

Muktis begin with a bang

Sports Reporter

Meanwhile, Rahmatgani had also their share of few scoring opportunities but their striker Mamunul Karim deprived them of a lead in the very first minute when he shot the ball wide off the mark with Muktijoddha custodian Arun at his mercy.

On another occasion in the 35th minute Arun saved his side when he tipped a Badal fierce 30-yarder over the cross-piece at the cost of a corner.

The match was also

yellow the only notable incident in the first half was a powerful volley against the cross-piece from Brothers Union midfielder Ripon.

It was only in the second half Brothers played with some purpose and created a couple of openings. But a stubborn Agrani Bank custodian Manu denied them a lead with two brilliant saves.

On the other hand Agrani Bank got a golden chance of availing the lead in the 73rd minute when their substitute



Action from yesterday's Lifebuoy Premier Division football league engagement between Brothers Union and Arambagh KS at the Dhaka Stadium. The match ended in a goalless draw.

marked by a sending off when Rahmatgani's Ripon received his second yellow card for a cynical foul against Kingshuk of Muktijoddha in the 85th minute.

BANK BU'S BANE

Meanwhile, in the first match of the day Agrani Bank once again proved to be the bane of Brothers Union when the bankers held their superior opponent to a goalless draw.

The outcome of the lacklustre match came as a jolt to Brother Union's hopes for a maiden league title, who had earlier failed to win against the same outfit last year.

Dubbed as a traditional power after Mohammedans and Abahani, Brothers merely lived up to their reputation with all the players including their three Nigerian recruits running like headless chickens.

Apart from referee Monirul Islam's random flashing of the

striker Akhter outside a free-kick from beyond the box. But an airborne Brothers custodian Tariqul Kabir Kawsar pulled off a brilliant save diving to his left.

DULL DRAW

Away at the Mirpur Stadium newly promoted Bangladesh Police shared points with Public Works Department (PWD) in a one-all draw in the lone Lifebuoy First Division encounter.

Mostafa Kamal put Police into the lead in the 10th minute before Ainal neutralised the margin for PWD at the stroke of the breather.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Shadharan Bima KS vs East End Club - 5 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

Wari Club vs Arambagh KS - 4.30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Mohammedan SC vs Fakirerpool Youngmens Club - 6.30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Escobar's killer jailed for 43 years

BOGOTA, July 1: Humberto Munoz Castro, convicted of murdering Colombian World Cup soccer player Andres Escobar last year, has been sentenced to 43 years in prison, a court official announced Friday, reports Reuter.

The official said Judge Jorge Enrique Gomez Velez in the northwestern city of Medellin, sentenced Castro for homicide earlier on Friday - two days before the first anniversary of the murder.

The judge also sentenced brothers Santiago and Pedro David Gallon Henao to 15 months in prison each for making a false report to police in an effort to hamper their investigation.

Munoz Castro, who worked as a driver for the brothers. Shot and killed Escobar in the early hours of July 2, 1994 in the parking lot of a night club on the outskirts of Medellin, the soccer player's hometown.

Munoz Castro, 43, shot Escobar with a 38 calibre pistol after the soccer player had an argument with the brothers in the lot.

The argument was over an own goal Escobar, put through his own net in the 35th minute of Colombia's World Cup first round match against the United States in the Rose Bowl, Pasadena, on June 22 last year.

Reefat remains unconquered

Sports Reporter

International Master (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar, who had earlier confirmed his fourth title, became unbeaten champion when he won his last round engagement of the 21st national chess championship at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On the concluding day of the fifteen-round Swiss league meet, Reefat beat Ziaul Qader Tuhin of Bobby Fischer Chess Club for his twelfth win.

The Biman contender playing with white piece broke through Tuhin's Petrof defence and won in the 40th move to fittingly finish his fabulous run in this year's national championship.

While Reefat's arch-rival IM Ziaur Rahman, last year's champion, had to content with the second slot after defeating Khurshid Alam of the Leonine Chess Club in this round.

Zia, who was not consistent throughout the meet, finished with 12 points, two points adrift of Reefat.

Sixteen players, fourteen first round qualifiers along with the champions and runner-up, took part in the final round.

Wari clinch metropolis jr TT title

Wari Club clinched the title in the Dhaka metropolis junior table tennis league beating Armanitola Juniors 3-2 in the final at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday, reports BSS.

Wari's Pappu beat Mahbub of Armanitola 21-11, 21-17, and Gautom (Wari) beat Mahbub (Armanitola) 21-16, 21-12. Adison (Wari) defeated Nabi (Armanitola) 21-16, 12-21, 21-15.

In the other two sets Tuhin of Armanitola beat Gautom of Wari 21-19, 18-21, 21-17 and Tuhin (Armanitola) beat Pappu (Wari) 21-12, 17-21, 21-16.

Shwamibagh Table Tennis Sangha got the third position. Ten teams took part in the league, organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF).

Nat'l championships conclude

Karar, Ilias set pool afire



Two new national records were set up in 100-metre breaststroke and 200-metre individual medley on the concluding day of the three-day 16th National Swimming Championships at the Mirpur Swimming Complex yesterday, reports BSS.

Ace swimmer Karar Mizanur Rahman of Bangladesh Navy bettered the mark in the 100-metre breaststroke

event crossing the distance in one minute 08.93 seconds. The previous timing was one minute 09.35 seconds.

Mokbil Hossain of Bangladesh Army took the silver clocking 1m 10.68 seconds. Rezaul Islam of Navy clinched the bronze with a time of 1m 13.89 seconds.

Mohammed Ilias Hossain of Bangladesh Navy set up the new national record in the 200-metre individual medley in 2 minutes 22.77 seconds.

The previous timing in the event was 2 minutes 23.12 seconds.

Mohammed Osman Ghani of the Army got the silver crossing the distance in 2 minutes 27.43 seconds. Mohammed Mokbil Hossain also of the Army bagged the bronze with a time of 2 minutes 30.96 seconds.

In the 100-metre freestyle, Army's Harun-ur-Rashid clinched the gold clocking 0.57.74 seconds. Muniuruzza of BKSP got the silver in 0.58.28 seconds and Navy's Mahbubur Rahman took the bronze with a timing of 0.58.97 seconds.

Ilias Hossain also won the gold in the 400-metres freestyle clocking four minutes 34.48 seconds. The silver and bronze medals went to Asaduzzaman of Bangladesh Army and Deen Islam of Bangladesh Navy respectively.

In 200 metre backstroke, Nazmul Kabir of Bangladesh Navy got the gold with a time of two minutes 25.94 seconds. Army's Kausar Ahmed and Navy's Ayubullah took the silver and bronze medals.

Bangladesh Navy grabbed the gold in the 4x100 metre medley relay with a time of four minutes 18.43 seconds followed by Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Air Force with silver and bronze medals.

In water polo, Bangladesh Army secured the gold while Bangladesh Navy got the silver and bronze medals respectively.

More than 200 swimmers from 15 teams took part in different events of swimming and water-polo competition, organised by the Bangladesh Swimming Federation.

Bangladesh Navy got the top position earning 13 gold, 4 silver and 10 bronze medals. Bangladesh Army took the second spot with four golds, 12 silvers and four bronzes followed by BKSP with one gold and two silvers.

The president of the Bangladesh Swimming Federation Mohammed Asaf-Ud-Dowla was the chief guest on the occasion.



Ace swimmer Karar Mizanur Rahman of Bangladesh Navy shows the victory sign after winning the 100-meter breaststroke with a record timing on the concluding day of the three-day 16th national Swimming Championships at the Mirpur Swimming Complex yesterday. Karar clocked one minute 08.93 seconds bettering his previous best of one minute 09.35 seconds. — Star photo

Morcelli betters own mark

ST PETERSBURG, Russia, July 1: World record holder Noureddine Morcelli of Algeria ran the fastest 1,500 metres in the world this year when he clocked three minutes 32.45 seconds at the Goodwill meeting of Friday, reports Reuter.

Only Morcelli himself had run faster this year with a time of 3:32.99 at Seville in June 3, and proved that he will again be the man to beat for the gold in the World Championships in Gothenburg in six weeks time.

Sergei Bubka of Ukraine won the pole vault with a modest leap by his standards of only 5.70 metres, winning on countback from Igor Trandenkov of Russia who was second after clearing the same height.

Rodion Gataullin of Russia, was third with a clearance of 5.60 metres.

Frankie Fredericks of Namibia continued his winning ways with a victory in the 100 metres, albeit with the relatively modest time of 10.46 seconds.

Prabhakar powers Durham

LONDON, July 1: Indian Test player Manoj Prabhakar put on a superb all-round performance on Friday for Durham on the second day of their English country championship match against Glamorgan at Swansea, reports Reuter.

He captured four for 47 as Glamorgan were bowled out for 335, then hit his first century of the season as Durham reached 318 for six at the close.

Prabhakar accumulated 18 boundaries and faced 189 balls in 211 minutes before skying a catch in the penultimate over of the day on 101.

Mark Ramprakash dropped a timely hit to England's selectors after his double failure in the second Test against West Indies, as he completed the second double century of his career for Middlesex against Surrey at Lord's.

He reached 200 in 411 minutes from 318 balls and hit 35 fours. He was finally out for 214, the second highest knock of the season behind Sri Lankan Test star Aravinda de Silva's 225 for Kent earlier this month.

NBL v'ball results

The NBL First and Second Division volleyball leagues began at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium, reports BSS.

On the opening day, three matches of the First Division were held. Titas Club trounced Chand Textile Club 15-1, 15-3, 15-3. Bangladesh Water Development Board Sports Club outplayed Madartek Mitaly Sangha 15-1, 15-0, 15-3 and Bangladesh Power Development Board Sports Club routed Dilkusha Sporting Club 15-2, 15-4, and 15-1.

President of Bangladesh Volleyball Federation Mahbubur Rahman inaugurated the league as the chief guest.

In all 19 teams are taking part in the First Division league in two groups on round robin league basis while seven teams are participating in the Second Division.

Michelle Martin in final



HONG KONG, July 1: Australian Michelle Martin took a step closer to becoming the first player to win three successive women's world squash titles when she defeated third seed Cassie Jackman of England in a controversial semifinal on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Both players criticised the refereeing of Singaporean Hubert Hill after top seed Martin won 6-9, 9-7, 9-2 and 9-3.

In the final, Martin will play compatriot Sarah Fitz-Gerald, who held match point against her in last week's Malaysian Open semifinal before losing in five games.

Jackman, a former world junior champion, looked capable of causing a shock as she took the first game and led 7-5 in the second.

But a penalty stroke awarded against Jackman helped Martin to recover as she came back to take the game and square the match.

The referee then awarded three consecutive strokes against Jackman for failing to give Martin room to play the ball in the third game.

The English player, runner-up to Martin last year, lost her concentration and the Australian rounded off the match with ease.

Argentina beat Socceros

BUENOS AIRES, July 1: Argentina beat Australia 2-0 today in a lacklustre friendly match, their last before the Americas Cup soccer tournament next week in Uruguay, reports Reuter.

It was the first time the two sides met since November 1993 when Argentina beat Australia 2-1 in a two-leg playoff to grab the last berth in the World Cup finals.

Argentina will face the United States in the first round of the Copa America which begins Wednesday in Uruguay.

Windies-Universities match drawn W Benjamin sent home

OXFORD, July 1: West Indian fast bowler Winston Benjamin is being sent home from the current cricket tour of England on "discipline and fitness grounds."

The 30-year-old, who has played in 21 Tests, leaves for Antigua today the touring team's management announced on Friday in Oxford where the tourists drew their three-day match against Combined Universities, reports Reuter.

After playing in the three one-day internationals against England, Benjamin was left

out of the team for the first Test at Headingley earlier this month, then failed to bowl in the second innings of the tourists' match against Durham because of hamstring and knee injuries.

He was reported to be fit for last week's second Test at Lord's but was again omitted from the team and apparently declared himself unfit for the match against Combined Universities.

"The tour committee has made the unanimous recommendation that Winston Benjamin should be replaced on the grounds of both discipline and fitness," said a statement

issued by the team's management.

"The West Indian Board of Control has approved his recommendation and Winston Benjamin will therefore leave the tour and depart for Antigua tomorrow.

Benjamin, who has represented both Leicestershire and Hampshire in the English county championship, is no stranger to disciplinary action.

He was suspended last year following a row with an official in the car park at St John's Antigua, after England's match against West Indies and missed the subsequent tour of India.



The members of the victorious Bangladesh Navy who won the 16th national swimming title at the Mirpur Swimming Complex yesterday. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Well-financed grp. 5 Goneril's dad 9 Piglet's mom 12 Be informed of 13 Advantage 14 Tin Man's prop 15 Content 17 First-down yardage 18 Yogi had a hand in it 19 Occurrence 21 Kentucky Derby wreath 24 Conceal 25 "I poor Yorick" 26 Trod 30 Perch 31 Injures severely 32 "Got a Secret" 33 Landing place for Santa 35 Impale 36 Ohio team 37 1814. DOWN 1 Ahs' mates 2 Cause of princessly 3 Consume 4 "...other high and misde-meanors" 5 Took off 6 Tend texts 7 Candle count 8 Cashes in 9 Moon, e.g. 10 The yoke's on them 11 Took off 16 Family member 20 Red-carpet treatment recipient. 21 Impetuous 22 Medley TGIF 24 Seductress 26 Makes lace 27 Brazilian resort city 28 Author Hunter 29 Obligation 31 Free-swimming jellyfish 34 "Who?" 35 Make smaller 37 Needlefish 38 Osculate 39 Golden Rule word 40 Laurel or Musial 41 Knight's backup 44 Fit fiddle 45 Menagerie 46 Building annex 47 Connie's co-anchor. Solution time: 24 mins. Yesterday's answer 9-20.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters: K Y P J E P M J X I X E P Q J L X Q. P H M O B S X Q H D P M P J Y F Q M P I B D X H Y J K B P M : E P Q J - L O X J L.

CRYPTOQUIP Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ALWAYS BE TRUE TO YOUR TEETH, OR THEY WILL BE FALSE TO YOU. Today's Cryptoquip clue: H equals G. 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.