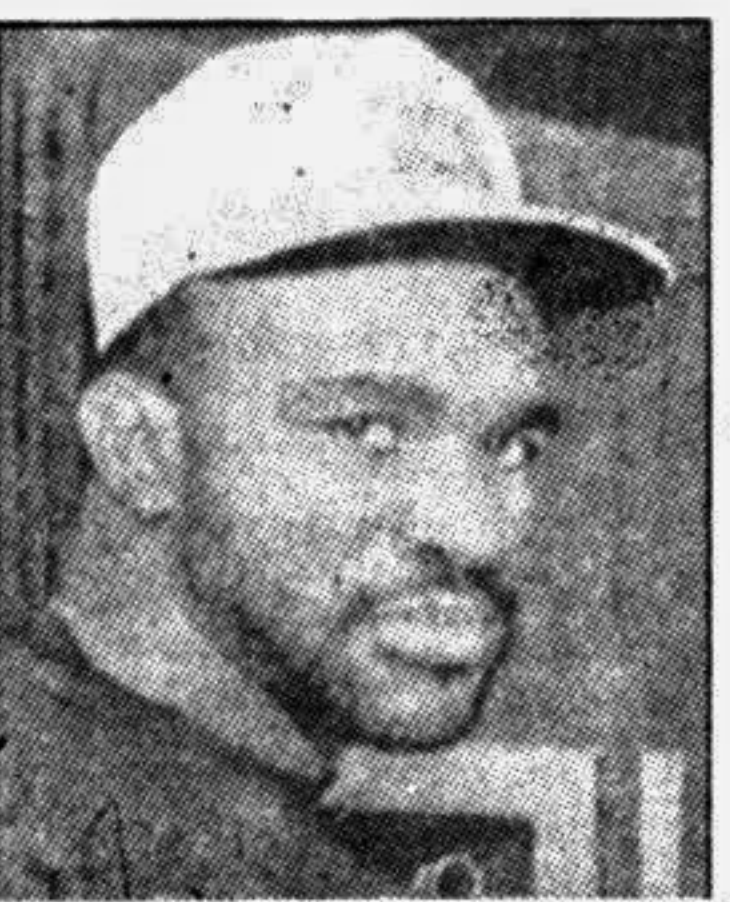


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Evander Holyfield
(Former heavyweight world champion)
"Age is not catching up with me. I am getting older."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-123

✓ Tick the Correct Answers.
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Nov 28, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

- How many Test wickets did Malcolm Marshall grab?
376 380 396
- Who won the Sri Lanka Cup last month?
Pakistan W Indies S Lanka
- What is the name of Steve Waugh's son?
Austin Jacobs Larry
- Who is the vice-captain of India?
Dravid Jadeja Ganguly
- Who became champion in the Keya Premier Division soccer league?
Alahani Mukti Oddha Mohammedan

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

Rezaul ruins Khulna

Sports Reporter
A six-wicket haul by Rezaul Hasan gave Chittagong a devastating 34-run first innings lead over Khulna and two points as their three-day National Cricket League clash ended in a draw at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on Tuesday.

CHITTAGONG: First innings 278 in 97.3 overs (Fakhrul 92 n.o., Haroon 57, Waliul 52; Khairuzzaman 2/40, Jamuhammad 2/68)
KHULNA: First Innings 244 in 91.1 overs (Asadullah Khan 50, Niaz 38, Shamim 35, Raju 34; Rezaul 6/44, Ibtul 2/36, Niaz 2/79)
CHITTAGONG: Second Innings: 128 for 1 in 35 overs (Nafees 60 n.o., Haroon 50 n.o.)

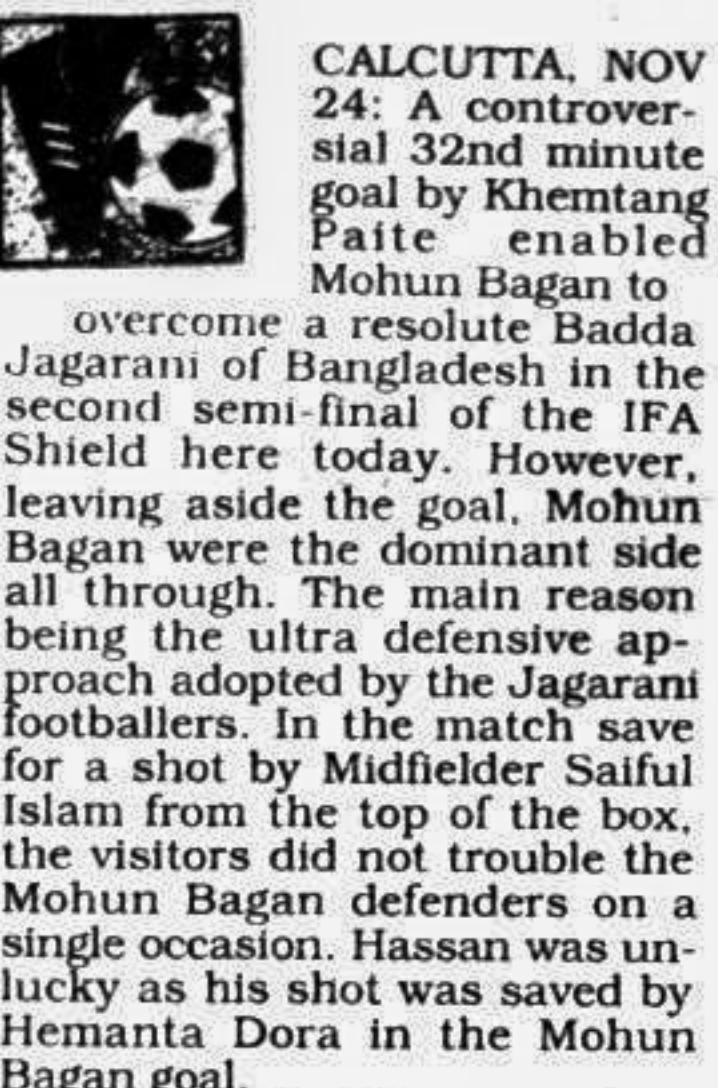
On the final day, Khulna, who resumed their first innings on overnight total of 227 for 8, could add another 14 runs before being all out for 244 in the 7th over of the day.
Rezaul, who took five wickets on Monday for 44 runs, captured another without conceding any more run.
Chittagong, in their second innings, were 128 for one when the umpires called off the game.
Opener Nafees was unbeaten on 60 while Haroon was at the other end with 51.
Rezaul was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

DMCCS lauds CCDM

Sports Reporter
The newly-formed Dhaka Mahanagar Cricket Club Samity (DMCCS) has vowed not to participate in any Premier Division cricketers transfers before the scheduled January 17 start.
In a press release yesterday signed by Ahmed Parvez Sham-suddin, member secretary, the DMCCS said that the club reserved the right to decide when to hold the transfers and neither would they allow any sort of interference in future.
The organisation applauded the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan Area (CCDM) decision for boycotting seven players.

Bagan end Badda's challenge

From our Correspondent



CALCUTTA, NOV 24: A controversial 32nd minute goal by Khemtang Paite enabled Mohun Bagan to overcome a resolute Badda Jagarani of Bangladesh in the second semi-final of the IFA Shield here today. However, leaving aside the goal, Mohun Bagan were the dominant side all through. The main reason being the ultra defensive approach adopted by the Jagarani footballers. In the match save for a shot by Midfielder Saiful Islam from the top of the box, the visitors did not trouble the Mohun Bagan defenders on a single occasion. Hassan was unlucky as his shot was saved by Hemanta Dora in the Mohun Bagan goal.

Jagarani had two attackers up front namely Mani and Khokon. They came up against Jewel Rana, Sammy Omele and Debjit Ghosh. The numerical superiority always lay with the Mohun Bagan defenders. As a result, Jagarani had to defend most of the time. Another mistake that the footballers made was to attack down the middle. The result raids were easily cut off by the 'funnel system of

defence' adopted by Mohun Bagan.

With veteran Satyajit Chatterjee playing very well today, Mohun Bagan attacked in waves especially in the first session. In a span of three minutes between the fifth and the eighth, the broke open the Jagarani defence.

On the first occasion Chatterjee's through down the middle was picked up by an unmarked James.

But he failed to control the ball. In the very next minute Itocha Singh ran down the right and found Kasif.

Jamal on the top box. His powerful shot was off target. Two minutes later, Satyajit again ran down the right and found James with a lovely backpass. The latter's powerful right footer was blocked by Titumeer Choudhury at the cost of a corner.

Dipankar Roy, Dipankar Biswas and Saiful Islam were busy defending. The supply line was, as a result cut off for the Jagarani forwards. It was A.Fatai's brilliance in defence that saved Jagarani from a degrading scoreline.

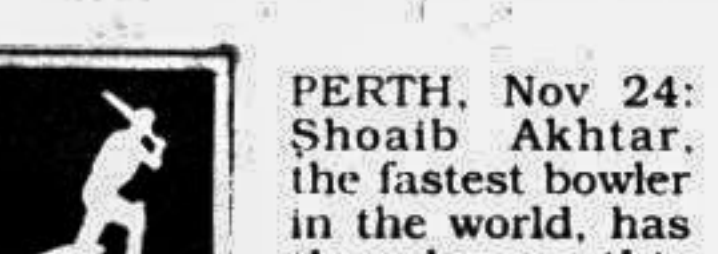
The goal however, came un-

der a cloud of controversy. Defender M. Hassan was injured as he went for a desperate tackle on Chatterjee who was breaking down the right. As he lay on the sidelines, James Singh played a one-two with Kasif down the middle, he then switched on to the right and ran down with the ball. The subsequent footer was headed down by Kasif Jamal on to the path of an onrushing Paite. With Fatai out of position, Paite unleashed a powerful right footer that did not give Titumeer any chance in the Jagarani goal.

The second half was drab compared to the first with play being restricted to the midfield. Both the sides indulged in needless back-passes. With Tanveer Choudhury having an off day, the usual flair of Jagarani down the flanks was missing.

After the match coach Kanan said that Jamal had handled the ball while heading it down. "The referee should have awarded a handball in our favour. However, other than that, I have no complaints. We played badly today. We rarely troubled the Mohun Bagan defenders."

WACA may suit Shoaib



PERTH, Nov 24: Shoaib Akhtar, the fastest bowler in the world, has the chance this weekend to re-

store pride to a demoralised Pakistani team and cement his place in cricket history, reports AFP.

Pakistan, reeling from Australia's extraordinary series-deciding second cricket Test victory in Hobart, head to Perth's WACA ground, where the third and final Test starts Friday.

The WACA has the liveliest pitch in the country, giving Akhtar the opportunity to torment the Australian batsmen and make good on his vow to be the first bowler to break the 100 miles per hour (161 kph) barrier.

During the Hobart thriller, the 24-year-old firebrand reached 95.8 mph and seems certain to gain extra pace here on a round where such speed giants as Curtly Ambrose, Dennis Lillee, Malcolm Marshall and Jeff Thomson have hustled and humbled the world's best batsmen.

The mop-headed Akhtar has delivered only modestly during the first two Tests, capturing five wickets at a costly average of 66 runs apiece.

In the past three Australian innings he has zapped down 45 over for a solitary scalp — a return with which both the and skipper Wasim Akram must be disappointed.

Akram, 33, has also had limited success in the first two Tests, claiming four wickets at an average of 55.

Australia have shown how they think the Perth pitch will be by strengthening their pace department.

New South Welshman Brett Lee, considered by some the fastest Australian bowler, and Queensland Michael Kasprowicz have been added to the squad at the expense of Scott Muller, who disappointed in Hobart, and dual-purpose bowler Colin Miller, who does not have the pace to exploit Perth conditions.

Lee, 23, who is yet to play a senior game for his country, was clocked at 91.9 mph (148 kph) three years ago, but believes he is faster now.

Selectors though may prefer



SHOAIB AKHTAR

the more experienced Kasprowicz, 27, who has played in 14 Tests, the most recent against England just over a year ago.

Because of its exceptional pace and bounce, the WACA

pitch can be a problem for batsmen not familiar with its characteristics, and many top players have failed in Perth in their initial appearances.

It is a sobering thought then for Pakistan that it is the home ground for Australia's second Test heroes, Adam Gilchrist (114 not out) and a Justin Langer (127), who guided their team to victory in Hobart with a 238-run sixth-wicket stand.

If the pitch behaves as expected, there will be little encouragement for Pakistan's champion off-spinner Saqlain Mustaq, but the 22-year-old is talented enough to be among the spoils on any surface.

His first innings 6-46 in Hobart and his match haul of eight wickets, probably ensures he will play ahead of leg-spinner Mushaq Ahmed.

Pakistan would have been better equipped for this game if they had the opportunity to experience the conditions in a first-class match against the Western Australian side.

However, only a one-day match was scheduled for them here at the start of the tour, and that produced a three-run defeat.

Australian captain Steve Waugh has dispelled any thoughts his side may rest on their laurels here after wrapping up the series in Hobart.

To beat these guys 3-0 would be a major achievement — and that is what we aim to do," he said. As well as completing a clean sweep, Waugh wants his troops to remain well-tuned for the three-Test series against India, starting in Adelaide on December 10.

Indians in Australia



NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (AFP/Reuters): Indian cricket board secretary Jaywant Lele on Wednesday denied labelling the national team a bunch of penny-pinching beggars who will be whitewashed on their coming Australian tour.

But Internet website www.rediff.com, which published the interview in which Lele allegedly made his extraordinary outburst, stood by its story even as the board secretary threatened legal action.

"They are trying to tarnish my image by putting out imaginative statements attributed to me," said Lele, who is the second most powerful cricket official in India after the board president.

"I have not spoken to anybody, including Rediff-on-the-net, regarding the merits of the team which has been sent to Australia."

"I am seeking legal opinion on the issue," he told the Press Trust of India.

In the interview, which was splashed in all the leading newspapers on Wednesday, Lele reportedly called coach Kapil Dev a "liar" and ridiculed the selection for the tour which starts on Friday.

Rediff's Executive Editor, Prem Panicker, said he was standing by the story and the reporter.

ago to ascertain whether he had made any such statements," Muttiah said.

"He totally denied having made the remarks," Muttiah said.

Dev hit back after the team arrived in Brisbane insisting he was optimistic about the chances of his side.

"I have a lot of confidence in my team," Dev said.

"I don't think (Lele) can say that but, if he has, that's his opinion and we can't change anybody's opinion."

"I have a team that has a talent and we can only talk about it at the end of the series."

India were thrashed 4-0 on their last tour of Australia in 1992 and are under no illusions as to how difficult the job will be this time after Australia's remarkable win in this week's second Test with Pakistan.

In the interview, Lele reportedly criticised the national team's commitment.

"All that these guys want to do is model and make money," he was quoted as saying.

"We have no problem with that... they are given meal and laundry allowance. But in the evenings they start searching

for invitations to dinner so that they can save that money. "I mean, you are getting this money, come on use it and don't live like beggars," Lele said.

Sachin Tendulkar's team would be decimated by the Australians.

"We will be wiped out 3-0. You watch, they (Australians) will win all three games. India doesn't stand a chance."

"The wickets there will not help the Indians at all. There is so much bounce," he said. Lele, who sits in selection committee meetings as the convenor, but does not have a vote, said the team lacked quality fast bowlers.

"Javagal Srinath? There are 50 Srinaths out there. He was a complete failure at the World Cup," he said.

Lele said the Indian team lacked fitness and accused team officials of hiding the players' injuries.

"The players are fit, but they are not match fit. They don't have it in them to stay for six hours. Team physios do not have the guts to say a player is unfit, because they are so friendly with them, they forget their jobs."

Lele said Kapil had "lied 200 per cent" when he claimed that the Board president's permission was taken to call up Agarkar for net practice before the third Test against New Zealand last month.

"The board president confirmed he did not give any permission. Kapil was lying 200 per cent," Lele said.

Asked why Azharuddin, a veteran of 98 Tests was not considered for selection after being sacked as captain after the World Cup, Lele said: "You have heard the selectors say that they are not even considering him anymore. That should be a signal for him (to retire)."

Jadeja goes to S Africa

MUMBAI, Nov 24: Middle order batsman Ajay Jadeja left for South Africa to get his injured right shoulder treated by Johannesburg-based specialist Dr Mark Ferguson early today, reports PTI.

The Haryana star has a rotator cuff tear in his right shoulder which would take at least three to four weeks to heal.

He is expected to be fit for the tri-nation one-day cricket tournament involving India, Australia and Pakistan to be held from January 9 to 30 in Australia.

CWAB-BCB tug of war over

Sports Reporter

The Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) withdrew their guns last Tuesday (Shab-e-Barat night) and have agreed to join all playing activities, including the ongoing National League, with immediate effect.

The nearly two-week old 'huff and puff' came to an end with the release of a joint statement signed by the BCB joint secretary Mahmud U Haque and the CWAB organising secretary Naimur Rahman.

The cricketers, responding to an appeal from the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury and for the greater interest of the game have decided to take part in the National League," said the joint statement, which came after the successful meeting of the CWAB with Saber.

Terming the CWAB decision as pragmatic, the BCB president said that it would help the progress of the game," added the joint declaration.

Regarding the CWAB's demand for an early transfer Saber said: "The players decision to join the National League will ensure a congenial atmosphere and help to reach a feasible solution."

The CWAB said that they have decided to participate in the National League in the light that the Board president would solve their problems with the help of concerned authorities as soon as possible.

Shafiullah shines Outright victory for Sylhet

Sports Reporter

An all-round performance from Pakistani Shafiullah Maghi guided Sylhet to a comprehensive five-wicket win over Rajshahi in their three-day National Cricket League clash, which ended at the Rajshahi Stadium on Tuesday.

Chasing only 107 in the fourth innings, Shafiullah, the right-handed batsman, who scored 70 in the first innings and captured four wickets in each innings, contributed 80 runs as Sylhet reached home in 55.2 overs with five wickets to spare.

This was the first outright in the first National Cricket League. Six matches have been played so far.

Shafiullah apart, Rana chipped in with 25 while Mowla added 13 runs to the winners' credit.

Earlier in the morning, Rajshahi, who began the day with their overnight total of 41 for three in the second innings, were all out for 142 in the face of some tight bowling from Shafiullah.

The Pakistani, who captured four wickets in the first innings for 34 runs, continued with his superb form and bagged another four wickets conceding 36 runs in the second innings.

Shafiullah was ably helped by Sylhet's new-ball bowler Taposh and Rana Miah, who evenly shared four wickets.

For his magnificent performance, Shafiullah was adjudged the man-of-the-match.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day National Cricket League match between Sylhet and Rajshahi at the Rajshahi Stadium on Tuesday:

RAJSHAHI: First Innings 160 in 80.4 overs (Suja 41, Rashed 37, Shafiullah 4/34).

SYLHET: First Innings 196 for 9 in 100 overs (Shafiullah 70, Rana 30, Saeed 2/32, Tarek 2/48).

RAJSHAHI: Second Innings (overnight 41 for 3 in 17 overs) Rashed c Rana b Shafiullah 13 Bablu run out 11 Suja b Taposh 22 Tarek b Shafiullah 23 Karim lbw b Rana 35 Etee c Hadi b Rana 4 Saeed b Taposh 10 Bidyut c sub b Shafiullah 5 Sumon not out 0 Extras: (b-7, lb-12, nb-4): 23 Total: (all out in 50.2 overs) 142

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-13; 3-31; 4-75; 5-96.

Bowler: O M R W Taposh 11.2 2 20 2 Tanhar 6 0 22 0 Shafiullah 18 8 31 4 Mistu Das 7 1 36 1 Rana 8 3 14 2 Sumon 2 0 5 0 Extras: (b-6, lb-4, nb-1) 11 Total: (For 5 wks in 55.2 overs) 107

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-13; 3-31; 4-75; 5-96.

Bowler: O M R W Saeed 17 9 16 1 Etee 2 1 32 0 Tarek 20 8 36 4 Bablu 3 1 6 0 Kalim 8.2 2 25 0 Suja 2 0 5 0 Sumon 2 0 7 0

Result: Sylhet won by 5 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Shafiullah Maghi.



South Korea's Yeo Woon Kon (R) tries to evade two Pakistani defenders during their Asia Cup men's field hockey championship meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. —AFP photo

Bangladesh mauled

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh ended their first round campaign of the 5th Asia Cup Hockey Championship on a sour note when they suffered a 0-6 defeat against former World Champions Pakistan in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

Although a defeat for Bangladesh was always on the card in a clash of unequal opponents, Pakistan made a mockery of a contest when they took an unassailable 4-0 lead at the breather. It was also the heaviest defeat for Bangladesh in the championship. They lost to defending champions Korea 4-0 in the opening match, but showed a spectacular turn round in their next two encounters against China and Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh hold China 1-1 in the second match before

steamrolling Sri Lanka 7-1 in the penultimate group league match.

With Tuesday's defeat Bangladesh finished third in the Group with four points ahead of China by virtue of better goal difference. They will now take on Hong Kong in the position-deciding match tomorrow.

The four-time winner of this tournament had merely to play at half pace to dispose of Bangladesh who even when fortuitous chance offered a goal scoring opportunity, could not muster the sharpness to finish it.

One came as early as the second minute when forward Ishitque Ahmed forced a penalty corner but his weak shot from it was easily saved.

Fortunes were to turn malign rather swiftly and cruelly for Ishitque just four minutes later when he gifted opposing

forward Arif Mohamad with a pass in his own circle for the latter to stroke in for Pakistan's first goal.

As Pakistan's forwards engaged in some tepid sparring at the Bangladesh defence, it was left to their penalty corner specialist Sohail Abbas to step up the ante with two conversions with his trademark flicks in the 13th and 25th minutes.

Nadeem Mohamed (28th), Arif Mohamad (50th) and again Sohail (63rd) went on to complete the formality of a Pakistani win.

AFP adds, defending champions South Korea continued to foster the impression of holding something in reserve when chalking up a 6-1 win over China in a Group A match on Tuesday.

Korea led 3-1 at halftime. Earlier victories over feeble Bangladesh (5-0) and inept Sri

See page 15

More of Sachin to come



NEW DELHI, Nov 24 (AFP): Sachin Tendulkar left for Australia on Tuesday to begin a second decade in international cricket that promises bigger feats from the little master than the first one.

Tendulkar leads India on the tough 74-day tour, which includes three Tests against Steve Waugh's men and a triangular one-day series also featuring Pakistan.

The Indian captain, who turns 27 next April, is widely regarded as the most likely candidate to shatter all batting records — except, perhaps Australian legend Don Bradman's awesome average of 99.6.

With 21 Test and 24 one-day centuries under his belt, Tendulkar may already have done enough in the last 10 years to be rated as one of the game's all-time greats.

But he is hungry for more

after surpassing two psychological barriers — a Test double-century and a one-day personal best of 186 — over the last three weeks.

"I would have regretted not have attained the 200, but at no stage did I lose sleep over it," said Tendulkar, who hit the international scene on November 15, 1989 in Pakistan.

"I will be happy to win a game for India that create some record and end up on the losing side."

Tendulkar's lone obstacle over the last decade was not the rival bowling but a troublesome back which forced him to miss a few one-day tournaments this year.

Luckily for him — and India — the problem was minor and he was at his best in the recent home series against New Zealand where he belted a century and a double in the Test series and a personal best in the one-dayers.

The upcoming battles

against Shane Warne and company should be a treat for Australian fans, who were drawn to Tendulkar when he toured there as a 18-year-old during the 1991-92 season.

Australia smashed an unbeaten 148 in Warne's debut Test at Sydney, before signing off with a brilliant 114 in India's 272 on the fastest wicket in the world at Perth.

Tendulkar was again in spectacular form when Australia toured India early last year, scoring his maiden first-class 200 in a side match at Bombay, followed by two centuries in the Test series.

Australia's misery continued on the subsequent one-day tournament in Sharjah where Tendulkar hit two back-to-back hundreds to win India the title.

Tendulkar goes to Australia with an impressive tally of

See page 15

Booters beaten 0-3

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh stumbled to their second consecutive defeat in the 12th Asian Cup qualifying round when hosts United Arab Emirates (UAE) blanked them 3-0 at Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

Bangladesh, who were thrashed by Uzbekistan 6-0 in the opening Group Three match on November 21, however showed some sort of resilience in their second encounter despite conceding the goal.

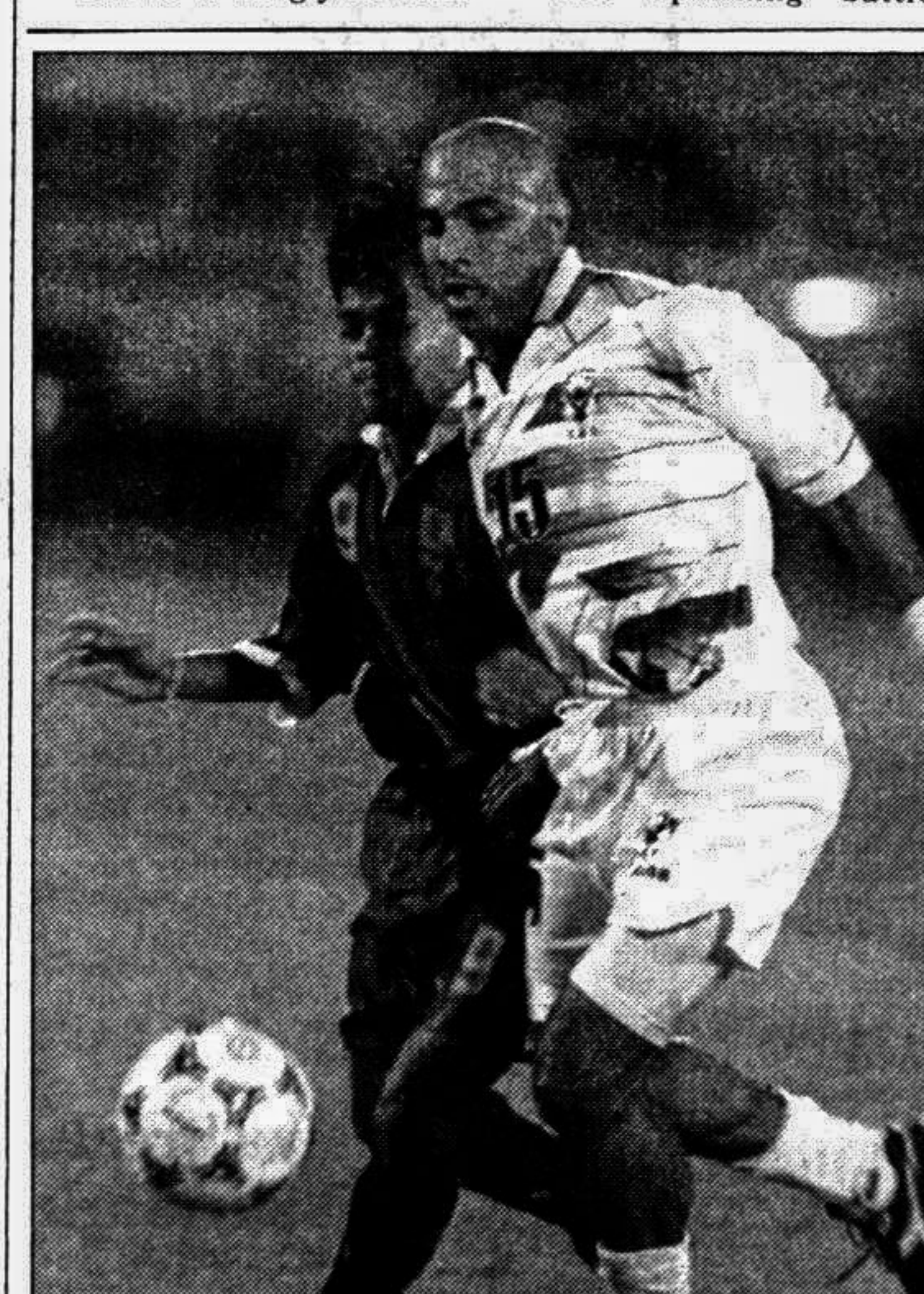
According to a faxed message received here yesterday, Bangladesh played extremely well in the second half after the hosts took a 2-0 lead at the breather.

But by the presence of around two thousand Bangladeshi expatriates in the desert kingdom, Bangladesh came close to scoring on a number of occasions in the second session. But striker Alfaz spoiled two easy chances, shooting the ball wide off the mark. Besides, Tipu failed to head the ball home from a hand shaking distance, eventually letting the more colorful hosts off the hook.

Abdur Rahim scored the first goal for UAE in the fourth minute lobbing the ball home over an out of position Bangladesh custodian Biplob.

Biplob was also responsible for the second goal in the 17th minute. UAE sealed the fate of the match when Fuad hammered the third from a goal mouth scramble midway through the second half.

Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka in their third group league match today.



Bangladesh forward Mizanur Rahman (L) and Emirates' Mohamed Ali Ahmed fight for possession during their Asian Cup encounter at Al Ain on November 23. —AFP photo