

# PWD lose Premier status

**Sports Reporter**

Public Works Department (PWD) Sporting Club relinquished their premier status when they lost to Arambagh Krira Shagstha by a solitary goal at the Dhaka Stadium in the first of the two Star Premier Division league encounters yesterday.

In the second match of the day, star-studded Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra registered what appears to be an inconsequential two-nil victory over giant-killers Wari Club.

PWD earned promotion to the Senior Division football league way back in 1984 and were the last pick when the ten-team tier was introduced last year. They finished sixth last season with Mohammedans clinching the first-ever Premier Division football league title.

But Alfaz, the Arambagh midfielder, drove the last nail on the PWD coffin when he guided a Jaglu corner home with a spectacular leader two minutes away from time.

The office team who snatched away one point each from Mohammedans and Abulab in the first leg became



Action from yesterday's Star Premier Division football league match between PWD and Arambagh KS at the Dhaka Stadium. Arambagh won the match 1-0. — Star photo

# Clash of champions today

**LONDON, Oct 18:** Manchester United and Barcelona are desperately hoping they can shake off indifferent league form on Wednesday when they lock horns in one of the most eagerly-waited clashes of the Champions' League, reports Reuter.

The English and Spanish champions have been struggling to impress in defence of their domestic titles, and

## Press Club sports

The mini-marathon, walk, chess and drawing competitions organised by the Jatiya Press Club were held yesterday to mark the 40th founding anniversary of the club, reports BSS.



QAZI RAUNOK HOSSAIN

**Walk:** 1. Syed Abdul Qahhar (Dainik Bangla), 2. Mohammad Shahidullah (Banglar Bani) and 3. Wase Ansari (Dainik Bangla).

**Mini-marathon (above 40):** 1. Mohammad Sayadat Hossain (Sangram), 2. Manoj Barua (Janakantha) and 3. Sheikh Enamul Hoque (Sangram).

**Mini-marathon (women):** 1. Shikha Bhattacharya, 2. Mrs Amirul, Mrs. Qamarul Islam Khan 3. Mrs Alauddin and Mrs Manzurul Hoque.

**Mini-marathon (members):** 1. Selim Nazrul Hoque (Uttara, Bank), 2. Salimullah Selim (Sakaler Khabar), 3. Abu Taher Khokan (Morning Sun) and Ashraful Islam (Sangram).

**Chess:** 1. Qazi Raunok Hossain (photographer), 2. Abu Musa Hasan (Purbakanta) and 3. Ahmed Nur-e-Alam (Bichitra). Prizes will be distributed today.

Barcelona particularly cannot afford a defeat at Old Trafford on the heels of a shock loss to Gothenburg.

Both sides won at the weekend, but somewhat unconvincingly.

United, who have made the European Cup their top priority after winning two successive English league titles, beat West Ham 1-0 at Old Trafford, while Barcelona needed an injury-time goal to overcome Valencia 2-1 away.

The Spanish champions, who have lost twice in seven league games, believe they are now making progress.

"We still have a lot to improve but this victory is very important," added Dutch defender Ronald Koeman.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, who faces selection problems after Englishmen Lee Sharpe and David May picked up injuries at the weekend, hopes the electric atmosphere at Old Trafford will shake his players from their league lethargy.

"There's no consistency about us at the moment and that worries me," said Ferguson.

European champions AC Milan are another side struggling in the league and hoping the occasion can lift them to a win against AEK Athens, vital after having two points deducted by UEFA for crowd trouble.

The Milanese are adamant that they are not demoralised despite suffering their second league defeat at Padova on Sunday — their fifth of the season in all competitions.

"We have no reason to reproach ourselves... Milan were not that bad," said coach Fabio Capello.

AEK Athens coach Dusan Bayevic expects his team to face a fired-up Milan in their Group D match.

Following the UEFA decision, every match will be a matter of life or death for them," he said.

Ajax, who lead Group D after victories against Milan and Athens, maintained their bright start to the season, strolling to a 4-0 win over Go Ahead Eagles on Sunday.

And although they will be without suspended Nigerian winger Finidi George, they should be optimistic against Austria Salzburg, who won their first league game on Saturday after a seven-match drought, beating Admira Wacker 4-2.

French champions Paris St Germain suffered their fourth defeat this season, 3-2 at Cannes on Friday, to drop to fifth place.

But Paris are confident

ahead of their Champions' League Group B match against Dynamo Kiev of Ukraine.

"We sometimes find it hard to concentrate on league matches but we're always at 100 per cent when we play in Europe," said defender Alain Roche.

Paris, twice semifinalists in their last two European competitions, have made a perfect start to this year's campaign with wins over Bayern Munich and Spartak Moscow.

IFK Gothenburg expect Magnus Erlingmark to push them closer to a surprise European Cup quarter-final with more goals against Turkey's Galatasaray.

Erlingmark continued his scoring recent form with one in Sunday's 2-1 league win over Landskrona.

Galatasaray have to overcome tiredness from a tough weekend 1-1 draw against Istanbul rivals Fenerbance and Wednesday's international against Iceland where four key players spearheaded Turkey's 5-0 win.

Steaua Bucharest left Romania on Monday for their Group C encounter against Benfica without suspended top striker Marius Lacatus and defender Tiberiu Csik and injured striker Adrian Ilie.

"We are now in a very difficult situation because without our two best attackers we must score in Lisbon if we want to keep the contact with the top places in the group standings," said Steaua trainer Dumitru Dumitriu.

Real Madrid hope their return to the top of the Spanish First Division after a 2-1 win against Espanol will act as a springboard for Tuesday's UEFA Cup match against Russia's Dynamo Moscow.

Chairman Ramon Mendoza said: "This is important because it shows that this is not just a flash in the pan. New hopes have been reborn among players and fans."

Former England manager Bobby Robson is unable to call on Russian striker Sergei Yuran and midfielder Vassily Kulikov for Porto's Cup Winners' Cup tie against Ferencvaros of Hungary on Thursday.

The two players were registered at the start of the season by their former club Benfica but left for Porto in August and UEFA accepted the application from their new club only from January 1995.

Winger Carlos Secretario, midfielders Rui Barros and Paulinho Santos and striker Antonio Folha, recovering from injuries, were recalled to Porto's 18-man squad.

# QM Hossain chess begins today

**Sports Reporter**

The first round matches of the 11th Dr Qazi Motahar Hossain International Masters' chess championship will be held today at the National Sports Council chess room, starting from 2:00 pm.

The commencement of the 14-man round robin meet was delayed by a day because the Indian participants couldn't make it in time.

Four Indians — IMs Ravi Lanka, Shekhar Chandra Sahu, Ravi Hegde and V Sharvanan — arrived in the city yesterday, however, the participation of IM Krishnamurti Morugan was still uncertain. In the case of his withdrawal, Taiyebur Rahman will fill in the 14th place.

Defending champion Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi is favoured to retain the title with the challenge expected to come from Bangladeshi national champion IM Reefat Bin Sattar and IM Ziaur Rahman besides the Indian quartet.

# Div II hockey

**Combined SC and Mukto Bihonga Tarun Sangha** won their respective matches in the metropolis Green Delta Second Division Hockey Super League at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Combined edged past Barnak Samaj by a solitary goal scored by Saddek Hossain in the 55th minute.

In the other match, Mukta Bihonga defeated Uttara Hockey Club also by a solitary goal.

Abul Kamal scored the all-important goal from a penalty corner in the 13th minute.

# Lalas plays, Milan dance

**PADUA, Italy, Oct 18:** Alexi Lalas made history and became the toast of Italians tired of the dominance of AC Milan.

The 24-year-old defender scored the first goal ever by an American-born player in the Italian league as he led underdogs Padova to a 2-0 victory over the defending European and Italian champions, reports AP.

"Lalas plays, Milan dance," said Rome's Corriere dello Sport of the American who sings and plays a guitar in a rock group.

"Lalas sings the end of an era," chimed in La Gazzetta dello Sport on the same theme.

Lalas, who played for Rutgers and the US World Cup team, scored in the 23rd minute for Padova, promoted to the First Division this season after 32 years in the minor leagues.

"I don't intend to stop here," said Lalas, who nearly scored again in an offensive rush late in the second half. "I want to score more goals and hope they are important as my goal against Milan."

Lalas, whose red hair and goatee have inspired Italian comparisons to Wild West showman Buffalo Bill Cody, jumped advertising boards surrounding the field and ran toward the stands after his goal. This caused the referee to assess him a yellow card for improper conduct.



Players of the Armanitola Juba Sangha who earned a delightful double after winning both the men's and women's metropolis AB Bank table tennis leagues title at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday. — Star photo

# Sweet double for Armanitola

**Sports Reporter**

Armanitola Juba Sangha earned a delightful double when both their men's and women's teams clinched title in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi gymnasium, Armanitola, powered by their Indian recruits Arjun and Ganesh, posted a surprisingly smooth 3-1 victory over defending champions Bangladesh Biman in the men's final, repeating their success in the 199-90 league final against the same opponents.

Arjun and fellow West Bengal paddler Ganesh both came across stiff opposition in the first set against Nasimul Hassan Kochi and Mosaddequl Haq Rochi respectively before walking away straight sets victors in the best-of-three singles.

Arjun beat Kochi 22-20, 21-15 while Ganesh took care of Rochi 23-21, 21-12.

Saidul Haq Sadi pulled one back for Biman when he prevailed over Happy 21-11, 18-21 and 21-7 in an all-

# Atherton knows the score

**LONDON, Oct 18:** England, who succumbed to the wiles of Warne in the fast Ashes series, set off for their tour of Australia today with captain Mike Atherton anxious to avoid a phobia about the leg-spinner, reports Reuter.

With 34 wickets during the 1993 six-Test series in England, Shane Warne played to most influential role in Australia's 4-1 triumph, and is waiting to weave more magical spells in the forthcoming five Tests.

"I don't want to create a Warne-phobia," said Atherton. "But we will talk about him among ourselves because you don't want to go into the first Test wondering where you are going to score your runs when he comes on."

Atherton is facing his most important assignment as England captain since his appointment 15 months ago, but is approaching the task with clear determination to end a wretched sequence of results against Australia.

England have lost 12, drawn six and won just one of their last 19 Tests against Australia, who are now seeking a fourth consecutive series victory to follow their 4-0, 3-0 and 4-1 successes.

"Australians generally view our cricket with disdain," said Atherton. "The best way to rectify that is to bring the Ashes back with us."

"I'm not saying we are going to walk all over Australia but I've got good vibes about this tour and I'm confident we'll do well."

"I like to think there is a bit of steel about my squad. We've got people with some spunk about them and we're proving more difficult to beat these days."

Australia have outplayed England on virtually every front since 1989, including psychological warfare involving such combative opponents as Merv Hughes and Warne.

"England have been seen as a bit of a soft touch sometimes," said Atherton. "I'm not a fan of sledging (verbal abuse) but if opponents dish it out I would like to see our lads have a go back."

However, Atherton will be aware he must tread carefully in matters of discipline after the "dirt-in-the-pocket" affair and a fine for dissent during the Test series against South Africa this season.

Atherton was fined a total of 3,250 pounds sterling 5,000 dollar over two incidents. He failed to tell the match referee, at the first opportunity.

"He had dirt in his pocket to begin with and then showed dissent when I dismissed first ball in the third and final Test."

"I just hope having a disciplinary record doesn't affect the way umpires and referees view me," said Atherton.

England's captain views his team's prospects optimistically based on their improved form in the internationals against South Africa — Atherton's men drew the Test rubber 1-1 and won both limited overs matches.

His front line batting is relatively settled, particularly with Graeme Hick and Graham Thorpe securing their roles in the South African series.

Hick, urged to be more positive, and with a modified stance that avoids holding the bat high in its backlift before the ball is delivered, finally began to play with conviction and

# Another Asiad absentee

**TOKYO, Oct 18:** Japanese police said on Monday that another athlete attending the Asian Games had gone missing, bringing the number still unaccounted for to 15, reports Reuter.

During the two-week event which ended on Sunday, athletes from five nations disappeared, apparently to look for work.

Although one athlete from Nepal returned to his camp after being reported missing, competitors from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Iran and Bangladesh have still not been found, police said.

Japan is a magnet for workers from neighbouring countries attracted by the high wages.

Many try to enter Japan illegally while others overstay their tourist visas at the risk of being arrested when caught.

Activists say that many foreign workers are exploited as a source of cheap labour.

# Secret of Sino natants' success

**BEIJING, Oct 18:** Chicken soup containing medicinal herbs has been offered as one explanation for the extraordinary success of the Chinese swimmers this year, reports Reuter.

"What was the secret of the Chinese swimmers' success at winning 23 out of a possible 31 gold medals at the Hiroshima Asian Games?" the officials Beijing Evening News asked on Tuesday.

"Coach Lu Yunmin has revealed it was chicken soup and hard training."

The paper added the soup, prepared by Lu's wife, contained medicinal herbs.

Ma Junren, who coaches the Chinese world record breaking women middle and long-distance runners, has marketed his own portion of Korean ginseng and turtle blood, selling small cans at big prices at the Hiroshima Games.

# Ctg soccer

**CHITTAGONG, Oct 18:** Friends Club beat Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra by a solitary goal in the CJKP First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Chancellor scored the all-important goal from a goal-mouth melee before the final whistle.

Friends have collected 17 points from 13 matches while Muktiyoddha have earned 13 points from the same number of encounters.

The other match between Bakalia Krira Sangstha and Ispat Ekadosh ended in one all draw.

Bakalia bagged nine points from 13 matches and Ispat seven points from the equal number of outings.

# Walker in trouble

**LONDON, Oct 18:** England defender Des Walker will be charged by the Football Association (FA) for butting Ipswich defender Simon Milton after the final whistle of Sheffield Wednesday's 2-1 Premier League win on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Referee Mike Reed confirmed on Monday that Walker will be dealt with for "after-match misconduct," as FA rules state that players cannot be sent off once the final whistle has gone.



A section of Armanitola supporters cheering their side on in a rather westernised fashion during yesterday's AB Bank metropolis table tennis league finals at the Dhanmondi gymnasium. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman.



MIKE ATHERTON