



Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Harun-ur-Rashid MP, (C) speaking at a press conference at the federation office yesterday organised in connection with the Rupali Insurance 14th Federation Cup soccer tournament which begins at the Mirpur Stadium today. —Star photo

Div III soccer

T&T, Jatrabari promoted

Sports Reporter

T&T Club clinched the Third Division football league championship after defeating Bangladesh Government Press 2-1 in their last super league match held at the Rajuk ground on Friday.

Hasan struck twice for the winners while Jasim grabbed a consolation goal for the pressmen.

T&T Club completed their super league campaign unbeaten to remain atop the eight-team table having raised their tally to 19 points, one more than Jatrabari Kirra Chakra who recorded a solitary goal victory over Sunrise Sports Club in Friday's other match. Nepal Chakra scored the winner in the 28th minute.

Jatrabari finished runners-up.

Both T&T Club and Jatrabari KC earn promotion to the Second Division League next season.

Karlsruhe beat Leverkusen

BONN, July 19: Karlsruhe beat last season's Bundesliga runners-up Bayer Leverkusen on penalties in the first match of the new, lucrative German League Cup tournament on Friday, reports Reuters.

The teams were equal 2-2 after 90 minutes and Karlsruhe won the shoot-out 6-5. There was no extra time.

Karlsruhe, sixth in the league, will play Stuttgart, fourth, in a semifinal on Tuesday.

The competition, involving the top six finishers in last season's Bundesliga, is the opener to the new season which starts on August 2.

Cup winners Stuttgart qualified automatically for the semifinals like champions Bayern Munich, who will play either European champions Borussia Dortmund or VfL Bochum in the other semifinal on Wednesday. Dortmund and Bochum meet on Sunday.

Karlsruhe earned one million marks (\$500,000 dollars) for their victory. The winners of the final on July 26 will receive 2.5 million marks (1.4 million dollars) even before playing their first league match.

New signing Stefan Beinlich, who joined from Hansa Rostock, put Leverkusen in front after five minutes but two minutes later, Karlsruhe equalised through Burkhard Reich.

Strike Ulf Kirsten, last season's league top scorer with 22 goals, made it 2-1 for Leverkusen in the 21st minute but South African-born striker Sean Dundee levelled nine minutes from time.

Mercer injured

NEW YORK, July 19: Ray Mercer will not fight Andrew Golota in a heavyweight bout Aug 16 because Mercer has a neck injury that will require surgery, reports AP.

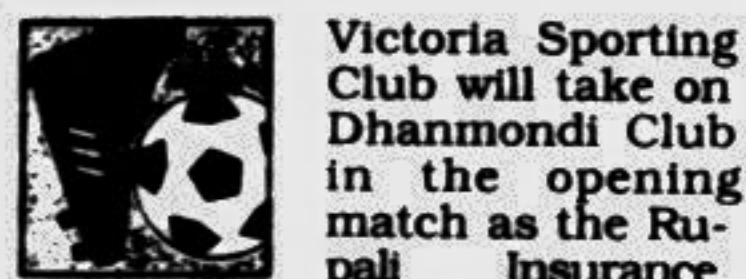
Promoter Dino Duva said he was given doctors' reports Friday that revealed Mercer has cervical herniated discs in his neck.

Mercer will have surgery Monday at a New York City hospital, according to Marc Roberts, his manager. Roberts declined to disclose the name of the hospital.

Federation Cup kicks off today

Victoria-Dhanmondi opener

Sports Reporter



Victoria Sporting Club will take on Dhanmondi Club in the opening match of the Rupali Insurance 14th Federation Cup football tournament, the traditional curtain raiser of the local football season, kicks off at the Mirpur Stadium this afternoon.

Youngmen's Club Fakir-eerpool will face Dhaka Wanderers Club in the other match billed for the inaugural day.

A total of 16 Dhaka-based Senior Division clubs, split into four groups, are participating in the first round which will be played on the knockout basis until July 25.

The four group champions will then join Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani Kirra Chakra, Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kirra Chakra and Brothers Union Club in the round robin league, again divided into two sections.

After the robin league scheduled to end on July 31, the top two finishers from each group will qualify for the semifinals billed for August 2 and 3 while the final will be held on August 5 at the same venue.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), organiser of the meet, arranged a press conference in this regard at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Harun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury, MP, BFF general secretary, Dr Shamimuzzaman Basunia, treasurer of the federation and chairman of the tournament committee and Moazzam Hossain, secretary of the tournament committee were present.

The budget for the tournament has been estimated at Taka 10 lakh of which Taka five lakh will be provided by sponsors Rupali Insurance Company Limited.

Ticket rates for the first round which includes two matches per day, have been fixed at Taka 10 which will be doubled in the second round and semifinals. Price of tickets for the August 5 final will be announced later.

Following 16 teams are participating in the first round:

Group A: Victoria SC, Dhanmondi SC, YMC Fakir-eerpool and Dhaka Wanderers Club.

Group B: Bangladesh Boys Club, Badda Jagarani Sangsad, Arambagh KC and Police AC.

Group C: Rahmatganj MFS, BRTC SC, Farashganj SC and Shantinagar Club.

Group D: East End Club, Mirpur Chalanika SC, Agrani Bank SC and Wari Club.

Robin League grouping:

Group One: Mohammedan SC, Brothers Union, Group A winners and Group D winners.

Group Two: Abahani KC, Muktiyoddha Sangsad KC, Group B winners and Group C winners.

Schools under Dhaka Education Board and other English medium schools in the capital may participate in the competition.

Interested schools have been requested to complete their registrations with a fee of Taka 100 before July 31 at the federation office at the National Hockey Stadium.

Yoo and the left-handed Lee came back with a vengeance in the deciding, catching up to the Indonesian's lead to force a deuce at 14-14 and applying constant fast pressure that led

to repeated errors from Subagya. The Korean then scored three consecutive points to win the decider.

They will face Indonesia's top doubles pair, Budiarti Sigit and Chandra Wijaya in the finals. The Indonesians defeated their unseeded compatriots Arianto Antonius Budhi and Denny Katono 15-3, 17-15.



A proud Baya Rahouli of Algeria shows off her four gold medals which she won in the recently concluded eight Pan-Arab Games in Beirut on July 18. She also grabbed a silver. —AFP/UNB photo

fence from their opponents who led most of the time and finally took the set 15-13. A slower, more careful second set ended in the host team's pocket at 15-2.

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ROBERTO AT A GLANCE

MILAN, July 19 (Reuters): Fact-file on Roberto Baggio, who joined Bologna from AC Milan on Friday and vowed to prove his critics wrong by reclaiming his place in the Italian national team for next year's World Cup in France, report agencies.

1967: Born February 18 in Caldoggno, northeast Italy.

1982: Makes his professional debut for local side Vicenza in Serie C.

1985: Moves to Fiorentina but, after tearing cruciate ligaments in his knee during his last match for Vicenza, misses the better part of two seasons.

1986: Finally makes his Serie A debut for Fiorentina against Sampdoria. Fiorentina win 2-0.

1988: Converts to Buddhism. Baggio's hairstyle later earns him the nickname 'the divine ponytail'.

Makes international debut against the Netherlands. Italy win 1-0.

1989: Assumes a more attacking role at Fiorentina, scoring 32 goals in 62 league matches in the 1988-90 seasons.

1990: Moves to Juventus for a then world record 13 million dollars, triggering riots by fans in Florence.

1993: Named European and FIFA world-footballer-of-the-year after a spectacular season with Juventus in which he scored 21 goals in 27 league matches and helped them win the UEFA Cup, his first major trophy.

1994: Scores inspired last-minute goals against Nigeria and Spain in the United States to keep Italy's World Cup dreams alive. Plays in final despite serious hamstring injury which hands the trophy to Brazil. Subsequently dropped by national coach Arrigo Sacchi.

1995: Helps Juventus to their first league title in nine years. Shortly afterwards leaves for arch-rivals Milan for 10.6 million dollars after five seasons in Turin.

1996: Wins second consecutive league title, this time with Milan. Left out of Sacchi's squad for the European Championship in England.

1996-97 season: Out of favour with Milan coach Oscar Tabarez who declares: 'There's no place for poets in modern soccer. Tabarez replaced by Sacchi mid-season as champions Milan slump to mid-table.

June 1997: Misses the four-nation Tournoi de France with a groin strain after finally returning to the national side following a two-year absence. Confirms he will leave Milan.

Argentina stand a good chance

BUENOS AIRES, July 19: Argentina have a chance to move to the top of the South American zone qualifying round for the World Cup when they host lowly Venezuela in front of a sellout 70,000 crowd at the River Plate Stadium on Sunday, reports AFP.

Argentine coach Daniel Passarella has again opted to do without star striker Gabriel Batistuta as the two-time world champions seek their seventh win in 13 South American qualifying matches.

Argentina won the away match 5-2 against Venezuela, who have only three points to show from 12 games and have already written off any chance of playing in the finals in France next year.

With the top four teams qualifying for France, a victory would take the Argentines a major step closer to play with three games left to play.

Paraguay, who currently lead Argentina by a point, have a tough away game against much-improved Chile on Sunday and will again be without suspended star goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert.

Third-placed Colombia are at home to Ecuador and Bolivia face Uruguay in a match between two teams who both need a win to stand any chance of staying in contention.

The move was widely expected, with Ince having already announced he would be leaving Inter and Liverpool manager Roy Evans saying last Wednesday that he hoped to sort out the transfer details in the next few days.

The former England captain had been linked to several Premier league clubs, including Arsenal and Blackburn, after months of speculation about his future. The latter club are managed by his former Inter coach Roy Hodgson.

Ince, dubbed 'the gunner' by the fans, moved to the Milanese club from Manchester United in 1995 for a then-record transfer fee of £7 million (US\$11.7 million dollars).

He had won the league title twice with United, with a league and cup double in 1994 after their first title win in 26 years that came in 1993.

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Bologna get Baggio

MILAN, July 19: Roberto Baggio joined Bologna from AC Milan on Friday and vowed to prove his critics wrong by reclaiming his place in the Italian national team for next year's World Cup in France, report agencies.

Baggio signed a two-year deal with Bologna, who just missed out on a UEFA Cup place last season, ending weeks of speculation during which he had been linked to clubs in Italy, Spain and England.

'I've chosen Bologna, a choice which makes me very happy,' he told a news conference in Milan. 'From Sunday I'll be at the coach's service.'

To find a team like Bologna in the year before a World Cup is great,' he said. 'Everything is at stake for me and I hope to make it to France. I want to prove that the people who have written me off are wrong.'

Bologna president Giuseppe Gazoni, who was also at the conference, said the 30-year-old player would be free to leave after one season if he so wished.

The industrialist Gazoni, who took the once-mighty Bologna out of bankruptcy and brought them from the Third Division, thought Baggio could help the sale of the club's matches to pay-per-view television and boost season tickets and merchandising.

'He has a lot of freedom,' said Gazoni, who declined to give details of the transfer fee, reported by Italian newspapers.

Baggio said last month he was leaving Milan after a frustrating season in which he was often sidelined with sciatica and constantly left on the substitutes' bench even when he was fit.

Milan coach Fabio Capello had hinted there was no place for 'the divine ponytail' in his plans for next season and the club said they were open to offers for one of the most influential Italian players of his generation.

The attacking midfielder was linked to several clubs including Vicenza — where he made his professional debut 15 years ago — Parma, Udinese, England's Derby County,

Spain's Barcelona and Atletico Madrid.

Milan said earlier this week they were happy with the fee Bologna had offered and were waiting to hear from Baggio if he was satisfied with the personal terms on offer.

Italian media said Baggio would earn around 1.6 million dollars a year at Bologna, slightly less than his salary at Milan.

Baggio said he was sorry to leave Milan, where he has spent the last two seasons.

'Milan are a great side,' he said. 'I would like to have given them more but I didn't have the opportunities to play much for them.'

Baggio, capped 46 times and scorer of 25 goals has said he dearly wants to play in the 1998 World Cup and was keen to ensure himself first team football next season so he could prove himself to Italy coach Cesare Maldini.

Baggio will team up with Swedish forward Kenneth Andersson and Russian Igor Shalimov at his new club.

Orion nat'l bridge Aug 8

Orion national bridge competition will be held from August 8 to 17, reports BSS.

Entry fee for each local team is Taka 400. The participants from outside the capital will be provided Taka one thousand as travel allowance and the organisers will arrange accommodation, said a press release yesterday.

While Inter wanted him to stay to see out his contract which had another year to run, newspapers in both countries reported that personal reasons were increasingly leading Ince back to English soccer.

The player has two young sons and his wife Claire had reportedly been keen to return to be close to family.

The midfielder was the third major pre-season signing for Liverpool following Wimbledon's Oyvind Leonhardsen and Danny Murphy from First Division Crewe.

But there was also bad news for the club when it was revealed that Norwegian defender Bjorn Tore Kvarme has cracked a bone in his left shoulder.

The club said he will be out for six to eight weeks.

Atlanta, July 19: Athletes from 197 countries paraded into the Olympic Stadium. Muhammad Ali ignited the cauldron. And six people showed up to watch, reports AP.

A lingering nightmare of some Olympic organisers still biting his nails a year later? Nope. It was Friday's sneak preview of the 'Atlanta's Olympic Glory,' the official documentary of the 1996 Games by director Bud Greenspan.

A news release billed the screening as a chance for reporters to interview Greenspan on his 'insight into the making of the Official Film of the 1996 Olympic Games.'

The six people who turned out at Atlanta's 900-seat Rialto Theatre included three reporters, an Olympic volunteer and his wife, and the former Atlanta Olympics press chief, Bob Brennan.

Even the Emmy-winning Greenspan was a no-show — his flight wasn't scheduled to land in Atlanta until after the screening.

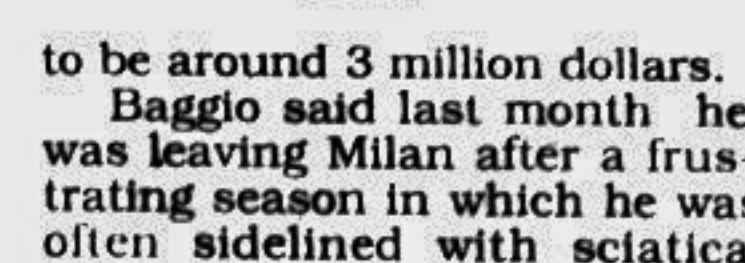
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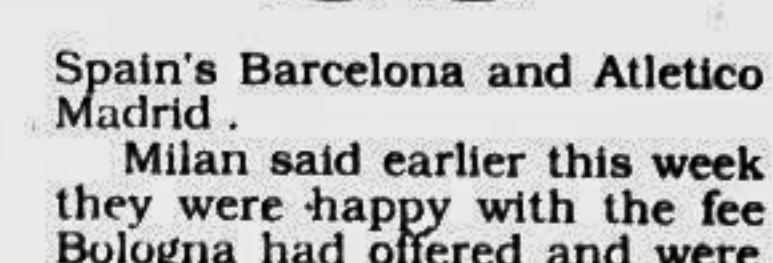
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Players and officials of Third Division football league champions T&T Club pose prior to their last super league clash against BG Press on July 18. —Star photo

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