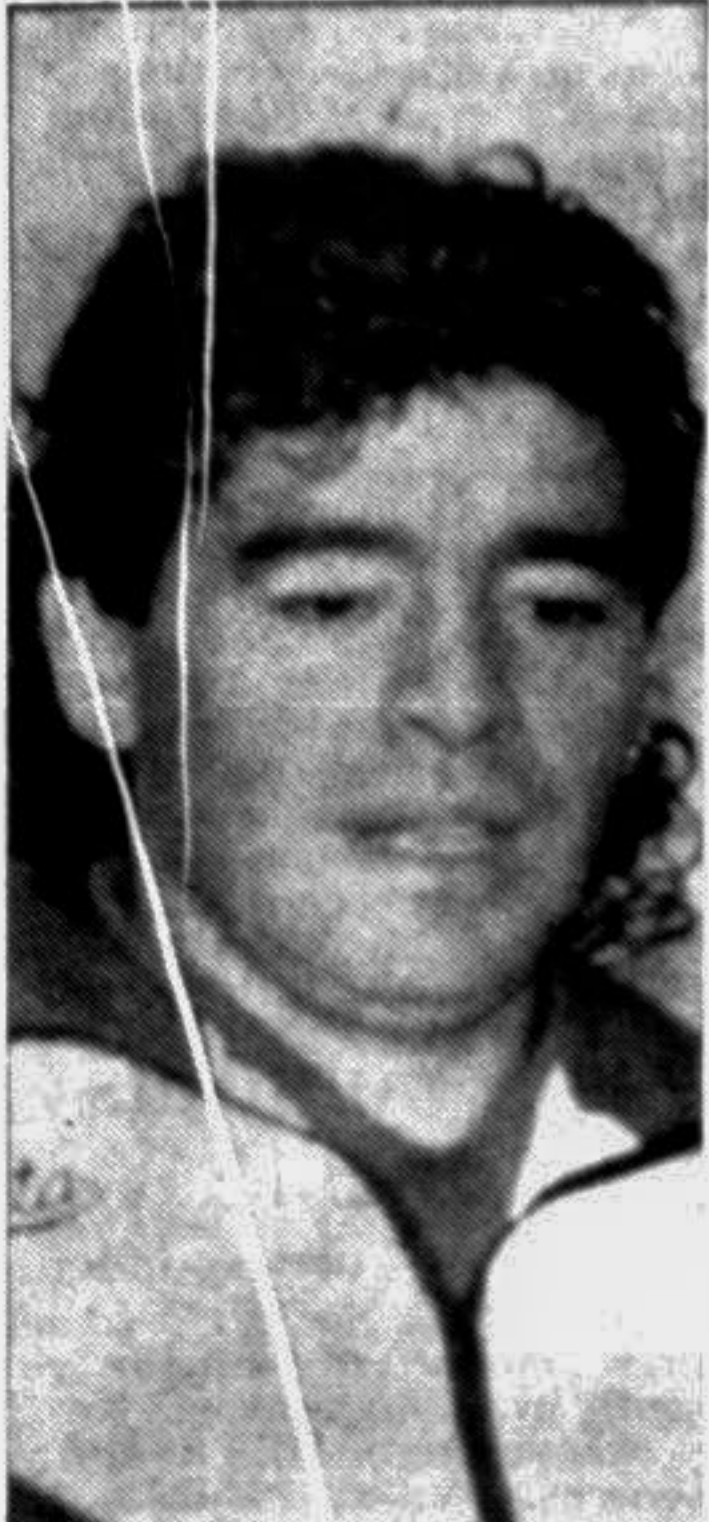


Sport

Column One SPORTS TALK



Diego Maradona (Argentine football idol) The spring has broken, there is no way out. I'd thought of killing my self but I won't do it because I love my two daughters.

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

That swimming was highly esteemed in ancient Greece and Rome, especially as a form of training for warriors. In Japan, competitions were held as early as the 1st century BC. In Europe, swimming fell into disuse almost entirely during the Middle Ages (5th century of 15th century), when immersion in water was associated with the recurrent epidemic diseases of the time.

Middle-age epidemics? Fear of water? These old-timers were cowards. Look at us. A sea of polluted water, lovingly called the Buriganga at Sadarghat, and we not only bathe in it, drink from it, use its water for cooking, but actually swim in it. Hah!

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN TK. 2000/- PRIZE BOND EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-57

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm November 22, 1996. 1 Who won the Titan Trophy? India S. Africa Australia

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

A sell-out record

LONDON, Nov 13: England's one-day cricket international against Australia at the Oval next year is already a sell-out, it was revealed on Monday, reports AFP.

Chile upset Uruguayans

SANTIAGO, Nov 13: Chile overtook Uruguay in the South American World Cup qualifying competition on Tuesday after beating the two-times world champions 1-0 in defensive, foul-ridden match, reports Reuter.

Marcelo Salas scored the winner in the 59th minute, rising to head in a cross by Victor Hugo Castaneda to send the 70,000 crowd into a state of near delirium.

Uruguay concentrated their efforts on achieving a 0-0 draw until falling behind and then showed their initial cautious tactics had been totally misguided as they dominated the remainder of the game.

Chile, for their part, took off striker Sebastian Rosenthal and replaced him with defender Christian Mora almost immediately after scoring. The result

FIFA orders Roma to pay up

ZURICH, Switzerland, Nov 13: FIFA, world football's governing body, ordered Serie A club AS Roma to pay Red Star Belgrade 11 million dollars for Yugoslav international Sinisa Mihajilic here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Roma had with held the original nine million dollar free on the 27-year-old midfielder when a trading ban was imposed on the Yugoslavs because of the Bosnian civil war.

The Italian club had agreed initially to pay the fee when the ban was lifted in November 1995 but had then reneged on the agreement.

WTA Tour's top twenty

- ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Nov 13: (Reuter): Leading women's tennis rankings as issued by the WTA Tour on Monday: 1. Steffi Graf (GER) 2. Monica Seles (US) 3. Sanchez-Vicario (SPA) 4. Conchita Martinez (SPA) 5. Jana Novotna (CZE) 6. Anke Huber (GER) 7. Martina Hingis (SWI) 8. Lindsay Davenport (US) 9. Iva Majoli (CRO) 10. Kimiko Date (JAP) 11. Schultz-McCarthy (NET) 12. Barbara Paulus (AUS) 13. Irina Spirlea (ROM) 14. Chanda Rubin (US) 15. Halar-Decugis (FRA) 16. Karina Habsudova (SLO) 17. Amanda Coetzer (SA) 18. Mary Pierce (FRA) 19. Magdalena Maleeva (BUL) 20. Judith Wiesner (AUS)

Asian Club Champs' Cup soccer

DOHA, Nov 13: Results of Asian Club Champions' Cup West Zone matches played here on Tuesday, reports AFP. Perouzi, Iran 2 (Azizi 45, 90), Al-Rayyan, Qatar 1 (Motlaq 69) Al-Zaurra, Iraq 0, Al-Nasr, Saudi Arabia. (Perouzi and Al-Zaurra qualify for the semifinals).

Bayern in German Cup semis

MUNICH Nov 13: Jeurgem Klinsmann scored twice as Bayern Munich came back from a goal down to beat Werder Bremen 3-1 win on Tuesday and clinch a place in the German Cup semifinals for the first time since 1988, reports Reuter.

The victory avenged a 3-0 league defeat by Bremen in September. Bremen made the more positive start and went ahead in the 12th minute with a goal by Marco Bodo. Bodo had two further good scoring chances in the first half and his failure to convert them cost his side dearly.

Seconds before the halftime whistle Klinsmann headed Bayern level from Christian Ziege's cross into the box.

Bayern were clearly the stronger team in the second half and took the lead in the 65th minute when Ruggiero Rizzitelli lured Bremen goalkeeper Oliver Reck out of his goal before laying on a fine pass for Ziege to score.

Klinsmann put the icing on the cake with his second goal in the final minute.

"I think the team played their best home match of the season so far," said Bayern midfielder Lothar Matthaeus.

In Tuesday's other tie, regional league side Energie Cottbus secured a place in the semifinals for the first time in their history with a shock win over First Division St Pauli in a penalty shootout.

Vicenza hold Milan

MILAN, Nov 13: Surprising Vicenza showed the class that has taken them to second place in Serie A this season, when they held giants AC Milan to a 1-1 draw away on Tuesday in the first leg of their Italian Cup quarter-final, reports Reuter.

Vicenza, whose 41-year-old trainer Francesco Guidolin is reported to be a candidate to take over at Milan next season, were better organised than their famous opponents despite being a man down for the second half.

Striker Gabriele Amorosetti gave them the lead in the 10th minute when he exploited a blunder by Dutch defender Michael Reiziger and beat goalkeeper Angelo Pagotto with a blast from the edge of the penalty area.

Stan in trouble

LIVERPOOL, England, Nov 13: Roy Evans walked into the latest row involving Stan Collymore on Tuesday following allegations that the 8.5 million pounds striker had aimed a volley of abuse at members of the press during a reserve team outing on Saturday, reports AFP.

Evans spent the time provided by the international break to undertake a weekend scouting mission in Europe, while at home Collymore was back in the headlines for all the wrong reasons.



Nantes' Frederic da Rocha (L) closely marks Nancy's David Fantzel during a French First Division match on Nov 12. Nantes won 2-0. — AFP/UNB photo

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Simpson speaks his mind

SYDNEY, Nov 13: Bob Simpson has accused the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) of 'showing reasoning' in sacking him as Australian coach, and said he fears his successor Geoff Marsh was given the job two years too early, reports AFP.

Simpson was axed after 10 years as national coach following Australia's World Cup final loss to Sri Lanka last March.

Since Marsh took over, the Australians have had two dismal tours to the subcontinent, losing the final of a triangular series in Sri Lanka and losing a Test and all five one-day matches played in India.

Simpson urged the ACB to give him another two years as coach, with Marsh as his assistant, but the board decided otherwise.

The only reason given was that it was "time for a change," Simpson says in his book "The Reasons, Why" which he launched here Tuesday.

"This seems pretty shallow reasoning to me," he said.

"Take this to its logical conclusion and there will come a time when board members and even chief executives are sacked because it is time for a change batsmen or leg spin bowlers, perhaps even journalists and

TV commentators who have been around for 10 years will automatically get the boot. So what price experience?"

Simpson says he fears Marsh has been handed a very demanding job "two years before he is ready for it."

Geoff will be a fine coach one day. He has the background and all the personal qualities

that Geoff has no coaching experience to fall back on."

He praises his successor's spirit, determination and hard work as an opening batsman of limited natural talent.

Simpson scored more than 4,800 runs for Australia in 62 Tests, 39 of them as captain, and coached Australia to the 1987 World Cup.

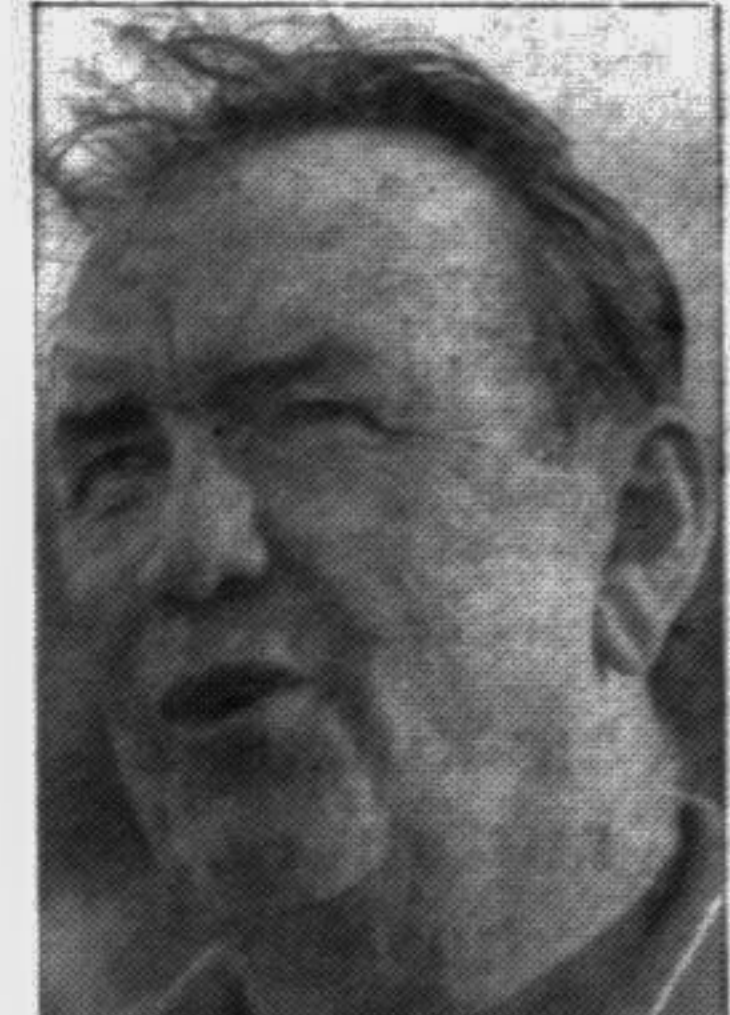
"I wanted to continue in the job because I thought it was a particularly bad time to change direction," he said, adding he had a "good working relationship" with current captain Mark Taylor.

"We did not agree about everything, but then we were not expected to hold hands and show a common front just for the sake of it."

He said Taylor had done "a good job" in his first two years but must realise his real test will come in the next two.

Taylor's predecessor, Allan Border, took over at a difficult time with relatively little to build on, and in three years led Australia to win the 1987 World Cup followed by triumphant Ashes tours to England in 1989 and 1993.

Taylor inherited an experienced and talented team with strength in depth. It is relatively easy to be a good captain when you have a good team," Simpson said.



BOB SIMPSON the job needs, assuming that he is going to be rather more than just a helper and sidekick for the captain... but the fact is

Mum is the word for Terry

LONDON, Nov 13: Terry Venables has declined to comment on reports that he has been offered the chance to coach the Australian national team, reports AFP.

The former England chief is reported to be on a short-list drawn up by Soccer Australia, along with former Republic of Ireland boss Jack Charlton.

The Aussies are believed to be looking for two coaches, one to work with home-based players and the other to liaise with their overseas stars.

The latter job seems tailor-made for Venables who took over as director of coaching at Portsmouth after quitting the England job at the end of Euro '96.

It is believed the 53-year-old Venables might be offered around 100,000 pounds a year to travel across Europe keeping an eye on Australian talent — Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich and Wolves midfielder Steve Corica are among the Australians

playing their midfielder Steve Corica are among the Australians playing their trade in England.

But asked if he had been approached, Venables said: "A few people have asked me about this but I am just not discussing it."

"So many things have happened in the last few months and I don't want to discuss anybody else's business."

Pressed on whether he had been approached by Soccer Australia, Venables maintained: "I am not discussing it. I am afraid I can't help you. I have said the same to everybody else."

Venables was reported to have a scheduled meeting with Australian Soccer officials this week in London to discuss the possible appointment.

A Soccer Australia spokesman said a short-list of seven candidates had been finalised but refused to identify those individuals involved.

Venables was speaking at a London art gallery where he

was sitting for sculptress Frances Segelman.

The bust of the former England coach will be auctioned to raise money for cancer research.

The soccerroos' coaching place became vacant three weeks ago when Scotsman Eddie Thomson quit the job to take over Japanese side Hiroshima.

Australia, who last reached the World Cup finals in 1994, are favourites to win the Oceania qualifying group for France in 1998, although they then need to beat the fourth team in Asia to earn a place as one of the 32 finalists.

Other possible names believed to have been targeted by Soccer Australia include Kenny Dalglish, who is expected to take up a roving "talent-spotting" role with Rangers, former Republic boss Charlton and axed Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff.

Gabriel says cool it

FLORENCE, Italy, Nov 13: Fiorentina skipper Gabriel Batistuta, one of the stars of Italian football, went on the offensive here Tuesday following speculation about his private life, reports AFP.

Batistuta's troubles started after scoring the winner against AC Milan in the Italian Super Cup on August 25. The Argentine rushed over to the television camera and shouted "Irina — I love you."

The outburst prompted gossip here that there was trouble between the football star and his wife Irina, and later that this was the cause of Batistuta's poor form in front of goal.

"The only mistake I have made," said the striker, "I was not scoring for three matches. I accept that I hadn't done my bit, but I don't accept all this talk about my private life, all this nastiness."

"I know what the football world is like, and I know things like this happen, but I'm not alone. I have a wife who lives in this city and a son who goes to nursery school — I can't risk some other child repeating to my son something that he's heard at home or in the street."

"The gossip has been about anything and everything. I've heard that I'm separated from Irina and that I'm living with a teammate. I know that two goals would be enough to stop all this gossip, but that's not the point."

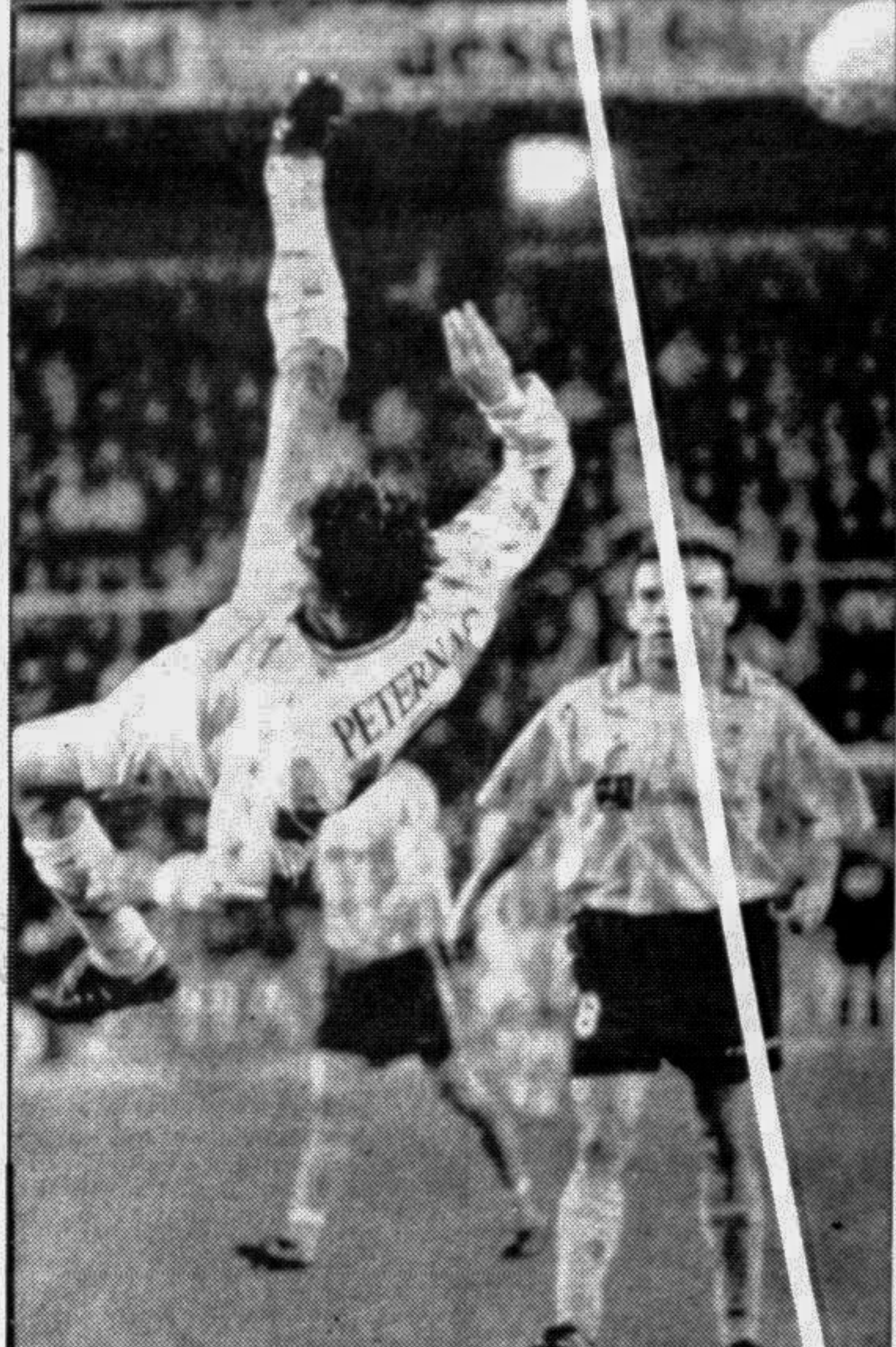
Asked if the rumours made him want to quit the Italian Cup holders, Batistuta said: "All this doesn't drive me away from Fiorentina and it doesn't bring me any closer."

"Certainly, I've discovered a side of Florence I didn't know before. I feel bad, so does Irina. She hasn't me to go back to Argentina, but she is suffering."

"I don't want sympathy," he concluded. "I just want respect."



Terry Venables has declined to comment on reports that he has been offered the chance to coach the Australian national team, reports AFP.



Sporting Gijon's Bango (R) looks on as Valladolid's Peternac performs an overhead kick during their Spanish First Division match on Nov 11. Valladolid won 1-0. — AFP/UNB photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Barisal PWD Division, Barisal Notice Inviting Tenders Tender Notice No. E/M-25 of 1996-97

UEFA seeks explanation

GENEVA, Nov 13: UEFA, European soccer's governing body, confirmed today that it had asked the Portuguese Football Association to investigate allegations of match-fixing, reports Reuter.

UEFA made the request after Fernando Barata, the former director of a Portuguese soccer club, said on Monday that he acted as go-between for Porto in a bribery attempt before a match 12 years ago with Scotland's Aberdeen.

"We have asked the Portuguese Football Association to explain what has happened — that's all," said UEFA spokesman Massimo Gonnella. "Right now we cannot do anything."

"We cannot base a decision to conduct our own investigation from press reports."

"If there is a reason for UEFA to start its own inquiry, it will."

Barata, who has hotel interests in Portugal's southern Algarve region, told TSF radio that he had approached a Romanian referee who had charge of the 1984 European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal between the two clubs.

Another report adds: Romanian referee Ioan Igna has denied he was bribed by Porto.

"I know nothing about it. It was even criticised by the Portuguese after the match for refusing them a penalty," he said.

"This scandal reminds me of another Cup Winners' Cup semifinal I refereed in 1987 between Olympics-Marseille and Ajax Amsterdam," Igna said.



Brazilian players Leila Brros (L) and Ana Connelly block the ball during their World Super Challenge volleyball match against Cuba in Tokyo on Nov 12. Brazil won. — AFP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. ACROSS 1 On sergeant's syllable 4 Clear the deck 8 Cronies 12 Past 13 Seine leader 14 Hedge-podge 15 Azores' owner 17 Fiddler's place 18 Lappet 19 Omen 21 It gets the lead out 24 1940s headline event 25 Beer-room novice 26 Work on the soundtrack 28 Pivotal 32 Beatles movie 34 Roscoe 36 Transcendental discipline 37 Music hall 38 See 4