

Pioneer soccer Sports Reporter

Following are the highlights of the matches of the Janata Bank Pioneer football league held at the different city venues yesterday:

Handball results Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars trounced Bantanager Sporting Club 79-4 in a one-sided affair of the CUTE handball league yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Ansars led the first half 41-2. Jewel, Akram and Badshah netted 26, 25 and 10 goals respectively for the winners while Nipu scored two goals for Bantanager.

In the other match of the day, Surjodoy Boys Club outplayed Tarun Sangsad by 30 goals to 14. The winners led the first half 16-4.

ROK beat Japan

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 27: Tournament favourites South Korea tamed underdogs Japan with a last minute goal in the Asia final round pre-Olympic football tournament at the Merdeka Stadium here today and brightened their chances of making it to Barcelona, reports AFP.

Both teams played to a scoreless first-half. The match, which was crucial for both teams, seemed to be heading for a scoreless draw when Kim Byung-Soo struck with a spectacular goal.

In a last minute attempt to clinch the winner, the Koreans swamped the Japanese half and off a goalmouth melee Kim slammed home a stinger with his left foot which struck the crossbar and bounced into the net receiving the Japanese keeper Kenichi Shimokawa.

Japan, who blasted Bahrain 6-1, in their previous game Saturday, could have topped Korea but their poor finishing let them down.

The Korean defence which was surprisingly vulnerable was cracked by the Japanese forwards on numerous occasions but they failed to exploit it.

Japan with only one win, two defeats, and a draw in the six-nation qualifying tournament, now have a slim chance of qualifying for Barcelona.

They meet formidable Qatar in their last match Thursday.

Robson-PSV to part ways

AMSTERDAM, Jan 27: Former England manager Bobby Robson will lose his job as coach of Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven when his contract expires at the end of the season, the club said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

PSV and Robson have agreed not to extend his two year contract when it expires on June 30 this year, the club said in a statement after Sunday's league match against FC Den Haag, which PSV won 2-1.

King's Cup soccer

BANGKOK, Jan 27: Thailand 'A' with a 3-0 victory over Indonesia, and China, who defeated South Korea 2-1, finished first and second in Group-A of the 23rd Kings Cup football championships here Sunday to enter the tournament's semifinals, reports AFP.

Thailand 'A' trounced the Southeast Asian Games champions with goals from Suksant Kunsut in the 34th minute, Songaserm Maperm in the 59th minute and Tanit Areesa-Ngakul in the 82nd minute.

Defending champions China defeated South Korea 2-1 after 2-0 leading at half time with goals from Li Xiao in the 36th minute and Xie Yuxin in the 44th minute. South Korea's goal came from Choo Dae-Yoon in the 85th minute.

In the semifinals to be played Tuesday, Thailand 'A' will meet Thailand 'B' while China will face Germany's FC Berlin.

Group A: (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points) Thailand 'A' 3 2 1 0 6 1 5 China 3 2 1 0 5 2 5 Indonesia 3 1 0 2 2 5 2 South Korea 3 0 0 3 1 6 0

Brothers brook no nonsense Sports Reporter



Brothers Union showed no signs of any hangover of their tippy display against War Club last week which saw them return from death throes with a point when they defeated Arambagh by two goals to nil yesterday at the Mirpur Stadium.

The winners scored a goal in each half to ensure a welcome return to the winning habit.

Brothers took time to settle down and Arambagh, inspired by the recent instances of upsets in the league, ran round their stronger opponents with zest in the hope of a goal but the Gopbagh side's defence indulged in no nonsense and kept unflinching vigilance on the men in black-and-white.

Brothers looked an vastly improved side with Waseem and Rupu upfront circumventing their opponents with wiles and guiles.

The Gopbagh side played well within themselves and their caution never verged on undue worry.

The defence marshalled by Moon, Iqbal, Rouf Babul.

Perven and Ata Babu played as sound as a roach.

Brothers Union shot into the lead in the 21st minute when Rouf Babu converted a penalty (1-0).

The irrepressible Waseem Iqbal sold one of his customary dummies on the left and sent a searching minus from close which was rather unintentionally handled by an Arambagh defender and referee Badruddin awarded the day's third penalty to pave the path for the lead for the Gopbagh side in orange.

Arambagh were far from being daunted by this and kept disturbing the Brothers defence, which was manned by as many as five players and before conceding the lead carried out a serious attack which, if utilised, could have seen them in the driver's seat.

But Kamal's center off a Ponir lapse after Sohel and Harun (Jr) had their shots blocked was cleared by Moon who led his side into the field yesterday.

Brothers scored their second goal in the 62nd minute when Satyajit Das Rupu's powerful volley from the top of the box off a Waseem flag kick entered the net, the ball touching the outstretched hand of the Arambagh custodian.

Ahmed sprinted down the right to send a neat cross but Waseem's forceful header hit the crosspiece to go out of play with Bijoy beaten all ends up.

Down by two goals, Arambagh could well read the writing on the wall and the rest of the match produced no more sparks.

Brothers' collection of points go up to seven from four while Arambagh's tally remains at five from four matches.

Ata Babu of Brothers and Dablu of Arambagh were shown yellow cards for dangerous tackles.

TEAMS

BROTHERS UNION: Ponir, Pjush, Moon, Rouf Babul, Ata, Pervez, Ahmed (Ilyas), Waseem, Dulal (Manik), Uttam, Rupu.

ARAMBAGH: Bijoy, Dablu, Azmat, Anwar, Kamal, Shahin (Liton) (Sagar), Harun (Sr), Jahangir, Sohel, Harun (Jr) (Rahbari).

Referee: Sheikh Badruddin.

Agrani Bank beat Rahmatganj Sports Reporter



Agrani Bank recorded their first victory in this year's Star First Division football league.

getting the better of Rahmatganj MFS by the odd goal in the three in yesterday's first match at the Mirpur Stadium.

The winners trailed by a penalty goal in the first half.

Rahmatganj enjoyed the better of the exchanges before the breather with Sohel, Lokman and Alamgir combining well to launch several raids.

Sohel's powerful grounder was steered away to safety by Agrani goalkeeper Curzon. The custodian had rescued his side once before when he dived to his right to save another stinging shot from outside the box by Shah Alam.

Rahmatganj were awarded a penalty in the 36th minute when Lokman, sandwiched between two Bank players, was brought down by Bank's Peter and the referee immediately pointed to the dreaded spot.

Nabib's low shot gave Curzon no chance.

Agrani Bank began their second half campaign with a sense of urgency typified in their movements.

Jahangir of Bank tried to cut in from the left and Rubel of Rahmatganj adopted illegal tactics to stop the threatening forward and Bakhtiar, one of the stars of that great 'Gothia hoax' converted the penalty.

Three minutes later, exactly the tenth minute of the post-lesson session Bakhtiar scored again when his left-footer from inside the box entered the net following in deflection that left Milton dazed 2-1.

Rahmatganj pressed hard for the equaliser but lack of imagination and committed defending by the Bankers nullified that possibility.

Midway through the second

half a reflex save by Curzon denied Moqbul of Rahmatganj a goal as the green-and-yellow forward connected a first-time volley.

Agrani Bank have collected five points from four outings while Rahmatganj managed four from a similar number of matches.

Seraj and Nazim of Rahmatganj were shown yellow cards for rough play while Nabib, the third from same team, received the caution card for an off the ball attack on a Bank player.

TEAMS

AGRANI BANK: Curzon, Peter, Bishu, Kala, Bachchu, Dulal (Pappu), Mongol, Sattar (Gias), Jamal, Bakhtiar and Jahangir.

RAHMATGANJ MFS: Milton, Badal, Seraj, Rubel, Nabib (Mosharrafi), Nazim, Shah Alam Babu, Alamgir (Ranjan), Sohel, Angur (Lokman) and Moqbul.

Referee: Nazir Hossain.

Argentine forward Gabriel Batistuta's seventh-minute goal on Sunday threw a wrench into Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni's carefully engineered game plan.

"It wasn't a pretty game," said Fiorentina coach Gigi Radica. "But it was intense. Very intense."

Fueled neither by proximity nor partly-Florence and Turin are five hours apart by train, and Juventus has won 22 league titles compared to Fiorentina's modest two—the Fiorentina-Juventus rivalry is driven by two specific incidents that Florence fans refuse to forgive or forget.

The seed of the feud was planted on the last day of the 1981-82 season, when Juventus converted on a dubious penalty in the final minutes to edge out Fiorentina 46 points to 45 for the league title.

Simmering all through the 1980's, Florence's rancor reached a second boil in May of 1990 when star midfielder Roberto Baggio was sold to Juventus for a record 20 billion lira (dhrs 15 million). Irate Fiorentina fans stormed team headquarters and disrupted workouts at the nearby Coverciano training center where Baggio—along with the Italian national team—was preparing for the 1990 World Cup.

Last April, in his first appearance as a Juventus player at the Florence stadium, Baggio looked completely lost on the field, and refused to execute a second-half penalty kick against the team for whose jersey he had worn since 1985.

Last week, Baggio declared that he would not balk this time if a penalty was awarded to Juventus. But the chance never came on Sunday, and Baggio was bird-dogged by hard-nosed Fiorentina midfielder Giuseppe Iachini for the entire match.

Off the field, 1,200 police officers assisted by two helicopters kept violence to a minimum, forming a corridor from the train station to the stadium for the 1,500 Juventus fans who arrived in a special train from Turin. Still, 10 fans were hospitalized with injuries along with 10 police officers in clashes following the match. The totals are high, but modest in comparison with those of previous years.

Haji Mohsin win Navy hockey

BNS Haji Mohsin emerged champions and BNS Shaheed Moazzam finished runners-up in the annual hockey championship of the Bangladesh Navy which concluded at the Sailors' Colony playground at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

From the very beginning both teams raided each other's territory but neither side could score in the scheduled time. The extra time also went barren and in the tie-breaker M A Mir Mus-1, Samad L/En and Shaheen OD scored one goal each for the winners while Akhter L/En and Khokan L/En netted one goal each for the vanquished.

M A Mir Mus of the Haji Mohsin team also claimed the best player's award for his overall performance in the three-day meet.

Briton pips German ace

BONN, Jan 27: Briton Mike Fibbens took the scalp of German Nils Rudolph, the fastest man in the world, in an explosive 50 meters freestyle battle at the fifth World Cup swimming meeting of the season on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The 23-year-old Englishman held off former East German Rudolph who holds the world best mark in the short course pool, in a tight finish to triumph in 22.25 seconds.

The commonwealth bronze medalist touched 11 hundredths of a second ahead of 26-year-old Rudolph who swam the world best of 21.76 in the same Bonn pool two years ago, Briton Austin Shortman was third in 22.56.

The victory marked the climax to a superb day for Fibbens who set a British record in the heats of 22.23. But his teammate, Olympic champion Adrian Moorhouse, did not do so well, suffering a surprise defeat in the heats of the men's 100 meters breaststroke.

After powering to victory in the short course 50 meters breaststroke on Saturday, the 27-year-old Englishman was reduced to a spectator at Sunday's finals after finishing third in his heat.

Moorhouse's lack of top class competitive edge was typical of the general performance at the two day Bonn meeting with all the swimmers looking to peak at July's Barcelona Olympics.

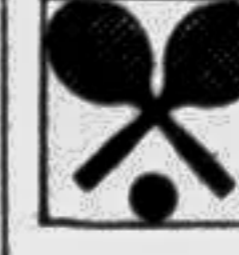
While the Frankenberg Gala saw many new national records, there were none of the world or European best times which have characterised the meeting in the past.

New Zealand's Anna Simcic who bucked the general trend when she swam within just six hundredths of a second of the women's 200 backstroke on Saturday, triumphed again in the women's 100 backstroke.

Simcic clocked a national record of 1:1.02 ahead of German Sandra Voelker who swam 1:01.63 with Dagmar Hash third in 1:01.70.

France's Bruno Gutsiést, who also beat Rudolph in the men's 50 butterfly on Saturday, was successful in the 100 event, winning in 53.25

Navratilova eyes Toray title



TOKYO, Jan 27: Martina Navratilova will seek a record-breaking 158th career singles title when she starts her season by competing in the 350,000 dollar Toray Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament to begin tomorrow, reports AFP.

The 35-year-old Czech-born American matched her old friend Chris Evert's record of 157 tournament wins when she beat current world number one Monica Seles of Yugoslavia to win the Virginia Slims of California in November.

"Every tournament I play, I have a chance. It's gonna be a special moment if it happens," said Navratilova at a press conference here Monday with Evert at her side.

Evert, who retired from the sport after the 1989 US Open to start her family, joined the six-day competition as a special hostess.

Navratilova, the winner here in 1989 and runner-up last year, faces a sea of tough opposition from Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, Americans Jennifer Capriati and Lori McNeil, Helena



MARTINA NAVRATILOVA returns to circuit Sukova of Czechoslovakia and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain.

Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf, who withdrew from the Australian Open with a viral infection two weeks ago, pulled out of the Toray competition as well.

Twenty-eight leading world players will take part in the singles event, vying for the top prize money of 70,000 dollars and 200 points counting to-

wards the WTA computer rankings.

The runner-up will collect 31,500 dollars and 140 points. The top four seeds — will receive first-round byes before making their appearances on the indoor courts at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

Navratilova, the second seed, will play either Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia or qualifier Miki Yokobori of Japan in the second round.

It's sudden death for Ghanaians



DAKAR, Senegal, Jan 27: Ivory Coast won the African Nations' Cup for the first time on Sunday

when they beat favourites Ghana 1-1 in one of the most astonishing penalty shootouts in soccer history, reports Reuter.

The two sides had been level 0-0 after extra time.

Ivorian goalkeeper Alain Gouamene, whose penalty-saving exploits during their semifinal win against Cameroon earned them their place in the final, was again the hero.

This time 25-year-old goalkeeper had to wait a long time to earn the glory, however, as only one player from each team failed to score before Gouamene, facing the 24th spot-kick of the sequence, dived low to his right to save.

Several times before both he and his rival Ghanaian goalkeeper Edward Ansa had reached and handled shots without saving them, but this time Gouamene managed to keep the ball out of the net.

The luckless Ghanaian to suffer the anguish of not scoring was Anthony Baffoe, made captain for the day in the absence of suspended African footballer of the year Abedi Pele.

Poor Baffoe, who was taking his second kick after scoring Ghana's first of the night, could only stand in shock as the Ivory Coast players and their fans danced in wild celebration.

The 0-0 score after extra time was a predictable outcome of a dour and at times ill-tempered game in which few players shone and goal-scoring opportunities were few and far between.

In many senses, it was an appropriate end to the tournament as much of the soccer at these 18th African Nations' Cup finals — the first to involve 12 nations — had been defensive, and there were few entertaining matches.

The greatest shame for African soccer, the 47,500 crowd and particularly for Ghana was the absence from the final of the most gifted players from either side.

Ghana's Pele had collected two cautions during the earlier stages of the tournament and Ivory Coast forward Youssouf Fofana, a sinuous match-winning dribbler, was out through injury.

Their presence might have lifted the game from its morass of midfield abrasion.

In the end it required the melodrama of a penalty shootout which went to the sudden-death stage to settle the issue.

Ghana, in their seventh final and seeking to increase their record number of wins to five, never lived up to their billing as the "Brazil" of African soccer.

Ivory Coast, by contrast, were not expected to provide brilliant entertainment since they had ground their way to the final without conceding a goal in their four games — a record they kept intact.

The presence of a crimson-jacketed Pele, sitting on the sidelines, caused a first half row when an Ivory Coast official was shown the red card by otherwise ineffectual Senegalese referee Badara Sene.

Pele moved back six metres, but his presence did nothing to lift his team and only sparked off fights in the crowd.

Ivory Coast almost scored

Soccer result

SYDNEY, Jan 27: Sweden were held to a 0-0 draw by a spirited Australian side in the first friendly soccer international of a three match tour of Australia on Sunday, reports Reuter.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution for yesterday's puzzle and a cryptogram.

Fiorentina beat Juventus in grudge tie

FLORENCE, Italy, Jan 27: It was Italian First Division's most intense—and explosive—grudge match and also the biggest surprise, reports AP.

"This was a victory for the entire city of Florence," said Fiorentina president Mario Cecchi Gori on Sunday after his team defeated Juventus of Turin 2-0 before 42,000 fans delirious fans.

The team, the coach, the fans. Everyone was simply wonderful.

While Juventus stuttered at Florence, first place AC Milan high stepped over Ascoli 4-1 to climb to 31 points. The Juventus loss—its third of the season—puts the Turin team five points behind the streaking Red and Black, a substantial disadvantage that virtually assures Milan of winning this year's first division title.

Although Milan was the direct beneficiary of Fiorentina's upset win, the players and fans at Florence celebrated their triumph against Juventus as if they themselves had won the league championship.

Argentine forward Gabriel Batistuta's seventh-minute goal on Sunday threw a wrench into Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni's carefully engineered game plan.

"It wasn't a pretty game," said Fiorentina coach Gigi Radica. "But it was intense. Very intense."

Fueled neither by proximity nor partly-Florence and Turin are five hours apart by train, and Juventus has won 22 league titles compared to Fiorentina's modest two—the Fiorentina-Juventus rivalry is driven by two specific incidents that Florence fans refuse to forgive or forget.

Takahanada—Japan's 'minor' champ

TOKYO, Jan 27: Victory was sweet for teenager Takahanada on Sunday after becoming the youngest man ever to win a sumo tournament, but Japanese police made sure he toasted his triumph not with the traditional rice wine but with tea, reports Reuter.

At 19 years and five months the cherubic Takahanada not only took the Tokyo New Year grand sumo tournament with a crushing 14-1 record, he signalled a generational change at the top of Japan's tradition-bound national sport.

On his way to the title he overpowered virtually all of the country's top wrestlers,

including Hawaiian colossus Konishiki, weighing in these days at 262 kgs (576 pounds). Yet, though he is clearly big enough to fight Japan's heaviest men, police insisted he was not old enough to drink the victor's habitual toast in sake.

On Saturday a National Police Agency spokesman made clear that, in the event of the teenager winning, "We have asked the Japan Sumo Association to be prudent and not to let Takahanada sip sake from the cup."

"He is still a minor, and there is a law against drinking by minors," the spokesman added. In Japan, no one under 20 is allowed to drink or smoke.

A particular reason for police concern is the fact that the smiling, good-looking Takahanada has become a role model for young Japanese. In 1990 he and brother Wakahanada appeared together in a poster campaign against juvenile crime.

In the event, while no doubt his trainers and supporters sank huge draughts of sake to fete his triumph, Takahanada had to make do with a drink of Chinese colong tea.

The New Year tournament had narrowed to a two-day race by the last day, with Takahanada just one victory ahead of towering Hawaiian Akebono (Chad Rowan). Had the young Japanese lost his final bout and the American won, the pair would have had to fight a play-off.

In the event, Takahanada made no mistake, forcing out the aggressive veteran Misugisato at the end of a short, sharp clash.

A disappointed Akebono nevertheless returned his best tournament figures of 13-2, and shared with Takahanada the awards for outstanding performance and fighting spirit.

Akebono's compatriot, the mighty Konishiki (Salevas Attasnoe) lost a narrow decision to Takahanada early in the tournament, virtually dashing for now his great ambition to become the first foreigner promoted to yokozuna (grand champion), the sport's highest rank.

Takahanada's victory celebrations were a family affair. The teenager received the winner's cup from his uncle, Futagoyama, himself a former grand champion and the retiring head of the sumo association.



Takahanada, 19, became the first teenager in history to win the 15-day grand sumo tournament in Tokyo on January 26.