

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Sergei Bubka (32), the Ukrainian pole vaulter, broke the world record in pole vaulting more than 30 times.

In 1983, virtually unknown in international meets, he won the world championship at Helsinki, Finland, and the following year he set his first world record, clearing 5 m 75 cm (19 ft 2 1/4 in). Until the collapse of the USSR in late 1991, Bubka competed for Soviet teams. He became noted for establishing new records by slim amounts, sometimes as little as a centimeter higher. This ability allowed him to collect frequent bonus payments from the Soviets.

In the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, Bubka won the gold medal as expected, but there was disappointment that he failed to set a world record. By the end of the 1988 season, however, he became the first pole vaulter to clear 6 m (19 ft 8 in). In March 1991, at an indoor meet in San Sebastian, Spain, he was the first to clear 6.1 m (20 ft); later in the year he exceeded the height in an outdoor meet. He was expected to win a second gold medal at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, and caused a sensation when he failed to qualify for the competition.

Just goes to prove: Bubka is human.

SPORTS WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN TK, 2000/- PRIZE BOND EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-57

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm November 22, 1996

- 1 Who won the Titan Trophy? India S. Africa Australia
2 How many one-day matches has Wasim Akram played to capture 300 wickets? 206 207 208
3 The 13th QM Hossain IM chess championship was won by Zia Reza M. Lodhi
4 Who clinched the top position in the 16th national age-group swimming championship? BKSP American Int'l School Biman
5 Which country will host the 1998 Commonwealth Games? Malaysia England Hong Kong

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

SPORTS TALK



Mushtaq Ahmed (Ace Pakistani leg-spinner) 'No purpose will be served by bowling a predictable line. One has to constantly change the line and length. For that to be achieved one has to have tight control. That comes from sheer practice. Practice and nothing else.'

WHIZZ KID-56 correct answers

- 1. How many one-day hundreds has Gary Kirsten scored? Ans: 7
2. How many sixes did Asim Akram hit to create a world record? Ans: 12
3. Whose mark did Hasan Raza eclipse to become the youngest Test cricketer? Ans: Mushtaq Mohammad.
4. For how many years Gordon Greenidge has been appointed as the Bangladesh cricket coach? Ans: 3.
5. Who won this year's Meril under-19 national soccer title? Ans: Khulna.



Referee Sheikh Badaruddin returns to the dressing room under police escort after yesterday's Danish Premier Division football league encounter at the Mirpur Stadium. —Star photo

Abahani rocked by babes

Sports Reporter

A penalty in the diving minutes dented reigning champions Abahani's hopes of a hat-trick of championships when they were held to a 1-1 draw by bottom of the table Bangladesh Boys in their opening return leg encounter of the Danish Premier Division football league at the floodlit Mirpur Stadium last night.

Leading by a late second-half goal scored by their Myanmar midfielder, Than Toi Aung, Abahani, who were two points behind their arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club in the 10-team elite group at the end of first round, conceded a penalty goal in the penultimate minute after their inspirational skipper Monem Munna handled the ball inside the danger area. Forward Badul Khan Tipu made no mistake and availed of the gifted opportunity.

The first-half proceedings can be dubbed as most boring as neither side did anything significant to write home about. Most naturally, the half ended in a goal-less draw.

Champions of the league for the last two years, Abahani Krira Chakra failed to deliver yesterday their speciality; their charm was sadly locked in their dressing room.

Although the sky blues, reinforced by their new Russian recruit Georgy, had the ball in their possession for a better part of the first half, it did not have any effective bearing on the match as they never got close to their target because of a determined Boys defence.

The only distinct chance for Abahani to break the deadlock came in the 29th minute when they earned a corner. But midfielder Rakib spoiled the opportunity when his header from a Mamun Joarder lob went over the cross-piece.

After the barren first-half, Abahani began their second-half play with an all-out approach.

Georgy, the Russian defensive midfielder who made a fairly satisfactory debut for Abahani last night, got the first opportunity to score after the breather. But his 65th minute shot from the left flank was brilliantly taken by Boys' custodian Nurul who was forced to dive to his right.

After seven minutes, Abahani had another scope to take the lead when midfielder Than Toi Aung penetrated the Boys defence by repeated walling with right winger Mamun Joarder to land in front of the net. But he was unlucky not to get the goal as his close-range shot went the other way after hitting the cross-piece.

The much-awaited goal for Abahani came in the 81st minute when Than Toi Aung received a right-side Hasan Al Mamun cross at the top of the box. All he did was place the ball home with a right-footer past the surprised Boys keeper Nurul (1-0).

But Abahani enjoyed the lead for only eight minutes. Munna handled the ball in side his own box while trying to clear. The referee pointed to the dreaded spot. Tipu walked up bravely and defeated the Abahani custodian Biplab with a powerful grounder (1-1).

Frustrated by the goal, Abahani tried their best to score a match-winner in the last minute. But that proved to be an impossible mission and after a few seconds referee Shiekh Badaruddin blew the final whistle that must have sounded like the 'last post' to the thousands of Abahani fans.

having 22 points from ten matches. If Mohammedans win today's engagement against East End Club, they will be four points ahead of Abahani on completion of their tenth match.

On the other hand, Boys, who completed the first leg at the bottom of the table with five points, earned a valuable point from yesterday's encounter which must have been doubly satisfying considering the enviable track record of their illustrious opponents.

After the match, Abahani supporters threw shells and stones at the referee from the gallery protesting the penalty decision. The fanatic supporters also threw stones at the vehicle carrying sports journalists from Mirpur to the city centre.

Yellow cards: Mizan Swapan (Abahani) and Din Mohammad (R. Boys).

TEAMS ABAHANI: Biplab, Hasan Al



An airborne Abahani midfielder Rakib fails to connect from a corner during last night's drawn Danish Premier Division league match against Bangladesh Boys at the Mirpur Stadium. —Star photo

'Mini' WC sees light

ZURICH, Nov 8: World governing body FIFA gave the go ahead on Thursday to a 'mini' World Cup to be contested every two years by continental champions and confirmed Saudi Arabia will host the first Confederations' Cup in December next year, reports Reuters.

Eight national teams will take part in the competition which will consist of two groups of four with the winners of each group meeting in the final.

The likely participants of the first competition will be South American champions Uruguay, Concafac champions Mexico, African champions South Africa, likely Oceania champions Australia, world champions Brazil, host nation Saudi Arabia, the as-yet unknown Asian champions, and either European champions Germany or the Czech Republic who finished as runners-up to Germany in this summer's European Championship.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said in announcing the new competitions: 'It has already been staged twice unofficially. Now it is an official FIFA competition and I am sure it will certainly make its way and become very popular. Blatter added the intention was for the tournament to be staged every two years but that might change to four years in due course. The first tournament is due to be staged between December 12-21 next year and the draw for the competition would be made on February 21 next year in Riyadh. The major doubt concerns the participation of Germany and UEFA, European soccer's ruling body, will decide at a meeting in Tenerife on December 5 whether to replace Germany with the Czech Republic if as expected, the Germans do not take part. Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, vice-president of the German Football Association (DFB) and a member of FIFA's executive committee said they would not compete in the tournament. 'There is no discussion about this in Germany, the team will not complete it is a problem with scheduling and the clubs have other commitments,' he said. The new competition falls in the middle of the German mid-winter break when many of the leading clubs take part in indoor competitions.

Chess league Everything's black & white

Sports Reporter

Reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club were leading the table with 10.5 points in the First Division chess league at the end of third round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On the third day of the 15-round Swiss League format Mohammedans registered a 3.5-5 win over Mahakkhal Prodeep Sangha to keep their hopes alive for the second successive championship.

In the days' round, Mohammedans three Grand Masters — Russian Mikhail Krasenkov, Indian Dibendu Barua and local Niaz Mursheed won their boards against Mahakkhal's Shantanu Lahiri, Aminul Islam and Arman Monir respectively while Enamul Hossain Rajib drew his board with Ahmed Hossain.

Earlier on Thursday, Mohammedans tamed Touch Stone Club 4-0 in the second round clash.

Last year's runners-up Bangladesh Biman and third Leonine Chess Club were jointly sharing the second spot with nine points each after yesterday's round.

In yesterday's matches Biman beat Konica Sangskritik Sangha by 2.5 points to 1.5 while Leonine outplayed Fire Service 4-0.

In the days' other matches, Bangladesh Ansars beat Sheikh Rukia Chess Club 3.5-5. BTMC defeated Dhaka University 2.5-1.5 while Farashganj Sporting Club recorded a 3-1 victory over Avtjatrik Chess Club.

Damal Smriti Surjo Tarun lights up

Sports Reporter

First Division champions Surjo Tarun Club got off to a flying start in the 17th Damal Smriti cricket tournament when they beat City Club by five wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing 202 to win in 50 overs, the Dhanmondi based club who will play in the Premier Division league this year by virtue of their First Division title last year, reached home (203) in the 36th over with five wickets in their hand. Openers Muztaba Nurul Hadi and Biplab, who added 124 runs for the first wicket stand, scored 60 and 88 runs respectively for the winners.

Earlier electing to bat first, City Club reached 202 in 50 overs before they were all out. Rezaul Hasan (37) and Murtaza Ahmed (33) were the leading scorers for City Club.

For Surjo Tarun, Rafiqul captured three wickets for 49 runs while M Mustaq and Shamsul Huda took two wickets each.

Stadium shutdown

ZURICH, Nov 8: Guatemala's Mateo Flores Stadium, where 83 people were killed in a stampede at a World Cup qualifying match last month, has been shut down indefinitely by soccer's world governing body FIFA, reports AP.

The stadium "is to be used for no matches until further notice," FIFA said Thursday. Guatemala's upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago will be played in other countries.

A number of other neighbouring countries have offered to stage these games on Guatemala's behalf, FIFA said.

FIFA officials said there was no question of suspending Guatemala from the World Cup. "In my opinion Guatemala football has already had enough punishment," FIFA vice president Lennart Johansson said. "There is no need to add insult to injury."

The stampede, which occurred October 16 at a game between Guatemala and Costa Rica, was blamed on overcrowding caused by the sale of counterfeit tickets.

In an earlier statement last month on the tragedy, FIFA urged the removal of perimeter fencing at soccer stadiums like the type that surrounded the field at Mateo Flores.

On Thursday, FIFA put off a decision until mid-January on whether to remove fences at the French stadiums which will be used for the 1998 World Cup.

FIFA said it was awaiting a report on the issue from a newly-appointed French government study group.

WHIZZ KID-56 winner

Md Zahidul Alam Dhanmondi Boys' High School (Remember to bring one passport size photograph and your ID card while collecting your prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star on Nov 13 at 8 pm).



Abahani opener Javed Omar Belim Golla nudges one during Thursday's clash against Bangladesh Boys at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. —Star photo

Boys raise false alarm

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Abahani made a fair start in the Damal Smriti cricket tournament while Victoria Sporting Club suffered an upset defeat in their respective matches held in two different venues in the capital on Thursday.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, last year's runners up Abahani posted a face saving 24-run victory over Bangladesh Boys Club while Victorians lost to Gopibagh Friends Association by 30 runs at the City Club ground in Mirpur.

In a low-scoring affair at the Dhanmondi ground, the home side, after being put into bat, were all out for a paltry 160 in the final delivery of the 50th over.

Middle-order Naimur Rahman Durjoy scored highest 29 off 50 balls followed by tail ender Iqbal Hossain who added 26 runs. Among others, opener Javed Omar Belim Golla and lower middle-order Biplab Sarkar scored 16 and 15 runs respectively for the Dhanmondi outfit.

Bangladesh Boys' two new ball bowlers — ZR Sayeed and Rashedul Hassan, captured three wickets each conceding 30 and 32 runs respectively while they were equally supported by Sayeed Hassan who took two wickets for 22 runs.

In reply, Boys were bundled out for 136 in 48.3 overs with middle-order Sayeed Hassan top scoring with 42 runs. Pavel (23) was the other notable scorer for the losing side.

For Abahani, medium-pacers Zakir Hossain and Iqbal shared three wickets each while national off-break bowler Shiekh Salahuddin captured two wickets.

NEHAL NAILS VICTORIA

Put into bat in the day's other match, Gopibagh lost their tenth wicket in the 49th

over with the scoreboard reading 181. Middle-order Azim Hossain scored 59 off 72 balls inclusive of five boundaries while opener Nehaluddin added 31 runs to the Gopibagh account.

In reply, Victorians were all out for 151 in 49.2 overs with Rahul scoring highest 32.

Gopibagh's Nadeem Nazir took three wickets conceding 19 runs while Saiful Islam Babu and Nehaluddin captured two wickets each giving away 14 and 23 runs respectively.

BRIEF SCORES

ABAHANI: 160 in 50 overs (Durjoy 29, Iqbal 26, Golla 16, Sayeed 3/30, Rashedul 3/32)
BANGLADESH BOYS: 136 in 48.3 overs (Sayeed Hossain 42, Pavel 23, Iqbal 3/24, Zakir 3/30)
GOPIBAGH FA: 181 in 48.5 overs (Azim 59, Nehal 31, Tahir 3/15, Rahul 3/48)
VICTORIA SC: 151 in 49.2 overs (Rahul 32, Sohel 23, Nadeem 3/19, Babu 2/14)

Gilchrist's timely ton

PERTH, Nov 8: Wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist hit an unbeaten century against the West Indies on Friday.

Hooper removed Martyn and then Rob Baker for 27 just before the tea break but Gilchrist refused to yield as the state team moved to a very respectable total.

Thompson bowled Lavender after his patient 51 after earlier bowling his fellow opener Mike Hussey for four.

With the first Test in Brisbane just a fortnight away, Thompson staked his claim to be the fourth paceman behind Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh and Ian Bishop, who was made 12th man for this game.

The solidly-built 25-year-old from Barbados made his Test debut against New Zealand in April and beat Hussey for pace with a superb inswinging Yorker in the fourth over.

Lavender wasted his 194-minute stay at the crease by flailing at a full, wide ball from Thompson and dragging it into his stumps.

The game is the West Indies opening first-class fixture on tour after two losses and a one-wicket win in three limited-overs matches.

Carl Hooper was the most effective bowler, finishing with figures of 3-64, while Patterson Thompson laid down a challenge for a Test spot by taking 2-24 from 13 impressive overs.

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Seoul opens, Tokyo closes

Rivals reach compromise

TOKYO, Nov 8: Japan and South Korea have cleared the first and biggest hurdle of the 2002 World Cup by agreeing to play the opening match in Seoul and the final in Tokyo, officials said on Thursday, reports agencies.

The Japanese officials said the final would be staged in Tokyo's neighbouring port city of Yokohama where a brand new stadium was being built for the event.

"Overall, we are satisfied," Deputy Sport Minister Choi Chang-shin told MBC-TV Thursday. "We are especially happy with the official name of the tournament, which puts South Korea ahead of Japan."

The event is to be called the "2002 FIFA World Cup Korea-Japan." In addition to the opening

and closing matches and ceremonies, the semifinals will also be split between the co-hosts. The match for 3rd and 4th place will be held in South Korea.

In the compromise, FIFA also rejected Japan's request to increase the number of teams and decided to keep it a 32-country, 64-game competition.

Major pre-Cup functions, including a FIFA executive committee meeting, will be held in South Korea, the officials said.

Drawing lots for groupings for qualifying rounds for the Cup will be done in Japan, while drawing lots for groupings for Cup finalists will be staged in South Korea.

The Asian hosts will be allowed to form separate organising committees, but no decision was made on how to split profits among them and FIFA.

The compromise was not supposed to be announced until a Dec. 7 FIFA executive committee meeting in Barcelona. But South Korean officials confirmed the terms Thursday's after South Korean reporters broke an embargo.

The Zurich meeting officially brought together Japanese and South Korean delegates for the first time since the 2002 tournament was awarded to both countries on May 31.

FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter, who had earlier expressed concern about the lack of cooperation between the two Asian rivals, said in Zurich that both parties showed a willingness to work together.

"I was very impressed by the way they tried to help us come to the decisions," he said after the meeting. "In the end, we were in agreement on all these main points."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Whale group 36 Whom Daba 4 Organization 37 Wharton's farmer 8 Ponder 40 Grad 12 Sapporo 41 Hardly rigid 13 Okana 42 Delli buy 14 Start of a crystal-gazer's claim 46 Derma- 49 Bleakly 50 Pessimistic 51 A lo-o-long time 18 Quaker's address 52 Down 19 'Hammer-in' Hank' 20 On staff 22 Tie 24 TV's Jeannie 25 Rustic 29 '— Miserables' 30 Championship 31 Inseparable 32 Hedge-podge 34 Doggy treat? 35 Fraternal

Crossword grid with numbers 1-35 and letters K V Q W U V Q D Z N F U

Solution time: 26 mins. Yesterday's answer: 36 Singer John 37 Custardlike dessert 38 Puerto — 39 Atlanta arena 40 Spot of wine? 42 Faux follower 43 Diving bird 44 Low sound? 45 B&B