Scholes, the new darling

GLASGOW, Nov 14: Paul Scholes has endured plenty of ups and downs under new England coach Kevn Keegan, but none have been sweeter than Saturday's two-goal dissection of Scotland, reports AFP.

Manchester's United's scarlet-headed pimpernel scored a hat-trick in Keegan's first game in charge but was then sent off against Sweden in June.

He was booked after running behind the goal to celebrate his first strike against the Scots, a calm sidefooted finish after he had cleverly chested Sol Campbell's lofted passs away from the Scottish defence in the 21st minute.

The second was equally clinical, a powerful header from Manchester United clubmate David Beckham's swirling freekick just before the interval.

Ironically Scholes could easily have finished with a hattrick or been sent off again after an incident at the start of the second half.

Scholes collected the ball on the edge of the area and toyed with David Weir before eventually going down under a clumsy-looking challenge from

It looked a clear penalty. which would have given Scholes a hat-trick chance, but Spanish referee Manuel Diaz Vega waved the appeal away and could easily have given Scholes a second yellow card for diving. "I got booked for celebrating

my first goal : it was a silly thing for me to do," admitted Scholes afterwards.

"I just held my hands up after I scored the second goal. The first one I took on the chest and managed to slip it past Neil Sullivan. "Scotland had chances, a

couple of great chances, but there was a great save by David Seaman. We are thankful to get a clean sheet. "We will go out at Wembley to

score goals. We won't be defend-

Scotland defender Colin Hendry admitted: "On the first goal Scholes had 'gone.' I got caught flat-footed. I think he did that against Poland. He is very good at doing it.

Coach Craig Brown also praised the match-winner, saying: "His timed run was excellent (for the second goal) and they were two great finishes."

Keegan, who said Scholes should have been knighted after his Poland hat-trick, was delighted his player had dropped more "hand grenades", as he put it, rather than the x-rated "exocet" tackles he produced against Sweden.

"He's got everything." said Keegan. "Because he's quiet and at a club like Manchester United he doesn't get a lot of attention.

"I suppose he just lets his actions speak louder than words." Those actions certainly silenced the Hampden roar on Saturday.

Holland's dismal run on

EINDHOVEN. Nov 14 (Reuters/AP): An under-strength Czech Republic held the Netherlands to a 1-1 draw in a friendly on Saturday, a result

that pleased neither side. Dutch coach Frank Rijkaard has now gone 11 games without a win since his first match against Peru in October last

"It's a disappointing result for me, the players, for everyone," Rijkaard said afterwards. In the first half the

Netherlands had several good chances. Patrick Kluivert laid on some excellent balls before being replaced by PSV Eindhoven striker Ruud van Nistelrooy just before halftime.

Juventus' Edgar Davids. back in the side after an eye operation, had two good first half scoring chances putting one shot wide and seeing the second nudged around the post by Czech goalkeeper Pavel Srnicked.

The Netherlands went ahead in the 59th minute when Manchester United defender Jaap Stam converted a Ronald de Boer free kick.

But less than 10 minutes later the Czechs equalised. Benfica's Karel Poborsky pushed the ball through to towering RSC Anderlecht striker Jan Koller, who knocked it easily past goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar.

In the 58th minute Radoslav Latal was carried off on a stretcher and Czech coach Jozef Chovance said later the Schalke 04 midfielder had broken his cheek bone.

Chovanec, whose side qualified for Euro 2000 with a 100 per cent record from 10 straight wins, was also disappointed with the result, but put it down to a lack of key players. He was without Liverpool midfielders Patrick Berger and Vladimir Smicer as well as Teplice striker Pavel Verbir

CFPA's demand CHITTAGONG. Nov 14:

Chittagong Football Players' Association (CFPA) has demanded the week-long transfers for next season begin from November 25, reports BSS.

CFPA General Secretary Parvez Mannan announced at a press conference here today a six-point programme to realise the demand of the association. The programmes include protests, processions, rallies and hunger strikes.

majority of arrests were for Parvez Mannan said that minor offences. CFPA would oppose holding of any sports competition including the matches of National Cricket League scheduled to start from November 16 at the MA Aziz Stadium here.

England almost there

they see him as a key player as I The red-beaded forward sidefooted the first after 21 minutes and headed the second three minutes before the interval to decide a hotly-anticipated match which had brought the two nations to a virtual standstill. GLASGOW, Nov 14: England

are on the verge of qualifying

for next year's European Cham-

pionship after their 2-0 success

over Scotland at Hampden Park

on Saturday in the first leg of

tainly have to score three times

at Wembley in Wednesday's re-

turn to undo the damage in-

flicted by Paul Scholes' two

with Scotland having failed to

score in their last five games

against their oldest foes. In fact

they have managed just three

goals in their last 10 games

to climb but they've got enough

of those here and if anybody

could think they could do it

they can," said England coach

"It was a good game. We had goals in us they played well and hit the bar. In the history of

England v Scotland it was

probably one of the better

that the national anthem had

been drowned out by hissing

and jeering at the start of the

game, but he refused to criticise

sung the national anthem but I

just couldn't hear it or pick up

fans though and that made up

for it. The atmosphere was

tremendous. Anyone who

doesn't think this place is in-

timidating should have been

where we were when the na-

But he paid lavish tribute to

"His goals were fantastic,"

said Keegan. "The little fellow is

a wonderful player. Sometimes

it might seem he gets lost at

Manchester United on the out-

side but in the dressing room

DUBLIN, Nov 14: A penalty

seven minutes from time by

Tayfur Havutcu earned Turkey

a 1-1 draw with the Republic of

Ireland in the first leg of their

Euro 2000 play-off at Lans-

downe Road on Saturday, re-

spot after Lee Carsley was pe-

nalised for handball to cancel

out Robbie Keane's opener for

the Republic four minutes ear-

for Mick McCarthy's side, who

will now travel to Bursa on

Wednesday for the return leg as

Rustu defied an early Irish

bombardment and helped build

the base for his side's fightback

after a grilling in the first 20

fore kick-off when it was an-

nounced Niall Quinn had pulled

out of the match after damaging

his neck in training, to be re-

placed by Nancy forward Cas-

carino who was winning his

There was a distinctly sub-

dued feeling as the players lined

up to observe a minute's silence

latest Turkish earthquake vic-

business right from the first

whistle and forced the first cor-

ner after less than 40 seconds

when Kevin Kilbane, fed by

Rory Delap, tried a curler from

the edge of the area. Rustu set

the tone for the first half, tip-

ping the effort over at full

Keane was testing Rustu again

with a firm, low drive from 18

metres. Then Roy Keane burst

through on the right and just

failed to pick out Kilbane with

When Turkey's 26-goal

marksman Hakan Sukur tried

to lift them with an individual

run both Roy Keane and Carsley

price for a lack of concentra-

tion on the half-hour, however,

Battle of Britain

leaves 165

arrested

police said Sunday they had made some 165 arrests follow-

ing clashes between rival fans

after Saturday's Euro 2000

play-off match between Scot-

land and England at Hampden

central Glasgow where rival

gangs threw missiles while sev-

eral scuffles broke out in pubs

made Saturday evening with

only a handful of them in and

around Hampden, where police

said fans behaved very well.

The worst incidents came in

Most of the arrests were

Strathclyde Police said the

Hundreds of extra police

were drafted in to keep a lid on

most of the violence and Eng-

land fans had a police escort

back to their trains bound for

south of the border.

Park, reports AFP.

after the match.

GLASGOW, Nov 14: Scottish

The Republic nearly paid the

pounced on him to curb the

his low cross to the far post.

Within two minutes Robbie

before the start in respect of the

But the Republic were up for

Ireland suffered a shock be-

The visitors' goalkeeper

Tayfur converted from the

It was a night of frustration

ports AFP.

underdogs.

minutes.

87th cap.

stretch.

threat.

URO

tional anthem was playing.

"I would have liked to have

"I heard it later from our

the fervent Scottish crowd.

on it all," he said.

Scholes.

Keegan was clearly upset

The Scots have a mountain

against England.

Kevin Keegan.

The omens are not good,

first-half strikes for England.

Scotland now almost cer-

their play-off, reports AFP.

England's pre-match rendition of God Save The Queen was inaudible above a deafening din of whistling and booing by the Scottish supporters in 52,000 crowd as the fans relished the chance to express their prejudice in a match which has only

three minutes before the inter-

David Beckham swung over a free-kick and Scholes stole in unnoticed to power a fine header past Sullivan. Again Scotland almost scored straight after conceding and Billy Dodds was unlucky to

see his lofted effort rebound off the underside of Seaman's bar. Scholes started the secondhalf as he finished the first and was unlucky not to be awarded a penalty when he tricked David

Weir into a rash tackle. Scotland dominated possession for long periods thereafter



England's hero Paul Scholes (C) being congratulated by teammate Michael Owen (L) after England's second goal against Scotland during their Euro 2000 play-off first leg encounter at Hampden Park.

been played once since 1989 due to the threat of crowd trouble.

England opened the scoring when Sol Campbell lofted in a diagonal ball which Scholes chested away from his markers before coolly beating Neil Sullivan to delight England's 6,500 suporters.

Kevin Gallacher should have equalised immediately after a mix up between Martin Keown and Paul Ince but David Seaman blocked the Scot's weak effort with his feet.

The hapless Gallacher stabbed wide another chance created by the impressive Barry Ferguson and Scholes twisted the knife with England secord Precious away goal for Turkey

when Davala Umit snapped on

to an untidy clearance by Gary

Breen and picked out Hakan

challenge was just enough to put

the winger off his shot, but sec-

onds later Abdullah Ercan's 25-

metre blast crashed off Breen's

head and over the bar for a cor-

Turkey brought on substitute

Erden Arif, scorer of a hat-trick

Stephen Carr's recovery

Unsal unmarked in the area.

-AFP photo but rarely threatened to score against a well-organised Eng-

land defence. Scotland coach Craig Brown said: "I think the result flattered England but sloppy defending cost us both goals. But we are in touch and we feel we can always score away from

"We're 2-0 down and we have to score early. I am sure we are capable of getting a goal or two as our record away from home is good.

We've managed to get goals against the likes of France, Germany, the Czech Republic and even Brazil, so we can do

some jostling among the play-

side to his game with an athletic

despair but with 11 minutes left

substitute David Connolly set

up Robbie Keane who controlled

coolly and put the ball past

The lead didn't last long.

Turkey went up the other end

-AFP photo

and Arif fired in a shot which

Carsley blocked but then batted

Kiely to give Turkey an impor-

tant away goal and level the

when Robbie Keane was booked

for dissent with four minutes

left, meaning he misses the re-

Tayfur stepped up to beat

Things got worse for Ireland

away with his arm.

turn leg.

save to deny Kilbane.

Rustu.

Veteran Republic of Ireland striker Tony Cascarino (L) and

Turkish defender Alpay Ozalan locked in an aerial tussle

during their Euro 2000 play off first leg at Dublin.

against Northern Ireland in the

qualifiers, in place of Umit for

the second half - and he imme-

The talented Sergen Yalcin

diately posed a powerful threat.

released a superb ball through

and Unsal drove over the angle

of post and bar as Carr's desper-

from the edge of the area at

Kelly, and Ireland were strug-

when goalkeeper Alan Kelly

was forced off with a groin in-

jury which looks likely to

keeper him out of the second

leg. Kelly was replaced by Dean

possession though and the

Lansdowne Road crowd were

subdued until midway through

the second half Rustu went

down theatrically after a clash

with Robbie Keane, prompting

McCarthy calls

up Kelly

number two

Ireland manager Mick Mc-

Carthy on Sunday reacted to the

loss of keeper Alan Kelly with a

groin strain by calling up Gary

Kelly of Oldham ahead of

Wednesday's Euro 2000 play-off

oning for the match in Bursa so

his namesake will travel to

Turkey as back-up for Charl-

ton's Dean Kiely - the only other

. The Irish have a fight on

their hands to reach the finals

after only managing a 1-1 draw

at Lansdowne Road on Satur-

goalkeeper in the squad.

day.

Alan Kelly is out of the reck-

return in Turkey, reports AFP.

DUBLIN, Nov 14: Republic of

Turkey were controlling

Then Arif hit a low drive

The Republic suffered a blow

ate challenge came in.

gling to retain their grip.

the middle in the 48th minute.

Rustu then showed the other

Ireland were beginning to

Collated Euro 2000 qualifier first leg results on Saturday:

At Glasgow, Scotland Scotland 0 England 2 (Scholes 21, 42)

At Ljubljana, Slovenia Slovenia 2 (Zahovic 53. Acimovic 84) Ukraine 1

(Shevchenko 33) At Ramat Gan, Isreal Israel 0 Denmark 5 (Tomasson 2, 35, Tofting 66, Jorgensen 69, B Nielsen 72)

At Dublin, Ireland Republic of Ireland 1 (Robbie Keane 79) Turkey 1 (Tayfur 83-

World youth soccer roundup

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Nov 14: Waleed Rasoul scored on a penalty in the 14th minute as Qatar opened up Group D of the World Under-17 Soccer Championship with a 2win over Burkina Faso on Sunday, reports AP.

It was the first win of the tournament for the Middle East country, who lost 2-0 to Paraguay on Friday.

In Group C Matches Sunday, Australia beat Germany 2-1 and Brazil and Mali played to a scoreless draw, the second in a row for Mali. Jamaica played Paraguay in a later Group D

Qatar dominated from the start and went ahead on the well-taken penalty from Rasoul, who celebrated with somersaults in front of the crowd of about 5,000 at Dunedin. Twenty minutes later, he made it 2-0 after some key leadup work from forward Bilal Abuhamda.

There was a controversial finish to the first half, when Burkina Faso striker Djibril Compaore was sent off for allegedly kicking an opponent on the ground.

Midfielder Ibrahim Kabore raised Burkina Faso's hopes with a stunning goal from a free kick early in the second half but Qatar was strong enough to hold on for the win.

Wayne Srjoj and Mark Byrnes scored second-half goals five minutes apart in Australia's win over Germany.

At QEII Stadium in Christchurch, Leonhard Haas gave Germany the lead in the ninth minute before Srjoj equalized for Australia in the 65th minute and Byrnes scored the winner in the 70th.

Israel mauled Danes virtually assured

RAMAT GAN, Israel, Nov 15: Denmark thrashed 10-man Israel 5-0 in a play-off here on Saturday to surely make Wednesday's second leg in Copenhagen a formality for qualification through to the

Euro 2000 finals, reports AFP. The 43,000 spectators at the Ramat Gan stadium saw a comprehensive display of attacking football culminating in goals for Jon Dahl Tomasson (2). Stig Tofting, Martin Jorgensen and finally Brian Steen Nielsen.

Israel's Haim Revivo was, meanwhile, sent off in the 58th minute for a wreckless challenge when the home side were two goals adrift.

Denmark will not have forgotten the last time they qualified after being group runnersup. In 1992, they replaced Yugoslavia because of the war in the Balkans and became surprising yet popular winners. Tomasson put the visitors

into a comfortable lead at the break, scoring in the second and 35th minutes. However, it was not until Revivo was dismissed by English

referee David Elleray that Denmark started to turn the match into a goal spree. Tofting hit a freekick around the defensive wall to score in the 66th minute for

their third. Jorgensen scored a spectacular goal for their fourth from a free kick way out on the left. The ball came right over the area to Jorgensen on the right who volleyed the ball crisply

home in the 69th minute. Nielsen gave them their fifth with a well struck left foot shot which sailed in off the left hand

Meanwhile, representatives of the Palestinian Football Federation attended the match after accepting an invitiation from Israeli officials.

Slovenia prove a point



LJUBLJANA. Nov. 14: Milenko Acimovic hit an opportunist late winner for rank outsiders Slovenia who beat nine-man Ukraine 2-1 here on Saturday to leave them dreaming of qualifying for Euro 2000.

finally preferred to thigh victim Marko Simeunovic who has not played the last three games for his club Maribor. Simeunovic was, curiously, on the substitutes bench however,

For Ukraine, Luzhny did not start following his groin prob-lem which dates back to Arsenal's European Champions League match with Alk Solna 11 days ago, leaving the ill-destined Parfiniov to take his place.

Werder Bremen midfielder Yuri Maximov did not even travel after fracturing his arm in his last club game.



Ukraine's super-striker Andriy Shevchenko (L) closes in as teammate Sergej Kanadaurov is felled near the Slovenia goal during their Euro 2000 play-off at Ljubljana on November 13. -AFP photo

reports AFP. Ukraine, one of Europe's top teams, were given a lesson by lowly Slovenia, the lowest world-ranked team of the eight play-off candidates at 52. Wednesday's second leg in Kyiv is now finely balanced when it had been expected it would be a formality for Ukraine.

Olympiakos striker Zlatko Zlahovic replied to the first half goal of Ukraine's AC Milan star Andriy Shevchenko before a 50 metre lob by Acimovic in the closing minutes settled the

Dmitri Parfiniov, in for injured captain Oleg Luzhny, was handed his marching orders for his second yellow card with half an hour to go, meaning Ukraine have a real headache for the right back spot in the return with Parfiniov suspended

and Luzhny likely still injured. Slovenia only had one injury doubt and second-choice keeper Mladen Dabanovic was

A Zahovic freekick in the first minute was headed away to safety before an opening spell where Slovenia, harrying and using physical tactics against technically superior opponents. were on top.

A clearcut chance, however, did not crop up for either side in the first 15 minutes where entertainment was not at a premium. Aleksander Knavs, who

plays for FC Tirol in Austria. was handed the first yellow card of the match but Shevchenko's ensuing freekick from 25 metres came to noth-Shevchenko, who continu-

ally looked as if he might do something decisive, was felled on the half hour by Zeljko Milinovic who just clipped the Ukrainian's ankles but it was not long before he put Ukraine into the lead. Following a backheel, Shevchenko, on the edge of Slovenia's box on the right, hit a curling left foot shot leaving keeper Dabanovic no chance af-ter 33 minutes. Slovenia finished the first

half the stronger with two efforts just over the bar, the first from a header and then a Zlatko shot.

Slovenia, who had Saso Udovic on after half-time, nearly had a dream start to the second half.

Zlahovic was straight through with only keeper Olexander Shovkovsky to beat but his first shot was blocked and his second rebounded back off the left hand post.

His near miss proved to be target practice for Slovenia's equalizer in the 53rd minute. From a throw in, defender Vitaliy Kosovsky failed to control the ball and Zlahovic pounced to score his 20th goal in 41 international appearances with a low shot, leaving Shovkovsky diving to his right in vain.

Cheers from the crowd reverberated around the stadium and it lifted Slovenia, who pushed hard for an equalizer in the subsequent spell. Worse for Ukraine, Parfin-

tov clipped the ankle of a Slovenia player and was sent off to leave the visitors with a perilous closing period.

Ukraine, on the back foot, had to suffer another foray into the area by Zlahovic but Shovkovsky beat him to the ball to end the danger. The match looked to be

headed for a 1-1 result before an alert Acimovic was paid handsomely for his quick thinking in the 84th minute.

Shovkovsky came way off his line to take a freekick and the ball went straight to Acimovic. Without hesitation, the Crvena Zvezda midfielder, virtually in his own half, fired a high lob goalwards and Shovkovsky, running back in desperation, dived for the ball but could not stop it finding the

Further misery for Ukraine came with the red card for Andriy Husin just moments before the final whistle.

Ukraine's loss against Slovenia was mirrored earlier this season at club level when Dynamo Kyiv suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Slovenian club Maribor in the first phase of the European Champions League.

Spain, Brazil split honours



VIGO, Spain, Nov 14 (Reuters/AP): Spain failed to extend their impressive recent run on Saturday as they were held to a 0-0 draw

by an unambitious Brazil side in an international friendly. Jose Antonio Camacho's Spanish team came into the game on the back of a 40-goal ropean Championship qualify-1 ing wins. But their much-vaunted at-

tack let them down against the Brazilians as a host of early changes were missed with Real Madrid strike pair Fernando Morientes and Raul Gonzalez particularly profligate. Spain dominated the first

half of the game although they failed to knock out the legspree from seven successive Eu- endary Brazilians, led by Ri-



Mendieta during their international friendly at Vigo on November 13.

Brazilian superstar Rivaldo (L) being chased by Spain's

Denmark's Jesper Grenkjaer (L) trying to cut past Israel's David Amsalem during their Euro 2000 play off at Ramat Gan on November 13. -AFP photo

-AFP photo

valdo, in Balaidos stadium in this northwestern city. Brazil only managed two or

three shots on goal in the first 45 minutes of a game that matched Spanish league teammates against each other, such as Rivaldo and Luis Enrique of FC Barcelona and Roberto Carlos and Morienters of Real Madrid. Rivaldo played less of a role

than he normally does with Barcelona attacking less. Brazil were disappointing in attack, with only the livewire Elber and wing-back Roberto Carlos looking likely to cause

problems to the Spanish defence. The closest the Brazilians, minus Ronaldo and coach Wanderley Luxemburgo, came to scoring were two long shots from Marcos Assuncae and Cafu in the closing stages, the former smacking the bar and

the latter bringing a fine save

from Jose Francisco Molina. "We can't be disappointed with the performance," said Camacho. "I'm just looking for the side to play well and create a lot of chances. Sometimes you can play well and not win."

Spain certainly did create opportunities as they started in the style that had seen them run away with their European Championship qualifying

Luis Enrique flashed a leftfooted shot just wide after being teed up by Morientes after three minutes.

Morientes then combined with Raul on the edge of the Brazilian area. Raul backheeled to Joseba Etxeberria but the Basque's shot was comfortably held by Marcos.

Brazil were sitting back and looking to hit on the break but neither Rivaldo nor Elber, for all their strong running, could find the final ball. Morientes was then guilty of

an astonishing double miss as twice in the space of five minutes he missed free headers in front of goal. Morientes has strong claims for a penalty turned down at the

start of the second half when he went down under a combined challenge from Cafu and Antonio Carlos.

The pace of the game dipped sharply thereafter, however, as Brazil dropped back still fur-LINEUPS

SPAIN: Molina: Michel Salgado, Abelardo, Paco, Sergi: Etxeberria (Munitis, 67). Guardiola, Valeron (Engonga 67). Luis Enrique (Mendieta, 81); y Raul (Alfonso, 85) Morientes (67).

BRAZIL: Marcos: Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Aldair, Roberto Carlos; Marcos Asuncao, Emerson, Rivaldo (Ze Elias, 90), Ze Roberto (Giovanni, 69), Elber y Anderson (Jardel, 66).

Kuwait claim Olympic berth

HONG KONG, Nov 14: Kuwait took the third and final Asian qualifying place at the 2000 Sydney Olympics soccer tournament with a 2-1 win over Gatar in Doha today, reports Reuters.

Two goals by Hamad Al Tayyar saw the Kuwaitis qualify for the Games for the third time they appeared in 1980 and 1992 - as they topped group A ahead of the Qataris and Saudi Ara-

Kuwait joined World Cup 2002-co-hosts Japan and South Korea in reaching the Olympics. their qualification underlining the nation's re-emergence as one of powers of Asian football. Their full national team won the silver medal at the Asian Games in Thailand in December.

Qatar needed to defeat Kuwait by five goals to reach their first Olympics since 1984 but Al Tayyar made that mission impossible after just 18 minutes.

Adel Jodoua Ali Pulled Qatar level but Al Tayyar scored again 19 minutes into the second half to put the issue beyond doubt. Japan, who had already

qualified after defeating Kazakhstan 3-1 in Tokyo last Weekend, underlined their supremacy in group C with a 6-0 trouncing of Thailand in Bangkok to leave Philippe Trossier's side with a 100 percent qualifying record. Tomoyuki Hirase scored

twice. South Korea, who like Japan had already qualified after group B rivals China lost to Bahrain, beat Bahrain 2-1 in Seoul with goals from Kim Eun-jung and Park Jin-sop. They finished the qualifying tournament unbeaten.