

Sport

Abahani blank Boys

Sports Reporter
DMFA Cup champions Abahani Krira Chakra registered their biggest win in the Star Premier league when the title-aspirants chalked up a huge 6-2 win against babes Bangladesh Boys in yesterday's second encounter billed for the Dhaka Stadium.

The Dhanmondi club, campaigning hard to regain the title they lost to arch-rivals Mohammedans last year, consolidated their position at the top of the points table with 13 points from eight matches.

Abahani led the first half 3-1 against the common whipping boys of this year's Premier league, who are unlikely to be amused by the statistical revelation, apart from the obvious loss of two points — and embarrassing distinction of having conceded 30 goals from seven encounters.

Only Mintu was left with some reasons to remember the match as he twice headed the ball to ensure that it was not a night of blue wash.

For Abahani, on the other hand, it was an evening to be wished for every day. Only the previous day their traditional rivals Mohammedans suffered their first defeat to fall behind in the race.

The delight of Tuesday night's godsend was further heightened yesterday by the maiden strike of their Russian recruit Nikolai Krioutchkov who headed home a Gaus minus in the 17th minute to kickoff a goal feast.

Iraqi Jassim Mehdi, one of the three foreigners playing for the last year's runners-up, then doubled up the margin. It was the crafty midfielder's second goal in successive matches following the match winner against strong Brothers Union in Abahani's previous encounter.

Bangladesh Boys, who were trounced 7-0 by Mohammedans in their maiden encounter in the big league, pulled one back through Mintu four minutes later when he leapt up to nod in a neat minus by Badal Das.

Zulfqar Mintu, Abahani's little right winger, confirmed a relaxed interval for the large number of Abahani fans in the galleries with an angular shot three minutes before the buzzer.

The carefree and workmanlike Mintu injected some competitive flair in the proceedings when he again used his head in guiding a free-kick home in the 50th minute with Abahani custodian Dhanu managing an eventually ineffectual touch on the way.

After that 50th minute reversal Abahani did not have to look back as they reaped the harvest of a spell of sustained pressure.

The dapper and dark winger Gaus, who made a welcome

come return to his role of tormentor on the line, utilised a Krioutchkov cross in the 52nd minute to bring the fourth for Abahani.

Zakir, who replaced the off-colour Iraqi striker Nazar Ali, knocked in the fifth goal two minutes from time and Mehdi completed the tally with another strike almost colliding with the long whistle.

The defeat leaves Boys as strong favourites for demotion with just three points from eight matches.

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Dhanu (Saidul) Imadul (Montu), Munna, Sohel Reza, Mansoor, Jassim Mehdi, Shamin Gaus, Mintoo, Nikolai and Nazar Ali (Zakir).

BANGLADESH BOYS: Mukul, Pappu, Lokman, Kajal.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rahmatganj vs East End (Mirpur Stadium, 6:00 pm)

Agrani Bank vs Fakirerpool (Dhaka Stadium, 4:30)

Mohammedans vs Brothers (Dhaka Stadium, 6:30)



Bangladesh Boys custodian Mukul, who had a busy but pointless day last evening at the Dhaka Stadium, foils one of the many sorties of strong Abahani Krira Chakra who registered a massive 6-2 win in the lone Star Premier league encounter. — Star photo

Singer World Series Cup cricket fixture

Following is the fixture for the four-nation Singer World Series Cup cricket tournament beginning in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo Sunday, September 4:

September 04, 1994 Sri Lanka Vs India D/N
September 07, 1994 Australia Vs Pakistan
September 09, 1994 Australia Vs India D/N
September 11, 1994 Sri Lanka Vs Pakistan
September 13, 1994 Australia Vs Sri Lanka
September 15, 1994 India Vs Pakistan D/N
September 17, 1994 Finals D/N

Calcutta MSC struggle

CALCUTTA, Aug 31: Mohammedan Sporting, struggling to find their peak form this season, scraped past a spirited Port Trust by a solitary first-half goal in their Charms Super Division league match at their home ground here today, reports PTI.

Striker Prasanta Chakraborty struck the match winner in the first half to clinch the issue in a match which saw few exciting moments.

The glamour club, who are virtually out of contention for the Super Division title, displayed a much improved game under their new coach, Syed Nayeemuddin who took charge of the beleaguered side yesterday.

The Mohammedan forwards managed to break through the Port Trust defence on a number of occasions in both the sessions but were a trifle unlucky not to have won by a bigger margin.

Police to stem rot in Malaysian soccer

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 31: A soccer official said Wednesday he will open a police investigation into allegations that some players of a state soccer team took bribes to fix matches, reports AP.

Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, deputy president of the Football Association of Malaysia, said he will file a formal police complaint on Saturday against the alleged corruption in the Pahang state team.

According to Malaysian laws, a police report is necessary to start an investigation. He said he will file the complaint at a special meeting of Pahang players, the police and the Anti-Corruption Agency arranged by the soccer association on Saturday.

In the past month, Malaysian Premier league soccer has been rocked by several allegations of bribery and match-fixing. Four players have already confessed to taking bribes.

SA tour of New Zealand

February 10 — arrival
February 20 — v Wellington at Basin Reserve, Wellington
February 27 to March 1 — v Academy XI at Trafalgar Park, Nelson

March 4-8 — v New Zealand at Eden Park, Auckland (Centenary Test)

March 9 — depart

CENTENARY QUADRANGULAR ONE-DAY TOURNAMENT 1995

February 15 — Australia v S Africa at Basin Reserve, Wellington
February 16 — New Zealand v India at McLean Park, Napier
February 18 — S Africa v India at Trustbank Park, Hamilton
February 19 — New Zealand v Australia at Eden Park, Auckland
February 22 — Australia v India at Carisbrook, Dunedin
February 23 — New Zealand v S Africa at Lancaster
February 26 — Centenary Quadrangular Series Final at Eden Park, Auckland.

CHINA

Grace Lu of Hong Kong poses during pre-judging at the 11th Asian women's body building competition in Guangdong, China on August 28. China hosted the event for the first time. Lu won her category. — AFP photo

Ansars dominate Day Two

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars enjoyed total dominance for the second successive day at the Agrani Bank open age group women's swimming championships, rounding up ten of the 13 golds on offer, but it was the scarcity of competitors that highlighted yesterday's proceedings at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex swimming pool.

Shantinagar have eleven points from eight matches while the same number of outings took Farashganj's tally to nine.

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Rehana Akhter of Ansars was the most successful swimmer of the day with three individual gold medals in 400 and 50-metre freestyle and 100-metre backstroke.

Her teammate Lipi Akhter bagged two in the 100 freestyle and 200 individual medley for the girls of 13-14 year age group.

In the 50m butterfly for the 8-10 year group, Mili Akhter of Rajbari DSA toted up her personal collection of the aureate medals to three. On Tuesday, she finished first in both 50-metre freestyle and 200m backstroke.

Li Chin of Ansars, another natant enjoying delightful time in the pool, also raised her collection to three golds when she added the women's 200m individuals medley title to the 100m butterfly and 200m freestyle she won the day before.

The day's other gold winners included Nibedita Das, Aleya Khatun of Rajbari, Mala, Hasina, Sufiya Akhter, Salma Akhter of Bangladesh Ansars.

On completion of the second day, Ansars' collection rose to 18 gold, 13 silver and 11 bronze medals with Rajbari a distant second with six golds and three silvers.

Lonely Qarar off to Rome

Sports Reporter

Only Qarar Mizanur Rahman left Dhaka yesterday to take part in the seventh world swimming championships scheduled to begin in the Italian capital Rome today.

Mizanur Rahman who was

disqualified in his event at the recently-concluded Fifteenth Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada for reasons still unknown to the local officials, was supposed to leave for Rome along with another swimmer the veteran Moklesur Rahman.

However, Moklesur who had stayed back when the Bangladesh squad returned home empty-handed last Monday from Canada, has not yet got back.

Former swimming ace Mosharrif Hossain Khan, now the secretary of the Swimming Federation, accompanied Qarar Mizan as coach-cum-manager.

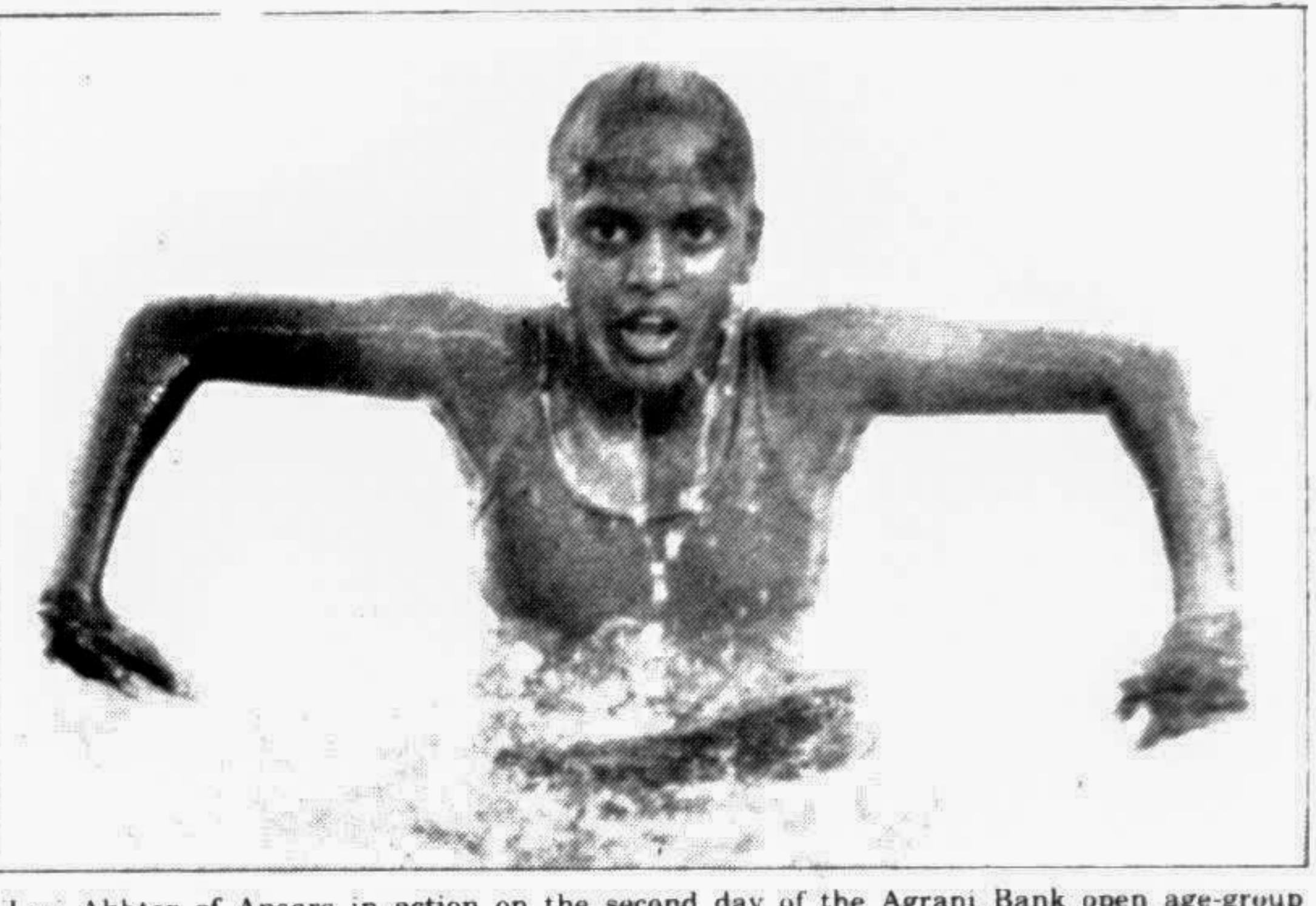
Directive to IOA

NEW DELHI, Aug 31: The Sports Ministry has told the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to forward lists from federations only after satisfying itself that the selection standards have been adhered to and procedures followed.

A ministry spokesperson told PTI here today that there was no point in indiscriminate forwarding of the lists put up by the federations for sending squads to the Asian Games to be held in Hiroshima in October.

She was reacting to a question about some of the federations sending in their entries before the deadline of September two with the promise that they would hold selection trials later in the month and reduce the number of competitors.

The problem faced by the ministry and IOA is that each entry by name has to be accompanied by a remittance of a minimum of 800 US dollars (40 dollars per day per person for a minimum of 20 days).



Lipi Akhter of Ansars in action on the second day of the Agrani Bank open age-group swimming championship at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex pool yesterday. — Star photo

AB gone, Taylor on his own



SYDNEY, Aug 31:

A new era in Australian cricket begins here Thursday when Mark Taylor leads the Australian team away on their tour of Sri Lanka and Pakistan. — AFP

Taylor last May took over as Australian skipper following the retirement of cricket icon Allan Border after playing a record 156 Tests, 93 of them as captain in a glorious 16-year international career.

With the security blanket of Border, the accumulator of a record 11,174 runs at an average of 50.56, now gone, Australian cricket will have to come to terms that "AB" will no longer be there to buttress the lower batting order.

Michael Bevan on New South Wales and West Australian Justin Langer start on an equal footing to fill Border's considerable vacancy with the two players providing a stark contrast in styles.

The talented Bevan is capable of destroying an attack while Langer is very much in the Border mould — a fighter with a tight defence and a solid armoury of shots.

The newcomer is likely to find himself slotted in at five between Mark and Steve Waugh and their aggression would tip the balance in favour of a player in the Langer mould.

Australia will play three one-dayers in Sri Lanka, excluding the possibility of the final, before heading to Pakistan on September 18 to commence the three-Test series.

Taylor's other task will be to find successful new ball bowling strike force to shoulder the workload with Craig

McDermott following the overlooking of veteran Merv Hughes and his Victorian teammate Paul Reiffel.

Glenn McGrath, who worked his way into the Australian

Australian team away on their tour of Sri Lanka and Pakistan. — AFP

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