

Borussia baffle Bucharest

BUCHAREST, Sept 26: Borussia Dortmund swept aside Steaua Bucharest with a crushing 3-0 away win on Wednesday to maintain their 100 per cent record in Group B of the Champions' League, reports Reuter.

Fed Cup b'ball

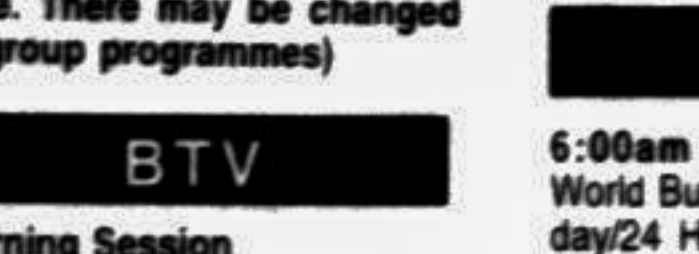
Dhaka Mariner Youngs maintained their impressive run in the 8th Federation Cup basketball championship with a 97-67 win over the Gregs in the one of two matches at the Dhanmondi wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Atletico abase Widzew Lodz

LODZ, Poland, Sept 26: Atletico Madrid crushed Widzew Lodz 4-1 on Wednesday, with a superior display which gave them their second big win in the European Champions' League, reports Reuter.

Auxerre rough Rangers up

Man United scrape thru'



MANCHESTER, England, Sept 26: English champions Manchester United cruised to a comfortable 2-0 European Champions' League win over Rapid Vienna of Austria on Wednesday with first half goals from Ole Solskjaer and David Beckham, reports Reuter.

19 cricketers listed for nat'l pool

Sports Reporter Nineteen cricketers have been listed for the national pool for the forthcoming 1996-97 cricketing season. This was decided at a meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) last night.

Lal assesses Aussies

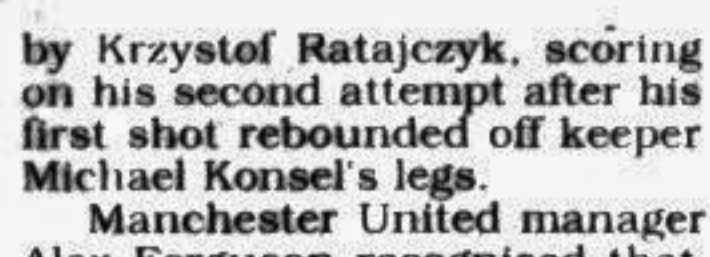
NEW DELHI, Sept 26: India's newly appointed cricket coach Madan Lal said Australia will provide formidable opposition despite the absence of star spinner Shane Warne from next month's tour, reports AFP.

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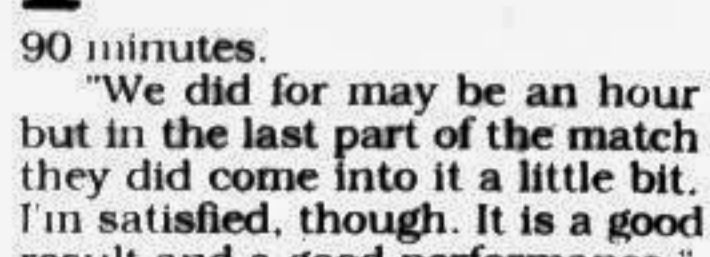
PAUL GASCOIGNE interval but still pronounced himself satisfied.

by Krzysztof Ratajczyk, scoring on his second attempt after his first shot rebounded off keeper Michael Konsel's legs. Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson recognised that his team had eased up after the 90 minutes.



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They threatened more down the right-hand side after the break, he said. "We may be dropped the tempo a little when confronted with that problem and we should have kept possession more."



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Ivanisevic in ignominy



GORAN IVANISEVIC

BASEL, Switzerland, Sept 26: Playing in his first tournament since winning the US Open, top-ranked Pete Sampras struggled to a 5-7, 6-3, 7-5 victory over German qualifier Alex Radulescu in the 1 million

"I took a good week and a half off after the US Open and didn't pick up a racket," said Sampras, who's playing his first match in Switzerland in six years.

"Last Wednesday I started hitting a few balls. I guess a lack of matches contributed to the slow start."

German David Prinosil makes a backhand return against second seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia during their first round encounter in the Swiss Indoor tournament in Basel on Sept 25. Goran lost to the unheralded German.



GORAN IVANISEVIC

tion against Ivan Lendl six years ago. "But I had a couple of good shots and I'm still here."

"I could have just as easily missed one of those shots but I didn't. In the second and third sets I was starting to get in a pretty good groove and now I hope I can maintain it."

"In the third set I pulled a couple of shots out of the bag."

Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, 54th in the rankings, topped No. 7 Mark Philippoussis of Australia 6-1, 4-6, 7-5.

Eighth-seeded Michael Stich of Germany was ousted by compatriot Hendrick Dreekmann, ranked 49th in the world, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3.

In his first tournament since losing to Sampras in the semi-finals of the US Open, Ivanisevic, ranked fourth in the world and winner of the last three matches against Prinosil, struggled on the carpet against the German.

Earlier, Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, seeded fifth, was upset by qualifier Olivier Delatree of France, ranked 216th in the world, 6-1, 7-6 (7-2).

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Ajax caught on the hop



Patrick Kluijver

AMSTERDAM, Sept 26: A thunderous free-kick from Grasshopper Zurich midfielder Murat Yakin stunned Ajax Amsterdam in the Champions' League on Wednesday and kept the unfancied Swiss team on course for their first appearance in the last eight of the European Cup, reports Reuter.

Yakin, sporting white trainers, struck with accuracy and venom in the 58th minute, firing an unstoppable free-kick past Edwin van Der Sar from over 35 metres.

That was enough to win the Group A encounter which wrote a small footnote in European soccer history. The retractable roof over Ajax's new stadium was closed, making the game the first major European match played 'indoors'.

Ajax, four times European champions, were left to rue several squandered clear-cut chances which highlighted their desperate need for a scorer to replace the injured Patrick Kluijver.

Weakened by injury and the transfer of the core of the side which swept to European glory, Ajax had struggled this season, scoring only five goals in seven league games.

The Dutch champions went into their 99th game in the European Cup without four internationals — sharpshooter Kluijver, John Veldman, Richard Witschge and Peter Hoekstra — but skipper Danny Blind was back from injury to marshal the defence, which included Winston Bogarde who played with painkillers in a sore ankle.

The Swiss, who beat Glasgow Rangers 3-0 earlier this month for their first-ever Champions' League win, matched Ajax in the early stages despite the absence of top striker Kubilay Turkulmaz with a strained calf muscle.

After early sparring Ajax looked likeliest to break the stalemate, with winger Marc Overmars going closest on half an hour after good work on the right by Tijjani Babangida, celebrating his 23rd birthday.

Running clear on goal, the Nigerian squared to Overmars but the winger's later low shot rebounded off the post.

Moments later Grasshopper goalkeeper Pascal Zuberbuehler had to be alert to clear at the feet of the advancing Overmars and, as Ajax pressed forward, Kiki Musampa wasted one good chance and then brought another smart save from Zuberbuehler.

But it was by no means one-way traffic. Romanian Viorel Moldovan, missing Turkulmaz, his regular strike partner, found space in the Ajax area to fire in a short-range effort but Van Der Sar was equal to the shot.

Ajax's Finnish striker Jari Litmanen jumped off at half-time and within minutes of the restart Babangida, put through by Ronald de Boer, rounded the goalkeeper but slid his shot wide of an empty net.

Ajax threw caution to the wind and launched an aerial bombardment on Zuberbuehler's goal but the Swiss defence held out for a famous victory beneath the closed roof of Ajax's new space-age stadium.

Frank de Boer shaved the left post with a curling free kick from the edge of the box but by then Ajax looked a spent force.

A stunned Ajax coach Louis van Gaal found the defeat hard to swallow: "It is shocking that we lost. We should have won. We should have taken our chances."

Ronald de Boer admitted that Grasshopper had caught out Ajax by playing a 4-5-1 formation with only one man up front.

"We started to play in an un-Ajax like way with the long ball if we'd won we could have afforded to make a mistake. Now we can't," he said.

Britain's quest for booster

LONDON, Sept 26: Britain may pay gold medalists 20,000 pounds (\$20,000 dollars) at the 2000 Sydney Olympics as part of a 12-point plan to improve the nation's standing at the world biggest sporting extravaganza, reports Reuter.

In the country's worst Olympic performance since the 1952 Helsinki Games, rowers Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent won Britain's only title in Atlanta this year.

A report from British chief de mission Richard Palmer, presented to the British Olympic Association's annual general meeting on Wednesday, acknowledged that Atlanta had been "something of accurate's egg — good and bad in places."

Atlanta, despite its many positive features, was a hard, difficult Games," Palmer said. "Clear messages have been signalled, both to the Olympic movement and to British sport."

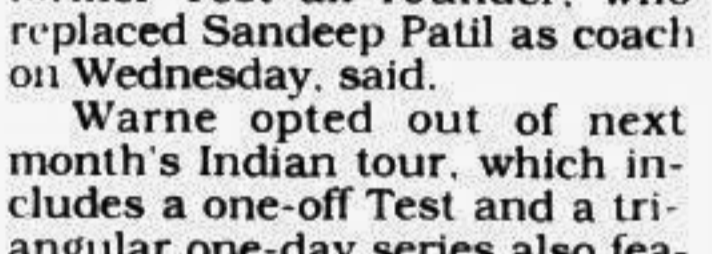
"British sport need wit, imagination and clear focus if it is to meet the challenges that are certain to face us in Sydney in 2000."

A document presented to the meeting, entitled 'Athlete performance strategy to 2000' said the setting up of a British Academy of Sport, announced by Prime Minister John Major during the Atlanta Games, would have little effect on performances at the 1998 Nagano Winter Games or the Sydney Olympics.

It is therefore important that a framework of clear objectives are agreed by the BOA as a strategy from 1996-2000," the document said.

It said selected athletes should be guaranteed economic support, full and part-time coaches appointed, team managers reimbursed for time off work and financial rewards offered to all medalists in Sydney and Nagano.

Dungarpur the dictator?



RANJIV SINGH

NEW DELHI, Sept 26: India's new cricket administration took charge on Thursday, with a stern warning to its players to shape up or else.

Raj Singh Dungarpur, who succeeded underdog Singh Bajra as president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India on Wednesday, said hard measures were needed to revive the dwindling fortunes of the national team.

The 61-year-old Dungarpur, a former first class cricketer who served as chairman of selectors in the late 80s said: "Players tend to take their place in the team for granted after a good performance. I want to give them a shake."

"There is more money the runs being scored in Indian cricket."

Dungarpur also warned that there would be no room for unfit players under the new regime.

"The gruelling schedules of modern cricket demand peak fitness. I am not convinced the younger players take physical training as seriously as they should," he said.

Dungarpur's outburst follows a disappointing run over the past year, in which India failed to win five limited over tournaments, including the World Cup, and lost both the

Lal's little obstruction

FOXBORO, Massachusetts, Sept 26: Alexi Lalas, who quit Italy's Premier league to play in the United States, said he will not return to the New England Revolution unless Frank Stepien is dropped as coach, reports AFP.

The Revolution and Colorado were the only two clubs that failed to qualify for the Major League Soccer playoffs. Lalas and Stepien fueded most of the season.

"There have been some problems and I will not go through this again," Lalas said. Stepien whose status is under review by club officials, clashed with Lalas over the dismissal of Giuseppe Galderisi and Lalas playing on the US Olympic team.

But also, Alex has been playing well, he's a good server and capable of beating me."

"One big swing there and he could have won," said Sampras, making his first appearance in Switzerland since an exhibition match against Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia during their first round encounter in the Swiss Indoor tournament in Basel on Sept 25. Goran lost to the unheralded German.

Also-AFP/UNB photo

Ramakant Desai's first as chief selector

Desai and off spinner Shivlal Yadav replaced Gundappa Vishwanath and Anshuman Gehlawani in the five-man selection committee, with also includes non-Test players Sambaram Banerjee, Kishen Rungta and Mohinder Pandove.

Dungarpur brushed aside criticism that a selection committee short of Test experience — Desai played 28 Tests and Yadav 35 — was not suited for the task.

"Australian never won the Ashes when Sir Donald Bradman was chief selector," said Dungarpur, himself a non-Test player who served as selector for six years.

"Not all the present selectors in England and Australia are Test players. You can only choose from the talent available."

Madan Lal, said his experience as coach of India's second string and the United Arab Emirates team, will help him in the new job.

"I will work hard to make the team a cohesive unit, and I am certain my efforts will bear fruit," said the 45-year-old, who played 39 Tests before retiring in 1988.

"I want to sit with Tendulkar early as possible to chalk out strategy for the coming season. I think we'll get along well."

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Table with columns for TV channels (BBC, BTV, STAR MOVIES, BAYWATCH NIGHTS, STAR SPORTS, STAR PLUS, ZEE TV, PTV, SONY ET, ZEE CINEMA) and their respective program listings for Friday 27th September.