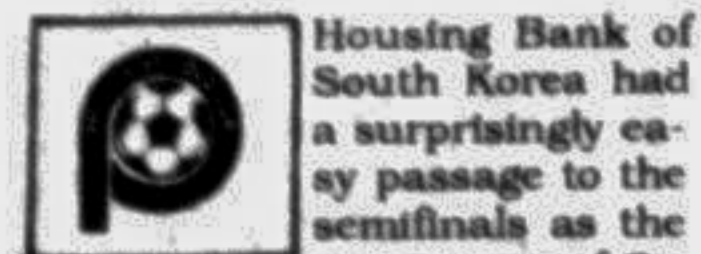


First semifinal today

Unwilling Czechs miss semis

Sports Reporter



Housing Bank of South Korea had a surprisingly easy passage to the semifinals as the runners-up of Group B when they outplayed FC Tatra Presov of Czechoslovakia in the first of the last two robin league matches of the seventh President Gold Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Koreans who till the other day appeared a fairly ordinary outfit appeared galvanised yesterday by a virtuoso performance from their striker Choi Tae-Ho who scored two of the four goals for his side but the over primness of a local referee for the second consecutive day and a strange and all-too-discernible want of motivation on the part of the footballers from the now defunct Czechoslovakia somewhat diluted the build-up for the semifinals. The Koreans led the first half 2-0.

Tatra Presov, who had Abahani, MSC may play in Asian meets

Sports Reporter The 1992 First Division soccer league champions Abahani Krira Chakra and runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club are likely to represent Bangladesh in the 13th Asian Club Cup championship and Asian Cup Winners' Cup tournament respectively, to be held later this year.

Brothers Union, who finished as champions in the 1991 Federation Cup tourney, represented the country in the 12th Asian Club Cup last year.

The Federation Cup runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club were nominated for the Cup Winners' Cup meet but later withdrew in the eleventh hours for which they were fined 2,000 dollars by the Asian Football Confederation.

Since the Federation Cup was not held last year, the league champions Abahani and runners-up Mohammedans should play in these tournaments. Sheikh Akmal Hossain, the secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation, told some newsmen yesterday.

But the selected teams will have to confirm their participation beforehand," Akmal said.

The entries for both these meets will conclude on January 31.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh may participate in the prestigious Merdeka Cup football tournament to be held in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur next month.

However, details regarding the tournament had not reached the federation till yesterday.

Juvenile soccer

Sports Reporter Badda Samaj Kallayan Sangsad shared points with National Football Coaching Centre, Dhaka in a goalless draw in the Jaduker Samad memorial juvenile soccer tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

The other match of the day between Rahim Smriti Sangsad and Anwesha Tarun Sangsad also ended in a scoreless draw.

Karate council

Sports Reporter The three-day first Dragon Karate black-belt council meeting will be held from January 15 to 17 at the Bangladesh Dragon Karate Association, says a press release.

More than 50 karate black-belt holders will attend the council.

Errata

The report on the annual sports competition of Transcom Limited, published on this page under the heading 'Transcom triumph' on January 12 carried some factual errors. Friedrich Gustav Mahler, Managing Director of Nestle Bangladesh Limited who won the man-of-the-match award in Transcom's 1-0 victory in the football match against Eskayef Limited, was inadvertently alluded to as a German with experience of professional football in the German Bundesliga.

In fact, Mahler, a Swiss national, actually played for one of the top Swiss soccer clubs in the late '70s. Transcom cricket captain Reaz Rahman, not 'Riaz' as was written in the report, made 33 in his side's 86-run win against Eskayef Limited in the cricket match.

three points in their kitty before yesterday's last group match and needed only a draw to find a place among the last four, found themselves a goal down six minutes before the breather.

It was a pity that a handful of spectators, majority of whom were connected with BFF, the organisers, were present on the field to watch the spectacular goal.

Choi Tae-Ho, who scored the match-winner in Korea's vital solitary victory against Bangladesh Greens on Sunday flicked the ball to a skilful Um

Song-Yong before taking position for a crack at goal; Yong, the stockily built industrious medio, dodged two Tatra defenders and pushed the ball to his left where a waiting Choi Tae-Ho unleashed a powerful right-footer that had goal written all over it (1-0).

A lovely swerving left-footed flag kick from the northeast corner of the field glanced Shin Ho-Chul's head and a Tatra defender before entering the net much to the chagrin of Jakubec, the Tatra custodian, four minutes after the first goal (2-0).

Referee R Alam gave the marching order — the fifth of this meet following the four shown only the previous day — to Galatserov for having apparently spat on the ball following a call for an infringement against him. The harsh decision was deemed unnecessary by many in hindsight since the referee later put up with a more open show of dissent by the Tatra players.

Shin Ho-Chul did the spadework for the third goal when he accelerated down the right flank to send in a neat minus for Choi Tae-Ho, who scored one of the easier goals of his career with the goalkeeper at his mercy eleven minutes into the second half (3-0).

Tatra skipper Vilam Vidumsky reduced the margin midway through the second half by converting a penalty kick. R Alam pointed to the dreaded spot when Korcan left-back and captain Min Chasick brought down Tatra attacker Rushnak inside the box, and Vilam's placing shot from the spot sent goalie Kim Ilche-Hu diving in the wrong direction (3-1).

The Demoralised Tatra playing with ten men conceded the fourth and last goal nine minutes before the final whistle when substitute Kim Jin-Tae, coming in for Shin Ho-Chul, was helped by a Tatra defender to have a goal written against his name. Choi Tae-Ho, the star Korean striker tore along the middle of the pitch from a counter attack and let go a fierce grounder that came out of an advancing Jakubec's grasp and Tatra's Jozef Danko in a bid to snatch the ball away from a lurking Kim Jin-Tae hastened the ball's entry into the net. Both got to the ball but Kim Jin-Tae was in an advantageous position and would have scored the goal in any case (4-1).

HOUSING BANK (South Korea): Kim Hee-Ho, Jung Young Teak, Kim Young-Kuk, Lee Oh-Kyun, Um Sung-Yong, Choi Tae-Ho, Oh Hea-Jong, Chal Eun-Sock, Min Cha-Sick, Shin Ho-Chul (Kim Jin-Tae) and Kang Do Sin.

TATRA PRESOV (Czechoslovakia): Jakubec, Bajtos, Cimlansky, Kentos, Viousnisky, Ozubara, Galatserov, Zavarana, Danko, Rusnak (Hoger) and Skalka.

Referee: R Alam TODAY'S MATCH Polonia Warszawa vs Housing Bank (7:00 pm) (First semifinal)



An aerial tussle between Tatra Presov (of former Czechoslovakia) and Housing Bank (South Korea) players in one of yesterday's two President Gold Cup Group B matches at the Dhaka Stadium. Housing Bank won 4-1 to earn a place in the last four. — Star photo



Nakib of Bangladesh Greens (not in picture) rifles in a powerful shot into the Ploesti net to reduce the margin to 1-3. The Greens lost their last group match 1-4 at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Greens dance to Romanian tune

Sports Reporter

FC Ploesti of Romania toyed with Bangladesh Greens in the last group match to enter the semifinals as the Group B champions of the seventh President Gold Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Ploesti, who will meet Krylia Sovetov of Russia in the second semifinal, entertained the spectators with a delightful exhibition of unhurried, skilful football at the cost of the Greens who lost their last match 2-4.

The Romanians, who literally made the younger local selection dance to their tune, led the first half 1-0. Simion Florin who now heads the list of scorers with three goals gave his side a first-half lead with an early 13th minute goal.

With remote, theoretical the last chance for the local cause effectively quashed by the Korcans who had earlier booked a place in the semifinals with a flattering 4-1 victory against the Czechs, Bangladesh Greens had everything to gain and nothing to

lose. Their opponents, however, were too good even for that kind of freedom and extravagance. The Romanians, who needed only a draw to qualify for the semifinals, took the lead when Bujorel Mucano rolled a fine ball on the path of a hawk-eyed Simion Florin who made no mistake in beating Bangladesh custodian Syed Hassan Kanani in the 13th minute of the match (1-0).

Midfielder Stefan Matel showed a glimpse of class when he beautifully placed a free-kick from the top of the box to geminate the margin midway through the second half (2-0).

Matel's clever free-kick from the right fooled the Greens defence, moving up to set an offside trap, and Ciprian Furu stalked all the way from the left to slam the ball home in the 29th minute of the second half (3-0).

The third goal ushered in a change in the ambience as the Bangladeshi footballers driven by the desperation of bankrupt suddenly discovered the joy of *de vitare*. Cheered wildly for

the hell of it by the supporters, the Greens attacked Ploesti who adopted the policy of tolerating the impishness of the local players in the hope of crowd support during their semifinal tie against Krylia Sovetov of Russia on Thursday.

Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib of Bangladesh reduced the margin in the 31st minute when he volleyed home a cross from right-back Moon who overlapped down the right flank to launch a counter-attack (3-1).

Ploesti's Marian Grama rounded off a fine day of target practice when he let fly a sizzling shot from outside the box that again beat Kanani hollow under the bar in the 32nd minute to bring a lull in the ding dong proceedings.

Arman, the dexterous Bangladeshi player who worked in the midfield, was rewarded by a goal eight minutes before the final whistle. A lovely low minus by Mahbubur Rahman Roxy found Arman in the middle of two willingly callous Ploesti defenders and the grateful Greens medio accepted the offer gleefully (4-2).

Barun Dewan of Bangladesh Greens was shown the yellow card.

FC PLOESTI: Cadar Iulian, Pura Dancel, Pitulice Sando, Rusa Nicolae, Mocanu Bujorel, Rachita Valeriu, Grigore Octavian (Negotta Valentin), Stefan Matei, Simion Florin (Catalina Marcel), Grama Marian and Pura Ciprian.

BANGLADESH GREENS: Kanan, Moon, Rehan, Ataur, Soheli Reza, Parvez (Masudur Rahman Rana) (Zahid), Roxy, Barun Dewan, Mohammed Arman, Nakib and Rakib.

Referee: Ryszard Wajcik (Poland).

STANDINGS

The Group 'B' standings after the concluding day of the round robin league matches of the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament:

Table with columns: M, W, D, L, GF, GA, P. Rows: FC Ploesti (Romania) 3 2 1 0 7 3 5, Housing Bank (S Korea) 3 2 0 1 5 3 4, FC Tatra Presov (Czech) 3 1 1 1 3 5 3, Bangladesh Greens 3 0 0 3 2 6 0

Male, female spikers picked for SAF games

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Volleyball Federation has preliminarily picked 28 men and 25 women to form squads in preparation for the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games to be held in the city next December.

Following are the male players: Md Ali Forhad, Md Akramuzzaman, Probr Kumar Mullick, Md Shahidullah, Kazi Azadul Alam, Md Abdus Salam, Md Halim Sarder and Md Jaan-e-Alam of Bangladesh Navy; Md Sohrab Hossain, Md Kabir Hossain, Md Zakir Hossain, Noor Ahmad, Md Ericzaul Islam, Md Shamsur Rahman and Md Jahangir Alam of Bangladesh Army; Md Shafiquddin, Md Faruk Hossain, Asit Kumar, Abul Kalam, Naim Chowdhury and Sarder Mohammad Alamgir of Bangladesh Rifles; Taimur Rahman, and Golam Mostafa of Bangladesh Air Force; Kalsul Huq Mukul, Ziaul Iluq Tutul and Akhteruddin Sheikh Bachchu of Rajshahi University and Ramesh Chandra of Narail and Montaz Hossain Murad of Bogra.

Md Sharif Hossain Khan has been made the manager while Harun-ur-Rashid and Golam Rasul Mehdi are the coaches for the men.

Following are the selected 25 players for the women's squad: Helena Khan, Selina Khan, Sabina Khan, Tabita Chumki, Israt Jahan, and Nurun Nahar of Khulna; Sultana Akhter Tuktuqi, Jannatul Ferdous Diana, Akhirun Nesa, Jharna Rani Sarker and Shahnaz Akhter of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation; Nasima Khan Shirren, Syeda Ajmeere, Nasima, Rahima Akhter, Shahna Akter and Ambia Ali of Bangladesh Ansars and VDP; Farzana Yasmeen Lima and Asma Begum Moyna of Rangpur; Shahnaz Parveen, Ruhina Parveen, Rumana Yasmeen and Fahima Yasmeen of Dinajpur and Taslimna Akhter and Shipra of Chittagong.

A M M Rashiduddin has been named manager and Mostafa Kamal and Syeduzzaman Badshah are the coaches of the women's team.

Beijing makes it formal

BEIJING, Jan 12: China's capital, Beijing, has submitted its formal application to host the 2000 Olympic Games, an event Communist Party propagandists have already made the focus of their campaign to build national pride, reports Reuter.

The Beijing 2000 Olympic Games Bid Committee officially submitted its detailed plans of its bid to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Monday, Xinhua news agency said today.

The official agency said Beijing was the first city to submit its application, but China's capital faces competition from Berlin, Brasilia, Istanbul, Milan, Manchester, Sydney and Tashkent.

Beijing streets have been filled for months with huge billboards exhorting citizens to join efforts to win the nod to host the prestigious Summer Games.

The city is in the midst of a two-year long campaign to train residents in pest eradication so the capital can become fly-free to impress the IOC and win the Games.

Massive road construction projects and an airport upgrade have all been advertised as being necessary to get the Olympics.

Some international coaches are not impressed with China, however. "I am getting the coaches to sign a petition saying they will boycott any future meets in China," Swedish coach Hans Chrunak said during a World Cup swimming meet in Beijing at the weekend.

Surjo Tarun beat Victoria

Sports Reporter

A breezy unbeaten 93 from Indian recruit Rajinder steered Surjo Tarun to a convincing seven-wicket victory over Victoria Sporting Club in the Navana Premier Division at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Rajinder shared an unbeaten stand of 84 in 79 balls with Shri Lankan Rodrigo to make Surjo Tarun's chase for Victoria's total of 203 for seven in 44 overs look like a cakewalk.

Victoria skipper Roqibul Hassan, a former stalwart of Bangladesh cricket, might have been disappointed by his son Sajid's individual performance but should not have any complaints against the stand Sajid shared with Dalim for the first wicket which produced 42 in 12.5 overs.

Opening the innings the pair played slowly but cautiously before Rajinder trapped Sajid leg before for eight. He stayed at the crease for 37 deliveries, a bit too long for the one-day game. Dalim was Rajinder's next victim, offering a catch of Subir after adding

15 runs with Selim Shahed for 27. Raja Venkat made the Victoria camp shaky when his wickets were rattled by Majbee for a poor six on 70. Then came his fellow Indian Gautam Shome and it was Tarun skipper Nurul Hadis' turn to feel nervous as the two put on a 107-run partnership for the fourth wicket in 119 balls.

Javed Omar Golla, with his spinners, severed the partnership much to Hadis' relief when he clean bowled Gautam Shome for 55. The Indian played some breathtaking shots for his 64-ball innings marked with two shots across the boundary line and two over it.

Partha went three runs later for nought in the 42nd over. Selim Shahed followed immediately to the fourth ball of Rodrigo's over. Rodrigo, bowling in his second spell, uprooted a weary Selim Shahed's wicket.

In his 80-ball knock Shahed hit five fours and a six for 64. Two runs later Iqbal gave Golla his second wicket to make it 182 for seven.

Roqibul and Rubel stayed put to the end of the 44th over and took the score to 203.

Antonio's dream comes true

Sports Reporter

BAGUIO, Philippines, Jan 12: Rogelio Antonio won the Philippine leg of the Asian Grandmaster chess circuit here Tuesday, in the process becoming the Philippines' third chess Grand Master (GM), reports AFP.

A large crowd burst in applause outside the playing hall as a steward stood the black king on its head on the demonstration board, signalling Indonesian Salor Sitanggang's surrender after 44 moves of a hard-fought Pirc game.

The win enabled the 30-year-old Antonio to collect 6.5 points, half a point more than necessary to complete the final requirement of the title, and ended chess-crazy Philippines' 17-year wait for its third GM.

The Filipino becomes only the 11th Asian to become part of the world's chess elite. Indonesia has three, India two, and Australia, Bangladesh and China one each. The Philippines produced the region's first GM in Eugene Torre in 1974 and Rosendo Balinas achieved the feat two years later.

"Thank God I finally got it after seven tries," said the lanky Antonio, who is something of a late bloomer having

Jan Timman draws first blood

SAN LORENZO DE ESCORIAL, Spain, Jan 12: Jan Timman of the Netherlands dramatically defeated Britain's Nigel Short after three and a half hours play in the second game of their world chess championship final eliminator on Monday, reports Reuter.

Short, playing white, blundered and lost a knight and resigned after 32 moves. Timman, the 41-year-old underdog, has thus drawn first blood in the 14-game series to decide who meets Gari Kasparov of Russia for the World Championship later this year. Sunday's opening match was drawn.

Former child prodigy Short, tipped by Kasparov himself as favourite to challenge for the world title, made a series of mistakes which experts agreed were probably provoked by desperate time-pressure.

After 25 moves, the British champion had only 20 minutes of thinking time remaining on his clock to reach the first time-control at 40 moves. Timman had 45 minutes left.

Angola, Zimbabwe share points

LUANDA, Jan 12: Adam Ndlozu eluded a loose Angolan defence to score in the 33rd minute, helping Zimbabwe to a 1-1 draw and moving them past Egypt into the Africa Group C lead in qualifying for the 1994 World Cup, reports AP.

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