

## Abahani turn table on Mohammedans



A deadly combination of bad goalkeeping and shabby defence robbed Mohammedan Sporting Club of the distinction of being the only unbeaten team in the fray as reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra pulled off a timely 2-1 win over their arch rivals in the giants clash of the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

On a day of resounding success, first initiated by the hockey players who took their team one step closer towards Senior Division league title, the sky blue footballers revived the hopes of performing a unique feat in the annals of the Senior Division football league. Abahani, who before yesterday's match were trailing Mohammedans, apparently the strongest bidders of this year's league title, by five points, are now just one point behind and it looks like the last two years champions have turned a very significant corner in their campaign for the second hattrick of league title following the first one performed during the uninterrupted run of success from 1983 to 85.

Not only yesterday's win revived the waning sensation and thrill of this year's league but it

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also brought a sweet revenge for Abahani who had lost to Mohammedans 2-3 in the final of the DMFA Cup, the curtain raiser of this year's football season.

Snug and a wee bit of complacency because of the huge hiatus in their collections — Mohammedans took the field with 14 points from eight matches while Abahani had eleven also from eight matches — the DMFA Cup champions adopted the policy of launching pitched sorties along with determined defending leaving the midfield open for Abahani mid-fielders.

That proved to be the decisive factor on the outcome of the match as Abahani, led by the hard working Russian Alexander Dozmorov, gained the control of the most strategic and vital position in the modern day football and snapped the connection between Mohammedan offence and defence as the game wore on.

On a rain-soaked soft ground with huge ugly and hoary patches of sand-pitings, Mohammedans appeared in the unlikely role of the aggressors as the onus of forcing a favourable result was more on the shoulders of men from Dhamondi than the blokes in black and whites. After the 2-3 defeat to Brothers in the last

match, yesterday it was almost an existential question for Abahani and their coach Salahuddin.

Oleg Jivotnikov, the ungainly striker from Russia who scored a hattrick against PWD on his debut for Mohammedans, stretched the Abahani defence in the early minutes with some energetic charges down his favourite left flank position.

But then Jivotnikov is Jivotnikov and no Oleg Blokhin and moreover he did not get any support from his fellow frontliners. Mohammedan skipper Shabbir, regarded as the livewire of his team, was bottled up by Munna and his company. Imtiaz Ahmed Naktib, the top scorer of the league with ten goals, seemed to have left his touch behind and it would have been too much to expect Aslam to conjure up some magic at the twilight of his career. In fact it was Aslam who should have got the consolation goal for Mohammedans which came too late through Jivotnikov.

Two positive scoring chances were created in the first half marked by tentative approach from both sides.

First a swerving Dozmorov flag kick baffled the Mohammedan defence but Gaus, one of the better performers of the day, was slow in reacting giving national goalie Kanan ample

chance to steer the ball out to keep his side from harm's way.

Mohammedans had their share of a splendid scoring chance midway through the first half. Jivotnikov rolled a long ball on Naktib's path and the latter came up with a neat centre but Aslam running along an Abahani defender failed to control the ball with a helpless Mohsin under the bar.

Mamun Joarder, who could not kick a ball since the DMFA cup final because of a fracture in his hand replaced Russian Alexander Sudarikov in the second half.

His arrival coincided with a discernable improvement in Abahani's game pattern as they tightened their grip on the match with intelligent wing play backed up by almost unchallenged midfield manoeuvring.

Mohammedans' problems multiplied as their coach took regular right back Shamim off to send in midfielder Saiful Bari Titu. Mohammedan defence, which was never really tested in the first half, cracked at the onset of the first serious Abahani move.

Gaus, the dapper dark winger, sprinted down the left flank to send a low minus across the goalmouth and the ball came to a totally unmarked Dozmorov with Kanan lying beaten and exposed at the first post in an unimpeachable exhibition of suspect timing and sense of his career and the Russian, perhaps the best player of the day coolly drove the ball in from close with his left foot in the 22nd minute of the second half (1-0).

Mohammedans strove unsuccessfully to make things hum again and after a pacy but unfruitful session of football under the floodlights Abahani sealed the fate of the match three minutes from time.

An absolutely lackadaisical and shabby piece of protective measure by national stopper Katar Hamid allowed Zakir to float a cross ball from the right on the second attempt and Gaus of all people, not really known for his heading expertise because of his height out-jumped a near six-foot Kanan to guide the ball into the Mohammedan net (1-0).

It was an appalling display of goalkeeping and not for the first time. The more retentive supporters of Mohammedan are yet to forget Kanan's lapses in last year's league decider which Mohammedans lost to Abahani 1-2 with Mamun Joarder finding the net twice.

Mohammedans pulled a goal back in the dying seconds following the resumption of the match after half an hour. Kanan, who must have grown hoarse by his childish and unseemly appeals to the man in black for a foul and ruling against what looked like a thoroughly legitimate goal, attempted a walkout with his teammates. Mohammedan officials, however, saw through this sympathy gimmick and quite rightly urged the players to carry on. The damage was however done as some of the supporters incited and excited by a false sense of injustice invaded the field forcing the policemen to wing in to action.

The third goal of the match was scored when Jewel Rana in a 'nothing to lose lunge forward' bulldozed into the Abahani defence. His miscued attempt went to Aslam whose powerful grounder came back to play off the post and a lurking Jivotnikov slotted the ball home with Mohsin left with very few and possible options. (1-2).

The rather inhibited nature of the clash of the two titans was reflected in the small number of flag kicks. Abahani got three flag-kicks as opposed to Mohammedans' one. Abahani committed 13 fouls while their opponents were pulled up 12 times for similar offences.

Abahani frequented the Mohammedan defence more and as result walked into the off-side trap six times. Mohammedans were stopped by the flag wavinglinemen four times.

Referee, who had enough trouble to break in the uptight players, showed yellow cards to Jewel, Kaiser of Mohammedans and Alamgir of Abahani.

Mohammedans have 14 points from nine matches while Abahani have accumulated 13 points from nine outings.



**VICTIMS OF DMFA MISMANAGEMENT:** A bad bungling by the organisers DMFA robbed these football enthusiasts a chance of witnessing the vital Star Premier league encounter between arch rivals Abahani and Mohammedans. Tickets beyond the limit of capacity of the stadium were put on sale by the DMFA which led to an avoidable and undeserving hassle for the righteous football fans. — Star photo

## De Silva stems SL slide



COLOMBO, Aug 4: Aravinda De Silva

Slammed a glorious 118 not out Wednesday to help Sri Lanka recover from a shaky start on the opening day of the third and final Test against India at the P Sara Oval, reports AP.

The 27-year-old De Silva's sixth test ton — his first on home soil in 34 matches — took Sri Lanka to 226 for the loss of four wickets when the stumps were drawn.

Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bat on this slow wicket.

De Silva, who made a face-saving 93 in the second Test, which Sri Lanka lost by 235 runs, sent down 12 boundaries and two sixes in a 242-ball innings. The first Test was washed out by rain.

He reached three figure an hour after tea, pulling leg-spinner Anil Kumble over mid-wicket for a mighty six.

De Silva found able support from left-hander Asanka Gurusinha (56) who helped him add 136 for the third wicket after the openers returned to pavilion in the first hour for a mere 29.

Hathurusinghe, who made six, was caught by Praveen Amre at short leg off Kapil.

Medium pacer Manoj Prabhakar trapped Roshan Mahanama leg before with an in-swinging leaving Sri Lanka reeling at 29 for two.

Sri Lanka made three changes in the team that lost the second Test, dropping wicketkeeper Ashley de Silva, off-spinner Ruwan Kalpage and fast bowler Dulip Liyanage.

Left-hand batsman Sanath Jayasuriya, wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwirathana and off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan replaced them.

India, expecting the wicket to turn, went into the match with

left-hander Unai Berrero, who

remained unbeaten on 14, having survived twice.

Earlier, Kapil Dev gave India a flying start when he removed opener Chandika Hathurusinghe at 13 to take his 424th Test wicket — just seven short of Richard Hadlee's record tally of 431.



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a third spinner in left-armed Venkatapathy Raju at the expense of seamer Javagal Srinath.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard on the first day of the third and final cricket Test between Sri Lanka and India on Wednesday:

**SRI LANKA:** First innings  
R Mahanama lbw b Prabhakar 6

C Hathurusinghe c Amre b Kapil Dev 6

A Gurusinha c Tendulkar b Kumble 56

P A de Silva not out 118

A Ranatunga c Kapil Dev b Raju 9

H Tillekeratne not out 14

Extras: (b-2, lb-13, nb-1, w-1) 17

Total: (for four wickets) 226

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-29; 3-165; 4-182.

To bat: S Jayasuriya, R Kaluwirathana, P Wickramasinghe, M Muralidharan, J Warnaweera.

**Bowling:** O M R W  
Kapil Dev 16 7 25 1

Prabhakar 12 3 37 1

Raju 22 5 49 1

Tendulkar 3 0 4 0

Kumble 26 7 62 1

Chauhan 17 4 34 0

**TEAMS:**

**INDIA:** Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Navjot Sidhu, Manoj Prabhakar, Vinod Kambli, Sachin Tendulkar, Praveen Amre, Kiran More (wicketkeeper), Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble, Rajesh Chauhan and Venkatapathy Raju.

**SRI LANKA:** Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Roshan Mahanama, Chandika Hathurusinghe, Asanka Gurusinha, Aravinda De Silva, Hashan Tillekeratne, Romesh Kaluwirathana, Sanath Jayasuriya, Pramodaya Wickramasinghe, Muttiah Muralidharan and Jayananda Warnaweera.



Mariner goalkeeper Micky dives across to frustrate Abahani's Pakistani medio Mahmood Hassan during yesterday's Green Delta First Division hockey league encounter at the Hockey Stadium. Abahani maintained their hundred per cent winning record beating Mariners 3-1. — Star photo

## Abahani make it look so easy

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Abahani made light work of a supposed formidable foe as the league leaders inspired by yet another lethal display of finishing by Pakistani Qamar Ibrahim posted their 13th straight victory beating Mariner Youngs Club 3-1 at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Qamar, the handsome well-built Pakistan international scored two sparkling moments of grace, power, speed and of course inherent skill.

Harun, Abahani's captain and one of the top local players in the circuit along with Mohammedan forward Sadek, got the other goal with another clinical specimen of neat striking that effectively soiled Mariners' unbeaten record.

Qamar opened the account for Abahani in the very first minute when he weaved his way through the Mariner defenders to sound the board with custodian Mickey knowing very little about the disaster 1-0.

Mehmood Hassan, the bea-

ded one of Abahani's Pakistani quartet, engineered the second goal. He set up his compatriot with a gem of a ball at the top of the D and in a superb exhibition of minimum back lift and maximum power Qamar blasted the board the second time in the 19th minute (2-0).

After a minor incident involving Abahani's Mamunur Rashid, whose angry reaction following a nasty tackle triggered off a rather prolonged spell, of unnecessary and to some extent unseemly behaviour.

Umpire was rendered functionless as the angry Mariner officials sored in to the field and caused a hold-up in the proceedings for about five minutes.

Good sense prevailed and Mariner got an excellent chance of reducing the margin following a concerted move. But Shahid hit the ball wide after baffling the Abahani defence with delectable stick work.

Blaka Lussain scored his seventeenth goal to jointly share the distinction of the topscorer with Mohammedans' Sadek

when Mariner were awarded a penalty stroke as Abahani custodian Asir obstructed the Mariner forward near the goalmouth in the 28th minute 1-2.

Mahub Harun sealed the fate of the match four minutes into the second half. He got a neat square pass from the intelligent Mehmood and crashed the ball into the cage with a beefy shot from top of the D (3-1).

Abahani now have 26 points from 13 matches and they have two matches to go including the last one against arch rivals and reigning champions Mohammedans.

Mariners, who suffered their first defeat yesterday, remain stuck to their collection of 19.

In the day's first match Railway beat Police by a solitary goal to record their sixth point from 13 matches.

Jahangir scored the all-important goal in the 31st minute. The defeat leaves Police with eight points from 13 matches.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**  
Bachelors SC vs PWD SC (2-30)

Ajax SC vs Usha KC (4-15)

## Hooliganism, English style

LONDON, Aug 4: A group of around 500 hooligans are organising trouble at British football grounds often well away from stadia, a leading English police officer warned on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Superintendent Adrian Appleby, head of the National Criminal Intelligence Service's football unit, revealed they also used football matches as a cover for other crimes.

In one case an Arsenal supporter staged an armed robbery at a Manchester building society during his team's away game in the city.

Police have had great success in recent years in combatting hooliganism, particularly at grounds, but it is still with us," he stressed.

"We must not be lulled into a false sense of security. There are small groups, totalling about 500 people, who are capable of orchestrating violence, whether against each other, decent fans, groundstaff and police, or other members of the public miles away from grounds.

"If successful, they can incite far larger numbers to violence. Their activities have also been

used as a cloak for other criminal activity such as robbery, theft, fraud, damage and assault, including rape.

"I think they were originally football fans. The club is their religion."

One of the largest gangs is known as the "Headhunters" and supports Chelsea, twenty have been photographed around the world at England Matches.

"They always fly club class and always give their occupation as company directors when they're arrested, yet they've never done a stroke of work in their life," Appleby added.

They are also involved in extreme right-wing politics. Last October the football unit became aware that the neo-Nazi British national party was targeting football clubs in a recruitment campaign.

In addition, they use trips abroad to buy equipment such as CS Gas, thunder flashes and flares, which could not be bought in Britain.

But Appleby is concerned that fans arrested abroad are deported rather than charged, although he always appealed to local police to take British trouble-makers to court.

His pleas have frequently

fallen on deaf ears, though. He explained: "They say afterwards, it's your problem. Why should we have to deal with it?"

The easiest thing is to sweep them up and get them of the country.

"There are individuals who've not got a conviction, but have been deported from six countries."

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With the photographers locked in a wrangle with the Metropolis Football Association regarding free access to the stadium, readers' thirst for the pictorial description of the Star Premier league encounter between Abahani and Mohammedans had to be restricted to this panoramic view of yesterday's jam-packed Dhaka Stadium, shortly before the start of the match. — Star photo

## Dorovskikh faces four-year ban

LONDON, Aug 4: World 3,000 metre champion Tatyana Dorovskikh of Ukraine has tested positive for a banned drug and faces a four-year suspension, the International Amateur Athletic Federation said Wednesday, reports AP.

An IAAF spokesman said the 31-year-old Dorovskikh, considered the world's top woman middle-distance runner, tested positive after an IAAF meet in Budapest, Hungary, on June 15.

Both urine samples were positive, resulting in an automatic suspension pending a hearing with her national federation.

The IAAF did not disclose the banned substance, but sources indicated it was a steroid.

Dorovskikh will be ineligible to defend her title at the World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, starting Aug. 14.

News of her suspension first leaked out in Zurich, Switzerland, site of Wednesday night's top-class Weltklasse meet.

Dorovskikh, then known by her maiden name Samolenko, won the 1,500 metre and 3,000 metre titles at the World Championships in Rome in 1987. She defended her 3,000 title in Tokyo in 1991.

At the 1988 Seoul Olympics, Dorovskikh won the gold medal in the 3,000 and bronze in the 1,500. She was silver medalist in the 3,000 at last year's Barcelona Games.

She is believed to be the first woman Olympic champion ever to be banned for drugs.

## Latest threat to Berlin's bid

BERLIN, Aug 4: Militants opposed to Berlin's bid to stage the 2000 Olympics have threatened to disrupt the Games if they are awarded to the German capital, according to a letter received Tuesday by a German news agency, reports AP.

The International Olympic Committee will announce the host of the 2000 Games at a meeting in Monte Carlo on Sept. 23. Sydney, Australia; Manchester, England; Beijing; Istanbul, Turkey; and Brasilia, Brazil also are in the running.

Berlin's bid has suffered because of opposition by a group of militants who have staged violent protests against the Olympics.

Last month, the group damaged a satellite antenna in Berlin, disrupting cable television reception for 90,000 households for several hours.

In a letter to the German sports news agency SID, the group threatened "massive acts of sabotage" during the Games if they are awarded to Berlin.

The letter was signed, "Autonomous Group with Plans Against the Olympics."

The "autonomes," as they generally refer to themselves, are a loosely organised anarchist group who frequently rumble with police and right-

## Manchester stars back Olympic bid

MANCHESTER, Aug 4: Manchester's most famous residents have backed the city's bid for the 2000 Olympics, reports AFP.

More than 20 Coronation Street stars gathered at the outdoor set of the Rovers here on Wednesday in Olympic t-shirts and baseball caps.

And Granada Television, which makes the long-running soap opera in the city, announced a 100,000-pound commitment to support the bid.

Actress Julie Goodyear, who plays landlady Bet Gilroy, said: "We are rooting for Manchester. We are very confident. Manchester has so many things to offer as well as its warm hospitality."

Granada chief executive Charles Allen said: "It is the first time that we have combined the resources of Coronation Street and the stations own on-screen presence to back a cause."

"But it is a cause worth backing because success on September 24 would be great for Manchester, great for the north-west and great for Britain."

## Dozell finally leaves Spurs

LONDON, Aug 4: Jason Dozell, a stalwart with Ipswich for nine years, joined Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday in a surprise English Premier League transfer, reports AFP.

The fee for the 25-year-old, who is out of contact, is likely to be decided by an independent tribunal, with Ipswich wanting two million pounds for him and Tottenham offering less.

"The move came totally out of the blue," said Dozell. "I've agreed terms and I have a fabulous deal. I'm the happiest footballer in the world right now and I have the perfect platform to push my international claims."

Dozell's departure is a bitter blow for Ipswich, for whom he has played since leaving school, making around 400 league appearances after beginning his senior career at the age of 16.

team despite problems and roster changes," he said.

Careca had been heavily criticized for sluggish play in Brazil's three World Cup qualifying matches.

His departure comes a day after Zetti, a substitute goalkeeper, was suspended by soccer's ruling body for testing positive for cocaine after a World Cup qualifier with Bolivia on July 25. Parreira replaced him with Gilmar.

"It's absurd," Zetti said of the temporary suspension by FIFA. "I have never used drugs or taken any other substance prohibited by FIFA."

Team doctor Lidio Toledo called the accusation "a joke."

Bolivia's Miguel Angel Rimba, who was also suspended, and Zetti said they drank a legal tea made from coca leaves and other herbs, commonly used to reduce dizziness and nausea in the 12,000-foot (4000-meter) altitude of La Paz.

Dr Eduardo de Rose, a member of the medical commission of the International Olympic Committee, said it was unlikely the tea would give a positive reading, even though it is the raw material for cocaine.

"It had to be something

## Brazil get another jolt



RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 4: Brazil's soccer team, struggling on the field and booed by its fans, received another jolt Tuesday when World Cup veteran, Careca left the squad, reports AP.

The 32-year-old forward said he is having personal problems and "Slacked the right spirit necessary at this time to represent Brazil in World Cup competition."

Careca, who this summer signed to play in Japan after six seasons with the Italian club Napoli, said he'd been considering leaving for weeks before coming to the "mature decision."

He left open the option of rejoining the Brazilian squad.

"I wasn't adding any spark to the team," Careca said from his hometown of Campinas.

Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira replaced him with Valdeir, a young forward from the French club Bordeaux.

Careca, whose given name is Antonio de Oliveira Filho, denied the Brazilian squad was panicking over the possibility of not qualifying for the 1994 World Cup.

"Qualifying for the World Cup will come easy for this

much stronger," he said.

Brazil was a heavy favourite with Uruguay for the two World Cup berths in South America's Group B. The other three teams — Ecuador, Bolivia and Venezuela — were considered lightweights.

But, inexplicably, Brazil's play has been abysmal. They tied Ecuador 0-0, lost 2-0 to Bolivia and even looked bad in a 5-1 victory over Venezuela.

Nearly halfway through the round, Brazil are tied with Uruguay with three points, although Uruguay have played a game less. Bolivia lead with four points.

**Lentini injured in car crash**

TURIN, Italy, Aug 4: Italian soccer international Gianluigi Lentini suffered serious head injuries in a car crash early on Tuesday but doctors were optimistic he would be able to resume his career, reports Reuters.

"He is slowly coming round and recognised his father and some friends when they visited him," said Carmelo del Giudice, medical director at the Turin Hospital where the AC Milan player is being treated.

"There should be nothing to prevent him from returning to soccer but, please, don't ask me when," Del Giudice told Reuters by telephone.

The hospital said in its latest medical bulletin that the condition of the player, who had been in a light coma, had improved during the day.

Doctors refused to speculate on how long his recovery might take.

They had