of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation.

In yesterday's men's singles quarter-finals, top seeded

Shovon Jamaly outplayed eighth seeded Titun Rahman 6-4, 6-2 to line up a clash with Shibu Lal in the semis. Shibu got the better of sixth seed Sami Razzak, winning 6-1, 6-4.

Former national champion Sarder Iftekhar, seeded seventh, upset second seeded Hira Lal to book his berth in the last four. The bespectacled left-hander dominated the entire proceedings and handed out Hira Lal a 6-2, 6-2 drubbing. Maroof Rahman made the last four at the expense of Byzid Rashid, his former doubles partner, taking the first set at 6-0 and dropping only two games to Byzid in the second.

In yesterday's women's doubles semifinals, Mehrin Asaf and Saathi Sarker blanked Lopa and Mithun 6-0, 6-0, while Goodyear and Yanie faced a little more resistance before downing Rina and Monica 6-1, 6-2.

Goodyear is thus poised to win double crowns should she

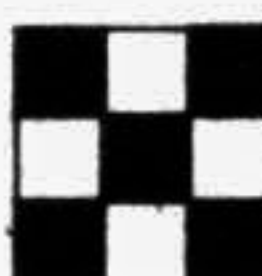
win both the doubles and the singles titles. Tuesday Good-year reached the singles final whitewashing Monica 6-0, 6-0. Rina is the other finalist, having beaten Saathi Tuesday 6-2, 6-4.

In the men's doubles quarterfinals Wednesday, the top pairing of Shovon and Sarder beat Dr Rashiduddin and Mashooq Rahman 6-1, 6-2, Byzid and Hira Lal beat Bishnu Ghosh and Maroof 7-5, 6-2, Shibu Lal and Titun overcame a first set defeat to beat Jhelan and Dilip 2-6, 7-6, 6-4 in a keen tussle while Sami Razzak and Maroof Rahman had another tough time beating off a spirited challenge from Faisal Rahman and Rumman, the score reading 5-7, 7-6, 6-3.

The men's and women's singles and men's doubles finals are scheduled for tomorrow, Friday.

Eighty-six players, including a dozen ladies, participated in this year's meet.

# Kasparov's slender lead



LINARES, Spain, Mar 13: World chess champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union remained in the lead after the penultimate round of the Linares international tournament, reports Reuter.

But fellow countryman Vasily Ivanchuk, holding a strong position in an adjourned game, seemed certain of clinching final victory in the 13-round tournament.

Kasparov and Ivanchuk,

ranked third in the world, both won their 12th-round matches on Tuesday.

But Ivanchuk, 21, was in a superior position in a previous adjourned game against fellow-countryman Mikhail Gurevich. Experts expected him to win that game and go into the final round on Thursday with a 1/2 point lead over Kasparov.

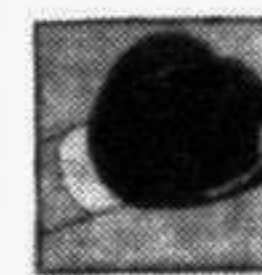
Ivanchuk, dubbed the new Bobby Fischer after the former American prodigy who became world champion in the 1970s, is the only player to have beaten both Kasparov and

former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union at the tournament.

On Tuesday Ivanchuk beat Soviet Boris Gelfand, number four in the world, in the tournament's shortest match after only 18 moves of a Grunfeld defence.

Kasparov beat Yugoslav Grandmaster Ljubomir Ljubojevic in 43 moves of a Sicilian defence. A mistake made by Ljubojevic saved Kasparov, who was in the weaker position after losing a rook.

# Tyson cool about Ruddock



LAS VEGAS, Mar 13: Donovan "Razor" Ruddock is supposed to be Mike Tyson's toughest test since he lost the world heavyweight championship 13 months ago but Tyson himself doesn't expect much of a challenge in their bout next Monday, reports Reuter.

"I'm not looking for any great competitive fight," says Tyson. "Don't be surprised if I still (knock out) Ruddock in one round."

That would rudely relegate Ruddock to the same journeyman class as Henry Tillman and Alex Stewart, first-round victims of Tyson in his only fights since he lost his crown to James "Buster" Douglas in February 1990.

Of course, Ruddock disputes Tyson's assessment. "I don't think anyone can beat me," the 27-year-old Jamaican says.

Las Vegas oddsmakers agree with Tyson, making him a 5-3/4 to one favourite.

The World Boxing Council, World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation all also rate Tyson higher, ranking him the number one contender and Ruddock num-

ber two.

Tyson, 24 has a record of 39-1 with 35 victories inside the distance.

Ruddock, who is on a 16-fight winning streak that began in 1985, is 25-1-1 with 18 victories inside the distance. Like Tyson, Ruddock can

considerable size advantage in the ring on Monday night but Tyson is used to cutting bigger opponents down to size.

And Ruddock, whose left hook is his best weapon, has never inspired the elemental fear that "Iron Mike" has since the then 20-year-old in 1986 became the youngest man to win a world heavyweight title.

The winner of the Tyson Ruddock bout is being billed as the next opponent of the victor of the fight between world heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield and former champion George Foreman on April 19 in Atlantic City.

But it may not turn out that way. If Foreman deposes Holyfield, he may then face Ray Mercer, postponing any title bout with Tyson or Ruddock until next spring. In that case the Tyson-Ruddock winner would almost certainly have a non-title fight before then.

MIKE TYSON

brag of stopping his last opponent in the first round but Mike Rouse, his victim last December 8, was no more illustrious an opponent than Tyson's.

Ruddock's most impressive victories were against Michale Dokes, whom he sopped in the fourth round last April, and James "boncrusher" Smith, whom he stopped in the seventh in July 1989.

Ruddock also will boast a

Anirban chess

Sports Reporter

Six players were jointly leading after completion of the second round matches of the Anirban Victory Day chess and carrom competition at Manikdi, Dhaka Cantonment.

# Simpson slams the rules



PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 13: Australian team coach Bobby Simpson has criticised the rules for the current five-match one-day cricket series against the West Indies, reports Reuter.

A report in the Trinidad daily newspaper the Guardian quoted Simpson on Tuesday as saying the rule under which batting targets are reduced if time is lost through rain made it easier for the team batting second to win.

West Indies won the third one-day international on Sunday on a faster run rate after the target was readjusted by umpires.

Australia scored 245 for seven off 49 overs but rain delayed the start of the West Indies innings by 81 minutes. According to the rules, they were set a target of 181 in 36 overs and achieved victory with 2.3 overs to spare.

"We don't feel it's a real loss. I think it is the interruption by rain which made all the difference as 245 would have

been a tough target for the West Indies to chase," Simpson told the Guardian.

"When it was reduced under the existing rules over here,



BOBBY SIMPSON the target was one heck of a lot easier," he said.

### Ban on noise-makers

Another report from Bridgetown said: A ban on noise-making instruments during international cricket at

Kensington Oval this year was defended by officials on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The ban on musical instruments, drums, cymbals, radios without headphones and loud speakers was announced on Monday before the fourth match on Wednesday in the one-day series between the West Indies and Australia.

The West Indies Cricket Board of Control and the Barbados Cricket Association reacted on Tuesday to adverse comment, issuing a joint statement.

Part of it noted with concern that in parts of the West Indies "loud music and the beating of drums were becoming prevalent during play, particularly in Barbados where many complaints were received."

Officials stressed, however, the ban had been introduced: "purely out of consideration for a sizeable quantity of patrons and is in no way intended to interfere with the traditional and spontaneous West Indian enjoyment of the game."

Australia lead the five-match one-day series 2-1.

# Star-studded Juventus lack fire power



ROME, Mar 13: Juventus' dream of emulating Arrigo Sacchi's AC Milan is foundering on a lack of fire power — no goals in their last four league games, reports Reuter.

The Turin Club spent 50 million dollars last summer to build a world-beating squad and brought in coach Gigi Maifredi, a modern tactician in the Sacchi mould, who they had courted for three years.

Roberto Baggio alone cost a world record 13 million dollars, while German World Cup midfielder Thomas Haessler came for 8.8 million.

But rather than enhance the goal-scoring powers of Italy's World Cup six-goal hero Salvatore Schillaci the new Juventus midfielder Thomas Haessler has contrived to stifle him.

Schillaci, said also to have domestic problems, has not found the net since November and has scored only seven goals in 30 matches in all competitions this season. He started on the bench at Internazionale last Sunday.

"We've lost all but our dignity," said Juventus president Vittorio Chiusano.

Out of the championship race in which they have taken only one point from their last four games, Juventus were also eliminated from the Italian Cup they won last year when they lost 2-0 at home to Roma in an recent quarter-final.

They retain an interest in the European Cup Winners' Cup with a berth in the semi-

nals virtually assured. Maifredi has lost his normally jovial manner amid a merciless media campaign in



ROBERTO BAGGIO

which former Juventus favourites Giovanni Trapattoni of Inter and Dino Zoff, now at Lazio, have been named among his possible successors.

Inter's German star Lothar Matthaus said of Trapattoni, who guided Juventus to triumph in the European Cup in 1985: "he speaks the players' language."

Maifredi's rapport with his players is apparently poor and neither he nor they are talking to the press.

Juventus said Maifredi's contract until June would be respected but they have given no indication that he will stay on even though the club said they did not expect to win the championship this season.

"You can't say 'You're not going for the championship' when you have Baggio, for

whom you paid 13 million dollars, and Schillaci, who was the best player of the World Cup. When you've bought Julio Cesar, you can't say that," Milan's Dutch star Ruud Gullit said.

"When we (Dutch) started with Milan it was not necessary to win the title, but we won it because we were so relaxed. We were unknown," he said.

AC Milan went on to win both the European Cup and the World Club title twice.

Fiat boss Gianni Agnelli, who owns Juventus and is honorary president, preferred not to watch the side in their league defeat at Inter on Sunday.

Instead, he went to see title contenders Sampdoria in Genoa, where they beat Milan 2-0.

Clearly disappointed with Juventus' stars, Agnelli, celebrating his 70th birthday on Tuesday, said Sampdoria's inform forward Roberto Mancini would make a perfect birthday present.

Baggio is struggling after being hailed the successor to the great Michel Platini with whom Juventus won the European and World Club titles in 1985.

He has scored 22 goals in all competitions this season, but most of his 11 league goals were penalties. He has found the net just once, in the European Cup Winners' Cup match in Liege last week, in his last nine outings

# Ansars lift gold

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars lifters captured two golds on the inaugural day of the sixteenth national weightlifting championship yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

Fifty weightlifters from 11 teams are taking part in the three-day meet to secure honours in the ten weight divisions.

Moniruzzaman Mintoo of Ansars clinched the gold medal in the 52-kg snatch and jerk, lifting a total of 170 kgs. Munnul Sarkar of Kushtia bagged the silver with a lift of 150 kgs, followed by Moazzem Hossain of Meherpur who got

the bronze. In the 56-kg snatch and jerk Abu Hannan of Bangladesh Ansars topped with a lift of 185.5 kgs. Nizamuddin Nazim of BTMC took the second position with lift of 179 kgs. Farooq of Gazipur DSA settled for the third position with a lift of 157.5 kgs.

The 60-kg snatch and jerk was going on when this report was being filed. Earlier, in the afternoon, Nurul Momen Khair, President of the Bangladesh Weightlifting Federation formally inaugurated the meet.



Moniruzzaman Mintoo of Bangladesh Ansars & VDP won the gold medal in the 52-kg class on the inaugural day of the three-day 16th national weightlifting championships at the National Coaching Centre yesterday. —Star photo

# Falcao's dream turns into a nightmare



RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 13: Coaching Brazil is turning into a sour experience for Paulo Roberto Falcao, reports Reuter.

When he took on the job last September the former World Cup hero was one of the country's most respected soccer personalities.

Six months, four draws, one defeat and no victories later, Falcao's dream has become a

nightmare.

Brazilian newspapers are already speculating on who might replace the elegant and

It's a very dangerous situation because Brazil lives on results and you cannot have a Brazil team that goes five games without winning, no matter how many experiments are done," said ex-international Zico.

Unfortunately, Falcao cannot count on his best players. Nor does he have enough time for training.

He has had his players together for more than one day only twice and until the end of last year he was prevented by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) from using players based abroad. This meant the likes of strikers Carca and Romario and goalkeeper Taffarel were unavailable.

When the ban was lifted, Falcao found the European Clubs would not release their prized players anyway. Only

two of the five exiles called up for the match against Paraguay made it back to Brazil.

Falcao was clearly upset by the three absences, Aldair, Mazinho and Romario. "Of course my work suffered. I drew up plans which I was not able to carry out, he said.

He has also frequently complained that Brazilian clubs are forced to play too many matches and his players are usually tired.

Many say the real blame lies with the CBF which has failed to ensure that players are available. In addition, critics say political infighting among directors has left the Federation on the brink of chaos.

FALCAO



FALCAO

courteous Falcao. Pele and Carlos Alberto Parreira have both been mentioned.

Recent results have caused a drop in Brazil's prestige.

There was a time when countries, queued to play them, even when a 250,000 dollars appearance fee was introduced in 1989.

Now the queue has gone. Brazil are simply not good enough to merit such a large sum.

On February 28, the day after a frustrating 1-1 draw at home to Paraguay, the national coach woke up to headlines such as "Falcao's Brazil can't beat anybody."

Falcao insists that he is preparing a team for the defence of the South American championship in July and results are not important at present.

But critics say Brazil needs to win even friendlies.