

Muktis ride on Arman antics

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijodha Sangsad Krira Chakra came from behind to notch a 2-1 victory over Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in the National Bank Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Emeka Echilefu struck his fifth goal and midfielder Arman celebrated his first as the title-aspirants overcame a tough challenge from the old town outfit in their bid to regain the crown.

The 1999 champions, who scored an emphatic 5-0 victory over Badda Jagarani in the previous match, began the last night's encounter on the wrong foot when Rahmatganj took a stunning 17th minute lead through Sahajuddin Tipu.

Tipu cashed in on a terrible defence error by Rajani to give Rahmatganj the lead. The otherwise dependable Muktijodha defender headed a left flank cross by Narayan straight on to an unmarked Tipu, who gleefully accepted the loose ball and fired low past a hapless custodian Biplob.

But undaunted by the early setback the boys of Shafiqul Huq Manik came back strongly with Arman leading the way.

The gifted midfielder, who switched to Muktijodha this season after leading Abahani to title triumph last year, set up the equaliser with a fierce free-kick from the right-hand corner in the 32nd minute.

Emeka used his height to head the ball home from the far post. The tall Nigerian, who struck twice against Badda, is now behind Mohammedans striker Nakib, who has netted six times so far in the League, on the leading scorer's list.

Arman then sealed the victory five minutes later with an exquisite free-kick from about five yards outside the box. He demonstrated his dead ball skills floating the ball over the Rahmatganj wall on to the left-hand post of keeper Anwar.

Muktijodha held on to the slender lead despite some attractive moves by a desperate Rahmatganj after the break.

The closest Rahmatganj came to drawing level when Shanur drove a sudden shot that hit the crossbar and went off.

The victory put Muktijodha in the second place along with Abahani, both having collected with 13 points each from five games. Mohammedan lead the 10-team table with maximum 15 points.

On the other hand it was Rahmatganj's third defeat and they remained content with four points from five games.

TEAMS

MUKTIJODHA: Biplob, Hasan al Mamun (Lajuk), Rajani, Sujon, Abdullah, Arman, Motiur Munna, Papel, Saiful Islam Moni (Mehdi), Alfaz (Rakib) and Emeka
RAHMATGANJ: Anwar, Sahanur, Faisal, Apu (Sujon), Narayan (Jaman), Deen Mohammad, Selim, Shamim, Basanta Thapa, Ritu and Tipu
Referee: R Alam



Did U Know?

During the first several modern Olympics, the marathon was always an approximate distance. In 1908, the British royal family requested that the marathon start at the Windsor Castle so that the royal children could witness its start. The distance from the Windsor Castle to the Olympic Stadium was 42,195 metres (or 26 miles and 385 yards). In 1924, this distance became the standardised length of a marathon.



- BTV**
Pakistan vs South Africa
Morocco Cup, Fifth Match
Live at 3:30 pm
- ESPN**
Western Union World Football
Repeat at 11:00 am
English Premier Football League
Leeds United vs Manchester City
Repeat at 1:30 pm
English Premier Football League
Aston Villa vs Liverpool
Live at 6:55 pm
English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Birmingham City
Live at 9:00 pm
- STAR Sports**
Asia Sport Show
Int'l Sports News
Repeat at 9:30 am
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
Repeat at 2:30 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 178

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm Aug 30, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards.

- Name the Bangladesh A team captain for the Kenya tour:
Hannan Sanwar Ashraf
- Who became Asia's fastest woman?
Jayasinghe Jones
- Asif Hossain clinched gold in which Commonwealth Games event?
Athletics/Shooting/Swimming
- Who won the Orient handball title?
Wari BDR Young Pegasus
- Who was man-of-the-match in the second Test between England and India?
Tendulkar/Vaughan/Stewart

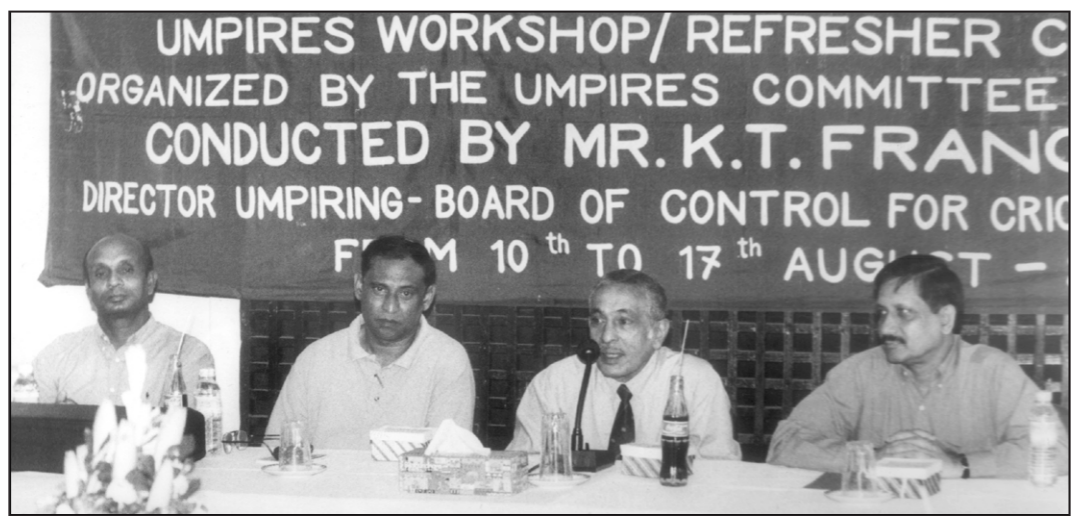
Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)



Serena Williams
(American tennis star)
"I'm really excited. I smile a lot. I win a lot and I'm really sexy."
After winning the Wimbledon



National Bank Premier Football League
Dhanmondi Club vs Victoria SC
(5:00 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.



Former Sri Lankan umpire K T Francis addresses a briefing on the final day of a week-long umpires refreshers course at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's stadium office yesterday. The reputed umpire was invited by the Board to share his vast knowledge.

Tim wins sprint duel

Chambers, Greene go down

Athletics

BBC, Zurich

American Tim Montgomery overshadowed the showdown between Dwain Chambers and Maurice Greene by winning the 100m at the Zurich Golden League meeting.

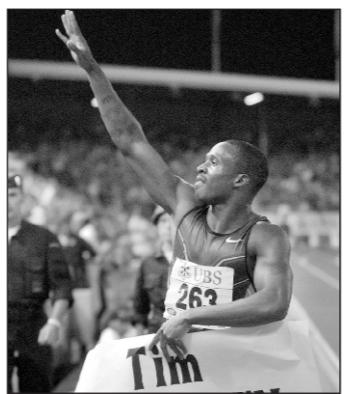
But the sprint stars were themselves put in the shade by Moroccan Brahim Boulami, who smashed his own world record in the 3,000m steeplechase.

Montgomery ran 9.98 seconds to cross the line just 0.02secs ahead of fellow American Coby Miller.

Chambers, the European champion, was third, with Commonwealth champion Kim Collins fourth, ahead of world record holder Greene.

Chambers set a new personal best in the heats with 9.94 seconds, to beat the time he set in winning gold at the European Championships this month - by 0.02s.

But he never looked in the running to win the final - and Greene's race was worse than that. The world and Olympic champion was slow away from the blocks



TIM MONTGOMERY
and never recovered - and he limped away from the track at the end of the race.
Greene said: "They ran good and I ran bad. It's simple, they ran a

better race. "I haven't got jet lag, I'm not tired, I've got no excuses. They just ran better."

Montgomery said: "The pressure was high, running against Chambers and Maurice. The 1.3m/s headwind had an impact on the winning time but it doesn't matter. What's important was to win."

Chambers added: "The other guys came here fresh. I was feeling a little tired from the Commonwealths and European Championships."

He added: "Now all I want to concentrate on is to run 10 seconds consistently."

Boulami's amazing new world record in the men's 3,000m steeplechase saw him run seven minutes 53.17 seconds to break his own previous mark by two seconds.

Boulami took control of the race from the start and led throughout, finishing strongly to comfortably

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Hingis falters

Tennis

REUTERS, Montreal

Yugoslavia's Jelena Dokic has cut short the comeback of former world number one Martina Hingis with a 6-4, 6-3 victory in the quarterfinals of the Canadian Open.

Third seed Dokic frequently outflanked Hingis with her powerful shots in a match that lasted little more than an hour.

"I was sometimes a little slow. She played well from both sides," Hingis said. "She is in a tournament routine and that is what I need to get back to."

The 1.2 million dollars Canadian Open, a warm-up for the U.S. Open, was the first tournament Hingis played in three months, having undergone left ankle surgery in May.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done, Hingis said. "I need to stay in those rallies."

She will play the tournament in New Haven next week before heading to Flushing Meadows.

Dokic, currently at a career high fifth place in the world rankings, said her performance on Friday was one of her best this year.

"She is still tough to beat," she said. "She is for me one of the greatest that has played."

"(But) I don't think she is at the top of (her) game."

American second seed Jennifer Capriati booked her place in the semi-finals after storming back to beat fifth seeded Belgian Justine Henin 4-6, 6-0, 6-2.

World number six Henin snatched the first set helped by her



MARTINA HINGIS
serve and speed around court, but Capriati, ranked third in the world behind Serena and Venus Williams, roared back.
"After the first set, I just got a little angry at myself," Capriati said. "I just stuck in there. She didn't serve that well in the second and third set."
The match was played under hot and windy conditions with the tem-

perature on the court rising to 40 degrees Celsius.

Henin called a 10 minute break to recover from the heat after being thrashed in the second set.

The rest did her good, breaking Capriati's serve in the first game of the third set. But the American broke straight back and then ran away with the match.

"I had to be more aggressive if I wanted to win the match, but she was playing very long and she didn't give me the time to organise my game in the second and third sets," Henin said.

Capriati, champion here in 1991, will meet Dokic in the semi-finals. They last met in the quarterfinals of San Diego, where Dokic won the three set match.

"We had a tough match last time in San Diego," Dokic said. "She is the favourite and she has all the pressure on her, so I'm just going to go out there and try to play a good match."

The other semifinal will pit France's Amelie Mauresmo, the world number 10, against Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova.

Mauresmo advanced to the semi-finals by making short work of Colombia's Fabiola Zuluaga, winning 6-0, 6-2 in just 50 minutes.

"I broke very early and that gave me

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Muktijodha's Nigerian striker Emeka takes a tumble when confronted by two Rahmatganj defenders during a National Bank Premier Division Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

AB Bank TT

UNB, Dhaka

Wari Club continued their winning run in the AB Bank Metropolis Table Tennis Super League beating Inter Sports 3-0 at the NSC Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman also cruised over Armanitola JS in the day's other match at the same venue.

In the First Division Super League matches, Ajax SC beat Cynthia SC 3-2, Mariner Youngs defeated Khelaghar SKS 3-1, Swambagh TTS beat Arka Club 3-1.

In the women's league, Biman Red defeated Ajax SC 3-0 and beat Biman Green by 3-1, Azimpur Young Star beat Swambagh TTS 3-0, Khelaghar SKS defeated Surf Knitting 3-0, and Azimpur Young Star beat Khelaghar SKS 3-0.

Cute handball

UNB, Dhaka

Menjis Krira Chakra defeated Old Ideals 29-10 in the Cute Premier Division Handball League at the court next to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 14-4. Hanif scored 10, Apu 6 and Yasin 5 for Menjis while Murshed netted 6 and Tareq 4 for Ideals.

In another match, Bangladesh Rifles defeated Dhaka Wanderers Club 27-15 after leading the first half 13-7.

Miraz and Titumir scored five goals each while Shamim four for the winners. Faruq and Debabrita netted six goals each and Ashis three for the losers.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Wanderers Club vs Arambagh KS, Menjees KC vs Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club.

Lanka name ICC squad

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's cricket selectors on Friday included Kumar Dharmasena in the 14-man squad for the ICC Champions Trophy tournament to be played here from September 12 to 30.

The off-spinner, a member of the team that won the 1996 World Cup, has been added to the squad playing in the ongoing triangular Morocco cup tournament in Tangiers.

TEAM

Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardena, Aravinda De Silva, Russel Arnold, Hasantha Fernando, Chaminda Vaas, Dilhara Fernando, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Tillekaratne Dilshan, Pulasthi Guneratne, Kumar Dharmasena

Lehmann in fitness race

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia one-day international batsman Darren Lehmann has a broken finger and must pass a fitness test if he is to join the team for the triangular series in Kenya later this month.

Lehmann will be assessed in Melbourne on Sunday, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said.

Lehmann has been named in a

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Sanath's near miss

Cricket

AFP, Tangiers

Sanath Jayasuriya played a captain's knock of 97 off 94 balls to lift Sri Lanka to 242 all out against Pakistan in the Morocco Cup here on Saturday.

The left-hander smashed 12 boundaries and a six, steering Sri

Lanka out of early trouble after three wickets had fallen for 53 by the 14th over.

Jayasuriya missed his 13th one-day century by three runs when Wasim Akram, returning for his second spell in the 35th over, trapped the batsman leg-before with his second delivery.

Pakistan still enjoy the edge despite Jayasuriya's heroics, facing a modest target of 4.9 runs an over on a slow wicket at the Tangiers

cricket stadium.

Pakistani captain Waqar Younis claimed 3-43 and Akram and Abdul Razzaq took two wickets each as Sri Lanka were bowled out with one delivery to spare.

Mahela Jayawardena (43) was the only other batsman to shine, helping Jayasuriya add 111 for the fourth wicket off 117 balls.

Waqar wrecked Sri Lanka's start, running out Marvan Atapattu before removing Kumar Sangakkara and Aravinda De Silva in successive



Sri Lankan skipper Sanath Jayasuriya plays a rare forward defensive shot in the Morocco Cup match against Pakistan yesterday.

Pakistan 127 for five

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan were struggling at 127 for five in 33 overs against fellow Asian giants Sri Lanka in their second meeting in the Morocco Cup tri-series yesterday.

Earlier, the Lankans relied on a brilliant 97 by skipper Sanath Jayasuriya as they made 242 in 49.5 overs.

Atapattu helped Jayasuriya put on 42 for the first wicket in eight overs when he was run out for 16 after his captain refused a sharp single.

Waqar then clean bowled Sangakkara and had De Silva caught behind by wicket-keeper Rashid Latif in the space of seven deliveries.

Jayawardena and Jayasuriya plundered the Pakistani attack when a brilliant piece of fielding by Latif ended the century partnership.

As Jayasuriya called his partner for a single after patting the ball to leg, Latif swooped on the ball, removed the right glove and threw

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Shoaib in, Saqlain out

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Express pacer Shoaib Akhtar has returned to the Pakistan fold for a tri-series in Kenya and next month's

Trophy," chief selector Wasim Bari told the news agency.

Akhtar spearheaded Pakistan's attack in their 2-1 win over Australia in the Super Challenge series in June this year, but was not considered for the on-going tri-series in Morocco.

"Saqlain is unavailable for both

in Pakistan, from August 29 to September 7.

All ten Test playing countries, along with Kenya and the Netherlands, feature in the biennial ICC Champions Trophy to be held in Sri Lanka between September 12 and 30.

"Both are important tours and would give us an ideal opportunity to assess our team's strong and weak points ahead of next year's World Cup," Bari said.

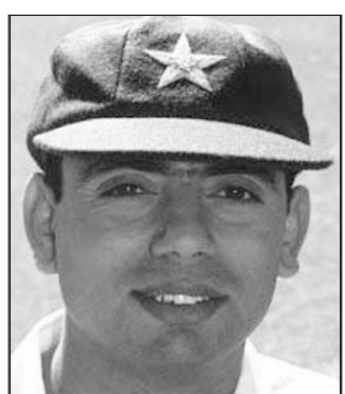
Pakistan are placed with Sri Lanka and the Netherlands in the ICC event.

Squad for Kenya tri-series: Waqar Younis (captain), Inzamam-ul Haq (vice captain), Saeed Anwar, Wasim Akram, Yousuf Youhana, Rashid Latif, Abdul Razzaq, Younis Khan, Imran Nazir, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Akhtar, Shoaib Malik, Azhar Mahmood, Mohammad Sami and Misbahul Haq.

Mudassar Nazar (coach) and Yawar Saeed (manager)

Squad for the ICC Champions Trophy: Waqar Younis (captain), Inzamam-ul Haq (vice captain), Saeed Anwar, Wasim Akram, Yousuf Youhana, Rashid Latif, Abdul Razzaq, Younis Khan, Imran Nazir, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Akhtar, Shoaib Malik, Azhar Mahmood and Mohammad Sami.

Mudassar Nazar (coach) and Yawar Saeed (manager)



SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ



SHOAIB AKHTAR

ICC (International Cricket Council) Champions Trophy, while experienced off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq missed out in both events, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced Saturday.

"Akhtar missed the Tangiers tri-series as he was resting and now he will be back for both the tri-series in Kenya and for the ICC Champions

the events so he was not considered."

The Surrey off-spinner said he was unavailable because his wife is expecting their second baby later this month.

Pakistan take on world champions Australia and hosts Kenya in their Golden Jubilee tri-series, shifted to Kenya over security fears