

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 upped 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 Dhanomondi 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



VLADIMIR

one all draw against traditional foes Mohammedan Sporting Club yesterday, look set to have their quorum of four foreign footballists completed with another Russian.

The latest recruit for the Dhanomondi outfit is 30-year-old defender Vladimir, who plays for Uzbekistan first division champions Neski Sergala. Vladimir, who flew in only yesterday, is likely to make his Star Premier debut in Abahani's second round opener.

2ND PHASE FROM SEPT 14

The return leagues of the two-phase Star Premier and Star First Division championships commence on September 11.

However, the Premier variety will run for only two days as the authorities have decided to suspend all the matches from 14 to 19 owing to the participation of Muktiyoddha Krira Chakra Sangsad in the Independence Day tournament in Qatar.

Star First Division will, however, go on without any hamper.

Italy to miss Baggio

FLORENCE, Italy, Sept 5: Italy will miss Roberto Baggio, their top striker and most imaginative player, in Wednesday's qualifying match of the European Championships against Slovenia, reports AP.

The ponytailed forward of Juventus of Turin is suffering from a light thigh strain and needs some rest, Andrea Ferretti, the Italian national team doctor, said Monday.

Baggio, whose goals took Italy into the World Cup finals in the United States, joined the teammates at the training centre of Coverciano Monday but returned home after medical examinations.

The absence of Baggio is likely to make room in front for Lazio's forward Giuseppe Signori, the leading league scorer last season.

Signori, usually playing behind Baggio in the Italian team schemes, tallied Lazio's winning goal in Sunday's league opener against Bari. Baggio was shutout in Juventus' 1-1 draw against underdog Brescia.

Italy take on Slovenia at Maribor in their opening game of Group-four which includes Ukraine, Latvia, Estonia and Croatia.



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
Muktiyoddha 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 (Muktiyoddha)
Four goals: Nazar Ali and Jassim Mehdi (Abahani), Bulbul (PWD) and Badal Das (Bangladesh Boys).
Three goals: Munna (Mohammedans), Badal (Agrani Bank), Naqib (Muktiyoddha) and Sattar (Fakirerpool YMC).
Two goals: Shabbir (Mohammedans), Swapan, Mintu and Gaus (Abahani); Shahjahan and Rupu (Brothers Union); Jahangir, Mizan and Jahangir (Agrani Bank); Sunny, Jahangir and Shah Alam Babu (Arambagh); Yusuf (Wari), Rumi (Muktiyoddha), Biplob (PWD), Asif and Mamun (Fakirerpool); Bapan, Bayezid and Mintu (Bangladesh Boys).

Milan win, Barcas lose

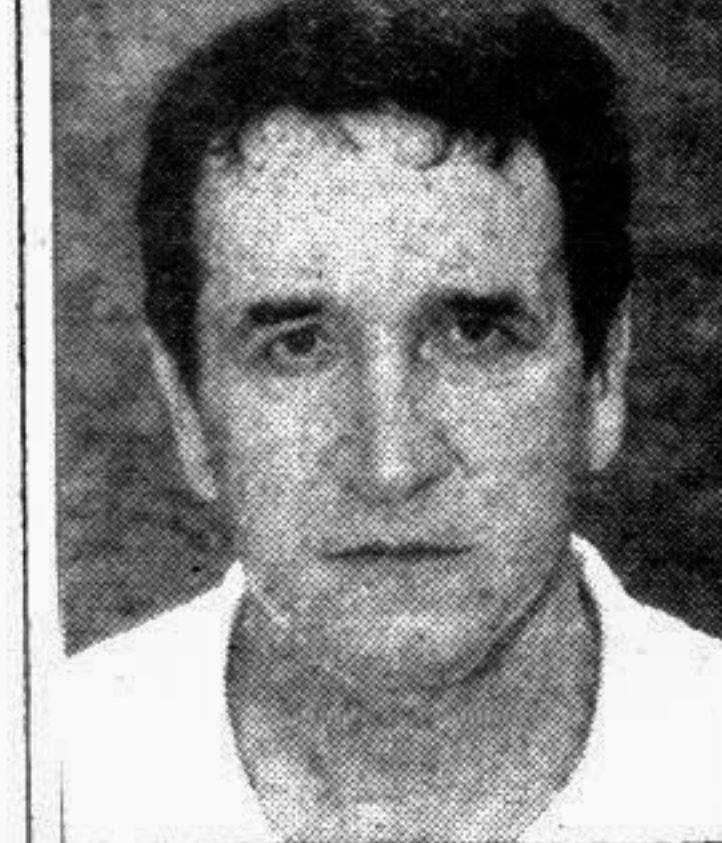


PARIS, Sept 4: The best two football teams in Europe, AC Milan and Barcelona, were at opposite

ends of their league tables on Sunday night after Milan began the new season with a win and Barca with a defeat, reports 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



PARREIRA... good start

their opening game at Sporting Gijon.

Miura was only on the pitch 30 minutes before his clash with Italy's World Cup captain, injuring his left cheek. Suffering from nausea, he was taken to hospital for observation.

With the experienced Baresi and Alessandro Costacurta keeping the Milan defence locked tight, and Dutchman Ruud Gullit leading the attack with Montenegro's Dejan Savicevic, 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 Simore'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 Alberger 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 penalty.

The match was played at Bologna, as Sampdoria are suspended for two home matches at their Genoa Stadium.

Other World Cup stars were more fortunate than Lalas.

Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp added Inter Milan's second in the 90th minute as they beat Torino 2-0 while Gabriel Batistuta, who had linked up with Diego Maradona, bagged both as Fiorentina finished 2-1 winners over Cagliari.

Brazilian Mario Santos was the lynchpin of Fiorentina's defence as the club made a successful return to the Serie A.

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 had 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.

Chilean centre forward Ivan Zamorano scored in the first

Iordanescu 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 Reuters.

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.

minute and added a second with only five minutes gone. Alfonso and Michel added the others.

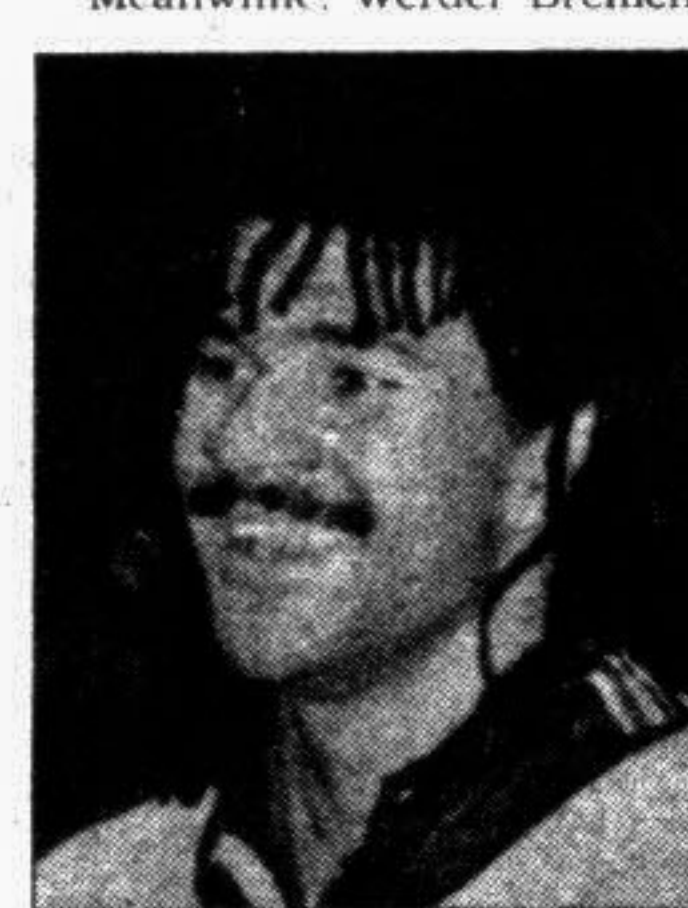
Brazilian World Cup coach Carlos Alberto Parreira had a happy start to his career with Valencia.

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



RUUD GULLIT

finished the weekend top of the German Bundesliga after pacesetters Borussia Dortmund were crushed 4-1 at Bielefeld Frankfurt.

Bremen, who were 3-1 winners at Freiburg, maintained their one-point lead at the top with Ghanaian goal ace Anthony Yeboah starting the rout for Entracht.

Yeboah struck just before half-time, cancelling out a 34th minute opener from Dortmund's Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat.

Defender Manfred Binz made it 2-1, an own goal by Thomas Franck 3-1 and Augustine Okocha, the star Nigerian midfielder, got his name on the scoresheet two minutes from time.

Now second, Borussia are joined on six points by a revitalised Bayern Munich.

Bayern, who have had a fairly miserable start to the season — losing the Super Cup to Bremen, knocked out of the German Cup by a team of amateurs and then thrashed 5-1 by Freiburg, were 3-0 winners at MSV Duisburg.

The victory was achieved without the help of their high-profile signing from AC Milan, French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, who underwent knee surgery on Thursday.

Moenchengladbach's two World Cup stars, Swede Martin Dahlin and Stefan Effenberg got their team's goals in a 2-0 win over Dynamo Dresden, while Yorrand Letchikov, whose goal knocked Germany out of the World Cup quarter-finals, added the third in Hamburg's 3-1 win over Karlsruhe.

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 Reuters.

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's 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 Ourtis and Damian D Oliveira made a watchful start of 29 before both fell in four balls.

Paceman Tim Munton sent back D Oliveira and captain Dermot Reive 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 Reuters.

Rain reduced the contest from 50 to 40 overs and Dutch administrators asked South Africa to bat first fearing a premature end if the home side had first use of the coconut-matting wicket.

Instead 31-year-old seam bowler Floris Jansen took three for eight in eight overs and South Africa never recovered.

Former Hampshire bowler Paul-Jan Bakker took two for 31 and all-rounder Tim de Leede two for 22.

In reply, 43-year-old West Indian Nolan Clarke made South Africa's batting problems seem imaginary with a run-a-ball 78 which effectively steered the Dutch to victory in front of 2,000 cheering supporters.

India slip on soggy pitch



COLOMBO, Sept 3: Sri Lanka scored a comfortable seven-wicket win over India in a rain-curtailed

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 as 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.

Sent in to bat, India made a heavy weather of the Sri Lankan bowling attack and struggled throughout their knock on a slow wicket.

They scored 125 runs for five wickets, thanks to the fifth-wicket 35-run partnership between left handers Vinod Kambl and Atul Bedade.

Kambl, remained unbeaten on 30 off 38 deliveries. Bedade, who became fast bowler Prasanna Wickrema-



singhe's third victim, scored 21 runs in as many balls. Inclusive of a six off Kumar Dharmasena.

Earlier, openers Sachin Tendulkar and Major Prabhakar perished in the



MAHANAMA ... 50 not out

space of two overs after giving the side a quick start — 20 runs in three overs — before Wickremasinghe struck.

Skipper Mohammad Azharuddin scored 25 runs off 35 balls and struck the first boundary of the innings in the eight over, square driving his

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Sri Lankan counterpart.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the one-day cricket match between Sri Lanka and India today:

INDIA:

Prabhakar c Jayasuriya b Wickremasinghe 14
Tendulkar c Dharmasena b Wickremasinghe 6
Sidhu c Mahanama b Jayasuriya 17

Azharuddin c Chandana b Dharmasena 25
Kambl not out 30
Bedade b Wickremasinghe 21

Kapil not out 1
Extras: (b-3, lb-7, w-1) 11
Total: (for 5 wks-25 overs) 125

Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-23; 3-55; 4-87; 5-122.

Did not bat: Mongia, Kumble, Chauhan, Srinath.

Bowling: O M R W
Wickremasinghe 3 0 28 3
Vaas 4 0 20 0
Dharmasena 5 0 22 1

Ranatunga 2 0 11 0
Jayasuriya 5 0 17 1
Kalpage 4 0 17 0

SRI LANKA
Mahanama not out 50
Jayasuriya run out 3
De Silva c Mongia b Kumble 14

Ranatunga run out 41
Kalpage not out 3
Extras: (b-12 w-2 nb-1) 15

Total: (for 3 wickets-24.2 overs) 126
Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-31; 3-119.

Did not bat: Tilakaratne, Chandana, Dassanayake, Dharmasena, Vaas, Wickrema-

singhe.
Bowling: O M R W
Prabhakar 4.2 0 17 0
Srinath 5 0 21 0
Kumble 5 0 17 1

Tendulkar 4 0 21 0
Kapil 2 0 15 0
Chauhan 4 0 23 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by 7 wickets.

Lalas, an eternal maverick



ITALY, Sept 5 (Reuters) : Alexi Lalas is living out his dream of playing in the world's best soccer league — but that won't change his Bohemian way of life.

"Cut my hair?" Lalas, 24, the goatee-bearded hero of the US World Cup team, said at a recent warm-up with Padova, the club he joined last month to become the first American to play in Italy's Serie A.

"You've got to be kidding," Clubless and unknown before the World Cup, the former high school ice hockey star from Michigan is now a world famous footballer, playing against the likes of Italy's Roberto Baggio and Dutchman Ruud Gullit.

And despite the language barrier, he's getting on well. He and his girlfriend Jill have a home in the hills around this city near Venice. He loves that pasta, weather and wine, but most of all the soccer culture.

"Italians live and breathe the game," said Lalas, tossing back the shock of ginger hair that has helped give him the most original look in soccer since Gullit first arrived with his dreadlocks.

"The fans, the press and the emotions that surround this game — especially Serie A — is something no American player has ever experienced," he said in an interview with Reuters.

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

Wednesday when the two sides meet in a friendly re-match in London.

Critics once said Lalas, who has 50 caps in two years but never played club soccer before joining newly-promoted Padova on a one-year deal worth some 200,000 dollars, would never make it as far as Serie A.

"Throughout my career, people have said there's no way you can play on the Olympic team, there's no way you can play on the national team, there's no way you can play in the World Cup and have success," Lalas said.

"But you know, here I am — in Italy."

Lalas, whose weakness may be lack of speed, called it an honour to make the short-list for FIFA's World Cup All-Stars team ahead of such talented defenders as Brazil's Aldair and



ALEXI LALAS

Italy's Alessandro Costacurta.

But Lalas, who scoffed at the suggestion that he was one of the world's best defenders, has also proved his mettle in his first two games in Italy.

In his debut last Wednesday, an Italian Cup match won 3-0 by Internazionale, his diving header off a corner kick nearly put Padova ahead first were it not for a miraculous save by Italy goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca.