GOALKEEPER CONCEDES 43, GETS ARRESTED

Sometimes, a performance on the field is so bad that it's criminal. That may quite literally be the case for a goalkeeper in the lower leagues of Germany. In a recent league game, SV Vonderort broke an undesirable record when it lost 43-0 to rival PSV Oberhausen. According to German newspaper Express, SV Vonderort was down 35-0 at halftime. After conceding a goal nearly every two minutes, goalkeeper Marco Kwiotek may have wanted to completely forget about the performance. However, five days later at a training session, two police cars arrived at Vonderort's training ground in Bottrop. The 25-year-old keeper was escorted from the training field by armed officers and brought to the local police station for questioning. The circumstances of the police inquiry are unclear and Kwiotek has since failed to answer his phone.



Emphatic Abahani

Go top of table with a 3-0 win over Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER



A goal apiece from Hemanta Vincent Biswas, Sunday Chizoba

and Andrew Lee Tuck helped Abahani notch an emphatic 3-0 victory over arch-rivals Mohammedan and took the fourtime professional league champions to the top of the JB Bangladesh Premier League points table.

Hemanta, who has been struggling to find a place in the starting eleven

since a thigh strain he picked up during the SA Games in February, was drafted in the playing eleven for just the second time this season. And the

midfielder-turned-striker justified his inclusion by breaking the deadlock with a clinical finish in front of some 3000 spectators at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night.

With Englishman Lee Tuck working hard in the midfield, striking pair of Sunday Chizoba and Hemanta kept the Mohammedan defenders on their toes until Hemanta gave the Sky Blues the lead in the 27th minute.

Hemanta, who was ten minutes earlier denied by a brilliant save from Mohammedan goalkeeper Nehal,

scored his first goal of the season with an angular shot after receiving a defence-splitting pass from Lee.

Though there was a big difference in strength between the two sides, a depleted Mohammedan enjoyed lion's share of procession since conceding the lead, but the Black and Whites could hardly expose the opposition backline.

Mohammedan's best opportunity came in the 34th minute when Senegalese defender Yaya Sy failed to connect a Aminur Rahman Sajib free-kick, with Abahani goalkeeper

RAHMATGANJ **FENI SOCCER** MOHAMMEDAN () - 3 ABAHANI

> Sultan Ahmed Shakil completely beaten.

> Mohammedan kept pressing after resumption but Abahani took things away from their reach with two goals within the last three minutes. Sunday doubled the margin in the 89th minute with a placing shot before Lee sealed off the victory in the stoppage time with a delicate chip over the 'keeper.

> Abahani are level on 15 points with Sheikh Jamal, but lead the table with a superior goal difference.

Mohammedan remained at ninth position after their second defeat in seven matches.

RAHMATGANJ DENIED **VICTORY**

Earlier, a 'controversial penalty' denied Rahmatganj MFS from reaching the top as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Feni Soccer Club.

Chowmrin Rakhain converted the spot kick in the 89th minute, cancelling out a 26-minute strike from Mehbub Hasan Nayan, after referee Bharat Chandra Goura awarded the penalty when

Rahmatganj's substitute defender Asif Hossain Rimon tackled Feni's Mohammad Helal cleanly from behind, despite Helal making no claims

for a penalty. The incident prompted a protest from the Rahmatganj players, and in the ensuing heated exchange of words, striker Siyo Zunapio picked up his second booking to get the marching orders.

Despite the draw, Rahmatganj still remained unbeaten in the league and moved up to second position with 13 points from seven matches, two behind the joint leaders while Feni stayed at sixth position with nine points.



Abahani's Hemanta Vincent Biswas jumps on the back of fellow scorer Sunday Chizoba during their 3-0 victory against Mohammedan in the Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Germans angry at Beckenbauer

AFP, Berlin

A majority of Germans believe football legend Franz Beckenbauer no longer deserves the nickname 'Kaiser Franz', given the latest revelations concerning his role in organising the scandal-hit 2006 World Cup. According to a poll

published Wednesday on the website of German magazine Stern, 55 percent of those surveyed believe the nickname 'Kaiser' is no longer justified.

Last week, weekly magazine Der Spiegel said the 71-year-old pocketed more than five million euros (\$5.6 million) as head of the organising committee for the 2006 World Cup in Germany, which he failed to pay tax on.

The payment was reportedly taken from a donation of 12 million euros made by a World Cup sponsor, the gambling company Oddset.

Beckenbauer's attorneys rejected the claim, saying the earning arose from his advertising work and was "promptly taxed at his Austrian residence".

But despite those revelations, 35 percent of those quizzed by Stern said Beckenbauer still deserves the 'Kaiser Franz' moniker.

Sevilla edge local rivals

AFP, Madrid

Argentine international Gabriel Mercado bundled home the winner as Sevilla moved up to second in La Liga with a 1-0 win over fierce local rivals Real Betis on Tuesday.

the club from on-loan Manchester City midfielder Samir Nasri's free-kick continued the Europa League holders' four-year unbeaten run in the Seville derby in La Liga.

Mercado's first goal for

Betis were right to feel aggrieved just moments after Mercado's 51st minute winner, though, when Alex Alegria had an equaliser wrongly ruled out for off-

side against Ruben Castro. Nasri had the clearest opening before the break, but fired straight at Antonio Adan after a mixup between the Betis 'keeper and his defence allowed the Frenchman a free effort on goal inside

the area.

Fabregas fires Chelsea

REUTERS, London



Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas gave his manager a reminder of his talents by scoring twice in extra time as they fought back from two goals down to

Leicester City out of the League Cup 4-2 on Tuesday. Spaniard Fabregas has played a bitpart role in Antonio Conte's Chelsea

side since the start of the season, but produced two neat finishes in the space of two minutes to turn the thirdround tie on its head. Record eight-times winners

Liverpool eased past Derby County 3-0, while Arsenal enjoyed a 4-0 stroll at Nottingham Forest.

It was a bad night, however, for Premier League sides Everton and Bournemouth, who exited the competition at the hands of second-tier oppo-

Everton were dumped out 2-0 at home by Norwich City, while Bournemouth suffered a 3-2 home defeat by Preston North End.

In the standout fixture, Chelsea seemed to be heading out when Leicester's Shinji Okazaki twice capitalised on poor defending to put the Foxes ahead.

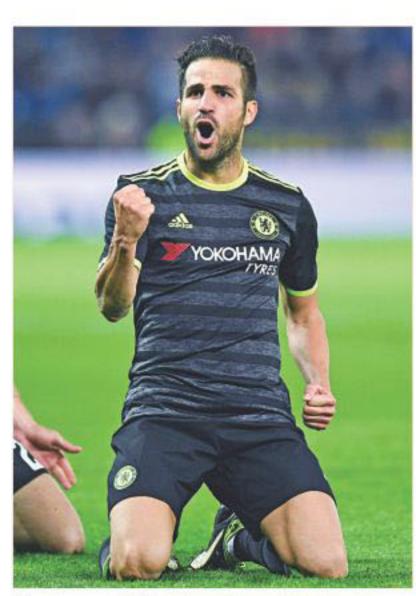
But the Chelsea fightback began when Fabregas's corner was headed back across goal and over the line by defender Gary Cahill just before halftime and they equalised with a stunning volley from Cesar Azpilicueta four minutes after the restart.

With extra time approaching,

Leicester defender Marcin Wasilewski was sent off for a second yellow card after a clumsy charge into Diego Costa, swinging the momentum Chelsea's way.

From that moment there only looked like being one winner and Fabregas's clinical finishes secured Chelsea's spot in the fourth round as well as giving the Spain international a boost after a difficult start to the season.

Conte has preferred former Leicester player N'Golo Kante, Nemanja Matic and Oscar in central midfield in Chelsea's opening encounters but Fabregas showed he still has something to offer when he clipped the ball home two minutes into extra time.



Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas celebrates his second goal against Leicester City during their EFL Cup encounter at the King Power Stadium on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

Two minutes later, he smashed a leftfoot effort into the net after Leicester failed to clear a high ball in the box. "I was happy to play from the start

and if I can help the team then fantastic," Fabregas told Sky Sports. "Hopefully this will shut up a few

journalists who are chatting rubbish all the time."

Liverpool, beaten on penalties by Manchester City in last season's final, booked their spot in the next round with goals from Ragnar Klavan, Philippe Coutinho and Divock Origi and it was an equally straightforward romp for Arsenal.

Forest's Denmark striker Nicklas Bendtner lined up against his old club, but it was Arsenal's new arrivals who shone.

Their Switzerland midfielder Granit Xhaka rifled in the opener from distance and Spaniard Lucas Perez scored a penalty and a fine individual goal. England forward Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain netted the fourth goal in stoppage time.

Everton were undone by a former favourite as Steven Naismith returned to Goodison Park to torment his old employers by scoring Norwich's opener after 41 minutes before Josh Murphy struck a rising drive from distance to complete the victory.

Preston striker Simon Makienok bagged a hat-trick including an extratime winner to help them past Bournemouth.

Newcastle United progressed with a 2-0 victory at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers, having lost to the Midlands side by the same scoreline in the Championship on Saturday.

Milan move up to 3rd

AFP, Milan



Carlos Bacca scored for the second game in a row and M'Baye Niang netted from the penalty spot in a disjointed performance as AC Milan beat Lazio 2-0 at

the San Siro on Tuesday.

Bacca struck eight minutes before halftime having notched the late matchwinner in Friday night's 1-0 success at Sampdoria.

Niang sealed the win after earning and then slotting away a spot-kick on an evening in which his performance swung between the sublime and ridiculous.

The victory, a third in five games this line. season, provisionally moved Milan up to third ahead of the rest of the midweek programme.

Lazio were off to a positive start with fouled the keeper. Milan's teenage goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma forced into a couple of early saves from Filip Djordjevic and Marco Parolo, while Danilo Cataldi was off target for the visitors in an enterprising first 10 minutes.

Donnarumma's best save then came from a Sergej Milinkovic-Savic header on 12 minutes.

But from there the hosts started to take control, with French forward Niang looking lively, having a shot saved by goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha before turning his marker only to fail to look up and pick out a team-mate with a cross-shot that Albanian Strakosha dealt with comfortably.

Milan took the lead out of the blue as Bacca ran from the halfway line onto a Juraj Kucka through ball when Lazio's high backline was caught out by a mistake from Parolo.

The Colombian Bacca, who was restored

to the starting line-up after coming off the bench against Sampdoria, took his time and picked his spot to find the bottom corner on 37 minutes.

Suddenly Lazio, who had been the better side until then, were on the ropes.

Strakosha saved well from Giacomo Bonaventura but moments later was almost embarrassed by the same player as he let a tame shot slip through his grasp before spinning around to clasp the ball as it bounced towards the line.

In first-half injury time Lazio were lucky to survive as the ball pinged around in their box, Strakosha unknowingly preventing an own goal with his head before Dusan Basta cleared another Bonaventura shot off the

From the resulting corner Kucka climbed above Strakosha to head home but he was harshly adjudged to have

Niang should have killed the game on 56 minutes but teed up with an open goal by Bacca he somehow barely made contact with the ball and Lazio breathed a sigh of

Less than 60 seconds later only a lastditch tackle by Gabriel Paletta prevented Lazio substitute Keita Balde Diao from

making Niang and Milan pay. The 21-year-old French youth international Niang then sent a woeful shot out for

a throw-in. But he gave a glimpse of his undoubted

potential by shrugging off a marker before stinging Strakosha's fingers with a venemous shot from distance.

And Niang won and then converted a penalty as Stefan Radu was penalised for handling the striker's cross.

The maverick forward still had time to slice a dreadful effort off target as he remained centre stage right to the end.

Ceferin unveils Euro 2020 logo

AFP, London



New UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin unveiled the logo for Euro 2020 at the tournament's official launch in London on Wednesday.

The logo shows multicoloured fan silhouettes standing either side of the

competition's Henri Delaunay Trophy on a green bridge, representative of the links between the 13 host countries.

The 2020 European Championship is being staged in 13 cities across Europe to mark the 60th anniversary of the competition, with the semi-finals and final to take place at London's Wembley Stadium.

"UEFA wanted the 2020 tournament to be a true celebration of the game we all love and cherish," Ceferin said in a speech at London's City Hall municipal building.

"What better way could there be than to take the tournament, for one time only, to

all four corners of our beautiful continent?" Matches will also be played in Azerbaijan, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Scotland and Spain.

Ceferin was accompanied by Greg Clarke, new chairman of England's Football Association, and Mayor of London Sadiq Khan.

> forward to welcoming supporters from across Europe," said Khan. "As a truly international city, London has a

"We're looking

fanbase for almost every nation on earth. One of the great things about football in our city is that it brings people from

different backgrounds together." England manager Sam Allardyce was also

Ceferin, a 48-year-old Slovenian lawyer, beat Royal Dutch Football Association chief

Michael van Praag by 42 votes to 13 in last week's presidential election.

Valencia sack Ayestaran

AFP, Madrid

Struggling La Liga giants Valencia sacked coach Pako Ayestaran on Tuesday after failing to pick up a single point in their opening four league games of the season.

The former Liverpool assistant manager took charge in March when Gary Neville's ill-fated threemonth spell as boss came to end and initially guided Valencia away from the relegation zone with three wins in his first four matches.

However, seven consecutive defeats since have left Los Che rooted to the bottom of La Liga. "Following a meeting of

the board of directors, Valencia Club de Futbol have taken the decision to release Pako Ayestaran from his role as first-team coach," the club said in a statement.

"The decision has been made after analysing the current sporting situation and results."



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