

## Police beat Wari

Sports Reporter

Police Athletics Club defeated Wari Club by a solitary goal in a Danish First Division football league encounter at the Army Stadium yesterday. Striker Humayun Kabir scored the match-winning in the 53rd minute.

With yesterday's win, Police increased their tally to 13 points from 12 matches while Wari remained on 17 points from as many matches.

## Beijing sticks to its guns

BEIJING, Nov 18: Boxing will never be a professional sport in China because it is too dangerous, the sports authorities have ruled, reports AFP.

Boxing was banned in 1959 for being too bourgeois and unhealthy by the country's communist rulers. It was allowed amateur status again in 1986 under reformist leader Deng Xiaoping.

But Chinese Boxing Association (CBA) secretary general Zhang Dacheng said "professional boxing is too dangerous."

"China won't have professional boxers and neither will it stage its own professional fights."

"It will allow professional bouts in the country between foreign fighters," he added. Boxing has developed in the country and Cuban, Russian and European coaches have been taken on. The high point for boxing fans in China came in 1993 when the World Boxing Organisation stage its light-heavyweight title bout "the brawl at the wall" in Beijing.

## Tikhonov proves tradition wrong

MOSCOW, Nov 18: Who said nice guys finish last?

Spartak Moscow midfielder Andrei Tikhonov, known as one of the most amiable people in the game here, proved the theory wrong this week by being named Russia's player-of-the-year, reports AFP.

Tikhonov received 27 votes in a national poll of head coaches, beating Rotor Volgograd's Oleg Veretennikov and teammate Ilya Tsymlab.

The news didn't take me all by surprise," he revealed Wednesday after the award. "I've sort of expected something like this to happen."

Recognition of his efforts came just three days after Tikhonov celebrated his international debut by scoring against Luxembourg in a World Cup qualifier.

But he will have to put the champagne on ice at least until Saturday's finale against Albania in Vladikavkaz, a clash which will decide the league title.

Last year, Tikhonov had to assume the leading role in Spartak's line-up following the departures of Viktor Onopko, Stanislav Cherchesov, Sergei Yuran and Vasily Kulikov to foreign clubs after they had made their names in the Champions' League.

His value to the team increased still more this season when stalwarts such as captain Andrei Platitsky and Tsymlab were injured, making Tikhonov the only survivor from last year's squad.

Primarily a fleet-footed winger, the star has played in several positions, including sweeper. And his versatility was put to the ultimate test in a UEFA Cup match against Denmark's Silkeborg in September. Having scored two early goals for his team, Tikhonov was forced to go in goal in the last five minutes to replace regular keeper Ruslan Nigmatullin, sent off for a "professional foul."

## Ex-coach put behind bars

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 18: A former national track and field coach was Friday ordered to spend four years in jail for sexually molesting two teen-age women athletes, reports AP.

C. Ramanathan, sentenced to two four-year concurrent prison terms, said he will appeal.

In passing sentence, Judge Umi Kalthum Abdul Majid said he took a serious view of the case because the 60-year-old defendant broke the trust of two naive girls, aged 15 and 16, who could not discern what was permissible and what was not.

## ATP top rankings

MONACO, Nov 18 (Reuters): Leading rankings issued by the ATP Tour on Monday:

1. Pete Sampras (US)	4,298 points
2. Michael Chang (US)	3,584
3. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)	3,564
4. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)	3,444
5. Thomas Muster (Austria)	3,166
6. Boris Becker (Ger many)	2,634
7. Andre Agassi (US)	2,364
8. Richard Krajcik (Netherlands)	2,262
9. Thomas Enqvist (Sweden)	2,162
10. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa)	2,149
11. Marcelo Rios (Chile)	2,114
12. Todd Martin (US)	2,036
13. Alberto Costa (Spain)	1,757
14. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)	1,567
15. Jan Siemerink (Netherlands)	1,530
16. Magnus Gustafsson (Sweden)	1,518
17. Felix Mantilla (Spain)	1,515
18. Alberto Berasategui (Spain)	1,477
20. Maliwa Washington (US)	1,472

# Abahani cross BU hurdle

Sports Reporter



Defending champions Abahani recorded their eighth victory in the Danish Premier Division football league when they handed dwindling Brothers Union Club a 1-2 defeat in their return leg engagement at the Mirpur Stadium last night.

In a crucial league match, Abahani, last two year's champions, dominated the first half through former national midfielder Rumi Rizvi Karim and national winger Mamun Joardar. On the other hand, capitalising on the tiredness of the sky-blue outfit, the Gopibagh boys pulled one back through midfielder Uttam midway through the second half.

The win raised Abahani's tally to 28 points from 12 matches and kept them in the title race behind their arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club who are leading the elite league table with 29 points playing one match less. The black and whites will move four points clear if they win against Farashganj Sporting Club in tonight's encounter at the same venue.

Brothers Union, who secured eighth place in the Premier league last season and who suffered their sixth defeat last night, remained in the sixth spot with 14 points also from 12 outings.

Abahani, who's hopes for a treble of championships got severe blows after they drew four matches out of twelve, began yesterday's match on a positive note. Although they had a terrific game in the first half dominating the entire 45 minutes, the sprite began to fade right from the very beginning of the second session as they all looked tired and unable to keep cool against a moderate BU attacking line up.

With their new Russian signing Andrei Kazakov, who entertained local soccer lovers as a leading marksman for Mohammedan Sporting Club for the last two years, and with Myanmar midfielder Than Toi Aung, Abahani took control of the proceedings right from the first whistle.

Although, they had a couple of chances to go ahead early in the match, it took them 22 minutes to get into the lead: a freekick at the top of the BU box ushering the opportunity.

Kazakov's grounder from a Munna pass deflected off the wall to Rumi who was standing unguarded inside the inner box. Rumi, the former Abahani skipper, made no mistake in brilliantly placing the ball home beating an advancing BU goalie Milan (1-0).

After seven minutes, Abahani doubled the margin as Mamun Joardar, capitalising on a misunderstanding between two BU defenders, Mizan and

Shahjada, got a long through from Munna inside the box with no one to stop him. Seeing a clear chance ahead of him, Mamun rushed towards the post and beat the BU keeper with a magnificent placing shot (2-0).

After the breather, Brothers, who suffered a 0-3 defeat to Mohammedans in their previous outing last week, tried to restore some of their lost pride with some organised teamwork down in the midfield.

Midfielder Uttam reduced the margin with a placing shot

## BROTHERS UNION:

Milan, Bishu, Mizan, Shahjada, Govinda (Imadul), Uttam, Pijush, Bakhtiar, Tipu (Amin Khan), Joy and Jamal. Referee: Subhash Roy.

## FAKIRERPOOL WIN

Earlier in the day's first match, Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool recorded a convincing 3-1 victory over promoters Bangladesh Boys Club.

In an one-sided affair, Fakirerpool led the first half 1-



Abahani's new Russian recruit Andrei Kazakov (R) heads the ball while Brothers Union midfielder Bakhtiar tries to resist that during yesterday's Danish Premier Division football league encounter at the Mirpur Stadium. Abahani win the match 2-1.

—Star photo

from a corner in the 24th minute.

After the goal, it seemed that the Gopibagh boys would level the score as they almost cornered the defending champions with a series of offensives.

But, thanks to the Abahani defenders, who guarded their fort with their feet their side was spared further damage.

Yellow card: Kazakov (Abahani), Bakhtiar and Govinda (BU).

## TEAMS

ABAHANI: Biplab, Hasan Al Mamun, Munna, Selah Reza, Partho, Rakib, Barun, Rumi (Mizan), Than Toi Aung (Swapan), Mamun Joardar (Jahangir) and Kazakov.

U. Skipper Askar Babu put Fakirerpool ahead with a brilliant header from a left side Jalal lob in the fifth minute. Monwar doubled the score in the 60th minute with a powerful grounder from an Asif centre. Striker Jalal added the third goal in the 76th minute from a Kanchan through.

On the other hand, Shuvo pulled back one for Bangladesh Boys converting a penalty in the 88th minute.

This was the fourth league win for Fakirerpool in 13 matches which raised their tally to 19 points while Boys remained at the bottom of the table with six points from as many matches.

# Blewett blows WI away



HOBART, Nov 18: West Indies on Monday slumped to a crushing 10 wicket defeat in their final warm-up match to complete dismal preparation for the first Test against Australia, starting in Brisbane on Friday, report agencies.

Former Test all-rounder Greg Blewett snared a career best five for 29 as the tourists were humiliated by an Australian XI team featuring a host of fringe Test players.

## Popov ready to roll

CANBERRA, Nov 18: Russian double Olympic swimming champion Alexander Popov, who was stabbed in the abdomen in August, said today he would resume training and competition in the next few weeks, reports Reuters.

Popov, the only man to retain the Olympic 50 and 100 metre freestyle titles, has returned to Australia, his training base for the past four years.

"I should be competing again in the next couple of weekends. I don't know, if I feel like racing I'll step on the block and do it," Popov said.

He was wounded after arguing with a group of roadside watermelon vendors in Moscow on August 24, four weeks after his double triumph at the Atlanta Games.

Popov said he was a little tentative about the prospect of returning to the water for the first time since the incident.

"After the accident, I think a lot of people don't believe me and to make sure that I'm all right I have to swim faster," he said.

"If I recover from this accident, it means that I'm strong enough to handle even this kind of accident and swim even faster."

Popov has yet to decide whether to compete at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

Danish Premier Division football league	Mohammedan SC vs Farashganj SC
Danish First Division football league	Victia SC vs BRIC (Mirpur Stadium, 5:30 pm)
17th Damal Smriti cricket tournament	Abahani vs Ajax SC (Dhaka Stadium, 9:00 am)

But West Indies coach Malcolm Marshall played down the significance of the heavy and untimely defeat, just four days before the first ball is bowled at the Gabba.

"We have struggled at the start of tours before and played well in the first Test. You shouldn't try to read too much into it and I'm sure we'll be firing come Friday," Marshall said.

The tourists failed to bat through the day on Monday to salvage a draw after being forced to follow on in reply to the home side's massive first innings of 544 for four declared.

Victoria opener Mathew Elliott, who scored 158 in the first innings, celebrated his selection for the first Test by guiding the Australia XI to victory.

After being dismissed for 317, West Indies scored 251 in their second innings, leaving the home side to chase a paltry target of 25 runs for victory.

Elliott, who replaced opener Michael Slater in the Test line-up, easily completed the task in partnership with Matthew Hayden, scorer of a brilliant double century in the first innings.

Blewett was a member of the victorious Australian team in the Caribbean last year but was overlooked for the Brisbane Test.

Originally picked for his all round abilities, the 25-year-old South Australian started the West Indies demise with the first ball after lunch when he trapped Carl Hooper lbw for 12.

Roland Holder went the same way in the same over before superstar Brian Lara hammered left-arm wrist-spinner Brad Hogg to erase the 227-run deficit and set sail in search of a draw.

But when Andrew Bichel took a great catch at mid-on to get rid of Lara for 63, off Hogg, Blewett cleaned up the rest with some accurate bowling on a pitch keeping low.

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## Reception

A grand reception was accorded yesterday to 15 member Bangladesh team which won 6 gold, 1 silver and 9 bronze medals in the first Asia-Pacific Special Olympic Games held in Shanghai, China from November 8 to 11, reports BSS.

The reception organised by the National Sports Council in its conference room was attended by Minister of State for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader as chief guest who congratulated the mentally retarded sportsmen on their great success.

The State Minister gave away cheques of Taka 25,000, 15,000 and 5,000 to the gold, silver and bronze winners, respectively.

The reception was also attended by Haron-ur-Rashid MP and Secretary of Youth and Sports Ministry ASM Shahjahan.

## Taher tennis on

Sports Reporter

Army Tennis Club got off to a sound start in the Taher inter-club tennis tournament with a 3-0 thrashing of Bagha Club at the Gulshan Club tennis court yesterday.

Appearing on inaugural day's lone engagement of ten-team meet, Lt Col Tassadeque set the pattern of one-way traffic with a 6-0, 6-0 whitewash of Tim Robertson of Bagha Club in the singles. While Lt Col Zia and Lt Col Kabir handed a 6-1, 6-3 defeat on Bagha duo of Tim Robertson and Andrew Hucklebody in one of the two doubles engagements.

The tournament, an annual event in the calendar of hosts Gulshan Club, was earlier declared open by MA Taher, the sponsor of the meet.

The other participating teams in the meet are — Officers Club, Dhaka University Club, Navy Club, American Club, Engineers' Club, Mymensingh Club, Dhaka Club and hosts Gulshan Club.

## IOC meeting concludes

CANCUN, Mexico, Nov 18: International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch called on Sunday for more women competitors in the Olympic Games, reports Reuters.

Speaking at the end of a four-day IOC executive meeting, Samaranch said women had comprised 37 per cent of the athletes at this year's Atlanta Games.

"Maybe we will arrive at 40 per cent in Sydney," he said. The important thing is to have more women. Samaranch cited women's weight lifting as a sport which could be introduced to the Games.

During the meeting, Atlanta organisers said the final budget surplus would probably be less than 10 million dollars.

IOC medical officials said the drug bromantane, used both a stimulant and a masking agent, would be banned from February next year.

Five Russians tested positive in Atlanta for the drug which was developed by the former Soviet military for use by cosmonauts.

IOC officials also confirmed cities hosting future Olympics would be bound by contract to avoid the type of commercialisation which marred the Atlanta Games.

Initial television figures showed worldwide viewership for the Atlanta Games was up 15 to 20 per cent from 19-20 billion viewers for the 1992 Games.

The IOC said it expected to announce the results of its investigation into allegations of corruption among boxing judges at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

The next IOC executive meeting is scheduled for March next year in Lausanne. Officials will announce a short list of candidates for the 2004 Summer Games from the present 11 candidates.

## Maradona's admission

ROME, Nov 18: Former Argentina captain Diego Maradona has admitted avoiding matches when his own private dope tests were positive, the Italian newspaper La Repubblica reported on Monday, reports Reuters.

Maradona, who has received treatment for cocaine addiction, also told the newspaper in an interview in Buenos Aires that he hoped to play again for Argentine club Boca Juniors before the end of the year.

The 36-year-old, whose manager Guillermo Coppola is in jail over cocaine-dealing charges, denied recent allegations that his urine sample was switched with that of another player after a routine post-match test on August 11.

The sample from the other player, from Boca's opponents Estudiantes, was found to be positive. Maradona, whose test was negative, has not played for the club since then and went to a Swiss clinic for treatment shortly after the match.

"It's a load of nonsense. Because for years I have done my own anti-doping controls on my own, during the week before the match. And if I tested positive in my tests, I did not play on Sunday," Maradona said of the allegations.

"And I played that time didn't I? And so..."

Once the most expensive player in the world, Maradona's career has been dogged by scandal.

In 1994 he was banned from international matches for 15 months after failing a dope test at the World Cup finals in the United States.

In 1991 he was banned for 15 months for testing positive for cocaine while playing for Napoli in Italy.

# Twin tons MSC's triumph

Sports Reporter

## BRIEF SCORES

**MOHAMMEDAN SC:** 268/4 in 50 overs (Parvez 112, Bulbul 107 n.o., Korshed Alam 3/28) **LALMATIA CLUB:** 128 all out in 36.5 overs (Nobel 25, extras 25, Shanto 3/16).



Skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul and opener Parvez Ahmed in a rare exhibition of quality batsmanship hammered two centuries in an

50 overs. Young Parvez, who joined Mohammedans this year from Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, celebrated his maiden ton at this level of cricket with a disciplined 112 while Bulbul blasted a polished unbeaten 107 to make a light work on the lowly Lalmatia, a surprise qualifier in the elite six-team second phase.

In front of a handsome crowd at the big bowl, it was, however, not a smooth start for the holders when an out-of-form opener Sajjad Ahmed Monsur Shipon (4) and one-

well as to get the selectors' nod for the national duty, displayed himself as a perfect ally for an experienced Aminul Islam Bulbul in the fourth wicket.

The two, playing with a great deal of confidence, not only steadied the rocking boat, but also guided the team to a commanding total, punishing the odd deliveries with vindication as well as mugging and pushing all over the ground.

Although, Bulbul raced ahead of Parvez to complete his fifth, the latter leaptfrogged his skipper to reach the magical three figure mark with an off-drive off Korshed in the 43rd over.

The promising right-hander, who clubbed a dozen of sweetly-timed fours in his 137-ball stay at the crease, was eventually out in the 45th over when Lalmatia's Pakistani right-arm seamer Qamran Hossain had his middle-stump scattered. But for Parvez, the sad episode of his epic innings could be he was dismissed at a moment when Gordon Greenidge, the newly appointed coach of the national team, had just zoomed his eyes on him from the cosy room of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board.

On the other hand, Bulbul notched up his first ton of the season in the last over with one run off former national right-arm seamer Morshed and then, as if, celebrated it with a boundary in the last ball of the innings, his sixth off 124-ball undefeated knock. The most fascinating trait of the national vice-captain is that he is yet to be conquered this season.

In reply, Lalmatia got off to a rollicking start with openers Nurul Abedin Nobel and Anup Biswas clobbering 40 runs off only 30 deliveries. But once Hasibul Hossain Shanto, the Mohammedan strike bowler, made the break through in the seventh over by yorking Anup (14) the promotes in the Premier Division this year never stuck to their chase for a daunting task of scoring more than five runs per over.

Shanto, the national new-ball bowler, then went on to rip through the Lalmatia top-order including a marauding Nobel to finish with three for 16 in his seven niggling overs.

Nobel smote a rapid-fire 25 off only 18 deliveries, before falling to a well judged catch at backward point by Sujon, who had also clung on to a hot stuff offered by Qamran (2) at square leg to give Shanto his second scalp.

With this win Mohammedans, who have been placed in the same groups with Lalmatia and Kalabagan, almost confirmed a semifinal berth of the meet. They will take on Kalabagan November 22.



THE VIBRANT DUO: Mohammedan skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul (R) and opener Parvez Ahmed, who scored centuries against Lalmatia at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

—Star photo

innings as defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club kicked off the second round of the 17th Damal Smriti cricket tournament with a crushing 140-run victory over Lalmatia Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Appearing in the inaugural match of the second phase of the season's curtain-raiser, Bulbul and Parvez put on 176 runs for the third wicket as Mohammedans, sent into bat in the morning, amassed a mammoth 268 for 4 in their share of

down Sanwar Hossain, who returned for a first ball golden duck, perished in successive deliveries from Korshed Alam, leaving Mohammedans in tatters at 12/2 in the third over of the innings.

Mohammedans' misery was compounded when Korshed, the Lalmatia new-ball bowler who was solely responsible for the early collapse, removed Pakistani Laeeq Ahmed (14) for his third scalp in the match.

But Parvez, craving for a permanent place in his side as

# No change at the top

Sports Reporter



Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club maintained its solo lead in the Metropolitan First Division chess league with 39.5 points at the end of the eleventh round played at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On Monday, Mohammedans, considered to be the best side in the 16-team league having three Grand Masters in their squad, registered an easy 4-0 victory over Fire Service.

Mohammedans two foreign players GM Krasenkov of Russia and GM Dibendu Barua of India won their respective boards against Noor-E-Alam and Motiur Rahman while their team-mates national junior champion Abdullah Al Rakib and sub-junior champ Enamul Hossain Rajib beat Shawkat Hossain and Jasimuddin of Fire Service in the two other boards.

With yesterday's win, Mohammedans remained atop

the table with a three point lead over second-placed Biman and Leonine Chess Club who have 36.5 points each on completion of their 11th round clashes.

In yesterday's round, Biman, runners-up last year, beat Narayanangj Daba Khelwar Kalyan Samity 4-0 while Leonine, who had been leading the table till the ninth round, recorded a 2.5-1.5 win over Bangladesh Ansars.

Biman's IM Ziaur Rahman, IM Rezaul Karim Sattar, FIDE Master Tahmidur Rahman and Khandkar Kayes Hasan won their boards against Narayanangj's Munir, Morsalin, Anwar and Rajib Ali respectively.

On the other hand, Leonine's Indian IM Parameswaran and local Emon beat Ansars' Jamilur Rahman and Tayebur Rahman. Ansars Arifuzzaman defeated Leonine's Rafiqul Islam and the other match between Ansars Ali Anjad and Leonine's Sheikh Nasir ended in a draw.

In the day's other matches,

BTMC trounced Avijatrik Chess Club 4-0. Mahakali Prodeep Sangha blanked Touchstone Club 4-0. Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra outplayed Farashganj Sporting Club 4-0. Anushilion Daba Kiria Chakra beat Konica Sangkritik Sangha 3-1 while Dhaka University and Narayanangj Chess Club shared points with a 2-2 draw.