

Brazil warming up well

SYDNEY, Sept 10: French-based striker Lucas came off the bench to grab a quickfire double as Brazil's Olympic football squad cruised to a 4-0 win over local club side Marconi in their final warmup game, reports AFP.

The forward, who plays for Rennes in the French league, had only been on the field for two minutes when he scored his first and Brazil's third in the 67th minute. A second strike ten minutes later completed the rout after first half goals from Ronaldinho and Geovanni.

After spending the weekend in the Olympic village here, the Brazilians, bidding to win the only major football title to have eluded them, are due to fly back to their base on the Gold Coast on Monday.

They kick off their Olympic campaign against Slovakia in Brisbane on Friday.

Anti-shark triathletes

SYDNEY, Sept 10 (AP): The South African triathlete stepped to the edge of the dock, pulled on his goggles and prepared to dive into Sydney Harbour for a warm-up swim before the official test run of the Olympic triathlon.

"Here comes the shark bait," Conrad Stoltz joked to a bunch of Olympic volunteers.

The triathlon course, which starts and finishes on the plaza in front of Sydney's landmark Opera House, got its first work-out on a sunny, warm Sunday morning.

And while many competitors have wondered what they'll encounter in the placid harbour, any sharks who wandered onto the course Sunday got quite a charge out of the event.

That's because the practice run also was the first official Olympic trial of the "sharkpod," which sends out low frequency electromagnetic shocks to repel sharks. The devices were strapped to five divers who escorted the triathletes throughout the harbour and will do the same during the Sydney Games.

Fair Princess quite fair

SYDNEY, Sept 10: A cruise ship to be used as a floating Olympic hotel was given a clean bill of health on Sunday after a Legionnaires' disease scare, reports Reuters.

Health officials said checks on the P&O liner Fair Princess, which arrived in Sydney harbour today with 1,100 passengers, had cleared away fears that passengers who fell ill may have come down with potentially fatal Legionnaires' disease.

Div I soccer

Agrani Bank defeated BRTC Sporting Club 4-3 in the tie-breaker in the National Bank Metropolis First Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

This was the third time a First Division game went into a shootout as the sides failed to any goals.

Agrani Bank collected two points and BRTC were awarded one point.

Premiership

Man United march on



LONDON, Sept 10: Paul Scholes netted twice on his return to the Manchester United line-up as the champions continued their free-scoring start to the season against Sunderland, reports AFP.

Scholes scored either side of a Teddy Sheringham effort at Old Trafford as United took their goals tally to 14 in five games and reclaimed their place at the top of the Premiership.

Aston Villa also earned a 2-1 win over Ipswich thanks to goals by Lee Hendrie and Dion Dublin, but, on a worse note, Dietmar Hamann scoring twice to add to Michael Owen's strike.

Substitute George Weah scored his first City goal and Terry Horlock's 81st minute penalty responded for the visitors.

At Anfield Liverpool withstood a Manchester City fight-back to hold on and win 3-2, Dietmar Hamann scoring twice to add to Michael Owen's strike.

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Brazilian star striker Ronaldinho jumps for joy after scoring against Marconi Stallions during an Olympic warm-up match at Fairfield, near Sydney, yesterday. — AFP photo

in the 10th minute.

Midway through the second half however Fredrik Ljungberg found Thierry Henry in space and the Frenchman's cross picked out Ashley Cole for his first goal for the Highbury club.

The goal was shrouded in controversy after Martin Keown had grasped the ball during a tussle with Carbone as he awaited the award of a free-kick which was eventually given his way.

Lee Dixon swept the ball up-field and Cole profited, but although the goal was hardly undeserved Bradford's rear-guard action merited the point.

Newcastle, who led the table, before this round of matches could not stay top, held to a goalless draw at home to Chel-

sea. It also finished 0-0 between Coventry and Leeds.

Manchester United added Scholes, Ryan Giggs and Jaap Stam to the nucleus of the side which had hit Bradford for six in midweek.

United did not have to wait long for the opening goal and it came in the 14th minute.

A lovely passing move culminated in the overlapping Beckham crossing from the right for Scholes to head home his first goal of the season from eight yards out.

It was a well-worked goal and one which will have delighted watching England coach Kevin Keegan.

Don Hutchison managed to put the ball into the back of the United net after 38 minutes, but the assistant referee already had his flag up for offside and the effort was disallowed.

Sunderland still harboured hopes of snatching an equaliser and they thought their chance had come when Niall Quinn flicked on Emerson Thorne's header only for Fabien Barthet to make a fine save.

That stop became even more critical when seconds later in the 75th minute Sheringham latched onto Cole's through-ball to double United's advantage.

United underlined their superiority when Scholes cracked home a third with his trusty right foot from just inside the area seven minutes from time to seal yet another win.

Figo's former club Barcelona had a first-half double from superstar Rivaldo to thank for their 2-1 win at home to Malaga.

Rivaldo, relishing his free role under new coach Llorente Serra Ferrer, turned in a through ball from Philip Cocu on 30 minutes before meeting a Simao Sabrosa cross at the far post six minutes later.

Dario Silva got one back with 20 minutes to go but Barca held on to complete a deserved win.

Deportivo were sluggish in the first half against Athletic Bilbao but they improved after the break and goals from Victor and Pandiani saw them make an immediate return to the top of the table.

Valencia, beaten 3-0 by Real

in the Champions League final in May, appeared on course to win a small measure of revenge as Gaizka Mendieta put them ahead from the penalty spot in 76 minutes.

Mendieta made a meal out of a challenge from Brazilian Roberto Carlos inside the box and the referee failed to spot his clear dive. The Spanish international took the penalty and coolly put the ball in the net sending Real custodian Casillas the wrong way.

Raul levelled the scores with a brilliant hooked finish inside the penalty area just two minutes later, though, as the visiting defence went to sleep.

Figo, who had struggled early in his first league match for Real, then swooped at the far post to complete a stirring comeback.

The winning goal was the result of a glaring error from Canizares, the Spanish international keeper who should have claimed Savio's centre comfortably.

Instead he succeeded only in dropping the ball at Figo's feet and the forward gratefully turned it into the goal.

In other matches, Manuel Serrano's late goal earned Espanyol a 2-1 win at Real Zaragoza and Fernando Moran's late goal for Racing Santander equalised at 2-2 against Real Sociedad.

Motijheel Model School & College yesterday became new champions in the 11th Bata Schools Handball Tournament beating Rajarbagh Police Line School 23-17 at the handball court near the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The winners led the first half 12-10, Kaisar netted 8, Reefat 7 and Sadiq 6 for the champions while Hanif scored 8 and Sohel Rana 6 for the losers.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader later distributed prizes as the chief guest.

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