

Rutherford on the move

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, July 16: Former New Zealand cricket captain Ken Rutherford said Sunday he has signed a two-year deal with South African provincial side Transvaal, reports AP.

"The cricket issue was naturally part of it but the wider picture was my lifestyle," Rutherford, who was removed as captain last month by selectors, said of the decision. "I needed a new challenge, a new direction."

Rutherford, 29, said Transvaal approached him in March and made a formal offer about seven weeks ago. He decided to delay making a decision and see what else developed.

"The crunch came when I was dropped. That was when everything crystallised, when any lingering doubts disappeared," Rutherford said.

"As it happened there was interest from an Australian state side and another South African province as well, but I was already quite keen on Transvaal."

Rutherford said his financial package was better than anything he would have been offered as New Zealand captain, and included accommodation, car, air-fares for him and his children, and virtually all living expenses.

The Castle Cup competition permits one overseas player in each provincial side.

Rangers race for Raducioiu

GLASGOW, July 16: Rangers manager Walter Smith confirmed on Saturday that he is in negotiations with Spanish club Espanol to sign the Romanian World Cup star Florin Raducioiu, reports AFP.

Smith is hoping to clinch a 2.7 million (about 4.4 million dollars) deal with Barcelona club Espanol for the striker which, coupled with the 4.3 million for Paul Gascoigne, would take the Ibrox club's summer spending to seven million pounds.

The Raducioiu deal could soon be settled and Smith said: "I have met the player's agent and we had further discussions. These talks are ongoing."

Raducioiu, played for Bari and Brescia in the Italian league before signing for Espanol. He is a veteran of two World Cup finals, scoring four goals in Romania's quarter-final run in the United States.

He appeared to have secured Romania's place in the semifinals when scoring the second of his two goals in extra time against Sweden but his elegant side were later beaten on penalties.

Rangers want another signing completed before the August 1 deadline for their European Cup preliminary round tie with Anorthosis Famagusta of Cyprus.

Meanwhile, around 500 Tottenham fans are expected in Glasgow in two weeks to greet 4.5 million pound signing Chris Armstrong — and pay tribute to Spurs old boy Gascoigne.

The Rangers international tournament on July 29 and 30 will mark Gascoigne's Ibrox bow since his move from Lazio.

Ajax appeal to FIFA for Santos

AMSTERDAM, July 16: Ajax Amsterdam said on Saturday they have appealed to FIFA to stop Brazil defender Marcio Santos quitting the club barely a month after joining the European Cup holders, reports AFP.

"We regard Santos as under contract to Ajax but he is not here. FIFA will have to decide," said club spokesman David Endt.

Marcio Santos, who was signed from Fiorentina of Italy for a reported 3.2 million dollars, was not prepared to pay into the pension fund for soccer players in the Netherlands, added Endt.

The 26-year-old, who had agreed a three-year contract as replacement for retired Dutch international Frank Rijkaard, arrived two days late for the first Ajax training session last week and started disputing the pension arrangements the following day.

Under Dutch soccer pension fund rules, players contribute a percentage based on their gross salary. In Santos' case it was reckoned he would end up paying around half his salary into the fund, which players can call on for financial support when their careers are over.

"That was the last straw," Marcio Santos said on Thursday. "I want out. I had no idea about all of this."

Endt said the player was fully informed of the pension arrangements during transfer negotiations in London last month.

"The player and his manager knew exactly what the score was," he said.



Mike Atherton (L) and his Lancashire captain Watkinson hold the Benson and Hedges Cup after winning the final against Kent a Lord's on July 15.

— AFP/UNB photo

De Silva ploughs in sands

Lancashire lift B&H Cup



LONDON, July 16: Lancashire remained on course for cricket's grand slam by beating Kent in the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup at Lord's on Saturday despite a brilliant century by Sri Lankan Test star Aravinda de Silva, reports AFP.

The diminutive Sri Lankan won the hearts of a capacity Lord's crowd, racing to 112 off only 95 balls, but he was unable to prevent captain Mike Watkinson's one-day experts from securing a well-deserved victory.

The former Sri Lankan captain single-handedly kept his side in the match with some magical stroke-play but when he was seventh out, underdogs Kent collapsed to prolong their 17-year wait for a domestic trophy.

Lancashire, buoyed by high class innings of 93 and 83 from Mike Atherton and John Crawley, finished victors by the ultimately comfortable margin of 35 runs.

But De Silva, who crashed three sixes and 11 fours, had made it a match to remember and was a popular winner of the gold award.

Before Saturday, 15 innings in limited overs cricket for Kent had failed to produce even a 50 for De Silva — the first Sri Lankan to play English country cricket.

But he now joins only two other men — Graham Gooch and Viv Richards — as scores of a century in the 24-year history of Benson and Hedges Cup finals.

Had De Silva received more of the strike — rather less than half of it — Kent might have been celebrating.

Instead it was Lancashire's fans who sang in front of the pavilion while their players dreamed of adding further successes in what could be a season of unprecedented for the red rose country.

They are through to the NatWest quarter-finals and are well-placed in both County Championship and Sunday League competitions.

Saturday's success was built on a total of 274 for seven, bettered only once in Benson and Hedges finals.

Kent won the toss but they had to wait nearly 20 overs for another success as openers Atherton and Jason Gallian put together a stand of 80.

Seven weeks ago, Atherton stroked his first century at Lord's while leading England to one-day international victory over the

West Indies.

Once again, he provided Lancashire with a perfect platform, pacing his 140-ball innings superbly after surviving an early scare when De Silva just reached but failed to hold a half-chance at long leg.

Australian-born Gallian was not expected to play, having broken a finger during

with Tim Wren holding out to long on. Lancashire skipper Mike Watkinson acknowledged De Silva's brilliant century, admitting: "He looked as though he was going to take it away from us."

"We got a good score but Aravinda played magnificently and it was always in doubt until the very end."

"Aravinda took the attack to us and fortunately we just kept chipping away at the striker at the other end. Kent fought hard but I thought our boys played really well and full credit to them for sticking to it," he added.

Gold award winner De Silva said: "I would have been really pleased if we had been able to win this final but I thought that Lancashire played very well and deserved to win."

DE SILVA... 112 his England Test debut last week.

But he declared himself fit on the morning and contributed 36 to the opening partnership before bowled by Mark Ealham.

That breakthrough, though, only subjected Kent to the best of former Manchester Grammar School pupils Atherton and Crawley, in 26 overs they added 121 as every bowler apart from Ealham suffered.

The century Atherton deserved was snatched away by Dean Headley, who had the England skipper well caught at mid-wicket by Fulton.

But with Crawley studding a 90-ball innings with a six and five fours, Lancashire continued to make excellent progress until a flurry of late wickets pegged them back just a fraction.

Kent's reply started badly and it was soon clear that all their hopes rested on De Silva. He lost partners at regular intervals and the next highest contributors — David Fulton and Graham Crowder — both made only 25 each but the little master had Lancashire at a loss.

The end effectively came when De Silva pulled Ian Austin to deep mid-wicket where Graham Lloyd held the catch and was quickly surrounded by highly-relieved teammates.

When Steve Marsh fell to Austin's next delivery, there was no way back for Kent and Watkinson had the honour for capturing the final wicket

Lancashire won match by 35 runs.

Scoreboard after Lancashire's 35-run victory over Kent in the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup final at Lord's on Saturday.

LANCASHIRE:

M. Atherton c Fulton b Headley 93
J. Gallian b Ealham 36
J. Crawley c Taylor b McCague 83
N. Fairbrother c McCague b Headley 16
G. Lloyd run out 12
W. Akram run out 10
M. Watkinson c McCague b Fleming 0
S. Marsh c Crawley b Austin 4
I. Austin not out 5
Extras: (lb-2, w-10, nb-7) 19
Total: 7 wks (55 overs) 274

Fall of wickets: 1-80; 2-201; 3-236; 4-258; 5-259; 6-266; 7-274.

Bowling: O M R W
Wren 5 0 21 0
Headley 11 0 57 2
McCague 11 0 65 1
Ealham 11 0 33 1
De Silva 8 0 36 0
Fleming 9 0 60 1

KENT

D. Fulton lbw b Chapple 25
T. Ward c Hegg b Chapple 7
N. Taylor b Yates 14
A. De Silva c Lloyd b Austin 112
G. Crowder lbw b Yates 25
M. Fleming b Yates 11
M. Ealham lbw b Watkinson 3
S. Marsh c Crawley b Austin 4
M. McCague not out 11
D. Headley c Chapple b Watkinson 5
T. Wren c Austin b Watkinson 7
Extras: (lb-7, w-2, nb-6) 15
Total: (52.1 overs) 239

Fall of wickets: 1-28; 2-37; 3-81; 4-142; 5-162; 6-180; 7-214; 8-214; 9-219.

Bowling: O M R W
Wasim Akram 10 0 57 0
Chapple 10 1 55 2
Austin 11 4 36 2
Watkinson 10.1 0 42 3
Yates 11 0 42 3

Kaiser lures Klinsmann

LONDON, July 16: German striker Juergen Klinsmann says a call from his hero Franz Beckenbauer prompted him to leave English Premier League Tottenham Hotspur for Bayern Munich, reports Reuter.

Klinsmann, voted footballer-of-the-year in his brilliant solitary season at Spurs, broke the hearts of Tottenham fans by choosing to return to Germany.

In a four-part radio series "Juergen Klinsmann's Europe" starting on Monday, the striker says he decided to quit England after a plea from Bayern president Beckenbauer, who won World Cups for West Germany as both player and manager.

He says Beckenbauer's approach was like "Bobby Charlton giving you a call and asking you to come and play for Manchester United. For every single player it is an honour."

Klinsmann was a prominent member of the West German team managed by Beckenbauer which won the 1990 World Cup.

"It took me quite a while to decide. The way people treated me so well made it very difficult for me to say I'm leaving after just one year."

On the other hand, there was this big chance for me to go to a club offering me immediately the chance to play for a title, to play in Europe in the next year, which is a very big thing, and also to build up my life for after my career. I know I had to take the chance now."

Klinsmann says of his season at Tottenham: "I think this one year was probably the most exciting year I played in my football career."

"So many things happened in one season and the way people treated me, the way they welcomed me anywhere I went in England. I have never enjoyed playing in a team that much in my career."

Tunisia trounce Senegal

TUNIS, July 16: Tunisia beat Senegal 4-0 (halftime 0-0) in an African Nations Cup Group Two qualifying match on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Ben Rekhissia (47th and 83rd minutes), Beye (56th), Ben Hassen (69th minute). Attendance: 30,000.

East Bengal win

CALCUTTA, July 15: Title Aspirants East Bengal opened their campaign with a scratchy solitary goal victory over Peerless in their opening match of the Calcutta Super Division league at the Salt Lake Stadium here yesterday, reports PTL.

Striker Ranjan Choudhury saved the day for the glamour club netting the match-winner early in the second session in a rather insipid encounter.

After a barren opening session, East Bengal sealed the fate of their spirited opponents when Choudhury headed home a measured centre from medio Tushar Rakshit in position of the defenders in position.

East Bengal could have won by a much bigger margin had their forwards not missed a number of scoring opportunities in both the sessions. Peerless custodian Habibullah brought about a number of diving saves to keep the margin low.

Barmby now Spurs' bait?

LONDON, July 16: England star Nick Barmby could be used as bait in Tottenham's bid to sign unsettled Manchester United winger Andrei Kanchelskis, according to newspaper reports on Saturday, reports AFP.

The 21-year-old forward has been told he can leave White Hart Lane following a burst-up with manager Gerry Francis.

And now Spurs, set to demand four million pounds (about 6.5 million dollars) for Barmby, look set to step up the pursuit for six million pound-rated Ukrainian Kanchelskis, who has said he is no longer prepared to play under Old Trafford boss Alex Ferguson.

Barmby is understood to be unhappy after being told by Francis that he intends to pair his England colleague Teddy Sheringham and new 4.5 million pound signing Chris Armstrong as Tottenham's first choice partnership up front next season.

Barmby, who lodged a transfer request last season because he was homesick for northern England, was apparently assured he would be Sheringham's sidekick after the departure of Juergen Klinsmann and signed a five-year contract.

Kafelnikov's maiden Clay



GSTAAD, Switzerland, July 16: Yevgeny Kafelnikov won his sixth career title in 18 months here on Sunday, when the Russian beat home favourite Jakob Hasek 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the Swiss Open final, reports AFP.

The 21-year-old second seed spent nearly two and a half hours on court at high-altitude Gstaad, in a match twice interrupted by rain. Victory brought Kafelnikov his third title this year and a cheque for 43,400 dollars to the young millionaire, who earned his first crown in January 1994 at Adelaide.

"It feels great to win my first title on clay," said the Russian. "I'm not a clay specialist and never will be. But all of the coming and going onto the court was more tiring than the match."

Kafelnikov, ranked sev-

enth in the world, comfortably won the first two sets against the Swiss veteran, who was appearing in his first final since November 1991 in Moscow.

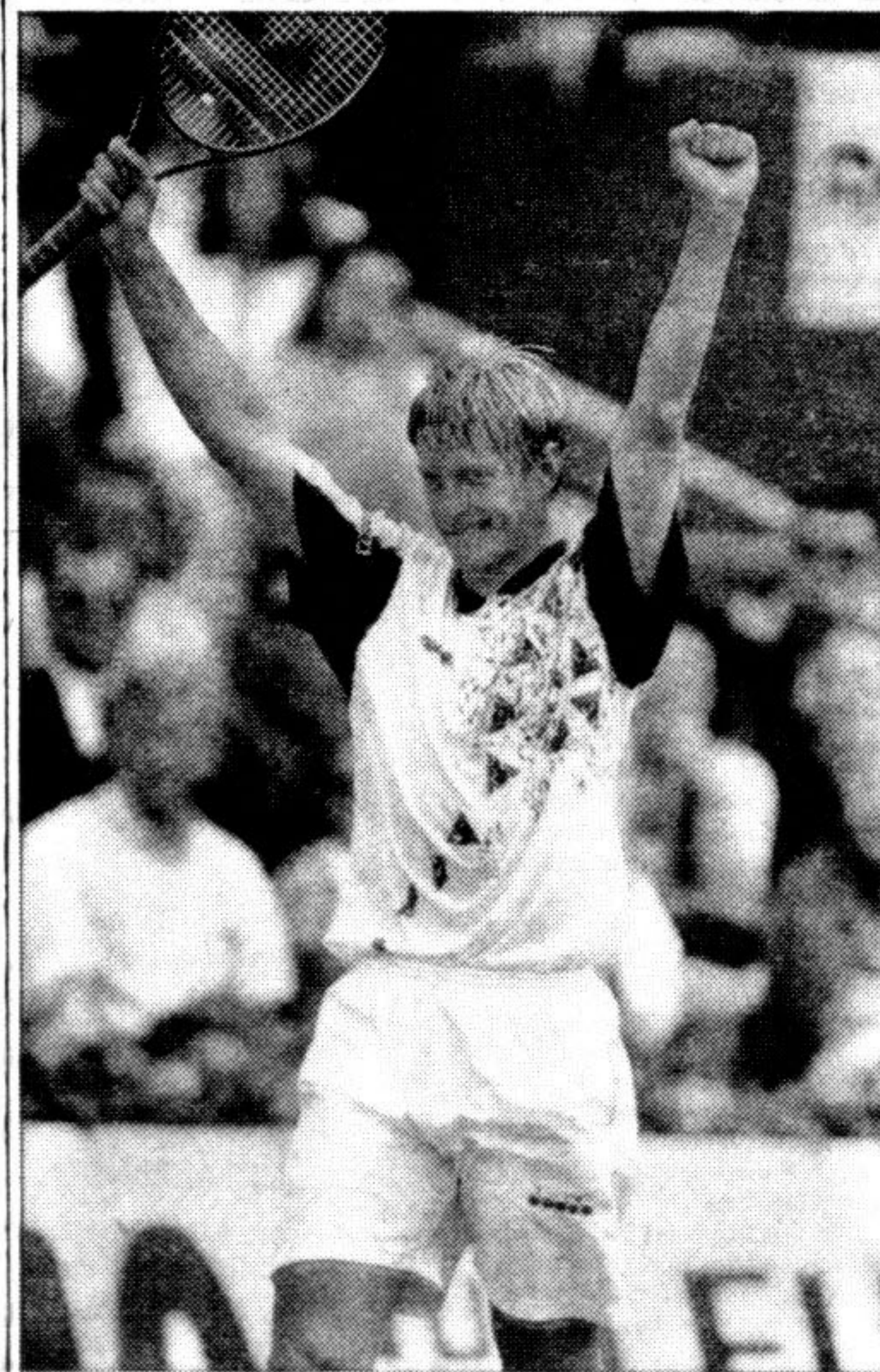
Hasek was trailing 4-5 in the second set when the rain first began to fall, delaying play for 90 minutes.

The pair got back on court in time for Kafelnikov to win the set, but the Russian was broken for 0-2 by Hasek in the third.

More rain fell, delaying proceedings for a further 45 minutes, but the Swiss player held on to his lead to take the set.

In the fourth, Kafelnikov's passing shots began once again to find their mark. Kafelnikov profited when Hasek netted a backhand to bring on a break point in the eighth game, when the second seed capitalised on for 5-3.

Kafelnikov served out for



KAFELNIKOV... sixth title

Britain back on track



UNBATED, July 16: Britain ended a miserable Davis Cup run of six straight losses when they took an unbeatable 3-0 lead over Monaco in a relegation match Saturday, reports AP.

Mark Petchey and Neil Broad recovered from a break down in the first set to beat Sebastian Graeff and Christophe Boggetti 6-4, 6-0, 7-6 in the doubles after Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman won their singles matches on Friday.

Having at home in Eastbourne, England, the British pair fought off six break points in the final set before wrapping up the match 7-1 in the tie-breaker.

Today's reverse singles are now dead rubbers, but David Lloyd wants a white-wash in his debut victory as British team captain.

Lloyd said: "I've told Greg and Tim I want to see them play the matches tomorrow as though they are still live. We've got to get ourselves up and out of this division next year and winning is a good habit to instil."

"We expected to beat Monaco without dropping even a set and now that we've done so, people will say it was easy."

"But it is never that simple on grass and in the Davis Cup, so I'm delighted with the work the boys have put in," he added.

South African-born Broad and Petchey must have given Lloyd a fright, though, at the start of the doubles with some appalling shots in the swirling wind.

Petchey, having lost all the previous eight rubbers he had played in the Davis Cup, was particularly affected and dropped his serve in the

fourth game. But then the 924-ranked Graeff promptly dropped his own delivery straight away and the rest was plain sailing.

Graeff dropped serve again in the ninth game to give Broad the chance to clinch the first set and the British pair flipped through the second without conceding a game.

The third set went with serve to 6-6, with Broad and Petchey wastefully tossing away a total of six break-points, but they then won the tiebreak 7-1.

The victory halted Britain's slide, keeping them in Group-2 of the Euro-Africa Zone for next year.

Belarus likewise clinched their spot, finishing off Estonia 3-0. Poland took a 2-1 lead over Lithuania and Ivory Coast did the same over Ireland.

In Group 2 second-round matches, Finland finished off Ghana 3-0 while Luxembourg, Egypt and Latvia all took 2-1 leads heading into Sunday's reverse singles.

Poland 2, Lithuania 1

At Vilnius, Lithuania, Bartlomiej Dambrowsky and Thomas Lichon wiped out Lithuania's Rolandas Murashka and Denisas Ivantsovass 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 in just 1 hour and 28 minutes. Dambrowsky and Murashka won Friday to give the countries a split of the opening singles matches and will meet Sunday in reverse singles as will Lichon and Ivantsovass.

Belarus 3, Estonia 0

At Minsk, Belarus, Vladimir Voltchkov and Maxim Mirny defeated Estonians Sten Sumberg and Algi Vahkal 6-3, 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 to complete Belarus' victory. Estonian coach Harri Neppi said he wasn't happy with the way Sumberg and Vahkal played, but blamed himself for not getting them the right kind of shoes for the Minsk Tennis Palace's grass courts.

Ivory Coast 2, Ireland 1

At Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Claude N'Goran won his second match in as many days, teaming with Ilou Loflo to beat Owen Casey and Mark Farren 6-4, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Finland 3, Ghana 0

In Tampere, Finland, Olli Rahnasto and Tuomas Ketola needed only 1 hour and 14 minutes to finish off Frank Ofori and Emmanuel Paddi 6-0, 6-1, 6-4.



Daniela Bartova of the Czech Republic clears the bar to set a new world record in the women's pole vault event of the Feldkirch Athletics meet in Australia on July 14. Bartova scaled 4.16 metres eclipsing her previous mark by one centimetre. — AFP/UNB photo

Graf goes against the grain!



BONN, July 16: Steffi Graf, whose home in Bruhl was raided in May by fraud squad officers investigating possible income tax evasion, may leave Germany for good, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old champion admitted in a television interview Saturday that she is reluctantly considering moving out of Germany.

But she denied any foundation to rumours of income tax evasion by herself and father Peter Graf.

"I have done absolutely nothing to be ashamed of and I am quite sure there is no truth in these rumours," she said, stressing that she had full confidence in her father and the experts who ran her business affairs.

Graf, who won Wimbledon for a sixth time last weekend, did not say where she might settle and admitted she would be sad to leave Germany.

She also made it clear that she had no intention of changing her nationality.

In the past she has hinted that she might consider basing herself in England, she already has a second home in New York.

"In the past I was never tempted to move to Monte

Carlo like other players have done — although it would have made things much easier," she said.

Graf, who returned to tennis in February after an injury lay-off because of a



STEFFI GRAF

chronic back condition, is unbeaten in 1995 and has won two Grand Slam titles. She won the French Open last month and then notched up her sixth Wimbledon triumph last weekend.

Graf's fortune is estimated at 100 million dm (71 million dollars).