

MATCH SCHEDULE

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 2 (AFP): Match schedule for the first FIFA World Club Championship in Brazil from January 5-14. (Kick-off times in GMT):

GROUP A (All games at Sao Paulo's Morumbi stadium)

January 5: Real Madrid v Al-Nassr (20.45); Corinthians v Raja Casablanca (23.15).

January 7: Real Madrid v Corinthians (20.45); Raja Casablanca v Al-Nassr (23.15).

January 10: Real Madrid v Raja Casablanca (20.45); Al-Nassr v Corinthians (23.15).

GROUP B (All games at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium)

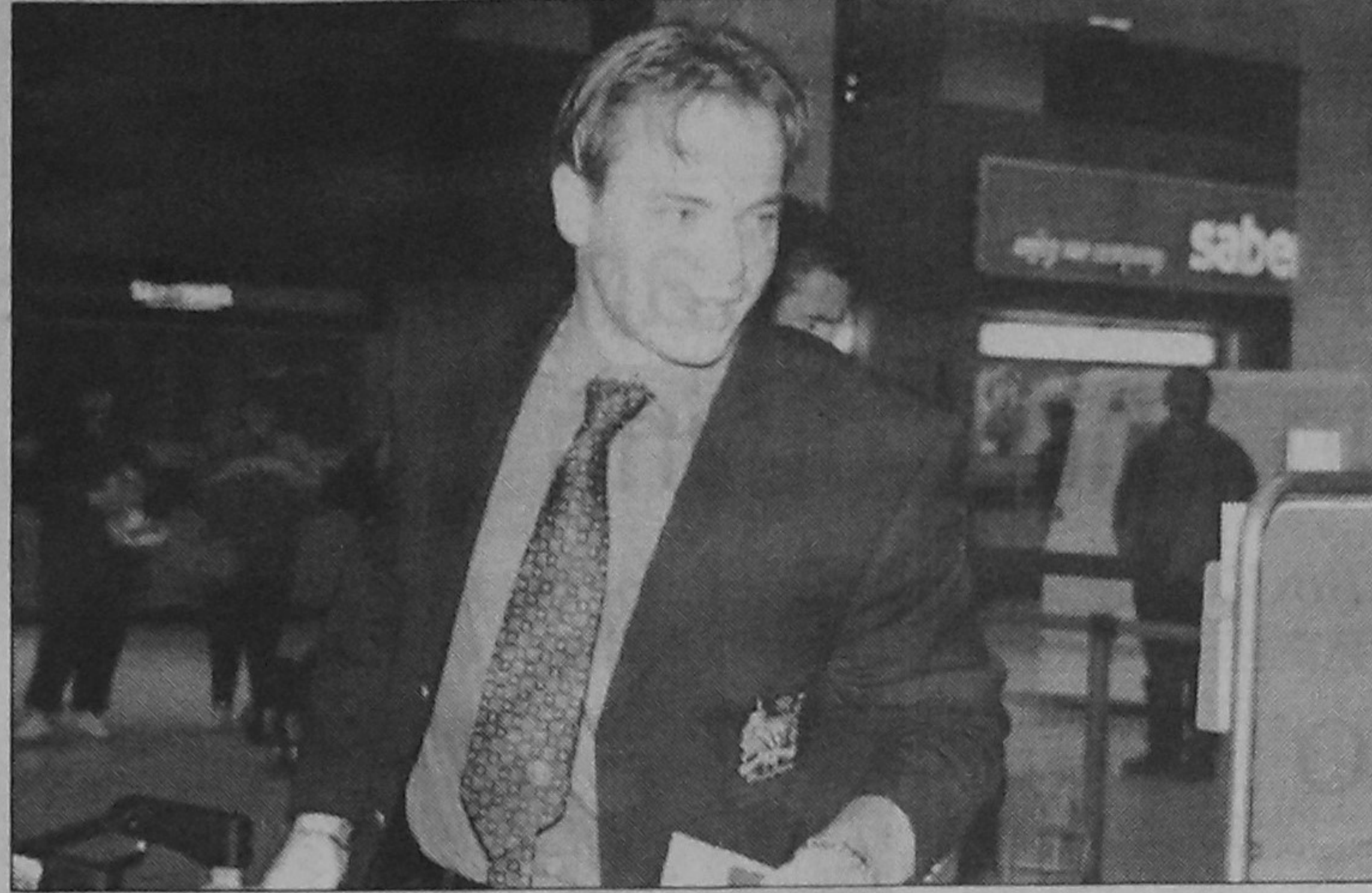
January 6: Manchester United v Necaxa (20.15); Vasco da Gama v South Melbourne (22.45).

January 8: Manchester United v Vasco da Gama (20.15); South Melbourne v Necaxa (22.45).

January 11: Manchester United v South Melbourne (20.15); Necaxa v Vasco da Gama (22.45).

January 14: Third place play-off between the two group runners-up in the Maracana (19.00).

January 14: Final between the two group winners in the Maracana (22.00).



Manchester United's Australian international goal keeper Mark Bosnich at Manchester Airport yesterday prior to his team's departure for Brazil for the FIFA World Club Championship. — AFP photo

All set for World Club Championship

M United the team to beat



RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 2: Six weeks ago they were crowned unofficial champions of the world but this month Manchester United will look to set an official seal on their status by winning the inaugural World Club Championship in Rio, reports AFP.

United have ridden the storm of criticism which withdrawal from the FA Cup - necessitated by their 'Brazilian break' - engendered and are now on the verge of the ultimate prize in an unprecedented sweep of success over the past seven months.

The Roy Keane goal in Tokyo which beat Brazil's Palmeiras made the Red Devils the first ever English side to win the Intercontinental Cup duel between the champions of Europe and South America.

Coach Sir Alex Ferguson's men now have the opportunity to show they are unquestionably the greatest side on the planet as they take on the kings of the other continents.

United open their Group B campaign on Thursday against Mexican side Necaxa, the CONCACAF champions, in the Maracana Stadium and will then face 1998 South American champions Vasco da Gama of Brazil in a game expected to decide who will top the group and reach the final.

United's third game is against Oceania champions South Melbourne on January 11 before the final and the third-place play-off three days later in the Maracana.

For the English Premiership giants the sweltering Brazilian heat of anything up to 40 degrees Celsius could be one of their most difficult opponents as they prepare for four games inside only nine days.

Sir Alex admits that could be a problem. "It's 38 to 42C, which is very, very hot and that's the one concern I've got. We hope we can handle it."

To combat the conditions, Ferguson intends to rotate his 23-man squad as much as possible and allow youngsters such as Danny Higginbotham and Ronnie Wallwork a chance to impress. But England midfielder Paul Scholes will be missing as he prepares for surgery on a hernia problem.

United can achieve two aims with their trip - prove they are the best and also enjoy a sunshine experience far away from the maddening crowds of the English Premiership.

"Some of the players will get a bit of sun, which isn't a bad thing," said Ferguson, who promised that "we're going to go and do our best and we hope we

can win."

A mid-season trip to Brazil causing them to lose ground in the Premiership title race could be a bridge too far for players already slogging through around 60 games a season. Yet United should start favourites to lift the crown if they can adapt to the weather.

Mexico's Necaxa saw off Alajuelense of Costa Rica in the 1998 CONCACAF final while they also won the winter section of the 1998 league championship.

Midfield playmaker Alex Aguinaga, an Ecuadorian international who has been at the club a decade, is their star man but doubts persist on the club's attacking capabilities with another Ecuadorian, Agustin Delgado, unsettled and reportedly looking for a move.

Coach Raul Arias insists his players will not be overawed. "We will be brave and fearless. We want to go all out to win this tournament as much as we would any other," explains Arias.

Yet the Mexicans travel to Brazil after six weeks of inactivity following a Mexican winter title elimination at the quarter-final stage.

Physically, we're at about 80 percent," explained former Mexican international midfielder Ignacio Ambriz.

That may not prove sufficient. "Cynics may suspect that the Australian champions of Oceania, South Melbourne, are only along for the ride - yet coach Ange Postecoglou believes his underdogs can cause an upset."

"I can't see any reason why we can't pull off a surprise," Postecoglou said ahead of his

team's departure for Brazil. "We'll do as good a job as any other team from Australia would have done," he promised.

The Aussies have a strong domestic pedigree having won two straight league titles and they booked their Rio tickets by beating Fiji's Nadi in the Oceania final showdown.

Vasco Da Gama are only in the tournament as Brazilian organisers thought it prudent to have a side from Rio - with Sao Paulo side Corinthians ensuring the host nation will get as much exposure as possible.

Matthaeus Ribbeck's choice

BERLIN, Jan 2: German coach Erich Ribbeck has thrown his support behind veteran libero Lothar Matthaeus to be appointed national coach in the future, reports AFP.

In an interview Saturday in the Germany daily newspaper Die Welt, Ribbeck said that the 38-year-old Matthaeus would make a first class coach.

"He understands the science of football and has enormous experience. He knows the game and knows how to handle the media," said Ribbeck.

Ribbeck added his support to that of German Football Federation (DFB) president Egidius Braun.

"I think that he would be the most suitable national coach in a year or two," said Braun last month.

Despite not being in the first flush of youth Matthaeus, still rates as a major force on the international stage and although he has signed a flexible contract with the New Jersey/New York Metrostars plans to see out the season with Bundesliga side Bayern Munich.

In the same interview Ribbeck said that he wanted to retain Schalke 04's 21-year-old Ghanaian striker Gerald Asamoah in the national side.

But he ruled out salary caps as impracticable.

Benfica, who won their 30th title back in 1994 but have not been champions since, are currently third in the championship - four points off leaders Porto - but were humiliated by Spanish side Celta Vigo in the third round of the UEFA Cup, losing 8-1 on aggregate.

Earlier, 25-year-old Egyptian international striker Abdelsatar Sabry and Greek defender Triantafyllos Mihalidis were lured from PAOK Salonika.

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Winning start for S Africa

PERTH, Jan 2: South Africa got off to a winning start in the Hopman Cup on Sunday by dismissing Belgium 3-0 in the first round of the international mixed team tennis tournament, reports AP.

KNOW THE TEAMS



RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 2 (AFP): Details of the clubs competing in the World Club Championship, starting Wednesday:

GROUP A (Based In Sao Paulo):

AL NASSR (Ksa)
 Coach: Milan Zivadinovic
 Qualified as: 1998 Asian Super Cup winners.
 Chances: Poor. The Saudis lack genuine talent and they only have just one Saudi international in Ibrahim Mater. They are likely to lose all three games and will vie for bottom spot with African side Raja Casablanca.

Dangerman: Moroccan striker Ahmad Bahja.
CORINTHIANS (Bra)
 Coach: Oswaldo de Oliveira.
 Qualified as: 1998 national champions of host country Brazil.
 Chances: Very good. The Sao Paulo club's main strength is up front where they boast one of the best attacks in South America in Edilson, Marcelinho and Luizao. Playing in Sao Paulo's Morumbi stadium will be a big advantage, although they are weak at the back. Main obstacle to Real Madrid for a place in the final.

Dangerman: Colombian captain Freddy Rincon formerly of Real Madrid and three-time World Cup veteran.
RAJA CASABLANCA (Mar)
 Coach: Oscar-Luis Fullone.
 Qualified as: 1999 African Champions League winners.
 Chances: Remote. Raja only qualified four weeks ago after shocking Tunisia's Esperance in the African Champions League. They possess a decent goalkeeper in Mustapha Chadli, who was part of Morocco's squad at France 98. They can combine graft with craft and, although they are sometimes naive, they should beat Al-Nassr.

Dangerman: Skipper Abdelatif Jirindrou.
REAL MADRID (Spa)
 Coach: Vicente del Bosque.
 Qualified as: 1998 Toyota Cup winners.
 Chances: Good. Real have had a terrible season by their lofty standards. John Toshack lost his job as coach, while Nicolas Anelka has been a spectacular flop since his summer move from Arsenal. Their biggest problems are at the back, as they have the second-worst defensive record in Spain. But their firepower can

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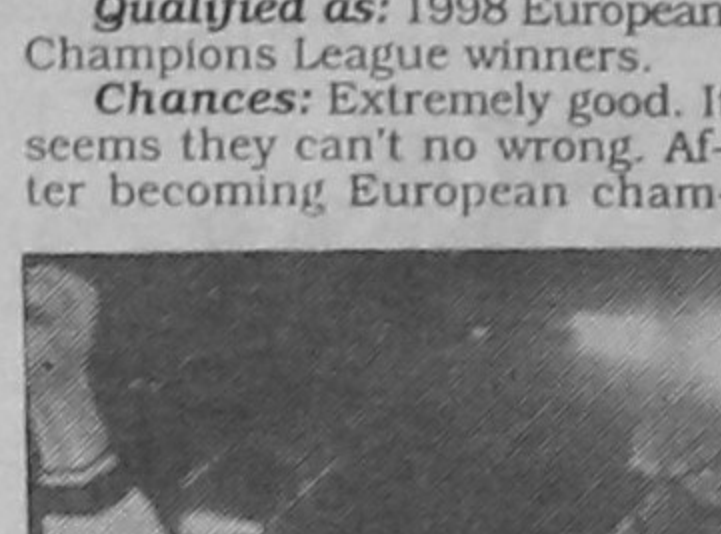
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RAUL GONZALEZ

Dangerman: Striker Raul.
GROUP B (Based In Rio de Janeiro)

MANCHESTER UNITED(Eng)
 Coach: Sir Alex Ferguson
 Qualified as: 1998 European Champions League winners.
 Chances: Extremely good. It seems they can't go wrong. After becoming European cham-



DAVID BECKHAM

ions, they completed an unique treble by securing the Premiership and FA cup last season. Rounded off a fantastic run by lifting the Intercontinental Cup in late 1999. Understandably however, hasn't looked the world beating force consistently enough this sea-



EDMUNDO

Dangerman: Temperamental striker Edmundo.

son. Unforced defensive errors a cause for concern. Breezing through the Group phase won't be any problem though.

Dangerman: Playmaker David Beckham.
NECAXA (Mex)
 Coach: Raul Arias.
 Qualified as: 1999 CONCACAF Champions Cup winners.
 Chances: Slim. The Mexicans are the best of the four non-European and South American sides and have the potential to cause a shock or two. They are well organised and are dangerous from counter-attacks, despite a reliance on 35-year-old striker Carlos Hermosillo. They have an outside chance of finishing second in the group.

Dangerman: Ecuador playmaker Alex Aguinaga.
SOUTH MELBOURNE (Aus)
 Coach: Ange Postecoglou.
 Qualified as: 1999 Oceania Club Champions.
 Chances: None. The club, whose roots are in Melbourne's Greek community, are unlikely to win a match. Their chances are not helped by the fact that their form has dipped since they qualified for Brazil. However they are determined to give a good account of themselves and they could prove awkward opponents.

Dangerman: Striker Paul Trimball.
VASCO DA GAMA (Bra)
 Coach: Antonio Lopes.
 Qualified as: 1998 Libertadores Cup winners.
 Chances: Good. Lopes has signed former Brazil and Barcelona striker Romario to partner the irascible but brilliant Edmundo. Sir Alex Ferguson will remember how Romario helped rip his side to pieces at the Nou Camp in 1994. Vulnerable at the back, where 38-year-old captain captain Mauro Galvao is finally beginning to show his age. His deputy, Geder, is injured.

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Doping claims made in Holland

THE HAGUE, Jan 2: Three retired Dutch professional cyclists on Saturday claimed systematic doping was life within six Dutch teams during the 1980s, reports AFP.

Steven Rooks, Peter Winnen and Marteen Ducrot, speaking in a television documentary, alleged that doctors and physiotherapists from Raleigh, Panasonic, PDM, Buckler, TVM and Kwantum habitually delivered doping products to riders to boost their performance.

The bosses of these teams, notably Peter Post, Jan Raas and Jan Gisbers, were perfectly aware of these methods," Rooks, Winnen and Ducrot alleged.

The accused directors flatly denied the accusations on the same programme. Rooks, Winnen and Ducrot said they made the allegations for ethical reasons to enable today's riders to be given better treatment and slammed team directors' hypocrisy in demanding that riders performed well by whatever means yet threatened to sack them immediately if they were caught doping.

Dutch reporter Bernard Krikke, who also featured in the documentary, presented a list of medications reportedly delivered by the physios of the PDM team in 1988 to its riders. Some of the products named contained testosterone, cortisone and amphetamines.

There was mixed reaction to the allegations with the president of the Dutch cycling union, Joop Atsma, asking: "Why didn't they denounced these practices when they were still riding?"

Atsma said he would be happy to meet the former riders to discuss the issue, in particular Steven Rooks, who was still competing until last year.

"If he has an inkling that these practices are continuing I would like to know," said Atsma.

Cyclists caught doping in the Netherlands would not face criminal action but they could be disciplined by their sports federations.

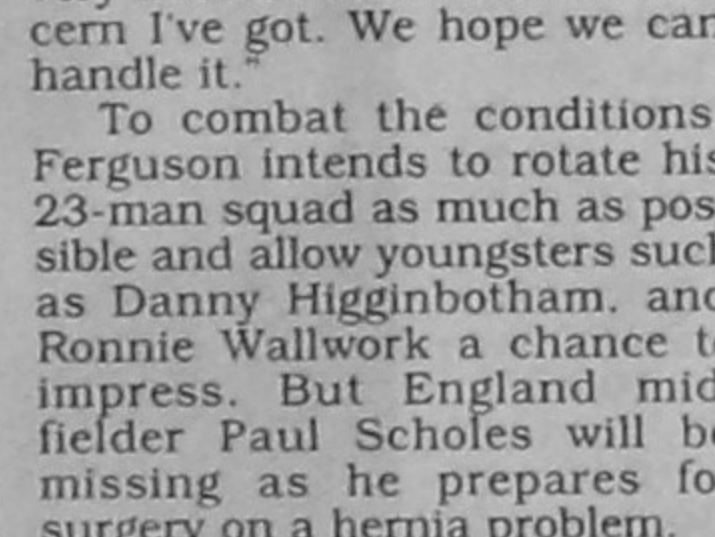
Batle Metz bound

METZ, France, Jan 2: French striker Gerald Batle announced Saturday that he has reached agreement to transfer to French First Division side Metz from rivals Auxerre, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old said he had agreed a two and a half year deal with the northeastern French side, but had yet to receive the green light from Auxerre bosses.

Batle, previously played with French Second Division side Amiens, before transferring to Auxerre, then Strasbourg, before rejoining Auxerre.

Manchester United Manager Sir Alex Ferguson (R) and captain Roy Keane at Manchester Airport yesterday. — AFP photo



Manchester United Manager Sir Alex Ferguson (R) and captain Roy Keane at Manchester Airport yesterday. — AFP photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Tax Training Directorate/BCS (Taxes) Academy
 133 & 133/3 Kakrail, New Baily Road, Dhaka
 File No TE(29) DT/BCS (T)/99/128
 Dated: 22-12-99

Notice regarding viva voce of successful candidates in written test taken for Income Tax Practitioners' (ITP) Registration:

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the viva voce of 602 successful candidates in written test taken as part of income tax practitioners' registration programme by Tax Training Directorate/BCS (Taxes) Academy, Dhaka on 01-10-99, will be held phase by phase from 23-01-2000 to 17-02-2000 everyday from 10 AM at this Academy. The interview card for the viva voce is being sent by post to the present address of the respective candidates. Candidates are requested to bring with them at the time of viva voce, the written test admit card and original copies of all certificates in support of academic qualification. The dates of viva voce & roll numbers of successful candidates ("ITP" attached before each roll number) are given below:

Date	Roll Number	Date	Roll Number
23-01-2000	0001 to 0057	06-02-2000	0505 to 0569
24-01-2000	0058 to 0106	07-02-2000	0570 to 0626
25-01-2000	0108 to 0153	08-02-2000	0631 to 0683
26-01-2000	0155 to 0219	09-02-2000	0686 to 0736
27-01-2000	0220 to 0275	10-02-2000	0738 to 0842
30-01-2000	0276 to 0337	13-02-2000	0843 to 0898
31-01-2000	0338 to 0379	14-02-2000	0899 to 0959
01-02-2000	0381 to 0429	15-02-2000	0961 to 1019
02-02-2000	0430 to 0464	16-02-2000	1020 to 1089
03-02-2000	0465 to 0504	17-02-2000	1090 to 1244

Faruk Hossain
 Director
 Tax Training Directorate
 Dhaka

Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
 Road Division, Patuakhali
 Notice Inviting Tender in Sealed Cover in BD Form No 2911

- Tender Notice : PRD 18/1999-2000. No
- Name of work : Construction of brick pavement (HBB) work of 13th km for bridge approaches on Galachipia-Ulania-Dashmina road under Patuakhali Road Division during the year 1999-2000.
- Chargeable : 266-Development. road
- Estimated cost : Tk 1,21,262/=
- Earnest money : Tk 2,425/=
- Time allowed : 30(thirty) days from the work order.
- Eligibility of contractor's RHD : 'A' to 'E' (general) category.
- Name of : Executive Engineer, RHD, Road offices from Division, Barisal/Bhola/Pirojpur/where the Jhalakati/Barguna/the undersigned all tender documents will be available Sub-Division, Patuakhali during office hours on all working days.
- The officers : 1 Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Barisal, who will receive the tenders in sealed cover 2 Executive Engineer, RHD, Barisal/Barguna, and 3. The undersigned.
- Last date time : Up to 16-1-2000E 3-10-1406B during office hours. of selling the tender
- Last date time : Up to 12-30 PM 17-1-2000E 4-10-1406B of receiving the tender
- Date & time of : At 12:45 PM 17-1-2000E 4-10-1406B opening the tender box
- Date & time of : At 11:00 AM 23-1-2000E 10-10-1406B opening the tender
- Date & time of : At 11:00 AM 25-1-2000E 12-10-1406 lottery (if necessary)

Md Abdul Bari
 Executive Engineer, RHD
 (C/C)
 Road Division, Patuakhali

DFP-29011-27/12
 G-08

DFP-29249-28/12
 G-09

Anderton leaving Spurs?

LONDON, Jan 2: Injury-prone Tottenham striker Darren Anderton looks set to end his eight years at the club after he refused to sign a new contract and blasted the club's board led by chairman Sir Alan Sugar, reports AFP.

The 27-year-old, who in the three seasons preceding last year's campaign made just 39 appearances from a possible 114 because of injuries, is in line to make another comeback against Liverpool on Monday after recovering from a long-term Achilles injury, rejected the deal reported to be in the region of 24,000 pounds a week.

"The new contract gives me only a tiny rise and I won't sign it," Anderton told the News of the World.

The club have only made me one offer and they haven't come back. If they don't want me to stay then I will go. I would love to sign a new deal but what they have put on the table simply isn't good enough."

Crucially, his outburst came on the day he became free to talk to other foreign clubs under the Bosman ruling and his remarks are also sure to alert other leading Premiership clubs.

Anderton, who has scored seven goals in 27 international appearances, also accused the club of lacking ambition and being left behind by the board's refusal to meet the wage demands of the top players.

George Graham is a top manager and the time is going



South Africans Wayne Ferreira (L) and Amanda Coetzer in action against Xavier Malisse and Dominique van Roost of Belgium at the Hopman Cup yesterday. The South Africans won 7-5, 6-3. — AFP photo

South Africans Wayne Ferreira (L) and Amanda Coetzer in action against Xavier Malisse and Dominique van Roost of Belgium at the Hopman Cup yesterday. The South Africans won 7-5, 6-3. — AFP photo