Sports Reporter

A twenty-four member team of Abahani Krira Chakra, the defending Dhaka First Division football league champions, will leave Dhaka for India tonight to take part in two invitational tournaments

Abahani will first participate in the Lokpriya Bordoloi memorial tournament Nowgong, in Assam that got under way on Thursday last.

Abahani, who have been placed directly in the prequarterfinals, will play their first match on September 1 against Banpur United.

Apart from Abahani. satisfying as beating Linu for Bangkok Bank Club of Thatland her in the team event was an is likely to compete in the expiation of her loss to the 'tournament which will consame player in the 16th naelude on September 9. tionals, as well as a morale boosting dress rehearsal for

After the Bordolot meet Abahani will participate in the Indian Independence Day tourney to be held in Guahati September 11 to 17.

The leading teams from all over India will vie for the Independence Day trophy.

Abahani are yet to receive a copy of the fixture for the

Sergei Zhukov and Alexei Artfley, the two Russians who helped Abahani successfully defend their league title but have since returned home are also likely to play for Abahani in the two tournaments, said a responsible Abahani official. Golam Rabbani Helal, who

will lead Abahani as manager. will leave India for Moscow on September 4 and hopes to come back along with these two gifted footballers. Necessary arrangements

with the Moscow Torpedo Club, for which Zhukov and Ar tflev play, have already been made, said the official. Kazi Salahuddin and Ashraf

All and Abdul Gaffer have been made the coach and assistant coaches respectively.

A journalist is also accompanying the team.

The squad : Golam Rabbani Helal (Manager), Arshad Khan (Official). Mahmudul Hasan Shamim (journalist) Kazi Mohammed Salahuddin (Coach) Abdul Gaffar (A satt Coach), Asraf Alt (Asstt Coach). Players Mohsin (captain). Selim, Masud, Rehan, Munna, Alamgir, Ntra, Masud Rana, Shakil, Zakir. Rubel, Swapan, Rumi, Gaus, Aslam, Mamun Joarder, Jewel and Montrul Islam.

Under-16 side beats MSC 3-0

Sports Reporter

The national youth under-16 football team got the better of last year's First Division league runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club 3-0 in a warm-up match at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Biplab Marma, Mozzamel Hug Chowdhury Biplab and Mohammad Moniruzzaman were the scorers.

The under-16 team had drawn 2-2 with league champions Abahani Krira Chakra in another warm-up tie on August 25 at the same venue.

The national junior team will leave Dhaka for Saudi Arabia tomorrow, August 31 to take part in the fifth Asian youth championship to be held from September 4 to 13 in Riyadh.

Bangladesh - placed in day for the Sept. 25 match in Group A along with Bahrain. DPR Korea and hosts Saudi Arabia - will launch their campaign on the inaugural day against North Korea.

The other group comprises the UAE, Qatar, Thailand and

The top two teams in each group will play in the semifi-

Bangladesh qualified for the final round by emerging unbeaten champions in the Group F qualifiers held in Rajshahi last June. India. Nepal, Pakistan and the Maldives were the other teams in the group.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

match that probably did more Gandaria Famous Sporting Club and Lalmatta Club registered easy victories in their any other in the past two respective matches of the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league at two different city venues yesterday. Some folks figured a few bucks

Gandaria Famous trounced Maghbazar Krira Chakra by four could be made on another goals to nil at the Mahakhali T&T ground.

Raju scored two goals while

Selim and Babu Das netted one each for the winners.

Lalmatia Club got the better of Power Development Board Sporting Club 3-0 at the Outer Stadtum.

The other match of the day. between Dhaka Sporting Club and Badda Jagarani Sangha. ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

Nahid and Nidhu Ghosh of Dhaka Sporting and Hamid and Romen of Badda Jagarani invited the yellow cards.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dilkusha SC vs Kadamtala (3 pm: Outer Stadium) East End Boys vs Matuail JS

(4:30 pm : Outer Stadium)

Ansars girls dethrone Biman

Sports Reporter

back to beat her bete notre and reigning champion Linu 12-21, 21-11 and 21-16. Shamima Tamreen, inebri-

Bangladesh Ans-

ars won the wo

men's team cha-

mpionship of the

Danish 17th nati-

onal table tennis

competition at

the National Sports Council

their last year's loss to Biman

as Zulekha Akhtar and com-

pany turned the tables on

reigning women's singles

champton Zobera Rahman

Linu-led Biman girls, clinching

For Zulekha it was doubly

Zulekha put Ansars in the

Fancied Linu drew Biman

The Biman doubles pair of

But in the crunch match

Tangail DSA qua-

lified for the

semifinals of the

1992 Ma-o-Moni

Gold Cup national

under-14 football

Tangail in semis

early on (1-0).

minute [4-2]

time (5-2).

Sports Reporter

lead when she beat Biman's

Shabana Parveen 21-11, 21-10.

level by defeating Shamima

Linu and Shabana downed

Shamima and Tania Tarmeen

Zulekha showed remarkable

resilience in staging a come-

championship beating Gaiban-

dha by a solitary goal in

yesterday's second match at

Hantf Pradhan got the de-

Tangail, who now have four

eider in the very second

points from two matches, will

take on Sylhet in their last

group league match of the

cight team final round tomor-

on, yet it was Abdullah-Al-Baki

of Jhenidah who stole the

show by scoring four goals in a

row in the first match of the

day as Sylhet went down by

gin in Jhenidah's favour, it

was a keenly-contested match.

At one stage both teams were

Anis put Jhenidah ahead

28: Jimmy Conn-

ors offered no

flowers, as Bobby

Riggs once did.

Instead, Connors

politely pulled

out a chair for Martina

Navratilova, who responded

graciously as she sat down.

sounds of Battle of the Sexes

III, a glitzy promotion Thurs-

M NAVRATILOVA

Las Vegas that picks up where

Riggs flustered Margaret

Riggs and Billie Jean King left

Court with flowers in the first

of these scams, then got his

comeuppance against King in a

to boost tennis' popularity than

Those were the days of

Women's Lib, and this is the

year of women in politics.

male-female tennis thing, and

away from a high-priced exhi-

Connors, never one to shy

CARLSBAD, Calif.

Aug 28: Fifth

seeded Jana Nov-

otna, after losing

a difficult second

set to Ann Gross-

man, withdrew

because of leg cramps in their

second-round match Thursday

at the Mazda Tennis Classic,

Novotna, ranked 10th in the

world, to move into the quar-

terfinals against third-seeded

Conchita Martinex. The score

Grossman prevailed over

reports AP.

they're probably right.

off 19 years ago.

"Thank you so much," reports

So began the symbolism and

Despite the flattering mar-

A hough Tangail marched

the Dhaka Stadium.

minute of play

five goals to two.

tied on 2-2.

21-17, 21-16 to surge ahead.

Tarmeen 21-12, 21-11.

the final by three sets to two.

the women's singles crown.

Ansars' paddlers avenged

gymnastum yesterday.

ated by her senior's feat, then let fly the last salvo that had Biman grounded beyond repair. She won her match against Shabana Parveen 21 14, 21-13.

The Ansars boys (under-18) did not lag behind the ladies as the defending champions pranced their way into the final with a clinical threentl victory over Rangpur.

Golam Moinuddin Rubel overcame a stiff challenge from Shamim, winning 21-18, 21-

Skipper Hantf Hamlet did his part quite well, deposing Bulbul 21-16, 21-7.

Selim Reza and Motnuddin Rubel of Ansars then teamed up to finish the last rites by walloping the Rangpur pair of Bulbul and Rubel 21-13, 21-15

In the other semifinal, last year's runners-up Bangladesh Textiles Mills Corporation (BTMC) made short work of Munshiganj with another three-nil dumping.

Reigning boys' champion Manas Chowdhury found Sagar easy meat in the first game

Manna restored parity for

Taking the cue from Anis,

It was Manna who once

Baki scored the third goal

Sylhet in the 23rd minute (1-

Baki got the first of his four

goals in the 38th minute to put

again drew level for Sylhet in

of the match in the 70th

minute (3-2) and completed

his hat-trick in the 74th

of the day two minutes from

Tangail in their inaugural

match on August 26, now have

two points from two games

and will have to win against

Gafbandha in their last match

tomorrow to make the semifi

TODAY'S MATCHES

pm: Dhaka Stadium).

Dhaka Stadium).

Munshiganj vs Natore [6

Satkhira vs Feni (7:30 pm:

Symbolism and sounds of the

Battle of Sexes begin

idea of a dirs 500,000 winner's

prize for the two-out-of-three-

set match. Navratilova, along

with Chris Evert the only play-

ers, male or female, to win

more titles than Connors, also

readily agreed - if she got a

wanted the whole court, from

fence to fence," he said - then

settled on giving her two feet

extra (0.6 metres) on each

sides (half the width of the

doubles area) and limiting him

Navratilova said. "Jimmy is still

beating the top men's players."

Would it be 6-0, 6-0?

"I know Jimmy would beat

"Close to it," Connors re-

Navratilova and Connors

sponded. "I don't think that's a

match many people would have

certainly are taking the money

seriously — they had a brief tug

of war with a fake winner's

check during the photo op.

They also see this match, pit-

ting two fiery champions who

know how to play to the

crowed, as another opportu-

nity to raise interest in tennis.

tainment," Navratilova said.

dismissing suggestions that it

would be demeaning to the

taking the match very seri-

ously, according to a

spokesman for host Caesars

Palace. Total wagering already

has exceeded all the bets

taken in Las Vegas for Wimble-

don, with Connors going from

an early 9-2 favourite to a cur-

rent 7-2. Navratilova's recent

victory over Monica Seles

seems to have stirred senti-

Novotna limps off with cramps

was 4-6, 6-4 and then 4-2 in

Meanwhile, No. 7 Zina Gar-

the third set when Novotna

rison breezed past Monique

Javer 6-1, 6-0 to set up a

quarterfinal match against sec-

seeded Gabriela Sabatini was

scheduled to open the quar-

terfinal round against Leila

Meskhi at La Costa Resort and

the world, lost her first game

Garrison, ranked No. 14 in

In a later match, top-

ond-seeded Jennifer Capriati.

Some bettors apparently are

"It'll be fun and good enter-

with regular rules,

to one serve.

taken seriously."

sport.

pulled out.

They haggled a little — "She

Baki netted his fourth goal

Jhenidah who had lost to

Jhenidah in the lead (2-1).

the 47th minute (2-2).

winning 21-13. However, he had to sweat his complacency out in the second, taming his keen rival at 22-20.

In a three-setter Mahbub of BTMC got the better of Tanmoy of Munshiganj at 14-21. 21-18 and 21-12 Manas and Emdad Amir

Khan Shaon of BTMC had Tanmoy and Mona of Munshiganj done in the doubles quite easily, 21-11, 21-11.

So last year's champions and runners-up are lined up again to vie for the boys' title.

The BTMC men, however were bidden farewell by reigning champions Biman who registered a rather unexpectedly facile 3-0 victory in the men's first semifinal.

Nasimul Hassan Kochi defeated Gias Atiq Ankhi 21-16, 21-14. Rochi of Biman beat BTMC skipper Saduddin Kislu 21-10, 21-19, while Sadi and Kochi then outscored Kislu and Akhlaq 20-22, 21-16 and 21-8 to give Biman the rubber

In the second semifinal Ansars were leading 2-0 against Dhaka DSA when reports last came in.

The boys' team final will be held at 4 pm while the men's team final will follow at 5 pm today.

Chalantika win in Div II soccer

Hug scored once each for the pulled one back for the vanquished.

match of the day. Although no goal was scored, yet five players invited

Prashanta Dev. Bazlur Rahplayers who were booked by

Janata Club vs East Bengal SC (3 pm; Dhaka Stadium) trik (4:30 pm : Dhaka Stadium)

both winning the US Open

him and 10-1 for me."

from Steffi Graf than Connors

will offer, and she copes with

deeper and harder ground-

strokes from Seles or Jennifer

Capriati. The extra territory

also will be "a huge advantage.

condition. He turns 40 next

JIMMY CONNORS

week and was limping Thurs-

day from a strained thigh

muscle that forced him out of a

Open again, try to revive some

of the glory from last year

when he reached the semifi-

nals, and he warned most con-

vincingly that no one should

waste money betting on

sets," he said flatly. "I don't

want to take any chances of

anything happening in the long

run, so I'm going to get in

there and try to pound it right

away and get the hell out of

there. I want to give her a little

to the 62nd-ranked Javer,

from Britain, but dominated

tougher," said Garrison, of

second of her career over a

player ranked in the top 10.

The other was three years ago

when she beat Natalia Zvereva.

recurring cramps in her left

leg for over a year and had

surgery in February to remove

a cyst near her left knee to

improve her blood circulation.

Novotna has experienced

"I thought it would be much

Grossman's victory was the

"It's not going to go three

Navratilova against him.

discouragement early."

the rest of the way.

Houston.

But he said he'll play the

tuneup tournament.

She's 35 and in terrific

"That's probably 290-1 for

She's handled faster serves

stand at 300-1.

Navratilova said.

Connors said.

Sports Reporter

Chalantika Krira Chakta beat Azad Sporting Club by two goals to one in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium vester-

Zahurul Islam and Shahidul winners while Badrul Amin

Mahmud and Sajedul Hug of Chalantika received yellow

City Club shared points with Lalbagh Sporting Club in a goalless draw in the other

man. Nizamuddin and Tamjidul Alam of Lalbagh and Zakir of City Club were the

the yellow cards for various

the referee. TODAY'S MATCHES

Bangladesh Boys vs Abhija-

can drop these days, so I have NEW YORK, Aug to play well every week." : After wobb-

Tarmeen, Zulekha Akhtar and Noor-e-Sheba Bachchi.

Both Courier and Edberg pointed to Sampras as a man to watch. After winning the Open in 1990 he lost in the quarter-finals last year to

He has won his last three ATP tournaments, beating Courier, Edberg, ninth-seeded Ivan Lendl and seventh-seeded German Borts Becker.

with current and former champions, including last year's winner Stefan Edberg of Sweden, Wimbledon champion Andre Agasst, Wimbledon finalist Goran Ivanisevic and 1990 US Open winner Pete Since his disappointment at

ling at Wimble

don, Jim Courier

and Montca Seles

go into the US

Open tennis championships

hoping to rediscover their

winning ways in the year's final

Grand Slam tournament.

Courier's path is mined

reports AFP.

the Barcelona Olympics. Courier has failed to get a hardcourt tournament victory under his belt, though he said his run to the final of the US Hardcourts in Indianapolis was encouraging. "I feel a lot better," said

Courier, who is hoping to add the US Open crown to the Australian and French Open titles he won earlier this year. "I feel very positive," he

added. "I'm physically fit. I'm match fit, and I'm very pleased with everything at the mo-Edberg, too, has had his

problems recently, but a win in

New Haven, Connecticut, last week boosted his confidence. "Last summer before the US Open I was playing even worse than now, so I'm not worried

at all," he said However, he admitted that NEW YORK, Aug bition, immediately liked the ment for her. The odds on his defending champion status, and his race to regain the number one ranking from Courier added an element of pressure. "When you're the defending champion you want to go back and do well again.

There's obviously some pres-

sure. I have a lot of points that

"This is the time of year

JIM COURIER

when I start playing well," Sampras said after beating Courier in the final at Indianapolis. "I played pretty well at the Open last year, but this year it is different. I'm not the defending champion."

"I felt that last year I put too much pressure on myself to do well. Maybe I was uptight, maybe the situation got to me."

Sampras's first round match against a qualifier should ease him into the tournament. Fourth seeded Michael Chang and eighth-seeded Andre Agassi also drew qualifiers. while Courier meets American University champion Alex

Brazilian Luiz Mattar, Croatian Goran Ivanisevic, the fifth seed, landed a tough first round encounter with Switzerland's Marc Rosset, who beat him in the semifinals in Barcelona on foute to the Olympic gold medal.

O'Brien and Edberg faces

The Bangladesh Ansars women who clinched the team title of the 17th national table tennis championships by beating

Bangladesh Biman 3-2 in the final at the NSC gymnasium yesterday. From left: Tania Tarmeen Rinu, Shameema

No rosy path for the top seeds

Five-time champion Jimmy Connors, whose run to the semifinals electrified the Open last year, is struggling to get

MONICA SELES

over a thigh injury.

Connors, who turns 40 on Wednesday, said he hoped to celebrate his birthday on court. Another New York veteran, John McEnroe, opens against

Holland's Michiel Schapers and could come up against Courier in the fourth round.

THE WOMEN'S SCENE In the women's singles.

question mark hangs over the top two seeds. The question for Seles, to

grunt, or not to grunt, and does it matter?

"I don't think about whether or not I'm going to grunt," said Seles, who toned

couldn't beat, even though I was close," the sixth seed said. "Now I'm at a new, higher level. It proved a lot to me and built up my confidence for the US Open."

down her high-pitched squeal

at Wimbledon in the face of

criticism from rivals and a

"It doesn't affect how I

Certainly she seems to be

She has been subjected to a

play," she added, but since she

dropped the grunt Seles has

feeling the strain, and has

been shunning the spotlight as

lot of unnecessary pressure

and somewhat unfairly, said

Gerard Smith of the Women's

straightforward - a nagging

shoulder injury and viral infec-

tion - but she said her con-

vincing victory over Seles in

the Wimbledon final would

of the pressure away because

you have already won one, and

so I think it gives you a lot

more confidence. You know

that you have done it, that you

year-old Jennifer Capriati in

the Olympic final, a result that

has Capriati brimming with

confidence again after a trou-

"Steffi was always the one I

However, Graf fell to 16

I think it takes a little bit

Graf's problems are more

lost three consecutive finals.

merciless tabloid press.

the Open approaches.

Tennis Association.

help here.

have shown it".

bled year.

At the other end of the age spectrum is third-seeded Martina Navratilova, a fourtime US Open champion and runner-up to Seles last year.

Navratilova, 35, gets to start off slowly against a qualifier in the first round. If the form holds, she could meet eighthseeded Conchita Martinez of

Edberg, Lendl, Becker in qtrs

COMMACK, N Y. Aug 28 : Stefan Edberg, Ivan Lendl. Boris Becker and qualifier Carsten Arriens all won Thursday

and advanced to the quarterfinals of the dirs 265,000 Hamlet Cup tennis tournament, reports AP.

The top-seeded Edberg, the world's second-ranked player and reigning US Open champion, beat Jimmy Arias 7-6 [7-6-2. The third-seeded Lendl, a five-time winner at the Hamlet including last year, defeated unsceded Olivier Delaitre of France 6-4, 6-1 in a match that turned on a disputed point.

The fifth-seeded Becker beat fellow German Davis Cupper Carl-Ewe Steeb 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 and Arriens, who entered this tournament ranked 307th, surprised No. 8 Brad Gilbert, ranked 22nd, 7-6 (8-6), 7-6

Edberg, playing in the afternoon when temperatures reached 100 degrees at the Hamlet Golf and Country Club. broke up a first-set service duel with Arias by grabbing a 6-1 lead in the tiebreaker. He then won the last four games of the second set, losing just live points.

"There are guys with two hands who can make a dent in his service." Arias said, "But he volleys better than anyone

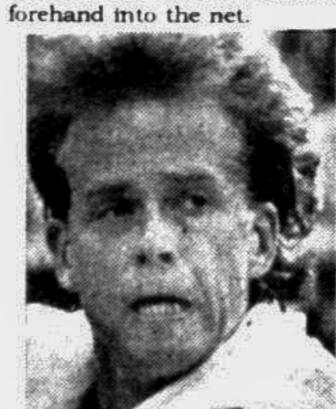
"I'm playing solid tennis now, well enough to win my matches," Edberg raid. "This is good as we go into the Open." Lendl took command early

ing a set point for Lendl. De-

against Delaitre. He reached 3-0 and served for the first set at 5-3. Delattre took advantage of two double-faults to break service and was serving for 5-5 when he became upset at a

At 30-30, a sideline shot by Delaitre was called out, provid-

laitre disputed the point and lost the set with an unforced



STEFAN EDBERG Lendl coasted to a 5-0 lead

in the second set with the loss of only seven points. "He was upset because he said the same linesman made

two mistakes before this but this shot was wide, no question about it," Lendl said. "I know it's difficult to overcome what you think is a bad call but you must do it." "I did it when I got what

thought was a bad call for a double-fault in losing service in the ninth game. The better player overcomes adversity all

the time by showing mental toughness. Becker, ranked seventh in the world, lost his service in the first game and couldn't

eight points in reaching 5-0 in the second set. He broke Steeb in the 11th game of the third set, aided by a double-fault that made it deuce. Steeb then committed two errors to lose service and

pull out the set. He gave up

Becker held for the match at Arriens, 23, outlasted Gilbert, 31, in a two-set match that lasted 2 hours, 35 min-

"This was the biggest win in my life," said Arriens, who has spent three years playing lesser satellite and challenger events while recovering from

ankle and back injuries. He had one victory and three losses in Association of Tennis Professionals events before qualifying for the

Hamlet Cup. "I'm in good shape and the hot weather didn't bother me as much." Arriens said. "With being hurt so much and not winning, I was wondering about giving up tennis. Now think I'll stick with tennis.

Fraser blamed for Aussie decline

MELBOURNE. Aug 28: Former top 10 player John Alexander, who is aiming to replace Neale Fraser as Australia's Davis Cup tennis captain, said Thursday that Fraser had taken the team backward during his 23 years in charge, reports AP.

"We dominated the game. We had the top six players of the top 10 when Neale took over." Alexander said.

"At the end of 1991 we didn't have one player in the

Tennis Australia, the sport's domestic governing body, will decide Monday whether to

reappoint former Wimbledon

him with Alexander. Fraser is the world's longest serving Davis Cup cap-

champion Fraser, or replace

He has led Australia to four

Davis Cup victories: in 1973. 1977, 1983, and 1986. He has an overall Davis Cup record of 52-19 and the Aussies were Davis Cup runners-up as recently as 1990. Alexander said former

Davis Cup captain Harry Hopman had been "a genius" at producing champions, and vowed to use the same discipline that Hopman was famous for to push Australian tennis

US Open THE SEEDINGS

Spain in the quarter-finals.

NEW YORK, Aug 28: Seeds for the 1992 US Open Tennis championships with seed number, name and country:

Jim Courier, United Sta-

Stefan Edberg, Sweden. Pete Sampras, United Sta-

Michael Chang, United

Goran Ivanisevic, Croatia. Petr Korda, Czechoslova-

Boris Becker, Germany. Andre Agassi, United Sta-

Ivan Lendl, United States.

Carlos Costa, Spain.

Michael Stich, Germany. 12. Wayne Ferreira, South Africa.

Guy Forget, France. 14. Malivai Washington

United States. 15. Richard Krajicek, Nether-

16. John McEnroe, United

Monica Seles, Yugoslavia.

Steffi Graf, Germany. Martina Navratilova, United States.

Gabriela Sabatini, Argen-Arantxa Sanchez Vicario,

Jennifer Capriati, United Mary Joe Fernandez, Uni-

ted States. Conchita Martinez, Spain. Manuela Maleeva-Frag-

niere, Switzerland, 10. Jana Novotna, Czechoslo-

11. Anke Huber, Germany. Nathalie Tauziat, France. Helena Sukova, Czechoslo-

Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria.

16. Mary Pierce, France.

Zina Garrison, United