

Sumon ploughs in sands

Bagan bring Biman down

Despite a sparkling unbeaten 105 by Habibul Bashar Sumon, Bangladesh Biman suffered a three-wicket defeat to emerging force Kalabagan KC in the Navana Premier cricket super league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

seven wickets with five balls to spare after they earlier restricted Bangladesh Biman to 250 for five in the stipulated 45 overs.

Pakistani Zahid Ahmed played the key role in Kalabagan's victory, slamming 81 off 79 balls with seven hits to the fence. He shared two valuable stands — 71 runs with skipper Faruque Ahmed (48) for the third-wicket and 81 with Zakaria Imtiaz (31) for the fourth wicket.

Zahid was removed by spinner Enamul Huq Moni in the 40th over with Kalabagan only 26 runs away from the victory with five wickets in hand.

Golam Faruque Suru remained unbeaten on 17 playing 15 balls and saw his team through to victory although Kalabagan lost two more wickets in the 41st and 42nd overs.

Moni, the most successful Biman bowler who captured three wickets for 55 runs, made an initial breakthrough as he caught and bowled Kalabagan opener Athar Ali Khan (23) in the eighth over.

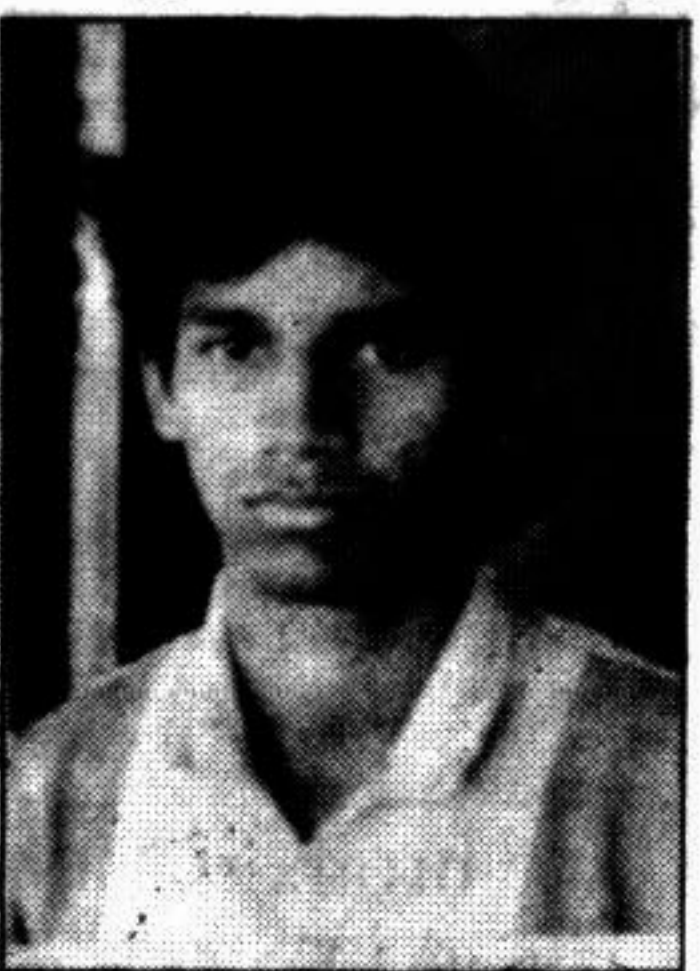
Earlier, Sumon made not out 105 off 119 balls with 11 boundaries to give Biman a competitive 250 for five in 45 overs.

Sumon was well supported

by Shanewaz Shahid Shanu who made a fine 94 off 95 balls as the pair made 217 runs before Shanu parted company with the first ball of the 45th over.

The two joined after Biman lost two early wickets for 30 runs in 8.2 overs.

Sajjad Akbar of Kalabagan



H B SUMON ... 105 n.o. bagged three wickets, all in the 45th over.

This was the second successive defeat for Biman in the super league.

Rob wins Lancer golf title

Sports Reporter

The 14th Lancer golf tournament was held at the Kurmitola Golf Club course yesterday. Maj Gen M A Rob became the men's winner followed by Zia Siddique, who finished runner-up.

The ladies' title was won by Mrs Morikawa while Takehata was the senior champion and Rahib Bashir the junior champion respectively.

The tournament, sponsored by the giant Japanese corporation Mitsubishi Motors and their local agent Range Ltd, was participated by one hundred and ninety leading golfers from home and abroad including ladies.

Prizes were distributed at a colourful function in the evening by the chief guest Major General Mahabubur Rahman, senior vice president of the club.

The function was followed by a dinner and musical concert.

Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Managing Director of the Rangs Group, is the chief patron of the annual event.



Winners of the 14th Lancer golf tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club course yesterday. The tournament was sponsored by Japanese corporation Mitsubishi Motors and their local agents Rangs Ltd. — Star photo

Shabana leads

Sports Reporter

Shabana Parveen Nipa of BTMC maintained her lead in the 16th national women's championship collecting four and a half points after beating Sajeda Begum Daisy in the fifth round of matches at the NSC chessroom yesterday.

Nipa, playing with white pieces employed a Kings Indian Defence variation to defeat her opponent after 39 moves.

Defending champion Tanima Parveen and Afroza Khanom Babil agreed to a draw after only eight moves. Both players have earned four points so far to stay in equal second.

DU in final

Former champions Dhaka University moved into the final of the 19th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football tournament, eliminating Narayanjan DSA 2-0 at the local stadium in Naogaon yesterday, reports UNB.

In the day's semifinal match, Soyeb gave Dhaka University the lead in the 44th minute and Roxy settled the issue netting in the 64th minute.

De Silva powers Lankans

CHRISTCHURCH, Mar 24: Stand-in captain Aravinda de Silva scored an unbeaten 58 Friday as Sri Lanka cruised to a five-wicket victory over New Zealand provincial team Canterbury in a limited-overs match at Lancaster Park, reports AP.

The tourists won with 9.5 overs to spare after restricting Canterbury to 164 for nine and then moving swiftly to 166 for five in reply.

Sanath Jayasuriya supported De Silva with an innings of 48 before being run out.

The Sri Lankans rested four frontline players but still restricted the former Shell Cup champions to a moderate total that always looked well within range.

On a pitch that offered early assistance to the seamers, Canterbury struggled after losing two quick wickets.

Independence Day judo today

The Independence Day judo competition begins at the Mirpur national indoor gymnasium here today, reports BSS.

President of the Bangladesh Olympic Association Gias Kamal Chowdhury will inaugurate the meet at 5 pm.

Seventy-one judokas will take part in 15 events of the two-day event.

Cantona freed on bail



CROYDON, England, Mar 24: Manchester United's French striker Eric Cantona was released on bail on Thursday after being jailed for two weeks for assaulting a soccer fan during an English Premier League game in January, reports Reuter.

Cantona, who had pleaded guilty to common assault, was held in a cell for four hours after magistrates sentenced him.

They refused Cantona's first application for bail while he appealed against his sentence. But his lawyers were successful in a higher court and a judge set bail at 500 pounds.

His appeal will be heard before a judge in Croydon, south of London, on March 31. The case revolves around Cantona's two-footed lunge into the crowd during Manchester United's Premier League match against Crystal Palace on January 25.

Spectator Matthew Simmons, who is due to stand trial on Friday, was alleged to have yelled racist abuse at him.

Cantona, in a statement read by a lawyer, told the court he deeply regretted losing his temper but said he had been badly provoked.

Magistrates said this was not sufficient excuse and they had to take account of his "star" status.

"We have heard you deeply regret your actions and have

taken this into account together with your previous good character and your guilty plea," magistrate Jean Peach said.

"You are a high-profile public figure with undoubted gifts who is therefore looked up to by many young people," she said. "For this reason the only appropriate sentence will be in two weeks in prison with effect immediately."

The maximum sentence for common assault is six months imprisonment and a fine of up to 5,000 pounds (7,926 dollars).

There were gasps from the crowded courtroom as the sentence was announced. Cantona, who had the sentence translated by an interpreter, gave a half smile but said nothing.

"He is obviously concerned and upset but still dignified," said United's lawyer Maurice Watkins before bail was granted. "He is worried about the effect of this on his wife and son."

Soccer officials said they were surprised by Cantona's jailing and United fans said their star was being persecuted.

Earlier, England soccer international Paul Ince pleaded not guilty at the same court to

a charge of assaulting another fan during the same match.

Ince, accused of common assault on spectator Dennis Warren, will be tried on May 23, probably before magistrates. The United midfielder was granted unconditional bail.

Prosecution lawyer Jeffrey McCann said the Cantona incident could have caused "major public disorder" which was only prevented by policing and good stewarding. Cantona had just been sent off for a foul and was making his way to the dressing room.

"I was angry and frustrated with myself for my dismissal (sending off)," Cantona, the former French national captain, said in a statement read to the court by a lawyer.

Cantona, 28, said he was aware of shouting and gesticulating as he left the pitch and added "it became clear someone was goading and taunting me and making an abusive gesture."

Explicatives alleged to have been yelled by Simmons was read out in court, attacking Cantona, his nationality and mother. Cantona said the spectator's face was "contorted with hatred."

"I was hurt and insulted and reacted in a way I deeply regret. I accept that it was wrong," said his statement.

Defence lawyer David Poole said Cantona was severely provoked but did not seek to justify his actions.

"He was bitterly disappointed with himself," Poole said. "There are two people involved in this, one and only one was hell-bent on trouble and that man was not Cantona."

"He is a man of truly good character acting extremely out of character in a moment of extreme provocation and distress."

Cantona has been banned from playing until September 30 by the English Football Association (FA) and fined 10,000 pounds (16,000 dollars) for his two-footed kick.

United had earlier fined him two weeks wages, around 20,000 pounds (30,000 dollars), and suspended him until the end of the season.

A brilliant player who helped Leeds and Manchester United win three league titles, Cantona has a history of clashes with authority both in England and his native France.

He "retired" in 1991 after being banned for two months by French officials he had called "idiots" at a disciplinary hearing.

13th nat'l jr athletics

Rajshahi EB reign

Rajshahi Education Board took the top spot in the 13th national junior athletics competition grabbing eight golds, one silver and six bronze medals on the final day at BKSP, Savar yesterday, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) finished second with five golds, three silver and one bronze followed by Sarkari Karmachari Kallyan Parishad (SKKP) securing four golds, five silvers and four bronze medals.

One hundred and eighty five boys and girls from 18 teams took part in 30 events of the two-day meet, organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF).

Shipping Minister M K Anwar witnessed the concluding day as the chief guest and gave away medals among the winners.

BAAF president Enamul Huq and BKSP Director General Brigadier Mohammad Ali Hasan were among other present.

MEDALS TABLE

Table with 5 columns: Medal type, Team, Golds, Silvers, Bronzes. Rows include Rajshahi EB, BKSP, SKKP, Rangpur, Barguna, Kishoreganj, Pabna, Barisal, Tangail, Chuandanga, Rangamati, Dhaka, Jhenidah.

Jones named Sheffield Shield cricketer-of-season

SYDNEY, Mar 24: Former Australian Test batsman Dean Jones today was named the Australian Sheffield Shield cricketer-of-the-season, reports AFP.

Jones, captain of Victoria, finished on top of the season's polling ahead of South Australian all-rounder Greg Blewett, currently touring the West Indies with the Australian team.

Jones topped the Shield batting aggregate with 1,216 runs at an average of 76 and hit four centuries, including an unbeaten 324 against South Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Crucial Euro Championship match against Estonia today

Testing time for Sacchi

PARIS, Mar 24: Italy's European championship humiliation against Croatia will fire their motivation at home to Estonia on Saturday, reports AFP.

Davor Suker's two goals in Palermo on November 13 for a 2-1 win showed up Italy as a team lacking discipline and desire following second place in the 1994 World Cup.

Dino Baggio's last minute header was hardly consolation for players still suffering a hangover from USA '94.

And Baggio's more famous namesake Roberto, out from late November to March 8 with a right knee injury, has withdrawn from Italy's who matches in five days.

"I'm not at my best and I think it would be fatter to have my place to other players in form," said Baggio, who misses the Estonia match in Palermo and the trip to

Ukraine on Wednesday.

Should Italy lose either match, their hopes of qualifying for the finals in England from June 8 to 30 next year will be in serious jeopardy.

Coach Arrigo Sacchi, whose dismissal was demanded after the Croatia loss, cannot afford a further catastrophe.

Sacchi's squad pleased AC Milan coach Fabio Capello. Only three AC Milan players were selected — Paolo Maldini, Demetrio Albertini and Stefano Erano.

A rested Christian Panucci, Alessandro Costacurta and Sebastiano Rossi will give Milan more zest for their home league clash with Juventus on April 1 and European Cup semi-final at Paris Saint Germain four days later.

Sacchi has had to make changes after injuries to original squad members.

Parma keeper Luca Bucci has been called up in place of Gianluca Pagliuca, who has an injured left shoulder.

And the left knee problems of Parma's Massimo Crippa has brought Antonia Conte into Sacchi's plans.

Estonia, bottom of Group

Four with defeats to Croatia, Italy and Ukraine, should hardly prove as tough opposition as group leaders Croatia.

Italy won 2-0 in Estonia on October 8 through goals by Christian Panucci and Pierluigi Casiraghi, though Italy's performance was hardly a classic.

The Italian team is now firmly under the microscope.

Many Italians rely on their "Azzurri" for the feelgood factor, but, with just four points from three games, depression is setting in.

Meanwhile, optimistic Croatia host Ukraine in Saturday's other Group Four match. Former Yugoslavian state Croatia also relies on victories for morale.

The Italy win gave a little solace to a war-ravaged people. "This victory belongs to an entire nation, one which has been through unspeakable human suffering," said coach Tomislav Ivic.

Fourth-placed Ukraine boosted their qualifying chances with a 3-0 victory over Estonia in their last match. Their qualifying chances will be cleared after their second match in five days at home to Italy on Wednesday.

Aussies amerce Guyana

GEORGETOWN, Guyana. Mar 24: The Australian cricketers took only 14.4 overs on the third and final day to complete victory by an innings and 132 runs over Guyana, reports AP.

The home team, completely outplayed in every department of the game on Wednesday, lost their last four wickets for 42 runs after continuing their second innings at 165 for six. Only 20-year-old Andre Percival, the left-handed batsman who is captain of the West Indies youth team, put up any resistance. He finished unbeaten 42.

Left-arm fast bowler Brendon Julian took one of the wickets to finish with five for 54 overall. Fellow fast bowler Glenn McGrath took four for 49 for matches figures of nine for 96. Leg-spinner Shane Warne took the first two wickets for the day for final figures of three for 42.

The Australians were scheduled to leave Georgetown Wednesday evening for St Lucia, where they will play a strong West Indies President's Eleven in a four-day match starting on Saturday. It will be their last match before the first Test against the West Indies in Barbados March 31-April 5.

Tyson has a daughter

LONDON, Mar 24: Former heavy-weight champion Mike Tyson has a 4-year-old daughter in New York

who looks like him, talks like him and has his mannerisms, Friday's editions of the Daily Mirror quotes the mother as saying, reports AP.

"They both pout their bottom lip and suck their thumbs. She wears a triple-width shoe just like he does. It is so funny to see them together sometimes," Kimberly Scarborough, 27, a former model, was quoted as saying from her apartment in Manhattan's Harlem neighbourhood.

Tyson acknowledged paternity in a Manhattan Family Court hearing on March 27, 1991. He agreed to a financial settlement negotiated by Scarborough's lawyer, Raoul Felder, who did not disclose the terms.

"Mike's excited about getting out of jail and being a proper dad. I've taken her to Disney World, but now he says it's his turn," Scarborough was

quoted as saying. Tyson is to be released from an Indiana prison on Saturday after serving half of his six-year sentence for the 1991 rape of a beauty pageant contestant.

"And she's started to brag about her daddy. When kids at school tease her, she says, 'My daddy is going to beat you up.' That makes Mike laugh like crazy. He told her to say it," she was quoted as saying.

Scarborough said Tyson insisted that the girl, Mickey, attend a Muslim school.

"Mike calls the school to ask how she's doing every week. He wants to know if she's saying her prayers and doing enough homework. He wanted her to attend this school because it is very strict," Ms Scarborough was quoted as saying.

She was quoted as saying that she and Tyson are friends, but the romance is over.

"If he came back on his hands and knees and gave me a ring I might want to marry him. But I'd more likely end up alone with another love child, so I won't do it. But I still love him," she was quoted as saying.



Tanima Parveen (R) watches her opponent Afroza Khanom Babil advance her pawn during their fifth round match at the NSC chess room yesterday. — Star photo

Moller in trouble for tax evasion

FRANKFURT, Mar 24: Andreas Moller, the best paid footballer in Germany, faces a tax investigation which could land him in jail for up to 10 years, soccer magazine Kicker claimed on Thursday, reports AFP.

But the accusation was given short shrift by the player, who said he had declared all his earnings.

Kicker claimed that Borussia Dortmund's international midfielder has kept nearly five million marks (3.5 million dollars) secret from the taxman, most of it connected with his 1992 transfer from former club Eintracht Frankfurt to Italian giants Juventus.

Frankfurt tax officials confirmed that investigators swooped on the player's home on March 2, and on that of his adviser, Klaus Gerster, but did not give further details.

Lloyd to be a member of UKSC

LONDON, Mar 24: Former West Indies cricket captain Clive Lloyd is to be a member of a new United Kingdom Sports Council which will aim to boost Britain in international sport, the government announced on Thursday, reports Reuter.

He will join former England soccer captain Gary Lineker and Rob Andrew, star of England's Five Nations rugby Grand Slam this year, on the 10-strong board from next January 1.

Queensland begin well

BRISBANE, Mar 24: Queensland made a positive start Friday as they faced the final hurdle in their bid to end a 68-year Sheffield Shield drought, reports AP.

The Bulls dismissed South Australia for 214 on the opening day of the five-day Shield final at the Gabba Ground. Queensland were 36 for no wicket at stumps.

Advertisement for 'নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর' (Executive Engineer's Office) with details about a recruitment exam for 10 positions. Includes a table with exam details and a list of candidates.