

# BJMC go down the stairs

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation confirmed their relegation to Division Two last night with a goalless draw against Victoria Sporting Club in the second match of the First Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium.

On a day that saw the last two teams of the points table fighting for life, Bangladesh Police, one of the newcomers, went home happier for the one point they got from a one-all draw with Adamjee in the first match of the day.

There is always this yawning gap between aspiration and ability, a fact that must have escaped the BJMC officials who, knowing full well the limitation of the youngsters whom they roped in from Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Protishtan (BKSP) for a pittance put through the unnecessary grind of the top soccer league of the country.

The players, either for obvious lack of talent or serious shortage of exposure and experience, could not make any impression in this year's league and as result the once powerful and, in fact, champions BJMC could collect just two points from 14 matches going into their clash against Victoria Sporting Club yesterday.

There was no change in yesterday's pattern as the desperate consequences awaiting them could not stretch their limit to the extent of overpowering the might of a more experienced Victoria who did nothing to raise the standard of a listless encounter.

Victoria, much better off than their opponents, now have 14 points from 15 matches while BJMC crawl to three from two after a long while to go down the stairs.

**VICTORIA:** Aslam, Sagar, Farhad, Pradip, Anwar, Sujit, Towfikul, Yusuf, Shankar, Mamunul (Mamun Babu), Zakir (Maung Chila)

**BJMC:** Mosaddeq, Yunus, Niaz, Shankar, Shovon, Milon, Alamgir, Nayan (Barik), Papel, Aminur (Nipu), Mastan.

### ANOTHER DRAW

A similar result evoked different mood in one of the teams in the first match of the day which saw Police walking home with a point, considerably extenuating the fears of facing the relegation axe.

After a goalless first half, Adamjee shot into the lead in the seventh minute of the post-lemon session when Akhtar, the speedy winger, beat Police custodian Emran with a stinging shot from inside the box.

Police stepped up pressure on their opponents after the

### Schools TT

A table tennis competition for the school students will be held from May 21 to 23 at the ground floor (gymnasium) of the National Sports Council (NSC) in Dhaka, says a Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) press release. Organised by the BTTF, Green Delta Insurance Company will sponsor the meet.

# Atlanta Committee decides to make itself more open

ATLANTA, Apr 22: Organizers of the 1996 Summer Olympics decided in a closed meeting to be more open, reports AP.

Members of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games Inc. voted Tuesday to disclose top executive salaries and to reverse policies allowing ACOG to give contracts to public officials and hire their relatives.

"The spirit of today's announcement is in keeping with what we've tried to do all along, and that is to be as open and have full disclosure of everything we can," said ACOG co-chairman Robert Holder.

But he said that openness would not extend to allowing the public to listen to the debate when the ACOG board makes important decisions, such as Tuesday's policy changes.

"We are a private corporation and we do have a number of very sensitive issues that have to do with security and marketing, particularly. It is simply not possible to do the things we've got to do, particularly in the financial area, and do that with full disclosure," he said at a news conference.

Holder announced that Billy Payne, the Atlanta lawyer who spearheaded the city's successful Olympics bid, will make \$5,300,000 in 1992 as ACOG president and chief executive officer. Payne's starting salary was

Sports Reporter



Action from yesterday's drawn First Division football league encounter between Adamjee and Police at the Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo

set back and were rewarded with the equaliser four minutes before the final whistle when striker Khokan scored from close to ensure an invaluable point for his side. Adamjee's collection rose to 13 after 15 matches while

Police now have nine points from 15 games.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**  
Agrani Bank vs Wanderers (6 pm)  
Muktijoddha vs Eskaton (8 pm)

# It's tough for Taylor

LONDON, Apr 22: England were forced to name a huge 50-man provisional squad on Tuesday for next week's internationals against the Commonwealth of Independent States because of a clash with key domestic matches, reports Reuter.

Manager Graham Taylor compiled a list of 24 players certain to make the trip to Russia for the senior and B internationals and included a further 21 on a provisional list. An additional five players are on standby.

The provisional list is made up of players from Leeds United, Manchester United, Sheffield Wednesday, Arsenal and Liverpool and who are involved in the title race and the FA Cup final.

"It has been one hell of a situation," said Taylor, who spent hours discussing the problem with club managers. "If the title situation is resolved at the weekend, hopefully some players will be able to join the squad on Sunday. But even then we could be confronted with one group of players who are elated and another so dejected they may not want to join us."

Next Sunday, when England are due to assemble, Liverpool face Manchester United and Leeds play Sheffield United in matches vital to the outcome of the title race. "I have got to be prepared

for none of the 21 on the provisional list to join up," said Taylor, whose A team play the CIS in Moscow on April 29.



GRAHAM TAYLOR

"This is a scheduled international date where the Football Association have first call on players, but can you imagine what would have happened if I had exercised that right?" Taylor has brought back former internationals Gary Stevens of Glasgow Rangers, Trevor Steven of Marseille, and Everton's Peter Beardsley — all of whom might have considered their England careers to be over. There are five uncapped players in the squad, Tony Cotton and Keith Curle of Manchester City, West Ham's Julian Dicks, Richard Jobson of Oldham and Southampton's Matthew Le Tissier.

# Nat'l youth cricket final today

**Sports Reporter**  
Rajshahi DSA and Jessore DSA clash in the final of the Straj memorial 12th national cricket championship this morning at the Dhaka Stadium. Foreign Minister and president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) A S M Mustafizur Rahman will attend the occasion as the chief guest and give away trophies.

Rajshahi registered an exciting one-wicket victory over Mymensingh in the first semi-final held last Monday while Jessore beat Rangpur by eight wickets in the other semi-final Tuesday.

The 11th youth cricket champions Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Protishtan and runners-up Dhaka DSA lost to Rangpur and Mymensingh respectively in their opening matches.

Organised by the BCCB, eight teams took part in the final round that got underway on April 18 at two city venues. About forty teams, split into six zones, participated in the qualifying round held from April 12 to 16 at six different district stadiums.

The curtain was raised but the show was deferred as one of the teams failed to take the field on the opening day of the final round of the tenth Nirman schools cricket tournament.

Yesterday, at the Dhaka Stadium, Dhaka zone champions Dhanmondi Government Boys School got a walk-over against Rajbari High School, thereby advancing to the quarter-finals where they will play Jhalakathi Udbodhan High School on Friday, April 24 at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Twenty schools comprising 19 teams from outside Dhaka and three from the capital are taking part in this nine-day long competition. Originally, the number should have been 23 but one of the teams from the Dhaka zone was scratched for fielding non-students in its side!

**TODAY'S MATCHES**  
Netrakona School vs Thakurgaon School (DCS-West)  
Khulna School vs Faridpur School (DCS-East)  
Barisal School vs Jessore School (Mirpur Pallabi).

# Mexican booters trounce Canada

MEXICO CITY, Apr 22: Mexico's bid for a place in the Olympic football tournament in Barcelona finally moved into gear here on Tuesday, when they trounced Canada 4-1 in a Concacaf qualifier, reports AFP.

Morales put the Mexicans ahead after 16 minutes and Arteaga made it 2-0 before a dreadful blunder by their goalkeeper Herrera allowed Ncedham to pull one back for the Canadians, a minute before half-time.

But super-sub Rottlan, coming on for Morales in the 66th minute, added two more to put the result beyond doubt.

Two teams qualify from the Concacaf group, which is currently headed by the United States with six points from three straight wins.

Mexico now have three points, Canada two and Honduras one.

Mexico 4 (Morales 16, Arteaga 20, Rottlan 76, 89), Canada 1 (Needham 44).

### TEAMS

**MEXICO:** Herrera, Sanchez, Romero, Hernandez, Delgado, Macias, Rangel, Morales (Rottlan 66), Castaneda, Arteaga, Mascareno.

**CANADA:** Cucarelli, Holness, Fletcher, Fenwick, Watson, Macey, Mosher, Needham, Morazzin, Scott, Isacco.

# Markus claims first ATP victory

NICE, France, Apr 22: Unheralded Gabriel Markus of Argentina claimed his first ATP tour victory on Sunday by beating Spain's Javier Sanchez in straight sets in the final of the Nice tennis tournament, reports Reuter.

Markus, ranked 78th in the world, beat seventh seed Sanchez 6-4, 6-4 in one hour and 19 minutes.

The 22-year-old from Buenos Aires, who upset top seed Pete Sampras of the United States on Saturday to reach his first final in four years on the circuit, never seemed under any pressure until the last game when he trailed 15-40.

# FIFA relents against Maradona

ZURICH, Apr 22: FIFA, world soccer's governing body, on Tuesday dropped its threat to punish Argentine players who joined banned striker Diego Maradona in a charity game last week, reports AP.

FIFA ruled last Wednesday's benefit in Buenos Aires was an unofficial game, and thus did not breach Maradona's worldwide suspension for cocaine, FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said. The ban elapses June 30.

Under FIFA rules, anybody who plays in an official game — for example, a World Cup game or qualifying match — with someone under suspension faces sanctions themselves.

"No FIFA rules were violated," Tognoni said. "We consider the case closed."

He said FIFA president Joao Havelange of Brazil and general secretary Joseph Blatter decided Tuesday not to pursue an investigation into possible sanctions, announced a day after the game.

"We would only be punishing those who do not deserve it, and Maradona is already suspended anyway," Tognoni said at FIFA headquarters in Zurich.

Argentina's soccer federation was informed of the ruling, he said.

Rules apart, FIFA evidently wanted to avoid a highly publicised confrontation with a player still revered by many. Maradona was named the most valuable player for leading Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title and then took them to the final in 1990, when it



DIEGO MARADONA...moral vindication

lost to Germany. Maradona, 31, was suspended after testing positive for cocaine at an Italian league match on March 17, 1991. FIFA extended and enforced the Italian ban worldwide.

Some of Argentina's best soccer players threatened to strike if FIFA punished teammates for playing the exhibition match with Maradona. The match raised money for the wife and 3-year-old son of

Juan Funes, a player who dies of a heart attack last December. Some of the best players from Argentina and neighboring countries played in the benefit at Velez Sarsfield stadium in the Argentine capital. They included Argentina's national team captain Oscar Ruggeri, Jose Batista of Uruguay and Paraguay's Jose Chilavert.

More than half of Argentina's national team took part. Maradona captained the squad for most the 1980s, including the 1986 World Cup title win.

FIFA had warned the Argentine federation against letting Maradona play. It confirmed the day before the match that Maradona said he wouldn't, according to Tognoni, but then he participated anyway.

The federation reportedly offered Funes' family \$50,000 if the exhibition were called off.

In the event, about 25,000 fans turned out for the match and Maradona's agent Marco Franchi said that after expenses, Funes' family would get about \$125,000.

FIFA spokesman Tognoni said no action is planned over Maradona's disparaging comments about Havelange.

"If the black hand [of Havelange] won't let me play a friendly game, I don't even want to think about returning to official competition," Maradona said, adding "nobody in Argentina will cry for Joao Havelange when he dies."

"Maradona's ball control has always been better than his mouth control," Tognoni said. "He can babble what he wants."

# Real Madrid ban, fine Hugo Sanchez

MADRID, Apr 22: Real Madrid have fined and suspended Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez without pay until his contract expires at the end of the Spanish league season after he clashed publicly with coach Leo Beenhakker, reports Reuter.

The row effectively ended the Mexican's impressive seven-year career at the Spanish league leaders. The club's acting president Lorenzo Sanz added, after the club had issued a brief statement on Tuesday, that he now saw no sense in staging a benefit match for Sanchez.

Hugo Sanchez has been a great player and therefore this situation is very sad," Sanz said. Sanchez, 33, was suspended until June 30 when his contract expires and fined one million pesetas (dollar 9,600).

Sanz said the sanction was the heaviest the club could impose on the player for what was considered a very serious failing and added: "Under the circumstances it would be illogical to offer him a benefit match."

He said Sanchez was also barred from training sessions and his use of any of the club's facilities would depend on the board. The Mexican, as a member of the Spanish footballers association, can appeal against the decision.

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# Seeds tumble in Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO, Apr 22: World number four Pete Sampras of the United States and former champion Alberto Mancini of Argentina crashed out of the Monte Carlo Open on Tuesday, a day which saw the seeds go tumbling, reports Reuter.

Sampras, seeded second, lost in straight sets to German Carl-Uwe Steeb and seventh seed Mancini was sent packing 7-5, 7-6, by French Davis Cup player Arnaud Boetsch in a tight centre court tussle.

The top eight seeds received a first round bye in the 1.27-million-dollar tournament but all three who played their second round matches on Tuesday flopped.

Sixth seed Peter Korda of Czechoslovakia lost his first match 6-3, 6-3 to Sweden's Magnus Larsson.

Sampras, the 1990 US Open champion, found himself 5-0 down in just 19 minutes to Steeb, who is ranked 40th.

He tried to pull himself back into the match but Steeb held firm, taking the first set 6-3 and breaking at 4-4 in the second before serving out the match.

"I couldn't get anything going today," Sampras said. "He played well and got off to a good start. I just made too many errors."

spent two or three days in bed," he said. "I gave it everything today and I really have no idea if I could have handled a third set. I felt really exhausted on some points."

Mancini fought hard, saving five match points in the second set, four at 5-3 and another one at 5-4.

The Argentine, who beat German Boris Becker in the 1989 final, eventually forced the tiebreak in which he came back from 3-0 down to level at 3-3.

But Boetsch reeled off the next four points to clinch the match and a place in the third round against either Emilio Sanchez of Spain or Stefano Pescosolido of Italy.

Andrei Chesnokov, the 1990 champion but unseeded this year, had an easy enough passage into the second round, beating Javier Frana of Argentina 6-4, 6-2 though he trailed 4-1 in the first set.

His fellow citizen of the Commonwealth of Independent States, 13th seed Alexander Volkov, had an altogether trickier match against a newcomer to the big tournament scene.

Girls Dzide, a 28-year-old Latvian who has toiled for years on the satellite circuit and who is ranked 325th in the world, held three match points in the second set before going down 5-7, 7-5, 6-2.

# Philips Milan cagers miss Italian semis

MILAN, Italy, Apr 22: Powerful Philips Milan, which finished third in the European Championship for clubs last week, was faced with another bitter disappointment Tuesday night as it missed qualification for the semifinals of the Italian basketball league play-offs, reports AP.

The Milan team, a favourite to win the Italian title, were stunned by Il Messaggero Roma 94-89 in their decisive third game of the quarterfinals and was eliminated.

American Rick Mahorn, Yugoslav center Dino Radja and Italian forward Roberto Premier were their key players for the Roman team in the sold-out Assago Forum.

Premier and Radja scored 15 points each while Mahorn added 16 points.

Americans Darryl Danks and Johnny Rogers pumped in 19 points each for Philips.

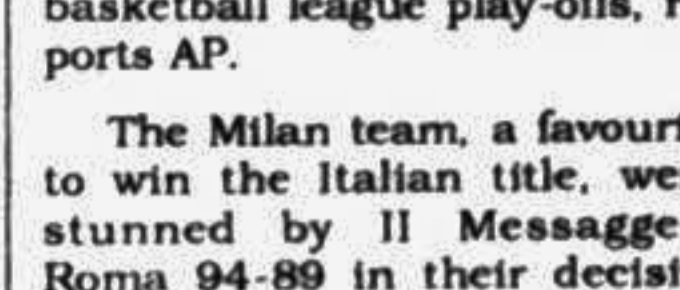
In the best-of-three semifinals scheduled on Apr 25-28-30, Messaggero takes on Benetton Treviso, which eliminated Stefanel Trieste in another quarterfinal.



PETE SAMPRAS



ALBERTO MANCINI



RICK MAHORN