

Sport

Farashganj among top four

Sports Reporter

Farashganj Sporting Club finished among the top four of the Star First Division football league with a 3-2 win over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in their last round robin league encounter of the first phase at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day before the crucial derby between arch-rival Mohammedan and Abahani, the old city outfit shot into the lead in the very fifth minute when striker Liton headed home from close to score his fourth goal in the Star First Division league.

Ten minutes later, Don restored parity for Eskaton Sabuj Sangha before Monir put Farashganj into the lead again two minutes after the breather.

In an exciting encounter with forays and counter forays, Narayan made the score 2-2 when he nodded home a left flank minus in the 67th minute.

Substitute Zilani of Farashganj then sealed the fate of the match by a powerful right-footer in the 76th minute.

The win lifted Farashganj's tally to 10 points on completion of their nine first phase matches while Eskaton were glued to their previous collection of six points also from nine matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Wanderers vs Muslim Institute 6 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

Sadharan Bima vs Dharmondi Club 4.30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Rahmatganj vs Victoria SC 6.30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

New Russian in town

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra, who drew their last engagement of the Star Premier Division football league first phase with a



FOUR MINUTES TOO LONG: Mohammedan custodian Abdullah Lahui looks for an answer from his teammate who seems to be equally in the dark as a shot by Abahani's Mansur from outside the box enters the net in the 86th minute to restore parity in yesterday's Star Premier encounter between arch rivals Mohammedans and Abahani. — Star photo

Star Premier first phase

Following are the Star Premier Division football league standings on completion of the first phase matches yesterday.

	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Abahani KC	9	5	4	0	19	6	14
Muktijoddha KC	9	6	1	2	17	7	13
Brothers Union	9	5	2	2	15	9	12
Mohammedan SC	9	4	3	2	15	6	11
Wari Club	9	3	3	3	8	9	9
Fakirerpool YMC	9	1	5	3	11	13	7
Agrani Bank	9	2	3	4	12	15	7
Arambagh KS	9	2	3	4	8	12	7
PWD	9	1	4	4	7	15	6
Bangladesh Boys	9	1	2	6	10	30	4

Hattrick: Andrey Kazakov (Mohammedans) against Bangladesh Boys. Ranjan (Brothers Union) against Wari Club and Sattar (Fakirerpool YMC) Against Bangladesh Boys.

LEADING SCORERS

Seven goals: Andrey Kazakov (Mohammedans)

Six goals: Ranjan (Brothers Union)

Five goals: Mizan (Muktijoddha)

Four goals: Nazar Ali and Jassim Mehdi (Abahani), Bulbul (PWD) and Badal Das (Bangladesh Boys)

Three goals: Munna (Mohammedans), Badal (Agrani Bank), Naqib (Muktijoddha) and Sattar (Fakirerpool YMC)

Two goals: Shabbir (Mohammedans), Swapna, Mintu and Gaus (Abahani); Shahjada and Rupu (Brothers Union); Jahangir, Mizan and Jahangir (jr) (Agrani Bank); Sunny, Jahangir and Shah Alam Babu (Arambagh); Yosuf (Wari), Rumi (Muktijoddha), Biplob (PWD), Asif and Mamun (Fakirerpool); Bapan, Bayezid and Mintu (Bangladesh Boys).

Milan win, Barcas lose



PARIS. Sept 4: The best two football teams in Europe, AC Milan and Barcelona, were at opposite ends of their league tables on Sunday night after Milan began the new season with a win and Barca with a defeat. — AFP

Milan were 1-0 winners over Genoa in a match which saw their opponents Japanese striker Kazuyoshi Miura taken to hospital after colliding with AC Milan Defender Franco Baresi.

Barcelona, who lost last season's European Cup final to Milan, were beaten 2-1 in

Lazio, without injured England playmaker Paul Gascoigne, beat Bari 1-0.

ROARING REAL

In Spain, Barcelona's anguish in defeat was doubled by the fact that deadly rivals Real Madrid has hammered Seville 4-1.

Without their Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov, suspended, and Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Hagi, injured, Barcelona were short of attacking fluency.

Even Brazilian World Cup hero Romario was subdued. His extended holiday after the triumph in the United States, as well as angering Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff, has done nothing to add to his fitness.

Cruyff's misery was mitigated by the league debut of a promising player, his son Jordi, who has scored a hatful of goals in pre-season friendlies and continues to show promise up front.

Real Madrid, under new manager Jorge Valdano and reinforced by the arrival of Denmark's Michael Laudrup, transferred from Barcelona, scored three goals inside the first quarter of an hour.

With the experienced Barassi and Alessandro Costacurta keeping the Milan defence locked tight, and Dutchman Ruud Gullit leading the attack with Montenegro's Dejan Savicic, the Italian champions had the match completely in hand.

A superb solo performance by Gullit, back at his old club after a season with Sampdoria, laid on Marco Simon's close ranger winner in the 53rd minute.

Sampdoria certainly didn't need the Dutchman on Sunday, thrashing newly-promoted Padova 5-0 despite playing on neutral territory.

LALAS' NIGHTMARE The match was a nightmare debut for Alexi Lalas, the American central defender signed by Padova in a blaze of publicity after his flowing flame-haired locks and goatee-beard were a feature of the World Cup.

Sampdoria opened the scoring in the 12th minute through Roberto Mancini, with Albergo Evan making it 2-0 just before half-time.

England captain David Platt, playing a superb opening game, added a third, Serbian Vladimir Mihajlovic, signed from AS Roma, made it 4-0 and another new signing, Alessandro Meili, also scored

on his debut with an 81st minute and added a second with only five minutes gone.

Alfonso and Michel added the others.

Brazilian World Cup coach Carlos Alberto Parreira had a happy start to his career with Valencia.

They came away with a 4-2 win from Atletico Madrid with ex-Yugoslav Pedrag Mijatovic notching a hattrick and Russian Oleg Salenko, top scorer in the World Cup, also on target.

Deportivo La Coruna also made a winning start, beating Athletic Bilbao 2-0.

BREMEN ON TOP

Meanwhile, Werder Bremen

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JORDANESCU promoted

BUCHAREST, Sept 5: Romania's president Ion Iliescu promoted national team trainer Anghel Iordanescu to the rank of army major general during a ceremony at Iliescu's Cotroceni Palace on Monday, reports Reuter.

Iordanescu led Romania to their best-ever performance in the World Cup soccer finals in the United States this year. They reached the quarter-finals where they were eliminated by Sweden after penalty kicks.

"Today is one of the greatest days of my life," Iordanescu, who previously held the rank of Colonel in the Romanian army, told Reuters after the ceremony.

"To be promoted general is the greatest honour for a Romanian military," he said.

Iordanescu won his soccer spurs as a midfielder with military club Steaua Bucharest.

Warwickshire's Grand Slam dream shattered

LONDON, Sept 5: Australian all-rounder Tom Moody fired Worcestershire to an eight-wicket win over Warwickshire in the NatWest Trophy final on Sunday, ending their opponents' bid for a clean sweep of the domestic cricket titles, reports Reuter.

Moody exploited helpful seam bowling conditions to shackle Warwickshire's early batting on Saturday and, after rain forced the 60 overs showpiece into a second day, followed up by hitting a powerful, unbeaten 88.

Man-of-the-match Moody and England batsman Graeme Hick, who struck a commanding 93 not out, shared an unbroken third-wicket partnership of 198 as Worcestershire lifted the trophy for the first time.

Warwickshire, who had already captured the Benson and Hedges Cup and the county championship in their quest to become the first team to win all four domestic competitions, can complete a triple title triumph by taking the Sunday league.

Moody exerted his influence on Worcestershire's success from the outset when he took the new ball and bowled his quota of 12 overs unchanged to finish with figures of 12-4-17-1.

Warwickshire were restricted to 223 for nine in their 60 overs — a score built on a high quality innings of 81 from West Indian record breaker Brian Lara — and Worcestershire surged home at 227 for two with 10.5 overs to spare.

When the Lord's final resumed on Sunday with Warwickshire 88 for three from 29 overs, a long innings from Lara (36 not out) represented their best hope of a challenging total.

After completing his half-century from 88 balls, the West Indies left-hander accelerated with some breathtaking strokes until he swung Gavin Haynes' medium pace on the leg side and Hick moved in from the boundary to cling on to a well-judged catch.

Lara faced 117 balls, hitting a six and seven fours, and his dismissal in the 46th over, Warwickshire scored just 52 more runs.

Worcestershire openers Tim Curtis and Damian D'Olivera made a watchful start of 29 before both fell in four balls.

Paceman Tim Munton sent back D'Olivera and captain Dermot Reeve came on as first change at the other end and bowled his opposite number, Curtis, with his second delivery.

But as bright sunshine helped to dry the pitch and batting conditions grew easier, Hick and Moody, carefully at first but ultimately with a touch of arrogance, built the stand that the outcome.

Both drove fluently and pulled vigorously, with Hick facing 101 balls and striking 12 fours and a six while Moody hammered 12 fours and two sixes in 112 deliveries.

S Africans stumble

THE HAGUE, Sept 5: South Africa suffered a humiliating nine-wicket defeat by the Netherlands in a one-day cricket international on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The guitar-strumming Lalas, who cut a compact disc with his rock band 'The Gypsies' and plans to record another one soon, said nothing had prepared him for stardom but vowed it would not change his ways.

"It's not that I can't pick my nose in public any more. It's that when I do, I have to do it really cool," he said.

Some people have said "This is Serie A, you can't play music, but I don't see it that way. I need music in my life to do anything on the soccer field."

He said his band was coming over soon to hang out and play some acoustic stuff in some local clubs.

England fans, who remember the Lalas header which sealed a humiliating 2-0 defeat against the US in a friendly last year, will see him on

India slip on soggy pitch

Kamblu, remained unbeaten on 30 of 38 deliveries.

Bedale, who became fast bowler Prasodha Wickremasinghe's

first match of the four-nation Singer World Series Cup in Colombo Monday, reports AP.

Opener Roshan Mahanama, with a brilliant unbeaten half century, put on 88 runs with his captain Arjuna Ranatunga for the third wicket in 17 overs to fashion a resounding Sri Lankan victory.

A capacity 30,000 crowd applauded their stars under flood lights at the R Premadasa Stadium.

The match was reduced to 25 overs a side as rain delayed the start of the play.

The win appropriately came with four balls to spare when Mahanama drove Manoj Prabhakar for his 50, a single to extra cover. Mahanama batted for 120 minutes and faced 78 balls.

Mahanama and Ranatunga came together when Sri Lanka were troubled somewhat by the fall of two wickets for 31 runs in the seventh over.

By the time Ranatunga was run out, Sri Lanka were seven runs short of victory.

Ranatunga's 41 runs came off 48 balls with two boundaries. The pair launched a well-calculated assault on the Indian bowling which strayed in line and length at the crucial stage of the match.

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