

Four DSAs make it to final round

Sports Reporter
Mymensingh. Patuakhali, Sylhet and Rajshahi advanced to the final round of the Biman Cup national under-14 football championship yesterday.
At Mymensingh, the hosts emerged zonal champions when they beat Narayanganj 2-1 in a keenly-contested final.
Biplab scored both the goals for Mymensingh while Bidyut pulled one back for the losers.
Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah gave away the prizes after the keenly-contested.
The hosts clinched the zonal title by beating Barisal 3-0.
Malek, Nuruzzaman and Badrul netted once each for the winners.
At Sunamganj, Sylhet became the zonal champions, edging out the hosts 5-3 in the breaker. The regulation period ended goalless.
Rajshahi emerged the Pabna zone champions when the edged past the hosts 3-1 in the breaker.
The scheduled time finished one-all.
Hosts Satkhira squeezed out a solitary goal triumph over Jessore to move into the final.
Satkhira play Khulna in the final tomorrow.

Twenty-five atop in nat'l jr chess

Sports Reporter
Twenty-five players topped the points table with two points each at the end of the second round of the fifteenth national junior chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.
National champion Reefat bin Sattar, who is one of the top favourites in this meet along with his coeval and Biman teammate International Master (IM) Ziaur Rahman, beat Qamrul Hassan to be in the cavalcade of table leaders.
His arch-rival Ziaur Rahman was another notable winner of the day. He dismissed the cerebral challenge of Bahauddin while Tanima Parveen, one of the top female chess players of the country who too plays for Biman in local league, defeated Morshed, in another of the many ties held yesterday.

Squash squad leaves for KL today

Sports Reporter
A six-member Bangladesh squash team leaves Dhaka for Malaysia to take part in the week-long Perrier seventh Asian Championship.
Bhola Lal Chowhan, Ram Jagadish, Mubith Chowdhury and Viswanath will represent Bangladesh in the meet while Shahidul Haque will accompany the squad as its manager.
Anwarul Haq, the vice president of the Bangladesh Squash Racket Federation, will also be on the tour to participate in the 14th Asian Squash Federation, scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur on January 15 and 16.

Rain ruins SL tour opener

NEW DELHI, Jan 13: Shri Lanka lost the first day's play on their cricket tour of India on Thursday to bad weather that has blighted preparations for the three-Test series starting next Tuesday, reports Reuter.
Overnight rain and early morning fog that cleared only a little during the day meant a delayed start and two inspections of the pitch before the umpires decided no play was possible.
Prospects for a full day's play on Friday in Shri Lanka's three-day game against an Indian Board President's XI seemed poor with weathermen forecasting more of the same.
Rain seems to be dogging the Shri Lankans, who had little practice at home because of wet weather and then arrived in Delhi early this week to find more rain hampered their practice sessions.
The match is the only one scheduled before the first Test in Lucknow beginning next Tuesday and Shri Lankan manager Anuruddha Polonowita said he was seriously worried about his side's lack of practice.

Best can rest a while

CAPE TOWN, Jan 13: Former West Indies Test batsman Carlisle Best has been given permission by cricket chiefs in the Caribbean to extend his stay in South Africa playing for Western Province, reports Reuter.
Best originally agreed to return to West Indies at the end of December to represent Barbados in the Red Stripe Cup but felt so strongly he had not done justice to his South African side that he asked to be released from his home commitment.

Bulbul BCCB Eleven's hero

Sports Reporter



Aminul Islam Bulbul produced an almost incredible allround performance to reverse touring BCCB XI's fatal pattern as country's cricketers beat a Karachi outfit named AOC at the Ashgar Ali Shah Stadium yesterday — a faxed message received at the BCCB office last night revealed the long awaited reversal of fortune for the itinerants.
Bulbul, who only recently returned to form, scored a super century and then turned one better with the ball bagging five wickets for 31 runs.
He hammered 104 before being caught by Irfan off Ali Shah as BCCB XI, bolstered by a couple of more useful knocks from skipper Faruque Ahmed and consistent Akram Khan, amassed 286 for four wickets from 50 overs.

Returning after a fairly long lay-off because of illness, Faruque hit 66 while Akram Khan, whose awesome average in the tour of Pakistan now goes to 232 with five unbeaten knocks at a stretch after a duck, remained unbeaten on a stormy 54. Akram, who played three unbeaten innings in BCCB's tour of Hong Kong, has so far remained unbeaten on five occasions.
Enamul Huq Moni with 20 was the other batsman who returned to the pavilion unconquered along with Akram.



BULBUL... allround show he promoted as regular opener. Faruque hit 66 while Akram Khan, whose awesome average in the tour of Pakistan now goes to 232 with five unbeaten knocks at a stretch after a duck, remained unbeaten on a stormy 54. Akram, who played three unbeaten innings in BCCB's tour of Hong Kong, has so far remained unbeaten on five occasions.

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took one wicket apiece for AOC.

Irfanullah responded in the true spirit of a run feast with an unbeaten knock of 105 but his side was all out for 207 in 50 overs with none of the other batsmen being able to unravel the mystery of the fingers of Bulbul, the dark, dapper cricketer from Bangladesh.

Bulbul took five wickets for 31 runs from seven overs of guileful off spin bowling. Irfan apart, Rais Ahmed and Amir Ishaq got among some runs before Bulbul turned on his devilish diablerie. Rais made 39 and Ishaq 18.

Al Shahriar Rokon, the young leggie of the BCCB XI, followed Bulbul in the statistics with figures of two for 55. Anis, the left arm new-ball bowler handled the task fairly well in experienced Golam Nawsher Prince's absence capturing one for 29 while the consistent Mizanur Rahman Babul gave Anis good support with figures of one for 21.

BCCB XI, who have just one more match in hand in the 15-day tour of Pakistan undertaken as a prep programme for the ICC Trophy starting in Kenya from next month, have so far recorded three wins in nine matches.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Titu sparked with the willow but still ended up at the wrong end of the table as East End Club, chasing Mirpur Nabin KC's total of 207 for eight in 40 overs, fell eight runs short in one of the two Second Division cricket league matches on the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first Nabin KC, powered on by two half centuries from Pavel and Bablu, who scored 57 and 56 respectively, set a victory target of just over five runs an over for the eventual losers.

Titu almost snatched a win for his side, leading the charge with a superb 74, but fortunate for the Nabin KC cricketers, East End ran out of overs, stopping at 199 for eight.

In the other match of the day, Dipu designed a huge 87-run victory for Nirman XI over Eastern Sporting Club with a glittering 89 at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Nirman XI, making the first use of the wicket, piled up 202 in the stipulated 40 overs.

Apart from Dipu, Shimul, who later flashed with the ball to finish with fantastic figures of four for 18, Sajeib and Shahid found themselves among the runs with scores of 24, 23 and 23 respectively.

In reply, Eastern never really found the rhythm in the face of Shimul's accurate bowling and folded their innings on 115 in 31.5 overs.

Limon topscored for the vanquished with 31.

BCCP dissolved

ISLAMABAD, Jan 13: President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari on Wednesday sacked Pakistan's Cricket Control Board (BCCP) and named a three-man ad-hoc committee to run the board's affairs, reports Reuter.

A brief government announcement gave no reason for the action, which it said was taken by the President in his capacity as the BCCP patron.

The sacking of the board, whose chairman was Pakistani Chief Justice Nasim Hasan Shah, follows frequent domestic criticism of the cricket establishment for a decline in the world champions' standards and discipline after inspirational captain Imran Khan retired in 1992.

Former Pakistan captain Javed Burki was named chairman of the ad-hoc committee, which the announcement said had "already assumed all the functions of the BCCP".

Dalmiya not worried

CALCUTTA, Jan 13: The sacking of the Pakistani Cricket Board should not affect the 1996 World Cup, to be jointly hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Jagmohan Dalmiya, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said here today, reports PTI.

Dalmiya, also convenor and secretary of the Pak-Lanka-India Joint Organising Committee, was reacting to the report that the Pakistani President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari had sacked the whole Pakistani cricket board and appointed a three-man ad-hoc committee to run its affairs.

Dalmiya, however, refused to make further comments saying that he was yet to receive detailed information about the happenings in Pakistani board.

The sacking of Pakistani board follows frequent domestic criticism of the cricket establishment following decline in the performance of the world champions recently.

Controversial choice

LONDON, Jan 13: England's Ken Palmer was the surprise selection when the International Cricket Council announced their 20-strong panel of neutral umpires today, reports AFP.

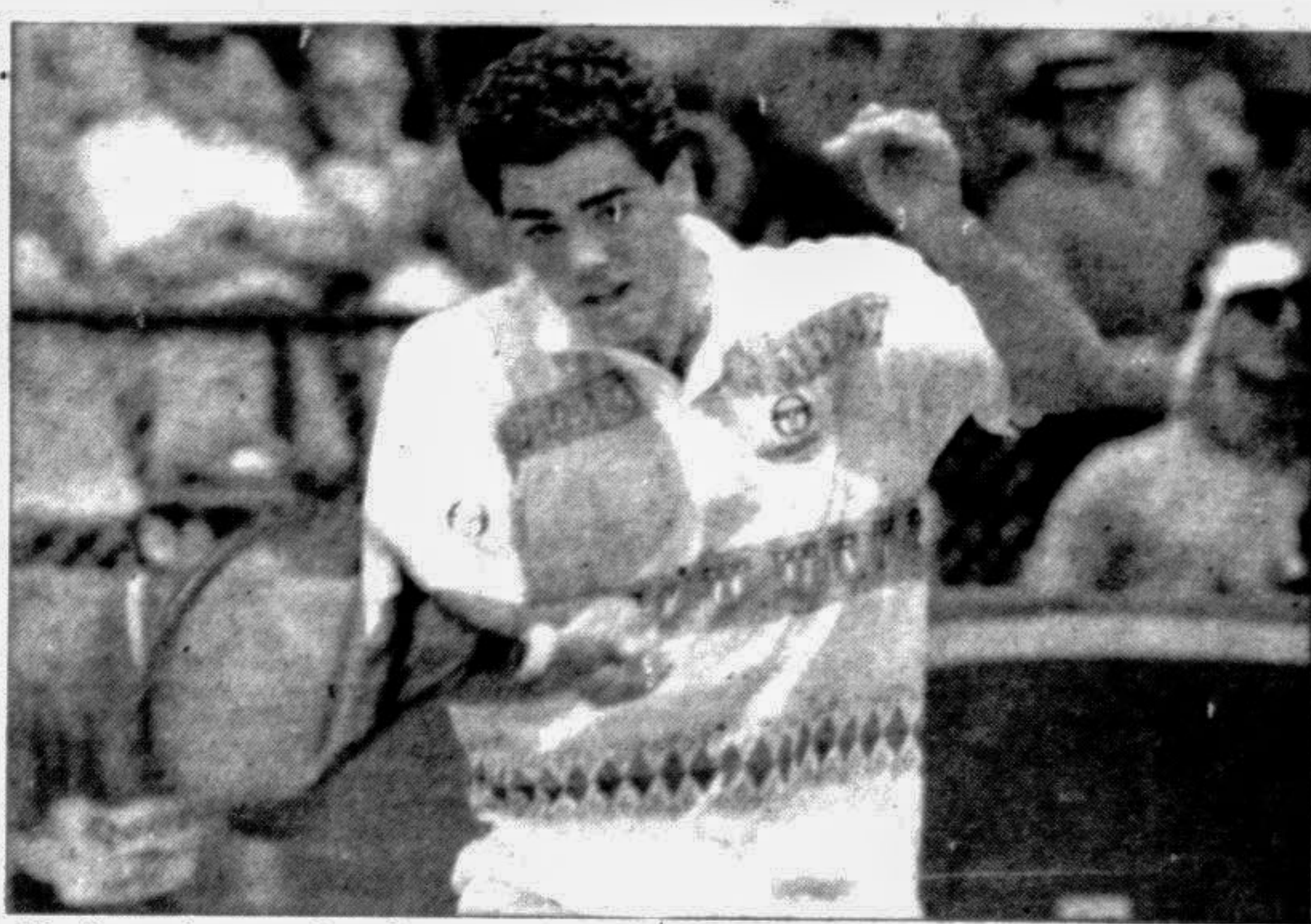
The choice of Palmer will rise a few eyebrows in Pakistan especially, after they complained about him during their tours of England in 1987 and 1992.

In England, however, he is now rated by the Test and County Cricket Board as being among their top four umpires. Their three other nominations were David Shepherd, Nigel Plews and Dickie Bird, who will launch the long-awaited scheme when he takes charge of New Zealand's first Test against Pakistan in mid-February.

As of next month, every Test around the world will be jointly controlled by a home-based umpire and one independent country official from the panel.

All 20 umpires are to serve on the panel until the end of September, when their performances will be reviewed.

International umpires panel: Dickie Bird, David Shepherd, Nigel Plews, Ken Palmer (England), Srinivas Venkataraghavan, VK Ramaswamy (India), Brian Aldridge, Steve Dunne (New Zealand), Khizar Hayat, Mahboob Shah (Pakistan), Karl Liebenberg, Barry Lambson (South Africa), B Corray, Kandiah Francis (Sri Lanka), Steve Bucknor, Lloyd Barker (West Indies), Ian Robinson, Kantilal Kanjee (Zimbabwe), Australia are to make their nominations by early February.



World number one Pete Sampras of the United States plays a forehand return to the compatriot Aaron Krickstein during their quarterfinal match of the New South Wales Open in Sydney yesterday. Sampras won 6-1, 6-3.

Sampras sails smoothly

SYDNEY, Jan 13: Pete Sampras moved smoothly into the semifinals of the New South Wales Open today and said he would be disappointed not to win at least one Grand Slam title in 1994, reports Reuter.

The world number one gave his most impressive performance of the year to outclass fellow American Aaron Krickstein 6-1, 6-3 in just 56 minutes and underline his determination to win next week's Australian Open.

"My main goal this year is to win a Grand Slam. If I don't it'll be a disappointing year," said the 22-year-old Sampras.

"That's the bottom line, that's the thing, that's going to make me happy."

Sampras, who now faces Czech Petr Korda in the semifinals in Sydney, said he was particularly keen to win the Australian Open. It is one of the two Grand Slams — the French Open is the other — he has not won.

"There's no reason why I can't win... I won't be satisfied with anything else," he said. "It's the first big tournament of the year and it's important to play well there."

Sampras, the defending champion and top seed this

week, agreed his form against Krickstein was a welcome improvement on his alarming mid match slump against Australia's Jamie Morgan the previous day.

"Today was good, I hit the ball as well as I could," he said. "I didn't want to drag it out because it was pretty hot out there."

Korda, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over fellow Czech Daniel Vacek in 58 minutes, is likely to offer a Sterner Test to Sampras than Krickstein, a former champion at the event, could muster.

The fifth seeded Korda's only moment of alarm was when he tripped and hurt his ankle on the way to his post-match interview, and he is looking forward to another showdown with Sampras.

The pair met in the semifinals of the Grand Slam Cup in Munich last month when Korda won a five-set epic which lasted four hours 32 minutes.

"We won't be playing another marathon match like Munich," said Korda, ranked 11 in the world. "If he beats me, no problem, but if I beat him it's good for me."

The other semifinal will be an all-American affair between Ivan Lendl and sixth seed

Todd Martin.

Lendl was a 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 winner over another US representative Richey Reneberg in what he described as his best match of the tournament.

The former world number one felt he was moving better around the court but said there was increasingly less room for error for leading players in the men's game.

"The game has changed quite a bit," he said. "Before I could dictate the pace all the time, but now if you hit a bad ball you get punished. Sometimes if you hit a good ball you get punished as well."

He also recommended his long time coach Tony Roche to Australia's tennis authorities, expected to name their new Davis Cup captain shortly.

"He's had a lot to offer me, I'm sure he's offer a lot to the Australian Davis Cup team," Lendl said.

Martin survived the loss of the first set to beat Sweden's Nicklas Kulti in a decisive third set tie-break which ended 7-1 in his favour.

There were no surprises in the remaining four women's second round matches, although Japanese fifth seed Kimiko Date had a bad start before beating her American opponent Shanon Stafford 1-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Papin powers Milan march

PARMA, Italy, Jan 13: French striker Jean-Pierre Papin celebrated his return after suspension with the only goal as AC Milan beat Italian rivals Parma in the first leg of the European Super Cup final on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The Parma defence looked in vain for an offside flag as Papin headed powerfully home in the 43rd minute to round off a neat move between Dejan Savicevic and Stefano Eranio.

Milan are replacing disgraced European champions Marseille in the annual play-off between the winners of Europe's two top cup competitions and the artificial nature of the contest was reflected in a crowd of just 8,083.

The Italian champions, defeated by Marseille in the European Cup final last May, look set to collect their first trophy of the season when they host Cup Winners' Cup holders Parma in the return at the San Siro on February 2.

Papin's goal was a welcome boost for Milan, held to goalless draws by the bottom clubs in Italy's First Division as the Frenchman served a two-match ban for butting an opponent.

The Frenchman's first goal for a month condemned Parma to their third successive home defeat and extended a miserable run of form which has seen the ambitious small town club drop five points behind Milan in the league.

Colombian international Faustino Asprilla has lost his sparkle after a series of dazzling

displays last October on his return after helping his country reach the World Cup finals.

He broke clear of the customary solid Milan defence twice in the first half but saw goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi block his first effort then he dragged a second shot wide.

The tall Rossi was at full stretch to push a half-volley from Swedish midfielder Tomas Brodin around the post in the 40th minute and then tipped over a Lorenzo Minotti header moments after Milan had taken the lead.

Milan defenders Franco Baresi and Paolo Maldini, named by Italian national coach Arrigo Sacchi as two of the best players in the world, proved their worth again in the second half to ensure Rossi yet another clean sheet.

Portsmouth hold M United

LONDON, Jan 13: Premier League leaders Manchester United were held to a 2-2 draw by First Division Portsmouth in the quarter-finals of the English League Cup on Wednesday, reports Reuter.