

Strasbourg shocked by Nazi antics

STRASBOURG, France, Aug 22: Nazi swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti daubed on the walls of Strasbourg football ground have angered and shocked the local community, reports AFP.

The city's mayor Catherine Trautmann, a former Socialist Culture Minister, has lodged a formal complaint with police for "intentional damage by writing of a racist and anti-Semitic nature."

The butt of the insults was Strasbourg manager Claude LeRoy, who has been criticised by fans for the club's poor start to the French League season and has also come under fire from a hooligan element in the crowd for selecting black players.

Among the graffiti were swastikas and the words "LeRoy - filthy Jew" daubed near the main gate.

"These racist insults are intolerable," said deputy mayor Robert Hermann. "These actions are the work of a small minority and they have deeply shocked the real supporters, the majority of the population of Strasbourg and its politicians."

Without a point from their first four games, Strasbourg are well adrift at the bottom of the table and LeRoy's future is, at best, uncertain.

Div II chess

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Daba Ghar earned a sole lead in the Second Division Chess League with a 3.5-3.5 win over Anirban Daba School in the third round, played at the NSC chess room yesterday.

The win raised Dhaka Daba Ghar's points tally to 10.5.

Fighter Chess Club are in the second position with ten points. The fourth round will start at the same venue today at 3 pm.

Athletics course

BARISAL, Aug 22: A month long athletics training course for under-14 age group began at the Abdur Rab Sernabat Stadium of Barisal on August 13, reports BSS.

Abahani stay

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more easy option than Abahani, they appeared to have lost the match even before it started. They looked like a group of panicking deer with Abahani chasing them like a wounded tiger.

Abahani, who had a nightmarish encounter with Arambagh, went into the game with completely a different frame of mind and sent Badda on the defensive right from the word go.

The sky-blues were however denied of an 11th minute lead by Badda custodian Titumir, who fisted away a Zakir pile driver for corner. But Badda defence eventually collapsed in the 25th minute when Sento broke through an offside trap. The nimble forward galloped down the right flank before unleashing a powerful grounder past a stranded Titumir near post.

The goal apart, Abahani created as many as three clear chances in the first 45 minute but had to content with the slender lead as the strike duo of Don and Kanchan muffed up those sitters from advantageous position.

The only chance Badda got in the first half was in the 37th minute when Lajuk drove a sudden shot from outside the box, which was spectacularly parried off by reserve national custodian Biplob.

Abahani came up with more vigour after the lemon break but had to wait till the 68th minute for the cherished goal. Titu took a nice corner that travelled to an unmarked Sento, who intelligently lobbed the ball to a lurking Iqbal at the near post. Iqbal made no mistake in sending it home amidst thunderous applause from a strong band of Abahani supporters.

Abahani will now have to wait for the outcome of today's match between Mohammadan and Muktijoddha to know their opponents in the second semi-final, to be held on August 26.

TEAMS

Abahani KC: Biplob, Titu, Nazrul, Partho, Dulal, Zakir, Iqbal, Sento, Don, Pavel (Diplob) and Kanchan

Badda Jagorani: Titumir, Pavel, Lajuk, Shamin (Riad), Mathindul, Tanvir, Haider, Monwar, Asad (Karim), Walid and Bulbul (Isayed)

Referee: Ram Krishna Gosh

Premiership

Gunners gun Liverpool down



LONDON, Aug 22:

Arsenal beat Liverpool 2-0 here at Highbury on Monday but saw defender Patrick Vieira sent off for the second time in two English Premiership matches this season, reports AFP.

The city's mayor Catherine

Trautmann, a former Socialist Culture Minister, has lodged a formal complaint with police for "intentional damage by writing of a racist and anti-Semitic nature."

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ated the Arsenal midfielder who had to be held back from retaliating - but he was also cautioned for his reaction.

Vieira just could not control himself, chasing after Barmby with malicious intent after Carragher charged him off the ball again.

This time he missed but seconds later the volatile Frenchman slid in wildly on Hamann and, although TV replays suggested he had won the ball, he was sent off for the second time in three days.

It became 10 against nine when with 12 minutes left Pöll sent off Hamann for his second bookable offence - an innocuous show of Pires.

Liverpool boss Houllier shook his head in dismay on the touchline and Pöll suffered the abuse of the crowd who sang "You don't know what you're doing".

But the players should have been warned that the official was going to punish everything by the book - and the card.

As Liverpool pushed forward they left space at the back and Thierry Henry took his time before calmly placing the ball beyond Westerveld in the final minute.



Lauren (No 12), Arsenal's Cameroon international, scoring from a goal-mouth melee during a Premiership clash against Liverpool at Highbury on August 21.

— AFP photo

Hannemann struck a ferocious

Serious thinking time for Vieira



LONDON, Aug 22 (AFP): Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hopes Patrick Vieira will not turn his back on English football in total frustration after being sent off for the second time in three days.

But he admitted it was a possibility after the midfielder collected the sixth red card of his Arsenal career for a second bookable offence in the tempestuous 2-0 win over Liverpool on Monday night.

"Patrick is not an angel but maybe he feels too much is too much. There is always a danger nowadays that you can lose your best players to foreign knee."

"And if that is the case we lose a big player - not only us [Arsenal] but the English game in general. It would be very sad."

"He was very upset to be sent off again in the first game of the season and he knew he had to be

Casciarino's days numbered

PARIS, Aug 22: Veteran Irish striker Tony Casciarino's future at French Third Division club Red Star is in the balance as the style of play apparently does not suit the new coach's game plan, reports AFP.

"We don't have a system that suits Tony. A decision will be taken very rapidly," Red Star boss Michel Moulin said Tuesday.

Wenger said: "Time is the best healer for Patrick - better than my words."

And Vieira, 23, will have plenty of time to reflect on his future now, as he will be suspended for five matches.

The tabloid Daily Mirror certainly had no doubts that he would choose to go, headlining its Tuesday back page "I'M OFF", with a picture of Vieira tossing away his shirt as a token of his new coach's game plan, reports AFP.

"We don't have a system that suits Tony. A decision will be taken very rapidly," Red Star boss Michel Moulin said Tuesday.

The broadsheet Guardian

made the point that "Vieira has now been sent off four times in six seasons at Highbury; only Vinnie Jones, now retired, has a worse record."

Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp revealed that Vieira had already walked out of Highbury before the rest of the team got back to the dressing room.

"I know how he is feeling," Bergkamp said. It had happened again so quickly after Sunderland on Saturday and he felt bad enough then. Now he could be thinking that's it, it is all over."

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cool against Liverpool. He was. He just got up whenever he was fouled, he didn't talk to the referee and just got on with the game.

"But then he was booked twice for things that were never yellow cards. I thought he clearly went for the ball the second time but the referee showed another yellow card and that meant he had to go off."

"We think it was a mistake. Everybody makes mistakes and maybe we can hope the referee will see it on video and tell the FA he was wrong."

He added: "I find it amazing that everything is left in the hands of one man who, with all due respect, is not a professional. Players make mistakes, too, but we are often judged on them by video and so surely the same has got to apply to referees."

Wenger said: "People will accuse me of whingeing but I only say what I see. Of course, Patrick should keep his calm and it is very upsetting that some people are on the pitch who don't even try to play foot-ball."

"He is no angel, I know that, but he is very emotional because he is only a human being and I can understand that when you feel things are not right you feel a bit nervous."

"But I think that in life the best way is to face up to problems and I think Patrick is strong enough to do that."

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