

BU scramble into semis

Sports Reporter

Lack lustre Brothers Union got a new lease of life in the third Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA) Cup when they completed the semifinal quorum with a one nil victory over Abahani Krira Chakra at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Veteran midfielder Satyajit Das Rupu, who is leading the depleted Gopibagh side this year, scored the all important goal early into the first half to stretch their recent statistical supremacy over last year's DMFA Cup runners up.

Satyajit, a former Abahani player, had also scored the winning goal in Brothers' decisive 3-2 win over Abahani which threw out the Dhamondi outfit from last year's league championship race.

Faced with the unenviable proposition of winning the match for a berth in the semifinals after Mohammedans, Mukti Joddha and Abahani Brothers needed a victory and only victory and they did fairly well to hold on to an early lead.

Abahani, who are still smarting under the mass desertion of some of their key players who recently joined the revamped Mukti Joddha

Sangsad, sorely missed the firepower in their attack, and their customary territorial domination were of no use.

Despite having two Iraqi players at their disposal — Nazar Ali and Jamal Jabbar, who arrived in the city on Thursday — Abahani could not field them for some mandatory registration formalities and their famished frontline could spring no pleasant surprise for the huge holiday crowd, who had the mortification of bracing for the Eid ul-Azha with the bitter taste of defeat in their mouth.

But the result was always on the cards judging from the viewpoint of the form displayed by the sky blues in the curtain raiser meet so far and the defeat was a culmination of a spell of toodly progress. The win, however, should cause Abahani no immediate worries as they have already qualified for the semis with four points. In fact, Abahani would play the runners-up of Group A, possibly Mukti Joddha. Sangsad as the Group B champions for their better goal average compared to that of Brothers Union. With two more matches of the group stage waiting completion, Abahani in all probability would play in the

second semifinal on May 28. The first semifinal between the Group A champions and Group B runners-up is scheduled to be held on May 27.

A ninth minute strike by Satyajit Das confirmed Brothers' emergence as the Group B runners-up yesterday. The strongly built media was set up inside the box by newcomer Yusuf Rahmatullah, who dodged two Abahani defenders to send in a perfect minus and the ball duly reached home.

Abahani launched few sorties but stand in skipper Gaus, who led Abahani instead of Monem Munna, sidelined by two consecutive yellow cards earlier, missed a sitter in the dying minutes and the die was cast.

FAREWELL FIGHT

Victoria and Farashganj played a goalless draw in day's first match held earlier at the same venue to confirm their exit from the meet. Both teams got one point each.

The DMFA Cup will resume on May 25 after the Eid holidays with Mukti Joddha playing Bangladesh Boys in the first match scheduled for a 4 pm start. Mohammedans take on Arambagh to decide Group A champions in the second match from 6 pm onwards.

SL to host one-day series in Sept

COLOMBO, May 20: Australia, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka will play in the one-day Singer World Series limited over cricket tournament in Sri Lanka in September, reports AP.

The tournament will take place Sept 4-17, and each country will play three matches in the preliminary round, cricket board officials said Friday.

The final will be held on Sept 17 under floodlights.

Sri Lanka will play India in the opening match at the Kettarama Stadium in Colombo, on Sept 4. Australia will take on Pakistan on Sept 7 at Moratuwa, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Colombo.

The International Cricket Conference has been asked to provide neutral umpires and a match referee, said Neil Perera, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka.

Dhaka Club invitational golf tourney today

Sports Reporter

The invitational Dhaka Club Summer Classic '94 golf tournament featuring some of the top golfers of the country will be at club's golf course today.

The competition over 18 holes will be played on the basis of net strokeplay off full handicap on a rather demanding Dhaka Club golf course.

Among the likely contenders for the title are Sajjad Ahmed who has been good nick this season. Brothers Manzoor and Farooq will also be in the hunt.

Familiarity with the ground should hold hosts' M A Mannan, Rezaur Rahman, K U Chowdhury in good stead.

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However, the football league said the play-offs, which have been in place for eight years, would continue.

Action from yesterday's DMFA Cup match between Abahani KC and Brothers Union at Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Brothers upset last year's runners-up Abahani 1-0. — Star photo

Crowd-trouble alarms PFA

LONDON, May 20: The English Footballers' Union has called for talks with the game's governing bodies amid warnings that players' lives are at risk from hooligan fans, reports AFP.

The alert follows attacks on Derby goalkeeper Martin Taylor and midfielder Paul Williams during the Rams' promotion play-off match at Millwall's New Den ground on Wednesday night.

Professional Footballers' Association official Brendan Batson said: "A player could be killed one day."

"It only needs one complete psycho intent on making a name for himself."

The PFA plan early talks with the Football Association, Premiership chiefs and the football league.

Batson, a former West Bromwich Albion and Arsenal defender, said: "Reintroducing

fences would be a retrograde step but incidents like these are very distressing."

Garth Crooks, the former stoke, Tottenham, Manchester United and Charlton forward, claimed players had been afraid of appearing at Millwall for years.

Crooks said: "I was always concerned about playing there and every black player I have come across was concerned about playing there."

It was not only black players either. If this is what it takes for people to stop fudging it and intellectually tiptoeing around this subject at Millwall then so be it."

A month ago Nottingham Forest's black striker Stan Collymore was confronted by a fan on the pitch during a match at the New Den.

The FA acted with speed over the latest incident, charging Millwall with crowd control failure just over 12 hours after two separate pitch invasions.

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