

Abahani blank Fakirerpool



Abahani, Kira Chakra shook of gremlins with an inspired second half show blanked Fakirerpool 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 coloured against the spirited Fakirerpool 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 — Nazari Ali and Jassim Mehdi, veteran striker Aslam and diminutive Swapan notched one goal apiece.

Fakirerpool, 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 Nazari 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 Fakirerpool went all out to get the equaliser and came close to scoring twice. But the first attempt of Sohail Al Masum was brilliantly saved by a diving Abahani custodian Dhanu.

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

Sports Reporter

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 ground from inside the box to give food for thoughts to coach Samir Shakir about fielding him in the first eleven.

Shahid Hossain Swapan, 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, Emdadul, Munna, Sohail Reza, Partha, Zakir, Swapan, Gaus (Jassim Mehdi), Mintu (Shamim), Aslam (Tutul) and Nazari Ali.

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

Referee: Sk Badruddin. Meanwhile, the Star First

Division football league started with a goalless draw between Shantinagar Club and Victoria SC at the same venue.

In an evenly contested match both sides got numerous scoring chances but failed to score due to poor marksmanship.

At the Mirpur Stadium, Rahmatganj MFS and East End Club won their Star First Division football league opener defeating Muslim Institute and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha respectively.

In the first match of the day, Rahmatganj edged past Muslim Institute by the odd goal in three.

After the barren first half Azim and Towhid scored for the winners while Mizanur reduced the margin for the vanquished.

In an eventful match Daboo of Rahmatganj and Alamgir of Muslim Institute were shown red cards during the second half.

In the other match of the day, Mohsin scored the match decider from a penalty to give the promotes East End Club a 1-0 victory over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.

Meanwhile, the organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) has suspended all the Premier and First Division football league matches scheduled for today due to unavoidable circumstances.

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



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 "futebol champions."

Few fans lined the 8-mile (13-kilometer) route, and thousands waved flags from buildings while other 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 Vicente 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.

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 Sanjeeva 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 Lanka captain Arjuna, was unfortunate to miss his first first-class century. He failed to read an in-swinging 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).

Medium-pace Manjula Munasinghe underwrote a right-mare 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.

Sohail was dropped again at 96 by Kumar Dharmasena off leg-spinner Suranjith Silva but



SOHAIL...146
Dharmasena made amends later when he picked up Sohail's wicket and also three more with his right-arm off-cutters.

Dharmasena had figures of 4-54 off 19 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the three-day cricket match between the Sri Lanka Board President's XI and Pakistan on Friday:

SHRI LANKA BOARD XI:
First Innings (overnight 280-5)
Samaraweera c Anwar b Akram 28
Hathurusinghe c Latif

b Ashfaq	8
S Ranatunga c Anwar	97
b Akram	34
Tillekeratne lbw b Ashfaq	39
Wickremaratne lbw	69
b Ashfaq	15
Kaluwithana lbw b Mushtaq	23
Dharmasena b Akram	6
Upashantha c Inzamam	17
b Akram	12
Munasinghe not out	12
S De Silva c Latif b Akram	12
A Ekanayake c Inzamam	2
b Ashfaq	23
Extras: (lb-4, nb-19)	2
Total:	326

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-80; 3-130; 4-226; 5-246; 6-283; 7-293; 8-294; 9-316.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Akram	23	6	76	5
Ashfaq	16.1	6	47	4
Waqar	14	0	62	0
Mushtaq	25	3	105	1
Sohail	4	0	14	0
Basit	2	0	9	0
Malik	1	0	9	0

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Aamer Sohail c Tillekeratne	146
b Dharmasena	30
Asif Mujtaba c Hathurusinghe	28
b Dharmasena	47
Inzamamul Haq	13
c Hathurusinghe	16
b Dharmasena	9
Salim Malik not out	15
Basit Ali c Munasinghe	16
b Dharmasena	9
Saeed Anwar not out	15
Extras: (nb-15)	276
Total: (for four wickets, close)	276

Fall of wickets: 1-120; 2-231; 3-238; 4-262.

To bat: Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Ashfaq Ahmed.

Bowling: (to date):	O	M	R	W
Munasinghe	9	0	60	0
Upashantha	10	0	59	0
Dharmasena	19	3	54	4
Ekanayake	11	0	44	0
De Silva	12	1	59	0

Anand beats Kamsky again

HYDERABAD, July 29: American Grandmaster Gata Kamsky suffered his second consecutive defeat Friday in the dhrs 150,000 prize money FIDE World Cup Chess Championship's quarterfinals, reports AP.

It took Indian Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand 53 moves to beat the bespectacled American after the latter came under pressure of time, leaving him with only 15 minutes for his remaining 20 moves.

The win gave Anand 3.1 lead over Kamsky in their eight game series.

Six Grandmasters are taking part in the 17-day tournament sponsored by the World Chess Federation, known by its French acronym FIDE. Three of them will qualify for the semifinal round. The prize money will be shared equally among the three qualifiers.

In the other matches of the day, Belarus Grandmaster Boris Gelfand scored a spectacular win over his Russian rival Vladimir Kramnik.

The third game between Russian Grandmaster Valery Salov and Dutchman Jan Timman was adjourned after 63rd moves.

In the meantime, FIDE announced that the upcoming semifinals matches were awarded to India. The matches will be played in Hyderabad, capital of South Indian Andhra Pradesh state.

The India Sanghi Group of Industries put a dhrs 500,000 bid to host the semifinals and won it.

Lara's eighth

CHESTERFIELD, England, July 28: Warwickshire's West Indian batting phenomenon Brian Lara returned to form Thursday with his eighth century of the season as he scored over half his team's score with an innings of 142, reports AP.

The prolific record breaker has had a lean run in recent weeks as he complained of exhaustion after non-stop cricket for the last 12 months.

He put his piggling injuries and tiredness aside and carried Warwickshire in their county championship match against Derbyshire to a total of 280 as his teammates fell all around him after being 224 for three.

Lara had reached his century before lunch on a green pitch and his 142 came off only 135 balls in conditions where no other batsmen reached 50.

He went into lunch on 121, 80 of which came in boundaries. At the end of the day, Derbyshire were struggling at 165 for six, to keep Warwickshire on course for a clean sweep of the domestic titles.

Lara's eighth championship century contained a six and 26 fours, but he was given a helping hand by Mohammad Azharuddin, who dropped him at a second slip when he had scored only 25.

Had that been taken, Derbyshire's decision to put Warwickshire in would have been totally vindicated, as there was little else of substance either side of Lara.

The Trinidadian left-hander broke the world individual first class record when he scored 501 for Warwickshire in June, two months after setting a new Test record of 375 against England at Ahtigua.

Robinson robs SA hopes

NOTTINGHAM, England, July 29: A stubborn 82 by Nottinghamshire captain Tim Robinson frustrated South Africa's hopes of their first victory over a county side on their England tour on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Robinson's five-hour innings enabled Nottingham to score 218 and avoid the follow on as they replied to the South African first innings total of 327 for six declared.

The Nottingham skipper at one stage went without hitting a run for half an hour and produced only one scoring shot in 21 overs.

South Africa's spinners Pat Symcox and Tim Shaw did most of the bowling, claiming five wickets between them. Symcox ended with three for 56 and Shaw two for 58.

Opener Andrew Hudson, looking for a good innings after a disappointing first Test, fell cheaply when South Africa began their second innings.

At the close of the second day in the three-day match, South Africa were 25 for one, a lead of 134.

Pak hockey player dies

ISLAMABAD, July 29: Pakistan's legendary full-back, Munawar-uz-Zaman, has died after a heart attack on the hockey field, news reports said today, reports AFP.

Zaman, 41, who collapsed after playing a domestic match in Karachi on Thursday, leaves behind a widow and two daughters.



Abahani's veteran striker Aslam (L) lets fly a powerful shot towards the Fakirerpool 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 Fakirerpool 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 Reuters.

Vyacheslav Koloskov, 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 Sergei Kiryakov and Foggia 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."

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

Koloskov said 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.

Sadyrin, who declined to say what he would be doing apart from having a holiday, also defended his record.

"We did the right thing but our expectations did not come true," he said, looking depressed.

Romantsev, who will retain the post of Spartak's coach as the bulk of the national team came from his club, said, "I am very excited, I am afraid to fail and that is why I will work as I have never worked in my life."

Russia lost 2-0 to eventual world champions Brazil and 3-1 to eventual third-placed finishers Sweden in the opening round.

Their only success was a 6-1 win over Cameroon, the biggest victory in the tournament, and a match destined for the record books because Oleg Salenko set an all-time individual World Cup scoring record in one game with five goals.

But that victory was not enough to get them through to the last 16 and Sadyrin paid the price for that failure on Thursday.

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 (3.96 million dollars), reports Reuters.

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 last minute," Dumitrescu said.

"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 (2.2 million dollars) for Muller, Freire said.

Muller was in Brazil's World Cup squad but did not feature in any of the world champions' matches 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.