

Coping fate with fat

COLOMBO, Sept 26: Sri Lanka skipper Arjuna Ranatunga has confounded critics who concentrate on his portly physique by leading his unfancied side to a stunning series win over World champions Pakistan, reports AFP.

Zealand, the knives were out again for Ranatunga when Sri Lanka were crushed by an innings in the first Test in Pakistan. Sri Lanka, however,



RANATUNGA

Ranatunga was architect of a humiliating 2-1 series victory over the World Cup holders the second time this year he has led Sri Lanka to Test honours on foreign soil. Before going to New Zealand in March, Ranatunga's captaincy came under attack after a 3-0 drubbing by India and 2-0 by Pakistan in series last year.

The 31-year-old was particularly rankled by criticism that his plump physique meant he was not competitive.

"These chaps talk a lot of rubbish. When I deliver they won't have anything to say about my shape," Ranatunga said at the height of the controversy last year.

After 144-run win in the third Test in Pakistan, Ranatunga has not only merged as Sri Lanka's most successful skipper, he has also given a fitting answer to his detractors.

Ranatunga captained 32 of 59 Tests in which he played, winning five, losing 11 and drawing the rest.

He is also among the world's 10 longest surviving Test cricketers since making his debut as a schoolboy in Sri Lanka's first Test in 1982. Despite the victory in New

bounced back to win the second Test by 42 runs and Ranatunga's 87 was top score in his side's second innings in the third Test.

Despite the attacks, Ranatunga has always had the backing of tens of thousands of devout fans, from taxi drivers to politicians.

His father, Reggie is a ruling party legislator. It was Ranatunga's Mother, who was responsible for making the Ranatungas into Sri Lanka's most famous cricketing family.

When younger brother Sanjeeva made his Test debut against Pakistan in 1994, it was a unique achievement because he became the third Ranatunga to play test cricket for Sri Lanka. Elder brother Dhammika was a former Test opener.

Another brother, Nishantha represented Sri Lanka in the Willis Cup tournament in Sharjah in 1993 while two other brothers, Prasanna and Ruwan, made their mark in school cricket.

Whether it was through controversy or his batting skill, Ranatunga has always hogged local headlines with his uncompromising style.

The constant carping by commentators and even some administrators about his physical shape is thought to have influenced his decision to back Aravinda de Silva when he was dropped for the Australasia Cup last year on fitness grounds.

Ranatunga pulled out of the side for the Sharjah tournament with three other players. Five top selectors supported the skipper by resigning.

"It's very unfair and demoralising. When you have a world class player like Aravinda, why keep him out. If he can score a double hundred, an improper fitness test should not be the criteria for selection," Ranatunga said.

"Fitness is essential. But are we to play someone who is a fine athlete or a very good cricketer," Ranatunga said.

Bribery scandal of Dynamo under probe

KIEV, Sept 26: A Ukrainian prosecutor launched a criminal inquiry on Monday into allegations that Dynamo Kiev executives tried to bribe the referee before a European Cup match this month, reports Reuters.

Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk said an investigation had begun at the behest of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in a weekend appeal.

"Criminal proceedings have been launched," Marchuk said. "There are facts which must be examined in terms of criminal activity."

Marchuk said two Dynamo executives suspended for life by the UEFA ruling against the club — kicked out of European competition for three years — were not named in the inquiry.

UEFA rejected Dynamo's appeal on Sunday at a five-hour hearing.

Heat, humidity Atlanta's horror

LAUSANNE, Sept 26: Heat and humidity were the main worries for the Atlanta Olympics organising committee, president Billy Payne admitted here Monday, reports Reuters.

However, he offered no solution to what he admitted was their "main concern" and passed the buck to the International Federations who actually schedule competitions.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation has already turned down pleas for the marathon to be run in the morning to avoid heat stress which it is feared a 6.30pm start would cause.

Payne said the International Olympic Committee was generally very pleased with the scheduling and the quality of the venues following a series of pre-Olympic competitions this summer.

"The bid issues has been solved," he said, "only little issues remain to be discussed with the IFs."

Fears that the equestrian event may be hit by a ban on overseas horses because of an equine epidemic called piroplasmosis had yet to be dispelled.

"We are trying to find a solution," Payne said. "We want the best athletes and the best horses to be there."

Payne said 15 per cent of provisional receipts were still outstanding but he anticipated ticket sales, currently totalling 2.7 million to make up for any shortfall.



Title holder Garri Kasparov watches his Indian challenger Viswanathan Anand (L) make a move during the eighth game of the best-of-20 match series World Championship in New York on Sept 25. — AFP/UNB photo

Anand draws first blood

NEW YORK, Sept 26: Indian challenger Viswanathan Anand pumped new enthusiasm into

the World Chess Championship on Monday with a dramatic victory over holder Garri Kasparov of Russia, reports Reuters.

Kasparov, 32, resigned the ninth game after Anand's 35th move in the first decisive result of the best-of-20 game Professional Chess Association championship so far.

The players had set at record in the past two week by drawing the opening eight games.

"Now we're going to have a real series," declared Argentine Grand Master Miguel Najdorf, one of several experts to praise the 25-year-old Anand for attacking Kasparov with his favourite system, the Sicilian defence.

The challenger leads the match by five points to four, but he was typically modest at the post-game news conference.

"It's the first time I've beaten him for a while so it's nice," he said. "There's still 11 games left... it's about as well as I've played so far."

The victor will be the first to reach ten and a half points and receive almost one million dollars from the sponsor Intel Corp.

Kasparov would keep the title in the event of a 10-10 tie and total prize money of about 1.5 million dollars would be shared. One point is awarded for a win and a 1/2 point for a draw.

Anand was playing with the advantage of the white pieces.

He tackled Kasparov with the same opening for the fifth time since their battle started Sept 11 on the 107th floor enclosed observation deck of New York's World Trade Centre.

Out of the opening, Grand Master and three-times US champion Yasser Seirawan, compared Kasparov's situation to that of a hedgehog.

"All of his pieces are burrowed in, they all have only one square, but they're coiled

and bristling and by the time you get him out of the hole, you could be exhausted," he said.

But the Indian player, renowned for his over-the-board aggression, sacrificed one of his rooks for a less-valuable knight in the centre of the board on move 27, to set up a tense position which gave him winning chances.

Kasparov, who is defending his crown for the fifth time, could not find the counter-attacking resources necessary to ward off Anand's queen, bishop and three pawns that had infiltrated his position.

When Anand won a vital pawn on his 34th turn and then followed it up with a defensive king move, the Russian realised he could not win or even hold on for another draw and offered a handshake in resignation.

The several hundred spectators applauded loudly for Anand as he left the soundproof glass booth where the games are being played.

The 10th game will be played today.

Tyson in a soup

NEW YORK, Sept 26: Kimberly Scarborough, mother of an illegitimate daughter of Mike Tyson, has started proceedings for detention by the former world boxing champion, reports AFP.

She claims Tyson imprisoned her in a Manhattan apartment in an attempt to force her to sign papers annulling settlement terms.

She says she went to an apartment owned by Tyson's promoter Don King expecting to be given a cheque for 450,000 dollars to buy a house, but Tyson threatened she would not be allowed to leave until she had signed away her existing rights. Tyson relented after 20 minutes, she claims.

Tyson has dismissed the claims as a lie and described the alleged promise to buy a house as nonsense.

Scarborough has asked a court to force Tyson to pay 550,000 dollars to buy a house and for Tyson to take out life assurance for 1.3 million dollars for Michael Lorna "Mickey" Tyson.

Minister put in the dock

FRANKFURT, Sept 26: Politicians in the state where German tennis star Steffi Graf is under investigation and her father jailed for alleged tax evasion, demanded Monday that the state finance minister reveal all he knows about the case, reports AP.

Fritz Kuhn, the head of the Greens party faction in the Baden-Wuerttemberg parliament, said that either Finance Minister Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, a conservative Christian Democrat, "puts all the facts on the table... or we'll have to think about an investigative committee."

The news came after the weekly Der Spiegel magazine reported that the state finance ministry failed to act on information from federal finance officials as far back as 1988 regarding the Grafs' tax situation.

Peter Graf was arrested in August for allegedly failing to pay taxes on millions of marks (dollars). Officials said the arrest was needed because he might try to flee prosecution. Steffi Graf is also under investigation in the case. Authorities have said there were no grounds to arrest her.

Investigators believe that the Grafs in the years 1989 through 1992 failed to report some 50 million marks (35.2 million dollars) in income, Spiegel said.

Spiegel added that as late as June, Peter Graf transferred 42 million marks (29.6 million dollars) from an Amsterdam bank to accounts in Monaco, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and the Isle of Guernsey.

Spiegel said that shortly before that transaction, Peter Graf had telephoned Finance Minister Mayer-Vorfelder and complained about ministry notifications that the Grafs owed more taxes.

If Spiegel's information is correct, then Mayer-Vorfelder can no longer claim the ministry's tax officials worked in a timely and effective manner, the Greens' Kuhu said.

Another state parliamentarian, Social Democrat Dieter Fuchta, said he had a long list of questions to present to Mayer-Vorfelder, including whether certain information in the Spiegel report was true.

When contacted Monday, the state finance ministry declined to comment of the Spiegel report.

Bianchi's fall from grace

MILAN, Sept 26: Spaniard Luisito Suarez was on Monday given temporary charge of salvaging Internazionale's season following the dismissal of coach Ottavio Bianchi, reports Reuters.

Bianchi's departure was widely expected after he failed to turn a multi-million dollars close-season spending spree into positive results in Italy's Serie A.

Just four matches into the campaign, Inter have fallen eight points behind leaders and city rivals AC Milan.

The 11.20 million dollars purchase of England midfielder Paul Ince from Manchester United and the arrival of Brazilian international defender Roberto Carlos have failed to lift the club out of the doldrums.

Bianchi, who coached Diego Maradona and Napoli to the Italian title in 1986-87, suffered a telling blow on Sunday when Inter lost 2-1 to his former club in Naples.

The coach admitted responsibility for the problems of a side unable to secure a top flight striker or a midfielder capable of directing play.

Suarez, Inter's chief scout and a midfielder for the club in their European Cup-winning glory days in the mid-1960s, has taken over while Inter look for a permanent replacement.

Switzerland's English coach Roy Hodgson, Manchester, United manager Alex Ferguson and Uruguayan Oscar Tabarez, who trained Cagliari last season, have all been tipped for the job.

Suarez's first test comes today when Inter face Lugano of Switzerland at home in a UEFA Cup first round return leg. The first game was drawn 1-1.

Oil magnate Moratti, whose late father owned Inter in their heyday, brought the club back into the family when he bought it from Ernesto Pellegrini last February.



Argentine superstar Diego Maradona shakes the hand of Dankuk University goalie Kuwn Chan-Su after a practice session is Seoul's Tongdaemum Stadium on Sept 25. The mercurial Maradona is to play in a friendly on Sept 30. — AFP/UNB photo

European Champions' League

An accidental debutant

LONDON, Sept 26: Aalborg plunged back into the European Cup in place of banned Dynamo Kiev meet 1987 winners Porto in their first Champions League outing on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The Danish side eliminated by Dynamo in the preliminary round, were invited to join Group A after UEFA suspended the Ukrainian club for three years from all European competition for attempting to bribe the referee before their match against Panathinaikos two weeks ago.

Dynamo's 1-0 home victory over Panathinaikos and the points they took have been annulled and Aalborg will play the Greek champions on October 25 to bring the group back up to date.

Aalborg go into Wednesday's match in Porto on the back of a 4-0 home win in the Danish super league at the weekend. They are third in the standings.

Porto who drew 0-0 away with French champions Nantes in the Champions' League two weeks ago, were held 1-1 at Felguerras in the Portuguese First Division on Saturday, dropping their first points in five matches.

Panathinaikos are at home to Nantes in Wednesday's other Groups A match relieved to get a second shot at the three points they lost in the opening fixture.

"It is a new start for us," their Argentine coach Juan Ramon Rocha said. "Our target is to beat Nantes and everyone else in our group at home and then try our best in the away matches."

The Greeks losing finalists in 1971, are in buoyant mood after a 5-3 win over Panionios at the weekend in which Polish international striker Christo Warzycha netted all five goals.

"Christo is in exceptional form very early in the season and this is very encouraging. The French must work very hard to stop him," a Panathinaikos official said.

Nantes could bring back French international Nicolas Ouedec, who has been out for more than four months with a thigh injury.

Holders Ajax Amsterdam with teenage striker Patrick Kluyvert back in the side, look like being at full strength for the visit to Ferenc-

vars in Group D. Kluyvert missed the 1-0 home win over Real Madrid two weeks ago after being involved in a car crash in which a man died.

Real, who have made a disastrous start to the Spanish league season will be looking to make amends against Grasshopper Zurich 3-0 losers to Ferencvaros in Hungary.

Weighing heavily on Real will be the fact that they have lost their last three matches at their Bernabeu Stadium.

But Dane Michael Laudrup who has missed the opening games of the season through injury is set to return to give Real more creativity in attack.

Juventus whose 3-1 away victory over Borussia Dortmund in Group C two weeks ago has made them favourites to repeat their 1985 triumph are at home to Steaua Bucharest, the Romanians who succeeded them as European champions in 1986.

The two sides have never met before in European competition.

Borussia have another tough match in arguably the highest group away to Glasgow Rangers who went down 1-0 against Steaua in Bucharest.

Spartak Moscow are at home to Legia Warsaw in a clash between the winners in the Group B matches two weeks ago.

Losers Blackburn Rovers are away to Rosenborg of Norway looking to avoid another Scandinavian embarrassment after their shock loss to Swedish part-timers Trelleborgs in the first round of the UEFA Cup last season.

In the UEFA Cup today Bayern Munich are in danger of crashing out in the first round after a shock 1-0 home defeat to Lokomotiv Moscow in the first leg.

Italy so dominant in the UEFA Cup in recent years should see their four representatives go through to the second round although trou-

bled new look Internazionale managed only a 1-1 draw away to Swiss side Lugano in the first leg.

Parma although the UEFA Cup holders, are taking part in the Cup Winners Cup and go into Thursday's second leg of their first round tie against FC Teuta of Albania with a 2-0 lead.

Asian women's soccer

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia, Sept 26: Taiwan became the first team to qualify for the semifinals of the 10th Asian Women's Football Championship when they trounced hosts Malaysia 8-0 in Group B match Monday, reports AFP.

This was the second win for Taiwan who scored a 3-0 victory over Thailand Saturday. Group B has only three teams.

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Lakshmipur Notice Inviting Tender

Tenders are hereby invited from (sealed) Bangladesh Form No. 2911.

- Tender Notice No. E/L9 of 1995-96.
- Name of work : Providing brick pavement at 9th K.M. (P) & 10th K.M. (P) of Chowdhagram-Laksham-Modaffarganj-Chitoshi-Ramganj (Paniwala Bazar-Doshgoria Bazar connected road) (Ramganj Chitoshi portion) under Lakshmipur Road Division during the year 1995-96.
- Estimated cost : Tk. 12,74,143/00
- Earnest money : Tk. 25,483/00 (in favour of E. E. RHD, Road Division, Lakshmipur).
- Category of enlistment : "A" to "D" general category of RHD enlisted contractor.
- Completion from the date of issue of work order : 30 (Thirty) days.
- Name of office from which/where tender will be available for purchase : Executive Engineer, RHD, Lakshmipur/Feni/Noakhali Road Division/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/ Planning (P&D) Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/ Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Lakshmipur/Ramganj Sub-Division.
- Name of offices where tender will be received in sealed cover : Addl. Chief Engineer, RHD, Comilla Zone/Superintending Engineer, RHD, Noakhali Road Circle/Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Lakshmipur Road Division.
- Last date of selling of tender : 04-10-95 up to 05-00 PM.
- Date & time of receipt of tender : 05-10-95 at 12-30 PM.
- Date, time & place of opening of tender : 08-10-95 at 12-45 PM in the office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Lakshmipur.
- Chargeable to : 266, Development.
- Date of lottery : 10-10-95 at 11-00 AM, Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Lakshmipur Road Division.

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Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Lakshmipur

World cycling meet on

BOGOTA, Sept 26: The World Cycling Championships begin in this high Andean city on Tuesday, already overshadowed by serious injury to a French cyclist during warm-ups, reports AP.