



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 walk-over, 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-guard 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 blazing grounder (1-0).

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 he 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-

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.

sion, things slowed down in the second even though Wari charged on for more goals but the Gopibagh defence quartet of Pijush, Moon, Mizan and promising Ruhul Amin was not ready to surrender the cosy two-goal lead.

Mansur's sending off highlighted the second half as the lone scorer for Wari menacingly challenged Biplob in the 57th minute leaving his side to play with ten players for the remainder of the match.

Nakib and Mamun Joarder struck once each while Shabbir scored an own goal to constitute Muktiyoddha's collection in the first match of the day, which had a delayed start due to a fixing operation of the goalpost.

Muktiyoddha finally launched their campaign 15 minutes later than originally scheduled but their performance was surely far from inspiring. Seemingly exhausted after a gruelling Federation Cup campaign where they beat Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club — the big names of the domestic circuit — en route to their Cup win, Muktiyoddha were not even close to the way they played just a few weeks back.

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

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

their previous encounter with the Mukti 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.

Nakib 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 (Arjun), Titu, Jewel Rana (Hafiz), Ataur, Masud Rana, Arman, Kazi Mizan, Raquib, Mamun Joarder, Mizanur Rahman and Naquib.

PWD SC: Shohan, Azmat, Pance, Sabbir (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.

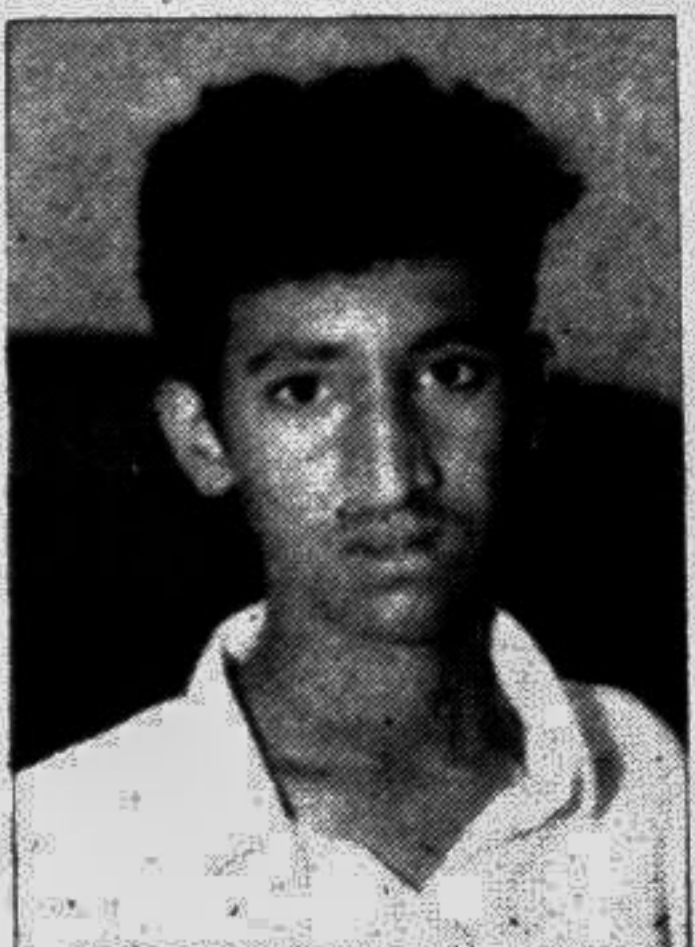
TODAY'S MATCH

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

Opee 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.



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 Biplab once again departed cheaply, Javed Omar Belim Golla, his experienced partner teamed up with one down Opee to set the stage for a run feast.

Pitted up against an opposition who had to rely on batsman'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.

This 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.

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

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, bagged one apiece.

Opee was the unquestionable man of the match.

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.

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 11.33 hours, bettering the six-year-old record for under 13 swimmers by two-and-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 on as a child.

"I wanted to show my friends that success has not gone to my head. I'll never forget my friends and where I came from," Romario said.

Romario, though, is defying his Barcelona soccer club by not returning to Spain on Sunday to begin training on Monday.

"I deserve a rest," Romario told a TV Globo reporter on Saturday.

"I tried to get in touch with Barcelona directors to tell them I'm still wiped out from the World Cup and victory ceremonies in Brazil. I'm going to insist on getting an extra two weeks rest. I'm sure they'll understand," Romario said.

Rio residents have also swarmed to a Barra de Tijucá beach volleyball court during the week to see superstar Romario play fute-volley, a combination of soccer and volleyball played by two man teams.

The superstar rented an Ipanema jazz club Wednesday and invited friends and celebrities to celebrate Brazil's World Cup conquest, one more time. The Banda Mel Carnival band was featured, playing their hit song about Romario.

Thomas Hassler homeward bound

KARLSRUHE, Germany, July 31: International Thomas Hassler returns to Germany on Friday after signing for Karlsruhe for a club record six million marks (3.75 million dollars) from Italian club AS Roma, reports AFP.

Hassler, 28, signed a two-year contract for the UEFA Cup semifinals, with an option to renew, club official Wernfried Vex said.

Vex added Karlsruhe had paid "just less than six million marks" for the transfer — a club record.

Hassler, capped 42 times by Germany, will be paid according to his performances, the club said.

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.

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.

Bubka soars over self



The four times world champion set the previous record of 6.13 metres two years ago in Tokyo.

Bubka managed only second place in the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg last week but in Sestriere the 30-year athlete was back at his majestic best, first clearing 5.70 metres and then 5.90 metres with no difficulty, before taking the world record at the first attempt.

Bubka celebrated his record with a lap of honour in a red Ferrari sports car awarded to him by the organisers.

Bubka left his rivals far behind, Americans Dean Starkey and Scott Huffman managing only 5.80 metres. But the Ukrainian told reporters he was confident he could stretch his world record even further in the coming years.

"I thought today's 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

gone on to become the only person to win four world titles. Bubka has been criticised for raising the record just one 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."



BUBKA...has only himself to beat

ANNALS OF HIGH-FLYERS

LONDON, July 31 (Reuter): Evolution of the pole vault world record since 1970 (tabulate under height, name nationality, date)

5.45 metres	Wolfgang Nordwig (East Germany)	17.6.70
5.46	Nordwig	3.9.70
5.49	Christos Papanicolaou (Germany)	24.10.70
5.51	K Jell Isaksson (Sweden)	8.4.72
5.54	Isaksson	15.4.72
5.55	Isaksson	12.6.72
5.63	Bob Seagren (US)	2.7.72
5.65	Dave Roberts (US)	28.3.75
5.67	Earl Bell (US)	29.5.76
5.70	Roberts	22.6.76
5.72	Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz (Poland)	11.5.80
5.72	Thierry Vigneron (France)	1.6.80
5.77	Philippe Huuivon (France)	17.7.80
5.78	Philippe Huuivon (France)	30.7.80
5.80	Vigneron	20.6.81
5.81	Vladimir Polyakov (Soviet Union)	26.6.81
5.82	Pierre Quinon (France)	28.8.83
5.83	Vigneron	1.9.83
5.85	Sergei Bubka (Ukraine)	26.5.84
5.88	Bubka	2.6.84
5.90	Bubka	13.7.84
5.91	Vigneron	31.8.84
5.94	Bubka	31.8.84
6.00	Bubka	13.7.85
6.01	Bubka	8.7.86
6.03	Bubka	23.6.87
6.05	Bubka	9.6.88
6.06	Bubka	10.7.88
6.07	Bubka	5.6.91
6.08	Bubka	9.6.91
6.09	Bubka	8.7.91
6.10	Bubka	5.8.91
6.11	Bubka	13.6.92
6.12	Bubka	30.8.92
6.13	Bubka	19.9.92
6.14	Bubka	31.07.94

Illingworth's surprise move



Thorp was ignored by the selectors since looking impressive during England's winter tour to the Caribbean.

Of the 12 selected for Lord's, spinners Ian Salisbury and Shaun Udal have been omitted.

Meanwhile, fast bowling trio

Tufnell's first championship match this season was against Derbyshire on June 30 and he has played in just three other first-class fixtures since then, without conspicuous success.

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Meanwhile, fast bowling trio

Darren Gough, Phil DeFreitas

and Angus Fraser have all reported fit for the second Test match.

However, all-rounder Craig White is a serious doubt for Headingley, having suffered a flare-up of the sore shins that have troubled him intermittently all-season.

White, who withdrew from Yorkshire's attack in the county match at Durham on Saturday, may be left out anyway if England opt for a sixth specialist batsman.

Gough, DeFreitas and Fraser have been missing from their respective counties' latest championship matches because of niggling injuries, but all are expected to return for the Sunday League.

England's squad for the second Test against South Africa at Headingley which begins on Thursday, August 4:

M A Atherton (Lancashire, captain), A J Stewart (Surrey), G A Gooch (Essex), J P Crawley (Lancashire), G A Hick (Worcestershire), G P Thorpe (Surrey), C White (Yorkshire), S J Rhodes (Worcestershire, wicketkeeper), P A J DeFreitas (Derbyshire), D Gough (Yorkshire), A R C Fraser (Middlesex), J E Benjamin (Surrey), P C R Tufnell (Middlesex).

PHIL TUFNELL

An all-Spanish final



Sanchez Vicario, the top seed, ended the hopes of fifth-seeded Iva Majoli of Croatia 6-3, 6-3.

Martinez, the defending champion and seeded second, survived a 50-minute rain delay and eliminated fourth-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-4, 6-4.

They meet Sunday in the dirs 80,000 final. The outcome will not change their rankings.

The two Spaniards have met six times as professionals, the last time when Sanchez Vicario won 6-3, 6-1 in the French Open. She leads 5-1 overall.

Sanchez Vicario will be seeking her fifth title this year, including the French. Martinez has won three times, including Wimbledon.

Sanchez Vicario started slowly after playing two singles

matches and a doubles match Friday because of rain delays. But at 3-3, she took control.

She broke for a 4-3 lead when the hard-hitting Majoli missed on two tries for winners and then missed an easy backhand.

By the second set, Sanchez Vicario was chasing down everything and the 16-year-old Majoli, the 23rd-ranked player in the world, tried to hit still harder and began missing.

Sanchez Vicario got the only service break she needed in the fourth game when Majoli missed an overhead.

"At the beginning, maybe I was not moving so fast after yesterday," Sanchez Vicario said. "At 3-all, I started to feel more comfortable, and at the end all my shots were making winners."

Martinez kept her record perfect at 6-0 against Coetzer, ranked 13th in the world. She also has not lost in 18 sets in two years of this tournament.

She led 4-1 before the rain delay, and afterward Coetzer pulled back to 5-4.

Kamsky draws with Anand

HYDERABAD, July 31: Grandmaster Gata Kamsky of the United States agreed to a draw Sunday on the 54th move of the fifth game with Vishwanathan Anand of India in the dirs 150,000 FIDE World Chess Championship quarter-finals, reports AP.

Anand leads Kamsky 3.5 points to 1.5.

The other match between Vladimir Kramnik and Boris Gelfand of Byelorussia also ended in a draw. Both players are locked at 2.5 points each.

In the third match played at the Sanghi auditorium in southern India, Russian Grandmaster Valery Salov adjourned his fourth game against Jan Timman of the Netherlands after 61 moves.

Salov trails Timman 1-2 points, but observers said he has a good chance of catching up.

The American Grandmaster did not change his Spanish opening and fired off seven moves in a minute. Kamsky did not sacrifice a pawn in the beginning as widely predicted and dropped the idea of a Marshall attack.

Instead, he opted for the Karpov-Zaitsev system, which is considered to be a potent weapon against the Spanish opening.

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

Powell's effort wasted

SESTRIERE, Italy, July 31: American long jumper Mike Powell equalled his own world record here on Sunday — only to discover the effort had been ruled out because of an illegal wind, reports AFP.

The double world champion leapt a massive 8.95m to equal his historic 1991 world record — the jump that wiped out Bob Beamon's 1968 mark — at the altitude meeting, but was helped by a four-metre wind.

Meanwhile, John Regis produced a sparkling run to notch a new British record of 19.87 sec in the 200m, beating world champions Frankie Fredericks of Namibia on the way.

Regis' run proved the perfect warm-up for the European Championships at Helsinki, where he defends his 200m title.

Powell, winner at the Goodwill Games after a war of words with rival Carl Lewis, would have earned an 80,000 pound car for a new world best.

Lewis, criticised by his teammate after skipping the event at St Petersburg, led early on with an opening leap of 8.68m.

Colin Jackson also boosted British morale with a win the 110m hurdles.

Derrick Adkins, the 24-year-old from Brooklyn and reigning American champion, won the 400m hurdles to notch 10th consecutive win.

Gavaskar joins 'dirt' war

BOMBAY, July 31: Former Indian cricket captain Sunil Gavaskar on Sunday joined the ball-tampering row by accusing England skipper Michael Atherton of resorting to unfair tactics in the first Test against South Africa at Lord's, reports Reuter.

"He was in breach of cricket's law and since this law also comes partly under fair and unfair play, Michael Atherton was guilty of unfair play. Plain and simple," Gavaskar said in the Midday newspaper in Bombay on Sunday.

Gavaskar, Test cricket's second highest run scorer, also alleged that Atherton knew what he was doing was wrong when he rubbed the ball with dirt from his trouser pocket.

"That he knew he was wrong can be seen by the way he did not give Peter Burge, the match referee, the information that he had dirt in his pocket. If he thought it was okay to use dirt, why would he suppress the information in the first place?"

He said it was possible that Ray Illingworth, the England chairman of selectors, may have checked Atherton's pockets in the dressing room afterwards.

"Illingworth was a tough old pro who knew all the tricks of the trade ... but even he would not have resorted to what Atherton did," Gavaskar said.

Gavaskar said the incident focussed attention on the British media, which according to him cast aspersions of foreign players and venerated the English.

It is obvious that they think the English players have never indulged in any malpractice and are saints on the field," Gavaskar said.

"Well those of us who have played against them know that they are not devils, but neither are they saints by a long shot."



We may not have the privilege to be witness to a Stoichkov cracker but we certainly have it in us to keep up with the novelties without the ball that go around. Handymen of the organisers of the Senior Division football leagues (DMFA) are seen fixing the goal post causing a 15-minute delay in the beginning of the Star Premier tie between Muktiyoddha and PWD at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman