

## Emerson sues ACB

PERTH, Nov 11: Controversial cricket umpire Ross Emerson, one of the men at the centre of the Sri Lankan chucking controversy, has launched legal action against the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), reports AFP.

Emerson has surprised the ACB by launching a defamation case against board chairman Denis Rogers.

"We will be defending it vigorously," ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed said Wednesday. The case is scheduled to be heard in the Perth Supreme Court on November 22.

Emerson was suspended from umpiring in February after it was revealed he was on sick leave from his job in the West Australian state government.

In January he called Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralitharan for throwing in a one-day game in Adelaide, three years after no-balling the same player.

Last week, Emerson was part of a group which sent a tape of Pakistan bowler Shoaib Akhtar to the ACB questioning whether Akhtar's sling shot action was legal.

## BFF AGM postponed

### Sports Reporter

Annual General Meeting of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), scheduled for November 15, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a BFF press release.

A fresh date for the AGM will be announced later.

## Gazipur soccer tourney

GAZIPUR, Nov 11: A football tournament, organised by Gazipur Players' Welfare Association (GPWA), begins at local stadium here tomorrow, reports BSS.

General Secretary of Jatiya Srakm League Ahsanullah Master, MP, will inaugurate the tournament as the chief guest.

Sixteen clubs will take part in the league.

In the opening match, Gazipur District Sports Institute will take on Manceo Sporting Club at 3 pm.

## Silverwood called up

BLOEMFONTEIN, Nov 11 (Internet report): Yorkshire paceman Chris Silverwood, currently on duty for England 'A' in New Zealand, will be flying out to South Africa "as soon as possible" to link up with Nassar Hussain's injury-sickened squad.

With three key members of the SA tour party, Darren Gough, Dean Headley and Andrew Flintoff, battling to shake off niggling injuries and the clock ticking down to the first cricket Test, the team management after consultation with selection convenor David Graveney on Wednesday night have decided to "cover" themselves by adding Silverwood to their 17-strong playing staff.

According to Graveney, Silverwood, who has played one Test - against Zimbabwe in '95 - will be available for selection for the tourists' final warm-up match against a combined Gauteng-Northern XI at Centurion Park from November 18 to 21.

While Silverwood's stay may be brief, a decision on whether or not they retain the enlarged squad will be taken after the first Test - at this stage the tourists feel it imperative they have back-up for their crippled attack.

Both are struggling with minor injuries which as coach Duncan Fletcher points out were supposed to have cleared up in a couple of days.

"It's frustrating," he said. "If a chap breaks a leg or something like that, you can say that's it boy you're on your b'cycle, but with this sort of thing you don't know where you stand."

England duo to  
meet Queen

BLOEMFONTEIN, Nov 11 (Internet report): Andrew Caddick and Alex Tudor will break off from England's tour of South Africa to meet the Queen during a specially arranged coaching clinic in Johannesburg.

The two fast bowlers will coach local schoolchildren in the Alexandra township before being presented to Her Majesty, who is in South Africa for a conference of Commonwealth leaders.

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook will also be present alongside Ngonzile Balfour, South Africa's Minister for Sport and Recreation, United Cricket Board of South Africa president Raymond White and Dr Ali Bacher, the Board's managing director.

The Alexandra Oval, where the coaching clinic will take place, was built on the site of a rubbish tip several years ago and is the only grass area where township inhabitants can play cricket.

## BAF athletics

CHITTAGONG, Nov 11: The hosts BAF Base Zahirul Haque won the BAF inter-base athletics title which concluded here at the BAF Base Zahirul Haque today, says a press release.

They collected 15 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals.

BAF Base Matru Rahman became runners-up with 3 gold, 6 silver and 7 bronze medals.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed witnessed the final day's events as chief guest and later gave away trophies.

## McManaman to be missing

# 'Battle of Britain' tomorrow

LONDON, Nov 11: Real Madrid midfielder Steve McManaman is almost certainly out of Saturday's play-off first leg against Scotland in Glasgow, reports AFP.

McManaman suffered a recurrence of his long-standing groin problem in training on Wednesday and had to limp out of the action to receive treatment. He is officially rated as "extremely doubtful" for Saturday's game at Hampden Park and was expected to be ruled out later on Thursday.

Coach Kevin Keegan is still hoping McManaman, who was a contender to play in the left wing-back role, will be available for selection for Wednesday's return fixture at Wembley.

However, with Ray Parlour also ruled out of Saturday's game to receive treatment on a hamstring injury, the Keegan's midfield options have been reduced.

With a three-man defence being his most likely option, Keegan looks set to deploy David Beckham in an unaccustomed right wing-back role, while choosing between either Phil Neville or Steve Guppy on the left flank.

Meanwhile, Scotland manager Craig Brown said on Wednesday he was confident of having a fully fit squad to choose from for Saturday's first leg at Hampden Park.

After losing Celtic's Paul Lambert because of concussion, Brown had feared Rangers pair Colin Hendry and Barry Ferguson, as well as Hibernian striker Gary McSwegan would also be missing.

Hendry's knee problem has sidelined him since last month's international with Bosnia at Ibrox, meaning he has been without competitive action in the lead up to the European Championship play-offs with England.

Ferguson has needed pain-killing injections to ease a rib problem in the past fortnight, while McSwegan limped out of hearts' 1-1 draw with Motherwell on Saturday with a hamstring strain.

But after a full training session on Tuesday, Brown is confident there will be no withdrawals from his 23-man pool ahead of Saturday's first leg with England at Hampden Park.

He said: "Our injury problems are clearing up rapidly. Gary McSwegan is taking a full part in training as is Colin Hendry and Callum Davidson, who also had a slight hamstring problem.

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"Hopefully we will see everyone declared fit at the end of the session today."

The pressure training on Colin's injury starts today be-

pens."

MEMORABLE  
MATCHES

LONDON, Nov 11: The oldest matchup in international soccer, England and Scotland have played each other 108 times since 1872. England have won 44, Scotland 40 and 24 have been tied and England lead 190-168 on goals scored:

Here are some of the highlights:

1872: Scotland 0, England 0 at Hamilton Crescent Cricket Ground. A tie although Scotland had a goal disallowed because the referee, or umpire as he was then known, ruled that the ball had gone over the tape, rather than under. The tape acted as the crossbar.

1876: Scotland 7, England 2 at Hampden Park. Scotland's best ever win against the English.

1928: England 1, Scotland 5 at Wembley. Scotland's "Wembley Wizards," led by star winger Alex James, scored three times and continually pulled the English defense apart.

1937: Scotland 1, England 3 at Hampden Park. A British record crowd of 149,547 saw England win.

1955: England 7, Scotland 2 at Wembley. Wolves' Dennis Wilshaw scored four goals and Manchester United's Duncan Edwards, killed in the Munich air crash three years later, became the youngest player to be capped for England at age 18 years, 183 days.

1961: England 9, Scotland 3 at Wembley. At one stage it was only 3-2 but Jimmy Greaves scored three goals, and Johnny Haynes and Bobby Smith each netted two. Shamed Scottish goalkeeper Frank Haffey later emigrated to Australia.

1967: England 2, Scotland 3 at Wembley. This came a year after England won the World Cup at the same stadium and the jubilant Scots called themselves the unofficial world champions after this victory, which ended England's unbeaten record since the World Cup triumph.

1977: England 1, Scotland 0 at Wembley. Kenny Dalglish hit the winner and the result sparked an invasion of the field by Scottish fans, who ripped up pieces of turf as souvenirs and also tore down the goalposts.

1996: England 2, Scotland 0 at Wembley. A spectacular goal by Paul Gascoigne, who lobbed the ball over defender Colin Hendry and volleyed it home, was the highlight of this Euro '96 game, the last of the 108 matches.

Brown revealed that Lambert, who lost four teeth in a collision with Rangers' Jorg Albertz in Sunday's Old Firm clash at Ibrox, met up with the squad on Wednesday at their hotel base.

He said: "Paul just came down to wish us well and all the best for the game on Saturday. That shows the atmosphere within the group that we have when something like that happens."

arrived, has now also underlined his commitment to Arsenal by buying a sumptuous new house in Hertfordshire where team-mates Dennis Bergkamp, Marc Overmars and Emmanuel Petit will be among his neighbours.

The 23-year-old is hoping Arsenal can use their influence to help persuade government officials in Lagos and London to issue travel visas to some of his relatives whom he admits he badly misses, including his mother who is recovering from illness.

Last week Kanu said: "I know the club are doing what they can to help because they realise how much I miss my family, although there is no more news about that yet."

"But that doesn't mean I won't keep playing my football here. I have no problems at Arsenal with anything or anybody."

Philippe Violeau (R) of Lyon trying to make his way past a couple of Saint Etienne defenders during a French First Division fixture at Saint-Etienne on November 10.

At the end of the match with Primera Liga leaders Rayo Vallecano gave Toshack breathing space after the Spanish media claimed he would be sacked if Real lost.

Boban told a news conference that persistent problems with his spine was the main reason for his international retirement.

He will nevertheless play out his contract with AC Milan until it ends in 2001.

The 31-year-old midfielder has 50 caps and 12 goals to his name. He has been the inspiration behind much of Croatia's international success in the past five years, since the country emerged as an independent force in the world football.

Boban used his refined technique to control the midfield with either Prosinecki or Aljosa Asanovic, and feed strikers Suker and Alen Boksic with lethal through-balls.

Saturday's match will bring back some painful memories for Boban as he recalls with anguish being the one to lose possession to Lillian Thuram for the French equaliser a minute after Croatia went a goal up through Davor Suker.

France won 2-1 and went on to lift the World Cup a few days later. Croatia finished third after a consolation 2-1 win over the Netherlands in the third-fourth place playoff.

Boban started his career with Dinamo Zagreb (now Croatia Zagreb) and moved to Italy in 1991, just after the start of the Croatian war for independence from former Yugoslavia.

ZVONIMIR BOBAN

## Croatia friendly

### Lizarazu ruled out

PARIS, Nov 11: Bayern Munich's French defender Bixente Lizarazu was ruled out Wednesday of the French squad for Saturday's friendly against Croatia at Stade de France, reports AFP.

Lizarazu injured his knee during Saturday's game in which Bayern reclaimed top spot with a 1-0 win at SSV Ulm.

French team coach Roger Lemerre has called up Real Madrid's Christian Karembeu to take his place. Karembeu had been overlooked in the original selection in favour of Frederic De Barcelona.

Both Australia's Harry Kewell and Brazil's Ronaldo are in tugs-of-war between club and country over two friendly internationals to be played Sunday and next Wednesday.

Bosnich, who arrived Wednesday night from England, tried to defuse criticism of the players.

Players are always going to get grumbles from clubs about the time of the matches and the travel involved. The problem won't go away," he said.

Australian football officials successfully applied to the game's governing body FIFA to ban Kewell from Leeds United's next English Premiership match against Bradford City on Nov 20 after the player failed to answer his international call-up.

Brazil coach Wanderly Luxemburgo said Thursday he would not play Ronaldo in Sunday's international if FIFA prevented him from playing in next Wednesday's international.

Ronaldo's Italian club Inter Milan successfully appealed to FIFA to ban him from playing the second match at Melbourne next Wednesday.

"The players are the meat in

# Bosnich understands it

SYDNEY, Nov 11: Manchester United's goalkeeper Mark Bosnich said Thursday overseas players would always face problems over national selection, reports AFP.

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## French First Division

# Draw keeps Lyon atop

PARIS, Nov 11: Lyon clinched a 1-1 draw in the Rhone derby Wednesday at St Etienne on a night when Monaco, who beat Nancy 2-1, were the only club in the top seven to take full points, reports AFP.

Lyon had gone into the first derby for four years -