

Abahani made to struggle

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krita Chakra continued their stuttering and stumbling progress in the First Division football league with a two-one victory against Victoria Sporting Club yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

The reigning champions, who were made to sweat by Rahmatganj in their earlier match, again dished out rather unpromising stuff to their eager supporters. The disappointed supporters uncorked their pent up emotions by indulging in brick-battling, and chasing opposition supporters, sparked off by a missile thrown at the Abahani custodian Mohsin. Well, there is nothing new about it; perhaps something as futile as regret and as familiar as old mistake.

Victoria took the field in full strength, unlike the two previous matches when they rested seven players and gave the seemingly strongest bidders of this year's league title a tough time.

Abahani had their first shy at the Victoria goal when Gaus, freed by a fine through from Sergei Zhukov, unleashed a shot that went straight to the

goalkeeper.

Abahani players spent an ominously long period of time in search of the goal but finally found it in the few minutes before the short whistle when Sheikh Mohammed Aslam headed an Alamgir cross towards the Victoria goal which bounced disconcertingly before custodian Aslam Khan and entered the net, much to the relief of the fans (1-0).

Abahani, perhaps not satiated with the success, came back roaring in a jiffy but Gaus headed Zakir's minus wide off the mark.

Aslam Khan came to the rescue of his side in the second half when he parried away a powerful shot by Zhukov for a corner early in the second half. Rumi blasted over the bar to waste an easy chance for Abahani before Victoria gave them a real scare.

Zakir outpaced the flat-footed Abahani defence after latching on to a through ball from goalkeeper Mohsin, who returned to the field after a long lay-off, rushed out to foil the advancing Victoria player.

The match was held up for about nine minutes at around this time when an UFO hit the Abahani custodian but fortu-

nately enough did not physically hurt the player but sufficiently wounded the feelings of the Abahani supporters who showered stones on the occupants of the North Western gallery and players of Victoria Club which forced a hold up in the proceedings.

The stoppage served Abahani well as they doubled the margin immediately after the resumption when Gaus found the net after Zakir had done the spadework 2-0. Victoria reduced the margin midway through the second half when Biplab capitalised on a lapse in the Abahani defence to beat a helpless Mohsin; the unmarked substitute player's goal-bound nod hit the side post before settling in the net (2-1).

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Mohsin, Munna (Nira) Arifiev, Masud Rana, Alamgir, Zakir, Zhukov Rumi, Aslam, Mamun Joarder Shakil (Gaus).

VICTORIA: Aslam, Pradeep, Sagar, Golam Mustafa, Anwar, Babul (Mamunul), Yusuf, Towfiqul, Biplab, Zakir, Shankar, Mamun Babu (Biplab).

TODAY'S MATCH

BJMC vs Farashganj (6:45).

Lineker's tonsils worry Taylor

LONDON, Mar 22: Manager Graham Taylor faced a new selection problem ahead of England's friendly soccer international in Czechoslovakia when illness ruled Gary Lineker out of Tottenham's league match at Liverpool on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Lineker, set to lead England in the European Championship warm-up in Prague on Wednesday, was reportedly suffering from tonsillitis.

Taylor has already lost four players from his original squad because of injuries.



GARY LINEKER

Liverpool centre-back Mark Wright, Manchester United defender Paul Parker, Middlesbrough goalkeeper Stephen Pears and Crystal Palace midfielder Geoff Thomas have already dropped out.

If Lineker fails to recover in time, Taylor will probably call up Arsenal striker Ian Wright, with Nottingham Forest left back Stuart Pearce taking over as skipper.

Parma beat Sampdoria

PARMA, Italy, Mar 22: Italian international soccer striker Gianluca Vialli was sent off as his Sampdoria side lost 1-0 to Parma in an Italian Cup semifinal first leg on Saturday, reports Reuter.

A foot injury forced Martin to retire against fellow Australian Chris Dittmar during the Canadian Open final in October.

He did not return to the world circuit until February and since then has lost to Dittmar in the semifinals of the Welsh Classic and Spanish Open.

But Martin never looked in trouble here against the unseeded Nancarrow, who had caused a major upset by beating Dittmar in the second round.

Martin captured 11 points in succession to clinch the opening game in just seven minutes and completed the victory after only 26 minutes on court.

The other semifinal was between top seeded Pakistani Jansher Khan and fourth seeded Chris Robertson of Australia.

Victory went to Jansher, who now has his first chance of revenge since losing his world title to the Australian in Adelaide last August. Jansher dismissed Robertson 15-10, 15-2, 15-5 in 41 minutes.

Swedish striker Tomas Brodin netted the only goal five minutes after halftime, sweeping the ball home from close range at the far post after a corner had been flicked on.

Sampdoria goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca showed his class with a fine display of handling to enable the Italian champions to limit the damage in a bad-tempered match against a side bidding for their first major honour.

The eventual victors will meet the winners of the AC Milan Juventus semifinal. The top two in the Italian league have yet to play their first leg.

French soccer

PARIS, Mar 22: Marseille and Monaco scored hard-fought home victories to maintain their duel for the French League title on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Defending champions Marseille needed a brilliant headed goal from captain Jean-Pierre Papin to break a scoreless deadlock early in the second half against St Etienne. Ghanian forward Abedi Pele secured a 2-0 triumph three minutes from time.

Monaco had to face a nervous final half hour against Metz with 10 men after veteran keeper Jean-Luck Ettor was shown the red card for a professional foul.

The team from the principality led 2-0 early in the second half thanks to Erome Gnako and Liberian striker George Weah. But Metz pulled one back when Francois Calcederaro beat stand-in keeper Claude Puel in the 76th minute.

Sabatini, who won this tournament in 1989, failed to hold serve in the first set, although the games were close with all but one going to deuce.

Sanchez controlled most of the points and faltered only briefly as she dropped her serve at 5-0. But the fourth seed immediately broke Sabatini for the third time to close out the set with a backhand winner down the line.

Errors continued to plague the Argentine in the second set, while Sanchez stuck with her game plan, mixing up crosscourt angles, lobs and passing shot with equal success.

Sabatini finally held serve for the first time in the second game of the second set and threatened to take a 5-4 lead when she reached break point against Sanchez.

The spariard, however, fought back to hold serve and then broke Sabatini to win the match as Spanish fans broke into song in the stands.

United stay put at second

LONDON, Mar 22: Manchester United squandered another chance to replace Leeds as English league leaders Saturday when they were held 0-0 at home by Wimbledon, reports AP.

Alex Ferguson's men missed out on Wednesday when they lost 1-0 at Nottingham Forest and failed to find the target again at Old Trafford against a Wimbledon team that lost 5-1 at Leeds last week.

The result meant the Manchester Reds are a point behind Howard Wilkinson's Leeds team and still have a game in hand.

Leeds meet defending champions Arsenal at Highbury on Sunday and have the chance to move four points clear.

Third place Sheffield Wednesday downed next-to-last Notts County to edge closer to the leader but still are seven points behind. England Striker David Hirst

scored his 18th goal of the season for Wednesday's clincher.

Two goals by Welsh striker Dean Saunders gave Liverpool a 2-1 home victory over Tottenham to move fourth and send the struggling north London team sliding closer towards the relegation zone.

Paul Stewart replied for Tottenham but England Striker Gary Lineker missed the game with a throat infection that could put home out of the national team's exhibition game against Czechoslovakia in Prague on Wednesday.

Nottingham Forest downed fourth place Manchester City 2-0 thanks to goals by Gary Crosby and Irish midfielder Roy Keane and Norwich edged Everton 4-3, helped by three from Darren Beckford.

West Ham stayed rooted to the bottom despite a 2-2 home draw with Queens Park Rangers, who have lost only once in 18 games.

Rangers led 2-1 until Tim Bracker leveled 14 minutes from the end.

A late strike by Iain Dowie against his former club gave Southampton a 2-1 victory over Luton in a clash of two more teams trying to avoid relegation.

Chelsea slipped up 2-1 at home to Sheffield United, whose goals came from midfielder Dane Whitehouse.

Coventry and Oldham tied 1-1 and Crystal Palace were held 0-0 at home by Aston Villa who have scored in only one of its last 11 league games.

Celtic's 11th victory in a row came at the home of Glasgow rival Rangers, who are aiming for a fourth league title in a row.

Charlie Nicholas and Gerry Creaney scored Celtic's goal in a 2-0 Triumph at Ibrox Park. But Rangers still have a five-point lead over second place Hearts, who won 2-1 at Hibernian.

W Cup site selection today

NEW YORK, Mar 22: World Cup organizers get their second "big day" Monday when, after nearly a year, it finally announces which cities will be used to host the 1994 championship, reports AP.

It's first big day was in December, when it staged the qualifying draw in New York. About 600 journalists were on hand at Madison Square Garden's Paramount Theater plus millions more via a global television audience.

Only about 300 reporters are expected at New York's Waldorf Astoria hotel for this announcement, but there will be countless others tuned in via closed-circuit television in one of the 19 cities still in the running for games.

It's been almost a year since a record 27 cities bid to host games in the month-long, 52-match tournament. It's been three months since World Cup USA 1994 was to announce its final selections.

"The reason for the delay is that we have an embarrassment of riches," US Soccer Federation president and World Cup USA 1994 chairman Alan Rothenberg said this week. "To the extent to which it is causing trouble, it's good trouble. Nobody expected (27) cities to bid for the games. We tried to limit the burden to 19

cities."

"We also have situation, with the possible exception of Joe Robbie Stadium (in Miami), we don't have any turnkey stadiums, where everything is ready to go. We had to test out what kind of retrofits were necessary, how sound those retrofits were and the possibility of using a domed stadium—if grass would grow indoors."

The allocation of specific games for the 15th World Cup won't be announced until FIFA's 48th Ordinary Congress in Zurich, Switzerland, July 2-3.

That will set of a chain reaction of events.

"That's when we can start selling tickets, regional sponsorships, start pulling together volunteers..." Rothenberg said. "It's been a long wait for the cities, some of which had their names on the list when the US federation bid for the World Cup back in 1987."

Some reportedly can rest easy through Monday's announcement.

New York, Los Angeles and Chicago are considered 99 per cent sure by most observers to get games.

The Pontiac Silverdome near Detroit also is considered to have a good chance. On the flip side, officials in Philadelphia and Seattle feel their candidacy already has been

discounted.

FIFA and US organizers were supposed to hammer out the final details Sunday night in New York.

Even the number of cities, eight, 12 or some number in between was undecided as of Friday, Rothenberg said.

The announcement has had little impact outside the United States, except in creating anticipation among hopeful participants.

Those hopefuls began their quest to become of the 24 teams to play in the finals when Puerto Rico beat the Dominican Republic 2-1 on Saturday in the first of 582 qualification games that will be contested among 138 teams.

Germany as defending champion and the United States as host get in automatically. The others must go through the two-year qualification procedure to earn one of 22 available berths in the finals.

Monday's announcement will be the biggest hurdle cleared so far by US organizers.

"In terms of timing, in terms of how it's going, it's better than expected," Rothenberg said. "The buildup has been faster than expected and it's qualitatively better. By the summer of 1994, we'll be hitting our peak. And that's when we want to hit it."

Davis Cup tie in city Mar 27-29

The play-off matches of Davis Cup tennis Asia-Oceania region Group-2 between Bangladesh and Pakistan will be held at the National Tennis Complex from March 27, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Tennis Federation has already completed the preparation for smooth holding of the tournament.

The singles matches will be held on the opening day, the doubles on March 28. The return singles will be played on the concluding day, March 29.

Rate of tickets will be as follows: VIP season—Tk 200/-, Gallery season—Tk 20/- and daily tickets Tk 10/-.

Samad soccer final today

Defending champions Ganakuti Kishore Football Eleven take on Kishore Eleven in the final of the Jadukar Samad Smriti juvenile football tournament today at 3:30 pm at the Outer Stadium, says a press release.

AGM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House, will witness the match as the chief guest and give away prizes among the winners.

Active chess

A nine-round Swiss league Neptune active chess championship jointly organized by the Dhaka Chess Foundation and Neptune Theatres Limited will begin in the city from March 27, says a press release.

The meet offers a total prize money of Tk 10,000.

Those willing to take part have been advised to contact the Bangladesh Chess Federation immediately.

Sports Secy dead

Nurul Momen Khan, Secretary of Youth and Sports, died of heart-failure last Saturday in Japan, according to a delayed message received in Dhaka.

Khan, who held the posts of president of both the Bangladesh Olympic Association and the Bangladesh Weight-lifting Federation, had played a pioneering role in the promotion of sports in the country.

Meanwhile, different sporting clubs and organisations have condoled the death of Nurul Momen Khan. In separate press releases issued yesterday, they expressed their deep shock at his sudden demise and expressed sympathies to the members of the bereaved family. Those who condoled the death include the Bangladesh Sports Writers Association, Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, Bangladesh Football Federation, Azad Sporting Club, National Sports Council and the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association.

Londas wins WBO title

SALERNO, Italy, Mar 22: Veteran Frenchman Daniel Londas won the World Boxing Organisation junior lightweight title when he beat defending champion Kamel Bou Ali of Tunisia on points in San Ruffo near here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Sanchez denies Sabatini title

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida, Mar 22: Arantxa Sanchez Vicario served notice on Saturday that, despite a lack of attention, she is one of the big guns of women's tennis as she dominated Gabriela Sabatini to win the Lipton International Players Championship, reports Reuter.

The fourth-seeded spariard used a varied shot selection with great success to defeat Sabatini 6-1, 6-4 and claim her first title of the year and a 120,000 dollar winners' check.

Today, sixth-seeded American Michael Chang takes on unseeded Argentine Alberto Mancini for the men's title.

Sabatini, seeded third, was kept off balance for most of the match by the speedy Sanchez and struggled from the service line throughout.

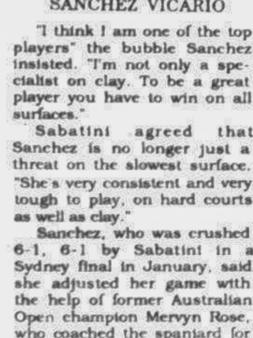
"She played really well the whole match. She was taking risks and I didn't have too many chances to come to net," said the Argentine, who was unable to get her attacking game going.

Sanchez, who made her first big splash by winning the 1989 French Open, has since laboured in the shadow of her more glamorous rivals such as Monica Seles, Steffi Graf and two players she beat to win the title here—Jennifer Capriati and Sabatini.

Sanchez had said she felt almost invisible as she marched through the field in

this event. But after claiming the prestigious Lipton title, the fifth-ranked Sanchez said she is ready to seize her share of the spotlight.

"Perhaps now they will talk more about me and I will get more fans next year," said the 20-year-old spariard.



SANCHEZ VICARIO

four weeks prior to the Lipton event.

"Especially after we played in Australia, I knew what I had to do this time," Sanchez said.

"My game has improved a lot because I'm much more aggressive and I can hit winners on both the forehand and backhand side," said Sanchez, who dedicated the win to Rose.

"My serve is much better and that makes me feel more relaxed knowing that I was holding serve almost the whole tournament."

Sabatini, who won this tournament in 1989, failed to hold serve in the first set, although the games were close with all but one going to deuce.

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Errors continued to plague the Argentine in the second set, while Sanchez stuck with her game plan, mixing up crosscourt angles, lobs and passing shot with equal success.

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Dhaka spikers lift title

Sports Reporter

Dhaka DSA became the champions of the 1992 Incontrad inter-district volleyball tournament beating Tangail DSA in the final held at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Dhaka beat Tangail 15-16, 15-3 and 15-9 in the one-sided final.

Earlier in the afternoon, Rajshahi DSA beat Comilla DSA 15-8, 8-15, 15-5 and 15-13 to finish third in the competition. Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, Minister for Communications, attended the occasion as chief guest and gave away prizes among the winners.

Teams

DHAKA: Ramzan, Karim, Ansar, Motaleb, Fazole Rabbi, Ataur, Nurul Islam, Zahir, Shawkat, Qayum, Zillu and Iqbal.

TANGAIL: Majnu, Swapan, Pijush, Farid, Majnu (jr), Iqbal, Azmat Faruk, Chanchal, Tarik and Badshah.



Dhaka DSA won the Incontrad inter-district volleyball title beating Tangail in yesterday's final at the Outer Stadium. —Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

36 Result of haste (60 song)

37 Ohio-based sitcom

38 Striker's toe

12 Orangutans

13 Reverence

14 Gallup write-up

15 Essence

16 Author Deighton

17 By itself

18 Cabal's doings

20 Black, in verse

22 Ray Combs' game show

26 Chocolate source

29 Soon to arrive

30 Figure head? abbr.

31 "Lolita" star Sue

32 Beiderbecke of jazz

33 Excel

34 Shade provider

35 Egg — young

DOWN

55 Iditarod's finish line

19 Name in China's history

21 "See ya!"

23 — box (TV)

24 — the crack of dawn

25 Be brave enough

26 Staff leader

27 "Clan of the Cave Bear" woman

28 Stranger on a train?

32 Youth

33 Lock-smith?

35 U.S. map abbr.

36 Charlotte's creation

38 Sicily's kicker

39 Particles

42 "Sesame Street" Muppet

43 Line of fashion?

44 Aching

45 Block

46 Legal org.

48 Coach Parseghian

9-19 CRYPTOQUIP

P I N F R B I V , F A B P X U Q .

E S U H B H F B I Y A B V ' N Y I V B B V

E B U F G R F A B G X V B H N .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR PAL, THE STRUGGLING CLOCKMAKER, IS A SMALL-TIME OPERATOR.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals Y

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Solution time: 23 mins.

T O R S O S
S O R E S I G H S
O P A L S O G L A L A
W I D E O F T H E M A R K
E N S R O O T S T E E
E T A L L E N A
S P A S M A P A R A
H O A R B O R E G A S
E R R A T O N E M A R K
M A K E S O N E S M A R K
S E D I L E S A L T Y
R I D E R E L L S
T E T D I S

Yesterday's answer 9-19

