

Aziz gets
'gold pin'

Sports Reporter

The International Swimming Federation (FINA) has awarded Bangladesh Swimming Federation vice-president Dr. K M S Aziz with its 'gold pin' for his outstanding organising capability, says a press release.

The pin was awarded to Aziz, who is a member of FINA doping committee, at the Sydney Olympic Games Village on September 22.

Besiktas Leeds bound with police escort

ISTANBUL, Sept 25 (AFP): Turkey's Besiktas left here Monday for their potentially volatile European Champions League game with Leeds United accompanied by a four-man police squad, the Anatolia news agency reported.

The measure was called for amid fears of violence during the game which comes months after two Leeds fans were stabbed to death in Istanbul ahead of a UEFA CUP game between the English Premier-side and Galatasaray.

However, the Turkish club remained confident Monday that Tuesday's first phase match would pass in a calm atmosphere without any fights between Turkish and English fans, who have clashed on several occasions following the Istanbul stabbings in April.

Those incidents are all in the past now, I believe Turkish-English friendship will come to the fore in this game," Besiktas captain Mehmet Ozdilek told Anatolia before their departure for Leeds.

In early September, Besiktas president Serdar Bileli held talks on security issues and signed a protocol with Leeds officials in a bid to prevent a possible outbreak of violence.

Under the said protocol, the two clubs agreed to keep the number of supporters at a certain number and send each other a list of the visiting fans before the game.

Bayern's defender search

COLOGNE, Germany, Sept 25: Bayern Munich want to strengthen their defence and are prepared to pay big money to find a suitable man, reports AFP.

"We are still looking for a good defender," Bayern club manager Uli Hoeneß told Monday's magazine 'Kicker'. "We are prepared to spend 20 to 30 million Marks (nine to 13 million dollars). We have to do something before the winter break."

The Bundesliga enters its winter recess shortly before Christmas.

Bayern reportedly are interested in the 22-year-old Croatian Igor Biscan from Dynamo Zagreb - who is thought to carry a price tag of around 20 million Marks - however Barcelona, Ajax Amsterdam and Fenerbahce Istanbul are also said to want him.

Italian Cup results

ROME, Sept 25 (AFP): Second round, second leg results in the Italian Cup this weekend Udinese 2 Placentina 1 (Udinese go through 3-2 on aggregate)

Fiorentina 3 Salernitana 1 (Fiorentina go through 8-1 on aggregate)

AC Milan 0 Torino 1 (Milan go through 3-2 on aggregate)

Juventus 1 Brescia 2 (Brescia go through 2-1 on aggregate)

Atalanta 4 AS Roma 2 (Atalanta go through 5-3 on aggregate)

Parma 5 Venezia 1 (Parma go through 6-2 on aggregate)

Lazio 5 Sampdoria 2 (Lazio go through 6-3 on aggregate)

Lecce 1 Inter Milan 3 (Inter go through 4-2 on aggregate)

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW:

Lazio v Udinese

Parma v Inter

AC Milan v Atalanta

Fiorentina v Brescia

No one can afford to relax



PARIS, Sept 25: As Europe's finest prepare for the third round of Group matches in the Champions League this week, the encounters are becoming increasingly more important as the scramble for the top two qualifying spots in each group heats up, reports AFP.

German giants Bayern Munich who lost the 1999 final courtesy of two late goals that dramatically sent the Cup to Manchester sit top of Group F, but a loss at Paris St. Germain on Tuesday could throw the Group wide open.

Having already taken tenancy at the top of the Bundesliga in defence of their crown, Bayern can expect a hostile reception at what will be a packed Parc des Princes, a stadium where PSG have yet to drop a point this season.

Record-signing Nicolas Anelka who got his off-gloved hands on the Cup last season with Real Madrid has settled in well with his home-town club, knocking in six goals already including a poacher's effort in his side's 2-1 win over Nantes on Saturday which sent the Parisians top of the French Group.

His side-kick Laurent Robert has also been in red-hot form whacking in goals from all angles while last season's top scorer Christian of Brazil will also be a threat to Oliver Kahn's net.

As expected Norwegian champions Rosenborg overcame Swedish minnows Helsingborg at home in the other Group F match and PSG top Bayern, three teams will rest on six points with three games in this phase to play.

Group G couldn't be tighter with all four teams on three points after Turkish outfit Besiktas stunned Spanish giants Barcelona 3-0 last week while Leeds stole a 1-0 win over AC Milan thanks to a goalkeeping blunder in the last minute.

Bitter feelings will be revived as the Istanbul-based club visit

Elland Road, just months after two English fans were stabbed to death in the Turkish capital on the eve of a UEFA Cup match against Galatasaray.

Besiktas' assistant coach Riza Dogan fancies his side's chances after watching Leeds in action Saturday: "I found Leeds weaker than expected. They have problems particularly in defence," were his remarks following a 1-1 Premiership clash with Derby.

"We are much better than them, but still we have to be careful on Tuesday, because this match will determine our fate."

FIXTURES (Groups E-H)

GROUP E

At Turin Juventus v Deportivo La Coruna

At Hamburg SV Hamburg v Panathinaikos

At Paris Paris Saint Germain v Bayern Munich

At Trondheim Rosenborg v Helsingborg

GROUP G

At Kiev Dynamo Kiev v Anderlecht

At Eindhoven PSV Eindhoven v Manchester United

GROUP H

At Leeds Leeds v Besiktas

At Barcelona Barcelona v AC Milan

familiar position at the top of the league as well as leading what must be said is a weak Group G.

Sir Alex Ferguson will likely be without French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez and defender Japp Stam for the trip to PSV Eindhoven but such is his side's strength and experience that an away win makes for a likely bet.

Belgian champions Anderlecht kick-started their campaign last week with a 1-0 win over the Dutch champions of PSV, but face a tricky trip to the Ukraine where they can expect to find a Dynamo Kiev side hungry for success.

Kiev held Manchester to a 0-0 draw to pick up their first points in their last match and may find the Belgian's weaker prey as they attempt to pull themselves back into the Group.

Group E leaders Juventus and Deportivo La Coruna come face to face in Turin after the Spanish champions won their first ever Champions League match last Tuesday thanks to a 90th minute winner to beat SV

Hamburg 2-1 and go joint top.

Juventus, who gifted the Italian title to Lazio on the last day of the season, have yet to begin their league campaign this time around but showed they are not yet into their stride Saturday, eliminated from the Italian Cup by newly promoted Brescia.

Hamburg who finished third in the Bundesliga last season, are also off to a mediocre start and seem to have a habit of throwing away late leads.

After leading Juventus in their opening Group match only to concede a late equaliser, they were up to their old tricks again Saturday in German league action, throwing away vital points as rivals VfL Wolfsburg scored in the 90th minute, with both matches ending 4-4.

Hosting Greek outfit Panathinaikos on Tuesday should make for an intriguing match with both teams desperate for the three points to stay in touch with the leaders.

Dogan should hope his comments don't filter back to David O'Leary's side whose team will need no helping hand in the motivation department and whose fans can be as passionate as anything found in Istanbul.

In the other crunch match, Barca prepared for the visit of AC Milan with a 3-1 league win over Santander, while Milan were on Italian Cup duty Saturday defeating second-division outfit Torino 3-2 on aggregate.

English champions Manchester United are already on cruise control, strolling to their

Group H opponents in style.

They are definites and I've got to do that."

Ferguson said United's tiring trip to Dynamo Kiev last week has taken its toll while he also has one eye on this weekend's match against Arsenal.

There are a lot of bumps and bruises and tiredness and there are a few concerns with the Arsenal game coming up next Sunday. He has to get things up in as many positions as I can."

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