

Fans clash at Copenhagen Airport

COPENHAGEN, May 19: Turkish and English football fans scuffled Thursday at Copenhagen Airport but no one was hurt and no arrests were made, airport police said, reports AFP.

The fighting took place in a departure lounge as some 2,000 supporters from the two sides were waiting to leave Denmark a day after the UEFA Cup final here which was marred by bloody clashes between English and Turkish fans.

Airport police arrived quickly on the scene and separated the two sides, a spokesman said. The Danish news agency Ritzau reported however that the latest clashes included bottles being thrown in the international terminal.

Ritzau said there was a large fight in the main departure hall and several smaller brawls in a transit area of the airport.

Police downplayed the incidents.

"There was some shouting, some pushing, but it's over now," airport police spokesman Udo Krogh said.

The latest incident came as Copenhagen remained stunned after the hooligan violence which swept the city in the build-up to the UEFA Cup final between Turkish club Galatasaray and England's Arsenal.

The violence between the Turkish and English supporters - which left five people seriously injured and dozens of others with minor injuries - left the people and politicians of the Danish capital shocked and afraid.

In Turkey Thursday, nationwide celebrations of Galatasaray's UEFA Cup victory, Turkey's first triumph in a European soccer tournament, were marred by brawls and gunfire which left two dead and 22 injured.

One of the victims there was stabbed while another death - that of a one-year-old girl - and most of the injuries resulted from people being hit by stray bullets as Turks practised their notorious tradition of celebration by firing gunshots into the air.

Danes have seen nothing like it

COPENHAGEN, May 19: Copenhagen awoke stunned on Thursday after the hooligan violence which swept the city in the build-up to the UEFA Cup final between Turkish club Galatasaray and England's Arsenal, reports AFP.

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Local media headlines spoke of shock and revulsion, reflecting local sentiment. Few Danes have ever experienced violent scenes like those of the past two days.

Copenhagen's mayor, Jens Kramer Mikkelsen, said the violence outside the Town Hall - which turned into the main battleground for the hooligans - made him "too scared to go outside," adding that Copenhagen was unrecognisable from the worst parts of the violence.

The police were outnumbered, and were not able to control the groups of both Turkish and English hooligans who were running riot in the city. The lack of police co-ordination gave rise to fierce criticism from Danish officials and the English media.

President of the Danish Christian Party, Jann Sjursen, demanded the Minister for Justice, Frank Jensen - who is in charge of police affairs - give an explanation for the "shortage of police", adding "perhaps the police were not used to dealing with this level of hooliganism."

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Physically, the team are in good shape. But mentally they're even stronger. Another great display just three or four days after winning the league is something that makes me proud of them."

Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti said: "It's been a truly wonderful week, I have to say. Winning two trophies in the space of a few days - you have to pay tribute to the team."

"We couldn't have a police officer for every hooligan," said Copenhagen's Police spokesman Flemming Steen Munch.

"When people decide to fight like that, it is practically impossible to stop them, unless we had turned the city into a fortress," he added.

Suffering at the hands of the hooligans, and scolded by their critics, the police drafted in a total of 2,500 police officers - a quarter of the country's forces - for the Wednesday evening fixture.

The Danes are now left wondering if it is worth staging such a high-profile match again.

The Danes have to face the facts that if they want to host events like that, they have to be prepared, no matter how unpleasant it is, for scenes like they have experienced over the past two days," said the De Berlingke Tidende, a local right-wing paper, in an editorial.

The Tourist Council for Copenhagen, which was rubbing its hands with excitement about the prospect of a major European final being hosted in their city, now say the city's image has been severely tainted.

UEFA champions receive Medal of Honour

ISTANBUL, May 19: Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer on Friday bestowed the Medal of Honour on Galatasaray club chairman Faruk Suren in an official ceremony at the Ankara Youth Fair, reports AFP.

The Galatasaray team on Wednesday won the UEFA Cup final against English side Arsenal at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen - the first European title victory for a Turkish side.



Inter Milan's Argentine international Javier Zanetti (L) intercepting countryman Diego Simeone of Lazio during their Italian Cup final second leg at Milan on May 18.

— AFP photo

Italian Cup

Another feather in Lazio's cap

MILAN, May 19: Serie A champions Lazio pulled off a historic Double here on Thursday night, when they held Inter Milan to a tense 0-0 draw at San Siro to lift the Italian Cup, reports AFP.

Just four days after winning their second ever league title, Lazio collected their third Italian Cup after a 2-1 aggregate victory secured in the first leg at the Rome last month.

They became only the fourth club in Italian soccer history to do the Double after Juventus, Torino and Napoli.

Lazio have finished the sea-

son just as they started it - by

winning a trophy. They kicked

off last summer by defeating

European champions Manchester United 1-0 in the Euro-

pean Super Cup.

Thursday's triumph was also sweet revenge for the Rome club after Inter beat them 3-0 in the 1998 UEFA Cup final in Paris.

Inter had the best of the first-half but Lazio dominated the second, hitting the wood-work soon after the re-start and creating a series of chances which brought out the best of Inter's goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi.

The hosts' best opportunity came in injury-time when Uruguayan substitute Alvaro Recoba curled a shot past the Lazio keeper Marco Ballotta only to see his effort hit the far post and bounce out.

Lazio's Sven Goran Eriksson said: "It's been a truly wonderful week, I have to say. Winning two trophies in the space of a few days - you have to pay tribute to the team."

"I didn't think we could put on a performance like this, because on Sunday we were celebrating and our training sessions were a bit slow but they showed great character."

Physically, the team are in good shape. But mentally they're even stronger. Another great display just three or four days after winning the league is something that makes me proud of them."

Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti said: "It was a great demonstration of maturity. Lazio are a mature team made of champions, who are always capable of great concentration."

"Few teams have won the league and the Italian Cup," he said. "Lazio have managed it."

Recoba's last-ditch effort was scant reward for his team after Inter made a bright start and created their first chance after eight minutes.

Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf squared the ball in the area for Roberto Baggio, who feinted before unleashing a close range shot which was deftly caught by Ballotta.

Lazio were unlucky just a minute after the re-start when Juan Sebastián Verón crashed a free-kick against the left-hand post with Peruzzi left helpless.

Baggio conjured up a chance for Luigi Di Biagio minutes later, only for the midfielder to send his drive from outside the area wide of the post, while See-

edorf squared the ball in the area for Roberto Baggio, who feinted before unleashing a close range shot which was deftly caught by Ballotta.

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Inter coach Marcello Lippi soon replaced Chilean Ivan Zamorano with Christian Vieri, who set a world record transfer fee of nearly 50 million dollars last summer when

Inter replied with more shots from outside the area - Di Biagio, Baggio and Seedorf all trying their luck.

Ironically, the only one to

keep a booming effort on target - forcing a two-fisted save from Ballotta - was Lazio striker Si-

moni Inzaghi as he made a haz-

ardous interception on Inter's

French star Laurent Blanc.

And it was Recoba who

nearly broke the deadlock in

stoppage time, ghosting onto a

through-ball on the right and

planting his shot beyond the

advancing Ballotta - but onto

the post.

Lazio held on for a deserved

draw - and their second Italian

Cup in the space of three years -

on a night which also saw their

striker Roberto Mancini turn

out for the last game of a 19-

year playing career.

played in the 1990 World Cup

final defeat by Germany, rose for a glancing near-post header.

Ballotta matched the feat

though at the other end in the

82nd minute, dropping like a

stone to stop Recoba's low shot

from inside the area.

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