

30 shuttlers selected for camp

Thirty players have been selected for badminton training camp at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium to be held May 5-19, reports UNB.

The players are: Palash, Shimal, Neamul and Siju (Jessor), Adnan, Yasir, Shaanup, and Samira (Dhnapur), Elahi, Kabir and Tarequr (Rajshahi), Tareq (Sylhet), Babla and Yasir (Chittagong), Yousuf, Rashidul, Fahmida and Susmita (Bogra), Anki, Wasik, Rats and Rujmilar (Dhaka), Mofizul and Khalid (Kushtia), Moniruzzaman, Nanda, Mamun and Dulali (Pabna), Saifuddin (Biman) and Tahin (Panchagarh).

The selected players have been requested to report at the federation office on May 4 at 5 pm.

Div II soccer

Motilheel T&T Club beat Karsaituly Samaj Kalyan Parishad 2-0 in the Metropolitan Second Division Football League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, reports UNB.

In the day's other match, Gandaria Famous beat Avijatrik Malibagh by a solitary goal at the same venue.

Antigua advance

HAMILTON, Bermuda, April 24: Antigua ousted Bermuda from qualifying the World Cup as a late equaliser from Derrick Edwards resulted in a 1-1 draw Sunday, reports AP.

The teams' previous match a week before ended in a 0-0 draw, but Antigua will advance in the series because it scored its goal on Bermuda's home turf.

That goal came courtesy of a cross by substitute Gayson Gregory in the 74th minute. Bermuda scored in the 60th minute from a penalty shot from Shannon Burgess after striker Steve Astwood was fouled by Antiguan defender Ranji Christian.

Bermuda lacked its England-based professionals. Shaun Goater of Manchester City and Kyle Lightbourne of Stoke City, but still managed to make most of the scoring attempts.

Wingback Tokia Russell of Bermuda hit the bar with a kick from the right wing two minutes before halftime. Midfielder Paul Cann struck the bar with a chip in the first half, then hit the inside of the post with a fierce shot after being sent clear by Astwood in the 64th minute.

Antigua's only serious attempt of the first half was a dipping 25-yard (23-metre) drive by Quentin Clarke, tipped over acrobatically by Bermuda goalkeeper Dwayne Adams in the 16th minute.

Primary selection

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lected 167 runs and 14 wickets while Mushfiqur Rahman has 198 runs and only three wickets.

Four medium pacers—Hasibul Hossain, Monjurul Islam, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Aminul Islam junior and Bikash Ranjan—have been included in the primary squad.

Hasibul, until the notorious Zahoor Elahi bat-throwing incident, which put him out of action for six matches in the first round with a severe leg injury, captured 14 wickets for Abahani in six games, while left-arm seamer Monjurul Islam has taken only nine in 12 matches. Aminul Islam junior took highest 17 wickets. Shafiuddin and Bikash have collected 11 and nine respectively.

Besides, there are two off-spinners have been pencilled in. They are Fahim Muntasir and Sabir Khan. Fahim took 11 wickets while Sabir took eight wickets.

SQUAD

Javed Omar, Shahriar Hossain, Mehrah Hossain, Aminul Islam, Akram Khan, Habibul Bashar, Khaled, Mahmud, Khaled Masood, Mizanur Rahman, Mukhtar Siddique, Mushfiqur Rahman, Al-Shahriar, Naimur Rahman, Enamul Hoque, Mohammad Rafique, Sabir Khan, Hasibul Hossain, Monjurul Islam, Bikash Ranjan Das, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Rajin Saleh Imran, Aminul Islam junior, Nasirul Alam, Fahim Muntasir and Halim Shah.

The selected cricketers have been asked to report BCB's Director of Development Eddie Barlow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow at 5 pm.

Soccercide

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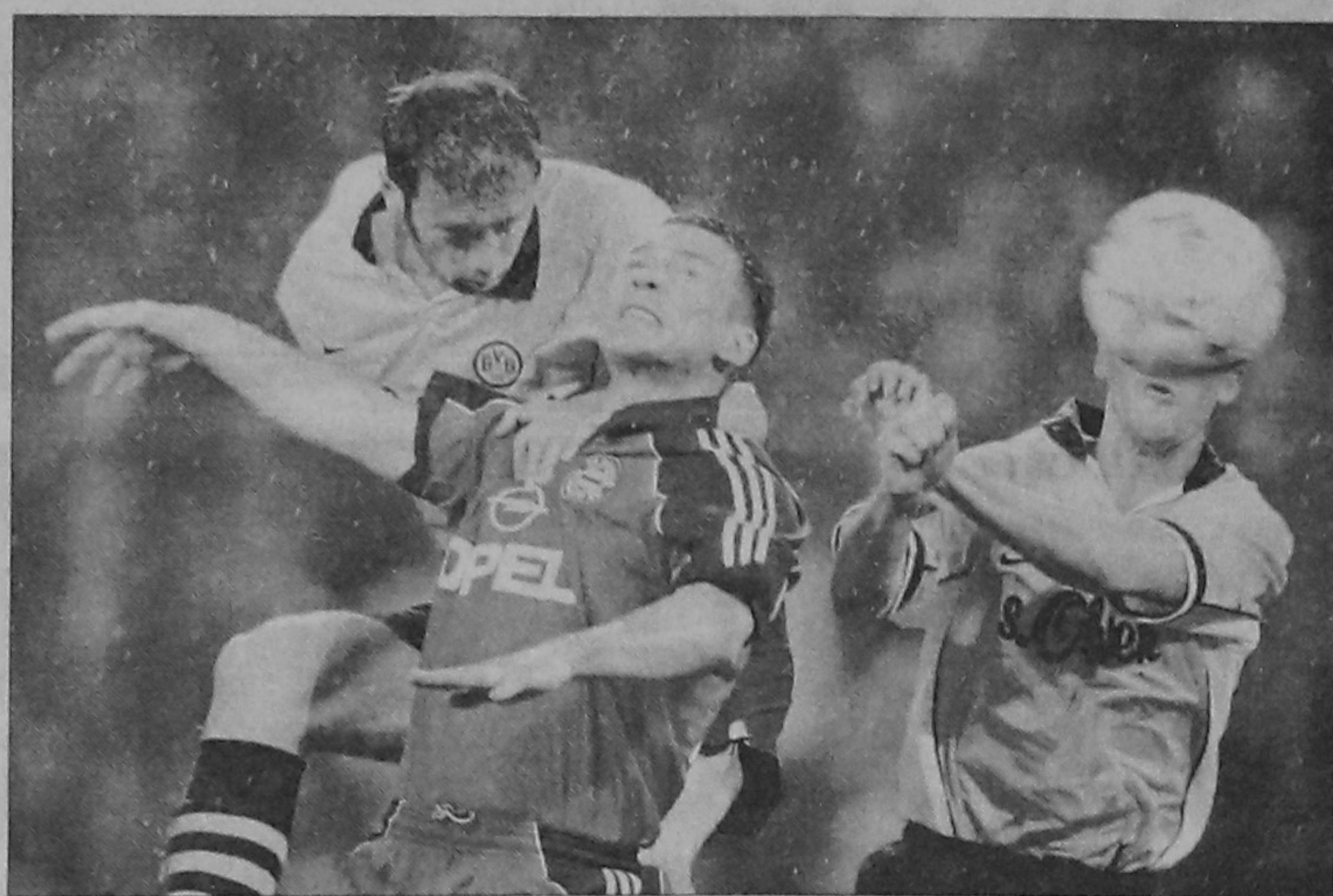
rarely challenged the stronger African champions, who dominated offensively throughout and advanced on a 6-0 aggregate.

At Bamako, Mali beat Libya 3-1 but failed to advance, after losing the first game in Tripoli 0-3. Libya advanced on a 4-3 aggregate.

Zimbabwe beat the Central African Republic 3-1 in Harare to go through. The visitors had two players sent off, one for charging at the referee.

The second round draw will be made in Zurich on Friday. The 25 winners will be divided into five groups of five, to be contested on a league basis. Each group winners qualify for the 2002 finals.

Senegal defeated visitor Benin 1-0 and with the win, they scraped into next round following a 1-1 tie earlier this month in Benin.



Borussia Dortmund's Miroslav Stevic (L) and Fredri Bobie (R) and Bayern Munich's Patrick Anderson are locked in battle for possession during their Bundesliga fixture on April 23. —AFP photo

Bundesliga

Bayern hot on Bayer's heels



Munich to close the gap on German Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen to three points on Sunday, clinching a 1-0 win at Borussia Dortmund, reports AFP.

Leverkusen had underlined their stranglehold on the title race in a match brought forward to Thursday, winning 3-1 at Werder Bremen.

But Bayern, fresh from snatching a place in the Champions League semifinals at the expense of Porto, doggedly held onto their one-goal lead to eke out a win which puts them right back in the hunt.

In contrast, Dortmund are in freefall and now place fourth bottom, a single point clear of Ulm, less than three years after winning the European Cup.

Salliamidzic claimed his

winner from close range following a howler from Dortmund's German international keeper Jens Lehmann, who allowed a freekick from Michael Tarnat to elude his grasp to the horror of the home fans in the 68,000 crowd.

Despite the arrival of experienced coach Udo Lattek Dortmund are without a win in 14 league matches since the winter break.

They will have to hope that Eintracht Frankfurt, two points ahead of them, will be sucked back into the relegation dogfight after having two points docked for financial irregularities.

But Frankfurt are fighting demagogically to stay up after beating third-placed Hamburg 3-0 on Thursday.

Hamburg remain nine points behind Bayern with three games remaining.

Ulf Kirsten and Paulo Rink with a header set Leverkusen on their way in their Thursday encounter and Brazilian Ze Roberto added a third four min-

utes before the break before Dirk Flock netted an 86th minute consolation for outplayed Werder.

Christoph Daum's Leverkusen - who have never won the title - now have 67 points from 31 games with Bayern on 64.

Hertha Berlin's 1-0 victory at relegation-threatened SSV Ulm brought the club nearer to qualifying for a second consecutive appearance in the European Champions League.

Berlin, eliminated in the Champions League second phase this season, jumped in to the last qualifying spot in fourth place thanks to defender Marko Rehmer in the 51st minute.

1860 Munich, fourth at the start of the day, could only draw 1-1 at home to VfB Stuttgart to drop to fifth a point behind Berlin.

Bottom club MSV Duisburg were relegated following a 3-1 loss Saturday at Hansa Rostock, who are clinging on in the bottom five.

Premiership

Gunners gain at Leeds' cost



LONDON, Apr 24: Arsenal boosted their chances of competing in next season's Champions League after beating the English Premiership's bottom club Watford 3-2 on Sunday, reports AFP.

French international Thierry Henry scored twice and Ray Parlour added another before Heidar Helguson and Micah Hyde replied for the home side.

Arsenal remain third on 63 points, three less than second-placed Liverpool and two more than Leeds in fourth, who drew 2-2 with Newcastle at St James's Park.

Watford look doomed on 20 points, seven behind second-bottom Bradford and 12 away from safety.

Leeds stormed into a two-goal lead through Michael Bridges and Jason Wilcox before England international striker Alan Shearer scored twice to level the scores.

ARSENAL-WATFORD
As the rain pelted down the Gunners only just survived a second-half onslaught by Watford to keep their Champions League chances firmly on track. Henry may have taken time to find his feet in the Premiership, especially in adapting to a central striking role, but he has now scored 23 times.

The Frenchman has scored in each of his last seven starts, clipping home the 18th-minute opener at Vicarage Road with considerable finesse and then embarking on a memorable solo run before curling home the third.

Had it not been for him, however, Arsenal could have stumbled as most of the rest of the side appeared to be in a strangely lethargic mood following their midweek exertions.

Amid the second-half thunder and lightning, Watford showed considerable determination and heart as they struck back and showed up the increasingly shaky Arsenal defence.

With the inspirational Tony Adams again absent through injury, Watford could easily have secured a draw and were furious at not being awarded a penalty after less than two minutes when referee Harris once more courted controversy.

Harris turned down strong penalty claims when Helguson tangled with David Seaman after an awful back-pass by Gilles Grimandi.

Watford were still bubbling with determination though and after Henry had shot wide for the visitors, winger Tommy Smith then burst clear through the centre only to be ploughed by their ability to press the self-destruct button.

And it took just one visionary pass by Emmanuel Petit to put Henry clear at the other end and the Frenchman calmly slid his shot underneath the body of keeper Alec Chamberlain.

Hyde was unfortunate to strike the post yet Arsenal counter-attacked again to devastating effect, with Henry turning creator to send Parlour scampering through the middle.

Despite an attempted tackle by Paul Robinson, the winger went round the static figure of

Chamberlain to slot the ball just inside the far post.

With just seconds to go before the interval, Henry went on a sublime run himself as he jinked his way around four defenders before striking a wonderful curling effort inside the upright.

Arsenal's pace continued to cause Watford problems, with Marc Overmars shooting against the post but Watford's spirit could never be faulted and they pulled themselves back into the game in an amazing two-minute spell.

LEEDS-NEWCASTLE
Shearer chose St George's Day to return to the goal rail and rescue a point for Newcastle.

Shearer collected his 27th of the season with a powerful 23rd-minute header and then added a second with a close-range finish just after half-time to drag his side back into a game which was rapidly slipping away from them.

Former Sunderland striker Bridges had put Leeds in front with a 13th-minute drive and Wilcox added a second four minutes later as the Magpies were punished for some dreadful defending.

But Shearer, who also scored twice in the 3-2 defeat at Elland Road earlier in this season, inspired his side's fightback despite the close attention of Michael Duberry.

Ian Garte should have won it for the Yorkshiremen with a 60th-minute penalty, but a draw was a fair result on a day when defenders floundered and strikers prospered.

Barcelona withdraw threat

BARCELONA, Apr 24: Barcelona, who threatened to pull out of the Spanish Cup if their semi-final, second-leg home match against Atletico Madrid was not rescheduled from Monday April 24 have finally conceded and programmed the game for 1900GMT, the club confirmed Sunday, reports AFP.

The Catalan side - who have a Champions League semifinal date against Valencia next month - claim that they do not have enough players to play the match as nine internationals have been called up by their national sides and three players are out injured.

And they had been on a collision course with the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) after the governing body changed the date of the match from April 26 to facilitate the club's international players.

Barca argued that this changed nothing as their international players had to travel back to their home countries before Monday night.

The club risked forfeiting their place in this season's competition, leaving Atletico to take on Real Madrid or Espanyol in the final, and could have been banned from next year's Cup if they had refused to play on Monday.

Barca's Dutch coach Louis Van Gaal had demanded that the game be adjourned until May 16 and originally had not called up any of his players for Monday's game giving them the day off.

Van Gaal claimed he did not have enough players as only 11, including the two goalkeepers, were available.

The problem arose from the RFEF's decision to schedule the Cup semifinals on a week when Spain have no international matches but many other countries in Europe and South America do.

Thugs worry Beckenbauer

BERLIN, April 24: Franz Beckenbauer said on Sunday he was concerned German hooligans might affect his country's bid to host the 2006 World Cup finals, reports Reuters.

"What does worry us a bit is the (Euro 2000 game) between Germany and England in Charleroi," Beckenbauer, who chairs the German candidacy, told Sunday newspaper Welt am Sonntag.

"We must do our utmost to tackle the hooligans problem, using every mean at our disposal," added the former World Cup star.

Germany's Bundesrat upper house of parliament earlier this month passed a law to ban known German hooligans from travelling to the forthcoming European championship in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Four German hooligans were sentenced to jail terms last November for beating a French policeman almost to death during the 1998 World Cup finals.

Beckenbauer said he was confident Germany would come out of the final stretch of the race to stage the 2006 finals ahead of their rivals.

"If we don't make any big mistake in the next three months, we will be in the lead," he said.

The executive committee of world governing body FIFA will decide on July 5 and 6 on who will host the tournament.

Brazil, England, Morocco and South Africa are also bidding.

Asked by Welt am Sonntag to comment on the state of Germany's troubled national team, Beckenbauer cited a famous Gary Lineker phrase.

"Earlier there were 22 players on the pitch and in the end, the Germans always won," he said.

"We have since become beat-

able, which has made us more human and more popular. But we have reached the limit on how far we can go in that direction."

Deportivo widen gap



MADRID, Apr 24: Deportivo La Coruna moved closer to their first ever Spanish league title on Sunday, beating Real Sociedad 2-0 to march five points clear in the Primera Liga with four matches to play, reports AFP.

Deportivo, who have suffered several recent wobbles as they try to lift the crown and stave off opposition from title-holders Barcelona, thanked first-half goals from Dutchman Roy Makaay and Cesar Martin for their win.

"That's a very important step we have taken today towards the title," said club coach Javier Irureta.

Champions League semifinalists Real Madrid, who just three days earlier had beaten Manchester United, are almost out of the race after losing 4-2 at home to Racing Santander on Saturday.

Real dropped from second spot to fourth spot on 56 points,

eight behind Deportivo. Barcelona beat Sevilla 2-0 and are in second spot on 59 points while Real Zaragoza, who won 2-1 at Numancia, are a point behind the Catalan club.

Real Madrid, the 1998 European Cup winners, showed little of the form on show at Old Trafford in midweek, when they knocked holders Manchester United out of the European Cup, in slumping to seventh from bottom Santander.

In the 27th minute, Brazilian Roberto Carlos opened the score with a superb goal from his lesser used right foot.

The delight of Real fans was short-lived however when a minute later Javier Manjarin equalized after finishing off a good move including work from Pedro Munitis on the right flank.

Then, a minute before the break, Vivar Dorado put Santander 2-1 ahead from a cross by Manjarin though he looked barely outside. Ten minutes after the break, Salvador Salva

put the visitors two goals ahead. Real, far from having their heads down, hit back in the 56th minute.

Controversial French striker Nicolas Anelka, who only recently had a suspension lifted by the club and who replaced Savio at the interval, hit a long cross to Fernando Morientes.

Morientes' shot was parried but the ball fell to the feet of England international Steve McManaman who made no mistake.

Yet with 15 minutes left, Salva scored yet again for Santander from the penalty spot.

Barcelona, fresh from crushing Chelsea in midweek, thanked goals from Patrick Kluivert and Finland's Jari Litmanen for their win over Sevilla.

Spain's third Champions League semifinalists Valencia consolidated fifth spot after beating relegation-threatened Atletico Madrid at home with goals by Claudio Lopez and Miguel Angel Angulo.



Real Oviedo's Franck Rabaribony (R) and Lauren Bisan-Etame of Mallorca are in pursuit of the ball during their Primera Liga encounter at Oviedo on April 23. —AFP photo

CONCACAF Olympic qualifiers

Guatemala book a berth



HERSHEY, Pennsylvania, Apr 24: Guatemala became the first team to secure a berth in the CONCACAF Olympic qualifying semifinals -- the games that decide who goes to Sydney -- by playing Mexico to a 1-1 draw here Sunday, reports AFP.

Freddy Garcia's goal in the 80th minute equalized for Guatemala and left Mexico to a final Group E match Tuesday with Panama, which must win to advance.

"We are very happy with the results," Guatemala coach Francisco Melgar said. The guys had a very good attitude. Our goalkeeper did not have too much work.

Favored Mexico had taken a 1-0 advantage in the 43rd minute as Joaquin Beltran headed in Hector Altamirano's free kick past goalkeeper Luis Pedro Molina.

Before a crowd of 8,580 at Hersheypark Stadium on a chilly and windy day, Guatemala pushed forward for the equalizer and came close in the 58th minute when Carlos Quinonez's 28-yard free kick rattled off the crossbar.

The Guatemalans finally tied it with 10 minutes remaining in regulation. Dwight Pezarossi found Freddy Garcia at the left edge of the penalty area, and Garcia fired a shot that goalkeeper Adrian Zermeno got his hands on, but could not hold it. The ball fell into the net.

Guatemala suffered a major loss as team captain Carlos Ruiz, who scored two goals in the 2-1 victory over Panama here Friday, was lost for the rest of the tournament after suffering a sprained right knee. Ruiz's leg buckled from underneath and he was taken off the field on a stretcher in the 25th minute.

It turned into a chippy game as referee Ramesh Ramdhan of Trinidad and Tobago yellow carded six players, four on Mexico. He also whistled 45 fouls, including 27 on the Mexicans.

For Mexico coach Gustavo Vargas, the result felt like a loss.

"I did not like the way we played," he Vargas said. "We didn't play the way we should. We just had a bad game. We believed that at some point our shirts were going to win the game."

HONDURAS BEAT CANADA
Honduran players who had threatened a walkout moved a step nearer reaching the semifinals of the tournament with a 2-0 triumph over Canada.

Both Group D teams must wait until Tuesday before their fate is decided by the result of the United States-Canada match.

The Canadians can qualify by two methods, beating the US team by five goals or winning 3-2 and earning a tie-breaker nod over Honduras by scoring more goals.

Two group teams advance to the semifinals on Friday that decide Olympic berths.

The Honduran team had threatened to boycott the tournament if they had not received their bonus payments. After the Honduran Soccer Federation promised they would be paid, the team decided to play.

Asked if the players had been paid yet, Maradiaga replied, "Fifty per cent. The rest (of the payment) probably tomorrow."

In windy and chilly conditions that should have made the Canadians feel more comfortable -- every Honduran player wore black gloves -- it was Honduras that enjoyed the advantage.

After a rather non-descript

opening 15 minutes, Hondurans finally found holes in the Canadian defence with several penetrating passes.

The Central Americans' persistence finally paid off in the 32nd minute. Honduran captain Ivan Guerrero blasted a shot from the top left of the penalty area that goalkeeper Mike Franks blocked. The Canadian defense was unable to clear the ball, which bounded to Hester Phillips. He slotted home a shot for a 1-0 Honduran lead.

"It gave us security to be able to manage the game in a better way," Honduran coach Ramon Enrique Maradiaga said. "It gave us a chance to secure breakouts."

The Canadians played the final 13 minutes a man down after Jason Mathot was red-carded by referee William Matatus of Costa Rica after a confrontation with Francisco Pavon in front of the Honduran bench in the 77th minute. Matatus had conferred with one of his assistant referees before issuing the red card.

"Two players went for the ball and they collided," Canada coach Bruce Twamley said. "I don't know what the linesman saw."

Canada could have leveled in the 90th minute but Kevin McKenna's point-blank header bounded off the crossbar.

"We are not a prolific scoring team," Twamley said. "When we get these chances, we have to make the most of it."

Less than a minute later, Luis Ramirez scored off a counterattack for an insurance goal.

STANDINGS

Group D						
Team	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
United States	1	0	0	3	0	3
Honduras	1	0	1	2	3	3
Canada	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group E						
Team	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
Guatemala	1	1	0	3	2	4
Mexico	0	1	0	1	1	1
Panama	0	0	1	1	2	0

Injury-hit Passarella

MONTEVIDEO, Apr 24: Uruguay coach Daniel Passarella, already without Juventus defender Paolo Montero and wingback Dario Rodriguez of Penarol, suffered a further blow Sunday with the withdrawal through injury of Cagliari's Fabian O'Neill from his squad to face Paraguay on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Former Argentina skipper and coach Passarella has called up Leonardo Ramos of River Plate to replace Montero while Tabare Abuyaya Silva will replace Rodriguez for Argentina's second World Cup qualifier.



Rwandan forward Kamanzi Michel (L) finds himself in an awkward position while fighting for the ball with airborne Tebily Olivier of Ivory Costa during their African zone World Cup qualifier in Abidjan on April 23. Ivory Costa progressed to the next round with a 2-0 win. —AFP photo

Source: Internet

ENGLISH ROLL OF HONOUR

Following is the complete list of the English First Division and currently Premiership champions from its inception in 1889:

Year	Team
1889	Preston North End
1890	Preston North End
1891	Everton
1892	Sunderland
1893	Sunderland
1894	Aston Villa
1895	Sunderland
1896	Aston Villa
1897	Aston Villa
1898	Sheffield United
1899	Aston Villa
1900	Aston Villa
1901	Liverpool
1902	Sunderland
1903	The Wednesday
1904	The Wednesday
1905	Newcastle United
1906	Liverpool
1907	Newcastle United
1908	Newcastle United
1909	Newcastle United
1910	Aston Villa
1911	Manchester United
1912	Blackburn Rovers
1913	Sunderland