

# MSC's Rahimov reaps rich

Sports Reporter

Abdus Rahimov, Mohammedan's Russian striker, gave a superb display of marksmanship to score his second hat-trick in a row, and the fourth of the season, as his team bore down Federation Cup champions Brothers Union 3-0 in an important match of the First Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

For Mohammedans, last year's runners-up it was a remarkable day as after hectic parley between Sports Minister Sadeq Hossain and the chief patron of the club Textiles Minister Abdul Mannan, they finally agreed to take part in yesterday's match which they had earlier wished to boycott with a late night declaration citing security reasons. And they certainly had no regrets as the high voltage off-the-field drama was finally rounded off with the election of the club supreme Akmal Hossain as the new General Secretary of the reshuffled Bangladesh Football Federation.



**RAHIMOV ... 2nd hat-trick** ers when he outpaced his marker to slip in a dangerous cross which was badly miscued by Mohammedan stopper Jewel but Ripon, perhaps shocked by the bad mess up of his senior rival player, failed to control the cross and the best chance of the day was wasted

Shabbir changed his path, this time cutting from the left, and sent a tantalising half cross, half-shot that bounced out for a goalkick, much to the relief of Ponir.

Mohammedans came close to scoring in the 28th minute when first Kuznetsov and then Nabikov's goal-bound header was saved from the goal line by Rouf Babul and eleven minutes later Johnny crossed from the left but Shabbir tried to guide it to the goal with his foot rather than his head.

Mohammedans consolidated the lead five minutes before the short whistle when Rahimov, after having been freed by Titu, took a fierce shot at goal which Ponir half saved but the ball hung in the air too long and Rahimov, unlike the local players, followed it to finish it off in the net (2-0).

The second half was a stark contrast in pattern as Mohammedans enjoyed unchallenged dominance and apart from the last goal and a 15-minute power failure at the flag end of the match nothing happened worth mentioning. Rahimov, who had the mortification of seeing one of his shots return off the crossbar in the first half, took a thunderous shot in the 26th minute of the second half which entered the net off Rouf Babul's leg (3-0).

Rahimov was, however, fully indebted to Shabbir for this goal because it was the dapper little winger who cut in from



Brothers Union defender Parvez and goalie Ponir rush to foil Mohammedans' Imtiaz Sultan Johnny in yesterday's First Division football league match at Mirpur Stadium. MSC won 3-0. —Star photo

ened to take a lead any moment. Satyajit Das Rupu, Khaddakar Waseem Iqbal and young Ripon outpaced and outmaneuvered Mohammedan defenders with consummate ease and gave the spectators an impression that they had more stakes in the result of the match than rivals in black and white.

Brothers, who had earlier collected 25 points from 16 matches, drew the first blood in the sixth minute when their left-back Parvez took a sudden shot, from a defence lapse, but fortunately for Kanan, the Mohammedan custodian, the shot was directed towards the first post and he parried it away for a corner.

Mohammedans took some time to get used to the furious pace initiated by their opponents and got a scoring chance in the 13th minute when Nabikov, the Russian medio, latched on to a fine ball from compatriot Boris Kuznetsov down the middle and scooped

by Brothers Union. Jewel, however, made amends a few minutes later when he foiled a menacing cross by Rupu from the right and Mohammedans got their desired lead from the following counter attack.

Kuznetsov, who was rather unjustly taken off by his coach Kalkobad, an action which prompted an enraged exit of the Russian player from the field with his kit, pushed a delicate pass to Shabbir, the fleet-footed winger ran a few yards to lift a looping cross and Rahimov rose and headed the ball with all the power he could muster from his neck to score a classical, goal in the 23rd minute which gave Ponir no chance at all (1-0).

The goal was what Mohammedans needed to break the neck of the Gopibagh side and with Rahimov running around like a tiger that has smelt blood a Mohammedan victory was never in doubt.

the right and waited a few seconds with the ball to allow his teammate to arrive at the proper position to unleash the cannonball.

Rahimov thus overtook Abahani striker Sheikh Aslam as the highest goalscorer of this year's league. The Russian now has 13 goals to Aslam's 12.

Mohammedans now have 31 points from 17 games, two less than champions Abahani. Each side has two more matches to play.

**TEAMS**  
**MOHAMMEDAN SC:** Kanan, Shannim, Kalsar, Jewel, Pappu, Kuznetsov (Nabikov), Johnny (Roxey), Titu, Nabikov, Shabbir and Rahimov.

**BROTHERS UNION:** Ponir, Pijush, Moon, Rouf Babul, Parvez, Iqbal, Manik, Rupu, Waseem, Ripon (Uttam, Illias) and Ameer Khan (Ahmed).  
Referee: SK Badruddin.

## Vital points for Police

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Police, fighting hard to avoid relegation, earned two invaluable points when they defeated Farashganj Sporting Club 1-0 at the Dhaka Stadium in one of the three matches of the First Division football league played yesterday.

Substitute Anjan scored the all-important goal in the 30th minute of the first half to help raise the points tally of his team to 12 from 17 matches. Farashganj remain on 16 points from 17 matches.

In the first of the two matches played at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday, newcomers Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club shared points in a goalless draw.

Fakirerpool now have 15 points from 17 matches while Eskaton have 13 from 17 games.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**  
Shadharan Bima vs Adamjee (4 pm; Mirpur).  
Agrani Bank vs Wari Club (5 pm; Dhaka Stadium).  
BRTC vs Wanderers Club (7 pm; Dhaka Stadium).

## Czechs sink English hopes

LA-SEYNE-SUR-MER, France, May 27 : England's chances of making the semifinals of the Toulon under-21 football tournament took a nosedive here on Tuesday after they were beaten 2-1 by Czechoslovakia in Group B, reports AFP.

Neumann put the Czechs ahead after 10 minutes and Lerch made it 2-0 on the hour. Derby country striker Paul Kitson pulled one back for England five minutes later, but they failed to get an equaliser despite laying siege to the Czech goal in the closing stages.

Meanwhile, France handed out a 4-0 thrashing to Mexico, against whom England could only draw earlier in the week.

**Group B results**  
Czechoslovakia 2 England (Kitson 66) France 4 Dugarry 22, Ziani 70, Melhac 76, Thuram 79) Mexico 0 Standings (a after two matches): France 4pts, Czechoslovakia 2, England 1, Mexico 1.

## S Africa can now send 100 to Barcelona

JOHANNESBURG, May 27 : The International Olympic Committee has eased its limit on South Africa's team for the Barcelona Games and more than 100 athletes and officials will now attend, South Africa's Olympic boss said, reports Reuters.

Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the National Olympic Committee, said on Tuesday night he was greatly satisfied with the outcome of talks he held with the IOC in Lausanne on Monday.

"The numbers going to Barcelona, including officials, will now go into three figures," Ramsamy told the South African Press Association.

He said the final number would be fewer than the 182 South Africa had originally sought but more than the limit of 68 set by the IOC. The IOC has tried to curb numbers to prevent overcrowding at the Olympic Village.

The Barcelona Games mark South Africa's return to the Olympic fold after a 20-year absence caused by its apartheid policies, now being dismantled.

Ramsamy said the South African team for the Games would be announced at the weekend.

# Akmal replaces Harun as BFF secy

Sports Reporter

The National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday put to rest all speculations by announcing the reconstitution of a 31-member ad-hoc committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

Although former Cabinet Secretary Siddiqueur Rahman retains his post as president of the new body, Harunur Rashid makes way for Sheikh Akmal Hossain as the new general secretary.

The new committee will take over immediately. Other important changes include both the joint secretaries and the treasurer with only Syed Alamgir Faruq Chowdhury, a topnotch bureaucrat, retaining his post as one of the three vice presidents. A H Mofazzal Karim, former MD of Bangladesh Bima, returns to the BFF, as does Dr Musa Qadri, a leading Abahani official, as the other vice presidents.

Shah Abul Kashem of Shadharan Bima, who was a former joint secretary, and Khairul Anwar Pearu, a former player of repute and general secretary of Dhanmanti Club, replace Sirajul Islam Bachchu of Wari Club and Anwarul Haq Helal of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting as the new joint secretaries. Pearu was a member of the outgoing committee as well.

There are 23 members, including two Members of Parliament — Md Fazul Haq of Mymensingh who was a vice president of the federation during the previous BNP regime, and Bir Bahadur of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. A notable feature of the new ad-hoc committee is the inclusion of two leading opposition politicians — both distinguished footballers in their youth — as members. They are Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and an ardent supporter of Federation Cup champions Brothers Union and JSD (Inu) General Secretary Hasanul Haq Inu who played in the First Division league in the early Sixties as a goalkeeper for Azad Sporting Club.

Others made members in Mahmudul Hassan, now GOC 24 Infantry Division, and ex-Jatiya Party MP Abdur Rahim. Harunur Rashid has been replaced by Sheikh Akmal Hossain, the Mohammedan Sporting secretary and the most important man in that club's soccer matters. This reshuffle may give rise to a new polarisation of power in the country's football administration. Harunur Rashid has been associated with the BFF in various capacities for as long as one can remember ever since the independence of the country.



**AKMAL HOSSAIN** in club: former national skipper Zakaria Pintu, star striker of yesteryears and a coach Enayetur Rahman Khan, national coach Sheikh Mohammad Shaheb Ali, and former Abahani player Goum Rabbani Helal. Some of them were also represented in previous BFF bodies.

But perhaps the most significant change is that of the general secretary. Harunur Rashid, the former Abahani secretary, whose committee took over in February 1991 from that headed by Maj. Gen.



**HARUNUR RASHID** in country. An astute administrator, Harunur Rashid had also developed a close rapport with the Asian Football Confederation, the governing body of Asian soccer.

Zafar Imam, the secretary of the Rajshahi Divisional Sports Association remains a member of the new committee, as does Ferdous Islam while Dr Aminul Islam makes way for new treasurer Abbas Ali Khan of BJMC, an old BFF hand.

According to observers, the reshuffle was necessitated, "in the greater interest of the

game in the country" in the words of the NSC press release issued yesterday, especially following the scandal involving BFF funds with the Bangladesh Credit and Investment (BCI), the financial company that went bust last month. The previous BFF committees, starting in 1989, had operated an account with the DIT Road branch of the BCI and had an unrefunded sum of Taka 55 lakh in fixed deposits with the bankrupt company. It is reported that State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka, himself a former Joint Secretary of the BFF in the late 70s and early 80s and who is also the Chairman of the NSC, wasn't too happy with the financial dealings of the outgoing committee.

Following is the complete committee:

President: Mohammad Siddiqueur Rahman; Vice Presidents: A H Mofazzal Karim, Syed Alamgir Faruq Chowdhury and Dr Musa Qadri; General Secretary: Sheikh Akmal Hossain; Joint Secretaries: Shah Abul Kashem and Khairul Anwar Pearu; Treasurer: Abbasuddin Khan; Members: Fazul Haq MP, Bir Bahadur, MP, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik (CPB), Hasanul Haq Inu (JSD), Azizul Huq (DMFA), Abdul Muey Chowdhury (Biman) Sheikh Shaheb Ali, Nurunnabi Chowdhury, Zakaria Pintu, Zafar Imam, Afzal Hossain, Abu Tahir Putu, Enayetur Rahman Khan, Goum Rabbani Helal, Shafiguzzaman (Jessor), Goum Rasul Mollah, Mohammad Yousuf, M Azim, Ferdous Islam, Samuaddoha Khan Mazlish, Iftekarul Islam, General Secretary of DMFA and a representative of the Bangladesh Army Sports Control Board.

# Y'slavia may be excluded from next month's Euro Championship

STOCKHOLM, May 27: UEFA President Lennart Johansson said Wednesday he will recommend that Yugoslavia's be replaced at next month's European Championship because they are no longer the team that qualified, reports AP.

"Primarily, as I see them, they are no longer the team who qualified that is coming here to play," Johansson told Swedish national radio. "The standard of the team, as far as I can judge today, will not be of the class that they can seriously compete in a European Championship."

Asked if he thought UEFA would adopt his recommendation, Johansson said, "Normally they do."

Johansson indicated in the radio interview that because of the splitting of the former Yugoslavia into at least separate, individual republics, the team that is being sent to represent the Serb-dominated Yugoslav state would not include players from the breakaway republics of Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

If Yugoslavia were dropped from the championship, Denmark would replace it. UEFA could act as early as Friday, Johansson said.

"I will be meeting International Football Association (FIFA) president Joao Havelange and general secretary Sepp Blatter in Cardiff (Wales) on Friday to jointly decide on Yugoslavia's participation," UEFA's Sweden president said.

The Serb leaders of Yugoslavia are facing sanctions threats from the United Nations, the European Community and other international bodies because of the ongoing fighting with Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We can no longer sit quietly and look like nothing has happened," Johansson said. "There is the security issue, which has to be given priority now that the turbulence is so very big and the fact that so many international bodies are branding Serbia's behavior."

Swedish radio reported that Johansson had the same basic objection to the team from the Commonwealth of Independent States, saying it was no longer the team that had qualified from the Soviet Union. The radio said the international body — FIFA — has rejected Johansson's suggestion

mark would replace it. UEFA could act as early as Friday, Johansson said.

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## ROK book berth

SEOUL, May 27: South Korea beat China 2-1 after leading 1-0 at halftime in the Group 5 qualifying tournament thus winning the right to go to the United Arab Emirates for the Asian youth championship in October.

Japan has also qualified from the group, by beating South Korea 1-0 Saturday, and playing a scoreless draw with China on Monday.

North Korea did not compete in Group 5.

## Eire's 100th int'l win

DUBLIN, May 27 : Ireland chalked up their 100th international victory by beating Albania 2-0 at home in World Cup Group Three qualifier, reports Reuters.

Veteran striker John Aldridge celebrated his international recall with a header on the hour and captain Paul McGrath secured the points 10 minutes from time.

But it was a generally frustrating performance from the Irish, 1990 World Cup quarter-finalists.

The impoverished Albanians were missing five top players and were only able to play after their hosts paid out nearly dollar 50,000 to meet their travel expenses.

Although the Irish dominated the first half, they squandered their many chances.

Niall Quinn hit the bar with a header and Aldridge missed two opportunities, heading over late in the first half when his first shot rebounded off goalkeeper Avenir Dani.

Four minutes after scoring, Aldridge headed wide at the far post with the goalkeeper completely stranded.

"It could have been six, even eight. But the main thing is we won the match and started the group with the right result," said manager Jack Charlton.

The victory left Ireland behind Spain on goal difference at the top of the table after one match.

82nd minute), Kevin Sheedy (Mick McCarthy 50th).  
**ALBANIA :** Dani; Zmijani, Qendro, Pecini, Vata, Abazi, Kushta, Vasu Rraklli, Zela (Solou 81st), Demollari.

2-0 at home in World Cup Group Three qualifier, reports Reuters.

## Ali's tonic for Watson

LONDON, May 27: Former world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali provided the perfect tonic for bed-ridden British boxer Michael Watson here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The American legend, in England for a two-week business trip, brought smiles from Watson when he did his famous "Ali shuffle" at his bedside in St Bartholomew's Hospital.

Surgeon Peter Hamlyn, who has been guiding Watson's slow recovery since he suffered severe brain damage in against world champion Chris Eubank last September, reckoned he had never seen Watson look so happy since the accident.

Though a sadly ponderous figure, the 50-year-old Ali, who suffers from Parkinson's disease, still worked wonders for Watson in the 20-minute visit.

Max Clifford, the boxer's former agent who arranged the meeting, reported: "Ali was marvellous. He told Michael 'You're almost as pretty as I am. I'm praying for you and thinking of you.'"

He did his shuffle and then did some sparring with Michael's uncle, and even managed to persuade Michael to raise a clenched fist after he had done the same.

"Mr Hamlyn said he had not seen him as happy and smiling as much since last September."

# Samaranch hopes Krabbe will run in Barcelona

BONN, May 27: International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch hopes drugs-tainted world champion sprinter Krabbe runs in the Barcelona Games, reports AFP.

"The Krabbe case is a German affair," he told the Sport Bild newspaper. "I see she competes in Barcelona because my goal is for the world's best athletes to compete against each other at the Olympic Games."

Krabbe, double gold medalist at last year's World Championships in Tokyo, was eventually cleared of dishonestly manipulating urine samples at a random test in South Africa.

But the International Amateur Athletic Federation will review the German Federation's handling of the issue at a meeting in Toronto, Canada, this weekend.

"The German Federation's legal commission cleared the athlete and I hope the international body follows their lead," Samaranch said.

Krabbe has recently been tested twice in the space of 12 days, the athlete's coach Thomas Springstein said.

# Aussie cager sacked on sex charge

PERTH, May 27 : Australian basketball star Tim Pinder has been sacked by his club after being convicted of sexually assaulting a 21-year-old woman, reports AFP.

Pinder, 36, a big drawcard with the top-ranking Perth Wildcats, was found guilty by a Supreme Court jury here late Tuesday on separate counts of sexual assault and attempted sexual assault of the woman at her home in the Perth suburb of Glen Forest in February 1990.

The club acted swiftly, announcing the sacking of Pinder in a statement issued early Wednesday.

The statement condemned Pinder's behaviour as unacceptable to the club and his teammates.

"We are saddened that a man who has contributed so much of his life and career to basketball and brought so much enjoyment to basketball fans around Australia could have brought about such a disastrous finish to his career," the statement said.

The jury of eight men and four women reached its verdict after deliberating for two hours.

Judge Terry Walsh remanded Pinder in custody for sentencing at a date to be fixed.

The judge said a goal term seemed inevitable, but he wanted to wait for a court of criminal appeal ruling on an earlier Pinder trial in February.

On that occasion, Pinder was convicted of attempted sexual assault of a 17-year-old schoolgirl. He was acquitted on other charges of actual sexual assault and depriving her of her liberty.

# Daley Thompson may miss Olympics

LONDON, May 27: World decathlon record-holder Daley Thompson may miss the Barcelona Olympics through injury, reports AFP.

The 33-year-old double Olympic champion from Britain damaged a shoulder while training for the hurdles and has been ruled out of the British trials in 10 days' time.

It could mean that the top-level career of the man who once ruled supreme as the

## Sethi is No -1

BRISTOL, England, May 27 : Indian billiards ace Geet Sethi is the new world number one, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association announced here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The 31-year-old from Ahmedabad, who jumps to the top from fifth place, takes over from world champion Mike Russell of England for the 1992-93 season after winning two Grand Slam championships in India.

Australian Robby Roldvari is another high climber. He moves from seventh to joint third.

world's greatest all-round athlete is now over.

Thompson, Olympic champion in Moscow and Los Angeles, has not completed a major decathlon since losing



**DALEY THOMPSON** the title four years ago in Seoul, where he finished fourth.

A year later he pulled out of an international event in France with a knee injury and subsequently missed defending the Commonwealth crown in

Auckland and European title in split.

Last year he decided he was not competitive enough for the World Championships in Tokyo. Frank Dick, Thompson's adviser, said, "He felt awkwardly on his left shoulder and the result has been a partial dislocation."

"Present progress suggest he will probably be able to compete by the end of June. He wants to go to Barcelona and if courage and heart have anything to do with it, he will. It depends on how quickly the shoulder heals."

## S African athletes to join Mombasa marathon

NAIROBI, May 26 : South African athletes will take part in the Mombasa international marathon for the first time next month, organiser David Walker announced here Monday, reports AFP.

He said South African athletics authorities had confirmed that four or five runners will participate in the event. Athletes from Japan, Italy, Uganda, Tanzania and hosts Kenya are also expected.



Action from yesterday's First Division soccer match between Police and Farashganj at the Dhaka Stadium. Police won 1-0. —Star photo