

Khulna clinch nat'l title

By Munir U Ahmed

KHULNA: Feb 26: Last year's runners-up hosts Khulna clinched the title of the 18th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship when they beat Feni 2-0 in the final at the local stadium here.

It is Khulna's second major success in the meet since it began in 1973. Earlier, they became champions in 1982.

Last year they lost to Dhaka University in the final.

With the home crowd behind them Khulna established their superiority early on in the match.

But the scheduled time ended goalless.

Khulna missed a couple of early scoring opportunities in the first half but their strikers could not find the net.

In the ninth minute of the first period Aslam, the veteran national striker, squandered a chance in front of the post. He lofted the ball over the Feni keeper.

In the 30th minute Khulna's goalkeeper Totum was called into action when he had to save a shot from Feni's Manik.

In the 46th minute of the second half, Rumi header was saved by the Feni goalkeeper.

Selim who had to surrender a corner in the process.

The match was held up for five minutes when a bottle was thrown at the referee from the Feni players' bench.

The game ended goalless, and extra-time was then played.

Khulna ended the deadlock in the twelfth minute of the first period of extra thirty minutes. Rumi headed a ball from throw in by Chanchal and Jahangir placed the ball into the net (1-0).

In the 14th minute Babu of Khulna missed another sitter.

With four minutes left to play in extra-time, Khulna's substitute Babuzzaman Babu put the result beyond doubt (2-0).

Four Feni players—Mizanur, Sawkat Ali, Mohiullah and Muraduzzaman were cautioned.

Khulna Sports Writers Association adjudged Khulna's Partho as best player of the tournament while Jaglu was awarded the best player of the final.

Khulna Photo Journalists Association named Feni's Manik as their best player.

Chief guest Speaker Shaikh Razzaq Ali distributed prizes among the winners after the final.

TEAMS

KHULNA: Sukur Moham-

mad, Mosabir Mohammad, Partho Kundo, Mostafa Zaman, Jagul Kartim, Shah Alam Khan, Rumi Rizvi, Karim, Asaduzzaman, Sheikh Jahangir (Babuzzaman), Sheikh Aslam (Chayan), Jahangir Hossain (jr).

FENI: Sawkat Ali, Mohiul Hassan, Shifar Uddin, Mizanur Rahman Jr (Zakir), Ataur Rahman (Golam Mohammad), Muraduzzaman Shimu, Nurul Hoque Manik, Mizanur Rahman (sr), Ahmed Ullah, Ratan Kumar (Sayed Golam Jilani).

Referee: Monirul Islam.

ROLL OF HONOUR

| Year | Champions | Runners-up |
|------|---------------------|------------|
| 1973 | Dhaka | Kushtia |
| 1974 | Dhaka | Barisal |
| 1975 | Dhaka | Chittagong |
| 1976 | Jessore | Rajshahi |
| 1977 | Kushtia | Chittagong |
| 1978 | Barisal | Rangpur |
| 1979 | Barisal | Dhaka |
| 1980 | Army and DU (joint) | |
| 1981 | Army and DU (joint) | |
| 1982 | Khulna | Army |
| 1983 | Sylhet | DU |
| 1984 | Feni | Dhaka |
| 1985 | Comilla | DU |
| 1986 | Dhaka | Comilla |
| 1987 | Not held | |
| 1988 | Not held | |
| 1989 | Army | DU |
| 1990 | DU | Army |
| 1991 | Not held | DU |
| 1992 | | Khulna |

KHULNA: Sukur Moham-

Bangladesh play HK in ICC Trophy today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will play their last second round match of the fifth ICC Trophy competition against Hong Kong in the Aga Khan Ground, Kenya, today.

Radio Bangladesh will give the running commentary of the match.

The match is inconsequential from Bangladesh's view point since they lost to hosts Kenya and Holland in their previous second round matches which effectively ruled out their possibilities of finding a place among the last four.

ICC Trophy hots up

NAIROBI: Feb 26: With a week left of the ICC Trophy the four strongest teams—the Netherlands, Kenya, the United Arab Emirates and Bermuda—have emerged to qualify for next week's semifinals, reports Reuter.

At stake is a place in the next World Cup. There are three places available so one of the four will miss out.

Bangladesh had high hopes when their team reached the quarterfinals, prompting an influx of their nationals. But hosts Kenya beat them on Friday.

Bangladesh had more to play for than most and it showed. The organisers of the next World Cup to be held jointly by Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, had mooted a couple of fixtures in Dhaka, the Bangladesh capital, if they had been one of the three qualifiers from the ICC Trophy.

Seeing his team go down, Bangladeshi assistant manager, Golam Faruque Apu, looked visibly grief-stricken in the VIP enclosure.

Some critics have suggested that there is not one team in this competition worthy of a place in the World Cup, let alone three.

Simon Hughes, the former Middlesex and Durham pace bowler, is one who believes that the ICC were wrong to allow three of its associate members the chance to play in a World Cup where they will quite definitely be making up the numbers.

Friday scores: The Netherlands 288-6, Hong Kong 154 all out.

Result: Holland beat Hong Kong by 134 runs.

Canada 278-6, UAE 279-9.

Result: UAE beat Canada by one wicket.

Ireland 202 all out, Bermuda 206-3.

Result: Bermuda beat Ireland by 7 wickets.

H'ball referees' course today

Sports Reporter

An eight-day handball referees' training course begins today under the aegis of the Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF), according to a federation press release issued yesterday.

All concerned are asked to report to the BHF office at 2.30 pm today.

Malcolm returns home

KINGSTON: Jamaica, Feb 26: Pace bowler Devon Malcolm is to return home from England's West Indies tour today amid fears that he has cartilage damage, reports Reuter.

Malcolm, developed a swelling on his right knee during the first Test,

His twin successes in his

35 young booters picked

Sports Reporter

Thirty-five youngsters have been picked to join a training camp to prepare for the coming Sixth Asian under-16 football tournament which is scheduled to be held in Saudi Arabia in April, says a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) press release.

The players have been requested to report to BFF office.

Two local coaches Abdus Sadeq and Swapas Kumar Das will conduct the programme.

Armin Bittner and Peter Roth both are German veterans and slalom specialists.

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Could Lillehammer become 'Lille-Tomba'?

His form in slalom races this season has been impressive. He has won four, including the last two at Chamonix, France, and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, and placed second twice.

But the Italian has failed to finish three other races and the two skiers who finished ahead of him—Austria's Guenther Mader and Slovenia's Jure Kosir—will both race against him Sunday.

Wary of getting hurt in the

speed races—downhills and super-giant slaloms—Tomba throws everything into the technical events. While some skiers have five chances of winning titles, he has only two.

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