

Army, BKSP to clash in semis



Favorites Bangladesh Army, defending champions Bangladesh Kriya Shikhyia Pratishthan (BKSP), studded Dhaka University and formidable Dhaka District Sports Association reached the semifinals of the Bashundhara fourteenth national hockey championship by winning their quarter-final matches yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

Bangladesh Army, who were shocked by BKSP in last year's final, maintained their top form when they blasted Dhaka Education Board 5-0 in their quarter-final encounter yesterday afternoon.

Army led 3-0 at the breather. Title aspirants Army had to wait twenty-two minutes to score their first goal when Kashem sounded the board from a goal mouth melee.

Three minutes later, Shaif made it 2-0 after receiving the ball in an advantageous position. Army's prolific goalscorer Jahangir stepped forward to score his team's third goal in the 28th minute.

Jahangir made no mistake in converting a penalty stroke awarded to Army two minutes after the half time. But Jahangir missed another stroke.

Shaif sealed the fate of the match and brought an end to Education Board's misery with a fine goal in the 55th minute.

Army earned eight penalty corners and two penalty strokes while Dhaka Education Board earned only three penalty corners.

Defending champions BKSP had to sweat it out to beat a spirited Faridpur DSA 10-8 in the tie-breaker after both sides were locked 2-2 at the end of regulation period and another thirty minutes of extra time.

Farid Ahmed put Faridpur ahead when he found the mark from a penalty stroke in the very third minute of the match.

Akhter Hossain equalised for the reigning champions in the 19th minute.

Two minutes later Faridpur was once again in the lead, thanks to a brilliant goal from the stick of Farid Ahmed.

BKSP pressed hard and were also rewarded when

the hundred minutes of play. In the tie-breakers, BKSP's nerves prevailed over those of Faridpur.

Last year's runners-up Dhaka University sustained their challenge after shooting down Bangladesh Air-Force 4-2 in their quarter-final.

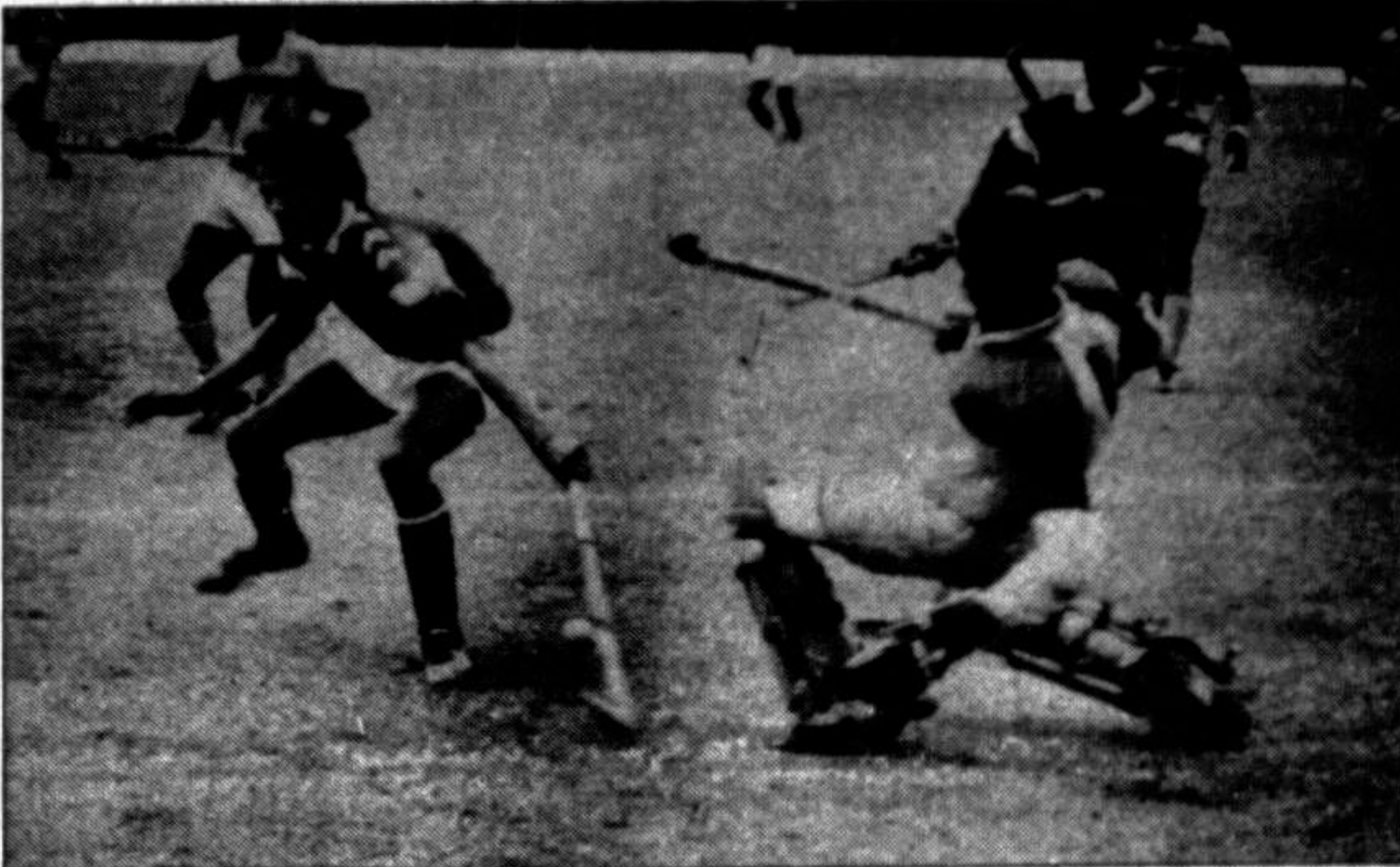
The students led 2-1 at the lemon break.

University's national star Jamil Parvez Lulu put his team ahead in the 12th minute.

Watz added a goal each for Dhaka University while Corporal Mukhles again reduced the margin for BAF, again from a penalty stroke.

Star-studded Dhaka DSA scored an easy 3-1 victory to sink Bangladesh Navy to cruise into the semifinals.

Kader Guddu, Sadeq and Kismet scored for Dhaka while Serajul Islam scored a consolation goal for Navy ten minutes from the end.



Action from yesterday's national hockey quarterfinal match between Dhaka University and Bangladesh Air Force at the Hockey Stadium. Dhaka University won 4-2 and moved into the semifinals. — Star photo

Akhter Hossain again found the mark from a goalmouth scramble (2-2).

Faridpur tried to break the deadlock but the BKSP defence stood firm, thwarting as many as six penalty corners. BKSP managed to force only one penalty corner in the en-

Imran made it 2-0 when he converted a penalty stroke awarded to Dhaka University in the 26th minute of the game.

Corporal Mukhlesur Rahman reduced the margin from a penalty stroke a minute from half-time.

BKSP will face Bangladesh Army in the first semifinal match tomorrow at 2:30 pm while Dhaka University will take on Dhaka in the second semifinal, also tomorrow, at 4:15 pm.

The final is scheduled for August 20.

Euro meet tickets sell fast

STOCKHOLM, Aug 16: Tickets to the 1992 European Championship finals in Sweden opened to brisk sales on Wednesday, the first day they were available for the quadrennial soccer tournament, a spokesman for the organizers said, reports AP.

Goran Havik described demand as "huge," saying more than 23,000 tickets were sold during the first nine hours.

"The most expensive tickets costing almost 100 to the final were gone in an hour," Havik said.

Sweden received an allotment of 230,000 tickets for the June 10-26 tournament. Organizers predict that most of the tickets will be sold in a few weeks.

More than 500 people formed long lines outside the box offices early in the morning in Stockholm and Goteborg, two of the four sites

of the championship. Scores of fans spent the night outside, the Swedish national news agency TT reported.

Sweden is staging the eight-nation tournament for the first time. It will be the second biggest soccer tournament in the country since 1958, when Sweden hosted the World Cup.

Preliminary-round matches will also be played in Malmo and Norrkoping.

Sweden receives an automatic berth as host. Qualifying for the remaining seven berths has been conducted since last September and will conclude in December.

The Netherlands beat the Soviet Union 2-0 for the last European title in 1988 in Munich, Germany.

Reuters adds: Swedish soccer fans were undeterred by high prices when tickets for next summer's European soccer championship finals went on sale on Thursday.

"We've had some beers but there hasn't been any trouble," said Joakim Sjoborog, one of some 500 singing fans who spent the night queuing outside the Rasunda Stadium in Stockholm.

Tickets for the eight-nation event from June 10 to 26 are sold in packages of three for the preliminary round, with each package giving the owner the right to buy one ticket for a semifinal game or the final.

Prices range from 17 to 75 dollars for each preliminary round game and from 20 to 95 dollars for the final. The buyer can select any three games for each package, regardless of venue. One buyer is allowed a maximum of four packages.

A middle-aged fan, Lennart Ellenfors, said he had been a spectator at the 1958 World Cup in Sweden when Brazil became world champions for the first time and was prepared to pay whatever it cost to witness the return of big time soccer.

"I paid a couple of kids to queue for me during the night. They will get one ticket each for the trouble," said Ellenfors, adding that he was planning to buy 16 tickets at a total price of about 1,000 dollars.

The Swedish Soccer Association, which expects to sell most of the 230,000 tickets this week, has rejected media criticism of the price levels.

Soccer officials note that tickets to the 1990 World Cup in Italy cost between 13 and 170 dollars. They also say Sweden must compensate for its small stadiums which have capacities ranging from 22,000 to 40,000.

Tickets for foreign fans will be sold through the national soccer associations of the participating countries after the championship draw on January 17 next year.

For the semifinals and final, 70 per cent of tickets have been reserved for Swedish fans.

Australia's gesture

ADELAIDE, Australia, Aug 16: The Australian government is to sponsor two young black South African cricketers to attend the country's premier cricketing academy in Adelaide, Sports Minister Ros Kelly said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The players are expected to join the academy within the next six months, Kelly told reporters.

The Academy, run by the Australian Institute of Sport, was created in 1988 and has former Test wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh as its head coach.

The Academy has already produced a number of exciting young players, including New South Wales batsman Michael Bevan, South Australia's all-rounder Joe Scuderi and Queensland's Stuart Law, who topped the Sheffield Shield batting averages last season.

Bevan and Law are both in an Australian squad to tour Zimbabwe next month under captain Mark Taylor.

Keely said it was important for Australia to help train young South African sports people to aid its return to the international sporting arena.

South Africa was last month readmitted to the International Cricket Council following the union of its white and black cricket organisations.

Boost for Sri Lanka

LONDON, Aug 16: Sri Lanka seized a morale-boosting one-day victory over England on Thursday while adding to Graeme Hick's personal summer of woe, reports Reuter.

The tourists, chasing a target of 213 in 55 overs to avenge their 63-run defeat on Wednesday, succeeded by three wickets with 13 balls to spare after all-rounder Ramesh Ratnayake had played an important part with bat and ball.

Ratnayake's contribution began when he bowled Hick for a single, the latest in a lengthy list of failures for the Zimbabwe-born batsman hailed as English cricket's potential saviour at the beginning of the season.

But a determined 76 from Trevor Ward helped revive

the England innings and, despite good figures of four for 35 from slow left-arm Don Anurastril, Sri Lanka looked likely losers as they slipped to 160 for seven in reply.

The turning point was an eighth wicket stand of 53 by Ratnayake and Marvin Atapattu who finished 41 not out.

Ratnayake reverse-swept Hick for four and then hit him straight for six at a crucial stage on his way to an unbeaten 26, paving the way to a Sri Lanka victory.

England a manager Keith Fletcher said he had not been greatly impressed by the tourists, despite the 1-1 series result.

"They haven't really done anything to impress anyone in these two games but they must improve in a test at Lord's," Fletcher said.

Maradona wants a life in the shade

MILAN, Italy, Aug 16: Diego Maradona, the Argentine soccer star serving a 15-month suspension for using

cocaine, said in an interview published Thursday that he wants "a life in the shade" to forget the stress of public life, reports AP.

"I have left soccer behind my back for the time being. I am uninterested in being a protagonist again. The less I want to return to Italy, where nobody helped me," said Maradona in an interview in the daily La Repubblica.

Maradona, the captain of Napoli in the Italian league and of the Argentine national team, is living in Buenos Aires during his suspension. The suspension imposed by Italy's soccer tribunal lasts through June 1992.

His contract with Napoli expires in 1993.

Maradona, one of the most popular players in the world and the highest paid, is under-

going medical and psychological therapy in Buenos Aires. He has been involved in another drug case following his return from Italy.

In the interview, Maradona said, "I no longer want to be in the center of the stage, to play at any cost, even when I was injured. I no longer want to be the image which must be destroyed. I am happy with my present, quiet life. I want a life in the shade."

Maradona said he was wrong to use cocaine and added he hurt himself and his family.

"One day I will tell my daughters that their father was the best on a soccer field, but this did not prevent him from unhappiness. Thus he tried a stupid flight from reality. I will not be ashamed of telling them this," Maradona said.

Maradona did not openly discuss his earlier comment that he plans to give up soccer for good. He said, however, that he would not return to Naples, where he has been the idol of local fans since 1984.

Evergreen CC, Adarsha SS win

Sports Reporter

Evergreen Cricket Club and Adarsha Samaj Sangha won their respective matches to move into the next round of the qualifiers for the Second Division cricket league yesterday at different city venues.

Evergreen CC scored a narrow five-run victory over Azimpur Boy's Club at the City Club ground.

Adarsha SS received a walkover when Eskaton Sabuj B failed to turn up for their match at Dhanmondi Cricket ground.

Shah Sports Cup meet from Monday

Sports Reporter

The second Shah Sports Cup football tournament, organised by Ganaktuli Kishore Eleven, will begin from Monday (August 19) at the Hazaribagh Park ground.

Sports Minister Sadeq Hossain Khokha will inaugurate the meet as the chief guest.

Soccer Coaching

Sports Reporter

A long-term football training course for boys under 16 years of age organised by the Rampura Natun Kuri Sangad, will begin later this month at Rampura, says a press release.

The course will be conducted by Zainul Abedin Khokhan, a young coach of the area.

Interested boys have been requested to contact Dolly Store, 271 West Rampura, by August 25 for registration.

Asian volleyball semis today

PERTH, Aug 16: Reigning champions South Korea will clash with Australia while China and Japan lock horns in the semi-finals of the Asian men's volleyball championship here Saturday, reports AFP.

This became clear early today when South Korea defeated China by three sets to two in an epic qualifying match lasting just over two hours at the Perth Superdome.

After losing the opening set, the Koreans established a 2-1 lead before the resolute Chinese levelled at two-all.

The Koreans needed all their skills to hold off the Chinese challenge in the stirring final set. South Korea won 16-17, 15-9, 15-4, 13-15, 15-9. Japan earlier beat Australia 3-0 in another qualifying encounter in a more difficult victory than the score suggests.

The winners of Saturday's semi-finals will clash Sunday in the showdown for the gold medal and the right to compete in the Olympic Games in Barcelona. Only one Olympic place is available for Asia.

Bronze solace for Americans

HAVANA, Aug 16: After losing its bid for the 1992 Olympics, the US men's field hockey team dominated the rest of the way in taking a 6-3 decision win.

"It shows I was right in sticking with it," said Friday, a perennial also-ran who gave up boxing for three years before launching a comeback.

Friday will face Cuba's Arnaldo Mesa, a flashy boxer, in the finals.

"He's got a good jab, but it doesn't seem like he punches very hard," Friday said. "So we're going to see if we can work inside on him."

Two other US fighters, heavyweight Shannon Briggs and 139-pound (63-kilogram) Steve Johnston, made the finals via a different route.

Briggs drew a bye into the finals and hasn't had to throw a punch in anger. Johnson won his spot by a walkover over Luis Dasilva of Brazil, who broke a finger in his quarterfinal match.

The 29-year-old Air Force medic, in his first major international competition, forced the Mexican to take a standing 8-count in the first round and

German cyclists set world record

STUTTGART, Aug 16: Germany's 4,000-meter amateur pursuit team set a world record at the World Cycling Championships on Friday amid reports of two Australian medalists testing positive for drugs, reports AP.

Michael Gloeckner, Jens Lehmann, Stefan Steinweg and Andreas Walzer finished in four minutes, 8.06 seconds in the qualifications, lowering the mark by 2.817 seconds set by the Soviet Union in 1989.

Lehmann beat Gloeckner in the individual pursuit event on Wednesday.

Australia finished with the second best time in 4:11.47 followed by Denmark (4:13.56), and the Soviet Union (4:13.62).

France, Czechoslovakia, New Zealand and the Netherlands, also qualified for the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, reports circulated of two positive tests involving two professional medalists from the same country although no official announcement has been made.

However, a cycling official said that Australian Stephen Pate, a bronze medalist in the professional sprint event, failed his initial test.

Werner Goehner, a vice president of the International Cycling Union (UCI), said Friday that Pate tested positive after taking third in Wednesday's final which was won by another Australian, Carey Hall.

Goehner had no comment on Hall.

Hall beat France's Frederick Colas for the gold medal while Pate gained the bronze over Italy's Claudio Golinelli for third.

A second positive test is required before any communique would be issued, officials said.

Goehner said that in the case of a first offense, a cyclist would be disqualified from the event and given a three-month suspended ban from racing along with a fine.

US boxers in 4 finals

HAVANA, Aug 16: It's four for gold medals and three Cubans to go for US boxing at the Pan American Games, reports AP.

Kenneth Friday, the old man of the US boxing team, fought his way into the 125-pound (57-kilogram) boxing finals Thursday night, giving the United States four boxers in Sunday's gold medal bouts.

Three, however, will be meeting Cubans, who have been unbeatable against Americans and nearly unbeatable against everyone else.

"We wanted more, but I can't complain," said US coach Kenny Locher, who brought the 12-member American "B" team to the Games. "All the guys tried. That's the main thing. You've just got to try to keep getting the experience."

Cuba has eight fighters in the finals, and three more

Rude shock for US cagers

HAVANA, Aug 16: US misery at the Pan-American Games in Cuba deepened on Thursday when its men's basketball team lost 68-73 to Puerto Rico in a tense semi-final, the latest in a series of shock defeats for the US in sports it usually dominates, reports Reuter.

The Puerto Ricans will dispute the gold medal with Mexico which beat Cuba 93-87 in the other hard-fought semi-final.

US coach Gene Keady's anguished face told the story as the Cuban crowd at the Sports City stadium noisily celebrated

the victory of their brother Latinos.

The US side, drawn from the cream of the country's college basketball talent, had been unbeaten in the tournament so far with five wins and was favourite to win the gold.

It was only the fourth defeat ever suffered by the mighty US team in 40 years of Pan-American Games history and the first time that Puerto Rico had beaten the US in the Games.

The US, missing their top scorer Jimmy Jackson of Ohio State University who had suffered a stress fracture in his

left foot earlier in the competition, started solidly and thanks to tight defence ended the first half on top 37-29.

But the Puerto Ricans, urged on by the Cuban crowd came out fighting and started grabbing rebounds in inspired style.

Jose "Picolin" Ortiz was the hero for the battling Latinos, scoring five baskets as Puerto Rico clawed back into the game to lead 71-68.

Jackson, his foot plastered from ankle to knee, watched helplessly from the sidelines. Puerto Rico's Jerome Mincey was the top-scorer

Karpov wins in Game 4

BRUSSELS, Aug 16: Former champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union won his first game in the world chess championship quarter-finals by defeating 21-year-old Indian Viswanathan Anand in Thursday's fourth round, reports Reuter.

Playing white, he improved play on move 11 against the same semi-Slav defence as in their second round game and Anand fell behind the clock for the first time in the match.

Attempting to pressure Karpov, Anand weakened his position with an injudicious 23rd move. He sacrificed an exchange on the 29th move and had to resign 14 moves later.

Vassily Ivanchuk of the Soviet Union, the world's second-rated player, again joined battle with compatriot Artur Yusupov in a queen's gambit declined.

Yusupov, playing white, was in an inferior position after 17 moves. But he then found an imaginative sacrifice, managed to swap off pieces and drew a pawn down on move 35.

Former Soviet player Viktor Korchnoi, now of Switzerland, could only draw with the white pieces against Jan Timman of the Netherlands who already held a two-point lead.

Playing the same sharp line of the English as their Round Two game, Korchnoi obtained a superior position at the cost of a pawn, but was unable to convert it. They drew after 43 moves.

Boris Gelfand of the Soviet Union played white against England's Nigel Short again in a queen's gambit declined. Short changed his seventh move from their second game and gave Gelfand the chance of seizing the initiative.

But Gelfand's 16th move was too passive and he fell into time trouble. Short tried to

press home his advantage, but failed to find the best move during the time scramble at the end.

The game adjourned after 60 moves. Although the position is probably drawn, most analysts thought the game might resume today as Gelfand had a slight edge.

RESULTS GAME FOUR:
Karpov (Soviet Union) 1

V Anand (India) 0 A N Short (England) Adj B Gelfand (Soviet Union) Adj V Ivanchuk (Soviet Union) 1/2 A Yusupov (Soviet Union) 1/2 J Timman (Netherlands) 1/2 V Korchnoi (Switzerland) 1/2

Accumulated points (first player to exceed four points goes on to semi-finals):

V Anand 1 1/2 A Karpov 2 1/2 N Short 2+1 adj B Gelfand 1+1 adj V Ivanchuk 2 A Yusupov 2 J Timman 3 V Korchnoi 1

For the Bushes, golf is a separate game

KENNEBUNKPORT, RT, Aug 16: Barbara Bush publicly needed her husband, President of the United States.

last week for never playing golf with her, reports Reuter.

But George Bush goes his revenge on Thursday with a stinging public critique of his wife's golf game.

"She's recovering from her round of yesterday," Bush told reporters when asked why his wife had not joined him in a sunrise game near their vacation home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

"Which means, she stunk, and didn't want to play today," Bush said.

"No, let me rephrase that," the President added, when members of the press corps burst into laughter. "She didn't have her finest outing yesterday."

Mrs Bush recently took up the game after a 20-year lapse, presumably to spend more time with her husband. At 67, he is an avid golfer who often plays 18 holes in under two hours.

full day of the Bush's vacation reporters noticed that Mrs Bush, who clearly does not golf at the President's level, was playing with friends at the Kennebunkport course, not with her husband.

When reporters inquired about the matter, Bush said he and his wife had always played apart, but promised they would play together sometime.

But Mrs Bush, 66, just rolled her eyes and said: "Sure, like he's going to garden with me someday."

On Monday Bush turned up at the first tee with his wife and eldest son, George. But Mrs Bush still did not look happy.

She teed off quickly while the press corps was preoccupied with asking Bush questions about Western hostages in Lebanon.

"I like getting up early in the morning. Do I like playing in front of the press? No," Mrs Bush said.

Perhaps the President's initial comment last week about golfing with his wife will remain in effect.

"We've been going down life's path hand in hand for many years, but in golf we go our separate ways," he said.