



Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Harun-ur-Rashid MP, (C) speaking at a press conference at the federation office yesterday organised in connection with the Rupali Insurance 14th Federation Cup soccer tournament which begins at the Mirpur Stadium today.

—Star photo

Div III soccer

## T&T, Jatrabari promoted

Sports Reporter

T&T Club clinched the Third Division football league championship after defeating Bangladesh Government Press 2-1 in their last super league match held at the Rajuk ground on Friday.

Hasan struck twice for the winners while Jasim grabbed a consolation goal for the pressmen.

T&T Club completed their super league campaign unbeaten to remain atop the eight-team table having raised their tally to 19 points, one more than Jatrabari Krira Chakra who recorded a solitary goal victory over Sunrise Sporting Club in Friday's other match. Nepal Channa scored the winner in the 28th minute.

Jatrabari finished runners-up.

Both T&T Club and Jatrabari KC earn promotion to the Second Division League next season.

## Karlsruhe beat Leverkusen

BONN, July 19: Karlsruhe beat last season's Bundesliga runners-up Bayer Leverkusen on penalties in the first match of the new, lucrative German League Cup tournament on Friday, reports Reuter.

The teams were equal 2-2 after 90 minutes and Karlsruhe won the shoot-out 6-5. There was no extra time.

Karlsruhe, sixth in the league, will play Stuttgart, fourth, in a semifinal on Tuesday.

The competition, involving the top six finishers in last season's Bundesliga, is the opener to the new season which starts on August 2.

Cup winners Stuttgart qualified automatically for the semifinals like champions Bayern Munich, who will play either European champions Borussia Dortmund or VFL Bochum in the other semifinal on Wednesday. Dortmund and Bochum meet on Sunday.

Karlsruhe earned one million marks (550,000 dollars) for their victory. The winners of the final on July 26 will receive 2.5 million marks (1.4 million dollars) even before playing their first league match.

New signing Stefan Beinlich, who joined from Hansa Rostock, will play Leverkusen in front after five minutes but two minutes later, Karlsruhe equalised through Burkhard Reich.

Strike Ulf Kirsten, last season's top scorer with 22 goals, made it 2-1 for Leverkusen in the 21st minute but South African-born striker Sean Dundee levelled nine minutes from time.

## Mercer injured

NEW YORK, July 19: Andrew Mercer will not fight Andrew Golota in a heavyweight bout Aug 16 because Mercer has a neck injury that will require surgery, reports AP.

Promoter Dino Duva said he was given doctors' reports Friday that revealed Mercer has cervical herniated discs in his neck.

Mercer will have surgery Monday at a New York City hospital, according to Marc Roberts, his manager. Roberts declined to disclose the name of the hospital.

## Federation Cup kicks off today

## Victoria-Dhanmondi opener

Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club will take on Dhanmondi Club in the opening match as the Rupali Insurance 14th Federation Cup football tournament, the traditional curtain raiser of the local football season, kicks off at the Mirpur Stadium this afternoon. Youngmen's Club Fakirpuro will face Dhaka Wanderers Club in the other match billed for the inaugural day.

A total of 16 Dhaka-based Senior Division clubs, split into four groups, are participating in the first round which will be played on the knockout basis until July 25.

The four group champions will then join Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani Krira Chakra, Muktijoddha Sangsod Krira Chakra and Brothers Union Club in the round robin league, again divided into two sections.

After the robin league scheduled to end on July 31, the top two finishers from each group will qualify for the semifinals billed for August 2 and 3 while the final will be held on August 5 at the same venue.

Bangladesh Football Feder-

ation (BFF), organiser of the meet, arranged a press conference in this regard at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Harun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury, MP, BFF general secretary, Dr Shamimuzzaman Basunia, treasurer of the federation and chairman of the tournament committee and Moazzem Hosain, secretary of the tournament committee were present.

## Schools hockey qualifiers

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka zonal qualifying round of the third national schools hockey championship will begin in the city in the third week of August.

Schools under Dhaka Education Board and other English medium schools in the capital may participate in the competition.

Interested schools have been requested to complete their registrations with a fee of Taka 100 before July 31 at the federation office at the National Hockey Stadium.

The budget for the tournament has been estimated at Taka 10 lakh of which Taka five lakh will be provided by sponsors Rupali Insurance Company Limited.

Ticket-rates for the first round which includes two matches per day, have been fixed at Taka 10 which will be doubled in the second round and semifinals. Price of tickets for the August 5 final will be announced later.

Following 16 teams are participating in the first round:

Group A: Victoria SC, Dhanmondi SC, YMC Fakirpuro and Dhaka Wanderers Club.

Group B: Bangladesh Boys Club, Badda Jagarani Sangsod, Arambagh KC and Police AC.

Group C: Rahmatganj MFS, BRTC SC, Farashganj SC and Shantinagar Club.

Group D: East End Club, Mirpur Chalantika SC, Agrani Bank SC and Wari Club.

Robin League grouping:

Group One: Mohammedan SC, Brothers Union, Group A winners and Group D winners.

Group Two: Abahani KC, Muktijoddha Sangsod KC, Group B winners and Group C winners.

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