

Sport



SOCER 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 Gilbert 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 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 Branca 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 Geens 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 power-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.

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 Stephan 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.

Bayern captain Lothar Matthaeus 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 1-1 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 Estevam 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 Richard 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.

Liverpool came away from

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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 Halmstad 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 as the current manager of the Indian 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.

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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 took the only half point against GM Yriola. In the other three boards the Bangladeshi boys won. Most impressive was the victory of Saifuddin Laviu against higher rated Samalvua. In the Rossolimo attack game Laviu 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 middlegame.

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 rated Switzerland. Although Rani Hamid lost in the first board of WGM Lematchka, Tanima did well to defeat Grunewald. Afroz Khanom did well to draw against Bohrer.

They now have 11.5 out of 24.

Sandeep gets the sack

MOHALI, 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.

SHANE WARNE

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 Halbush said in a statement.

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

Halbush 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

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 can-

celled three cricket tours of India since 1991 because of security concerns, has not yet re-

sponded to the invitation.

But it is believed Pakistan

will reciprocate by invit-

ing India to a multi-

nation cricket tourna-

ment.

Before in Canada, the last

full one-day series be-

tween India and Pakistan

was played in 1989.

The two teams have fre-