

Shabbir's hattrick in MSC goal rush

Sports Reporter



A refreshing goal rush ended the holiday hush as Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and Sadharan Bima Krita Sangstha won their respective matches on the first day of the resumption of the First Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Title-aspirants Mohammedans, looking recharged and relaxed after a well-deserved rest on account of Eid-ul-Fitr, demolished Mukhtijoddha Krita Sangsad by five goals to nil with their prized footballer Rumman Bin-Wal Shabbir scoring the second hattrick of the current season.

However, Shabbir was not the best player for the black-and-whites on the day; the two Russians, Rahimov and Nabikov, were in devastating form and their attacking, imaginative football left the Mukti boys gasping for breath. The stocky, powerfully-built Rahimov smeared his mercurial display with some uncalculated show of tempers at the fag end of the match and only some poor supervision by referee Sheikh Badruddin allowed him to get away with only a yellow card.

Nabikov freed Shabbir inside the box in the 22nd minute of the first half with a lovely pass and the diminutive forward found the net with an angled, power-packed grounder from inside the box with all the time in the world (1-0).

Last year's runners-up, who made their intentions clear early when a long-range drive by Johnny was tipped over the bar by Mukti custodian Pannu, got the second goal in a wee bit surprising manner 14 minutes later when Rahimov's sweetly-timed sudden 22-yarder cannoned into the net with the goalie frozen under the bar (2-0).

With the second goal scored with such ease and élan, Mukhtijoddha read the writing on the wall quickly and from then on Mohammedans' absolute control was never in doubt.

Nabikov, who really excelled in distribution last night, advanced another defence-splitting through five minutes before the short whistle and Nakib, who re-

placed an off-colour Roxy collected an almost regulation goal by neatly evading the charging goalkeeper (3-0).

Mohammedans, clearly enjoying their best form of the season so far, started the second half in the same vein and Shabbir scored a spectacular goal twelve minutes into the post-lemon session when he raced down the right flank and



Mohammedans' Russian star Rahimov (L) charges towards the Mukhtijoddha goal in yesterday evening's First Division soccer match at the Dhaka Stadium. MSC won 5-0.

then unleashed a thunderous shot that was too hot to be arrested by the outstretched hands of Pannu (4-0). Rahimov and Nabikov had done the spadework.

Mukhtijoddha launched one of their rare offensives shortly after this when a defence lapse allowed Riaz to take a shot at the Mohammedan goal but Kanan blocked it and when Shaheed hammered the rebounder towards the open post Shamim, the Mohammedan defender, emerged from nowhere to kick away and rob Mukts of a certain goal.

The close shave served as a shot in the arm for the black-and-whites who had relaxed the vice-like grip for a while and the effervescent Shabbir scored his hattrick in the 20th minute. Nabikov pushed a freekick to an unmarked Rahimov, who rifled a full-blooded shot at goal; the ball travelled to an unmarked

Shabbir after Pannu had parried it, and the ball entered the net off Shabbir's body with the player appearing a little plumped into pleasant surprise (5-0).

Rahimov of Mohammedans and Ikram Rana and Mizan of Mukhtijoddha were shown the yellow cards for rough play. Rahimov, perhaps nettled by the painful tackles reacted in

remain at 14 from 13 matches.

BIMA WIN

In the first match of the day, Sadharan Bima Krita Sangstha collected two vital points outplaying Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation by two goals to nil. Bima, who now have ten points from 13 matches, led the first half one-nil.

Jahangir, who hailed the



SHABBIR...hattrick

card as the canny Mohammedan officials took him off in time.

Mohammedans, who have dropped three points so far, increased their collection after yesterday's win to 23 off 13 matches while Mukhtijoddha



SHABBIR...hattrick

dules in the 23rd minute of the first half, scored again in the sixteenth minute of the second half when he nodded home a fine lob from the right much to the dismay of the Jute-men or, rather, one should say, boys, as all of their players are from the Bangladesh Krita Shikshha Protissthan - a national organisation to lick the talented young sportsmen into shape.

The defeat left BJMC in the lurch in the literal sense as they look inexorably destined for relegation with just two points from 13 matches.

A minute's silence was observed before the start of the match as a mark of respect to the memory of eminent sports personality Md Shahjahan who passed away on April 7.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Rahmatganj vs Wanderers (6 pm)
Brothers vs BRTC (8 pm)

Walk-overs mar youth cricket

Sports Reporter

The Siraj memorial 12th national youth cricket championship got underway yesterday at various venues across the country.

Six matches at six venues were scheduled for yesterday but Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, the organisers of the tournament, could come up with only three results till the filing of this report late last night.

At Tangail, Narayanagarj DSA canted past Manikganj DSA by four wickets.

Electing to bat, Manikganj were all out for 156 in 39.4 overs.

Sultan got 32, Khokon 30 and Shantanu 23 for Manikganj.

Tito with four wickets for 29 was the most successful bowler for Narayanagarj while Mona with three lent able support.

In reply, Narayanagarj made 159 for six wickets in 35 overs.

Bidduyt top scored with 63 while Topu got 22 and Tito 20 for Narayanagarj.

Shantanu took three wickets while Masud bagged two for Manikganj.

Narayanagarj will now take on the winners of the match between Sherpur and Faridpur in the zonal semifinals scheduled for April 14.

At Thakurgaon, Rangpur got a walk-over against Naogaon. Rangpur will meet the winners of Nilphamari and Dinajpur in the zonal semifinals on April 14.

At Pabna, Thakurgaon received another walk-over, against Natore. Thakurgaon will now clash with the victors of the tie between Kurigram and Bogra in the zonal semifinals, also on April 14.

Six more matches are scheduled for today.

Forty-two district sports associations - split into six different zones - are taking part in the first phase of the tournament which is expected to be completed by April 16.

The final round of the meet will be held in Dhaka from April 19 to 23.

The six zonal champions and the defending champions Dhaka DSA and the 11th championship runners-up BKSP will play in the final round.

DU, Biman post big wins

Sports Reporter



Rawnakul Islam Tutul of Dhaka University and veteran Ahmed Iqbal Bachchu and Enamul Huq

Mont of Bangladesh Biman played remarkable knocks for the victory of their respective sides in the ten-team final round of the Gold Leaf national cricket championship that began in the city yesterday.

Dhaka zonal champions Dhaka University registered a huge 130-run victory over Chapatnawabganj DSA at the Dhaka Stadium while the zonal runners-up Bangladesh Biman outplayed Rajshahi DSA by 91 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Dhaka University will now take on Sylhet in the quarter-finals to be held on April 13 while Biman will clash with Khulna in another quarterfinal tie tomorrow.

At the Dhaka Stadium, Dhaka University skipper Faruk Ahmed, who also captained, Abahani Krita Chakra in the recently concluded Navana Premier Division league, won the toss and made the first use of the pitch his side collecting a reasonable 219 for six wickets in the stipulated 45 overs.

Tutul, the DU opener, went great guns with the willow and produced some fine strokes. But nerves robbed him of what would have been a well-deserved century, the batsman from Bogra succumbing on 99, made off 122 balls, a knock that included half a dozen boundaries.

Selim Shahed, who returned last month from South Africa after completing a playing scholarship, too, was rather unlucky not to get his 50. He was run out on 49 made with the help of three fours, while Faruk made 21 off 36 deliveries.

Bachchu scored a patient 66 off 95 balls with the help of

Jewel with two wickets for 32 was the pick of the Chapatnawabganj attack while Rubel and Milon took a wicket apiece.

In reply, facing a daunting challenge, the Nawabganj boys soon lost heart and were dismissed for a paltry 89 in only 34 overs.

Mithu with 26 and Jewel



TUTUL... 99

with 24 not out were the notable scorers for Nawabganj.

Suppi took three wickets and Joy Dev two while Shabbir, Rupam, Shovon and Selim Shahed claimed one wicket each to seal the fate of the match.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium sent into bat, Independence Day Cricket champions Bangladesh Biman piled up a handsome 235 for the loss of six wickets in their 45 overs, thanks to Bachchu, Mont and skipper Shahnewaz Shera.

Bachchu scored a patient 66 off 95 balls with the help of

six fours while Shanu made 42 off 57 deliveries.

Some good slogging was needed to accelerate Biman's run rate and Mont, as usual, responded to the situation by making a whirlwind 49 off just 37 deliveries, an innings embellished with a six and four fours.

Zakaria also got 38 to make Biman's total a sizeable one.

David took two wickets while Tarik, Gem and Dola got one apiece for Rajshahi.

The tight Biman bowling, particularly Mont's accuracy, allowed Rajshahi very little liberty and their batsmen could muster only 144 for nine wickets when their overs ran out.

Litu topscored with 42 while Mott made 22 for Rajshahi.

Shanu waited a long while before bringing left arm spinner Mont into the attack, perhaps wishing to spare his fellow batsmen from Rajshahi the embarrassment of a paltry total. But once Mont started bowling, he scythed through the Rajshahi innings, claiming four wickets for only a dozen runs off his nine overs.

Rafiq and Azhar with two wickets each and Pail with another lent Mont able support.

Earlier in the morning, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal (Ibn-e-Yousuf) formally inaugurated the finals at the Dhaka Stadium as chief guest.

Managing Director of the Bangladesh Tobacco Company, sponsors of the tournament, and Bangladesh Cricket Control Board officials were also present.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Mymensingh vs Chittagong (Dhaka Stadium)
Barisal vs Dhaka (DCS)

Windies expect better showing from the South Africans



PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Apr 10: The West Indies expect their next two one day internationals against South Africa to be much closer than their 107-run victory in the first in Kingston on Tuesday, reports AFP.

West Indies' team manager, David Holford, said on Thursday: "We won that one pretty easily on a good batting pitch."

"But we know the pitch in Trinidad is usually more difficult for batting on and I expect we will see two closer games there."

Holford a former West Indies Test all-rounder, was a relieved man going into the last two one-day internationals at the Queen's Par Oval here this weekend.

Tuesday's win will "go a long way to restoring self-confidence" that had been absent in recent World Cup performances, he said.

"The team is a transitional one and it hasn't yet got used to winning. This was a good start."

South African coach Mike Procter acknowledged that his

team had been "completely outplayed" in Tuesday's match. But his men were new to West Indies conditions and would take a little time to acclimatise, he said.

"I would expect us to im-

prove appreciably the more practice we have," he said. "But we knew when we came here that we would have a tough job against the West Indies on their home territory."

The final match of the brief tour - South Africa's first of the West Indies - is the five-day Test in Bridgetown, Barbados from April 18-23.

The Test is South Africa's first since readmission to the International Cricket Council last July.

Their plane was delayed for 90 minutes and they turned back shortly after take-off after a warning light on the cockpit panel lit up. A check on the ground revealed no problem and the plane took off again.

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Borzov feels 9.8 secs is the limit



KIEV, Ukraine, Apr. 10: Only doping will allow sprinters to break the 9.8 second barrier for 100 metres, according to Ukrainian former track star Valery Borzov, reports Reuter.

"I do not believe a sprinter can go below 9.8 without drugs," said Borzov, the 1972 Olympic gold medalist for 100 and 200 metres.

"I'm sure 9.8 seconds is the final measure of human ability," he added.

Borzov, one of only a handful of men to achieve an Olympic sprint double, was recalling Ben Johnson's winning time of 9.79 in the 1988 Seoul Olympic final. The Canadian was later disqualified for using anabolic steroids.

"Johnson's case proved it is only possible through increased power, but that level of power can only be reached through the use of drugs," the 42-year-old Borzov said.

"Never mind that Johnson

was doped, I know now that this is the only way it can be done."

"It was very important to understand the specific areas in which performance could be

improved.

"Now we know that it can't be done through new running techniques or increased stride

frequency", he said, echoing the precise scientific approach he brought to his own sprinting.

Borzov believed that Johnson, because of the blazing power of his start, effectively had the Seoul final won in the first three strides.

Now Minister for Sport and president of the Ukrainian National Olympic Committee, he was speaking after a visit by Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee.

Ukraine will compete in the Barcelona Olympics as part of the joint team representing the 11 republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Georgia.

Borzov said it was too early to say whether American Carl Lewis' 100 metres world record of 9.86 seconds would be beaten in Barcelona.

"We won't know that until a week before the Olympics when we've seen the results of the pre-Games races."

"In the beginning of the first set, it was a close match. Once I got the first break, things got a lot easier," said Graf, who liked everything about her performance except the way she hit her forehead down the line.

"I tried to use it on some tough points," she said, emphasizing that she can't be afraid to make mistakes if she's going to improve.

"That's the only think I can say wasn't working."

Second seed and defending champion Gabriela Sabatini produced a convincing 6-0, 6-3 win over American Kathy Rinaldi.

Joining the top two in the quarter-finals were third seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who sailed past Argentine Ines Gorrochategui 6-0, 6-2, and forth seed Conchita Martinez, who bounced 11th-seeded

Burillo. "I still don't know how I managed to beat him," Becker complained. He had not had much practice on slow clay courts but added: "He played very well today and it's fair that he won."

Becker's defeat maintained the dismal showing of leading players in a tournament which had already seen the departure of the third, fourth and sixth seeds, Emilio Sanchez of Spain, Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia and American Andre Agassi.

The powerful German cruised through the first set 6-

1 but lost his touch and then his self-control on the rain-slowed court, allowing Burillo to work to a deserved victory.

"The first set took just 20 minutes and I thought the rest of the match would go the same way," Becker said.

"Jordi was very nervous at the beginning and he missed a lot. But then he picked up in the second set and he was a completely new player."

Becker's record on the Barcelona courts, particularly against Spaniards, is not a happy one.

Graf, Sabatini sail along



AMELIA ISLAND, Fla., Apr. 10: Brenda Schultz has always admired Steffi Graf's game. On Thursday, she thought that respect cost her a chance to upset the top seed in the Bausch and Lomb Championships, reports AP.

Graf advanced to the quarter-finals of the \$1.35 million clay-court tournament with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Schultz in a match that was closer than indicated by the final score.

The top seed broke Schultz in the sixth game to go up 4-2 in each set, then didn't have much difficulty finishing off her opponent from The Netherlands.

The match lasted one hour, although Schultz, a semifinalist in last week's Hilton Head, S.C. tournament, felt the outcome might have been different if

Becker's Spanish jinx continues



BARCELONA, Apr. 10: Top seed Boris Becker crashed out of the Spanish Open tennis tournament on Thursday, beaten in the second round by 19-year-old Spaniard Jordi Burillo, reports Reuter.

Burillo, ranked 230th in the world, won 1-6, 7-6, 6-4, in a match suspended because of rain after just three points had been played on Wednesday night.

"It's like a dream - Becker has always been my idol," said

Bagan in semis

CALCUTTA, Apr. 10: Defending champions Mohun Bagan have romped into the semifinals of the seventh All Airlines Gold Cup football tournament defeating Titumun 2-1 while BSF prevailed over Royal Nepal Airlines by an identical margin here yesterday.

Mohun Bagan completed their group matches with three points after being held to a 1-1 draw by arch rivals East Bengal in their opening group match. Titumun now require to win their next match against East Bengal to remain in the reckoning.

In the other group, both Mohammedan Sporting and BSF shared two points leaving Royal Nepal Airlines with an uphill task of defeating Mohammedan Sporting in their last league match today to stay in the competition.

The two top teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals to be played on April 12 while the final is slated for April 15.

Edberg, Courier reach semis

TOKYO, Apr. 10: Top two seeds Stefan Edberg and Jim Courier, vying for the world number one ranking, advanced to the semifinals of the 1.19 million US dollar Japan Open tennis championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

American Courier snatched the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) number one ranking from Edberg on February 10 but held it for less than six weeks before the Swede reclaimed it.

ATP officials said Courier could regain the number one spot with just one more victory here, even if Edberg goes on to win this Hardcourt tournament.

In Friday's first quarter-final match, the second seeded Courier took nearly two hours to oust Israel's Amos Mansdorf, seeded eighth, 7-6, 6-4.

"I think both of us played pretty well and I just won the key points. That was really difference," said Courier, the Australian Open champion.

Edberg, bidding for his fourth straight Japan Open title, needed three sets to win his semifinal berth, beating seventh-seeded American Brad Gilbert 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Bakhrabad Gas tennis begins

COMILLA, Apr. 10: The Bakhrabad Gas tennis tournament began at the tennis complex here today, reports BSS.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain inaugurated the competition.

The tournament is being held over three days at the Bakhrabad Gas tennis complex here today, reports BSS.

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