

## Brothers join Mohammedans, Abahani

## Muktijoddha lone leaders

Sports Reporter



Brothers Union, the so-called third force of the domestic football circuit behind defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra, joined their illustrious rivals in a curious pattern of losing first point in the second match when they were held to a one-all draw by Arambagh Krira Sangstha in the second Star Premier Division football league match billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

However, Muktijoddha Sangsad, tipped a strong bidder for this year's title after their superb showing in the DMFA and Federation Cups, avoided the pitfall, registering a comfortable 3-0 victory over bates Bangladesh Boys in the first match at the same venue earlier in the afternoon.

Brothers 1-1 draw added spice to what is expected to be a very open league and held semblance to the previous upsets in the span of forty-eight hours in between which the spectators at the Dhaka Stadium saw two biggies fumble to draws of similar margin with virtually innocuous opponents. The Gopibagh outfit may, however, get solace from the fact that they capitulated a point to a team of better stature since Arambagh finished fifth in last year's league.

Yesterday's results left Muktijoddha one point clear at the top ahead of the three traditional giants Mohammedans, Abahani and Brothers,

who are locked at three points each from two outings.

In the first match of the day, the Mukti, who earlier produced a somewhat lacklustre performance in their league opener although they had a similar victory, showed signs of improvement in the midfield and enjoyed total dominance right from the start.

Barun Bikash Dewan, whose switch to midfield from a more familiar left-back position raised quite a few eyebrows in the recently-concluded Federation cup, once again proved his coach, Kazi Salahuddin right as the stout tribal booter, who missed Muktijoddha's league opener along with Rumi Rizvi Karim, slotted home in the 22 minutes after being fed by a calculated Mizan pass (1-0).

Muktijoddha, regarded as an emerging force in local football by many a football buff, couldn't add any in the rest of the session.

The second goal came in the 56th minute when Bakib tapped the ball home from a Masud Rana cross to score his second goal of the league.

Rumi, the gifted medio who came in the second half as a substitute for Rakib, sealed the fate of the match in the 72nd minute with a spectacular diving header from inside the box.

Just a few minutes earlier, Rumi was robbed of a chance when his scorching drive bounced off the crossbar.

The second match saw the Gopibagh outfit come from behind to settle for a face-saving

draw, thanks to substitute Shahzad who kept his cool while converting the penalty awarded in the 75th minute.

Arambagh took the lead minutes before the breather when Jahangir floated one over the out of position Brothers custodian Ponir.

The ever dependable Ponir could only blame himself for coming up with a poor goal-kick that landed straight at the feet of a grateful Jahangir.

Ranjan, who scored a hat-trick in Brothers' 3-1 win over Wari, once again came to his side's rescue when his left flank minus struck the hand of Arambagh defender Faisal in the penalty box leaving referee R Alam with little option but to point to the dreaded spot.

In an exciting encounter with forays and counter forays, Brothers slightly dominated Arambagh, but the Motijheel outfit never resorted to negative football to cling to their slender lead.

Farashganj and Dhaka Wanderers shared points in goal feast 3-3 draw in the lone Star First Division football league match at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Shahq Hira and Nurul Islam notched one goal apiece for Farashganj while Liton struck twice and Zakir netted the other for Wanderers.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

Sadharan Bima KS vs Muslim Institute 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium).

Rahmatganj MFS vs Eskaton Sabuj Sangha 6:30pm (Dhaka Stadium).

## BCCB announces players' pool

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) yesterday announced a twenty-member national players pool for the 1993-94 domestic cricket season.

The bracketed cricketers are: Faruque Ahmed, Akram Khan, Minhazul Abedin, Aminul Islam, Enamul Huq, Athar Ali Khan, Jahangir Alam, Saiful Islam Khan, Jahangir Talukdar, Sharfuddinul Islam, Shaheed, Selim, Shahed, Mizanur Rahman, Sajid Hassan, Shariful Huq, Al Shahriar, Anisur Rahman, Sajjad Mansur, Salahuddin Zahid Razzak, Nurul Abedin.

Although the pool consists of players who were in the reckoning for the last national team four players — Gelam Nawsher, Shahinawaz Shaheed, Debashis Barooah and Nasir Ahmed — have been exempted from the panel.

Veteran new ball bowler Nawsher and batsman Shahinawaz Shaheed were not considered because both of them announced their retirement from international cricket on June 30 last year.

While Debashis and Nasir stayed out of contention as usual because of their identity tags as wicket keepers.

Every Navana Premier Division club is allowed to register a maximum of four pool players and four foreigners. However, two foreigners will be eligible to take the field on a match day.

Teams in the Mirpur First Division have the provision of taping three foreigners of whom only one will be allowed to take part in a match.

## Schools chess

Sports Reporter

Abdullah al Rakib took the solo lead in the ninth schools chess tournament after defeating Abu Sufian Shakil in the seventh round at the chess room of National Sports Council yesterday.

With this win Rakib, a student of Narayanganj High School, collected full seven points in the nine-round Swiss league meet.

Enamul Hossain Rajib of St. Gregory School who drew with Yanur Rahman Royal, followed the leader with six and a half points.

## Lalas debuts in Italy

BRESSANONE, Italy, Aug 4: Alexi Lalas wasn't overwhelmed by his debut in a Padova uniform, the first American signed in the Italian soccer league, reports AP.

La Gazzetta dello Sport, Italy's leading sports newspaper, said the bearded American "played with authority, showing a clear vision of the game," as Padova overwhelmed the local team 7-0 Wednesday night in a pre-season match in this Alpine town.

Despite his jet lag from arriving just 48 hours earlier, Lalas 24, showed he was ready to play.

"I started learning something from my new teammates, Lalas told Gazzetta. 'I didn't have any problem adapting because Padova plays like (Boris) Milutinovic's US team, especially in defence."

## Whitbread plans a comeback

LONDON, Aug 4: Former Javelin world record holder Fatima Whitbread, who retired four years ago through injury, is reportedly planning a comeback, reports AFP.

Whitbread, who set the world record in 1986 and won the world title a year later, is quoted in The Daily Star newspaper as saying: "I would love to get back and the medical people have indicated there is no reason why I shouldn't."

"I am still only 33 and feeling fitter than ever. I've been helping coach a number of promising javelin throwers and my involvement with them has rekindled my interest."

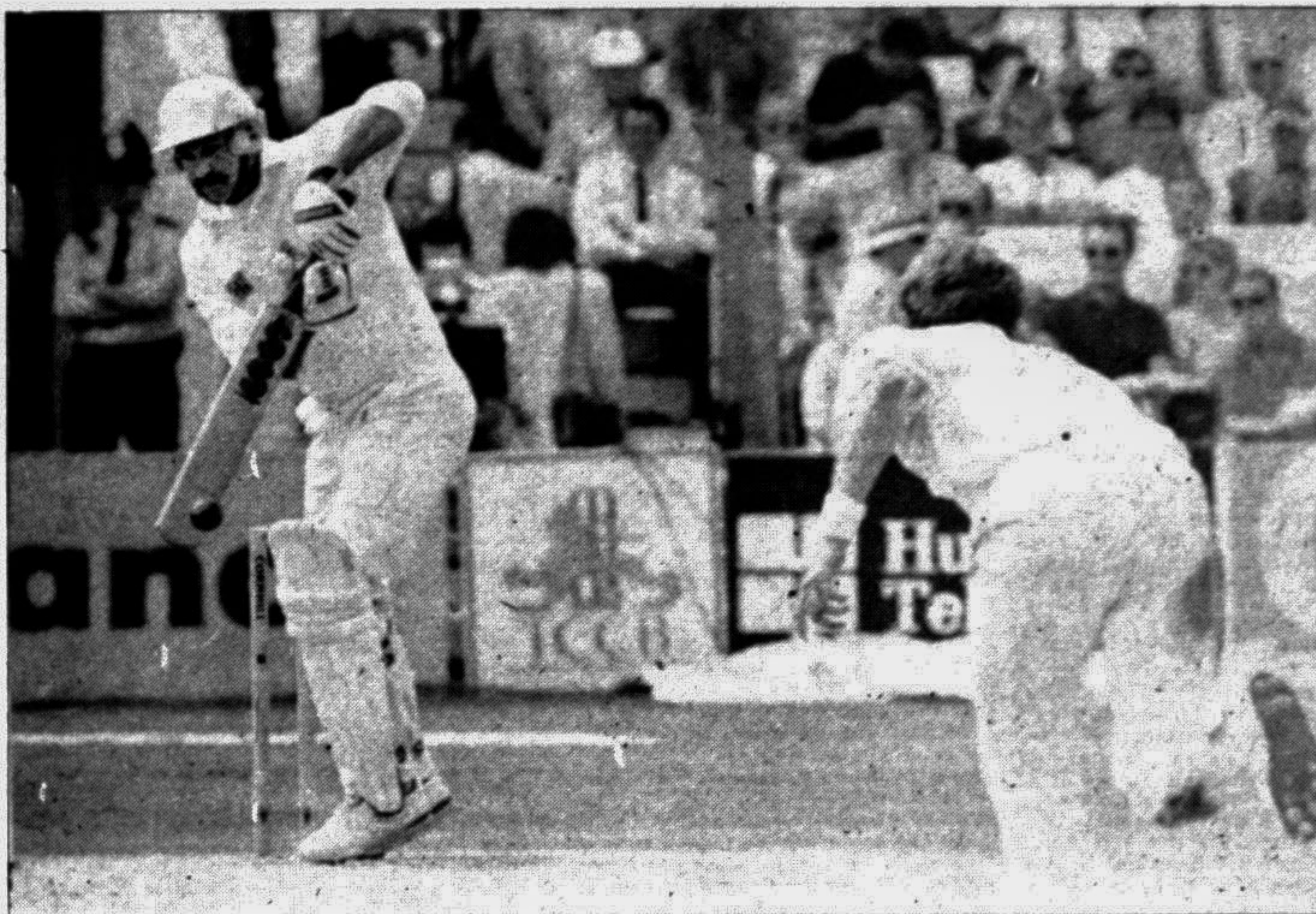
The Briton, forced out of the sport with back and shoulder problems, says she has set her sights on winning the Olympic gold medal that eluded her—at Atlanta in 1996.

## Muller blames Sao Paulo

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 4: Brazilian international Striker Muller blamed Sao Paulo club directors for blocking a possible move the English side Tottenham, according to a newspaper report Wednesday, reports Reuters.

"(The directors) were slow to make a decision so Tottenham signed (Juergen) Klinsmann and I lost the chance to go back to Europe," Muller told the Estado De Sao Paulo daily.

Muller, 29, who played in Italy for Torino between 1989 and 1991, said he has also been sought by English side Everton and Valencia in Spain.



Graham Gooch, the old workhorse, plays an Allan Donald scorchers defensively in the early hours of the second Test match between England and South Africa at Headingley yesterday.

## Bright start by England

LEEDS, England, Aug 4: England captain Mike Atherton going into the break on 19 not out and Hick 24 not out.

Atherton was under fire from the British media to resign after he was captured by television cameras taking a substance from his pocket and apparently wipe it on the ball during the first Test.

He said he was using dirt to dry his hands, but was fined 2,000 pounds (£1,000) and admitted he was foolish.

Atherton received a rousing reception of support from the floodlight crowd, and looked determined to dig in for a solid, rather than spectacular, innings.

The decision to promote Gooch to partner him looked a good one as the former captain raced to 23 off 40 balls, but fell to Fanie de Villiers when he chased to cover drive a wide one to edge a catch to Brian McMillan at second slip.

Gooch took Alec Stewart's place as opener because it was felt in recent Tests Stewart attacked early, but did not go on with it. The England selectors wanted more stability at the top of the order, but

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Gooch played exactly the type of innings blamed for Stewart's drop in the order to number five.

Atherton got off to a good start by winning the toss and the pitch offered the bowlers little assistance. South Africa's main strike bowler, Allan Donald, was hit for 23 off his only four overs for the session, including three boundaries by Gooch off his toes.

De Villiers was the best of the bowlers, managing to extract some movement in the humid air, enough to tempt Gooch's edge.

Hick looked scratchy at times, but also played some good shots in his new role at number three in a revamped England batting order which has Graham Thorpe coming in at number four, Stewart at five and John Crawley at six.

England left Joey Benjamin out, bringing left armer Phil Tufnell into the eleven as the first England spinner to play in a Test at Headingley since 1987.

South Africa's team was unchanged from the one which made its triumphant return to Lord's after a 29-year wait two weeks ago.

## McCall after Lewis' crown

NEW YORK, Aug 4: Oliver McCall is ranked number one contender by all three major boxing organisations, but the man who next challenges world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis is best known as a world-class sparring partner, reports Reuters.

The 29-year-old McCall, who made his name in boxing as the rugged man who helped prepare Mike Tyson for big fights, gets his big shot when he goes after the World Boxing Council crown held by Lewis on September 24 at London's Wembley arena.

"I will be the new champion of the world," vowed the hyperactive McCall at a news conference Wednesday. The loquacious and confident American, determined to take

advantage of opportunity, even took time to look past Lewis. Holding forth in a lively stream of consciousness rap before the press, the fidgety challenger said his goal was to grab the title and hold it long enough to take on, and beat, his old employer, Mike Tyson.

"I want to beat him in ring for real," said McCall. "I'm the guy who made his look good. 'I've never been knocked down, never been cut, Tyson? I've had his eye swollen and nose busted up."

McCall, whose pro-record is 24-5, is convinced that the big-time boxers have been cucking him over the years. The obscure American has hired highly respected Emanuel Steward to train him for his crack at the title, and Steward is impressed.

"He's a very dangerous fighter, a little crazy and not

afraid of anyone," said Steward, summing up his impression of his new pupil.

"This will probably be the hottest heavyweight fight we've had in a long time."

Lewis, the undefeated Jamaican-born Briton, had tried to line up a fight against former champion Riddick Bowe before being ordered to make a mandatory defence against McCall.

Lewis, sporting a new, braided hair style, was polite at first about the match with McCall.

"It's going to be a good fight, he's not going come there and lie down," said Lewis, who is 25-0 and has finished off 21 opponents within the distance.

"I'm not taking him too lightly, but I believe he's taking me lightly. He's never seen anybody in the ring with my speed and talent."

Steward thought Lewis could be in for a surprise.

"Oliver McCall has got so much energy. He goes 10, 15 rounds at a pace no one goes at," he said. "He's got great foot work and we've worked to shorten up his punches. 'Champions are made in the mind. Oliver McCall has the mentality of a champion. I strongly believe Oliver McCall will be the new heavyweight champion of the world."

Lewis' trainer, Pepe Correa, said McCall, nicknamed the "atomic bull," was out of his mind if he thought he could handle the champion. "Call him the 'atomic frog,' because he's going to be on all fours on the canvas," Correa said. "He's a good sparring partner, that's all this boy is."

The 28-year-old Lewis, like McCall, was also thinking past the Wembley date.

"If it was up to me I'd rather pass it (this fight) by. This is a stepping stone. I want to be the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world," Lewis said.

"I look at it as a good preparation. I've seen Oliver McCall fight. Like I said, he spars well."

Lewis, resigned to a long wait for a heavyweight unification match, said he would like to set up a fight against Bowe right after the McCall bout.

"I want to fight Bowe in December so I can be on the beach in January," said Lewis. "I think we're the two best heavyweights in the world."

## India host World Chess semis in Feb

NEW DELHI, Aug 4: India will host the World Chess Championship semifinals from February 4 to 25 next year, the United News of India (UNI) said on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Defending champion Anatoly Karpov of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) will play in the matches at Sanghi Nagar near the southern city of Hyderabad, the news agency said.

India's Sanghi Industrial Group has offered prize money of 500,000 dollars for the semifinals, the highest ever in the 70-year-old history of FIDE, UNI quoted organiser Ravi Sanghi as saying.

In the second round quarter-final matches at Sanghi Nagar on Wednesday, Russian teenager Vladimir Kramnik drew with Boris Gelfand of Belarus in their seventh game. They are now tied at 3.5 points each in the eight-game round.

Dutch veteran Jan Timman and Russia's Valery Salvo agreed on a draw in their sixth game and were tied at three points each.

The seventh game between American Grandmaster Gata Kamsky and India Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand was adjourned. Anand is leading at 3.5 points to 2.5.

FIDE's World Chess Championship elimination rounds will decide who would challenge Karpov for the crown.

Anand, Kramnik and Kamsky are also taking part in the elimination rounds of the Professional Chess Association (PCA), formed last year after world champion Russian Gary Kasparov led a rebellion against FIDE.

The PCA cycles will determine a challenger to Kasparov.

## Bruguera breezes

PRAGUE, Aug 4: Top-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain beat Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic, 6-7 (0-7), 6-1, 6-1, Wednesday to advance to the second round of the 365,000 Skoda Czech Open men's tennis clay-court tournament, reports AP.

Bruguera's first-round match with Novak started Tuesday but had to be broken off because of the late hour, with the Spaniard leading 3-1 in the third set. He needed only eight minutes to finish the victory Wednesday.

Bruguera was the Czech tournament's 1993 winner.

Second-seeded Andrei Medvedev breezes past David Skoch of the Czech Republic to reach the quarterfinals, needing only 1 hour, 1 minute, for his 6-4, 6-1 win.

In other second-round matches Wednesday, sixth-seeded Alberto Costa of Spain defeated Joao Cunha-Silva of Portugal, 6-0, 6-6, 6-1. Oscar Martinez of Spain beat countryman Juan Gisbert, 6-0, 6-4, and fourth-seeded Andrei Chesnokov of Russia outplayed Australia's Brenth Larkham 6-2, 6-1.

## Tragic

ABIDJAN, Aug 4: An Ivory Coast soccer fan stabbed a player to death as he prepared to take a penalty during an amateur game in nearby Abobo on Saturday, the government-run Daily Fraternite Matin reported on Thursday, says Reuters.

The player, 22-year-old Abou Soumahoro, died in an ambulance taking him to hospital.

The attacker fled the ground with the help of friends armed with pistols and knives. Police later arrested two suspects.



Action from yesterday's Star Premier Division football league match between Muktijoddha Sangsad KC and debutants Bangladesh Boys Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Muktijoddha blanked Boys 3-0. — Star photo

## Bangladesh ease into final

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh cantered into the final of the invitational youth cricket tournament, making short work of Denmark in a rain-interrupted match at Seremban, Malaysia yesterday.

According to a faxed message, the Bangladesh Eleven comprising mostly young cricketers registered their fourth successive win by a flattering margin of eight wickets.

Skipper Naimur Rahman Durjoy won the toss and elected to field first after the match reduced to 47 overs-a-side affair, finally got off an hour behind the schedule because of heavy overnight rain.

Left arm new ball bowler Morshed Ali Khan and his partner Al Amin had the Danish batsmen in a tangle right from the word go and the

soggy ground conditions only added to the plight of the struggling batsmen.

Only Lorentsen, who top-scored with 38 before being bowled by Morshed and Muller, who chipped in with a defiant 25, offered any resistance.

But with all the Bangladeshi spinners, led by skipper Durjoy who collected two with his right-arm offspin, joining the demolition act the Danish innings could only go far upto 137 for nine wickets when overs ran out.

Morshed alias Sumon the dark wily left armer who is quite pacy through the air, had a splendid analysis of three for 20 from eight overs.

Durjoy completed his quota of ten over to bag two for 23.

The ground convalesced considerably in the after lunch

session and Bangladesh, whose win was hardly ever in doubt, progressed merrily to their target of 138 for a win in 47 overs.

There were excellent opening partnership between a confident Javed Omar Belim and Mofizul Islam who narrowly missed half centuries.

Javed, who weighed in Bangladesh's previous two wins with consecutive half centuries, was caught by Slehsagar off Thomashar for 42 while Mofiz was unbeaten on the same score when victory was formalised.

One drop Mihrab Hossain Opi who got a scintillating ton in an earlier match, hammered 35 to make it even easier before falling to Lorentsen.

Bangladesh are expected to play a young Sri Lankan selection in the final.

## Calcutta MSC held

CALCUTTA, Aug 4: Strong contenders Mohammedan Sporting were held to a 1-1 draw by a spirited Peerless in the Calcutta Super Division league match at their home ground here yesterday, reports PTI.

Mohammedan Sporting were a pale shadow of themselves as they failed to play cohesively till their Nigerian recruit Lulu struck the equaliser late in the second session in a rather lacklustre encounter.

Peerless forged ahead in the 28th minute of the opening session when striker Somnath Ghorai made no mistake from close off a pass from their Sudanese recruit Jalaluddin.

The men in black and white, who appeared a trifle rusty, managed to find the equaliser 10 minutes before the long whistle when Lulu headed home from inside the box following a measured centre from Mushtaq Ali.

The game took an ugly turn when Mohammedan Sporting's Mohd Shamim and the Peerless custodian Kaushik Pal were engaged in a heated exchange and given marching orders by the referee.

## WI tour of India

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Aug 4: West Indies will play three Tests during their forthcoming tour of India as well as two separate one-day series, the West Indies Cricket Board of Control said on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The tour, which begins on October 5, starts with a six-match, one-day series against India prior to Test matches in Bombay, Nagpur and Chandigarh.

West Indies will then play in a triangular one-day tournament against India and New Zealand starting October 23 and with the final in Calcutta on November 5.

October	5	: Arrive
	9	: One-day match, opponents venue to be announced.
	12	: 1st one-day international (in Baroda).
	15	: 2nd one-day international (Jaipur).
	17	: 3rd one-day international (Faridabad).
	20	: 4th one-day international (TBA).
November	7	: 5th one-day international (Cuttack).
	9	: 6th one-day international (Visakhapatnam).
	12-14	: v Bombay (Calcutta).
	18-22	: 1st Test (Bombay).
	25-27	: v Board President's XI (Bangalore).
December	1-5	: 2nd Test (Nagpur).
	10-14	: 3rd Test (Chandigarh).
*Triangular one-day tournament:		
October	23	: v India (Madras).
	26	: v New Zealand (Goa).
	30	: v India (Kanpur).
November	1	: v New Zealand (Guwahati).
	5	: Final (Calcutta).