

League's first fixed affair

Sports Reporter
Arambagh and Farashganj needed not to appear in Wednesday's Lifebuoy Premier football league at the Dhaka Stadium as the fate of the match was apparently decided long before the kick-off.

This was the general opinion of the disappointed few who attended the goalless encounter.

The lone fixture proved to be yet another stab in the progress of football in the country with both teams playing in a friendly manner and taking no scoring chances. This is the first instance of an apparently arranged affair which DMFA and other organisers have been trying to stop for several years. Last season a countless number of fixed matches were played, an undesirable situation which compelled the introduction of the FIFA system of three points for a win from the current league.

The draw now leaves Arambagh with six points while promotees Farashganj have five on completion of their nine first-leg engagements.

TEAMS
ARAMBAGH KS: Tariq, Pradip, Choton, Faisal, Tushar, Anwar, Roxy, Yousof, Jahangir (Minhaj Babu), Haru and Shoaib (Apu).
FARASHGANJ SC: Bijoy, Nazrul, Santosh (Manik), Tajul (Chena Mong), Selim (Akram Khan), Liakat, Pappu, Alok, Ritu and Rinu.
Referee: Ram Krishna Ghose.

Pioneer soccer
Sports Reporter
Nababganj Kriya Sangsad recorded a thumping 6-1 win over Senpara Jubo Kalyan Sangha in one of the four Pioneer Division football league matches at the Mirpur Outer Stadium yesterday.

Mithu and Nazir were on the scoresheet twice while Arif and Ashraf shared one apiece for the victors. Kashem netted a consolation goal for the vanquished.

Meanwhile, a superb hat-trick from Azad helped propel Manikdi to a facile 4-0 win over Angels Club. Humayun scored the other goal for the winners.

Other results:
Venue: Mirpur Outer Stadium
Agrani Bank-3 (Nazim, Mintu and Rashed)
Dragon KC-0
Venue: Mohakhali T&T Ground
National Football Training Club-1 (Habib)
Badda Jagoroni (Junior) - 1 (Monir).

Serie A kicks off Aug 27

ROME, Aug 2: Former champions Sampdoria and Roma will provide the first big clash of the season when Italy's Serie A soccer league kicks off on August 27, reports Reuter.

The calendar issued on Tuesday drew Sampdoria, with young Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf and French international Christian Karambeu signed over the summer break, against Roma who are regularly fancied among the early front runners.

Champions Juventus were given a gentle start to their season, at home in Turin to Cremonese.

Former European champions AC Milan begin the second away to Padova, the team who upset them 2-0 early last season.

"We will have an added incentive," said Milan coach Fabio Capello, who can count on Italy's Roberto Baggio in his line-up.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifebuoy Premier Division football league:
Mohammedan Sporting Club vs Rahmatganj MFS (4.30 pm Dhaka Stadium)
Brothers Union vs Youngmen's Club Fakirpool (6.30 pm Dhaka Stadium)
Lifebuoy First Division football league:
Victoria SC vs Police SC (5 pm Mirpur Stadium)
Pioneer Division football league:
Aganagar PMS vs Sutrapur SC (2.30 pm Dhupkhola Metropolis ground)
Mansoor SC vs Abokash Tarun Sangha (4 pm Dhupkhola Metropolis ground)
Uttara Friends Club vs Manikdi Provati Sangha (2.30 pm Banani ground)
Angels Club vs Modhubagh Friends Club (2.30 pm Banani ground)
Jubo Shikha Sangsad vs Badda Jagoroni (Junior) (2.30 pm T&T ground)
National Football Training Club vs Chaitali Club (4 pm T&T ground)
Tenth Bata schools chess tournament



Action from yesterday's Lifebuoy Premier football league encounter between Arambagh KS and Farashganj SC which finished 0-0 at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

East End alone atop

Sports Reporter
East End Club shot into the top of the Lifebuoy First Division football league table on Wednesday when they defeated relegation prospects Shantinagar Club by a pair of late goals at the Mirpur Stadium.

Rafiqul Islam Ujjol put East End ahead in the 76th minute and Umesh Prodhan stretched the margin four minutes later.

The win gives East End the solo lead in the league with 15 points from eight matches. Shantinagar are in dire straits with only five from also eight outings.

TEAMS
EAST END CLUB: Hafizuddin Ahmed, Riazul Islam Emon, Haran Chandra Dey, Md Manik, Azizur Rahman Shawpon, (Abdul Martin) Rafiqul Islam Ujjol, Razu Kaji Shakya, Umesh Prodhan, Deepak Amartya, Harunur Rashid Chapal, Sourav Majumdar Raju, Md Sanaulah, (Md Mahfuzullah Liton).

SHANTINAGAR CLUB: Forkan, Litu, Shawpon, Dipu, Raquib, Lokman, Bhola, Alauddin (Didar), Shudhir, Liton, Siraj (Kamall).
Referee: Rafiqul Islam.

STANDINGS
Following are the standings of the Lifebuoy First Division football league at the end of eight round matches:

Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
East End Club	8	4	3	1	13	7	15
Bangladesh Boys	8	4	2	2	11	6	14
Budda Jagoroni	8	3	4	1	7	5	13
Sadhuran Bima	8	3	3	2	7	6	12
Dhanmondi Club	8	3	3	2	9	9	12
Victoria SC	8	1	7	0	5	4	10
Eskaton SS	8	2	3	3	10	15	9
Police AC	8	1	4	3	5	7	7
PWD SC	8	1	3	4	8	9	6
Shantinagar Club	8	1	2	5	4	11	5

Friendly soccer in doubt

LONDON, Aug 2: The Football Association (FA) said on Tuesday they were hopeful England's match against Croatia at Wembley on September 6 will go ahead despite fears of an escalation in the civil war in the former Yugoslavia, reports AFP.

Then Croatian army's resumption of hostilities in neighbouring Bosnia Serbs has promoted concern about the suitability of the fixture.

Terry Venables sees the friendly matches an important part of his team's build-up for the 1996 European Championship finals. The England coach is keen to test his side against likely qualifiers for next summer's main event.

Croatia is packed with quality including Italian league players Zvonimir Boban of AC Milan, Alen Boksic of Lazio and Davorsuker of Sevilla in Spain. They are currently top of their group having beaten 1994 World Cup finalists Italy in Sicily.

Foreign office spokesman Richard Morgan said on Tuesday: "Technically, there are no problems in the way of the match going ahead, although there might well be some political fall-out if the Croatian army plays a heavy role in the war over the next few weeks."

"Naturally we would expect the Football Association to come to us if they have any fears about repercussions over the fixture, but there has been no need for the up to now."

FA spokeswoman Clare Tounlinson said: "We're not surprised people have started wondering about the game against Croatia but we have no reason to believe it will come into doubt."

"When it was first arranged in the spring, we spoke to both the foreign office and the national heritage ministry."

"We will go back to them if we see any signs of a problem for the match and it won't need to go as far as being ordered to call it off. There is certainly no reason to do so now," she added.

Serbian clubs have just been allowed back into European competitions after several years in the wilderness. Red Star Belgrade, the 1991 European Cup and World Club Cup winners, return in the UEFA Cup.



President of the Laurence Network Corporation shows the 1999 pure silver commemorative medallion recognising fallen American football star O J Simpson as athlete-of-the-century at a press conference in New York on August 1. The coins are priced at 60 dollars. — APP/UNB photo

Sevilla, Celta demoted

MADRID, Aug 2: The Spanish Football League (LFP) relegated Sevilla and Celta from the First to the Third Division on Tuesday for failing to present budget guarantees for the coming season, reports Reuter.

The LFP's financial committee said the two clubs had failed to comply with a 1991 law which sates all clubs, in submitting close season accounts, must guarantee five per cent of their budget for the next year.

"We were talking about a one month period for the clubs to put everything in order, and 38 of the 40 (First and Second Division clubs) have done it," LFP spokesman Antonio Fidalgo said after a meeting with club presidents.

Sevilla, who finished fifth last season and qualified for the UEFA Cup, and Celta of Vigo, who finished 13th, were the exceptions.

The LFP said Albacete and Valladolid, both relegated last season, would be reinstated to the top flight and Third Division clubs Getafe and Palamos would move up to the Second.

Both Sevilla and Celta can appeal against the ruling. Sevilla will be eligible to compete in the UEFA Cup even if it is upheld.



Bimal, Nilufar off to Sweden

Sports Reporter
A three-member Bangladesh athletics team left Dhaka for the Swedish city of Gothenburg on Tuesday to compete in the fifth World Athletics Championships on Friday.

The squad comprising fastest man of South Asia Bimal Chandra Tarafdar and SAF Games' long jump bronze medalist Nilufar Yasmeen will be accompanied by team manager Agul Mannan.

Gunners win
GOTHENBURG, Sweden, Aug 2: Ian Wright and Dutch signing Dennis Bergkamp guided Arsenal to a comfortable 2-0 victory over Swedish First Division side Gais here on Tuesday night, reports AFP.

Wright opened the scoring in the fourth minute with a powerful header from Nigel Winterburns cross, but Bergkamp needed help from a fumbling goalkeeper as he nodded in his effort in the 44th.

Bjorklund joins Vicenza
VICENZA, Italy, Aug 2: Italian Serie A club Vicenza said on Tuesday they had signed Swedish international Joachim Bjorklund from IFK Gothenburg, reports Reuter.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Bill
4 Sleuth, slangly
7 One in a black suit?
12 Flamenco cheer
13 Italian article
14 Esteem
15 Glutton
16 Restaurant bench
18 "The — Daba Honey-moon"
19 Roughly
20 Galvanizing stuff
22 Mainlanders' memento
23 Some-where out there
27 Inseparable
29 Regal seat
31 Pair
34 "Hammerin' Hank"
35 It can make Granny a real swinger
37 Family member

DOWN
2 Excuse
3 Opened
4 Big
5 Supply
6 Hiawatha's craft
7 Close
8 "The Gold Bug" author
9 Worker insect
10 Morse-code click
11 Previous to
17 Smoke your last
21 Arrogant and concealed
23 Spirited steeds
24 Gift-tag word
25 Uruguay-an's year
26 Stimp's pal
28 Born
30 "Ball —"
31 See 37
32 Pillar from
33 Top-notch
36 Cloverleaf exit
37 Few and far between
40 Teapot feature
42 Equestrienne's garb
43 Affected by caffeine
44 Jason's aide
45 Amos' pal
46 Laurel or Musial
48 Brylcreem portion
49 Parisian pal
50 He'd tend a horse
51 Type units

Solution time: 25 mins.

RAT BEEP DAMS
ADO ARTE EVIL
HARDTACK TIME
TUT HOARDED
SPINET EDO
AIL ROB ZIPPY
ILLS MUG TREE
DEATH YAW ETA
ROC LETTER
COVERUP BOZ
ABIE RYEBREAD
PINT ELKE LIE
SEES DEER SRO

Moin-ud-Dowlah Gold Cup begins Sept 2

BCCB picks thirty-two

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has called up 32 players to represent the board in the preliminary training camp for the forthcoming Moin-ud-Dowlah Gold Cup invitational tournament, scheduled to begin in the Indian city of Hyderabad from September 2.

The players who have been asked to report at the BCCB office on August 5 at 5 pm are — Akram Khan, Aminul Islam, Bulbul, Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Enamul Huq Moni, Athar Ali Khan, Saiful Islam, Sajjad Ahmed, Monsur' Shipon, Habibur Bashar Sumon, Mohammed Rafique, Khaled Masud Pilot, Hasibul Hossain Shanta, Anisur Rahman, Zaved Omar Belim Golla, Naimur Rahman Durjoy, Jahangir Alam, Sajal Chowdhury, Mizanur Rahman Babul, Debasish Barua, Zakaria Imtiaz, Al Shahrir Rokon, Sharfuddowla-Ibne-Shaheed Saikat, Sajid Hassan, Khaled Mahmud Sujon, Mehrab Hossain Opi, Ziauddin Shovop, Morsheed Ali Khan Sumon, Mustadir Litu, Sohail Islam, Rakib Hasan Bappi, Iqbal Hossain and Ziaur Rashid Rupom.

Among the selected cricketers vice-captain Aminul Islam Bulbul and an experienced Minhazul Abedin Nannu are now in England where they are playing in the Minor Counties league. But BCCB are expecting them by the end of this month.

Meanwhile, the decision of the BCCB to take part in the invitational tournament means that the scheduled date of the inter-club players' transfer from September 1-5 will be affected. This also effectively means that the carefully chalked-up BCCB calendar may have to altered even before the cricket season sets off.

Eighteen teams, split into four groups, will be taking part in the tournament. BCCB have been placed in Group B along with Hyderabad Cricket Association B (September 2), State Bank of India (September 3), India Cement

McCall means business

LONDON, Aug 2: Oliver McCall issued a chilling threat on Tuesday when he promised to do to Britain's Frank Bruno what Nigel Benn did to his close friend Gerald McClellan in London five months ago, reports AFP.

American McClellan was seriously injured in his world title fight against Britain's Nigel Benn and the fact Benn and Bruno are close friends is enough to provide the WBC heavyweight champion with the motive of revenge.

McCall, who makes his second defence of the title against Bruno at Wembley Stadium on September 2, warned: "It's payback time."

The man who wrenched away the WBC crown from Lennox Lewis last September is adamant French referee Alfred Azaro should have stopped the McClellan fight in the first round when Benn was knocked through the ropes.

McCall, 30, said: "This is a very special fight for me. It's a fight for vengeance for my friend Gerald McClellan."

"Unfortunately, Gerald is blind — a vegetable. But he'll be rotting me on in spirit and Bruno will have to pay."

"Gerald was unjustly treated. From looking at the video, the fight should not have gone that far. It should have been over in the first round as been knocked out, and if it had then Gerald would not be a vegetable now."

"It would not have happened in America. The fight would have been over if McClellan had been put down for 14 seconds."

The champion added: "I've read been wanted to help Bruno prepare for this fight and that he wants Bruno to be a champion like him. But personally I do not think Benn should be champion."

But McCall's declarations assumed a more sinister tone when he promised "I will take him out and try to do what he did to my friend. It's as simple as that — that's how I feel."

The outburst at the health farm training camp he used before his fight with Lewis seems sure to draw a reaction from the British Boxing Board of Control.

McCall caused a further surprise by strongly hinting this will be his last fight, preferring to concentrate on life as a family man.

McCall said: "I do not care about my title, in fact I'm thinking of retiring after this fight. Even Mike Tyson is no more in my thoughts."

"I've reached my pinnacle, I'm world champion. The thrill and enthusiasm is no longer there," he added.

Brits on Bubka's back

LONDON, Aug 2: South African Okkert Brits is an advertising man's dream.

He is tall and good looking and, whether he likes it or not, is the pretender to Sergei Bubka's pole vault throne, reports Reuter.

Brits does not turn 22 until August 2, and while he is quick to play down any talk of ending Bubka's unprecedented run of four successive titles at the World Championships which are starting in Gothenburg on Saturday, hard evidence shows he is fast closing the gap on the master.

Twelve years and more than 30 world records on from the inaugural World Championships when he turned himself from just another contender into the world number one, Bubka, now 31, is still unbeatable on his day.

The South African naturally puts his chances modestly in perspective, but a wide spread view in the sport is that his day is fast approaching too.

"Everybody would like to beat Bubka, but he can clear 6.15 and nobody can beat him at that height," Brits said.

"As far as I am concerned I am still young, I'm only 21 and my aim right now is to clear six metres, maybe 6.10, but in a sense, he number one behind Bubka."

"I'm very happy to have got to where I am at the moment, and if I manage to get a medal in Gothenburg, it won't matter to me what colour it is."

Judging on this season's form, a medal is a strong possibility, even allowing for the peculiarities of the event which can make a mockery of form and reason.

Brits is the current season leader following a personal best clearance of 5.92 metres in South Africa in March, a leap that proves just how far and how fast he has come.

He has improved 46 centimetres since 1992 when South Africa were re-admitted to world athletics following their long absence because of the now discarded apartheid policies.

Since then he has won bronze in the 1992 world juniors, and gold at the African Championships in both 1992 and 1993.

Proving that that defeat has had no lasting effects, he very nearly came close to a major breakthrough at the Nice Grand Prix on July 12, when he cleared the bar at the magical six metres mark but dislodged it on the way down.

Only two men have ever cleared six metres, Bubka, and Rodion Gataullin, and both will be standing in his way of the major prize at Gothenburg.

CRYPTOQUIP

NMSZ BZS NBDXZ WSZZGL
HMXDEGBZ LPSQ XZ - BWMSU, WMSJ SZQSQ
PE GZ HBPW
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YEARLY CONVENTION OF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONS MIGHT ALWAYS FEATURE PUNCH.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals N

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.