

Bima cling to a victory

Sports Reporter

Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha staved off a spirited charge by Azad Sporting Club in the last few minutes to cling to a 3-2 victory in the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Sadharan Bima, who dropped only one point against Police Athletic Club in their five matches so far, opened the account in the 26th minute through Abdul Malek Chinnu from a penalty corner (1-0).

Fifteen minutes into the second half the insurance men got their second goal when Murad caged a measured Chinnu cross (2-0).

Seven minutes later Chand drove home from a perfect Naqib cross (3-0).

When things seemed beyond Azad Sporting Club's reach, the unfancied club launched a last ditch effort. Tutul reduced the gap three minutes from the final whistle when he converted a penalty stroke (3-1).

Tension mounted in the Bima camp just one minute later when Masud capitalised on a goalmouth melee to leave Azad just one goal away from their second point of the league (3-2).

But as ill luck would have it two minutes were not enough to draw level and Azad Sporting had to be satisfied with the consoling thought that they had tried.

The match was interrupted for nearly half an hour due to rain.

In the first match of the day, Sonali Bank and Wari Club fought for a goalless draw.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Ansars vs Bangladesh Railway
Usha KC vs PWD

Div II cricket qualifiers

Sports Reporter

Mirpur Cricket Club, Ankur Cricketers, Azampur Boys Club, Seven Star and Kagozita Club registered victories in their respective Second Division cricket qualifying tournament encounters at different venues across the capital yesterday.

Mirnal captured seven wickets conceding only 16 runs to lead Mirpur Cricket Club to an exciting one-run victory over Spatan Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Sent in to bat first the Mirpur cricketers managed 77 in 21 overs.

For Spatan, Sohag and Jashim claimed three and two wickets respectively.

In reply in the face of Mirnal's devastating spell the Spatan innings crumbled down on 76 in 17.5 overs.

At the Jagannath Hall ground of the Dhaka University, Ankur Cricketers outlasted Apurba Jubo Sangha by 28 runs.

Batting first, Ankur Cricketers made 119 losing five wickets in 30 overs with Mukti topscoring with 38 followed by Sohag making 17.

Apurba Jubo Sangha could manage 91 in 25.5 overs in reply.

Mahmud and Biplob contributed 21 and 20 respectively.

Pappu and Sohag picked up three wickets each for the winners.

Azampur Boys Club recorded a five-wicket win over Western Sporting Club at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Winning the toss Western Sporting Club decided to bat first and made 103 in 27.3 overs with Shahidul notching up 29 and Shahriar 19.

Kaiser and Reza took three and two wickets at the cost of 22 and 19 runs respectively.

Azampur reached the target in 23.2 overs making 105 for the loss of five wickets.

Mamun topscored with an unbeaten 20 followed by Dipu with 19.

Mehrud and Mustafiz took two wickets each.

Kanok and Tushar scored 45 each to lead Seven Star to a 14-run triumph over Ibrahimpur Eleven at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (west).

Ibrahimpur Eleven put Seven Star into bat after winning the toss.

Seven Star amassed 152 for nine wickets in the stipulated 30 overs.

Chasing 153 to win Ibrahimpur Eleven reached 138 for the loss of nine wickets when the last ball was bowled.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Kagozita Club registered a comfortable 47-run victory over Surjodoy Sangha.

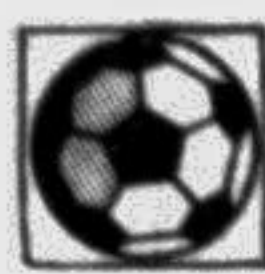
Having been sent to bat first Kagozita Club scored 136 in 26 overs losing nine of their men.

In reply, Surjodoy Sangha were shot out for 89 in 21.5 overs.

For Kagozita Jabbar and Zakir captured three wickets each giving away 12 and 24 respectively.

Abahani in DMFA Cup final

Sports Reporter



Rumi Rizvi Karim's prolific goal scoring form paved the path for Abahani Krira Chakra's untroubled passage to the final of the DMFA Cup as the men from Dhanmondi netted one goal in each half against former champions Brothers Union in the first semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

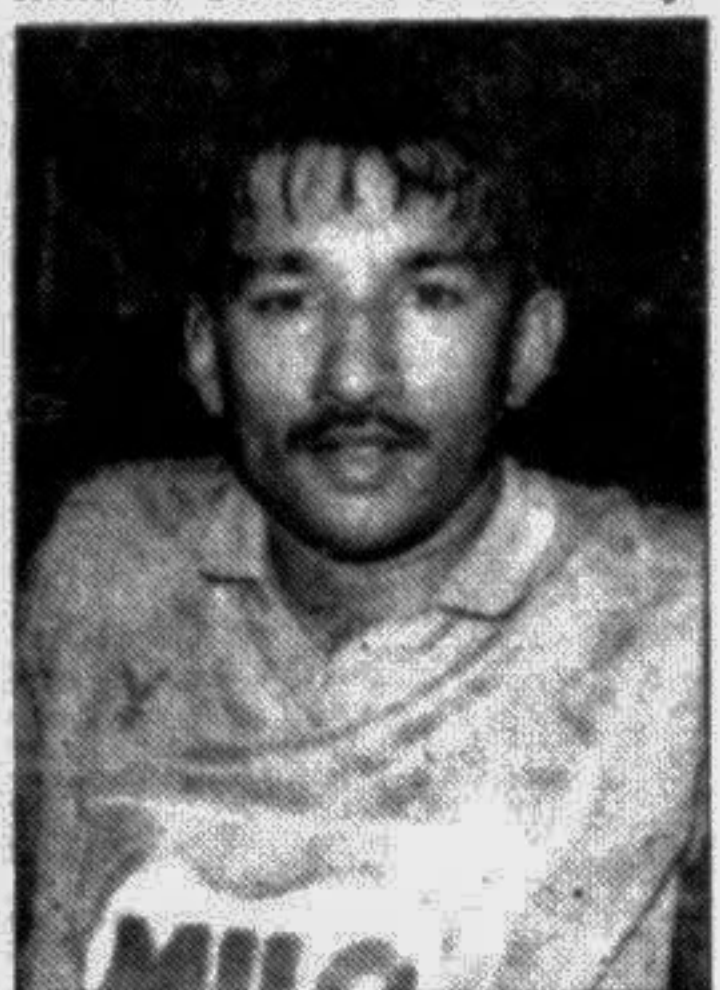
Celebrating his first year as Abahani's captain Rumi took his personal tally in this meet to seven. Yesterday, Rumi gave the sky blues lead three minutes before the short whistle with a spectacular headed goal and then converted a spot kick midway through the second half to seal the fate of the match.

Brothers were never in with any chance during the ninety minutes of mindless, combustion of calories by players of both sides. The consummate ease with which Abahani disposed the joint champions of the last and first DMFA Cup, held way back in 1984 Brothers shared the trophy with Mohammedans underlined the poor brand of soccer dished out by both sides to the largest turnout of the tourney so far, who ignored the sickening heat and humidity of late May to absorb some pure entertainment.

Unfortunately there was very little by way of regale and Abahani's emergence as one of the finalists remained the only consolation for the vociferous partisan supporters. They had another source of exultation in Rumi whose Bastenesque goal-hungriness has been one of the most remarkable features in sky

traditional blue jersey and shorts.

Abahani took the cue from this pre-match psychological booster and had their opponents pinned down right from the word go. There was hardly any coordination in the Abahani attacks as most of the forays



RUMI... 7th goal.

were carried down the middle instead of being launched down the flanks.

Mamun Joarder and Ahmed were inactive in the upfront where only Rumi continued to be the source of constant headache for the Brothers defence, otherwise managed well by Pijush, Moon, Debashish and Parvez.

Brothers defence had to handle extra pressure on slushy ground as the midfield of the Gopibagh team totally collapsed and frontliners Mizan, Riaz and Rakib, who had earlier shown fine form, kept on getting fanned in the off-side trap laid

Just when it seemed that the Brothers defence had seen through the first session without any damage the cookies crumbled. Rehan, the Abahani defender won a ball in the midfield and passed on to Mamunul Karim who in turn gave it to Gaus on the left flank. The dark winger dodged his man and curled in a neat minus for Rumi, who with venom and speed of a hooded cobra, nodded the ball in past a helpless Ponir (1-0).

Coach Salahuddin's tips during the break did a world of good as Abahani increased the width of the pitch with frequent wing-play for the rest of the match. Pressure told on the Brothers defence and both their side backs got beaten time and again as Mamun Joarder on the right and Gaus on the left flank kept on probing.

A telling run down the middle by Zakir following a paralyzing through saw Ponir resort to last ditch measure — a straight forward tripping and referee Badruddin had no hesitation in awarding Abahani a spot kick. Rumi duly converted the penalty to set the stands ablaze (2-0).

Gaus, Ahmed and Mamun missed a few sitters at the dying stage which had very little to note other than suicidal injury to Abahani custodian Mohsin who had to leave the field on a stretcher. Mohsin was accidentally hit on the leg by defender Rehan who was trying cover the advancing custodian rushing out of his charge to beat the onrushing Brothers forward Rakib for a



Ponir, the Brothers custodian who had a fairly busy day yesterday in his side's semifinal clash against Abahani Krira Chakra, is seen collecting a ball ahead of the Abahani forwards at the Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo

blues' trial upto the final. Rumi's achievement has been further highlighted in the backdrop of the departure of principal goalgetter Sheikh Md Aslam, who after almost a decade with the Dhanmondi club opted for arch rivals Mohammedans recently.

The match got off to a delayed start as Brothers perhaps bored by their customary orange combination entered the field in blue outfit of all colours and had the mortification of reverting back to the 'discarded' once Abahani took the field in their

by the Abahani defence.

Although corners were galore Abahani got the first real chance 19 minutes into the first half when an elusive Rumi rose clear to nod a flag-kick but the attempt otherwise all right, lacked in direction and the besieged Brothers defence let go a sigh of relief.

Unplanned sully by Abahani forwards often stretched the Brothers defence but on an ideal pitch for any goalkeeper Ponir, the Brothers custodian, demonstrated appreciable physical and mental agility to nip those moves in the bud.

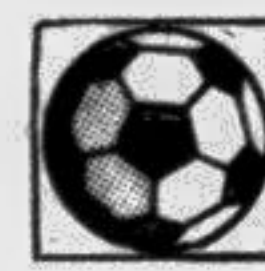
common ball. Ponir and Debashish of Brothers Union, and Masud Rana of Abahani were cautioned with yellow card.

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Mohsin (Selim), Alamgir (Shakil), Rehan, Munna, Masud Rana, Zakir, Mamunul Karim, Rumi, Gaus, Ahmed and Mamun Joarder.

BROTHERS UNION: Ponir, Pijush, Moon, Debashish, Parvez, Ataur, Manik, Rupu, Rakib, Mizan and Riaz (Ripu). Referee: SK Badruddin.

Massaro wins Capello's nod



MUNICH, Germany, May 26: Italian champions AC Milan have opted to play dependable striker

Daniele Massaro instead of foreign stars Ruud Gullit and Jean-Pierre Papin in today's European Cup final against Marseille, reports Reuter.

Milan coach Fabio Capello confirmed on Tuesday that the faithful old retainer Massaro was certain to start with soccer nobles Gullit and Papin relegated to competing for a place on the bench.

The 32-year-old Massaro, who won his sixth and last Italian Cup back in 1986, will partner Dutchman Marco van Basten up front.

European footballer-of-the-year Van Basten, still to recover peak fitness after ankle surgery, normally combines well with the busy Massaro.

Massaro is in great shape while Van Basten, although suffering from ankle problems, remains an extraordinary player. Capello told reporters in an informal press conference at the impressive Olympia Stadium.

Dutchman Frank Rijkaard will play in midfield with either his compatriot Gullit or Frenchman Papin being the third foreign player permitted in the squad of 16.

The Milan coach, in his first European final after taking charge two years ago, was not prepared to risk either Gullit or Papin as they have both missed several weeks' soccer through injury recently.

But his readiness to omit two former European footballers-of-the-year is a chilling warning to the French of the strength in depth Milan can



RUUD GULLIT

call on. Capello said he would decide which of the pair would be on the bench on Wednesday morning.

"Naturally I'm disappointed but this does not surprise me. It was predictable," said Papin, who had been despatched to play against the club with which he made his name.

Papin played in the Marseille side which lost on penalties in the 1991 final after a scoreless draw with Red Star Belgrade. Marseille president Bernard Tapie, who has vowed to end

the curse which has seen French teams fail to win a European trophy, believes his club will benefit from being slight outsiders here.

"We went to Bari (for the 1991 final) almost certain we would win, having knocked out Milan on the way," Tapie said. "On this occasion we can only succeed if we take every opportunity which Milan give us."

Marseille, in splendid form in the French league in recent weeks, have no injury worries.

The only selection headache for veteran Belgian coach Raymond Goethals is whether to pick Jean-Jacques Eydelie or Jean-Christophe Thomas in midfield.

The versatile and hard-working Eydelie, who can also play at the back, looks set to get the nod.

Defenders Basile Boli and Eric di Meo plus Ghana's exciting midfielder Abedi Pele are the sole survivors of the sad night in Bari likely to make the starting line-up on Wednesday.

Milan, despite huge spending in recent seasons, show amazing continuity with seven of their starting line-up left over from the 1989 European Cup triumph when they walked Steaua Bucharest 4-0.

The same group of players took the trophy in 1990 and now seek Milan's fifth European Cup triumph in total and their third in the past five seasons.

Reefat's winning march continues

Sports Reporter

Reefat-bin-Sattar, who retained his national crown with Tuesday's triumph over Rani Hamid, continued his winning march when he beat former national champion Rezaul Haq in the fourteenth round of the nineteenth national chess championship at the National Sports Council yesterday.

Reefat, who has only drawn twice in his fourteen matches, needed only 21 moves to force his senior opponent to resign in a game of Queen's Pawn Opening.

With Reefat far ahead, the fight for the second spot has gathered interest with four players involved in an absorbing cerebral battle.

Niyamul Haq Nru once again finished the day in the second place after beating Abdullah Al Raqib of Dhaka Metropolis in his fourteenth round engagement. Playing with white pieces in a game of Sicilian Defence Nru of Bangladesh Ansars had Al Raqib resign in the 27th move.

Ziaul Qader Tuhin stayed in the race with a win over his Dhaka Metropolis teammate ANM Ruhul Quddus.

Playing with white Tuhin, whose collection now stands at eight from thirteen outings, adopted Scotch Open to prevail in 44 moves.

Three-time British Open women's champion Rani Hamid also brightened her chances when she beat Abdul Khaleque in 27 moves resorting to the Paulsen's variation of Sicilian Defence. Rani Hamid upped her tally to seven and a half from 11 matches.

Kalimullah Khan Kalam, who was still engaged in his fourteenth round tie with Rafiqul Islam of Chittagong when this report was filed last night, is the other contender for the runner-up position.

Kalam has seven and a half points from ten engagements.

The other winners of the day were BTMC's Saifuddin Labu and Omar Khaled of Chittagong. Labu beat Mahbub Ali Ferdous in 34 moves while Khaled outmanoeuvred Abul Kashem Bhuiyan of BTMC in 46 moves.

Khandaker Kayes Hassan drew with Ali Amjad Mintu.

Schools handball final today

Sports Reporter

The final match of the fifth schools handball championship between Shahid Nabi High School and Bangladesh Ansars and VDP High School will take place at 4 pm today at the Outer Stadium handball court.

The managing director of Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Ltd Mickel Oldroyd, who is also the chief patron of the Bangladesh Handball Federation, will be present as chief guest and distribute prizes.

Helal's donation for Hira

Sports Reporter

Golam Rabbani Helal, an official of Abahani Krira Chakra, donated Taka 10,000 for the treatment of ailing cricketer Asadul Haq Hira.

Hira, who played for Victoria Sporting Club last year, has been suffering from a debilitating disease.

Earlier advised to take complete rest by the doctors, Hira, a right-arm leg-spinner, is now in a much better shape.

New committee for Barisal DSA

BARISAL, May 26: A 20-member ad-hoc executive committee of Barisal Divisional Sports Association was formed at Barisal with Mr M A Rashid, Divisional Commissioner, as president and Mr Asaduzzaman Khasru as general secretary, reports BSS.

The committee was formed at a general meeting of people interested in sports.

Ex-Notts chief ends up in handcuffs

LONDON, May 26: A former chairman of Britain's Nottingham Forest Football Club, Maurice Rowarth, was jailed on Tuesday for two years for fraud, reports Reuter.

A court in Birmingham, central England, heard that 63-year-old Rowarth carried out a string of frauds over a 10-year period from which he made 600,000 pounds (921,500 US dollar).

The crimes were not linked to Rowarth's role at Nottingham Forest and were committed against business clients who employed him as an accountant. He offered to invest clients' money on the Isle of Man but secretly used it to play off his bank overdrafts.

Rowarth, who was arrested in March last year, had pleaded guilty to eight fraud charges. He was chairman of Nottingham Forest for eight years until his resignation last year.



Australian Mark Waugh hits one from Surrey's Neil Kendrick as wicket-keeper G J Kersey looks on during Tety Bitter challenge match at the Oval on Tuesday. —AFP photo

J-League too hot for Lineker?



TOKYO, May 26: Is Gary Lineker finding the pace of Japanese soccer too hot?

The Nikkan Sports daily reports that the former England striker complains the new professional J-League schedule of two weekly matches throughout the season is too hectic, reports Reuter.

It quoted 32-year-old Lineker as saying league officials should think more about how exhausted the players were.

His complaint earned little sympathy from Narumi Nishigaki, managing director of Nagoya Grampus Eight, which signed him on a two-year contract worth an estimated 530 million yen (dollar 4.8 million).

Nishigaki defended the present fixture list, saying that other professional leagues also played twice a week.

In any case, he told Nikkan Sports, the J-League had no choice because it had to fit the national sides World Cup qualifying matches into the schedule.

The 10 teams play each other twice in the first phase of the league programme, which ends in mid-July — one of the most torrid points of Japan's long, hot summer. Then they play a second round of fixtures culminating in November.

Nagoya's match last Saturday, the team's first home appearance, took place in torrential rain on a pitch so

flooded that large tracts resembled a paddy field.

With passes rarely reaching their target, scoring was almost impossible. J-League rules insist on a result, however, so the bedraggled teams played two goal-less periods of extra time before deciding an exhausting match on penalties.

Both sides are back in action on Wednesday night. The J-League is attempting



GARY LINEKER

to break new ground in a country where sports fans have traditionally flocked to baseball and sumo, rather than soccer.

In 15 matches played since the professional league programme kicked off on May 15, attendance has averaged 19,170.

Kawasaki Verdy, the club with the best support, said on Tuesday all its home games up to July were sold out.

On Wednesday evening Nagoya Grampus, with Lineker, play Yokohama Flugels with league top striker Osamu Maeda, who has already scored four times.

Lineker himself has had a disappointing as well as a wearying league debut. His only goal being a penalty during Saturday's water-logged finale.

The biggest crowd of Wednesday night was expected at Tokyo's 60,000-seat National Stadium, where German star Pierre Littbarski Ichihara Jef United was tipped to win comfortably over Urawa Reds, currently bottom of the league.

Kashima Atlers, who top the table on goal difference, play Kawasaki Verdy in a game to be televised nationwide. Kashima's Brazilian superstar Zico remains sidelined with a leg injury.

Teething troubles with the networks coverage of J-League matches have sparked debate and some criticism.

Critics picked up incidents where commercials were screened during live play and viewers missed goals.

Nagoya's soggy battle with Yokohama Marinos last Saturday was televised live for 150 minutes — the allotted match time of 90 minute plus the two periods of sudden-death extra time. Yet just as the players prepared for the penalty shoot-out, the network cut away to another programme.

Napoli boss behind the bars



ROME, May 26: Napoli soccer boss Corrado Ferlaino, the long-standing club president in Italy's First Division, was arrested on Wednesday on corruption charges, judicial sources said, reports Reuter.

The high-living millionaire whose achievements include bringing Argentina's Diego Maradona to Italy is accused of bribing politicians to win his construction companies a share of lucrative rebuilding work after a 1980 earthquake.

Ferlaino, 62, becomes the latest in a growing line-up of football magnates to become embroiled in Italy's 16-month corruption scandal.

Other First Division clubs which have seen presidents or big shareholders involved are Roma, Lazio, Ancona, Genoa, Parma, Torino and Udinese.

"Either they change the legal rules of all the owners will end up in handcuffs," commented Italian football league president Luciano Nizzola.

Judicial sources said Ferlaino

was being questioned on Wednesday in Naples' Poggioreale Jail about an alleged bribe of 200,000 dollars said to have been paid to a local politician who had influence over the share-out of rebuilding contracts.

The money is alleged to have won him a lucrative contract to upgrade hydraulic systems.

The tremor in the Irpinia region, east of Naples, killed some 3,000 people and led to one of the biggest flows of aid to one region ever seen in post-war Europe.

Italian government and EC money amounting to an estimated 45 billion dollars has been allocated over 10 years to the project, sparking off a feeding frenzy among construction companies and investors believe, leading to widespread corruption.

Much of it simply disappeared or was squandered on extravagant projects like super-highways to nowhere or village primary schools the size of concert halls.

The earthquake area's leadership politician, former Christian Democrat Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita, has been warned he is being investigated and was also being questioned by magistrates on Wednesday, judicial sources said.

The Irpinia inquiry is one of the main strands of Italy's wider corruption scandal which has so far involved nearly 3,000 businessmen and politicians.

Ferlaino's arrest has deepened the gloom among Napoli's fanatical fans, local journalists said on Wednesday.

Ferlaino, who became club president in 1969, had won their affection by spending heavily on top-name players like Maradona who came to the club for a then-record 9 million dollar in 1984.

The mercurial striker played a key role in helping Napoli to the Italian league titles in 1987 and 1990, the Italian Cup in 1987 and the UEFA cup in 1989.

Since his departure in 1991 amid a welter of retributions over drug abuse, the club has never recaptured its old form or excitement.



Action from yesterday's Green Delta First Division hockey match between Sadharan Bima and Azad Sporting Club at the Hockey Stadium. The insurance men beat Azad 3-2 in an exciting encounter. —Star photo