

Sport

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Mushtaq Ahmed

(Pakistani leg spinner)

There is no greater joy than

beating batsmen. And the

joy can be greater if you get his

wicket."

While talking about thrill he

enjoys after beating a batsman.

Sports

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✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes : 8 pm
September 13, 1996)

1	Pakistan batsman Salim	Malik's century in the Oval
	Test was his	11th 10th 14th
2	How many athletes from	Bangladesh went to Atlanta
	this year	Two Three Four
3	The top seed of this year's US	Open is
	Sampson Agassi Muster	
4	Pakistani pacer Waqar	Younis has signed for
	Glamorgan	Surrey Kent
5	Cricket umpire Steve	Bucknor is from
	Kenya Zimbabwe West Indies	

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No. _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (If any): _____

Cagliari awaits BD
hockey squad

Sports Reporter

A 19-member national
hockey team including three
officials was named by
Bangladesh Hockey Federation
yesterday which will participate
in the forthcoming 9th
Men's World Cup preliminaries,
scheduled to begin in Cagliari,
Italy from September 29.Midfielder Mahboob Harun
and striker Mohammad Saeed
have been named as the captain
and vice-captain respectively of
the 16-player squad while BHF
secretary Shamsul Bari will act
as the manager of the team.Fourteen nations including
hosts Italy are participating in
the two-week long tourney di-
vided into two groups for the
first round. The top two teams
in each group and the winners
of the play off for the fifth and
sixth place will qualify for the
final round of the next World
Cup.Bangladesh have been placed
in group B along with Ireland,
Kenya, Poland, Scotland, USA
and hosts Italy while Group A
features Canada, China, Egypt,
Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Swi-
zerland and Wales. Bangladesh
will take on Italy in their opening
match on September 29.The following are the members
of the Bangladesh team:
Mahboob Harun (captain),
Mohammad Saeed (vice-captain),
Osman Gani, Rabibuddin Ah-
med, Mamunur Rashid, Mahfuz
Alam Nixon, Issa Miah, Khur-
shid Alam, Ishaque Alam, Haider
Alam, Musa Miah, Ehtesham
Hossain, Alangir Alam, Rafiqul
Islam, Kamal, Zahirul
Islam Mitul, Rahmat Ali Asir,
Shamsul Bari (manager),
Pratap Shankar Hazra (coach)
and Mirza Farid Alam (umpire).Prior to their Italy trip,
Bangladesh will play a few
practise matches in Lahore,
Pakistan from September 16 toNat'l pair
duplicate
bridgeAnimal Hasan Topu and
Sayeed Ahmed Tobi clinched the
Khandaker Fazle Sobhan
national pair duplicate bridge
championship trophy at Sheraton
Hotel on Friday, a Bangladesh
Bridge Federation press
release said yesterday, reports
BSS.In all, 50 pairs contested in a
two-section qualifying round
over 26 duplicated boards. Of
them 28 pairs moved to the
semi-finals of the two-day
competition sponsored by
Transcom Electronic Ltd.

Tutul's two Abahani's woe

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra with a 2-0 lead till the 79th minute thought victory was a foregone conclusion, but Mosharraf Hossain Tutul had other ideas and the lanky Agrani Bank striker served two quick blows to pull off a sensational 2-2 draw in a Danish Premier football league match at the flood lit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Tutul, who played for Abahani a couple of years back, struck in the 79th minute with a fierce left-footer and then rose on to nod the ball home two minutes from the final whistle to record an unprecedented turnaround by any mediocre team against one of the local giants.

And when Tutul, capitalising on a defense lapse of a shaky Abahani, guided a long throw from substitute Jhony into the far corner of the net the bankers burst into ecstasy, leaving most of the strong 20,000 crowd at the big bowl as grins as in a funeral march.

It was Abahani's second successive draw after their disappointing goalless outing against Farashganj SC. The holders, who are on a hot trail to strike a hat-trick of titles this year, seem to be wandering at the nascent stage of the league, leaving their arch-rivals Mohammedans Sporting three points clear at the top on completion of their five league engagements. Abahani now share the second position with Mukti Joddha, both having collected 11 points.

In the days match, Abahani, who have been limping so far in the absence of an aplomb mid-field marshall, managed to enjoy a lone-goal lead at the breather with Liton blasting a 20-yarder in the 32nd minute. Rakib doubled the margin in the 56th minute shooting from close.

Despite being fortuous of finding the opponents net twice, Abahani seldom played like

champions. In the absence of the quality midfielder, the Dhanmondi outfit offered a pedestrian display throughout the match. The sky blues not only lacked cohesiveness, but more often than not played like an ordinary outfit except for a few flashes of personal brilliance from their newly recruited winger Rakib Hossain.

The officials of this reputed

through a lean patch, drove the ball miles over the cross-piece much to the horror of his teammates and supporters.

In the 20th minute Rakib tested the Bank custodian Milon with a grounder which the latter parried by diving to his left.

The workmanlike Rakib than floated another cross from the left which Bank defender Raj headed away only to an unmarked Liton, who from the top of the box fired a sudden thunderous shot into the right-hand corner of the net (1-0).

Fifteen minutes into the second half Abahani got their second goal when Rakib shot the ball home from close through the near post (2-0).

But after enjoying the lead Abahani, who apparently ignored Agrani Bank's gritty display earlier against Mohammedans which they lost 3-2 in a see-saw encounter, resigned to complacency taking victory as granted.

And that was enough for the bankers to have a go against their more illustrious opponents with a spectacular late rally.

In the 79th minute Tutul, finding a Nayan cross deep inside the Abahani box, made no mistake to punch it past a diving Dhanu into the far corner of the net (1-2).

Tutul than celebrated his third and perhaps the most precious goal in the league two minutes from the final whistle as Agrani Bank went away with a crucial point. It was Agrani's first draw after a win and three successive defeats to raise their tally to four from five matches.

Yellow card: Kabir (Agrani Bank).

ABAHANI KC: Dhanu, Chanchal (Shamim), Ali Mansur, Sohel Reza, Hasan Al Mamun, Liton, Partha, Rakib, Rumi (Milon), Mizan and Jahangir.

AGRANI BANK: Milon, Raj, Kala (Kabir), Panash, Rafiq, Sento, Munna (Jony), Rana, Nayan, Tutul and Jahangir.

Referee: Ehsanul Haq

TUTUL

club of the country seem not to

realise the import of their lack-

lustre performance. With Gaffar

surprisingly remaining the

chief coach of Abahani, the

officials are yet to make any

headway to unearth the folly of

the champions, who are so far

not only painfully out of depth,

but seem also to be oblivious of

their lofty 11 points.

Rakib, switching to Abahani

from Mukti Joddha along with

four others, once again played

the pivotal role in every attack

The nimble winger opened the

otherwise rock-solid Bank de-

fence in the second minute with

a crispy cross from the left. But

striker Mizan, who is going

to be the multi-talented

Pakistanis.

Seamers Andy Caddick and Peter Martin were recalled once each but could not impress. Left-arm swing bowler Simon Brown joined the growing list of England's one-Test wonders after failing to continue his fine

county form at Test level.

The selectors tried off-
spinner Min Patel and leg-
spinner Ian Salisbury before

— in the last Test of the summer — finding a jewel in Glamorgan orthodox spinner Robert Croft.

All-rounders Ronnie Irani and Mark Atherton were given two opportunities each. But, in the end, the selectors settled on the over-used solution of asking Alec Stewart to bat and keep wicket, dropping Jack Russell to provide room for five specialist bowlers.

Mullally and Croft must progress during the winter, and England must find three other Test-quality bowlers to accompany them and Cork for the Ashes.

Yorkshire's energetic and charismatic paceman Darren Gough is in contention after injury and a loss of form kept him in the Test wilderness. He returned for England's 2-1 one-day triumph against Pakistan and showed renewed fire.

Gough was the find of England's tour of Australia in the winter of 1994-95, and the prospect of playing in the Ashes at home could bring the best out of him.

Also calling out for recogni-
tion is Australian-born all-rounder Adam Hollioake, who did little with the bat, but took two four-wicket hauls in his two one-day op-
portunities against Pakistan.

While betting on England's bowling line-up for the Ashes would attract large odds, the gamble with England's top six batsmen would not be in naming them, but naming them in order.

With the spasmodically

brilliant Graeme Hick ex-
pected to be out of the equation
after one of his worst seasons in his 46-Test career, England need to finalise the order in which to play Atherton, Stewart, Hussain, Graham Thorpe, John Crawley and Nick Knight.

With the exception of Thorpe — who past 50 three times but failed to reach three figures — each of these batsmen scored Test hundred during the summer.

Hussain cemented his position as England's No 3 by scoring two centuries in that role against India.

Stewart, who has filled numerous roles in England's batting line-up in his 58-Test career, scored a superb 170 opening the batting against Pakistan, and should continue his formidable partnership with rock-solid Atherton at the top of the order.

Knight, who opens for Warwickshire and scored successive centuries for England in the one-day series against Pakistan, scored his maiden Test century at No 6 in the draw against Pakistan at Headingly.

Thorpe, who leads England's domestic batting averages, is the established No 4, while Crawley justified his recall at the expense of Hick with a splendid 106 at No 5 against Pakistan in the third Test.

The ease with which Mushtaq ripped through England on the final day of the first and third Tests does not bode well for England's chances against Warne, who unleashed his wizardry for the Australians during their last triumphant tour in 1993.

By the time the Aussies arrive, coach Lloyd will have another two Test series under his belt, and will hope that the semi-final will be his begun this summer may culminate with a victory against England's arch-enemy.

Leicester lead the pack

Graf in final

Sports Reporter

Steffi Graf has confirmed a much-expected Grand Slam reunion between the world's number ones yesterday when she beat 15-year-old Swiss sensation Martina Hingis in the semi-final of the US Open.

The trouble-torn top-seeded Graf, who has more on her mind than tennis these days, used her years of experience at the right moment to help get herself into gear and then went on to stop the dream run of the talented teenager with a comfortable 7-5, 6-3 victory.

Hingis, who turns sixteen next month, surprised third seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain in the fourth round before ousting seventh seeded veteran Czech Jana Novotna in the quarters to become the youngest player to reach the semifinals after American Jennifer Capriati.

While Graf will be pursuing for her 21st Grand Slam title here, her father Peter has gone on trial in Germany Thursday on charges of tax evasion.

However, the clash of the number ones, Graf and her long-time rival Monica Seles commences Sunday.

Danish leagues suspended

Sports Reporter

All the matches of the Danish First Division football league will remain suspended for 11 days from today, the league committee said, reports UNB.

The suspension of the league

matches from September 8-18 has been made complying with the request of Mohammad Shahidul Bulbul

which will leave Dhaka today or the day after to play the return match of the Asian Cup

Winners Cup tie in Laos.

The League fixtures will be bodily shifted and the matches will resume on September 19.

Rahmatgan Badda

share points

Sports Reporter

Rahmatgan Muslim Friends Society and Badda Jagan Sangsads shared points in the Danish First Division football league after their match against each other ended in a 1-1 draw at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Champagne greeted Badda ahead in the 19th minute while Abu Hasan headed home the equaliser for Rahmatgan in the 25th minute. This was the fifth league match for both the teams from which Rahmatgan have earned 11 points while Badda collected six points.

Striker Selim put Badda

in the lead in the 19th minute while Abu Hasan headed home the equaliser for Rahmatgan in the 25th minute. This was the fifth league match for both the teams from which Rahmatgan have earned 11 points while Badda collected six points.

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