

# Abahani back to winning

Sports Reporter



Abahani Krira Chakra, the reigning champions, crossed a big hurdle on their course to retaining the title by beating Fakirpool Youngmen's Club 3-1 in the First Division football league yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium last night.

Abahani who had to switch colours to avoid confusion as their opponents took the field in sky blue, dispelled any superstitious suggestion of a hang-over of their drawn last match, against BRTC, dominated the entire proceedings with a lone goal

only a late penalty came their way a consolation which, apart from causing a little change in the result sheet, had hardly any bearing on the match which the men from Dhanmondi controlled right through.

Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, well past his prime now, reminded his critics that he is still a force to reckon with a gem of a goal in the very second minute of the match. He took a super dupe free-kick from about thirty yards after the referee had awarded Abahani a free-kick following an infringement and the powerful right-footer curled

Not to be blamed for the first goal. Dhanu, the Fakirpool custodian, perhaps pondering over the second minute shocker, badly goofed in judging the flight of a Munna free-kick and Zhukov, lurking nearby, pounced upon it in a flash to make it 2-0.

Fakirpool reduced the margin at the far end of the match when Swapam converted a spot kick after Masud Rana of Abahani had fouled Firoz inside the box (2-1).

Alexander Polynkov, who wasted at least half a dozen chances yesterday, rounded off on a happy note with a goal in the injury time. His side volley from inside the box hit the side post to complete the tally for Abahani (3-1).

Fakirpool now have 14 points from 16 matches.

Yellow cards: Arefiev, Zhukov and Rehan of Abahani and Dhanu, Swapam and Akram of Fakirpool.

ABAHANI KCL: Mohsin, Munna, Alamgir, Rehan, Masud Rana, Arefiev, Zhukov, Zakir (Swapam), Aslam, Shakil (Mamun) (Gaus) and Polynkov.

FAKIRPOOL YC: Dhanu, Gobinda, Rakib, Ibrahim, Swapam, Akram, Montu (Firoz), Moshi, Askar, Bhola Roy (Apu) and Babuzzaman.

ARAMBAGH CONSOLIDATE

Arambagh Krira Sangstha consolidated the fourth slot in the league table with a one-nil victory against Rahmatganj MFS in yesterday's first match of the First Division football league.

Sohel, the stockily-built Arambagh striker who had earlier netted four goals, scored the all-important goal with a header in the 12th minute of the post-lemon session.

With this win, Arambagh raise their tally to 20 from 16 matches while Rahmatganj, playing the same number of matches, remain stuck at 16 points.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bima vs Dhanmondi (6 pm)

Mohammedans vs PWD (8 pm)

Following is the points table of the First Division football league after yesterday's games:

M	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Abahani	16	15	1	0	46	7	31
Mohammedans	15	13	1	1	33	5	27
Brothers	15	11	2	2	27	8	24
Arambagh	16	7	6	3	15	13	20
PWD	15	6	5	4	19	13	17
Wari	15	4	9	2	18	16	17
Rahmatganj	16	7	2	7	18	12	16
Muktijoddha	15	5	6	4	13	20	16
Agrani Bank	15	3	9	3	11	11	15
Victoria	15	5	4	6	11	13	14
Fakirpool	16	5	4	7	13	18	14
Farashganj	15	3	8	4	7	15	14
Adamjee	15	3	7	5	14	18	13
Dhanmondi	15	3	6	6	11	21	12
Eskaton	15	1	9	5	11	17	11
Bima	15	3	5	7	12	14	11
Wanderers	15	1	8	6	10	16	10
BRTC	15	1	8	6	8	19	10
Police	15	1	7	7	8	17	9
BJMC	15	0	3	12	3	25	3

lead in the first half.

Fakirpool, who had given Mohammedans such a tough time and held them at bay for eighty-eight minutes, apparently ran out of gas yesterday. The lessons that Abahani took from that match (1-0) richer for two points, with their collection soaring to 31 from 16 matches, good enough to help them maintain the lead in the points table.

Last night Abahani had their home work well done and Fakirpool never looked like matching them in any of the departments of the game and

to flummox the Fakirpool wall, gave keeper Dhanu a chilling last second hint of bending fatally into the net by the far post (1-0).

The goal rightly ran off an excess of adrenalin in the Abahani players and they pulverised Fakirpool like a raging nor'wester from all sides. Polynkov, Zhukov, Aslam and Mamun Joarder had particularly busy time with a virtual flood of opportunities coming along their way. They, however, missed or kept on missing till Sergei Zhukov doubled the margin seventeen minutes into the second half.



Abahani forwards Sheikh Aslam (L) and Mamun Joarder (foreground) try to beat the Fakirpool skipper to a high ball in yesterday's First Division football league match at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani won 3-1.

— Star photo

# Massive victory for Syedpur students

Sports Reporter



The ball was finally set rolling in the final round of the tenth Ni-man schools cricket championship after two days of inaction with two of the three scheduled matches actually taking place yesterday.

At the Dhaka Stadium, Saint Joseph's High School got a walk-over against Madaripur High School and earned an effortless passage to the quarter finals.

Dhanmondi Government Boys' High School and Syedpur Islamia High School recorded victories by huge margins at the two adjacent grounds of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

On the eastern half of the ground, a fine rescue operation led by Moudud and Babu helped Dhanmondi Boys pile up 212 in 40 overs for five wickets after the top half of their batting was removed for only 77.

Moudud and Babu added 135 runs for the sixth wicket in 17.5 overs to make the skipper of Jhalakathi Udbodhoni Maddhyamik School rue his decision of sending Dhanmondi Boys in after winning the toss.

Moudud's unbeaten 65 came off only 57 balls and contained eight fours earning him the man-of-the-match award while Babu's unconquered 59-ball innings of 57 was embellished with one six and four fours.

Jhalakathi Udbodhoni School were shot out for 75 in 25.4 overs with only one batsman — Sagar reaching double figures to make a defiant 23. Things could have been embarrassingly worse if the Dhanmondi players had not given away 25 extras.

Shama was Jhalakathi's main tormentor with fine figures of three for 15 with Moudud doing one better with the leather taking three for 12.

In the other match, between two outstation teams — Syedpur Islamia High School and Government Jubilee High School of Patuakhali on the western portion of the DCS, the former registered a mammoth 211-run victory.

The losers opted to field first and paved the path for a leatherhunt as Syedpur Islamia School outscored the number of balls to post a staggering 320 for seven in 40 overs, the highest total in this year's meet.

Masum hit boundaries at will to top score with a swash-buckling 86 off 89 balls. He hit 16 fours.

Mukhtar Hussain, the skipper, obscured Masum's effort with a whirlwind 85 off 56 balls, inclusive of three sixes and eleven fours.

Ali, 29, Nadim, 15, and Bablu with 14 not out were the other notable contributors in the Syedpur run riot.

Patuakhali's Imam with three for 72 and Aminul with two for 56 toiled manfully. Suman and Arif picked up one wicket each among the other bowlers employed by the Jubilee captain.

The beleaguered Jubilee batsmen were thrown out of gear by Syedpur bowlers S Ali and Saqib Anwar who shared six wickets between them as the school side from the southern part of the country were all out for 109 in 27.4 overs.

All of Syedpur pocketed three wickets for 19 while Saqib took three for 32.

Masum of Syedpur was named man-of-the-match for his superb 86.

Dhanmondi Boys meet Dinajpur Zilla School today at the Dhaka Stadium.

Khulna Gazi Memorial High School take on Mymensingh Mritunjay High School at the DCS (west) and Jessore Zilla School face Chittagong Nasirabad High School at DCS (east).

# Japan hires Charlton to promote 2002 Cup bid



TOKYO, Apr 24: Former England soccer, striker Bobby Charlton will help Japan's bid to stage the World Cup finals in 2002, an official of the World Cup Japan 2002 Candidate Committee said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The official said Charlton, a key member of England's winning team in the 1966 World Cup finals, will formally assume a post entitled "overseas adviser" when the committee's general meeting is held in Tokyo on May 11.

Charlton is scheduled to do promotional activities overseas including approaches to officials of the International Football Federation (FIFA) and

federations in each continent, she said.

Japan, one of the five countries who want to stage the 2002 event, is expected to announce a formal bid later this year after selecting 12 domestic venues.

The 2002 World Cup hosts will be decided at a FIFA general meeting in June, 1996.

Last November, FIFA president Joao Havelange said an Asian country should host the World Cup finals in 2002 but set tough conditions for potential hosts.

Havelange said the hosts had to have 12 stadiums with an average seat capacity of 40,000 and a venue that could seat 80,000 for opening ceremonies.

# Chinese start as favourites.



HIROSHIMA, Japan, Apr 24: Powerhouse China, led by world champions Zhuang Yong, Lind Li and Qian Hong are expected to dominate the Asian swimming championships getting under way here Saturday, reports AFP.

The Chinese swimmers collected 24 gold medals out of 31 at the previous 1988 competition in Guangzhou and 23 out of 31 at the Beijing Asian Games in 1990.

They also took three silvers and one bronze at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and bloomed at last year's World Championships in Perth, successfully winning four golds, one silver and bronze each as well as three exhibition golds.

Their biggest opponents are Japan, who had ruled Asia until the Chinese achieved the world level.

Japan were able to win only seven golds in Beijing and seek to regain their pride after breaking 10 national records at the Japanese Championships a week ago.

"We defeated Japan in Beijing. But I think the Japanese will take many gold medals this time as they scored good times at the National Championship," said Chinese head coach Chen Yunpeng.

"We are going to peak for the Barcelona Olympics and our swimmers are still not in their top form right now," he said.

Nineteen-year-old Zhuang, one of the silver medalists in Seoul, became the world 50 m freestyle champion and also came in third in the 100m, while, in won both the 200 m and 400 m individual medley races in Perth.

Qian and Wang Xianhong, who made a one-two finish in the 50 m (exhibition) and 100 m butterfly events at the World Championships, Huang Xianmin, the 200 m breaststroke runner-up in Seoul, and 50 m freestyle world record holder yang Wenyi, are also favoured in the event.

The Japanese women's team, who failed to win a gold in Beijing, challenge the Chinese domination with Perth bronze medalist in 400 m freestyle, Suzu Chiba, silver medalist in 200m butterfly Rie Shito, Voko kando in butterfly and Yoko Koikawa in backstroke.

In the men's competition, China's Chen Jianhong, Lin Lajiu Feng Qiangbiao and Xie Jun, Japan's Akira Hayashi, Hajime Itoi, Tatsuya Kinugasa and Toshiaki Kurawasa are expected to perform well.

Ji Sang-Joon, the only gold medalist other than China and Japan in Beijing, carries the best hopes for South Korea, which also includes Bang Seung-Hoon, Choi Jeon Seong, Park Mi-Yeong, Lee Eun-Ju and Choi Eun-Mee.

Competitors from 22 countries and regions will take part in the four-day competition, Yng for 31 gold medals in the swimming and four in the diving at the Hiroshima City Indoor Pool.

# Everest ascent

KATMANDU, Apr 24: Three expeditions to Mount Everest have pitched camps on the world's tallest mountain, messages received from their base camps said Thursday, reports AP. According to a report, the Alpine Ascent International Everest Expedition of the United States set up camp three at 7,200 metres (23,760 feet) on April 13.

# National chess from today

Sports Reporter

The inaugural ceremony and the numbers-drawing of the 18th national chess championship finals will be held this afternoon at the National Sports Council chess room.

Actual competition will begin Sunday.

Reigning champion Rifatin-Sattar and last year's runner-up Ziaul Kader Tuhin and fourteen players from the recently held qualifying competition will take part in the championship.

Neyamul Huq Niru and Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu finished as champion and runner-up respectively in the qualifying meet. The other twelve qualifiers are Anisur Rahman, Khandaker Kayes Hassan, Ziaur Rahman, Kalam, Iqbal Rakib, Jamilur Rahman, M R Hafiz, Nahid Miazi, Syed Tahmidur Rahman, Rani Hamid, Abdul Khaleq and Amir Hossain.

One hundred and eight players took part in the nine-round Swiss league qualifying prelims that ended on April 21

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# Chess result

LINARES, Spain, Apr 24: British Grandmaster Nigel Short beat former world champion Anatoly Karpov on Thursday in the semi-finals of the World Chess Championship, taking a one-point lead with two games to play, reports Reuter.

# Mini-wrestling from today

Sports Reporter

The three-day 11th national mini-cadet wrestling championships begin this afternoon at the National Sports Council gymnasium.

Sadek Hossain Khoka, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will inaugurate the meet as chief.

Organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation (BAWF), only eight DSAs — Gazipur, Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Khulna and Jessore, Rajshahi — had reported to the BAWF till last evening. However, many more district teams expected to arrive today, according to the organisers.

# Nat'l bridge

The national pair duplicate bridge tournament for the Fazle Sobhan Trophy began in the city on Thursday at Hotel Sheraton, reports BSS.

The meet was inaugurated by A Samad, president of the Bangladesh Bridge Federation. Habib Sattar, marketing manager of the Bangladesh Tobacco Company, the sponsors of the tournament, John H Eaton, the manager of Sheraton, Farooq Sobhan, Additional Foreign Secretary and A K Feroze Ahmed, general secretary of BBF spoke on the occasion.

# Becker again fails on clay



MONTE CARLO, Apr 24: Boris Becker and Guy Forget added their names to the exodus of seeds from the 1.27-million dollar Monte Carlo Op-en on Thursday when they plunged to third round defeats, reports Reuter.

The German top seed rubbed his newly-acquired ginger beard with bewilderment as American Aaron Krickstein gave him a lesson in clay court tennis in a stinging 6-1, 6-4 defeat in little more than an hour.



BORIS BECKER

Fourth seed Forget drew the benefit of home support from a largely French crowd but still lost to a player with a local following, Monaco resident Austrian Thomas Muster, who beat him 7-6, 4-6, 6-3.

# Fed Cup b'ball

Sports Reporter

The fifth Federation Cup basketball competition, which was scheduled to begin from April 27, will now start from May 8 due to "unavoidable circumstances," says a Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation (BABF) press release.

Under the changed schedule, the meeting of the participating teams' managers will be held on May 7 at 7 pm at the BABF office.

# Tillestroem — a raw diamond



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Tillestroem, ranked only 332nd in the world, spent the first day of the tournament on Monday watching the idol of his youth Bjorn Borg losing on Centre Court.

Three days later, he had gone three rounds further in the tournament than Borg and picked up by far the biggest cheque of his fledgling career.

left in tatters as Krickstein returned superbly and outshone him in every department of the game.

The German failed to hold serve in the first set and won his service games just twice in the entire match.

"It's not normal for me to win only two serves in a match, even on clay," Becker said. "It was going in fast but he was just returning it so easily. It was coming back all the time."

"I didn't know how to win on my serve. I knew how to do it on his serve but that wasn't the problem."

Becker tried to outplay Krickstein from the back of the court, a tactic doomed to failure against a player who not so long ago was an out and out baseliner.

Krickstein, who said he had adopted a more attacking game to regain the world's top 10, at one stage reeled off 14 out of 15 points as he went on to earn his first win over Becker in six meetings.

Stich on the other hand, showed that you can play serve-and-volley on clay, resolutely sticking to his basic tactic in a 6-4, 7-6 win over Javier Sanchez of Spain.

Sanchez's elder brother Emilio made it an unfortunate family double by losing 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 to French Davis Cup player Arnaud Boetsch.

Boetsch remained the only French player in the draw after Forget's defeat to Muster, who is ranked 37th in the world.

Muster, losing finalist in 1990, showed he is getting back to the form which one took him into the top 10 in the world before a series of injuries set him back.

"I feel like a pounceball, always bouncing, always coming back," he said. "Today I played my best match of the season. I was feeling strong and as if I could beat anyone on clay and it happened."

Muster meets the surprise package of the tournament in the last eight, Swede Mikael Tillestroem, who is playing his

first ATP tournament. He beat March Rosset of Switzerland 6-7, 6-4, 6-2.

The man who beat Muster in the final two years ago, Andrei Chesnokov of the CIS, beat Novacek 6-2, 7-5 to move on to face Krickstein.

Chesnokov wished the Austrian luck before his match. "He said this was maybe another Chesnokov-Muster year but I'm not so sure," Muster said.

Boetsch meets German Davis Cup player Carl-Uwe Steeb, who dismissed Ferreira 6-2, 6-1, and Stich plays Goran Prpic of Croatia, who beat Magnus Larson of Sweden in three sets.

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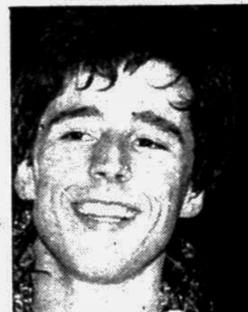
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# Red Indians seek IOC recognition



ALBUQUERQUE, Apr 24: An Indian organization plans to ask the International Olympic Committee to recognize American Indians in the United States and Canada as a separate nation to compete in the Olympic Games, reports AP.

United Now Indian Olympic Nation, or UNION, is hoping for recognition in time to field athletes for the 1996 Games at Atlanta.

Its petition could go to the IOC as early as the end of this year, members of a five-person steering committee said at a news conference Thursday.

The 8-month-old organization cited IOC rulings allowing seven former Soviet and Yugoslav republic to compete as separate nations in this year's Olympics. But perhaps the strongest argument for a separate Indian team lies in the US territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, which have long competed as independent countries, UNION said.

The 1991 Olympic charter also contains a provision stating that for purposes of competition, "country" means "any country, state, territory or part of a territory" the Olympic

Committee chooses to recognize, said UNION's West Coast director, Steve Lopez.

A spokesman for the US Olympic Committee told the Albuquerque Tribune on Thursday that the international committee has rejected the idea in the past because Indians are considered US citizens who can compete on the US team.

Lopez, of Needles, Calif, and UNION's Midwest director, Edward Lohnes of Minneca polis, said many young Indians have been kept from competing in Olympic trials in the past by economic factors, isolated reservations and the fact they may not have gone to college so their athletic potential was never noticed.

"Once they get out of high school, they don't go on to junior college or college, so their opportunity for sports goes down," Lohnes said. "There are some world-class kids are just wasting away. Given the opportunity, I truly believe they can be competitive."

He also said the push for a separate team is based on the fact Indians are the only people in the United States put on reservations and separated by the federal government.

# Small causes big upsets



SHEFFIELD, England, Apr 24: Snooker unknown Chris Small continued his amazing giant-killing run in the World Championship here on Thursday night when he upset 10th seed Dough Mountjoy in the first round, reports AFP.

The 18-year-old Scottish rookie, who defeated women's world champion Allison Fisher and 1980 men's world champion Cliff Thorburn to become the youngest player at the Crucible this year, clinched the first pay cheque of his professional career with a 10-7 victory over the 1981 runner-up from Wales.

Small, provisionally ranked 338th in the world, trailed 5-4 after the first session, but won the first four frames of the night, three of them on the black, to lead 8-5.

Mountjoy took the next two, but a break of 38 in the 16th frame put Small 9-7 ahead and he wrapped up the match and 12,000 pounds on the yellow.

Mountjoy's defeat means that eight of the world's top 16 players have fallen at the first hurdle.

The World Championship was the only tournament Small qualified for this season. He worked as a bank clerk between playing matches at the qualifying competitions in

stroke last summer.

"The security guards at the Crucible wouldn't let me in when I arrived at the door," he revealed afterwards.

"They didn't believe I was a snooker player."

"I felt a bit of a stranger, but Jimmy White came up to me, shook my hand, and said 'welcome to the big city.'"

"The pressure out there was unbelievable. But now I'm looking forward to my next match against Dene O'Kane and I feel I have a good chance of winning."

# Italian booters withdraw threat

ROME, Apr 24: Italian footballers have withdrawn a threat to strike this weekend over plans to allow clubs to sign an unlimited number of EC players from next year, reports AFP.

Sergio Campans the president of the Italian Players Union, said he had reached agreement with Football Federation President Antonio Matarrese on a compromise over foreign players.

The deal will mean clubs can sign as many players from within the European Community as they want but only two from outside, instead of the three advocated by the Federation.