

Regensea, Biman tie called off

Sports Reporter
The last match of the Office cricket league's first round between defending champions Regensea Lines and Bangladesh Biman was abandoned due to soggy outfield at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday caused by the overnight rain.
According to the by-laws, both teams earned a point apiece.
The second phase of the eight-team league will begin from May 28. Top four teams will participate in the semifinals for the championship while the remaining will vie for the plate. In the first semi on June 28, Biman will take on Partek Group at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Regensea Lines face Acme Laboratories on July first.
The final is billed for July 3 at the same venue.

Tyson's plan

LAS VEGAS, June 25: As long as former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson continues to generate \$30 million dollars paydays, he plans to continue producing offspring, reports Reuter.
"Every time I see that situation going well with more fights and good purpose, I'll have another child then," said Tyson, whose wife Monica is pregnant with their second.
Tyson also has a child from a previous relationship and treats Monica's seven-year-old daughter as one of his own.
Tyson and reigning heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield are each expected to earn around \$30 million dollars for Saturday's big rematch. And Tyson seems keenly aware these days that each challenge in the ring translates into a more lucrative future for his children.
"Every fight is a different future for my children. I base my life for my financial gain," Tyson said Monday night as he held court for reporters at promoter Don King's posh home outside Las Vegas.
"We have to take care of our children and I'm just looking forward to that," the one-time world's most feared fighter turned proud papa continued. "This is life and we have a life beyond boxing."
"I'm glad I'm at a stage in my life where I have children. A few years from now I won't be in this business and I can pay greater attention to them."
Tyson then smile and added: "I love them, but I love me."
The former champion, who two weeks ago was predicting a sensational victory over Holyfield in their rematch, was in more of a philosophical mood as he reflected upon his loss last November.
"I can't be caught up about some defeat because that's life, building, persevering and coming back from the loss," said Tyson, who insisted his defeat to Holyfield was more personally shocking to him than his stunning upset by Buster Douglas in 1990.
"The easiest way in the world to fail is trying to please everybody," added Tyson.

Pete indebted to Andre

LONDON, June 25: World number one Pete Sampras has admitted that he owes a lot to Andre Agassi and says he hopes his old rival will do well at this year's championships, reports AFP.
Agassi, the 1992 Wimbledon champion who has slumped down to 29th in the rankings after a series of poor results and injury lay-off, opens his 1997 campaign at the All-England Club against Spain's tenth-seeded Carlos Moya.
"I played Andre quite a bit a couple of years ago and he definitely made me a better player," said Sampras, who has been practising hard between showers at Wimbledon following his three-set loss to Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden at Queen's.
"It was exciting walking out in the final at Flushing Meadow against him, it was one of the few times I really felt the electricity from the crowd and the media."
"One thing tennis needs right now is a rivalry, we don't have one that can really sell the game."
"Andre and I had it for a little bit a couple of years ago and that really helped out the game, where I am in my career now I need that sort of challenge again to get me going."
"Andre has obviously been missed on the tour, and the longer you're out — the tougher it is to come back, but he has the talent and the game, it is just a case of getting it back together."

Cops in action

KUALA LUMPUR, June 25: Police arrested a number of suspected bookmakers after they attempted to contact players at the World Youth Football Championships here, reports AFP.
The New Straits Times quoted an unnamed member of the organising committee as saying the suspected bookmakers tried to check into a hotel in Kuantan where teams from Spain, Paraguay, Japan and Costa Rica were staying.

'98 C'wealth Games chief resigns

KUALA LUMPUR, June 25: The executive chairman of the 1998 Commonwealth Games organising committee resigned today after being criticised by two cabinet ministers over preparations for the event, reports Reuter.
Retired-general Hashim Mohamed Ali told a news conference he had sent a letter of resignation today to acting Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.
"I personally sent the resignation letter to the office of acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim this morning," an emotional Hashim said after meeting Youth and Sports Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.
Muhyiddin and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Sabbaruddin Chik had criticised the organising committee for failing to publicise what will be the biggest sporting event ever held in Malaysia.
Sabbaruddin was especially blunt, accusing committee executives of being more interested in travelling first class on overseas trips than in discharging their duties.
"I am very disappointed and surprised at the criticisms hurled at Sukom 98 Berhad (the company organising the Games) as reported in the press," said Hashim, a former defence forces chief and the brother-in-law of Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad.
Hashim said the criticisms had demoralised his staff.
The national news agency Bernama quoted Muhyiddin as saying he was stunned by Hashim's announcement.

Triumphant teenagers

LONDON, June 25 (Reuter): They will not be out of their teens before the next millennium, but the new crop of tennis women are already making their presence felt at Wimbledon.
Martina Hingis is world number one at 16, has won every match she has played this year except the French Open final and is favourite to unseat injured Steffi Graf as queen of SW 19.
On Tuesday she beat Luxembourg qualifier Anne Kremer 6-4, 6-4 and pronounced herself satisfied, despite a bit of a struggle.
"I feel I was not playing that bad for the first match on a grass court this year," she said.
Hingis won here as a junior — the youngest junior title holder at 14 — but went out in the first round of the main draw two years ago and in the fourth round to Graf last year. Underfunded she captured the doubles with Helena Sukova becoming the youngest senior champion. She also went into the youthful record books by winning the Australian Open in January.
In the second round here, the wholesome teenager, whose energetic hobbies include riding and roller-blading, meets Wimbledon newcomer 17-year-old Belarussian Olga Barabanchikova.
But it was a graceful Russian, who celebrated her 16th birthday only two weeks ago, who turned most heads on her first appearance in the women's draw here.
Anna Kurnikova, the Moscow pupil of Florida-based tennis super-coach Nick Bollettieri, put out America's Chanda Rubin, a top 10 player

Women's open TT begins

A three-day women's Open table tennis tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation began yesterday at Dhanmondi Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex, reports UNB.
State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader inaugurated the competition. It was also attended by Table Tennis Federation president Syed Yousuf Hossain.
Twenty-six paddlers from six teams are taking part in the three-event meet — women's team, women's singles and women's doubles.
Three team-event matches were decided on the opening day.
Pataukhali DSA beat Rajshahi DSA by 2-1 sets; Narail DSA defeated Borguna DSA by 3-0 and Bangladesh Ansars beat Borguna also by 3-0.

Multidrive youth v'ball from Friday

The Multidrive national youth volleyball championship, organised by the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation, begins Friday at the Mirpur National Indoor Stadium, reports UNB.
State Minister for LGRD and Co-operatives Syed Abul Hossain is expected to inaugurate the six-day meet.
A total of 15 teams, split into three groups, are expected to participate in the meet.

Chang's jinx continues

LONDON, June 25: Six seeds failed to survive their first round matches on the manicured grass courts at Wimbledon on Tuesday, reports AFP.
World number-two Michael Chang crashed at the first hurdle for the second year running when he was beaten in a grueling five set Centre Court marathon by Todd Woodbridge.

The Chinese-American, seeded five, went down 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 6-2, 3-6, 8-6 in just under four hours — although he shook Woodbridge to the core by clawing his way back to 6-6 after trailing 2-5 in the final set.
Woodbridge, better known as part of the world's best doubles team alongside Mark Woodforde, said that he had felt really fresh because he had hung up his racket for three days before the tournament.
"That's something I've never done before — but it worked," said the 26-year-old Australian, who was given a tumultuous standing ovation as he came off court.
"The crowd went bananas. It was a bit like a pop concert the way it finished off," said Woodbridge, who needed on court medication for tightening muscles.
"Probably the crowd will enjoy this match more than most of the others in the tournament."
"Twelve months ago Chang, who played Tuesday's match with his right knee heavily strapped, also lost in the first round when he was beaten in four sets by Albert Costa of Spain.
Elsewhere, there was no respect for the world's biggest server and recently-crowned French Open champion.
Australia's Mark Philippoussis, who was made seventh seed after his recent triumph at Queen's was beaten in straight-sets by Britain's Greg Rusedski.

And Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten, eleventh seed and the toast of Paris when he defeated Spain's Sergi Bruguera for the French title earlier this month, showed that he has still a lot to learn about grass-court tennis

when he crashed to Justin Gimelstob of the United States. Rusedski who had been leading 3-1 in the third set when fading light stopped play on Monday needed just eight more minutes to complete a 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 victory.

The British number-two, a winner at Nottingham at the weekend, hit 27 aces while the usually awesome power-serving of the 20-year-old Australian was neutralised by 13 double-faults.

Kuerten, already one set down when he resumed battle against Gimelstob, quickly found himself trailing by two sets to love before staging a remarkable recovery which had

also lost two seeds. The number fifteen Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania, winner at Edgbaston two weeks ago, was shown the exit by Andrea Glass of Germany.

13th seed Kimberly Po of the United States also fell to Australian Kerry-Ann Guse. Elsewhere the hierarchy asserted itself.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, a runner-up for the last two years, ruthlessly crushed British player Clare Wood 6-0, 6-0.

South Africa's sixth seed Amanda Coetzer finally saw off a brave challenge by Alexandra Fusai of France 7-6 (7/1), 6-1 and Wimbledon's forgotten champion Conchita Martinez showed some of her old fire to outplay Karina Habsudova of Slovakia 6-1, 6-2.

Germany's Anke Huber, the seventh-seed, proved too powerful for plucky Japanese qualifier Hiruka Inoue and raced home 6-3, 6-3 while experienced American Nicole Arendt defeated Petra Langrova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-0.

In the men's event, world number-one Pete Sampras, who is bidding for a fourth singles title, cruised into the second round by defeating Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

The 25-year-old American, who has suffered a slump in form before the tournament and won only four of his previous nine matches, described his performance on Tuesday as "solid."

Another three-times champion Boris Becker, the eighth seed, also had a comfortable win when he defeated Marcos Gorriz of Spain 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

South Africa's fifteenth-seed Wayne Ferreira, trailing by two sets to love when rain stopped play on Monday, produced a Houdini-style escape act to beat stubborn Australian opponent Scott Draper.

At one stage the 25-year-old from Johannesburg, who has been the centre of controversy in some of the British tabloid newspapers for referring to Rusedski as a player with "a big serve and little else" trailed 2-5 in the fifth set — but he eventually came through 6-7 (5/7), 3-6, 6-4, 6-0, 7-5.

But although he was clearly learning to adapt to the low bounce and speed of the American's deliveries as the match wore on, he couldn't quite make it and he finally surrendered 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4.

Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, who came in as seventeenth seed when Thomas Muster of Austria withdrew also fell to home player Chris Wilkinson, the British wild-card entry belied his 218th ranking by coming back to score a 7-6 (7/5), 0-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 win.

The women's tournament

'Rain, no play'

LONDON, June 25: It is like the funniest essay on cricket: 'Rain, no play.' The child at the elementary school was asked to write a few lines on cricket. He looked through the window. It was raining outside. Without much ado he wrote those three very pragmatic words. It may have been funny, but true. At the Wimbledon it is partly true at the press lounge on the first floor of the Centre Court. Correspondents and photographers from around the world will probably have a day off as the forecast for this afternoon is discouraging. As I was writing this exactly at 2:30 pm (local time) an announcement was made through the PA system that in the next one hour the weather may improve a bit and that too for a brief spell. The covers will be removed then and inspection of the grounds will be made. Play may or may not start at all.

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Meeting of the super-servers

LONDON, June 25: Two of the world's fastest servers were locked in a do or die battle in the Centre Court on Monday. Britain's Greg Rusedski and Australia's Mark Philippoussis made the capacity crowd ecstatic as each played shots out of this world to match each other shot by shot. But the scale was definitely more tilted to the Canadian-born Brit than the Australian of the Greek origin. Philippoussis had edged past the speed record of Rusedski only a few days back but he was having the taste of his own medicine Monday. As the experts in Bangladesh are planning to do the Magurchara fire in Moulvibazar, Rusedski's fire was doused by fading light and early dew that made the court slippery. At that point of the match the six-foot-three-inch tall Rusedski was comfortably placed at 7-6, 7-6, 3-1 with his own serve to come on Tuesday when the match resumes. Experts here predict that the Briton is likely to wrap up without much difficulty. The match was so power-packed that John Parsons of the Daily Telegraph wrote, "No place for faint hearts as the world's fastest men met for the first time."

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