

Bangladesh face India today

KANNUR, May 15: Pakistan and Nepal shared two goals and split points in their league match of the 28th Asian Youth (under-19) football championship at the floodlit Jawahar Stadium here tonight, reports PTI.

While Nepal tallied three points from three matches, Pakistan have a lone point from the same number of matches.

Tomorrow, the two unbeaten teams in the championship — India and Bangladesh — will clash in the most crucial match of the tournament.

Parma lift Italian Cup

PARMA, May 15: Unheralded Parma landed their first major honour when they topped Juventus to win the Italian Cup on Thursday in one of the most bruising matches of the season, reports Reuter.

Riot police moved into the stadium as rival fans pelted each other with missiles during the stormy match in which Parma beat Juventus 2-0 in the second leg of the final to win 2-1 on aggregate.

Five players received yellow cards in the first half and Juventus substitute midfielder Antonio Conte was sent off in the 88th minute for a foul on Swedish international Tomas Brodin.

Goals by Alessandro Melli and Marco Osio wiped out a Juventus 1-0 first-leg lead to give Parma the Cup for the first time in the club's history.

A fast and furious game took shape in first-half injury time when Italian international Melli's header beat Juventus keeper Angelo Peruzzi.

Fifteen minutes into the second half, striker Osio thrust Parma ahead on aggregate with a sizzling low shot from a deft three-man manoeuvre which split the Juventus defence and settled the match.

For Parma, promoted to the Italian First Division only last season, the result was a triumphant climax to a series of three games against Juventus in just seven days.

Juventus, now bound to finish second to AC Milan in the First Division, were left to reflect on another disappointment after last year's disastrous season.

"It was a great match and we deserved to win," said Parma scorer Osio.

Bulgarians blank Finns

HELSINKI, May 15: Portugal-based forwards Krasimir Balakov and Emil Kostadinov scored in the last half hour as Bulgaria beat Finland 3-0 in a World Cup soccer qualifier on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Sporting Lisbon midfielder Balakov put Bulgaria in front in the 61st minute of the opening European Group Six match with a spectacular high shot from well outside the penalty area.

Striker Kostadinov of Portuguese champions Porto added goals in the 70th and 85th minutes, the first a low shot from the right, inside the box, the second, a header from close range.

Abahani play AIS today

Sports Reporter

City football-lovers, starving from the suspension of league football, the piece de resistance of our sports gourmands, will have a chance to whet their appetite tonight with the exhibition match between visiting Ambassadors In Sports (AIS), a roving multinational football team and reigning local First Division champions Abahani Krira Chakra.

With the league title and the relegation formalities, the two exhibition matches involving the visitors look like an ideal prelude before the resumption of the remainder of the unfinished league.

Abahani Krira Chakra are leading the points table with 31 points from 16 matches while arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club trail them by two points from the same number of games. All the teams, including BJMC, who

At 40, Keith Hamond is the oldest player of the side but capable of causing a problem or two with his height and celerity.

The AIS will take on last year's runner-up Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club in their second match at the Dhaka Stadium Monday before leaving the capital to play matches in Khulna, Jessore and probably in Chittagong. The visitors, who will go to India in the next phase of their



The visiting Ambassadors in Sport (AIS) football team during practice at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday afternoon.

With the league put off rather arbitrarily because of Bangladesh's participation in two closely followed junior international tournaments — the under-16 Asian Group Three tournament in Rajshahi which hosts Bangladesh won in style, and the under-19 championship, now in progress in India's Kannur, football fans whose time really hang heavy without the evening engagement on the football field in a country notorious for the dearth of entertaining pursuits, the visit of the UK-based amateur football side is a welcome promise of action that will lift the Cicerone spell from the good old Dhaka Stadium.

The stadium at the city nerve centre which has been wearing the look of a deserted stage with its blank terraces since May 29, may have had to wait another week to come alive but for the visit of the AIS team. With 30 league matches yet to played to decide the

face expulsion from the Senior Division with the lowest tally of three points, have played sixteen matches each.

The AIS team comprising 20 amateur footballers from different countries is in fact the European unit of the Sea Horse Club of California USA, that toured Bangladesh in 1989. The captain of the team Philip Mitchell is a Northern Ireland international who was in the Ulster squad for the World Cup 1990 qualifying rounds. Although he did not take part in any of the official matches he did play in a warm-up match against Argentina, the eventual runners-up.

A tuned, fit and enthusiastic bunch of footballers who want to widen the horizon of friendship and familiarity through their sporting embassy, the AIS, according to team player Steve Adolph, who was born in Bangladesh, will give the local sides 'tough' fights.

trip to play a number of exhibition matches, are expected to finish their engagements in Bangladesh by May 25.

With both Abahani and Mohammedans missing the services of some of their talented young footballers because of the ongoing under-19 tournament in India, the partisan football fans who have the habit of scoffing at anything amateur may have some shocks awaiting them but how far the visitors, coming from more temperate climates, can acclimatise themselves with the hot, humid conditions of a Bangladesh summer, remains to be seen.

The rates of the tickets for the two matches to be played at the Dhaka Stadium — Abahani playing AIS in the first today at seven pm and Mohammedans on Monday at the same time — have been fixed at Taka 50 for the VIP gallery, Gate No 1, Taka 30 for gates Number 3 A and B and Taka 15 for the stands.

Eintracht must not falter

FRANKFURT, May 15: In Italy it was formally decided weeks ago, but AC Milan were made official last week. In England, they went down to the next-to-last week before Leeds won the crown. But in Germany, the Bundesliga title will go down to the final game, with three teams all having a shot, reports AP.

Eintracht Frankfurt, VfB Stuttgart and Borussia Dortmund all go into the 38th and final round with 50 points and all play tough games on the road. With one of the tightest races in recent memory, average attendance has hit 23,671 — the best in 13 years.

Eintracht Frankfurt, who haven't won the title since 1954, control their own destiny. With a plus 36 goal differential — seven better than Stuttgart and double that of Dortmund, a win on the northern coast at Hansa Rostock would clinch the title.

Led by midfielders Andreas Moeller and Uwe Bein, sweeper Manfred Binz and Ghana striker Anthony Yeboah, Eintracht have the best road record in the league. They face a club that were added from this season from the Oberliga — the East German First Division, started strong but have faded to 19th in the 20-team Bundesliga.

Hansa Rostock have lost five straight and need a win to have any hope of avoiding relegation.

If Eintracht win the title, they will be the crowning of a remarkable first full season for Yugoslav coach Dragoslav Stepanovic. With his cigarillo and fashionable suits, Stepanovic has become popular with fans, who appreciate the offensive style of Eintracht.

But if Eintracht slip, they provide an opportunity for the other two.

Stuttgart, seeking their first title since 1984, travel to Bayer Leverkusen, winners in three of their last four home games and with still a chance of clinching a berth in next season's UEFA Cup.

A sidelight to the league race is the scoring title, being fought by Fritz Walter of Stuttgart with 21 and Swiss international Stephane Chapuisat of Dortmund with 19.

Four UEFA Cup slots also are at stake. FC Cologne and last season's champion FC Kaiserslautern appear likely to join the two teams that end up short in the title race, with Leverkusen waiting on the sidelines.

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Bayern Munich pay record fee for School

MUNICH, Germany, May 15: Bayern Munich signed Karlsruhe midfielder Mehmet Schull on Thursday for a domestic record German soccer transfer fee of six million marks (3.7 million dollar), reports Reuter.

Bayern, who have slipped from their former heights, have spent some 14 million marks (8.7 million dollar) on three new players in a shopping spree to strengthen their team for next season.

They are currently 10th in the Bundesliga with one game remaining.

Schull, a 21-year-old German youth international, will replace Stefan Effenberg who is moving to Italian First Division Fiorentina next season.

Federation Cup basketball final today

Sports Reporter

Five Star Club and Angels Club clash in the final of the fifth Rahimafroz Federation Cup Basketball tournament today at 5 pm at the wooden-floor gymnasium.

Jute Minister Brigadier (retd) Hannan Shah will give away prizes as the chief guest.

Five Star entered the final by beating holders Dhaka Winners Club in an exciting semifinal Thursday while Angels Club made the most of a flasco that marred the league match between Oreg Club and Five Star Tuesday. Oreg were scratched by the tournament committee on disciplinary grounds and Angels won a fortuitous passage into the final.

The Jessore Education Board punches reportedly were protesting alleged partiality by the referees and judges. But no official of the Jessore Board was available for comments. It now seems unlikely that the angry punches will take any further part in the meet, which concludes today.

Twenty-seven of the 28 scheduled semifinals were decided till the filing of this report late last night.

Md Kamrul Islam of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) and Md Sirajul Islam of Khulna moved into the final of the junior lightweight (under-22.5 kg) event. Kamrul Islam beat Asaduzzaman of Jessore Education Board and Sirajul Islam beat Md Suruj of Kushtia respectively on points.

In the junior novice weight (under-25.5 kg) category, Md Moniruzzaman of Rajshahi moved into the final knocking out Zahurul Huq of Dinajpur in the third and final round while Johnny of Satkhira outpointed SM Suman make the final.

In the junior paper weight (under-29 kg) division, Nasiruddin of Kushtia and Ashrafur Alam of BJMC moved

The 'native' returns

Sports Reporter

Steve Adolph, the 27-year-old member of the visiting Ambassadors In Sports, an amateur football team currently on a trip to Bangladesh, is no stranger to this land and its people.

Born in Dhaka in 1965 this post-graduate student of sports medicine left Bangladesh in 1983. So, when he refers to Abahani and Mohammedans as the only two contenders for the local football league title it does not come as a shocker for the quering newsmen.

Not sporting his moustache any longer Adolph, whose parents now live in Chicago, USA is doing his Masters in England. His father, who was involved with some missionary work in Chittagong, is a medical technologist.



STEVEN ADOLPH

While recalling his puerperal bond with this country, Adolph said that his mother, who is a teacher, bore him out at the city's Holy Family Hospital.

While talking to The Daily Star, Adolph said that the AIS football team consists of players from different countries now based in England. According to Adolph, a bachelor, some of his teammates, the Englishmen among them, can claim, not with a little degree of pride their distinguished days in their youth as ball-pickers for English football giants Manchester United.

Adolph, who has visited 30 countries with the team, informed that the purpose of their current visit is to strengthen the friendly ties. The players, said Adolph, have to raise their own funds to travel. Footballers are, in a way, performing the job of ambassadors of goodwill, something which explains the genesis of the side.

Nat'l jr boxing ends today

Sports Reporter

Boxers of the Jessore Education Board, who had been doing rather well, did not turn up for some of the semifinals yesterday, thus marring the current 11th national junior under-15 and second national intermediate under-18 boxing championships.

Into the final beating Jahangir Alam of Rajshahi and Saifuzzaman of Jessore Board respectively.

Md Zakir Hossain of Jessore Board and Md Sabur Khan of Kushtia outpointed Md Hira of Satkhira and Md Lutfar Rahman of BJMC respectively to make the junior midget weight (under-32 kg) final.

In the junior mosquito weight (under-35 kg) division, Md Ali Hossain of Kushtia beat Shaheen Akhter of Jessore DSA while Md Faisal of BJMC beat Hyder Ali of Jessore Board in their respective semifinals.

In the junior gnat weight (under-38.5 kg) semifinals, Abdus Satter of Kushtia knocked out Md Shahidul Islam of Bagerhat while Fazlur Rahman of BJMC was declared the winner against Nannu Mia of Jessore Board when the referee stopped the contest.

In the junior fly weight (under-42 kg) semis, Zillur Rahman of Jessore DSA won against Md Sohel Rana of No Trumps Club, Bogra when the latter retired. In the other semifinal, Tipu Sultan of BJMC got a walkover against Md Masum of Satkhira.

Motaleb Hossain of Khulna and Iftekhar Alam of BJMC moved into the junior bantamweight (under-45 kg) semifinals winning against Md Babul of Satkhira and Md Redwanuzzaman of Rangpur respectively.

In the junior featherweight (under-48 kg) semifinals, Akhterul Alam of BJMC outpointed Ashrafur Islam of Jessore Board while Hafizur Rahman of Kushtia was declared the winner against

Mazharul Omar of Dinajpur when the latter retired.

In the intermediate lightweight (under-51 kg) semifinals, Badshah Hossain of Rajshahi and Golam Wazed of No Trumps beat Harunur Rashid of BJMC and Md Helal of Thakurgaon respectively.

In the intermediate welterweight (under-54 kg) event, SM Jahangir Masud of Rajshahi outpointed Md Abdul Mannan of Kushtia while Md Atiquzzaman of BJMC got a walkover against Ashrafur Huq of Jessore Board.

Md Mahbubur Rahman of Bagerhat and Md S Islam of BJMC will clash in the final of the intermediate middleweight (under-57 kg). Mahbub outpointed Kamruzzaman of Dinajpur while S Islam received a walkover against Zakaria Masud of Jessore Board.

In the intermediate heavyweight (under-60 kg) event, Mirza Lutfar Rahman of Munshiganj outpointed Ehtesam Ahmed of Dinajpur in the first semifinal while Biplob Huq of BJMC got a walkover against Md Asadul Islam of Jessore Board in the other semifinal.

In the intermediate heavy-weight (under-60 kg), Md Shah Alam of Satkhira was declared the winner against Delwar Hossain of Dinajpur when the latter retired.

All the fourteen finals of the five-day championships will be held today at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will attend the occasion as the chief guest.

Thomas Cup final today

Malaysia's best chance: Hartono

KUALA LUMPUR, May 15: Indonesia will be roaring on to the court like wounded tigers while hosts Malaysia will be aiming to make their long time dream a reality when the arch-rivals meet in the Thomas Cup badminton final here Saturday, reports AFP.

The Indonesians, eight times champions, will be looking for revenge after being eliminated by Malaysia in the semi-final stages in 1988 and 1990.

Indonesia won the cup every year from 1958 to 1984 except 1966 and 1982, when they lost to Malaysia and China respectively. China won it every year from 1985 to last year, while Malaysia last won the cup 25 years ago.

"It will be a 50-50 chance," Rudy Hartono, Indonesia's chief coach, said.

"In fact I should say that Malaysia has an edge over us because of the home ground advantage," said Hartono, who himself won the All-England singles title for a record eight times in the '60s and '70s.

"Our initial target was to reach the final and now that we have achieved that, we will go all out to win the cup," he said.

"We must win the first two singles otherwise we are in trouble. The team which takes the first two points has an advantage of wrapping up the

te," Hartono said.

Indonesia's singles players have continuously failed to lift their performance when it comes to team tournaments despite doing well in the individual events.

But Hartono said the pressure was on Malaysia who last won the cup in 1967.

"This is the best opportunity for them to do it again. Otherwise, it will be a long way to go before their next attempt," Hartono said.

But Punch Gunalan, Malaysia's team manager, said his players were under no pressure. "Right from the beginning, our aim was to win the cup and we are on the right path."

"We respect the Indonesians. They are not easy to beat. They are worthy opponents but we are ready for them," said Gunalan, a former Commonwealth singles champion and Thomas Cup player and once an arch-rival of Hartono.

Home ground has been a tremendous advantage to the Malaysians who have the ability to rise to the occasion.

Recent records together with latest International Badminton Federation rankings indicate a clear-cut edge for the Indonesians but the hosts, led by 24-year-old Rashid Sidek have proven records shattering all odds.

Their 3-2 win against defending champions China in the semi-finals sounded a warning to the Indonesians.

"I prefer not to predict our chances. All I can say is that I have full confidence in all my players," said Gunalan.

Chinese retain Uber Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, May 15: Ye Zhaoying rallied from a first-game loss to beat South Korea's Shim Eun-Jung 3-11, 11-8, 11-7 in the final singles match Friday, enabling China to successfully defend its Uber Cup badminton title, reports AP.

Olympic gold-medal hopeful Tang Jiahong and Huang Hua won both their singles matches but Korea drew even with a pair of victories in doubles in the best-of-five match.

Tang beat Bang Soo-Hyun 11-5, 12-10 to start China on winning the premier tournament for women's national teams, a biennial event it has won since 1984.

It was her eighth victory in 10 matches against her Korean opponent, but Tang said she was unhappy with the performance.

Hwang Hye-Young and Chung Soo-Young rallied past Guan Weizhen and Nong Qunhua 17-18, 15-7, 15-9 to tie the match. Huang gave China the lead back by beating Lee Heung-soon 11-8, 12-9 but South Korea tied it again with a 15-6, 15-5 victory by Chung Myeong-Hee and Gill Young-Ah over Yao Fen and Lin Yanfen.

Six other nations participated in the final of the Uber Cup: Indonesia, Netherlands, Malaysia, Japan, Sweden and England.

Badminton will be medal sport in the Olympics for the first time Barcelona.

Barcelona will hope for a change of luck in European final

BARCELONA, May 15: Barcelona hope their third time really will be lucky when they meet Sampdoria of Italy in the European Cup final at London's Wembley Stadium next Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The classy Catalans, still in the running to retain their Spanish league title, have twice fallen at the last hurdle in Europe's premier club soccer tournament.

They lost 3-2 to Benfica of Portugal in the 1961 final and in 1986 went down in Seville to Romania's Steaua Bucharest in a penalty shoot-out at the end of a game in which Barcelona failed to score even from the penalty spot.

The team coached by Dutch legend John Cruyff have not had much trouble scoring goals this season, netting 72 in 34 league matches.

Cruyff has made it plain he would have preferred different opponents in the European Cup final.

"I don't like revenge matches," he said recently, looking back on Barcelona's 2-0 victory over Sampdoria in the 1989 European Cup Winners' Cup final — their third success in that competition.

Cruyff knows his team can win the European Cup. But like their coach, they can be erratic in mood and performance.

When on song Barcelona are a formidable attacking machine with skill in all positions and they can demoralise rivals with their possession football.

But they can be hustled out of their arrogant composure and are vulnerable in defence to fast forwards prepared to use the full width of the field.

Barcelona's 72 goals this season make them the most prolific scorers in the Spanish First Division. But they are off-set by the 37 they have conceded, only Albacete having let in more goals among the top 10 teams.

Bulgarian Khristo Stoichkov and Dane Michael Laudrup are contrasting spearheads.

Stoichkov, 26, is one of the most fiercely competitive players in Europe. His pace, aggression and unquenchable thirst for goals make him a nightmare for defences — and quite frequently for referees.

He has had a turbulent relationship with Cruyff, who has substituted him more than a dozen times this season to the player's unconcealed fury. Rumours are again circulating that he is about to be transferred to Italy.

The 28-year-old Laudrup is different in personality and style but can be equally devastating. His ability to run at the defence from deep positions, his power of shot and his vision in making the telling pass bear the mark of a world-class player.

Barcelona's other feared goalscorer is blond Dutch defender Ronald Koeman, one of the most powerful strikers of the ball. He has scored 12 goals this season, all from penalties or direct free-kicks.

Cruyff has an enviable choice of midfield talent, although Spanish international Guillermo Amor will miss the final through suspension.

Jose Guardiola and Dutchman Richard Wittege are composed, elegant and skilful.

while the diminutive Jose Maria Bakero is a tireless runner who can be back helping the defence one minute and up in a scoring position the next.

Juan Goikoetxea and Altor Beguiristain are natural winners who can breach a defence with pace and dribbling skills.

At the back Koeman and Nando Munoz are solid tacklers and good distributors. But they are short of pace and vulnerable to the sort of fast raids Barcelona can expect from Sampdoria's Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Mancini.

In an effort to counter this weakness Cruyff has used two more nimble fullbacks in Juan Carlos Rodriguez and Alberto Ferrer, recently back from a long lay-off with a leg injury.

Barcelona's last line of defence is international goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, capped 69 times for Spain. The 28-year-old "Zubi" has great positional sense and safe hands. His one weakness is occasional indecision about when to come off his line.

After the narrowest of escapes in the first phase against German champions Kaiserslautern, Barcelona's path to the Wembley final was relatively smooth, with only a 1-0 defeat at Sparta Prague blotting their record.



JOHANN CRUYFF

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