

Muktijoddha fumble again

Star-studded Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra's title hopes received a big blow yesterday when the Federation Cup winners were forced to a one-all draw in the first of the two Star Premier Division league matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the second match of the day under flood lights, Brothers Union had to struggle hard against minnows Public Works Department (PWD) before emerging victors from the ordeal by the odd goal in three.

It seems Muktijoddha's fairy tale run since their dramatic emergence as the theoretical third force of domestic circuit when they unexpectedly hit the headlines at the very onset of this season, roping in a host of starts in the inter-club booters transfers, may have come to a premature end. With table leaders Abahani Krira Chakra two points clear at the top, Mukti, who were bundled out of the Qatar Independence Cup

that came by.

In fact, Agrani Bank deserved a victory under the circumstances and they were set on course eight minutes into the second half when Jamal outleapt the Muktijoddha defenders to nod home a Bacchu corner from the right flank.

The goal really shook the star-strewn squad to their senses and out of sheer desperation Mukti regrouped, improving just a wee bit on their first half performance, but the equaliser was not to come their way until the 68th minute.

In between, they came painfully close to a goal when right back-turned-midfielder Barun Dewan saw his scorching right-footer from the edge of the penalty box kissing the crosspiece on its way out in the 66th minute.

Two minutes later, Mizan dispelled Mukti's fear with the equaliser but he owed a lot to Jewel Rana, who saved his side from an embarrassing draw against promotes Bangladesh Boys in the previous match

12 matches while Agrani Bank's account now shows 10 points from 12 outings.

The second match, which kicked off at 6-30 pm, saw striker Biplob doing his magic for Brothers twice to ensure the Gopibagh outfit full points.

Brothers Union shot into the lead in the very fifth minute of the match when Biplob, by virtue of a sloppy goalkeeping from PWD's Shimul Khan, found the net with a feeble shot, latching on to a Uttam through.

Brothers' lead was only 28-minute-old when Saifur headed home a Babu free kick from near the corner flag.

With ten minutes remaining of the match, Biplob again got lucky but this time the through came from Ripon which resulted in a goalmouth scramble and Biplob's shot left Shimul once again in the dark.

Brothers now have 17 points from 12 while PWD remained glued to seven from 12.

The lone Star First Division football league encounter at



Agrani Bank defender Bishu, who played a stellar role in his team's commendable one-all draw against title aspirants Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in a Star Premier tie at the Dhaka Stadium, is in hot pursuit of the ball with rival marksman Mizan.

— Star photo

The Mirpur Stadium saw a win for Dhaka Wanderers far beyond their reach despite having the services of three Nepali booters, who made their debut yesterday.

Against league leaders Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society the match turned out to be a too familiar tale for the once strong outfit — a goalless draw.

The highlight of the otherwise dull deadlock was the sending off of one of the Nepalese trio, Suresh Srestha, in the second half.

The point from yesterday's match-up upped Rahmatganj's tally to 20 and Wanderers' to 11. Both have played 14 games each.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Dhanmondi Club vs Shantinagar 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)
Victoria SC vs Sadharan Bima 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Euro tourney draw held

PARIS, Oct 1: Aston Villa, conquerors of UEFA Cup holders Inter Milan, must make do with Trabzonspor of Turkey for the competition's second round, after the draw made in Geneva Friday, reports AFP.

Manager Ron Atkinson would have liked another glamour-tie — more like that landed by English Premiership leaders Newcastle who face Spain's Athletic Bilbao, with the first game at St James Park.

After their thumping 10-2 aggregate triumph over Royal Antwerp, the Magpies are unlikely to fear the Spanish side.

Italy, meanwhile, take on Sweden and Portugal. Lazio face Swedish part timers Trelleborg fresh from their 3-2 on aggregate disposal of Blackburn and Parma taking on St Ockhol, both at home.

Juventus also has a home draw to Portugal's Maritimo, while, Naples travel to Boavista.

The French contenders will professed themselves confident for the second round.

Olympique Marseille travel to Sion, who occupy a modest seventh place in the Swiss Championships. Nantes head back to Russia for a clash with Tekstilchik Kamychine, fifth in the table and two places behind the French club's qualification opponents Rotor Volgograd.

Cannes travel to Admira Wacker in Austria and Borussia take on second-placed Polish side Katowice.

The German giants, with a one hundred per cent European success rate, were also untroubled by the draw. Bayer Leverkusen, Eintracht Frankfurt and Borussia Dortmund take on Hungary's Kispest Honved, Rapid Bucharest and Slovakia's Bratislava away, while Kaiserslautern are home to Danish

side Odense.

In the Cup Winner's Cup, holders Arsenal face Danish side Brondby, the first game at Highbury, while Chelsea, who survived a tough second leg against Viktoria Zizkov of the Czech Republic, travel to take on Australia Vienna — Arsenal midfielder John Jensen's former side.

George Graham has good memories of Denmark from last year, when his side overcame Danish opponents in the shape of Odense on the way to the Copenhagen final against Parma.

Chelsea players boss Glenn Hoddle was part of the Spurs team that beat the Viennese side in the UEFA Cup in 1984-85 and although Salzburg were beaten by Inter in the UEFA Cup final last season, Austrian football is not at its strongest.

Chelsea chairman Ken Bates said: "We don't know anything about them but then we didn't know anything about Viktoria Zizkov before we played them."

"If we want to win this competition we've got to play some good sides anyway so we'll take whatever comes."

Porto, who came away 1-0 winners from LKS Lodz in Poland for a 3-0 aggregate win, are drawn at home to Hungarians Ferencvaros, while Panathinaikos, who destroyed visiting Bulgarian opponents Pirin 6-1 for an 8-1 overall victory, travel to FC Brugge.

English international David Platt scored the first in Sampdoria's 2-0 home win over Bodo Glimt of Norway while Attilio Lombardo completed the Italian side's Narrow 4-3 aggregate win by scoring the second. They are drawn against Grasshoppers of Switzerland.

Dutch side Feyenoord, who struggled to score a 2-1 home win over Lithuania's Jalgauria Vilnius to finish with an overall 3-2 win, face a tough clash with European-clean-slaters Werder Bremen.

Two second half goals against Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv were enough to put Werder Bremen into the second round, the first-leg had ended in a goalless draw.

Tatran Presov (Slovakia) are drawn against Real Zaragoza, after beating Dundee United 5-4 on aggregate.

Auxerre chief Michel Billard said he was satisfied with his club's draw against Besiktas Istanbul. "It seems to me it will be easier than the first round against Croatia Zagreb," he said. Auxerre faced a huge task after their 3-1 defeating Croatia but came back to win 3-0 in the return.

AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter

While their footballing mates struggled for a victory at the Dhaka Stadium against lowly PWD, the Brothers Union paddlers made light of Dhaka Mariners in a 3-0 victory in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

The other victors of the day included Swamibagh TTS, Armanitola Jubo Sangha and Wari Juniors against Purbachal Parishad, Bangladesh Bank and Cynthia Sports Club respectively.

Age-group tennis from today

Sports Reporter

The ninth national age-group tennis championship under the auspices of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation begin at the Ramna Tennis Complex today.

One hundred and five competitors from Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon, Meherpur and Savar will take part in different age categories ranging from 10 to 16 years.

MA Khan memorial h'ball

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars prevailed over Bangladesh Air Force in a neck and neck Rear Admiral M A Khan handball tournament encounter with a 22-20 victory in one of the two matches played at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 12-6.

Akram top scored with eight goals for Ansars followed by Mizanur and Farid, who netted four and three goals respectively while Sultan with seven goals was the top marksman for Air Force.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Police thrashed Shaheed Nabi Club 39-10. In a one-sided affair, Shahiduzzaman of the winners notched up 13 goals to be the top scorer while Nazrul and Salam had seven and six respectively.

Shah Sports Cup soccer

Sports Reporter

Ripon notched up a double hat-trick as Uttaran Juba Sangha romped past Ekota Boys Club in 9-1 one of the two Shah Sports Cup football tournament matches played at the Ganaktuli Eidgah ground yesterday.

The winners led the first half 5-0.

Ripon scored seven goals for the winners while Alauddin struck the other two.

In the first match of the day, Canton Sporting Club and Star Sporting Club shared points in a 1-1 draw.

In a keenly-contested match Rabiul scored for Star while Zaved restored parity for Canton.

Shahjalal Univ football

Sports Reporter

The Department of Statistics clinched the inter-departmental football title of the Shahjalal Science and Technology University, eliminating Physics by 4-3 in the tie-breaker at the university football ground on September 25.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Sayed Mohibuddin Ahmed, who was chief guest on the concluding day of the three-week meet, distributed prizes among the winners.

Nine departments of the university took part in the meet.



The Bangladeshi contingent for the twelfth Asiad, beginning in Hiroshima today is being led out for the flag-raising ceremony at the Athletes Village yesterday. — AFP photo

12th Asiad begins today

HIROSHIMA, Oct 1: Japan's emperor opens the biggest Asian Games ever Sunday in ceremonies stressing appeals for peace from host Hiroshima, the first city ever attacked with nuclear weapons, reports AP.

Competition actually began Saturday with six preliminary round soccer games. Over the next two weeks, nearly 5,000 athletes from 42 nations and territories will battle for a total of 337 gold medals in 34 sports.

Events range from basics such as track and swimming to regional sports such as kabaddi, a tag-like game, and sepak takraw, an acrobatic version of volleyball in which use of the hands is barred.

Competitors also will battle in a range of Asian fighting arts — judo, karate, taekwondo and wushu.

But peace and harmony are the themes of a special concert preceding Sunday's ceremonies, of the dances to welcome the athletes and of a concluding program symbolising progression from dark to light.

The torch for lighting the Games flame was started from both the flame of the 1990 Games in Beijing and from the "Flame of Peace" in a Hiroshima park dedicated to the abolition of nuclear weapons. The city was destroyed by a US atomic bomb attack in the closing days of World War II in 1945.

One discordant note has



THE 12th ASIAN GAMES HIROSHIMA 1994

Beijing does not object to the presence of Taiwan's athletes, who use the name "Chinese Taipei" rather than Taiwan.

"On the domestic front, police have stepped up patrols throughout Hiroshima to guard against any attempts by radical leftists, who oppose Japan's monarchy, to disrupt the visit of Emperor Akihito. Dozens of leftists were demonstrating on Saturday against the emperor's trip to Europe, which starts immediately after the Games' ceremonies.

Akihito was to declare the

Uzbekistan stun Saudis

HIROSHIMA, Oct 1: Uzbekistan made a sensational Asian Games debut Saturday evening by crushing Saudi Arabia 4-1 in their opening game of the soccer tournament, holding China to a 2-2 draw in a physical Group A game.

Also in Group A, Bahrain defeated Yemen 2-0 with second half goals from Sameer Al Hammadi and Ali Saad.

South Korea crushed Nepal 11-0 in Group C after hitting seven first-half goals in a powerhouse performance. Striker Hwang Sun-Hong led the way for the speedy Koreans with eight goals, while Ha Seok-Ju grabbed two.

Coach Kim Sung-Nam was not satisfied, however, and said his team could have played better. Oman and Kuwait played to a 2-2 draw in the other Group C contest.

Defender Tcharyarkouli Seidiev scored a late penalty to clinch a draw for Turkmenistan after China had dominated for long periods and taken a 2-1 lead on a 69th-minute penalty by midfielder Gao Zhongxun.

China had Guangzhu Jin sent off in the second half and got a total of five yellow cards, while Turkmenistan had their opening scorer Berdymourad Nourmouradov dismissed for dissent.

Uzbekistan quickly took control against Saudi Arabia, with Lebedev firing home a free kick from 35 metres (yards) that went into the net through the hands of goalkeeper Turki Awad.

Kosimov, a former Soviet junior international made it 2-0 in the 23rd minute with a chipped free kick from 30 metres (yards) and Lebedev crossed for Shkvyryn to head the ball downward and into the net two minutes later.

Shkvyryn scored his second goal from close range in the 43rd minute, stabbing it home with his right foot after a good build-up involving Kosimov and defender Pavzi Davletov.

The Saudis, all of whom are 23 or younger, created several scoring chances in the second half, but could not find a way past a well-drilled Uzbekistan defense until substitute Hamed Aljohari scored with a free kick in the last minute.

"In the first half I didn't recognize our team," said Ivo Wortmann, the Saudis' Brazilian coach. The second half was more like Saudi football but Uzbekistan had more experience than our team."

In the other Group A match, all seven goals came in the second half as Malaysia defeated Hong Kong 4-3 despite having far fewer scoring opportunities. The losers got a hat-trick from striker Tim Bredbury.

Competition in soccer began ahead of Sunday's opening ceremony for the 12th Asian Games, which feature 42 nations contesting 337 events in 34 sports.

Soccer will continue on Monday, when the host nation, featuring many players from the successful professional J-League, will face the United Arab Emirates in their opener.

Iran, who were also inactive Saturday, are in preliminary round Group A, along with Yemen, Bahrain, China and Turkmenistan.

Group B comprises Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Southeast Asian Games gold medalists Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong. South Korea are in Group C with Kuwait, Oman and Nepal, while Japan's opponents in Group D are Burma, surprise finalists at last year's Southeast Asian Games, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Games open after a procession of the athletes into Hiroshima's new 8.4 billion yen (dollar 85.7 million), 50,000-seat "Big Arch" stadium, nicknamed for the roof over part of its stands.

The stadium is being used for the Games' track and field and some soccer matches.

The peace concert features pop singers Ryu Fan and Wei Wei of China, Goongnang of Thailand and Yukihide Takekawa of Japan, and the Philippine group Smokey Mountain.

In all, some 7,800 people are to join in the ceremonies, which are to end with a fountain of fireworks.

This will be the Asian Games debut of five former Soviet republics in Central Asia — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. War-torn Cambodia is returning after a 20-year absence.

In the 1990 Games, China won 183 gold medals, followed by South Korea with 54 and Japan with 38.

North Korea, which ranked fourth in gold with 12, is the only eligible country that has not entered the Hiroshima Games. That reclusive Communist state, suspected of trying to develop nuclear weapons, has withdrawn even further while under international pressure to allow inspections.

The Chinese, favoured to dominate the Games again are sending 570 athletes this time, about the same number as South Korea but fewer than the host team's 680 athletes.

IOC boss prefers to stay out of it

HIROSHIMA, Oct 1: Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, on Saturday steered clear of a familiar old controversy that has erupted again between two IOC rivals — China and Taiwan, reports AP.

Samaranch, here to attend the opening of the Asian Games on Sunday, reiterated the IOC's position that Taiwan has every right to join in the event, a regional version of the Olympics.

But he refused to comment on China's repeated threats over the past two months to boycott the Games over an invitation for Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui to attend as a guest.

"What happened here is not the jurisdiction of the IOC," Samaranch said.

The invitation, extended by the president of the Olympic Council of Asia, Sheik Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, swelled into a major diplomatic storm and threatened to ruin the Games.

The OCA later withdrew the invitation, but China hinted anew at a boycott over Taiwan Vice Premier Hsu Li-Teh's plans to attend.

Beijing has since backed down, and teams from both Taiwan and China are preparing to compete.

Samaranch denied rumors that he acted as a mediator in the dispute, although he said he did discuss the matter with the Kuwaiti sheik during IOC meetings last month.

Bergkamp exonerated

MILAN, Oct 1: Internazionale, reeling from their UEFA Cup defeat by Aston Villa, received some good news on Friday when the Italian league disciplinary committee cleared Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp, to play against Juventus on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The committee halved a two-match ban imposed on Bergkamp after he was sent off for elbowing a Brescia defender in Serie A match on September 18.

Bergkamp can return to action after sitting out the 3-1 league victory over Fiorentina last week.

Div II hockey

Cantonian Sporting Club began their campaign in the metropolis Green Delta Second Division hockey league, outplaying Dikusha SC by 3-0 goals at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Earlier in the other match of the league, Utdy Club beat Shishu-Kishore Sangha by 2-1 goals at the same venue.

Natore soccer

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Oct 1: Durbar XI trounced New Mitaly Club 5-0 on the third day of the Natore football league '94 played at the local stadium today.

Nital completed a brilliant hat-trick while Ripon added more for the winners.

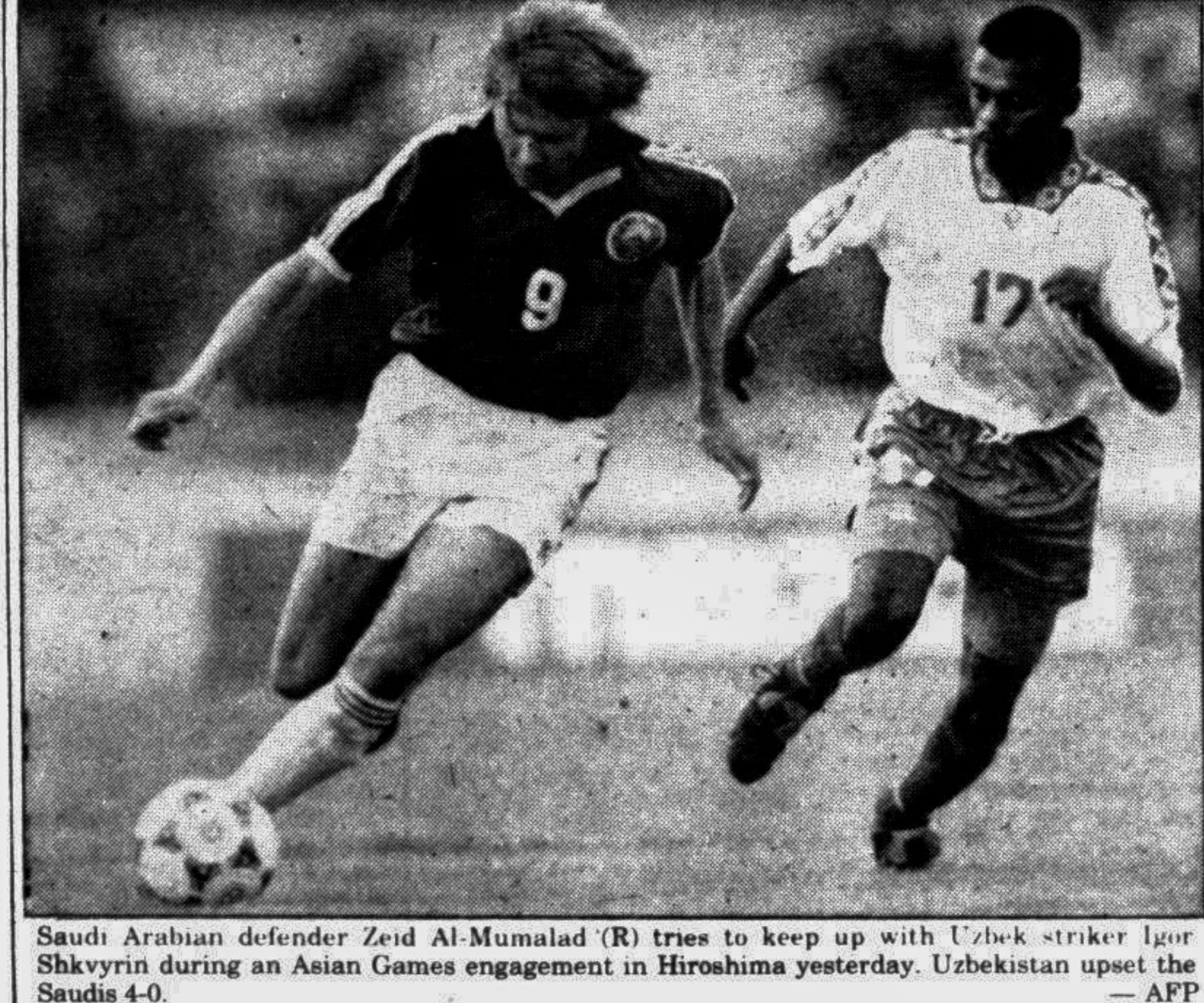
Chakrik Juba Sangh take on Fulbagan XI in tomorrow's match.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Oct 1: Chittagong City Corporation football team beat Mohammedan Blues 3-2 in the CJKP First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Mamun scored twice and Badsha once for City Corporation while Ismail and Sumon replied for the Blues.

The other match of the day between Ispat Ekadash and Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra ended in goalless draw.



Saudi Arabian defender Zeid Al-Mumalad (R) tries to keep up with Uzbek striker Igor Shkvyryn during an Asian Games engagement in Hiroshima yesterday. Uzbekistan upset the Saudis 4-0. — AFP