

Bima stun Ajax

Sports Reporter
Sadharan Bima pulled off a mild surprise in the Green Delta First Division hockey league when they defeated Ajax one nil in the day's first of the two matches at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Ajax, who finished fourth in last year's league, were distinctly unlucky as their forwards kept on missing target on a ground made little uneven by the incessant rain in the last couple of days.

They forced as many as seven penalty corners but shots either went away or the Bima defence beat all the sallies back with grim determination.

There was time enough for restoring parity because Bima, one of the unbeaten teams in the league so far, got the lone goal of the match in the 25th minute when Bappi struck the white ball into the cage following fast counter attack (1-0).

Bima now have 15 points from eight matches while Ajax languish at 13 from eight matches also.

Ajax's loss proved to be an ill omen for Mariner Youngs Club, the third place holders in last year's league, who dropped their fourth point this year following a one-all draw with Bachelors Sporting Club in the day's second match.

Although not a shock for a team which had drawn their match Mariners were quite jolted when bachelors took the lead through Babu from a penalty corner in the seventh minute of the match (1-0).

Nanna spared the fancied team blushes when he scored a field goal seven minutes into the second half.

Mariners now have 12 points from eight outings. Bachelors, a lowly outfit, have just one from seven matches.

SAF Games judo committee named

Sports Reporter

The executive committee of the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation has named a technical and monitoring committee for the forthcoming sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, scheduled to be held in Dhaka in December this year.

The members of the 15-strong committee are Awlad Hossain, Hasanuzzaman Monir, Col (ret'd) Gazi, Golam M Khan, Nias Rahim, Ansar Ahmed, M Mahbulul Huq, Major M Nurunnabi Munna, A K M Selim, Akramul Huq, Kamrun Nahar Miru, Joybnab Chowdhury Jahana, Abdus Salek and Khurshid Alam Naqib.

Ecuador in Copa America qtrs

QUITO, June 20: Ecuador qualified for the quarterfinals of the South American football championship here on Saturday when they defeated the United States 2-0 in a Group A clash, reports AFP.

Two early goals were enough to drain away the hopes of the United States, who were making their first ever appearance in the competition.

Raul Aviles put the home side clear after just 11 minutes and Eduardo Hurtado demoralised the Americans still further by scoring a second ten minutes before half time.

Venezuela, beaten 6-1 by Ecuador in their previous group match, pulled off a major surprise by holding Uruguay to a 2-2 draw.

Twice Uruguay found themselves trailing. Jose Dolgetta put Venezuela ahead after ten minutes but Marcelo Saralegui put Uruguay back on level terms 13 minutes later.

Juego Stalin Rivas, with a 73rd minute goal for Venezuela, stung Uruguay back into action and Fernando Kanapakis made it 2-2 ten minutes from time.

Group A standings following Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against points).

Table with 5 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, GF, GA, Pts. Ecuador 2 1 0 0 8 1 4, Uruguay 2 1 1 0 3 2 3, Venezuela 2 0 1 1 3 8 1, United States 2 0 0 2 0 3 0

Matches to come: June 22: United States versus Venezuela, Ecuador-Uruguay

Portugal firmly on course

PORTO, Portugal, June 20: Portugal kept their World Cup campaign firmly on the rails here on Saturday night, battering Malta 4-0 in Group 1, reports AFP.

Nogueira and Rui Costa put the Portuguese 2-0 up within 10 minutes of the start and Joao Pinto made sure it would be a walkover in the 24th minute.

The Maltese spent the entire match pegged in their own half and were made to suffer right through to the 90th minute, when Cadete made it 4-0.

Portugal are now third in their group, with eight points from six matches, but a game in hand over Scotland and table-topping Switzerland.



Action from yesterday's Star First Division football league match between BRTC and East End Club at the Dhaka Stadium. BRTC beat the newcomers by two goals to one. — Star photo

PWD drive home a point

Sports Reporter

Unfancied Public Works Department (PWD) scored an emphatic 4-2 win against Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society to prove that their 1-1 draw against champions Abahani Krira Chakra in the league opener last week was not just a flash in the pan.

In a delightful exhibition of goals, three players—two from PWD and Rahmatganj's Nigerian recruit Nike Lulu—scored twice each. However, the winners had taken an almost unassailable three-nil lead before Lulu pulled back two goals for the losers, still in search of their first point.

Pepped up by their recent showing against formidable Abahani, PWD yesterday looked determined to record their first victory. Skipper Mushtaq, who had caused Abahani enough problems, was again the livewire of the office team. He was very well backed by Reza and winger Saif Khan. Specially the nippy Saif time and again opened the Rahmatganj defence inside out with his telling darts down the flank.

Watched by very few spectators PWD drew the first blood in the day's second match under the flood lights. But undue haste, rather unbecoming of a player of Mushtaq's experience spoiled PWD's chance of forging ahead. Rahmatganj found it quite difficult to get a move on as PWD assaults were at a premium.

Rahmatganj clung on to dear life until the 17th minute when PWD took the expected lead through veteran Mushtaq. The tiny striker, who eight years back had thrown cold

water on Brothers' ambition of winning the elusive league title with two goals, found the net following a combined attack (1-0).

PWD, who were ranked pretty low in last year's unitary league points table, turned up on the heat on their opponents in green and yellow instead of falling back to defend the lead.

Their accent on attack paid off three minutes later when Reza doubled up the margin cashing in on a blunder by the Rahmatganj defence. One of the ineffectuals, whose name only goes into the books as also played, suddenly came under the spotlight last evening. Reza finished a neat Saif minus in the net in the 20th minute (2-0).

The speedy forward, whose penchant for goal-scoring was rather undermined in the Abahani match because of the defensive role assigned on to him, really burst into the scene five minutes later. He raced down the middle of the Rahmatganj defence as a result of a counter attack and placed the ball into the net past a helpless Milton, the Rahmatganj custodian (3-0).

With one team up by three goals within the first forty-five minutes the match was destined to be a bit lop-sided. Although never high, the otherwise lively contest degenerated into annoying midfield tussle for the most part of the post breather session.

After half an hour of sizzling the match came alive with Rahmatganj starting to retaliate. In the 35th minute Nigerian Nike Lulu, who had an unimpressive debut in Rahmatganj's league opener against Agrani Bank, beautifully

carved in a free-kick from well outside the box to make the score (1-3).

Shaken out of their complacency PWD regrouped themselves for the decisive assault on their opponents. On a day that definitely belonged to them, PWD further consolidated their position some eight minutes later. It was Mushtaq again and the fleet-footed striker clinically completed combined move to send the office team on a high (4-1).

Nike Lulu squeezed in another goal in the dying minutes to reap a rather poor consolation for the Rahmatganj (2-4).

The defeat means that the old Dhaka club are still going without a point after having played two matches. On the other hand PWD have fortified themselves albeit transiently at the top of the points table with three points from two matches and should take pride in rubbing shoulders with biggies like Mohammedans, Abahani.

BRTC'S FIRST

BRTC, another office club, registered their first win in the Star First Division Football league when they edged past promotees East End Club by the odd goal in the three in the first match billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

All the goals were scored in the first half. The win gives BRTC two points from as many matches while East End remain glued to one they got from a draw in their first match.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Wanderers vs Eskaton (4-30), Agrani vs Arambagh (6-30)

Germany take home US Cup

DETROIT, Michigan, June 20: World champions Germany beat England 2-1 on Saturday to clinch the four-nation US Cup 93 and install themselves as firm favourites for next year's World Cup, reports AFP.

More than 62,000 spectators cheered an impressive performance by the Germans, who have got stronger and stronger as the ten-day tournament has progressed.

For England's beleaguered manager Graham Taylor, the tournament only confirmed what nearly everyone already knew — England will be hard pressed to qualify for next year's World Cup.

Before the match Taylor said he planned to experiment with a three-man defence and two wing-backs and he was looking for players who could adapt to such changes.

He found he didn't have them and must now again start searching for a formula that will book England a place to the United States next year.

Taylor played down German domination.

It was all down to Lothar Matthaeus. If he had been playing for England today we would have won. He gave a world-class performance. He was the difference between the two sides, said Taylor.

Despite the novelty of playing the first ever international under cover on normal grass pitch, neither teams seemed to be affected by it.

Stefan Effenberg opened the scoring after only 26 minutes when a Matthaeus pass set him free inside the English area.

Effenberg slipped his defender and slid the ball past a helpless Nigel Martyn.

England, despite being totally outclassed, drew level only five minutes later when a long-ball from Paul Merson caught the German defence flat-footed.

David Platt found himself alone in the area and made no mistake to head into the far corner well out of the reach of

goalkeeper Bodo Illgner. Ten minutes after the restart Christian Ziege ran through the faltering English defence only to see his shot rebound off the post.

But Monaco-based striker Jurgen Klinsmann was on hand to collect the loose ball and make it 2-1.

Klinsmann's goal made him the tournament's top scorer.

The 29-year-old said he was very satisfied with the victory over England.

We came here to win, we took the tournament very seriously as we don't have to qualify for the World Cup. It was a good work out for us, he said.

England's defeat left them languishing in last place with only a single point to their name.

Brazil finished second with hosts the United States third.

TEAMS

ENGLAND: Nigel Martyn, David Batty, Gary Pallister (Keown 57th), Des Walker, Andy Sinton, David Platt, Nigel Clough (Wright 72nd), Paul Ince, Le Sharpe (Winterburn 45th), Paul Merson, John Barnes.

GERMANY: Bodo Illgner, Thomas Helmer, Guido Buchwald, Michael Schultz, Thomas Strunz, Stefan Effenberg (Zorc 78th), Andreas Moeller (Sammer 64th), Lothar Matthaeus, Christian Ziege, Karlheinz Riedle, Jurgen Klinsmann.

Referee: Ernesto Filippi Cavan (Uruguay)

Roma win but Torino take Italian Cup

ROME, June 20: As Roma slammed five goals past fellow First Division side Torino Saturday but still failed to win the Italian Cup, reports AFP.

Roma, beaten 3-0 in Turin in the first-leg, produced a tremendous second-half performance in front of an enthusiastic 65,000 crowd and scored a 5-2 win in the return leg of the final.

But they lost the trophy on away goals.

Giannini, with three penalties (22, 48, 54) Rizzitelli (46) and Mihajlovic (65) were on the Roma marksmen, while Silenzi (5, 51) saved Torino.

mer 64th), Lothar Matthaeus, Christian Ziege, Karlheinz Riedle, Jurgen Klinsmann.

Referee: Ernesto Filippi Cavan (Uruguay)

STANDINGS

US Cup 93 final standings (tabulate under played, won, lost, drawn, goals for, goals against, points)

Table with 5 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, GF, GA, Pts. Germany 3 2 0 1 9 7 5, Brazil 3 1 0 2 6 4 4, United States 3 1 2 0 5 6 2, England 3 0 2 1 2 5 1



COME ON AUSSIE: Robin Smith, England's South African-born cricketer, is all set to receive a delivery from Australian off-spinner Tim May while umpire Shepherd watches keenly in the second England-Australia Test at Lord's Saturday.

Atherton delays the inevitable

LONDON, June 20: Opener Michael Atherton missed a century by one run in the second Ashes Test at Lord's today but his defiant innings held up Australia's victory charge, reports Reuter.

Atherton, run out for 99, and Mike Gatting, unbeaten with a painstaking 58, carried England to 237 for three at the close of the fourth day after they followed on 427 behind.

Australia, who piled up 632 for four declared, dismissed England for 206 earlier in the day but were subsequently restricted to the wickets of Atherton, captain Graham Gooch (29) and Robin Smith (5).

Atherton, top scorer in the first innings with 80, again showed much-needed application to restore a measure of pride to England's ailing side.

Even so, they must bat for the whole of tomorrow's final day on a slow pitch offering turn to stop the Australian win that would give the touring side a 2-0 lead in the six-Test series.

England's second innings started with Gooch and Atherton surviving a new-ball burst from Merv Hughes, characteristically bristling with hostility, as they put on 71 before being parted in the second over after lunch.

The England captain pushed forward at a leg break from Shane Warne that took the outside edge and wicket-keeper Ian Healy held the catch after a slight fumble.

"Ridiculous"

LONDON, June 20: Shell-shocked manager Keith Fletcher had one word for England's latest batting disaster at Lord's on Saturday — "Ridiculous," reports Reuter.

Many home fans among a crowd of 28,000 who saw the headlong slide to 193-9 seemed to think shameful was a better summing up. Book-makers are now offering 2,000-1 against a home victory.

As the clamour for changes strengthened with every falling wicket, Fletcher was left baffled and bewildered. On a pitch where Australia amassed 632-4 declared, England tumbled to the brink of second Test disaster in just 90 overs.

"There are no excuses, it was just bad batting on what is basically still a good wicket," said Fletcher.

"There were some bad shots played. They've got to hold their hands up and say which they've done."

"It's not very nice when Australia score 600 and plenty and you get virtually bowled out in two and a bit sessions. It's ridiculous."

Barring a batting miracle or severe weather interference, England's seventh consecutive Test defeat looks assured.

Fletcher, however, refused to speculate about the future of individuals, including captain Graham Gooch's.

Mike Gatting, Robin Smith, Graeme Hick and Alec Stewart will all need major second innings contributions to save their skins for the third Test.

"If we don't do any better then obviously there will be changes," admitted Fletcher. "We can only wait and see."

"The pitch is a slow turner and if you are a Test batsman you should be able to play slow turn."

Atherton broke periods of watchful defence with firm back foot forces to the cover boundary and confident driving

minutes and hit 13 fours, drew some remarks from the combative Hughes during his innings which prompted umpire



Australian paceman Merv Hughes watches anxiously as leading edge from England skipper Graham Gooch's bat flies off to Tim May during the home side's first innings on the third day of the second Ashes Test at Lord's on Saturday. Gooch went cheaply for 12. — AFP photo

off the front foot as he reached his 50 from 107 balls, having hit nine fours.

Warne and off-spinner Tim May shared the attack for an hour and 40 minutes of either side of lunch, both varying the angle of delivery by going round the wicket as well as over, but Atherton and Gatting stood firm in a second-wicket partnership of 104.

Atherton was on 97 when he clipped a ball from the left-arm spin of Allan Border to Hughes at deep square leg and ran two.

The opener turned for the third run that would have given him his century but, seeing Hughes's return on its way and also that Gatting had stopped running, Atherton pulled up, only to slip over as he did so.

Atherton stumbled again as he tried to regain his ground and Healy gathered the return and broke the wicket with the batsman stranded.

Atherton, who batted 246

Mervyn Kitchen to have a quiet word with the bowler before



ATHERTON...unlucky

Kent ensconced at the top

LONDON, June 20: Kent consolidated their high placing in the English County Championship with a resounding nine-wicket win over Derbyshire at Canterbury on Saturday, reports AFP.

Allan Warner was stranded five short of a maiden century as Kent duly completed a 23-point success in just 29 minutes.

Derbyshire were all out for 229, leaving Kent the formality of making 24 to record their third victory in four matches.

Hampshire look on course for their second championship win of the season, despite a defiant century from Northamptonshire opener Alan Fordham at Northampton.

Fordham battled his way to 109 in six hours, hitting 10 boundaries, but Northants were dismissed for 303 to leave Hampshire needing 182 for victory with four complete sessions available.

The visitors lost Tony Middleton to Curtly Ambrose, but recovered to reach 91 for one at the close — exactly halfway to their target. Sean Morris finished 41 not out with Kevan James on 43.

Earlier, James had sent back Rob Batley, Allan Lamb and Mal Loye in the space of 14 deliveries before Kevin Curran (71) joined forces with Fordham.

Durham and Lancashire were set rather stiffer victory targets by Glamorgan and Sussex respectively.

Durham were 62 for two at Stumps, chasing 400 to beat Glamorgan after Matthew Maynard staked his claim for an England recall with an impressive 98.

Maynard cracked four sixes and 10 fours in his 108 ball knock as his side raced to 363 for seven declared. He shared in a third-wicket partnership of 156 with Adrian Dale, who cracked 85.

Then ex-West Indies skipper Viv Richards joined in the run with an unbeaten 62, including a six and seven fours, off just 72 balls.

Meanwhile, Keith Greenfield was Sussex's hero as they set Lancashire a daunting 326 to win, which they had reduced by 17 without loss by

the close.

The 24-year-old batted four and a half hours for a priceless unbeaten 60 to guide his side to 202 all out, adding 91 with flu-stricken skipper Alan Wells, who made 53.

Gary Yates and Alex Barnett had shared five wickets for 18 runs in 17 overs on the dusty Old Trafford strip to reduce Sussex to 95 for six before Greenfield's arrival. Barnett finished with five for 65.

The other matches have rather further to go to produce a decisive result, nowhere more so than at Sheffield, where Gloucestershire have crawled to 241 for nine in reply to Yorkshire's 445.

The 23-year-old Kiwi cracked his fourth half-century in five championship innings to give Nottinghamshire the opportunity of declaring 71 runs behind in the hope of setting up a run chase on the final day.

Cairns hit six fours and two sixes in his 141-minute innings of 80, the highlight of which was a fifth-wicket partnership of 144 in 33 overs with youngster Graeme Archer who was unbeaten on 59.

Essex then made steady progress in their second innings, with John Stephenson completing his second half-century of the match as they reached 106 for one, an overall lead of 177.

Egypt rock ROK

SEOUL, June 20: Egypt upset hosts South Korea 2-1 in the opening game of the seven-nation South Korean President's Cup international football tournament here Saturday, reports AFP.

At half-time, Egypt led 1-0. Yasser Izzat got both goals with headers in the 22nd and 54th minutes. The South Korean World Cup team managed only a face-saving goal by Suh Jung-Won 10 minutes after the break.

In the second match of the day, China and Mexico fought to a scoreless draw.

Australia, the Czech Republic, Mexico and Romania are also taking part in the 150,000-dollar tournament.

Fans attack Italian police

ROME, June 20: Around 100 Italian football fans attacked police here late on Saturday night after the Cup final between AS Roma and Torino, reports AFP.

The police, who were patrolling the area around the Olympic Stadium, were attacked by iron bars.

The mob also attacked and damaged police cars. They were eventually chased off. Four people were held and taken to the local police station.

None of the injured policemen were badly hurt and all were released after hospital treatment. Cars were also overturned in an adjoining area of the town.