

## We proved a point: Aminul

Sports Reporter

Skippers Aminul Islam believes Bangladesh have gained the confidence to compete against established teams on the first class circuit.

"We are not at the learning stage any more. We are playing better cricket nowadays. We have proved it with our nearly consistent performances in last few matches," said the confident captain after his team clinched a draw from a precarious position. Bangladesh have so far played nine first-class matches, of which they lost in four matches and drew the rest.

"Well, there will be mistakes in cricket. And we had committed few in the last two days. But those happened unfortunately."

"Nerves of the boys were tested in the second innings. And the way Khaled Masood and Al-Shahriar batted I never felt that we were under any pressure."

"Hats off to Khaled Masood and Al-Shahriar for their magnificent batting. They have shown how Bangladesh cricket is coming up."

When asked about his team's performance in the limited-over match, Aminul, sounding apologetic, said they should have won the match.

"Again it was the batsmen who let us down. We should have scored more than 250 after we had such a tremendous start."

Aminul hoped that his team's performance in the limited-over match, Aminul, sounding apologetic, said they should have won the match.

"Our cricketers need the experience of playing on bouncy and fast wickets," he said.

## Akram turns up heat

BRISBANE, Nov 4: The Rawalpindi Express may have been put off limits by the management but Pakistani skipper Wasim Akram says Shoaib Akhtar is ready to fire in Friday's opening cricket Test with Australia here.

The 24-year-old tearaway has been in the headlines over the legality of his bowling action and reluctantly declined requests for interviews Thursday because he's been told not to talk all tour."

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) gave short shrift to a video tape of Akhtar's action sent by Australian umpires Ross Emerson and Terry Prus from last week's one-day game against Western Australia in Perth.

The ACB said because the video was not contained in the match report and there was no International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee no further action could be taken.

The Australian camp will raise their eyebrows when they read Akram's rating of Akhtar, who has 28 wickets from 10 Tests at an average of 34.61, because they regard Akram himself as the more dangerous proposition.

"(Akhtar) is the best bowler in the world and he's going to show it in the Test match, we don't have to say much about him because he's going to perform and we will talk about his performance," Akram said.

"He'll be quite fun to watch, I can assure you of that."

"Nothing's going to make him think about his action or anything, he's going to bowl normally, he's the sort of bloke who nothing bothers him much."

"He wants to enjoy his cricket and I told him enjoy your cricket and we'll look after you, stay away from the press and you can just perform with the ball out there, and answer them back."

Akram also predicted Pakistan would win the three-match series.

Australia, to be led by Steve Waugh, have never lost a Test series against Pakistan at home but Akram, playing his 89th Test, said that was about to change.

"It has always been my dream to come and win here and this time we have a good enough side to beat them," he said.

"Our bowling has much more variety (than Australia), we have medium pacers and all-rounders and we have five or six bowlers in the side."

Pakistan will name their team on the morning of the match.

Akram said he was considering playing both offspinner Saqlain Mushtaq and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed despite a greenish-looking Gabba pitch.

## Waugh's words

From page 13

Waugh said Australia had to go into the Gabba Test with the same approach as their eight-wicket win over Pakistan in the World Cup limited over final at Lord's on June 20.

"We have to go in with the same kind of mentality as the World Cup final, discipline, patience and consistency will win the day."

"That's what Test match cricket is all about ... you play over five days and you don't have to win the game in the first hour, first session or first day, it goes over four or five days."

"If you're consistent, and you don't have too many bad sessions you are going to win more Test matches than you lose."

The opening Test puts the spotlight on the top-four Australian batsmen — Michael Slater, Greg Blewett, Justin Langer and Mark Waugh.

In eight Tests since Taylor's retirement, the quartet have struggled for runs.

Slater, a boom or bust opener, has averaged 35.62 in eight Tests, Blewett (28.27), Langer (29.69) and the inconsistent Mark Waugh (24.69).

Only Steve Waugh with an average of 61.2 and No 6 Ricky Ponting (34.57) have saved the Australian top-order from considerably modest innings.



Bayern Munich's Thomas Strunz scores from the spot against Glasgow Rangers during the Champions' League fixture on Wednesday.

## Sport

### RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Collected European Champions League results on Wednesday:

**Group E**

**At Athens**  
Olympiakos (Gre) 1  
(Giannacopoulos 55) Porto (Por) 0

**At Molde**  
Molde (Nor) 0 Real Madrid (Spa) 1  
(Karembeu 43)

**Group F**

**At Munich**  
Bayern Munich (Ger) 1 (Strunz 33-pen) Glasgow Rangers (Sco) 0

**At Valencia**  
Valencia (Spa) 1 (Lopez 70) PSV Eindhoven (Ned) 0

**Group G**

**At Prague**  
Sparta Prague (Cze) 5 (Lokvenc 1, 66, Rosicky 10, Fukal 49, Labant 63-pen) Spartak Moscow (Rus) 2 (Balotov 38, Berzodny 45)

**At Tilburg**  
Willem II (Ned) 0 Bordeaux (Fra) 0

**Group H**

**At London**  
Chelsea (Eng) 2 (Deschamps 11, Ferrer 44) Hertha Berlin (Ger) 0

**At Istanbul**  
Galatasaray (Tur) 3 (Capone 27, Sukur 86, Umit 89-pen) AC Milan (Ita) 2 (Weah 20, Giunti 51)

**ISTANBUL, Nov 4:** Galatasaray scored two late goals including one from legendary striker Hakan Sukur to beat AC Milan 3-2 and end the five-time European Cup winners AC Milan's hopes of progressing to the next stage of the Champions League here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The defeat also means that AC Milan don't make it through to the UEFA Cup as Galatasaray, who won the match with a last minute penalty by Daval Umit, leapfrog over them in Group H table and leaves coach Alberto Zaccheroni's very much in doubt.

Sukur, known as the Bull of the Bosphorus, headed home Pembe Ergun's perfectly placed cross with three minutes to go after the Milan defence failed to clear. Umit then converted after French central defender Bruno Ngotty's infringement in the penalty area.

It had seemed an unlikely scenario after Milan had regained the lead in the 51st minute as Federico Giunti, who had replaced the suspended Brazilian playmaker Leonardo, ran on through a gaping hole in the Turks defence to slot coolly home.

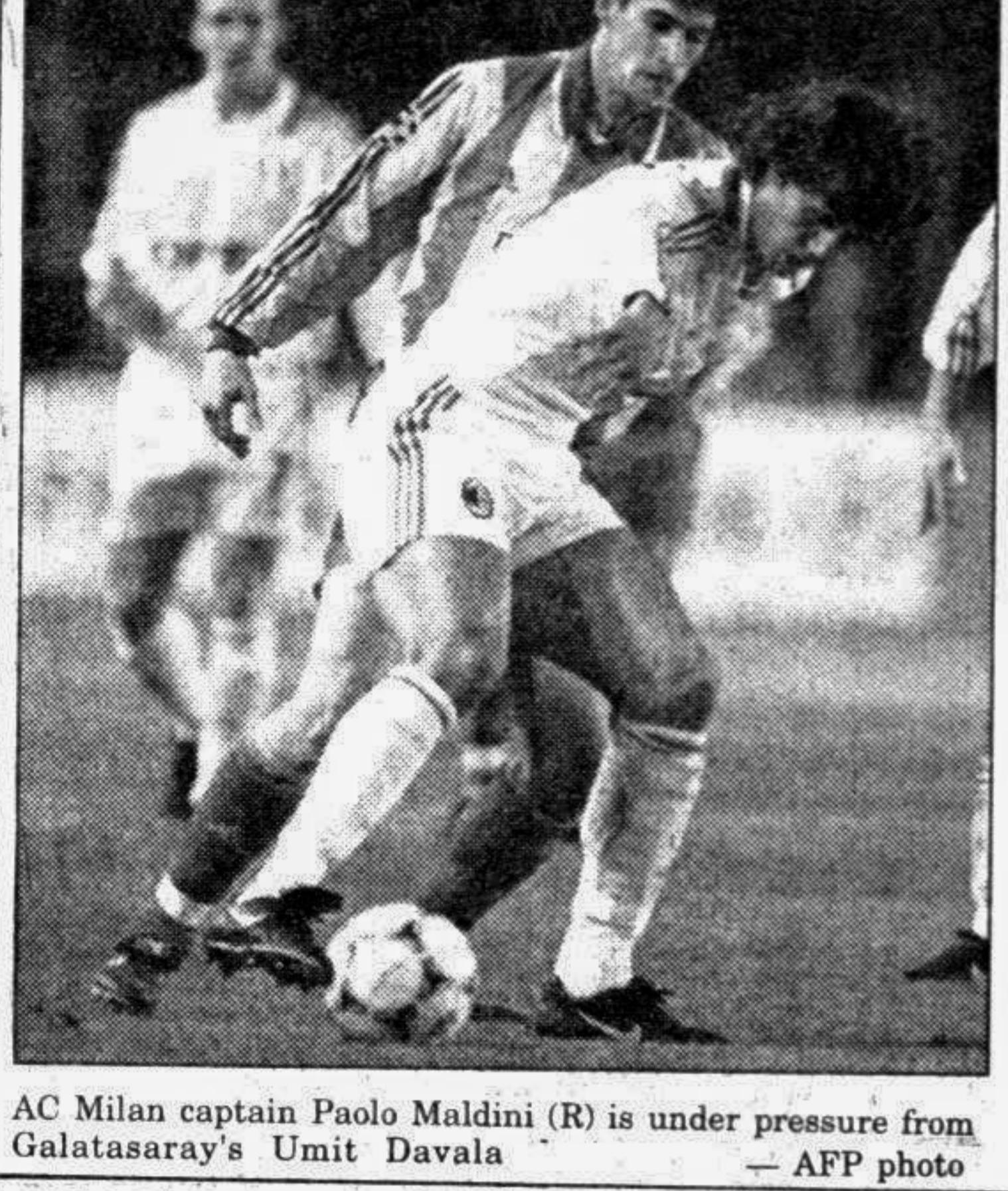
Yeah, back from a six match suspension, beat Galatasaray's Brazilian keeper Claudio Taffarel to score the opening goal of the night with a neatly taken rightfooted shot from about five metres out following a storming run and cross down the right wing by Andriy Shevchenko.

However, the inconsistent Turks, who had been slammed 5-0 at home by Chelsea and then a week later came out and won 5-1 away at Hertha Berlin, levelled minutes later as Brazilian defender Carlos Capone rifled home after the Milan keeper Christian Abbiati flapped aimlessly at a corner.

It was rough justice for Abbiati as he had saved brilliantly from Sukur prior to the goal.

AC Milan captain Paolo Maldini (R) is under pressure from Galatasaray's Umit Davala

— AFP photo



## Tense Bayern see off Rangers



MUNICH, Germany, Nov 4: Last season's beaten finalists Bayern Munich limped into the second phase of the European Champions League here on Wednesday with a 1-0 win at the expense of Scottish champions Rangers, reports AFP.

Bayern, who lost in last season's dramatic final to Manchester United, needed a first-half penalty converted by Thomas Strunz in a match they had to win.

American international Claudio Reyna returned to the Rangers starting line-up for the first time in five weeks after recovering from a hamstring injury while former Hamburg star Jorg Albertz was also back in the side despite suffering a recurrence of an ankle injury in training on Tuesday.

But Rangers could have been three goals down within the first six minutes.

Bayern skipper Stefan Effenberg delivered a corner from the left and Brazilian forward Giovane Elber peeled away

to get in a header in the third minute that was only marginally off target.

Rangers were grateful to their German keeper Stefan Klos two minutes later when the veteran Lothar Matthaus played the ball through the middle.

Paraguayan striker Roque Santa Cruz sprang the offside trap and raced clear only for Stefan Klos to react superbly and block his effort.

Rangers hardly had time to draw breath in the infant stages of the game and Elber missed another glorious chance in the sixth minute to put them ahead.

It needed a moment of brilliance from Germany's number one keeper Oliver Kahn to prevent an equaliser four minutes later.

Rod Wallace's effort from point-blank range after a cut back from Arthur Numan was hit firm and true but Kahn got up superbly to turn the ball onto the bar.

In the second half Rangers dominated but the equaliser proved beyond them.

Finn Jonatan Johansson was denied by Kahn and Argentinian Gabriel Amato miskicked when well placed to score.

Rangers continued to pressurise but it was all in vain and the Scottish side must again accept that - despite their domination of domestic football - that they are a lightweight outfit in European competition.

### Barca, MU, Lazio, William Hill's choice

LONDON, Nov 4 (AFP): Latest betting from leading English bookmakers William Hill on European Champions League following Wednesday's final round of opening group phase:

**4/1 Manchester United, Barcelona and Lazio, 8/1 Real Madrid, 10/1 Chelsea, 16/1 Bayern Munich, 16/1 Valencia, 20/1 Bordeaux, 20/1 Dynamo Kiev, 23/1 Fiorentina and Marseille, 33/1 Feyenoord and Rosenborg, 40/1 Hertha Berlin, Porto, 66/1 Sparta Prague.**

### Referee assists in Valencia's win!

VALENCIA, Spain: 4: Spain's Valencia chalked up another impressive European victory, beating Holland's PSV Eindhoven 1-0 to emerge as Group F winners, reports AFP.

It was a bizarre strike from Argentinian talisman Claudio Lopez that settled the match after 70 minutes.

Lopez struck a freekick against English referee Graham Barber but the ball rebounded at his feet and he lashed the rebound with his left foot past PSV goalkeeper Ronald Watterus.

It is no small achievement for Valencia to join Primera liga rivals Barcelona and Real Madrid in the second phase after topping a pool featuring last year's runners-up Bayern Munich, big-spending Scottish champions Rangers and Dutch league leaders PSV, winners of this competition in 1988.

PSV were already eliminated and looked a beaten side leaving Valencia goalkeeper Andres Palop a virtual spectator for most of the night.

But Valencia's Argentinian strikers Kily Gonzalez and Lopez were menacing throughout with the latter again showing he is a difficult man to handle for any defence.

Watterus was the only visiting player to shine and several times came to the rescue of his teammates.

In the closing minutes PSV made their only significant attack of the match with Palop foiling Danish striker Dennis Rommedahl.

### United top among clubs

PARIS, Nov 4 (AFP): Latest club world rankings released by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS) on Thursday:

**Teams Points**

1. Manchester United (Eng)	367
2. Parma (Ita)	336
3. Palmeiras Sao Paulo (Bra)	320.5
4. Bayern Munich (Ger)	302
5. Lazio (Ita)	282
6. Chelsea (Eng)	263
7. Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)	259
8. Valencia (Spa)	257
9. Real Madrid (Spa)	253
10. Juventus (Ita)	241
11. Olympique Marseille (Fra)	234
12. Athletico Madrid (Spa)	232
13. Barcelona (Spa)	227
14. Glasgow Rangers (Sco)	225
15. River Plate (Arg)	222
16. Corinthians (Bra)	221
17. Lyon (Fra)	220
18. Real Mallorca (Spa)	219
19. Fiorentina (Ita)	218
20. Bordeaux (Fra)	214
21. Galatasaray (Tur)	206.5
22. Bologna (Ita)	205
23. Cruzeiro (Bra)	204.5
24. Arsenal (Eng)	204
25. Cagliari (Ita)	198
26. Olympiakos (Gre)	190
27. Celtic (Sco)	188.5
28. Celta Vigo (Spa)	187
29. Velez Sarsfield (Arg)	187
30. San Lorenzo (Arg)	183

LONDON, Nov 4: Chelsea beat Hertha Berlin of Germany 2-0 at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday to win Group H of the Champions League with strikes by Didier Deschamps and Albert Ferrer, both scoring the first goals for the club, respectively.

Deschamps opened the scoring after 11 minutes with a fierce shot and Ferrer neatly added a second just before the interval.

Chelsea's night was marred only by the late sending-off of Chris Sutton for two bookable offences.

The victory means Chelsea win the group on 10 points two ahead of Hertha who also qualify for the second phase of the tournament, thanks to Galatasaray's 3-2 win over AC Milan in Istanbul.

Galatasaray will now go into the UEFA Cup as the third-placed team.



A scramble in front of the Hertha Berlin goal at Stamford Bridge.

— AFP photo

## Milan's nightmare in Turkey

five-time European Cup winners AC Milan's hopes of progressing to the next stage of the Champions League here on Wednesday, reports AFP.