

Summer athletics from today

Sports Reporter
The fifth summer athletics championships begins at the Mirpur Stadium this morning under the auspices of Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF).
State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the three-day meet scheduled to end next Monday.
A total of 250 athletes including 48 women from eleven districts, seven service teams and two colleges, are likely to participate in the championships.

Diego retires tomorrow?

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 19: Former Argentine superstar Diego Maradona, who faces a third drugs ban and a possible four-year prison term for shooting at journalists with an airgun three years ago, wants to get away from it all and retire to Cuba, he revealed Thursday, reports AFP.
"I'd go to Cuba for Fidel Castro, the warm climate, and because I get on very well with Cubans, who are very dignified people," said the controversial 36-year-old, who counts the Cuban leader as a good friend.
"I now feel nearer retirement than anything else," he explained.

U-17 soccer WC Brazil, Ghana showdown

ISMAILIYA, Egypt, Sept 19: Brazil defeated Germany and Ghana scraped past Spain Thursday to set up a title clash for the under-17 World Cup soccer, reports AP.
Adiel Amorim opened the scoring for Brazil in the third minute. Brazil added three goals in the final five minutes to score a 4-0 victory.
In the other semifinal, Ghana defeated Spain 2-1 amid accusations by the Spanish coach that Ghana filled their team with players older than 17.

Kent in a stew

LONDON, Sept 19: The exciting finale to the English county championship took another twist on Thursday with the umpires announcing they planned to report Kent's Canterbury pitch as "underprepared" after a day that saw 19 wickets fall, reports Reuters.
Kent, who entered the last round of matches a point behind leaders Glamorgan, made a spectacular start by bowling out Surrey for 124.
They followed up by reaching 217 for nine on a pitch last used four years ago. But they could be fined and docked points if an inspection on Friday goes against them.
After dismissing Somerset for 252, the Welsh county reached 159 for two with captain Matthew Maynard unbeaten on 76 and Hugh Morris not out 49.
Yorkshire stayed on course for third place after recovering from 58 for five to reach 267 while Warwickshire, also in the chase, struggled to keep Northants to 215 for five.
But the performance of the day came at Southampton where Graeme Hick thrashed an unbeaten 253 as Worcestershire scored 428 for two against Hampshire.
Hick, who hit 40 fours and two sixes, put on 328 for the third wicket with Australian Tom Moody, beating a county record which had stood for 35 years. Moody was unbeaten on 120.



Mohammedan midfielder Sabbir (L) tries to keep the ball under control during their Mahanagari Cup encounter against Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool at the Mirpur Stadium last night. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. —Star photo

F'pool, MSC split points

Sports Reporter
MUKTIJODHA WIN
In the other Group One match of the day, Mukhtijodha Sangsad Krira Chakra outplayed Federation Cup runners up Arambagh Krira Sangha by three goals to nil.
The winners led the first half 2-0.
In a one-sided affair, Rakib struck twice while his partner Nakib added the other to the winners credit.
The win not only confirmed Mukti a berth in the semifinals but also enabled them to take sweet revenge over the Arambagh boys to whom they lost the Federation Cup semifinal last month by the same margin.
The result of yesterday's two matches left Mohammedans in a critical position in the group. To win the group championship and avoid arch rivals Abahani in the semifinal, the black and

whites will now have to beat Mukti in their last group match tomorrow. A draw will confirm their semifinal against Abahani. On the other hand, if Mohammedans lose to Mukti and Youngmen's Club beat Arambagh in their last match, both teams will finish jointly second in the group with four points each. Mukti has already moved two points clear atop the table with their second successive win yesterday.

GROUP ONE TABLE

Team	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Mukhtijodha	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Mohammedans	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
YMC F'pool	2	0	1	1	2	1	1
Arambagh	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

TODAY'S MATCHES
Brothers Union vs Farashganj SC (3 pm)
Abahani KC vs Rahmatganj MFS (6 pm)



Scene from yesterday's Shamsuddin Spinning Mahanagari Cup clash between Mukhtijodha Sangsad and Arambagh KS at the Mirpur Stadium. —Star photo

UAE-Japan tie drawn

Sports Reporter
The crucial World Cup qualifying match between UAE and Japan ended in a goalless draw in Abu Dhabi last night.
With the draw, both UAE and Japan are now on four points with the Japanese enjoying a better goal average in the Group B table of the Asian Zone. South Korea are leading the table with maximum six points from two matches.

TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	Pts
S Korea	2	2	0	0	6
Japan	2	1	1	0	4
UAE	2	1	1	0	4
Kajakhstan	2	0	0	2	0
Uzbekistan	2	0	0	2	0

Thankful Tendulkar

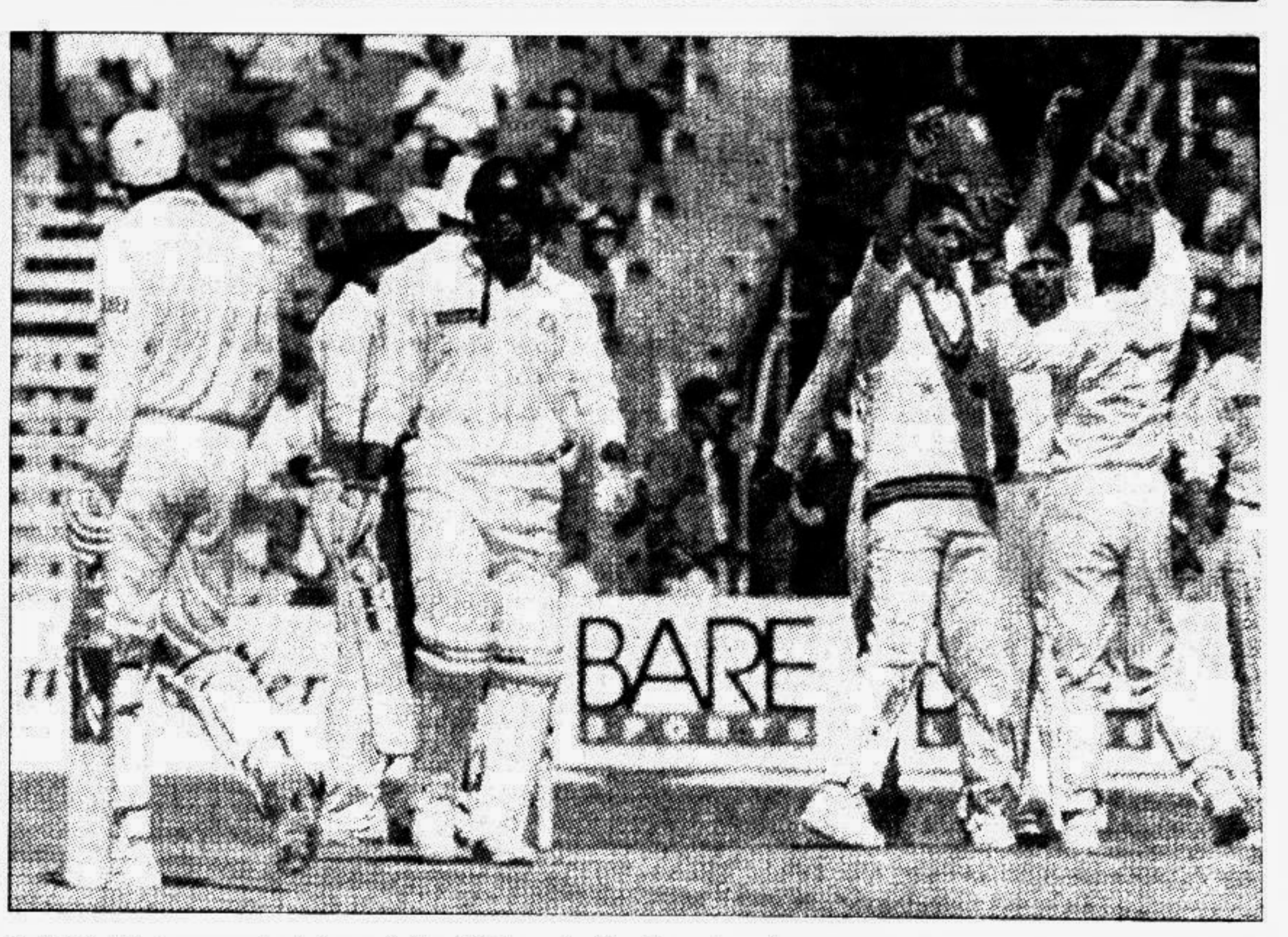
TORONTO, Sept 19: A beaming Sachin Tendulkar was full of praise for his teammates, particularly the bowlers, after India pulled off a thrilling victory over Pakistan yesterday to clinch the Sahara Cup series by virtue of a 3-0 lead, reports PTI.
"Congratulations to the guys, they're great," said the Indian captain, "I'm proud in his joy as he confessed, "winning against Pakistan is always satisfying."
Paying rich compliments to man-of-the-match Saurav Ganguly, whose exploits with the ball made the win possible in the face of tremendous odds, Tendulkar acknowledged the support from other bowlers in his post-match comments and lauded youngsters Debashish Mohanty and Harvinder Singh for their gallant efforts in the series so far.
Tendulkar, who appeared to be extremely happy with the performance of his young and dynamic team, discounted any suggestion of motivating the players. "They are young, there's no need to motivate them."

An obviously downcast Rameez Raja admitted that Pakistan threw away the match from a commanding position.
"We threw away the match... we ourselves are to be blamed," was all the laconic Pakistan skipper, still dazed by the unbelievable debacle, would say.
Conceding the wicket got easier when Pakistan batted, Raja attributed the loss to poor batting. "We did not bat very well."

Man-of-the-match Saurav Ganguly felt maintaining a good line and length paid rich dividends. "The pitch was helpful to the seamers and I stuck to my job," he said.
Asked to identify the turning point of the see-saw match, the all-rounder said, "When Salim Malik was out, we thought India had a chance."

French tickets put on sale

PARIS, Sept 19: World Cup soccer tickets for the opening game featuring holders Brazil and eight games from the quarterfinals to the final went on sale on Thursday, reports Reuters.
The tickets for the big matches of the 1998 tournament in Paris, Lyon, Marseille and Nantes were made available for reservation until October 18 at a rate of two per person per match for all residents of France.
The organisers, expecting far greater demand than there is availability and hoping to foil the touts, will after October 18 hold a lottery to allocate the 227,000 tickets, advising the lucky winners officially in December.
There are 33,000 tickets for the general public for the opening match at the new 80,000-capacity Stade de France in the Paris suburb of St Denis on June 10.



India's Mohammad Azharuddin (L) heads for the dressing room after being caught out off Saqain Mushtaq while the Pakistanis (on the right) celebrate his dismissal during the third match of the Sahara Cup in Toronto on Sept 18. —AP/UNB photo

Ganguly strangles Pakistanis India snatch Sahara Cup

TORONTO, Sept 19: Medium-pace Saurav Ganguly took five cheap wickets to spur India to a dramatic, series-clinching victory over Pakistan in the third one-day international of the Sahara Cup series here Thursday, reports agencies.
The 34-run win gave India an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series following their two successes last Saturday and Sunday.
Pakistan won the first series last year 3-2.
Pakistan 103 for four, lost their last six wickets for 45 runs in pursuit of India's modest 182 for six off 50 overs. The Pakistanis were all out for 148 off 36.5 overs.
Man-of-the-match Ganguly swung the match by removing the heart of the undisciplined Pakistani middle order after opener Saeed Anwar and Shahid Afridi added 52 in just 9.1 overs.
All ten Pakistan batsmen fell to catches in the outfield.
Anwar was first out, caught at midwicket for 22 off Debashish Mohanty.
Top-scorer Afridi swung a high catch to midoff off Abey Kuruvilla for 44 off 38 balls with six cracking fours at 79 for two.
Captain Rameez Raja also played a rash stroke, his loose drive picking out Ganguly at extra cover.
The introduction of Ganguly, primarily a left-handed batsman who had only one wicket in one-day internationals prior to the series, turned the match on its head.
The 25-year-old from Calcutta removed the experienced Salim Malik in his second over and collected wickets at regular intervals as the Pakistani batsmen played some careless shots.
Ganguly's five for 16 off 10 overs were the best figures by an Indian against Pakistan in 56 matches. The previous best was five for 21 by off-spinner Arshad Ayub in Dhaka in 1988.
Earlier, India recovered from 23 for three in the 12th overs to post a workable 182 for six from 50.
Mohammad Azharuddin led a revival with 67, which included four fours and spanned 110 balls. The 34-year-old from Hyderabad shared vital partnerships of 66 with Rahul Dravid, who made 25, 44 with Ajay Jadeja, 20, and 31 with Robin Singh, 32 not out with two sixes and two fours.
Aaqib Javed was Pakistan's most economical bowler with one wicket for 17 from his 10 overs. Mohammed Akram took two for 28 from his 10 overs, including Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar.
The final two matches in the series will still be played on Saturday and Sunday.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Aaqib	10	4	17	1
Mehmood	9	0	30	2
M Akram	10	0	28	0
Afridi	5	0	20	0
Saqain	10	0	45	1
Malik	6	1	26	1

PAKISTAN
Anwar c Dravid b Mohanty 22
Afridi c Tendulkar b Kuruvilla 44
Raja c Ganguly b Harvinder 11
Izai c sub (Kambli) b Ganguly 13
Malik c Tendulkar b Ganguly 6
H Raza c Jadeja b Ganguly 0
Moin c Robin b Ganguly 7
Saqain c Mohanty b Kuruvilla 11
A Mehmood c Saba Karim b Mohanty 6
Aaqib c Kuruvilla b Ganguly 11
M Akram not out 15
Extras: (lb-6, w-4, nb-5) 12
Total: (All out in 36.5 overs) 148
Fall of wickets: 1-52; 2-79; 3-87; 4-103; 5-103; 6-116; 7-118; 8-126; 9-141.
Bowling: O M R W
Kuruvilla 8.5 1 26 2
Mohanty 8 0 43 2
Harvinder 5 0 41 1
Ganguly 10 3 16 5
Robin 5 1 16 0
Result: India won by 34 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Saurav Ganguly.
First Match: India won by 20 runs.
Second match: India won by seven wickets.
Fourth match: Saturday, September 20.
Fifth match: Sunday, September 21.



S GANGULY... m-o-m

Chelsea's good start

LONDON, Sept 19: Chelsea took the first step towards reclaiming the European Cup Winners' Cup they lifted in 1971 by beating Slovan Bratislava 2-0 in their first round first leg tie in London on Thursday, reports Reuters.
The English side, one of the few names in the competition with any European pedigree, dominated throughout but will be disappointed not to have won more convincingly.
Italian midfielder Roberto Di Matteo, whose spectacular early goal in May sent Chelsea on their way to winning the FA Cup, opened the scoring after six minutes but the second did not arrive until 10 minutes from time from Danny Granville.
The Slovaks rarely threatened but, after surviving a first half bombardment, will approach the second leg with some optimism.
Partly due to the expansion of the Champions League, this season's Cup Winners' Cup has a weak line-up. Both Italy and Spain's representatives are appearing in Europe for only the second time while French hopes depend upon a Second Division side.
Italy's Vicenza, who managed just one goal in their shortlived 1978 UEFA Cup adventure, overcame Legia Warsaw 2-0 with first-half goals by Pasquale Luiso and Gabriele Ambrosetti.
Real Betis, who lost the

Khulna University
Training Course on GIS
By
Urban and Rural Planning Discipline
Applications are invited from interested participants in a two week intensive course on Geographic Information System (GIS) beginning from the last week of September. Details are as follows:
Areas of Training : Idrisi, Arc-Info, Arc-View.
Duration : 15 days (date will be conveyed by mail).
Timing : 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM with lunch and refreshment breaks.
Entry Requirement : HSC or equivalent with computer knowledge on DOS and dBase.
Course Fee : Tk 5000/-
Last Date of : September 24.
Application : Payment to be made along with application in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Registrar, Khulna University.
Application and Selection : Applications in plain paper stating name, address with phone number, present status of employment, reason for pursuing the course. Selected applicants will be informed by mail.
Accommodation, Transport, etc. : The candidates will have to arrange their own accommodation, food and transport.
Akhter Husain Chaudhury
Head (in-Charge)
Urban and Rural Planning Discipline
Khulna University, Khulna-9208
GD-180 Fax: 88-041-731244

It's Ronaldo vs Batistuta

PARIS, Sept 19: Ronaldo comes face to face with Italy's other South American soccer idol this weekend, when Inter Milan take on Gabriel Batistuta's Fiorentina, reports AFP.
Ronaldo's two goals in his last two matches, his worldwide fame and his 30 million dollar transfer fee have already established him as the new star of Italian football.
The 20-year-old Brazilian scored in Sundays 4-2 victory over Bologna and then broke the deadlock in Tuesday's 2-0 UEFA Cup win over Neuchatel Xamax of Switzerland.
Inter have meanwhile broken all club records for season tickets this season, selling more than any other club in Italy, and there is bound to be a packed crowd at San Siro on Sunday.
But Batistuta has already outscored the Brazilian, with five goals in two league games, and is determined to show such good club form that he will join Argentina at the World Cup.
Batistuta paid tribute to the Brazilian this week, but did not envy him.
"He is a born champion — I've had to struggle to become one," he said, before adding: "Comparing me with Ronaldo doesn't make a lot of sense, because we have very few things in common."
"He's Ronaldo, and I'm Batistuta, and I've had 10 more years in the game than he has."
The match has extra spice as Fiorentina and Inter, who planned to buy Batistuta over the summer if they failed to land Ronaldo from Barcelona, are the only Serie A sides to have won both their matches so far.
San Siro has also been a happy hunting ground for Batistuta.
His past goals here denied inter a place in the 1995-96 Italian Cup final — which Fiorentina later won — and also won his side the subsequent Italian Super Cup against AC Milan.
Champions Juventus, who crushed Feyenoord 5-1 in the Champions' League in midweek, return to their Delle Alpi Stadium to face newly-promoted Brescia.
Juventus should be good for three points but they will need to keep a close check on Brescia striker Dario Hubner. Sampdoria didn't and he scored a hat-trick against them last weekend.
Brescia twins Emanuele and Antonio Filippini, Juventus fans from birth and who idolise striker Alessandro Del Piero, have more modest hopes for Sunday.
"It's an important game and we'd like to get a point or three," they chorused. "But it would be



RONALDO

great as well if Del Piero gave us his shirt afterwards."
Lazio, buoyed up by their 4-0 away win over Vitoria Guimaraes in the UEFA Cup, are at Serie A newcomers Empoli.
Giuseppe Signori should again replace Croatian striker Alen Boksic, who had his nose fractured in a collision with AC Milan defender Andre Cruz on Saturday.
Roberto Mancini and Pierluigi Casiraghi complete the attacking trident on what should be a busy afternoon for Empoli's reserve goalkeeper Marco Roccati, standing in after Angelo Pagotto was sent off last weekend.
Fabio Capello's AC Milan, still waiting to get into gear after two consecutive 1-1 draws, are away to Udinese in the night match, while Champions League debutants Parma travel to Piacenza.
Robert Baggio's Bologna are away to Bari for a match between two sides yet to score a point this season.



BATISTUTA

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Seductive
5 Symbol of intrigue
8 D train?
12 Stravinsky or Sikorsky
13 Part of a Latin 101
14 The picture of health
15 Vivid
17 Drive down
18 Egyptian boy king
19 "Newlywed Game"
21 One of the Bowls
24 Recipe instruction
25 "East of Eden"
26 Range
30 — Grande Capistrano
31 Capistrano
32 Raw rocks
33 Sets of shades
35 Redcap's burden
36 Ump's call

DOWN
3 Grp of atoms
4 Atomic number
6 Workplace factor
5 Float gently
6 Flat-breasted bird
7 Supporting cushions
8 Bleed
9 Woman of the Haus
10 Shapely legs
11 Exaggerated-ad-vertising
16 Capek play
18 Grimace
19 Tide, for short
39 Unyielding
40 Membership
41 Detroit athlete
44 Idolater's emotion
45 Tanker fill
46 Guitlist
47 Seek reparations

CRYPTOQUIP
J H K P S J V W K Y U I Y J K Y I
W F Y I L I V M K G U G Z H Y F
L F R S P D M V S M R I P J K Z S P D
"F V G K Z I"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS A LAD, DO YOU IMAGINE JESSE JAMES TRULY ENJOYED TRIGGERMOMETRY?
Today's Cryptoquip clue: M equals C
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.