

Abahani ride on Aslam

Sports Reporter

Veteran striker Sheikh Mohamed Aslam maintained his goal-a-game record in the return leg as title contenders Abahani Krira Chakra continued their solitary reign at the top of the table in the Star Premier Division football league with a lone goal victory over Arambagh Krira Sangstha at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

After an entertaining first half, the ace Abahani striker, a playing as a substitute for Nikolai, scored the all important goal with a spectacular header in the 48th minute.

It was Aslam's fourth goal in the league and third in a row in the return leg.

The DMFA Cup champions now lead the points table with

mark with Dhanu, the Abahani custodian, at his mercy.

Five minutes later Nazir Ali, the Iraqi recruit of Abahani, missed a sitter when he shot the straight to a defender.

Babu Das, the lanky Arambagh striker, then missed two easy chances in the span of five minutes, missing the mark from point blank range.

In the 36th minute, the Arambagh custodian Milan, who made some excellent saves in the match, tipped a Nazir Ali right-footer over the bar for a corner.

After a gruelling first half, Abahani came out fired up for a winner in the second half with substitute Aslam running the show.

Abahani, who dominated most the second half proceedings with the inclusion of Aslam and Mintu, could have

Abahani-dominated second half, however, involved Nazir Ali and Arambagh goal-tender Milan. In the 73rd minute Nazir unleashed a scorching side-volley off a Mintu floater but Milan, showing superb sense of positioning, fisted the ball away for a corner.

Arambagh saw their last ditch effort foiled by a diving Dhanu when the Abahani goalkeeper stretched in full to perry off a spectacular Anwar back-volley 13 minutes away from time.

Arambagh, fifth finishers last year, so far have eight points from 12 matches.

In the first match of the day at the same venue, Bangladesh Boys registered a crucial one-nil victory over Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club in a match-up of the promoters to steer clear from relegation fear for a

Cricketers' transfers end

Sports Reporter

The inter-club cricketers' transfers for the 1994-1995 season concluded yesterday at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office last night with 38 players renewing or revoking services for their previous clubs.

On the sixth and final day of the season's players' market, Abahani Krira Chakra signed Ashfaqul Islam Bappi, a member on the national youth team's successful trip to Malaysia who played in the Milars First Division league for Shantinagar B.

With almost all the high-profile signings done on the first couple of days, it was left for the middlelings and the minnows to call their shots on the concluding day. One Indian cricketer was seen completing registration formalities at the BCCB office last evening. Arp Bhattacharya, a West Bengal cricketer, left the Victoria Sporting Club tent to play for Eskaton Sabuj Sangha this year.

Two hundred and forty-seven cricketers featured in the six-day players' transfers.

Windies tour of India postponed for a week

NEW DELHI, Sept 30: A West Indies cricket tour of India next month has been postponed by a week because of a plague outbreak in the host country, a spokesman for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Friday, reports Reuters.

"A new itinerary will be announced shortly," the spokesman said. The team had been set to arrive in India on October 5 and the first one-day international had been scheduled for October 12 in Baroda, near the epicentre of the plague outbreak.

New Zealand had been scheduled to join the two teams for a triangular one day series later in the month. One of those matches had been set for Ahmedabad, business capital of Gujarat state, where pneumatic plague broke out last week.

The spokesman said that match would now be shifted to another venue.

The West Indies India clash was now expected to start with a one-day international in the northern city of Faridabad on October 17 or 18, the spokesman said.

World Health Organisation officials have said they expect the plague outbreak to be over in another three weeks.

Brian Lara's mortal fear

HONG KONG, Sept 30: West Indies batting sensation Brian Lara said on Friday he was fearful about playing the Test series in plague-hit India next month but will accept any decision taken by his country's cricketing authorities, reports Reuters.

"I have had second thoughts about going to play where you are open to serious illness, fatality... something that is going to destroy you," said Lara, in Hong Kong to play in an international cricket sixes tournament this weekend.

The West Indies Cricket Board of Control was due to meet later on Friday to make a decision on whether to go ahead with the three-Test tour, the Caribbean news agency CANA said in Bridgetown, Barbados.

"I am sure the board of control will not put any players in a situation where they could have problems with sickness or plague. I have not heard anything about cancellation and I intend to meet up with the squad on Tuesday," Lara said.

The West Indies squad is due to assemble in London on Tuesday before heading for India if the tour goes ahead.



German World Cup star Juergen Klinsmann, poses with a pile of boots at Tottenham's White Hart Lane ground on Sept 28 after signing lucrative three-year deal with US sports gear manufacturer Reebok. — AFP photo

Ws contain Aussie march



KARACHI, Pakistan, Sept 30: Pakistani pace duo Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis snapped up three

late wickets and Australia slumped to 181 for five in the second innings at the close of the third day of the first Test on Friday, report agencies.

Australia, who earlier bowled out the home side for a modest 256, were 262 ahead with two days left.

The visitors had looked in a commanding position at 171 for two half an hour before the close. But Wasim and Waqar struck hard in a seven-ball spell to cause a slump.

David Boon (85 not out) and Mark Waugh (61) had produced a dazzling third-wicket stand of 122 after Mark Taylor went for a duck for the second time in the match.

It was an unhappy start for Taylor in his first match as captain.

But the third-wicket pair saw Australia through the post lunch session without losing a single wicket grounding out the Pakistan bowlers.

Boon was unbeaten at the close at 85, after having batted for 250 minutes, hitting seven fours off 177 balls.

Waugh played an equally good innings with 61 runs before Younis began the slide, bowling him for pace, with a delivery that nipped back.

Akram bowled first innings top scorer, Michael Bevan, on the first ball and then trapped Steve Waugh lbw off successive deliveries.

On a hat-trick on the first ball of a new over Akram was thwarted by Boon, who let go the delivery outside off stump. Mark Waugh hit six and three boundaries off 132 balls having batted for 174 minutes. Australian captain Taylor

said: "I think Australia have the advantage of Boon at the crease and if he remains there and takes us beyond 300 we have a good chance."

He attributed the loss of three quick wickets towards the end of the day to some fine bowling by the Pakistani

batting.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the third day of the first cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan today.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 337 (Michael Bevan 82, Steve Waugh 73, Ian Healy 57, Wasim Akram 3-75, Waqar Younis 3-75, Mushtaq Ahmed 3-97).

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 209-7)

Saeed Anwar c Mark Waugh b May 85
Aamer Sohail c Bevan b Warner 36
Zahid Fazal c Boon b May 27
Salim Malik lbw b Angel 26
Basil Ali c Bevan b McGrath 0
Inzamamul Haq c Taylor b Warner 9
Rashid Latif c Taylor b Warner 2
Wasim Akram c Healy b Angel 39
Akram Raza b McGrath 13
Waqar Younis c Healy b Angel 6
Mushtaq Ahmed not out 2
Extras: (lb-7, nb-4) 11
Total: (all out, 87.1 overs) 256

Fall of wickets: 1-90; 2-153; 3-154; 4-157; 5-175; 6-181; 7-200; 8-234; 9-253.

Bowling
O M R W
McGrath 25 6 70 2
Angel 13.1 0 54 3
May 20 5 55 2
Warne 27 10 61 3
Steve Waugh 2 0 9 0

AUSTRALIA: Second innings

Taylor c Rashid Latif b Waqar Younis 0
Slate lbw b Mushtaq Ahmed 23
Boon not out 85
M Waugh b Waqar Younis 61
Bevan b Wasim Akram 0
S Waugh lbw b Wasim Akram 0
Healy not out 3
Extras: (lb-1; lb-3; nb-5) 9
Total: (for five wickets) 181

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-49; 3-171; 4-174; 5-174

Bowling:
Wasim Akram 14 2 47 2
Waqar Younis 10 1 41 2
Mushtaq Ahmed 21 3 51 1
Akram Raza 10 1 19 0
Aamer Sohail 7 0 19 0

Wright powers Gunners



LONDON, Sept 30: Man Wright scored his 98th and 99th goals for Arsenal and Swedish World Cup star Stefan Schwarz scored his first as the European Cup Winners' Cup holders beat Cypriot part-timer Omonia Nicosia 3-0 on Thursday, reports Reuters.

The Gunners cruised into the second round 6-1 on aggregate in what virtually became a training match after Wright put them ahead after only 10 minutes.

Schwarz volleyed home a spectacular goal after 31 minutes and Wright completed the scoring with a superbly-taken diving header for his 99th goal for the club 20 minutes from time.

Like Omonia, Wright ended the night flat on his back after being carried away on a

stretcher after a late tackle by substitute Nadimitic.

Arsenal's win completed a victorious double for London sides as Chelsea, winners of the UEFA Cup, and Bayern Munich, who won their Champions League match against Dynamo Kiev on Wednesday.

Bremen overcame Mnacabi Tel Aviv of Israel 2-0 with a goal direct from a corner by Mario Basler after 81 minutes wrapping up the tie 2-0 on aggregate after the first leg ended 0-0.

The biggest winners of the night were Panathinaikos of Greece who thrashed Pirin of Bulgaria 6-1 for an 8-1 aggregate victory.

The Greeks' hero was Polish international striker Krzysztof Warzycha who scored a hat-trick with two in the last three minutes.

Sampdoria of Italy also made it through to the next round but were made to work very hard for their 4-3 aggregate win against Norwegian part-timer Bodo Glimt.

Bodo twice led by two goals in the first leg before Sampdoria brought the first leg deficit back to 3-2.

But the Italians were not so generous on Thursday, with first half goals from England captain David Platt and Attilio Lambardo putting the Italians 4-3 up which is how it stayed until the end.

Platt twisted his ankle as he scored and could be out of action for several weeks.

INTER MILAN BEATEN
Sampdoria's win followed successes by Serie A rivals Napoli, Parma, Juventus and Lazio in the UEFA Cup and Milan in the Champions' League, but UEFA cup holders Internazionale failed to make it seven wins out of seven for the Italian league.

They lost 4-3 on penalties to Aston Villa in England after the sides finished 1-1 on aggregate at the end of extra time.

Villa won 1-0 on Thursday with the only goal coming when Irish international Ray Houghton blasted the ball past Gianluca Pagliuca after 41 minutes.

Battle for Asian soccer supremacy

HIROSHIMA, Sept 30: Even before the Asian Games formally open, the battle for the region's soccer supremacy begins Saturday in a nation with a new passion for the sport, reports AP.

Hosts Japan's year-old professional league, which started the soccer frenzy, is taking a break from its regular action to allow key players to try to win gold for the nation.

The Japanese still are smarting from their near-miss in qualifying for the 1994 World Cup finals. A last-minute tying goal by Iraq in the final qualifying game kept them out.

Meanwhile, arch-rivals South Korea are out to defend their honour as an Asian power. The South Koreans have reached the final round of the last three World Cups, although they had to settle for a bronze medal in the last Asian Games, in 1990, finishing behind Iran and South Korea.

Asia's other 1994 World Cup representative, Saudi Arabia, are sending a reserve team to these Games.

Two teams that have been frustrated in World Cup qualifying — Iran and China — are preliminary round Group A here, along with Yemen, Bahrain and Turkmenistan, one of two former Soviet republics making their Asian Games soccer debut.

The other former Soviet republic, Uzbekistan, are in Group B with Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

South Korea are in Group C with Kuwait, Oman and Nepal. Japan's opponents in Group D are Burma, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

The top two teams from each group advance to the quarterfinals on Oct. 11.

Aside from the gold medal rivalry, Japan and South Korea also are competing to be named host nation for the 2002 World Cup finals. Both hope a good show at playing the game will help them look like better soccer hosts.

In Saturday's opening games, China play Turkmenistan, Yemen meet Bahrain, Saudi Arabia face Uzbekistan, Malaysia play Hong Kong, South Korea meet Nepal and Kuwait play Oman.

The Games' formal opening ceremony comes Sunday, and competition in other sports starts Monday among nearly 5,000 athletes from 42 nations and territories.

Women's soccer also opens Monday, with China playing Taiwan. The only other teams in the women's competition are Japan and South Korea.

Salov pockets Interpolis title

TILBURG, Netherlands, Sept 30: Russia's Valery Salov defeated compatriot Evgeny Bareev to win the final of the Interpolis chess tournament on Thursday, picking up 100,000 guilders (\$7,800 dollars), the biggest tournament prize this year, reports Reuters.

Salov, 30, who on Wednesday had won the first game of the final, was forced to defend for five and a half hours and 51 moves before Bareev, 27, conceded a draw in their second game.

"Salov deserved to win the tournament," said world champion Anatoly Karpov, who was beaten by Bareev in the semifinals.

"Salov missed his best chance in the middlegame and got into difficulties, but then he defended well."

The elite three-week Interpolis tournament was the 18th in a series but the sponsors have said that, because of a corporate reorganisation, they may sever their long connection with chess.

Chaos in world champs den



RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 30: World Cup triumph has failed to lift the gloomy atmosphere hanging over Brazilian domestic soccer, reports Reuters.

Just two months after Brazil captain Dunga lifted the FIFA trophy at the World Cup final in Pasadena, the country's national championship is in chaos.

The anti-doping system has been discredited after one player failed to take a test because he was unable to provide a urine sample.

Critics have lambasted a format in which all 24 teams qualified for the second stage of the championship and two clubs have responded to the meagre gate receipts brought in by matches by turning them

Pierce prevails over Schultz

LEIPZIG, Germany, Sept 30: Top seed Mary Pierce of France coasted into the semifinals of the 400,000 dollars Leipzig women's Grand Prix tennis tournament on Thursday with a straight-sets victory over Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands, reports Reuters.

Pierce managed to neutralise the seventh seed's strong serve with her own powerful groundstrokes and won 6-3, 6-2.

Third seed Anke Huber gave her home crowd some compensation for the absence of four-times winner Steffi Graf with a back injury, producing some of her best tennis in months to beat Dutch woman Stephanie Rottier 6-3, 7-6 in a second round match.

"The main thing is that I'm enjoying it again," said Huber, who has taken on Swedish coach Jorgen Windahl on a three-tournament trial basis to help her out of a recent slump.

Huber earned herself a quarter-final clash with unseeded fellow German Barbara Rittner, who beat Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine 1-6, 6-3, 7-6.

Natore soccer

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept 30: Friends Club defeated Shapla Sporting Club by a solitary goal on the second day of the Natore football league '94, organised by the Natore DSA at the Kanaikhal Stadium today.

Milan scored in the 20th minute of the second half.

New Mitani Sangha will take on Durbar Ekadash tomorrow at the same venue.

back on the competition and embarking on more lucrative excursions abroad.

The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) have still to decide on a punishment for Vasco da Gama midfielder William Cesar, selected for the post-match doping test after a game away to Guarani.

After waiting in vain for one hour and forty-five minutes for William to provide a sample, club directors ordered him to leave with the delegation, saying otherwise they would have missed the last plane back to Rio de Janeiro.

The player has been given a 20-day provisional ban by the CBF but Vasco director Eurico Miranda said on Wednesday he was confident the player would suffer no further punishment.

Critics have said the episode has undermined the CBF's entire anti-doping system, in which two players from each team are randomly selected for tests after each game.

Further damage has been done to the competition's credibility by the format in which all the teams qualify for the second stage, with a reward of just one bonus point for the teams who won each of the four first round groups.

The system is regarded as

AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman, Armanitola Juba Sangha, Inter Sports and Wari Club registered their seventh successive victories in the AB Bank Bank metropolis table tennis league yesterday at the Dhanmondi gymnasium.

Biman won 3-0 against Lalmatia and similar was the score in the match between Armanitola and Swamibagh Boys while 3-1 were the margin in the other two matches — Inter Sports vs Combined Sporting Club and Wari Club vs Ajax Sports Club.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: Chittagong Abahani registered a 4-2 win over Kallol Sangha in the CUPK First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Abahani's striker Jashim completed a brilliant hat-trick while Liton scored the other goal for the winners. Pallab netted twice for Kallol.

Customs and Sports Club beat Bakalia Krira Sangstha by a solitary goal in the other match.

Suit grabbed the all-important goal.

highly unfair on teams such as Palmeiras, who finished the first stage with 19 out of 20 points yet began the second stage with only a one-point advantage over teams who finished the first stage with 10 points.

Vasco da Gama became the first team to temporarily abandon the tournament 10 days ago, when they went on a 10-day excursion to South Korea.

The club fielded their reserve team for Sunday's fixture at home to Bahia, watched by a crowd of little more than 300.

Botafogo, another Rio de Janeiro club, followed suit, leaving on Wednesday for a trip to Japan. To fit in the tour, they moved their home fixture with Bahia forward to Tuesday. Playing it just four hours after the fixture list for the second stage of the competition had been announced.

When they return, they face fixtures with arch-rivals Flamengo and world club champions Sao Paulo within 48 hours of getting off the plane after a 24-hour flight.

"What do you say about a championship in which the first game of the second stage is played just four hours after the fixture list has been announced?" said newspaper columnist Ledio Carmona. "The rules this year are simply ridiculous... and are made to favour the mediocre."

Inter Milan midfielder Massimo Paganin (R) and Aston Villa defender Earl Baarrett are locked in an aerial duel during their UEFA Cup first round second leg match at Villa Park in England on Sept 29.



Inter Milan midfielder Massimo Paganin (R) and Aston Villa defender Earl Baarrett are locked in an aerial duel during their UEFA Cup first round second leg match at Villa Park in England on Sept 29. — AFP photo