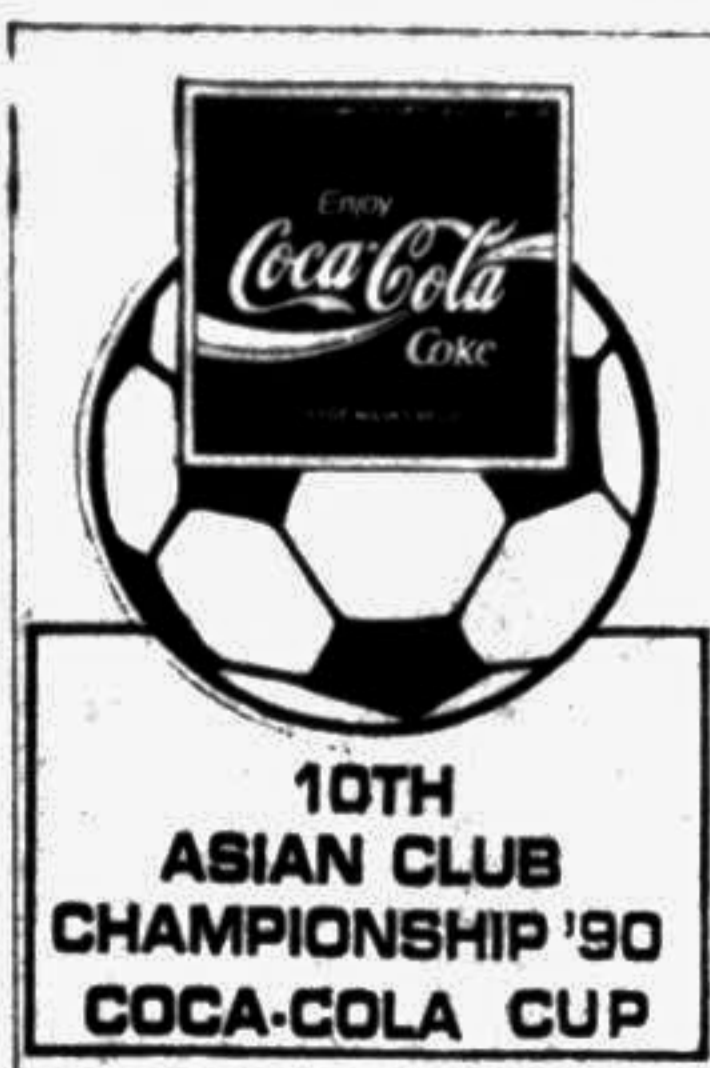


Pelita sail into semis



Afzal H Khan

Pelita Jaya of Indonesia sailed into the semifinals of the 10th Asian Club football championship with a three-nil win over Omani champions Al-Nasr Club in their opening Group A tie at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday evening.

The Indonesians scored once in the first session and twice more in the second to seal a one-sided victory over the Omanis who flattered initially only to deceive as the game wore on.

Pelita Jaya's semifinal berth looks a certainty from the fact that there are only three teams in the group. Defending champions Liaoning provincial team of China the only other side in this cluster following the late withdrawal of Jordanian champions Al-Ramatha, should

be the obvious favourites to top the robin league. That would suffice for the Indonesians to earn a date with the Group B champions in the semis on July 27. This is not counting chickens before they are hatched, for the standard of play demonstrated by the Omanis would hardly justify giving them the long odds to pull off a major upset in their remaining group game against the Chinese.

Both teams took their time in settling on a slippery pitch, the Omanis more so, and play was confined to the midfield in the early stages. It wasn't until the 21st minute that Al-Nasr threatened to live things up when a power-packed volley by Salm Zaman Mustahl, the captain, from just outside the Indonesian box sailed inches over the Pelita crossbar.

The red-jerseyed Indonesians immediately took up the challenge and responded with a classic goal in the 37th minute. Skipper Rully Nere, giving no signs of his 34 years, won possession near the centre line and sprinted down the right with an Omani defender hot on his heels. But the Omani, Mohammed Rishaid Mohammed, made the cardinal mistake of giving the seasoned Pelita captain room to send in a measured cross that found their main striker Bambang Nurdiasyah perfectly poised to nod the ball home (1-0).

The goal spurred increased activity in the Indonesian

camp and the refreshments at half-time gave them the extra energy to go for more goals.

They should have doubled the lead in the very second minute after resumption but Omani goalie Harun Amur Hamed displayed great courage by diving successfully at the feet of a charging Noach Merihm.

But seven minutes later there was no denying the Indonesians their second goal. Bambang Nurdiasyah made it a fine double for himself as well when he cleverly beat the attempted Omani off-side trap and capped a superb solo run by slamming the ball home (2-0).

In the 64th minute an overlapping left-back Hambali made it 3-0 for his side by rifling the ball into the net after Rully Nere once again set up a beautiful one following a goal-mouth melee created originally by Bambang Nurdiasyah from the left corner.

So on-sided was the Indonesian domination that the Omanis appeared to give up halfway through the second session and their despair was evident from some of their desperate lunges and tackles which were directed more at the Pelita Jaya players than the ball itself.

In the 68th minute Pelita could have got their fourth goal but right-back Harry Setiawan, who had pushed up way front, failed to give the finishing touch to a fine ball laid on by substitute Harry Susanto who

replaced an off-colour Maman Suryaman late in the first half.

Al-Nasr used up both their subs, bringing on Bader Amer for Fatz Raham who earned the day's first yellow card, for a foul, and replacing Mahfoudh Zahir with Mohammed Ali, but to no avail.

Among the Omani players, only Amer Mohammed Adam and Sameer Bashir Rabia stood out, especially the former, who was their main man up front. The tall Amer Adam looked a good ball player and schemer but unfortunately for him and his team there was no one to lend him much support.

POOR REFEREEING

The supervision of the game by Singapore referee T. Rajamanicham left a little to be desired. His whistling often didn't keep pace with the flagging by the two linesmen, nor did some of his decisions, especially the cautioning of Indonesian player Alexander Saununu late in the match, look convincing enough. Besides, he appeared to take too lenient a view of some of the more cynical tackles by a few Omani players.

For the record, there were hardly a thousand people interspersed among the 40,000-odd capacity stadium stands.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Esteghlal vs Bangkok Bank (5-pm)
Mohammedan SC vs April 25 (7-pm)



Listianto Raharjo, the goalkeeper of the Indonesian champions Pelita Jaya, makes a courageous save from the feet of Amer Mohammed Adam (No. 7), the Omani Al-Nasr Club striker, in yesterday's 10th Asian Club championship Group A match at Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Mirpur Ekadash for Norway Cup soccer

Sports Reporter
Three-time unbeaten Metropolitan Kishore (juvenile) football league champions Mirpur Ekadash of Dhaka will leave later this week for Oslo to take part in the Norway Cup juvenile tournament beginning in the Norwegian capital July 28. A press release of the club issued yesterday said the team will play its qualifying matches on July 28, 29 and 30 against three Norwegian sides, namely Amott, Lyn and Sandane respectively.

11 share lead in national jr chess

Sports Reporter
FIDE Master Zaur Rahman, FIDE Master Rifat Bin Sattar, Khondokar Kayes, Jahangir, Shiplu, Tanima Perveen, Farhad, Khalequzzaman, Afzal, Anisuzzaman and Atiqul Haque were jointly leading the points table with each three points after the completion of the third round matches of the 12th national junior chess championship yesterday at National Sports Councils chess room. Iftakhar, Mustafiz, Talukdar and Kismet were placed jointly in the second position with two-and-a-half points each.

Seles may not play for Yugoslavia

MAHWAH, New Jersey, July 20: World number one Monica Seles is withholding her commitment to play for Yugoslavia in the Federation Cup next week, angered over an apparent snub by her home tennis federation, reports AFP.

"They (the Yugoslavian Tennis Federation) haven't even called to find out if I'm okay and if I'm going to play," Seles said here Friday, where she was playing for the first time since her mysterious withdrawal from Wimbledon three weeks ago.

Seles, the reigning Australian and French Open champion, pulled out of Wimbledon because of shin splints and a stress fracture but left the world waiting for an official reason for three weeks.

The Women's Tennis Association already has talked to the 17-year-old Yugoslav about the incident, but Seles still is waiting to hear from her home federation.

"I don't know if I want to represent the federation," she said.

Meanwhile, Seles advanced to the semi-finals of an exhibition tournament here Friday, beating Jessica Emmons 6-2, 6-1.

McDermott makes Yorkshire break a tradition

LEEDS, England, July 20: Australian pace bowler Craig McDermott has become Yorkshire's first overseas player, the English county cricket club announced on Friday, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old Seamer, who joins his new county next April on a one-year contract, had also been the target of offers from several other English counties.



CRAIG McDERMOTT

Speaking on a television link from Brisbane to Yorkshire president Sir Lawrence Byford here, McDermott said, "I am delighted to be the first overseas player to be signed by Yorkshire."

"I hope to arrive in England perfectly relaxed to do my best. I accept that it is a big responsibility but I feel I am bowling well at the moment."

"There is a lot of cricket to be played before the Australian tour of England in 1993 and obviously I hope to be on that. Then I would like to think of coming back to Yorkshire in '94 for another year."

McDermott was the top wicket-taker from either nation in the 'World Championship' between the West Indies and Australia earlier this year when he took 24 Test wickets at an average of

23.92.

Last summer he took 98 first class wickets and returned from the Caribbean rated Australia's number-one pacesman.

The tour capped a wonderful Test comeback for the red-hatted pacesman, who made his debut against the West Indies as an 18-year-old when, in the space of seven deliveries, he removed batsmen Richie Richardson, Larry Gomes and Jeffrey Dujon for just one run.

Against the touring 1984 English side he wreaked such havoc among the batsmen that his Australian teammates tagged him 'Billy the Kid.'

Twelve months later the 20-year-old McDermott was Australia's Test spearhead, ripping through the English batting to take 30 wickets in the Ashes series.

A slump in form saw him endure a two-year exile from the international arena, having been dropped during the 1988-89 Test series against the West Indies. But McDermott returned to Test cricket in January this year against England at the Adelaide Oval.



Monica Seles hits a two-handed forehand return to Jessica Emmons during her quarterfinal match of the Pathmark Classic in Mahwah, USA, on July 19. Seles won 6-2, 6-1.—AFP photo

Cricketer Billu is no more

Sports Reporter
Fazul Ali alias Billu, a cricket player of Bangladesh Biman, died late Friday night at the Suhrawardy Hospital following a massive cardiac arrest.

Son of Mir Ali, Billu, as he was popularly known, was a keen cricketer whose accurate left-arm medium-pace bowling won many a match for Biman and played a considerable part in some of Biman's major triumphs in the Dhaka Senior Division league and other tournaments.

Billu made his debut in First Division cricket for Bangladesh Gymkhana, which side included some of his close relatives. In 1979 he joined Bangladesh Biman and was still on their roll of players until his tragic and untimely death at the young age of 34.

One of Billu's younger brothers, Ayub, has been a key member of the strong Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club for whom he opened the bowling and after proved a more than useful late-order batsman.

A press release issued by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board under the signature of one Shishir Chowdhury, claiming to be the general secretary — to our knowledge, the real general secretary is away in London, gone to attend the ICC meeting held earlier this month — said the BCCB expresses its deepest shock at Billu's death and sends its sincerest sympathies to the members of the bereaved family.

Riflemen shoot at their will

Sports Reporter
Title aspirants Bangladesh Rifles shot down Kurmitola Apollo Club 38-6 in an one-sided match of the seventh monsoon handball tournament yesterday at Outer Stadium's handball court.

Musung Shwe Prue and Rafiq each slammed seven goals for the Riflemen while Zaman of Kurmitola scored three goals.

In the day's other match, Arunayaton KSS outplayed Anirban Sangsd by 15-7 goals after leading 6-2 at halftime.

Shawpon and Helen of Arunayaton scored four goals while Anirban's Liton topped for his team also with four goals.

Brazil pay Colombians back

SANTIAGO, Chile, July 20: Defending champion Brazil scored once in each half Friday night, beating Colombia 2-0 in the rain to stay alive in the America Cup, the soccer championship of South America, reports AP.

Renato scored on a header in the 29th minute, and Branco, who plays for Genoa of Italy, made it 2-0 after Colombia's Eduardo Pimentell pulled Joao Paulo inside the box.

In the opener, Argentina and Chile played to a scoreless tie.

The Brazilians, who needed a victory to remain in the title hunt, launched an all-out offensive from the beginning.

Brazil succeeded in controlling the midfield and curbing Colombian playmaker Carlos Valderrama, who stars for Valladolid of Spain.

Anthony de Avila was Colombia's most dangerous attacker, and forced Brazilian goalkeeper Taffarel, who plays for Parma of the Italian league, to make several difficult saves.

Colombia missed several scoring opportunities in the second half, while Brazil played conservatively.

The tie in the first game left Argentina as the favourites to win the championship — which they can clinch with a victory over Colombia on Sunday.

Argentina, which was missing suspended forward Claudio Caniggia, leads the four-team series with three points in two games. Chile and Brazil have two points and play each other Sunday.

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Hockey transfers

Sports Reporter
It was a mixed fortune for Dhaka Mohammedans when three of their hockey players sought transfers for other clubs while two players from different clubs decided to trade their jerseys in their favour on the sixth day of the Delta Life hockey transfers yesterday at the Hockey Federation office.

Thirteen more players decided to change their colours yesterday.

Shabbir of Victoria and Nurul Kasuk of Azad SC signed for the Mohammedans while two of their players — Muslim and Anwar joined Victoria. The other Mohammedan player Mitu signed with Bangladesh Sporting. Ejaz of Ajax has joined Usha Sporting Club.

Together 71 players have sought transfers so far while 173 others collected tokens from the Federation office.

Several areas of the field were flooded by rain.

Chile played a man short for the final 48 minutes after winger Patricio Yanez was expelled for hitting defender Fabian Basualdo.

Unable to display their fast-passing attack, the Argentinians repeatedly

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32 cagers called up for SAFG camp

Sports Reporter
Thirty-two basketball players have been called to the first phase coaching camp for the selection of the national team for the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games which is scheduled to begin in the third week of the December at the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.

The names of the selected cagers and their teams are as follow: Wasib, Nurul Huda, Sobel, Seraj, Ghoswami, Ayub Ali, Nazrul of Navy.

Asgar, Sayeed, Asif Zafar, Shaikat, Naubut Ali of DU, Adam Ali, Rahim Nurul Huda, Mizan, Siddique of Army, Jahangir, Aminul, Firoze, Ayub, Raishan of BDR.

Zaheer, Sushanta, Gomes, Akhlaq of Munshiganj, BAF Tomu; Dhaka DSA Asifuzzaman; Sylhet's Tipu; Barisal's Tarun Gomes; Winners' Club's Asif Hossain and James of Angels Club.

All the players have been requested to report to the Basketball Federation Office on August 3 along with the proper kits.

Davis Cup result

TAIPEI, July 20: Taiwan won the doubles to gain a 3-0 winning lead over Pakistan in their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group Two semifinal today, reports Reuter.

Salim Malik's fifth ton

LONDON, July 20: Dermot Reve helped English county championship leaders Warwickshire to maximum bowling points on Friday as they dismissed Hampshire for 265 at Portsmouth, reports AFP.

The Hong Kong born all-rounder took four for 46 off 22 overs as the last six Hampshire wickets fell for just 11 runs.

Before the dramatic collapse, Paul Terry hit 124 and David Gower a useful 43. Warwickshire reached 74 for two at the close.

Pakistan Test star Salim Malik hit his fifth championship century as Essex stepped up their title drive against Somerset at Southend.

Malik, who earlier ran out opener John Stephenson for 70, hit a six and 10 fours in his innings. He shared a stand of 180 with England hopeful Nasser Hussain who smashed 88.

Malik eventually fell to Roland Lefebvre for 102 and second-placed Essex — also indebted to England captain Graham Gooch's 79 — closed on 413 for six.

Dryshire, another side chasing leaders Warwickshire, amassed 372 against Worcestershire at Kidderminster.

England reject John Guyllane Cloutier in the 100 metres.

GOLDEN HATRICK
Meanwhile, North Korea's Gyong-Hui Choi competed a golden gymnastics hat-trick at the Games late Friday night.

The 22-year-old from the North Korean capital Pyongyang won the beam and bar exercises to add to the team gold she captured earlier this week.

Wang upsets Qian for Universiade gold

SHEFFIELD, England, July 20: China's Wang Xiaohong turned the tables on world champion Qian Zhong in the women's 100 metres butterfly at the World Student Games on Friday, reports Reuter.

Frenchman Stephan Caron collected his third games medal but failed in his bid to break the European men's 100 metres freestyle record, a mark he believed was within his reach after he found a new lease of life this week.

Wang, who swam the second-fastest time ever of 58.87 to win the Asian Games title from Qian by 0.02 last September, touched in one minute dead.

It was two tenths of a second off the Games record set in 1985 by American Mary Meagher, who established the world record of 57.93 10 years ago.

"I wanted to swim 59 seconds so I am disappointed with this time," Wang said.

Caron, gold medal winner at 100 and 200 metres freestyle this week, wanted to beat Italian Giorgio Lomberti's European 100 record of 49.24 seconds as lead-off swimmer in Friday's 4x100 metres relay.

European silver medalist Gary O'Toole, who missed two weeks training with whiplash injury after being involved in a car crash five weeks ago, won the men's 200 metres breaststroke to claim Ireland's first swimming medalist Student Games.

WOJDAT DAZZLES
Former world record holder Artur Wojdat of Poland showed fine form ahead of next month's European Championships with a comfortable victory in the men's 400 metres freestyle to add gold to his silver in the 200 metres earlier in the week.

World 200 metres breaststroke champion Elena Volkova of the Soviet Union was beaten for the second time this week. After coming third in the 200 metres on Tuesday, she was second to Canadian

Julia Robertson was in hospital with a suspected broken thumb and other players suffered cuts and bruises.

British hockey officials fumed at the Chinese and Japanese match umpires over their handling of the game.

Coach Lynn Robinson said of the last control.

Pele's new job

UNITED NATIONS, July 20: World soccer star Pele, whose real name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, on Friday named goodwill ambassador for the 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development, reports Reuter.

The retired Brazilian player told a news conference he would travel the world to promote the conference, called earth summit, the first of its kind convened at the head of state or government level.

The summit, scheduled for Rio de Janeiro on June 1-12 next year, has extended invitations to 160 leaders. Organisers said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, British Prime Minister John Major and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu had indicated they would attend.

Yorkshire proved a perfect cure for insomnia by reaching 258 for eight against Surrey at Guildford.

The Tykes managed just 217 for seven from their 100 overs, with only 74 from Phil Robinson brightening the proceedings after Martyn Moxon had meandered to 73 his sixth championship half century of the season.

Champions Middlesex were bowled out for 250 by Lancashire at Uxbridge.

Mike Roserberry hit 63, while Wasim Akram was the most successful bowler with five for 63 Lancashire were 57 for one at stumps.

Yorkshire managed only 247 against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham. Matthew Maynard blasted 129 but England pacesman David Lawrence bowled four 62 from 18 overs.

Salim Malik hit his fifth championship century as Essex stepped up their title drive against Somerset at Southend.

Malik, who earlier ran out opener John Stephenson for 70, hit a six and 10 fours in his innings. He shared a stand of 180 with England hopeful Nasser Hussain who smashed 88.

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