

Leconte taken aback

MONTE CARLO, Apr 23: Frenchman Henri Leconte, a favourite with Wimbledon crowds since he reached the semifinals in 1986, said on Monday he had been refused a wild card for this year's tournament...



Sweden's Stefan Edberg returns a ball during his first round match against Spain's Alex Corretja at the Monte Carlo Open on Apr 22. Edberg won 7-6, 6-3. - AFP/UNB photo

FEDERATION feedback Bangladesh Cycling Federation

For want of a velodrome

A Star Special



because this is a costly project and we have other priorities.

"Endless-love" and "aimless-battle" are two different phrases very familiar to the Bangladesh Cycling Federation (BCF), perhaps the only federation of the country who have not participated in any international competition but are maintaining a healthy establishment...



M AHSAN ULLAH

in Bangladesh. The Daily Star (DS) interviewed BCF general secretary M Ahsan Ullah this week in his office at the Dhaka Stadium. The followings are the extracts of the cogitation:



An ideal velodrome

So who knows when these "endless-love" and "aimless-battle" will end? The cost of a velodrome is around 35 to 40 crore taka. The BCF is trying heart and soul to have a velodrome in this country...

Excitements grip Europe

LONDON, Apr 23: The name Cruyff looks set again to grace soccer at the highest level as the Netherlands meet fellow European Championship finalists Germany on Wednesday in one of a space of warm-ups for the June finals, reports Reuter.

up front and David Platt coming in for the first time this season and re-installed as captain. Yugoslavia's suspension let in Denmark as last-minute replacements in 1992 and they surprised everyone by going on to win the European title.

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Life's little irony!

MONTE CARLO, Apr 23: Andrei Medvedev said on Monday he would definitely play tennis for Ukraine in the future even though he did not feel proud of being a Ukrainian citizen and hoped to one day represent a resurrected Soviet Union.

Spain, one of the four seeded finalists, again play Norway in only the second warm-up possible amid a congested, over-long Spanish league season. They beat the Norwegians 1-0 in February.

Rai had a poor first season with PSG and it ended badly when he lost his place as Brazil's World Cup captain during the US tournament and did not play in the final.

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Rai's Paris days prolonged

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Italians busy in guessing

MILAN, Apr 23: With AC Milan just one match away from their 15th league title, the rest of Italy is now turning to the battle for a UEFA Cup place for its excitement, reports AFP.

Viali over the moon

MILAN, Apr 23: Veteran Gianluca Viali said on Monday he was flattered so many clubs wanted to sign him at his advanced age and announced he would go to the European Championship finals in England in June.

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Action from an Ashraf Real Estate First Division handball league encounter yesterday.

No stopping for Stevenson

SYDNEY, Apr 23: Commonwealth Games gold medalist Nicole Stevenson won her 10th consecutive national 100 metres backstroke title on Tuesday at the Australian Olympic trials.

Western Australian teenager Helen Derman continued her dominance of world champion Samantha Riley in the breaststroke, adding the non-Olympic 50 metres to the 100 metres title she won on Monday.

Despite winning the women's 400 metres freestyle, former 200 freestyle world champion Hayley Lewis will have to wait until the end of the meeting before learning whether she will be chosen to compete in Atlanta.

Chinese champion soccer team, Shanghai Shenhua, will host Italian and Spanish league leaders AC Milan and Atletico Madrid in May and June, organizers said today, reports Reuter.

Shenhua will play AC Milan at their 28,000-capacity Hongkou Stadium on May 28 and Atletico Madrid on June 5. In the two biggest matches ever to be staged in the city, it is costing three million yuan (361,000 dollars) to bring them to AC Milan team here, said Yang Shanpu, chairman of promoter Beijing Golden Pond Media Ltd.

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minute 2.08 seconds, 0.38 seconds inside the minimum qualifying time. A double gold medalist in the 100 and 200 metres at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, last year, Stevenson has won the event at every Australian championships since 1987.

None of the world records predicted by commentators and competitors before the trials have materialised after the first three days of a meeting in which many swimmers have failed to live up to expectations. Selectors, who on Saturday will announce Australia's team for the Atlanta Olympics, will now decide whether to use discretionary powers after the winners of many events failed to meet the minimum Olympic selection times set by Australian swimming officials.

Stevenson saved selectors that headache by winning the 100 metres backstroke in one

Lewis won in 4:14.45, more than two seconds ahead of Commonwealth Games silver medalist Stacy Gartell, the pre-race favourite who was beaten into third place by teenager Christina Thorpe.

The selectors will also have to decide whether to accept Chris Fydr's winning men's 100 metres freestyle time of 50.40, 0.67 seconds outside the Olympic selection time. Fydr beat Polish-born Michael Klim, who on Sunday swam the fastest 200 metres freestyle time this year and

qualified for Atlanta. Western Australian teenager Helen Derman continued her dominance of world champion Samantha Riley in the breaststroke, adding the non-Olympic 50 metres to the 100 metres title she won on Monday.

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Mini-ban on Mike Tyson

INDIANAPOLIS, Apr 23: Mike Tyson has been ordered to stay out of bars and strip clubs after a woman claimed the boxer assaulted her in Chicago, authorities said, reports AP.

Tyson has disputed the woman's version of events, in which she said he fondled her and tried to bite her face at a Chicago nightclub.

Tyson is on probation after serving a prison sentence for raping a woman at an Indianapolis hotel. The purpose of the new restrictions is to keep Tyson out of potential trouble situations, George Walker, chief probation officer for Marion Superior Court, said Monday.

Tyson had his out-of-state travel restrictions tightened last week by Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford while Chicago police investigate the April 7 incident at a nightclub.

Palmeiras' third in a row

RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 23: Irrepressible Palmeiras scored five goals in a game for the third time in a week as they hammered their latest victims Juventus 5-1 in the Sao Paulo soccer championship on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Palmeiras had beaten Uniao Sao Joao 5-0 on Thursday and Atletico Mineiro 5-0 in the Copa Brasil on Tuesday.

Former World Cup striker Muller and volatile midfielder Djailma both scored two each after left-back Junior had opened the scoring in the seventh minute, Marcio Grigio scored Juventus' consolation goal.

Palmeiras, who won the first stage of the competition, have five straight wins in the second stage and saw Sao Paulo level on points with them before the weekend, suffer a shock 3-1 defeat at home to America Sao Jose de Rio Preto.

Palmeiras will win the title automatically if they finish top of the second stage, otherwise, the top two teams in the second stage will join Palmeiras and first stage runners up Portuguesa in a four team play-off.

Striker Romario scored two minutes from time to salvage a 2-2 draw for Flamengo, who dropped their first points in the Rio de Janeiro championship, against Fluminense.

Table with 2 columns: Rank, Player Name, Nationality, and Points. Includes: 1. Steffi Graf (Germany), 2. Monica Seles (USA), 3. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain), etc.

Women's tennis' top twenty