

Uddam clinch Ctg hockey title

CHITTAGONG, May 16: Uddam Hockey Club emerged champions of the Navana Metropolitan hockey league beating Mehdiabagh Krira Chakra 1-0 in the last match of the league at the Dampara Police Lines ground this afternoon, reports BNA.

Rashed Min scored the match-winner in the 30th minute to lead Uddam to the top of points table with a possible ten from five encounters. Mehdiabagh, who conceded their first defeat today however, fought back fiercely as luck would have it they came out empty handed.

Rashed bin Amin of Uddam Club became the top scorer of the league with seven goals including a double hat-trick against Hockey Kendra yesterday.

The champions will be awarded a cash money of taka four thousand and the runners-up taka three thousand at a function to be held later this month. The champions will play against the best eleven of the league in an exhibition match after the prize-giving ceremony.

POINTS TABLE

Club	P	W	D	L	P
Uddam Hockey Club	5	5	0	0	10
Mehdiabagh					
Krira Chakra	5	4	0	1	8
Chattal					
Hockey Club	5	2	1	2	5
Nabayan Club	5	2	0	0	4
Hockey Kendra	5	1	1	3	3
Chandgonj Club	5	0	0	5	0

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1988	Anirban	Newjoan
1989	Mehdiabagh	Chandgonj
	Krira	Club
1990	Was not held	
1991	Mehdiabagh	Uddam
1992	Was not held	
1993	Uddam	Mehdiabagh

Baishakhi h'ball Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club posted a comfortable 29-9 triumph over Mansur Sporting Club after leading the first half 15-6 in the Baishakhi handball championship at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Iqbal topscored with seven goals for the victors while Akram, Mahub, Rashedul and Sabir netted five times each.

For Mansur Sporting, Rajjak scored seven goals.

In the other engagement of the day, Surjodoy Boys Club outclassed Pragati Boys Club 39-21 after dominating the first half 18-9.

Jewel netted as many as 13 goals for the winners followed by Babu with nine.

Bishnu and Swapan scored five each for the losers.

Eubank retains WBO title

GLASGOW, Scotland, May 16: Chris Eubank retained his World Boxing Organization super-middleweight title Saturday night after a 12-round draw against Northern Ireland's Ray Close, reports AP.

Eubank knocked his opponent to the canvas once, with a right uppercut early in the 11th, but the Belfast boxer staggered to his feet at the count of nine and English referee Paul Thomas allowed the fight to continue.

Close endured the round and came back to better his English opponent in a high-paced final frame as both fighters realized the title was up for grabs.

Danish judge Torben Hansen scored the fight 116-112 for Eubank, while Dave Parris of England favoured Close, 116-113. England's Roy Francis put the fighters level, 115-115.

He came to fight, said Eubank. I thought my skills would be enough to take him out when I wanted but I couldn't.

Still, Eubank felt he had clearly won.

Bad day for Cuban boxers at Tampere

TAMPERE, Finland, May 16: Cuba's predicted gold rush at the world amateur boxing championships got off to a bad start here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Cuba, dominating the event, boasted a fighter in all but one of the 12 finals but they had to wait until half way through Saturday's six-fight programme before clinching their first win.

Earlier, the Cubans were reduced to spectators as Armenian straw weight Nshan Munchina, a bronze medalist at the World Championships in 1989, won the first gold medal on offer by beating Bulgarian Daniel Petrov 8-6 on points.

The Cubans opened their campaign in the bantam-weight division with Olympic champion Joel Casamayor, but his opponent, Alexander Christov from Bulgaria, caused a major upset by winning 13-7 on points.

Phil Coles, along with Kevan

Seventeen more to the glory



President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch (C) is presented with football jerseys by Wallabies Rugby Union captain Phil Kearns (L) and Blues rugby league captain Laurie Daly (R) in Sydney yesterday. Samaranch completed his three-day inspection of Sydney's candidacy for hosting the 2000 Olympic Games by saying the city's bid was "definitely a front-runner." — AFP photo

Samaranch arrives today

Sports Reporter

International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch arrives in the city today on a day's goodwill visit.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka, Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) president Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Bashir Ahmed, Secretary General of the BOA, will be at the Zia International Airport to receive the IOC chief.

Samaranch, who ended a three-day visit to Sydney, one of the two strongest bidders for the 2000 Olympic Games Sunday, will fly in on his private jet at 11 in the morning. He will be accompanied by his daughter Maria Teresa Samaranch de Graz, adviser Fekrou Kidane, the IOC public relations director Andrew Alexander Napier and Anne Marie Inehuspe, secretary to the IOC chief.

Samaranch will meet the Sports Minister at his Secretariat office before a river cruise on board the Ostrich. During the working lunch on this three-hour trip he will exchange views with officials of the different national sports federations.

In the afternoon Samaranch, 72, will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office. At 6:00 pm he will meet the press at the Sonargaon Hotel, where he will be staying.

After spending an hour or

so with the journalists the most powerful man in the international sports arena will head for the Dhaka Stadium to watch the DMFA Cup football final round match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Wari Club. The Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA).



J A SAMARANCH

organisers of the meet, made slight adjustments to the schedule, advancing the May 18 fixture by a day, with a view to presenting before the distinguished guest a better example of our soccer standard.

The IOC chief will end his first day's engagements by attending a dinner and a cultural show at his hotel.

Before leaving the city for the Bhutanese capital Thimpu Tuesday morning, Samaranch will have breakfast with President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban.

Meanwhile, his daughter

Maria Teresa Samaranch de Graz will have a different schedule which features a visit to the National Women's Sports Complex at Dhanmondi and the National Museum at Shabbagh this afternoon.

The Bangladesh Olympic Association is expected to ask the IOC chief for increased financial and technical assistance. Bangladesh currently benefits from a series of regular Olympic Solidarity courses under the aegis of the IOC.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, who was born in the Spanish city of Barcelona in 1920, is currently serving his third term as the IOC president.

The businessman-turned-diplomat-turned-sports administrator, who has been a Spanish ambassador to the former Soviet Union, was first elected president at the IOC congress during the Moscow Olympics in 1980, succeeding Lord Killanin of Ireland.

Samaranch, then a vice-president of the IOC and president of the Spanish Olympic Committee, was the central force in the holding of the Second Mediterranean Games in his native town of Barcelona.

An Olympian himself, having represented Spain in the Games, Samaranch currently owns a business syndicate.

For Samaranch the crowning moment of his illustrious career came last year when his native town Barcelona staged the Greatest Show on Earth — the Games of the 25th Olympiad.

MSC's third Sports Reporter

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their third consecutive win in the Green Delta First Division hockey league beating Azad Sporting Club 3-0 at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

After a goalless first half, Chapal scored the first goal in the 40th minute. The second came from a field goal in the 53rd minute through Sadek. Rubel completed the tally nine minutes from the final whistle through yet another field goal.

Mumtaz Haider, the Pakistani forward who renewed his contract with the reigning champions for another year, made his first appearance in this year's league as a substitute.

In the other match of the day, Dhaka Ansars edged past Bangladesh Sporting Club by a 40th minute field goal from Azizul Haq.

ROK in command

BEIRUT, May 16: South Korea beat Hong Kong to take command of their World Cup qualifying Group on the final day of its stay in Beirut on Saturday, reports AFP.

The Koreans dominated the Group D match and were rewarded with brilliant goals from Seok Ju-Ha, Jung Won-Seo and Moon Sik-Choi. Shots were constantly peppered at Chung Ho-Yins goal.

South Korea, who host the next stage of the tournament in Seoul in June, are now two points clear off Hong Kong at the top of the group.

Hong Kong stayed in the match for the first quarter of an hour, but then their opponents moved up a gear.

South Korea had one free kick in a dangerous position blocked, but seconds later Kim Tae-Youngs shot was deflected into the path of Ha who steered the ball home from close range.

Ha is now the tournaments top scorer with three goals. But he was the victim of South Korea's scorching attack. Jung Won-Seo's shot was one of the fiercest seen at the Bourj Hamoud Stadium and Ha took the ball in the stomach needing several minutes treatment.

Seo got another chance early in the second half with which he made no mistake. Given the ball in the middle of the Hong Kong penalty area he shot through the legs of Chung, the goalkeeper.

The third goal was as decisive. Moon-Sik-Choi picked up a cross from Seo, beat two defenders and the goalkeeper before shooting in.

South Korea have yet to concede a goal in the tournament in which they have scored seven times.

Stamina is the key, says ROK coach

BEIRUT, May 16: South Korea's superior stamina saw them take the upperhand in the football battle of Beirut with Hong Kong, according to their coach Kim Ho, reports AFP.

Having started with an uncertain 0-0 draw against Bahrain in Group D of the Asia Zone World Cup qualifying contest, South Korea were firing on all cylinders in their 3-0 win against Hong Kong on Saturday.

"The Hong Kong team were tired from the previous matches. That is why we got three goals," said Kim.

"We have got better with every match. That was the best we have played here but I am still not satisfied. I am always looking for ways of producing better results," he added in a clear hint at big changes in the squad for the second half of the tournament in Seoul.

Sydney's spirit sublimated

SYDNEY, May 16: Sydney, embroiled in what it sees as a two-horse race with Beijing to host the 2000 Olympics, has been encouraged by the comments of Juan Antonio Samaranch during the Olympic chief's appraisal visit this weekend, reports AFP.

Australia's oldest city of three million plus is one of six cities in the scramble to stage the turn-of-the-century Games. More than 90 International Olympic Committee (IOC) delegates will make their choice in Monte Carlo on September 23.

Invoking his diplomacy skills to the full, the one-time Spanish ambassador to Moscow tantalised his Sydney hosts, who hung on to his every word for a nuance as to which way he was positioning his vote influence.

"After the start maybe one (bid) will be faster than the others ... I think the Sydney bid will be very, very fast."

For a city expending hundreds of millions of dollars cultivating and Olympic Games bid, any crumb of encouragement is devoured with zeal.

Although Sydney 2000 bid organisers are publicly reluctant at raising concerns over China's human rights record, media reports here continue to spotlight the perceived weakness, along with Beijing's smog and choked thoroughfares.

Phil Coles, along with Kevan

Seventeen more to the glory

KATHMANDU, Nepal, May 16: A total of 17 climbers, including two Americans, reached the top of Mount Everest Sunday, bringing the number of people who have climbed the world's highest peak this season to 59, the Tourism Ministry said, reports AP.

After his helicopter flight, Samaranch said: "What I saw this morning I think is the real beginning of a new age of sport in Sydney."

This park will provide a healthy lifestyle to all the community," New South Wales



Mumtaz Haider, Mohammedan Sporting's Pakistani forward, makes his way past a couple of diving Azad Sporting Club players during the Green Delta First Division hockey league match at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Mumtaz made his first appearance in this year's league as a substitute. — Star photo

Wari Club in final round

Sports Reporter

Wari Club booked their DMFA Cup final round berth as Group B champions when they beat Farashganj Sporting Club by three goals to nil in the group final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

However, Wari's first match in the round will not be an easy one as they meet Abahani Krira Chakra in the opening match of the round robin final phase today, a day earlier than originally scheduled, with a view to presenting before International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch, who arrives in the city this morning on a day's goodwill visit, a better example of our soccer standard.

Under a cloudy sky on a damp Dhaka Stadium pitch Wari started the match very confidently controlling the midfield from very early on. The Wari booters pushed Farashganj to the corner with a couple of very well-synchronised attacks.

Shahjahan Bobby, the younger brother of national captain Kaiser Hamid, netted the first Wari goal in the 11th

minute with a fierce drive which caught Dilu, the Farashganj custodian, completely by surprise (1-0).

Egged on by an early goal the Wari booters simply stepped up the pressure on their opponents to widen the margin before the referee's short whistle.

Sudhir gave the winners their second goal when volleyed home from inside the penalty area in the 24th minute (2-0).

Having been dominated throughout the first session and down by two goals, the Farashganj players pulled up their socks in the second half. They fought neck and neck but still couldn't deny the victors their third goal.

Two minutes from the final whistle, Sudhir made the most of a goalmouth melee for his second goal of the match (3-0). Farashganj managed a consolation in the dying seconds when the striker drove home from an indirect free-kick from the top of the D-box (3-1).

Wari were down to ten men when referee Nurul Islam gave Tutul the marching orders for

second bookable offence. His teammate Bobby and Amin of Farashganj also faced the referee's wrath causing the latter cautioned them with yellow card.

Meanwhile, the Group A final between Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society and Dhanmondi Club had to be called after 33 minutes owing to a heavy downpour.

When the second match of the day started under heavily overcast sky, it was quite apparent the match wouldn't go too far. Rain came rushing in 25 minutes into the first half forcing a break. After a 20-minute break, the match resumed but had to be postponed again eight minutes later, this time for the day due to the soggy pitch.

TEAMS

WARI CLUB: Bijon, Ripon, Chotan, Partha, Haran (Chanchal), Khabir, Yousof, Bobby, Sankar, Tutul and Sudhir.

FARASHGANJ SC: Dilu, Shibu, Salahuddin (Nazrul), Rouf Babul, Amin, Zakir, Selim, Monir, Mastan (Liton), Jamal and Tipu.

Arsenal, Wednesday deadlocked

LONDON, May 16: Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday must replay on Thursday to decide the destiny of the FA Cup after two hours' football left them deadlocked at 1-1 in Saturday's final here at Wembley, reports AFP.

Deadly striker Ian Wright put Arsenal in line to become the first club to win both English football's major knockout competitions in one season by heading the London Club in front after 21 minutes.

But David Hirst cancelled out his England teammate's goal in the 61st minute and kept Wednesday in with a chance of avenging their League Cup final defeat by the Gunners last month.

The 30 minutes' extra-time then failed to separate the exhausted finalists, who had each played five league games in the 11 days before the clash.

Arsenal owed much to goalkeeper David Seaman for their interval advantage, the England international pulling off two superb saves in the opening 11 minutes to keep Wednesday out.

He tipped over Carlton Palmer's near-post flick from John Sheridan's corner in the

third minute and then fisted over Chris Waddle's 30-yard free-kick eight minutes later.

But Wright swung the game Arsenal's way with his 29th goal of the season. Paul Davis' free-kick was headed across goal by Andy Linington to the England international, who nodded the ball firmly past Chris Woods.

Woods then needed to be on his toes to snatch Lee Dixon's blistering 20-yarder in the 39th minute.

The resumption brought a revival in Wednesday's fortunes, through, and Seaman again came to Arsenal's rescue twice in quick succession.

First he palmed round a point-black header from David Hirst in the 46th minute and a minute later Seaman denied the Wednesday striker again, parrying a fierce right-footer.

Seven minutes later, though, Wednesday were level after a magnificent move, Sheridan's diagonal cross was flicked on by Bright to John Harkes and the American unselfishly headed the ball into the path of Hirst, who fired home.

Arsenal brought on England striker Alan Smith for midfielder Ray Parlour in the 65th minute in an effort to take

some of the pressure off Wright and it worked.

Suddenly it was the Gunners who were back in command and but for the agility of Woods, extra-time would not have been needed for the ninth time in the last 13 FA Cup finals, the England goalkeeper turning over Wright's hooked close-range shot in the 90th minute.

That was the Arsenal striker's last effort of the game, as he was surprisingly replaced by Irish veteran defender David O'Leary before the extra 30 minutes started.

With this move, the Gunners seemed to be playing for a replay and Wednesday could not capitalise, although they came the closest to breaking the deadlock three minutes from the end, Seaman fisting over Roland Nilsson's long shot.

TEAMS

ARSENAL: David Seaman, Lee Dixon, Nigel Winterburn, Andy Linington, Tony Adams, Kevin Campbell, Ian Wright (David O'Leary 91), Paul Merson, Ray Parlour (Alan Smith 65), Paul Davis, John Jensen.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: Chris Woods, Roland Nilsson, Nigel Worthington, Carlton Palmer, David Hirst, Viv Anderson (Graham Hyde 85), Chris Waddle (Chris Bart-Williams 112), Paul Warhurst, Mark Bright, John Sheridan, John Harkes.

Referee: Keren Barratt (Coventry).

France make it to last eight

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 16: France qualified for the quarter-finals of the world table tennis championships here on Saturday — but not without a fight from surprise package Romania, reports AFP.

One match away from a medal, coach Christian Gatten, France's Olympic silver medalist, won both his matches, but Christophe Legout was upstaged by Romanian number one Vasile Florea.

Didier Mommessin made hard work of beating Christian Tol but won 21-11 in the third.

Romania had earlier on Saturday beaten both Finland and Indonesia to earn their play-off place, while France rested and waited.

To chants of Philou from the vocal French supporters, Gatten easily beat Vasile Calus and was never in serious trouble.



Ian Wright of Arsenal (L) scores the first goal during the first half of the FA Cup final dodging Sheffield Wednesday's Paul Warhurst in London on May 15. — AFP photo