

Abahani back in DMFA Cup

Sports Reporter
The third DMFA Cup has finally cast off the cursed spell of non-action.
After a disconcertingly long period of parleys Abahani Krira Chakra, one of the two crowd-pulling teams in the ill-fated curtain-raising meet of this year's domestic football season finally gave in to the combined overtures of the organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) and the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) the supreme body for country's football to return to the field.
Abahani, who had earlier decided to stay away from the meet on grounds of inconsistency on the part of the organisers, informed the bewildered DMFA of their change of hearts, in yesterday's scheduled meeting. Abahani Krira Chakra, runners-up of last year's meet will play Victoria at 7 pm in the second match on May 18, the day of resumption of the suspended meet.
In the day's first match Brothers Union will take on Farashganj starting from 5 pm.

It all came to a pass few days back when the DMFA re-scheduled the tournament after failing to make reigning champions Mohammedans play under the original schedule with the popular team refusing to participate referring adequate prep time. The moment DMFA ensured Mohammedans' participation, Abahani backed out accusing the organisers of partiality, and the deadlock which ended only yesterday had begun.

Zia atop alone

Sports Reporter
International Master Ziaur Rahman took solo lead in the qualifying meet for the 20th national chess championship after the sixth round beating teammate Rani Hamid at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.
Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh Biman, who shared the lead with three other players on the previous day, earned a crucial win over International Women's Master Rani Hamid to notch the top spot with five and a half points.
Kalimullah Khan Kalam, who beat Shabana Parvin in this round, now shares the second spot with teammate Kahandaker Kayes Hasan of Ansars, Rezaul Haq of Biman, Abdullah Al Rakib of Narayan-ganj and Ali Amjad Mintu of Dhaka Metropolitan, all collecting five points.

Elina, Juthi in summer badminton final

Sports Reporter
Elina and Juthi of Bangladesh Biman moved into the women's singles final of the Open Summer badminton tournament eliminating their opponents at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.
Elina who centered past Konika in straight sets, 11-7, 11-4 will meet rival Juthi in the final who also earned an easy 11-5, 11-8 win over Momo.
Besides, eight shuttlers filled the room of the quarter-final stage of men's singles winning their respective matches. They are — Rana, Afsar, Hamid, Rashed and Sumon of Mohammedans and Sarwar, Khurshid and Shakil of Biman.

BCCB's belated wisdom

Sports Reporter
In an oft-repeated wise after the event move the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has decided to invite three top finishers of the fifth ICC tournament — the United Arab Emirates, Kenya and Holland to play some matches in Dhaka December.
Besides, the BCCB has written to the cricket boards of South Africa and the West Indies for brief visits of their respective teams here to play some matches during their tour of the sub-continent next winter.
South Africa, who are expected to be in Pakistan in November, will consider BCCB's plea in their board meeting on May 24.
The West Indies, who are also scheduled to arrive in India at about the same time, will ponder over BCCB's re-

quest after the completion of the tour itinerary.
The BCCB has also decided to send team to the Sydney Youth cricket festival in December.
But the cricket-buffs feel that the BCCB's decision to invite three ICC associate members who have qualified for the 1996 World Cup proper by virtue of having secured top three positions in the fifth ICC trophy held in Kenya recently, has come rather too late.
Pre-tournament favourites Bangladesh made heavy weather of a not too difficult task since a place among the top three finishers would have ensured passage to the world championship of instant cricket following an ICC provision of increasing the number of participants from nine to twelve, when they crashed out of the ICC associate members' meet before the semi-final stage.

Kiwis 155 for six
LONDON, May 13: Stephen Fleming came to New Zealand's rescue with an unbeaten 67 after another inept batting display on the opening day of the visitors' three-day match against Middlesex at Lord's on Thursday, reports Reuter.
The tall 21-year-old, who made 92 on his Test debut against India two months ago, helped New Zealand recover to be 155 for six at the end of a rain-shortened day's play after winning the toss and deciding to bat.

Cricket wins the day
SLUGH, England, May 13: An English village cricket team won in court victory on Thursday against a disgruntled resident who tried to get the game banned from the village green because he lived in fear of high-flying balls, reports Reuter.
Design engineer David Lacey alleged in court that he and his wife had to avoid the front rooms of their house 50 yards (metres) from the green in the village of Jordans on summer evenings in case batsmen sent a ball crashing through a window.
He wanted play banned unless the team erected two 25 foot (7.5 metre) high nets to protect his house.
But judge Nigel Hague ruled: "I hold that there is no actionable nuisance. The playing of cricket on the village green is reasonable and longstanding use."
Lacey, 46, proved to be a good loser, striding across the courtroom in Slough, west of London, to shake cricket club chairman Steve Parkers hand — even though the four-day hearing is likely to cost him about 20,000 pounds (29,950 dollars).
"I am a motorcyclist and have plenty of crash helmets at home so perhaps my wife and I will have to war those helmets in future," he told reporters after the case.

Lotus Kamal Div II qualifying results

Sports Reporter
Ghalib displayed an all-round performance to guide his team Friends' Association to a huge 90-run win over Provati Sangha in one of the three Lotus Kamal Second Division qualifying matches billed at different city venues yesterday.
On the western strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Friends' Association scored a moderate 219 before being all out in 33.5 overs.
Opener Ghalib, who top-scored in the match, hit an excellent 47 with the help of five hits to the fence. He was followed by Mithu and Noor Mohammed, contributing 31 and 28 respectively.
Shamim of Provati Sangha claimed three wickets for 32 runs while Mukesh and Raju took two wickets apiece.
In reply, Provati Sangha were bundled out for 129 in 29.2 overs with opener Motiur making 38.
Extras which featured 38 was the other notable contribution for the vanquished.
Ghalib, who earlier dazzled with the willow, shone with the ball claiming two wickets for 14 runs. But spinner Mona who devastated with the leather finished with a four-wicket haul.
In the other match, on the eastern strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Purana Palan beat Barnak Samaj Kalyan in a

low scoring match by 20 runs.
Sent in to bat first, Purana Palan scored 129 runs before being all out in 29.4 overs.
Thanks to a 65-run partnership between Moni and Faisal in the first wicket before Purana Palan capitulated losing their last nine wickets for 64 runs.
Faisal, who hammered a quickfire 41 off 38 balls hit seven boundaries in his sparkling innings, while Moni made 21.
Biplab captured three wickets for 18 runs while Liton and Alal took two wickets each. Chasing an easy target of 130 runs for a win, Barnak Samaj were bundled out for 109 in 33.2 overs.
Sanjay with 24 was the top scorer for the losers while Shamim and Alal contributed 15 and 19 respectively.
Kaiser, Faisal and Mamun took two wickets each for Purana Palan.
At the Jagannath Hall ground, Matuail Sabuj Sangha earned a 56-run cake walk win over Chandrika Juba Sangha.
Batting first, Matuail Sabuj Sangha compiled 152 for seven wickets in the stipulated 35 overs with Sahabuddin scoring 48.
Shantoo (13), Saiful (19) and Dara (18) were the other notable scorers for Matuail.
In reply, Chandrika Juba Sangha were capitulated for a paltry 96 in 24.5 overs.



Winners of the Dhaka Club golf competition seen with their trophies at a prize distribution ceremony held at the club premises on May 11. From left to right: Rezaur Rahman, Shakil Kasem, K U Chowdhury, Aftab Bhuiyan, Iqbal Mahmud and Tareq Taher. — Star photo

Six-a-side cricket awaits a break

HONG KONG, May 13: The International Cricket Council will start talks in July on whether the Hong Kong Sixes tournament should become the first event of its kind to get official recognition, reports AFP.
Presenting the 1994 tournament, which will this year be expanded to 12 nations, organiser Brian Catton said the ICC was not expected to take a final decision in time to give this year's event in October the stamp of approval.
Attempting to recreate the success of the Hong Kong Sevens rugby, the cricket will this year be moved to the new 40,000 Hong Kong Stadium.
Last year's winners England will be back with the seven other Test playing nations, and Hong Kong, but this time Zimbabwe, Holland and Canada have been invited for the two-day tournament from October 1.

Shah new AFC chief

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13: The ruler of Malaysia's Pahang state was elected president of the Asian Football Confederation on Friday at its 16th congress in Kuala Lumpur, reports AP.
Sultan Ahmad Shah replaces another Malaysian, Hamzah Abu Samah, who withdrew from the race Tuesday after suffering a heart attack and traveling to the United States for treatment.
Hamzah has been president since 1978.
Meanwhile, a Korean soccer official defeated a candidate from Japan in a separate election that could have an impact on what nation is awarded the 2002 World Cup.
Chung-Mong-jung of South Korea, the president of the Korea Football Association, pulled off a slim victory in the voting for vice president of the Federation of International Football Association.
The 42-year-old Chung defeated Sheikh Ahmed Fahad Al Ahmed Al Sabah of Kuwait 11 to 10 out of 32 votes cast.
Japan's Tadao Murata, who had launched an intensive campaign for the vice presidency, won just two votes. He also lost his AFC vice president's seat.
The AFC is the controlling body for Asian soccer and it is allowed one vice-presidency in FIFA, the world's soccer supervisory organisation.
Japan and South Korea have been vying to host the 2002 World Cup and Chung's election could give the Koreans an edge over Japan. But Murata said he remains confident Japan will win the bid.
Chung said as FIFA vice president he will fight for more places for Asia in the World Cup finals.
He said Asia needs to double its number of places to four because it has two-thirds of the world's population.

Vietnam still has soft corner in Ali's heart

HANOI, May 13: Boxing legend Mohammad Ali visiting a local gymnasium passed on secrets of his success in the ring to young Vietnamese aspirants, advising them not to sleep with their girlfriends three weeks before a bout, reports AFP.
The former three times heavyweight boxing champion was warmly received late Thursday by boxing hopefuls at a training centre in the Vietnamese capital.
Ali, who boxed under the name Cassius Clay before converting to Islam, is known here for having refused military service during the Vietnam War. He was stripped of his first world heavyweight title in 1970 because of it.
But encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by young boxers here, the 52-year-old Ali who suffers from Parkinson's Disease was carried back to his years as a famous pugilist, displaying punch combinations and testing the reflexes of his admiring fans.
All expressed his willingness to help Vietnam develop boxing and sponsor meetings between amateur boxers here and in the United States.
The aging boxer has been on a goodwill mission here since Tuesday aimed at assisting in settling the fate of 2234 US soldiers still listed as Missing In Action since the war.
He was accompanied here by the families of two American pilots who were lost in action over the border with Laos, and asked Vietnamese authorities to approach their Laotian counterparts in resolving the pilots' cases.
All is scheduled to leave Vietnam Saturday after visiting Danang on Friday.
All was undisputed world heavyweight champion between 1964 and 1970 and again in between 1974 and 1978. In 1978 he won the World Boxing Association crown.



FIFA president Joao Havelange (L) confers with secretary general Joseph S Blatter during the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) congress in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP photo

FA Cup final today

M United's date with destiny

LONDON, May 13: A Frenchman, a Ukrainian, two Welshmen and a Danie look set to play vital roles when Manchester United bid to rewrite English soccer history on Saturday, reports Reuter.
Eric Cantona of France, Andrei Kanchelskis of Ukraine, Ryan Giggs and Mark Hughes of Wales and Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel are the star performers in a glittering United side who face Chelsea in the 113th English Football Association (FA) Cup final at Wembley Stadium.
And they will all be desperate to claim a niche in English soccer folklore by helping United become only the sixth team in history to win the English Cup and league double — and by helping United win the Cup for the eighth time, a record currently held by Tottenham.
Chelsea also have their own sprinkling of overseas stars who will be looking to stop United's march in to the record books.
Russian goalkeeper Dmitri Kharine — a good friend of Kanchelskis — Norwegian defender Erlend Johnsen and last year's Danish-footballer-of-the-year defender Jakob Kjaeldberg will not be overawed by United — especially as Chelsea were the only team to beat them both home and away in the league season just ended.

But the odds heavily favour Alex Ferguson's team who have just clinched their second successive league title and would be now attempting to win an unprecedented treble of all three major domestic honours if they had not slipped up in the League Cup final against Aston Villa at Wembley on March 27.
Tommy Docherty, one of English soccer's most colourful characters who managed Chelsea to the Cup final in 1967 and Manchester United to the finals in both 1976 and 1977, believes that United will win 2-0.
"Who will win? Let's just say if United have an off-day and Chelsea play out of their skins, then United will sneak it. But if United hit their best form it will be General Custer time — it will be a massacre."
United have dominated English soccer this season playing an open brand of fast attacking football that has simply overwhelmed the opposition.
With Giggs and Kanchelskis flying down the wings and Cantona and Hughes causing mayhem and scoring goals from the heart of the penalty area, their play has touched the heights established in the Law-Best-Charlton era of the 1960s when United won the Europa Champions Cup.
They have very few weaknesses. Occasionally Schmeichel will make a bizarre error

or fluff a cross, sometimes Paul Parker's lack of height is noticeable in the back four. But usually central defenders Gary Pallister and Steve Bruce are there to cover — and the danger passes.
Chelsea's main inspiration comes from their player-manager Glenn Hoddle, who appeared in three Cup finals for Tottenham in the 1980s, and has rejuvenated the side in his first season at Stamford Bridge.
Hoddle, now 36, and a world class player in his prime, is still capable of the most exquisite skills and accurate 50-metre passes which can switch a game in an instant.
Recent injury means he may start the match on the bench, although is involvement from the start would increase Chelsea's chance of an upset.
The modern Manchester United, fashioned by its late patriarch Sir Matt Busby out of the ashes of the Munich air crash in 1958 has had many glorious days and nights in the last 36 years.
The greatest to date was when Sir Matt's rebuilt team won the European Cup at Wembley in 1968.
Sir Matt Busby died in January, and current manager Alex Ferguson has dedicated the double to his memory, a double that United could easily win in a style Sir Matt would have approved of — and possibly by two clear goals.

All to play for in Spain

MADRID, May 13: Spanish football reaches boiling point this weekend as the last day proves decisive amid rumours of corruption, reports AFP.
Deportivo La Coruna, at home to Valencia, are a point ahead of Johan Cruyff's Barcelona, who entertain UEFA Cup hopefuls Sevilla at the Now Camp Stadium.
Spanish press is speculating over alleged handouts to Valencia's players from mysterious Catalan intermediaries, two years ago press reports claimed Tenerife players were paid from a Barcelona source for their lastditch home victory over Real Madrid which handed Barcelona the title.
History repeated itself last season when Tenerife beat Madrid, again on the last day, to bring Barcelona their third consecutive championship. And the press once again claimed Barcelona backers had made illicit payments.
Further controversy has come about over the timing of the matches of both Deportivo and Barcelona. The Spanish

Federation has brought forward those fixtures, and the Athletic Bilbao-Tenerife match to Saturday at 8:30 pm (8:30 GMT).
La Coruna president Cesar Augusto Lendoiro complained bitterly, saying Sunday tickets have been on sale for weeks.
Lendoiro agreed Barcelona should be able to alter their schedule because they play in the European Cup final against AC Milan in Athens next Wednesday.
But, realising Deportivo would have a distinct advantage should the Catalonians play a day earlier, Lendoiro has appealed to the Spanish Federation, and may even resort to legal action.
Deportivo are understandably wary about any possible outside influences.
Deportivo have won nothing in their history while Barcelona have won 13 Spanish league championships, 22 Spanish Cups, plus eight European crowns.
Should Deportivo carry off the title, it will be mainly thanks to 16 goal Brazilian striker Bebeto and the meaneast defence in the league which has

conceded just 18 goals in 37 matches.
Barcelona were boosted by the happy outcome to the kidnapping of Romario's father allowing the Brazilian to concentrate on football.
Rio De Janeiro police freed him after a massive manhunt lasting six days.
Across the border in Portugal, Benfica cross the city to Sporting Lisbon in a top-of-the-table clash. Sporting, a point behind, will go top with four matches remaining if they win.
Bobby Robson's Porto, three points behind Benfica, are away to sixth-placed Vitoria Guimaraes.
Montpellier, who knocked out Olympique Marseille on their way to the final, face Auxerre for the French Cup.
Montpellier beat Lens, conquerors of champions Paris St Germain, while Auxerre beat Nantes in the semifinals.
Montpellier won the Cup at their first attempt in 1990. Auxerre's only appearance in the final was in 1979 when they were still in the Second Division. They lost to Nantes after extratime.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Hen pen
5 Faux follower
8 First four?
12 Mater lead-in
13 Mechanic's laundry woe
14 Silents' "Vamp"
15 Ukrainian, e.g.
16 Holly-wood VIP
18 Winter-cap feature
20 Toto's carriage
21 Sign of the future
23 "Uh-huh"
24 Breadwinner
28 Cuckoo
31 Diving bird
32 Collar's lace trim
34 Lovey-dovey talk?
35 Puppy's outcry
37 Thorn in the side
39 Dadaist Jean
41 Vahalla honcho
- DOWN**
2 Do unto ...
3 His work was in tents
4 Dog trainer of note?
5 Appeared out of nowhere
6 Football fill
7 Oscar Madison type
8 Mal-treated
9 Parachute holder
10 Algonquin language
11 Pub missile
17 Hudson
19 Chieftain of puzzledom
22 Cadaver: pref.
24 Salary
25 Wish otherwise
26 Rodgers & Hammerstein classic
27 Heath shrubs
29 Sentry's choice?
30 Anderson's "High —"
33 Malefic study
36 Healing in-law
40 Money-maker
42 Picks
43 Too much (Fr.)
44 Go no further
46 "Zip — Doo-dah"
47 Roger of "Cheers"
48 Runs up the phone bill
50 Supplement, with "out"
- Solution time: 26 min.**
- DAVIS SCAMPT
BANANA LAMOUR
ANNUAL AVENGE
REAL ABBE OSS
AIR BIRD MARS
PLEASEBEQUIET
TEND SABU LAY
EDS ROOT
ORG CAAN RUBE
NEATER AMAZON
UNDONE IODINE
STEWED REESE

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CRYPTOQUIP
K B J E U H V U R N U H
J F N H H O U N W Q K M
J R R U J C K P B K P G W N C
V K M F O J P G E U C M U
Saturday's Cryptoquip: TO THE PRECOCIOUS SECOND-GRADER, 2 PLUS 2 IS A 4-GONE CONCLUSION.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals V
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Former world heavyweight boxing champion Mohammad Ali meets Vu Chi Cong, Deputy Head of Foreign Affairs' America Department at the government guest house in Hanoi on Wednesday. — AFP photo