



An abortive backvolley from Mohammedans' skipper Nurul Huq Manik that eventually went wide off the mark during their engagement against Farashganj SC in the Lifebuoy Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Mohammedans seemingly won with an awarded spot kick. — Star photo

Police's maiden victory

Police AC came from behind to register their first victory in the Metropolitan Lifebuoy First Division football league beating Shantinagar Club by 3-2 goals at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 2-1.

Masud put Shantinagar ahead in the 4th minute before Khokon levelled the margin for Police in the 16th minute.

Tara Mian scored in the 28th minute to take Police ahead and netted his second goal in the 48th minute to give his side an unassailable 3-1 lead.

Liton of Shantinagar reduced the margin in the 71st minute.

Khokon of Police got marching order in the 72nd minute after receiving his second yellow card in the match.

Police AC have so far earned six points from as many matches while Shantinagar Club remained on five points, also from six outings.

Yellow card: Swapan Sr. Sudhir and Masud (Shantinagar Club).

TEAMS

POLICE AC: Emran, Riad (Badrul), Babar Ali, Rakhal, Haridas, Shanta (Kamal), Ashutosh, Khokon, Mofiz, Masud Rana and Tara Miah.

SHANTINAGAR CLUB: Forkan (Montu), Raquib, Dipu (Didar), Swapan Sr, Litu, Lokman, Alauddin, Sudhir, Swapan Jr, Liton and Masud.

Referee: Faizul Islam Aziz.

Pioneer soccer results

Mansoor Sporting and Uttara Friends Club recorded massive victory in the metropolis Pioneer football league at different city venues yesterday, reports UNB.

At the Dhupkhola ground, a fine hat-trick by Mohsin enabled Mansoor Sporting Club to register an impressive 5-0 goals victory over Aghanagar PMS.

Mehdi and Swapan one each for the winners.

At the Banani Chairmannari ground, Uttara Friends Club crushed Digantha Mazlish by 7-1 goals.

Mizan made another hat-trick in the league. Ripon netted two, Akram and Khokon one each for the winners while Tipu netted the consolation goal for the losers.

Tejgaon Nabataranga Sangsad beat Angels Club by a lone goal at the same venue with Manik scoring the all important goal.

Railway Blues outplayed Sutrapur SC by 3-0 goals at the Dhupkhola ground.

Rishi netted twice and Borhan one for the railwaymen.

At the Jagannath University College ground, Jatrabari KC beat Redsun KC by a solitary goal scored by Golami Hossain.

The match between Mukti Khelaghar Ashar and Nawabpur SC ended in one-all draw at the same venue.

Mohsin scored for Khejaghar Ashar while Ahad netted for Nawabpur.

At the Outer Stadium, Lalbagh Tarun Sangha trounced Kendria Kishore Kafela by 5-1 goals. Kamal scored two, Sajjad, Mamun and Shamsu netted one each for the winners while Mamun netted the only for the losers.

Arambagh KS Junior beat Azimpur Kishore Sangha by 2-0 goals at the same venue.

The match between Swadesh Samaj Kallayan Sangha and Nawab Katara KC ended in 1-1 at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Kalam scored for Swadesh Samaj Kallayan and Roushan netted for Nawab Katara.

MSC ride on Monsur

Sports Reporter

Monsur too. A highly controversial penalty awarded by a bearded Monsur in the 82nd minute enabled title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club discover the winning ways after a disappointing three match at the cost of minnows Farashganj Sporting Club in the lone Lifebuoy Premier football league engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Referee Monsur, who in the recent time earned a reputation of being the most neutral man in black, last night showed the chronic clay sheet of the local referee as Mohammedans scraped home with a lone goal win over Frashganj. Monsur, who has recently been brought on by the organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) in a bid to ensure standard refereeing, made a mockery of the DMFA's decision when he pointed to the dreaded spot after an Arman fierce right-footer from the edge of the box struck on the hand of his marker Shafiqul Kader Munna.

Albeit Munna, who was posted just inside the box, handled the ball unintentionally, the decision of Monsur surprised each and every one gathered at the big bowl braving incessant drizzle.

An aggrieved Farashganj booters, who were simply stunned by the dubious decision, sharply reacted the move of Monsur but all their efforts went in awry.

Mohammedans' defensive midfielder Jewel Rana then

stepped up to convert the 12 yarder sending the ball into the far corner of the net with a low-drive and at the taracus the black and white supporters gave wild cry to celebrate an improbable victory.

Apart from the goal, it was a saga of Farashganj's valiant defensive approach against an all-out Mohammedan attack on a slippery green-top.

fair refereeing before the match. But the way Monsur acted was a stab from the back", said a dejected Farashganj manager Saleh Zaman Selim after the match.

Coach Nurul Huq was rather aggressive terming the outcome of the match as a 'pre-planned move' to ensure a victory for Mohammedans at any cost.

Nurul Huq further added, "It was beyond my wildest dream that Monsur would act so nakedly."

While Mohammedans manager Badal Roy, who was sauntering after the win, denied to make any comment.

However, coach Abu Yousuf extended all praise with the way referee Monsur handled the match.

With this win Mohammedans raised their collection to 11 points from six league engagements, five points adrift from league leaders Abahani Krira Chakra.

While Farashganj remain stuck to their previous collection of three points on completion of their six league engagements.

Yellow card: Monir and Ratan (Farashganj SC); Bode Baba Lola (Mohammedan SC).

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir, Kaiser Hamid, Ruhul Amin, Jewel Rana, Munna, Manik, Arman, Ranjan (Rupu), Parvez, Alfaz and Milon (Bode Baba).

FARASHGANJ SC: Bijoy, Nazrul, Sufian, Rauf Babul, Santosh, Selim Liaqat, Monir (Rinku), Pappu (Akram), Ratan and Munna.

Referee: S M Mansur.



Farashganj, who were badly in need of a point to raise their paltry tally, not only frustrated the Mohammedan booters with their limited resources but also created the best chance to advance four minutes before the tragic incident.

In the 78th minute Farashganj, who promoted to the elite group this year, almost turned the table on their awe-inspiring rivals when Ratan hammered a brilliant right-footer from the edge of the Mohammedan box.

But his attempt was rebounded off the wood-work much to the relief of the black and white supporters.

"We have been assured of a

Growing up of a giant

MALDONADO, Uruguay, July 23: The United States soccer team, which surpassed all expectations by finishing fourth in the Copa America, has made huge progress in the last year, the players said, reports Reuter.

(That) Would put us among the top ten national teams in the world," said striker Eric Wynalda.

"We can play against anyone. We just keep getting better and better. I'm sure we're going to qualify for the 1998 World Cup."

The US bowed out in disappointing fashion Saturday, losing 4-1 to Colombia in the play-off for third place. But players were delighted with previous performances which included a 2-1 win over Chile, a win on penalties over

Mexico and a 3-0 defeat of Argentina.

They gave world champions Brazil a run for its money in a tight 1-0 semifinal loss.

"When we played Brazil in the World Cup last year, I thought we had a hell of a long way to go. We hardly got a touch of the ball," said central defender Alexei Lalas.

After Thursday's game, I thought we still have a way to go but it's not so far. We played a whole lot better and showed we have improved," he said.

"I know we have changed a lot of people's minds," said goalkeeper Brad Friedel. "I know England played this team (Brazil) and lost at Wembley 3-1. We lost 1-0 in the semifinals of the Copa America in South America. That says something right there."

The US players believe the absence of temperamental superstars has been more of a help than a hindrance.

"We have played as a team. We don't have a focal figure on the field. That has been one of the reasons for our success," said Lalas.

Another asset has been the cosmopolitan make-up of the squad, which has enabled it to develop a style that is a cross between the physical British approach and the more refined European way.

The 22-man Copa Americasquad included players of German, Greek and Argentine descent and athletes based with clubs in Mexico, Denmark, Germany, England, the Netherlands, Greece and Italy.

"In the past we have tried both styles but now we are mixing it up," said Lalas. "We have very gifted and skilled technical players and very strong headers and tacklers."

At the Dhakamondi Cricket Stadium, sent into bat first, Young One's were shot out for a meagre 52 with one ball remaining in their share of 15 overs. In reply set to score a modest 53 for a win, Lancashire lost four wickets before reaching their target with eight balls to spare.

Shuvo topscored with an unbeaten 21 in 20 balls.

At the Jagannath Hall ground, Media CC outplayed Shahidbagh CC by seven wickets.

Put in to bat, Shahidbagh CC scored 78 for nine in 15 overs with Nayon making highest 22.

Media CC's Hira captured three wickets for only 13 runs while Russel and Rony took two wickets apiece.

In reply, Media CC notched up the required 79 in 14.2 overs with Rony hammering as unbeaten 29 off 18-ball.

In another match the day billed at the City Club ground, Kalyanpur Housing Estate CC crushed Poolpar Youth CC by eight wickets.

Batting first Poolpar CC compiled a fighting 126 for eight in their allotted 25 overs with a brilliant 48 off 46 balls.

Anisur, who clubbed four towering sixes in his pyrotechnic innings.

Koel and Fakhrul took a couple of wickets each for Kalyanpur.

But the Kalyanpur Housing Estate batsmen made a mockery of a sedate Poolpar Youth's bowling and rattled up the required 127 with more than seven overs to spare.

Koel blasted an unconquered 41 off only 24 balls (two fours, four sixes) and Shakir scored 30 (not out) for the winners.

OLSEN TO MOVE

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Olsen, 53, said in an interview with the Verdens Gang Daily that his Norwegian team were about to reach their potential and that he wanted to look abroad for new challenges.

"I really would like to try my soccer philosophy on a foreign club with many good individualists. That would be fun," said Olsen, whose contract with the Norwegian Soccer Federation expires in August 1996.

"If I were to get an offer from a club in, say, England, Spain or Portugal, it would be hard to go for another two years with Norway."

Olsen, who has been national coach for some five years, enters negotiations for a two-year extension of his contract with the federation in a few days, Verdens Gang said.

Olsen, whose tactics include an iron-clad defence couple, with breakout attacks, guided Norway to the World Cup finals.

Lotus-Kamal cricket results

Sports Reporter

Lancashire Club moved into the final round as Group E champions after beating Young One's Club by six wickets in one of the three Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket league fixtures at different city venues yesterday.

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Colombia settle old score

MALDONADO, Uruguay, July 23: Colombia finally produced a performance worthy of their players' talent when they beat the United States 4-1 in the Copa America third-place deciding match on Saturday, scoring more goals in one game than in the rest of the tournament, report agencies.

As in last year's World Cup, when they produced their best performance in their last game after they had already been eliminated, Colombia reserved their best football for a game that was only of academic interest.

The victory avenged the Colombians' 2-1 loss last year in the World Cup, a loss which eliminated the pre-tournament favourites from the championship. Last month, Colombia played the Americans to a 0-0 draw in US Cup '95, giving the United States the title in the four-team exhibition tournament.

For the Americans, the match was a disappointing end to a tournament in which they had surpassed all expectations by reaching the last four.

Quinones gave Colombia the lead in the 31st and Valderrama added his seven minutes later. After Faustino Asprilla scored on the rebound off keeper Rene Higuita's free kick off the crossbar in the 50th, Joe-Max Moore gave the Americans their only goal on a penalty in the 52nd.

Freddy Rincon completed the scoring in the 76th for the Colombians.

US manager Steve Sampson made a number of changes to try out new players who had not played in the tournament, including Jovan Kirovski for striker Eric Wynalda, who was sidelined by an injury.

US backs Paul Caligiuri and Mike Lapper failed to control the skillful Colombian midfield of Valderrama and Rincon, who repeatedly fed Quinones and Asprilla.

Half an hour into the game, Quinones scored from a pass by Asprilla and seven minutes later the veteran Valderrama made it 2-0, scoring over the head of keeper Kasey Keller from a

pass by Quinones.

Colombia coach Hernan Gomez said Saturday's result meant that "we can leave aside the word failure."

"We came hoping to end up among the top four. This result is reassuring for our future," he said.

Sampson attributed his side's defeat to "our exhaustion after the gigantic match against Brazil" in the semifinals Friday, which the Americans lost 1-0.

Midfielder Tab Ramos was bitten by a spider, and the medicine he took caused an allergic reaction, Sampson said.

Ramos, who replaced Mike Sorber in the 37th minute, said, "We were climbing step by step and hoping to reach the finals, but we stumbled against Brazil and our motivation to play for third place was not as high as in previous games."

Sampson, who was named as coach on an interim basis, said he hoped to continue to train the team, but would support any decision made by US League president Alan Rothberg, "even if he chooses a foreign coach."

Konica Cup Suprianto's

SINGAPORE, July 23: Former world champion Joko Suprianto had a timely second win to beat fellow Indonesian Herman Susanto today, winning the men's singles title in the Konica Cup Singapore badminton championships, reports AFP.

The 29-year-old Suprianto overcame a thigh strain and a fightback by his opponent en route to his 15-11, 3-15, 15-10 victory, which left Susanto searching for the first major title of his career.

The 65-minute win at the Singapore indoor stadium was worth US 10,725 dollars for Suprianto, who played with a bandaged left thigh. Susanto pocketed the runner-up prize of 6,600 dollars.

"I didn't know whether I would last the distance," Suprianto said. "I attacked in the first game, then I began to feel the discomfort. But when it came to the third game I finally decided to have a go."

Scoring with hard jump smashes and deceptive drop shots, Suprianto won the first game in 25 minutes.

But the 27-year-old Susanto, who also lost to his teammate in the 1993 World Cup and World Championships, raced away with the second game in less than 10 minutes.

The two Indonesians were neck-and-neck until 9-9 in the decider when Suprianto forged into the lead. He yielded just one more point before wrapping up the match.

Sweden's All-England champion Lim Xiaoping took the women's singles title and a prize of 8,250 dollars with a 11-7, 6-11, 11-6 win in 58 minutes over Asian Games gold medalist Bang Soo Hyun of South Korea.

Down 0-4 in the second game, Bang regained her attacking touch, scoring a series of winners that left Lim stranded. The Korean allowed Lim just two more points as she ran away with the game.

ACOG sticks to guns

DENVER, USA, July 23: There will be no further changes to the 1996 Olympic athletics schedule to help Michael Johnson in his bid for a 200m and 400m double, Dave Maggard of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games said here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Maggard, the managing director of sport for the Games, said the competition schedule had been completed for all sports, including athletics.

"We're putting on the Games for the world, not just for the United States athletes, not just for one particular athlete," Maggard said at a press conference during the US Olympic festival.

Johnson had asked that the schedule be changed so that one of the events would be completed before heats in the other began. Otherwise, he said, attempting the double would be too difficult.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation has already added 50 minutes between the 200m semifinals and 400m finals, giving Johnson a 2hr 35min break between two races.

Maggard said that as far as he knew the IAAF would not agree to further changes, even if Johnson does the double at the World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, next month.

"What I have been told in all my conversations with the IAAF is that this is the final schedule," he said.

"What the very direct comments made to me and my staff have been is, 'his is the schedule. There will be no further changes to the schedule,'" he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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48 Sapporo sash

CRYPTOQUIP

CPFMDWRG DUFXYG APKRGK

XKGPNYQ IKGAGKKG M

NW IYPQ NCG AUGYM

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ARNOLD PALMER MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO BUILD A BIG HOME ON THE GOLF OF MEXICO.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals F

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.

SOLUTION

1 SHIRTS 5 TOURS 8 TAKEAWAY 12 ARROWPOISON 13 HOLEMAKER 14 SHARE 15 HAVE TO GRIND 16 TV'S DENNIS THE MENACE 18 ONE OF ENGLAND'S LAKE POETS 20 CATS' HANGOUT 21 PAINTER'S MEDIUM 22 CONK OUT 23 WHAT SNITCHES SPILL 26 KERRIGAN'S RIVAL 30 EARLY HRS. 31 CARTESIAN CONCLUSION 32 24 HORAS 33 USE FRUGALLY 36 BROADWAY BOMBS 38 PROTOTYPICAL LOVE BOAT 39 "O SOLE" 40 SNAP 43 INFLATABLE LIFE JACKET 47 "UNFORGOTTEN" DIRECTOR 49 LAMB'S PSEUDONYM 50 FRENCH PRONOUN 51 FLUFFY ACCESSORY 52 BURBOT 53 INDIGENT 54 DOCTRINE 55 SMALLER DOWN 1 PREJUDICE 2 — UNCERTAIN TERMS 3 SWEETIE 4 CHURCH CUSTODIAN 5 BARRETT OF "STAR TREK" 6 VACATIONING 7 THICKNESS 8 DROVE 9 FILING 10 ART DECO VIP 11 WAN 17 FILM DIRECTOR 19 TOWEL DESIGNATION 22 TVA STRUCTURE 23 SCROOGEAN CRY 24 AUSSIE AVIS 25 BALAAM'S REBUKER 26 SWINDLED 27 ALTAR AFFIRMATIVE 28 PINCH 29 ROADSIDE PURCHASE 31 CARTOONIST'S SUPPLY 34 PANCAKE MAKEUP? 35 QUEUED UP 36 "A POX UPON THEE!" 37 POET JAMES RUSSELL 39 POLITE TERM OF ADDRESS 40 INCUBATOR NOISE 41 HEADLIGHT? 42 SCANDINAVIAN CITY 43 LOW SOUNDS? 44 NOVELIST WIESEL 45 SERMON SUBJECTS 46 "PRICE IS RIGHT" DECOR FEATURES 48 SAPPORO SASH

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