

Fine escape act by Mohammedans

Sports Reporter

Rumman bin-Walid Shabbir, the delightful, dapper little midfielder of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, most fittingly appeared in the role of the saviour when he ensured full points for his side by scoring the winning goal in their 3-2 victory over Eskaton Sabuj

serious Mohammedan raid in the 10th minute when he floated a fine cross from the right but goalkeeper Nizam rushed out in time before the dangerous Nakib could reach it. After a short lull which could be interpreted as an omen before a storm from a Mohammedan viewpoint, Eskaton kicked up the storm

ker, capitalised on a defensive lapse to Mohammedans level, drawing out a loud sigh of relief from the supporters who till that time had been watching the proceedings with bated breath. But the haunting incubus was on a short leave and it returned as Shahjahan gave Eskaton the lead once again (2-1).

given a controversial marching order by referee A. Aziz for a rough change and the side reduced to ten men started showing signs of wilting under relentless pressure. Mohammedan won a handling the ball decision outside the Eskaton box and the tall Katsar Hamid scored a spectacular goal from the resultant free-kick with a nearly 25-



Eskaton Sabuj Sangha goalkeeper Nizam watches as one of his teammates rushes to his rescue during yesterday's Star First Division soccer league match at the Mirpur Stadium. Mohammedans beat Eskaton 3-2. —Star photo

Sangha yesterday at the Mirpur Stadium. Although, the newly-promoted Eskaton Sabuj Sangha boys could not make their Big League debut on a winning note, yet the newcomers could not possibly have hoped for anything better, having dominated the first half in their momentous clash against their illustrious opponents with a two-one lead.

It was the worst possible beginning for the league runners up as Eskaton, the babes, twice shot ahead in the exciting second encounter of the day. Shabbir engineered the first

of this year's league. The match was only 17 minutes old when Mohammedan custodian Kanon partially saved a shot from one of the Eskaton players and Rinku, who eluded Kaiser Hamid's eyes or notice, put the loose ball into the net to leave the Mohammedan supporters dazzled (1-0).

It was perhaps the shot in the arm that the black and whites needed badly and they came roaring to get the equaliser, but poor finishing kept them waiting till the 26th minute when Mizan, the injury-prone Mohammedan stri-

Kanon was at fault once again when he left his position to foil a move and missed, Shahjahan lurking nearby got possession and found the net with all the time and space of the world.

Mohammedans, now fully aware of the implications, carried out several sorties and the Eskaton custodian rose to the occasion to save a piledriver from Kaiser Hamid.

Mohammedans began their second half campaign with a sense of urgency and a stream of offensives forced Eskaton to run for cover. Their defender Wakil was

yarder drive over the wall. The goal apparently took the wind out of the Eskaton sail and Mohammedan stepped up the pressure to force the winner but poor marksmanship kept their supporters on tenterhooks till the 30th minute.

Nakib gave the ball to an unmarked Shabbir inside the box and the latter sent the ball home to give the black-and-whites a kind of victory which was enacted earlier on the day at the Hockey Stadium where Mohammedans beat Usha KC despite conceding an early lead.

Reception to TT players

Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTTF) Saturday accorded a reception to men's table tennis team which for the first time won a medal in the just concluded 5th SAF Games in Colombo, reports UNB.

Bangladesh paddlers, in their third appearance in the SAF games, clinched the bronze medal in men's team event participated by all seven SAARC nations. Indian team won the gold while the Pakistanis got the silver in the event.

In the men's events, Bangladesh was represented by Rochi, Kochi, Saadi and Mustafa. At a function held in the conference room of National Sports Council (NSC), BTTTF President Syed Yousuf Hossain and General Secretary Kazi Motnuzzaman Pila said the reception was given to encourage promising players to do better in future, particularly in international competitions.

Nirman cricket in city from Jan 20

The Dhaka region matches of the Nirman schools cricket competition 1991-92 will begin from January 20, said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board press release.

Schools willing to participate in the competition from the Dhaka metropolis and its suburbs have been advised to complete their entry formalities by January 15.

Pioneer soccer Sports Reporter

Badda Jagarani Sangsad (Jrs) got the better off Dipali Juba Sangha 4-1 in the Group-B match of the North Zone in the 1991 Janata Bank Pioneer football league yesterday at the Mohakhali T&T ground.

Salahuddin slammed home two goals while Munir and Ripon scored one apiece for the winners.

Wahid reduced the margin for Dipali. The other match of the group at the venue between Banani Nabarun Sangha and Kurmitola Winners Club ended goalless.

India, S Korea make good start

NEW DELHI, Jan 11: A stizzling display in the first 20 minutes gave hosts India a superb start in the sixth Indra Gandhi memorial international gold cup hockey tournament, which began at the Shivaji Stadium here today, reports PTL.

The Indian team came up with superb performance to pound Poland 5-0 in their opening pool 'A' league match, while South Korea thrashed China 4-0 in another match of the same pool.

Right winger Mukesh Kumar fired the first salvo in the opening minute and added another in the 17th minute, with defender Jagdev Singh (14th) and Jogbir Singh (18th) finding the target even before the poles could settle in the match.

After reaching a position of comfort, the Indian team lost some of the early sheen, shackled by the Polish players and their malady to convert the penalty corners. A 60th minute goal by withdrawn forward Jude Felix in a one-two move with Jagbir Singh saw the hosts end the wind-swept chilly day well.

South Korea thrashed China 4-0 in the tournament league opener with forward Young Kyu Kim playing the leading role.

A goal each by Yung Kyun Jung and Jung Ho Choi enabled the former Asian Games champion take a 2-0 lead at the half-time while captain Shin Ilseum Park's solo effort in the 48th and Young's top-of-the-circle drive in the 53rd minute completed the tally.

PWD beat GMCC in style

Sports Reporter

Public Works Department (PWD) gave a trial of their strength when they recorded a creditable

and comfortable six-wickets victory against the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

GMCC skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu won the toss and decided to bat on a benign batting wicket.

Haranur Rashid Liton seemed to be suffering from the hangover of his vintage batting in the last match. He hit one six and one four in his brief knock of 23 before falling to spinner Shaheen.

Selim, the other opener, struck four boundaries to score 44 to lay a solid foundation for his side.

Anisuddin Bhutyan Pika kept up the pressure on the bowlers with 31 but the real assault started when the somewhat indolent Duminda Pereira came at the wicket.

The left-handed Sri Lankan belted five fours and a six in his 77 made off only 75 balls. Lipu fell for one but Zakir and Saiful took the score to 207 for six wickets.

GMCC had reasons to feel safe with a two hundred-plus score in a 45 overs match but not when you have someone like Romesh Kaluwithrana in the opposition. The tiny Sri Lankan is a kind of pocket dynamo whose tenure at the wicket can play havoc with the fielding side. He did exactly that when PWD started their victory chase. Romesh and Rowanukul Islam Tutul gave them an absolutely flying start with the latter mainly playing as the perfect foil to the daring Sri Lankan.

Their opening stand re-

aised 133 runs, with Romesh making a brilliant 79 off 85 balls with the help of seven boundaries.

He punished anything short from the GMCC bowlers with relish but the same stroke brought his downfall.

He pulled a shortish delivery from Saiful and Duminda, standing at square leg, arrested the full-blooded shot.



DUMINDA PEREIRA

took a tumble and then came up with the cherry safely clasped in his hand.

Tutul tried to cut a shade from Sanwar which a ball kept low and was bowled for 46, containing five hits to the fence.

Shaheen chose a wrong ball from mediumpacer Zakir to go for an overhead straight drive and was caught spectacularly by Saiful who ran back a few yards from his position at mid-off and raised his right hand more in anticipation than in confidence.

Imran Hamid Partha, the left-handed batsman main-

tained his big-hitting reputation by hoisting Rubel over long-off for a six.

Partha remained unbeaten on 31 and hit the winning stroke a cut off Lipu for four, his second.

Ehsan remained unbeaten at the kill with 17. Saiful, Zakir and Sanwar took one wicket apiece for GMCC.

It was GMCC's third loss in the league.

SCOREBOARD

GMCC		PWD	
Liton c Badshah b Shaheen	23	Tutul b Sanwar	46
Selim run out	44	Romesh c Duminda b Saiful	79
Pika c Anwar b Hamin	31	Shaheen c Saiful b Zakir	6
Duminda cdb Badshah	77	Ehsan not out	17
Sharat lbw Badshah	9	Shabbir c Sanwar b Sharat	20
Lipu run out	1	Partha not out	31
Saiful not out	4	Extras	10
Zakir not out	7	Total for 6 wks in 45 overs	207
Extras	11	Bowling: O M R W	
		Saiful	8 0 31 1
		Zakir	3 0 15 1
		Lipu	1.2 0 9 0
		Sharat	9 0 32 1
		Rubel	8 0 37 0
		Duminda	7 0 47 0
		Sanwar	3 0 17 1
		Liton	2 0 17 0

VIP tickets for First Div soccer

Sports Reporter

The VIP season's tickets for the Star First Division football league are now available at the 32, Bangabandhu Avenue branch of Agrani Bank. The rate of this year's tickets has been fixed as follows, according to a Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association press release.

Special VIP	Matingate	Taka 600
VIP (spectator)	Gate No Ga & Gha	Taka 500
VIP (spectator)	Gate No Ka & Kha	Taka 400

The daily VIP tickets, vendors' cards and VIP season's tickets can be purchased from the office of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association everyday from ten in the morning, the press release also said.

Victoria rally to beat Farashganj

Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club, who had won the first Dhaka First Division football league championship way back in 1948, gave a good start to their 1991 Star First Division campaign, coming from behind to outplay Farashganj Sporting Club 2-1 at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Both teams were locked 1-1 at the breather. The first goal of the match came even before the meagre spectators in the galleries could settle down on their hard, concrete seats.

Sakhawat, the Farashganj mid-fielder, took a rasping drive from outside Victoria's box. Victoria's first choice custodian Aslam came up in anticipation but the ball hit him

on the nose. As the goalkeeper lay prostrate, Ratan made no mistake in placing the ball into the unguarded Victoria net (1-0).

Down by a goal, Victoria pulled up their socks and soon created a bright chance in the 11th minute of play when a Mamunul Karim cross floated into the Farashganj box. But Liton, Farashganj custodian rose high in the air to take control.

In the 21st minute, Zakir of Victoria, standing inside the Farashganj box, could not connect a Mamun Babu mimic.

Victoria's moment of relief came in the 31st minute when Shankar levelled the margin with a delicate placing upon a Zakir pass (1-1).

At the stroke of half time, a nice Mamunul Karim cross was fisted away by the Farashganj

goalkeeper. Ten minutes into the second half, Mamunul Karim took a powerful shot from the top of the Farashganj box. But Liton was positioned well to clear the danger.

However, Victoria's dreams came true in the 60th minute when skipper Prodip Majumder placed the ball wide of the Farashganj custodian (2-1).

Victoria kept the pressure up. Mamunul Karim, who had an excellent match as Victoria's play-maker found a ball inside the box. Before him was only a hapless Farashganj goalkeeper but Mamun's shot went wide of the post, leaving his team to remain content with the 2-1 margin.

Referee: Monirul Islam cautioned Raj, Dilip and Tipu of Farashganj and Sagar of Victoria with the yellow cards.

TEAMS

VICTORIA SC: Aslam (Chandan), Sagar, Prodip, Farhad, Anwar, Sujit, Toufik, Mamun Babu (Babul), Karim, Shankar and Zakir.

FARASHGANJ SC: Liton, Raj, Dilip, Salauddin, Litu, Debashish (Nurul Islam), Tipu (Shahzada), Hira, Sakhawat, Shimu and Ratan.

Referee: Monirul Islam. TODAY'S MATCHES Agrani Bank SC vs Adamji SCC (3 pm) Brothers Union vs Dhaka Wanderers Club (5 pm)

Rival Russian fed threatens future

MOSCOW, Jan 11: Soccer chiefs in the new Commonwealth of Independent States refused on Friday

to recognise a rebel Russian football association that threatens to split the game's ruling bodies, reports Reuters. The creation on Thursday of the self-styled All-Russian Football Association raised the danger of a bitter power struggle and threw into question the holding of a Commonwealth championship next season.

Vyacheslav Koloskov, head of the old Soviet Soccer Federation and vice-president of FIFA, said the new body was not recognised by any Russian authority.

"As far as we are concerned, the legally-chosen (Russian) association must continue to function," he said. Yuri Kaban, deputy chair-

man of the existing Russian soccer federation, was even more blunt: "We do not know of any such organisation... We are the legally-created federation."

The new association was formed by more than 173 delegates from throughout Russia with the aim of running soccer in the vast country and holding national championships. The delegates also voted to abolish the Russian Soccer Federation. They ruled out holding a Commonwealth championship this year, an idea favoured by the Russian federation, saying their association would organise a purely Russian competition instead with 18 teams in the First Division.

"As for a championship of the Commonwealth of Independent States, that cannot be," the association's president, former player and manager Anzor kavazashvili was quoted as saying.

Koloskov said the new soccer body had been founded by people with grudges against the ruling bodies. "It's motivated by the fact they want to grab authority for themselves," the former Soviet international defender said.

The Soviet Soccer Federation which he heads will meet today to reshape itself into a new federation of the Commonwealth of Independent States. It will discuss how to organise a Commonwealth championship, which Koloskov said would have just one division with 22 teams. Also on the agenda are formation of a single team for the European Championship in Sweden and the Barcelona Olympics.

Missing from the new federation will be at least five former Soviet republics — the three Baltic states, Georgia and Ukraine, which is starting its own league this spring.

MSC win with Chapal hat-trick

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club came back strongly from behind to record a 3-1 victory against

Usha Krira Chakra in their opening match of the Green Delta First Division hockey league yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

Barkatullah Chapal, the tall, lean, hungry-looking Mohammedan inside-forward showed a keen appetite for goals by scoring a hat-trick to help the black and whites get off to an

auspicious start. Khawja Musa Azhar of Usha Krira Chakra shocked the Mohammedans when he scored from a penalty corner in the 12th minute.

Chapal levelled for Mohammedan in the 15th minute from a penalty corner.

He scored a fine field goal in the 53rd minute to put Mohammedan into the lead and two minutes later completed the tally — and his hat-trick — from a penalty corner. Mohammedan official Kamal was shown a red card for

abusing the umpire. In the earlier match on the afternoon, Wari Club registered a comfortable 2-0 win over Victoria Sporting Club.

Khawja Taleb Reza converted a penalty stroke for the winners in the 46th minute while Sabauddin Babul doubled the margin in the 66th minute from a penalty corner.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bachelors SC vs Dhaka Wanderers (1:45 pm) Ajax SC vs Dhaka Ansars (3:15 pm)



A melee in front of the Usha Krira Chakra goalmouth during yesterday's Green Delta First Division league match at the Hockey Stadium. Mohammedans won 3-1. —Star photo

Nat'l cricket in late Feb

Sports Reporter

The national cricket championship and the national junior championship will begin from the last week of February, says a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board press release.

All District Sports Associations (DSA) and the affiliated units have been asked to deposit Taka 300 for renewal of affiliation and Taka 100 for each of the competitions vide crossed cheque, draft, pay order of cash in favour of BCCB by January 20 at the latest.

The DSAs interested to host the regional competitions have been advised to send their bids along with a proposed fixture and budget to the board by January 15.

Clift to lead Britain

LONDON Jan 11: Robert Clift has been lined up to take part in his third Olympic hockey contest

and lead Great Britain in defence of their Seoul title, reports AFP.

Great Britain manager Bernie Cotton named Clift as captain of the 16-man squad for the champions trophy in Karachi, starting February 20 and there are unlikely to be many changes before the Barcelona Olympics in July.

Clift will be one of six players heading for their third Olympics. Youngest Squad member is 18-year-old midfielder Rowan Davis, while utility player Simon Nicklin, 19, and 21-year-old forward Russell Garcia, who played in the 1988

Seoul Games, add to the mix of young blood and experience.

The most notable omission is full back David Faulkner, who has captained Great Britain but is now straggling to maintain form.

"The Champions trophy is important, particularly in Olympic year," said Cotton.

"I expect our team to be very competitive in Barcelona, and I'm looking to Karachi to continue the improvement we showed in the last champions Trophy."

Great Britain Squad: Sean Rowlands, David Luckes, Sean Martin, Paul Bolland, Russell Davis, Jon Potter, Jason Laslett, Martin Grimley, Stephen Batchelor, Russell Garcia, Jon Shaw, Russell Thompson, Sean Kerly, Robert Clift (capt) Simon Nicklin, David Williams.