



World's cricketing idol and former Pakistan captain Imran Khan natters with his wife Jemima in Great Neck, New York, during a fund-raising dinner for a cancer hospital in Lahore on Oct 21. — AFP/UNB photo

Ctg soccer
PDB's maiden victory

Sports Reporter

Power Development Board (PDB) picked up their first win in the Elite Paint CJKP First Division football league when they beat Brothers Union by the odd goal in three at the Chittagong Stadium yesterday.

PDB, who had earlier lost one and drew the other of their previous two league engagements, led the breather by a solitary with Kiron scoring in the 40th minute with a pile-driver.

Pipul than doubled the winners margin three minutes into the second half defeating a diving Brothers custodian Bishwajit with a scorching low shot.

After being 2-0 down the Brothers booters showed signs of a comeback when their striker Nurullah reduced the margin midway through the second half. But that was all they could muster in a rather lacklustre encounter.

With this win PDB raided their tally to three from as many matches while it was Brothers' third consecutive defeat.

Malcolm's plea

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 23: England fast bowler Devon Malcolm appealed for support and patience on Sunday as he prepared to play his first match since knee surgery, reports Reuter.

Malcolm, who had the operation at the end of last August, has been making great strides in practice and set to return to action next week when England begin their South African tour itinerary.

The Derbyshire paceman is to play in one of the limited-over games, against a Nicky Oppenheimer XI in Randjesfontein on Tuesday or Eastern Transvaal at Springs on Wednesday, before the opening first-class match against a South African Invitation XI in Sweto starting next Friday.

"I hope people don't expect me to win the first match on my own," Malcolm said.

"In retrospect, taking nine for 57 (against South Africa in the 1994 Test at the Oval) wasn't the greatest thing that could have happened to me because now if I don't take a wicket every second over I'm regarded as a failure."

"I didn't realise how well known I was until we went to Alexandra township on Saturday and kids kept coming up and congratulating me on taking the nine for 57."

"I realise that I have a responsibility beyond the cricket as the only black man in the tour party," Malcolm added.

Gesture for women

LAUSANNE, Oct 23: One in ten of all Olympic decision makers by the end of 2000 must be women, and the number doubled by the end of 2005, the International Olympic Committee said here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The IOC executive board admitted giving women an equal opportunity could only be achieved progressively and the proposal would be put to next year's session in Atlanta.

Although they can instruct national Olympic committees to toe the line they can only invite international sports federations and other sports organisations belonging to the Olympic movement to follow suit.

Milan's run restricted

ROME, Oct 23: Roberto Murgita's second-half header gave unfancied Vicenza a 1-1 draw with AC Milan on Sunday who stayed two points clear at the top of Italy's Serie A despite the result, reports Reuter.

Murgita struck three minutes after the break, making amends for a series of squandered opportunities, by heading home Gustavo Mendez's cross.

That cancelled out Stefano Eranio's fiercely struck 43rd minute opener for the visitors.

Despite their first draw of the season, Milan have 16 points from seven matches, two more than Juventus, Parma and Napoli.

Juventus defeated Padova 3-1, Parma drew 1-1 at Roma and Napoli needed a late goal from Brazilian sweeper Andre Cruz to win 1-0 at Piacenza.

Italy's promising young Striker Alessandro del Piero followed up his superb midweek strike against Glasgow Rangers in the European Champions' League with a goal from 24 metres to set Juventus on the way to victory over Padova.

At the Olympic Stadium, Dino Baggio sparred Parma from further embarrassment after their mid-week Cup Winners' Cup drubbing against Sweden's Halmstad with a late equaliser against Roma, after Daniel Fonseca had given the home side the lead.

Roy Hodgson's first match in charge of Inter at the San Siro finished in an encouraging scoreless draw with Lazio

although his new side showed all their old failings in front of goal.

Lazio now lie fifth, the only unbeaten side in Serie A after seven matches.

Francesco Guidolin's young Vicenza side last lost at home over two years ago and clearly had no intention of surrendering their unbeaten record to the league leaders.

With captain Franco Baresi suspended, Milan's makeshift defence struggled to cope with Vicenza's swift attacking manouevres and both Murgita and Uruguayan Marcello Otero missed gilded chances in the opening 45 minutes.

With two minutes of the first-half remaining, however, Eranio gave the home side a lesson in goal-scoring — left unmarked on the edge of the penalty area, the former international kept his head to fire a powerful shot wide of Luca Mondini.

But, within three minutes of the restart, Murgita finally found the target for a deserved equaliser against a Milan side that bore little resemblance to the team which outplayed Juventus a week ago.

With Liberian George Weah below par and a disappointing Marco Simone substituted, defensive midfielder Marcel Desailly came closest to sealing three points but his late goal was disallowed for an earlier infringement.

Del Piero's inspired play-making skills have won constant comparisons with his predecessor in Juve's number 10 shirt Roberto Baggio.

But the power and precision of his free-kick against Padova was more reminiscent of another former Juventus playmaker — Frenchman Michel Platini.

That stroke of genius lifted a previously lacklustre Juve performance, and further goals from Fabrizio Ravanelli in the 55th minute and Antonio Conte in stoppage time brought the champions their first win since September 17.

Nicola Amoroso, with a solo effort, pulled one back for Padova, who after narrowly escaping relegation last season, remain firmly rooted to the bottom of the table.

Bulgaria's Hristo Stochkov reacted to Parma's 3-0 defeat at the hands of Halmstad by accusing his teammates of a lack of character against lesser sides.

In a strange twist of fate, Parma's fight-back against a struggling Roma coincided with the European footballer-of-the-year's substitution in the 63rd minute.

First, Brazilian Aldair Cleare d Roberto Mussi's dipping cross off the line with goalkeeper Giovanni Cervone beaten.

Then, in the 75th minute Dino Baggio kept up his habit of scoring vital goals at club and international level when his low, diagonal shot crept in at Cervone's far post.

Oliver Bierhoff, the only German currently playing in Italy, lifted Udinese into eighth place, when he scored a 73rd minute penalty for his sixth goal of the season to give his side a 1-0 win over third from bottom Torino.

Barcelona's late reprieve

MADRID, Oct 23: Barcelona kept within two points of Spanish league leaders Atletico Madrid with a 1-0 home win over Valencia on Sunday, reports Reuter.

But they needed a dubious late penalty to overcome a lively Valencia, who created more and better goal chances.

Coach Johan Cruyff, sent up to the stands by referee Diaz Vega after only 10 minutes for protesting, sent on the Garcia brothers in the second half to try to break the deadlock.

It worked seven minutes from the end when Roger Garcia flicked on for brother Oscar, who clashed with Valencia defender Patxi Ferreras.

To the fury of the visitors, referee Vega pointed to the spot. It fell to the third substitute Robert Prosinecki, just back from injury, to put away the penalty which wrapped up the three points for a relieved Barcelona crowd of 90,000.

The win keeps them in second place, just behind Atletico Madrid, who won 1-0 on Saturday at lowly Valladolid.

Real Madrid, watched by 85,000 fans, continued their revival, moving up to sixth place by beating Tenerife 2-0.

Argentine striker Juan Esnaider celebrated his return to the team by shooting Real into the lead in the 11th minute.

Real looked tired after their Champions' League defeat of Ferencvaros on Wednesday, and Tenerife took control of the match.

But the visitors missed several good chances to equalise and substitute San-

dro Sierra settled the contest with an opportunistic strike six minutes from the end.

John Toshack's Deportivo Coruna failed to impress in their 1-0 defeat of Sporting Gijon. Dimitri Radchenko headed the winner in the 25th minute against the run

PSG keep Metz guessing

PARIS, Oct 23: Paris St Germain narrowed the gap on French League leaders Metz to four points on Sunday with their best performance so far as they beat Auxerre 3-1 at the Parc des Princes, reports Reuter.

The Parisians, who had slipped to fourth with just two points in their last four games, got off to a blazing start when Youri Djorkaeff volleyed home a spectacular dipping shot from outside the box in the first minute.

The home side dominated the first half but seemed to lack urgency until Auxerre jolted them back into action by equalising eight minutes after the break with their first real chance.

Moussa Saib crossed low into the goal-mouth from the left into a throng of bodies and Christopher Cocard emerged to stab the ball into the net.

But PSG were back in the lead four minutes later after Patrick Colleter crossed for Brazil's Rai to side-foot past Auxerre keeper Fabien Cool.

In the 68th minute substitute Pascal Nouma made it three when Rai slipped him a first time pass after Djorkaeff chipped the ball into the box.

Paris St Germain moved past Auxerre into third place on 28 points, four behind Metz, who drew in Lille on Saturday, and one behind Lens.

of play. Gijon squandered clear chances to pull level and Toshack angered the 27,000 crowd by taking off local idol Fran Gonzalez and leading scorer Bebez in the second half.

But Deportivo Coruna battled through for their first win in four matches.

Real Betis leapfrogged over Compostela into fourth place by thrashing them 5-0.

But neighbours Sevilla crashed to the bottom of the table for the first time in eight years after a 4-0 hammering at Celta Vigo.

Sampras in Ferreira's line of fire

LYON, France, Oct 23: Fourth seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa played a sensational match to upset world number two Pete Sampras in the final of the 600,000 dollars Lyon men's tennis Grand Prix on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Ferreira, throwing caution to the wind as he risked winner's on virtually every shot, triumphed 7-6, 5-7, 6-3 in a gripping match lasting two hours 13 minutes.

The American top seed, seeking a fourth tournament victory in Lyon, was let down by his first serve but it was his opponent's ability to pull off surprise-winner and hit the lines almost at will which caused his down fall.

An elated Ferreira said, "I played one of the best matches I could play. I was hoping I wouldn't get tight at the end. I just put the pressure on the whole match and never let him in."

Sampras, who had not lost a set all week, looked likely to sweep Ferreira aside as well when he ran up a 3-0 lead in the first set.

But the South African, tentative till then, decided to go on the offensive, breaking Sampras before leveling at 3-3 and then going on to a tie-break which he played impeccably to win 7-2.

Sampras looked more solid in the second set, which he won 7-5, but Ferreira again gained the upper hand when he broke to lead 3-1 in the third in a game which lasted more than 10 minutes.

The American almost cracked when serving to save the match at 2-5, doubled-faulting three times, twice to give the South African match-point.

But a big serve and an unforced error by Ferreira on a simple forehand kept him in the match as he pulled back to 5-3 and he earned two break points in the next game before the South African finally triumphed on his third match point.

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Peacekeepers' unpeaceful act!

KIGALI, Oct 23: A soccer match between Ghanaian UN troops and a Rwandan team to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations ended in chaos on Sunday with fist-fights between the referee and rival teams, witnesses said today, reports Reuter.

UN officials said minor violence erupted when the Rwandan referee awarded a penalty after Ghanaian peacekeepers tackled an attacker from the Rwandan team Circle Sportive, which was leading 3-1.

Tension at a Kigali stadium increased when the referee sent off Ghana's goalkeeper for handling the ball outside his area.

The Ghanaians were furious, the goalkeeper took a swing at the referee and members of both teams started fighting in the middle of the pitch before the 250 Rwandan spectators joined in the melee.

UN officials tried to play down the problem, which marred three days of celebrations organised by the UN assistance mission in Rwanda of the UN anniversary with the focus on fun and sports.

"There was a bit of a scuffle and pushing and shoving. If this was any other game in Britain, no one would care about it," said a UN official, who declined to be identified. The game was abandoned after UN troops intervened.

The Ghanaian team was disqualified from the tournament and the Rwandan team qualified for Tuesday's final, officials added.

Amazing Ajax recovery

AMSTERDAM, Oct 23: Ajax Amsterdam conceded their first domestic goals of the season as they trailed arch-rivals Feyenoord 2-0 on Sunday, but recovered to win 4-2 and chalk up their 10th successive league victory, reports Reuter.

New Feyenoord coach Arie Haan, a former Ajax hero who won two European Cup medals with the Amsterdam club in the 1970s, saw his team make a dream start as defender Clemens Zwijsen struck in the opening minute with a 16-metre drive — the first time Ajax keeper Edwin Van Der Sar has been beaten in over 15 hours of domestic league soccer.

While the European champions fought to regain their composure, Feyenoord scored again in the seventh minute when Swedish striker Henrik Larsson flicked the ball through Van Der Sar's legs.

But Feyenoord's momentum faltered and Ajax quickly pulled themselves back into the game with midfielder Winston Bogarde getting a foot to a header from Finnish international Jari Litmanen in the 13th minute.

In a ferocious end-to-end battle which delighted the 40,000 crowd in Rotterdam the balance could have tipped the home side's way again. But it was Litmanen who scored to make it 2-2 in the 29th minute.

Five minutes later Ajax took the lead when Dutch international Marc Overmars scored with a curling 20 metre shot after the winger found himself in space.

Twelve minutes into the second half Overmars scored again to put Ajax 4-2 up and take his season's tally to eight, the highest in the league.

Feyenoord fought back

valiantly but it was Ajax who came closest to scoring again. Striker Patrick Kluivert had a goal disallowed for off-side and a second chance go begging after he went past two defenders and recovered magnificently from a stumble in the penalty area only to sky the ball high over the bar.

Ajax remain at the top of the table with a perfect haul of 30 points from 10 matches — and a goal tally of 37-2.

PSV Eindhoven, who beat Leeds 5-3 in a UEFA Cup tie in England on Tuesday, did even better on Sunday beating Groningen 7-1 with Boundewijn Zenden scoring a hatrick and Luc Nils, who scored two late goals against Leeds, adding another two.

The result kept Eindhoven in second place, five points behind Ajax, while Willem II Tilburg, stay third, a distant 11 points behind the leaders, after being beaten 2-1 at home by RKC Waalwijk.

Liverpool win at a canter

LONDON, Oct 23: Matt Le Tissier's dismal season reached its nadir on Sunday when he was sent off after 69 minutes of Southampton's 3-1 home defeat to Liverpool in the English Premier league, reports Reuter.

Le Tissier, the hero of the Saints fans, was shown the red card by referee Dermot Gallagher for a late tackle on Liverpool defender Phil Babb which earned him his second booking of the game.

The first came when he fouled Ian Rush and although the Southampton players protested to the referee that the foul on Babb was clumsy rather than dangerous, Le Tissier was dismissed.

Le Tissier's form has dipped since being overlooked for the England team by coach Terry Venables, and he has not scored in the league for nine matches.

His only league goals of

the season came in an opening day hatrick against Nottingham Forest and his current goalless run is his worst for six years.

He made only a fitful contribution to Southampton's cause although Saints started well with Gordon Watson giving them the lead when he touched home a corner after only two minutes.

But once Steve McManaman equalised in the 21st minute, Liverpool took control. They coasted to victory with a second McManaman goal after 54 minutes following a blunder by goalkeeper Dave Beasant, and a third from Jamie Redknapp after 73 minutes.

He gave Beasant no chance with a powerfully hit left-foot angled drive.

The victory took Liverpool to fifth, while Southampton, with only one win from their opening 10 games, remained two off the bottom.

The only bright news for Southampton was that Barry

In quest of Olympic gold

ADDIS ABABA, Oct 23: Ethiopian athletics officials have instigated a three-part training schedule for their elite men marathon runners designed to win Olympic gold in Atlanta next year, reports Reuter.

"Our target is to recapture the lost glory of winning an Olympic marathon gold," said Yilma Tadesse, vice-president of the Ethiopian Olympic Committee.

"We are determined to repossess the crown that has eluded us for a long time," added Wolde-Meskel Kostire, the national coach.

Abebe Bikila, running barefoot, won the 1960 Rome Olympic marathon and repeated the feat in Tokyo four years later. Mamo Wolde made it three in a row for Ethiopia when he won in Mexico city in 1968.

"Winning in Atlanta is a dedication to Bikila," said Yilma.

Wolde said Ethiopia had 15 athletes who had already attained the qualifying time for Atlanta, including Beainhe Dinsamo who set the present world best of two hours six minutes 50 seconds in Rotterdam seven years ago.

"We cannot select Beainhe by his previous results. He has to prove to us that he is still the best," Wolde-Meskel said.

Wolde-Meskel said he

planned a three-part training schedule for the athletes.

From October to February they would undergo endurance exercises such as mountain climbing and running through desert sands in the lowland areas.

That would be followed in February to March by pace training which Wolde-Meskel said was "the biggest secret."

The last phase from April to June would be conditioning and selecting the final team of three for Atlanta.

Wolde said Ethiopia also looked to army officer Derartu Tulu to win the 10,000 metres gold for a second consecutive Games.

"Derartu is in superb condition right now and really looks forwards to repeating

Random dope tests for Sino athletes

BEIJING, Oct 23: The Chinese sports authorities are carrying out random dope tests in domestic competition for the first time at the inter-city games in Nanjing, a report said today, reports AFP.

The tests are part of a campaign to shore up the country's tarnished sports image.

The People's Daily said about a dozen athletes had already undergone tests before the games, which opened in the eastern city on Sunday.

"The athletes in these games are young and we must make a special effort to educate them," Sports Minister Wu Shaouzu was quoted as saying.

This is the first time that any concrete measures have been taken to enforce new regulations governing sports adopted in August.

China's image has been badly tarnished by drug scandals, particularly the 11 athletes, including seven world class swimmers, who failed tests at last year's Asian Games in Japan.

New regulations introduced tougher penalties for failed tests and ordered additional testing during and outside competition.

Before the inter-city games, tests had only been carried out on winners at domestic events.

More than 3,300 athletes from 49 teams are competing in the multisport games which end October 30. One of the highlights will be Ma Junren's athletes running against the coach's former star Wang Junxia.

They will race in the 5,000 metres on Tuesday and 10,000 metres on Thursday.



Pete Sampras of the United States and South African Wayne Ferreira admiring their trophies at the end of the final of the Lyon ATP tournament in France on Oct 22. Ferreira put the brakes on Sampras' phenomenal run with a 7-6, 5-7, 6-3 victory. — AFP/UNB photo

Final honour belongs to Fernandez

BRIGHTON, England, Oct 23: Mary-Joe Fernandez scooped the last Brighton International women's tennis crown after beating Amanda Coetzer 6-4, 7-5 on Sunday, and winning a battle against asthma, reports Reuter.

American Fernandez ruined South African Coetzer's 24th birthday, claiming the 50,000 pounds (78,570 dollars) winner's cheque on her return to action after six weeks.

The victory earned Fernandez the final entry on the honours board at Brighton. The tournament is being replaced in the tennis calendar by a Hong Kong event.

Fernandez got in here as a wild card entry and took advantage of the shock early defeats of Steffi Graf and Jana Novotna.

The American believes she has at last beaten the asthma condition that has seen her tumble down the world rankings from four to 12.

"I have the problem under control now with medication," she said. "I have only just found out what the problem was, although it has affected me since childhood."

She often foxed Coetzer with a perfectly executed forehand dropshot from mid or back court which left the world 23 stranded.

Coetzer conceded, "She played the crucial points better than me, keeping me on the move."

Guoan climb

BEIJING, Oct 23: Beijing Guoan took over second place in the Chinese professional soccer league from Guangdong Hongqian after a 2-1 home win over Liaoning but are eight points behind leaders Shanghai Shenhua.

Guoan's goals in the 18th and 28th minutes on Sunday, came from Gao Hongbo with a header and a tap-in from Han Xu, with Liaoning replying through Zhuang Yi in the 80th minute after teammate Yu Min missed a penalty in the 36th minute.

In other action Tianjin Samsung won 2-1 at home against Qinqdao Hainiu, Dalian Wanda won 2-2 away against Sichuan Guanzhong and Guangzhou Apollo played a scoreless tie against Jilin hvundu.