



Bari baffle Inter

ROME, Jan 18: South African Phil Masinga fired in the winner with 23 minutes left Sunday to lift Inter Milan to a shocking 1-0 victory over Italian League leaders Internazionale, reports AP.

Inter Milan's second loss in 16 matches this season — and first home defeat — cut the club's standings from four points to just one over defending champions Juventus, who routed Bologna 3-1.

Filippo Inzaghi scored twice in the first 19 minutes and Alessandro Del Piero tucked a 25-metre (yard) free kick under the crossbar in the second half to lead Juventus (10-5-1).

Inter (11-3-2) were undone by their often shaky defence, which allowed Masinga to find space in front of the net.

The South African, in his first Serie A campaign, netted his fourth goal by knocking in the rebound after Inter keeper Gianluca Pagliuca failed to handle his close-range header.

At the other end, Brazil's Ronaldo — who last week collected FIFA's top award for the second straight year — was held without a goal for the fifth match in a row.

Bari (5-4-7) are joint 12th in the 18-team league.

IOC boss bucks up Moscow

MOSCOW, Jan 18: IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said on Saturday Moscow stood an "excellent chance" of hosting the 2012 Summer Olympics, reports Reuters.

Samaranch, on an inspection visit to Moscow to check preparations for the World Youth Games later this year, said Moscow had organised a very successful Games in 1980.

"But you paid a political price then because politicians used sports as a political weapon," he said. "Now we do not have such a problem."

Samaranch was referring to the Games in the then Soviet capital, boycotted by the United States and some other western powers because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Samaranch, who met Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov during his visit, also praised the Luzhnik Stadium which hosted athletics and some other events in 1980.

"You have one of the finest Olympic stadia in Europe," he said.

Over 200 million dollars has been spent on renovating the 40-year-old, 82,000 capacity Luzhnik, including covering all stands. A retractable roof is due to be completed this year.

Samaranch congratulated swimming's governing body FINA for "showing how to fight doping" at the World Championships in Perth.

"If all sports federations follow the example we will be able to solve the (doping) problem," he said.

FINA has been heavily criticised over a series of dope controversies, mainly involving Chinese swimmers, in the past two weeks.

But Samaranch sided with FINA saying: "There are regulations and one should follow the rules set by the federation."

Iran choose Ivic

TEHRAN, Jan 18: Iran officially named Croat Tomislav Ivic today to coach their national team in the World Cup finals in France, state-run Tehran radio said, reports Reuters.

It quoted Mohsen Safaei Farahani, head of Iran's soccer federation, as saying Ivic would start work on Sunday.

Ivic, 63, was quoted by a Croat newspaper as saying this week he would coach the Iranian side for the next six months.

He replaces Brazilians Valdeir Vieira, who was originally hired to coach the Iranian Olympic soccer team but was moved to the national squad late in Iran's World Cup qualifying campaign.

Iran were the last team to qualify for the World Cup finals in France this year, after knocking-out Australia in the play-offs, and are underdogs in their first round group featuring three-times world champions Germany Yugoslavia and the United States.

Ivic has been serving as vice-president of Hajduk Split, the club with which he achieved his first major successes in the 1970s.

In his long career marked by numerous transfers, Ivic has coached some of Europe's top clubs including Anderlecht, Porto, Ajax Amsterdam, Atletico Madrid, Paris St Germain and Olympique Marseille. He also had a spell with the United Arab Emirates and was briefly in charge of the Croatian national squad in 1994.

Iranians Ebrahim Qasempur, Bijan Zolfaqarnasab and Valiollah Saleman would continue as assistant coaches. Safaei Farahani said, adding that Ivic would also have a fellow Croat to help him.



INDIA OWES THEM ONE: Player-of-the-match Saurav Ganguly (L) and player-of-the-series Sachin Tendulkar proudly pose with their trophies during the prize distribution ceremony of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Independence Cup notebook

Hasan Masood

VINEPOTISM

Most of the chairs of the VIP gallery were reserved for different high government officials and their relatives, while invitees with valid passes either had to remain standing or squeeze into other galleries during the last final of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board issued VIP passes exceeding by far the actual seating capacity. This insane exercise by the BCB led to total disorder as guests were seen scampering for any vacant spot including the ones reserved for journalists.

ADVANTAGE TO MINISTER

A senior minister of the Bangladesh Government entered the Dhaka Stadium yesterday with four uninvited guests who gate-crashed without any pass.

A BNCC cadet, who was on duty at the VVIP gate, asked them to show their passes before entering. But the minister waved aside the dutiful cadet saying that he was a "Minister" and scurried into the big bowl.

SACHIN C GOLAM

Golam Mustafa, a student of

class nine at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) caught Indian little master Sachin Tendulkar's sixer off a Shahid Afridi delivery outside the long-off boundary.

The 13-year-old boy, one of the BKSP students on duty adjusting the side screen throughout the tournament, took the catch like a veteran and earned all round applause from an appreciating crowd.

NEW ROMEO

Some girls of the city proved to be rickety as well as crazy. For the past one week they had been showing keen interest in Pakistani blockbuster Shahid Afridi waving amorous and suggestive banners at the Dhaka Stadium. One went as far as asking the comely opener to marry her. Yesterday, following Afridi's lacklustre performance, the girls shifted their loyalty to off spinner Saqlain Mushtaq whose bowling had put the Indians in some sort of trouble. The girls were heard shouting Saqlain's name yesterday instead of Afridi's. Girls will be girls.

DALMIYA DEPARTS

International Cricket Coun-

oil chairman Jagmohan Dalmiya, who came to Dhaka on Thursday in connection with the Coca-Cola Independence Cup, left the capital for Calcutta yesterday morning.

During his four-day stay in Dhaka, Dalmiya attended a conference of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) where the schedule for the ACC trophy and the Seventh Asia Cup were finalised.

Besides, he also held meetings with other ICC officials regarding the forthcoming ICC knock-out tournament to be held in Dhaka next October and November.

David Richards, the executive secretary of ICC and Jayanthi Lele, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, also left the city, last evening.

Meanwhile, 12 of the 14-member victorious Indian team left for Delhi last night immediately after winning the Independence Cup. The remaining two — Sourav Ganguly and Debashish Mohanty, would be leaving Dhaka today.

The defeated Pakistan team is also due to leave the capital early this morning.

Post match parley

Both the Indian captain and manager thanked all their players for doing a great job in the tournament and winning the final of the Independence Cup yesterday, reports UNB.

"Really it was a very exciting final and everybody enjoyed... our batsmen showed great ability especially Ganguly and Robin... Sachin played his usual style, made it easy for next batsman to overcome the daunting task," said skipper Mohammad Azharuddin.

"Three hundred fifteen was a big target in any pitch, but we played a natural game," he said replying to a question at the post-match briefing.

"Yes, the batsman faces difficulties playing in bad light, but we had taken the risk to have a result," he told a questioner.

Asked about Bangladesh's prospects, Azharuddin said: "I am optimistic that Bangladesh will be a fine one-day team in next few years. But they should work hard."

Manager, Ansuman Gaekwad, was quite happy with his team's performance and gave all credit to "total teamwork."

The losing Pakistani captain, Rashid Latif, said "I am satisfied with the performance of my teammates. We played well but luck was in favour of India."

Peter, Gong singles champs

TOKYO, Jan 18: Denmark and China shared the singles titles at the Yonex Japan Open badminton championships Sunday after Peter Gade Christensen defeated Luyo Yigang in the men's final and Gong Zhichao upset Ye Zhaoyong on the women's side, reports AP.

Top-seeded Gade Christensen beat his ninth-seeded Chinese opponent 15-3, 15-11. Gong, seeded second, scored her first victory ever against compatriot Ye, top-seeded here and ranked second in the world, with an impressive 11-1, 11-4 triumph.

It was the first Japan Open title either for Gong, 20, or Christensen, 21.

Victory in this year's first Grand Prix-level tournament was worth 13,000 dollars for



GONG ZHICHAO Gade Christensen, the world's No. 2 player, and dlr 10,000 for Gong, ranked third in the world, out of a purse of 200,000 dollars.

The world's No. 1 woman shuttler Susi Susanti of Indonesia skipped the tournament due to an ankle injury. The men's top-ranked Dong Jiong of China made a second-round exit.

In the mixed doubles, second seed Kim Dong-moon and Ra Kyung-min of South Korea won dlr 4,000 each with a 15-12, 15-9 victory over top-seeded Jens Eriksen and Marlene Thomsen of Denmark.

Top seed Gu Jun and Ge Fei walked over compatriots Tang Young-shu and Qin Yiyuan, seeded second, in the women's doubles because of Qin's sickness. Organisers said Qin was suffering from a cold.

In the men's doubles, third seed Cheah Soon Kit and Yap Kim Hock of Malaysia defeated fifth-seeded Antonius Budi Irianto and Denny Kantono of Indonesia 15-9, 15-7.

Gong, in contention for her fifth overall international title, never trailed after grabbing a 5-0 lead at the outset. She went on to take the first set in one-sided fashion, capitalising on Ye's errors and hasty attacks.

Ye, seeking her third Japan Open title, showed some impressive attacks and defense in the latter half of the second set but it was too late for her to turn the tide.

"I was pleased the way I played against the hitherto invincible Ye," said a jubilant Gong. "I have been losing close matches against her except the occasion in which she beat me in a one-sided game in the All-England Open final."

In her third of four previous matches against Ye, Gong lost 11-3, 11-1 at the England Open in March last year.

"I didn't expect to score an easy victory today," said Gong. "It was attributable to the many errors on her part and very few mistakes on my part."

Gade Christensen, said, "I hope my victory today, following that of Peter Rasmussen here last year, will give some confidence to the European players."

Rasmussen, also from Denmark, was eliminated in the second round this year.



THERE SHE GOES: Yet another flashing drive races towards the boundary as Saurav Ganguly takes charge. The flamboyant left-hander smashed a career-best 124. — Star photo

PAKISTAN-INDIA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the tri-nation Coca-Cola Independence Cup third and last final match between Pakistan and India at the Dhaka Stadium on Sunday:

PAKISTAN				
Saeed Anwar	c Azharuddin	b Harvinder	140	
Shahid Afridi	c Robin b Harvinder		18	
Aamir Sohail	c Mongolia b Harvinder		14	
Ijaz Ahmed	c Sidhu b Srinath		117	
Azhar Mahmood	c Azharuddin b Tendulkar		10	
Muhammad Hussain	not out		02	
Extras: (lb-7, w-6)			13	
Total: (for five wickets in curtailed 48 overs)			314	

Did not bat: Inzamamul Haq, Rashid Latif, M Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq, Aaqib Javed.

Fall of wickets: 1-30; 2-66; 3-296; 4-301; 5-314.

INDIA				
Bowling:				
Javagal Srinath	10	0	61	1
Harvinder Singh	10	0	74	3
Robin Singh	8	0	47	0
Saurav Ganguly	2	0	5	0
Hrishikesh Kanitkar	6	0	33	0
Sachin Tendulkar	7	0	49	1
Rahul Sanghvi	5	0	38	0

Saurav Ganguly b Aaqib 124

Sachin Tendulkar c Mahmood b Afridi 41

Robin Singh c Aaqib b Hussain 82

M Azharuddin c Sohail b Saqlain 4

Ajay Jadeja b Saqlain 8

Naylot Singh Sidhu lbw b Saqlain 5

H Kanitkar not out 11

Nayan Mongia run out (Rashid Latif) 9

J Srinath not out 5

Extras: (b-1, lb-11, w-13, nb-2) 27

Total: (For seven wickets in 47.5 overs) 316

Did not bat: Harvinder Singh, Rahul Sanghvi.

Fall of wickets: 1-71; 2-250; 3-268; 4-274; 5-281; 6-296; 7-306.

INDIA				
Bowling:				
Aaqib Javed	9.2	0	63	1
Azhar Mahmood	8	0	55	1
Shahid Afridi	6.4	0	56	1
Saqlain Mushtaq	9.5	0	66	3
Muhammad Hussain	10	0	40	1
Manzoor Akhtar	4	0	24	0

Result: India won by three wickets to earn 2-1 victory in the three-match final.

Player-of-the-match: Saurav Ganguly (India).

Player-of-the-series: Sachin Tendulkar (India).

Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (South Africa) and Russel Tiffin (Zimbabwe).



Supporters of the Indian side had a field day yesterday as their heroes delivered with aplomb in the third and deciding final of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup. — Star photo

Headley hogs the headlines

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica, Jan 18: Pace bowler Dean Headley had immediate success as he returned to the land of his Test-playing father and grandfather to put England well in command of their match against Jamaica today, reports Reuters.

Headley took a wicket in his first over and added two more to end with three for 23 after the second-day of the four-day match.

Jamaica were than in deep trouble on 108 for eight in reply to England's first innings 286 for eight declared.

The architect of England's first innings total was left-hander Graham Thorpe who battled for 333 minutes on a difficult pitch to score a potentially match-winning 89.

Thorpe, who completed an 80-run sixth-wicket partnership with Jack Russell (29) after England resumed at their overnight 179 for five, finally fell playing a tired shot to be caught at extra cover.

England declared immediately on his dismissal, but not before Headley, introduced on a booming Tannoy announcement as he walked into bat as "the descendant of the illustrious George," had compiled a useful and unbeaten 18.

Headley, whose grandfather George was known as the "black Bradman" and his father Ron was a West Indies Test opener, made an immediate impact when he opened England's bowling in his first senior match on the island where his forebears had made their names.

With his fourth legitimate delivery, after bowling two no-balls, Headley had Robert Samuels caught low down by wicketkeeper Russell.

In his fourth over Headley dismissed Jamaica's other opener Leon Garrick, also for a duck, and had Jamaica in deep trouble at 10 for two.

Headley returned after tea to bowl Wavell Hinds for 18. After left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell made Jimmy Adams play on, Andrew Caddick took three wickets in nine balls to finish with four for 24.

It left Jamaica facing a comprehensive defeat, probably within three days.

Hockey results

CANBERRA, Australia, Jan 18: The Netherlands scored three goals in the second half Sunday to draw 3-3 with Australia in the fifth field hockey Test, reports AP.

Teun de Nooijer scored in the 64th minute to level the match after Australia have led 3-0 after the opening half on goals in the first, fourth and 19th minute.

Australia have a 2-1 edge in the six-Test series along with two draws.

FINA accepts Sino system

PERTH, Jan 18: Chinese assurances that six drug offences at the World Swimming Championships are not a sign of systematic doping have been accepted by the sport's governing body, reports AP.

FINA honorary secretary Gunnar Werner said Sunday that there was no reason to believe that just because six Chinese swimmers were expelled from the meet it pointed to deeper problems in the Chinese system.

"It is not a systematic thing decided by the Chinese federation," Werner said.

"It is certain coaches and certain swimmers involved and I'm sure the Chinese swimming federation is taking every step in order to stop this."

Four Chinese swimmers tested positive for the diuretic triamterene while teammate Yuan Yuan was suspended for four years after muscle-building human growth hormones were found in her bag on arrival in Sydney.

Yuan's coach Zhou Zhewen was banned for 15 years after he told authorities that he packed Yuan's bag.

Diuretics carry a minimum two-year suspension for first offences and Werner admitted it might be worthwhile to follow the International Olympic Committee lead and put them on a par with steroids.

"They are used to rid the system of harder drugs. Under FINA rules steroids carry a minimum four-year ban, although the IOC and all other Olympic sports organisations have opted for two-year bans."

He said any change would come about after discussions by FINA's doping panel and executive, and would need to be ratified by the full congress.

"We are going to investigate that and bring it to the congress," Werner said.

FINA rules also dictate that the Chinese Swimming Association and its national Olympic Committee will be the next authorities to probe the drug scandals which put a cloud over the entire championships.

"We have no powers to get into China to make an investigation there. We have to leave it to our members to take care of that kind of investigation," Werner said.

He expressed faith in the Chinese federation.

BATTING & BOWLING AVGS

The followings are the batting and bowling averages of the tri-nation Coca-Cola Independence Cup held at the Dhaka Stadium from January 10 to 18, 1998:

BATTING								
India								
Name of player	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	100s	50s	Avg
M Azharuddin	5	5	1	284	100	1	2	71.00
S Tendulkar	5	5	0	258	96	0	3	51.60
S Ganguly	5	5	0	242	124	1	1	48.40
Robin Singh	5	4	0	96	82	0	1	24.00
R Kanitkar	2	2	2	24	13*	0	0	24.00
A Jadeja	5	5	1	69	34	0	0	17.25
J Srinath	5	3	2	17	12	0	0	17.00
N Singh Sidhu	5	4	0	47	36	0	0	11.75
N Mongia	5	4	2	20	10	0	0	10.00
S Bahutule	4	2	0	12	11	0	0	6.00
D Mohanty	4	1	0	4	4	0	0	4.00
Harvinder Singh	4	1	1	3	3*	0	0	3.00
Pakistan								
S Anwar	5	5	1	315	140	1	1	78.75
Ijaz Ahmed	5	4	1	209	117	1	0	69.67
Inzamamul Haq	5	3	0	150	77	0	1	50.00
Aamir Sohail	5	5	1	116	37*	0	0	29.00
M Akhtar	5	2	0	48	39	0	0	24.00
A Mahmood	5	3	0	56	30	0	0	18.67
S Mushtaq	5	2	1	18	11	0	0	18.00
S Afridi	5	5	0	84	29	0	0	16.80
R Latif	5	2	1	15	14*	0	0	15.00
M Ahmed	2	1	0	10	10	0	0	10.00
F Akbar	1	1	0	7	7	0	0	7.00
M Hussain	2	2	2	2	2*	0	0	2.00
Bangladesh								
Aminul	2	2	1	75	69*	0	1	75.00
K Mahmud	2	2	0	66	47	0	0	33.00
M Rafique	2	2	0	49	29	0	0	24.50
Habibul	1	1	0	17	17	0	0	17.00
Sanwar	2	2	0	22	13	0	0	11.00
Shariful	1	1	0	10	10	0	0	10.00
J Omar	2	2	0	19	15	0	0	9.50
K Masood	2	2	0	11	8	0	0	5.50
Safiuddin	2	2	1	6	6*	0	0	6.00
Hasibul	2	2	0	10	7	0	0	5.00
Akram Khan	2	2	0	9	7	0	0	4.50
Shahriar	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1.00
BOWLING								
India								
Name of player	O	M	Runs	W	BB			Avg
J Srinath	44	5	202	11	5/23			8.36
Harvinder Singh	28	0	174	8	3/47			1.75
D Mohanty	24	1	133	5	3/30			6.60
S Tendulkar	23.3	0	148	5	3/45			9.60
Robin Singh	36	3	150	2	2/24			5.00
S Bahutule	27	0	180	1	1/31			80.00
R Kanitkar	13	1	60	0				
S Ganguly	8	1	26	0				
R Sangvi	5	0	38	0				
Pakistan								
M Hussain	20	1	73	5	4/33			4.60
S Mushtaq	45.4	0	229	13	4/41			7.62
Mushtaq Ahmed	17	0	68	3	2/20			2.67
Aaqib Javed	36.2	1	197	7	2/27			8.14
S Afridi	41.4	3	189	4	2/25			7.25
M Akhtar	13.2	0	84	0				
F Akbar	2	0	19	0				
A Sohail	1	0	9	0				
Bangladesh								
Safiuddin	16	1	82	3	2/40			7.33
M Rafique	15	1	60	1	1/42			0.00
Hasibul	15.2	2	63	1	1/37			3.00
Aminul	6.2	0	23	0				
K Mahmud	11	0	57	0				
Shariful	3	0	21	0				
Zakir	4	1	18	0				