

MSC, BU in DMFA semis

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club and last year's runners-up Brothers Union moved into the semifinals of the Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament after winning their respective Group B engagements of the curtain-raiser-meet by comprehensive margins at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day Mohammedans recorded their second successive win when they beat Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society 3-1.

Midfielder Alfaz, who had earlier scored the all-important goal in the black and whites' 1-0 win over Victoria Sporting Club on Thursday, struck twice in quick succession as the 1994 losing semifinalists, who failed to win a single title last year, stormed

Arman, the national midfielder, who came as a substitute for Utiam, justified his inclusion soon when he scored the first goal in the 51st minute with a spectacular left-footer from the top of the box.

Four minutes later Alfaz, who joined Mohammedans this year from Arambagh, doubled the winners' margin with a neatly placed shot after being set up by medio Asad.

The dark dapper and speedy midfielder scored his second goal in style. Alfaz after receiving a pass from Arman relieved a Rahmatganj defender with sheer brilliance and then cut the on-rushing custodian Lahul before slotting the ball home through the near post.

Substitute Abul Hassan grabbed the consolation goal for Rahmatganj seven minutes

half 4-0. Chibujor, one of the three Nigerian recruits of the Gopibagh outfit, opened the winners' account in the 28th minute heading an Aamer Khan floater from the right.

The stockily built Nigerian then set up the next three goals for Don Bakhtiar and compatriot Nike Lulu, who scored in the 30th, 37th and 38th minute respectively. Nike, who had earlier scored the match-winner against Victoria Sporting Club on Thursday, however, allowed Victoria to pull one back when the bad-tempered midfielder grabbed the ball like a goalkeeper in a bid to thwart a Victoria attack in the forbidden zone.

The referee duly awarded the spot kick and Selim converting the penalty in the 61st minute.

Bakhtiar, the agile Brothers

England will feel Windies' wrath: Hall

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, May 6: Wes Hall, West Indies team manager for the forthcoming England tour, said the host nation would feel the backlash for their Test series defeat by Australia, reports Reuter.

"The players are very badly hurt by the loss to Australia. None of the present team knew what it felt like to lose a series and their next opponents (England) will be the victims," Hall said.

Former pace bowler Hall, who took 192 wickets in 48 Tests, including a career-best seven for 69 against England in 1960, said he had to get his players in "the right frame of mind."

"As soon as we do that, we'll be back to our winning ways," Hall said.

West Indies begin their six-Test England tour with an one-day game against the Duchess of Norfolk's XI at Arundel on May 13.



Nantes midfielder Reynald Pedros (R) and Monaco defender Eric di Meco vie for the ball during their French First Division encounter in Nantes on May 5. The match ended 3-3. — AFP/UNB photo

Monaco delay the inevitable

PARIS, May 6: A 90th minute equaliser by Monaco striker Thierry Henry on Friday has delayed the anticipated crowning of Nantes as French League champions, reports Reuter.

Nantes, who have dominated the league from the start, could have secured the title this weekend if they had beaten Monaco, providing nearest rivals Lyon did not win at bottom-placed Sochaux on Saturday.

However, Nantes were held 3-3 at home by in-form Monaco, who have scored 29 goals in their last nine outings.

The team from the principality, now fifth in the standings and looking set for a place in Europe next season, may even have won had their rookie goalkeeper Stephane Donato not taken so many risks. He was twice lobbed by Nantes players — Chad's Japhet Ndoram in the 27th minute and Reynald Pedros on a direct free kick two minutes later.

French international Youri Djorakeli had opened the goal spree on a counter-attack in the 16th minute and he provided Monaco's Belgian playmaker Enzo Scifo with the second in the 31st minute.

Scifo had scored only once before in a season plagued by injuries.

In the second half, Nantes and Monaco, who boast the best two attacks in the league but also the best two defences, seemed to have settled for a draw.

But a foul by a Monaco defender on Ndoram gave France's leading goalscorer Patrice Loko a perfect chance to score from the spot for his 20th goal of the season, leaving Nantes poised to claim the title.

However, Nantes were fidgety in the last 15 minutes and Henry, who had scored twice in his debut match in the First Division against Lens last week, stunned the crowd with his last-minute equaliser.

The draw left Nantes 12 points ahead of Lyon, who have two games in hand and still a mathematical chance of the title.



Mohammedans midfielder Alfaz, who scored two goals in his side's 3-1 win over Rahmatganj, makes his way past a defender during their Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament group league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

into the last four with one match to spare.

But the Mohammedans, who missed the services of Jewel Rana and Alamgir due to illness, were downright unimpressive until they had brought on Arman to accelerate the attack.

from the final whistle when Mohammedan's goalie Ponir failed to clasp on to a fierce Tawhid grounder.

Meanwhile, in the day's second match, Brothers recorded a thumping 5-1 win over Victoria SC.

The winners led the first

midfielder, then sealed the fate of the match with side volley after his first attempt rebounded off the near-post.

TODAY'S MATCHES
East End vs Victoria (5 pm)
Abahani vs Muktiyodha (7 pm)

Office cricket league results

Bangladesh Biman, Eastern Bank and Tuhina Enterprise recorded victories in the metropolis office cricket league at different city venues yesterday, reports UNB.

Title aspirants Biman registered an easy eight-wicket win over City Bank at the Jagannath Hall ground.

City Bank — 168 for 8 in 40 overs. Asaduzzaman 52, Mukul 45, Tito 34, Shamsuddin 12, Dulu 3/33 and Alok 2/34.

Bangladesh Biman — 170 for 2 in 23.2 overs. Rupom 70, Jahangir 39, Morfi 28, Sumon 10, Topaz 1/9 and Mukul 1/24.

Eastern Bank defeated Fisons Laboratory by 20 runs at the Mirpur City Club ground.

Eastern Bank — 187 for 6 in 40 overs. Fahim 49, Tomal 26, Nahid 26, Bobby not out 15, Rafiqul unbeaten 13, Extras 37. Lito 2/27 and Khokon 2/40.

Fisons Laboratory — 167 all out in 36.3 overs. Sumon not out 65, Towhid 19, Khokon 15, Munna 13, Ehsan 3/24, Joru 2/18 and Rafiqul 2/55.

Tuhina Enterprise beat Eurutex by four wickets at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium.

Eurutex — 167 all out in 35 overs. Zakir 54, Zunaid 27, Mithu 13, Extras 50, Alam 4/31, Nazif 2/7.

Tuhina Enterprise — 171 for 6 in 18.3 overs. Sezan 69, Jahangir 20, Rashed 17, Bappi 12, Extras 27, Tipu 2/16 and Towhid 2/31.

Edmundo in hot water

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 6: Brazilian striker Edmundo who earlier this week was reprieved of a 40-day, five-match ban imposed on him by the Brazilian Football Confederation (the CBF), was suspended again on Friday, this time by his club, reports Reuter.

Edmundo was given a 15-day suspension because he hit out at directors of his club Palmeiras after they beat Bolivian champions Bolivar 3-0 on Wednesday to reach the quarter-finals of the South American Libertadores Cup.

He was furious because he felt the grass at Palmeiras' Parque Antartica Stadium needed cutting.

Edmundo had only played in the game, in which Palmeiras overturned a one-goal deficit from the first leg, because his CBF ban had been temporarily lifted less than 24 hours earlier pending an appeal.

It was third time the ban had been lifted pending appeal.

Rangers may rope in Gazza

GLASGOW, May 6: Interest in Paul Gascoigne was not denied by Glasgow Rangers on Friday as rumours mounted of his possible move to the Scottish champions, reports AFP.

Press reports revealed a clandestine meeting between Lazio chief Sergio Cragnotti and president Dino Zoff and Rangers owner David Murray and manager Walter Smith in London during the last few days.

Murray's millions, which have rebuilt Ibrox into Scotland's finest stadium and helped the Rangers to seven successive Premier Division titles, mean they can afford the five million price tag as well as the England ace's reputed 20,000 pound a week wage demands.

When Smith's assistant Archie Knox was pressed on the stories Friday his enigmatic response only served to fan the flames.

"We cannot speculate on any of that at this stage," said Knox, who perhaps significantly did not dismiss the stories.

"But if we are going to sign somebody like that I'm sure you boys in the press would be the first know about it."

Gascoigne certainly appears on the way out of Italian football after an injury-plagued three seasons at the Rome club.

While Lazio supporters still idolise the former Newcastle and Tottenham man, many viewing him as the player who could turn them into realistic Serie A title challengers, Czech coach Zdenek Zeman is

less of a fan.

Deprived of Gascoigne's services for much of his first campaign as Lazio coach, Zeman's preference for consistency and graft — a hallmark of the Foggia team he kept in the top echelon despite limited resources — has pointed the way out for Gascoigne.

The money he could get for Gascoigne would allow Zeman to rebuild his team in what is expected to be a high spend-

But if Smith does make a move — the idea of a Gascoigne Brian Laudrup partnership would certainly ignite the imagination of the Ibrox faithful — he will have to dispense with the services of some of his non-Scottish stars in order to fit in with UEFA's "foreign players" rule.

And the Rangers chief seems certain to face stiff competition from English sides if Gascoigne is officially declared surplus to Lazio's requirements.

Bryan Robson would be keen to land a north east hero to boost Middlesbrough's return to the Premiership — the substantial finances needed to land such a coup would certainly be available — while QPR and, perhaps less likely, Coventry have already indicated their interest.

Gascoigne's business advisor Len Lazarus Friday night confirmed that the Ibrox side had made contact about the availability of the midfielder.

"Many clubs have been in touch with us about Paul, and that includes Rangers and all the clubs mentioned in the papers," said Lazarus.

But Lazarus indicated that Gascoigne's future was not as cut and dried as has been reported.

"It will be a joint decision made by Paul and Lazio, but we won't make it until a couple of weeks time at the end of the season," he said.

"At that time Paul will decide whether he wants to stay or move, and if he decides that he wants to leave Italy we will then consider listening to what the various clubs have to say to us."



PAUL GASCOIGNE

Antlers rout Reysol

TOKYO, May 6: Kashima Antlers overran a weak Kashiwa Reysol's defence for a 4-0 whitewash in the Japanese football league today, reports AFP.

Brazilian Santos headed a throw-in down to Hisashi Kurosaki who struck giving the Antlers their first goal in the 11th minute.

Four minutes later, fellow Brazilian Leonardo slotted a beautiful high pass into the area for Yoshiyuki Hasegawa to connect.

Kurosaki nearly got a second goal of a Santos pass out the rebound fell to Hasegawa who made no mistake making it 3-0 a minute before held-time.

In the second-half Leonardo finished off a demoralised Reysol defence with a goal in the 70th minute boosting Antlers' record to 11 wins against three defeats.

Bellmare Hiratsuka trounced Yokohama Flügels 5-1 for a 9-5 win-loss record to trail Antlers and Yokohama Marinos at the top of the league.

Once rookie Hidetoshi Nakata put them ahead 2-1 in the 41st minute, Bellmare never looked back with further scores from Brazilian Almir, Nakata and Koji Noguchi.

Gamba Osaka overwhelmed Jubilo Iwata 5-1 with Dutch striker Hans Gillhaus scoring twice to lead their landslide victory, while Oleg Protassov and Toshihiro Yamaguchi also found the net.

Sanfrecce Hiroshima suffered an unexpected defeat by Shimizu S-Pulse who took the initiative from the outset with Yasutoshi Miura scoring the only goal off a Toninho pass in the 35th minute.

Viquarunnissa h'ball champs

Viquarunnissa Noon School retained the sixth schools' girls handball tournament title beating Dhanmondi Govt Girls' High School 8-4 in the final match at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday, reports UNB.

It was the fifth consecutive title for the Viquarunnissa girls since its inception in 1988 while the Dhanmondi girls finished runners-up for the second successive year.

The day's final was locked 4-4 during the first session but the Shantinagar school girls completely dominated the second session to score four goals in a row.

Quamrunnahar netted five goals and Meharun, Saimoun, Maimuna scored one apiece for the winners while Nusrat contributed two and Marufa and Farhana once each for the losers.

Earlier, Maghbazar Girls

High School became third defeating Lake Circus High School 3-0 in a position deciding match after leading the first session by a solitary goal.

Rajarbagh Police Lines High School was adjudged the most disciplined team of the tournament.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain witnessed the final as the chief guest and gave away the trophies.

TEAMS
Viquarunnissa Noon School: Quamrunnahar, Parveen, Saima, Meharun, Lutfunnahar, Saimon, Ismat Ara, Ashrafunnahar, Mahzabeen, Maimuna, Farha and Tasmiah.
Dhanmondi Govt Girls' High School: Nusrat, Farhana Khanam, Farhana Reza, Mahbuba, Marufa, Irin, Nahid, Saika, Momenah, Farzana, Tahmina and Mahmuda.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-Up
1988	Siddeshari Girls' High	Viquarunnissa Noon School
1989	Viquarunnissa Noon School	Siddeshari Girls' High
1990	Viquarunnissa Noon School	Bangladesh Rifles School
1991	Viquarunnissa Noon School	Bangladesh Rifles School
1992	Viquarunnissa Noon School	Dhanmondi Govt Girls' High
1993 & 94	not held	
1995	Viquarunnissa Noon School	Dhanmondi Govt Girls' High

Golf President Cup Azim's

Sports Reporter

Iqbal Azim's perseverance paid off when he won the prestigious President Cup golf tournament at the lush green course of the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday.

Azim, who was consistent throughout the day-long meet, completed with an 'Eagle' on the 14th hole leaving a field of 200 golfers trailing in his wake. At the end, Azim finished with a net score of 71 for a well deserved victory.

Shawka-uz-Zaman, who staved off a tough challenge from young Raiyan Rab, won the best gross award while Shaheen Khan took the title on the distaff side.

LI General Nasim, the president of the KGC, distributed prizes among the winners.



Action from yesterday's second Group B engagement in the Nirma DMFA Cup between Brothers Union and Victoria Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium. The Gopibagh outfit swamped the lowly Victoria 5-1. — Star photo

Cullinan in fine fettle

LONDON, May 6: South African Test batsman Daryll Cullinan sustained his impressive start to his first season in English county cricket by lashing his third century in four innings for Derbyshire on Friday, reports Reuter.

Cullinan's 131 almost single-handedly carried Derbyshire's first innings to 312 and a lead of 68 over Nottinghamshire, who ended the second day at Trent Bridge on 31 without loss in their second

innings.

The South African, who last week became the first player in the country's history to hit a hundred on his championship debut, is now the only player to have begun his Derbyshire career with two successive first-class centuries. Cullinan has also scored a hundred in the Benson and Hedges Cup.

Until he found a staunch ally in Karl Krikken, Cullinan had anchored a Derbyshire innings which initially stuttered against New Zealand paceman Chris Cairns (4-83) and was then undermined by the medium pace of Greg Mike (4-87).

But Cullinan, who faced 213 balls and struck 17 fours, and Krikken, with a combative 36 not out, joined forces at 196 for seven and put on 74.

Sri Lanka's Aravinda de Silva, who is also in his debut

county season, hammered his maiden championship century to inspire a Kent recovery against Sussex at Hove.

De Silva, whose previous best score for Kent was 16, struck 117 from 164 balls, with 19 fours and a six, as his team fought back from 36 for two to 361 all out in reply to Sussex's first innings of 323.

The Sri Lankan's effort was backed up by all-rounder Mark Ealham, who contributed a career-best 88 which he made in 195 minutes and contained 15 fours.

South African fast bowler Allan Donald fired out Surrey's England pair Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe in three balls to put champions Warwickshire in charge at Edgbaston.

Donald bowled Stewart off the inside edge for 10 and then had Thorpe caught behind for nought. He returned for a final burst and dispatched opener Mark Butcher, caught behind for a solid 54.

Surrey had slumped to 168 for five at the close in reply to Warwickshire's first innings of 470 in which Dominic Ostler, 181 overnight, completed the first double century of his career — 208 of 340 balls, with 34 fours and two sixes.

Lancashire captain Mike Watkinson led a fightback against Durham at Old Trafford by plundering 108 off 122 balls — smashing four sixes and 15 fours.

Lancashire, reeling on 105 for five in reply to Durham's 249, finished with 370 and a first innings lead of 121.

Paceman Peter Hartley captured five for 19 to put Yorkshire on course for victory over Leicestershire at Leicester.

Hartley and England pace bowler Darren Gough, with three for 46, helped to dismiss the home side for 147. When they followed on 185 behind, Hartley struck one more blow as Leicestershire staggered to 102 for five at the close.

Muller wants to leave J-League

TOKYO, May 6: Brazilian 1994 World Cup winner Muller, who plays for Kashiwa Reysol in the Japanese Football League, has declared his desire to leave the team for family reasons, a team official said Saturday, reports AFP.

The 29-year-old forward, whose real name is Luiz Antonio Correa da Costa, quit former Intercontinental Cup champions Sao Paulo and joined Reysol this season with a two-year contract.

The team official said he would persuade him to stay, but added: "We are not sure at all whether he will stay or not. Our team will decline very much if he leaves."

Muller has displayed a "golden combination" with his 1986-90 World Cup teammate Careca, scoring five points in 11 games so far for Reysol.

ROK football league kicks off

SEOUL, May 6: South Korea used the opening ceremony of its professional soccer league Saturday to drum up support for its bid to host the 2002 World Cup finals, reports AP.

South Korea is competing with Japan to become the first Asian country to host soccer's showcase event.

South Korea's 12-year-old professional soccer league is the oldest in Asia. That will give the country an advantage over Japan in competing for the host right, officials said. Japan started its pro league two years ago.

Fireworks and cheer leaders enlivened the 200,000 dollar ceremony. Prime Minister Lee Hong-koo and other government officials appeared. Soccer officials vowed to win the bid and called for South Koreans support.

South Korea also boasts a better World Cup record than Japan, having qualified for the World Cup finals three consecutive times. Japan has never advanced to the finals. It does boast better facilities.

FIFA is to choose the host in June of next year.

In Saturday's opening match, two-time champions Ilhwa Chonna and the Yukong Elephants ended in a scoreless draw. About 20,000 fans turned out at a downtown Seoul Stadium.

All of South Korea's eight professional teams are owned by large conglomerates.