

Sport

Column One SPORTS TALK



Virginia Wade (British tennis star, 1972)

One of the reasons to play is to give people pleasure. I have always believed that I play more beautiful tennis than most of the others, and that is what I would really like to do. I would rather do that than win.

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

HAT in the England-Australia Test of December 1979 at Perth, the Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee first introduced the aluminium bat he was promoting as a replacement for the familiar willow version. Greg Chapell, the team captain, was against it on the grounds that it was actually not such a good bat. Both players knew that new rules against aluminium bats were about to take effect. Lillee was determined to demonstrate his aluminium bat at all costs. When after a morning's play, it was discovered that balls were being damaged, the English captain Mike Brearley objected. The umpire asked Lillee to change the bat, but he refused. Everyone present including spectators persuaded Lillee to give up the bat. Lillee left the field for a while but returned soon with the same bat. Angry words were again exchanged. Finally, Chapell intervened and convinced Lillee to use a wooden bat. The fast bowler was so infuriated that he tossed the offending aluminium object away. Two days after this incident, Lillee was caught for 19 runs. The scoreboard showed Lillee caught Willey bowled Dilley.

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Form for Sports Whizz Kid competition with fields for Name, Class, Roll No, School Address, Phone, and a list of questions.

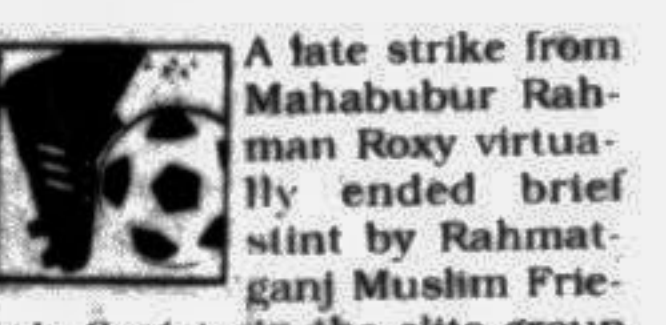
Wright right on target

LONDON, Sept 11: Ian Wright scored in the final minute to give Arsenal a 1-0 victory at Manchester City in the English Premier League on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Dennis Bergkamp, Arsenal's 7.5 million pounds (11.6 million dollars) Dutch signing, created the goal which left Manchester City at the bottom of the table.

Niall Quinn fouled his former Arsenal teammate Lee Dixon out on the right and the full-back's quick free-kick released Bergkamp to dash clear.

Roxy ruins Rahmatganj



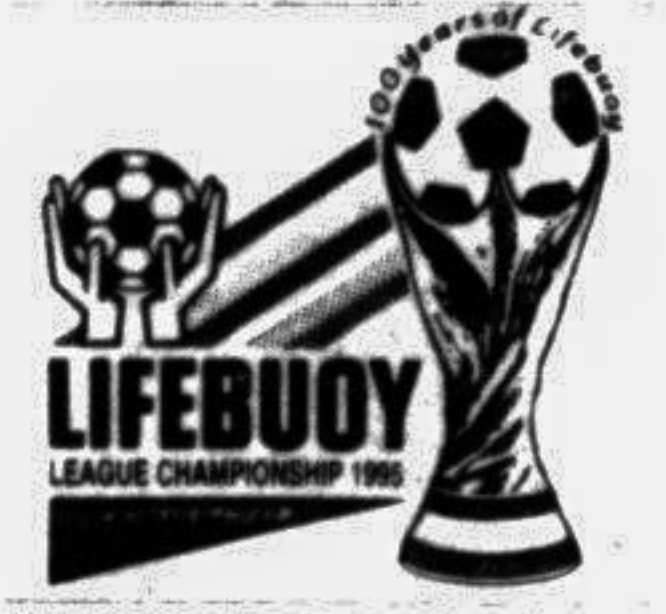
A late strike from Mahabubur Rahman Roxy virtually ended brief stint by Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in the elite group when Arambagh came from behind to earn a sensational 2-1 win over the old-town outfit in one of the two Lifebuoy Premier League engagements at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Arambagh captain, who returned to his former club this year after a disappointing season with Mohammedan Sporting Club, winning a ball in the middle of the pitch made a dream run before he drove the decisive 'nail into the Rahmatganj coffin four minutes from the final whistle.

But the late winner hardly justified the course of an exciting second match of the day which was also marked by a 24-minute power failure that led to a delayed start to the second half. Rahmatganj, who were badly in need of a win to avoid the dreaded relegation zone, did their best to overturn their chronic misfortune but once again went down fighting due to brilliant keeping under the bar by Arambagh custodian Tony.

A flamboyant Tony, who stood tall against the marauding Rahmatganj booters, hardly allowed anything to get past him and saved at

least five clear attempts with great agility. His only gaff came in the 32nd minute when Shakil found the net with a blistering shot from a goalmouth melee. But Rahmatganj's joy was



short-lived when the diminutive Arambagh midfielder Sattar, cashing on a defensive error pulled off the equalizer five minutes later.

In the second half Rahmatganj accelerated their attacks for the much needed goal but once again found a stubborn Tony in their way on at least three occasions before Roxy stole the show with a late stunner.

The defeat left Rahmatganj to be content with their previous collection of eight from 15 matches while Arambagh with this win raised their tally to 17 from 15 outings.

Red card: Iqbal (Rahmatganj). Yellow card: Tony and Mitul (Arambagh) and Towhid (Rahmatganj)

TEAMS ARAMBAGH KS: Tony, Pradip, Chootan, Faisal, Auwar, Roxy, Minhaj Babu (Mitul) (Dablu), Sattar, Jahangir, Matiev and Shoab. RAHMATGANJ MFS: Himu, Biplob Marma, Jaglu, Shahid, Iqbal, Azim, Badal (Shakil), Nazimuddin, Abul Hasan (Jafar), Ripon and Towhid. Referee: Abdul Ghani (Malaysia).

YOUNGMEN'S BITE DUST

Meanwhile, in the day's first match Agrani Bank brought a high flying Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool down to earth when they beat the fourth place holder by a solitary goal.

In a rather lacklustre encounter, Agrani Bank's lithe striker Tutul scored the all-important goal with a neat placing shot for his side's fifth win in the league. It was Tutul's ninth goal in the league.

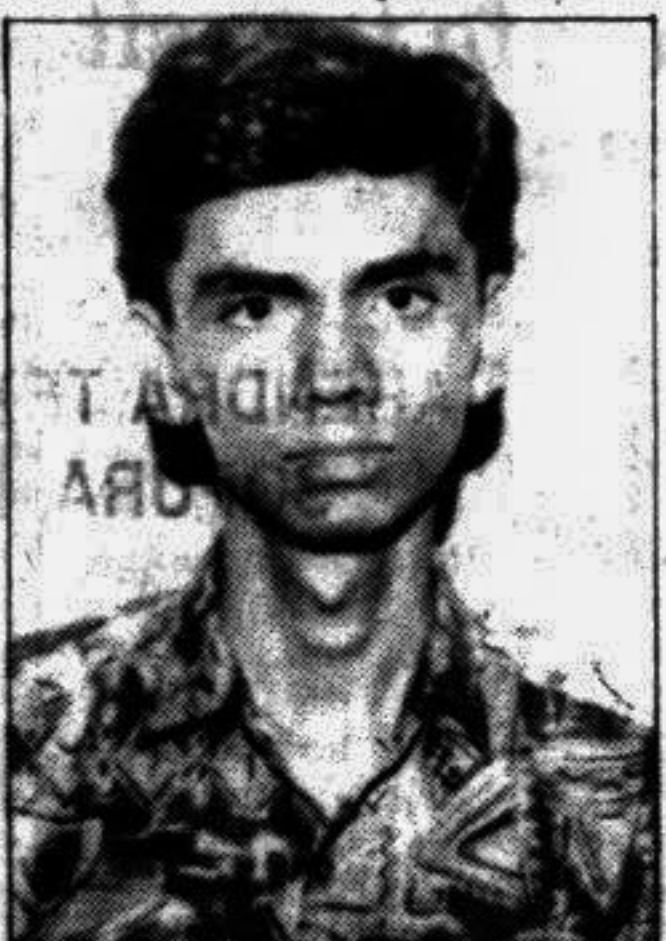
On the otherhand it was Fakirerpool's fourth defeat from six second leg matches after their fabulous run in the first leg.

With this defeat Fakirerpool remained stuck to their previous collection of 24 from 15 league engagements while the squeaky but deserving win took Agrani's tally to 18 from 15 outings.

Zia steals Rajib's show



International Master Ziaur Rahman took full advantage of a late stumble by tournament frontrunner Enamul Hossain Rajib when he lifted the International Open ratings chess championship after the last round's play held at the NSC chess room yesterday.



ZIA... the ultimate winner Zia, who started the day on joint second position, prevailed as champion after a tie-break victory over his

Biman teammate IM Reefat-bin-Sattar. Earlier both the young yet-seasoned players posted victories in their penultimate matches of the meet. Zia defeating Kajol while Reefat overcame Nasir.

Their respective triumphs left them tied atop the point-table with nine points each. The progressive scoring system was used to break the deadlock and Zia ultimately came on top scoring 56.5 to Reefat's 51.5.

This was all possible due to the second consecutive defeat suffered by an inexperienced Rajib who led the pack at the beginning of the day. The youngster from the Bobby Fischer Chess Club needed only one point from the last two encounters to claim his maiden tournament title after leading throughout the eleven rounds Swiss League meet.

But Hasibul Hassan Hanif of Brothers Union was instrumental in putting an end to Rajib's hopes of returning home jubilantly when he outwitted the promising player yesterday. Rajib had lost to Nasir in the previous round. The loss puts Rajib equal in points with Hanif, both se-

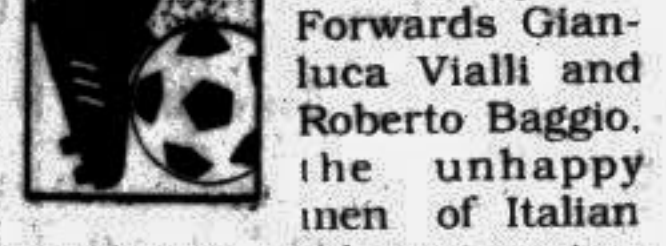
curing 8.5 points, but the former prevailed in the progressive scoring with 61 points to secure a disappointing third position. Hanif came fourth scoring 49 in the progressive system.

Biman's Fide Master Rezaul Haq, national junior champion Adnan Faisal, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Dhaka University and Manzur Alam



RAJIB... futile end to a bright start from Chittagong placed fifth to eighth respectively earning eight points each.

Vialli's fitting riposte



ROME, Sept 11: Forwards Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Baggio, the unhappy men of Italian soccer last week, put controversy behind them on Sunday with goals that helped Juventus and Milan to Serie A wins, reports Reuter.

UEFA Cup holders Parma, rocked by a seemingly final rift between Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla and the club, did likewise and beat Inter 2-1 in a late night match.

Cremonese and Sampdoria meanwhile created a bit of controversy by warming up in shirts with anti-nuclear slogans written on them, ignoring threatened fines.

Juventus' striker Vialli, who stunned the soccer-mad nation by announcing he would not play for Italy again, struck twice in his

team's 4-0 win at Piacenza. The shaven-headed striker raised a national furore on Friday when he announced his "irrevocable decision" not to play for Italy after coach Arrigo Sacchi revealed that Italian players had vetoed his recall earlier in the year.

His first goal of the season came on the stroke of half time and his second wrapped up the match in the 85th. Clearly fired up, he was man of the match. "It was the reply of a great champion," said Juventus coach Marcello Lippi.

AC Milan's Baggio saved his team from ignominy with the 85th minute winner in a 2-1 victory at home to Udinese.

Drawing with newly-promoted Udinese would have been a major setback for a team who have made returning to the European Cup

their main objective. Baggio obliged with a header. Lazio joined Juventus and Milan on the maximum six points from two matches after striker Giuseppe Signori, also on the bench in Wednesday's European Championship qualifier against Slovenia, gave them a 1-0 win, at Cagliari.

The result left the home team's veteran coach Giovanni Trapattoni still searching for his first points since he joined Cagliari this summer from Germany's Bayern Munich.

Parma had Italy striker Gianfranco Zola and Dino Baggio to thank for their first win of the season. Asprilla, dropped after an altercation at the club training ground on Saturday, was nowhere to be seen. A statement was expected but club sources said later a decision would be taken today.



HIS HEAD IS DEFINITELY TWISTED: Andrew Symonds (R), the England-born Australia-raised prodigy loosens up before going in to bat for Gloucestershire in a County Championship match at Bristol on September 9, while his skipper Jack Russel watches the game. — AFP/UNB photo



Asst manager of Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool makes a spectacular but vain attempt with the Agrani Bank custodian Mitul (R) keeping his eyes on the ball during their Lifebuoy Premier League encounter at the Dhaka Stadium on Monday. — Star photo

Pepsi nat'l basketball

Sports Reporter

Reigning champions Bangladesh Navy confirmed a semifinal berth in the Pepsi 18th national basketball championship on Monday when they recorded their sixth successive victory in Group A against Khulna DSA at the Dhanmondi gymnasium.

The 91-39 victory enabled the champions to end their group league matches with an all-win record. Earlier they beat Jessore DSA (111-43), Chandpur DSA (124-54), Dhaka DSA (63-43), Bangladesh Police (140-64) and Brahmanbaria DSA (126-40) which keeps them atop Group A standings with 12 points from six matches.

Yesterday the sailors led the first half 35-20 against the Khulna boys. Siraj (16) and Wasik (16) were the leading Navy scorers with Faruki caging 13 points while Khaled and Swapan collected 11 and 10 points respectively for Khulna.

In the day's other match Group B leaders Bangladesh Rifles ensured their place in the semifinals after they recorded their fourth win in a row against Bangladesh Air Force 107-97.

In a closely contested tie, the Riflemen led the first half 52-37. Ayub Hossain caged 37 points for BDR with Aminul adding 20 while Airman Sharif scored highest 42 points for his side.

In the other matches, Dhaka DSA dumped Bangladesh Police 114-47 and Chandpur DSA handed a 72-25 points defeat to Brahmanbaria DSA.

Australia sways Symonds' heart?

BRISTOL, England, Sept 11: Andrew Symonds, the England-born, Australian-raised batsman, on Monday turned down an invitation to play for England A on their winter tour of Pakistan, reports AP.

"I have informed the England selectors that I am unable to accept their invitation to join the A team tour to Pakistan," the 20-year-old Gloucestershire star said in a statement.

"I recognise it is an honour to be selected but having carefully considered my long-standing commitment to the Queensland Cricket Association, my club on the Gold Coast and my family, I have decided to return to Australia for the winter."

Gloucestershire said they expected Symonds to return to county cricket in England next year.

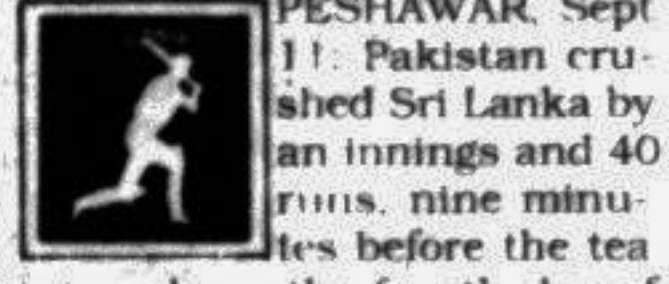
"Gloucestershire County Cricket Club recognise the very difficult decision Andrew Symonds has had to make in declining the invitation," the club said. "We also respect his decision to return to Australia this winter to honour his commitments."

"We look forward to welcoming him back for the start of a three-year contract in 1996."

TODAY'S FIXTURES

- Lifebuoy Premier Division football league: Mohammedan SC vs Farashganj SC (5:30 pm) (Dhaka Stadium) Lifebuoy First Division football league: East End Club vs Eskaton SS (4:30 pm) Shantinagar Club vs Police AC (6:30 pm) (Mirpur Stadium) Pepsi 18th national basketball championship: Venue: Dhanmondi Gymnasium. Bangladesh Air Force vs Dhaka University 8 am Bangladesh Police vs Chandpur DSA 9:30 am Brahmanbaria DSA vs Jessore DSA 3:30 pm Khulna DSA vs Dhaka DSA 5 pm Bangladesh Army vs Bangladesh Rifles 6:30 pm.

Pakistan enjoy big hunt at Peshawar Rameez's red-letter day



RAMEEZ... dazzling debut

PESHAWAR, Sept 11: Pakistan crushed Sri Lanka by an innings and 40 runs, nine minutes before the tea interval, on the fourth day of the first cricket Test on Monday, reports AP.

Rameez Raja became the first Pakistani captain to record an innings victory in his debut Test. Sri Lanka needed 273 runs to make the home side bat again after they were forced on Sunday to follow on, but were bowled out for 233 runs in their second innings.

A 125-run fifth wicket partnership between skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and Hashan Tillekeratne was not enough to save the embarrassing defeat. The tourists lost their last six wickets for just 19 runs.

Ranatunga and Tillekeratne joined hands after Sri Lanka lost both their overnight batsmen Chandika Hathurusinghe (53) and Sajeewa Ranatunga (18) within the first 30 minutes of play.

Wasim Akram, who did not bowl at all on Monday in Sri Lanka's second innings, sent one short ball into Hathurusinghe, who lobbed the ball in gully where Saeed Anwar took a smart diving catch with Sri Lanka yet to add to their overnight total of 86.

Sajeewa Ranatunga, younger brother of the captain, added just one more to his overnight total of 17 and edged Aaqub Javed's away swinger to wicketkeeper Moin Khan in only the fourth over of the day.

But Arjuna Ranatunga and Tillekeratne defied Pakistani bowlers from any further success before the lunch interval and took the total to 164.

Sri Lanka's captain completed his 21st Test half century before the break with

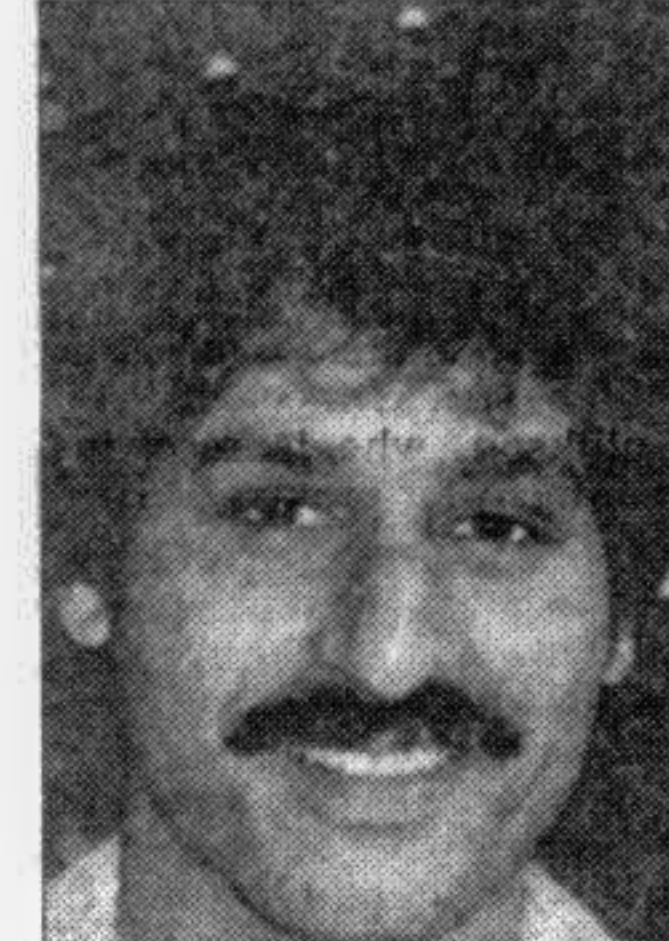
the help of nine boundaries off just 51 balls. On the other hand, Tillekeratne played a subdued role and took 45 minutes to get off the mark.

Left-arm spinner Amer Sohail succeeded in breaking the fifth wicket partnership one hour after lunch when he got the prize wicket off Ranatunga.

Sohail, bowling over the wicket, used the bowler's rough mark at the batsman's end as Arjuna Ranatunga tried to cut the ball only to see Inzamam-ul-Haq taking a low catch at first slip. Ranatunga and Tillekeratne surpassed the previous highest fifth wicket stand of 119 against Pakistan which was set in Colombo last year between Aravinda De Silva and Tillekeratne.

Ranatunga's 162 minutes stay at the crease yielded 76 runs and he hit 12 boundaries. Akram, who came for his second spell, removed the last hope of Sri Lanka — Tillekeratne — as Raja took

one of his three fine catches at mid off, Tillekeratne, who remained unbeaten on 44 in first innings, played another valiant knock of 48 which



RAMEEZ... dazzling debut

one of his three fine catches at mid off, Tillekeratne, who remained unbeaten on 44 in first innings, played another valiant knock of 48 which

comprised six fours. Sohail ran through the Sri Lankan tail to record his career best figures of four for 54.

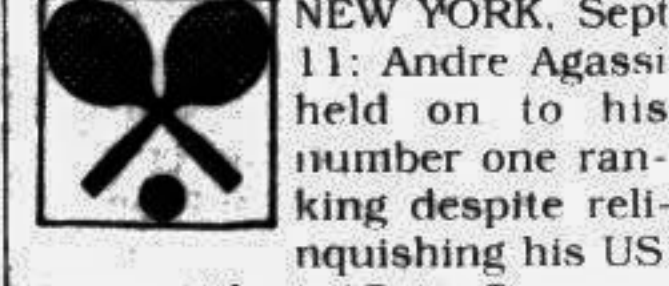
The Sri Lankans, who were cruising along comfortably at 214 for four, lost the last six wickets in nearly 30 minutes as Pakistan posted their ninth Test victory against the islanders.

Both countries have played 15 Test matches with Sri Lanka winning one while the rest were drawn. The next Test starts in Faisalabad on Friday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table showing Test match details for Pakistan vs Sri Lanka, including innings scores, wickets, and bowling figures.

Being a bit philosophical



NEW YORK, Sept 11: Andre Agassi held on to his number one ranking despite relinquishing his US Open title to Pete Sampras on Sunday, but that was little consolation to the vanquished star, reports Reuter.

Moments after his four-set defeat, the top-seeded Agassi lamented the lost opportunity to win his fourth Grand Slam tournament title.

"I just think when your career is all said and done, you want the Slams," said Agassi, winner of Wimbledon in 1992 last year's US Open and this year's Australian Open.

"You want to peak for these events. You want to win the US Open, the French and Wimbledon. I have lost here in the finals a couple of times and I will never forget it," said Agassi, who was runner-up to Sampras here in 1990.

"So these are memorable days, these are the ones you remember."

Agassi will remain number one on the computer rankings ahead of the second-ranked Sampras despite the 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 defeat. But Agassi dismissed the significance of the ranking numbers.

"Being number one is great, but after the first hour it doesn't make a bit of difference because you still got every guy in the tournament trying to beat you," said the charismatic Las Vegas native who replaced Sampras atop the rankings on April 10 this year.

In fact, in his own mind, Agassi has already ceded the mantle of player-of-the-year to his fellow-American rival, who earlier in the summer won his third consecutive Wimbledon. "Pete has won two Slams, so I will have to say that

come December 31st, he is going to feel better about the year than I did," said Agassi.

The possibility of an Agassi-Sampras showdown had dominated the entire men's tournament from the opening day.

The final did not disappoint. The pair hammered punishing groundstrokes and unloaded blistering serves for nearly two and half hours.

After the bruising battle, Agassi said he was happy to have such a worthy adversary as Sampras.

"I do enjoy the fact that there is somebody out there that I worry about," Agassi said of his 24-year-old Davis Cup teammate. "That is I play my best tennis I still worry about. That is nice."

"That kind of intensity, you feel it on the ins and outs



ANDRE AGASSI

Agassi is confident of his own ability to continue the rivalry at its present full throttle tilt.

"I have accomplished enough to know that I can accomplish more and I feel good with a lot of the hurdles that I have gotten over," Agassi said.

Last year Agassi became the first unseeded player to win the US Open since Australian Fred Stolle in 1966, knocking off five seeded players en route to the title. This year Agassi has so far won a career-best seven tournament titles.

"I have had a second birth," said the 25-year-old Agassi. "A year ago I wasn't seeded here and nobody gave a damn and I didn't blame them."

"A year later you guys are asking me why I lost. I kind of like that."

Atletico swamp Santander

MADRID, Sept 11: Racing Santander had two players sent off as they succumbed to a 4-0 defeat at home to Atletico Madrid in the Spanish League on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Chema Alonso and Pablo Alfaro were shown the red card for violent play as Santander tried in vain to combat the second-half onslaught from Atletico.

After two rounds Atletico top the table on goal difference from Athletic Bilbao, Espanol and Compostela, the three other teams with maximum six points.

The big surprise of the day was the 4-0 collapse of highly fancied Deportivo Coruna in a Galician derby at Compostela. Brazilian Fabiano claimed a goal in each half and Jose Ramon and open netted the others.