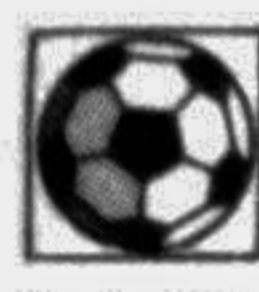


Shabbir lugs Mohammedans



The gritty play of BKSP by Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) kept title-aspirants Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting at bay for 64 minutes yesterday in the second match of the Star First Division football league under the floodlights at the Mirpur Stadium.

BJMC, undaunted by the awesome presence of a number of national colours in the black-and-white ranks, played as a cohesive unit and put up a spirited display tinged with zest and strict adherence to the basic tenets of the game.

Mohammedans established territorial dominance quickly as their opponents in maroon took time to settle down.

Nakib, who is recognised of late as a striker more for his ineffectual loitering in front than any substantial activities worth that epithet, wasted a scoring opportunity within the first five minutes of the match when, running between two BJMC defenders, he failed to knock the ball into the net over an advancing BJMC custodian Selim.

Rumman bin-Wali Shabbir, to whose skills Mohammedans owe their two points, swung in a freekick midway through the second half but Roxy who did well to read the mind of the brilliant footballer failed to give the finishing touch as his header went over the bar.

Mohammedans' defence was never seriously challenged, yet once Papel snatched a ball from the joint possession of Jewel and Barun but blasted over the bar from inexperience.

The BJMC midfield comprising Anisur, Salam, Burki and Papel, circumscribed the sluggish, unimaginative Mohammedan midfield where an over the hill Johnny doddered muddled and bearded Ayaz Khan, a favourite with coach Naser Heggazi, moved to and fro like the blind-folded man in the game of the blind man's buff.

However, the no-nonsense defence and the industrious midfield of BJMC were let down by the frontliners as most of their advances were nipped in the bud by the Mohammedan defence which carried a passenger in Barun

scoped over the stranded goalkeeper in the 29th minute to seal the fate of the match (2-0).

Ayaz Khan of Mohammedan was shown the yellow card for uncalled for rough play in an otherwise neat match.



Mohammedans' Kaiser Hamid (R) is challenged by two BJMC players in yesterday's Star First Division football league match at Mirpur Stadium. MSC won 2-0.

— Star photo

white supporters exhale a sigh of relief (1-0).

Reaz, who along with the consistent Shabbir caught notice in the Mohammedan line, missed a couple of chances, once with custodian Selim at his mercy as his side looked to consolidate their position.

The gallant BJMC boys who went the whole hog in the first half started to run out of gas and Shabbir's wicked lob beat the offside trap and substitute Pappu latching on to it.

Referee robs Rahmatganj



Victoria Sporting Club made the most of referee Ram Krishna Ghosh's bad nerves to go

home with two full points in the first match of the Star First Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Ohosh set a rare example of shirking his duties when the man in black on trial did not turn up to conduct the match in the second half.

When contacted, the league committee secretary present at the ground termed this unusual debacle a 'psychological breakdown'.

Returning to the mutton, Rahmatganj had to pay through their noses either for the butterflies in the referee's stomach or reasons best known to the man in black for no fault of their own.

Rahmatganj, who started this year's league campaign in style by drubbing Bima four nil on the inaugural day, played the better brand of soccer in the first half. They launched a menacing move in the third minute of the match when Lokman got possession inside

the box but Pradip and Farhad, the two Victoria stoppers, felled him by tugging his shirt with the yellow- and green player placed in an advantageous position.

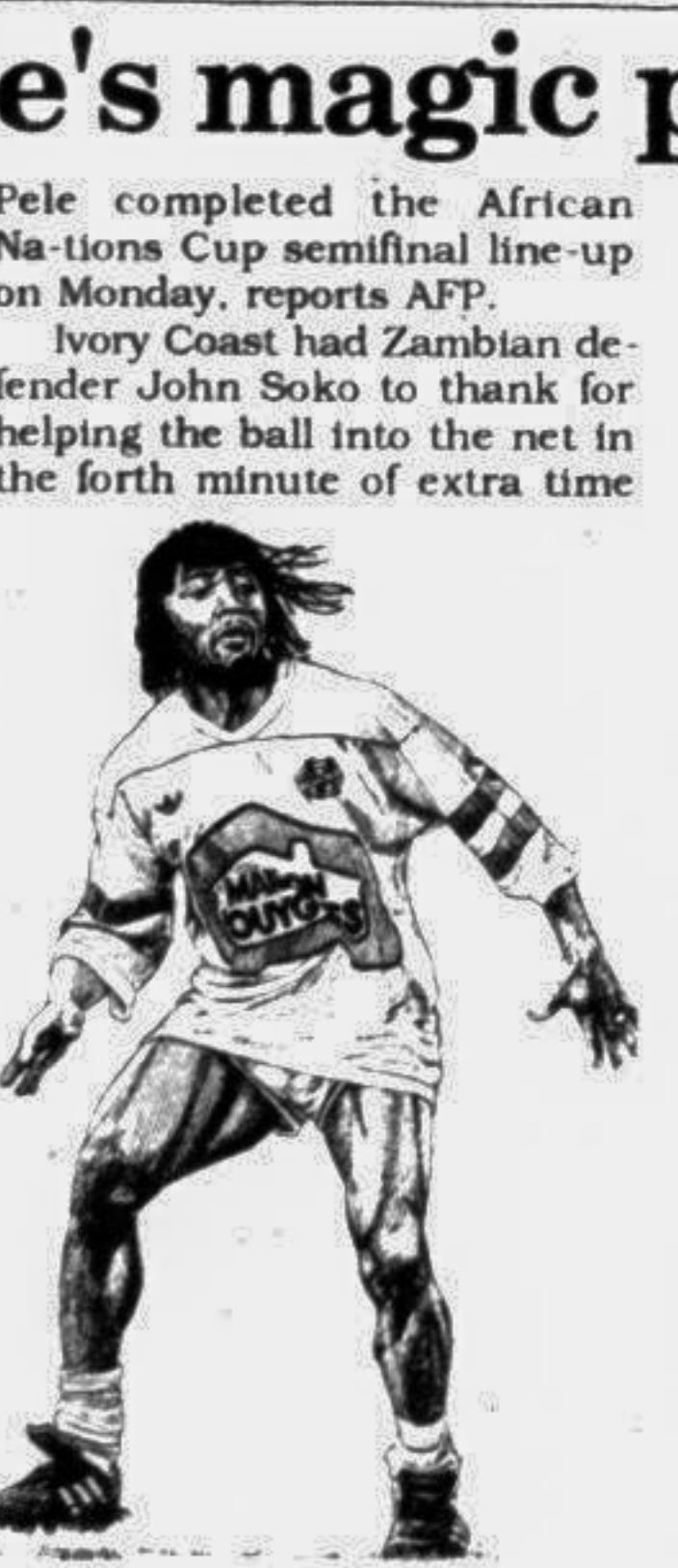
But the referee overlooked the serious infringement, much to the surprise of the spectators.

Rahmatganj continued to get the rough end of the stick of the referee and eight minutes from the buzzer the referee gave an indirect free kick inside the box against Rahmatganj for the violation of the stepping rule of custodian Milon.

Sujit pushed to Karim and the latter's powerful shot pierced the defensive wall to get entangled in the net 1-0.

Immediately after this the referee deprived Rahmatganj of a flag kick and Rahmatganj players did well to hold themselves in check at the whimsical supervision of the referee. The referee saved himself from further embarrassment with the short whistle following quickly.

The visibly shaken, referee returned in the escort of the



ABEDI PELE

Abedi Pele's magic puts Ghana in semis

DAKAR, Jan 21: A fortunate deflection from a Zambian defender's knee and a moment of magic from African footballer-of-the-year Abedi

SA to play in '94 African Cup

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 21: South Africa, seeking readmission to international soccer, will be invited to play in the 1994 African Nations Cup tournament, the South African Football Association (SAFA) said on Monday, reports Reuter.

"I have been informed by the African Football Confederation (CAF) that South Africa has been included with 13 other countries in the southern region of the Africa Cup elimination rounds which start in August," SAFA secretary general Solomon Morewa said.

"It is a tremendous breakthrough for us," he said, adding that FIFA, world soccer's governing body, would formally readmit South Africa at its meeting in Zurich on July 3.

for the only goal of their quarter-final and a place in the last four against Cameroon.

And Ghana's Pele took matters into his own hands with a memorable goal to see off Congo 2-1 and line up a potentially explosive match against Nigeria.

But just as Nigeria and

members of the law enforcing agency and amid hoots and billingsgate of irate Rahmatganj officials and supporters. Linesman Montul Islam took over the reins after the breather but that did nothing to raise the spirits of the demoralised Rahmatganj players and the smirking Victoria players trooped back thanking their stars with two points in their account after a dull, purposeless and tedious forty-five minute farce in the name of football.

Badal of Rahmatganj looked more interested about the legs of the opponents and was lucky to get away with a yellow card.

Zakir and Anwar of Victoria also received yellow cards in a match that many had apprehended would end in fiasco.

Rahmatganj officials, although at the flash point did not indulge in any post-match unsavoury nonsense.

Though all seemed quiet after the match it looks like the victimised club will give DMFA, under whose auspices this year's league is being held, a tough time regarding this result.

Shastri to miss Adelaide Test

SYDNEY, Jan 21: All-rounder Ravi Shastri, who injured his knee during his gallant innings of 61 in the final of the World Series competition against Australia yesterday, will miss the fourth Test, starting in Adelaide on Saturday, reports PTI.

Shastri's injury was diagnosed as a tear in a ligament at the back of the knee.

The extent of the damage will be more accurately revealed by an exploratory operation tomorrow morning. It will indicate whether Shastri will have recovered in time for the fifth Test, beginning in Perth on February one.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Boys Club outplayed Azad Sporting Club by four wickets in the Rank Xerox Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (West) yesterday.

Sent into bat, Azad Sporting made 147, runs for the loss of nine wickets in their stipulated 35 overs.

Sajjad, with the help of two boundaries, scored 43 runs off 55 balls for Azad.

Sumi bagged two wickets for 13 and Shodha took another two for 26 for Bangladesh Boys.

In their turn, Bangladesh Boys scored 151 for six in 25.5 overs with Azam making 39.

Rasul scored a useful 29 off just 23 balls hitting two sixes and a four.

Shyamol took two Azad wickets for 27 runs.

Mill Barracks CC got a walk-over against Eagles SC in the other Second Division fixture of the day at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Lalbagh Anwar SC vs United Heroes (DCS)

Western Club vs Three-Star Boys Club (DCG)

Inter-university cricket

RAJSHAHI, Jan 21: Bangladesh Agricultural University today scored a massive 105-run victory over shakri Islamic University in the inter-university cricket tournament being played at the Rajshahi University Stadium, reports UNB.

Batting first, BAU scored 199 in 36 overs. Morshed displayed an all-round performance in the day with 58 runs and taking four wickets. Sohel followed him with 50 runs.

Replying to a huge score of 199, Islamic University came to bat and were dismissed at only 94 runs in 33.4 overs with Khalid hitting 23 runs.

Rajiv Gandhi soccer

JAMSHEDPUR, Jan 21: South Korea downed India 2-1 in the last league match of the Rajiv Gandhi Gold Cup international (under-21) soccer tournament at the JRD Tata Sports Complex here today, reports PTI.

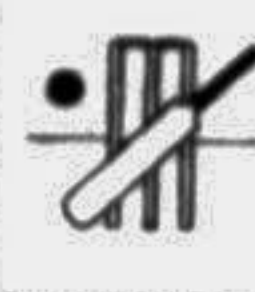
South Korea led 1-0 at the breather.

Egypt and Iran drew 1-1 to bag one point each in an inconsequential round robin league match.

After a barren first half, Egypt forged ahead immediately after the breather with a suicidal goal by Iranian defender, Aliraza Aidada.

Iran drew their second match in four outings and collected two points. Both the teams, however, are out of the reckoning as Romania and South Korea have already made it to the final.

Lalmatia come back from the dead



Lalmatia Club's improbable three-wicket win over Kalabagan Krira Chakra in their Navana Premier Division league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday once again underlined the fact that cricket is often a funny game. Of course, Kalabagan couldn't have been amused at the way things turned out in a low-scoring affair.

Kalabagan skipper Tamim won the toss and hadn't the slightest hesitation in choosing to make first use of what has over the past several days proved to be a benign, batsmen's track.

Yet a score of five down for 40 in only the 12th over must have given Tamim no little cause to question the wisdom of his judgement.

The top six Kalabagan batsmen, including such veterans as Ishitq and Dipu Roy Chowdhury—the two openers—all failed to progress beyond a single digit in the face of some incisive bowling from Lalmatia's paceman Anis who ran through the Kalabagan top order like a hot knife on butter.

The nippy left-armed clean bowled Ishitq for seven when the score was a mere 17 and had Dipu Chowdhury snapped up by Sri Lankan Sanjeeva Weerasinghe for six at 21.

Then Anis castled Sujit for seven and Shaon for four while Subrata lent a hand by tempting Mohammad to steer one straight into the waiting hands of Sanjeeva for nought.

Kalabagan couldn't have

hoped for a worse predicament. With half the side back in the pavilion for just 40 runs the game looked as good as over. But nothing is quite over in cricket until the last ball has been bowled and subsequent course of events only reiterated this truism.

Number six batsman Tanvir gathered enough courage to make a stand against the fifth-erto unchallenged Lalmatia onslaught and his determination emboldened the remaining latter order batsmen to do likewise.

Wicket-keeper Pilot joined Tanvir and the two piloted their side to a more reasonable 80 before pilot became the sixth man out, caught by Anwar off Rome after having made 21 with the help of three boundaries.

Tanvir was joined by Tamim and the Kalabagan skipper who had seen better days with such bigger clubs like Abahani, chose the occasion to do his duty as the captain. Playing a role that was designed to steady the rocking Kalabagan boat, Tamim refused to abandon ship and remained the last man on deck, unconquered on 37 when the innings closed at 158 in 42.5 overs.

Tamim and Tanvir added 47 priceless runs for the seventh wicket, before Tanvir fell to a diligent 36, a knock that was ended by a vicious delivery from left-arm spinner Atiq.

Gajanan Reddy, the Indian all-rounder, came and went before Pappu with a brief yet determined innings of 12 offered Tamim badly needed support.

Anis was no doubt the pick

of the Lalmatia bowlers, finishing with four for 28 off nine overs while Atiq claimed two for 29. Subrata, Rome and Sanjeeva, the other three Lalmatia bowlers used, all chipped in with a wicket apiece.

If Lalmatia were patting themselves for having done a good day's work in the field they were soon in for a rude



SANJEEVA WEERASINGHE

shock. For in a pattern all too reminiscent of the Kalabagan beginning, Lalmatia soon found the going hard and were themselves reduced to 37 for five by the 19th over. Skipper Liton got a duck, his fellow opener Babu four, wicket-keeper Anwar three, Uttam six and Dulal two. The Kalabagan new ball attack of Reddy and Dipu Roy Chowdhury threatened to do exactly what Anis and Co. had done for Lalmatia.

Yet, just as these two looked all set to scythe

through, they came up against stolid resistance in the shape of Sanjeeva and Shahid. These two were in no mood to give up without a fight and fight they did, right until victory was achieved in the 42nd over at the cost of seven wickets.

Sanjeeva, Lalmatia's Sri Lankan all-rounder who has paid his club back more than what they must have paid for his services, took the Kalabagan bowling by the scruff of the neck and with Shahid added a massive 113-run stand for the sixth wicket, a partnership that virtually won the match for Lalmatia.

Sanjeeva's knock, almost of epic proportions under the circumstances, was studded with eight positive boundaries and came off 97 balls. Shahid, who remained not out on 54 at the kill, got his runs off 63 deliveries with the help of three fours. They were the only ones to reach double figures.

Although by the time Sanjeeva departed Lalmatia must have felt assured of their third victory in eight outings, yet Reddy almost caused a last-minute upset by having Rome snapped up behind the wickets by pilot for nought. But Anis kept his cool and stayed with Shahid until victory was achieved at 159 for seven in 41.3 overs.

Reddy finished with three for 31, Dipu two for 14, Sujit one for 16 and Gem one for 25. Tamim undid most of the good work he had done with the bat by giving away 13 runs off the two overs that he sent down.

Kalabagan, too, have three wins from eight matches.

Gulshan do Rupali no favours

Sports Reporter

Gulshan Youth Club did their bit to facilitate the termination of Rupali Bank's sojourn in the Navana Premier Division cricket league when they dished out a massive seven-wicket defeat to the bankers yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Gulshan skipper Rupam sent in Rupali bat to bat first after winning the toss and the grovelling, beleaguered side justified his decision by being skittled out for a paltry 75.

Babul wrought havoc with the Bank batting, taking five for only 27 runs.

Ashoke Malhotra and Shamim also took part in the demolition act, taking two wickets apiece.

The Gulshan openers made a heavy weather of an easy task, getting out cheaply with the score reading only five.

Iftikhar, with his place assured in the side for reasons other than his batting abilities, could afford to get out cheaply once again and Indians Arun Lal and Ashoke Malhotra carrying their side home without any hiccup.

Arun Lal remained not out on 42 with the help of four boundaries off 51 balls and Malhotra had the scope of managing only 12 when the score was overhauled.

Hasnain did his best to defend a hopeless score with figures of two for 15.

Prince was the other wicket-taker claiming one for 21.

European clubs grab African stars

DAKAR, Jan 21: The real business of the African Nations Cup finals began on Monday when an Italian soccer agent reported the transfer of some of Africa's outstanding players to European clubs, reports Reuter.

Domenico Ricci, whose Rome-based company African football management was recently behind the transfer of three of Ghana's outstanding world champion under-17 team to Torino, said Zambian midfielder Alshos Melu and striker Gibby Mbasela were joining Montpellier and St Etienne of France respectively.

In another deal Nigerian striker Rashid Yekini, the tournament's leading scorer with three goals, will move from his Portuguese club Vitoria Setubal to Souchaux in France.

No figures were revealed for any of the deals.

Ricci, a former Italian professional player, has been responsible for his arrival in Senegal of dozens of scouts and agents from all over Europe. A particularly large contingent of Italian clubs are represented at the finals.

"Italy are taking the African football scene very seriously now," said Ricci "they are a bit lukewarm about some of the players, but a lot will happen in the future. I'm sure."

Africa is now widely regarded as the cheapest source of top talent for European clubs.

Many of the players at the finals are already employed by African clubs and more than 300 Africans are European-based professionals.

Kiwis face an uphill task

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Jan 21: The first Test match between New Zealand and England was finely poised at the end of the fourth day today after New Zealand's batsmen, following on to avoid an innings defeat, knuckled down to their task, reports Reuter.

By the close of play, New Zealand were 81 for one in their second innings after scoring 312 all out in their first and being asked to follow on by England, who have the advantage of a massive 580 for nine.

New Zealand still need 187 runs to avoid an innings defeat, but have nine wickets in hand and finally appear to have learned that the Lancaster Park wicket bears few surprises for competent batsmen. They could manage a draw.

England's only success in the final session was to take the wicket of New Zealand opener Blair Heasted, who had stroked a confident 45 before being caught at short extra cover off bat and pad by Robin Smith with the score on 81.

Veteran opener John Wright and nightwatchman Danny Morrison saw out the last few minutes of play without further loss.

After collapsing to 91 for five in their first innings, all rounder Dipak Patel exposed the placid nature of the pitch this morning with a sparkling 99 before he was run out trying to reach his century.

Patel ran two off a Lewis delivery and tried to make a third, but was dismissed by a Derek Pringle throw which robbed him of his first Test century.

"What I had done did not hit me until I got back in the dressing room," Patel said afterwards of his impetuous

dismissal.

Patel was rejected by England selectors before setting in New Zealand, and his innings which may have saved New Zealand from defeat may exact some revenge for the Kenyan-born player.

Chris Cairns then took up the attack for New Zealand, scoring 11 fours in an innings of 61 as New Zealand reached

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the cricket Test match between New Zealand and England today.

England first innings 580 for nine declared (A. Stewart 148, R. Smith 96, A. Lamb 93).

New Zealand first innings (overnight 169 for six)

Wright c Lamb b Tufnell	28
Hartland c Smith b Tufnell	22
Jones LBW b Lewis	11
Greatbatch c Stewart b Tufnell	16
Thomson b Tufnell	5
Patel run out	99
Crow c Stewart b Pringle	20
Cairns c Hick b Reeve	61
Smith LBW b DeFreitas	20
Morrison not out	8
Pringle c Hick b DeFreitas	16
Extras: (NB-8, LB-7, B-1)	6
Total:	312

Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-52, 3-73, 4-87, 5-91, 6-139, 7-256, 8-278, 9-306.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Lewis	30	9	69	1
DeFreitas	32.4	16	54	2
Tufnell	39	10	100	4
Pringle	15	2	54	1
Reeve	8	4	16	1
Hick	8	0	11	0

Second innings:

Wright not out	28
Hartland c Smith b Tufnell	45
Morrison not out	0
Extras: (NB-4, LB-4)	8
Total (for one wicket)	81
Fall of wicket:	1-181

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Pringle	7	2	20	0
Hick	5	2	8	0
DeFreitas	7	3	12	0
Lewis	6	2	14	0
Reeve	2	0	8	0
Tufnell	14	7	15	1

Byazid hattrick powers Ajax



Veteran Syed Byazid Haider gave title-aspirants Ajax Sports Club their rhythmic back when he scored

four goals in a row to record a comfortable 5-0 victory over new-comers Bangladesh Sporting Club in the Green Delta First Division hockey league yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

Last year's runners-up led the first session 3-0.

Perhaps the haunting experience of their last match against underdogs Police Athletic Club, in which they had to share points in a goalless affair, was still fresh in Ajax's mind.

Babes Bangladesh Sporting, who had given a real fight to Mohammedan Sporting Club, lacked in determination and spirit and consequently went back home rather sad.

Byazid slammed home his first goal of the season by converting a penalty corner in the very third minute (1-0) to put Ajax ahead.

He doubled the margin in the 16th minute, once again by converting a penalty corner (2-0).

Byazid, the day's hero, completed his hat-trick, the third in this year's league, in the 25th minute by scoring a

Sports Reporter

field goal in style (3-0).

Byazid slotted home his fourth goal in the 50th minute by converting yet another penalty corner (4-0).

Abu Zafar Tapan, with a spectacular field goal, completed the tally for the winners in the 55th minute (5-0).

Khwaja Irtza Kader Guddu and Khwaja Rezwana Arzoo of Ajax and Mitu and Jewel of Bangladesh Sporting were shown the yellow cards.

In addition, Ehtesham of Bangladesh Sporting was cautioned with the green card.

So far, Ajax have earned five points from three outings while Bangladesh Sporting have none from an identical number of outings.

AJAX: Javed, Guddu, Rezwana, Al-Mamun, Mukhes (Musa), Tapan, Nasim, Khwaja Wais, Byazid (Labu), Palash, Bari.

BANGLADESH SC: Karim, Mitu, Rony, Jewel, Obayed (Tamu), Habib (Mostafa), Shiraul, Mamun, Mahmud, Ehtesham, Mahubb.

GOALLESS DRAW

The other match of the day, between Victoria Sporting Club and Azad Sporting Club, ended in a goalless draw.

Victoria earned five corners and three penalty corners against the four penalty cor-

ners forced by Azad.

Azad now have two points from three outings while for Victoria, who have played a similar number of matches, it was their first point.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sonali Bank vs Dhaka Wanderers (1.45 pm)

Victoria SC vs Azad SC (3.15 pm)

FRG paddlers win Euro men's title

MUNICH, Germany, Jan 21: Germany won the European Nations Cup men's team table tennis championship for the second year in succession on Sunday, beating France 3-2 in the final, reports Reuter.