Bangladesh take on India today

A Correspondent



When twenty players of the two sides show an trremediable weakness to find the

net, one needs an incident to break the deadlock and today Abu Bakr, the Pakistani custodian, did that to ensure the doom of his side against Nepal in the fifth Asian youth under 16 football champtonship, Group Three, at the Ratshahi Stadtum.

Nepal who thus recorded their third win in the tournament to raise their hopes of finishing second in the fivenation tournament, beat Pakistan by an eight-minute penalty goal, from sweeperback Gambhir Rai.

Pakistan, who before today's match had collected just one point from the drawn match against the Maldives, began their campaign today with an apparent sense of urgency and nearly - shot into the lead in the very first minute.

Striker Aquil Ahmed raced right through the heart of the Nepalese defence after having dodged past a couple of rival defenders but failed to round off his good work as the Nepalese custodian Bhupendra Mishra, who impressed the crowd in the match against India, foiled him brilliantly at the cost of a corner.

With Nepal not too eager to risk their limbs against the boisterous Pakistanis in the hot humid weather and the maladroit Pakistanis having little in their quiver to trans-

form their desperation into effectiveness the match, which drew one of the thinnest crowds so far, had very little for the eyes.

Pakistan, however, got another chance minutes later but Laig Shah, one of the few skilled players in the Pakistan team, fatled to cash in on the opportunity after Aquil Ahmed and Shumail Anjum had done the spade work in tandem.

Nepal went ahead with a gift from the Pakistan goalkeeper in the eighth minute of the match. It came as a bolt from the blue for both sides as Abu Bakr, quite unnecessarily, kicked Nepalese striker Raj Kumar Thapa after having collected an innocuous ball. Referee Mohsin Ariff of Shri Lanka had no hesitation in awarding the Nepalese with a spot kick and Gambhir Rai converted the penalty with a fine shot that gave no chance to the ill-tempered Abu Bakr.

Pakistan stepped up pressure after this setback but with their players failing to match their enthusiasm with imagina tion the equaliser kept elud ing the Pakistanis like a mi

Nepal were deprived of an-

other possibility midway through the first half when Raj Kumar Thapa outpaced the advancing Pakistanis in a counter attack and looked all set to double the margin but last defender Sarfaraz Butt of Pakistan who had received marching orders in an earlier match, hacked him down inside the box; but referee Ariff

overlooked the glaring offence much to astonishment of the sparse crowd.

Nepal provided the disappointed sportsscribes some copy material ten minutes before the short whistle when striker Devendra Lama let fly a powerful shot at the Pakistan goal but custodian Abu Bakr this time kept his cool and punched the ball away for a

corner. Unlike Pakistan, Nepal had hardly any reason for throwing their defence open by pushing their men up to consolidate the lead and always had enough people at the right place at the right time to beat back all that the Pakistani desperados could fling at them and the highlanders trooped back with six points while Pakistan finished the tournament with just one point from four matches.

Nepalese coach Ratu Thapa said after the match that his boys could not play normal football because of the aggressive attitude of the robust Pakistani players and the heat

He was quite happy to note that his team still had a chance of finishing second should Bangladesh, according to him the strongest team of the meet

beat India in tomorrow's match on the concluding match, of the tournament.

Bangladesh lead the points table with six points, having won all three of their encounters and need only a draw to win the right to take part in the next round in Saudi Arabia in September as the champion team of Group Three.

Meanwhile Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz will witness the match between India and Bangladesh which marks the end of the ten-day long tournament today at the Raishahi Stadium. The

match kicks-off at 4-30. State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain will also watch the proceedings as a special

TEAMS

NEPAL Sailesh Joshi. Gambhir Roy, Anil Upadhaya, Den Keji, Amir, Basnet, Ranajit Singh (Dilip Kumar). Robin Thapa, Devendra Lama and Raj Kumar Thapa.

PAKISTAN: Abu Bakr. Khalid Khan, Nasir, Sarfaraz Butt, Mohammad Ayub, Obadah Tarik (Asik Khan), Ejaz Ahmed, Anjum, Naeem Khaled, Aguil Ahmed (Gulam Mostafa) and Laceg Shah.

Referee: Mohstn Artff (Shrt

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Team	M	W	D	L	CF.	GA	F
Bangladesh	3	3	0	0	13	0	6
Nepal	4	3	0	1	4	9	6
India	3	2	0	1	9	2	4
Pakistan	4	0	1	3	1	5	1
Maldives	4	0	1	3	1	12	1

AC Milan are Italian champions



LONDON, May 11: While Italy's AC Milan can now relax with the league crown safe their posse-

ssion, the Spanish and German contenders must slug it out to the bitter end, reports Reuter.

Real Madrid's surprise 1-0 defeat against Real Oviedo on Saturday leaves the championship wide open and rivals Atletico Madrid and Barcelona once again snapping at their

With four games left, Madrid lead by just one point. Atletico have 48 and Barcelona

On Sunday, Barcelona and Atletico narrowed the gap when Barcelona beat lowly Cadiz 2-0 and Atletico won 2-1 against Sporting Gijon.

After recently accusing his players of throwing in the towel on the league title, Barcelona Johan Cruyff brimmed with enthusiasm after phical: Sunday's match.

"It was an important win that's inspired us. The league title is within our reach, " Cruyff beamed.

Atletice's Portuguese striker and captain Paolo Futre offered a more subdured view of his team's match.

can be happy with the result

but not the game," Futre said. Atletico felt the absence of German desender Bernd Schuster, suspended for one game for getting too many yellow cards.

Real Madrid coach Leo Beenhakker put the defeat down to the team's spiritless performance.

We didn't look like champions," he admitted.

In Germany, the tightest Bundesliga title race in years will be decided on Saturday when three teams tied at 50 points each play away

Eintracht Frankfurt, on top by virtue of their superior goal difference, have the easiest task relegation-hunted Hansa Rostock and must fancy their chances to win their first championship since 1959. After a weekend 2-2 draw

against European Cup Winners Cup champions Werder Bremen, Eintracht coach Dragoslav Stepanovic was philoso-

"The best thing about the draw is that the others (VFB Stuttgart) drew and we still have it in our own hands to become champions," he said.

Second-placed VFB Stuttgart must face tough Bayer Leverkusen on May 16 after a disappointing 1-1 home draw against lowly Wattenscheid.

find any doubt about the relia-

bility of the findings of all the

the league race after a convincing 3-1 win over Bayer Leverkusen, travel on Saturday to local rivals Duisburg.

"We obviously relish our role in pursuit," Dortmund's coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said,

AC Milan won honours two weeks before the end of the



VAN BASTEN...injured season with a 1-1 draw away to Napoli on Sunday which guaranteed them their 12th Italian

They were never in trouble

against Napoli and could claim they deserved to win a game in which Dutchman Frank Rijkaard missed a clear chance in the ninth minute, while his compatriot Marco Van Basten had a rare miss from the

After watching the game on

keeper Giovanni Galli.

television, AC Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi said his team's new aim was to finish the season unbeaten.

Rijkaard who scored Milan's goal said: "We've won a lot of Cups, but I have to say that the taste of a championship success is the best of all. Nothing's better.'

Rijkaard's compatriot Marco Van Basten, who played against Napoli despite pain in a troublesome ankle, said after the game that he would travel to the Netherlands this week to have the ankle examined.

Van Basten may require an operation on the ankle but on Sunday he suggested that the operation would be delayed until after he had played for reigning champions the Netherlands in next month's European Championship finals in Sweden.

While Milan were opening 42 bottles of champagne in their Naples dressing room in celebration, local rivals Internazionale were experiencing another upset in a wretched season, losing 2-0 at home to relegation-bound Cremonese.

Inter, however, remain in contention with Juventus, Parma, Napoli, Torino, as Roma and Sampdoria for a UEFA Cup place next season.

Atletico beat

Sporting 2-1 MADRID, May 11: Manolo Sanchez scored the winner from a penalty as Atletico Madrid beat Sporting Gijon 2-I to move within a point of leaders and arch rivals Real Madrid in the Spanish First Division on Sunday, reports

Champions Barcelona also closed the gap on Real, shock 1-0 losers at Real Oviedo on Saturday, when they won 2-0 at bottom Cluh Cadiz. With four games to the fin-

ish Real Madrid lead with 49 points, Atletico have 40 and Barcelona 47. Sporting took command

early on at Atletico, who were

without suspended German Bernd Schuster, going in front after 20 minutes with a Joaquin Alonso penalty. Juan Sabas equalised from a Paolo Future corner in the

59th minute and striker Sanchez, the League's top scorer with 24 goals, sealed victory from the spot seven minutes Barcelona ended a run of

poor results at Cadiz with an aggressive game following criticism from coach Johan Cruyff of lax performances. Bulgarian striker Khristo

Stoychkov lobbed goalkeeper Josef Szendrei in the 24 minute for the first goal and Dane Michael Landrup added the second in the 37th minute.

Army soccer

COMILLA, May 11: The hosts, Comilla Area team defeated the Dhaka Engineers team by a solitary goal in robin league match of the Army football championship at the Comilia Cantonment today, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

In another match of the day the Chittagong Area team defeated the Log Area team 2-0.

Ali in Beijing to sell 'Brawl at Great Wall'

BEIJING, May 11: Former world heavyweight boxing champton Muhammad Alt was in Betting today promoting "The Brawl at the Great Wall"- China's first professional fight planned for October, reports Reuter.

Tim Witherspoon and Tony Tucker will climb into the ring in Betting's Capital Stadium on October 18 for the multi-million dollar heavy weight bout.

Organisers expect a sell out-crowd of 20,000 in Betting and millions more watching the fight on pay television in the United States.

Tucker is ranked fourth and Witherspoon such by the International Boxing Federation. Tucker's only defeat in 44 bouts was at the hands of former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson in 1987.

The winner will be the first unified champion of the United States Boxing Association and the North American Boxing Federation, However, promoter William Wheeler told a news conference the stakes could go 'higher' without giving details. "I can't see any other box-

ing bout in the world today being more important", Wheeler said. He declined to give details of the purse.

China, where boxing is fought only at amateur level, to staging the fight to raise its sporting image as part of its bid for the 2000 Olympic

Nat'l jr boxing from today

Sports Reporter

The five-day 11th national junior under 15 and the second national intermediate un der-18 years boxing champi onships begin simultaneously this afternoon at 5-30 at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadtum.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda will inaugurate the championships as chief guest.

The Bangladesh Amateur Boxing Federation (BABF) is organising the meet.

Thirteen of the 20 expected teams had reported to the BABF till yesterday afternoon. These teams are Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, Jessore Education Board and Bogra. Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Rajshahi, Jessore, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Khulna and Satkhira DSAs.

The medical tests and weigh-in of the boxers followed by the numbers-drawing will be completed by two this afternoon.

There are fourteen events nine for juniors and five for intermediates - in the champi-

Talking to The Daily Star, BABF secretary Md Latifur Rahman said that a sum of Taka 74,000 has been earn marked for the championships.

Each of the outstation boxers, now lodging in the National Sports Council (NSC) hostel, will receive 50 Taka per day as daily allowance, in addition to travel allowance.

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The winners led 50-35 in a slightly more competitive first



An Altaf Smriti Sangha cager tries a lay up during yesterday's Federation Cup match against Gregs Club at the wooden-floor gym .Gregs won 108-50.

Winners, Gregs in semis

Sports Reporter

citement or thrills.

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Defending champions In yesterday's action, a Dhaka Winners Club, Angels Club, Five Star club and Gregs Club have assured themselves of semifinal berths in the fifth Rahmafrooz Federation Cup

In today's Group A championship deciding match, Dhaka Winners will face title-contenders Angels Club at 4:30 pm while in the Group B titledecider at 6:00 pm. Five Star Club, another strong bidder for the trophy, take on Gregs Club.

basketball tournament.

These four city teams, boasting some of the best cagers of the country with perhaps the exception of the Services sides, proved too strong for the other six teams in the meet, three of which were from outside the capital, namely, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chandpur. Dhaka Winners, Angels, Gregs and Five Star raced away to facile, mostly one-sided wins against their respective opponents in a tournament which unfortunately has so far failed to provide any sparks by way of ex-

repetition of the sorry tale of mismatched contests, the Gregs Club with players most



of whom learnt their basketball on the cement courts of St Gregory's High School in Luxmi Bazar, trounced outsiders Altaf Smriti Sangha of Rajshahi 108-50.

But in the second session the Gregs cagers got over their complacency and went on the attack, netting 58 more points while restricting their oppo-

in a one-sided charge. Amy and Shahed Ali displayed fine form by scoring 29 and 25 points respectively for Gregs while Ferdous and Kamal with 20 and 16 points tried to provide a semblance of resistance for the Rajshahi

nents to just another 12 points

In the second match of the day, held in the slightly cooler evening, defending champions Dhaka Winners Club gave every indication of their firm resolve to extend their lease on the coveted trophy by outplaying Eagles Club 81-39 after enjoying a 3-14 half-time lead.

Rajib 17, Asif 16, and Tanu 16 were the prolific hoopsters for Winners while Imon and Taufiq were once again the top shooters for Eagles Club with nine and seven points respec-

Keen race for the title

Reefat-bin-Sattar, the defending champion, and his coeival rival former and champion Ziaur

Rahman set the tone of a climatic finish to the eighteenth national chess championship at the end of the fourteenth round at the National Coaching Centre yesterday. International Woman

Master Rani Hamid, the only lady in the fray is also in with a chance of adding the national title to her national women's crown although a lot depends on the result of her match with Ruhul Kabir Shiplu scheduled to be held today at ten following yesterday's adjournment. With the latest position of the board hinting at a possible draw, it will take a lot of cerebral exercise and a luck on the part of the veteran chess queen to lift the championship which concludes to-

Rani plays Reefat on the hectic final day of the championship on Wednesday after the relative inactivity of today which will features the two adjourned matches involving Rani, Shiplu, Zia and Nahid Miyazid. The match between Zia and

Nahid Miyazid of Chittagong was also adjourned till today when the former, clearly in an advantageous position, sought the postponement. If Zia wins this match, as he is expected to, catch up with his former schoolmate Reefat on eleven points from 14 matches. FIDE Master Zia, who plays for Biman, has so far collected 10 points from 13 matches. With Zia playing his last match against a weaker opponent and Reefat to sweat it out with Rani Hamid, the dices, it seems are rather heavily

Sports Reporter loaded in Zia's favour.

At the end of the fourteenth round yesterday, Reefat was richer for a point as his opponent Ziaul Kader Tuhin, last year's runner-up who had his name withdrawn from the tournament on account of illness did not turn up for yesterday's match.

Earlier yesterday, Rani had drawn her adjourned 13th round match with Anisur

Rahman of metropolis. Jamilur Rahman of Ansars drew with Syed Iqbal Rakib of Metropolis while teammate Niamul Huq Niru also managed a draw against former champion Syed Tahmidur Rahman on a day which saw the balance tilt a little too heavily towards

Maradona again defies FIFA's ban

POSADAS, Argentina, May 11: Disgraced Argentine star Diego Maradona again defied his worldwide ban to turn out in a children's hospital charity match here on Sunday, reports

Maradona, suspended until the end of June for failing a drug test, played one half for each side, scoring three goals in all, but refused to comment on his future once the ban ex-

The former Napoli and Argentine captain organised and played in a benefit match for the widow and young son of international colleague Juan Gilberto Funes on April 15.

At the time, football's international governing body FIFA at first threatened to increase the ban and act against the other players taking part, but relented once they were informed that the match was only an exhibition and purely for charity.

indecision.

Khandaker Kayes Hassan of Ansars reversed the order of the day by beating Amir Hossain of Metropolis. Anisur Rahman somewhat made up for the loss suffered by his teammate Amir by checkmating Abdul Khaleq of Jamalpur M R Hafiz, in another match of the day, recorded a win by circumventing Kalimullah Khan of the same team.

Reefat leads the points table with eleven points from fourteen matches while Ziaur Rahman and Rani Hamid follow him close on the heels with ten points from 13 matches each. Jamilur Rahman of Ansars is also there with ten points but he has played a match more than either Zia of Rani Hamid. Tahmidur Rahman remained in third position with nine and a half points while the others pick themselves in the points table chronologically at the end of

the fourteenth round. Kayes eight and a half, Anis eight, Niru six and a half, Rakib five and a half, Kalam five, Hafiz four and a half, Khaleq four, Amir three and a half while Shiplu and Nahidhave collected six and five points respectively after 13 matches each.

Handball awards ceremony today

Sports Reporter The prize-giving ceremony

of the 1991-92 Cute First Division handball league will be held today at 5:30 pm at the National Sports Council conference room. Organised by the Bangla-

desh Handball Federation, State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) M A Mannan will distribute the trophies as the chief guest.

in the Group-III qualifying tournament of the Asian Cup football championship banging in seven goals without reply past a hapless Pakistani side at the Salt Lake Stadium here to-

day, reports PTI. The Iranians now take on hosts, India, in the last group would decide the lone qualifier

CALCUTTA, May 11: Iran

justified its billing as favourites

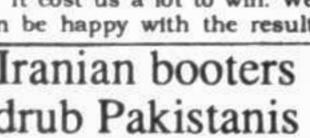
match on Wednesday which to participate in the final rounds of the championship to be held at Hiroshima later this

Pakistan, who had lost to

india by a brace of goals in its

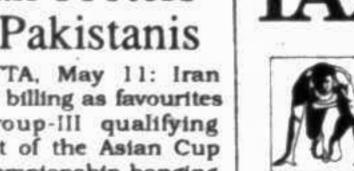
opening match, are out of con-

tention.



"It cost us a lot to win. We

Iranian booters drub Pakistanis



penalty spot in the second half when his kick was brilliantly saved by former Milan goal-Borussia Dortmund, back in IAAF upholds Reynolds' ban

LONDON, May 11: World record holder Butch Reynolds will miss (suspension). this Summer's

the governing body for world metres in 1988. track and field on Monday upheld his suspension for alleged drug use, reports AP.

The two-year ban, imposed in August 1990, runs until Aug 11 this year - two days after the Barcelona Games end. Lauri Tarasti of Finland, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation's laboratory processes, Dr David arbitration panel, said after the Black and Dr Irving Sunshine, two-day hearing, "We could not

(drug testing) procedures.

application of the lAAF of 43.29 seconds in the 400

ing with him two experts in

his lawyer; John Gall; and

Peter Alkalav, special legal

counsel of The Athletics

"We decided to uphold the

Reynolds set a world record

the last 21 months it trying to ing a positive drugs test. pleaded his case before the arbitration panel today, bring-

Describing it as one long nightmare, Reynolds has spent be challenged."

prove his innocence concern-The 27-year-old runner

Congress, the US governing

body for the sport. "I am fighting so hard because I am absolutely innocent of the charge," said Reynolds. "The rules and regulations have not been challenged like this and it's time for them to

Reynolds consistently has pronounced his innocence and claimed the positive result for steroids, taken after a meet at Monte Carlo, was due to faulty test procedures. The IAAF banned him for two years, but TAC cleared him

to compete after saving there

were inconsistencies in the

which were taken in

Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu studies his options against Rani Hamid in the national chess meet yesterday at the NSC. -Star photo