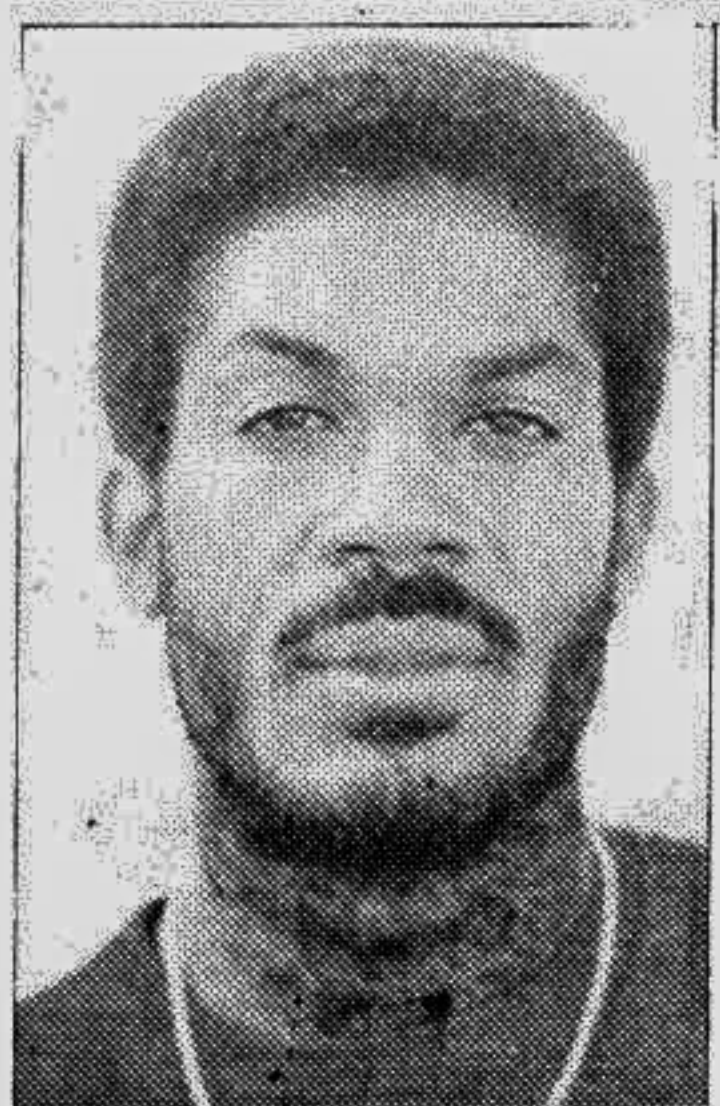


## SPORTS TALK



Michael Holding

(Legendary West Indies fast bowler)

For appeals like that umpires should have yellow and red cards. That was a yellow card appeal.

After a hopeful Anil Kumble appeal against England.

## 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 11, '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 Annuil 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

## Soccer season

starts June 22

The Premier and First Division

football leagues will begin

on June 22 simultaneously at the

Bangabandhu and the Sher-

e-Bangla National Stadiums,

reports APB.

On the opening day, holders

Muktijoddha Sangsad KS will

face newcomers Mirpur Cha-

lantika in the Premier League

while last season's relegated

Agrani Bank will meet the

Muslim Institute in the First

Division opener.

## GMG's greetings

Sports Reporter

The GMG Airlines has

thanked Bangladesh Cricket

Board and the Mayor of Chit-

tagong to allow them to carry

the national cricket team from

Chittagong to Dhaka after the

civic reception of the team in

Chittagong on June 9, says a

press release.

## TV Guide

Friday 11th June

(All programmes are in

local time. The Daily Star

will not be responsible for

any change in the pro-

gramme)

## BBC

6:00 BBC World News 6:05

USA Direct 6:30 World

Living: Talking Movies

7:00 BBC World News in

World Business & Asia

Today 10:00 BBC World

News 10:30 World Focus:

USA Direct 11:30 Europe

Direct 12:00 World News

12:30 Money Wise Pre-

sented By Susharita

Ghose (On Indian Busi-

ness Market) 1:00 World

News 1:30 World Living:

Top Gear: The Air Show

2:30 World Focus:

Panorama: 3:00 World

News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00

BBC World Today 6:30

Wild World: Nightmares

Of Nature 7:00 BBC World

News 7:15 World Business

Report 7:30 BBC World

Today - Asia & Pacific

8:30 World Living: Talk-

ing Movies 9:00 BBC

World News 9:30 Hard

Talk 10:00 BBC World

News 10:30 World Living:

Question Time India

(Presenter: Pranay Roy)

11:00 World News 11:30

BBC World Today 12:30

Hard Talk: 1:30 World

Focus: Correspondent

2:00 BBC World News 2:30

World Living: Jancis

Robinson's Wine Course

3:15 Europe Direct 4:00

BP: News Inc. World

Business Report/24 Hours

CHANNEL [V]

8:30 Rewind VJ

# Czechs first in finals

LONDON, June 10: The Czech Republic became the first country to qualify for next year's European Championship finals after recovering from a 2-0 deficit to beat Scotland 3-2 in their Group Nine qualifier in Prague on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The Czechs, beaten finalists in Euro '96, clinched first place in their group by reaching a maximum 21 points from seven matches — a total none of the chasing pack can catch.

The winners of the nine qualifying groups and the best placed runner-up are guaranteed an automatic place in the finals along with joint-hosts Belgium and the Netherlands. The eight other runners-up then play-off for the four remaining spots.

But the Czechs lived dangerously before booking their ticket to the Low Countries.

They went behind to goals scored by Paul Ritchie (30) and Allan Johnston (63) before hitting back through Tomas Repka (65), Pavel Kuka (75) and Jan Koller (87).

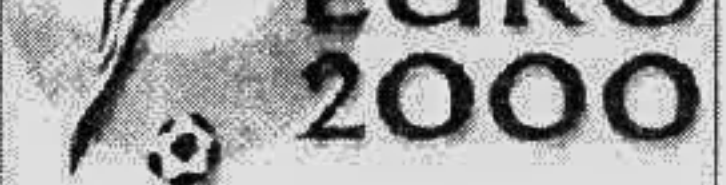
Scotland, who looked as if they were about to bounce back from Saturday's shock 1-1 draw with the Faroe Islands to consolidate second place, remain second after Estonia lost 2-1 to Lithuania because the Faroes again pulled off a shock, drawing 2-2 with Bosnia in Tofur.

With the Czechs clear on 21 points, Scotland lead the scramble for second place with eight points, the same tally as both Bosnia and Lithuania, Es-

tonia have seven points. Poland, who have never appeared in the European Championship, boosted their chance of reaching the finals with a 3-2 win over Luxembourg while their group rivals England could only draw 1-1 in Bulgaria.

Poland, whose next match is at home to England on September 8, raced into a 3-0 lead against Luxembourg who came back with two late goals to keep the outcome in doubt until the final whistle.

But that result, together with a disappointing draw for England against a Bulgarian side reduced to 10 men for the last



30 minutes in Sofia, favoured Poland in group five.

Sweden, who did not play on Wednesday, lead the group with 13 points from five matches, followed by Poland, 12 from six and England nine from six.

Poland are now favourites to finish at least second and qualify for the play-offs.

Romania also took a huge step to ensuring their place in the play-offs at least with a 4-0 thumping of Azerbaijan in Group Seven. Romania now have 17 points from their seven matches — six points clear of

third placed Slovakia who won 1-0 in Hungary.

Portugal, who crushed Liechtenstein 8-0, are top of the section with 18 points and are also virtually certain to finish either first or second although Slovakia do have an outside mathematical chance of catching them.

Joao Pinto scored a hat-trick, with Sa Pinto and Rui Costa scoring two each and a Christof Ritter own goal completing the rout in front of 25,000 at Coimbra.

On a night of 17 matches around Europe in what was the last major round of action this season, there were no major surprises.

But tiny Andorra made world champions France fight all the way for a hard-fought 1-0 win in the game played at Barcelona's Olympic Stadium.

France, beaten 3-2 at home by Russia on Saturday, only scored a late penalty through Frank Leboeuf in a game marred by the sendings-off of France's Christophe Dugarry after only 24 minutes and Andorran Tony Lima six minutes from time.

It was Andorra's best-ever international result and although they remain bottom of Group Four they were the moral victors on the night.

The result lifted France into second place in Group Four on 14 points, behind leaders Ukraine who drew 0-0 in Armenia.

But it is getting close at the top. Russia moved into con-

tention with a 1-0 win over Iceland in Moscow — Ireland's first defeat in 11 matches.

With seven matches played Ukraine have 15 points, France 14, Russia 12 and Iceland 12. Ukraine play France when battle recommences in September, with Iceland at home to Andorra and Russia at home to Armenia.

In Group One, Italy stayed top despite being held to a 0-0 draw by Switzerland in Lausanne, but Denmark revived their hopes with a 2-0 win over Wales in Liverpool thanks to goals in the last six minutes from John Dal Tomasson and Stig Tofte who scored with a 90th minute penalty.

Italy have 14 points from six matches, followed by Denmark on eight, Switzerland on seven and Wales out of it on six.

Ireland, whose government refused to allow Yugoslavia into the country for Saturday's Group Eight qualifier in Dublin, finally got down to business and beat Macedonia 1-0 with Niall Quinn scoring the second half winner.

That result lifted Ireland joint-top of the section on nine points along with Yugoslavia, who beat Malta 4-1 in neutral Greece on Tuesday. They have identical records and are ahead of Macedonia (7) and Croatia (7) who remain in contention.

But Ireland's campaign could yet be derailed if UEFA decide to penalise them for their failure to play Yugoslavia.

## SCORELINES

### Group One

Switzerland 0-0 Italy

Wales 0-2 Denmark

### Group Two

Albania 0-1 Slovenia

Greece 1-2 Latvia

### Group Three

Moldova 0-0 Finland

Group Four

Andorra 0-1 France

Russia 1-0 Iceland

Armenia 0-0 Ukraine

### Group Five

Luxembourg 2-3 Poland

Bulgaria 1-1 England

### Group Seven

Hungary 0-1 Slovakia

Portugal 8-0 Liechtenstein

Romania 4-1 Azerbaijan

### Group Eight

Yugoslavia 4-1 Malta

Ireland 1-0 Macedonia

### Group Nine

Estonia 1-2 Lithuania

Faroes 2-2 Bosnia

Czech Republic 3-2 Scotland

## Real really rotten

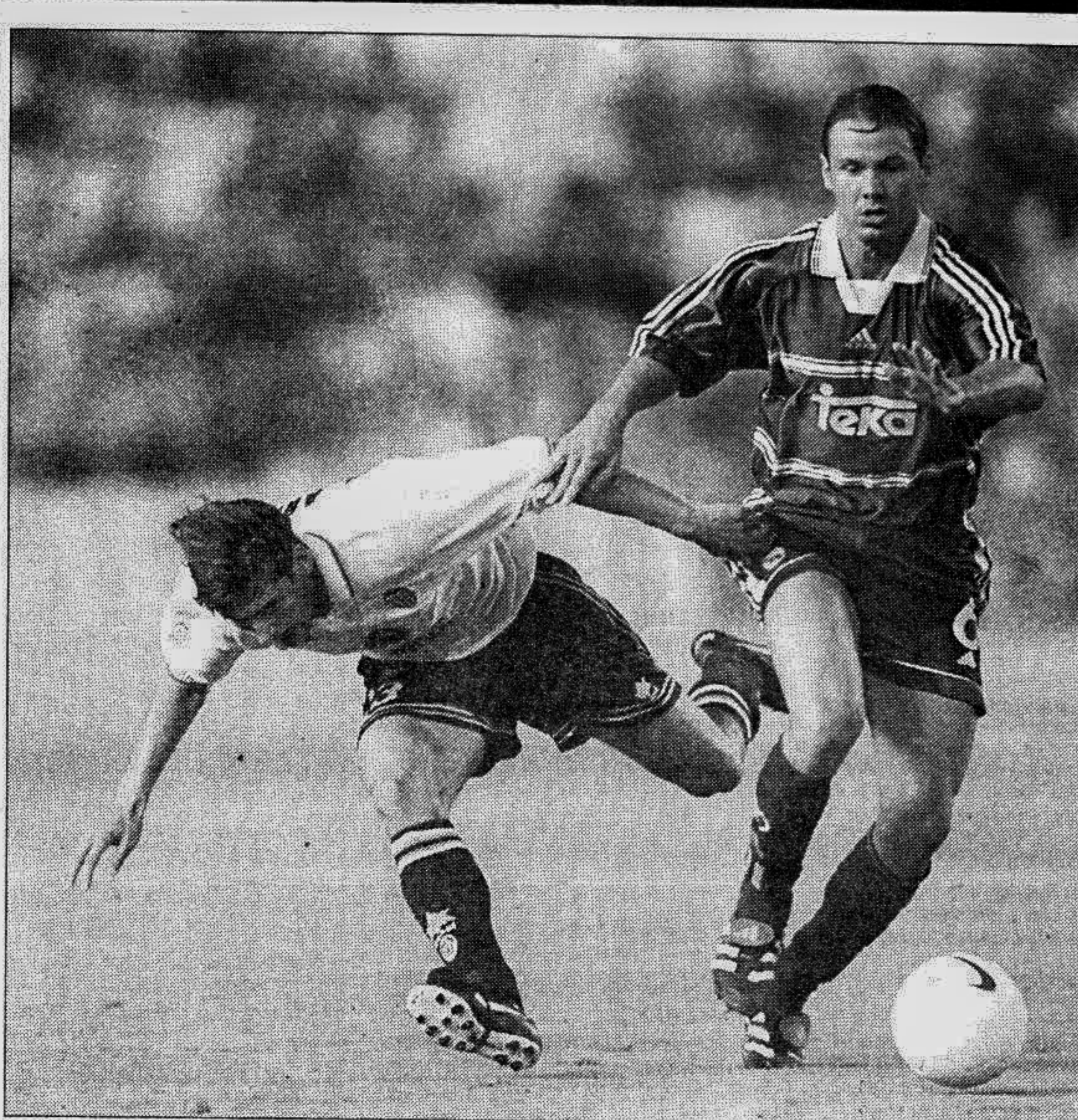
MADRID, June 10: The Spanish press labelled seven-time European Cup winners Real Madrid "the San Marino of Spanish football" following their 6-0 Spanish Cup humiliation by Valencia on Wednesday reports AP.

While the players, almost a second-string outfit, took most of the flak for their worst defeat since 1953 and the worst in their Spanish Cup history coach John Toshack did not escape censure with one commentator suggesting that the Welshman was not the man to revive the club's fortunes.

"Valencia destroy Real San Marino," shouted El Pais, an ironic reference to Spain's 9-0 whitewash of San Marino in last Saturday's Euro 2000 qualifier.

"Valencia sliced Real Madrid into little pieces. Real were made to look ridiculous and endured one of the worst days in their history... this defeat will have serious consequences for the club."

"The team is a disgrace and Toshack does not appear to be the man, who can lead Real Madrid back to the top next season," the newspaper thundered.



Valencia forward Miguel Angel Angulo (L) loses the battle for possession to Real Madrid's Argentine midfielder Fernando Redondo during their Spanish Cup first on June 9. Hosts Valencia outplayed Real 6-0. — AFP photo

# Madrid massacred

VALENCIA, June 10: Real Madrid suffered their heaviest defeat for 46 years on Wednesday as they were crushed 6-0 by Valencia in a stunning Spanish Cup semifinal first leg on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Not since a 6-0 defeat against Malaga in 1953 have a Real Madrid team been so roundly beaten in a competitive fixture. The last time Real conceded six goals was again against Malaga, in the 1983-84 season but at least that night they had the consolation of scoring four goals of their own.

John Toshack's woeful Real, who will face an all but impossible task in the return leg on June 16, went behind to a Claudio Lopez free kick on 21 minutes and were then undone in a 40-minute spell following the sending-off of Fernando Redondo four minutes later.

Valencia took ruthless advantage during that period to slot in four of their six goals — Goran Vlaovic, Miguel Angel Angulo and a double from Alain Roche doing the damage — before a red card of their own restored some semblance of order.

Gaizka Mendietia then rounded off the scoring with a sweetly struck goal from the edge of the area on 74 minutes.

"The only thing that surprises me now is that you journalists continue to be surprised by results like this," said a combative Toshack after the game.

"Of course the fans are going to be some way short of delighted after this result."

"But the only thing we can do is to pick ourselves up and prepare for a vital derby game against Atletico Madrid on Saturday."

Real will have to show a monumental improvement if they are to get the victory they need to stay on course for second place and a Champions League berth for next season.

Real, missing six first team players because of injuries and international call-ups, were deprived of another key man after 25 minutes when Redondo was

sent off for a push on Jocelyn Angloma.

But by then Toshack's side had already gone behind in risible fashion as their defensive wall jumped over a Lopez free kick on 21 minutes, allowing the ball to glide in at the far post.

A series of shameful defensive errors then sent Valencia 4-0 up by halftime as Roche was twice left unmarked inside the area to score either side of a tap in from Vlaovic, the Real defence again going absent.

Angulo, turning in a Lopez cross, made it 5-0 10 minutes

into the second half before the sending-off of Vlaovic on 65 minutes brought some relief for Real.

With the sides now evenly matched, Valencia were still able to provide the coup de grace, Spanish international Mendietia carving out some space on the edge of the area before lashing home left-footed.

The result was in marked contrast to the other semifinal on Tuesday, when Atletico Madrid drew 0-0 with Deportivo Coruna. Both second legs are next week with the final in Seville on June 26.

## Batistuta blasted

BUENOS AIRES, June 10: Argentinian football legends Diego Maradona and Oscar Ruggeri led a chorus of criticism on Wednesday against foreign-based stars who have declared

themselves unavailable for the Copa America, starting in Paraguay later this month.

Florentina striker Gabriel Batistuta, Parma duo Hernan

Crespo and Juan Sebastian Veron. Atletico Madrid's Jose Chamot and Lazio's Matias Almeyda are the players based in Italy and Spain who have indicated they are not available for selection, citing injury and fatigue.

Playmaker Maradona and hardman defender Ruggeri were teammates in Argentina's World Cup winning side in 1986.

Maradona told Radio Rivadavia: "There is no current striker as good as Bati (Batistuta); because of this, although he is pulling out, we should still call him up for the next few games."

Ruggeri, who like Maradona also appeared in the 1990 and 1994 finals, added: "It is terrible this is happening. It gives me the sensation that the desire to wear the national shirt does not exist as it did when I was a player."

"Whoever gives up his place in the national team does not deserve to return to it. For this a shirt that money can not buy. It is the ultimate that all footballers aspire to. Look how Diego (Maradona) used to play in it. In 10 years he never let anyone down. He was the best in the world."

themselves unavailable for the

Copa America, starting in

Paraguay later this month

Florentina striker Gabriel

Batistuta, Parma duo Hernan



Striker Alan Shearer (R) scores England's only goal against Bulgaria during their Euro 2000 qualifier in Sofia on June 9. The game ended in a one-all draw. — AFP photo

# Vieri among World Stars

SYDNEY, June 10: Italian striker Christian Vieri, the world's most expensive player, will collect 500 dollars (335 US) when he appears for the World Stars against Australia here Saturday, reports AFP.

Australian-raised Vieri was signed this week by Inter Milan for 50 million US dollars and was one of the first to accept an invitation from the world body FIFA to return to his old home town for the game.

He certainly isn't coming for the money. FIFA representative Walter Gagg revealed today the World Stars would each receive only a 500-dollar fee and 'gift from soccer Australia'.

Vieri, who spent ten of his formative years in Sydney, will link at Inter Milan with Brazil-

ian superstar Ronaldo in what has been hailed as the world's best strike force.

World team coach Roy Hodgson said today that on paper, it was an unbeatable combination but they needed to bring home the Serie A title to justify their status.

Hodgson, who recently coached Inter for four matches in a caretaker role, said he thought Vieri was an excellent acquisition for the club.

"The price tag for Vieri could be considered ridiculous but then comparisons would have to be made with people in the golf world, the tennis world and not least of all what Elton John gets for a pop concert," he said.

"I think he'll do very well and will be a perfect foil and complement for Ronaldo. "It's easy to say this is the best strike force in the world

but it will only be the best if they can win the Italian championship."

Vieri will not arrive here until late Friday, which presents Hodgson with a problem in selecting his run-on squad for the match.

He said he would be surprised if they turned out to be a cohesive combination and his main objective would be to try to provide good entertainment.

"I'm not going to tell them how to play but will try to put them into a position where they are comfortable," he said.

"The last time I coached a FIFA team was in Japan where we lost 6-1. But there were no crunching tackles or silly