

Samba invasion in Roland Garros!

Bima amaze Abahani

Sports Reporter



Title aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra yesterday suffered a jolt in the Green Delta First Division league when a spirited Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha handed them a 2-3 defeat in one of the two matches scheduled at the National Hockey Stadium.

But the lead lasted only three minutes as Abahani were back on level terms through a penalty stroke.

It was Abahani winger Alamgir who was blocked by three Bima defenders in the danger area prompting Pakistani umpire Masood-ur-Rahman to point to the spot. Khurshid pushed the ball home past the Bima custodian Ainal.

Bima continued to attack, however, and finally got the

lead once again in the 65th minute when Hasan netted with an angular push from the right.

AZAD ROUT ANSARS
Earlier, in the day's first match, Azad Sporting Club recorded their third league victory defeating Dhaka Ansars 4-0.

The winners led the first half 3-0.

Mokshed struck twice while Yen and Yamin added one apiece for the winners.

The win raised Azad's tally to 10 points from as many matches. On the other hand, Ansars suffered their tenth successive defeat.

On the other hand, Abahani, who suffered their first defeat yesterday after nine successive victories, pulled two back through skipper Maman and defender Khurshid who converted a penalty corner and stroke respectively.

The defeat left the Dhamondi outfit one of the three favourites side in the league, out of the title race as they remained glued their previous collection of 27 points on completion of their tenth outing. Although it is still equal to Usha Krira Chakra and Mohammad Sporting Club. But they have one match in hand.

Bima climbed into sixth in the 16-team league standings with 18 points.

In Monday's second engagement, Bima, spearheaded by their two young foreign recruits — Mohamad Saqlain and Ghaus — dominated the entire proceedings from the start against their out of sorts opponents playing without three regular players in Ramij, Shipu and Khokon.

Ghaus, the tall Lahore-based centre forward, put Bima ahead in the 10th minute utilising a Wahab pass.

The margin could have been doubled after three minutes had Morad, the leading Bima goal scorer who was standing unguarded inside the danger area, not missed an easy sitter.

Abahani levelled through a Maman who converted a penalty corner in the 16th minute.

Bima had two clear opportunities to regain the lead, but



Action from yesterday's Green Delta First Division league encounter between Abahani Krira Chakra and Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha at the National Hockey Stadium. Abahani lost 2-3.

FRENCH OPEN AT A GLANCE

PARIS, June 9 (AP): A look at Sunday's play, the 14th and final day of the French Open:

Attendance — 16,589 at Roland Garros stadium (16,947 in 1996). Total for the tournament, 364,901 (363,405 in 1996).

Weather — Sunny, passing clouds, winds from the southwest, 25 C (77 F).

Men's final

Gustavo Kuerten defeated two-time champion Sergi Bruguera.

Women's doubles final

Top-seeded Gigi Fernandez and Natasha Zvereva won their fifth French Open doubles title, defeating Americans Mary Joe Fernandez and Lisa Raymond (5).

Junior men's singles final

Daniel Elsner of Germany beat Luis Horna of Peru. Elsner won his third straight Grand Slam junior title.

Junior women's singles final

Justine Henin of Belgium defeated Cara Black, the sister of Wayne and Byron.

Quote — "I never won a title. That's why I don't know how to open champagne," Kuerten after his victory at Roland Garros.

Stat of the day — Unseeded Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil, ranked 66th, became the lowest-ranked player to win a Grand Slam title.

Bangladesh expects to be awarded with the Test status when the annual conference of the International Cricket Council (ICC) begins at Lord's in London from June 11.

This was stated by the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, to the press yesterday. The cricket supremo was scheduled to leave Dhaka late last night to attend the week-long extraordinary conference of the ICC, the apex body of world cricket.

"To get the one-day status is not our only goal. It will be adopted automatically in the ICC meeting. What we are actually looking for is to attain the Test status," said Saber to the local press at the BCB office last night.

Saber, who is likely to contest for one of the three associate-member slots in the nine-member Executive Board of the ICC, added that he would persuade the other 22 associate member nations to adopt an

BCB to seek Test status

Sports Reporter



application for the senior status is approved by the ICC delegates.

Saber, however, quite diplomatically quipped when he was asked to confirm his candidature for the authoritative post in the world body. "Everything will depend upon the situation there". It was, however, learnt that the BCB has advocated Saber for contesting in the elections.

The BCB president also disclosed that he would finalise convenient date and countries to take part in the tournament, expected to be held in the capital early next year.

Besides, the crucial ICC meeting, which will conclude on June 17, is likely to adopt the resolution for naming Dhaka as one of the five zonal headquarters in ICC's serious bid to globalise the game.

The ICC body will also decide about a World Championship of Test cricket like one-day World Cup and whether or not a three-year experiment which has limited bowlers to two bouncers per over will be adopted permanently.

Tunisia book France ticket



LONDON, June 9: Mexico closed in on a berth in the 1998 World Cup from one qualifying group while Tunisia, Nigeria and Morocco all came out of Africa this weekend to make the field for France, reports AP.

The Mexicans improved to 3-0-2 in the CONCACAF group with a 1-0 victory Sunday at El Salvador. Mexico lead the qualifying sector with 11 points, with Costa Rica next at seven and the United States tied for third with five. The top three teams advance.

Luis Garcia got the goal on a solo rush through the defence in the 64th minute. For most of the game, Mexico played defensively, and El Salvador could not penetrate.

The three African nations joined the two automatic qualifiers — France (host) and Brazil (defending champions) — for the 32-team soccer showcase in France.

Tunisia tied Egypt 0-0 on Sunday in Cairo, assuring them the top place in African Group Two. Tunisia have 13 points to seven for Egypt with only one game remaining.

Nigeria defeated Kenya 3-0 and Morocco downed Ghana 1-0 on Saturday. On Sunday, Guinea beat Burkina Faso 3-1.

In South America, it was Argentina 2-1, Peru 0; Ecuador 1, Chile 1; Uruguay 1; Colombia 1; and Bolivia 1; Venezuela 1.

For hosts Argentina, Hernan Crespo opened the scoring in the 44th minutes and Diego Simeone made it 2-0 in the 46th. Argentina (5-2-4) are second in the standings with 19 points, four behind Paraguay. The top four teams from South America qualify.

Peru dropped to 3-4-4 with 13 points.

At Quito, Ariel Graizini opened the scoring for hosts Ecuador (4-5-2) 43 minutes into the game on a header. Marcelo Salas tied it in the 58th minute for Chile (3-3-4).

Last-place Venezuela (0-9-2) stunned visiting Bolivia (3-2-5) when Gianni Savarese scored in

the 62. Bolivia's Ramiro Castillo equalised eight minutes later, booting in a perfect pass from Milton Coimbra.

Hosts Uruguay (4-5-2) took the lead after just seven minutes when Dario Silva latched onto a long pass from Alvaro Recoba to beat goalkeeper Farid Mondragon. But striker Hamilton Ricardo scored five minutes into the second half for Colombia (5-3-3), which is third overall with 18 points.

In Europe on Sunday, Scotland took a big step toward qualifying when Gary McAllister scored on a 50th-minute penalty kick for a 1-0 win over Belarus in Minsk.

Scotland have 17 points in eight games to lead Group Four. Austria, who have played two fewer games than Scotland, are second with 13 points after a 3-1 win in Latvia. Also in the group, Sweden won 3-2 to Estonia and have 12 points in six games.

In Europe, the winners of each of the nine groups and the top second-place team get the 10 automatic berths.

Elsewhere in Europe on Sunday:

In Group One, Denmark defeated Bosnia-Herzegovina 2-0. The Danes lead the group with 13 points in five games, three points ahead of Greece.

In Group Three, Hungary tied leaders' Norway 1-1 in Budapest, giving Norway 11 points in five games. Hungary are second with seven points in five games. Finland defeated Azerbaijan 3-0.

In Group Five, Russia took the lead with a 2-0 win in Moscow over Israel in a game briefly delayed by torrential rain. Russia have 14 points to 13 for Israel. Bulgaria, with Hristo Stoichkov rejoining the team and scoring a goal, routed Luxembourg 4-0 to go to 12 points after five games.

In Group Six, Spain (20 points) won 1-0 over the Czech Republic and Yugoslavia (19 points) downed Slovakia 2-0. The Faeroe Islands defeated Malta 2-1.

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