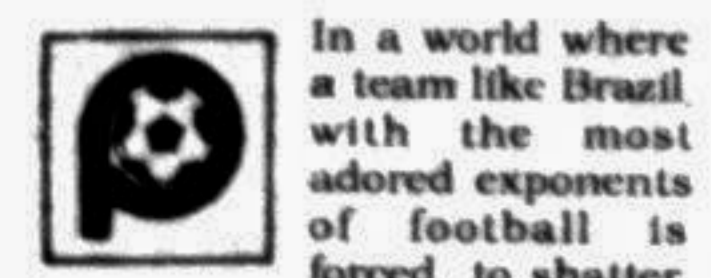


Favourites finish with flair

Sports Reporter



In a world where a team like Brazil with the most adored exponents of football is forced to shatter the dreams of its numerous fans sometimes by a nightmare called Paolo Rossi or on other occasions by one Claudio Caniggia, F.C Ploesti of Romania with a one nil victory against Polonia Warszawa of Poland in the final of the seventh President Gold Cup football tournament yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium proved that the most deserving team is not always deprived.

Not only in their 49 fouls, highest by any team in this 11-day meet comprising eight teams, Romanians reaped rich in their maiden appearance with a kind of romantic exuberance that had been on display from their first match against Housing Bank of Korea. They appeared to be the most drilled and skilled of the six foreign teams that vied for the Gold Cup along with the two local selections. Yesterday they did not let down those who put their shirts on them, outplaying their opponents from Poland with fine aggressive football. The pity of it was that they could not translate their supremacy in the number of goals.

Donned in bright yellow, a colour so inseparably associated with the Brazilians, F.C Ploesti booters often although vaguely approached the Latin gharana throughout the meet. Yesterday was no exception. Their distinct athleticism, artistically hidden in their apparently languid movement had the Poles concerned right from the very beginning. Flabber Wlodzimierz of the Polonia defender fouled Pura Ciprian within the first five minutes of the game and Stefan Matei, who can be termed as the motor of the Romanian club team chipped the ball from the resultant free kick from top of the box and Valeriu Rachita the sweeper latched on to it like a falling star but Rutkowski, the Polonia custodian was too quick in anticipation and agility on that occasion not to let Valeriu carry out his diabolical design.

Ciprian, the nippy forward of the eventual champions, broke clear following a cleverly served ball from the midfield by Mocanu Bujorel but his shot at the first post from right was parried away by the Pole custodian for a corner.

Shabbir to lead national team in Doha

Sports Reporter

Syed Rumman bin Wali Shabbir will lead the Bangladesh national team in an exhibition match to be held in Doha, Qatar on January 22.

Bangladesh will take on Al Raityan Sports Club in the friendly match. Kazi Salahuddin, star striker of yesterday, has been made the coach of the national squad. Md Shafiquzzaman and MA Azim Badal is the manager and assistant manager respectively while N. Nabi Chowdhury, a member of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will accompany the team as an observer.

Saifuddin Ahmed Mantik, an eminent politician of the country and a BFF member, who was named chef-de-mission has reportedly expressed his inability to join the team. Al Raityan Club, the organisers of the friendly match, will bear all the expenses of the Bangladesh team including travel expenses.

The BFF has selected the following 20 players for the match:

Goalkeepers: Kanan and Pontir.
Defenders: Kaiser Hamid, Monem Munna, Ataur, Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Pijush Nandi and Barun Dewan.
Midfielders: Syed Rumman bin Wali Shabbir (cap), Arman, Zakir, Tito, Rupu and Roxy.
Forwards: Rizvi Karim Rumi, Golam Ghaus, Mamun Joardar, Naqib and Rakib.

Selected players have been asked to report to the manager Shafiquzzaman today at 4:00 pm at the Dhaka Stadium.

V'ball results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Power Development Board and Bangladesh Police won their respective matches of the NBL First Division volleyball league at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

Power Development Board beat Nabagaroni Club 15-2, 15-5, 15-7 while Police beat Dhaka Greens 16-14, 15-5, 15-9.
Victoria Sporting Club outplayed Bashabo Tarun Sangha 15-1, 15-4, 15-4 while Bangladesh Bank beat Shantibagh Club 15-7, 15-12, 15-9 in the two matches of the Second Division league at the same venue.

Poles, who had a potential Caniggia in their ranks in Piotr Rowicki, back in action after having been forced to skip the semifinal because of the red card he received in the last group match against the Malaysians launched their first and possibly the last real sortie midway through the first half. Ryszard Stromecki, who was the lone ranger for the Poles yesterday, gave a ball to Sawa Mariusz on the left flank who in turn sent a neat low minus across the Romanian goal mouth but his effort went a-bagging as none of his teammates were at the right place at the right time, with the Romanian defence in a quandary.

The Poles, who in their black jersey and white shorts

Florin the status of being the highest scorer in this tourney with four goals, had it been few years back the goal could have served as an object lesson for renowned Bangladesh striker, who earlier in the tournament raised his hands relatedly in anticipation of a goal only to be duped in by the alertness of an opposition defender.

Anyway the goal which was deemed by many as tip-off of the Romanian romp did not really materialise. They held the whip-hand no doubt in the second half also but with their defence looking more than equal to stand up to the Polish challenge a certain apathy to go all-out for more goals perhaps at the risk some bruised ankles, was noticed. So the

Dzwigala as the best player of the tournament.

The Polish captain also collected a cheque of \$8000 from the Prime Minister.

With the actors, some depressed and some elated leaving the stage, that came alive from January 6, organisers the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) arranged a display of fireworks. However, there were many spectators in the stands to witness the pyrotechnics and the Romanian triumph. Tickets worth Taka 1,70,600 were sold yesterday raising BFF's total collection from this meet to Taka 16,32,510.

F.C. PLOESTI: C. Iulian, Daniel, P. Sawou, Ruse Nicolae, M. Jujoret, R. Valeriu, G. Octavian, Matei Stefan (C)



A scene from yesterday's final of the 7th President Gold Cup tournament between F.C Ploesti of Romania and Polonia Warszawa of Poland. Romanians won the match 1-0 to lift the trophy.

looked rather boorish, were amerced for their temerity by the Romanians few minutes after this counter attack. The lethal and elusive Pura Ciprian ran his guard on the left with a short burst and swung in a lovely minus, in came Simion Florin, controlled the running ball pronto, tried an overhead flick much to the dismay of an advancing Rutkowski and then beat the goalkeeper retreating in a desperate bid to collect the loose ball to round it off with a deft little nod in the 27th minute 1-0. Apparently simple the goal actually gave an observer the measure of vigilance, skill and coordination needed for a successful striker. Not unlikely the goal gave

ninety minutes ended with the champions looking champions and finally ending as what else? Champions.

Simion Florin was named players of the tournament by the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) while the peer and captain of the Romanian team received the replica of the original trophy and \$12000 cheque from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who watched the final as the chief guest. The Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) adjudged Rachita Valeriu as the player of the tournament. The Bangladesh Sports Photo Journalists' Association (BSPJA), a newly formed body picked Dartusz

Marcel, Simion Florin, Grama Marian and Pura Ciprian (N. Valentin).

POLONIA WARSZAWA: R. Wieslaw, G. Kaduszy, F. Wlodzimierz, T. Zbigniew, K. Pawel, S. Ryszard, D. Dartusz, K. Pawel (P. Jacek), D. Pawel, R. Piotr and Sawa Mariusz.
Referee— Chul Chang-Seon (South Korea).

Timman pays for carelessness

SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL, Spain, Jan 16: Nigel Short of Britain defeated Jan Timman of the Netherlands on Friday in the fourth game of their final climinator contest for the world chess championship, reports Reuter.

Short now leads two and a half to Timman's one and a half in the 14-game series. The winner will challenge Garri Kasparov for the world title.

The Dutch champion, playing black, resigned on the 59th move after amazing experts with a disastrous error after nearly five hours play.

Timman carelessly moved a knight to the back row on his 41st move, allowing the British champion's powerful forces to overwhelm his defences. The Dutchman's cause was hopeless after Short forced him to give up a rook for a bishop.

The result was a surprise after early play suggested that a draw was imminent. After 25 moves, Timman had an extra pawn while Short had a pair of bishops as compensation.

"Everyone thought it was going to be a draw," said Grandmaster Raymond Keene.

Pak clubs may play in Dhaka

Sports Reporter

A club cricket championship comprising four teams — two local clubs and two from Pakistan — is likely to be held in Dhaka between the second and third week of February. This was learnt from a senior official of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) yesterday.

Airport Gymkhana of Pakistan has reportedly shown keen interest to take part in a meet which if realised will be the first of its kind in Bangladesh. The other team likely to take part is Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). The local teams are, reigning Navana Premier Division league champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra.

However, certain amount of doubts loom large over PIA's participation as the team will be without the services of some of its top players, who will definitely be touring South Africa then with the Pakistan national cricket team.

In the event of non-availability of the fancied airline team from Pakistan the organisers may muster in a local side, probably Brothers Union, the runners-up of the Damal Summer cricket tournament, a curtain raising meet of the domestic cricket season.

The BCCB is poring over the possibility of arranging a couple of matches involving the visitors outside Dhaka, probably in Sylhet and Chittagong.

It has also been learnt the BCCB has invited Zimbabwe, the youngest member of the Test family, to play a number of limited over matches prior to their tour of India beginning on March 6. Zimbabwe will play one Test and three one dayers against India. However, the BCCB is yet to receive any reply from its Zimbabwean counterpart.

Nirman schools cricket results

Sports Reporter

Blossom International and Bangladesh Rifles High School won their respective matches of the Dhaka zonal championship for the eleventh Nirman schools cricket tournament at two city venues yesterday.

At the St Joseph's High School ground, Blossom International beat Rahmatullah Model High School by three wickets.

Batting first Rahmatullah School made 237 for the loss of six wickets in the stipulated 35 overs with skipper Yusuf Kabir remaining unbeaten on 121.

Jahangir took four wickets for 28 runs.

In reply, Blossom International made 241 losing seven wickets in only 24.1 overs.

Liton topscored with 66 while Tasnim scored 45 and Imran 40.

Yousuf Kabir and Chand Mia took two wickets apiece for Rahmatullah School.

Yousuf Kabir was adjudged man-of-the-match for his fine century.

At the Golapbagh ground, Bangladesh Rifles School outplayed Post Office High School by 74 runs.

Batting first Rifles School were all out for 167 in 33.5 overs with Sabet Sobhan and Tanvir making 40 and 33 runs respectively.

Pappu bagged four wickets conceding 37 runs for Post Office School.

Post Office School were shot out for a paltry 93 in 20 overs.

Sundries yielded some 28 runs while Munna made 22 for Post Office School.

Sarwar and Satter bagged three wickets each for Rifles School.

TODAY'S MATCH

Nabakumar Ins vs West Dhanmondi Yousuf School (Golapbagh ground)



Dariusz Dzwigala, the captain of runners-up Polonia Warszawa, receiving the Bangladesh Sports Photo Journalists' Association (BSPJA) crest for the best player of the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Krylia Sovetov finish third

Sports Reporter

Krylia Sovetov of Russia were richer for \$5000 when they beat Housing Bank of South Korea

three goals to one in the third place decider held before the final of seventh President Gold Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Russians, who lost to the eventual champions F.C Ploesti of Romania by a solitary goal in the second semifinal, led the first half three nil.

Vladimir Philippov, the tall Russian striker scored the first goal in a spectacular fashion in the very first minute when he dodged past two Korean defenders inside the box and beat Kim Hee-Ho, the custodian 1-0.

Philippov doubled the margin when he spectacularly volleyed home a throw in by Dimitrov from the left 2-0. The goal took Philippov's personal tally to three, next only to Simion Florin, the highest scorer of the tournament.

Fomine the industrious Russian media made it three nil midway through the first

half. Russians, who literally steamrolled the Koreans with their clinical finish and supremacy both in the air and on the field, dominated the second half also. However, the Koreans pulled one back through Lee Oh-Yun immediately after the breather.

Koreans, who had the consolation of winning the fair-play trophy, appeared a jaded lot. Earlier, Koreans put up a spirited show against Polonia Warszawa of Poland in the first semifinal Wednesday last. After having dominated the entire first half with fast attacking football with their star striker Choi Tae-Ho spearheading their attack Koreans succumbed to two quick second half goals by the eventual runners-up. Choi Tae-Ho, one of the outstanding players of this meet, scored three goals to share the slot of second highest goal scorer along with two other players.

Sovetov entered the semifinals with five points from three matches while Koreans scrambled in the last four with four points from three group

matches. Eight teams — six foreign and two local — took part in this competition which began on December 6. Apart from Bangladesh Reds and Greens, the two local outfits, the six foreign teams were, FC Ploesti (Romania), Polonia Warszawa (Poland), Tatran Presov (Slovak), Housing Bank of South Korea, the team which won BFF's fair-play trophy, Krylia Sovetov of Russia and Malaysian Olympic football team.

TEAMS

KRYLIA SOVETOV: Victor Gaous, Alexander Tsygankov, Vasil Jupikov, Serguei Grubov, Valerie Toumaikine, Serguei Marouso, Iori Semine, Diner Sharipov, Dmitry Ivanov, Vladimir Philippov, Vyatcheslav Fomine.

HOUSING BANK: Kim Hee-Ho, Jung Yun-Tack, Kim Yong-Kuk, Lee Oh-Kyun, Um Sung-Yong, Cho Tai-Ho, Oh Ilae-Jong, Choi Eun-Sok, Min Cha-Sick, Shin Ho-Chul (Kweon Tae-Seok) and Kang Do-Sin.
Referee: Nazir Hossain (Bangladesh).

Russians secure third place

Sports Reporter

A gritty 99-run fourth-wicket partnership between Biplob and Shri Lankan Rajkumara ensured a six-wicket Dhanmondi Club victory over City Club in the Mirpur First Division super league match at the Mirpur Pallab ground yesterday.

Set to chase 116 for victory in 45 overs Dhanmondi Club sailed home with more than eight overs to spare.

Dulu, the Dhanmondi skipper, invited City Club to bat after winning the toss.

Shammi and Rajkumara, opening the attack, wiped the top-order within the space of 10 overs to reduce City Club to a desperate 22 for five.

Al Amin and Nahid withstood the pressure applied by the duo for sometime and took the total past the half century mark when Sohel came in to prolong their woe. Sohel snapped two quick wickets to make the City Club batsmen reel on 52 for seven and it seemed they won't make it past 60.

But a rearguard action from Kamu saw City Club to a respectable 115 in 39.2 runs. Kamu topscored with 25 while Nahid, who showed true grit earlier in the innings, made 22. The two other batsmen to reach the double digit score were Al Amin and Sujon who contributed 10 and 11 runs respectively. Extras provided as many as 31 runs.

Shammi and Sohel claimed three wickets each while Rajkumara took two.

Dhanmondi Club, when their turn came, got off to a

nightmarish start losing the first seven wickets for a poor score of seven runs. Suddenly, what seemed to be an easy target took the shape of a formidable one.

But Biplob and Rajkumara didn't lose their cool. The two kept their heads down and played cautiously to pull their side out of trouble.

The pair took the total to 106 before Rajkumara went back after a sedate 41 off 96 balls studded with five shots across the fence.

Biplob and Atiya gathered the required nine runs to see their side through.

Biplob made a determined 50 punctuated by five fours.

Brothers Union face IPWD in today's match.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Rayerbazar Club beat Cantonian Sports Club by 55 runs in the only match of the Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Batting first Rayerbazar made 192 for the loss of eight wickets while Rashed topscoring with 78 and Sayeed made 26 while extras contributed a staggering 51 to the total.

Cantonian Sports Club were bundled out for 137 in 30.5 overs.

Bulbul topscored with 37 while Labib made 28 runs.

Pintu took four wickets conceding only 21 runs for Rayerbazar Club.

TODAY'S MATCH

Orient SC vs Dhanmondi Pragati (DCS)

N'ganj cricket

Sports Reporter

A brilliant 188 from national opener Jahangir helped Maghbazar Udayan Sangha clinch the Fourth Shaheed Noor Hossain memorial cricket tournament when they beat Eastern Sporting Club by 90 runs in Narayanganj yesterday, says a press release.

Batting first Udayan Sangha made 316 for the loss of four wickets in 39 overs with Jahangir topscoring with 188. Aminul Islam Bulbul and Minhazul Abedin Nannu got 30 and 27 respectively.

Eastern Sporting, in their turn, were bundled out for 226 with Ripon making 78 and Zakaria 39.

Piyal bagged four wickets for 56 while Rafiq and Nannu took two wickets apiece.

Jahangir of Udayan Sangha was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Bappi, Al Amin and Nahid claimed one wicket apiece.

War Club will be up against Agrani Bank today, at the Mirpur Pallab ground.

NAVANA LEAGUE

Meanwhile, the scheduled Navana Premier Division league match between Surjo Tarun and Gulshan Youth fell through owing to what a BCCB official termed as under-prepared ticket. But it has been learnt that the match was not held due to reported unwillingness of Gulshan Youth. The fate of the match will be decided at the next meeting of the league committee.

Brothers Union face IPWD in today's match.

Courier wars up well

ADELAIDE, Jan 16: Defending Australian Open champion Jim Courier overcame a poor start Saturday to beat Petr Korda 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the final of the Rio Challenge exhibition tennis tournament, reports AP.

Courier, who will begin defence of his Australian Open crown next week at Melbourne, was swept off the court in the first set by a succession of Korda winners from the baseline.

But Courier, the world's top-ranked player, fought back to take the match and claim the \$1.5 million prize. It was his second consecutive win in the six-man tournament at Memorial Drive.

Courier, of the United States, and Korda, from the Czech Republic, had both finished their respective round-robin groups with 2-0 records. On Friday, Courier beat Michael Stich of Germany and Korda defeated Stefan Edberg of Sweden.

"It was a good thing for me to be looking down the barrel of a gun and then to come back," Courier said.

The first set lasted 27 minutes, with Korda in total control from the baseline. Courier said he felt overwhelmed and just kept trying to stay in the match.

"Petr kicked my butt," Courier said. "I didn't have much of a chance to play, the just overwhelmed me. I said to myself I've just got to dig in here and hope he plays a level below what he is playing."

The Australian Open, the first Grand Slam event of 1993, opens Monday at the National Tennis Centre.



Champions F.C Ploesti of Romania with the President Gold Cup. Ploesti beat Polonia Warszawa 1-0 in the final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.