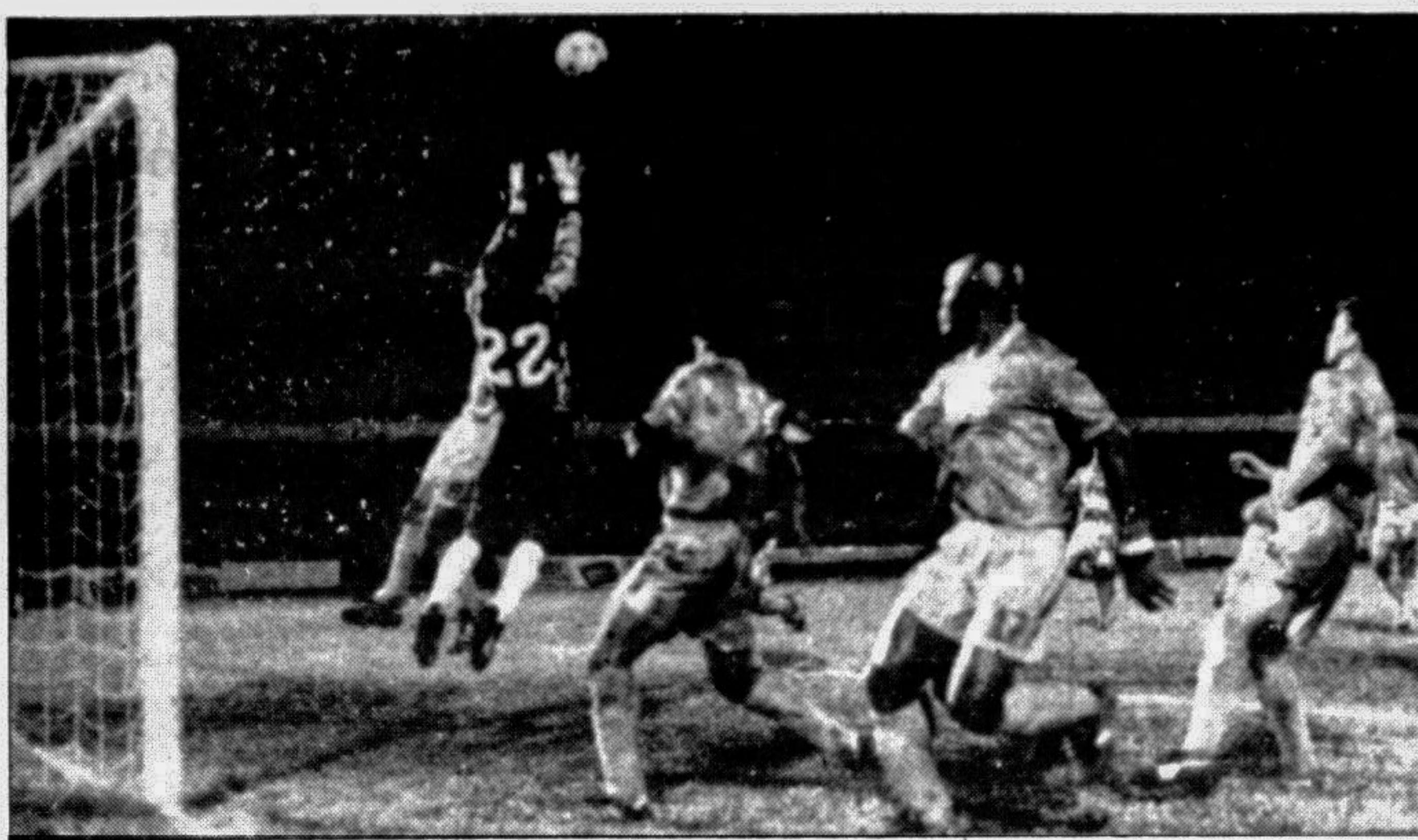


Sport



Brothers Union's Christopher (17) waits in vain as Abahani's keeper Dhanu is about to grip the ball in yesterday's match of the Lifebuoy Premier football league at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Public Works fix it with Victoria SC

Sports Reporter

PWD Sporting Club and Victoria Sporting Club split points in one of the two Lifebuoy First Division football league engagements which ended in a goalless draw at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The proceedings gave the impression that the result was pre-fixed long before the players entered the playing arena. Players of both the sides appeared relaxed and it seemed that they were fielded aimlessly without any plan. Players were very casual and with a few exceptions they are mostly locked up in their own halves.

Their occasional attacks produced naught as those were also without any particular or planned effort. Both the teams took to time wasting and were restlessly waiting for the end whistle.

In another match of the day Eskaton Sabuj Sangha humbled Santinagar Club 2-0 at the Mirpur Stadium. Both the goals were scored in the second half. Tipu opened the winners' account in the 88th minute while Arif netted the second goal 6 minutes away from the final whistle.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifebuoy Premier Division football league:

Arambagh KS vs Agrani Bank SC (4.30 pm Dhaka Stadium).

Wari Club vs Youngmen's Club Fakirpore (6.30 pm Dhaka Stadium).

Lifebuoy First Division football league:

East End Club vs Badda Jagoroni Sangsad (5 pm Mirpur Stadium).

Pioneer Division football league:

Tejgaon Nabataranga vs Digonta Majlish (2.30 pm Banani ground).

Modubagh Friends Club vs Manikdi Provti Sangha (4 pm Banani ground).

Gazipur Eleven vs Kamal Young Society (2.30 pm Mohakhal T & T ground).

Chaitali Club vs Badda Jagorani Sangsad (Junior) (4 pm Mohakhal T & T ground).

Mukti Khelaghor Ashor vs Jatrabari KC (2.30 pm Jagannath University ground).

Eastern Football Club vs Redson KC (4 pm Jagannath University ground).

Bikrompur Eleven vs Mansoor SC (2.30 pm Dhupkholi Metropolis ground).

Sutrapur SC vs Diba Sangsad (4 pm Dhupkholi Metropolis ground).

Tenth Bata schools chess tournament: (NSC chess room).



The difference between the teams in Friday's key match of the Lifebuoy Premier football league at the jam-packed Dhaka Stadium was more than the thunderous goal by Abahani Krira Chakra's prolific long-distance scorer Monem Munna. The real difference was in the positive attitude of champions Abahani and the sluggish approach of their opponents Brothers Union. The imbalance in temperament gained prominence as minutes ticked by in an otherwise exciting match. The final whistle pronounced Abahani as presently the lone leaders in the league. But, then, Abahani only know too well that it is never too lonely on the top rung of the football ladder.

In what was a crucial match, Abahani reigned supreme at the cost of Brothers who are now panting with nine points in near obscurity. The champions have 19 points from seven games and have on edge over title-chasers Muktijoddha Sangsad (16 points) and Mohammedian Sporting Club (14 points).

Save for some bursts in the first quarter of the match, Brothers were not a shadow of the form that helped them to defeat giants Mohammedans last week.

Abahani took control of the match midway into the first half and went on to tighten the noose on the Brothers' neck as the match matured.

Abahani's prized attacking mid-fielder Munna found the deciding goal just past the half-hour mark with a resounding 40-yarder that ric-

ocheted off the cross-piece to shake the net behind the stranded Brothers' custodian Tipu. Abahani supporters heralded the miraculous goal with a burst of crackers accompanied by a crescendo.

Earlier in the 10th minute a delightful Mamun floater from the right freed Aslam deep into the Brothers' box but the latter headed it off the mark with a diving effort. A minute later Aslam's miraculous free-kick beat the wall and loomed dangerously towards the goal-mouth but Tipu came to Brothers' rescue with a commendable second effort.

Shapton gave Brothers the jitters just before Munna's goal as the out-of-box attempt hissed over the horizontal.

Soon after the all-important goal Brothers made two quick calls at the Abahani post but in vain. Don was too far ahead to take advantage of a right flank lob as Abahani's custodian Dhanu collected in his second attempt. Brothers Union again threatened the Dhamondi outfit in the 36th minute when Bernard, winning Christopher's cross in the Abahani box, drove a powerful left-footer wide off the mark.

Referee: Manirul Islam.

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Dhanu, Mamun, Ali Mansur (Iqbal), Sohel, Mansur, Vladimir, Munna, Sergei, Swapna (Jamal), Jahangir (Biplob) and Aslam.

BROTHERS UNION: Tipu,

Pijush, Bisu, Pappu, Mizan,

Bakhtiar, Amer Khan,

Christopher, Bernard (Dulal), Lulu and Don (Mintu).

Referee: Manirul Islam.

Referee: Manirul Islam.