

Sport



Captain of Dhaka Club, former national allrounder, Jahangir Shah Badshah (R), receiving the winners trophy from Tarekul Islam Khan, Chairman of Chittagong Club after a friendly cricket match at the Chittagong Stadium on April 16.

Friendly cricket  
**Dhaka Club  
beat Ctg Club**

Dhaka Club defeated Chittagong Club by eight runs in a hard fought cricket match at the Chittagong Stadium on Friday last, says a press release.

The traditional rivalry between the two premier social clubs of the country was revived after a lapse of two seasons.

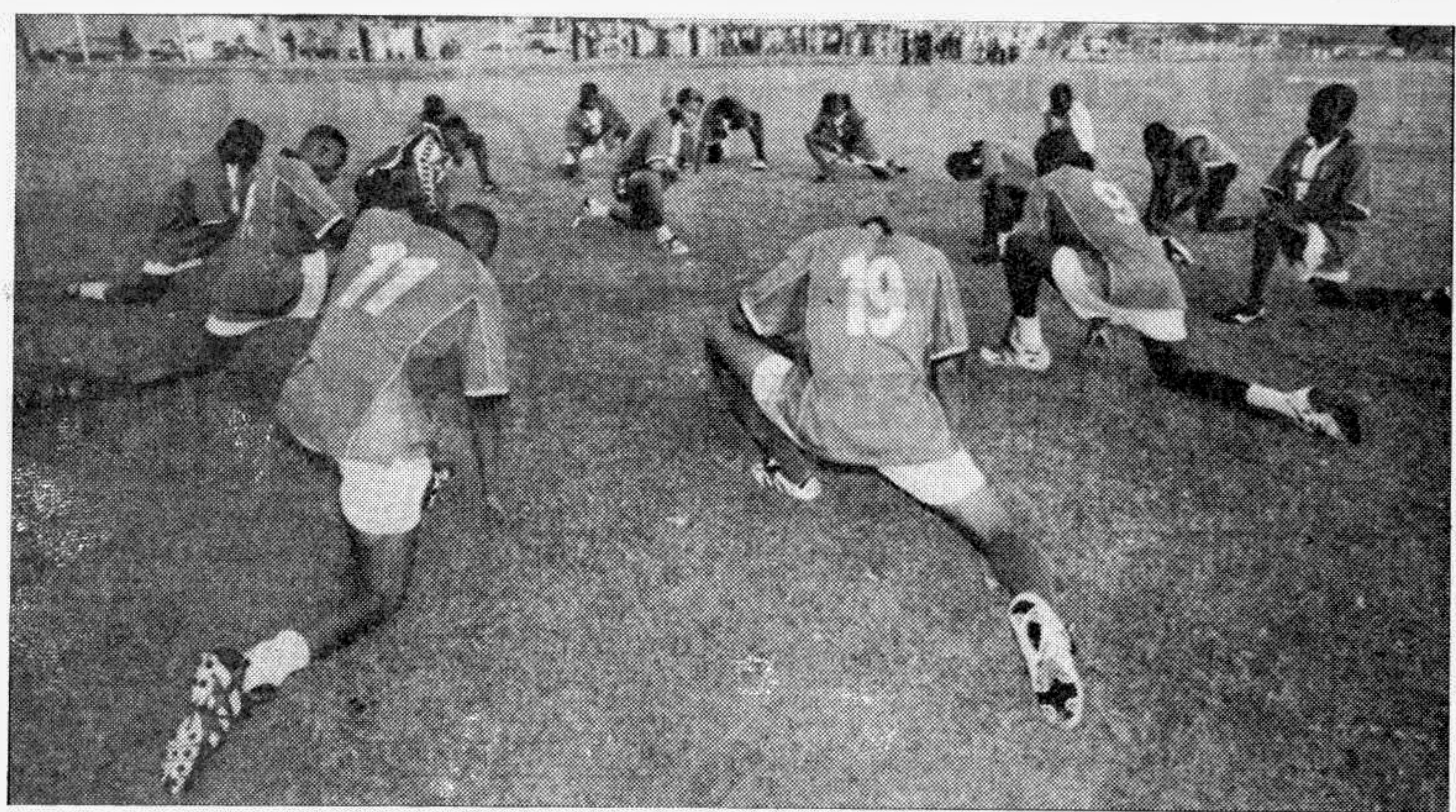
Dhaka Club batting first piled up an imposing 163 in 35 overs, aided by good batting by Ishtiaq Ahmad, Rizwan Bin Farouq, Rehan Rashid, Ali Shah and the evergreen Mahmud Haq.

In the post-lunch session, Chittagong Club fell well below the required run rate as Ali Shah and Prince bowled a tight opening spell picking up two early wickets. Only an inspired partnership between Sanjeeda and the classy Opali brought Chittagong back into the game, and a late flourish from Ripon almost brought an improbable victory.

It was Ali Shah and Prince, in the end, who spared Dhaka Club's blushes, as they quickly mopped up the tail, after young Tanjeem had dealt the most decisive blow by trapping Nobel in front.

At a glittering reception at the Chittagong Club poolside, chairman Chittagong Club Tarekul Islam Khan handed over the trophy to JS Badsha, the Dhaka Club captain.

The reception was also addressed by the president of Dhaka Club, Rezaul Rahman, Dr Harun, member-in-charge, of Chittagong Club, Kazi Faruq, Kader member, Dhaka Club, Sultan Abedin, captain of the home team, and Shakil Kasem, manager of the Dhaka Club side.



Booters of the Mali team limbering up during a training session at Kaduna on April 19 ahead of their World Youth Cup semifinal against Spain today.

**Another Hackett target**

SYDNEY, Apr 20 (Reuters): Grant Hackett, in world-beating form in the pool, is homing in on the record he most wants to break — the epic 1,500 metres mark of fellow Australian Kieren Perkins.

Hackett, 19 next month, took over from Perkins as world long-course 1,500 metres freestyle champion 15 months ago and last September smashed nearly seven seconds from the Olympic champion's short-course world mark for the distance.

Last month the endurance specialist, dubbed "The Machine", showed a sprinter's turn of speed and upstaged fellow world champions Ian Thorpe and Michael Klim in the 200 metres freestyle at the Australian long-course championships in Brisbane.

Next day he broke the world record for the distance, which had stood for nearly 10 years, as lead-off swimmer in the 4x200 metres freestyle relay.

Later in the week Hackett trounced Perkins by more than half a minute in the 1,500, clocking 14 minutes 48.63 seconds to become the second-fastest swimmer at the distance ever behind his fellow Queensland.

Perkins, Olympic champion in 1992 and 1996, has swum faster three times, most notably at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, where he smashed the 800 world mark on his way to setting a 1,500 metres world record of 14:41.66.

This is the target Hackett has in his sights, although an Olympic gold medal remains his ultimate priority.

He believes he is getting closer to the 1,500 mark and could take his time below 14:40. "It's a goal of mine," Hackett said. "Right now it's just a matter of improving, there's still a fair gap."

"I know I can swim better than 14:48 but by how much I don't know. It will be interesting to find out."

He reckons his surprise 200 metres world record showed he was developing the power to go with the finesse which has helped carry him to the top.

"I think I'm starting to get that power. I think I'm showing it with my sprint event results," Hackett said.

He followed up his victory over 16-year-old Thorpe at the Australian championships with another in the 400 freestyle at this month's world short-course championships in Hong Kong in which both carved more than four seconds from the world record.

"With Thorpe's swimming it's all power and with me it has to be finesse because of our different builds," said Hackett, a lanky 1.97 metres tall.

Meanwhile Hackett, who also retained his 1,500 world short-course title in Hong Kong, is turning his sights towards the Pan Pacific championships in Sydney in August. They will be held in the pool for the 2000 Olympics and are seen as a dress-rehearsal for the Games.

Also there will be Perkins, who scraped into the Australian team by finishing third at the national championships in 15:27.27 and, at 25, is struggling to recapture his best form.

Hackett, however, refuses to dismiss his illustrious compatriot.

"I've seen what he can do, what he's achieved," he said. "You cannot for a second write the guy off."

**Ben Johnson can appeal**

TORONTO, Apr 20: A Canadian adjudicator has ruled that disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson should be reinstated in Canada and allowed to appeal a lifetime ban imposed by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) in 1993, reports Reuters.



US women's football co-captain Julie Foudy (L) and Mexican captain Andrea Rodebaugh address the media after the unveiling of the women's World Cup in New York on April 19. The World Championship will begin on June 19 in the United States.

The Jamaican-born Johnson, once the fastest man in the world, was stripped of a gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics after testing positive for steroids following a world-record victory in the 100-metres men's final.

Johnson, who lives in the Toronto area with his family, was banned from competition for life five years later after a second positive drug test at a Grand Prix track meet in Montreal.

But Graham Mews, an adjudicator appointed by Canada's amateur sports authorities, said in a decision released on Monday that Johnson was the victim of procedural errors during the handling of the 1993 lifetime ban.

The ruling, however, does not mean Johnson will be competing on an organised level in Canada or abroad just yet. It also does not vindicate the athlete as to the issue of the drug test in Montreal.

"Mr Johnson will refrain from attempting to compete in Canada until he has made an application to the International Amateur Athletic Federation for reinstatement," Mews said in the ruling.

For Johnson, who last caught the public eye in October during a circus-like charity race against two horses and a motor car, it was the first clear victory in a decade-long struggle for rehabilitation.

"I'm very happy but I don't have time to jump around and celebrate," Johnson told the Canadian Press news agency.

"I still can't compete, but we still have some things to do."

Athletics Canada, the country's national track body, said it would support Johnson's appeal to the IAAF.

**Caveglia won't play for France**

LYON, Apr 20 (Reuters/Internet): Lyon captain Alain Caveglia, who scored his 100th goal in the French First Division against Montpellier last week, has one major regret in his career -- his failure to earn a single cap for France.

This season, he scored seven goals in eight UEFA Cup matches and hopes to do as well next season, for his consistency has been his main asset since his professional debut with Guengnon in 1987.

Caveglia, dubbed Cavegol in reference to Argentine Gabriel Batistuta, himself nicknamed Batigol, then joined Sochaux for four seasons, and Le Havre before returning home to Lyon.

"I owe these 100 goals to my teammates at all these clubs," he said.

"A hundred goals, it's 12 years of hard work and the proof that I have lasted," he said.

He still remembers his first -- "a direct corner against Rennes" -- and has also identified his favourite one.

"It was against St Etienne in 1994-95, in a season when I scored 20. I controlled the ball with my chest and volleyed straight into goal just before it hit the ground."

Caveglia, who was a devout fan of Olympique Lyon as a child, is still far from his childhood idols Fleury Di Nallo and Sergio Chiesa, who scored 187 and 120 goals respectively for the club in the 1970s.

"It's a real frustration. I would have liked to play for France just once, to see what it's like," the 31-year-old player told Reuters this week.

In his 12 years as a professional, Caveglia, who was born and raised in Lyon, has become a household name in French soccer, finishing each season near the top of the goalscorers ranking list.

Last Wednesday, a diving header allowed him to become the 76th player to score 100 goals in the French First Division, and the best overall marksman still in action in France, ahead of French international Laurent Blanc (81) and Daniel Bravo (76).

Because of the lack of international recognition, Caveglia has decided to devote all his time to Olympique Lyon, who are very likely to make it to the Champions League next season as they lie a solid third in the

table.

Stoltenberg advances

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida, Apr 20: Top-seeded Jason Stoltenberg of Australia beat American Justin Gimelstob 6-0, 6-7 (7-5), 6-4 in the first round of the ERA Real Estate clay court championships, reports AP.

Armenia's Sargis Sargsian also advanced Monday, beating second-seeded Jan-Michael Gambill of the United States 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

In other matches, Italy's Gianluca Pozzi defeated fourth-seeded Magnus Larsson of Sweden 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; seventh-seeded Christian Ruud of Norway beat Spain's Alex Calatrava 6-4, 6-2; and Spain's Carlos Costa defeated Italy's Laurence Tielman 6-3, 6-0.

**SA turn to oldies**

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 20 (Reuters/Internet): South Africa soccer coach Trotto Moloto recalled three veterans on Wednesday in his 18-man squad to face Denmark in a friendly international in Copenhagen next week.

Moloto recalled Italian-based winger Raymond Nyathi, midfielder Doctor Khumalo and the country's most-capped international John Moshoeu in his party for the match on April 28.

Khumalo and Nyathi have not played since the World Cup finals in France last year, where South Africa drew 1-1 with Denmark in Toulouse.

Moshoeu, who has 52 caps, was dropped after the shock draw with Mauritius in the African Nations Cup qualifying campaign in January.

Fourteen of the squad are based in Europe, leaving just four home-based players -- the lowest ever.

Moloto did not include any players from league champions Mamelodi Sundowns, who have an African Champions League tie on May 2 and dropped striker Shaun Bartlett from FC Zurich and vice-captain John Mooti.

**Rijkgaard leaves out Barca stars**

AMSTERDAM, Apr 20 (Reuters/Internet): Coach Frank Rijkgaard has left Barcelona's Dutchmen out of his squad for the friendly international against Morocco in Arnhem next Wednesday.

Rijkgaard has agreed the Barcelona contingent can play in a match against Brazil on the same day as the club celebrates its centenary.

Barcelona's Frank and Ronald de Boer, Phillip Cocu, Michael Reiziger, Patrick Kluijvert and Boudewijn Zenden, all picked for the game against Argentina last month, are ruled out, as is Juventus' Edgardo Davids who is suspended after receiving a red card in the Argentine game.

However, the return of Jaap Stam after injury looks likely to shore up the defence.

The match against Morocco will give many of the Netherlands' home-based players, notably from Feyenoord and Vitesse Arnhem, the chance to impress the coach as he prepares for Euro 2000.

As co-hosts with Belgium, the Netherlands have automatically qualified for the next year's European soccer championships.

**SQUAD**

Goalkeepers: Edwin van der Sar (Ajax Amsterdam), Sander Westerveld (Vitesse Arnhem).

Defenders: Marc van Hintum (Vitesse), Bert Konterman (Feyenoord), Jaap Stam (Manchester United), Kees van Wonderen (Feyenoord).

Midfielders: Giovanni van Bronckhorst (Glasgow Rangers), Jean-Paul van Gastel (Feyenoord), Michel Kreek (Vitesse), Clarence Seedorf (Real Madrid), Aron Winter (Inter Milan).

Forwards: Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenal), Dries Boussetta (AZ Alkmaar), Michael Mols (Tours Mulder (Schalke 04), Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven), Marc Overmars (Anderlecht), Peter van Vossen (Feyenoord).

**Put out by hazardous hotel**

LAGOS, Apr 20 (Reuters/Internet): World Youth Cup upstarts Japan are having to cope with mosquitoes and "ladies going upstairs" at their hotel as well as Uruguayan gamesmanship before they can think about a place in Sunday's final.

Japan, whose coach Philippe Troussier admits his players are still naive, face Uruguay, the championship's undisputed leaders in gamesmanship, in their semifinal on Wednesday.

Judging from earlier performances, the Uruguayan teenagers have mastered the arts of provocation, exaggerating injuries and collapsing theatrically at a remarkably early stage in their careers.

Japan's hotel, not as good as Uruguay's, also presents a problem.

Troussier said: "They (the Uruguayans) are in an air-conditioned hotel on the other side of the city."

"Here, after five o'clock there are mosquitoes, there are 200 ladies going upstairs, there is noise, there is no air conditioning in the restaurant and this is the day before a big game, the most important game of the tournament. How can we prepare like this?"

He added: "If Uruguay were staying here it would not be important. I want the same for both sides."

Uruguay's surprise 2-1 quarter-final win over Brazil was achieved with a late and highly dubious penalty, awarded for a foul on captain Cesar Pellegrin who fell over in dramatic style even though no contact appeared to be made.

Almost every time a Uruguayan player was challenged, he went flying to the ground, threw his head backwards, clutched his face in apparent pain, rolled around as if mortally wounded -- but was running around happily within 30 seconds.

"I have to prepare my players to be ready for the provocation,"

said Troussier. "But we will also have to look to the referee. They cannot jump all over my players. We have limits. If they want to try and play boxing, let them do it."

Japan reached the last four with a 2-0 win over Mexico. Uruguay, who have made few friends in Nigeria, qualified from their first round group after an uncompetitive 0-0 draw with Portugal, a result that both teams knew would take them through.

Wednesday's other semifinal sees African upstarts Mali, who have never qualified for a senior World Cup, take on Spain in Kaduna. Spain are the only unbeaten team in the tournament.

Nigerian organisers, who have suffered too many empty stadia for comfort, will be hoping that at least some fans turn up even though the hosts are out and also that the lights stay on for the evening game in Lagos. Two matches so far have been interrupted by power failures.

**SAHCO nat'l v'ball final today**

Rangpur and Comilla reached the final of the SAHCO national volleyball competition in the city yesterday, reports IHB.

Rangpur beat Rajshahi 25-22, 25-16, 23-25, 25-19 while Comilla overpowered Khulna 23-25, 25-17, 20-25, 25-14, 15-11 in the semifinals.

The final will be held today at 5:30 pm and the third position-deciding match between Rajshahi and Khulna, will be at 7:30 am.

Managing director of sponsors SAHCO International Ltd Syed Abul Hossain MP will distribute prizes as the chief guest.

**SABJA award for basketball meet**

Sports Reporter

South Asian Basketball Journalists Association (SABJA) has announced 'SABJA Most Valuable Player Award' in the Afzal Khan International (schools) Basketball Tournament scheduled to be held in the Indian city of Dehradun from April 27 to May 1.

SABJA's ERSP will participate in the tournament as the only team from Bangladesh.

SABJA general secretary Masood Akhtar Mobaraki from Bangladesh left for India yesterday.

This is for the first time that SABJA, a body formed recently, has announced an award for a tournament. SABJA hopes to announce similar awards for all international basketball tournaments in South Asia.

**I'll make Fowler my new Cantona**

LIVERPOOL, Apr 20 (Mail/Internet): Gerard Houllier is helping Robbie Fowler, his infant son, just as he did Eric Cantona during some of the worst moments of the volatile Frenchman's playing career.

Houllier, the former France coach now managing Liverpool, said: "I have had a long chat with Robbie about how he feels

"I will support him because I want to get the best out of him, for his sake as well as the club's," said Houllier. "He has reached the stage of his career when he has to change, and I feel he has it in him to do so."

"He is a high-profile player, and he knows it is better for him to have a good image, like the one he had when he tried to persuade the referee not to award Liverpool a penalty after an accidental collision with David Seaman at Highbury."

"That is how we want Robbie to come across, and I will work with him as hard as I can to make sure he remains focused on making the best of himself."

Houllier's track record with Cantona was impressive enough to suggest that Fowler's problems could soon be consigned to the past.

When he was in charge of France in the early 1990s, Houllier kept faith with Cantona even though the player committed some of the most spectacular acts of rebellion French football has ever witnessed.

Even when the histrionics were played out before English audiences, the level of support stayed the same. Indeed, when Cantona grew disillusioned at Leeds nearly seven years ago and threatened to walk away from football, Houllier was on the first available flight from Paris to talk him out of it.

The Liverpool boss relishes the challenge of nurturing natural ability and keeping it safe from the ravages of an unstable temperament, and is prepared to do the same for Fowler, who has been involved in enough strife for suggestions to surface over the weekend that his Anfield days could be numbered.

Arsenal's interest is well established, and talk of a 10 million pounds move has only been tempered by misgivings about the problems that have embroiled Fowler.

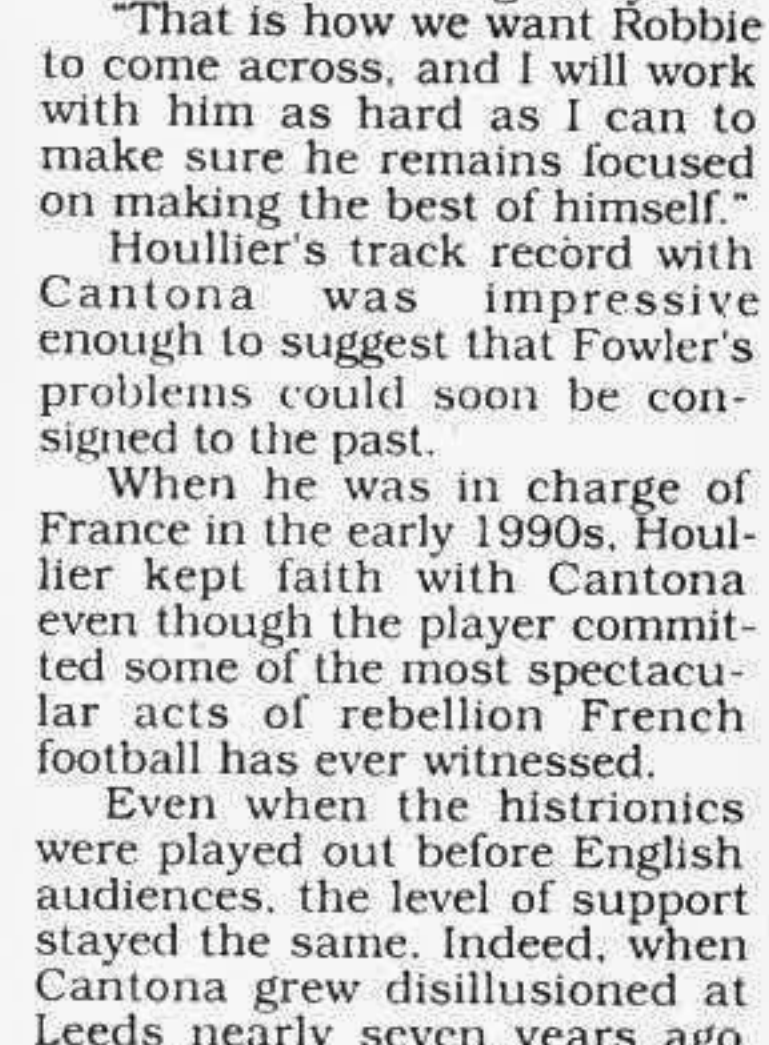
Either way, Houllier prefers to turn a deaf ear and call on his powers of persuasion to restore harmony between the 24-year old and his hometown club.

He will need them, too, after a clear indication that Fowler was less than enamoured with Liverpool's stance over his run-in with Le Saux and 'cocaine-sniffing' goal celebration against Everton.

The club fined him and issued a final warning about his



GERARD HOULLIER



ROBBIE FOWLER



BORIS BECKER

**Boris' father passes away**

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Apr 20: A day after his victory over French No 1 Cedric Pioline, Boris Becker withdrew from the Monte Carlo Open on Tuesday after the death of his father Karl-Heinz from stomach cancer, reports AP.

"I am very, very sad. I admired my father and I owe him a lot," the 31-year-old German star said in a statement.

In this difficult situation I have to and want to be close to my family. Especially my mother needs me," he said.

Becker was due to play Frenchman Jerome Golmard in the second round of the 2.2 million dollars event.

**Zico's tips for Japan**

TOKYO, Apr 20: Brazilian soccer great Zico believes that Japanese players must go overseas if they are to become a power in the international game, reports Reuters.

Zico, who is technical director of Japanese champions Kashima Antlers, said the national team would benefit by having more players based abroad.

"It is very important for Japanese players to go out of Japan and play in another country," said the 46-year-old Zico, who retired as a player with Kashima in 1993.

"They must get this kind of experience because it will make the national team stronger."

When Japan appeared in the World Cup finals for the first time in France last summer, all 22 members of the squad played for J-League clubs. Japan lost all three games, 1-0 to Argentina and Croatia and 2-1 to Jamaica.

Since then, midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata has been transferred to Perugia in Italy and several other players have been linked with a move to Europe.

**Komol goal scrapped**

LAGOS, Apr 20 (Reuters/Internet): FIFA said on Tuesday it had withdrawn a goal awarded to striker Gaspard Komol of Cameroon in their 1-0 defeat of England in a first round game in the World Youth Cup.

"After a second look at the video tape of the game, FIFA's Technical Study Group decided it was an own goal scored by England defender Richard Cooper," said FIFA spokesman Marius Schneider.

Komol now has four goals instead of five along with Taylor Twellman (United States), Peter Ofori-Quaye (Ghana) and Mamadou Bagayoko and Mamadou Dissa (both Mali).

**World Cup 2006 SA for African consensus**

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 20: South Africa is to invite the four other African countries seeking to stage the 2006 World Cup finals to a summit in Johannesburg to discuss a unified bid, officials said today, reports Reuters.

The summit is to be held next month and follows a visit last week to Egypt and Morocco, two of the African bidding countries, by South African deputy tourism minister Peter Mokaba and Danny Jordaan, chief executive officer of South Africa's bid committee.

The summit is to be convened by South African sports minister Steve Tshwete and invitations will be sent to the sports ministers of Ghana and Nigeria as well as Egypt and Morocco, the four other African countries in the race for 2006.

"It is imperative that Africa presents just one candidate if it is to win the bid," said Jordaan.

The South Africans are hoping that the meeting will persuade the other four African candidates to withdraw from



STEVE TSHWETE

the race.

They are also keen to include key figures from the other

"We are confident that African countries will find in our favour because of our advanced preparations and suitability," Mokaba told reporters today.

The idea for a summit follows an appeal by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Issa Hayatou for a single African candidate.

"We cannot prevent African candidates from applying but we have to bring all the bids together in order to stand a better chance," he said recently.

CAF have refused to back one of the African candidates over the others, saying they will wait until the April 30 deadline for the submission of bid documents to see which African countries remain in the race for 2006.

Last week CAF called for the 2006 finals to be given to Africa, the only major continent yet to be awarded the tournament.

Brazil, England and Germany are the other countries bidding for the 2006 finals.