

## Siraganj cricket

From Our Correspondent  
SIRAGANJ, Apr 9: Oviatri Club Ekadash defeated Renesa Club Ekadash by 161 runs today at Shaheed Shamsuddin Stadium.

Winning the toss Oviatri Ekadash decided to bat and made 233 all out in 40 overs. Renesa Ekadash were shot out for 72.

## Our football

From page 13

their wide network of resources across the country to scout talents for long-term planning, bring schools and colleges into football tournaments, and organise one really big annual international tournament with which our crowd can associate their footballing sentiment.

The National league was a brilliant idea but executed badly, if not barely. Perhaps the chink in the armour can be overlooked as a first-time effort. Although the league visited three other divisional headquarters, the entire nation was not involved as such. BFF needs to create a nurturing policy somewhere - say among districts with their native players - to act as a catalyst. The club giants can only lock horns once again only if their players have the skill to grow the horns. Emotion has to be brought back into play. That is the keyword.

Despite the abysmal state of the game, the most heartening factor is that BFF found a dedicated partner in Nitol-Tata. Together they can try to scale the rungs of a ladder that has disappointingly become a bit too steep. No thanks to the madness that prevailed before the beginning of the decline when some footballers were demanding Taka 5 lakh for no more than a kindergarten performance.

As a football fan, I too am doing my turn for the cause of football. You see I have discussed football's problems without once mentioning the game that was once haughtily meant only for 'gentlemen'. Even they had to stoop to conquer the world. How's that? Ooops!

(The periodic columnist is the former Advisory Sports Editor of The Daily Star. — Sports Editor)

## Sanwar shines

From page 13

3/32, Humayun 2/17, Joluy 3/9.

**Result:** Saurav Smriti High School won by 93 runs. Nabakumar Institute vs Mastermind.

**VENUE:** CCG. **MASTERMIND:** 193 all out in 32.4 overs (Rayhan 33, Tarek 32, Erfan 30, Rajib 3/44, Partho 2/35).

**NABAKUMAR:** 179 for 9 in 33.3 overs (Mahmud 22, Afzar 21, Extras 5/34). Arbab 3/36, Rayhan 2/22.

**Result:** Nabakumar Institute won by 1 wicket. BADC High School vs Ideal School.

**VENUE:** Dhanmondi Club ground. **IDEAL:** 109 all out in 21.3 overs (Sakhat 18, Extras 41, Rashedul 5/25, Sanwar 2/21).

**BADC:** 112 for 6 wickets in 18.5 overs (Sadek 21, Shahed 15, Yousuf 3/18).

**Result:** BADC School won by 4 wickets. Maple Leaf International vs Shaheed Nabi HC.

**VENUE:** Uttara Police Lines ground. **MAPLE LEAF:** 222 for 9 in 35 overs (Sarwar 83, Khaled 31, Sajjad 5/22, Sharif 2/38, Alamgir 2/12).

**SHAHEED NABI:** 123 all out in 21.4 overs (Mehmood 29, Extras 47, Sarwar 3/17, Wazuzaman 2/23).

**Result:** Maple Leaf International won by 2 wickets. Green Herald International vs Dhanmondi International.

**VENUE:** Mirpur Outer Stadium. **DHANMONDI INT:** 90 all out in 23.5 overs (Adnan 34 not out, Hurasia 4/23, Faisal 2/17).

**GREEN HERALD:** Savio 35 not out, Nasir 38 not out.

**Result:** Green Herald won by 10 wickets.

## Kalra appears

From page 13

Prominent Indians on Sunday deplored the latest scandal to rock international cricket.

"Cricket was perhaps the only field where real heroes existed. Now the pedestal is empty," leading film director and cricket fan Mahesh Bhatt said.

Film actor Victor Banerjee said cricket should "have never travelled out of elitist clubs, adding: "We have glamourised the game and forgotten the spirit it should be played with."

Reputed fashion designer Ritu Beri said she was "disappointed and sad." Amaal Ali Bangash, a well-known classical musician, posed the rhetorical question: "Is nothing sacred anymore?"

Cronje has vehemently denied the charges. South African junior Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad has said his government would seek an explanation from India about players' telephones being tapped while they were touring India.

A fallout of the scandal was the withdrawal of a local suiting advertisement featuring Cronje, the Indian Express reported Sunday.

The Indian charges relate to the five one-day international series South Africa played here between March 9 and 19. India won the series 3-2 after a string of test losses.

Indian police said they "had recordings of a telephone conversation between Cronje and bookie Sanjiv Chawla that backed up their allegations."



Bayer Leverkusen's Paulo Rink (C) celebrates his second strike against Borussia Dortmund during their Bundesliga clash at Leverkusen on April 8. — Internet photo

## Bundesliga

## Rink leaders' hero



BERLIN, April 9 (Reuters/Inter-net): Paulo Rink struck twice to help German First Division leaders

Bayer Leverkusen beat 10-man Borussia Dortmund 3-1 on Saturday and keep alive their dream of a first title.

With six matches remaining, Leverkusen remain two points clear of defending champions Bayern Munich, who recaptured their winning habits with a 4-0 demolition of SSV Ulm.

Dortmund must have hoped for their first victory of the year when striker Giuseppe Reina put them 1-0 up after two minutes and goalkeeper Jens Lehmann stopped a penalty from midfielder Michael Ballack 11 minutes later.

But Lehmann was unable to prevent German international Paulo Rink levelling for the home side three minutes from the interval.

Dortmund, who have not won a match since Bernd Krauss was appointed coach during the winter break, lost libero and captain Stefan Reuter for a second bookable of-

fence in the 53rd minute. Leverkusen, who had looked nervous in the opening stages, then took control.

Brazilian-born Paulo Rink, eager to show Germany head coach Erich Ribbeck that he deserves to go to Euro 2000, struck again six minutes before time to give them the lead.

A blunder by Lehmann, otherwise faultless, enabled substitute Thomas Brdaric to complete Leverkusen's victory just before the final whistle.

"Dortmund played exactly the way we expected they would," said Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum. "We responded well and did what he had to, playing attacking football but staying calm at the same time."

Bayern, hunting their 16th crown, took control against Ulm with two goals in three minutes. Mehmet Scholl opened the scoring from close range in the 20th minute before fellow midfielder Paulo Sergio made it 2-0 from the penalty spot.

Striker Carsten Jancker delighted the 63,000 crowd in a packed Olympic stadium by putting Bayern 3-0 up in the

63rd minute. Substitute Slawomir Wojciechowski sealed Bayern's win with six minutes left.

The Bavarians badly needed to boost their confidence with a win after having drawn their last three league games.

"It was not as easy as it may seem and we were lucky to open that 2-0 lead," said Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer.

Ulm were determined to avoid a repeat of what happened to them against Leverkusen, he added, referring to Ulm's 9-1 thrashing by the current leaders last month.

"We had to be patient and we were," said coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, whose men were far more impressive than in their dull 1-1 draw away to Porto in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final tie on Tuesday. "Our goals came exactly when we needed them."

A hat-trick by former Stuttgart striker Jonathan Akpoborie inspired VfL Wolfsburg to a brilliant 5-2 win at VfB Stuttgart which lifted them two spots up to seventh and kept them on course for a place in Europe.

## European football scene

## La Coruna superb, Inter rattled

UNDATED, April 9 (Reuters/Inter-net): Leaders Deportivo La Coruna showed no signs of letting off in Spain, while in the Serie A, Inter Milan were humbled by an inspired Udinese during Saturday's action.

**PRIMERA LIGA**

MADRID: A hat-trick by Dutch striker Roy Makaay helped Deportivo Coruna thrash relegation-haunted Atletico Madrid 4-1 on Saturday and extend their lead at the top of the Spanish First Division.

Deportivo have 61 points from 32 matches, five ahead of nearest rivals Barcelona, with six matches to play. The Catalan club play host to Real Mal-

lorca on Sunday. Atletico Madrid -- who won the Spanish league and Cup double just four seasons ago -- lie in 19th place in the 20-team Spanish First Division and are heading for the first time since 1934.

Atletico had two early chances but their concentration soon lapsed. Deportivo's Donato crossed from wide out on the left and Argentine striker Turu Flores danced around two men to slot home the first goal after 19 minutes.

Dismal defending from Atletico was responsible for giving Deportivo a 3-0 lead at half time.

The hosts played the ball around the Atletico box almost at will. After 41 minutes they had pulled the Atletico defenders sufficiently out of position to allow Makaay enough space and time to fire home his first goal, and Deportivo's second.

Three minutes later a long punt led to Atletico goalkeeper Francisco Molina charging out of his box in a bid to clear the ball but Makaay got there first.

He rounded the sprawling Molina and sidefooted the ball home from a tight angle on the edge of the area.

Atletico made Deportivo pay for complacency when Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink blasted home a Juan Valeron cross eight minutes after the break.

It was the Dutch striker's 23rd goal of the season and puts him at the top of the Spanish First Division scorers.

Five minutes before the final whistle Makaay picked up the ball just inside the Atletico half and, with the visiting defenders pressed forward, had a clear run at Molina and scored.

**SERIE A**

ROME: Argentina's Roberto Carlos Sosa scored a hat-trick in Udinese's 3-0 defeat of Inter Milan on Saturday, condemning Marcello Lippi's side to their fifth Serie A match without a win.

Inter's defeat left them fourth on 49 points, a point behind Parma who drew 2-2 at Torino. AC Milan are fifth, also on 49, while Juventus (59) and Lazio (56) are clear at the top.

Sosa struck in the sixth, 45th and 68th minutes to shatter Inter's confidence just four days before they take on Lazio in the first leg of the Italian Cup final.

Lippi's side have not won since March 5 and are in danger of missing out on a berth in next year's Champions League.

Sosa has had a strange season at Udinese. The powerful forward failed to score a single league goal in the first half of the campaign but has hit six since February.

He opened the scoring with an instinctive first time shot which eluded the fingertips of Angelo Peruzzi and dropped just under the Inter crossbar into the net.

On the stroke of halftime

## Premiership

## Bradford see doom

LONDON, April 9: Bradford boss Paul Jewell admitted on Saturday his side have a mountain to climb if they are to avoid an instant return to the First Division, reports AFP.

Bradford went down 2-1 to fellow strugglers Southampton at Valley Parade and now look odds-on to be relegated at the end of the season alongside Watford and Sheffield Wednesday, who are both in an even worse plight.

"We are running out of games but if we continue to show the same effort and attitude then I cannot ask for any more," said Jewell.

"There are six matches left and 18 points to play for and we are not going to give up the ghost."

"We've got a mountain to climb so we just have to climb it and we will still go on until our task becomes impossible."

"I know if we throw in the towel then we will be relegated without trace. But while there is hope we will fight to the very end."

"Wimbledon and Derby both still have to come here and if we can win those games and a couple of others then we still have a chance."

"But we never came into the Premier League thinking it would be a breeze - instead it has been stormy."

Southampton took a 2-0 lead through Chris Marsden and Latvian Marian Pahars and despite a Robbie Blake consolation, the visitors held on for victory to move 11 points clear of the relegation zone.

Derby County's Stefan Schnoor missed a second half penalty but a goalless draw at Watford enabled them to move six points ahead of Bradford while doing nothing to ease the troubles of the home team.

managed by another former England coach Graham Taylor. Schnoor was denied by an Alec Chamberlain save from the spot after a foul on Darryl Powell.

However, Wimbledon lost 2-1 at Sunderland and can not yet be discounted as candidates for the drop while Leicester and Everton drew 1-1 in a midtable clash with no relegation interest.

## Life-term ends for Barbosa

SAO PAULO, April 9 (Reuters/Inter-net): Moacir Barbosa, the Brazilian goalkeeper crucified for failing to stop the goal that gave Uruguay the 1950 World Cup, has died at the age of 79.

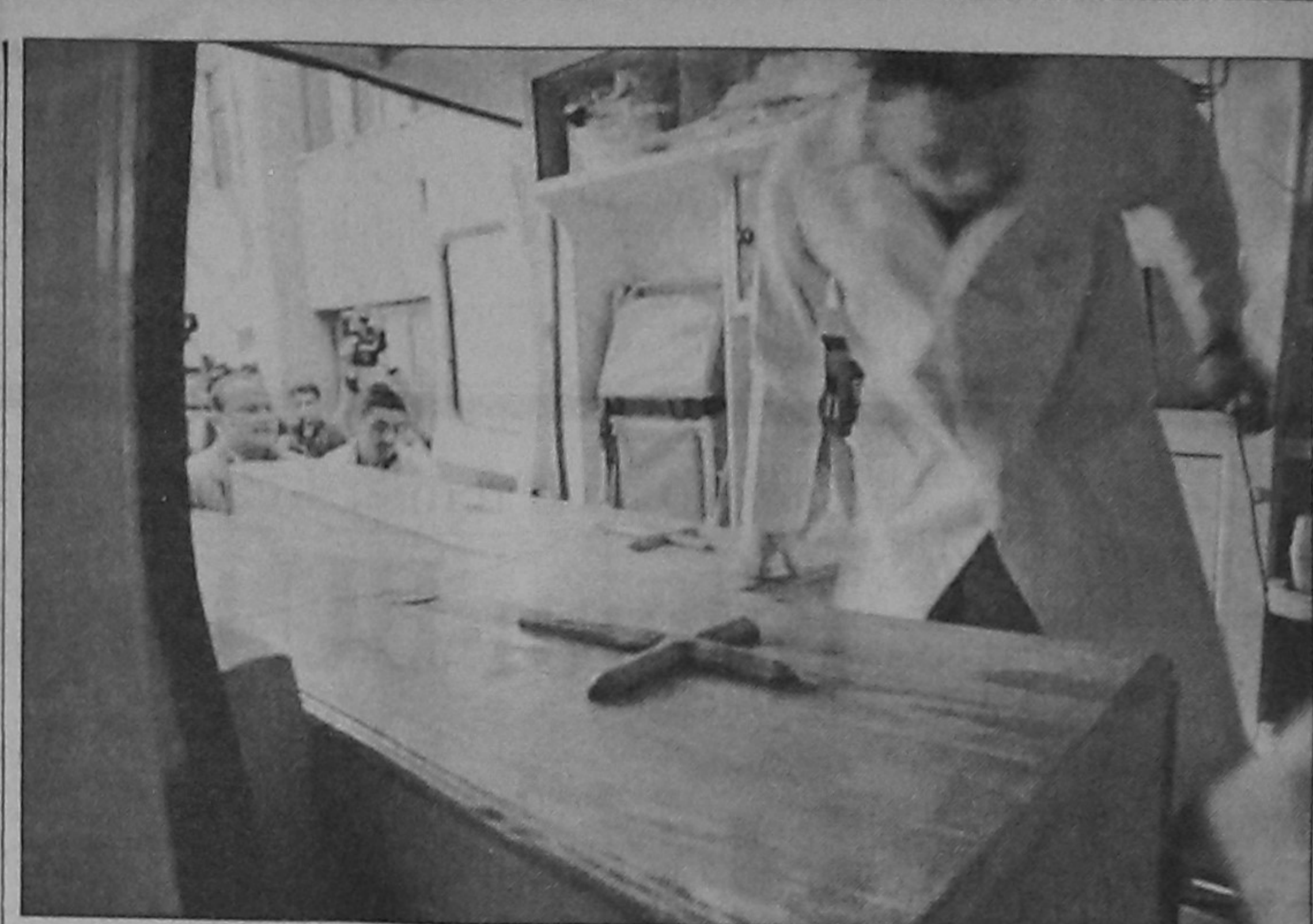
Barbosa, also Brazil's first prominent black goalkeeper, said he was condemned to "life in prison" for his role in the defeat before 200,000 fans in Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium.

"Brazilian law doesn't permit a sentence of more than 30 years, but I've been in prison for 50 years now," Barbosa said on his birthday last month.

Before the final Brazil and the rest of the world were convinced it had its first World Cup title in the bag.

Brazil and Uruguay were drawing 1-1 with goals from Friaca and Juan Schiaffino when Barbosa misread Chico Giggia's intentions and the Uruguayan scored between the goalkeeper's leg and the near post 11 minutes from time.

Barbosa played for Vasco da Gama between 1944 and 1956 and ended one of the



Workers at the Istanbul City Morgue loading the coffins of two Leeds United fans into an ambulance outside the morgue on April 7. The bodies were then taken to the airport in the Turkish capital and later sent to England. — Internet photo

## For them playing has become secondary



LONDON, April 9 (Reuters/Inter-net): Emotions are bound to be running high at Villa Park on Sunday

when Aston Villa play Leeds United -- and the reasons could hardly be more contrasting.

The home fans will be in raptures as they welcome home the team that beat Bolton Wanderers on penalties last week to end the club's 43-year wait to appear in the FA Cup final.

The away fans will be in sombre mood following the murders on Wednesday of two Leeds supporters before their UEFA Cup semifinal in Istanbul against Galatasaray.

It is at times like this when the shrieking hyperbole of TV commentators talking about "tragic" own goals or "disastrous" misses in front of goal seems utterly misplaced.

And it is at times like this when even professional soccer players find it hard to concentrate on what is, at its very core, a game, a diversion, or it is supposed to be.

Leeds midfielder Jason Wilcox admits he is finding it hard to focus on the match at Villa Park which, in pure footballing terms, Leeds must win to end a four-match losing streak, their worst since 1996.

Wilcox says: "It is difficult to talk about football and the game when something like this has happened. Our spirits are fine, but the game almost seems irrelevant."

"Within the team we know we cannot do anything about what has happened. All we can do is try to concentrate and go out and give the fans something to cheer about."

"We know it's going to be a difficult game at Villa Park, but hopefully we can get back to winning ways. It is just such a difficult time for everyone at the club."

There have been a number of occasions down the years when players have had to play matches in tragic circumstances.

One of the most traumatic of all these games was played on February 19, 1958 -- 13 days after the air crash at Munich when eight Manchester United players were killed as their plane crashed on take-off after a refuelling stop on the way back from a European Cup match in Belgrade.

United had been given permission by the English FA to sign new players for the fifth round match against Sheffield Wednesday in front of 60,000 heart-broken fans at Old Trafford.

The match against Wednesday had been postponed 10 days and the United lineup in the programme consisted of 11 blank spaces.

But the men who filled those spots -- and the shirts of the players who died at Munich -- went on to beat Wednesday 3-0 and eventually reached the FA Cup final where they lost to Bolton. It is a cruel irony in light of this week's events that the Leeds fans have taunted Manchester United about the 1958 disaster with such vitriol down the years -- something the fans of no other club have done.

Kenny Dalglish was in the Liverpool team that played in the 1985 European Cup final just hours after the deaths of 39 fans on May 29, 1985, in the Heysel Stadium in Brussels.

The match ended in a 1-0 victory for Juventus, and although the Liverpool players were not told before kick-off that there had been fatalities, they were all aware that something very serious had occurred.

Dalglish revealed he now remembers absolutely nothing about the match apart from the only goal scored from the penalty spot by Michel Platini.

Four years later and another

tragedy struck Liverpool when 96 of their own fans died in the Hillsborough disaster on April 15, 1989.

They were there for the FA Cup semifinal against Nottingham Forest which was abandoned after only six minutes as the scale of the disaster became known.

The following few weeks saw the Liverpool players welded to their community as never before with all of them attending funeral after funeral of the fans that died.

Goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar came close to quitting the game and many of that Liverpool team have said since they never quite saw the game in the same light as a result of their experiences.

Although there was talk of abandoning the FA Cup that season, Liverpool returned to the field on May 3 when they drew 0-0 with Everton at Goodison Park in a league match -- and on May 20 they beat Everton 3-2 in the Cup final, a victory dedicated to the fans who died.

Sunday's match will, of course, not be the first played by Leeds since Wednesday's killings as they lost 2-0 to Galatasaray the following night.

And although there has been much debate about whether that match should have been played, the rights and wrongs of that decision are now largely irrelevant.

As they say in showbiz, the show must go on.

In soccer, the match must go on -- but the outcome of the match and what happens in football in general is not, as Bill Shankly once famously claimed, "more important than life or death".

As the events in Istanbul proved this week, when people think it is, they end up killing each other.

## French First Division

## Anderson revives Lyon hopes



PARIS, Apr 9: St Etienne. Monaco should still wrap it

volley inside the near post. However, the southern French side, who amazingly led the league back in September, paid the price when Marcel Mahoué's spot kick was blocked by Troyes' keeper Laurent Weber as Samuel Lobe scored the equaliser in the dying minutes.

Mid-table Rennes could not make a one-man advantage tell and after twice drawing level went down 4-2 at home to Bastia.

Pierre-Yves Andre opened the score against Rennes breaking the offside trap and lobbed the ball over the advancing 'keeper Christophe Revault from 10 metres and restored the Corsican side's lead on the stroke of halftime with his seventh of the season.

Rennes had grabbed their first through sought after striker Shabani Nonda, who is wanted by Premiership outfit Middlesbrough and also by several Serie A sides, had levelled the match with his 14th of the season.

However, with Bastia reduced to 10-men, when defender Laurent Casanova was sent off for a tackle from behind, the Breton side again brought the sides level as Christophe Le Roux scored with a spectacular shot from outside the area.

It was Rennes though that looked as if they had only 10-men as Bastia replied with two further strikes, midfielder Lillian Nalls outpaced the defence and fired in an unstoppable shot and soon after Bastia captain Frederic Nee added the fourth for his 10th of the season.

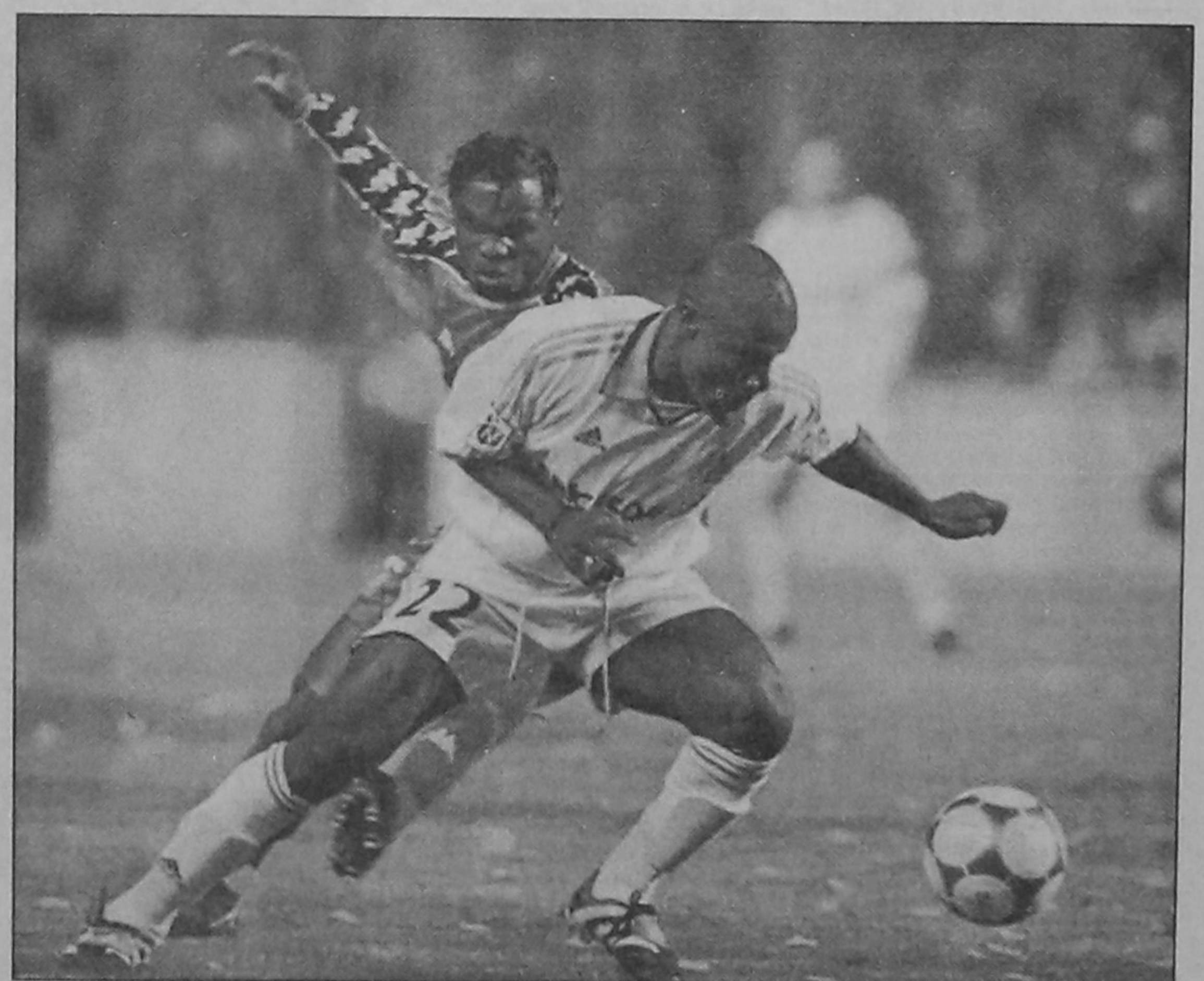
Strasbourg scaped home 3-2 over Nancy after falling 2-1 behind when Cascarino scored his 11th and 12th goals of the season.

Strasbourg, pulled themselves together and Guy Lueda levelled it at 2-2 with his second of the night.

With the match in its dying stages Teddy Bertin gave Strasbourg the upper hand while Cascarino's eventual night ended with him being sent off -- his suspension could not come at a worse time for Nancy with relegation now staring them in the face.

Bottom side Montpellier all but confirmed that they will be playing second division football next season when they allowed a two goal lead to slip and missed a penalty against another relegation candidate Troyes with the match finishing 2-2.

Montpellier looked to have sealed the points in the first half when Tolilou Maoulida doubled their lead as he unleashed a fierce rightfooted



Ibrahima Bakayoko (R) of Marseille trying to outwit Martin Djetou of Monaco during their French First Division fixture on April 7. — Internet photo