

Sport

Croatia dictate terms

LENS, June 15: Croatia beat Jamaica 3-1 in a battle of World Cup debutants on Sunday. Finally making class and experience tell against the stubborn Reggie Boyz, reports Reuters.

It took second half goals from two of Croatia's old hands, Robert Prosinecki and Davor Suker, to subdue a team from an island with no professional league that achieved its greatest sporting success by getting to the finals in France.

"Jamaica doesn't lose. Jamaica is always the winner because they learn," said coach Rene Simoes while admitting that Croatia had deserved to win.

After a nervous start when Jamaica had much of the possession, Croatia took the lead in the 27th minute after striker Mario Stanic received the ball back off the crossbar from Igor Stimac's drive and scored from close in.

But the packed ranks of noisy Jamaican supporters were sent into ecstasy almost on the stroke of half-time when Jamaican wing-back Ricardo Gardner sent over a perfect cross for Robbie Earle to crash home a header into the top corner.

Earle, one of five English-based players in the Jamaican side, was a surprise inclusion in a team playing three strikers hoping to latch onto long balls from midfield.

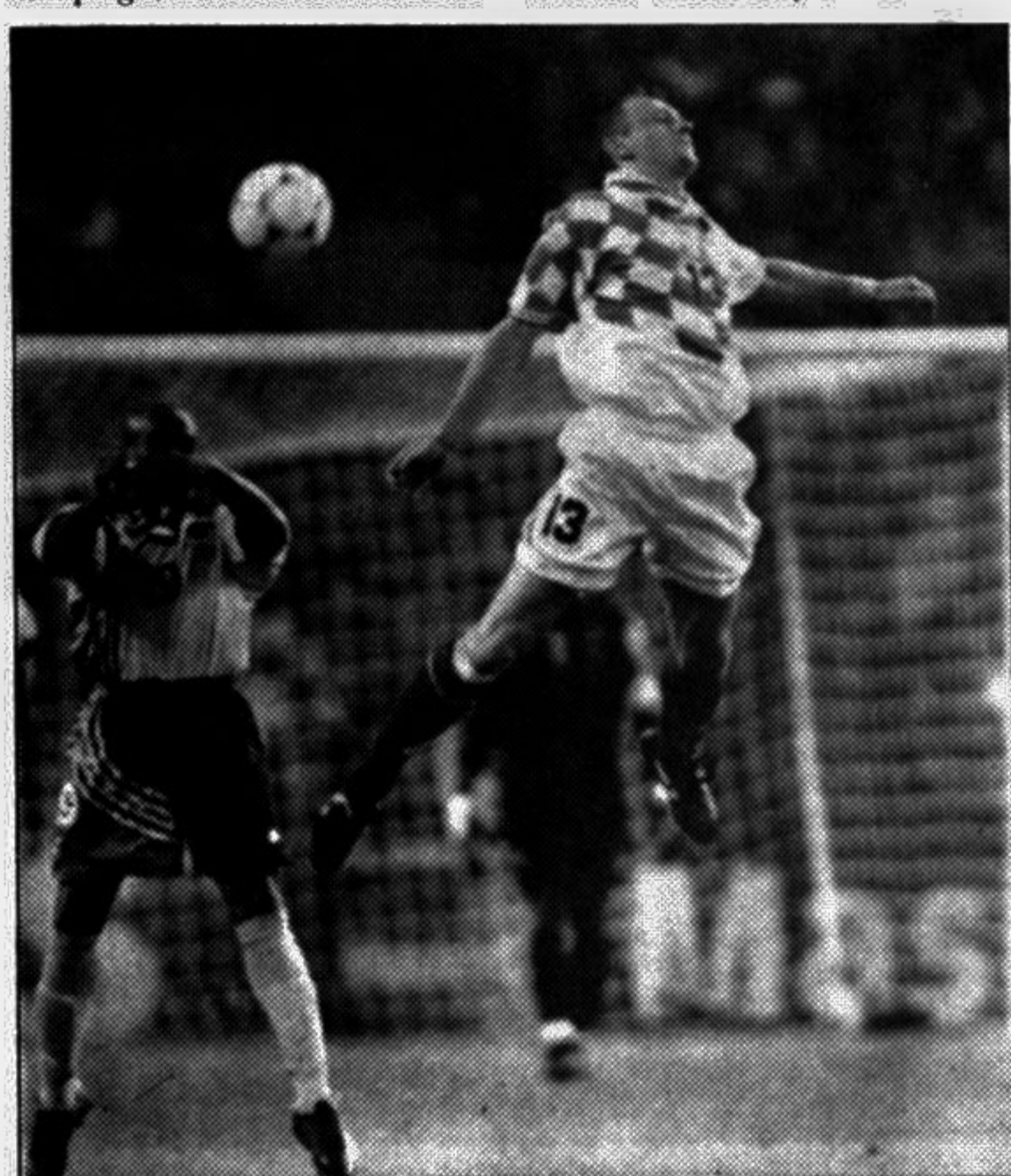
The plan worked for Earle's goal, but Croatia took control in midfield after half-time and squeezed Jamaica out of the game.

"I asked our defence to push into the Jamaican half because I noticed that their counter-attacks were probably not quick enough to take our defence by surprise," said Croatian coach Miroslav Blazevic.

"Probably, if we won, it's because we had a little bit more experience and, without any disrespect to Jamaica, because we were also the better team."

Croatia looked much more determined in the second half, and got their just reward in the 53rd minute when a chipped cross from Croatia's Zagreb midfielder Prosinecki looped over Warren Barrett into the Jamaica goal.

Prosinecki had scored at Italia '90 when Croatia was still part of a United Yugoslavia. He is the first player to score for



Croatia's Mario Stanic (R) back-heads during the match against Jamaica at Lens on June 14. — AFP photo

two different countries in the World Cup finals.

Jamaica could have struck back within 60 seconds when Deon Burton, another English-born player who was the four-goal hero of their qualifying campaign, beat Ladic with a free

Match against Ireland A Bangladesh on verge of victory

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh were on the verge of recording victory against Ireland A in match played yesterday at Cork, Republic of Ireland, when late reports came in late last night. Ireland were in trouble with 150 runs on the board and having lost eight wickets in 38 overs in reply to Bangladesh's fighting total of 256 for five.

Going in to bat in the morning, Bangladesh middle-order Faruque Ahmed hammered highest 78 followed by another middle-order Naimur Rahman who chipped in with 52.

In the current fortnight-long tour of Ireland and Northern Ireland, Bangladesh lost their opening match to the Irish national side whereas the remaining four matches between the two teams were washed out. Bangladesh had the better of a provincial team when they won by six wickets. The match at Cork was their last outing in the Irish leg of their six-week tour of UK, Ireland and N Ireland.

The England tour will begin on June 18 with their first match against the Radlett Cricket Club.

National chess
Rakib gives Reefat the blush

Abdullah Al Rakib and Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon jointly lead the 24th national Chess Championship with seven points after the 8th round at the NSC auditorium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the 8th round, Rakib of Levine Chess Club defeated International Master Reefat bin Sattar of Biman and Emon of Magura beat Ashrafur Rahman Murad of Narayanganj.

Two players — Rezaul Haq of Biman and Aminul Islam Palash of Jhenidah — followed the leaders with six and half points.

Seven others are jointly shared third position with six points. They are — Reefat bin Sattar, Kayes Hasan, Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu, Shawkat Hossain Pallab, Arman Monir, Manzur Alam and Ashrafur Rahman Murad.

National schools
football from next month

The government has decided to launch inter-school football tournament throughout the country from next month, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader while addressing the concluding function of an 11-day Olympic solidarity football coaches course yesterday, reports UNB.

Jimmy McDarmut from Ireland was the trainer of the course, jointly organised by Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) and Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for improving the standard of the popular game.

Quader called upon the participants to build up skilled football players by applying their acquired knowledge and experience across the country.

Presided over by BOA president Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, the function was addressed, among others, by its vice-president Farooq Khan, MP, and secretary general Golan Quddus Chowdhury.

Headley to take Gough's place

LONDON, June 15: Kent fast bowler Dean Headley was named on Sunday to replace the injured Darren Gough in the England team for the second Test against South Africa at Lord's starting on Thursday, reports AFP.

Chris Silverwood, the 23-year-old Yorkshire seamer, has been brought into England's 12 but will play only if either Headley, Angus Fraser or Dominic Cork break down in practice.

Own goal syndrome!

PARIS, June 15 (AFP): Scotland's Tommy Boyd innocently set off a World Cup trend when he put through an own goal in last week's defeat against Brazil.

Prior to France '98 there had been only 18 own goals in World Cup history going back seven decades — barely one per tournament.

No sooner had Boyd given Scottish hopes of snatching a point the cold shoulder than Morocco's Youssef Chippo had headed into his own net against Norway and South Africa's Pierre Issa had deflected a short past his own 'keeper to gift France a goal.

Less than sparked something of a debate when he could only help a Thierry Henry shot into the net.

No less a body than FIFA's Technical Commission immediately sprang into action to deal with the burning issue: When is an own goal not an own goal?

According to FIFA, the main criterion is if an intervention by a defender changes the direction of the shot.

Yet confusion continues to dog the issue, especially after Spain's match against Nigeria when Garba Lawal's second goal for the Africans would surely have missed the target had Spanish keeper Andoni Zubizarreta not spooned it over the line.

Ex-England Manager Terry Venables, in France for the tournament, said he believed that instance was a clear case of an own-goal.

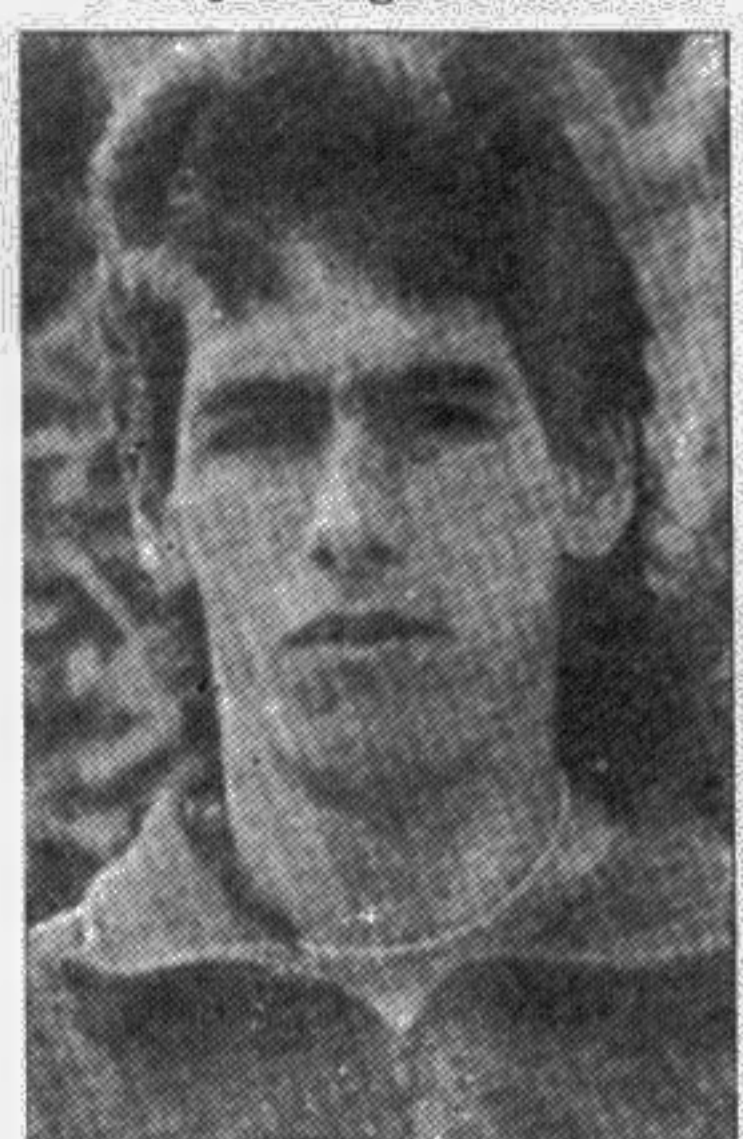
Yet US referee Esfandiar Baharmast clearly thought differently in awarding the goal to Lawal.

And Mexico's Duilio Davino also kept his name off the 'list of shame' when Ha Seok-Ju claimed a goal for South Korea,

despite Davino deflecting the effort into the net.

The all-time record of own goals at a World Cup is five — in just 26 matches — in Switzerland in 1954.

Four years ago in the United



ANDRES ESCOBAR

States the only own goal came from Andres Escobar of Colombia against the hosts — and he paid for it with his life when he was gunned down on his return home.

A Swiss player, Lorstcher, had the unwanted honour of scoring the first own goal in World Cup history in 1938 against Germany.

The five names to go into the record books in 1954 were Cruz of Uruguay, Hanappi of Austria, Horvat of Germany, Dickinson of England and Cardenas of Mexico.

And it can happen to the best.

In 1978, the current German coach Bertie Vogts natted at the

wrong in a memorable 3-2 defeat by Austria, a win the Austrians will never forget.

Vogts joked he wanted to end his career — it was his 96th and last international — on a high note and scoring would have put the icing on the cake.

"I only scored twice in my 96 games," he says in FIFA's World Cup Magazine.

"Once in an 8-0 win over Malta and the other one in the Austria game."

"Sepp Maier dropped a powerful cross and it rebounded off my heel into the net. But over time I've become less bothered about it. And it did the Austrians a favour. After all they hadn't beaten us in 47 years," Vogts laughed.

Unfortunately for Boyd, Vogts and company, their errors will always stand out.

FIFA statistics show that of the 1,610 goals scored at the World Cup since the first in 1930, just 21 were own goals — that's 1.3 per cent.

Div I b'ball
Dharmketu amble, Hornets struggle

Dharmketu Club and Hornets SC won their respective matches of the Purabi Insurance First Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the first match, Dharmketu Club earned a massive 108-65 points victory over the Shaon's Club after dominating the first half 46-26. Samir caged highest 39 points and Swapan 19 for the winners.

In the second match, Hornets Sporting Club beat Gregarious Club 74-64 after trailing 34-36 in the first half. Tarun of Hornets scored 25 points while Hasib of Gregarious 17 points.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-97

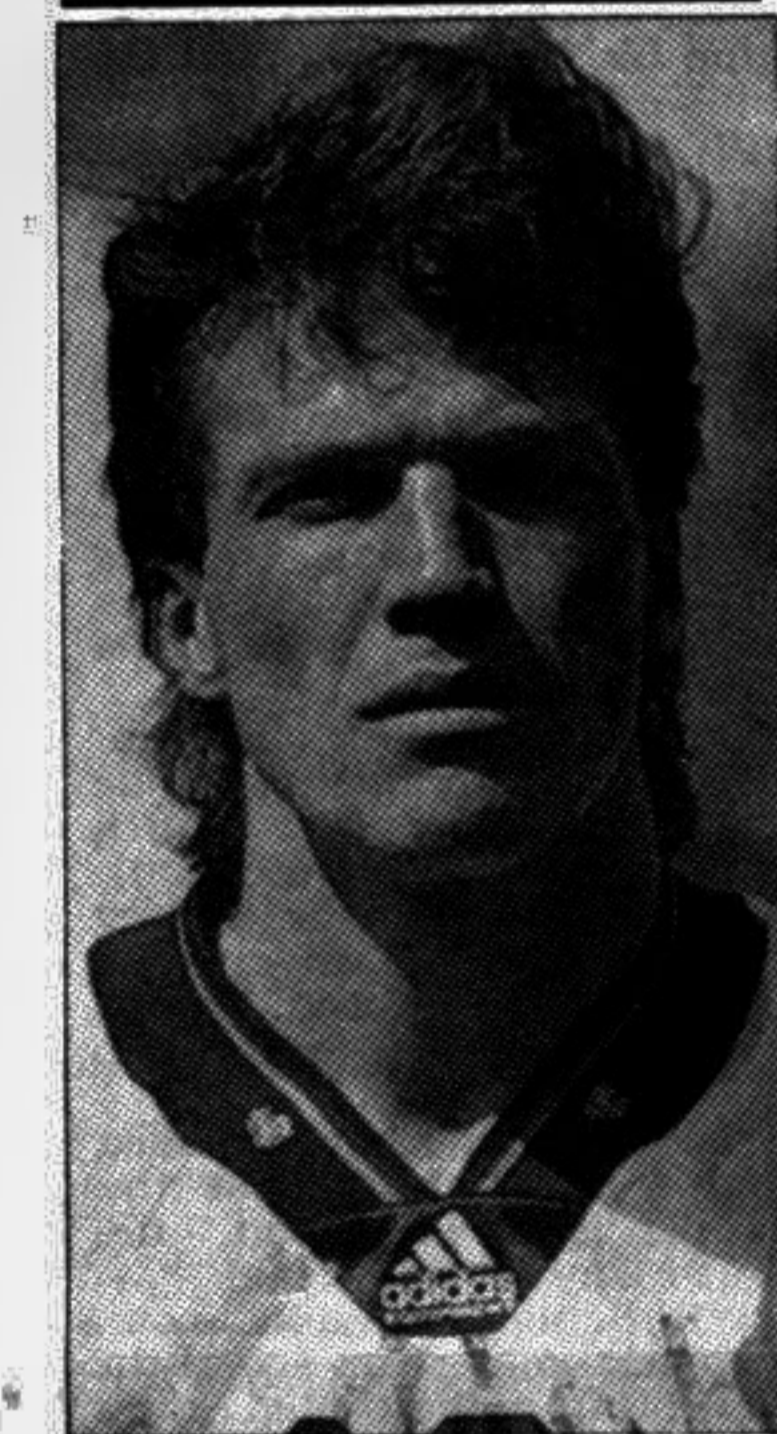
✓ Tick the correct answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm on June 26, 1998

- Who is known as the Desert Maradona?
Al-Jaber | Al-Owairan | Said Chiba
- Who scored the first goal at France '98?
Sampalo | Collins | Boyd
- Who is the new FIFA president?
Blatter | Platini | Johansson
- Who is the soccer coach of Jamaica?
Acosta | Hiddink | Simoes
- Who was Brojen Das?
Footballer | Swimmer | Cricketer

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

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SPORTS TALK



Lothar Matthaeus
(German football player)
"If Bertie Vogts chooses to put me on the substitutes' bench I will accept his decision."

Diego depressed

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, June 15 (AP/Internet): Argentine soccer star Diego Armando Maradona announced Sunday that he will not fly to France, at least for the time being, because he was "depressed" by his court sentence for a 1994 shooting incident.

Maradona was scheduled to be a television commentator for the local news Multimedia America, covering the Argentine football team's performance in France '98.

"I feel very depressed and not inclined to take a decision on covering the World Cup as a TV commentator, at least for the time being," Maradona told the local radio station La Red.

Heroes and Villains

By Sue Mott

A SMALL hail of the heroes of hypocrisy might be suitable at this point. They do a fabulous job, the international managers who would kill their grannies, with bare hands if necessary, for a World Cup group win and yet must appear to be the moral touchstone of their nation when anything slightly dodgy is going down.

Glenn Hoddle had the Teddy-Gazza hoop to jump through, and it has never yet been fully explained why one man's boozing in the Algarve constitutes a pre-tournament warm-up while another man's boozing in La Manga is his nemesis. I feel the unmistakable waft of the air brush.

Daniel Passarella, the Argentinian authoritarian who banned homosexuals, long hair and earrings from his team, has been less than true to his word. For was not the pouting Batisuta, "The Angel Gabriel" to his fans, revealed to us yesterday with locks straggling over his consciously up-turned shirt collar?

And likewise afterwards, Egil Olsen, the Norwegian manager, found himself uncomfortably adding a spike to his own making as two of his players were exposed as dirty stop-

outs by other members of the team. Henning Berg, of Manchester United, and Erik Mykland, of Panathinaikos, both took a temporary transfer to La Paradiso Club in La Baule on Friday night. Had they gone on a Viking pillage of Lourdes down the road, they could scarcely have offended more greatly against the puritanical trend.

Olsen, a cyclist, a socialist and a poker player, then had a tough hand to play. He had already opined that had the errant Teddy Sheringham been of Norse extraction, he would have sent him home, horned helmet and all. Here was his chance to prove it. But given that Mykland provides impish quality in midfield and Berg can defend, although somewhat slow and square against Morocco (no reflection of his technique on the dance floor), Olsen thought again.

He called them "a pair of gangsters" and let it drop.

So where do you turn to find beautiful truth in this World Cup? Perhaps, ironically, to the occasional Sheffield Wednesday manager, Ron Atkinson.

Discussing Cuahtemoc Blanco's picturesque two-footed kangaroo hop to evade a couple

of South Korean defenders, a move of breathtaking audacity and invention, Ron expressed the immortal opinion that next time Blanco tries it, he'll get wellied. Ah, the sweet balm of straight-talking.

Hristo Bonev, the Bulgarian coach, was hopping mad.

With vast indignation, he laid into FIFA on Friday for imposing the regime that sent off Anatoli Nankov for two bookable offences. "People come to the World Cup to see football played in a man's way," he said. And he didn't mean to see them leave their dirty tea cups in the sink.

He meant a bit of argy-bargy, and following Patrick Kluivert's wholly unjustified dismissal in the 83rd minute of the Holland-Belgium scoreless draw, I would venture to suggest that there is a grain of truth in Bonev's hot words. In the Dutchman's case, he was a victim made villain.

Reruns, close-ups and zoom-ins have now established the fact that Kluivert refused to shake hands with Lorenzo Staelens, following a collision-cum-guerrilla attack by five Belgian defenders. This was impolite and childish of him. He should have leapt up, taken the professed hand, demanded Belgian chocolates by way of reparation and forgotten the incident. He did nothing of the sort. But he would not be the first spoiled brat in football shorts.

Instead, after a bit of chat and pointing, he nudged Staelens with an elbow. Nudged him, on the arm, whereupon the Belgian collapsed to the ground clutching his entirely unmolesated face. Perhaps he had suddenly noticed a spot coming up.

Yugoslav's rusty return from the wilderness

FRANCE, June 11 (AFP/Internet): A serious blunder by Iran's stand-in goalkeeper Nima Nakisa spared Yugoslavia's blushes on their return to the World Cup finals after six years in the international wilderness.

Nakisa, 23 and playing in only his eighth international in place of the injured Ahmad Abedzadeh, was caught badly out of position 18 minutes from the end as Sinisa Mihajlovic's 22-metre (25-yard) freekick whistled past him into the net.

Mihajlovic, a defender with Sampdoria in Italy's Serie A, specialises in curling shots from set pieces. But his effort on this occasion only found the back of the net because Nakisa moved the wrong way-before he struck it. It was a heart-breaking blow for the Iranians who had until then comfortably matched the highly-rated Yugoslavs and looked set to secure an unexpected draw in their first World Cup finals appearance since 1978.

Despite the setback, Iran battled until the end and they twice went close to snatching what would have been a deserved equaliser in the closing minutes. Only a last-minute lunge by Goran Djorovic blocked Mehdi Mahdavi's blow from firing home after being put clear in the box by Cologne striker Khodadad Azizi.

Then, with just minutes left, Ali Daei rose magnificently above the Yugoslav defence only to see his textbook header bounce straight into the arms of

FC Porto's new signing Ivica Kralj.

Iranian coach Jalal Talebi refused to blame his young keeper for the defeat. "He is still very young and if we lost today it was because of the inexperience throughout the team not just him," Talebi said. Despite the defeat, Iran's solid performance leaves them with grounds for optimism going into their politically-charged second match against the United States next Sunday. "We showed that we can hold our own against one of the best teams in the world and we will fight all the way," Talebi said. "If we are going to go down, we will go down fighting."

In contrast, Yugoslavia, who have been tipping themselves to cruise into the quarter-finals, will have to sharpen up considerably if they are to translate their outstanding collection of individual talents into an effective team performance in their second match against Germany. Coach Slobodan Santrac, clearly furious with his side's lacklustre performance, accused his players of failing to heed his warnings not to underestimate the Iranians. "I am

satisfied that we won but I am not satisfied with the performance of my team," he said. "I told them Iran was a strong team but nobody believed me."

For Santrac, the biggest cause for concern was the poor performance of playmaker Dragan Stojkovic, who was completely outshone by the im-

pressive Karim Bagheri in midfield and was substituted 20 minutes from the end. Striker Savo Milosevic said the side's chances of going far in the tournament should not be written off just because of one below-par performance. "We were quite lucky to win but we've got the three points and that is what counts." The first game is always difficult especially if you are playing a team that gets eight or nine players behind the ball. "Milosevic admitted that Yugoslavia would have to be sharper for their next clash, against Germany. But he added: "Sometimes it is easier to play against good teams."

Yugoslavia dominated the early exchanges and went close to opening the score in the 15th minute when big defender Djorovic met Stojkovic's corner with a looping header that bounced off the bar with Nakisa stranded.

But after overcoming their early nerves the Iranians settled down and began to push forward as the Yugoslavs struggled to find their rhythm. Bhagari combined sweetly with Azizi down the right to create an opening for Mehdi Mahdavi, who blasted the ball straight at Ivica Kralj in the Yugoslav goal. The best chance of the opening period fell to Mehdi Mahdavi.

Daei and Azizi combined to send the midfielder into the box on the left then watched in dismay as he failed to hit the target from close range.



Iran's star striker Daei (No 10) and Yugoslavia's Mihajlovic locked in an aerial tussle during their Group F match at St Etienne on June 14. — AFP photo

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98

Win These Breathtaking Prizes !!!

ROUND 6

1st Prize: Philips CD Mini System
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3rd Prize: Philips Blender with Mill
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Competition Information, Prizes and Rules

Information

- The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in France from June 10 to July 12, 1998.
- There will be nine rounds of competition.
- Each round will have a separate draw with attractive prizes from the house of Transcom Electronics Ltd. as per announcement.
- Participants of all the nine rounds will automatically qualify for the Bumper Draw, which will have even bigger prizes.
- For each round, sets of questions will be published in The Daily Star Sport Pages.
- Names and addresses of all prize winners will be published in The Daily Star.
- Winners will have to collect their prizes from The Daily Star office after satisfactory authentication of their identity.
- Any taxes or levies, as per law, for all the above prizes will have to be borne by the prize winners.

Prizes for Round Six

Prize	Nos.	Item
1st	One	Philips CD Mini System
2nd	One	Philips 14" B/W TV
3rd	One	Philips Blender with Mill
4th	Five	Philips Bulbs 4 dozen (5 boxes)
5th	25	T-shirt and cap

Rules

- Residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98. Employees of The Daily Star and Transcom Electronics Ltd and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate.
- All entries must be submitted in the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
- Forms will have to be cut along the dotted lines.
- Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box alongside their answer to each question.
- A person may send numerous entries.
- Entry forms should be completed with a ballpoint pen.
- Name, address, father's name and particulars of participants must be clearly written. Each entry form must also bear the signature of the participant and date.
- Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
- Entries must reach the office of The Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star Quiz 6."
- Entries may be hand delivered or posted to The Daily Star, House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1205.
- Entries will be placed in a sealed box for the draw to be held on a notified date in public presence of invited guests and Quiz participants, if any.
- Winners will be decided on the basis of correct entries drawn out from the box.
- Entering this Quiz competition shall be construed as the respective agreement by each participant to abide by all rules, instructions and guidelines as may be issued by The Daily Star.
- Any decision of The Daily Star in the conduct of the Quiz competition including the answers selected as correct shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.
- The Daily Star management, in their absolute discretion, reserves the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or reschedule any and all dates of the Quiz competitions under any circumstances.

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98, Round Six Ends June 17, 1998

Tick (✓) the correct answers

- Jersey colour of Saudi Arabia is green and Yellow White Blue
- Number of World Cup '98 stadiums Eight Ten Twelve
- Uruguay has won the World Cup Once Twice Thrice
- The France '98 mascot is called Footix Xantia L'amour
- Logo of which country? Cameroon Mexico Italy

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) Age

Father's name Occupation

Address

Telephone (if any) Signature Date

Write with a ballpoint pen in clear BLOCK letters.
Cut along the dotted lines and mail to OR drop in the Quiz Box at The Daily Star.
You may send as many entries as you like. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "Star Quiz 6."