



The Abahani booters are shaping themselves up during a light practice session at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. The defending champions will take on Brothers Union in the first semifinal of the Nirma DMFA Cup at the Dhaka Stadium today. The match kicks-off at 5.30 pm. — Star photo

### BCCB XI to begin from beginning

**Sports Reporter**  
In a classic case of fixing and refixing the organisers of the All-India Under-16 cricket tournament have announced a new fixture for the meet after four days of the original schedule.  
According to a faxed message received here in Dhaka last night, the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven, who played their first match against Dum Dum Sporting on May 15, now will have to restart their campaign against the same outfit at the Salt Lake Stadium, Calcutta, on May 20.  
Originally scheduled to be a ten-team meet, the organisers have drawn up a new format featuring eight teams where Bangladesh is the only foreign outfit among the seven local teams.  
The tournament will now be played on knock-out basis with four teams splitting into two groups and a win for BCCB Eleven will enable them a place in the last four.

### BVF picks 18

The Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF) has selected 18 spikers for a training camp to form a national team for the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games to be held in the Indian city of Madras next December, reports UNB.  
The selected players are: Naimur Rahman, Asit Kumar Nandi, Safiuddin, Faruq Hossain (Bangladesh Rifles), Ali Farhad, Prabir Kumar Malik, Asadul Alam, Shahidullah, Mafizul Islam (Bangladesh Navy), Afzal Hossain, Sohrab Hossain, Ertajul Islam, Nur Nabi Siddique (Bangladesh Army), Taimur Rahman, Golam Mostafa, Mayeedul Islam (Bangladesh Air Force), Abul Mansur Majumder (Titas Club) and Ziaul Haq Tutul (Water Development Board).  
Coach: M Yead Ali, assistant coach: Sohel Hossain Dollar, team manager: Khairul Islam Mollah (Kanu).

### Warwick's B & H reign over

LONDON, May 18: Holders Warwickshire crashed out of this season's Benson and Hedges Cup after their rain-hit match against the Minor Counties at Edgbaston was abandoned without a ball being bowled on Wednesday, reports Reuter.  
Warwickshire, whose title was one of three trophies they won last year, went out after Nottinghamshire gained the point they needed to qualify for the last eight when their game against Leicestershire at Trent Bridge was also abandoned.  
That rendered the result of Warwickshire's game meaningless as Nottinghamshire joined group winners Lancashire, whose match against Durham was also called off, in the quarter-finals.  
Kent captain Mark Benson struck a superb 119 — his best Benson and Hedges Cup score — as his side stormed into the quarter-finals with an eight-wicket victory over Sussex at Hove on Wednesday.  
The win — Kent's fourth successive Group D victory — ended the hosts' slim hopes of qualifying and allowed Somerset, who beat Ireland on Tuesday, to sneak through on a superior run rate.  
Kent, resuming on 31 without loss in a match carried over from Tuesday due to rain, reached their victory target of 304 with eight wickets and 17 deliveries to spare.  
Gloucestershire gained a nail-biting nine-run win over Glamorgan at Swansea to finish top of Group C.

### No play

Worcester (England), May 18: Rain prevented any play on the second day of the three day cricket match between Worcestershire and West Indies on Wednesday, reports Reuter.  
Score after first day: West Indies 114-2.

## Abahani-BU clash today



**Sports Reporter**  
Weather permitting defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra will take on Brothers Union in the first semifinal of the Nirma DMFA Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium today.  
The match kicks-off at 5:30 pm with Radio Bangladesh providing running commentary of the showdown from the big bowl.  
Bangladesh Television, who decided to skip both the semifinals at the last moment, however, will cover the final live, scheduled to be held on May 22.  
But organisers, the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) are not quite sure of holding today's match because of the inclement weather prevailing over the country. A brief but heavy downpour may once again force the DMFA to shift the fixture as they were yet to roll the centre of the pitch to make the ground playable.  
The ground sub-committee, however, expressed their optimism to prepare the ground before the kick-off.

Meanwhile, both Abahani and Brothers Union, the last year's finalists, have expressed their confidence of winning the match.  
Abahani, who are likely to retain the same eleven from the previous match, will be looking forward for yet another spirited display from their young and promising booters with Sergei, the Russian recruit of the Dhanmondi outfit, remaining at the helm of every attack.  
Sergei, a very useful signing for Abahani, had already earned a reputation for his sudden burst of speed, shooting accuracy and above all his defence splitting passes which proved to be the most effective weapon for the defending champions.  
While an experienced skipper Momen Munna will form the defence along with Partha, Monsur and Ali Monsur to thwart any assault from their opponent.  
But what is more important for a new look Abahani, who possess at least nine youngsters in their rank, is the cohesiveness in the team.

Meanwhile, Brothers Union will have to rely on their three Nigerian recruits — Chibujor, Christopher and Nike Lulu — who played the pivotal role in every win of their side.  
But the focus will certainly be on Chibujor, a very deceptive forward with the ball, who possesses the necessary firework of turning the table at any moment.  
But whatever may be the outcome, the football buffs may witness a 'golden goal' for the first time at the Dhaka Stadium if both sides failed to break the dead-lock during the stipulated 90-minute regulation time.  
The idea which was implemented by the FIFA during the last World Cup was also adopted by the local organisers, that any team scoring first during the 30-minute extra time would be the winner soon after the goal was scored.  
The DMFA have fixed the rate of gallery tickets for the two semifinals at Taka 25 each. The tickets will be on sale from 2:30 pm with the gates opening simultaneously.

## Brazilians beat Israel



TEL AVIV, May 18: Brazil, without their World Cup spearheads Romario and Bebeto, scored twice in four minutes just before the interval to beat Israel 2-1 in a friendly international on Wednesday, reports Reuter.  
Israel, whose late consolation goal was their first in three meetings with the world champions, used the match to test their side ahead of the European Championship qualifier against Group One leaders Romania in Bucharest on June 7.  
Brazil, led by World Cup captain Dunga, went ahead in the 39th minute after taking control of midfield as Israel, lacking strikers Ronnen Harazi and Ronny Ronsenthal due to injury, faded after a bright start.  
Midfielder Tulio broke free and struck a curved shot round Israeli goalkeeper Bonnie Ginsburg's outstretched fingertips. The ball rebounded off

the right post, hit Ginsburg on the back and ended up in the net.  
Towards the end, Israel regained confidence and midfielder Eyal Berkowitz set up defender Gadi Brumer who scored with a low shot from the left that beat Zetti in the Brazilian goal.  
Brumer's goal made him the first Israeli to score against Brazil. In two previous meetings in Israel, Brazil won 5-0 in 1965 and 4-0 in 1986.  
Meanwhile, another reports from Rio de Janeiro says: A Brazilian game money scam that has led to players threatening strike action goes back years and the directors know who the culprits are, players and coaches said Wednesday.  
World Cup heroes Romario and Branco, who both play for Rio de Janeiro club Flamengo, are leading a campaign to stamp out what they say is the theft of game money at matches in the Rio de Janeiro championship.  
They say they have not

ruled out strike action.  
"This has gone on for a long time," Botafogo coach Jair Pereira said.  
"The directors know it," the public knows it. Everybody knows it happens, nobody has done anything to stop it. The directors know who is doing it. The situation is really bad. It's time to take drastic action."  
Players and coaches say attendances announced officially at Brazilian matches are often far smaller than the genuine attendance. Somebody, somewhere, then pockets the money from the undeclared ticket sales, they say.  
There have been allegations for years about the theft of game money all over Brazil but authorities have never managed to get to the bottom of the matter. "Fans at games sometimes jeer when the official attendance is announced."  
"The public turns up in great number at the stadiums and the official attendance is often half that number," said Fluminense striker Ezio. "It's absurd."  
Flamengo coach Vanderley Luxemburg agreed that action was needed. "We have to clean up football. People who have nothing to do with the spectacle are gaining from it in an illegal way," he said.

## Serie A hots up



ROME, May 18: Juventus, beaten by Parma in the UEFA Cup final, will be out for revenge when the two sides meet again in a league championship decider on Sunday, reports Reuter.  
Juventus are seven points ahead of second-placed Parma with three games to play and need only a home draw to win the title.  
Despite the disappointment of Parma's 2-1 aggregate UEFA Cup victory, Juventus captain Roberto Baggio dismissed suggestions that the league leaders would be demoralised.  
"No, no, we won't take the field disappointed or in losing frame of mind."  
"On the contrary, the defeat will prove an extra incentive to us to wrap up the title on Sunday."  
"Our major seasonal objective was always the league title, even if having got this far, it was a pity to lose this Cup."  
Jubilant Parma, however, are certain to make things difficult for their opponents.  
"Juventus are still a good side, perhaps the best in Italy, but on Sunday in Turin... we won't be giving anything away," Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla said.  
Both sides will field different line-ups from those which met at the San Siro on Wednesday.  
Juventus can recall Alessio Tacchinardi in place of the suspended Ciro Ferrara while Frenchman Didier Deschamps may replace Giancarlo Marocchi in midfield with defender Massimo Carrara taking over from the injured Sergio Porrini.  
Both Tacchinardi and

Deschamps missed the UEFA final through suspension.  
Parma may also recall two players ruled out of the UEFA final through suspension — midfielders Gabriele Pin and Argentine Nestor Sensini.  
Parma defender Luigi Apolloni, suspended on Wednesday, is also banned on Sunday, while Swedish midfielder Tomas Brodin remains a doubtful starter because of concern about his fitness for such a difficult game.  
European Cup finalists AC Milan warm up for their Vienna final next week against newly-crowned Dutch champions Ajax Amsterdam, with a Thursday evening league tie, away to Napoli.  
Lazio are at home to Sampdoria and Internazionale face Cagliari in Milan in games vital for all four sides' prospects of earning a UEFA Cup qualifying place for next season.  
At the bottom end of the table, the relegation battle rages hot and heavy with Cremonese at home to Padova and Genoa at home to Foggia.  
Two of these four sides will go down to Division Two along with Brescia and Reggiana, both already relegated.

### Hingis exits

BERLIN, May 18: Arantxa Sanchez Vicario survived a rain-affected second round encounter with France's Nathalie Tauziat at the German Open here on Wednesday, reports AFP.  
But 14-year-old Swiss prodigy Martina Hingis crashed out at the first hurdle at the hands of Germany's Sabina Hack.

## Rani Hamid injured

**Sports Reporter**  
M A Hamid, president of the Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF), and his wife Rani Hamid were seriously injured in a city road accident on Wednesday night.  
Rani Hamid, the well-known chess player and country's lone International Women's Master (IWM), was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in a critical condition, a press release of BHF said.  
M A Hamid sustained a head injury while Rani Hamid had broken her left arm when their car collided with the road-divider near the Bailey Road crossing at around 9.30 pm.

They were accompanied by Majibur Rahman, the general secretary of the Bangladesh Chess Federation, whose injury was reportedly not to be that serious.

## ITF official in city

**Sports Reporter**  
Leonardo Snelleman, a tennis development officer of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), arrived in the capital yesterday.  
During his five-day visit the Central Asian delegate of ITF will meet local organisers to seek a way out for developing tennis in the country.  
Besides, he will also meet the State Minister for Youth and Sports, Sadeque Hossain Khoka before leaving for Delhi on May 22.

## Yeboah leaves Leeds in a lurch?

LEEDS, May 18: Ghanaian Tony Yeboah condemned Leeds United to an anxious wait after delaying a decision on his long-term future here on Wednesday, reports AFP.  
Yeboah, who has become a hero at Elland Road since his 3.4 million-pound arrival in January, could follow the example of Juergen Klinsmann at the end of the year by exercising a get-out clause in his contract and returning to Germany with Eintracht Frankfurt.  
The English club want Yeboah to drop the clause and stay at Elland Road for a full three years. He will make a decision next week.  
Leeds chairman Leslie Silver, manager Howard Wilkinson and managing director Bill Forthery met Yeboah on Wednesday with his agent, who flew in from Germany.  
Wilkinson said: "It is like conducting transfer negotiations, even though Tony is our player at least until January."  
Yeboah knows he is in a strong bargaining position, having finished the season as top scorer at Leeds with 13 goals.

## Aussies draw with England

HOBART, May 18: Australia and England drew 3-3 in the fourth men's hockey Test on Wednesday, reports Reuter.  
Scorers: Australia — Jay Stacy (28th minute), Mark Hager (45th), Paul Lewis (50th).  
England — Bobby Crutchley (3rd), Rob Thompson (37th, 69th).  
Australia lead the six-match series 3-0.

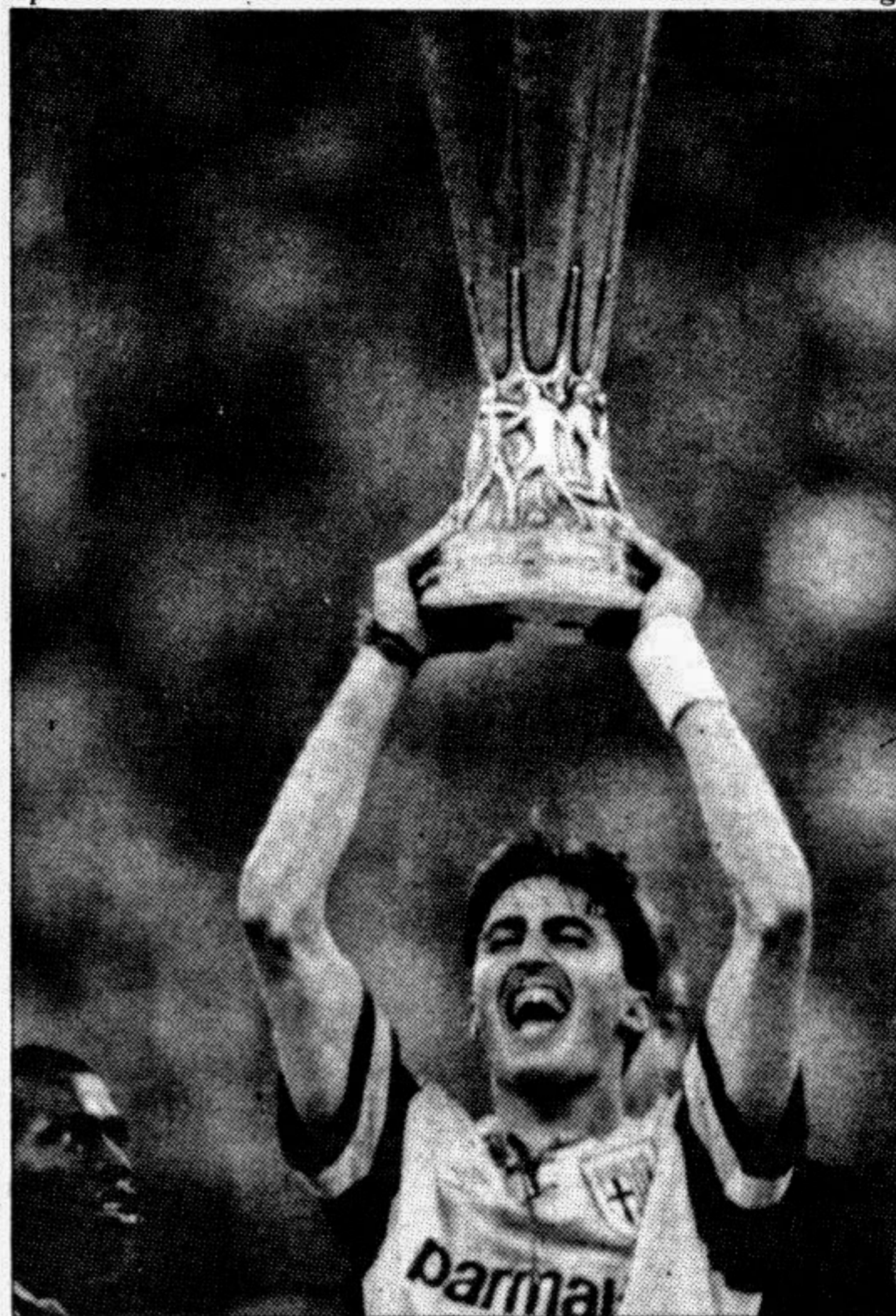
## Parma pierce Juve pride



MILAN, May 18: Parma clinched the UEFA Cup on Wednesday after a headed goal by Dino Baggio secured them a 1-1 draw in a highly charged second-leg clash against arch-Italian rivals Juventus, reports Reuter.  
Baggio scored the sole goal in the first leg encounter two weeks ago to give Parma overall victory 2-1 on aggregate.  
Juventus dominated the match and looked set to overturn the first-leg deficit when Gianluca Vialli scored with a spectacular volley in the 33rd

home a cross from substitute Roberto Mussi.  
"We were lucky," a relieved Parma manager Nevio Scala said after a bad-tempered match which saw seven players booked.  
Italy's top two teams this season are due to meet again on Sunday, with Juventus needing just a draw to guarantee themselves the Italian League title. They then play each other twice more in the two-leg Italian Cup final.  
The match got off to a frantic start with Juventus striker Fabrizio Ravanelli shooting

Parma goalkeeper Bucci.  
But relentless Juventus pressure finally paid off when a pinpoint long-distance pass from Moreno Torricelli sailed over the heads of the stranded Parma defence to land at the feet of Vialli charging into the area.  
The shaven-headed striker picked the ball up on the volley, blasting it past the despairing dive of Bucci and into the corner of the goal.  
But Parma sprang to life, with Colombian international Faustino Asprilla showing his searing pace down the left wing and Gianfranco Zola probing the Juventus defence with some testing crosses into the area.  
The Juventus defence, reinforced by the return of first-choice goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi who missed the first-leg through injury, held Parma at bay until the interval.  
But shortly into the second half Mussi flashed the ball across the goalmouth allowing Italian international Baggio, no relative of the more famous Roberto, to head home from point blank range.  
The goal ensured Parma of their first UEFA Cup and their second European title within three years following their 1993 Cup Winners Cup victory against Anderlecht. Last year they lost in the final of the same tournament to Arsenal.  
Juventus, who elected to play their home tie in Milan's San Siro Stadium because of a disagreement with city authorities in Turin over advertising revenues, never gave up in front of a raucous 80,745 strong crowd.  
And for a moment it looked like they had forced their way back in the game when Torricelli, from the centre of the area, shot the ball into the back of the net with over 10 minutes of the match left to play.  
But the goal was disallowed with two of his teammates clearly off-side at the time of his strike.  
Thereafter the match degenerated with Belgian referee Van der Wijngaert twice having to intervene to break up scuffles between players.  
"We didn't take advantage of the clear opportunities that came our way," Juventus coach Marcello Lippi told reporters after the match.  
"But Parma never left us any space and over the two matches they probably deserved their win," he added.



Parma's Dino Baggio, who scored the match-winning goal, lifts the UEFA Cup after beating arch-Italian rivals Juventus in the second-leg of their final in Milan on May 17. Parma won 2-1. Dino also netted the lone goal in their first-leg clash. — AFP/UNB photo

twice in the first 10 minutes.  
But a combination of scrappy finishing and fine saves by Parma goalkeeper Luca Bucci kept Juventus at bay, with the game pushed beyond their reach in the 53rd minute when Baggio headed

## FA Cup final tomorrow



LONDON, May 18: Manchester United striker Mark Hughes and Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall faced each other in the FA Cup final 10 years ago.  
Colleagues on the Welsh national team, they do battle again at Wembley Saturday when the Reds aim for a second FA Cup title in a row after losing out to Blackburn in the league, reports AP.  
Southall, 36, has never left Everton and Saturday makes his 650th appearance for the Toffees. Hughes, 31, left United for two seasons with Barcelona. But has been back for the last seven and, like Southall, makes his fourth appearance in the final.  
"I feel mentally stronger and physically better than ever," said Southall, who also has collected two league, titles and a Cup Winners Cup medal while with Everton. "I feel I'm playing for my future and I

want to win more trophies."  
The formbook says he won't win one this time.  
Since winning the cup in 1984, Everton have lost their last three final appearances to Manchester United (1985) and Liverpool (86 and '89).  
By contrast, since their last cup final loss to Arsenal in 1979, Manchester United has won the trophy four times, beating Brighton in 1983 (after a replay), Everton in '85 Crystal Palace in 1990 (after a replay) and Chelsea last season.  
Irish midfielder Roy Keane hopes to recover from injury to line up alongside Paul Ince in midfield but promising young players Nicky Butt, Paul Scholes and Gary Neville also are in contention for their first Wembley finals.  
Another Irish star, fullback Denis Irwin, will be shooting for goal if Everton concede any free kicks within range and Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeiehl will again be behind a solid looking rearguard

anchored by veteran Steven Bruce and Gary Pallister.  
Everton, however, have a couple of matchwinners of their own.  
After losing his place to Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson, Nigerian striker Daniel Amokachi came back to enter the semifinal against Tottenham as substitute and score two late goals in a 4-1 triumph.  
Now Ferguson is available again after injury and the 6-foot-4 (1.93 metre) striker could team up in attack with the burly Nigerian to give the United defence an uncomfortable time at Wembley.  
Add to them the inventive approach work of Swedish international winger Anders Limpar and the accuracy of Andy Hinchcliffe's left-footed centres and Everton has the firepower to upset the Reds.  
It was Ferguson's header from one of Hinchcliffe's corners that earned Everton a 1-0 victory over United in the league in February.

## Guoan gun Gunners down



BEIJING, May 18: Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman will be out of action for up to two months after breaking his right ankle during a 2-1 defeat by the Beijing Guoan team on Wednesday, reports Reuter.  
In the 59th minute, Seaman

was dribbling the ball out of his area and slipped on a divot, misdirecting a pass that fell into the path of defender Lu Jun, who lobbed the ball into the empty net while Seaman writhed in agony on the turf.  
Seaman was taken off on a stretcher and driven to hospital where a plaster cast was put on his leg.  
With the score 1-0, a fine pass from captain Cao Xiangdong in the 75th minute set up a good chance in front of goal that striker Xie Feng gratefully accepted.  
In the 80th minute, Andy Linighan pulled one back for Arsenal, heading in from a corner. But two minutes later, midfielder Stefan Schwarz was sent off for his second yellow card.

Guoan, third in the 12-team Chinese League, took their second 2-1 win over a famous visiting foreign team. Last June it was AC Milan.  
Arsenal forward Ian Wright pulled a thigh muscle with his first shot and was substituted after 20 minutes.  
Arsenal captain Tony Adams said Guoan goalkeeper Fu Bin performed miracles, especially in the first half, when Arsenal had a hateful of chances. "If we had got our nose in front, we would have won," he said.  
"Guoan were very quick and a strong side. The victory is a credit to them," he told reporters.  
Arsenal play the second game of their Asian tour tonight in the eastern port city of Tianjin.

## Germany run Russia aground

REYKYAVIK, May 18: Germany upset title holders Russia 20-17 (halftime 12-7) in a World Handball Championship quarter-final on Wednesday, reports Reuter.  
First half Kretzschmar led the way with six goals as Germany.  
As the Russians drew level at 15-15, Kretzschmar and Wolfgang Schwenke each scored twice to put Germany ahead again for an eventual three-goal victory.  
Earlier France, who beat Russia to win last year's Goodwill Games, routed Switzerland, fourth in the 1993 championships, 28-18 (15-7).  
Croatia also had an easy quarter-final, ousting Egypt 30-16 (13-8).



Arsenal forward Nigel Winterburn (R) makes his way past a Guoan defender during their Euro-Asia Cup tour match at the Beijing's Workers' Stadium on May 17. To the delight of the local fans the hosts' outfit defeated the English Premier League side 2-1. — AFP/UNB photo