

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

That a very strange game called Dwyle Flunking is played in various parts of England...

The "ball" is a rag soaked in beer. Now, I know why the English never managed to import this one to Bengal...

Now, I am no one to assert that the English lacked imagination. But, just imagine our potentials in this game...

SPORTS TALK



Mushtaq Ahmed

(Crafty Pakistani leg-spinner) There is no greater joy than bemusing a batsman...

Said of the thrills of beating a batsman.

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

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Sports Whizz Kid competition-54

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Competition closes : 8 pm October 11, 1996

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options (A, B, C, D) regarding sports events.

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

UEFA for new format

GENEVA, Oct 6: UEFA, European soccer's governing body, said on Wednesday it expected a proposal to expand the European under-21 championship...

Under the proposal, which is expected to receive UEFA executive committee approval at their meeting in Antalya, Turkey, the competition would take on a single knock-out format.

The championship would be hosted by one of the competing associations and staged over an 11-or-12 day period before the end of May in alternate years.



Action from yesterday's Danish Premier Division encounter between Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool and Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stadium. Fakirerpool won the match by a solitary goal.

Fakirerpool BU's bane

Sports Reporter

Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club aided their first phase campaign of the double-leg Danish Premier football league on an impressive note when they defeated Brothers Union by a solitary goal at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half striker Askar Babu struck the all-important goal in the 75th minute to maintain Fakirerpool's new found habit of up-setting Brothers Union...

On the other hand, Brothers Union, who were on the receiving end of an otherwise one-sided affair, showed little motivation to put up a fight...

Although Fakirerpool ran away by the skin of their teeth, but it hardly translated their supreme dominance over a languorous and insipid Brothers Union...

For Fakirerpool, the first 45 minutes was nothing noteworthy apart from a few flashes of brilliance from striker Asif, who had the rival custodian Milan at his mercy in the 44th minute...

intervention from Bishu, who cleared the ball from the goaline.

Six minutes from the final whistle Fakirerpool got another chance to double the margin. But both Moni and Rana had failed to nod home off a Monwar low-cross from an handshake distance.

With this defeat Brothers remained glued to their previous collection of 11 points on completion of their first leg quota.

Meanwhile, in the first match of the day, a Danish First Division tie, league leaders Victoria Sporting Club shared honours with PWD SC to a goalless draw...

At Nantes, N Doram scored his fifth goal of the season as Nantes, in one stroke, improved their goal difference to 17-17.

Nantes spring into life

PARIS, Oct 6: Japhet N Doram, who helped Nantes lift the 1995 French championship, was one of seven different scorers as his side won for the first time this season with a spectacular 7-0 rout of Nice on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Nantes had won by the same score only once before in 1970 against Nancy and Saturday's result was the first time in the French First Division that all the goals in a 7-0 victory were netted by different players.

Paris Saint Germain, who last won the title the year before Nantes, beat Le Havre 2-0 at home to open a six-point lead with goals by Brazilian Leonardo and midfielder Benoit Cauet.

The only unbeaten team in the top flight, European Cup Winners' Cup holders PSG ended a run of two draws that had slowed their progress towards their main goal, the league title.

Manaco, inspired by two goals by Brazilian striker Anderson, bounced back from a mid-week defeat at champions Auxerre to beat Rennes 3-1 at home and leap six places to second.

Bastia, previous incumbents of second place, crashed 3-1 at Montpellier to drop behind Monaco on goal difference.

called upon Thursday. Vincent Candela, scored the only goal as Guingamp beat Lyon 1-0 at home.

Metz striker Robert Pires, another member of Aime Jacquet's squad for next week's friendly at home to Turkey, was sent off near the end of his side's 2-2 draw at Lens for violent play.

Lens fought back after the visitors, who are in sixth place, had gone two goals up inside six minutes.

At Nantes, N Doram scored his fifth goal of the season as Nantes, in one stroke, improved their goal difference to 17-17.

Nantes' confidence has grown with the introduction of junior international goalkeeper Mickael Landreau, not yet 18, who has kept clean sheets in his first two First Division matches.

The win did not, however, lift Nantes out of the relegation zone they have languished in all season, taking only five points from five draws in their previous 10 matches.

Lille robbed bottom club Nancy of their first win of the season with an 88th minute equaliser by Denis Abed in a 2-2 draw at home. Lille, who opened their account through Yugoslav Miladin Becanovic, had not previously scored away this season.

Striker Stephane Guivarch's consolation, goal for Rennes at Monaco put him at the top of the scorers' list with Bastia's Anton Drobnjak, who missed his side's defeat because he was away on World Cup duty with Yugoslavia.

Donadoni returns to Milan?

ROME, Oct 6: Veteran Italian midfielder Roberto Donadoni is set to return to champions AC Milan after a season in US Major League Soccer, the sports daily Carriere Dello Sport reported on Saturday, says Reuter.

The paper, which gave no source for its story, said Donadoni was due to return from holiday in about three weeks and would sign for his former club until June 1998.

Donadoni, 33, helped the struggling New York-New Jersey Metrostars reach the playoffs in the new United States league this season.

Lalmoinirhat, Bagerhat in final round

Two more district teams — Lalmoinirhat and Bagerhat — emerged zonal champions to reach the final round of the Meril national under-16 football championship yesterday, reports UNB.

The two teams entered the nine-team final round which will begin on October 10 in Pabna.

Earlier, Jhenidah, Khulna, Bandarban and Gazipur DSA became zonal champions and earned the right to play in the final phase along with holders Jessore DSA and the hosts.

In the day's zonal final at Kurigram, Lalmoinirhat eliminating Nilphamari by a solitary goal.

Raj Ahmed scored the only goal of the match in the third minute of play.

Bhutto and Shanta of Lalmoinirhat, and Dulal and Palash of Nilphamari were shown yellow cards.

Lalmoinirhat will take on Pabria in the inaugural match of the final phase.

After the match, Nilphamari lodged a protest against their opponents for fielding "illegal player".

At Bhola, Bagerhat DSA were declared zonal champions against host team. The final was not held on Friday (Oct 4) as some of the Bagerhat players were allegedly manhandled by the local crowd.

The final of Brahmanbaria zone between Narayanganj and the hosts was also abandoned in the 77th minute due to a pitch invasion.

At time, Narayanganj DSA leading 1-0 thanks to a Parves effort in the 46th minute.

Day belongs to Brothers

Sports Reporter



Last year's runners-up Brothers Union reaped rich on the second day of the three-day inter-club cricketers transfer by roping in a host of national players at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office yesterday.

After a hectic first day on Saturday and with all the leading clubs staying off the bourse yesterday, the Gopibagh outfit stole a march over their fellow title contenders when they visited the BCCB office with former national skipper Faruque Ahmed, opener-cum-wicket-keeper Jahangir Alam and national left-arm spinner Enamul Huq Moni.

Faruque, who played for Kalabagan during the last couple of seasons, was the most sensational signings of the day

alongwith Moni. And the inclusion of Jahangir in the already-strong Brothers line-up gave the Gopibagh outfit a solid look.

Besides, Brothers have also signed up young Wari seamer Mofizur Rahman Munna and Abu Khalid Tota of Gopibagh Friends.

On the other hand, Bangladesh Biman made a brief but significant visit to sign the national discard, off-spinner Shariful Haq Flabon, for whom it would be a lucky break in a reputed team since his appearance in the Kenya ICC trophy in 1993.

While Anisur Rahman, the national left arm seamer, has finally joined Kalabagan

putting an end to the wide-spread speculation that he was going to play for Lalmai.

Apart from that, it was a rather sedate session with the lesser-known clubs capturing the centre-stage to make the most out of the remaining lot.

A total of 57 players have changed their alliance on the day.

Meanwhile, the BCCB deferred the bourse of tomorrow, the planned concluding day of player's transfer, in a bid to accommodate the smooth holding of the Danish Premier football league match between arch-rivals Mohammedan and Abahani.

The last day's players transfer will be held on October 9.

N'ganj soccer

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 6: Prakash Club beat Netaiganj Krika Chakra 2-0 in a Hangin Shipping First Division football league match at the Osmani Stadium here today, reports UNB.

Uzzal of Prakash put the winners in front after the 12th minute. And Tozafal doubled the margin three minutes from time.

In tomorrow's engagement, DSS Club will take on Straj Dullah at the same venue.

Chandpur football

CHANDPUR, Oct 6: The Chandpur football league got underway at the local Stadium here on Friday, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Khalid Anwar inaugurated the league.



Former national skipper Faruque Ahmed (R), left-arm spinner Enamul Huq Moni (M) and opener-cum-wicketkeeper Jahangir Alam, who joined Brothers Union on the second day of the inter-club players' transfer at the BCCB office yesterday.

Greenidge in the city?

Sports Reporter



A strong rumour swept the Dhaka Stadium yesterday that celebrated former West Indian opener Gordon Greenidge was in the capital to finalise his contract with the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) as the national coach.

But when contacted, the officials concerned expressed their ignorance about the arrival of the Caribbean charmer. However, it was informed earlier by a highly BCCB official that Greenidge might step in to the shoes of Mohinder Amarnath, the mentor of Bangladesh's infamous Kenya mission in 1993.

Nat'l Age Group swimming Oct 29

The three-day 16th national Age Group swimming competition, organised by the Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) begins at the Mirpur National Swimming Complex October 29, reports UNB.

The federation has requested all affiliated district sports associations, organisations and clubs to send their entries to BSF office by Oct 23.

2 acquitted in Vitas trial

RIVERHEAD, New York, Oct 6: A pool mechanic and his employer were acquitted in the carbon-monoxide death of tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis, reports AP.

Gerulaitis died Sept 18, 1994, while sleeping in a friend's Long Island cottage. Investigators determined that a heater for a pool was improperly vented, emptying carbon monoxide fumes inside the cottage.

The prosecution argued that the mechanic failed to read installation instructions for the heater and failed to see the risk even after he was told by experts that it was improperly installed.

The mechanic, Bartholomew Torpey, 34, of Sag Harbor, was acquitted Friday of criminally negligent homicide. His employer, East End Pools and Courts Inc of Sag Harbor, was acquitted of reckless manslaughter.

Torpey's attorney, John O'Brien, had called his client a scapegoat and noted that a family of four had stayed overnight without incident in the same guest house just days before Gerulaitis.

Gerulaitis, 40, died while visiting developer Martin Raynes in Southampton. The tennis player had gone to the cottage for a nap the day after participating in a charity tennis clinic.

Italy regain composure

CHISINAU, Oct 6: Fabrizio Ravanelli scored twice and Pierluigi Casiraghi added another as Italy overcame a case of defensive jitters to defeat Moldova 3-1 in their World Cup European Group Two opener on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The win was important for Italy and embattled coach Arrigo Sacchi, made a scapegoat for his team's shock elimination from Euro '96. But victory was no easy task as the hosts proved far more aggressive than Sacchi — who began the match with a bold attacking trident — had imagined.

"They were simply getting to the balls before we were and when you can't even get to it first, well, what can you do?" Sacchi said.

Despite being outnumbered in midfield, Italy went ahead in the eighth minute when Middlesbrough striker Ravanelli curved a free-kick from the edge of the area just over the outstretched arms of goalkeeper Denis Romanenko.

But Moldova struck back three minutes later when midfielder Alexandru Curtianu exploited a defensive blunder by Juventus stopper Ciro Ferrara and blasted the ball past a helpless Francesco Toldo.

The hosts, playing with five midfielders to Italy's three, neutralised the visitors who continued to be nervous in defence until Sacchi remedied the problem by inserting midfielder Angelo di Livio for Chiesa after the interval.

Juventus's Di Livio showed his class in the 68th minute, serving up a perfect cross which Lazio's Casiraghi headed in for his 11th international goal.

Ravanelli then provided insurance from the spot three minutes from time after Casiraghi was hauled down in the penalty area.

In Cardiff, substitute Pierre van Hooft donk struck twice in three minutes to lead the Netherlands to a 3-1 victory over Wales in their World Cup qualifier.

The Celtic striker fired a 72nd minute equaliser with his first touch then swept home a second on the break to turn the European Group Seven match on its head.

Ronald de Boer added a third goal with 11 minutes remaining with a diving header from Philipp Cocu's cross.

Wales had high hopes of

maintaining their 100 per cent record when Dean Saunders put them ahead on 17 minutes.

But the Dutch hit back strongly and although goalkeeper Neville Southall kept Wales ahead with a string of brilliant saves, the overwhelm-

ing pressure told in the end. Wales, with two big wins against San Marino behind them, had hoped that the Dutch would be vulnerable after a traumatic Euro '96 and a rash of injuries that forced them to field a weakened side.

Manager Brian Hamilton's side, who lost to Ukraine at Windsor Park in their first match, now have just one point from a possible six in group nine; and face European champions Germany in their next match.

In Kiev, Luis Figo looked to have salvaged a World Cup point for Portugal with an 83rd minute equaliser against Ukraine only to see Yuri Maksimov grab the winner for the home side two minutes from time.

The 2-1 defeat left the fancied Portuguese with just one point from two games after an earlier draw with Armenia and put Ukraine, also winners over Northern Ireland, top of qualifying Group Nine. Favourites Germany have yet to play.

In Tallinn, hosts Estonia lost key striker Andres Oper with a suspected broken leg in the first half but kept their nerve to beat Belarus 1-0 in their World Cup Group Four qualifier.

Oper hobbled off in the 26th minute after being brought down on the edge of the penalty area.

Southall made a vital save 15 minutes into the game when Jordi Cruyff was sent clear. Blocking the Manchester United forward's shot with his legs.

The Dutch piled on the pressure after the break and at the height of their siege, Southall made three stunning saves in as many minutes to deny substitute Roy Makaay, Ronald de Boer and Clarence Seedorf.

But an equaliser seemed inevitable and once Van Hooj-

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptogram puzzle with a grid and a key: R J S R Q M J S G J P G Q T N G Q A Y D P G M D O L Z Q Y T V Z O M Z Q V R N M D Q A L. Yesterday's Cryptogram: THIS CARPENTER PROUDLY ANNOUNCED, "YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT I SAW!" Today's Cryptogram clue: M equals K. The Cryptogram 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 with an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowel positions. Solution is by trial and error.



Iva Majoli of Croatia plays a backhand return against Czech Helena Sukova in the Leipzig Open semifinal match in Germany on Oct 5. Majoli won 6-4, 7-5. AFP/UNB photo