Bad luck Brothers Union



blues win.

semifinal, pologetically and remotely resem-

bling the recent Vorld Cup. Abahani Krira Chakra entered the final of the Beximco 12th Federation Cup beating holders Brothers

dium vesterday After 4 4 deadlock during the tiebreaker following 120 minutes of sterile soccer Sohel Resa of Abaham slotted the ball home to ensure Abahani's pas-

Union 5.4 in a sudden death

shoot out at the Dhaka Sta

Defore Sohel tucked the ball in from the spot to mark the end of a long drawn out battle. Abaham's custodian Saidul had pulled off a save from Brothers, Ripon to pave the way for a sky

Zakir, Iraqi Nazar Ali. Imadul, and Partha netted for Abahani while Brothers custodian Ponir saved Masudur Rahman Rana's shot

For Brothers Shahzada. Biplob, Bakhtiar and skipper Satyant Das Rupu found the net but found their successful efforts drained by the misses by Uttain whose inaugural at tempt was torled by Saidul and the aforesaid abortive attempt by substitute Ripon

After a gingerly first half that saw both teams struggling for control Abahani created a comple of posttive chances but poor finish, the perennial problem in this part of the world, stopped them from taking the lead

Brothers who seemed more energetic of the two teams did have their share but their striker Biplob and mid fielder Bhutto made two un pardonable mistakes to shape the fate of the match. Bhutto, a promising youngster with deft footwork, was only yards away from an open net when a ball was squared to him from right while Biplob failed to control the ball with an advancing Saidul to beat.

Luck plays a vital role in every match and Brothers certainly did not have it their way yesterday. Referee Muzaffar disallowed what seemed a le-

burn Rovers, fast becoming a

kind of AC Milan of British

chairman and millionaire

businessman Jack Walker has

lifted Blackburn into the Man-

chester United and Arsenal

bracket in the last couple of

excelled themselves — even by

their own high-spending stan-

dards — when they shelled out

a British record five million

pounds (7.79 million dollars)

for Norwich city striker Chris

Sutton a 21 year old with a

lot of talent but an improven

track record at the very high

The deal took the Black

burn shopping bill for the last

three years to almost 27

million pounds (42.1 million

dollars) and sparked tears in

some quarters that the English

game may be following the

Italian, where exorbitant

transfer fees have become sec-

But Blackburn's assistant

"You've got to spend the

manager Ray Harford does not

money to get people of the

quality of Chris when they're

available," he said. "There is a

particular shortage of good

pic Games — but the tremors

are still being felt around

state, many believe their city's

bid was sabotaged by an

Australian delegate to the

International Olympic Com-

mittee in order to help his

hometown of Sydney host the

discovered to have made 44

telephone calls to his Atlanta

counterparts during Mel-

bourne's bidding process for

Coles is suspected to have

passed information to his.

American counterparts that

helped defeat Melbourne's

Olympic bid. This cleared the

way for Sydney's success in

winning their bid to host the

have called for a full investiga-

tion into the nature of Coles'

Melbourne business leaders

The officials. Phil Coles, was

In the capital of Victoria

Australia, reports AP.

Games in 2000.

the 1996 Games.

Games in 2000.

phone calls.

It is more than

four years since

Melbourne failed

in its bid to host

the 1996 Olym-

see that as a problem.

inglish players

6660

ond nature.

But on Friday, Blackburn

The financial clout of club

soccer, reports Reuter.

LONDON, July 20:

The English Pre-

mier league is

the spending ex-

ploits of Black-

growing used to

Sports Reporter

gitimate goal by hardworking Ranjan three minutes from time after consulting linesman Liaquat. The cross, which came from the left, causing a goalmouth scramble before a sliding Ranjan knocked it in. came according to the linesman, from outside. The match was held up for a couple of minutes as the irate Brothers players pressed the referee to declare a goal in their favour.

Abahani meet the winners of today's second semifinal between Mohammedans and Muktijoddha on July 23.

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Saidul, Ima dul, Munna, Sohel Reza, Par tha, Swapan, Zakir, Gau-(Jasim Mehdi), Mintoo, Aslam (Rana) and Nazar Ali.

BROTHERS UNION: Panir Pijush (Shahzada), Moon, Mi 4an, Ruhul Amin, Rupu, Uttam, Bakhtiar, Bhutto (Ripon). Biplob and Ranjan.

Yellow Card: Ruhul Amin. Rupu and Bakhtiar (Brothers Union): Imadul, Partha and

Jasim Mehdi (Abahani KC) Referee: Mozaffar Hossain.



Actions from yesterday's Beximco 12th Federation ('up football tournament first semi final between Abahani Krira Chakra and Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani won the match 5-4 in the tie-breaker. -Star photo

Fatal furore

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 20: A Brazilian soccer fan was murdered by his brother-inlaw because he praised the Italian team during the World Cup final, news agency Estado reported, says Reuter.

Jose de Iliveira Lima, 44 was stabbed to death by Raimundo Leadro in a bar in the remote Amazon city of Rio Branco after Lima said Italy was playing well by denying Brazilian goal, Estado reported late Monday.

The game ended 0-0 and was won by Brazil on penalties. Two students in Rio Branco suffered firearms injuries as they watched the match in another bar. The girls were supporting Italy and were shot at by an infuriated boy friend of

one of the two. Estado said. In Campinas, Sao Paulo state Housewife Maria Helena da Silva, 51, suffered a heart attack when the match went into extra time and died before reaching hospital, the agency

From sailor to millionaire

LONDON, July 20: A British sailor won a , record 2.26 million pounds (3.53 million dollars) on the football pools on Wednesday and all he could think about was whether it would ruin his Naval career reports Reuter.

Royal Navy chief petty officer Rohan Mitchell correctly predicted the outcome of eight football matches from a choice of 10. But the 38-year old bachelor, who has been at sea since he was 17, was worried that the Navy wouldn't appreciate his millionaire sta-

"The Navy has been my life and I just hope my being rich doesn't frighten the Admiralty and cut my career short," he said. "I have only 18 months left to do out of 22 years service and I would love to complete it.

The previous record win in the football pools was 2.25 million pounds (3.51 million dollars

World Cup wonders

BEIJING, July 20: The World Cup transformed the lives of Beijing residents, who were glued to their television sets in the early hours, showed up late to work, dozed off at their desks and dated less, a newspaper reported on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Only four per cent of the 986 people in the capital interviewed by the Beijing Youth News said they did not care about the World Cup.

An amazing 92 per cent of respondents either stayed up or got up especially in the early hours of the morning to watch games on television, all of which were broadcast live, mostly in the middle of the night Beijing time.

Over 20 percent of respondents said they dated less during the Cup.

"People had a valid reason to how up late for work," the newspaper said. About 10 per cent sard they dozed off at work and admitted work efficiency slacked.

Asked whether the nocturnal coverage had caused family rows, 15 per cent said tamily relations had improved thanks to the World Cup. Three-and-ahalf per cent said they had worsened and the rest said there was no chance.

An estimated 100 million Chinese, from top leader Deng Xiaoping down, watched the games, with the number even higher for the final. With China not taking part, the favourite teams were Brazil, Italy, Germany and Argentina.

Some rage

Wednesday, reports Reuter.

It said Hammada Abdel-Maksoud, who was the goalkeeper in the match played in the Nile Delta province of Sharkiya, killed Mohammed Mostafa Younis, 16, after Younis taunted him for not saving a goal.

National TT begins tomorrow

The Meril 19th national table tennis championship will begin on Friday at the Pabna district gymnasium, reports

The six-day meet having 10-events, organised by Pabna DSA in cooperation with the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF), will be participated by 201 paddlers — 100 men, 32 women and 69 boys — representing 28 teams.

The events are: men's singles, men's doubles, men's team, women's singles, women's doubles, women's team, boys' singles, boys' doubles, boys' team and mixed doubles.



at the Brasilia International Airport on July 19. The newly crowned champions dedicated their fourth title to the late Formula One driver Ayrton Senna. Parreira is holding Senna's helmet. -AFP photo

UEFA's no mercy for Maradona



towards suspended Argentine captain Diego Maradona, who tested positive for doping during the World Cup, reports

indefinitely last month by FIFA, the game's world governing body for taking a cocktail of drugs containing five banned substances. "I strongly disagree with

FIFA president Joao Havelange who feels Maradona should not be punished too severely given the circumstances of his case," Johansson told reporters on the eve of the draw four UEFA's club competitions.

this is my personal view and of course I shall discuss it with my executive committee colleagues for a general consensus," added the head of European soccer's governing body. FIFA's most powerful. confederation.

His suspension, one of the biggest shocks in World Cup history, came just hours before he had been due to make a

record 22nd finals appearance

in Argentina's match against

Argentine had been given me-

"I could not understand this. It seemed so wrong to me when you took into account

ing was rarely a problem for

the sport here before com-

While many eastern block

governments saw tennis as a

decadent western sport and

gave it little or no support, the

Czech authorities funded the

game as past of its Olympic

rupted by the system, it was

never banned here or seen as

an elite sport like it was in say

tournaments for juniors and

the best-suited coaches," he

said. "We used to plan their

"Before we chose the right

East Germany," Zlesak said.

"Tennis was never inter

munism fell in 1989.

programme.

yellow cards

BUDAPEST, July 20: Refe rees made too many bookings during the World Cup, Sandor Puhl, who officiated in the Brazil-Italy final, said on

Hungarian, manager of a department store, told reporters on his arrival home from the "It is absurd to give a yellow

card for each foul. The yellow card is a disciplinary mea-

nals than in Italy four years ago, it was FIFA's clarifications over the definition of foul tack's les that had made refereeing easier rather than the overuse

Referees came under increasing criticism during the World Cup, although little of it

Welshman Clive Thomas who officiated at the 1974 and 1978 finals, said refereeing this year was the worst ever FIFA, world soccer's governing body, sent two referees packing for mistakes they committed during second-round matches.

Puhl, however said he was generally satisfied with the level of refereeing in the tournament.

"It was OK, except for one or two cases - and there weren't to many - which were caused by the referee not be-

ing in the right spot," he said. Puhl said the Brazilian and Italian teams were both happy with his officiating during the final and several players congratulated him.

Caniggia, Hagi on Spurs'

development very carefully and it worked. "Now they don't always choose the right tournaments or they start playing profes-

sionally too early. "Some 14 and 15-year-olds here already have sponsors and if you have money, you can

choose the tournaments and coaches vou want." Zlesak's thoughts were echoed by last year's Wim-

bledon finalist Jana Novotna. For juniors here now, it is

just money, money, money, They don't really understand what competing for a Grand Slam title really means. "I think there's a big hole in

the tennis ranks here. We still have good players, but they leave as soon as they learn the game," she said. In communist Czechoslo-

vakia, controls over travel documents and foreign work permits regulated the number of coaches leaving the country. Zlesak said this kept the "brain drain" on coaching to a minimum.

"After money, the most serious problem we face is with coaching. Before there was a limit to the number of coaches who could go abroad but now everyone is free to go. And they do because it can be much more lucrative for them. And while top Czech train-

ers Tomas Smid, Jan Kodes and the former coach of Steffi Graf, Pavel Slozil have returned to the country, more top quality coaching will be needed if the Czech Republic is to continue as a dominant force.

Ironically, life under communist rule may have given Czech players a mental edge their opponents, says Pavel Korda, coach of the team that won the 1980 Davis Cup and father of world number 13

Petr Korda. "As a nation we learned to overcome and work in very inventive ways and this has followed us onto the courts," he

shopping list LONDON. July 20: Tot-

tenham Hotspur, docked six points at the start of the next English Premier Division season, are seeking foreign talent and possible a World Cup star, reports/Reuter.

Spurs' manager Ossie Ardiles confirmed on Tuesday he was interested in buying abroad but refused to comment on speculation he was after fellow Argentines Claudio Caniggia and Ariel Ortega or Romanian Gheorghe Hagi. "I won't give you any names,

or positions," he said in a telephone interview. But Ardiles said he was loo-

king for more than one player to strengthen his squad following a tough first season in charge.

The Cordoba-born former midfielder, who became an instant hit with English fans when he joined Spurs from Buenos Aires club Huracan after helping his country win the 1978 World Cup, said he was interested in both British

and foreign players. Caniggia has become surplus to requirements at his club as Roma after missing all of last season in the Italian league with a 13-month ban for doping. A veteran of the 1990 World

Cup in Italy, Caniggia made a bright start to the 1994 tournament in the United States. scoring twice in Argentina's second match a 2-1 victory over Nigeria. He is valued at around 4.5 million dollar

Romanian midfielder Hagi star of his teams 3-2 elimination of Argentina in the second round and one of the best players in the World Cup, was linked with Spurs during the tournament. He is currently on the books of promoted Brescia

Striker Ortega 20, was the youngest player in Argentina's World Cup squad and a star of River Plate, managed by Daniel Passarella.

Czechs learn the hard way hosted an elite field of eight of Unlike other former Soviet the world's top-ranked women bloc countries, financial back-

players, including French

Open winner Arantxa Sanchez

Vicario and Wimbledon cham-

out of court, the upper eche-

lons of Czech tennis were tak-

ing stock of the sport's post-

ing: Replacing a state-sup-

ported tennis programme that

over the past 25 years has

produced the likes of Martina

Navratilova, Ivan Lendl, Helena

Sukova, Hana Mandlikova and

Czech players 35 Grand Slam

titles, three Olympic medals

and wins in the Davis and

Communist support brought

While the players fought it

The task at hand is daunt-

pion Conchita Martinez.

communist future.

Jana Novotna.

Federation Cups



The fall of communism may have brought new opportunities to the Czech Republic. but as one of the world's top

tennis nations is learning, new-found liberties come at a price, reports Reuter. "Democracy in sport has

some negatives," says Frantisek Zlesak, sports director of the Czech Tennis Association (CTA), "Tennis in the Czech Republic will have to become more businesslike. "The system we have used

has been very good, but there have been changes in the

country that need to be reflected in our tennis system. We just don't have as much noney to spend." Zlosak avas speaking this

work as the Czech capital





Warwickshire and West Indies cricket star Brian Lara poses for photographers after signing a sponsorship contract with Mercury Asset Management, a British investment house in London on July 19. -AFP photo

big-spenders, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's club has frequently out-bid them all. "Milan were successful, so

they had the money to spend. so they remained successful. There's no reason why we shouldn't do the same,"

CALCUTTA, July 20: Unfancied Tollygunge Aggragami humbled city giant Mohammedan Sporting with an upset 1-0 win in the Calcutta Super Division football league at the latter's homeground here yesterday.

the match winner in the second session following a meathe interval

never really found their rhythm and were mostly busy fending off the persistent raids on their citadel by the Aggragami forwards. Aggragami which dominated the match could have won by a bigger

Harford said.

shocked

Manchester United last season, can learn from European Cup winners AC Milan.

Blackburn, another AC Milan

Calcutta MSC

Striker Kajal Nandy struck sured cross from Dipankar Biswas to seal the fate of the glamour club after both the teams were locked goalless at

Premier league runners-up to In a league notorious for

makes it less of one." Melbourne's witch hunt on

> traitor," Cloes said of the alle-He denies there was anything improper about the calls and has been supported by other Australian members of

every day you're called

Atlanta administrators have also jumped to Cloes' defence. "At no time did we ever discuss anything involving the strategy or plans of the Melbourne Bid Committee, Atlanta bid officials wrote in a letter to Coles last week.

Coles acknowledges making the Atlanta calls, but says they were part of normal Olympic business. He pointed out that he also had made calls to the other cities biding. Melbourne officials, however, continue to suspect their

bid was undefinined by Sydney interests. Suspicions were boosted when Australian Olympic Committee president John Coates revealed that he. IOC vice-president Kevan Gosper and Coles all thought Melbourne's bid was flawed from the start.

Coates said Tuesday that the trio of Australia's highest-"It's very hurtful. It is not ranked Olympic officials all

And Harford says the club

reports PTI.

players for no reason. We might have spent nearly 27

burn's Ewood Park.

Mohammedan Sporting

progression," he added and he shrugged off Black burn's "nouveau riche" image. 'There's a lot of envy about

the way we've come up so quickly, but we're not the only club to have had a lot of money to spend," says Harford, who works alongside one of Walker's earliest and shrewdest buys, manager Kenny Dalglish. "It's not as if we've bought

"In Italy there was a natu

million, but what would those players be worth if we put them on the transfer mar-Harford gave an estimate of

a cool 40 million pounds (62.3 million dollars). Sutton himself refused to be phased by the expectations that will follow him to Black

"I never said how much was worth, and I don't think it will bother me," he said. Sutton is relishing the prospect of his partnership with England front-man Alan Sheraer, who joined Blackburn from Southampton two years ago for 3.3 million pounds

(5.1 million dollars) and has been the jewell in the team's costly crown. Sutton said: "Alan's record speaks for itself and I would do very well to achieve half ofwhat he has. It was a wrench for me to leave Norwich, but the chance to lay with Alan, and the rest of the lads here.

believed Melbourne had little

chance to win the bid because

it had already hosted the

Calls for inquiries... are ill-

founded," .Gosper said. "It is

unwise to signal to the world

CAIRO, July 20: A 13-yearold boy strangled to death another teenager who blamed him for their soccer team's defeat in a village match, Al-Aahram newspaper said on

Olympics in 1956. But after Olympic delegates voted to push Melbourne, they supported its campaign. A spokesman for Victoria state premier Jeff Kennett said there are no plans for an inquiry, but the possibility has not been ruled out.

that our city hasn't come to terms with the 1996 loss." The ongoing row, which have been front-page news for two weeks, could cast a shadow over Sydney's staging of the Games in 2000.

ridiculous," the paper said. "It should be abandoned. "The whingeing now being indulged in among Melbourne's leaders is pointless. It can only damage both Melbourne and Sydney. It can-

The national newspaper.

"Melbourne's witch hunt is

The Australian, said in an edi-

torial Thursday that the matter

should now be left to rest.

not turn back the clock."

Too many GENEVA, July 20: "I appreciate this is a mat-Bulgaria at the Dallas Cotton UEFA president ter for FIFA's disciplinary Bowl. Lennart Johancommittee and the final deci-FIFA suspended Maradona sion will come from it, but we on June 30 for the duration of sson said on Tuwill make our views known." the tournament pending a esday he would show no lentency Maradona, one of the decision after the July 17 final. world's best players and a one-It said the case would probably Tuesday, reports Reuter. time cocaine abuser, tested be heard at a meeting in "There were quite a few August or early September at yellow cards," the 39-year-old FIFA's Zurich headquarters. Johansson, who is also a Maradona was suspended FIFA vice-president, said he had been in charge of the United States. dope-control formalities when the first sample tested posi-"The Argentine officials and team doctor charged there had Puhl said although discibeen irregularities in he propline was betten at the US ficedure and the second sample was accordingly tested." Both samples showed posipositive for ephedrine, a tive after analysis at the UCLA banned stimulant found in doping laboratory in California. many over-the-counter medi-Johansson said he felt it of vellow cards. cines, and four other related "I should like to make clear was wrong that the 33-year-old prohibited substances, according to FIFA. dia accreditation to work as a commentator after the suspenwas directed at Puhl