

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 into the goal.

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 kick off 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.

Zulfikar 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 winged Gaus, who made a well-

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 Charns Super Division league match at their home ground here today, reports PTI.

Striker Prasanto Chakrabarty 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.

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 Nazir 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, Soheli Reza, Mansoor, Jassim Mehdi, Shamim, Gaus, Mintoo, Nikolai and Nazir Ali (Zakir).

BANGLADESH BOYS: Mukul, Pappu, Lokman, Kajal.

Saroj, Kutub (Shuvro), Selim (Swapan), Ameer Khan, Prince, Badal Das and Mintoo.

Referee: Sheikh Badruddin. In a Star First Division encounter played earlier at the same venue, Shantinagar, one of the promotees, drew one all with Farashganj.

Ratan gave Farashganj the lead, which was neutralised by Kamal.

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

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

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.



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.

Of the 13 events settled on the day, three saw only two swimmers competing for the gold and only a few had the full quorum of eight furrowing through the water to touch the board. Nevertheless, the organisers would possibly pat their backs for the fact that it was not as bad as on Tuesday. Four events had two entrants and in the 200-metre backstroke Hasina got the gold without a fight as there were no one but herself to compete.

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 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 individual 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.

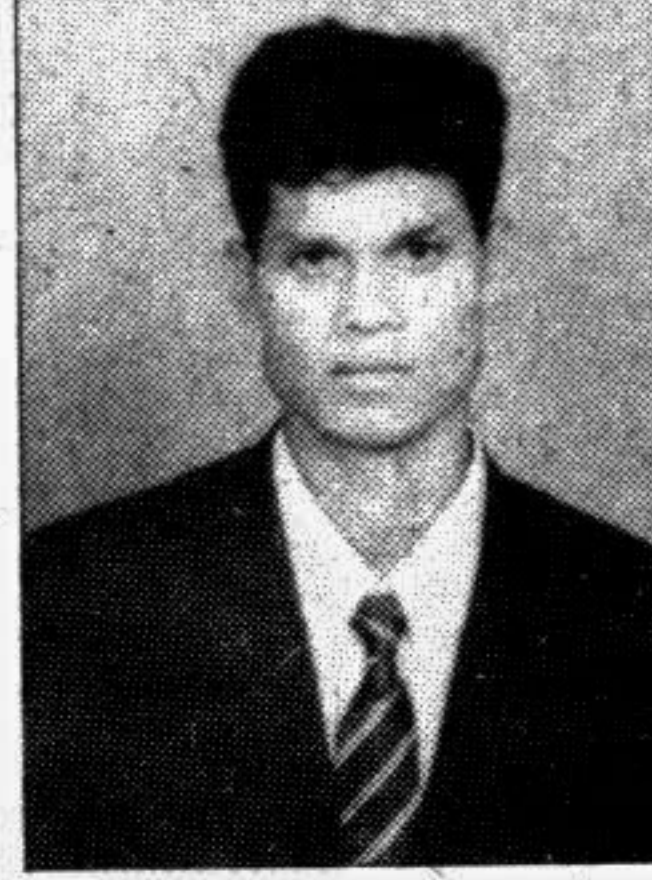
On completion of the second day, Ansars' collection rose to 18 gold, 13 silver and 11 bronze medals with Rajbari a distant second with six golds and three silvers.

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



QARAR M RAHMAN

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 Mosharraf 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 selections 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 (at 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 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, reports 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 Eorder 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 Reffel.

Glenn McGrath, who worked his way into the Australian

team in the six-Test home and away Test series last summer against South Africa, is expected to join McDermott in the pace attack, but there is an opening for either rising quick bowlers Damien Fleming or Jo Angel.

Australia's last visit to Sri Lanka in 1988 was best with threats to abandon the tour and Taylor today said he was determined for his squad to avoid the problems that have plagued touring teams in recent years.

England (1987) and New Zealand (1990) both had confrontations with umpires and hosts on their last tours and Australian relations with Pakistan have oscillated between occasionally cordial and frequently strained.

"We have to go to Pakistan with a clear mind and to expect some good, hard cricket," Taylor said.

"Anything aside from that is something we don't need to worry about."

"When we were in Adelaide a couple of weeks ago for our camp, we talked about Pakistan and emphasised that we didn't want to concentrate on previous tours."

"There have been quite a few negatives from other tours and we don't want that to be a distraction to us."

"We have to adapt to the conditions and the customs we meet over there."

Taylor prides himself on his communication skills and he said a major role would be ensuring young players Bevan, Fleming, Angel and off-spinner Gavin Robertson had a comfortable introduction to the senior side.

Robertson is one of three spinners in the team along with the match-winning leg-spinner Shane Warne and Tim May.

"Under Allan Eorder, the senior players always made the new guys very welcome and I have to continue that."

The team is: Mark Taylor (captain), Ian Healy (Vice-captain), Jo Angel, Michael Bevan, David Boon, Damien Fleming, Justin Langer, Tim May, Craig McDermott, Glen McGrath, Gavin Robertson, Michael Slater, Shane Warne, Steve Waugh, Mark Waugh.

Moses for athletes' rights

PARIS, Aug 31: Athletes should be given greater consideration in the Olympic movement, from independent athlete commissions to clear-cut rules and sanctions on doping, double gold medalist Edwin Moses said Wednesday, reports AP.

"Fair play is perhaps the most important issue for the athlete," Moses said on the second day of the 12th International Olympic Committee Congress. "It is imperative that we exert full pressure, not only upon the athletes, but also other individuals close to the athletes that may encourage the use of doping or other illegal manipulations."

The former 400-metre hurdler said Olympic athletes "insist on strong sanctions for use of banned substances and techniques as well as continued research into and the development of new controls for new substances."

Of particular concern are "controls for testosterone, growth hormones, blood doping techniques and other new genetically made materials," he

consideration to women's sports when additional events are added to Olympiads. The IOC has made such moves recently, such as adding women's ice hockey to the 1998 Winter Games.

"It is important that the venues remain free of advertising and that once again athletes, professional or not, be subject to the same rules and regulations with respect to advertising and restrictions on performance-related bonuses."

With about two weeks before the IOC Evaluation Commission begins visiting the nine cities vying to host the 2002 Winter games, Moses insisted that "the interests and welfare of the athlete should be the most important criteria for the choice of host cities."

Increasing the number of sports or competitors should not be allowed to reduce resources to athletes, Moses said. At the same time "consideration must also be given to smaller countries with less competitive athletes and to smaller, less-developed countries to continue to widen the scope of the greater movement."

Those organizations should also accelerate formation of independent athletes' commission with full voting rights, though "we have noticed that this process has been slow in taking place," Moses said.

He made a plea for special

consideration to women's sports when additional events are added to Olympiads. The IOC has made such moves recently, such as adding women's ice hockey to the 1998 Winter Games.

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Dept of English in second round

Sports Reporter

Brilliant goalkeeping from Syed M Mushtaq saw the Department of English through to the second round of the Dhaka University inter-department football championship at the university gymnasium ground yesterday.

Mushtaq foiled all the four spot-kicks in the tie-breaker against his department's first round encounter against the Department of Accounting as English won 2-0 after the regulation period exhausted goalless.

Monirul Hassan and Asif Rahman found the net from the penalty spot after Kazi Mamunur Rahman and Ahsanul Huq squandered their chances.

Gloucester dent Leicester

LONDON, Aug 31: Tony Wright hit a masterful undefeated 184 as Gloucestershire severely damaged second-placed Leicestershire's county cricket championship hopes on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Wright's mammoth knock was the highlight of an impressive opening day in their four-day match as Gloucestershire amassed 350 for four. Tim Hancock was unbeaten on 59.

Leaders Warwickshire were also held up as Hampshire dug in to make 278 all out with knocks of 71 from Paul Terry and 64 from England spinner Shaun Udal.

Tim Munton took four for 44 for Warwickshire, who started the match 44 points ahead of Leicestershire having played one game more.

Nottinghamshire's Graeme Archer struck a career-best unbeaten 146 to help the third-placed side to 352 for four against Glamorgan.

He shared a second-wicket stand of 169 with captain Tim Robinson, who was dismissed one run short of his century.

Mark Ilett struck a rich vein of form with the ball, taking six for 72 as Essex took command against Sussex. Only a battling 73 from Martin Speight saw the visitors to a modest 246. Essex made 34 without loss.

Mike Watkinson stroked 87 to rescue Lancashire who made 267 all out after stumbling to 115 for six at home to Worcestershire. In reply, England's Graeme Hick stroked an undefeated 69 as Worcestershire moved to 115 for two.

England strike bowler Devon Malcolm took four for 63 as Yorkshire were bowled out for 235 after making a promising start against Derbyshire.

Michael Vaughan struck an impressive 86 and David Byas 50, but from 170 for one, Yorkshire collapsed. Derbyshire were 76 for two in reply.

Corbett pleads innocence

VANCOUVER, Aug 31: Canadian weightlifter stripped of three Commonwealth Games bronze medals after testing positive for banned drugs said on Tuesday he did not knowingly take the stimulants, reports Reuter.

Jim Dan Corbett won the medals last week in the 83-kg (183 pounds) weightlifting competition in the Games in Victoria, Canada. But they were taken away Monday after he tested positive for banned stimulants, ephedrine and pseudo-ephedrine.

He was the fourth athlete caught doping at the Games and the seventh to have been thrown out in connection with drugs.

Corbett told the Canadian Press News Agency he had no idea how the drugs entered his system. Team officials said they may have been contained in vitamins approved for Corbett's use.

"It just floored me," Corbett said of the result. "I just don't know how this happened."

Dr Bob McCormack, chief medical officer for the Canadian team, said the likely source was two over-the-counter naturopathic vitamin supplements Corbett took recently.

Although a laboratory told the team that the pills posed no doping risk, they may have contained ingredients not listed on the bottle, McCormack said.

"We don't always know what's in them," McCormack said of the herbal tonics taken by many athletes. "We've had a number of problems with them."

A senior executive in the Natural Foods Industry said the stimulants are found in some herbs and that the manufacturer may not have disclosed them as required by law.

"I am convinced that he has legal recourse against the manufacturer... for this not being on the label," said Croft Woodruff, past president of the Canadian Health Food Association.

"These medals were snatched away from him for something that as far as we know was not of his doing."

Harking back to the roots

PARIS, Aug 31: An IOC leader warned the Olympic Congress on Tuesday against selling the soul of the Games to professionalism and commercialism and called for a return to the basic Olympic ideals of founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin, reports Reuter.

Australian Kevin Gosper, as first vice-president the right-hand man of International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch, appealed to the Olympic movement to question the direction the modern Games was taking.

On the first day of a four-day debate by world sports leaders on the future of the Olympics, Gosper called for courage to

resist the trend towards elitism, the growing influence of commercial interests and "extravagant" ceremonies.

On a day which saw most speakers utter uncritical banalities, Gosper's keynote speech stood out as a challenge to Samaranch's quiet diplomatic efforts to turn the Olympics into an elitist event.

Moves to attracting more and more professionals, such as the American Basketball Dream Team at the Barcelona Games in 1992, were not specifically mentioned but were plainly on his mind.

"How can Olympism truly sustain its universal appeal to all people all over the world if we ultimately confine the Olympic Games only to the top athletes from the top nations, particularly to the exclusion of

the so-called developing world nations?" Gosper asked.

The vice-president said the trend towards attracting the best professional athletes to the Games could discourage young people who might see that to reach the top they would have to sacrifice their whole lives to sport.

"Will it mean that the price of being an Olympic athlete will be to exclude all other opportunities or ambitions in life?" he asked.

Gosper said it was time the Olympics stopped the trend towards ever more lavish opening and closing ceremonies which distracted from the original purpose of the Games.

"We need to avoid extravagant unrelated entertainment if we want people to aspire to and to remember an Olympic Games for what they are."