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Star Sport

DAKA MONDAY, JULY 26, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One

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COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-118

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
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Competition closes at 8 pm
July 30, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who is the new England cricket coach?	Fletcher	Hussain	Marsh
2 Brazilian footballer Rivaldo plays for	Lazio	Barcelona	Arsenal
3 Who is the captain of Argentina soccer team?	Simeone	Batistuta	Ayala
4 How many Grand Slam titles has Steffi Graf won till now?	22	23	24
5 Who is ATP's top ranked player right now?	Sampras	Moya	Agassi

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SPORTS TALK



UNBEATABLE: Abahani's national custodian Aminul thwarts a Muktijodha move yesterday. Aminul had a faultless day under the bar. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Abahani run off with important win

Referee makes Muktis fume

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra bounced back into the title race with a lone-goal win over

Muktijodha Sangsads Krira Chakra in a crucial Khoa Premier Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Iqbal, the hard-working national midfielder, scored the all-important goal in the very first minute of the battle between the two domestic biggies where adrenaline was running high.

The league's fastest goal also ended Muktijodha's seven-match unbeaten run. But not before a sickly exhibition of barbarism in which the belligerent players kicked and punched referee Golam Mostafa after he ruled out their 60th minute 'equaliser' with a belated off-side call.

Although the clash of the giants got off to a wonderful start in front of a strong 25,000 crowd at the big bowl, the match eventually ended on a sour note because of a bad ruling by the man in uniform.

The match was suspended for about five minutes in the second half when the aggrieved Muktijodha booters first swooped on Golam Mostafa, who cancelled Masud Rana's volley into the upper right-hand corner of the net, and then walked off the ground in protest against the offside ruling.

Although the linesman at the western end raised the flag on time, it took him more than half-a-minute to draw the attention of an apparently 'blind' Mostafa and that too after a fair attempt by Masud Rana. Muktijodha for obvious reasons felt wronged, but their reaction can not be condoned.

This was not the only occasion that Mostafa's sub-standard refereeing had made news. His bizarre ruling throughout the match had effectively created an explosive environment on the terrace. Thankfully, the tense situation did not take any ominous turn, perhaps because the Muktijodha supporters were few in numbers.

Mostafa's refereeing only epitomised the dwindling condition of our overall football. The 'spineless' man-in-black, however, did not forget to put the dubious 'check and balance' trick into practice when he showed a token yellow card to Muktijodha's Arif Khan Joy-- a perfect scapegoat indeed.

Moreover, Mostafa's wayward approach towards tough tackling also cost Abahani dearly as the sky blues painfully watched their two Ghanaian booters being carried off the ground after sustaining severe injuries.

Opulu, who failed to impress the Dhaka crowd in his maiden appearance, left the field with a dislocated shoulder after being harshly treated by Muktijodha's Nigerian recruit Aliyu Rahman. Surprisingly though, the stocky Nigerian was not even cautioned by the referee for the cynical tackle on Opulu.

Benin, the other Ghanaian in the team, also faced the same fate in his first appearance, forcing Abahani to a double-change midway through the second half.

Apart from Mostafa's part in the play, it was Muktijodha who enjoyed a territorial dominance over Abahani. They got more chances than Abahani in both the halves, but Aminul, who was unconquered under the bar, kept them at bay with some spectacular saves.

Iqbal did steal the limelight with a powerful grounder, which found the right-hand corner of the net past a shaky Biplob, but it was Aminul who fought alone against an all-out Muktijodha to confirm the popular Dhanmondi outfit's fifth win in the League.

The national custodian came to Abahani's rescue in the 36th minute when he splendidly saved a Jewel Rana header from close. Jewel made a second

WELCOME TO DHAKA! Abahani's Ghanaian recruits Benin (L) and Opulu had a nightmare of a debut in the Premier League yesterday. Benin hurt his leg while Opulu dislocated his shoulder. Both players were stretchered off the field. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Black Caps draw level



LONDON, July 25: New Zealand levelled the series against England on Sunday when they won the second Test at Lord's by nine wickets.

It was the Kiwis' first Test match success at the home of cricket and they now go to Old Trafford for the third Test on August 5 level at 1-1 in the four-match contest.

England will be without captain Nasser Hussain for that match after he missed the second innings at Lord's after breaking a finger.

In Hussain's absence England mustered just 229 in their second innings, setting New Zealand a paltry target of 58 to win.

Matthew Bell duly knocked off the runs to spark wild cele-

HORNE ... m-o-m
brations among the Kiwi contingent.

England, who had managed 186 in their first innings, to New Zealand's 358, had resumed on Sunday on 107 for four. See page 15



Muktijodha players are furious at the match official after a goal was disallowed against Abahani yesterday. — Star photo

Surjo Tarun lift men's title, Biman women's

Sports Reporter

Surjo Tarun Club clinched the men's team title of the NBL First Division Badminton League defeating Biman by three sets to two in the final played at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday afternoon. But Biman had consolation from the women's event.

Tarun won the first game of the day for Surjo Tarun beating Sumon of the national airliners 15-13, 9-15, 15-10. Tarun then partnered Haris to win the doubles against Mahbub and Sarwar of Biman 15-7, 15-10. Haris confirmed the league title when he beat Mahbub in the third set 10-15, 15-6, 15-6.

Having confirmed the title, Surjo Tarun then gave Biman walkover in the remaining two matches, as is traditionally done.

After losing the men's team final, Biman earned some comfort by lifting the women's team title with an identical margin win against Surjo Tarun Club.

Elina of Biman won against B. Settri and Dola of Surjo Tarun (11-0, 11-0). In between Elina partnered Kanika to beat Settri and her partner Dola in the doubles 15-12, 15-4.

Settri of Surjo Tarun won the lone match for her side defeating Kanika 11-2, 5-11, 11-7. In the remaining match, Biman offered Surjo Tarun a walkover.

Div I soccer

Shantinagar Club registered their second victory in the Metropolis First Division football league beating Muslim Institute 3-1 at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

With the result, Shantinagar have 8 points while Muslim Institute 10 points from seven outings.

Royal struck twice and Shipon once for the winners while Nazmul Hasan scored the lone goal for the losers.

Shantinagar led the first half 1-0 with a goal by Royal in the 20th minute while Shipon doubled the margin in the 56th minute.

Nazmul pulled one back for Muslim Institute in the 73rd minute, but Royal extended the margin for Shantinagar in 84th minute.

The day's other match between Wari Club and Dhanmondi Club ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

After draw, Wari secured 10 points while Dhanmondi bagged eight points from seven outings.

Women's h'ball

BCIC College trounced Dhaka Women College 8-0 in the 5th Delta Life inter-college hall women's handball competition at the Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex yesterday, reports UNB.

Winners led the first half 4-0. Fahmida netted highest five goals for the BCIC.

Mirpur Girls Ideal Laboratory Institute outplayed Rokeya Hall (DU) 7-0 after leading the first half 5-0. Nitun scored 4 and Farju 2 goals for the winners.

Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University registered an impressive 15-4 win over Sidhewari Girls College after leading the first half 7-3.

Sharmin and Dulon netted 4 goals each for the winners.

Narayanganj Government Tolarai College beat BAF Shaheen College (Tejgaon) 2-0 after a goalless draw in the first half. Shova scored both the goals for the winners.

Holy Cross College defeated Home Economics College 2-1 after leading the first half 2-0. Ismat and Nila netted one goal each for the winners while Ishrat scored one for the losers.

In the day's first match, Tejgaon College and Kaliganj Shramik College (Gazipur) played out a 8-8 draw. Kaliganj led the first half 5-4.

Farhana netted 7 goals for Tejgaon College while Suraiya also scored 7 for Kaliganj.

Ban slapped on Pak trio



KARACHI, July 25 (Reuters/ Internet reports): A top Pakistan cricket official said on Sunday that the captain of the national team,

ers in match-fixing, the official APP news agency said.

The allegations by the

Ehtesab (Accountability) bureau

(EBI), were based on a confidential report drawn up for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

almost one year ago.

APP made no reference to an earlier story it had issued saying that Akram had been formally charged but made public for the first time allegations to the PCB on the conduct of

All the allegations, including ones relating more recently to the World Cup, have always been consistently and strongly denied by players concerned.

APP reported: Under the first count, he (Akram) was charged with conspiring to fix the one-day international against New Zealand at Christchurch on March 16, 1994.

The second charge against (Wasim) Akram is that he purposely lost the Sahara Cup match against India in Toronto (Canada) on September 17, 1996.

The report for the PCB followed claims of foul play over a six-year period and also named vice-captain Moin Khan, Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmad, Inzamamul Haq, Mushtaq Ahmad, Waqar Younis and Saqlain Mushtaq.

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Wasim can't believe it



LONDON, July 25 (AFP/ Internet reports): Pakistan captain Wasim Akram today emphatically refuted claims of match-fixing and insisted: "I have done nothing wrong."

A judicial inquiry has been set up in Pakistan to investigate allegations that players were involved in fixing matches and Wasim plans to return home next week to "sort this out".

It had been claimed that

Pakistan deliberately lost the World Cup final against Australia last month.

Wasim, commenting for Channel 4 on the second Test between England and New Zealand, said: "It is a long story. I think what has happened is that in Pakistan sport has a lot to do with politics and this is more political than anything else. I am going to go back next week to sort this out."

"It is getting too much. They are ruining Pakistan cricket and the youngsters in Pakistan are scared of losing now. You won't be able to win in future."

Akram is also critical of the press for fueling the rumors.

"I don't know what they are doing to their own team. I don't believe what is happening. The press in Pakistan can do anything they want. You can sue them but it takes about 100 years to sort the case out."

"They write what they want to write, whatever will sell they write, so the press and media in Pakistan have a big hand in this campaign."

But Wasim emphasized he is innocent, insisting: "I refute any charges. I always have done, I haven't done anything wrong."

"The problem in Pakistan is that everybody gambles, rich guy, poor guy, lawyer, they all gamble and when they lose they blame someone so they blame the Pakistan team."

Wasim's comments followed a statement in Pakistan from Mujeeb Rehman, chairman of the ad hoc committee of the PCB that he and two other senior players, Ijaz Ahmad and Salim Malik, would not be considered for selection pending the completion of the match-fixing investigation.

The suspended chief of the Pakistan Cricket Board has already denied allegations that the team deliberately lost the World Cup final.

Several other allegations, many of them leveled by Pakistan players themselves, have been made in recent seasons.

If somebody thinks the careers of Wasim and others are over, he is living in a fool's paradise," the counsel said, adding: "Wasim is a world class player who has been victimized."

Ijaz and Malik were not available for comment.

It had been claimed by some within Pakistan that Akram's team deliberately lost the World Cup final against Australia at Lord's last month. Their defeats to India and minnows Bangladesh earlier in the tournament also raised some eyebrows.

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