

Sport

UCBL tennis

The men's singles matches of the UCBL National Tennis Circuit (Leg-1) reached the quarter-final stages at the Cox's Bazar Officers' Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Top seed Dilip Passia beat Babu Lal 6-1, 6-3; second seed Nadim Kamran Khan outplayed Biplob 6-1, 6-1; Luxman defeated Nadir 6-2, 6-3; Amol Roy beat Suridh 6-1, 6-2; Alamgir overcame Khurshed 6-3, 6-2; Asmat beat Kamol 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5); Taswar defeated Haidul 6-1, 6-2 and Ganga beat Mukul 5-7, 7-5, 6-0 to reach the quarter-finals.

In the men's doubles, Dilip and Romi trounced Babu Lal and Haidul pair 6-2, 6-1; Nadim and Amol crushed Channu Lal and Kanchan Ram pair 6-0, 6-1; Mohidul & Rezaul beat Sadir Hossain and Barai pair 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 to qualify for the next round.

Biman's engine

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captured three wickets for Brothers giving away only 30 runs in his 10 overs.

It was Brothers' fifth win from nine games.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League match between Brothers Union and Bangladesh Biman at the Bangladesh National Stadium yesterday:

BROTHERS		
Shahriar Ibw b Iqbal	37	
Ehsanul run out	42	
Samasekara c Aminul Jr	59	
B Shariful	59	
Fahran run out	73	
Sanwar c Javed b Aminul	32	
A Hanif b Aminul Jr	33	
K Mahmud not out	1	
Mokter not out	0	
Extras: (lb-6, nb-2, w-6)	14	
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)	291	
Fall of wickets: 1/78; 2/96; 3/164; 4/222; 5/289; 6/289		
BOWLER		O M R W
Aminul Jr	10	1 43 1
J Talukder	10	0 29 0
Saleh Ahmed	3	0 29 0
Fahru Iqbal	10	1 54 1
Aminul	10	0 58 1
Aminul	8	0 49 1

BIMAN		
Javed Ibw b K Mahmud	18	
Fahru Ibw b Saifuddin	0	
Bashar run out	10	
Aminul st Mokter b K Mahmud	0	
Mahanama b K Mahmud	19	
Iqbal b Imran	44	
Atiqar c K Mahmud b Sanwar	0	
J Talukder run out	3	
Saleh run out	1	
Aminul Jr c Mokter b Imran	0	
Shariful not out	11	
Extras: (nb-4, w-7)	106	
Total: (All out in 25.1 overs)	106	
Fall of wickets: 1/19; 2/25; 3/32; 4/38; 5/63; 6/64; 7/92; 8/100; 9/100		
BOWLER		O M R W
A Kamal	10	0 17 0
Saifuddin	6	0 28 1
K Mahmud	10	0 30 3
Sanwar	3	0 17 1
Imran Rahim	31	1 3 2
Aamir Hanif	2	0 11 0

Result: Brothers Union won by 185 runs.

Cronje denies

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dian beneficiaries.

However, Sonn said the South Africans would no longer be going.

"We are not going to expose our own people to intimidation and discomfort," Sonn said. "That's not why we play cricket."

Asked if the UCBSA would hold their own investigation into the controversy, Sonn said, "Why should we institute an inquiry, especially as they don't want to surrender the tape to enable it to be assessed for veracity?"

Bacher also spoke of the Indian authorities' reluctance to release the tape recordings for scrutiny.

"The key is the tape, and they're withholding it," Bacher said. "Our government is going to tell them they want the original tape."

Meanwhile, South Africa's Sunday press predictably expressed disbelief at the charges brought against Cronje and three other players.

The Sunday Times, Sunday Independent, Sunday Tribune and Afrikaans-language Rapport all led with the story.

SA government demands tapes. The Sunday Times reported in a banner headline. It said South Africa's high commissioner to India, Maite Nkoane-Ramashaba, had listened to police tape recordings of mobile telephone conversations alleged to be between Cronje and a bookmaker.

The paper said the commissioner was "convinced the accents were not South African".

"They must give us those tapes," deputy finance minister Aziz Pahad was quoted as saying. "We want to carry out our own independent inquiry. If there is any substance to the allegations - and I doubt very much that the individuals concerned are capable of something like that - we will take the necessary steps."

Indian officials turned down Nkoane-Ramashaba's request for a copy of the tapes and the deputy commissioner of Crime Prevention in New Delhi told the Sunday Times the tapes "had been sealed and locked away in a safe in New Delhi and would be produced only when the matter came to court".

The Sunday Tribune was indignant. "It's NOT our Hansie," its headline screamed, with a sub-head saying "Both voices on tape Asian".

Its report concentrated on veteran cricket writer Trevor Chesterfield who said he had listened to the tape while waiting to be interviewed on Indian radio and was convinced that he had not heard Cronje's voice.



Juventus' French superstar Zinedine Zidane (R) tries to keep the ball away from Marco Tonetto of Bologna during their Serie A encounter at Bologna on April 9. —AFP photo

Serie A

Juve survive a scare



MILAN, April 10: A late rally spared Juventus another disastrous weekend in the Serie A as the league leaders beat 10-man

Bologna 2-0 on Sunday, while champions AC Milan stuttered to a 1-1 draw with Fiorentina, reports AFP.

Second-placed Lazio, who beat Perugia 1-0 with a goal from former Crystal Palace midfielder Attilio Lombardo, were poised to slash Juventus' lead to a single point as the match in Bologna headed for a draw.

Bologna had defender Giulio Falcone sent off for a second bookable offence in the 71st minute.

But Juventus only exploited that numerical superiority in the dying moments of regulation time when substitute Darko Kovacevic snatched a priceless goal, nodding in a cross from wingback Gianluca Pessotto.

The Yugoslav striker, bought from Real Sociedad last summer and the scorer of 10 goals in Juventus' UEFA Cup campaign, had replaced Filippo Inzaghi on the hour.

Certainty of victory for the Turin giants came only in the fifth minute of stoppage time, with an own goal by Bologna defender Massimo Paganini, as he tried to block the path of Zinedine Zidane.

The win, which left them top with 62 pts to Lazio's 59, was crucial to Juventus' title hopes - their previous nine-point lead having evaporated after consecutive defeats to AC Milan and Lazio.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti said: "The fact that we had to win at all costs had a big impact on the way we played. These are three extremely important points, given that we were coming off two defeats."

"But there's a long way to go yet. And against Inter next Sunday, we'll be without Zinedine Zidane."

Behind the two top sides, who are assured of a place in the Champions League first round next season, another battle is being fought for Italy's two slots in the preliminary rounds of the competition.

Four teams are involved - Milan and Parma, both on 50pts, Inter Milan (49) and AS

dane," he said of the team's French creative genius, whose booking in Bologna means he will be suspended for San Siro.

Lazio meanwhile lost skipper Alessandro Nesta just before half-time with a minor flare-up of a thigh injury which has kept him out for three weeks. He should play next weekend but will miss Wednesday's Italian Cup final first leg with Inter.

Lombardo notched Lazio's winner three minutes after the re-start. Defender Giuseppe Pancaro crossed the left, Fabrizio Ravanelli's header was parried by the keeper and Lombardo right-footed home the loose ball.

Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson said: "We did our duty, we won. And that was the important thing."

"Certainly, though, we missed a lot of chances and that shouldn't happen again - because sometimes you end up paying for them."

"Shutting off Juventus' win," he added: "I still believe, and so do the rest of the team, that we can win the league. From now on, we have to win all our matches - each of the five games we have left will be like a final."

His only disappointment was the scheduling of next weekend's games - which many believe could see Juventus' lead reduced or erased completely.

Lazio are away to Fiorentina on Saturday while Juventus face Inter on the Sunday night, already knowing the Lazio result.

"I honestly believe that it would be fairer if both teams played on the same day," Eriksson said.

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Roma (47).

Milan, though enjoying most of the possession in a rain-swept night match at San Siro, had to come from behind to salvage a draw against Fiorentina, who were without skipper Gabriel Batistuta and playmaker Manuel Rui Costa.

Florentina's Angelo Di Livio scored a well-worked goal in the 71st minute after Predrag Mijatovic led a breakaway down the middle.

As the Yugoslav reached the edge of the penalty area, he flicked the ball left to the unmarked Di Livio, who curled a first-time shot over Milan goalkeeper Christian Abbiati and into the top right-hand corner.

But Milan came up with a lucky equaliser just five minutes later.

Brazilian substitute Leonardo broke into the area, lost possession but got a boot in front of Czech defender Tomas Repka's clearance - the ball ricocheting back past keeper Francesco Toldo and into the net.

Among the other Champions League hopefuls, Parma's run of five wins ended on Saturday with a 2-2 draw with Torino, while Inter were thumped 3-0 by Udinese.

Roma's disappointing run of form continued as they finished up 0-0 at Lecce on Sunday - adding two consecutive draws to a run of three defeats.

Roma coach Fabio Capello was once again left cursing Italy's goalkeepers.

"This was a match we could have won," he said. "But unfortunately, whenever we play, the opposing goalkeeper always puts on a great performance and we can't seem to put the ball in the back of the net."

Down in the relegation zone, bottom club Piacenza notched only their fourth victory of the season as they beat Bari 2-1.

Verona defeated Cagliari 1-0 and Reggina edged Venezia by the same scoreline.

former Paris St Germain and Arsenal man never actually played in the match.

Real coach Vicente del Bosque played down the whistles, saying: "We should not think about that. We must think about what benefits the player, the team and the club. The reintegration of Anelka was the first step to a return to normality. He spent the game on the bench. Everything is back to normal."

But it is Deportivo who will be the happiest team on Sunday although their fans will be wary of celebrating prematurely.

Twice in the 1990s Deportivo surrendered the title when leading at the start of the last day of the season - most famously in 1993-4 when their Brazilian World Cup winning striker Bebeto missed what would have been a title-winning penalty.

But now the Galicians are looking odds-on to become the first side to lift the Primera Liga outside Spain's big three - Barca, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid - since 1980-4 when Real Sociedad and Athletic Bilbao established a four-year dominance of the Basque country.

Deportivo's 4-1 thrashing of Atletico on Saturday - inspired by a hat-trick by Dutchman Roy Makaay - saw the Madrid outfit slide further into the relegation quagmire.

Real Madrid prevailed 1-0 at home to Celta Vigo on Sunday thanks to a goal from Raul, his 99th Liga goal in six years in the first team at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Real's troubled French international Nicolas Anelka was named as a substitute in a week that saw him return to the first team squad after being suspended without pay for 45 days by the Merinques.

But the 21-year-old's name was greeted with whistles and derision when it was read out over the public address system before the match although the

An aerial tussle between Barcelona's Dutch star striker Patrick Kluivert (R) and Real Mallorca's Miguel Angel Nadal during their Primera Liga clash at Barcelona on April 9.



An aerial tussle between Barcelona's Dutch star striker Patrick Kluivert (R) and Real Mallorca's Miguel Angel Nadal during their Primera Liga clash at Barcelona on April 9. —AFP photo

Roberto Carlos being careful

MADRID, April 10 (Reuters/Internet): Real Madrid have given Roberto Carlos time off to rest a troublesome knee injury this week amid concerns that a punishing domestic, European and international schedule could lead to serious fitness problems.

The Brazilian, who has started all but one of Real's Spanish league games this season, has been excused from Wednesday's cup semifinal first leg against Espanyol after he complained of the cumulative effects of a hectic season.

"If I don't take a break then I'm going to snap a tendon," the defender said after he limped off the field following Sunday's 1-0 victory over Celta Vigo.

"I don't feel tired, but it shows. I'm not as fast as usual. If the injury wasn't in the knee then maybe I'd carry on, but the thought of something happening to my knee is scary."

Roberto Carlos said he was confident that either Ator Karanka or Javier Dorado were capable of deputising for him.

"They're both great players, you have to give an opportunity to those who are less tired," he added.

Shirt gets on Boksic's nerves

ROME, April 10 (Reuters/Internet): Lazio's Croatian striker Alen Boksic faced a fine and possible suspension on Monday after complaining that his playing shirt was too tight.

Boksic lost his temper after struggling to pull his shirt on before Lazio's league match against Perugia at the Olympic Stadium on Sunday.

Coach Sven Goran Eriksson responded by dropping him from the starting line up and fielding Fabrizio Ravenelli instead.

"(Boksic) didn't take the pitch because he wasn't composed," Eriksson explained.

The team change worked to Lazio's advantage. Ravenelli's close range header in the 48th minute set up Attilio Lombardo to score the only goal of the match.

Beenhakker quits Feyenoord

ROTTERDAM, April 10: Leo Beenhakker quit as coach of Dutch champions Feyenoord following the side's 2-1 home defeat to FC Utrecht Sunday, reports AFP.

"Since our Champions League defeat last month to Marseille the team has made no progress. I take full responsibility - I'm leaving," said Beenhakker just minutes after the game.

Feyenoord president Jorjen van den Herik has not yet commented on the former Dutch national coach's decision.

FA Cup

Poyet buys Chelsea's ticket



LONDON, April 10: A double strike by Uruguayan international Gustavo Poyet took Chelsea through

to the FA Cup final on Sunday as Chelsea beat Newcastle United 2-1 in their semifinal clash at Wembley, reports AFP.

Chelsea will now meet Aston Villa in the final to be played at Wembley on May 20.

Poyet, who had not played in the last two matches, put the Blues ahead after 17 minutes with a lob but former England international Robert Lee equalised for United midway through the second half, heading home Alan Shearer's cross.

Poyet secured victory for the Champions League quarter-finalists 18 minutes from time with a header, this time from Jon Harley's cross.

"Gus is such a great player he was a little disappointed not to have played in the last couple of matches but this is the way that players should react to being dropped," Chelsea coach Gianluca Vialli.

Vialli added that he had been disappointed by Chelsea's performance after they took the lead in the first-half.

"We got away with it because we defended too deeply and allowed them to get back into the match. They were definitely the better side and deserved their equaliser," the Italian said.

"However, once we got back into the lead I think we shaded it and were always dangerous on the break," he added.

Chelsea's ebullient captain Dennis Wise, who first lifted the FA Cup with Wimbledon in 1988, admitted that Newcastle had been the better side.

"To be honest we're a bit disappointed with our performance and Newcastle played better than us... thank God we had Gus," he said.

However, Wise couldn't resist an impish swipe at the people who had been saying they were having a disappointing season.

"Yeah, we've had a terrible season haven't we?" he said.

Newcastle coach Bobby Robson, who as England boss guided the side to the 1990 World Cup semi-finals and the 1986 quarter-finals, said that he thought the Magpies would win it once they got back on level terms.

"It's cruel but it wasn't to be. I think one can say that I've left a lot of broken hearts back in the dressing room," the former Barcelona and PSV Eindhoven coach said.

"I can't criticise the players as they gave it their all but Chelsea caught us on the break twice," he added.

Captain Alan Shearer, who had another fruitless day at Wembley for Newcastle, was in a state of almost graceless shock.

"There was only one team out there and we should be in the final but give a little credit to Chelsea they possess one of the finest attacking midfielders in the country in Gustavo Poyet," he added.

Chris Sutton and Liberian international George Weah were recalled to the starting line-up as Vialli made six changes to the side which beat Barcelona in a midweek.

Italian Gianfranco Zola and Norwegian international Tore Andre Flo scored all three of their side's goals in the Champions League victory over the Spaniards, but they had to settle for places on the bench as Sutton, Weah, Jon Harley, Frank Leboeuf, Roberto Di Matteo and Poyet all returned.

Newcastle too opted for



Liverpool's Patrik Berger jumps over Darren Anderton of Tottenham Hotspurs to avoid a collision after a tackle by the latter during their Premiership fixture at Anfield on April 9. —Internet photo

Premiership

Liverpool turn on the heat



LONDON, April 10: Liverpool moved into second place in the English Premiership on Sunday after beating Tot

tenham 2-0 at Anfield with goals from Czech international Patrik Berger and Michael Owen securing victory, reports AFP.

Gerard Houllier's side leapfrogged Leeds who went down 1-0 at FA Cup finalists Aston Villa at Villa Park - their third successive league defeat - with Julian Joachim scoring the only goal.

Berger's stunning 25-yard drive - his ninth goal of the season - gave Liverpool the lead in their continued march towards a Champions League place next season.

Owen compounded Tottenham's misery by slotting home Emile Heskey's low cross.

Aston Villa striker Joachim ended his goal drought in controversial style to give his side victory against the run of play against Leeds.

Joachim looked to have fouled Leeds defender Gary Kelly before scoring his first goal in nine games and deal another blow to the visitors' hopes of holding onto a Champions League spot.

Liverpool were without the rested Steven Gerrard, with Danny Murphy taking his place, as they fought to protect a clutch of impressive statistics.

They are now on an 11-

match unbeaten run and have suffered just two league defeats in their last 24 matches.

Liverpool were in the mood for revenge because that last defeat came at White Hart Lane in January, while Spurs achieved a League Cup victory at Anfield last season when the Merseysiders were at their lowest ebb.

Spurs, whose coach George Graham left out Willem Korsten from the side that lost at home to Middlesbrough on Monday and brought in Stephen Clemence, were confronted with a new look side brimming with potential.

Liverpool's passing was excellent, but they were initially kept at bay by a disciplined Spurs midfield.

The first sign of a breakthrough came after 24 minutes when Perry was unlucky to be booked for a block on Owen.

Berger took the resulting free-kick which deflected narrowly wide, and Ginola's neat touch put Darren Anderton in for a cross-shot which Dominic Matteo hacked clear.

But when the breakthrough came, it was a special moment. Hamann found David Thompson on the right, and his instant pass found Berger in space.

The Czech swept across the face of the box before turning to explode a 25-yard shot that crashed past Ian Walker.

After 61 minutes Liverpool claimed their second goal. Owen turned Perry on the edge of the

box and slipped the ball to Heskey.

The big striker surged into the box and saw his first shot blocked by Ian Walker before neatly slipping the ball square for the unmarked Owen to stab home from a couple of yards.

From then on it was little more than an exercise for Liverpool, passing the ball around with ease.

A week that Leeds will never forget ended in their fifth consecutive defeat when a controversial first-half strike from Joachim saw David O'Leary's side fall to third in the Premiership.

Of all the matches this weekend, this was certainly the most poignant given the tragedy which took place on the streets of Istanbul on the eve of Thursday's UEFA Cup semi-final first leg.

The murders of Leeds supporters Christopher Loftus and Kevin Speight during violent clashes had united supporters throughout the country.

Never was that more apparent than at Villa Park when the referee blew his whistle to signal a minute's silence, with the 34,000 crowd immaculately observing the tribute.

Most moving of all was the sight of the Leeds players, arms linked as they formed their own circle of unity, heads bowed as an eerie peace descended for 60 seconds after the tumult of the last few days.

Speed's downward header was met by Dyer with an explosive volley and the Dutchman acrobatically tipped the ball over.

The giant keeper denied Nikolaos Dabizas moments later and had to receive treatment after coming off worse in a challenge with the Greek international.

Dyer and Solano were now causing plenty of problems down the flanks and French international defenders Marcel Desailly and Leboeuf were kept busy trying to preserve Chelsea's lead.

But they failed to contain

change as Robson restored Steve Howey and Nikos Dabizas to the heart of his defence in place of Frenchman Alain Goma and Portuguese international Cristovao Helder.

Shay Given resumed in goal at the expense of Steve Harper after being rested against Bradford last weekend, and Peruvian midfielder Nolberto Solano was recalled for Frenchman Didier Domi.

Gary Speed tested Chelsea keeper Ed de Goey on five minutes after Frenchman Didier Deschamps lost possession in midfield but the big Dutchman saved comfortably.

Weah thought he had put the Londoners ahead three minutes later when he slipped the ball through 'keeper Shay Given's legs and into the back of the net but the goal was ruled out for offside.

At the other end Nolberto Solano was causing problems for Chelsea full-back Harley with his blistering pace down the right wing but the youngster ultimately more than held his own against the Peruvian in-

blasted inches over with de Goey out of position.

Flo came on for Sutton after the break to bolster Chelsea's attack but it was United who started brighter in the second period with England international midfielder Kieron Dyer a constant threat to the Blues' rear guard.

De Goey pulled off a superb save after 52 minutes to keep Chelsea in front.

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