

The Brothers Union coach Abu Noman Nannu briefs his boys during a light practice session at the Mohakhali T&T ground yesterday. Brothers will take on Mohammedan Sporting Club in the final of the Nirma DMFA Cup at the Dhaka Stadium today. The match kicks-off at 5.30 pm.

#### BCCB XI bow out

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Centrol Board (BCCB) Eleven made their exit from the All-India under-16 cricket tournament when the Delhi Cricket Association (DCA) handed them a six-wicket defeat in the semi-final engagement at the Salt Lake Stadium in Calcutta vesterday.

Sent into bat first the BCCB-XI reached a fighting 202 before being all out in the stipulated 35 overs with Redwan hitting an excellent 80, followed by Zahid with 34, Sezan 23 while Saker and Morshed scoring 16 each.

All rounder P Joshi, the main architect of strong Delhi outfits win, blazed with the willow and the cherry to outplay the touring BCCB team. He captured four wickets giving away 42 runs and hammered team's highest 73.

Setting a run rate of 5.77 to win, the Delhi boys comfortably cruised to the target with six wickets in hand and six overs to spare.

S Tomar and G Sarma scored 55 and 41 runs respectively for the winners.

Tapu of Bangladesh boys claimed two wickets giving 24 runs while Zahir and Ibrahim one wicket each giving away 33 and 37 runs.

#### Walsh wags with ball

TAUNTON, England, May 24: Courtney Walsh eased the West Indies fast bowling worries with a four-wicket haul against Somerset on Saturday. reports Reuter.

Vice-captain Walsh, nursing a shoulder injury since arriving in England two weeks ago, spent 50 minutes off the field after experiencing more prob-

But the Jamaican paceman returned to rip out Andy Bayhurst, Keith Parsons and Graham Rose during a lengthy and impressive spell as Somerset reached 301 for nine.

Walsh, who finished with four for 77, had earlier dismissed opener Mark Lathwell by producing a perfect yorker with his 24th delivery of the

The West Indies badly needed a boost from one senior member of their pace department ahead of Wednesday's first one-day international against England.

Curtly Ambrose was badly out of step again, delivering eight no-balls during three overs, after lunch before being removed from the attack.

. In all, the giant Antiguan overstepped the crease 11 times and left himself with paltry figures of 9-1-64-0.

Facing a daunting West Indian total of 449 for eight declared, the championship strugglers just managed to avoid the threat of being asked to follow-on.

Apart from Ambrose's generosity, they were indebted to third wicket pair Peter Bowler (84) and Richard Harden (78). who put together a stand to

### **IAAF** favours Ngugi

GOTEBORG, Sweden, May 21: five-time world cross country champion John Ngugi, banned for four years for refusing to take a drug test, gained early reinstatement Sunday from the International Amateur Athletic Federation Council, reports AP.

For the first time, the Council went against the opinion of its doping commission, which had recommended that Ngugi served the remaining 21 months of his suspension.

Ngugi was suspended for turning away IAAF representatives at his central Kenya farm on Feb 13, 1993. The runner. who speaks little English. claimed the representatives did not identify themselves properly and that, as a soldier in the Kenyan army, he could not legally give a sample to an accompanied foreign delega-

# MSC-BU final today

After wandering in the wilderness last season Mohammedan Sporting Club, one of

the two giants in the local sports, will be looking to salvage their lost pride when they meet Brothers Union in the final of the Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament at the Dhaka

Stadium today. 'The finale of the curtainraiser meet kicks-off at 5:30 pm with Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh covering the match live from the big

It will be a second final clash between the two neighbouring sides who jointly won the first version of the meet held way back in 1984. Mohammedans retained the

title when it resumed in 1993 before Abahani Krira Chakra dethroned them on the following year. But this year Mohammedan

seemed all set to regain the title after a fantastic run throughout the tournament.

Mohammedans, an automatic qualifier along with three other semifinalists of last Sports Reporter

year in the eight-team final leg, smartly reached the semifinal winning their first three group league matches against Farashgani, Rahmatgani and Brothers Union before moved into the final with a 1-0 win over Muktijoddha in the second semifinal on Saturday.

Dubbed as a better side among the two finalists. Mehammedans will field the same eleven that played in the second half against Muktijoddha.

But Nurul Hug Manik, the 29-year-old Mohammedan skipper, said "I don't feel any difference between the two teams. If we have anything to prove we will offer in the field."

Replying to a query Manik further added: "I don't believe in the existence of any star player in any side. The standard is all the same. What is more important in our team is the complete motivation towards the game."

But the Mohammedan captain admits that they lacked quality striker in the team.

Meanwhile, Brothers are making the final for the second successive year. They lost

to Abahani Krira Chakra in the final by a solitary goal last year. However, they took a sweet

revenge against the last year's conqueror eliminating them in the first semifinal by 4-3 in the tie-breaker on Friday

But they will miss a reliable defender Mizan in the final, who got the marching order in the last match against Abahani.

"He was a key booter in our team said Pijush, the Brothers Union captain. "But I'm really worried about our three Nigerian players. They are not playing up to their reputations and above all the performance of Nike Lulu is disappointing. added Pijush. "We may have some lack-

ings but our morale is upbeat. lf we can win against Abahani with ten-men why not against Mohammedans' with eleven,' rounded off a confident Pijush. Meanwhile, the Dhaka

Metropolis Football Association have made all the necessary preparations for a successful completion of the meet.

Tickets for the gallery has been fixed at Taka 30 each and will be on sale from 2:30 pm with the gates opening simultaneously.

## Akram abases Middlesex



LONDON, May 21: Pakistan pace bowler Wasim Akram returned match figures of nine for 63 as

Lancashire completed their third successive county championship victory with an innings thrashing of Middlesex at Lord's on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The third morning began

### Jadukar Samad football

Sports Reporter

Chandu Sporting Club and Bashabo Boys Club moved into the semi-finals of the Jadukar Samad juvenile football tournament at the Azimpur Community centre ground yes-

Chandu Sporting got walk over, in the first match while in the second match Bashabo blanked Super Eagle Club 6-0.

#### Russia's second

GIFU, Japan, May 21: Russia rallied to beat Japan 4-15, 15-6, 15-10, 15-3 Sunday for its second victory in the preliminary round of the volleyball World League 1995, reports AP.

Players from 12 nations are competing in the World League in three groups.

Japan, Russia, China and South Korea are in Group C.

TAIYUAN, China.

May 21: Several

of China's cham-

pion runners per-

formed so poorly

in national trials

last week that they have failed

to qualify for the World

Championships in Sweden,

did qualify, world women's

10,000-metres champion

Wang Junxia, says she doubts

she will ever regain her top

form. She hopes to open a

school to train future athletes,

the official Xinhua News

Agency reported late Saturday.

of "Ma's Army" team of out-

standing long-distance runners

left coach Ma Junren's team

earlier this year, saying he was

too harsh. They have been

suffered as a result. Xinhua de-

als in northern Taiyuan, Shanxi

scribed their times at the tri-

Province, as "unbelievably poor

Their performances have

training by themselves.

Wang and other members

The one star runner who

reports AP.



WASIM AKRAM

cashire's first innings 375. They managed to add only, 10 runs. Akram taking two

Liu Dong, the 1993 world

1.500-metre champion who

left the team after a disagree-

ment with coach Ma in 1993,

finished 16th in Saturday's

800 metres heat at two min-

utes, 14.08 seconds, nearly 19

seconds off her best time, it

tired. Liu was quoted as say-

metres title Thursday, but she

clocked a disappointing 5

minutes, 39.18 seconds, one

minute and two seconds be-

hind the current world record.

10,000 metres final Saturday

after injuring her left leg, but

has qualified to defend her ti-

tle at the World Cham-

pionships in August in

Gothenburg: Sweden, the re-

they hoped to do something to

Chinese sports officials said

port said.

reverse the slump.

She pulled out of the

"I don't know why. I'm dog

Wang Junxia took the 5,000

Ma's ex-army in

ignominy

with Middlesex tottering at 78 for seven in reply to Lan- boul

When Middlesex followed on 287 behind Akram picked up two more quick scalps to send them plunging to three for three.

A ninth wicket stand of 44 between John Emburey and Mark Feltham merely delayed the inevitable - defeat by an innings and 175 runs.

Yorkshire's seven-wicket win over Glamorgan at Bradford also earned them their third successive championship victory - the first time since 1962 that they have started a

season so well. Half centuries by David Byas and Michael Bevan took Yorkshire to within sight of victory after they had begun the third day on 72-2, requiring a further 87 runs to reach their

second innings by snapping up 6-20 in a devastating 14-over spell before lunch. Derbyshire crashed from

needing just 73 to win. Mullaly finished with six for

wickets for a 6-35 drnnings

target. Byas made 57 and Bevan and unbeaten 51. Leicestershire also hurried

to a nine-wicket win inside three days thanks to paceman Alan Mullaly. He wrecked Derbyshire's

their overnight 121-2 to 173 all out, leaving Leicestershire

50. his best figures of the sea son, to bring his championship haul to 18 wickets - just 10 short of his total for last sea-

unanimous decision.

#### Werder Bremen title bound

BONN. May 21: Werder Bremen's Bundesliga title hopes hardened on Saturday with a 6-1 rout of Bayer Uerdingen, reports Reuter.

Second-placed Borussia Dortmund, without an away win since February, managed only a drew at Freiburg, leaving them two points behind Bremen with three games left.

Bayern Munich, who deminutes when Paul Rideout headed home after a shot from layed the return of midfielder Lothar Matthaeus after his Graham Stuart rebounded from four-month injury absence, lost the cross-bar. 1-0 to Karlsruhe and their His strike gave Joe Royle's slender hopes of retaining the team their first major trophy for a decade after making the championship.

Egyptian Hany Ramzy and Frank Neubarth gave Bremen a 2-0 halftime lead. A penalty by Andreas Herzog 11 minutes into the second half boosted the tally but Dieter Passlack replied for Uerdingen.

Marco Bode and Bernd Hobsch rammed home two more goals within the next three minutes, leaving Vladimir Beschastnikh to round off the game 10 minutes before time. Uerdingen were down to 10

men for more than an hour after midfielder Uwe Grauer was sent off for a tackle on Neubarth. Dortmund trainer Ottmar

Hitzfeld said: "Two points behind Bremen is not irretrievable. We're not beaten yet:"

#### Basten hopes against hope

MILAN, May 21: Marco Van Basten, who has battled for three years against a chronic ankle injury, said on Saturday he still hoped to play again., reports Reuter.

"I would like to return to the game but it is still too early to judge the state of the cartilage in my ankle," said AC Milan's Dutch striker. "I'm confident, if not optimistic.

Speculation has been high in the Italian press that Van Basten was on the verge of quitting soccer because of his injury problems.

He has barely played since 1992 but he has retained hopes of making a comeback after a string of operations.

Van Basten's contract with AC Milan was due to expire on June 30 but the club's managing director Adriano Galliani said it would be renewed for another season.

"We always wait for a player like Van Basten. That's why we have lengthened the contract, A player of Van Basten's calibre could play another five years. He's without equal," said Gal-

#### Body on C'wealth youth h'ball meets

The first meeting of the organising committee, formed to hold the 6th Commonwealth Youth Handball Championship in Dhaka, was held in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman presided over the meeting, said a PID handout.

The meeting discussed various aspects, including financing. accommodation and transport arrangement for the participants of the tournament. The Finance Minister

stressed on the vigorous training and coaching for the local players for a successful outcome in the tournament to be held here at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium from August 24-State Minister for Civil Avia-

tion MA Mannan and secretary general of the committee Major General Mahbubur Rahman were among others present in the meeting. Fourteen Commonwealth

countries, including England, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Malaysia, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Nigeria and Zimbabwe will take part in the tournament.

Former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield (R) and Ray Mercer lock in a bout during

their non-title fight in Atlantic City, New Jersy, on May 20. Holyfield defeated Mercer by an

## Everton clinch FA Cup



history

Everton, in danger of relegation for much of the season, beat hold-

ers Manchester United 1-0 to win the English international Anders Limpar FA Cup for the fifth time on who sprinted into the United half before passing wide on the Saturday, reports Reuter. The only goal of a tense, exright to Matthew Jackson. citing match came after 30

With the United defence in latters. Jackson cut inside Gary Pallister and crossed to Stuart who rifled a first time drive against the bar. The ball bounced out to Ride out who headed it high into the net beyond Steve Bruce, helpless on the goal-line.

worst start to a season in their While Rideout's goal se-United, without the suscured the victory. Everton pended Eric Cantona, ineligigoalkeeper Neville Southall. ble Andy Cole and the Unfit played his 650th match for the club and the only survivor of Andrei Kanchelskis were a

cepted a ball from Paul Ince of the edge of the Everton penalty area and set up a classic counter-attacking move-He quickly found Swedish

century.

They also become the first team since Everton in 1986 to finish runers-up in both the

United did not relinquish their hold on the Cup lightly. After Ryan Giggs had replaced his injured skipper Bruce at halftime, the holders dominated the second half for long periods.

his way down the left wing but everything United threw at Southall he stopped, including an acrobatic save from a Brian MccLair header which he pushed on to the bar after 68 minutes.

Both Royle and United boss Alex Ferguson caused something of a surprise when they announced their line-up.

the club's four million pounds double hernia operation.

placement - Nigerian World Cup player Daniel Amokachi on the bench as well, preferring the tenacious Stuart. Both Ferguson and Amocachi appeared in the second half but neither man could add the

fully match fit following a hamstring injury. Everton, with Stuart, Joe Parkinson and especially

battling Ince and Roy Keane-in midfield, dominated the opening 15 minutes. But they were lucky not to fall behind when Lee Sharpe

fluffed a clear-cut scoring chance, mis-hitting with only

half, Giggs replaced him at the start of the second half Giggs gave his side more impetus but Everton's overall appetite for the fray, exempli-

from substitute Paul Scholes and then kicked away his fol-

-AFP/UNB photo

their 1984 Cup-Winning team.

play and United desperately

trying to hang on the their

trophy, Southall brought back

memories of Jim Mont-

gomery's famous double save

for Sunderland in the 1973 fi-

First, he parried a shot

With only 14 minutes to

was just as much a hero.

nal against Leeds.



ATLANTIC CITY

champion Evander Holyfield took a dramatic first step back in the heavyweight division Saturday night with a unanimous 10round decision over Ray

point the game Mercers, who had called this a turning-point fight in his career.

Judge Eugene Grant had it 96-93, while Eva Shain saw it 97-92 and Jean Williams had it 95-94.

months for Holyfield, who was diagnosed with a heart condition after losing the WBA and IBF titles to Michael Moorer on April 22. 1994. He was later cleared to return to the ring by doctors and hopes to join Muhammad Ali as the re-

- AFP/UNB photo

turn to the ring by doctors and hopes to join Muhammad Ali as the only fighter to hold boxing's most prestigious title three times. Holyfield, 32, showed no ef-

fects of the long layoff against Mercer, even when he was forced to discard his plan to box and not slug with him to win the decision at the soldout Atlantic City Convention Centre.

In the co-feature on the pay-per-view event. Hector "Macho" Camacho retained his IBC welterweight champi: onship with a unanimous 12round decision over Homer Gibbins.

lightest he's been since losing the title the first time to Riddick Bowe of Nov. 13, 1992. Mercer came in at 224,22 pounds less than he weighed for, his last fight, a draw against Marion Wilson last July 28.

to win the fight," Holyfield said. Ray Mercer did more than I thought he would. His jab was quicker than I thought. "I was able to hit him with

some great body shots, But he's a vicious guy and it's hard to get him down with just one punch. I realize now that everybody I fight is going to come in great shape."

the ring with his head freshly shaved. Both fighters started strong

tion in the first round that raised a small swelling under Mercer's left eye. Mercer scored with a left-

#### Anderlecht's 3rd BRUSSELS, May 21: Ander-

lecht secured their third successive Belgian League championship, their 24th in all, on Saturday by defeating Ghent 2- away, trying for the knockout. O. reports AFP.

ton's fifth Cup win was the mercurial Limpar who ran everything in midfield until he was forced off with a hamstring strain in the closing United's defeat meant they failed in bid for a recorded

later Southall made a superb.

diving save from Gary Pallis-

But the architect of Ever-

ter's glancing header.

ninth victory and failed to equal the feats of Newcastle and Tottenham in winning the Cup twice in succession this

Cup and League.

Giggs twisted and teased

Royle left Duncan Forguson.

sterling signing, on the substitues' bench because of his lack of match fitness after a He left his most likely re-

second goal which would have spared Everton such a nervejuangling ending. Ferguson preferred Nicky Butt to Giggs in his starting line up because Giggs was not

Limpar out-thinking and out-

Southall to beat. Bruce hurt his right hamstring making a clearance after 21 minutes and, although he battled on for the rest of the

fied by captain Dave Watson who was named as the man-ofthe-match, left United without a major honour for the first

Mercer went to his corner

with his arms raised, appar-

in the third but it was ruled

no knockdown by referee Ron

Lipton because Holyfield had

pushed him down. The two

rocked each other with hard

punches in a toe-to-toe ex-

box Mercer but found himself

in a slugfest, trading punch for

punch, the two went at each

other in the middle of the

ring as the fans roared in the

again returned to his corner

with arms held high in cele-

to "hit a home run." Mercer

caught Holyfield first with a

left and then a right. The ex-

champ didn't seem troubled.

though. At the end of the

round, Mercer opened a bad

cut under Holyfield's right eye

with a left hook. Blood

streamed down his face at the

stained with his blood and his

eye continued to bleed in the

seventh round. He was slow

coming out for the eighth as,

his corner worked on the eye.

connected with a right early

in the eighth. Mercer shook it

off. Lipton called for the ring-

side physician to look at

Holyfield's eye but the fight

Holyfield dropped Mercer with

a flurry of punches late in the

round and opened a cut under

his right eye. Mercer survived

down. I got the momentum

and both fighters went down

Holyfield kept pounding

Fighting desperately,

"When I knocked him

was allowed to continue.

Stalking Mercer, Holyfield

Holyfield's trunks were

After the fifth, Mercer

With his corner urging him

Holyfield had pledged to

change.

fourth round.

bration.

Mercer went to his knees

ently happy with his work.

Prince Charles looks on towards an ecstatic Everton's

skipper David Watson who holds aloft the FA Cup after

eliminating last year's champions Manchester United by a

Mercer, reports AP.

alongside his right eye to out-

New Jersey, May 21: Forced into a slugfest he didn't want, - two-time

solitary goal at Wembley on May 20.

shadow of the side that won

the Cup and league double fast

Everton's fortunes after replac-

ing Mike Walker as manager in

November said afterwards:

Someone was writing the

and our name was on the Cup."

ment came when Everton

skipper Dave Watson inter-

Our players were brilliant

The match-winning mo-

script. I can't believe it.

Royle, who has transformed

Holyfield weighed 209, the

One of the most popular fighters of his time, Holyfield was cheered loudly by the crowd of 11,128 as he entered

and Hólyfield connected with

right in the second that backed up Holyfield and caused him to stumble in the

Although nearest rivals Standard Liege also won 2-0. against Bruges, they were still a point adrift of Anderlecht.

low-up effort. Two minutes time since 1989.

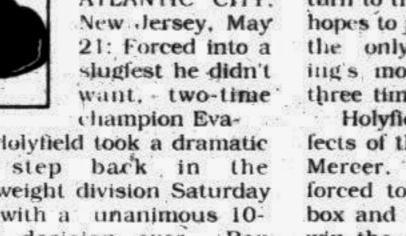
Holyfield's double delight second. At round's end,



Holyfield survived a bad cut

It was the first fight in 13





I felt I did what I had to do

good counterpunch combina-

Mercer seemed tired as the fight wound down. In the last round, he stumbled, grabbing Holyfield around the legs

in a tangle.

back," Holyfield said.

the round, though.

but Mercer hung tough. Holyfield improved to 31-2 with 22 knockouts, while

Mercer dropped to 23-2-2 with 6 knockouts.