

# E Bengal eliminate Abahani

CALCUTTA, Nov 9: Super league champions East Bengal edged out Abahani Krishna Chakra of Bangladesh by a solitary first half goal in the crucial second-leg tie to enter the second round of the Asian Cup Winners' Cup tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium here today, reports PTI.

East Bengal, who desperately needed a win to qualify for the second round of the tournament, launched into the offensive from the very beginning, much to the delight of an estimated 60,000 football supporters who cheered the home team.

The first-leg tie had ended in a goalless draw at Dhaka on Nov 3 last.

Right-winger Bikash Panji scored the all-important goal for the winners in the 26th minute of the first half. Unmarked Bikash trapped a neat pass from Kishanu Dey, broke through the defence and fired from a close range.

In a fast-paced opening session, the Calcutta outfit made forays into the rival citadel but failed to finish.

The visitors were pushed on the defensive as East Bengal frontline kept up the pressure mainly from the right flank. Abahani failed to capitalise on the psychological advantage as even a 1-1 draw would have taken them to the second round. According to the tournament rules, a goal on foreign soil is counted as two.

East Bengal earned an easy scoring chance in the 31st minute but medio Neil Edmonds, after penetrating

into the circle, lost control of the ball when the custodian and a defender charged at him.

Abahani could have drawn level 10 minutes before the interval but Wasim's header missed the target narrowly. A few minutes later, Wasim again came close to scoring as he blasted a sharp left-footer only to be flayed away by the East Bengal custodian, Debashish Mukherjee.

The home team attack lost sting when the livewire front-liner Kishanu Dey, who was virtually unstoppable today, had to leave the field limping. East Bengal saw another chance go begging in the 22nd minute of the second half as a blistering shot from Tushar Rakshit flew over the cross bar taking the Abahani goalkeeper and captain Md Mohsin by surprise.

The dying minutes raised a flicker of hope for Abahani to hit the much needed equaliser but Mamun Joarder, with only the goalkeeper at his mercy, in sheer haste tumbled and lost control of the ball. Abahani appeared to succumb to the pressures as both their defence and the attack left much to be desired. On the other hand, East Bengal utilised the home conditions to the maximum after their poor showing in the first-leg encounter at Dhaka.

The three British recruits of East Bengal — defender Steven Prindville, medio Neil Edmonds and striker Peter MacGuire — making their debut in Calcutta displayed superior skill and ball control but lack of understanding with their Indian colleagues came in the way of increasing the margin.

## Abahani rue misses

By S M Mamoon in Calcutta

CALCUTTA, Nov 9: Dhaka league champions Abahani Krishna Chakra must blame themselves for bowing out of the Asian Cup Winners' Cup competition following their solitary goal defeat at the hands of local Super League champions East Bengal Club at the massive Salt Lake Stadium here this afternoon.

Having earlier passed up a fine advantage playing before a supportive home crowd in Dhaka Nov 3, Abahani were up against a vociferous, highly partisan E. Bengal crowd that cheered and burst crackers throughout the entire 90 minutes of the proceedings.

Despite having conceded an early 26th minute goal, scored by East Bengal skipper Bikash Panji, Abahani succeeded in exerting tremendous pressure on their opponents' citadel, especially in the last 15 minutes of the game. During this period they came close to equalising — a feat which, under the tournament rules of away-goal advantage, would have taken Abahani through to the next round — but on all three occasions their forwards failed to deliver the finishing touches.

In the 72nd minute Monem Munna headed straight at goalie Debashish Mukherjee upon a fine Waseem cross from almost hand-shaking distance.

A minute later Sheikh Aslam's powerful header upon a beautiful Golam Ghouse cross returned to play off the East Bengal crosspiece.

In the 79th minute Abahani claimed vehemently, but were denied by the Sri Lankan referee, a penalty after Mamun Joarder had been brought down from behind by Swarup Das well inside the penalty box as he dashed following an Aslam through.

Abahani team manager Tanvir Mazhar Tanna and his deputy Ghaffar, as well as captain goalkeeper Md Mohsin, animatedly implored the referee for awarding Abahani a spot kick, but to no avail.

Following was the Abahani line-up: Mohsin, Alamgir, Rehan, Ataur, Masud Rana, Yusuf (Mamun Joarder), Manik(Rumi), Munna, Ghouse, Aslam and Waseem.

Abahani return home Monday Nov 11.

## Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Nov 9: Chittagong Abahani Krishna Chakra lost another valuable point when they played to a goalless draw with Rising Star Club in the CJKP Elite Paint First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here this afternoon, reports BSS.

Abahani collected 18 points from eleven matches while Rising Star got three points from eight matches.

## BD-Lanka Davis Cup dates

Bangladesh will play Sri Lanka in the first round of next year's Davis Cup in the Lankan capital Colombo from January 31 to February 2, reports BSS.

The winners will play either Pakistan or Hong Kong in the second round slated for March 27-29.

## McColgan's NY time corrected

NEW YORK, Nov 9: Liz McColgan took nine seconds longer to win last week's New York marathon. Race officials amended the times after discovering the women runners set off too early.

However, the Scot's winning time of 2 hr 27min 32sec is still the fastest by a woman in her first marathon.

The time for men's winner Salvador Garcia did not change. The Mexican finished in 2:29:28.

## Edberg withdraws from ATP touney

FRANKFURT, Germany, Nov 9: World number one Stefan Edberg, suffering from a knee injury, has withdrawn from next week's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) world championship, tournament officials said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Edberg, 25, a winner of six tournaments this year and a finalist in last year's ATP season-ending event, is pulling out due to a serious case of tendinitis in one knee.

"Edberg has been treating the knee over the last three weeks, but due to the swelling he was advised to take a minimum of two weeks off," a tournament statement said.

"It's a great event and I looked forward to ending the season in Frankfurt, but I feel it's important to deal with the injury now so I can be ready to go in 1992," the Swede said.



Sumi of Lalmitia Club returns an attack from Shuva of Dhaka Mariners Young Club in the AB Bank Metropolis TT league held at the National Coaching Centre yesterday. Lalmitia won the match by 3-1 sets. — Star photo

## VDP girls emerge champion

Sports Reporter

Village Defence Party emerged unbeaten champions in the AB Bank metropolis women's tennis league following their convincing 3-1 sets win over nearest challengers Bangladesh Ansars at the National Coaching Centre yesterday.

The win gave the VDP girls a clean slate of twelve points from six games in this year's seven-team league. Bangladesh Ansars finished runners-up with ten points with a five win-one-loss record.

Playing on table number two, VDP lost the opening singles when Bachchi was beaten by Ansars' Zulekha 16-21, 9-21. The former national champion proved too good with her fast, attacking game against the slower Bachchi.

But Rinu put VDP on par by beating another former national champion Shamima of Ansars 21-12, 21-17. Rinu then paired Bachchi to win the

doubles against Shamima and Zulekha in a thrilling three-sette after having conceded the first set 17-21. The VDP girls then rallied well to take the following to sets 21-12, 21-18 as both Zulekha and Shamima made too many unforced errors with their frequent smashing.

Rinu then won her reverse singles against Zulekha, 21-18, 9-21 and 21-19 in a see-sawing encounter that could have gone either way, to give Village Defence Party their maiden league title.

In another fixture, Zoom Express defeating Swamibagh TTS in straight sets 3-0 to finish third in the table.

Lalmitia Club won by a 3-1 sets margin against Dhaka Mariners Young Club. Seven teams — VDP, Ansars, Zoom Express, Lalmitia Club, Swamibagh TTS, Dhaka Mariners and Victoria Sporting Club — took part in this year's league which started late last month. A notable feature was

the non-participation by the Bangladesh Biman team which had annexed the league title three times in a row since the start of the league in 1982. Biman, who boast several national stars like Zobera Rahman Linu, the national number one, never explained the reasons for not fielding their side.

Final league standings: 1. Village Defence Party 12 pts, 2. Bangladesh Ansars 10, 3. Zoom Express 8, 4. Swamibagh TTS 6, 5. Lalmitia Club 4, 6. Dhaka Mariners Club 2, 7. Victoria Sporting Club 0 pts.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

Following is the league roll of honour: CHAMPION RUNNERS-UP 1982 Bangladesh Biman Young Pagans, 1983 Bangladesh Biman War Club, 1984 Bangladesh Biman Azad Muslim, 1985-87 league not held, 1988 Bangladesh Ansars Symphony Club, 1989-90 league not held, 1991 Village Defence Party B. Ansari

## Anwar finishes fourth

Sports Reporter

National chess player Sheikh Anwar Hossain placed fourth in the recently concluded Square International Open chess competition in Muzaffarpur, India, according to a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release last night.

Sheikh Anwar Hossain, who participated in the 17th national chess championship held in Dhaka last month, received prize money and a trophy. Anwar scored five and a half points in the nine-round Swiss league competition.

Anwar finished fourth out of eighty-four participants.

## Hockey results

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Hockey Club trounced Rayer Bazar SC 3-0 in the Green Delta Metropolis Second Division hockey league match held at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Rahmat Ali of Dhaka Hockey Club scored the first two goals in the 22nd and 54th minutes while Abdul Hai increased the tally later.

In the second match of the day, Uttara Hockey Club defeated Shantinagar by a solitary goal, scored by Roman Kader shortly before the final whistle.

**TODAY'S MATCHES** Shishu Kishore vs Muktiyoddha KC (2:30 pm) Cantonment SC vs Dilkusha SC (3:45 pm)

## ROK shuttler shocks top seed in China Open

BEIJING, Nov 9: South Korean shuttler Bang Soo-Hyun upset world champion Tang Juhong of China on Friday at the women's quarter-finals of the China Open badminton championships in Foshan, China, reports Reuter.

The 20-year-old Bang came back from defeat in the first set to oust the top-seeded Tang 8-11, 11-9, 12-11.

In the semi-finals Bang will face Sarwendah of Indonesia, who trounced China's Rao Yan 11-3, 12-10, on Friday.

Today's other semi-final match will involve only Chinese players, second-seeded Huang Hua and Lin Yin.

Huang beat Netherlands' Eline Conene 11-7, 12-10.

In the men's quarter-finals, top-seed Zhao Jianhua of China bested Indonesia's Joko Suprianto to triumph 10-15, 15-10, 15-0.

Zhao goes into today's semi-finals against Malaysia's Rashid Sidek, who beat China's Pan Teng 15-6, 15-1 on Friday.

In an all-Indonesia match, Alan Budi Kusuman vanquished Hermanus Susanto 15-5, 15-2. China's Wu Wen-Kai defeated Lee Kwan-Jin of South Korea 15-6, 18-16.

## Portugal opt for youth

LISBON, Nov 9: Portugal, with only a thin chance of qualifying for the European Championship, called up six players from their world champion youth team to play Greece in Lisbon on November 20, reports Reuter.

In two surprise omissions, trainer Carlos Queiroz has left out Benfica winger Antonio Pacheco and veteran defender Antonio Veloso.

From the youth team, he has brought in defenders Fernando Couto, Jorge Costa and Rui Bento, midfielders Emilio Peke and Luis Figo and striker Joao Pinto.

Queiroz took over the national team in September after coaching Portugal to their second successive world youth championship in June.

## Bangladesh-Pakistan ITF circuit

# Rajshahi leg from today

The second phase of the ITF International Tennis Federation Bangladesh-Pakistan Satellite tennis circuit, organised by the Rajshahi Tennis Complex, begins at the Complex court today, reports BSS.

Players from 12 countries including hosts Bangladesh will take part in second leg of the four-leg professional circuit — first of its kind in Bangladesh.

The participating countries are: USA, Italy, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Macao, Japan, Sweden, India, joint hosts—Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Thirty-two players will play in the qualifying round for eight positions in the main

draw, which starts on November 12.

Sixteen players have been given direct entry to the main draw on the basis of ITF ranking. Four players to each from Pakistan and Bangladesh (Rajshahi) will in the main draw on wild cards and the remaining four players will be selected from the qualifying round as lucky-loosers.

The prize-money of 6,250 US dollars one fourth of the 25,000 US dollars provided by the ITF for the circuit will be distributed among the winners of the second leg with 812.50 US dollars for the singles champions and 393.75 US dollars for the doubles champions.

Leaf Dalgrin, ITF's development administrator, who visited the Rajshahi tennis Complex on November 6 told

BSS here on Friday that preparations for the Rajshahi leg were satisfactory and they were capable of hosting any international tennis meet.

He said, Bangladesh would get all cooperation in future from the ITF in hosting international tournaments in Dhaka and Rajshahi.

Dalgrin, who also had visited Dhaka and Rajshahi last year to see the feasibility and capability of Bangladesh in hosting the Circuit, left Dhaka on Friday for Singapore on his way to the ITF headquarters in London.

The third leg of the four-leg circuit, an event under the ITF's Grand Slam Fund, will take place in Lahore from November 18 to 23 and the Masters leg is slated for November 24-30 in Karachi.

## Karpov's win at Speelman's cost

PARIS, Nov 9: Former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union sweated through two games to beat Britain's Jonathan Speelman at the

Speed-Chess Masters tournament in Paris late on Friday, reports Reuter.

"Both games were very complex, very difficult", said the world number two player after one victory and a draw secured his progress to the quarter-final.

The tournament, the richest in the circuit, has drawn 16 of the world's top players to compete for the 400,000-France (70,000 dollar) top prize. The knock-out formula gives the players 50 minutes

## Olympic flame

PARIS, Nov 9: The Olympic flame for next February's Winter Olympic Games in Albertville will arrive by Concorde, the organisers said on Thursday, reports Xinhua.

The torch will be lit in Greece on December 13, flown here the following day and then start its journey across France to Albertville for the opening ceremony on February 8.

for each game. The audience held its breath as the 40-year-old Soviet Grandmaster took his time during the first 15 moves of each game, and then blitzed to the finish.

Earlier on Friday, Indian prodigy Viswanathan Anand, 21, played at lightning speed to easily defeat 60-year-old Soviet emigre Viktor Korchnot.

On Sunday in the quarter final Karpov will face Dutchman Jan Timman who earlier beat Gata Kamsky of the United States. Anand is due to play against Valery Salov, who crushed fellow Soviet Artur Yusupov.

## Title defence

TOKYO, Nov 9: World Biking Council biantamweight champion Joichiro Tatsuyoshi of Japan will make his first defence of the title against South Korea's Lee Yong-Hoon in Osaka on February 6, organisers said today, reports Reuter.

## Volleyball results

SENDAI (Japan), Nov 9: Former World Cup champion China beat Germany 3-0 in a Group B Match of the sixth World Cup women's volleyball tournament Friday in the Sendai City Gymnasium, Japan, reports Xinhua.

The set scores were 15-6, 15-6, 15-10.

Defending champions Cuba, world champions runners-up China, the United States, Brazil, the Netherlands and Kenya are playing in the Group B matches which started yesterday.

World champions the Soviet Union, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Peru and Canada are in Group A.



Actions from yesterday's Green Delta Metropolis Second Division hockey league between Dhaka Hockey Club and Rayer Bazar held at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Dhaka Hockey Club won 3-0. — Star photo

## Brave Johnson's new role

LOS ANGELES, Nov 9: Magic Johnson, an inspiring basketball champion, has bravely set out to face a real-life challenge — confronting his own mortality and educating a nation on the dangers of AIDS, reports AP.

On Friday, the day after the Los Angeles Lakers superstar made the stunning announcement that he had tested HIV-positive, he already was making headway in his new endeavors, friends and experts said.

Johnson, who said he's simply closing one chapter of his life and moving onto another, was scheduled to appear on Arsenio Hall's television talk show and begin his personal campaign to promote safe sex.

The shock waves he already had generated continued to ripple from inner cities to Wall Street to Washington. Heightening the impact, some experts said, was the fact that Lakers team physician Dr. Michael Mellman had said that Johnson was infected through heterosexual activity.

"Now people have to take it more seriously — have safe sex," said 12-year-old Shawanna Smith, a pupil at Intermediate School 147 in New York's Bronx borough.

Johnson's disclosure prompted a flood of worried phone calls to the federal

Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Between 5 pm and midnight Thursday, the CDC hot line received 40,000 telephone calls — most of which went unanswered.

In Rome, President Bush felt compelled to defend his administration's stance on the disease, saying he'd didn't like "allegations that I don't care."

"If there's more I can do to empathize, to make clear what AIDS is and what it isn't, I want to go," the President said, stressing that his administration has "increased funding dramatically" for AIDS research.

"I can't say I've done enough" the president said. "Of course I haven't."

Johnson's public acknowledgment was applauded by AIDS activists.

"He probably saved thousands of lives just in that one act", said Fred Allemann, an HIV outreach specialist with the Cascade AIDS Project in Portland, Ore.

Johnson's trademark smile and boyish enthusiasm made him an athlete whose fame transcended sports, someone adults and kids both could admire, and his vibrant personality makes him a beacon for AIDS awareness.

"I think sometimes we think, well, only gay people can get it, it's not going to happen to me," Johnson said Thursday as he announced his retirement at age 32.

## LA's HONOUR

Meanwhile in Los Angeles, the City Hall steps where Magic Johnson stood as a winner were renamed in his honor Friday by the City Council, which said he had triumphed anew by announcing to the world his HIV-positive diagnosis.

"His honesty and courage will be the shot heard" round the world in the battle against AIDS, Councilman Joel Wachs said.

Wachs introduced the motion to create the Magic Johnson Plaza of Champions in the area of the front steps of City Hall.

"He's really given a new meaning to the word champion," Wachs said.

The entrance to City Hall has become the traditional place where the fans gather to honour winning sports teams, including the Los Angeles Lakers when they won NBA titles.

One by one, council members arose and spoke of Johnson's courage in making his diagnosis public. Several members expressed grief over losing Johnson from professional sports.

As the atmosphere grew increasingly solemn, Councilman Nate Holden arose and told his colleagues he thought the tribute was fine but the mood was wrong.

"Magic Johnson did it better than any of us yesterday — with a smile," Holdne said.