

Railway win

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Railway registered an edgy 18-run win over Agrani Bank in the day's lone Yamaha First Division cricket league fixture at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Agrani Bank won the toss in the battle of minnows and invited the Railway batsmen to make the first use of the strip.

Railway, aided by a patient 79-ball 51 from skipper Shahidul Rahman, mustered a decent total of 164 for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated 45 overs to set a winning target of just over four runs per over.

In reply, the bankers fell 18 short of the mark, collecting 146 in 43.3 overs with Atiquzzaman making 31.

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Rabul Islam scored 59 but still wound up at the wrong end of the table as Mirpur Nabin Sangha paid dearly for some wild bowling and equally sloppy fielding in their Acme Second Division cricket league match against Rupali Bank Cricket Club at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Nabin Sangha bowlers bowled 22 wides and three no-balls as the Mirpur outfit conceded some 55 runs in the form of extras to let Rupali Bank score 154 for nine wickets in the allotted 40 overs.

Although Rabi played his part with the willow, it proved just a wee bit less than required and in the end Nabin Sangha were all out for 142 — 12 runs short of the mark.

In the other match of the day at the Dhamondi Club ground, Bangladesh Boys crushed Gandaria Sporting Club by a convincing margin of 62 runs.

Bangladesh Boys totalled 194 for seven in 40 overs and then restricted Gandaria to 132.

Biman Open squash

Sports Reporter

Biman ruled the court on the second day of the second Biman Open squash championship with Sohel, Ram Jagadish, Jagadish Chawhan moving into the next round along with Sanjuri Nabi at the Gulshan Club court yesterday.

Jagadish Chawhan romped past Shah Alam 9-1, 9-0. Sohel Hamid struggled to beat Kamal 9-7, 9-3 while Ram Jagadish won 9-3, 9-2 win over Asmatullah of hosts Gulshan Club.

Sanjuri Nabi, the other winner of the day, beat Iqbal Rashed 9-0, 9-4.

Kasparov leads Russian charge

MOSCOW, Dec 13: Led by world champion Garry Kasparov, Russia-1 moved into a one-point lead at the Chess Olympiad on Monday by beating Georgia 3-1, reports AP.

Kasparov defeated Zurab Azmaiparashvili, one of his helpers for the Professional Chess Association title match against Nigel Short last year.

England downed Yugoslavia 3-5-0.5 to take a share of second place with 28 points. The Netherlands also won — 3-5-0.5 over China — to join England, Estonia and Bosnia.

With three rounds remaining, Russia-1 is the clear favourite, though it has yet to play England or the Netherlands.

In the next round, Russia-1 will face Russia-2, the Russian junior side. England will play either the Netherlands or Estonia.

The United States has won three matches in a row and has a chance for the bronze medal after beating Lithuania 3-1. It has 26.5 points.

In the women's section, Georgia maintained a solid lead with a 2-1 victory over Kazakhstan. Its main rival, Hungary, kept pace with a 2-1 victory over Romania.

Price to pay for patriotism

STOCKHOLM, Dec 13: A 22-year-old Kurd was sentenced to one month in prison Monday for running onto a soccer field with a Kurdish flag during a match between a Swedish and a Turkish team, reports AP.

Prosecutors said the action could have caused riots in the stands, because of the bitter debate over Turkish treatment of its Kurdish population.

During the Champions League match between IFK Goeteborg and Galatasaray in Goeteborg on October 19, the 22-year-old Kurd from Iraq and a 17-year-old Swede climbed the fence and ran into the field waving Kurdish flags.

Both men, whose names were not released, later explained they wanted to focus attention on what they said was genocide of Kurds.

The Kurd was convicted of trespassing for running onto the field without authorisation.

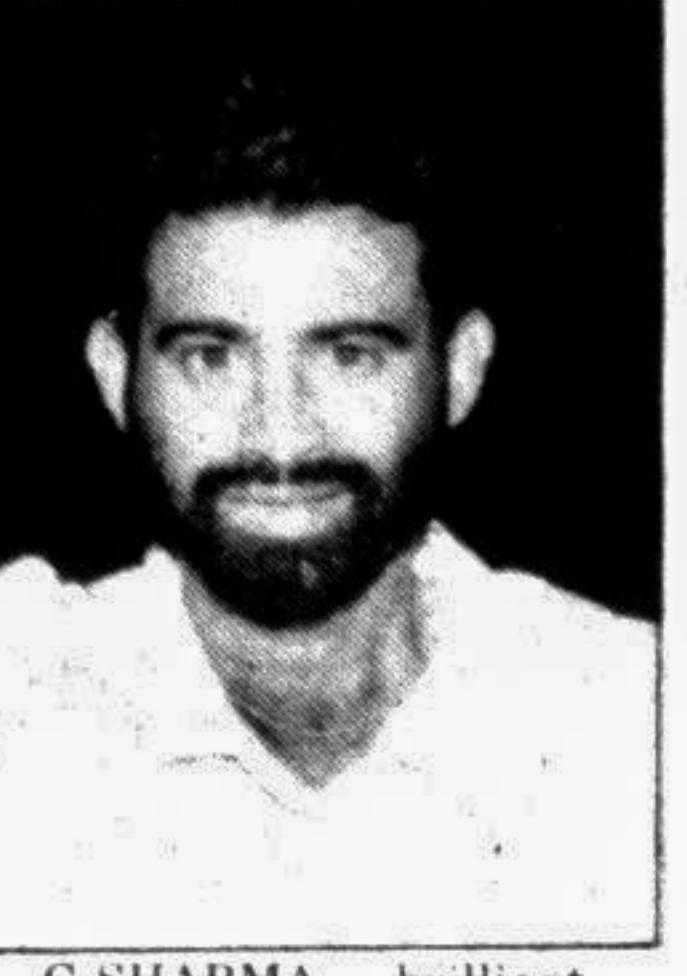
Victoria stun Mohammedans

Sports Reporter

After a refreshing glimpse of renaissance in the just-concluded 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament the traditional club has pulled off another stunner.

And the team to be at the receiving end this time was Mohammedan Sporting Club, yet another traditional club but unlike the runners-up of the domestic season's curtain-raiser a vastly popular outfit.

Victoria came out with flying colours in the opener for the two clubs with rich legacy, winning yesterday's Navana



S. SHARMA ... brilliant

Premier league match at the Dhaka Stadium by four wickets.

Powered by Indian Test discard Chetan Sharma's brilliant allround display, Victoria, struggling at one stage in the mire of their own creation, raised 173 for six wickets in 40 overs to leave their counterparts in complete disarray.

The bearded Haryana cricketer, who seems to be in fine fettle particularly after that conditioning with the Indian national team for a brief encounter with the mighty West Indies now touring India, crushed Gandaria Sporting Club by a convincing margin of 62 runs.

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Fresh air in Juventus camp



LONDON, Dec 13:

It is now nine seasons since Juventus, "La vecchia signora" or old lady of the Italian league, last won the Serie A title, reports Reuter.

But the old lady, as Juventus is nicknamed, is being revitalised and the fresh faces of 20-year-old Alessandro del Piero and 19-year-old Alessio Tacchinardi and Corrado Grabi helped to put the club top of Serie A on Sunday with a 4-3 win at Lazio.

Del Piero, regularly used as a substitute this season for World Cup star Roberto Baggio, scored two brilliant goals, while Grabi came on as a substitute after half an hour and scored the fourth Juventus goal in what was his first league game.

Second-placed Werder Bremen slipped further behind after drawing 0-0 with reigning champions Bayern Munich.

Bayern, who also reached the quarter-finals of the European Cup during the week, finished the first half of the season in fifth place, six points

Jokanovic himself was unrepentant. "It was the only foul I committed all through the game. I don't think it was my fault that he was injured — he had had this kind of problem before."

Redondo himself, who missed the first two months of the season with a similar injury in his left knee, said dismissively: "I am fed up that some people want to make me look like the guilty party just because of the way I do things."

Borussia Dortmund won 4-0 at Hamburg on Saturday to take a four-point lead into the German winter break.

Captain Michael Zore scored for Dortmund to complete

a successful week for the club after they reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup in midweek.

Techinardi played an important role too, starring in the unshamed role of sweeper in the reshaped defence following the substitution of defender Massimo Carrera by Grabi.

Juventus coach Marcello Lippi, missing both Baggio and striker Gianluca Viali, sent on Grabi after Lazio had been reduced to 10 men following the sending-off of defender Roberto Cravero.

Lippi afterwards: "I didn't do anything very extraordinary or courageous in sending on a young player of Grabi's quality. I'm delighted that he scored, it's a great bonus for a youngster."

Deposed league leaders Parma had only themselves to blame for a 0-0 draw at Genoa in which they missed a number of easy chances.

Schmeier Gianfranco Zola, guilty of several misses, was full of self-criticism, saying:

"I'd like to cut off my feet... if we lose the title just by one or two points then I'll run away and you won't see me around for a while."

In Spain controversy raged over the knee injury suffered by Real Madrid midfielder Fernando Redondo, which will probably put the Argentine international out of the game for two months.

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Spanish radio commentators claimed Jokanovic down with a tackle from behind which resulted in torn ligaments in his right knee.

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Return of Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Dec 13: Serbia led Yugoslavia Monday named its team for exhibition games against Brazil and Argentina, marking the former European soccer power's return to the international scene, reports AP.

The roster includes such stars as midfielders Dejan Savicevic of AC Milan, Vladimir Jugovic and Siniša Mihajlović of Sampdoria Genoa and several other players competing in the strong Italian, German and Spanish leagues.

Truncated Yugoslavia, which disintegrated in a civil war, now consists only of Serbia and tiny Montenegro. The matches against world champions Brazil, in Porto Alegre on Dec 23, and Argentina in Buenos Aires on Dec 27, will mark their first return to the international scene after 31 months of sanctions. Next March they also play England at Wembley.

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Real Oviedo's Slavia Jokanovic was sent off for the foul.

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