



Barcelona's Albert Ferrer (L) is about to make a sliding tackle on Dani de Zaragoza during a Spanish First Division match at Zaragoza on Sept 17. The Catalans blanked the locals 3-0. —AFP/UNB photo

### Asian Club soccer on

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 18: The 1995 Asian Club Championships kicked off at the weekend highlighted by Indonesian champions Persib's 2-0 away win over Bangkok Bank of Thailand, reports Reuter.

Persib's important triumph came thanks to two goals from Yousuf Bachtar in the ninth and 54th minutes, which put the amateur Java side in a strong position for the second leg in Bandung on September 30.

In the next round Persib should meet the unfancied Pasay City of the Philippines who thrashed Tumon Typhoon 7-0 to give the Guam side an almost impossible task in the second leg, which will also be played on September 30.

South Korean champions Ilhwa Chunma made easy work of Macau's Lam Pak enjoying a comfortable 5-0 win in front of 27,000 spectators at the Tongdaemun Stadium in Seoul.

In Calcutta, Mohan Bagan came back from a shock early goal to beat Valencia from the Maldives 2-1 while Pakistan's Crescent Textile Mills beat Sri Lanka's Saunders 2-1 in Faisalabad.

Defending Asian Club champions Thai Farmers enjoyed a bye and meet the winners of the Mohan Bagan-Valencia tie, which will be decided on September 30.

In the Middle East, Kuwait's Al Salmiya held Al Seeb from Oman to a goalless away draw. The deciding leg on September 29 will decide which team will meet Iran's Saipa in the next round.

Meantime, beaten Asian Club Championships semi-finalists from last year, Nefchi from Uzbekistan, enjoyed a 3-1 win at home against Elimay from neighbouring Kazakhstan.

But in Dubai home team Al Shabab needed a late rally to get past Lebanese champions Al Ansar who scored first but ended the first leg 2-1 losers.

The league champions from 27 different countries have entered the Asian Football Confederation (ASF) competition which will climax in a four-team final series to be played from December 29-31 in a venue yet to be decided.

### A militant Muster!

BUCHAREST, Sept 18: Australians Thomas Muster and Gilbert Schaller, winner and runner-up at the Romanian Open on Sunday, accused US tennis authorities of trying to switch the focus of world tennis to North America from Europe, reports Reuter.

"You could win all the European tournaments but you cannot become number one in world tennis," Muster told a news conference after defeating Schaller 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday's final.

"To be number one is the private property of the Americans," Muster said.

The world number three blamed European tournament directors for failing to bring the big name Americans to play in Europe.

"The European tennis directors are not able to convince the American tennis players to play in Europe," Muster said. "They are not strong enough for it."

He said keeping the centre of tennis interest in Europe had to be a common goal of European tennis.

Schaller supported Muster's sentiments. "We have in Europe very good tennis tournaments but, unfortunately, the promotion and the marketing are not on the same high level," he said.

## Madrid's misery mounts

MADRID, Sept 18: Real Madrid surprisingly crashed to their second successive home Spanish League defeat, losing 3-2 to modest Oviedo on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The upset completed a dismal week for the league champions who lost in their Bernabeu Stadium last Saturday to Bilbao and on Wednesday in Amsterdam against European Cup holders Ajax in the Champions' League.

Including three pre-season losses to Deportivo Coruna — two in the Super Cup — Real have lost no less than six of their last eight matches.

Reals started out determined to end their losing streak, and went ahead through Chilean Ivan Zamorano after just two minutes.

Seven minutes later, however, Jesus Oli surprisingly equalised for the visitors, capitalising on a dreadful mistake by Argentine midfielder Fernando Redondo.

Zamorano restored Real's lead on the half hour, only for Oli to stun the home crowd with a second

equaliser. Worse was to come for Madrid fans after the break. Just three minutes into the second half, Antonio Rivas put Oviedo ahead with a long-range free kick.

The visitors then held on grimly for a shock win, to the irritation of the 73,000 crowd, most of whom had left by the final whistle.

Another disappointed crowd was to be found at Zaragoza, who caved in after the interval against the new-look Barcelona.

After an even first half, in which Barcelona's Croat midfielder Robert Prosinecki limped off seven minutes into his league debut, the visitors took full control.

Jordi Cruix put the Catalans ahead six minutes after the break.

Zaragoza poured forward, leaving gaps at the back which Bosnian Meho Kodro and Portuguese striker Luis Figo exploited to wrap up the three points.

Espanol kept up with infirm Atletico Madrid — winners on Saturday in Bilbao — at the top with their own third win.

Espanol needed a late strike from Argentine defender Mauricio Pochettino to break down the stubborn resistance of unfashionable Albacete.

St Pauli flying high

BONN, Sept 18: Promoted St Pauli shocked prospective Bundesliga challengers Borussia Moenchengladbach with a 4-2 away win to leap five places into fifth spot on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The win was St Pauli's third in three away matches this season and convincing proof of the unfashionable Hamburg side's counter-attacking skills.

St Pauli led 3-0 at halftime thanks to two goals from Russian Yuri Savitshev and one from Jens Scharring, all scored on the break.

Moenchengladbach piled the pressure on St Pauli's massed defence after the break, but goals from Michael Sternkopf and Sweden's Martin Dahlin were answered by a delicately curled shot from 10 metres from St Pauli's Ralf Becker.

Nantes midfielder scored twice and helped set up Claudio Bellucci's third.

To complete a black day for Parma, Hristo Stoichkov, who hit a post with a fiercely struck free kick in the 89th minute, was given his first taste of Italy's notoriously disciplinary referees.

The temperamental Bulgarian was given his first Serie A yellow card after handing the ball to the referee rather than an opponent.

The career of Italy's most successful manager Giovanni Trapattoni, who coached Juventus to seven league titles in the 1970s and 1980s, touched an all-time low on Sunday after his new side Cagliari slipped to their third successive defeat.

The veteran manager, who spent a disastrous season with Bayern Munich in Germany's Bundesliga last year, watched his team lose 3-1 at Fiorentina, a result which leaves them last in the table without a point.

## Ye subdues Susanti

JAKARTA, Sept 18: China's Ye Zhaoying continued her recent supremacy over Indonesia's world number one Susi Susanti with a tough 12-9, 2-11, 12-9 victory in the World Cup badminton women's singles final on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Susanti had hoped to avenge her defeat by the Chinese in the Lausanne World Championships in May but world number three Ye prevailed in an exhausting match which was in the balance until the final few minutes.

Susanti looked tense in the opening game but seemed to find her confidence in the second as she drew level with her trademark attritional style of long rallies and attacking lobs.

But in the third set her efforts seemed to exhaust her more than her opponent. After Susanti took the lead, Ye managed to stop her advance and the greater strength of the Chinese took her to victory.

Joko Suprianto beat fellow Indonesian Allan Budi Kusuma 15-7, 11-15, 15-8 to win the men's title.

## Mutola ready to roll

HARARE, Sept 18: Top runner Maria Mutola made a surprise appearance at the All-Africa Games on Sunday and defended fellow African world-beaters who have chosen to skip the event, reports Reuter.

"I think many athletes follow money. It is important to run for money. I cannot sneer at that, that is our life," Mutola, winner of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Grand Prix series overall women's title, told reporters after her 800 metres heat.

The Mozambican runner qualified for today's final.

"I cannot blame anyone for not coming here. The season has been long and tiring and honestly people need to rest," she said.

Asked why so few top distance runners had come to the Games, Mutola said some of the continent's athletes had received shoddy treatment from their governments and federations. Mutola ran only after top-

previously said she was injured. "I came mainly because this is a low-key race with no one who had done 1.55 and there would be no pressure on me at all."

Mozambican President Joachim Chissano flew to Harare to watch Mutola run, the first time he has seen her in action.

Among leading absenteees are IAAF series overall men's winner Moses Kiptanul of Kenya, Zambian hurdler Samuel Matete, Algeria's Noureddine Morcelli, Ethiopians Haile Gebrselassie and Derartu Tulu and sprinter Frankie Fredericks of Namibia.

Nigerian Lme Akpan, returning after a two-year absence following a drugs ban, cried with emotion after taking the bronze in the women's 100 metres hurdles.

"I have gone through a lot and to be third after training for only four months is really wonderful," Akpan, who clocked 13.09 seconds, said.

Gold and silver went to fellow Nigerians Taiwo Aldefa (12.98) and Angela Atede

## Peter Graf denied bail

FRANKFURT, Sept 18: The father of top women's tennis player Steffi Graf, accused of tax evasion in his management of her winnings, lost an appeal Monday for release from investigative custody. He had offered 15 million marks (10.5 million dollar) in bond, reports AP.

A magistrate in Mannheim, where Peter Graf has been in prison since Aug 3, denied the 22-page request for release from custody and quashing of the warrant that provided for his arrest on grounds that he was a risk for flight to evade prosecution.

The magistrate passed the application onto the state court in Mannheim, which was expected to make a decision in a few days. One of the arguments of defense lawyer Peter Slania is that Graf is suffering unusual mental depression because of separation from his family.

State prosecutor Peter Wechsung has vigorously opposed Graf's appeal for release on bond. Wechsung has argued that he is suspected of serious, criminal tax evasion, and not of simply making mistakes, accepting bad advice or standing by while others acted.

Wechsung also made clear last Friday that Steffi Graf, who has won the French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open with the ease hanging over her head, does not need to worry about being placed in investigative custody, like her father. But she is still under investigation in the tax evasion case, he said.

## Stars' show in Tokyo

TOKYO, Sept 18: Arantxa Sanchez Vicario could get revenge for her defeat at the US Open by Mary Joe Fernandez in the final of this week's Nichirei women's tennis in Tokyo, reports AFP.

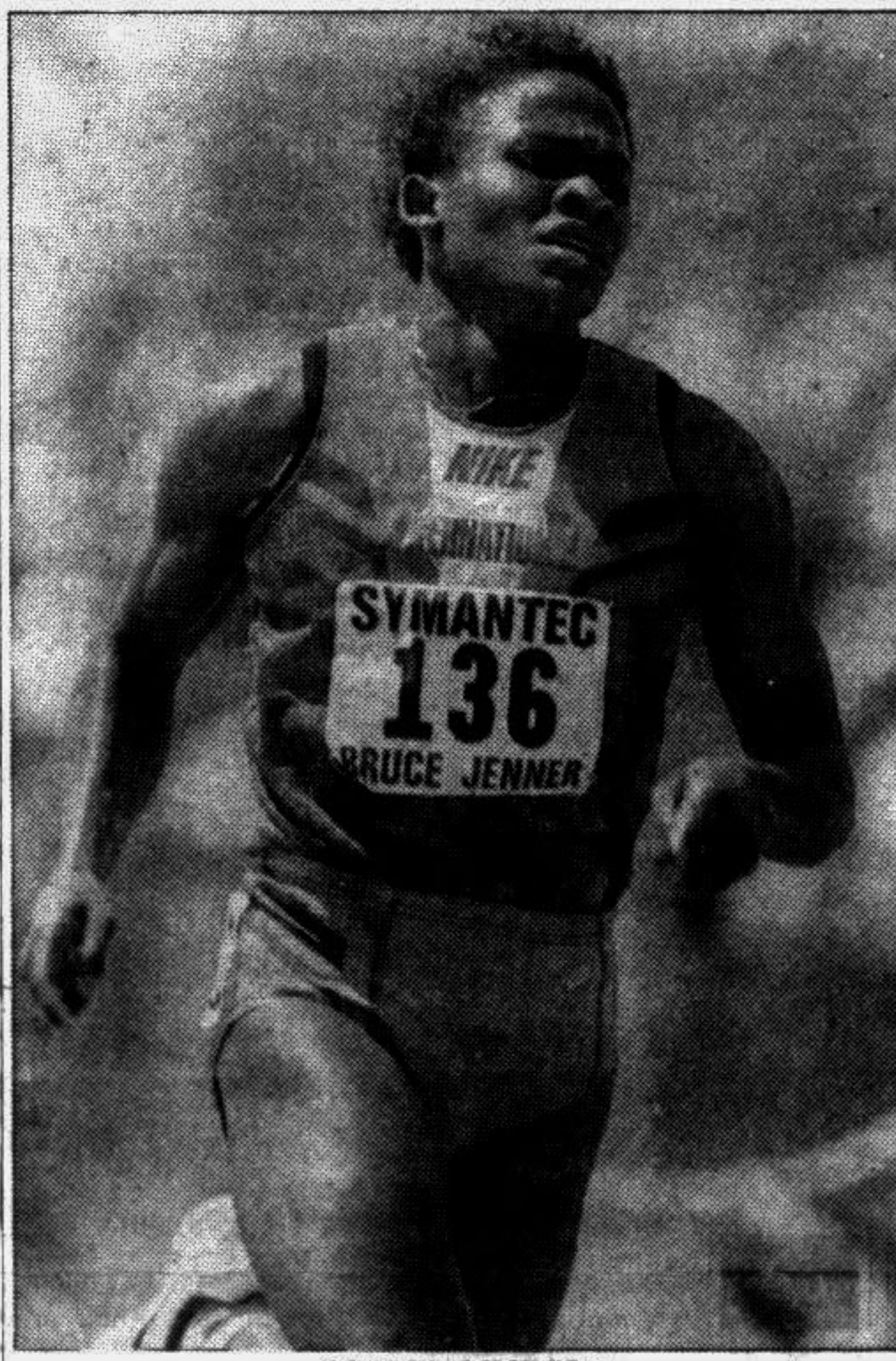
The Spaniard, runner-up in the first three Grand Slam events this season, lost to Fernandez in the fourth round of the US Open two weeks ago.

Any new clash would come in the final of the 430,000 dollar Tokyo tournament, as Fernandez, the sixth seed, is in the bottom half of the draw, with Japan's Kimiko Date, third seed, Mary Pierce of France, second seed, and American Amy Frazier, seventh seed.

MARIA MUTOLA (13.01).

Nicholas Nyongera of Zimbabwe won the men's marathon in two hours 20 minutes eight seconds and Kenyan cross country runner Ruth Cheruiyot took the 5,000 metres in 15:37.73.

Cheruiyot flew to Harare after the main Kenyan contingent. The Kenyans had



South Africa's Jowaine Parrott won the women's marathon in 2:55:09.

Meanwhile, South Africa won three titles and Egypt two on the second day of swimming at the Games.

South Africa, competing in the Games for the first time, took their golden tally in the pool to six.

Michael Windish won the men's 400 metres individual medley, Penny Heys took the women's 200 metres breaststroke and a South African quartet eclipsed the rest in the men's 4x200 metres freestyle relay which they won by a colossal margin of more than 18 seconds.

Rania Elwany completed an excellent freestyle double for Egypt, winning the 100 on Saturday by nearly a second in 56.77 and the 200 on Sunday in 2:02.98 when she edged out South Africa's Karen Allers by 0.11 seconds.

Tamir Zinhuov brought Egypt their third win of the day, sweeping home in the men's 100 metres butterfly in 55.75.

South Africa's successes came as no surprise to the nation's swimming team manager Chris Williams.

"It's nothing less than we expected. The competition is tough but we are acclimatising ourselves well," he said.

"We expected three gold medals this evening and we got three. We are using the Games to prepare and sharpen our boys and girls for the Olympics," he said.

"If we can improve on our current performance I don't see why we should not do well in Atlanta (1996 Olympics). We are looking forward to testing our skills there."

### MEDALS TABLE

Medals table on Sunday at the end of day five of the All-Africa Games.

(tabulate under gold, silver, bronze, total):

|                | G  | S  | B  | Total |
|----------------|----|----|----|-------|
| South Africa   | 16 | 20 | 12 | 48    |
| Egypt          | 16 | 11 | 10 | 37    |
| Nigeria        | 13 | 8  | 9  | 30    |
| Kenya          | 6  | 7  | 7  | 20    |
| Algeria        | 6  | 5  | 13 | 24    |
| Tunisia        | 5  | 5  | 10 | 20    |
| Senegal        | 4  | 3  | 5  | 12    |
| Zimbabwe       | 4  | 2  | 7  | 13    |
| Gabon          | 2  | 0  | 3  | 5     |
| Mauritius      | 1  | 3  | 4  | 8     |
| Ethiopia       | 1  | 2  | 6  | 9     |
| Sierra Leone   | 1  | 0  | 1  | 2     |
| Burundi        | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1     |
| Ivory Coast    | 0  | 3  | 0  | 3     |
| Cameroon       | 0  | 2  | 4  | 6     |
| Ghana          | 0  | 2  | 1  | 3     |
| Lesotho        | 0  | 1  | 1  | 2     |
| Burkina Faso   | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1     |
| Central Africa | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1     |
| Madagascar     | 0  | 0  | 4  | 4     |
| Angola         | 0  | 0  | 3  | 3     |
| Congo          | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |
| Namibia        | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |
| Swaziland      | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |
| Tanzania       | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |
| Uganda         | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1     |

## Viali, Weah steal spotlight AC join Juventus atop

ROME, Sept 18: Liberian striker George Weah gave a virtuoso display including two superb goals to make up for the absence of the injured Roberto Baggio, inspiring Milan to a 2-1 win over Roma at the Olympic Stadium on Sunday night, reports Reuter.

The win pulled Milan level with Juventus, 1-0 winners over Vicenza in the afternoon, at the top of the table on nine points — the only clubs with 100 per cent records after three matches.

The giant Weah tormented Roma's defence, first equalising after Abel Balbo's 15th minute opener with a precise shot, then outwitting Brazilian Aldair and sliding the ball past Giovanni Cervone for the winner in the 75th minute.

"Perhaps we've found the true heir to Marco van Basten," Milan general manager Adriano Galliani said after the match, likening Weah's explosive power in the air and superb touch to the recently retired Dutch master.

Roma now lie on the edge of the relegation zone after their second successive home defeat and will no doubt rue Balbo's disallowed goal in the 77th minute.

Lazio, the other side with a perfect record at the start of the day, slipped to a 3-3 draw at Bari and lie joint third on seven points with Napoli, 3-1 winners at Atlanta.

Parma's woeful start to the season — elimination from the domestic cup and poor league form touched a new low with a humiliating 3-0 defeat at Sampdoria.

Juventus, suffering the after-effects of their mid-week European Cup victory over Borussia Dortmund, were made to struggle by Vicenza until striker Gianluca Viali showed what Italy will miss now he has vowed never to play for the national side again.

Viali kept his head when the referee played the advantage rule in the 21st minute after Angelo Livio appeared to be fouled by goalkeeper Luca

Mondini.

Nantes midfielder scored twice and helped set up Claudio Bellucci's third.

To complete a black day for Parma, Hristo Stoichkov, who hit a post with a fiercely struck free kick in the 89th minute, was given his first taste of Italy's notoriously disciplinary referees.

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## Seeking the impossible

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 18: A Brazilian soccer derby which had been intended to serve as an example of peace between rival fans ended in violence on the pitch on Sunday, with two players sent off and another ten booked, reports Reuter.

The Sao Paulo derby match between arch-rivals Palmeiras and Corinthians had been dubbed "the game of peace" and was preceded by a series of symbolic acts of goodwill between fans.

Organised supporters' clubs from both teams marched through the streets of the city to the stadium together and then donated four tonnes of food to a campaign against hunger. The game itself was preceded by the playing of the Brazilian national anthem.

The peace initiative was taken following the shocking events four weeks ago after a game between the junior sides of Palmeiras and Sao Paulo, when hundreds of fans invaded the pitch and attacked each other with sticks, stones and bricks.

But the peaceful spirit was forgotten by the players once play started. Referee Antonio Pereira da Silva was repeatedly forced to pull the yellow card from his pocket as players scythed each other down with lunging tackles.

Corinthians striker Marcelinho Carioca was sent off in the second half for a second bookable offence and he was followed shortly afterwards by his teammate Ezequiel.

Corinthians players also surrounded a linesman to launch a furious protest after defender Antonio Carlos scored the second goal in Palmeiras' 2-0 win. Corinthians claimed he was offside.

Former Brazil international Muller had scored the first goal as Palmeiras went two points ahead at the top of Group A in the first stage of the competition.

Striker Tulio scored twice as Botaogo beat Libertadores Cup champions Gremio 3-2 away to stay second in the group. Tulio took his goal tally to eight in seven games and is the tournament's leading goalscorer.

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Veteran radio commentator Washington Rodrigues, who took over as coach of Flamengo last week, enjoyed his second successive victory as his team beat Juventude 2-0. Winger Savio scored both goals.

Rodrigues' reign had begun in spectacular style on

Thursday with his team beating Argentine championship leaders Velez Sarsfield 3-2 away in the South American Super Cup.

## St Germain taste sour

PARIS, Sept 18: Paris St Germain stumbled to their first defeat of the season after an own goal from international defender Bruno N'Gotty on Sunday but stayed top of the French soccer league, reports Reuter.

There was little N'Gotty could do to avert scoring against his own side in the 18th minute in Montpellier, who won 1-0.

Montpellier, who dominated throughout, launched a lightning move on the right wing, leaving Christophe Sanchez alone in front of the Paris box. Sanchez's powerful shot hit the post, bounced on N'gotty's chest and into the goal.

Despite the defeat, the Parisians, who had won their six previous matches, retained the lead on 20 points. Second-placed Metz have 10 points.

Metz beat Monaco 1-0 in the Principality on Saturday and were left as the only unbeaten side in the league after nine rounds.

Metz scored through a fine lob by striker Robert Fires in the 29th minute, handing Monaco their third defeat within nine days.

The team from the Principality, who had to field their fourth goalkeeper this season after an injury jinx depleted the team, lost to PSG in the league and to Leeds United in the UEFA Cup last week.

Lens scored a convincing 3-1 win against Bastia in Sunday's games and shot to third in the standings on 18 points.



Nicolas Lappenti of Ecuador plays a back-hand return against Colombia's Miguel Toban during the final of the ATP Club Colombia tennis world series in Bogota on September 17. Lappenti won 6-2, 1-6, 6-4. — AFP/UNB photo