



Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram and assistant manager Richard Pybas at the Durham ground after their practice match was washed off. —AFP photo

Results of yesterday's WC Warm-up Matches

Riverside
Pakistan 50-0
Durham
Match abandoned, rain, no result.

Old Trafford
Scotland 161-3 overs completed
Lancashire
Match abandoned, rain, no result.

Southgate
Bangladesh 203-2 overs completed
Middlesex 223-6 overs completed
(Target 236 in 43 overs)
Bangladesh beat Middlesex by 12 runs

The Foster's Oval
New Zealand 328-6 overs completed
Surrey 220 all out
New Zealand beat Surrey by 108 runs

Edgbaston
West Indies 228-4 overs completed
Warwickshire 210 all out
West Indies beat Warwickshire by 18 runs

Worcester
Worcestershire 162-7 overs completed
Australia 181-4
Australia beat Worcestershire by 6 wks

Source: Internet

BANGLADESH-MIDDLESEX SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of Bangladesh vs Middlesex World Cup warm-up match played Southgate yesterday.

BANGLADESH						
Batsman	Runs	Balls	4s	6s		
Shahriar Hossain c Shah b Hewitt	52	80	5	-		
Mehrab Hossain c Langer b Johnson	15	37	1	-		
Akram Khan not out	80	91	7	-		
Aminul Islam not out	36	56	-	-		
Extras: (4-b, 5-lb, 9-w, 2-nb)	20					
Total (2 wkts, 43.4 overs)	203					
Fall of wickets: 1-30 (30 Mehrob Hossain, 34 mins), 2-112 (82 Shahriar Hossain, 64 mins)						
Did not bat: Minhazul Abedin, Khaled Mahmud, Naimur Rahman, Khaled Mashud, Mohammad Rafique, Enamul Hoque, Hasibul Hussain.						
Bowler	O	M	R	W	nb	w
JP Hewitt	7	0	41	1	1	6
SJ Cook	8.4	0	36	0	0	0
RL Johnson	8	1	31	1	1	2
PN Weekes	8	0	30	0	0	0
KP Dutch	6	0	30	0	0	0
OA Shah	6	1	26	0	0	1

MIDDLESEX					
Batsman	Runs	Balls	4s	6s	
PN Weekes lbw b Minhazul Abedin	63	88	4	-	
MA Roseberry b Hasibul Hussain	8	15	-	-	
JL Langer run out	48	69	4	-	
MR Ramprakash not out	53	48	1	1	
OA Shah c Naimur Rahman					
b Minhazul Abedin	13	20	-	-	
KP Dutch st Khaled Mashud					
b Enamul Hoque	4	8	-	-	
RL Johnson b Mohammed Rafique	9	7	1	-	
RA Kettleborough not out	2	3	-	-	
Extras: (3-b, 10-lb, 10-w)	23				
Total: (6 wkts, 43 overs)	223				
Fall of wickets: 1-20 (20 Roseberry, 19 mins), 2-127 (107 Langer, 75 mins), 3-138 (11 Weekes, 11 mins), 4-166 (28 Shah, 19 mins) 5-186 (20 Dutch, 11 mins), 6-199 (13 Johnson, 4 mins)					
Did not bat: DC Nash, JP Hewitt, SJ Cook.					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	w
Hasibul Hussain	6	0	24	1	nb
Khaled Mahmud	6	0	34	0	0
Naimur Rahman	8	0	40	0	0
Enamul Hoque	9	0	37	1	0
Mohammed Rafique	7	0	35	1	0
Minhazul Abedin	7	0	40	2	0

Result: Bangladesh won by 12 runs.

UEFA Cup final

Seasoned Parma face troubled Marseille



MOSCOW, May 10 - Former champions Parma have experience on their side for Wednesday's UEFA Cup final against suspension-hit Marseille here in a competition traditionally dominated by Italian clubs, reports AFP.

Parma know what to expect, having beaten Juventus in the final four years ago to add their name to a growing roll-call of Italian successes which include hat-tricks for both Juve and Inter Milan and further wins by Roma and Napoli.

The Italians, who won their domestic Cup last week, start as clear favourites seeking to emulate former coach Nevio Scala's masterclass of 1995, while Marseille labour under the handicap of five suspensions.

The French can, unlike their opponents, boast a Champions Cup title from 1993. But the loss of strikers Christophe Dugarry and silver-haired Italian Fabrizio Ravanelli will undoubtedly blunt their edge - perhaps fatally.

Dugarry, suspended for five European matches after his role in the Bologna fracas in the semi-final return leg, will travel - but as an analyst for French television.

Marseille have to reshuffle their pack further with defenders William Gallas and Hamada Jambay and classy youngster Peter Luccin also suspended.

In attack, coach Roland Courbis will thus lean heavily on Florian Maurice and Liverpool-bound Titi Camara with World Cup winner Robert Pires, who can also play wide, in a free role just behind them.

Financially we can't compete with them. I would love to buy at least half their team," admits an envious Courbis. "But underdogs can have their day!" Parma, who waltzed past Atletico Madrid in the semi-finals, would appear to have the edge up front with Enrico Chiesa and Argentinian Hernan Crespo always a big threat.

And at the back, they have a commanding keeper in Gianluigi Buffon, more experienced than opposite number Stephane Porato.

Alberto Malesani's side have two French World Cup winners in their ranks - defender Lilian Thuram and Alain Boghossian, who would both love to put one over their compatriots.

"We have no split loyalties - Parma is my team and I want to keep the cup in Italy," vowed Thuram, linked with a summer move to Inter.

Boghossian has recovered from a knee strain which al-

most kept him out of Parma's cup win against Fiorentina. He will form part of a classy midfield likely to include Dino Baggio - back from suspension - and Juan Veron, bought for a club record 12 million dollars last summer from Sampdoria.

Talented midfielder Mario Stanic, who helped Croatia finish third at the 1998 World Cup, is a doubt after suffering a right thigh strain at the end of Saturday night's 3-1 win over Inter Milan.

Baggio has had an eventful tournament - he was hit on the head by a knife thrown from the crowd in the second round match at Krakow.

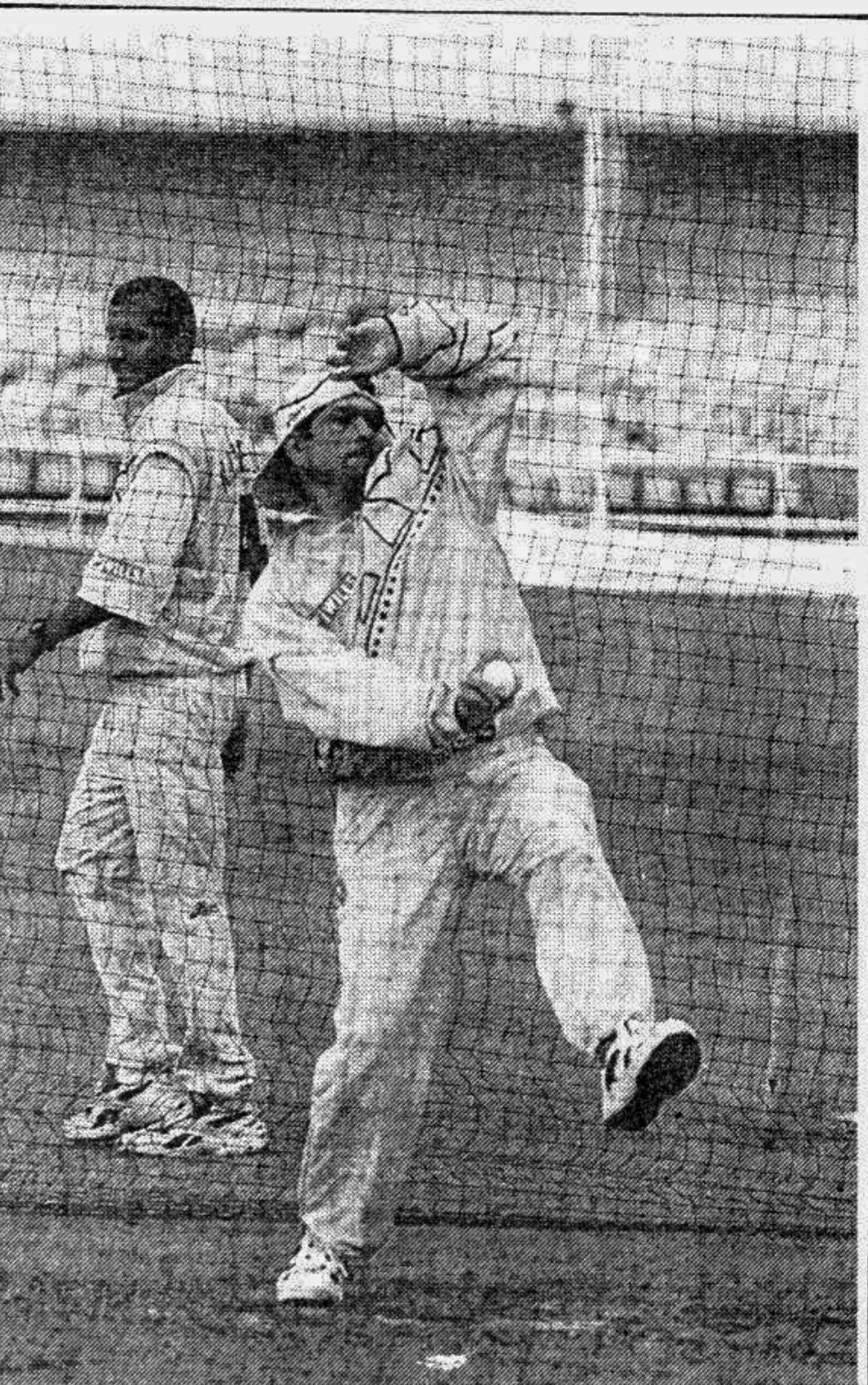
Though Marseille are the club many French fans love to hate, largely because of the match-fixing scandal of six

seasons ago, most want to see them win - if only to erase the memory of Bordeaux's 6-0 drubbing by Parma in the quarter-finals.

That match suggested there still exists at club level a clear gulf between the French and Italians.

Skipper Laurent Blanc could prove Marseille's key man as the centre half bids to keep Parma's potent strikers at bay - as well as come forward in the absence of Dugarry and Ravanelli.

Marseille are also set to call on veteran and former Parma favourite Daniel Bravo, a 1996 Cup Winners Cup winner with Paris Saint Germain, to smother the midfield, dulling the threat from the likes of Baggio.



Indian superstar Sachin Tendulkar having a bowl in the nets at Headingley on May 9. —AFP photo

30 matches on BTV



Bangladesh Television will telecast 30 out of 42 matches of the Cricket World Cup starting in England from May 14, reports APB. It will also telecast the highlights of 12 other preliminary round matches when two matches will be played simultaneously in a day.

BTV has already started airing special programmes on the biggest cricket carnival to be participated by Bangladesh for the first time in the Cup's history.

The deputy general manager (Prog) of BTV, Mustafa Kamal Syed, said that about 20 sponsors had already made deals with Bangladesh Television. "And some others are awaiting contacts," he added.

Another official said that BTV spent more than Tk five crore to buy the rights of the World Cup matches.

Following are thirty matches that BTV will telecast live:

FIRST ROUND

May 14: Eng vs SL Lord's
May 15: Ind vs SA Hove
May 16: Pak vs WI Bristol
May 17: Ban vs NZ Chelmsford
May 18: Eng vs Ken Canterbury
May 19: SA vs SL Northampton
May 20: Aus vs NZ Cardiff
May 21: Ban vs WI Ireland
May 22: Eng vs SA The Oval
May 23: Aus vs Pak Headingley
May 24: Sco vs Ban Edinburgh
May 25: Eng vs Zim Trent Bridge
May 26: Ind vs SL Taunton
May 27: Aus vs Ban Chester-le-Street
May 28: Pak vs NZ Derby
May 29: Eng vs Ind Edgbaston
May 30: Aus vs WI Old Trafford
May 31: Pak vs Ban Northampton

SUPER SIX

June 4: Group A-2 vs Group B-2 The Oval
June 5: Group A-1 vs Group B-1 Trent Bridge
June 6: Group A-3 vs Group B-3 Headingley
June 8: Group A-2 vs Group B-1 Old Trafford
June 9: Group A-3 vs Group B-2 Lord's
June 10: Group A-1 vs Group B-3 Edgbaston
June 11: Group A-3 vs Group B-1 The Oval
June 12: Group A-2 vs Group B-2 Trent Bridge
June 13: Group A-1 vs Group B-2 Headingley

SEMIFINALS

June 16: Super Six 1st vs 4th Old Trafford
June 17: Super Six 2nd vs 3rd Edgbaston
June 20: Final Lord's

Samir seeks BFF boost

Sports Reporter



Samir Shakir wants to continue as coach of the Bangladesh football team. But the Iraqi World Cupper has sought more incentive from the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to stay at the helm of the national booters for the next SAF Games, beginning in Nepal in September.

"I will be happy if I stay in the job. But I want a better remuneration from the BFF. I have already explained my position and I'm hopeful of a fresh agreement," said Samir in an exchange of views with the local press yesterday.

"I'm happy with the performance of the boys in the SAFF Championship. We might have lost to India in the final, but I believe the team has the potential to win a tournament involving the six countries," said Samir.

"I think the present side is good enough to beat any of the six teams. What they need is more care, extensive training and plenty of exposure in competitive international football matches," opined Samir.

But Samir, instrumental for Bangladesh's success in Goa, wants to take a break from football for a while in a desperate bid to meet his near ones in Baghdad. Samir is separated from his family for about one year.

Meanwhile, the BFF joint secretary Badal Roy said that he is trying his sincere best to strike a deal with Samir who is currently being paid 1500 US dollars per-month.

Hodde back in coaching frame

LONDON, May 10 - Former England coach Glenn Hodde is set to take charge of a Premiership XI against a Jamaican side on May 30 - his first appearance on the footballing stage since he was sacked from the national post in February, reports AFP.

Hodde, who led England to the World Cup quarter-finals last year but was sacked following controversial comments about disabled people, will be player-manager of the team, which will include former England stars Ian Wright and Les Ferdinand, who will tackle the Jamaican side in a charity game.

Grand home coming for Lens

LENS, France, May 10: French League Cup winners Lens were welcomed home Sunday at their Stade Felix Bollaert by an estimated 40,000 fans after their 1-0 final victory Saturday night over Metz at the Stade de France, reports AFP.

The victory in front of a French record attendance for a club match of 78,170, was sealed by a 56th-minute goal by Daniel Moreira.

It was the second consecutive season in which Lens - known as 'the Blood and Gold' - had piped Metz to honours.

'Emirates World of Cricket'

Emirates, the award-winning airline and an official sponsor of the Cricket World Cup, has produced a six-part television series, 'Emirates World of Cricket,' says a press release.

The series is being telecast in Bangladesh on the world over and is the perfect warm-up for cricket fans in the run-up to cricket's best-loved one-day tournament. The programme is being telecast by Bangladesh Television at 6 pm from May 7 and by ATN at 7 pm from May 9.

Each 30-minute programme in the Emirates World of Cricket Series is profiling two teams and a player who is likely to play a key role in the tournament. Players being profiled include Glenn McGrath, Shaun Pollock, Brian Lara and Graeme Hick. Each programme will also include two fascinating features on the stories and issues which will influence the World Cup - from the choice of tournament ball and the preparation of pitches to an insight into player fitness and capacity. Mark Little, the Australian comic who played the role of Joe Mangle in the popular TV series Neighbours, narrates the programme.

Emirates is also offering viewers the opportunity to enter a fantastic competition to win tickets to the final. The winner and their guest will be flown from their home country to London, courtesy of Emirates, and stay in a luxury London hotel.

Each programme in the series will feature on cricket question with multiple choice answers and viewers can enter the competition via www.ecb.co.uk/worldcup, the official World Cup website. They will also be 50 runners-up chosen who will receive a replica World Cup shirt from the country of their choice.

'Proteas' fireworks don't impress punters

LONDON, May 10: South Africa's ominous good form before the Cricket World Cup - and England's lukewarm performances - will not affect the betting odds, a leading bookmaker said here on Monday, reports AFP.

Graham Sharpe, a spokesman for William Hill, said the South Africans, who thrashed Kent by 170 runs in a practice match on Sunday, remained the 5-2 favourites.

"The odds are pretty much set now until the tournament gets underway," he said. "People are not too worried about what happens against county sides." "If Brazil lost to a club side before the football World Cup, nobody would take any notice. Only a star player breaks down in a warm-up game will things change."

Australia are second favourites at 10-3, Pakistan stand at 7-2 while England - who almost lost to county side Essex on Sunday - are 5-1. The West Indies are 8-1 and reigning champions Sri Lanka and India 10-1. Scotland and Bangladesh bring up the rear at 500-1.

Six days of warm-up matches against English county opposition end on Wednesday, two days before the tournament begins with England taking on Sri Lanka at Lord's.

Improved SA hold Jamaica

KINGSTON, May 10: South Africa completed a two-match tour of the Caribbean by drawing 1-1 with Jamaica at the Independence Stadium here on Sunday, reports AFP.

The 1996 African champions, who suffered a shock 2-0 loss in Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday, showed greater urgency and commitment in a friendly match that seldom produced top-class football.

Veteran striker Daniel Mudd put Bafana Bafana (The Boys) ahead after 21 minutes, with a shot through the legs of goalkeeper Aaron Lawrence on a pitch made slippery by torrential pre-match rain.



BAYERN RULES BUNDESLIGA: Veteran Bayern Munich libero Lothar Matthaus leads the celebration after his team ensured the Bundesliga title with a 1-1 draw against Hertha Berlin at Munich on May 9. —AFP photo

European soccer scene

Bayern kings of Germany

PARIS, May 10: Bayern Munich sealed their 15th Bundesliga crown with a 1-1 draw against Hertha Berlin Sunday but the result was costly with injuries to key players just 17 days before their European Cup final with Manchester United, reports AFP.

With three rounds to play Bayern now have 72 points, an unbridgeable 10 point lead over Bayer Leverkusen, followed by Hertha Berlin in third position on 53 points.

Lazio stayed on course for the Italian league title on Sunday after beating Bologna 2-0 as George Weah powered rivals AC Milan to a 2-0 victory over Juventus.

The win keeps Lazio one point clear of Milan with just two matches left in the Serie A season.

Brazilian Rivaldo scored Barcelona's winning goal in a 3-2 win against Villarreal on Sunday, leaving them nine points clear at the top of the Spanish championship with five games to go.

Real Mallorca, 1-0 winners over Real Zaragoza, are in second spot.

Bayern started strongly and smothered Hertha in the first 35 minutes.

Carsten Jancker registered Bayern's goal in the 12th minute thanks to hard work by libero Lothar Matthaus, the 38-year-old veteran making a solo run reminiscent of a player half his age.

He passed it to Alexander Zickler who was brought to the ground and then held off a defender as he grabbed the free ball and hooked it back to Jancker, who fired home from 12 metres.

Both Jancker and Matthaus did not take the field again in the second half because of injury while captain Oliver Kahn has a damaged left ankle.

Kahn slipped while taking a goal kick in the 53rd minute and he had to be replaced immediately by reserve keeper Sven Schuster.

Hertha were shocked by the importance of the occasion and waited until the 42nd minute for their first threatening move on goal.

The absence of Kahn and Jancker however caused uncertainty among Bayern's ranks and they began to make errors.

Andreas Schmidt made good that error in the 72nd minute however when Michael Hartmann's high ball from near the corner flag landed perfectly for him.

Bayern defender Jens Jeremies was badly positioned and unable to prevent Schmidt from heading the ball past Schuster.

Bayern knew however that a draw was enough to secure them the title and clung on as 63,000 fans in Munich's sold-out Olympic stadium sang and cheered them on.

Sunday's title win is the first step in Bayern's three-pronged mission. They are bidding for a history-making treble which would require defeat of Manchester United on May 26th in the European Cup final, and beating Werder Bremen in the final of the German Cup on June 12th.

SERIE A
In Italy, Argentina's Matias Almeyda struck five minutes after the break for Lazio, catching the goalkeeper off his line with a dipping shot from 22 metres. Christian Vieri sealed victory by thumping home the second in the 89th minute.

Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson said on their win: "It's always hard to win, but today we managed it. They had two great chances, one in each half, but we played well tactically and it went well for us."

"What counts now is for us to beat Fiorentina on Saturday. We just have to win, that's all there is to it."

Weah marked his return from suspension just 10 seconds after the re-start, when a bouncing back-pass pulled up short and the Liberian rose to nod the ball over Italy goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi.

He rifled home a second in the 64th minute, after chiding down a cross from from Demetrio Albertini, and it would have been 3-0 if German striker Oliver Bierhoff hadn't missed an undefended goal.

PRIMERA LIGA
In Spain, it wasn't an easy win for Barcelona who had to work hard against Villarreal, who had beaten them 3-1 earlier in the season in the Nou Camp stadium.

Barcelona fans had to wait till the 78th minute for the winner from Rivaldo with a superb freekick, adding to earlier goals from Dutchman Patrick Kluivert and Philip Cocu.

Barcelona need just seven points from a maximum 15 to earn their second straight Spanish league victory and 16th in all, according to their Dutch coach Louis Van Gaal.

"I was very pleased today because I saw 90 minutes of concentration and a real desire to win," Van Gaal added.

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"I was very pleased today because I saw 90 minutes of concentration and a real desire to win," Van Gaal added.

The match went ahead in a neutral stadium in Valencia because of the suspension of Villarreal's ground.

Celta Vigo, easily beaten 3-0 by Espanyol, conceded their second place to Mallorca who are in position for one of the automatic qualifying spots for the 1999/2000 European Championships League.

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The victory, in front of a French record attendance for a club match of 78,170, was sealed by a 56th-minute goal by Daniel Moreira.

Yorke's last gasp heroics



MIDDLESBROUGH, England, May 10 - Manchester United reclaimed the leadership of the English Premiership with just two games to go when Dwight Yorke gave them a 1-0 victory at Middlesbrough on Sunday, reports AFP.

Yorke headed his 29th goal of the season in first-half stoppage time to settle a tense encounter at the Riverside Stadium.

With two games to go the title race could barely be closer. Both United and Arsenal have 75 points, both have a goal difference of plus 42 but United are top by virtue of having scored 78 goals to Arsenal's 58.

Arsenal have the opportunity to return to the top on

Tuesday when they travel to Leeds before hosting Aston Villa in their final game on Sunday.

United, who are seeking a unique Treble having already reached the FA Cup and European Cup finals this season, visit Blackburn Rovers on Wednesday and finish at home to Tottenham on Sunday.

Middlesbrough were the last team to beat United, fully 29 games ago in December, but seldom looked like repeating their shock 3-2 win at Old Trafford that day.

United manager Alex Ferguson and his chairman Martin Edwards have both criticised Premiership refereeing of late and they had reason to feel aggrieved again in the early stages.

Teddy Sheringham, in for Andy Cole, was ruled offside as he put the ball into the net after Mark Schwarzer fumbled a Roy Keane shot, but television replays showed Sheringham was onside.

Minutes later United could have been 1-0 down. Mark Summerbell collected a Brian Deane head-down and should have scored but his shot grazed the post.

Keane then went off with ankle injury and Middlesbrough forced the visitors back, with Deane curling a shot wide when well-placed 15 metres out.