

# Star Sport

DHAKA, MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-131

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
June 23, 2000 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1 Who is the number one  
women tennis player at the  
moment?

Hings Pierce V Williams

2 Who won the European  
Champions' League?

M United Real Madrid Lazio

3 Who won the UEFA Cup?

Valencia Galatasaray Fiorentina

4 Who lifted national schools  
cricket title?

St Joseph M Singh Zila Ctg Khastagor

5 Who is the coach of Bangladesh  
football team?

Harrison Van Gaal Shahr

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

POWERED WITH  
EN-VITS  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

Sukhdev Singh

Dhindsa

(Indian Sports Minister)

"I want all the players,  
including Indian team coach  
Kapil Dev, to get their names  
cleared before returning to the  
side."

Mamun

moving

to Usha

Sports Reporter

Former national captain  
Mamun Rashid is set to move  
from Abahani Krira Chakra to  
Usha Krira Chakra under a mu-  
tual understanding between the  
two formidable forces in Dhaka  
hockey.

This was confirmed by Aba-  
hani's Zahidur Rahman  
Pushkin, a joint-secretary of  
Bangladesh Hockey Federation  
who is also the hockey secre-  
tary of Abahani, said that they  
have already taken the decision  
to release Mamun.

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Sinha and finally we have  
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Action from yesterday's Ragib Ali Club Cup hockey tournament encounter between Victoria Sporting Club and Ajax SC at the Moulana Bhasani National Stadium. — Star photo

## England get their act together

CHARLEROI, Belgium, June 18: Germany's dominance over England in soccer is over after 34 years and so could be their reign as European champions, reports AP.

Alan Shearer hadn't scored for England in his last seven games but on Saturday he more than made up for it by heading in the only goal in a 1-0 victory that revived England's hopes of reaching the quarterfinals of the European Championship.

Germany could be making its earliest exit since 1984 from the competition it has won a record three times.

The victory gives England three points from two games, three behind Group A winners Portugal. The Germans, who tied with Romania, have only one point. To survive, they must beat the Portuguese and hope for Romania to beat England.

The Germans had knocked the English out of the 1970 and 1990 World Cups and the 1996

Euros either in the quarters or the semis and twice after penalty shootouts.

Shearer was born in 1970, four years after England's last previous victory over Germany. His goal came as a result of a rare mistake by the German defence, which had played much better than in their opening 1-1 draw with Romania.

The Germans had done a good job of preventing David Beckham from sending in his feared crosses into the penalty area.

But the Germans lost concentration in the 53rd minute. Beckham fired in a well-weighted free kick that flashed past Michael Owen and Paul Scholes and their two markers.

Shearer, left unmarked by Markus Babel wide of the far post, planted a powerful header past the unprotected goalkeeper Oliver Kahn to spark celebrations among the English fans.

"He's answered his critics again. The fans love him but the critics don't. I just think he's the best at what he does and he's

done it again tonight," Keegan said of Shearer.

Without their captain Oliver Bierhoff, who is lost for the championship with a calf injury suffered in practice, the Germans could not finish the many opportunities they created.

They had three golden chances after Shearer's goal. Carsten Jancker neatly collected a cross from the right, and turned to fire a close range shot just too high from a tight angle.

Then Mehmet Scholl took a deep pass and broke clear of the defense only for his shot to beat David Seaman but roll just past the far post.

But the Germans continued to create chances and, after Seaman had blocked a shot from Ulf Kirsten with his feet, the ball rolled clear to Jancker who shot wide from only 10 meters out.

The Germans will have their chance to take revenge when the two teams meet October 7 at Wembley in a qualifying match for the 2002 World Cup.



NO GOAL TASTES SWEETER: Alan Shearer (L), the veteran England striker is airborne while his header finds the back of the German net at Charleroi on June 17. — AFP photo

## Minister tells Azhar off

NEW DELHI, June 18: Union Minister of State for Sports Shah Nawaz Hussain today lashed out at Mohammad Azharuddin accusing him of attempting to communalise the match-fixing issue, reports PTI.

The minister was commenting on Azharuddin's allegation that he was being framed because he belonged to the minority community.

"This is highly unfortunate and rubbish," Hussain told, adding when the entire nation loved him as a cricketer and worshipped him as a hero then he should not have raised the issue. "Now that his name is figuring on the wrong list he is coming out with such mean talk."

Describing the allegation as an attempt to communalise the match-fixing issue, he said it was wrong to say that the cricketer was being victimised because he belonged to the minority community.

"Azharuddin should not forget that the sports ministry is headed by S S Dhindsa who belongs to the minority commu-

nity. I too am a Muslim," he said, assuring the player that there would never be any discrimination against him.

He said Azharuddin should face the allegations boldly instead of levelling wild charges. He should present the facts before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which was probing the scandal very efficiently.

Hussain dismissed suggestions that Dhindsa's advice to all cricketers figuring in match-fixing charges to keep out of the game till their names were cleared could amount to the government's interference in the affairs of sports bodies.

"The government has no intention to interfere... Its only objective is to ensure that the lost glory of cricket is restored as soon as possible," he said.

He said Dhindsa had given the advice as players facing charges would not be able to concentrate on the game and should remain out of field till they were cleared.

Meanwhile, Azharuddin yesterday said he had no immediate plans to go to New Delhi to depose before the authorities on the allegations of match-fixing against him.

"I have not received any summons from CBI nor do I have any immediate plans to go to Delhi," Azhar said in Hyderabad.

The former India captain, who largely remained incommunicado throughout the day, was evasive when asked about the developments in the wake of the sensational testimony by disgraced South African captain Hansie Cronje that Azhar had introduced him to Delhi-based bookmaker Mukesh Gupta.

"I have nothing more to add to whatever I have said about the charges and I do not want to comment any further," he said.

He refused to field any further questions on the issue.

## Victoria edge out Ajax

Sports Reporter

Victoria Sporting Club moved into the next round of the Kohinoor Detergent Gold Cup hockey tournament with a 7-6 tie-break win over Ajax Sporting Club in the inaugural match at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The opening match of the season's curtain-raiser was locked 2-2 in the regulation 70 minutes.

Defender Rahman and forward Shah Alam scored one goal each for Victoria while Hasan and Shahidullah Khokon netted for Ajax.

Victoria will meet either Mariner Youngs Club or Dhaka Wanderers on June 21. The winners that clash will book a berth in the 'Super Four'.

A total of 14 Premier and First Division clubs, split into four groups, are taking part in the knockout round. The four group champions will play in the final four league.

Top two finishers will meet in the July 3 final.

## BCB names final 14

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced the final 14 for the inaugural Asia Cricket Council under-15 cricket tournament to be held in Kuala Lumpur from June 30 to July 9.

A total of 46 boys took part in the month-long primary camp under the supervision of coach Alok Chakrabarty. The list was reduced to 26 last Thursday.

Apart from the final fourteen, the Board also named four players as reserves.

Seven teams—Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Thailand and hosts Malaysia—will take part in the tournament which will be held on robin league basis. Top two finishers will face each other in the July 9 final.

Bangladesh take on India in their opening match at the Royal Selangor Club on July 1. They will face Sri Lanka in the next match on July 2 at the STC ground. Bangladesh play Pakistan at the Kilat Club ground on July 4 while the games against Hong Kong and Thailand will be held at the Club Aman ground on July 5 and 6.

They wrap up their preliminary encounters against Malaysia on July 8 also at the Club Aman ground.

The cricketers have been asked to be present at the BCB office today at 3 pm with their photographs and sports gears.

The team is expected to fly to Malaysia on June 27.

## Mehrab off to Bangalore

Sports Reporter

Injured national opener Mehrab Hossain left the city for Bangalore yesterday to undergo a knee operation in his right leg.

Mehrab suffered meniscus injury while fielding for Abahani against Mohammedan in a Premier Division Super League match on April 23.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has granted Taka 20 lakh while the Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) provided Taka 20,000 for his treatment.

The young right-hander, who scored the lone ODI century for Bangladesh, underwent minor surgery under the supervision of Professor Ruhul Haque at a local clinic on June 7.

Professor Haque suggested Mehrab travel to either India or Singapore for his continued rehabilitation.

Although Mehrab initially decided to go to Singapore, he finally opted for the south Indian city of Bangalore.

Mehrab will be treated by Dr. Chandi, a noted orthopedic surgeon in Bangalore.

## U-16 booters fly to India

Sports Reporter

A 25-member Bangladesh youth team flew to Calcutta yesterday to take part in the 9th Asian Youth (U-16) Football Championship Group Four qualifiers.

The four-nation meet also involving India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, will be held in the Indian steel city of Jamshedpur from June 20 to 27.

The top finisher of the qualifying round, which will be held on robin league basis, will book a berth in the final round scheduled to be held in Vietnam next November.

Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka in their opening match on June 21. They will face Pakistan on June 24 before meeting the home side on June 27.

## Windies end losing streak

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 18: It was as familiar as your favourite movie only rather less enjoyable for the home spectators as England collapsed yet again in the face of the West Indies bowlers at a sun-drenched Edgbaston on Saturday. The tourists bowled out England for 125 to win by an innings and 93 runs with two days to spare and ended a run of 10 consecutive overseas Test defeats, reports AFP.

Appropriately, West Indies captain Jimmy Adams, whose 98 had put his team in a position of total dominance, ended the match, his occasional left-arm spin cleaning bowling last man Ed Giddins for nought leaving Darren Gough 23 not out.

England at least kept the match going for longer than in the corresponding Test here five years ago when the West Indies finished the game off at 12.18 (11.18 GMT) on the third day to win by an innings and 64 runs.

But that was precious little consolation for England captain Nasser Hussain.

Starting the day's final session at 71 for five, 147 runs behind West Indies first innings 397, England were soon reduced to 78 for six. Andrew Flintoff was undone by one that kept low from Reon King.

Robert Croft was next out brilliantly caught left-handed by a diving Wavell Hinds at short leg for one. This gave King his third wicket in seven overs, England 63 for seven.

Hinds was in the action again taking a juggling catch in the same position off Franklyn Rose to dismiss Andrew Caddick for four, England 94 for eight.

And another fine take saw Nick Knight's vigil end after 'golden-arm' Adams brought himself on and took a wicket in his first over.

It was that sort of day for England. The fact that Knight's 34 and his first innings 26 were England's best scores said much about their batting.

England, facing a deficit of 218, badly needed a solid start. Instead they lost their first four wickets for 24.

Mark Ramprakash started the slide, lbw for a three-ball duck to Courtney Walsh, England nought for one.

Hussain was dropped twice on his way to eight. But the out of form batsman's luck ran out when he edged a full-length ball from Walsh straight to wicket-keeper Ridley Jacobs.

Then 14 for two became 14 for three when Graeme Hick completed a pair. The batsman was convinced he hadn't got any outside edge on a Walsh ball caught by Jacobs but umpire Venkataraghavan was in no doubt.

The ageless Walsh, 37, was in complete control as brilliant opening spell figures of 10-7-10-3 proved.

Franklyn Rose also claimed a wicket. Alec Stewart playing on for eight as he tried to cut.

Michael Atherton and Knight staged a minor recovery before the former England captain played on to King for 19 after two hours of resistance.

Earlier Adams just fell short of a century, last man out shortly before lunch.

With No.11 Walsh keeping his end going left-hander Adams thrashed a ball from Gough through the offside.

But Flintoff diving forward at cover took a startling one-handed catch, although replays suggested the ball may have dropped fractionally short.

It left Gough with figures of five for 109, the first time he had reached that landmark in an innings against the West Indies.

Adams faced 299 balls, a splendid effort of concentration, that featured nine fours. Walsh was unbeaten on three, setting a new Test record of 56 not outs.

Resuming on 336 for seven, the West Indies wasted no time setting about the England attack.

Rose carried on in the aggressive style that had served him so well on Friday, his best shot of the morning a magnificent pull for four off Gough.

The number nine was two runs short of a well-deserved fifty when he misjudged a Gough full toss and was lbw. But he could reflect on a 48 that had taken just 54 balls and featured seven well-struck fours.

Adams looked after the strike in expert fashion. See page 15



AGELESS WONDER: West Indies paceman Courtney Walsh exults in familiar fashion after dismissing England opener Mark Ramprakash for a duck on the third day of the Edgbaston Test on June 17. — AFP photo

## PREVIEW

## Italy v Sweden: Total contrast in mindset

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands, June 18: Italy take on Sweden here on Monday in Group B match at Euro 2000 which is utterly meaningless to the former, but a matter of life and death for the latter, reports AFP.

The contrasts couldn't be sharper with Dino Zoff's men being the first team to qualify for the quarter-finals after beating Turkey and Belgium, and the Swedes arriving with one point, a wing and a prayer.

Italy are already certain to finish top of Group B, while the

Swedes can only finish second on goal average - by securing a big win here at the Philips Stadion while Turkey score the narrowest of victories over Belgium.

To the disappointment of the Turkish camp, Zoff is expected to rest several of his key players and give the reserves a chance to show themselves.

The most likely change is that Alessandro Del Piero will start for the first time at Euro 2000 - before being replaced by first-choice Francesco Totti midway through the second-half, a role reversal of the tournament so far.

Striker Filippo Inzaghi, who missed a string of chances in both matches - but converted the match-winning penalty against Turkey, could well make way for Vincenzo Montella or AS Roma teammate Marco Delvecchio.

While all their teammates were under the shower, Zoff kept Del Piero and Montella behind for an extra half-hour behind practice after Friday evening's training session, watching them strike a ball being crossed from either flank.

A re-shuffle is also expected in midfield where Luigi Di Biagio, Italy's best middleman at France 98, was reported fully fit and AC Milan's Massimo Ambrosini is hoping his Euro 2000 will be more than the flag-end of Italy's win over Belgium.

Antonio Conte and Gianluca Zambrotta will almost certainly be rested, both have been picked up a single yellow card - which will be wiped from the records if they don't pick up another one before the quarter-finals.

Di Biagio or Ambrosini could replace Conte, while Angelo Di Livio will almost certainly take over for Zambrotta.

Italy, who beat Sweden 1-0 with a Del Piero penalty in a friendly last February, will want to avoid defeat, if only in the interests of team morale. But they will also want to avoid exhaustion or serious injury.

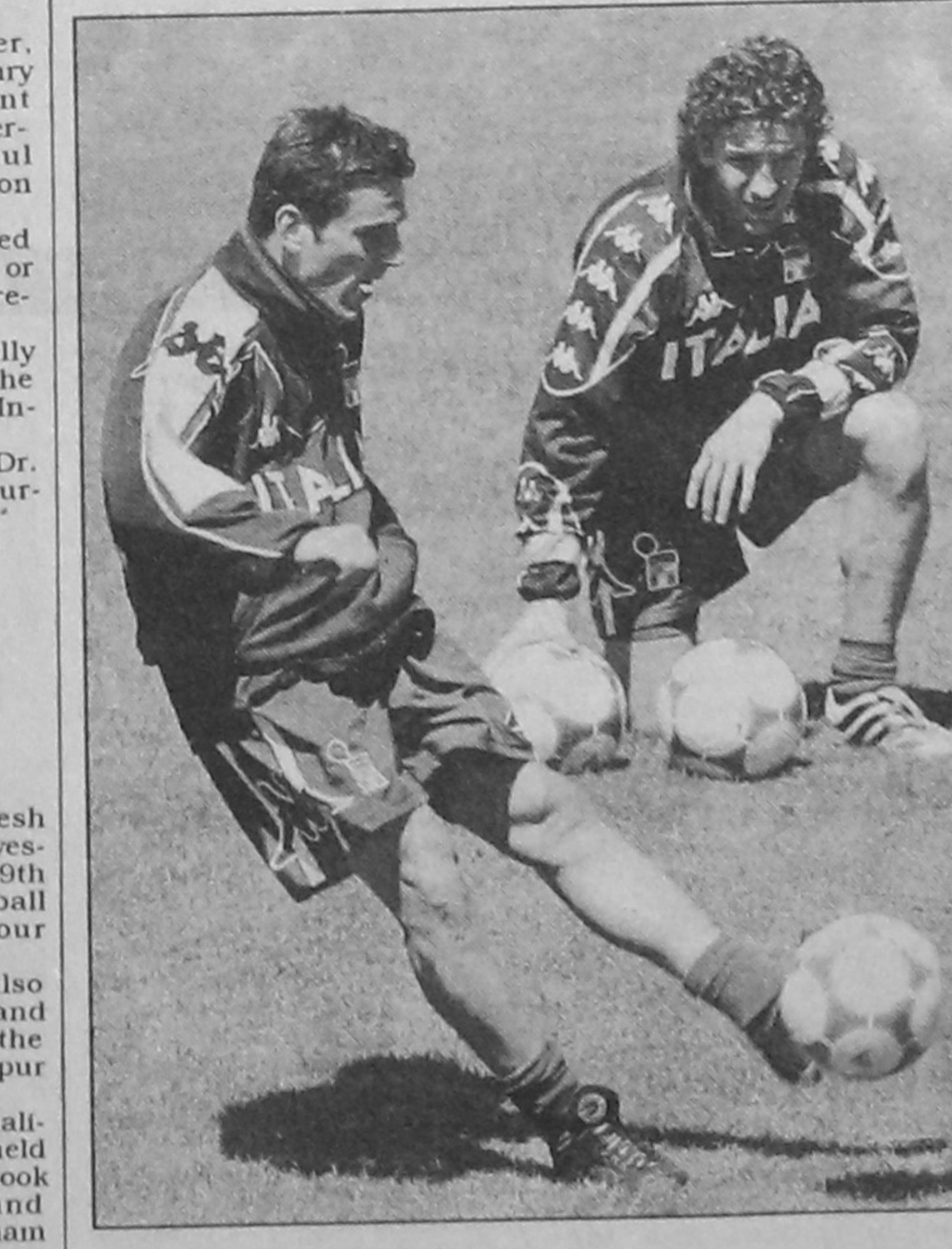
New midfield star Stefano Fiore, a goalscorer against Belgium, said: "Whatever the lineup is, we don't want to put on a bad performance."

"And then, it's only right and fair from a sporting point of view towards Turkey and Belgium if we make this a real match."

Even though the level of tension may not be that of the other games.

Totti said: "We'll try to play our game like we've played the other two. We'll be walking out determined and trying to win again, if possible. There's still a great desire to show just how good this squad is."

That said, Sweden's desire to win will probably be greater. They have little choice but to attack and hope that Bologna's Kennet Andersson can use five years' experience of the Serie A against the Italians.



Vincenzo Montella (L) kicks the ball while superstar Alessandro del Piero watches during a practice session of the Italian Euro 2000 squad at their base in Geel on June 17. — AFP photo