

Sport

Transcom schools hockey

N'ganj trounce Munshiganj

Sports Reporter

Narayanganj High School moved into the robin-league round of the Transcom national schools hockey championship outplaying Munshiganj High School 3-0 in the one of two matches played at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mostafizur Rahman opened the winners' account from a fourth minute penalty stroke. Two minutes later Mamun double the margin. Shahabuddin completed the tally fifteen minutes before the breather.

Earlier, Dhaka Residential Model School defeated Keramatia High School by a lone goal.

Mostafa grabbed the all-important strike in the 13th minute.

Navy top the table

The inter-service swimming and water polo championship concluded at the Naval Headquarters Complex Swimming Pool at Banani here on Thursday, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Navy with a haul of 15 gold, nine silvers and four bronzes topped the medal list while Bangladesh Army followed them with two gold, eight silvers and nine bronzes.

M Elias Hussain of the Navy who clinched gold in 200 m freestyle, 400 m freestyle and 200 m individual medley was adjudged the best swimmer of the championship.

The three-day meet saw the erasing, SAF and national records in 100 m breaststroke and in 4x100 m medley relay held on the opening day.

In the water polo championship Army became champions defeating navy 5-3 in a keenly contested final.

Amsterdam welcomes heroes back

AMSTERDAM, May 26: European Cup winners Ajax were greeted by 200,000 celebrating fans on their return to Amsterdam on Thursday, according to local police, reports AFP.

The celebrations started for Ajax, 1-0 conquerors of AC Milan on Wednesday night in Vienna, as soon as their plane touched down at Schiphol Airport.

Although dressed formally in suits, the players were suitably joyous and their coach Louis van Gaal even danced the Samba with the mother of Patrick Kluyvert, the teenage scorer of their goal.

After briefly signing autographs, the players took to a police-accompanied motorcade that escorted them to the centre of Amsterdam.

There waiting for them was a delirious crowd. Danny Blind, Ajax's veteran captain, was the first to brandish the cup at the supporters and the ovation went on for two hours.

The players then decamped to prepare for a reception at the Town Hall followed by a victory parade along the famous Amsterdam canals.

The Ajax players sang, danced and joked on a stage especially erected in the Museumplein, one of the biggest squares in Amsterdam. They thanked their supporters and urged them to get ready for World Club Cup which will be held in Tokyo.

Frank Rijkaard, who created the goal for Kluyvert was visibly moved as he received the sporting medal of Amsterdam from the city's mayor Schelto Patijn.

Rijkaard is to retire to run his own Dentim underwear factory after Ajax's last league match next week.

More than a 1,000 policemen were deployed in Amsterdam on Thursday so the scenes of rioting the night before would not be repeated. According to officials, 80 people including six policemen were injured in the clashes.

In all 35 people were arrested for vandalism.

Chile move into Canada Cup final

EDMONTON, Alberta, May 26: Chile scored two goals in the second half to rally for a 2-1 victory over Northern Ireland in the Canada Cup soccer tournament on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The victory set up a Sunday showdown in the final of the international friendly event between Chile and hosts Canada.

Chile was held without a goal in the first half and much of the second. But Esteban Valencia scored the equaliser for Chile in the 74th minute, floating in a shot from 40 metres after goalkeeper Alan Feltus had to head the ball because he was outside his box.

Northern Ireland got on the board in the seventh minute with what turned out to be their lone goal of the night.



A goal mouth incident from yesterday's Transcom national schools tournament between Narayanganj High School and Munshiganj High School at the Hockey Stadium. Narayanganj trounced Munshiganj 3-0. — Star photo

Ajax await checkbooks



VIENNA, May 26: Soccer coach Louis van Gaal may find it was easier creating a European Champions Cup winning team than preventing it from breaking apart.

For the third decade in a row, Dutch soccer has produced a team that sparkles with talent and shows the rest of Europe how the game should be played.

But how long will the young stars of new Champions Cup titlists Ajax be prepared to avoid big-money moves to Italy and Spain?

In contrast to big-spending AC Milan, the former European titlists defeated 1-0 Ajax in Wednesday's final in Vienna. Ajax have a more modest approach when they come to creating a winning team, reports AP.

No tens of millions of dollars are expended on securing the services of the game's best known international stars. Ajax instead focus their efforts on bringing players through the ranks of their outstanding youth team.

Only two players fielded against Milan were over 25-year-old with the late match-winning goal being prodded into the net by the darling of the youth team, 18-year-old Patrick Kluyvert.

But the very success of

Ajax's youthful side may prove to be their Achilles heel as wealthy Italian and Spanish teams look around to buy fresh talent to revive their fortunes.

"He's used a very effective, very efficient youth system, producing extremely talented players," said Keir Radnedge, editor of the respected monthly World Soccer magazine.

"But players like (Marc) Overmars are likely to go soon. He, and others, have publicly expressed interest in moving abroad and some pressure has been applied to make them stay," Radnedge said.

The lure of multi-million dollar contracts and the opportunity to revel in the near rock-star status enjoyed by players in the Italian Serie A and Spanish leagues will likely prove too great a magnet to resist for some of Ajax's youngsters.

The 1970s team that created "total football" and contained standout talents, such as Johann Cruyff, Johann Neeskens and Rudi Krol, just couldn't afford to stay around in Dutch soccer. Cruyff went to Spain and now is manager of Barcelona. Neeskens also went to Barcelona and Krol went to Italy to play for Napoli.

In the eighties, Dutch international stars, Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard all accepted lucrative contracts with Milan and left the Netherlands' domestic

league behind.

Van Gaal recognises that the "Dutch connection" is a tried and tested formula for Italian and Spanish clubs and is understandably cautious when discussing the future of his players.

Asked if knew where his young stars would be next year, he responded, jokingly, "They are all going to Tokyo, Japan."

That was "nothing to do with Japan's J-League. It was a reference to the intercontinental showdown later this summer between the new European champions and their still to be decided South American counterparts.

Pressed by reporters if any of his team would be playing in Italy next season, van Gaal couldn't resist a barbed jibe at rivals Milan. The faltering Italian giant failed to qualify for next year's European Champions' Cup and will instead play in the lower profile UEFA Cup.

"They (Ajax players) can go to the promised land and play in the UEFA cup but I think it would be better for them to stay with Ajax," he said.

Despite van Gaal's protective remarks the Amsterdam sides fans will be watching the transfer market anxiously this summer.

"There's a certain degree of inevitability that player's will leave Ajax," Radnedge said. "The club just doesn't have enough money to keep them."

End of Berlusconi empire



VIENNA, May 26: Battered in the political field and investigated for kickbacks to tax officials, Italian media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi suffered the final insult Wednesday night as his team,



SILVIO BERLUSCONI AC Milan, lost the 1995 Champions' Cup final to Ajax Amsterdam, reports AP.

Berlusconi, a former premier whose television empire is under fire of leftwing reformers, said he was saddened with his team defeat, which he considered undeserved.

"We played as good as Ajax, if not better. Certainly the team did better than in the final won against Benfica in this same stadium (in 1990). But so goes soccer," said Berlusconi who watched from the stands at the Ernst Happel Stadium.

"Milan's cycle is not over. We have a number of good players and with a few changes we are going to fight back, to be protagonists again," the temperamental Italian businessman said.

AC Milan, one of the richest and highest-spending Italian clubs, already signed Liberian-born striker George Weah for the next season, in a 10 million dollar deal with Paris Saint Germain.

Berlusconi said that other reinforcements could be expected.

He also blamed the absence of his favourite player, Dejan Savicevic, for the loss of the European title which Milan had won in Athens last year by trouncing Spain's Barcelona 4-0.

The inspirational Montenegrin forward, Milan's decisive player in the semifinal round against Saint Germain, was sidelined by a thigh injury relapse on the eve of the final.

"We paid for a certain absence (of Savicevic), and for the lack of a real center-forward, a problem which bothered us throughout the sea-

son," Berlusconi said. Sending a political message, Berlusconi added "I hope that they don't try to expropriate my team too, now that we have lost it Europe."

Coach Fabio Capello was pragmatic. "You can't always live in paradise," he said.

Milan was the most successful Italian team on the domestic and international scene in the last decade.

"This is not the end of my team. We have the humility for restarting from the lower steps," the coach said.

As losing Champions' Cup finalists — and losers to Turin rivals Juventus in the league this season — Milan will start in the lower ranked UEFA Cup next season.

"That's the only cup missing in our record," said Milan's managing director Adriano Galliani. "We are also looking forward to the next Italian title to be back into the Champions' League quickly."

Prabhakar rips thru' Leicester



LONDON, May 26: Durham's Indian all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar took a career-best 7-55 in the county championship match against Leicestershire on Thursday, reports Reuter.

But he received scant support from the rest of the Durham attack as Leicestershire recovered from 15-2 to reach 349-8 by the close of the first day.

James Whitaker, who hit 13 fours in a top score of 92, and Nigel Briers led the recovery with a third-wicket stand of 106.

Prabhakar will set a Durham record of eight scalps in an innings if he picks up one of the two wickets to fall today.

Glamorgan's West Indian paceman Hamish Anthony was also among the wickets, taking 5-70 on the second day of the match against Kent.

One of his victims was Sri Lanka Test batsman Aravinda de Silva — but not before De Silva had completed his second championship century of the season.

He hit 23 fours in his 228-ball 135, made out of 369. Glamorgan replied with 155 for no wicket.

Robin Smith, keen to regain his place in the England Test side, shared a 259-run fourth wicket stand with Paul Terry as Hampshire romped to 356-3 against Sussex.

Smith hit 15 fours in his 120 and opener Terry had 17 in his unbeaten 162.



Action from the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament match between Police AC and PWD at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Police won 3-0. — Star photo

Beximco Fed Cup soccer results

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra of Chittagong moved into the Group A final in the preliminary round of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup tournament beating Sadharan Bima 4-1 in the tie-breaker at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The scheduled ninety minutes ended goalless. The Chittagonian outfit despite enjoying much of the possession, wasted the two clear scoring chances. Munna, Forhad, Faruq and Mithu converted in the tie-breaker while only Ayub scored for Sadharan Bima.

In the day's opening match, Police Athletic Club handed Public Works Department (PWD) a 3-0 defeat and moved into the Group A semifinal of the preliminary round.

Earlier Salman F Rahman, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries and vice president of Bangladesh Football Federation, inaugurated the tournament as the chief guest.

Twenty-five teams including one each from five divisions are taking part in the tournament organised by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

Acme Laboratory in semis

Sports Reporters

Acme Laboratory Limited moved into the semifinals of the Office cricket league defeating City Bank Limited by nine wickets in the quarter-finals at the Jagannath hall ground yesterday.

Batting first, City Bank were all out for 80 in 31.4 overs with Qazi Asad top-scoring with 24. During took three wickets while Sajal and Saikat bagged two apiece and Nannu captured one.

In reply, Acme Laboratory reached the target in only 16.4 overs.

Sajid Hasan was not out on 42, while Lipu and Durjoy scored 20 each.

Dean Jones' recognition

PERTH, May 26: A player snubbed by the national selectors has won one of Australian cricket's most prestigious annual awards, reports AFP.

Former Test batsman Dean Jones, 34, on Thursday night was named winner of the Lord's Taverners Australian cricketer-of-the-year award—an amazing achievement for a player not chosen to represent his country in the past year.

It is the only award in Australian cricket for which voting is in the hands of first-class players.

Jones received the award at a gala dinner at a Perth hotel.

Players in all states considered Jones, the Victorian captain, the best player in the 1994-95 Australian season.

They chose him ahead of two other finalists, Australian Test opening batsman Michael Slater and Tasmania's all-rounder Shaun Young.

Jones savaged the bowling in eleven first-class games during the summer, hammering 1251 runs at an average of 69.5.

His star performance was a dazzling unbeaten 324 against South Australia in Melbourne in a Sheffield Shield match.

Jones also led Victoria to victory in the Mercantile Mutual Cup one-day contest.

England 306 for five



LONDON, May 26: England, fired by half-centuries from Mike Atherton, Graeme Hick and Neil Fairbrother, plundered the highest-ever total against West Indies in a one-day international on Friday, reports Reuter.

Captain Atherton (92), Hick (66) and Fairbrother (61 not out) swept England to 306 for five in their 55 overs in the second limited overs game of the three-match series at The Oval.

The previous record total made against West Indies was Pakistan's 294 for six off 50 overs in Sharjah in 1988.

England made the most of good batting conditions after being put in, building their formidable total with such mounting acceleration that they scored 82 off the last 10 overs.

Atherton provided the base with his best score in limited overs internationals, effectively supported by Hick, and Fairbrother gave the innings its flourish with a typically irrepresible display.

England's beginning was fairly sedate before Ian Bishop, coming on as first change in the 10th over, made the initial breakthrough by removing Alec Stewart with his second delivery.

IC pitched outside off stump, Stewart got an edge as he aimed to cut and wicket-keeper Junior Murray held a



ATHERTON ... 92 brilliant one-handed catch leaping to his right.

Shortly afterwards Courtney Walsh went off after bowling two balls of his sixth over. He was suffering from a lower back twinge, which prevented him bowling again.

Winston Benjamin took over from Walsh and had Hick missed on 14 by Brian Lara at first slip. The Trinidadian making two attempts at the catch before putting it down.

Atherton and Hick completed their half-century stand in 73 balls, which was followed by the England captain's 50 off 66 deliveries.

Hick had another escape when he had made 41, Murray missing an edge from the off-spin of Carl Hooper, and the Worcestershire batsman made the most of this good fortune by completing his half-century from 63 balls.

England's second-wicket pair were finally parted after putting on 144 in 174 balls when they tried a risky single and non-striker Hick was run out by Hooper as he ran round from short third man to deepish gully.

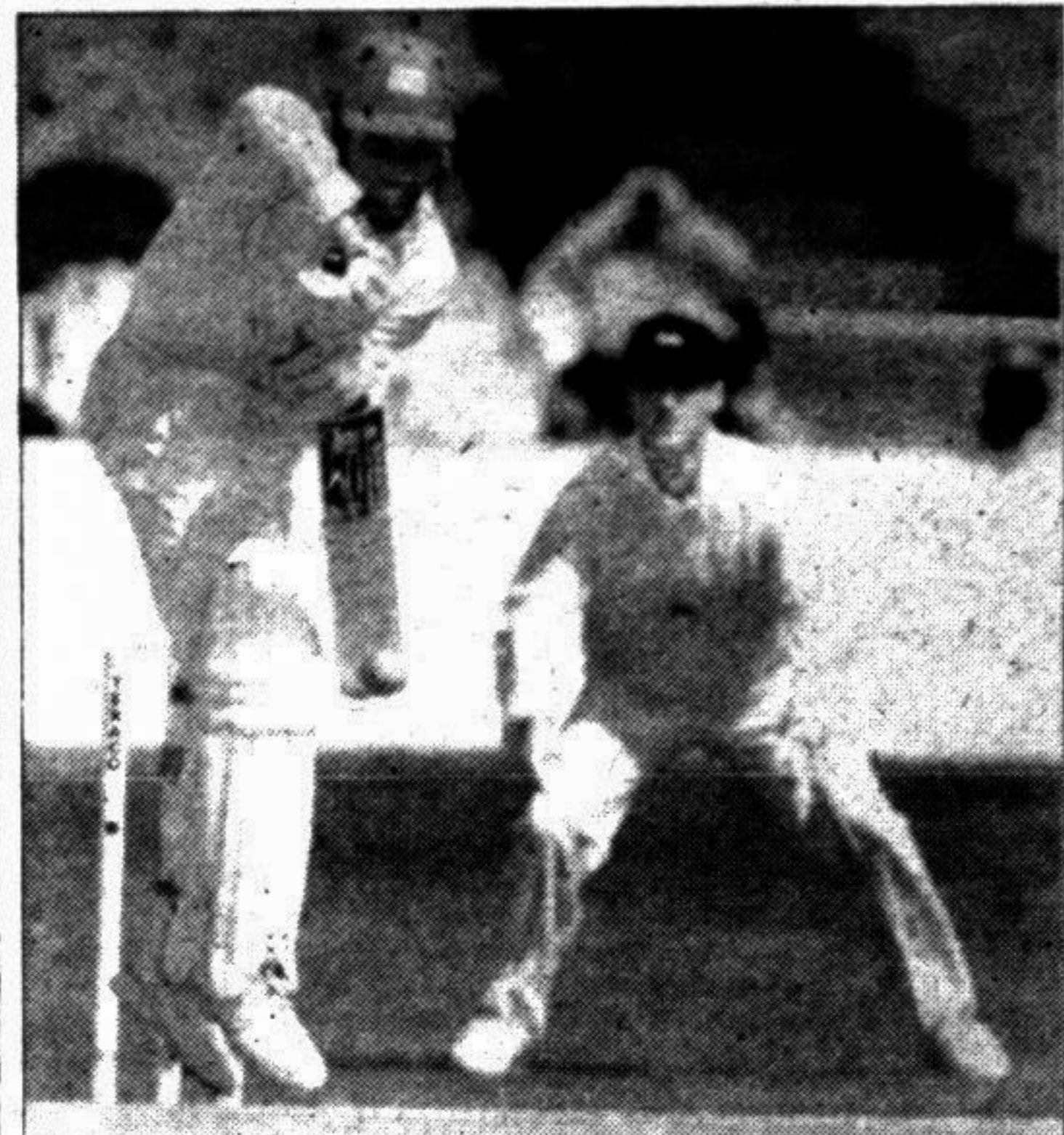
Hick, having faced 81 balls and hit six fours, was swiftly followed by Atherton, who had his middle stump knocked back as he drove at Benjamin. The England captain made his runs off 118 deliveries, striking 10 fours.

Fairbrother then commanded the scene in the final phase, running nimbly and hitting a six and five fours as he made his runs off 52 balls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day (55 overs) cricket match between England and West Indies at The Oval on Friday:

ENGLAND			
M Atherton c W Benjamin	92		
A Stewart c Murray b Bishop	16		
G Hick run out	66		
G Thorpe run out	26		
N Fairbrother not out	61		
M Ramprakash c Adams b Hooper	16		
D Gough not out	8		
Extras: (b-6, lb-5, w-7, nb-3)	21		
Total (for five wickets, innings closed)	306		
Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-177; 3-188; 4-243; 5-296.			
Did not bat: D Cork, P De-Freitas, S-Udal, P Martin			
Bowling: O M R W			
Ambrose	10	1	47
Walsh	5.2	0	17
Bishop	11	0	60
Benjamin	10.4	0	55
Arthurton	8	0	48
Hooper	10	0	68



West Indian batsman Brian Lara blocks a rising ball on the second day of the first limited-overs international at Trent Bridge on Thursday. Bad light halted play a day earlier. — AFP/UNB photo

Court exonerates Ince



CROYDON, England, May 26: Manchester United star Paul Ince was cleared on Wednesday of punching a fan and using threatening behaviour at an English Premier League match against Crystal Palace in January, reports Reuter.

Friends, family, fans and teammates greeted the verdict with delight at the end of a two-day trial.

There were cries of "yes" from United supporters and Andy Cole, Britain's most expensive footballer who gave evidence in Ince's support, after the verdict was announced by magistrates.

His wife Claire burst into tears and embraced him. The England midfielder was cheered from the court, but declined to speak to the press.

Ince was accused of assaulting 48-year-old dustman Dennis Warren and using threatening behaviour. He faced six months imprisonment and/or a 5,000-pound (7,800 dollar) fine if convicted.

His United teammate, Frenchman Eric Cantona, had been found guilty of attacking

another Palace supporter at the same court in March and sentenced to two weeks in jail. This was later softened on appeal to 120 hours of community service.

"Paul is absolutely delighted with the outcome of this case. The verdict was absolutely correct," lawyer Henri Brandman said.

On Tuesday, Warren told the court Ince had "caught me on the end of the nose" and knocked him over backwards. Ince said "he believed Warren had made up the allegation.

Ince, who went off for what his lawyer called "a celebratory orange juice," told magistrates he had walked away after Cantona launched his "kung-fu"-style kick on Matthew Simmons.

United manager Alex Ferguson, Chris Armstrong, Palace's star striker, and sportswriters at the match joined Cole in saying they said seen no United player throw a punch.

The most notorious incident in English soccer last season occurred after Cantona was sent off. As he walked along the touchline, Simmons is alleged to have abused him. Cantona was later fined and

banned from soccer until the end of September.

Asked by defence lawyers if he had seen a Manchester United player throw a punch after the incident, Cole said: "I know no one threw a fist, it's not my opinion. I know. There was chaos ... I know none of them threw a punch."

Ince has captained United on many occasions and played 16 games for England. He said he had rushed over to the touchline when the incident involving Cantona erupted.

"Everyone was running across... I immediately followed. It was just an immediate reaction, seeing one of my own players on the floor," Ince told the three magistrates in a 35-minute session in the witness box.

"I was angry at the time ... to see Eric Cantona on the floor. I thought he had been hit by a fan," said Ince, who said he had not witnessed the Cantona incident himself.

Defence counsel Brandman said Ince had an excellent disciplinary record with one sending-off and two suspensions in 400 games. The prosecution disputed the quality of this record.

Y'slavia poised to re-enter int'l sports arena

BELGRADE, May 26: The good news for rump Yugoslavia is that their once-mighty basketball team are poised to re-enter international competition for the first time in three years, reports Reuter.

The bad news is that it, as expected, they reach the finals of the European Championships in Athens next month, there is quite a chance they will have to play Croatia, once a part of Yugoslavia but now their sworn enemy.

If Yugoslavia do reach the finals from the last qualifying competition, starting next week, they will be the first Yugoslav side to compete in an international team championship since May 1992, when the United Nations slapped sanctions on Belgrade for its role in the Bosnian war.

Last September, the sanctions were slightly eased, allowing a resumption of international air travel and sporting

and cultural links. A Yugoslavia-Croatia clash in Athens could provide an explosive mix of political and personal animosities.

It would bring together young men who once played on the same team — the former Yugoslav Federation, the 1990 world champions — but who could well have been shooting at each other during a savage 1991 war between Yugoslavia and Croatia.

Since then, relations between Zagreb and Belgrade have been non-existent. One cannot even make a telephone call between the two countries.

It is impossible to deny that there will be tensions in such a match. Yugoslav national coach Dusan Ivkovic told Reuters.

Although kept apart at the group stage, the two countries could meet from the quarter-finals onwards.

the complex and better politics of the region will come into play even before the finals, as they meet Bosnia in the last qualifying round, being played in Sofia at the beginning of June.

Twelve countries have already qualified for Athens. The Sofia tournament will produce the final two.

Bosnians used to play in the old Federal Yugoslav team, but are now fighting a bloody war against ethnic Serbs.

To confuse the situation even further, one Bosnian is on the Yugoslav side. He is an ethnic Serb who moved to rump Yugoslavia, now made up only of Serbia and Montenegro, and took out citizenship.

For Ivkovic, national coach since 1987, shaping a new team without Croatian stars who once made up half the side has not been easy.

"I'm not even thinking of playing the same sort of game that we used to play," he said.