

Column One SPORTS TALK

MSC cross Mukti hurdle



Mohammedans' speedy winger Shahidul Ahmed Ranjan scored the first goal...

Sports Reporter

through Ranjan, who after latching on a Ladi Baba through down the middle...

Muktijoddha almost pulled off the equalizer with substitute Gaus stabbing home...

Having survived the close call, Mohammedans defense hardly allowed any slipshod...

It was Mohammedans 12th win in the league and they are now leading the table...

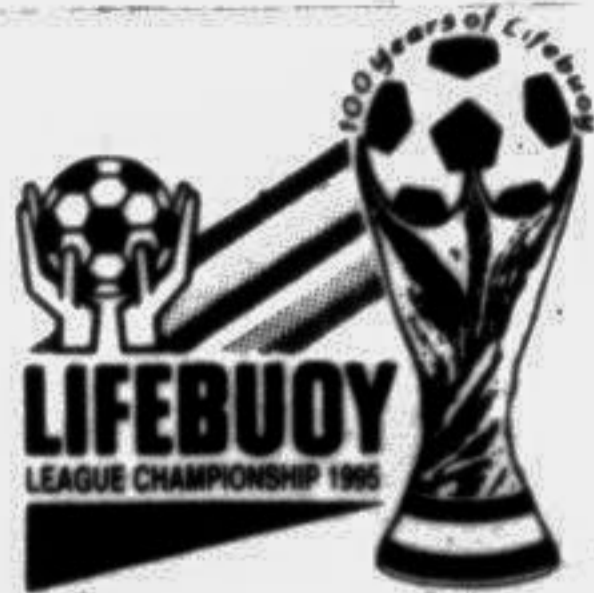
DMFA earned Tk 5.36,240 from ticket sales of the match.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Pannir, Munna, Jewel Rana, Parvez, Ruhul Amin, Manik, Arman, Ladi Baba, Bode Baba, Kazakov and Ranjan (Alfaz).

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD: Pannu (Arun), Tito, Kingshuk, Moon, Masud Rana, Barun, Zakir, Mamun (Babu Das), Mizan (Gaus), Naqub and Rakib.

Referee: Kamaruddin Mohd Diah (Malaysia).



ball but ended up inside his own net.

Ranjan then set Kazakov up for the eventual in the 65th minute winner with a great cross from the right...

After being two-nil down, a beleaguered Muktijoddha showed signs of a comeback when striker Naqub scored his 11th goal...

The victory sets the DMFA and Federation Cup champions for the possible showdown against their arch-rival Abahani Krira Chakra...

On the other hand, the defeat completed yet another disappointing season for Muktijoddha, who despite enjoying the services of eight national booters buckled under enormous crowd pressure...

Cynics may term the slender margin victory for Mohammedans a fortuitous one, but the course of action of a rather one-sided affair on a fast outfield revealed otherwise with Mohammedans producing their best effort of this season.

Backed by a full throated applause from the stands at the big bowl, Mohammedans left Muktijoddha at the blues with a fluid attacking brand of soccer during the first 45 minutes of the proceedings.

But, Muktijoddha with dumb luck, remained afloat despite the continual black and whites assault led by Ranjan, the unofficial man-of-the-match.

Mohammedans, who made no nonsense of a serious business, opened up the Muktijoddha defence in the very second minute with midfielder Arman hammering a scorching drive on the target but only to be cleared by Moon from the goal line for a corner.

One minute later, Muktijoddha's captain Titu came to his sides rescue when the diminutive midfielder produced yet another goal line save off a Kazakov close shot.

But there was little respite for the Muktijoddha defense when in the 20th minute Ranjan after playing a couple of one two's with Kazakov dodged past an on-rushing Mukti custodian Pannu before sending a neat cross to medio Bode Baba.

Undaunted by the first-half disappointment, Mohammedans came up with more motivation during the second session and deservedly took the lead in the 53rd minute.

Post-match views

Sports Reporter



There was one-way traffic last night in the Motijheel Commercial area when thousands of Mohammedans Sporting Club fans rushed towards their club premises to celebrate their team's emphatic 2-1 league victory over last year's runners-up Muktijoddha Sangsad.

The win kept DMFA and Federation Cup champions, MSC firm on course for a rare treble as they overcame one of the toughest hurdles last night.

Talking to our correspondent after yesterday's match, a happy MSC coach Abu Yusuf said his team deserved the win because of their well coordinated game.

"Two win will obviously boost our boys' morale," said the successful MSC coach under whose guidance the team has won the first two trophies of the season. He was also happy with the refereeing.

Answering to a question whether his team played a fixed match as per media speculation, the angry MSC trainer said, "You see, rumour is always a rumour. You people have seen today's match. If you think it was an arranged affair, I have nothing to say."

Reaction was the same from a tired Mohammedan skipper Manik. The win was not a very special one to him

as he said, "each and every match is important to us in order to win the league title."

"Now we are left with only two matches and if we can play as per our performance tonight, inshaallah we will be the league champions this year." Manik also praised forward Ranjan for his brilliant game last night. "Ranjan is a class striker. After lacking form in the first leg he is now back with his genuine scoring ability," said a proud MSC captain who also graded Ranjan as man of the match last night.

The mood was reverse in the Muktijoddha dressing room last night after they suffered their fourth defeat in the league.

Talking to the press after the match, a disappointed Muktijoddha coach Kang of South Korea said he was not at all happy with the refereeing. He also praised Mohammedans for their win and wished them the best.

"For poor refereeing we have lost yet another match. I don't know to whom to complain regarding the judgements. This is not fair. Our one goal was over-ruled for off-side which was a big blow for us," said the annoyed coach. Muktijoddha skipper Tito declined to comment on their defeat.

"I will not speak today. Mohammedans played well and won. I congratulate them for the win," said the pale Muktijoddha leader.

German Embassy checkmates Faisal

Sports Reporter

National junior chess champion Adnan Faisal's participation in the 34th World Junior Championship is uncertain due to the refusal of the German Embassy in Dhaka to grant him a visa.

Faisal, a bright new prospect of the country, was scheduled to take part in the said competition, organised by the governing body of world chess (Fide), to be held in the German city of Halle from September 23. The National Sports Council (NSC) was to bear his travel expenses.

According to the Bangladesh Chess Federation, all necessary documents, including papers sent by the organisers and clearance letter from the government of Bangladesh, had been submitted to the German Embassy here but Faisal was declined a visa on unknown grounds.

This all-too-familiar incident of our sportsmen being tangled up in a diplomatic web is unfair to a player of Faisal's potential and unfortunate for sports in general. Perhaps, our players have none other to blame but themselves, as many athletes have taken unfair advantage of foreign tours in the past.

However, sports enthusiasts nationwide hope that the German Embassy shows compassion towards Faisal's case and enable him to take part in the prestigious meet.



Shahidul Ahmed Ranjan (No 11), the speedy winger of Mohammedan Sporting Club, exults after medio Kazakov (not in the picture) rifled his cross right on the target during their crucial Lifebuoy Premier League match against Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Mohammedans won the match 2-1.— Star photo

Bosman wins partially



LUXEMBOURG, Sept 20: European soccer was thrown into turmoil on Wednesday when the European Court of Justice was advised to rule that the sport's system of transfers and rules on foreign players were illegal, reports Reuter.

Carl Otto Lenz, one of the court's chief legal advisers, said restrictions affecting soccer players moving across Europe should be outlawed.

He also said restrictions on the number of foreigners allowed to play in club competitions were illegal under European Union (EU) law.

The court must still rule on the case which raised the issues, brought by Belgian player Jean-Marc Bosman, but opinions from advocates-general like Lenz are usually followed.

Soccer authorities had been dreading such an interpretation of European Union law, fearing it would undermine their system of player control.

Lenz was unequivocal in his opinion. "The transfer fee payable

for the player by his new club infringes at least the player's freedom of movement," he said, referring to rules allowing clubs to demand payments for players who have reached the end of their contracts and want to move to a new club.

As for rules limiting players by nationality, he said: "The rules on foreign players are clearly discrimination by reason of nationality... and cannot be justified."

A general principle of EU law is that discrimination on grounds of nationality regard-

ing EU citizens is illegal. Lenz went even further, suggesting that to safeguard smaller clubs which depend on transfer fees for financial survival, a percentage of clubs' income could be redistributed — a system UEFA uses in its champion's league.

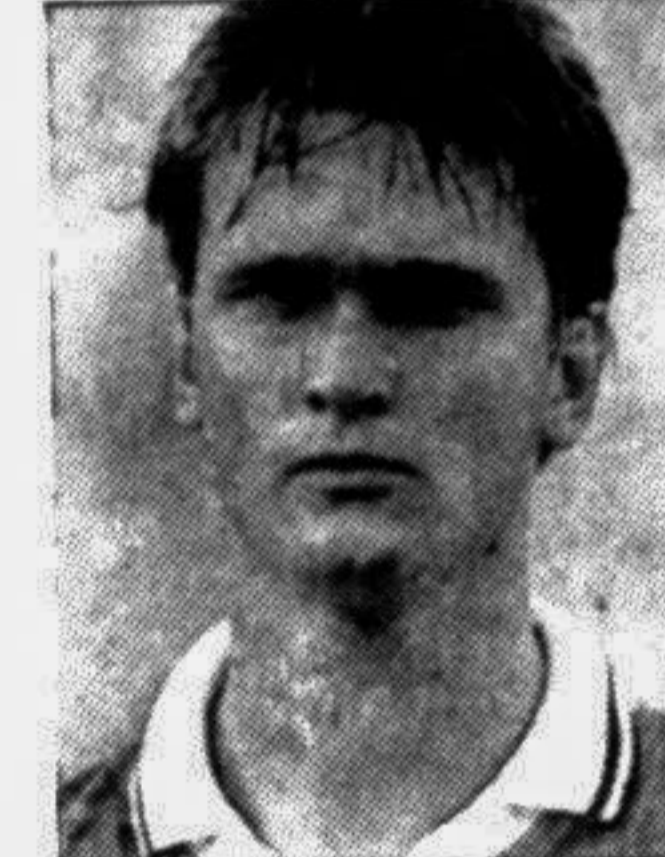
Bosman's case started in 1990 when his proposed transfer from Belgium's FC Liege to Dunkirk in France was blocked by Liege.

Liege later suspended Bosman, who subsequently went to court and is now seeking damages of about 1 million US dollar from UEFA, the European Soccer Federation, and the Belgian Soccer Union, claiming he was unofficially "blacklisted" after starting the court case.

Bosman, appearing at the court when the opinion was given, thanked different European players' unions which have been backing him.

"They've been supportive both morally and financially," he said, referring specifically to the French, Spanish, Danish and Portuguese unions.

His lawyers, Jean-Louis Dupont, emphasised, however, that the case was not over.



MARC BOSMAN

Foreman's final fight in Feb

A farewell to the ring



NEW YORK, Sept 20: Madison Square Garden, which returns to the fight game in December, is the leading contender to host George Foreman's farewell fight against Michael Moorer early next year, says promoter Bob Arum, reports Reuter.

"It is a very realistic thing, so realistic that I'm not talking to any other place," Arum said of staging a Foreman-Moorer heavyweight rematch at the Garden. Foreman has said a Moorer rematch would be the last fight of his career.

"It's not a done deal, but it is very close to being done," said Arum. "This is not bunch of baloney."

Arum made his comments at a news conference on Tuesday to announce that the lightweights Oscar de la Hoya and James.

Leija would bring the return of boxing to Madison Square Garden on December

15 after an absence of 21/1 years.

The last fight at the Garden was on March 6, 1993, when Pernell Whitaker beat James "buddy" McGirt.

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heavyweight champion ever at the age of 45.

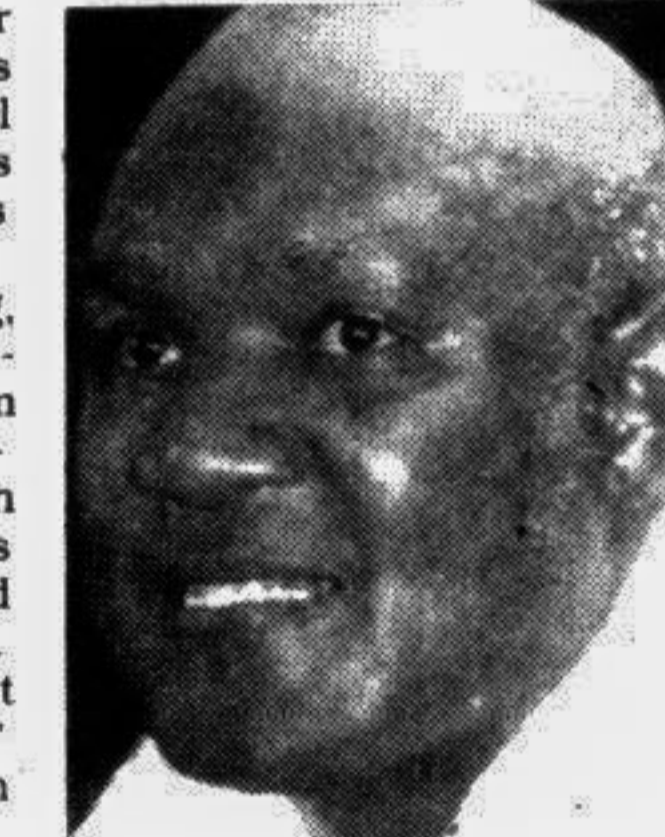
John Cirillo, senior vice president of communications for Madison Square Garden, would not confirm that an exact date has been cleared for a Foreman bout. However, he said there have been serious discussions, and that a Foreman fight would fit into the Garden's long-range plans.

"This is the start of something big, this is in no way a one-time only thing," Cirillo said of the De la Hoya and Leija bout.

"We are trying to establish boxing as a franchise in the tradition that was here at the Garden," Cirillo said.

The arena's association with boxing dates back to 1877.

Almost all of the great fighters of the past fought at the Garden, including John L Sullivan, Jack Dempsey, Rocky Marciano, Jo Louis, Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran and Muhammad Ali.



GEORGE FOREMAN

According to Arum, a February 29 date has been set aside at the Garden for Foreman and Moorer. The pair met last year, when Foreman knocked out Moorer to become the oldest



Sir Alf Ramsey

(English soccer manager, 1967)

"I suppose I'll have to get used to being addressed as 'sir,' but if a player gets formal on the field I will clobber him."

On his knighthood.

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT if you had £7000 in 1881, you could have been the owner of the Wimbledon grounds. Well, that's exactly what the All England Club paid for the venue of the world's most prestigious tennis tournament.

Although the Wimbledon Championships began in 1877, it was not until after two years that the organisers made a profit. The amount then was £100. Nowadays, the profit margin is in the region of £15 million.

Rain has been a prominent feature of almost all the Wimbledon. But, in 1908 not a drop of rain fell during the entire tournament for the first time.

Radio and television coverage, now a world attraction, took place for the first time in 1937.

Other firsts of Wimbledon include Boris Becker, the first unseeded champ in 1985. He was also the youngest at 17 years 227 days to take the title.

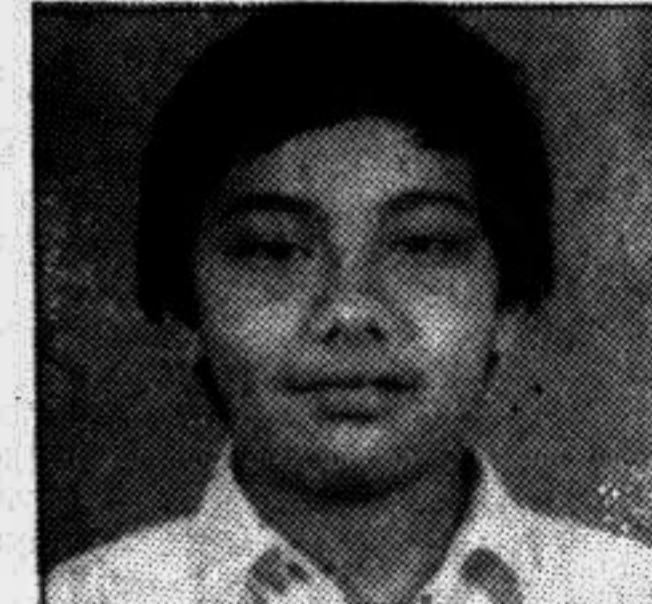
I wonder when will the first player from Bangladesh feature in Wimbledon.



1. Haleemur Rasheed Scholastica Dhaka



2. Nafesa Akhter Banani Bidya Niketon Dhaka



3. Nafesa Fahmi Ali Sunny Dale Dhaka



4. Alina Andalib Vigarunnisa Noon School Dhaka



5. Tanjila Tabassum Sabuj Sathi Kindergarten Feni

East End near promotion

Sports Reporter



Top of the table East End Club inched closer to a long-awaited championship crown when they overcame a tough challenge from fellow title aspirants Badda Jagoron in their Lifebuoy First Division football league match held at

the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

In an encounter in which the old towners kept up their reputation of coming from behind, they overcame the Badda boys 2-1 after being a goal down at the breather.

Nepalese national team skipper Raju Shakya scored a familiar late winner five minutes from time to make sure that his team comes out of the match with three valuable points. The strike takes his tally of goals in the league to eight, taking him further ahead on top of the goalscorers' list.

Earlier, a 39th minute strike by Mehdi enabled Badda to take the lead but East End was quick to strike back with Liton scoring his fifth of the league a minute after the resumption.

East End surge further forward in the standings as a result of the victory, increasing their collection to 31 points from 16 engagements. Badda, on the other hand remain in fourth place with 24 points from their 16 games.

VICTORIA WIN

Meanwhile, Victoria Sporting Club defeated Public Works Department (PWD) by a realistic margin of 1-0 in the second match of the day played at the same venue. The victory follows the traditional club's almost unreal 7-0 win over Badda Jagoron in their previous encounter.

Selim scored the all-important goal in the 14th minute.

The triumph increases Victoria's tally to 22 points from 16 encounters while

PWD are lurking dangerously close to the relegation zone with 16 points from as many games.

Diego unhappy with co-stars

ISTANBUL, Sept 20: Diego Maradona blasted fellow soccer celebrities for failing to turn up at an all-stars benefit match in Turkey for Bosnian children, reports Reuter.

"I won't forgive them for not appearing at such a helpful event when they said they would," Anatolian News Agency quoted Maradona as saying after Tuesday night's game in Istanbul.

"It's a disgrace for the footballing family, I'm ashamed," said Maradona who did not play in the game between a World XI and a Turkish XI because of his continuing suspension for failing a dope test at the 1994 World Cup finals.

Maradona made a speech on the pitch and presented medals to the teams. The world side, made up mostly of Spanish league players and foreigners playing in Turkey, lost 4-1.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifebuoy Premier football league:

Abahani KC vs Brothers Union 5:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Wari Club vs Rahmatganj MFS 6:30 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

Lifebuoy First Division football league:

Dhanmondi Club vs Police AC 4:30 pm (Mirpur Stadium)

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN The rules are published every Saturday

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-5.

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Sept 22, 1995)

- 1. The highest Test innings score is by Sobers Lara Hanif
2. The ruling body of world hockey is FIH WHF IPH
3. The first Bangladeshi to cross the English Channel was Brojen Das Abdul Malek Mosharraf
4. The next soccer World Cup will be held in Brazil Japan France
5. The current world chess champion is Karpov Kasparov Anand

Name: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 28 min.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters B, N, F, L, L, R, G, R, D, C, B, C, X, G, I, E, D, I, V, J, B, H, X, B, U, D, Q, R, F, G, F, V, J, U, I, X, F, F, M, Z, F, L, F, Z, Q, R, H, F, E, B, H, E, E, R, H, F, E.

CRYPTOQUIP BN NFLLRGRDCBCX GIIE DIVJBHX BU DQRF FVJUXFFMZFLF ZQRHFE BHEERHFE Saturday's Cryptoquip: IN A SKIT, MUSICAL LUMBERJACK JUST CALLS 'TIMBRE!' Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals C 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.