

## Victoria baffle Sadharan Bima

Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club recorded a comprehensive 96-run win over Sadharan Bima Krita Sangstha in a Premier Division Relegation League match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Put into bat, Victoria scored 243 for eight in their stipulated 50 overs.

Middle-order batsman Iqbal Sheikh hammered highest 60 off 66 balls while opener Sajjad Ahmed added 54 off 74 balls. Middle-order batsman Rashid Hanif (40 off 54 balls) was the other notable run-getter for Victoria.

In reply, Sadharan Bima were bundled out for 147 in 36.3 overs with on-down Shaifqi Islam scoring highest 58.

Victoria bowlers Shahnewaz Kabir, Sabir Khan and Towhid Hossain shared six wickets.

It was Victoria's seventh win in 15 matches which raised their tally to 14 points. On the other hand, it was the ninth defeat for Bima in 15 matches which kept them on 12 points.

### BRIEF SCORES

Victoria SC v Sadharan Bima KS

(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

Victoria SC: 243 for 8 in 50 overs (Iqbal 60, Sajjad 57, R Hanif 40, Shahnewaz 20, n.o., Nakib 2/29).

Sadharan Bima KS: 147 all out in 36.3 overs (Shaifqi 58, K Chopra 17, Towhid 2/18, Sabir 2/24, Shahnewaz 2/34).

Result: Victoria SC won by 96 runs.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

City Club v Gopibagh FA

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

## Cronje inquiry to sit in Cape

CAPE TOWN, May 11 (Reuters): The South African inquiry into the Hansie Cronje affair will be conducted in Cape Town, a government spokesman said on Wednesday.

Department of Sport spokesman Graham Abrahams confirmed the location after a meeting with retired judge Edwin King, who will head the investigation. The venue is still to be decided.

Pretoria was originally named as the location by Sports Minister Ngconde Balfour, but King requested it be held in Cape Town where he is based.

The inquiry follows Cronje's sacking as South Africa's cricket captain last month after he admitted taking money from a bookmaker for providing information in match-fixing.

Abrahams said more information on the inquiry was expected on Thursday.

## Anelka's maiden headed goal!

MADRID, May 11: Nicolas Anelka said Wednesday his header for Real Madrid which put the Spaniards into the European Cup final at the expense of Bayern Munich was the first ever goal he had scored with his head, reports AFP.

"I can tell you it's not just my first header of the year but the first one I've ever scored since turning pro. That's why I was super happy," the media-shy Anelka wrote on his personal Internet site.

"Against Bayern we played a great match. Last Saturday after our league defeat by Alaves I was very worried but we responded superbly," said the former Arsenal striker.

"I wanted to dedicate this goal to Julio Senn, Real's director general. It's thanks to him I feel good today. To everybody - see you in Paris," said Anelka, referring to the May 24 final at the Stade de France.

## Euro 2000 Savicevic rules himself out

BELGRADE, May 11: Yugoslav's veteran playmaking midfielder Dejan Savicevic informed the national coach Vujadin Boskov on Wednesday that he would not be able to join the team for the Euro 2000 finals because of injury, reports AFP.

The 33-year old Rapid Vienna striker, who inspired the Italian giants AC Milan to their 4-0 destruction of Barcelona in the 1994 European Cup and was a member of the 1998 Yugoslav World Cup squad, said his muscle injury would keep him out of action for at least three weeks, Branko Bulatovic, head of the Yugoslav Football Association, told reporters.

"Savicevic thinks it would not be fair to keep the place for a younger player," Bulatovic said.

He added that three other veterans - Fiorentina's Predrag Mijatovic, Lazio's Sinisa Mihajlovic and Inter's Vladimir Jugovic - were all making good progress from various injuries.

## Foe leaving for Lyon

LONDON, May 11: Premiership club West Ham said on Thursday they are preparing to sell Cameroon international midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe to French First Division side Lyon for 6 million pounds (9.6 million dollars), reports AFP.



Barcelona's Dutch international Boudewijn Zenden(L), trying to stave off the challenge of Valencia captain Mendieta at the Nou Camp on May 10. —AFP photo

## Barca just not up to it

# Valencia fix date with Real

BARCELONA, May 11: Valencia, who had garnered just one point after five Spanish league matches this season, qualified for the European Champions League final here on Wednesday winning 5-2 on aggregate despite being beaten by Barcelona 2-1 in their semi-final second leg match, reports AFP.

The fanatical Barcelona fans, who waved white handkerchiefs long before the end signalling their desire for autocratic Dutch coach Louis van Gaal to leave, went berserk with club president Josep Nunez having to be escorted from the director's box while vice-president Joan Gaspart was screamed at and pushed.

Valencia, who came through the Champions League qualifying round last August, wrapped up the tie when playmaking captain Gaizka Mendieta shot home brilliantly in the 70th minute to ensure a second successive European final for their Argentine coach Hector Cuper following Real Mallorca's Cup Winners Cup final appearance last season.

However, the ultra-serious 43-year-old Cuper failed to raise much of a smile in the immediate aftermath of his side's outstanding achievement.

"We deserved this because we suffered a lot earlier in the season and we will enjoy this moment as its not often you reach a Champions League final," said Cuper, whose great grandfather was an English soldier.

"We could probably have won tonight as well but once we scored we missed several real chances and allowed Barcelona

to take the match.

Barca, whose coach Louis van Gaal will not have been encouraged by the white handkerchiefs dangled by the club's fans well before the end, grabbed two consolation efforts through Frank de Boer and Philip Cocu.

Van Gaal, whose autocratic style brought a young impressive Ajax team the 1995 European Cup but has gone down less well with the more experienced Barcelona players, refused to accept that he should step down despite Barca looking likely to end up with nothing this season.

They trail Deportivo La Coruna by three points with two matches to go in the Liga while they forfeited their Spanish Cup semi-final match with Atletico Madrid under farcical circumstances a fortnight ago.

"I won't step down until I have to and that is not when the press tell me to but when the board and the players call time on me," he said.

"Ever since I've come here three years ago the fans have been on my back, but they should look at the statistics and see that we reached the semi-finals of the Champions League and are still in with a chance of the title.

"It's not as bad as a lot of people would like to say they are," he added defiantly.

Valencia will meet Real Madrid in the final in Paris on May 24 - should they prevail they will complete a cleansweep of European trophies having won the Fairs Cup (now the UEFA Cup) in 1962 and 1963 and the 1980 Cup Winners Cup.

Mendieta, who scored in the first leg, rattled home the ball from Claudio Lopez's pass inside to him on the 21 metres line with the 26-year-old dis-

playing superb skills by dragging the ball from his right foot onto his left and shooting home with a fine curling effort.

Mendieta, who has been at Valencia since 1992, set up Miguel Angulo for what should have been a second minutes later but his shot was brilliantly headed away for a corner by veteran Barca defender Abelerdo.

Barca finally got on the scoresheet with 12 minutes to go when Dutch international Frank de Boer headed home after a mistake by Valencia keeper Santiago Canizares.

Cocu's last minute effort at least gave Barcelona their first win in six European meetings with their opponents but did little to assuage the fury of the Barcelona fans.

Mendieta had missed a golden opportunity to make it game over midway through the second-half when he failed to slot the ball past Hesp after a great 1-2 with Argentine star Claudio Lopez.

Abelerdo made a dreadful mistake early in the second half letting Claudio Lopez in but his selfless pass to Angulo went astray as the latter side-footed tamely at Hesp, who true to his recent hesitant form almost let it into the net.

The tepid start to the second-half reflected the muted first-half where Barcelona's Brazilian world and European player of the year Rivaldo had the only shot of note which Santiago Canizares, who had missiles thrown at him throughout the match, got down to easily.

The only downside for Valencia was the booking of veteran Italian defender Amadeo Carboni, which meant the 35-year-old will miss the final.

# Now they fear none

BARCELONA, May 11(Reuters/Internet): Fearless Valencia will take their place in the Champions League final against Real Madrid later this month with complete faith in their ability to add the seven-times European Cup winners to an impressive list of scalps claimed already this season.

Hector Cuper's side have come through against some of the biggest names in European football, including Manchester United and Bayern Munich in the group stages and now Lazio and Barcelona in the last two rounds.

Their victory over the competition favourites Barcelona was the product of their stunning display of attacking football in the first leg in Mestalla last week, when they embarrassed the Catalans in a 4-1 victory.

They then held their nerve in front of 90,000 Barcelona fans at the Nou Camp - something Chelsea had failed to do in the previous round - to limit the damage to a 2-1 defeat on the night and set up an all-Spanish final against Real - the first time in the 45-year history of the competition that the final will be contested by two teams from the same country.

A 5-3 scoreline over the two legs in no way flattered a team that have been the revelation of this season's competition with their winning blend of resolute defence and lightning counter-attacks.

Real Madrid may start the final as favourites given their greater European pedigree - they will be chasing an eighth European Cup win, Valencia their first - but Vicente del Bosque's side cannot afford to under estimate a Valencia team that is running in to such fantastic form.

"The whole team were absolutely perfect," said defensive stalwart Miroslav Djukic, who was a mighty presence in the Valencia backline in Tuesday's game.

"We stopped Barcelona playing their game and that was

the key to winning through.

"This is a dream come true for us."

The dream for Valencia has been founded on the no-nonsense approach of their coach Hector Cuper, who has instilled in his players a tremendous work ethic, plus the belief that they are the equal of any side in Europe.

"We've suffered to get here," said Cuper, whose job was under threat earlier in the season after a poor start to the domestic season.

So hard to achieve this. We lost the second leg because we didn't take our chances but I have to congratulate the whole team for

what they've done."

The one sour note for Valencia was the yellow card given to defender Amadeo Carboni, who will be suspended for the final.

"It's a real shame," said his midfield colleague Francisco Farinos. "He's been fantastic for us and I'd give everything to see him play the final."

For Cuper he has the chance to boost his reputation even further. Last season he guided unfashionable Real Mallorca to the European Cup Winners Cup final where they were far from disgraced in losing to Lazio.

On May 24, he could make up for that disappointment by guiding his team to the most prestigious prize in club soccer.



Jubilant Valencia booters celebrating their 5-3 aggregate victory over Barcelona in their semi final second leg of the European Champions League at Barcelona on May 10. —AFP photo

## Van Gaal puts up a bold face

BARCELONA, May 11: Under-pressure Barcelona coach Louis van Gaal received the white-handkerchief treatment from fans again on Wednesday during his side's Champions League semi-final exit to Valencia on a 5-3 aggregate, reports Reuters.

The traditional show of displeasure from the Nou Camp supporters was followed by chants of "Van Gaal out!" and calls for the return of former coach Johan Cruyff as Barcelona's 2-1 win in the second leg fell well short of taking them through to a final after their 4-1 defeat at Mestalla last week.

but van Gaal insisted he would not consider quitting and defended his record in his three years in charge at the club.

"It's a tough blow for the fans, the players and the coaches," van Gaal admitted.

"But our achievement in reaching the semi-finals is a positive one."

"If you look at the statistics of the club in a hundred years, and my record over three seasons, you can see that we've done well."

"We won three titles in the last year, the league championship last season and we still have a chance of the league this year."

"A decision to quit should not be taken after a bad result but on the basis of the way of a whole season. I'm not thinking about quitting."

Van Gaal lamented his side's inability to recapture their sparkling form of the opening group stages in the competition as they fell to a Valencia team just finding top gear.

"I said earlier this season, after 5-0 victories in the Champions League, that playing well now is all very well but the important thing is to play well in May. We weren't able to do that, despite all our efforts."

"Form depends on many factors and it just wasn't there for us."

## Serie A controversy

### Juve for a play-off

MILAN, May 11(Reuters/Internet): A top Juventus official said he would prefer the Serie A title race to be decided by a play-off in the light of the controversy surrounding Juventus's 1-0 win over Parma on Sunday.

Referee Massimo De Santis disallowed a late header from Parma's Fabio Cannavaro prompting a bitter row between Lazio and Juventus.

Had the goal stood, Lazio, who won 3-2 at Bologna, would have gone into the final game of the season on Sunday level on points with Juventus, rather than two points behind.

Juventus can now claim the title if they win at Perugia, regardless of how Lazio fare in their game at home to Reggina.

Club secretary Antonio Giraudo said that in view of the controversy a play-off would be a preferable way of ending the season.

"Our fans have nothing to be ashamed of, whatever some dull-heads may think. They are proud of their team. As far as the championship is concerned, I would prefer a play-off. This way all the insinuations would go away and we can find out who is the better team."

The only way that the title race could be decided by a play-off would be if Lazio, as expected, defeat Reggina at home, while Juventus only draw at Perugia. The teams would then finish level on points and go into a two-legged play-off.

Giraudo, in an interview with the daily La Repubblica, dismissed allegations that Juventus had influenced the referee.

"These accusations, which have no proof attached to them and which continue to be hurled at the club, are intolerable. Some of the statements and remarks have been defamatory and have merited legal action. An episode favouring Juventus is always seen as suspect in some form or another when it concerns other teams it is simply put down to an error."

## Baggio Serie B bound?

MILAN, May 11(Reuters/Internet): Inter Milan striker Roberto Baggio has said that he could play for Napoli next season.

The former Juventus and Italy forward is almost certain to leave Inter at the end of this season when his contract at the San Siro runs out.

Italian media have reported that Napoli, currently fourth in Serie B and with a strong chance of promotion to the top flight, are keen to sign Baggio.

"The idea of playing at Napoli is very interesting, yes I like the idea but nothing is decided yet," Baggio told the daily La Gazzetta dello Sport. "I will decide where I am going to play next season within the next fortnight."

Baggio is reported to have had offers from Japan and Australia and has also been linked with a move to Vicenza where he began his career.

The 33-year-old Baggio has seen his opportunities limited at Inter this season and his relationship with coach Marcello Lippi has been strained.

Napoli, Italian champions in 1987 and 1990, were relegated from Serie A at the end of the 1997-98 season but a recent takeover of the club has apparently eased their long-running financial problems.

# Spain never had it so good

PARIS, May 11: The European Champions League final between Real Madrid and Valencia, the first between two clubs of the same nation, is proof of the high standard of Spanish football, reports AFP.

Valencia's 2-1 defeat against Barcelona on Wednesday night, but a 3-2 aggregate victory, earned Hector Cuper's side a May 24 final defeat against the meringues, who won by the same aggregate over Bayern Munich on Tuesday.

Barcelona coach Louis van Gaal said there were many reasons for Spanish success.

Firstly the Bosman ruling in December 1995, which made players free agents at the end of their contracts, gave increased power to rich clubs who could afford to pay high wages.

Plus the increased television money in Spain, particularly to Barcelona and Real Madrid, meant again they could attract better players.

Real has a budget of 18 billion pesetas (108.18 million dollars) and a debt estimated at between 25 and 40 billion pesetas selon les estimations.

Van Gaal said before their semi-final loss to Valencia: "Since the Bosman ruling, Spanish teams could recruit the best players in the world. This, together with the talent of many

home players, explains the high level of football now in the country."

The King of Spain has not paid off Real's debt, as a bizarre yet persistent rumour indicated, yet such wild stories are not beyond the realms of possibility.

Barcelona and Real Madrid are veritable social institutions and their success, vital in Catalonia and around the capital city, is seen as a question of regional pride.

Clubs have, in the past, benefited from generous tax advantages from the authorities, who have now clamped down and control the financial affairs of 16 clubs, including Valencia and Real, following Atletico Madrid's going into receivership at the end of December last year.

In Spain, football has blanket media coverage. Sporting daily Marca is the best-selling of all Spanish daily newspapers of any category. A new coach at Real Madrid is treated with the same media coverage as a ministerial appointment by the government.

Barcelona and Real are covered by literally dozens of journalists and a third of television news is football-related.

During this media bombardment, the players, who benefit financially yet suffer from relentless pressure, have

their lives continually under the microscope.

That scrutiny will continue for the final in two weeks time. Valencia, who had garnered just one point after their first five Spanish league matches, had a real moment of glory at the Nou Camp stadium.

The fanatical Barcelona fans, who waved white handkerchiefs long before the end signalling their desire for autocratic Dutch coach Louis van Gaal to leave, went berserk with club president Josep Nunez having to be escorted from the director's box while vice-president Joan Gaspart was screamed at and pushed.

Valencia, who came through the Champions League qualifying round last August, wrapped up the tie when playmaking captain Gaizka Mendieta shot home brilliantly in the 70th minute to ensure a second successive European final for their Argentine coach Cuper following Real Mallorca's Cup Winners Cup final appearance last season.

On Tuesday in the other semi-final, Nicolas Anelka's 32nd minute goal equalized Carsten Jancker's early effort at the Olympiastadion. Giovane Elbe's goal for Bayern was too little too late despite a 2-1 win.

Madrid, who have won seven of 10 European Cup finals, are now looking to make it eight out of 11 at the Stade de France.

## Italian federation calls up referee

# Bitterness all around

MILAN, May 11: A referee who controversially disallowed a late goal has been called before officials of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) as a row over his decision threatens to overshadow the end of the Serie A season, reports Reuters.

Massimo De Santis's decision to rule out a late header from Parma's Fabio Cannavaro in Sunday's match against Juventus has prompted a bitter war of words between Lazio and Juve.

If the goal had been allowed Juventus would have almost certainly been held to a 1-1 draw and Juve and Lazio would have been tied on points with one championship match to play.

Juve now have a two-point advantage heading into this Sunday's final round of matches.

De Santis, a FIFA-listed referee, broke an Italian Referees' Association code by explaining his decision to a reporter from Italian news agency ANSA immediately after the match in Turin.

He said he had spotted Parma players pushing in the penalty area as Cannavaro rose to head home Marco Amoroso's corner. Television replays showed little out of the ordinary.

The decisions to rule out Cannavaro's header has provoked uproar with Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti claiming Serie A is "losing credibility" and calling for the introduction of professional referees.

Gianni Petrucci, president of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), has called a meeting for May 16 with FIGC president Luciano Nizzola and the president of the Italian Football League Franco Carraro to discuss this season's championship.

Refereeing issues are certain to be on the agenda.

But while steps might be taken to reform the refereeing system they will be of little comfort to Lazio players who clearly feel they are victims of an unjust decision.

"That decision has compromised the credibility of the entire Italian championship," Lazio's experienced goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani said.

"To lose a championship like this is annoying. It is clear by now that there isn't any more hope. Reggina and Perugia have little to play for - the championship is finished."

"All that is left is anger and bitterness that we have lost a championship we could have played right until a play-off. I don't feel it is a moral victory for us, it is a defeat full of anger."

Juventus coach Carlo Ancelotti said the debate has taken the shine off his team's achievements.

"It saddens me to see all the hard work that I and the players have put into this season sullied by these arguments and

## Leboeuf heading home

LYON, France, May 11: World Cup-winning French international defender Franck Leboeuf is set to switch from Chelsea to French top flight outfit Lyon, informed sources said here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Leboeuf, who joined Chelsea from Strasbourg in 1996, has been in contact with Lyon for several weeks and the sources said he had already bought an apartment nearly two months ago.

The 32-year-old, originally from the southern city of Toulon, played for Laval and then moved on to Strasbourg.

His finest moment came at France 98 when he played in the side which beat Brazil 3-0 in the final in place of the suspended Laurent Blanc.

## Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

Ref: DACPL/26/99-2000/

Dated: 8-5-2000

## Tender Notice No 32/99-2000

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Biman Bangladesh Airlines from interested manufacturers/distributors/ suppliers for the supply of the items mentioned below as per details/specifications mentioned in the schedule:

1. PAPER TOWEL (2 PLY) (100 PCS)	48,00,000 EA
EACH PACKET WHITE	
SIZE: LENGTH 31 to 33 CM	
BREADTH 23 to 25 CM	

Tender schedule mentioning full details/specifications of items, terms and conditions will be available from the Manager (Cash & Banking), Head Office "BALAKA" & Accounts Officer (Cash Payment Unit), Admin Building, ZIA, Dhaka of Biman Finance Directorate and Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st 12th storied Govt Office Building), 1st Floor, Room No 206, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka on payment of Tk 500/- (Five hundred) only per set (per group) non-refundable by applying own letter head pad during any working day up to 30-5-2000.

Sealed tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept in Local Purchase Section, Stores & Purchase Directorate, Admin. Building, ZIA, Dhaka, Biman Press Building, Farmgate, Tejgaon, Dhaka and Office of the Additional and Divisional Commissioner (General), Room No 205, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka latest by 1130 hours (BST) on 31-5-2000 and will be opened on the same day at 1400 hours at the premises of Stores & Purchase Directorate, Admin Building, ZIA, Dhaka in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Biman Management reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity of the items and can accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

By General Manager (Purchase) Stores & Purchase Directorate.

GD-429

## Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

## Tender Notice

Tenders in sealed cover are hereby invited for the work of fabrication & installation of MS steel grill in Cargo Village at Zia International Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka from 1st class enlisted contractors of Govt/Semi Govt/Autonomous bodies who have successfully completed civil construction work for minimum value of Tk. 10 (ten) lac in a single work order by supplying own materials.

Tender document will be available from the Cash & Banking Section of Bangladesh Biman "Balaka Bhaban" Zia International Airport, Dhaka on cash payment of Tk 500/- (five hundred) only (non-refundable) per set on all working days up to 24-05-2000.

The tenderers shall have to deposit the following attested documents with tender (1) Firm's enlistment as 1st class contractor (2) Work order of minimum value of Tk. 10 (ten) lac for civil construction work along with satisfactory completion certificate (3) Valid Trade Licence (4) Certificate must be submitted from the competent authority stating that current Income Tax return has been submitted quoting GIR/TIN No. (5) VAT registration certificate (6) Bank solvency certification (all originals are to be produced on demand). Without documents no tender will be entertained.

Tenderers shall have to deposit earnest money @2.5% (two point five per cent) of the total quoted amount in favour of Bangladesh Biman Corporation in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order with the tender without which tender will not be entertained.

The tender will be received in the office of the General Manager (P&W), 3rd floor, Balaka Bhaban, Kurmitola, Dhaka up to 1400 hours on 25-05-2000 and will be opened on the same day at 1430 hours in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Biman Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

GD-430

General Manager (P&W)