



Action from yesterday's Lifebuoy Premier Division football league encounter between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Youngmen's Club Fakirpool at the Dhaka Stadium. Mohammedans won the match 1-0. — Star photo

# Mohammedans muddle thru'

Sports Reporter



A 72nd minute strike from substitute Bode Baba Lola gave title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club a squeaky lone goal win over Youngmen's Fakirpool Club in one of the two Lifebuoy Premier Division football league matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

It was a dream goal for Bode, one of the two Nigerian recruits for the black and whites, who appearing for the first time in the local football as a substitute of midfielder Alfaz in the 71st minute struck the decisive blow one minute later after receiving a pass from Sattajit Das Rupu just outside the box.

The Nigerian celebrated his first touch of the ball with an angular low drive from the right hand edge of the box that whistled past a helpless Fakirpool custodian Bijon Baruah into the far corner of the net much to the relief of a handsome Mohammedan crowd at the big bowl.

But for Mohammedans it was an unimpressive debut in this year's league after a successful DMFA Cup and Federation Cup campaign, when the winners of both the tournaments offered a pedestrian display in the absence of their three key booters.

They lost their midfield playmaker Arman, who is now serving a two-match ban after receiving a red card in the Federation Cup final while an ever reliable custodian Ponir and rightback Alamgir were sidelined due to injury problems.

Arman's absence was so felt that without him Mohammedans' midfield trio of Rupu, Manik and Alfaz never took complete control of the middle. So no planned attack

was created during the 90-minute encounter. Parvez, was nowhere near a substitute of Alamgir, who is nursing a knee injury, and most of the Fakirpool attacks were created through the left flank.

While Mohammedans reserve custodian Sayed Hassan Kanan with his bizarre representation proved himself to be some sort of a stopper rather than a goalkeeper.

Kanan's presence under the bar was so horrifying that Mohammedans could have conceded a goal five minutes away from the final whistle for his blemish keeping when he fisted away an innocuous shot instead of grabbing easily it. And from the resultant flag-kick Kanan misjudged a high ball allowing Fakirpool's striker Askar Khan headed the ball into an open net.

But thanks to a brilliant goalkeeping save by Mohammedans young left back Ruhul Amin, the most prized collection of the black and whites in this year's players' transfer.

However, in the day's second match played under floodlights, Fakirpool, who had held the fancied opponents to a one-all draw during a first-leg engagement last year, got the first positive chance in the 26th minute when Jalal unleashed a fierce grounder from inside the box which Mohammedans' custodian Kanan managed to parry for a corner diving to his left.

In a disappointing first half Mohammedans only hope of a lead came on the stroke of the breather. But Ranjan spoiled the easy-sitter from a hand shaking distance with a feeble right-footer that went straight into the reliable hands of Fakirpool goal-tender Bijon.

Ranjan, Mohammedans' speedy winger with a lethal

left foot, deprived Mohammedans of a possible lead in the 52nd minute when the Tangail booter shot the ball wide off the mark with Bijon at his mercy.

Then came the decisive goal as the Mohammedans, the only team with a fabulous all-win record this season, narrowly escaped a possible debacle.

### SPLIT POINTS

Meanwhile, in the first match of the day Arambagh and Wari Club, the middlings in the elite Premier league split points in a goalless draw.

According to the course of the action, Arambagh deserved to win the match but their forwards, with poor marksmanship, denied the Motijheel outfit a victory against their neighbour.

Away at the Mirpur Stadium two First Division outfits East End Club and Sadhan Bima also shared points in a goalless draw.

**TODAY'S MATCH**  
Dhanmondi Club vs Shantinagar Club  
5 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

### Lotus-Kamal Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Due to inclement weather, only one match of the schedule three in the Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket league could be held yesterday.

In the day's only fixture, Nabarun Sangha defeated Mirpur Cricket Proshikkhan Kendra by four wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Put in to bat Mirpur CPK scored 68 for eight off the rain reduced 20 overs.

Opener Maruf was their only notable run-getter with 17. For Nabarun Sangha, Ziaur claimed two for eight off four overs.

Set to score 69 to win, Nabarun Sangha reached their target losing six wickets with four balls to spare.

Taufique made a match winning 25 not out off only 22 balls that included three fours and a sixer.

### Div I v'ball results

Dhaka Sabuj Club and Bangladesh Police won their respective matches in the First Division volleyball league at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Dhaka Sabuj Club beat Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) 15-3, 15-7, 15-2 while Police defeated Nabajagoroni Sangsad 9-15, 15-4, 15-12, 15-6.

### Euro b'ball Lithuania cripple Croats

ATHENS, July 2: ABA recruit Arvydas Sabonis upstaged Lithuania to a 90-80 upset victory over Croatia on Saturday in the semifinals of the European Basketball Championships, reports Reuter.

Lithuania will now meet Yugoslavia who beat Greece 60-52, in Sunday's semifinal. Sabonis, who has signed with the Portland Trail Blazers, dominated under the basket, netting 26 points and proved the perfect partner for Seattle Supersonics' Guard Sarunas Marciulionis who top-scored with 27.

Croatia were affected by an injury to Chicago Bulls star Toni Kukoc who played with three stitches in his right hand and netted only 10 points.

Dino Radja of the Boston Celtics top-scored for Croatia with 25 points and five rebounds but the Croats could not confine Sabonis who grabbed 17 rebounds.

### Sussex worry Windies

HOVE, England, July 2: West Indies finished a week they would be keen to forget on Saturday when Sussex openers Neil Lenham and Keith Newell scored 263 for the first wicket on the opening day of their three-day match, reports Reuter.

Four late wickets by leg-spinner Rajindra Dhanraj brought some relief to the tourists but the home side still reached 390 for five after six days in which the tourists took the second Test and then sent home pace bowler Winston Benjamin for disciplinary reasons.

To add to their troubles, Kenny Benjamin left the field mid-afternoon with a bruised finger while out-of-form skipper Richie Richardson dropped Newell after the Sussex opener had scored only 25.

Newell recorded his maiden first class century in his debut season by top scoring with 135, reached from 235 balls with 15 boundaries.

Lenham was however first into three figures, completing his hundred with successive boundaries off Winston Benjamin's replacement Vasburt Drakes. He was eventually out for 128.

Sussex captain Alan Wells, bidding for a place in the third Test team to meet West Indies in Edgbaston starting on Thursday, failed to make the most of an ideal opportunity by scoring only 21.

### Balbo, Sensini foreigners no more

ROME, July 2: Parma and AS Roma were celebrating on Saturday after their Argentine internationals Nestor Sensini and Abel Balbo were recognised by the soccer authorities as Italian citizens, reports Reuter.

The decision by the Italian Soccer Federation (ISF) means that Roma striker Balbo and Parma utility player Sensini would no longer take up one of the precious three places for foreign players in Italian teams for domestic matches.

Roma and UEFA Cup winners Parma have four foreigners each and have had to rotate them. Balbo and Sensini, who have Italian relatives, have been recognised officially as Italian citizens for more than five years. But the ISF had still considered them foreigners because they were registered with the Argentine Soccer Federation.

"I've been waiting for this day for a long time," Balbo was quoted as telling Gazzetta dello Sport daily from Buenos Aires, where he scored in Argentina's 2-0 victory over Australia in a friendly on Friday.

The ruling is not valid internationally, however, Sensini and Balbo cannot play as Italians in European events or for the Italian National team.

The ISF also granted Liberian born striker George Weah and Ghanaian born midfielder Abedi Pele European Union (EU) status.

Both Weah, who has joined AC Milan from Paris St Germain, and Torino's Pele are French citizens. But the Italian ruling body had not recognised the fact as they also belonged to non EU soccer federations.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Silent panacea, 4 Links hazard, 8 Quid pro quo, 12 Between zeta and theta, 13 Auditor's desire, 14 Letterman's competition, 15 Lid for a lad, 16 Art medium, 18 Star of Sea World, 20 Sample of the Sauternes, 21 Rudiments, 24 Dieter's no-no, maybe, 28 Waterproof fabric, 32 Nabors portrayal, 33 Oklahoma city, 34 Tools for duels, 36 'Norma', 37 Office part-timer, 39 Medicine-

# Atherton stays in saddle



LONDON, July 2: Mike Atherton is to continue as England captain for the remaining four

Tests of the current six-match series against West Indies.

Ray Illingworth, the chairman of selectors and team manager, made the announcement on Sunday at the same time as the squad was named for the third Test starting at Edgbaston, Birmingham, on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Atherton was originally appointed only for the first three Tests but, following England's victory in the second Test at Lord's last week, Illingworth and the selectors formally invited him to continue as captain for the rest of the series when they met on Saturday to choose the Edgbaston squad.

"Michael was delighted to accept," added Illingworth.

Opener Atherton has led England in 20 of his 47 Tests since succeeding Graham Gooch two years ago.

England's win at Lord's which levelled the series against West Indies 1-1 was Atherton's sixth victory in charge, though he has also lost nine Tests, with five being drawn.

Atherton's Lancashire teammates, Australian-born opener Jason Gallian and all-rounder Mike Watkinson, have been named in a squad of 12 for the third Test.

Gallian, 24, will bat at number six unless wicket-keeper Alec Stewart does not feel able to open following a long spell in the field. In that case, Gallian would go in first with Atherton, as he does for Lancashire.

Mark Ramprakash has been dropped following his



MIKE ATHERTON

pair at Lord's and scores of four and 18 in the nine-wicket first Test defeat at Headingly, Leeds.

Pace bowler Phillip DeFreitas is omitted from the squad on duty at Lord's to make way for 33-year-old Watkinson, who has been picked because of his ability to bowl off-spin as well as seam-up.

Illingworth said: "If we feel the Edgbaston pitch is going to turn then we might need a second spinner in the side."

This squad of 12 gives us a few different options."

Gallian, born in Sydney and a former captain of Australia under-19s, has Lancastrian parents and served a four-year qualification period to become eligible for England at the start of last year.

He toured India with England's team earlier this year, and this season has scored 537 runs in the county championship at an average of 44.75.

Lancashire skipper Watkinson, who made his country debut in 1982, gets his first international recognition in the middle of an outstanding season.

He has scored 503 county championship runs from only nine innings at an average of 62.87. He has also taken 26 wickets, mainly with his off-spin, at an average of 28.96.

Stewart provided a scare on Saturday when he retired hurt after being struck on a finger while batting for Surrey against Middlesex, but Illingworth said he had personally spoken to the batsman-wicketkeeper who reported no problems.

### SQUAD

Mike Atherton (captain), Alec Stewart, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Robin Smith, Jason Gallian, Dominic Cork, Darren Gough, Peter Martin, Richard Illingworth, Angus Fraser, Mike-Watkinson.

# Stoichkov joins Parma



VARNA, Bulgaria, July 2: European footballer-of-the-year Hristo Stoichkov said on Saturday

he had joined Parma of Italy from Barcelona, reports Reuter.

"My Barcelona period has ended and now, as a Parma player, I will be seeking new victories," Stoichkov said at his Black Sea holiday retreat.

"From now on I will think how to win Italy's champions title with Parma," the Bulgarian World Cup star said in an interview with the Bulgarian radio station seven days.

"In two days, from Tuesday, I will be Parma's player," added Stoichkov, who posed with his wife for a Reuter photographer at his Varna hotel on Saturday night.

He then left with friends — including World Cup teammate Yordan Lechkov who plays for Germany's Hamburg — for a restaurant in the Black Sea resort to celebrate his new contract.

Stoichkov, denying discussing financial conditions, with Parma, said he has chosen the Italian team because they were the first to approach his with concert offers and he liked their style of play.

But Italian television reported from Parma that Stoichkov had agreed to a three-year contract and the deal was worth an estimated 25 billion lire (15 million dollars), half going to the player and the rest to Barcelona.

It said the contract was signed in Barcelona on Saturday in the presence of executives of the former Spanish champions and Parma director general Giambattista Pastorello.

Stoichkov is expected in

Italy on Monday for a medical examination.

Parma, an ambitious club who only won promotion to Serie A in 1990, have since won the European Cup winners' Cup in 1993, reached the final of the following season and taken the UEFA Cup the season after that.

Their main goal the Serie A title, Parma had been searching for a world class

striker since a deal to sign Lazio's Italian international Giuseppe Signori broke down last month.

"Stoichkov may be the missing link for Parma in their bid to win the title," Italian television commented.

Several other European clubs including Internazionale had courted the temperamental 29-year-old, who inspired Bulgaria to a surprise place in the semifinals of the 1994 World Cup.

Internazionale had sought Stoichkov as part of a rebuilding plan that has included the signing of England midfielder Paul Ince from Manchester United.

Stoichkov and Cruyff were at loggerheads for most of the season just ended, the Bulgarian's fifth at the Spanish club he helped to win four successive league titles and the European Cup in 1992.

SA-Aussie 3rd hockey Test drawn

PRETORIA, July 2: South Africa and Australia drew their third hockey Test 1-1 in a closely fought contest here on Saturday in which the hosts showed more purpose than in the previous two clashes, reports AFP.

Australia hold a one-nil lead in the four-Test series after having, won the second Test 2-0, the first match was abandoned when the lights blew.

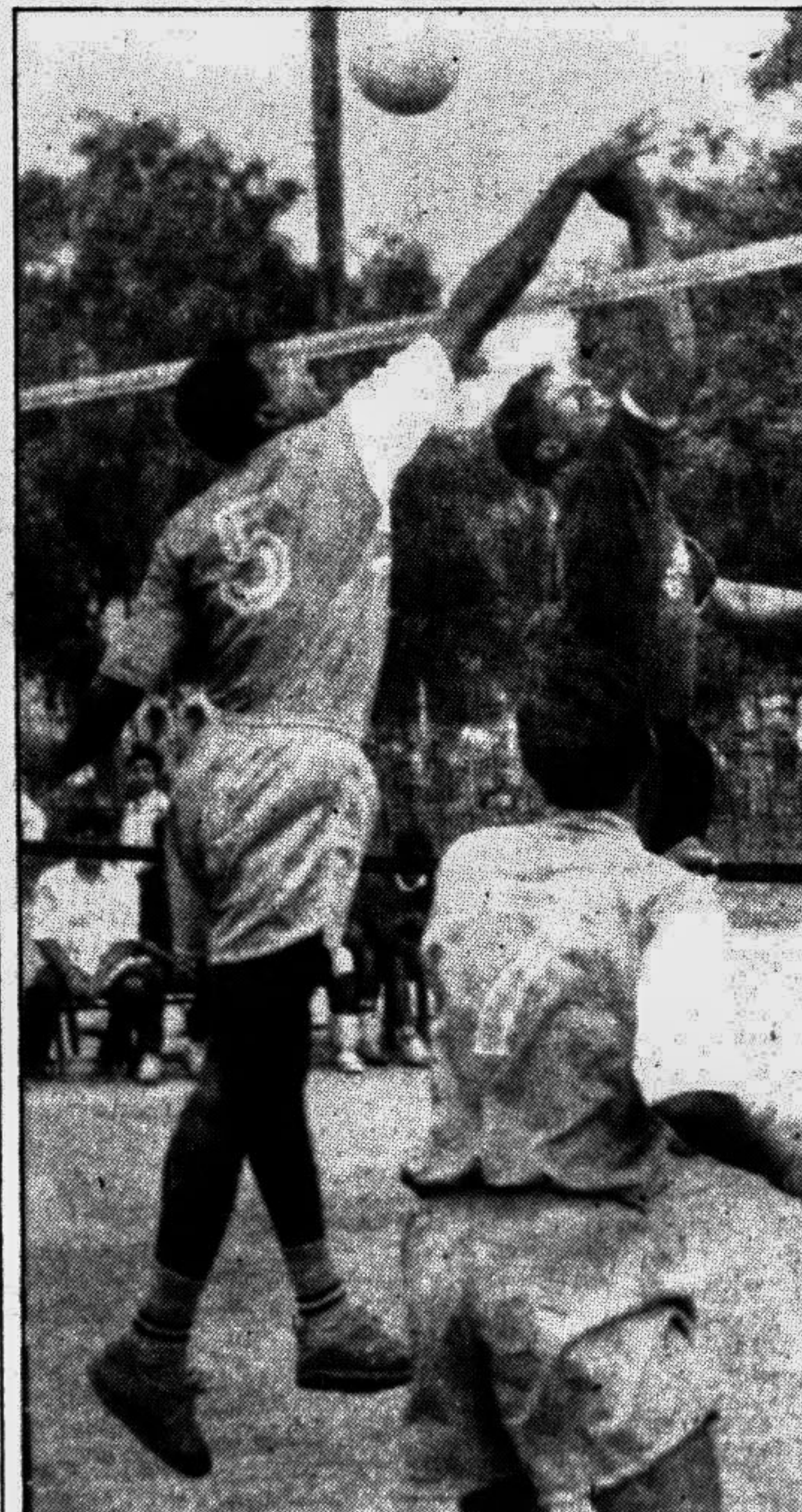
South Africa took the lead just three minutes before the end of the first half when Matthew Hallowes converted the second short corner to give the local side an important boost going into half-time.

The second half saw a complete turnaround, with Australia attacking from the whistle and being rewarded with an equaliser from Grant Smith.



HRISTO STOICHKOV

CRYPTOQUIP: T G A V F W F A Y G C M U A F V M P A C N U A O U W T Y P A O ; N F T P J G A P P J G Y G O F W U W T. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT PARTICIPANTS IN A GRUELING MARATHON RACE MIGHT WEAR: PANT-SUITS. Today's Cryptoquip clue: T 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.



An Ansar VDP High School player makes a scoring attempt against Rajarbagh Police Lines High School in the 6th Bata Schools handball championships at the handball court yesterday. Rajarbagh Police Lines High School won the match 21-9. — Star photo

### Indian media XI clinch SBH Cup

HYDERABAD, July 2: Indian Press Club Combined Eleven defeated Hyderabad Press Club by 95 runs to lift the SBH Cup of the inaugural SAARC nation's media cricket tournament at the of Mania University grounds here today, reports PTL.

A brilliant 101 runs in 91 balls by Satish Vishwanathan and a skipper's knock of 44 by Vedman Jaishankar enabled the visitors to pile up 222 runs in allotted 40 overs.

Speedster Tulasi Krishna (4 for 34), MS Shankar (3 for 42) and Shapath (2 for 26) were the main wicket-takers for Hyderabad.

In reply, Hyderabad started on a disastrous note.

A mid-match crisis was averted by Ravi Kanth (26) and Ganesh (21) but they could not get support from other players and the innings was closed at 127 for nine in 33.1 overs.

The injured skipper MS Shankar did not bat. Kakode, Satish Paul and Leo Justine took two wickets apiece for the Combined Eleven.

### C'wealth youth h'ball from August 23

Seven countries have confirmed their participation in the sixth Commonwealth youth handball championship to be held in Dhaka from August 23 to 31, officials said here yesterday, reports BSS.

"The last date for sending entries is July 15 and we are expecting more countries in the first ever Commonwealth sports meet in Bangladesh," the officials of the Bangladesh Handball Federation told the agency.

India, Hong Kong, Nigeria and hosts Bangladesh will participate in both the boys' and girls' groups while England and Kenya will take part in only the Boys' group. Besides, Uganda will send a girls' team.

The president of the Commonwealth Handball Association BJ Rowland, secretary general Ishold Williams and president of the Asian Handball Federation Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad-Al-Sabah are expected to be in the city during the championship as guests of the Bangladesh Handball Federation.

An executive committee meeting of the Commonwealth Handball Association will be held on August 22 before the formal opening of the meet, the officials said.

The Bangladesh Handball Federation has been running extensive training for the boys' and girls' teams with the national coaches.

Moreover, a coach from Bahrain, sponsored by the Asian Handball Federation, arrives here on July 7 to train Bangladeshi boys and girls for the championship.

### Schools h'ball

Rajarbagh Police Lines High School emerged unbeaten group champions to reach the semifinals of the 6th Bata schools handball tournament beating Ansar & VDP High School by 21-9 goals at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday, reports UNB.

Shaheed Nabi High School, the unbeaten champions of Group A, will play the first semifinal against Motijheel Model High School while Group B champions Rajarbagh Police Lines High School will meet Rifles School & College in the other semis, both on Tuesday.

The final match will be held on Thursday at 4 pm while the third-position deciding match is scheduled for 2.30 pm on the same day.