BFF GM held

Dhaka Mayor and president of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Mohammad Hanif yesterday urged all concerned to produce more footballers to maintain the existing popularity of the game.

He said the standard of football has reached a certain glorious level and "we have to keep

Hanif was speaking at the federation's general meeting at the Nagar Bhaban. BFF general secretary

Harunur Rashid, MP, presented the general secretary's report. BFF vice-presidents Anjan Chowdhury Pintoo, Zafar Imam, joint secretary Badal Roy, officials Shamimuzzaman Basunia, Abdul Gaffar, M Jahangir. Nabi Chowdhury. Ashrafuddin Chunnu spoke on the occasion.

BFF president said steps would be taken to solve ground crisis for football.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, May 6: Jubo Cricket School and Rani Bazar Sporting Club won their respective matches of the second Siraj Memorial cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Medical College campus play ground today.

In the first match Jubo Cricket defeated Medical Campus by 5 wickets.

Winning the toss Medical Campus batted first and were boundled out for 130 in 24.2

Taher with 43 was the top scorer In replay, Jubo Cricket

reached the target of 131 runs losing five wickets in 23.3 overs.

In other match of the day, Rani Bazar beat Feroz Smriti by 48 runs. The winners managed 161

for nine in allotted 20 overs. In reply, Feroz Smriti were all out for 113.

Headley will have back surgery

LONDON, May 6: Fast bowler Dean Headley is to undergo spinal surgery which threatens to rule him out of England's plans for the rest of the season, reports AFP.

Doctors have recommended that Headley, one of England's 12 contracted players, rest for three to four months after the operation is performed on Monday week.

A back injury forced the 30year-old grandson of West Indies great George Headley to return early from last winter's tour to South Africa.

Headley, who plays county cricket for Kent, said: "I felt fine bowling in the nets for a month re-season and this happens. It's all very frustrating."

In addition to seven Tests -two against Zimbabwe and five against West Indies -- England will play 10 one-day internationals in a triangular tournament against those two coun-

Headley's last appearance for England was in the third test of the losing home series against New Zealand in 1999.

Inzamam

From page 13

Moin Khan batted for close to half-hour together, but the Pakistan captain was caught at gully with King's first ball in a Test before his home crowd.

Pakistan's innings was in strife and West Indies might have expected a rout. Instead, Inzamam and Razzaq got firmly rooted and established new sixth-wicket record for Pakistan against West Indies and Bourda Oval.

Their stand blotted out the 166 shared by Wazir Mohammad and Abdul Hafiz Kardar 42 years ago in the Kingston Test | them. which is remembered for Sir Garfield Sobers' world record innings of 365 not out. And they beat the 127 between Colin Cowdrey and Allan Knott 32 years ago which was the highest for the ground.

It was a gripping contest between bat and ball throughout the partnership between Inzamam and Razzaq which ensured West Indies went wicketless over the last two periods the

Apart from his brush with death, Inzamam endured a testing period from Ambrose when the beanpole fast bowled served up a few short-pitched balls.

Some of them the Pakistan vice-captain made disappear to - the boundary, some others Ambrose succeeded in getting a evasive response from the batsman.

Razzaq too, had his moments with Nixon McLean. He was subjected to a string of blows up and down his mid-seci tion, but rode it out to bring some respect back to his side's batting.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the

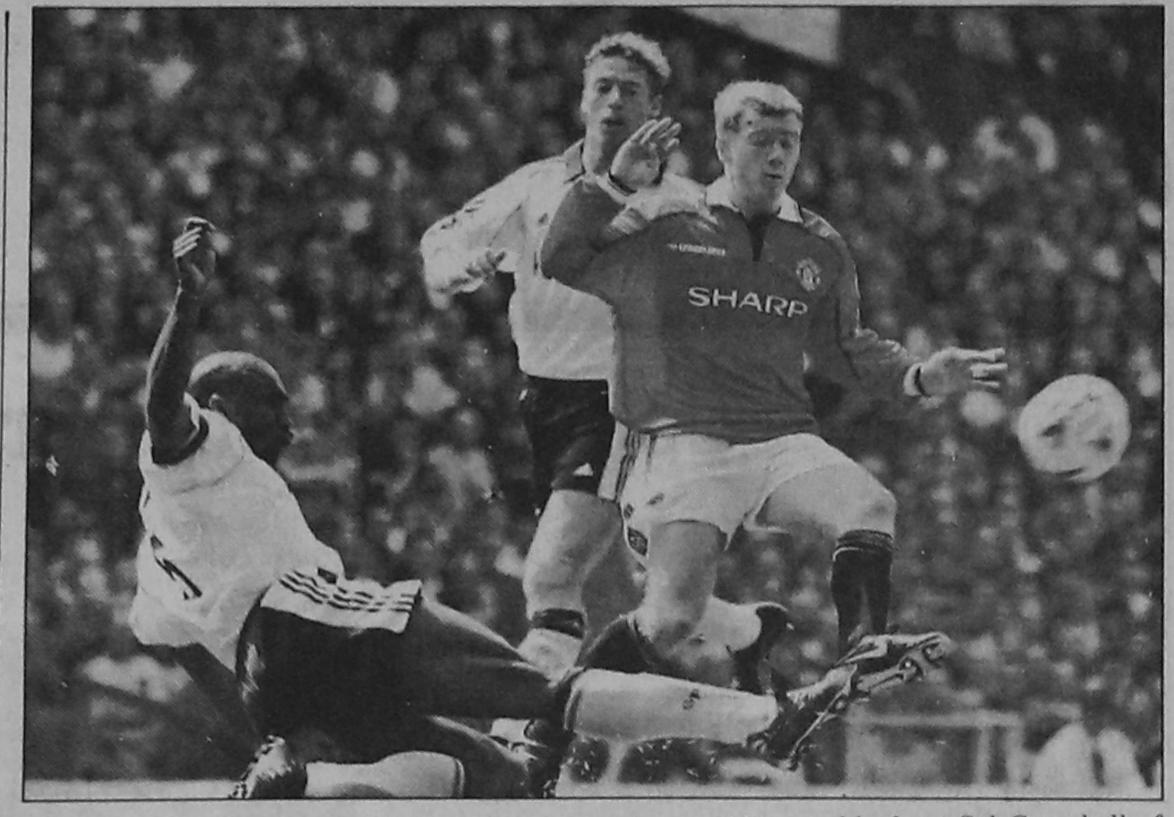
opening day of the first Test of three between Pakistan and West Indies at Bourda Oval on

PAKISTAN: First innings

M Wasim b Ambrose Wasti b Walsh Younis lbw b Ambrose Inzamam not out Youhana c Jacobs b Ambrose Moin c Adams b King Razzaq not out

Extras: (lb-1; nb-3) Total: (For 5 wkts in 86 overs) To Bat: Wasim Akram, Saqlain Mushtaq, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed.

Fall of wickets: 1-12; 2-12; 3-21: 4-21: 5-39. Bowler Ambrose Walsh McLean Adams



Manchester United's Paul Scholes (R) comes under a sliding tackle from Sol Campbell of Tottenham Hotspur during their Premiership clash at Old Trafford yesterday. -AFP photo

Premiership

MU leave Old Trafford in cheers



LONDON, May 6: English champions Manchester United turned on the style in their final home game of the season.

beating Tottenham 3-1 in front of a Premiership record crowd of 61,629 in a morning kick-off at Old Trafford on Saturday, reports AFP. United were without several

key players through injury but were still too strong for the visitors as they swept to their 27th league win of the season with goals from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. Teddy Sheringham and David Beckham. Former United idol Eric

Cantona, a key figure in the club's revival during the 1990s. was in the crowd to see his former team-mates move 19 points clear of second-placed Arsenal. After the match Sir Alex

Ferguson's side stayed on the pitch to await the presentation

of the premier league trophy their sixth in eight years which they planned to parade before their fans.

The match saw United set a new league record of just over 58,000 for their average home attendance during the campaign, which beat their own previous best set 32 years ago.

United took the field without injured regulars Gary Neville, Roy Keane, Mark Bosnich and Andy Cole but within five minutes they went in front when Norweigan striker Solskjaer struck with a close range Tottenham, who left out star

winger David Ginola, levelled on 20 minutes when Chris Armstrong met Darren Anderton's cross with a superb diving header at the near post. But two goals in as many

minutes from the 1999 European champions effectively killed off Tottenham's hopes of

The first from Beckham, his league season.

50th for the club he has served since youth level, brought the Old Trafford crowd to its feet in appreciation in the 34th

Collecting the ball 25 yards out, the shaven-headed England midfielder curled the ball into the top right corner of lan Walker's goal.

Moments later Solskjaer turned the defence and raced down on goal before letting the ball run to former Tottenham striker Sheringham who took one touch and crashed the ball into the roof of the net from just inside the area.

Last season's treble winners relaxed the pressure in the second half as Ferguson gave his substitutes a taste of the action before the jubilant home crowd.

United need four more goals at Aston Villa on the final day of the league season next Sunday to become the first team to score 100 goals in a premier

Fergie's most satisfying



(AFP): Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson hailed his side's latest Pre-

mier League triumph - the sixth in eight years - as their greatest on the day his side were officially crowned champions, reports AFP.

A 3-1 win over Tottenham in their final home match of the season, watched by former United idol Eric Cantona in a record Premier League crowd of 61.629, was their 10th league win in a row and it takes their goals tally to 96 in 37 matches. Ferguson, who suffered a

rare disappointment when Real Madrid ended United's defence of their European Champions League title in the quarter-finals last month, and his players, who were joined by their families on the sun-drenched Old Trafford pitch after the match, did a lap of honour after the presentation of the trophy.

Ferguson said: "I'm proud of my players. This is definitely the best championship they have won

"We realise how difficult it is to win this league. The players know that and that's why you saw them celebrate in the way they did. It's a great moment for

"I think that their performances have been absolutely excellent. They've scored 96 goals and they're now on 88 points with a game left, which is unbelievable. "As we've experienced over

the last few years in March and April when the chips are down. they produce. It's great to be able to say that.

"They don't often drop off in March and April and the only year I can honestly say we were disappointed was the year (1998) we had all the injuries and we lost to Arsenal. Ferguson also had a few

words for the United fans and he spoke to them after the team had been presented with the Premier League trophy. Ferguson, who led the lap of

honour with his grandson Jake, said: "It's another fantastic day for Manchester United and the one thing I can tell you is that it's not easy winning our league. "This day is special for this club and I want you to remember that.

"To our supporters - your loyalty to this club is unbelievable and I thank you on behalf of all the players and the staff for that loyalty and we hope we

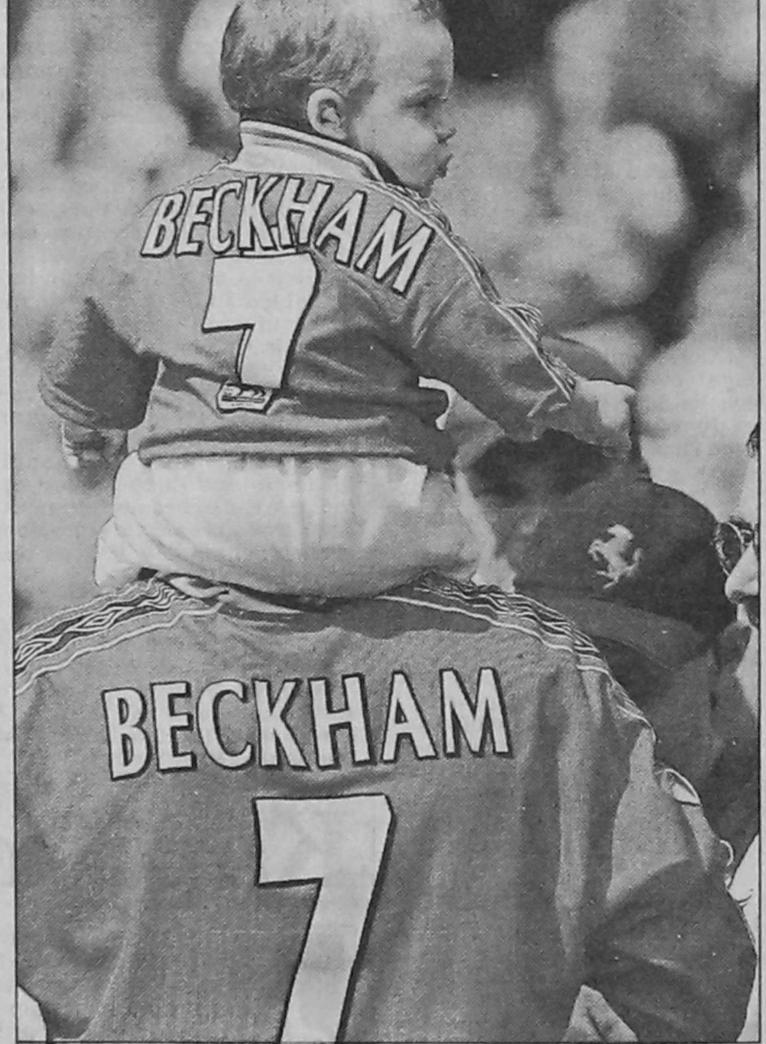
Tachibana queen of

TOKYO, May 6: Miya Tachibana led world silver medalists Japan to a triple victory in the solo, duet and team events at the Japan Open synchronized swimming championships on Friday, reports

Tachibana, also the bronze medalist at the 1998 World Championships, regained the solo trophy she won three straight times from 1995, beating 1997 world junior silver 0 medalist Jang Yoon-Kyeong of 0 | South Korea.

Tottenham did their best to spoil United's championship party when Chris Armstrong cancelled out Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's opener with a diving

But David Beckham and former Spurs striker Teddy Sheringham then scored inside the space of two minutes and by half-time the game was over.



JUNIOR TOPPLES DAD! Brooklyn gets a ride on his father David Beckham's shoulders after Manchester United's Premiership fixture against Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford yesterday. - AFP photo

African soccer scene

JOHANNESBURG, May 6: African club giants Esperance of Tunisia could manage only a 3-2 home win over modest Djoliba of Mali in a Champions League second-round match this weekend, reports AFP.

The result leaves the 1999 runners-up with a difficult second leg in Bamako on May 28 against a team who took eventual champions Raja

Casablanca of Morocco to a penalty shootout at the same stage last year. Tenema N'diaye put Djoliba ahead after 14 minutes at the Al-Menzah Stadium in Tunis

only for Esperance to respond with two goals from teenage striker Ali Zitouni and one from Brazilian Adailton. But N'diaye struck again five minutes before the final whistle to boost the chances of Djoliba

reaching the lucrative group

phase of the leading African club competition for the first Former champions Al-Ahly of Egypt scored twice within five minutes during the second half to complete a 3-0 victory over Vital'O of Burundi before a

crowd of 35,000 at the Nasser Stadium in Cairo.

Mohamed Farouk put the 1982 and 1987 winners in front with 32 minutes gone and fellow national-team players Alaa Ibrahim and Ibrahim Hassan pounced when the visitors

faded. Another North African club in a goal-hungry mood was JS Kabylie of Algeria, who crushed TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo 5-0 in the eastern town of Tizi-Ouzou. Faouzi Moussouni, who

helped his country reach the

African Nations Cup quarterfinals this year, scored a hattrick in the African Football | Europe. Confederation Cup clash. ahead after 15 minutes and a Hocine Gasmi goal made it 2-0

strikes from Moussouni and

Ramzi Saib left Mazembe with

no hope of a second-leg recovfootball after the heavy Champions League loss suffered by Mouloudia Alger and the disqualification of USMA from the Cup Winners Cup.

All Latin semifinals

ORLANDO, Florida, May 6: Fernando Gonzalez and Martin Rodriguez claimed semi-final berths at the US Clay Court Championships Friday, making it an all-South American final four in the 350,000-dollar ATP Tour event, reports AFP.

Chilean qualifier Gonzalez defeated Thailand's Paradorn Srichapan 6-3, 6-3 to line up a semifinal clash with Argentina's Rodriguez, a 6-3, 7-5 winner over Czech Jiri Vanek.

The lone remaining seed is number six Nicolas Massu of Chile, who will play his first career ATP semifinal here Saturday against Paraguyan quali-fier Ramon Delgado.

Delgado, 22, is playing his first event of the year after undergoing left knee surgery in November. Delgado had not reached a semifinal since 1998. when he did so in Shanghai.

Delgado finished 56th in the world rankings in 1998 and reached his lone ATP final in Bogota, Colombia. He also defeated world number one Pete Sampras in the second round of the 1998 French Open.

Barthez staying with Monaco

PARIS, May 5: Fabien Barthez, France's emblematic international goalkeeper and captain of newly crowned French champions Monaco, has announced that he wants to see out his contract at the club, reports AFP.

Barthez's assurance, in the aftermath of Monaco's 5-2 victory over Le Havre Thursday night, came just 48 hours after the shaven headed stopper had demanded a transfer, claiming in French sports daily L'Equipe that coach Claude Puel had accused him of being "paid off" by Marseille, his former club.

His attack referred to relegation-threatened Marseille's controversial 4-2 win over Monaco on April 7 which gave the club a lifeline in their bid to stay in the French First Divi-

Barthez said then he had contacted Monaco president Jean-Louis Campora and asked to be put on the transfer list immediately.

But after meeting Campora and Puel Thursday Barthez said: "Everything's back in order. The president said he'd never doubted me. Both men have given me their full confidence, and that's very satisfy ing."

> Casoni's grief

MARSEILLE, France, May 6: Olympique Marseille coach Bernard Casoni questioned his players' commitment after they failed to secure First Division survival in Thursday's 2-2 draw at home to Nancy, reports Reuters.

Marseille, who conceded a late equaliser after twice leading Nancy, play their last | feat. match on May 13 away to Sedan who are chasing a place in the Intertoto Cup.

With Montpellier and Le Havre already relegated, Marseille are one of five teams battling to avoid the third relegation spot.

With one match to go, Nancy occupy the third relegation spot with 39 points, one less than Stade Rennes and Nantes, two less than Marseille and three less than Troyes, who have by far the worst goal difference of "The players have their

backs to the wall, but you have to ask yourself if they all feel implicated," Casoni said on Friday.

"When you're playing for they face giantkillers exsurvival, you need pride. The lads fight but you still can't be sure if they dig deep inside. Casoni said some players

fought less than others but he declined to mention them by "Lots of people already see themselves elsewhere but they mustn't forget that today they

are still paid by the club," he Casoni said Sedan were an exemplary team and he wanted to see his players show similar

"I feel tensions in and around the club. There are people who apparently would be very happy to see OM in divi-

sion two," he added. Marseille have drawn their last three matches and allowed their opponents in their last two matches to equalise twice.

Rosenborg seek MLS custodian

DENVER, Colorado, May 6: Norwegian powerhouse Rosenborg have opened talks with Major League Soccer about obtaining the rights to Colorado Rapids rookie goalkeeper Adin Brown, reports AFP. Rosenborg is said to have of-

fered more than one million dollars to acquire Brown. But Colorado general manager Dan Counce has said he will oppose the single-entity league making any deal for the rising US star. "We would veto any kind of trade talk involving Adin

Brown," Counce said. "Our in-

tention isn't to develop players

and then sell them to teams in "Teams in Scandinavia al-Moussouni put Kabylie ways are trying to get some of the more promising young players from around the world. by half-time. Early second-half | They don't keep them. They just and I've not seen Nantes play show them off and then sell them to other teams in Europe."

Brown, 21, is regarded as one of the best MLS prospects. He The result boosted Algerian has been the goalkeeper for the United States under-23 team for pay off. the past three years and helped the US squad qualify last month for the Sydney Olympics.

2006 World Cup

Blatter's heart with Africa



BERLIN, May 6 said the 2006 Word Cup finals should go to Africa if one of the

continent's two bidding countries can meet all the conditions required to stage the Blatter, who has expressed support for Africa previously

but since also praised the bids of England and Germany, made it clear in an interview with German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) released on Saturday that he would prefer the finals to go either to Morocco or South Africa if they could offer sufficient guaran-"I will clearly tell the execu-

we want to work for the solidarity of football worldwide, we should consider whether we should not give an advantage to Morocco or South Africa if one of those two bids met all the requirements," Blatter said. The hosts will be decided in a vote by the 24-man FIFA execu-

tive committee (of FIFA) that if

tive committee in Zurich on July 6. Brazil are also in the race but are regarded as out-"The truth is that I have expressed myself in favour of

Africa but not of one of its two candidates," Blatter told FAZ. "It should not be forgotten that Morocco have already tried twice (to get the finals) and narrowly failed both times."

The FIFA president added he (Reuters/Internet) knew both England and Ger-: FIFA president many were perfectly capable of Sepp Blatter has successfully staging the tour-

"I can only approve the idea of staging the World Cup in Germany or in England, they can do it," he said. "If the World Cup was only there to improve the already well-established value of football, Germany and

choices." Blatter also said he had not given up the idea of having the World Cup every two years and

England would be excellent



SEPP BLATTER

supported the appointment of professional referees.

Blatter repeated his opposition to suggestions by leading European clubs in the G-14 lobby group to set up a breakaway league.

"The G-14 want to create their own league with the support of television channels," he

said. "That has to be turned Fears that too much football

was harming the game should be answered, Blatter said, advocating tighter national leagues. "The big clubs have so many fixtures and games," he said. "Perhaps the national asso-

ciations should think about re-

ducing their leagues to some ex-

tent. Less football, more qual-

ity, that's something I've always been in favour of." Hectic schedules could lead to players resorting to doping,

"We must protect the players' health. Otherwise the risk will grow that players will take banned substances to be able to

continue playing." FIFA and UEFA, Blatter told FAZ, had not given up their fight to limit the effects of the Bosman ruling, which has led to some European clubs fielding teams with not a single player

from their own country. The governing bodies want the clubs to purchase as many foreigners as they want but say they should have no more than five on the pitch in competitive matches. That means the Bosman ruling should be amended with the agreement of

the European Commission. "I am very optimistic." said Blatter. "The (European) sports ministers have reacted very positively to this proposition from FIFA and UEFA.

J-League

Stojkovic wins it for Nagoya



TOKYO, May 6: Dragan Stojkovic playing his last season in Japan finally scored his

first goal of the season to give Nagova Grampus Eight a 3-2 win over Verdy Kawasaki in J-League football on Saturday, reports AFP. The goal by Yugoslavia's World Cup skipper came 19

tra time on a free kick after rookie Taisei Fujita hit an equalizer in the 66th minute. It was also Stojkovic's 50th goal in the J-League since he joined the Grampus Eight in

minutes into sudden death ex-

Yokohama Marinos moved to the top of the table with seven wins against four defeats for 21 points, ahead of Jubilo Iwata, Cerezo Osaka and FC Tokyo with 20 points, and Shimizu S-Pulse with 19 points. Yokohama notched up a

comfortable 2-1 victory over

regular bottom placers Kyoto

Purple Sanga, who suffered a humiliating eighth straight de-

score, and we couldn't take those chances ... as usual. I'm not thinking of quitting. We'll do our best in our next game. said Shu Kamo, former national team head coach.

Dutch coach to quit S African JOHANNESBURG, May 6 (AFP) - Dutch coach Leo van Veen said Saturday he will

Town when the season ends Frontale 2-1. next month, reports AFP. Van Veen is returning home to join the technical department at sister club Ajax Amsterdam after being with the

leave South African Premier

Soccer League club Ajax Cape

Cape team since its formation in the middle of last year. Ajax Cape Town, sixth on the 18-club league standings with two games left, have promoted another Dutch coach. Henk Bodewes, from the youth development department to "We had some chances to succeed Van Veen.

The Antlers defeated defending champions Iwata 3-2 with Brazilian Bismarck producing the last pass for Masashi Motoyama, who flicked in a rightfooter in the 117th minute to put an end to extra time.

Cerezo Osaka posted their

fifth straight win at their home ground as Hiroaki Morishima scored the sole goal in the 15th minute to beat Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1-0. FC Tokyo won a battle between two newcomers in the first division league with

Brazilian striker Tuto nodding

home a decisive goal in the 73rd minute to beat Kawasaki Shimizu, winners of the second stage last season, crashed to a surprising 0-3 defeat to Avispa Fukuoka as their flat-

footed midfielders fell victim to the Fukuoka pressure. In other games, Vissel Kobe defeated Kashiwa Reysol for the first time in seven encounters in the first division league with Mitsutoshi Watada and Keiji

Kaimoto scoring for a 2-0 win. JEF United Ichihara were 3-0 winners over Gamba Osaka.

French Cup final

Calais miracle reaches climax



Homely Nantes. nicknamed the Canaries for their vellow and green kit, will be the least popular French Cup finalists in living memory when

PARIS, May 6:

traordinaire Calais at the Stade de France on Sunday, reports Calais, best known previously for its duty free hypermarkets and its sea and rail links to England, has burst into the limelight following their

shock win over Bordeaux in the semifinals last month. And on Sunday, a dozen trains will head for Paris carrying some 10,000 supporters of the first amateur outfit to play

in the end-of-season show-

Fourth Division footballers'

Usually the minnows play before just a few hundred fans at their 4,000 capacity Julien Denis stadium. But charismatic coach Ladislas Lozano, a youth cup winner three decades ago as a player, says they will not be overawed by the 80,000 who

will watch them on Sunday. "Nantes play good football but we have shown our mettle and we have nothing to lose. Why shouldn't we have a chance?" asked Lozano, who found the semifinal tension too much and had to go to hospital suffering from exhaustion af-

terwards. Already in Calais, 16 percent of whose 75,000 population are unemployed, there has been a scramble for the 18,000 tickets on offer for the club, who as well as Bordeaux beat another top-flight side in Strasbourg and Second Division Cannes to

get this far.

keep calm ahead of the biggest match of their lives and central defender Gregory Deswarte said he had not spent too much time worrying about his men's opponents. not a fanatic. I hardly ever watch matches on television

this year," he admitted to L'E-Gregory is hoping his girlfriend's superstition of wearing the aame shoes to matches will

she told me after the Bordeaux

match. I told her she shouldn't

have said that - maybe it won't

the 100km journey to Lens for the semi-final, most draped in the team's "blood and gold" colours, whereas they normally attract just a few hundred fans. Coach Lozano is a works foreman for the Calais town

council - and employs several of

Several thousand fans made

work any more," he laughed.

his players, who also include the likes of shopkeepers, gardeners and students. He says the secret of his success is a change in attitude in the past three years to coaching. "I threw 14 years of experience into a cupboard and

cocky, not receptive enough," he told France Football. "At home I was quite hateful to my wife and kids and couldn't take defeat. Now I get don't get mad - I take time to reflect on

things.

started again. I used to be too

Win or lose Calais' final ap-

pearance will be a huge boost to the club's coffers, as even a defeat would be worth eight milin broadcast revenue and assorted spinoffs - twice their annual budget. That cash flow will enable them to clear a debt of 1.7 million francs, a third of which

which have been steadily erod- dogs had their day. ing the club's profitability for The local municipal authorities are set to pump in two million francs in order to help Calais upgrade their ground as 3,000 extra places are needed

comprises social security costs

Third Division. The town's communist mayor, Jacky Henin, has already given the upgrade plans the green light.

before they can play in the

The quality of Calais' football surprised Bordeaux and Calais have been attempting, Strasbourg and Nantes coach despite the media spotlight, to Raynald Denoueix will not underestimating his men's lowly opponents.

open to everybody and fate de-"It's like a dream but I am creed it should be Nantes versus Calais and not Monaco against Bordeaux," said Denoueix. Nantes beat Sedan in last year's final and much was ex-

"I think it's great that Calais

are there in the final. The Cup is

pected of their talented young team this season. But the distraction of another Cup run has proved a difficult burden and with one game

"I didn't even realise until to go the Canaries can still lose their First Division status. Keeper Mickael Landreau insisted they would put relega-

tion worries aside. "We are the holders and that should be

enough to spur us on.

France has witnessed a veritable David and Goliath season with the giants getting several bloody noses - witness Paris Saint Germain's League Cup final defeat by Second Division Gueugnon. In addition, although France

are world champions at inter-

national level, their clubs

failed to reach the quarter-fi-

nals of the Champions League

this season - although Calais' fellow northerners Lens managed to get to the last four of the UEFA Cup. Calais will draw on all the fighting spirit associated with

their town's proud history some spent under the British crown In 1347, a local nobleman and five of his fellows accepted decapitation during a siege by Edward III's troops immortalised by Claude Rodin's sculpture to preserve the rest of lion francs (1.3 million dollars) the town from the same fate before his queen, Philippa, inter-

> Lozano issued a rallying call on Thursday to his charges, saying it was time the under-

"People have faith in us They salute our determination and know we have given them some pleasure. I know we can win. We deserve to.

Bartali dies

had enough of us."

"But the professionals have

ROME, May 6: Italy's former cycling great, Gino Bartali, died at the age of 86 at his Florence home in Tuscany on Friday. one of his sons, Andrea, announced, reports AFP.

Bartali etched his name in

his sport's roll of honour with two victories in the Tour de France in 1938 and 1948. He was also a three times winner of the Tour of Italy, and

he lifted four editions of the Mi-

lan-San Remo race. He reportedly died of a heart attack at around midday with in attendance his doctor, wife Adriana, two sons Luigi and Andrea, and daughter Bianca-

Andrea reported: "My father passed away peacefully. For the past two months his condition had progressively gone down-

vened to save them. The French finally regained control in 1558.