

Federation Cup final today

Sport Reporter



Defending champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club take on Brothers Union in today's final of the eleventh Federation Cup football tournament at the Mirpur National Stadium.

The match kicks off at 4:30 pm.

Bangladesh Television will telecast the match live while Radio Bangladesh will broadcast running commentary.

The reigning champions, who have won the title six times, will be playing in their ninth final and should start as the favourites against four-time finalists Brothers Union whose only success in the Cup came in 1980 as joint champions with Abahani Krira Chakra.

day's final disposing of their arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra 5-4 on tie-breakers after the regulation 90 minutes and another 30 minutes of extra time play in Wednesday's first semifinal had left the two giants locked one-all.

Brothers Union, thanks to their shock 2-1 defeat of Abahani in the robin league Group B match, had an easier passage into this year's final, having to contend with the relatively weaker Fakirpool Youngmen's Club in their semifinal on Thursday.

In the quarterfinal robin league games, Mohammedans topped Group A winning all three of their matches. They beat Fakirpool 1-0, Dhaka

Wanderers Club 3-0 and outclassed last year's semifinalists Muktiyoddha Sangshad 4-1.

On the other hand, Brothers Union despite finding themselves in the relatively stronger group along with Abahani and national champions Bangladesh Army, surprised everyone by finishing top of Group B.

They won their first match against Dhanmandi Club 1-0, beat Army by a similar margin and then upset favourites and last year's runners-up Abahani 2-1 — a victory that virtually ensured their entry into the final.

Mohammedans and Brothers have met each other eight times in the Federation Cup with Mohammedans having won four encounters to two wins for Brothers while two other ties ended in draws.

Mohammedans, though the best bet for today, will be handicapped by the absence of right-back Montu who is ineligible following the two yellow

card cautions he received in the two previous games. However, Iranian coach Nasser Hegazi and skipper Sayeed Hassan Kanan are quite confident Montu's absence will not weaken their team's defence with the veteran Abul likely to fill the spot.

Brothers official Kazi Mishu, talking to this correspondent yesterday evening, said the morale of his boys was sky high following their convincing wins against both Abahani and Fakirpool.

Mishu hoped both teams would strive to present a healthy game of football today and said the team playing better on the day would win.

Tickets, at Taka 25 each for the galleries and Taka 50 for the VIP enclosures, go on sale from the stadium counters at 12 noon.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj. Gen. (Retd) Majid-ul-Huq will witness the final as chief guest and give away the trophies.

Indians shocked

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Oct 19: Malaysia's men's hockey team qualified for a place at the Barcelona Olympics with a shock 3-2 win over India in the Olympic qualifying tournament here today, reports AFP.

Depending on results of other games, India could fail for the first time to win a place at the Olympics.

In a fast flowing game India, who have previously complained about the water-based astroturf, were simply outclassed.

Malaysia's win here comes after a year-long build-up with Australian coach Terry Walsh. Outstanding for Malaysia was fullback K. Embaraj who put away two of their five corners while Mirnawan Nawawi controlled the aerial ball.

Malaysia's forwards were very quick and matched India all the way.

WOMEN'S MEET
Meanwhile in women's qualifiers, Franziska Hentschel netted twice as Germany beat France 3-1 to score its fourth successive win on Friday.

Britta Becker also scored for the Germans who head Pool A with eight points and have clinched a spot in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic tournament.

Clarisse Durivau scored the only goal for France, which dipped to 1-3 and is out of contention.

South Korea and New Zealand both had victories Friday to improve their

records to 31- and keep alive their hopes.

New Zealand defeated the winless United States team 2-0, while Seoul Olympics silver medalist South Korea beat Japan 3-1.

Sue Furgame scored from the field in the 15th minute for New Zealand and Tian bell netted from a penalty corner in the 30th.

No Young-mi, Jim Gye-sook and Yang Hye-sook scored for South Korea, while Japan scored a consolation goal.

Canada dropped its first point of the tournament and had to score twice late in the game through Steve Ingvaldson to grab a 3-3 draw with Italy.

Minder Gill was the other Canadian scorer, while Pierpaolo Giuliani, Roberto Moro and Roberto Gulliani were the Italian marksmen.

The Soviet Union defeated Japan 5-1 in the other Pool A match, with fullback, Sergei Jichiev scoring a hat-trick, Manabu Yamanaka scored Japan's only goal.

STANDINGS
Tables after Saturday's matches (Played, won, drawn, lost, against points):

| Men's Pool A | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canada | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Israel | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Italy | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Japan | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| New Zealand | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| USSR | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Men's Pool B | | | | | |
| Belgium | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| France | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| India | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Malaysia | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Switzerland | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| USA | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |

Armanitola, Biman keep winning

Sports Reporter



Reigning champions Armanitola JS, title-contenders Bangladesh Biman, Azimpur Young

Boys and Village Defence Party (VDP) maintained their winning spree in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league by posting their third successive preliminary robin league

wing at the National Coaching Centre yesterday afternoon.

Once again, all four winners of the day registered the by now all too familiar — and boring — straight 3-0 sets victories in four one-sided encounters.

Armanitola's Badal won the opening singles 21-9, 21-14 against Bangladesh Bank's Mattur while Pappoo made it 2-0 by beating Israel 21-14, 21-18 in the next. Then Pappoo teamed up with Maroof to outplay the Bank pair of Mattur and Mustafiz 19-21, 21-10 and 21-16 to give the champions full points from their three matches so far.

Bangladesh Biman's star-studded team proved too good for league debutantes Kalpa Taru and the newcomers surrendered 0-3.

Nasimul Hassan Kochi thrashed Imran of Kapla Taru 21-10, 21-12, national champion Musaddequl Haq Rochi beat Tanna 21-15, 21-15 while Rochi and Saidul Haq Saadi won the doubles 21-13, 22-20 against Riad and Imran.

Navratilova in semifinals

FILDERSTADT, Germany, Oct 19: Martina Navratilova celebrated her 35th birthday here Friday by reaching the semifinals of the 350,000 dollar women's tournament after scoring a straight-sets victory over Nathalie Tauziat of France, reports AFP.

Navratilova, who scored a 6-4, 7-5 victory, now plays Austrian Judith Wiesner for a place in the final.

Wiesner hung on in a marathon 16-point first set tie-break to put out Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia 7-6 (9/7), 6-3.

The other semifinal will be between Anke Huber

English, Japanese paddlers share the honours

BLETCHLEY, England, Oct 19: Japan and England shared the honours in the first of two table tennis internationals here on Friday night, reports AFP.

Japan's women won 4-1, but England's men won their contest 5-2.

Carl Preen and Chen Xinhua were both undefeated for England. They won their singles games and then teamed up to take the doubles as well. Japan hit back when their number one Hiroshi Shibutani beat Matthew Syed 19-21, 21-11, 21-14.

Only Lisa Lomas could win for England women. She overcame Japanese champion Mika Hoshino 21-13, 21-14.

The two teams meet again on Saturday in England men will be unchanged but Alison Gordon plays for Lomas in the women's match.

TODAY'S MATCHES

- Young Star vs Pallima Sangsad
- Swamibagh TTS vs Kashatully
- Young Pegasus vs Combined Sporting
- BTMC vs Dhaka Medical College

Title bout

MANILA, Oct 19: Israel Contreras of Venezuela knocked out defending champion Luisito Espinosa of the Philippines in the fifth round Saturday to capture the World Boxing Association bantamweight title, reports AP.

The 30-year-old Contreras survived two knock downs in the second round and returned to floor Espinosa twice in the fifth to register the 35th win of his professional career.

Martin in final at Jahangir's cost

NEW YORK, Oct 19: Australians Rodney and Brett Martin became the first brothers to reach the final of a major squash tournament for more United States Open here in New York, reports AFP.

Rodney, the younger brother, repeated the victory he enjoyed in the World Open final in Adelaide in August by beating the top-seeded British Open champion Jahangir Khan 15-13, 15-11, 15-9. It was one of the most emphatic victories he has ever achieved over the legendary Pakistani.

Brett, nearly three years older at 28, followed his first world circuit win over Australian Open champion

Chris Dittmar by winning 15-13, 15-11, 15-8 against England's unseeded Peter Marshall — the only double-handed player on the tour.

The last time brothers reached a major final was in 1958 when Pakistanis Hashim and Azam Khan clashed.

The Martins have a claim to fame that the great Khans never had, however, because sister Michelle Martin also won a major title when she took the Australian Open two months ago.

Brett, the world number six, showed with the wristy disguises that enabled him to outplay Marshall in the second half of their semifinal that he is developing into a threat even to the main contenders.

But Rodney, whose ranking of five indicates little of his ability as one of the great stroke-players of all time, achieved by far the more significant success.

After fighting off a first game recovery from 4-10 to 13-13 by Jahangir, he began to carve winner after winner and make the greater player in the history of the game look ponderous.

During that brief comeback Jahangir summoned the explosive power and muscular attack that has steamrolled so many hundreds of opponents, but he did not have the energy to maintain it.

"Physically I have no problem with my back at the moment and it was one of those days when mentally I felt good as well," said Martin.

"In the world final I had to play a long rallying first game with him to settle my nerves and I felt nervous in British Open finals too."

"I didn't feel like that today and that was the way I like to play. I just need to take my time and relax and I am getting better at that as I get older."

With the World Team Championships in Helsinki less than a month away, Martin's victory over Jahangir took on another dimension.

Jahangir has suggested this week that he is likely to change his decision not to make himself available for Pakistan, and that after all he will probably be part of his country's bid to win back the world title from the Australians.

"Five (South Africans) have applied, and all have received messages that they are welcome," Blixt said.

The five players are: Piet Norval, Danie Visser, Christo Van Rensburg, Gary Muller and Wayne Ferreira.

Tyson-Holyfield bout postponed

LAS VEGAS, Oct 19: The November 8 world heavyweight title fight between champion Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson was postponed on Friday because of an injury to Tyson's left rib cage, fight organisers said, reports Reuters.

A brief statement from Caesars Palace, the scheduled site for the fight, expected to be the richest in history, said Tyson suffered the injury on October 8th and re-injured it on October 15th while training.

The statement said it was a "non-contact cartilage injury". No explanation was immediately available.

Tyson was "examined by Dr Gerral L. Higgins, and orthopaedic surgeon in Las Vegas who recommended the postponement of the bout," the statement said.

It said promoters of the bout are discussing dates to reschedule the fight, which was expected to gross 100 million dollars, as Tyson attempted to regain the title he lost in February 1990 when James "Buster" Douglas knocked him out.

"The fight is definitely off. It's just a postponement," said Rich Rose, president of Caesars World Sports, who was in Atlantic City. He said a new date for the fight should be announced this weekend.

Holyfield, who won the title by knocking out Douglas last October, was guaranteed 30 million dollars and Tyson 15 million dollars for their scheduled 12-round showdown for which Tyson was a 2-1 favourite in the early betting line.

One source said Tyson must avoid contact for six to eight weeks. Another report said the fight might take place in early January.

Tyson is scheduled to stand trial on January 27 in Indianapolis, Indiana, on charges that he raped a beauty pageant contestant in his hotel room last July.

Tyson has denied the charges.

Bata handball

Sport Reporter

Shaheed Smriti High School and the Ansars and VDP High School won their respective matches in the fourth Bata School handball tournament yesterday at the Outer Stadium Handball Court.

Shaheed Smriti School defeated Bangladesh Rifles High School 15-8 in the first match of the day held in the afternoon.

The winners led the first half by 7-3 goals.

Akbar with seven, Altaf five and Milan three were the main scorers for Shaheed Smriti School while Bakar with three and Rafiqul two were notable scorers for the losers.

In the other match of the day, Ansars and VDP High School registered a 33-19 goal victory over Bhasantek High School after dominating the first half by 19-11.

Abu Zafar scored 14 goals, Zakir eight and Zahid six for the winners while Solaiman netted 14, Shahjahan and Julhaz two for the losers.

AB Bank Women's TT in Nov

Sport Reporter

The AB Bank women's table tennis league, organised by Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF), will be held in the first week of November in Dhaka.

A BTTF press release yesterday requested interested teams to send their respective entry by October 30 after depositing an entry fee of Taka 200.



Action from yesterday's fourth Bata Schools handball tournament match at the Outer Stadium between Ansars & VDP School and Bhasantek High School. The former won by a flattering 33-19 goal margin. — Star photo



Fakirpool Youngmen's Club goalkeeper Dhanu dives successfully to thwart a charging Abahani Krira Chakra forward Zakir in yesterday afternoon's Federation Cup third-place play-off at the Mirpur National Stadium. Abahani won 2-1 despite being a goal down. — Star photo

Abahani finish third

Sports Reporter

The reigning NBL Senior Division league champions Abahani Krira Chakra came from behind to manage a face-saving 2-1 victory over Youngmen's Fakirpool Club in the third place play-off match of the eleventh Federation Cup Football tournament yesterday at Mirpur Stadium.

Both teams were locked 1-1 at the breather.

Last year's runners-up Abahani had a poor run in this year's tourney losing two consecutive matches — lost to Brothers Union in their round robin group match on Oct 12 and to arch-rivals Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club in semifinal last Wednesday.

They were badly looking to win in against relatively weaker opponents in their last outing in the meet before they launch a campaign to defend their NBL Senior Division league title early next month.

On the other hand, for Fakirpool it had been their best Federation Cup result ever.

Relatively newcomers in the Fed Cup and the league, Fakirpool had proved the form book wrong by making semifinals this year at the expense of much more fancied Muktiyoddha Sangsad. The freedom fighters were one of the semifinalists of last year's tourney.

The yesterday's play-off was keenly contested and the result could have gone in favour of either sides.

Abahani, taking the field without stopperbacks Munna

and Rehan and their brilliant goalkeeper Mohsin, looked a side lacking fire power.

Fakirpool shot into the lead in the 25th minute of the match when winger Firoze, from the right flank, sent a beautiful minus and teammate Akram with a tremendous shot beat Abahani's irregular goalie Selim (1-0).

However, Selim came to Abahani's rescue five minutes later when he smartly came out to thwart Masood's shot from a very close range.

Abahani equalised in the 40th minute when Mamun Joardar, off Rumi's pass, beat Fakirpool goalie Dhanu with a tremendous left footer (1-1).

Abahani's ace striker Sheikh Mohammed Aslam

sealed the fate of the match with a beautiful header off left back Nira's cross in 59th minute of the proceedings.

Bhola, a substitute midfielder of Fakirpool, saw his dangerous cross collected by Selim one minute from the long whistle.

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Selim, Alamgir, Ranjit, Babu, Masud Rana, Yousuf (Nira), Zakir, Mamun, Ghaus (Swapan), Rumi and Aslam.

FAKIRPOOL YMC: Dhanu, Swapan, Gobinda, Raquib, Montu, Akram, Masud, Mehdi (Bhola), Firoj and Asgar (Nasim).

Referee: Nasir Chowdhury

Cal MSC bow out

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Hanging on grimly to a tenth minute goal, runners-up Mahindras today upset

Calcutta giants Mohammedan Sporting 1-0 in the Durand Cup soccer quarterfinal league opener here, reports PTI.

Vice-captain Santosh Kashyap catapulted Mahindras into the lead, converting a penalty kick after Mohammedan Sporting captain Rahmatullah handled the ball on his goaline.

Earlier, Army Eleven outplayed Titanium Kerala 2-1 to book a berth in the quarterfinal league.

The fit, well-drilled army-men displayed fine coordina-

tion to snatch the lead in the 25th minute through midfielder Oceanandan, after John Brook had done the spadework with a cross from the right.

Army captain Chakradhar increased their lead in the 58th minute, tapping home another well-judged cross from fellow-striker John Brook.

Titanium managed to pull one back in the 76th minute, when striker Asheem picked up a through-pass from the midfield and outran two defenders before netting the ball.

Army XI now joins Calcutta teams Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting and Mahindras in Group 'B' of the quarterfinal league.