

# Abahani on a goal rampage

Sports Reporter

A superb hat-trick by striker Rumi helped title-aspirants Abahani Krra Chakra to march boldly into the semifinals of the eleventh Federation Cup football tournament when they swamped Bangladesh Army 7-0 in an one-sided Group B match of the robin league yesterday at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium.

Abahani led 4-0 at the breather.

The national football champions Bangladesh Army could not field their best eleven yesterday because their main team left Dhaka Wednesday night for Delhi to take part in the Durand Cup football tournament. Their second string was far below standard



Abahani strikers Sheikh Aslam (2nd from left) and Rumi go for the ball in yesterday evening's Federation Cup robin league match against Bangladesh Army at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani trounced the national champions seven nil.



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The Army-men could consider themselves lucky not to have gone down by a wider margin.

Abahani goalkeeper Mohsin, in the first half, and his substitute Selim in the second half, hardly had any opportunity to gather the ball. Munna, Rehan, Alamgir and Masud Rana were never disturbed by the Army frontliners. Zakir, Mamun Joardar and Rubel were in complete command of the midfield while Rumi, Aslam and Ohaus raided the Army zone at their own sweet will.

Overlapping left-back Alamgir scored in the very first minute with a long drive (1-0). Aslam with a looping shot made it 2-0.

Mamun off Rumi's cross scored the third Abahani goal (3-0).

Rumi, via Masud Rana's pass, again made it 4-0.

Twenty minutes into the second half Rumi scored from a goalmouth melee (5-0).

Five minutes later Aslam, with a brilliant header, beat the Army goalkeeper (6-0).

Rumi completed his hat-trick two minutes from the long whistle with a fierce grounder (7-0).

Abahani will play against Brothers Union tomorrow Saturday at 6 pm to decide the Group 'B' champion. Both teams have collected four points each from their two robin league matches. Abahani only need a draw to top the group because yesterday's scoreline gives them a far superior goal difference.

Rehan and Masud Rana of Abahani and Shaheer of Army were shown the yellow card.

**BROTHERS IN SEMIS**

Title-contenders Brothers Union registered a comfortable 1-0 win over Dhanmendi Club to move into the semifinal of the Federation Cup yesterday afternoon at the same venue.

Uttam scored the deciding goal in the 39th minute of the match.

The Clube Regatas do Flamengo, which has already filed its application. But South Korea, Malaysia, China and Saudi Arabia are also potentially interesting candidates," Havelange said.

**BRAZILIAN DISPUTE**

Meanwhile, a Reuter reports from Zurich said FIFA, the governing body of world soccer, decided on Wednesday to postpone a decision on the possible suspension of Brazil from the international game.

FIFA threatened the suspension last week after Rio de Janeiro club Flamengo filed a lawsuit against the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), contravening FIFA rules.

But it said in a statement that a Tuesday midnight deadline it had given the CBF to settle the dispute had been extended after FIFA received documents from Brazil.

In the dispute between the Brazilian Football Association

## FIFA bans backpassing to goalie

MUNICH, Oct 10 : Football's ruling body FIFA, is banning passes back to the goalkeeper and introducing professional referees for the 1994 World Cup, reports AFP.

The changes were announced on Wednesday by FIFA president Joao Havelange and secretary general Joseph Blatter.

Blatter said the backpassing rule had been tested in the recent under-17 world championship in Italy with excellent results.

"The game becomes much more attractive, the goalkeepers have much less opportunity to waste time," he said.

As for the refs, Blatter recognised that "it will be 1995 before all our affiliated associations have professional referees."

Havelange meanwhile raised the issue of the 2002 tournament, saying that if the 1998 World Cup goes to a European

country, the following one should be organised in Asia.

"The most active candidate is Japan, which has already filed its application. But South Korea, Malaysia, China and Saudi Arabia are also potentially interesting candidates," Havelange said.

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## Becker, Edberg in quarters

TOKYO, Oct 10 : Second-seeded Boris Becker had to overcome a first-set loss and a raucous Japanese crowd, which made so much noise it halted Ivan Lendl's match on an adjoining court, to beat Shuzo Matsuoka in Thursday's third round at the Seiko Super Tennis, reports AP.

Becker prevailed over the 24-year-old hometown favorite and 16th seed, who was born and resides in Tokyo, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 to advance to the quarterfinals in the dlr 1 million event.

But while Becker had to deal with the crowd, Lendl and 13th-seeded Wally Masur of Australia decided they couldn't. The two stopped play for 50 minutes, until Becker and Matsuoka were finished.

before they resumed their match, which Lendl won 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2.

"It was difficult to play because when I was ready to serve, people would clap hands for the center court," Lendl said referring to the 6,900 at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium that watched Becker and Matsuoka.

"Wally felt the same way, so we talked to the supervisor and decided to wait till they finished their match.

"Usually, the center court is separated by fences at the indoor tournaments. People on the side were watching Matsuoka's match, and they clapped hands, and that was very attracting. It was the first time that I had experienced something like this."

Top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden, also playing simultaneously on the other side of

Becker and Matsuoka, said he also found the noise distracting, but beat 15th-seed Frederic Fontang of France 6-2, 7-5.

"The trouble today was my concentration," said Edberg, who is coming off last week's victory at the Australian Indoor Championships.

Joining the three top seeds in the quarterfinals were four American seeds No. 4 Andre Agassi, No. 5 David Wheaton, No. 7 Derrick Rostagno and No. 8 Michael Chang. Goran Ivanisevic, the No. 6 seed from Yugoslavia, also advanced.

Agassi beat countryman Jeff Tarango 6-4, 7-6 (10-8), and Wheaton trounced Italian Gianluca Pozzi, 6-0, 6-2.

Edberg takes on Chang. Agassi meets Ivanisevic. Wheaton plays Lendl and Rostagno faces Becker in the quarterfinals Friday.

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Uttam (2nd from right) scores Brothers Union's winner past Dhanmendi goalkeeper Tayeb in yesterday afternoon's robin league match at the Dhaka Stadium. It was enough to take Brothers to the semifinals of the 11th Federation Cup tournament.

## Riffat loses again

Sports Reporter

It was another exciting day in the 17th national chess championship at the NSC chess room yesterday when front-runner Riffat bin-Sattar, who stumbled for the first time in the 11th round against Ziaul Kader Tuhin on Wednesday, suffered his second consecutive defeat that further narrowed his once seemingly unassailable lead.

Riffat, of Biman who had looked untouchable till the end of the tenth round in this 15-round competition on Tuesday night with a flattering 9.5 points out of a possible ten to his credit, suddenly seems to all too vulnerable so close to his goal, suffering from self doubt and a bout of nerves.

In his 12th round clash against lowly-placed Shabana Parveen Nipa of Faridpur yesterday, Riffat lacked confidence and lasted barely 26 moves despite playing white before resigning after Nipa had placed his king under tremendous pressure.

Ziaul Kader Tuhin of Dhaka Metropolis, still unbeaten, who on Wednesday spotted Riffat's clean slate by proving that he could be beaten, remained in second position with eight points following his drawn encounter yesterday with last year's runner-up Younus Hassan of Ansars. Only 1.5 points separates him now from Riffat and, with three more rounds to go, it's a wide open race for this year's title.

Younus now has seven and a half points, the same as defending champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman of Biman and Antsur Rahman of Dhaka Metropolis.

Tahmid last night beat Mainuddin Mamoon of Dhaka Metropolis while Ants defeated the luckless Sheikh Shahadat Hossain Ratna of Bogra.

Shabana Parveen Nipa's win over Riffat took her collection to 5.5 points.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas witnessed the international events of the meet as the chief guest.

The President later gave away the prizes among the winners of the international

meet and the 15th national rowing championships which were also held yesterday.

Earlier, on arrival, the President was received by the chairman of the organising committee and Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development, Flood Control Majid-ul-Huq and chairman of the National Sports Council Major General Mahbubur Rahman.

The Village Defence Party (VDP) took the top position in the women's eight-crew race while Bangladesh Ansars and Chunkutta Girls' High School got the second and third positions respectively.

In the men's 25-crew race, Tayeb Ali and his team of Srinagar earned the first spot and Mansoor Alam's team

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## Ctg Abahani drop another point

CHITTAGONG, Oct 10 : Chittagong Abahani Krra Chakra lost another valuable point to Kolloi Sangha in the CJKP Elite Paint First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

The Abahani-Kolloi match today ended in a one-all draw. Abahani's collection stood at 12 from seven matches, while their arch-rivals Chittagong Mohammedans have earned full 12 points from six encounters.

The first half of the match was goal-less. Basu scored for Abahani and Tipu for Kolloi Sangha.

Sea Customs beat Port Authority Sports Club by a solitary goal in the other match of the day.

Salahuddin scored the all-important goal in the 39th minute upon a lob by Kamal from the right wing (1-0).

LAUSANNE, Oct 10 : The International Olympic Committee is unlikely to admit the 12 other Soviet republics as separate teams to next year's Barcelona Games, reports AFP.

"We can make no decision before a political outcome is reached," said IOC spokesman Francois Carrard.

The IOC readmitted the three Baltic states only after the United Nations recognised their independence.

Ukraine said on Tuesday it would compete in the Soviet Union team as long as its flag and national anthem were used at medal ceremonies.

Carrard said the proposal could be considered. The two Germanies competed as a single team under the Olympic flag until 1968.

Meanwhile, a Reuter report from Colorado Springs said :

## Graf in Zurich quarter-finals

ZURICH, Oct 10 : Top-seeded Steffi Graf of Germany reached the quarterfinals of the dlr 350,000 European Indoors tennis tournament Wednesday with a 6-2, 6-4 second-round win over unseeded Czechoslovak Andrea Strnadova, reports AP.

Graf's service and forehand were less blistering than usual, apparently because of a wrist inflammation, but the four-time Zurich titlist rarely was challenged by her 19-year-old opponent.

Fourth-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland breezed past Israeli qualifier Ilana Berger 6-2, 6-1 to gain the quarterfinals.

In first-round matches, third-seeded Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia defeated Wilrud Probst of Germany 6-2, 6-4, German qualifier Marketa Kochta ousted Swiss wild card entry Christelle Fauche 6-4, 6-4 and Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of Germany beat Holland's Brenda Schultz 7-6 (8-6), 6-2.

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Oscar Ancira, one of the club's owners, travelled to Buenos Aires last week and told AFP here Wednesday that the doors remain open to Maradona, who is serving out a two-year suspension for cocaine use.

"I met with Marcos Franchi, one of Maradona's personal agents, and I was satisfied with our discussions, Ancira said. "But I prefer not to get into the details."

"There are many possibilities and we are studying all of them," he added, at the moment, Maradona is suspended and, therefore, could only make an appearance before a game.

Football in the United States remains a relatively obscure sport, despite the fact that the 1994 World Cup will be staged here.

The Indoor Football League changed its name last year to omit the word 'indoor' in the hopes that the fast-paced sport would catch on. Any publicity surrounding Maradona could attract new fans to the league, but also could create controversy because of his troubled past.

"Certainly it is a risk that we must take," Ancira said, adding: "Especially in this country."

## Bata handball

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**US team takes firm lead**

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The US (II) team has continued to outplay their opponents. The Austrian team had played most of the event as a team of four, and found the effort too much.

Iceland is favoured in the men's Bermuda Bowl championship which ends on Friday but there is a chance Poland could win.

In the 164 board final, the Icelanders have outplayed the Poles, the pre-tournament favourites.



Action from yesterday's international and national rowing championships on the Buriganga.—Star photo by Shafiquddin Bitu

## Fine double by Myanmar rowers

Myanmar (Burma) took the top spot in both the 25-crew 800-metre and the 25-crew international open races in the first Bangladesh international rowing competition on the river Buriganga near the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge yesterday, reports BSS.

Bangladesh finished second in the 25-crew international open race and India took the third position. India also earned the second place in the 25-crew 800 m race while Bangladesh got the third position.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas witnessed the international events of the meet as the chief guest.

The President later gave away the prizes among the winners of the international

meet and the 15th national rowing championships which were also held yesterday.

Earlier, on arrival, the President was received by the chairman of the organising committee and Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development, Flood Control Majid-ul-Huq and chairman of the National Sports Council Major General Mahbubur Rahman.

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Besides, 31 boats from different clubs and organisations, including five for women, took part in the national championships.

Hundreds of people from the metropolis and adjoining areas enjoyed the traditional boat race amidst enthusiasm.

Earlier in the morning, Mr Majid-ul-Huq, Minister for Agriculture inaugurated the meet.

Mr Huq, who is also chairman of the organisation committee of the international meet, released balloons and pigeons marking the formal inauguration.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain and the Ambassador of Myanmar (Burma) Soe Myint were present.

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## Tyson says he'll stop Holyfield

NEW YORK, Oct 10 : In a news conference more tightly controlled than one at the White House and certainly less exciting, former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson said on Wednesday he wants to win back the title and would stop undisputed champion Evander Holyfield next month, reports Reuter.

The questions asked of Tyson — in Las Vegas where he is training for the November 8 title fight — made a presidential news conference seem like a venture into stream of consciousness.

For example, all questions from reporters attending the live closed-circuit televised conference, for which Tyson appeared 45 minutes late, had to be submitted ahead of time. No spontaneous questions were allowed.

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Is there anything that you are concerned with about Holyfield's training?"

"No, not at all," said the 41-1 Tyson.

Asked if he was the same fighter who knocked out Michael Spinks in 91 seconds in 1988, Tyson said: "I'm better. I'm a more mature fighter. I'm more patient."

Don King, Tyson's promoter who was under wraps for most of the news conference, said he sees Tyson destroying Holyfield.

"I think it's up to Evander Holyfield how much punishment he wants to take."

King said that Holyfield, who won the title last October from James Buster Douglas, who knocked out Tyson in February 1990 to win the title, can't recognise himself as champion until he beats Tyson. "Even though he has the title, he knows he's the challenger."

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"There are many possibilities and we are studying all of them," he added, at the moment, Maradona is suspended and, therefore, could only make an appearance before a game.

Football in the United States remains a relatively obscure sport, despite the fact that the 1994 World Cup will be staged here.

The Indoor Football League changed its name last year to omit the word 'indoor' in the hopes that the fast-paced sport would catch on. Any publicity surrounding Maradona could attract new fans to the league, but also could create controversy because of his troubled past.

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The 25-year-old fighter has been indicted on charges that he raped a beauty pageant contestant this past summer in Indianapolis. If Tyson, who says he is innocent, is convicted on all charges, he could draw 63 years in prison. The trial is set to begin early next year.

It appears that the usually boastful and often crude Tyson is under orders from his lawyers to be very measure and mild in his public appearances in an effort to improve his image.

His demeanor was in stark contrast to news conferences promoting Tyson's two fights