

Easy wins for Tarun, Victoria

Sports Reporter

Surja Tarun and Victoria powered their way to easy wins in their respective openers in the 15th Dama Summer tournament at different city venues yesterday.

Batting first, at the Dhanmudi Cricket Stadium Tarun batted through their share of the stipulated 45 overs to raise 171 for eight wickets.

Opener Suman Biswas was their topscorer with 38.

Tail-ender Talha was the other major run-getter for the Dhanmudi team with an unbeaten 29.

Subir and Emdadul contributed 25 and 19 respectively.

Thirty three runs came by way of sundries.

For Ajax Inul Haider took two for 24.

Amul Islam took another two for 33 while Ahmad Kamal, who opened the attack, finished with a haul of two for 34.

Ajax were never quite in the chase and were eventually bowled out for 111 in 42.3 overs, conceding a 66-run defeat.

The Nelson owed its genesis mainly to three individual contributions. Abdul Karim made 27 while Sajidul and Sadeq chipped in with 15 each.

Left-arm spinner Asif Omar Belin was the chief destroyer with three for 24.

Mahmud and Towhid had two scalps each.

Victoria, who roped in a few useful cricketers including a couple of Indians earlier this year, ran away with a massive 103-run win against minnows Gopibagh Friends Association at the Mirpur Palahi ground.

Victoria batted first to compile 174 for nine wickets.

Skipper Ziauddin Ahmad was the top accumulator with 38.

Abu Hamid made 34, while Biplob Sarkar better known for his left-arm spin threw the bat around for a rapidfire 23.

There were two wickets each for Golam Sarwar Rahman and Shakil of Gopibagh.

Gopibagh in their turn were bowled out for 71 in just 28.2 overs.

Rabbani offered some resistance with 20.

Labu Khan was the other batsman to enter the double figures with 12.

Indian Rajinder Singh's off-spin was too much for the Gopibagh batsmen as the Sardari took three for 12.

Abu Hamid's medium pace earned him three for 19.

There will be no matches today and tomorrow.

N'ganj football

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 11: Godnail Krira Proshikshan, Shibir beat Shuktara Jubo Sangha by a solitary goal in the Hanjin Shipping First Division football league at the Osmani Stadium today.

After a barren first half, Kajor broke the deadlock seven minutes into the second session.

Jalpari Paribahan Corporation face Sonakanda Gold Club in tomorrow's match.

Barisal soccer

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 11: Manu Smriti Sangha and Brown Club split points in a goalless draw in the lone match of the Emma Overseas Senior Division football league at the local stadium today.

Shaheed Ashish Smriti Club takes on Ropitali Sabuj Sangha Club tomorrow.

Palacio indicted

MIAMI, Nov 11: A federal grand jury returned a drug indictment against featherweight boxer Ruben Palacio of Colombia, who last year became the first boxing champion to test positive for the AIDS virus, reports AP.

Palacio was arrested Sunday at Miami International Airport with 5.33 pounds (2.41 kilograms) of heroin concealed in the lining of his coat and his undershorts, authorities said.

The two-count indictment announced Thursday charges Palacio with importation of heroin and possession with intent to distribute heroin.

If convicted, the 32-year-old Palacio faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 10 years in prison.

Palacio was barred from boxing and stripped of his World Boxing Organisation title in April 1993 after a routine pre-flight medical examination found the presence of HIV. He was about to defend his title for the first time when the virus was discovered.

Palacio was arrested after arriving in Miami from Medellin, Colombia. In an interview published Monday by the Bogota newspaper El Tiempo, Palacio said he travels to the United States to receive treatment similar to Magic Johnson's.

"I party two straight days, and then I undergo tests, and everything is OK," he said.

Lara's courtship with captaincy ends in disaster

India drink Pepsi to lees

JAIPUR, India, Nov 11: Brian Lara's first stint as West Indian captain ended in failure Friday as India pulled off an exciting five-run win in the fifth and final one-day international here, reports AFP.

The 25-year-old record-breaker, who took over after Courtney Walsh opted to rest, lost the toss, dropped a catch in the first over and threw away his wicket after making 47.

Rubbing salt to Lara's wounds was Sachin Tendulkar, his nearest rival for the tag of the world's best batsman, who cracked a brilliant 105 as the



TENDULKAR...man of series in-form Indians piled up 259 for five after electing to bat.

West Indies were close to victory as Carl Hooper (84) and Jimmy Adams (51) hit 126 off 125 balls for the fourth wicket to leave the tourists needing only 44 off the final seven overs.

But the Indians, whose 3-1 lead had already assured them of their first ever triumph over the West Indies in a one-day series, grabbed the remaining seven wickets for 38 runs in six overs.

West Indies were bowled out for 254 with one over to spare as left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju and leg spinner Anil Kumble ran through the lower half in a heart-stopping finish.

Raju finished with four wickets, including those of Lara — trapped leg before

while attempting a wild swing — and Hooper, who hit six boundaries and two sixes in his 97-ball innings.

Kumble claimed the important wickets of Adams and Keith Arthurton (14) and skipper Mohammad Azharuddin chipped in with two shoe-string catches.

The exciting win enabled India to wrap up the series 4-1 to give themselves an ideal morale-booster before the three-Test rubber, starting in Bombay next Friday.

The Indians, who defeated the West Indies in the final of the triangular tournament last week, set up a target of over five runs an over in a match that held only academic interest.

Tendulkar and his opening partner Ajay Jadeja (31) fell five runs short of a fourth century stand in five matches, but their 95-run partnership gave their team an ideal start.

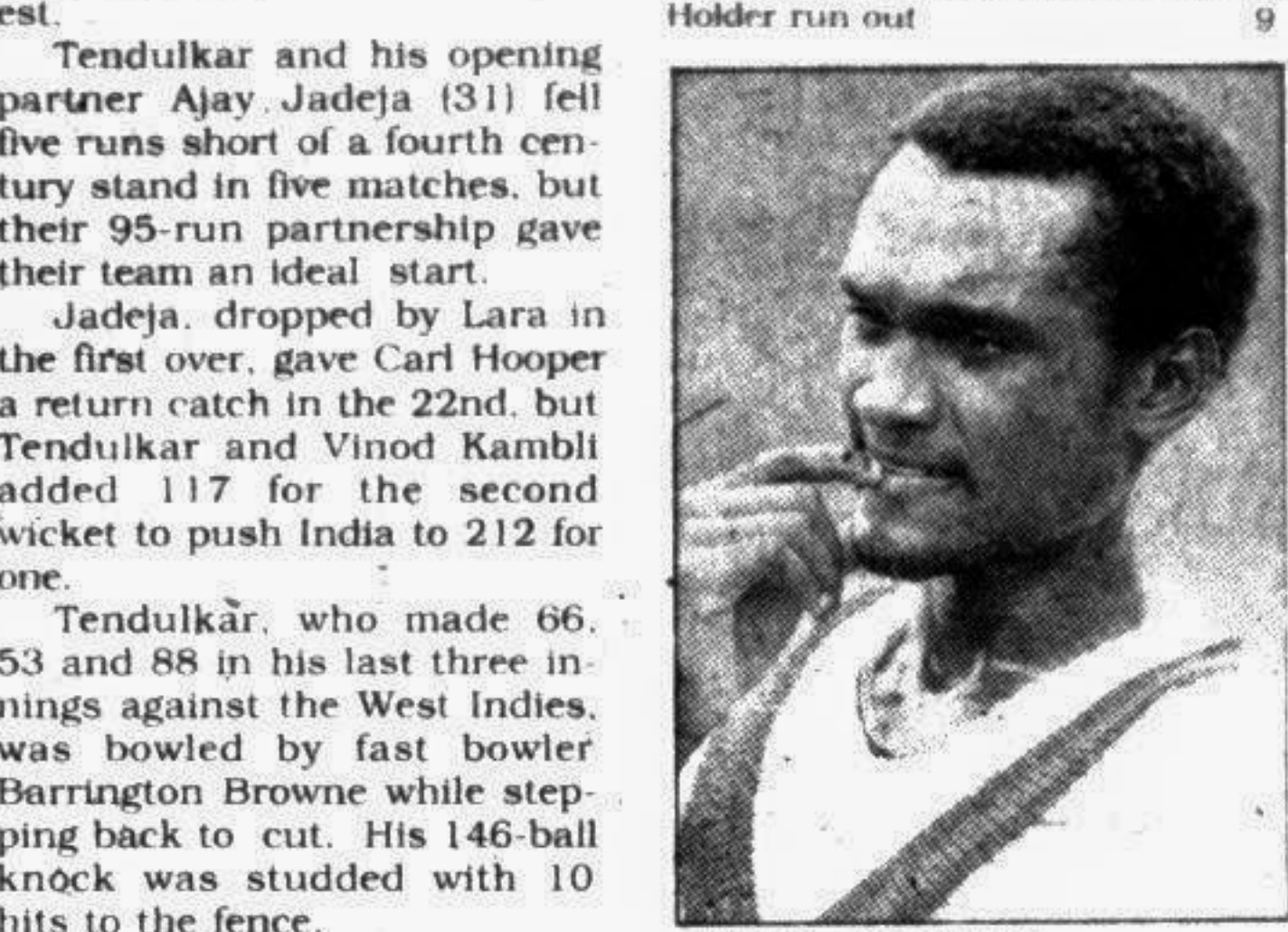
Jadeja, dropped by Lara in the first over, gave Carl Hooper a return catch in the 22nd, but Tendulkar and Vinod Kambli added 117 for the second wicket to push India to 212 for one.

Tendulkar, who made 66, 53 and 88 in his last three innings against the West Indies, was bowled by fast bowler Barrington Browne while stepping back to cut. His 146-ball knock was studded with 10 hits to the fence.

Left-handed Kambli slammed five fours and a six in a swashbuckling 66 off 69 balls before he was caught in the deep off Ariderson Cummins.

The West Indian bowlers halted the Indian run spree by removing Kambli, Azharuddin and Chetan Sharma in the last five overs, which produced just 26 runs.

SCOREBOARD				
Scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between India-West Indies at the Saiwal Man Singh Stadium here today:				
INDIA:				
Jadeja c and b Hooper	31			
Tendulkar b Browne	105			
Kambli c Lara b Cummins	66			
Bedade not out	15			
Azharuddin c Simmons b Cummins	2			
Sharma c Cuffy b Browne	1			
WEST INDIES:				
Simmons c Azharuddin b Srinath	2			
Williams c Mongia b Sharma	13			
Lara lbw b Raju	47			
Hooper lbw b Raju	84			
Adams c Kambli b Kumble	51			
Arthurton c Azharuddin b Kumble	14			
Holder run out	9			



CARL HOOPER...m-o-m

Chanderpaul c Bedade b Prabhakar

Cummins b Raju

Cuffy b Raju

Browne not out

Extras: (b-1, lb-14, nb-3, w-5) 23

Total: 254

Fall of wickets: 1-3: 2-50; 3-90; 4-216; 5-218; 6-238; 7-247; 8-251; 9-252.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Prabhakar	9	1	35	1
Srinath	7	0	41	1
Sharma	10	0	38	1
Kumble	10	1	47	2
Raju	9	0	47	4
Tendulkar	4	0	31	0

Overs: 49

Result: India won by five runs

Man-of-the-match: Carl Hooper

Man-of-the-series: Sachin Tendulkar

A chance for Aussie quintet

NEWCASTLE, Australia, Nov 11: Five members of the current Australian squad will get their first opportunity to gauge the strength of the touring English team when New South Wales hosts the tourists in a four-day cricket match beginning Saturday, reports AP.

Australian captain Mark Taylor, batsmen Michael Slater, Michael Bevan and Mark Waugh and spinner Gavin Robertson all were members of the Australian team that returned this week from a tour of Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The quintet will reinforce a New South Wales team that is likely to provide the stiffest opposition the Englishmen have yet encountered Down Under.

Taylor said Friday that he

The WWF way

LUDHIANA, India, Nov 11: Pandemonium broke out during a wrestling match between two American professionals in a northern Indian city when their routine went awry and injured five members of the audience, police said Thursday, reports AP.

As the World Wrestling Foundation fighters, Ultimate Warrior and Mr Demolition Ax, were going about their script to a packed stadium in Ludhiana city Wednesday night, they hurled two chairs at the audience, injuring two men and three children.

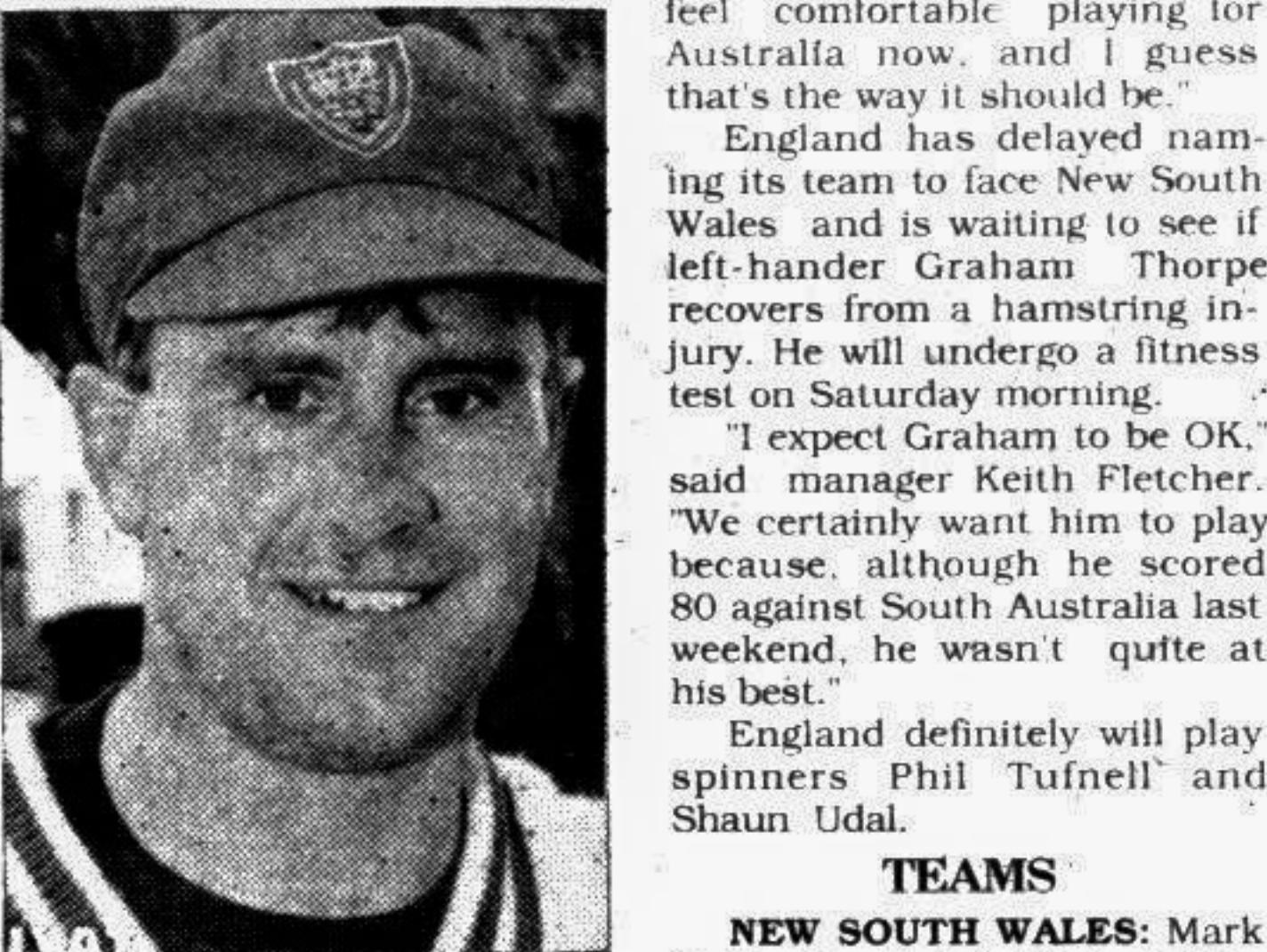
When the fighters shouted insults at the audience, two local wrestlers, Kehar Singh and Sumer Singh, who were part of the group, jumped on the stage and punched the Americans, as part of the routine.

But some youth, who were angry that the Americans had hurled furniture at some distinguished citizens of Ludhiana, wrongly assumed that the two Indian wrestlers were from the audience.

The teenagers also jumped into the ring and beat up the visitors with hockey sticks. Police broke up the fight and closed down the show.

Singh is a common name among the Sikhs and means Lion or Brave One in Punjabi language. The names of the Americans were not immediately known.

The Americans were hospitalised with injuries along with one member of the audience, said city police chief Hardip Singh Dhillon. The fighter, Ultimate Warrior, also suffered an eye injury, he said. Four others were given first aid.



MARK TAYLOR

The 24-year-old left-hander was in outstanding form in Pakistan, where he scored 82, 0, 70 and 91 in Tests.

Bevan had a tough task in Pakistan, replacing former Australian captain Allan Border in the batting lineup, but said he believes he now is more mature.

"Before, I'd perhaps go out there and blast it or play a few shots that now I wouldn't



Omani player Matar Al Mokhany (R) attempts an overhead volley to clear the ball away from Qatari Adel Khamiss during a 12th Gulf Cup encounter at the Sheikh Sayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Nov 9.

Div I chess

Sports Reporter

Star Studded Brothers Union maintained their lead in the points table of the First Division chess league at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

They beat Sonali Bank with Grand Master Niaz Murshed, Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmad Khan Lodhi, Indian Sharavanan and Rakib winning their respective matches.

Brothers now have a haul of eighteen points.

Bangladesh Biman were at the second place with fourteen points. Yesterday the chess players of the national airline registered a 2.5-1.5 victory against Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation.

Narayanganj Mashgul, who beat Dhaka University 3-1, stayed at the third place with twelve points.

Div I b'ball

Sports Reporter

Raj displayed superb scoring prowess but still found his effort inadequate as Physical Training Centre went down fighting to Surid Sangha 78-85 in one of the two Mohsin Cup Second Division basketball league matches at the wooden-floor gymnasium adjacent to the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Raj notched up the highest individual score of the league so far with 51 points while James and Mangal caged 30 and 19 points respectively for the victors.

The other match of the day followed a similar pattern with Shishir topping the scorers' tally but winding up at the wrong end as Hawks took care of Kurmitola Youngsters 82-73.

Saudis blank Bahrain

ABU DHABI, Nov 11: Saudi Arabia scored three times in 11 minutes in the second half Thursday, beating Bahrain 3-1 on Thursday to keep pace with the United Arab Emirates atop the standings at the 12th Gulf Cup soccer championship, reports AP.

Saeed al-Owairan, whose celebrated goal at the World Cup upset Belgium in the first round, scored one while Fahd Muhallil and Khalid Muwaled accounted for the others.

The victory improved Saudi Arabia to 2-0-1 and five points, same as the Emirates with two games remaining in the six-team biennial event. The Emirates hold a slight advantage on goal differential. The two played to a 1-1 draw in their head-to-head meeting on Sunday.

The loss dropped Bahrain to 1-1-1 and third place, possibly costing themselves title.

Saudi Arabia took the lead in the 53rd minute when Muhallil was credited with a goal which deflected off a defender's leg and past goal-keeper Hamad Sultan.

Despite Sultan's extraordinary performance which kept the score as close at it was, Owairan added a second three minutes later off a pass by Yasser Abdullah.

The Saudis added a third in the 63rd when Muwaled converted a penalty, awarded after Sami al-Jaber was brought down hard in the Bahrain area.

Bahrain, who tested Saudi goalkeeper Abdul-Aziz al-Dhaya on several occasions, finally scored a consolation goal in the 77th minute from Mubarak Khamis, who replaced Sameer Salim at the start of the second half.

Owairan, who pushed forward from the opening kickoff, narrowly missed a second chance, missing wide on a cross from Jaber in the 88th.

Friday is a rest day before the tournament resumes Saturday with Qatar taking on Saudi Arabia and the Emirates playing Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman play each other on Sunday.

TEAMS

NEW SOUTH WALES: Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, Mark Waugh, Michael Bevan, Shane Lee, Brad McNamara, Neil Maxwell, Gavin Robertson, Craig Glasscock, Anthony Kershner, Wayne Holdsworth, Richard Chee Quee (12th man).

ENGLAND (likely): Mike Atherton, (captain), John Crawley, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe, Mike Gatting, Craig White, Steve Rhodes, Philli DeFreitas, Shaun Udal, Devon Malcolm, Phil Tufnell.



Manchester United's French international striker Eric Cantona dribbles past two Manchester City players during an English Premier league game on Nov 10. United won 5-0. — AFP photo

Black sheep of Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 11: The image of Brazilian soccer fans abroad is of upbeat groups in yellow T-shirts and nearly-naked women dancing the samba, reports Reuter.

But a darker image is emerging. A wave of riots inside grounds, coupled with a shooting and a terrifying incident in which two men were tortured for three hours by rival fans have forced authorities to take action.

And the Maracana Stadium, build for the 1950 World Cup finals and which once held crowds of 200,000 or more, has become one of Brazil's most notorious venues for crowd trouble.

Last week, the Rio de Janeiro state government, which owns the Maracana, invaded rooms under the stands used by the supporters or "torcidas" clubs attached to each of Rio's four major teams.

The rooms were supposedly used for the torcidas to store their samba drums, banners and flags which still make a big game at the Maracana one of the world's great sporting spectacles.

But in the rooms used by Flamengo fans authorities also found knives and sticks.

The discovery reinforced a long-held suspicion that torcidas incite trouble. Each team has three or four torcidas and their membership runs into the thousands.

Gangs of youths routinely charge through fans on the lower tier of the stadium, grabbing wallets and valuables and they go, while fans on the upper tier take pleasure in throwing plastic bags full of urine on those below.

Outside, the situation is equally frantic. At some major games there is a huge crush at the ticket windows with fans clambering over each other in their crazed attempts to get to the front.

Last month, 22-year-old Wanger Soares Da Silva, supporter of the Sao Paulo club



PALMEIRAS, died after being shot outside the stadium by the occupants of a passing car following his team's game with Flamengo.

Witnesses said Palmeiras fans were waiting to leave in a convoy of buses when Flamengo supporters began stoning their vehicles. When Palmeiras fans got out of the buses, a car drove past and shots were fired.

But trouble is not just confined to the temple of Brazilian soccer. Less than a week before the shooting, another fan died from injuries after a riot at a game between Guarani and Corinthians in Campinas, Brinco de Ouro da Princesa Stadium.

Corinthians fans invaded the Guarani end and supporters attacked each other with iron bars, pieces of wood and flag poles. Play continued uninterrupted throughout.

At the end of the match, firemen were called after Corinthians fans set light to a storeroom containing tins of paint.

An almost identical fight during a match between Vasco da Gama and Santos in Rio de Janeiro's Sao Januario ground, a month before halted play for 45 minutes.

Samba drums were among the weapons used by fans to hit each other and during the confusion, one policeman was attacked and bitten by his own dog after losing control of the animal.

Before the game, police had discovered and arsenal of weapons when they stopped a busload of Santos fans on the Sao Paulo-Rio highway.

In another incident, a police officer had his hand blown off by a home made bomb in Belo Horizonte's Minerao Stadium.

Torcidas were again under the spotlight when two men were beaten up at the headquarters of the Palmeiras Mancha Verde "green stain" group.

The two went to buy tickets for a derby with Sao Paulo at and office belonging to the

torcidas when a group of Palmeiras fans noticed that one of them was wearing Sao Paulo shirt underneath his sweater.

The two men told police the Palmeiras fans beat them up with bars, pushed their heads down a toilet, urinated on them and then pulled the chain. After three hours of brutality, the men were released minus their wallets.

The violence has been widely blamed for scaring away fans.

The Palmeiras-Sao Paulo clash itself attracted only 25,000 crowd when 80,000 plus would have normally been expected. Attendances at the Maracana, where the modern capacity is 130,000, have rarely been more than 10,000 in the current Brazilian Championship.

Clubs blame the police for the trouble, critics blame the clubs and everyone blames Brazil's over-lenient and painfully slow judicial system.

"The big problem with soccer violence is impunity," said Afonso Paulino de Araujo, president of the Atletico Mineiro club in Belo Horizonte. Fans are rarely arrested and court cases involving soccer hooligans are unheard of.

Stung by the criticism, the torcidas of Sao Paulo organised a peace initiative before the day of the recent Sao Paulo-Palmeiras derby.

Representatives of various torcidas paraded around the pitch before kick-off with banners proclaiming the world "peace" and a symbolic dove was released from the centre circle.

The fans behaved themselves but, in a supreme irony, the game itself turned into a brawl.

Six players were sent off and play was held up for 15 minutes as the players took part in a free-for-all which needed riot police to separate.

"How can we tell the fans to behave themselves after this," said Sao Paulo midfielder Alemao.

Butragueno Barcelona bound?



MADRID, Nov 11: Real Madrid's most emblematic player over the last decade — Emilio "The Vulture" Butragueno — may wear the red and maroon next season of traditional archrivals Barcelona, reports AP.

The 31-year-old forward, in his 12th season with Real Madrid, has been relegated largely to the bench by new coach Jorge Valdano. In a match last weekend against Atletico de Madrid, he wasn't even among the substitutes and watched from the press-box as 17-year-old Raul Gonzalez took his spot and wore Butragueno's traditional No. 7.

Butragueno got his name in the record books when he tied a World Cup mark with four goals in a 5-1 win over Denmark in the 1986 World Cup. The record was erased this summer in the United States, when Russian Oleg Salenko — who plays professionally in Spain's First Division with Valencia — scored five goals in a 6-1 win over Cameroon.

In the late 1980s Butragueno, who got his nickname for his instinct of swooping to score like a goal-mouth predator, was considered the ringleader of group of players on Real Madrid that helped the side win five consecutive league titles.

Ironically, his increasing absence from the team's starting 11 in recent years has coincided with Real Madrid's decline and, coincidentally, Barcelona's rise to win the past four league championships.

Rumours of his possible transfer to Barcelona have consumed the Spanish sports media this week particularly since the First Division takes the

weekend off to give the national team extra training time for next Wednesday's European Championship qualifier against Denmark in Seville.

"Relax Butragueno, if they don't want you, you can join us," Barcelona assistant coach Carlos Rexach said in an interview.

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff has been a long-time fan of the Madrid forward and reports say his club has made an informal offer to Butragueno, whose contract with Real Madrid expires next June.

"The Vulture Hovers Over Barcelona" is how the Barcelona-based sports daily El Mundo Deportivo headlined his possible move. The paper is conducting a readers' telephone poll to see if they favour the signing.

Cruyff, hasn't confirmed the offer and Valdano is sure that Barcelona hasn't made one. "Nobody believes such an offer has been made," Valdano said.

But offer or no, the question will simmer until this season ends.

Butragueno said in a radio interview nothing had been decided.

"I'd prefer not to say anything until May," he said. "The truth is, I don't know what my future will be. Now, everything is speculation... Soccer is a business where the coach issues the orders. I take the orders."

The striker is also said to be considering a lucrative offer from an unspecified Japanese club.



BUTRAGUENO

For "sports for the masses"

BEIJING, Nov 11: Cash-strapped China will invite tenders to raise at least 50 million yuan (5.86 million dollars) to sponsor 36 "sports for the masses" events next year, organisers said today, reports Reuter.

The events, including a tightrope walking competition across the Yangtze river in western Sichuan province in early May and shuttlecock kicking contests, will carry the name of the winning bidder, they told a news conference.

Chinese athletes, coaches and sports organisations have received fewer funds from the cash-strapped government in recent years and have been increasingly to fend for themselves.

In the past the state allocated money to stage sports competitions. But the concept has changed. Sports events have now to be a source of income, said Li Yuan deputy-director of the China Sports for the Masses Centre.

Organisers said they were studying safety measures for the tightrope walkers and entrants might need to wear parachutes.