Olympic tickets

Bangladeshis deprived

SYDNEY, Jan 27: Hundreds of Bangladeshis who fronted up with thousands of dollars to travel to Sydney for the Olympic Games have been told they will not be able to get tickets to events, a report here said today, reports AFP. The 600 Bangladeshis had

bought tickets through a Sydney restaurateur who told Sydney's Daily Telegraph he will now have to refund 150,000 Australian (97,500 US) dollars after he was unable to secure tickets.

Nurul Azad said he had been acting as an agent for The Olympic Club, a botched attempt to lure Australian members which began targetting people overseas when its efforts at home failed.

"I lost face ... my point of view is it really damaged the Australian image and they (the Bangladeshi clients) are disappointed," he said.

The club's management, TOC Management Services, signed agents to sell Olympic Club merchandise kits to Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Turkey and Macedonia.

Tickets were not included in the packages, however some overseas agents were led to believe the management company would help them secure seats at Games venues.

Police in Australia began investigating the scheme after a Chinese agent for the Olympic Club was charged with fraud for allegedly selling packages which included tickets.

Shahriar seizes

From page 13

mance: Talking to the reporters after the match, the Kent allrounder admitted that this was for the first time on the tour his team came under pressure.

"They had a big chance to win. My congratulations to them for their fantastic fight," said Patel.

About Bangladesh prospect of getting a Test status, Patel made a guarded remark saying that five-day match was more difficult than three-day affair. On the other hand,

Bangladesh skipper said that it was a good match and his tam came up with close to their best. "This will definitely help us in our cause," said Aminul, who also praised Shahriar for his back-to-back century.

"He is a good batsman. Today he has shown how good he is in selecting shots," Aminul added.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day match between Bangladesh and MCC at the Bangabandhu National Sta-

dium yesterday: BANGLADESH: First innings 303 for 3 in 84 overs declared (Shariar 133, Aminul 113 n.o., Javed Omar 26; Yates 2/57)

MCC: First innings 218 for 3 in 67 overs declared (Smith 113 n.o., Wood 70; Safiuddin 2/38)

BANGLADESH: Second innings (overnight 106 for 1 in 27 overs

Shahriar not out Javed Omar c Hyam b Johnson Habibul c Patel b McGrath Extras: (b-9, lb-3, nb-1) Total: (For 2 wkts in 50.2 overs declared)

Did not bat: Aminul Islam, Naimur Rahman, K Mahmud, K Masood, Al-Shahriar, Enamul Hoque, Hasibul Hossain and Shafiuddin Ahmed

 Fall of wkts: 1/21; 2/226. OMR Bowler Johnson Killen 35 McGrath Patel Yates House Boocock 2 0 10 Smith

MCC: Second innings House b Enamul Wood b Hasibul Smith Ibw b Hasibul McGrath c K Masood b Naimur Nixon run out Hyam b Enamul Patel not out Johnson Ibw b Hasibul Yates b Hasibul Killen not out

Extras: (b-2, lb-9, nb-2, w-2)

Total: (For 8 wkts in 63.5 overs) 234 Did not bat: Mark Boocock. Fall of wickets: 1/15; 2/90; 3/144; 4/186; 5/189; 6/230; 7/232; 8/234

Bowler Hasibul 45 Shafiuddin K Mahmud 9.5 24 Naimur Enamul

Result: Match drawn. Man-of-the-match: Shah-iar Hossain (Bangladesh).

India, Pakistan

From page 13 plained the 33-year-old was simply having a rest and would be in action Friday.

Intikhab said he was pleased the side's batting was peaking at the right time. "This match against India is

very important to us and the boys are all geared up," he said. You play every game hard because you want to stay on a winning streak."

India were scheduled to train later in the day after their ar-

rival from Adelaide. PROBALE TEAMS Akram(capt), Azhar Mahmood, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamamul Haq. Mohammad Wasim, Moin

PAKISTAN: Wasim Khan, Saced Anwar, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Akhtar, Shoaib Malik, Wajahatullah Wasti, Yousuf Youhana(to be finalised).

INDIA: Sachin Tendulkar(capt), Ajit Agarkar, Nikhil Chopra, Samir Dighe, Rahul Dravid, Devang Gandhi, Saurav Ganguly, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Anil Kumble, Vangipurappu Laxman, Jacob Martin, Debashish Mohanty, Robin Singh, Javagal Srinath, Venkatash Prasad(to be finalised).



Man-of-the-match Shahriar Hossain (C) is flanked by the two captains - Bangladesh's Aminul Islam (L) and Mir Patel of MCC - after the three-day match yesterday. - Star photo

ECB cautions Atherton



vered a warning to former captain Michael Atherton over his rejection of county cricket's new format for next season, reports AFP. Atherton said on Tuesday he

was doubtful whether ECB chief Lord MacLaurin's new two-division format would improve flagging standards. The Lancashire and England

opener also claimed the game was failing to attract interest from supporters and sponsors alike and missing the quality needed to aid the Test side. Atherton said: "I do not have an argument in defence of

county cricket. "I do not think it serves any purpose whatsoever. Very few people turn up to watch; it does not prepare people for a higher level of cricket, and it does not attract TV deals or sponsorship.

"It is living on borrowed

"There are so many players playing county cricket that there is always someone getting 200 and putting their name to the selectors," he said

"But it is very difficult to pick out the right people because county cricket does not really give a good indication of who is

going to be successful at a higher level.

Tim Lamb, chief executive of the ECB, was dismayed by former England captain Atherton's attack on four-day cricket and revealed it had shocked the championship sponsors.



MIKE ATHERTON

Lamb hit back at Atherton's outburst and made clear the player's comments had prompted concern within the county game -- not least its main financial backers.

Atherton was urged to allow county cricket's switch to two

divisions an opportunity to prove itself before criticising the new concept

Lamb said: "It seems to me to be completely inappropriate for Mike to prejudge and write off a new format before it has even started. We are more than disappointed and would firmly rebut his comments.

"It's unfortunate he seems to show a commercial naivety and fails to understand that comments by a former England captain attacking the game are potentially damaging.

"I have been in contact with our sponsors to reassure them that Michael Atherton's views are not those of the ECB. Players must understand the responsibility they are under. "The game has changed

enormously in the past three or

four years and a two-division championship is a major new initiative which needs time to take root and develop. Lamb was reluctant to reveal whether Atherton might face disciplinary action for speak-

ing out, but did confirm: 'We are

considering his comments. "I don't want to enter a war of words with Michael Atherton, but any suggestion we should be doing away with any counties would be counter-productive and would not serve the wider interest of English cricket.



An aerial duel between Brazil's Mozart (L) and Venezuela's William Perez during the Sydney Olympics qualifier in Londrina, Brazil on January 26. Brazil won 3-0. - Internet photo

African Nations Cup

Heart-broken Congo



LAGOS, Jan 27: Congo coach David Memy has an unexpected problem ahead of the African Na-

Death clash with title favourites Nigeria at Surulere Stadium in Lagos on Friday. reports AFP. He is battling to raise spirits

in the Red Devils camp after they came within six minutes of holding star-studded Morocco two days ago in the first series of mini-league matches before going down 1-0.

No one outside a Central Africa country recovering from civil war gave the motley mix of local amateurs, semi-professionals in Africa and Europe and one Germany-based professional any hope against the Atlas Lions.

But they came so close to causing the first shock of the 2000 finals that Memy admits some of his squad have not come to terms with a loss caused by a rare mistake from Brice Samba.

The goalkeeper, who repeatedly thwarted the Moroccans despite his lack of height and excess weight, failed to cut off a deep cross and Mustapha Hadji set up Salaheddine Bassir for

the winner. "Most of the players are struggling to eat because they are so upset," Memy confessed to reporters.

The Super Eagles made an impressive entry into the bien-

nial African showcase last Sunday, defeating highly-rated Tunisia 4-2 with Augustine 'Jay Jay' Okocha and Victor Ikpeba scoring twice each.

While the Nigerians looked tions Cup Group of scintillating at times going forward, with African Footballer of the Year Nwankwo Kanu producing a variety of deft flicks, there were some alarming moments of defensive hesitation.

Okocha from French glamour club Paris Saint Germain was particularly happy as he

persuaded Dutch coach Jo Bonfrere to allow his one-year-old daughter attend training.

"Scoring is the name of the game and I want to give my wife and daughter something to appreciate each time Nigeria play," the 26-year-old midfielder said.

Victory would take Nigeria three points clear at the top of Group D a day before Morocco and Tunisia square up in a North African showdown that promises to be one of the first-



Star Spanish striker Raul Gonzalez (R) outwits Marek Zajac of Poland during their friendly game at Cartagena - Internet photo n Spain on January 26.

South Africa

From page 13 land at Newlands Wednesday: SOUTH AFRICA Kirsten Ibw b Gough Gibbs c and b Gough Kallis run out (Ealham)

Rhodes c Caddick b White Cronje c Read b Gough Klusener not out Strydom b Caddick Boucher e Ealham b Alleyne Pollock not out Extras: (lb-3; w-7) Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 204

Fall of wickets: 1-26; 2-32; 3 71; 4-108; 5-147; 6-153; 7-182. R 36 29 36 Bowler 0 Gough Caddick White Ealham 33 Alleyne 25 Hick Did not bat: Hayward. Williams.

ENGLAND Hussain c Boucher b Hayward Knight c Boucher b Williams Hick lbw b Kallis Solanki c Kallis b Klusener Adams c Pollock b Klusener Alleyne c Boucher b Hayward White c Rhodes b Williams Ealham c Rhodes b Pollock Read not out Caddick b Kallis

Gough not out Extras: (lb-5: w-9: nb-6) Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) 203 Fall of wic'cets: 1-3; 2-72; 3-72; 4-86; 5-121; 6-138; 7-15; 8-

191; 9-197. Bowler Pollock Hayward Williams Kallis Klusener Result: South Africa won by one run.

Man-of-the-match: Jacques Next match:Jan 28 England v Zimbabwe (D/N), Cape Town. POINTS TABLE

Country S Africa England Zimbabwe

Rivaldo statue

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 27 When Barcelona midfielder Rivaldo was named FIFA's 1999 player-of-the-year it marked the fourth time in five years that a Brazilian snagged the prize, reports AP.

But soon Rivaldo will have something that makes him unique — a statue, the Brazilian media reported Wednesday. Geraldo Alves, mayor of Rivaldo's hometown, said

Wednesday he's commissioned a statue in the player's honour. It will be placed it in the main square of Paulista, about 1,160 miles (1,868 kilometers) northeast of Rio, the mayor

said. Alves was unavailable for comment on Wednesday.

Olympic qualifiers Colombia, Brazil breeze

LONDRINA, Brazil, Jan 27: A hattrick by Leon Dario Munoz powered Colombia on Wednesday to a 5-1 win over Chile in Group A of the South American Olympic qualifying tournament, reports AP.

Munoz scored in the 16th, 29th and 53rd minutes, while Rubiel Quintana scored in the 59th minute and Mayer Candelo in the 60th. Chile's only goal was scored in the 87th minute by Julio Gutierrez.

In the second match of the evening Brazil defeared Venezuela 3-0.

Ronaldinho scored in the 9th minute and in the 84th minute on a penalty shot, while Lucas scored in the 75th minute.

Primera Liga Real down Betis

MADRID, Jan (Reuters/Internet): Resurgent Real Madrid extended their unbeaten run to six matches on Wednesday with a 2-1 win over Real Betis on Wednesday. After a poor start to the sea-

son and the sacking of coach John Toshack sacked in mid-November, the seven-times European champions have notched up 14 points from the last 18 on offer. The victory over the visitors from Seville moved them up to

seventh place in the Spanish First Division.

International friendly Spain too good for Poland

CARTAGENA, Spain, Jan 27 (Reuters/Internet): Raul Gonzalez's 16th international goal set Spain on their way to a 3-0 victory over Poland on Wednesday as Jose Antonio Camacho's side got their Euro 2000 warm-up programme off to an untaxing Raul, whose presence in the

country row that led to threats of resignation from coach Camacho, struck after 15 minutes with an expertly-taken poacher's goal. Two Ismael Urzaiz headers early in the second half completed a highly satisfactory work-out for Spain, one of the

favourites for the European

squad prompted a club versus

championship finals following their sparkling form in the qualifying series. Spain's build-up to this match was completely overshadowed by a row with Real Madrid, who were unhappy that Raul and Fernando Hierro were included in the squad when they were playing a rescheduled league match on the same night.

fence as the first half wore on, limiting Spain to a couple of hopeful long shots. But two defensive lapses in the second half enabled Spain

to increase their lead.

Poland tightened up their de-

|French First Division

PSG cruise on Christian



Brazil's Christian scored all four goals in a scintillating display of finishing as Paris

Saint Germain earned a 4-2 victory over Strasbourg to cut Monaco's lead to eight points at the top of the French first division on Wednesday, reports

Christian's fabulous four goals mean he has scored 15 goals in his last 14 games in all competitions after not scoring in his first seven. Christian had scored twice

after 10 minutes to effectively kill off the game before Strasbourg had got out into their He also nearly scored just before the break after good work by Laurent Robert. Towards the

end of the second half, he added

a further two to give the only

Paris first division club hope of

bringing the league title back to the capital city. Strasbourg's late flurry to

score two goals by Fabrice Ehret gave the impression the match was closer than it really was.

Monaco drew 1-1 at Metz on Tuesday to provisionally notor 11 points clear on 49 points and it was up to Paris Saint Germain, Lyon, and Auxerre, all on 38, to try and haul back some of that deficit 24 hours later.

However, Auxerre had a goalless draw at St Etienne and Lyon drew 1-1 at home to Bordeaux meaning they are third and fourth respectively 10 points behind Monaco.

Christian scored the first

from about six metres and although Strasbourg keeper Thierry Debes got his left hand to it, he could not stop the ball going in the net after just two minutes. His

second goal on 10 minutes came from a cross from the left by Robert and Christian was perfectly positioned to rifle it into the roof of the net.

He fired home his third goal on 76 minutes after good work by Russia's Igor Yanovski on

a Laurent Leroy shot was blocked and he made no Laistake with the follow-up just three minutes later. Ehret at least improved the visitors's goal difference as he twice got on target in the 85th and 90 minutes. Monaco went a goal down to Metz's winter-break signing Gerald Baticle after 59 minutes before Italy's Marco Simone hit

the left and got his fourth when

vage a point. Monaco could consider it was a good night's work as they were without injured players David Trezeguet, Marcelo Gallardo and Philippe Christanval, and were playing on an icv pitch rarely seen down in the

a 65th-minute equalizer to sal-

principality. Simone, who equalized Baticle's opener following a good cross from Sabri Lamouchi on the right, hit his 16th goal of the season to leave him on top of the league scoring list.

Monaco might even have

won the match as they dominated towards the end though it was only thanks to their infrom keeper Fabien Barthez that they did not go behind in the first half. Auxerre did well to play out a goalless match at St Etlenne. who were without Tchiressoua

Guel, Lucien Mettomo and Pape Sarr, all at the African Nations Cup, though new recruits Bruno Carotti and Alain Masudi of Nimes were playing for "Les Verts." St Etienne dominated for the whole match and had their best

chance when Stephane Pedron hit the crossbar in the second half. Burgundy club Auxerre, meanwhile, had no clear cut chance for the whole 90 min-Lyon scored after just four minutes when a Jacek Bak

header met a Vikash Dhorasoo

freekick. Lilian Laslandes

equalized for Bordeaux in the 16th minute to earn the draw. In other Wednesday games, Lens had a superb 4-0 victory over Le Havre, Rennes drew 0-0 with Nantes, Montpellier had a 1-0 victory over Nancy and Bastia beat Sedan 1-0.

Patrice Loko scored after just two minutes for Montpellier before Nancy were reduced to 10 men on 15 minutes when Mehdi Meniri was sent off for a foul on Cedric Barbosa. Nancy's Olivier Rambo was also taken off the pitch on a stretcher in the second half.

On Tuesday, Marseille, who have been through the wars in recent weeks as their coach Bernard Casoni began a new regime, managed a 2-1 win at

Italian Cup quarterfinal 2nd leg

Paris Saint-Germain's Laurent Robert (R) and Peguy

Luiyndula of Strasbourg are in pursuit of the ball during

the French First Division match at Paris on January 26.

Lazio oust Juve, Venezia remove Fiorentina

- Internet photo



ROME, Jan 27: Lazio booked their place in the Italian Cup semifinals here on

Wednesday night after Argentina's Diego Simeone scored a late winner in a pulsating 2-1 victory over Juventus, reports AFP. Lazio, who lost the first leg

of their quarter-final 3-2 in Turin, now meet Venezia for a place in the final of a tournament they won in 1998. Lazio's Croatian striker Alen Boksic broke the deadlock in the 54th minute, substitute

Simeone nodded home the matchwinner in the 80th. Victory was sweet revenge for the Rome club, who have been struggling in the Serie A since being knocked off the top

Alessandro Del Piero levelled

for Juventus in the 73rd but

of the table by Juventus. Currently three points behind in second place, Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson now hopes his team will start believing they can beat Juventus to the league championship

"As far as the Italian Cup is concerned, this was a really important result because it puts us into the semi-finals," Eriksson said. "And it's always a pleasure to beat Juventus.

But he added: "I hope this hope the black moment is over when Inzaghi was put clean

Juventus coach Carlo Ancelotti said: "It was the kind of match that could easily have gone our way, or their way. In the end, it went theirs. "We're

out of the Cup, but the champi-

onship is another thing." Both coaches were in a mood for experiments, with Juventus star Zinedine Zidane given an attacking role alongside Yu-

goslav Darko Kovacevic. Eriksson used only one striker up front against the toughest defence in Italy during the first half - and there was little surprise that Simone Inzaghi made no impression on it. However, Eriksson put the

teeth back in his attack for the second half, replacing former Crystal Palace midfielder Attilio Lombardo with Boksic and the move paid off within minutes. Defender Giuseppe Pancaro broke down the left, raked a

high spinning ball back into the middle and the inrushing Boksic met it with a header that left Edwin Van Der Sar no With Lazio now qualified on the away goals rule, Ancelotti

was quick to re-shuffle his pack. Midfielder Jonathan Bachini was swapped for striker Alessandro Del Piero, with Zidane pulling back to a more familiar role behind two strikers, while winger Gianluca Zambrotta took over from wingback Alessandro

Juventus soon pushed forward but Lazio should have through but his angled shot failed to beat Van Der Sar. Zidane soon punished them

Birindelli.

for the miss, heading a ball through for an unmarked Del Piero, who had time to chest the ball down, swivel and sweep a



Lazio's Alessandro Nesta (L) is under pressure from Juventus' French superstar Zinedine Zidane during their Italian Cup quarterfinal second leg clash at Rome on January 26. - Internet photo

right-foot shot past Lazio goalkeeper Marco Ballotta. Eriksson responded with two more substitutions - throw-

vanelli and Yugoslav free-kick specialist Sinisa Mihajlovic. And within minutes his team were back in front after Mihajlovic swung over a corner from the right. Van Der Sar was caught out of position and Simeone rose inside a packed

ing on striker Fabrizio Ra-

goalmouth for a glancing header. Venezia also earned their place in the semis on the away goals rule, bundling out favourites Fiorentina after Enrico Chiesa missed an injurytime penalty for the hosts in a

1-1 draw. The first leg had finished 0-0. Fiorentina took the lead through defender Daniele Adani in the 63rd minute, but Venezia levelled in the 84th minute when Norwegian midfielder Runar Berg hit an an unstoppable drive from outside

English League Cup

the area.

Tranmere ensure historic berth

LONDON, Jan 27: Tranmere Rovers beat Division One rivals Bolton Wanderers 3-0 in the give us morale for the future. I gone 2-0 up in the 69th minute League Cup semi-final second leg at Prenton Park on Wednesday to progress to their firstever Wembley final, reports

> Manager John Aldrige, a former Liverpool favourite during his playing days at Anfield. was without five senior players, including defenders Clint Hill the goal-scorer at the Reebok Stadium a fortnight ago -Gareth Roberts and Steve Yates. but even an under-strength team were too strong for Wanderers. Rovers, leading 1-0 from the

found the top corner of the net with a superb strike from 18 yards after Wanderers had failed to clear a Dave Challinor long throw. Alan Mahon then struck the bar from long range with goalkeeper Steve Banks beaten before he grabbed the second from

first leg, took the lead after five

minutes when Nick Henry

the penalty spot to put the home side 2-0 up. Scott Taylor seized on Challinor's header and as he prepared to shoot, defender Mike Whitlow bundled the striker over and referee Graham

Poll gave a penalty. Mahon composed himself to send Banks the wrong way from the spot to leave Sam Allardyce's men with a mountain

to climb.