The Titans clash in today's final Sports Reporter

Arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra clash in the final of the BTC Club

Cup charity football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium today. The clash of the local soccer Titans kicks off at 5:00

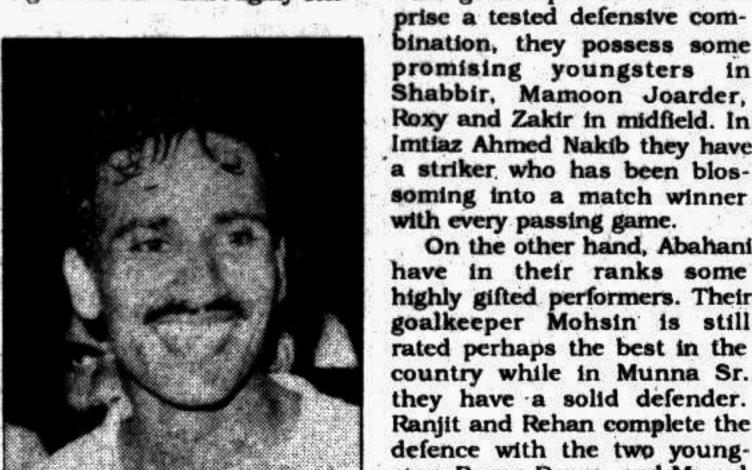
Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will give away the trophies after the match.

The game will mark the culmination of the eight-day, six-team tournament which began last May 31 under the joint auspices of the Bangladesh Football Federation and the Dhaka Metropolis Clubs Association. The entire proceeds from the tourney will go to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund in aid of the April 29 cyclone victims.

Bangladesh Television will telecast the match live while Radio Bangladesh will broadcast running commentary.

Today's encounter will be the 45th between the traditional rivals. Since 1972, Mohammedan Sporting have won 18 of those contests and Abahani 13 with the remaining 13 games ending in draws. The draws include a couple of abandoned ties due to crowd violence.

book their final berth beating East Bengal Club of Calcutta 2l in extra time in the first semifinal on Tuesday while Mohammedans defeated another Calcutta giant Mohun Bagan 1-0 in a thoroughly one-



SHEIK MD ASLAM

sided encounter Wednesday.

The two other participants in the meet, Brothers Union of and Calcutta Mohammedan Sporting failed qualify for the semifinals from their robin league groups.

Mohammedans should start as the favourites for today's match given their fine showing in the meet, especially against Mohun Bagan. Theirs is side with a good blend of youth and experience. While Kaiser Hamid, the skipper, Imtiaz Sultan Johnny and Abul along with goalkeeper Kanan comprise a tested defensive com-

bination, they possess some promising youngsters in Shabbir, Mamoon Joarder, Roxy and Zakir in midfield. In Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib they have a striker who has been blossoming into a match winner with every passing game. On the other hand, Abahani

highly gifted performers. Their goalkeeper Mohsin is still rated perhaps the best in the country while in Munna Sr. they have a solid defender. Ranjit and Rehan complete the defence with the two youngsters Barun Dewan and Masud Rana raring to prove themselves. The midfield is marshalled by skipper Rupu, who unfortunately hasn't been performing up to potential lately. The veteran Yousuf and the young and energetic Alamgir combine well with Rupu to dominate the midfield. Abahani's main strength lies in their ace strikers Sheikh Aslam and Rumi. While Aslam has endured over the past several seasons as one of the finest finishers and goalgetter

in the game Rumi, too, has been scoring freely over the past couple of seasons. In the semifinal against East Bengal, both Aslam and Rumi produced two beautiful goals to take their side to the final. Talking to this correspon-



IMTIAZ AHMED NAQUIB

dent yesterday evening, Mohammedan captain Kaiser Hamid expressed optimism, "Inshallah, we will win." His coach Kaikobad was more guarded, saying that although his boys were confident yet clashes between the two big teams could always go either way.

Sheikh Aslam, when ap-

proached at the Abahani club pavilion at Dhanmondi just before the Maghreb prayers yesterday, said he was happy the way his teammates had played in the tourney so far and saw no reason why they could not lift the coveted trophy. So saying, the gifted striker hoped for the best and rushed off to say his prayers.

TICKETS

The tickets for today's game will cost Taka 25 for the galleries and Taka 50 for Gates 3A and 3B.

MANAGERS' APPEAL

Meanwhile, in a press release issued last night, the managers of the two teams -Abdus Salam Morshedi of Mohammedans Ashrafuddin Chunnu of Abahani

 have jointly appealed to their respective supporters to maintain a cordial atmosphere and refrain from partisan ex-

Reminding that the spirit behind the very holding of the meet is a noble and charitable one, they urged their fans to take the result of the game in a sporting manner and not to resort to any form of violence.

They hoped the soccer lovers of the city would heed their appeal and facilitate a smooth, healthy game of foot-

Edberg exit sends tickets tumbling Agassi, a semi-finalist in



PARIS, June 6: The shock defeat of world number-one Stefan Edberg has sent black market

prices for centrecourt tickets tumbling and given a new significance to Friday's semi-finals at the French Open, reports AFP.

The touts lining the roads leading to the Roland Garros Stadium were able to charge only five times over the odd today.

Had Edberg beaten hardhitting American Jim Courier on Wednesday the same tickets would have been changing hands at up to twenty times their value.

The arrival of Courier and 12th seeded German Michael Stich in the semi-finals may be fully deserved but is not good box-office.

And it has turned Friday's explosive match between world number-two Boris Becker and last year's finalist Andre Agassi into 'the final before the

An all-American showdown between former Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy products Agassi and Courier looks a more likely outcome than a

first all-German clash.

The last time two Americans fought for the French crown was in 1954 when Tony Trabert beat Art Larsen. "You have to go back to the

> pre-war thirties to find any German winners - Gottfried Von Cramm, twice, and Henner Henkel. The pressure on Becker,

winner of three Wimbledon titles, the United States Open and the Australian Open in the last six years, to match Von Cramm's achievement will be tremendous. Not only is the 23-year-old

German bidding for the only major title to have eluded - he is also within striking distance of reclaiming world numberone status.

Beeker takes over as the world's top player if he beats

Before losing to Spanish clay-court specialist Sergi Bruguera in the Monte Carlo Open final, Becker at last looked to have mastered the deadly-slow surface which is so unfavourable to his big-serving

And although a three-week lay-off because of a painful back meant that he arrived in Paris match-shy, the 6ft 3 in German has made impressive strides in the right direction.

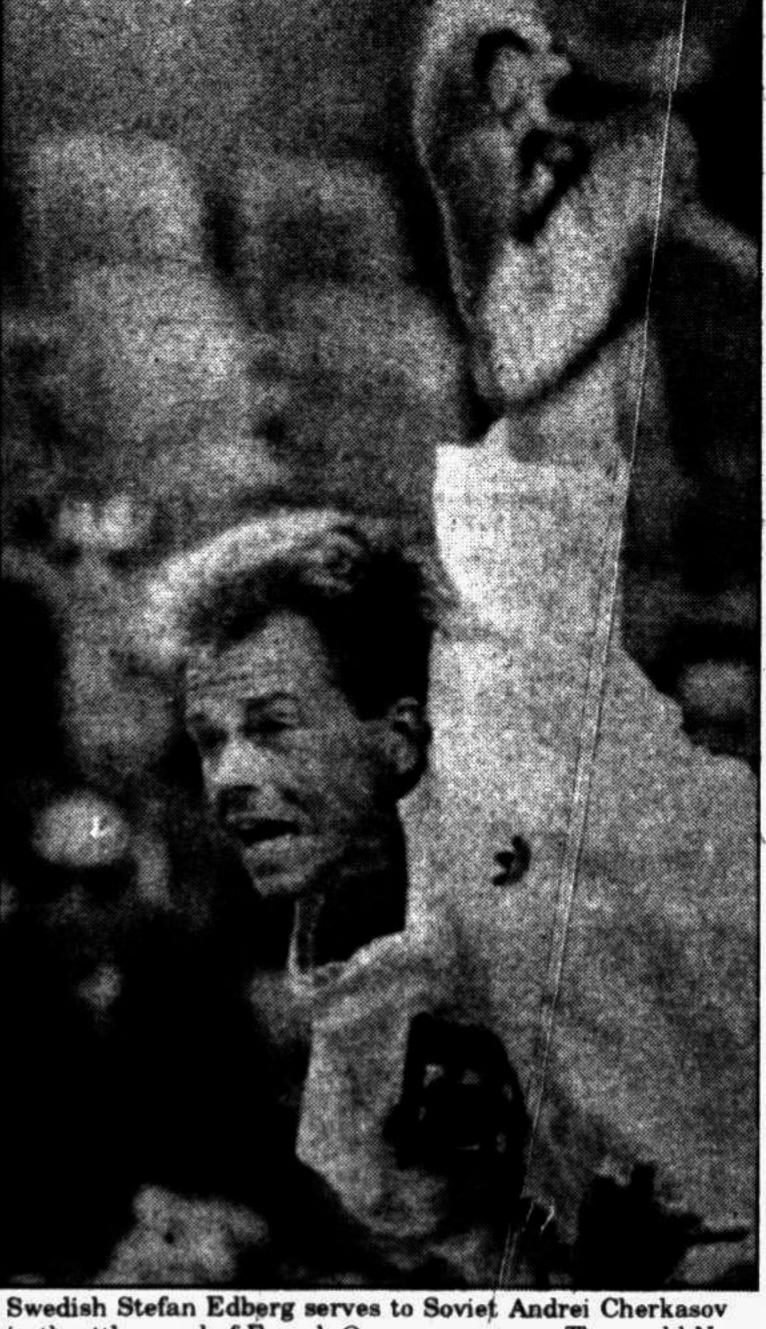
Australian Todd Woodbridge pushed him to the limit in the second round but Becker was playing brilliantly by the time he reached the quarter-finals. He conceded only 10 games to 1989 champion Michael Chang.

Perhaps the only real question-mark hanging over Becker is his fitness. He has been wearing a bandage to protect his right leg in the world's most punishing tournament.

But Becker has lost the last three of his six matches against Agasst. He was beaten in four sets in last September's US Open and has twice lost in semi-finals this year.

Agassi beat him in straight sets at Indian Wells and in the ATP world championships at Frankfurt.

1988 and a finalist last year, has hugged the headlines in recent seasons not only for his power tennis but also for his choice of equipment.



in the 4th round of French Open on . The world No 1 won the 3 setter. - AFP photo



2-1 win over Austria in their European championship soccer qualifier on Wednesday, reports Reuter. Though weakened by injury,

the Danes dominated from the start of the group four match and went in front after just 90 seconds when Christensen latched on to a headed cross and rammed it past goalkeeper Otto Konrad from close range. Playing with three attackers

instead of their usual two, the Danes repeatedly pressed the hesitant Austrian side but

Flemming Povlsen came close to adding to Denmark's lead in the opening 20 minutes.

denied until the 77th minute when he scored his second with a powerful header.

Despite the two-goal deficit, Austria never gave up and six minutes later were rewarded when substitute Alfred Hoertnagel squared the ball across the face of the goal for Ernst Ogris, to squeeze his shot between the post and goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel.

Moeller Nielsen said: "Our new tactic of using three attackers served us well, but they gave us some trouble in midfield." The win left Denmark three points adrift of group leaders Yugoslavia. They have played five games to Yugoslavia's six.

Austria, with only three points from five games, have no hope of qualifying for the

Norris knocks out Curry

Norris, in his first fight

they see that I can."



California, June 6 : Terry Norris knocked out Donald Curry to keep his crown,

PALM SPRINGS,

Norris said he was determined to prove something in his Saturday night World Boxing Council super welterweight match against Curry. 'You saw a different Terry Norris tonight," the champion asked after his eighth-round knockbut of Curry, a former undisputed welterweight champion who announced after the loss

that he was retiring. "I had to prove I could punch," Norris said. "A lot of people thought I couldn't knock people out, but I think

since he beat Sugar Ray Leonard, sent Curry down for an 8-count as the seventh round ended, then knocked him out 2:53 into the eighth round. Dominating the fight although Curry was able to throw some effective counter punches, Norris staggered the challenger with a smashing right hand in the eighth, then

punches. Curry's knees buckled and he slumped to the canvas and was counted out. Curry, 29,

followed with a barrage of

said afterward the fight would be his last, saying he will remain in the game as a man-

Norris, 28-3 with 15

knockouts, scored with combinations throughout the early rounds. With superior hand and food speed, Norris landed many more punches than Curry, the former undisputed welterweight champion. Curry lost three of his last five bouts. He was knocked out by former middleweight champion Michael Nunn in 10 rounds on Oct. 18, his last previous fight.

Curry, who weighed 154 pounds (69.7 kilograms), finished with a 33-5 record. with 24 knockouts.

Norris, 151, earned 750,000 dollars and Curry got 1,15,000 dollars. The champion was a 6-1 favorite. Norris took the title last March 31 with a first-round knockout of John Mugabi.

Seles, Sanchez in French Open final

Sports Reporter

Araritxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain defeated world No-2 seed Steffi Graf of Germany 6-0,6-4 in the second of women's singles semifinals in French Open tennis championships yesterday at Roland Garros, according to BBC monitored in Dhaka last night.

The fourth seeded Spaniard will now meet world number one seed Monica Seles of Yugoslavia in tomorrow's final.

Seles earlier had the better of world No 3 Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina in closely-fought three-setter in the first semifinal of the day.

Rani Padamsee for world karate meet

A three-member Bangladesh karate team leaves for Japan on June 10 to participate in the second Fukuoka world karate championships, reports UNB.

Bangladesh is taking part in the world karate championship for the first time.

National Champion Rani Bilguis Padamsee will be the lone Bangladeshi competitor/in the 21-nation three-day meet which begins in the Japanese city of Fukuoka on June 15. She will be accompanied by her instructor and manager.

The Bangladesh team in the world karate championships has been jointly sponsored by the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and Singapore Airlines.

Padamsee will be taking part in the open Kata event and the 53-kg category in Kumi

A seminar will also be held during the world champi-

Ben bent on Barcelona win

SCHIO, Italy, June 6 Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, saying his final goal is to win the 100 meters at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, began a two-week training programme in Italy on Wednesday to prepare for upcoming European outdoor meets, reports AP.

Johnson, who has been less than impressive since returning from a two-year suspension for steroids use, said he must improve his endurance and his psychological condition.

"I must especially get used to race tensions," Johnson said upon his arrival in this Venetian town. Johson turned to competition in February. His programme in Italy has been organized by his commercial sponsor.

The sprinter, who is accompanied by his trainer Clyde Ducam, said he planned two sessions a day in the track center of Schio.

On July 1, in Lille, France, Johnson is scheduled to face his long-time US rival Carl Lewis in a 100-meter race. It will be their first head-to-head meeting since the Olympic final in Seoul in 1988.

Johnson, who finished fourth in the 60 meters at the World Indoor Championships in Seville, Spain, this year, said he will compete in the World outdoor track Championships in Tokyo in August. "Tokyo will be a major test for the Barcelona Olympics, where I hope to be the No 1 again," Johnson said.

President Cup soccer begins today

SEOUL, June 6: Seven countries — Australia, Egypt, Indonesia, Malta, the Soviet Union, the United States and host South Korea - will take part in the 19th annual President's Cup football tournament starting Friday for 10 days, organizers said today, reports AFP.

South Korea is fielding two teams, Chongyong (Blue Dragon) compose mainly of World Cup players and Packho (White Tiger) whose players are second-rated, the organis-

The participating teams are divided into two groups for elimination rounds with two teams from each group advancing to the semifinal rounds.

Czechs beat Iceland

Czechoslovakia beat iceland 1-0 on Wednesday to greatly improve their hopes of challenging France for a berth in next year's European championship finals, reports Reuter. The win left Czechę slovakia

only two points behind the French leaders of qualifying group one ahead of their Prague clash on September 4. Just before the interval

Tomas Skuhravy limped off after a collision with Icelandic captain Atli Edvaldsson. He did

In the 55th minute Eyjolfur Sverrisson netted for Iceland but the referee ruled he had handled.

England 174 for 7 at Headingley

Sports Reporter

England were 174 for the England star now he has qualiloss of seven wickets when bad fied to play for his adopted light stopped play half an hour country, hit Paterson to the before the scheduled close on boundary for his first runs in the first day of the first Test Test cricket. against the West Indies at Headingley yesterday, accor-

He and Gooch took the score on to 45 before the captain edged a catch to wicketkeeper Jeffrey Dujon off Marshall's bowling.

With the score still on 45, Hick was next to go. Walsh found the edge of his bat and Dujon took another catch. Allan Lamb and Mark

Ramprakash, another England player making his debut, Under gray skies, pacemen steadied the innings. I but Lamb Patrick Patterson, Malcolm was out for 11 off the: last ball Marshall and Courtney Walsh before the break, smooning a catch to close fiel der Carl captain Graham Gooch, who Hooper off Marshall's bowling. hat six fours in his 34, the only

Patterson snapped up the striking the opener's off stump man Desmond Haynes, who after the batsman had made missed all three one-day in-

injury. Brian Lare, was left off That brought Hick to the the team. wicket and the 24-year-old batsman, regarded as a future for five wickets

ding to BBC monitored in

The West Indies ruined

Graeme Hick's England debut

Thursday, dismissing the

Zimbəlbwe-born batsman for six

and reducing his team to 64

begged wickets with England

wicket of Mike Atherton,

two out of an England score of

batsman hitting out.

for four by the lunch interval .

An earlier AP report said:

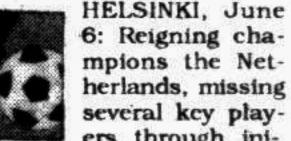
Dhaka late last night,

At the interval, Ramprakash was unbeaten on five: The West Indies side included veteran opening bats-

England at trea, were 129

ternationals becau se of a back

Finns hold the Dutch



6: Reigning champions the Netherlands, missing several key players through injury, were held to a 1-1 draw by

Finland in a European soccer championship Group Six match on Wednesday, reports Reuter. Defender Erik Holmgren headed Finland's equaliser in

the 78th minute after the Dutch had gone ahead through Frank de Boer on the hour. The Dutch were always the more stylish side but, clearly

missing injured striker Ruud Gullit, lacked punch up front. The Finns, refusing to be overawed by the European champions, defended calmly while their big forwards occa-

sionally unsettled the Dutch desence. The Netherlands lead the group with nine points from six matches. Portugal have

seven from five and Finland five from five. Both goals followed corners

De Boer bundled the ball

home from two metres in a goalmouth melee and Holmgren equalised from a corner on the left taken by winger Jari Litmaner I. Finnish striker Kimmo

Tarkkio almost made it 2-1 when he mert a Petri Jarvinen cross five r ninutes from time while Jarvi nen's pace seemed to cause the Dutch particular problems.

But the Dutch, missing a host of ta lented players, could still have been 2-0 up within the first 10 minutes. Richa rd Witschge had the

ball in the net in the eighth

minute but the effort was disallowed for offside. A manute later Aron Winter met a desence-splitting long pass from defender Danny Blind on the right but shot

A blistering free-kick from Rona ild Koeman after 21 minutes, was punched over by Finr iish keeper Olli Huttunen.

I luttunen later stopped another powerful Koeman freekic k with the Dutch 1-0 up to ke ep Finland in the game.

Norway upset Italy 2-1



MILAN, June 6: Italy was upse't-Thursday over Norway's upset of its celebrated so-

ccer stars 2-1 in a qualifying match for the European Championships, reports AP.

The Italian press called for the immediate resignation of Italian coach Azeglio Vicini. Newspapers said the rational team with its Wednesd ay night loss in Oslo gave up not only qualification for the final round of the 1992, but also prestige.

"Poor Italy," read a banner frontpage headline in Rome's sport daily Corriere dello Sport. We have been kicked out of the European Championships"

Milan's wide ly circulated daily Corriere della Sera compared the upsent to the defeat by underdog North Korea in 1966 that eliminated Italy in the first round of the World Cup in England.

"An Italian team without quality slips out of Europe," wrote: Corriere della Sera.

Italy, missing some injured key midfielders but still fielding the best strikers of Italian league champion Sampdoria of Genoa, fell to tlaird place in the Group-three standings after the loss with a record of two wins, two draws and one

With 6 points in five matches, one behind the Soviet Union and Norway, Italy still has slight hopes of qualify-

However, it will have to beat the Soviet Union in Moscow on Oct. 12 and hope for favorable results in other group matches.

The winner of each group

qualifies for the final round in

The Soviet Union, the favourite, is scheduled to play Norway on the road and host Italy and Hungary.

The return-match between Italy and Norway is scheduled in Italy in November.

The Italian team, a semifinalist in the 1990 World Cup and in the 1988 European Championships, last missed the final round of the continental competition in 1984.

The Italian defense, once the strongest section of the team, was overwhelmed by the fast Norwegian forwards while strikers Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Mancini, among the Italian league best players and leading scorers, were easily

stopped by rival defenders. Vicini, who took over the Italian team following Enzo Bearzot's failure in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, was accused by experts and soccer commentators of failing to give the team a modern and effi-

cient play. "Vicini has reached the end," wrote Gazzetta dello Sport of Milan, Italy's largest

sports daily. Gazzetta has long supported replacing Vicini with Arrigo Sacchi, who resigned recently as coach of AC Milan and said he is willing to direct a national team.

Antonio Matarrese, the president of the Italian soccer Federation, indicated Vicini may leave the team before his

contract expires in 1992. To make things even worse in this country crazed for soccer, the Italian under-21 team was trounced 6-0 by Norway in another European qualifying game Wednesday.

IAAF to publish results of all dope tests

TOKYO, June 6 The International Arnateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said on Sunday it would publish the results of all future dope tests, whether negative or positive, reports Reuter.

The body has previously publicised only positive tests but a spokesman said negative results would now also be issued, in order to clear up any suspicion about an athlete. He said the ruling would apply to all dope tests carried out at all IAAF events worldwide at very

three-day meeting of the IAAF's council which opened in Tokyo last Saturday. The city is hosting the World Athletics Championships in August. The spokesman said the council will propose to the IAAF congress in Tokyo in August that the World Champi-

The decision was made at a

onships be held every two years against four years at present. If approved, the 1993 Games will go to Stuttgart. The Swedish city of Gothenburg was the only other bidder.

Abahani were the first to Pancev aims for

golden boot award BELGRADE, June 6: Red Star Belgrade striker Darko Pancey moved closer to winniag, Europe's golden boot award as top scorer with his 31st goal of the second on

Wednesday, reports Reuter.

His goal in Red Star's 1-0

Yugoslav first division win over Hajduk Split put him equal with Turkey's Tangu Colak. The Turkish championship is over and Pancev has two more games to overtake him. The European champions

are allowing Pancev to operate

as their lone striker to boost

his chances of winning the

award. Thave a deal with my team who all really want to help me Omam Biyik

joins Cannes RENNES, June 6: Cameroun World Cup forward Francois Omam Biyik has signed for French First Division side Cannes after scoring 14 goals for relegated Rennes this sca-

son, reports AFP. The 25-year-old looks forward to playing in the UEFA Cup next season with the

Mediterranean coast outfit. SOCCER SCENARIO



results so far:

91: Albania v. Spain.

Maradona selling his luxury cars NAPLES, Italy, June : Soccer star Diego Maradona's luxury cars, worth an estimated million dollars, are up for sale, reports AP. The cars were left behind last spring when Maradona, who played for Napoli in the Italian league, returned to his native

Argentina following troubles with both the

law and soccer. An agent for Maradona said Wednesday that the Argentine player decided to sell two Ferraris, one Rolls Royce and one BMW iego Maradona rather than pay the heavy taxes that would have been required for their shipment to Buenos Aires.

The most expensive of Maradona's cars on sale in Naples is

Maradona, suspended for 15 months by Italy's soccer tribunal after he tested positive for cocaine use after a league match, was indicted last week on cocaine possession charges and ordered to stand trial later this month in Naples. Court sources indicated that the player, captain of the Argentine national team, wouldn't return to Italy for trial.

a Ferrari F-40, worth about 323,000 dollars.

Shortly after his return to his homeland he was arrested in a Buenos Aires apartment in a drug raid.

Four Fijian booters banned UVA, June : Three of the four Fijian players sent off in last month's under 23s Olympic soccer preliminary

round against Australia were suspended for the rest of 1991 today, reports AFP. Fiji Football Association President Shamshud-Din Sahu Khan said he feared that the world soccer body, FIFA, would slap additional bans on the four players or on the Fiji FA. Sheikh Sahib, Losefa Vosaboto and Josefa, Masilagi, who were all given the red card during the match in Melbourne, on May

26, were suspended from all levels. The fourth player. Jope Lomu, was suspended until the November playoff against Papua New Guinea. Three other players were suspended for a month of their part in stirring punch-ups in the Olympic playoffs which Australia and Fiji are playing against New Zealand and PNG to determine an

Oceania qualifier. Australia won 7-0 after a match marred by punching. stomping and kicking.

Czechoslovakia top Group One EYKJAVIK. June 5: A penalty just before half-time A sank plucky leeland and enabled unbeaten pacesetters Czechoslovakia to snatch maximum points in Tuesday night's under-21 European championship Group One clash here, reports AFP.

Majoros scored from the spot to put the Czechs four points

clear of Spain in the group. In the first-mactch in

Czechoslovakia, Iceland crashed to a 7-0, defeat. Group

Iceland 0 Albanta 0, Iceland 0 France 1, Czechoslovakia 7

Iceland O. Spain 2 Iceland O. France 1 Czechoslovakia 2. Czechoslovakia 3 Spain 1, Albania 0 France 0, Spain 1 Albania 0. France 0 Spain I. France 3 Albania 0. Albania 1 Czechoslovakia 5, Albania 2 Iceland 1, Iceland 0 Czechoslovakta 1 Matches still to be played: 03-09-91: Czechoslovakia v. France. 24-09-91: Iceland v. Spain, 11-10-91, Spain v. France, 15-10-91; Czechoslovakia v. Albania, 12-11-91; Spain

v. Czechoslovakia, 12 or 19-11-91; France v. Iceland, 17-12-

Christensen sees Denmark thru'



ODENSE. Denmark, June 6: Bent Christensen scored twice to earn Denmark a

squandered with chances.

Both Christensen and

The busy Christensen was

Danish coach Richard

REYKJAVIK, June

not return.

Sweden next year.