

MSC score at will

Sports Reporter



The Independence Day Cup champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club cruised into the semifinals with an effortless 4-1 victory over Brothers Union in the first match of the day in the BTC Clubs Cup football tournament yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Mohammedans led 2-0 at the breather.

Brothers, on the other hand, were eliminated from the tournament after losing both their Group B matches. Brothers had lost to East Bengal 1-0 on Friday.

Dhaka Mohammedans and East Bengal will meet in today's match at 4.30 pm to decide the group champions. Mohammedans need only a draw to top the group, enjoying a better goal difference.

Mamun Joardar with two second half goals and Mizan and Roxy with one each in the first half were the Mohammedan scorers while Riaz got the consolation goal for Brother.

Mohammedans came into the match, played in a light drizzle with their players looking confident and energetic despite the wet, slushy ground while the Gopibagh

Boys were once again a nervous bunch, taking most of the first half to settle down and find their feet.

Mohammedan, led by Kanan in the goal, looked safe with Katsir Hamid, Abul, Salauddin and Ayaz protecting him well.

Jewel, Roxy and Tito controlled the midfield while strikers Shabbir and Nakib sparked in patches.

Substitute Mamoon looked menacing in his brief appearance.

Mizan scored the first Mohammedan goal in the 10th minute when he pounced upon Brother's goalie Curzon's half-hearted clearance off Nakib's failed attempt to shoot the ball at the top of the net.

Ahmed spoiled an easy chance for Brothers when he blasted the ball wide from close in the 29th minute. In the very next minute Mohammedans went 2-0 up when an opportunistic Roxy intelligently headed over the out-of-place Curzon upon a Shabbir cross.

In the dying seconds of the first half Brother's winger Riaz saw his fierce shot off Badal Das being fisted away by Kanan.

Brothers came into the second half with a changed approach and pressed hard for

the first 15 minutes. Riaz, seemingly from an offside position, reduced the margin for Brothers by tapping home from close (1-2).

Two positive attempts by Badal Das were well saved by Kanan.

National under-23 player Mamun took the match beyond Brother's reach when he scored with a superb side volley off substitute Mustakim's cross (3-1).

Mamun sealed the fate of the match with another brilliant goal in the 89th minute when he raced to beat Brother's defender Moon to collect Nakib's through to rifle a fine grounder (4-1).

Brothers were unlucky not to have reduced the margin in the dying moments when Ahmed's right-footer struck the side bar to return to play.

Manik, Ahmed and Dilip of Brothers Unions were shown the yellow card for rough play by referee Nazir Hossain.

TEAMS

Mohammedans: Kanan, Abul, Kaiser, Rana, Ayaz, Tito, Salauddin (Mostakim), Roxy, Shabbir, Nakib and Mizan (Mamun).

Brothers Union: Curzon (Atiq), Iqbal, Moon, Rouf Babul, Nira, Manik, Uitam, Nurul Islam (Dilip), Badal Das, Riaz and Ahmed.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Abahani vs Calcutta Mohammedans (4:30 pm)

Dhaka Mohammedans vs East Bengal (6:30)



Mohammedan goalie Kanan thwarts a Brothers foray in their goalmouth in first of yesterday's BTC Club Cup matches at Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo

HK cricketers raise Tk 15 lakh for cyclone victims

Staff Reporter

A superb team effort from the cricketers of Hong Kong raised nearly HK \$ 300,000 almost Taka 15 lakh, for the victims of the Bangladesh cyclone disaster at the Kowloon Cricket Club recently, according to press reports reaching here.

The amount was nearly double the HK \$150,000 target the organisers had set when putting together the six-a-side tournament. But the support from business houses and individuals took the total to HK \$ 296,000 at the end of the tournament.

Money was raised by sponsorship of teams, donations, lucky draws and a food stall. Some of Hong Kong's leading cricketers represented one of the seven teams participating in the tournament. The teams were India 1 and 2, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Australia and England. A total of ten matches were played in the Connaught Cup and INFA Telecom Loser's Plate.

Bangladesh-born Hong Kong international batsman Rizwan Farooq, one of the driving forces behind the tournament, said he was delighted with the response from commerce and individuals. "Our early estimation was that we could raise about HK \$ 150,000," he added.

Rizwan, who featured in our Weekend Sports section last

April, is a banker with the BCCI.

The major sponsors of the tournament were the INFA Corp, Bangladesh Biman, Connaught Financial Planning Ltd and the Bank of Credit and Commerce.

The Bangladesh team raised the highest amount of HK \$ 87,301, followed by India 2 (HK\$ 46,750), Hong Kong (HK\$ 45,000), Pakistan (HK\$ 42,562), India 1 (HK\$ 40,501), England (HK\$ 7,250) and Australia (HK \$100).

The Hong Kong team won the Connaught Cup defeating India 1 in the final of the six-a-side tournament.

India 1, led by Papu Butani, won through to the final defeating Australia and Pakistan respectively. Hong Kong's Yarmen Vachha emerged the star of the finals, claiming two wickets off successive balls and then smashing an undefeated 33.

The Plate final between Bangladesh and Australia provided a more exciting climax with Australia winning by only two runs.

Replying to Australia's 59 for 4, Bangladesh needed nine runs from the final over, made 57 for 3 with Nanda Perera scoring 30.

Anwarul Alam, the Bangladesh High Commissioner in Hong Kong, distributed the awards.

Bagan hold Abahani

Sports Reporter



The reigning Dhaka league champion Abahani Krishna Chakra and reigning Calcutta league champions Mohun Bagan shared the honours by drawing goalless the second match of the BTC Club Cup charity football tournament yesterday at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium.

Mohun Bagan became the third team after East Bengal and Dhaka Mohammedans to clinch the semifinals berth with three points from their two Group B matches while the remaining semifinal spot from this group will be known only after today's match between Abahani and Calcutta Mohammedans. Abahani need only a draw to make the semifinals. On Friday Mohun Bagan defeated Calcutta Mohammedans by a solitary goal.

Abahani KC, coming into this match without some of their key players — Wasim, Masud Rana, Munna (jr) and Aman, all sidelined the rough injury and ace winger Rumi who is recovering from jaundice, nevertheless dominated the proceedings on a rain-soaked pitch, with a light drizzle going on throughout the match.

Mohun Bagan were a cautious lot, reluctant to take any chances. They banked mostly on breakaway attacks which at times looked threatening.

Abahani, led by their diminutive goalkeeper Mohsin and well supported by defend-

ers Munna Sr, Ranjit, Barun Dewan and Rehan, hardly allowed any space to the Bagan forwards. Munna and Barun especially put on a flawless performance.

Yusuf and Alamgir worked hard in the midfield with skipper Rupu completely off colour. Alam up front was a constant threat for the Bagan defence while Abahani's new recruits Ghous and Riaz put up spirited performances. Rumi, coming on in the last ten minutes, could not impress the crowd.

Mohun Bagan, taking the field for the second consecutive day, played within their limitations. They rested their number one goalkeeper Tanumoy Bose and fielded the former Indian national goalkeeper Atanu Bhattacharya.

Sharaf Ali, Achintya Beel, Sujit Dutta and Aniruddha Koley had a very busy day in the defence. Skipper Sisir Ghosh, Debashish Misra and Satyajit Chatterjee looked dangerous on the breaks.

The match started on a fast note with the goalkeepers of both teams pulling off brilliant saves in the first ten minutes.

Sanjeeb Dutta shot straight to Mohsin in the 70th minute. Abahani lost a golden chance one minute from the final whistle when Rumi's header just went wide.

Debashish Sarker and Sisir Ghosh of Mohun Bagan and Rehan of Abahani were cautioned with yellow cards.

Bagan were unlucky not to have scored when Debashish Misra's long range drive beat Mohsin only to hit the cross-piece and return to play in the 28th minute.

In the 40th minute, Abahani also were unlucky not to have gone ahead when Alam's header off Ranjit's cross from the right flank rammed the side bar with Bagan's goalkeeper completely beaten.

The second half saw Bagan in a more defensive mood. Abahani pressed hard in the second half. Yusuf's sudden shot was punched away for a corner by Atanu in the 57th minute.

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Japanese player Naoko Sawamoto, 18, concentrates after she fell on the clay court during her third round match against American Debbie Graham at French Open on May 31. —AFP photo

England pick 3 new faces

LONDON, June 1: England named Graeme Hick and fellow uncapped players Richard Illingworth and Mark Ramprakash on Friday in their 12 for the first cricket Test against the West Indies at Headingley starting on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The three newcomers all shared in England's 3-0 one-day series victory but there was no place for left-handed batsman Neil Fairbrother despite his glorious century against the tourists at Lord's on Monday.

Fast bowler David Lawrence also missed out as the selectors recalled Devon Malcolm and Robin Smith, two of the relative successes of England's ill-fated tour of Australia, and kept faith with all-rounder Derek Pringle.

Pringle, who owes his place to the absence through injury of Ian Botham, has been included in the hope he will

exploit the traditional seam-friendly conditions at Headingley.

The Zimbabwean-born Hick, 25, has waited seven years to qualify for English Test selection and 27-year-old spinner Illingworth has also served a long apprenticeship at Worcester.

But Ramprakash, just 21, has rocketed to prominence with a string of good scores for Middlesex and leapfrogs over several other rivals despite limited changes in the one-day series this summer.

"It was a very hard decision to leave out Neil Fairbrother after his thrilling innings at Lord's but we feel sure there will be further opportunities for this talented left-hander and the same applied to David Lawrence," said chairman of selectors Ted Dexter.

Lawrence, ironically, bowled England captain Graham Gooch for one on Friday just before the team announcement.

TAVARE DENIES WINDIES

Meanwhile, another Reuter report from Taunton said: Somerset captain Chris Tavare hit a superb century to deny the West Indies a morale-boosting victory on Friday in the lead-up to next week's first Test.

Former England batsman Tavare struck 109 not out to guide his side to 198 for nine at the finish, blocking out the last 25 balls together with hobbling Dutch number 11 Roland Lefebvre to earn a draw.

Despite Tavare's heroics, the tourists almost won the game off the penultimate ball. Lefebvre edged a catch to Brian Lara in this slips off Carl Hooper but the chance went to ground.

The result left the West Indies needing to win their remaining eight matches to pick up the jackpot of 50,000

pounds sterling (85,000 dollars) offered by the sponsors for nine tour victories against county sides in three-day matches.

Somerset had earlier been set an unlikely victory target of 336 runs off a minimum of 65 overs, after West Indies declared their second innings at 263 for two.

Richie Richardson was unbeaten on 91 and Carl Hooper, scorer of a first innings century, was 48 not out.

The home side were quickly 46 for four and still looked in trouble on 156 for eight at the start of the final 20 overs.

But Tavare, who reached the 40th century of his career off 141 balls, teamed up with David Graveney and Lefebvre to supervise Somerset's escape, helped when Logie dropped Graveney in the gully.

Young fast bowler Ian Allen also suffered, being dispatched for four successive boundaries by Tavare in one over.

SOCCER SCENARIO

Gazza leaves hospital on crutches

LONDON, June 1: Tottenham and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne left hospital on crutches on Friday and his business adviser said he would travel to Italy next week to finalise his transfer to Lazio, reports Reuter.

Mel Stein said reports that the Lazio deal was off were "definitely wrong" and talks in Rome scheduled for Tuesday should be a formality. Gascoigne, who suffered knee ligament damage in the FA Cup final against Nottingham Forest, would be on crutches for a month and back playing early next year, said Stein.

"He is fine. He's raring to go. He obviously doesn't want to rush things too much. He has got the barest of dressings on the knee. To look at him you would not think anything was wrong." He is just looking forward to restarting his career in Italy.

Stein and his partner Len Lazarus played down talk of Gascoigne moving for a world record 14.5 million dollars with a 6.8 million dollar down-payment.

"I don't think there is likely to be a down-payment. I think there will be a transfer, perhaps with guarantees for repayment if he doesn't recover fitness. But we will have to wait and see", said Lazarus. "I would think Tottenham and Lazio will reach agreement next week, at which point, subject to Mel and I agreeing Paul's position, it will go ahead."

a sameside shooting

SUNCION, June 1: A leading Paraguayan soccer player was recovering in hospital on Friday after accidentally shooting himself in the foot just days before a big match, reports Reuter.

Striker Adriano Samaniego, due to play for Paraguayan club Olimpia against Colo Colo of Chile in next Wednesday's Libertadores Cup final, underwent surgery on Friday following the incident in an Asuncion bar.

Eye witnesses said Samaniego shot himself in the back of the foot with a pistol. "Fortunately the bullet did not hit a bone and it is possible he could recover in time for the game," Olympia doctor Cesar Santacruz, who performed the operation, said.

Olimpia, South American club champions last year, drew 0-0 at home in the first match of the two-leg final on Wednesday.

Chinese girls first into semis

FUKUOKA, Japan, May 1: Top-favourites China overwhelmed Thailand here Friday to become the first team to book a semi-final berth in the Asian women's football championships here Friday, reports AFP.

The Chinese squad, two-time defending champions, coasted to a 10-1 victory to score a second consecutive win in the four-team Group A competition.

In the other match at Hakatanomori Stadium, Taiwan destroyed South Korea 9-0. Taiwan and Thailand, both with one win and one loss to their credit, will now face each other Sunday, vying for second spot in the round robin preliminary competition.

In the Group B contest, which includes five teams, Japan have a 2-0 win-loss record, North Korea 2-1, Malaysia 1-1, Hong Kong 1-2 and Singapore 0-2. The top two teams from the two groups will move into the knockout semi-final round and the two finalists along with China will be eligible for the first women's world championships to be held in Guangzhou, China, in November.

Italy, US to clash in opener

ZURICH, June 1: Italy will play the United States in the opening match of the inaugural under-17 world soccer championship following the announcement of the draw on Friday by the International Football Federation (FIFA), reports Reuter.

The tournament, to be played between August 16-31, has been switched to the Tuscany region of Italy because of the cholera epidemic in Peru. Pisa will stage the semifinals and Florence the final, FIFA said.

The group draw was as follows:

- Group A (Montecatini Viareggio): Italy, US, China, Argentina; Group B (Carrara): Congo, Qatar, Mexico, Australia; Group C (Massa): Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Brazil; Group D (Livorno): Ghana, Cuba, Uruguay, Spain.

Old Connors bows to Chang's youth

PARIS, June 1: Age finally caught up with American Jimmy Connors on Friday when he staggered off the Centre Court at the French Open after being forced to concede a marathon third round match against Michael Chang, reports Reuter.

The 38-year-old Connors had played a tremendous match and was level at two sets all when weariness suddenly overtook him. After taking the opening point of the fifth set, Connors, who had been visibly and steadily tiring despite the fervent support of 16,500 fans, walked painfully across to the umpire's chair.

"I'm crying my eyes out," he was heard to say. "Believe me, if I could stay out here I would stay out here and play. I just can't play anymore."

Connors, three times a semifinalist here and four times in the quarter-finals but never the winner, was given a standing ovation — his third of the three-and-a-half hour match — as he walked from the stadium, turning to blow a kiss to the crowd.

With the score at 4-6, 7-5, 6-2, 4-6, the 19-year-old Chang, who had not even been born when Connors won the first of his 109 career titles, was declared the winner.

Chang, the 1989 Roland Garros champion and seeded fifth, will play another crowd favourite, seventh seeded Frenchman Guy Forget in the fourth round.

Connors too, had fought his way through five sets — against Haitian Ronald Agener — to get to the third round.

That feat alone was impressive enough after a year in which the eight-times Grand Slam winner and former world number one played only three matches and underwent surgery on his wrist.

But his centre court performance on Friday was the stuff of which legends are made.

Though his serve began to let him down as he tired — a double fault cost him set point in the third set — Connors recovered time and again to get the better of Chang. Spurred on by cries of "Come on, daddy!" from fans, Connors broke Chang in the opening game of the fourth set and fought off three breakpoints in the next game.

Helped an uncanny number of times by the net cord, Connors held on until he was

broken in the eighth game, again contributing a double fault.

But Chang, more and more unsettled by the crowd's noisy support for his opponent and playing below his best, dropped the next games.

The spectators rose to their feet as Connors hit a winning service return and gave another standing ovation when he clinched the set in the next game on a winning serve.

But their cheers soon turned to groans of disappointment when Connors pulled out after the next point.

An official statement said Connors had pulled out due to lower back stiffness.

Forget joined Chang in the fourth round with a 6-1, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory over South African qualifier Marcos Ondruska, ranked 197th in the world.

Fraser's fine comeback

LONDON, June 1: Pace bowler Angus Fraser, omitted from the England Test side after a lengthy hip injury, launched his comeback bid with a superb spell of four for 24 in his first county cricket championship match of the season on Friday, reports Reuter.

The big Middlesex bowler, sidelined since the start of the year, bounced back in prime form as Kent were bundled out for 160 at Lord's.

But the champions were unable to capitalise on Fraser's performance as they in turn slumped to 93 for seven with Richard Ellison taking three for four in 26 balls and Steve Marsh holding six catches to equal Kent's wicketkeeping record.

Gloucestershire fast bowler David Lawrence, also overlooked by England for next week's first Test, gave his response by bowling England captain Graham Gooch second ball at Bristol.

But Essex still took firm control, reaching 232 for six after bowling Gloucester out for 118.

Another ignored by the England selectors, all-rounder Dermot Reeve also gave a suitable response.

Croghan clocks year's best

EUGENE, Oregon, June 1: Mark Croghan, preparing to seek a berth on the US World Championship team in two weeks, ran the year's fastest 3,000-metre steepclimb when he clocked eight minutes, 22.26 seconds at the US Collegiate Championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

The Ohio State University student, who was second in the American national championships last year, pulled away from Kenyan Samuel Kibiri of Washington State University with 700 metres to go and shattered his personal best in the event by three seconds.

Former world record-holder Patrik Boden of Sweden had a tougher time in winning his third consecutive collegiate javelin title.

The University of Texas student stumbled and fell flat on his face on his first attempt, but came back to win with a disappointing throw of 79.34 metres (260 feet, 4 inches).

Boden, who briefly held the world record of 89.10 metres (292 feet, 4 inches) last year, said he caught a spike in his

right shoe on the artificial surface and "dropped dead like a frog."

"It took the air out of me," said Boden, who had thrown about 85 metres (278 feet, 10 inches) in warm-ups.

Two-time US national champion Kamy Keshmiri of the University of Nevada again emerged as collegiate discuss champion with a throw of 66.58 metres (218 feet, 5 inches). His father, Djelal-Ali, was a 1968 Olympic discuss thrower for Iran and held the

Asian record until 1990.

Istvan Bagyula of George Mason University set a Hungarian record of 5.80 metres (19 feet, 1/4 inch) in the pole vault as he surprised recent collegiate record-holder Bill Payne of Baylor University, who cleared 5.70 metres (18 feet, 8 1/4 inches).

Nigerian George Ogbete of Washington State University leaped 6.13 metres (20 feet, 1/4 inches) to win the men's long jump, and American Tanya Hughes set first



BCCB chief Kazi Bahauddin Ahmed shaking hands with the participants in a 3-week long cricket coaching organised by the BCCB at Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Holyfield promoter to sue WBC

NEW YORK, June 1: Promoter Dan Duva said Friday heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield will sue the World Boxing Council after the WBC ordered a 60-40 purse split for his mandatory title defence against ex-champ Mike Tyson, reports AP.

The international Boxing Federation previously had rejected a request by Tyson to alter the 75-25 champion-challenger purse split, and the World Boxing Association is expected to adhere to the 75-25 division.

"This latest WBC action is a transparent attempt by Don King and Jose Sulaiman to force Evander Holyfield to either agree to allow the WBC to take 8-to-10 million dollars from Holyfield's anticipated purse for the Tyson bout and give that money to Mike Tyson, or be stripped of the WBC heavyweight title."

"Obviously, neither alternative is acceptable and Evander Holyfield will immediately institute legal proceedings against the WBC and all those parties acting in concert with the WBC."