SPORTS TALK

Dunga

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COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-109

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Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Jan 8 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Which country topped the medals table in the 13th Asiad?
   China | India | Japan
2. How many medals did Bangladesh clinch at the Asian Games?
   None | One | Two
3. Who scored the first century in this year's Premier cricket league?
   Azam | Shawkat | Selim
4. Where will the 14th Asian Games be held?
   Paris | Pusan | Pyongyang
5. Which team won the AB Bank Senior Div TT title?
   Jatrabari | Ansars | Biman

Name .....

.....

Class ..... **Roll No.** .....

School Address .....

.....

Phone: (If any) .....

POWERED WITH EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Div I cricket

City Club took the advantage of playing on their own turf to post a facile four-wicket win over Bangladesh Boys Club in their opening First Division Cricket league encounter yesterday, reports APB.

City Club, batting first, scored 149 for five in a match, curtailed to 46 overs due to morning fog, with one-down Sumon knocking an unbeaten 59 off featuring three fours.

Two openers — Russel and Shaon — were the other notable scorers with 22 runs each followed by Pavel and Rana who made 20 and 12 runs respectively.

For Bangladesh Boys, Ujjal, Robin, Nayeem and Sohel bagged on wicket each for 11, 13, 24 and 33 runs respectively.

In reply, City Club reached the target scoring 153 losing six wickets with 13 balls to spare.

Dugarry's move to Juventus falls thru'

MARSEILLE, Dec 31: French World Cup star Christophe Dugarry's expected move to Juventus was called off here on Wednesday.

Marseille coach Rolland Courbis told AFP that Dugarry would stay in France following a week of feverish speculation.

"Christophe Dugarry is not for sale," he said. "After taking with our club president, he has decided to stay until the end of the season."

Queen honours them

LONDON, Dec 31: Formula One motor racing team supremo Frank Williams was honoured with a knighthood in Britain's new year's Honours' List on Thursday, reports AFP.

The knighting of Sir Frank was the reward for 30 years of devotion to motor racing which brought his Williams' team nine Formula One constructors' crowns and seven individual driver's titles.

Confined to a wheelchair following an accident while he was testing one of his own cars. Sir Frank runs his team with a rod of iron that has carried fellow Britions Nigel Mansell and Damon Hill to world drivers titles.

Former England international footballer, BBC television pundit and British Sports Council stalwart Trevor Brooking earned a CBE, together with Craig Reedie, chairman of the British Olympic Association.

Rugby league's firebrand former scrum-half and top-flight coach Alex Murphy was awarded on OBE.

Notable recipients of MBEs were three-time Grand National-winning horse trainer Capt. Tim Forster, boxer Naseem Hamed and his former trainer Brendan Ingle.

Heptathlete Denise Lewis and former England international footballer Stuart Pearce.

England seam bowler Angus Fraser, fresh from his contribution to England's famous 12-run Test victory over Australia in Melbourne, and snooker favourite Jimmy White also received MBEs.

Wari win despite Rajinder s ton, Victoria s maiden win

Biman force MSC to their knees

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting suffered their worst defeat ever when title chasers Biman handed them a humiliating 222-run defeat in a Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League encounter, which concluded at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In the other two matches, Shadharan Bima suffered a loss to Wari Club by 36 runs despite a century from Indian middle-order Rajinder Singh at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, while Victoria Sporting registered their maiden victory thrashing promotees Orient Sporting by 61 runs at the BKSP ground.

Biman's Pakistan all-rounder Manzoor Akhter, who earlier on Wednesday scored an unbeaten 124 to help Biman pile up 329 for 8 in their stipulated 80 overs, yesterday took five wickets with his lethal leg spinners as Mohammedan, needing 330 to win in 80 overs, were bundled out for a paltry 107 before they could even exhaust half their quota of overs.

Manzoor, the short Karachi-based discarded Pakistan international, struck in his very second over of the day by dismissing dangerman Tikolo for eight and then removed three Mohammedan batsmen--Halim Shah (1), Mohammad Rafique (0) and Shahed Mehmud (0) in his fourth over in the space of five balls to see Mohammedan in total jeopardy on 80 for seven in 28 overs.

Tikolo, the experienced Kenyan, who had been consistently scoring for the Motijheel outfit, was caught by Hasanuzzaman at forward short leg when he tried to block Manzoor while Halim Shah was taken by Javed Omar at backward leg slip when he tried to sweep Manzoor but missed the line resulting a top edge. Rafique was then bowled by Manzoor while trying to play across a googly. Shahed Mahmud then gave a simple catch to Ziaur Rashid at silly point.

After Mehmud's departure, Mohammedan went for lunch on 91 without any further damage.

But they could resist the Biman attack for another five overs after lunch before being all out for 107.

The outcome of the match left Biman at the top of the 12-team elite league having won all their five matches . On the other hand, it was the second defeat in a row for Mohammedan on completion of their fifth encounter.

Holders Abahani, Brothers Union, Kalabagan Krira Chakra and Surjo Tarun have four wins having played five matches each.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, another Pakistani all-rounder Tareque Mehmood guided Wari Club to a 36-run win over new-comers Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha.

Tareque, who scored his second century of the league (128) on the previous day to enable Wari reach 322 in their stipulated 80 overs, went on to capture three wickets for 52 runs to shoot out Bima for 286 in 76 overs.

He was ably helped by medium-pacer Zahid who finished with two for 39.

For Bima, Indian middle-order Rajinder Singh slammed 112 of 133 balls but that did not come to any good as none of his other team-mates could reach a fifty. It was the 13th century of the league.

Away at the BKSP, Victoria Sporting Club, defending their overnight total of 267, shot out Orient for 206 in 73 overs.

SCOREBOARDS

Final scoreboards of the three Janakantha Premier Division cricket league matches that ended at different venues on Thursday:

Biman v Mohammedan SC
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

BIMAN: Overnight 329 for 8 in 80 overs (M Akhter 124 n.o, Habibul 60, Atiar 27; Rafique 3/49)

MOHAMMEDAN

Imran c Atiar b N Shawkat	0
S Shahed b N Shawkat	35
Rashidul c Faruque b Ziaur	29
Tikolo c Hasanuzzaman b M Akhter	8
Nasirul c Faruque b Ziaur	4
Halim Shah c Javed b M Akhter	1
M Rafique b M Akhter	0
S Mehmud c Ziaur b M Akhter	0
Mortuza st Atiar b M Akhter	17
Morshed not out	0
Manzurul b N Shawkat	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-3, w-8)	13
Total: (All out in 37.3 overs)	107

Fall of wickets: 1/0; 2/62; 3/73; 4/79; 5/80; 6/80; 7/80; 8/107; 9/107.

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
N Shawkat	8.3	0	28	3
M Talha	5	0	20	0
Ziaur	11	1	25	2
Saifullah	4	1	7	0
M Akhter	9	3	25	5

Result: Biman won by 222 runs.

Wari Club v Sadharan Bima KS
(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

WARI CLUB: Overnight 322 for 9 in 80 overs (T Mahmood 128, Shamim 36, Nasim 34 n.o)

SADHARAN BIMA:

Moin lbw b Zahid	16
Kamal c Mukhter b Shamim	5
K Chopra b T Mahmood	23
Mizan lbw b T Mahmood	13
Rajinder run out	112
Saiful lbw b A Wasim	35
Tasriq lbw b Nasim	10
Tariq c Sajib b Zahid	37
Ismail c & b T Mahmood	2
Nakib c Mukhter b Monirul	1
Hadi not out	5
Extras: (lb-10, nb-1, w-16)	27
Total: (All out in 76 overs)	286

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-35; 3-63; 4-68; 5-195; 6-226; 7-247; 8-260; 9-262.

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
Zahid	10	1	39	2
Shamim	3	0	22	1
T Mahmood	14	2	52	3
A Wasim	16	2	39	1
Nasim	16	0	54	1
Monirul	14	0	53	1
Sajib	3	0	17	0

Result: Wari Club won by 36 runs.

Victoria SC v Orient SC
(Venue: BKSP)

VICTORIA SC: Overnight 267 in 72.5 overs (Jewel 68, Imran 58, Reazul 49; Mizan 3/38, A Islam 2/32)

ORIENT SC:

M Islam b Russell	4
Jewel c Mustadir b Sabbir	20
Tapu b Zakir	6
Rizwan run out	30
A Iqbal c Sabbir b Jewel	26
Riaz lbw b Zakir	15
Mizan lbw b Jewel	11
Azim run out	13
Mridul not out	15
Sohel b Rashed	15
A Islam b Rashed	0
Extras: ((b-1, lb-10, nb-10, w-30)	51
Total: (All out in 73 overs)	206

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-39, 3-80, 4-98, 5-117, 6-141, 7-169, 8-169, 9-200.

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
Zakir	12	0	39	2
Russell	13	1	39	1
Rashed	14	5	24	2
Sabbir	14	3	27	1
Jewel	13	0	51	2
Shawkat	6	0	12	0
Mustadir	1	0	3	0

Result: Victoria SC won by 61 runs.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League

Kalabagan KC v Surjo Tarun
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

Abahani KC v Ajax SC
(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

India for experiment

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Dec 31: India are certain to make changes for the third and final Test against New Zealand, starting on Saturday, and their openers are under particular threat, reports Reuters.

Navjot Sidhu and Ajay Jadeja both failed in the second Test which India lost by four wickets to go 1-0 down in the series.

Sidhu has not made a sizable score on tour, but his experience and an average of 40 in 50 previous Tests could stand him in good stead.

If Jadeja gets the nod, it will not only be because he is vice-captain but also because he is a good fielder.

Fielding was the one department — in the air and on the ground — in which India let themselves down badly in Wellington and captain Mohammad Azharuddin has demanded an improvement on what he called a "very poor effort".

The case for making a change at the top of the order is stronger because Venkat Laxman, who would have opened with Sidhu in the first Test had the weather not intervened, was in good form when he was last given an outing.

A tall, wristy right-hander, Laxman was top scorer with 82 in the day/night exhibition match after the Dunedin washout.

Sidhu is one of three players in the tour party who has not been retained for the five one-day internationals which follow this Test. the other two to go home will be pace bowler Robin Singh and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh.

India's bowling, which also looked ordinary in Wellington, also needs strengthening but the selectors have few options in this department.

The pitch is expected to be hard and fast, and ideally India would play a third quick bowler in support of Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad.

But neither of the two reserve seamers, Robin Singh and Debasish Mohanty, impressed during the run-up to the series.

The retention of off-spinner Harbhajan Singh seems unlikely after Azharuddin was most reluctant to give him a lengthy spell in Wellington. The only alternative left is to include left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi with a brief to bowl defensively and keep runs down while the strike bowlers recharge their batteries.

New Zealand would have been unchanged for the third Test had middle-order batsman Nathan Astle not been put out of action by a fracture in the hand sustained while batting in the second innings on Tuesday.

Astle's place has gone to left-handed Roger Twose, who scored 99 against the tourists in their match against Wellington three weeks ago.

SQUADS

NEW ZEALAND: Stephen Fleming (captain), Matthew Bell, Matthew Horne, Roger Twose, Craig McMillan, Chris Cairns, Adam Parore, Dion Nash, Daniel Vettori, Simon Doull, Geoff Allott, Paul Wiseman.

INDIA: Mohammad Azharuddin (capt), Navjot Sidhu, Ajay Jadeja, Venkat Laxman, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Nayan Mongia, Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Sunil Joshi, Venkatesh Prasad, Debasish Mohanty.

Mahmood denies everything

KARACHI, Dec 31: The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Khalid Mahmood today denied he had called for life bans on Australian cricketers Shane Warne and Mark Waugh.

"I categorically deny that I have expressed that thought to anyone," Mahmood told Reuters.

Mahmood had been quoted by the agency in a story on December 26 as saying he wanted the bans.

Pakistan newspapers have reported that the board would push for bans on the two players, who have admitted to taking money from an Indian bookmaker for information on pitch and weather condition during a one-day tournament in Sri Lanka in 1994.

Mahmood added that the issue of banning the players did not come up when Pakistan, Indian and Sri Lankan cricket officials met in New Delhi in mid-December.

Relations between the PCB and its Australian counterpart have been strained since Waugh, Warne and former Test spinner Tim May accused former Pakistan captain Salim Malik of offering them bribes to play poorly on the 1994 Australian tour of Pakistan. Malik has denied the allegations.

PCB chief executive Majid Khan was quoted in an interview last week with Pakistan's APP news agency as saying that no matter which countries the cricketers came from, if found guilty, they should be banned for life and fined heavily.

The Australian Cricket Board chief executive Malcolm Speed has rejected proposals for life bans because, he said, the players had already been fined and the matter officially closed.

A Pakistan judge conducting an inquiry into corruption in the game in Pakistan following the allegations against Malik is due to deliver a report around the middle of January.

He has summoned Waugh, Warne and former Australian Cricket Board chairman Alan Crompton to appear before the inquiry in a special session to be held in Melbourne on January 8.

Warne and Crompton have agreed to give testimony, but Waugh has been taking legal advice before deciding whether to appear.

Steffi may miss Fed Cup duty

BONN, Dec 31: Former world number one tennis star Steffi Graf is unlikely to line up for Germany in the Federation Cup, her advisor said here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Hans Engert said the 29-year-old had been unable to forge an agreement with the German tennis federation over terms.

Germany take on Japan in the event in Hamburg on April 24 and 25.

But federation secretary general Gunter Sanders said he had not given up hope and talks were continuing. "We are negotiating," he said. "It would be great if Steffi played."

Graf is coming back to her best after a string of injuries. She ended the season with three tournament wins and saw her world ranking jump from 97th to 12th in a complete of months.

Football World picks Zidane

LONDON, Dec 31: Zinedine Zidane picked up another award today when he was named world player of the year by the readers of English magazine Football World, reports Reuters.

France's Zidane, who was named the European footballer of the year last week and world footballer of the year by World Soccer Magazine, polled 37 per cent of readers' votes in the magazine's first ever award list.

Gabriel Batistuta of Argentina was runner-up with 29 per cent, with Italy's Alessandro del Piero third with 17 per cent.

Brazilian striker Ronaldo polled a disappointing nine per cent to finish fourth.

Surprisingly, Football World's readers voted Croatia as team of the year, they polled 30 per cent of the votes ahead of world champions France who gathered 28 per cent.

Miroslav Blazevic of Croatia was named coach of the year while Michael Owen of England won the young player of the year award.

Top stories from our pages

They say a picture says a thousand words. The Daily Star Sport picks some photographs of 1998 from its pages, not because they are the best but because they remind us some of the more poignant moments of the year.

Zakaria Simon

Jan 2: Bangladesh Cricket Board announces eleven committees for the Coca-Cola Independence Cup

Jan 3: Azhar bounces back, Tendulkar sacked as Indian cricket captain

Jan 4: Kalabagan begin in style as Bijoy Dibash cricket tournament starts

Jan 5: Greenidge to take over youth side

Jan 6: Wasim Akram gives up captaincy

Jan 7: Bangladesh squad for the Coca-Cola Independence Cup named

Jan 8: Youth cricketers leave for South Africa today to take part in the World Youth Cup

Jan 9: Brian Lara becomes captain of the West Indies -

Jan 11: Bangladesh put up a good fight against India as Coca-Cola Independence Cup cricket tourney begins

Jan 12: Azhar's hefty slap as India beat Pakistan

Jan 13: Hosts put up poor show as Pakistan reach final

Jan 15: India outplay Pakistan in the first final

Jan 17: Pakistan's sweet revenge as they go level with India

Jan 18: Dhaka to stage 7th Asia Cup cricket in 1999

Jan 19: India break world record, lift Independence Cup

Jan 25: Abdullah Al-Rakib regains national junior chess title

Jan 26: Bangladesh beat West Indies to lift the plate final of the World Youth Cricket Cup

Jan 27: Dhaka regain the national hockey title

Feb 2: World Youth Cricket Cup England's

Feb 3: Former national boxing coach Elias dies

Feb 6: IM Ziaur Rahman topples Niaz Murshed in the FIDE rating

Feb 8: Mohammedan Bijoy Dibash cricket champions

Feb 10: Youth cricket team meets Prime Minister

Feb 11: Bangladesh baffle UAE to record second successive win in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Group Four competition

Feb 13: Sabbir hangs up his boots

Feb 15 : Sound start for MSC as soccer resumes at Mirpur Stadium

Feb 24: Raman Lamba dies

Feb 28: Biman beat Mohammedan as Premier Cricket Super League begins

Mar 3: First IM norm for Enamul Hossain Rajib

Mar 4: Mohammedan beat Abahani in the Premier Division soccer super league

Mar 5: Vietnamese Anh Nguyen clinches the United Insurance International Masters' chess title

Mar 10: Abahani clinch Premier Division cricket league title, dedicate to Lamba

Mar 11: Elections in different sports federations begins

Mar 12: Muktijoddha lift Premier Division soccer league title

Mar 14: Mohammedan beat Abahani in the last match of the Premier Division cricket league which was declared a Raman Lamba benefit match

Mar 19: BCB boys baffle Bahawalpur in the Pakistan Wills Cup one-day tournament

Mar 26: Michael Atherton steps down as England cricket captain

Mar 29: Jatiya Shommilito Parisad, backed by president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, wins the BCB polls

Apr 3: Kalabagan kids win the KB Rai Choudhury memorial cricket tourney

Apr 15: Bangladesh Cricket Board chalks out a three-year plan as BCB holds its first executive committee meeting of the newly elected body

Apr 19: Acme Laboratories win the Office league cricket title

Apr 26: India clinch the Sharjah Trophy

Apr 28: BCB names 14-man squad for the Coca-Cola Triangular Series in India

Apr 29: Bangladesh U-16 footballers finish undefeated champions in the Asian youth championship qualifiers in Nepal

May 9: Sanath Jayasuriya marries Sumudu

May 10: Bangladesh leave for India today to take part in the Coca-Cola Triangular Series

May 15: Chelsea lift European Cup Winners' Cup

May 18: Bangladesh win first ODI beating Kenya by 6 wkts

May 26: Rani Hamid retains national women's chess title

June 2: India lift the Coca-Cola Triangular series - Brojen Das dies at the age of 71

June 3: Holland win the World Cup hockey title

June 7: Salma, Tariqul and Monirul jump to shatter records in the Milk Vita national junior athletics championships

June 10: Century's last WC kicks off today

June 15: Saber says, Test status in 2001

June 18: Muktijoddha Sangsad win the McDowell Cup soccer tourney in Calcutta

June 21: France '98 - Iran vs USA: Mother of all matches

June 26: Bangladesh beat MCC Young Cricketers

July 13: France silence samba beats

July 25: Gordon Greenidge accuses BCB of non-professionalism

Aug 13: Vanderly Luxemburgo appointed soccer coach of Brazil

Sept 11: Ribbeck fills Vogts' shoes

Oct 24: No cheer for Bangladesh at Bangabandhu as the Wills International Cup cricket carnival begins today

Nov 2 : South Africa lift Wills International Cricket Cup in style

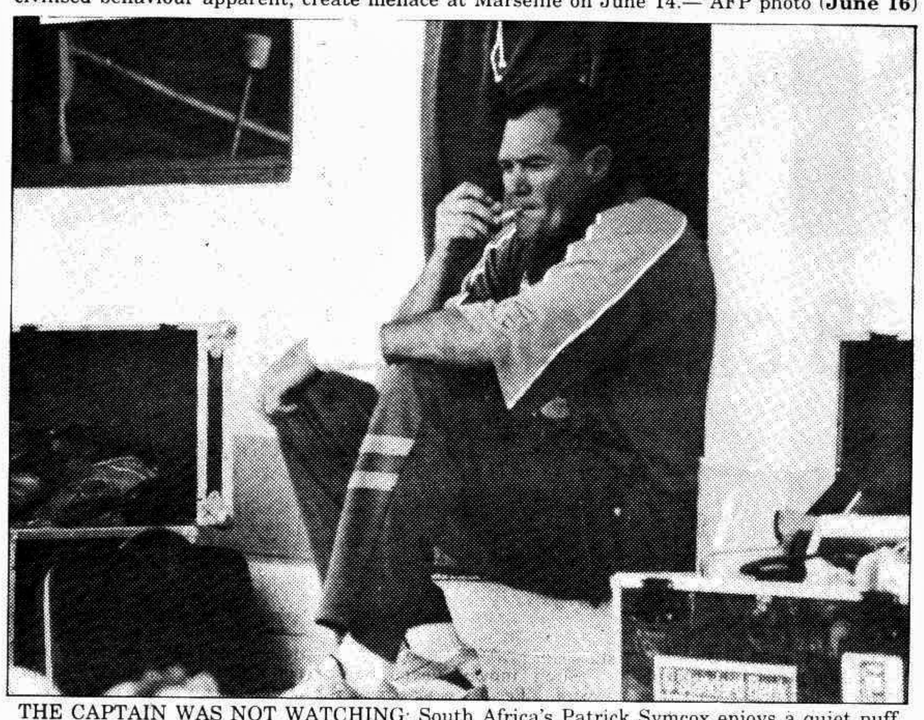
Nov 30 : Wasim Akram achieves 350 ODI wkts

Dec 7 : Eyes of the world focused on Thailand as the 13th Asian Games begin

Dec 10 : Aussie Pandora's box opened up as Mark Waugh and Shane Warne admits their involvement in a bribery scandal

Dec 29: Ashraf Bhai is no more - Reefat clinches Prime Bank chess title

YOU BE THE JUDGE: A number of English hooligans, with their total disregard to civilised behaviour apparent, create menace at Marseille on June 14.— AFP photo (**June 16**)



THE CAPTAIN WAS NOT WATCHING: South Africa's Patrick Symcox enjoys a quiet puff during their Wills International Cup cricket match against England on October 25. — Star Photo (**Oct 26**)

Year of French football fiesta

PARIS, Dec 31 (Reuters): The most memorable year in French soccer history is ending with enthusiasm for the game greater than ever — and a fine new generation of players knocking at the door of the national team.

Increased attendances, higher playing standards and the export of the best players to Europe's top clubs underline the advances soccer has made in France.

In years gone by, France gave soccer great administrators like Jules Rimet, the founding father of the World Cup, and Henri Delauney, who helped kick the European Championship into life.

The seeds of the European Cup were also sown in France, but apart from isolated successes like France winning the European Championship in 1984 and Olympique Marseille's victory in the 1993 European Cup final, France had not achieved anything much of note on the field until this year.

Now their egalitarian team, which won the World Cup without a hugely dominating influence in the mould of Pele, Franz Beckenbauer or Diego Maradona, enters the new millennium as world champions — the crowning fruit of an excellent player production process from grass roots to the top.

World Cup winning coach Aime Jacquet — even more than playmaker Zinedine Zidane, the newly crowned European player of the year, was the figurehead of France's success and deserves all credit for it.

On the field, Marcel Desailly, Laurent Blanc, Lilian Thuram and Emmanuel Petit are as equally deserving as Zidane of the highest accolades.

Inter Milan's Youri Djorkaeff, a key player in the victorious French side recently: "France's greatest quality is adaptability... the Germans, Italians, Dutch and English all explained our victory that way.

"We are capable of adapting to a given situation in no time, we always have two solutions to a problem," he said.

"We were a chameleon team and that's where our strength lay in relation to teams like Brazil or Holland, the other two serious pretenders to victory.

"That's why they didn't win, their game was too rigid, stereotyped, therefore easy to predict and counter," he said.

"We, in contrast, were capable of going where we weren't expected. For two years, in friendly matches, we were seen as very square in our play. Then suddenly, we became triangular, then diamond-shaped and then again square.

"Jacquet left the door ajar. He had confidence in our analysis and let us take tactical decisions," Djorkaeff said.

Such is the current health of the French game that many of the country's best players grace the world's best club sides and France have three teams in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals for the first time.

A minor blot on a dream landscape is RC Lens' failure to reach the last eight in the European Cup, the first time a French team has not qualified since 1992.

But Lens' French title victory last season was the fifth year in a row in which a different team has won the league championship after Paris St Germain, Nantes, AJ Auxerre and Monaco.

This, after years of dominance by Marseille, points to a depth of quality in the French game that has flowered since the country's failure to qualify for successive World Cups in 1990 and 1994.

Lens have contributed to a year of numerous "firsts" with their first major trophy in May. The new Stade de France broke the French record for a crowd at a football match when it was virtually filled to its 80,000 capacity at its official inauguration with an international friendly against Spain in January.

Olympique Marseille broke the record for a crowd at a club match by filling their refurbished Velodrome to almost its new 60,000 capacity as attendance recordstumbled throughout the country — and continue to do so.

But coaches fear that new European Union regulations might undermine their brilliant youth programmes.

The French federation FFF will be looking to ensure that if youngsters who cost a lot of money to raise are free to sign their first professional contracts with the highest bidder then their first club should receive a compensatory transfer fee which the Bosman ruling precludes.

FFF regulations which apply to movements between French clubs state that an apprentice must sign his first professional contract with his first club if it so wishes.

"There are countries where footballers are exempt from taxes and clubs from social benefits," said veteran coach Guy Roux, who heads arguably the country's best youth scheme at Auxerre.

"In France, where quotes and taxes are heavy, you need three times as much money as in Spain or England to keep a player."

Arsenal's Nicolas Anelka and Mickael Silvestre of Inter Milan both slipped through the net although the clubs they joined paid or have been ordered to pay a transfer fee.

REGRETS

Due to space constraint our regular item **CROSSWORD** could not be accommodated.
— Sports Editor