

# Muktijodha scrape home

Sports Reporter

After a string of dismal performances, star-studded Muktijodha Sangsad Krira Chakra finally managed to get back to the winning trail when they registered a squeaky, solitary goal victory over promotees Fakirpool Youngmen's Club in one of the two Star Premier Division football league matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Muktijodha, who lost their unbeaten record to Brothers Union and then drew with title-contenders Abahani Krira Chakra before losing again to Mohammedan Sporting Club in their previous match, were on their way to conceding yet another point but thanks to a 75th minute strike from national defender Jewel Rana, they scrapped home.

The win certainly rejuvenated Muktijodha's title hopes and placed them along with Abahani in the second spot behind reigning champions Mohammedans, who are one point clear at the top with ten points. Both Mohammedans and Abahani have played six matches, 20 less than

trating the theoretically strong Muktijodha defence with a neat through. But striker Maksudul Rana's low drive from inside the box was brilliantly saved by Mohsin, the former national goalkeeper.

Rana, the fleet-footed Fakirpool striker who often beat the Muktijodha defence with sheer pace, got the second chance in the 22nd minute when he dodged past Mohsin but found himself in a rather difficult angle from where he floated a measured minus which was headed wide by medio Asif.

Asif got another chance in the 42nd minute after being fed by the same source but his grounder into an open net bounced back into the play off a Muktijodha defender.

Muktijodha, who found the spirited Fakirpool defence a hard nut to crack, got the only scoring opportunity in the first half when striker Mizan fired a thunderous grounder from outside the box but his effort was foiled by a diving Fakirpool custodian Kawsar.

Muktijodha mounted pressure in the second half for a goal but once again came across stiff resistance from the

header from a Mamun Joarder corner came his way.

But undaunted by this setback Fakirpool boys pressed on for the equaliser and almost got it from a counter attack but Mohsin fisted away a Gobinda misus before any danger.

In the other match of the day, Arambagh recorded their maiden victory in the Star Premier Division football league when they blanked a relegation-threatened Bangladesh Boys 2-0.

Jahangir and Sunny were the scorers for the winners with both the goals coming in the first half.

With this win Arambagh upper their tally to five points from seven matches while promotees Boys remained at the bottom of the table with three points on completion of seven matches.

Meanwhile, DMFA cup champions Abahani take on Brothers in a crucial Star Premier league tie at the Dhaka Stadium today. The match kicks off at 6.30 pm today. Radio Bangladesh will broadcast the live commentary of the match.



Action from last night's Star Premier Division football encounter between Muktijodha Sangsad and Fakirpool YMC at the Dhaka Stadium. Muktijodha managed a 1-0 win. — Star photo

Muktijodha. On the other hand Fakirpool, the most consistent outfit in the league so far, remained stuck to their previous collector of six points from seven matches.

In the day's second match, title aspirants Muktijodha enjoyed territorial dominance but Fakirpool created more openings during the first half.

Sohel Al Masum, the promising Fakirpool left back, drew the first blood in the very seventh minute, pen-

Fakirpool booters. Hakim, who came in as a substitute for Kawsar, was outstanding under the bar and saved his team on a couple of occasions. The well-built goalie dived on his left to foil an Arman crack at the goal in the 47th minute and then flisted away a goal-bound Naqib header 18 minutes later.

However, as luck would have it, Muktijodha got the match-winner at last in the 75th minute when Jewel Rana volleyed home after Naqib's

Abahani's new signing Russian Nikolai Krioutchkov, the six-foot tall Lokomotive Moscow forward who arrived in the city on Thursday, will make his Premier league debut today.

In the first match at the same venue, Rahmatganj MFS will be up against Farashganj Sports Club in one of the two Star First Division league matches while the other, between Sadharan Bima and Shantinagar, will be played at the Mirpur Stadium.

# Rain halts 2nd Eng-SA one-dayer

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 27: The second and final one-day (55 overs) international between England and South Africa at Old Trafford was abandoned for the day today due to rain. The match will resume tomorrow.

Scores: South Africa 181-9 in 55 overs, England 80-4 in 26.5 overs.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the second and final one-day (55 overs) international between England and South Africa at Old Trafford on Saturday:

SOUTH AFRICA	
G Kirsten c Lewis b Cork	30
Wessels lbw b DeFreitas	21
Crojcie run out	0
J Rhodes lbw b Cork	0
Cullinan run out	54
McMillan st Rhodes b Udal	0
D Richardson c Lewis b Gough	11
I Shaw b Gough	6
C Matthews b Cork	26
F De Villiers not out	46
Donald not out	2
Extras (lb-6 w-4 nb-2)	12
Total (for nine wickets, 55 overs)	181

Fall of wickets: 1-43; 2-47; 3-47; 4-64; 5-68; 6-113; 7-121; 8-183; 9-193.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
DeFreitas	11	4	12	1
Gough	10	1	39	2
Lewis	9	0	44	0
Udal	1	2	17	1
Cork	11	1	49	3
Hjck	3	0	14	0

## ENGLAND

Atherton c Wessels	19
Stewart c Cullinan b Donald	11
G Hick lbw b Donald	0
Thorpe not out	27
Fairbrother run out	3
S Rhodes not out	10
Extras (w-4, nb-6)	10
Total (for four wickets, 26.5 overs)	80

To bat: C Lewis, P-DeFreitas, D Cork, D Gough, S Udal.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Donald	5	0	15	2
De Villiers	5.5	1	19	0
McMillan	6	1	25	0
Matthews	6	2	9	1
Shaw	4	0	12	0

# Reefat wins RB Open chess

Sports Reporter

International Master Reefat bin Sattar prevailed over Ziaul Qader Tuhi in the tie-breaker to clinch the Rahimuddin Bharasha Open chess title at the end of the nine-round Swiss league competition at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Biman's Reefat, who became unbeaten champion, finished his engagements with eight points when he drew with national champion Ziaur Rahman yesterday.

Tuhi, who had seven points at the end of the penultimate round, on the other hand, beat Hasibul Hasan in the last round to force a tie-breaker with Reefat.

FIDE Master Rezaul Haq finished third with seven and a half points in the meet, participated by 88 chess players.

Anil Das, who was the chief guest on the concluding day, distributed cash awards of Taka 15,000 among the winners while Mujibur Rahman, the president of the Bangladesh Chess Federation and Ershadul Haq, representative of the sponsor R. B. Group, were also present on the occasion.

## Miller upstaged

NASHVILLE, Tenn, Aug 27: Dominique Dawes needed only a shaky landing by Shannon Miller on the balance beam Friday night to win the women's all-around title at the US Gymnastics Championships, reports AP.

Miller, a two-time world champion, led after the compulsory but Dawes outpointed her 78.00-77.76 for her first all-around title.

Dawes, a 1992 Olympian, closed the gap to .06 of a point with a 9.9 on her first vault in the first event.

# Navratilova has no regrets

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Aug 27: As her tennis career winds to a close, Martina Navratilova says she is comfortable with her decision to make this year her last on the tour, reports AP.

"I have no regrets, and I don't expect to get any. Now or years from now," Navratilova said Friday prior to an exhibition match in the SNET Classic. "I'm enjoying myself now, because I can see the end, and I'm pretty happy about it."

She also doesn't regret her decision to not play in next week's US Open, an event she has won four times in her 22-year career. Navratilova's curtain call will come in the Virginia Slims Championships at Madison Square Garden.

"Because I'm playing the Slims in New York, I figured I can say goodbye properly in the Garden, and rather not beat my head up against the wall at Flushing Meadow," she said.

Navratilova was impressive in her exhibition semifinal against Brenda Schultz in the SNET Classic — rallying for a 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory before a record crowd for a women's only tournament played outdoors.

A ticketed attendance of 12,711 turned out for the Navratilova-Schultz match and the Gabriela Sabatini-Jana Novotna semifinal that followed, far exceeding the 10,100 fans who showed up for the final of a 1993 tournament in Hamburg, Germany.

Navratilova, in between a book promotion in Boston and an award's presentation at the Open, was playing in the SNET Classic as a last-minute replacement for injured Steffi Graf.

Besides the fact that New Haven was a convenient stop between Boston and New York, Navratilova acknowledged she was being well-compensated for her court time at the Connecticut Tennis Centre. "The amount she was paid was not disclosed. Obviously, the money's

great," Navratilova said. "I was just going to be in New York doing nothing for two days."

Navratilova, running for president of the Women's Tennis Association, was also asked about all the changes she has proposed for the sport.

"My biggest point has always been that the top players don't play each other enough," she said. "I've been talking about that for years. You need that to develop rivalries."

Navratilova pointed out how she played Tracey Austin 11 times in one year, and usually played Chris Evert about six to 10 times a year.

"I think I've played Steffi Graf three times in the past five years," she said. "Other changes she'd like to see include doing away with deuce, the let on the serve, and the first changeover, and going back to using wooden rackets."

"You won't have to worry about someone hitting the ball 140 mph (225 kph)," she said. "You give baseball players graphite bats, and you won't be able to build a stadium big enough."

Navratilova said she is keeping the year following her retirement free of serious plans. She says she would like to learn another language and try different recreational sports.

"I'm just going to have a good time for a year," she said. "I'm saying 'No' to everyone asking me to do things. I just want to enjoy myself for a while, until I decide what I want to do."



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Action from the inaugural match of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology inter-department basketball championship between reigning champions Economics and Mathematics at the University court on August 23. The meet, organised by the central students' union, involves nine departments. The final will be played on August 31. — Star photo



Sally Gunnell of England waves the national flag while doing a lap of honour after setting a new Commonwealth Games record time in the women's 200m hurdles final on August 26. Gunnell clocked 54.51 seconds. — AFP photo

# Pakistan poised for a big victory at Kandy Waqar strikes again

KANDY, Sri Lanka, Aug 27: Pakistan, spearheaded by fast bowler Waqar Younis, were heading for a big victory over Sri Lanka in the third and final Test, reports Reuter.

At the close of play on Saturday, Sri Lanka, trailing by 286 runs on first innings, were tottering at 17 for three in their second, Waqar taking all three wickets.

The paceman, who took six for 34 as Sri Lanka were dismissed for 71 in the first innings, virtually ended their hopes of survival by removing Roshan Mahanama for 10, nightwatchman Pubudu Dassanayake for one and Sanjeeva Ranatunga for four.

Earlier, a mastery century by Inzamamul Haq saw Pakistan score 357 for nine before they declared shortly after tea.

Sri Lanka had gained an early success when Aamir Sohail was dismissed for 74 in the fifth over of the morning. But then Inzamam and Basit Ali punished the home bowlers.

They shared a sixth-wicket stand of 98 in 95 minutes, with Basit scoring 53 off 83 balls before being removed by Dharmasena after hitting two sixes and four fours.

With Pakistan on 297 for eight, Waqar the batsman stepped in to slam 20 off 26 balls.

He hit one six and two fours in a 60-run ninth-wicket stand with Inzamam before being finally caught at deep midwicket

by Ruwan Kalpage attempting to hit Dharmasena for another six.

Inzamam was undefeated at 100 off 125 balls in 197 minutes, which included 12 fours. Pushpakumara and Dharmasena shared eight wickets, but once again it was poor batting which left Sri Lanka in a desperate situation.

Pakistan won the first Test by 301 runs. The second Test was cancelled due to elections and the subsequent uncertain political situation.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the third and final

INZAMAMUL HAQ	100
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Waqar Younis	20
Basit Ali	53
Roshan Mahanama	10
Pubudu Dassanayake	1
Sanjeeva Ranatunga	4
Extras (lb-3, w-1, nb-13)	21
Total (nine wickets declared)	357

Fall of wickets: 1-94; 2-94; 3-117; 4-158; 5-158; 6-256; 7-264; 8-297; 9-357.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Vaas	22	2	80	0
Pushpakumara	26	3	145	4
Dharmasena	28.5	7	75	4
Kalpage	11	0	50	0

Did not bat: Kabir Khan

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Waqar Younis	20	2	80	0
Basit Ali	5	0	0	0
Akram	5	0	0	0
Younis	4.4	0	17	3

## Chang ousted

COMMACK, New York, Aug 27: Rising Russian star Yevgeny Kafelnikov continued his meteoric climb on the tennis tour on Friday by picking off third-seeded Michael Chang 3-6, 7-6, 6-4 in the quarter-finals of the United Cup, reports Reuter.

The 20-year-old Kafelnikov, in the final tune-up for his first US Open, showed power, poise and confidence in ousting the crafty sixth-ranked Chang, winner of five titles in 1994.

Unseeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline, runner-up at last year's US Open, upset fourth-seeded American Todd Martin 7-6, 6-4 in an ugly night quarter-final.

"It was one of my best matches this year," added the fifth-seeded Kafelnikov, who meets unseeded American Richey Reneberg in one of Saturday's semifinals.

Reneberg took out Czech Karel Novacek 6-3, 7-5 to earn his semifinal spot.

## UEFA to push for 16 WC places

GENEVA, Aug 27: Europe wants half of the 32 places in the 1998 World Cup finals in France, European Football Union (UEFA) president Lennart Johansson said here Friday, reports AFP.

That would be a true reflection of the balance of power in world football, he said, given that three of the four semi-finalists in this year's tournament in the United States were from Europe.

Negotiations on the composition of the finals, extended from 24 teams for the last edition to 32 for 1998, will open in October in New York with world football's governing body FIFA.

The request from UEFA is expected to meet strong resistance from African and Asian football chiefs who are also pushing for more place in the finals.

# US OPEN NOTEBOOK

## NO EVERT, NO NAVRATILOVA

NEW YORK, Aug 27: This year marks the first time since 1970 that neither Martina Navratilova nor Chris Evert will play in the US Open, reports AP.

Evert, who made her debut at the National Tennis Center at Flushing Meadow in 1971, played in 19 consecutive Opens through 1989. Navratilova, who began her string of 21 consecutive years in 1973, decided to skip the tournament in this, her final year playing singles on the tour.

Both Evert and Navratilova will be in New York during the tournament, however, attending the annual WTA Tour players awards gala Monday night. Evert will present the WTA Tour player-of-the-year award, while Navratilova and Pam Shriver, winners of the Doubles Team of the Year award eight times, will present that award to this year's winning team.

## NATALIA ZVEREVA PULLS OUT

Natalia Zvereva has pulled out of the US Open women's singles because of a stress fracture of her rib. But she has remained in the doubles where she and partner Gigi Fernandez are trying to complete a calendar year Grand Slam sweep.

Zvereva, 23, of Belarus, was injured just before a tournament in San Diego. She pulled out of the San Diego event and a tournament in Los Angeles.

Ranked No. 1 in the world in doubles, Zvereva and Fernandez have won nine of the 10 Grand Slam events they have competed in together. Their only loss came in the semifinals of the US Open last year when they fell to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Helena Sukova, depriving the losers of the 1993 Grand Slam.

The last doubles team to win all four Grand Slam tournaments in a calendar year was Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver in 1984.

## TENNIS IN THE PARK

Tennis fans in New York City don't have to go to the US Open to see players.

For the third consecutive year, a number of players entered in the year's final Grand Slam tournament will practice at New York's Central Park Tennis Center, which is a free event.

The player practice program is presented jointly by the US Tennis Association and the City Parks Foundation, in cooperation with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

## MEMENTO FOR MARTINA

Fans will have a chance Monday to sign a giant 12-foot (3.5-metre) tennis ball which will be given to Martina Navratilova in this, her final year playing singles.

After a two-month tour of the region, the ball will be presented to Navratilova during a special tribute at the Virginia Slims Championships at Madison Square Garden on Nov. 15.

# Passarella takes over

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 27: Daniel Passarella, captain of Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning side, has been appointed national coach, the Argentine Football Association said Friday, reports Reuter.

Passarella, 41, will replace Alfio Basile, who quit after Argentina crashed out in the second round of this year's World Cup finals in the United States.

He will serve a three-year contract with the option of an extra year if Argentina qualify for the 1998 World Cup finals.

Argentina, embarking on a new era without Diego Maradona and host of ageing stars, is banking on the class of '78 to restore bruised national pride.

A strict disciplinarian, Passarella will be flanked by 1978 World Cup-winning teammate Americo Gallegos. Oiled as one of a new breed of hard but pragmatic coaches, Passarella says he will gamble on a host of rising stars.

In four years as River Plate coach, Passarella has won three First Division titles, nurturing a number of young players likely to make the grade at international level.

Soccer fans are already pinning their hopes on Passarella's protegee, River Plate striker Ariel Ortega, 20, as a potential successor to Diego Maradona.

Passarella, unlikely to stand for indiscipline in the ranks, is considered the ideal man for the job, and enjoys unprecedented public support. "He's got exactly what it takes, and is the only man up to the task," Cesar Menotti, 1978 World Cup-winning coach, said.

# Adams blazes past Enqvist

SCHENECTADY, NY, Aug 27: Chuck Adams did it quick and clean, blasting his way past defending champion Thomas Enqvist 7-6 (7-2), 6-3 in the quarterfinals of the OTB International on Friday, reports AP.

"What can I do when he's serving like this today and hitting good second serves," said the sixth-seeded Enqvist, who had three unforced errors in the first-set tiebreaker.

Adams, who beat Ivan Lendl on Thursday, said Enqvist was "a half step off."

"I felt confident on the serve," said Adams, ranked 70th in the world. "He takes a big swing and a lot of times it was all or nothing, and today, it was a lot of nothing."

Adams faces Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden in Saturday's semifinals. Bjorkman routed Younes El Aynaoui of Morocco 6-0, 6-1.

Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands will face Joern Renzenbrink of Germany in the other semifinal. Eltingh edged Jan Apell of Sweden 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-4) and Renzenbrink beat countryman Marc Goellner 6-2, 6-4.

In the women's quarterfinals, top-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa beat sixth-seeded Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-3. Coetzer will face Larisa Neiland of Latvia, who beat Natalia Medvedeva of Ukraine 3-6, 7-5, 7-5.

"She'll probably try to make the point short," Coetzer said of Neiland, who lost to