Minnows in top flight

Sports Reporter



Youngmen's Fakirerpool Club overcame stiff resistance from traditional gia-

nt-slayers Wari Club to regain the third position in the Lifebuoy Premier football league behind Abahani and Muktijoddha with a 3-2 win at the flood-lit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The victory now place the pre-league underdogs ahead of Mohammedans with 15 points on completion of eight league engagements.

in an up and down encounter the unheralded voungsters of Fakirerpool, who had earlier hit the headlines by holding Abahani and Muktijoddha, led the first half by the odd goal in three.

Asif with a back-header off a Montu long-throw from the left put Fakirerpool into the lead in the very second minute of the proceedings.

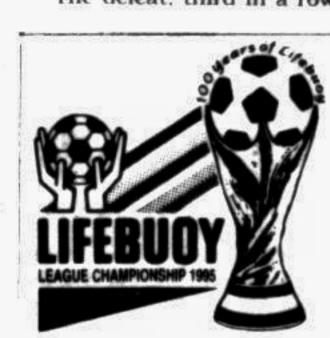
In the fifteenth minute Sohag neutralized the margin for Wari with a cool placing over an onrushing Fakirerpool custodian Bijon Barua before Maksudul Amin Rana once again put his side on the saddle stabbing the ball home from close eight minutes from the short whistle.

scored his second goal in the 75th minute to give his side and almost unassailable 3-1 lead with a neat grounder from inside the box.

Three minutes later Wari Club threatened to bounce back into contention when Sohag blasted the opponents' net form a goal-mouth melee.

But that was all Wari could muster as a stubborn Fakirerpool defence hardly allowed anything get past them.

The defeat, third in a row



now leaves Wari stuck to their paltry collection of four from eight matches.

Meanwhile, the day's first match between Arambagh and Agrani Bank ended in a goalless draw.

Apart from a few openings After the breather Asif by both sides the otherwise

lacklustre match was mostly confined to the middle with the players running listlessly.

For Arambagh, who are yet to win a match in the league, skipper Roxy got the best chance of a lead minutes after the breather. But his grounder into an open net was brilliantly saved by Agrani Bank defender Pons Sisim, who cleared the ball from the goal line.

On the other hand Agrani Bank's Tutul spoiled an easy sitter in the 43rd minute when the lanky forward shot the ball wide off the mark with the Arambagh goal-tender Shimul at his mercy.

With this draw Agrani Bank raised their collection to eight while Arambagh earned five on completion of their respective eight league matches.

TEAMS YOUNGMEN'S CLUB FA-KIRERPOOL: Bijon, Gobinda, Sohel, Ibrahim, Montu, Opu (Mokhtar), Mamun (Mintu), Askar, Asif, Rana and Moni (Shariful)

WARI CLUB: Dilip (Miner), Atiq. Shahed, Razzak (Babu), Siraj, Paritosh, Shankar, Mong Bathuei, Sohag Babu Zaman and Zakir (Rik-

Referee: Mozaffar Hossain.



Action from yesterday's Lifebuoy Premier Division football league encounter between Arambagh KS and Agrani Bank at the Dhaka Stadium. The match ended goalless. - Star photo

Monica's moment of truth



New Jersey, July | the Champions." 29: It's been 820 days since Monica Seles' last match, but

who's counting? Only everyone connected with women's tennis, includto fly a 15-story hot-air balloon over the Atlantic City Convention Centre before Saturday's match with a gigantic plea to Seles to play in her tournament next month. reports AP.

Seles stepped from a limousine back into the limelight Friday for an exhibition with Martina Navratilova that

Agassi, Sampras in semis

MONTREAL, July 29: Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras, the top two seeds, won their quarterfinal matches at the 1.795 million dollars Canadian Open on Friday but it was unseeded Mats Wilander who stole the show. reports Reuter.

The 102nd-ranked Wilander, who was the world's number one player in 1988. upset fourth-seeded and seventh-ranked Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 7-5, 7-6 (7-

The top-seeded and topranked Agassi survived a tough first-set fight from Malivai Washington before position a 7-6 (7-5) 6-3 win.

Second-seeded Pete Sampras had an even tougher first-set battle, coming back from 0-4 to capture a 7-6 (7-3). 6-2 win over seventhseeded Michael Stich of Germany.

Twelfth seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden scored a 6-3, 6-4 win over third seed Michael Chang to earn a semifinal berth against Sampras. Enqvist also beat Chang in the final in Philadelphia this year in their only other meeting.

Wilander, whose slower, softer style than in yesteryear frustrates opponents accustomed to a power game, is expected to leap up the ranking to around 60th by virtue of his back-to-back victories over Kafelnikov and eightranked Wayne Ferreira here.

It was the first time Wilander had beaten two top 10 players in a row since the 1988 Australian Open when, as the second-ranked player in the world, he defeated Stefan Edberg in the semifinals and Pat Cash in the final.

ATLANTIC CITY, is billed as "The Return of

This match won't count in the record book, but it's more important than any they had during either of their reigns as No 1.

For Seles, it marks the end of a long tournament and months. ing one promoter who plans the start of her second career in the sport she once dominated. For Navratilova, it marks her greatest success as president of the WTA Tour, coaxing back the finest player of the '90s and the biggest draw in women's

They won't be at their best, not with Seles nursing tendinitis in one knee and Navratilova bothered by a slight groin strain, not to mention the long absence from singles competition by

both of them. But the exhibition will provide a clue as to whether Seles still has the strokes, the strength, the quickness and, especially, the desire to reclaim her status as the best in the game. She says she's back for the fun of it.

Before she was attacked, there was no one in tennis man or woman - who dominated matches by sheer willpower as much as Seles did. Whether she will be able to do it again won't be fully evident until she plays tournaments and, more significantly, Grand Slam events like the US Open next

Seles, 21, offered a glimpse of that competitiveness this week when she spoke of her last match against Navratilova.

"I lost to her," Seles said, not going into the remarkable nature of that encounter. "I don't want her career to finish by losing to her."

It may be only an exhibition, but Seles wants her last

Back on Feb 21, 1993. Seles and Navratilova were at the top of their games. On that day, Navratilova ended Seles' 34-match winning streak with a 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7-3) victory. They played in a converted rock palace in the first final of the Paris Women's Open and the match was even for the the first two sets and through the third until 3-3 in the tiebreaker.



MONICA SELES rejuvenated and raring to go

Merdeka Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, July 29: Iraq beat Hungry 2-0 (halftime 0-0) in the final of the Merdeka soccer tournament

Scorers: Mohammed Muhammed (65th minute). Qahta Drain (70th).

East End split points

After a barren first half. Selim Kamal put Badda Jagarani ahead in the 73rd minute while Nepalese booter Raju Shaikya levelled the margin for East End Club in the 87th minute from a penalty.

The two teams are jointly

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Gulistan Club registered a Club in one of the eight Pion-T&T ground yesterday.

for the winners.

In another match at the same venue, Rampura Natun Kuri Sangsad beat Jubo Shikha Sangsad by 2-1 with Shah A Alam and Shafiqul scoring one goal apiece for the victors' while Mahbub reduced the margin for Jubo Shika.

handed Nakhalpara Jubo Kalvan Sangha a 2-1 defeat. Mizan and Ekram were the two scorers for Uttara while Wadud netted for the losers.

Nababgani Krira Sangsad defeated Agrani Krira and Samai Kalvan Sangha 2-0 with Nazir and Shahid sharing the honours.

Diba Sangsad overpowered for the victors'.

Meanwhile, Rezaul and Shahed netted one goal each to give their team Jatrabari KC a 2-0 win over Mukti Khelaghor Ashor.

Red Sun were the scorers for

Sangha and Angels Club produced a goalless draw in another billing of the day.

great guns

reports AP.

ahead before half time.

Lifebuoy Premier Division

Muktijoddha Sangsad vs Farashganj SC (6.30 pm

Lifebuoy First Division football league: Sadharan Bima KS vs

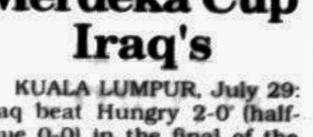
Stadium) Pioneer Division football

Sangha (4 pm Jagannath College and University ground) Islampur Uttaran KC vs Abokash Jarun Sangha (4 pm

Gulistan Club vs Juba Shikha Sangsad (4 pm. Mohakhali T&T ground)

Division qualifying cricket: Mirpur Ward No 4 vs Udayachal (DCC)

tournament (NSC chess room)



today, reports Reuter.

Badda Jagarani,

Newcomers Badda Jagarani Sangsad and East End Club now share second place in the Lifebuoy metropolis First Division football league after drawing one-all at the Mirpur Stadium, reports UNB.

in second position securing 12 points from seven matches. Bangladesh Boys Club lead the table with 13 points. having also played seven matches.

resounding 5-0 victory over National Football Training eer Division football league matches at the Mohakhali

Hasnat played the sheet anchor role scoring twice while Riazul, Kafil and Momen scored one goal each

Uttara Friends Club

Sutrapur SC by three goals to naught. Masud listed two goals under his name and Sanjov contributed the other

Eastern Football Club and Red Sun KC drew 1-1. Rana of Eastern and Moinuddin of

their respective sides. Kawran Bazar Progati

Gazza going

GLASGOW, Scotland, July 29: Paul Gascoigne marked his home debut for Glasgow Rangers with his fifth goal in five games Saturday in a 4-0 victory over Romanian club Steaua Bucharest in a preseason exhibition game,

Rangers, Scottish champions seven times in a row and aiming to start their European Champions' League campaign in 10 days time with impressive wins over Anorthosis Famagusta of Cyprus, looked sharp against Steaua, a Champions Cup titlist in 1986, and went 2-0

lan Ferguson hit the first. Gascoigne the second and more goals came from Mark Hateley and substitute Ally McCoist in a one-sided game.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

football league:

Dhaka Stadium)

Police AC (4.30 pm Dhaka

Nababpur SC vs Paradagar 23 Nabokov Krira and Samaj Kalyan novel 24 Between

Dhupkhola Metropolis ground).

Kawran Bazar Progati Sangha vs Uttara Friends Club (4 pm Banani ground) Lotus-kamal Second

Siddeshwari CC vs Indira Road KC (City Club ground) **Tenth Bata schools Chess**



England skipper Mike Atherton ducks to avoid a bouncer from West Indian paceman Ian Bishop during second day's play of the fourth Test at Old Trafford on Friday. AFP/UNB photo

Windies 159 for three



July 29: West Indies, 221 behind on first innings, were 159 for three in th-

eir second innings at close of play on the third day of the fourth Test against England at Old Trafford today, reports Reuter. Earlier on Friday. England

held a healthy lead of 131 with three first innings wickets left at close of splay on the second day against West Indies after Graham Thorpe hit a fine 94. When the day's action at

Old Trafford ended five overs early because of bad light. England were 347-7 with Mike Watkinson on 25 and Dominic Cork on three. Resuming at 65-2, all the

England batsmen fought well

without ever being able to

dominate the hostile, shortpitched battery from the West Indies pacemen. But the West Indies paid a high price, yielding 51 extras and in the last hour of the day had to turn to the rarely used spin of Jimmy Adams

attempt to meet the overs Regular spinner Carl Hooper was off the field with a chipped finger bone and may not be able to bat in the

and Keith Arthurton in an

West Indies second innings. Thorpe led the way for England and was joined in a valuable fourth wicket stand if 102 by Robin Smith (44).

Captain Mike Atherton hit 47 and later in the days wicketkeeper Jack Russell contributed a useful 35 before being run out. After their innings defeat

on a controversial pitch at the third Test in Birmingham. England now have a good chance of making it 2-2 in the six-match series. Some of the West Indies

pace bowling failed to find

favour with umpire Dickie

Bird who had words with

Courtney Walsh after a series of bouncers in one over before lunch. But Atherton looked to have survived the early onslaught, only to glove a catch

to wicketkeeper Junior Murray off Curtly Ambrose. Smith, after enduring the usual barrage, fell victim in the afternoon session to a

brilliant catch at second slip.

Ambrose made a delivery (White c Murray b K Benjamin 23 climb in at him and the ball flew via bat-handle and looked as though it would comfortably elude substitute Stuart Williams.

But the reserve opener dived full length and held a magnificent one-handed catchs.

It was Ambrose's 251st wicket in his 58th Test. He is now in fifth place in the alltime West Indian list behind Malcolm Marshall, Lance Gibbs, Walsh and Joel Garner. SCOREBOARD

Tea time scoreboard on

the third day of the fourth

Test between England and

the West Indies at Old Trafford today: WEST INDIES: First Innings 216 (B Lara 87; A. Fraser 4-45, D. Cork 4-86).

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 65-2). N Knight b Walsh M Atherton c Murray b Ambrose J Crawley b Walsh G Thorpe c Murray b Bishop R Smith c sub b Ambrose

R Russell run out M Watkinson c sub b Walsh D Cork not out J Emburey b Bishop A Fraser e Adams b Walsh

Extras: (b-18, lb-11, w-1, nb-34)64 Fall of wkts: 1-45; 2-65; 3-122: 4-226: 5-264: 6-293: 7-

337: 8-378: 9-418 Bowling: Ambrose 91 Walsh 92 Bishop 3 1 0 3 Benjamin 83 Adams 21 Arthurton 18 WEST INDIES: Second innings

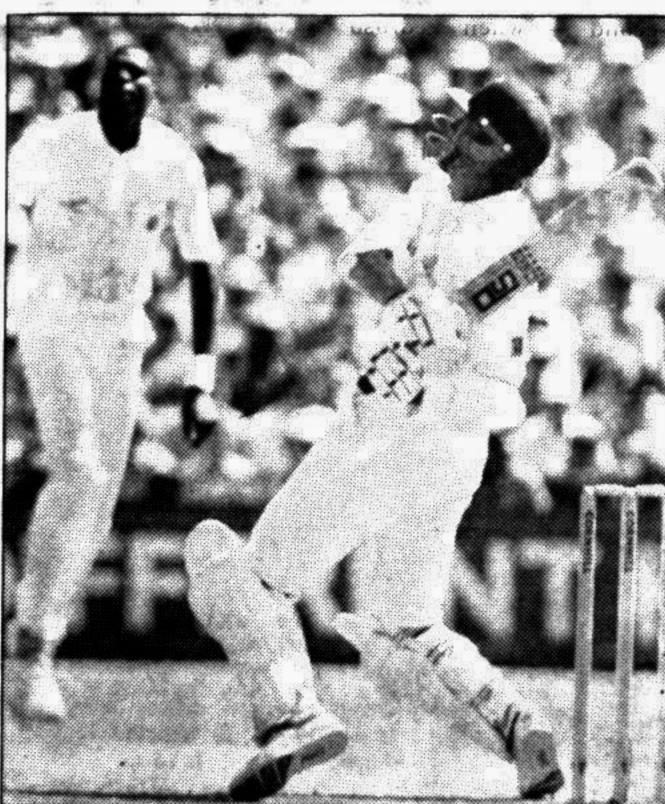
Extras: (lb-5, nb-5) Total: 1 wkt Fall of wkts: To bat: CL Hooper, J Adams, R Richardson, J Murray. I Bishop. C Ambrose.

S Campbell not out

B Lara not out

K Arthurton run out

17 C Walsh, K Benjamin. Bowling: R Fraser 10 Cork Emburey White 0 10



England tail-ender Dominic Cork plays a successful hook shot for four off West Indies' Curtly Ambrose during his spirited unbeaten knock of 56 on Day Three of the fourth Test at Old Trafford yesterday.

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England likely to miss Gough

MANCHESTER, July 29: All-rounder Darren Gough may be out for the rest of England's Test series against the West Indies after suffering another injury setback, reports Reuter.

The Yorkshireman, who was forced to withdraw from last winter's tour in Australia with a stress fracture of his left foot, went to Leeds for a scan this week after being left out of the fourth Test at Old Trafford.

Although he insisted he was fit for selection, the scan has revealed there are more problems which could force him out for the rest of series against the West Indies. "The scan revealed some inflammation in two joints

and a stress reaction in the fourth bone," Yorkshire's physiotherapist Wayne Morton said on Friday. "He'll need to rest for a

while and will miss at least two championship games." It means Gough will be out of action for at least a fortnight, ruling him out of the fifth Test at Trent Bridge and casting doubts over whether he will be fit for the Oval Test string on August

Lotus-Kamal cricket

Lancashire CS and Pirerbagh KS reached the semifinals of the Lotus-Kamal Second Division cricket League qualifier after winning their respective quarterfinal matches at the different city venues yesterday, reports

UNB. At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Lancashire recorded a comfortable 72-run victory over Lalkuthi CC.

Winning the toss, Lancashire batted first and scored an impressive 179 for 6 in stipulated 35 overs. They dismissed Lalkuthi for 107 in

27.3 overs. At the City Club ground, Pirerbagh KS eliminated Stamford Cricket Club by 6

wickets.

Sent into bat, Stamford made 123 for 6 in 30 overs. The first 16.3 overs of the Pirerbagh innings was interrupted for 30 minutes due to rain and the winning target was refixed at 95 runs in 25

Pirerbagh easily reached 97 for four in 19.2 overs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Solution time: 25 min. DEANIDABEEN WAFFLE COOINGPUDDLE

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45 Pizzazz

46 "Down"

CRYPTOQUIP

ZMJNTGTBO QVZMM TPN D S GPWEMJ QZBY VEJJVS VTTFSW J D S WEYYSN MFEGGO Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHY ARE MOST BEGIN-

Today's Cryptoquip clue: N equals R

FOOLED BY SHAM-ROCKS?

NING GEOLOGISTS, WORKING IN THE FIELD,

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.