

Star crowned

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ance. Jugantar captain Faruk sent the ball wide to spark off a historic celebration by the small contingent of Star devotees.  
It turned out to be a double delight for Morshed who celebrated his 20th marriage anniversary on the day.  
Star manager Rezaul Karim Lotus thanked his team of journalist beaters and hailed their dedication and devotion.  
"We were short on logistics, preparation and players. To come out triumphant against the likes of a big-spending side like Jugantar speaks of the spirit and loyalty of the boys," said Lotus.  
State Minister for Information Professor Abu Sayeed witnessed the final and distributed prizes. DRU president M Anwarul Haq in his speech thanked all to make the tournament a grand success.  
Daily Star's ace striker Al Amin received the top-scorers award for his eight goals. His Jugantar counterpart Faruk was quite surprisingly adjudged player-of-the-tournament.

Fixing under

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somebody has proof or somebody has been seen doing something you can't just sit down and say oh, this match was fixed."  
But other players disagree with Akram. Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh said last week that the controversy was not over by a long way.  
And one senior official who is attending the ICC meeting said four players suspected of being involved in match-fixing would be named by Indian authorities this week.  
If new allegations are made the ICC, already under fire for a perceived reluctance to act on the issue, will have to move quickly and decisively.  
A new ICC anti-corruption programme, headed by Sir Paul Condon, the former head of London's Metropolitan Police, will try and address some of the concerns.  
The new body's remit and structure will be decided at the Nairobi meeting.  
It will also decide which course to follow to appoint a successor to ICC chief executive David Richardson who announced on Sunday that he would step down next year so that he could devote more time to his family and other interests.  
The ICC will also review how it treats bowlers with suspect actions after controversial cases involving Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar and Australian paceman Brett Lee.

One-off offer for Robson

LONDON, Oct 15: Bobby Robson will be offered a one-match deal today to coach the national team, according to a newspaper report, while another former England manager Terry Venables said he was "starving" to get the job back, reports Reuters.  
The Football Association are still considering their options on a permanent replacement after Kevin Keegan's resignation last weekend, and Howard Wilkinson coached the side for their World Cup qualifier against Finland in midweek.  
Robson, 67, currently in charge at premier league Newcastle United, will be asked by the FA to handle the November 15 friendly against Italy, the Mail today said.  
The paper quoted Robson as saying: "I must stress that I am first and foremost the manager of Newcastle but, if my chairman agrees, I would be delighted to help out England."  
Robson coached England to the 1990 World Cup semifinals and a penalty shoot-out defeat by Germany.  
Most Sunday papers were tipping Venables for the job. Venables, not currently involved in top flight coaching, took England to the semifinals of Euro 96 where they lost to Germany and also coached Barcelona and Tottenham Hotspur.

Leverkusen' Bayern end Daum war

FRANKFURT, Germany, Oct 15: Officials from Bayern Munich and Bayer Leverkusen agreed on Sunday to bury the hatchet over the future of German coach-elect Christoph Daum, currently in charge at Leverkusen, reports AFP.  
At a meeting attended by Bayern manager Uli Hoernes, both clubs said they would defuse a situation which had got out of hand in recent weeks over whether Daum is fit to take over as German national coach next summer from interim coach Rudi Voller.  
Relations between the two clubs have been stretched to breaking point after Bayern manager Uli Hoernes was reported to have accused Daum of drug-taking and involvement with prostitutes.  
Hoernes denied making such allegations on Wednesday and blamed the press for what he called "mud-slinging" but that was not enough to stop Daum threatening to sue him.  
Hoernes regretted the fact that his reported comments had caused hurt to Daum and his family.  
Daum did not attend the showdown at which Bayern's president Franz Beckenbauer and vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge were present.  
Both parties agreed Daum and Hoernes should hold a meeting in the presence of German Football Federation (DFB) vice-president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder.

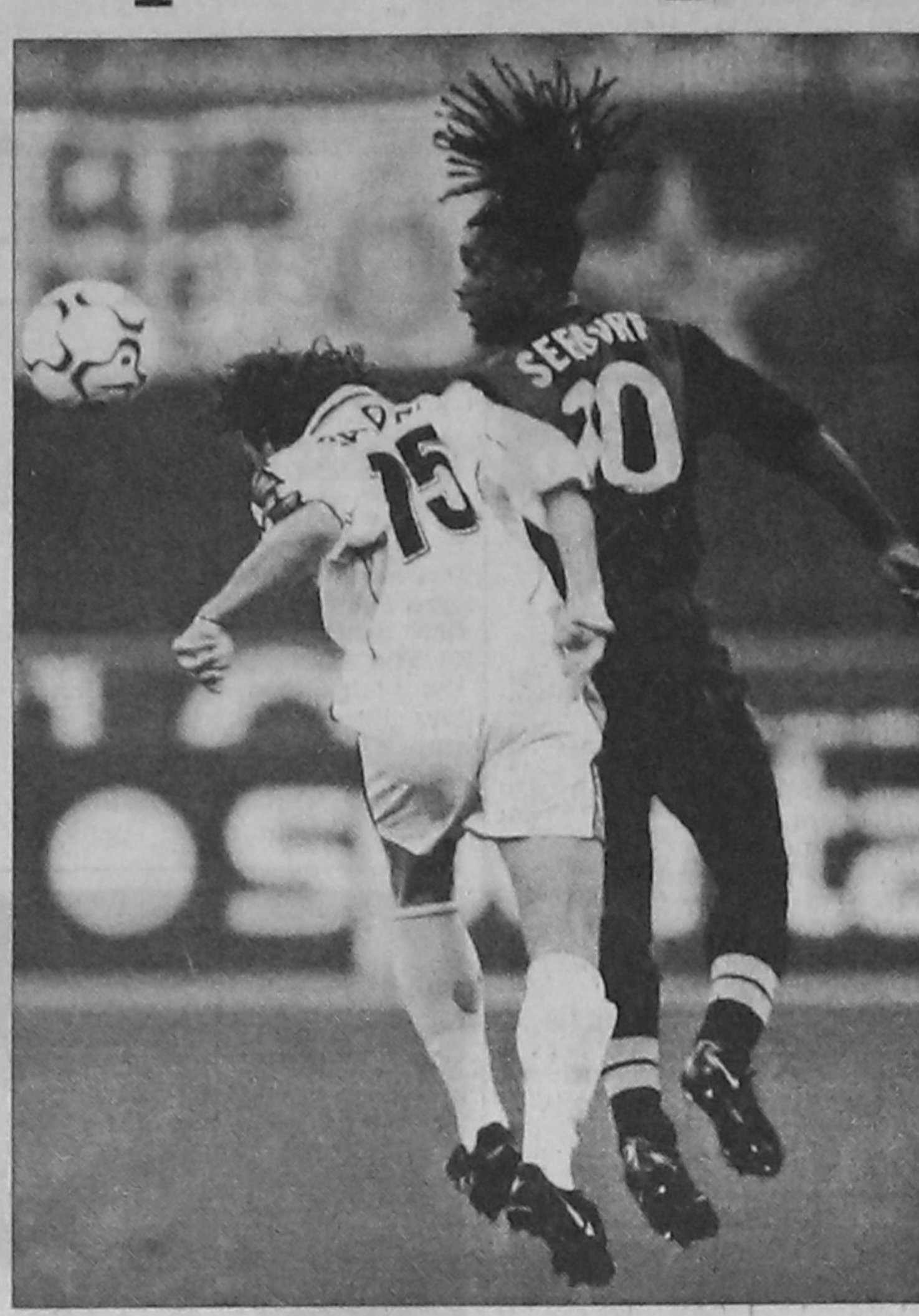
Maldini released from hospital

MILAN, Italy, Oct 15: Paolo Maldini was Saturday discharged from hospital after being admitted Thursday with flu-like symptoms, reports AFP.  
Maldini, who last Saturday set a new Italian record of 113 caps in the 3-0 defeat of Romania, underwent tests that failed to determine the nature of the illness but the player reassured club coach Alberto Zaccheroni before leaving hospital that he was on the mend.  
Maldini will miss Sunday's Serie A trip to Bologna and is also a big doubt for the Rossoneri's Champions League clash with Spain's Barcelona at the San Siro on Wednesday.

Serie A

Inter's inspired display

MILAN, Oct 15: Marco Tardelli got off to a flying start as Inter Milan boss as his new charges saw off newly-promoted Napoli 3-1 at the San Siro stadium on Saturday evening, reports AFP.  
First half goals from Luigi di Biagio, Ivan Zamorano and Laurent Blanc were ample reward for the home team with an own goal from Inter's Dutchman Clarence Seedorf giving the score a veneer of respectability for Napoli.  
Tardelli, a member of Italy's 1982 World Cup winning team, was clearly delighted with the performance, smiling and joking with journalists after the match.  
"I hope this is just the beginning," said Tardelli. "I was very pleased with the performance. Of course I was very emotional at the end of the match."  
Seedorf gave a Jekyll-and-Hyde performance and was at the heart of everything Inter did but also squandered easy chances and contributed the own goal.  
After five minutes Seedorf should have put Inter ahead but shot wide from point blank range after being set up by Zamorano.  
Then he carved out a chance for himself but saw Napoli keeper Ferdinando Coppola pull off a fine save at the expense of a corner.  
Seedorf, subjected to racist abuse throughout by the Napoli fans, took a corner in the ninth minute and di Biagio rose unopposed to plant a firm header into the roof of the net.  
Shortly afterwards Seedorf had another golden chance when he was the beneficiary of a lucky ricochet but hit his shot straight at Coppola.  
After 37 minutes it was 2-0 to Inter when Seedorf rolled a freekick to di Biagio, whose shot was parried by Coppola but Zamorano pounced to convert the rebound.  
In injury time, Seedorf split the defence with a superb pass and French World Cup winning defender Blanc, who had charged upfield, sidestepped Coppola and walked the ball into the net to score against his former club.  
The second period was a more dull affair with Seedorf's clanger finally giving Napoli fans something to cheer.  
The Dutchman got in the way of a wayward shot from David Sesia leaving Inter keeper Sebastien Frey totally wrong-footed.  
In the evening's other match,



A midfield tussle between Inter Milan's Dutch international Clarence Seedorf (R) and Napoli's Francesco Baldini (L) during their Serie A engagement at the San Siro Stadium on Saturday. - AFP photo

Lazio showed champion pedigree by drubbing Perugia 3-0.  
Goals from Argentinian striker Hernan Crespo, Yugoslav defender Sinisa Mihajlovic and Italian substitute Simone Inzaghi were ample illustration of the dominance of the defending champions, who only managed a 2-2 draw at Atalanta in their opener.  
"Nesta is fine," explained Eriksson. "He was simply and that's why I substituted him. Above all it was just preventative action."  
Mihajlovic powered home a 68th-minute penalty following a foul on his Czech team-mate Nedved by Materazzi.  
Eriksson then immediately brought on Inzaghi for Crespo, who departed to a standing ovation.  
Inzaghi duly provided the third goal 12 minutes from time. Fed by the impressive Nedved he turned his marker Materazzi before firing home.

Recoba cautioned, Zamorano vows to stay

MILAN, Oct 15: Inter Milan's Uruguayan striker Alvaro Recoba has been given a stark message by the Serie A club's chairman Massimo Moratti after the player was jeered by fans during Saturday night's 3-1 victory over Napoli at the San Siro, reports AFP.  
Recoba has been stalling on signing a new deal and when he came on as a substitute for Irishman Robbie Keane he was subjected to whistles and catcalls from the Inter faithful.  
The Uruguayan did not help his own case by responding angrily to the abuse and Moratti - while saying he disapproved of the whistles - made it clear he has some sympathy with the supporters.  
Moratti told journalists: "I was sorry about the whistles because Recoba is still a great professional but let's say the fans were trying to give him a message."  
"But I believe if the situation is resolved at Inter the public will start to love Recoba again as before."  
Recoba said: "It is because for a week if not for months they have been speaking about my new contract with figures that are not true. I don't know whose fault it is - maybe it's the press but it is not mine. I am an Inter player and will be as long as Inter want me to be."  
With Ronaldo and Christian Vieri on the mend new Inter coach Marco Tardelli is expected to offload some of his striking talent - he also has Recoba, Keane, Chile's Ivan Zamorano and Turkey's Hakan Sukur on his books.  
Zamorano, who scored the second goal, denied that he was going to be one of those eased towards the exit door, saying: "I am only saying I am an Inter player and will be until the end of June."

Saudi coach shown the door

BEIRUT, Oct 15: Saudi Arabia coach Milan Macala became the first coaching casualty of the Asian Cup here Sunday, getting the sack in the wake of his team's humiliating 4-1 defeat by Japan, reports AFP.  
Macala, one of the most successful coaches in Asian football, was given his marching orders after the defending champions were ripped apart by Japan in Saida on Saturday, Saudi FA officials said.  
"Macala has been dismissed," a Saudi FA spokesman said. His assistant Nasser Jaouhar will take over.  
Macala declined to comment immediately following the dismissal. "I don't want to talk," Macala said from his hotel following news of the sacking.  
The experienced Czech coach had warned before the tournament Saudi Arabia might struggle because of a weak competitive build-up to the competition.  
But he could hardly have been surprised at receiving his marching orders after Saturday's rout.  
His fickle paymasters at the Saudi Arabian FA have a habit of hiring and firing coaches in the final days of tournaments when results start to go askew.  
At the 1998 World Cup finals the Saudis gave Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira the bullet after two opening defeats, a 1-0 loss against Denmark and a 4-0 stuffing against France.  
Parreira, who guided Brazil to World Cup glory in 1994, had controversially been brought in on a lucrative contract to oversee Saudi Arabia's campaign at France 98.  
Parreira had in turn replaced German Otto Pfister, who guided Saudi Arabia to the finals. Pfister himself had been appointed after his Saudi predecessor was sacked midway through the qualifying campaign.  
Saudi Arabia's defeat on Saturday against Japan looked to have put the writing on the wall for Macala in metre-high letters.  
The Saudi Arabians were embarrassed by the skilful Japanese, who swept aside the disjointed and inept holders with contemptuous ease in their Group C encounter.

Scottish Premiership Celtic stay atop

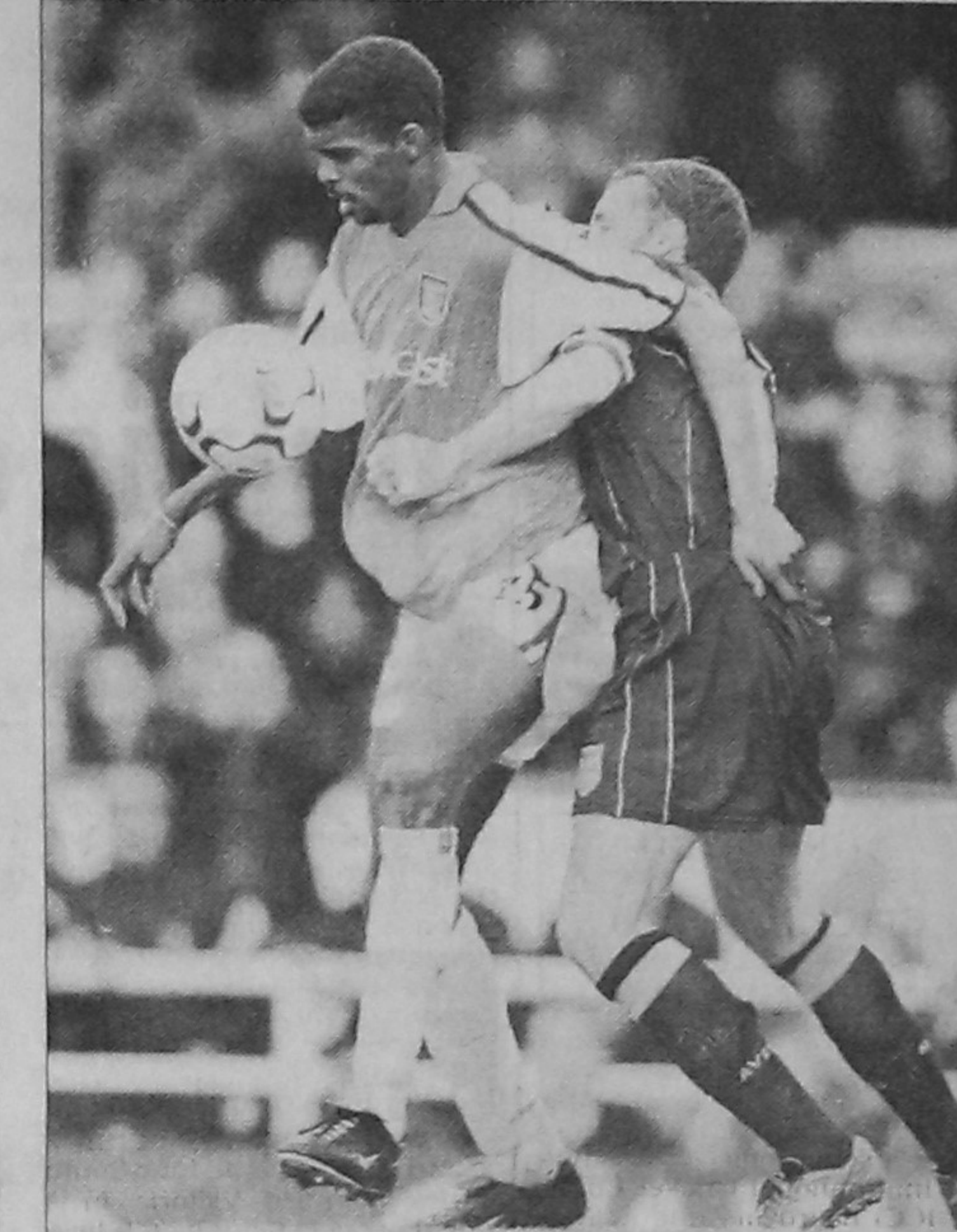
GLASGOW, Oct 15: Celtic maintained their two point lead at the top of the Scottish Premier League on Saturday with a 2-0 victory over lowly St Mirren, reports AFP.  
But Martin O'Neill's men made hard work of it and were thankful to striker Chris Sutton for making the breakthrough after 33 minutes.  
Lubo Moravick's in-swinging corner found Sutton who headed home despite the despairing efforts of the St Mirren defenders on the goaline.  
The home side did not make the points safe until five minutes from time, when Henrik Larsson, who had already spurred a host of chances, thumped home a right-foot free-kick from 20 yards out.  
Celtic retain top spot on 28 points, two more than second-placed Hibernian, who beat Rangers 1-0 at Easter Road.  
A goal by David Zittel half-way through the first period gave the Edinburgh club all three points.

Premiership

Teddy bursts Leicester bubble

LONDON, Oct 15: Sir Alex Ferguson defended his selection policy Saturday after two-goal Teddy Sheringham helped fire Manchester United back to the top of the Premiership in a 3-0 win over Leicester, reports AFP.  
United return to the summit with 18 points from nine games while Arsenal jump into second behind the reigning champions on goal difference after beating Aston Villa 1-0 at Highbury. Leicester, meanwhile, fall to third.  
Ferguson admitted he would have expected to receive criticism if his side had failed to deliver the goods against this season's surprise package because of his team selection for the game.  
He was already without the injured David Beckham, Andy Cole and Gary Neville, but in addition opted to leave Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs and Phil Neville on the substitutes bench.  
But United still carried too much fire power for the previous league leaders with Sheringham in inspired form.  
Ferguson said: "We needed a very good performance to win here and we got that. I thought we were absolutely outstanding. I was pleased with our work rate, passing and patience."  
"This is never an easy place to come as we well know but we deserved it today and Teddy Sheringham did well. He has had a great season and been in terrific form but we carried no passengers."  
There was criticism of the team I picked against PSV Eindhoven and there may have been criticism today for similar reasons had we not got the victory.  
"But I know I have to freshen things up and change things around in the context of this long season. I have to bear in mind we've got another Champions League game on Wednesday and Leeds in the Premiership on Saturday."  
"But there was still 10 internationalists on the pitch and you have to trust them. They don't get their caps for nothing."  
"We always seem to have a few blips this time of the year but that wasn't the case today."  
Ferguson confirmed that Beckham would be fit to return after his knee injury for Wednesday's return Champions League match with PSV. But Cole is given only a 50-50 chance of recovering from the ankle problem picked up with England in midweek.  
Leicester manager Peter Taylor, who picked up the manager of the month award before the game, admitted: "I have no complaints about the result. We were beaten by a better side and their goal in the first half took the belief from us that we could win the game."

"We had a couple of good chances in the first half but we were a bit ragged in the second 45 minutes."  
"We did not play today like we have performed in many games this season. Whether that was because we were playing Manchester United or just had an off day only time will tell."  
Sunderland striker Kevin Phillips moved to quell speculation that he is about to quit the club to further his dreams of England recognition.  
Phillips told a British newspaper he might have to move to a bigger club to stand a chance of becoming a regular in the national side after missing out again against Germany and Finland in the last week.  
But after converting the 61st-minute penalty which gave his side all three points in a 1-0 win over Chelsea, the former Watford front man attempted to put the record straight.  
"Everyone has seen the papers today and I think I've been misquoted on what I said," said Phillips. "The paper said I was playing for another club - i.e. Liverpool, Manchester United or Arsenal - I would be playing for England."  
"Maybe some people see it like that, but I don't see it like that. I've played for England while I've been at Sunderland and I feel no matter what club you're playing for in the Premiership, if you're playing well and you're scoring goals, then you deserve a chance."  
"I don't see that as the case, so I'd like to clear that matter up and get it straight, straight from my mouth."  
A goal by French striker Thierry Henry gave Arsenal a narrow 1-0 victory over Aston Villa.  
Henry hit Villa with yet another of his astonishing strikes after 61 minutes - his sixth goal of the season.  
Robert Pires put a lovely ball into his fellow-Frenchman's stride and Henry slammed the ball through Gareth Barry's legs and past the bewildered David James into the far corner.  
Alan Smith's eighth goal of the season helped Leeds on their way to a 3-1 win over Premiership newcomers Charlton.  
Elsewhere Tottenham went down 2-1 at Coventry while Ipswich were held to a 1-1 draw by West Ham at Portman Road and honours were also won at Goodison Park where Everton drew 1-1 with Southampton.



Arsenal's Nigerian striker Kanu is challenged from behind by Aston Villa's Gareth Southgate during their Premiership encounter on October 14. - AFP photo

Primera Liga

Real outclass champions

MADRID, Oct 15: Real Madrid took the top spot in the Spanish First Division on Saturday from league leader Deportivo La Coruna when they subjected the Spanish champions to a 3-0 defeat, reports AFP.  
While fifth-placed Barcelona regained their taste for victory after a slow start to their campaign with a 6-0 blitz over Real Sociedad in San Sebastian.  
Real Madrid passed their first major test of their title ambitions with Saturday's win with Portuguese international Luis Figo setting up the opening goal in the 18th minute with Raul finding the net.  
The home side went two up before half time when Hierro converted a penalty which also marked his 95th Primera Liga goal.  
Spanish international Jose Maria Gutierrez, who extended his contract with the European champions Friday, celebrated by marking their third goal of the night with a header from a pass by Cameroon's Olympic champion Geremi.  
Real, European champions in two of the last three years, and who have won the last of their 27 league titles in 1997, the year Rivaldo marked his return from injury and answered his critics with the two opening goals, the first after just two minutes and the second in the 30th minute from a penalty.  
Alonso scored his first goals in the Barca jersey, in the 17th and 21st minutes, while Luis Enrique, who returned last



Real Madrid's star forward Luis Figo tries to sneak the ball past two Deportivo players during their Primera Liga clash at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Saturday. - AFP photo

showed their determination to shine in the domestic league this season.  
The win lifts them from fifth position in the league, two points behind Deportivo, to top place on 11 points, one point ahead of second-placed Valencia, with Deportivo now in third position, also on 11.  
However Real could lose the lead Sunday if Celta Vigo win their home clash against Alaves.  
Nevertheless the win is a major boost for Real ahead of their crucial clash with Barcelona at the Nou Camp next week.  
That match looks like being a fiery affair after the Catalan side steamrollered Basque side Real Sociedad with a six goals drubbing, with all the goals coming in the first half.  
Barcelona's world player of month after six months out of action, also found the net in the 36th.  
Portugal's Simao Sabrosa made the home side's task impossible when he scored the sixth for the visitors four minutes later.  
The win lifts Barca from ninth position to fifth in the league table, two points behind Real Madrid.  
In Saturday's other Spanish league games second-placed Valencia drew 1-1 away to Villarreal.  
Valencia's Juan Sanchez, top scorer of the championship with six goals, opened the points in the 59th with Villarreal's Moises grabbing the equaliser five minutes later.  
Meanwhile Las Palmas scored a 2-1 win over Malaga, while Espanyol drew 0-0 with Rayo Vallecano.

Bundesliga

Cottbus stuns Bayern

BERLIN, Oct 15: Bayern Munich chances of retaining their Bundesliga title took a jolt Saturday when the Bavarians slid to an embarrassing 1-0 loss at Eastern German outfit Energie Cottbus, reports AFP.  
Promoted Cottbus scored only their second win of the campaign with a goal in the 16th minute from Hungarian international Vilmos Sebok.  
Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was careful not to criticise the team outright - but his frustration was clear.  
"It's tougher to keep possession out too few openings. Now we have to show a positive reaction on Wednesday in the Champions League. Paris should be better bet for us as they are much more of an attacking side than Cottbus."  
The shock result allowed Schalke 04 to go top of the heap after the Royal Blues thrashed Eintracht Frankfurt 4-0 with two goals from Jorg Bohme, Radoslav Latat and Markus Happe on target.  
Frankfurt spent most of the second half down to ten men after Gerd Wimmer was sent off for a second bookable offence.  
Borussia Dortmund had

gone top overnight with a 1-0 home win over Freiburg, achieved with a goal seven minutes from time by Jorg Henrich.  
Schalke now have 17 points, one more than Dortmund and two more than Bayern, who have a crucial Champions League match at home to Paris Saint Germain on Wednesday.  
With Cottbus gaining an unexpected three points SpVgg Unterhaching slid to the foot of the table.  
Bayer Leverkusen, last season's runners up and coached by German national coach-elect Christoph Daum, meanwhile let two points and leads of 2-0 and 3-1 slip as they drew 3-3 at Werder Bremen.  
International striker Oliver Neuville scored twice for Leverkusen with Michael Ballack on target from the spot.  
Frank Baumann, Marco Bode and Brazilian Alton were Werder's scorers as they pulled back from 3-1 down in the final two minutes.  
Bode's goal came from the rebound after Leverkusen keeper Pascal Zuberbuhler had parried an Andreas Herzog penalty.  
"Swiss keeper Zuberbuhler" was sent off at the death for a foul on Fabian Ernst and Alton converted the resulting spotkick slamming the ball past reserve keeper Boris Zirkovic.  
Kaiserslautern, meanwhile gave Andreas Brehme a perfect start after replacing Otto Rehhagel as coach with a 4-0 thrashing of 1860 Munich.  
Harry Koch netted the first from the spot on 14 minutes, Vratislav Lokvenec added the second on 56 minutes and late efforts from Jorgen Pettersson and Marco Reich completed the rout.  
Munich had Martin Stranzl red-carded early in the second half.  
Elsewhere, Cologne beat VfL Bochum 2-0 in a battle of promoted sides, Christian Timm and Markus Kurth getting the goals.  
VfB Stuttgart were to play Hamburg in the evening match.  
A bumper crowd of 62,000 saw Dortmund's match at the Westfalenstadion and coach and former German international star Matthias Sammer was delighted to see his side recover from a recent 4-0 hiding by local rivals Schalke.  
"It's a real relief. Had we gone down to a third straight home loss people would have started saying we have a complex about home matches," said Sammer, whose side have been much happier on their travels to date.

French First Division

Toshack starts on the wrong foot

PARIS, Oct 15: Much-travelled Welsh manager John Toshack saw his latest footballing gamble get off to a losing start as Saint Etienne were beaten 2-1 away by little Sedan in the French First Division on Saturday, reports AFP.  
Toshack, whose CV includes spells in charge of Real Madrid, Real Sociedad, Sporting Lisbon, Besiktas and the Welsh national side, was given an immediate taste of the kind of uphill struggle for survival he will face in France this season.  
It took Sedan just nine minutes to take the lead against the once-mighty Saint Etienne, now firmly in the relegation zone, three points behind fourth-from-bottom Auxerre.

Cedric Mionnet made the breakthrough and even though Christophe Sanchez equalised for the visitors in the 20th minute, it was only a matter of time before Sedan grabbed all three points, which they did when Luis Satorra hit the winner in the 55th minute.  
The victory saw Sedan move up into fourth place, three points behind leaders Paris Saint Germain, who comfortably beat Marseille 2-0 on Friday.  
The side from the capital have 21 points from their 11 games, two ahead of Bastia and three in front of Monaco and Sedan.  
Lille are two points further back in fifth after being held 1-1 at home by Guingamp, who are only a point behind.  
After a goalless first half Dionz Boutouille put Lille ahead in the 40th minute only for Fabrice Colletau to hit back six minutes later for Guingamp.  
The most impressive scoreline of the evening came at Strasbourg, where Nantes won 3-0, amid renewed calls for the fans for the head of beleaguered Strasbourg coach Claude LeRoy.  
Even without their two leading scorers, Olivier Monterubio and Viorel Moldovan, both injured, and Stephane Ziani, who was suspended, Nantes managed to lift five.  
Nantes, who seem to prefer playing away from home this season, produced another comprehensive display of firepower