

Abahani blank Fakirerpoo

Sports Reporter
Abahani Krira Chakra shook off gremlins with an inspired second half show blanked promoted Fakirerpoo Youngmen's Club 4-0 in their Star Premier Division football league opener at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The DMFA Cup champions, who were off colour against the spirited Fakirerpoo outfit during the first part of the play, got into groove in the latter half and scored three goals to earn a convincing victory.

Abahani's Iraqi recruits — Nazar Ali and Jassim Mehdi, veteran striker Aslam and diminutive Swapna notched one goal apiece.

Fakirerpoo, who earned promotion to the Premier Division as the Star First Division football league champions last year, dominated the first half with excellent teamwork.

However, it was Nazar Ali who opened winners account against the run of play when he headed home a left side cross from Gaus in the ninth minute.

Undaunted by the early setback Fakirerpoo went all out to get the equaliser and came close to scoring twice. But the first attempt of Sohel Al Masum was brilliantly saved by a diving Abahani custodian Dhanu.

Govinda Chandra Sarker, the Fakirerpoo right back watched with mortification his

ambitious, long shot returned to play off the woodwork after beating Abahani's custodian Dhanu in the air.

The story after the breather changed with the introduction of Jassim Mehdi who inspired Abahani to play like winners.

The stocky Iraqi sent a perfect right side minus four minutes into the second half and a lurking Aslam fired the ball into the net from inside the box to prove efficiency even at the twilight hour of his career.

An unmarked Jassim Mehdi then banged the third goal by a perfect grounder from inside the box to give food for thoughts to coach Samir Shakir about fielding him in the first eleven.

Shahid Hossain Swapna, the younger brother of former national player Samrat Hossain Emily, sealed the fate of the match two minutes before the long whistle when his feeble header rolled into the net hitting the post.

TEAMS

ABAHANI FC: Dhanu, Emadul, Munna, Sohel Reza, Partha, Zakir, Swapna, Gaus (Jassim Mehdi), Mintu (Shamim), Aslam (Tutul) and Nazar Ali.

FAKIRERPPO YMC: Kausar, Gobinda, Ibrahim, Masum, Chhoton, Manju (Azad), Askar, Mukhtar, Asif, Arif and Sattar Matin.

Referee: Sk Badruddin. Meanwhile, the Star First



Abahani's veteran striker Aslam (L) lets fly a powerful shot towards the Fakirerpoo post during their Star Premier Division football league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Aslam scored one goal in Abahani's 4-0 win over Fakirerpoo YMC.

— Star photo

Romantsev replaces Sadyrin

MOSCOW. July 29: Russia's national team coach Pavel Sadyrin resigned on Thursday following his side's poor showing in the World Cup and was replaced by Oleg Romantsev, the coach of the country's top side, Spartak Moscow, reports Reuter.

Vyacheslav Koioskov, president of the Russian FA (Football Association) told a news conference Sadyrin's resignation had been accepted unanimously.

Russia's World Cup ended in failure with the team eliminated in the first round.

Russia's preparations for the tournament were badly hit before it even began following a conflict between Sadyrin and some of the country's best players, who refused to play in the finals.

Sadyrin was at the centre of a row that virtually wrecked Russia's chances before a ball was kicked.

A dozen leading players refused to appear saying Sadyrin was not qualified for the job. They also demanded better

performance money.

After long negotiations with the rebels, Sadyrin managed to get some of them on board but met dogged refusal from the others whom he slammed as traitors.

The team missed stars like Manchester United winger Andrei Kanchelskis, Karlsruhe striker Isergei Kiryakov and Foglia forward Igor Kolyanov.

Koloskov, a Soviet-era sports administrator, who backed Sadyrin during the conflict, praised him again on Thursday for the utmost courage and patriotism.

Few sports figures and journalists have called for Koloskov's resignation following the World Cup debacle.

Koloskov, the Soccer Union, realised, all too late, that it had been a mistake to negotiate with the rebels and keep some of them in the squad. This split the team from the start and those loyal to Sadyrin felt betrayed.

As a result, the players did not respect each other and were suspicious of each other," Koloskov said.

Spurs look to exotic spur

LONDON. July 29: Tottenham took a significant step in their team rebuilding plans on Wednesday when they signed Romanian World Cup player Ilie Dumitrescu in a deal worth 2.6 million pounds sterling (3.98 million dollars), reports Reuter.

And the club were given a boost in their bid to sign Brazilian international striker Muller from Sao Paulo after the Brazilian club's coach Marcos Freire said: "If we can agree a fee with Tottenham, he will definitely be transferred."

But Tottenham manager Ossie Ardiles re-shaping his squad after the most traumatic few months in the club's 112-year history, appeared no closer to clinching the transfer of Brazilian World Cup defender Marcio Santos.

Santos has been valued at two million pounds (3.06 million dollars) by his French club Bordeaux since Brazil's World Cup win but has indicated that he would prefer a move to Italy.

Tottenham, traditionally one of the most powerful clubs in England, hope Dumitrescu's

signing — and ideally that of the Brazilians — will bring a new dawn after a dreadful year.

They narrowly avoided relegation from the Premier league last season and last month were heavily fined and penalised by the English Football Association for financial irregularities during the late 1980s. They will start the new league season with a six-point deficit.

Dumitrescu, believed to be the first Romanian to have signed for an English club, said he hoped "To bring a nice patch of colour to the world's physically strongest soccer league."

Dumitrescu was a key member of the Romanian side which reached the World Cup quarter-finals in the United States. He scored twice in the 3-2 second-round win over Argentina and has collected 17 goals in 44 internationals.

"Like any Romanian soccer star, initially I wanted to play for a club in Italy or Spain, but negotiations collapsed in the United States."

Dumitrescu will fly to London on Friday, ahead of the transfer which is subject to a medical examination and the Romanian getting a work permit.

"I will get to know English soccer, whose characteristics are totally different for the

Latin school of soccer to which Romanian soccer belongs."

Tottenham's assistant manager Steve Perryman, who played for Spurs when the club signed Argentines Ossie Ardiles and Ricky Villa after the 1978 World Cup, was delighted they had secured Dumitrescu.

"We've seen when can happen here when foreign players come in. We saw it with Ossie himself and Villa in 1978. They gave us a great boost."

Ardiles reportedly met Muller in Brazil on Monday and although no transfer is expected to go through immediately Tottenham's hopes of signing the player rose late on Wednesday.

Spurs have offered 1.4 million pounds (2 million dollar) for Muller, Freire said.

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Tottenham to sign Klinsmann

MONACO. July 29: English First Division club Tottenham have clinched a four million dollar deal for the transfer of German striker Jurgen Klinsmann from French club Monaco, reports AFP.

Monaco sources said the World Cup star would travel to



JURGEN KLINSMANN

London later Friday to sign the contract.

Klinsmann, under contract with Monaco until 1995, said at the end of last season he wanted to leave the French club.

Sao Paulo welcomes heroes

SAO PAULO, Brazil. July 29: Without the biggest star of all — Romario, Brazil's World Cup champions on Friday received a hero's welcome in South America's largest city, reports AP.

Holding the World Cup trophy, defender Jorginho was the first player to disembark the plane that brought most of the team from Rio de Janeiro and was greeted by thousands of flag-waving fans packed into Sao Paulo's metropolitan airport.

Riding atop of a fire truck, the players were taken from the airport to city hall where they were met by another multitude of cheering fans who repeatedly chanted "futuro champions."

Few fans lined the 8-mile (13-kilometer) route, and thousands waved flags from buildings while others in cars honked their horns.

Besides Romario, who said he could not participate because of prior commitments, coach Carlos Alberto Parreira and teammates Leonardo, Muller, Zetti, Rai also were absent.

From city hall, the players went to the governor's palace where Gov. Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho was to host a lunch in their honor.

Similar celebrations were held last week in Recife, Brasilia and Rio De Janeiro after the team returned from Pasadena, Calif., where they beat Italy for the title.

Parreira takes over Valencia

VALENCIA, Spain. July 29: Spanish First Division club Valencia on Wednesday paraded some of the stars of a new-look lineup which includes nine new players and Carlos Parreira, coach of world champions Brazil, reports Reuters.

Parreira, was not at the presentation of new players to the media at club headquarters but agreed terms during the World Cup to coach Valencia for one season with an option for a second. He replaces Dutchman Guus Hiddink.

On show were Spanish international goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, signed from champions Barcelona during the World Cup, and Oleg Salenko, who set a World Cup record with five goals for Russia against Cameroon.

Salenko, signed from another Spanish team, Logrones, is contracted for four seasons.

Valencia, who led the league early last season, suffered a mid-season crisis and later recovered to finish seventh, have also secured Spanish international midfielder Jorge Otero and Guinean-born Vincent Engonga, both from Celta de Vigo, and Juan Maqueda from Real Madrid.

They retain established key players in defenders Francisco Camarasa and Fernando Giner and midfielder Fernando Gomez.

Losses include defender Quique Sanchez Flores to Real Madrid and Argentina striker Juan Pizzi, who is returning to Tenerife after only one season in Valencia.

Atletico Madrid, who were in danger of relegation at one stage last season, have Colombia's World Cup coach Pacho Maturana and Argentine international Diego Simeone, signed from Sevilla for five seasons, in their ranks for presentation to fans on Wednesday night.

Mexico's Bernardo Segura (L) crosses the finish line ahead of Russia's Ruslan Shafikov to grab the gold in the 20 km walk event of the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg on July 28. Segura clocked 1:23:28.8 hours.

Sohail slams sizzling ton

KURUNEGALA, Sri Lanka. July 29: Aamer Sohail became Pakistan's first century on their current tour as the tourists made a powerful reply on the second day of their three-day match against a Board President's XI here Friday, reports AFP.

The left-handed Sohail capitalised on two dropped catches to slam a fine 146 including two sixes and 23 boundaries to help Pakistan reach 276-4 at the close.

Sohail had earlier helped Pakistan dismiss home side hero Sanjeewa Ranatunga by holding onto a catch at second slip off pace ace Wasim Akram in the seventh over of the morning.

Ranatunga, the younger brother of Sri Lankan captain Arjuna, was unfortunate to miss his first first-class century. He failed to read an inswinger from Akram and edged the ball to a gleeful Sohail.

Ranatunga added just four runs to his overnight score of 93.

The vital wicket fired the Pakistan attack as Akram, who was treated with disdain by the Sri Lankan batsmen on the first day, ripped through the bottom-order to bowl the Board side out for 326 and finish with 5-76.

Overnight rain delayed the commencement of the second day by 45 minutes but Sohail made the large crowd forget the morning gloom with an entertaining knock. He first shared 120 runs for the opening wicket with Asif Mujtaba (30).

SHRI LANKA BOARD XI:

First innings (overnight 280-5)

Samaraweera c Anwar

b Akram

Upashantha c Latif

Hathurusinghe c Latif

De Silva

Medium-pacer Manjula Munasinghe underwent a nightmare after spilling a chance from Sohail off his own bowling when the batsman was on four. He gave away 60 runs without a single wicket and saw Sohail progressing to his century.

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