

Sport

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, Dec 21: Padma Garden Cricket School and Al Rashid Cricket Club (A) won their respective matches of the sixth Bir Srestha Captain Shaheed Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gold Cup cricket tournament today at the local AHM Qamruzzaman Divisional Stadium.

Padma defeated Brothers Union by a 62 runs in the first match of the day.

Padma made 172 for four in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Brothers went all out collecting 110 runs in 21.3 overs.

In the second match, Al Rashid outplayed Naohata Bulbul Sangha by 10 wickets.

Naohata batted first and were shot out for 98 in 24.4 overs.

In reply, Al-Rashid reached the target of 101 runs in 11.3 overs without loss any wicket.

Meanwhile, Housing Estate Cricket Club and Raisuddin Smriti Cricket Club recorded their wins of the Shaheed Zia Smriti Cricket tournament today at the Rajshahi Govt College playground.

Housing Estate defeated the Street Club by 139 runs in the first match.

Housing Estate batted first and scored 189 runs for five wickets in 22 overs.

In reply, the Street Club went all out making only 50 runs in 17.1 overs.

In the second match, Raisuddin Smriti Club beat Mukti Sangha by 38 runs.

Raisuddin made 159 run for six wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Mukti Sangha scored 121 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

Marsh will be in action against Australia

NEW DELHI, Dec 21: Former Australian Test star Geoff Marsh will fine tune India's preparations for the upcoming home series against Steve Waugh's world-beating Australians, reports AFP.

Marsh, who has been roped in as consultant by India's cricket authorities, said on Wednesday he will assist national coach John Wright during the team's conditioning camp.

Australia are due to tour India for three Tests and five one-day internationals early next year, hoping to add the only remaining scalp during their record-breaking run.

Australia, who have not won in India since 1969, lost the Test series 2-1 when Mark Taylor's team toured here two years ago.

Don't take

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wanted to regain the Ashes for the first time since 1989.

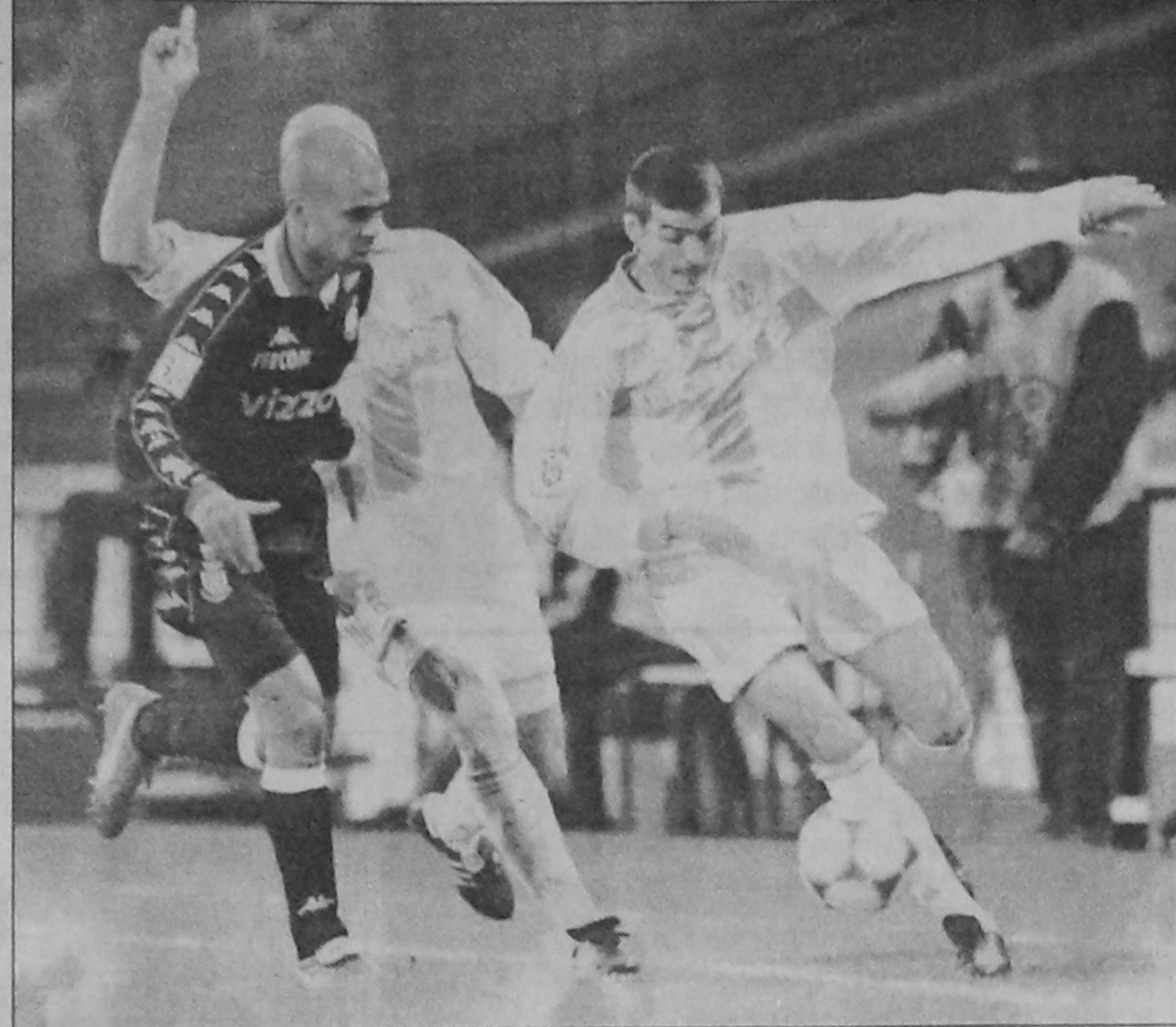
"The important thing for England won't just be the skill - they have to match Australia in their aggressive nature," Gooch said.

They must go out there believing they can win and be aggressive towards Australia in the brand of cricket they play.

"You can see the way (Australian openers) Michael Slater and Matthew Hayden batted in Adelaide. There was a concerted plan to attack the West Indian bowling, trying to put pressure on the bowlers and it paid off."

"But that comes with the confidence of winning and having a strong team."

Australia head to India for a Test and one-day tour in February before their Ashes defence begins in July.



Marseille's Jerome Leroy (R) being followed by Monaco's Francisco Da Costa (L) during their French First Division fixture at Marseille on December 20. - AFP photo

French First Division

Weah inspires Marseille



MARSEILLE, France, Dec 21: Former FIFA world footballer of the year George Weah scored both goals in Mar

seille's 2-1 victory over Monaco in the French football league here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Liberian international scored in both halves to give some cheer to the home side, moving them up to two places from sixth from bottom, a 'place above' Monaco.

These two glamour sides, often in the race for the title, are in the bottom reaches of the table transforming this usually eagerly-awaited battle into a

more run-of-the-mill fixture.

In the 16th minute the Mar

seille fans fell strangely silent as Monaco opened their account.

A probing midfield ball from

Francis Juriatti was lobbed on

to Wagneau Eloi and via Ludovic Giuly, fell into the path of Italian Marco Simone.

The former PSG man cleverly

dodged Marseille defender Se

bastien Perez before spinning

round and slamming the ball into the bottom right hand corner.

On 32 minutes the home

crowd erupted when Weah was

presented with the easiest of

equalisers.

A long Perez ball from the

right beat outstretched de

lender Francisco Da Costa and

Weah simply lifted the ball over

the advancing keeper Andre

Biancarelli.

After the break the fans soon

began shouting for former in

jured forward Florian Maurice.

Marseille coach Javier

Clemente obliged and was duly

repaired in the 58th minute.

Marseille's second goal was

a stroke of genius for Weah, but

was another blunder for Da

Costa as he lazily ignored Weah

after he had completed a one-

two with Maurice.

Da Costa should have got a

head to the ball to prevent

Weah chashing down but Weah

stuck his foot out to poke the

ball past the advancing keeper

and win the match.

Petit vows to settle down



PARIS, Dec 21: French international midfielder Emmanuel Petit has renounced earlier complaints

about his lack of playing time at Barcelona and had pledged his future to the club, reports AFP.

Petit, who was signed by the

Catalan giants from Arsenal in

the off-season, had complained

in the Spanish press of his lack

of playing time under astute

coach Llorente Serra Ferrer.

Petit had earlier complained:

"I don't even know why Barce

lona brought me here if I'm

going to sit on the bench."

However speaking to the

French press Petit has had a

change of heart, even though he

admits that he is still waiting

for an ever-elusive conversation

with Ferrer.

The World and European

champion was taken out of

midfield for Barca's 3-2 league

win over plucky Alaves on

Wednesday night to play at left

back.

And, he knows that to figure

in Ferrer's plans, he has to

resign himself to that role.

"I didn't come here to create

problems," Petit told French

newspaper L'Equipe.

"I want to play and help my

team win. But I know that I

have little chance of featuring

for Barca.

Sports daily L'Equipe

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ended in failure. She had to

content herself with a mere

three golds - the 100m,

200m and women's 4x400m

relay.

Her quest was not helped

after it emerged that her hus

band CJ Hunter had tested

positive for nandrolone at a

meeting in Oslo in July.

Comatriot Michael John

son, the finest 400m runner the

world has ever seen, added two

more golds to his collection with

an effortless victory in the one-

lap race and relay event.

Johnson's regal display, on

and off the track, was a welcome contrast to the trash-talking jedium of archrival Maurice Greene the 100m winner.

Greene and his victorious

American teammates in the

4x100m left a sour taste with

their charmless podium pos

turing after victory in the relay.

Away from the pool and the

track, Sydney saw a string of memorable milestones passed.

British boxer Steve Redgrave

cemented his place as one of the greatest Olympians

of all time by clinching his

fifth consecutive gold medal

with victory in the coxless

fours.

Cuban boxer Felix Savon

snared his third consecutive

heavyweight gold medal with

a silky display of ringcraft,

and German canoeist