

Sport

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-winner 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 staged 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 Oleg Tsymbalov.

"The news didn't take me all by surprise," he revealed Wednesday after the award. "We 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 Alania 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 Cheresov, Sergei Yuran and Vasily Kukov 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 Platnitsky and Tsymbalov 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 teenage 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 (Germany) 2,634

7. Andre Agassi (US) 2,364

8. Richard Krajicek (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) 2,039

13. Alberto Costa (Spain) 1,757

14. Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 1,567

15. Jan Siemerink (Netherlands) 1,530

16. Michael Stich (Germany) 1,518

17. Magnus Gustafsson (Sweden) 1,515

18. Felix Mantilla (Spain) 1,505

19. Alberto Berasategui (Spain) 1,477

20. Maitai 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 dwindle 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 which produced two goals through former national midfielder Rumi Rizvi Karim and national winger Mamun Joarder. 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 Farashgan 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 sprits 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 using 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 goaler Milan (1-0).

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

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.

—Star photo

0. Skipper Askar Babu put Fakirerpool ahead with a brilliant head from a left side Jhallob 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 89th 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 slumped to a crushing 10-wicket defeat in their final warm up match to complete a 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 Reuter.

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 water melon vendors in Moscow on August 24, four weeks after his double triumph at the Australia 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 Farashgan SC

Danish First Division football league

Virtua SC vs BRTC

Mirpur Stadium, 3:30 pm

Rahangjan SC vs PWD SC

Army Stadium, 3 pm

17th Damal Smriti cricket tournament

Abahani vs Ajax SC

(Dhaka Stadium, 9:00 am)

HOBART, Nov 18: Australia on Monday recalled leg-spinner Shane Warne after injury but discarded opener Michael Slater for the first cricket Test against the West Indies.

Selectors announced the squad on Monday at Hobart's Bellerive Oval during the fourth and final day of a tour match regarded as a selection trial for Australia's fringe Test candidates.

Warne returned to first-class cricket as Victoria captain ten days ago but has bowled only sparingly in two domestic Sheffield Shield matches.

He underwent surgery in May to repair ligaments in the ring finger of his bowling hand and has since been troubled by swelling of the joint after exercise.

His return strengthens Australia's bowling attack after injuries ruled out veteran fast bowler Craig McDermott and fellow paceman Damien Fleming.

New-ball strike bowler Glenn McGrath was named in the Test line-up but he faces a fitness test on a blistered heel on Wednesday.

Fast bowlers Michael Kasprowicz and Jason Gillespie are expected to challenge for the remaining berth in the pace attack alongside McGrath and Paul Reiffel.

Slater has been replaced by fellow opener Matthew Elliott, who forced his way into the Test

side with a century for an Australian XI against West Indies on Saturday.

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