



SOCCER SORCERY! A section of ardent Mohammedan supporters solicited the evil spirits of five sorcerers to spoil their arch-rival Abahani's chances to win against Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club at the Dhaka Stadium last evening. But the fakirs wizardry went in vain as Abahani ran away with a 2-0 win. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Everton exit

LONDON, Sept 25: York City were in the familiar role of English League Cup giant killers on Tuesday as Premier League side Everton suffered an embarrassingly similar fate to Manchester United last year, reports Reuter.

The Second Division club, who achieved a famous 3-0 victory at old Trafford last season which paved the way to a 4-3 aggregate win over United, repeated the trick against Everton by the same scoreline after clinching the second leg 3-2.

Everton, held to a 1-1 draw in the first leg a week ago, went a goal ahead after 24 minutes through Paul Rideout but then allowed York's Neil Tolson, Gary Bull and Graeme Murty to put the tie out of their reach.

A last-minute goal from Gary Speed narrowed York's winning margin but could not prevent them extending an impressive list which also included Arsenal in the FA Cup in 1985. Ironically, the Yorkshire side had to wait until the final match of last season to escape relegation.

It was another dire night for Manchester City, beaten 1-0 at home and 5-1 on aggregate by Third Division Lincoln City whose goal came from Dutchman Gilsbert Bos, and the entire city of Sheffield.

Both Wednesday and United suffered bad defeats, Wednesday slipping up 1-0 to former striker Nigel Jenson's 85th-minute goal at Oxford and United crashing 5-2 at home against Stockport County, already 2-1 up from the first leg.

Middlesbrough were able to stroll into the third round, winning 3-0 at Hereford to secure a 10-0 aggregate success. Danish striker Mikkel Beck scoring on his debut and Brazilian Branco adding the third direct from a corner.

Atkinson in a stew

LONDON, Sept 25: Coventry manager Ron Atkinson and his assistant Gordon Strachan were both charged by the English Football Association (FA) today with bringing the game into disrepute, reports Reuter.

The same charge was also brought against the Premier League club's central defender Liam Daish following incidents during a match with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in August.

Atkinson and Strachan were seen on television demonstrating from the touchline with officials following a highly-disputed goal after Chelsea's Dan Petrescu appeared to handle the ball but was not penalised and Frank Leboeuf went on to score.

Daish was sent off by referee Paul Danson for foul and abusive language during the melee that followed Leboeuf's goal.

The charge against the Ireland international relates to an incident following the game outside the referee's dressing room.

All three have been given 14 days to respond to the charges and decide whether to request a personal hearing.

Daish was in trouble again on Tuesday when he was sent off in Coventry's League Cup victory at his former club Birmingham.

It is the second time in a matter of weeks that Atkinson and Strachan have been charged with disrepute.

In a recent reserve game against West Bromwich Albion, Strachan refused to leave the field after being sent-off for two bookable offences, causing referee Tony Green to take all the players off the field. Atkinson was later involved in a verbal confrontation with the referee in the dressing room.

An incomplete showdown

PALERMO, Sicily, Sept 25: Spain's Alberto Berasategui suffered a severe bout of food poisoning moments after his opponent pulled out of their second round match at the Sicily international tennis tournament on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Berasategui, ranked 18th in the world, was leading 5-3 when Kris Goossens of Belgium was forced to abandon their match in the first set after suffering a pulled muscle.

The second-seeded Spaniard needed medical treatment in the dressing room after the game. It was not immediately clear whether he would be able to carry on in the tournament.

Bayern, Parma tumble



LONDON, Sept 25: Bayern Munich's reign as UEFA Cup holders lasted two games as the German powerhouse tumbled out of the competition Tuesday despite beating Valencia 1-0 Tuesday, reports agencies.

An own goal by Valencia defender Javi Navarro when he climbed to accidentally head in a corner by Bayern's Mario Basler proved to be the only one of the game in Munich's Olympic stadium but the damage was done two weeks ago in Spain where Franz Beckenbauer's team lost 3-0.

Although Bayern won, they failed to turn their obvious superiority into sufficient goals. A softly-taken missed penalty by German skipper Jurgen Klinsmann summed up his side's night.

Bayern had converted the 15th-minute penalty. Bayern might have had a real chance of clawing back the deficit but despite going close several times — they forced 10 corners to Valencia's none — they could not score again.

"If we can't even score from a penalty then how are we expected to win?" said dismayed Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer.

Bayern captain Lothar Matthaus added: "We missed the chance early to go 2-0 up early on — not just from Klinsmann's penalty. We had other good opportunities too. In the second half we tried to use too much force, but we lost the tie in Valencia, not here."

Parma, who won the UEFA Cup in 1995, went to Vitoria Guimaraes in Portugal holding a 2-1 lead from the first leg, but lost 2-0 for a 3-2 aggregate defeat.

The Portuguese side won with goals from Vitor Paneira after 15 minutes and Ricardo Lopes, four minutes after the break.

Guimaraes surprised powerful Parma with the force of their counter-attack and scored two without reply to win the tie.

Soon after Brazilian striker Gilmar Esteveam lost a golden chance to score when Parma goalkeeper Buffon blocked his shot with his legs. International midfielder Paneira lobbed the ball over Buffon's head in the 15th minute.

Striker Ricardo Lopes, whose goal was annulled when he was caught offside at the beginning of the second half, headed home in the 49th minute after the Italian defence failed to intercept a cross from the right.

Striker Dino Baggio was Parma's most dangerous player but his 63rd minute header was disallowed after the referee ruled that he had fouled a Guimaraes defender.



Bayern Munich forward Christian Ziege tries to beat off the challenge from Valencia's Gaizka Mendileta (L) during their UEFA Cup first round second leg match in Munich on Sept 24. — AFP/UNB photo

Bayern's northern German rivals Hamburg reached the third round after an ill-tempered 2-0 win over Celtic which saw Celtic reduced to nine men and Hamburg finish with only 10.

Hamburg went through 4-0 on aggregate but were helped by some suicidal Celtic tackling and some harsh refereeing which left the Scottish team with just nine men by half-time.

Maliky Mackay and John Hughes were each dismissed for two bookable offences, while Hamburg's Viktor Schuk.

As well as the dismissals, Celtic lost their leading scorer, Portuguese striker Jorge Cadete, after only 13 minutes when he was carried off following a vicious foul by Hamburg defender Stephane Henchoz.

Inter Milan, one of the favourites to win the trophy, was jeered off the field at San Siro despite advancing after a drab 1-1 tie with French Club Guingamp, Inter won the first leg 3-0 in France.

Lazio also was held to a 1-1 home tie by French club Lens but went through having won 1-0 away from home. Diego Fuser put the Roman club further ahead a minute before half time but Vladimir Smicer replied for Lens.

By contrast, AS Roma cruised into the second round with a 3-1 victory in Moscow against Dinamo to advance 6-1 overall.

England's Aston Villa tumbled out after being held to a 0-0 by the Swedish part-timers of Helsingborg, who had gained a 1-1 tie in Birmingham and advanced on away goals.

Newcastle went down 2-1 in Sweden to Hamtstad but already had won the home leg 4-0. Germany's Schalke 0-4 gained a 2-2 tie at Roda JC in the Dutch town of Kerkrade to advance 5-2 overall.

Georgia's Dinamo Tbilisi was held 1-1 at home by Russian team Torpedo Moscow but went through to the second round after winning 1-0 in Moscow in the first leg.

Nigerian striker Daniel Amokachi, who helped his country win an Olympic gold medal in Atlanta, scored one of Besiktas' goals as the Turkish team downed Belgium's Molenbeek 3-0 to advance.

Brazilian star Sonny Anderson scored twice as Monaco downed Hutnik Krakow of Poland 3-1 to advance 4-1 despite having captain Franck Dumas sent off for deliberate handball in the 63rd minute.

Losing semifinalist last season, Slavia Prague made it smoothly into the second of this season's UEFA Cup by beating Sweden's Malmoe FF 3-1 to gain a 5-2 aggregate triumph.

Belgium's Anderlecht crushed Russia's Alania Vladikavkaz 4-0 to overturn a 2-1 first leg deficit.

Finland's MyPa-47 with a 1-0 victory and should complete the job at home. The Reds' attack is led by Czech Republic star Patrick Berger, who scored twice in each of his last three games.

Barcelona go to Cyprus with a 2-0 lead over AEL Larnaca and should be far too strong to slip up.

"In the first game we should have scored four or five goals and I think we'll do it there (in Cyprus)," Barcelona manager Bobby Robson said.

"I believe we're better than AEL. In the first game they put 10 men behind the ball. But on Thursday they're the ones who'll have to attack."

PSV Eindhoven, a one-time Champions' Cup winners, could only manage a 1-1 tie at Georgia's Dinamo Batumi. The team has lost its form and scoring touch in recent matches, mainly due to the illness of its Belgian striking pair of Luc Nilis and Mark Degryse.

Coach Dick Advocaat said both players were expected to have recovered in time for Thursday's match.

Florentina tied 1-1 with Gloria Bistrita in Romania. Gloria, who finished in the bottom half of the Romanian standings last season only got into the Cup Winners' competition because they lost in the final to Steaua Bucharest, who also won the league.

But Florentina's talented Argentine striker, Gabriel Batistuta, who scored the goal in Romania, warned against complacency.

"No one's talking about the Cup Winners' game against the Romanians, as if qualification has already been assured," he said. "Everyone's talking about Sunday's league game against Juventus. That's dangerous. Our opponent tomorrow has nothing to lose."

Another intriguing first round game involves Red Star Belgrade, a Champions Cup winners as recently as 1991 but now with most of their former stars playing in western Europe, against German division two team Kaiserslautern.

Red Star are anxious to restore their credibility as a force in European soccer and must overturn Kaiserslautern's 1-0 first leg lead in Belgrade.

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Cup Winners' Cup resumes today



LONDON, Sept 25: It looks almost too easy for soccer powerhouses Barcelona, Benfica, Paris Saint Germain and Liverpool as they seek places in the last 16 of the European Cup Winners' Cup. But PSV Eindhoven and Fiorentina still have plenty of work to do against modest opponents, reports AFP.

PSG, the defending champions, have a 4-0 advantage from the away leg at Liechtenstein's Vaduz, while Benfica crushed Poland's Ruch Chorzow 5-1 at home.

The French club, who lead the domestic standings, are at the centre of much international transfer talk right now and have little to worry about the visit of Vaduz.

Even though star goalkeeper Bernard Lama is out of action for several weeks with a knee injury, PSG probably can afford to rest several big names players, such as defender Alain Roche and midfielder Vincent Guerin.

Liverpool came away from

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Chess Olympiad BD men going great guns

Faisal Murshed from Yerevan, Armenia

Bangladesh men's team recorded a fine win over Finland in the eighth round of the 32nd Chess Olympiad here on Tuesday.

Grand Master Niaz Murshed dropped the only half point against GM Yrjola. In the other three boards the Bangladeshi boys won. Most impressive was the victory of Saifuddin Lavlu against higher rated Sammalva. In the Rossolimo attack game Lavlu created an unclear position, and in the see saw battle, eventually prevailed.

IM Ziaur Rahman won against IM Norri in the Catalan Opening. Zia sacrificed a pawn followed by a piece to gain initiative. Later in the rook and queen finale Zia won easily.

IM Reefat Bin Sattar played against the Rossolimo with black. His opponent IM Maki failed to handle the complicated middle game.

Finland seeded 55th, just one seed below Bangladesh did not expect to lose by such a margin.

The men have a collection of 18.5 points out of possible 32. They now stand well within the top 30 countries. This is the best result in any Olympiad.

On the other hand the women also did well by drawing against higher seeded Switzerland. Although Rani Hamid lost in the first board of WGM Lematchko, Tanina did well to defeat Grunnenwald, Afroza Khanom did well to draw against Bohrer.

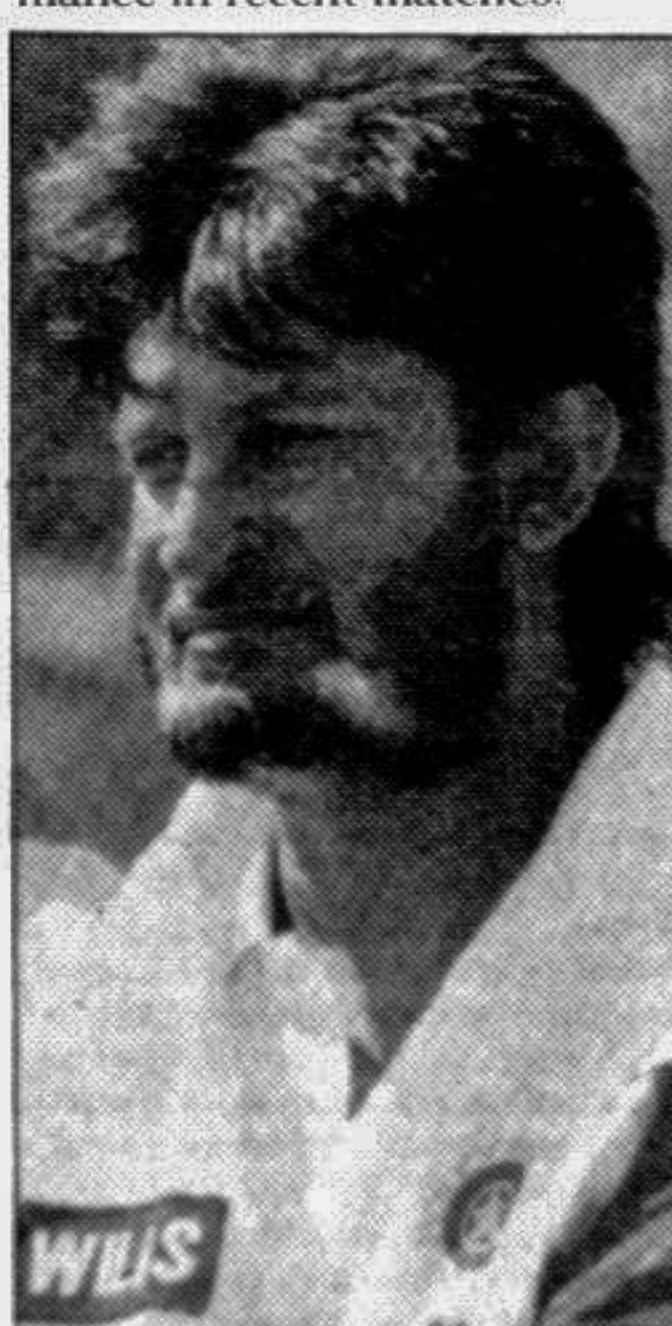
They now have 11.5 out of 24.

Sandeep gets the sack

MOHALLI, India, Sept 25: Selectors today sacked former cricketer Sandeep Patil as the current manager of the Indian team for some unspecified reasons, reports AFP.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) named former all-rounder Madan Lal, who was a member of the squad which won the 1983 World Cup, as Patil's successor.

Patil has been previously blamed for India's poor performance in recent matches.



SANDEEP PATIL

"Madan Lal is an utterly sincere cricketer," commented the new board president Raj Singh Durgapuri after announcing the change.

'98 Goodwill Games in NY

NEW YORK, Sept 25: The Goodwill Games are downsizing, organisers said Tuesday, and hoping that five million dollars in prize money will help lure the world's greatest athletes, reports Reuter.

The 1998 Goodwill Games, to be held from July 19-August 2 in New York City, will feature half the sports offered at the 1994 Games in St Petersburg, Russia.

Competition will be in athletics, basketball, boxing, cycling (track), diving, figure skating, gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, swimming, synchronised swimming, triathlon, and volleyball (beach and indoor).

Sports that were eliminated included archery, rowing, weightlifting, yachting, canoe, kayak, judo, team handball, wrestling, water polo, soccer, speed skating and taekwondo.

"We are trying to create a marketability as well as a TV-friendly product and that's why we picked the sports that we have," said Dr Harvey Schiller, president of Turner Sports, whose president, Ted Turner, founded the Games in 1986.

These are the marquee sports and that we believe garner the most interest from the public," Schiller said.

More than 2,000 athletes competed in 24 different sports in St Petersburg. The next Games are expected to feature, 1,300 athletes competing in 12 sports.

To boost the interest of top athletes, Five million dollars in prize money will be awarded, said Games president Michael Plant.

"We believe that will provide enough motivation to bring the world's best here," said Plant, who would not reveal how the prize money would be allocated.

The first to sign up for the Games is Olympic hero Michael Johnson, who raced into the record books in Atlanta as the only man ever to win the 200 and 400 metres in the same Olympics.

Beckoning of a beacon



NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Indian cricket officials have offered a rare olive branch to bitter rivals Pakistan by inviting them to a multi-nation event next year to celebrate India's 50th anniversary of independence, report agencies.

Invitations for the limited-over tournament to be held in May or September, have been sent out to all Test-playing nations, including Pakistan.

Pakistan, which has cancelled three cricket tours of India since 1991 because of security concerns, has not yet responded to the invitation.

But it is believed Pakistan will reciprocate by inviting India to its own independence celebrations, which will include a multi-nation cricket tournament in October next year.

India and Pakistan, who have not played a full Test series on each other's soil since 1989, co-hosted the World Cup earlier this year with Sri Lanka.

Pakistan agreed to come to

the southern Indian city of Bangalore for their quarter final clash against the hosts. India won that match but lost a five-match one-day series against their traditional rivals in Canada last week.

Before in Canada, the last full one-day series between India and Pakistan was played in 1989. The two teams have frequently clashed in various limited-over tournaments but tour exchanges between them have since remained suspended.

Pakistan has won 32 of the 50 matches in the head-to-head one-day clashes against India, who had won 16 times and two matches have failed to produce a result.

Albeit there are lots of tensions and frustrations between the two estranged neighbours but when it is cricket it must be intensifier.

After winning the Sahara Cup, Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram, referring to the public outrage in Pakistan after their team lost to India in the World Cup, thus said he hoped the Indian fans treat their team well.

"We are mistreated when we

returned to Pakistan and some of us decided never to play cricket again," he said. "It took us a while to return to the cricket field."

World champions Sri Lanka and New Zealand are the only teams so far to have accepted India's invitation. No exact dates for the tournament have been published.

It was originally scheduled to be played from the second week of May, after the Indian team returned from the West Indies, but that would bar both England and Australia, who will be playing the Ashes Series in England.

The tournament could be shifted to September, a source said. The Indian cricket board is expected to finalise the dates during its annual general body meeting in Chandigarh today and tomorrow.

'98 C'wealth Games KI to allocate \$33 million

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 25: Malaysia will spend 83 million ringgit (\$32.2 million dollars) to turn the federal capital into a "tropical garden" for the 1998 Commonwealth Games, a report today, reports AFP.

Youth and Sports Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said the Kuala Lumpur city hall would beautify all venues where the various Games events are to be held, as well as spruce up roads leading to the venues.

"We want to create a colourful image for those who come to witness the Games here," he was quoted as saying by The Star English language daily.

Local authorities at venues outside Kuala Lumpur have also been directed to beautify those areas, Muhyiddin said.

The police force is working to improve traffic flows leading to the venues, he added.

Facilities to be built include a 100,000-seat stadium, at a cost of 200 million US dollars.

Muhyiddin said the 1998 school calendar would be revised to allow students to participate in the Commonwealth Games, which will be hosted for the first time by Kuala Lumpur.

The Education Minister has confirmed that the school holidays would be revised to coincide with the Games in September," he said, adding that thousands of children would be involved in the opening and closing ceremonies.

organisationally, officials said the 1998 Games seemed assured of success, despite the fact that the number of athletes will double to around 6,000 with cricket, rugby sevens, netball and hockey being introduced to the programme.

Warne won't tour India



SYDNEY, Sept 25: Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne has pulled out of next month's tour to India after failing to recover from finger surgery, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) official said today, reports Reuter.

Warne, Australia's main strike bowler, underwent surgery on the fourth finger of his bowling hand in May and the ACB said he would not be fit for the one-off Test against India in New Delhi from October 10.

"It was decided it was in Warne's best interests to withdraw when it became apparent he would be unable to play in the Test match in New Delhi early next month," ACB chief executive Graham Halbish said in a statement.

Warne's place in the 14-man Australia squad will be taken by South Australia leg-spinner Peter McIntyre.

Halbish also announced that captain Mark Taylor had recovered from a recent back injury and would lead the squad. Taylor was operated on five weeks ago to repair a damaged disc in his back.

Warne and Taylor missed this month's short tour of Sri Lanka for a limited-over series. Taylor began training with state side New South Wales two weeks ago and satisfied Australia team doctors that he

would be fit to tour India.

Warne, who last December became the first bowler in Test history to take 50 wickets in a calendar year for three successive years, began training with his state side Victoria in Darwin in the north of Australia earlier this week.



SHANE WARNE

Australia will also take part in limited-over series against their hosts and South Africa during the six-week tour of India.

TEAM

Mark Taylor (captain), Ian Healy, Michael Bevan, Damien Fleming, Jason Gillespie, Bradd Hogg, Stuart Law, Glenn McGrath, Peter McIntyre, Ricky Ponting, Paul Reiffel, Michael Slater, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh.

County cricket souped up

LONDON, Sept 25 (AFP): England's counties have overcome minor opposition to give unanimous backing to the creation