

Debate over Peter's bail

MANNHEIM, Germany, Sept 17: The judge and the prosecutor in the tax evasion trial of Peter Graf, father of tennis star Steffi Graf, argued in court Tuesday over a decision by the judge that could free Graf on bail, reports AP.

Chief prosecutor Hubert Jobski accused Judge Joachim Plass, who last Friday said he had lifted the arrest warrant against Graf and his tax adviser — Joachim Eckhardt — of making a deal with Graf and his lawyers.

Jobski said he had not been specifically informed of Plass intention to lift the arrest warrants and that it should have been discussed during the trial.

Prosecutors have appealed Plass' decision, arguing Graf might flee or destroy evidence if he is let out of jail. The high state court in Karlsruhe has said it will issue a ruling at the earliest next Monday on whether the two defendants can be freed on bail.

Plass defended his decision, saying the court sees only a slight chance that Graf might try to flee to avoid prosecution, and that Graf had personally agreed to conditions set by the court for his release: a 3 million marks (2 million dollars) bond and reporting to police twice a week.

Eckardt must post a 300,000 marks (200,000 dollars) bond and also report to police.

Graf, who reportedly suffers from alcoholism, was also instructed not to seek medical help outside the district of Karlsruhe. The Mannheim court comes under the jurisdiction of the Karlsruhe district.

Plass said the court was of the opinion "that the prisoners should not simmer too long in jail."

Graf, 58, and Eckardt are accused of failing to pay 19.6 million marks (13.7 million dollars) on 42 million marks (28 million dollars) of Steffi's daughter's earnings between 1989-93. Graf has been jailed for 13 months and Eckardt for 12.

Ric offers his services

SYDNEY, Sept 17: Ric Charlesworth, who steered the Australian women's hockey team to the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics, has applied to coach the men's and women's national teams, reports AFP.

Charlesworth, who played a record 227 internationals over 16 years for Australia, reshaped the women's team to win the Olympic, World Cup and two Champions Trophy titles in the past four years.

Men's coach Frank Murray stepped down after his team won bronze in Atlanta leaving Charlesworth the possibility to switch.

At the close of applications Monday, six candidates had applied to the Australian Hockey Association (AHA) for the head coach job of the men's team.

Source said several candidates, including current women's team coach Charlesworth, have applied for both positions.

Teri put their names forward to Women's Hockey Australia (WHA) for the equivalent post when their deadline arrived last Friday.

The two national hockey bodies could end up competing for one coach. "It will be interesting if we come up with the same person," AHA executive director Linden Adamson said today.

The challenge of chasing Australia's first men's hockey Olympic gold medal at the Sydney 2000 Games has obvious appeal for Charlesworth.

Interviews for both jobs are expected to get underway in the next couple of weeks with decisions likely next month.

Pele Jr joins the infamous eleven

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 17: Santos goalkeeper Edinho, the son of Pele, was one of 11 players sent off in the Brazilian Championship at the weekend, reports Reuter.

Edinho was given his marching orders for dissent in the last minute of his team's 2-0 defeat by Goias in a game which saw the return of Santos's infamous "chequered flag" shorts, Santos defender Marcos Adriano and Goias midfielder Evandro were also sent off early in the second half.

Santos took the field wearing their unconventional black-and-white checked shorts, which shocked fans when they first appeared earlier in the year and had not been used previously in the competition.

They lined up an ultra-defensive side and were sunk by goals from former Santos players Indio and Marcelo Passos.

The score was sweet revenge for Goias coach Cabralzinho, who took Santos to last year's final but was then sacked for complaining to a club director who arrived seven hours late for a meeting to discuss the renewal of his contract.

Juventude had three players sent off, including goalkeeper Marco, as they went down to a 4-2 defeat against leaders Palmeiras.

Bottom club Bragantino finished with nine men as they lost 3-2 to Corinthians, their seventh defeat in eight games, while Internacional and Sao Paulo had one man each dismissed in their match.

International won 1-0 with a controversial penalty as Carlos Alberto Parreira's team completed their fourth match without a win.

Sport Recife recorded the biggest win of the tournament by thrashing a demoralised Fluminense 6-0.



Asian Cricket Council (ACC) trophy champions Bangladesh cricket team, photographed yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina when the delegation called on her at her Secretariat office. State Minister for Sports and Youth Obaidul Quader (R) and BCCB president Saber Hossain Choudhury, MP, are also seen in the picture. — Star photo

A Seles-Sanchez duet



TOKYO, Sept 17: Top seeds Monica Seles and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario warmed up for their singles by joining for doubles Tuesday, cruising to an easy first-round victory in the Nichirei Ladies tournament, reports AP.

"It was a lot of fun, and it's always harder the first time you play together," Sanchez-Vicario said after the 6-3, 6-0 victory over Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand and American Jolene Watanabe.

"But we did play very well in the end. It was a good match," said the Spanish player, seeded No 2 in singles behind her American doubles partner.

Neither has started singles action yet. After a first-round bye, Seles meets Japan's Mana Endo, the world's No 56 player, on Wednesday on the hard courts of Tokyo's Ariake Tennis Park.

This was the second time Seles and Sanchez-Vicario had teamed up for a doubles match. They played together in the Pan Pacific tennis tournament in Tokyo in 1991.

"I had to default after we won the first match," Seles said.

Asked if they would join for more doubles matches in the future, Seles said, "I just focus on tomorrow's match."

The Nichirei event is the first competition for Seles since her loss to Steffi Graf of Germany in the US Open final. Seles won it in 1991 and 1992. Graf has never completed in this 450,000 dollar event.

In first-round singles Tuesday, Japan's Ai Sugiyama, seeded sixth, breezed past Adriana Gersi of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-4. No 8 seed Wang Shiting of Taiwan pounded out a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Rika Hiraki of Japan.

Sugiyama, ranked 23rd in the world, dropped her serve in

the first game but broke right back in the second game, reeling off six straight games.

"She runs fast, covers the court well and has a good, angled forehand shot," Sugiyama said of Gersi, ranked 123rd. "It was my first meeting with her."

Wang played an aggressive game throughout, mixing deep forehands to the corners with backhand slices that Haraki couldn't control.

South Korean Park Sung-hee beat Thailand's Tamarine 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

Rita Grande of Italy ousted Japan's Kyoko Nagatsuka 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. Andrea Glass of Germany beat Australian Annabel Ellwood 6-4, 6-4, and American Kimberly Po defeated Japan's Miho Saeki 6-2, 6-1.

Other singles seeds who have yet to start play include No 3 Kimiko Date of Japan and defending champion and No 4 seed Mary Pierce of France.

Betis atop alone

SEVILLE, Spain, Sept 17: Real Betis went top of the Spanish First Division on Monday after an action-packed 1-1 draw at home with Real Madrid, reports Reuter.

With seven points from three games, Betis lead Barcelona, Real Sociedad and Racing Santander on goal difference. Real Madrid are two points back in seventh place.

Betis were superbly led by international forward Alfonso Perez and deserved more from a game in which Real Madrid's deficiencies in midfield were again exposed.

Perez put Betis ahead against his old side with a superbly placed header from a cross by Robert Jarni.

But Real Madrid struck back just before the break when Brazilian midfielder Roberto Carlos thundered home a swerving 25-metre free-kick that gave Betis goalkeeper Antoni Prats no chance.

Betis continued to dominate in the second half, but in the end manager Lorenzo Serra Ferrer was happy with his team's effort.

"We went out to win, so I can't complain, and Real Madrid were never allowed to settle down," said Serra Ferrer.

The game was suspended for several minutes in the first half by the arrival on the pitch of a rabbit painted in Betis' green and white colours.

The capacity crowd greeted the Rabbit's outmanoeuvring of Real Madrid players with a chorus of 'oles' normally reserved for passing moves by their team.

In another curious incident the referee pulled out a yellow card after Francisco Hierro had fouled Perez, but allowed play to continue and did not book Hierro until the ball finally went out of play nearly ten minutes later.

Aussies, SA lock horns

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 17: The fierce sporting rivalry between South Africa and Australia, forged on rugby and cricket fields, spills into the soccer arena on Wednesday night, reports AFP.

The clash at Johannesburg Stadium is expected to determine the destination of the four-nation Simba Cup after South Africa pipped Kenya 1-0 and Australia outclassed Ghana 2-0 in the opening round.

Victory would leave the successful side needing one point from the final phase of mini-league in Pretoria on Saturday to clinch top spot in the 100,000-dollar tournament.

Coaches Clive Barker and Eddie Thomson have added spice to an encounter expected to draw a capacity 40,000 crowd with a war of words any boxing promoter would approve of.

Barker, the man who guided South Africa to the African Nations Cup title last February, jokingly referred to the Australia defenders as 'elephants, because they are big and strong but cannot turn.'

He detected little difference in style between the Australian team which beat his team twice in 1994 and that which overcame Ghana in the Indian Ocean city of Durban last Saturday.

"Those big, physical boys are capable in defence, but not that nimble on the ball, and I get the feeling that if we really push them, they will be in trouble," Barker said.

Scottish-born Thomson, relieved that the Ghanaian match ended a winless four-match run, soaked up the Barker jabs in good humour before launching a counter-attack.

"There is no love lost between us and while I consider my team skillful, they can also be rough and tough when the need arises. South Africa will have to improve on their showing against Kenya to win."

While Thomson should give his team a vote of confidence, Barker must make at least four changes as club commitments in the United States and Nigeria rule out doctor Khumalo, Dumisani Ngobe, John Moeiti and Helman Mkhalele.

Szwe Motaung, David Nyathi and Philemon Masinga arrived from Switzerland on Monday and key midfielders Eric Tinkler and 'shoes' Moshoeu were also expected to return from Europe.

South Africa may abandon a 3-5-2 system used for the first time against Kenya for the traditional 4-4-2 formation with a decision on who partners Neil Tovey in central defence likely to occupy much of Barker's time.

Kipketer keeps the pace



TOKYO, Sept 17: Sebastian Coe's 15-year-old 800-metre world record has survived another year of great athletic feats including world champion Wilson Kipketer's comeback from Olympic misery, reports AFP.

"To break a world record, you need a lot of preparations and it must be done in mid-June or mid-July," Kipketer said after winning his last race of the season in a relatively fast time.

"I'm not going to say I can do it. But somebody can do it soon because you know there are many people who are running fast now."

Kipketer, due to obtain Danish citizenship in 15 months, won the race in 1min 42.17 sec at the Tokyo international athletics meeting, short of the world record of 1:41.73 set by the Briton in 1981.

The 25-year-old Kipketer

missed the Centennial Olympics in Atlanta as he rejected an offer by the International Olympic Committee to run for his native Kenya.

International Amateur Athletic Federation rules permit Kipketer to run for Denmark. But Olympic criteria only let him run for Denmark in the Olympics once he attained full nationality or if Kenya renounced its claim on him.

As a last-minute compromise for Atlanta, Denmark allowed him to run under Kenya's flag.

Kipketer, who studied electronics at a technical school in Denmark for six years, stayed in Europe while four people ran at under 1:43 in Atlanta.

Kipketer put the Atlanta blues behind him to win the Rieti Grand Prix on September 1 in 1:41.83 or the third best time in history. In 1984, Joachim Cruz of Brazil ran a 1:41.77.

"I didn't go for a world record but I tried to run fast," he said after his first race in almost three weeks. "There was no pressure on me. I felt relaxed."

Japan's Hirohisa Muramatsu finished second in 1:47.13, almost five seconds off Kipketer, and American Johnnu Gray third in 1:47.66.

Asked if he regretted having missed Atlanta, he said: "That was not my idea to go inside and kick somebody out (of the Kenyan team)."

"I also have my own principle. I ran for Kenya last year. If I run for Kenya now, it is going to be more complicated for my life," he said.

He added, "I have one thing in my mind. I have to concentrate on my career."

"If ever I run for Japan or any other country, I will still run in the same stride and the same style."

"Inside me, I am a Kenyan," he said. "There is nothing that has changed mentally."

FBI keeps 'em guessing



ATLANTA, Sept 17: The FBI on Thursday refused to say whether Olympics security guard Richard Jewell was still a suspect in the investigation into the deadly pipe-bomb explosion at the Atlanta Summer Games.

Federal investigators had repeatedly identified Jewell, 33, as one of several suspects in the July 27 attack, which left two people dead and more than 100 injured. But, amid a spate of media reports describing several new suspects not connected to Jewell, FBI special agent Jay Spadafora said he could not comment on the security guard's role in the case.

"I can't comment on that," he told Reuters. Asked if the

change in the FBI's public relation approach also signalled a change in status for former police officer, Jewell, Spadafora said: "We're just not confirming anything."

CBS News said on Wednesday the FBI probe of the bombing had gained pace with investigators focusing on a single suspect and possible accomplices with no ties to Jewell.

Other news organisations later quoted unnamed sources as saying new suspects could be linked to the citizens' militia movement.

Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick, asked at the weekly justice department briefing about the CBS report, said, "We have said all along that we have more than one suspect and we are continuing to say that."

Attorney G Waston Bryant, who leads Jewell's legal team, said he hoped the latest suspects would receive better treatment than that given his client, who has been hounded for weeks by FBI investigators and the media.

"I hope they (the FBI) have learned something from the punishment that they've given to our guy. I also hope that they don't continue to keep our guy as a suspect simply to deflect attention from the real suspect in this case," he told Reuters.

Good news for scouts

LONDON, Sept 17: Young scouts are to get a new award to sew on to their uniforms — a symbolic mobile phone badge to reward their public relations skills, reports Reuter.

"It could be used to update the stereotype people have of scouting which often means funny hats, shorts and helping grannies across the road," said a spokesman for the international Youth Movement.

"This will hopefully give scouting a bit more street credibility," the Scout Association spokesman told the London Times.

Scouts can win their new badge by giving a presentation about scouting, putting out a press release and obtaining media coverage.

XI ASIAN CUP DRAW

DUBAI, Sept 17: Title-holders Japan drew a relatively easy group on Monday for December's 11th Asian cup final round, reports Reuter.

Japan, victors in 1992 over Saudi Arabia, were seeded in Group C to face China, Syria and Uzbekistan in Al-Ain, Syria and Uzbekistan only just squeezed into the 12-team final round.

South Korea, who have reached the final tournaments of the last three World Cups, are favourites to win Group A in Abu Dhabi. They were drawn with hosts the United Arab Emirates the UAE's old Gulf rival Kuwait and Indonesia.

Saudi Arabia head the Dubai-based Group B which also includes Iran, Thailand and Iraq.

Iran have won the Asian Cup three times. Thailand won Sunday's Tiger Cup final in Singapore, while Iraq were the last team to qualify for the final round of this tournament with victories over Pakistan and Oman last month.

The top two teams in each group and the two third-placed



sides with the best records qualify for the quarterfinals.

The tournament, organised by the 44-member Asian Football Confederation, runs from December 4 to 21.

GROUPS
Group A (in Abu Dhabi): UAE, South Korea, Kuwait, Indonesia
Group B (in Dubai): Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Thailand
Group C (in Al Ain): Japan, China, Syria, Uzbekistan.

WTA's top twenty

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Sept 17 (Reuters): Leading women's rankings as issued by the Corel WTA Tour:

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
1. Monica Seles (US)
2. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)
3. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
4. Iva Majoli (Croatia)
5. Anke Huber (Germany)
6. Lindsay Davenport (US)
7. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
8. Kimiko Date (Japan)
9. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
10. Mary Pierce (France)
11. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
12. Chanda Rubin (US)
13. Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
14. Brenda Schultz-McCarthy (Netherlands)
15. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
16. Barbara Paulus (Austria)
17. Julie Halard-Decugis (France)
18. Karina Habsudova (Slovakia)
19. Meredith McGrath (US)
20. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)

Wright puts things right



LONDON, Sept 17: Ian Wright hit a hat-trick as Arsenal celebrated the appointment of Arsene Wenger as their new manager with a 4-1 win to deny Sheffield Wednesday the chance of taking top spot in the English Premier league on Monday, reports Reuter.

It was a fitting end to a day which had finally brought the announcement of the Frenchman as Arsenal's fifth manager in 18 months but which initially had all looked to go all horribly wrong.

Wednesday were in command for much of the first half and deservedly held a 1-0 lead at the interval when striker Andy Booth outpaced Ian Ke-

own to latch on to Ian Nolan's through pass and tuck a shot into the far corner.

Arsenal's job was made much easier in the second half after Wednesday were reduced to 10 men when centre-back Des Walker was sent off in the 62nd minute for his second yellow card offence, giving away the penalty from which Wright put Arsenal 2-1 ahead.

David Platt had equalised five minutes earlier to wipe out Wednesday's 25th minute lead from Andy Booth.

Wright wrapped up the proceedings with two close-range tap-ins in the last 10 minutes after John Hartson and Paul Merson had both been denied at close range.

Wright's hat-trick completed 100 league goals and he became Arsenal's top scorer since the Second World War.

It was an uplift for the club following the uncertainty of the managerial changes in the past 18 months and the acknowledgment by injured captain Tony Adams at the weekend that he was an alcoholic.

Adams has yet to play for the club this season.

Coaches against 'golden goal'

COPENHAGEN, Sept 17: European national coaches assembled here at their UEFA summit on Monday aligned themselves against the 'golden goal' ruling which was a flop at the Euro '96 in June, reports AFP.

Ironically, only absent Czech coach Dusan Uhrin was for the rule even though his side lost 2-1 to Germany in the Euro '96 final with such a system.

UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner added it was up to the teams to try and end matches during 90 minutes to prevent unpopular ways to decide games.

"Whether or not to use the 'golden goal' ruling begs the question of FIFA's competence. There are a lot of ideas in the air, but you should not forget that though coaches hate the 'golden goal' ruling, the players are also opposed to penalties," Aigner said.



IAN WRIGHT

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BANGLADESH CRICKET TEAM FOR WINNING THE ACC TROPHY

It gives us immense pride and satisfaction that six players of the winning team have played for Nirman School's XI in the Metropolis League. The Roll of Honour is as follows:

1. Aminul Islam Bulbul
2. Salim Shahed
3. Habibul Bashar Sumon
4. Khalid Mahmud Sujon
5. Shahriyar Hussain Biddiyut
6. Anisur Rahman

Well done boys, keep it up



NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
199/B, TEJGAON INDUSTRIAL AREA, DHAKA - 1208, BANGLADESH
PHONE : 607890, 607314, 603694, FAX : 880 - 2 - 883652, 8833046