

The Dutch face injury-hit CIS today



GOTHENBURG, Sweden, June 14: The Dutch defending champions will seal a place in the European Championship semifinals if they beat the injury-hit Commonwealth of Independent States on Monday, reports Reuters.

The Dutch lead Group Two after becoming the only team

LATEST: England and France drew their Group One match in Malmö last night goalless.

In the competition to win their opening game. They scored an unconvincing 1-0 win over outsiders Scotland on Friday.

The CIS, playing their first and last major tournament in place of the former Soviet Union, proved political upheaval has not harmed the

quality of their soccer when they came within seconds of beating world champions Germany on Friday.

But the effort put into the 1-1 draw against Germany has taken its toll on the CIS who have injury worries over a number of key players.

Coach Anatoly Byshovets said experienced defender Oleg Kuznetsov, midfielder Igor Shalimov and strikers Igor Dobrovolsky and Vladimir Lyuty had all picked up knocks which could rule them out of the game with the Dutch.

"The chances for all four are very slim. It is all now in the hands of the doctor," Byshovets said.

He said Shalimov and Lyuty had both aggravated matters by playing on when injured.

Veteran midfielder Sergei Aleinikov and, striker Sergei

Yuran are also battling to shake off injuries which ruled them out of the German game.

The fitness problems have made it even harder for Byshovets to stitch together a team out of a squad drawn from clubs in several different countries across Europe.

The Dutch appear in much better shape with their main injury worry centered on tough midfielder Jan Wouters. He came off against Scotland after taking a kick on an ankle injury.

Ajax Amsterdam's Wim Jonk is his most likely replacement.

The tie is sure to evoke happy memories for the Dutch as eight of their probable team played in the side which beat the Soviet Union 2-0 in Munich four years ago to clinch the European title.

The talented young CIS

squad contains only three survivors from that era — Kuznetsov, Aleinikov and Alexei Mikhailichenko. The rugged Kuznetsov missed the Munich final through suspension but the other two played.

Dutch coach Rinus Michels hopes his highly gifted team will grow in confidence and given the tournament the injection of class it sorely needs.

They began brightly against the Scots but lost their way after failing to convert a number of first half chances. Young striker Dennis Bergkamp finally got to them out of trouble with the winner just 13 minutes from the end.

"We needed a win in the first game for the spirit of the team," Michels said.

"I hope we can now raise our game back to the level we showed in that first half against the Scots."

Poor response to pygmies' cause

YAOUNDE, June 14: A soccer tournament in aid of Cameroon's threatened pygmy population was saved from being a box-office flop by local musicians, reports Reuters.

Nearly 10,000 fans turned up at Yaounde's sports stadium for a concert on Saturday night to close the controversial tournament organised by Cameroonian soccer star Roger Milla.

Only a few dozen spectators had paid to watch the matches between pygmies which were intended to raise money for health and education facilities in their home region.

The pygmies, who reach about 1.5 metres (five feet) in height, have told reporters they have barely eaten during their stay in the capital and spent most of their time locked in the stadium basement. But many were clearly thrilled by their first experience of the big city.

About 50 people watched the tournament final won by the Buffalos of Lomie. The cup was handed to the winning captain by a midjet.

Although food was a problem for the 126 pygmies brought to Yaounde they had an ample supply of cigarettes from the tobacco firm which sponsored the tournament. They puffed through 16 200-cigarette cartons a day, one of the organisers disclosed.

"They smoked so much because they are used to smoking Indian hemp at home in the forest," he said.

Alcohol and tobacco abuse are among the greatest threats to the survival of Cameroon's pygmies, whose population has already been reduced to no more than 30,000 by deforestation.

Tough task for Portland cagers

CHICAGO, June 14: The Portland Trail Blazers have spent most of the NBA Finals trailing the Chicago Bulls. So the wall they must scale to win the NBA title and deny the Bulls a repeat championship should make them feel right at home, reports AP.

To overcome its 3-2 deficit, Portland would have to win the sixth and seventh games at Chicago Stadium on Sunday and Wednesday nights. Five teams have rallied from a 3-2 deficit to win the Finals, but none of them have done it by winning twice on the road.

The Blazers also face a Bulls team that appears incapable of playing poorly two games in a row. Eleven times in the last three seasons, Chicago lost a playoff game, only to win the next game.

The Blazers won Game 4 despite falling behind 10-0, then lost the fifth game 119-106 Friday night after another 10-0 run by the Bulls in the opening minutes.

"We're coming out of the dressing room slow," the Blazers' Danny Ainge said.

"It's tough to keep running up the mountain," Portland guard Terry Porter added.

English hooligans in Malmö go on a pre-planned rampage



MALMO, Sweden, June 14: English soccer supporters at the European Championship rampaged through central Malmö early on Sunday in what police called a pre-planned riot masterminded by a hard-core of hooligans, reports Reuters.

Swedish police said 25 people were detained during and after the two hours of unrest. Up to 200 fans used bicycles, benches and trash cans to smash windows and wreck cars.

Of these, 22 were English. Thirteen of them were remanded in custody, two deported and seven released without charge, a police spokesman said.

A further 20 people were injured, two of them policemen and the remainder English and Swedes, in battles which pitched an English mob wielding makeshift clubs against police and local youths, including Lebanese asylum seekers.

"It was pre-planned. We knew when, where and what the signal would be," Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm George, who heads a British police liaison team, told a news conference.

The riot was the first of the eight-nation tournament and the worst in terms of damage to involve English fans abroad since the European Championship in Germany in 1988.

British Sports Minister David Mellor, in Malmö for Sunday's Group One game between England and France, called the incident deplorable when he visited Malmö's Stortorget main square, seat of the riot, to survey the damage.

But he said it would "not remotely" affect the decision

by the European Football Union (UEFA) earlier this year to award England the next European Championship finals in 1996.

"Nothing could be worse than people starting speculation about the future of the European Championship," Mellor told reporters.

Swedish organisers regretted the violence which they said had been caused by a minority. They said they would continue to be friendly towards English fans while they behaved.

The riot erupted on the stroke of midnight in the Stortorget Square where two youths had climbed on to the canvas roof of a big, circus-style beer tent.

Malmö deputy police chief Gustaf Andersson identified the two youths as an Englishman and a Norwegian.

He said their descent from the roof and the sound of a whistle blowing were the signal for a hard core of 60-70 hooligans to start showering police with bottles and plastic chairs.

Andersson acknowledged that heavily outnumbered riot police and mounted officers lost control of the square but said they had the situation in hand within 10 minutes.

Reporters who witnessed the riot said it was up to one hour before police had enough men on hand to clear the square.

Police said there had also been minor disturbances overnight at a camp site for English fans outside Malmö. Up to 100 fans wrecked the camp office.

Andersson said more police would be put on the streets on Sunday and added that it was so far unclear whether the beer tent would reopen.

But he defended a contro-

versial Swedish softly-softly approach to keeping the tournament free of hooliganism through friendly, low-key policing, beer tents, bands and other entertainment.

"Until last night it was very, very calm," Andersson told a news conference. "There were no problems at all and that for us was a response to our attitude to the supporters. We treated them as human beings," he said.

English league clubs were banned from European competition for five years after 39 people, most of them Italians, were killed in a riot at the 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus in the Heysel Stadium in Brussels.

But liberal-minded Swedes had welcomed English fans with open arms despite the awesome reputation for violence of hooligans among them.

Local reaction to the riot was a mixture of anger and incomprehension. "Why? Why?" asked Gunn Hancell, the Malmö city councillor for recreation and sport. "So many people are asking the same question," she said.

About 2,500 English fans are staying in Sweden or in neighbouring Denmark for the soccer tournament.

Police in Copenhagen, a short ferry ride from Malmö, said 15 English fans were held overnight for being drunk and released when they sobered up.

The England team move on Monday to Stockholm where they play Sweden on Wednesday.

English and Swedish hooligans rioted in the Swedish capital the last time the two teams met there three years ago.

Shocked Swedes ask: 'Why?'



MALMO, June 14: Malmö city councillor Gunn Hancell has promised English fans "a big party and a jolly good time."

On Sunday, after English hooligans at the European soccer championship rioted on her town's main square, she was almost too shocked to speak, reports Reuters.

"Why? Why?" she stammered. "So many people are asking the same question."

Hancell, in charge of sport and recreation in Sweden's third largest city, was instrumental in organising the beer tent charm offensive, saying the aim was to meet England's notorious fans with kindness rather than automatically labelling them as troublemakers.

"We have a feeling in our hearts that this is something that is going to be very exciting for all of us," she said on Tuesday.

The excitement was not quite as she envisaged; police detained 25 fans after some 200 rioted on the square.



Frenchman Akim Tafer (L) duels with Italian challenger Fernando Aiello to retain his European Boxing Union cruiserweight title after Aiello gave up in the seventh round late Friday.

— AFP photo

Bubka soars to another record



PARIS, June 14: No one soars higher or breaks more world records than Sergei Bubka.

The Ukrainian pole vaulter set a record for world records Saturday by leaping to his 30th world mark, topping the 29 held by Finnish distance-running great Paavo Nurmi, reports AP.

16 indoor marks.

The 28-year-old from Donyetsk, Ukraine, has dominated his event for 10 years, similar to Nurmi's reign over distance.

Nurmi ruled distance running as no one ever did. He competed in the 1920, 1924 and 1928 Olympics, accumulating nine gold medals, the most in track and field history, with six individual and three

mile eight years. In the 1924 Olympics, he set world records for the 1,500 and 5,000 meters in the space of one hour.

Ironically, Bubka snatched the record for holding the most records from Nurmi on the 95th anniversary of the Finn's birth in Turku, Finland.

Starting Jan 15, 1984, when he broke his first indoor mark at 5.81 meters (19 feet, 3/4 inch), Bubka has broken at least one world record a year.

His best pace came in 1991, when he broke the record four times indoors and four outdoors and became the only vaulter to clear 20 feet (6.10 meters), doing it six times.

Bubka set the old outdoor mark of 6.10 meters (20 feet) last year in Malmö, Sweden. His best indoors is 6.13 meters (20 feet, 1-1/2 inches) set in February in Berlin.

The closest anyone has come to him is Russian rival Rodion Gataullin, who reached 6.02 meters (19 feet, 9 inches) three years ago but hasn't equaled it since.

Bubka still thinks the upper limits are higher — a lot higher — than his present mark.

"As the technology of making poles improves and as new materials come available, I can see vaulters jumping 6.30 to 6.40," Bubka said last year.

That lands between 20 feet, 8 inches, and 21 feet.

Bubka was named the Athlete-of-the-Year for the second time by Track and Field News last year. Since winning the 1983 World Championship as a 19-year-old, Bubka has been named top vaulter seven times. He won the 1988 Olympic gold medal and the 1987 and 1991 world titles.

If the Soviet Union had not boycotted the 1984 Olympics, chances are Bubka would have won. He broke the world record just before and after the Los Angeles Games.

Although plagued by a heel injury, he showed at the Meeting de Dijon that he is still better than anyone. He took three jumps on the first attempts and made all three clearances by good margins.

"My foot still hurts, and that

is why I try to be the most precise and jump the fewest jumps possible," he said.

At last year's world championships, with his heel hurting, he had to take an all-or-nothing chance at 5.95 meters (19 feet, 6 1/4 inches). He made it.

"When the event comes down to every single jump, it is you versus the bar," Bubka told Track and Field News.

"The vault isn't like many professions — there is nobody else that you can rely on when there is a challenge. You either make it by your own efforts, or you don't."



PAAVO NURMI... eclipsed

The outdoor meet was his third of the season. Previously, Bubka went 6.00 meters (19 feet, 8-1/4 inches) in St Denis on June 4 and 5.85 meters (19 feet, 2-1/2 inches) Tuesday in Rome.

He says he is scheduled to jump three more times before the Olympics: Hengelo, Netherlands, on June 28; Lausanne, Switzerland, on July 8; and Stockholm on July 13.



SERGEI BUBKA... yet another world record

Bubka flew to an outdoor mark of 6.11 meters (20 feet, 1/2 inch) in the pole vault at an international track meet in Dijon. It was his 14th world outdoor record; he also holds

team wins. Nurmi set world records at distances from 2,000 to 20,000 meters. His record for six miles lasted 18 years, for 10 miles 17 years, and the

Olympic flame reaches Spain



EMPURIES, Spain, June 14: The Olympic flame arrived at dusk Saturday after a six-day crossing of the Mediterranean Sea to begin a tour of Spain that ends at the Summer Games in Barcelona, reports AP.

A rowboat brought the flame onto the beach at this ancient port 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of Barcelona, serenaded by a chorus and the haunting sound of tenors — oboe-like instruments from this Catalan region of north-eastern Spain.

The flame then was used to light a cauldron built on a Greco-Roman wall more than 2,000 years old, and the cauldron ignited the first official torch of the 43-day relay.

The first torch was carried by Miquel Noguer, a yachting gold medalist at the 1980 Moscow Olympics and the only person of Catalan origin to win an Olympic event, and by former Spanish cross country champion Carmen Valero.

A protestor jumped on the wall during the ceremony and

draped a banner saying "Freedom for Catalunya" on the statue holding the cauldron. It is the first of many such banners expected during the Olympics — a vocal minority of Catalans want independence from Spain.

Spanish television carefully avoided showing the banner, focusing instead only on the flame itself.

More than 25,000 people lined the beach to welcome the flame.

The flame will cover 5,960 kilometers (3,690 miles) on its trip around Spain. Among the 9,484 torch runners and bicyclists will be 72-year-old Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch.

The flame, ignited by the sun's rays a week ago in Olympia, Greece, will travel by plane, ship and hydrofoil — as well as on bicycle and foot — during its sojourn.

The cost of the relay, which ends at the July 25 opening ceremonies in Barcelona, is \$10 million — half of which is being underwritten by corporations.

The flame will be escorted

at all times by 120 police and civil guardsmen arranged in three concentric security rings. An auxiliary flame will be on hand in case the one being carried goes out.

The lighting of the cauldron was celebrated with a series of speeches by actors reading from scripts, as well as Catalan music and dance.

A speech by Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi was read by her son, Alexander Aris, because Suu Kyi is under house arrest in Rangoon, Burma.

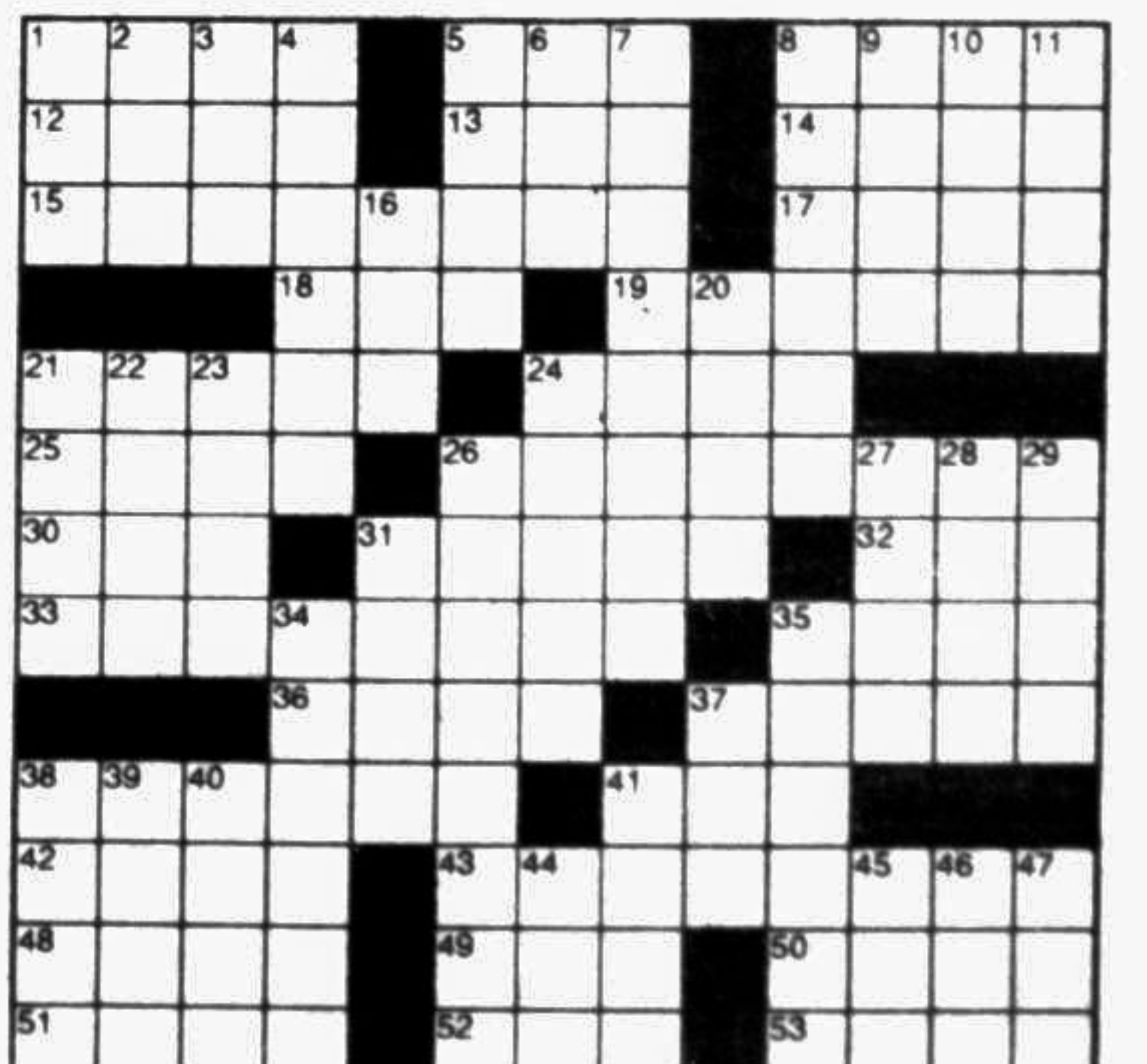
KL team in city

Sports Reporter
A six-member Malaysian delegation led by the Minister of Youth and Sports Senator Haji Annuar Bin Haji Musa arrived in the city for a three-day visit yesterday.

It is learnt that the Malaysian Sports Minister is in the capital to mobilise support for Kuala Lumpur's bid to host the 1998 Commonwealth Games, for which Adelaide, the South Australian city, is also a strong bidder.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS										DOWN																																	
1 Mary's pet	5 — Man (video game)	8 Gets too ripe	12 Oil-yielding tree	13 Brazilian macaw	14 Anagram of vile	15 Seattle team	17 1980 movie starring Irene Cara	18 Beard on rye	19 Sum-moned a taxi	21 Orchard	24 Window or door part	25 Learning	26 Pittsburgh team	30 Had a bite	31 Steeple	32 Comrade	33 Miami team	35 Novice	36 Jazz																								
37 Aspect	38 Beach shelter	41 Russian village	42 Egyptian sacred bull	43 San Diego team	48 Location	49 Pilot's record	50 Part of Q.E.D.	51 Russian news agency	52 Slender	53 Deuce topper	1 — Mis-erables	2 Vigoda or Burrows	3 Extinct bird	4 Mind one's manners	5 Chess piece	6 Noah's craft	7 Super-market workers	8 Replace-ment unit	9 White House office	10 — and a half	11 Winter	16 Solemn wonder	20 Away from the weather	21 Happy	22 Newspaper sect.	23 Soviet city	24 Small sandpiper	26 Breathing hole	27 Heroic in scale	28 Unusual	29 Vending machine feature	31 Leg bone	34 Angles	35 Objective	37 Coniferous tree	38 Ski-trip me-mento?	39 South Seas port	40 Morsels	41 Biblical trio	44 School dance	45 Blunder	46 Actress Charlotte	47 Pig's digs



CRYPTOQUIP

DBQ EAFILEPLQ AWWPGQ
AW DBQ MKQFPGMZ KR-
JPGPMZJ' RZPAZ PJ EQII
JDMWWQL

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals F

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Boxing result

BANGKOK, June 14: Thailand's Falan Lookmin-gkwan retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) minimum weight title on Sunday when the referee stopped the 12-round fight before the start of the eighth round after challenger said Iskandar of Indonesia sustained a bad cut over his left eye.

New WBA champ

PORTLAND, Maine, June 14: American Joey Gamache won the vacant World Boxing Association lightweight title by beating Chul-Sung Chun of South Korea when the referee stopped the fight after the eighth round, reports Reuters.