Reefat, Hasib

joint leaders

Sports Reporter

bin Sattar of Bangladesh Biman

and Hasibul Hassan of Brothers

Union led the points table

with five points each at the

end of the fifth round of the

Rahimuddin Bharsa open chess

tournament, now being held

at the chess room of the

National Sports Council yes-

Tuhin while Hasib got the

stayed at the second slot with

four and a half points. Reza

beat Kajal Mahmud in the

BTTF camp for

school-goers

Sports Reporter

der the auspices of the Bang

ladesh Table Tennis Federa

tion for the budding table

tennis players is now being

run by a Japanese coach at the Dhanmondi woodenfloor gym-

nasium from 3:00 pm to 5:30

Klinsmann

fit to play

Klinsmann was passed fit here

on Tuesday to make his home

Premiership debut in Totten-

ham's attack against Everton

unconscious after a clash on

heads with Des Walker in

Saturday's 4-3 win at Sheffield

Wednesday, underwent a brain

scan on Monday to confirm

there were no lingering after

The German striker, left

on Wednesday, reports AFP.

LONDON, Aug 23: Jurgen

A coaching programme un-

better of Tanima Parveen.

Reefat beat Ziaul Qader

FIDE Master Rezaul Hug

terday.

fifth round.

pm everyday.

effects.

International Master Reefat

Munna crowns MSC night



Big club jar seys weigh. It sure does. A star-studded Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira

Chakra, aspiring for the league title, felt the weight last night as they were handed their second defeat by a handicapped Mohammedan Sporting Club in a crucial Star Premier football league tie at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

New-signing Shafiqul Qader Munna struck twice within two minutes as the reigning champions made light of the absence of three key players running away with a match few thought they would win. And they did it in style, capping their best performance of the season with an authentic 2-0 victory against a conglomeration of almost all the national players.

Adversity sometimes act as a positive catalyst. Moha mmedans last night show was a classic study in that. They missed their lynchpin and captain Rumman bin Wali Shabbir through a serious leg injury while two Russian -Inataev and Vitali - were serving suspension, a debilitating sequel to the violence-marred August 17 tie with PWD. The prospect of battling against so many odds caused an extra flow of adrenalin in the black and white booters.

Playing like men possessed. they outplayed the Muktijoddha Sangsad in every disciplines, backed by constant applauds from nearly full-house

Sports Reporter crowd at the Dhaka Stadium. Munna, the 24 year-old Mohammedan striker who un-

earthed the richest vein of his talent last night, drew the first blood in the 22nd minute. The lanky striker, latching on to a ball from midfield, beat two Muktijoddha defenders in sheer pace and fired a neat grounder from inside the box that struck the far corner of

Two minutes later the fleetfooted Munna, winning a ball from a Mohammedan defence clearance, dodged past three Mukti defenders and slotted past an onrushing Arun by a placing shot.

Mohammedans, who played with a five-man defence in the match, still controlled the midfield with promising Biplob Marma forming the core of Mohammedan attack as well as defending his own citadel.

Star-studded Muktijoddha Sangsad, who rarely flashed with any positive moves down the flanks, fumbled time and again against a solid Mohammedan defence.

Munna, who left the field in the second half, almost got his hattrick at the stroke of the breather. But his low rightfooter from outside the box was just off the mark.

Muktijoddha got their first real chance in the 57th minute when Nakib found himself unmarked well inside the box with only Lahul to best. But thanks to the agile goalie, who brilliantly parried off Nakib's crack at the goal; Mohammedans got off the hook.

The last part of the match

was predominantly confined to the Mohammedan half but the scoreline remained same as all Mukti attacks proved inadequate to penetrate the five-

With this creditable victory, Mohammedans maintained their position at the top of the table, collecting 10 points from six matches while Muktijoddha stuck to their previous collection of seven points from six.

day, Brothers continued their

Ranjan, the Brothers winger with a lethal left-foot, put the Gopibagh outfit in the lead in the very sixth minute.

But substitute Tipu of Bangladesh Boys restored parity in the 80th minute when he headed home from close.

The draw left Brothers with eight points from six Boys raised their collection to four on completion of their sixth league engagement.

Rahmatganj MFS and Sadharan Bima shared points in a 1-1 draw in the lone Star First Division football league encounter at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Dhaka Wanderers vs Stadium)

4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium) Abahani KC vs Agrani Bank



Action from last night's Star Premier Division football league match between champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and Muktijoddha Sangsad at the Dhaka Stadium. The black and whites' won 2-0. - Star photo

Edberg's guarded optimism



Sampras has an ailing ankle. Jim Courier has a case of mental fatigue.

Stefan Edberg says he feels for both of them. But their woes might make things easier for him at next week's US Open, reports AP.

"I see myself having a good chance to win it." Edberg, the one-time US and Wimbledon champion, said during a break Monday when rain washed out the day and night sessions of the dlrs 313,750 Waldbaums

Hamlet Cup. Edberg, seeded second, is scheduled to begin play Tuesday against Mark Petchey of Britain.

, "I've been playing well since Wimbledon and fell fresher this year coming into this week than ever before," he said. "There is no clear-cut favou-

rite.

Berasategui breezes

UMAG, Croatia, Aug 23: Top-seeded Alberto Berasategui of Spain defeated Austria's Herbert Wiltschnig on Monday for an opening-round victory at the 400,000 dollars, Croatian Open, tennis tournament, reports AP.

The 21-year-old ranked 10th in the world, marked his 36th victory on clay with the 6-2. 7-5 win over Wiltsching. at 18, the youngest player in the tournament.

The Spaniard dominated the match with a strong baseline game. He took the first set by breaking the Austrian's serve in the second and eighth

The second set brought more difficulties for the winner. Wiltsching broke Berasategui's serve in the opening game and moved to a 2-0 lead. The Spaniard broke serve two times in a row for a 3-2 edge.

Wiltsching recovered and broke the Spaniard's serve. but faltered again on his own serve to permit Berasategui's victory.

In another first-round match, sixth-seeded Jordi Arrese of Spain defeated Gerard Solves of France, 3-6. 7-6 (7-3), 6-1,

Edberg has dropped slowly top 10 Monday, to No 11. Aug 23: Pete from No 1 ranking he last held in Oct 14, 1992, to No 5 with the release of new ratings

Monday.

"You can't expect to stay No I for 10 years," he said. "The idea is to stay up in conten-

Winner of the US title in 1994 and 1992, Edberg was beaten in the second round of the Open last year by Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic.

He opened 1994 with a victory in his first tournament, at Qater, won in Stuttgart, Germany, in February and then slid. He lost in the first round



STEFAN EDBERG

at the French Open and in the second round at Wimbledon.

"I've had a good record of hard courts since Wimbledon except for one bad loss last week in Cincinnati when played a poor match," he said.

He owns a 13-2 record since losing to Kenneth Carlson of Denmark in the second round at Wimbledon, starting with 11 wins in straight sets before Michael Chang stopped him in

the final at Cincinnati. He lost in the quarterfinals at Indianapolis to Alex Corretia of Spain but claimed fatigue caused it.

"We just don't know how Pete (Sampras) will play with his sore ankle." Edberg said. "He hasn't played in a month." Sampras will test the ankle in doubles at the Hamlet.

"We don't know what Courier will do. Everybody goes through this (tennis fatigue). He's been struggling for some time. It's tough for No1 in the world to see himself dropping like that. I wouldn't be surprised if he came into the

Open or if he didn't." Courier dropped out of the

in the first match of the

poor performance as lowly Bangladesh Boys robbed them of a crucial point in a 1-1 draw.

Union at the third position matches while Bangladesh

Shantinagar 6 pm (Mirpur Victoria SC vs Farashganj SC

SC 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Edberg went down the list

"Chang should play well. ...

Ivanisevic is good when he's on

top of his game Can (Boris)

Becker go all the way physi-

cally?...You never know about

Andre (Agassi). If he decides to

play, he'll be one of the favou-

rites. ... So many others like

(Sergi) Bruguera, (Michael)

serve. ... Maybe someone new

can break through, like (Jason)

Stoltenberg or (Yevgeny) Ka-

felnikov. He's done very well

this year." The 20-year-old Ru-

ssian has risen 90 spots this

off Monday night: No 4 seed

Todd Martin vs David Rikl and

Alexander Volkov vs Daniel

McCague's

message

McCague filed another persua-

sive application for a place in

the England squad for the

winter tour to Australia with a

15-wicket haul in Kent's 69-

run county championship win

over Derbyshire on Monday,

England selector Brian Bolus.

McCague bowled with the pace

and hostility that won him two

Test caps last summer to take

six for 61 as Derbyshire were

That gave him match fig-

bowled out for 282 before tea.

ures of 15 for 147 - the best

for Kent since John Shepherd

returned identical figures

against Sussex at Maidstone in

formance on a lifeless Derby

their lead at the top of the

championship table to 29

points with an eight-wicket

victory over Yorkshire at Scar-

Davis took six for 94 - his best

figures since joining the co-

unty from Kent - as Yorkshire

were bowled out for 347, lea-

ving Warwickshire with a

pionship leaders home with an

unbeaten 86 from 115 balls.

Roger Twose led the cham-

target of 199 in 49 overs.

Left-arm spinner Richard

It was an outstanding per-

Warwickshire stretched

Watched on the final day by

reports Reuter.

1975.

pitch.

borough.

LONDON, Aug 23: Martin

Two matches were called

year to be ranked No. 14.

Vacek.

"(Marc) Rosset, with his big

Stich, (Andrei) Medvedev.

of additional contenders.

"There are no problems," the World Cup star confirmed. Klinsmann still has a swollen lip with three stitches inside his mouth and eight round it.

Manager Ossie Ardiles, delighted to name an unchanged side which includes Romanian star Ilie Dumitrescu, also making his home debut, said: "He is fit and trained today without any problems, so it is the same squad and same team."

Windies' England tour finalised LONDON, Aug 23: West In-

dies will play a six-Test series in England for the first time when they tour next year, it was announced Tuesday, reports AP. The tour will also include

three one-day internationals. With the West Indies' series against Australia not due to fin-

ish until early May, the tourists will arrive later than usual, on May 9. They open their tour with a

traditional one-day match against the Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk's XI at Arundel four days later and play the fist Test at Headingley on June 8.

Graveney bids 'bye

LONDON, Aug 23: David Graveney, one of the most respected cricketers on the English county circuit, is to retire at the end of the season after 23 years, reports Reuter. Never a Test cricketer.

Graveney figured in major international cricketing controversy when he was playermanager of an English rebel team on a boycott-breaking tour of South Africa in 1990.



ccer, is expected to sign this week as Argentina's national team coach following their disappointing World Cup, reports Reuter.

fast flowing so-

ZURICH, Aug 23:

Diego Maradona

is unlikely to

make a personal

appearance here

on Wednesday

when FIFA deci-

des what action to take against

the Argentina captain who was

expelled from the World Cup

in June for using drugs. "I

doubt if he'll attend the

hearing," said FIFA spokesman

Andreas Herren, although

Maradona has steadfastly

insisted he will defend himself

against charges he took the

drugs to improve his

The International Football

Federation's standing World

ever, rule on whether the

ephedrine drugs for which he

tested positive were taken as a

stimulant, anabolic steroid or

affair will not be examined."

Herren said. Instead, the nine-

man committee will restrict

itself to passing sentence for a

"There's no precedent,"

breach of rules.

Herren added.

"The medical aspect of this

simply as part of a herbal diet.

Cup committee will not, how-

performances, reports AFP.

Although yet to agree terms, Passarella, Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning captain, was offered the job earlier this month by the Argentine Football Association (AFA) as respect after putting faith in youth and demanding disci pline from players both on and off the pitch.

one of a new breed of hard but pragmatic soccer coaches.

generation of Argentine soccer coaches," 1988 World Cup winning coach Carlos Bilardo said. "He won't claim to be know-all and is prepared to adapt. Most importantly, he won't lie."

knocked out in the second round of this year's World Cup in the United States, quit in July saying there was no point being second best in a country like Argentina. Memories of a 33-match

unbeaten run dating back to 1991 and two Copa America the World Cup.

in a World Cup qualifier, lost authority over his players as well as the respect of a soccermad public. Under pressure to recall

ageing star Diego Maradona and the disgraced Claudio

Gazza can't bear it

LONDON, Aug 23: England star Paul Gascoigne has admitted to finding the pressure of constantly being in the media spotlight too much, reports Reuter.

The Lazio midfielder, speaking in a series of interviews for a television programme, Gazza's Italian Diaries, to be broadcast in Britain next Monday, said: "I'm a young lad and I shouldn't have to take this pressure. I get it more than anyone else in England and sometimes I can't cope.

training in April.

will present Maradona's defence but will not take part in the vote. Herren insisted Maradona would have no right of appeal.

The 33-year-old rose from street urchin to multi-millionand an illegitimate child. However, he remains the

scribed ephedrine by a Mexican doctor. Maradona had put himself through a drastic diet and getfit course to be able to play for Argentina after his 15-month ban for cocaine use.

Australia's Rebecca Stoyel performs during the final of the uneven bars, women's individual event at the Commonwealth

He had two great games, against Greece and Nigeria and appeared to be his old, arrogant self until failing a routine dope test after the 2-1 defeat of Nigeria.

Games in Victoria on August 22. Stoyel took the gold medal with a score of 9.525.

Maradona may not bother

However, Maradona was the

fourth player to fail a drug test

at a World Cup. Hati's Ernest

Jean-Joseph in 1974,

Scotland's Willie Johnston in

1978 and Spain's Ramon

Caldere in 1986 all tested pos-

planation in 1986 that Caldere

who had missed his country's

first two matches through

sickness, was unwittingly pre-

FIFA accepted Spain's ex-

Mexico's Guillermo Canedo will chair the hearing but FIFA president Joao Havelange, who has said he does not want to wreck Maradona's career, will also sit in.

Argentina Football Association president Julio Grondona, who sits on the committee. aire first with Barcelona and then Napoli but it was in Italy he was dragged into scandals involving drugs, prostitutes

greatest player since Pele and will always command a big signing-on fee and worldwide interest and FIFA may decide that expelling him from the World Cup was punishment enough.

FIFA World Cup committee President: Guillermo Canedo (Mexico)

Members: Julio Grondona (Argentina FA president). Lennart Johansson (Sweden, UEFA president), Issa Hayatou (Cameroon, African Confederation president), Jacques Georges (France), Jack Warner -(Trinidad, CONCACAF president). Abdullah Al-Dabal (Saudi Arabia), Horst Schmidt (Germany, Alan Rothenberg (USA Federation president).

Bebeto in Spain

- AFP photo

striker Bebeto returned to Spain on Monday after unilaterally extending his post-World Cup holiday, reports Reu-

holiday," he said in Madrid before flying on to La Coruna where he was due to discuss his future with Deportivo chairman Augusto Cesar Lendoiro, who has been angered by the players' extension to his break.

apart from needing a rest he bad several commitments with charity organisations in Brazil.

He said that at the end of last season, after helping Deportivo finish second in the Spanish First Division, he had month off "and this is what I have done.

Bebeto refused to comment on a 3.0 million peseta (23.330 dollars) fine reportedly imposed by Deportivo for each day he failed to turn up in La Coruna after August 10, the day the club wanted him back to begin training for the new sea-

BUENOS AIRES, successor to Alfio Basile. Aug 25: Daniel Passarella, 41, quit on Sunday as coach of River Plate. Passarella, a stria club where he won titles and ct disciplinarian and advocate of

> Backed by differing factions in the cauldron of the AFA Passarella has been billed as

"Passarella is part of a new

Basile, whose side were

titles counted for nothing when results began to go against him in the run-up to Basile, traumatised after Argentina lost 5-0 to Colombia

"I try to hide it by being funny but at the end of the day I'm a serious person," added Gascoigne, who is recovering after breaking a leg during

ended a 13-month ban for drug abuse. Basile discarded a host of rising stars.

With many top players approaching the end of their careers. Argentine soccer is crying out for a national team boss prepared to gamble on new talent. Passarella, many argue, is

the ideal candidate.

"He's got exactly what it takes, and is the only man up to the task," Cesar Luis Menotti, the coach who picked Passarella as Argentina captain for the 1978 World Cup, said.

FAM wants an end to it

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23: Malaysia's soccer body has put up a 200,000 ringgit (78,431 dollar) reward for the arrest and conviction of any book makers to counter rampant match-fixing in its professional league, local newspapers said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Also, a reward of 100,000 ringgit (39,215 dollar) would be given for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any players, coaches, referees and officials, the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) decided at an executive council emergency meeting, the New Straits Times said.

The daily quoted FAM deputy president Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah as saying: "This is war, and we will do all we can to win it."

The meeting, held in Kuantan, 300 km (190 miles) east of the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, also decided that players and officials must declare their assets and that players would be transfer listed if suspected of match-

"What we can do from our end for the moment is to make, it difficult as possible for players, referees and officials who fix matches to remain in the league," Abdullah said.

matches.

He said further action would depend on the police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) in arresting and charging those people involved in fixing

MADRID, Aug 23: Brazilian

"I had four years without

Bebeto told journalists at

Madrid's Brajas Airport that

talked to the club of taking a

Lineker, Robson's

MIDDLESBROUGH, England, Aug 23: Bryan Robson has made an audacious bid to bring his former England colleague Gary Lineker to First Division Middlesbrough, reports AFP.

Lineker's current contract with Japanese club Grampus Eight expires in December. and the new Boro boss sees Lineker as the ideal target man for his side's promotion push into the Premiership.

Robson is reported to have said: "I've spoken to Gary's agent and told him that if Gary fancies a new challenge it will be keen to talk to him. "Gary may be 34, but he has

so much quality that he would still be a big asset here.

Nash joins Middlesex

LONDON, Aug 23: New Zealand all-rounder Dion Nash on Monday signed a two-year contract with county champions Middlesex, reports Reuter.

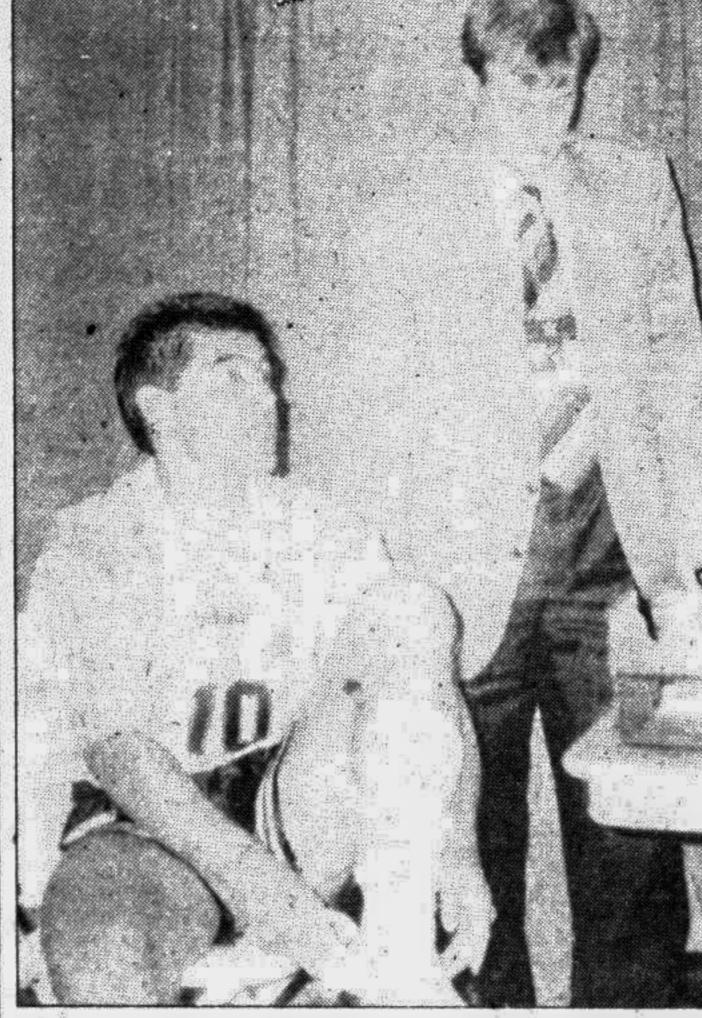
Bourne's 2nd

Possum Bourne claimed his second successive victory for the 555 Subaru World Rally Team in the 1994 Rally of Malaysia. Teammate Richard Burns completed a dominant performance by taking the second spot. They finished seven minutes ahead of the third placed Mitsubishi of Kenneth Eriksson, says a press release.

The final morning presented the competitors with just four stages and 63 kms of competitive driving. Starting with an 8 minute gap to the Mitsubishi, the two Subaru drivers only had to keep out of trouble and keep their minds focused. But there is never any room for complacency. Eriksson was there waiting for mistakes.

Possum Bourne is now sec-

ond in the Asia-Pacific Driver's championship, seven points behind Kenneth Eriksson. With drivers counting their four best scores from the six round series, it could be the final round in Thailand that decides the outcome. Subaru now lead Mitsubishi by nine points in the manufacturers' category



An AFP file photo dated July 25, 1994 shows disgraced Argentine soccer captain Diego Maradona during a drug test following the World Cup match against Nigeria. He was tested positive for the banned substance ephedrine and subsequently expelled from the tournament. FIFA will decide what action to take against him at a meeting in Zurich today.