

Striker Mizan once again played the role of a saviour with a minute strike that gave

Muktijoddha Sangsad a lone goal win over holders Abahani Krira Chakra in one of the two Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament engagements at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

But the outcome of the day's second match, merely reflected the course of action with Muktijoddha at the receiving end for most of the proceedings against a spirited display by the sky blues.

It was only in the last part of the second half when the star-studded Muktijoddha, who were needing at least a draw to earn a berth in the last four, played purposely with Rumi Rizvi Karim operating from the middle.

The former national midfielder, who came on as a substitute for an out of form Babu Das after the breather, provided a perfect through pass to Mizan, who after receiving the ball from apparently off-side position, sprinted through the right flank before unleasing a fierce right-footer from the edge of the box that zoomed past a diving Abahani custodian Saidul at the near post.

Mizan, the deceptive national striker, who had earlier scored the all-important goal in Muktijoddha's, 1-0 win over Victoria Sporting Club on Friday, then set his side for yet another goal in the 87th minute when Abahani's defender Monem Munna brought him down in the forbidden zone. But Rakib, one of the eight

national booters in Muktijoddha's ranks, sent the 12-yarder wide off the mark much to the horror of his teammates. For Abahani, although the

defeat came as a shock, they still finished atop from Group A by virtue of a better goal diflerence.

The win now leaves Muktijoddha at par with Abahani, both collecting six points from their three group league matches, but they have to be satisfied with the second position.

Both the teams will now have to wait for the outcome of today's match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union to know

their semifinal pairings. Abahani could have led the first half by at least three goals. The Dhanmondi outfit,

playing with young and spirted booters, took the control of the match from the start and could have led the first half by at least three goals.

Sergei, who celebrated his Dhaka football debut scoring the only goal in Abahani's 1-0 win over Victoria Sporting Club on May 3, drew first blood Sports Reporter

But Pannu, the Muktijoddha

in the 11th minute with a spectacular volley from well outside the box.

the task diving to his left. Pannu then made two more brilliant saves keeping the

custodian and the reserve na-

tional goalkeeper, was equal to

freedom fighters afloat. He



KC: Pannu, Emdadul, Moon, Ata. Masud Rana, Mamun Joarder, Zakir, Raquib, Gaus (Naguib), Babu Das (Rumi) and Mizan.

ABAHANI KC: Saidul. Mansoor Ali, Monem Munna,



Muktijoddha custodian Pannu, who made several brilliant saves on the day, thwarts yet another Abahani attack collecting the ball before striker Biplab could make any threat during their Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Muktijoddha won the match by a lone goal. -Star photo

fisted away a thunderous leftfooter from Partha in the 36th minute before clinging on to a lqbal placing shot two minutes from the short whistle.

On the other occasion, midfielder Swapan shot the ball wide off the mark with only Pannu at his mercy.

Abahani continued their assault on the Muktijoddha defence after the breather but lost the rhythm when they brought on Aslam in a bid to break the dead-lock.

Moon, Masud Rana and Naquib of Muktijoddha Sangsad, and lobal of Abahani KC were cautioned with yellow

(Sohel Reza), Sergei, Swapan, Jamal and Biplob (Asiam). Referee: Sk. Badruddin.

FIRST DRAW The other match of the day

between East End Club and Victoria SC ended in a one-all

The result meant, East End Club, which beat Muktijoddha Sangsad earlier by a solitary goal, finished third in the fourteam Group A securing four points from three outings.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Mohammedan SC vs Brothers

Farashganj vs Rahmatganj (5 Union (7 pm).

GROUP A TABLE

2

US, Cuba make safe debut



On a busy openban teams made

Amateur Boxing Championships Saturday, reports AP.

which has dominated major decade, began in similar style scored an easy 8-6 decision Tajikistan,

The only American fighter in action was Davarryl Williamson, a heavyweight from Phoenix, Arizona, who scored a 9-4 decision over Georgios Stefanopoulos of Greece.

Stefanopoulos finished 1994 as the fourth-ranked amateur heavyweight, while Williamson, a football and basketball college player, is in his

counts in second and third rounds and could not shake the much taller American.

rusty and I was nervous after the draw. I had to learn to keep my hands up a little bit lore," Williamson said after the

"I noticed he was shorter when we got into the ring and I tried to use my height." he

Only one defending champion got the hour of boxing on the opening night and he too

was successful. Nshan Munchian of Armenia began the defence of his light flyweight (48 kilograms) division title with a 10-5 points decision over Pal Lakatos of Hungary. Munchian won the gold medal at the 1993 Worlds in Tampere, Finland.

Apart from Williamson's victory, what also pleased the

Americans was the draw. With one boxer on the opening night and three fighting Sunday, most Americans will swing into action on Monday. That will give the Americans a chance to prepare better and to check on the of-

ficiating.

Teams

Abahani KC

Muktijoddha

East End Club

"It's worked out very well for us overall." said head coach Jesse Ravelo.

The coaching staff will use the extra time to prepare their fighters. Then we can go back and talk to the boxers about the officiating. Are they scoring body blows, are they scoring everything you throw."

Ravelo said. Of the three Americans fighting Sunday. Eric Wright faces the toughest job in the middleweight (75 kilograms). when he comes up against the Cuban world champion Ariel Hernandez.

Hernandez is considered by many to be the best amateur fighter in the world and a virtual lock on the title here.

Wright, 1993 US champion, is a replacement for Shane Schwartz, who won the US championships last month, but dropped out because of the recent death of his father.

"You never know. May be

Partex b'ball

Lalbagh edged past Eagles by 79-66 points in one of the two Partex First Division basketball league matches at the Dhanmondi basketball gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 490-39. Khayer caged highest 26 points for Lalbagh.

In the other game of the day the Gregs Club beat Dhoomketu Club 60-48 after they led the first session 27-

Kajal scored 17 points for

S Africans

South Africans defeated Colombians in twin IBF title fights Saturday as Mbulelo Botile knocked out bantamweight champion Harold Mestre and Vuyani Bungu retained his junior featherweight crown over Victor Llerena, reports AP.

streak ends

The visiting Hyderabad Under 16 team recorded their first ever win here beating Bangladesh Colts by 51 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday after suffer ing three consecutive defeats. reports UNB.

Opted to bat first Hyderabad piled up 169 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs with middle order Santosh Yadav scoring highest 65 runs of 75 balls. His innings featured seven firm hits to the fence.

- Deepak Lal with 34, skipper Sanjay Patel 22 and opener Srikanth (18) were the other double-digit scores.

Kamal Ibrahim of Colts' captured three for 31 while Tassabur took two for 24 runs. In reply Colts were all out

for 118 runs in 31.3 overs. Sezan top scored with 30 runs Yadav was also successful with the ball as he captured four wickets for only three

runs. Mani Mohan and

Sandeep Kumar captured two

Referees run risk

each for 25 runs.

ATHENS, May 7: The Greek government will meet football club owners on Monday to discuss ways of curbing continuing violence in the sport which culminated in the brutal beat ing of a referee last week, reports Reuter.

As a mark of protest referees refuse to officiate at matches today which wiped out the entire programme of games in the top four division of the Greek League. The Greek Football Federation backed the referees protest and re-scheduled the games for Wednesday.

Greek sport under-secretary George Lianis has called for a meeting of all First Division club owners on Monday to discuss measures against sports violence.

The referees decided on their boycott as a protest against the beating of Philipppos Bakas by eight AEK Athens fan last weekend.

Nash humbles Hampshire

LONDON, May 7: New Zealand all-rounder Dion Nash captured five for 35 on Saturday as Middlesex crushed Hampshire by 205 runs with 14 overs and a day to spare in their English county championship match at Lord's reports Reuter.

Nash, who was signed for Middlesex largely on the strength of his 11 wickets in the Lord's Test last year, took three for eight in 20 balls as Hampshire tumbled to 242 all out in their second innings.

Only Robin Smith, fighting to regain his England place, stood firm with 75 including 13 boundaries

Earlier Mark Rampraskash further enhanced his claims for place in this year's series against West Indies with an unbeaten 163 in Middlesex's second innings 427 for six declared, bringing his first-class total for the season to 488 in four completed innings.

Yorkshire also completed a victory on the third day of the four-day matches, defeating Leicestershire by nine wickets

Leicestershire, who resumed at 102 for five, forced the visitors to bat again by reaching 221. Yorkshire reached their victory target of 37 inside nine overs.

Derbyshire's Devon Malcolm and Dominic Cork both came close to hattricks at Trent Bridge as in an absorbing struggle with Notting hamshire.

The pace pair combined to send Nottinghamshire sliding from 260 for four in their second innings to 302 all out with Malcolm taking three for 57 and Cork pressing his claims for an England place with four for 65 to give him a match aggregate of eight for 116. At the close Derbyshire, chasing 235 for their second championship win were 24 for one.

Hampshire batsman VP Terry cracks the ball towards the long-on region while Middlesex

fielder makes a quick attempt to save himself during their Britannic Assurance match at

Hyderabad's Pierce joins Italian Open



Mary Pierce of France, battling to overcome hea-Ith problems, is a welcome late addition to the women's Italian

Open which begins on the clay courts of the Foro Italico on Monday, reports Reuter. The Australian Open champion requested a wild card entry to Rome after illness

forced her to drop out of a tournament in Hamburg a few days ago. Pierce withdrew from her second round match with German Petra Begerow feeling tired and dizzy and was diag-

nosed as suffering from a kid-

ney infection.

She is seeking to prove her fitness and also to enjoy some match practice on clay ahead of the French Open which begins later this month. Top ranked Steffi Graf is

now the only women from the world's top four who will be



MARY PIERCE took the title in 1987 but has

skipped the tournament in re-Closest rival Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain. preparing to defend her French Title at Roland Garros. returns for a fresh assault on a tournament she has never won. Fellow-spaniard Conchita

Martinez, the Wimbledon champion and world number four, is seeking a hattrick of titles after triumphing here in 1993 and defeating Martina Navratilova in the 1994 final. Argentine Gabriela Sabatini,

a favourite with the Roman crowd, comes to the Italian capital fresh from a week's holiday on the island of Ischia, in the bay of Naples. Sabatini has won the Italian

Open four times but will be seeking to make amends for a second round exit last year.

Now ranked seventh. Sabatini will be the fourth seed. The top eight women all get an automatic bye into the second round.

A Sino-Sweden showdown



TIANJIN, China, May 7: China's chunky world number two Wang Tao. spurred on by a fanatical ho-

me crowd, bounced back to his brilliant best today to steer China into the men's team final at the World Table Tennis Championships, reports Reuter.

The favourites, stretched to five matches for the first time in the tournament by a tenacious South Korean team, will on Monday meet defending champions Sweden, who defeated France 3-1 in another epic struggle.

While Wang produced the stuff of champions at just the right time. France's world number four Jean-Philippe Gatien continued his Chinese nightmare by losing twice, the first to 1992 Olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner which levelled the tie at 1-1. Wang, 27, who had blamed

his lacklustre form on the stadium lighting, was on fire in both his matches and in the decider against world number five Kim Taek-Soo produced some of the best table tennis of the competition. He had earlier silenced the

South Korean supporters' drums by easily winning the first match of the tie 21-17. 21-9 against world number 14 Yoo Nam-Kyu. But after two shock defeats

for China's number two Ma Wenge at the hands of Kim and Yoo, the pressure was on Wang in the decider against the world's best pen-hold grip player. The result was never in

doubt, with Wang running away with the first game 21-14, and smashing his way past the bemused Kim, to clinch the second 21-16 after taking a 17-7

Chinese coach Cai Zhenhua admitted Wang had performed poorly before the semifinals but was now back on to of his

"Wang is under so much pressure from the Chinese lans to perform and that has affected him until today," he

The final against Sweden will be a repeat of the East-West showdown at the last World Championships two years ago in Gothenburg, when the home country won 3-1 for their third consecutive title. But Cai said he was ready

for the Swedes this time, "Since our defeat in the last World Championships, we have watched them closely and know their skills and game The Chinese could so easily

have been facing France in

Monday's final but 26-year-old

Gatien, nursing a strained

muscle in his left-arm, was unable to match the power of Waldner in his first match and Peter Karlsson in his second. The 24-22, 21-16 loss to Karlsson, Gatien's sixth defeat in the tournament, which won the rubber for Sweden, hinged

the early stages. He allowed Karlsson to claw his way back from 17-14 down and squandered three game points before the Sweden took it with a searing backhand.

on the first game which the

Frenchman had dominated in

"If Gatien had won that first game, the match result might have been different. Karlsson got so much confidence from it." Swedish coach Soren Ahlen told reporters.

The Swedes had an unexpected early scare when France's Patrick Chila, ranked only 27 in the world, upset Karlsson, who is ranked 18

But 1991 world champion Jorgen Persson, 29, who had played a key role in the defeat of Germany in the quarter-finals, won the third match against Christophe Legout in three hard-fought games to set up the Karlsson victory.

The French tactic of using three left-handers failed to upset the Swedes, even though Persson was known to dislike playing against them.

"We countered that by putting in (number one) Waldner last, so that if it got to 2-2 it would put a lot of pressure on them. I think that confused them," Ahlen said.

The French were not overly disappointed by the defeat and Gatien made no excuses. "I had no problems with the arm, I have always found it difficult to play against Karlsson and rarely win against him." The veteran Swedes, play-

ing the same squad of players for the fourth consecutive championships, are confident they can beat the Chinese. "It will be tough but we can win if we play as well as we are," Ahlen said. Yang Hyun-Chul, coach of

the defeated South Koreans. agreed. "Being a player with a tennis grip. Wang plays very well against pen holders like Him and Yoo, but things will be very different against the Swedes." Meanwhile earlier on

Saturday, world number one Deny Yaping was in superb form in China's 3-1 win over Romania to earn a place in the women's team event final.

Deng, 22, virtually beat the Romanians single handed as she played three straight matches including the gamewinning fourth where she overpowered Emilia Ciosu 21-4, 21-9. China face South Korea in the final.

Another commentary in the

same paper added: "So this is

how she repays her mother-

gain her revenge against over-

again

ROMORANTIN, France, May

Smulders lost the title last

year to another Frenchman.

"The major threat to us will

seas Chinese like Koyama.

and Anke Huber.

ble Martinez. Hingis had to settle for the

here and I am already looking forward to next year. I am very pleased with what I achieved here," she said. Martinez is unbeaten in 16

mid-March "I am playing very well at the moment," she said. It was the second Spanish victory in a row in the 430,000 dollar

French Open junior champion, dropped her serve to trail 2-0 and never recovered. Martinez broke once more to cruise through the set. The Swiss crumbled after

ner that demolished any resis-Martinez wasted two match points but scored on the third by hitting a forehand that

Stich faces

MUNICH, May 7: Holder Michael Stich and fourth Seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa both defeated clay-court specialists Saturday to reach the Sunday final at the 425,000 dollar ATP Tournament here.

Stich, the third seed and local sporting idol after the first round exit of Boris Becker, crushed Uruguay's Marcelo Filippini 6-4, 6-3 in

Alex Corretja 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 in a contest lasting for more than two hours at the Iphitos Club. Stich has been on a career-

long winning streak at home events, claiming six of his 15 ATP Tour title in Germany. He took a step towards a

not counting on anything," he said. "This week I've been taking it match-by-match." The German was untroubled by the 27-year-old clay court specialist, whom he has never played. Stich made an early

The German said, however. doing that."

Saen defends WBA crown

and's World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight champion Saen Sor Ploenchit retained his title today with a unanimous points decision over Evangelio Perez of Panama in the southern Thai town of Songkhla, reports Reuter.

Friendly soccer

Andrade (24th minute). Alexandre da Silva (54th). Attendance: 30,000.

Victoria SC



BERLIN, May 7: ing night that saw 38 fights on two rings, US and Cu-

successful starts at the World

The powerful Cuban team, championships over the past when flyweight Raul Gonzales over Rustamhodzha Rahimov of

first major event. But the Greek took eight

"I thought I was a little

pugilists knock out Coloumbians JOHANNESBURG. May 7:

this is the year he's (Hernandez) going to fall Everybody here has a chance. Ravelo said.

spokesman for USA boxing said Hernandez looks invinci-"There's some weight classes where countries save dollars and don't send their

athletes - and that's one of

them," Stenerson said.

But Kurt Stenerson

draw, you're saying, 'please, not a Cuban'," he said "Other than Hernandez, we shook out pretty good. We feel pretty happy with the draw.

"If you are sitting at the

Stenerson said. The other two Americans fighting Sunday were welter weight Bobby Lewis, against Nurzh Smanov of Kazakhstan and lightweight Diego Corrales against Marco Rudolph, the

The Americans recently

won 11 of 12 fights against

1991 world champion.

Germans in an exhibition.

Lord's on May 6.

player Chire Koytraitor by sections of the local media after switching her allegiance to Japan, has withdrawn for the

complaint, reports Reuter. women's singles title at the 1987 championships, was lambasted in China after beating world number one Deng Yaping in the singles final at

Hiroshima. The 31-year-old Shanghaiborn Koyama was not eligible to play for Japan in the team competition but was expected to prove troublesome for her former Chinese teammates in the singles event which start

on Wednesday. Japanese team leader

- AFP/UNB photo

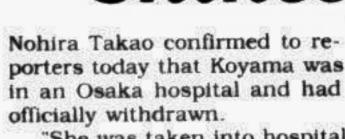
Koyama — Chinese or Jap? TIANJIN. China. Nohira Takao confirmed to repure Chinese blood in her porters today that Koyama was May 7: 'Former veins" and raised on Chinese



Chinese national ama, branded a

World Table Tennis Championships because of a stomach Koyama, who won the

the 1994 Asian Games in



received a facsimile from her doctor on Saturday night confirming that she was too ill to play," he said. "It's disappointing for the Japanese team as we had high

after practice on May 5 suffer-

ing from a stomach problems. I

medal in the women's singles. Koyama's career path has been strewn with controversy. She was axed from the Chinese team after the 1987 World Championships for refusing to throw a match against a compatriot, even although she

went on to win the title. After moving to Japan in 1989 she became less active in the sport but started training seriously again for the 1994 Asian Games. Her win over Deng in an emotional final took the shine off their haul of 137 gold medals and triggered patriotic rhetoric from the

Chinese press. The Beijing Youth News

Bagan's plea

CALCUTTA, May 7: Mohun Bagan Club today urged the All-Indian Football Federation (AIFF) to provide necessary fi nancial assistance to the team which wins the Federation Cup and becomes eligible for taking part in the Asia Cup Championship, reports PTI. The club, in a letter to the

AIFF, said that the financial condition of the leading Indian club likes Mohun Bagan was not very sound and hence it was difficult to send teams abroad for participation in such tournaments like Asia Cup. Even last year Bagan, which

had won the Federation Cup. has requested the AIFF for providing the passage expenses but they did not get any response, the club said in its communique to the AIFF secretary PP Lakshmanan.

food," could stand proudly under a Japanese flag at the "She was taken into hospital medal ceremony in Hiroshima.

land, her coaches, her teammates and all of her compatriots — really beautiful." Before the start of this World Championships Deng hopes that she would win a said she was determined to

> come from former Chinese nationals living in and playing for other countries. "Fast Eddy' shines

7: Dutchman Eddy Smulders regained the European lightheavyweight boxing title with a unanimous points decision over Frenchman Christophe Girard on Saturday, reports questioned how a women with Reuter.

> Fabrice Tiozzo, who gave up his belt to challenge WBC champion Mike McCallum of Jamaica. The 31-year-old Dutchman, nicknamed "fast Eddy." did not miss this opportunity to shine again. Far too strong for Girard in category in which most

> bouts for world title fights, he outclassed the Frenchman in the first five rounds and held his lead in the last seven. Girard was knocked down at the end of the second round but was saved by the bell. He resisted bravely from then on.

sometimes disturbing Smul-

European stars snub European

But the dutchman, who scored his 29th career victory. had scored too many points at the start. The judges gave him a victory with by scores of 117-111, 117-113 and 118-112 points.

ders with right hooks.

Martinez halts Hingis

HAMBURG, May 7: Conchita Martinez, the Wimbledon champion, put on a powerful display of clay-court tennis to overwhelm Martina Hingis, the 14-year-old prodigy, 6-1, 6-0 and win the Citizen Cup

Sunday, reports AP.

Hingis was overcome by stage fright in her first professional final and produced a series of unforced errors that

made Marinez' job easier. The Spaniard, ranked fourth, in the world and seeded second, won in 49 minutes to collect the winner's check of 79,000 dollars.

"Right now I feel unbeatable," said the 23-year-old from Barcelona. "I can play well on all surfaces but clay remains my favourite surface."

Hingis, who has been on the pro-tour for six months. reached the final by beating three higher ranked players -Judith Wiesner, Jana Novotna

But the Swiss teen ager had no chance against Martinez. Hingis tried to change the pace and to put pressure on Martinez, but she was too inconsistent and made far too many errors to be able to trou-

runer-up prize of 35,000 dollar and will climb from No 60 in the rankings to a place in the top 30 "I was very happy to play

matches since she took on Carlos Kirmayr as coach in

tournament at Hambury's Rothenbaum club. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario won last year. Hingis, a Wimbledon and

losing the first game of the second set by dropping her serve again. She hit an overhead smash but Martinez replied with a tremendous cross-court win-

tance Hingis had left. caught Hingis on the wrong

Ferreira in final

reports AFP.

72 minutes. Meanwhile, Ferreira beat

possible seventh victory in his win over Filippini. "I seem to do well in Germany, but I'm

with a stinging volley at the In the second set, he began with a break of Filippini, ranked 79th on the ATP Tour list and moved smoothly to the

break in the first set and won

it when he cut off a return

he could not remain satisfied, "There is always something in my game that needs to be improved," he said. "I've gotten better in each of my matches this week. I just want to keep

BANGKOK, May 7: Thail-

TAEGU, South Korea, May 7: Brazil's Botafoga beat the South Korean Olympic team 2-0 (halftime 1-0) in a friendly soccer match today, reports Reuter. Scorers — Paulo Silveira