

## Sport



Action from yesterday's Star Premier Division football league match between newly crowned Federation Cup champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC and PWD Sports Club at the Dhaka Stadium. Muktiyoddha won 3-0.

— Star photo

## BU, Muktiyoddha win well

Sports Reporter

Ranjan scored the second hat-trick of the Star Premier Division football league as Brothers Union made an auspicious start with a 3-1 victory over traditional giant-slayers Wari Club at the Dhaka Stadium last evening.

In the first match of the day, Muktiyoddha Sangsad also found the net three times against Public Works Department (PWD) Sports Club but were, one would say, far from impressive given their theoretical strength of having as many as ten booters, who have donned the national colour.

Although Brothers scored more than their opponents, they cannot claim to have enjoyed total dominance in an encounter featured with attacks and counter attacks. Wari, who have gained the status of giant-killers over the years, didn't quite let the Gopibagh outfit have a walkover, launching stinging moves more often than not.

However, Brothers, former Federation Cup winners, latched on to the openings that came their way and Ranjan's double strike in the space of five minutes from the world go certainly put them on top. Moreover, some casual defending from the Wari rear-guards made things even easier for the eventual victors.

Ranjan, the young energetic winger with a lethal left foot, who played for Rahmatganj MFS in last year's Star First Division league, found himself in the middle of the penalty box with the ball and a lot of leverage after a clumsy clearance job from a Wari defender. With only the goalie to beat, he made no mistake and guided the ball home, unleashing a blinding groundstroke (11).

Ranjan was again in the thick of action three minutes later when he zoomed the ball into the net with a blistering 25-metre free-kick that found its way through the Wari custodian's legs (2-0).

The Tangail footballer proved irresistible down the left flank, ripping through the Wari defence once too often but he also had the blemish of missing a spot-kick in the 11th minute after he was brought down by Mansur well inside the box. To the utter dismay of the scarce Brothers fans, Ranjan shot the ball straight into Tony's lap.

However, he readily made amends for the blunder seven minutes later when he completed his treble after he was set free by medio Bhutto with a well-measured through that caught the Wari defence napping. All Ranjan had to do on that occasion was to place the ball into the net with a tap of the left foot (3-0).

Wari Club, who beat Brothers 1-0 last year, regrouped after having conceded three goals in very short span. They pressed the Brothers defence on and on for a goal with right-winger Makbul really giving the defence a hard time.

But they had to wait until the 35th minute of the proceeding when Pijush Nandi, the Brothers right back, hacked Makbul down in the penalty area leaving the man in black pointing at the dreaded spot. Mansur kept his cool and neatly converted the chance (3-1).

After an exciting first ses-

## Opee slaughters HK

Sports Reporter

Young Opee slayed a whirlwind 117 as Bangladesh made a mockery of a contest, outplaying Hong Kong by 263 runs to pick their second successive win along the way in the international youth cricket tournament.

After ninth minute goal from Mamun Joarder, the eventual winners seemed to have run out of gas and opted to play in their own half instead of going for more.

However, PWD, who conceded as many as nine goals in

the previous encounter with the Mukis in the Federation Cup, appeared determined to increase the margin and they actually did when Shabbir headed the ball into his own goal as a Mizan floater flew in from the flank.

Mansur got the third goal for Muktiyoddha in the 56th minute when he headed home from a measured minus from Titu, the right back.

Muktiyoddha didn't field two of their regular players — Rumi Rizvi Karim, the national captain and Barun Bikash Dewan, the national left back who now plays as medio for his new club.

### TEAMS

#### MUKTIYODDHA SANGSAD

**KC:** Mohsin (Arun), Titu, Jewel Rana (Hafiz), Ataur, Masud Rana, Arman, Kazi Mizan, Raquib, Mamun Joarder, Mizanur Rahman and Naqib.

**PWD SC:** Shohan, Azmat, Pance, Sabbi (Sabu), Babu, Joy, Biplob, Halim, Salam, Saiful and Bulbul.

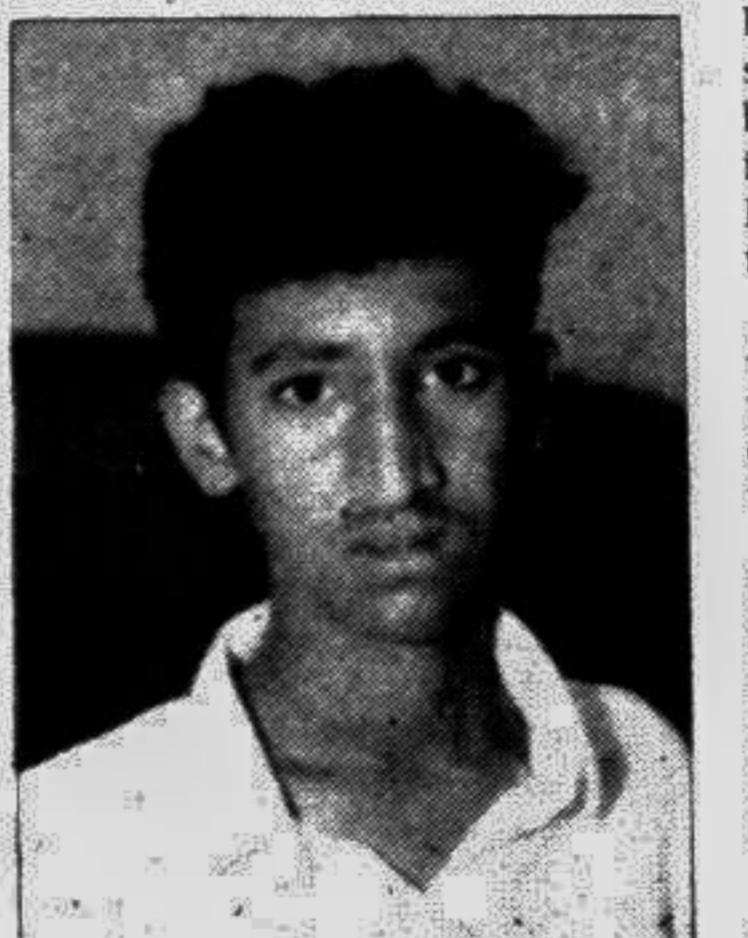
Referee: Nasir Chowdhury.

In the lone Star First Division match, Dhanmondi Club and Farashganj SC played a two-all draw at the Mirpur Stadium.

Javed and Pallab scored for Dhanmondi while for Farashganj, Ratan and Zilani found the net for their side.

### TODAY'S MATCH

Sadharan Bima vs Dhaka Wanderers 5:30 (Dhaka Stadium).



OPEE... 117

ment in Ipoh, Malaysia yesterday.

A faxed message received here last night revealed, Bangladesh batted first for the second consecutive day to rattle up a mind-boggling total of 335 for five wickets from their quota of fifty overs.

Although opener Biplob once again departed cheaply, Javed Omar Belini Golla, his experienced partner teamed up with one down Opee to set the stage for a run fest.

Pitted up against an opposition who had to rely on batsmen's mistakes than the skills of its bowlers for breakthroughs, Golla displayed his familiar brittle temperament when in sight of a hundred and returned a catch to Robertson to be dismissed for 71 made from 85 balls.

Thus however could not deter Opee's, who simply massacred the Hong Kong bowlers to pile 117. Fittingly no Hong Kong bowler could terminate the young right-hander's torrid innings which ceased when he retired after his 88-ball blitzkrieg.

With the pitch aiding bounce and movement, they reduced Leicestershire to 74 for four by the close after South Africa had declared at 270 for eight.

## SA pace pair mauls Leics

LEICESTER, England, July 31: South African pace pair Allan Donald and Fanie de Villiers had Leicestershire's batsmen battling for survival on the opening day of their three-day match on Saturday, reports Reuter.

With the pitch aiding bounce and movement, they reduced Leicestershire to 74 for four by the close after South Africa had declared at 270 for eight.

Skipper Naimur Rahman Durjoy scored a breezy 41 from 36 balls.

Schofield was the only bowler to earn a wee bit of respect from the Bangladeshi batsmen and finished his quota of ten overs for 41 runs.

However, the five wickets that fell eluded him and Rohan, Evans and Robertson shared one apiece while two batsmen relieved the sufferings of the wretched Hong Kong bowlers by opting retirement.

Robertson scored a defiant 41 but the rest just came and went as Hong Kong were all out for 77 in 36.1 overs, in their turn.

Durjoy, Sohel and opening bowler Suman picked up a couple of easy scalps each while Bappi, Golla and Litu, the man of the match in the Papua New Guinea match batted one apiece.

However, the couple decided to settle over the border in Alsace, France, to take advantage of the lower income tax than in Germany.

The midfielder was bought in 1990 by Juventus for 14.5 million marks from Cologne. He then moved to Roma, where a first team place was not assured next season.

In another match, Sri Lanka, the only Test playing country to be represented in the meet and joint favourites with Bangladesh, opened their campaign with a massive seven-wicket victory against hosts Malaysia.

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There were a couple of cameo innings' which paled in the mideast of Opee's hurricane. Zakaria Imtiaz who top-scored in Bangladesh's inaugural match compiled his second fifty needing 38 balls for his unconquered 51.

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## Record-breaker

BOMBAY, July 31: Twelve-year-old Bombay school boy, Rihen Mehta, set a new Asian record becoming the 19th Indian to successfully swim across the English Channel, on Friday, reports PTI.

According to information available here, Mehta swam the cold waters of the Channel between Dover and Cap Gris Nez in 11.35 hours, bettering the six-year-old record for under-13 swimmers by two-and-a-half hours.

Indeed, it was a creditable achievement by the student of the Greer Lawns High School in south Bombay, especially since he is asthmatic.

The last Indian to cross the 18.2 nautical miles distance was Bula Chaudhary of Bengal, a butterfly-stroke specialist, in 1989.

Romario keeps his promise

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 31: The World Cup most valuable player Romario kept his promise to childhood friends and Saturday played a sandlot soccer match in the Vila da Penha shantytown, reports AP.

"More than 2,000 shantytown dwellers packed a sandlot field Saturday to see the world's number one player honor his humble origins by returning to the field, he played as a child."

"I thought today was an average jump and not my best," he said.

"If I improve my technique, it will be possible to jump 6.20-30 metres."

He said Sestriere, at 2,035 metres above sea-level, was ideal for jumping.

"I've never had such perfect conditions for vaulting as today. The wind helped a lot ... and there's something about high altitudes which makes it easy to do good jumps," Bubka said.

But he said constant competition was taking its toll and confirmed he would not be competing in the European Championships at Helsinki later this year.

"For me it's better to pass up on the European championships ... mentally it's difficult for me with all the pressure of having to win every event I'm in, small or big," he said.

Added to the 17 times he has set a world record outdoors, Bubka has also set new world marks 18 times in indoor competitions to qualify as the greatest pole vaulter of all time and he ranks with American Carl Lewis as the best of the track and field athletes of his generation.

He burst on to world scene at the first World Championships in Helsinki in 1983 when he took the gold and has

set a world record in each of the last four years. He has also won the European title twice and the Commonwealth Games title once.

Recalled to the 13 named here on Sunday are controversial Middlesex spinner Phil Tufnell and Surrey left-hander Graham Thorpe.

Benjamin, 33, joined Surrey in 1992 and his career took off after four disappointing seasons with Warwickshire.

He also played three seasons for minor county Staffordshire before breaking into county cricket at the age of 27. Benjamin came to England as a child when his family left St Kitts to settle in Birmingham.

Tufnell, meanwhile, has been given the chance to resurrect a career that looked in jeopardy earlier this summer when the Middlesex left arm bowler became embroiled in domestic problems that ended up in court after he assaulted his former fiance.

But chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth said two weeks ago: "Playing for England concerns me more than what happens off the field. Thirty years ago, Tufnell might never have played again. He can be grateful times have changed, but he is in a period of probation."

Football observers believe his annual salary will be around one million marks (625,000 dollars). The deal nearly broke down because of objections from Hassler's wife, Karlsruhe club officials revealed.

However, the couple decided to settle over the border in Alsace, France, to take advantage of the lower income tax than in Germany.

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## Bubka soars over self

SESTRIERE, Italy, July 31: Ukraine's Sergei Bubka beat his own world pole vault record for a centimetre a time for which

he gets paid handsomely but has said: "I like this life of sport, if I made one big jump it would be harder to get motivated at future meets."

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