

WorldCupUSA94



Share The Passion



Do or die for whipping boys

CHICAGO, June 25: Bulgaria and Greece, probably the least impressive teams at the World Cup finals, will try to put opening match thrashings behind them on Sunday in an all-or-nothing clash in Group D, reports Reuter.

Defeat for either squad will effectively mean their early exit from the 24-team tournament. Both coaches were dismayed by their teams' lack of fight in their debut matches and plan to shake up their sides to inject more pace and ideas.

"Our ambitions are very serious and we want to beat Greece because that is our only chance of going into the second round," Bulgarian coach Dimitar Penev said. "But they are also playing to win and this will make our task very difficult."

Greek coach Alketas Panagoulis will make up to four changes, switching from the defence-oriented plan in Greece's World Cup finals debut against Argentina.

Greece were unlucky enough to be the first to play the new-look, go-for-goals Argentina and were soundly thrashed 4-0. Bulgaria were run ragged by Nigeria, losing 3-0.

Penev was not impressed by his side's lack of fire in the second half and has warned he plans to at least make one change in midfield and one in defence to raise the team's tempo.

Even allowing for the upsets that have peppered USA '94, it is hard to see Greece beating Nigeria and Bulgaria overcoming Argentina in their final first-round games.

A draw would leave both sides with little hope of proceeding further and Panagoulis plans to go on the attack.

"We're going to change our tactics. We played too conservatively against Argentina — we can't play like that again," said Panagoulis, who has also had to shake his players out of a dangerous complacency.

Team officials said the 22 players in the squad appeared to believe they had achieved their World Cup goal when they became the first Greek side to qualify for the finals.

Ilias Atmatsides is expected to replace Antonis Minou in goal and the changes throughout the rest of the side will aim to increase its mobility, speed and attacking potential.

This will probably mean Tassos Mitropoulos, the old man of the squad at 36, will play from the start after coming on

late in the Argentina game as a substitute.

Bulgaria's key players Hristo Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov will be closely marked but Greece is unlikely to repeat the man-to-man marking that failed completely against Argentina's Diego Maradona and Gabriel Batistuta.

Penev's options for beefing up the attack have been cut by an ankle injury suffered by Nasko Sirakov.

Sirakov is unlikely to play and Penev may decide to push Ivailo Yordanov up front and include either Boncho Genchev or Georgi Georgiev in midfield to give the attack more bite.

PROBABLE TEAMS

BULGARIA: 1-Borislav Mikhailov, 15-Nikolai Iliev, 3-Trifon Ivanov, 4-Tzanko Tzvetanov, 5-Petar Hubchev, 6-Zlatko Yankov, 14-Boncho Genchev, 8-Hristo Stoichkov, 11-Daniel Borimirov, 7-Emil Kostadinov, 13-Ivailo Yordanov.

GREECE: 20-Ilias Atmatsides, 2-Stratos Apostolakis, 3-Thanasios Kolitsidakis, 4-Stelios Manolas, 5-Yannis Kalitziakis, 8-Nikos Nipollas, 6-Panayotis Tsalouhides, 12-Spyros Marangos, 9-Nikos Machlas, 7-Dimitris Sarvanakos, 10-Tasos Mitropoulos.

Referee: Ali Mohamed Buj-saim (United Arab Emirates). Kickoff: 1635 GMT



Few days back this man was supposed to bear the burden of Italy's defence. Now Franco Baresi has to walk on props. Well, that's the life of a footballer at any level. The picture shows the now out of action Baresi entering a New York hospital for tests on June 24. Baresi who was injured in the match against Ireland may not take any further part in the meet. —AFP photo

Numerics replace novelty

UNDATED, June 25: Midway through the first round of the World Cup, the novelty has worn off. There are those who know they're going to the second round, a few who are coming to realise a plane ride home is awaiting them shortly, and most everybody else calculating what they need to advance, reports AP.

Under the new system, most think four points will be enough to reach the second round. Brazil don't have to worry about that. They already have six points and can't finish any lower than second in Group B, which means they assured of going through to the next round.

Feeling fairly confident are surprises Switzerland and the United States, Sweden and defending champions Germany. All have four points and looking forward to the round of 16.

At the other end, Colombia and Bolivia have one point between them, and that point belongs surprisingly to Bolivia. Both of them have one game remaining, and Colombia, considered by insiders to be the best team coming into the tournament, are in the worst position.

Group A could have three teams advance, depending on the outcome of Sunday's United States-Romania game at the Rose Bowl. Romania have three points from their victory over Colombia; a draw could send them through while also giving the Americans the group title.

"My first World Cup game, my first goal. It was a once-in-a-lifetime thing for me," said US forward Ernie Stewart after his goal proved to be the difference in the 2-1 victory over Colombia. "But now I hope there are more."

"We're definitely going for first place in our group; we don't want to think second or third place."

Brazil are clearly dominating Group B, with only a meeting against Sweden left. When the two meet Tuesday, the Swedes will be without Martin Dahlin, who picked up his second yellow card on Friday.

Russia are virtually eliminated following Friday's 3-1 loss, their second in as many games, to Sweden, and Cameroon's uphill battle is only slightly smaller than Russia's after they lost 3-0 to Brazil on Friday. Cameroon at least have a point from their opening draw against Sweden.

Germany seem to be cruising along in Group C, at least that's the way they look in the standings.

But German coach Berti Vogts is unhappy. "I told them I was happy with the four points but not with the spiritless perfor-

mances," Vogts said about a meeting on Thursday. "I want more from every player. I was very clear about that."

Spain and South Korea each have two draws and head into Monday's games needing a victory to assure themselves of advancing. South Korea, however, has to play Germany while Spain takes on 0-1-1 Bolivia.

1990 World Cup runners-up Argentina and African Cup champions Nigeria took to be the early bets from Group D. Nigeria seem to have the advantage, having impressively beaten a highly regarded Bulgarian team 3-0 while Argentina walked over World Cup newcomer Greece 4-0.

Group E, as predicted, is the war zone. All four teams: Mexico, Ireland, Italy, Norway all have three points, all are 1-0-1 and all are tied on goal differential.

The Mexicans' 2-1 victory and Ireland's late goal Friday gave both a share of the lead in the group on goals scored. It also makes next Tuesday — when all four finish the first round — a very anxious day in Ireland, Italy, Norway and Mexico.

Theoretically, every team still has a mathematical chance. But in fact that means eight teams will be pared from the field by June 30 when the final 16 is set for the second round.

Americans up on the ante

MISSION, Viejo, California, June 25: European soccer clubs have made at least four offers, one worth more than 1 million dollars, to sign US players after their surprise World Cup showing, the American team manager said on Friday, reports Reuters.

"We have four bonafide offers for players from clubs in Europe," Bill Nuttall told reporters at the US training camp. America look set to reach the second round after beating Colombia 2-1 and drawing with Switzerland 1-1 in Group A.

"These are players who are under contract to the [US Soccer] Federation," he said, declining to identify the players or clubs.

Nine of the US squad's 22 World Cup players are contracted to clubs overseas and are paid a flat 1,000 dollar per appearance for the United States.

For example, John Harkes and Roy Wegerie play in England while Tab Ramos plays in Spain. Eric Wynalda in Germany, Ernie Stewart in the Netherlands and Cle Kooiman in Mexico.

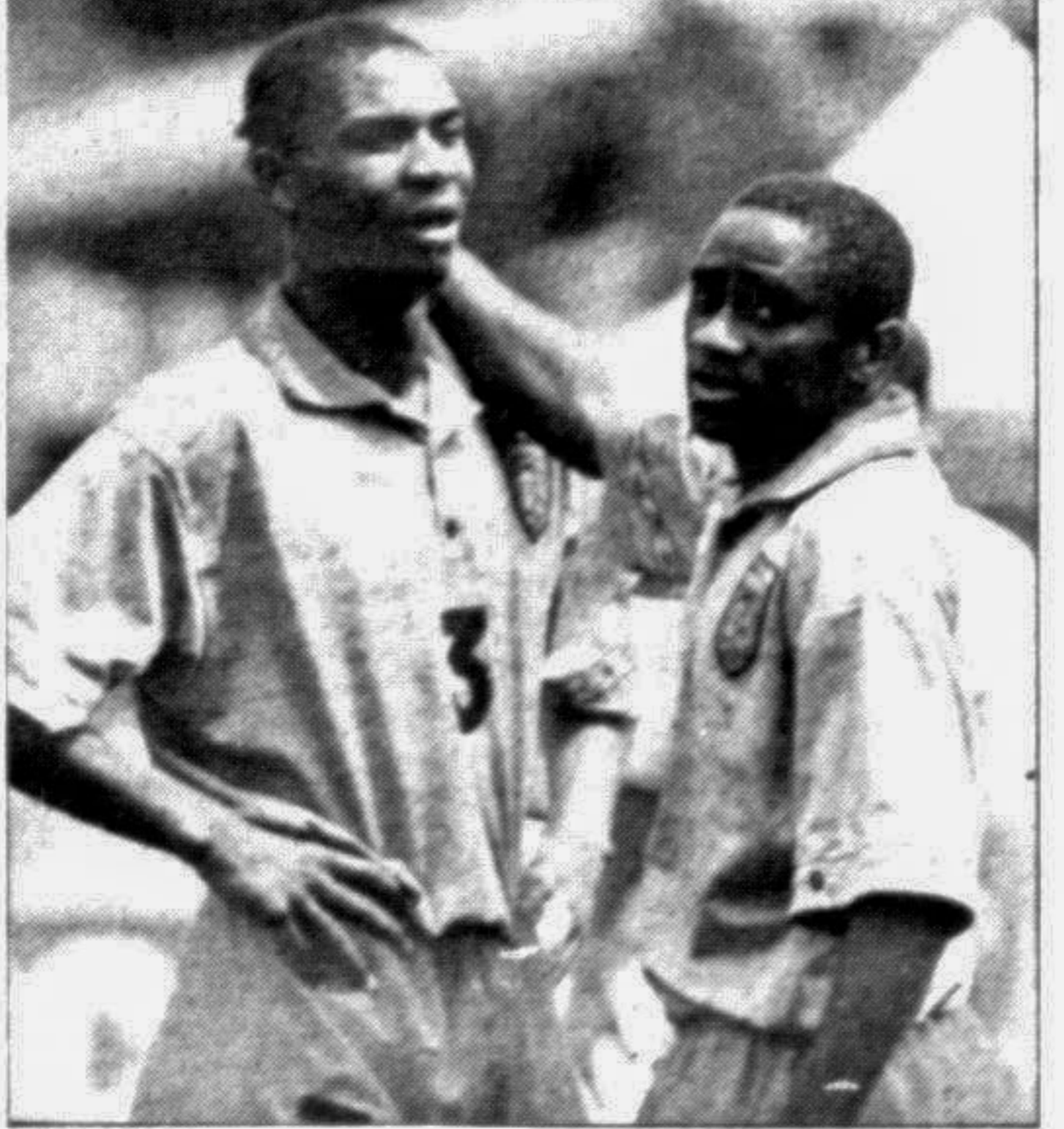
The other 13 players have contracts with the federation and earn between 3,000 dollars and 6,500 dollars a month.

"All the offers are worth half a million dollars plus, and the highest is for 1.1 million dollars," said Nuttall. The US Federation stood to get 90 per cent of any transfer fees.

"I am getting three in-

quiries a day about players, but until they are concrete offers I don't tell the players."

"Of course we will do all we can to make our players stay around for the [proposed] MLS [Major League Soccer] or maybe work out some kind of loan option. But if it's a good offer it's up to the player," said Nuttall.



SORRY PAL, IF YOU GOTTA GO, YOU GOTTA GO: Cameroun's Rigobert Song Bahanag gets a consolatory pat from peer Mfede on his way out of the pitch following the red card from the referee for a violent charge on the Brazilian Bebeto during the Group B match between Brazil and Cameroon at Stanford stadium on June 24. — AFP photo

Moeller's fall from grace

CHICAGO, June 25: Coach Berti Vogts is angry and he is promising changes in the German lineup.

The first victim could be Andreas Moeller, the player Vogts predicted would be a big star in the World Cup, reports AP.

Moeller was replaced in the second half of Tuesday's 1-1 draw against Spain and Vogts said Friday that Moeller was unlikely to start against South Korea Monday in Dallas.

"Something will happen in the midfield," Vogts said. "I expect a different German team."

Vogts said Moeller was only one of the players whose performance was being re-examined. "I am also looking at Thomas Haessler, at Matthias Sammer."

"The midfield is the heart of the team and that's where we have to work," he said.

The German coach has been fuming since Tuesday's game, when the defending World Cup champions produced another of what he called "lifeless" performances following a slim 1-0 opening victory against Bolivia.

Monday's game in Dallas is the last round in Group C and Germany need a victory to achieve their stated goal of winning the group and staying in Chicago for the round of 16.

Spain and Bolivia play at the same time at Soldier Field in Chicago.

Vogts held a stormy meeting with his players Thursday and talked privately to Moeller Friday.

Moeller is top fit but he is afraid of getting injured. If he continues to play like that maybe he won't be in the lineup, that way he can't get hurt at all," Vogts said.

"Maybe I'll do him a favour and take him out, take the

stardom to disgrace.

"I am asking myself the same question. I try to play every game the best I can, but to make me the scapegoat is not right," Moeller said.

"Vogts said he would also start two strikers against South Korea.

The German coach started Karlheinz Riedle alongside Juergen Klinsmann against Bolivia, but used Moeller as a striker against Spain. Klinsmann scored both German goals.

Moeller has played successfully at striker before in the national team, although he is a natural midfielder.

Before the World Cup, Vogts said Moeller had made great strides in Italy and had developed into a mature player that could become one of the great stars of the tournament.

After two seasons with Juventus of Turin, Moeller, 26, is returning to the Bundesliga to play for Borussia Dortmund, one of his former German teams.

Vogts declined to say who would be his second striker.

Rudi Voeller, the 34-year-old veteran called out of retirement, replaced Moeller in the second half against Spain.

Riedle, who missed much of the last season because of injuries, could get another chance.

Vogts also has Stefan Kuntz, who shared the Bundesliga scoring title with 18 goals, and Ulf Kirsten, a former East German international.

"Anyone of them could end up playing," Vogts said.



ANDREAS MOELLER

pressure away," Vogts said. "He is not the Andy I like, not the Andy I've seen before."

Moeller's tentative approach to duels has earned him the nickname of "crybaby" among his teammates.

Moeller accepted the coach's criticism but said he was not the only player to blame.

"I didn't play well but I was not worse than the others," Moeller said. "He can rely on me and I told him that, I want to play in Dallas."

Moeller said he could not explain his sudden fall from

Baresi ruled out

MARTINSVILLE, New Jersey, June 25: Italy's captain Franco Baresi is expected to make a quick recovery from surgery on his injured knee that has put him out of the World Cup, reports AP.

"Franco is back in the hotel with the other players. Italian team spokesman Antonello Valentini said on Saturday.

"The operation went very well and there has been no reaction. He is fine and there is no doubt he will be able to play again, but not in this World Cup."

Baresi, the Italian captain and defensive linchpin, underwent 20 minutes of "keyhole surgery" on Friday night to remove fragments of

cartilage after he tore the meniscus in his right knee during Thursday's 1-0 win against Norway.

Italian team doctor Andrea Ferretti said Baresi's ligaments were unaffected by the injury and that he would be able to resume training in two weeks.

In theory that would make Baresi available if Italy were to play in the July 17 final. But Ferretti added it was highly unlikely that the 34-year-old would be able to recover match fitness quickly enough after a fortnight's lay-off.

Baresi's club, AC Milan, whose own specialist was due to fly in today, would also be likely to veto Italy taking any risks with one of their most important players.

Swapan bails out Abahani

Sports Reporter

Shaheed Hossain Swapan struck during the injury time to give his side Abahani Krira Chakra a face saving 1-1 draw against Wari Club in the BEX-IMCO 12th Federation Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium played under floodlight yesterday.

Giant-killers Wari Club who shot into the lead in the 55th minute from their striker Shaab kept their awe-inspiring opponents Abahani at bay till the flag end before Swapan with the match in the last two minutes fired in the equaliser with a powerful right footer from a goalmouth melee.

Swapan, the dapper midfielder who scored a hat-trick in Abahani's 3-0 victory over Sadharan Bima, set the easiest chance for his side in the very fourth minute of the play when he was brought down in the forbidden area by Wari defender Ripon to win Abahani a penalty.

Abahani forwards Gaus and the two Iraqis Jashim Mehdi and Nazar Ali Hossain continued their prodigious exhibition, spoiling easy chances and Wari took full advantage of it.

Wari who held Abahani goalless in the first half shot into the lead in the 55th minute from a counter attack when Shoab hammered in a neat grounder from the top of the box after receiving a left side cross from medio Maqbul.

Wari could have fancied even a victory had their Mok but not missed a sitter from merely six yards and an another occasion Abahani custodian Saidul tipped a fierce right footer from striker Shoab over the bar for a corner.

With this draw Abahani have collected three points from two matches and they will meet arch-rivals Mohammedan SC in their last round robin league encounter on June 29.

In the other match of the day held earlier at the same venue, Fakirpool YMC and Bangladesh Boys were locked in 1-1 draw in a wearish encounter.



Vital Borkelmans (C) of Belgium and Gaston Taument (R) of Holland fight for the ball June 25 during first period of the World Cup game in Orlando. Belgian defender Georges Grun (L) watches the play. Belgium won 1-0. — AFP photo

Sampras, Novotna roll on

WIMBLEDON, England, June 25: Jana Novotna trying to erase haunting memories of last years Wimbledon final fought back to win her third round match Saturday and Jeremy Bates became the first British man to win on Centre Court since 1985, reports AP.

Also advancing was top seeded Pete Sampras, an easy 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 victor over Chuck Adams in an all-American match suspended by rain late Friday. Sampras has yet to lose a set in his three matches, winning the last two in less

than 90 minutes.

The fifth-seeded Novotna who broke into tears after blowing a 4-1 third set lead over Steffi Graf a year ago, defeated Dominique Monami of Belgium 6-0, 4-6, 6-0.

Novotna appeared to be floundering when Monami took a 4-0 lead in the second set, but she recovered to extend the set to 65 minutes before losing it, then overpowered her 21-year old foe in the third set.

Monami, ranked only 75th, has lost in the first round in her two previous Wimbledon, including a 6-1, 6-2 defeat by Novotna two years ago.

Jeremy Bates the only Briton left in the tournament, outplayed power-serving Markus Zöckle of Germany, 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, earning a euphoric ovation from the fans. The last British man to win on Centre Court was John Lloyd in a second round match nine years ago.

Bates, playing his 13th Wimbledon, matched his previous best showing in 1992, when he became the first Briton in 10 years to reach the fourth round.

Bergstrom, though ranked only 112th, has done well in past Wimbledon, reaching the fourth round in 1991 and the quarterfinals in 1990.

'Deportation' after round one

DALLAS, June 25: No World Cup referees will be sent home until after the end of the 36 first round group matches, FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said on Friday, reports Reuters.

Blatter, who said earlier that FIFA was generally pleased with refereeing standards at the World Cup though dissatisfied with some individual officials, told a news conference a review would not be made until the group games were over.

FIFA president Joao Havelange said before the tournament started that referees would be sent home immediately if they failed to comply with a directive to send off

players who tackled from behind.

Five players have been shown red cards at the finals, though none for a tackle from behind.

FIFA also announced the match officials for the final 12 games of the first round as follows:

June 26 — Los Angeles (US v Romania) — referee Mario van Der Ende (Netherlands)/ linesmen Jan Dolstra (Netherlands), Gordon Dunster (Australia).

San Francisco (Switzerland v Colombia) — referee Peter Mikkelsen (Denmark)/ linesmen Carl-Johan Christensen (Denmark), Douglas James (Trinidad and Tobago).

June 27 — Chicago (Bolivia v Spain) — referee Rodrigo Badilla (Costa Rica)/linesmen Raimundo Garcia Calix (Honduras), Yousef Al-Ghattan (Bahrain).

Dallas (Germany v South Korea) — referee Joel Quiniou (France)/linesmen, Valentin Ivanov (Russia), Abdel-Magid Hassan (Egypt).

June 28 — New York (Ireland v Norway) — referee Jose Joaquin Torres Cadana (Colombia)/linesmen: Paulo Alves (Brazil), Park Hae-Yong (South Korea).

Washington (Italy v Mexico) — referee Francisco Lanollina (Argentina)/linesmen Ernesto Taibi (Argentina), Eugene Brazzale (Australia).

San Francisco, (Russia v Cameroon) — referee Jamal Al-Sharif (Syria)/linesmen Ounster, Dolstra.

Detroit (Brazil v Sweden) — referee Sandor Puhl (Hungary)/linesmen Sandor Marton (Hungary), Luc Matthys (Belgium).

June 29 — Orlando (Morocco v Netherlands) — referee Alberto Tejada Noriega (Peru)/ linesmen Venancio Zarate (Paraguay), Mikael Eversting (Sweden).

Washington (Belgium v Saudi Arabia) — referee Hellmut Krug (Germany)/linesmen Brazzale, Taibi.

June 30 — Boston (Greece v Nigeria) — referee Leslie Mottram (Scotland)/linesmen Park, Alves.

Dallas (Argentina v Bulgaria) — referee Neji Jouni (Tunisia)/linesmen Tapio Yli-Carro (Finland), El Jilali Rharib (Morocco).

Dhaka Club golf results

Sports Reporter

The Raiyan brothers ruled the roost in the first ever junior TG Scavens Golf tournament held under the auspices of Dhaka Club held at the Club ground on Friday.

Raiyan Rob, the older of the sibling pair won the Under-15 category title collecting a gross score of 85. His younger brother Raiyan Islam, won the Under-12 title while the girls title was grabbed by Shaftun Islam.

Dhaka in Ragib Ali Cup final

Sports Reporter

Mohammed Sadeq struck the match winner as Dhaka District moved into the final of the Ragib Ali Gold Cup hockey tournament eliminating Faridpur by the odd goal in three in the first semi-final at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Fancied Dhaka who conceded a 33rd minute goal restored parity shortly after the breather and got their match winner in the 39th minute when star centre forward Mohammed Sadeq sounded the board with nice stick work.