

Lucky Dhanmandi win shootout

Sports Reporter



The local football season 1991-92 kicked off yesterday with the start of the eleventh Federation Cup tournament. Two matches were decided on the opening day of the 24-team meet at the Dhaka Stadium with Dhanmandi Club and Wari Club posting contrasting victories in their Group A engagements.

It was a rather indifferent start to the season with barely a couple of thousand spectators come to watch despite the weekly holiday. For their part, none of the four teams in action on the opening day did much by way of impressing anyone with their skills in the game.

Dhanmandi Club, one of the 16 Dhaka Senior Division sides in the competition, must consider themselves quite lucky scraping their way through to the group final by virtue of a 4-3 margin in the tie-break over fellow Senior Divisioners Shadharan Bima KS in the inaugural match after the regulation period had failed to break a barren, goalless deadlock.

In the second game, under floodlights in the evening, a more assertive Wari Club were duly rewarded with a 2-1 victory over the Rajshahi Divisional selection. Wari led

by a Kabir goal at the breather. The Dhanmandi-Bima match was conspicuous for the number of missed opportunities with the Dhanmandi forwards being more at fault despite getting some excellent openings.

It was Bima which made the first positive move when the Dhanmandi goalkeeper Tayyeb was called upon to partially parry a thunderous volley from Bima's Badal after Masud had sent a fine cross from the left in the 10th minute of the match. Badal's teammate Labhu, who won possession of the rebound, shot it wide over the post from close.

Dhanmandi should have scored in the 12th minute but Kabir blasted high over the Bima bar. Kabir failed again a minute before the short whistle when he headed wide from a handshaking distance with only the Bima goalie at his mercy after another Faisal cross.

The second session of play was just as indistinguishable as the first towards the end both sides showed an inclination to try their luck in the tie-break. In this Dhanmandi proved luckier.

The teams tied 3-3 after the markatory five penalties each, which forced the issue to

the sudden death shootout. While Badal coolly converted his spot kick Bima's Tipu betrayed his nerves and his feeble shot went straight to Dhanmandi custodian Tayyeb who got a heaven-sent chance to prove his side's hero on the day.

Dhanmandi's Ata, Biswajet and Saifu and Bima's Badal, Basu and Mahmud had converted successfully in the tie-break.

Dhanmandi, who earned a bye in this first-round knockout stage, will meet the winners of the Wari versus BRTC tie in the group final on October 4.

WARI'S WIN

Wari Club made a more auspicious debut in their season's first outing when they were gifted a penalty in the very third minute of their match against Rajshahi Division. Referee R. Alam had no hesitation when Rajshahi defender Labhu brought down Wari forward Sudhir with a crunching tackle inside the box.

Kabir earned the distinction of scoring the first goal of the meet by netting the resulting penalty to put Wari 1-0 ahead.

Wari doubled the margin in the 15th minute of the second half when Tutul completed a

fine solo dash from midpitch to give Rajshahi goalkeeper Bakul no chance (2-0).

Rajshahi won some consolation when Selim converted a penalty after Wari's Partha handled the ball in the 77th minute.

Wari will now meet BRTC on October 1.

Earlier, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka inaugurated the meet organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation. The Minister was introduced to the players of the two teams playing the first game.

Sixteen Dhaka teams, three Divisional teams and national champions Bangladesh Army are taking part in the knockout phase.

The four group leaders, who will be joined in the second round robin league by reigning champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting, last year's runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra and the two beaten semifinalists Brothers Union and Muktijoddha Sangsad.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Agrani Bank vs Eskaton Sabuj Sangha (4:00 pm).
Arambagh KS vs Dhaka Wanderers Club (6:00 pm).



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka being introduced to the players at the start of the 11th Federation Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

National chess Action begins today

Sports Reporter

The final round matches of the seventeenth national chess championship will begin today at the National Sports Council chess room.

Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Textile, was present during the draw of the players held yesterday at the chess room.

Altogether sixteen players are taking part on a round robin league. The players are placed as following:

1. Moynuddin Mamoon, 2. Rifat-bin-Sattar, 3. Younus Hasan, 4. Rezaul Haque, 5. Shahinor Hossain, 6. Khondokar Kayes Hasan, 7. Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury, 8. Shahabuddin Qureshi, 9. Rani Hamid, 10. Ziaul Kader Tuhtin, 11. Shabana Parveen Nipa, 12. Tahmidur Rahman, 13. Sheikh Anwar Hossain, 14. Anisur Rahman, 15. Jamilur Rahman and Shawkat Hossain.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Moynuddin Mamoon vs Shawkat Hossain
Rifat-bin-Sattar vs Jamilur Rahman
Younus Hasan vs Anisur Rahman
Rezaul Haque vs Anwar Hossain
Shahinor vs Tahmidur Rahman
Kayes Hasan vs Shabana Parveen
Shamsul Kabir vs Ziaul Kader
Rani Hamid vs S Qureshi

Cruyff castigates FIFA's new rules

MADRID, Sept 27: World football ruling body, FIFA, is fraying tempers in Spain with its new rule about giving red cards to goalkeepers who bring down strikers, reports AFP.

The rule is designed to make the game more entertaining, and clubs have been hiring top referees to teach players about the rule.

Richards to lead in World Cup



PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Sept 27: Retired captain Viv Richards will be available to play for the West Indies side in the World Cup tournament in Australia and New Zealand next year, an official of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The 39-year-old Richards announced his retirement following the West Indies' tour of Britain last month. But WICBC Secretary Steve Camacho said Richards had informed the Board of his availability for next year's World Cup.

In addition to Richards, leading fastbowler Ian Bishop of Trinidad, who missed a series against Australia and the tour of Britain because of a spine injury, said he was fit and hoping to gain selection to the Caribbean side.

The WICBC is expected to name a successor to Richards as West Indies captain during its two-day meeting in Barbados beginning on Saturday as well as select teams for the World Cricket Series in Australia, the World Cup and tours of Canada and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

Ansars face Fire Service in today's kabaddi final

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars face Bangladesh Fire Service in today's final of the Uttara Motors eighteenth national kabaddi championship at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court this afternoon.

Fire Service should start today's final confident following their convincing showing against Khulna DSA in yesterday's semifinal.

The firefighters gave an excellent performance, totally outplaying the men from Khulna 19 points to seven.

On the other hand, Bangladesh Ansars, too, have given a consistent account of themselves in the meet so far. In the other semifinal yesterday Ansars beat off a spirited challenge from Tangail DSA to book their berth in the final with a 20-11 scoreline.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka will witness the final and give away the trophies as chief guest.

Nine teams took part in the final round of the nationals which began on Thursday last under the aegis of the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation.

One Maradona isn't enough for Japanese

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 27: Carlos Alberto Parreira has been appointed Brazil's soccer coach for the second time, reports Reuter.

Confirming his appointment on Thursday, Parreira said he wanted Mario Zagalo, who led

Brazil to victory in the 1970 World Cup, as his right-hand man.

Brazil have gone through three coaches in the last two years and the most recent, Ernesto Paulo, lasted just one game.

But Parreira, who himself lasted less than one year when he was first in charge of the

things can't get worse than they already are," he said.

Brazil, three times winners of the World Cup, were knocked out of the 1990 tournament in Italy in the second round after scoring just four goals in four games and have won only five of their 16 matches since then.

They failed to retain their South American title this year and in their most recent match were humbled by Wales.

But Parreira said that despite their troubles Brazil were "still on the same level as England and Germany."

Former coaches Sebastiao Lazaroni and Paulo Roberto Falcao were accused of abandoning the traditional Brazilian flair for a more European style based on marking and hard running.

"We do not have the players we had in 1970," Parreira said. "But we should always respect the fundamental characteristics of our game."

Parreira said his biggest headache was to find a balance between Brazil's home-based and foreign-based players. Most of the country's top players are with European clubs.

Lazaroni relied mainly on the latter and often saw his plans decimated when the players' clubs refused to release them.

Falcao began his reign using only home-based players and went a record six games without a win.

Parreira said final details of his contract had not been negotiated but he intended to stay until the 1994 World Cup and he wanted Zagalo as his assistant.

The job is his fifth in charge of an international side. He coached Kuwait at the 1982 World Cup finals, the

United Arab Emirates in the 1990 competition and Saudi Arabia in the qualifying matches for the 1990 finals.

His first stint with Brazil was in 1983. But his record of five wins, seven draws and two defeats was not good enough for the demanding Brazilian public and his reign ended when his team were knocked out of the South American championship by Uruguay.

Germany must beat Wales to sustain hopes

BONN, Sept 27: Welsh Manager Terry Yorath has resumed his verbal attack on German soccer ahead of the team's key European Championship qualifier next month by blaming coach Berti Vogts for a decline in the world champions' form, reports Reuter.

Yorath, who accused Vogts' team of being soccer's biggest actors before the Welsh upset Germany 1-0 in Cardiff in June, was quoted on Wednesday as saying that last year's departure of World Cup coach Franz Beckenbauer had hurt the Germans.

"The Germans have lost a lot because of the change. You can see that from the results in the qualifying."

The unheralded Welsh top Group Five with seven points from four games while Germany, with a game in hand, trail by three points.

Germany must win in Nuremberg on October 16 to keep alive their chances of reaching next year's finals in Sweden.

Dull draws in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Sept 27: Both the matches of CJKP Elite Paint First Division football league at the Chittagong stadium here this afternoon ended dull draws, reports BSS. BCIC shared points with Port Authority Sports Association with a one-all draw.

Both the goals were scored in the second half of the match. Sontosh scored for BCIC and Avtjit for Port.

In the 42nd minute BCIC took the lead when two strikers Prasanta and Sontosh entered into the box with wall-pass and then Sontosh sent the ball home by a beautiful grounder (1-0).

Six minutes later, substitute Zahid entered into the BCIC danger zone where BCIC defender Patowary fouled him, referee pointed to the spot. Avtjit made no mistake to find the mark (1-1).

In the other match of the day, Steel Mills and Half Jute Mills split points with a goalless draw.

Steel Mills collected five points from four matches, while BCIC bagged four and Port collected three points from the same number of encounters. Half Jute Mills got only a point so far off their three matches.



HUGO MARADONA national team, said he was not worried by the daunting task of restoring the country's shattered soccer image. "I can only win because

SOCCER SCENARIO

French leaders Monaco stumble

PARIS, Sept 27: Leaders Monaco suffered their second defeat of the season when they lost 1-0 at Caen in the French soccer league on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Midfielder Xavier Gravelaine scored the only goal of the game after 60 minutes.

The team of the principalities are now two points ahead of champions Marseille, who play today at Auxerre.

Palace pay £1.8m for Gabbiadini

LONDON, Sept 27: English First Division Crystal Palace paid a club record 1.8 million pounds sterling (3.1 million dollars) for Sunderland striker Marco Gabbiadini on Thursday, reports Reuter.

England under 21 and B marksman Gabbiadini, who has been Second Division Sunderland's top scorer every season since he joined them four years ago, replaces Ian Wright.

Palace sold England striker Wright to First Division champions Arsenal for 2.5 million pounds (4.3 million dollars) on Monday.

Gabbiadini hopes to form a successful partnership with Wright's former striking partner, Mark Bright.

"I've got to try to take up Ian Wright's job. Palace have a good direct style, which hopefully will suit me," he said.

Spanish veterans face axe

MADRID, Sept 27: Spain's footballing world was in tatters on Thursday with commentators predicting wholesale changes in the national squad after their shock 2-0 defeat by Iceland in Reykjavik on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"Horrible" and "Spain's blackest night" were two descriptions on sports pages of the humiliation which confirmed Spain's exclusion from the 1992 European Championship finals in Sweden. "This defeat is a disgrace which could take a long time to shake off," disgusted Spanish coach Vicente Miera told reporters after the game.

Asked if he would make changes in the team as a consequence, Miera would say only: "I'll think about it." Spain's sports media were on Thursday doing his thinking for him — aloud.

Commentators on state radio predicted the international careers of several veteran players were over, including striker Emilio Butragueno and midfielder Michel Gonzalez, who between them have won 121 caps.

AC trying to sell Gullitt

ROME, Sept 27: AC Milan are currently negotiating the sale of Dutch star Ruud Gullitt to Spanish side Real Madrid, according to a report in Thursday's Rome daily, "La Repubblica," reports Reuter.

Although the paper does not disclose a likely purchase price for Gullitt, it claims that negotiations between AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi and Madrid counterpart Ramon Mendoza are already well advanced.



RUUD GULLITT

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Gullitt, 29, has played in less than half of Milan's league games over the last three seasons because of problems related to his right knee, on which he has had three operations.

Speculation that Gullitt might find himself under pressure to hold his team place heightened two weeks ago when AC Milan coach Fabio Capello first dropped but later re-instated him prior to the team's away game against Juventus.

Real Madrid, he would immediately be replaced by 22-year-old Avonimir Boban, a Croatian bought this summer from Dinamo Zagreb.

Under Italian Federation rules, a new foreign player may be registered from November 4-14, when the player market is temporarily reopened.

Gullitt joined AC Milan in the summer of 1987 at a cost of 8.5 million sterling.

His best year with the club was undoubtedly his first, when he inspired the team to win the 1988 Italian title.

Vicini's dilemma

ROME, Sept 27: Italy's wealthy and worshipped footballing heroes returned home to howling criticism on Friday after suffering their second international defeat, 2-1 by Bulgaria, reports AFP.

The defeat increased pressure on national coach Azeglio Vicini who had no excuses to offer for the sorry performances in Sofia on Wednesday night.

"Anyone can lose, but Italy has never played so badly in the 53 matches I have been in charge," he admitted.

"There are no excuses. That was my seventh defeat but it was the most painful."

Two of the three players sent off in the rough and tumble match were Bulgarian, but the home side still went two ahead before the Italians started fighting back.

Kostadinov put Bulgaria ahead, but his team were reduced to 10 men three minutes later when Penev elbowed Italian Midfielder Massimo

Although Gullitt is widely believed to have made a complete recovery from three years of injury, most commentators argue that he has failed to regain his previous high standard of play.

During Sunday's 1-1 home draw with Fiorentina, sections of the Milan crowd booed Gullitt because of his performance.

If Gullitt refuses to move to Real Madrid, then Milan will have to "park" Boban with another club, Italian or otherwise.

Crippa in the face. Ivanov of Bulgaria and Italy's Gianluca Vialli were sent off in the final minute.

Bulgaria packed their defence, but five minutes into the second half Italy's substitute goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca brought down Bulgarian striker Strakov. Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov drove home the penalty. In the 55th minute, Giuseppe Giannini pulled one goal back for the Italians, and they returned home to a mauling from the Italian sports press.

Though the Soviet Union's 2-2 home draw with Hungary in the European Championship Group Three qualifying match means Italy can still make it to the finals in Sweden next year, they must win in Moscow on October 12 to keep their slim hopes alive.

Vicini's job has been on the line since Norway beat Italy 2-1 in a qualifying match in June. Italy are fourth in group three, four points behind the Soviet Union with six points. They have three games to play and the Soviets two.

Heavens open up for Victoria

CHILMSFORD, England, Sept 27: An English downpour saved Victoria from a severe defeat here on Thursday and robbed Essex of 9,500 pounds, reports AFP.

The Australian champions were 56 for eight in their second innings — still 119 runs behind after following on — when a violent thunder storm struck.

Within minutes Chelmsford's country ground was under water and the visitors escaped with a draw and 2,500 pounds.

Essex earned the same amount after looking set for

the 12,000 winners prize as John Childs and Peter Such spun them towards victory.

Both claimed three wickets each as Victoria found no one to stand up to a turning ball on a well-worn pitch. Most were dispatched playing back when they should have been forward.

Fast bowler Neil Foster had led the way for Essex by closing Victoria's first innings in 50 minutes during the morning and completing 100 first-class wickets in a season for the second time in his career.

He took only five deliveries on Thursday to reach the century as Damien Fleming obligingly edging a catch behind.

And Foster wrapped up Victoria's first innings for 168

by clipping the edge of Paul Jackson's bat before setting about the Australians a second time.

Foster's 102nd and final wicket of the summer came when opener Darrin Ramshaw snicked a chance to keeper Mike Garnham.

New ball partner John Stephenson, deputising for broken finger victim Derek Pringle, removed Wayne Phillips lbw, then Childs and Such took charge.

Dean Jones failed to halt the slide until the heavens opened.

Merv Hughes was left unbeaten on 12 — top scorer again following his first innings 60 not out.

Perreira needs Zagalo's help

TOKYO, Sept 27: Hugo Maradona, Diego's brother, is coming to Japan to play with PJM Futures, but that doesn't mean the obscure Japanese team is giving up its quest to get his more famous and brilliant sibling, reports AP.

PJM Futures had been courting Diego since the World Cup last year with offers reportedly in the tens of millions of dollars, but it introduced Hugo to the media on Thursday, it signed the 22-year-old brother of the 1986 World Cup's most valuable player to a three-year deal.

"It was not cheap, but it was not outrageous, either," said PJM Futures chief executive.

Still, getting Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to a World Cup title in 1986, the finals in 1990 and Napoli to an Italian League title, remains a desire.

"Our feelings regarding Diego have not changed," Arta said we would ideally like to have both Maradonas play for us.

Arta, whose company is the exclusive Japanese agent of the Waco, Texas-based self-improvement firm Success Motivation International, first approached the Diego Maradona at the World Cup in Rome last year.

Maradona was having troubles with club officials, fans, and the media. He made comments during the World Cup that were interpreted as trying to divide the fans of northern and southern Italy.

He missed practices and

games for his Italian club team Napoli, intensifying criticism of him. One of the most publicized incidents involved his refusal to travel and play with Napoli in a second-round European Champions Cup game in Moscow.

Fans protested outside his house and Maradona eventually relocated and followed his teammates to Moscow in his own.

But the incident, along with others, sparked Napoli to sue its famous striker, saying he had damaged their reputation. The series of events helped lead Maradona to write in a newspaper column that he was considering playing in Japan as a "longer-term possibility."

But PJM's courtship soured when Maradona tested positive for cocaine after an Italian League game in March and subsequently was suspended from soccer for 15 months. It worsened a month later, when, upon returning to his native Argentina, he was arrested on cocaine possession charges.

"We felt that it would be

very important to get a showcase athlete," Arta said. "Unfortunately, the drug incident made it impossible for us to bring Diego here."

Even so, PJM Futures is still interested in attaining Maradona "once everything is worked out," Arta said.

PJM, a four-year-old club based in central Japan, plays in a local industrial league and was unable to earn one of the 10 slots in Japan's first pro soccer league, scheduled to begin in 1993. It hopes to join the league in its planned expansion in 1995.

Part of that plan will be to attract players like Maradona, including his brother.

Hugo, who plays for Rapid Vienna, will join PJM in September 1992 for next season.

However, he says that for the time being he is looking forward to pursuing his career here alone.

"I am proud they chose me," he said. "I plan to play hard for the fans."

Like many teams, PJM hopes imported stars will draw crowds, and badly needed ticket revenues. Attendance at games in the top industrial league now is generally in the low thousands.

Sports officials are also hoping that foreigners will inspire their Japanese teammates to a higher level of play, a necessity if Japan is to win its bid to host the World Cup in 2002.

The biggest name come to play in Japan is Brazilian World Cup star Zico, who has a three-year contract with Sumitomo Metals for a reported \$1.5 million.



MARIO ZAGALO