

Double loss for Brothers

Sports reporter



Brothers lost to reigning champions Abahani Kira Chakra 0-3 in an important First Division football league tie at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday but their officials brought the game to a premature end by indulging in lawlessness on the field that led to a 17-minute hold up in the proceedings.

The pandemonium on the field, however, did not come from the blue. As they say, if there is a smoke there must be a fire, and yesterday's originator from a skirmish between two players—Alexey Arifiev, one of Abahani's three Russian footballers, and Ahmed of Brothers, an incident which led to the expulsion of both players from the field by referee Nazir Hossain. What followed next was nothing new from the officials of the Gopibagh side notorious for their growing inclination towards anarchy and disrespect to law and order.

The Federation Cup champions Brothers Union, now far out of the race for the title with only 25 points from 17 matches, had nothing to lose whereas Abahani, the league leaders with 33 points, could

UN ban threat disappoints Y'slavs

STOCKHOLM, May 30: Yugoslavia's soccer team is deeply disappointed about an expected UN ban preventing them from participating in next month's European soccer championship, news reports said Saturday, reports AP.

The Security Council has proposed tough sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, who are successors to Yugoslavia, which include a ban on sports contacts. The vote was expected later Saturday.

"We are deeply disappointed," team host Dragan Joksovic was quoted as saying by the national news agency TT when he was informed about the expected ban.

"Why could not clever politicians have acted earlier? Now all the players, spectators and Yugoslavians are affected," Joksovic said. "The players have worked hard to qualify. They are not generals or murderers. It is extremely unjust."

The Yugoslav team, which arrived Thursday in Sweden, is at a training site in Leksand, 210 kilometers (130 miles) northeast of Stockholm.

Denmark is on standby to replace Yugoslavia in case of a ban.

Sanchez signs for America



MADRID, May 30: Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez signed a two-year contract with Mexico City club America on Friday, confirming speculation he would return home after ending his seven-year career with Real Madrid, reports Reuter.

"When I was still in Mexico my plan was to get to the top of international football, and I think I have achieved this," Sanchez told a news conference.

The president of American, Emilio Diaz Barroso, refused to reveal how much Sanchez would receive but said it was the highest paid to any player in the club.

Local press reports have put the sum at 200 million pesetas.

No French Cup this year

PARIS, May 30: The French Soccer Cup will not be awarded in 1992 because of the Corsican stadium disaster, the National Football Federation ruled on Friday, reports Reuter.

At least 15 people were killed when a temporary stand collapsed minutes before the kick-off of the semifinal between Corsican side Bastia and Marseille on May 5.

Monaco, who had already qualified for the final, will represent France, in the European Cup Winners' Cup next season.

The club, beaten Cup Winners' Cup finalists this season, would have won a place in the competition anyway if champions Marseille played their match and beaten Bastia.

The cancellation of the Cup final allowed Caen, who finished fifth in the league, to play in the UEFA Cup alongside Paris St Germain and Auxerre.

Lifting record

CARDIFF, May 30: Chinese weightlifter He Zhaoyang entered the record books here on Friday with a world best lift of 121 kilos, reports AFP.

He finished second, however, in the 52 kg category. His total of 241 kg was four kilos less than that of compatriot Yuan Jianfeng.

The previous world record was held by Zaitrong Zhang, also of China, who lifted 120.5 kg in Donaueschingen, Germany, in September, 1991.

not afford to drop a point which would greatly help their arch-rivals Mohammedans, trailing the sky-blues by two clear points.

Unlike their earlier match against Mohammedans which they lost by a similar margin, Brothers failed to exert early pressure on their opponents and Abahani looked incisive and eager enough to take an early lead.

However, it was the men in orange who drew the first blood defying the territorial dominance of their opponents in the fourteenth minute when Dulal blasted the ball over the bar from close after a Pijush Nandy flag-kick from the right caused confusion in the Abahani defence.

Abahani, smarting under a short spell of Brothers onslaught, came storming and Polynkov, one of Abahani's heroes last night, engineered the first goal of the match. He latched on to a through ball and bulldozed into the Brothers penalty box, feinting out a couple of defenders on his way, but Brothers stopper Ataur read the writing on the wall quite well and tripped him clearly inside the prohibited zone to court disaster. Rumi neatly converted the resultant penalty that gave second choice Brothers goalie Atiq no chance in the 17th minute of the match (1-0).

Sheikh Aslam, who was totally off-colour last evening, deprived Abahani of a sure goal when he headed wide a gem of a ball supplied by Rumi from inside the box with Atiq at his mercy.

Alexander Polynkov scored Abahani's second goal in spectacular fashion when he flew across the turf to head home a fine cross from the left, again by Rumi, in the 26th minute (2-0).

Abahani had things under control in the second half also before an unfortunate and ignominious incident led to an abrupt stoppage for 17 minutes. Midway through the second half Arifiev was involved in a brawl with Ahmed of Brothers. Referee Nazir Hossain quite rightly showed red cards to both the offending players and all broke loose as some Brothers fans and officials invaded pitch and attacked the Abahani players and the referee. Thankfully, Brothers players on the field, particularly Waseem and Rupu, tried their best to pacify their 'charged' officials. The hoods let loose by the so-called 'officials' uprooted the flag stands and beat up the referee.

and press photographers. Even Arshad Ali Mongol, the league committee secretary, didn't escape their wrath.

The match resumed again after the pandemonium and Sergei Zhukov of Abahani made up for the ugliness with a lovely goal in the 34th minute. Polynkov weaved his way down the left flank and sent a beautiful square on top of the box for an onrushing Zhukov who thundered in an accurate grounder that zoomed into the net past a diving Atiq.

With this win, Abahani raise their collection to 35 points from 18 matches while Brothers remain stuck at 25, also from 18 outings.

Abahani's last league fixture—against arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting—is scheduled for June 7. That will also be the last fixture of this year's league.

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Mohsin, Alamgir, Munna, Rehan (Nira), Rana, Shakil (Zakir), Arifiev, Zhukov, Rumi, Aslam and Polynkov.

BROTHERS UNION: Atiq, Pijush, Ataur, Jaglu, Parvez, Babul, Rupu, Manik, Waseem (Amir), Ahmed and Dulal.

GIFTED POINTS

In the rain delayed first match at the same venue earlier in the afternoon, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha got 'two gifted points' against more fancied Public Works Department. The newcomers in this year's league won another fixed match 2-1.

Eskaton, who now have 15 points from 18 matches, led the first half two-nil. Shyamol scored the first goal in the 10th minute while Rinku doubled the margin in the 27th minute.

Premal reduced the margin for PWD in the second minute of the post-lemmon session for the losers who remain at 18.

Bubka ordered week's rest

BERLIN, May 30: Olympic pole vault champion Sergei Bubka has been ordered by his doctors to rest for a week because of an Achilles' tendon injury, his club said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The injury will prevent the 28-year-old Bubka from competing this weekend for the Ukraine in his hometown of Donetsk and also from turning out for his club OSC Berlin on Monday.

from as many matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rahmatganj Vs Adamjee (11 pm, Mirpur Stadium)

Fakirerpool YMC Vs Dhaka Wanderers (5 pm, Dhaka Stadium)

Mohammedans Vs Police AC (7 pm, Dhaka Stadium)

Pakistan 129/1

LONDON, May 30: Pakistan raced to 129 for one off only 29 overs Saturday after rain delayed the start of their three-day game against English county Middlesex for three hours at Lord's, reports AP.

Rameez Raja hit 37 off just 34 balls before he had to go off the field with a recurrence of a back injury. Shoaib Mohammad and Asif Mujtaba moved the score quickly to 125 before Shoaib, who had scored 43 from 76 balls, drove a catch to cover.

At the tea interval, Mujtaba was unbeaten on 36.

Fast bowler Waqar Younis, who has been out of action for three months with a shin fracture, announced himself fit to play in the game.

His goal is a place on the Pakistan team in the first Test match against England at Edgbaston starting Thursday.

Div II cricket qualifiers

Sports Reporter

Superb bowling by Babu of Kadamtali helped his side record a huge 153-run victory against Bangladesh Bank in one of the four qualifying matches held yesterday for the two berths in next year's Second Division Cricket league.

At the Mirpur Pallabi ground, Kadamtali batted first after having won the toss to pile up a huge 211 for five in their quota of 35 overs. Extras were the topscorer with a mindboggling 56. Sayem scored 51 and Bahu, who later turned out to be the bowling hero for the winners, made a hurricane unbeaten 35. Qudus was the only batsman to reach double figures with 18 as Bangladesh Bank were bundled out for 55 in 16.3 overs, one less than the 56 extras they gave away!

Babu devastated them with figures of five wickets for 20.

At the DCS east, Zinjira Kira Chakra won against Iliab Smriti by a handsome margin of 83 runs.

Sent in to bat, Zinjira rattled up 203 for seven with Nadim and Selim hitting 37 each, the former remaining unbeaten when the overs ran out. Extras here soared to 57.

Iliab Smriti were all out for 120 with Madal making 28. Maghbazar Kishalay had a cakewalk in their match against Rampura at the Osmari Stadium in Narayanganj which they won by nine wickets.

Put into bat, Rampura were shot out for 60 with none of their batsmen reaching the double figures.

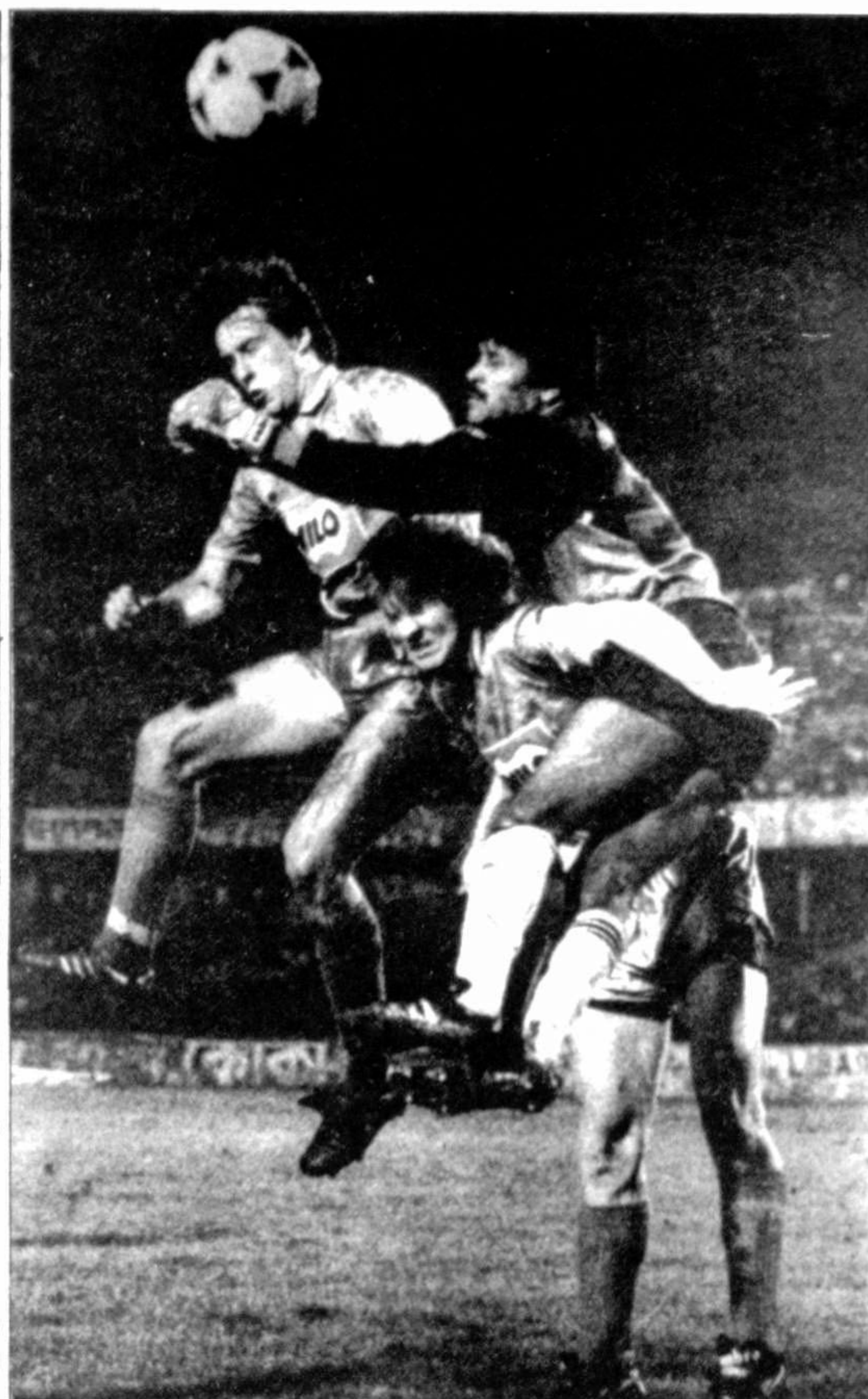
Maghbazar scored 65 for one wicket to post a nine-wicket victory.

At the Mahakhali T&T ground, Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha carved out an exciting two-wicket victory against Udit B. Udit batted first to be bowled out for 80 with Fazlu making 18.

Williams can run in Barcelona

TORONTO, Canada, May 30: Angela Williams, the Trinidad-Tobago born world-class sprinter, is to be allowed to compete for the United States at the Barcelona Olympics, reports AFP.

International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) secretary general Istvan Gyulai said Friday that the IAAF executive council had agreed to allow Williams to compete for the Americans after Trinidad and Tobago offered no objections.



Brothers Union goalkeeper Atiq leaps to foil a dangerous attempt by Abahani's Russian recruit Sergei Zhukov in yesterday's crucial First Division league match at the Mirpur Stadium. Abahani won 3-0.

Botham not to sue Miandad, Sohail

LONDON, May 30: Ian Botham has decided not to take legal action against Pakistan players Javed Miandad and Aamir Sohail after repeated allegations he swore at Miandad during last week's one-day international at the Oval, reports Reuter.

Botham's lawyer Alan Herd said on Saturday the England all-rounder was adamant he did not tell Miandad to "...off" after trapping him lbw, and was also fuming at claims of previous on-pitch bad language made by Sohail in a Sunday newspaper.

"Because of constraints placed upon English players by their Test and County Cricket Board contracts it has not been practicable and probably not sensible for Ian to respond to these claims and allegations," said Herd.

"So far as the cricketers are concerned Ian just wants to get on and play cricket against them. He wants to play them on the field and not in the law courts."

Botham, however, has issued libel writs against three national newspapers.

Botham helps stem Durham slide

LONDON, May 30: Ian Botham produced a mature blend of power and patience on Friday to hit 51 for Durham on the first day of their four-day county cricket championship match against Hampshire, reports Reuter.

The 36-year-old England all-rounder helped opener John Glendenen (64) arrest a batting collapse after the Hampshire seam attack had made expert use of a variable pitch at Southampton.

At the close of a rain-interrupted first day Durham were 265 for eight.

Australian import Dean Jones was one of the early casualties, edging Cardigan Connor on to his middle stump after scoring only four.

Glendenen, who had been taken to hospital on Friday morning suffering from blurred vision, then stepped into the breach to share a 99-run partnership with Botham.

"I got a piece of grit or something in May cye last night while batting in the nets," Glendenen said.

Reynolds ban upheld

IAAF clears the way for S Africans



TORONTO, May 30: The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Council cleared the way on Friday for South Africans to take part in the Barcelona Olympics but not for banned American 400-metre record-holder Butch Reynolds — or perhaps anyone who runs against him, reports Reuter.

The 24-member IAAF Council awarded provisional membership to Athletics South Africa, meaning South African athletes may compete at any IAAF-sanctioned event immediately, IAAF general secretary Istvan Gyulai said.

The decision cleared the way for South Africans to compete in the Olympics for the first time since an all-White team did so in Rome in 1960. The International Olympic Committee has said IAAF approval was all that was needed for the South Africans to go to Barcelona.

The Council's provisional approval is likely to receive rubber-stamp final approval at the next meeting of the full IAAF Congress in Stuttgart in August 1992.

The world governing body for athletics also agreed at their closed-door Council session to uphold an IAAF arbitration panel decision of May 11 affirming the two-year suspension of Reynolds, who tested

positive for a banned anabolic steroid at a meeting in Monaco in August 1990.

Gyulai said any athlete who competes with Reynolds risks being "contaminated" and suspended by the IAAF.

A US Judge in Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday ordered that Reynolds be allowed to compete despite the ban so he

could try to turn in a time good enough to qualify for the US Olympic trials in New Orleans in late June.

But Gyulai told reporters the IAAF arbitration decision is "final and binding on all individuals."

"We do not think the Ohio court has jurisdiction," Reynolds planned to compete in the Bruce Jenner Classic in San Jose, California, today.

The Council sent a letter on Friday to The Athletics Congress, the sport's US ruling body, upholding the arbitration hearing and reminding TAC that any athlete who runs in an event with Reynolds risks sanctions.

But it was unclear whether the threatened sanctions applied to athletes who competed directly against Reynolds or simply took part in the meeting in a different event or heat, Gyulai said.

The IAAF rulebook says that "an athlete who takes part in an athletic meet in which any of the competitors were, to his knowledge, ineligible to compete under IAAF rules" can be suspended.

Ollan Cassel, executive director of TAC, said: "We're on the horns of a dilemma."

"You can't violate the laws of a US court — you'll go to jail. Our lawyers are saying we've got a court order to allow him (Reynolds) to run. But mem-

bers of TAC can't break the rules of the IAAF."

Asked what TAC will do, Cassel, who is also an IAAF vice president, said: "We'll have to take the advice of our lawyers."

Asked if Reynolds would run at the San Jose meeting, Cassel said: "I expect that's what will happen."

Gyulai said it was "an emotional moment" when the IAAF Council approved provisional membership for South Africa, long shunned over its former system of racial segregation.

"We feel very, very happy," said John Nelwane, vice president of Athletics South Africa.

"I must state categorically that most of the athletes suffered a severe loss, some of them lost their talents, but this will be the beginning. South Africa will have to show all countries it can measure up to the standards."

South Africa was officially suspended by the IAAF in 1976 but had not sent a team to the Olympics since 1960.

At the conclusion of Friday's meeting Gyulai told reporters the IAAF Council had decided in its afternoon session to provide a general amnesty for all athletes who had previously been suspended for competing in South Africa.

Under IAAF rules, any athletes who competed in South Africa following the republic's suspension in 1976 was banned from all IAAF-sanctioned events.

Gyulai said it was no longer appropriate to punish athletes who competed in South Africa now that the nation has been welcome back into the IAAF fold.

The amnesty was expected to affect some 15 athletes, although Gyulai did not provide names, pressed for examples. Gyulai mentioned American-born former javelin world record holder Tom Petranoff, who now holds South African citizenship.

Gyulai said the Council also approved additional budgets for anti-doping activities, including more testing in regional competitions, and for education programmes, but did not offer specific figures.

He also announced that the 1994 world cross country championship in Budapest will be held on March 19. The world junior track and field championships were set for July 20-14, 1994 in Lisbon.

Gyulai said that during the afternoon session it was decided to put off discussion of Krabbe's suspension until Sunday rather than on Saturday as previously announced.



Alexander Polynkov, Abahani's Russian striker, scores his team's second goal against Brothers Union last evening with a brilliant header.

—Star photo