

Rajshahi kabadi, h'ball results

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, Sept 6: Abahani Krira Chakra and Bandhan Krira Chakra won their respective matches in the First Division Kabadi league at the district outer stadium yesterday.

Abahani defeated Diganta Prasery Sangha 61-52. They got three and two 'lonas' respectively.

In the second match of the day at the same venue, Bandhan KC defeated Mahubagan Club 71-55. They got three and one 'lonas' respectively.

In the Saturday's matches, Raj Sporting Club and Upashahar Modern Boxing Club collected full points winning their respective matches.

Raj Sporting achieved an easy win over Baikal Shanghai 96-29.

Upashahar Modern Boxing Club defeated Lotus club 60-58.

Meanwhile, Star Sports Club beat Kalabagan Krira Sangskritik Shanghai 22-10 the Rajshahi Metropolitan handball league yesterday at the Rajshahi Govt College School play ground.

Dider and Masum made nine and six goals for the winners. Murad and Iraj scored six and three goals respectively for the losers.

Blown away

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bing three wickets for 44 runs, but Langer hung around for 280 minutes for 52 to ensure Australia didn't lose the initiative given by the early batsmen.

Langer was out with seven runs required, caught at forward short leg off part-time spinner Hasan Tillekeratne, but Australia were not to be denied the victory.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of play in the 4-day tour match between Australia and Sri Lanka at Saranavatt Stadium on Monday:

BOARD XI: First Innings
179

BOARD XII: Second Innings
271

AUSTRALIA: Second Innings (Overnight 39 for no loss)

Blewett c de Saran b Galle 148
Slater c de Saran b Herath 51

Langer c Dilshan b Tillekeratne 52
Healy c Tillekeratne b Galle 2

S Waugh c Jayawardene 21
R Ponting c Perera b Herath 10

Hayden not out 11
Warne not out 4

Extras: B-4, lb-9, nb-9) 32
Total (For 6 wickets in 101 overs) 221

Fall of Wickets: 1-115; 2-249; 3-251; 4-278; 5-293; 6-314.

Bowler **O** **M** **R** **W**
Galle 12 4 28 2
Villavayen 15 4 38 1

Herath 33 7 111 2
Perera 15 2 46 1
Arnold 25 7 81 0
Tillekeratne 0 4 1

Result: Australia won by four wickets.

Wasim may be

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hold its final hearing on Wednesday, after which Justice Qayyum will submit his findings with the chief patron of the PCB and the government.

However, the commission proceedings could be prolonged if any of the four persons, called to appear before it on Wednesday on the request of the legal counsel for Wasim, decides to ask for another date to be cross examined.

The four are Rashid Latif, Basil Ali, Sarfraz Nawaz and Majid Khan. In view of the advice given by Naushad, Yawar and Zaman, the sources say Mujeeb is now convinced that the ad hoc committee would be put in an embarrassing situation if they immediately lift the suspension on Wasim before the conclusion of the commission's probe.

In this changed scenario, the sources say all probability Moin Khan will now be appointed as makeshift skipper for the Toronto matches with the team being picked from among the players currently attending the training camp in Lahore.

In that case, Wasim will have to wait until the tournament in Sharjah in October to meet a comeback.

The chief selector is expected to hand over the Pakistan squad for the Toronto series to the Board on Tuesday.

"We have already held a preliminary meeting of the selection committee and on Tuesday, we will submit our squad to the Board, whose responsibility it is to announce it when they want to," stated Naushad.

Heyns sets new world swim mark

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 6: Penny Heyns overcome high altitude, cold water and what she called "pathetic turns" to break the women's 100 metres breaststroke short-course world record on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Heyns clocked one minute 5.57 seconds on the final day of the South African short-course championship to better the mark of 1:05.70 set by Samantha Riley of Australia in Rio de Janeiro in December 1995.

It is the ninth world record the South African has set in the past seven weeks but her first in a short-course (25-metre) pool.

Heyns broke her own world long-course records in the 50, 100 and 200 metres breaststroke at the Pan Pacific Games in Sydney last month.

"I'm pleased with my time, especially because the water's cold and it's at altitude, but I think I've still got a lot to learn at short-course," Heyns told the South African Press Association.

"My turns are pathetic. Because I swim without goggles I can't see the walls."

Worcester earn tense win

LONDON, Sept 6 (AFP): Worcester-shire earned a tense three-run victory over Essex at Chelmsford on Sunday to keep them on target for the National League Division One title.

They now only have to win their last two games against Hampshire and Lancashire to make sure of finishing in top spot after this latest success enabled them to leapfrog over the Red Rose side.

Defending a total of 211 for six, the visitors looked poised to win without too much trouble as they reduced their opponents to 103 for five in the 21st over but in the end Essex pushed them to the last ball.

Essex lost their big guns, including Stuart Law who made 45 from 38 deliveries, but they were revived by Paul Grayson and Robert Rollins.

They put together a sixth-wicket stand of 87 before Grayson was dismissed by Richard Illingworth for 66 with 22 required from 22 deliveries.

It came down to nine wanted off the final over sent down by Alamgir Sheriary, and in it he got rid of Rollins for 51 and David Thompson to finish with four for 42 from five overs.

Earlier medium-pace Gavin Haynes claimed four for 28 in nine accurate overs, including the valuable wicket of Australian Law as he drove into the safe hands of Graeme Hick at short extra cover.

Ton Moody and Elliott Wilson had launched the Worcestershire innings with an opening stand of 99 in 21 overs.

Moody was then stumped for 42 but Wilson went on to gather

60, containing seven boundaries, before he was caught on the deep mid wicket boundary to provide off-spinner Peter Such with one of his three wickets picked up at a cost of 27.

Derbyshire meanwhile raised their hopes of avoiding the wooden spoon when they completed a National League double over Middlesex.

At 25-run victory at Derby saw them leapfrog Middlesex in the Division Two table and put them eight points clear of bottom club Durham.

It also gave Derbyshire a clean sweep of victories over Middlesex this season.

As well as beating them in the league at Southgate last month, they also won the championship match at Lord's.

Middlesex rarely looked like breaking the sequence on a steamy day after Derbyshire had rattled up 215 for eight from their 45 overs.

Mark Ramprakash briefly threatened to turn the game with some brilliant stroke play and Richard Kettleborough kept Middlesex afloat with 58 but it was not enough to loosen Derbyshire's grip.

Even with Dominic Cork unable to bowl because of a lingering back problem, the other seamers stuck to their task in the muggy heat with Trevor Smith and Matthew Cassar taking four wickets each while tri-athlete Kasir Shah claimed the other two.

Derbyshire's total was built around Robin Weston's second National League half-century in a week after Cork had won the toss and elected to bat first.

Steve Stubbings played some flourishing strokes, driving

Simon Cook for a straight six and went on to reach 37 before he swung Angus Fraser to deep mid wicket.

Weston completed his 50 off 74 balls before he drilled a short ball from Fraser to Ramprakash at short mid wicket in the 34th over.

But Adrian Rollins, Cork and Karl Krikken ensured Derbyshire set a challenging total and Smith then struck twice in the first four overs of the Middlesex reply.

Paul Weekes sliced a lofted drive and was caught at wide mid-on for a single and then Mike Roseberry hit a return catch which Smith accepted.

Ramprakash responded by hitting the fast bowler for three fours in an over but Middlesex lost another wicket when Owais Shaw was bowled aiming a pull at Cassar.

The key wicket also went to Cassar when Ramprakash aimed another big drive and was bowled in the 20th over for 41.

David Nash and Ben Hutton went cheaply as Middlesex slumped to 121 for six but Kettleborough batted defiantly to at least keep the game alive.

He reached his 50 from 66 balls with four fours and added two more before Smith nipped one back at him to have him lbw in the 36th over.

Keith Dutch also held up Derbyshire but the tail was gradually whittled away by Cassar.

Cook was bowled for nine and after Richard Johnson went without scoring, Dutch's innings of 37 was ended when he was lbw to Cassar to give Derbyshire victory with 16 balls to spare.

McMenemy to stay in the saddle

BELFAST, Sept 6: Lawrie McMenemy has been offered an extended contract by the Irish Football Association (IFA) to stay on as Northern Ireland coach for the 2002 World Cup qualifying campaign, reports AFP.

McMenemy's current deal expired at the end of the qualifying for Euro 2000 and pressure was mounting on him following Saturday's 3-0 home defeat by Turkey, which ended their hopes of reaching the finals.

However, the IFA's 10-man international committee had already unanimously decided at a meeting on August 25 to keep faith with McMenemy and his coaching team of Joe Jordan and Pat Jennings.

Although Northern Ireland have recorded just one competitive win during McMenemy's 12-match reign the IFA believe "sufficient progress" has been made to renew his contract.

IFA general secretary David Bowen said: "After discussions in respect of the great progress which has been made over the past year-and-a-half, particularly with the advent of the Under-21 side and the new professionalism and organisation within the international department, the international committee decided unanimously to inform the team manager and his staff that they very much wish them to continue into the next World Cup campaign."

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Croatia lead Group 8 with 14 points from seven matches, one ahead of Yugoslavia who have a game in hand - the return with Macedonia in Skopje on Wednesday. Ireland, who also have a game in hand over the leaders have 12 points but are likely to add to that against Malta on Wednesday.

The Irish complete their campaign in Macedonia on the same day as Yugoslavia and bitter rivals Croatia have their showdown in Zagreb.

Macedonia, cheered by a small but vociferous band of supporters, were the brighter starters on Sunday and missed two good chances in the opening 15 minutes.

Striker Georgi Hristov shot wide from close range and Yugoslav keeper Ivica Kralj tipped Toni Micevski's superb shot over the bar moments later.

The Yugoslavs regained their composure and took a deserved 36th minute lead through Stojkovic, back in the side after a rib injury, after a Predrag Mijatovic cross found him at the far post.

Mijatovic was the provider again nine minutes after the interval when he put Stojkovic through with a defence-splitting pass and the skipper blasted the ball into the roof of the net to double the lead.

Macedonia threw men forward and got their reward in the 64th minute when Sasa Ciric sent Kralj the wrong way from the penalty spot after second-half substitute Zarko Serafimovski was felled in the box.

Savicevic sealed Yugoslavia's victory moments after coming on as a replacement for Stojkovic, when Boban Babunski deflected his speculative shot from the left flank past helpless keeper Petar Milosevski.

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Almost exactly a year ago, Cyprus beat group favourites Spain by the same scoreline. Now the Cypriot part-times have dented Israel's qualifying hopes and go second in the table. It was a tough-tackling game which matched the hot-house atmosphere at the Tisiron Stadium and which was re-flected in seven yellow cards being meted out by English referee David Barber.

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Ba disappoints Milan

MILAN, Sept 6: AC Milan's French international mid-fielder Ibrahim Ba has turned down a move to English Premier league Middlesbrough. The Italian champions agreed a one-year loan deal with Middlesbrough last week and Ba who appears not to feature in the plans of Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni, was expected to sign a contract on Sunday, reports Reuters.

"I gave the matter some good thought because Middlesbrough officials came to Milan to speak to me and it would not have been right to turn them down without some consideration, but I am not going to Middlesbrough," Ba told the daily Tut-tosport.

The decision will frustrate Milan who have been trying to offload Ba throughout the summer but the Frenchman hopes the club will be under-standing.

"I know there is no place for me in (the Milan squad) at the moment but there is a big club and I hope there will not be any problems for me because I have not accepted the move to Middlesbrough. Although I have said no to Middlesbrough it does not mean I am not open to offers from other clubs," Ba said.

Ba has not explained his reasons for rejecting the move to England but Italian press reports have suggested he would prefer to spend a year on loan in Italy keeping open the possibility of a return to Milan at the end of his loan spell.

African soccer scene
JOHANNESBURG, Sept 6: Tunisian club Esperance continued their march to the African Champions League final with a convincing 2-0 win over Zimbabwe's Dynamos in Harare yesterday, reports Reuters.

The win comes two weeks after Esperance convincingly trounced defending champions ASEC Abidjan 3-0 in their opening match of the Champions League campaign.

Goals from Khalid Azatez and Edith Agoye in the first 18 minutes of the game ensured Esperance have a clear lead in Group Two.

Morocco's Raja Casablanca are the leaders in group one after their shock win over tournament favourites Al Ahli of Egypt in Cairo on Friday night.

Vieri might make 'em pay

ROME, Sept 6: AS Roma and Lazio fans joined forces to jeer and whistle at Christian Vieri on Sunday, but the boo boys might regret it when Italy's centre-forward striker next pulls on an Inter Milan shirt, reports AFP.

Vieri was playing in an evening friendly here against local amateurs Lodigiani as Italy prepare for their Group 1 qualifier against Denmark on Wednesday night in Naples.

Vieri had left the pitch here in tears at the end of last season when his Lazio team failed to win the league on the final day. But it was a different story from the 25,000-strong Olympic stadium crowd on Sunday.

Roma fans were winding him up before this weekend's big Serie A clash here with Inter while Lazio supporters were venting their anger at him having left their club over the summer.

Vieri brushed aside the whistles, saying: "That old story again? The crowd are free to behave as they like... but I'm not the sort who backs down in the



CHRISTIAN VIERI

face of barracking."

And the man who scored a hat-trick on his Inter debut warned them: "On the contrary, it's something that really fires me up."

"Those whistles certainly aren't going to put me off my game on Sunday."

Italy coach Dino Zoff also played down the crowd's reaction, telling the Gazzetta dello Sport: "To be honest, I expected even worse. And anyway, a bit of local rivalry doesn't do any harm."

The pleasant surprise for the 1982 World Cup winners was the sheer numbers who turned out to watch what was a training match. The national side often struggles to get 25,000 to a full international.

"I live in Rome and I knew there'd be a chance that people would turn out here," Zoff said.

"I thought there'd be some enthusiasm, but this went beyond what I'd expected, especially when I saw there were a lot of families with children."

"Football has to get back this kind of atmosphere and these kinds of values, it's something we should be thinking about."

Sacchi sees no passion

ROME, Sept 6: Former AC Milan and national coach Arrigo Sacchi delivered a stunning attack on Italian soccer on Monday, claiming it was bland, boring and backward, reports AFP.

Sacchi, who guided Milan to Italian and European Cup success and took Italy to the 1994 World Cup final, ridiculed the country's coaches, with the exception of ex-AS Roma boss Zdenek Zeman, who is currently jobless.

Looking ahead to the coming season, Sacchi said: "From the little I've seen so far, we're not going to have a lot of fun. My impression is that Italian football has taken a step backwards."

"There is a lot of conformity. All the teams play the same way, it's difficult to distinguish one from the other and it's difficult to see something new."

Dismissing the much vaunted wing-backs, who are supposed to give teams more attacking options, Sacchi believes such players actually spend more time moving backward than forward, and that Italian soccer is effectively

turning the clock back to the concrete bunker defences of the past.

Based on the premise that



ARRIGO SACCHI

they are using a three-man defence, almost all of the teams actually play with five men at the back, thereby allowing

them to move back a libero," he lamented.

"We've gone back to the kind of football we used to play 15 years ago."

And he went on: "I've always thought that football coaches can be divided into two categories: those who just there to manage the wealth of talent they have available and those who try to create something new, who try to increase that wealth by virtue of their ideas."

"And at the moment, I can only see management people. The absence of Zeman is something serious. He's always one who stands out from the rest... he's a born innovator in what is often a conservative sport."

"There are a lot of good teams, very good teams out there. But I can't see any ideas. I can't see any difference between them," he told the Corriere dello Sport.

"It's as if they've all suddenly been put together like photocopies."

Tipping Inter, Lazio and Juventus for the league title, Sacchi is undecided about his future after an unhappy spell at Atletico Madrid. His coaching days could be over and he may move into television commentating, is rumoured to be on the cards.

Davids cleared for Serie A

MILAN, Sept 6: Juventus have been given the all-clear to field Edgar Davids in the Serie A this weekend after the Dutch midfielder used medicines containing banned substances to treat an eye problem, reports AFP.

Davids, who is being treated for glaucoma, scored twice in Holland's draw last weekend with Belgium but has been kicking his heels at club level.

Juventus haven't used him for a month because Italian sports officials in Rome have been dithering over whether to

give permission. A letter from FIFA, the sport's ruling body, only cleared the midfielder to play football at the end of last week.

Davids, who played on Saturday with swimming-style goggles to protect the affected eye, remains bitter about the whole affair.

"This really is a minor matter but in Italy they have made it out to be much bigger than it is."

Davids also admitted feeling victimised by Italian sports officials at the soccer federation and the national Olympic committee (CONI), saying: "I really do. Times have changed."

"When three different doctors tell you that you have to take a certain medicine and UEFA give you the okay, but Italy says 'no' that makes you angry."

CONI secretary general Raf-

fello Pagnozzi said: "FIFA agreed to the treatment in a letter to the Italian football federation last Thursday. The CONI received a copy. It says explicitly 'all competitions'."

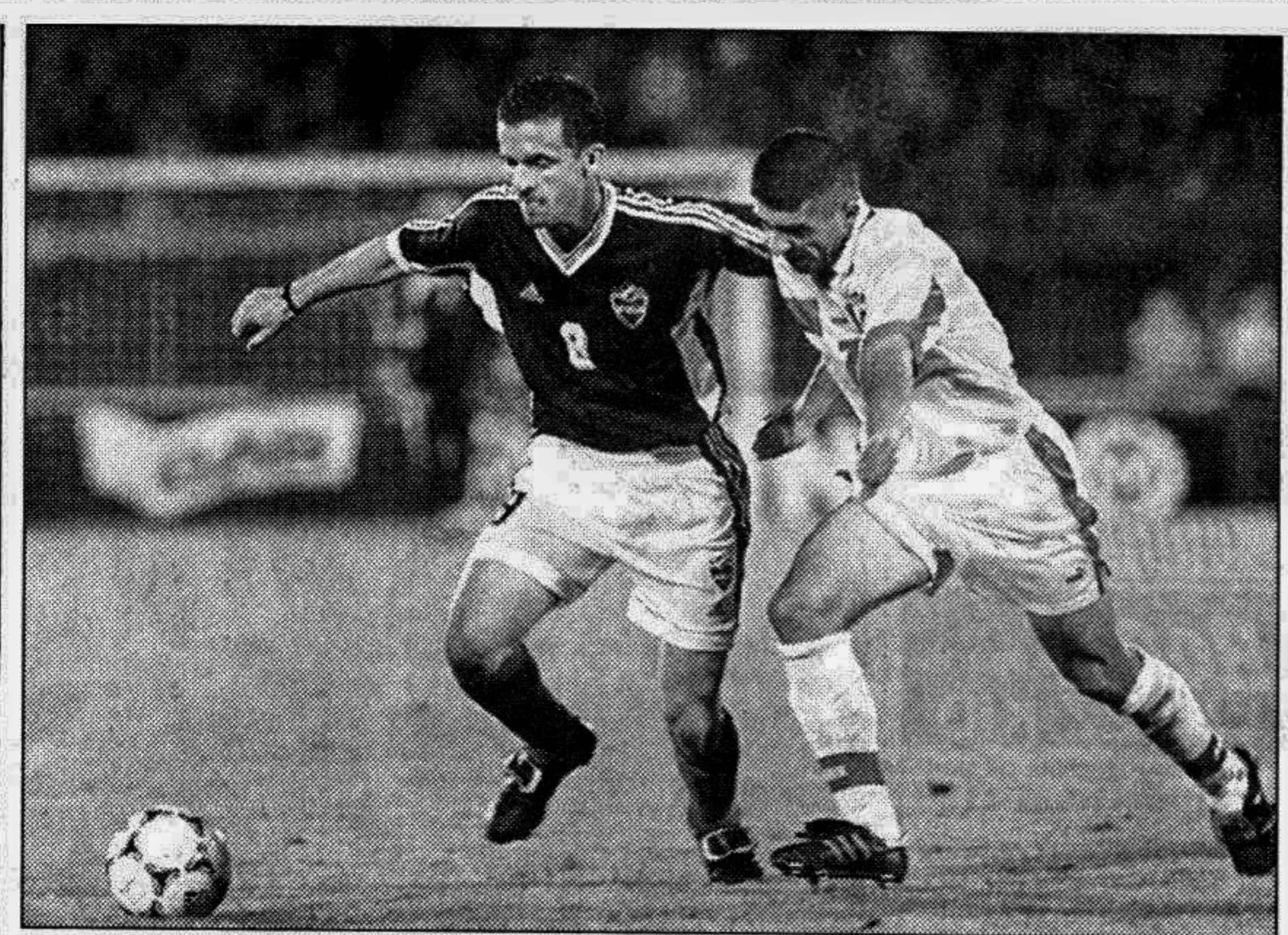
The all-clear from both UEFA and FIFA should now be rubber-stamped by the International Olympic Committee.

The reticence of both the CONI and soccer officials, who passed the buck to the likes of FIFA and the IOC, follows a scandal last year in which Italy was held up to worldwide ridicule over the failings of its anti-doping programme and its IOC-approved test laboratory.

Khulna soccer
KHULNA, Sept 6: Mohammedan Sporting Club defeated Town Club 2-0 in the Meghna Cement 12th DSA football tournament played yesterday at the Khulna Stadium, reports BSS.

The winners scored the first goal in the eleventh minute through Mazharul Islam and the second by Ejaj in the thirty-third minute.

Ejaj and Khalid of Mohammedan and Hadi of Town Club were shown yellow cards.



Yugoslavia's Predrag Mijatovic (L) brushes aside the challenge of Dragan Veselinovski of Macedonia during their Euro qualifier in Belgrade on September 5. —AFP photo

Vital wins for Yugoslavia, Cyprus

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Beckham worry for Keegan

LONDON, Sept 6: England coach Kevin Keegan is hopeful key midfielder David Beckham will shrug off a hamstring niggle in time to face Poland in the vital Group Five European Championship qualifier in Warsaw on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Keegan, whose squad flew out to Poland on Monday, is already without Liverpool pool-midfielder Jamie Redknapp due to a heel injury and Beckham's absence would leave something of a creative void at the heart of his team.

Beckham has been undergoing treatment along with defender Tony Adams, who has a dead leg, and young midfielder Kieron Dyer. All three were hurt in Saturday's 6-0 win over Luxembourg at Wembley