

Biman's Roman candle

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman have made it. After being in the metaphorical air of doubts and uncertainties the airline team finally succeeded in landing on the desired 'airfield' of the Navana Premier Division super league when they handed rival Gulshan Youth Club a remarkably big defeat at the Dhaka Stadium

yesterday. It was a moment to cherish for last year's runners-up whose participation in the six-team super league was jeopardised by the desertion of



BIMANCHU... fine allround show

some key players and the inability of the officials to fill the void with effective replacements.

Biman skipper Shah Nawaz Shahed Shanu won the toss in the third and last play-off match to decide the sixth qualifier of the super league and invited his counterpart to bat first.

Veteran all-rounder Ahmed Iqbal Bimanchu had the Gulshan middle-order in a tangle with his off-spin bowling. Shri Lankan Rajkumara was the top scorer for Gulshan with a pingling 39. Mamun

Majumder snooker

Sports Reporter

Seven more matches of the preliminary robin league were decided on the third day yesterday in the F II Majumder memorial snooker championship at the Narayanraj Club.

A B Chowdhury of Engineers' Club beat Jahangir Alam of Comilla Club by three frames to two. Anwar Hossain of Narayanraj beat club-mate Muniruzzaman Bachehu by three frames to one; N A T Rouf of Dhaka Club beat Jahangir Alam of Comilla Club by three frames to two and Monir Hossain of Narayanraj Club played Rafiquddin Bablu of Gulshan Club 3-0 in the best-of-five-frames contest. G C Saha and N C Ghose, both of Narayanraj Club, got walkovers against Adnan Chowdhury and Siddik Rahim respectively. While Syed Masood of Gulshan Club earned another walkover, against the absent Adnan Chowdhury.

Matches continue today.

PWD rout Bima

Sports Reporter

Public Works Department recorded an emphatic three-nil victory against Sadharan Bima in yesterday's second match of the Star First Division football league at the Mirpur stadium.

The winners who after yesterday's match have now collected nine points from seven matches, led the first half two-nil.

The PWD offence, spearheaded by Shri Lankan veteran Premlal, ran all over their opponents and Mushtaq's shot slipped from Zia's grip in the 20th minute to enter the net (1-0).

Rakib doubled the margin fourteen minutes later with a thunderous volley (2-0).

Jewel completed the tally in the 77th minute with a header (3-0). Sadharan Bima's collection remain at four from seven matches.

The first match of the day, between Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Agrani Bank, ended in a one-all draw. Agrani Bank, who played better brand of football, was deprived of a deserved win as their 25th minute lead was nullified by a controversial last-minute penalty by referee Hamiduzzaman Noman.

Jahangir scored for the bankers but the referee pointed to the dreaded spot in the last minute when linesman Mukul reported him of a 'handball' by a Bank player in the prohibited zone. Angered by this, Bank officials abused the referee and the Muktiyoddha players also became involved in the imbroglio as the Bank officials allegedly passed provocative remarks at them.

Pakistan beat Aussies

Sports Reporter

KARACHI, Feb 24: Pakistan thrilled a crowd of around 20,000 people here today with a dazzling display of attacking hockey as they beat Australia 2-0 in the 14th Champions Trophy hockey tournament, reports AFP.

The home side combined outstanding forward play with sound defence, standing up valiantly to wave upon wave of Australian attacks.

No one distinguished himself more than goalkeeper Shahid Ali Khan, whose several smart saves in the early part of the first half rebuffed Australia when they appeared to be gaining the upper hand.

The Australian defenders had difficulty coming to terms with Shahbaz Ahmed, finding it difficult to find him as for the first time in the tournament the Pakistan forwards played as a unit.

After Australia failed to convert a couple of early chances, Pakistan went ahead with a superb goal in the 23rd minute scored by Mohammad Shahbaz.

From an attack launched by Qamar Ibrahim, Shahbaz Ahmed sent the final pass to Mohammad Shahbaz who rounded Australian defender Todd Williams to score into an empty goal.

Australia, who squandered six short corners in the first half, could manage no better with their two in the second half. Many of their attacks broke down despite the efforts of Stephen Davies on the right.

The outcome was sealed in the 50th minute when Qamar Ibrahim drove a scorching shot into goal off a pass from Tahir Zaman from a move engineered once again by Shahbaz Ahmed.

Australia had taken the field without captain and centre half Warren Birmingham whose hamstring injury is expected to keep him out until the final day of the tournament Friday.

Meanwhile, Australia gave another impressive display here Sunday by defeating Olympic champions Great

with 30 and Indian Arun Lal with 26 were the only other notable contributors for Gulshan as the side crawled to 163 for eight wickets from the 38 overs sent down by the Biman bowlers.

Bachehu had the inspirational figures of four for 31. Azhar took the prize wicket of Arun Lal for 41 runs and Monir finished with one for 26.

The Biman batting went off with a score as the opening pair of Bachehu and Saiful put on 61 runs for the first wicket. Saiful made a patient 31 and Bachehu played a typically grafting knock of 28 to crown his efforts with the leather. When these two left, promising Zakaria and skipper Shanu took their side home with eight wickets and nearly two overs to spare.

Zakaria's breezy unbeaten 48 was made off 47 balls with the help of one sixer and one four. Shanu's 50 off 61 balls was punctuated by one four.

Arun Lal and Manju picked up one wicket apiece for Gulshan.

The super league phase of the Navana Premier Division begins today at the Dhaka Stadium with the latest qualifiers Biman facing formidable Mohammedans who finished at the top of the points table of the twelve-team first phase.

The other four super league qualifiers are Abahani, Brothers, PWD and GMCC.

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Milnars cricket

Sports Reporter

Devastating bowling by paceman Ismail helped Wanderers to register an important win in the relegation league of the Milnars First Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi cricket stadium.

Ismail bowled five overs for 11 runs, conceding only three wickets. Wanderers batted first to make 146 in 44.3 overs with Al Amin hitting a fine 40 with the help of three fours. Kiron with 24 and Fahim with 19 were the other notable scorers. Shahriar of Ajax was the most successful bowler with figures of three for 23. Afzal was equally successful finishing with three for 26. Skipper Dudul took two for 26.

Ajax in their turn were booked for 96 with Ismail wrecking them with figures of five for 16.

In the super league match Victoria Sporting Club outplayed Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by five wickets at the Mirpur cricket ground. Sent in to bat Eskaton were all out for 106 in 44.3 overs with tallender Saiful topscoring with a defiant 26. Zahid, another lower order batsman, made an unbeaten 25 and wicket keeper Sohel with 11 was the only other batsman to reach the double figures as the top order was eaten up by Victoria pace duo of Iqbal and veteran Mainu. Iqbal finished with four for 18 while Mainu, the former national player took three for only eight runs.

Former skipper of the national side Roquiul played with the patience and responsibility befitting a captain to make an unbeaten 39 to steer his side to victory. Victoria collected 107 runs in 38.3 overs for the loss of five wickets.

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TODAY'S MATCH

City Club vs Agrani Bank (Mirpur)

Swimming record

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Feb 24: Canadian Mark Tewksbury broke his own world short-course record in the men's 100-metre backstroke in the first leg of a record-setting performance by the University of Calgary 4X100-metre men's medley relay team, reports Reuters.

Tewksbury set a mark of 52.50 seconds Saturday night in the final race of the Canadian winter national swimming championships to eclipse the time of 52.52 he set Thursday at the same meeting.



Crowd gathered to watch the closing ceremony of the 16th Winter Olympics dance polka at the end of the show in Albertville on Feb 23.

Curtain falls on Winter Olympics

ALBERTVILLE, France, Feb 24:

In a sparkling celebration of sport and spontaneity, the Albertville Olympics came to a close Sunday in an explosion of fireworks and joyful dancing, reports AP.

The Pegeantry marked a double 16th — the 16th Winter Games ending as they began 16 days ago under a clear black sky, the stadium crackling with flash bulbs, and 36,000 people sitting and standing in unison in 'The Wave.'

The 75 minute show was full of the impromptu, from athletes high-kicking in unison as they marched in, to Dutch flag bearer Bart Veldkamp's dash to the VIP section of the stands to offer organizing committee co-presidents Jean-Claude Killy and Michel Barnier each a pair of wooden shoes.

There were some familiar scenes from the Feb 8 opening ceremony, also a creation of Philippe Decouffe: dancers dressed as trees, skiers and skaters in elf-like costumes, and skiers, human mobiles and an angel to douse the Olympic flame gliding by on flywires.

A silver skater began the show, entering the stadium under the banner, 'Arrivee.' The familiar 'bubble girls,' whose costumes resembled crystal balls, accompanied the 64 participating nations' flags in a solemn procession.

Then came the athletes in a happily unruly group: the Mexicans in scrapes, the Americans carrying a huge US flag, the Japanese passing out small Japanese flags, the Canadians handing out Olympic pins.

The hometown heroes, the French team, got rousing applause; a few got on each others' shoulders and mounted the stage where a few minutes later Albertville Mayor Henri Dujois passed on the Olympic flag to International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

A huge bear made of ice was escorted by Vikings — on skis — who formed the shape of a ship whose sail bore a symbol of the next Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994.

The rhyming narration that was everywhere in the opening ceremony only made a few appearances Sunday, as in the introductions of Killy and Barnier, whose committee is known as COJO.

'Before we close these Olympic Games...

'Let's hear again those famous names...

Killy, wearing a silver COJO jacket, said, 'I would like to offer my warmest thanks most particularly to 22,000 people. These are the people who brought off the Games we had promised: dedicated volunteers, the military and security forces, all smiling and efficient.'

Barnier intoned that 'The Olympic torch will thus be put out. However, there is no doubt that a little ray resembling it will shine within us for a long time.'

Not all of the spontaneity went over well, though. When Barnier added a mention of 'Mrs Prime Minister' to his

remarks, he drew hoots and the largely youthful audience. Edith Cresson, the prime minister, has seen her popularity plummet since she took office last May.

Bur Barnier drew a standing ovation when he deviated again from his prepared remarks and said, 'These Games would not have been the same without you. Thank you, Jean-Claude.'

Killy at one point quit as Olympic organizing committee president in a squabble over distribution of competition sites among Alpine resorts. He rejoined as co-president about a year later.

Dancers in lederhosen performed traditional Tyrolean folk dances, then racers on roller blades sped around the stadium spouting fireworks from their backs.

That was the cue for a theatrical pyrotechnic show, with cascades pouring downwards inside the arena and hundreds of fireworks exploding above.

All athletes and spectators were called down to the grounds in the finale, a dance to square dance — like music that was part fraternity, part melée — but all fun.

Army b'ball

Sports Reporter

Two matches of the Bangladesh Army basketball championship were decided on the third day at the Bogra Cantonment yesterday, said a Press release.

The Independent Infantry Brigade team and the Savar area team defeated the Army Signals Brigade team and the Chittagong Area team respectively.

Sampras wins US indoor title

Sports Reporter

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 24: Pete Sampras served 21 aces to beat Mansdorf 6-1, 7-6(7-4), 2-6, 7-6

(7-2) Sunday and won his second US Pro Indoor tennis championship in three years, reports AP.

Sampras won his first tour title two years ago at Philadelphia, beating Andre Gornz. Last year, he was runner-up to Ivan Lendl, losing in five sets.

The second-seeded Sampras received \$141,500. He also climbed to the No 3 world ranking, his best since joining the pro tour in 1988. The 16th-seeded Mansdorf, an Israeli in his first US final since turning pro in 1983, collected \$78,000.

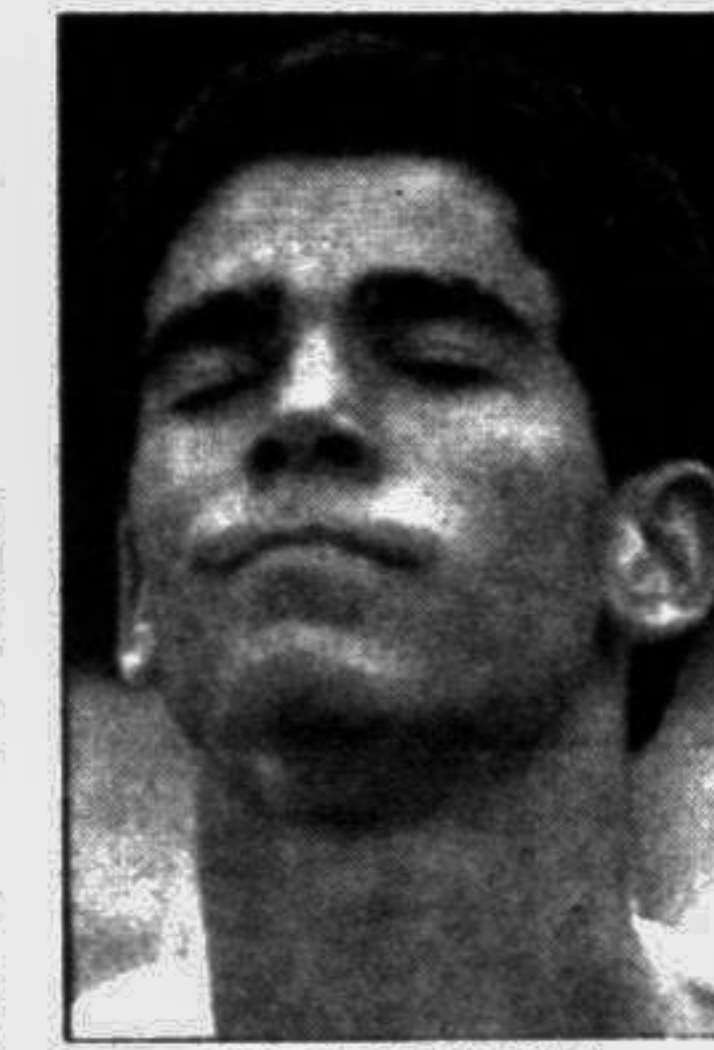
The victory was the eighth, including the 1990 US Open, in Sampras' five years on the tour and boosted his career earnings to \$3,171,428.

Sampras said his serve was the key to winning the two tie-breakers.

'I think it's a huge advantage (a big serve) in a tie-breaker,' Sampras said. 'Especially if you serve first.'

Mansdorf said that Sampras played so well in the first set that 'I couldn't do anything.'

'But I figured he couldn't play like this the whole match,' Mansdorf said. 'I just hung in there. I tried to pressure him because he was forcing me back. I tried to play closer to the baseline.'



PETE SAMPRAS

Mansdorf eliminated top-seeded Michael Stich en route to the final, but he was no match for Sampras' lightning-like serves.

Mansdorf survived an unsettling start in which he lost the first three points to aces, then settled down and gave Sampras a tough battle in the two-hour, 42-minute match.

Sampras won the first set in 25 minutes with service breaks in the fourth and sixth games.

In the second set tie-breaker, Sampras won the final two points on an ace and Mansdorf's backhand drive over the baseline.

Mansdorf kept Sampras off balance with unerring placements in the third set, scoring service breaks in the third and seventh games. He ended the set with an ace.

In the fourth set, Sampras broke Mansdorf in the fourth game, his first service break since the sixth game of the first set, for a 3-1 lead.

Garrison's title

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma, Feb 24: Top-seeded Zina Garrison needed two hours 20 minutes and a dozen points in the last set tie-breaker to beat Lori McNeil in the final of the 150,000-dollar Virginia Slims of Oklahoma tennis tournament, reports Reuters.

Garrison won the crucial tie-breaker 12-10 to complete a 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 victory that avenged a straight-set loss to McNeil last week at the Virginia Slims of Chicago.

The victory was worth 27,000 dollars to Garrison.

Ivanisevic denies Edberg

Sports Reporter

Australian coach, Bob Brett, who until a year ago guided the career of German Boris Becker, Ivanisevic spends a lot of time watching videos of his own performances, too.

'Sometimes it's not very nice to watch some of my bad losses, but Bob makes me do it,' said Ivanisevic, who was ranked ninth heading into the Stuttgart event.

Although he served 32 aces in overpowering Edberg on Sunday, Ivanisevic also had a high success rate on returns, breaking Edberg's serve four times and restricting the world No 2 to only five aces.

In addition, his sometimes fragile concentration held

throughout. 'He returned very well today,' said Edberg. 'He was also very concentrated. Normally, he gives you a few free points here and there, but he didn't today.'

But it was the devastating serve that gave Ivanisevic the biggest edge.

In the two-hour, 41-minute encounter with Edberg, he lost his serve only once — the fourth game of the first set.

And then, there was the ace count.

'It's incredible,' said a somewhat-surprised Ivanisevic, who collected a \$144,000 winner's check. 'It's something special.'

MSC sink Bachelors

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club let loose a goal riot in the Green Delta First Division hockey

league when they trounced Bachelor Sporting 8-1 yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

Mumtaz Haider, Mohammedan's Pakistani recruit who has been scoring heavily since his arrival, found scoring ludicrously easy as he scored four of his side's eight goals.

Biman sports on

The 11th annual athletic meet of Biman Bangladesh Airlines got underway at the Rajbargh Police Lines ground yesterday, says a press release.

The Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism formally inaugurated the two-day meet.

About 800 athletes from different stations of the national airlines are taking part in 28 events.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan will be the chief guest at the concluding ceremony today.

CRYPTOQUIP

8-23 XCS MVA ICPSNAM, VFB

ZFXA'B XWHLCSWABB

G C X X A A Z H B I S C P T J B

XCS JFLCSGA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOR AN ACTOR, THE ROLE OF MINNESOTA FATS IS NOT DIFFICULT, SINCE HE MIGHT GET CUES.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals F

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 The whole shebang 4 One of the Bears 8 Ballet leap 12 Tiny 13 Hemsley sitcom 14 Roman poet 15 Advice seekers? 17 Burpee wares 18 Currier's partner 19 Della's boss 20 Carried 22 Pace 24 Contemporary fashion model 25 Squeeze 29 Obese 30 Police blotter datum 31 Through 32 Never enslaved 34 Consider 35 Edward Scissorhands' star

36 French river 37 Still-life subject 41 'Mo-nopoly' payment 42 Fragrant flower 46 Within (pref.) 47 Tom Joad, e.g. 48 'Eureka!' 49 'Let's Make a Deal' choice 50 Magic stick 51 One of Sennett's finest DOWN 1 It does the hole job 2 Zodiacal roarer 3 Raise mystically 4 Seemed less important 5 Andy's pal 6 Apiece 7 Actress Reinking 8 One of Jacob's sons 9 Incessantly 10 Row 11 Whirlpool 16 Tied 19 Sales pitches? 20 Quarrel 21 Sharif or Bradley 22 Twitter 23 Bank transaction 25 Feed the hogs 26 Passed 27 Zilch, to a Zouave 28 Epithet 30 Help hoods 33 Galley slave? 34 Morse T 36 Appointed 37 Barney's pal 38 Nevada city 39 Wreck 40 'Peaks' 42 Query of method 43 Abbr. for 30 Across 44 P's follower 45 M-Q link

Solution time: 26 mins.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution key.



Athletes march past at the inaugural ceremony of Biman Bangladesh Airlines sports at the Rajbargh Police Line ground yesterday.