



South Korean Kim Joo Fung (C) fights for the control of the ball with Saudi Arabian Khaled Al-Cemawi (R) at the World Cup qualifying match between South Korea and Saudi Arabia at Doha on Oct 22. — AFP photo

Leggie Qadir gets a recall

ISLAMABAD, Oct 23: Pakistan on Friday recalled leg-spinner Abdul Qadir after a two-year absence for the three-nation Sharjah trophy cricket tournament against West Indies and Sri Lanka which begins next Thursday, reports Reuter.

Opener Rameez Raja has been dropped from the 16-man squad which will be captained by Wasim Akram.

The squad is: Wasim Akram (captain), Waqar Younis (vice-captain), Javed Miandad, Salim Malik, Abdul Qadir, Asif Mujtaba, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Saeed Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Aaqib Javed, Rashid Latif (wicket-keeper), Mushtaq Ahmad, Basit Ali, Ataur Rehman, Ejaz Ahmad and Aamir Nazir.

Rain the spoiler

Sports Reporter

The second exhibition match of the touring Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) (XI) against Kalutara District Cricket Association, Sri Lanka was abandoned due to downpour yesterday, according to a faxed message received at the BCCB office last night.

Div III football from Nov 1

Sports Reporter

The Third Division football league '93, organised by the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association, will begin on Nov 1. All the clubs, who are interested to participate in the tournament, are requested to take necessary preparations.

Heysel Stadium's face-lift approved

BRUSSELS, Oct 23: Belgium's government on Friday approved a drastic face-lift of the Heysel Stadium, where 39 people died in rioting before the 1985 European Cup final, reports Reuter.

The renovation will cost 625 million francs (17.35 million dollars) and should be completed by the end of July 1995, a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene said.

She said the federal government will give 450 million francs (12.5 million dollars). Brussels regional authorities 150 million (4.15 million dollars) and the soccer union pay 25 million (690,000 dollars).

The 39 people who died were mainly Italian supporters there to watch Juventus play England's Liverpool in the final. Five years later, matches at Heysel were banned because of safety concerns about the stadium which was built in the 1930s. Plans to raze it, even partially, were abandoned because of insufficient funds.

The Belgian Soccer Union has been using Anderlecht's Modern Stadium for internationals in recent years.

Q M Hossain chess on

Sports Reporter

Refaat, Lodhi and Rani Hamid registered wins in their respective first round matches in the 10th Q M Hossain Memorial International Masters chess tournament at Hotel Purbani yesterday.

Refaat bin Sattar wins against Rafiqul Islam. Lodhi of Pakistan beat Rahul Shethi of India while Rani Hamid defeated Ziaul Quader.

The match between Niru and Indian Shekhar Chandra was ended draw. Another drawn match was held between Zia and Kalimullah.

Aussies undaunted by Maradona

SYDNEY, Oct 23: Two leading Australian soccer players said Saturday that they were not concerned by the prospect of facing two-time champion Argentina and star forward Diego Maradona in two World Cup qualifying matches, reports AP.

Argentina and Australia will play Oct 31 in Sydney and Nov 17 in Buenos Aires to determine which country advances to the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

Maradona, 32, led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title and second-place finish in 1990 and is making an international comeback after being suspended for 15 months by FIFA, world soccer's governing body, after traces of cocaine were found in his system during a random drug test.

Carl Veart, who is expected to replace suspended striker Frank Farina in the Australian team for the first leg match, said

Saturday that facing Maradona was not worrying the underdog Australians.

"It wouldn't worry me if I had to play against Argentina, with or without Maradona," Veart said.

"You can't look at the opposition as individuals but as a team. When we're on the field, it's team against team.

"It doesn't matter how much skill you have, it comes down to how you perform on the day."

Veart returned recently to his Australian club Adelaide City after a trial with English premier league club Everton. He said Australian soccer was rapidly improving its stature.

"Our skill level has improved considerably in Australia over the past few years," he said.

"We're going up in the soccer world and the higher profile countries are not as far away as they were ten years ago."

"Also, everyone knows how much heart Australians have on the field and that will make up for quite a bit against a skilled team like Argentina."

South Melbourne defender Mehmet Durakovic, who, is likely to mark Maradona, said he would not be intimidated by Maradona's reputation.

"What can you say about the greatest player in the world over the last 10 to 15 years?" he said.

"The guy's got everything, that's why he's the world's best player."

"If I were to mark him I'd try and prevent him from touching the ball as much as he'd like to."

"If you, give him space he'll destroy you — not just Australia but any team he's playing against."

Eleven members of the Argentine squad already are in Sydney, while European-based players will arrive early next week.

Australia's eight European-based players also will fly Down Under after weekend matches for their clubs — including Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich and Borussia Dortmund sweeper Ned Zelic.

Security concern dominates Saudi-Iraq confrontation

DOHA, Oct 23: The Saudi Football Federation may get away with a fine for Saudi fans' invasion of the ground during their match against South Korea, but the incident has raised a big security question for Sunday's Iraq-Saudi Arabia match, reports AP.

Iraq, with a fair chance to qualify for the 24-nation World Cup finals in the US after their 2-1 victory over traditional foe Iran on Friday, have already set the tone.

"...Our implacable enemy, the Saudis must be crushed before a television audience of million around the world," the Al-Baath Arriyadhi sports newspaper in Baghdad said before the tournament began.

Following Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, a massive US-led multinational force had assembled in Saudi Arabia to protect the Kingdom and drove Iraq out of the Emirate in February 1991. Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil producer, also funded the multinational forces' drive against Saddam Hussein.

On Saturday in Qatar, thousands of Saudi supporters were arriving and organizers said at least 25,000 were expected to watch the game on Sunday, which kicks off at 5 pm (1400 GMT).

Iraq must win the match to keep their chances alive of advancing to the finals in the United States.

"This has to stop," said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the FIFA's Asian Football Confederation of the Friday's incident when 10,000 Saudi fans, excited after the teams last-gasp equalizer, invaded the ground. They traded insults with about 1,000 South Korean supporters, but the situation was checked from taking an ugly turn by Qatari riot police.

Friday's incident was more of an outburst of jubilation by the Saudis, for whom soccer is very dear. But on stake Sunday is Iraq, the enemy No. 1 of the Saudis.

"We have told the organizers that all precautions must be taken to stop repetition of Friday's incident," Velappan, of Malaysia, said.

On Saturday, at least 1,000 Qatari riot police were being given a crash course in crowd control and the need to come in quickly after they waited for quarter of an hour before taking action on Friday.

"We did not come in because there was only Saudi supporters on the ground, had it been a mixed group of supporters, we would have come in quickly," said a Qatari police official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They were called in after South Korean fans started throwing wooden clappers at the Saudis, who were gesticulating at them.

Soccer official Velappan said he has sent a report to FIFA headquarter in Zurich on Friday's incident and was expecting a reply by late Saturday on what disciplinary action should be taken against the Saudi Football Federation.

"We view this terrible incident very seriously," Velappan said.

Judging by the nature of the incident, the FIFA, at the most may impose a fine.

On fans behaviour and the penalty attached to it, FIFA disciplinary procedure calls for either a caution, a fine, cancellation of the match, requiring a replay, a ban on entry of the offending country's fans to a stadium, and in the case of serious offence, a ban from taking part in the current competition.

"Lack of discipline and order in the stadium... invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play by spectators, missile being thrown, fireworks and rockets being let off..." constitute an offence under article 3.3 of FIFA's disciplinary guidelines.

FIFA officials said the Saudis may get away with a fine and a caution that repetition will invite serious punishment.

Saudi Arabia to face FIFA inquiry

DOHA, Qatar, Oct 23: Saudi Arabia will face a FIFA inquiry today after thousands of their fans invaded the pitch after they snatched a 1-1 draw against South Korea with an injury-time goal in their World Cup qualifier, reports Reuter.

The fans poured into the pitch after the referee blew the time within seconds of Ahmed Madani's last-gasp equaliser in Friday's World Cup Asia final zone encounter.

The spectators taunted the South Korean supporters, who retaliated by throwing several missiles.

More than 200 Qatari police were needed to clear the pitch. "It (the incident) will be discussed by FIFA tomorrow," was the terse statement from FIFA spokesman Frits Ahlstrom.

Peter Velappan, general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation, added: "We are all deeply disappointed to see fans jumping onto the pitch. FIFA will view this terrible incident very seriously and will make a decision tomorrow."

He refused to say what range of punishments the disciplinary committee could impose.

Saudi Arabia coach Jose Candido said that he did not expect his team to be punished for the fans' behaviour.

"The responsibility belongs to Qatar," he said. "They have a special police force who should stop spectators coming on to the pitch."

The draw kept South Korea, bidding for a third successive spot in the World Cup finals, in top spot with four points, equal with Saudi who have a point more than Japan and Iraq.

"My team lost concentration after the goal," said Korean coach Kim Ho. "It was very hot and humid."

Shi Hong-gi put the Koreans ahead in the 59th minute when his shot squirmed under the body of Saudi Arabia goalkeeper Mohammed Al Deayea.

The Saudis threw everything into attack during the final 10 minutes and South Korea had goalkeeper Choi In-Young to thank for several good saves.

Saudi Arabia grabbed a first-ever equaliser in the first minute of injury time when Madani out jumped the defence to head home a corner.

STANDINGS

Teams	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
South Korea	3	1	2	0	6	3	4
Saudi Arabia	3	1	2	0	3	2	4
Japan	3	1	1	1	4	2	3
Iraq	3	1	1	1	6	6	3
North Korea	3	1	0	2	4	7	2
Iran	3	1	0	2	3	6	2

Maradona faces another trial

ROME, Oct 23: Diego Maradona is to have his name dragged through the Italian courts in a second drugs trial, a Rome tribunal has ruled, reports AP.

Maradona, currently in Australia preparing for a World Cup qualifier on Sunday week, was originally found guilty in his absence in September 1991 of possessing cocaine.

The footballer, who strenuously denied the charges but had already left the country, was given a 14-month jail sentence.

Now he faces another trial summons — on charges of possessing and importing cocaine — following allegations made here on Thursday night by his former bodyguard in Italy, Pietro Pugliese.

Pugliese told a panel of judges that he had brought Maradona a bundle of newspapers sent from Argentina which, apparently unknown to the bodyguard, contained cocaine.

Maradona's former business agent, Guillermo Coppola, who is accused of being an accomplice to the importing, also appeared before the tribunal.

The judges ordered that court proceedings start on December 3.

The Argentine arrived in Italy in 1984 and was Napoli's skipper in the Italian First Division before leaving for Buenos Aires in April 1991, a week after being banned for cocaine use.

The ban, which was made international, eventually last for 15 months.

Daley to sign for Udinese

BIRMINGHAM, England, Oct 23: English international winger Tony Daley is set to sign for Italian club Udinese in a £1.3 million transfer, according to Ron Atkinson, manager of his club, Aston Villa, reports AP.

Atkinson said that Daley, who was on the Villa lineup that faced Chelsea Saturday, would not move until after the English club's UEFA Cup second leg game against Spain's Deportivo de La Coruna Nov 3.

"Negotiations over the last two days are now near completion between our chairman Doug Ellis and Udinese's general manager."

NZ fight to stave off defeat

PERTH, Oct 23: Andrew Jones scored an unbeaten 6, Saturday as New Zealand fought back on the third day of their four-day cricket match against the western Australian state team at the WACA Ground, report agencies.

The New Zealanders need a further 204 runs on the final day to force Western Australia to bat again.

New Zealand reached 155 for two in their second innings by stumps, with Dtpak Patel on 32 — which included a six off the bowling of spinner Jamie Stewart.

Western Australia batted on after rain resumed on Saturday morning and compiled a mammoth score of 508 in reply to the tourists' palty 149.

Overnight batsman Tim Zoehrer was the main stumbling block for New Zealand, reaching 83 before he fell trying to cut a ball from Danny Morrison.

Zoehrer began the day on nine and revealed the batting talents he kept hidden on the recent Australian tour of England.

The wicketkeeper managed only 115 first-class runs in four months in England, but reached his half-century in just under two hours, hitting five boundaries.

Zoehrer was supported by

Mark Atkinson, who made 39. Jones and Ken Rutherford opened the New Zealand innings due to the absence of opener Blair Pocock and Mark Greatbatch — both of whom have finger injuries.

Rutherford skipped to 51 in even time but then drove a ball from pacesman Jo Angel straight to Damien Martyn in the covers.

Angel finished the day with two for 49 from 15 overs after also dismissing New Zealand captain Martin Crowe (8). He has figures of seven for 81 for the match.

Early in the day, Australian Test hopeful Justin Langer was fined US \$200 after being found guilty of dissent on Friday.

Langer was reported by umpires Ric Evans and Terry Prue after remaining at the crease when he was given out caught behind by Evans from the bowling of spinner Patel.

Langer played five Tests for Australia earlier this year but was omitted from the Ashes tour after some disappointing matches in New Zealand.

SCOREBOARD
Scorecard at stumps on the third day of the New Zealand-Western Australia four-day first class game at the WACA Ground here Saturday:
NEW ZEALAND: 1st innings 149 (A H Jones 47, T L Cairns 22, M J Greatbatch 20, J Angel

5-32, M N Atkinson 3-46.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA:
1st innings
McPhee c Patel b Doull 7
Marsh b Cairns 16
Langer c Blain b Patel 61
Julian c Blain b Su'a 59
Marty b Morrison 80
Moody b Su's 110
Veletta lbw Su'a 11
Zoehrer c Blain b Morrison 83
Atkinson c and b Doull 39
Angel not out 8
Stewart c Cairns b Su'a 6
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-19) 28
Total: (All out) 508

Fall of wickets: 1-27; 2-51; 3-135; 4-164; 5-349; 6-359; 7-386; 8-473; 9-497

Bowling O M R W
Morrison 31 5 88 2
Cairns 23 2 105 1
Doull 23 3 98 2
Su's 31.5 4 84 4
Patel 24 3 105 1
Jones 3 0 19 0

Batting time: 571min, overs 135.5
NEW ZEALAND: 2nd innings
Rutherford c Martyn b Angel 51
Jones not out 61
Crowe c Veletta b Angel 8
Patel not out 32
Extras: (b-1, w-2) 3
Total: (2 wkts) 155

Fall of wickets: 1-78; 2-92

Bowling O M R W
Angel 15 3 49 2
Atkinson 6 1 10 0
Julian 12 3 40 0
Moody 7 3 9 0
Stewart 10 1 38 0
Zoehrer 4 0 8 0

Batting times: 199min, overs 54
Crowd: 1,857.

ACOG unveils its real sign

ATLANTA, Georgia, Oct 23: The 1996 Atlanta Games are almost three years away, but the time has come to start counting the days, reports AP.

An electronic countdown billboard, three metres tall and 12 metres long, will be unveiled Saturday at the city's busiest intersection, marking 1,000 days until opening ceremonies for the centennial Olympic Games.

"This is the first real sign the Games are coming to Atlanta," said Donna Jonsson of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. "It's also the only sign we're planning to have until the flags and banners go up just before we get to the Games."

Local sports fans are still more concerned about the loss of their Atlanta Braves baseball team in the playoffs, and the local rivalries in American college football, to worry about the Games.

That suits the organizers fine, since it allows them to press forward with fund raising and other preparations in relative peace.

ACOG will have to raise nearly 2-billion dollars by the time the Games are held, though much of that will be for operating costs, not the construction of venues.

"Oh yes, we can raise this amount, and there are some commitments that don't have to be met until later," said ACOG spokesman Bob Brennan.

For example, a huge chunk of our costs is in the operation of the Games themselves, and we don't need that money now."

"Also, we estimate our ticket sales at 225-million dollars, and since sales begin in late spring or early summer of 1995, we'll

get a good portion of that money in '95."

Not everything is smooth sailing in Atlanta, where one of the government watchdog groups has begun to question the viability of plans for the showpiece Olympic Stadium.

As planned, the stadium will be a red brick structure with green gates, open concourse areas and a view of the downtown skyline.

The venue will seat 85,000 during the Games, then 37,000.

US girls beat French spikers

ANKARA, Oct 23: Tara Cross-Battle and Elaine Oden each had 14 kills Friday as the United States beat France 15-2, 15-11, 15-8 in the first round of a qualification tournament for the 1994 women's volleyball world championships, reports AP.

The United States were forced to the qualifying tournament when they finished second to Cuba last month in the zone championships held at Colorado Springs, Colo.

Cross-Battle and Oden, who added nine blocks, were members of the United States team that won the Olympic bronze medal in 1992.

The United States play Ukraine on Saturday and then face Turkey on Sunday.

Ukraine beat Turkey 15-12, 15-11, 11-15, 15-9 on Friday.

"We know what we have to do — win this tournament to qualify for the world championships," said ninth-year US coach Terry Liskevych. "I was happy with today's performance, but our big match comes Saturday versus Ukraine. The winner of that match should win the tournament."



Iranian goalkeeper Gholampour Behzad takes the ball off Iraq's Jebur Alaa, left, during their tension charged World Cup final qualifying round for the Asian group, in Qatar on Oct 22. Iraq beat Iran 2-1. — AFP photo