

Bangladesh drub Philippines 8-0

Afsal H. Khan from Seoul

Five goals in a row by Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib gave Bangladesh an emphatic eight goals to nothing (8-0) victory over a haggard and harassed Philippines in the Asian Group D pre-Olympic soccer qualifiers at the Olympic Stadium in Seoul Friday evening.

Bangladesh led by three clear goals at halftime.

Bangladesh who lost their three previous first leg ties here earlier in the week, reversed their poor run of luck with a handful of opportunistic marksmanship by the tall, nimble-footed centre forward Nakib who opened his and his team's account in the 11th minute.

After a series of unpardonable misses from in front of the Philippines goal, Nakib made no mistake in tapping home after receiving a lob from the right by overlapping right back Barun Dewan. Only a minute earlier midfielder Roby had missed a sitter failing to beat the goalie from less than five feet.

In the 17th minute Nakib made amends for another couple of misses by pouncing on the ball and slamming it home after goalie Eddie Doctora allowed Shabbir's shot on a quickly taken corner kick slip his grasp. Nakib rushed in and pushed the rebound into the net.

Playing in rain on a pitch rendered heavy through incessant drizzles since early morning the Bangladesh boys soon got the measure of their opponents and the second goal gave them the confidence they needed to run all over the smaller Filipinos who were playing without their captain and central defender Judy Sahura.

Desperate for his hat-trick, Nakib soon reached that personal milestone in the 26th minute with a fine placing upon a Shabbir cross from the left. He should have scored again the following minute but shot straight into the goalie's hand.

Roxy, who was substituted by Uttam in the 75th minute, made a mess of a golden chance in the 40th.

In the second session a degree of overconfidence crept in and led the Bangladesh boys to experiment with the playing formation and one noticed the original 4-3-3 being replaced by a 4-2-4 formation and changing of the flanks by Shabbir and Munna, from left to right, all without the coaches consent. However, thanks to the quality of the opposition offered by the Filipinos, who have now conceded 24 goals in three outings, the Bangladeshis got away with their conceit and managed five more in the session.

Nakib got the fourth and fifth in the 49th and 72nd minutes, the former a fine header upon Mamoon's cross and the latter a penalty after

he was brought down by defender Orestes Bautista.

Mamoon, the hardworking midfielder, also betrayed a bit of selfish intent when he wasted several good chances trying to write his name in the scorers book. This he finally did when he made it six nil in the 75th minute with a volley upon a Masud Rana cross laid on by Nakib. Three minutes later Mamoon scored again from Shabbir's pass inside the box.

The honour of completing the tally went to skipper Shabbir whose hard left-footed volley in the 89th minute on a Mamoon cross from the right gave the poor goalie no chance.

That eighth goal made Bangladesh's goal average ten for and as many against from their four games. But they have only two points to show despite playing so well against the Thais and the Malaysians, doing everything but score. One can only hope that the goal glut, albeit against a weak opposition, will give our forwards the confidence they need if they are to do better in the second leg of the five-nation tourney which begins in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur on July one.

Full back Rolando Pintero got a yellow card from Iranian referee Rihat in the 38th minute for a hard tackle on Mamoon.

All things said and done, although the eight goals helped flatter the ego no doubt, yet from the technical aspect it was not one of our better displays with more than a dozen wasted opportunities. The midfield tended to relax once too often while Roxy, Alamgir and Munna preferred waiting of the ball to come to them instead of going after it. Goalkeeper Bijon Barua, making his international debut, had very little to do being tested only on a couple of occasions. Right back Aman, who has not been fit, replaced a tired Barun Dewan at the start of the second half.

In the earlier game on the day, Thailand beat Malaysia by four goals to one after leading two nil at halftime.

Srimaka Worrawoot scored the first and third goals for the Thais while teammate Wirasak netted the second and fourth. Malaysians consolation came from the boots of Adnan Ibrahim a few minutes from time.

The Bangladesh team is scheduled to reach Dhaka by a Biman Flight on Monday night via Bangkok.

Bangladesh under-23 side equalled the second of scoring highest number of goal against any country. The previous record was set in 1985, SAF Games against Maldives.

Team: Bijon, Barun (Aman), Masud Rana, Sohel, Jewel, Mamoon, Alamgir, Roxy (Uttam), Shabbir, Nakib, Munna.



US Task Force doctors conducting initial check-ups of patients during relief operations at Kutubdia Island. —JTF photo

Flood situation

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flowing 10 cm above danger levels and 32 mm rainfall was recorded at Sylhet and 36 mm at Baniabazar and Sheola. About 2412 square kilometre area of the district was affected by flood. Diarrhoea is spreading in different flooded areas of the district and 63 people were attacked by the disease on Friday.

Habiganj

Overall flood situation in Habiganj district improved on Friday. Flood water which submerged Habiganj town on Thursday following damage of a sluice gate of an embankment near the town has gone down with the repairing of the sluice gate. About 1135 square kilometre areas of the district was affected by the flood. Most of the affected areas are crop land. No dwellings were, however, affected, district administration sources said.

The river Khawal registered a rise by 60 cm and was flowing 10.10 cm above danger level, district flood control sources said.

Sigh of relief

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PTI adds: Begum Khalida Zia called on Ms Sonia Gandhi this evening after the funeral of her husband, Rajiv Gandhi to offer her condolences before flying back to Dhaka, reports PTI.

Earlier immediately after her arrival at the Delhi Airport from Dhaka shortly after mid-day today, Begum Zia called on the Indian President R Venkataraman at the Rastrapati Bhavan here.

She was received at the airport by the Indian Minister for Law and Commerce Subramaniam Swami.

Congress divided

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can persuade Sonia and Rahul to campaign for the party in the Lok Sabha elections. It is still unclear whether Sonia or Rahul would agree to campaign for the party at a while mourning.

Senior Congress leaders were meeting in Delhi last night to resolve the leadership crisis in the party. The party leaders earlier on Thursday met President Venkataraman.

No details of the talks with the president were released to the press. But the Chief Election Commissioner Friday said he had turned down a Congress request to advance the dates of polling from June 12 and 15. He also said the elections would not be deferred further.

The Chief Election Commissioner's announcement on Friday made it imperative for Congress leaders to find a leader as soon as possible. Observers believe delay in doing so will create confusion among the party sympathisers which will go against Congress in the elections. Sonia's refusal to accept party leadership has already dampened the enthusiasm of young party supporters who raised the slogan in Delhi "Desh ki neta kaisi ho, Sonia Gandhi jaisi ho."

Vasant Sathé suggested that P V Narasimha Rao be made the acting president of the party until the elections. He suggested that a special session of Congress (I) should be convened to elect a president of the party. Any attempt to foist some ad hoc decision, he cautioned, was liable to be misunderstood and would prove damaging for the party at this crucial hour.

Sathé, who is a senior leader has spoken of his mind and minds of many senior leaders.

Nor'wester

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Cyclone survivors staying in the tents of Dumpara were living without a square meal for days together because of inadequate supply of foodstuffs.

The tent-dwellers alleged that they were half-fed and sometimes they had to go without food waiting for their turn. Moreover, rain waters trickle into their tents and nor'wester remains a constant threat.

As part of the local administration's rehabilitation programme, 65 tents have been set up in two places of Dumpara near the Patenga seabeach providing temporary shelters to about 1000 people of 103 families.

Most of them hail from Charpara of south Patenga. They do not want to go back to their battered houses.

This correspondent, while visiting the tents, found children lying on muddy floors of the tents.

Relief supplies from government and non-government sources reached them regularly only for a few days since the arrangements made on May 17, the survivors said.

JTF

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low-lift pumps, Tube wells spare parts and medicines were among the materials sent to the affected areas.

Meanwhile, BADC, in cooperation with other agencies, has so far desalinated and purified waters of 256 and 229 dighis and ponds of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts respectively.

UNB adds: Armed forces personnel are continuing their relief operations at the coastal areas along with the US Marine Task Force and local administration.

Dhaka to ask for \$2.4 billion aid

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US dollars, of which 16 million dollars came through the governmental channel and the rest 16 million dollars through non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This amount does not include Saudi offer of 106 million dollars, the modalities and composition of which have not yet been made clear.

Cash assistance, the minister noted, by the international community for the cyclone victims is not much. Food assistance, either committed or disbursed so far, will be a part of the emergency relief, recovery and other related intervention operations by the Government.

Replying to a question, he said the reconstruction programme would require a larger development outlay in 1991-92 fiscal year (FY). "We will make requests for commitments of additional resources by the donors at the Paris meeting because the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in next FY will be higher in size by about Taka 500 crore to Taka 600 crore", he added.

He said he had already discussions with the representatives of the donor countries and agencies in Dhaka about the cyclone rehabilitation and reconstruction needs, besides the external support for the normal development activities. They want that components of the cyclone rehabilitation programme should be and large be integrated within the overall ADP framework, he added.

The firm-up figures about the cyclone action plan covering the broad spectrum of activities including rehabilitation and reconstruction will be ready before the ECOSOC, a UN agency, meets in Geneva sometime in July to consider issues concerning natural disasters, the minister said.

He told the newsmen that foreign assistance in cash to meet the exigencies in the aftermath of the cyclone amounted so far to 40 million

donor conditionalities, he added.

He pointed out that initiatives and moves for economic reforms and adjustments should come from within the country. There is nothing wrong with many of terms and conditions, as set by the donors but the prescriptions for sound economic management should have been mooted by ourselves, he added while noting that this was unfortunately the case with Bangladesh under the fallen autocratic regime.

The minister was however critical of some of the donor conditionalities and mentioned in particular about the agricultural sector reforms package proposed by the donors. "Such conditions do not fit into our socio-economic environment and are not realistic in the process", he observed. The present government, he added, is holding discussions with the donor agencies in this connection.

About cases of economic mismanagement, he mentioned about the system loss in electric power sector, leakages of utility bodies and deficits of Railway and other public sector organisations. When revenues of these concerned bodies are stolen and huge investments fail to generate matching incomes or earnings, fresh funding support for the related bodies and organisations has no justification whatsoever, he observed.

He stressed the need for enforcing strict discipline in the financial sector. It is unbearable that 20 big defaulters had taken a large chunk of bank credits and do not care at all about their repayment obligations, he noted. He said new investment activities in the private sector could not be supported by the development

Khaleda

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four MPs — Azizul Haq Mollah, Shahidul Haq Jamal, Salahuddin Ahmed and Rabeya Chowdhury, special assistant to BNP Chairperson Sheikh Ali Ashraf and BNP central leader Akmal Ibne Yusuf.

Begum Zia, in her first leg, will fly to the kingdom where she will perform Umrah.

In Riyadh, she will have talks with King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and other Saudi officials.

Saudi Arabia has provided 106 million US dollars and other relief materials in aid of the affected people of April 30 devastating hurricane.

She is likely to discuss with the OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Ghabid matters relating to further consolidation of Islamic unity and fraternity. She is also expected to meet the President of the Islamic Development Bank Dr Ahmed Mohammad Ali.

Begum Zia will fly to Kuwait on May 28.

Bangladesh's participation in the massive reconstruction work of the war-ravaged oil rich Emirate will figure prominently during her talks with Ameer Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al Sabah the same day.

Bangladesh strongly condemned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in August last year and supported UN resolution seeking the liberation of the Emirate.

Before flying back home on May 29, the Prime Minister will make a stopover in Abu Dhabi.

Describing the visit as "good will", Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said "It carries significance in view of the close and fraternal relation between Bangladesh and the three Gulf states."

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The Midnight File

German plane with relief crashes

NICOSIA, May 24: A German plane carrying relief supplies to Kurdish refugees crashed in western Iran on Friday, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the aircraft crashed in flames at 8 am (0430 GMT) as it prepared for landing at Bakhtaran provincial airport. It said it was still burning three hours after the accident. It said the passengers and crew "are believed to be all German." It did not say how many people were on board, reports AP.

Bush to visit alma mater

NEW HAVEN, May 24: US President George Bush on Monday will visit his alma mater, Yale University, for the first time since he became President. Campus protests are planned. The visit was confirmed by law enforcement and other sources familiar with planning for Monday's graduation. Bush, a 1948 Yale graduate, is expected to receive an honorary degree and speak to the graduating class. Most years, Yale does not have a commencement speaker, reports AP.

Rajiv cremated

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old Rahul, barefoot and wearing the traditional Hindu sacred thread, held a taper soaked with clarified butter to the pyre.

Before lighting the pyre, he showered rose petals on the body, then stood in silence for a minute and walked round the bier sprinkling water from an earthen pitcher held by an elderly priest.

He then emptied the pitcher below his father's head and, after untying the ropes that bound the body, he again showered rose petals assisted by his distraught mother and sister.

The cremation recalled the tragic moment of seven years ago when on the same site on the banks of the sacred Jamuna river, Gandhi had performed the last rites of his mother and predecessor Indira, who was slain by two Sikh guards.

An estimated 50,000 mourners attended today's funeral, held three days after Gandhi's slaying in a bomb blast while campaigning for elections in an obscure southern Indian town.

His Italian born widow Sonia, her eyes shaded by dark glasses, and their daughter Priyanka, their white saris whipped by a hot, dusty wind stood back from the pyre, which was placed on a red brick platform seven feet high.

Mrs Gandhi, a Roman Catholic, insisted on making the journey, senior police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The 43-year-old widow rode in a white Indian-made Ambassador car with darkened windows. "Black Cat" commandos, members of India's most elite security force, trotted alongside.

Foreign dignitaries included US Vice President Dan Quayle, Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Prince Charles of Britain, Afghanistan's President Najibullah, Germany's Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, Soviet Vice President Gennady Yanayev, Palestine Liberation Organisation's Chairman Yasser Arafat, Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

The body was brought on a flower-bedecked gun carriage after a 16-kilometre (10 mile) drive.

A helicopter swooped low and showered red rose petals over the body as it was brought from Teen Murti House into the roadway where a crowd of several thousand waited in blistering heat.

The convoy moved at a snail's pace under a blazing mid-summer sun after setting off from the stately mansion, Gandhi's childhood home and the official residence of his grand father and India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

It passed through the city's main thoroughfares, guarded front and back by jeeps of soldiers, as large crowds broke several times past the barricades, erected the length of the route, in an attempt to reach the bier.

Gandhi's body had lain in state for two days at Teen Murti House, where thousands of mourners including an array of foreign dignitaries paid their last respects to the slain former Prime Minister.

US Vice President Dan Quayle and his wife Marilyn who cut short a tour of Southeast Asia to arrive here in time for the funeral, called him one of world's new generation of leaders.

In Washington, President George Bush on Friday paid his respects at the Embassy of India in memory of assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and called for calm on that troubled country.

Bush told Indian Ambassador Abid Hussain that Gandhi's death Tuesday in a bomb blast was "a crushing blow."

Bush signed a condolence book, then beckoned his sides and his son, Marvin, to sign as well.

"We went to show how we all feel," Bush said. He told the ambassador that Gandhi was a good friend. "You make real friendships from time to time in our business. This one was special."

Gandhi, prime minister for five years after succeeding his mother, died instantly in Tuesday's blast, suspected to be the handiwork of Sri Lankan Tamil separatist guerrillas.

Meanwhile, the toll in the flareup following the assassination of Gandhi rose to 20 today with nine more persons were killed in Tripura and Tamil Nadu while calm in the other states affected by violence.

The 47-year-old grandson of India's first Prime Minister had bowed out of power in 1989 but been tipped as the front-runner in current elections, postponed until next month because of the assassination.

Departure from tradition

Gandhi's Italian-born widow Sonia, in a departure from Hindu tradition, followed the body to the cremation site and participated in the placement of small logs on the pyre.

Ashen-faced, her eyes hidden by large sun glasses, she stood beside the couple's 21-year-old daughter Priyanka.

Symbolic gesture

When the logs piled over the body burn down, it is the son's task to smash his father's skull with a cudgel to release the soul. Rahul took the long wooden staff and inserted it into the burning pyre in what seemed a symbolic gesture.

The priest who performed the last rites of Mrs Indira Gandhi in 1984 conducted the rites for her son.

Fortitude beyond her age

Young, white-sari-clad Priyanka showed fortitude beyond her age as she comforted her mother Sonia while a composed Rahul performed the last rites.

Film star Amitabh Bachchan, a close friend of the Gandhi family, lent Rahul a helping hand during the 45-minute ceremony attended by a galaxy of foreign and Indian leaders apart from multitudes who had joined the funeral procession.

Composed exterior

As the body was consigned to the flames on the banks of the sacred river, Yamuna, at a site close to the Samadhis of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, the eyes of millions of Indians on the spot or on television sets were riveted on bespectacled Rahul, who kept a composed exterior.

Security

Nearly 60,000 police were deployed as the former prime minister's funeral procession wound through the capital under a searing sun in 40-degree Celsius (104-degree Fahrenheit) heat. An unknown number of army troops were on full alert.

Sonia

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meet the same fate as her husband and mother-in-law if she stayed in politics.

The idea that Sonia could take his place terrifies me, said Giuseppina Pantasso, 70 minutes before she heard of Sonia's decision to turn down an offer to succeed her husband.

Sonia Gandhi declined the presidency of the Congress party, which could have led to her becoming Indian Prime Minister, saying the tragedy of the assassination had made it impossible.

It was just what the people of Orissan who knew Sonia as a little girl and young woman, were anxious to hear.

UN Iraq accord

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Baghdad with Iraqi authorities to dispatch the UN security forces to northern Iraq to protect the Kurds, said a UN spokesman.