



Shin Ho-Hul, the midfielder of South Korean club Housing Bank fails to score despite finding Bangladesh Greens goalkeeper Syed Hassan Kanan totally at his mercy. Greens defenders Ataur (L) and Rehan can only watch helplessly. However, the Koreans earned their first victory of the 7th President Gold Cup tournament yesterday evening when they beat the Greens by a solitary goal at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

GMCC too good for PWD

Sports Reporter

The Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) opening batsmen, rather expectedly, remained unconquered when their side chased an innocuous target of 99 set by the Public Works Department (PWD) in the only match of the Navana Premier Division league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Overawed by the star-studded GMCC attack the PWD batsmen could muster only 98 runs for eight wickets off 42 overs and their bowlers lacked the pace or guile to sever the GMCC opening stand which raced to 104 in only 18.5 overs.

Knowing that his decision would be inconsequential against such a strong side, Fazlu, the PWD skipper, opted for batting, possibly with the thought of saving his bowlers from extra work.

Jahangir Talukdar Dulu, a member of the national squad, handed the PWD batsmen the first blow by snapping up two wickets for five. Raman Lamba, the Delhi allrounder, dismissed two more with consecutive deliveries eight runs later and PWD were 13 for four.

Indu and Kamrul withstood the pressure for a while, taking the score to 41, before Monu edged a Billu delivery behind the stumps for 15.

Then Shri Lankan Sanjeeva Weerasinghe started his magical spell. He sent three batsmen back, two of them bowled, conceding only 15 in nine overs.

With eight wickets down on 77, Indu and Sajjad made sure that PWD did not lose any more wickets and when the last ball of the 42nd over was bowled they had added 21 runs in 12 balls. Indu played a marathon 110-ball knock for his 36.

Lamba and Dulu claimed two wickets each for 13 and 12 respectively.

The GMCC openers were more concerned with the time than the task when they came out to bat against a weak PWD bowling, especially Lamba who was very eager to get it over with.

Lamba dominated the partnership with a breezy 61 in 64 balls studded with four fours and two sixes, one of which he hit to end the day. Rownakul Islam Tutul remained unbeaten on 31.

Surja Tarun face Victoria Sporting Club at the DCS today.

Schools badminton concludes

Sports Reporter

Zia Hossain of Chittagong Char Chugtal School earned the double crowns in the Mohammedan Sporting Peoples Insurance schools badminton tournament which concluded yesterday at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium.

Coming from behind Zia beat his doubles partner Md Morshed Khan 2-15, 15-7, 15-4 in the final of the boys' singles yesterday.

Earlier on Friday, Zia and Morshed lifted the boys' doubles trophy trouncing Arunav Rahman Rajon and Mokhlesur Rahman of Motijheel Model School.

In the girls' singles, Sharmin Ahmed Momo of Ananda Viddalaya won the title beating Ayesha Khatun Noor of Bangladesh KRPA Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) 11-9, 11-5 last Saturday.

In the girls' doubles, Noori teaming up with her younger sister Asheda Begum of BKSP, won the title eliminating Momo and Cynthia Islam of Ananda Viddalaya 15-3, 15-7 last Thursday.

Forty young shuttlers including ten girls participated in the eight-day meet organised by Mohammedan Sporting Club.

Greens go out unlamented

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Greens played themselves out of the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament in the second of the two matches at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The junior nationals side of the hosts lost to the Housing Bank of South Korea by a solitary goal in another lackadaisical encounter.

Choi Tae-Ho, the striker of the champion team from the bank league in South Korea, netted the matchwinner four minutes before the short whistle following a callous lapse in the Bangladesh defence. The Koreans dominated almost the entire proceedings with their more accurate passing and fleet-footedness.

Bangladesh Greens, who badly needed to recompense for the poor show of their seniors, started as usual with a bang with the sparse crowd going the whole hog to trigger off the 'josh' of the local footballers.

Green medio Rakib, who had a belated entry into the squad, initiated the first local rally in the ninth minute of the match. He raced down the right flank, edged past his marker but came up with a feeble shot straight into the hands of Kim Hae-Hu who slipped but Mahbub ur Rahman Roxy, Rakib's fellow linkman, was slow in reacting and a defender cleared the ball in the nick of time.

The Koreans, who took time to settle, put their passes together and probed the yawning loopholes in Bangladesh defence which started to look increasingly vulnerable with the passage of time. Inactivity and a lack of any sense of purpose on the part of the midfielders made things

all the more difficult. Rakib, who was one of the few enthusiastic Green players, made some futile but noticeable attempts to bridge the gap between the offence and defence. Tall Ataur in defence had to put up with the nonsense of his teammates but disaster was always impending in the face of the relaxed but resolved Koreans who bit by bit upped the pressure.

Their centre forward Choi Tae-Ho, reputed to have represented his country, was a constant thorn in the flesh of the four Green defenders with his elusive and supple nature. Always at the right place at the right time, the nimble striker could have had two goals to his credit but for a smart save by Greens custodian Syed Hassan Kanan.

It was a pathetic repetition of ugly huff-puffing by the local boys for the control of the ball. As the Reds did in their match against the Olympic football team from Malaysia on Saturday, the younger and greener players of the same mould showed serious lacking in the basics of the game and made a complete hash of a match that held the last glimmer of hope for the partisan crowd.

Soon it transpired to be a hope for the wrong thing as the nimble Koreans with intelligent wing play opened the Greens defence inside out. A timely through by Shin Ho-Houl sent the two parallel Bangladesh stoppers on the wrong foot and Choi Tae-Ho shook off Shamim with the nonchalant speed of a gazelle and finished off the ball past an advancing Kanan (1-0).

The Koreans then came roaring with Kang Do-Sin trying a distant shot which Kanan tipped over the bar for a cor-

Rowdy fans do it again

Sports Reporter

It was a fine start to 1993 for German strikers after a three-week break in the league. Rudi Voeller, Klinsmann's partner in the victorious West German 1990 World Cup campaign, scored a hat-trick for champions Marseille in their 5-2 home victory over bottom-placed Toulon.

French international Xavier Gravelaine remained the season's top league marksman, netting twice for Caen in a 4-3 home victory over lowly Lille to take his total to 15. But Klinsmann was the star of the night.

With his impressive performance, the former international Milan player proved he had settled in at last in the principality after a lacklustre start to the season.

He scored first in the seventh minute with a fine volley from a cross by Brazil's Luis Henriue before making it 2-0 with a powerful long-range shot which took Auxerre's international goalkeeper Bruno Martini by surprise.

Klinsmann sealed victory early in the second half with two quickfire goals from close range in the 52nd and 56th minutes as Monaco made light of the absence of injured key midfielders Jermoe Gnako and Gil Rui Barros of Portugal.

Nantes had a 48th-minute goal from Nicolas Ouedec to thank for their narrow win over Lyon.

Antonio needs one more point

Sports Reporter

BAGUIO, Philippines, Jan 10: Rogelio Antonio is gunning for the prestige of becoming only the Philippines third chess Grandmaster as the penultimate round of the Asian Grandmasters tournament got underway here today, reports AFP.

A win over Chinese International Master Liang Jinrong will give Antonio the title outright, while a loss will reduce his chances to a must-win situation against Indonesian International Master Salor Stanggang in the ninth and last round.

Alternatively, Antonio could draw with both Liang and Stanggang. A win earns a full point and a draw half a point.

Antonio scored a morale-boosting upset over China's first Grandmaster Ye Rongguang in Saturday's seventh round to give him five points and solo leadership.

Three Asian Grandmasters and seven International Masters — from China, Indonesia and the Philippines — are taking part in the tournament, which serves as the second leg of the current Asian Grandmaster circuit. The first leg was held in Beijing.

Association history to score 20,000 points here Friday when he scored 35 to lead Chicago to a 120-95 victory over Milwaukee, reports AFP.

Jordan hit the 20,000 mark exactly with a three-point basket six minutes from time. He was taken out of the game seconds later to an ecstatic ovation from the home crowd.

Jordan, playing his ninth NBA season, reached 20,000 points in 620 games. Only Wilt Chamberlain needed fewer, he scored 20,000 in 499 games.

Oscar Robertson, a star of the 1960s is next in the table, he reached the mark in 671 games.

Manchester United go atop to Southampton when Kerry Dixon scored his 200th league goal after 20 minutes, but they fought back to snatch both points. Wales midfielder Gary Speed hitting the winner.

In Scotland, Rangers, unbeaten in 31 matches, were paired with First Division Ayr when the fourth round draw was made on Saturday night.

Arch-rivals Celtic, who have won the Scottish FA Cup a record 29 times, were forced into a third round replay after being held 0-0 at Second Division Clyde.

The winners will meet either Berwick or Falkirk, whose third round tie was postponed.

Minor-league Huntly were crushed 6-0 by Hearts, but Cove Rangers forced a replay with Second Division East Stirling with a 2-2 draw. Cove, 1-0 down until the 83rd minute, went 2-1 up in the space of four minutes but East Stirling equalised in the dying

seconds.

First Division Cowdenbeath upset Premier Division Partick thistle 1-0 away with a penalty right after half-time. Their keeper Billy Lamont saved a 56th-minute Partick penalty to ensure a place in the fourth round where they meet Premier Division Hibernian.

Juvenile soccer

Bangabir Sangsad trounced Khawfir Dewan Manab Kallayan Samity by seven goals to one in the Jadukar Samad memorial juvenile soccer tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Padma Nikhi Samaj Kallayan Sangha edged past Dragon Krira Chakra by a solitary goal in the other match of the day.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

A fine 84 by Rafiqul powered Ajax Sports Club to a convincing six-wicket victory against Rainbow Athletic Club in the Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Wari Krira Chakra beat Rayerbazar AC by three wickets in the other match of the day.

At the DCG, Ajax skipper Swapan won the toss and asked his counterpart Alamgir to bat.

Rainbow were all out for 137 in 34.4 overs with Mohsin and Mona scoring 20 runs each and Rubel remaining unbeaten on 18 while extras contributed 26 runs to the total.

Babu claimed three wickets for 23 and Tarik bagged two wickets for 27 while Sohel, Raj and Rojel took one wicket apiece.

Ajax cruised past Rainbow's total making 141 for six wickets in 29.4 overs.

Rafiqul topscored with 84, a knock inclusive of two sixes and seven fours while Montu scored 29 with the help of four fours.

The first wicket partnership between Rafiqul and Montu put on 97 runs.

Sajal, Ranjit and Mohsin took a wicket apiece for Rainbow.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Wari Krira Chakra beat Rayerbazar Club by three wickets.

Batting first Rayerbazar were all out for 153 in 34.1 overs with Shampa scoring 46, Mubarak 23 and Russell 15.

Biplab with three wickets for 16 was the pick of the Wari Krira Chakra bowlers while Feroz took two wickets and Monju, Mizan and Sohel bagged one wicket apiece.

In reply, Wari Krira Chakra made 156 with three wickets to spare in 34 overs with Feroz remaining unbeaten on 45, Sohel scoring 32 and Shahid 22.

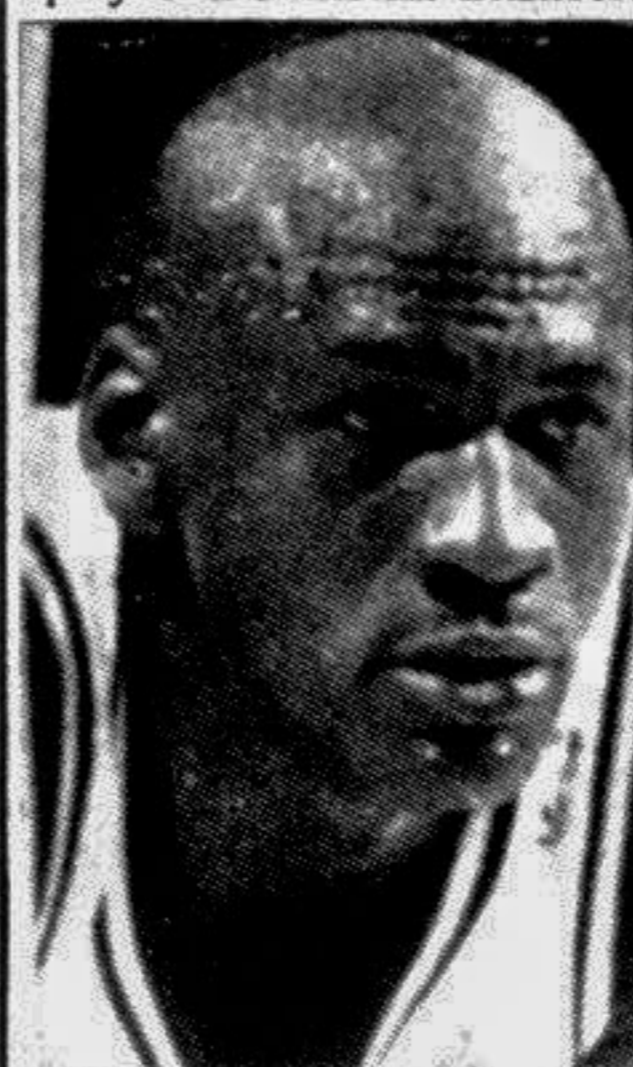
Saeed bagged three wickets conceding 14 runs while Shampa and Pintu took two and one wicket respectively.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Wanderers vs Young Pegasus B (DCS)
Gandaria Cricketers vs Laibagh Anwar SC (DCG)

Jordan's 20,000th

CHICAGO, Jan 10: Michael Jordan became the 18th player in National Basketball



MICHAEL JORDAN

Association history to score 20,000 points here Friday when he scored 35 to lead Chicago to a 120-95 victory over Milwaukee, reports AFP.

Jordan hit the 20,000 mark exactly with a three-point basket six minutes from time. He was taken out of the game seconds later to an ecstatic ovation from the home crowd.

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Kenyan trio wins them all

BELFAST, Jan 10: A trio of Kenyan runners, headed by Simon Chenwoiywo, dominated the IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation) cross country race in Belfast on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Chenwoiywo completed the 8,000-metre course in 23 minutes 20 seconds with compatriot Ismael Kirui five seconds behind and James Karuki third in 23:33.

Ireland's world cross country silver medalist Catharina McKiernan won the women's 4,000-metre event in 15:49 with promising 19-year-old English runner Paula Radcliffe four seconds adrift in second place.

Ben Johnson's bad start

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan, Jan 10: One-time world record holder Ben Johnson got off on the wrong foot at the start of his indoor track season on Saturday, reports Reuter.



A Tatra Presov defender on ground does his best to impede FC Ploesti striker Simion Florin during yesterday's 7th President Gold Cup soccer match at the Dhaka Stadium. The Czechs and the Romanians shared points in a one-all draw. — Star photo

Romanians, Czechs play safe

Sports Reporter

FC Tatra of Czechoslovakia and FC Ploesti of Romania shared points to more or less complete the European quartet for the semifinals of the seventh President Gold Cup football tournament in the first of the two matches held at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Daffodil-hued Ploesti, who won their first match of the tournament against Housing Bank of the Republic Korea by two goals to nil, took the lead with a goal from striker Simion Florin eight minutes into the second half. Czech skipper Vilam Vidumsky restored parity eighteen minutes later from the first penalty of the five-day-old meet.

Czechoslovakia, who won their first match against Bangladesh Greens by a solitary goal, took their points tally to three from two matches while Ploesti, the outfit from Romania, also raised their collection to three from two matches. Both teams are virtually assured of places in the semis as the leading teams from Group B.

Both teams displayed a commitment to cohesive and set-piece football but neither showed any urgency to force

victory in a match played at a languid pace and rhythm. There was enough room for players from both sides to manoeuvre but packed defences left very little space for shooting.

After a barren first half that saw some well-drilled movement and passing, Ploesti took the lead in the eighth minute of the second half. Ciprian raced down the left flank to curl in a fine cross inside the box and Simion Florin who had got the taste of scoring in the first match against the Korean club, turned around in a flash to volley the ball home (1-0).

The Czechs stepped up pressure after being down by a goal and after having threatened the citadel of their east European neighbours several times eventually drew level through a penalty, first of this tournament. Rachita Valeriu, the Ploesti midfielder made a cynical charge on substitute Pavel Vytvykac of Tatra Presov inside the box and Bangladesh referee M R Mukul immediately pointed to the dreaded spot. Skipper Vilam Vidumsky, banded about as a national player of the former Czechoslovakia, coolly converted the spotkick to even the score in the 26th minute (1-1).

Referee: M R Mukul.

Manchester United go atop

LONDON, Jan 10: Title favourites Manchester United crushed Tottenham 4-1 to go top of the English Premier League on Saturday, reports Reuter.

French striker Eric Cantona began the rout with a 40th-minute header, his fourth goal for the club since joining them from champions Leeds late last year and his 12th of the season.

Defender Denis Irwin, Scot Brian McClair and England's Paul Parker added three in a five-minute burst just after the break as United joined Norwich, top since early October, and Aston Villa on 41 points.

Villa, who like United began the day on 38 points, came from behind to win 2-1 at Liverpool, Welsh striker Dean Saunders scoring the winner

to Southampton when Kerry Dixon scored his 200th league goal after 20 minutes, but they fought back to snatch both points. Wales midfielder Gary Speed hitting the winner.

In Scotland, Rangers, unbeaten in 31 matches, were paired with First Division Ayr when the fourth round draw was made on Saturday night.

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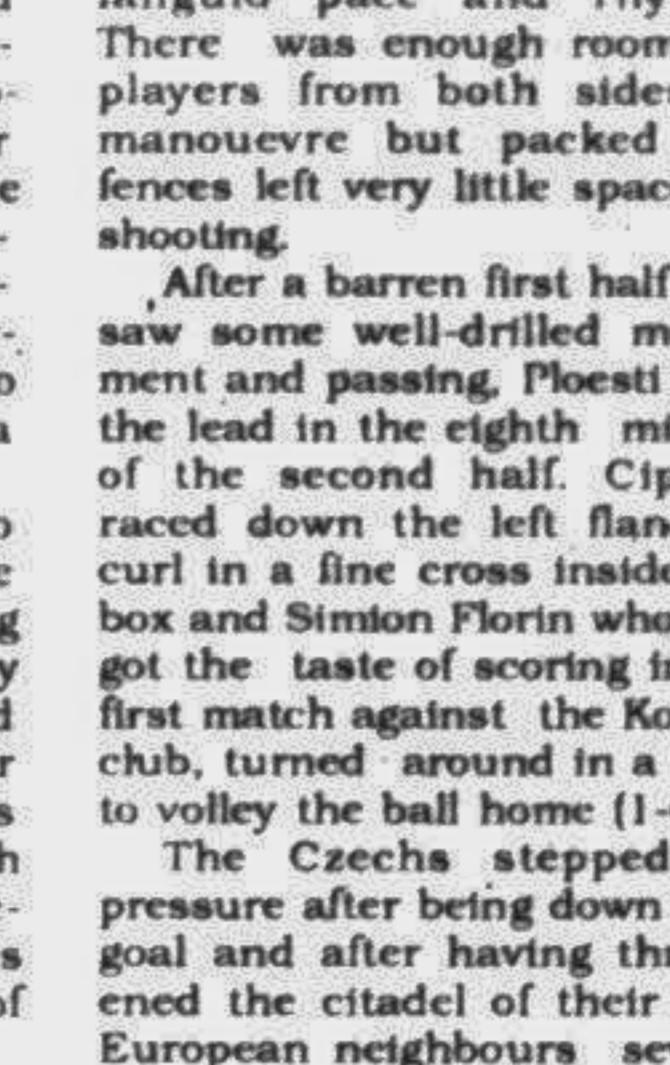
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Eric Cantona



ERIC CANTONA

It was also a triumphant first return to Anfield for former Liverpool midfielder Ray Houghton on his 33rd birthday.

Troubled veteran manager Brian Clough began his 11th year in charge at bottom club Nottingham Forest with an encouraging 1-0 win at Coventry.

The victory lifted Forest to within three points of Wimbledon, who drew 0-0 at fourth-placed Blackburn.

Fifth-placed Ipswich lost the only remaining unbeaten home record in the Premier League when they fell to their first defeat in 14 matches, 2-1 to Oldham, who notched their first away league win of the season.

Queen's Park Rangers leapt over Chelsea into sixth spot with a 1-0 win at Middlesbrough, striker Les Ferdinand scoring his first away goal of the season and 12th overall in the 72nd minute. Chelsea lost 4-2 at home to Manchester City.

Arsenal, who began the season as favourites, dominated their home game with Sheffield United, going ahead through David Hillier in the 43rd minute. But they were held to a 1-1 draw, stunned by an equaliser from Adrian Littlejohn three minutes from time.

Crystal Palace's run of five consecutive league victories ended with a 2-0 defeat at home to Everton.

Leeds went behind at home

Tottenham goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt kept United at bay with some exceptional saves until Irwin's cross in the 40th minute curled away from him and Cantona sent a looping header over the Norwegian international and into the net.

With the tricky Ryan Giggs and Lee Sharpe in rampant form in attack, united put the

game beyond Spurs when Cantona set up Irwin in the 52nd minute and McClair drove in the third from 25 metres within a minute.

Full back Parker advanced 40 metres and shocked a retreating Derence by shooting home in the 57th minute, while teenager Nick Barnby pulled one back for Spurs in the dying minutes.

United, 5-0 winners over Coventry in their previous league match, extended their unbeaten run to nine matches.

Saunders, who scored twice when Villa beat Liverpool 4-2 at home in his second match for them at Lands Club in September, ended a personal goal drought during which his only score in the previous eight matches was a penalty.

England's John Barnes put Liverpool in front just before the interval, Garry Parker equalised in the 54th minute and Saunders struck 10 minutes later.

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