

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



#### Benazir Bhutto

(Pakistani politician)  
The cricket team is being crushed and accused of taking money for losing a cricket match.

Commenting on the match-fixing issue.

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

### Competition-118

Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Aug 6, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who is the new England cricket coach?

Fletcher Hussain Marsh

2. Brazilian footballer Ronaldo 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

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

## Div I soccer

### D'mondi ensure Super berth

Dhanmondi Club confirmed their Super 4 berth beating Dhaka Wanderers Club 4-2 in the First Division Football League at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

With this win, Dhanmondi finished their first phase with 14 points from nine matches. Wanderers have eight points from same outings.

Mehedi struck twice while Bulbul and Babu scored one goal each for the winners. Rana and Echo netted one each for the losers.

The winners led the first half 2-0 with Bulbul scoring in the 18th minute and Mehedi in the 28th minute.

Mehedi netted his second goal in the third minute of the second half. After two minutes, Rana pulled one back for the Wanderers.

Babu completed the winners' tally in the 53rd minute while Echo scored after six minutes to further reduce the losers' margin.

The day's other match between East End Club and Shantinagar Club ended in a 1-1 draw at the same venue.

East End finished the first phase with 12 points from nine matches while Shantinagar Club completed their first phase securing 10 points.

Siraj put East End ahead in the 32nd minute while Royal equalised the score in the 57th minute.

## New Olympic scam exposed

SYDNEY, July 31: Four university students have been charged after fake letters were sent to people telling them they had missed out on Olympic tickets for next year's Sydney Games, reports AP.

Investigators from the Olympic Investigation Strike Force charged the four with trademark and postal offences after raiding a home in eastern Sydney on Friday night.

The board is not insulting any player but if any one found guilty will be dealt severely. It is premature to say what action would be taken against players found guilty but it would be a tough punishment," Rehman asserted.

"No player is neither above discipline nor is indispensable," he said.

Rehman said five players viz

## Comfortable six-point lead into super four

# Mohammedan flattered

Sports Reporter



Mohammedan Sporting advanced into the 'super four' with a monumental lead of six points from their nearest rivals when the popular Motijheel outfit recorded a 2-1 win over holders Muktiyoddha in a crucial Keya Premier Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The black-and-whites could not hope for a better way to finish the first phase when the only unbeaten outfit in the 10-team elite echelon took a 2-0 lead at the breather of an enterprising encounter of the two heavyweights in Dhaka football.

Anwar Hossain, a sensational finding of Mohammedan this year, gave his side a 23rd minute lead, side-footing a Mattur low cross from the left. Alfaz then demonstrated his class as the country's top marksman when the dark and dapper striker scored the second at the stroke of the short whistle with a beauty of a right-footer.

Nakib tried to emulate Alfaz's brilliance when the former national striker came up with a spectacular header in the 69th minute, but that goal was hardly enough for Muktiyoddha to avoid their second successive defeat. Abahani had ended their unbeaten run with a lone-goal victory in the previous match.

The win also exacted a sweet revenge for Mohammedan against Muktiyoddha, who won both their previous Federation Cup meetings.

Hit hard at the start of the season when Mohammedan failed even to make it to the final of the Federation Cup, the all-local Motijheel outfit has had a wonderful run in the league. It was Mohammedan's eighth win against a draw, letting them finish the first phase with 25 points, six points clear of second-placed Muktiyoddha and eight points ahead of their arch-rivals and third-placed

Abahani. Mohammedan, however, had a nervous start on the day, as Muktiyoddha walked into their last match of the first phase in search of a desperately needed victory. But once Anwar broke the evening's duck from the first positive attack, they never looked behind.

The goal originated from a combined attack down the left flank. Alfaz set Motiur up with a fine through pass and the latter made a great run down the left before releasing a low cross deep inside the Muktiyoddha box. Although the onrushing Anwar had failed to connect with his right foot, the nimble forward eventually managed to get enough meat on the ball with his wrong foot to hood-wink Muktiyoddha's custodian Biplob.

The nervous man under the bar can be held partially responsible for the first goal, but the reserve national goalie had no clue when Alfaz released a guided missile from the top of the box, which crashed into the net after hitting the right-hand post.

Stunned by the double blow, Muktiyoddha, who had a disappointing first half, came out firing all their cylinders in the second session with Masud Rana moving menacingly down the flank. Although the left wing-back had a brilliant day on the field, sending imaginative crosses time and again, he was also responsible for spoiling an easy sitter four minutes into the second half.

Masud made a wicked run to break open an offside trap. He was successful in getting hold of Hasan al Mamun's lob on his pet left foot, but he shot miles over the bar with only Ponir at his mercy. Masud Rana, however, made amends of his previous blunder when he set up Nakib to head home their only goal from a great flag-kick in the 69th minute.

The goal added fuel to the Muktiyoddha attack. They got a golden opportunity to level the score six minutes later but after

all the hard work, Liton failed to take a clean shot from a hand-shaking distance.

Muktiyoddha almost pushed Mohammedan against the wall with waves of attack in the last quarter of the ding-dong battle, but all their efforts went in vain in the face of a stubborn black and white defence.

The Muktiyoddha attack was so extensive in the last 20 minutes that Mohammedan had to substitute three forwards — Alfaz, Rakib and Anwar — with players of defensive ability to save their slender lead.

Although Mohammedan resigned to a defensive approach in the second half, they got a couple of chances to increase the victory margin from some quick counter-attacks. Alfaz almost scored his second goal in the 64th minute when, after winning a ball from Jewel, he cracked a scorching left-footer. But his shot missed the mark by an inch or two. Nine minutes later Anwar had an advancing Biplob at his mercy, but he shot the ball over the bar with all the time in the world.

Among the ugly incidents, Mohammedan custodian Ponir got away with a yellow card for punching Muktiyoddha's Nigerian forward Alieu on the face. Liton of Muktiyoddha was cautioned with a yellow card for a cynical tackle against Mohammedan's substitute-forward Shoaib.

### TEAMS

**Mohammedan SC:** Ponir, Faisal, Ruhul Amin, Jahangir, Monwar Munna, Ashkar Babu, Selim, Motiur Munna, Rakib (Shoaib), Anwar (Rezaul) and Alfaz (Shamim).

**Muktiyoddha Sangsad:** Biplob, Hasan al Mamun, Jewel, Rajani, Titu, Masud Rana, Joy, Liton, Alieu Rahman (Bakhtiar), Effiani (Tushar) and Nakib.

Referee: Ibrahim Nesar

### TODAY'S MATCH

YMC Fakiripool vs Mirpur Chalanika (3:30pm)



Muktiyoddha Sangsad striker Nakib heading home against Mohammedan Sporting Club yesterday. — Star photo

# Mujib sticks to his point

KARACHI, July 31 (The Dawn/Inter-net): The chairman of the ad hoc committee Mujibur Rahman on Thursday reiterated that the suspended trio, including skipper Wasim Akram, will not be selected in the coming season until they proved their innocence.

"They are great players but the charges against them are quite serious. They will first have to get their names cleared before becoming eligible for selection," he said in his first press conference in the city during which he faced a barrage of questions regarding the suspension of the three players.

Rehman stressed that the three players were suspended on an interim report prepared by a three-member probe committee of the defunct board and submitted 10 months ago.

He, however, offered no comments when pointed out that at least Salim Malik was cleared of match-fixing and betting charges when the investigations were carried out by former Justice (ret'd) Fakhruddin G Ebraheem in 1995.

He stated that he has not insulted the national heroes by suspending them.

I want them to get cleared of all charges. I have promised my full support to them and have also offered them that I can arrange meetings for them with Accountability Cell chief so that they can defend themselves.

"The board is not insulting any player but if any one found guilty will be dealt severely. It is premature to say what action would be taken against players found guilty but it would be a tough punishment," Rehman asserted.

"No player is neither above discipline nor is indispensable," he said.

Rehman said five players viz

Moin Khan, Inzamamul Haq, Mushtaq Ahmad, Saqlain Mushtaq and Waqar Younis were not suspended because the Accountability Cell had levelled specific charges against Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmad.

However, he added that if the judicial commission named the involvement of any of the five players in match-fixing, he would be taken to task.

"They have not been suspended until now because the interim report didn't mention their names as prime suspects. But if the judicial commission named any of the five players, they would be severely dealt with," he said.

Rehman said he has already made up his mind that the three players will not be selected until the judicial commission submits its recommendation. "The team may lose in their absence, but at least the defeat would not be attributed to any foul play. I don't mind losing

but the allegations of match-fixing are something which takes the gloss out of the prowess of the team."

Rehman said Pakistan cricket was getting a bad name because the issue had been dragging on for four years. He said he believed that the players should have been banned then and there.

Rehman, for the first time, said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was suspended because of mismanagement.

He said the management was suspended because of the repeated allegations of match-fixing. He said the defunct board failed to handle the issue and that's why it prolonged for so long.

He denied the impression that his brother Senator Saifur Rahman manoeuvred to get him inducted as the ad hoc committee chief.

"He, in fact, advised me not to become the ad hoc committee chairman," he said.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader handing over the Delta Life inter-college hall women's handball trophy to the Shamsunnahar Hall skipper yesterday.



Mohammedan forward Anwar (C) opens the scoring against Muktiyoddha.

— Star photo

## Shamsunnahar Hall's treble

Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University clinched their hat-trick title in women's handball tournament when they beat Viquearunnisa Noon School and College 9-3 in the fifth version of the meet at the Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex yesterday, reports UNB.

Rashida and Sharmin netted two goals each for the winners while Sheema scored two and Chhanda one for the losers in the final.

Mirpur Girls' Ideal Laboratory Institute got the third position defeating Ishpani Girls' School and College 5-2.

Shamsunnahar custodian Salma was adjudged best player in the tournament while Siddeshari Girls' College has earned the fair play trophy.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader later distributed prizes as chief guest. Chairman of Delta Life Insurance Company, sponsors of the tournament, Syed Mokarram Ali, handball federation president, committee chairperson Hamida Ali were also present.

**Shamsunnahar Hall:** Lipi, Tania, Mukta, Molly, Rita, Salma, Sarmin, Dola, Rashida, Bina, Ting Ting Mong, Doly and Nasrin.

**Viquearunnisa Noon School & College:** Mimi, Chhanda, Shema, Ratri, Naomi, Avi, Nadia, Mitu, Dina, Shamima, Shaila and Shammi.

### ROLL OF HONOUR

**Champion**  
1993 Viquearunnisa  
1994 Viquearunnisa  
1995 Shamsunnahar Hall  
1996 Shamsunnahar Hall  
1997 Shamsunnahar Hall  
1998 Shamsunnahar Hall

### Div II hockey

Bangladesh Police beat Shishu Kishore Sports Association 3-0 in the Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Moulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports BSS.

Shishur, Asaduzzaman and Rafiq scored one goal each for the winners.

Luthfur of the Police was sent off for attempting to beat umpire Jamal Haider, who was forcing the official to change a penalty stroke decision given against them in the 31st minute.

## Batistuta's boots stolen

REGGELLO, Italy, July 31: Thieves have broken into Fiorentina's locker room here and stolen team captain Gabriel Batistuta's football boots and training shoes, reports AFP.

The Serie A club are in pre-season training near Florence and the overnight theft saw several other players lose team shirts and other pieces of kit.

## Football treat every alternate day

# 'Super 4' demands supermen

Sports Reporter

The 'super four' phase of Keya Premier Division Football League will start from Tuesday August 3, Dhaka Metropolitan Football League Committee (DMFLC) president Abdur Rahim said yesterday. Although the earlier decision was to begin the 'super four' from August 2, the DMFLC deferred the start for a day because of Monday's hartal called by the opposition parties.

Top four teams from the first phase will take part in the 'super four', where each team will face each of the other three teams thrice.

On the opening day, leaders Mohammedan Sporting, who finished the first leg unbeaten with 25 points from nine matches, will take on fourth-placed Arambagh Krira Sangha in the first match at 3:30 pm.

Second-placed Muktiyoddha Sangsad will meet third-placed Abahani in the opening day's

second encounter at 5:50 pm at the same venue.

Muktiyoddha Sangsad finished the first leg with 19 points and Abahani with 17. On the other Arambagh have 15 points.

Two matches will be played every alternate day. According to Rahim, the four clubs will have to play every alternate day because of the time constraint.

"We have to hand over the Bangabandhu National Stadium to Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for the Bangabandhu Cup after August 18. So we have no choice but to make such a tight fixture," said Rahim. He added that the DM-

FLC may use the Bangabandhu Stadium up to August 20 if required.

Rahim also revealed that the price of tickets for the West and Eastern galleries have been fixed at Taka 25 and 15 respectively for the 'super four' matches.

About foreign referees, Rahim said that he has been ensured by the BFF that referees will reach the capital by August 2.

When contacted, BFF joint-secretary Badal Roy confirmed that either Indian or Nepalese referees will arrive in the city before the 'super four' starts.

### SUPER FOUR STANDINGS

Team	M	W	D	L	GA	GF	Pts
Mohammedan SC	9	8	1	0	14	2	25
Muktiyoddha Sangsad	9	6	1	2	18	8	19
Abahani KC	9	5	2	2	13	6	17
Arambagh KS	9	4	3	2	14	11	15

# USA make Germany gloomy



MEXICO 1999

misery with Brazil's second goal.

His brilliantly-taken freekick gave Batty no chance, soaring into the goalkeeper's left-hand corner.

## GERMANY-USA

Earlier Germany's dismal run since last year's World Cup continued as they lost 2-0 to the United States, who qualify alongside Brazil at the European side's expense for the semifinals of the Confederations' Cup.

Goals from Ban Olsen and Joe-Max Moore were enough for the States to see off a disappointing Germany, whose play was riddled with mistakes.

Olsen struck after 23 minutes when a cross from the right was flicked on by Paul Bravo for Olsen to deflect past German goalkeeper Jens Lehmann.

The second goal was a superb individual effort from Moore.

The young prodigy crashed a

superb freekick past the wall into the right-hand corner of Lehmann's goal.

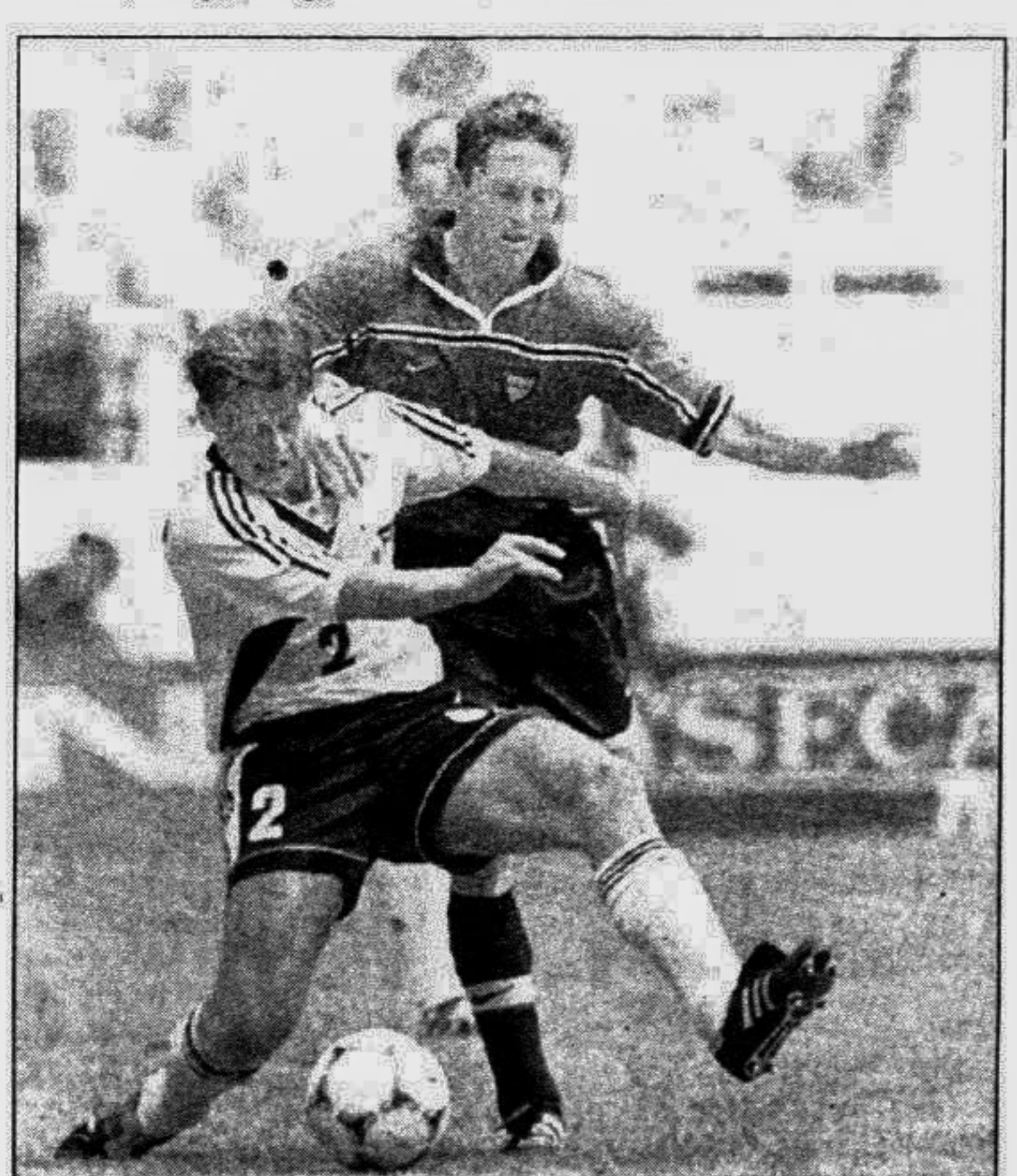
Heike Gerber, Lothar Matthaeus, Christian Worns and Paulo Rink were all cautioned for Germany while Richie Williams, Frankie Hedjuk and Jeff Agoos were booked for the States.

It was Germany's second defeat this year at the hands of the Americans — they also lost to Turkey in a European Championship qualifier last autumn.

By contrast, the United States, who had a miserable World Cup, have confirmed their superb form since Bruce Arena replaced Steve Sampson as coach.

**Brazil top Group B and will play Saudi Arabia in the semifinals while host nation Mexico, who topped Group A, will face the USA.**

Both of the semifinals are tomorrow.



Germany's Christian Worns (L) is challenged by Joe-Max Moore of the United States during their Confederations' Cup encounter on July 30. — AFP photo