

Sport

J-League will scrape shootouts

TOKYO, Aug 18 (AFP/Internet): Japan's premier football league, the J-League, will abolish shootouts and introduce draws to team standings beginning next year...

Kyrgyzstan trounce Bhutan

BANGALORE, Aug 18: Hosts India beat the Maldives by a solitary goal, while Kyrgyzstan outplayed Bhutan 5-0 on the opening day of the Group Six qualifying round...

Inter may have to do without Baggio



MILAN, Aug 18 (AFP/Internet): Inter Milan could pay a high price for his Spagnolo after Roberto Baggio pulled a thigh muscle and could miss next week's European Champions League tie...

been the star of Inter's 4-0 first leg victory last week over Skonto Riga, setting up all of the first three goals and scoring the fourth.

Next Wednesday, Inter head for Latvia to finish the job. Baggio also lined up another goal against Getafe and has all-already established himself as a key figure in Inter's 1998/99 campaign.

On the plus side, Monday's test showed the growing success of their new 20-year-old striker Nicola Ventola and 19-year-old playmaker Andrea Pirlo.

After finding the target against Skonto Riga, Ventola scored the last two Inter goals against Genoa, one of them a header from a superb Pirlo cross.

"I'm getting better with every game," said Ventola, who paid tribute to his strike partner, Chilean veteran Ivan Zamorano.

"With this group of players and being with Zamorano I'm learning so many new things every day -- things I need for the present and also for the future," he said.

Ventola's dream is to keep his place in the side when Ronaldo returns and to play alongside the Brazilian ace next season.

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Hodde tries to defuse book row

BISHAM ABBEY, England, Aug 18 (AFP/Internet): Glenn Hodde insisted here on Tuesday that the row over his World Cup book would not affect his position as England coach.

"None of this controversy will affect my decision as to whether or not I sign a new contract," said the England coach.

"I have two years of my current contract still remaining and that is how things stand at this moment in time," Hodde continued.

"All this controversy is not justified in my opinion, so I do not have to justify anything. The only thing in my mind at the moment is working with the players I have here and qualifying for the European Championship."

Hodde's current contract expires after Euro 2000. But discussions have already begun with FA bosses as to whether or not he will remain in the job to lead England into the next World Cup finals.

Hodde has been working here since the weekend with a squad of players in preparation for England's first Euro 2000 qualifying match against Sweden early in September. But as he faced the press for the first time since the furore over his 'The 1998 World Cup Story' there were no questions about the forthcoming game.

While all the focus was on his book, Hodde said it had not affected this get together.

He said: "I am very surprised by all the fuss and when people read the book they will be able to make their own decisions."

There has been no adverse feelings among the players, they have been very positive and there have been no problems. I asked any players to come and see me if they had a problem and not one came forward. This is disingenuous in the extreme. Players would be understandably reticent. A tete-a-tete with the England coach could guarantee them prominence in the next volume from the Hodde pen.

As the six-day event opened, Papadakis clocked the fastest time in the first round of 100-metre qualifying, cruising home in 10.27 seconds.

Other favourites also advanced, in slow times on a hot and sunny morning in the Hungarian capital.

They included Norway's Geir Moen (10.38) and Anninos Marcoulides of Cyprus (10.38). But the Cypriot, who is second in Europe this year with a 10.12, was only third in his heat, behind Marchin Nowak of Poland (10.35) and Stefano Tilli of Italy, 10.37.

Stephane Diagana of France, the 400-metre hurdles world champion, cleared the first round of qualifying by winning his heat in 49.28.

Carlos Silva of Portugal led all qualifiers with a time of 1:01.90.

The 29-year-old, however, changed his plans in recent weeks when Real Madrid began expressing interest in his services.

Jarni arrived in the Spanish capital on Sunday and passed a medical test early Monday after which he put his name to a three-season contract, a club official said. There are details available regarding the financial terms of the deal.

The official could not comment on whether Madrid would have to pay any money to Coventry as part of the signing.

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Boban feels he can fit in



MILAN, Aug 18 (AFP/Internet): Zvonimir Boban believes that if he can overcome a mistake which cost Croatia a place in the World Cup final, he can also cope with the current revolution at AC Milan.

Milan have changed their players, coach, training methods and system of play under new boss Alberto Zaccheroni, who is preaching the 3-4-3 approach he used successfully last season with Udinese.

The project is fraught with problems, given that Milan's old guard have played 4-4-2 for more than a decade, but Boban is convinced it can work.

And the Croatian skipper is no stranger to dealing with hurdles, having overcome a major one after guiding his country into the semifinals of France '98 and then committing a terrible blunder.

With the scores level at 1-1, Boban lost possession to Lilian Thuram on the edge of the penalty area at the Stade de France on July 8.

The Frenchman went on to score a 70th minute winner which sent the hosts into a victorious final with Brazil, and Croatia into a third-place play-off where they beat the Dutch 2-1.

"I'm over it now, because fortunately there was the game against Holland three days later and that went well," Boban said. "But at the time, as captain of the Croatia team, it was a drama."

"After that, though, I realised that I had done so much for the team up to that point that I shouldn't feel guilty about the mistake."

The next challenge facing the 30-year-old midfielder is the 1998/99 season, and the change in the way Milan play.

"We're working on it," he said. "We're trying to understand what Zaccheroni wants, but we don't understand it fully yet. However, the fact that we're not there yet doesn't mean we haven't made progress."

"We are aware that we are changing things after so many years... but we are psychologically strong and the new recruits have a real character," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport.

"The important thing at the moment is to have the right spirit. The results so far are treated with caution."

Milan have won two of their three friendlies against foreign clubs, but Boban warned: "We also had some great results last summer, and we all know what happened when the season started."

Boban's dream now is for the club to be once again at the top of Italian football.

"Juventus are the favourites next season, and then Inter," he said. "We are a step behind them, but we're not far behind... AC Milan are still a great team."

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Real rope in Jarni

MADRID, Aug 18: Croatia's World Cup star Robert Jarni signed a three-season contract Monday with Spanish European champions side Real Madrid, reports AP.

The deal ended speculation over the future of the midfielder who decided to leave Spanish club Betis last month and had reached a deal to sign for English club Coventry.

The 29-year-old, however, changed his plans in recent weeks when Real Madrid began expressing interest in his services.

Jarni arrived in the Spanish capital on Sunday and passed a medical test early Monday after which he put his name to a three-season contract, a club official said. There are details available regarding the financial terms of the deal.

The official could not comment on whether Madrid would have to pay any money to Coventry as part of the signing.

At Real, Jarni will join fellow countryman Davor Suker, the 1998 World Cup's top scorer with six goals.

Tragedy

WARSAW, Aug 18: Two Olympic gold medalists from Poland were killed in an overnight car crash, according to media reports Tuesday, says AP.

Wladyslaw Komar, who won the shot put gold medal at Munich in 1972, and Tadeusz Slusarski, the pole vault gold medalist in Montreal in 1976, died when their vehicle collided head-on with another car late Monday in a rural area 550 kilometers (330 miles) northwest of Warsaw, said newspaper reports and the PAP state news agency.



WHO CARES ABOUT ATHLETICS! An almost vacant Budapest stadium in Budapest hosting the 17th European Athletics Championships. The picture was taken yesterday.—AFP photo

European Championships on

BUDAPEST, Aug 18: Europe's fastest men went into early action at the European Championship and Charalambos Papadakis of Greece led the favourites into the second round of the 100-metre dash Tuesday, reports AP.

As the six-day event opened, Papadakis clocked the fastest time in the first round of 100-metre qualifying, cruising home in 10.27 seconds.

Other favourites also advanced, in slow times on a hot and sunny morning in the Hungarian capital.

They included Norway's Geir Moen (10.38) and Anninos Marcoulides of Cyprus (10.38). But the Cypriot, who is second in Europe this year with a 10.12, was only third in his heat, behind Marchin Nowak of Poland (10.35) and Stefano Tilli of Italy, 10.37.

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in the day: the men's 20K walk and the men's 10,000, where Spanish and Portuguese runners were expected to battle for the medals.

The quadrennial event is suffering from a lack of major stars.

The most notable absentees are Sergie Bubka, the Ukrainian world record holder in the pole vault and six-time world champion, and Marie Jose-Perez, the 200 and 400-metre Olympic champion from France.

It may fall to a Kenyan to provide some glitter to the championship.

Wilson Kipketer is now a Danish citizen, but he was born in Kenya.

Kipketer, the 800-metre world champion and world record-holder, is eager to perform well at his first European Championship as a Danish citizen.

The field includes more than 1,300 athletes from 44 countries with Germany fielding the largest team (123) followed by France (103), Russia (101), Italy (83), Hungary (80) and Spain (76).

Nevada hearing on Sept 9

decision would come quickly. "We vote on it on the spot and we don't delay our decisions," Ghanem said.

Ghanem said Tyson would have to prove to the five-member Nevada commission that he is fit to return to the sport.

Ratner said the Nevada hearing "will be fair and impartial."

The Star-Ledger of Newark, NJ, cited unidentified sources, reported Friday that two of New Jersey's three board members might have opposed Tyson and the third member was not expected to vote.

Last month, New Jersey regulators listened as his former champion asked for his license back — but he also got angry and cursed in front of them.

Finkel didn't give a reason for the switch, other than to say there was concern over the perception that the boxer was trying to get around the Nevada ban by applying in New Jersey.

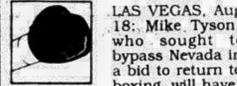
Finkel denied he feared Tyson's application would be rejected.

"I felt very positive," Finkel said, adding that he also was confident about Tyson's chances in Nevada. "We can always go back to New Jersey if it's bad in Nevada."

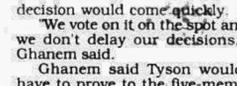
Nevada boxing regulators expected all along that Tyson would reapply for his licence in Nevada after a mandatory one-year wait.

Asking New Jersey for the licence was seen as a calculated gamble by Finkel.

Tyson's licence was revoked and he was fined 3 million dollars for biting Holyfield's ears during the third round of their June 28, 1997, rematch for the heavyweight title.



MIKE TYSON



MIKE TYSON

The Daily Star TV Guide

Wednesday 19th August (All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change)

BTV 3:00 Opening Announcement: Al Quran, Programme summary 3:15 Reotation from the Geeta 3:15 Patriotic song 3:20 Documentary programme 4:00 Khabar 4:10 Cartoon film: Back To The Future 4:45 Open Unit 5:25 Aajal Bhutan Bhara 6:00 Geelbhat 6:30 Khabar 6:40 Programme of Chitragong Centre 7:10 Krishi Tathya 7:25 Nupur Nikkan 8:00 News in Bangla 8:35 Package Drama Serial 9:25 Film show: The mysterious Island 10:00 News in English 10:30 Muktiadhara 11:30 Khabar/The News 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary 11:45 Close Down

BBC 8:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 8:30 Asia Today 8:40 World Business Report 9:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 9:30 Asia Today 9:40 World Business Report 10:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 10:30 World Focus: Reporters 11:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 11:30 World Living: The Travel Show 12:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 12:30 World Focus: Reporters 1:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:30 World Living: The Travel Show 2:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 2:30 World Focus: Reporters 3:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 3:30 World Living: The Travel Show 4:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 4:30 World Focus: Reporters 5:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 5:30 World Living: The Travel Show 6:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 6:30 World Focus: Reporters 7:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 7:30 World Living: The Travel Show 8:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 8:30 World Focus: Reporters 9:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:30 World Living: 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