

Mohammedans' tenth on a trot Sports Reporter

While Mohammedan footballers were fighting hard to earn full points in the Premier Division football league...

Pakistani centre half Shahid scored twice while compatriot Muntaz Haider and Zahid Biswas scored one each for the winners...

Zahid Biswas doubled the margin three minutes later when he utilised another penalty corner in the 34th minute...

Mohammedans kept up continued pressure on their opponents, who came into prominence with a one-nil victory against Ajax Club...

Muntaz Haider latched on to a fine through pass to add another one in Mohammedans kitty six minutes later (4-0).

Murad pulled one back for the losers when he converted a penalty corner in the 61st minute (1-4).

Mohammedans have won ten matches on a trot to up their tally to 20 while Bima have 15 off ten.

Ajax Club were on easy street in the second match of the day when they beat lowly Ansars by two goals to nil.

The winners led the first half one-nil. Sayzed Haider opened the account in the 23rd minute with neat execution of a penalty stroke (1-0).

Mohammad Javed confirmed victory with a field goal in the 42nd minute (2-0).

Ajax have 17 points from ten matches while playing same number of matches Ansars languish at nine.

Pak quartet for Abahani Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra registered four hockey players from Pakistan yesterday to touch up their chances in this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league.

Anjum Sayeed and Mahmud Hossain are the two centre forwards while Qamar Ibrahim and Nazim Anjad are learnt to be adept on the flanks.

They are expected to play in Abahani's next match against Wari on July 1.

Alcindo proposes, Zico disposes

TOKYO, June 29: Two big Japanese wig-makers want to sign up the country's hottest soccer property, Brazilian Sartori Alcindo, to make commercials but his captain, fellow Brazilian Zico, is insisting that practice comes first, reports Reuter.

The Asahi Geino magazine said today the two firms were chasing Alcindo, star striker of Kashima Antlers, whose 12 goals have helped put his team on top of the new Japanese league.

Fans have nicknamed him Kappa because his balding scalp reminds them of a much-loved mythical Japanese fish.

It is the balding scalp that attracted wig makers Art Nature and Adersans, which rely heavily on sportsmen, both foreign and Japanese, in their advertising.

Asahi Geino said Art Nature was prepared to offer Alcindo double the eight million yen (\$1.2 million) it is paying for a one-year contract with Masahiro Sukigara, another league player with a receding hairline. Adersans also wants to sign up Alcindo.

Both firms are being blocked by Zico, who says the Antlers must put training before advertising and that only he may do commercials, the magazine said.

Zico appears in advertising for Sumitomo Metals, which owns his team, and for an international telephone company.

With soccer's increasing popularity, dozens of players earn millions of yen from advertising for soft and vitamin drinks, sportswear, shoes, underwear, cosmetics and food.

Every member of the Kawasaki Verdy team does commercials.

Alcindo's nickname is taking on a life of its own, with fans joking that the Kappa fish thrives during June and July in the rain — a reference to this month's heavy rains which have seen some of his best performances.

Alcindo's achievement is the more remarkable because Zico, whom the club bought as the midfield supren, has been largely absent through injury. Instead, Zico has become the team's off-field general.



Agrani Bank goalkeeper Totum dives to his left to frustrate Mohammedan striker Naqib's crack at goal during the Star Premier Division football league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Mohammedans rallied to etch a 3-1 triumph. — Star photo

Shabbir stalls Bankers' bid

Sports Reporter



Three superbly choreographed passes from skipper Rumman bin Wali Shabbir blinded the goal-eyes of Agrani Bank as the title aspirants Mohammedans came back from behind to record a 3-1 victory in the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The ace Bangladesh international did not score any of the three goals but dead-lifted Mohammedans from the doldrums with inspirational scheming and helped last year's runners-up to maintain the one point lead over their arch rivals Abahani Krira Chakra.

Riding high on their well-drilled performance in the 4-0 triumph over Victoria in the last match, Mohammedans confronted a different reality yesterday as the black and whites struggled in rather unfamiliar conditions of a hot and humid day.

Out of the floodlights after a fairly long time Mohammedans found the Bankers as reedy as wild mustangs in the initial stage of the match and before they could work out a new game plan they found themselves a goal down. Right full back Shamim used his hand to stop an Agrani Bank move inside the box in the fifth minute and referee Sheikh Badruddin wasted no time to point his finger to the dreaded spot. Little Bakhtiar walked up to swish the jam-packed Mohammedan gallery off with a clinical conversion (1-0).

Quite expectedly Mohammedans turned the screw on but their midfield was not in harness with Peter Korraya, the stop gap medio, undoing almost everything the crafty Arman and hard working Titu could manage. Mohammedans were without regular midfielder Mahbubur Rahman Roxy, and stopper Jewel Rana. With veteran Johnny back in the fold Barun the regular left back was pushed in to assist Kaiser in the deep defence throwing sturdy but fatigued Peter up to form the midfield trio. The three forwards particularly Shabbir were in their elements but were made to look very ordinary at times because of the short supply of balls.

Despite this Shabbir worked overtime to create openings for Mohammedans with his delightful ball play. Arman, Aslam and Nakib all had their share of chances but poor reflexes and an annoying streak of hanging on to the ball by Arman flushed Shabbir's scheming down the loo.

However, Mohammedans muddled through to their desired equaliser in the 19th minute when a rather bloated Aslam headed the ball home from close after Shabbir had set him up with a measured minus from right (1-1).

Relieved by the balance in the score sheet Mohammedans increased the tempo and were very near to be at a premium. But Arman's screw shot hit the side post and Nakib failed to control a bouncing ball to make sure that one of the most adored teams of local football were locked with the Bankers at 1-1 at half time.

Perhaps little out of breath by the exertion and duped into a false sense of security Mohammedans found themselves in complete disarray in the second half. Their midfield fell apart, their passes went awry and the forwards were forced to fall back to win balls from the rampant Agrani Bank midfielders. There were even occasional menacing darts by Munna and Akhtar but nothing like the two wasted opportunities that came the Bankers' way midway through the first half. On one occasion Munna

failed to beat a helpless Kanan and second time Jahangir had his header blocked by Kaiser Hamid.

After a frustrating spell of lack-lustre panicky football Mohammedans had the things humming again 19 minutes into the second half. Shabbir outwitted the Bank defence to lift a beautiful ball across the goalmouth and an unmarked Saiful Bari Titu kept his cool to nod the ball in past Totum (2-1).

The goal did not work any magic in Mohammedans' game and the forwards were left starving with the midfield hardly getting a move on. Shabbir started operating from the deep and chances came along to go further ahead. But Kaiser failed thrice to get his head to flag kicks and Nakib blasted the ball over from close.

Shabbir set standard of excellence with the best ball of the day seven minutes before the final whistle when he rolled a beautiful through on Nakib's path and the opportunist striker drilled the ball past the hapless Totum to notch the highest scorer's place so far with his fifth goal in the league (3-1).

Arman and Nakib of Mohammedans and Munna of Bank were shown the yellow cards.

The win took Mohammedans' tally to seven points from four matches while it was Agrani Bank's first defeat in their four league engagements. Their collection now stands at four.

In the second match of the day, a Star First Division affair, Farashganj shared points with Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in a goalless draw.

Farashganj have six points and Eskaton have five. Both are still unbeaten.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Wanderers vs East End (4-30)

Arambagh vs PWD (6-30)

McCague's selection baffles ACB

LONDON, June 29: Australia are to seek tougher qualification rules after England's selection of Australian-bred paceman Martin McCague on Monday for the third Ashes Test, reports Reuter.

Graham Balbish, chief executive of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), wants stiffer conditions for players such as McCague, who qualifies for England because he was born in Northern Ireland.

Balbish is to raise the issue at next week's traditional mid-season meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC), the sport's world governing body, at Lord's.

"We have invested time and money in McCague and other players like him to provide depth for Australian cricket. We want a return on our investment," he said.

"We have no problems with McCague's selection for England under current ICC regulations. He is eligible and England are free to pick him.

"But the ACB are concerned because we have made a considerable investment in McCague and others like Alan Mullally, Jason Gallian, Craig White and Peter Bowler.

"We believe there should be a player migration rule to cover players like McCague. If they play junior cricket for one country then they should serve a qualifying period for another."

McCague, brought up in Western Australia from the age of two, played for the state in the Sheffield Shield for two seasons from 1990-1992 having attended the Australian Cricket Academy before breaking into the first-class game.

McCague, who plays for Kent, said: "I am a British passport holder and if I went to Australia now I would have to get a visa just like anyone else. I regard myself as being English."

All-rounder Gallian, the Oxford University captain, is a former Australia under-19 skipper who is serving a four-year qualification period to be eligible for Lancashire and England. He was born in Sydney of Lancastrian parents.

Leicestershire batsman Mullally, Yorkshire batsman White and Derbyshire opener Bowler all play county cricket as 'Englishmen' because they were born in this country before growing up in Australia.

Egypt take home President's Cup

SEOUL, June 29: Egypt won the South Korean President's Cup football tournament here Monday beating defending champions South Korea 1-0 in the final, reports AFP.

Playing under steady drizzle at the Seoul Olympic Stadium, Egypt were busy in defence for most of the match but with only four minutes remaining midfielder Reda Abdelaal scored the winning goal in a rare counter-attack.

The Koreans kept visiting goalkeeper Ahmed Sobeh busy for long stretch but he and his brilliant defence proved equal to the task.

Hampshire hopes smothered



SOUTHAMPTON, England, June 29: Hampshire's bid to become the first side to beat the touring Australian cricketers in a first-class game floundered on Monday as they lost six wickets in only nine overs, reports Reuter.

After being set a target of 290 in 67 overs, Hampshire openers Paul Terry (82) and Tony Middleton (78) saw them well on their way with a 167-run stand.

At the start of the final 20 overs Hampshire needed a further 112 with nine wickets standing.

But after six wickets had tumbled for just 33 runs, David Gower and Adrian Aymes were forced to bat out for the draw at 220 for six.

Earlier, the crowd had been treated to some swashbuckling batting by Australian pace bowler Merv Hughes.

He thumped seven sixes and two fours in scoring 61 not out from 50 balls as Australia added 158 in the morning session to declare at lunch on 271 for seven.

Opener Matthew Hayden, 59 overnight, went on to complete his opening first-class hundred of the tour. He had followed his first innings 85 with 115 when he fell trying to hit a fourth six.

The Australians must now win their remaining six matches against the counties to earn themselves the 50,000

pounds sterling (75,000 dollars) jackpot on offer for 10 wins in the series.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of a three-day match between Hampshire and Australia on Monday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Total: (seven wickets declared) 271

Fall of wickets: 1-37; 2-40; 3-96; 4-122; 5-132; 6-187; 7-268;

Bowling: O M R W

Shine 2.4 0 8 0

Connor 19 3 77 4

James 13.2 3 32 1

Maru 15 3 57 0

Udal 17 3 94 2

Hampshire require 291 to win.

HAMPSHIRE: Second innings

T Middleton c Taylor b Hughes 78

P Terry run out 82

D Gower not out 23

R Smith c Healy b Hughes 0

M Nicholas b Border 12

k James c Healy b May 1

S Udal lbw b May 0

A Aymes not out 8

Extras: (b-3, lb-3, nb-10) 16

Total: (for six wickets) 220

Fall of wickets: 1-167; 2-178; 3-178; 4-199; 5-200; 6-200;

Bowling: O M R W

Hughes 14 3 47 2

Julian 7 1 16 0

Reiffel 10 1 45 0

May 18 4 57 2

Border 15 3 49 1

Result: Match drawn

MERV HUGHES 393-7 declared (D.Boon 146, M. Hayden 85).

HAMPSHIRE: First innings 374-5 declared (R Smith 191, T Middleton 53).

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 113-3) M Hayden c Smith

A lot earned, a lot missed



DURBAN, June 29: Three of the world's fastest times this year were set at the African athletics championships but the success of the event was dampened by several notable absentees, reports Reuter.

Maria Mutola of Mozambique and the Kenyans Simon Chemoywo and William Sigel raced their way to year's bests in the four-day event which ended in this South African coastal city on Sunday.

But only nine of the 22 African medal winners in athletics competition at last year's Barcelona Olympics made the trip to Durban, resulting in poor attendances at the revamped King's Park Stadium in the city.

Among those missing were double Olympic sprint medalist Frankie Fredericks of Namibia, men's 400 metres hurdles world champion Samuel Matete and Kenya's men's 10,000 metres champion Richard Chelimo.

Fredericks missed a flight connection and was stranded in Namibia during the championships, Matete's Zambian federation could not raise

enough money to fly a team to South Africa and Chelimo disappeared from the Kenyan training camp on the eve of departure for Durban.

But with only prestige at stake, organisers admitted they could not hope to entice leading names to the competition.

"There are so many runners who have forgotten their roots and now only think of the money they earn running in Europe and America," said African Amateur Athletics Confederation (AAAC) president Lamine Diack.

"We cannot afford to pay athletes to come and run at the championships. African athletics does not have any money."

Diack, who is also vice-president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, has been trying to draft new rules that would force African athletes to compete in their Continental Championship before they would be able to take part in either the Olympic Games or World Championships.

But he admitted to reporters that this was proving difficult. "We can only hope that they remember where they first started and make a

sacrifice for just one week for Africa," Diack added.

The AAAC said it would investigate the failure of Fredericks and Chelimo to turn up for the championships. "We will wait first for reports from their respective national federations," said Diack.

World indoor champion Mutola set the only African record of the championship in the women's 800 metres in one minute 56.36 seconds, two-tenths of a second better than the previous world best for the year she set in New York last month.

Chemoywo, ranked only ninth in the world last year, won the men's 5000 metres in 13:09.68 and in the process comprehensively beat his more favoured compatriot Paul Bitok.

In the men's 10,000 metres world cross country champion William Sigel held off Ethiopia's Fita Bayissa to also set a new mark for the year in 27:25.23.

Hosts South Africa dominated the winners' podium with 50 out of possible 123 medals. Nigeria finished with 18 medals in second place and Kenya were third with 17.

Sixteen out of 31 participating nations won medals at the championships.

Commonwealth Games 1994

Cloud of doubts dispelled

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, June 29: Canadian officials said on Monday the 1994 Commonwealth Games, in danger of collapsing two years ago, will go ahead on time and without cost overruns, reports Reuter.

"The facilities are now on time and on budget," said George Heller, the Games' chief local organiser in the British Columbia capital of Victoria, which is hosting the event.

Heller, 46, said the Games now have financing agreements covering virtually all its 125-million dollar (Canadian 160-million dollar) budget.

"We have contracts between the various levels of governments or the private sector that total 91 per cent," he told Reuters.

Heller said the Games, to take place between August 18 and August 28, should attract 3,200 athletes from 66 nations to the tranquil West Coast City of 250,000 people.

He said the velodrome and four bowling greens have already been built and the 17-million US dollar (22-million Canadian dollar) aquatic centre will be completed in December.

The planned 9.5-million US dollar (12-million Canadian dollar) expansion of the University Sports Stadium, from one seating 2,500 people to one capable of handling 32,000 spectators, is well underway.

"With 14 months to go, we're in pretty good shape," he said.

Heller acknowledged that 18 months ago the Games were in jeopardy, with limited government support and only three official sponsors.

"We had to get it going or we would have been on the brink... I guess it was in trouble," he said.

Among the 87 private sponsors now lined up are such firms as IBM, Canon, Kodak and Seiko.

A London Times article in March 1992 had described the

credits the Games' turnaround to the adoption of business techniques.

Heller added the Games are no longer threatened by conflicts with the European athletics championships to be held 10 days earlier in Helsinki.

Fears had been voiced that after the Helsinki Championships leading athletes would choose to remain on the European circuit. But Heller said Monday arrangements had been made for those who wanted to compete in both events.



Boris Becker of Germany emits a loud cry of triumph after breaking French crowd-puller Henri Leconte in the fourth set of their fourth round match in the Wimbledon tennis championships on Tuesday. Becker won 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to set up a quarterfinal date with fellow German Michael Stich. — AFP photo

Robert admits he is guilty



PARIS, June 29: Christophe Robert, the player at the centre of the French soccer bribery scandal, admitted in an interview published on Tuesday he had accepted cash to throw a match against Marseille but said he was not the only guilty one, reports Reuter.

Robert told the weekly France Football: "I hope that the guilty parties and the corruptors also go to jail. I cheated, I'm going to pay for it.

The Valenciennes forward has been placed under investigation for passive corruption in connection with match-rigging allegations when Marseille played in the northern town on May 20. Marseille won 1-0, six days before winning the European Cup final by the same score, and went on to take the French title.

Robert said he and two other Valenciennes players, Argentine World Cup star Jorge Burruchaga, and defender Jacques Glassmann

were contacted by Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelie, a former teammate of all three.

Eydelie, who denies wrongdoing, has also been placed under investigation and was remanded in custody in Valenciennes on Tuesday.

Robert said the three Valenciennes players were in his room at the team hotel the evening before the match when Eydelie called and spoke to each of them, offering 250,000 francs (44,000 dollar) between them to lose the match.

He said the offer was repeated by Marseille general secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes, now in hospital suffering from exhaustion and placed under surveillance by French police on Tuesday.

Robert said the three accepted the offer and agreed not to tell anyone else about it. He said his wife Marie-Christine went to the Marseille team hotel and received the cash from Eydelie in an envelope the same evening.

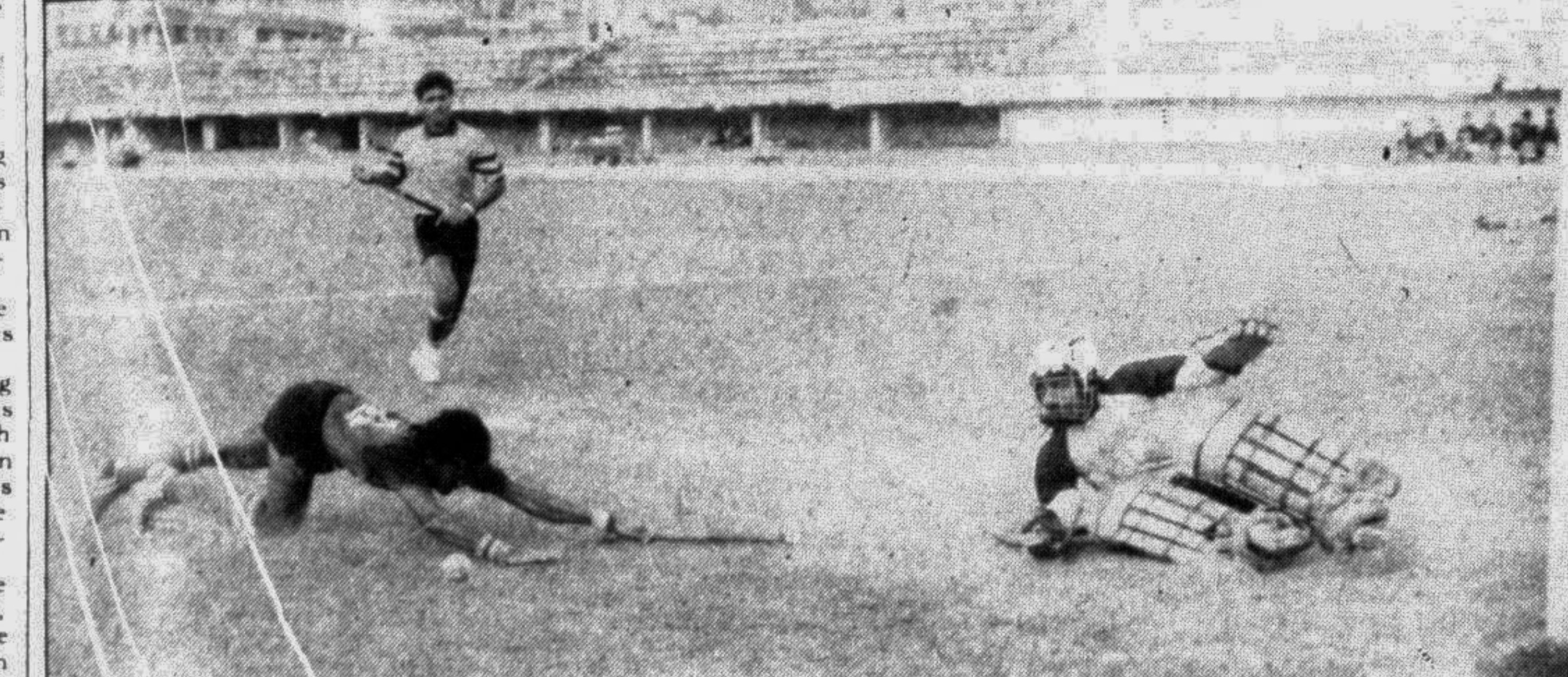
The money was later recovered, still in the envelope, buried in the garden of a relative of Robert's.

Robert said the three talked again the next morning and decided not to go ahead with the deal. He said he phoned Eydelie to tell him. The annoying thing is that I kept the money," he said.

Glassmann, without telling the others, informed his coach Bruno Primorac of the offer and he in turn told Valenciennes directors before the match. Valenciennes lodged a protest with the referee at halftime when they were already losing 1-0.

Glassmann, who broke the story and always insisted he refused the offer from the start, said in a radio interview he was shocked by Robert's allegation that he had initially accepted the deal.

"I am the only one who has told the truth from the start, he said. I'm prepared to defend myself, fiercely if I need to."



An Ajax forward trips over while making an attempt at the Ajax goal during yesterday's Green Delta First Division league match at the Hockey Stadium. Ajax registered a 2-0 victory. — Star photo