

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 Mukti Joddha Sangsad Krira 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.

Biplob, however, made amends for his previous blun-

deflection off an Mukti Joddha defender. Sergei, who was roaming near the edge of box got the ball after a Munna free kick from the right following a faultless clearance from a Mukti Joddha stopper.

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

Mukti Joddha, 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'.

Abahani's Russian midfiel-

der 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 disorganized sky blues 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. Sohel Reza and Monsur Ali also echoed the same, while Titu, skipper of Mukti Joddha admitted Munna was the 'key player' of the match.

## 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 Mukti Joddha 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.

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## 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.

"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 Aaron, one of the tallest players in the championships, rose high to beat US goalkeeper Briania scurvy with a header that went in just under the crossbar.

The Americans will head

back to Gävle, central Sweden, for Saturday's bronze-

medal game against China.

The teams tied 3-3 in the round-robin opener.

Aaron scored her tourna-

ment-leading sixth goal —

and third on a header — and 37th in 55 international ap-

pearances for Norway.

The Americans were out-

played for much of the game

and didn't get going off-

ensively until late in the second half.

The Norwegians, down a

player after captain Heidi

Store was sent off with her

second yellow card of the

game in the 76th, survived a

heavy pressure by the Ameri-

cans.

The Norwegians, who were

eliminated by Sweden in the

European semifinals earlier

this year, will meet European

champions Germany in Sun-

day's final at Rasunda Sta-

dium in Stockholm.

The Germans beat China

1-0 thanks to Bettina Wieg-

mann's 79th-minute goal in

the other semifinal in Hels-

ingborg, southern Sweden. In

1991, Germany finished out

of the medals, losing the

bronze-medal game to Swe-

den.

"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 champion-

ship 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.

Bangladesh contingent:

Partha Tanveer Naved (Daily

Sangbad) captain, Mohammad

Quamruzzaman, Masud

Ahmed Rumi and Syed Sayur

Rahman Shamim (Dainik

Bangla), Afzal H Khan (Daily

Star), Mohibul Ahsan Shaon

(Daily Ittefaq), Syed Mamun

(Bangladesh Observer), Muz-

taba Danish (Radio Bangla-

des), Shahriar Ferdous Suvra

(Dainik Janata), Rezaul Ho-

ssain Ripon (Media Syndicate), Al Musabir Sadiq Patel

(Independent), S R Siddiqui

(New Nation), M Z Bhutto

(Dainik Bhoror Dak) and S B

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

Khondoker (Ittefaq) and Badal

Mustafiz (Ajker Kagoj).

## 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 Bangladeshi 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 Sayur Rahman Shamim (Dainik Bangla), Afzal H Khan (Daily Star), Mohibul Ahsan Shaon (Daily Ittefaq), Syed Mamun (Bangladesh Observer), Muztaba Danish (Radio Bangladesh), Shahriar Ferdous Suvra (Dainik Janata), Rezaul Ho-sain Ripon (Media Syndicate), Al Musabir Sadiq Patel (Independent), S R Siddiqui (New Nation), M Z Bhutto (Dainik Bhoror Dak) and S B 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 Khondoker (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.

Salmon and Williamson shared a 117 run fifth wicket stand.



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 Mukti Joddha Sangsad in the first semifinal of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

## Women's World Cup

## Norway, Germany in final

VASTERAS, 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 Aaron, one of the tallest players in the championships, rose high to beat US goalkeeper Briania scurvy 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 Sun-

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dium in Stockholm.

The Germans beat China

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