

Boys atop

Bangladesh Boys Club took a solo lead in the Lifebuoy Metropolitan First Division Football League, beating Sadharan Bima KS by a solitary goal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

With yesterday's victory, the Gopibagh booters have secured the highest 13 points from seven outings while the Insurancemen remained at their previous total of nine points, also from seven encounters.

Bangladesh Boys won the match through an own goal in the 31st minute when Ayub of Bima sent the ball in to his own net while trying to foil a Shubro run.

Both the teams failed to display their usual skills owing to the heavy ground.

After conceding the goal Sadharan Bima dominated the match and tried their best for an equaliser, but their forwards let them down.

Yellow cards: Selim, Sipper (Bangladesh Boys), and Biplob, Anwar and Sagar (Sadharan Bima).

BANGLADESH BOYS: Selim Sr, Sipper, Barat, Jahangir, Badal, Shubro (Mamun), Selim Jr, Rubel, Tipu, Azad and Bapan.

SADHARAN BIMA KS: Faiz, Rabbani (Jabar), Ayub, Haider, Kamal, Sajedul, Biplob, Zakaria (Tutul), Anwar, Sagar (Ripon) and Palash.

Referee: Binol Kar.

The other First Division engagement between Dhanmondi Club and Police AC ended in a goalless draw at the Mirpur Stadium.

Dhanmondi Club have so far earned 11 points and Police AC have seven points, from seven matches each.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

A superb hattrick by Abul Hossain was the highlight of a busy day of Pioneer Division football league action at different venues around the city.

At the Rajuk ground adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium Abul's triple strikes helped Rainbow SC sink K R Boys without reply.

Koshaituli Samaj Kalyan recorded an easy 4-0 victory over Senpara Jubo Kalyan.

Jatrabari KC overpowered Paradagar Krira by 5-0, while Diba Sangsad outplayed Mansoor SC by 2-0 goals.

Nababpur SC registered a facile 4-1 win over Redson KC in another match.

Rampura Natun Kuri, Abokash Tarun Sangha and Arambagh KC defeated National Football Training Centre, Sutrapur SC and Rising SC by the identical 2-1 scores respectively.

Nabab Katara SC and Angels Club won their respective matches by lone goals.

Other matches between Kalindi KC and Dogair Chantara, and Sawdesh Samaj Kalyan and Suryoshena SC ended in goalless draws. Golam Mostafa Lane drew 1-1 with Lalbagh KC in the days another encounter.

Khulna varsity soccer

Sports Reporter

The inter-department football tournament-95 of Khulna University is scheduled to begin on July 30, said a press release yesterday.

Vice Chancellor of the University Professor Golam Ali Fakir will inaugurate the tournament.

Department of Business Administration will take on Department of Marine Biology on the opening day.

Lotus-Kamal final round begins tomorrow

The final phase of the Lotus-Kamal Second Division cricket league qualifier gets underway tomorrow at different venues around the city, reports UNB.

Lalkhuti CC will take on Lancashire CS at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Stampford CC will encounter Peereerbagh KC at the Mirpur City Club ground on the opening day.

The following day Udayachal Club will face Ward Number Four at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Siddeswari CC will meet Indira Road KC at the Mirpur City ground.

Eight teams, divided in four groups, will compete on a knock out basis.

Later, four group champion teams will play the semifinals to be held on August 2.

Nantes keep winning

PARIS, July 27: Chad's Japhet N'Doram struck a hattrick to lead holders Nantes to an impressive 4-0 win at Martignys on Wednesday which put them on top of the French soccer league after two matches, reports Reuter.



Muktijoddha's mercurial striker Mizan, who broke the Mohammedans defence everytime with consummate ease during their Lifebuoy Premier Division league engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, unleashes a thunderous right-footer which narrowly missed the net. The black and whites won 3-2 after trailing 0-2. — Star photo

MSC back from the grave

Sports Reporter

Muktijoddha's defender Arif Hossain Moon revived the living nightmare of a la Escobar act as title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club came from a 0-2 deficit to earn a sensational 3-2 win over the last year's runners-up in a crucial Lifebuoy Premier football tie at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

With one minute to go in a breath-taking encounter with both sides locked in a 2-2 draw, Moon, the former national captain, in a bid to thwart an Arman low cross from the right headed the ball into his own net leaving Mohammedans to return to the top flight with an improbable but scintillating victory.

Apart from the final suicidal act Moon had earlier enabled his black and white opponents a chance to reduce the margin with a cynical foul, incidentally against Arman, in the forbidden zone.

But Muktijoddha, thanks to Mohammedans Jewel Rana whose 12-yarder from the resultant penalty awarded in the 34th minute flew miles above the cross-piece, heaved a sigh of momentary relief.

However, the outcome of the match once again proved the sheer weight of the Mohammedan jersey as the lethargic Muktijoddha enjoying a 2-0 lead at the breather capitulated meekly in the face of spirited display by the Mohammedan booters.

The luck-lorn Muktijoddha, who are yet to win a single match against Mohammedans in the league, not only lost their unbeaten record in this league, but also sinned by once again crumbling on big occasions, making mockery of their namesake 'freedom fighters'.

The midfield powerhouse, who almost single handedly guided Mohammedans to lift the first two titles of the season, returned to his former self as his side simply tore apart the Muktijoddha defence with a wave of attacks.

However, Mohammedans first goal came from a dead ball situation when Bode Baba, the tall Nigerian striker, after receiving a long Ruhul Amin throw from the left via a Kaiser back-header into the box blasted the opponents' net with a first time right footer.

The goal added fuel to the Mohammedans attack but they had to wait till the 84th minute before Lathi Baba neutralised the margin with a gem of a header.

Lathi, latching on to a high cross from compatriot Bode, dived full length to head the ball home at the near post and the delirious Mohammedan supporters gave a deafening cry.

Five minutes later when Moon headed the ball into his own net Mohammedans' jubilation turned into ecstasy while the Muktijoddha booters collapsed in despair.

With this win Mohammedans moved into the third place raising their collection to 14 points from seven league engagements while Muktijoddha, who were jointly holding the top slot with Abahani Krira Chakra, remain stuck to their previous collection of 16 from seven matches.

Yellow card: Bode, Lathi and Alfaz (Mohammedan SC); Arun, Moon and Mamun (Muktijoddha Sangsad).

TEAMS
MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponnir, Parvez (Rupul), Kaiser Hamid, Ruhul Amin, Munna, Jewel Rana, Manik, Arnan, Bode, Lathi and Alfaz (Rangan).

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Referee: R Alam.

Cheats, cons and dives

BONN, July 27: German players have been accused by soccer's governing body FIFA of turning the dive in the penalty area into an art form, reports Reuter.

In a hard-hitting column in Germany's most respected soccer magazine Kicker, FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter takes both the nation's players and officials to task.

"The players lose their tempers, swear at the referee and opposition, have turned the dive into an art form and fake injury," he said.

"The German stars surpassed other countries in this area some time ago."

Earlier this week FIFA threatened Germany with a World Cup ban after officials ordered matches to be replayed because of alleged refereeing mistakes, saying they had disregarded the principle that "a referee's factual decisions are irrevocable."

The DFB upset FIFA when they ordered a Second Division match between Chemnitz and Leipzig in June to be replayed because of refereeing mistakes. FIFA ordered the national federation to reverse the decision.

Last season the DFB also imposed a ban on Borussia Dortmund's German international midfielder Andy Moeller after television pictures showed how he had taken an obvious dive in the penalty area. The referee awarded a penalty.

Last year they also ordered another game between Bayern Munich and Nuremberg to be replayed after television pictures showed the referee had made a mistake in awarding a goal.

Blatter said: "German referees have a hard job. Specially since the German Soccer Federation (DFB) has deviated from the principles of FIFA rules more than once."

"The Bundesliga wants to remain a trend setter. It needs to show it is prepared to be responsible in the role," Blatter said. "There are not only trends in the commercial field but also in the moral and ethical area."

"Germany is a country of perfectionism. But even perfectionists must come to terms with human error."

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Muktijoddha enjoyed a 2-0 lead in the first half not because they played better as a team but because of sheer brilliance of their striker Mizan, who set Rakib to score the first goal in the 22nd minute and himself added the second three minutes later.

Mizan after receiving a ball on the right flank staved off the challenge from three Mohammedans defenders — Ruhul Amin, Jewel Rana and Kaiser, with a sudden burst of speed and lobbed a perfect cross to Rakib, who had little to do but net the ball home from close.

The lanky forward then scored his fifth goal in the league with a fierce right-footer from an acute angle with Ponir, the otherwise reliable Mohammedan custodian, only managing to lend his hand to aid the ball to the far corner of the net.

Undaunted by the early setback the DMFA Cup and the Federation Cup champions, backed by a full throated cheers from their ardent supporters, ignited all their four cylinders in the second half with Arman playing his best match in the league.

The midfield powerhouse, who almost single handedly guided Mohammedans to lift the first two titles of the season, returned to his former self as his side simply tore apart the Muktijoddha defence with a wave of attacks.

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Judokas off to New Delhi

Sports Reporter

An eight-member Bangladesh judo team leaves Dhaka for New Delhi today to take part in the second Rajiv Gandhi international judo championship.

S A Razzak Raju will act as team manager for the judokas with Syed Ali Anwar as coach.

The six participants will compete in the following weight categories: 50 kg — Babul Miah, 55 kg — Golam Mustafa, 60 kg — Mainul Islam, 65 kg — Md Shameem, 71 kg — Nazrul Islam and Moniruzzaman in open division.

Twenty-four countries are expected to participate in the three-day championship that gets underway from August 2.

The squad is likely to return home on August 10.

Schools chess opens

Sports Reporter

President of the chess federation and Finance Secretary Nasimuddin inaugurated the Tenth Schools chess tournament as the chief guest in the National Sports Council auditorium yesterday.

The matches will begin today at the NSC chess room at 3 pm. Eighty two schools featuring 312 players are scheduled to participate in the nine-round Swiss League tournament.

The prizes include a trophy for the champion as well as cash Taka ten thousand for each of the top seven finishers.

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W Indies 216 all out Shaky start for England



MANCHESTER, England, July 27: England were 65-2 in reply to West Indies first innings total of 216 at close of play on the opening day of the fourth cricket Test at Old Trafford today, report agencies.

Test matches in the north of England are often cut short by rain or bad light, but it was a rare display of brilliant sunshine which forced the players from the field as the West Indies tumbled to 216 all out.

A blinding reflection off a greenhouse roof behind the bowler's arm beamed straight into the batsmen's eyes and made batting impossible. When Junior Murray was the seventh man out 15 minutes before tea was scheduled, he play was held up for five minutes until it was decided to take an early break while groundstaff worked on covering the greenhouse.

But the sunshine was no excuse for the West Indies who wasted their wickets on a good batting pitch with a lightning quick outfield after Richie Richardson won the toss and made the right decision to bat.

Jimmy Adams, Brian Lara and Richardson were the only batsmen out to good balls, while Carl Hooper, Sherwin Campbell, Keith Arthurson and Murray got themselves out with rash and undisciplined slashes.

Lara dominated the scoreboard with a sparkling 87, but is still to reach three figures on tour. Dominic Cork trapped him leg before wicket as he shuffled across the crease to a ball which pitched on middle stump and came back on the left hander, hitting him directly in front of middle stump.

Angus Fraser did the initial damage though, sending the tourists into lunch at 94 for four with three morning session wickets including Adams and Richardson in the three overs before the break.

Fraser finished with four for 45, and Cork with four for 86.

Mike Watkinson took two wickets on his Test debut and although 42-year-old John Emburey didn't claim any, he troubled and frustrated the batsmen, including Lara, and bowled well. He also took a good high catch at long off to dismiss Murray and give Watkinson his second Test wicket.

As he has been all series, Lara was quick to play his shots, an approach which has brought him several quick half centuries but nothing more.

He played a couple of glorious pull shots against some ineffective short balls and brought up his 50 with three more superb fours from a pull, square drive and off-drive.

He hit 16 fours from 118 balls in his 155 minute innings.

He and Adams (26) put on a 51-run stand which took them to 86 for two, until Fraser turned Adams around and gave Nick Knight a catch at second slip in his first Test. No other batsman reached 20.

England, desperate to win here to level the series after the West Indies took a 2-1 lead with a devastating innings and 64 run win in the third Test, left Darren Gough and Graeme Hick out of the team, amid six changes.

John Crawley replaces Hick at No 3, opening batsman Knight and all-rounder Watkinson make their debuts, while Craig White also returned to bat at No 6 and act as the third seam bowler. Emburey is playing his first Test in two years and wicketkeeper Jack Russell, who made his 100th Test dismissal when he caught Ian Bishop, has also been re-

placed by Darren Gough and Graeme Hick out of the team, amid six changes.

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