

Sport

Spain accepts two Intertoto Cup places

MADRID, April 5: Spanish football could have as many as eight representatives in next season's European competitions after they accepted on Tuesday two places in the UEFA Cup qualifying competition, the Intertoto Cup, reports AFP.

Mysterious death of San Lorenzo booter

BUENOS AIRES, April 5: Argentinean footballer Mirko Saric was found hanged at his home in the Buenos Aires suburbs, local police sources reported Tuesday.

Call for change

From page 13 that cricket is being played in Toronto, in New York or in Sharjah. But the cast of characters is not certainly an American, a Canadian or a Sheikh,

State Minister for Jute Faizul Haq, who graced the occasion as chief guest, also defended Shakkil's opinion. The witty politicians entertained the audience by saying "The American might have accepted cricket as a strategy to fight against communism. Since the cold war is over it is quite impossible to enter them now."

The discussion however turned more exciting when patriotism came to the fore in an emotional outburst by noted drama personality Ali Zaker.

Patriotism is something that goes with cricket. Bangladesh have had a good taste of it when they defeated Pakistan in England World Cup. Responding to Zaker's definition, Asif Iqbal, a shrewd cricketer of yesteryears, only recalled the words of State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader during his visit in Dhaka during the Mini World Cup.

"I still recall the honourable minister calling me a Bangladeshi during my visit in Dhaka before the mini World Cup. It is safe not to talk about that aspect. Patriotism is here in this soil, continent and we have seen it also in Sharjah", quipped Asif.

Quader was also present on the occasion along with BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury. Shuvro Dev, a leading singer of the country, and actress Suborna Mostafa, who added glamour to the audience, also spoke on the occasion.

An avid follower of the game Suborna said: "We are still fighting to get a permanent theatre like the cricketers fighting for a permanent pitch. I think, we need a permanent pitch for cricket now."

Mendis meanwhile concentrated on the rise of the Sri Lankan cricket since their World Cup match against West Indies in England in 1975.

"I can still remember our World Cup match against West Indies in 1975. We were bowled out for 40-odd runs and the match was finished even before a strong band of supporters reached the ground. An exhibition match was held to satisfy the Sri Lankan supporters. But after 20 years we won the World Cup and cricket in Sri Lanka has become so influential that people are now taking it to the court", said Mendis.

Sir Don Wisden's

From page 13

(12) 13 (tied). Sydney Barnes, England, Len Hutton, England, (11)

15. Bill O'Reilly, Australia, (10)

16. Ian Botham, England, (9)

17. (tied). Harold Larwood, England, Ray Lindwall, Australia, Sachin Tendulkar, India, (6)

20. (tied). Richie Benaud, Australia, George Headley, West Indies, Kapil Dev, India, (5)

23. (tied). Graeme Pollock, South Africa, Wilfred Rhodes, England, Victor Trumper, Australia, (4)

26. (tied). Godfrey Evans, England, Malcolm Marshall, West Indies, Wasim Akram, Pakistan, (3)

29. (tied). Alec Bedser, England, Clarrie Grimmett, Australia, Fred Trueman, England, Frank Woolley, England, (2)

33. (tied). Curly Ambrose, West Indies, Colin Bland, South Africa, Allan Border, Australia, BJT Bosanquet, England, Baghwat Chandrasekhar, India, Ian Chappell, Australia, Les Crane, West Indies, Allan Donald, South Africa, A.P. Tich Freeman, England, Lance Gibbs, West Indies, Michael Holding, West Indies, Clive Lloyd, West Indies, Stan McCabe, Australia, Bruce Mitchell, South Africa, KS Ranjitsinhji, England, Maurice Tate, England, Pelham Warner, England.



Manchester United's Dutch international defender Jaap Stam (2nd from L) trying to tackle Real Madrid ace Raul at Madrid on April 4. — AFP photo

Bosnich protects Champions

MADRID, April 5: Australian international goalkeeper Mark Bosnich produced an outstanding performance here on Tuesday to deny Real Madrid and help defending European Champions League holders Manchester United to a scoreless draw in their quarter-final first leg match, reports AFP.

The 28-year-old, who was dropped during the second phase of the Champions League but regained his place after just one match when replacement Raimond van der Gouw put up a terrific performance against Bordeaux, virtually single-handedly kept United in the contest as the seven-time European Cup champions poured on the pressure.

The result maintained United's poor record in Spain where they have not beaten Spanish teams in 10 matches. Ferguson was scathing in his criticism and he was deeply disappointed by their display.

"I think there's a sense of relief with the result of a draw because I think it was one of our poorest performances in the big games over the last few years," said the unhappy United boss.

"I was disappointed with the number of times we gave possession of the ball away from players who you would expect to be perfect at these things.

"The result of football you are never going to play well in all the games and what disappointed me was the careless use of the ball and even our control of the ball.

"That's disappointing because these are things we expect to be 100 percent all the time and I don't think we made one tackle in the first half. We usually have a good third of goals and usually get goals."

"So it was a disappointing game for us and Mark Bosnich without question has kept us in the game."

United shaded the early part of the second-half as Madrid lost their rhythm from the first 45 minutes and Aitor Karanka was fortunate just to be booked after such a result but the Spanish media applauded Real for their display in Tuesday's Champions League quarter-final.

Madrid fans taken into custody

MADRID, April 5: Four Real Madrid supporters were arrested late Tuesday following an attack on a young Spaniard after the Champions League quarter-final against Manchester United, police said.

The 28-year-old victim who was wearing a United scarf was found lying in the street by emergency services who immediately transferred the young man to hospital.

Doctors were unable to give a clear diagnosis pending further examinations for spinal damage.

The four men aged 23 to 27-years-old are members of the radical Ultrasur group of supporters that follow the Madrid side who drew 0-0 with United in the first-leg match.

Police found the suspects to be carrying a truncheon which could have been used to attack the victim as well as a kitchen knife and neo-nazi pamphlets.

There were also reports of minor incidents in a Madrid bar where United supporters threw bottles as well as minor scuffles outside the Bernabeu stadium that resulted in four people suffering minor injuries.

when he brought down Ryan Giggs in full flow and bearing down on goal in the 64th minute.

However, Michel Salgado had the clearest chance of the second-half in the 66th minute when his shot from just outside the area was saved by Bosnich, though the Australian keeper was fortunate to get away with it two minutes later when he missed a corner but Helguera's header went wide.

Madrid then went closest of all to breaking the deadlock as Steve McManaman surged into the box and his low cross left Bosnich in no man's land but Bosnian midfielder Elvir Balic

failed to shoot first time allowing the Australian to regain his ground and palm the ball over the bar.

Bosnich again saved his side as McManaman, who was having his match of the season after a series of disappointing performances, was released alone into the penalty box by Raul's backheel but his shot came off the diving 'keeper's legs.

Madrid had started the match the brightest with United's Norwegian central defender Henning Berg, who has kept his place with some outstanding performances since young Frenchman Mikael Silvestre lost form, shining as he halted

shirt since his arrival last summer and also the best chance of the match, just before the end, which Bosnich managed to keep out.

"Macca rediscovered his form... every day he is looking better," As commented.

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But the first half was not much of a spectacle as the winners of the last five Portuguese titles found it hard to break down the reigning Bundesliga champions.

It was uncharacteristically poor goalkeeping by Bayern's Oliver Kahn that gave Porto most hope with first Capucho and then prolific Brazilian striker Mario Jardel nearly profiting after lapses in concentration from the German international custodian.

Jardel also should have done better with a header after a good run and cross by Esquerdinha. And a fine shot by Esquerdinha enabled Kahn to redeem himself with the save of the first period.

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But it only took a minute for a goal to come after the interval and it went to Porto - it was no surprise that the scorer was Jardel, his ninth of this season's Champions League.

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Bayern, determined to lay the ghost of last season when they famously snatched defeat from the jaws of victory in the final thanks to injury time goals by Manchester United's Teddy Sheringham and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, were visibly shocked and briefly seemed to lose their discipline.

First Aloisio volleyed just wide of Kahn's goal and then Bayern's French World Cup winning fullback Bixente Lizarazu was cautioned for a tackle on Drulovic.

But gradually the Germans stepped up the pace and more strain was put on the Porto defence when Esquerdinha had to leave the field with a cut.

And Paulo Sergio came up with the priceless leveller with just 10 minutes remaining.

The Porto defence seemed to be sleeping when Paulo Sergio took advantage of the slack marking to score from close range.

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RESULTS AT A GLANCE

PARIS, April 5: European Champions League quarter-final, first leg results on Tuesday: At Madrid Real Madrid (Spa) 0 Manchester United (Eng) 0 At Porto Porto (Por) 1 (Jardel 47) Bayern Munich (Ger) 1 (Paulo Sergio 80)

Bayern, Barca odds on favourites

LONDON, Apr 5 (Reuters): Latest William Hill betting after Tuesday's Champions League quarter-final first leg matches: 3-1: Bayern Munich Barcelona 100-30: Manchester United 4-1: Lazio 11-1: Real Madrid 14-1: Chelsea 16-1: Valencia 50-1: Porto

One-match ban for Elber

BERLIN, Apr 5: Bayern Munich's Brazilian striker Elber will miss only one German First Division game after being sent off in last Saturday's 1-1 draw at VfL Wolfsburg, reports Reuters.

The German champions, two points behind leaders Bayer Leverkusen with seven games remaining, said they had accepted the sanction, meaning Elber will be unavailable for this Saturday's match at home to SSV Ulm.

Elber was sent off in the 80th minute of the Wolfsburg game for pushing Holger Badtzen. Referee Edgar Steinborn said in his report the offence was un-sportsmanlike but not violent.

Bergkamp to see out contract at Arsenal

LONDON, April 5(Reuters/Internet): Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp plans to see out his contract at UEFA Cup semi-finalists Arsenal.

Bergkamp's future has been the subject of speculation in the past month with reports linking him to a return to the Netherlands.

But Bergkamp told London's Evening Standard newspaper on Wednesday: "I have one year left on my contract at Arsenal and I want to be here for that year. I have loved my time at Arsenal and I have no wish to leave."

Bergkamp retires from international football after this year's Euro 2000 in his native country and Belgium.

"I told the club that I do not want any talks about a contract until the summer. I want to concentrate on the Euro 2000 finals," he said.

"I am retiring from international football then and I want to have a successful tournament with my country. But I will be at Arsenal next season. That is for sure."

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Bayern Munich's Brazilian international striker Giovane Elber being intercepted by FC Porto's Paulinho Santos during their Champions League quarterfinal first leg at Oporto on April 4. — AFP photo

Bayern get vital away goal

PARIS, April 5: Bayern Munich striker Paulo Sergio grabbed what could prove a crucial late equaliser Tuesday to give last season's runners-up the edge in their quarter-final with Portuguese Champions FC Porto, with the first leg finishing 1-1, reports AFP.

A goal just after half-time from prolific Brazilian striker Mario Jardel had given the Portuguese side a slender lead but his fellow countryman Paulo Sergio's equaliser gave Bayern a precious away goal going into the second leg at Munich's Olympic Stadium.

Jardel's goal makes him the top scorer (nine goals) in this season's Champions League and he said: "Obviously I am very happy (to be top scorer) but we are sad to have conceded the equaliser."

"But we are going to Munich with the aim of winning."

Bayern's French World Cup winning defender Bixente Lizarazu said that they were delighted with the equaliser.

"We got an away goal that is very important for the second leg," said the Basque. "It was our positive reaction to losing the first goal that helped us get an equaliser and we hope to build on that for the second leg."

"In the first half they played better than us but after the break we played better and we developed our game," Lizarazu told Canal Plus TV station.

This was a rematch of the 1987 European Cup Final won 2-1 by Porto in what many con-

sider one of the most exciting finals in the history of the tournament.

But the first half was not much of a spectacle as the winners of the last five Portuguese titles found it hard to break down the reigning Bundesliga champions.

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UEFA Cup semi-finals first leg

English power put to test

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