

Jemima cleared of smuggling charges

LAHORE, Pakistan, April 6: A Pakistani court Wednesday exonerated Jemima Khan, wife of cricket hero Imran Khan, of charges that she tried to smuggle antique tiles out of the country, officials said, reports AFP.

Judge Khalidur Rehman of the Lahore High Court quashed the case which was launched against her in January 1999 under the government of ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Jemima, daughter of the late British tycoon Sir James Goldsmith, pleaded in her petition that the case was fabricated to harass and damage her husband, who is now a prominent politician.

The case was filed by the customs department after it seized a consignment of tiles, which the authorities alleged were antiques, that Jemima Khan was sending to London.

Pakistan has a long-standing ban against the export of antiques, an offence punishable by several years in prison.

Deputy attorney general Khwaja Saadullah Zafar, representing Pakistan's new military-led government, told the court that the ministry of culture and archeology had verified that the tiles were not antiques.

Jemima, who had bought the tiles from a market in Islamabad, was not present for the court hearing.

Imran Khan entered politics in 1996 after launching his Tehreek-e-Insaf or Movement for Justice political party.

The party failed to win a single seat in the general elections in February 1997 in which Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League scored a thumping victory.

Khan has consistently attacked what he said was massive corruption and misuse under Sharif, who was overthrown in a military coup in October.

ECB, players strike deal

LONDON, Apr 6: England's leading cricketers have finally reached agreement with the England and Wales Cricket Board over their contracts, the ECB said today, reports Reuters.

Simon Pack, the ECB's international teams' director, said 12 players had signed the new deals after weeks of negotiating over the details.

"We are pleased to have reached this agreement because central contracts represent an important step forward for English cricket," said Pack.

Big wins

From page 13

recorded an identical win over AK High School.

Bating first, AK High School were all out for 147 in 33.4 overs.

In reply, Khilgaon reached 149 for three in only 19.1 overs with Johnny notching an unbeaten 52.

In the other match of the day, Barnamala High School posted a two-wicket win over Rashid Adarsha High School at the City Club ground.

Chasing Rashid Adarsha's 149 in 35 overs, Barnamala reached 151 for eight in 22.5 overs with Robin scoring highest 38. Among others, Iqbal scored 18 while Rashid scored 17 for the winners.

Earlier, Rashid Adarsha batted first and scored 147 for seven in 23.4 overs. They had only eight players in their side.

Wari fly

From page 13

cause of tomorrow's high-profile exhibition match between Asla Eleven and the Rest of the World Eleven.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Premier Division Cricket League match between Agrani Bank and Wari Club played at the Dhamondri Cricket Stadium yesterday:

AGRANI BANK				
Jamal c Montu b Gamage	17			
A Hanif b Montu	37			
Sajjad c b Mapatuna	6			
S Malik c Rowan b Zakir	24			
Mofizul b Montu	54			
Mashar b Zakir	46			
Imran c Sharfuddin b Zakir	30			
Mofizul run out	20			
Mizan run out	8			
Mosaddek not out	6			
Russell run out	1			
Extras (b-10, lb-10, nb-9, w-16)	45			
Total (All out in 50 overs)	294			
Fall of wickets: 1-37; 2-66; 3-93; 4-132; 5-218; 6-259; 7-260; 8-284; 9-293				

BOWLER				
Gamage	O	M	R	W
	9	0	50	1
Zakir	9	0	48	3
Montu	9	0	46	2
Sharfuddin	9	1	57	0
Halim Shah	7	0	35	0
Mapatuna	5	0	25	1
Sajib	2	0	13	0

WARI CLUB				
Anup b Mofizul	34			
Ramanayake not out	142			
Mofizul c Mashar b Imran	5			
Halim Shah c Sajjad b Mofizul	5			
Sharfuddin b b Russell	7			
Mashar c S Malik b Mosaddek	22			
Mapatuna b Imran	16			
Sajib b Imran	11			
Gamage c Mosaddek b Mofizul	28			
Rowan b Mofizul	0			
Zakir not out	0			
Extras (lb-5, nb-10, w-14)	29			
Total (For 8 wickets in 48.2 overs)	295			
Fall of wickets: 1-48; 2-49; 3-61; 4-98; 5-151; 6-198; 7-221; 8-292; 9-294				

BOWLER				
Imran	O	M	R	W
	10	0	51	3
Mizan	1	0	14	0
Mofizul	8	0	42	4
Mosaddek	8.2	0	36	1
Russell	10	0	57	1
Mofizul	6	0	45	0
S Malik	5	0	43	0

Result: Wari Club won by one wicket.



Chelsea's French international defender Marcel Desailly (R) tackles Barcelona striker Dani during their Champions' League fixture at Stamford Bridge in London on April 5. — AFP photo

Chelsea make Barca dizzy

LONDON, April 6: Chelsea upset the odds by beating Spanish giants and tournament favourites Barcelona 3-1 in the European Champions' League quarter-final, first leg at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

Italian Gianfranco Zola opened the scoring for the Blues and Norwegian international Tore Andre Flo added two more goals before half-time in a pulsating first half.

Barca captain Luis Figo pulled one back for the visitors nine minutes after the interval.

Chelsea coach Gianluca Vialli was happy with result but realistic about the task ahead.

"In the first half we managed to do the right things and then we were tired because our game was so demanding," he said.

"It was a good night for us but it's only the first half and we have won nothing. The job is not done yet."

"I think we were great and it just shows what we are capable of, but it will be a different game at the Nou Camp."

"We have to go there without a negative attitude and I think the guys will be up for it. I would like to play that game myself!"

Barca's Dutch coach Louis Van Gaal was disappointed with his team's performance, but confident they would still progress into the semi-finals.

"It was a bad result for us but I still think we can go through," said the stony-faced Dutchman.

"It will be difficult because Chelsea are battling as hard as we are but we can do it."

Van Gaal hinted that Chelsea were perhaps a little fortunate to race into a three goal lead.

"They created little and made goals out of nothing," he added. But he was delighted with his team's response in the second half.

"We showed how we can play and that we are a threat going forward and if we play like we did after half time in the second leg we have a good chance of

going through."

Barcelona last won the European Cup in 1992 at Wembley. Chelsea coach Gianluca Vialli was in the Sampdoria side beaten 1-0 by the Catalans on that occasion and knew his side had to be at their best to overcome the in-form Spanish champions.

Barcelona arrived in good shape, unbeaten in the Champions' League this season, scoring a record-breaking 36 goals in 12 games in their two qualifying group games.

In contrast Chelsea's success has been built on a rock solid defence. In 14 games in Europe - including two qualifying play-off matches - they have conceded a meagre nine goals, two of those in the defeat by Lazio a fortnight ago.

Vialli opted for youth in midfield by starting with England under-21 international Jody Morris instead of Uruguayan Gustavo Poyet, who had to be content with a place on the bench. Brazilian Emerson Thome replaced the suspended Frank Leboeuf at the centre of defence.

Barca's playmaker Josep Guardiola, who was struggling with a hamstring injury, was named as one of the substitutes, such is his importance to the Spanish giants. The youngster Xavi taking his place in midfield.

The visitors enjoyed more of the possession in the early stages with Vialli's men looking a little overawed by their illustrious opponents.

European player of the year Rivaldo was a constant menace with his deft touch and accurate passing giving the home defence plenty to think about.

The game sprang into life after 13 minutes. French international Didier Deschamps was penalized for a two-footed tackle on the edge of the box and up stepped Figo to take the free-kick. Instead of shooting, he rolled the ball to Rivaldo who hit a blistering shot towards goal.

Chelsea's giant Dutch keeper Ed de Goeij pulled off a fantastic save to keep the Blues on level terms and had to be alert moments later to deny Gabri.

Barca did not have it all their own way. Morris should have done better when put through by Zola and the Sardinian was wasteful with a shot just outside the area.

Chelsea almost took the lead after 24 minutes when French international Marcel Desailly's bullet header was brilliantly blocked by keeper Ruud Hesp.

The hosts started to grow in confidence and five minutes later they sensationally took the lead. Figo handled the ball just outside the area and Zola curled the free-kick, beyond Hesp's despairing dive into the top right hand corner.

This clearly rattled Barca and four minutes later Chelsea doubled their advantage. Zola broke free on the right wing before driving a low cross for Flo to slot home and send the home fans delirious.

Barca rallied briefly as Rivaldo went close with a low drive but worse was yet to come for Van Gaal's men.

After 38 minutes Deschamps chipped for Flo to run onto and the Norwegian international lobbed Hesp from the edge of the box to make it 3-0.

Finnish international Jari Litmanen replaced Carles Puyol at half time with Van Gaal looking to revive his faltering attack.

Barcelona pressed forward in search of the away goal which would bring them back into the game and give them hope when the clubs meet in Spain in two weeks time.

And Figo gave the Spaniards a lifeline after 54 minutes, touching home Rivaldo's pinpoint cross.

After 71 minutes De Goeij spilled Rivaldo's stinging shot but Desailly was on hand to boot the ball to safety.

Three minutes later Flo raced clear of Abelardo but scuffed his shot a yard inside the box as Chelsea tried to restore their three goal advantage.

Hesp then denied the Blues from scoring a fourth after 81 minutes saving substitute Roberto Di Matteo's point-blank header.

Barca's playmaker Josep Guardiola, who was struggling with a hamstring injury, was named as one of the substitutes, such is his importance to the Spanish giants. The youngster Xavi taking his place in midfield.

The visitors enjoyed more of the possession in the early stages with Vialli's men looking a little overawed by their illustrious opponents.

European player of the year Rivaldo was a constant menace with his deft touch and accurate passing giving the home defence plenty to think about.

The game sprang into life after 13 minutes. French international Didier Deschamps was penalized for a two-footed tackle on the edge of the box and up stepped Figo to take the free-kick. Instead of shooting, he rolled the ball to Rivaldo who hit a blistering shot towards goal.

Chelsea's giant Dutch keeper Ed de Goeij pulled off a fantastic save to keep the Blues on level terms and had to be alert moments later to deny Gabri.

Barca did not have it all their own way. Morris should have done better when put through by Zola and the Sardinian was wasteful with a shot just outside the area.

Chelsea almost took the lead after 24 minutes when French international Marcel Desailly's bullet header was brilliantly blocked by keeper Ruud Hesp.

The hosts started to grow in confidence and five minutes later they sensationally took the lead. Figo handled the ball just outside the area and Zola curled the free-kick, beyond Hesp's despairing dive into the top right hand corner.

This clearly rattled Barca and four minutes later Chelsea doubled their advantage. Zola broke free on the right wing before driving a low cross for Flo to slot home and send the home fans delirious.

Barca rallied briefly as Rivaldo went close with a low drive but worse was yet to come for Van Gaal's men.

After 38 minutes Deschamps chipped for Flo to run onto and the Norwegian international lobbed Hesp from the edge of the box to make it 3-0.

Finnish international Jari Litmanen replaced Carles Puyol at half time with Van Gaal looking to revive his faltering attack.

Barcelona pressed forward in search of the away goal which would bring them back into the game and give them hope when the clubs meet in Spain in two weeks time.

And Figo gave the Spaniards a lifeline after 54 minutes, touching home Rivaldo's pinpoint cross.

After 71 minutes De Goeij spilled Rivaldo's stinging shot but Desailly was on hand to boot the ball to safety.

Three minutes later Flo raced clear of Abelardo but scuffed his shot a yard inside the box as Chelsea tried to restore their three goal advantage.

Hesp then denied the Blues from scoring a fourth after 81 minutes saving substitute Roberto Di Matteo's point-blank header.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

PARIS, April 6: European Champions' League quarter-final, first leg results on Wednesday:

At London
Chelsea (Eng) 3 (Zola 30, Flo 34, 38) Barcelona (Spa) 1 (Figo 64)

At Valencia
Valencia (Spa) 5 (Angulo 2, Gerard Lopez 4, 40, 80, Claudio Lopez 90) Lazio (Ita) 2 (Inzaghi 28, Salas 86)

Istanbul incident

England's bid won't suffer

LONDON, Apr 6: English officials said Thursday that England's bid for the 2006 World Cup would not be affected by the violence which claimed the lives of two Leeds United fans in Istanbul, reports AP.

English soccer has been tarnished by fan violence for the past two decades, but England has been at pains to convince the world that the problems are mostly a thing of the past.

England is one of five bidders for the World Cup, along with South Africa, Germany, Morocco and Brazil. FIFA, soccer's world governing body, will choose the 2006 host on July 6.

The violence issue came to the forefront again after two Leeds fans were stabbed to death in street fights on the eve of Wednesday night's UEFA Cup semifinal game against Galatasaray.

"These are appalling incidents," Football Association chief executive David Davies said. "But as far as the vote on July 6 is concerned about a World Cup in England six years from now, I don't expect it will be a factor. It should not be an influence when 24 people sit down to make that decision."

A spokesman for Prime Minister Tony Blair said the government remained "fully committed" to the World Cup bid.

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

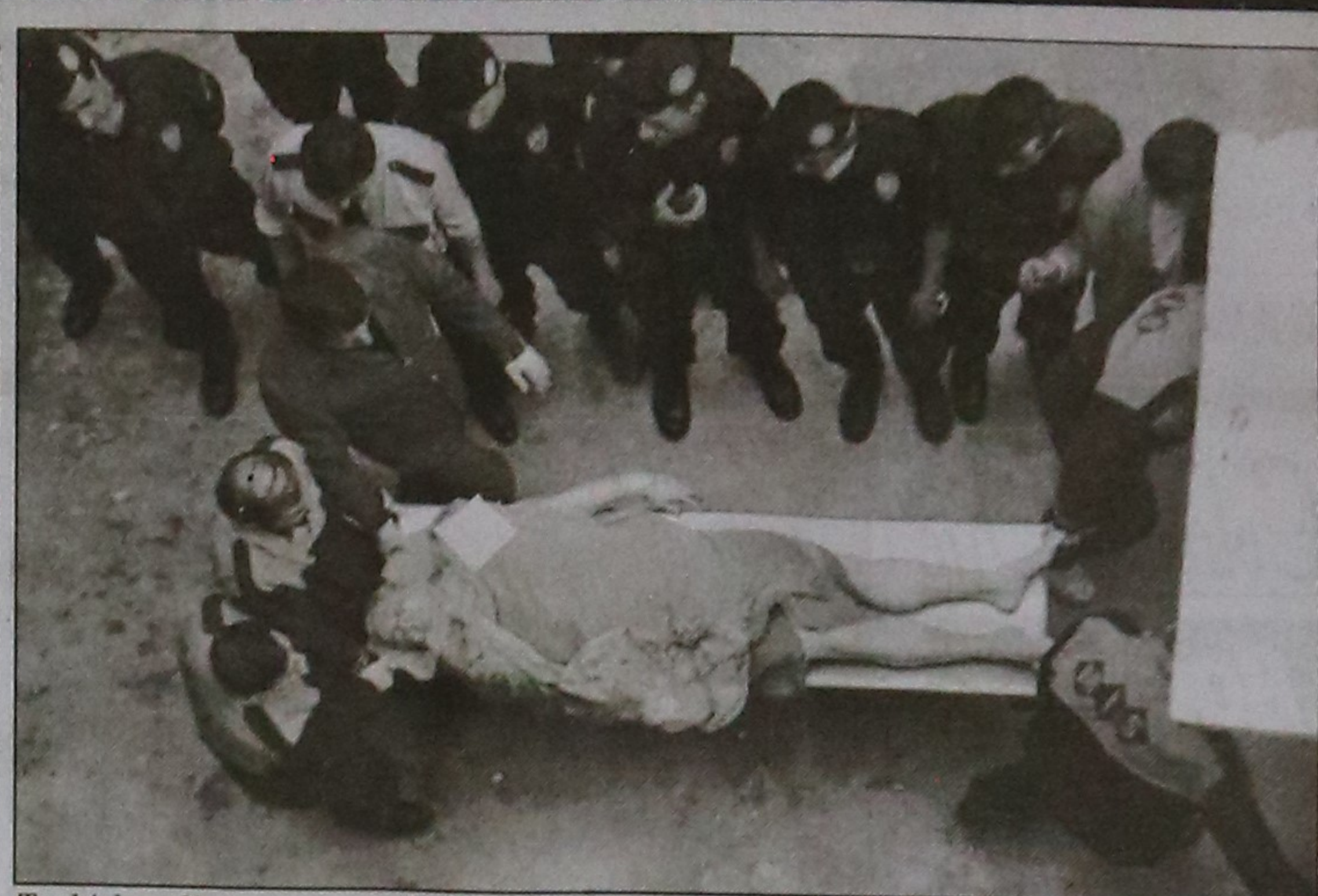
"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."

Davies said English fans should be commended for exemplary behavior during European club games this season.

"English teams have traveled to more European destinations for more European games than in any previous season," he said. "There was only one previous incident involving Chelsea fans in Marseille, and it was determined that Chelsea was not to blame. There has not been another incident of any sort."



Turkish police surround the body of a Leeds United fan, who was stabbed to death in central Istanbul yesterday. The incident happened during street fights involving fans of Leeds and Galatasaray before their UEFA Cup semifinal. Another British fan was also killed. — Internet photo

Leeds fans slain in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, April 6: An UEFA semifinal match between Turkey's Galatasaray and Britain's Leeds United will take place on Thursday evening despite Wednesday's violence between fans of the two sides, which claimed the lives of two British supporters, a Galatasaray spokesman said, reports AFP.

"I do not see any probability of cancellation. The match will go ahead," Turgay Vardar told AFP.

"We are really very upset. This is the first time in our history that we face such a situation," he added.

Vardar said a one-and-a-half-hour security meeting between Galatasaray and UEFA officials was scheduled for 11 a.m. (0800 GMT).

Two British fans died Wednesday night as a result of stab injuries sustained in clashes with Turkish fans in Istanbul's commercial district of Taksim, on the European side of the city.

Five other Britons were hospitalized and three of them in serious condition. West Yorkshire security chief Steve Matthews, who was in Istanbul for the match, said early Thursday, according to Anatolia news agency.

An injured Turkish fan was also hospitalized, the agency added.

Some 25 people, among them Britons, were detained after the incident.

Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale avoided apportioning blame for the incident, saying: "News is a little sketchy, there's some suggestion that the Leeds fans were getting boisterous, but there's also a very clear indication that Turkish supporters came to confront them already equipped with knives."

Ridsdale told the Press Association in the early hours of Thursday morning that UEFA had ordered that the game should go ahead as planned.

"UEFA have decided the game will definitely go ahead, the rationale being that it has to be played at some stage," said Ridsdale.

"We acknowledge that on balance, and under the present circumstances, it is the right decision."

However, Leeds fans were warned Thursday to stay away from Turkey.

A plane chartered by the club and due to have left Leeds-Bradford airport for Istanbul later in the day was cancelled. "We don't want anyone going over there today," an official said.

The club's official clubcell telephone service said the decision was taken after consultations with the Foreign Office.

Ridsdale, speaking to the BBC from Istanbul, said: "In the light of last night's tragic events, we have decided to cancel all official flights scheduled to travel today."

"We are also appealing to any supporters who were intending

Match to go ahead

Leeds fans slain in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, April 6: An UEFA semifinal match between Turkey's Galatasaray and Britain's Leeds United will take place on Thursday evening despite Wednesday's violence between fans of the two sides, which claimed the lives of two British supporters, a Galatasaray spokesman said, reports AFP.

"I do not see any probability of cancellation. The match will go ahead," Turgay Vardar told AFP.

"We are really very upset. This is the first time in our history that we face such a situation," he added.

Vardar said a one-and-a-half-hour security meeting between Galatasaray and UEFA officials was scheduled for 11 a.m. (0800 GMT).

Two British fans died Wednesday night as a result of stab injuries sustained in clashes with Turkish fans in Istanbul's commercial district of Taksim, on the European side of the city.

Five other Britons were hospitalized and three of them in serious condition. West Yorkshire security chief Steve Matthews, who was in Istanbul for the match, said early Thursday, according to Anatolia news agency.

An injured Turkish fan was also hospitalized, the agency added.

Some 25 people, among them Britons, were detained after the incident.

Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale avoided apportioning blame for the incident, saying: "News is a little sketchy, there's some suggestion that the Leeds fans were getting boisterous, but there's also a very clear indication that Turkish supporters came to confront them already equipped with knives."

Ridsdale told the Press Association in the early hours of Thursday morning that UEFA had ordered that the game should go ahead as planned.

"UEFA have decided the game will definitely go ahead, the rationale being that it has to be played at some stage," said Ridsdale.

"We acknowledge that on balance, and under the present circumstances, it is the right decision."

However, Leeds fans were warned Thursday to stay away from Turkey.

A plane chartered by the club and due to have left Leeds-Bradford airport for Istanbul later in the day was cancelled. "We don't want anyone going over there today," an official said.

The club's official clubcell telephone service said the decision was taken after consultations with the Foreign Office.

Ridsdale, speaking to the BBC from Istanbul, said: "In the light of last night's tragic events, we have decided to cancel all official flights scheduled to travel today."

"We are also appealing to any supporters who were intending