

MSC defeat Abahani

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club prevailed over their arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra by a solitary goal to finish top of Group B in the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament yesterday.

In front of a packed audience at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium midfielder Alfaz scored the all-important goal in the 22nd minute with a 25-yard right-footer to enable Mohammedans celebrate their first win against Abahani since they beat the sky blues for last time in the DMFA Cup, 1993.

But whatever the outcome may be of yesterday's match, the true spirit of the most popular sporting event in the world have won as the 40,000 crowd at the big bowl enjoyed the spill-thrill encounter.

Although the season's first meeting of the two giants in the local sports circuit was scheduled for a 7:00 pm kick-off, the big bowl was over-flooded with soccer zealots one hour before the Dhaka derby. Supporters of both teams waved their giant flags, blasted crackers before enjoying the most memorable encounter between the two outfits.

The match picked up the tempo from the word go with Abahani dominating the first fifteen minutes with waves of attack.

In the very first minute Vladimir, who along with Abahani's another foreign recruits Sergei played the pivotal role of every attack, set Partha free just outside the Mohammedan box. But Partha's scorching drive was spectacularly saved by Mohammedan custodian Porfir, who tipped the ball over the bar for a corner.

Six minutes later Porfir again came to his side's rescue when the national goalkeeper made a diving save before a menacingly poised Vladimir could have posed any threat.

In the tenth minute striker Biplob deprived the Dhanmondi outfit of a lead when he headed an Iqbal-right, flank

float wide off the mark from close.

Meanwhile, the Mohammedans after surviving those close calls gradually settled into a groove with their midfield playmaker Arman finding his prolific rhythm.

The dapper Mohammedan midfielder magician, who was the linchpin of the black and whites' DMFA Cup triumph early this year, with a touch of class created the first positive scoring opportunity in the 17th minute.

With a defence splitting through Arman set Ranjan, who galloped through the right flank before releasing a perfect cross deep into the heart of Abahani defence.

But the fierce shot from Alfaz was brilliantly saved by Abahani's custodian Dhanu for a flag-kick.

Two minutes later Arman unleashed a sudden thunderous shot from about 25-yard that went out hitting the cross-piece much to the dismay of the mercurial midfielder.

Then came the shot of the day from nowhere. Alfaz after

feeble right-footer into an open net was miraculously saved by Monsur from goaline.

Abahani had got two chances to neutralise the margin in the highly enterprising first half. But both were saved by Porfir with great aplomb.

Porfir first parried a Partha free-kick in the 32nd minute diving to his right and then cut off yet another pile drive from Sergei for a corner two minutes from the lemon break.

In the second half, Mohammedans looked more organised against Abahani enjoying a better territorial dominance. They got three more chances but their forwards failed to capitalise on those sitters due to poor marksmanship.

Mohammedans, who did not take the risk of fielding their two Nigerian booters despite having registered them with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Tuesday night, justified the ploy as the local booters continued their fabulous all-win record this season.

Mohammedans will now take on Brothers Union in the

Post-match reaction

Sports Reporter

"Football is a game of goals," uttered a satisfied Manik, the captain of the Mohammedan Sporting Club, after prevailing in a thrilling 1-0 victory over their traditional rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in the last round robin league match of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup tournament at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

"They played a better game than us but ended empty-handed responding to a query Manik said and added that Abahani enjoyed 70 per cent possession during the game and their midfield and defence were good, especially the two foreigners.

"Alfaz was the best player," said Manik but he did not give full credit to the lone scorer instead blamed Abahani's custodian Dhanu as well.

Regarding tactics the black and whites' skipper explained they were told to utilise any scoring chances by their Nigerian coach Ikhana. Besides, man to man marking was another pre-planned decision.

Land Jewel Rana were entrusted the responsibility of containing Vladimir and Sergei," he added.

Meanwhile, Ikhana was obviously relieved with his team's performance though they had to work harder.

Nat'l chess meet Rajib stuns IM Zia

Sports Reporter

The final round of the 21st national chess championship began with an upset when defending champion International Master (IM) Ziaur Rahman suffered a stunning defeat at the hand of the youngest qualifier of the competition, Enamul Haque Rajib, at the chess room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.

Rajib, of the Bobby Fishers Chess Club, capitalising on a weak move of Zia at the last leg of the match forced him to surrender in the 64th move.

However, last year's runner-up IM Reefat-bin-Sattar started his campaign with a comfortable win over Fide Master (FM) Rezaul Haque in the 34th move.

In the day's other matches, Abdullah-al-Rakib beat S-M Malik, Khondakar Sayes Hasan defeated Ataur Rah-man, Ali Amzad won against Ziaul Qader, Sayefuddin Lavlu outplayed Avituzzaman, Shikdar and Tavabar Rahman beat Sheikh Shahadat Hossain.

The match between Khorsheed Alam and Arman Monir was in progress till last report came in.

Press Club cricket team announced

The Jatiya Press Club selected a preliminary Bangladesh media team yesterday to participate in the first ever SAARC media cricket tournament to be held in Hyderabad, India from June 26, reports BSS.

Besides Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, India and host Hyderabad will participate in the week-long tournament.

The members of the team chosen by the selection committee and announced by the convener of the club's sports committee Quamrul Islam Chowdhury are — Partha Tanveer Naved (Daily Sangbad) (captain), Muhammad Quamruzzaman, Masud Ahmed Rumi and Syed Saydur Rahman Shamir (Dainik Bangla), Afzal H Khan (Daily Star), Mohibul Ahsan Shaon and Dilu Khondoker (Daily Ittefaq), Syed Mamun (Bangladesh Observer), Muztaba Danish (Radio Bangladesh), Shahriar Ferdous Suvara (Dainik Janata), Rezaul Hossain Ripon (Media Syndicate), Al-Musabbir Sadi (Independent), Mustafiz Mamun (Sangram), S R Russel (New Nation), Badal Mustafiz (Ajker Kagaj) and Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh Times) (coach).

Lotus-Kamal Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Amateur Cricket Club and Farashganj SC won their respective matches in Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket league yesterday.

Amateur Club beat Srijoy Cricketers by three wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Batting first, Srijoy Cricketers scored 116 for eight in the stipulated 30 overs. Arfeen top-scored with 29. Akhtar and Imran claimed two wickets each for Amateur Club.

In reply Amateur Club reached 117 in 28.2 overs losing seven wickets. Imran scored 22 and Jusel made 20 for the winners.



Abahani's custodian Dhanu and defender Monsur (grounded) while Mohammedans midfielder Alfaz (L) all were at the wrong end as the ball eluded them on its way to cross the line during the giants engagement of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup Football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Mohammedans won 1-0. — Star photo

Baggio remains in limbo

ROME, June 14: While Giuseppe Signori is staying at Lazio by popular demand, his Italian international colleague Roberto Baggio still did not know on Tuesday where he would be playing his soccer next season, reports Reuter.

"I've had a lot of talks but there is nothing definite. I'm going to the US on Thursday and then on holiday in Argentina," Baggio, who plays for champions Juventus, told reporters.

"If I don't get a deal by the middle of the week then we'll talk about it when I get back just before the end of the month."

Baggio's Juventus contract expires at the end of June and the player has been unable to agree terms on a new one. The Italian World Cup star has reportedly rejected an annual salary of 1.25 million dollars — a third less than he now earns.

Baggio, who says he wants to stay in Italy, is on the market for 21 billion lire (13.1 million dollars) but interest remains lukewarm for the moment.

AC Milan have said the price is too high and have decided to try to sign powerful Lazio striker Pierluigi Casiraghi to play alongside Liberian George Weah next season.

City rivals Internazionale, seeking a revival under new president Massimo Moratti,

worth over the past few days. Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti was forced to back down on his decision to sell the prolific marksman to Parma for a staggering 25 billion lire (15.3 million dollars) after 4,000 irate fans besieged the club's Roman headquarters on Monday.

Financier Cragnotti has retaliated by saying he will sell his majority stake in the club. "I'm very upset and don't want to be involved in sport any more," he said.

Florentina fans rioted when their hero Baggio was sold to Juventus shortly before the 1990 World Cup and similar protests followed in 1992 after Torino transferred winger Gigi Lentini to AC Milan.

But Monday's events in Rome set a dangerous precedent with fan power prompting a club to back out of a deal.

Newspapers speculated on what the angry fans might have done had club president Dino Zoff not appeared to announce that Signori had been taken off the market.

"In some cases the line between legitimate anger and senseless violence is a thin one," commented Daily Stampa.

Signori, by contrast, has been left in no doubt about his



ROBERTO BAGGIO

Brazil perched atop FIFA rankings

ZURICH, June 14 (Reuters): World champions Brazil maintained their lead in the latest world soccer rankings issued by FIFA on Tuesday.

Leading placings (end-1994 positions in brackets)

1. Brazil (1)	67.30 points
2. Italy (4)	60.67
3. Spain (2)	60.61
4. Norway (8)	58.60
5. Germany (5)	58.36
6. Sweden (3)	58.36
7. Mexico (15)	57.98
8. Bulgaria (16)	57.93
9. Netherlands (6)	57.40
10. Argentina (10)	57.06
11. Romania (11)	56.83
12. Denmark (14)	56.72
13. Russia (13)	55.96
14. Switzerland (7)	55.23
15. Ireland (9)	54.69
16. Portugal (20)	54.15
17. France (19)	50.83
18. Nigeria (12)	50.61
19. Belgium (24)	49.53
20. Egypt (22)	47.96
21. Scotland (32)	47.73
22. England (18)	47.35
23. Colombia (17)	47.20
24. Tunisia (30)	47.18
25. Turkey (48)	46.27

Batistuta new captain of Fiorentina

ROME, June 14: Argentine Gabriel Batistuta, leading scorer in Italy's Serie A last season, has signed a new contract that will keep him with Fiorentina until 1999, club officials said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"I'm happy to have committed myself to Fiorentina for what should be the prime years of my career," said Batistuta, 26.

"Now I want to win things. Our minimum aim for next season must be a place in Europe," said the Argentine international.

Batistuta will earn an estimated 2.4 billion lire (1.5 million dollars) net per season and will be the new captain of the Fiorentina club.

Striker Batistuta was top scorer in the Italian first division with 26 goals in the season just ended.

Rehhagel's reckoning day

BONN, June 14: Werder Bremen coach Otto Rehhagel confronts his future employers Bayern Munich in a dramatic climax to the German league title race this weekend, reports Reuter.

After 14 successful years at leaders Bremen, the 56-year-old Rehhagel has decided to move to record champions Bayern next season — the biggest job of his career.

But on Saturday the Bavarians will stand in the way of Rehhagel's bid to bring the German championship to the northern club for only the fourth time in their 96-year history.

Victory on the last day of the season in Munich would ensure Rehhagel a superb send-off at Bremen and cap a brilliant period during which

he has guided the club from the Second Division to German League Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup triumphs.

Defeat could hand the title to Borussia Dortmund who are just one point behind the leaders and have a chance to clinch their first crown since 1963 with a home victory over Hamburg.

This is the fifth consecutive season that the outcome of the Bundesliga rests on the final 90 minutes of the season. But rarely has a coach and a club been put in such a curious position.

Sixth-placed Bayern have little to play for. Their hopes of qualifying for Europe next season rely largely on fifth-placed Borussia Moenchengladbach winning the German Cup later this month and giving up their UEFA Cup place to complete in the Cup

winners.

The Bayern players, however, know they could be accused of handing the championship to their future boss on a plate if they go down without a fight. Yet, scoring the winner for Bayern might not be the best preparation for life with Rehhagel next season.

Bayern chairman Franz Beckenbauer has already said he would not like to be in the players' shoes.

Few who have followed the career of Rehhagel since he took over at Bremen in 1981 will bet against him clinching his third title after 1988 and 1993, adding to German Cup triumphs in 1991 and 1994.

After he began coaching in 1972 he rarely survived more than two seasons at an array of clubs including Dortmund, Saarbrücken and Arminia Bielefeld.

Afsar tennis results

Azharul Hoque's Mont annexed the under-14 boys' singles title in the Afsar tennis tournament beating Niranjan Ram 6-2, 1-6, 6-2 at the Ramna National Complex yesterday, reports BSS.

Mont and Niranjan reached the final eliminating Rahat Kamal and Mohsin respectively in the semifinals.

In the women's singles, Shathi Sarkar and Chan Cookson entered the final. Saty Sarkar outplayed Chowdhury Roshwan Kabir Mithun 6-0, 6-1 while Chan Cookson beat Yasmin Ahmed Urmi 6-0, 6-3 in the semifinals. The final will be held on Friday.

In the under-12 boys' singles, Syed Aziz Raj clinched the title defeating Kanchan 6-2, 6-4.

Earlier, in the under-14 girls' singles, Rumana won the title beating Baishakhi 6-4, 6-1.

The under-16 boys' singles final between Shafique and Salahuddin will take place today at 4:30 pm.

One hundred and fifteen players are taking part in different events of the tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation.

Romario, Bebeto snubbed

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 14: World Cup heroes Bebeto and Romario were left out of the next month's Copa America as Brazil announced a squad largely similar to the one which outclassed Sweden, England and Japan last week, reports Reuter.

Coach Mario Zagalo refused

enough is by putting him in the team," he said. "I don't want to talk about players who were not picked."

"But he gave a clue about Bebeto's omission when he said: 'Every time we pick him, the president of his club (Deportivo la Coruna) creates problems.'"

Bebeto was pulled out of the Umbro Cup in England after FIFA ruled in the Spanish club's favour following a dispute between them and Brazilian soccer authorities. Relations between Romario and Zagalo have often been cool.

Seven changes were made to the squad for the tournament in Uruguay next month. Key players Roberto Carlos, Juninho and Edmundo and Ronaldo were all included.

Bebeto was replaced by Botafogo striker Tulio, who is top scorer in this year's Rio de Janeiro championship with 26 goals. He scored a hat-trick for Brazil when they beat Spanish club side Valencia 4-2 earlier this year.

Tulio also scored in recent friendlies against Israel and Slovakia.

World Cup goalkeeper Tafarel, who did not go to England because of club commitments, replaced Zeti.

Zagalo said he saw Argentina as favourites for the competition and admitted he knew little about Brazil's first round opponents Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

SQUAD: Goalkeepers — Danrlei (Gremio), Dida (Cruzeiro), Tafarel (Atletico Mineiro).

Defenders — Jorginho (Kashima Antlers), Roberto Carlos (Palmeiras), Rodrigo (Vitoria), Aldair (Roma), Andre Cruz (Napoli), Ronaldao (Shimizu), Narciso (Santos).

Midfielders — Cesar Sampaio (Yokohama Flugels), Dunga (Stuttgart), Zinho (Yokohama Flugels), Leonardo (Kashima Antlers), Juninho (Sao Paulo), Leandro (Vasco da Gama), Beto (Botafogo), Souza (Corinthians).

Forwards — Ronaldo (PSV Eindhoven), Edmundo (Palmeiras), Tulio (Botafogo), Savio (Flamengo).



ROMARIO



BEBETO

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Move along on ice

6 Move along on ice

11 Large wine bottle

12 Sticker for details

14 It's Scotch and water

15 Incarnation

16 Ms. Gardner

17 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" character

19 "— little teapot..."

20 Blackbird

22 Neighbor of Mich.

23 Opposite of sans

24 Screwed up

26 Godfrey's instrument

28 Have a bug

30 Kennel call

31 Took the dentist's advice

35 "Pardon me, haven't

DOWN

10 Canine coat?

11 Bit of fire

13 Follow star

18 More, in Milan

21 Smallest

23 Mont Blanc, et les autres

25 Prefix for arm or able

27 Carmen's org.?

29 George Smiley's creator

31 Bit of fire

32 Type of algebra

33 Somewhat obsolete

34 Cartoonist Browne

36 Processed sheepskin

37 A sister of JFK

38 Follow

41 Interior design

44 Existed

45 Mischievous

48 Sundial notation

50 Workers' org.

Solution time: 28 mins.

D	A	T	E	S	P	E	P	T	A		
A	G	A	V	E	O	L	E	L	O		
M	O	N	E	T	T	A	N	K	A	R	D
T	R	U	M	A	N	O	N	C	E		
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D	O	M	A	I	N	O	R	A	T	O	R
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CRYPTOQUIP

H Q Q D S A H K D N O I H D
H J H M U C D C N J Z N O H
U M I D C J S N Z Z F H J F N R C A
K N R A D A U " D N N D I C A " O N Q A I.
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF DINER EMPLOYEES
DECIDE TO GET MARRIED, THEY'LL SHOP FOR
ONION RINGS.

Today's Cryptiquip clue: H equals A

The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.