



East Bengal goalkeeper Debashis Mukherjee watches anxiously as Abahani's Monem Munna heads one just off the mark in yesterday evening's Asian Cup Winners' Cup first leg clash at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Abahani pass up home advantage

Sports Reporter

Reigning NBL Senior Division league champions Abahani Krira Chakra disappointed the local crowd with their lacklustre display when they drew goalless against Calcutta Super Division champions East Bengal in the first leg match of the second Asia Cup Winners' Championship yesterday at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium.

The return leg encounter will be held on November 9 at the massive Salt Lake Stadium in Calcutta.

Abahani Krira Chakra, despite playing in front of the partisan crowd, failed to take advantage of playing at home. In fact, Abahani can consider themselves rather lucky to have scraped through with a point in their kitty.

It was mainly due to skipper Mohammed Mohsin's brilliant goalkeeping throughout the match that enabled his team to maintain a clean slate.

Stopper Rehan was the right best Abahani defender. Right back Masud Rana, despite some good late tackles, looked vulnerable under pressure. Alamgir Hossain, berrying his long throw-ins cut a sorry figure. Ataur Rahman, the other stopper back, looked rather shaky.

Mohammed Monem Munna, who is Abahani's regular stop-

per back, was drafted into the mid-field to gain control of the field but after an uneventful first half put in some determined efforts late in the second half.

Mamun Joarder and Nurul Haque Manik were totally off colour in the middlefield. Sheikh Mohammed Aslam, playing with a fever, was soon substituted after thirty minutes. Khandaker Waseem Iqbal and Golam Ghaus sparkled only in patches.

East Bengal, on the other hand, riding high following their fresh triumph in the Durand Cup, displayed a much more mature game. The East Bengal players showed much better skills, good passing and fine ball control. Inside-left Krishanu Dey was undoubtedly the player of the match. His passing and ball control was a constant worry for the Abahani defence.

East Bengal's three English players — Steven Prindiville, Neil Edmonds and Peter Maguire — performed quite impressively and looked to have blended well in the team. Debashis Mukherjee in goal, Ilyas Pasha, Tarun Dey and Swarup Das in the defence were efficient in their respective roles. Skipper Bikash Panji and Tushar Rakshit worked hard throughout the match.

Abahani started the match on a fast note. In the very first minute Aslam, following an Alamgir pass, found himself in an unmarked position but to the dismay of the large crowd shot straight to the goal-keeper.

Five minutes later Bikash Panji pushed the ball wide from a handshaking distance with Mohsin stationed, under the bar. The ball was sent from the left flank by the fast moving Krishanu Dey.

In the 12th minute, Bikash Panji's delay in taking a shot upon a Peter Maguire through allowed Masud Rana to tackle smartly from behind.

One minute later, Mamun Joarder of Waseem's cross, nodded over the far in front of an empty goalpost.

Twice — in the 18th and 28th minutes — Mohsin came out brilliantly to collect the ball of Tushar Rakshit and Bikash Panji's feet.

In the 81st minute a Munna-Manik clever wall pass saw Munna shooting straight to goalkeeper Debashis from barely five yards.

In the 85th and 89th minutes Mohsin again came to Abahani's rescue by collecting balls off Bikash and Darbara Singh's feet.

A BFF source disclosed that tickets worth Taka 6,59,000 had been sold for yesterday's encounter.

Abahani, who beat East Bengal 1-0 in the semifinals of the BTC Club Cup charity tournament in Dhaka last June, may not find themselves so lucky when they travel to Calcutta for the return match.

Referee Roshan Kumar, assisted by Rupak Raj Sharma and Joshi Gopal Mukunda — all from Nepal — conducted the match while S Manit of Thailand was the AFC nominated match commissioner.

Earlier, Minister for Industries Shamsul Islam Khan, who is an old Abahani patron, inaugurated the match as chief guest. He was introduced to the players and officials before the start. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain also attended.

They will have have to tighten up their defence and organise their attacks better if they hope to move on to the next round.

TEAMS

Abahani KC: Mohsin, Alamgir, Rehan, Ataur, Masud Rana, Munna, Manik, Ghaus, Aslam (Yousuf), Waseem (Rum) and Mamun.

East Bengal Club: Debashis Mukherjee, Krishendu Roy (Masud Ahmed), Ilyas Pasha, Swarup Das, Tarun Dey, S Prindiville, Bikash Panji, Neli Edmonds, Tushar Rakshit, Peter Maguire and Krishanu Dey (Darbara Singh).

In the 9-0 thrashing of the same opponents two seasons ago.

But Palace's record signing Marco Gabbiadini equalised in the 51st minute with their first goal at Anfield in 19 years and Geoff Thomas ensured Liverpool's first home defeat of the season with a goal in the 72nd minute.

Mike Small continued his phenomenal goalkeeping record for West Ham with a goal 14 minutes from time to give the 'poor' neighbours from London's East End victory at wealthy Arsenal.

Small has hit 13 goals in his first season at West Ham and has netted in every game but one in which West Ham have scored.

It ended a bad week for Arsenal who were knocked out of the League Cup by Coventry on Wednesday. The champions face Benfica in the second leg of their second round European Cup tie next week.

Sheffield Wednesday, who needed Manchester United's unbeaten record last week, moved above Arsenal into fourth place despite dropping their first home points since the opening day of the season in a 0-0 draw at home to Tottenham.

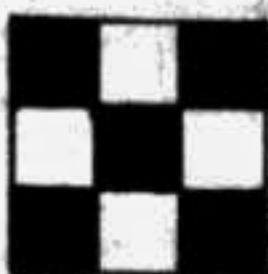
A 1-1 draw at Edinburgh neighbours Hibernian was enough to send Hearts back to the top of the Scottish Premier Division as leaders Aberdeen were beaten 1-0 at home by Dundee United.

John Robertson put hearts ahead in the fourth minute of their passionate local clash, but Keith Wright's 26th minute goal preserved Hibernian's unbeaten home record.

Honours were shared 1-1 in the Glasgow match between old rivals Rangers and Celtic, with the result moving Rangers second on goal difference.

Rangers struck first when Scotland striker Ally McCoist headed home on the four. Celtic equalised 10 minutes later through substitute Tony Casciaro.

Karpov spanner in Anand's march



TILBURG, Netherlands, Nov 3: Former world junior champion Viswanath Anand Stumbled in his bid to catch the leader Garry Kasparov in the Interpolis Tilburg tournament on Saturday when he was beaten by ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov, reports Reuter.

The Indian Grandmaster, who beat Kasparov in a thrilling game on Friday will who be a half a point behind the leader even if Anand wins his crucial adjourned game against Gata Kamsky today.

Kasparov drew his 13th round game against Britain's Nigel Short, with one round to go, watching experts said Kasparov was on course for his first competition win this year, one he is keenly seeking.

But all is not yet lost for Anand. "Kasparov is playing Karpov (in Monday's last round), and that is not so easy. Anand is still in with a chance of winning the tournament," Dutch international Master Cornelius Van Wijgerden said.

Anand with black elected to play the queens Indian defence and got a better position initially as the two followed a fairly uncommon line.

The tenacious Karpov played the middlegame well, grabbing the open, king's file with his book and making a king side pawn advance.

But it was Anand's omission

of an important pawn move to give his bishop some breathing space on the back rank rank on move 34 that lost him the game. Karpov pushed his F-pawn on, sealing the bishop into a tomb of pawns.

"The bishop on G8 was doing nothing more after that," Van Wijgerden said. Anand resigned on move 53.

Kamsky, joint winner here last year, lost on time to Dutchman Jan Timman. The 17 year-old Kamsky's second loss on time in the competition.

Kamsky, with black, got a worse position out of the Grünfeld opening, and sacrificed a piece but failed to get enough compensation.

He lost on time, but in a completely lost position, Van Wijgerden said.

Kasparov, with black chose the Sicilian defence against the World Championship semifinalist Short. The Briton, who has impressed watching Grandmasters with his steady play in this very strong tournament went for the positional closed variation and got a better position.

The game briefly flared into tactical action in the middle game, with pieces on both sides being attacked simultaneously, but a draw was agreed on move 25 when it became clear Short's advantage was insufficient to win.

An AP report adds: In Saturday's game, Anand played black in a positional duel from a Queen's Indian Defense, but

was at a slight disadvantage when Karpov tried to force a win in a premature kingside pawn thrust 29 moves in the game.

The rash attack should have been devastating for white, but five moves later Anand missed what might have been a winning continuation and his bishop was wallied in by its own kingside pawns. Additionally, a rook stood dangerously unguarded in the middle of the board.

Karpov tightened his defence and then marshalled his pieces for a new onslaught, while Anand was left with just a few harmless checks. When

these ran out, the Indian grandmaster sacrificed a rook to try to force a perpetual, but ended up resigning.

Anand was close to tears, slipping out of the Interpolis building without going through the customary post mortem.

Kasparov, meanwhile, almost suffered the same fate as Anand. His game with black from a closed Sicilian Defense lacked its normal sparkle and Short grabbed the initiative early on.

But just when his prospects were at their best, the British world title candidate deliberated for half an hour about an unaccomplished move and missed the win that would have lifted him into second place.

Kasparov quickly restored the balance to see his peace offer accepted after 25 moves and just over three hours of play.

- Thirteenth round results:
- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Jan Timman | 1/2 | Gata Kamsky | 0 |
| Nigel Short | 1/2 | Garry Kasparov | 1/2 |
| Anatoly Karpov | 1 | Viswanathan Anand | 0 |
| Yegoruy Sharyev | 1/2 | Viktor Korchnoi | 1/2 |
| Total scores after 13 rounds: | | | |
1. Kasparov (Soviet Union) 9 points
 2. Anand (India) 7 1/2 and one unfinished
 3. Short (Great Britain) 7 1/2
 4. Karpov (Soviet Union) 7 1/2
 5. Timman (Netherlands) 6 1/2
 6. Kamsky (United States) 6 and one unfinished
 7. Korchnoi (Switzerland) 4 1/2
 8. Baryev (Soviet Union) 2 1/2



ANATOLY KARPOV

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Eden Gardens hosts Springboks next week

CALCUTTA, Nov 3: History will be created at the magnificent Eden Gardens here when the South Africans in their first ever tour of India clash with the Indian cricket team in a one-day international match either on November 8 or 10, reports PTI.

The Springboks, who will be thus breaking their 21-year-old isolation from international cricket arena, will play their opening match against India at the Eden Gardens with the capacity of 90,000 spectators. They will also play two more matches at New Delhi and Jullundur, the dates of which will be finalised accordingly, according to Mr Jagmohan Dalmyia, the executive president of the Cricket Association of Bengal and the man most responsible for bringing the South African team to India.

Matthews fined

PERTH, Australia, Nov 3: Test off-spin bowler Greg Matthews has become the first player to incur the wrath of the Australian cricket board as it implements its policy to crack down on unseemly on-field behaviour, reports AFP.

Matthews, 31, who has appeared in 28 test and toured the West Indies with Allan Border's side earlier this year, was fined 500 Australian dollars (392 US) here Sunday for an offence under the players code of conduct.

He was found guilty at a hearing presided over by a cricket board commissioner appointed for the game. Peter Dunn, of "reacting in an obviously provocative and disappointing manner following an umpiring decision."

He had been reported by senior umpires Peter McConnell and Terry Prue on

Friday after an incident in the Sheffield Shield match between Western Australia and New South Wales.

Matthews showed extreme disappointment when McConnell turned down an appeal for a catch when Western Australia's number three batsman, Indian-born Mark Lavender, was on strike. The Western Australian cricket manager Tony Mann, who played Test cricket, said Dunn had given some thought to imposing a suspension because this was Matthews' second offence under the conduct guidelines.

Matthews was fined 1,000 Australian Dollars (785 US) for conduct detrimental to the game following an off-field misdemeanour while a member of the Australian side in Sharjah in March, 1987.

Another Belgian coach sacked

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Nov 3: Paul Theunis became the fourth Belgian First Division coach to be fired in little over a month on Saturday, dismissed from his job at Racing Genk after seven consecutive losses, reports AP.

"I'm not the only one who is responsible for the seven defeats," said Theunis, whose former club was 15th in the 18-team league. "But sure, a coach is always the first to be blamed."

Life in the often humdrum Belgian league might get worse, newspapers predicted.

Reports say a fifth coach, Bo Braem of FC Kortrijk, is on shaky footing after his team was eliminated from the Belgian Cup by a Second Division team in a home game last week.

St Germain on course in France

PARIS, Nov 3: Paris St Germain stayed in the hunt for the French league title with a 2-0 away win at struggling Sochaux on Saturday thanks to two second half goals from Brazilian midfielder Valdo and Paul Le Guen, reports Reuter.

The victory kept the Paris Club three points behind leaders Marseille, who beat Nancy 4-0 on Friday, and it took them level on points with second placed Monaco who drew with Auxerre on Thursday.

In the closing minutes Paris winger Christian Perez almost scored a third goal which would have taken his side above Monaco on goal difference.

The feat of the night came from little Norman Club Caen who rattled Toulon with a 4-1 win and moved past Metz into fourth position and into firm contention for a first appearance in European Club competition.

Three of their goals came in the second half including one from striker Stephane Paille, a French international signed from Porto in the close season who now has eight

Rubin's first final

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Nov 3: Third seeded Sabine Appelmans of Belgium and 15-year-old Am-rican qualifier Chanda Rubin will both be seeking their first professional title when they meet in today's singles final of the 150,000 dollar Arizona Tennis Classic Tournament, reports Reuter.

The precocious Rubin breezed past Karina Habsudova of Czechoslovakia 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday to gain the first final of her two-month-old professional career.

Appelmans, 19, defeated a tried Julie Halard of France, the second seed 3-6, 6-6, 6-3 to advance.

"I'm excited about gaining the final," said Rubin who won three qualifying matches to enter the tournament's main draw.

"Today was one of the best matches I've ever played," Rubin said. "It hasn't sunk in yet. I started out great and was able to close it out. I kept thinking, this can't last."

Appelmans who squandered four match points in the semi-

finals last week in Puerto Rico, was pleased to have earned a shot at the title over Halard, last week's winner.

"I really wanted to be in the final after missing my chance last week" said Appelmans, ranked 23rd.

Rubin used a solid ground-stroking game to unnerve the 18-year-old Habsudova as she raced out to a 5-0 lead before taking the opening set.

Form 4-4 in the second set, Rubin broke for the sixth time to go up 5-4 and then served out the 72-minute match when Habsudova netted a forehand.

Halard had struggled to win three three-set matches leading up to the semifinals.

"It was too much for me," said Halard. "I'm usually good in three-set matches. I'm usually physically good, but nine matches in two weeks is too much."

The turning point came in the third game of the second set when Appelmans broke serve in a 16 point game to lead 2-1.

"She began to take control after she won that game" said Halard, ranked 18th. "The last few games I played very tired."

M United reclaim League lead

LONDON, Nov 3: Manchester United returned to the top of the English First Division with a 2-0 victory over bottom club Sheffield United as leaders Leeds were held to a 0-0 draw at Wimbledon on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Champions Arsenal and Liverpool, both struggling to mount a championship challenge this season, went down to shock home defeats.

Crystal Palace, winning for the first time at Anfield, came back from a goal behind to beat injury-hit Liverpool 2-1, while lowly West Ham won 1-0 to inflict Arsenal's second home defeat.

Leeds, who had won their previous five games, taking over the top spot last week, could find no way through a determined Wimbledon side who have to win in five games under new manager Peter Withe.

A strike by Soviet winger Andrei Kanchelskii and an own goal saw Manchester United reclaim the League leadership they lost last week, when beaten for the first time this season.

Manchester opened the scoring in the 35th minute following a goalmouth scramble. Steve Bruce powered in a header from a cross and Paul Beesley prodded the ball into

Indira hockey

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: The Indira Gandhi Memorial International Women's hockey tournament would be held from November 14 to 19 in Chandigarh, capital of India's northwest states of Punjab and Haryana, reports Xinhua.

Arnavaz Damania, president of the Indian Women's Hockey Federation (IWHF), made the announcement while talking to reporters on Friday.

Apart from hosts India, China, the Soviet Union, Singapore, Malaysia and Japan will participate in the tournament, she said.

Michel Real's star



MADRID, Nov 3: Midfield star Michel scored a goal and set up two more Saturday, leading visiting Real Madrid to a 3-0 victory over La Coruna 3-0 to stay one point ahead of cross-town rival Atletico at the top of the Spanish First Division, reports AP.

Atletico Madrid got back on track by winning its eighth-round match 1-0 over Oasuna on a penalty kick by Manolo Sanchez. Atletico lost its first last week, to defending champion FC Barcelona.

Second-half goals by Fernando Hierro, Michel and Emilio Butragueno improved unbeaten Real to 7-1-0 and 15 points. Atletico (7-0-1) trailed by one point.

The week's eight remaining matches were scheduled for Sunday. Barcelona was to play at Logones, Sporting Gijon at Albacete, Sevilla at Burgos, Athletic Bilbao at Mallorca, Valladolid at Espanol, Cadiz at Real Sociedad, Tenerife at Zaragoza, and Valencia at Oviedo.

In La Coruna, Real Madrid goalkeeper Francisco Bujo broke up three clear scoring chances in the opening minutes. The home team wasted several more during the half, while Real Madrid penetrated

his own net as Brian McClair threatened to beat him to it. After suffering two defeats in the last 11 days in the League and European Cup Winners' Cup, United were looking for a convincing victory against a side which has won only twice all season in the League.

But the win was not secured until the 78th minute. United moved one point ahead of Leeds and still have a game in hand.

Neighbours Manchester City maintained their resurgent challenge with a 3-0 victory at

Southampton, their fifth win in their last six league games. They stay third, three points behind their city neighbours.

Irish international Niall Quinn scored the first in the 10th minute, but seven minutes later was carried off with a shin injury. Michael Sheron added City's second two minutes after halftime and the third came from an own goal.

Swedish defender Glenn Hysen scored his first League goal for more than two years to give Liverpool the lead one minute before halftime against Crystal Palace. His last goal was

the area just twice. In the second half, Real used its superior technical skills to take control of play — and then showed why it leads the league with 19 goals by finishing strongly when it penetrated the area.

But the 25-time league champion also had luck — and the post — on its side. Seconds before Hierro headed a looping Michel cross off the post and into the net in the 59th, La Coruna's Pedro Uralde hit the wood with a sizzling shot that bounced straight out.

Michel increased the lead in the 80th, placing a low shot into the corner of the net. Butragueno's goal came in injury time when he, slammed home the rebound of a Luis Milla header. Michel's cross set up the goal.

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But Atletico got its two points. It was decided in the 31st, when German midfielder Bernd Schuster fell in the area and heard the sweet sound of referee Gonzalo Panadero's whistle.

Oasuna keeper Roberto Santamaria prevented further damage with several big saves — the last one in the final seconds.



Abahani's Golam Ghouse (with ball) is challenged by East Bengal's Peter Maguire during yesterday's match at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo