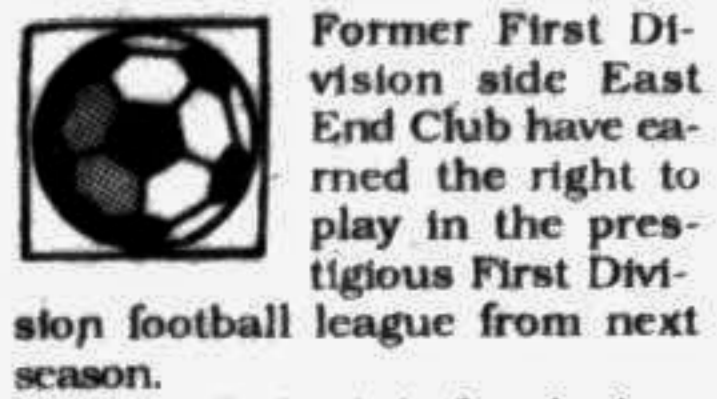


East End earn promotion

Sports Reporter



Former First Division side East End Club have earned the right to play in the prestigious First Division football league from next season.

East End Club finished as the Second Division league runners-up by beating Dhaka WASA 2-1 in the play-off match at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The play-off was needed after both teams ended their eight-team super league campaigns with 10 points each on Friday last.

Bangladesh Boys Club, who emerged champions with 11 points from seven matches, will be the other side to climb the ladder to the first division next year.

However, in yesterday's crucial match, it was Dhaka WASA who took the lead when Selim scored from close.

Blaka Lusat, who plays hockey for Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club in the First Division league, proved his worth as a footballer when he drew level

for East End Club in the 48th minute.

Blaka then went on to net the winner for East End Club in the 58th minute to take the Gandaria team back into top league.

Kowshik and Mansur Ali of East End Club and Monwar Hossain and Rafiqul Islam of Dhaka WASA were booked by referee R Alam for rough play.

A renowned football team before the liberation of Bangladesh, East End Club gradually lost strength in the late '70s and early '80s.

They had to suffer the ignominy of being relegated from the Senior Division to the Second Division in 1986 when they failed in the relegation play-off series among the four bottom teams.

The three other teams were Public Works Department, Victoria Sporting Club and Farashganj Sporting Club.

East End Club had to languish in the lower league for five seasons before climbing back into the top bracket.

Sixteen teams in two groups took part in the Second Division this year with the top

eight teams — four from each group — qualifying for the super league.

Ex-First Division club Chantika Krita Chakra, the bottom-finishers of the Group A, along with East Bengal Sporting Club, who finished last in Group B, have been relegated to the Second Division and will play in the Third Division next year.

The vacuum created by these two teams will be duly filled in by Lalmita Sporting Club and Badda Jagaroni Sangha, the Third Division league champions and runners-up respectively.

Meanwhile, the Third Division football league secretary Modabber Hossain Babu, in a press release, has congratulated all concerned sections including teams and law-enforcing agencies for their support to the smooth holding of the Third Division league.

Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence Sports Club, in separate letters, have extended their felicitations to the champions and runners-up of the both leagues.

Shearer squanders Blackburn's chance

BIRMINGHAM, England, Oct 20: Alan Shearer drew another blank as Blackburn missed an opportunity to go back on top of the Premier League at Villa Park here on Monday, reports AFP.

Shearer squandered a couple of headed chances for England against Norway last week and let Villa off the hook with a similar tame effort.

He seemed certain to claim his 16th goal of the season when Stuart Ripley directed a 19th minute cross to the far post.

Shearer rose higher than any defender, but was slightly off balance and could only head the ball weakly across goal from two yards out.

The match signalled an end to a prolific run for Shearer, who had scored in each of his last six matches for Rovers.

Shearer and Villa's Dean Saunders cost their clubs a total of almost 6 million, but couldn't produce a goal between them because all the heroes were in defence.

Paul McGrath and Shaun Teale ensured Blackburn were limited to that Shearer effort and two by Mike Newell — one headed against the bar and a second superbly saved by the diving Nigel Spink.

Colin Hendry and Kevin Moran restricted Saunders to a single opportunity of adding to his six goals in as many games. His angled drive was beaten out by Bobby Mimms and cleared by Teale.

With the strikers almost blotted out, a goal from midfield seemed the only possibility of ending the deadlock.

It almost came in the 178th minute when Kevin Richardson teed up Ray Houghton for a 25-yard drive which Mimms acrobatically



ALAN SHEARER turned against the bar. Both teams, however, looked polished enough to maintain a challenge for the first Premier League crown if they can last the pace until April.



Pakistan national champion IM Mahmood Lodhi moving his queen up against Zillur Rahman Champak's black at the NSC conference room yesterday. Lodhi won the 11th round match.

Zia takes the lead

Sports Reporter

FIDE Master Zia-ur Rahman, perhaps the most bold and enterprising chess player of the country, yesterday surged to the lead of the ninth QM Hossain International Masters tournament, now being held at the NSC conference room.

After the completion of the 11th round yesterday, Zia had nine out of a possible eleven points in the 15-round competition. His victory yesterday over compatriot Khandaker Kaver Hassan gave him half a point more than his nearest rival Krishnamurthy Murugan, the Indian IM, who has 8.5 points following his drawn 11th round encounter with his senior countryman and fellow IM Lanka Ravi.

Zia needs just another 1.5 points to achieve his third and final norm to become the only second international Master of the country after Zillur Rahman Champak. Only one other Bangladeshi has done better — Neaz Morshed — the sole Grandmaster of the country.

Zia, a former national champion and runner-up in the last nationals, needed 34 moves to force Kaves into submission. Playing with white pieces, Zia opened with c4 to which Kaves countered with a

King's Indian defence. Zia then turned the game into a classical variation and a blunder by Kaves in the 19th move with his f6 helped to consolidate Zia's position. By the 34th move Kaves realised the hopelessness of his situation and resigned.

Zia's nearest challenger Krishnamurthy Murugan managed to share points with Lanka Ravi, one of the topseeded IMs in this meet, after only 12 moves. Lanka Ravi opened with d4 and Murugan adopted the Queen's gambit declined. Soon enough the players agreed upon a draw.

In another key match yesterday, defending champion Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi of Pakistan defeated Bangladesh's lone IM and former national champion Zillur Rahman Champak after 59 moves. Lodhi, playing white, opened d4. Champak countered with the Queen's gambit exchange variation. Champak misplaced his pieces in the middle game, facilitating Lodhi's victory, taking the Pathan's points tally to seven and a half.

Reigning two-time Bangladesh champion Rezaul Karim beat Hameed Mansour Qadhi, the Yemeni IM, in 54 moves. Rezaul now has six and a half points from 11 games.

On another board, PDS

Girinath, the Indian IM, drew with another former Bangladesh champion Jamilur Rahman. Jamil, who had such a good day Monday winning both his adjourned matches while other players took a rest, succeeded in putting Girinath under time pressure. Girinath had opened with e4 while Jamil's black pieces adopted the Karokann defence. Girinath, despite the apparently even positions of the two players, offered a draw after 24 moves to which Jamil gladly agreed. Jamil now has five points to six for Girinath.

Rahul Shetty drew with yet another ex-Bangladesh champion FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman. Saifuddin Lablu drew with Indian IM Arun Vaiddya from a position of advantage while IWM Rani Hamid, the lonely lady in the fray, continued to disappoint, going down to Atanu Lahiri of India after 33 moves. Rani remains stuck at the bottom of the points table with just a solitary point from two drawn encounters.

Smirin knocks Short out

TILBURG, Netherlands, Oct 20: British number six seed Nigel Short was knocked out of the Interpolis chess tournament on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Dominican pitcher at centre of battle

TORONTO, Oct 20: In a World Series battle between Americans and Canadians, a 25-year-old Dominican finds himself the centre of attention tonight for Game 3, reports AP.

Juan Guzman pitches for Toronto against Atlanta's Steve Avery. The Series was tied at one game apiece going into the international matchup of young guns.

"So far I enjoy it. I'm having a good time," Guzman said Monday. "I just go out, do my best and have fun."

Guzman should be having fun. He beat Oakland in Games 3 and 6 of the American

League playoffs, allowing just three runs in 12 innings. His 2.08 ERA was the best of any playoff starter.

"What I do," Guzman said, "is just keep focusing on what I'm supposed to do and prepare myself physically and mentally, when I'm going to do this, how I'm going to pitch this way, and just go hard and do what I can."

Guzman was 16-5 with a 2.64 ERA after going 10-3 in 1991. Opponents hit just .207 against him, the second-lowest average in the AL, and his average of 8.2 strikeouts per nine innings also was second-best. And he did it despite a sore shoulder that sidelined him from Aug 4-29.

"He came in and picked up where he left off last year, except when he was injured with the arm problem," Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston said Monday as his team worked out in the SkyDome. "We struggled without him."

While Guzman got raves, the

22-year-old Avery got razzed a bit this year. He was 18-8 in 1991, then went 2-0 in the playoffs and had two no-decisions in the World Series against Minnesota. He dropped to 11-11 this year, then won Game 2 of the National League playoffs despite allowing four runs in the seventh innings. Avery was awful in Game 5, when Pittsburgh pounded him with four runs in just one-third of an inning.

"I know people expected a lot of me and I guess if you looked at the won-loss record, some might say my year wasn't that good," Avery said. "Honestly, I pitched better this year than I did last year, and I think the people around the club know that. I threw a lot of innings and I kept us in most of the games I pitched."

Avery was fifth in the NL with 233 2-3 innings and his ERA dropped from 3.38 to 3.20.

"What could have hurt Steve Avery was the superhuman effort he put out in last year's playoffs," Braves pitching coach Leo Mazzone said. "That was a standard as high as you can get in professional baseball. People have a tendency to think that made him superhuman."

Despite all his accomplishments last year, Avery came up short in Games 3 and 6 against the Twins. Braves pitchers have had to read some unkind things lately, and Avery wants to turn it around, just like Tom Glavine did in the Series opener.

"We didn't have a great playoff series," Avery said. "But you can't take away from what we accomplished the entire year. I know the criticism fired Tommy up, and hopefully it will do the same for me."

Rain spoils Game 3

TOKYO, Oct 20: Game 3 of Japan's professional baseball championship series between the Seibu Lions and the Yakult Swallows was rained out Tuesday, reports AP.

The Pacific league champion Lions and the Central League champion Swallows are tied one game apiece in the best-of-seven Japan Series.

The next three games now are scheduled Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Seibu Stadium in Tokyo's outskirts. The sixth and seventh games, if necessary, would be played Sunday and Monday at Jingu Stadium in Tokyo.

ROK's proposal to co-host 2002 WC with North Korea

SEOUL, Oct 20: South Korea will formally offer to co-host the 2002 World Cup soccer championship with rival North Korea, a government report said Tuesday, reports AP.

The Sports Ministry report to the National Assembly said joint Korean sponsorship would boost chances of bringing the soccer's premier event to the Korean peninsula in 2002.

The United States is the host of the 1994 World Cup. Under a principle of rotation, the 1998 World Cup is set to be staged in Europe. FIFA, the world's soccer governing body, has decided to move the event to Asia in 2002.

FIFA officials have said a united Korea would have a better chance of winning the right to host the event in 2002.

Japan, China, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia have also expressed interest in hosting the 2002 World Cup.

The ministry report said South Korea will formally propose to rival North Korea that they co-host the 2002 World Cup. Officials said the proposal would be made through a government channel before the end of this year.

The report said the Seoul government will raise 2 billion won (dhs 2.5 million) to help finance its bid to host the 2002 event. A section will be set up in the Sports Ministry to handle the affair, it said.

The two Koreas have no record of co-hosting any international events, but they fielded a united team for a world junior soccer championship last year.

When South Korea won the right to host the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Communist North Korea demanded joint sponsorship by the two sides on equal terms.

As a compromise, the International Olympic Committee offered to award some events, including table tennis and volleyball, to North Korea, but Pyongyang rejected the offer, arguing the terms were unequal.

The Koreans have been bitter rivals since the division of their peninsula into the Communist North and the capitalist South in 1945. They fought a three-year war in the early 1950s.

The Koreans adopted a red-onciliation accord in February, pledging to cooperate for peace, but their border remains the world's most heavily armed, with no mail, telephone and other direct means of communications between the two nations.

Breeders' Cup

LONDON, Oct 20: A trio of Europe's best three-year-olds could turn the dhs 3 million Breeders' Cup Classic in Florida Oct 31 into an unofficial "world championship," reports AP.

Rodrigo de Triano, French-trained Arazi, and Irish Derby winner St. Jovite are all likely to run the 10-furlong (2,000-metre) race on Gulfstream Park's dirt track.

St. Jovite, rated Europe's leading middle-distance 3-year-old, was Monday confirmed for the Classic by trainer Jim Bolger.

"We reckoned that St. Jovite has nothing more to prove on grass over a mile and a half, and — since he's likely to stand at stud in the United States — we should take this opportunity to prove his versatility," Bolger said.

"We won't really know whether he will cope with the dirt until the day."

The Classic will be the first race on dirt for both St. Jovite and English 2,000 Guineas and Champion Stakes winner Rodrigo de Triano.

Rodrigo was confirmed for the race Sunday by owner Robert Sangster, who had also considered the colt for the Breeders' Cup Mile on Gulfstream's grass track.

"It would be great to see Rodrigo crowned champion of the world," Sangster was quoted Monday by Britain's The Sporting Life newspaper.

A European horse has never won the Classic, although Ibn Bey ran well to finish second to Unbridled at Belmont in 1990.

The Racing Post newspaper quoted Arazi part-owner Allen Paulson as saying the French-trained colt was likely to enter the Classic.

Russian teams crowd European draw

Rangers face Leeds in vital tie

PARIS, Oct 20: Four Russian sides pose the biggest threat for Europe's fashionable clubs on Wednesday but the outstanding match is an all-British affair, reports AFP.

Rangers face Leeds United in Glasgow for the unofficial British Championship. The Scots will be banking on the intimidating atmosphere at their Ibrox Stadium to unsettle Leeds while the English will be counting on the unpredictable skills of French forward Eric Cantona.

But for Barcelona, Liverpool, Real Madrid and Torino the big threat comes from the Red Square.

European champions Barcelona, beaten for the first time in the Spanish League on Saturday, take on the former Red Army side CSKA Moscow.

Liverpool play Spartak Moscow in the Cup Winners' Cup. The club founded by Soviet trades union leaders clinched the new Russian Championship over the weekend. They won the title 11 times in the old communist days.

That match is delayed to Thursday to avoid a clash with the European Cup tie between Barcelona and CSKA.

And in the UEFA Cup Real Madrid face Torpedo Moscow, who knocked out fancied English side Manchester United in the first round, while Torino, last season's beaten finalists, tackle Dinamo Moscow.

Moscow is the first capital to put four clubs into the second round of the European competitions.

Real must be worried. After trying a sports psychologist to motivate his players coach Benito Fioro has now asked a priest to light the way ahead.

The experience may just be working. Rafael Martin-Vazquez, back after a two-year stint in Italy with Torino and two-month transit at Marseille, inspired them to a 3-0 win at bottom club Logrones on Sunday.

Leeds may well be grateful for the additional learning experience from their extra European Cup match against VfB Stuttgart.

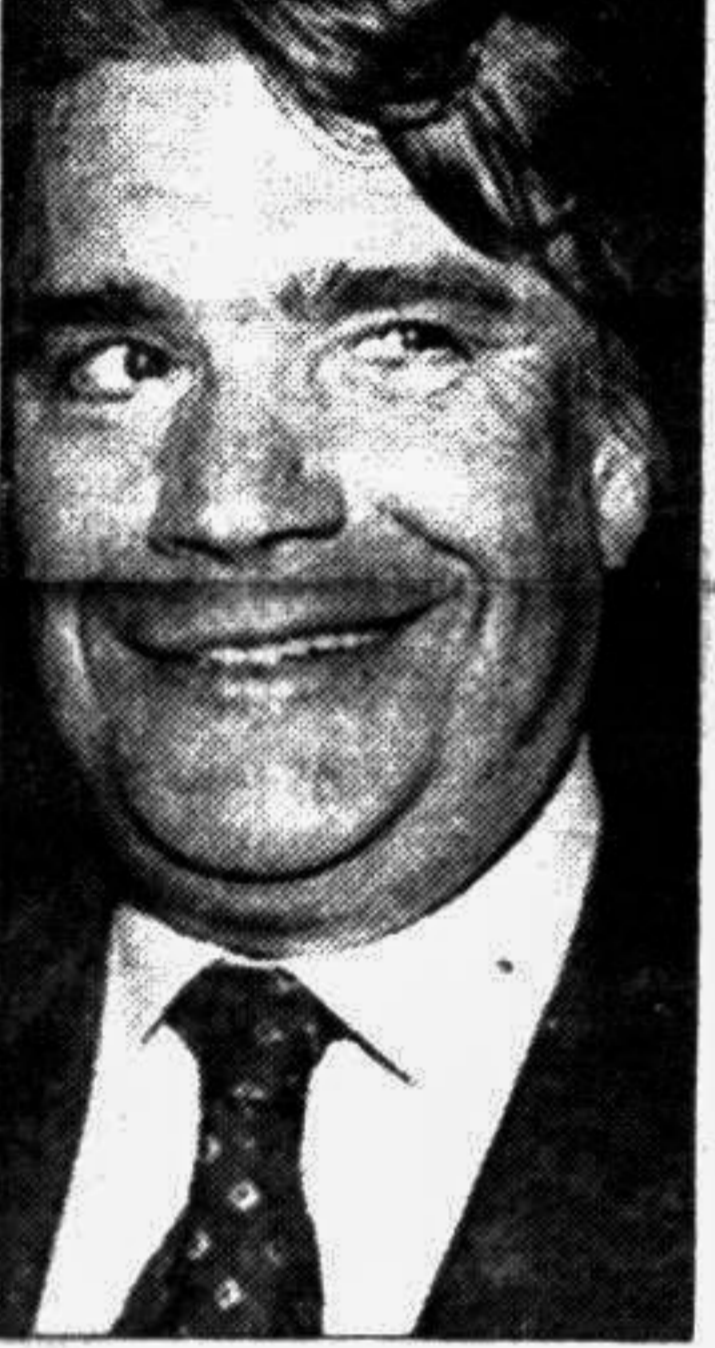
A 4-1 home win meant the first round tie finished all-

square on aggregate but the Germans would have qualified on the away goals rule if they had not used one too many foreign players.

The English side proved they had done their homework by beating Stuttgart in the play-off and must be favoured to eliminate Rangers however tight and tense the occasion.

Their two Scottish midfielders Gordon Strachan and Gary McAllister and French striker Cantona should swing the outcome.

Olympique Marseille, having lost two successive league



BERNARD TAPIE games for the first time in four years, travel cautiously east to face Dinamo Bucharest.

TAPIE'S THREAT Bucharest may have needed extra-time to beat Finnish side Lahti in the previous round but Marseille president Bernard Tapie has warned he will pack it all in if they fail to reach the money-spinning mini-league stage.

Tapie, whose delayed sale of Adidas has finally come unstuck, kept his players behind for one hour 45 minutes of ear-bashing after Saturday's home defeat to Nates.

He admits Marseille's early exit in last season's competition cost him 80 million francs (16 million dollars) which he only recouped through the sale

of Jean-Pierre Papin to AC Milan.

Papin scored his first league goal for Milan in Sunday's 5-3 defeat of Lazio which equalled an Italian league record of 40 matches without defeat. The current European play-off-of-the-year keeps his place for the match at Slovan Bratislava.

Marco van Basten and Ruud Gullit accompany Papin to Czechoslovakia where 150,000 fans, five times as many as the ground can hold, asked for tickets to see them.

Milan's third Dutch player, midfielder Frank Rijkaard, has not fully recovered after picking up a knee injury in Holland's World Cup draw against Poland last week.

Crisis club Napoli, who dropped to fifth from bottom in Italy after losing to Udinese, look to their South American strikers when they play Paris St Germain.

Stonio Caraca of Brazil and Daniel Fonseca of Uruguay, who scored all six goals in the first round defeat of Spanish opponents Valencia, will test a Parisian defence commanded by Brazilian sweeper Riccardo.

Paris, who have spent 30 million dollars on new players since Artur Jorge was appointed coach 16 months ago, hope to have a fully fit George Weah to trouble the Italian defence.

The Liberian was limited to half an hour in last Saturday's 1-1 draw with Lens.

One "Russian" who will not be on show on Wednesday is Sergey Yuran. The Ukrainian, who scored the winner against Iceland in a World Cup match last week after switching allegiance to Russia, pulled a thigh muscle playing for his Portuguese club Benfica.

He misses the UEFA Cup match against Vac of Hungary.

Miracle still happens

MELBOURNE, Oct 20: Coastguards described Olympic judo wrestler Adrian Marion as "A Miracle Man" today after he spent 23 hours in a wetsuit in icy waters and crashing waves following a boating accident, reports AFP.

Marion, 28, an experienced diver and a member of Australia's demonstration judo team at the Barcelona Olympics, was rescued "smack-bang" in the middle of Port Phillip Bay near here after drifting 14 nautical miles during the night.

"It was just incredible the condition he was in," rescue control officer Marcus Grimbald said.

The ambulance officers came down, looked at him for a few minutes and said, "do you want to go to hospital? He said no, so they let him go."

The police chief superintendent in nearby Geelong, Brian Edward, said Marion was "nothing short of a miracle man."

"Physically fit, equipped with a wetsuit and inflatable vest and airtank he must have put into practice all the right survival skills. He ought to write a survival manual."

Edward said coordinators gave Marion only a slim chance of survival before they

found him at noon Tuesday.

"Marion and friend Brett Swan were scuba-diving from a power boat steered by Swan's father Kennet on Monday when currents dragged the boat about 500-metres," Edward said.

Swan surfaced to find the boat missing and decided to swim after it, coming ashore six hours later.

Police and coastguards immediately began looking for Marion, but squalls of up to 30 knots forced them to abandon the search from midnight to dawn.

Grimbal said it was unbelievable that Marion had the energy to remain above crashing waves for 23 hours.

"Anybody else would have died," he said.

"He was very calm and he wore a full-length, thick wetsuit — those two things saved his life."

US dump Ivory Coast

RYADH, Oct 20: The United States beat African champions Ivory Coast 5-2 here Monday in the Intercontinental Champions Cup, reports AFP.

Argentina play the Saudis today for the King Fahad Trophy.



Action from yesterday's schools handball tournament for girls between Viqarunnessa Noon School and Mohammadpur Preparatory School at the Dhanmondi Women's Complex yesterday. Viqarunnessa won 19-4.