

Sri Lankan right-arm offie Muttiah Muralidharan drops Pakistani batsman Basit Ali off his own bowling during the third and final one-day international in Colombo yesterday. Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by 19 runs to clinch the series 2-1 and so break home side's eight-year unbeaten run. — AFP photo

It's no go at Headingley

LEEDS, Aug 7: South Africa's tail-end batsmen took their team to within 30 runs of England's 477 for nine Sunday as the second Test to Headingley looked set to end in a draw, reports AP.

Thanks to a second half-century of the match from left-hander Graham Thorpe, England ended the day at 144 for two — 174 ahead with only one day's play left.

At one stage in danger of heading for an innings defeat, South Africa, who won the first Test by 356 runs at Lord's, fought back from 31 for three and 105 for five. The last five wickets were worth 342 runs.

After Peter Kirsten's 104 on Saturday, Craig Matthews scored 62 not out Sunday and Brian McMillan was out for 78.

Allan Donald, batting with a runner because of a foot injury, contributed 27 before he was last out.

When England batted again, the South Africans dismissed openers Michael Atherton (17) and Graham Gooch (27). But Thorpe (51 not out) and Graeme Hick (48 not out) prevented a further South African breakthrough.

Matthews, chosen for his bowling ability, was Sunday's batting star for South Africa.

The tail-ender started with four boundaries and also hit spinner Philip Tufnell for a straight six.

McMillan, who was not out 57 overnight, allowed Matthews to dominate the eighth-wicket partnership as the two batsmen scored 42 runs in the opening half hour.

When England finally took a wicket it was a bizarre dismissal with the South Africans on 391 and only 86 behind.

Tufnell got the ball to turn sharply and it spun between McMillan's legs onto the stumps.

TCCB turns to NASA

LONDON, Aug 7: A scientist from NASA, the American space agency, has been called in by the English Test and County Cricket Board to help in the long-running ball-tampering controversy, reports Reuter.

Professor Rabi Mehtn, an aerodynamics expert, met officials at Lord's for four hours, discussing possible changes to cricket's laws, according to the Independent on Sunday newspaper.

Professor Mehtn explained the scientific principles that would allow bowlers to make a cricket ball swing by altering its surface.

Ossie Wheatley, chairman of the TCCB cricket committee, said: "It probably would be helpful to everyone to have the rules more tightly defined."

"You have to be very precise in how you frame the laws now because players go right up to the line."

Professor Mehtn's previous cricketing claim to fame was opening the bowling with Imran Khan when both were at school at the Royal Grammar School in Worcester.

There are more forms of ball-tampering than most bowlers dream of," he said. "Some of it is virtually undetectable."

The batsman, who did not offer a stroke, was bowled for 78.

Fanie de Villiers hit Tufnell for six, but was out going for another big hit. Tufnell beat the bat and wicket-keeper Steven Rhodes stumped him for 13.

Donald, with Gary Kirsten acting as his runner, limped out to bat with the score on 410 for nine and outscored Matthews in the early stages of the last-wicket partnership.

He was out soon after the lunch interval, spooning a catch to John Crawley off the bowling of Philip DeFreitas, who finished with four for 89.

Only 30 ahead from the first innings, England needed some fast scoring in the second but their batsmen were bogged down by accurate South African bowling.

The home team moved slowly to 39 before Atherton mistimed a cover-drive off de Villiers' bowling and substitute fielder Daryl Cullinan dived to take a spectacular catch.

Gooch rarely lived in trouble but was the victim of a ball from Matthews that cut away and found the outside edge, wicket-keeper David Richardson taking the catch.

Thorpe, who scored a first innings 72 on his return to the team, scored impressively while Hick was a slow starter, despite hitting Gary Kirsten's spin bowling for six.

England's chance of a victory that would square the series lies with these two scoring rapidly in the first session Monday followed by a rare



Manuela Machado of Portugal raises her arms after entering the Helsinki Olympic Stadium yesterday to win the women's marathon and capture the first medal in the European Athletics Championships. She clocked 2:29.54. — AFP photo

Kamsky, Salov join Gelfand

HYDERABAD, Aug 7: American Grandmaster Gata Kamsky swept Vishwanathan Anand of India off his feet Sunday to find himself a berth in the semifinals of the dhrs 150,000 FIDE World Chess Championship, reports AP.

In the other match, Russian Grandmaster Valery Salov drew with Jan Timman of the Netherlands on the 40th move to qualify for the semifinals. Salov beat the Dutchman 4.5 to 3.5 points.

Kamsky, who was trailing 1-3 at the end of the first four games in this southern city, came back to beat Anand 6-4 via a tie-breaker that was applied when both players were locked at 4 at the end of eight games.

Observers said Kamsky outplayed Anand to assure himself of dhrs 80,000 in prize money in the semifinals.

Kamsky said he was lucky to enter the semifinals as Anand was the favourite, "but I proved everybody wrong."

The first two games ended in a draw. In the third game, Anand stayed Kamsky's Marshall attack, regrouped his pieces and launched his counter attack to beat the American.

The 20-year-old American then employed the Petrosyan system against his rival in the fourth game but lost his queen and the game after 53 moves. Kamsky escaped with a draw in the next game, but fought hard in the sixth game and outplayed Anand, for the first time in his career.

Looking confident now, Kamsky employed an Archange variation and beat Anand. But the Indian Grandmaster fought back in the last game with his pet Russian defence and Kamsky had to settle for a draw.

It appeared to be a drawn position until the fourth game. The fifth and sixth games ended without any result and the seventh ended in a deadlock. Timman's hasty exchange of queens helped Salov get a phalanx of pawns in the centre and eventually forced the Dutchman to resign, giving the Russian a decisive 4-3 lead. Sunday's draw helped Salov maintain the lead.

Six Grandmasters are taking part in the 17-day tournament sponsored by the World Chess Federation, known by its French acronym FIDE. Three of them will qualify for the semifinals.

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Christie eyes Borzov's mark



HELSINKI, Aug 7: Race-hungry Linford Christie vowed here on Saturday to match Soviet sprint legend Valery Borzov's record haul of three European 100m titles, reports AP.

And Russian woman sprinter Irina Privalova is also chasing history — by bidding to emulate Katrin Krabbe's 100 and 200m double four years ago.

World and Olympic champion Christie, just back from a hamstring injury, said: "Borzov got three medals and that is what I have come here to do, and maybe do even better later."

He also revealed how coach Ron Roddan had made him peak mentally for the race — by not allowing him to run.

He explained: "I wanted to run in Monte Carlo this week but Ron said 'no'."

"He felt it was good for me to have the hunger. I think I could have run well at the Grand Prix meeting but it was a good idea — I just can't wait to run now."

While Christie is a huge favourite to emulate Borzov, who won his first crown in Athens in 1969 before defending it in Helsinki and Rome, Privalova also has a fine chance to repeat Krabbe's spring success in Split.

The 25-year-old former skater has no pedigree in European Championships, but put that right in Stuttgart last year with a 200m bronze and two relay medals over 100 and 400m to underline her range.

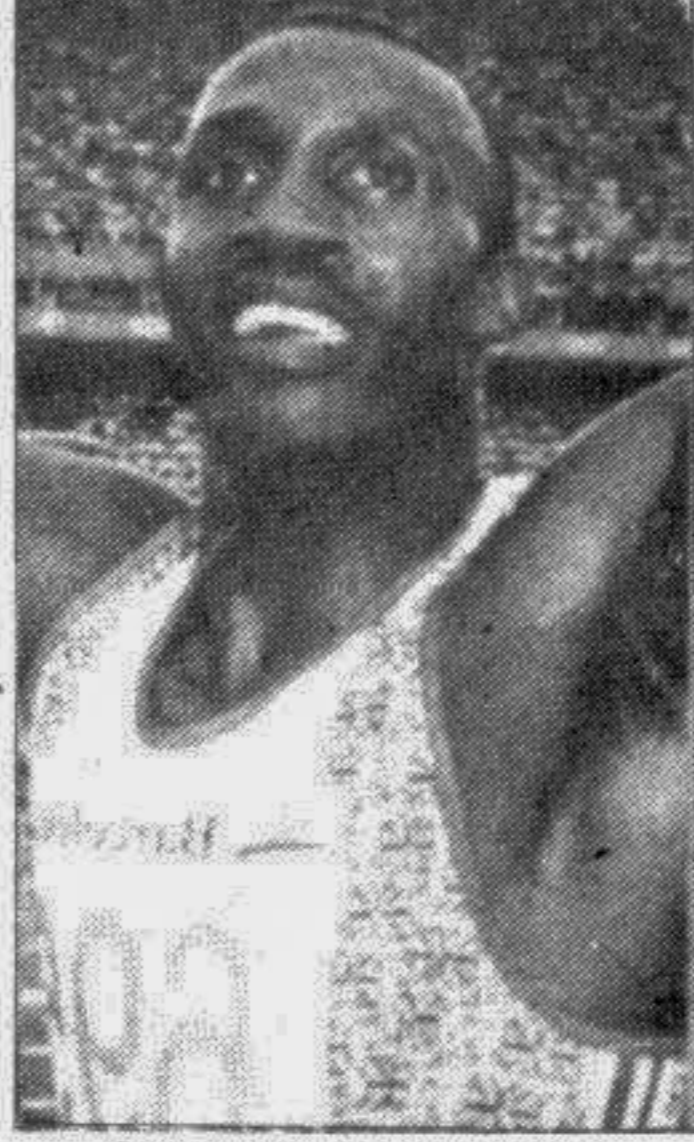
Krabbe has since been disgraced for drug abuse, which would make a Privalova double even more impressive here.

When Linford Christie surges out of his blocks during Monday's 100m final at the

European Athletics Championships, 60,000 Finns will be cheering ecstatically — and looking in the opposite direction.

It is not often that Britain's world and Olympic 100m champion is overshadowed but then, they do things differently in Finland.

Here, world-class sprinting comes a poor second to the javelin. Both finals take place on Monday. So while Christie



LINFORD CHRISTIE

will surely earn a cheer, the roars will be for Czech Jan Zelezny.

Zelezny, the world and Olympic gold medalist, is a real megastar in this land of five million spear throwers.

There is a nice story that the tower at the Olympic Stadium here, which hosted the 1952 Olympics as well as the 1983 World Championships, is 72m high to match the 1936 world record throw of Matti Jarvinen. It is not true — but it should

be, in a country that has boasted a string of top-class performers in both men and women's events.

Few will forget Tiina Lillak, who won the World Championship gold here over a decade ago with the last throw of the competition to deny Britain's Fatima Whitbread.

Tapio Korjus (Olympic gold in Seoul), Kimmo Kinnunen (world gold in Tokyo) and Sepo Raty (world gold in Rome) are the Peles, the Maradonas, the Christies even, of a Nordic nation which has bred seven Olympic champions.

Raty — the only man to beat Zelezny last year and the year before — remains to lead the home challenge, and Britain's reigning European champion and former world record holder Steve Baxley and Mick Hill will join the chase.

But the Czech looks virtually unbeatable — unless rumours of a shoulder injury prove serious.

His extraordinary feats, which made sure that the javelin event was the quickest to sell out here, are currently only reflected on the record books.

But they will probably force another change in the rules soon to prevent him impaling some unsuspecting spectator in the front row at the far end of the stadium.

Javelin specifications have constantly been tampered with but Zelezny's record of 95.66m last year again threatened the 100m safety limit.

Last time the 28-year-old threw those sorts of distances, his Nemeth javelin — made by his coach Miklos Nemeth — was outlawed because it had a carbon fibre section in the grip.

It might be simpler to outlaw Zelezny himself — but the Finns would never allow that.

Second doping case within 24 hours

Bad omen for European meet



HELSINKI, Aug 7: British sprinter Solomon Wariso, once described as the new Linford Christie, declared at the European Championships here on Sunday after failing a drugs test: "It was just a stupid mistake."

Wariso, who ironically studied bio-chemistry at University, was immediately withdrawn from the British team after a test, taken on July 1, revealed traces of ephedrine, reports AP.

But the 200m runner received the full backing of team captain Linford Christie — himself involved in a drugs scare at the Seoul Olympics — and the British Athletics Federation.

Wariso, 27, who now faces a three-month ban, revealed he had taken a herbal tonic and checked all the ingredients in the International Amateur Athletics Federation banned lists.

The runner, brandishing the bottle of pills he took, said: "I'm a bio-chemist by trade and I know what's on the banned list."

"I was given the pills by a mate of mine who is also an athlete and got them in Florida at a nutrition centre. He was told they were legitimate — I swear on my heart I did not know they contained ephedrine. It was a stupid mistake."

British athletics chief Peter Radford said Wariso could "have run until a second test

confirmed the result but he was sure it would show the same result and the ban would be retrospective, thus ruling out what he did in Helsinki."

"It's not in his interests, the other competitors or those of the championships. He is paying a heavy price but we have no alternative," Radford said.

"I personally believe what he told me, I would warn other athletes to get expert advice before they take anything."

Wariso said Christie, who was cleared of taking drugs in Seoul after experts accepted he had taken Ginseng tea, had given him his full backing.

Team doctor Malcolm Brown said he thought the ephedrine was contained in a Chinese ingredient called Mahung in the tonic, adding: "It's extremely unlikely this would have had any performance-enhancing qualities whatsoever."

The last British track drugs case involved Jason Livingstone. The sprinter was banned for life in 1992 for using steroids.

Norwegian sprinter Aham Okeke was thrown out of the championships on Saturday morning after testing positive for the stimulant pseudoephedrine last month and faces a three-month ban from the sport.

Norwegian team officials said the Nigerian-born Okeke, who was due to compete in the 100 and 200 metres here, had tested positive for pseudoephedrine at the Stockholm Grand Prix on July 12.

Indonesians complete fine double

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam, Aug 7: Indonesia's Heryanto Arbi won the badminton World Cup on Sunday when his opponent, Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen of Denmark, withdrew with a broken leg, reports Reuter.

Arbi said it did not feel good to win the tournament that way.

"I expected a tough final, but I was confident I would win," the world number three said.

Stuer-Lauridsen, the top European in the tournament, had surprisingly defeated world champion Joko Suprianto on Saturday to reach the final.

He broke his leg 10 minutes into the first game, going for a drop shot from Arbi to his right. He played on for another two serves from Arbi before withdrawing with the score 9-7 to the Indonesian.

His compatriot Thomas Lund collected the runner-up's 6,800 dollar prize for him.

Arbi, for whom it was a third tournament victory this year, took home 11,050 dollar.

Indonesia's world and Olympic champion Susi Susanti took the women's crown by dismissing Bang Soo-Hyun of South Korea — who reached the final with a surprise upset over Ye Zhaoying of China on Saturday — 12-9, 11-6.

Machado grabs Portugal's gold

HELSINKI, Finland, Aug 7: Manuela Machado kept the great Portuguese women's marathon tradition alive Sunday as she won the opening even in the European Track and Field Championships, reports AP.

Machado overcame hot and humid weather to finish the grueling 42-kilometre race in 2 hours, 29 minutes and 54 seconds.

Machado's victory gave the Portuguese a perfect winning record in the women's marathon at the European Championships. Rosa Mota won the three first races in 1982, '86 and '90.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Joke or choke

4 Cabbie in, Soho?

7 Festive

8 Trolley sound

10 Knight-wear

11 "The List of — Messenger"

13 Cable network

16 SAS rival

17 — Dame

18 Parisian pal

19 Where heroes are made

20 On in years

21 Baby bird?

23 Gets along

25 "Wozzeck" composer

26 Put on the line

27 Australian bird

28 Hide

30 Car in a 1964 song

33 Cable network

36 Principal commodity

37 Bullwinkle, e.g.

38 Locations

39 "Desire Under the —"

40 Some-where out there

41 Conk out

DOWN

1 Ray designation

2 Burn treatment

3 "The Barefoot"

4 Contessa" star

5 Birch cousin

6 Judy of "Laugh-In"

6 Heal, osteally

7 Swell

8 Saguaro, for example

9 Mustang's home?

10 Earn an Obie, maybe

12 Joe McCarthy's alleged list

14 Humpty

15 Top

19 Follow relentlessly

20 Prototypical love boat

21 Big rigs

22 Has faith in

23 "Barney Miller" spinoff

24 Overcome by guilt

25 Foundation

26 Track goings-on

28 Dividing walls

29 Tenth president

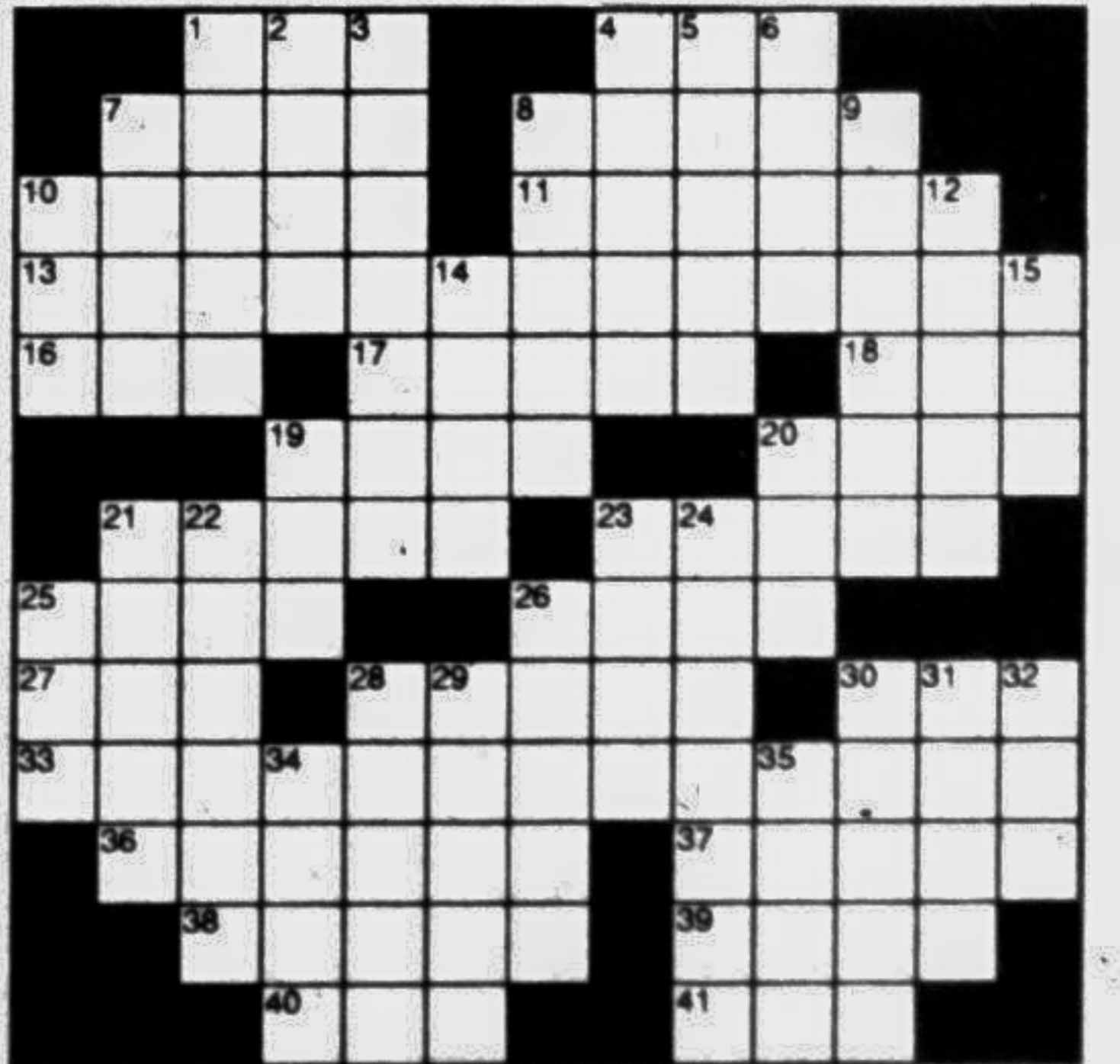
30 Aphorism

31 The rain, when they call the wind Maria

32 Flamerico outcry

34 Inexperienced one

35 — me tangere



CRYPTOQUIP

B P W H Y N D T G H Q Y W H B G - H X ' L D G O H G R D S Q E B L N H B X S N - E B X T D G O S K P H N K W J

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR POOR ARCHITECTURE APPRENTICE WAS FIRED FOR HIS FLAW PLAN. Today's Cryptoquip clue: P equals B

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Filipino sports organiser murdered

DAVAO CITY, Philippines, Aug 7: The body of a Chinese-Filipino businessman who was regional chairman of the Philippine National Olympic Committee was found Sunday one week after he was kidnapped here, police said, reports AP.

A civilian militia patrol found the body of So Kim Cheng, 67, on the outskirts of this city 610 miles (960 kilometres) southeast of Manila, police said.

He had been hogtied and shot four times in the head and neck, they said. A cloth was stuffed in his mouth.

Police said his family was apparently unable to meet the ransom demand.

So was seized July 31 by the gunmen at his pig farm in the village of Bunawan, 10 kilometres (6 miles) from here. Officials said the kidnappers had demanded 12 million pesos (dhrs 461,500) ransom.

They reportedly reduced the ransom demand and gave the family until late Saturday to meet it. The amount of the final demand was unknown.

The kidnapping was apparently unrelated to a wave of abductions by the Muslim extremist Abu Sayyaf group, which operates in the southern Philippines, including Davao, 960 kilometres (600 miles) southeast of Manila.

But Filipinos of Chinese origin have been targets of ransom kidnappings since a wave of abductions began in the early 1990s.

Police said So received threats from extortionists last year, but the police were not informed until the kidnapping.

So was also chairman of the Philippines Table Tennis Association.

Bagan beat Calcutta MSC

CALCUTTA, Aug 7: Title aspirants Mohun Bagan found their rhythm in the second session on beat Mohammedan Sporting 2-0 in a crucial Super Division football league match at the Salt Lake Stadium here yesterday, reports PTI.

After missing as many as three sitters in the opening session, Bagan struck twice within ten minutes through Medio Gunbir Singh and striker Vijayan to completely change the complexion of the game.

Gunbir fired the first salvo in the 20th minute of the second session while Vijayan's neat finishing ten minutes later sealed the fate of the spirited Mohammedans after play began 50 minutes behind schedule due to a heavy down-pour.

Bruguera, Medvedev in final

PRAGUE, Aug 7: Top seeds Sergi Bruguera and Andrei Medvedev each dropped only four games on Saturday as they cruised through to the final of the men's Czech Open in Prague, reports Reuter.

Top seed Bruguera needed only 60 minutes to dispatch fellow Spaniard Alberto Costa 6-1, 6-3 while Medvedev of the Ukraine beat third-seeded Czech Slava Dosedel 6-3, 6-1.

Bruguera suffered a minor scare when Costa was 3-2 up and held two break points in the second set but the number one seed fought back to hold his serve and win the remaining games with ease.