

Two stumpers in one team on Day 3

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra, last year's runners-up signed two competent wicketkeeper-batsmen on Day Three of the cricket players' transfers at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board office yesterday.

National opening batsman Jahangir Alam who also kept wickets for champions Mohammedan Sporting Club last year decided to pledge his allegiance to arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in the imminent 1992-93 season.

Jahangir, the Narayanganj lad who shot into prominence with a superb batting display a couple of years ago for Bangladesh Biman, reportedly will not have to don the gloves as Abahani signed Brothers Union keeper Ziauddin Ahmed Shovon exclusively for that purpose.

Shovon, a competent bat Mohammedans were yet to take the field to either retain or gain new players their second casualty of the day came in the form of Golam Faruq Chowdhury Suru. The right-arm medium-pace bowler and powerful hitter of the ball returned to Brothers Union, the team for which he played a



Jahangir Alam, who played for Mohammedan Sporting Club last year stole the show yesterday when he signed for arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra at the BCCB office.

—Star photo

and also a leg-spinner outside the recently formed pool comprising 17 leading players, proved a wise collection as the young player will considerably boost Abahani's middle-order besides being a neat gatherer behind the stumps.

Although champions

First to respond

Sports Reporter

RV Group of Industries, who have been sponsoring the two-phased six-a-side RV cricket competition for the last two years, have reportedly become the first official concern to have responded positively to the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board's (BCCB) latest announcement of the introduction of an office league — a parallel arrangement to widen and classify the scope of cricketers employed at different offices.

Ershadul Huq, director of the RV Group of Industries, said the intention of the industrial unit as a cricket team. However, RV are yet to approach BCCB officially. BCCB themselves are yet to work out the details of the new form of competition, extant in neighbouring India.

The proposal for on office league came from the Dhaka Cricket Players' Association (DCPA), a welfare organisation for the local cricketers who got involved in a wrangle with the BCCB over the newly introduced pool, consisting of top cricket players of the country. With the DCPA's plea to raise the number of pool players per team to four from three to avoid devaluation of top cricketers as well as the stagnation of the standard of the local game the BCCB's falling for an office league proposal came as a poor consolation.

The Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) will send national squads to the Indian capital of Delhi to participate in the 11th Asian table tennis competition scheduled to be held from November 7 to 14 if the government approves. The teams will take part in the men's and women's events. In this connection, the BTTF has asked 26 players to report at the NSC gym on October 3 and 4. The members for the squads will be selected from among them.

The players primarily nominated for selection for the men's squad are: national champion Rochi, Sadi, Kochi, Mustafa, Happy, Kislo, Ankhi, Akhlaque, Ripon, Jhinu, Badal, M Ali, Sohel and Ibrahim. National champion Zulekha, Linu, Shamima and Ritu have been named for the women's trials.

Mahbub, Sagar, Manas, Rubel, Hamlet, Mahid, Shaon and Shamim have also been asked to attend the trials.

Meanwhile, with a view to upgrading the standard of table tennis in the country and also to enhance competitiveness in the forthcoming Metropolitan table tennis league the BTTF has undertaken some steps.

It has resolved to form a players' pool comprising 12 top ranked players. In the league a team will be allowed to have a maximum of two male players from this pool, thereby broadening the distribution of talent and making the contests more meaningful.

Moreover, a team will also be permitted to sign one foreign player for the league.

BTTF calls 26 paddlers for trials Oct 3-4

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TILL DEATH DO US APART... Former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany with his newly wedded wife German actress Jessica Stockmann after getting married at the Monaco Town Hall on September 19. —AFP photo

Newman shines on his debut for Villa

LONDON, Sept 20: A Rob Newman goal on the stroke of half-time kept Norwich top of the Premier League on Saturday, as Dean Saunders scored twice on his home debut for Aston Villa against his old club Liverpool, reports AFP.

The Canaries extended their lead to four points with second-placed Coventry playing next week and Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United both drawing.

Mark Robins engineered Norwich's goal against Sheffield Wednesday, whipping over a cross to Newman, who sent a bullet header past England goalkeeper Chris Woods.

Kenny Dalglish's Blackburn were down to nine men in their rough-and-tumble 1-1 draw against Wimbledon, which also had hardman Vinny Jones sent off on his home debut at Selhurst Park.

Jones received his marching orders 10 minutes before half-time for arguing with the referee after a challenge on Kevin Moran, and only three

minutes after 3.4 million pound signing Alan Shearer equalised for Rovers with his ninth goal in as many matches.

Neal Ardley opened the scoring for Wimbledon in the 24th minute with a shot from eight yards out.

The Dons were poised to inflict their second defeat in a week on Blackburn, but John Fashanu missed a penalty after a Mike Newell handball.

Saunders' debut at Villa Park could not have been better if it had been rehearsed.

Tying up with his former Liverpool teammate Ray Houghton, he repaid Villa's 2.2 million price tag with the equalizer in the 44th minute after Mark Walters, a former Villa man, volleyed a spectacular goal for the reds a minute earlier.

Ron Atkinson's men took the lead after Garry Parker's strike got a touch from Damien Atkins in the 54th minute, while Saunders, capped his remarkable debut by blasting his second goal in the 63rd minute off a Houghton pass after sloppy defensive work by Liverpool.

Saunders' bid for a hat-trick was denied by the post 13 minutes later, but defensive woes continued for Graeme Sounness men moments later, when Parker made it four as he pounced on a defensive error by Mark Wright.

Israel's Ronnie Rosenthal's brilliant individual effort in the closing minutes couldn't cover up the dismal Liverpool performance, although Sounness

came use in the summer, but refused to fulfil the last year of his contract with Napoli.

The former Argentine captain, who arrived in Seville last week, was persuaded by club coach and friend Carlos Bilardo to extend his stay until Monday in the hope that his transfer would be resolved.

In the meantime, there was confusion about an alleged bid by French champions Olympique Marseille for Maradona's services.

A Napoli source said the club faxed an official bid on Saturday but earlier.

Marseille Secretary General Jean-Pierre Bernes told the Provençal newspaper that there was no longer a question of Maradona playing for the French side.

But Betis, a Spanish Second Division side and Sevilla's crosstown rivals, did join the auction with an official offer of 8.5 million dollars.

Sevilla president Luis Cuerbas laughed it off, however, as "a joke."

A glitch in Bayern blitz

BONN, Sept 20: Bayern fans will be weeping into their tankards as the Munich Beer Festival gets underway this weekend, after their team lost their 100 percent record in the Bundesliga on Saturday, reports AFP.

With World Cup star Lothar Matthäus making his debut and Olaf Thon opening up a 37th minute lead, Bayern looked destined for a sixth consecutive victory in their game with Wattenscheid.

But there was no time to hit back after Senegal's Souleyman Sane seized an equaliser in the 90th minute.

Consolation for Bayern is that there was no change at the top.

The Bavarian club still lead the table with a game in hand over Bayer Leverkusen, who drew 2-2 at VfL Bochum, while third placed Eintracht Frankfurt, who have also played six games, suffered a similarly agonising 1-1 draw with newly-promoted Saarbrücken.

Like Bayern, Frankfurt were home and dry until the 90th minute, after Axel Kruse had given them a first-half lead.

But the two points slipped away when Kruse's teammate, defender Dietmar Roth, planted the ball in his own net in the dying seconds.

Meanwhile, the man who sank Leeds United in the European Champions Cup in midweek, Fritz Walter, was no target again for VfB Stuttgart in a thrilling 3-3 draw with Bayer Uerdingen.

Uerdingen scored three times in the last 10 minutes — and were trailing 3-1 after Thomas Strunz scored for Stuttgart in the 85th minute.



A Star file photo shows England cricketer David Gower keeping wickets as his newly-wed bride (then fiancée) Thorunn Nash takes strike. The couple exchanged their wedding rings at Winchester Cathedral on Sept 19.



To bid the last day of Bhadra farewell a boat race was also organised by the Mati Bhanga College at Nazirpur, Pirojpur on September 18. —Star photo