

Sport



Muktijoddha's strike Naquib (Second from L) stabbing the ball home past an unidentified Rahmatganj defender for his first goal in a Lifebuoy Premier football league match at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Muktijoddha won the match 2-0.

Biman in B&H cricket semis

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Biman reached the semifinals of the Malaysian Benson & Hedges cricket carnival outplaying University of Sussex by ten wickets at the Kailat Club ground in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Cricket, the gentleman's game

LEEDS, England, Aug 16: The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) said today they will wait for Yorkshire's inquiry into Tuesday's crowd trouble at the Headingley Test ground before deciding on whether to take further action, reports AFP.

Police arrested 15 people and six were charged with public order offences, released on bail, and ordered to appear before Leeds magistrates.

Yorkshire intend to hold an inquiry with police, stewards and ground authorities.

Yorkshire chief executive Chris Hassell said today the club's investigations will take between two and three weeks.

Yorkshire County Cricket Club is extremely concerned at the appalling behaviour evident during the later stages of the NatWest Trophy semifinal match yesterday and will be conducting a thorough debrief in order to assess the situation and make recommendations for the future, said Hassell.

The 15 were arrested as a result of disruptions including fighting, beer and tomato-throwing and streaking, during the game which Yorkshire lost by 87 runs.

Victorious Northants skipper Allan Lamb blamed alcohol for the disturbances. "I think it's down to alcohol. The sad thing is that people come to watch cricket and they you get behaviour like this."

"I don't know how you stop it unless you ban alcohol. I just wish people who want to fight would go and watch something else or have a scrap elsewhere," said Lamb.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifebuoy Premier football league: Mohammedan SC vs Youngmen's Club Fakirpool (6:30 pm, Dhaka Stadium).

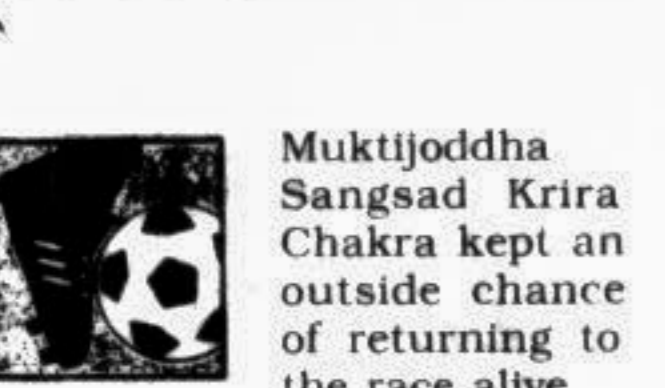
LIVE RADIO COMMENTARY: Lifebuoy First Division football league: East End Club vs Sadharan Bima (4:30 pm, Mirpur Stadium).

Dhanmandi Club vs Shantinagar Club (6:30 pm, Mirpur Stadium).

Victoria SC vs Eskaton Sabty Sangha (4:30 pm, Dhaka Stadium).

Mohsin Cup Second Division Basketball league: Matches at Dhanmandi Gymnasium from 4:00 pm.

Muktis keep the march



Sports Reporter
Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra kept an outside chance of returning to the race alive when the last year's runners-up began their second leg campaign of the Lifebuoy Premier football league with a comfortable 2-0 win over promotees Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Striker Intiaz Ahmed Naquib scored both the goals for the men in red in a tension-charged encounter which was also marked by some untoward incidents that disrupted the match for sometimes.

The match was suspended for three minutes at the early stage of the first-half when a rowdy Rahmatganj official posted at the VIP end of the pitch rushed with a chair in a bid to hit referee M R Mukul in protest of a ruling by the man in black.

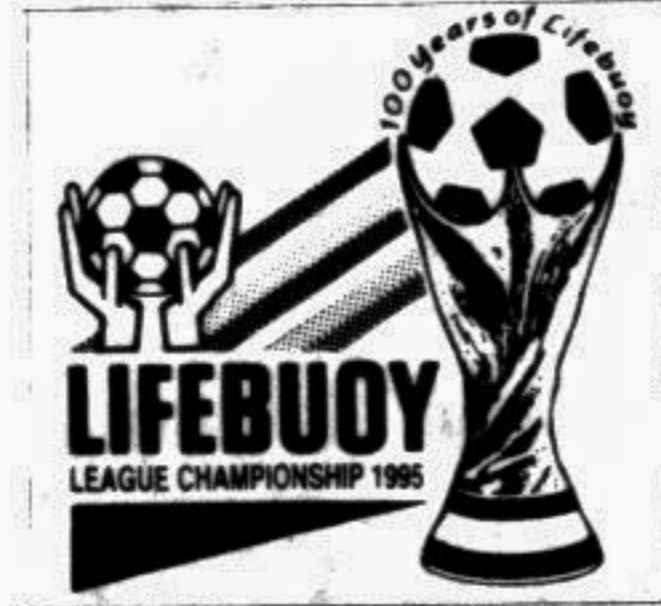
But thanks to a prompt action from the law enforcing personnel refrained the trouble-monger Habib Miah, the general secretary of the old-town outfit, from reaching Mukul.

It all started when Mukul ignored a foul against Oumed Alidadov, the new Russian recruit of Rahmatganj, in the 21st minute of the proceedings. Rahmatganj at time

were trailing by a solitary goal. However, apart from the sad incident the match itself was a fairly contested one with Muktijoddha picking the tempo from the word go.

In the very first minute Barun Bikash Dewan gave a testing time to the Rahmatganj custodian Abdullah Lahul with a sudden powerful shot before Naquib found the net stabbing a Zakir floater from the right home in the 11th minute.

Two minutes later Naquib deprived of his second goal



in the match when his blistering shot from inside the box was brilliantly fisted away by Lahul.

But after that untoward incident a dejected Muktijoddha lost their rhythm leaving Rahmatganj to create some openings. And a relegation-threatened Rahmatganj, who seemed over ambitious with the inclusion of Alidadov, got a golden chance of neutralising

the margin at the stroke of the breather. But Alidadov's spectacular header off a Shaheed free-kick was slightly missed the mark much to the dismay of the accomplished forward.

After surviving the close call the star-studded Muktijoddha came up with more motivation in the second half and duly got their second goal in the 60th minute with an air-borne Naquib notching his sixth goal in the league.

The national striker after receiving a neat cross for substitute Gaus sent the ball home with a spectacular header.

With this win Muktijoddha raised their collection to 20 points from ten matches, six points adrift of league leaders Abahani Krira Chakra.

While Rahmatganj, who are yet to win a match, with this defeat remain stuck to their paltry tally of four from ten matches.

Yellow card: Emadul (Muktijoddha); Javed (Rahmatganj).

TEAMS: MUKTIJODDHA: SANGSAD: Pannu, Kingsuk, Masud, Emadul, Mamun, Barun, Zakir (Rana), Rakib, Mizan (Gaus) and Naquib. RAHMATGANJ MFS: Lahul, Iqbal, Jagool (Abul Hasan), Sahid, Shakil, Nazimuddin, Javed, Kobjev and Oumed Alidadov.

English Premier League kicks off Saturday

Dennis Gunners' blue chip

LONDON, Aug 16: Dennis Bergkamp, England's World Cup executioner, can make a more lasting and positive mark on the English game starting this weekend, reports Reuter.

The Dutchman, whose goals helped to prevent England from reaching the 1994 finals, takes his Premier League bow in an Arsenal team looking to overcome the scandals that marred their 1994-95 season — Paul Merson on drugs, manager George Graham taking illegal transfer bonuses.

Bergkamp is the highest of several new foreign imports in a season everyone in the game hopes is free of controversy and crowd violence right through to June when England host the European Championship finals.

There is a revolution at Arsenal, bigger than that which permitted their London arch-enemies Tottenham Hotspur to make a dream start last season — soon shattered — under Ossie Ardiles and with Juergen Klinsmann leading a five-pronged attack.

New manager Bruce Rioch's side, which also contains England captain David Platt, look like they might do the unthinkable and develop an expansive game far removed from the famous club's traditional strengths of defensive solidity and fighting spirit.

Bergkamp's arrival could become the most significant since Ardiles' at Tottenham from Argentina in 1978 — a world-class player in his prime who can exert a telling influence on the way the game is played in England.

The benefits can go both ways. Former England captain Gary Lineker, writing in a Sunday newspaper, said: "Bergkamp will discover much more space in the hurry-scurry of the Premier League than in the more sedate and thoughtful Serie A. "Whereas he struggled to

prevail against the defensively versatile Italians, he will find, as (ERIC) Cantona has, that English defences simply cannot cope with this type of player."

Platt, back after four-years in Italy, is optimistic that the further influx of foreign talent will rub off on the English game and ultimately the national side, looking for a good European Championship to make up for World Cup disappointment.

Nick Barmby leave Tottenham for Bryan Robson's ambitious Middlesbrough.

Manchester United, despite Alex Ferguson's success in persuading Cantona to stay after the Frenchman threatened to walk out last week, may have released too many experienced men in Paul Ince, Hughes and probably also Andrei Kanchelskis to mount a strong enough challenge to win back the title.

Champions Blackburn rovers, the memory of their humiliation by Swedish part-timers trellborgs in the UEFA Cup last season still fresh in the mind, may be too busy trying to live with the best in the European Cup to make it two in a row.

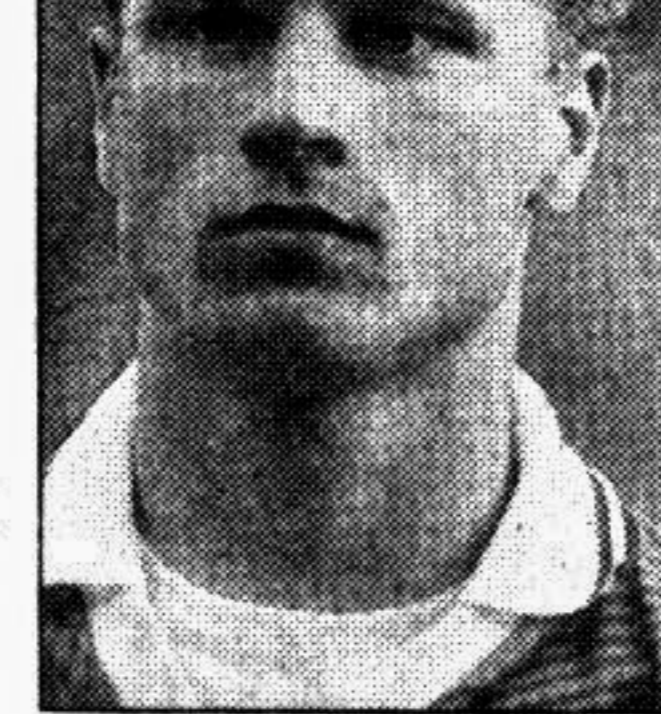
Liverpool, with an all-English strike force of Collymore and Robbie Fowler, are being tipped to recapture past glories, while Newcastle United fans will be demanding a major trophy from manager Kevin Keegan after four years at the helm.

Keegan, who signed France's David Ginola and England striker Les Ferdinand with this in mind, said: "The fact that Manchester United seem to have had a change of plan serves only to convince me even more that the championship is up for grabs."

By mid-October there should be indications as to the state of health of the league.

Cantona will be back after his ban. The trial of three players including former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar on match-fixing charges will have begun.

This weekend's Premier League fixtures (Saturday unless stated): Aston Villa v Manchester United; Blackburn v Queen's Park Rangers; Chelsea v Everton; Liverpool v Sheffield Wednesday; Manchester City v Tottenham; Newcastle v Coventry; Southampton v Nottingham Forest; West Ham v Leeds; Wimbledon v Bolton; Arsenal v Middlesbrough (Sunday); Leeds v Liverpool (Monday).



DENNIS BERGKAMP

"I believe you will see several teams playing with three main defenders, pushing up their fullbacks to make either a midfield five or a defensive five, a greater tactical fluency that has been missing here," Platt said.

Rioch, replacing the discredited and suspended Graham, may still have considerable building to do around Platt and Bergkamp and Arsenal, although contenders, are not being billed as outright championship favourites.

An off-season transfer market even busier than last year's also saw Liverpool break the British record at 8.5 million pound (13.4 million dollars) by signing Stan Collymore from Nottingham Forest, Chelsea capture veterans Ruud Gullit and Mark Hughes and England hope

Thikana' trophy Mukti's

Sports Reporter
Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra clinched the Thikana football league title with a 4-0 rout over Sunrise in New York City on Sunday.

In the last league engagement Sajjad struck twice. Sana and Saraj shared the other two to propel Muktijoddha lift the title as a unbeaten champion.

The league, first of its kind outside the country was organised by Thikana, a Bengali language weekly publish in New York, involving the expatriates now living in the United States.

Riaz Rahman, the Bangladesh Ambassador in the USA distributed trophies among the winners.

Mohsin Cup basketball

Sports Reporter
Teen Wolves recorded a convincing 73-46 points victory over Young Angels in the lone match of the Mohsin Cup Second Division basketball league at the Dhanmandi Gymnasium yesterday.

The first period was a keenly contested affair with Teen Wolves taking a 28-21 lead at the breather.

Dominic caged the highest 28 points for the victors. He was followed by Adrin with 18. Simon was the top scorer for the vanquished with 19 to his name.

Body on Sports Ministry meets

The 21st meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Youth and Sports Ministry was held yesterday at the Sangsad Bhaban with State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting was informed that during the current fiscal year five development projects were being implemented at a cost of Taka ten crore under the Directorate of Sports.

Illy to kill two birds with one stone!

LONDON, Aug 16: England spinner Richard Illingworth, who batted through the pain of a broken finger to help save the fifth Test against West Indies, is to undergo surgery for a hernia complaint, reports Reuter.

The Worcestershire left-arm spinner said on Tuesday he had been suffering from the problem for six weeks.

"I had intended to delay surgery until the end of the season but, with the finger stopping me from playing, I can kill two birds with one stone and get everything sorted," he said.

"It will enable me to get fully fit for the England tour of South Africa, if I am selected, and the preparation programme beforehand."

The 29-year-old Yorkshireman defied medical advice to join Mike Watkinson in Monday's match-saving 80-run partnership for the last wicket.

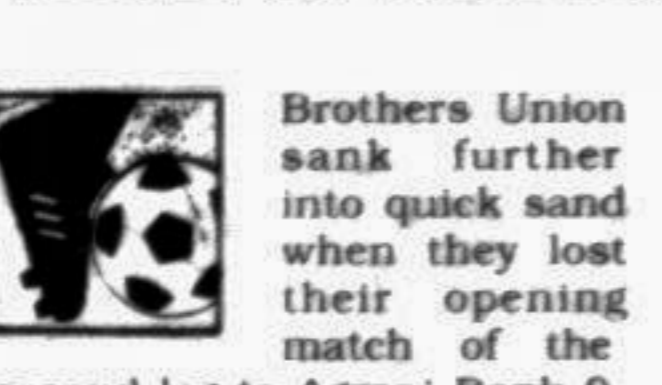
It left the six-match series level at 2-2 with one Test remaining, beginning at the Oval on August 24.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Staff leader, 5 Garden evictee, 9 See 5, 12 Verifiable, 13 Prolonged, 14 Attitude, 15 Parlor piece, 17 Last word of Kipling's "If...", 18 100 percent, 19 Holmes' creator, 21 Eastern st., 22 Porcelain pieces, 24 Diver, 27 Altar constellation, 28 Mel, 31 "So that's it, eh?", 32 Mason's field, 33 Mr. Whitney, 34 Nonsense, 36 Possess, 37 Land in the water, 38 Hayseed, 40 British sports car, 41 Most beefcake admirers, 43 Folder material, 47 Ms. Gardner, 48 1969 Peter Fonda film, 51 -es Salaam, 52 Tend texts, 53 Theater award, 54 Wapiti, 55 "How - the little busy bee...", 56 Addition-

Solution time: 22 mins. SPAR TIC NEST POSE TIE ECHO ASTEROID PLAN SHAVIER ASTIME ELM REUP LAC YEW ENSUE OPEC DOC EELY GENRE WEB SUE TALK NIL BEATLE STABLE AGUE BLUEMOON BARR AIR BOND ELIS BEE SKIS

Brothers sink further



Sports Reporter
Jahangir was sent off 3 minutes earlier after receiving his second yellow card of the game.

Earlier Brothers struck the post twice with Bernard, one of their three Nigerian recruits, in the 34th minute while his compatriot Chibuzor suffered similar fate 14 minutes into the second half.

The win enables Agrani Bank to collect 14 points from their ten matches. But, the significant thing is that they are, now holding the fifth position, over taking their losing opponents. Brothers have been unable to add further to their first leg tally of 12 points.

Yellow card: Kala of Agrani Bank.

TEAMS: AGRANI BANK: Manu, Kala, Raj, Ponso, Rafique, Munna, Sentu, Moin (Shariful), Jahangir, Tutul and Akhter (Tipu).

BROTHERS UNION: Tipu, Pijush, Bishu, Mizan, Pappu, Barnerd, Ammer Khan, Lulu (Bhutto), Baktiar, Don (Mintu) and Chibuzor. Referee: R Alam.

Meanwhile, in the Premier First Division football league, lowly PWD SC registered their second victory defeating Police AC 2-0 at the Mirpur Stadium.

Klinsmann sidelined

BONN, Aug 16: Juergen Klinsmann faces a four-week layoff and could miss two key internationals after partially tearing an ankle ligament in his Bundesliga comeback match for Bayern Munich against Hamburg at the weekend, reports Reuter.

Klinsmann, a close season capture from England's Tottenham Hotspur, will have to wear a plaster on his right ankle for around 10 days, club doctor Jerg Poehlmann said late on Monday after a day of test on the striker.

The injury appears to rule Germany's captain out of a friendly with Belgium on August 23 and a European Championship qualifier against Georgia on September 6.



An ecstatic Tutul (L) of Agrani Bank along with teammate Sentu shows victory sign after their side's 2-0 win over Brothers Union during a Premier League engagements at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Warwicks in NatWest final

LONDON, Aug 16: Dermot Reeve's Warwickshire waltzed into a third successive NatWest Trophy final by destroying Glamorgan on Tuesday — and silenced a Cardiff crowd that three weeks ago hurled verbal abuse and dangerous objects at them, reports Reuter.

The Welsh county increased stewarding and policing levels in a bid to prevent a repeat of ugly scenes at a Sunday League match which Reeve described as "the worst I have ever experienced at a cricket match."

There were no such scenes at Tuesday's semifinal, but it still turned in to a nightmare for Glamorgan.

The home side were all out for a paltry 86 and Warwickshire cantered home by eight wickets with more than half their permitted 60 overs remaining.

Glamorgan never recovered from a disastrous start which saw opener Hugh Morris out for a duck in the second over to a highly debatable caught behind decision and that set the tone for an innings which by lunch was terminally ill at 77 for eight.

Two brilliant run-outs by Trevor Penney, and some shoddy batting by Glamorgan added to Welsh woes as they saw their hopes of a second Lord's final blown away.

Paceman Tim Munton won the man-of-the-match for his 12-over new ball spell of two for 18.

Victory gave Warwickshire the chance of repeating last year's success when they won three trophies.

Currently third in the county championship, they have now won 13 one-day games in a row and if they win all their remaining six limited-overs matches they will lift the NatWest and Sunday League trophies too.

But while Warwickshire were clear of crowd trouble, Northamptonshire were less fortunate in their crushing 87-run win over Yorkshire in the other semifinal.

At least three fights broke out among the crowd, while Northants captain Allan Lamb and Indian Test spinner Anil Kumble had fruit thrown in their direction.

Police and stewards dealt with the troublemakers efficiently, but on the field there was no-one to sort out Yorkshire's problems.

Former England players Lamb (63) and Rob Bailey (93 not out) guided Northants to a commanding total of 286 for five off their 60 overs.

Then Yorkshire, already pinned down by accurate bowling, lost any hope of mounting a successful challenge by gifting the visitors three run-outs. Yorkshire were never really in the hunt and were bowled out for 199 with 5.3 overs remaining.

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CRYPTOQUIP

A Q U C U P A W R F S J G A E V B P A J C U C J G B V P A E J P W R F

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO AVOID GEOMETRY TEST, STUDENT MULLED OVER EVERY ANGLE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals T

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.