

MSC unbeaten champions

Sports Reporter



MUMTAZ HAIDER

player, galloped a few yards to take a shot at goal; Asir partially saved but the ball bounced off him and the goal hungry forward swooped on it like a hawk to finish it past a diving Asir (2-0).



Zahid Maqbool's imaginative hockey helped Dhaka Moham- medan Sporting Club to clinch the Senior Division hockey league title for the sixth time. The dapper little Pakistani was instrumental for all three goals as his side recorded a well deserved 3-1 win over arch rivals and last year's joint sharer of the league title, Abahani Krira Chakra in the most crowd-pulling encounter of the Green Delta First Division league at Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedans, rigged in green, had the better of the exchanges and utilised the chances that came their way, better than their opponents in sky blue. Specially, former Pakistan international Murtaza Haider was in cracking form again scoring two of the three goals, thus extending his tally to 27 — by far the highest this season.

Abahani came close to scoring in the first half when Raju crossed from right but Akhtar failed to guide it home from close. Mohammedans took the lead shortly after this in the 27th minute when full back Robi's powerful hit from a Zahid Maqbool penalty corner gave goalie Asir no chance (1-0).

Mohammedans doubled the margin immediately after the centre with the Abahani defence still pondering over the fault that led to the first goal. Zahid Maqbool found Murtaza Haider absolutely free on the right side with a delectable long pass across the turf. Murtaz, the tall Karachi

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blues, failing to tap in two whistling crosses from the right.

At a time when Abahani were shaping up well for the equaliser, Mohammedans scored from a counter attack to put the issue beyond doubt. Zahid again beat the Abahani defence with a scything run down the middle of the Abahani defence and was challenged by an onrushing Asir, but the withdrawn forward got round past the custodian and teed it to a free Murtaz who had all the time and space in the world to put the ball in the cage (3-1).

Mohammedans missed a couple of good chances after this with Murtaz failing to give the finishing touches on two occasions.

The match was held up for a few minutes as supporters of the two sides indulged in their routine brick-battling and police had to intervene to throw cold water on the unlawful passion and zeal of the partisan crowds.

Abahani finished the league with 27 points from 15 games.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDANS: Montu, Robi, Nixon, Nannu, Mitul, Jamal, Maqbool, Murtaz, Chapal, Ashar (Zahid Biswas)
ABAHANI: Asir, Jumman, Mamun, Harun, Raju, Fazal, Akhtar, Alamgir, Khurshid, Piru, Dolon.
Umpires: Aslam Belim and Reaz.

| Year | Champion | Runners up |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1973-74 | Mohammedan SC | Wari Club |
| 1974-75 | Abahani KC | Sonali Bank |
| 1975-76 | Abahani | Sonali Bank |
| 1976-77 | Not held | |
| 1977-78 | Abahani | Mohammedan |
| 1978-79 | Mohammedan | Abahani |
| 1979-80 | Mohammedan | Abahani |
| 1980-81 | Abahani | Mohammedan |
| 1981-82 | Mohammedan | Abahani |
| 1982-83 | Abahani | Sadharan Bima |
| 1983-84 | Sadharan Bima | Wari |
| 1984-85 | Abahani | Sadharan Bima |
| 1985-86 | Not held | |
| 1986-87 | Ajax | Mohammedan |
| 1987-88 | Ajax | Abahani |
| 1988-89 | Abahani | Ajax |
| 1990-91 | Mohammedan and Abahani (joint) | |
| 1991-92 | Mohammedan Sporting Club | |



The Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club team which yesterday became the unbeaten champions in the 1992 Green Delta First Division hockey league beating arch-rivals Abahani 3-1 in the last and title-deciding match at the Hockey Stadium.

Miandad says he may not go to England

KARACHI, Mar 29: Pakistan's most prolific batsman Javed Miandad said today he was doubtful for Pakistan's five-Test tour of England this year, reports Reuters.

"I'm undecided about going to England with the Pakistan team in May," he told reporters after the jubilant Pakistan side arrived back from their cricket World Cup victory in Australia.

"I will assess my fitness and other aspects before making a final decision," said Miandad, who was not included in the initial World Cup squad because of a nagging back injury. Despite the injury he scored a key 58 runs in Melbourne last Wednesday as Pakistan outplayed England to win the final by 22 runs. Captain Imran Khan told reporters his right shoulder had bothered him throughout the Cup and he wanted two weeks rest.

He and the rest of the side were due to leave Karachi later for Saudi Arabia for a Moslem pilgrimage to Mecca.

Fast bowler Waqar Younis is also being treated for a stress fracture of his spine which forced him to fly back home before the World Cup began.

"Younis's total fitness and his inclusion in the team is very essential for the Pakistan team before the start of the England tour," Imran said.

Pakistan are due to play five Test matches and five one-day internationals during almost four months in England.

Few friends for Botham

SYDNEY, Mar 29: Cricketer Ian Botham, probably the most unpopular Englishman in Australia, attracted only 57 people to a 100 Australian dollar (75 US) a head charity dinner here, disappointed organisers were quoted as saying Saturday, reports AFP.

The Daily Telegraph Mirror quoted organiser George Hemmings as saying that the source on Friday, originally billed as Ian Botham and Friends, was renamed an intimate night with Ian Botham when it became clear that only seven tables were required.

"We've lost a lot of money on this," Hemmings added. The report blamed the turnout on the "sarcasm and insulting behaviour" of Botham, whom it described as a "Ruffian royalist."

Last Tuesday, the eve of the World Cup cricket final in Melbourne, Botham walked out of gala dinner as a female impersonator lampooned Queen Elizabeth.

Botham had earlier invited the scorn of Australians by referring to them as "sons of former convicts."

Determined BRTC hold PWD

Sports Reporter

Two office teams — Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation and Public Works Department — hit it off well in the First Division football league with a two-all draw at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the only match in the revised schedule of the month of Ramadan, PWD twice took the lead only to lose it to BRTC under the flood lights.

A better side any day than their opponents with Shri Lankan Prem Lal and Packer Ally, PWD shot into the lead in the 33rd minute of the first half. Magud floated in a fine cross and Prem Lal found the net with a powerful left footer, much to the chagrin of the BRTC custodian Naju (1-0).

The goal triggered off a sense of urgency in the transport men who were led by the seasoned Proshanto and the elusive Krishna upfront.

Krishna, who sought a transfer from current champions Abahani Krira Chakra this year, swerved a flag kick across the PWD goal mouth one minute before the shout whistle and Tipu Khan rose clear to nod it past national youth custodian Lahul 1-1.

Real lead Spanish league

Sports Reporter

MADRID, Mar 29: Real Madrid snatched the lead of the Spanish First Division and showed champions Barcelona back into second with a sparkling 3-1 win over Albacete on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Barcelona could only manage a feeble 0-0 draw away to lowly Osuna and are now one point behind Real.

Real cruised to their first away victory since Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker took over two months ago, despite playing the last 14 minutes with only 10 men.

Real's superior defence easily held off isolated attacks from a nervous Albacete, fifth in the table, even when Romanian international midfielder George Hagi was sent off in the 65th minute for his second yellow card.

Fernando Hierro opened the scoring for Real with a header in the 25th minute set up from a free-kick by Michael Hagi powered home a free kick in the 52nd and to make it 2-0 and Paco Elorente put away Real's third goal in the 80th with a low drive after the ball rebounded off the post.

Albacete's only reply came five minutes from time with a header from Pedro Corbalan.

Barcelona struggled with strategy and were lucky to hold 17th placed Osasuna a relegation candidate to a draw.

Bulgarian strike Christo Stoeichkov was Barcelona's only attacker while leaky defence almost allowed Osasuna three goals.

The nimble fingers of international goalkeeper Antonio Zubizarreta just managed to keep danger away.

MARSEILLE STAY TOP

Meanwhile, another report from Paris says: A first-half effort by England's Chris Waddle helped Marseille cruise to a 2-0 home victory over Le Havre and stay top of the French league on Saturday.

Waddle opened the scoring for the French champions in the seventh minute and Jean-Pierre Papin put the issue beyond doubt when he scored his 25th goal of the season, 18 minutes from time.

Marseille enjoy a two-point lead over second-placed Monaco with four matches to go.

Monaco warmed up for their European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal clash with Feyenoord Rotterdam on April 1 by taking a 1-0 win at Lens on Friday.

Paris St Germain underlined their claim for a place in European competition next season by winning 1-0 at Nimes. The Paris club, who started the season with eight new players, lie third, six points behind Marseille.

Zia, Riffat lead in active chess

Sports Reporter

Youngsters Ziaur Rahman and Riffat Btr-Sattar jointly topped the points table at the completion of the fourth round of the Neptune active chess competition at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Both collected four points each with Zia beating Kayes and Labu and Riffat brushing aside the cerebral challenges of Mintu and Zillur in the third and the fourth rounds respectively.

Tahmidur Rahman, who followed a close second along with Mansur Rahman Raja with three and half points, defeated Liton and Reza in the third and fourth rounds while Raja got the better of Abed and Mahboob to finish with three and half.

Zillur Rahman Champak, Labu, Rezaul Huq, Kabir, Shiplu, Khalid Shawkat, Ali Arjad, Amir, Kalam, Shawkat, Idris Ali and M R Milky stayed in third position with three points apiece.

Cute handball results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Police recorded their seventh victory in the Cute First Division handball league crushing West Jatrabari Krira Chakra 17-6 in a one-sided affair at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Police led 7-3 at the breather.

Salam and Nazrul netted four goals each for Police while Zafar got three for West Jatrabari.

The victory took Police's points tally to 15 from nine matches while Jatrabari have 10 from ten outings.

South Maishundi Krira Chakra posted their second victory beating Victoria Sporting Club by a dozen goals to six in the other match of the day.

South Maishundi now have four points from eight engagements while Victoria have only two from ten encounters.

South Maishundi led the first half 5-3.

Khokon scored six and Babul got four goals for the winners while Priyotosh netted three goals for Victoria.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rifles vs South Maishundi (2pm)
Wanderers vs Tarun Sanges (3pm)

French runners sweep Paris marathon

PARIS, Mar 29: Luis Soares, with a record time, led a French sweep of the top three places Sunday as the Paris Marathon revived after a one-year absence, reports AP.

Soares finished in 2 hours, 10 minutes, 3 seconds for the 26-mile, 385-yard (42.195-kilometer) course that passes some of the most famous monuments of the French capital.

He broke the record of 2:10:49 set by another Frenchman, Jacky Boxberger, in 1985.

Pascal Zilliox, 2:11:11, and Jean-Baptiste Protats, 2:12:23, were second and third for France. Hungary's Casba Czucs was fourth in 2:12:34.

The two-time champion, Ahmed Salah of Djibouti, was eighth, more than three minutes behind Soares. Salah won in 1989 and 1990, but the race was canceled last year because of financial difficulties.

Tatiana Titova, a Russian, won the women's competition in 2:31:12, beating her own record time of 2:34:23. Frenchwomen Sylvie Bernet and Marie-Helene Ohter took second and third.

About 15,000 people entered the race.

Pak heroes' triumphant return

Sports Reporter

KARACHI, Mar 29: Scores of Pakistanis greeted their returning World Cup heroes with garlands and rose petals today but thousands more angry cricket fans shut out of the airport terminal welcoming ceremony hurled firecrackers and smoke bombs, reports Reuters.

Shame, Shame, chanted fans carrying the Pakistani flag and dancing at dawn to drums and flutes at Karachi airport.

"They have cheated us," shouted Altaf Shako, leader of a right-wing student organisation, after police whisked captain Imran Khan and his team out of the terminal to a hotel.

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mubarak (congratulations) on your great achievement."

Imran's team beat England by 22 runs last Wednesday to capture cricket's most glittering prize and notch up Pakistan's greatest sporting achievement.

But on his return he repeated criticisms of his country's cricketing establishment. Imran has long campaigned for a regional structure instead of one based on company-sponsored teams.

"We have won despite the Pakistan cricket structure," he told a news conference. "I will appeal to the President of Pakistan, now, in this euphoria, let the Pakistan cricket structure not get any credit out of this."

As he spoke, fans in multi-coloured headgear, armbands and sweaters portraying the Pakistan Eleven blew trumpets and danced outside the terminal to an Urdu song of praise.

Inside dozens of police, some armed with rifles and steel tipped batons, fought to keep a space around Imran as VIPs allowed into the terminal tried to shake his hand.

"We want to see the world Cup with our own eyes," shouted one official as the team raised the Cup shoulder-high and were showered with rose petals.

The team originally planned to go to Lahore, Imran's home city, for a huge reception. But Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif invited them to carry on to Saudi Arabia for a Moslem pilgrimage to Mecca.

Some airport and security officials said they suggested that Imran lead his team out to greet the crowd but he refused.

Instead, he sent vice-captain Javed Miandad to wave briefly to the crowd but the veteran batsman was mostly hidden behind tall policemen.

More than 100 riot police were posted outside the airport hotel where the team was taken to rest before carrying on to Saudi Arabia.

Federation Cup b'ball in April

Sports Reporter

The 5th Federation Cup basketball championship organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation (BAAF) will begin from April 27, says a BAAF press release.

Teams of the Dhaka First Division and the district champion teams of the country are eligible to play in the tournament.

Teams willing to take part have been asked to send their entries by April 20.

Algerian soccer coach replaced

Sports Reporter

ALGIERS, Mar 29: Algerian soccer coach Abdelhamid Kermali has been replaced and six of the national team players dropped after the side's dismal performance in the African Nations Cup, reports Reuters.

Algeria, the defending champions, failed to get beyond the first round of the Cup in January.

The official news agency APS said on Saturday that the Algerian Football Federation (FAF) had accused Kermali, who took charge at the end of 1988, and the six players of "serious failure to fulfil their obligations."

APS said two new coaches, Abderrahmane Mehdaoui and Meziane Ighil, had been appointed.

The six players dropped from the team were Megharfa Fodil, Menad Djamel, Benhalima Ali Ferhaoui Abdelkader, Osman Antar and Kadri Djamel.

Eagle volleyball final today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Rifles are jointly sharing the lead with full six points from three outings each in the 1992 MV Eagles Independence Day volleyball competition.

The two will clash at three this afternoon at the Outer Stadium volleyball court to decide the championship.

Rifles and Army won their respective matches yesterday.

Rifles beat Bangladesh Navy 15-12, 15-7 and 15-5 while Army beat Titus Club 15-7, 15-5 and 15-13.

Navy completed their five team, four match campaign with four points while Titus have none from three encounters.

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Auxerre kept alive their dreams of playing in Europe by beating Montpellier 1-0 but relegation strugglers Rennes and Nancy could do no better than goalless away draws at Metz and Nantes respectively.

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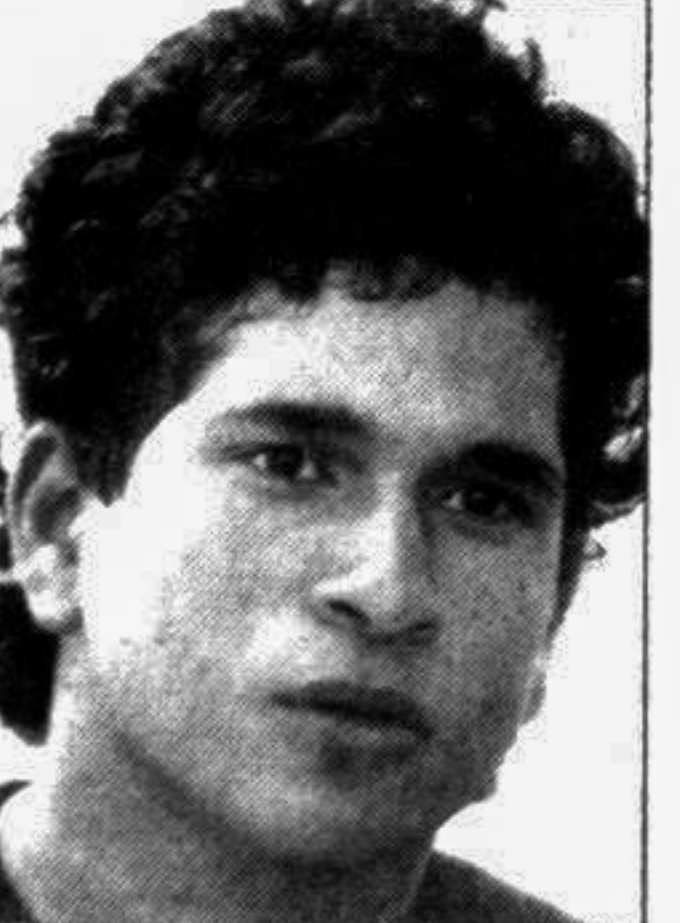
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SACHIN TENDULKAR

first overseas player, reports Reuters.

"Yes, they've asked me to join, but so far they have not sent me any contract," he said.

The 18-year-old batsman, who averaged 47.16 in the World Cup, said he had been trying to avoid talking to reporters since returning from Australia. "Some things have yet to be discussed with Yorkshire," he said.

"I have not yet made up my mind," he added.

Yorkshire were left seeking a replacement overseas player earlier this month when Australian fast bowler Craig McDermott, the first overseas player to be signed by the county, pulled out through injury.

Cricket chairman Brian Close said on Friday: "We won't



Pakistani cricket fans dance outside the Karachi Airport to welcome the victorious World Cup cricket team on March 29.