

Friendly against Brazil

Socceroos at full strength

SYDNEY, Oct 19: New coach Frank Farina Tuesday named a full-strength Australian squad for next month's two home football internationals with Brazil, reports AFP.

Farina, just back from talking to most of his European-based stars, announced a squad that includes Mark Bosnich, Mark Schwarzer, Paul Okon, Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell and Tony Vidmar.

Brazil's tour is being funded by the International Management Group (IMG), who manage Viduka, Kewell, Josip Skoko and John Aloisi and they are all likely to make the trip for the games at Sydney's Olympic stadium on November 14 and three days later at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Libya turns to Diego

TRIPOLI, Oct 19: Argentine footballing legend Diego Maradona is due here Wednesday to give a boost to Libyan football after the isolation of seven years of UN sanctions, newspapers reported, reports AFP.

Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi's son Saadi, who heads the national football federation, invited the help of the player notorious for his "hand of God" and his cocaine habit in a bid to "develop Libyan football," the newspapers said Tuesday.

Libyan football has not made an entirely happy return to the world stage since UN sanctions were suspended in April.

More than 30 people, including nine policemen, were injured when violent clashes broke out between Libyan fans and security forces during Libya's Arab Games clash with Iraq in Amman in August.

Libya went out of the games after play was suspended for a second time during the match. And in July a friendly match between the national team and Italian club side Perugia had to be abandoned after 17 minutes because of a riot among players and officials.

The United Nations lifted an air and arms embargo against Libya after two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a US airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, were handed over for trial before a Scottish court in the Netherlands.

2003 WC games in townships

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 19: Cricket's 2003 World Cup in South Africa is to include matches in the townships, reports Reuters.

Alli Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), said on Monday: "It is very important that between three to five matches are played at a venue situated in formerly disadvantaged areas."

The traditionally Indian area of Chatsworth in Durban has been earmarked as a venue and at least one black township is to stage a match.

The proposed township venues are particularly likely to need big financial aid towards improving stadiums, and the UCBSA will pay for any upgrading.

South Africa's cricket authorities will consult an expert on the construction of sports stadiums to ensure facilities for the World Cup are up to international standards.

Karnataka rout NZ

BANGALORE, Oct 19: Karnataka state beat New Zealand by seven wickets in their three-day match today, reports Reuters.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day match between Karnataka state and New Zealand on Tuesday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 249 for six declared (S Fleming 115 not out).

KARNATAKA: First innings 269 for nine declared (V Bharadwaj 96).

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (Overnight 12-0)

Home c Naidu b Ganesh	12
Bell c Arun Kumar b Joshi	26
Harris c Vijay b Joshi	0
Spearman b Ganesh	1
Cairns c Vijay b Ganesh	8
Astle c Vijay b Kumble	33
Parore lbw b Joshi	0
Penn b Kumble	1
Fleming c Vijay b Bharadwaj	4
Wiseman c Arun Kumar b Joshi	6
Drum not out	1
Extras: (b-1, lb-12)	13
Total: (All out)	105

Fall of wickets: 1-30; 2-35; 3-36; 4-48; 5-78; 6-78; 7-85; 8-96; 9-98

KARNATAKA: Second innings

Somasundar c Harris b Wiseman	19
Arun Kumar c Spearman b Cairns	4
David c Parore b Drum	18
Bharadwaj not out	33
Naidu not out	7
Extras: (lb-1, nb-4)	5
Total: (For three wickets)	86

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-43; 3-56

Bowler O M R W

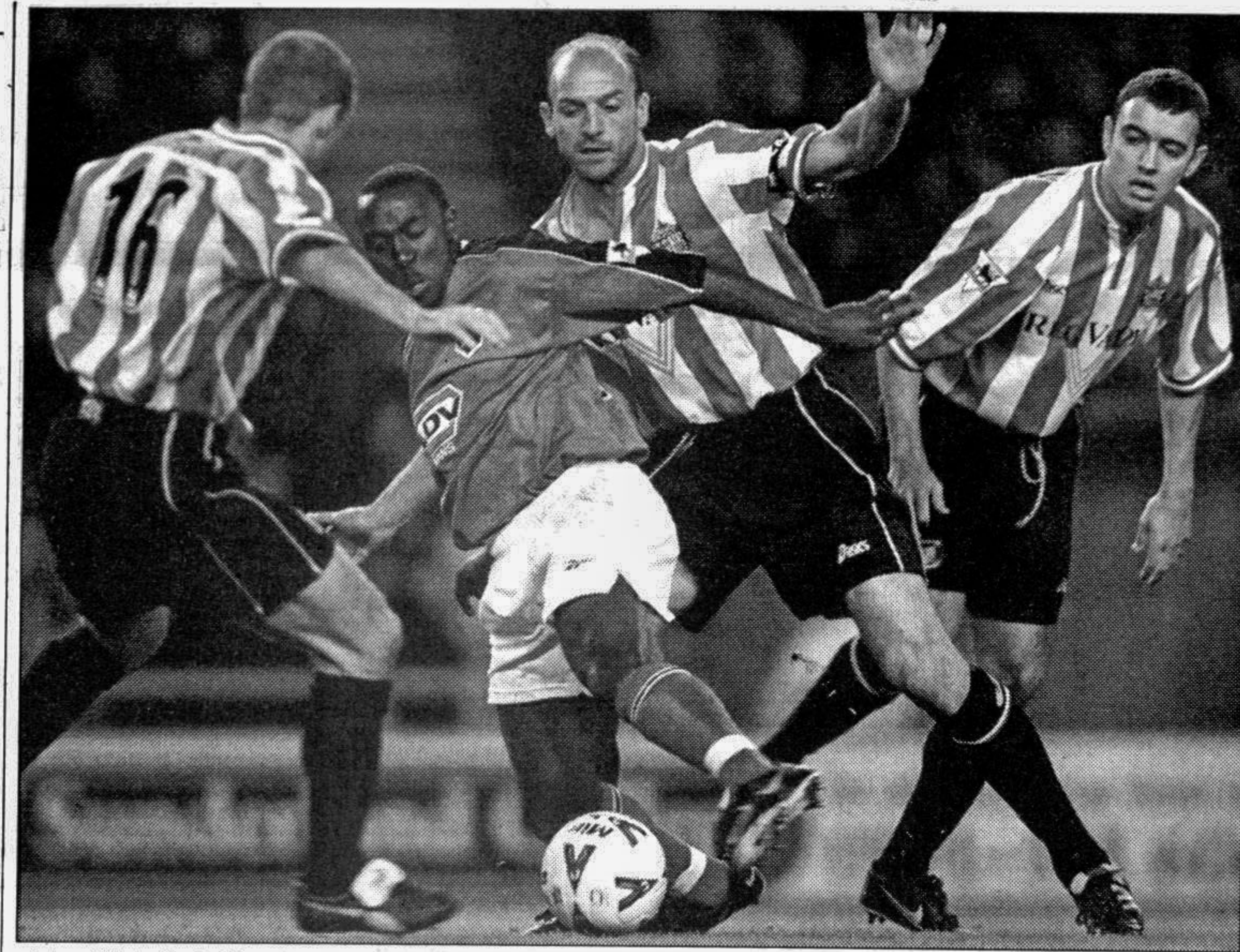
Ganesh 14 3 41 3

M A Khan 4 2 11 0

Bharadwaj 4 1 14 1

Kumble 10 5 9 2

Joshi 15.5 7 17 4



Aston Villa's Daris Vassell (2nd from L) is sandwiched between two Sunderland players in their Premiership encounter on October 18. —AFP photo

Premiership

Phillips double sinks Villa



SUNDERLAND, England, Oct 19: England striker Kevin Phillips scored both goals as Sunderland

came from a goal down to beat Aston Villa 2-1 in the English Premiership Monday, reports AFP.

Dion Dublin had given Villa a 46th-minute lead but Phillips, who had a spell in non-league football with Baldock Town, showed once again how easily he has acclimatised to the top flight after proving a prolific scorer in the first division. He now has 12 goals this season.

And his goals will be a reminder to England coach Kevin Keegan ahead of the European Championship play-off double-header with Scotland.

Sunderland, who now go third in the table, made a bright start against Villa but it was the visitors who had the first real chance.

That opportunity fell after 15 minutes to fledgling star Darius Vassell who showed a remarkable turn of speed as he outpaced England fullback Michael Gray.

But indecision and poor control proved Vassell's downfall when Sunderland goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen advanced to narrow the angle. Vassell delayed for what seemed an eternity and then when he tried to put the ball over the bar, Sorensen only succeeded in putting the ball out of play.

The next real attempt on goal also came from Villa when Gareth Barry tested Sorensen who easily held his shot.

Vassell again showed the Sunderland defence a clean pair of heels when he raced onto a pass from Dion Dublin. He was baulked on the edge of the area by Chris Makin prompting penalty appeals from Villa but

referee David Elleray correctly ruled that the offence was outside the area.

Finally on the half hour Sunderland carved out their first real chance. Swede Stefan Schwarz floated in a cross and Niall Quinn's header drifted just inches wide.

But Villa were looking dangerous on the break and Lee Hendrie should have done better when played through by Dublin.

Sunderland survived until the interval but it only took Villa one minute after the restart to open the scoring. Alan Thompson floated in a freekick and Dublin rose unopposed to power a header past Sorensen.

Just two minutes later veteran Sunderland defender Steve Bould made a vital tackle with his trailing leg as Vassell threatened to dribble through and score.

Villa boss John Gregory then brought on Paul Merson for

Vassell who had picked up a hamstring strain and was applauded from the field.

But on the hour a controversial penalty allowed Sunderland to square the match.

Quinn tangled with Villa's Mark Delaney. The ball struck Quinn's hand and then Delaney's arm and Elleray penalised the Villa player. England striker Kevin Phillips made no mistake from the spot.

Sunderland boss Peter Reid then introduced Irish youngster Michael Reddy to make a three-pronged attack with the home team clearly hunting the three points.

Almost immediately the move paid dividends. Schwarz played in a ball from the left touchline and Phillips headed the ball past Villa keeper David James.

Reddy went close with a long range shot as the game drifted into stoppage time but Phillips' second proved the decider.

STANDINGS

English Premiership table after match played Monday (points, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)										
Leeds	11	8	1	2	21	12	25			
Man Utd	11	7	3	1	27	16	24			
Sunderland	11	7	2	2	20	9	23			
Arsenal	11	7	1	3	17	10	22			
Leicester	11	6	2	3	19	14	20			
Chelsea	9	6	1	2	15	4	19			
Everton	11	5	2	4	17	14	17			
Tottenham	10	5	2	3	17	14	17			
Aston Villa	11	5	2	4	12	11	17			
West Ham	9	5	1	3	11	8	16			
Middlesbrough	11	5	0	6	13	15	15			
Liverpool	10	4	2	4	11	10	14			
Coventry	11	3	3	5	16	15	12			
Southampton	10	3	2	5	17	21	11			
Wimbledon	11	2	5	4	17	25	11			
Watford	11	3	0	8	7	15	9			
Derby	11	2	3	6	10	19	9			
Bradford	10	2	2	6	6	16	8			
Newcastle	11	2	1	8	21	27	7			
Sheff Wed	11	1	1	9	8	27	4			

Ali was just joking!



NEW YORK, Oct 19: Muhammad Ali, the fighter who once floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee, said Monday he was only joking about a return to boxing, saying: "It was just me being me," reports AFP.

Ali wrote in Newsweek magazine that he was going to train for a 15-round exhibition despite suffering from Parkinson's disease.

It was news that proved all too believable for fight fans but was in reality too good to be true. Ali said in a statement on Monday after his magazine comments sparked global interest.

"Let me tell you something that will shock the Earth," the 57-year-old heavyweight legend wrote.

"I'm going to train and get in really good shape, lose 35 pounds, and do an exhibition in Madison Square Garden with two or three contenders. I will dance for 15 rounds and whip them. I haven't forgotten."

"I will be weighing in at 210 pounds. I will just say, I am returned. Get the contract."

"Now I'm fighting Parkinson's disease. But I don't let it stop me. I still travel, attend to my business, do interviews."

Ali, who first won the heavyweight crown from Sonny Liston in 1964, last fought in a 10-round loss to Trevor Berbick in 1981.

Allardyce named new Bolton manager

LONDON, Oct 19: Sam Allardyce was appointed manager of English first division side Bolton Wanderers on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Allardyce, who resigned as Nottingham boss last week, replaces Colin Todd who quit the Reebok Stadium four weeks ago.

Ali's speech and movement has been limited by the degenerative nerve disease, which has not dimmed his intelligence but has limited his muscle control. Ali's wife Lonnie travels with him and often speaks on his behalf.

The legend has appeared on television shows and attended the first fight of his daughter Laila 10 days ago in Verona, New York.

In the magazine, Ali said the greatest thing he ever did was not fight in Vietnam when he was drafted in 1967. He said his greatest bout was winning the "Thrilla in Manila" against Joe Frazier in 1975.

Ali also took a fabled triumph over George Foreman in Zaire, dubbed the "Rumble in the Jungle."

On the occasion the first inter-house football tournament was held at the school premises recently. Bhansani House defeated Sher-e-Bangla House 4-1 in the final on October 12. Asif Ali, executive director of the club, handed over the trophy as chief guest. M Motiur Rahman, Headmaster of the school presided over the prize giving ceremony.

Ali Imran Chengiz Memorial Trophy has been introduced at Dhaka Collegiate School. Sponsored by the Dhaka Collegiate School's Batch '61 Club, the trophy is dedicated to the memory of late Ali Imran Chengiz, who was a brilliant student of class-VIII, who died in a tragic accident in 1965. Youngest son of Late Dr Nawab Ali, Chengiz was also an outstanding football player, says a press release.

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Sampdoria's fund raising idea

ROME, Oct 19: Serie A club Sampdoria, has come up with a novel idea for raising 3.5 million euros (3.78 million dollars) from the market in the form of a bond issue on which the annual yield is based on the team's results, reports AFP.

The club, which is lying third in the Serie B, Italy's second division, is issuing the four-year bonds with a minimum yield of 2.5 percent.

The prospectus says that this could rise to 7.0 percent if the team is promoted to the Serie A which would open prospects of lucrative TV rights. If the team remained up, the return would be around 5.0 percent.

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Crunch time for Bayern



PARIS, Oct 19: Bayern Munich return to Spain for a European Champions League clash with Valencia Wednesday for the first time since their traumatic 2-1 defeat at the hands of Manchester United in last season's final, reports AFP.

With matches in Groups A to D played Tuesday it is Groups E to H that will see all the action on Wednesday night.

And while Wednesday's match is important but not critical the German champions are well aware that defeat by Group F leaders Valencia will leave them a lot of work to do to get out of their pool, considered by many to be the Group of Death in this year's tournament.

Their build-up to the Valencia clash has been marred by more signs that the team that came so close to glory in Barcelona in May is on the verge of breaking up.

Last May's final in the Nou Camp has already gone down in the football history books as the most dramatic finish ever to a major final and has even been dubbed by some as "the final of the century."

Bayern produced a near flawless tactical display during the scheduled 90 minutes, leading United 1-0. The trophy had been brought to the pitch-side in Bayern ribbons as the game drifted into injury time.

But suddenly it went pear-shaped for the Germans as United substitutes Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored two goals in 95 seconds to snatch the trophy away at the death.

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld claimed his players had gone into clinical shock when Sheringham equalised and an indifferent start to the current domestic campaign suggests his team are still in need of some therapy.

A convincing 3-1 win over fellow German Champions League contenders Hertha Berlin at the weekend, however, was Bayern's best show so far this term and Hitzfeld will be eager for the Germans to reproduce that form in Valencia, themselves yet to really spark in Spain's Primera Liga.

Now that Bayern team appears to be falling apart. Inspirational libero Lothar Matthaus is due to move to the United States in the new year while last week playmaker Mario Basler and Sven Scheuer were effectively sacked for a bust-up in a pizzeria.

And Markus Babel looks destined to move to English Premiership side Liverpool in the summer.

And Basler's antics were not the only to give Hitzfeld a headache. He had previously been fined for carousing in a nightclub on the eve of a Bundesliga game while Matthaus and French World Cup winner Bixente Lizarazu had a much publicised training ground spat that saw Matthaus slapped by his team-mate and Lizarazu fined.

Better news for Bayern came this week with the news that their Brazilian striker Giovane Elber had extended his deal with the club.

The losing side in Valencia - both teams have five points so far - could be leapfrogged by Rangers in Group F, assuming they beat PSV Eindhoven of Holland in Glasgow.

And a draw in Spain would see the Scots top of the pool if PSV are duly dispatched.

A victory for Rangers would also more or less condemn PSV, 1988 European Champions, to an exit and would be a welcome double for Rangers' Dutch boss Dick Advocaat over the team he used to coach. It would also be further evidence that Rangers - winners of 10 out of the last 11 Scottish Championships - are finally a force to be reckoned with in Europe.

In Group F, it is leaders Real Madrid, hunting a record eighth European title, who will be hoping to defeat closest pursuers FC Porto of Portugal, themselves continental kings in 1987.

Greece's Olympiakos and Norway's Molde clash in the other match with Molde all but down and out and the Greeks badly needing a win.

Italy's AC Milan, second only to Real with six wins in Europe's premier club tournament, visit Hertha Berlin in Group H. The Germans are ahead of the Rossoneri on goal difference in that pool but English side Chelsea, who visit Turkey's Galatasaray, are well in the running.

Before the match Chelsea will present their hosts with a 37,000 dollars cheque to help the relief effort following August's earthquake although only a small portion of that money was donated by the players, among the wealthiest in Europe.

The contrast of lifestyles is made apparent by Chelsea's choice of hotel. While 20,000 were killed in the quake and many more are homeless the London side will be staying in the Ciragan Hotel, a former palace of the Ottoman Empire on the shores of the Bosphorus.

Chelsea could also have a lengthy stay at Istanbul airport. Turkish newspapers have called on the country's customs officers to search every team member's bags in retaliation for what was considered a lengthy and unnecessarily long search and interrogation of the Galatasaray players by British officials before the match between the teams in London, won by Chelsea 1-0.

French champions Bordeaux hold the whip hand in Group G where they make the trip to Russia to face Spartak Moscow.

Montenegrin defender Nisa Saveljic is an absentee and will be replaced by Herve Alcarite while Stephane Ziani is a long-term absentee for the Girondins.

Guinean striker Pascal Feindouno is available, though, and could supplement Bordeaux's prolific front pair Sylvain Wiltord and Lilian Laslandes, currently the preferred starting line-up of France coach Roger Lemerre.

Spartak, meanwhile, will be able to count on the services of top scorer, Russian international Andrei Tikhonov. It will also be the first appearance at the Luzhniki Stadium of goalkeeper Alexander Filimonov since his calamitous bungle against Ukraine gave the visitors a 1-1 draw and saw Russia eliminated from the 2000 European Championships.

Spartak coach Oleg Romantsev is also Russia national team boss and has filled the ranks of the Russian team with many Spartak players.

Dutch side Willem II, facing elimination, host the Czech Republic's Sparta Prague in the other Group G fixture.

Hostile Istanbul greet Chelsea



ISTANBUL, Oct 19: Chelsea arrived to a noisy and intimidating welcome here Tuesday for their Champions League Group H tie with Galatasaray, running a gauntlet of placard-waving Turkish fans shouting mostly good natured abuse, reports AFP.

A smoke bomb went off to general indifference as the players made their way to the bus, where they sat bemused as a fan lifted a placard that read: "Please relax, the hell of Ali Sami Yen is waiting for you," a reference to the stadium where they will be playing Wednesday night.

The team were whisked through customs and immigration in 15 minutes flat, contrary to the wishes of some Turkish papers that suggested the English team be given the same treatment Galatasaray said it received at Heathrow when they arrived for the September 28 tie Chelsea won 1-0.

The Turkish players were apparently subjected to a string of questions they considered abusive - "Where are you staying?" "How much money do you have?" and "Do you have return tickets?" - before having their gear searched