

Finale fizzles into fiasco

Violence, the hydra-headed monster, appeared once again with all its enormity at the Hockey Stadium as the title deciding finale of this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league between bitter rivals Mohammedans and Abahani was abandoned early into the second half.

Neither of the bellicose combatants could score any goal when the bell broke loose.

Mohammedans, champions for the last two years seeking a

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tional Qamar Ibrahim who flew back to Pakistan few days back to report for domestic engagements.

Few among the large number of spectators who had turned up at the stadium to see the crucial encounter had any doubts about the prospect of flare-ups originating from tension.

Players of both sides wasted little time in lending conviction to the lurking fears in the safer section of supporters thronging the field for pure entertainment. Reacting from predetermined

the unruly Mohammedan supporters, sitting with the extra players and the coach, attempted an unsuccessful entry into the field brandishing sticks in demand of a goal.

The match was somehow played to the interval following intervention of the members of the law enforcing agency.

But some five minutes into the second half Abahani's Lulu and a Mohammedan player got entangled in a rather redundant clash in the midfield and players of both sides, who had earlier made futile attempts to stir



Abahani hockey player Alamgir being carried off the field after he was injured during a clash between players and supporters in yesterday's crucial Green Delta First Division league tie between traditional foes Abahani and Mohammedans at the Hockey Stadium. The match ended in a fiasco. — Star photo

treble, needed a win having collected 27 points from 14 matches. A draw on the other hand would suffice Abahani's requirement for regaining the title as they led up to the last league match with full 28 points from 14 matches.

Although Abahani were psychologically better off needing only a point to reach their cherished goal, many fancied Mohammedans as the possible winners in yesterday's clash of the giants because the black and whites succeeded in retaining their Pakistan title spear-headed by mercurial scorer Muntaz Haider.

Although the most balanced among the contestants Abahani were certain to miss their Pakistani quartet, specially the incomparable Pakistan interna-

mentality of giving off sparks like an eel at every physical contact, every player behaved like a drugged demon.

The first real skirmish broke out at the far end of the first half when Mohammedans' right full back Ijaz felled Abahani's Akhtar on the left flank. Umpire Belim, who had a tough time in controlling the players bristling from boarish rage, sent him out temporarily with a yellow card.

Everyone waited with bated breath as the players with colourful abuses on their lips and insidious intention at the end of their sticks kept up the appearances.

Muntaz Haider, the temperamental Pakistani, drove a ball in the Abahani goal after umpire Belim had nullified the move with a clean whistle. Some of

up a trouble, got into a free for all. Sticks were swung menacingly at each other with Alamgir of Abahani being one of the serious type of casualties. He was hit on the forehead as anarchy and chaos reigned in the middle of the pitch.

With supporters of both sides hoodwinking the sluggish policemen to enter the field from the stands with bamboo poles and sticks, the stage was fully set for a full scale battle.

Police lobbed several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the fighting players and supporters causing enormous suffering to those who were caught in the muddledom.

League committee would sit today to decide the fate of the unfinished match.

Mohammedans exact revenge

Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club remained the league leaders when they came back from behind to exact an unrelieved revenge against Mukhtjodha Sangsad with a 2-1 win in the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedans, who now have 16 points from ten matches, were locked at one-all at the end of the first half in their second round opener.

However, Russian striker Oleg Jivotnikov scored the match winner early into the second half to bring back smile on the faces of the majority of the near capacity crowd.

Mukhtjodha, who almost beat their fancied opponents in their league opener on June 12, appeared quite determined to realise the ambition foisted by a late equaliser from Mohammedans' Kaiser Hamid started yesterday from where they had left off.

They, however, took some time as Mohammedans armoured with three Russian booters — striker Jivotnikov, medio Mourat and right back Roman, the tallest player on the

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ground — poured in from all sides for an early breakthrough.

Mukhtjodha absorbed the onslaughts well and surprised Mohammedans with their first sally at the black and white citadel. Masudur Rana cashed in on a Kaiser blunder on the right flank to send in a fatal cross from the right and an unmarked Biplab took a fierce first time grounder that gave no chance to an unsuspected Lahul, guarding the Mohammedan post after a long time because of Kanani's suspension.

Mohammedans got the equaliser 13 minutes later, in the 39th minute to be precise, when Shabbir connected an ambitious volley from the top of the box that swerved into the net much to the surprise and horror of the Mukhtjodha defenders and custodian Panmu (1-1).

Oleg Jivotnikov, who scored a hat-trick on his debut, scored the match-winner ten minutes into the second half when the gangling and hardworking player flicked the ball home from a scooped midfield through by compatriot Taguive Mourat (2-1).

Mourat created a few more openings with some delicate distribution and intelligent flag

kicks but his peers let him down with poor finishing.

Mourat of Mohammedans and Biplab of Mukhtjodha were shown the yellow card by referee R Alam.

The defeat leaves Mukhtjodha with their previous collection of nine points from ten matches.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC : Lahul, Kaiser, Jewel Rana, Barun, Roman, Murad (Titu), Arman, Jivotnikov, Shabbir, Naquib (Rox) and Aslam.

MUKHTJODHA SANGSAD : Panmu, Emdad, Shipar, Razzak, Parimol, Shah Jahan, Chapal, Masud Rana, Zahid (Paritosh), Ripon and Biplab.

GOALLESS DRAW

The first match of the day, also a Star Premier encounter, between Rahmatganj and Agrani Bank ended in a goalless draw.

Relegation bound Rahmatganj now have four points from ten matches while bankers have nine from ten matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Fakirpool vs East End (4-30).

Brothers vs War (6-30).

Seles not fit for US Open

VAIL, Colorado, Aug 13: Monica Seles, who has been sidelined since she was stabbed by a spectator during a match in Germany in April, will not be able to defend her title at the US Open tennis championships, her doctors said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Doctors Richard Steadman and Richard Hawkins, who have supervised Seles' rehabilitation programme at the Steadman Hawkins Clinic in Vail, Colorado, said the tennis star was recovering but not ready to return to action.

Seles has already missed the French Open where she would have gone for a fourth successive title, and Wimbledon since being attacked in Hamburg on April 30. She has also lost her world number one ranking to Steffi Graf because of her inability to compete.

"There is still no way to accurately predict when she will be able to return to daily competition," the statement said.

Seles was stabbed in the upper back during a changeover of her semifinal match against Magdalena Maleeva at the Citizen Cup tennis championship by a spectator who later claimed to be a Graf fan wanting to put her chief rival out of action.

The knife penetrated Seles' back about an inch and her attacker, identified as Guenter Parche, was later charged with attempted murder.



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Seles' stabber charged

HAMBURG, Aug 13: The man who stabbed Monica Seles in April and knocked her out of tennis competition has been charged with causing grievous bodily harm, authorities said Friday, reports AP.

Seles, 19, has been undergoing rehabilitation in Vail, Colo. at the Steadman-Hawkins Clinic, and will be unable to defend her US Open title at the end of August, it was announced Thursday.

Fletcher to see it through

LONDON, Aug 13: Keith Fletcher, manager of England's struggling cricket team, said he has become the victim of vilification and vandalism but vowed not to let his critics hound him out of office, reports Reuter.

Fletcher, with a record of eight defeats and one draw in nine Tests in charge, has received hate-mail and had his car vandalised, according to an interview in The Times published on Friday.

He said: "There are people always ready to snipe at times like this. They'll be thinking they've got rid of two (captain Graham Gooch and chairman of selectors Ted Dexter) and they've got one to go."

"I accept that this is going to happen, but they won't get rid of me. I can assure you, because I am far tougher than any of them."

Fletcher said he has had the headlights of his car smashed and had hate-mail sent to him.

"Things like this can affect your whole family. I'm lucky. My wife, Sue, is very strong and she can take it," he said.

"But it is now the way of things in cricket that if the England team is doing badly, there have to be heads put on the block and people don't know it is done."

"There are some things about the job that cannot be enjoyed, like walking around a ground and getting stuck from the sort of people who believe someone else could march in and wave a magic wand. There are things which hurt me, but mostly, if I see or hear something very nasty, I try to make a joke of it."

Smith, England manager for Caribbean tour

LONDON, Aug 13: Mike Smith, the bookmakers' favourite to succeed Ted Dexter as chairman of the England selectors, will manage the tour party to the West Indies next year, reports Reuter.

When the news was released by the Test and county Cricket Board on Thursday, Smith was quick to stress that the approach was made before Dexter's resignation was announced three days earlier after England had suffered their 10th defeat in their last 11 Tests.

According to TCCB chief executive Alan Smith, the initial approach to his namesake — known as M J K — was made before certain events unfolded in recent days.

The 60-year-old Warwickshire chairman took "two or three weeks" before accepting the invitation. Smith, who played 50 Tests for England, 25 as captain, said he was "looking forward very much indeed to the trip."

The squad will be selected in mid-September and England, who arrive in Antigua in January, will play five Tests and five one-day internationals against West Indies.

A middle-order batsman, Smith scored 2,278 Test runs but was not one of England's most successful captains, winning only five of his 25 matches in charge.

He was a Test selector under Alec Bedser's chairmanship.

Soccer Blast USA

NEW YORK, Aug 13: Pele and other former World Cup stars such as Rivelino, Gordon Banks and Geoff Hurst will take part in Soccer Blast USA, a 36-city touring festival, reports AP.

The one-day events begin Saturday in Boston and will run through Dec 19, the day of the World Cup draw. Soccer Blast USA, sponsored by MasterCard and Procter and Gamble, will visit 25 states.

Besides the World Cup stars, US national team players Peter Vermes, Desmond Armstrong and Michelle Akers-Stahl, will participate in various activities, including shooting contests against a mechanical goalkeeper and 5-on-5 games with amateur players.

The shooting contests will offer prizes to goal scorers.

Pele will be on hand for approximately 10 events and drawings will be held for free copies of his instructional video. He also will sign autographs, as will Vermes, Armstrong and Akers-Stahl, who led the United States to the women's world championship in 1991.

Other cities on the schedule include New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles and San Francisco.



Shri Lankan Board President's XI opening batsman Dulip Samaraweera readies for one from South African paceman Brett Schultz during the three-day match in Galle yesterday. — AFP photo

S Africa make superb start

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Aug 13: Darryl Cullinan and Jimmy Cook shared in an unfinished century stand-off as left-arm bowlers Brett Schultz and Clive Eksteen gave South Africa a superb start to their tour of Sri Lanka in this southern port city Friday, reports AP.

Pace bowler Schultz and spinner Eksteen took four wickets each to destroy an inexperienced Board XI team for 90 on the first day of their three-day tour opener. South Africa then moved to a commanding 159 for three at the close.

Cullinan hit an unbeaten 64 and Cook remained 42 not out during an unbroken 108-run fourth wicket partnership that saw South Africa recover rapidly from a poor 51 for three.

The 26-year-old Cullinan smashed a sixer off left-arm spinner Piyal Wijetunge and also scored eight boundaries in his 155-minute knock. The veteran Cook had two fours in his sedate innings.

Schultz ran through the top-order in an inspiring second spell taking four wickets in 17 balls to send the board side tottering to 45 for six at the lunch interval.

Hemantha Wickramaratne was the only one to show any resistance, scoring a defiant 30 in 86 minutes before the left-

hander pulled Eksteen, only to see Andrew Hudson taking a well-judged catch at deep mid-wicket. He had just two boundaries in his 55-ball innings.

The collapse commenced when Schultz sent back opener Dulip Samaraweera, Naveed Nawaz and Test discard Marvan Atapattu in quick succession before paceman Brian McMillan made it 29 for four with the wicket of skipper Chaminda Mendis.

Schultz then had Saman Jayantha caught at forward short-leg by Andrew Hudson to finish with figures of four for 18 inclusive of a superb second spell of 6-4, 9-4.

Eksteen later knocked off the middle-order and bowled tail-end Piyal Wijetunge to end the innings in the 40th over. Eksteen returned figures of four for 29.

Despite the sultry weather, Andrew Hudson and Cullinan had a fine day in the field taking four and three catches respectively.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the first day of the three-day game between South Africa and Sri Lanka: Board XI here Friday.

SRI LANKA BOARD XI:

1st Innings				
M C Mendis c Cullinan				
b McMillan	14			
D Samaraweera c Wessels				
b Schultz	11			

SOUTH AFRICA: 1st Innings

K C Wessels lbw Pushpakumara	31			
A C Hudson c Dasanayake				
b Lyanage	0			
H Cronje c Dasanayake				
b Lyanage	15			
D Cullinan not out	64			
S J Cook not out	42			
Extras: (nb-6, w-1)	7			
Total: (3 wkt)	159			
Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-33; 3-51;				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Lyanage	16	4	1	2
Pushpakumara	11	2	3	1
Wijetunge	12	0	5	0
Chandana	9	1	28	0

Aussies overwhelm Kent

CANTERBURY, England, Aug 13: Six bowlers captured wickets for Australia Friday as the tourists defeated Kent by 89 runs in a three-day match, reports AP.

Steve Waugh put up the most impressive numbers, taking two for nine runs in just five overs. Tim Zohrer and Tim May added two wickets, and Wayne Holdsworth, Shane Warne and Mark Taylor had one each as Kent was all out for 222.

The result was set up by early declarations by both captains. Kent, replying to Australia's first innings total of 391 for four, declared on their overnight score of 114 for two.

Australia then added 34 without loss in five overs early Friday before putting Kent back to bat with a target of 312.

The county team struggled immediately, losing their first three wickets for 29. Trevor Ward then hit a 69 before he was caught by Taylor off Warne.

Australia begin play against Essex Saturday before the final Test against England starting next Thursday.

Earlier on Thursday, opener Damien Martyn scored the 35th century by an Australian during their Ashes tour as the touring side romped to 391 for four declared.

Martyn was unbeaten on 105 after a 232-ball innings which included 11 fours.

First day century-maker Steve Waugh added just 12 to his overnight score before being bowled by Alan Igglesden for 123.

Leg spinner Shane Warne took his 150th first-class wicket as Kent made a solid reply to be 114-2 at the close of a rain-affected second day.

Warne reached the milestone

when he trapped Graham Cowdrey lbw for 25 after an opening stand of 71 with David Fulton (40 not out).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second day of the three-day match between Kent and Australia on Thursday:

AUSTRALIA: First Innings (overnight 296-3)

M Slater c Fulton b Ealham	7			
M Taylor c Cowdrey b Ellison	78			
M Hayden c Igglesden				
b Ellison	31			
S Waugh b Igglesden	123			
D Martyn not out	105			
I Healy not out	33			
Extras: (lb-3, w-1, nb-10)	14			
Total: (for four wickets, declared)	391			
Fall of wickets: 1-22; 2-90; 3-151; 4-315.				

D MARTYN ... 105 no

Did not bat: B. Julian, T. Zohrer, S. Warne, T. May, W. Holdsworth.

Bowling:

Igglesden	22	4	59	1
Ealham	25	1	103	1

Ellison 30 6 97 2

Davis 35 12 96 0

Patel 10 1 33 0

KENT: First Innings

D Fulton not out	40			
G Cowdrey lbw b Warne	25			
N Llong c Taylor b Waugh	15			
S Marsh not out	16			
Extras: (lb-3, w-1, nb-14)	18			
Total: (for two wickets)	114			
Fall of wickets: 1-71; 2-90.				
To bat: M. Benson, T. Ward, M. Ealham, R. Davis, M. Patel, R. Ellison, A. Igglesden.				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Holdsworth	7	2	20	0
Julian	9	2	41	0
Warne	9	1	30	1
Waugh	6	3	13	1
Hayden	1	0	7	0

Pan plays Chang in final

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 13: Unseeded Pan Bing of China and seventh seeded South Korean Chang Eui-jong won berths in Saturday's final of the Malaysian International Satellite Circuit II tennis championships after winning their semifinal matches Friday, reports AP.

PAN defeated second-seeded Peter Tramacchi of Australia 6-2, 6-3, while Chang beat third-seeded teammate Lee Jin-ho 6-1, 6-3.

In the doubles, Jeff Belloli of the United States and Mahesh Bhupathi of India meet Dean Cohen of the United States and Peter Tramacchi of Australia in Saturday's final.

Belloli and Bhupathi defeated Chang Eui-jong and Kim Chi-wan of South Korea 6-3, 6-1.

In the other semifinal Thursday, Cohen and Tramacchi defeated Ji Seung-ho and Kim Jae-sik of South Korea 6-4, 6-1.

A total of 24 singles players and eight doubles teams are taking part in the US \$12,500 championship.

Graeme Hick hammers a ton

LONDON, Aug 13: England reject Graeme Hick hammered a brilliant 182 on Thursday as Worcestershire scored 403 for nine on the first day of their County Championship match against Surrey, reports Reuter.

Hick's second century since being dropped by England six weeks ago took him past 1,000 runs for the ninth successive season. He batted for five hours three minutes, faced 208 balls and hit three sixes and 26 fours.

His innings revived a Worcester side struggling at 136 for five. Only paceman Phil Newport (52) kept him company for any length of time, the pair adding 166 for the seventh wicket. England fast bowler Martin Becknell was the pick of the Surrey attack, with six for 85 — including Hick's wicket.

Somerset seamers Neil Mallender and Andy Caddick both bagged five for 49 as they bowled Derbyshire out for 135.

Caddick's haul was the ideal response to his omission from the England team for the fifth Test against Australia at Edgbaston, while Mallender showed the qualities that won him two Test caps last year.

In reply, Somerset were 79 without loss.

Runaway championship leaders Middlesex made Yorkshire regret batting first at Scarborough as recalled England left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell took three wickets in 11 balls.

Mike Gatting's side — 39 points clear at the top of the table — reduced the home side to 89 for five in 33 overs before rain called a halt, Tufnell ending with three for 15.

David Gower stroked one six and 11 boundaries in an unbeaten 81 front of New England captain Michael Atherton as Hampshire made 233 for four against Lancashire.

Johnson stronger than ever

STUTTGART, Aug 13: Michael Johnson may be the man celebrating Butch Reynolds's most important sporting anniversary next week, reports Reuter.

Five years ago Reynolds clocked a world record 43.29 seconds at the Zurich Grand Prix. On Tuesday, exactly five years later, the pair are scheduled to meet in the World Championships final.

Johnson, the current world 200 champion, has never lost a 400 metres race outdoors.

He powered past an impressive US Championship field in June to earn the favourite's role for Stuttgart and has looked equally impressive in subsequent meetings.

Johnson clocked 43.74 seconds, the fourth fastest time ever, as he swept away Reynolds and Olympic champion Quincy Watts with a blazing final 200 metres.

Now he is looking for a repeat performance in the World Championships.

"If I come off the turn with the momentum I had, then they can't catch me," says Johnson, who has won 30 consecutive 400 metres victories, 19 outdoors.

Johnson hopes to run the first 100 metres faster than in Eugene at the American Championships.

"I didn't really get out as hard as I needed to for the first 50 metres," Johnson said. "Otherwise, the game plan will be the same. I just hope to be able to maintain whatever I have over the last 200 metres."

Reynolds said a 400 metres runner can no longer depend on his final 100 metres to carry him to victory.

"You must run the first 300 metres, and then be there to run fast in the home stretch," Reynolds said. "I can't sit and kick any more. I have to run and earn my living."

Watts is one of the new breed of one-lap runners who have transformed racing strategy in the event.

But he has had problems since his Olympic success, rarely looking the part on the Grand Prix circuit this year.

Johnson never made it past the semifinals of the 200 at the Barcelona Games after suffering food poisoning.

But he is healthy now and seemingly enjoying the 400 metres more than the 200, once his favourite event.

"I feel a lot more relaxed and in control in the 400," he said. "I know if I make a mistake in the first part, I can make it up in the second part."

The move is paying off, both in popularity and at the bank. Promoters this year are offering Johnson 45,000 dollars to run the 400, 15,000 dollars more than they paid for the 200.

Benfica beat Porto 1-0

LISBON, Aug 13: Cup holders Benfica beat league champions Porto 1-0 (half-time 0-0) in the first leg of the Portuguese soccer Supercup on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Scorer: Rui Aguas (83rd minute)

Attendance: 80,000

The second leg will be played in Porto next Sunday.