

## Olympic hockey q'fiers

## S Korea down Britain

OSAKA, Japan, Mar 12: Former Asian champions, South Korea stepped closer to qualifying for the Olympic men's field hockey at Sydney today, reports AFP.

It was the third successive win for the Koreans in Group A of the qualifying tournament, and left them needing only one point from their remaining two games to confirm their Olympic berth. The Koreans play hosts Japan on Tuesday and New Zealand a day later.

Britain, meanwhile, stayed on four points from three matches and must defeat both Belgium and Poland to keep their hopes alive of making the trip to Sydney.

"We are certainly down, but not out," British coach Barry Dancer said. "The last two matches are within our reach and I think we can win both."

Britain took the lead in the 16th minute when Duncan Woods converted a penalty corner, but the Koreans equalised immediately through their own penalty corner specialist Yeo Woon-Kon.

South Korea took the match away from the British when captain Kang Keon-Wook scored two field goals in as many minutes midway through the second session to make it 1-1.

Kim Jung-Chul increased the margin in the 54th, finally leaving manager Kim Sang-Ryul a happy man.

"I am pleased our game improved here," said Kim, who blamed his team for poor finishing in the previous two matches.

"Britain have always been a tough team to beat, but it was our day today. We played much better than the other games and that is a good sign," Kim said.

## Blown away

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Jahangir	8	2	16	0
Hasanuzzaman	3	0	11	0
Shariful	10	0	26	3
M Akhtar	9	1	42	1
F Iqbal	9.2	0	24	1

**BIMAN**  
Javed Omar lbw b Mushfiq 55  
Faruque not out 73  
Habibul not out 9  
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2, w-9) 14  
Total: (for 1 wk in 37.1 overs) 151  
Did not bat: Aminul Islam (sr), Manzoor Akhtar, Hasanuzzaman, Jahangir Alam, Shariful Haque, Aminul Islam (jr) and Atiar Rahman.

Fall of wicket: 1-113  
**Bowler** **O** **M** **R** **W**  
Bikash 4 0 27 0  
Ashfaq 4 2 5 0  
Rouf 10 1 32 0  
Fahim 6.1 1 24 0  
Mustadir 3 0 9 0  
Tareq 2 0 10 0  
Rajin 5 0 26 0  
Mushfiq 3 0 15 1  
**Result: Biman won by nine wickets.**

## MSC keep

From Page 13

Iqbal, Khandaker Abdul Salam, Sirajul Huq Chowdhury, Kabir Ahmed, Mohammed Humayun and Ilias Siddiqui.

The six secretaries are: K Halid Hasan (Administration), Salam Murshed (Sports), Fazur Rahman Babul (Public Relation), Badal Roy (Social Welfare), Mahabubul Anam (Culture) and Qamrunnahan Dana (Woman Affairs).

The members are: Dalil Uddin Ahmed, Zahurul Haq, Aminul Haq Moni, Protap Shankar Hazra, Zakaria Pintu, Golam Sarwar Mostafa Tipu, Mostaqur Rahman, Khurshid Alam Babul, Syed Munis Ali, Faruque Ahmed Bhuiyan.



LOKMAN MOSADDEK

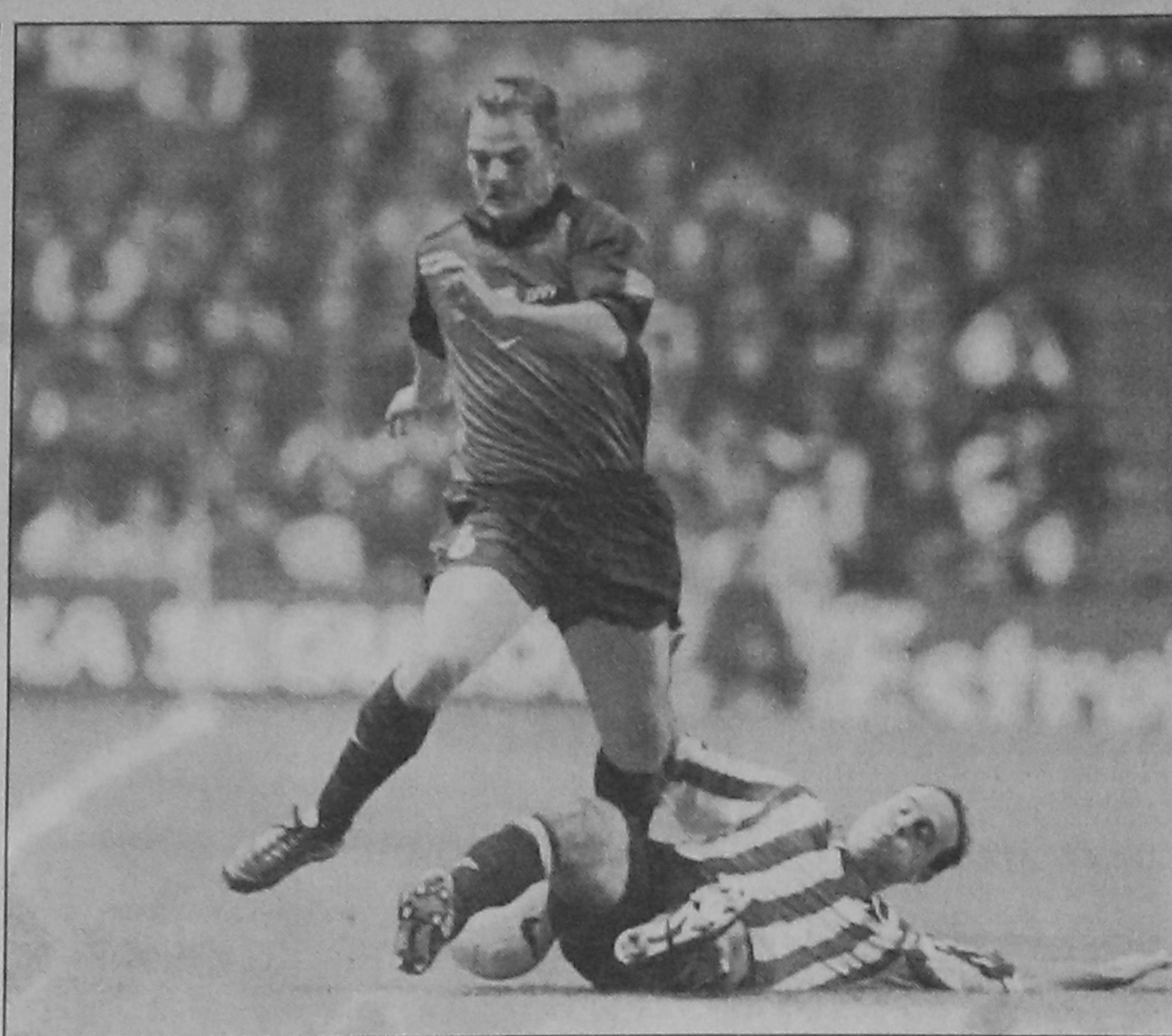
Shariful Alam, MA Taher, Hanif Bhuiyan, Shahjada Miah, Hamidul Huq, Kazi Abul Bashar, Sultan, Ahmed, Habibur Rahman Habib, Sajed Alamgir Adel, Monwar Hossain, Iftekharul Alam Titon, Imtiaz Sultan Johny, Wasim Khan, Fazul Kabir, Jamaluddin, F Rahman Babul, Borhanul Karim Barun, Ainul Islam Pokraz, Rashiduzzaman Millat, Abu Sayed Abdullah, Amin Rasul Sagar, Shawkat Ali, Shafiqul Islam, Murad Hossain Sohel, Jahangir Sattar Tinku, Abu Hasan Chowdhury Prince, Ashim Kumar Ukil, Sheikh Abul Hasem, Kaisar Hamid, Sayed Hasan Kanan, Khandaker Monir Uddin, Rafiqul Islam, A Hossain, AZM Zahid Hasan, Shafi Ahmed, Takdir Hossain Mohammed Jasim, Moazzem Hossain, Kalkobad Mohammed Sharifuzzaman, Azmat Mobin Arju, Amirul Islam Babu, Kazi Jashim Uddin Ahmed Joshi, Syed Rumman-bin-Wall Sabbir and Anwar Hossain.

## Ganguly

From Page 13

Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-33; 3-121; 4-194.	
<b>Bowler</b> <b>O</b> <b>M</b> <b>R</b> <b>W</b>	
Kallis 5 0 19 0	
Pollock 8 0 25 1	
Boje 10 2 34 1	
Steydom 10 0 57 0	
Elworthy 3 1 17 0	
Crookes 10 2 44 1	
Cronje 1.1 1 4 1	

**Result: India won by six wickets, lead series 2-0.**  
**Man-of-the-match: Saurav Ganguly.**



Athletic Bilbao defender Felipe Gurendez(L) executes a sliding tackle on Barcelona's Dutch international Ronald De Boer during their *Primera Liga* fixture at Bilbao on March 11. —AFP photo

## Primera Liga

## Barca too hot for Bilbao



MADRID, March 12: Barcelona took a useful stride towards a third straight *Primera Liga* title on Saturday night when they crushed Athletic Bilbao 4-0 away, the Catalan club's second straight win by the same score, reports AFP.

Barca moved to within two points of leaders Deportivo La Coruna, who host Valencia on Sunday, after swamping Bilbao. First half goals from Philip Cocu and Patrick Kluijver softened up the Basques and a second from Cocu and one from Luis Figo after the break completed the job.

"Barca were very effective - four attacks, four goals," said Bilbao coach Luis Fernandez, who had to watch from the stands as he serves a touchline ban.

In Saturday's other match Real Betis and Rayo Vallecano parted 1-1 to remain in midtable.

But the main talking point of the day continued to be the row between Real Madrid and unsettled striker Nicolas Anelka, who missed training for the second straight day, provoking a furious reaction at

the club. Real saw off basement club Sevilla 3-1 with goals from Raul, Guti and Fernando Morientes to keep pace with Barca and move into the top three level on points with Barca.

But the controversial Anelka was left out having skipped training Saturday morning and having already been threatened with disciplinary action after he boycotted training on Friday.

Real also left inconsistent England winger Steve MacManaman on the bench as the 'meringue' stiffened their lineup following a demoralising 4-1 Champions League thrashing at Bayern Munich in midweek.

Anelka later told AFP that he had been incensed by a meeting with Real vice-president Juan Ontivero.

"He spoke rudely to my brother Didier and myself and then he dismissed us," Anelka said.

Anelka, who has had a disappointing first season with the Spanish giants with niggling injuries and mediocre performances, told AFP: "I want to play - but if Real don't change their tactics there is no point."

"I know perfectly what I did," he said. "I expressed only my

feelings, because, as no-one wanted to listen to me, I had to do something."

"I am a little bit crazy but I know the consequences of what I did."

Anelka alleged coach Vicente del Bosque had refused to talk to him and said that he wants to hold a meeting with club president Lorenzo Sanz.

Del Bosque dismissed Anelka's complaints and said: "His behaviour hurts me because I think that it shows a lack of respect for his teammates."

Barca have also had a controversial week, even if they progressed in Europe, as Nigerian international Emmanuel Amunike on Thursday slammed the club, saying that while he had been injured the club had treated him like a slave. He added he had been treated as if "a madman or sick".

The Catalan club were easily able to come through Saturday without both Amunike and Luis Enrique, who will be out for three months as a result of a ruptured cartilage in his right knee - an injury suffered in the 4-2 victory over Porto in last Wednesday's Champions League match.

## French First Division

## Dugarry's revenge

PARIS, March 12: Marseille reject Christophe Dugarry stunned his old club here Saturday when he opened the scoring for his new side Bordeaux in a league match at the Stade-Vélodrome, reports AFP.

Dugarry headed home a Lillian Laslandes cross in the 20th minute to silence the 55,000 crowd who had made the flamboyant striker the target of their ire earlier this season.

The French international striker made his emotions clear as he stared malevolently at the massed Marseille support after the goal.

With six minutes to go Laslandes ended home hopes as he ran on to a pass from Johan Micoud to blast past stand-in goalkeeper Stephane Trevisan from a tight angle.

Dugarry, who started the season in Marseille, took much of the blame for their abysmal start to the season and he was off-loaded back to Bordeaux during the winter break.

It was only the second time in 40 years that Bordeaux had won in Marseille, the last time being in 1985 and it moved the French champions to within one point of fifth place Auxerre.

Marseille on the other hand are just four points clear of the drop zone with Nancy and Troyes having games in hand.

In a battle for one of the three French European Champions League slots, unfashionable Sedan held wealthy Paris St Germain to a 1-1 home draw in front of an 18,000 crowd.

Sedan, one point behind the Parisians, even took the lead through Cedric Mionnet one minute before half-time, but Brazilian striker Christian Equilaud after 59 minutes.

The result left Lyon, who play Sunday, in second place one point ahead of Paris St Germain and two points ahead of Sedan. Runaway leaders Monaco, who also play Sunday are 10 points clear of Lyon with 55 points from 27 games.

## Woman stands between Nakata and award

HONG KONG, Mar 12 (Reuters): Japanese Hidetoshi Nakata will have to tackle the challenge of a woman player for the first time if he is to retain his Asian football player-of-the-year award.

China's Sun Wen stands in the way of Italy-based Nakata winning the award for an unprecedented third time.

Sun, who starred for the Chinese when they reached the final of the Women's World Cup in the U.S. last summer, is the first woman to be nominated for the award.

Nakata first won the title in 1997 when he was instrumental in guiding Japan to their first-ever World Cup finals. He repeated the feat as a result of his performances in France and his showing for Italian club Perugia, who he joined after the finals.

Since then the 23-year-old has continued to shine for both club and country, his performances earning him a lucrative move to Serie A giants AS Roma at the end of January.

Sun, meanwhile, was named the most valuable player at the Women's World Cup as China finished second behind the US. The Shanghai striker also finished the tournament as joint top-scorer with Brazil's Sisi before going on to guide China to their seventh consecutive Asian Women's title in the Philippines in November.

Also short-listed are Iranian striker Ali Daei, Japan's Masashi Nakayama, Korean Hwang Sun-hong and Kuwait's Olympic team captain Bashar Abdullah. The award will be presented on April 6 at the AFC's Annual Awards night, to be held in Beirut.



Roque Santa Cruz(L), Bayern Munich's Paraguayan striker under pressure from Schalke 04's Markus Happe during their *Bundesliga* match at Munich on March 11. —AFP photo

## Stoichkov not MLS' yet

CHICAGO, Mar 12: Bulgarian star Hristo Stoichkov, who said he was ending his retirement to play for the Chicago Fire, has yet to strike a deal with the Major League Soccer club, reports AFP.

## Serie A

## Aspirants' hopes suffer



ROME, Mar 12: Simone Inzaghi and Giuseppe Pancaro both scored in the final seven minutes, rallying Lazio from a two-goal deficit to a 2-2 draw on Saturday with Internazionale, who played a man short for the final 50 minutes, reports AP.

The draw at Rome's Olympic stadium left Lazio in second place in the Italian *Serie A* and Inter in third, offering Juventus the opportunity to stretch their lead on Sunday.

Juventus have a 15-8-1 (win-draw-loss) record and 53 points and will travel to Piacenza on Sunday. Lazio, with a 14-8-3, record is three points behind Juve while Inter (14-5-6) is another three points back.

In the only other *Serie A* game Saturday, Bologna and Venezia drew 1-1.

Uruguayan forward Alvaro Recoba gave Inter the lead in the 19th minute with his seventh goal of the season, but limped off the field at the end of the first half and had to be replaced

by defender Michale Serena. Despite Colombian defender Ivan Cordoba's ejection in the 40th for a dubious foul on Chilean striker Marcelo Salas, Inter increased their lead in the 79th when midfielder Luigi Di Biagio scored.

The Roman team rallied with an all-attack tactic in the final 10 minutes.

Second-half substitute Inzaghi scored on a short-range drive in the 83rd and Pancaro tied it five minutes later, sparking jubilation of Lazio's supporters.

Groups of Lazio fans confirmed their notorious reputation by shouting racist slogans and jeering Inter's Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf.

Inter's goals came on the two scoring chances they had during the whole match while goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi made several dramatic saves, and Lazio wasted a streak of opportunities by Dejan Stankovic, Salas and Pavel Nedved.

Inter coach Marcello Lippi criticized the call to eject Cordoba and even Lazio's Swedish

coach Sven-Goran Eriksson admitted the score did not reflect Lazio's superiority.

Elsewhere in Bologna, a second-half goal by Swedish striker Kennet Andersson rallied Bologna and prevented the Venetian team from achieving their first victory on the road this season. Venezia, however, did end a nine-match losing streak.

Forward Maurizio Ganz gave Venezia the lead in the 29th with a left-footed drive from 11 metres.

Andersson equalised with his fifth goal of the season in the 56th, capitalising when he was left unmarked close to Venezia's net.

Saturday's draw improved Bologna to 30 points (7-9-9), in ninth place in the 18-team standings.

Venezia (5-5-15) was left in the relegation zone of the table, with 20 points.

The match at Dall'Ara stadium featured the league's worst league offence (Bologna) against their weakest defence (Venezia).



Inter Milan's Colombian international defender Ivan Cordoba(L) is put off-balance by Lazio's Chilean super-striker Marcelo Salas during their *Serie A* encounter at Rome on March 11. —AFP photo

## Inter angry, Lazio unnerved



ROME, March 12: Lazio were devastated by the scoreline while Inter Milan were furious with the referee after the two *Serie A* giants fought out a controversial 2-2 draw here on Saturday night, reports AFP.

Both sides needed the points to keep the pressure on league leaders Juventus and there was drama, and controversy, at both ends of the Olympic stadium.

Lazio dominated the possession and created countless scoring chances. But they came up against Inter goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi in sensational form and were 2-0 down against 10 men with just seven minutes left.

Inter were, meanwhile, fuming after referee Stefano Braschi sent off their Colombian defender Ivan Cordoba in the 41st minute and ignored a collision which put Peruzzi out of action as Lazio equalised.

Inter president Massimo Moratti vented his anger to the *Gazzetta dello Sport* - saying the refereeing was a disgrace and that Italy's soccer federation bosses should quit.

Moratti, who watched the match on TV in New York, said: "This time, it's gone too far. It's shameful. The referee was dreadful, and he's protected by the federation. It's time all this stopped."

"The people in the federation

have to go... Braschi's mistakes were just too serious, I've had enough, those at federation have to get out - and that's an official comment."

"Peruzzi was fouled," he added, before appearing to revive a conspiracy theory that Italy's referees are biased towards the league leaders.

"A draw would have suited Juventus and that's what happened," he said. "It's just not possible for Inter to keep suffering wrongs like this."

Alvaro Recoba, who scored with Inter's only shot in a first half which saw Lazio fire off 14 at the other end, told reporters: "It's hard 'I came out, cleared the ball and (Simone) Inzaghi went into me. It was a foul and I was on the floor and couldn't do anything as play carried on."

"And (Giuseppe) Pancaro scored with an open goal."

Inter coach Marcello Lippi, who still regrets a recent outburst about the refereeing in a game at Parma, remained guarded.

"Cordoba's sending off seemed to a bit too severe," he said of the first-half incident, which Moratti claimed saw Lazio's Marcelo Salas foul Cordoba and not the other way around.

"As for the equaliser, all I can say is that Peruzzi has told me he was fouled by Inzaghi."

Lazio were gutted by a scoreline which, though sparing them defeat, did not do justice to their performance.

Coach Sven Goran Eriksson was flummoxed by the nights events.

"I don't know what to say to the lads, they tried everything," he said. "The first 30 minutes was perhaps Lazio's best performance this season and they were good not to get demoralised at 2-0 down, when it was nearly over."

"They made a huge effort and were rewarded in part. One point isn't very much for a display like that."

He went on: "It's difficult explain this match. I don't understand why we didn't win: we had so many shots on goal and attacked from every angle."

"We should have scored, but you have to say that Peruzzi was brilliant. I fear the only winners from this match were Juventus."

Juventus coach Carlo Ancelotti was a happy man with his team three points ahead of second-placed Lazio before Sunday's game at relegation strugglers Piacenza.

He told the *Corriere dello Sport*: "We still have to beat Piacenza, that's the most important thing for us."

"But I can't hide the fact that a draw was the best possible result for us, because it should enable us to extend our lead over two major rivals for the title."

## Zico forsees a fantastic Ronaldo



RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 12: Brazilian superstar Ronaldo, who hopes to return to action with Inter Milan within a month following knee surgery and rehabilitation in Brazil, will come back with a bang and surprise everyone, according to former World Cup star Zico, reports AFP.

"I think that Ronaldo is in good enough physical and psychological condition to surprise everyone and also to play in the Olympics in September," Zico told AFP.

Ronaldo, 22, returned in midweek and said he felt very good from a fortnight of intensive workouts in Rio de Janeiro and was Monday cleared by the surgeon who operated on him - Prof. Gerard Saillant - to step up his rehabilitation in Italy.

However, Ronaldo told Inter fans that he could not put an exact date on his return to first team action, saying only: "We're taking it step by step."

Zico, who revealed he had spoken to his young compatriot earlier in the week, said he believed Ronaldo had taken "the best option" with his spell in Rio and had made "an enormous effort" in order to return to Italy with his knee very much better.

And Zico, who starred in Brazil's World Cup sides of the early and mid 1980s, added: "He has the physical condition and the youth to come back and re-

turn to be the best in the world." According to Ronaldo's physiotherapist, Nelson Petrone, the player has managed to lose four kilos and no longer feels pain in his knee.

In a phone conversation with AFP, Petrone revealed that "the Ronaldo who has travelled back to Europe is in better shape than the great footballer known to so many of two years ago."

But Petrone said he would only be able to prove his ability to return to his best by maintaining the tightest discipline in his professional lifestyle.

Uday Saddam Hussein, who serves as head of Iraq's Olympic Committee and the Iraqi Football Federation, received the invitation during a visit to Baghdad by a Korean delegation to promote junior friendly matches.

The report comes on the day of the opening of the electoral campaign for Iraq's March 27 parliamentary elections in which Uday is contesting a seat for the first time.

A Korean Football Federation spokesman said that the invitation was in recognition of the esteem in which Uday was held in Asian and international sporting circles.

The president's son was seriously injured in a December 12, 1996 ambush in Baghdad when his sports car was riddled with bullets. After several months in hospital and a series of operations, he has finally recovered the use of his legs.

The 35-year-old runs newspapers and Youth TV, as well as serving as head of Iraq's Olympic federation.

## 2002 World Cup ROK invite Saddam's son

BAGHDAD, March 12: The Korean Football Federation have issued an invitation to the eldest son of Iraqi president Saddam Hussein to attend the opening ceremony of the 2002 World Cup, to be co-hosted jointly by South Korea and Japan, the Iraqi media reported here Saturday, reports AFP.

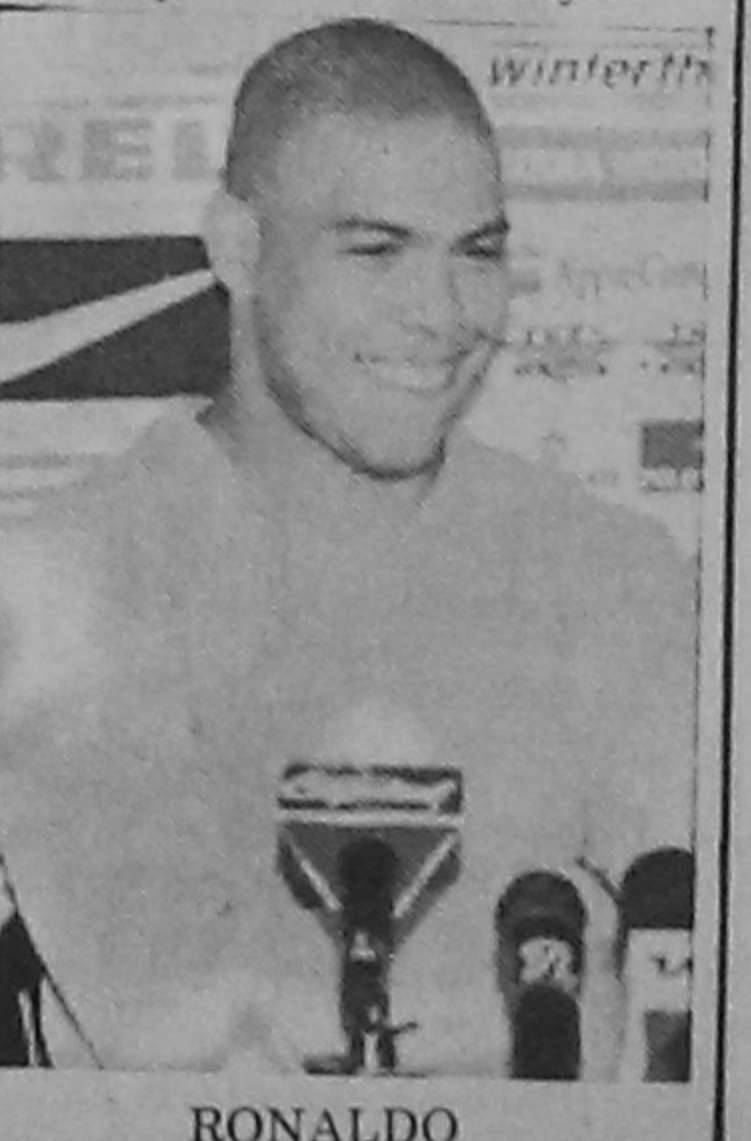
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RONALDO