Dull display marks finale

MSC clinch Fed Cup

Sports Reporter

Custodian Ponir made two brilliant saves to propel Mohamme-

dan Sporting Club lifting the Federation Cup for a record seventh time with a 6-5 tiebreak win over their archrivals Abahani Krira Chakra in the final of the 13th version of the meet at the

Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The fate of the finale rolled into tie-breaker after both the giants in the domestic circuit failed to produce any goal during the 90-minute regulation period and in the 30minute sudden death extra-

In the tie-breaker, Ponir

near post leaving the match

And in the sudden death penalty shot-out Ponir made yet another reflex save when he clung onto Jamal's rightfooter diving to his left before Mohammedans captain Nurul Huq Manik sealed Abahani's fate with a cool placing shot leaving Dhanu at the other

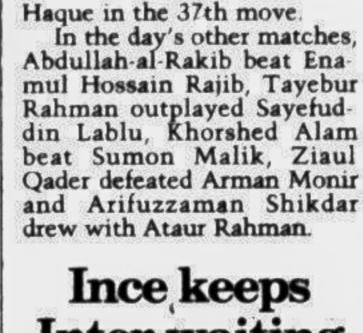
The goal enacted a deafening roar from the stands and caused the delirious Mohammedans supporters to begin celebrating their second successive title this year. Mohammedans had earlier won the DMFA Cup, season's curtain-raiser meet.

the players of both sides run-

ning listlessly. On the otherhand, Mohammedans were only a pale shadow of their former self with their midfielders remaining totally off-colour. Mohammedans' only positive at tack in the first half came in the 26th minute when Alfaz unleased a left-footer from inside the box. But Abahani's defender Sohel Reza cleared the ball for a corner.

In the second half Ponir. the eventual hero of the night, kept Abahani at bay with a couple of good saves.

After a fierce Munna grounder from inside the box in the 50th minute slightly missed the mark, Ponir fisted



Reefat keeps

slate clean

Sports Reporter

slot of the 21st national chess championship remained un-

changed with table leader International Master Reefat-bin-

Sattar extending his winning

streak to seven on completion

of the seventh round at the

chess room of the National

Sports Council (NSC) yester-

Reefat, the Biman con-

tender, playing with white

against Ali Amjad Mintu's

Scicilian Defence needed only

37 moves to earn resignation

from the player of the Bobby

trailing the the table leader

with six points, beat Sheikh

Shahadat Hossain in 55

Defending champion IM

Ziaur Rahman held the third

position with a comfortable

win over FIDE Master Rezaul

Khondakar Kayes Hassan,

Fischer Chess Club.

The scenario in the top

Inter waiting

LONDON, June 21: England midfielder Paul Ince frustrated Inter Milan officials Wednesday by delaying his decision on whether to accept a 7-million-pound (dlrs 11.2 million) offer to join the Italian club until Friday, reports

Inter had demanded Ince give an answer Wednesday after negotiations had dragged

The Manchester United player travelled to Italy last week for talks with the club but did not make a decision there as it had expected. His indecision has led to

speculation that Ince, 27, will stay at Old Trafford.

United chairman Martin Edwards said if Ince rejects the Inter offer, he will not be sold to any other English

Reports had said Tottenham and Arsenal, which yesterday paid 7.5 million pounds (dlrs 12m) for Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp, are eager to sign him.

But Edwards said: "If Paul decides to reject Inter then we would not consider any offers from another English club.

"If he stays that will be fine and we will get on with it. I spoke to Paul on Monday and he told me he would give his decision on Friday. At this moment I do not know which way things will go."

Carbajal wins

BAKERSFIELD, California, June 21: Former junior flyweight champion Michael Carbajal stopped Andre Cazarez Tuesday night in the 10th round of a scheduled 10round flyweight bout at the Civic Auditorium, reports

Cazarez was fetired by his corner due to a possible broken nose. Carbajal, from Phoenix, rated No. 1 by the WBC, had won every round and had the only knockdown of the fight when he floored Cazarez with a right hand in the first round.

Carbajal held the IBF junior flyweight title from 1990-93.

Carbajal, who weighed 113 pounds (51 kilograms), improved his record to 35-1, with 21 knockouts. Cazarez, 114 pounds, is 21-14, with 15 knockouts.

Henman stuns Bjorkman

LONDON, June 21: Tim Henman gave British tennis a rare moment to savour here on Tuesday with an uplifting straight sets victory over No 2 seed Swede Jonas Bjorkman, reports AFP.

The 20-year-old from Oxford, who shattered a leg playing in Singapore just nine months ago, stunned the Monte Carlo-based Swede 7-6, 7-5 in a first round triumph to stop the familiar rot after five home players crashed out

Last week Henman beat the world's 49th-ranked Martin Sinner of Germany at the Queen's Club tournament and Tuesday's success came just hours after he learned he will meet the mighty Pete Sampras at Wimbledon in the second round next week.

Henman will meet the reigning Wimbledon champion provided he removes Kenya's Paul Wekese, who lost in the first round in Halle, Germany, in his opening test and Sampras does not slip up against Karsten Braasch of

Germany. A few weeks later Henman suffered an even more shattering reverse when he broke his left leg in three places, crashlanding after a failed attempt a flying forehand in Singa-



The players and officials of Mohammedan Sporting Club who won the title of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament defeating arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra 6-5 in the tie-breaker at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Star photo

Platini

turns 40

owner Giovanni Agnelli on

Wednesday marked the 40th

birthday of retired French

forward midfielder Michel

Platini on Wednesday by

calling him the greatest for-

eign player who ever played

for the famed Turin team, re-

Agnelli, also owner of

Italy's auto giant Fiat auto

group, said Platini, "was a

complete player, strong as a

Omar Sivori, John Charles

and Karl Hansen- all Juven-

He placed Platini above

midfielder and strike."

ports AP

TURIN, June 21: Juventus

Diego gets no FIFA favour



June 21 FIFA. world soccer's governing body, refused a plea from Argentina's

Diego Maradona on Tuesday to reduce his 15-month playing ban by two months. reports Reuter

The penalty imposed on Maradona for failing a dope test during last year's World Cup finals in the United States "was imposed by the commission of the World Cup '95 organising committee and cannot be appealed," said FIFA secretary general Sepp Blatter, speaking on Argentine

Maradona said last week he would send a fax or travel

LONDON, June

21. Dutch intern-

ational Dennis

Bergkamp beca-

me Bruce Rioch's

first signing as

Arsenal manager on Tuesday

when he joined the English

Premier League side from

Internazionale for 7.5 million

nounced the transfer simulta-

neously after the 26-year-old

forward had agreed personal

terms with the London club

Bergkamp today and we are

very excited about this," said

Arsenal president Peter Hill-

Wood at a Highbury news

world's top players when he

joined Inter from Ajax Ams-

terdam in 1993, he has failed

to live up to that billing in a

troubled two years in Serie A.

pearances scoring 11 goals -

eight in 31 appearances in

1993-94 and three goals in 21

games last season — while his

record at Ajax had been 101

goals in 187 league appear-

won 1993-94 UEFA Cup, net-

ting eight times during the

His last appearance for In-ter was marked by him miss-

ing a penalty in a 2-2 draw at

Sampdoria in the penultimate

game of the season and that

more or less rounded off an

unhappy period for the man,

the Italian press dubbed the

"Ice Prince" because of his

44 Currier's

46 Long

50 Writer

54 Sir

partner

periods

Fallaci

52 "Lily maid

colloq.

56 Pastry

shop

I's courtier

of Astolat

The jelt better as Inter

He made 52 Serie A ap-

Hailed as one of the

"We have signed Dennis

at Highbury, reports Reuter.

Arsenal and Inter an

pounds.

conference.

ances.

campaign

to FIFA's Zurich headquarters to ask for a reduced ban that would allow him to start play ing for his new club Boca Juniors from the beginning of Argentina's soccer season in

I have been dreaming of playing for Boca for the past 14 years, said an ecstatic Maradona some days ago.

But Maradona's relationship with FIFA has been a rocky one. In the past few months, he has called FIFA president Joao Havelange and Blatter a bunch of "mafiosi" and "crooks."

Last week he suggested Brazilian former soccer great Pele should take over from Havelange to head the organisation "so that someone who

Gunners bag Bergkamp

to teammates and reporters.

that he has landed one of the

world's top players, albeit at a

reported 25,000 pounds a

world-class player with won-

derful ability who is techni-

cally excellent and an indi-

vidual who is capable of ap-

plying his considerable talent

trust in Dennis Bergkamp's

ability and I am delighted that

Dennis has chosen Arsenal

football club and the Premier

League.

"I have complete faith and

to the benefit of the team.

But Rioc is in no doubt

Dennis Bergkamp is a

understands soccer is in

Meanwhile Maradona was recovering from a cosmetic operation to trim his jowls.

"I had them trim my jowls, because I've lost so much weight that they began to look inflamed and were totally unaesthetic," said the former Argentine captain, quoted by the state-controlled Telam news agency.

midfield star said his wife asked him to undergo the liposuction operation beneath his law

The stocky 34-year old

"I want to look good for her." he said.

Maradona is in training to start playing for Boca in September.

of English soccer after his fa-

ther took him to see Arsenal'

arch-rivals Tottenham and

Glenn Hoddle in action in the

1980s. Ironically, he is now

Tuesday quoted Bergkamp as

saying: "London's the right

place. I've been encouraged

by what's happened to Juer-

gen Klinsmann. One season at

Tottenham was enough for

him to wipe out all the bit-

terness of Italy and be voted

move to Barcelona, he said:

"going to Spain from Italy

wouldn't have made a great

deal of difference. Maybe the

world of soccer is less compli-

cated in Spain but it wasn't

an off-the-field cash bonanza

following Bergkamp's signing.

four-year deal with reportedly

make him the highest paid

homage to their new hero as

devoutly as Tottenham's did

when Klinsmann arrived last

year, Arsenal's coffers could

be filling up as soon as they

player in British football.

The 26-year-old striker's

But if Arsenal fans pay

Arsenal will be hoping for

Commenting on a possible

player-of-the-year."

worth the risk."

account.

Corriere Delo Sport on

Arsenal's record signing.

tus stars in the 60s- "because he played a soccer which had become faster, tougher, more difficult."

"He was a special player. I wish him all the best, and I give him a rebuke: He retired too early," Agnelli made public on Wednesday. The Frenchman retired in

1987 at the age of 32 and a vear later took over as manager of the French national team. He had scored 348 goals in 648 professional

Platini, a three-time best European-player-of-the-year - the only player to win in

three successive years, scored 100 goals in five years with Juve and helped the Turin club win two Italian League titles, one Champion's Cup and one Intercontinental Cup.

Beijing-Taipei brawl on

TAIPEI, June 21: Taiwan has not lost the right to host the Olympic Games despite defying International Olympic Committee (IOC) president

"interference" from Beijing which views Taiwan as a renegade province with no right to attend international

empty into Berkgamp's bank Asian b'ball results SEOUL, June 21: Japan overwhelmed Iran 103-83 to add a fourth win in their bid dapest, Hungary. to reach the finals in the Taiwan is a member of the

Olympic qualifier here Wednesday, reports AFP. In other matches, Kazakhstan edged out Thailand 91-70 and Malaysia trounced Sri Lanka 91-57.

Juan Antonio Samaranch in making an abortive bid to stage the 2002 Asian Games, Taipei's representative to the IOC said Wednesday, reports But WU Ching-Kuo admitted Taipei has to reck on with

activities. "After communication with other IOC members, we have been able to sateguard our rights in the IOC, WU told reporters after returning from an IQC meeting in Bu-

IOC and is entitled to host the Olympic Games, "as evident by the practice of the IOC in sending us letters inquiring on our wish to host the Games or not," he said.

KEEXHJ

YPDNMH

Bergkamp became an admirer supposedly haughty attitude CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

gust 10.

ACROSS 1 Discard 6 Teams 12 City near Denver 13 Em or

Mame 14 Refines ore 15 Bacon

55 Cowardly: serving 16 Bay 17 Neighbor of Wyo. 57 Elizabeth 19 Plato's H

DOWN 1 Wrestling conquered" style 22 Sea eagle 2 All hands 24 Eggs 27 Nitwit on deck 29 De-3 Royce's squeaks

32 Decide now **35** Lot 36 Where heros ar

made 37 Napoleonic marshal 38 Tackle's teammate 40 Prelude to

a duel

42 Prevent

MEREDITHECOL BATONEKEYEVIE JAMWHY POLAR

district partner 4 Skill 21 Blood-type 5 Shibgroup 23 Pilfer boleth 24 Vacation-6 Poet Teasdale ing 25 Through 7 Reason

DENNIS BERGKAMP

Arsenal will be against his old

club Inter at Highbury on Au-

named him Dennis -

although with two Ns after

Scottish great Denis law.

Bergkamp's first game for

His soccer-loving father

26 One of the stars of no-fault "M"A"S"H" insurance? 8 Ourselves 28 Perfect (Ger.) pitch?

30 Fabri-9 Timon, cation for one 31 Pigs' digs 10 It should **33** Coop be baloccupant anced 34 Actress 11 Antitoxins Carrere 12 Volcanic

39 Luncheonspewing 18 Bishop's 41 Rings out 42 Stage

Solution time: 24 mins. 43 "Turandot"

> 49 Pty a 51 Noshed 53 "- Miserables"

dud tune 45 Prevent monotony 47 Incense 48 As strong

UMBRELLA — IF YOU DON'T MIND GARGLING. Today's Cryptoquip clue: H equals N

CRYPTOQUIP

ELX KDEP JXZPRMEMPH

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LET A SMILE BE YOUR

DHKTRX

JXFTO, ZO

AKN YFDNLXJ.

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.



Reza. But Mohammedans were deprived of an imminent

their victory when midfielder

Sattyajit Das Rupu sent the

and four bronze medals re-

tained the title of Bangladesh

championship, reports BSS.

our became runner-up secur-

ing two gold, one silver and

and waterpolo championship

concluded at Bangladesh

Navy Central Swimming

Pool, Banani yesterday, an

Tayeb of BAF Base Matiur

Chief of the Air Staff Air-

Ahmed witnessed the final

later gave away the trophies.

Caniggia to join

Boca Juniors

Claudio Caniggia is set to join

his former Argentine national

captain end close friend Diego

Maradona at Buenos Aires

club Boca Juniors, a top club

official said on Tuesday, re-

well advanced and there

should "be no problem of any

sort for his incorporation

Boca general-Secretary Je-

Caniggia has been playing

Maradona reached an

agreements with Boca earlier

this month to play for them.

sus Asiain told Argentine

for Portuguese club Benfica.

Talks with the striker are

ports Reuter.

here,"

television.

BUENOS AIRES, June 21:

Rahman was adjudged the

best swimmer of the champi-

The five-day swimming

four bronze medals.

IISPR press release said.

deciding 12-yarder past the packed audience. BAF swimming But last evening's final fi-BAF Base Matiur Rahman with twelve gold, four silver

Air Force inter-base swimming BAF Base Pahar Kanchan-

tackles from behind.

onship, He captured five gold Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin meet as the chief guest and

1980

1984

1985

1987

1989

1990

1991

1994

traditional foe on successive

beaten Abahani, on the same day, Tuesday, at the same venue and in front of a jam-

asco was no where near the previous engagement which

sides in a bid to play safe used rough tackling quite freely with referee Sheikh Badruddin overlooking most of the nasty

ing a scuffle between the two

box in the 15th minute. But

occasions for the first time.

eventful indeed. Because in

was a highly enterprising one. However, the finale was the marathon encounter both

players in the 93rd minute.

his shot sailed over the bar.

However, Badruddin came out of his shell only in the sudden death extra-time when the man-in-black sent Mohammedans midfielder Arman and Abahani's striker Biplob to the dressing room follow-

Abahani, who successful employed their reliable defender Munna in the midfield,

'Incidentally, they had

The match started at a snails pace before Abahani's Russian midfielder Sergei, playing a couple of one twos with Jamal, struck a fierce right-footer from inside the

got a couple half chances in the lacklustre first half with

Mohammedans, who came

up with more motivation after the breather, got two chances in the last quarter of the regulation time.

In the 69th minute Baba's header was tipped over the bar by Abahani's custodian Dhanu and one minute later Manik spoiled an easy sitter shooting the ball wide of the mark with only Dhanu at his

Red Card: Arman (Mohammedan SC), Biplob (Abahani

Yellow Card: Kaiser Hamid and Manik (Mohammedan SC), Iqbal and Swapan (Abah-

TEAMS MOHAMMEDAN SC:

Ponir, Alamgir (Rupu), Kaiser Hamid, Ruhul Amin, Jewel Rana, Monwar Munna, Manik, Arman, Ranjan (Sunny) Alfaz (Parvez) and Ladi Baba

ABAHANI KC: Dhanu, Hasan Al Mamun, Ali Mansur, Sohel Reza, Partha, Monem Munna, Iqbal (Swapan), Vladimir, Sergei, lamal and Biplob.

Referee: SK Badruddin. Bangladesh Football Federation has earned Tk 44,12,690 as gate money, including Tk 11,00,400 from the day's final match.

Runners-up Champions Mohammedan SC and Brothers Union (Joint) Abahani KC Mohammedan SC Mohammedan SC and

ROLL OF HONOUR

Abahani KC (Joint) Abahani KC Mohammedan SC Abahani KC (abandoned) Mohammedan SC **Brothers Union** Abahani KC-**Brothers Union** Abahani KC Mohammedan SC Wanderers Club Abahani KC Mohammedan SC Abahani KC Mohammedan SC Mohammedan SC Abahani KC Mohammedan SC **Brothers Union** Abahani KC Muktijoddha Sangsad Abahani KC Mohammedan SC



Abahani's reliable defender Monem Munna, who played as a midfielder in yesterday's final of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup, makes his way past Mohammedans' Jewel Rana, at the Dhaka Stadium: - Star photo