

Jahangir's third ton

Sports Reporter

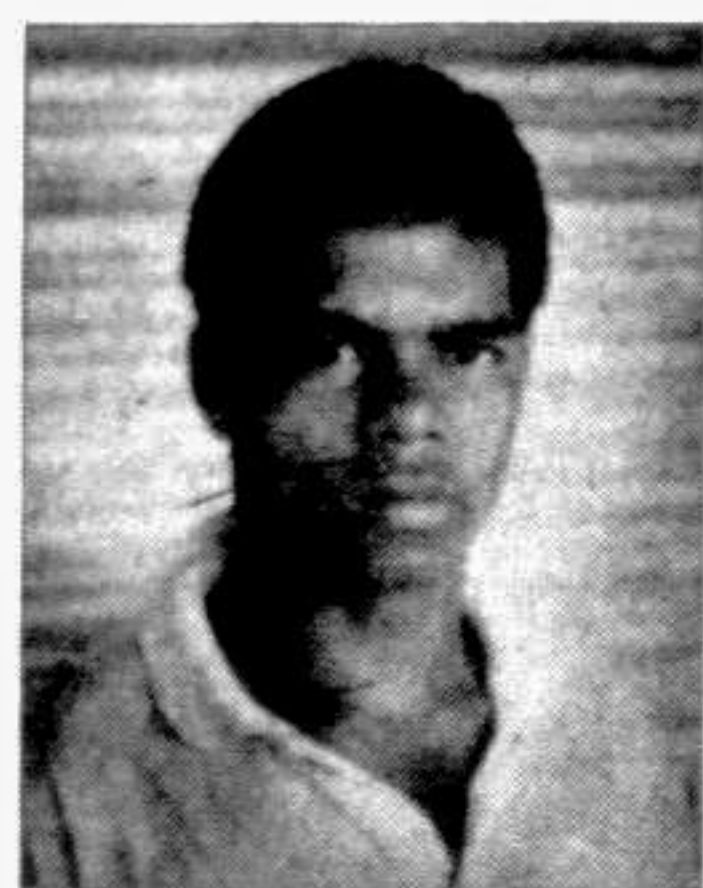
Opener Jahangir Alam hit his third century of the season yesterday to guide former champions Bangladesh Biman a step closer to this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league title.

In their match against Gulshan Youth at the Dhaka Stadium, Biman reached 261 for the loss of nine wickets in their allotted 75 overs with young Jahangir scoring a polished 110. By the draw of stumps, Gulshan had made nine without loss after four overs of batting.

Winning the toss Biman skipper Shahinawaz Shanu elected to bat and his in-form opener Jahangir who has been scoring prolifically this season, having hit the season's first century and reaching that milestone again in his third innings, gave Biman a flying start.

Battling with confidence, Jahangir made 110 off 202 balls, hitting nine fours. His was cultured knock, especially when one considers that most other Biman batsmen with the exception of their skipper found runs hard to come by against the varied Gulshan attack. Jahangir paced his knock

beautifully, always keeping the board moving while holding the innings together as wickets fell regularly at the other end. His application under the



JAHANGIR ALAM

hot sun was tremendous and was amply rewarded, earning him the distinction of being the only batsman this season to hit three hundreds. Two others — Gazi Ashraf Lipu and Minhazul Abedin Nannoo have two tons each to their credit this season.

Jahangir was lent able support by skipper Shanu who once again got out just when he had looked to have settled in, his 45 being the second

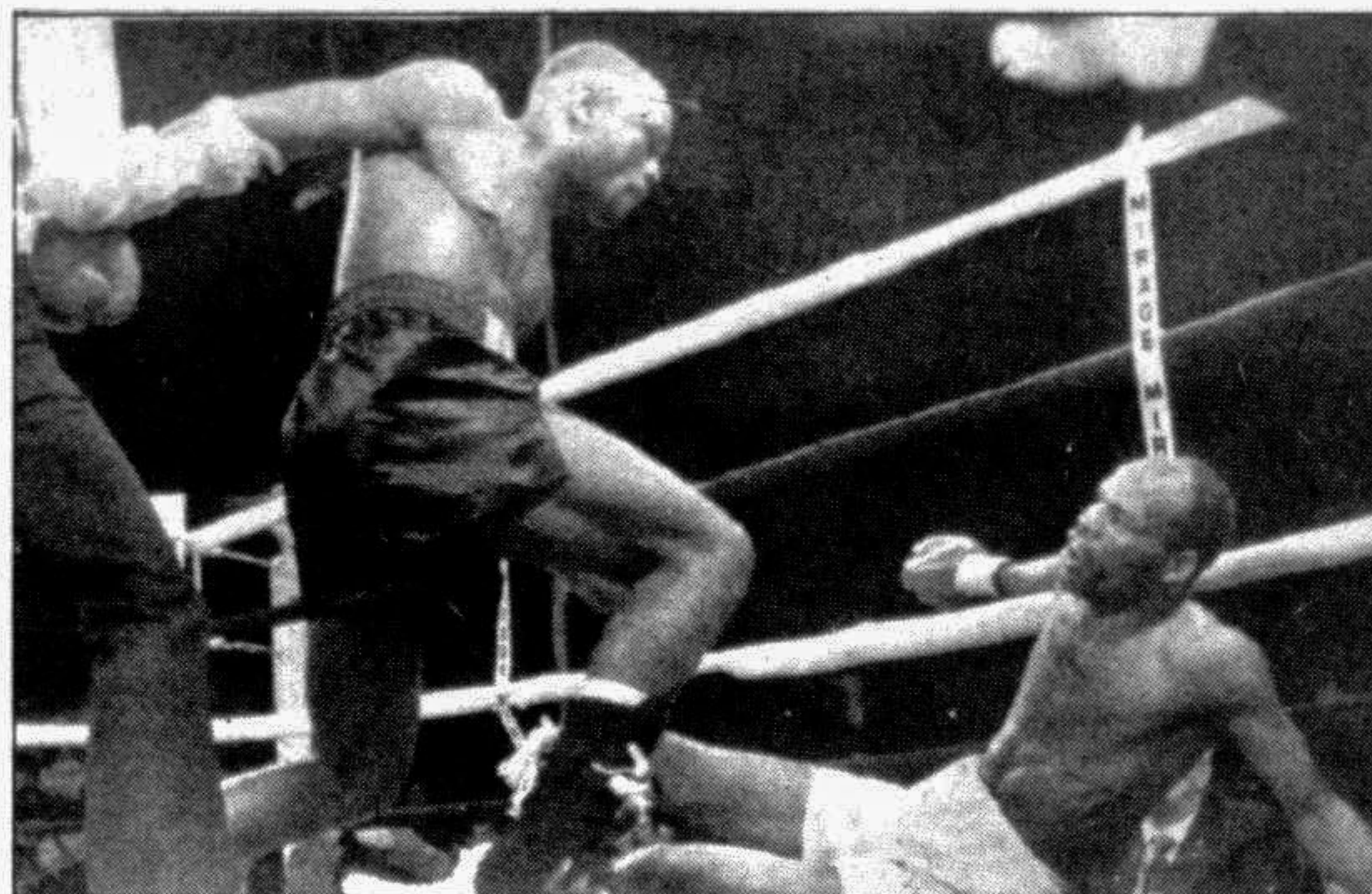
highest individual effort for his side. Shanu hit three fours and a six in his 102-ball knock.

Tarequzzaman Munir and former skipper Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu made 17 and 11 respectively while extras added another 31 vital runs.

Tito was Gulshan's most successful bowler taking three wickets for 53 while medium-pacer Ashfaq got two for 27. Former Indian Test batsmen Arun Lal and Ashoke Malhotra picked up one each — Malhotra getting the prize scalp of Jahangir whom he had caught by Tito. Ashfaq also got one wicket.

Gulshan Youth, who have the potential to overhaul the Biman total provided Arun Lal and Malhotra manage to get going, have another 71 overs to get the remaining 253 runs needed for a victory. And should that happen it could prove catastrophic for Biman's title aspirations since right now only they and league leaders Brothers Union have conceded one defeat each. A loss would appear to leave Brothers clear for a shot at the title which, if it happens, would be their first ever league championship in cricket.

For Gulshan, Saiful on five and Tito on one, resume this morning.



Simon Brown is pulled away from Maurice Blocker after a tenth round knockdown by Brown in the IBF-WBC world welterweight championship bout March 18 at Las Vegas' Mirage Hotel, on the same card as the Tyson-Ruddock heavyweight bout. Referee stopped the fight giving Brown the victory.

Monti's 100 for Gandaria

Sports Reporter

Gandaria Cricketers and Ajax Sporting Club won their respective Rank-Zero Second Division cricket super league matches at different city venues yesterday.

While Ajax scraped to a narrow two-wicket win over Nabin Sangha at the Mohakhali T&T ground, Gandaria celebrated a grand batting display that helped to beat Dhanmondi Club by 46 runs at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Gandaria, powered by fine individual performances by Monti and Biplob, made 219 for the loss of four wickets against Dhanmondi, who replied with 173 all out.

Gandaria's batting revolved around Monti, who made a swashbuckling 100 not out off just 74 balls, dispatching the ball across the ropes on 13 occasions, and Biplob who made 60 off 78 balls with the help of four boundaries. Ataur made 15.

Monti was Dhanmondi's most successful bowler taking two for 34.

Fine bowling by Kamal who claimed three for 34 and Tito

who took two for 40 restricted Dhanmondi to 173 all out despite Santosh's fine 62 and Nadim's 48. Pappoo remained unbeaten on 18.

Nabin Sangha, batting first after Ajax had won the toss, could muster only 104 before being all out in the face of Ajax's hostile bowling. Liton made 23, Shabbir 21 and Arif 20 for Nabin Sangha.

Biplob returned the flattering figures of three Nabin

wickets for just six runs among the Ajax bowlers, while Bobby got two for 25.

In reply, Ajax reached 105 for the loss of eight wickets in only 30 overs. Despite all their best efforts, the Nabin Sangha bowlers were not given a defensible total by their batsmen otherwise the result might have been quite different.

Topaz made 15, Rupam 11 and Wasim 17 with extras top-scoring for Ajax with 24.

Clive Lloyd puzzled

BRIDGETOWN, Mar 20 :

Former West Indian captain Clive Lloyd said on Tuesday he was puzzled by the current West Indies selection policy, particularly the omission of batsmen Carlisle Best and Clayton Lambert.

The Guyana-born Lloyd, the West Indies team manager until last year, said in a newspaper article he felt the time had come to introduce some younger players into the Test team.

"I am finding it very difficult

to understand the method our selectors are using," said Lloyd. "At a time when we are searching for players to replace the old guard, I hope my plea has not fallen on deaf ears."

Barbadian Best has played eight Tests for the West Indies while Guyanese Lambert finished eighth in this season's domestic Red Stripe Cup batting averages.

West Indies play the second Test of their five-match series against Australia in Georgetown starting on Saturday.

Independence Day meet from Mar 26

Sports Reporter



The Independence Day football tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), will begin on March 26, after all.

A tournament committee meeting held yesterday at the BFF conference room finally succeeded in resolving the impasse created due to the earlier decision of the Football Players' Association not to take part in the meet unless the BFF first completed the formalities regarding transfers of players which have not been held for the past two seasons. According to BFF sources, the Players' Association is learnt to have relented and agreed to allow its members to play in the tourney for different clubs.

The first round matches will be held between March 26 and 28 simultaneously at the Mirpur National Stadium and

the Banani Army Stadium.

Brothers Union are scheduled to take on Second Division champions Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in the opening encounter at the Mirpur Stadium on March 26. The match will kick off at 3:00 pm.

Fourteen teams, including defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra, runner-up Mohammedan Sporting Club and national champions Bangladesh Army, along with Brothers Union, Fakirpool Youngmen's Club, Bangladesh PWD, Agrani Bank, Muktiyoddha Sangshad, BRTC and Eskaton Sabuj will be taking part in the knockout competition. In addition there will be four selected teams from the four divisions of the country.

The semifinals and the final of the tournament will shift to the Dhaka Stadium with the semifinals scheduled for April 2 and 3 and the final for April 5.

Roma deep in debt

ROME, Mar 20: Roma, unbeaten since January but deep in debt, may have to sell star players to avoid punishment by the Italian Soccer Federation (FIGC), reports Reuters.

A committee at the FIGC which ensures Italy's professional soccer clubs meet certain financial standards in carrying out a survey of the Roman club's books, a FIGC spokesman said on Tuesday.

"If Roma fall short of the norms, they may have to sell their jewels, the most likely being (midfielders) Giuseppe Giannini and Stefano Desideri," he said.

World Cup star Giannini, whom the Milan-based Gazzetta Dello sport newspaper linked with Internazionale, would fetch about 13 billion lire (10.8 million dollars), he added.

The Rome-based sports daily Corriere Dello sport said the popular Roman club, who have been in crisis since the death in January of patriarchal president Dino Viola, faced a

FIGC deadline on Wednesday. The spokesman could not confirm the deadline but Roma, at best, may find themselves banned from buying new players.

Roma are about 30 billion lire (25 million dollars) in debt but the Corriere Dello sport estimated a potential buyer would need 100 billion lire (83 million dollars) to buy the club, pay off debts and take them back to the top.

The Viola family has been trying to sell a majority share in the club, leaving the players, including German stars Rudi Voeller and Thomas Berthold and Brazil's Aldair, uncertain about their future.

But, on the field, Roma, who had two internationals suspended for a year in December for doping, have had a string of good results.

They were last beaten in the league in late January, have reached the Italian cup semifinals and are one step from a place in the European Football Union (UEFA) Cup semifinals.

Mohammedans well poised

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club, this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league honours beyond their reach following three losses, appeared well poised to hand lowly Lalmitia Club another defeat when their match resumes today at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

At the end of the first day's play in the two-day encounter, Mohammedans had made 83 for the loss of two wickets, in 26 overs, needing another 114 runs in the remaining 49 overs to surpass Lalmitia's 196 all out in 89.5 overs.

Nurul Abedin Nobel on 31

and Selim Shahed on four are at the crease.

The men out in the Mohammedan innings are opener Azhar Hossain Shantoo for 34 and skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannoo for a duck, giving Sanjeeva a catch off young medium-pacer Zeeshan.

Put in to bat, Lalmitia made their runs thanks mainly to a fine 43 from Dulal, 41 by Samad, 24 by Pika who failed to sustain his form following that fine century against Brothers Union a couple of days ago, opener Jahangir made 18, Shipar made 17 and Reza made 10. There were 26

extras in the Lalmitia total.

Shantoo bowled his off-spinners well to claim four wickets for 37 runs while Rubel took two for 38. Left-arm pacer Anis, Sri Lankan Gamagge, Nannoo and Wahidul Ghani picked up a wicket each.

Mohammedans, whose only consolation this season will be the fact that they beat arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in that prestige match, are playing their last fixture of the Navana programme and have five wins from their eight previous outings, the same as last year's champions Abahani.

Agassi advances, Chang bites the dust

KEY BISCAYNE (Florida), Mar 20: Andre Agassi had to fight from a set down to win but Michael Chang was defeated at the 2.55 million dollar International Players Championships tennis tournament on Tuesday



ANDRE AGASSI

reports Reuters. Agassi, ranked fourth in the world and seeded third here, beat Magnus Gustafsson, a Swede ranked 39th, 6-7, 6-2, 7-5 in their round match.

In Chang's fourth-round match, seventh-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain beat the

tenth-seeded American 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Jennifer Capriati of the United States, seeded sixth, defeated Austria's unseeded Barbara Paulus 6-1, 6-3, to set up a quarter-final match for the 14-year-old sensation with world number one Monica Seles.

American Zina Garrison, seeded fifth, was overpowered and out-volleyed by US Open champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, the third seed. Sabatini won their quarter-final match 6-3, 6-2.

After winning the first set, Chang began to struggle as Sanchez turned on the aggression, frequently charging to net and forcing error.

Sanchez won the second set 6-3 and was leading 5-2 in the third before Chang made a brief recovery, breaking Sanchez as the Spaniard tried to serve out the match. But Sanchez did not waste his second opportunity at 5-4, and served out the match 6-4 with a winning backhand volley.

"I think he was a very good serve, especially the kick serve," Chang said. "That was the toughest thing overall, but the match was very close. I think I played a good match but I was frustrated by my overhead which let me down on several occasions."

"I think Michael did have a

little bit of a problem with my serve," Sanchez said. "We played great tennis, and I think he got down a little in the second set and I took the chance."

Both Agassi and Gustafsson squandered chances to win the first set before the tiebreak, but the Swede hit winners down the sidelines to hold the lead in the tiebreak and win it 8-6.

Agassi took charge in the second set, winning four successive games, and took the set 6-2 when Gustafsson hit a forehand return long.

Gustafsson's confidence returned in the third set but he again missed chances to break early on. He double-faulted at game point in the 11th game, then dropped serve with a second double-fault to give the American a 6-5 lead.

Agassi served out the match 7-5 when Gustafsson hit a backhand return deep.

"Our games are real similar and we always have tough matches," said Agassi, who had lost two of their three previous meetings. "It's not that I've been playing poorly, but my match play is not up to where I want it to be."

Capriati and Paulus stayed rooted to the baseline for most of the match but the Austrian was too error-prone to give Capriati much trouble.

Capriati said she was undaunted by the prospect of playing Seles in the next round. "I'm looking forward to it," Capriati said. "If I play like today, I have a good chance."

Sabatini attributed her easy win over a previously troublesome opponent to the confidence that has grown since



MICHAEL CHANG

her US Open triumph in September.

"I'm thinking on the court and I'm playing smarter than I was," Sabatini said. "I'm starting to use everything I have. She always gives me trouble so I had to be tough mentally and come to net a lot to beat her."

they should carry out further investigation. This was not done."

"It should have been more a case of saying 'this guy should be seeking a medical check,'" Wotton said. "It would be extremely unusual to find HCG in a healthy man."

"I knew I was innocent but still I was shocked when I learnt about the letter," Bilac said. "All suspended sportsmen claim they never took drugs and nobody believes that. That's why it's so tough if one is really not guilty."

"I have no idea how my samples of urine proved positive. I won my medal fair and square and I have been training over the winter as if nothing happened," he said.

"But my reputation is shattered. I also missed many big events over the winter, which means I lost a lot of money. I might advise lawyers and try to get compensation for the damage I suffered because of somebody's mistake."

Bilac may get medal back

LONDON, Mar 20: Yugoslav long jumper Borut Bilac, who won a bronze medal at the European championships last year but lost it after positive drug tests, may get the medal back and his two-year ban lifted, reports Reuters.

International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) doping control officer Bryan Wotton said on Tuesday that he had written to Pierre Daspreux, president of the European Federation (EAF) saying further checks had showed Bilac was not guilty.

The IAAF doping commission has looked at the case again and we do not think there is a case to answer," he said.

In Yugoslavia, the Zageb Sportke Novosti newspaper on Tuesday printed a facsimile of Wotton's letter, sent on March 14.

The IAAF doping commission again examined the documentation issued by the dop-

ing laboratory in Kreisch, dealing with samples of urine taken from athlete Borut Bilac," the letter said.

"After careful examination the commission believes this case should not be regarded as positive and we therefore propose to your federation to re-instate Bilac as the bronze long jump medalist at the European championships."

Bilac and his coach appealed repeatedly to both the EAF and the IAAF but the athlete was disqualified and suspended for two years after both tests proved positive.

Wotton said the samples had proved positive for human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) which stimulates the production of testosterone and is more usually found in pregnant women but could also be produced by an ulcer.

"It is one of those areas where they are still sorting out the levels," he said. "The normal procedure is to report negative but to indicate that

Brazil recall Branco, Careca

RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 20: World Cup stars Branco and Careca have been recalled by Brazil for the first time since their country's disappointing exit from the World Cup finals in Italy last June, reports Reuters.

The pair have been named in the squad for a soccer friendly in Buenos Aires on May 27 against Argentina, who knocked Brazil out of the 1990 finals in the second round.

But Brazil coach Paulo Roberto Falcão warned there was no guarantee Careca would be allowed to play by this Italian club Napoli. "I have spoken to Careca and he has shown

interest in playing but I have not heard yet whether his club will release him," Falcão said.

Falcão said the other foreign-based players — Branco, Mazinho, Taffarel, Aldair and Joao Paulo — all had clauses in their contracts obliging their clubs to release them for all internationals.

The coach selected five foreign based players for a friendly against Paraguay last month but only two were allowed to play by their clubs. Falcão's predecessor Sebastiao Lazaroni suffered the same headache during his 18 months in charge.

Two other World Cup play-

ers recalled were Bebeto, Vasco Da Gama's diminutive striker, and winger Renato Portaluppi.

Careca despite scoring both goals in his country's opening World Cup match against Sweden, was generally disappointing but Branco, the owner of a stinging session, while Renato caused an internal storm during the competition by demanding to be given a place in the team.

Renato threatened to "pack my bags and return to Brazil" if his demand was not met. He eventually played 10 minutes

as a substitute against Argentina.

Squad: Taffarel (Parma), Sergio (Santos), Cafu (Sao Paulo), Leonardo (Sao Paulo), Gil Balaio (Bragantino), Branco (Genoa), Paulao (Cruzeiro), Ricardo Rocha (Sao Paulo), Wilson Gotoardo (Flamengo), Mauro, Silva (Bragantino), Moacir (Atletico Mineiro), Mazinho I (Lecce), Careca I (Napoli), Luiz Henrique (Bahia), Renato (Botafogo), Bebeto (Vasco Da Gama), Dener (Portuguesa), Charles (Cruzeiro), Careca II (Palmeiras), Mazinho II (Bragantino), Aldair (Roma), Jopo Paulo (Bari).

Blackmore's strike puts United in semis

MONTEPELLIER, France, Mar 20: A lightning strike by Clayton Blackmore caught Montpellier on the hop and set Manchester United on the road to the semifinals of the European Cup Winners Cup here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The French side never recovered from the shock of the Welsh international's direct hit from a free kick in the dying seconds of the first half. Their heads dropped in the second half and were fortunate to lose by only 2-0.

Montpellier goalkeeper Claude Barrabe only saw Blackmore's shot coming at the last second. He half caught the ball, but it flew out of his hands and on to the net.

"I couldn't believe it when I saw the ball," said Barrabe. "It didn't fully register that the kick had been taken."

Montpellier, who had only been beaten once at home in the previous 18 months, returned for the second half numbed and within two minutes of the restart went further down.

Blackmore was running onto a ball in the Montpellier penalty area when Patrick Colletier came in with a clumsy trip and Austrian referee Hubert Forstinger had no choice but to point to the spot.

United's penalty specialist Steve Bruce calmly converted, ending the ball to the left of Barrabe. He has not missed a kick for two years.

The 2-0 win gave Manchester a 3-1 aggregate win in the quarter final match. They are the only English Club left in European competition in the first English campaign on the continent since the ban imposed after 1985 Heysel disaster was lifted.

After being held at Old

Trafford, the pressure was more on Manchester to produce goals, but Montpellier had the better early chances before the capacity 23,000 crowd, which included only 1,100 Manchester fans.

Another 1,400 were left ticketless outside forced to watch on televisions installed outside city centre cafes. One 25-year-old Briton was stabbed in a fight with a group of Nynch fans just before the kick off. He was in a stable condition in hospital.

Clement Gracia, who started the season with Third Division Grenoble, thundered the ball past the outstretched hand of Les Sealy in the fourth minute but it also went across the face of the Manchester goal.

Minutes later Montpellier's Polish striker Jack Ziobor also had a good chance. But Manchester grew in confi-

dence as the first half progressed though they never had a clear opportunity.

Montpellier's problems started after Paul Ince was left writhing in agony by a Frank Luchest tackle that left stud marks from his knee to the top of his thigh.

After a prolonged stoppage, Jean Luc Thetis fouled Mark Hughes almost from the Restart and Blackmore struck with his surprise goal.

Thetis was later sent off for a second bookable offence after a protracted and giggling with Hughes who has not been forgiven by the French for his apparent play acting role that had Pascale Bailis sent off in the first leg.

Bruce's penalty goal forced Montpellier's Polish coach Henryk Skaszerack to make changes. Striker Daniel Xuereb came on for defender Regis Brouard and Partice Garande

replaced an injured Ziobor.

But it had little effect and united had more clear chances.

Ten minutes into the second half, Mike Phelan head into Barrabe's arms from close in. Three minutes later Blackmore had a free kick from the left wing parried away by the hardpressed Montpellier keeper.

Hughes also headed inches over and after 31 minutes two shots in 10 seconds thudded off the Montpellier post with Barrabe stranded.

Club fined

LONDON, Mar 20 : A high court judge on Tuesday ordered a British soccer club to pay damages of nearly 500,000 dollars to five police officers injured during a riot between rival fans, reports Reuters.

In the first case brought in Britain by injured police officers against a football club, judge Maurice Drake ruled that Reading football club was negligent in failing to carry out repair to its ground was safe.

The club, which is considering an appeal against the damages of 265,118 pounds (472,000 dollars), was also ordered to pay costs estimated at 50,000 pounds (100,000 dollars).

All five police officers were injured by jumps of concrete thrown when violence erupted between rival fans during a 1984 match between Reading and Bristol City.

One officer was kicked and punched by fans after being knocked to the ground when a piece of concrete hit him on the back of the neck.

He retired from the police in October 1984 on medical grounds. The other police officers suffered multiple cuts and bruises.

Jahangir wins

COLOGNE, Germany, Mar 20: Second seed Jahangir Khan, the six times former world champion, took just 28 minutes to be at Australian qualifier Adam Schreber 15-7, 15-10, 15-7 in the first round of the German Open squash championship on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Jahangir is seeded to play Sunday's final against fellow Pakistani and number one seed Jahangir Khan, the world champion, who launches his challenge on Wednesday with a first round match against the host country's Hamid Wina.

Jahangir's next opponent will be Ross Norman, the New Zealander who will always be remembered as the man who ended Jahangir's remarkable 5-1/2 year unbeaten run by winning the World Open final in Toulouse in November, 1986.

The most impressive performance came from number four seed Australian Chris Dittmer, who cruised to a 15-6, 15-9, 15-7 victory over England's Paul Carter.

Karlsson pips Volkova

MALMO, SWEDEN Mar 20: Swedish newcomer Louise Karlsson upstaged world champion Yelena Volkova of the Soviet Union on the first day of a two-day World Cup swimming meeting on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Karlsson, 16, triumphed over the women's world 200 metres breaststroke champion in the 100 metres breaststroke event and clocked a national record time as well.

The Swede won in one minute 08.66 seconds ahead of the second-placed Volkova in 1:08.86.

"I think Louise could lead us to a breakthrough in women's swimming," said Sweden's team manager Hans Chrunak, emphasising that Sweden has

not won an individual women's medal in a major championship since 1977.

Karlsson's success was the only Swedish victory during an evening dominated by Canada and Germany.

Canada's Mark Tewksbury, the 100 metres backstroke short-course world record holder, won the 50 metres backstroke in 25.22 seconds from German Frank Hoffmeister (25.43).

Canadian Darren Word won the men's 200 metres medley in a national record time of one minute 58.39 seconds.

Germany's Susanne Bossenhoff won the women's 100 metres freestyle and was later third in the 100 metres butterfly event. Compatriot Christian Troeger won the men's 200 metres beating Swede Holmertz into second place.