

## Steffi knew nothing

FRANKFURT, Apr. 25: A prosecutor on Wednesday rejected a report that tennis star Steffi Graf knew what happened to her earnings, allegedly funnelled out of Germany for years by her father to avoid paying taxes, reports AP.

Asked about the report on the World No. 1 player that is to appear in the weekly Stern magazine Thursday, prosecutor Peter Wechsung in Mannheim said that based on the status of his office's investigation, "we disagree with its conclusions."

Stern said that the Graf family tax advisor, Joachim Eckhardt, who is jailed and charged in the case, had provided prosecutors information that Steffi Graf knew the details of what was happening to her money.

The magazine also said that former Graf family confidant, Horst Schmitt, informed her about where her money was deposited in 1991, although Steffi Graf has told prosecutors she paid little attention to her financial affairs to concentrate on tennis.

Wechsung said that Eckhardt had never been able to incriminate the tennis player in repeated questioning, and in one session he declined to discuss Steffi Graf's role in the case.

Prosecutors a week ago charged Eckhardt and Graf's father Peter Graf with failing to report 42 million marks (28 million dollars) of his daughter's earnings to evade 19.8 million marks (13.3 million dollars) in taxes between 1987 and 1993. Both are jailed in Mannheim.

Wechsung also said Wednesday that former family confidant Schmitt did not incriminate Steffi Graf during questioning, but rather told investigators that she was unaware of details on her financial situation, which were managed by her father.

Despite disagreement with the Stern report, Wechsung said the nearly year-long investigation of the 26-year-old tennis star continues.

The trial of Peter Graf and Eckhardt is expected to begin in late summer or early autumn, which could prevent the reigning and four-time US Open champion from taking part in that tournament this year.

## Bosnia, Albania share delight

ZENICA, Bosnia, Apr. 25: Bosnia and Albania drew 0-0 a soccer friendly on Tuesday, the first international played on Bosnia soil since the former Yugoslav Republic gained independence in 1992 and plunged into war, reports Reuters.

More than 15,000 spectators attended the game, including Bosnian army and NATO peacekeeping troops.

The match was held in the central Bosnian industrial city of Zenica because the stadium in the capital Sarajevo has not yet recovered from the effects of 43 months of siege warfare.

Most of the game was played in midfield but Bosnia failed to capitalise on several good chances in the first half.

The two teams met last November in a friendly in Tirana when Albania won 2-0.

The Bosnian eleven was made up entirely of players with foreign clubs including Barcelona striker Meho Kodro, a former Yugoslav international.

The match was viewed as a further sign that life is slowly beginning to return to normal in Bosnia following a peace deal signed by the country's leaders in Paris in December.

## Dreary draw in Oslo

OSLO, Apr. 25: Spain were held to a scoreless draw by Norway on Wednesday in their final warm up for the European Championships finals, reports Reuters.

The Spanish, one of four seeded finalists, dominated the first half of an offensive match with many scoring opportunities and good defences on both sides.

One of the best chances was Juan Antonio Pizzi's close range left-foot shot in the 25th minute that Norwegian keeper Frode Grodås managed to get his hands on.

Norway, who failed to qualify for the finals, fought back to take over the game in the second half after Spain had substituted four players in the 53rd minute.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer challenged Valencia goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta several times and in the 59th minute the World Cup veteran tipped a header by the Norwegian striker over the bar.

Spain were playing Norway again in only the second and last warm-up they have managed to arrange in a long Spanish league season. They beat the Norwegians 1-0 in Las Palmas in February.

## Romania rout Georgia

BUCHAREST, Apr. 25: A spectacular hat-trick by striker Florent Moldovan in a 13-minute rush in the first half helped European Championship finalists Romania to crush Georgia 5-0 in a soccer friendly on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Moldovan, who plays for Neuchâtel Xamax and is the leading goal scorer in Switzerland, scored in the 26th, 30th and 39th minutes from the same position on the six-metre line.



German tennis player Boris Becker is absorbed in deep concentration while executing a backhand during his second round encounter against Czech Republic's David Pikel at the Monte Carlo Open in Monaco on Apr. 24. Becker won 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. — AFP/UNB photo

## Big guns ride bareback

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Apr. 25: Michael Chang perhaps said it best. "It was just one of those days. Every-one will have those days where things go well and things don't go well," Chang said. "Obviously it was one of those days that didn't go very well for top seeds."

He could say that eight times as weight seeded players exited the Monte Carlo Open Wednesday. More than half of the 15 second-round matches had seeded players losing, reports AP.

Among the ones who escaped that fate were last years finalists, Thomas Muster and Boris Becker.

Muster opened defence of his title with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over Tomas Carbonell in the 2.2 million dollars tournament. It was the 31st consecutive win on clay for the No. 1 seeded Muster, stretching back to last August. He has won six tournaments on clay in a row, three this year.

Fourth-seeded Boris Becker, playing his first tournament match in six weeks, topped Czech David Rikl, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Last year's final loss against Muster is still a bitter memory for Becker, who was two sets up against Muster and had two match points but lost.

"It took me a while to get over it and I don't like to bring it up again," Becker said.

Becker had a lingering bronchitis that kept him out of action but says he feels fine now.

Others like third-seeded Chang and Goran Ivanisevic, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Thomas Enqvist, Jim Courier and two-time Monte Carlo champion Sergi Bruguera, seeded fifth through ninth, don't feel so good after losing.

Chang and Courier went out against Spaniards, Carlos Costa beat Chang 6-7 (8-10), 6-2, 6-4 and Javier Sanchez stopped Courier 6-3, 6-3.

Spanish qualifier Felix Mantilla downed Bruguera, 7-5, 6-2 and Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden defeated fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic 6-2, 6-2. Ivanisevic had just played one match since having to drop out of the Lipton final against Andre Agassi with a

neck injury last month, his seventh final of the year.

Agassi, seeded second, played on Tuesday and now has a third-round match on Thursday against Alberto Costa.

Cedric Pioline of France beat Kafelnikov 6-4, 6-3. It was Kafelnikov's third straight loss on clay and Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands ousted Enqvist of Sweden 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Also Fabrice Santoro of France upset the top-ranked French player, Arnaud Boetsch, seeded 11th, 7-5, 1-6, 7-6.

6 (7-3). Also, 15th seeded Renzo Furlan had to withdraw with an injured hand, allowing Carlos Moya of Spain to advance.

Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, the 1994 winner here, routed Mark Philippoussis of Australia 6-0, 6-2 and Richard Krajicek dropped the first eight games, then turned around to beat Stefan Edberg 0-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Czech Petr Korda, Marcelo Rios of Chile and Alberto Costa of Spain also advanced.



World no. 2 Thomas Muster of Austria seen ruining a mistake during his match against Thomas Carbonell of Spain in the Monte Carlo Open in Monaco on Apr. 24. Muster won 7-5, 6-4. — AFP/UNB photo

## Of nobles & Test cricket

K Z Islam

True, in the early stages of Test cricket, there was a sprinkling of titled cricketers. Lord Harris, the first titled gentleman who became the captain of England was followed by two Blighs, later to become Earl of Darnley.

Lord Darnley has become part of cricket history, as following 1882-83 series of Test matches in Australia (won by England) some Melbourne ladies burnt a ball, sealed the ashes in an urn and presented it to the England captain, two Blighs married one of the ladies. Lord Darnley on his death in 1927 bequeathed the ashes to MCC.

A few other titled gentlemen followed namely Hon F S Jackson, Lord Tennyson, Hon F S G Calhoun, Sir T C O'Brien, Lord Hawke, all of whom captained England. Diverting from England let us take a look at the Maharajas of India who promoted cricket. The most outstanding name is that of K S Ranjitsinhji, the Jamsaheb of Nawanagar (Ranjit). Undoubtedly, he was one of the greatest batsmen of all times. For an Indian to play for England against Australia in 1986 must make him a person of extraordinary distinction. Many of the rulers of Indian states patronised cricket in a big way.

We next see the appearance of K S Duleep Singh (nephew of Ranji) and Wisden records that in the third Test that was played between New Zealand and England in 1929 in Auckland when Duleep Singh scored 117 the crowd "were treated to dazzling exhibition of stroke play from Duleep Singh."

In the first and only Test match played between India and England at Lords in June 1932, India was captained by Maharaja of Porbandar but as he could not play the side was led by C K Nayudu. We next see the appearance of Nawab of Pataudi in 1932 playing in his first Test match against Australia in the famous 'Bodyline' series. It is well known that since Pataudi refused to cooperate with captain D R Jardine in his leg theory bowling, Pataudi was dropped from the Test side despite having scored a century on his debut. Maharaja of Patiala played one Test match, with some distinction, for India against England. The Maharaja of Vizianagaram became captain of India in its tour of England in 1936. Later he was to become the very popular cricket running commentator known as 'Vizzy'. Nawab of Pataudi who played for England also had the distinction of captaining India in the 1946 tour of England. We see probably the last appearance of aristocracy in Test cricket when Nawab of Pataudi Jr (Mansur Ali Khan) made his debut for India in 1961. He was subsequently the captain of India. A few words must be mentioned about 'Tiger' Pataudi whose career is a history of triumph over adversity. Despite the fact that he lost the sight of his right eye as a result of a motor

accident, he went on to have a very outstanding Test career. I distinctly remember this incident, as I was a student in England in those days. Prior to the accident as the captain of the Oxford University team playing county matches we used to see his name in the newspapers very frequently scoring centuries in every other match.

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## Iceland freeze Estonia

TALLIN, Apr. 25: Left winger Bjarki Gunnlaugsson scored three goals in 22 minutes in the first half to give Iceland a 3-0 win over Estonia in a friendly international on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Iceland, making history with 35-year-old Arnor Gudjohnsen playing alongside his 17-year-old son Edidur-Smar, went ahead after eight minutes when Gunnlaugsson scored after getting past three defenders.

The winger struck again in the 22nd minute from a pass by midfielder Olafur Thordarson and completed his hat-trick on the half hour when he rifled the ball into the roof of the net from six metres.

He was substituted at half-time by Thorur Gudjonsson. Estonia's coach Teitur Thordarson said his team had been unable to hold on to the ball under pressure.

## Laudrups Denmark's livewire

COPENHAGEN, Apr. 25: Michael and Brian Laudrup both struck here on Wednesday in Denmark's 2-0 win over Scotland to leave the visitors' hopes of a successful Euro '96 challenge looking unrealistic, reports AFP.

Both the Laudrups goals came during a first-half in which the defending European champions dominated.

The Danes took a seventh minute lead as Colin Hendry stumbled badly on the right touchline and let Mikkel Beck, a target of Rangers, run past and feed Michael Laudrup who steered the ball low beyond keeper Jim Leighton.

The Real Madrid star, Denmark's captain, has scored 35 times in 87 appearances for his country.

Denmark added their second after 27 minutes as brothers Michael and Brian combined together. Michael's defence-splitting pass sent Brian streaking through and the Rangers man rounded Leighton to score.

Scotland had veteran keeper Leighton to thank for keeping the score to a respectable margin.

Leighton, Scotland's first choice keeper for the 1990 World Cup finals, saved from Beck, Lars Olsen, Marc Rieper and Michael Laudrup before he was replaced by Rangers keeper Andy Goram at half-time.

Although Scotland, for whom this was only their second defeat in 11 games, improved in the second half they had only two worthwhile efforts from playmaker Gary McAllister to show for their efforts.

Scotland's worried manager Crig Brown, whose B side lost 3-0 to Denmark 24 hours earlier, has just two games against United States and Colombia to prepare Scotland for this summer's finals.

Brown will also be concerned that having used nine strikers in the two matches none could find the back of the net.

## Bank wants no part of it

LONDON, Apr. 25: Production of a video called Hooligan '96, featuring scenes of the mayhem caused by English soccer hooligans abroad, has been suspended after a complaint by former World Cup-winning goalkeeper Gordon Banks, reports Reuters.

The 62-minute video, due for release shortly before June's European Soccer Championship in England, highlights the violence perpetrated by hooligans.

Hooligans are quoted as saying they plan to disrupt Euro '96 and one says they will target ordinary supporters.

Banks, who helped England to win the World Cup in 1966, complained that he had been misled about its content by the makers of the video when he was asked to feature in it.

"I thought I was going to talk about the way the game has changed since I was a player," Banks said. "I did not know they were interviewing members of gang. I feel I was conned."

The video's distributors said it aimed to show how disgraceful hooliganism was but the agreed to delay production until Bank's criticisms had been investigated.

"Hooligan '96 is a documentary which takes a responsible look at the issue of football hooliganism," the distributors said. "The documentary does not glorify soccer violence."

## Bosman case to be put on the table

BRUSSELS, Apr. 25: UEFA will meet the European Commission on Friday to discuss the aftermath of the controversial Bosman court ruling, competition commissioner Karel van Miert said on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

"Obviously I will listen carefully to what Mr. Aigner has to tell me on Friday," Van Miert told a news conference about the planned visit of UEFA secretary general Gerard Aigner.

But he warned European soccer's governing body not to try and bend new rules laid down by the European Court of Justice last December.

The court ruled that UEFA's transfer fee system and limits on the number of foreign EU players appearing in EU teams contravened European Union treaty provisions allowing workers to move freely across borders.

## Jackson changes his mind

CARDIFF, Apr. 25: World 110 metres hurdles world champion Colin Jackson said on Wednesday he had lifted his boycott of meetings organised by the British Athletic Federation (BAF), reports Reuters.

Jackson refused to compete after being reprimanded by executive chairman Peter Radford at the end of last season for running in Italy 24 hours after pulling out of the domestic championships with a muscle injury.

But he has relented after talks with the federation's promotions unit.

Jackson, who will still have nothing to do with Radford, said he would be competing in the BAF International meeting in Gateshead on June 30.

## Miller sets pool afire

SYDNEY, Apr. 25: Scott Miller swam the second fastest time ever in the men's 100 metres butterfly at Australia's Olympic trials today to set up the prospect of an intriguing showdown with world record holder Denis Pankrotov or Russia at the Olympic Games, reports Reuters.

Miller's time of 52.56 seconds was 0.24 of a second outside Pankrotov's record of 52.32 set at the European Championships in Vienna last August.

"I'm pretty confident I can go faster than that, but I don't think you'll see a big drop in 12 weeks," Miller said.

"I raced Pankrotov three times at the end of 1994 in France and he beat me pretty easily."

Miller, 21, said he had suffered a bad headache several hours before the race but was frightened to take any medication.

Australia's Samantha Riley received a warning from swimming's world governing body, FINA, after taking a

banned substance in a headache tablet at the world short course championships in Brazil last December.

"I'd had a headache and my goggles were really tight, so I couldn't really see my time after the race," Miller said.

"I thought I'd broken the world record because I knew I was swimming fast."

Pan Pacific and 1994 Commonwealth champion, Miller set his previous best time of 53.07 at the Pan Pacific Games in Atlanta last August.

Miller hopes his return to Atlanta will be more rewarding than his last experience there.

## Russians below par

BRUSSELS, Apr. 25: European finalists Russia and rebuilding Belgium played out a goalless draw here on Wednesday in an uneventful match, reports AFP.

Russia, who beat Ireland last month, were unable to open the scoring against a Belgian side which is restructuring for the 1998 World Cup in France.

## Croatia escape at Wembley

LONDON, Apr. 25: England and Croatia played out an uninspiring 0-0 draw here on Wednesday in a result which is likely to please both coaches in the run-up to the European Championships, reports AFP.

England's Terry Venables will probably be happy with a draw in which England created countless chances. An opposite number Miroslav Blazevic can be satisfied not to lose at England's famous Wembley venue.

"We had four or five chances to kill the game," said manager of the match Paul Ince.

England had by far the greater share of territory but after the early misses by Steve Stone and Robbie Fowler rarely threatened again before the interval.

England were having to do without striker Alan Shearer, who has just had a hernia operation but expects to be fit for the June 8 to June 30 European Championships in England.

Croatia's sudden spurts after periods of slow build-up were deceptive and Pearce twice had to act quickly to prevent, first, Aljosa Asanovic and then Davor Suker breaking through.

Fowler had the ball in the back of the net in the 24th minute but Teddy Sheringham was adjudged to have fouled keeper Marijan Mrmic, who had dropped the ball into Fowler's path.

England, playing with an experimental three at the back with Gary Neville, Mark Wright and Stuart Pearce, nearly scored through Fowler once more from a Stone cross from the right.

But the header by Fowler, making his first full debut, was saved low down to the right by Mrmic.

Seconds before half-time, Stone crossed for restored skipper David Platt to connect with a powerful header, but Mrmic blocked the ball on the line.

Mrmic did even better to recover in time and block Platt's follow-up effort although he needed treatment for an injury before play could continue.

Asanovic was booked after wrestling Paul Gascoigne to the floor when the Rangers player tried to find a way past.

The few chances England were able to create made it vital he should have put that one in.

And 10 minutes from time, McManaman hit the left-hand post, which rebounded to Sheringham, who found the side netting.

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The Sydney swimmer spent a night in jail during the Pan Pacific championships after intervening in a fight outside a nightclub, with charges arising from the incident subsequently dropped.

"This feels a lot better than being arrested," Miller said.

Polish-born Michael Klim finished second in 53.51 and also qualified for Atlanta.

Training partners Philip Rogers and Ryan Mitchell, who on Wednesday both celebrated birthdays, dead-heated in the final of the men's 200 metres breaststroke in a time of 2:14.26.

Rogers and Mitchell will both qualify for Atlanta after beating the minimum qualifying time by 0.03 of a second.

Both from South Australia, their time was the second fastest swim in the world this year.

Elli Overton, a finalist at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, also qualified for Atlanta when she won the women's 200 metres individual medley in a time of 2:16.26.

Teenager Emma Johnson, who won Sunday's 400 metres individual medley, was second.

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