### Invincible Ansars

Sports Reporter

The invincible Ansar eves put yet another feather in their aiready bejeweiled cap when they won the national women's handball championship title for the ninth time in a row after defeating BJMC by 24-13 in the final at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yes-

The winners led the first half 13-5. Jahanara, who led the Ansars' charge in a rather one-sided affair, scored highest eight goals followed by Saleha with four.

For BJMC. Akerunnisa found the net on seven occasions while Shahnaz scored four goals.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, who was the chief guest on the concluding day, distributed prizes among the



The players of Bangladesh Ansars who clinched the Phoenix Insurance national women's title beating BJMC 24-13 in the final at the handball court yesterday. - Star photo

### Faridpur in youth hockey final

**Sports Reporter** 

Arif Imtiaz notched a brilliant hattrick as Faridpur moved into the finals of the 14th national youth hockey championship with a thumping 3-0 win over Sylhet in the first semifinal at the Hockey Stadium vesterday

Arif. the nimble centre-forward of Faridpur, struck twice in the first half before com pleting his treble with a spectacular field goal in the 52nd minute to seal the fate of the

Faridpur will take on the winners of second semifinal between defending champions Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) and Dhaka in the final tomorrow.

The second semifinal is billed for today.

### Saadi, Hemlet clinch men's doubles TT title

Saadi and Hemlet of Bangladesh Biman clinched the men's doubles title of the 20th Karnaphuli national table tennis championship yesterday.

reports UNB The Binnan doo beat the Rachi Bunam and Mostafa (Naogaon) pair 19-21, 20-22, 21 19. 21-17 and 22-20 fm marathon final at the NS6 wooden floor gymnasium.

In the boy's doubles final. Nabi and Mahboob of Dhaka became champions defeating Shawon and Mona of Madaripur by 18-21, 21-10 and

### Office cricket league results Partex Group beat Acqua-

marine Distribution by eight wickets in the Office cricket league at the Jagannath Hall ground yester-

day, reports UNB. Batted first, Acquamarine

were bundled out for a meagre 83 runs in 32.2 overs. in reply, Partex reached

their target making 87 for the loss of two wickets in 14.2 In the day's other match at

the City Club ground Bangladesh Biman crushed Tuhina Enterprise by nine wickets. Sent into bat. Tuhina were

dismissed for 84 in 26.4 overs. Bangladesh Biman rattled up 85 for one in just 14 overs.

### Kafelnikov toils to gtrs

NICE. Apr 20: Top seed Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov was given a hard battle by unheralded Belgian Kris Goossens before winning through to the quarter-finals of the Nice Open tennis tournament on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Kafelnikov goes on to meet unseeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline, who also needed three sets to tame Czech Daniel Vacek 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Spaniards Alberto Costa and Tomas Carbonell moved through to the third round in more comfortable fashion with straight sets wins.

Costa beat compatriot Francisco Clavet while Carbonell beat Italian Renzo Furland.

### PA makes his last address

SWINDON. Apr 20:A public address announcer was fired during halftime of an English soccer game Wednesday night for criticizing the referee, reports AP.

Peter Lewis made his feelings known to the crowd after Swindon player-manager Steve McMahon was sent off in the 38th minute of the team's 1-0 loss to Bolton.

As the teams left the field at halftime, Lewis said. "I've seen some crap refereeing decisions in my time, but ...." the rest of his comment was drowned out by the crowd.

### Pepsi national championship

## Sylhet, Ctg move to semis

**Sports Reporter** 



Defending champions Sylhet alowith last year's irleated semifimalists Chittagong stepped into the

last four of the 21st Pepsi national cricket championship after winning their respective matches billed at different city venues vesterday. At the Dhanmondi Cricket

Stadium, Aminul Islam Bulbul hammered a blistering half century to power the starstudded Sylhet outfit to a easy six-wicket win over Jessore. Bulbul, the stout national

all-rounder, scored a polished 54 off only 45 balls as Sylhet, chasing a modest Jessore collection of 176 in the stipulated 45 overs, rattled up 179 for four with more than 12 overs to spare.

The right-handed middle order batsman, who was one of the few successful Bangladeshi performers in the recently concluded fifth Asia Cup at Sharjah, clubbed five fours in his undefeated knock.

Although a victory was never in doubt, Bulbul along with the former national wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu. made it even easier sharing an unbroken 68 runs for the fifth wicket with the latter remaining unbeaten on a 24-ball 28.

Earlier, opener Athar Ali Khan and one down Selim

Shahed set them on the right track with useful contributions of 36 and 30 respectively.

Athar, the tall national opener, who failed to live up to his potential in the Asia Cup, struck four fours in his breezy 44-ball knock while stylish Selim Shahed, who was the skipper of Dhaka University last year, chipped in with 30.

Former national skipper Faruque Ahmed scored a painstaking 12 off 25 balls before falling a victim of Rana.

Rana, who also claimed the prized scalp of Selim Shahed, finished with two for 33 in his six overs. In the morning, Jessore

made a disastrous start losing their first four wickets for only 28 runs before a rearguard action gave the innings a healthy figure of 176. Hasanuzzaman with an ob-

durate 49 off 91 balls was the

highest scorer for the losers

while Biplob (20), Babu (21) and Manju (28) were the other notable run-getters for Jes-Anisur Rahman and Hasibul Hossain Shanto, the two newball bowler in the national ranks, who were responsible

wickets among them. Anis, the left-arm seamer, who devastated with the

for the early Jessore batting

order collapse, shared six

able analysis of four for 19 in his eight overs while Shanto took two for 34 in his quota of nine overs.

In the other match of the day at the Dhaka Stadium Chittagong recorded a comfortable 35-run win over Rajshahi.

Sent into bat first, Chittagong compiled a huge total of bundled out Rajshahi for 181.

built around two sparkling half centuries from opener Zahid Razzak Masum and skipper Akram Khan.

opener, top scored with 65 which featured five firmly hits to the fence and a huge sixer while the stocky Akram Khan, the national skipper, chipped in with a rapid fire 52 off 50 balls inclusive of one six and a four.

experienced national middle order bat, scored 24 before becoming a victim of Bazlu, who with two for 54 was the most successful Rajshahi bowler.

opener Moti scored 46 while Babu wielded his willow for a sparkling 63 off only 60 balls.

leather, finished with an envi-Chittagong.

# Trinidad Test begins today



PORT-OF SPAIN. Trinidad, Apr 20: Kev batsman. handy medium pace bowler and

fieldsman Mark Waugh is poised to add another string to his bow for Australia in the third Test against West Indies starting here on Friday, reports Reuter. At the orging of his captain

Waugh has been polishing his form as an off -spinner with a view to backing up slow bowl ing ace Shane Warne as Australia try to take a 2-0 lead in the series.

Waugh tweaked a few during the West Indies second in-

### Duran's denial

PANAMA. Apr 20: Former four-time world boxing champion Roberto Duran denied that he will retire in June and claimed that the statements of his withdrawal from the sport was a ploy by promoters to fill the arena for his next fight, reports AP. "I am not going to retire."

Duran told journalists at his home Wednesday. "I don't feel worn out or old."

Duran claimed that promoter Murad Muhammad had alleged in New York on Tuesday that the Panamanian would retire June 10, after his bout with Buddy McGirt in Kansas City.

Duran added that he demanded an explanation from his US-based promoter Mike

According to Duran, Acrei told him that the promoter who arranged the Kansas City fight "had made such a statement because his fighter would not be able to attract sufficient fans and said that I was going to retire to bring in more peo-

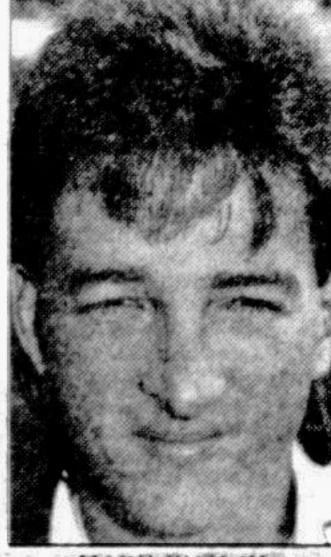
### Courier cruises

HONG KONG, Apr 20: Enough is enough for American Jim Courier — and two weeks of back-to-back tennis events in Asia is just about right for The former world No 1.

now ranked 11th on the ATP Tour computer, moved into the quarter-finals of the 328,000 dollars Hong Kong Open on a windy Thursday, defeating friend, compatriot and sometimes training partner Jonathan Stark 7-5, 6-1, reports AFP.

nings as the second Test faded to a draw -- Australia won the first - but his role in Port of Spain would be anything but novelty

An unusually green Queen's Park Oval wicket virtually guaranteed Australia would take three fast bowlers into the match and abandon any plan to include off-spinning specialist Tim May in XI



MARK WATTH

However, skipper Meir Taylor expected the well grassed wicket would eventually offer more turn than the second Test strip in Antigua and he wanted Waugh to be on

He's not the worst off-Spinner going around," Taylor said on Wednesday.

The Queen's Park Oval wicket is traditionally the most spinner-friendly in the Caribbean, although West Indies battery of fast bowlers were smiling after viewing the green square on Wednesday. Not so happy were the West

Indies batsmen who decided against batting practice on under-prepared net wickets, opting instead to use concrete strips.

Some of the Australian batsmen also preferred concrete after watching players like Justin Langer and Michael Slater get Curtly Ambrose-like lift from a good length on the

Taylor was unfazed by the problems with the practice wickets.

"It probably disrupted their training more than ours because we've been playing (earlier this week) in St Kitts.

212 for five in the stipulated 45 overs and then went on to The Chittagong innings was

Masum, the former national

Minhazul Abedin Nannu, an

In the Jessore innings

Morshed Alam and Rubel

took two wickets apiece for

### All the guys got a reasonable

West Indies had been expected to consider including Trinidad leg-spinner Rajindra Dhanraj in their XI for the

Also, the team winning the toss could be sorely tempted to take the plunge and send the opposition in to bat for what could be a torrid opening session.

at the moment," Taylor said. morning of the match."

WEST INDIES: Stuart Williams. Richie Richardson (capt). Brian Lara, Carl Hooper Jimmy Adams, Keith Arthurton, Junior Murray, Winston Benjamin, Curtly Ambros. Courtney Walsh, Kenny Ben-

McGrath.

"There's a lot of grass there

It li be interesting to see TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Mar Taylor

hit there.

Test, but the conditions might prompt the retention of their standard, four-pronged pace

how much is there on the

(capt). Michael Slater, Mark Waugh, David Boon, Steve Waugh, Greg Blewett, lan. Healy, Brendon Julian, Paul Retifel, Shane Warne, Glenn

### Atherton must wait

BIRMINGHAM. Apr 20: Mike Atherton is set to be reappointed England captain rext week - provided he agrees to tackle the job Ray Illingworth's way. reports

Reuter. Illingworth, chairman of selectors and team manager, was expected to make a decision on Wednesday but opted to delay an announcement until April 30.

"I shall talk to Mike before then and put points about what we expect and want," said Illingworth after meeting with fellow selectors Fred Titmus and David Graveney.

"We've not had much time and we're in no desperate hurry to make an announcement. What we expect of an England captain on and off the field - all this will be discussed.

"There's every chance Mike can go on for a long time if he's appointed captain."

### Rackemann may replace Waqar

LONDON, Apr 20: Surrey confirmed on Wednesday they have agreed terms with a new overseas player to replace Pakistan's injured fast bowler Wagar Younis for the county cricket season starting this weekend, reports Reuter.

Waqar, who has been suffering with back trouble for most of the year, has been examined by Surrey's orthopaedic surgeon, who confirmed he is unlikely to play again until halfway through the season at least.

Surrey have agreed terms with a replacement, believed to be Australian paceman Carl Rackemann, who is on the current tour of West Indies and is seeking clearance from his country's cricket board.

### FIFA probes into bribery scam

ZURICH. Apr 20: FIFA. world soccer's governing body. said on Wednesday it had launched an investigation into allegations of attempts to bribe players at the World Youth Championship, reports Reuter.

"FIFA confirms reports that investigations are underway in Qatar into allegations of attempted bribery of players at the World Youth Championship in Doha," a FIFA statement

"But we must stress there is no indication whatsoever of my match being influenced. Some newspaper reports in

Europe suggested teams had

been approached by representatives of an Asian betting syndicate. If the reports are true then it's a cheap, evil and disgusting

in Doha said. "No teams or individuals are named in the alleged affair."

thing to do." a FIFA spokesman

### Moeller in trouble

FRANKFURT. Apr 20: In what could be a major blow to Borussia Dortmund's hope of clinching the Bundesliga title. midfielder Andreas Moeller faces a possible season-ending ban for taking a dive that earned his team a penalty, reports AP.

The German Soccer Federation's chief rules supervisor said Wednesday he was seeking a two-month ban for Moeller, which would effectively end the Bundesliga season for the international.

With eight rounds to go. Dortmund hold a one-point lead over Werder Bremen.

In last week's game against Karlsruhe, television replays showed clearly that Moeller had taken a dive to feint a foul and force a penalty.



AC Millan's Dejan Savicevic (R) fires a left-footer as Paris St Germain's Paul Le Guen (L) and Valdo (C) look on helplessly during their Champions' League second leg semifinal in Milan on April 19. Savicevic netted twice in AC Millan's 2-0 win. - AFP/UNB photo

# An AC-Ajax affair



LONDON, Apr 20: Holders AC Milan and former champions Ajax Amsterdam strode

into the European Cup final with clear-cut victories in the semifinals on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Montenegrin striker Dejan Savicevic scored a goal in each half at the San Siro Stadium to make Milan 2-0 winners on the night over Paris St Germain and 3-0 victors on aggregate in the two-leg tie.

Ajax overwhelmed German champions Bayern Munich 5-2 in the Dutch capital after a goalless draw in the first leg to claim their place in the final in Vienna on May 24. The Dutch champions now

have a chance to avenge the

heavy defeat they suffered in

the 1969 European Cup final

when Milan beat them 4-1 in

Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Milan, champions five times, contest the final for the fifth time in seven seasons and aim to equal Real Madrid's record of six European Cup

Ajax won the trophy three years in a row from 1971 to 1973 in the heyday of Johan Cruyff but had been denied another appearance in the final until now. Ajax, runaway leaders in

their domestic league, recalled

the heights of old in an exhila-

rating display of attacking zest

against a Bayern side depleted

by injury and a pale shadow of the teams which succeeded the Dutch as European champions from 1974 to 1976.

Finnish striker Jari Litmanen set Ajax on the way with a close-range header in the 10th

Marcel Witeczek equalised against the run of play in the 36th minute but Bayern hopes of returning to Vienna for another European Cup final after losing there to Porto in 1987 were abruptly destroyed.

Nigerian Finidi George made it 2-1 for Ajax in the 40th minute, Ronald de Boer added another goal three minutes later and Litmanen claimed his second a minute into the second half.

Mehmet School pulled one

### Germany to miss Kohler, Helmer

BONN, Apr 20: International defenders Thomas Helmer and Juergen Kohler Will miss Germany's European Championship qualifier against Wales in April 26, reports AFP.

Helmer suffered a right

thigh injury during Bayern

Munich's 5-2 European cham-

pion's Cup defeat to Ajax on

Wednesday and is out for a Kohler is absent with a groin strain picked up during Juventus's UEFA Cup semifinal match against Borussia

Dortmund Tuesday

back for Bayern 15 minutes from the end but World Cup winger Marc Overmars completed the rout two minutes before the final whistle.

While Ajax savoured the prospect of their first European Cup final in 22 years. Milan looked forward to their third appearance in succession in the showpiece finale of the continent's top club tourna-

Savicevic, who scored in Milan's magnificent 4-0 win over Barcelona in last season's final, put the Italian champions ahead against Paris St Germain in the 21st minute, slotting his shot home after tricking his Brazilian marker Ricardo.

Savicevic, a European Cup winner with Red Star Belgrade in 1991 at the expense of Olympique Marseille, finished off this season's French opposition with his second goal in the 67th minute courtesy of French midfielder Marcel De-Paris St Germain had carried all before them with the

the Champions' League section of the tournament, while Milan very nearly failed to get through that phase after points were deducted for crowd trouble in a match against Salzburg of Austria in September. But Milan recovered and,

only 100 per cent record in

although their hopes of retaining the Italian league title have evaporated, they offer the prospect of an enthralling final against resurgent Ajax.

### World Youth Championship

## Brazil, Russia reach qtrs



triumphs.

Brazil and Russia qualified for the quarter-finals

with victories in their last group matches in the World Youth Championship on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Brazil beat Qatar 2-0 with

second half goals from Caio

and Elder and finished top of Group A. Qatar finished the match with nine men after Ahmed Al Binali and Hassan Al Harami were sent off in the last 12 minutes. Russia beat Syria 2-0 with goals in the first and last min-

utes of the game to take sec-

ond place in the group, two

points behind Brazil who won

twice and drew their other group match. Caio gave Brazil the lead after 50 minutes following an exchange of passes with Murillo. Elder added the second 10 minutes later when he beat the offside trap and lobbed the ball over Qatar's advancing goalkeeper Ali

Mohammad. The Brazilians had a host of

chances to add to the score but three were wasted by Reinaldo while Elder missed from just six metres midway through the first half.

Rashid Al-Dosari and Mohammad Al Enazi squandered the home side's best chances. Russia hit Syria with a goal

with a direct free-kick, cracking a left-foot shot from 30 metres which hit the far post and bounced into the net. But the Russians, lacklustre in midfield and unable to find gaps in the Syrian defence.

failed to capitalise on their

early strike.

in the first minute when

Evgeny Chumachenko scored

Syria fought bravely, forced half a dozen corners and created at least four scoring chances. But wayward shooting let them down and luck was not on their side. Sergei Lysenko, who had been on the field just 10 min-

utes as substitute for an ex-

hausted Vladislav Radimov.

netted the second Russian goal

in injury time. He pounced on the rebound and slammed the ball into the iet after Syrian goalkeeper Akel Omar had blocked a scorching drive by Alexander

Syria left the pitch totally

dejected and their Russian

coach Anatoly Baidachy failed to turn up for the post-match press conference. Japan, who beat Burundi 2 0 and Spain, with a 6-3 win over Chile, reached the last

eight from Group B. Japan face Brazil while Spain take on Russia in Sunday's quarterfinals. Sotaro Yasuaaga gave Japan

ninth minute lead when he scored from Susumu Oki's intelligent pass. The second goal came from the penalty spot after 15 minutes. Didier Bizimana brought down Yasunaga. Shinti Otsuka saw his penalty saved by

Kagenge Hakizimana but

Nobuhisa Yamada headed in the rebound. Spain, who won all three group matches, fielded some of their reserves and rested other key players. The hero of the day was Josabo Lezardi, who swung the game in Spain's favour with two goals in the first 13 minutes.

Later Otixoa Raul added one in the 20th minute.

Chile, who needed an outright win to qualify for the quarterfinals, lost their rhythm when they had fullback

Francisco Fernandez sent off. Spain continued their spree in the second half while Chile, who played a controlled game in the last .5 minutes, cut the margin ... three sparkling

### Platt staying at Sampdoria

GEN Apr 20: David Platt ruled ... the prospect of an early it to English football when in ened a one-year extension to his contract with Same here on Wednesday mosts AFP.

killed off speculation link in him with a move to ter United, Blackburn er clubs by announcing is staying in Italy for a aking on the eve of his chil - Cup Winners' Cup semi-

hual gainst Arsenal, Platt said:

28-year-old England

delighted to be staying with Sampdoria for another it will be my fifth year in italian football and I am enjoy-

ing myself more than ever.' But he hinted that he might teturn to England next year when he said: "The club oflered me a two year contract but, after thinking it over, I opted for just one year."

Platt's 17.2 million pounds (about 26 million dollars) worth of Italian transfers from Bari to Juventus and on to Sampdoria - have made him the most expensive player in history. He has scored 38 goals in

over 100 Italian league and cup

games and won the UEFA Cup

with Juve and the Italian Cup with Sampdoria. But he won nothing in his time in the English game with Aston Villa to go alongside his 52 England caps, 24 goals and 13 games as captain.

And Platt admits: "It is important for people to realise that when I do eventually come home I will be hungry to win things. "I continue to have great

ambition and I will want to join a club that really wants success."



from Germany pose for the press at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas on April 19. Schultz will fight for the IBF Heavyweight Championship on April 22 at the MGM Hotel. - AFP/UNB photo