

Agrani, Bima win

Sports Reporter

Agrani Bank further diluted fears of relegation when they beat Victoria Sporting Club by a solitary goal in the lone Star Premier Division engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In an all too familiar dull, prosaic encounter bankers sealed the fate of the match with a goal from Raj at the fog end of the first half.

Raj scored the all important goal utilising a cross from speedy winger Akhtar in the 44th minute of the first half.

The win enhances bankers collection to 14 from 16 matches.

Victoria on the other hand stay glued to their previous collection of 12 from 16 matches.

Sadharan Bima Krira Sangsara drove another nail in the coffin of already relegated Adamjee Sports Club when they recorded a narrow one nil victory against the jutemens in the Star First Division league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Striker Mintu scored the match winner two minutes after the kick-off.

The insurancemen now have 15 points from as many matches, definitely a lot better situation than Adamjee who face the axe with just three points in their kitty from 16 matches.

Meanwhile, two more referees — now from Shri Lanka — are due in the city to officiate the remaining Star Premier league matches. The pair would be an addition to two match officials from Malaysia who have successfully conducted a couple of Premier ties.

Foreign referees are being used for the time in the history of local football as controversy over the competency of local referees recently raged the football arena.

Udayan, Shaheen start with wins

Sports Reporter

Udayan Vidyalay and BAF Shaheen School and College recorded wins on the inaugural day of the National King Fan schools basketball championship that got underway at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

In the low scoring but exciting first match Udayan beat K.L. Jubilee School 28-23.

Wastur with 10 and Asif with six share among the Udayan scorers.

Vivekananda had the honours of being the highest individual scorer with 15 but still ended up with the losers. Mehmood made six.

In the second match of the day BAF Shaheen School and College had an easy 42-12 victory against Bangladesh Rifles School.

Masudul was the top scorer for the winners with 14.

Bony managed six points for the vanquished.

Earlier State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain inaugurated the 12-day meet comprising 13 teams.

Morocco beat Mali 3-0

RABAT, Sept 16: Morocco beat Mali 3-0 (halftime 2-0) in a soccer friendly in Casablanca today in a warm-up match for Morocco's World Cup qualifier against Zambia on October 10, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Laghissi (25th, 55th minutes), Chaough (37th).

Zambia overcomes hangover of tragedy

LUCKNOW, Sept 16: Zambia said on Wednesday it would play a World Cup soccer qualifier against Morocco next month despite losing a protest against the proposed match officials, reports Reuter.

Zambia had appealed to the International Football Federation (FIFA) to replace Gabonese match officials after a row blew up with Libreville over investigations into an April air crash in which 18 members of the Zambian national team died.

Zambian authorities accused Gabon of blocking investigations into the crash of the Air Force plane shortly after taking off from Libreville en route to a World Cup qualifier in Senegal.

Winston Gumboh, acting chairman of the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ), said FIFA had rejected Zambia's request to change the officials for next month's because the Gabonese would be representing FAZ and not their home country.

Gumboh said the FAZ would accept the decision "Because Zambia is a disciplined country."

Zambian Foreign Minister Vernon Mwanga said on Monday investigators had found some of the wreckage of the twin-engined aircraft in shallow water of the coast of Gabon.

All 30 people aboard died in the crash.



An exciting moment in the dull Star First Division encounter between Adamjee and Sadharan Bima at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Bima won the match one nil. — Star photo

Barcelona at the beam's end



LONDON, Sept 16: Former champions Barcelona were on the precipice of elimination from the European Cup after a shock 3-1 away defeat by Dynamo Kiev in the opening salvos of the competition on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

And AC Milan, beaten finalists last season and winners in 1988 and 1990, suffered a scare before running out 1-0 winners against FC Aarau who had ruled out for offside.

Monaco, reluctant under-studies for banned European champions Marseille, needed a late own goal to beat AEK Athens 1-0 in the principality, while Manchester United marked their return to the European Cup after 24 years with a 3-2 away win against Honved Budapest.

Barcelona, knocked out in the second round by a 3-2 home defeat by CSKA Moscow last season, face a severe test of their European pedigree in the home leg in two weeks after two goals either side of halftime earned the Ukrainians victory.

Kiev shook the Spanish champions with a sixth minute goal from Pavlo Shkrapenko, but Barcelona equalised through a penalty in the 28th minute by Ronald Koeman.

Then Viktor Leonenko scored twice, a penalty on the stroke of halftime and 11 minutes after the break to earn Dynamo a first win in four games against Barcelona over the last four seasons.

About 200 Cardiff city fans clashed with Standard Liege supporters outside a bar in the Belgian city of Liege and Dutch and Germans fought in Enschede where Bayern Munich beat FC Twente 4-3 in

the UEFA Cup.

In Slovakia, Aston Villa's

coach was pelted with bricks,

cracking a window, as the

English team made their way to

the stadium for their UEFA Cup tie with Slovan Bratislava. No

one was hurt.

Jean-Pierre Papin, who

scored three goals in AC Milan's

run to the European Cup final

last season, hit his winner in

the 56th minute in Switzerland.

Bulgarian Petar Aleksandrov

netted twice and Marcel

Heldmann once, but all were

ruled out for offside.

Manchester United, who won

the Cup in 1968 and reached

the semifinals on all four other

occasions they played in the

competition, triumphed thanks

to two goals from England's

most expensive players, Roy

Keane, and another by

Frenchman Eric Cantona.

Britain's other representatives,

Scottish champions

Rangers, beat Bulgaria's Levski

Sofia 3-2 in Glasgow with Mark

Hately scoring twice, but conceding

two late goals.

Other former champions

Porto and Anderlecht beat

Malta's Floriana 2-0 and HJK

Helsinki 3-0 respectively.

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