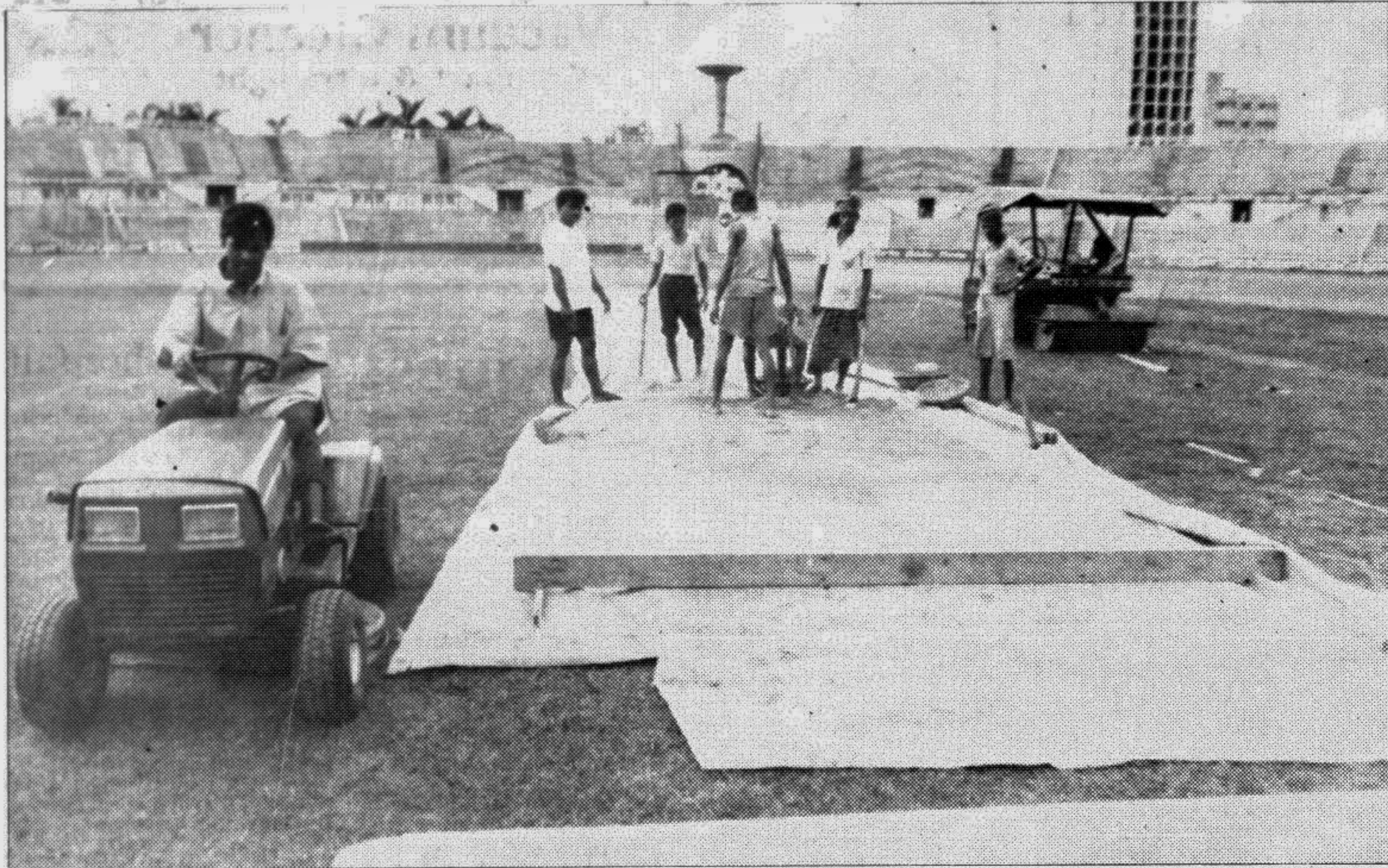


Sport



Groundsmen preparing an artificial turf for the second semifinal of the national cricket championship at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Holders Chittagong DSA will meet Dhaka University tomorrow. — Star photo

DU in semis

Sports Reporter

Dhaka University rolled up a hapless Mymensingh by seven wickets at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday to set up a semifinal clash in the 23rd national cricket championship against holders Chittagong.

The three-day semifinal is scheduled to begin at the Dhaka Stadium from May 6.

In a low-scoring affair Dhaka University, chasing a paltry Mymensingh total of 107 in the stipulated 50 overs, milked the required 110 for the loss of three wickets and in only 28.2 overs.

Opener Javed Omar Belim, popularly known as Golla, top-scored with 45 while Sajid Hassan hammered an unbeaten 26.

Earlier, the four recognised Dhaka University bowlers put the team on a silky passage, or an emphatic victory restricting Mymensingh for only 107 in 37.5 overs.

New-ball bowlers Talha and Rahul consumed half of the Mymensingh wickets while the two tweakers — national all-rounder Naimur Rahman and left-arm spinner Sharfudowlah-ibne Shaheed Saikat — did the rest to set the stage for a big win.

Of the four, Saikat returned most successful with three for only 16 runs while Talha, who made the initial in-roads, gave away 27 runs for his three scalps.

Naimur finished with two for 17 and his BKSP mate Rahul claimed two wickets for 27 runs.

BRIEF SCORES

MYMENSINGH DSA: 107 all out in 37.5 overs (Mont 24; Saikat 3/16, Talha 3/27, Durjoy 2/17, Rahul 2/27).

DHAKA UNIVERSITY: 110/3 in 28.2 overs (Golla 45; Sajid not out 26, Munna 17, Durjoy 5)

san hammered an unbeaten 26.

Earlier, the four recognised Dhaka University bowlers put the team on a silky passage, or an emphatic victory restricting Mymensingh for only 107 in 37.5 overs.

New-ball bowlers Talha and Rahul consumed half of the Mymensingh wickets while the two tweakers — national all-rounder Naimur Rahman and left-arm spinner Sharfudowlah-ibne Shaheed Saikat — did the rest to set the stage for a big win.

Of the four, Saikat returned most successful with three for only 16 runs while Talha, who made the initial in-roads, gave away 27 runs for his three scalps.

Naimur finished with two for 17 and his BKSP mate Rahul claimed two wickets for 27 runs.

san hammered an unbeaten 26.

Earlier, the four recognised Dhaka University bowlers put the team on a silky passage, or an emphatic victory restricting Mymensingh for only 107 in 37.5 overs.

New-ball bowlers Talha and Rahul consumed half of the Mymensingh wickets while the two tweakers — national all-rounder Naimur Rahman and left-arm spinner Sharfudowlah-ibne Shaheed Saikat — did the rest to set the stage for a big win.

Of the four, Saikat returned most successful with three for only 16 runs while Talha, who made the initial in-roads, gave away 27 runs for his three scalps.

Naimur finished with two for 17 and his BKSP mate Rahul claimed two wickets for 27 runs.

san hammered an unbeaten 26.

Earlier, the four recognised Dhaka University bowlers put the team on a silky passage, or an emphatic victory restricting Mymensingh for only 107 in 37.5 overs.

New-ball bowlers Talha and Rahul consumed half of the Mymensingh wickets while the two tweakers — national all-rounder Naimur Rahman and left-arm spinner Sharfudowlah-ibne Shaheed Saikat — did the rest to set the stage for a big win.

Of the four, Saikat returned most successful with three for only 16 runs while Talha, who made the initial in-roads, gave away 27 runs for his three scalps.

Naimur finished with two for 17 and his BKSP mate Rahul claimed two wickets for 27 runs.

Samson keeps his crown

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Thailand, May 4: Reigning world Boxing Federation (WBF) champion Samson Dutchboygm of Thailand defended his title with a technical knockout over No. 4 contender Bong Arlos of the Philippines in his 18th title defence Friday, reports AFP.

In the battle of southpaws, both fought with similar styles of leading right punches and left hooks and swings but Samson, 25, proved to have more power and accuracy.

After dominating the fight from the start, Samson finished up his challenger with a series of four left hooks to face.

The Australian referee made a count of eight while Arlos, 26, shook his head not wanting to fight on. The referee awarded a technical knockout win to Samson who improved his clear fight record to 23 wins (21 kos). Arlos' record turned 24 wins, one draw and eight losses.

Mehrab misses century

Sports Reporter

Mehrab Hossain Opi scored a dazzling 94 to help Dhaka District Sports Association (DDSA) piled up a challenging first innings total against Bangladesh Biman in the first semifinal of the 23rd national cricket championship at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The young right-hander, who came into bat at number five, played a gem of a knock to guide his side from a precarious 51/3 to a respectability before Dhaka were all out for 213 in 73.3 overs.

On the first day of the three-day match, Biman, in reply, were 34/1 in 13 overs at stumps. The national airline outfit, who lost their opener Ziaur Rashid Rupom for a duck, will resume their innings today with Athar

All (16) and Habibur Bashar Sumon (18) on the crease.

In the day's match, skipper Selim Shahed won the toss and elected to use the wicket first. But his play seemed to have backfired when Dhaka lost their opener Asif for only five runs on the board.

Left-handed opener Imran Hamid Partha, however, played an act of recovery displaying an enterprising 28 off 33 balls which laced with half a dozen fours. But once he was dismissed by spinner Shariful Haq Plabon, who also captured the wicket of one-down Adil (12), Dhaka slid from a strong position of 44/1 to 51/3.

Skipper Selim Shahed, who scored a patient 22 off 40 balls, paid the penalty while going for an ambitious shot.

But it was Mehrab's watchful vigil which steered Dhaka

All (16) and Habibur Bashar Sumon (18) on the crease.

In the day's match, skipper Selim Shahed won the toss and elected to use the wicket first. But his play seemed to have backfired when Dhaka lost their opener Asif for only five runs on the board.

Left-handed opener Imran Hamid Partha, however, played an act of recovery displaying an enterprising 28 off 33 balls which laced with half a dozen fours. But once he was dismissed by spinner Shariful Haq Plabon, who also captured the wicket of one-down Adil (12), Dhaka slid from a strong position of 44/1 to 51/3.

Skipper Selim Shahed, who scored a patient 22 off 40 balls, paid the penalty while going for an ambitious shot.

But it was Mehrab's watchful vigil which steered Dhaka

All (16) and Habibur Bashar Sumon (18) on the crease.

In the day's match, skipper Selim Shahed won the toss and elected to use the wicket first. But his play seemed to have backfired when Dhaka lost their opener Asif for only five runs on the board.

Left-handed opener Imran Hamid Partha, however, played an act of recovery displaying an enterprising 28 off 33 balls which laced with half a dozen fours. But once he was dismissed by spinner Shariful Haq Plabon, who also captured the wicket of one-down Adil (12), Dhaka slid from a strong position of 44/1 to 51/3.

Skipper Selim Shahed, who scored a patient 22 off 40 balls, paid the penalty while going for an ambitious shot.

But it was Mehrab's watchful vigil which steered Dhaka

All (16) and Habibur Bashar Sumon (18) on the crease.

In the day's match, skipper Selim Shahed won the toss and elected to use the wicket first. But his play seemed to have backfired when Dhaka lost their opener Asif for only five runs on the board.

Left-handed opener Imran Hamid Partha, however, played an act of recovery displaying an enterprising 28 off 33 balls which laced with half a dozen fours. But once he was dismissed by spinner Shariful Haq Plabon, who also captured the wicket of one-down Adil (12), Dhaka slid from a strong position of 44/1 to 51/3.

Skipper Selim Shahed, who scored a patient 22 off 40 balls, paid the penalty while going for an ambitious shot.

But it was Mehrab's watchful vigil which steered Dhaka

All (16) and Habibur Bashar Sumon (18) on the crease.

In the day's match, skipper Selim Shahed won the toss and elected to use the wicket first. But his play seemed to have backfired when Dhaka lost their opener Asif for only five runs on the board.

Left-handed opener Imran Hamid Partha, however, played an act of recovery displaying an enterprising 28 off 33 balls which laced with half a dozen fours. But once he was dismissed by spinner Shariful Haq Plabon, who also captured the wicket of one-down Adil (12), Dhaka slid from a strong position of 44/1 to 51/3.

Skipper Selim Shahed, who scored a patient 22 off 40 balls, paid the penalty while going for an ambitious shot.

But it was Mehrab's watchful vigil which steered Dhaka

While Mehrab, who was only six runs short of the magical three figure mark, spooned an easy catch in the deep off a Plabon spinner, leaving his side 205 for eight in 66 overs.

Plabon, a member of the Bangladesh team in the infamous ICC tour to Kenya, finished with three for 51 in his 17 overs. While national left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, who mopped up the Dhaka tail, also finished with three wickets.

While Mehrab, who was only six runs short of the magical three figure mark, spooned an easy catch in the deep off a Plabon spinner, leaving his side 205 for eight in 66 overs.

Plabon, a member of the Bangladesh team in the infamous ICC tour to Kenya, finished with three for 51 in his 17 overs. While national left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, who mopped up the Dhaka tail, also finished with three wickets.

While Mehrab, who was only six runs short of the magical three figure mark, spooned an easy catch in the deep off a Plabon spinner, leaving his side 205 for eight in 66 overs.

Plabon, a member of the Bangladesh team in the infamous ICC tour to Kenya, finished with three for 51 in his 17 overs. While national left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, who mopped up the Dhaka tail, also finished with three wickets.



Action from the Green Delta First Division match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Dhaka Ansars at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday. Mohammedans won 3-0. — Star photo

Mohammedans ride on Roni

Sports Reporter

Mohammad Hasan Roni celebrated an unlikely yet deserving hat-trick as defending champions Mohammedan

Sporting Club recorded their second successive win in the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league with a 3-0 trouncing on Dhaka Ansars at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The tall Mohammedan central defender who had to shoulder the burden of huge pressure following the mysterious absence of captain Mahfuzul Alam Nixon, the penalty corner

spectalist, rose to the occasion converting three short corners within the span of only six minutes into the second half.

After a barren first half, Roni opened the Mohammedan account in the 44th minute with a low drive off a Zahurul Islam Mitul push that squeezed into the left hand side of the post past a stretched Ansar custodian Rouf.

He scored his second goal four minutes later with a pile-driver which crashed against the left hand side of the board and then added the third in the 50th minute to complete a unique treble. It was the second hat-trick in this year's league so far following the one of Usha's

spectalist, rose to the occasion converting three short corners within the span of only six minutes into the second half.

After a barren first half, Roni opened the Mohammedan account in the 44th minute with a low drive off a Zahurul Islam Mitul push that squeezed into the left hand side of the post past a stretched Ansar custodian Rouf.

He scored his second goal four minutes later with a pile-driver which crashed against the left hand side of the board and then added the third in the 50th minute to complete a unique treble. It was the second hat-trick in this year's league so far following the one of Usha's

spectalist, rose to the occasion converting three short corners within the span of only six minutes into the second half.

After a barren first half, Roni opened the Mohammedan account in the 44th minute with a low drive off a Zahurul Islam Mitul push that squeezed into the left hand side of the post past a stretched Ansar custodian Rouf.

He scored his second goal four minutes later with a pile-driver which crashed against the left hand side of the board and then added the third in the 50th minute to complete a unique treble. It was the second hat-trick in this year's league so far following the one of Usha's

spectalist, rose to the occasion converting three short corners within the span of only six minutes into the second half.

After a barren first half, Roni opened the Mohammedan account in the 44th minute with a low drive off a Zahurul Islam Mitul push that squeezed into the left hand side of the post past a stretched Ansar custodian Rouf.

He scored his second goal four minutes later with a pile-driver which crashed against the left hand side of the board and then added the third in the 50th minute to complete a unique treble. It was the second hat-trick in this year's league so far following the one of Usha's

marksman.

Besides, in the first 35 minutes the ten-man Ansar defence led by their custodian Rouf, who made some brilliant saves, kept their awe-inspiring opponents at bay, putting away a wave of Mohammedan attacks like the billows of an accordion.

The agony of an under-strength Mohammedans, who lost two of their key players at the onset of the inter-club players' transfer, were mounted when Barkatullah Chapal deprived his side of a certain goal midway through the first half.

The ageing former national player, whose presence had hardly helped the cause of his side, got himself in the middle of Anisar box and played as if the role of an opponent defender to stop a goal-bound drive from his teammate Zahid Bisawas. But thanks to a cool and composed Roni, Mohammedans rolled up the match with a winning smile at the end of the day.

marksman.

Besides, in the first 35 minutes the ten-man Ansar defence led by their custodian Rouf, who made some brilliant saves, kept their awe-inspiring opponents at bay, putting away a wave of Mohammedan attacks like the billows of an accordion.

The agony of an under-strength Mohammedans, who lost two of their key players at the onset of the inter-club players' transfer, were mounted when Barkatullah Chapal deprived his side of a certain goal midway through the first half.

The ageing former national player, whose presence had hardly helped the cause of his side, got himself in the middle of Anisar box and played as if the role of an opponent defender to stop a goal-bound drive from his teammate Zahid Bisawas. But thanks to a cool and composed Roni, Mohammedans rolled up the match with a winning smile at the end of the day.

marksman.

Besides, in the first 35 minutes the ten-man Ansar defence led by their custodian Rouf, who made some brilliant saves, kept their awe-inspiring opponents at bay, putting away a wave of Mohammedan attacks like the billows of an accordion.

The agony of an under-strength Mohammedans, who lost two of their key players at the onset of the inter-club players' transfer, were mounted when Barkatullah Chapal deprived his side of a certain goal midway through the first half.

The ageing former national player, whose presence had hardly helped the cause of his side, got himself in the middle of Anisar box and played as if the role of an opponent defender to stop a goal-bound drive from his teammate Zahid Bisawas. But thanks to a cool and composed Roni, Mohammedans rolled up the match with a winning smile at the end of the day.

marksman.

Besides, in the first 35 minutes the ten-man Ansar defence led by their custodian Rouf, who made some brilliant saves, kept their awe-inspiring opponents at bay, putting away a wave of Mohammedan attacks like the billows of an accordion.

The agony of an under-strength Mohammedans, who lost two of their key players at the onset of the inter-club players' transfer, were mounted when Barkatullah Chapal deprived his side of a certain goal midway through the first half.

The ageing former national player, whose presence had hardly helped the cause of his side, got himself in the middle of Anisar box and played as if the role of an opponent defender to stop a goal-bound drive from his teammate Zahid Bisawas. But thanks to a cool and composed Roni, Mohammedans rolled up the match with a winning smile at the end of the day.



HASAN RONI ... hat-trick centre forward Kamal.

But apart from Roni's three quick blows, the title-holders showed little finesse throughout the proceedings. Especially, in the first half of the day's second match, Mohammedans, though quite expectedly went ahead of the lowly-rated Ansars, time and again failed to find the mark due to poor quality of

Man United nearer title

LONDON, May 4: Manchester United stumbled a little closer towards their fourth Premier League title in five years after retrieving a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 at Leicester on Saturday, reports AFP.

Two goals by Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued United from a defeat which would have given Liverpool and Arsenal renewed hope of catching the leaders as the title race entered its final week.

Steve Walsh and Ian Marshall had fired Leicester into a remarkable 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes and looked on course for a major upset after totally dominating the first half.

But United hit back and to secure a point which puts them five points clear of Arsenal, who were set to play Newcastle later, and six points clear of Liverpool who faced Tottenham in an evening kick off.

United boss Alex Ferguson was clearly bent on attack, naming all four strikers in his line-up Paul Scholes, Eric Cantona, Ole Solskjaer and Andy Cole.

But with the emphasis on attack, gaps emerged at the back and it was Leicester who went in front after just 16 minutes.

Gary Parker fired over deep corner from the left. Mark Elliott got his head to it but could only glance the ball further across to where defender Steve Walsh crashed the ball past Peter Schmeichel.

But there was worse to come for United as Ian Marshall raced onto Steve Claridge's short pass and turned inside Gary Neville before crashing a left foot shot past a shocked Schmeichel.

Leicester, who had taken just four points from their previous eight games, were now playing with a relish and commitment that United could not match, the champions so often a year slow in the head.

But as is their hallmark United turned defence into a devastating breakout that hauled them back into the match on the stroke of half-time.

Cole got in on the left of a disorganised Leicester back line and was able to pick out the unmarked Solskjaer to fire home from 12 yards.

United brought the game level in the 51st minute with a goal that had the home fans howling with cheer at the referee.

David May's challenge from behind on Claridge might have been punished with a yellow card by some officials but the official waved play on, and United broke upfield to score.

Cole was best placed by Kasey Keller beat down his shot, only for Solskjaer to pounce on the rebound and steer it home from six yards.

LONDON, May 4: Manchester United stumbled a little closer towards their fourth Premier League title in five years after retrieving a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 at Leicester on Saturday, reports AFP.

Two goals by Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued United from a defeat which would have given Liverpool and Arsenal renewed hope of catching the leaders as the title race entered its final week.

Steve Walsh and Ian Marshall had fired Leicester into a remarkable 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes and looked on course for a major upset after totally dominating the first half.

But United hit back and to secure a point which puts them five points clear of Arsenal, who were set to play Newcastle later, and six points clear of Liverpool who faced Tottenham in an evening kick off.

United boss Alex Ferguson was clearly bent on attack, naming all four strikers in his line-up Paul Scholes, Eric Cantona, Ole Solskjaer and Andy Cole.

But with the emphasis on attack, gaps emerged at the back and it was Leicester who went in front after just 16 minutes.

Gary Parker fired over deep corner from the left. Mark Elliott got his head to it but could only glance the ball further across to where defender Steve Walsh crashed the ball past Peter Schmeichel.

But there was worse to come for United as Ian Marshall raced onto Steve Claridge's short pass and turned inside Gary Neville before crashing a left foot shot past a shocked Schmeichel.

Leicester, who had taken just four points from their previous eight games, were now playing with a relish and commitment that United could not match, the champions so often a year slow in the head.

But as is their hallmark United turned defence into a devastating breakout that hauled them back into the match on the stroke of half-time.

Cole got in on the left of a disorganised Leicester back line and was able to pick out the unmarked Solskjaer to fire home from 12 yards.

United brought the game level in the 51st minute with a goal that had the home fans howling with cheer at the referee.

David May's challenge from behind on Claridge might have been punished with a yellow card by some officials but the official waved play on, and United broke upfield to score.

Cole was best placed by Kasey Keller beat down his shot, only for Solskjaer to pounce on the rebound and steer it home from six yards.

LONDON, May 4: Manchester United stumbled a little closer towards their fourth Premier League title in five years after retrieving a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 at Leicester on Saturday, reports AFP.

Two goals by Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued United from a defeat which would have given Liverpool and Arsenal renewed hope of catching the leaders as the title race entered its final week.

Steve Walsh and Ian Marshall had fired Leicester into a remarkable 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes and looked on course for a major upset after totally dominating the first half.

But United hit back and to secure a point which puts them five points clear of Arsenal, who were set to play Newcastle later, and six points clear of Liverpool who faced Tottenham in an evening kick off.

United boss Alex Ferguson was clearly bent on attack, naming all four strikers in his line-up Paul Scholes, Eric Cantona, Ole Solskjaer and Andy Cole.

But with the emphasis on attack, gaps emerged at the back and it was Leicester who went in front after just 16 minutes.

Gary Parker fired over deep corner from the left. Mark Elliott got his head to it but could only glance the ball further across to where defender Steve Walsh crashed the ball past Peter Schmeichel.

But there was worse to come for United as Ian Marshall raced onto Steve Claridge's short pass and turned inside Gary Neville before crashing a left foot shot past a shocked Schmeichel.

Leicester, who had taken just four points from their previous eight games, were now playing with a relish and commitment that United could not match, the champions so often a year slow in the head.

But as is their hallmark United turned defence into a devastating breakout that hauled them back into the match on the stroke of half-time.

Cole got in on the left of a disorganised Leicester back line and was able to pick out the unmarked Solskjaer to fire home from 12 yards.

United brought the game level in the 51st minute with a goal that had the home fans howling with cheer at the referee.

David May's challenge from behind on Claridge might have been punished with a yellow card by some officials but the official waved play on, and United broke upfield to score.

Cole was best placed by Kasey Keller beat down his shot, only for Solskjaer to pounce on the rebound and steer it home from six yards.

LONDON, May 4: Manchester United stumbled a little closer towards their fourth Premier League title in five years after retrieving a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 at Leicester on Saturday, reports AFP.

Two goals by Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued United from a defeat which would have given Liverpool and Arsenal renewed hope of catching the leaders as the title race entered its final week.

Steve Walsh and Ian Marshall had fired Leicester into a remarkable 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes and looked on course for a major upset after totally dominating the first half.

But United hit back and to secure a point which puts them five points clear of Arsenal, who were set to play Newcastle later, and six points clear of Liverpool who faced Tottenham in an evening kick off.

United boss Alex Ferguson was clearly bent on attack, naming all four strikers in his line-up Paul Scholes, Eric Cantona, Ole Solskjaer and Andy Cole.

But with the emphasis on attack, gaps emerged at the back and it was Leicester who went in front after just 16 minutes.

Gary Parker fired over deep corner from the left. Mark Elliott got his head to it but could only glance the ball further across to where defender Steve Walsh crashed the ball past Peter Schmeichel.

But there was worse to come for United as Ian Marshall raced onto Steve Claridge's short pass and turned inside Gary Neville before crashing a left foot shot past a shocked Schmeichel.

Leicester, who had taken just four points from their previous eight games, were now playing with a relish and commitment that United could not match, the champions so often a year slow in the head.

But as is their hallmark United turned defence into a devastating breakout that hauled them back into the match on the stroke of half-time.

Cole got in on the left of a disorganised Leicester back line and was able to pick out the unmarked Solskjaer to fire home from 12 yards.

United brought the game level in the 51st minute with a goal that had the home fans howling with cheer at the referee.

David May's challenge from behind on Claridge might have been punished with a yellow card by some officials but the official waved play on, and United broke upfield to score.

Cole was best placed by Kasey Keller beat down his shot, only for Solskjaer to pounce on the rebound and steer it home from six yards.

LONDON, May 4: Manchester United stumbled a little closer towards their fourth Premier League title in five years after retrieving a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 at Leicester on Saturday, reports AFP.

Two goals by Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued United from a defeat which would have given Liverpool and Arsenal renewed hope of catching the leaders as the title race entered its final week.

Steve Walsh and Ian Marshall had fired Leicester into a remarkable 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes and looked on course for a major upset after totally dominating the first half.

But United hit back and to secure a point which puts them five points clear of Arsenal, who were set to play Newcastle later, and six points clear of Liverpool who faced Tottenham in an evening kick off.

United boss Alex Ferguson was clearly bent on attack, naming all four strikers in his line-up Paul Scholes, Eric Cantona, Ole Solskjaer and Andy Cole.

But with the emphasis on attack, gaps emerged at the back and it was Leicester who went in front after just 16 minutes.

Gary Parker fired over deep corner from the left. Mark Elliott got his head to it but could only glance the ball further across to where defender Steve Walsh crashed the ball past Peter Schmeichel.

But there was worse to come for United as Ian Marshall raced onto Steve Claridge's short pass and turned inside Gary Neville before crashing a left foot shot past a shocked Schmeichel.

Leicester, who had taken just four points from their previous eight games, were now playing with a relish and commitment that United could not match, the champions so often a year slow in the head.

But as is their hallmark United turned defence into a devastating breakout that hauled them back into the match on the stroke of half-time.

Cole got in on the left of a disorganised Leicester back line and was able to pick out the unmarked Solskjaer to fire home from 12 yards.

United brought the game level in the 51st minute with a goal that had the home fans howling with cheer at the referee.

David May's challenge from behind on Claridge might have been punished with a yellow card by some officials but the official waved play on, and United broke upfield to score.

Cole was best placed by Kasey Keller beat down his shot, only for Solskjaer to pounce on the rebound and steer it home from six yards.

LONDON, May 4: Manchester United stumbled a little closer towards their fourth Premier League title in five years after retrieving a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 at Leicester on Saturday, reports AFP.

Two goals by Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued United from a defeat which would have given Liverpool and Arsenal renewed hope of catching the leaders as the title race entered its final week.

Steve Walsh and Ian Marshall had fired Leicester into a remarkable 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes and looked on course for a major upset after totally dominating the first half.

But United hit back and to secure a point which puts them five points clear of Arsenal, who were set to play Newcastle later, and six points clear of Liverpool who faced Tottenham in an evening kick off.

United boss Alex Ferguson was clearly bent on attack, naming all four strikers in his line-up Paul Scholes, Eric Cantona, Ole Solskjaer and Andy Cole.

But with the emphasis on attack, gaps emerged at the back and it was Leicester who went in front after just 16 minutes.

Gary Parker fired over deep corner from the left. Mark Elliott got his head to it but could only glance the ball further across to where defender Steve Walsh crashed the ball past Peter Schmeichel.

But there was worse to come for United as Ian Marshall raced onto Steve Claridge's short pass and turned inside Gary Neville before crashing a left foot shot past a shocked Schmeichel.

Leicester, who had taken just four points from their previous eight games, were now playing with a relish and commitment that United could not match, the champions so often a year slow in the head.

But as is their hallmark United turned defence into a devastating breakout that hauled them back into the match on the stroke of half-time.

Cole got in on the left of a disorganised Leicester back line and was able to pick out the unmarked Solskjaer to fire home from 12 yards.

United brought the game level in the 51st minute with a goal that had the home fans howling with cheer at the referee.

David May's challenge from behind on Claridge might have been punished with a yellow card by some officials but the official waved play on, and United broke upfield to score.

Cole was best placed by Kasey Keller beat down his shot, only for Solskjaer to pounce on the rebound and steer it home from six yards.

LONDON, May 4: Manchester United stumbled a little closer towards their fourth Premier League title in five years after retrieving a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 at Leicester on Saturday, reports AFP.

Two goals by Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued United from a defeat which would have given Liverpool and Arsenal renewed hope of catching the leaders as the title race entered its final week.

Steve Walsh and Ian Marshall had fired Leicester into a remarkable 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes and looked on course for a major upset after totally dominating the first half.

But United hit back and to secure a point which puts them five points clear of Arsenal, who were set to play Newcastle later, and six points clear of Liverpool who faced Tottenham in an evening kick off.

United boss Alex Ferguson was clearly bent on attack, naming all four strikers in his line-up Paul Scholes, Eric Cantona, Ole Solskjaer and Andy Cole.

But with the emphasis on attack, gaps emerged at the back and it was Leicester who went in front after just 16 minutes.

Gary Parker fired over deep corner from the left. Mark Elliott got his head to it but could only glance the ball further across to where defender Steve Walsh crashed the ball past Peter Schmeichel.

But there was worse to come for United as Ian Marshall raced onto Steve Claridge's short pass and turned inside Gary Neville before crashing a left foot shot past a shocked Schmeichel.

Leicester, who had taken just four points from their previous eight games, were now playing with a relish and commitment that United could not match, the champions so often a year slow in the head.

But as is their hallmark United turned defence into a devastating breakout that hauled them back into the match on the stroke of half-time.

Cole got in on the left of a disorganised Leicester back line and was able to pick out the unmarked Solskjaer to fire home from 12 yards.

United brought the game level in the 51st minute with a goal that had the home fans howling with cheer at the referee.

David May's challenge from behind on Claridge might have been punished with a yellow card by some officials but the official waved play on, and United broke upfield to score.

Cole was best placed by Kasey Keller beat down his shot, only for Solskjaer to pounce on the rebound and steer it home from six yards.

LONDON, May 4: Manchester United stumbled a little closer towards their fourth Premier League title in five years after retrieving a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 at Leicester on Saturday, reports AFP.

Two goals by Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued United from a defeat which would have given Liverpool and Arsenal renewed hope of catching the leaders as the title race entered its final week.

Steve Walsh and Ian Marshall had fired Leicester into a remarkable 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes and looked on course for a major upset after totally dominating the first half.

But United hit back and to secure a point which puts them five points clear of Arsenal, who were set to play Newcastle later, and six points clear of Liverpool who faced Tottenham in an evening kick off.

United boss Alex Ferguson was clearly bent on attack, naming all four strikers in his line-up Paul Scholes, Eric Cantona, Ole Solskjaer and Andy Cole.

But with the emphasis on attack, gaps emerged at the back and it was Leicester who went in front after just 16 minutes.

Gary Parker fired over deep corner from the left. Mark Elliott got his head to it but could only glance the ball further across to where defender Steve Walsh crashed the ball past Peter Schmeichel.

But there was worse to come for United as Ian Marshall raced onto Steve Claridge's short pass and turned inside Gary Neville before crashing a left foot shot past a shocked Schmeichel.

Leicester, who had taken just four points from their previous eight games, were now playing with a relish and commitment that United could not match, the champions so often a year slow in the head.

But as is their hallmark United turned defence into a devastating breakout that hauled them back into the match on the stroke of half-time.

Cole got in on the left of a disorganised Leicester back line and was able to pick out the unmarked Solskjaer to fire home from 12 yards.

United brought the game level in the 51st minute with a goal that had the home fans howling with cheer at the referee.

David May's challenge from behind on Claridge might have been punished with a yellow card by some officials but the official waved play on, and United broke upfield to score.

Cole was best placed by Kasey Keller beat down his shot, only for Solskjaer to pounce on the rebound and steer it home from six yards.

LONDON, May 4: Manchester United stumbled a little closer towards their fourth Premier League title in five years after retrieving a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 at Leicester on Saturday, reports AFP.

Two goals by Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued United from a defeat which would have given Liverpool and Arsenal renewed hope of catching the leaders as the title race entered its final week.

Steve Walsh and Ian Marshall had fired Leicester into a remarkable 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes and looked on course for a major upset after totally dominating the first half.

But United hit back and to secure a point which puts them five points clear of Arsenal, who were set to play Newcastle later, and six points clear of Liverpool who faced Tottenham in an evening kick off.

United boss Alex Ferguson was clearly bent on attack, naming all four strikers in his line-up Paul Scholes, Eric Cantona, Ole Solskjaer and Andy Cole.

But with the emphasis on attack, gaps emerged at the back and it was Leicester who went in front after just 16 minutes.

Gary Parker fired over deep corner from the left. Mark Elliott got his head to it but could only glance the ball further across to where defender Steve Walsh crashed the ball past Peter Schmeichel.

But there was worse to come for United as Ian Marshall raced onto Steve Claridge's short pass and turned inside Gary Neville before crashing a left foot shot past a shocked Schmeichel.

Leicester, who had taken just four points from their previous eight games, were now playing with a relish and commitment that United could not match, the champions so often a year slow in the head.

But as is their hallmark United turned defence into a devastating breakout that hauled them back into the match on the stroke of half-time.

Cole got in on the left of a disorganised Leicester back line and was able to pick out the unmarked Solskjaer to fire home from 12 yards.

United brought the game level in the 51st minute with a goal that had the home fans howling with cheer at the referee.

David May's challenge from behind on Claridge might have been punished with a yellow card by some officials but the official waved play on, and United broke upfield to score.

Cole was best placed by Kasey Keller beat down his shot, only for Solskjaer to pounce on the rebound and steer it home from six yards.

LONDON, May 4: Manchester United stumbled a little closer towards their fourth Premier League title in five years after retrieving a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 at Leicester on Saturday, reports AFP.

Two goals by Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rescued United from a defeat which would have given Liverpool and Arsenal renewed hope of catching the leaders as the title race entered its final week.

Steve Walsh and Ian Marshall had fired Leicester into a remarkable 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes and looked on course for a major upset after totally dominating the first half.

But United hit back and to secure a point which puts them five points clear of Arsenal, who were set to play Newcastle later, and six points clear of Liverpool who faced Tottenham in an evening kick off.

United boss Alex Ferguson was clearly bent on attack, naming all four strikers in his line-up Paul Scholes, Eric Cantona, Ole Solskjaer and Andy Cole.

But with the emphasis on attack, gaps emerged at the back and it was Leicester who went in front after just 16 minutes.

Gary Parker fired over deep corner from the left. Mark Elliott got his head to it but could only glance the ball further across to where defender Steve Walsh crashed the ball past Peter Schmeichel.

But there was worse to come for United as Ian Marshall raced onto Steve Claridge's short pass and turned inside Gary Neville before crashing a left foot shot past a shocked Schmeichel.

Leicester, who had taken just four points from their previous eight games, were now playing with a relish and commitment that United could not match, the champions so often a year slow in the head.

But as is their hallmark United turned defence into a devastating breakout that hauled them back into the match on the stroke of half-time.

Cole got in on the left of a disorganised Leicester back line and was able to pick out the unmarked Solskjaer to fire home from 12 yards.

United brought the game level in the 51st minute with a goal that had the home fans howling with cheer at the referee.

David May's challenge from behind on Claridge might have been punished with a yellow card by some officials but the official waved play on, and United broke upfield to score.

Cole was best placed by Kasey Keller beat down his shot, only for Solskjaer to pounce on the rebound and steer it home from six yards.

LONDON, May 4: Manchester United stumbled a little closer towards their fourth Premier League title in five years after