

Farashganj edge Victoria

Sports Reporter

Farashganj Sporting Club earned three invaluable points in their bid to stay away from the dreaded relegation zone when the old town outfit recorded a lone goal win over Victoria Sporting Club in a Premier Division football league match at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half Forhad, who joined the mediocre outfit from Abahani Krira Chakra this year, struck the all-important goal in the 52nd minute. The outcome turned out to be a double delight for Farashganj, who with this win not only leap-frogged the Motijheel rivals in the standings but also improved their mark in the repeat clash after the one-all drawn encounter during the first leg.

Farashganj now hold the fifth position with 15 points from as many matches while Victoria, who opened their return leg campaign with an upset 2-0 win over giants Abahani Krira Chakra, remained glued to their previous collection 13 points from 15 outings.

Meanwhile, in a First Division football league match at the Army Stadium, Police Athletic Club recorded an identical 1-0 win over Wari Club.

Shahen scored the match-decider in the 54th minute of the proceedings.

Gazza awaits his fate

GLASGOW, Jan 4: The Scottish Football Association (SFA) will decide within the next week whether to take any action against Rangers and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne, reports AFP.

Scotland's football chiefs will first wait until the report from referee Hugh Dallas arrives at Park Gardens after Gascoigne infuriated Celtic supporters on Friday by pretending to be a flute player as he went through his warm-up routine during the Old Firm match at Parkhead.

However it is understood the SFA will not pursue the matter unless Strathclyde police act on a complaint and launch their own investigation.

At the moment it seems the matter may be left with Rangers, and Gascoigne could be disciplined by the club.

SFA spokesman Andy Mitchell said Saturday: "We will have to wait until we see the referee's report before we decide to take any action."

The Rangers and England midfielder was caught on camera at the Old Firm game yesterday pretending to play the flute.

His actions angered Celtic supporters as it is seen as a symbol of loyalty.

Strathclyde police confirmed a complaint had been made and Rangers are duty-bound to launch an enquiry.

The club, however, are remaining tight-lipped about the incident which occurred when Gascoigne, who came on in the second half, was going through his warm-up routine.

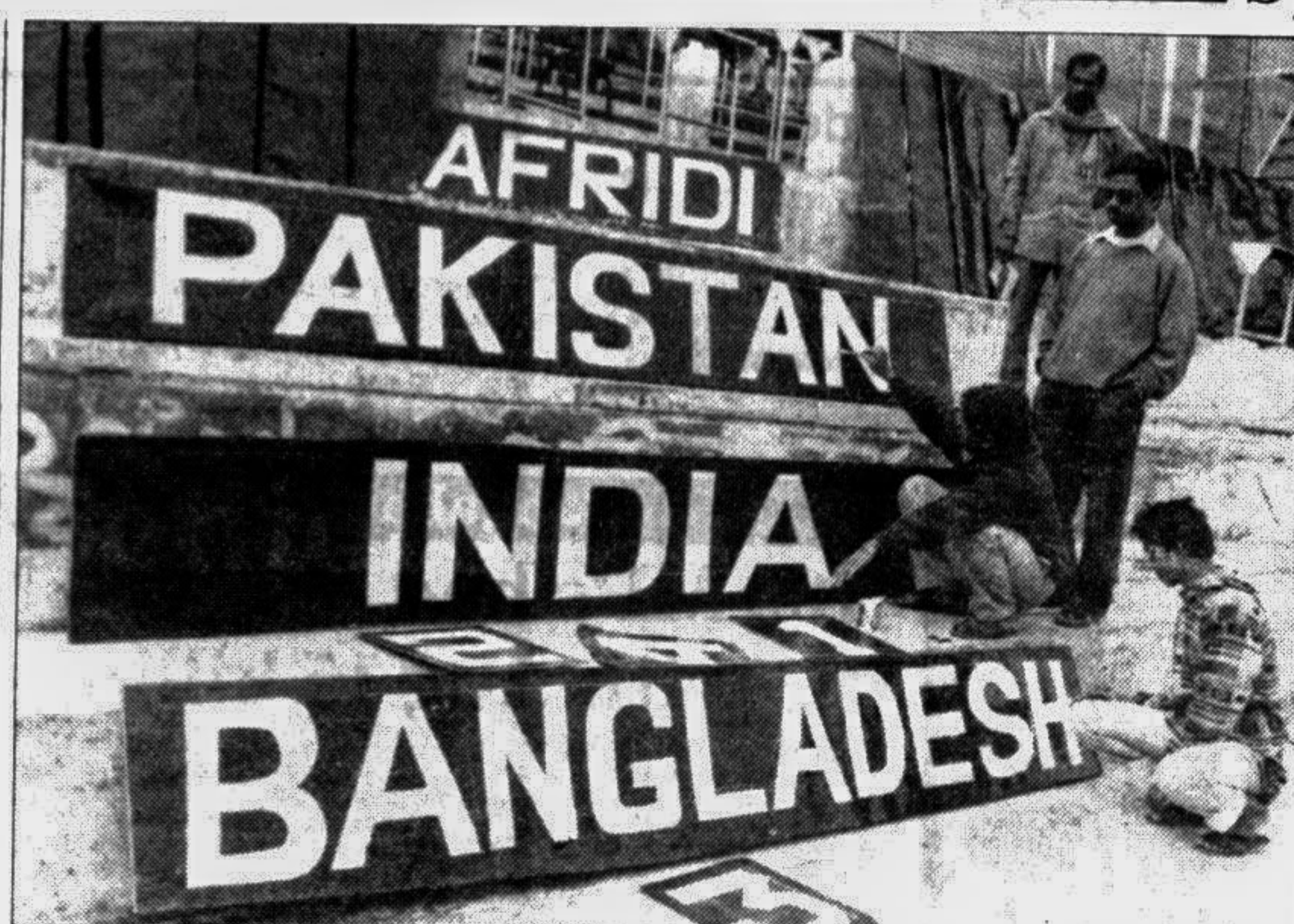
Manager Walter Smith refused to comment and secretary Campbell Ogilvie said: "I know absolutely nothing about it. I know nothing."

It is the second time Gascoigne has mimed playing the flute in a Protestant marching band. He did it back in 1995 after scoring his first goal for the club and was heavily criticised for his actions.

FINA bans 5 Russian natants

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Jan 4: Five Russian swimmers, including an Olympic gold medalist, were suspended by the sport's world governing body Tuesday for use of banned drugs, reports AP.

Vladimir Pychenko, Olga Kochetkova and Natalia Mescheriakova were each banned for two years for use of the anabolic steroid Metandienone Metabolites, FINA said.



The last brushes of paint being put on the name and score plates that would form the scoreboard of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup. The photograph was taken yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Independence Cup notebook

Sports Reporter

With the Coca Cola Independence Cup only five days away, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) who are organising the tri-nation cricket tournament in celebration of country's 25th year of independence, looks for more lucres to make the gala event a financial bonanza.

On a day of happy harvesting yesterday, the BCB have signed a deal with Bangladesh Betar, who has finally agreed to pay an handsome amount to broadcast the six matches.

Besides, they have also confirmed a lucrative deal with All India Radio (AIR) and Radio Pakistan, who will air the running commentary to their respective countries during the week-long spectacle involving India, Pakistan and host Bangladesh.

NOBLE GESTURE
The BCB, however, offered a noble gesture for the all the former national players of the country. According to a media release, cricketers who represented the country will be honoured with free tickets during the meet.

TICKETS
Meanwhile, it was disclosed that tickets, which will be available from ten different branches of Al-Baraka Bank, will be on sale from January 7.

'SUPER SOPPER'
To cope with any unseasonal rain, the BCB have bought a

modern pitch-cover from the southern Indian city of Madras. The 120 feet long and 10 feet wide cover will be installed at the Dhaka Stadium, which will host all the six matches. Besides, a 'super-sopper' from Australia is also expected to reach

cerned authorities to take necessary arrangements to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the prestigious tournament, the minister told BSS.

He said: "I talked to the chairman of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) KK Altaf Hossain and instructed him to make special arrangements for power supply at the stadium during the tournament."

The minister said he had instructed the chairman of Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) Nooruddin Mahmud Kamal to improve generation in the day time and ensure better supply in the capital and at the district level so that millions of cricket lovers could witness the matches without any disruption.

Exhibition h'ball
Visiting German SRS handball team beat local giants Bangladesh Rifles by 31-26 goals at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The First Division club dominated the first session 20-15. Groll contributed 16 and Sigfried Niemann scored nine goals for the visitors while Jahangir netted 13 and Rafique seven for the local outfit.

The 17-member German team, which arrived in the capital on Saturday on a week-long visit, will play their second match against Handball Federation President's Eleven today.

"I have instructed the con-

the city before the commencement of the meet, scheduled to kick off on January 10.

UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY

Dhaka Stadium would be free from loadshedding during the tournament, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Mohammed Nooruddin Khan said yesterday.

"I have instructed the con-

der-20 team to a upset five-wicket win over Bangladesh team in their third exhibition match at the BKSIP in Savar yesterday.

Rokon, a surprise inclusion in the youth team, scored a strokeful 60 as the youth team, chasing a fighting Bangladesh total of 184 for seven in a reduced 40-over-a-side match, rattled up the victory 185 for five in 37.1 overs (Al-Shahriar 60, Opee 40; Gem 2/22).

Result: Under-20 Eleven won by five wickets.

SKIPPER Al-Shahriar Rokon scored a dazzling half-century to inspire the South Africa bound under-20 team to a upset five-wicket win over Bangladesh team in their third exhibition match at the BKSIP in Savar yesterday.

Rokon, a surprise inclusion in the youth team, scored a strokeful 60 as the youth team, chasing a fighting Bangladesh total of 184 for seven in a reduced 40-over-a-side match, rattled up the victory 185 for five in 37.1 overs to celebrate their first win over the seniors, after two consecutive defeats.

With the a foggy weather delaying the start, the truncated affair offered a free choice for Rokon when the manager of the national team Gazi Ashraf Hossain asked the right-handed batsman to make his decision.

Rokon was prompted enough to invite the national team to bat first. And his desire soon bore fruit as Bangladesh lost half of their wickets in no time. Opener Javed Omar scored a struggling 15, Sanvar fell for 13, Faruque

and vice-captain Aminul Islam made nine runs each and skipper Akram Khan was dismissed for only five.

But thanks to a gritty 40 from Hasanuzzaman and 37 by wicketkeeper Khaled Masud Pilot, the national team were salvaged out of the rut to some respectability. Besides, tall right-arm seamer Hasibul Hossain Shanto scored a rapid-fire unbeaten 26.

Among the under-20 bowlers, off-spinner Sabir Khan, returned as a wrecker-in-chief with three for only 15 runs in his quota of eight overs.

In reply, the youth, who are scheduled to leave for South Africa on January 10 to play in the World Youth championship, got off to a sound start with opener Hannan Sarkar one one-down Mehrab Hossain Opee contributing 27 and 40 runs respectively. But the real thrust in the innings came when Rokon joined Mehrab after the departure of Hannan.

Left-arm spinner Saifullah Gem with two for 22 runs in his six over was the most successful among the national team bowlers.

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Greenidge to take over youth side

Sports Reporter

Gordon Greenidge the technical director of coaching is scheduled to arrive back in the city today.

But the West Indian opener, who went to England to celebrate the Christmas and New Year with his family, will not be around during the tri-nation tournament involving India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

It was learnt that Greenidge will accompany the South Africa bound national youth team that will participate in the second world youth cricket championship.

The team leaves the capital on Jan 8.

Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury will act as coach of the national side during Greenidge's absence.

Majed inspires City Club

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

ORIENT SC: 97 all out in 28.2 overs (Aamir Ishaq 18, Babu 15; Majed Zuhri 4/10, Rasel Khan 2/10)

CITY CLUB: 99 for two wickets in 25.2 overs (Santosh 47 not out, Majed 41 not out; Aminul 2/15)

Result: City Club won by eight wicket

A virtuoso all-round performance by Majed Zuhri helped City Club to a resounding eight-wicket win over Orient Sporting Club in a First Division cricket league match yesterday.

Majed captured four wickets for only 10 runs from his six overs, as the Mirpur outfit, who opted to field at their own backyard, shot Orient SC for a meagre 97 in 28.2 overs.

After the good work with the cherry, the Pakistani captain of City Club then went on to score an unbeaten 41 to guide his side to 99 for two in 25.2 overs.

Coming into bat at number four with his side reeling at 18 for two, Majed and opener Santosh, who scored highest 47 runs in the low-scoring affair, shared 81 runs for the undefeated third wicket to ensure an easy sail for the City Club without any further damage.

Santosh clubbed a quartet of fours and a six in his patient 87-ball knock while Majed, the more aggressive among the two batsmen, also struck fours boundaries and a six in his 52-ball vigil at the crease.

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Kapil backs Chauhan



NEW DELHI, Jan 4: Test cricket's highest wicketkeeper Kapil Dev today hit out at the game's administrators for banning Indian spinner Rajesh Chauhan because of a suspect bowling action, reports AFP.

Off-spinner Chauhan was on Saturday dropped for a three-nation tournament in Bangladesh later this week on the advice of the International Cricket Council (ICC), the game's governing body.

"It is unfair to drop Chauhan simply because someone suspects his action," said the former Indian all-rounder who took a record 434 Test wickets.

"The umpire is the final judge and Chauhan has never been called for throwing during his five-year international career," Kapil said. "Do the ICC officials know better than the umpires?"

"The ICC has gone too far in ordering the Indian board to keep Chauhan out without any proof. I don't think the ICC's advice is binding on the board."

The ban follows a report from former Australian captain Bobby Simpson, who questioned the bowling actions of Chauhan and three Sri Lankans in his capacity as match referee for the recent India-Sri Lanka Test series.

The ICC's technical committee cleared Sri Lankans Muttiah Muralitharan and Sajeeva de Silva after watching video clips of their actions, but wanted Chauhan and Sri Lankan off-spinner Kumara

Dharmasena to be penalised. Kapil himself a member of the technical committee, confessed matters further by stating he was not asked to judge the actions of the four bowlers.

"I was not informed about this and I don't know if the committee met to review Simpson's report," an angry Kapil said.

"And who is Simpson to judge a bowler? Does he, as an ICC observer, know more about the game than the umpires out in the middle? There is something sinister going on."

Another former Indian cricketer Naren Tamhane suggested Simpson's report was a ploy to keep India's best spinner out for the upcoming home series against Australia.

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