

East End, Victoria thru'

East End Club and Victoria Sporting Club, the two First Division outfits have joined defending champions Abahani Kira Chakra and Muktiyodha Sangsad in the final leg of the Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament after winning their respective group finals at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

round for the first time. In the eventful match marked by five yellow cards, Liton, who is also the coach of East End, sent the ball wide off the mark while taking a 12-yarder awarded in the 15th minute.

Fakirerpool, who dominated the second half, also had their best chance in the match when Jalal unleashed a fierce right-footer from inside the box but were denied by the wood-work with the East End custodian were completely beaten.

In the day's first match, Victoria and Agrani Bank were locked in a 1-1 draw during the 90-minute regulation time. After a barren first half, Agrani Bank drew the first blood in the 58th minute when a left flank corner by Tipu rolled into the net slipping the grip of a shaky Victoria custodian Manu.



SOCCER OR SOMETHING ELSE: A tussle of rival booters saps the ball during a first round engagement of the Nirma DMFA Cup between Agrani Bank and Victoria Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Orient Bread kabaddi

Dolairpar High School and Bangladesh Rifles School and College qualified for the semi-finals of the 5th Orient Bread schools kabaddi tournament yesterday, reports UNB.

Earlier, Ansars & VDP High School and Haider Ali High School qualified for the semis from their respective groups. Group-A champions Ansars & VDP will take on Group B runners-up Haider Ali High School in the first semis while Group B champions Dolairpar High School will meet Rifles School and College in the other semis. Both the semis will be held on Tuesday.

2nd SAF swimming from May 3

Swimmers from India, Sri Lanka and Nepal arrive in Dhaka today to take part in the second SAF swimming championships beginning at the national swimming pool at Mirpur on May 3, reports BSS.

M Asaf-ud-Dowlah as chairman. The 16 swimming events are: 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle, 400m freestyle, 1500m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 200m backstroke, 100m butterfly, 200m butterfly, 200m individual medley, 400m individual medley, 4x100m freestyle relay, 4x200m freestyle relay and 4x100m medley relay.

The two diving events are: 3m spring board and 5m fixed board. Meanwhile, Mustafa Larfaoui, president of the International Swimming Federation arrives in the capital on May 3 to witness the swimming championships as guest of honour.

Schools handball

Rajrabbag Police Lines High School beat Udayan School by 6-3 goals in the schools handball tournament at the Dhanomdi Women's Sports Complex yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 3-2. Shamsun Nahar netted three goals, Bilkis two and Naznin one for the winners while Mou scored two and Tinni one for the losers.

Indian Olympic Association president B Srivani Adityan, who is also the president of the Indian Swimming Federation, will arrive on May 3. The former Olympic gold medalist (swimming) will preside over the AASF executive committee meeting to be held in Dhaka on May 5.

New job for Mike Tyson

LANDOVER, Maryland, Apr 30: Mike Tyson returned to the boxing ring Saturday night — as a television commentator, reports AP.

clared the winner by a majority decision. "George Foreman was out-punched by Axel Schutlz," Tyson said. "Axel Schutlz was the winner."

fought his heart out." Tyson refused to confirm speculation that his first comeback fight will be Aug 19 at Las Vegas against Boston's Peter McNeeley, who has a 36-1 record as a professional, including 30 knockouts.

50 pc Americans not aware of Atlanta Olympics

ATLANTA, Apr 30: One in three people from the Southern United States and about one half of all Americans don't know Atlanta will host the 1996 Olympics, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported in a copyright story Friday, reports AP.

A poll of 1,078 American South residents and 507 non-Southerners commissioned by the newspaper also shows that nine out of 10 respondents say they don't know what the Cultural Olympiad is and hardly anyone can name the Olympic mascot, Izzy.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) says the poll's results are similar to those of the committee's own national polls.

FIFA satisfied but FAM not

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 30: Malaysia will turn down the opportunity of hosting the World Youth Cup in 1997 if corruption in soccer has not been stamped out there by early next year, the national Bernama news agency reported on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Teagku Abdullah, the deputy president of the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM), is quoted by the agency as saying that if there are still corrupt players or bookies in the game, the association will request world governing body FIFA to change the venue.

Tengku Abdullah was quoted on his return from the recent World Youth Cup in Doha, Qatar, where three Malaysians were among five people implicated in allegedly trying to bribe teams playing in the tournament.

He said he has explained to FIFA president Joao Havelange the problem of soccer bribery in Malaysia and the actions being taken to combat it.

"I informed him the situation is under control now after police have questioned almost 130 players. I also told him that 21 players have been banned under the restricted residence act while 58 others have been suspended between one year and four years," said Tengku Abdullah.

He said FIFA was satisfied with the actions taken by FAM, but expressed fear that the problem could recur, especially after the events in Doha.

But he added that FIFA has no intention of taking the tournament away from Malaysia and have given their full backing to FAM.

Sydney on target

SYDNEY, Apr 30: Sydney is on target to host the 2000 Olympic Games with 75 per cent of facilities already in place, Australian Olympic Committee executive president John Coates said Sunday, reports AP.

Coates said there were no problems in delivering the main stadium site at Homebush on time and said this would be made clear to international Olympic Committee delegates who are visiting Sydney over the next three days.

BGIC v'ball

Two services teams — Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Air Force — won their respective matches in the BGIC national men's volleyball championship at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The Riflemen outplayed Pataukhali 15-2, 15-1, 15-2 in a one-sided affair while the Air Force defeated Dinajpur 15-5, 15-5, 15-8.

In the women's competition, Rajbari beat Narayanganj by 1-15, 15-6, 15-6, 15-3 points.



Tottenham Hotspur's German striker Juergen Klinsmann makes his way through the headges of the Arsenal defenders during the English Premiership north London derby on April 29. The match ended in a one all draw with Klinsmann scoring the equalizer for Tottenham. — AFP/UNB photo.

Rush seals Norwich's fate

LONDON, Apr 30: Liverpool's veteran striker Ian Rush sealed the Premier League title for Liverpool and the relegation of Norwich City, reports Reuter.

Rush scored his 18th goal of the season six minutes from time. Midfielder Bob Ullathorne, back after an injury layoff, equalised in the 15th minute with Norwich's first goal in five games after Steve Harkness had given Liverpool an early lead.

The defeat virtually condemned Norwich, who have only two games left to relegate. Crystal Palace, who fell to Nottingham Forest by the same score, also remained in the relegation zone — the bottom four — on 42 points like Norwich but with four games to go.

West Ham, also on 42 points, have the chance to pull away in their home game against leaders Blackburn Rovers today.

Aston Villa, also in deep relegation trouble, had Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich sent off near the end of their 1-0 defeat at Leeds.

FA Cup finalists Everton's 0-0 draw at home to Wimbledon enabled them to leap over Villa. They have 44 points to Villa's 43.

Germany captain Juergen Klinsmann scored the equaliser in the 74th minute of Tottenham's 1-1 draw at Arsenal in a typically pulsating north London derby.

Ian Wright had a bottle thrown at him from the crowd and a couple of Spurs fans who ran onto the pitch were arrested by police after the England striker put Arsenal ahead with a 61st minute penalty for his 30th goal of the season.

Bosnich was sent off three minutes from time for a second bookable offence after a clash with former England midfielder Carlton Palmer, who then scored the injury-time winner for Leeds.

England coach Terry Venables watched from the Selhurst Park stands as striker Stan Collymore's 24th goal of the season in the 63rd minute ensured Forest took the points to remain third in the table and virtually certain of a UEFA Cup place.

Dutchman Bryan Roy put Forest ahead after 14 minutes. Northern Ireland international Ian Dowie pulled one back for Palace, who were promoted this season along with Forest.

Defender Frank Sinclair gave Chelsea a 1-0 win over west London rivals Queens Park Rangers with his third goal in three games in the 64th minute at Stamford Bridge.

Juves keep up jubilation

ROME, Apr 30: Juventus moved to the brink of their first Italian League title in nine years on Saturday with a surprisingly easy 4-1 victory over Fiorentina, reports Reuter.

The result kept the Turin side a commanding eight points clear at the top of the table with five matches remaining and dashed second-placed Parma's hopes of closing the gap with a 2-1 victory at relegated Brescia.

Gianluca Vielli, playing his first full match in almost a month, gave Juventus the perfect start in the seventh minute, meeting Fabrizio Ravanello's cross with a superb first-time volley which lobbed over goalkeeper Francesco Toldo for the veteran striker's 14th goal of the season.

In the 68th minute Baggio's neatly-taken penalty appeared to put the match beyond Fiorentina's reach only for Gabriel Batistuta's 23rd goal of the season, two minutes later, to revive the home side's hopes of a comeback.

But two goals in the final six minutes from Ravelli and Giancarlo Amrocchi put the seal on Juventus's first win at Florence since 1982 and their 15th away success of the season.

Parma made hard work of handing Brescia their 10th successive league defeat, relying on a second-half penalty from Gianfranco Zola to keep alive their ever-diminishing hopes of catching Juventus.

The two matches were brought forward a day to give Juventus and Parma an extra day's rest before they clash in the UEFA Cup final first leg on Wednesday.

Any hopes that Juventus's surprise home defeat to Padova last Sunday had re-opened the Italian title race were dispelled as the First Division leaders ruthlessly dispatched traditional rivals Fiorentina.

Vielli's early strike underlined Juve's complete control of the first-half in which both Ravanello and Baggio came close to stretching their side's lead.

Straight after the break, Batistuta spurned Fiorentina's best opportunity to equalise, placing a spot kick too close to Michelangelo Rampulla, deputising in the Juventus goal for the injured Angelo Peruzzi.

In the 68th, Baggio taught the Argentine a lesson in penalty-taking, sending Toldo the wrong way after the goalkeeper had hauled down Ravanello.

The penalty will help the former Fiorentina player bury memories of a famous incident in 1992 when he refused to take a spot kick against his old club for fear of provoking a riot.

In the 70th minute, Batistuta made amends for his penalty miss with a headed goal, and Rampulla was forced to survive some anxious moments before Ravanello, and Marocchi tightened Juventus's grip on the championship.

When Zola's seventh minute free-kick gave the diminutive Italian international his third set piece goal in three outings for club and country, Parma's meeting with Brescia started to look like the ideal warm-up for Wednesday's UEFA Cup showdown.

But Lax defending in the 19th minute cost the visitor's their early advantage, allowing Maurizio Neri to head a corner kick wide of Luca Bucci.

For most of the second-half, Parma laid siege to the Brescia goal but rarely looked like scoring until Stefano Bonometti brought down Colombia's Faustino Asprilla, leaving Zola to claim a hard fought victory from the penalty spot.

Machado claims her mother, Anisia, when a maid in a Santos household had an affair with Pele that began in 1962.

Machado began the suit four years ago. "This is a moral victory for me," Machado said in a Saturday interview.

"I want to change my last name to that of my father's and I think Pele is getting used to the fact that I am his daughter," Machado said.

Pele, presently Brazil's sports minister, led his country to the World Cup title in 1958, 1962 and 1970.

Bayern boost title hopes

BONN, Apr 30: Reigning champions Bayern Munich boosted their position in the intense hunt for the German title with an important 2-0 victory at 1992 winners VfB Stuttgart on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Bayern, whose hopes of finishing in the top five and gaining a place in Europe next season have looked slim in recent weeks, clinched two vital points through a first-half penalty from Mehmet Scholl and a 73rd-minute goal by forward Alexander Zickler.

The victory helped the Bavarians move up one place to fifth, level on points with fourth-placed Freiburg and four points below leaders Borussia Dortmund who laboured to a 2-0 victory over bottom club Dynamo Dresden.

Kaiserslautern, who beat relegation-threatened Bochum 3-1, stayed third, level on points with second-placed Werder Bremen. Both teams are two points adrift of Dortmund but Bremen can join the leaders with a victory at Eintracht Frankfurt today.

All five top teams have a chance of winning the Bundesliga in the final six games. Dortmund looked to be cruising to their first title since 1963 after the first half of the season but after several injuries they seem to be showing nerves in the final run-in.

Substitute Rene Tretschok came to their rescue with goals in the 72nd and 90th minutes to stop Dresden clinching a rare point. "Dresden made life very difficult for us," coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said. "We created many chances but only managed to score late on."

Freiburg, the surprise team of the season, and Borussia Moenchengladbach also seem to be running out of steam when it matters. Freiburg were beaten 2-0 at Cologne on Friday while Moenchengladbach, bidding for their first title since 1977, also lost 2-0 at struggling 1860 Munich on Saturday.

New lease of Yugoslav booters' life

GENEVA, Apr 30: Yugoslavia, banned by FIFA in line with United Nations sanctions in May 1992, will return to European club competition in the new Intertoto Cup in June, reports Reuter.

A UEFA statement after the 12-group draw said Yugoslavia, reduced to Serbia and Montenegro after the break-up of the Yugoslav Federation, had been cleared for entry by FIFA. The United Nations recently eased the sanctions, allowing sporting and cultural links to be partially restored.

Regina, Pele's legal daughter!

RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 30: The Sao Paulo state Supreme Court has ruled that 30-year-old Sandra Regina Machado is the legal daughter of Pele, reports AP.

The Sao Paulo court on Friday refused an appeal by Pele's lawyers to overturn an earlier municipal court ruling, based on blood tests that the woman is indeed the daughter of soccer's greatest idol.

Neither Pele nor his lawyers were available for comment but the Rio daily O Globo reported Saturday that Pele will appeal the decision, this time at the Federal Supreme Court.

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