

Hullabaloo

include any player of the current premier or first division teams. The tournament started with IDLC taking on Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the first match of the event.

The rules of the tournament and the draw for the team groups were disclosed this at a press conference before the event. BRAC Bank Managing Director Imran Rahman was present for this occasion and gave a speech. "The main idea of this tournament is for the members of the corporate world to get together, to know each other and also to build cordial relationship among the participating teams," said Rahman. Later, Farhan Quddus, the owner of Excalibur Entertainment who is the main organisers of the tournament, conducted the draw of the 32 participating teams. Some of the popular teams from

I suppose anyone would choose wood over a concrete surface when it comes to playing soccer; wood is so much more agreeable with the skin when they make contact after a person has been tackled.



Beximco Pharma, the champion of the BRAC Bank Cup 2006.

all nooks and crannies of the corporate world that took to the court were Infra Blue Tech, Ice Tech, GrameenPhone, Aarong, Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC), Rahimafroze, Beximco Pharma, Partex, Nestle, IDLC, Securex and Square. ISD also had their own team in the competition, a chance for the young boys to compete with against men while BRAC had two teams of their own.

From the first day, it was rather obvious that some of the players from the corporate world should have stayed well within their domain. Their lack of finesse, not to mention stamina, was rather obvious in the first minute of the match and they made the best use of the rolling substitution. This was met with much amusement and even some cheer from their supporters, as they presumed that the fresh legs would carry a new breath of stamina. They were wrong. Even some of the mighty (by that I mean large around the waist) men crumbled as the game intensified. On the contrary, some of the players felt quite at home in this indoor ground. They dribbled, weaved, turned and took attempts at the goal, almost always finding the back of the net. The wide goalpost at ISD did little to help the goalkeepers as they missed ball after ball of attacking mayhem.

There were several memorable events throughout the duration of the competition. One such was Beximco Pharma's quick and ruthless annihilation of Securex, who conceded 20 goals without any reply. The battle between the cell phone operators, GrameenPhone and Bangalink was also watched with much zeal but GrameenPhone looked comfortable from the start and bagged five goals without conceding any. Another interesting match was held between Beximco Pharma and Beximco Textiles, both teams pitted against one another in the knockout phases of the match-up. After what seemed a battle of wits, Beximco Pharma won the match to move onto the next round. Infra Blue Tech also had a stunning run, winning in all their respective matches but their victories were short lived as Multimode Limited knocked them out in a gruelling penalty shoot-out. In the finals, Ice Technology met with Beximco Pharma and in a spectacular finale to the event, Beximco won three goals to two. It was a well-deserved win and in the end, everyone got a bit of what they came here for: some got to show off their skills, while others, left memories on the wooden floor, and still some others got to leave a lot of crammed frustrations on the pitch, fresh and ready to get back to the cycle of daily life.