

Transcom schools hockey

Ahmed Bawani, Manikganj Model in final round

Sports Reporter

Ahmed Bawani Academy and Manikganj Model School moved into the final round of the Transcom national schools championship after winning their respective matches at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, last year's runners-up Ahmed Bawani Academy staved off a stiff challenge from a spirited Harinal High School of Gazipur by a lone goal.

In a very exciting encounter with forays and counter forays Altaf struck the match-decider for Ahmed Bawani in the 12th minute with a nice field goal.

Meanwhile, in the day's second match, Manikganj Model School recorded a comfortable 4-2 win over Barisal Zilla School.

Shafiqul Islam, Zahirul Islam, Jobaidur Rahman and Hafizul Islam scored one goal apiece for the winners while Shahidul and Ershad reduced the margin for the Barisal School.

Baggio will let Juve know on June 12

TURIN, May 27: Juventus captain Roberto Baggio said on Friday that he will decide on June 12 whether he signs a new contract with the recently crowned Italian champions, reports AFP.

The date is the day after the return leg of the Italian Cup final between Juventus and Parma.

The Turin-based club hid behind a cloak of silence regarding the future of Baggio, 1994 world-footballer-of-the-year, whose current contract expires next month.

A club spokesman said: "We do not wish to make any comment until the end of the Italian Championship on June 4."

Baggio had talks on Thursday with Umberto Agnelli, brother of the owner Gianni Agnelli, who confirmed an offer already made in April of 2.5 million dollars over two years.

This amounts to a cut of 20 per cent in salary for Baggio and it was thought this could affect Juventus' overall form on the championship run-in and the two cup finals with Parma, the UEFA Cup which they lost and the upcoming Italian Cup.

Aussie U-17 booters book WC berth

POR VILA, May 27: The Australian under-17 football team today won its ticket to the final round of the FIFA under-17 World Cup in Ecuador by beating New Zealand 1-0, reports AFP.

The regional tournament, hosted here by Vanuatu from May 18 to 26, was part of the qualifying round for the under-17 national selections of the Oceania zone, with only one team to represent the region in Ecuador, where the final will be played.

Australia this week easily beat Fiji (4-0) and Vanuatu (6-0).

"You'll represent your country in Ecuador, but don't forget you'll also represent our region," Vanuatu Prime Minister and patron of the Vanuatu Football Federation, Maxime Carlot, said while congratulating the Australian team after the final.

Animals usher in Edmundo!

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 27: Flamengo's five million dollar signing Edmundo, greeted by the city mayor, two elephants, a tiger and chimpanzee when he arrived at the club, could have to wait until August for his competitive debut, reports Reuter.

Edmundo, nicknamed alternatively the "animal" or "bad boy", arrived in Rio to a hero's reception after his signing from Palmeiras on Thursday.

He met Rio Mayor Cesar Maia and was then taken on top of a fire engine through the streets of the city to Flamengo's ground, where he was presented to ecstatic fans.

A truck containing two elephants and a tiger, loaned by a local circus, followed the fire engine while Edmundo held a chimpanzee, dressed in a Flamengo shirt, in his arms. All were a reference to his nickname.

But once the euphoria had died down on Friday, directors began to discuss when the hugely gifted but volatile striker could make his debut.

He is theoretically barred from taking part in the Rio de Janeiro Championship, which is reaching its climax with five rounds of matches in the eight-team final stage left. Flamengo are level on points with Fluminense and Botafogo at the top.



SOCCER OR SOMETHING: Players engage in an on-field-tussle to take control over the ball during yesterday's Beximco 13th Federation Cup match between Dhanmondi Club and Diganta Prashari of Rajshahi at the Dhaka Stadium. Diganta won by 2-0. — Star photo

Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club came from behind to stay on course with a 2-1 win over Abahani Krira Chakra of Khulna in one of the two first round matches of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Dhaka First Division outfit, who went down fighting conceding a goal in the 68th minute, bounced back into the game when their substitute Rashed struck the equaliser two minutes later.

A rejuvenated Victoria, then snatched the match-winner in the 75th minute. Selim after winning a ball on the edge of the box unleashed a powerful

left-footer that landed into the far post.

After the lack-lustre first half, both sides came up with more motivation with Abahani enjoying a slighter edge over their fancied opponent. And deservedly took the lead through Rana, who after receiving a pass inside the box fired into the net with a first time right-footer.

Rana, however, missed a golden opportunity earlier, when he shot the ball wide off the mark with Victoria custodian Rashed at his mercy.

Undaunted by the setback, Victoria came up firing with their four cylinders and mounted pressure for the equaliser with a wave of at-

tacks before Rashed, who came as a substitute of striker Angur, gave the final touch of a combined attack from close.

Selim then struck the crucial blow with a gem of a left-footer in the 75th minute to steer Victoria to the final from Group B.

Victoria will now have to wait for the winner of Rahmatganj MFS and Diganta Prashari to decide who to play in the eight-team final round.

Meanwhile, Diganta Prashari of Rajshahi recorded a comfortable 2-0 win over Dhanmondi Club in the first match of the day.

Rashed gave the Rajshahi outfit a sixth minute lead before Biplab doubled the margin with a neat placing shot in the 26th minute.

They will now take on Rahmatganj, the First Division football league champions, in their next match on May 30.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Touch Club of Barisal vs Bangladesh Boys (4 pm)

Wari Club vs East End Club (6 pm).

7 lead nat'l chess board

Sports Reporter

Seven players with full points were jointly leading the table on completion of the third round of the national chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

The are — Abdullaah al Rakib, Khandaker Kayes Hassan, Nasir Ahmed, Shahadat Hossain, Adnan Faisal, Enamul Hossain and Abdul Kasem.

Meanwhile, ten players — Rezaul Huq, Saifuddin Labui, Enayet Hossain, Afroza Khanom, Badru Alam, Anisuzzaman, Akil Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Ataur Rahman and Arman — were trailing the top seven with two and a half points.

Partex power into Office league semis

Sports Reporter

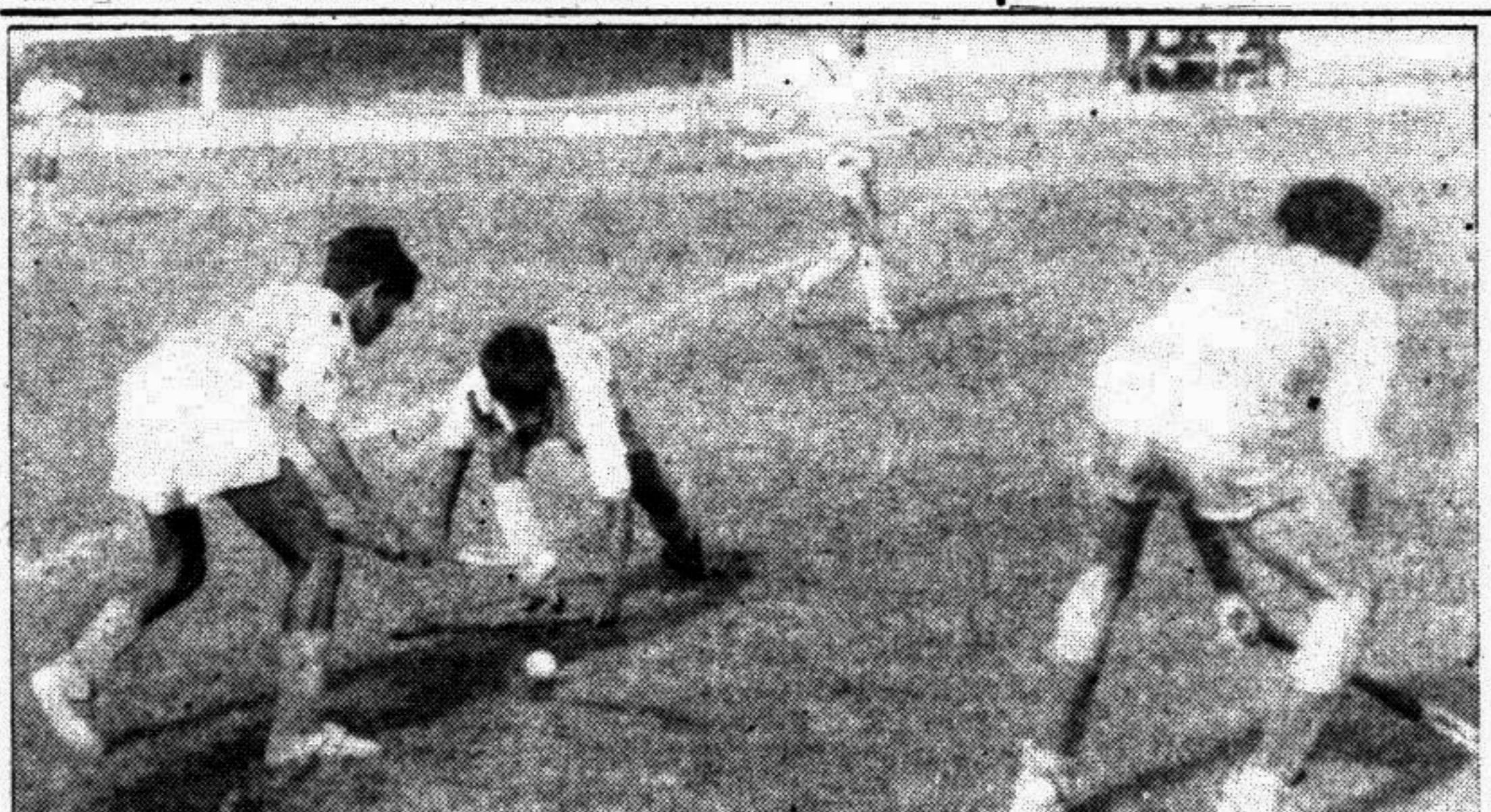
Partex Limited moved into the semifinals of the second Office cricket league with a convincing seven-wicket win over Fisons (BD) Limited at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Sent in to bat, Fisons' were skittled out for a paltry 110 in 39.1 overs in the face of an unpredictable spin attack from Shariful Huq Plabon and Selim Shahed.

The two recognised right-arm spinners in the country enacted a dramatic batting collapse, evenly sharing eight wickets among them. And Fisons, who were at one stage cruising comfortably at 76 for two in 28 overs, fell like nine pins losing their last eight wickets with the edition of only 24 runs.

Skipper Selim Shahed, better known as a stylish right-handed middle order batsman, finished with four for 27 in his

Mehrab Hossain Opi with an unbeaten 27 was the other notable willow-wielder for the winners.



Action from yesterday's Transcom national schools championship match between Ahmed Bawani Academy and Harinal High School at the Hockey Stadium. Ahmed Bawani won the match by a solitary goal. — Star photo

Bailey puts Northants affirm

LONDON, May 27:

Rob Bailey struck an unbeaten 95 — his top score — to take Northants to a strong position on the second day of the English county Championship match against Yorkshire at Sheffield on Friday.

David Capel then hurried to 72 — with 62 of his runs coming from a six and 15 boundaries. Bailey and Capel added 111 in 31 overs for the fifth wicket and at the close Northants were 262 for five.

Stuart Milburn, making his first home championship appearance, had a splendid new-ball burst of 10-5-6-2, removing both openers and returning to account for Curran.

Bailey set himself to play a long innings on an improving pitch and he used up 187 balls in reaching his second half-century of the season.

He received admirable support from Kevin Curran in a fourth wicket stand of 74 in 27 overs.

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Peter Bowler's 176 for Somerset weighed heavily on Warwickshire as they set out to make 346 to avoid the follow-on.

Opener Andy Moles was bowled by Jason Kerr in the 11th over and Nick Knight (48 not out) was dropped behind the wicket as the champions laboured to 95 for one at the close.

The Sun-Herald quoted Coates as saying that International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch had expressed concern that the New South Wales state government is not fully behind the Games.

Lankan WC cricket venues

COLOMBO, May 27: Three of the four 1996 World Cup cricket matches allotted to Sri Lanka will be played at Colombo, cricket board officials said Saturday, reports AP.

The fourth match will be played at Kandy, 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of the Sri Lankan capital, officials said.

In Colombo, Sri Lanka will play against Australia on Feb 17, against Zimbabwe on Feb 21 and against the West Indies on Feb 25.

Sri Lanka will take on Kenya in the last match at Kandy on March 6.

India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are co-hosting the tournament. The World Cup will have 17 matches in India and 16 in Pakistan.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies, Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, England, the United Arab Emirates and Holland will participate in the championship starting next February.

LONDON, May 27: Fast bowler Peter Martin burst onto the international scene with a spell of three wickets for five runs as England squared the one-day series against West Indies on Friday, reports Reuter.

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