MSC-Abahani clash today

nless the weather gods deem otherwise, the twice-postponed first semifinal of the eleventh Fe-Cup deration

football tournament between arch-rivals Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra will be held this afternoon at the Mirpur National Stadium.

The much-awaited clash of the two Dhaka giants - their 46th since Independence - is scheduled for a 5:00 pm kick-

The match between Group A champions Mohammedan Sporting and Group B runners up Abahani - incidentally, the two teams had finished in that order in last year's tournament - was originally scheduled to be held last Monday but had to be postponed twice, by a day each, until this afternoon because of the heavy rainfall over the past few days.

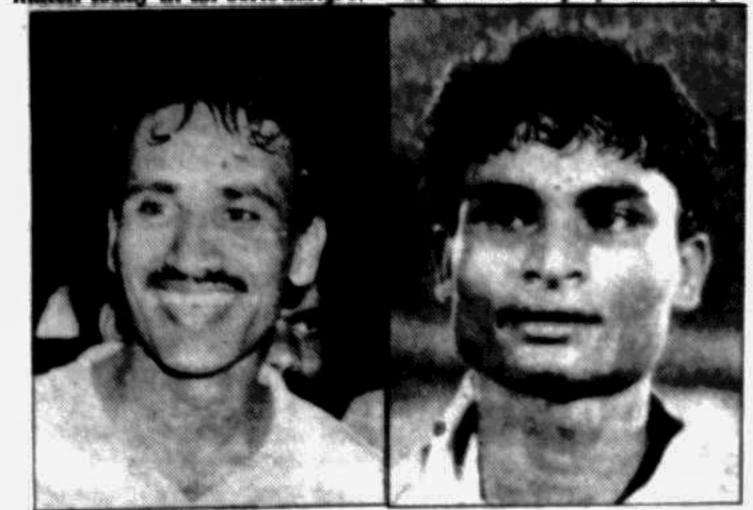
The other semifinal, between Brothers Union who topped Group B by beating Abahani 2-1 in their crucial robin league encounter, and Group A runners-up Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club who upset last year's semifinalists Muktijoddha Sangsad will now be held at the same venue tomorrow, at the same time.

The final has been shifted to Sunday, October 20 while the third place deciding playoff between the beaten semifinalists will be held on October 19, Saturday.

Mohammedans, who beat their traditional adversaries 2-I in last year's final, have so far won 17 of the 45 clashes between these two top teams of the country while Abahani have won 13. Fifteen of their encounters were either drawn or abandoned due to crowd trou-

Both Mohammedans and

Sports Reporter taking the field today fully rely-Abahani will be taking their ing on local players. Despite match today in all seriousness.



The strikers: Abahani's Aslam (L) and MSC's Naquib

the lifting of the ban on foreign

players by the BFF - three

foreign players have been sanc-

tioned per club from this sea-

son onwards - neither Abahani

nor Mohammedans have yet

drafted any imported talent.

However, it is reported that

Mohammedans have negoti-

ated with two Iranian players

who will be reaching Dhaka

well in time for the start of the

Senior Division league next

have one thing in common this

year : both are skippered by

their respective goalkeepers -

Sayeed Hassan Kanan being the

Mohammedan captain while

his Abahani counterpart

Mohsin leads the Dhanmandi

Talking to this correspon-

dent yesterday afternoon.

Kanan 'expressed the confi-

dence of retaining the title.

But he remembered to add

that clashes between these two

big teams were always a 50-50

affair with the side playing

better on the given day likely

Mohammedans and Abahani

month.

for only one of them will go through to this year's final. The upset defeat of last-year's runners-up and reigning NBL Senior Division league champions Abahani at the hands of Brothers Union last Saturday shocked all and sundry, not least the huge number of their own ardent fans. On the other hand, defending Federation champions Mohammedans, although unbeaten so far, have had some lucky escapes, especially against Fakirerpool when their forwards failed and they had to depend on an own goal scored by a hapless Faktrerpool defender Montu.

Both Mohammedans and Abahani, as well as Brothers and Muktijoddha — last year's semifinalists — were given byes straight into the robin league. Only Fakirerpool defied theseedings by making it to this year's semifinals from among the 20 teams which took part in the qualifying knock-out

Interestingly, the two Titans of our soccer will be

GARY LINEKER

*But I suppose the two will

go hand in hand. If we get into

the finals in Sweden, there'll

be more games for me to have

a go at the record, but I won't

Championship is the immedi-

Scottish league managers' row

mars Morrow's fine debut

injury and international com-

McGregor played his first

game for more than three

years, while first team coach

start of the season John has

being doing really will in the

praises for a few weeks and

saying he possibly could do the

business if he got the chance."

goal for Ally McCoist and cre-

the start but the manager told

me to enjoy myself. The old

pros kept me right and it was

brilliant to hear the crowd

McCoist scored twice be-

ford St Johnstone hit back

through Harry Curran and Paul

Wright after the break. With 14

chant my name."

ated several other chances.

Davie Doods was a substitute.

Second 'team coach John

McGegor said: "Since the

"I have been singing his

Morrow set up the second

"I was really nervous before

European

be losing any sleep over it."

The

mitments.

European Championship.

Hegazi, the former Iranian World Cup goalte, was also optimistic about his team's chances and said whoever manages to dominate the midfield will hold the advantage. suggesting that his boys will concentrate on complete control of that area.

Mohammedan coach Nasser

For his part, Abahani skipper Mohsin felt he and his teammates had put the mishap against Brothers behind them and were quite assured about today's match. He was confident his colleagues would not be making the same mistakes and had a splendid chance of winning back the glittering trophy

Abahani coach Kazi Salahuddin said his boys would adopt a different strategy from that against Brothers and blamed the loss to Brothers to "one of those bad days" which he said every team was liable to have some day or other.

APPEAL

Meanwhile, officials of both teams yesterday made a fervent appeal to supporters of elther side to refrain from any unsporting behaviour in the greater interests of the game.

TICKETS

Daily tickets for the galleries at Taka 20 each and VIP Gates C and D tickets at Taka 50 each go on sale from 2:00 pm this afternoon from the Mirpur Stadium counters. The gates to the ground will also open then.

PROBABLE TEAMS Mohammedans: Kanan Barun, Kaiser Hamid, Jewel Rana, Montu, Roxy, Tito, Johnny, Shabbir, Naquib and Chanchal (Riaz).

Abahani: Mohsin, Alamgir, Munna, Rehan, Masud Rana Zakir, Rubel, Mamun Joarder, Rumi, Aslam and Ghaus.

tended by Stephen Meads.

readily took advantage of the

sluggish movements of his il-

The young Englishman

ranked 11th in England.

An AB Bank metropolis TT doubles match, between Armanitola JS and Renaissance Club, in progress yesterday at National Coaching Centre. Armanitola won the team tie 3-0. One-sided results on opening day

Sports Reporter

West Jatrabari while Azimpur Young Boys Club recorded another facile 3-0 victory over Bangladesh Bank Club Twenty-eight teams, di

other newly-promoted side

Defending cham-

pions Armanitola

Jubo Sangha.

Young Boys and

Bangladesh

Biman. Azimpur

the Village Defence Party

posted rather one-sided victo-

ries in their respective

matches on the inaugural day

of the AB Bank metropolis

table tennis league at the

National Coaching Centre

pions Armanitola JS thrashed

newly-promoted Renaissance

Club by 3-0 in the best-of-

three sets preliminary robin

Moon of Renaissance Club 21-

10, 16-21 and 21-8 in the first

singles while in the reverse

singles Badal of Armanitola

tamed Masud of Renaissance

21-16 and 21-16. In the dou-

bles tie. Maruf and Pappu

overcame Masud and Suman of

Renaissance 21-16 and 21-15.

Biman, last year's runner-up,

started their league campaign

with a convincing 3-0 sets

victory over Purbachal

Sadiul Haque Saadi won the

first singles for Biman beating

Raquib of Purbachal 21-12 and

21-13. Reigning national

champion Mussadequi Haque

Rochi crushed Royal 21-4, 21-

teamed up to score a cakewalk

victory over Royal and Tareque

fortable 3-0 victory over an-

of Purbachal 21-7 and 21-8.

Saadi and Kochi then

VDP also registered a com-

LONDON, Oct 15:

pionship qualifier

6 in the reverse singles.

Former national champion

Star-studded Bangladesh

Maruf of Armanitola JS beat

The reigning league cham-

yesterday.

Parishad.

league team tie.

vided into four groups, are taking part in the first phase eague.

top two from each of the four

Eight teams comprising the

groups will qualify for the su-

The league is being held under the aegis of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation.

The meet is being held on

the new Swaythling Cup for-

There are nine new teams in this year's league. They are: Paschim (West) Jatrabari, Renaissance Club. Pallima

Kashattully, Dhaka Medical College, NMS, Swamibagh Boys and Laimatia Club.

Sangshad.

Kalpa Taru.

TODAY'S MATCHES Young Star vs Kashattulli

Swamibagh TTS vs Kalpa

BTMC vs Swamibagh Boys Armanitola Juniors ve Combined Sporting

paddlers for SAF Games Sports Reporter



Federation (BTTF) Monday finalised the selection of the Bangladesh squad for the fifth

South Asian Federa-tion (SAF) Games to be held in the Sri Lankan capital next December.

The seven-player squad, made up of four male and three female paddlers, has been selected by the BTTF committee in consultation with the Chinese coach who has been training eight men's and four women's prospects for the past couple of months. Four boys were also attending the SAF coaching camp but there are no boys' events in the SAF Games.

While three of the four male players chosen- reigning national champion Mussadequi Haque Rochi and his Bangladesh Biman teammates former champion Nasimul Hassan Kochi and Saidul Haq Saadi were almost automatic

choice, the selection of new-

Waddle will start for the first

brought back, Pearce after

Manchester United centre-

injuries, while Leeds left-back

Tony Dorigo and Olympique

Marseille midfielder Trevor

Graham Taylor has resisted the

temptation to include two

other old favourities in Everton

However, England manager



MUSADDEQUL HAQUE comer Mustafa of Dinapur came as a bit of a surprise, coming as it did ahead of such better known names like Happy, Ankhi, and Munna.

The three women picked for the trip to Sri Lanka do not include the name of defending several-times national champion Zobera Rahman Linu of Bangladesh Biman. Those picked- former national

•1•

Mabbutt called in to bolster ailing England

champions Zulekha Akhter and Shamima Tarmin and Bachchi- are all from Bangladesh Ansars. Only Rinu, the other woman player in the camp, has been left out.

In the last nationals, Rocht retained his title while Kochi finished runner-up and Saadi placed third. Mustafa's fourth finishing earned him his first national selection.

The team will be managed by Moududur Rahman Babu, a joint secretary of the BTTF while Hafizur Rahman will be the coach. Besides, the National Sports Council has also reportedly agreed in principle to allow the Chinese coach who has been conducting the SAF camp to accompany the team for the Games scheduled for December 22-

Linu reportedly expressed her unavailability for the trip and did not report for the preliminary selection trials. Consequently she was not called for the final selection trials which commenced last

Japanese eye Lineker | Waite upsets Harris



LONDON, Oct 15: Gary Lineker gave the first indication here today that his England career is nearing

its end and that could be a boost for organisers of the proposed Japanese league, reports AFP.

The reportedly see the 30year-old Tottenham striker as the perfect player to front the league, which is scheduled to start in two year's time. Before then, though,

haul Bobby Charlton as England's greatest goalscorer and at the same time help his country to European Championship glory. "The scoring record is not

Lineker will be trying to over-

the most important thing to me," said the England skipper, who currently stands four short of Charlton's total of 49. "Without a shadow of doubt it has to be winning the

GLASGOW, Oct

15: A sparkling

Scottish Premier

Division debut by

John Morrow was

overshadowed by

the embarrassing clash be-

tween Rangers manager Walter

Smith and his ST Johnstone

counterpart Alex Totten,

The fate of Smith and

Totten, who traded insults as

they went in for half time, lays

with the Scottish prosecutor,

but Morrow's future seems as-

featured strongly in Rangers

3-2 win, but only got the game

because of the champions' se-

Morrow, 19, admitted : '

was actually hoping for some

injuries, to tell the truth. It

was the only way I could see

myself getting into the team."

teamers unavailable through

Rangers had nine first

The Belfast-born teenager

reports AFP.

ection crisis.

champion. Jahangir Khan. who is the favourite to win, was ex-

NEW YORK, Oct 15: Canadian Gary Waite, who last year completed a three-year ban for playing in South Africa. brought down the only seed to make his exit on the opening day of the US Open squash championships, reports

with, the rangy Waite put out eighth-seeded Englishman Del Harris. In the hopeless position of 8-12 in the fourth game, Waite saved four match points and took it in a sudden death finish opted for by a tiring Harris. Leading 13-4 in the

Decider, Watte had no trouble coping with a last ditch stand by Harris. The new world champion.

Australian Rodney Martin. needed only 38 minutes to oust the surprise winner of last year's British National Championship, Paul Gregory. But the former world

minutes remaining, defender

Scott Nisbet headed the win-

ner which keeps Rangers in

until the 80th minute to crack

the defence of bottom side

Dunfermline with a shot by de-

maintained the pressure on

the top two by collecting

4-1 at Parkhead, with

Scotland's leading scorer

Charlie Nicholas scoring twice.

Eoin Jess to help them to a 3-

I home win over Airdrie, while

struggling St Mirren lost at

home to Hibs with Tommy

McIntyre getting the only goal.

Aitken, who returns to inter-

national duty this week, was

sent off for a professional foul

St Mirren captain Roy

Aberdeen relied on two-goal

fender Alan McLaren.

maximum points.

on Keith Wright.

Leaders Hearts had to wait

Aberdeen, Hibs and Celtic

'Celtic beat Dundee United

second place.

lustrious opponent who, having flown in late last night. seemed jet-lagged. Meads Two games down to start setzed the first game. Japanese, French abandon bid to

scale Everest KATHMANDU, Oct 15 Japanese and French expeditions have abandoned their attempts to climb Mount Everest because of strong winds and heavy snow swirling around the world's tallest mountain. according to messages re-

ceived on Monday, reports AP.

The Ascent Club Everest

Expedition of Japan quit

climbing the 8.848-meter (29,028-foot) peak last Wednesday after reaching a height of 8,773 meters. Team members sent a mes-

sage saying they left their base camp Sunday to return home via Kathmandu.

The French Everes Namaste Expedition messaged that it abandoned its bid to climb Everest last Tuesday. The 18-member team was

led by Denis Pivot, 32, a mountain guide from Albert. The team was trying to scale the mountain from the southeast ridge route.

The message did not say how high the team had reached before quitting.

Plea to help rehabilitate injured boxer

MELBOURNE, Oct 15: An international appeal was launched Tuesday to raise funds for the rehabilitation of injured former world featherweight boxing champion Johnny Famechon, reports AP.

The 46-year-old ex-boxer still is paralyzed after suffering brain damage when he was knocked down by a car in Sydney on Aug 24. Famechon did not have

medical insurance and his bills at Melbourne's Bethesda Hospital are running to more than dirs 450 a day, appeal organizers said. Famechon still does not

respond to most stimuli, said his mother, Antoinette, who has flown from her home in Brittany, France, to be with her son. She said Famechon smiled

the first time she visited him. "I think he recognized me sometimes he does," she said. The appeal is being backed

by the World Boxing Council

and the Australian Gallery of

Sport, a museum at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Famechon won the world title from Cuban-born Jose Legra in 1969 and successfully defended it twice against Japan's Fighting Harada before

losing to Vicente Saldivar of

England manager time under Taylor, having twice been used as substitute. Graham Taylor has opted for Nottingham Forest left-back experience in the Stuart Pearce and central European Chamdefender Des Walker are also

with Turkey at Wembley here suspension and Walker after tomorrow, reports AFP. He has made five changes to the team beaten 1-0 by backs Gary Pallister and Paul Parker were not considered along with Crystal Palace winger John Salako because of

Germany last month and three of the recalled players are over 30- Manchester United midfielder Bryan Robson. Tottensham centre-back Gary Mabbutt and Olympique Marseille winger Chris Waddle.

The 34-year-old Robson returns after an eight-game absence and Mabbutt after four years in the wilderness, while

Championship finals would not

be a disaster for the world

championships as their main

priority was the 1994 World

Wednesday's Group Five quali-

fier against Wales in Nurember

to keep alive their hopes of

reaching next year's finals in

when I started this job I said it

was an important stop on the

way (to the 1994 World Cup) -

no more no less," said Vogts

who took over from Franz

Beckendabuer after last year's

World Cup triumph in Italy.

"He pressure is great. But

The Germans must win

Cup, reports Reuter.

Vogts vows to NUREMBER, Germany, Oct

Our goal is to defend the title in the United States. 15: Germany coach Berti Vogts said on Monday that failure to Leading German soccer ofreach next year's European ficials have said Vots' position

Steven are axed.

is safe whatever happens in the qualifying group. Said Vogts, "As long as have fun and have the energy, I am happy to carry on but I

don't have to do this I can live without football. Despite the Germans 1-0 defeat by Wales in Cardiff in June, Vogts said he was confi-

dent his team would win on Wednesday. We are better than the

Walsh in all positions and play at a different level from their team, we are on the way up after a difficult year when we have had to learn to live with the title (of world champions).

CHRIS WADDLE striker Peter Beardsley and Liverpool midfield man Steve

Turkey will be without their best player — former European golden boot winner Tanju Colak - for the tie because of a scandal involving film actress Hylya Avsar.

McMahon. Alan Smith and

David Batty retain their places.

The Fenerbance striker. who is married with two children, is in disgrace after being romantically linked with

England team : Chris Woods (Sheffield Wednesday), Lee Dixon (Arsenal). Stuart Pearce (Nottingham Forest). David Batty (Leeds), Des Walker (Nottingham Forest). Gary Mabbutt(Tottenham), Bryan Robson (Manchester United) David Platt (Bari), Alan Smith (Arsenal), Gray Lineker (Tottenham, Captain), Chris Waddle(Marseille). in coma

Watson still

LONDON, Oct 15: British boxer Michael Watson, who collapsed after a world title fight 24 days ago, is still in a coma but is showing some response to light and touch, doctors said today, reports

But neurosurgeon Peter Hamlyn said Watson would be fortunate to make a full recov-

"It is perhaps the very first steps in a very long road to some sort of recover," Hamlyn told a news conference at St

Bartholomew's Hospital Watson, 26 underwent surgery after suffering a serious brain injury at the end of his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight fight against fellow Briton

Chris Eubank. Hamlyn was due to have talks with British Sports Minister Robert Atkins and boxing authorities on Wednesday about making the

European meet group standings



Sweden.

LONDON, Oct 15: Current standings in the European soccer qualifying groups ahead of Wednesday's

(winners of 'each matches group, along with hosts Sweden, qualify for the finals): Group One (Tabulate under: played, won, drawn, lost, goals for,

goals against, points):

France 7 7 0 0 17 5 14 Czechoslovakia 6 4 6 1 0 5 1 19 2 Remaining matches: Oct 16 Czechoslovakia v Albania, Nov 13 Spain V Czechoslovakia.

France v Iceland, Dec 18

Group Two Switzerland Remaining matches: Oct 16

Albania v Spain.

Bulgaria v San Marino, Romania v Scotland, Nov 13 Scotland v San Marino. Romania v Switzerland, Nov 20 Bulgaria v Romania. **Group Three**

Remaining matches: Oct 30 Hungary v Norway, Nov 13 Italy

v Norway, Cyprus v Soviet Union, Dec 21 Italy v Cyprus. Group Four

Faroe Islands 7 1 1 5 3 21 Remaining matches: Oct 16 Faroe Islands v Yugoslavia Northern Ireland v Austria. Nov 13 Denmark v Northern Ireland, Austria v Yugoslavia. Group Five

Remaining matches: Oct 16 Germany v Wales, Nov 13 Wales v Luxembourg, Nov 20

Belgium v Germany, Dec 17

Germany v Luxembourg. Group Six 4 2 1 1 8 5 5 7 0 1 6 1 22

sport safer.

Remaining matches: Oct 16 Netherlands v Portugal. Oct 30 Greece v Finland, Nov 20 Portugal v Greece, Dec 4 Greece v Netherland, Dec 22 Malta v Greece.

Group Seven

4 2 1 1 4 2 5 4 0 0 4 0 10 0 Remaining matches: Oct 16 Poland v Ireland, England V Turkey, Nov 13 Turkey v

Ireland, Poland v England.



Eaton (fourth from left) inaugurated the meet.