

Sport



Milon, the Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society goalkeeper, helplessly looks back as Abahani's Russian defender Gyorgi's spot kick kisses the net during their Star Premier Division football league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

Spikers lose Asian meet opener

Bangladesh lost to defending champions China in straight sets on the inaugural day of the 7th Asian Men's Volleyball championship in the Thal city of Korat yesterday, reports UNB.

Earlier in the morning, Governor of Korat formally opened the nine-day 16-tear-old prestigious competition. President of the Asian Volleyball Federation Madsui Deshal was present at the opening ceremony as a special guest.

China came across little resistance from Bangladesh for a 15-2, 15-3, 15-6 win in their Group D fog at the Korat Rachamangkha Gymnasium, according to a message received in Dhaka last evening.

Australia defeated the Philippines 15-10, 15-6, 15-2 in the inaugural match of the championship, played at the same venue in the morning.

Bangladesh will take on Australia today in their second group match, the Philippines on Monday (Sept 13) and their last group match against Qatar on Wednesday (Sept 15).

Jhelun, Sumi start well

Sheikh Moinudin Waliullah Jhelun and Sharmin Shirin Siddique (Sumi) earned top positions among the men and women competitors in the first leg of the SAF Games tennis training tournament which concluded Friday at the National Tennis Complex, reports UNB.

In the men's group, Jhelun secured 10 points with five wins and one loss to finish top among the seven competitors while Hira Lal, also with 10 points, placed second in the tie breaker.

Jhelun lost his only match to Faisal Syed-Haq 6-2, 4-6, 4-6 while Hira Lal lost to Jhelun 5-7.

Shovin Jamaly was placed third and Faisal Syed-Haq fourth in the tie breaker after both secure eight points.

In the women's group, Sumi won the top slot securing full 12 points while Hosne Ara Rina earned the second position with 10 points after losing her only match to Sumi.

Sathi Sarker and Yasmin Ahmed Urmi finished third and fourth, collecting eight and six points respectively.

The second leg of the six-leg series begins Monday at the same venue.

Maradona plans int'l comeback

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 11: Diego Maradona is thinking about an international comeback in the wake of Argentina's 5-0 drubbing by Colombia last weekend, reports AFP.

Maradona began his comeback to club football on Thursday when he signed a one-year contract with Newell's Old Boys, despite previous claims of retirement after an unhappy season in the Spanish league with Sevilla.

On Friday, he said "It's like coming back to life. I wasn't thinking of playing in the national side again but after what happened on Sunday, everything is changing in my head. I cried a lot."

"If the national coach Alfonso Basile calls me, I have to see."

The name of Maradona, who was sacked by Sevilla at the end of last season, was chanted by Argentine fans after the rout by Colombia.

Meanwhile, Maradona also explained his choice of Newell's rather than Argentinos Juniors, the club where he started his professional career, aged 16.

"I like Argentinos a lot but the club seems to be slipping a bit, while Newell's are full of ambition."

"In theory, I'll play my first match with Newell's on October 7, but ideally I'd like to be fit enough to play in the derby against Rosario Central on September 19."

Abahani barely make it

Defending champions Abahani Kira Chakra managed a face-saving lone goal victory over unfancied Rahmatganj MFS in the only match of the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

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— Star photo

Abahani K.C. who virtually squandered their title hopes after two consecutive draws against Victoria SC and Agrani Bank in the earlier matches, also disheartened their fans yesterday playing a lackluster game.

They were seemingly short of ideas and played aimlessly for most of the time.

Lokman of Rahmatganj spoilt an easy chance in the 15th minute of the first half as he failed to push the ball home off a Sohel pass with the Abahani goalie to beat.

Abahani's Russian mid-fielder Sudarikov, and winger Mamun Joarder both came close to score twice — Sudarikov in the first half and Mamun in the second half — but Rahmatganj custodian Milon rescued his team brilliantly on both occasions.

Rahmatganj partly dominated the match, especially in the second half.

Badal of Rahmatganj, Gyorgi and Ahmed of Abahani K.C. were cautioned with the yellow card for rough charging.

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