Bangladesh down HK

Sports Reporter

Forward Rafiqul Islam Kamal struck three goals as Bangladesh registered a 5-2 win over Hong Kong in the fifth Asia Hockey Championship in Kuala

Lumpur yesterday. Bangiadesh will now meet either Japan or China in the fifth place play-off decider of the prestigious ten-nation meet

The match was locked at 2-2 in the first half.

Hong Kong stunned their fancied opponents twice inside eleven minutes. Bangladesh levelled the

scores before the breather with Kamal netting in the 15th minute and Shamim Reza in the 33rd minute. Inspired by their first half

performance, Bangladesh con-tinued to attack and added three more goals. Musa Miah converted a

short corner in the 48th minute to put Bangladesh ahead. Kamal then sealed the Hong Kong's fate with a pair in the 56th and 62nd minutes to raise his individual tally to five.

Donald rates it second

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 26: Allan Donald rated the delivery that bowled England opener Michael Atherton at the start of the first Test on Thursday as the second best of his career, reports Reuters.

South African fast bowler Donald took three wickets without conceding a run in a blistering opening spell on his way to taking six for 53 as England were dismissed for 122.

Atherton was Donald's first victim when he was clean bowled through bat and pad by a delivery that cut back late and ripped out the former England captain's off-stump.

"That's the second best ball I've ever bowled to anybody,' Donald said. "Second only to the one that I bowled Tendulkar with in '96. It gave me great pleasure that I could bowl it to someone like Atherton.

In the 1996-97 home series against India, Donald produced a similar delivery to dismiss Tendulkar during the first Test at Durban, a ball he still rates as his finest.

"Certainly the one today is up there, but that one to dismiss Tendulkar was really something," Donald said. "But to see the back of him (Atherton) early on is a very good thing."

Laxman, Sachin & Muller shine

BRISBANE, Nov 26: Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar and Venkat Laxman shared in a 136-run stand as India opened their Australian cricket tour against Queensland at the Gabba here Friday, reports AFP.

Tendulkar smashed 13 boundaries, including four in one over off Andrew Bichel on his way to 83 off 114 balls while Laxman hit 113.

Australian Test discard Scott Muller hit back with a bowling display which thwarted Tendulkar from

reaching his century. After the first day of the four-day tour match, India were 273 for nine after Muller (3-27) orchestrated a fightback when Tendulkar (83) looked set to blaze another century in his long-awaited reappearance in

Australia. Muller ripped through Tendulkar with a perfect inswinger, sparking a slide of 6-29.

Muller was dumped from the Australian team on Monday and on Wednesday night it was revealed a television microphone had picked up a derogatory comment aimed at Muller during his last Test against Pakistan in Hobart.

The anonymous slur "can't throw, can't bowl" was picked up by one of Channel Nine's microphones placed around the ground in Hobart and, initially, it was thought the comment could possibly have come from an Australian team-mate.

Muller was clearly upset when told of the comment, but Friday Channel Nine stated that it "definitely did come from a player.

Whoever said it, the comment fuelled Muller's best bowling performance of the season. His 20 overs included a burst of 3-2, featuring the wicket of impressive Venkat Laxman for

Muller shared the honours today with Laxman and Tendulkar.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first day of the four-day tour match between Queensland and India at the Gabba ground on Friday: INDIA: First innings

Gandhi c Seccombe b Bichel Ramesh st Seccombe b Anderson 43 Laxman c Foley b Muller Dravid Ibw b Anderson Tendulkar b Muller Bharadwai lbw b Symonds Prasad c Seccombe b Muller Kumble c Hayden b Symonds Kumaran not out Prasad c Seccombe b Bichel Mohanty not out

Extras: (lb-5) Total: (For nine wickets) Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-100; 3-100; 4-236; 5-245; 6-245; 7-249; 8-264; 9-265 Bowler Bichel 5 83

Dale 9 55 Muller 7 27 Anderson Symonds 22

QUEENSLAND: Stuart Law (captain). Matthew Hayden. Jimmy Maher. Martin Love. Andrew Symonds, Geoff Foley, Wade Seccombe, Andrew Bichel, Adam Dale, Scott Muller, Matthew Anderson.



A moment from the national kabadi clash between Bangladesh Army and Tangail. - Star photo

Premiership preview

Leeds' chance to go atop

Manchester United skip the English Premiership action this weekend. Sir Alex Ferguson's side

flying out to Tokyo for Tuesday's Intercontinental Cup clash with Brazilian outfit Palmeiras, reports AFP. Their scheduled fixture

against bottom club Sheffield Wednesday has been postponed to a date yet to be announced. In contrast United's pursuers will be very much in evidence.

headed by Leeds, lying second

separated by a single point and

thus the only side that can benefit from the leaders' absence. To regain the provisional lead Leeds must beat 14th placed Southampton, with a draw not enough as they have an inferior goal difference to

the reigning champions. Leeds play on Sunday, like other European-engaged sides Arsenal (3rd) against Derby (18th), Chelsea (9th) against Bradford (17th), and Newcastle (16th) against Tottenham (6th) these two met in the FA Cup semi-final last season and clash again in the third round of this season's Cup.

Arsenal, 5-1 winners against Middlesbrough last Saturday, are presented with a fine opportunity to remain in the title hunt. The Gunners' Tony

LONDON, Nov 26: Adams, 33, celebrated his 600th Saturday by matches between Table toppers appearance in the red and white strip against Boro, and so on Thursday, in action against Nantes in the UEFA Cup, he embarked on his seventh cen-

The programme's completed Inter sign

up Mutu BUCHAREST, Nov 26: Romania's highly rated soccer star Adrian Mutu signed a 4 1/2year contract with Inter Milan for 2 million dollars, media reported Friday, says AP.

Nicknamed "The Brilliant." Mutu will join Inter Milan on January 4, Romanian media said. The contract was signed Thursday.

Mutu, who currently plays for Dinamo Bucharest, is considered the country's second leading player after Gheorghe Hagi. In the last 18 matches, Mutu scored 18 goals, making him the top scorer in the Romanian league.

Dinamo coach Cornel Dinu called the contract "bad," saying Mutu should have asked for at least 6 million dollars, according to a report in Gazeta Sporturilor daily.

Mutu did not announce the transfer to Dinamo's board of directors. They found out from local television stations.

teams confined to national competitions: Sunderland (4th) travel to Watford (19th), an encounter between two promoted sides which have enjoyed contrasting fortunes since the start of the season, while Liverpool (5th), unbeaten in seven games (two draws, five wins), go to West Ham (10th) to test their

own championship ambitions. Gerard Houllier's Reds haven't lost in the Premiership since September 27 against Everton, their Merseyside neighbours, at home. To underline their consistency they must get a point, or even better three, in London at West Ham's ground.

Three other less alluring fixtures complete Saturday's programme: Coventry (11th) against Leicester (7th) Middlesbrough (8th) against Wimbledon (15th) and Everton (12th) against Aston Villa

FIXTURES

Saturday: Coventry v Leicester. Everton v Aston Villa, Middlesbrough v Wimbledon. Watford v Sunderland, West Ham v Liverpool

Sunday: Arsenal v Derby, Chelsea v Bradford, Leeds v Southampton, Newcastle v Tottenham

Postponed: Sheffield Wednesday v Manchester United

French preview

Marseille to start life sans Courbis



PARIS, Nov 26: Marseille will escape the febrile atmosphere of the Mediterranean

coast on Saturday as they head north to Nancy to try to relaunch their stuttering season with a new man in charge after Thursday's resignation by coach Rolland Courbis, reports AFP.

Courbis stepped down after two years in charge and gave way to former Marseille player Bernard Casoni, previously in charge of the reserves, after giving up a lost fight to win over the fans and president Yves Marchand, with whom he had been at loggerheads for weeks.

Marseille have been struggling badly in the league and are ninth in the table after losing at home to Auxerre last weekend.

Worse still, their Champions League dreams are in tatters after a midweek 2-0 home reverse against Italian giants Lazio in their opening second phase

Corbis said: "Bad results have led us to a common conclusion: it has been decided that

UEFA CUP

RESULTS AT

A GLANCE

Collated results Thursday in

UEFA Cup third round first leg

Parma (Ita) 2 (Di Vaio 16,

Slavia Prague (Cze) 4

(Dustalek 1, 47, Horvath 35,

T.Dosek 56) Steaua Bucharest

Lens (Fra) 1 (Schjonberg 84-

og) Kaiserslautern (Ger) 2

Olympiakos (Gre)

(Giannakopoulos 15) Juventus

(Ita) 3 (Tudor 27, Kovacevic 67,

Lyon (Fra) 3 (Anderson 13,

Ajax (Ned) 0 Real Mallorca

Arsenal 3 (Overmars 15-pen,

Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 4

AS Roma (Ita) 1 (Totti 51-

Rangers (Sco) 2 (Kohler 18-

og, Wallace 45) Borussia

Celta Vigo (Spa) 7 (Karpin 20, 55, Makelele 29, Turdo 38, 50,

Juan Fran 42, Mostovoi 60)

(Olivares 8-og, Pauleta 12,

Djalminha 14. Donato 31)

Winterburn 82, Bergkamp 90)

At La Coruna, Spain

Panathinaikos (Gre)

(Warzycha 18, Galetto 66)

pen) Newcastle (Eng) 0

45, Vairelles 77) Werder Bremen

Stanic 61) Sturm Graz (Aut) 1

matches here:

(Schropp 23)

At Prague

(Rom) 1 (Lutu 82)

At Athens

Inzaghi 87)

(Ger) 0

Nantes 0

At Lens, France

At Lyon, France

At Amsterdam

(Spa) 1 (Tristan 35)

At London

At Rome

At Glasgow

Dortmund (Ger) 0

Benfica (Por) 0

At Vigo, Spain

(Sikora 31-og, Wagner 38)

At Parma, Italy

I will yield my responsibilities as coach to OM (Marseille) starting from today. "I am sorry not to have done

better during these 29 months (in the job) and from today I become again once more just a supporter of OM." Things might have turned

out differently had Marseille held on to pip Bordeaux in the league title race last May - but they lost out on the final day.

The departure of French World Cup winning centreback Laurent Blanc, who joined Inter Milan in the summer, threw the squad into some confusion and that has not dissipated despite a successful opening Champions League phase. Casoni was a player during

their glory days in the early 1990s. They won the 1993 European Cup - the only victory in that competition for a French side - although the club's success during that period has been tarnished by the match-fixing scandal which centred on the club's former president Bernard Tapie.

Bordeaux are likewise struggling and need a win Sunday at

The feigning champions crashed 3-0 to Valencia in the Champions League midweek. that reverse coming on the back of two successive defeats dropping them to sixth in the league.

In normal circumstances the Girondins would fancy their chances away to five from bottom club Lens. Coach Elie Baup said: "What's worrying me is the championship. We have to mobilise ourselves again." Top of the table Lyon visit

Bastia in good heart after their 3-0 verdict over Wereder Bremen in the UEFA Cup first round third leg tie on Thursday. Monaco, breathing down their necks just one point behind, travel up to the channel

port of Le Havre. Third-placed Auxerre are also on the move, to Rennes, with Guy Roux's men seeking to add to last week's success over Marseille, the result that ultimately proved too painful for Courbis.



Scene from the Incontrad inter-district men's volleyball tournament encounter between Khulna and Rajshahi at the court near Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. - Star photo

ITF tennis results

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 26: Four players moved into the singles semifinals beating their respective rivals in the second leg of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Alpha men's future tennis tournament played at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex today.

The results are: Donovan September of South Africa defeated Sander Groen of the Netherlands 5-7, 7-5, 6-3; Ashley Fisher of Australia beat Rick de Voest of South Africa 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; Dmitri Tomashevich of Uzbekistan defeated Lerps Uebel of Germany 6-7, 6-3, 6-2 sets; Alsam Qureshi of Pakistan beat Florian Jeschonek of Germany 1-6, 7-6, 7-6.

Dmitri Tomashevich of Uzbekistan will face Ashley Fisher of Australia and Aisam Qureshi of Pakistan will compete Donoran September of South Africa in the singles semifinals tomorrow at the same venue.

On the otherhand, four pairs moved into the doubles semifinals.

The results are: Gregory Girault (France) and Abdul Hamid Makhkamov (Uzbekistan) duo defeated Sebastian da Coesta (Indonesia) and Robert Nita (Romania) pair 7-6, 6-3; Niko Karagiannis (Germany) and Victor Bruthans (Slovakia) couple beat Willem Mayer (South Africa) and Rick de Voest (South Africa) duo 0-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Ashley Fisher of Australia and Minh Le of United States of America defeated Barry Fulcher of Great Britain and David Sherwood of Great Britain pair 6-2, 6-4; Febi Widhiyanto of Indonesia and Susilo Pramono of Indonesia couple defeated Krill Ivanov-Somlei of Russia and Dmitri Tomashevich of Uzbekistan pair 6-3, 6-1.

Ashley Fisher (Australia and Minh Le (USA) couple will face Febi Widhiyanto (Indonesia) and Susilo Pramons (Indonesia); Gregor Girauli (France) and Abdul Hamid Makhkamov (Uzbekistan) couple will compete Niko Kargiannis (Germany) and Victor Bruthans (Slovakia) pair in the doubles semifinals tomorrow.

Bim an increase lead

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman maintained their lead in the First Division Chess League with a 3.5-0..5 win over Narayanganj Daba Kheloyar Samiti in the tenth round held at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Biman's International Master (IM) and national champion Ziaur Rahman got a walk-over against Sharif Hossain while fellow IM Reefatbin-Sattar and Tahmidur Rahman beat Manirul Haque and Moniruzzaman respectively.

The other match between IM Abdullah Al-Rakib and Monodeep Dhar ended in a

Biman raised their tally to 33 points on completion of the Titas Club and Bangladesh

Ansars hold on to their second

and third positions with 28.5

and 27.5 points. Both Titas and Ansars shared points in a 2-2 draw. In other games, Kamalapur Samaj Kalyam Sangha outplayed Touchstone Club 4-0; Mahakhali Prodeep Sangha

blanked Brothers Union 4-0; Nakhalpara Jubo Kalya Sangha beat Sonali Bank 2.5-1.5 ;Farashganj Sporting Club de-feated Dhaka University Chess Club 2.5-1.5 and Leonine Chess Club beat Uttara Central Chess Club 2.5-1.5. The 11th round will start today at 2:30 pm.

TODAY'S MATCHES Sinali Bank v Mahakhali

Dhaka University CC v Ittara CCC

Farashganj SC v Biman Brothers Union

Narayangani DKS Leonine CC v Touchstone CC Ansars v Nakhalpara JKS Kamalapur SKS v Titas Club

Fines suits 'em fine!

AUCKLAND, Nov 26: Brazilian coach Carlos Cesar Friday shrugged off fines imposed on him and his team for unsavoury incidents after their world under-17 soccer championships semi-final win over Ghana in New Zealand, reports

shootout 4-2, the Brazilians went to the front of a section of the crowd with Ghana supporters and made obscene gestures. FIFA disciplinary committee chairman Dr Mohammed Shamsud-din Khan fined the

dollars) and the coach 2,400 dollars. "The FIFA judiciary had to take action because it was something that could have become quite an ugly scene," Khan

with the winners' cup."

Byrnes said one of his players

was spat on before their group

match against Brazil in

Christchurch earlier in the

Saturday.

tournament.

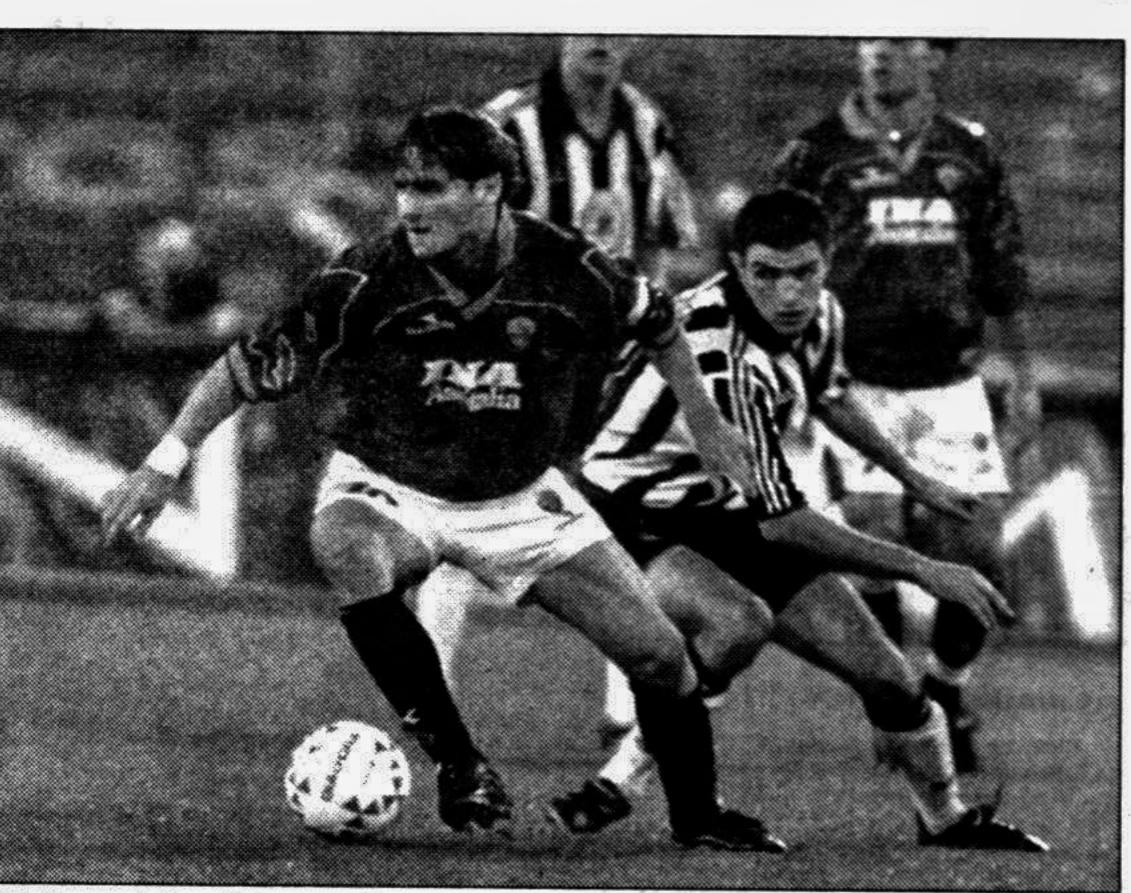
team 6,000 NZ dollars (3,000 US

Cesar was unfazed by the fine, saying his primary concern was to try to win the final against Australia Saturday. The fine could be dealt with later, he said.

But despite bad weather most "I read about it in the newshave been more than double paper today that I had to pay a fine, but that is not my probthat with a capacity 18,000 exlem," Cesar said. "My problem is to win the game (final) and go to Brazil

The Brazilians and Australians are set to engage in "New Zealanders just like to another fiery encounter see good sport played well, and what we've seen has been world Australian captain Mark

> the tournament following the annihilation of New Zealand's mighty All Blacks who ignominiously ended in an unex-



AS Roma strikes Francesco Totti (L) trying to outwit Newcastle United defender Aron Huges during their UEFA Cup encounter in Rome on November 25. — AFP photo

UEFA Cup third round first leg

Italians, Spaniards sail



PARIS, Nov 26: Italian and Spanish clubs scored a hat-trick of while wins

Arsenal left their Wembley wobbles behind them on Thursday by gunning down French side Nantes in the UEFA Cup third round, reports AFP. Arsenal hit Nantes with an

early Marc Overmars penalty after a Medhi Leroy foul on Kanu, but it was only after the French were reduced to 10 men in the 61st minute that Arsene Wenger's side converted their superiority into goals. Nigel Winterburn blasted the

years - in the 82nd minute and Dennis Bergkamp notched one of his specials in the final minute of the first leg tie. Arsenal were much more convincing than they had been

second - his first goal in two

at Wembley in their Champions League outings. Jean-Marc Chanelet was Nantes' villain as he went for an early bath on the hour for a second yellow card.

Juventus won 3-1 in Athens against Olympiakos of Greece, one of the sides dumped out of the more glamorous

Champions League in the opening group phase. Carlo Ancelotti's Serie A giants had to come from behind as Stylianos Giannakopoulos

put the Greeks ahead on 15

minutes.

The Turin club stormed back with goals from Croatian defender Igor Tudor before second half efforts from Yugoslav Darko Kovacevic and Filippo "Super Pippo" Inzaghi.

Newcastle failed in their quest to make it an English double - but they made AS Roma work hard for a 1-0 win at the Olympic Stadium as the Italians took the slenderest of leads to Tyneside in the UEFA Cup third round. Roma failed to repeat their

performance in last weekend's 4-1 derby victory over Lazio, lacking any real control in midfield and looking too short of ideas when moving forward against a well-organsised Newcastle defence. The turning point came in

the 51st minute, when Francesco Totti played the ball over the top of the visitors' back four, finding Marco Delvecchio. The striker steered it into the box and went down under

challenge and French referee Claude Colombo pointed to the Totti drove the ball low to keeper Steve Harper's right for what proved the only goal.

Roma boss Fabio Capello

Frenchman Laurent Charvet's

said the result would just have "Newcastle are a good, solid team, and dangerous on the counter-attack. We could have scored more goals but I am

happy enough as we played quite well. I think we have a 50 percent chance of going through," he said.

England's third remaining side in the event, Leeds United saw their match at Spartak Moscow frozen out by sub-zero temperatures. The first leg is now set to be staged on December 2 in the Bulgarian capital Sofia.

The third Italian win came from Parma - but again only just - as Marco Di Vaio and Croatian Mario Stanic secured a 2-1 win over Austria's Sturm Graz. Markus Schropp scored for the Austrians. Glasgow Rangers scored a

superb 2-0 win at Ibrox over former European Champions Borussia Dortmund with a Jurgen Kohler own-goal in the 18th minute and Rod Wallace scoring the second on the stroke of half time. Rangers will travel to Dortmund with high hopes of

making up for Champions League exits after defeats by Bayern Munich and Valencia. Ajax, like Dortmund, are not the force they were and fell to a Diego Tristan goal at home to Spain's Real Mallorca, last sea-

son's Cup Winners Cup runners-

reaching the quarter-finals and

It was a great night for Spain as they registered three wins with Celta Vigo handing Benfica a memorable 7-0 past-

Valery Karpin, Mario Turdo, Juan Fran and Claude Makelele all scored twice with Alex Mostovoi bagging the other. Deportivo La Coruna, who

are level on top of the Spanish

league with Vigo, beat

Panathinaikos 4-2, a result which should be just enough to advance. Other games saw Kaiserslautern of Germany win 2-1 at French side Lens in a bat-

tle of sides who won their league titles in 1998. The Germans, who included French World Cup winner Youri Djorkaeff in their line-up, quickly found their feet to go two goals clear through an Eric

Sikora own goal and Martin Wagner. An own goal by Danish defender Michael Schjonberg gave Lens some consolation.

In another Franco-German clash, French league leaders Lyon fared much better then Lens as they trounced Werder Bremen 3-0 at the Stade Gerland.

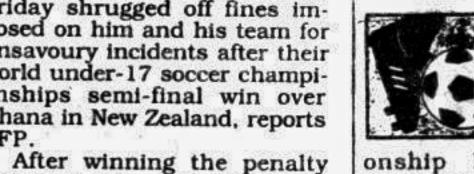
Livewire Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson showed why Lyon paid Barcelona some 15 million dollars for his services as he finished a brilliant onetwo with Vikash Dhorasoo to open the scoring on 13 minutes and side footed a second after a Tony Vairelles cross on the stroke of half time.

Vairelles smacked home a cross shot for the third after Anderson did the spadework.

Kiwi land catches football fever AUCKLAND, Nov

Edgar Davids (front), Juventus' Dutch star, is under

pressure from Olympiakos' former Brazilian international



26 (AFP): No one would have dared predict it, but the FIFA world under-17 championship has made rugbyworshipping New Zealanders take the "beautiful game" of

Giovanni in Athens on November 25.

Christchurch organising committee for the tournament David Cox, said he had been overwhelmed by the response to the last fortnight's football. "What we've seen is an absolute outpouring of recognition that soccer really has some-

In a country where rugby is a

religion, chairman of the

football to their hearts.

thing to offer the sporting peo-ple of New Zealand," he said. At the start of the tournament, chief executive for the under-17 organisation Bill MacGowan had predicted crowds of 6,000 for the Auckland games.

pected for the final. "It's just been fantastic, suddenly rugby-mad New Zealanders are talking about soccer," MacGowan said.

class." The timing has helped, with pected fourth place at the Rugby World Cup.

- AFP photo

So sure had Kiwis been of a victory at that tournament Christchurch under-17 organisers had been asked to avoid a clash in timing between the soccer's opening and a planned All Black "victory" parade.

Cox said a core of about 60 vocal Brazilian students living in Christchurch had led the way in educating New Zealanders about football When Mali played, the city's

African community, a good number of them refugees, turned out in equally colourful force, prompting locals to choose the team they were backing and join in. "It's been a catalyst for a lot

of people thinking hey, let's get in behind these people and support them," Cox said. The level of play had been "unreal", he said.

"It's just been magical to see the high degree of skill and the high degree of enthusiasm and sportsmanship," he said, applauding German players' sporting reaction after they had been knocked out by Australia.

A roaring Auckland crowd took nominal "underdogs" Ghana under their wing as they fought back from 2-0 down at halftime in a thrilling rainsodden semifinal on Wednesday that ended in a penalty shoot-

The tournament ends on Saturday with finalists Brazil and Australia playing in

Characteristically,

Australia are showing zero awe of the titleholders. If they win they will join Steve Waugh's cricketers, John Eales' Wallabies and Vicki Wilson's netballers as

Australian 1999 world champi-Les Scheinflug, who retires as Joeys coach this weekend, said: "These boys want it so badly they can almost smell it,"

he said. FIFA youth committee chairman Jack Warner has also been impressed at the success of

the New Zealand tournament. "New Zealand has involved everyone. I even saw diehard rugby fans at the games," Warner said.

Pele fancies Santos' offer

SAO PAULO, Nov 26: Pele, recently elected footballer of the century by an international panel, is ready to step in as president of Sao Paulo club Santos, where he spent the bulk of his playing career, reports AFP.

Pele said he would take the job if it would help the club after a meeting with club directors late Tuesday. The current president is Samir Jorge Abdul-

