

Sport

Regen Sea Line Office cricket champs

Regen Sea Lines Club clinched the second Office cricket league title defeating Partex Group by six wickets in the final at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Sent into bat, Partex Group scored 152 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs with opener Masum hitting a polished 53 off 73 balls that featured three fours.

Sanwar scored a painstaking 19 off 50 balls while Opi and Anis contributed 17 each in the modest Partex collection.

Rubel was the most successful Regen Sea bowler claiming three for 30 runs in eight overs while Shanta, Bulbul and Effe took one wicket apiece.

In reply, Regen Sea Lines made a good start rattling 63 runs in 13.4 overs for the first wicket, they reached the target scoring 155 runs for the loss of four wickets in 38.5 overs.

National all-rounder Aminul Islam Bulbul, who contributed an unbeaten 47 off 80 deliveries, was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Veteran national opener Athar Ali Khan made 25 off 38 balls with two fours while former national skipper Faroque Ahmed scored 39 in 62 balls that included five fours.

Khaled Mahmood Sujon made 19 off 27 balls and Golam Faroque Suru scored an unbeaten 14 in 20 balls with a boundary.

Saiful Islam, Selim Shahed and Plabon took one wicket each.

Baggio's late realisation

TURIN, June 7: Roberto Baggio said on Tuesday he was set to leave Italian champions Juventus and that he had spoken to members of the club, including foreign ones, about joining them, reports Reuter.

"I've been in contact with a number of clubs, both in Italy and abroad," the Italian international and 1994 World Cup hero told reporters.

"I realise now that Juventus don't want to keep me. I sensed the way the wind was blowing and felt I needed to act," added the former European footballer of the year.

Baggio's contract with Juventus expires at the end of June and he has not been able to agree a new deal with the club. Press reports have said he has been asked to accept an annual salary of 1.25 million dollars — a third less than he currently receives.

Women's WC soccer

China hold US

GAVLE, Sweden, June 7: China scored two second-half goals to tie the defending champions United States 3-3 on Tuesday in their Group C women's World Cup soccer opener, reports AP.

Sun Wen, China's top midfielder, salvaged the draw in the 78th minute with a well-placed shot past goalie Briana Scurry from inside the penalty box after Wei Hailiying had made it 3-2 only four minutes earlier.

Tisha Venturini, substitute Tiffeny Milbrett and Mia Hamm scored for the United States before a crowd of 4,645 that included UEFA president Lennart Johansson of Sweden.

Wang Liping scored the other goal four minutes before half time for China, who finished fifth as host of the inaugural championship four years ago.

Michele Akers, the leading scorer in the 1991 World Cup in China and considered the world's top female player, sustained a mild concussion in the sixth minute and never returned.

She was doubtful for the next game here against Denmark Thursday.

Akers was injured only six minutes into the game when she helped out in defence, trying to head-clear in the penalty area after a Chinese corner.

The Americans started with a furious offence and took three shots in the first five minutes, one of them by Akers.

But when Akers left in the sixth minute, the Chinese used the one-women advantage and gradually took over command in midfield.

Venturini put the US ahead in the 23rd minute with a well-placed header, moments after she had fired over the crossbar.

Milbrett, who came in for the injured Akers in the 21st minute, knocked in a rebound just 14 minutes later after goalkeeper Zhong Honglian made the initial save on Kristen Lilly's 20-metre free kick.

The game was officiated by an all-women's crew led by Swedish referee Ingrid Jonsson.

Hamm scored the other goal in the 51st minute after breaking through unmarked to the left on a quick US counter-attack.

As against Sweden on Sun-



Ranjan (L), the speedstar of Mohammedan Sporting Club, makes an abortive attempt for his season's first goal during his side's Beximco Federation Cup football tournament engagement against Bangladesh Boys at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Mohammedans won 3-1.

— Star photo

MSC off to flying start

Sports Reporter

After a successful DMFA Cup campaign, Mohammedan Sporting Club made a resounding start in the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament with a comfortable 3-1 win over Bangladesh Boys in one of the two second round matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedans' speedy midfielder Alfaz scored two goals and defender Kalsar Hamid added another before substitute Badal Das pulled one goal back for Bangladesh Boys in a rather one-sided affair where the black and whites deserved to win by a better goal margin.

But Mohammedans' dominance did not translate into goals due to their speedy forward Ranjan, who spoiled at least four easy chances and hit the wood-work on two occasions.

The Tangail striker with a lethal left-foot, who donned the Mohammedan jersey this year, however, set up Alfaz's first goal in the 42nd minute.

He fired a powerful volley from inside the box which came by Alfaz's way after Selim, the Boys custodian, failed to hold on to the scorching drive leaving an onrushing Alfaz to slot the ball home.

But before the goal Ranjan

alone missed three easy sitters. The first one in the 12th minute once again proved how shaky Ranjan is with his right-foot when he failed to tap the ball home past a shifty Selim.

Ranjan, who failed to score a single goal in the recently concluded DMFA Cup despite being the most deceptive winger with his sudden burst of speed, compounded Mohammedan's woes when he shot the ball wide over the cross-piece in the 38th minute with Selim at his mercy.

Ranjan, who played the role of a make-shift striker in the absence of a quality marksman, found lady luck against him when his surprising but neat right-foot grounder, rebounding off the far post in the 50th minute.

But one minute later Alfaz after receiving a perfect Arman floater from the right, blasted a low drive that struck the upper far post net leaving Selim frozen on his feet 2-0.

Seven minutes later Mohammedans were denied yet another goal when Ranjan's shot from the close went out hitting the near post. With Arman, who played the pivotal role in Mohammedans' DMFA Cup triumph, remaining the linchpin of every attack the Motijheel outfit continued to torment the Boys defence and got the third goal in the 75th minute through their tall de-

fender Kalsar Hamid.

The former national player after receiving a perfect left-flank corner from Arman headed the ball home past a shifty Selim.

But the best goal of the day came in the 82nd minute when a thunderous 30-year right footer from Bangladesh Boys striker Badal Das whistled past the helpless Mohammedan goalkeeper Ponir. The bemused Mohammedan supporters were, however, showed their respect to the shot of the day with spontaneous clapping.

BU WIN

Meanwhile, in the first match of the day Brothers Union came from behind to beat Fakirpool Youngmen's Club by the odd goal in three.

The Gopthipol outfit, who were no where near their DMFA Cup performance, trailed by a lone goal at the breather.

Fakirpool, who dominated their superior opponents in the first 45 minutes, deservedly took the lead in the 36th minute when striker Askar Khan Babu shot the ball home off a rebound.

But thanks to Brothers' two Nigerian recruits — Christopher and Chibuike — who gave their newly adopted outfit a hard-fought win with strikes in the 66th and 76th minute respectively.



Action from the Transcom national schools tournament third-place decider between Narayanganj Model High School and Bawani High School at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Bawani won after a tie-breaker.

— Star photo

Brazilians blank Japan

LIVERPOOL, June 7: Two superbly-taken second-half goals by midfielder Zinho led world champions Brazil to an emphatic 3-0 win over Japan in the international four-team competition at Everton's Goodison Park ground on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Brazil gave Japan a lesson in the art of scoring with all three goals coming as the result of clean, clinical finishing that hardly any team in the world could have prevented.

The first arrived after six minutes when Roberto Carlos sent a screaming left-foot drive across the penalty area into the far corner of Nobuyuki Kojima's net after a mistake by Kazuaki Tazaka.

The second came six minutes into the second half when Zinho, who plays his club football in Japan for Yokohama Flugels, sent a powerful left-foot volley from the edge of the box high into the net past Kojima's high, despairing dive.

Kojima prevented Japan suffering an even bigger defeat with some excellent saves, thwarting Juninho and Dunga within a minute shortly before halftime, and again five minutes from the finish when he turned a Ronaldo drive away for a corner.

The lesson handed out by the masters to their pupils was as beneficial for England as it was for the Japanese.

The world champions showed Terry Venables' home team, who struggled to a last-gasp 2-1 victory over the same opponents last Saturday, just how to put the Japanese in their place.

Brazil's third came in the 68th minute when Zinho drove home with his left foot inside Kojima's right-hand post from eight metres out.

Japan, beaten 2-1 by England in their opening match of

the tournament at Wembley on Saturday, battled gamely and had two clear-cut scoring chances.

The first was in the 17th minute when Masashi Nakayama shot straight at Brazilian goalkeeper Zetti with the goal at his mercy, and the second midway through the second half when Motohiro Yamaguchi hit the outside of the post.

Japan pressurised Brazil towards the end when the world champions lost some of their defensive discipline, but could not find a way through.

It took Brazil just six minutes to make their superiority over the Japanese, felt, compared to the 88 it took England to exert a more questionable one on Saturday.

Unlike England, Brazil did not need a penalty to do it, just a piece of typically audacious skill by Roberto Carlos, who flicked the ball over the head of Akira Narahashi and then powered past Tasaka to score.

At the other end Edmundo almost scored after a mazy run and shot that hit the bar.

The world champions showed Terry Venables' home team, who struggled to a last-gasp 2-1 victory over the same opponents last Saturday, just how to put the Japanese in their place.

In the end, Brazil were the deserved victors, but Japan proved they are learning with every game, a serious consideration in their bid to host the World Cup finals in 2002.

As against Sweden on Sun-

day, Brazil could have won even more comfortable but seemed to relax towards the end rather than dampen the enthusiasm of a country whose development they are deeply involved in.

And victory on the ground where their predecessor were unceremoniously dumped out of the 1966 World Cup finals will have been deeply satisfying. It also nicely sets up a climax to the competition on Sunday at Wembley against England, who play Sweden in the 6th minute.

It took Brazil just six minutes to make their superiority over the Japanese, felt, compared to the 88 it took England to exert a more questionable one on Saturday.

Unlike England, Brazil did not need a penalty to do it, just a piece of typically audacious skill by Roberto Carlos, who flicked the ball over the head of Akira Narahashi and then powered past Tasaka to score.

At the other end Edmundo almost scored after a mazy run and shot that hit the bar.

The world champions showed Terry Venables' home team, who struggled to a last-gasp 2-1 victory over the same opponents last Saturday, just how to put the Japanese in their place.

In the end, Brazil were the deserved victors, but Japan proved they are learning with every game, a serious consideration in their bid to host the World Cup finals in 2002.

CJKP Ispahani cricket Mohammedan Blues champs

CHITTAGONG, June 7: Mohammedan Sporting Blues won the CJKP Ispahani youth cricket tournament title, beating Friends Club by 53 runs in the final at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Mohammedans after winning the toss, elected to bat first, scored 171 for nine in the stipulated 40 overs.

In reply, Friends were all out for 118 in 34.1 overs.

Anindo of Mohammedans scored the highest 55 with two boundaries facing 70 balls. He was followed by Lelin 22, Linton 16, Akbar 16, Munna 13 and Rimon 11.

Dalim of Friends claimed four wickets for 21 while Zahid took three for 29.

Irfan 28, Rashed 21 and Zeshan 11 were the main scorers of Friends Club. Lelin of Mohammedans captured four wickets for 31 while Akbar got two for 18.

Anindo of Mohammedans won the man-of-the-match award for his outstanding performance in batting.

Six teams participated in the tournament.

Iqbal Mahmood, chairman of CJKP cricket committee and additional deputy commissioner of Chittagong gave away the prizes among the winners as the chief guest.

Transcom schools hockey

Ahmed Bawani come third

Ahmed Bawani Academy of Dhaka finished third in the Transcom national schools tournament held at Narayanganj High School. 3-1 in the tie-breaker at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Meanwhile, in the first

match of the day Brothers Union came from behind to beat Fakirpool Youngmen's Club by the odd goal in three.

The Gopthipol outfit, who

dominated their superior opponents in the first 45 minutes, deservedly took the lead in the 36th minute when striker Askar Khan Babu shot the ball home off a rebound.

But thanks to Brothers' two

Nigerian recruits — Christopher and Chibuike — who gave their newly adopted outfit a hard-fought win with strikes in the 66th and 76th minute respectively.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Thumbs up for Zagalo

LIVERPOOL, England, June 7: Mario Zagalo, the Brazilian coach, expressed his delight with his experimental team's 3-0 win over Japan at Goodison Park on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

It was their second consecutive victory in the international four-team tournament after beating Sweden 1-0 on Sunday and extended Brazil's unbeaten run to 21 matches, including five wins in six games since winning the world Cup last year.

"I'm extremely pleased with the way they have entertained the fans in England," Zagalo said.

"We have played very well in both games despite being without more than half the team which beat Italy in the World Cup final. We have many players who are not internationally renowned who have come through as we prepare for the Copa America in July.

It could have been

more comfortable but

we have been very

impressive," Zagalo said.

The promised formation of

a professional soccer league

had been one of the prerequisites of the United States being awarded the 1994 World Cup.

Reuter.