

## Beximco 13th Federation Cup

## Ctg Abahani, Rahmatganj win

Abahani KC of Chittagong and Rahmatganj MFS moved into the round robin league of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament winning their respective group final matches at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Chittagong Abahani KC upset metropolis First Division runners-up Farashganj SC 5-4 in penalty shootout after the stipulated 90 minutes ended a goalless draw.

Chittagong Abahani will meet Brothers Union on June 6 in the round robin league.

Loveul, the custodian of the Chittagong outfit, was the hero of the day confidently gripped the fourth Farashganj spot-kick taken by Pradip Kumar Saha.

For Abahani KC, substitute Farhad, Munna, Prince, Avijit Saha and custodian Loveul converted their kicks.

Rauf Babul, Selim, Rinku and Liakat found the net for Farashganj SC.

In the first half both teams went on attack and counter-attack but the second half belonged to Abahani.

Four minutes from the final whistle Abahani substitute Alauddin could have broken the deadlock, however, his shot went over the crossbar.

## Bebeto cleared to play for Deportivo

MADRID, June 2: Instead of turning out for Brazil, world soccer's governing body FIFA has cleared striker Bebeto to play for Deportivo Coruna against Real Madrid on Saturday in a game which could decide the Spanish League title, reports Reuter.

Bebeto had been included in the Brazil's squad for the four nation tournament in England starting this weekend, although his club were refusing to release him.

A fax from FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter to the Spanish Football Federation said: "In view of the decisive match which Deportivo face against Real Madrid, FIFA releases Bebeto from joining the Brazilian team to play in the first match of this tournament against Sweden on June 5."

Bebeto is still nursing a muscle strain, but is expected to be fit to play in Saturday's match at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

A mid-pitch action between Abahani Krira Chakra of Chittagong and Farashganj Sporting Club in the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Abahani won the match 5-4 in the tie-breaker. —Star photo by Enamul Huq

**Gullit: A blessing in disguise**

LONDON, June 2: Chelsea, who for years were known as "the pensioners", lived up to their old nickname on Wednesday by signing Ruud Gullit, a player very much in the autumn of his career, reports Reuter.

But although it is nearly eight years since he was voted European-player-of-the-year and moved for a then world record transfer fee of 8.83 million dollars from PSV Eindhoven to AC Milan, the free signing of Gullit from Sampdoria, even if he is 33 in September, could prove a masterstroke for the west London club.

Manager Glenn Hoddle, who for a while in the 1980s compared favourably with Gullit as one of the best players in Europe and who has only just retired at the age of 37, wants the Dutchman to play as sweeper.

And his appearance in the English Premier League is likely to arouse as much interest as did the arrival of German Juergen Klinsmann at Tottenham nearly a year ago.

Gullit's sublime skills, from his inch-perfect passing to his understanding of the game, his powerful surging runs and his accuracy in attack, are sure to make Chelsea a tougher team to beat and a more attractive one to watch.

England captain David Platt, a teammate of Gullit's at Sampdoria, said: "I know Ruud was impressed when he met Glenn Hoddle. He played against him

**Meola dropped**

NEW YORK, June 2: US World Cup goalkeeper Tony Meola was dropped from the national team for this month's US Cup by interim coach Steve Sampson, the replacement for fired Bora Milutinovic, reports AFP.

Kasey Keller and Brad Friedel, backups for Meola in the past two World Cups, will be used instead of Meola, who elected to act in an off-broadway play and join a Third Division club rather than play elite football.

"Today had a decision to make on what he wanted for the future. He decided to go another route," Sampson said. "Now he is playing again. But he has to play at a high level."

**Ruud Gullit**

May 1993 after six seasons at the San Siro.

Gullit had an outstanding first season with Sampdoria and returned to Milan in May 1994. Although that move was not quite as successful and saw him return to Sampdoria in November 1994, he is still an awesome talent.

He is one of the Game's most distinctive and charismatic ambassadors and a favourite with crowds worldwide.

The golden years of his career in the late 1980s and early 1990s when he captained the Netherlands to success in the 1988 European Championship and, together with fellow Dutchmen Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten, helped

make a decision to make on what he wanted for the future. He decided to go another route," Sampson said. "Now he is playing again. But he has to play at a high level."

**Elements have last laugh**

LONDON, June 2: Sri Lanka Test batsman Aravinda de Silva looked set to score the fastest English county championship century of the season on Thursday but was then stumped by the weather, reports Reuter.

De Silva, the first Sri Lankan to play in English county cricket, had the 93-ball target set by Gloucestershire's Andy Symonds in his sights as he raced to 79 not out off 68 balls for Kent against Durham at Chester-le-Street.

But with Kent on 144 for four a violent hail storm flooded the pitch and play was abandoned.

De Silva came in after the early loss of openers Mark Benson and Trevor Ward. Some dazzling stroke play brought him a half-century in 32 balls and he had hit 13 boundaries when play was stopped.

Australian paceman Carl Rackemann made a dream debut for Surrey at Worcester, taking four for 56 as the home county were dismissed for 204.

Rackemann, who will be 35 on Saturday, flew in from Queensland only on Monday.

Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed put the sides under Yorkshire as he dismissed Anthony McGrath, David Byas and Australian Michael Bevan as they reached 269 for six against Somerset at Taunton.

Mushtaq finished with three for 68 in 33 overs.

West Indian fast bowler Hameed Anthony took a career-best six for 77 for Glamorgan as Hampshire were restricted to a total of 324 at the close.

Former England batsman Tim Robinson scored his second century of the week to steer Nottinghamshire towards a 314 total against Essex at Trent Bridge.

Robinson, who hit 136 and 63 in the previous match, hit 13 fours in his 185-ball century, sharing stands of 107 with Mathew Downman (29) and 73 with New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns (50).

Sussex paceman Jason Lewry claimed a career-best six for 45 as Gloucestershire were hustled out for 202 at Hove. In reply Sussex reached 113 for four.

**Iceland hold Sweden**

STOCKHOLM, June 2: Sweden's hopes of reaching next year's European Championships suffered a setback on Thursday when they were held to a 1-1 draw at home by minnows Iceland in a crucial Group Three qualifying match, reports Reuter.

The team who score the first goal in extra time will be declared the winners. However, if the match is still undecided, it will go to penalties.

"If there is no golden goal, there will have to be penalties," FIFA president Joao Havelange said. "We don't know of any other solutions."

Blatter said the commission would initially look at the World Youth Championships in Qatar when five people were deported for trying to bribe players.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

## Sport

## Transcom schools hockey

## Rajshahi, Moijuddin move on

## Sports Reporter

Rajshahi Medical College Campus High School and Moijuddin High School won their respective matches in the round robin league of the Transcom national schools championship at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the day's first match, Rajshahi Medical College Campus High defeated Ahmed Bawani Academy by a solitary goal. Bachchu Mia scored the all-important goal for the winners to give his team the second successive win.

Meanwhile, in the second billing of the day, Moijuddin High School recorded an impressive 3-0 win over Dhaka Residential Model High School.

After a barren first half, Ashikur Rahman opened the winners' account in the 5th minute of the second half from a penalty stroke. Prashanta Kumar Sikder converted the second goal in the 56th minute while Arifur Rahman struck from a free-hit in the 60th minute that eventually sealed the fate of the match.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

Moijuddin High School vs Muslim Govt. High School at 2.45 pm.

Ahmed Bawani Academy vs Armanita Govt. High School at 4 pm.

## Arsenal try to lure Robson

LONDON, June 2: Former England manager Bobby Robson has been offered a 2 million pound (dlrs 3.2m) deal to return to England and take charge of Arsenal, it was reported Friday, reports AP.

Robson, 62, is currently managing Portuguese club FC Porto, who are desperate to keep him after winning this season's league title, especially as he still has one year left on his contract.

"Robson must stay with us," Porto president Pino da Costa was quoted as saying in England's Daily Telegraph newspaper.

"We won the championship in great style. He has got us into the Champions League and without Robson we would not have won anything."

Reports in several English newspapers said the Arsenal deal would be for five years at 400,000 pounds (dlrs 640,000) per year.

Arsenal's vice-chairman David Dein is to fly to Portugal to try to win Robson's release from Porto.

According to the Daily Star newspaper, Robson has told friends he is desperate for the Arsenal job.

The Telegraph reported that Stewart Houston, who took over as Arsenal manager when George Graham was sacked earlier this year, would revert to his former role as assistant manager.

**ROK welcomes FIFA's move**

SEOUL, June 2: South Korea said today it would not oppose bringing forward to early next year the date for selecting the venue for the 2002 World Cup.

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"We are not going to oppose an early decision because we have effectively conducted the campaign to host the World Cup under a master plan ...," Korea Football Association president Chung Mong-Joon told reporters.

Shunichiro Okano, the Japan Soccer Association vice President, said on Thursday he welcomed the possibility that FIFA may move up the selection date.

"That's reasonable, I think. It's better to avoid spending unnecessary time and money (on campaigns for the bids)," said Shunichiro Okano, the Japan Soccer Association vice President.

Okano said he was unsure if an earlier decision would be an advantage or disadvantage to either of the would-be hosts.

FIFA president Joao Havelange told a news conference in Zurich on Wednesday: "There are only two applicants at the moment so we want to try to take this decision as soon as possible."

Soccer sources said FIFA had been eager to streamline the selection procedure because Japan and South Korea, both emerging soccer nations, were being too aggressive in their campaigning for the finals.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**

35 UnmatchedDOWN

1 Rewarding 36 Farm cart

2 Job 37 Passover

5 Went 38 Benny

9 Joplin's 39 Goodman's

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