



PHOTO: STAR
Players and officials of the Bangladesh under-19 cricket team pose for an official photograph at the BKSP on October 28. The team left for Pakistan later on that day to participate in a tournament also involving India, Sri Lanka and the hosts.

Edinho's new assignment

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Former Brazilian international defender Edinho has been appointed coach of Brazilian first division side Bahia, club president Marcelo Guimaraes confirmed Tuesday.

Edinho, who played for Brazil in three World Cup finals, replaces Lula Pereira, who was sacked along with all his technical staff after four losses in a row which leave the club sitting bottom of the league.

Edinho, who was sacked by Brazilian side Goias two months ago for poor results, is the fourth coach this season at Bahia.

Scholes out of action

AFP, London

Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes will be out of action for up to four weeks after undergoing surgery on his troublesome groin problem on Tuesday.

The England player suffered the groin problem earlier this season and it flared up again.

A club spokesman said: "Paul Scholes' groin problem has re-occurred and he has had to have surgery this morning to both groins. He is likely to be out for three to four weeks."

The 28-year-old will almost certainly miss United's league games against Liverpool and Chelsea in November as well as two Champions League ties against Rangers and Panathinaikos.

Scholes is uncertain for England's friendly with Denmark at Old Trafford on November 16 as a result of the operation.

Woodgate set for Newcastle return

AFP, Newcastle

England and Newcastle defender Jonathan Woodgate, out of action for the past month with a hernia problem, could return against Chelsea next month.

The 23-year-old underwent surgery to repair a double hernia, but is progressing so well in training that manager Bobby Robson has had to warn him not to overdo it.

But he is now within a fortnight of being ready to play, and that could mean the trip to Stamford Bridge on November 9.

"Jonathan is doing phenomenally well bearing in mind the seriousness of his operation, and he's looking to really kick on this week. To be honest, we're having to hold him back," physio Paul Ferris told The Journal.

"Realistically, he should be ready to push for a first-team place in two weeks' time, and everyone has been impressed with his progress."

Woodgate picked up the problem during the club's pre-season trip to Malaysia, but played for a month before finally having to undergo surgery five weeks ago.

English League Cup

United multiply Leeds' woes

Football

AFP, London

Premiership leader's Arsenal survived a scare before advancing to the fourth round of the English League Cup with a penalty-shootout victory over plucky Rotherham on Tuesday, as debt-ridden Leeds United fell 3-2 to Manchester United.

The Gunners, fielding a reserve team, triumphed 9-8 on penalties against the Division One side after the score ended 1-1 after 120 minutes at Highbury.

Premiership strugglers Leeds United ended one of the darkest days in the club's history in misery as they went down in extra-time at Elland Road.

On a day when club bosses announced record losses of 49.5

million pounds (83.8 million dollars) Leeds woes were compounded after Eric Djemba-Djemba steered Man United into the fourth round with an extra-time goal.

Arsenal took the lead after 11 minutes through young French striker Jeremie Aliadiere, but Rotherham fought back and striker Darren Byfield headed home an equaliser in the 90th minute.

But it was the Premiership team who held firm in the penalties as Sylvain Wiltord scored his second spot-kick after Chris Swailes had seen his effort saved.

Leeds defender Roque Junior scored a brace either side of goals from David Bellion and Diego Forlan, but it was Cameroon international Djemba-Djemba who had the final say with a winner just three minutes from the end of extra-time.

After Diego Forlan's goal in the 107th minute, Roque Junior allowed Leeds to level with a goal off his

knee, but Djemba-Djemba settled the tie by steering a lob into goal from Quinton Fortune's corner.

Manchester City fielded a strong team away at Nationwide Two promotion seekers Queens Park Rangers and cruised through to the next round 3-0.

Shaun Wright-Phillips gave the Premiership side the lead in the first half before doubling the advantage with quarter of an hour remaining. Jonathon Macken completed the rout minutes later.

Southampton comfortably won 3-0 at Bristol City, with Wolverhampton Wanderers easing past Burnley at Molineux 2-0.

Bolton were little threatened by visiting Gillingham winning 2-0 after Stelios Giannakopoulos gave the Trotters a half-time lead and Henrik Pedersen settled matters

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PHOTO: REUTERS
Manchester United's David Bellion celebrates his goal against Leeds United in the English League Cup on Tuesday.

Eto'o Mallorca's only until June

Football

AFP, Palma de Mallorca

Real Mallorca coach Luis Aragones said on Tuesday that his Cameroon international striker Samuel Eto'o has agreed to stay at the struggling Balearic island club, at least until the end of the season.

The volatile Eto'o exploded in a press conference on Monday, declaring he was on the point of walking out on Mallorca, who are second from bottom of the Spanish first division.

"My time at Mallorca has come to an end. It's time to go when you don't have confidence in things,"



SAMUEL ETO'O
fumed Eto'o in the wake of
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Owen won't leave L'pool

AFP, Liverpool

Liverpool boss Gerald Houllier on Tuesday dismissed reports linking star striker Michael Owen with a move away from Anfield at the end of the season.

"I have had a chat with Michael and that is not the case," Houllier told the club's website.

"Michael Owen and Steven Gerrard are important assets to this football club and both of them want to sign new deals, which is good news."

"They are also both still young and their best years are still ahead of them."

Media reports at the weekend had suggested that Owen was ready for a new challenge elsewhere in the summer.

German League Cup Hertha scrape thru'

AFP, Berlin

Hertha Berlin coach Huub Stevens endured a painstaking 120 minutes and penalty kicks as his side triumphed 4-3 over Hansa Rostock on spot-kicks in the second round of the German Cup and saved his job at the Olympic Stadium.

Reigning champions Bayern Munich also came within centimetres of a shock exit to FC Nuremberg and needed captain Oliver Kahn in top form to win 7-6 on penalties at the Olympic Stadium.

Dutchman Stevens knew only victory against Hansa would suffice after being issued an ultimatum of two wins from as many matches but nothing could have prepared him for a rollercoaster ride with many highs and lows.

Luizao put Hertha in front on 19 minutes before Markus Lantz drew Rostock level with 63 minutes gone.

Lantz then added his second deep into extra-time and Hertha looked set to crash out before Angolan Nando Rafael levelled with virtually the last kick of the match.

Hertha goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly then took over the role of hero saving Gernot Plassnegger's spot-kick to move Hertha into the last sixteen of the Cup and more importantly keep Stevens at the helm.

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Lens dump Lyon

REUTERS, Paris

Racing Lens ousted French champions Olympique Lyon from the League Cup on penalties in the first round on Tuesday, putting an end to a run of defeats against their 'bete noir'.

Lyon had beaten Lens on the last day of the season to clinch the league title in 2002 and humbled the northern team 4-0 in a Ligue 1 game this term.

They came very close to making it three in a row when in-form striker Peguy Luyindula broke the deadlock 10 minutes into extra time.

But Polish defender Jacek Bak levelled for Lens seven minutes later, forcing the exciting tie into a penalty shootout.

Luyindula went from joy to despair as he missed his spot kick and Lens won 4-3.

Nantes fought back from a goal down against Ligue 2 side Nancy to take the game into extra time and then scored twice to secure a 3-1 win.

The only upset ahead of Wednesday's six remaining first round matches came in Montpellier where the Ligue 1 team lost 1-0 to second division Clermont Foot.

Marseille host Monaco in the highlight match on Wednesday.

Thai PM wants to buy Fulham

Football

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has said he is interested in buying football club Fulham after watching the Premier League side beat English champions Manchester United at the weekend.

Thaksin told reporters on Wednesday he had talked to Fulham chairman Mohamed Al Fayed, who also owns luxury west London department store Harrods, during his holiday in Britain when he



PHOTO: AFP
Real Madrid's Portuguese superstar Luis Figo (R) goes for the ball with Real Zaragoza's Paraguayan Delio Toledo during their Spanish first division match on October 28.

Primera Liga

No Real goals

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz may be regretting his decision not to risk David Beckham after the reigning Spanish champions could only scramble to a lacklustre 0-0 draw at lowly Real Zaragoza on Tuesday.

The result meant that Real blew their chance to go to the top of the Spanish first division and stay in second with 20 points.

League leaders Deportivo La Coruna have 21 points while third-placed Valencia have 19. Both teams play on Wednesday.

Beckham trained normally on Monday after suffering a strained hamstringing against Partizan Belgrade in the Champions League last Wednesday, missing

Saturday's 3-1 win over Racing Santander, but Queiroz decided to rest the England captain and his absence showed.

Real's best chance came midway through the second half when a Robert Carlos shot ricocheted off the post but his fellow Brazilian Ronaldo could only send the ball

TOP SIX										
Spanish league table after Tuesday's match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):										
Deportivo	8	7	0	1	19	6	21			
Real Madrid	9	6	2	1	20	9	20			
Valencia	8	6	1	1	14	3	19			
Osasuna	8	4	2	2	10	7	14			
Real Betis	8	3	4	1	12	9	13			
Real Sociedad	8	3	2	3	9	7	12			

wide.

Raul Gonzalez, who was Real's hero four days ago when his two goals in the last 12 minutes clinched the victory over Racing, had a night to forget on the ground where he made his first division debut almost nine years ago to the day.

The Spanish international striker missed numerous opportunities, including several early in the first half which could have changed the direction of the game.

Zaragoza had chances themselves to score a surprise win with their roaming Argentine midfielder Luciano Galletti going close twice in the first half, including hitting the post 10 minutes before the break.

The man of the match was arguably Zaragoza's Argentine defender Gabriel Milito, who gained revenge over the club that showed him the

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Mbeki to rally Morocco's bid

Football

AFP, Pretoria

South African President Thabo Mbeki will raise the issue of France's overt support for Morocco's 2010 World Cup bid during a state visit to France next month, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz

Pahad told reporters in the capital that Mbeki would raise the issue following remarks by French President Jacques Chirac that his country would support the Moroccan bid.

"I'm not saying this will be part of the agenda of the visit, but generally we would have to talk to the French like we are talking to every country that has a vote in the World Cup,"

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PHOTO: AFP
Hanover Mayor Herbert Schmalstieg (C) poses with his city's logo for the FIFA 2006 World Cup during a press presentation in front of the town hall on October