

Hosts sail into qtr-finals

SYDNEY, Mar 8: Strikers Anthony Milicic and Paul Agostino scored with second-half headers, lifting Australia to a 3-1 victory over Russia on Monday night and a place in the quarterfinals of soccer's World Youth Championship, reports AP.

Australia scored their second straight victory of the under-20 tournament.

Russia dropped to 1-1, along with Colombia, while Cameroon has a 0-2 record and cannot advance from Group A.

Milicic scored in the 68th minute to break a 1-1 deadlock and Agostino scored the insurance goal with nine minutes remaining.

Agostino set up Milicic's goal with a clever flicked-on header, while Milicic returned the favour by creating the third goal with a clever cross.

The Australians finished the game strongly after being under pressure for long periods. The host nation was cheered on by a crowd of almost 19,000 at the Sydney Football Stadium.

The Australians took the lead in the 13th minute.

A cross from Ante Moric was headed on to the crossbar by Sean Cranney, who raced to ram the rebound home but was beaten to the ball by defender Murad Magomedov, who directed it into his own net.

Cranney was injured by Magomedov's tackle and had to leave the field.

The Russians equalised five minutes later when powerful

striker Serget Chudin collected an incisive pass from Alexander Karataiev and fired it home.

The Australians had the best of the rest of the half, with striker Milicic particularly menacing. Milicic later was named Man of the Match.

The Russians were guilty of several wild tackles but Costa Rican referee Rodrigo Badilla Sequira let many of them go unpunished.

The Russians started the second half determinedly and Australian goalkeeper Vince Matassa was quickly off his line to deny the onrushing Alexei Zernov. Matassa then had to dive acrobatically to keep out a drive from Igor Zazulin.

Chudin also shot narrowly wide, but just as the Russians appeared to be getting on top, Milicic struck.

The Russians appeared to tire over the final 20 minutes as the Australians swept forward time and again.

COLOMBIA WIN

Meanwhile in Canberra, captain Henry Zambrano scored his second goal of the game in the 84th minute Monday night, lifting Colombia to a 3-2 victory over Cameroon.

Zambrano beat the Cameroon offside trap to collect a pass, ran through and slotted the ball home.

The victory kept alive Colombia's hopes of qualifying for the quarterfinals of the 16-nation tournament. Colombia improved their record in Group A to 1-1, while Cameroon suffered their second loss. The group also includes Aus-

tralia and Russia.

The quick and persistent Colombians twice had to fight back from a goal down.

Cameroon took the lead in the 14th minute when forward Marc Foe stabbed the ball past goalkeeper Daniel Velez from close range.

The African team dominated for long periods, creating a succession of chances, but they were unable to increase their lead. Pius Ndieff missed the best chance when his shot went across the face of the goal in the 27th minute.

Three goals were scored in a frantic final four minutes of the first half.

Oscar Restrepo panicked the Cameroon defence when he shot narrowly wide in the 41st minute, and his forward partner Zambrano took advantage of the confusion.

Within a minute, Zambrano scored his second goal of the tournament when he collected a through pass and chipped the ball home. The striker also scored in Colombia's opening loss to Australia.

Ndieff put Cameroon back in front with in 60 seconds with a crisp header, but the Colombians fought back again.

This time it was Restrepo who broke away on the right and saw his shot deflect off a defender's foot past Velez.

The Colombians dominated the second half, but it was not until Zambrano's late strike that they finally broke through.

The top two teams in each of four groups will advance to the quarterfinals. The under-20 tournament continues through March 20.

FIFA fines Greece

SYDNEY, Mar 8: The International Football Federation (FIFA) has fined Greece 20,000 Swiss francs (12,800 US dollars) for crowd trouble during a World Cup soccer qualifier last month, a spokesman said today, reports Reuter.

A flare fired from the crowd landed on the pitch, holding up play for several minutes in the European Group Five home tie against Luxembourg on February 17. Rockets and fireworks were also let off during the game which Greece won 2-0.

FIFA's disciplinary committee was meeting in Sydney, currently hosting the World Youth Championship.

World Youth soccer Bookmakers change the odds

SYDNEY, Mar 8: Australian bookmakers have revised their odds for the world youth football championships following the 6-0 drubbing of Turkey by the United States, reports AFP.

The US team, who arrived as 50-1 outsiders, go on Tuesday night's Group C match against England at 8-1 for the tournament, according to Victoria's government-backed sports bookmaker tabaret.

Sports Betting Australia in Darwin sliced the US odds to 14-1.

Turkey's odds floated from 12-1 to 20-1 in Victoria and stretched to 25-1 in Darwin.

Brazil, who took one point from their first round clash with Saudi Arabia, remained on the top line of betting at a solid 3-1 with tabaret from 9-2.

The unexpected 1-1 draw with the Saudis prompted Sports Betting's Bryan Clark to push the South Americans out to 4-1.

The other main firm in the market has been England, who have had good backing and are now at 7-1, three points less than their opening quote with tabaret.

Mexico, an impressive 3-0 winners over Norway in the first round Group D match, have tightened to 5-1 in Darwin.

After a first round loss defending champions Portugal, in need of a win over Uruguay in Brisbane on Tuesday, eased to 14-1 in Melbourne and Darwin.

Australia, who play Russia late Monday, received solid support after Friday's 2-1 win over Colombia and firmed 6-1.

Tabaret Betting: 3-1 Brazil, 6-1 Australia, 7-1 England, Mexico, 8-1 US, 10-1 Ghana, 12-1 Uruguay, Germany, 14-1 Portugal, Russia, 16-1 South Korea, Saudi Arabia, 20-1 or better others.

Sports Bet Australia: 4-1 Brazil, 5-1 Mexico, 6-1 Australia, Ghana, 8-1 England, Germany, 10-1 Uruguay, 12-1 Russia, 14-1 US, Portugal, 25-1 Saudi Arabia, Turkey, 33-1 South Korea, 50-1 Colombia, Cameroon, Norway.

All about World Cup '94 tickets

NEW YORK, Mar 8: Licensed tour operators will get the first opportunity to sell tickets to the 1994 World Cup internationally, but the average overseas fan still won't be able to purchase them until later this year, reports AP.

Organisers of the quadrennial soccer championship on Thursday unveiled their creation of World Cup Travel Services, a division of World Cup USA 1994. WCTS will licence tour operators and give fans for the first time a chance to purchase a strip of tickets that will allow them to follow a specific team.

The "Team Series" plan is similar to the "Stadium Series" announced for American fans last month.

Pioneer soccer Sports Reporter

Jatrabari Krija Chakra outplayed Eastern Sporting Club by four goals to nil in the Janata Bank Pioneer football league at the Banani ground.

Biplal netted twice and Salahuddin and Shakil once each for Jatrabari Krija Chakra.

Following are the brief results of the other matches of the day:

East zone: Shatadal Samajik and Sanskritik Sangha beat Mukimbazar Krija Chakra 1-0. Rayshahebazar Tarun Sangha beat Swarup Krija Chakra, also by a solitary goal; and Monsur Sporting Club drew goalless with Abakash Tarun Sangha.

West zone: Badshah Smriti Sangsad defeated Lalbagh Tarun Sangha 2-0 and Azimpur Heroes Club shared points with Swadesh Samaj Kallyan Sangha in a goalless draw.

South zone: Bikrampur XI edged past Nawabganj Krija Sangha by two goals to one and Mirpur Nabarun XI beat Surja Shikha Sangsad 1-0.

Kendrio Kishore Kafela Sangsad drew goalless with Kamalapur Samajik and Krija Sangha in a match of the Central zone at the Bashabo ground.



World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis of Britain (L) poses with his challenger Tony Tucker (R) at the announcement of their May 8 Las Vegas fight date. With them at the centre are Lewis' manager Frank Maloney (front) and promoter Don King. — AFP photo

Ben to call it quits instead

TORONTO, Mar 8: Maintaining his innocence to the end, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson on Sunday

said he would not appeal a lifetime ban from competition for a failing a second drug test and instead would retire, reports AP.

His lawyers presented the basics of what they thought was a winnable — though costly and lengthy — case to reporters at a news conference Sunday, then read a statement signed by the absent 31-year-old Johnson.

"I wish today to announce my retirement from competitive running," the statement said.

"I had hoped not to end my career this way. Although I have been advised by my counsel and other advisors that I have a strong case for an appeal, I have decided not to pursue that appeal having regard to my age, the cost of such an appeal and my obligations to my family.

"I have had a long career in track. I experienced success and failure. I said after the Seoul Olympics that I would come back and compete clean. I know that I did."

Johnson was banned for life Friday by the International Amateur Athletics Federation after its doping commission ruled that a sample of Johnson's urine taken at a Jan 17 meet in Montreal had unacceptably high levels of testosterone, an indication of steroid use.

A lifetime ban is the IAAF's only punishment for a two-time offender. Johnson was stripped of his Olympic gold medal and world record after winning the 100 metres at the 1988 Seoul Games after testing positive for steroids.

His lawyers Terrence O'Sullivan and David Kent, said an appeal to the IAAF or Athletics Canada would cost Johnson between \$100,000 and \$150,000 and would not be settled until the fall, at the earliest.

"Were he a younger man

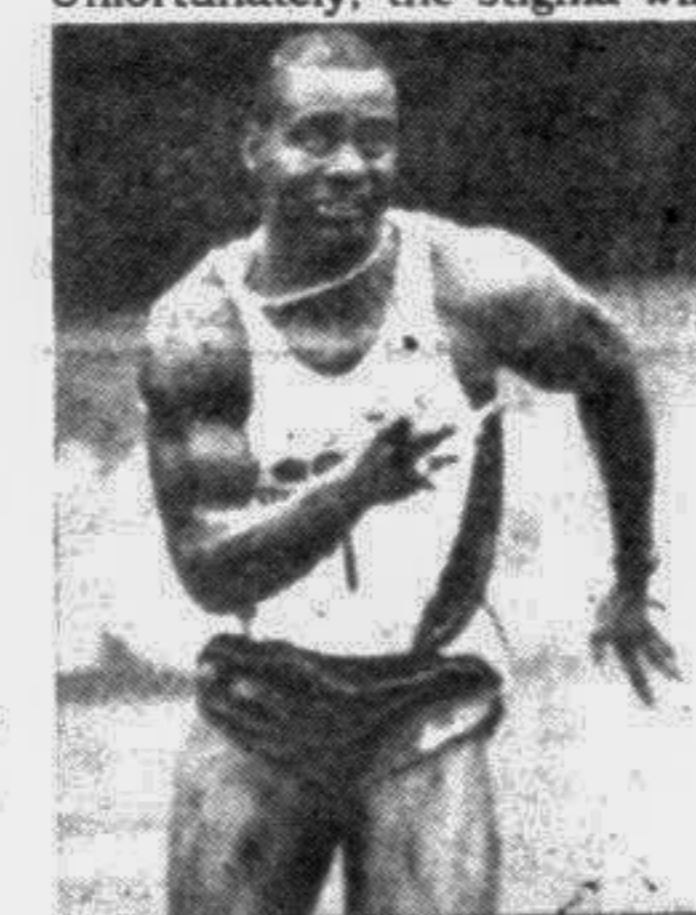
with the prospects of a longer career ahead of him and the ability to earn back the considerable sum that his appeal process would cost him, his decision would have been to appeal," O'Sullivan said.

"Mr Johnson believes that he has a responsibility to use his remaining resources in a manner which will best benefit his family."

Cecil Smith, director of the Ontario Track and Field Association, said he wasn't surprised the twice-disgraced sprinter is calling it quits.

"I feel sorry for Johnson," said Smith. "But in the whole ball of wax, he thought about his long-time security."

"You have to look at your bankbook in the end. Unfortunately, the stigma will



BEN JOHNSON

stay with him for the rest of his life, but at least he can live the rest of his life."

Smith added that Canadian athletics is better off without Johnson.

"Most of the Canadian athletic community will breathe a sigh of relief because the athletes can now get back to normality," he said. "It's been five years since Seoul and Ben has always cast a large shadow."

"Now that shadow is gone," Johnson's lawyers were clearly upset with the IAAF, saying it had breached its protocol of confidentiality by identifying that it was Johnson's urine sample that was the reason for the meeting Friday in Paris.

The lawyers were also irked by IAAF statements that Johnson has no case for an appeal.

O'Sullivan said they had enough scientific evidence to discredit the urine test results.

Given that Johnson had passed every other test, O'Sullivan said the IAAF should have come to the conclusion that the one test he failed required more study rather than an indication of steroid use.

Johnson was tested three times in a week. A test Jan 15 in Hamilton was negative, Jan 17 in Montreal was positive, and Jan 22 in Toronto was negative.

The IAAF said Johnson's ratio of testosterone, a naturally-produced human hormone, to epitestosterone, another natural hormone, was 10.3-to-1, indicating steroid use. The normal ratio is 1-to-1, with the IAAF allowing some leeway with a ratio between 6-to-1 and 10-to-1.

O'Sullivan said it was preposterous to think that Johnson would take an illegal substance before the Montreal meet.

"Mr Johnson denies doing any such thing and indeed to do so on the day before a race at which he was certain to be tested would assure detection," said O'Sullivan.

"It is completely improbable that Mr Johnson would have taken any prohibited substance the day before a race in which he was certain to be tested."

Milan's 2000 bid doubtful

MILAN, Italy, Mar 8: The scandal-tainted city of Milan is set to withdraw its application to host the 2000 Summer Olympics, Italian newspapers reported on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The organising committee will announce its decision today or Tuesday, the reports said.

Milan's image has been too badly tarnished by a huge corruption scandal sweeping the country for the application to proceed, the reports added.

Rocha wins LA marathon

LOS ANGELES, Mar 8: Joseildo Rocha of Brazil paced himself Sunday in record heat to win the eighth running of the Los Angeles Marathon by more than half a minute over countryman Jose Santana, reports AP.

Rocha finished the 42 kilometers (26 miles, 385 yards) in two hours, 14 minutes 29 seconds, better than last year when he finished second.

Rocha, 28, was joined in the winner's circle by Lyubov Klochko, 33, of Ukraine, who won the women's division in 2:39:49.

Rocha said he was affected by the heat, suffering a headache and cramping in the closing miles (kilometres). He was so dehydrated after the race that it took more than an hour to give a urine sample for a mandatory drug test.

"Last year, I felt in control during the race," Rocha said through an interpreter. "I felt comfortable and my second place finish qualified me for the Olympics (in Barcelona)."

"This time, the heat affected me more than ever."

Times were slower than this year because of the heat, which was in the low to mid 20s Celsius (70s Fahrenheit) at the start and over 27 (81 Fahrenheit) at the finish. The hottest it has ever been at a Los Angeles marathon was 18 degrees (65 degrees Fahrenheit) the first year the race was run.

Klochko arrived in Los Angeles last Monday from her homeland, where she had been training in temperatures 21 degrees below zero (minus 5 Fahrenheit).

"I'm very happy that I managed to finish this race first in this hot, humid weather," Klochko said through an interpreter.

Santana, also 28 and also from Macao, Brazil, finished in 2:15:00, 40 seconds ahead of Mexican Gumercindo Olmedo.

In the women's division, Carole Rouillard of Canada rallied in the final yards but could not catch Klochko, finishing in 2:41:09. Russian Lutsia Belcea finished third in 2:44:26.

Manchester City reprimanded

LONDON, Mar 8: Manchester City was reprimanded Monday in connection with the latest incident of crowd trouble to tarnish English soccer, reports AP.

About 300 hooligans ran onto the field with three minutes to play in Sunday's FA Cup quarterfinal match against Tottenham, taunting visiting players and fighting with rival supporters.

Play was interrupted for 13 minutes as police on horseback moved in to restore order. Thirty-seven people were arrested.

The game eventually resumed, with Tottenham winning 4-2 to advance to the semifinals.

The Football Association, English soccer's governing body charged Manchester City with violating its rules on crowd behaviour.

The club, which has two weeks to respond, could face a heavy fine of other disciplinary measures, such as an order to play matches with no fans.

A year ago, Birmingham was fined 50,000 pounds (dls 75,000) and ordered to play two matches behind closed doors after a 38-minute interruption during a game against Stoke.

But Sunday's nationally-televised incidents were considered much more serious, bringing back memories of the 1989 Hillsborough Stadium disaster in which 96 fans were crushed to death.

"It could have been a major catastrophe," said police superintendent Roger Coupe, who was in charge of security at Sunday's match.

"It was my worst day in football," said Manchester City chairman Peter Swales.

The incident was featured on the front and back pages of British newspapers, with headlines such as "Shame," "Oh No, Not Again" and "The Yobs are Back."

There was renewed debate on whether to have high fences around soccer fields.

After the Hillsborough tragedy, in which fans were crushed against fences, the government ordered fences to be taken down or replaced with gates.

"It would break my heart to see fences go up again, but it seems that it has to be considered," Swales said.

Lewis always felt Ben would go back to drugs

LONDON, Mar 8: Carl Lewis believed Ben Johnson would have been unable to stay clear of drugs after the Canadian originally was exposed as a doping cheat at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, a British press report said Sunday, reports AP.

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CARL LEWIS

Quoted in the tabloid Mail on Sunday, the two-time Olympic 100 metre champion said he thought Johnson could even have been lining up a return to drug taking before last year's Olympics in Barcelona.

Lewis was quoted on the day Johnson announced in Toronto he would not be appealing the life-time ban imposed last week after he was caught drug-taking for a second time. Making the announcement, Johnson continued to deny taking any further involvement with drugs.

Johnson, who has turned in some of the best times in the world this season, was positive tested for steroid-related testosterone at a meet in Montreal, Jan 17.

Lewis said he saw it coming. "In the months leading up to the 1992 Olympics, I kept hearing that Ben Johnson wanted to arrange a series of match races," Lewis told the Mail on Sunday.

"The message was relayed by someone working with him: There's no way Ben's going to lose in the Games. He'll again be the world's fastest human and you will want the races. It

will be a big show, big money."

"That made me very suspicious," Lewis was quoted as saying.

He acknowledged Johnson deserved a second chance after the two-year suspension that followed the Seoul scandal.

"But he was usually running 100 metres in about 10.4 seconds. In Barcelona that would not even get him through the rounds and into the finals," Lewis said.

"So how did he plan on getting so much faster in so little time? Was he going to cheat again?"

Johnson never made the Olympic final and those match races never materialised, Lewis told the Mail on Sunday.

"There have been times since Ben's return when I was convinced he would stay clean. There also had been times I doubted he would be able to."

Lewis said Johnson was attracting headlines by being caught drug-taking again and many people would regard that as negative for the sport.

"I disagree," he said. "When an athlete — Ben or anyone else — is caught on drugs, I look at that as something that can be very positive for the sport. It shows that we are doing everything we can to get rid of the cheaters. Most of them are already gone."

Lewis said he did not accept the cheaters' excuse that most athletes were taking drugs anyway.

"One thing I do not want to hear anymore is Ben's worn-out propaganda that he took drugs only because all top track and field athletes were taken them," Lewis was quoted as saying.

"That was not true then, it is not true now."

IOC backs ban

LONDON, Mar 8: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Friday gave its support to the life ban on Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson for drug abuse issued by the world's main athletics body, reports Reuter.

The IOC took the 1988 decision to strip Johnson of his 100 metres gold medal and ban him for two years.



Action from yesterday's Janata Bank Pioneer soccer league tie between Lalbagh Tarun Sangha and Badshah Smriti Sangsad at the Outer Stadium. Badshah Smriti Sangsad won 2-0. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 — and on them mate
1 Mortar Away" 3 Lucy's man 24 Look lecherously
4 Paraphernalia 40 Drenched 4 Collects slowly 25 Troubles
8 Metric unit, 41 Stir up 5 Prompt, plus 26 One of Dick Tracy's foes
12 Tin Man's prop 48 Emphasized 6 Earn an Oscar, maybe 27 Kitchen flooring, for short
13 Shoestring 50 Sheltered 7 Takes umbrage 28 Computer picture
14 Declare 51 Ram's ma'am's 8 Demolished 29 "La Cage — Folles"
15 Diet no-nos 52 Witness section 9 — Got a Secret" 30 Texas senator Lloyd Julius
17 Drudge 53 Orchestra 10 Card game 31 Weeding tool
18 Fozzie Bear's pal 54 Silently assents 11 Hold the deed to 32 Pet
19 Ostrich's cousin 55 LBJ's successor 12 Larry's pal 33 Harris, e.g.
21 Whatever amount DOWN 1 "Mary — Little Lamb" 20 Approx- 34 Got along
22 Procrastinator's remark 2 The yoke's 23 Approx- 42 Erstwhile world power
23 Devoured Solution time: 28 mins.
30 I strain? GALS FUSS TIG
31 Wealthy ARTA ASIA HER
32 Kramden's carrier BEAUTY AND ENE
33 Cotton block SARTRE LA LAW
34 Lennon's lady EE TWYLA
35 Whammy ACTS PRO EMIT
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CRYPTOQUIP
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B F R C R H Y D J D A J B
O C Y B R H, W D T A R E W F R B
D Y S Y D R B W S Y X H J H.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HE TOILS ALL DAY AT THE AUTO-BODY REPAIR SHOP, BUT HE HARDLY MAKES A DENT IN HIS WORK.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals K
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.