

## Column One

## DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT racketball is a game similar to handball but played with a racket. The game was developed in the USA in the 1950s and is now a popular game throughout America.

Handball was originally an Irish game, brought to the States by the large number of immigrants. Incidentally, the first international handball match was played in 1887 between the Irish champion John Lawlor meeting US champion Phil Casey.

You thought you spotted an error there, individuals playing handball matches? But Irish handball is like that. Casey was the first world champion, a title he held till his retirement in 1900.

## SPORTS TALK



Conchita Martinez

(Spanish tennis player)  
"Life is like tennis. Good times, bad times. When I play good I'm happiest."

## Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

## Sports WHIZZ KID competition-54

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm

October 11, 1996

1 How many Tests has

Wasim Akram played to

capture 300 wickets?

80 70 60

2 The man-of-the-series in the

Sahara Cup was

Kumble Mushaq Srnath

3 The final round of the Meril

U-16 national football

championship will be held in

Natore Bogra Pabna

4 The new Indian cricket

coach is

Madan Lal Arun Lal Gavaskar

5 The captain of Bangladesh

hockey team is

Harun Sadeq Alamgir

Name: .....

Class: ..... Roll No. ....

School Address: .....

Phone: (If any): .....

## Jansher reaches quarters

DOHA, Oct 8: Seven times world champion Jansher Khan endured a marathon struggle before reaching the quarterfinals of the Qatar International on Monday, and then launched an angry attack on opponent Ahmed Barada of Egypt, reports Reuters.

Jansher beat Barada 15-10, 15-13, 14-15, 8-15 and 15-9 in a one and a half hour match, but then criticised his rival's tactics.

"I've played him three times now and there's always a problem with him because he blocks me a lot," said the Pakistani who is bidding to win the title for a fifth consecutive year.

Earlier, Peter Nicol of Scotland, seeded fourth, was beaten by France's Julien Bonetat. World 17th ranked Bonetat won 15-12, 15-13, 15-8.

## Gate receipts Tk 61 lakh

Sports Reporter

The Mahanagari Football League Committee sold tickets worth Taka seven lakh twenty thousand (7,20,000) in yesterday's Danish Premier Division football league match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani. According to a league committee official, 35,000 gallery tickets and 500 VIP tickets were sold on Tuesday.

With the amount, the league committee's total sale stands at Taka 61,26,310 (sixty-one lakh twenty-six thousand three hundred and ten) from the first leg of the two-phase league this year including six lakh from the sale of season tickets.

## Battle of grants deflates

## Biplob Abahani's saviour

Sports Reporter



An overtly smart referee MA Monsur Azad's single nefarious decision almost invited the onus of the packed audience at the Dhaka Stadium last night. But thanks to a bizarre display by both Mohammedans and Abahani Kriya Chakra, the 59th clash of the two heavyweights in the domestic football ended in a goalless draw, much to the relief of the organisers. A win by either may have sparked off trouble.

Monsur, who was there in the middle to conduct the last league match of phase one of the double-leg Danish Premier league between the two arch-rivals, flushed the dreaded red card to Abahani's Jahangir not only stole the limelight, but had effectively marked the gloss and mirth of a match that drew thousands to the stadium and millions to their TV sets across the country.

In an eye-sore of an encounter with both Mohammedans and Abahani adopting tough tackling from the word 'go', the Dhaka derby once again turned out to be a physical showdown, leaving Monsur to buckle under pressure four minutes from the short whistle when Mohammedans midfielder Arman and Jahangir got entangled in a tussle following a foul. But Monsur, who was standing nearby, instead of sending both the culprits out of the field, in a display of double standards, patted Arman with a yellow card as against the harshness of Jahangir's marching order.

The decision prompted a sharp reaction in the Abahani tent when all the players and a couple of officials encircled the man with the whistle in protest against the decision. In tandem, the strong band of sky blue supporters vented their anger by pelting missiles, leaving the match suspended for seven minutes. And, when the match resumed Monsur blew the short whistle without allowing any injury time.

Incidentally, this was not the only incident Monsur failed to tackle. Earlier, in the 35th minute Mohammedans South Korean coach Mann Young Kang called his players for an unscheduled discussion for about two minutes without any intervention from Monsur, who at that moment appeared like a mere on-looker.

After the breather, Monsur's role was of shameless compensation in favour of a ten-man Abahani.

Apart from Monsur's playing a major part in the match, it was the worst engagement so far in this year's league.

Defending champions Abahani Kriya Chakra, who were without their striker Mizan, hardly created any planned attack against their opponents.

Abahani's skipper Monem Munna said he had never seen such poor refereeing in his life as in yesterday's Danish Premier Division football league match against Mohammedan Sporting Club when Referee Mansoor Azad blew the whistle.

Talking to reporters after the crucial match, a frustrated Munna said, "The referee had violated all the norms of football by allowing Mohammedans to take time out during the match which is absolutely unbelievable. And, when I asked the referee why he had not taken any action against that, he stood in silence," he added.

About the red card incident, an angry Munna said, "The decision to show the red card to only Jahangir was fully biased. He should have also sent Arman out because he used the physical force first. But the referee was partial and did the damage to us. For the same incident, the judgement was different for the two teams."

"I tell you, if our refereeing goes on like this, we will never improve in football," Munna added. He also said that if foreign referees do not come in the second leg, the league would be in trouble.

When asked whether he was happy with the draw or not, the former national defender who had been leading the Dhanmendi outfit for the last three seasons, said, "Of course we are happy. We had only ten players. Moreover, Mizan was absent and I was injured in the match. So I think the result is all right."

Abdul Gaffar, the Abahani coach, did not differ with Munna. He was also not very happy with the refereeing. Speaking to the reporters after the match in the Abahani dressing room, Gaffar said, "The showing of red card to Jahangir was absolutely unnecessary. Moreover the referee could have sent out both Arman and Jahangir. But, it did not happen and I don't know why?"

About the referee, Gaffar said, "The referee had a lot to do in the field when Mohammedans were taking time out which is fully unacceptable. But he did only ten players. Moreover, Mizan was absent and I was injured in the match. So I think the result is all right."

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Winger Rakib and Mamun Joarder were totally off-colour. Then Toe Aung, the Myanmar recruit of the sky blues, failed to make any impression before being pulled out after 45 minutes. However, it was only the rock solid defence that lived up to their reputation to avoid a defeat.

Moreover, after skipper Monem Munna limped off the pitch in the 64th minute, the defence was ably manned by Sohel Reza, Partho, custodian Biplob and specially right-back Hassan al-Mamun, who not only neutralised all the Mohammedans moves down the left flank but also made several adrenaline pumping moves with great aplomb.

On the other hand, league leaders Mohammedans, who enjoyed the advantage of an extra man for the last minutes, played like a headless chicken evaporating the hopes of ending their nine year old jinx against Abahani. Mohammedans have

Ranjan floated a low cross from the left, but Alfaz's right footer narrowly missed the mark.

Eight minutes later, Iqbal blasted a sudden 30-yarder, prompting the young Abahani custodian Biplob to make a glorious save.

In the 22nd minute, Mohammedans got the easiest chance to break the evening's duck. But, midfielder Manik, who had Biplob at his mercy, drove the ball miles over the cross-piece much to the horror of his teammates and fans.

After surviving those early calls, Abahani created their first chance in the 25th minute. But Rakib's successive flag-kicks were thwarted by defender Jewel Rana and the custodian.

In the 33rd minute Arman, who will miss the next match for conceding his third yellow card in the league, tested the flamboyant Biplob with a gen of a long-range shot which the latter parried off by diving to his left.

Biplob, a confident youngster under the bar, once again came to his side's rescue in the 72nd minute when he gripped a 40 yarder free kick from Ranjan in his second attempt.

Earlier, in the 69th minute Partho saved Abahani from imminent danger when the agile left back thwarted an Arman grounder from the goal line for a corner.

With this draw Mohammedans raised their tally to 23 points on completion of the first leg engagements two points clear from their arch-rivals Abahani, who are trailing them with 21 points from nine league matches.

**Red card:** Jahangir (Abahani Limited).

**Yellow cards:** Arman, Iqbal, Manik (Mohammedan) and Hassan al-Mamun, Swapan (Abahani).

**ABAHANI KC:** Biplob, Hassan Mamun, Munna (Barun), Sohel Reza, Partho, Swapan, Aung (Ali Mansoor), Rakib, Mamun Joarder, Rumi (Aslam) and Jahangir.

**MOHAMMEDAN SC:** Ponir, Mansoor (Sabbir), Ruhul Amin, Jewel Rana, Manwar Munna, Rajani, Iqbal, Manik, Arman, Ranjan and Alfaz (Kaiser). Referee: Monsur Azad.

## PREMIER DIV STANDINGS

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Points
Mohammedan SC	9	7	2	0	15	6	23
Abahani	9	6	3	0	18	4	21
Muktijoddha Sangsad	9	5	2	2	12	6	17
Farashganj SC	9	4	2	3	6	6	14
YMC Fakirpool	9	3	4	2	5	5	13
Brothers Union	9	3	2	4	7	5	11
Arambagh KS	9	2	1	6	7	11	7
Agrani Bank SC	9	1	3	5	9	15	6
East End Club	9	1	3	5	8	19	6
Bangladesh Boys Club	9	1	2	6	6	5	5

**Hattrick:** Mizan (Abahani) against Wan Club.  
**Leading goalscorers:** 6 goals - Mizan (Abahani), Nakib (Muktijoddha) 5 goals - Alfaz (Mohammedan), Tutul (Agrani Bank), 4 goals - Rakib (Abahani), Roxy (Arambagh), 3 goals - Reaz (Muktijoddha), Towhid (Farashganj), Jamal (Brothers Union) and Sourav Majumdar (East End).

## Post-match reaction

## Ref a thorn 'tween two roses

Sports Reporter

"An angry coach Intiaz Sultan Johnny said, "The refereeing was nothing but a complete stupid act. This gentleman (Mansoor) does not know the basics of football but is considered as the best referee in the country. Today everybody has seen the standard of our best referee."

"If the authority does not arrange foreign referees in the return leg, we will think again before joining the league because we can not pull on with him (Mansoor)," Johnny added.

When asked whether he supported the decision of the referee to send Jahangir out and show Arman the yellow card, the Mohammedan manager declined to comment.

Finally, Johnny said he was

not at all happy with his team's performance. "My team didn't play soccer in the second half. They failed to take the advantage of superiority in numbers."

Jewel Rana, the Mohammedan skipper had no complaints against the referee. While expressing his guarded comments about last night's affair, the national defender said, "The refereeing was all right except on a few occasions but that is part of the game and you have got to accept that."

When asked why they left the ground for sometime in the first half, the tall MSC captain said, "We did that to protest the refereeing. He was not doing any justice to us and we wanted to tell him that. That's why we left the ground."



Mohammedans midfielder Arman nursing an injury after a brawl with Abahani winger Jahangir as referee M A Mansoor attends to the situation during yesterday's Danish Premier Division football league match at the Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? An angry Abahani skipper Monem Munna (C) arguing with referee M A Mansoor Azad after the latter gave marching order to Abahani winger Jahangir following a quarrel with Mohammedan midfielder Arman during yesterday's league encounter. —Star photo

## Asian Youth soccer

## U-19 team leaves tomorrow

A 20 member Bangladesh under-19 football team led by Hasan al Mamun leaves tomorrow for Seoul to take part in the final round of the 30th Asian youth under-19 football championship beginning from October 17, reports BSS.

Bangladesh has been put in Group A with Iran, UAE, Thailand and hosts South Korea while India, Japan, China, Syria and Qatar have been placed in Group B in the 15 day tournament.

## SQUAD

Hasan al Mamun (captain), Masudur Rahman Tony, Mohiul Hasan Shahjada, Prodip Kumar Poddar, kazi Nazrul Islam, Jahangir Hossain Patwari, Mohammad Azim, Iqbal Hossain, Shahaj Uddin Tipu, Maksudul Amin Rana, Askar Khan Babu, Abu Fayasal Ahmed, Arif Khan Joy, Anwarul Islam, Shourab Majumdar, Sheikh Saifuddin Ahmed Himu, Abul Gayum Santu, Arifur Kabir Forhad, Rajani Kanta Barman and Murad Ahmed Milan.

BFF members Showkat Ali Khan Jahangir and Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnun have been made team leader and technical manager of the team while Otto Pfister is the coach and Hasanuzzaman Bablu will be this assistant.

Dr Jawwad Ahmed Khan and Subash Chandra Roy will accompany the team as doctor and assistant referee.

## FIXTURES

Oct 17 - vs UAE  
Oct 21 - vs Iran  
Oct 23 - vs South Korea  
Oct 25 - vs Thailand

## N'ganj soccer

From Our Correspondent NARYANGANJ, Oct 8: Godnail Kriya Proshikshan Shibir beat DSS Club B by a solitary goal in their Hanganj Shipping First Division football league encounter at the Osmani Stadium here today.

Tito of Godnail scored the lone goal after 20 minutes into the second half.

In tomorrow's match, Suk-tara Jubo Sangshad face Jalparibahan Corp. at the same venue.

## Ronaldo fans' choice

BARCELONA, Oct 8: Brazilian marksman Ronaldo was awarded 9.17 marks out of 10 for his performance so far in a poll of Barcelona fans published by Monday's El Mundo Deportivo sports daily, reports Reuters.

More than 70 per cent believe he will prove to be a better player than Diego Maradona.

English coach Bobby Robson received only 3.89 for strategy but 8.75 for charisma.

Only two per cent said Barcelona should sign another coach and nearly 75 per cent reckoned the club would win the Spanish Championship.

## Steffi skips

## Zurich indoors

ZURICH, Oct 8: Steffi Graf on Tuesday pulled out of next week's European indoor championship because of a knee injury, reports Reuters.

Graf sustained the injury during a tournament in Leipzig last week and withdrew just hours before she was due to face fellow-German Anke Huber in the semifinals.

The world number one said then that a tendon strain in her left knee had troubled her since her quarter-final win over Austrian Judith Wiesner.

It is the fourth consecutive year in which Graf has withdrawn from the one million dollars Zurich tournament.

## Lazio boss

## survived

ROME, Oct 8: Lazio president Dino Zoff escaped unhurt on Monday after his car was written off in a high-speed motorway collision, the Italian Serie A club said, reports Reuters.

Zoff's car came to rest against a guard rail after rolling over twice in the accident.

## Much ado about nothing!

S Ashfaul Haque



When Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Kriya Chakra play against each other it's always much ado about nothing! On every occasion when the two most crowd pulling outfits are pitted in to clash, the whole country begins to thrive with unfathomable zeal, tension and speculation. But when the match kicks off, the footballers from the famed teams engage themselves in a sickening caricature on the lush greenery of the stadium, forsaking all of their 'skills' which have brought them laurels and repute, albeit within the boundaries of Bangladesh, in this very sport. The judge in the middle has to spend a busy time flashing cards to a few and gasping for breath from blowing too much of his whistle.

The two titans of local sport fought only a handful of matches that passed off peacefully, keeping serenity both on the field and off the field. It's very unusual that, after the

match, spectators will leave the stadium without damaging vehicles and shops around the big bowl.

For the umpteenth time yesterday, the 22 actors on the field failed to change the script. In their 26-year-old history of rivalry, one can hardly single out a single match which he enjoyed.

The stock of the best booters rarely matched the expectations of their fans around the country and those watching at the stadium, which is invariably packed like sardines: one always wonders why.

However, Abahani and Mohammedans staged their 42nd league clash yesterday, and it passed off quite 'peacefully', thanks to the players and the spectators. Just to make a point, 17 MSC-AKC matches have so far ended in dreary draws.

And, yesterday's 0-0 draw marked the 12th occasion when the two perennial foes left the field sans scoring.

The first league clash of the sky blues and the black-and-whites took place in 1973, and

Abahani won the match 2-0. And the mighty forces of local sport yielded the first of their barren draw in 1996.

It may amaze the statistician that only on five occasions (1975, 1983, 1984, 1987 and 1993) the two sides combinedly scored four or more goals in a match.

The highest number of five goals were scored only on two occasions in 1987 Mohammedans won 3-2 and in 1993 Abahani won by the same margin.

The black-and-whites recorded victory by the biggest margin in 1975 when they trounced Abahani 4-0.

However, with this draw, Abahani managed to keep their slim lead in the league race with 13 wins as against Mohammedans' 12.

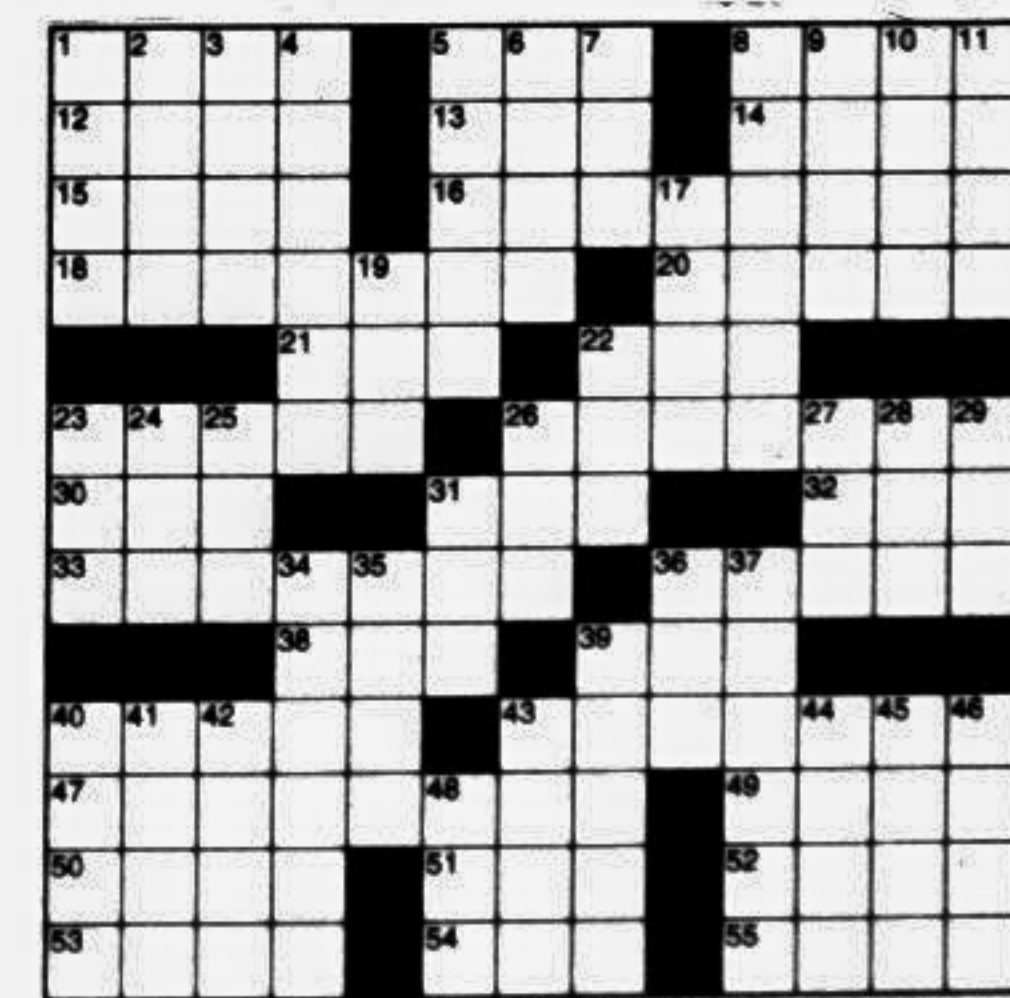
There is one more league match among the rivals to look forward to this year. Or will it be the next? Will the giants fizzle out on the big day? Or will they thunder? The odds are heavily in favour of the ogres going out like wimps.



Abahani midfielder Rakib (R) and Mohammedan defender Munna so far the ball during their league engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	40 Garden tool	2 Stromboli spillover	23 Alter exchange
1 Deli salad	43 Plant-eating marsupial	3 Sea east of Caspian	24 George's brother
5 "Platoon" locale	47 Large pikes	4 Hog hangout	25 Wet wiggler
6 Scat specialist	49 Piece of Italian bread?	5 Gingrich and others	26 Take top honors
12 The O'Hara estate	50 "Bus Stop" playwright	6 "Sad to tell..."	27 Dogfight participant
13 Ivy League	51 "Hail to Caesar"	7 Wire measure	28 Atlantic food fish
14 When both hands are up	52 Skunk's protection	8 Canine coat	29 Farm female
15 Office shape	53 Honey drink	9 Actress Singer	31 — goo gai pan
16 Large kangaroo	54 Guitarist	10 Swag	34 Served the soup
18 Women have them in their clutches	55 Sell temporarily	11 Uruguayans' years	35 Curved molding
20 Leaves out positions	56 Sell temporarily	17 Lounge units	36 Part of RSVP
21 Switch	1 Pack away	22 Motorists' org.	37 Deck supply
22 Milwaukee product			38 Florist's supply
23 Aspects			40 Take to the post
26 "Ben-Hur" author			41 Sheet of stamps
30 Minored-over matter			42 Plantron component
31 Soon-Yi's mom			43 — Only "Jug"
32 Intimidate			44 Verdi work
33 French Belgian			45 Forehead
36 Rutabaga			46 Tail tale
38 Past			48 Go off course
39 Through			



## CRYPTOQUIP

BRC WQ URY QECAGTND

LEBLCD DYVA ZYLEEC

NZQBWY? URYC DTAGEC

UYVA BTUR UYLAEC

Yesterday's Cryptquip: TRULY, AN UNEM-

PLAYED ACTOR COULD VERY PROBABLY BE CALLED

A MOCYDLE

Today's Cryptquip clue: A equals M

The Cryptquip 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.