

Column One

Boost sports
WHIZZ KIDCOMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-75

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm,
August 8, '97

- Who is the soccer coach of AC Milan?
Sacchi Capello Tabares
- Who lifted the Legg Mason Classic tennis title this year?
Korda Chang Wheaton
- Which is the new club of Roberto Baggio?
Bologna Atletico Vicenza
- Who won the Ali Sports 7th schools kabaddi title?
Millat Rifles Nawabpur
- Who scored the first hat-trick in this year's Federation Cup football?
Iqbal Al-Amin Sohag

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

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Maksudul Amin Rana, one of the fresh recruits of Abahani Krira Chakra, was on a rampage against Agrani Bank in a Federation Cup football match at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. The nimble striker scored one and set up another in his side's 4-0 thrashing of the bankers. — Star photo

Muktijoddah muddle thru



Muktijoddah Sangsad Krira Chakra began their Federation Cup football tournament campaign with a 2-0 victory over BRTC at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Striker Reaz shot Muktijoddah into the lead in the 23rd minute while his more illustrious teammate national forward Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib scored the second goal 19 minutes into the second session to ensure a predictably sound start for the former champions.

The outcome was, however, by any standard not an inspiring start for the star-studded Muktijoddah, who hogged the headlines in this year's inter-club booters' transfer by roping in a bunch of national players.

Muktijoddah broke the evening's duck from their first positive attack with Reaz finding the net with a placing shot after being fed by an always-agile Rakib, who returned to his former club after having a successful year with Abahani last year.

National striker Nakib, who is shouldering an additional job of captaining Muktijoddah

Sports Reporter

this year, then completed a move down the left-flank with a clinical finish.

Although the all-reds enjoyed a territorial supremacy over babes BRTC and got more openings in a lop-sided affair, but failed to turn up as a cohesive force. The goal-blind Gola Gaus, who muffed as many as three chances, deprived Muktijoddah of a better margin victory. Besides, the wood-work also came in the way of Muktijoddah in the 81st minute when a brilliant header from Rakib came off the cross-piece.

Pioneer soccer

Dilkusha Sporting Club and Tejaon Naba Taranga won their respective matches in the Metropolitan Pioneer football league at two different city venues yesterday, reports UNB.

Dilkusha Sporting defeated Manikdhi Prabati Sangha by a solitary goal scored by Towhid in the 50th minute at the Outer Stadium.

Tejaon Naba Taranga Sangha beat Gola Mustafa Lane Kishore Sangha also by a lone goal netted by Uttam in the 52nd minute at the Mohakhali T and T ground.

In an exhibition of poor marksmanship Gaus, one of the four stalwarts in the new-look Muktijoddah line-up, let his side down at the stroke of the short whistle shooting an absolute blunder out from close.

The dark forward, who is now only a pale shadow of his usual self, had his share of chances to amend his previous blunder midway through the second half. But much to the horror of his teammates the myopic Gaus failed to shoot the ball into an empty net. He was later taken back by his dejected coach.

With the sun beating down mercilessly, the huffing and puffing players demonstrated a languid rally throughout the 90-minute of an eye-soring encounter.

TEAMS

MUKTIJODDAH SANGSAD
KC: Aminul, Hasan, al Mamun, Jewel Rana, Rajani, Masud Rana, Gaus (Tuhin), Iqbal, Rupu (Titu), Rakib, Riaz (Swapan) and Nakib.

BRTC SC: Ali Hossain, Litu, Malek, Razzak, Mithu, Apu (Bashu), Hemayet, Nurul Islam, Liton, Sangram (Munna) and Roman.

Referee: Ram Krishna Gosh.

Abahani trounce bankers

Sports Reporter

Abahani, runners up in the last version of the curtain-raiser way back in 1995, took some time to settle down with a new set of young players. With only four from last year's squad, the Dhanmendi outfit faced trouble initially against the mediocre Bank side.

But when Munna, the veteran and inspirational Abahani defender, gave his side the much needed lead midway through the first session, they gradually gained in confidence and put up a better show in the second half pumping three more.

It was left winger Amin Rana who initiated the first goal in the 22nd minute. The nimble winger, who joined Abahani this season after a spell with Youngmens Club Fakirpool last year, overran the Bank defence through the left flank and sent a neat pass to Munna whose grounder from the top of the box took a deflection hitting the inner edge of the cross piece.

After the breather, Abahani's Amin Rana doubled the margin in the 61st minute. After receiving a through from substitute striker Rumi, the acrobatic winger dodged past two advancing Bank defenders before slotting the ball with an accurate angular shot. Rumi, who replaced the out of form forward Mizan early in the second half, made it 3-0 after seven minutes with a placing shot from a Munna pass and Liton completed tally with a banana free kick from outside the box in the 81st minute.

The winners will take on BRTC Sports Club in their next match tomorrow evening.

Yellow cards: Sentu (Abahani) and Raj, Kanchan (Agrani Bank).

TEAMS
ABAHANI KC: Biplab, Prodeep, Munna, Ali Mansoor, Masum, Zakir, Sentu, Raju (Liton), Amin Rana, Tipu (Jahangir) and Mizan (Rumi).

AGRANI BANK: Bilal, Atiq, Rafique, Bishu, Raj, Masud Rana, Zahid, Narayan (Kabir), Hasan, Kanchan and Ikram Rana (Zaman).

Referee: Sheikh Badaruddin

TODAY'S MATCHES
Brothers Union Club vs Arambagh KS (4 pm)

Mohammedan SC vs YMC Fakirpool (6 pm)

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Open TT results

Rinu and Rumi reached the women's singles final of the open table tennis tournament at the NSC wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the semis, Rinu defeated Tumpa 2-1, 21-14, 26-28, 21-17 while Rumi beat Josna by 21-12, 24-22, 21-12 points.

In the boys' singles, Tuhin moved into the final clinching edition 21-12, 21-11, 24-22.

Besides, 10 group matches in the men's singles were also decided.

Bebeto stays on target

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 28: Brazil veteran Bebeto scored two goals and went to the top of the Brazilian championship goalscoring table as Vitoria drew 3-3 with local rivals Bahia on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Bebeto, who has made to secret of the fact that he wants to play for his country in next year's World Cup, took his tally in the competition to eight goals in five games and is joint top-scorer with Sao Paulo's Dodo.

He struck either side of half-time as the team came from two goals behind in a derby against Bahia in the northeastern city of Salvador. The match was played before a 90,000 crowd.

Bebeto was one of the whoppers as Brazil took the last World Cup and even though he will be 34 by the time of next year's tournament, he is not counting himself out of the squad.

His last appearance for Brazil was in the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Namibia makes the grade

JOHANNESBURG, July 18: Namibia achieved a fairy-tale qualification for the African Nations' Cup on Sunday as the line-up for the 16-team finals tournament was completed with the weekend's last round of qualifying matches, reports Reuter.

The tiny southern African nation, with fewer than 8,000 registered footballers, forced a 1-1 draw in Gabon to secure a first-ever place in the Nations Cup finals just five years after joining world football.

The point was enough to give them second place in Group Five and qualification for the tournament in Burkina Faso next February.

Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Ivory Coast and the new Democratic Republic of Congo also secured qualification on Sunday while Mozambique won through with a dramatic 2-1 home win over Malawi on Saturday.

Namibia grabbed the spotlight with their draw in Libreville, where Johannes Hindjoo scored the all-important goal in the second half after captain Pierre Aubame's penalty had put Gabon ahead at halftime.

Namibia had an opportunity two weeks ago to secure qualification but lost at home to Cameroon, leaving them with the arduous task of avoiding defeat in Libreville against their rival for the runners-up spot.

But a gutsy performance, characterised by swift counter attacks, allowed Namibia to record a famous victory with Hindjoo showing great composure from the penalty spot for the equaliser.

Namibia will be the only debutants at the finals, for which hosts Burkina Faso, holders South Africa, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Morocco, Togo, Tunisia and Zambia had already qualified.

Ferdinand joins Spurs

LONDON, July 28: Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar said on Sunday his club had completed the six million pounds (10 million dollars) signing of Newcastle and England striker Les Ferdinand, reports Reuter.

Ferdinand, 30, agreed personal terms with the London club on Sunday, ending speculation that Newcastle might try to stop the move in the wake of Alan Shearer's injury.

First for a German

PARIS, July 28: Jan Ullrich won the Tour de France Sunday, becoming the first German to win the race since it began in 1903, reports AP.

Ullrich rode into Paris with the leader's yellow jersey with the remaining 139 of the 198 cyclist, that started out on the 3,985-kilometre, 21-stage race.

He has been wearing the leader's yellow jersey since the 10th stage of the race that began on July 5 in Rouen.

Nicola Minali won the 21st ride to Place de la Concorde cheered on by a crowd estimated at several hundred thousand on a bright, sunny day.

Minali won the sprint ahead of Erik Zabel. Ullrich's teammate who had won three previous sprint finishes, Henk Vogels of Australia was third.

Ullrich finished in the main pack in the same time to win the overall race by nine minutes, 9 seconds over Richard Virenque of France, the largest margin of victory since Laurent Fignon won by 10:32 in 1984.

Also at 23 years, 7 months, 25 days, he is the eighth youngest winner of the Tour, younger than five-time winners Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain when they won the first time. Also the late Jacques Anquetil, another five-time champion, was only a month younger than Ullrich.

India begin 3-day match today

Chauhan ready for a restart



COLOMBO, July 28: India, touted by world champions Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup last week, are planning to hit back through a controversial spinner to win the upcoming Test series, reports AFP.

Off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan, recently cleared of a suspect bowling action, will lead India's depleted strike force in the first of two Tests starting at the Premadasa Stadium on Saturday.

He was dropped from the Indian team in 1995 under orders from the International Cricket Council (ICC), who said it had received reports that his action was suspect.

Chauhan was cleared to play again in May this year after a highly-publicised Test before former Indian stars Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev, who found nothing wrong with his action.

Chauhan, who has played 15 Tests and taken 34 wickets, has never been called for throwing but the Indian cricket board opted to play safe after being told by the ICC to study his bowling arm.

Chauhan, ignored for the

Asia Cup, was recalled along with three others for the short tour.

Chauhan will be one of our main bowlers in the Test matches, so it's important to give him a game before that," skipper Sachin Tendulkar said.

"We never doubted his action. No umpire ever called him for throwing, but now it's all cleared, I hope he has left all this behind."

Wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia, one of the four replacements along with left-hander Vinod Kambli, and opener Gagan Khoda will also be playing on Tuesday, Tendulkar said.

"It would have been ideal to have them here three days in advance, but I am confident they will adjust quickly," he said.

Tendulkar, who will also play the match, said the Indians will go for a win to hit the right groove before the Tests start.

"It's not always easy to win a three-day game, but we have to be positive in our approach. There's no point hanging around for runs."

The home team, led by Ruwan Kalpage, includes three other Test players in opener Russell Arnold, left-handed batsman Sanjeeva Ranatunga and fast bowler Ravindra Pushpakumara.

He is almost certain to play in a three-day practice match against the Sri Lankan Board President's XI starting here on Tuesday, even though the four replacements arrived late to

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