

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Kepler Wessels is the only player who represented two countries in the World Cup. He played for Australia in 1983 and played nine matches for South Africa in 1992 World Cup.

I know what's puzzling you: what was he doing in 1987? Well, for one thing South Africa, missed out the Cup and Wessels by then had left Australia.

SPORTS TALK



Goran Ivanecic
(Croatia's ace tennis star)

"It wasn't easy for me to play at the tournament and be one of its owners at the same time. Sometimes I forget why I come here: to manage the tournament or to play tennis."

After his semifinal match at the Croatian Indoors — a tournament of which he is a co-promoter and one-third share holder.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-25

✓ Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Feb 9, 1996)

1. Chaturanga is a term associated with
☐ Chess ☐ Squash ☐ Table Tennis
2. The MCC cricket team currently touring Bangladesh is from
☐ England ☐ Australia ☐ New Zealand
3. The SAF games hockey champions are
☐ Pakistan ☐ India ☐ Sri Lanka
4. The Australian Open tennis women's competition was won by
☐ Graf ☐ Seles ☐ Perry
5. Ziauddin Showar is the captain of
☐ Mohammedans ☐ Bashabo ☐ Abahani

Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (if any) _____

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Mirpur Eleven posted win in the Progoti Insurance Third Division football league when they beat East End Boys Club 2-0 at the Rajuk ground yesterday.

Abul and Hemayet netted one goal apiece for Mirpur in the 38th and 45th minute respectively.

In the day's other match, Maghbaraz, Kishoroy and Sunrise Sporting Club shared points with a goalless draw.

Monaco edge Nantes to last 16

PARIS, Feb 4: Monaco beat reigning French champions Nantes 5-4 in a penalty shootout to advance to the last 16 of the French Cup in a topsy-turvy second round encounter in Nantes on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Nantes, who had equalised at 2-2 with literally the last kick of extra time to take the match into penalties, looked to be heading for victory when young keeper Eric Loussouarn saved Monaco's first two penalties from Laurent Viaud and Emmanuel Petit.

Pankratov's shocking world record!

PARIS, Feb 4: Denis Pankratov either forgot his manners or his coach's advice when he smashed the world short course 200 metres butterfly record at the Paris World Cup meeting on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The Russian led from start to finish to clock one minute 52.34 seconds, slashing 0.71 seconds off the previous mark of Frenchman Franck Esposito.

Pankratov had said before the meeting his coach had told him to concentrate on breaking the world 100 metres butterfly record as it would not be possible to break Esposito's record against the French swimmer in front of his home fans.

Bulbul croons for MSC

Sports Reporter

Skipper Akram Khan, who is going through a lean patch, returned for his third duck of the league — his second in a row.

Khaled Mahmud Sujon was the only Mohammedans bowler to return with some respectability with figures of 10-1-29-3.

This victory in their last first league encounter gives Mohammedans a four-point lead in the standings with 20 points while Abahani remain second along with Bangladesh Biman with 16 points each.

For records' sake, it was Abahani's fourth defeat on the trot against their arch-rivals.

SCOREBOARD

ABAHANI KC

H. Rashid Liton c N. Younus b Sujon 8
I. Hamid Partho c Nasu b S. Shahed 33
N. Rahman Durjoy b S. Sumon 7
Manzoor Akhter c S. Mahmud b Sujon 37
Akram Khan run out (N. Younus) 0
K. Masud Pilot b Sujon 23
Naved Anjum not out 54
E. Huj Monir not out 5
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, nb-1, w-14) 28
Total: (For six wickets in 50 overs) 280
Fall of wkts: 1-44, 2-62.

Bowling:

Rahat 10 0 73 1
Anjum 9 4 1 46 1
Akhter 8 0 37 2
Durjoy 10 0 23 1
Dulu 10 3 40 1
Moni 4 0 14 0
Bapi 1 0 21 0

In a gripping finish which saw the game climax fittingly in the finale, Bulbul, who held the team's hopes all by himself in the last overs, clubbed 11 runs from the penultimate to swing the pendulum decisively in Mohammedans' way. Mohammedans were then left with six to pick up from as many deliveries with last man Morshed Ali Khan Sumon on strike.

The left arm seamer picked up a single from the first ball from Naved Anjum and Bulbul hit a four down to fine leg amidst adrenalin-drenched cries from fans of both teams. The stout middle order bat, who was then two short of his first ton this season, sacrificed the landmark as he dabbed the fourth ball and ran for a risky single, bringing Mohammedans yet another memorable victory against their arch-rivals.

In his 116-ball unconquered inning, Bulbul hit nine cracking boundaries and a massive sixer over wideish long-on off pacer Ashfaq Ali Rahat.

Bulbul, who in recent years has developed a risky habit of surviving at least one chance before going on to make a big score, stuck to his habit as he offered a high catch at long-on before even opening his account only to be dropped by Rakib Hasan Bappi.

He shared a valuable 47 runs with Younus for the third wicket. Younus, who picked up the rhythm from where rivals Moni and Anjum had left it at noon, clubbed 12 savage hits to the rope in his 59-ball 73 before he suffered an unfortunate run out at the bowler's end — a direct hit from Harunur Rashid Liton at short cover.

After his departure, the skipper put on another priceless 81 runs for the fifth wicket with veteran Minhazul Abedin Nannu, who chipped in with a scintilla yet useful 35 off 55 deliveries at the expense of a couple of hits to the fence.

Manzoor Akhter, with two for 27 was the pick of the Abahani bowlers while Rahat, a young right arm seamer, proved to be most expensive conceding 73 runs in his 10 overs.

Earlier Moni and Anjum carried the Abahani score beyond the 250 mark with some top-class hitting. Coming together with the side limping on 155 for 6 in 39.4 overs, the two put on 105 runs in only 10.2 overs.

In the face of such terrifying assault, the Mohammedans bowlers, who were heading to contain Abahani at a reasonable total, suddenly found themselves out of depth — leg-spinner Shahed Mahmood conceding 20 runs in the 49th over.

Moni, who led the brave charge, hammered a blistering 56 off only 30 deliveries, embellished with half-a-dozen fours and a towering sixer. Anjum finished with a quickfire 54 off 42 balls, punctuated with five boundaries.

Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 4: Khe-laghar KS recorded a thumping 122 run win over Bright Eleven in the First Division cricket encounter at the local stadium here today.

Put into ball, Khe-laghar compiled a huge score of 257 for three in the stipulated 39 overs. Sourav smashed a dazzling 88 off 95 balls followed by 59 and 56 by Shofi and Monjo respectively.

In reply, Bright Eleven were bundled out for 150 in 36 overs. Babul hit the highest 23.

All-rounder Shaifu of Khe-laghar wracked Bright Eleven with four scalps.

ITF school mini tennis

The inaugural ceremony of ITF school mini tennis initiative programme will be held today at 10:00 am at the Scholastica School in Gulshan.

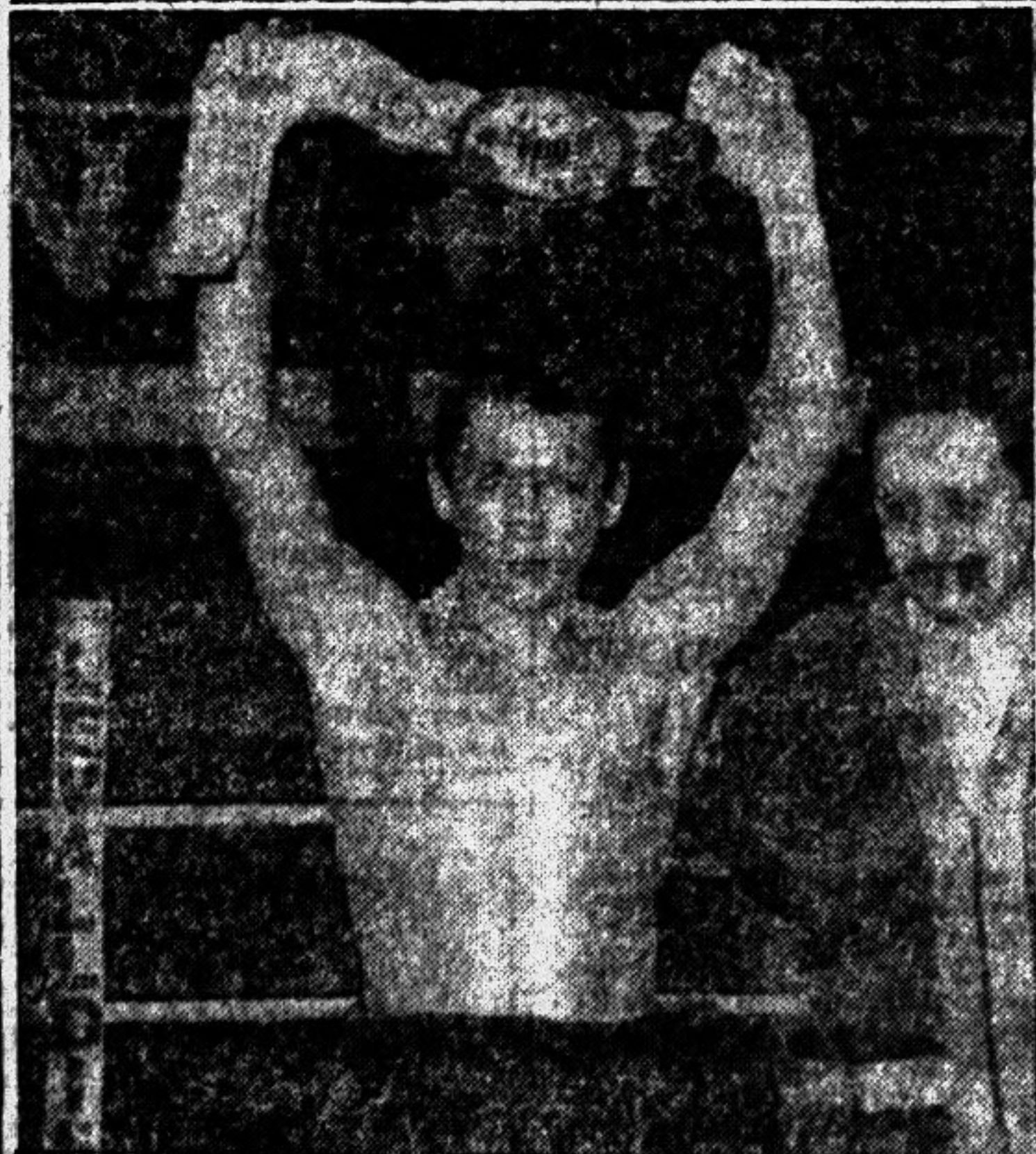
Sadeq Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will be the chief guest of the opening ceremony of the programme, organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation.



Mohammedans' stylish batsman Selim Shahed in depths of despair as wicketkeeper Nasu fails to garner an edge from Abahani's Manzoor Akhter. — Star photo

PREMIER DIVISION STATS

Batting Averages:								
Name	M	INO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	
Syed Monirul Haque (Wanderers)	11	9	3	574	105	95.67	1	5
Shajid Sayeed (Kalabagan)	11	11	3	510	104	46.36	1	4
Nadeem Younus (MSC)	6	6	2	428	141	107.00	2	2
Amrul Islam Bulbul (MSC)	10	10	2	392	99	47.75	1	4
Athar Ali (Biman)	9	9	2	380	102	54.29	1	3
Ziaur Rashid Rupom (Biman)	9	9	2	378	65	54.00	1	5
Chetan Sharma (Victoria)	8	8	3	371	120	74.20	1	2
Hasanuzzaman (Wari)	11	11	1	369	83	33.55	1	5
Al Shahrar Rokan (Victoria)	11	11	1	366	82	32.36	1	3
Nasir Khan (Biman)	9	9	1	356	66	44.50	1	4
Shahriar Bidyut (BU)	11	11	1	355	79	32.72	1	4
Rais Ahmed (GMCC)	10	10	2	347	112	43.38	1	1
Faruque Ahmed (Kalabagan)	11	11	1	337	74	30.64	1	2
Harunur Rashid (Abahani)	11	11	1	336	106	30.54	1	1
Jahangir Alam (MSC)	11	11	1	324	82	29.45	1	2
Samwar Hossain (BU)	10	10	3	308	58	44.00	1	2
Abid Hanif (BU)	10	10	1	305	65	30.50	1	1
Minhazul Abedin (MSC)	9	9	2	302	112	43.14	1	1
(Batsmen scored more than 300 runs)								
Bowling Averages:								
Name	Overs	M	Runs	Wkts	Ave	SV	BB	R/O
Mazhar Rahman Babul (GMCC)	104.4	5	379	28	13.53	4	444	382
Arifur Rahman (Biman)	79.2	7	291	25	11.64	1	629	352
Zakir Hossain (A Bank)	11	11	365	22	16.59	4	430	393
Amir Abbas (Kalabagan)	101	8	418	22	19.00	1	321	414
Sajal Chowdhury (BU)	8	5	335	21	15.95	1	315	414
Hasrat Hasan Shanto (MSC)	87.5	4	409	20	20.45	1	531	467
Saiful Islam (Kalabagan)	825	9	357	16	22.31	1	425	397
Ashfaq Ali Rahat (Abahani)	93.3	7	438	17	25.76	1	424	468
Shaheed Mehmood (MSC)	10	3	302	16	18.88	1	441	431
Kamal Marchant (Kalabagan)	82	6	282	15	18.80	1	417	330
Naziruddin Mannan (Biman)	90.3	2	305	15	20.33	1	517	338
(Bowlers captured minimum 15 wickets)								



Anatoly Alexandrov of Russia proudly displays his European super feather champion's belt after winning against Djanel Lifa of France in Levallois, France, on Feb 3. — AFP/UNB photo

MCC take on Bangladesh 'A' today

Sports Reporter

The visiting Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) will take on Bangladesh 'A' side in their first one-day exhibition cricket match at the Dhaka Stadium this morning.

The 50-over a side encounter will begin at 9:00 am which Radio Bangladesh will cover live from Dhaka Stadium.

Inning of my life — Bulbul

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan's skipper Amrul Islam Bulbul mingled with the dust, took the pains of a sore muscle, fought a lone battle and then celebrated the winning run against Abahani Kira Chakra by uprooting the middle stump at the pavilion end — a souvenir for a cosy corner of his living room.

Though a mere piece of wood for many, but for the ever smiling middle-order bat it symbolises a memorable victory that he will want live with for a long time.

Standing at the pinnacle of success in local cricket, Bulbul added yet another leather to his cap with an outstanding captain's knock of 99 not out to propel Mohammedans to their fourth consecutive win in the battle of the country's sports heavyweights.

"It was one of the finest innings in my life," said a visibly tired but extremely elated Bulbul to the press corps in the jubilant Mohammedan dressing room.

"At the early stage I was a wee bit shaky, but once I survived a close call I put up my best to play the innings of my life," added the soft spoken Bulbul.

Nadeem Younus, who blasted a cameo 72, was in full praise for the way his skipper lifted Mohammedans to a sensational victory. "This was a gem of an innings," complimented the tall Pakistani.

On the other hand, Abahani manager Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu put the blame squarely on his captain for not using slow left-armers Enamul Huj Moni at the crucial stage, but he congratulated Bulbul for another remarkable but chancy inning.

Yamaha Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Boys Club recorded win in the Yamaha First Division cricket league beating Sadharan Bima Kira Chakra by 12 runs at the Chittagong ground yesterday.

In a low scoring affair, Boys batted first and were bowled out in 44 overs with 152 on their scoreboard. In reply the Bima cricketers were bundled out in 43.4 overs with the board on 140.

BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH BOYS: 152 in 44 overs (Imran 47, Pavel 34, Tareque 2/10, Ratan 2/15, Sejan 2/17)

SADHARAN BIMA: 140 in 34.4 overs (Sabbir 44, Tareque 29, Sumit 2/12)

Incontrad v'ball on

The Incontrad inter-district men's and women's volleyball championship began here yesterday at the volleyball court with defending champions of both men's and women's groups — Khulna DSA — made a flying start, reports UNB.

The Khulna spikers earned a 15-11, 5-15, 15-10, 15-13 points victory over Comilla DSA in the men's competition while the Khulna women's snatched a straight 15-5, 15-13, 15-3 points win against Dinajpur DSA in the day's opener.

Earlier, Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam inaugurated the meet last afternoon.

Managing Director of tournament sponsors, Incontrad, Yousof A Haroon and president of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation Major General Mahbubur Rahman were also present the opening function.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

City Club earned full points in the ongoing Sonali Bank Second Division football league defeating Bashabo Tarun Sangha 3-1 at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Siker, Manna opened City Club account in the tenth minute while Mahbub doubled the margin after 12 minutes. Ashraf scored the third goal in the 29th minute.

On the other hand Arif reduced the margin for Bashabo in the 52nd minute.

In the day's next match, Dhaka Wanderers Club outplayed BG Press 3-0.

Shafiq, Enam and Zia scored one goal each for the winners in the 24th, 61st and 64th minute respectively.



CELEBRITY IN CELEBRATION: An elated South African President Nelson Mandela (L) vents his emotions into the air after handing over African Nations Cup to the national team captain Neil Tovey in Johannesburg on Feb 3. South Africans clinched the Cup in their maiden appearance at the meet beating Tunisia 2-0. — AFP/UNB photo

It's now party time in SA

SOWETO, South Africa, Feb 4: Noisy jubilation erupted in the streets of South Africa's biggest black township on Saturday night as the national soccer team beat Tunisia 2-0 to become champions of Africa, reports Reuter.

"I don't know what to say. I'm just so proud to be a South African," said a woman dancing in one of Soweto's unpaved roads within sight of the soccer city stadium where the match was played.

The victory, coming on top of last year's rugby World Cup win which unified the nation behind a largely white team, could fuel the country's hopes of hosting the soccer World Cup in the year 2006.

The centres of Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban erupted into a roar of hooting and shouting as crowds poured into the summer streets and cars festooned with post-apartheid South African flags, zig-zagged slowly through the masses.

Pubs and township taverns filled rapidly and people, many stripped to their underwear, danced in the streets or jogged singing and cheering from house to house.

More important than the soccer World Cup, however, will be the effect on national reconciliation as South Africa approaches the second anniversary of its young democracy in April.

"It's bigger than the rugby, it's bigger than anything I've ever been a part of. It's magic for the nation," said Mark Fish, one of the most popular players of the boys.

A crowd of 60,000 including President Nelson Mandela, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, deputy President F W de Klerk and Brazilian soccer legend Pele packed the stadium three hours before the kickoff in blazing Transvaal heat.

Mandela wore the number 9 shirt of captain Neil Tovey and in the crowd several spectators had variations of the message "make Mandela Magic" painted on their bare chests.

Though soccer has traditionally been an ace sport in South Africa, hundreds of whites were amongst the crowd. Some of the blacks had painted their heads white and some of the whites had painted themselves brown.

Two South African Airways passenger jets and a formation of air force fighters trailing smoke in the colours of the South African flag fuelled the pre-match tension as they flew low over the stadium.

The cacophonies of horns, whistles, singing and shouting willed slightly as the second half opened without a score, but the stadium erupted when South Africa scored two goals in as many minutes by substitute Mark Williams 15 minutes before the final whistle and moments after he had come onto the field.

The crowd was unbelievable — they're worth the two goals we scored," coach Clive Barker said afterwards. "I'll be afraid to play away from South Africa after this, we've been spoiled."

The crowd waited for Mandela to present the Cup before heading out to what promised to be an all-night celebration.

Before the start of the African championship series on January 13, soccer's controlling body, FIFA, ranked South Africa 10th on the continent and 40th in the world.

Cantona comes to life

LONDON, Feb 4: Frenchman Eric Cantona made a triumphant return to Selhurst Park on Saturday, scoring twice in Manchester United's thrilling 4-2 win over Wimbledon to keep his side's championship hopes very much alive.

Just over a year after his infamous attack on a fan at the same ground which earned him an eight-month ban from soccer, Cantona had an inspirational match.

He created and headed home United's third goal after 70 minutes and added their fourth from the penalty spot 11 minutes later.

The result lifted United from third to second ahead of Liverpool who were held 0-0 at home by Tottenham, who slipped from fourth to fifth.

Newcastle stayed nine points clear at the top after beating Sheffield Wednesday 2-0.

Les Ferdinand's 100th league goal, a 54th minute header, sent the Magpies on their way to their 13th straight home league win as Newcastle's second in the last minute.

Alan Shearer took his tally for the season to 30 goals, scoring all three as champions Blackburn beat bottom-placed Lancashire rivals Bolton 3-1 at Ewood Park.

Aston Villa continued their climb up the table, moving above Tottenham on goal difference into fourth place, after thrashing a Leeds team depleted by injury and suspension 3-0.

Dwight Yorke, who has scored the winning goals in Villa's last two matches, was the driving force behind the victory, putting Villa two up by the 23rd minute. Alan Wright added the third midway through the second half.

Nottingham Forest and Arsenal both lost ground after losing and drawing respectively.

Forest were never able to dominate a West Ham team rejuvenated by their mid-week win over Coventry and went down 1-0 at Upton Park. Australian striker Robbie Slater scored the only goal after 19 minutes.

Arsenal's recent poor run continued and they have now won just two of their last 11 league matches, after being held 1-1 at Highbury by Coventry.

The visitors stole ahead after 23 minutes when Noel Whelan took advantage of shambolic Arsenal defending to crack home his fifth goal in nine starts since his move from Leeds.

But Arsenal were level a minute later when unmarked Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp powered home a header for his first goal in 10 weeks.

Ian Wright had a great chance to give Arsenal victory after 51 minutes but wasted it when his weakly-hit penalty was saved by Coventry keeper Steve Ogilvie.

Manchester City improved their situation at the bottom with a vital 2-0 win over fellow relegation battlers Queens Park Rangers, who have now lost their last six league games.

Nigel Clough, rescued by city manager Alan Ball from Liverpool reserves for 1.5 million pounds (2.28 million dollars) scored on his home debut after 25 minutes to give City the lead. Welsh international defender Kit Symons headed the second in the 50th minute.

QPR's miserable day was completed when substitute Daniel Dichio was sent off three minutes from time for a second bookable offence.

That left QPR stranded in 19th place just five points above Bolton, with both clubs looking increasingly likely for the drop.

Cantona's last visit to Selhurst Park was when United played Crystal Palace there a year and nine days ago.

Saturday's match was against Wimbledon, who share the ground with Palace, and while there was extra security in force to prevent any Palace fans infiltrating the crowd and causing trouble, it was the Wimbledon defence that could have done with some extra help to stop United's marauders.

The visitors dominated the first half — even after losing skipper Steve Bruce early on with a deep cut — and needed 10 stitches — and the only surprise was that it took them 41 minutes to take the lead with an Andy Cole header.

United made use of the injury time added on for Bruce's injury to snatch a second when David Beckham's free kick crashed against the underside of the bar and Wimbledon defender Chris Perry headed into his own goal under pressure from Roy Keane.

CROSSWORD BY EUGENE SHAFIN

ACROSS

1 Depicted
8 Thru
9 Moon-
12 Pony's
13 Aster
14 Composer
15 President
17 "La
18 President
19 Booth
21 De Vind
22 Hilda
23 Pun W
24 Rude
25 Small
26 Kentucky
27 Derby
28 Wide
29 Shade
30 Just out

DOWN

41 Solen-
42 Nucle-
43 Need-
44 Given
45 Heli-
46 President
47 President
48 "All the
49 Tar-
50 Top-rated
51 Counter-
52 Yoda
53 Judo
54 Judo
55 Judo
56 Judo
57 Judo
58 Judo
59 Judo
60 Judo

10 Boy in
11 Path for
16 Robin
17 Williams
18 In an un-
20 Listening
21 Police-
22 Section of
23 NYC
24 President
25 No. 29
26 "Gosh"
27 Leading
28 Lady?
29 One way to
30 out comes
31 President
32 Scratched
33 Spook
34 Roman
35 1,102
36 Wanderer
37 Arm bones
38 8
39 Tense
40 Blue dye
41 source
42 Feed the
43 hogs
44 Wink: pre-
45 UN, veto
46 Denier

CRYPTOQUIP

CGYX BMTBNX GIZ
EHKBIJCIK BKILIX
CM OI ZNOOIZ EGHYKTHJ
MUCGI CMHKE
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH STYLE ARE LAMPS REALLY LIKELY TO SWIM? THE BAAACK STROKE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: O equals B

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.