

BCCB Ten let Athar down

Sports Reporter

An excellent allround performance by Athar Ali Khan went in vain as Bangladeshi Cricket Control Board XI lost a friendly over-limit match with Services Eleven by two wickets in Hyderabad, India yesterday, according to a faxed message received at the BCCB office last night.

The tall allrounder stood amid the ruins of BCCB XI innings with 45 and then captured six wickets to set up an improbable win but in the end ran out of overs, allowing the opponents to scrape through.

Batting first, BCCB XI were all out for 138 in 49.2 overs, four balls short of their quota of 50 overs.

Aminul Islam Bulbul, Abu Hamid Phyal and Enamul Huq Moni were the other run makers with 21, 20 and 15 respectively.

Panda with two for 12, Mani with two for 16 and S P Sharma with one for 17 were the wicket takers for Services.

Services overtook the score in 43 overs. C Sharma chipped in with an unbeaten 40 in Services' innings of 141 for eight, devastated by a telling spell of medium pace bowling from Athar Ali. Athar took six wickets for 27 in his 10-over stint.

Hero's welcome for Nigerian under-17 squad

LAGOS, Sept 10: Thousands of Nigerians turned out on Thursday to welcome home their country's junior side who won the under-17 world soccer championship in Tokyo last Saturday, reports Reuter.

The team returned to Nigeria on Wednesday night and were received by interim head of state Ernest Shonekan.

Shonekan announced rewards of 100,000 Naira (8,000 dollars) each for members of the team but said they would get half in cash and the rest in blue chips investments. They are also being awarded scholarships up to university level.

National sports commission chairman Alex Akpomie said the team would be based at a training camp for more than two years to enable them to mature into the national team.

The Nigerians won the championship when they beat African rivals and defending champions Ghana 2-1.

The victory temporarily set aside Nigeria's current political crisis as the nation erupted in wild jubilation.

Dahlin keeps Sweden afloat

SOFIA, Sept 10: Martin Dahlin hit a vital equaliser as Sweden kept their World Cup hopes on track with a 1-1 draw away to Bulgaria on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov put Bulgaria ahead with a penalty in the 21st minute, but Dahlin struck five minutes later to leave Sweden just one point behind France in second place in European Group Six and two ahead of the Bulgarians.

Only group strugglers Finland and Austria now stand between Sweden and a place in 1994 finals.

Stoichkov made the most of his debut as captain, putting Bulgaria ahead after Ian Eriksson tripped Emil Kostadinov.

Within five minutes the tables were turned when Dahlin capitalised on a blunder by Trifon Ivanov and stormed through a distraught defence to fire home the equaliser.

Krasimir Balakov netted in the 63rd minute only to be ruled offside.

Swedish coach Tommy Svensson observed: "Qualifying for the finals is now just a matter of time."

Dimitar Penev, Bulgaria's head coach, acknowledged that his team were now out of contention. "I knew the Swedes would embarrass us and we were upset after they equalised," he said.

Asian Cup Winners Soccer result

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Sept 10: Takuji Jinno scored twice Wednesday night, powering the Yokohama Marinos of Japan to a 5-0 triumph over Air Force Philippines in a game of the 4th Asian Cup Winners Championship, reports AP.

Playing in a drizzle, Jinno scored his first goal in the 19th minute on a header, and Kefuchi Zatzen shot past four defenders for Japan's second goal with five minutes left in the first half.

The Marinos, seeking their third straight title in this tournament, played most of the first half in Philippine territory, threatening with seven shots against two by the Philippines, winner of the Ugarte Cup.

Jinno threatened with another second-half cross shot, and the crowd of more than 4,200 in Yokohama's Mitsuzawa Stadium cheered the good save by Philippine goalkeeper Melo Sabacan.

MSC half way through

Sports Reporter

Title seekers Mohammadian Sporting Club were half way through their target when they recorded their fifth consecutive win in the second round of the Star Premier Division league, beating a revamped Arambagh Krira Sangsta 2-0 at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Desperately looking for the Senior Division league title after being in the wilderness for the last two years, Mohammadians yesterday scored in each half to up their collection to 26 points from 15 matches so far.

Arambagh, who gave their fancied opponents a tough time in their first encounter despite losing 1-3, had three Thai play-

Mohammedans dominated the proceedings. Although Arambagh staged infrequent sally moves, the tough alert Mohammadian defence took care of them without much fuss.

Jivotnikov, who has already scored two hattricks excluding another treble for the black and whites in an international match against New Radiant Club of Maldives, upped his individual tally to 11. He now leads the list of top goal-getters ahead of his teammate Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib.

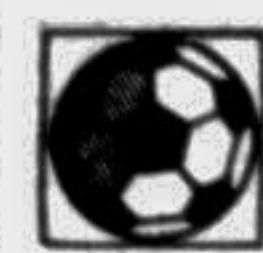
Cheize, on the other hand, convinced almost everyone present at the field about his class saving at least three certain goals from either the feet or heads of the marauding Mohammadian attackers.

The winners did not have to wait long for their first goal. It came about the tenth minute of

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Lahool, Roman, Kaiser, Jewell Rana, Barun, Tita (Ekram Rana), Arman, Mourat, Shabbir, Aslam and Jivotnikov (Nakib). ARAMBAGH KS: Cheize,

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