

## Sport

## Phil paves Leics' path

LONDON, Sept 13: Trinidadian Phil Simmons celebrated the award of a new two-year contract with Leicestershire on Thursday to shorten the odds on his side winning this season's English county championship, reports Reuter.

Simmons claimed a career best six for 14 as bottom club Durham collapsed to 1226 all out to give Leicestershire maximum bowling points in their penultimate championship match.

They then accelerated to 253 for five at the close, a position of strength in one of the tightest title races in recent years, with Simmons unbeaten on 28.

Surrey, in second place a point behind Leicestershire before the start of play, endured a less successful day against Glamorgan in Cardiff as the home side reached 351 for nine.

Fourth-placed Essex were also on the receiving end of a big total as Sussex amassed 361 for eight, but fellow contenders Derbyshire did their best to keep the pressure on.

They were bowled out for 242 by Warwickshire, relying heavily on Chris Adams who scored 80, but Phil Defretas then struck back with four wickets to restrict the visiting side back to 131 for five.

Kent, also in with an outside chance if the leaders falter, piled up 376 for four against Hampshire with another West Indian, Carl Hooper, making 80 and Nigel Llong contributing an unbeaten 105.

Lancashire's Jason Gallian, named in the England A team to tour Australia where he grew up, made 113 for Lancashire as they made 337 for eight against Northamptonshire.

## New book on cricket Sports Reporter



"Sabi" Jonyo Cricket", a book on cricket coaching translated by Zahirul Islam Nadim, was published by Khelar Bhubon Prokashoni recently.

Profusely illustrated, the 102-page book will prove to be useful to the budding cricketers of the country.

## Milan seek some solace

MILAN, Sept 13: AC Milan will need to bounce back from their midweek humiliation in the European Cup if they are to prove they are still the best side in the Serie A this weekend, reports AFP.

The Italian champions, who conceded two goals in the last 15 minutes to lose 3-2 to FC Porto, will want to come back with a morale-boosting victory over Sampdoria on Sunday.

George Weah, stretchered off after scoring Milan's second goal, should have recovered from a hand injury, but there are still doubts over Dutch defender Michael Reiziger who limped off with knee trouble.

Given the defensive problems, and the continuing absence of injured captain Franco Baresi, a likely solution for coach Oscar Tabarez will be to give ex-Juventus veteran Pietro Vierchowod his debut.

The midfield line-up will probably be unchanged, as will the forward trio of Roberto Baggio, Marco Simone and Weah, who guided Milan to a 4-1 victory over Verona last weekend.

Roberto Manchini, the Sampdoria striker and skipper, should have recovered from ankle problems to lead his side out.

Juventus, buoyed up their 1-0 win over Manchester United, go in search of their first league victory of the season at home to Cagliari.

The European Cup holders will have defender Moreno Torricelli back in the team, and are still appealing a two-match ban for captain Antonio Conte.

Should the appeal fail, Valdano Jugovic, who scored Juventus' decisive penalty in the European Cup final shootout with Ajax Amsterdam, will take over the vacant slot in midfield.

Maurizio Ganz and Chilean Ivan Zamorano, Inter's only available strikers, will lead the attack, supported by inspirational Frenchman Youri Djorkaeff.

Parma, who travel to Placenza, will be without the Olympics' joint top goalscorer, Hernand Crespo of Argentina, who is still plagued by tendinitis, and Italian international defender Antonio Benarrivo, who is out for 40 days with a fractured collarbone.

Lazio are at home to Udinese, while city rivals AS Roma travel to Vicenza.

Florentina, whose new striker Oliveira missed Thursday night's 1-1 European Cup Winners Cup draw with Bistrita through suspension, will have the Brazilian back on Sunday against Atlanta.



Mauri Keskitalo of Finnish club My-Pa 47 clears the ball before Liverpool's Mark Wright during their European Cup Winners' Cup tie in Anjalankoski on Sept 12.

—AFP/UNB photo

## Stig strikes for Liverpool



KOUVOLA, Finland, Sept 13: Norwegian international Stig Bjornebye ensured Liverpool a 1-0 European Cup Winners' Cup win at Finnish side My-Pa 47 just 40 miles from the Russian border, reports AFP.

In a poor week for British clubs — neither Arsenal, Aston Villa, Manchester United, Rangers or Celtic won — four-times European Cup champions Liverpool gained a little respect by edging out the home side.

Bjornebye made the breakthrough for Liverpool after 61 minutes when McAtee's cross was only half-cleared and Bjornebye, making his debut in a European competition for the club, volleyed the ball home left-footed from just inside the penalty area.

It was only his second goal for Liverpool. He opened his account against Middlesbrough on the opening day of the season.

Former Aston Villa defender David Moore and Chester-born striker John Alder were both included in this first round, first leg clash.

Liverpool began brightly with Robbie Fowler, who has scored just once this season, turning quickly and sending in a snap shot that went just wide of the post.

Then Bjornebye picked out Steve McManaman, but his shot was off target. There was a moment of danger of Liverpool when Mika Hernesniemi punted a long ball forward and

goalkeeper David James raced off his line to clear as Mauri Keskitalo waited for any slips.

Fowler again got away from his market, 19-year-old Moore, only to slice his shot wide of the post.

Liverpool found it hard to get their game together on this tight little ground only 70 miles from the Russian border.

Fowler continued to look dangerous, but he was again off target with another shot as Roy Evans' team tried to carve out a goal before the break.

But worryingly for Evans, the Finnish side were allowed to carve out a number of opportunities of their own and Koskinen had looked very ordinary in the first half against a team that had never won at home in a European competition.

Stojkovic, 31, was the key member of the team along with Wenger as they lifted the near regular bottom placers to runners-up place in the second stage last season.

Club officials did not reveal Stojkovic's new salary, but Japanese news agency Jiji Press estimated it at 140 million yen (1.27 million dollars), up 80 million yen from his previous contract.

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Then goalkeeper Jakonen made a fine save as Collymore flicked the ball on from another fine cross by Bjornebye.

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Central defender Babb got a stiff talking to by referee Gyli Orrason for challenge on Toni Kunnunur.

Liverpool began to step up the pace and Collymore missed a glorious chance after Barnes and Thomas had linked up. Somehow he managed to steer the ball wide.

The rest of the Zimbabwe late order succumbed to the spin of Muthiah Muralitharan and Jayantha Vaas after left-arm paceman Chaminda Vaas provided the initial breakthrough by having Craig Evans caught behind for nine.

Muralitharan accounted for the wicket of Paul Strang for six and Silva was left on a hatrick after picking up the last six Zimbabwe wickets off successive deliveries.

Scoreboard on the third day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the R Premadasa Stadium on Friday:

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 349 (A Ranatunga 75, R Kaluwitharana 71, A Gurushinha 52, K Dharmasena 42 n.o.;

**BOWLING (to date):** O M R W

Vaas 4.1 0 15 0

Gurushinha 2 0 4 0

De Silva 2 1 0 0

## Upali's resignation turned down

COLOMBO, Sept 13: Sri Lanka's sports minister today turned down the resignation of the country's millionaire cricket chief Upali Dharmadasa, who accepted responsibility for a mix-up at last week's Singer World Series final, reports AFP.

The sports ministry said it was satisfied with the apology by Dharmadasa for causing embarrassment to minister SB Dissanayake, who was invited for the tournament as the chief guest only to learn that someone else had been designated chief guest.

Dissanayake had said he was embarrassed when the head of the Singer company here was announced as the chief guest.

Dharmadasa, a leading businessman, was elected head of the cricket board six months ago, shortly after Sri Lanka won the World Cup.

## Steffi's aim in life

BONN, Sept 13: World number one Steffi Graf revealed on Friday she will begin a sports marketing career when she eventually leaves the tennis circuit, reports AFP.

Graf, whose father Peter is currently being tried for tax fraud, once again denied any involvement in tax evasion allegations on her vast fortune.

She has decided to keep a tight rein on her financial affairs and admitted she has now learned a lot of lessons.

"I have to completely organise the management of my affairs and I am going to personally take the important decisions and make sure they are put into effect," she said, adding her company's headquarters would be in her hometown of Brühl.

"With the new company, my aim is to begin sports marketing at the end of my career. I hope to deal with other athletes and organise all sorts of events."

Meanwhile, her father Peter proclaims the innocence of his daughter at the trial which began on September 5.

Peter Graf and his ex-financial advisor Joachim Eckardt are being tried in Mannheim for allegedly having not declared 42 million marks (23 million dollars) of his daughter's revenue to the German tax authorities between 1989 and 1993.

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Vaas 4.1 0 15 0

Gurushinha 2 0 4 0

De Silva 2 1 0 0

Total: (for no wicket) 20

**ZIMBABWE:** Second innings

G Flower not out 13

M Dekker not out 6

Extras: (2-1) 1

Total: (for no wicket) 20

**BOWLING:** O M R W

Vaas 22 3 73 4

Gurushinha 3 1 3 0

Dharmasena 9 3 23 1

Muralitharan 24 9 28 2

H Streak not out 0

Extra: (b-4, lb-4, nb-4, w-2) 14

Total: all out 145

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-15; 3-21; 4-45; 5-103; 6-105; 7-123; 8-138; 9-145.

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