

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

Forward Tito scored a hat-trick to guide Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra to a convincing 7-1 victory over Shankar Sporting Club in a Pioneer Super league football clash held at the Mohakhali T&T ground yesterday.

Tito apart, Sajjad added two goals to the winners' account while Mahmud and Bipul scored one each. On the other hand, Malek pulled one back for the Shankar side.

With the win, Russel KC emerged Group D champions and earned a berth in the semi-finals, in which they will take on Islampur Uttar Krira Chakra, winners of Group B, on August 6.

In the day's other match at the same venue, Badshah Smriti Sangsad trounced Avijatrik Sporting Club by five goals to nil.

At the Rajuk ground, Suritola Right Brothers emerged Group C champions defeating Rainbow Krira Chakra 4-0.

Sujon, Sohel, Noor and Sharif scored one goal apiece for the winners. It was the third victory for Suritola which raised their tally to ten points and confirmed them a berth in the semi-finals where they will take on Group A champions Swadesh Samaj Kalyan Sangha also on the 6th of August.

Schools chess from Aug 5

Sports Reporter

The 12th Bata schools chess tournament organised by Bangladesh Chess Federation will begin in the city on August 5.

The tournament is open to all students and no entry fee is required. A maximum of five players from each school will be eligible to compete.

Interested schools have been asked to register at the BCF office from 5 pm to 8 pm by August 4.

Barbados' busy schedule

BRIDGETOWN, Aug 2: Barbados will host limited-overs international on consecutive days for the first time when England tour the West Indies early in 1998, reports AFP.

Tony Marshall, president of the Barbados Cricket Association, said St. Lucia's inability to stage the second limited-overs international on April 1 because of limited finances afforded Barbados the chance of the two matches.

We seized the opportunity and we should benefit from the revenue," Marshall remarked. "Barbados has never had the privilege of hosting back-to-back, limited-overs matches and it must be pleasing to Barbadians."

It means that Kensington Oval will now host a dozen days of cricket during the England tour.

There will be a three day first-class match from March 7 to 9, the fourth Test between March 12 and 16, a limited-overs match against the University of the West Indies Vice Chancellor's XI on March 27 along with the two limited-overs internationals on March 29 and 30.

Credit Swiss Anand's

BIEL, Switzerland, Aug 2: Viswanathan Anand of India clinched the prestigious Credit Swiss Grand Masters' title, stamping his authority as the best player in the Grand Masters circuit when he drew with the FIDE world champion Anatoly Karpov of Russia, here today, reports PTI.

World number two Anand's authority on top remained intact with this victory — his fifth crown in seven tournaments during the year — which came after having been leading the tournament from the beginning. He faced a shock defeat at the hands of Vladimir Milov of Switzerland in the seventh round, when he shared the lead with Karpov.

"It is always good to maintain a winning streak and I am happy to win the tournament all alone," Anand said pointing out that he shared the titles with others in most of the tournaments he won during the year.

In the tournament Boris Gelfand (5.5 pts) of Belarus, Joel Lautier, (4.5), France, Vladimir Milov (4) and Yannick Pelletier (2.5), both Swiss finished in that order.

Bailey slow off the blocks



ATHENS, Aug 2: Donovan Bailey, the 100 metres world record holder, made a disappointing start to the defence of his world title here today and was accused of playing mind games by major rival Ato Boldon, reports AFP.

The 29-year-old Canadian, the reigning Olympic champion, was virtually last out of the blocks in his heat and could only finish second behind a Greek sprinter.

A disgruntled Bailey, who pulled out of a press conference at the last minute on Thursday, threw his running stickers away and sat against a railing in the rest area.

Boldon, who ran an impressive 10.10 in his heat, said that he didn't take Bailey's performance seriously.

Boldon's American training partner Maurice Greene, who came through his heat in relaxed style, joked about Bailey's performance.

Frank Fredericks, the dual silver medalist from Atlanta, eased through his heat as did Greene's fellow Americans Tim Montgomery and veteran Mike Marsh.

Olympic champion Svetlana Masterkova is in a race against time to be fit for Sunday's World Championships 1,500 metre semifinal after limping away from her first round run.

Immediately after finishing the first round she had an ice pack put on the leg.

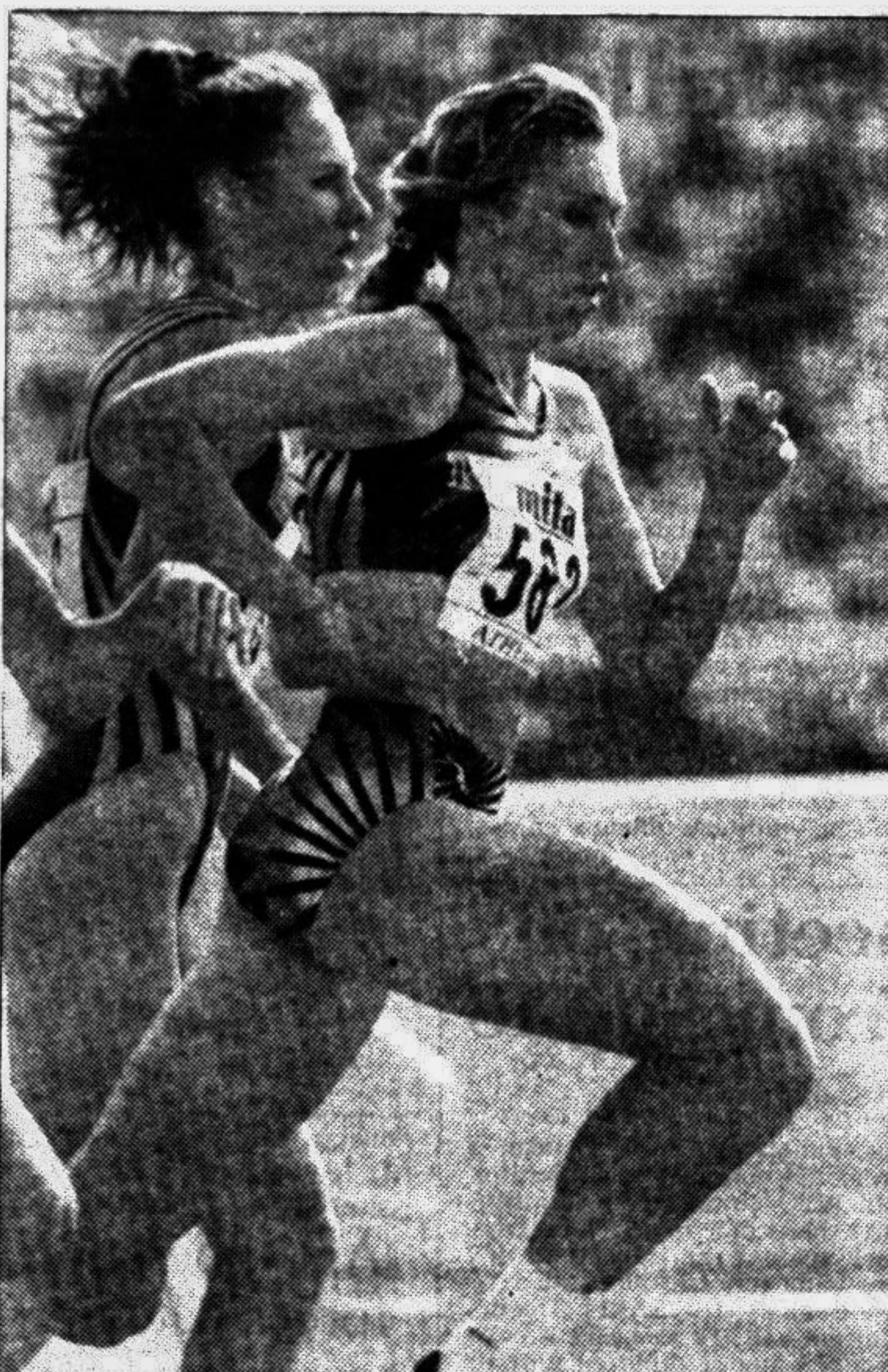
American sprint sensation Marion Jones came safely through her 100 metres first round heat and said she was over her attack of the butterflies.

The 21-year-old Jones, who declined a place in the 1992 Olympic relay team because she felt she was too young, said that she had been unable to sleep the night before her debut at a major championships.

Jones' main rival, the 37-year-old Jamaican Merlene Ottey bidding to become the oldest ever world champion, took time to get into her stride after getting out of the blocks only fifth but then motored clear of the field to post a time of 11.27 seconds.

Defending shot put champion Randy Barnes went crashing out of the championships when he failed to qualify during the morning heats.

The 31-year-old world



Olympic champion Svetlana Masterkova of Russia goes ahead of her compatriot Natalya Ivanova during the women's 1500 metres heat at the World Athletic Championships in Athens yesterday. Masterkova qualified for next round.

—AFP/UNB photo

record holder could only manage a throw of 19.51m, which left him in sixth place and out of the competition.

It was a bitter blow for the Olympic champion who, since serving a two-year ban for drug taking in the early 1990s, was back at his best, taking the gold in Atlanta and throwing a 22.03m at the US trials in June for the season's best performance.

Barnes' qualifying group was won by his arch-rival John Godina who, had it not been for the wild card rule introduced by the international amateur athletics federation (IAAF), would not have been here.

Kelly Holmes one of the pre-race favourites for the 1500 metres world title also failed in her heat — dashing her hopes of a 800-1500 metres double.

The 27-year-old Holmes, who has set the fastest time this year, had to be carried off the track by officials after pulling up on the final bend.

Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan, the reigning 5000 metres world champion, won the heat in 4 minutes 8.9 seconds.

The Indians went to lunch at the loss of Mongolia, the Indian wicketkeeper, who made seven before edging an off-drive against seamer Ravindra Pushpakumara to the slips.

The barren wicket offered no help to the new ball attack of Vaas and Pushpakumara in the morning, forcing Ranatunga to introduce spin in the seventh over.

Barely 300 spectators watched the game at the same venue where a full house of 32,000 had turned up for the Asia Cup one-day final between these two teams a week ago.

The hosts even failed to find a sponsor for the series despite the match being telecast live to millions of viewers in India and Sri Lanka.

Lanky left-arm spinner Nilesh Kulkarni made his Test debut for India, while Sri Lanka bled promising middle-order batsman Mahela Jayawardena.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the opening day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and India in Colombo Saturday:

INDIA: First Innings
Mongia c Jayawardena 7
Siddhu c Kaluwitharana b Vaas 111
David c and b Jayasuriya 69
Tendulkar not out 66
Asharudin not out 18
Extras: (nb-10) 10
Total: (for 3 wickets) 280

To bat: S Ganguly, A Kumble, R Chauhan, V Prasad, N Kulkarni, A Kuruvilla.

Fall of wickets: 1-36; 2-183; 3-230.
Bowling to date: O M R W
Vaas 17 5 55 1
Pushpakumara 14 1 64 1
Jayawardena 2 0 6 0
Muralitharan 31 7 79 0
Silva 15 0 56 0
Jayasuriya 11 2 20 1

N SIDDHU ... 111
18 at stumps as the tourists hammered 106 in the last two hours of play.

Siddhu and David came together in the first hour after the early dismissal of Nayan Mongia and batted through the afternoon session to take India to 174 for one by tea.

Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga rotated his six

bowlers in short spells to beat the heat and unhelpful wicket, but failed to cut short India's top order.

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Super 8s cricket Malaysia, NZ in last four

Sports Reporter

Malaysia and New Zealand reached the semifinals of the Super 8s cricket tournament after the two teams were involved in a tied group league match in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Both the sides collected 117 runs in the clash in which the hosts batted first.

The other two semifinalists would be decided from South Africa, Australia and India who all had two points each. The semis and final will be held today.

Mahbub fails

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh's Mahbub Alam, SAF Games 2000 gold medalist, finished last among eight in one of the 100 metres heats at the World Athletics Championships in Athens yesterday. Mahbub clocked 10.83 seconds. American Tim Montgomery became first with 10.12 seconds.

Barisal soccer

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 2: Khelwar Kalyan Samity and Ever Green Club split points in the day's lone engagement of the Ema Overseas First Division football league as the game ended in 2-2 at the local stadium today.

Farvez and Jamal of the Khelwar Samity scored one goal apiece while Arif and Kala drew level for the Ever Green boys.

Bakerganj Krira Academy meet Range Reserve Force in tomorrow's league match at the same venue.

Delightful double beckons Dhaka Club

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Club kept their hopes alive for a delightful double in the Weekend Tennis Classic '97 when their players made it to both the open and team event finals at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

The successful campaign of Dhaka Club was led by Dilip, who recorded straight sets (7-5, 6-2) win over Laxman of US Club to set up a final clash with Mymensingh Club's Shibu Lal, who earned walk-over against Salahuddin of the Officers' Club.

In the team event, Dhaka Club ensured a final showdown with rivals Officers Club after brushing aside Sher-e-Banglanagar Club with 2-0 whitewash.

Niaz set the pattern of a cakewalk win, eliminating Bony in the singles 6-4, 6-3. The Mashook and Bakhtiar pair then defeated the Sher-e-Bangla duo of Roxy and Dipon to book the final berth with one match in hand.

The other doubles, an insignificant affair for the Dhaka Club duo of Dr Rashiduddin and Niaz against Dr Shahidul Islam and Nazrul, were still in progress till filing of this report.

Both the finals will be held on Friday next.

Denilson beyond Barca's reach

Sports Reporter

BARCELONA, Aug 2: FC Barcelona have decided not to buy star midfielder Denilson from Brazil's Sao Paulo arguing that the cost of the player was too high, news reports said Saturday, reports AFP.

Barcelona deputy chairman Joan Gaspart said the club had made the decision early Saturday and that it was definitive, the national news agency EFE reported.

Argentine life sans soccer

Sports Reporter

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 2: Argentine soccer fans face a second blank weekend as players remain on strike, reports Reuters.

With only a handful of league matches remaining, the players refused to play 10 days ago and said they would not return until First Division Deportivo Espanol allow six players, whose contracts expired on June 30, to move to other clubs.

The Argentine Labour Ministry ruled the strike illegal on Thursday but Juan Sunne, the lawyer representing the Players' Union, said: "Soccer will not be played until the six players are released."

But the Gelsenkirchen side, watched by more than 48,000 spectators, struck back with second half goals from Dutchman Johan de Kock and Marco van Hoogdalem.

The result was a major disappointment for Leverkusen, last season's runners-up who have declared they want to go one better this time.

Another potential title contender, VfB Stuttgart, also got off to a disappointing start, the German Cup winners had to settle for a 1-1 draw at home to 1860-Munich.

Reaching the final four in a tournament with such a strong field is pretty heady stuff for

Woodruff, who could easily have been out in the second half 16th seed Jan Slernerink not missed an easy volley on match point earlier this week.

MONTREAL, Aug 2: With strong winds rendering the big servers ineffective, top seed Michael Chang held off eighth-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajcek on Friday to reach the semifinals of the Canadian Open, reports Reuters.

The second-ranked Chang posted a 7-6, 6-4 victory over Krajcek to set up a semifinal with French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil.

The sixth-seeded Kuerten advanced with a 6-3, 7-6 win over Frenchman Fabrice Santoro.

Today's other semifinal pits fourth seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia against unseeded American Chris Woodruff.

Kafelnikov beat fifth seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden 7-5, 6-7, 6-1 in a two-hour and 10-minute match contested almost exclusively from the baseline.

The 57th-ranked Woodruff upset seventh-seeded Australian Mark Philippoussis 6-4, 6-4.

With the wind playing havoc with his serve, Krajcek was forced to trade groundstrokes with the Chang, a situation that worked to the speedy American's advantage.

Kuerten, who exploded onto the world stage with his stunning French Open win this year, showed off his hardcourt prowess in a brilliantly played first set in which he lost just four points on his serve.

In the second-set tie-break, Santoro held two set points, but the 20-year-old Brazilian fended them off with aggressive shots, keeping the match from a third set by winning the breaker 8-6.

The crowd mostly unfamiliar with Kuerten and Santoro was thoroughly entertained by the imaginative shotmaking and thrilling rallies produced by the pair.

Woodruff seems to be living a charmed life in Montreal. For the second consecutive day, the American drew a player who lives or dies by the ace on a day when the big serve just wasn't there.

After facing just six aces from second seed Goran Ivanisevic Thursday, Woodruff took on the game's hardest server only to watch the Australian falter with his delivery.

"It was windy out there and you can't expect to serve as many aces because you have to put more spin on the ball," said Philippoussis in explaining why his rocket launcher was misfiring.

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Fed Cup semis today

Sports Reporter



Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in the first semifinal of the 14th Federation Cup football tournament at the Mirpur Stadium this afternoon.

In the other semifinal star-studded Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra will meet Arambagh Krira Sangha.

Mohammedans, the winners of the last Federation Cup in

SAF championship

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh national football team will play two practice matches against Myanmar prior to their participation in the first SAF football championship scheduled to be held in Nepal from September 4 to 13.

Dates for the matches are August 29 and 31, which will be held in Yangon. Afterwards the team will fly to Kathmandu where they are scheduled to take on Maldives in the opener of the meet on September 5.

The defeat cost the sky blues dearly as they had to be satisfied with the runners-up position.

In the previous ten engagements, Mohammedans won six times while Abahani have been successful twice. The other two were drawn.

Gallery ticket prices for today's matches have been fixed at Taka 30. Bangladesh Television will telecast the games at 5

pm and 7 pm. They will also cover the July 5 final.

Mohun Bagan move atop

Sports Reporter

CALCUTTA, Aug 2: Title aspirants Mohun Bagan relied on a last minute goal to overcome arch-rivals East Bengal in a Calcutta Super Division football league match at the Salt Lake Stadium here today, reports PTI.

Substitute Dipendu Biswas struck the all-important goal in the last minute to seal the fate of their traditional foes in a fast-paced encounter before a crowd of eighty thousand.

Both the teams displayed attacking soccer and the honours were more or less shared till Dipendu turned the scale in Mohun Bagan's favour with his brilliant header from inside the box following a measured centre from winger Abdul Khaleque.

With the win Mohun Bagan not only avenged the Federation Cup semifinal defeat against East Bengal but also took the top position in the point table.

Participants of the ongoing Weekend Tennis Classic 1997 pose for photograph at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

—Star photo

Super servers shot down

Sports Reporter

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