

Sport

Shooters off to Colombo

A six-member Bangladesh shooting team left Dhaka yesterday for the Sri Lankan capital Colombo to participate in the first South Asian shooting championship, reports UNB.

The competition will be held at the Panagoda shooting range in Colombo from July 1-5.

Bangladesh team leader and Vice President of the National Shooting Federation State Minister for Health M Strajul Haq, who could not accompany the team, will join the side on July 1, the opening day of the six-day meet.

Five SARRC nations — India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and host Sri Lanka are expected to participate in the contest.

Bangladesh shooters will take part in the three pistol events — air pistol, free pistol and rapid fire.

Kazi Selim, General Secretary of the Shooting Federation, is accompanying the team as coach.

The shooters are — Atiqur Rahman, Asif Hossain, Haider Ali, Fariduddin and Ayub Hossain Mintu.

President Cup from Dec 20

Sports Reporter

The seventh President Cup international football tournament will begin in Dhaka on December 20. This was disclosed in the meeting of the executive committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Friday.

A committee headed by BFF vice-president Mofazzal Karim has been formed in this regard. The meeting decided to invite some European teams along with the national teams from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, South Korea.

A new look Maa O Moni Gold Cup will begin from August 10 at different venues across the country. The second of its kind, this tournament, previously a club meet, will now be an under-14 contest comprising eight district teams of the four divisions. Extended Immunisation Programme (EPI), the sponsors have agreed to pay Taka 4 lakh for the tournament.

The first round matches of the Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship will begin on October 10 at different venues across the country.

The meeting also decided to send a coach to take part in the two-week training to be conducted at the King Faisal Coaching Institute in Saudi Arabia from September 4 to 13.

BFF has decided to complete all the local football engagements by June next year to meet the AFC deadline served in its last congress in Hong Kong.

It has been agreed that BFF will introduce a premier league system from next year. The top ten teams will take part in the premier league while the last ten of the Senior Division football league will play in another tier. Although details of this system will be worked out in the next meeting of the executive committee it is anticipated that two teams will win promotion to the Premier League from the lower tier while the last two teams of the Premier Division will be relegated.

BFF also decided to give Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association a grant of Taka two lakh for its office decoration.

Meanwhile, an Under-16 BFF Eleven will soon visit Dahagram and Angapota to play a number of matches to mark the successful handover of the Tinbigha Corridor as well as to strengthen the friendly ties between India and Bangladesh.

Ref for Qatar

Rafiqul Islam, a FIFA referee of Bangladesh, leaves Dhaka for Qatar July 9 to conduct the matches of the 5th Asian youth (under-16) football championship, reports UNB.

The Group-2 matches of the championship will be held in the Qatar capital of Doha from July 13-20.

Div II b'ball Sports Reports

Rising Force SC defeated Thunders Club 62-40 while Fleet Club output Flame Boys Club 81-58 in Saturday's Second Division basketball league outings at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium.

Rising Force led the first half 38-19.

Nirmal scored 17 points for the winners. For the losers Mujib and Robin scored 25 and 10 points respectively.

In the other match of the day, the first half ended with Fleet Club leading 35-26.

Babul led the winners' tally with 19 points followed by Subir who scored 16.

For Flame Boys Club Mamun and Sayeed scored 14 and 13 points respectively.

Danes prove deserving champions



GOTHENBURG, Sweden, June 27: Denmark thoroughly deserved to be European champions after beating Germany 2-0 in the final here on Friday night — despite having had barely a week to prepare for the tournament, reports AFP.

That was the considered verdict of the German camp — and particularly coach Bert Vogts.

After seeing John Jensen and Kim Vilfort score the goals which sank the World Cup holders and sent the 20,000 Danes in the crowd wild with delight, Vogts said: "Congratulations to them, they played some great football, they deserved to win and they are worthy European champions."

"The goals were both the result of mistakes, and to say I am dissatisfied with my side goes without saying."

Vogts refused to single out anyone for special blame, but captain Andreas Brehme, normally so reliable, was plainly at fault for the first goal.

Brehme lost the ball wide out on the German left and Flemming Povlsen pounced, charging in towards the area and laying it back for the in-rushing John Jensen who crashed it past Bodo Illgner from just inside the box after 18 minutes.

Kim Vilfort scored the second 12 minutes from the end, a low shot from the edge of the area which went in off the post past Bodo Illgner.

Vogts said: "We never really got into our rhythm and they did well to keep Thomas Hassler under control."

He added: "Having said that, goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel and their sweeper Lars Olsen were major assets to the team."

Brehme himself also offered his congratulations and commented: "They deserved to win, although for the first 20 we played some really good football, but then came that somewhat fortunate goal which made it 1-0 and once they were leading, it became very difficult for us to equalise."

"Schmeichel made some really great saves and he is one of the major features of the team."

And he hinted that like the Dutch before them, the Germans' downfall was in underestimating the combative Danes. "It was an easy task on paper," he said. "But when we got out there we realised it was by no means an easy matter."

Schmeichel, who make a

number of important saves, particularly tipping over a flying header from Juergen Klinsmann just before the breathing space of the second goal, played down his part in the proceedings.

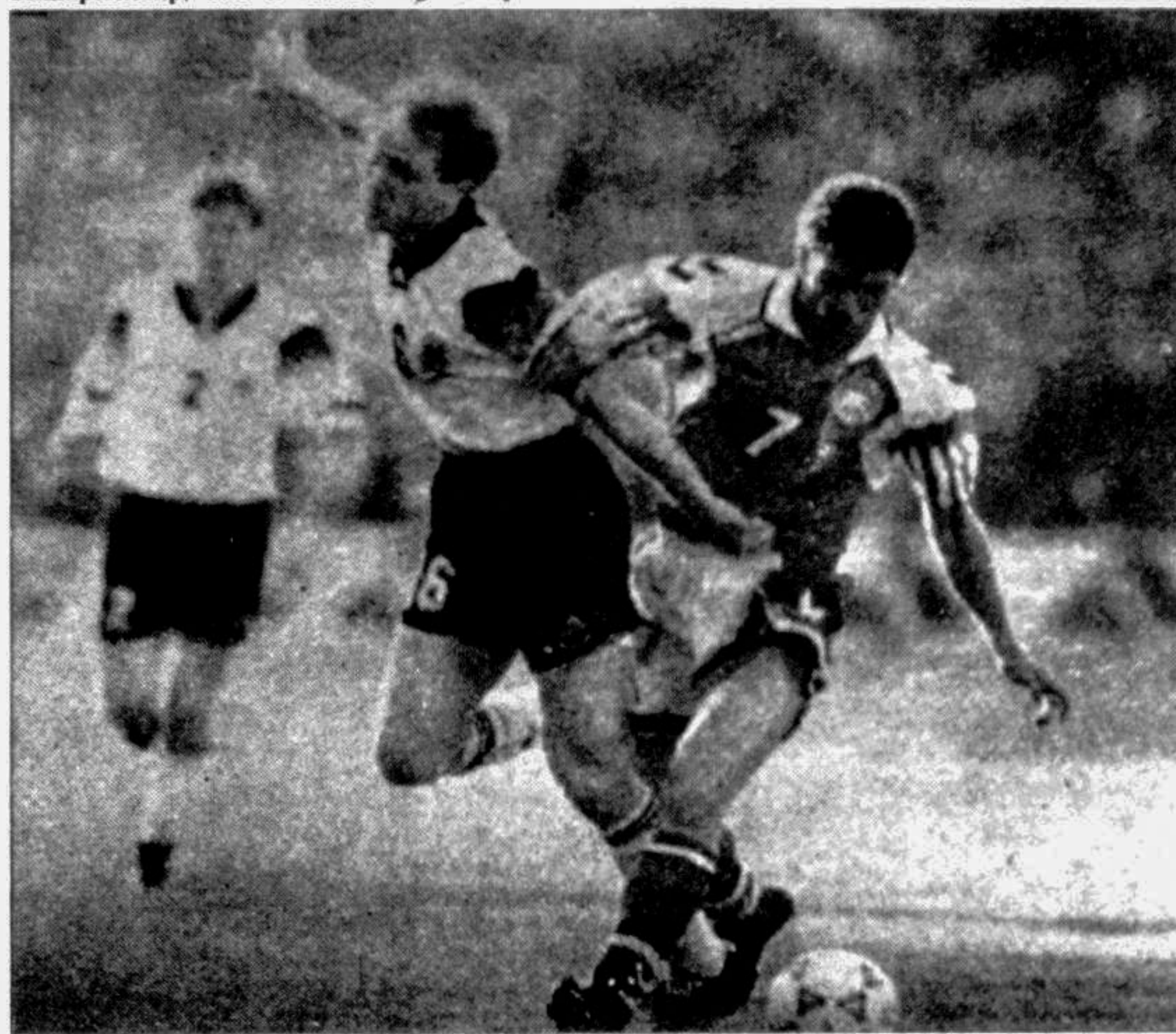
"We've won the European Championship, and it hasn't

have played a little more in the German half of the field, but it was extremely hard as we were very tired and they are a great team who kept the pressure on us."

He added: "Schmeichel showed he is one of the best goalkeepers in the world, and

night. I told him we'd be European champions tonight, and that was what happened," he said.

"I can't describe my feelings. I think it's incredible that we can win with only eight days' preparation for the championships."



Mathias Sammer from Germany is tackled by Denmark's John Jensen (R) at the Ullivli Stadium during the European Championship final between Denmark and Germany in Gothenburg on June 26.

really sunk in yet. We don't quite understand what it means."

"We knew when we started the game that it would be the most difficult we'd ever played. They are very experienced in finals of major tournaments and we knew that they were going to come at us from the first whistle."

"We would have liked to

Kim Christofte was clever in keeping Hassler under control, while I put in John Siveback for an hour. He gave us everything, all his experience and that was important."

Brian Laudrup, the major figure in the side throughout their matches, admitted he phoned Bayern Munich colleague and his great friend, Stefan Effenberg, on Thursday

"We've been playing some very good football throughout the tournament and of course we got that little bit of luck today but we had already played very well against Holland."

"I think you can say you've got the right European champions."

GERMANY — Bodo Illgner, Stefan Reuter, Juergen Kohler, Thomas Helmer, Guido Buchwald, Andreas Brehme, Stefan Effenberg (Andreas Thom 81), Matthias Sammer (Thomas Doll 46), Thomas Haessler, Karlheinz Riedle, Juergen Klinsmann.

DENMARK — Peter Schmeichel, John Siveback (Claus Christiansen 67), Kent Nielsen, Lars Olsen, Torben Piechnick, Kim Christofte, John Jensen, Kim Vilfort, Brian Laudrup, Henrik Larsen, Flemming Povlsen.

Referee — Bruno Galler (Switzerland).

THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

- 1992: Denmark def Germany 2-0 at Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 1988: Netherlands def Soviet Union 2-0 at Munich, West Germany.
- 1984: France def Spain 2-0 at Paris.
- 1980: West Germany def Belgium 2-1 at Rome.
- 1976: Czechoslovakia def West Germany 2-2 (5-3 on penalty kicks) at Belgrade, Yugoslavia.
- 1972: West Germany def Soviet Union 3-0 at Brussels, Belgium.
- 1968: Italy def Yugoslavia 2-0 at Rome.
- 1964: Spain def Soviet Union 2-1 at Madrid, Spain.
- 1960: Soviet Union def Yugoslavia 2-1 at Paris.

Dazzling Danes do Hans Christian Andersen proud



GOTHENBURG, Sweden, June 27: If anyone had suggested even a week ago that Denmark would be the next European champions, he would have been laughed out of sight, reports AFP.

The Danes had only eight days to prepare for the tournament after being called in to replace Yugoslavia.

But they went all the way, beating World Cup holders Germany 2-0 in Friday's final, and as Brian Laudrup said: "I think you can say you've got the right European champions."

Right because they left the tournament with a legacy of football played for fun, with none of the cynicism and bad manners which have crept into the modern game and for that alone they have done European football proud.

In the end it came down to "A real Hans Christian Andersen journey" as Denmark's Henrik Larsen commented before the final.

And he should know because no-one had more of a fairy-tale fortnight than he did as Denmark confounded the critics who had written them off and belied coach Richard Moller Nielsen's repeated assurances that they just weren't well enough prepared.

On the face of it that was true, for they had only been drafted in to replace Yugoslavia a matter of days before the finals and all their home-based players had league fixtures to fulfil the day before they flew into Sweden.

Under the circumstances, it says a lot for their character that they were able even to pass the first round.

And European football owes them a great debt of gratitude — for it meant that the championships were saved from mediocrity by a team who should never have been there in the first place.

The astonishing story of how in Group 1, the Danes and hosts Sweden snatched the semi-final places which England and France believed had been reserved for them by right, is already history.

The championships got off to the best possible start with Sweden taking the lead against

France on a balmy evening in Stockholm when Jan Eriksson arrived to head the ball home from a corner with the French defence standing and watching.

Jean-Pierre Papin showed for the one and only time in Sweden why he is European footballer-of-the-year with a glorious equaliser.

And when the following night, an impoverished looking England side were lucky to hold on to a goalless draw against the Danes, the group was wide open.

ANGLO-FRENCH MEDIOCRITY

France's ambitions against England were certainly modest, epitomised by the sight of Papin raising his arms aloft in a sort of triumph after a truly appalling match had ended goalless.

French manager Michel Platini had the good grace and honesty to apologise for the match, while England's Graham Taylor went on about how proud he was of his lads.

With Sweden beating the Danes 1-0 thanks to a Tomas Brodin goal later that night, it was looking odds-on that the French would grab the second qualifying spot and send England packing — which after Taylor's crass reaction to the French debacle, seemed to most of those present only right and proper.

But Denmark had other ideas.

The remarkable Larsen came into the side and opened the scoring. Papin levelled and Lars Elstrup continued his remarkable run of scoring with his 12th goal in 25 internationals, most as substitute, to knock out France.

Meanwhile, in Stockholm, England were given breathing space with their first goal of the tournament from David Platt inside five minutes, and they were cruising to victory.

However, defender Eriksson had another headed goal in him and Brodin a further touch of magic, playing one-two with Klas Ingesson and Martin Dahlgren before finishing off the best goal of championships.

That left France and England ready to pack their bags, while the two non-qualifiers, hosts Sweden and last-minute arrivals Denmark, pre-

pared for the semi-finals.

In Group 2, despite a hiccup or two along the way, there was never any real doubt that the Dutch and Germans would fulfil their roles as joint favourites and make the last four a truly northern European extravaganza.

However, one should spare a thought and maybe even shed a tear or two for Scotland, who with a touch more luck would have kept one of the heavyweights out of the semis.

END OF AN ERA

The CIS played their last matches before they are reduced to individual republics and to that extent European football will probably never be quite the same again.

They did not quite go out fighting, for having held both Germany and Holland in draws, they crumbled under the spirited onslaught of Scotland in their final match, going into extinction more with a whimper than a bang — and a 3-0 defeat.

SUCKER PUNCHED SCOTS

Scotland can feel particularly aggrieved, though, even if their philosophical band of fans was more than grateful for

what they did get — and could hardly have celebrated more had they been going home with the trophy.

The Scots did enough to take a point from Holland but were beaten by what their ever-quotable manager Andy Roxburgh called Dennis Bergkamp's "smash-and-grab" goal in Gothenburg.

And then they should have beaten Germany, who were on the rack as several chances went begging in the early stages before the Scots fell to two "sucker punch" goals.

The Dutch, nervous against the Scots and frustrated by the CIS despite Marco van Basten's perfectly good winner being ruled offside, showed their true class.

Needing to beat Germany to qualify in their final group match, they stormed into an early 2-0 lead and never looked back, winning 3-1 to prove that once they leave their tendency for over-confidence behind them, they really are lucky-beaters.

LUCKY GERMANS

Which brings us to the case of Germany.

The World Cup holders, often criticised for the gamesmanship of their players, have

Courier sent crashing



LONDON, June 27: World number one Jim Courier was beaten in the third round of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships today by a man from the qualifying draw — Russian Andrei Olhovskiy, reports Reuter.

Olhovskiy, ranked 193rd in the world, stunned the top seed with a superb 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory in two hours 39 minutes.

It was Courier's first, and last, appearance on Centre Court at the 106th Championships and ended his dream of adding Wimbledon to this year's Australian and French legs of the Grand Slam.

An earlier AFP report said: It turned out to be "Black Friday" for the seeded players at Wimbledon as five more favourites crashed out.

Promising Dutch newcomer Richard Krajicek, Russian Alexander Volkov, Brad Gilbert and Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States and Anke Huber of Germany joined Michael Chang, Petr Korda, Arantxa Sanchez, Kimiko Date and Conchita Martinez on the sidelines.

But world number one Monica Seles, 35-year-old Martina Navratilova, defending champion Michael Stich, twice-champion Stefan Edberg, Big-serving Goran Ivanisevic and Pete Sampras all qualified for the last-16

without dropping a set.

Ivan Lendl, 32 and still chasing the only major title to elude him, struggled but then stormed back to beat towering Sandon Stolle of Australia 6-3, 1-6, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.

And the pairing of John McEnroe and Michael Stich were leading two sets to love against top-seeds and title holders John Fitzgerald of Australia and Anders Jarryd of Sweden in the second round of the men's doubles when bad light stopped play.



JIM COURIER

The day's proceedings were also enlivened when Krajicek thoughtlessly called 80 per cent of women players "fat pigs".

He was allegedly being sought out by Martina Navratilova and other leading women players who wanted to "beat him up."

Back on the courts Henrik Holm, a 23-year-old qualifier from Sweden, wearing army socks and a crew cut, continued to dumbfound the experts by defeating 15th-seeded Volkov 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (10/8).

Beast-hardened from last week's arduous qualifying tournament at Rochampton, Holm oozed confidence after his win and promised he would cause compatriot Edberg "big problems" in the next round.

French Davis Cup player Arnaud Boetsch put out the highly-rated eleventh-seeded Krajicek 4-6, 7-6, (8/6), 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 twice recovering from being one set behind. And battling Australian Wally Masur never gave up to put out 13th seeded Gilbert 6-3, 6-7, (2/7), 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-2.

In the women's singles, seventh-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez, a semi-finalist twelve months ago, was beaten in straight-sets, 2-6, 3-6 by compatriot Amy Frazier.

But Fernandez won the hearts of the Centre-Court crowd by playing on after falling badly at 3-3 in the first set.

The 20-year-old American

Federation Cup player needed to have her right thigh tightly strapped after the fall and was never able to play her normal game.

Indonesia's fast-improving Yayuk Basuki tamed tenth seed Anke Huber of Germany 6-2, 6-3.

Huber had no answers to the powerful groundstrokes of the 21-year-old Indonesian number-one who now faces nine-times champion Martina Navratilova for a place in the quarter finals.

The 35-year-old Czech-born American kept her dream of an incredible tenth Wimbledon singles title alive when she defeated German opponent Barbara Rittner 7-5, 6-1.

On another of the sun-bathed outside courts, where the line officials could probably have demanded danger money and protective clothing, the eighth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic won the battle of the big-servers against 6ft 5 in Swiss Davis Cup Giant Marc Rosset 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 6-4.

Ivanisevic now plays Lendl.

Julie Halard who ended the Wimbledon hopes of fifth-seeded Arantxa Sanchez of Spain and Helena Sukova in the previous rounds, faces 12th seeded Katerina Maleeva who beat Japan's 75th-ranked Mana Endo 7-5, 6-3.

Danes celebrate heroes' return

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, June 27: The bus carrying the Danish national soccer team from the airport could hardly make its way through the crowds of ecstatic supporters lining the road Saturday to welcome the underdogs who defeated Germany in the European Championship, reports AP.

Fans climbed atop fountains and lampposts to glimpse their new national heroes.

Denmark won its first major soccer title Friday in Gothenburg, Sweden, by defeating the world champion Germans 2-0 in one of the all-time upsets of the sports. Denmark joined the championship 10 days before the start, as a late replacement for banned Yugoslavia.

"Underdog? We are European champions!" Emma Andersen, 64, said, waving one of tens of thousands of paper flags in the red-and-white sea swaying in front of City Hall. "In Sweden, we beat France, the Netherlands and Germany, all former European champions," she said.

The Swedish Linjeflyg special flight from Gothenburg carrying the squad was flanked by two Danish Air Force F-16 fighters at the approach to Copenhagen's international airport.

A motorcade of yellow fire department vans escorted the plane as it taxied to a stop on the tarmac. Airport employees kissed and hugged players as they left the plane.

The red and white Danish flag flew from many buildings in downtown Copenhagen. City buses were decorated with flags, a token reserved for national holidays and state visits.

Earlier Saturday, bleary-eyed rogues, whose name is a contraction of the English word "hooligan" and the Danish word for "quiet", left their homes after getting a little sleep from late night partying and reeled down the streets to cheer the returning players.

Thousands chanted, "Germany, Germany it's all over" in the German language as they waited along the 10 kilometre (6.2-mile) route from the airport.

Police said 100,000 Danes had celebrated the victory in an all-night party in central Copenhagen, dancing and singing, hugging and diving into the canals.

"We made no arrests. There was no violence or vandalism," said Deputy Police Commissioner Christian Rode.

THE GOAL SCORERS

GOTHENBURG: Following is the list of goalscorers in the European Championship after Friday's Denmark-Germany final:

Three goals each: Henrik Larsen (five games), Tomas Brodin, Sweden (four games); Karl-Heinz Riedle, Germany (five games), and Dennis Bergkamp, the Netherlands (four games).

Two goals each: Jean-Pierre Papin, France (three games); Jan Eriksson, Sweden (four games); Thomas Haessler, Germany (five games); Frank Rijkaard, the Netherlands (four games).

One goal each: Igor Dobrovolsky (CIS), Stefan Effenberg (Germany), David Platt (England), Lars Elstrup (Denmark), Paul McStay (Scotland), Brian McClair (Scotland), Gary McAllister (Scotland), Rob Witschge (Netherlands), Juergen Klinsmann (Germany), Kennet Anderson (Sweden), John Jensen (Denmark), Kim Vilfort (Denmark).



Teammates rush to mob John Jensen of Denmark on the ground after he scored the first goal against Germany in the European Championships final in Gothenburg on Friday.