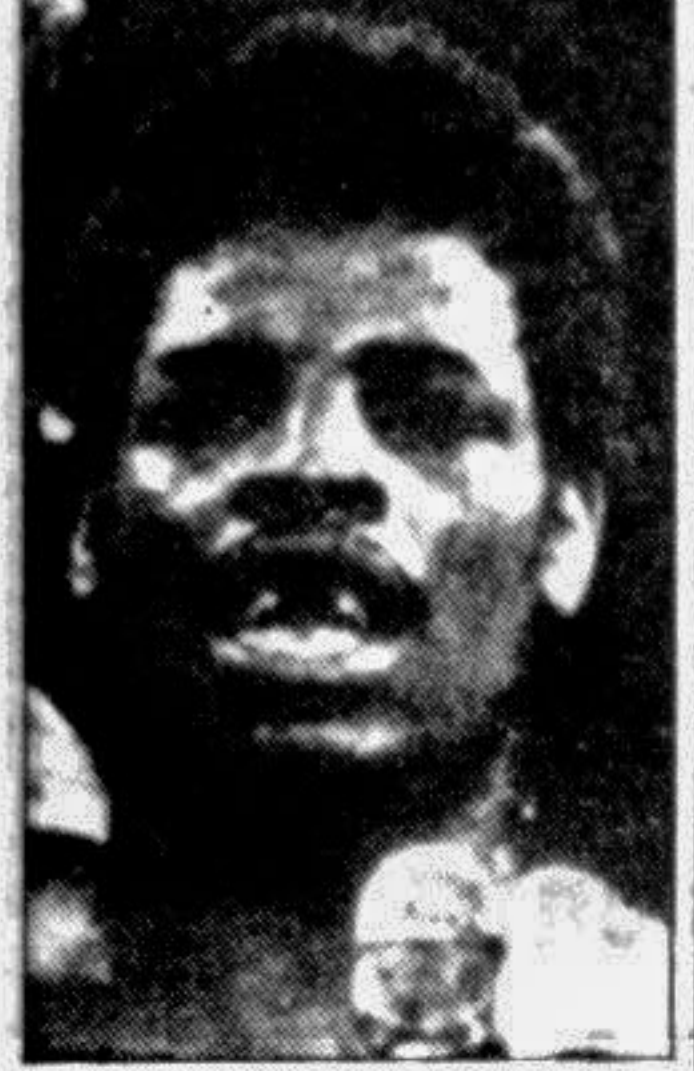


Column One
SPORTS TALK



Leon Spinks
(World heavyweight champion, 1978)
"I know where I am at, and I know where I came from. And I'll never forget either. I came from poorness to try to find some meaning of life, and I'll never forget where I came from because I never want to go back."

DID U' KNOW?
(The Professor does)

That boxing has been described both a "the noble art of self-defence" as well as a "show business with blood." Over the years several boxers have succumbed to injuries sustained in the arena or due to illnesses attributed to long hours of sparring.

In olden times boxing was a form of combative sport. From Mesopotamia to Rome, and from Crete to the Pacific, there is evidence of fighting purely for diversion. Early fighters apparently liked to cover their fists with all manner of lethal attachment — shark's teeth, metal studs and spikes. Reminds you of the modern Bangladeshi on-the-street "rangbaaz". Actually, our people are very respectful to history.

The Greeks introduced boxing as an Olympic sport around 686 BC. At that time much emphasis was given to the skill of the game. But, gradually the sport became brutalized with the spectator yearning for more blood.

The Romans developed the cestus, a tight-fitting leather glove, equipped with iron or brass spikes, and one good punch was enough to finish any prospective boxer's career. I think our street fighters are more Roman than Greek.

I know more than one Bangalee called "Roman" (no offence intended) but not a single with a name anywhere near "Greek".

Sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-6
Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Sept 29, 1995)

- Who won the Wimbledon women's singles title a record nine times?
Graf, Evert, Navratilova
- How many times have Brazil won the football World Cup?
3, 4, 5
- Where is Eden Gardens situated?
Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi
- Who is the only Bangladeshi chess Grand Master?
Rezaul Karim, Naz Mosleh
- Jarvisher Khan is famous for playing which sport?
Cricket, Squash, Hockey

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

Japan finish atop in Asian karate

MANILA, Sept 24: Japan finished with nine gold medals in the second Asian Karate championships, but found their dominance has slipped since the first Asian meet in their native martial art, reports AP.

The Japanese, with four world champions in their ranks, also captured two silver and five bronze medals in the meet that ended Saturday, well ahead of the four golds, three silvers and one bronze won by Iran.

But the Japanese had taken all but one of the 18 golds in the first championships of the Asian Union of Karatedo Organizations, in Taipei in 1993.

AKC's pride at MSC's cost



High flying Mohammedan Sporting Club were thrown into the depth of despair when their arch-rivals and reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra emerged winners in a match which held higher stakes for the black and whites.

Abahani's 2-1 win in a spin-chilling encounter of the Lifebuoy Premier football league at the Dhaka Stadium last evening, was not only a win achieved by the sky blues but it also stripped Mohammedans of all their pride.

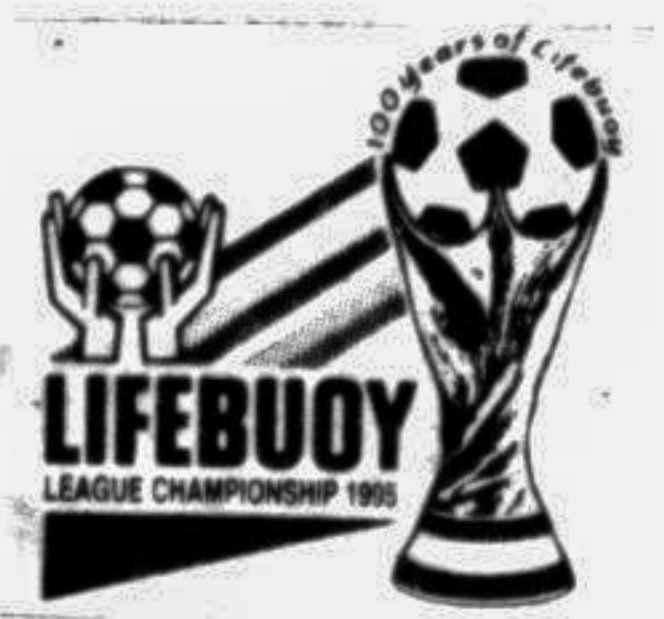
The memorable victory for Abahani was a compliment from their ace striker Sheikh Mohammed Aslam, who scored the first goal and set up for Jahangir the second that eventually sealed a defeat on Mohammedans.

The former national striker, basking under glory at twilight to his illustrious career, put paid to an over-confident Mohammedans when he struck from a counter-attack in the 23rd minute of the proceedings. With this goal, Aslam became the highest scorer with seven goals in the clash of the titans ahead of Hafizuddin, who had a record six goals.

Aslam then provided a lurking Jahangir in the 44th minute with a deceptive header on the edge of Mohammedan box from where the fleet-footed winger made no mistake of sending the ball home past an onrushing and mistiming custodian Ponir.

In front of a full house at the big bowl and the millions glued to on their TV screen, Mohammedans have only to blame themselves for the defeat. Incidentally, Abahani have not lost a league match against Mohammedans since 1988.

Appearing as favourites among the two most popular outfits in the country and with the hereto to unprece-



ented treble just a win away for Mohammedans following their triumph in the DMFA and Federation Cups, they were dumfounded by their sloppy defense.

In the high-voltage drama, marked also by two sending offs in the second half, Mohammedans misery was compounded when their Nigerian recruit Bode Baba got the marching order for a cynical foul against Abahani's captain Monem Munna ten minutes after the tall striker had pulled one goal back for his side.

This not only allowed Abahani, who had earlier painfully watched their nimble winger Jahangir sent off

for kicking the Mohammedans custodian Ponir, to balance the strength but also rejuvenated them to maintain the slender lead till the final whistle.

The win enables Abahani to assume the top slot alone with 42 points at the end of their penultimate league engagements. The defeat in many ways almost shatters Mohammedans' hopes of winning the league title. They remain stuck to their previous collection of 39 points with one match to go against relegation-bound Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society.

On the other hand holders Abahani, who are to meet Muktiyoddha in the last league engagement, need only a draw to retain the league title, the most prestigious crown in the domestic football circuit.

This was Abahani's 13th league win against Mohammedans' 12. The others ended in draws.

Red card Jahangir (Abahani), Bode Baba, (Mohammedan).

Yellow card: Swapan (Abahani), Manik, Bode Baba and Arman (Mohammedan).

TEAMS
ABAHANI KC: Dhanu, Hasan Al Mamun, Munna, Sohel Reza, Partha, Sergei, Vladimir (Joy), Swapan, Lorentui (Farhad), Aslam and Jahangir.
MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir, Ruhul Amin, Jewel Rana, Munna (Kaiser Hamid), Parvez, Manik, Arman, Bode Baba, Alfaz (Asad), Ranjan and Kazakov.
Referee: Razali Abu Bakar.



The rush of soccer loving fans in front of the ticket counters prior to yesterday's crucial Lifebuoy Premier football league clash between arch-rivals Abahani KC and Mohammedan SC. The small counters were not sufficient for thousands of supporters who had to suffer a lot to get a ticket. — Star photo

China rule Asian track

JAKARTA, Sept 24: China won four of the finalday's nine events Sunday, including three relays, and finished the Asian track and field championships with 20 gold medals in 41 events, reports AP.

Qatar and Japan each won two golds Sunday, with Japanese finishing 1-2 in the battle for top all-around male athlete. Hitoshi Maruono won the decathlon with 7,333 points, teammate Takashi Kiyokawa was second with 6,706 and Ibrahim Nasser of the United Arab Emirates took the bronze with 6,186.

Kazakhstan's Svetlan Zalevskaya won the women's high jump.

Qatar finished second in the medal standings with five golds, two silvers and four bronzes, followed by Japan with 3-7-5 and Kazakhstan with 3-4-4.

Chinese quartets won the men's and women's 4x100-metre relays and the women's 4x400, while China's Zeng Lizhi won the triple jump.

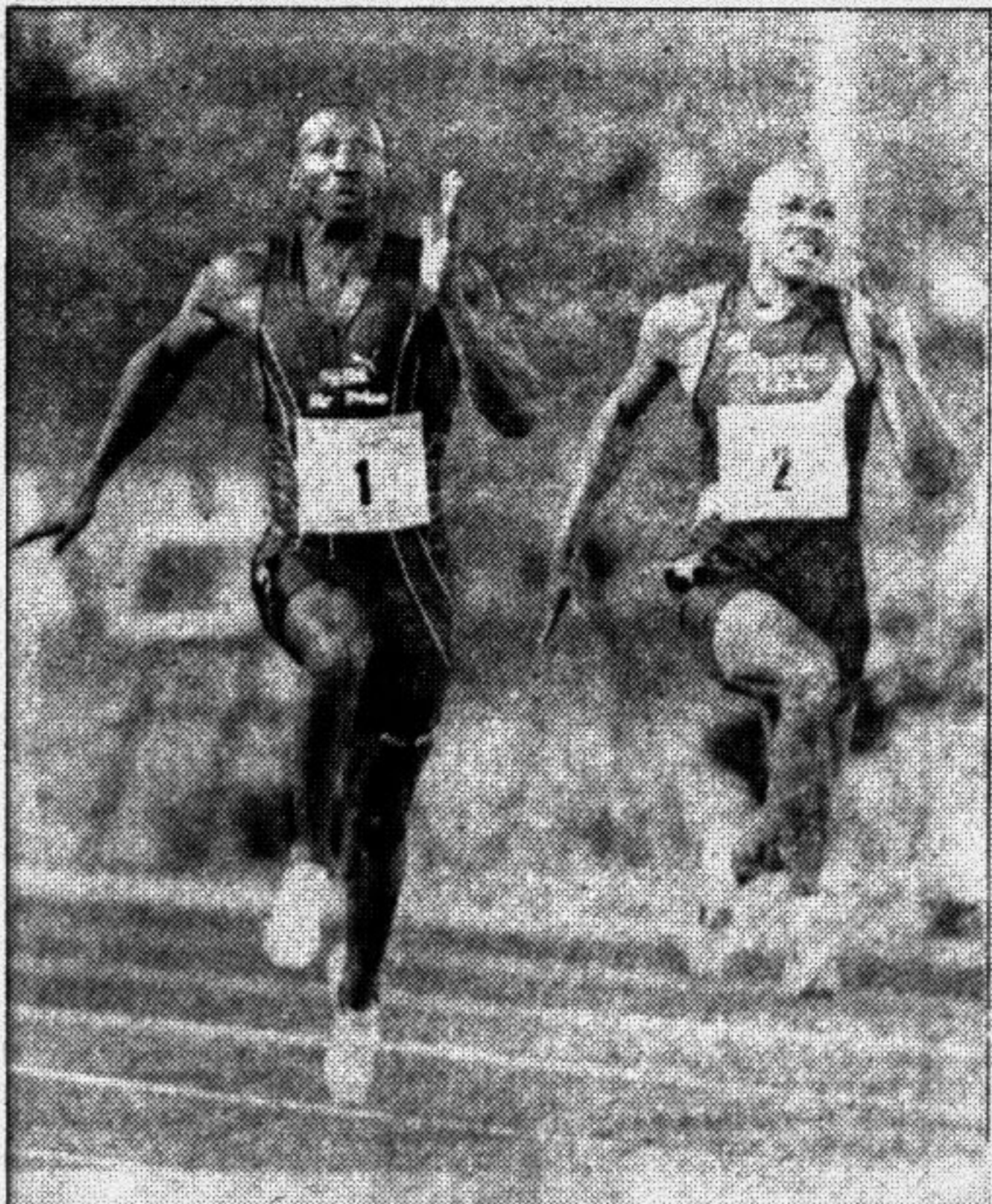
In the men's 4x100, the Chinese beat Thailand 39.49 seconds to 39.85. In the women's Kazakhstan took the silver, trailing the Chinese 44.27 to 44.69. India was the runner-up in the women's 4x400, trailing 3:32.73 to 3:33.43.

Qatar's Muhammad Sulaiman won the men's 1,500 metres in 3:41.33, followed by China's Song Mingyou in 3:42.79, and the Qataris won the men's 4x400 in 3:05.78. Japan took the silver in 3:06.16.

Japan's Kumiko Okamoto outran two Chinese in the women's 1,500, winning in 4:18.69. For China, Zhang Jian was second in 4:19.87 and Wang Qingfen third, in 4:21.99.

In the men's triple jump, Zeng leaped 16.78 metres (55 feet, 3/4 inch), ahead of two jumpers from Azerbaijan. Aleksey Fatianov was second with 16.68 (54-8 3/4) and

| Country | G | S | B | Total |
|--------------|----|----|----|-------|
| China | 20 | 13 | 5 | 38 |
| Qatar | 5 | 2 | 4 | 11 |
| Japan | 3 | 7 | 5 | 15 |
| Kazakhstan | 3 | 3 | 4 | 10 |
| South Korea | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| Sri Lanka | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Saudi Arabia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| India | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| Taiwan | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Turkmenistan | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Bahrain | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Uzbekistan | 0 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Thailand | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Indonesia | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Azerbaijan | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Malaysia | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Iraq | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Iran | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Philippines | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| UAE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 41 | 41 | 41 | 123 |



Olympic champion Linford Christie(L) sprinting towards the finish ahead of Namibia's Frankie Fredricks in the 100 metres dash of the All-Africa invitational athletics meet at Johannesburg, South Africa on September 23. Christie won the race clocking 9.97 sec. — AFP/UNB photo



Jahangir of Abahani is ecstatic after scoring the second goal for his side which eventually proved to be the match-winner in a crucial tie against Mohammedans yesterday. — Star photo

MSC put refs in the dock

Sports Reporter
Mohammedans Sporting Club, the only team so far remained silent about the refereeing in the ongoing Premier football league, finally roared with one voice when they accused the Malaysian referee of dubious decisions.

In a press release issued late last night the club officials said, "It was the biased refereeing that cost us the match". It further added that the match which was scheduled for a 5.30 pm kick-off surprisingly delayed for fifteen minutes for reasons best known to the organisers, the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA). Besides, they claimed they were deprived of at least three penalties and also added that their Nigerian recruit Bode Baba was shown the red card in a bid to balance the previous marching order against Jahangir of Abahani.

The press release also read, it was not Mohammedans but Abahani, who got undue favour from the men in black throughout the league.

But surprisingly they kept on censuring the local referees as well as the foreign ones.

Not only that, Abahani also made an heinous propaganda against Mohammedans and the DMFA that was widely publicised in leading dailies yesterday, they blamed. This sort of statement is a sheer violation of the league by-laws, it pointed out.

The club will demand the resignation of the DMFA if they fail to take necessary actions against the culprits, they vowed.

Post-match quips & quotes

Sports Reporter
Victory is always sweet. And if it is against the arch-rivals, then it always turns into a grand celebration.

That was exactly what happened in the Abahani dressing room last night after their empathic 2-1 triumph over Mohammedan Sporting Club at the big bowl.

The victory, which enable the defending champions to take a three-point enviable lead over their perennial foes has brighten their hopes of retaining the league title.

Naturally the atmosphere prevailing in the Abahani tent relieved some electric sensations with everybody was beaming in ecstasy.

A tired but successful Abahani skipper Monem Munna was sitting on a bench at the corner with some physical bruise.

"Now the 80% success is read, it was not in our pocket. We have earned it and now nothing can stop us," a happy Munna said to the reporters.

I thank Aslam bhat for providing us the victory today. He is a great man," he told of the ace Abahani marksman.

Regarding "referring" he had no objection last night and about two sending-offs Munna said, "I have not seen

the incident of Jahangir. But we took it sportingly as the overall standard of the refereeing today was fair. Regarding Bode Baba's red card, I am happy with the decision."

While answering to speculations whether they will only look for a draw or a win in their final match against Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Munna grinned and said, wait and see, no comment."

Abahani's Russian coach Valeri Bogdanov was also in a spirited mood.

"I am very happy tonight. After losing five points lead in the midway through second-leg, I was a bit anxious about my team's future. But after tonight's victory, every thing has changed. Now I am confident enough of winning the league title."

Talking to the correspondent a gleeful Aslam said, "Everybody expects me to score in every match. So I was under a pressure. Thanks to the Almighty that I was able to fulfill our supporters' demand."

Meanwhile, the MSC condition was in a reverse mood at the losers dressing room. A disappointed coach Abu Yusuf was standing outside the gate.

Regarding his team's defeat last night he highlighted three reasons. "First of all

refereeing, then our languid defence and lastly Bode Baba's sent-off were the three reasons for our defeat today," said the demoralised MSC coach.

"The defeat has taken away our title hopes. Our chance is now depending on a lot of ifs and buts. So I don't want to discuss about that," added the former national defender.

MSC skipper Manik was lying on a bench with a pale face. He took time cooling down to digest the defeat.

"I am shocked. We could have won today as the way we began. But lady luck turned back on us. We are now out of the title race and only a miracle can change our fate," said the gloomy Manik.

The MSC skipper, however, congratulated Abahani for their victory. "They had good speed and won as a better side," he said.

Regarding the marching order of Bode Baba, the angry MSC captain censured the Nigerian midfielder for unnecessarily charging Abahani skipper Munna and received the red card when Abahani were already reduced to ten men.

Manik said Aslam's goal and Bode Baba's sending-off were the turning points of last night's match.

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