

Sport

St Nicholas High win National King Fan basketball

Sports Reporter

St Nicholas High School clinched the National King Fan schools basketball title beating BAF Shaheen School, Tejgaon by 51 points to 38 in the final at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

The victors led the first half by a shaky 25-22 scoreline. Abdul Ali spearheaded the St Nicholas High attack plunking 18 points. Nirmal and Jewel played their role well enough contributing ten and nine points respectively.

Fahmid kept the losers in the game caging 16 points while Haibul and Ruhul scored ten and six points respectively. Earlier in the semifinals, St Nicholas High School beat Nabakumar Institution while BAF Shaheen School eliminated Kurmitola Shaheen School.

Siddique Qudus of the Tejgaon School was adjudged the best player of the tournament.

The champions received Taka 1,500 while the runners-up went home richer taka 1,000.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain witnessed the final as chief guest and later distributed prizes.

Fakirerpool half a point away

Sports Reporter

Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club are now within half a point from the Star First Division football league title as well as promotion to the Premier Division after beating Dhanmondi Club by a solitary goal in their penultimate league engagement at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Fakirerpool YC, who top the points table with a collection of 23 points from 17 matches, only need a draw in their last league encounter against Farashganj Sporting Club.

East End Club and Bangladesh Boys Club are also in contention for the two promotion berth with 21 points each from 17 matches.

Yesterday, Arfur Rahman Mamun made amends for a spoiled chance by scoring in the 55th minute when he made no mistake in guiding the ball home after teammate Amin power-packed drive bounced back into the game off the Dhanmondi custodian Ratan.

Mamun, earlier, could not latch onto a golden chance when he failed to toe the ball into the Dhanmondi goal with the goalie beaten hollow.

Dhanmondi Club remained stuck to their previous collection of 17 points from as many matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

BRTC SC vs Adamjee Sports Club (Hockey Stadium)
Eskaton Sabuj Sangha vs East End (*)

Kabaddi results

Sports Reporter

Jurain Janata Club moved into the quarter finals of the '93 Kabaddi league with a 23-20 win against Maniknagar Unnayan Samity at the kabaddi court yesterday.

They emerged as the Group C champions with full six points from three matches. The winners led the first half 14-13.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Boys got a walkover against Srijan Sangsad who failed to turn up.

Inter-service swimming

One more national and one inter-service records were bettered on the second day of the inter-service swimming championship at the Naval Headquarters Complex swimming pool at Banani yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Hav Samsul Islam, Hav Abdus Salam, Hav Yasir Ali and NK Asaduzzaman of Bangladesh Army set the new national record in 4x200m free-style relay. They took 8 min 40.25 secs against the previous record of 8 min 46.47 secs.

Milans Hossain of Bangladesh Navy improved inter-service record in 200m individual medley clocking 2 min 23.46 secs. The previous record in the event was 2 min 24.17 secs.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Navy, with 6 gold and 6 silver medals, were leading medals' table while Bangladesh Army followed them with 1 gold, 1 silver and 6 bronze medals.

Bangladesh Navy trounced Air Force by 12-0 in the opening match of the water polo championship. The winners led the first half 6-0.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohamminul Islam witnessed the events and later distributed the prizes.

Principal staff officers, officers and a large number of service personnel were also present.

Mohammedans manage Prince

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club, one of the two most consistent bidders of the league championship title, made a belated entry into the transfer market when they roped in Golam Nowsher Prince, the newly appointed skipper of the national team, along with a few other upcoming player on the third day of cricketers' inter-club transfers.

But last year's runners-up, lost attacking batsman Harun-ur-Rashid Liton to arch-rivals Abahani, who succeeded in luring away Mohammedans' long serving middle order batsman Minhazul Abedin Nannu on Sunday. Shahidul Alam Ratan, a dispensable stumper, also left Mohammedan for Gulshan last evening.

Checkmated in their bid to bag national wicketkeeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu and pacesman Saiful Islam, both of whom joined Abahani on Sunday, Mohammedans yesterday buttonholed promising wicketkeeper batsman Khaled Masud Pilot. More of a batsman with pleasing footwork and fine temperament than a wicketkeeper, Pilot caught the eye of cricket lovers with a couple of ripping knocks for Kalabagan last year.

Tow more players of Pilot's age group — Sajjad Ahmed Shipon, an opening batsman and Naimur Rahman Durjoy, an all rounder — left Udit to join Mohammedans yesterday.

League champions Abahani Krita Chakra, who by Sunday seemed to have stolen a march on their rivals, carried on their consolidation operation. Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, who made a return of the native sort of a comeback to Abahani last year after a rather prolonged association with GMCC and inspired his side to regain the title predictably, submitted his token for Abahani.

The fact that Lipu, a former national captain now in the twilight zone of his career, stayed with Abahani to lead the Dhanmondi side once again was considerably aided yesterday by another anecdote of success by the club officials.

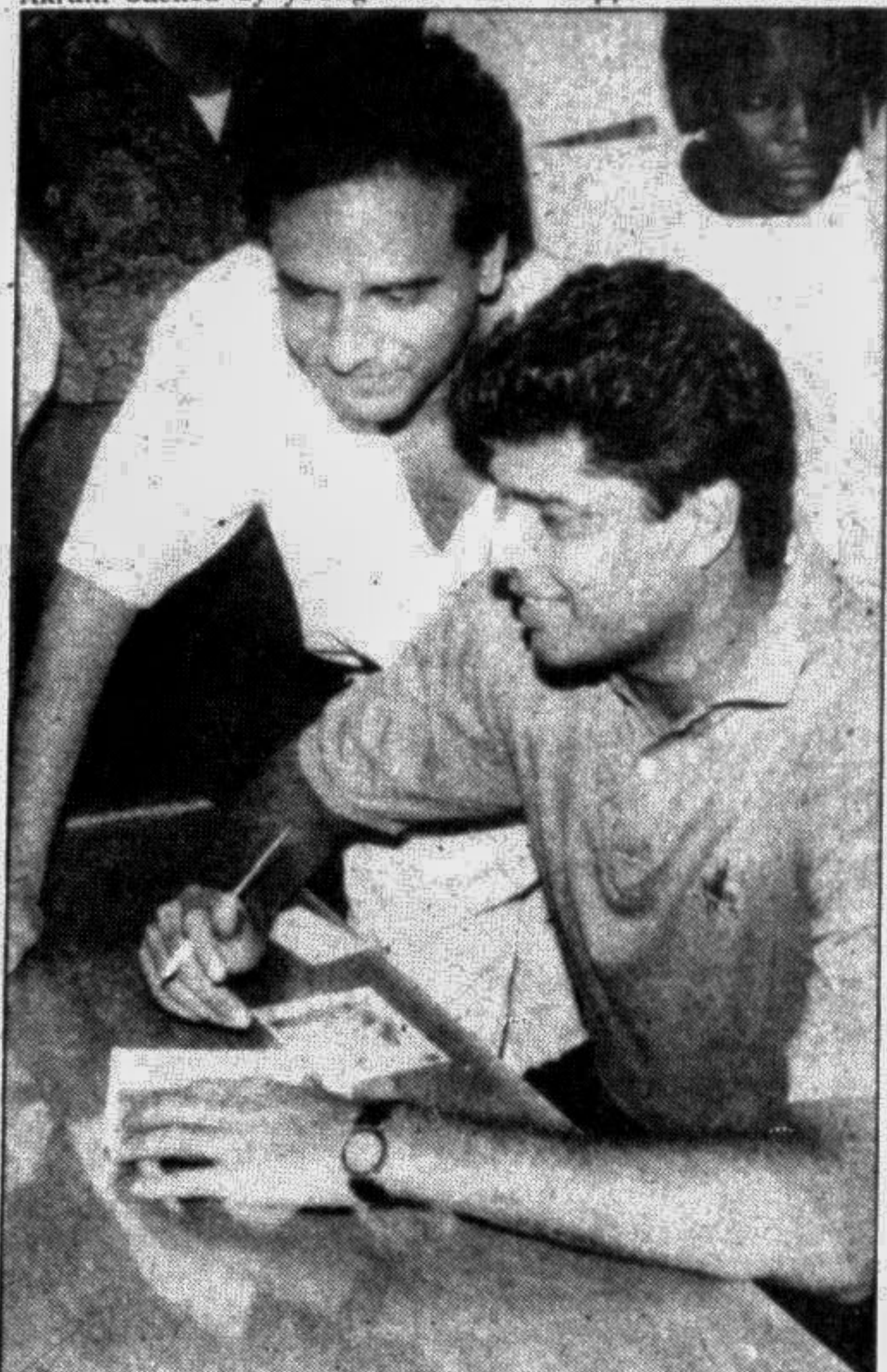
Faruq Ahmed, the former Abahani skipper who had to step down last year to pave the path for Lipu's return to the helm, shook off the doubts and last evening submitted his token in favour of Abahani.

A strange case, for Faruq, inspite of having all the technique and class at least at this level of cricket, has been failing to score as much as he would have liked to for the last couple

years. This year the one drop batsman reportedly gave serious thoughts over a change of tents. Circumstances appeared quite encouraging for such an option as Abahani packed the middle order batting by retaining and regaining all the big names in the circuit. What a glittering array of names — Liton Faruq, Lipu, Nannu, and Akram backed by youngsters

Aminul Islam Bulbul, the Mohammedan skipper for the forthcoming season. Three more players from Brothers Union — Athar Ali Khan, Zahid Razak Masum and Nurul Abedin Nobel — may opt for Mohammedans, who are almost certain to lose veteran Rafiqul Alam and Abu Hamid Piyal.

Athar, Masum and Nobel were supposed to sit with



Golam Nowsher Prince is all smiles as he signs for Mohammedan Sporting Club. The left arm pacesman celebrated his appointment as the new captain of the national team by returning to his old team. Prince played for Victoria last year.

like Surjan and Shovon.

Abahani's pace attack, immensely bolstered by Saiful's arrival, was a bit weakened by the departure of left arm pacesman Anisur Rahman, who signed for GMCC yesterday.

So far at the losing end, Mohammedans are likely to do some useful signings today, the fourth day of cricketers' transfer schedule. Habibul Bashir Summan, the stylish young batsman, will in all probability accept the offer extended by

Brothers officials last night over arrear payment. A fruitful breakthrough there might have gummed up the works of Mohammedan recruiters.

Forty-two players — highest for a single day — so far took tokens yesterday but Anisuddin Bhuiyan of GMCC attracted special notice as the only player who could not make up his mind and held his token close to his chest. Perhaps a good night's sleep will help him to make a decision today.

'Super Eagles' near zenith

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 27: Nigeria's runaway victory in their World Cup qualifier over Ivory Coast at the weekend moved them to within one point of a first, and long overdue, appearance in the World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

The 4-1 win over the African champions in Lagos on Saturday means Nigeria, a perennial powerhouse in African football, now need just a draw in the final match of the African zone second round Group A in Algeria on October 8.

In Group B, Zambia kept their hopes alive, thrashing Senegal 4-0 in Lusaka on Sunday while neighbouring Zimbabwe beat Guinea 1-0 in Harare.

Nigeria weathered an early onslaught from the Ivorians at the Suresole Stadium on Saturday to go 2-0 up after 25 minutes with goals from Thompson Oliha, playing against many of his club mates from the Ivorian team Africa Sport, and Belgian-based Daniel Amokachi.

Although the Ivory Coast pulled a goal back shortly after half-time, two strikes from giant forward Rashidi Yekini sealed the win.

Hoque named for trainers' course

ABM Nurul Hoque, a former assistant coach of the national youth (under-19) football team and currently the coach of Fire Service AC, has been selected to participate in the 'goal-keeper trainers' course' to be held in Malaysia October 24-30, reports UNB.

German coach Holger Obermann will conduct the week-long course, organised by the Malaysian Football Association.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will bear the cost of both way air passage for Hoque while the host federation will defray the cost of food and accommodation.

C'nawabganj soccer results

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Sept 27: Alinagar and Alor Dishari ended their First Division league tie in a one-all draw at the local stadium Monday, reports UNB.

Shiv Sena stands against Pakistan tour of India

NEW DELHI, Sept 27: Hindu militants threatened on Sunday to disrupt an international cricket tournament in India in which Pakistan are due to play, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says Reuter.

The anti-Muslim Shiv Sena group said it would take action to prevent Pakistan playing in November's six-team limited overs tournament to celebrate the centenary of the Bengal Cricket Association.

"I have contacted Shiv Sainiks of Bombay, Delhi and other stations and told them not to allow the Pakistani team (into) India," PTI quoted the group's leader, Bal Thackeray, as saying at a news conference in the western city of Aurangabad.

Shiv Sena forced the cancellation of a Pakistan tour last year after its activists dug up the pitch at Bombay's Wankhede Stadium.

Pakistan officials say privately that November's tour may be called off for security reasons.

Shiv Sena activists claimed responsibility for the demolition of a 16th century mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya late last year that triggered Hindu-Muslim riots in which more than 2,000 people were killed.

"Those people who have the slightest sympathy for Pakistanis should be kicked out (of India)," Thackeray said.

Pakistan are due to play their first match of the tournament against Zimbabwe in Madras on November 8.

They play Sri Lanka in Goa, South Africa in Cuttack, West Indies in Vijaywada and India in either Chandigarh or Jalandhar in the Punjab.

The semifinals will be played in Cuttack and Calcutta, which is also the venue for the final.

Another date for Indira Gandhi Gold Cup hockey

NEW DELHI, Sept 27: The Indira Gandhi Gold Cup men's hockey tournament, which has been postponed three times, will finally be held in October, an Indian hockey official said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Raghunandan Parasad, president of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF), said the tournament would be played in Bombay from October 17 to 20.

"The Indira Gandhi tournament has been reduced to four teams from the original eight due to withdrawals by other nations after three postponements," Parasad added.

Belgium, Egypt, Russia and India are the four nations left in the tournament. To be played on a round-robin league basis.

The tournament was first postponed in January because of Hindu-Muslim violence in Bombay and again as the dates coincided with the England-India cricket Test in the adjoining stadium. The third postponement was due to Bombay being rocked by bomb explosions in March.

Army v'ball

COMILLA, Sept 27: Five more matches of the Bangladesh Army volleyball championship were held at the Comilla Cantonment, reports BSS.

Comilla area beat Dhaka Engineers, 15-2, 15-7 and 15-1 while Rangpur Area defeated Dhaka Infantry by the same margin, 15-3, 15-8 and 15-10 this morning, an ISPR press release said.

Meanwhile, three matches were decided on Sunday afternoon. Rangpur Area then trounced Jessore Area 3-2, 14-16, 15-4, 15-8 and 17-15.



Players and officials of winners St Nicholas are seen receiving the trophy from State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain.

More sanctions on Marseille

ZURICH, Switzerland, Sept 27: Olympique Marseille, barred from defending their European Champions' Cup title because of a bribery scandal, were booted out on Monday by world soccer officials from the International Cup and Super Cup, reports AP.

FIFA soccer's world governing body, announced the move after its leaders met with top officials of UEFA, the European soccer federation.

Italy's AC Milan, who lost 1-0 to Marseille on May 26 in the Champions' Cup final, were named to replace the French club in both events, UEFA President Lennart Johansson told a news conference at FIFA headquarters.

In FIFA's Intercontinental Cup, Marseille were to have faced South American club champion Sao Paulo of Brazil in December in Tokyo. The UEFA-organized, two-leg Super Cup showdown, scheduled for November, also involves Italy's AC Parma, winners of the European Cupwinners Cup tournament last season.

Johansson said that extending Marseille's one-season European ban to 1994-95 was not discussed at the emergency

meeting, which also included FIFA President Joao Havelange of Brazil.

But Monday's ruling marked a new low in Marseille's spectacular fall from soccer supremacy.

The French federation last week stripped Marseille of their 1993 national championship title, barred the team's former general manager indefinitely from the sport, and suspended three players at the centre of match-fixing allegations.

UEFA on Sept 6 barred Marseille from this season's Champions' Cup, the most prestigious and lucrative of the three European club tournaments.

The bribery scandal, which erupted shortly after Marseille claimed France's first European club title and their fifth straight national championship, strained relations between the French and international soccer authorities.

Infuriated at the slowness of the French investigation, which was perceived as a challenge to FIFA's credibility, Havelange threatened to expel France from international competition. He lifted the threat when France met FIFA's Sept 23 deadline for taking action against Marseille.

Marseille's former general

manager, Jean-Pierre Bernes, is charged with paying or trying to pay members of the Valenciennes team in northern France up to 200,000 francs (dfrs 35,000) to play badly in a league match May 20 so Olympique could be rested for the Champions' Cup final.

Marseille defeated Valenciennes 1-0 and six days later went on to win the European final against Milan.

Two players from Valenciennes, Christophe Robert and Jorge Burruchaga, have been charged with receiving money. Marseille player Jean-Jacques Eydelie is the alleged middleman.

Marseille's owner, flamboyant Socialist politician Bernard Tapie, has been questioned but not charged.

He said Saturday that he personally felt like resigning but would stay on as president in the interests of the team. Marseille face possible further sanctions in France for erowd violence at a Friday night match against Metz.

Nineteen people were injured as Marseille fans invaded the pitch after the referee sent off two players. Metz were winning 3-0 when the game was suspended three minutes before the end.

Milan going pretty strong

ROME, Sept 27: Italian champions AC Milan cruised to an easy 2-0 win at Cremonese on Sunday to go two points clear at the top of the table, reports Reuter.

The game was settled in the first 20 minutes as strikers Jean-Pierre Papin and Marco Simone netted.

Frenchman Papin hammered the first from outside the penalty area in the eighth minute while Simone pounced on a rebound to grab his first 'league' goal of the season 12 minutes later.

Newly promoted Cremonese should at least have become the first side to score against Milan this season, but defender Alessandro Pedroni hit the side netting with the goal gaping in the second half.

Milan have not lost away in the league for more than two years and already look a good bet for a third successive title.

Parma, Sampdoria and Torino are clustered on nine points from six games, two be-

hind the champions. Juventus and Internazionale are a further point back.

Sampdoria and Parma shared the spoils from their meeting in Genoa on Sunday afternoon as Colombian World Cup hero Faustino Asprilla continued his run of superb form with the goal which gave Parma a 1-1 draw.

The 30th minute volley, Asprilla's sixth goal in three games for Parma since returning from helping Colombia reach the World Cup finals, cancelled out an early header by Sampdoria winger Attilio Lombardo.

Tall Torino striker Andrea Silenzi scored twice to give his team a 2-0 home win over Genoa.

But UEFA Cup holders Juventus could only manage a 1-1 draw at Lecce, who were previously without a point all season.

Italy star Roberto Baggio spared the Turin club's blushes with a second half penalty but the point means Lecce avoided setting a record for the worst

ever start to a Serie A season of six straight losses.

Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp netted a penalty and Uruguayan Ruben Sosa was also on target as Internazionale defeated promoted Piacenza 2-0.

There were mixed fortunes for Rome's struggling clubs.

Lazio crashed at Cagliari, the turning point coming in the 66th minute when the referee ruled a shot from Panamanian striker Julio Dely Valdes had crossed the line, putting the Sardinians 3-1 ahead.

Lazio were without big names Paul Gascoigne and Giuseppe Signori, both injured, and had captain Roberto Cravero sent off for disputing Cagliari's third goal.

Roma came from behind to beat Atalanta after the Romans had trailed at half-time and looked set to extend their worst start to a season for 15 years.

A perfectly flighted free-kick from German Thomas Haessler in the 65th minute settled the game after Argentine Abel Balbo had put Roma level early in the second half.

Madrid in a murky patch

MADRID, Sept 27: Troubled Real Madrid sank to their third successive Spanish league defeat on Sunday, putting further pressure on beleaguered club coach Benito Floro, reports Reuter.

Fans hurled abuse at the director's box and booed the team off the field after Madrid succumbed 1-0 at home to Real Oviedo. The result left the club which was once pride of Europe, languishing 17th in the 20-strong league.

It was the first time Oviedo had beaten Real Madrid since the 1948/49 season. "It's been a bad day and a bad result. The crowd is angry and so am I", Madrid president Ramon

Mendoza said. After starting the season brightly with a 4-1 win over Osasuna, Real have been beaten 3-1 by league newcomers Real Valladolid and thrashed 4-0 by Deportivo Coruna.

On Sunday they never looked in danger of conceding a goal until they were controversially reduced to 10 men 22 minutes before time when defender Rafael Alcorta was judged to have brought down Oviedo's Janko Jankovic outside the area.

Minutes later, Jankovic managed to tear off the enfeebled Real defence to shoot the winning goal.

Following last week's defeat, sports newspapers speculated Floro would be sacked.

Mendoza publicly backed him on that occasion, but after Sunday's performance, he declined to comment on the matter.

Real's old rivals Barcelona enjoyed a happier evening, rediscovering their scoring touch with a 4-1 win over Zaragoza.

It was their 1,000th First Division victory and Zaragoza's 500th defeat.

A first half hat-trick by striker Aitor Beguiristain set Barcelona on their ways after the Spanish league champions had been held to goalless draws in their two previous league games.

Valencia moved to the top of the First Division thanks to a narrow 3-2 win over Tenerife on Saturday.

Allaying gushing wounds

BEIJING, Sept 27: Beijing has invoked the Olympic spirit and the doctrine of Deng Xiaoping as it puts on a brave face after the crushing of its hopes to stage the 2000 Games, reports AFP.

Gangs of workers spent the weekend putting up thousands of posters promoting a fresh tack. "Taking part is the most important thing."

And Tiananmen Square, the site of China's brutal repression of student activists in 1989, a slogan was also put up, urging the public: "Study the theory of Deng Xiaoping's socialism with Chinese characteristics."

The famous phrase of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics, marks a shift in mood after the tears, and not a few recriminations, that followed the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decision Thursday.

Among members of the public and the Beijing press, the Olympic ideal of grace in defeat had been in scant evidence as the country digested its defeat.

Newspapers and callers to the international press recounted a popular theme: It was the British and Americans who scuppered China's chances.

Before the vote in Monte Carlo, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd had said in a television interview that the Games should not go to China, but to Manchester or failing that Sydney. The US Congress had attacked Beijing because of its human rights record.

Some members of the Chinese public vehemently blamed the west and its media for China's "national humiliation."

A caller to AFP from someone identifying himself as an "average Beijing resident" said he was "outraged" at interna-

tional press agencies "who have written nonsense."

"We must declare war on the United States," declared one Beijing taxi driver, in one of the more extreme responses.

In Japan, meanwhile, newspapers on Monday urged China to yield to last week's decision and to realise that true reforms were required.

"With its vote last week, the International Olympic Committee was telling Beijing that the Olympics await a more open China," the Japan Times said in an editorial.

"Better that Beijing's leaders understand that true reforms are required, that window-dressing will not suffice," the leading English newspaper in Japan said.

Sydney's merry-making

SYDNEY, Sept 27: Sydney's triumphant Olympic bid team will be welcomed in a ticker tape parade through city streets here on Friday as Sydneysiders continue to revel in their hosting of the 2000 Games, reports AFP.

At a reception for the team at the Town Hall after the parade, the bid's three key players will be presented with keys to the city. Lord Mayor Frank Sartor said Monday.

Those to be feted are Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) president John Coates, International Olympic Committee (IOC) delegate Phil Coles and the bid team's chief executive Rod McGeogh.