Sports Reporter Unseasonally wel wether marked by intermittent drirzie forced the day's all cricket fixtures at different city venues

to be called off yesterday. Although Acme Second Division cricket league, weather permitting is expected to resume today, the Navana Premier and Yahamaha First Division leagues will restart from tomorrow.

All the suspended engage ments will be played first when play commences causing bodily shift in fixtures, said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release.

### Regency Club reach Mayor Cup qtrs

CHITTAGONG. Jan 9: Regency Club qualified for the quarter finals of the Mayor Gold Cup football tournament earning four points from their two Group A matches, reports Regency beat Dhaka

goal at the Chittagong Stadium here today. The first half was scoreless.

Farashgant Club by a solitary

Munna scored the all-impor-

Regency comprising six players of Dhaka Mohammedan played very well but failed to increase the margin due to the poor marksmanship up-front. In the 46th minute Munna

scored the winning goal from a

spectacular volley. Rafique's 2nd

#### Sports Reporter'

Rafigul Islam scored his second hattrick in the Green Delta Insurance hockey league as Usha Krira Chakra recorded their fifth win with a 6-0 thrashing over Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha at the Hockey Stadium vesterday.

The Usha skipper completed his treble with strikes in the 32nd 41st and 46th minutes respectively after his striking partner Irtiza Qader gave the winners a 26th minute lead.

Rafiq earlier scored his first hattrick in Usha's league against 'Dhaka Wanderers, which they had won by a similar margin

In a one sided affair, inside forward Mohammed Sadeque and Kismat added to Sadharan Bima misery scoring two more

Usha, who had already confirmed a super league berth from Group B, now top the group with 16 points from six

matches. In the other match of the day. Azad Sporting Club and Bangladesh Sporting Club split

points in a two all draw. Javed and Shipu scored one

goal apiece for Azad while Sabu and Rintu made it for Bangladesh Sporting. .

### Heat in chill

Sports Reporter

Goals were scarce but brawls were plenty as vesterday's two Pragati Insurance Third Division football league matches ended in draws at the outer stadium adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium.

In day's first match Motifheel T&T and East End Boys shared points in a goal less encounter. The second match too

failed to produce any victors. Babul put Little Friends ahead but Anwar of Kadamtala Sangsad restored parity

One player from each side was sent off in a match spoiled by ugly confrontation among rival players.

### England A in dire straits

MADRAS, Jan 9: England A were bemused by the turning ball as the Indian Board President's XI snatched the initiative in the four-day cricket match at the Chepauk here Monday, reports AFP.

Starting the second day's play at 255 for three, the home team banked on a spirited 78 from Rizwan Shamshad to reach 333 for six before skipper Vikram Rathore declared the first innings soon

alter lunch. England A were a shaky 131 for four in reply when stumps were drawn, the result of a strange mix of ambitious stroke play and inability to ne-

gotiate the slow turn. The tourists would have been in worse trouble but for a resolute unbeaten 36 by Lancashire's Jason Gallian and 17 not out by star allrounder Dominic Cork of Derbyshire.

The pair have so far put on 25 runs for the fifth-wicket. Left-arm spinner Utpal Chatterjee. expected to figure in the India A squad for the first of three five-day interna-

tionals starting at Bangalore on Saturday, ended the day with amazing figures of 11-8-3-1.

England A's hopes of matching the home team's score now rest on Gallian and Cork, the only batsmen who appeared comfortable against the spinners.

# Argentina on a goal feast



tore apart Japan to record a 5-1 continental Cup on Sunday.

with his powerful running at the inexperienced Japanese. Argentina took the lead in 32nd minute when Rambert, intercepting a Chamot pass initially intended for Batistuta. fired home.

Ortega made it 2-0 on the



Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta rises above Japan's Natsuka Satoshi to head to the ball home. Batistuta scored twice as Argentina thrashed Japan 5-1 in an Intercon tinental Cup match in Riyadh on Jan 8. - AFP photo

Two goals from Fiorentina striker Gabriel Batistuta and one each by Ariel Ortega and Sebastian Rambert took Argentina to the top of Group B. tied on three points with Nigeria.

Jose Chamot, who also plays his club soccer in Italy with Lazio, got the other goal for the South American champions to cap a fine individual performance.

It was the Lazio defender who set up the first two goals

pursuers Real Zaragoza went

down to a 3-2 defeat at First

Division newcomers Compos-

tela on Sunday, reports

Goals by Dane Bent Chris-

tensen after eight minutes and

Nigerian Christopher Ohen on

13 and 43 minutes gave the

modest but determined Gali-

cians victory in a fast, tight

Miguel Pardeza scored

Zaragoza's goals in the 32nd

and 67th minutes. The visitors

got the ball into the net for

what would have been an in-

jury time equaliser but the ref-

eree disallowed the goal, ap

the third time this season.

played from the 52nd minute

with 10 men after midfielder

Cruyff angry at

Romario and

Stoichkov

Barcelona boss Johan Cruyff

threatened his multi-million

pound strike force Hristo

Stoichkov and Romario with

the axe here on Monday after

their 5.0 humiliation against

Spanish rivals Real Madrid.

Stoichkov, recently voted

year but sent off against Real at

the weekend, was "saturated

World Cup hero Romario: "I

want the best from my players.

If Romario is not happy here

and want to go home, he no

saying Stoichkov's striking

partner could leave Barcelona

without paying the club com-

pensation for cutting short his

way with Brazilian club

Flamengo, who have offered six

Cruyff said his top players

would be "replaced by others"

if they could not accept their

responsibilities, adding: "We

can lose as we did in Athens in

the European Cup against AC

Milan last year, but the worst

thing is the attitude of the

· The Dutch manager, asked

if he was targeting inter

Milan's unsettled Dennis

Bergkamp as a replacement for

Romario, said he was less in-

terested in players not cur-

rently playing in first team

players on the pitch."

million dollars for Ramario.

Talks are currently under-

Cruyff went even further,

And he added of Brazilian

European-footballer-of-the-

with praise and prizes."

longer interests, me.

contract.

football.

Cruyff said Bulgarian

reports AFP.

BARCELONA, Jan 9

Zaragoza, beaten for only

parently because of handball.

Real Madrid stb-

nd two points

clear at the top of

the Spanish le-

ague after closest

stroke of halftime when he slipped his marker to smash The speedy Rambert, play-

ing only his fourth international, created the third goal just after the break with a powerful shot that bounced off the legs of Japanese keeper Shigetatsu Matsunaga for Batistuta to head into the goal.

Jesus Garcia Ganjuan was

themissed for a second yellow

worth the entrance money

Christensen's goal alone was

He ran on to a brilliant pass

from the centre circle from

balding veteran Agustin Abadia

and took the ball on three

paces at full speed before

blasting an unstoppable right

foot shot past goalkeeper

Andoni Cedrun from a tight

points total to 25 from 16

games with a spellbinding 5-0

demolition of champions

Barcelona in front of 107,000

Stadium on Saturday.

delirious fans in Bernabeu

equally humiliating 5-0 defeat

inflicted on Madrid by the

Catalans in Camp Nou Stadium

Chilean striker Ivan Zamo-

rano, who scored a first half

hattrick, was jubilant: "If we go

like this until the end of the

season we will really give the

For Barcelona coach Johan

lans something to celebrate.

Cruyff, desolation. With a de-

my players in the eye."

leat like that there can by no

excuses. I can't look some of

back to three points behind

Madrid in third place when

they were held to an unin-

spired 0-0 draw away at Real

for Deportivo was that Brazilian

international midfielder Mauro

Silva came through unscathed

The most encouraging thing

Deportivo la Coruna slipped

he said.

Betis.

almost a year ago to the day.

It was sweet revenge for an

Madrid had lifted their

Chamot made it 4-0 in the 54th minute with a powerful shot from the edge of the box before Japan pulled one back

three minutes later from a Kazuvoshi Miura's freekick.

Batistuta wrapped it up for Argentina with a penalty in the 86th minute after he had been fouled by defender Satoshi

Tsunami Argentina need a draw in the final Croup B match against Nigeria on Tuesday to

#### HOSTS OUT OF RACE

qualify for Friday's final.

Glasgow Rangers striker Brian Laudrup, captaining his country for the first time, inspired Denmark, to a comfortable 2-0 win over Saudi Arabia.

The win put the Danes level on points with Mexico in Group A of the six-nation tournament of FIFA's continental champions and eliminated the Saudi hosts from the competi-

The silky skills of the 25year-old Laudrup carved open the brittle Saudi defence on numerous occasions, providing excellent opportunities for his teammates and a goal for him-

His goal came just before halftime with Laudrup running from midway in the Saudi half and wide on the wing to accelerate through the Saudi defence, before shooting home from an acute angle.

Earlier he had hit the crossbar with a freekick and also provided Mark Strudal with a header which bounced to safety off the woodwork.

Morten Substitute Weighorst scored the second on the stroke of fulltime, powering through a cluster of defenders to hit home from close-range.

The European champions. without several of their English-based regulars and Buan's brother Michael, fielded three new caps in their first game of the week long tournament.

Saudi Arabia, who had looked nervous and urtimaginative in losing 2-0 to Mexico in the tournament's opening match on Friday, again failed to show the flair that saw them reach the second round of the World Cup in the US last year.

Denmark will meet Mexico. the CONCACAF champions, in the final group match on Tuesday with the winner qualifying for Friday's final.

### Haynes keen to resume

DURBAN, Jan 9: Former West Indian opener Desmond Haynes could be in line to resume his international career after Western Province said on Monday he had been released from his contract in order to play for Barbados, reports Reuter.

The South African provincial club said they had agreed "rejuctantly" (to Haynes' request but under International Cricket Council (ICC) rules a player required by his country must be released from his contract

Under West Indies rules, a player can be selected for international matches only if he plays in the domestic Red Stripe competition.

Western Province chief executive Arthur Turner said Havnes, who scored 18 centuries in 116 Tests, was keen to play in the home series against Australia in March and April.

He last played for West Indies against England early



DUSTROND HAYNES last year but missed the recent

series in India. We are not impressed at all, said Turner. "We were under the impression that Desmond had retired from Test cricket but it seems he has had a change of heart."

He added that Haynes, who will miss Western Province's last four games in the Castle Cup, would have to clarify his position for next season, the second year of his contract.

Realistically he must be retired from Test cricket because we cannot have a situa tion where he is available from October to January and then goes back to West Indies."

Turner said South African born batsman Robin Smith would be high on the shopping list for Western Province if he remained out of favour with the England selectors.

#### Healy fit

MELBOURNE. Jan 9: Australian wicketkeeper lan Healy has recovered from a strained hamstring and will play against England in the World Series Cup one-day cricket match here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The injury kept Healy out of Sunday's 34-run victory over Australia A in Brisbane.

But Australia will be without off-spinner Tim May, who strained his right hamstring during Sunday's one-dayer. lan has passed a fitness test

and will play Australian team manger Ian McDonald said to-

Phil Emery, who filled in for Healy on Sunday will now re-join Australia A for their final match of the series against England in Sydney on Thursday.

New South Wales off-spinner Robertson has been called up from Australia A to fill the vacancy left by May.

McDonald said May would travel with the Australian team so he can undergo regular treatment from team physiotherapist Errol Alcott

Danish captain Brian Laudrup (R) and Saudi defender Mohammed Al Khilaiwi are involved

in a mid-pitch duel for the ball during their Intercontinental Cup football tournament match

in Riyadh on Jan 8. European champions Denmark won 2-0.

# Atherton sticks to his guns

current touring party, reports

The England skipper.

commenting on the comments

published in the London Mail

on Sunday newspaper, re-

jected claims he believed he

deserved a greater role in

He said he is happy to be

I'd like to say two things

about the comments aired in

England over the weekend:

Firstly, I'd like to say I stand by

them but I'd like to emphasise

that at no stage have I ever

said that I felt the captain

should be responsible for

picking the side," he said

while preparing for Tuesday's

one-day international with

on the selection committee

and I think the selection pro-

of which the captain is one -

works fine.

I'm perfectly happy to sit

- we have five selectors

one of the five members of the

picking the side.

selection committee.

MELBOURNE Atherton repeated his Jan 9: Mike Athcomments that England should be going for youth but denied crion today stood lw his comments this meant the end of the cathat English crireers of veterans Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting. cket should con-

"I think the comments centrate on promoting young players, but denied he had were common sense, they're made any criticism of the



(Gooch and Gatting) both coming towards the end of their careers, they know that and when exactly that is remains to be seen, but they both know they have not got many

years left in the game," the skipper said.

Atherton said he was pleased selectors had begun to pick younger players sucil as paceman Darren Gough and batsmen John Crawley and

Graham Thorpe, but denied comments attributed to him that the tour party was not the one he wanted. "I'm one of the selectors and I'm very happy to stand by the squad that was picked and

claim by share of responsibility for that should we go down in the Test series," Atherton said He also stood by his comments that English selectors should be more in touch with

the modern game, with more recently retired ex-players. England team manager Mike Smith said his skipper's comments had not caused any friction. Smith said he was disappointed some of Atherton's comments were misrepre-

There is no problem whatsoever between management. the captain and the selectors." Smith said.

We would have much preferred to have come down and practised, then gone away and relaxed and it's mischievous as far as that particular journalist

# Soul searching time for NZC



chairman Peter McDermott said today, reports. Reuter Most likely to be axed is coach Geoff Howarth whose contract is up for review when the cricket board meets next

That's one that will come under scrutiny and come under substantial scrutiny over the next week," McDermott

"I suspect there will be a very tough review and it is possible heads could roll, in any case, there will certainly be some recriminations and an improvement in performance required at all levels," he said in a radio interview.

Also under review will be the position of captain Ken Rutherford who not only had a poor series with the bat, aver aging just 26 and getting out with reckless shots on several occasions, but was heavily fined in the third Test for umpire abuse.

There are aspects of his performance that will need to be reviewed, particularly discipline." McDermott said.

'It's not acceptable for Ken to behave the way he did and he already knows that and he has been fined heavily as a re-

New Zealand Cricket's centenary this summer looms as a potential disaster. It faces Test tours by the West Indies, South Africa and Sri Lanka and a oneday tournament involving India, Australia and South

The New Zealanders' first

tour to South Africa since 1962 started well when they surprised the pundits by winning the first Test. But it was downhill from there. They became the first team

this century to lose a threematch Test series after winning the first Test and failed to win a single match in a quadrangular one day series against South Africa, Sri Lanka and Pakistari. New Zealand have struggled

in international cricket since the retirement of Sir Richard Hadlee, who led them through a golden era in the 1980s which included home series wins against every Test playing nation as well as away series wins against England and Australia Hadlee along with former

captains John Reid, Bevan Congdon and Glenn Turner, has been touted as a possible replacement for Howarth, who captained New Zealand through much of the golden

"Some searching questions will need to be asked and answered honestly." Hadlee wrote in a Sunday newspaper column.

The general attitude and desires of the players will also have to be looked at as well as team preparation and whether the players' work rate at practice was high enough, he said. Congdon is seen as a possi-

ble hard nosed coach in the

mould of Australia's Bob Simpson Congdon said he had made his views clear to New Zealand cricket but it was up to the board to decide where to go

Apart from deficiencies left by Hadlee's departure in the bowling department, the Kiwis have had terrible problems in opening the batting where partnerships seldom reached

double figures. Gritty batsman Andrew Jones has been persuaded to come out of retirement to bolster the batting and he may have to open.

That experience and hard nosed attitude that Andrew brings to the game is one element that seems to have been missing over the last three months. McDermott said.

There will be little room for the Kiwis to experiment. The West Indies arrive next week and they have a few scores to

New Zealand were the last side to win a series against the West Indies - in 1979-80 and the West Indies have not won a series in New Zealand since

# Juventus overtake Parma



Fabrizio Ravanelli scored two goals in four minutes to help Juventus knock Parma off the top of the First Division

with a 3-1 victory in Serie A's clash of the giants in Italy on Sunday, reports Reuter. The result put Juventus in a

healthy position in the championship race with a two-point lead and game in hand over Parma, second on 31 points. Roma are third on 27.

Ex-Juventus player Dino Baggio gave Parma the lead against the run of play in the 57th minute, receiving a neat

through pass from Gianfranco Zola before scoring with an angled shot.

Within four minutes. Juventus claimed a fortunate equaliser when Parma' goalkeeper Giovanni Galli, a firsthalf substitute for the injured Luca Bucci, totally misjudged a lofted cross from Paolo Sousa and watched helplessly as the ball sailed into the net for the Portuguese international's first league goal.

Ravanelli put Juventus in front in the 70th minute, diving spectacularly to head a low, first-time cross from Gianluca Vialli past the hapless Galli. He added his second from

the penalty spot to extend Juventus's unbeaten run to eight matches and bring Parma's series of seven successive home wins to an abrupt Argentine Abel Balbo's

eighth goal of the season and a late effort from Francesco Totti lifted Roma into third spot with a 2-0 victory over Bari.

In a night match. Lazio

# Compagnoni wins

HAUS IM ENNSTAL. Austria, Jan 9: Olympic giant slalom champion Deborah Compagnoni took her first race of the season by taking a women's World Cup giant slalom Sunday, reports AP.

Anita Wachter, who took Saturday's Super-G here, led after the first heat and appeared on her way to victory but fell in the middle of the second heat.

Compagnoni missed the first part of the season with kidney infection which sidelined her for eight consecutive World Cup races. She was timed in 2 minutes 35.39 sec-

World Cup overall leader Heidi Zeller Baehler of Switzerland was second. 2:35.63. Vreni Scheneider of Switzerland, last year's overall champion, took third, 2:35.83.

- AFP photo

The women's next race is a Super-G in Flachau. Austria on Tuesday where the men will also race a Super-G the same

squandered a chance to join their arch-rivals in third place crashing to a 3-1 defeat against

Sampdoria. Lazio's Giuseppe Signorí cancelled out an early strike from Croat Sinisa Mihajlovic with his eighth goal of the season before two goals from England's David Platt either side of halftime - his first from the penalty spot - sealed victory for Sampdoria.

was rounded off when the usually prolific Signori missed a 58th-minute penalty and Marco di Vaio's headed goal was disallowed for a hotly disputed offside decision. Fiorentina, third at the start

Lazio's poor start to 1995

Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta absent on international duty, slipped to a 1-0 defeat at Torino. AC Milan's run of misfortune continued with a lastminute mistake by goalkeeper

Sebastiano Rossi which al-

lowed Fabio Cannavare to sal-

of the day and with their

vage a 1-1 draw for Napoli at the San Siro. The reigning champions have not won at home since

### October 2. Dortmund ride

ternational striker Karl-Heinz Riedle's first half injury time goal gave German league leaders Borussia Dortmund a 1-0 victory over bottom club Duisburg on Friday, reports Reuter.

Duisburg rarely mounted an at-The result gave Dortmund

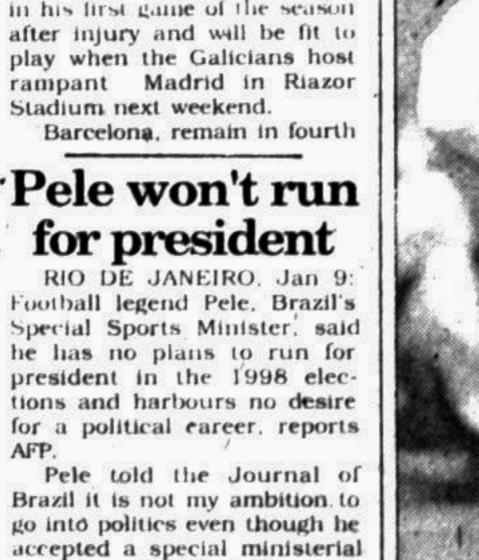
A further point behind

on Riedle BONN, Jan 9; German in-

Riedl's winner, slotted home from six metres, took his season's goal tally to five. Dortmund richly deserved their win in a match in which

26 points from 16 matches. three more than nearest rivals Werder Bremen, who travel to seventh-placed Karlsruhe to-

Bremen, on 22 points from 17 matches, are Kaiserslautern. who could only manage a 1-1 draw at home to struggling 1860 Munich on Friday.



## Challenger title Steven's

post from President Fernando

Henrique Cardoso.

WELLINGTON. Jan 9: New Zealander Brett Steven scored a stråight-sets victory over Martin Damm of the Czech Republic Sunday in the final of the US dirs 50,000 BP Challenger tennis tournament, reports AP.

### Madrid consolidate lead place but are now five points off the lead.

Sunday's games, the first after the Christmas and New Year break mainly showed signs of over-indulgence during the festive season, with lit tle excitement or football of note to be found.

worth in Santander when the home team beat Valencia 3-2 after a goalless first half. sating Basque derby between Athletic Bilbao and Real

relenting rain and a swampy It did see two men sent off with Bilabo's Josu Irrutia and Real's Jose Lumbreras given

the second half. deepened when they were

Two goals by Romanian star Florin Raducioiu in the fourth and 77th minutes stole the points from a match in which Atletico deserved a better fate.

But fans got their monews

Even the traditionally pul-Sociedad failed to produce a goal and fell short of expectations as the players battled un-

their marching orders late in The season's gloom over once great Atletico Madrid

beaten 2.0 by Espanol in Barcelona and slipped back to 18th in the 20 Jeam league with only 12 points.