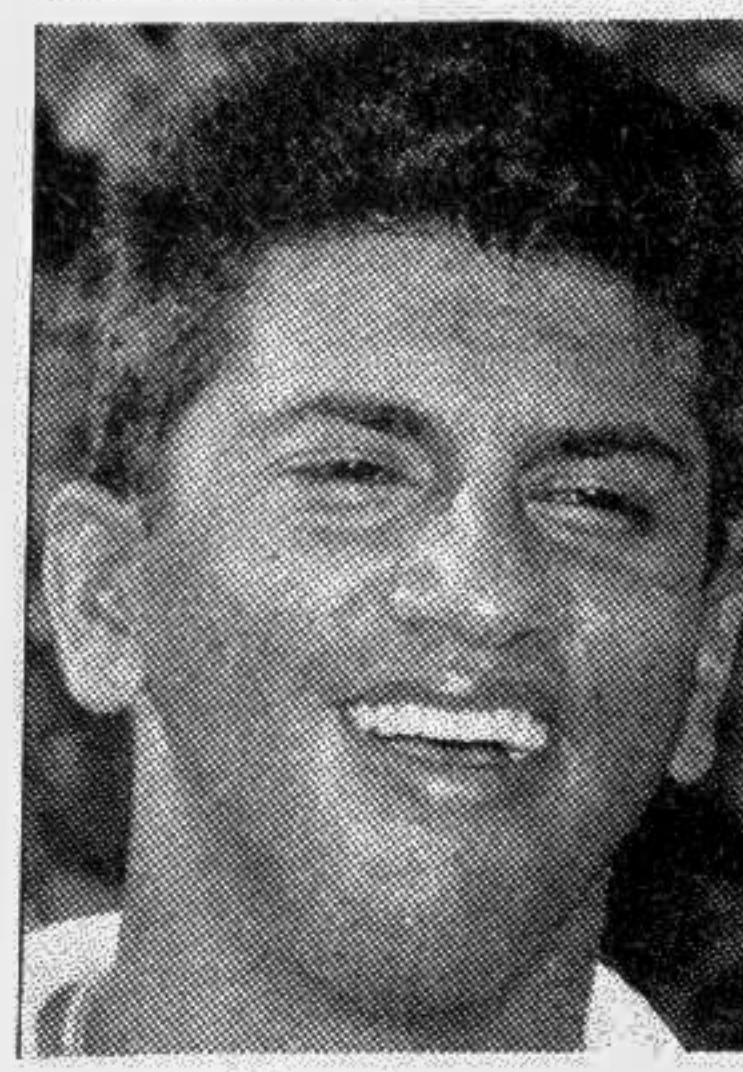


SPORTS TALK



Roshan Mahanama

(Sri Lankan batsman)
Arjuna (Ranatunga) pulled out before the Sharjah tour in '93, and I was asked to lead the team by the selectors. And I did. I was then branded a traitor."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-116

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

June 4, '99 and draw

shortly afterwards

1 Who was the man-of-the-match in the opening match of the 1999 cricket World Cup?

Stewart Jayasuriya Ranatunga

2 How many runs did Aminul Islam score against New Zealand?

14 15 16

3 Who won the cricket World Cup in 1979?

Australia W Indies Canada

4 Who are the current ICC runners-up?

Kenya Scotland Germany

5 Who is the vice-captain of the Bangladesh cricket team?

Mahmud Minhaz Naimur

Name

.....

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

R'gan hold AKC

Holders Abahani made a frustrating start in the Pedrollo Federation Cup football tournament after drawing one-all with Rahmatgani MFS in the robin league opener at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Rahmatgani took the lead in the 44th minute by a nice goal from Tipu while defender Partha neutralised the margin for the Dhammandi outfit in the 68th minute.

Mohammedan SC will play Farashganj SC today.

WTC goes down under

DUESSELDORF, May 23: Patrick Rafter warmed up for the French Open in style by winning two matches in a row to help Australia to a 2-1 victory over Sweden on Saturday for their first World Team Cup triumph in 20 years, reports Reuters.

World number three Rafter first tamed Thomas Enqvist 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 to level the tie at 1-1 after Sweden had won the opening match.

The double US Open champion then teamed up with Sandon Stolle to beat Jonas Bjorkman and Niklaus Kulti 7-6, 6-4 in the decisive doubles.

Sweden had made a promising start with Bjorkman using blistering returns to overcome Mark Philippoussis 6-4, 7-6 and put them 1-0 ahead.

Rafter, who came straight to this western German city after losing to Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten in the final of the Italian Open last Sunday, won all his four singles matches on the Duesseldorf clay and said he felt confident about the French Open.

"Today was very encouraging," he said. "I'm playing well and I feel fit. Five setters will not be a problem. I'm going to Paris knowing I can win the pressure points. I'll be hard to beat."

The 26-year-old, who relied on his exciting serve and volley game all week, played a key role in Australia's second victory in the team event which features eight top tennis nations.

The Australians, who were making their seventh final appearance, had won only once before, in 1979. They pocketed 500,000 dollar in prize money while the Swedes had 320,000 dollar to share.

"It means a lot to us," said Rafter. "Team competition is very big in Australia. We'll go out for a drink in Paris to celebrate."

Sweden, who were seeking to join Spain and the United States with a record four wins, fought bravely, saving two match points in the doubles before bowing out with Bjorkman hitting a return long.

The highlight of the final was an exciting battle between Rafter and Enqvist, which was even tighter than the score suggested.

Rafter hit a backhand volley wide to lose the first set but he fought back, breaking his op-

ponent twice in the second set to build a 4-1 lead.

Australian Open finalist Enqvist, 17th in the world, broke Rafter in the sixth game but netted a backhand on set point.

The final set was close until Rafter managed the telling break to 5-3 up and serve for the match. He wrapped it up by hitting a superb backhand across the court on his first match point.

"If he plays like that, he will be very dangerous in Paris," said Enqvist. "I felt I played pretty well and I'm rather confident. Little things made the difference today."

Philippoussis was let down by his usually devastating serve in his match against Bjorkman

and made costly double faults.

Both players had dropped serve once in the first set when Bjorkman broke the Australian in the seventh game. The former top 10 player, now 28th in the ATP Tour rankings, went on to claim the set with a forehand winner.

World number 10 Philippoussis fought bravely throughout a close second set and a tie break was needed.

Bjorkman took it 7-3 with an ace on his first match point to seal victory after just 90 minutes.

"I didn't play that well," said Philippoussis. "I didn't serve as well as I should have. But I'm in top shape and I know I can play well on clay. I'm looking forward to the French Open."

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Nou Camp prepares for worst

MADRID, May 23: Barcelona officials put finishing touches to an intricate security plan today as the coastal Spanish city braced itself for an invasion of English and German soccer fans coming for the European Cup final on May 26, reports Reuters.

At least 60,000 supporters of Manchester United and Bayern Munich are set to descend on Barcelona for the first European Cup final between English and German team since 1982.

The fact that most worries officials: United are the first English club to reach the final since Liverpool lost 1-0 to Juventus in 1985 in a match marred by the Heysel Stadium disaster in Belgium where 39 people died.

As a result, police will be out in force in Barcelona.

More than 5,000 police and paramilitary Civil Guard, some armed with anti-riot equipment and others with horses or dogs, will be deployed around the Nou Camp stadium since 1982.

Officials have worked out a detailed plan to ensure that fans from the opposing teams are seated apart, will arrive in different terminals or even different airports and have separate routes to get to and from the stadium.

Jareno, who is in charge of the joint security effort being mounted by city and national officials, said the influx of fans should begin on Tuesday.

The traditional German-English rivalry comes into play and because of this and other conditions we are putting up a serious security effort, he said. "We are hoping this is just prevention and... everyone just comes to enjoy themselves."

Jareno said all possible steps have been taken to ensure that the fans who travel to Spain behave themselves.

He said United made people show their passports and airline ticket before selling them a seat while Bayern fans traveling to the game signed a contract promising to abide by Spanish law.

However, police say there is no way to control the moves of others who may come to the popular tourist city in search of tickets or just to soak up the atmosphere.

So far the police efforts are based mainly around the stadium, although officials say the city may impose restrictions on opening hours for bars or rules on alcohol consumption.

The Spanish media, which regularly refers to all English soccer fans as "hooligans," started raising local fears about the possibility of violence last month after United and Bayern qualified for the final.

And he is in winning mode after his sterling performances led Australia to the World Team Cup title today, claiming a win over Thomas Enqvist and then a doubles triumph with Sandon Stolle to down Sweden 2-1.

In his previous tournament outing, Rafter got to the Italian Open final in Rome before succumbing to 1997 French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil.

There have been several reports of bungled black market ticket sales and some newspapers have mentioned the fear that all the officials' efforts to separate the fans may be for naught if the black market network operates as usual.

Several thousand tickets earmarked for Barcelona football club supporters were snapped up immediately.



Olympic Marseille's Peter Luccin (L) and AJ Auxerre's Laurent Ciechelski fight for the ball during their French First Division clash at Marseille on May 22. — AFP photo

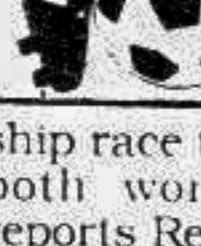
zone and will be fighting for their First Division survival next Saturday.

Auxerre's veteran coach Guy Roux said: "We fought magnificently for an hour and a half. Marseille deserve their victory, fruit of a fine goal. As far as we're concerned it's not over, we'll lift our heads."

Relegated Toulouse came from behind to beat PSG, conquerors of Marseille in their previous match, 2-1 at home.

Former giants Saint-Etienne, who had already won promotion, were crowned second division champions, while French Cup finalists Sedan also secured their promotion.

French League at boiling point



PARIS, May 23: Girondins Bordeaux and Olympique Marseille took their French League champion-

ship race to the wire when they both won 1-0 on Saturday.

Metz's Belgian veteran Danny Boffin was sent off for handing a goalbound ball in the 36th minute and Burundi striker Shabani Nonda converted the penalty.

Bordeaux, who beat Olympique Lyon at home, will be crowned champions if they beat Paris St Germain in the Parc des Princes in Paris next Saturday.

Marseille, still one point behind after their victory over relegation threatened AJ Auxerre at the Velodrome with an early goal from France under-21 midfielder Peter Luccin, lay French Cup winners Nantes.

Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli had at least two chances to increase Marseille's lead.

However, police say there is no way to control the moves of others who may come to the popular tourist city in search of tickets or just to soak up the atmosphere.

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