The long-mooted stadium. exclusively for cricket, crossed a significant hurdle of red tapism recently with the Urban Development Directorate approving the plan.

The projected venue, which on completion, will have ended a bitter and long drawnout acrimony between the football and cricket authorities over the control of the Dhaka Stadium, the lone playing stage, is expected to be sited over 20.18 acres of land at Maghbazar

Although the land has not been acquired yet the promised government alloca tion of Taka 25 crores, earmarked as initial budget, is all set to be okayed by the Planning Commission.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakhkha (RAJUK), authorities of constructional activities in the capital, are expected to give the go-ahead to the National Sports Council (NSC), the supreme body for country's sports. shortly.

tre of a tug of war between the powers that be in football and those of cricket with the latter often forced to throw in the

Sports Reporter towel in the face of the strong twin challenges of the Bangladesh Football Federation and the Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA) over the allotment of the Dhaka Stadium.

Saddled with the unenviable job of doing justice as the sole authority of the infrastructure of country's sports, the NSC has been apportioning the oldest and economically viable playing arena between the two parties in two halves of a year.

Justice had barely been done in the past with football Nat'l swimming

from Oct 25 The national age group for boys and girls, third national vouth and national women's swimming championships '94 will be held October 25-28 at the Mirpur National Swimming Complex. reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Swimming Federation, organiser of the competitions, has asked the interested teams and organisations to send their entries by October 18 to the Federation's Mirpur office.

being the more popular and money-minting of the two games, prolonging the possession of the ground much to the chagrin and trouble of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board.

A second stadium, built a couple of years ago at the city outskirts Mirpur, did not emerge in the role of a trouble shooter for more than one rea-

The area's reputation as the crime pockets of the city added to the already extant deterrent of distance from spectators' viewpoint; hence im portant soccer tournaments. including the annual Senior Division leagues, kept on being held at the Dhaka Stadium with poaching into the temporal territory of cricket more of ten than not.

A full-fledge cricket stadium is still a long way coming. The shaggy dog story of pointless wrangling will carry over an unspecified period of time in future. But the note of genuine optimism has been audible. Let's hope it is the beginning of the end of a squabble.

Jones won't come out of retirement

WELLINGTON. Sept 21: New Zealand Cricket officials said today they attempted, apparently

unsuccessfully, to persuade Andrew Jones to curtail his retirement to cover for Martin Crowe on New Zealand's forthcoming tour to India. reports Reuter. Jones was approached by

leading New Zealand Cricket (NZC) officials, chairman Peter McDermott and chief execu-



ANDREW JONES

tive Graham Dowling, about the chances of making himself tour and busy centenary sea-

a reputation as one of New

batsmen over the last seven

Dowling said Jones had contacted him on Tuesday night and rejected the initial offers, However, Dowling Hid not indicate whether he thought Jones's decision was irrevocable.

Crowe, New Zealand's premier batsman, has requested more time to recuperate from an operation on his

New Zealand are to play four one-day matches in India in late October en route for a full tour of South Africa. Crowe, who limped through

New Zealand's recent tour of England, is likely to join the tour in South Africa. McDermott said he would be very surprised if Crowe

went to India. On previous tours to the Indian sub-continent Crowe has been very susceptible to illness. "We need Martin to be fully fit and ready to go to South

Africa. We'd hope the Indians would understand. He has a special case," McDermott said. New Zealand is desperately

seeking a suitable replacement to fill the number three batting slot since Jones' retirement, emerged for the third slot during the England tour. .

New Zealand will celebrate its centenary in 1995 with a quadrangular one-day tournament involving South Africa. Australia and India followed by a Test series against West Indies.

Asiad contingent awaits PM's approval

Sports Reporter

The list of a 78-member contingent for the forthcoming 12th Asian Games, scheduled to begin in the Japanese city of Hiroshima from October 2, has been forwarded to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for approval.

Strangely, the catalogue did not include the names of the five soft tennis players as earlier announced by the Bangladesh Olympic Association

Apart from the representa tives in the team events shooters out numbered all in

event wise break-up with a squad of 13, which includes four officials. The proposed delegation for the Hiroshima Asiad con-

tains a 20-member hockey squad and a 14-member kabaddi team. Hockey and kabaddi are the

only team events in which there will be Bangladeshi representation although the latter faces the threat of being scrapped from the Games for inadequate number of entries. One Member of Parliament

has been included in the list and sources close to the BOA revealed yesterday that a woman MP was also trying to have her name drafted in the Hiroshima-bound contingent:

Squeaky win for Brothers Sports Reporter

Title-contenders Brothers

Union were given a tough time by Ajax Sports Club in the AB Bank metropolis table tennis league yesterday at the Dhanmondi gymnasium as the Gopibagh outfuit fought back from the edge of what was going to be a humiliating defeat to win 3-2.

Brothers, who began their league campaign in style with a facial 3-0 victory over 'Combined Sporting, appeared on course for another comfortable win when Rubel set the pace for his side, finishing off his singles tie in no time.

But the Ajax paddlers had other plans in mind and for the next two matches it was total Brothers demolition and the eventual losers were just one game away from victory. But thanks to Badal and

Rubel. Brothers were spared their blushes as two kept their cool in registering 2-1 sets victories in the best-of-threesets singles matches. The day's other winners

were Swamibagh Boys, Wari Junior and Armanitola against Swamibagh TTS, Combined Sporting and Lalmatia respectively.

Yesterday's results marked second successive wins for Wari and Armanitola young-

Rahmatganj still on top

Sports Reporter

Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society maintained their solo lead in the Star First Division football league when they beat Eskaton Sabuj Sangha 2-0 in one of the two matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium yester-

After a goalless first half. winger Towhid shot Rahmatgani into the lead in the 47th minute, converting a penalty while substitute Mostakim sealed the fate of the match four minutes before the long whistle when he nodded home a Dabloo corner from the right flank.

The win upped Rahmatgani's tally to 18 points from 12 matches while Eskaton remained stuck to their previous collection of 11 points on completion of 12 outings.

In the first match of the day. Victoria Sporting Club shared points with Dhanmondi Club in a 2-2 draw.

Angur and Amin Khan, the striking duo of Victoria. notched one goal each for the Motijheel outfit while Shimu and Collins scored for the Dhanmondi team. Victoria raised their collec-

tion to 16 from 12 matches while Dhanmondi now have 10 from 12.

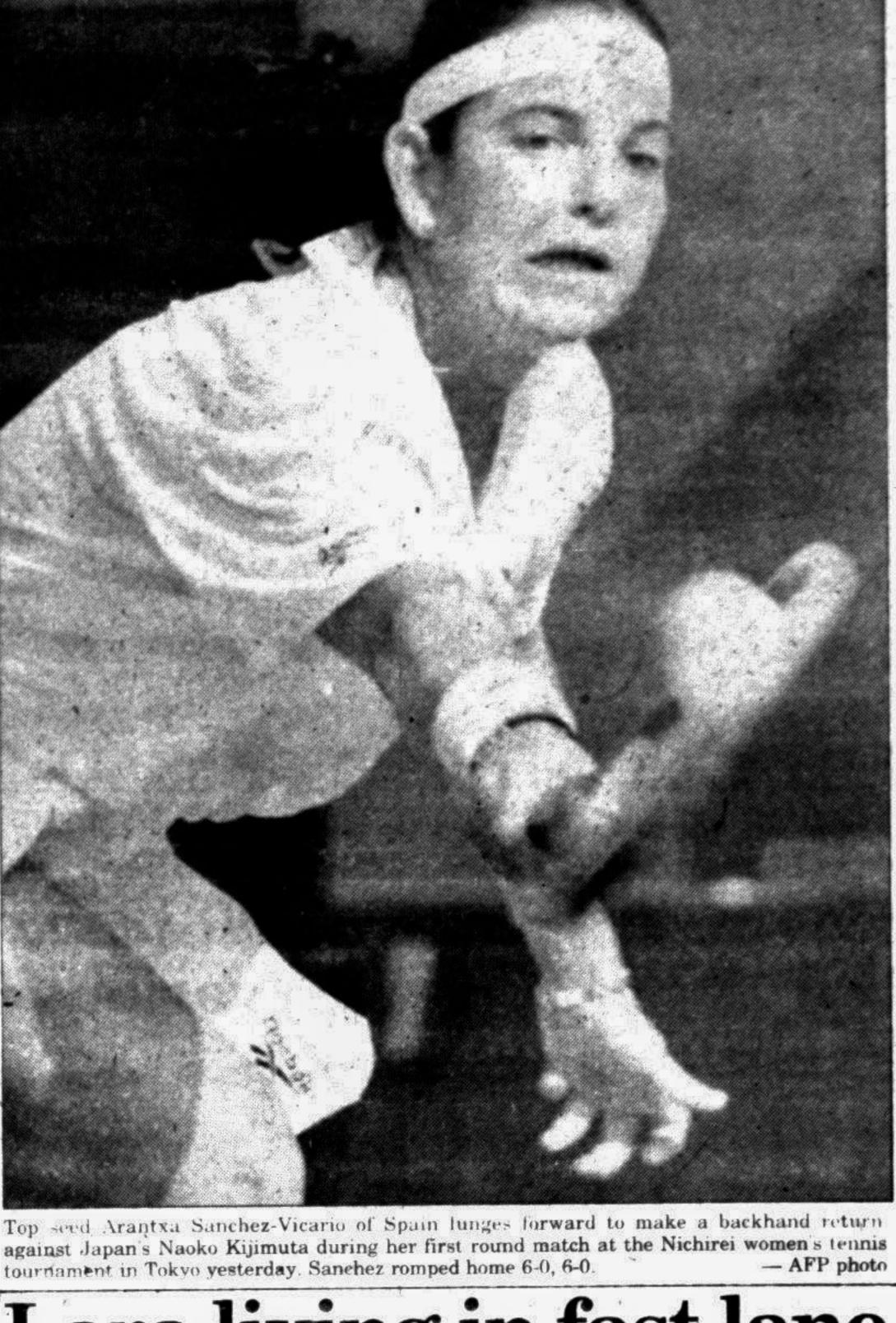
TODAY'S MATCHES

Farashgani SC vs Sadharan Bima 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium) East End vs Dhaka Wanderers 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Australia's Asian tour extended

SYDNEY, Sept 21: The Australian soccer team has added an extra game to their Asian tour this week, slotting in a match against Malaysia before playing Kuwait and Japan, reports AFP. The Australian Soccer

Federation announced today that the team will play in Malaysia on Thursday, take on Kuwait, also in Malaysia. on Saturday and meet Japan on September 27 in Tokyo. Their opponents are all preparing for the Asian Games.



against Japan's Naoko Kijimuta during her first round match at the Nichirei women's tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. Sanchez romped home 6-0, 6-0.

Lara living in fast lane New Zealand, then a four-Test hallmarks of Lara's batting.



21: Brian Lara. the brightest jewel in Warwickshire's triple crown, faces one

of the most intense playing schedules in cricket history after a hectic debut season in the English domestic game. reports Reuter.

The little Trinidadian lefthander, who scored runs in record quantities with the grace and style that also marked his off-field demeanour, admitted his first summer with Warwickshire was an exhausting experience.

Lara was rarely out of the headlines, playing an influential role as his adopted county landed an unprecedented three titles in a single season.

Endorsements, special appearances and endless interviews added to his mounting involvements, leaving Lara in no doubt when the season ended on Monday that he was truly living in cricket's fast

Lara now has commitments in South Africa and Hong Kong before confronting a rigorous international programme with West Indies.

In the 11 months between the beginning of October and the end of next August, West Indies are to play 15 Tests and at least 16 one-day internationals.

Lara is vice-captain on West Indies tour of India which starts next month and includes three Tests, to be followed early next year by two Tests in

series against Australia in the Caribbean and finally a six-Test tour of England. It will be as much a trial of

stamina as batting skill for Lara, the holder of the world record individual score in both Test and first-class cricket. Lara's Test highest of 375

against England in Antigua last April came only two weeks after he signed for Warwick-



BRIAN LARA

shire to replace Indian allrounded Manoj Prabhakar, who was ruled out by injury. Lara set the English season

alight with a sequence of breathtaking performances, reeling off six centuries in seven championship innings including the record first-class score of 501 against Durham. Timing, balance, power of

stroke and, above all, the utter certainty with which he compiled his huge scores were His majestic early progress

round the counties was rarely interrupted, though unheralded Middlesex fast-medium bowler Richard Johnson twice dismissed the Trinidadian cheaply, on the second occasion preventing Lara from equalling the world record of six consecutive first-class hundreds.

Lara's imperious form and the confidence it bred in his teammates helped to spur Warwickshire to the county championship, the Benson and Hedges Cup and the Surday League. And they were beaten finalists in the NatWest Trophy.

Captain Dermot Reeve. though often missing through injury, provided match-winning inspiration when it mattered most, and Tim Munton did an effective job both as his deputy and in his pace-bowling Behind the scenes, coach

Bob Woolmer's meticulous planning was a key element in Warwickshire's triple triumph.

Yet it was Lara who provided the most abiding individual memories, ending with the season's highest first-class aggregate of 2,066 runs and nine centuries.

After next year's West Indies tour, the intriguing question for Warwickshire in 1996 is whether to retain their stalwart South African fast bowler Allan Donald as the overseas signing or put their trust again in the incomparable

France in the 1982 and 1986 World Cup semifinals and who is co-president of France's Organising Committee, said

The unveiling ceremony, before invited VIPs and the media, took place halfway up Paris' Eiffel Tower, France's most symbolic monument.

co-president of France's Organising Committee, said Prime Minister Eduard Balladur would choose the design of a new 80,000-capacity stadium for Paris to stage the opening game and the final in the next few days.

He said a decision on which French cities would stage

at the end of J-League

England striker Gary Lineker said on Wednesday he will retire from soccer at the end of the Japanese season in

country and scored 48 goals in 80 internationals, told BBC Radio his injury troubles since joining Nagoya Grampus Eight of the J-League last year had prompted the decision.

resulting in a couple of operations," 33 year-old Lineker said from his Nagova home.

games and score a few goals which is very pleasing but I'm certainly not what I was

far easier. Lineker's decision will dis-

distinction

became the first Venezuelan to win an ATP tour singles title in the Open era, beating sixthseeded Mauricio Hadad of Colombia. 6-3. 3-6. 6-4 Sunday in the final of the 313,000 dollars Club Colombia Open, reports AP.

Euro thinktanks to lay head European Championship in STOCKHOLM, England in 1996, said



Sept 21: Europe's international seccer coaches gathered in force in Sweden on Tues-

day to lay down the strategies they and UEFA hope will keep the continent's teams on top of the world for the rest of the decade, reports Reuter.

The European Football Union, wary of the speed with which African and Asian countries are closing in, have taken the unprecedented step of coaching the coaches in a bid to maintain Europe's superiority on the soccer pitch.

After filling seven of the eight quarter-final spots at this year's World Cup, UEFA are determined to ensure European teams dominate again at the 1998 finals in France. Former Scotland coach

Andy Roxburgh, who organised the first ever coaches' convention for UEFA, said: "Europe cannot afford to be complacent, we had a successful World Cup in America, but Africa and Asia are catching up, and FIFA are doing a lot of work with them. "If Europe is complacent we

could find ourselves in big trouble. The moment we think we have got it made, we are

Roxburgh, who studied the World Cup in great detail, said: "The flaw with the European game is that while our players are quick, powerful and well organised, they are not as mobile as the African players, and they don't have the variety of

"Most of the time they are solid, don't have mobility and are technically limited, missing elements which we should be encouraging. We have to go back to basics to maintain our place in the world order." Some of the biggest names

in soccer were in Stockholm to listen, learn and swap ideas and experiences in a two-day coaches' convention - including the men who led three European sides into the semifinals at the World Cup.

Italy's Arrigo Sacchi, whose team went so close to winning the World Cup final against Brazil, Tommy Svensson, who took Sweden to semifinals for only the second time, and Bulgaria's Dimitar Penev, who led a country that had never won a match at a World Cup finals to the last four. Terry Venables, appointed

England coach after they failed to reach the World Cup finals and charged with winning the Europe's top teams must continue to adapt and improve their game or face possibly naving to sit in the back seat of soccer. "Other countries are catching up very quickly and if you

don't go forward in this game you go backwards," he said. "European countries did

themselves proud at the World Cup in America, but we're being told it's not a time to rest on our laurels and say now we've achieved everything. "Everybody here's in the same boat, we all have similar

problems and we can discuss

them and if we can learn any

thing at all from that it's got to be worthwhile." Roxburgh, UEFA's full-time technical director, has designed a series of seminars based on World Cup tactics aimed at sparking new ideas

among the coaches. "This is bastcally an educational exercise and we have brought them together to collectively examine the World Cup and what happened. We must keep ahead of the trends and what is happening. "The game is changing all

the time, constantly moving ahead with many subtleties."

TOKYO. Sept 21: - Topeeded Arantxa Sanchez licario, keeping her championship form from the US and French Opens, made short work Wednesday of Japanese qualifier Naoko Kijimuta in the first round of the Nichirei international ladies tennis championships, reports AP. The Spanish player blanked Kijimuta, ranked 134th in the world. 6-0, 6-0 in 54 minutes on the hard court of Ariake

Sanchez-Vicario

sails through

to Round 2

"It's always important to get accustomed to the court and balls in the first match of a tournament. I am always doing my best and playing 100 per cent in every tournament," said Sanchez Vicario, the world's No 2-ranked woman Asked about her two Grand

Colosseum.

Slam tournament victories, she said. "I think I am now much stronger on fast surfaces after a lot of practice and I am mentally stronger now.", Vicario Sanchez generally

kept control with deep shots and high lobs, but had to rally from behind when Kijimuta took a 40-15 lead on the Spanish player's serve in the second set's second game and then again in the fifth game, when Kijimuta led 40-0 on her Third-seeded Lindsay Da-

venport of the United States needed three sets and 2 hours. 25 minutes to beat Japanese qualifier Kaoru Shibata 6-2. 4-6, 6-0. The 18-year old Davenport. ranked eighth in the world,

was broken by Shibata, ranked

624th, in the second, fourth,

sixth and 10th games of the second set "I lost concentration and she played pretty well in the second set," Davenport said. Eighth-seeded Julie Haiard

of France beat Argentine Mercedes Paz 6-4. 7-6 (7-2) and Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu. the ninth seed, outlasted hardhitting Wang Shi-ting of Taiwan 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 in other first-round matches.

1998 World Cup logo unveiled PARIS, Sept 21: A soccer

ball rising like the sun over part of the globe was unveiled on Tuesday by Michel Platini as the official logo for the 1998 World Cup finals in France, reports Reuter.

Platini, who played for the logo was a symbol of the way soccer, like the sun.

brightened people's lives.

Fernand Sastre, the other

matches during the finals would also be taken shortly.

Lineker to quit. LONDON, Sept 21: Former

November, reports Reuter. Lineker, who captained his

Tve suffered badly through injury over the last two years.

Tye managed to play a few

"It's been frustrating not being able to perform like I used to and that made the decision

appoint several clubs hoping to lure him back to play in England, including Premier league Southampton and First Division Middlesbrough, now managed by his former Englind teammate Bryan Pereira's

BOGOTA, Colombia, Sept 21: Unseeded Nicolas Pereira

The victory snapped Ha-

said. The player was given a one month suspended ban. It was just a warning."

> dad's 29-match winning streak

The NSC has been the cen-Sri Lanka to tour Zimbabwe

from Oct COLOMBO. Sept 21: Arjuna Ranatunga will lead a 15-mem ber Sri Lankan squad on their month-long tour of Zimbabwe next October, cricket board officials said today, reports

Reuter. They said there were no changes in the side, except the recall of veteran batsman Asanka Gurusinha, who was dropped from the team that played in the recently concluded four-nation tournament in Colombo. Sri Lanka will play three

Tests and three one-day games

Zimbabwe from Oct 1 to Nov

TEAM Attenta Ranatunga (capt). Arayında de Silva (vice-capt). Roshan Mahanama, Asanka Gurusinghe. Hashan Tillekeratne. Duleep Samaraweera, Pubudu Dassanayake. Ruwan Kalpage Sanath Jayasuriya. Sanjeewa Ranatunga, Muttiah Muralidharan. Pramodya Wickremasinghe. Chaminda Vaas, Ravindra Pushpakumara

and Kumara Dharmansena. Duisburg call

Amunike back DUISBURG, Germany, Sept 21 MSV Duisburg have ordered Nigerian World Cup soccer star Emmanuel Amunike to report to the German

club immediately, reports AFP. Amunike, who had refused to accept FIFA's ruling in layour of Duisburg, was with the Portuguese side Sporting

leading FIFA official called on Tuesday for the world governing body to tak i look at anti doping

measures after it was revealed

that a French First Division

ARIS, Sept 21: A

player had tested positive. reports Reuter. FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said soccer's third positive test in recent months was a blow to the sport and that FIFA's executive meeting in New York next month would

almost certainly examine the problem again. His comments came after it emerged on Tuesday that an unnamed French player had been secretly punished by the French Federation last season for failing a test.

Soccer, based more on in-

dividual skill than on strength

or endurance, has long prided

itself on not having the

chronic doping problems associated with sports such as athletics, cycling or weightlift-But the notorious Diego Maradona ephedrine case at the World Cup finals in June and the one-year ban imposed earlier this month on Dyanmo Minks midfielder Valentin Belkevich for using anabolic steroids after a UEFA Cup drugs test this season have

brought soccer firmly into the doping spotlight. The French sports daily L'Equipe revealed on Tuesday that a First Division player had been secretly suspended last season for doping.

French Federation president Claude Simonet confirmed the case in response to Reuter questions but declined to name the player or the substance he had taken. "It was a minor case," he

But Simonet did categorically deny L'Equipe speculation that the player was from the Monaco club European Cup semifinalists last season.

Blatter said he had just learned of the French case and could not comment on it.

available for New Zealand's Jones. 35. retired at the end of last season after forging

Zealand's most consistent Test Fresh drug worries for FIFA Asked for a reaction, he

> and other sporting bodies are fighting against doping in In football we have always had negative tests in the past. Now we have had three positives. This will give us food for thought. I think we will proba-

bly have to look at this problem again at our executive meeting in New York." Blatter said it was impor-

tant that soccer kept conducting dope tests and that it punished offenders Harshly. Ironically, soccer is the only Olympic sport which has chosen not to follow an International Olympic Committee (IOC) campaign to stamp out doping, refusing to sign an IOC

accord because FIFA opposes

out-of-competition testing.

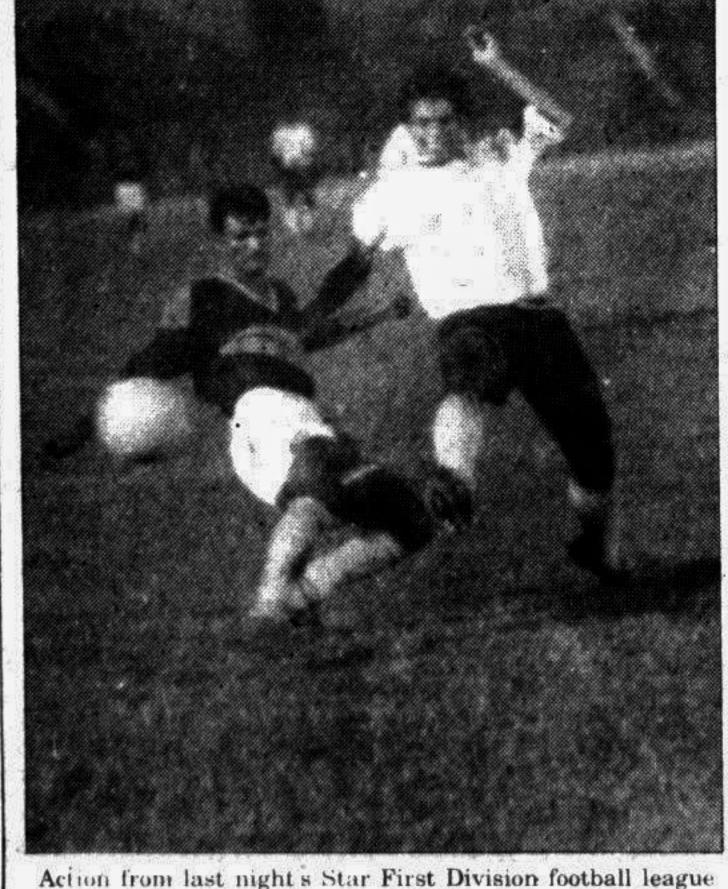
Blatter was clearly embar said he was disappointed. "We rassed by the French Federa

tion's failure to inform FIFA of the positive test. He said there were no stan dard rules on publicising doping cases but that national federations were obliged to in-

form FIFA when they took sanctions against a player. However, the French Federation's secrecy went in the face of FIFA policy on the deterrent effect of publicising offenders and inevitably fuelled

speculation that there could be further hidden cases. L'Equipe, quoting unnamed sources, said that five First Division players in France had shown positive on first or a test samples last season. Four were cleared later on medical

grounds.



encounter between Rahmatganj MFS and East End Club at the Dhaka Stadium. Rahmatganj won 2-0. — Star photo