

Beximco 13th Federation Cup

Agrani, Fakirerpool in final

Sports Reporter



Agrani Bank and Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club set up a final clash from Group D after winning their respective first leg engagements of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The two Premier Division outfits will meet on June 4, the last match of the qualifying round, to decide who will join the eight-team final leg, scheduled to begin from June 6.

In the day's first match, Agrani Bank recorded a comfortable 3-0 win over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha with Jahangir scoring two goals for the winners.

The fleet-footed winger, who had a wonderful season for the same outfit last year, gave Agrani Bank a 40th minute lead with a neat placing shot.

Jahangir then doubled the margin with a sudden thunderous shot from inside the box three minutes into the second half.

Two minutes later striker Tutul, who played for Abahani Krira Chakra last year, sealed the fate of the one-sided affair after completing a solo dash from the right.

In the 56th minute Eskaton, who never appeared to pose any threat against their superior opponents, got the only chance of reducing the margin. But they were denied by the wood-work when Arif's fierce grounder rebounded off the far-post.

Meanwhile, in the day's second match played under flood-lights, Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club prevailed over Badda Jagorani 5-4 in the tie-breakers.

The fate of the up and down encounter rolled into penalty shoot-out after both sides had failed to score during the stipulated 90-minute regulation time.

Fakirerpool must thank their custodian Bijoy for his outstanding performance, who not only made two brilliant saves in the match but also converted his side's fifth and deciding spot-kick in the tie-breaker to give them a sensational victory.

Bijoy made a reflex save in the 16th minute fisting away a powerful long drive from Zahed, who notched the second hat-trick in the tourney in Badda Jagorani's opening encounter against Shantinagar Club on Monday.

Two minutes later Zahed was deprived of yet another goal when his spectacular header went out hitting the cross-piece.

After surviving those close

calls Fakirerpool gradually took control of the midfield and got a golden chance of in the 39th minute when a shaky Badda goalkeeper Zahir after failing to cling on to high ball, pushed Askar Khan Babu leaving referee Liakat Ali no other option but to point to the dreaded spot.



Agrani Bank custodian Manu thwarts a Eskaton Sabuj Sangha attack during their first phase engagement of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The Bankers won 3-0.

But Ibrahim, who took the 12-yarder, spoiled the sitter sending the ball wide of the mark much to the horror to his teammates.

In the second half, Fakirerpool enjoy possession but failed to break the Badda defence.

On the other hand Badda, who were engaged in defend-

ing their citadel, almost took the lead in the 60th minute from a counter attack through their speedy midfielder Bishwajit. But his shot from inside the box was brilliantly saved by a diving Bijoy, who tipped the ball away for a corner.

In the tie-breaker Asif, Arif, Montu, Rezaul Karim and Bijoy

Transcom schools hockey

Maiden win for Manikganj

Sports Reporter

Manikganj Model High School recorded their first win in the round robin league match of the Transcom national schools hockey championship upsetting Dhaka Armanitola Govt High School 2-0 at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

It was the second successive defeat for last year's semi-finalists Armanitola School.

Asif Iqbal opened scoring in the 8th minute from a nice field goal while he grabbed a second goal just two minutes away from the stipulated 70-minute play.

In the second match of the day, Muslim Govt High School and holders Narayangangj High School split points in a goalless draw at the same venue. The two teams who are yet to record a victory in the robin league, have managed to earn two points each playing as many matches from two consecutive draws.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Ahmed Bawani Academy vs Rajshahi Medical College Campus High School (2:45 pm).
Mavezzuddin High School vs Dhaka Residential Model High School (4:00 pm).

Pele's No 10 shirt and Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, June 1: Diego Maradona is almost sure to sign for Brazil's Santos and don the number 10 shirt once worn by the great Pele. Maradona said Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"Almost everything has been agreed with Santos and my move there is practically definite," the 34-year-old ex-Argentina captain told reporters on his return from a trip to Europe.

Maradona said he had spoken to Pele, who is negotiating for Santos, and all that remained was "a few little things and my signature."

Maradona is still made at his old team Boca Juniors for saying last week they wanted him back after a week previously making it clear he was unwelcome even as a spectator.

"I'm not going to talk about Boca because if they don't even let me go to the ground, what can I say?" he said.

Rezaul atop alone

Sports Reporter

Fide Master Rezaul Haq of Bangladesh Biman took the solo lead in the qualifying round of the 21st national chess championship collecting highest seven points on completion of the eight round at the chess room of the NSC yesterday.

Rezaul beat Arman, his seventh round co-sharer in the top slot, that almost earned him a berth in the final leg with two more matches to spare in the 10-round Swiss league meet.

While the defeat for Arman means he had to be satisfied with the third slot along with Khandaker Kayes Hassan Arifuzzaman, Amjad, Labu and Khorshed Alam — collecting six points each.

Meanwhile, Abdullah al Rakib, who beat Labu in this round, moved into the second place raising his collection to six and a half points.

Fourteen top finishers will qualify for the final round.

Nobel powers Mohammedans

CHITTAGONG, June 1: Mohammedan Sporting Club crushed Young Star Club by seven wickets in the Dettol soap metropolitan cricket league at the Dampara Police Line ground here today, reports BSS.

Young Star batted first and were all out for 115 in 37.2 overs.

In reply, Mohammedans reached their target of 116 for three wickets in 18.5 overs. Nobel of Mohammedans scored a magnificent unbeaten 65 playing only 61 balls with six boundaries and one sixer.

Eurotex in plate semis

Eurotex International moved into the semifinals of plate group in the metropolis office cricket league eliminating Baly Sports by five wickets at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Sent into bat, Baly Sports scored 172 for nine in the stipulated 40 overs.

Zakir of Eurotex captured five wickets giving away only 23 runs. Kamrul and Santa took apiece for 25 and 31 runs respectively.

In reply, Eurotex International reached 173 for the loss of five wickets in 37.2 overs with opener Hadi making 59 off 70 deliveries with three sixes and four fours.



Action from yesterday's Transcom national schools hockey championship match between Manikganj Model High School and Armanitola Govt High School at the Hockey Stadium. Manikganj won the match 2-0.

Dhanraj puts WI affirm

LEICESTER, England, June 1: West Indies declared their second innings at 143-4 on the first day of their three-day match against Leicestershire on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Earlier, on Wednesday, Caribbean pacemen Kenny Benjamin no-balled 11 times in nine overs and was spoken to for intimidatory bowling on the second day.

Benjamin, battling for a place in the Test side to play England at Headingley next week, took three for 58 as Leicestershire were bowled out for 194 in their first innings.

But he ran into trouble during his final spell when umpire Alan Jones spoke to West Indies captain Richie Richardson after the fired-up Benjamin bowled two successive bouncers at tail-ender David Mills.

But it was leg-spinner Raj Dhanraj who caused Leicestershire most damage following west Indies' declaration at 468 for seven after adding seven runs in 15 overs during the morning.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul finished with an unbeaten 140, his third first-class century and his first for the West Indies.

Leicestershire needing 319 to avoid the follow-on, were then taken on a spin by Dhanraj, who took six for 50 from his 15 overs.

Leicestershire captain James Whitaker was the only batsman to offer much resistance, hitting a brilliant 75 off 82 balls with 14 fours.

The next highest scorer for Leicestershire was the extras tally which totalled 43 and included 38 no-balls.

Despite a lead of 274, Richardson decided against enforcing the follow-on opting instead for some extra batting practice ahead of the first Test.

But his plan was sabotaged by fading light and the teams went off an hour before the close with the West Indies 16 for one in their second innings. Carl Hooper the man out for one.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard after the second day of the West Indies tour match against Leicestershire here on Wednesday:

LEICESTERSHIRE: First innings
D Madley c Williams b K Benjamin 8
B Smith b Dhanraj 18
J Whitaker c Chanderpaul b Dhanraj 75
A Habib b Dhanraj 4
P Nixon c Browne b Dhanraj 7
J Dakin c and b Dhanraj 1

V Clarke c Richardson b Gibson 5
G Parsons c Richardson b K Benjamin 13
D Mills lbw b Dhanraj 20
A Pierson not out 0
A Sheryar b K Benjamin 0
Extras: (lb-4, w-1, nb-38) 43
Total: (47.2 Overs) 194

Fall of wickets: 1-42; 2-96; 3-108; 4-118; 5-130; 6-135; 7-154; 8-194; 9-194.

Bowling O M R W
W Benjamin 11 3 27 0
Gibson 12 2 55 1
K Benjamin 9.2 2 58 3
Dhanraj 15 3 50 6

WEST INDIES: First innings 468-7 declared (K Arthurthton 146, S Chanderpaul 140 not out, R Richardson 60).

LEICESTERSHIRE: First innings 194 (J Whitaker 75, R Dhanraj 6-50)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 16-1)
C Hooper c Dakin b Sheryar 1
S Williams at Nixon b Clarke 54
R Richardson lbw b Parsons 16
J Adams c and b Pierson 42
K Arthurthton not out 6
S Chanderpaul not out 6
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-1, nb-2) 8
Total: (for four wickets, declared) 143
Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-42; 3-100; 4-130.

Bowling O M R W
Parsons 9 3 20 1
Sheryar 7 0 41 1
Dakin 6 1 27 0
Clarke 8.1 0 35 1
Pierson 4 2 15 1

Stich eliminates Edberg

PARIS, June 1: Sergi Bruguera and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the defending French Open champions,

scored solid second-round victories Thursday over low-ranked opponents, but the tournament ended abruptly for Stefan Edberg.

Edberg, unseeded here for the first time in 10 years, lost to 12th-seeded Michael Stich, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, 6-2, again missing a chance to complete a career sweep of the Grand Slam events, reports AP.

"Every year it's getting tougher, but you still have the hope," Edberg said.

Stich said he expected a more difficult match and described the outcome as "a little bit sad."

"It hurts a little bit more to see him not playing that well," Stich said. "He's one of the heroes, one of the guys you look up to."

Bruguera, pursuing his

third straight title, won 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 over fellow Spaniard Emilio Alvarez, a qualifier ranked only 166th.

No 3 seed Boris Becker easily beat American Jared Palmer, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, and sixth-seeded Michael Chang downed Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

No 14 seed Todd Martin advanced 6-2, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) over another Czech, Slava Dosedol, but Brazilian Fernando Meligeni upset the No 16 seed Marc Rosset 7-6 (9-7), 7-6 (7-4), 2-6, 6-3. Germany's Bernd Karbacher won a five-set marathon over Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom, the first-round conqueror of No 4 seed Goran Ivanisevic.

Araud Boetsch beat Javier Sanchez of France in straight sets to save the French men's contingent from their worst showing in more than a decade. He is the only one of 17 Frenchmen in the field to reach the third round.

TCCB takes radical step

LONDON, June 1: England's Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) took a step closer to dismantling itself when its members unanimously agreed Thursday that the formation of a single body to rule all of the country's cricket was essential, reports AP.

A meeting of the 18 county clubs discussed the proposal that an English Cricket Board, overseeing cricket from primary school to Test match level, be set up next year to help improve the first-class game.

The board was unanimous in agreeing that a base had been established to move forward into a detailed planning stage," said TCCB chief executive Alan Smith, who added that a final recommendation would be presented to the board for adopting this fall.

The change is expected to address the criticism that the English county clubs, which have zealously guarded their power within the sport, are sacrificing quality for financial gain by scheduling too many matches, particularly in one-day cricket.

By contrast, Australia — which has handily beaten England in recent Test series — has one comprehensive governing body that retains emphasis on grooming first-class players.

Senior officials at the five Test match ground counties — Lancashire, Yorkshire, Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire and Surrey — had formed a working party which last week produced its own proposals. Among them were plans to split the current county championship into the division of nine and the development of a transfer market.

Asian Basketball Championships in Seoul June 17

SEOUL, June 1: China will face a tough battle to defend their Asian basketball crown, even though old rivals North Korea will be absent, organizers of the Asian men's basketball championships said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The 19-team tournament will be played in Seoul from June 17 to 26.

China have been unbeaten in Asian men's basketball since 1987, with four consecutive Asian crowns and nine titles since the first Asian men's championships in Manila in 1980.

Foreman's two foes

ATLANTA, June 1: George Foreman says he is considering only two potential opponents for a defence of the International Boxing Federation heavyweight title, and Evander Holyfield isn't one of them.

Axel Schulz and Michael Moorer are the only fighters he might accept for what could be his final IBF title defence. Foreman said Wednesday, reports AP.

Foreman was here for a cameo appearance at the IBF convention and to "get a feel" for whether IBF executives might force him to fight a rematch with Schulz, who lost a disputed decision in April.

The boxer said he is reasonably sure that won't happen, but feels both Schulz and Moorer, who lost the title to Foreman, are deserving of rematches.

Asked if he would fight Holyfield, Foreman replied: "No. Not at all."

"I won't fight Holyfield. It's cut and dried. Period. Now, if you give me 25 million dollars, we can move the period over a little bit," he said, knowing that it is unlikely he could secure a guarantee higher than 15 million dollars.

Holyfield, who won a title defence against Foreman four years ago, said he was not surprised.

"If a man is planning on tiring, he wants to be remembered in a certain way," the Atlanta boxer said.

Gazza on gutsy mission

LONDON, June 1: Paul Gascoigne, England's most gifted player launches the third phase of his international career on Saturday with full intent to recapture the old, explosive touch and start collecting medals instead of medical records, reports AP.

An as-yet-unconfirmed 5

Chelsea chasing Bergkamp now?

LONDON, June 1: One day after signing Dutch star Ruud Gullit, Chelsea was reported Thursday to have put in a 7 million pound 11.2 million dollars bid for his former World Cup teammate Dennis Bergkamp, reports AP.

Chelsea manager Glenn Hoddle was reported in the Sun and Daily Mirror newspapers to have started talks with Bergkamp's Italian club Inter Milan, who are demanding an amount that would equal the British record transfer fee.

Gullit's package at Chelsea will reportedly earn him close to 30,000 pounds 48,000 dollars per week, and Bergkamp would command a similar deal.

The papers speculated that the money generated from Bergkamp's sale would enable Inter to put in another bid for Manchester United midfielder Paul Ince.

Palestine in FIFA family

ZURICH, June 1: Palestine have been granted provisional membership of FIFA, world football's governing body's executive committee announced on Wednesday, reports AP.

However Palestine, like Bosnia-Herzegovina another provisional member, will only be allowed to play friendlies and will not be eligible to play in the World Cup.

Palestine was last a full member of FIFA in 1949 when its team consisted of Eastern European immigrants but with the recognition of Israel in 1950 their membership became obsolete.



PAUL GASCOIGNE

panied by a benediction, a prayer for good health.

"I can be as good as I was," said Gascoigne. "But if I play in a game and some guy launches a two-footed tackle and smashes my left knee, I'm out of the game again."

"I need a little bit of luck on my side this time," he says, emerging from another totally committed Bisham training session to spell out his hopes and fears.

"Football is all I know and if I haven't got that, I haven't got anything. I'd have to start looking at other jobs," Gascoigne said.

However, after a career which has brought plenty of tears and just one winners medal in the 1991 FA Cup — delivered to his hospital bed — ambition still bubbles up.

"I haven't actually signed for anybody but it's a fresh start and a big thing for me."

Animals bete noire in Brazil soccer!

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 1: Brazilian soccer fans have been warned that they face immediate arrest if they are caught carrying animals inside a soccer ground, reports Reuter.

The warning came after Sunday's Flamengo-Vasco da Gama match in the Rio de Janeiro Championship, when dozens of Flamengo fans took animals to the stadium as a tribute to five million-dollar new signing Edmundo, nicknamed "the animal."

Most of the unwilling fans were dogs, many of which were dressed up in Flamengo shirts and hats and were clearly petrified amid the hordes of rowdy fans.

But at least one man was seen waving a tortoise, with a Flamengo flag painted on its shell, above his head in the midst of the jumping, singing fans.

"The place for native fauna is in the wild," said Pedro Cavaliere, an official with the Brazilian government's environmental agency Ibama.