

Champs' League qualifying results

LONDON, July 22: Results of first qualifying round, second leg matches in the Champions' League on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

In Yerevan: Tsement Ararat (Armenia) 0 Zalgiris Vilnius (Lithuania) 3

Scorers: Igor Novikov 7, Andrius Jokshas 32, Nerijus Vasiliauskas 65.

Halftime: 0-2; Attendance: 1,500

Zalgiris win 5-0 on aggregate and now play Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) in second qualifying round

In Baku: Kapaz Ganja (Azerbaijan) 2 Sloga Jugomag (Macedonia) 1

Scorers: Kapaz — Ramiz Mamedov 19, Vidiav Rzayev 90 pen, Sloga — Rafik Arif 34.

Halftime: 1-1; Attendance: 8,000

Aggregate 2-2. Sloga win on away goal rule and now play Brondby (Denmark) in second qualifying round.

In Chisinau: Zimbru Chisinau (Moldova) 5 St Patrick's Athletic (Ireland) 0

Scorers: Boris Tropansets 25, 40, Vadim Borets 31, 75, Igor Opera 83 pen.

Halftime: 3-0; Attendance: 10,000

Zimbru win 10-0 on aggregate and now play Dynamo Tbilisi (Georgia) in second qualifying round.

In Riga: Skonto Riga (Latvia) 8 Jeunesse Esch (Luxembourg) 0

Scorers: Imants Bleidets 37, 50, Mihails Moholaps 39, 55, 63, 85 pen, 90 pen, Vladimirs Koleschenko 77.

Halftime: 2-0; Attendance: 500

Skonto win 10-0 on aggregate and now play Rapid Bucharest (Romania) in second qualifying round.

In Tirana: SK Tirana (Albania) 1 JBV Vestmannaevjar (Iceland) 2

Scorers: SK Tirana — Sokol Bulku 82, JBV Vestmannaevjar — Johannesson 33, Sigrudson, 48.

Halftime: 0-2; Attendance: 5,000

JBV Vestmannaevjar win 3-1 on aggregate and now play MTK Budapest (Hungary) in second qualifying round.

In Tallinn: Flora Tallinn (Estonia) 1 Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 4

Scorers: Flora — Kristian Viikma 52, Partizan — Mateja Kezman 10, 69, Sasa Ilic 20, Dore Tomic 82.

Halftime: 0-2; Attendance: 225

Partizan Belgrade win 10-1 on aggregate and now play Rijeka (Croatia) in second qualifying round.

In Helsinki: Haka Valkaskoski (Finland) 6 HB Torsvahn (Faroe Islands) 0

Scorers: Janne Salli 26, Martin Reinders 44, Kai Nyssonen 46, David Wilson 63, Valeri Popovitch 80, Tommi Torkkola 90.

Halftime: 2-0; Attendance: 2,200

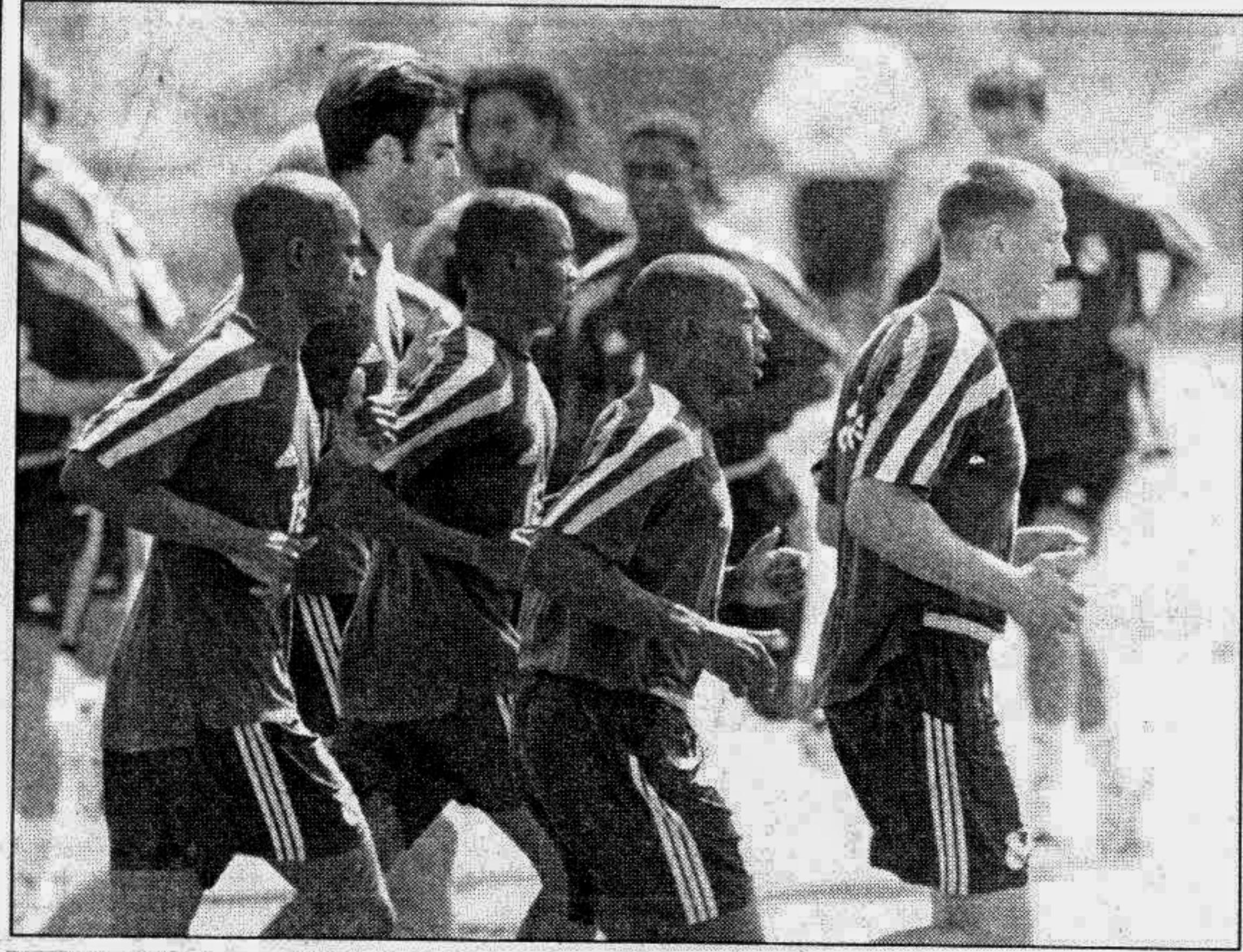
Haka win 7-1 on aggregate and now play Rangers (Scotland) in second qualifying round.

In Portage la Prairie on Tuesday to ask for refugee status.

Cuban shooter seeks asylum

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, July 22: A Cuban pistol shooter defected when his team arrived for the Pan American Games, Canadian Press reported on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The Canadian news agency cited unidentified sources as naming the athlete as Abel Juncosa Reyes, but said Royal Canadian Mounted Police and immigration officials would only confirm that a male athlete had approached two RCMP officers in Portage la Prairie on Tuesday to ask for refugee status.



Real Madrid players (L-R) Brazilian Julio Cesar, Bizarri of Argentina, Comeroen's Geremi, Colombia's Cong and Bodo Illgner of Germany warming up with the team during the first practice of the season at Madrid yesterday.

— AFP photo

Kipketer just too good



PARIS, July 22: Wilson Kipketer, Denmark's Kenyan-born 800 metres world indoor and outdoor record holder, maintained his interest in the million dollar Golden League bonus here on Wednesday at the third of the seven-meet series when he won his event despite losing a shoe with 200 metres to go, reports AFP.

Aside from Kipketer the most noteworthy performance came from Noah Ngeny, the second fastest man ever in the world over 1,000 metres and the mile, as he showed how much he has come on rising from being a pacemaker to the world's third fastest man ever in the 1,500 metres -- breaking the Kenyan record but failing in his bid for Hicham El-Guerrouj's world record.

Kipketer was one of just four athletes who kept their hopes alive of sharing in the million dollar bonus for winning the seven race Golden League series as American long jumper Erick Walder and Russian 800 metres star Svetlana Masterkova, who was carrying an ankle injury, both lost to end their interest.

The other three are Marion Jones, who easily retained her unbeaten streak in the 200 metres going back to May 1995 and looks a certainty to take a second successive share in the bonus, Romanian Gabriela Szabo in the 3,000 metres who set the fastest time this year of 8min 25.29, and Kenyan 3000 metres steeplechaser Bernard Barasal.

Kipketer, almost back to the shape he was in before struck down by malaria and liver problems last year, never looked like being beaten despite losing the shoe after taking it up with 150 metres to go despite South African Hezekiel Sepeng leading the challenge in the final straight.

"I'm very happy to have won particularly after losing the shoe," he said.

"I just don't know how I came to lose the shoe but it happened as I wound up for the final

sprint," he added.

However, the 26-year-old, who now trains on his own having disposed of his coach, maintained that his priority remained defending his world title in Seville in August rather than the share in the million dollar bonus.

The 20-year-old Ngeny, who is part of the England-based Kim McDonald stable, took the lead on the final bell but was never in a realistic position to break El-Guerrouj's mark of 3min 26sec, for which he was one of the pacemakers in Rome last year.

The omens were not good when they were called for a false start and although both pacemakers were the same duo from the Rome meeting earlier this month where El-Guerrouj broke the mile record but failing in his bid for Hicham El-Guerrouj's world record.

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