IOC chief leaves

Sports Reporter

International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch left Dhaka vesterday for Singapore after a brief goodwill visit to Bang-

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka and Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) president Gias Kamal Chowdhury were at the Zia international Airport to see the distinguished guest

Samaranch, who arrived in the city on Monday, had to call off his trip to the Bhutanese capital of Thimpu owing to inelement weather.

Before leaving the airport for Singapore the IOC supremo told reporters that he had, in principle, accepted an invitation to attend the opening ceremony of the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, scheduled to be held in the city in December this year. However, on Monday, while talking to newsmen, Samaranch had said he would send an IOC official on his behalf if he failed to make it himself.

Samaranch, 72, a former Spanish ambassador to Moscow, had spent a very busy day on Monday calling on the State Minister for Youth and Sports and having a working lunch on board a luxury steamer.

In the afternoon he called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, attended a press conference in the evening and a dinner at night.

Before setting off for the airport the IOC supremo had breakfast with President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Independence Day gymnastics from

tomorrow Sports Reporter

The two-day Biman Independence Day gymnastics championships, organised by the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation and patronised by Biman Bangladesh Airlines, gets underway tomorrow.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will inaugurate the competition as chief guest at 5:00 pm.

State Minister for Establishment M Nurul Huda, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation, will give away prizes among the winners as chief guest on Friday at the closing ceremony.

Meanwhile, the State Minister will exchange views with the sports journalists today at the National Sports Council conference room at 5:30 pm on different issues regarding the successful holding of the

Maradona faces trial on drug charges

ROME, May 18: A judge ruled that Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona and his former manager Guillermo Coppola must stand trial in Italy on drug charges, the Italian news agency ANSA reported Monday, reports AP.

Maradona left Italy and his Italian club Napoli in 1991 following a 15-month suspension for cocaine use.

ANSA, citing Rome court officials, reported that Judge Alberto Pazineti ordered the trial in connection with a 1989 shipment of three kilograms (6.6 pounds) of cocaine from Argentina to Naples. No trial date was set.

Maradona, considered one of the best soccer players ever, played with the Neapolitan team between 1984 and 1991.

He ran into trouble with Italian soccer authorities after testing positive for cocaine use at the end of an Italian first di-

vision match. Maradona now plays with Sevilla of Spain and may play with Argentina in the finals of the 1994 World Cup in the

United States

Baishaki h'ball

Sports Reporter

LOS ANGELES, California, Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club maintained their winning May 18: American soccer streaks in the Baishaki hand chiefs have asked the games ruling body, FIFA, for help in ball championship when they their bid to get Lazio to release narrowly beat Surjodoy Boys England crowd puller Paul Club 23-19 in a cliff-hanger at Gascoigne for next months US the Outer Stadium yesterday. Cup, reports AFP.

The winners, aided by useful marksmanship of Akram (7) and Helal (5), led the first half 11-8.

For the losers Kamal topscored with seven goals while

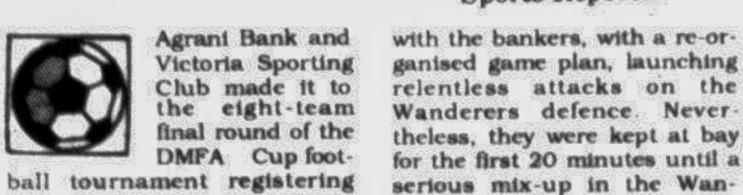
Jewel netted six. Mini wrestling

Miah Sardar Physical Centre became champions in the Bangladesh sports first metropolis mini and cadet wrestling competition, which concluded at the National Sports Coaching Centre yesterday. reports UNB.

Secretary of the National Sports Council ASM Ali Kabir witnessed some closing day events as chief guest and later distributed the prizes.

Agrani Bank, Victoria make it

Sports Reporter



contrasting victories in their

Agrani Bank join Arambagh

Krira Sangstha, Brothers

Union and Victoria Sporting,

1-0 winners in the Group C ff-

nal against Bangladesh Road

Transport Corporation (BRTC)

in the evening, in Group One

contested with both teams try-

ing to control the midfield in

vain. There were some de-

tached attacks in the first half

but they were not incisive

enough to win goals for any of

however, the scenario changed

But in the second session.

the sides.

The first half was evenly

in the round robin final leg.

Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

respective group finals at the nners the lead. In the 20th minute, Shamsu In the Group B final in the ran free on the left flank after afternoon, three second half dodging one defender to float goals left the bankers comfortin a perfect minus which able winner, against Dhaka Tuhin of Wanderers deflected into the net [1-0].

derers defence gave the wi-

This goal seemingly disturbed the losers' composure and nine minutes later Bhutto's foul on Jahangir of the Agrani Bank inside the penalty box blew out their hopes of fighting back. Bakhtiar made no mistake from the penalty spot (2-0).

Two minutes later Jahangir dribbled past two Wanderers defenders before unleashing an angular left-footer into the net (3-0).

In the Group B final, Victoria staved off a spirited BRTC charge to hold onto

their fifth-minute goal lead to ensure the passage to the final

round. Moshi scored the only goal of the match five minutes into the game when the striker neatly placed the ball beyond BRTC goalie's reach after being fed with a perfect through from the midfield (1-0).

The BRTC booters, however, did not give in so easily pressing the opponents hard for an equaliser. But as luck would have it, despite getting two easy chances in the second half BRTC had to leave the field as losers.

Agrant Bank will be up against Brothers Union while Victoria Sporting face Mohammedan in their respective round robin finalleg openers on Thursday.

Arambagh Krira Sangstha meet Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society, who emerged Group A champions after beat ing Dhanmondi Club 3-2 in the final on Monday, in today's only match.



Abul Kashem Bhuiyan of Dhaka Metropolis moves his knight deep into defending national champion Reefat-bin-Sattar's territory during their seventh round match in the nineteenth national chess championship at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday. Reefat - Star photo won the match after 45 moves.

Baggio — heir to Platini



MILAN, Italy, May 18: It took three years to realize it, but Juventus may have found their long-sought heir

to Michel Platini, reports AP. Roberto Baggio, Italian soccer's most expensive transfer when he reluctantly joined the Turin team in 1990, has produced a streak of outstanding performances in recent months that has fans dreaming of a revival of the club's tri-

umphant era with Platini in the 1980s. Baggio's imaginative play this season has taken Juventus to this year's UEFA Cup final. He scored two goals in his team's 3-1 road victory in the first leg against German team Borussia Dortmund earlier this month and Juventus can seal

second-leg match at Turin. The UEFA crown would signal a comeback of sorts for Juventus, Italy's most popular and once most successful team. The club has gone three years without a major title and hasn't won an Italian league

the title Wednesday in the

championship in seven years. French forward Platini, supported by a number of Italian internationals including World Cup star striker Paolo Rossi, was a key to two of La Juve's four league championships, plus its Champions Cup and Cupwinners Cup titles in the 1980s.

Now, with Baggio leading the charge, fans are looking for more titles in the 1990s.

"Baggio now has the blackand-white colours in his heart — he has become the team leader," said club president Giampiero Boniperti, who re-

US Cup officials

want Gazza

Gascoigne is recovering

from a cracked cheekbone. His

Italian club have released him

for Englands World Cup quali-

flers against Poland on May 29

and Norway on June 2, but

have barred him from the US

must be released for seven in-ternational games each season

and after the two qualifiers,

Lazio will have fulfilled their

chief, said: We are working

with FIFA and the Italian fed-

be allowed to play for England.

the United States, hosts for

the 1994 World Cup, Germany,

the current World Cup hold-

ers, Brazil and England.

eration so that Gascoigne will

The US Cup brings together

But Sunil Gulati, the US Cup

FIFA rules state that players

tournament.

obligation.

cently extended Baggio's contract through 1996. The player will reportedly receive about dlrs 2.5 million a year.

Baggio, a crowd favourite when he played with Fiorentina, had initially opposed his transfer to Juventus af a



ROBERTO BAGGIO record fee of about dlrs 15

His departure from Florence touched off riots by groups of Florentine fans and his declared love for his former team caused him the dislike of Juventus supporters. Baggio even refused to kick a penalty against Fiorentina during his first season in

Not the conventional forward or midfielder, Baggio was subject to criticism over his role with the team. It was suggested he was a classy and costly, but not a decistve player for the Turin team, which is owned and financed by the Agnelli family of auto tycoons.

This season Baggio, unfettered from tactical duties and left free to play the way he likes, exploded with 33 goals - 19 in league games, six in the UEFA Cup, three in the Italian Cup and six with the Italian national team. He scored all his team's goals in the UEFA Cup semifinal against powerful Paris St Germain.

Such numbers have put Baggio is contention for Europe's biggest honour-the Golden Ball trophy awarded every year to the best player on the continent.

"He's a player of great class, who can invent goals and beautiful moves," said AC Milan's Dutch star Marco van Basten, three times voted as best European player. "He deserves the Golden Ball award."

"I'm glad I silenced all critics this season," said Baggio, whose ponytail is as popular among soccer fans as the dreadlocks sported by AC Milan's Ruud Gullit. "I have grown confidence and determination. I think time has come to win Juventus some titles and to earn myself the Golden Ball trophy."

"I'm also looking forward to the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States, the most prestigious stage for a player," said the 26-year-old from Caldogno, in the Veneto region of the country.

National team coach Arrigo Sacchi, a long time Baggio supporter, said the Juventus star will be Italy's key player in their next qualifying games and in the 1994 World Cup fi-

"He has grown as a man and a player," Sacchi said. "He's ready for the highest goals."

Div I hockey

Sports Reporter

Independence Cup winners Usha Krira Chakra posted an impressive 4-0 victory over Bangladesh Sporting Club in the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Anwarul Huq Riyadh opened the account for the winners 12 minutes into the game with a field goal (1-0). In the 28th minute Khwaja

Irteza Qader Guddu sounded the Bangladesh Sporting board from the edge of the D from a penalty corner (2-0). Another field goal in the

40th minute from Qamrul Islam Kismat took Usha three up and Kismat struck again in the 64th minute, this time from a penalty corner, completed the tally (4-0).

In the other match Ajax Sports Club came out a 2-0 winners against Bangladesh Railway. The winners, after failing to score in the first half, got the goals through Khwaja Wais and M Faisal in the 39th and 54th minute respectively.

match 4-0.

reports AFP.

of the Tests begin.

from down under.

5ins Caddick).

Border.

three-match warm-up.

Hayden and Slater.

That could mean the axe for

vice-captain Mark Taylor, who

has generally struggled so far

on the tour in comparison with

get in, as we intend to keep

the one-day side a separate

selection from the Test side,"

"It's possible Mark may not

Lining-up in the Aussie cor-

ner are opening batsmen

Matthew Hayden and Michael

Slater, who have been on a run

glut ever since disembarking

looking to include batsmen

Mark Lathwell and Graham

Thorpe and bowlers Andy

Caddick and Dominic Cork,

England, meanwhile, are

PARIS, May 18:

England and Aus-

tralia could be

accused of put-

ting the boys

before the men as

Reefat still ahead Sports Reporter

Defending national champion Reefat-bin-Sattar maintained his solo lead in the nineteenth national chess championship when he beat Abul Kashem Bhuiyan in the seventh round at the National Sports Council chess room vesterday.

Reefat, who has now five and a half points from six matches, needed 45 moves to take care of his opponent.

Following Reefat, whose International Master status awaits only FIDE's recognition, with four and a half points from seven matches is Niyamul Huq Niru of Bangladesh Ansars who settled for a draw with Omar Khaled of Chittagong after 46 moves.

International Woman Master and former national champion Rani Hamid, representing Bangladesh Biman, needed 22 moves to get rid of Feni's Mahbub Ali.

In the two all-Dhaka Metropolis affair, A N M Ruhul **Quddus and Ziaul Qader Tuhin** posted wins over Abdullah Al Raqib and Ali Amjad Mintu in 34 and 40 moves respectively.

The other winners of the day are, Rafiqul Islam of Chittagong, who was an easy winner against Abdul Khaleq of Dhaka Metropolis, and Khandaker Kayes Hassan and Kalimullah Khan Kalam, both of Ansars, settled for a drew after only eight moves.

The match between former national champion Rezaul Huq of Biman and Saifuddin Lablu of BTMC was in progress when this report was filed.

Soccer gold goes to South Korea

SHANGHAL, May 18: A young South Korean squad held North Korea's World Cup team to a 1-1 draw after leading 1-0 at half-time to win the football gold at the East Asian Games here Tuesday, leaving their rivals with the silver, reports AFP.

being 2-2 at half-time in their final league match to secure the bronze. South Korea finished the

China beat Japan 3-2 after

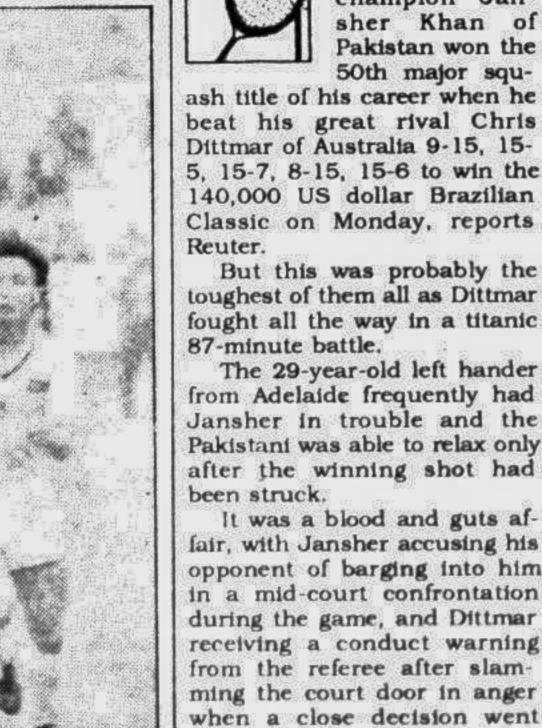
six-way round-robin with four wins and one draw against North Korea's three wins and two draws.

China stretched their tally 3-1-1 against Japan's 2-0-3. Cho Jin-Ho, 19, scored in

the third minute for the South Korean side, which was set up last month mostly with college students.

Chong Gang-Song's goal with only 10 minutes before time saved North Korea from a whitewash.

Macau finished at the bottom of the table with five straight defeats while Mongolia were one spot better.



Canada in 1990. And the

they launch into their one-day cent series against New international series this week, Zealand: Waugh is also a useful Both sides look likely to exseamer in limited-over games periment with fresh, young and might be needed in paceman Merv Hughes continues to faces before the real business

Action from yesterday's Green Delta First Division hockey league match between

Usha Krira Chakra and Bangladesh Sporting Club at the Hockey Stadium. Usha won the

Experiment with new faces

Mark Waugh, normally a

middle-order batsman, is an-

other candidate for the open-

ing slot after his successful al-

liance with Taylor in the re-

Border added.

have problems finding his rhythm after a knee injury. Damien Martyn, the 21year-old who played five Tests against West Indies and New

Zealand during the Australian season, seems sure to play, not just for his batting, but also for his bowling. "He's a phantom mediumpacer with whom blokes take liberties and you suddenly find

he's taken three or four wickcricketers few English fans ets," added the Aussie skipper. could pick out of a crowd Whether England will have (except, perhaps, for the 6ft the same confidence to play their three newcomers in all There is no doubt, however, three games plus 21-year-old that both sides will be keen to swing bowler Dominic Cork take whatever psychological advantage is available from the from Derbyshire, whose inter-

national experience is limited "We'll pick a team to try and to a single one-dayer, is win the one-dayers and worry doubtful about the Tests later," pro-However, Cork, Caddick mises Australian captain Allan and Lathwell from Somerset and Surrey's left-hander

beat Australia.

Thorpe seem sure to get at least one outing apiece. England manager Keith Fletcher explained: "It's important to bring a fresh look to the squad after the winter and

we have to start looking to the

future as well as looking to

"Over the next two weeks the likes of Caddick, Thorpe, Lathwell and Cork will be exposed for the first time to all

- Star photo

the pressure from the media." They have to get used to it for the future and, by the time the Tests start, be able to handle all the hubbub and the big crowds."

The 24-year-old Caddick, born in New Zealand and probably attraction of as many headlines as any player this season, did not seem too bothered by his new status, however, as he took a careerbest nine wickets for 32 in one innings against Lancashire last

Fletcher hopes the young players will particularly left England's fielding, which was dreadful during their disastrous close-season tour of India and Shri Lanka.

"We were badly outshone in the field during the winter tour and we have to improve in that area," said the England England were also outbat-

ted, outthought and outbowled in India and Shri Lanka, especially the latter country, so it will need a massive change in their fortunes for them to upset Australia.

Border's men have made an impressive start to their long tours, with a rain-hit defeat by Northamptonshire on Sunday, the only blot on their record, and they should continue it at England's expense.

Texaco Trophy dates: May 19 at Old Trafford, May 21 at Edgbaston, May 23 at Lord's.

England seek a moral booster



MANCHESTER, May 18: After deseats in India and another in Shri Lanka, England's cricketers

hope for a confidence boost Wednesday by beating Australia in the first of three one-day internationals, reports AP.

With a six-match Test series coming up, Australia will be out to inflict more psychological wounds on an already battered English team. Its batsmen are in form and its bowlers are ready to unload more mysery on England's shaky batting lineup.

The defeats in India and Shri Lanka, which followed a series loss at home to Pakistan last summer, left England's confidence shattered.

There were calls for selection committee members to be fired and for sweeping changes in the team lineup.

Yet team captain Graham Gooch leads out a team of mainly familiar faces against the Australians when the two teams meet at Old Trafford,

Manchester, Wednesday. Newcomers Mark Lathwell,

three Test match Graham Thorpe and New Zealand-born Andrew Caddick are in the squad named to face the Australians. But there, too, are some of the players who failed in India and Shri Lanka. There is no place for left-

handed batsman David Gower, whose omission from the squad in India was widely criticized. The England batting lineup

is likely to be along the lines of Gooch, Alex Stewart, Robin Smith, Neil Fairbrother and Graeme Hick. Caddick, who took nine for 32 for Somerset in a country championship match last week, is likely to be among the bowlers.

One of Australia's problems is which of their in-form batsmen to leave out.

In the drawn game that finished Saturday against Sussex, the tourists hit 490 for five. Damien Martyn hit 136, Steve Waugh 124, Michael Slater 73 and Matthew Hayden, who has scored two centuries so lar, contributed 66.

Against Northamptonshire June 3 at Old Trafford.

on Sunday, opener Mark Taylor scored an unbeaten 89 and Mark Waugh hit 74.

But the Australians are unlikely to leave out team captain Allan Border, who has scored the most runs in Test cricket, or experienced invid Boon who scored wo enturies in one match against Worcestershire.

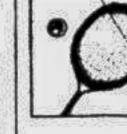
Australia's howling, however, is showing a few weaknesses.

Border had a heated, onfield argument with paceman Craig McDermott after a poor spell of bowling against Somerset while leg spinner Shane Warne was hit for four sixes off 10 balls by Hick in the game against Worcestershire.

The Australians have kept their main strike bowlers, McDermott and Merv Hughes, on the sidelines for some of the early tour games ready to unleash them on the English

batsmen. The second one-day game is at Edgbaston, Birmingham, Friday and the third at Lord's Sunday. The Test series starts

Jansher denies Dittmar again Pakistani now has six tour-



May 18: World champion Jansher Khan of Pakistan won the 50th major squash title of his career when he

RIO DE JANEIRO.

beat his great rival Chris Dittmar of Australia 9-15, 15-5, 15-7, 8-15, 15-6 to win the 140,000 US dollar Brazilian Classic on Monday, reports But this was probably the

87-minute battle. The 29-year-old left hander from Adelaide frequently had Jansher in trouble and the Pakistani was able to relax only after the winning shot had

It was a blood and guts affair, with Jansher accusing his opponent of barging into him in a mid-court confrontation during the game, and Dittmar receiving a conduct warning from the referee after slamming the court door in anger when a close decision went against him.

This was the 20th time in succession 23-year-old Jan sher has beaten Dittmar since the Australian defeated him in nament final victories over him this year. Dittmar is usually forced to play a rearguard action in their

matches, but this time he led from the front as he launched a determined attack from the start and seemed to catch Jansher unprepared. Playing an array of forcing shots, Dittmar moved into an

8-3 lead and never relaxed his grip. He moved to game point with a perfect drop shot and won the game on a penalty stroke. But this stung Jansher into action and he stormed to a 5-0

lead in the second game. Dittmar was shaken and started making mistakes in his desperation to get back into the game. But the Pakistani strode

through to level the match and the crowd sat back to wait for the expected Jansher victory match.

And it looked certain as he continued in the same vein of form in the third game. Dittmar was clearly second best and had no answer as Jansher increased the pace and won the third game with

But the Australian was far

from finished. He came fighting back and as Jansher showed signs of fatigue, Dittmar took seven points in succession to move 14-7 ahead and squared the match as the Pakistani missed an easy shot.

But from 4-4 in the fifth game Dittmar's great effort faded. He made three very tired errors and was unable to respond as Jansher seized the initiative again to become the first winner of a major squash tournament in South America.

Spaniard scales Mount Everest

KATMANDU, May 18: A member of a Spanish expedition has climbed Mount Everest, base camp reported Tuesday, reports AP. Oscar Cadiach Puig, 41, a

businessman from Cami Vell

Rabassada, scaled the 8,848 metre (29,028 ft) high peak on Monday through the traditional southeast ridge route, the Tourism Ministry said quoting the base camp report. Puig reached the summit at

15:30 hrs local time (0945 GMT) without any sherpa sup-



North Korea's Kim Jyong (2nd L) heads the ball as South Korea's Yoon Jung Swan (L) and Kim Chang Won (2nd R) and North Korea's Chong Gang Song run along side during the final match at the first East Asian Games in Shanghai yesterday. South Korea won the gold in the round robin competition after holding North Korea to a 1-1 draw. - AFP photo