

Sergei salvo silences Mukti's

Abahani in Fed Cup final

Sports Reporter

Abahani's Russian midfielder Sergei earned a unique distinction of scoring the first 'golden goal' in the Dhaka football, as the sky blues moved into the final of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament defeating the star-studded Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra by the odd goal in three in the first semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The last year's runners-up, who were trailing by a lone goal at the breather, inspired by the presence of Monem Munna struck the equaliser five minutes from the final whistle through their striker Biplob before Sergei scored the match-winner during the sudden death 30 minute extra-time to give Abahani a sensational victory.

after sustaining an injury in Abahani's previous match against arch-rival Mohammedans, marked his inspirational presence with a scorching 30 yard free-kick that went straight to the Muktiyoddha custodian Arun Bikash Dewan.

One minute later, Sergei after receiving a Jamal cross from the right unleashed a blistering shot that forced Arun into making a reflex save for a corner.

But despite putting Muktiyoddha on the defensive with waves of attacks, Abahani's forwards could not translate their dominance into goals. The sky blues' agony was compounded when Biplob, after receiving a through from Munna, shot wide off the mark in the 78th minute with only Arun at his mercy.

Biplob, however, made amends for his previous blunder when he struck the equaliser with a side volley from inside the box in the 85th minute. He got the ball from Jamal, who from an apparent off-side position galloped through the right flank before providing a neat cross to Biplob.

After the equaliser, the match rolled into the sudden death extra time where Sergei was deprived of a goal in the 11th minute when his fierce left-footer from inside the box went out hitting a Muktiyoddha defender.

But lady-luck smiled upon the fleet-footed Russian midfielder in the 22nd minute when he blasted a powerful grounder that squeezed through the near post after a deflection off an Muktiyoddha defender. Sergei, who was roaming near the edge of box got the ball after a Munna free-kick from the right following a faulty clearance from a Muktiyoddha stopper.

The goal enacted a deafening roar from the stands and the Abahani officials rushed onto the pitch to join in the fun.

Muktiyoddha, once again proved that they do not possess the killer instinct when it counts most.

The freedom fighters have themselves to blame for adopting a defensive approach in the second half that virtually allowed Abahani to take the control of the midfield.

Furthermore their attitude or perhaps lack of it in the crucial sudden death extra-time made one wonder whether they ran like 'headless chickens'.



Action from yesterday's first semifinal of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament between Abahani Kriya Chakra and Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Abahani moved into the final with a 2-1 win. — Star photo

However, it was Muktiyoddha, who took the upper hand in the first 45 minutes displaying a better brand of soccer against a pedestrian show by Abahani.

They took the lead in the ninth minute through their striker Intiaz Ahmed Naqib who stabbed the ball home from a goalmouth melee.

But in the second half, Abahani's reliable defender Munna, changed the whole scenario of the game after he came on as a substitute for Ali Monsur in the 62nd minute.

As Munna came to play as a midfielder, Abahani got a new lease of life and from then on they never looked back.

Munna, who was sidelined

Yellow card: Emadul, Rakib and Naqib (Muktiyoddha), Vladimir, Biplob (Abahani KC).

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Dhanu, Mansur Ali (Munna), Mansur, Sohail Reza, Mamun, Joy (Iqbal), Sergei, Vladimir (Swapan), Partha, Jamal and Biplob.

MUKTIYODDHA SANGSAD: Arun, Emadul, Barun, kingsuk, Masud Rana, Mamun (Rana), Titu, Zakir (Rumi), Rakib, Mizan and Naqib. Referee: Monirul Islam

TODAY'S MATCH

Mohammedans vs Brothers Union (5.30 PM).

Joyner-Kersee adds another

SACRAMENTO, California, June 16: For Jackie Joyner-Kersee, it was not pretty. It was, however, another win.

Joyner-Kersee, battling a series of injuries, asthma, allergies, rain and wind, won her sixth national heptathlon title Thursday night in the USA-Mobil Championships at weather-plagued Hughes Stadium, reports AP.

The 33-year-old Joyner-Kersee finished the seven-event, two-day competition with 6,375 points, her lowest total since finishing second in the 1984 Olympics with 6,363. Still, it was her 19th consecutive victory in a heptathlon she has completed since then.

This was Joyner-Kersee's first heptathlon of the year and it showed her lack of conditioning. Her time of 24.36 seconds in the 200 metres was her slowest ever. Her first-day total of 3,836 points was her worst since the Los Angeles Games. Her javelin throw of 136 feet, 11 inches was her worst since 1987, and her 2:26.39 for the 800 was her slowest since 1987.

The World Championships will be at Gothenburg, Sweden, August 4-13, and Joyner-Kersee will be joined on the team by Kym Carter and Kelly Blair, each of whom finished with 6,354 points.

Meanwhile, Dan O'Brien, buoyed by a meet record in the 110-metre hurdles and a multi-event career-best in the discus, thrust himself into position to break his world decathlon record.

O'Brien, who set the world

record of 8,891 points at Talence, France, in 1992, was only 19 points off his record pace after seven events.

Three decathlon events remained Thursday — the pole vault, javelin throw and 1,500 metres. The vault was delayed for a long time, first by rain, then when officials turned around the directions of the stanchions because of the strong winds, and finally Aric Long suffered a possible broken left collarbone during a warmup attempt.

Former NCAA champion Chris Huffins, who won his hurdles heat in 14.33 and threw the discus a career-best 167-10, was in second place with 6,401 points.

The decathlon and heptathlon were two of Thursday's four finals.



Toyabur Rahman makes a move against Arman during their match in the 21 national tournament at the NSC chessroom yesterday. — Star photo

'Munna the main man'

Sports Reporter

Monem Munna came, enthralled and won the hearts of millions of Abahani supporters with his inspirational presence as Abahani achieved a sensational 2-1 win over Muktiyoddha at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The impact was so overwhelming that the jubilant Abahani fans who were heading home in upbeat mood, cheered for their hero of the night Munna, Munna.

Although Abahani's Russian midfielder Sergei entered the record books after scoring the first 'golden goal' in the Dhaka football, it was Munna who changed the whole game in the second half.

Munna, who sustained an injury in his side's previous match against Mohammedan Sporting Club and was sidelined during the first half, came on in the 61st minute to provide the disorganised sky blue youngsters a new lease of life.

"I may have scored the match-winner, but all credit goes to Munna for providing the perfect tonic," said Sergei through Shamim, his interpreter.

"Munna's presence influenced the players to gather their confidence in the crucial moments," said Abahani's team manager Tutul. Sohail Reza and Monsur Ali also echoed the same, while Titu, skipper of Muktiyoddha admitted Munna was the 'key player' of the match.

Reefat, Kayes share lead

Sports Reporter

International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar and Khondokar Kayes Hassan were jointly leading the points table with maximum points on completion of the third round of the 21st national championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.

Last year's runner-up, Reefat, playing with black adopted the Slav Defence and cornered Abdullah Al-Rakib in the 33rd move.

Khondokar Kayes Hassan had a tough match against Enamul Haque Rajib, who upset defending champion Ziaur Rahman in the first round, before finally taming the youngster in 57 moves.

Meanwhile, Reefat's arch-rival IM Ziaur Rahman, who had a shaky start to the competition, beat Sheikh Shahadat Hossain in 34 moves for his second successive win. With this win the defending champion Ziaur shared the second spot along with Ali Amzad, Sayefuddin Lavlu, Arifuzzaman Shikdar, Enamul Hossain Rajib and Ataur Rahman.

Women's World Cup

Norway, Germany in final

ASTERAS, Sweden, June 16: Set pieces often decide soccer games. Ann-Kristin Aarones' header off a corner gave Norway a 1-0 victory over the United States to reach their second straight women's World Cup final.

"We're very strong on set pieces, but I'm surprised we haven't scored more goals on those corner kicks in this tournament," said coach Even Pellerud after Norway survived a frantic last 15 minutes of Thursday's semifinal, reports AP.

Defender Gro Espeseth took the corner in the 10th minute and Aarones, one of the tallest players in the championships, rose high to beat US goalkeeper Briana Scully with a header that went in just under the crossbar.

The hard-fought triumph avenged a 2-1 setback to the Americans in the final of the inaugural World Championship in China four years ago.

The Norwegians, who were eliminated by Sweden in the European semifinals earlier this year, will meet European

champions Germany in Sunday's final at Rasunda Stadium in Stockholm.

The Germans beat China 1-0 thanks to Bettina Wiegmann's 79th-minute goal in the other semifinal in Helsingborg, southern Sweden. In 1991, Germany finished out of the medals, losing the bronze-medal game to Sweden.

The Americans will head back to Gavle, central Sweden, for Saturday's bronze-medal game against China. The teams tied 3-3 in the round-robin opener.

Aarones scored her tournament-leading sixth goal — and third on a header — and 37th in 55 international appearances for Norway.

The Americans were outplayed for much of the game and didn't get going offensively until late in the second half.

The defending world champions hit the crossbar twice in the last five minutes including two long-range shots by defender Joy Fawcett. Midfielder Tisha Venturini also had a 25-metre shot that Norwegian goalie Bente Nordby tipped over the crossbar.

"I'm going to measure that goal to make sure it's eight feet tall," said DiCicco, whose team failed to score for the first time in five championship games.

Striker Tiffany Milbrett, the Americans' leading scorer along with midfielder Kristine Lilly, came close of getting a fourth in the 75th minute. It was the first dangerous chance for the Americans in the game.

Michelle Akers, who scored both goals in the 1991 final, returned as a starter for the first time since sustaining a mild concussion and a strained knee just six minutes into the opening game against China.

Akers, who came back strongly this year after a long bout with Epstein-Barr syndrome, the condition often called chronic fatigue syndrome, netted the game-winner against Norway in the 1991 final with just two minutes remaining.

Store's ejection means she will miss Sunday's final.

Dettol cricket prize giving ceremony held

CHITTAGONG, June 16: The prize distribution ceremony of Dettol soap metropolitan cricket league was held at the Dampara Police Line ground here today, reports BSS.

Abdur Rouf, chairman of metropolitan cricket committee and deputy commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police distributed the prizes among the winners as chief guest.

Regency Sports Club and Mohammedan Sporting Club became joint champions in the league while Shaheed Shajahan Sangha was runners-up. Ishtiaq of Mohammedans won the prize of the highest scorer in the league scoring 187 runs while Suja of Shaheed Shajahan Sangha received the prize of highest wicket-taker bagging 12 wickets.

Five teams participated in the league held under the auspices of Chittagong Metropolitan Sports Association.

Afsar tennis

Hira Lal and Shibu Lal clinched the men's doubles title beating Mahtabur Rahman Haruf and Khaled Salahuddin 7-6 (7-5), 6-7, (5-7), 6-4 in the final of the Afsar tournament at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday, reports BSS.

In the women's doubles final, Sathi Sarker and Hosneara Begum Rina defeated Ishtiaq Esi and Tania Farzana Saoni pair 6-1, 6-3.

The mixed doubles final will be held at 4 pm today at the same venue.



Celebration for a goal which will go down into the record books of the Dhaka football. Sergei (second from right) is being congratulated by an Abahani player after he scored the maiden 'golden goal' in his side's 2-1 win over Muktiyoddha Sangsad in the first semifinal of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Press Club picks 14 for SAARC media cricket

The Jatiya Press Club finally selected 14 players yesterday to represent Bangladesh in the first SAARC media cricket tournament, scheduled to begin in Hyderabad, India on June 26, reports BSS.

The selection of the Bangladesh media team was made after a week-long trial held at the Dhaka Stadium and Mirpur Indoor Stadium.

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan and India will participate in the week-long meet. Besides, a team from Hyderabad will also take part as host.

Bangladesh contingent: Partha Tanveer Naved (Daily Sangbad) captain, Mohammad Quamruzzaman, Masud Ahmed Rumi and Syed Saydur Rahman Shamim (Dainik Bangla), Afzal H Khan (Daily Star), Mohibul Ahsan Shaon (Daily Ittefaq), Syed Mamun (Bangladesh Observer), Muztaba Danish (Radio Bangladesh), Shahriar Ferdous Suva (Dainik Janata), Rezaul Hossain Ripon (Media Syndicate), Al Musabbir Sadi Pamel (Independent), S R Siddiqui (New Nation), M Z Bhutto (Dainik Bhorer Dak) and S S Chowdhury Shishir (Dainik Azad).

Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh Times), will be the coach of the team, while Quamrul Islam Chowdhury (BSS) will accompany the team as manager.

The stand-bys are: Dilu Khondokar (Ittefaq) and Badal Mustafiz (Ajker Kagoj).

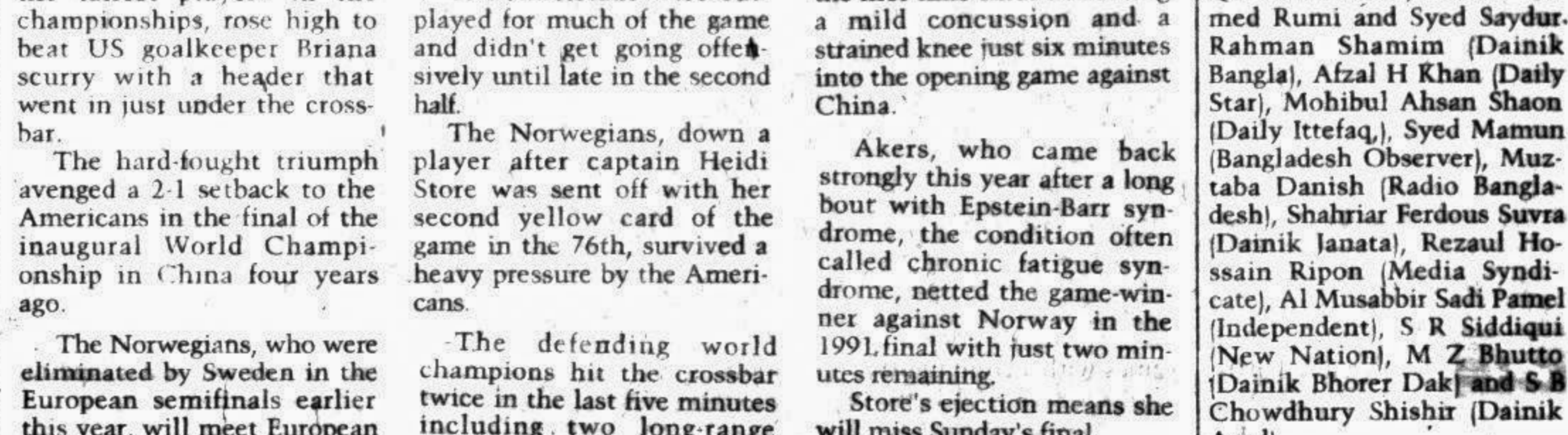
Williams warms up for Windies

EDINBURGH, June 16: 'Opener Stuart Williams staked his claim for a place in West Indies Test side with a superb 132 from just 135 balls in the 47-run win over Scotland on Thursday, reports Reuter.

He led West Indies to 305 for eight from their 55 overs.

The Scots' reply of 258 for five was built around half centuries by Iain Philip, George Salmon and Greig Williamson.

Salmond and Williamson shared a 117-run fifth wicket stand.



America's Karin Gabarra (12) and Tisha Venturini (15, on ground) react while Norwegians celebrate (background left) after beating the US in the women's World Cup soccer semifinals in Sweden on June 15. Norway won the match 1-0. — AFP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41 Boil	2 Re planes and such	21 Phone bk. data
1 Festive	43 Road goo	3 Hearty tug	23 Whatever amount
4 Pouch	44 Cavort	4 Marceau portrayal	25 Lug
7 Mediterra-	46 Light pink-yellow	5 Economist Smith	26 Model Macpherson
nean	50 "— so it qui mal y pense"	6 Robot of Jewish folklore	27 Bring up
seaport	53 Go up and down	7 Get separate checks	28 Kin of a sort
11 Decipher	55 Vicinity	9 Fast-forward past the ads	29 Dangling site
13 "— not choose	56 Author Ambler	8 "Chances —"	30 Farm fraction
to run"	57 I, to Caesar	31 Run up the phone bill	35 Wrestling surface
14 Stopover en route to	58 Hue	38 Yet, in verse	40 Eaves-dropper's device
Casablanca	59 It's often covered in white	42 Fireplace minutia	45 Kelly's possum
15 Italian river	60 Squabble	47 Met melody	48 Copper
16 Chum	61 Put away	49 Bigot's problem	50 Attention getter
17 Cabinet div.	DOWN	51 Acapulco gold	52 Zilch
18 Hayseed	1 Confederate army	54 Prop for Paganini	
20 Carte	Solution time: 24 min.		
22 Vast quantity			
24 Off-tattooed word			
28 Oksana Baiul's specialty			
32 Climb			
33 Part of the foot			
34 Verb for Popeye			
36 Shake in the grass?			
37 Height of French fashion?			
39 Fighter			

CRYPTOQUIP

FWLPK, IJKLASKFKQXHP
SILNK NSIA XN DSK
QWHK KJKHD

Saturday's Cryptoquip: ALL THE ACTORS AT AN AUDITION FOR A DUSTIN HOFFMAN MOVIE COVETED "TOOTSIE" ROLES.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: H equals N

The Cryptoquip 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.