

Twin upsets in chess

Sports Reporter

Upset was the order of the day in the First Division chess league as league leaders Brothers Union and third place holders Bangladesh Ansars suffered surprise defeats at the hands of the Dhaka University chess team and Narayanganj Mashqul Mehfil respectively in the 13th round at the National Sports Council yesterday.

Brothers, who earlier lost their unbeaten record to Bobby Fisher Chess Club, conceded their second defeat in the league so far when the defending champions, seemingly missing sorely the service of grandmaster Niaz Murshid, went down to the students 1.5-2.5. The Gopibagh outfit, however, maintained their position at the top with 39.5 points.

Ansars also lost 1.5-2.5 to the Narayanganj team, who earlier had stunned Bangladesh Biman, but didn't relinquish their place to nearest rivals Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), trailing the services team by one and a half points at 31. BTMC won against Narayanganj Chess Club by three points to one.

Brothers' loss yesterday helped Biman gain on the current table-leaders as the airline team beat Protibha Daba Goshthi 3-1 to raise their collection to 35 points — four and a half adrift.

Kabaddi league now Dec 2

The Dhaka Metropolis Kabaddi League, scheduled to begin on November 25, has been deferred for one week, reports UNB.

The league will now begin from December 2 at the Kabaddi court of the Dhaka Outer Stadium, said a press release of Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation yesterday.

Sixteen teams, divided into four groups, will compete in the league.

The teams are: Mirpur Jubo Sangha, Azad Sporting Club, Sonali Bank Club, Bangladesh Bank Club, Jurain Janata Club, Maniknagar Kabaddi Club, Dilkusha Sporting Club, Arunayan Sangskriti-O-Krira Sangha, Anirban Sangsad, Bara Goali Samaj Kalyan Jubo Sangha, Gazaria Thana Janakalyan Samity, Imarat Nirman Samik Union, Public Health Employees Welfare Association, Sreejoni Sangsad, Anirban Sangskriti Sangsad and Jatrabari Faruq Smriti Sangsad.

Schools soccer from Dec 20

The first ever schools soccer tournament for under-16 booters will begin on December 20 at six different zonal grounds across the country, reports UNB.

Forty-nine teams representing their districts will compete in the first phase of the national junior tourney, organised by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The teams are:

Dhaka Zone — Narayanganj, Narasingdi, Chandpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Dhaka and Munshiganj.

Tangail Zone — Tangail, Gazipur, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Netrakona, Sherpur and Manikganj.

Comilla Zone — Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Feni, Sunamganj, Comilla, Sylhet, Lakhimpur and Khagrachhari.

Jessore Zone — Jessore, Khulna, Bagerhat, Narail, Satkhira, Jhalakathi and Magura.

Chuadanga Zone — Chuadanga, Kushtia, Pabna, Barguna, Bhola, Jhenidah, Patuakhali and Meherpur.

Natore Zone — Rajshahi, Natore, Rangpur, Sirajganj, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Naogaon, Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat.

Wessels declines

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 21: Former South African cricket captain Kepler Wessels has declared himself unavailable for selection for the first Test against New Zealand starting in Johannesburg on Friday, the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) said, reports Reuter.

UCBSA managing director Ali Bacher said that Wessels had played through the pain barrier on many previous occasions but felt that his participation with a painful right knee would have been an unreasonable risk.

His right knee first flared up during the Test match against Australia in Melbourne from December 26 to 30 last year and then during the third Test match against England at the Oval earlier this year he had blood-stained fluid drained from it.

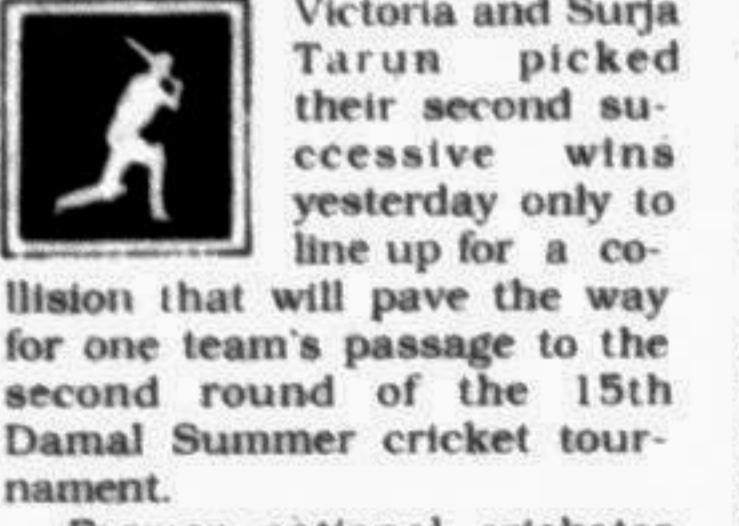
Barisal soccer

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 21: Babuganj Club earned a 2-1 victory over Brown compound in the Emma Overseas First Division football league at the local stadium here today.

Tarun, Victoria cruise

Sports Reporter



Victoria and Surja Tarun picked their second successive wins yesterday only to line up for a collision that will pave the way for one team's passage to the second round of the 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament.

Former national cricketer Azhar Hossain turned in a virtuoso performance at the Mirpur Pallabi ground to literally lead Victoria to a 44-run over minnows Ajax Sports Club and to a position from where they can top Group F, provided they beat the day's other winners Tarun on Friday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The bespectacled Victoria captain better known as Shantu captured four wickets for 28 runs from nine overs of offensive off spin that contained three maidens to put the chasers on the spot.

Left-arm spinner Biplob Sarkar made it all the more easy for Azhar to prey on the Ajax batsmen's nerves with commendable figures of two for 26 from nine overs.

Ajax were eventually all out for 143 in 42.3 overs with six of their willow wielders making it to the double figures.

Zakir Hossain topped the chart with 25 followed by a stormy 14-ball 23 from Abdul Karim and a laboured 20 by Asif.

Earlier, Azhar kept his side focused on a good total after his counterpart Shafiq Azam won the toss and opted to field

BU vs Eskaton (DCS)

Dhanmondi vs Lalmatia (Mirpur).

TODAY'S MATCHES

BU vs Eskaton (DCS)

Dhanmondi vs Lalmatia

(Mirpur).

8th men's World Cup begins tomorrow

Dutch bookies' favourites



SYDNEY, Nov 21: The Netherlands' impressive form this year makes them favourites to retain the eighth men's Hockey World Cup.

A team of character and skill, their trump card remains the powerful Floris-Jan Bovenlander, who could well score his 200th international goal during the World Cup.

He was the second highest scorer in the last World Cup, at Lahore in 1990, scoring nine times, one less than Spain's Ignacio Escudero.

The South Koreans are regarded as the dark horses even though it is their first World Cup.

India have installed a new coach, Cedric d'Souza (of Air India hockey team fame), since the Asian Games in Hiroshima last month.

Australia and Pakistan should emerge from Group A, with England probably the big danger, having rapidly improved under David Whitaker who led Britain to gold at the 1988 Olympics.

Pakistan's captain, Shahbaz Ahmad, the outstanding player of the last decade, is looking to crown a great career by leading Pakistan to hockey's pinnacle in his farewell appearance.

The two pools are:

Group A: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, England, Pakistan, Spain.

Group B: Belgium, Germany, India, Netherlands, South Africa, South Korea.

Asian Club Championships

Upsets galore on Day One



CHANGWON, South Korea, Nov 21: The Japanese League's most famous side Yomiuri Verdy suffered a crushing 3-1 defeat on Sunday while defending champions Thai Farmers scrambled to a 2-2 draw on the opening day of the Asian Club Championships East Asian quarterfinal playoff, reports Reuter.

The Australian bookmakers have installed the Netherlands and Australia as joint favourites, ahead of Germany and Pakistan.

Both Germany and Australia are 2000 Olympic gold and silver medalists respectively, have shown patchy form this year although Australia, the 1986 champions, are expected to benefit from playing at home.

The 12 teams are divided into two round-robin groups of six, with the winner of one group meeting the runner-up of the other in the semifinals on December 2, two days before the final.

Group A: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, England, Pakistan, Spain.

Group B: Belgium, Germany, India, Netherlands, South Africa, South Korea.

They won four successive high-level tournaments, including the seven-nation event in Amsterdam last June in which they finished above five of their World Cup rivals — Australia, Germany, Pakistan, Argentina and South Africa.

The two top sides from the pool side Liaoning.

But it was the Yomiuri result against two-time Korean league champions Ilhwa that became the main talking point of the opening day of the five-day round robin competition.

Yomiuri, widely criticised for naming a second-string squad, faced an Ilhwa side that coach Park Chong-Hwa had also deliberately weakened by leaving out stars Lee Chong-Hwa, An Eik-Soo and benching Lee Sang-Yoon.

Thai Farmers' shaky start can at least be blamed on their tight schedule as players only left Bangkok on Friday night after competing in the finals of the local Queen's Cup.

Both Thai Farmers and Liaoning played a formless first 20 minutes. But in the 29th minute as Liaoning tried to clear their lines, the diminutive Sasom Pobprasert rifled a 30-yard shot past the outstretched goalkeeper Cheng Qiang.

It wasn't until late in the second half that Liaoning's grip on the midfield paid dividends.

In the 83rd minute, Li Zeng rose to head home a high looping cross sent over from the far left goal line.

Liaoning's second goal two minutes later was a gem as substitute Sun Wei wrong footed the Thai defence and volleyed a curling shot from 30 yards that beat the misplaced Thai goalkeeper.

With a minute to go, substitute Theerayut Pienprasop squeezed through Liaoning's defence and his square ball was collected by Nirut Janthasing who turned and scored with his right-foot, giving the Thai a fair 2-2 opening result.

Yomiuri's nightmare started only eight minutes into their match when forward Lee Gi-Bum scored the first of his two magnificent goals.

Lee picked up a through pass on the edge of the penalty box, flicked the ball up and

volleyed home with his right foot.

Ten minutes later, Lee was on his left foot this time when he again beat Yomiuri goalkeeper Yuji Reigoshi with a cracking 25-yard shot.

Despite running circles around Yomiuri team, the rest of the match offered only one more goal for Ilhwa. In the 36th minute, Koh Jong-Woon headed a long ball for Shin Te-Yong just inside the penalty box. Shin turned through 360 degrees and smacked home Ilhwa's third.

Yomiuri's only goal was a defensive giveaway when Russian goalkeeper Sarytchev Valerii's pass to a defender was intercepted by Yoshinori Abe who scored in the 66th minute.

Both Thai Farmers and Liaoning played a formless first 20 minutes. But in the 29th minute as Liaoning tried to clear their lines, the diminutive Sasom Pobprasert rifled a 30-yard shot past the outstretched goalkeeper Cheng Qiang.

It wasn't until late in the second half that Liaoning's grip on the midfield paid dividends.

In the 83rd minute, Li Zeng rose to head home a high looping cross sent over from the far left goal line.

Liaoning's second goal two minutes later was a gem as substitute Sun Wei wrong footed the Thai defence and volleyed a curling shot from 30 yards that beat the misplaced Thai goalkeeper.

With a minute to go, substitute Theerayut Pienprasop squeezed through Liaoning's defence and his square ball was collected by Nirut Janthasing who turned and scored with his right-foot, giving the Thai a fair 2-2 opening result.

Yomiuri's nightmare started only eight minutes into their match when forward Lee Gi-Bum scored the first of his two magnificent goals.

Lee picked up a through pass on the edge of the penalty box, flicked the ball up and

volleyed home with his right foot.

In Genoa two fans were treated for cuts and bruises after fighting between rival supporters before a match between Sampdoria and Torino. The game ended 1-1.

Policemen fall victim to Roman hooligans

BRESCIA, Italy, Nov 21: A deputy police chief was stabbed in the abdomen and an inspector severely beaten in a clash with Roman soccer fans in the northern city of Brescia on Sunday, a police spokeswoman said, reports Reuter.

Giovanni Selmin was undergoing emergency surgery for the stab wound in the city's main hospital, the spokeswoman said. Both he and Angelo de Rosa were listed in critical condition.

Police confiscated knives and clubs from Roma fans, traditionally some of Italy's most violent supporters. Twelve were arrested.

Brescia and Roma drew their series a match 0-0.

In Genoa two fans were treated for cuts and bruises after fighting between rival supporters before a match between Sampdoria and Torino. The game ended 1-1.

Lee picked up a through pass on the edge of the penalty box, flicked the ball up and

volleyed home with his right foot.

In Genoa two fans were treated for cuts and bruises after fighting between rival supporters before a match between Sampdoria and Torino. The game ended 1-1.

Lee picked up a through pass on the edge of the penalty box, flicked the ball up and

Believe it or not

LONDON, Nov 21: A British cricket captain has been banned for three years after making up the details of a match which gained his team promotion, but was never played, reports Reuter.

Mohammed Isaq, 30, submitted a match report to the Quaid-e-Azam league in Yorkshire claiming his side had won a match which could not take place because the scheduled pitch was being used for another game.

The Daily Telegraph said Isaq made up match details and told team members to brag to friends about how well they had played.

The six points his team won for the victory clinched promotion.

But the plan backfired when the team's players were spotted watching other matches at the time of their fictional game.

The Telegraph reported the team's promotion was cancelled and Isaq was banned from playing anywhere in Yorkshire for three years. He has now moved to the south of England to carry on playing, the newspaper said.

Fleming favoured over Hughes

HOBART, Nov 21: Swing bowler Damien Fleming was Monday named in the Australian team to face England in the first cricket Test starting in Brisbane on Friday, but his Victorian teammate Merv Hughes missed out, reports AP.

Fleming, who made his Test debut on Australia's recent tour of Pakistan, was preferred to veteran Hughes as the main support bowler for the team.

Hughes missed out despite taking four for 51 for an Australian XI against the tourists in Hobart.

Australian team manager Ian McDonald said a disappointed Hughes declined to speak to the media after he was told of his omission.

"He's pretty down about it," McDonald said.

Hughes took 31 wickets in the 1993 Ashes campaign in England but has struggled with weight problems this season.

Fleming said he was ecstatic to be selected.

"When you are a kid growing up, it's a dream to play a Test against England, and especially the first of the series," he said.

Wicketkeeper Ian Healy was named in the 12-man Australian squad despite still recovering from a badly broken left thumb that forced him home early from Pakistan.

Healy has not played a match in almost a month and McDonald said that he will undergo a fitness test on Tuesday.

Steve Waugh, who returned from Pakistan with a shoulder injury, also was named in the team, as were spinners Shane Warne and Tim May.

Middle-order batsman Damien Martyn missed out despite scoring a century for the Australian XI against England on Friday.

England are not expected to name their team