

### Argentina world youth champs

DOHA, Apr 28: Leonardo Biagini scored the only goal Argentina needed in the 26th minute Friday, leading his country to a 2-0 victory over Brazil for the FIFA World Youth Championship title, reports AP.

Francisco Guerrero added another a minute from time as Argentina won their second under-20 World Cup and first since 1979. Brazil had come into the game as the favourites, looking to win their second straight title and fourth overall.

### PORTUGAL TAKE BRONZE

Earlier, Nuno Ribeiro took over as captain at the start of the second half and scored twice in 12 minutes Friday, rallying Portugal to a 3-2 victory and the bronze medal.

With Portugal trailing 2-0 at halftime, Ribeiro took over as captain from Jorge Madureira, who was replaced at the break. He scored the first of Portugal's goals in the 69th minutes and after Dani Carvalho tied the game three minutes later, added the game winner in the 81st.

He won the game after being put clear by Agostinho Ribeiro, who left him with a simple tap-in past goalkeeper Javier Vallejo.

Spain dominated the first half. Miguel Salgado scored in the 25th minute and Ivan de La Pena in the 38th to give the Spaniards the two-goal advantage.

### Angels scrape home

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Angels Club struggled against lowly Lalbagh Sporting Club before scrapping home with a squeaky 87-71 win in one of the two Partex First Division basketball matches played at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 51-28, before a rejuvenated Lalbagh nearly turned the tables on Angels, scoring 43 points against their illustrious opponents' 36.

Ashim, who led the late Lalbagh flurry, caged highest 30 points while James and Siddique with 28 and 25 respectively were the leading scorers for Angels.

Meanwhile, in the first encounter of the day, Josephite Club sauntered past Hornets 80-36 for their second successive win.

Farhan with 26 points under his name was the top shooter for the victors followed by Mamun, who caged 14.

### BGIC nat'l v'ball on

Sports Reporter

Khulna District Sports Association and Titas Gas made a resounding start in the BGIC national volleyball championship after winning their respective group league matches by an identical 3-0 margin on the inaugural day at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match, the Khulna spikers outclassed Dinajpur by 15-6, 15-7 and 15-2 point defeat on Tangail while the Rangpur eves had to struggle to beat Ansars by 1-15, 15-7, 15-9, 10-15 and 15-12 in a marathon Group A engagement.

### CJKP cricket

CHITTAGONG, Apr 28: Shaheed Shajahan Sangha beat Agrabad Nowjoan Club by six wickets in the CJKP Ispahani First Division Cricket league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Agrabad Nowjoan batted first and were all out for only 76 runs in 28.3 overs.

In reply, Shaheed Shajahan Sangha scored 81 for four in 25.4 overs.

Tuhin of Shajahan Sangha was the wrecker-in-chief with a haul of five for 26. He earned the first hat-trick in the league.

Biplob and Shuja of Shajahan Sangha also took two wickets each for 12 and 14 runs respectively.

Palash and Biplob of Shajahan Sangha made 26 and 22 respectively.

Sohel of Nowjoan captured two for 17.

### Wimbledon duo fined

LONDON, Apr 28: Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear and team captain Vinnie Jones have been fined after being found guilty of misconduct by the English Football Association, reports AP.

Kinnear was fined 1,500 pounds (2,400 dollar) and banned from the sidelines until Oct 31 for calling one referee a "cheat" and another a "little Hitler" after separate defeats earlier this season.



A midfield tussle from yesterday's Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament match between East End Club and Bangladesh Boys Club at the Dhaka Stadium. East End won 4-2 in the tiebreaker. — Star photo

## Fakirerpool, East End in Group-D final

Sports Reporter

Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club and East End set up a final clash from Group D after winning their respective round openers of the Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The two will meet tomorrow to decide who to join in the eight-team final leg of the curtain-raiser meet, beginning from May 3.

In the day's first match, East End Club prevailed over Bangladesh Boys 4-2 in the tiebreaker after the lacklustre engagement involving the two First Division outfits failed to break the deadlock during the 90-minute regulation time.

The only notable aspect in the disappointing encounter was a penalty awarded in favour of the eventual winners shortly after the breather.

But the East End defender Emon, who took the 12-yarder 'spoiled' the sitter sending it wide of the mark forcing the match to be decided on penalties.

In the shoot-out, Liton, Chisti, Raju, Ujjal and Haran

found the net for East End while Azad and Shuvro made it for the losers.

After the rather dull first encounter the sparse crowd at the stadium witnessed a very entertaining second fixture where Fakirerpool recorded a 4-3 win over Shantinagar.

During a lively match with forays and counter forays, Fakirerpool, a Premier Division outfit, led the first half 3-0 with their striker Askar Khan Babu notching the first two goals.

The fleet-footed Askar struck in the ninth minute with a first-time shot after being fed by medio Maqsoodul Amin Rana, who served a perfect cross from inside the box.

Fourteen minutes later Askar doubled the winners' margin with a neat ground before defender Sohul-al-Masum made it 3-0 in the 28th minute with a dream-come from the left that sailed straight into the far corner of the net, eluding the Shantinagar custodian Bijon.

The beleaguered Shantinagar then hit back with a 33rd minute strike from their forward Alauddin, who slotted the ball home after capitalising on

a defensive lapse.

But the Motijheel outfit, who made no nonsense of availing the chances that came their way, struck the decisive blow when their right-winger Kanchan gave then an unassailable 4-1 lead in the 54th minute.

Fakirerpool then conceded two goals in the last part of the second half due to some experimental changes by their coach Lablu.

Hakim, who came on for custodian Tayeb, misjudged a floater from Hakim that allowed an unmarked Alauddin to score his second goal of the match with a spectacular side volley.

And in the dying moments, defender Sohul, the other substitute of Fakirerpool, handled the ball in the danger zone, that prompted the man-in-black to point to the 'dreaded spot'.

Rakib converted the spot-kick making the final score 4-3.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

Farashganj vs PWD (DS 4.30)  
Arambagh vs Police (6.30)

## It's crunch time for Parma

ROME, Apr 28: It's almost now or never for AC Parma.

The only club with a shot at catching front-running Juventus, Parma visit woeful Brescia on Saturday while the leaders face a tough test at Fiorentina, reports AP.

The matches will be played in advance of the rest of Sunday's 29th round to give Parma and Juve players an extra day to prepare for their UEFA Cup final first-leg match on Wednesday.

This may be Parma's last chance to put pressure on the Turin team and make it a race. By defeating Internazionale 3-0 while Juventus were stunned 1-0 by visiting Padova last Sunday, Parma cut their standings deficit by three points to eight.

Six rounds remain in the season, and — aside from their impending encounters in the UEFA and Italian Cup finals — Italy's top two clubs will meet in the 32nd round May 21.

Given the impressive array of talent on both rosters, their battles on all three fronts should produce spectacular play and the outcomes are a toss-up.

After hitting a rough patch in league play, losing two matches and drawing one, Parma rebounded with one of their best outings of the season against Inter.

Forward Gianfranco Zola has distinguished himself as a true team leader this year, contributing key goals for club and country alike. And he's hotter than ever now.

His signature free kick gave Italy a 1-0 win over Lithuania in a European Championships qualifier on Wednesday. That's four goals in his last three national team matches.

He also tallied one goal and an assist in the Inter win. The Parma defence.

stocked with Italian internationals, is among the league's best and is healthy for the stretch drive.

Parma could also get a late-season boost from the return of playmaking midfielder Tomas Brodin of Sweden. Out since November after breaking his ankle in a national team match, Brodin returned Sunday, substituting Zola with six minutes left.

Brescia, Parma's opponents matched a Serie A record last round by losing their ninth consecutive game.

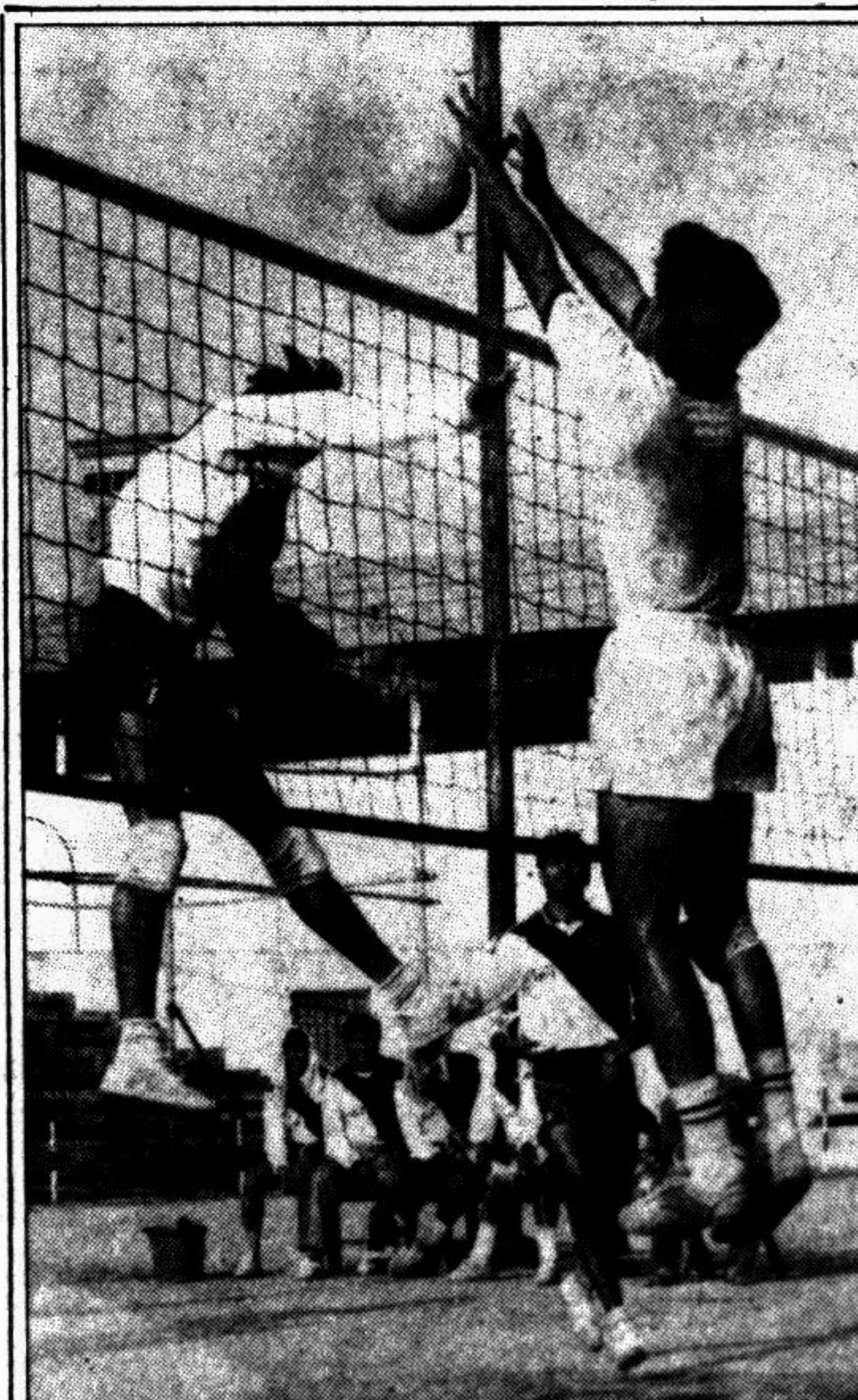
Juventus, who have looked so strong all season, appear vulnerable. Another lacklustre

outing like that against Padova would mean trouble.

Star striker Roberto Baggio missed Italy's game on Wednesday with tonsillitis, and midfielder Antonio Conte may have been lost for the season after tearing a leg muscle in that match.

Fiorentina, sixth in the 18-team league, have a formidable squad led by Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta, who leads the league with 22 goals.

But the team's defence, their weakness to begin with, has been depleted by injury. As many as three backfield starters may miss the Juve match.



Action from yesterday's BGIC national championship match between Khulna DSA and Dinajpur DSA at the volleyball court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium. The Khulna spikers outclassed their opponents 3-0 (15-6, 15-7, 15-7). — Star photo

### Bebeto to join Antlers in June

TOKYO, Apr 28: Kashima Antlers are to pay five million dollars to Brazilian World Cup star Bebeto, who will join the Japanese League Club in June on a three-year contract, a Tokyo daily newspaper said Friday reports AFP.

The 31-year-old forward, currently playing for Spain's Deportivo la Coruna, said he had turned down a better offer from two-time J-League champions Verdy Kawasaki.

Verdy had offered Bebeto, whose real name is Jose Roberto Gama de Oliveira, 7.5 million dollars for three years, full insurance, 20 first-class tickets a year between Japan and Brazil, two cars and two months vacation.

But in a statement before a friendly between Brazil and Spain's Valencia on Thursday, Bebeto said he preferred Antlers, the Nikkan sports newspaper reported.

"I think I'm going to join Antlers, because the team has Leonardo and Jorginho, besides Zico invited me," he said.

Zico, who scored a sensational hat-trick in his first match for Antlers in the inaugural 1993 league, hung up his boots last year and now works as an advisor for the team.

The Antlers are currently leading the 14-team league with nine wins against two defeats.

### Baresi extends contract with AC

MILAN, Apr 28: Ending rumours of his possible transfer to the Japanese J-League, captain-sweeper Franco Baresi extended his contract with Italian league and European Cup champions AC Milan through June 1996, reports AP.

The deal, announced Thursday, will pay Baresi, who turns 35 next week, about 1.2 billion lire (700,000 dollars) for his 19th consecutive season with the perennial Milan powerhouse.

One of the best European defenders ever, Baresi retired from the Italian national team following the World Cup final against Brazil last year and was said to be planning to leave AC Milan for Japan at the end of the current season.

Baresi will lead the Milan team in their third consecutive Champions' Cup final in Vienna on May 24.

Milan officials suggested that another AC Milan veteran player, forward Daniele Massaro, may join a Japanese team next season. Massaro received bids by Shimizu Pulse.

### More Marseille melodrama

MARSEILLE, Apr 28: The former vice president of Olympique Marseille on Thursday indicated the 10th person indicted in a three-year investigation of the troubled soccer club's finances, reports AP.

Jean-Louis Leveau, for years the right-hand man of former Marseille owner Bernard Tapie, was indicted on charges of fraud and misuse of corporate funds, court officials said.

Judge Pierre Philpon, who began the investigation of Marseille's accounts in April 1992 said Leveau must post a bond of 2 million francs (400,000 dollars) by July and forbid him from leaving France or meeting with others charged in the case.

Court sources said Leveau was suspected of involvement in improperly diverting some of the soccer team's funds to Swiss bank accounts. Police financial investigators said in a report last year that more than 80 million francs (16 million dollars) had been diverted from Marseille accounts for use in slush funds and under-the-table payments.

Others indicated in the case include Tapie and former club executives Jean-Pierre Bernes, Alain Laroche and Michel Hidalgo.

Symbolizing Tapie's fall, his former luxury yacht, the four-masted "Phoece," was sailed Thursday from Marseille's port to the French Riviera town of Antibes to be sold. The yacht was seized on court order in May 1994 as Tapie faced bankruptcy and tax-evasion proceedings.

### Juventus switch venue

TURIN, Apr 28: Juventus, disappointed by fan turnout at home stadium, has moved the UEFA Cup final second-leg match against fellow Italian team Parma to Milan, the club announced Friday, reports AP.

The game will be played May 17 and Juventus are looking for a sell-out on the lines of the 80,000 fans who packed Milan's Meazza Stadium for their semifinal match against Borussia Dortmund.

The first-leg of the all-Italian final will be played in Parma on Wednesday.

## Cantona relieves M United

MANCHESTER, Apr 28: French star Eric Cantona ended weeks of speculation Friday by announcing that he has signed a new three-year contract that will keep him with Manchester United through 1998, reports AP.

Cantona, who has been banned from soccer worldwide until next October for assaulting a Crystal Palace fan on Jan 25, turned down a lucrative transfer offer from the Italian club Inter Milan to stay with United.

"I'm staying here because Manchester United is the biggest club in England and maybe in Europe and maybe in the world," Cantona said at a news conference. "I am pleased to have the opportunity in the next three years to win again many trophies with them. Everybody in this club

deserves it, and all the fans, too."

"I never thought about leaving Manchester United, never," Cantona added. "Maybe some people in England (wanted me to leave). But I'm here. I'm with Manchester United. I can forget everything and we can win everything. We are bigger than the people who have sometimes been so hard and so wrong. That's not a problem for me."

Cantona was flanked at the news conference by Manchester United chairman Martin Edwards and manager Alex Ferguson.

"It's no secret that Inter Milan were very interested in Eric," Edwards said. "He has shown his loyalty to us and we have shown our loyalty to Eric."

"We are delighted," Edwards said. "It's been a long traumatic period for the club. Eric has been sentenced by the club, by the FA, by the

courts and by the French FA. He has had four punishments. We believe he is now serving those punishments. We'd like to see an end to the whole affair."

Ferguson said, "We're pleased for our fans, for Manchester United and for everyone associated with the club. We've taken a giant step towards winning things by sealing Eric's immediate future for the next three years."

Inter Milan officials reacted bitterly to the announcement, claiming they had been misled by Cantona's representatives.

"They had agreed to have him play for Inter next year," Inter general secretary Paolo Taveggia said. "I am disappointed with Cantona's representatives, his manager and his lawyer. I think they were not as fair with us as we were with them. We were waiting for a phone call from his representatives but they didn't bother to call us."



Eric Cantona walks with an unidentified man at the Manchester United's training ground on April 27. The controversial French star at a press conference yesterday pledged to stay at the Old Trafford club until 1999. — AFP/UNB photo

Cantona has won league title medals three seasons in a row since he arrived in English soccer in the 1991-92 season, one with Leeds and two with the Reds. But United are almost certain to lose their title to Blackburn this season and, although the Reds are again in the FA Cup final against Everton at Wembley May 20, Cantona is banned from playing.

The Frenchman hit the headlines around the world Jan 25 when he launched a kung-fu-style kick at Palace fan Andrew Simmons after being expelled in a Premier League game.

Cantona was taken to court charged with assault, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two weeks in jail. That was later reduced to a 120-hour community service order and Cantona is serving it by coaching schoolchildren.

After his court appearance, Cantona took a verbal swipe at the media and the signs were that he would quit playing in England because of the pressure he would be under when he resumed playing.

Inter Milan opened negotiations with United for a 5.5-million pound (8.8 million dollars) transfer and even the British media seemed convinced he was going to Italy.

Cantona has been fined 20,000 pounds (32,000 dollar) by United and 10,000 pounds (16,000 dollars) by the FA over the incident with the fan and the FA's ban keeps him out of soccer until the end of September, some six weeks into next season.

He also has lost the captaincy of the French national team and cannot play for France until the English ban ends.

## Title beckons Blackburn

LONDON, Apr 28: Blackburn could be crowned English soccer champions Monday for the first time in 81 years.

The team assembled at huge cost by owner Jack Walker and manager Kenny Dalglish bid to move 11 points clear of defending champions Manchester United Sunday, reports AP.

If they does, and the Reds fail to beat Coventry Monday, the title goes to Blackburn for the first time since 1914.

Rovers finished runner up to United last season, only two years after gaining promotion to the Premier League. But they have not won a major title since the FA Cup in 1928.

Walker took over the unfashionable club from north-western England four years ago and persuaded former Liverpool star Dalglish to end his retirement and take over running the team.

As a town, Blackburn hasn't progressed much since their days as the centre of the textile industry in the last century. But Walker and Dalglish have weaved together a team that could dominate even mighty Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool in the next few years and put their name on the map in European soccer.

Dalglish has teamed up England's top striker Alan Shearer with Chris Sutton, a five million-pound (8 million dollars) purchase from Norwich, and the two have scored a combined 56 goals this season in Rovers' title drive.

Other noted international players on the team are goalkeeper Tim Flowers (England), defenders Colin Hendry (Scotland), Henning Berg (Norway), Paul Warhurst (England), Jeff Kenna (Ireland) and Graeme Le Saux (England), midfielders David Batty (England), Tim Sherwood (Wales) and Stuart Ripley (England) and forward Kevin Gallacher (Scotland).

It has cost Walker some 28 million pounds (45 million dollars) to put this team together to overtake a Manchester United lineup which, admittedly, wasn't

assembled on peanuts. Rovers should have the firepower to gain three points at Upton Park and put the title virtually out of United's reach. Alex Ferguson's team, who visit Coventry Monday, would then have to win their last four games and hope Rovers are beaten in their last two.

The battle for third place appears to be between Nottingham Forest, Liverpool and Newcastle. Third-place Forest have a three-point lead over Liverpool who have two more games to play. Newcastle, also three points behind Forest, have one more game in hand over the Forest.

If Manchester United wind up runner up in the league and beat Everton in the FA cup at Wembley May 20, then Forest, Liverpool, Newcastle and probably sixth place Leeds will qualify for next season's UEFA Cup.

On Saturday those four face teams who are threatened by relegation.

Nottingham Forest go to Crystal Palace, Liverpool visit Norwich and Leeds host Aston Villa. Newcastle visit Manchester City.

Leicester and Ipswich, already sure of relegation, face each other at Filbert Street for the dubious honour of avoiding last place.

Norwich, one place above, have won only two of their last 19 games and are on the steepest slide, while Palace have two games in hand on the Canaries and have a better chance of climbing out of the four-club relegation zone.

West Ham are one place above Palace and above are Everton and Aston Villa, both only one point clear of the drop zone.

Above this group, Coventry, Chelsea, Sheffield Wednesday and Manchester City aren't totally safe. But they are four points above the relegation zone and only a dramatic slump in the last few games will land them in trouble.

the UEFA Cup. Tottenham are seventh, three places above Arsenal, and have an outside chance of catching Leeds, who have a four-point advantage.

### Klinsmann keeps 'em guessing

BONN, Apr 28: German World Cup striker Juergen Klinsmann could stay another season with English Premier league Tottenham before moving to German champions Bayern Munich, sources close to the player said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

While press reports in England and Germany have suggested in the last week that a move to Bayern next season was virtually certain, one source told Reuters: "It is all far from done and dusted. It is still very much 50-50."

Klinsmann, 30, has had an offer from Italy as well as from Bayern. He said earlier this week he would not make a final decision until the end of the English season next month.

The Germany captain has said he would talk to Tottenham first before making any final decision.

"He could still move to Bayern after another year in England, after the European Championship (in England in 1996)," one source said. "There is nothing signed, as some reports have suggested."

The general feeling in the German media is that Klinsmann will find it hard to resist the security of a three-year contract and an estimated annual salary of 3.5 million marks (2.6 billion dollars) at the Bundesliga's richest club.

Bayern are building a new side and chairman Franz Beckenbauer has already made several key signings for next season. The prospect of a longer-term contract is sure to prove attractive to Klinsmann, who knows strikers start running out of time at the top after the age of 30.