

## County cricket roundup

LONDON, June 7: Middlesex's hopes of beating English county champions Leicestershire were jilted as the old and the new combined to spearhead a fightback by the title-holders on Friday, reports Reuter.

Gordon Parson, the 37-year-old seamer, took Middlesex's last four wickets for just five runs in 26 balls at Lord's as the home side were restricted to a first-innings lead of 115.

Then 23-year-old opener Darren Maddy wiped out that advantage with a brilliant 103 as Leicestershire ended the third day with their second innings on 236 for three — 121 ahead.

Fellow opener Vince Wells, who played the anchor role in a stand of 173 with Maddy, was still there unbeaten on 76.

Across London at the Oval, Surrey bowled themselves in with an outside chance of victory against Essex, and must score a further 300 with eight wickets left on the last day today.

Essex looked set to hoist a daunting target with Adrian Grayson hitting 105 and Graham Gooch 56 as they cruised to 223 for three in their second innings.

But they then lost five wickets for 28 runs and were bowled out for 302 to leave Surrey chasing 370 to win. The home side were 70 for two at the close.

Pace pair Simon Brown and Alan Walker set up the possibility of a rare championship victory for Durham as they shone with both bat and ball against Sussex at Chester-le-Street.

The last-wicket pair shared a stand of 41. Brown hitting 24 and Walker 14 not out, as Durham posted 338 in their first innings to trail by 35.

Then Brown claimed three for 55 and Walker four for 61 as Sussex were restricted to a second-innings total of 243 for eight at the close, a lead of 278.

England discard Robin Smith smashed his first century of the season to lead a Hampshire fightback against Derbyshire at Chesterfield.

Smith's 154 included 23 fours and two sixes as Hampshire replied to the home side's first-innings 523 for seven.

## Besiktas woo Robson

BARCELONA, June 7: Turkish club Besiktas have made an offer worth 600 million pesetas (4.14 million dollars) over two seasons to Barcelona coach Bobby Robson, according to an article in the Spanish sports daily Marca on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Robson has a year left on his contract at Barcelona, although few commentators expect him to be let out as first-team coach. There is speculation that the former England manager may stay on at the Spanish side in a different role.

## Mario sticks to same squad

BELLEVILLE, France, June 7: Brazil will be unchanged against Italy in Tournoi de France on Sunday, a repeat of the 1994 World Cup final, coach Mario Zagallo said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"Provided there is no problem between now and the match it will be the same team," Zagallo said at Brazil's Chateau de Pizay retreat outside Lyon.

It was not an official announcement, but a statement of intent during an interview on a rest day for the Brazil squad after their 1-1 draw with hosts France in Tuesday's opening match of the World Cup warm-up tournament.

Zagallo said he did not like making many changes, even at experimental stages.

"I like to keep a solid base and make a few adjustments," the 65-year-old coach said.

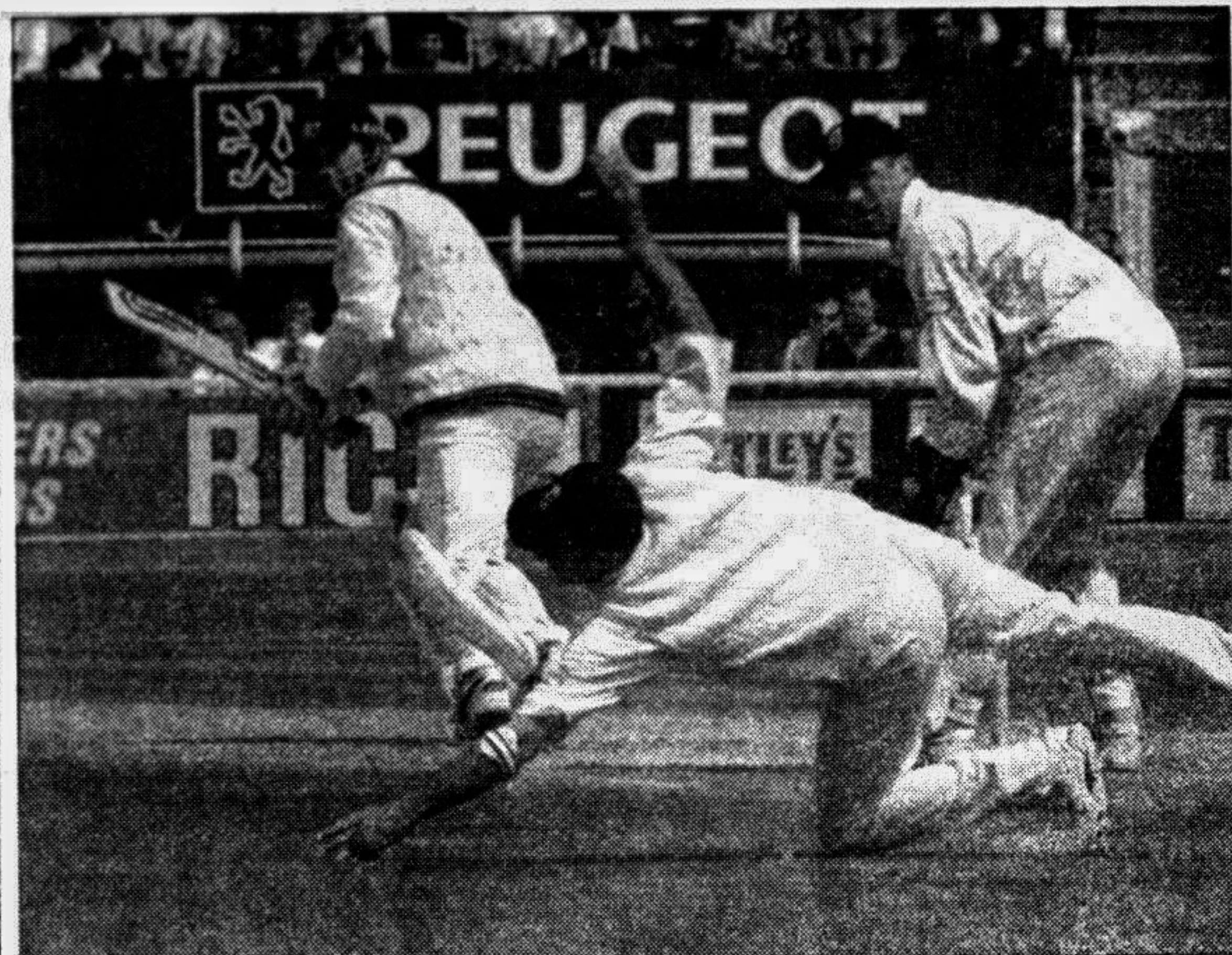
He played down the billing of Sunday's match in Lyon as a repeat of the Los Angeles World Cup final three years ago when Carlos Parreira's Brazilians, with Zagallo as his right hand man, won their fourth title on penalties.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

**Green Delta First Division Hockey League:** (Venue: Hockey Stadium) Farashgan SC vs Bangladesh SC (2:30 pm)

Mariner Young's Club vs Ajax SC (4:15 pm)

**Danish Third Division Cricket League:** Young Cricketers vs Pragati Boys Club (DCS)



England's Nasser Hussain attempts to intercept Australian captain Mark Taylor's nick to the boundary on the third day of the Edgbaston Test yesterday. —AFP/UNB photo

## Australia 217 for one

Sports Reporter

Australia were 217 for one late on the third day of the Edgbaston Test against England in Birmingham yesterday, according to BBC TV monitored here.

Beleaguered skipper Mark Taylor was unbeaten on 90.

AP adds: Australia, facing the improbable task of saving the first Test, suffered a major blow Saturday when batsman Mark Waugh was hospitalised with a suspected appendicitis or gastro-intestinal.

Australian tour manager Alan Crompton released a statement saying Waugh will remain in hospital for at least 24 hours for further observation.

The initial diagnosis indicates a problem of either a gastro-intestinal or appendicitis. At this stage it is impossible to confirm, the statement read.

Waugh did not take the field on the third day as England extended their stranglehold of the Test to a 360-run lead, declaring at 478 for nine after just 48 minutes of batting.

The Australian openers Matthew Elliott and Mark Taylor took Australia to 51 without loss when rain interrupted play and forced lunch to be taken five minutes early.

The absence of Waugh further depletes Australia's hopes of stopping England from going one up in the six-match series.

The visitors need a further 309 runs to make England bat again.

Taylor was unbeaten on 29 while Elliott (22 not out) was lucky to survive after umpire Steve Bucknor turned down a pad-bat catch at silly point by Mark Butcher in off spinner Robert Croft's first over of the match.

Waugh's illness compounds Australia's injury woes to its 17-man tour party which is already two bowlers short.

Australia's first Test attack has already been depleted by a hamstring injury to fast bowler Jason Gillespie.

Gillespie walked off after bowling just 10 overs in the England innings on the first day, tearing his left hamstring.

Also on the casualty list is

## Platt may play in J-League

TOKYO, June 7: The Urawa Red Diamonds of the J-League are in contract negotiations with former England captain and Arsenal midfielder David Platt, a team spokesman said today, reports Reuter.

"We are in negotiations with Platt and hope to reach an agreement to enable him to join the team before the July 30 start of the second stage of the 1997 season," the spokesman said by telephone.

He declined to discuss possible contract terms or say when the negotiations began.

The Red Diamonds based in the Tokyo suburb of Urawa, were tied for 10th place in the 17-team J-League after the first stage, which ended on Sunday.

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## Reiffel to join team in England

SYDNEY, June 7: Victorian pace bowler Paul Reiffel was named Saturday by selectors to fly to England to boost the bowling attack, the Australian Cricket Board announced, reports AP.

Reiffel was favoured over the other contender, Adam Dale, because Reiffel is more experienced in English conditions. Reiffel had been a surprise omission from the Ashes squad.

The Australians Friday sent for an extra fast bowler to join the injury-stricken team.

Jason Gillespie tore his left hamstring on the opening day of the first Test at Edgbaston and Andrew Bichel has bowled seldomly.

McDonald said neither Gillespie nor Bichel would be returning home at this stage.

"I think they (selectors) will wait and see if they recover," McDonald said.

## Brian being ambitious

COPENHAGEN, June 7: Glasgow Rangers' Denmark striker Brian Laudrup is considering a move to Ajax Amsterdam to join compatriot Morten Olsen, who becomes the club's coach next month, reports Reuter.

The Danish news agency Ritzau quoted Laudrup as confirming on Thursday he had begun talks with the former Dutch champions.

"I can confirm I have been in contact with Ajax. Now it is up to Glasgow Rangers and Ajax to agree on a price," Laudrup told reporters.

But Laudrup added he would leave Scotland anyway when his contract expires in a year's time.

"It's not about money, it's about ambition. I have had three fantastic seasons in Glasgow. We have won the championship three times and I've twice been voted (Scottish) player-of-the-year."

"The only thing I'm missing is international success at club level," he added.

Ritzau said Ajax may be prepared to pay 4.5 million pounds (7.3 million dollars) for Laudrup.

Laudrup confirmed that two English clubs had expressed an interest in him. "Concretely I have only spoken with Ajax but I know that an English club has bid for me," he said.

Laudrup left Denmark in 1987 and has since played for Bayern Munich, Fiorentina and AC Milan before going to Scotland.

## Braun being diplomatic

ZURICH, June 7: German soccer boss Egidius Braun said on Friday he was ready to talk to English officials about finding a solution to the rival bids for 2006 World Cup, reports Reuter.

He also said there had been a previous, unofficial understanding between the two countries that England would support Germany's bid.

Braun's offer came three days after national team coach Berti Vogts called on the English Football Association (FA) to scrap their bid, saying it had not kept its word to stay out of the race.

Braun adopted a more diplomatic approach.

"If the English came to me I would be prepared to talk to them any day of the week," he said in an interview. "Two bids from Europe won't work because the vote will be split and a European country won't get it."

## Berlusconi brothers in hot water

MILAN, June 7: Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi faced fresh legal woes on Friday when a magistrate asked for him to stand trial for alleged irregularities in the transfer to his AC Milan soccer club of Gianluigi Lentini, reports Reuter.

Milan state prosecutor Gherardo Colombo said he had recommended that Berlusconi, in his capacity as president of the club, should be tried for falsifying accounts to conceal illegal payments allegedly made to secure Lentini in 1992.

Colombo called for Berlusconi's brother Paolo, who sits on the AC Milan board, and a lawyer, Massimo Maria Berruti, to stand trial on the same charges.

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## Stranger's final showdown



Open men's final on Sunday: Sergi Bruguera

Winner of back-to-back French Open titles in 1993 and

1994, Bruguera is experiencing a return to form at the scene of his greatest triumphs. Once one of the most feared clay-courtiers on the men's circuit, Bruguera has not won a tournament since Prague in 1994. Torn ankle ligaments while training three days before Christmas in 1995 led to a loss of form that re-

sulted in the 26-year-old Spaniard beginning this season outside the top 80. Credits his comeback to the support of Father Luis, who has been court-side at Roland Garros for all his matches. Bruguera is generally regarded as the quintessential clay-courtier, a patient operator from the baseline. Uses extreme version of western grip.

**Seeding:** 16 Age: 26. Plays right-handed. Weight: 76 kg. Height: 1.88. Ranking: 19. Tournament wins: 14. Career prize money: 9.97 million dollars.

**Gustavo Kuerten**

Perhaps the biggest surprise at a French Open littered with upsets and the unexpected. Has never won an ATP tournament and only recorded one victory in his two previous Grand Slam appearances. Has survived three five-set tests and a four-set semifinal on his way to becoming the first Brazilian man to reach a Grand Slam final, revealing great agility, stamina and coolness in tight situations. First caught people's attention at Roland Garros with his colourful attire, although officials have pleaded with him to wear more traditional whites rather than his yellow and blue kit.

**Seeding:** Unseeded. Age: 20. Plays right-handed. Weight: 82 kg. Height: 1.90m. Ranking: 66. Tournament wins: 0. Career prize money: 284,778 dollars. Head-to-head: Have never met.



Spain's Sergi Bruguera is in ecstasy after defeating Australian Patrick Rafter in the semifinals of the French Open on June 6. Bruguera, a two-time former champion, won 6-7, 6-1, 7-5, 7-5. He will face Brazilian giant-killer Gustavo Kuerten in the final. —AFP/UNB photo

## ROAD TO THE FINAL

Sergi Bruguera

First round: def Johan van Herck, 6-3, 0-6, 6-2, 6-0.

Second round: def Dennis van Scheppingen, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

Third round: def Dick Norman, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3.

Fourth round: def Michael Chang (2), 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

Quarterfinal: def Hicham Arazi, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Semifinal: def Patrick Rafter, 6-7, 6-1, 7-5, 7-6.

Gustavo Kuerten

First round: def Slava Dosedel, 6-0, 7-5, 6-4.

Second round: def Jonas Bjorkman, 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

Third round: def Thomas Muster (5), 6-7 (3-7), 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Fourth round: def Andrei Medvedev, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2, 1-6, 7-5.

Quarterfinal: def Yevgeny Kafelnikov (3), 6-2, 5-7, 2-6, 6-0, 6-4.

Semifinal: def Filip Dewulf, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6.

## Barca on their last legs?



BARCELONA, June 7: Barcelona have made a last-ditch effort to stop striker Ronaldo moving to Italy's Inter Milan by invoking a FIFA rule that would prevent his unregulated transfer to a non-Spanish club, reports Reuter.

"For Ronaldo to go to Inter they have to negotiate with us," a Barcelona official told the news agency on Friday.

But Inter president Massimo Moratti said that would be impossible. "There is no dialogue because Barcelona do not want to sell Ronaldo," he said in Milan.

Inter had looked likely to pay the 4.5 billion pesetas (30.1 million dollars) stipulated in Ronaldo's contract as the price needed to release him from his obligations with Barcelona.

It is normal practice in Spain for players to sign contracts including such clauses, known as "withdrawal clauses."

But FIFA recognise such contracts only for transfers made within Spain.

"With them (Inter) the withdrawal clause is invalid," said the Barcelona official. "In that case Ronaldo is untransferable."

As a result, Barcelona claim, Ronaldo could move only to a Spanish club unless the transfers were negotiated.

Speculation has already begun that Barcelona's arch-rivals Real Madrid could buy the Brazilian international before selling him on to Inter.

Real president Lorenzo Sanz has even raised the prospect of Ronaldo joining the Madrid club itself.

"We'd like to have Ronaldo. It's an interesting subject," said Sanz.

Barcelona vice-president

Joan Gaspart hit straight back. "If a Spanish club... acted as a 'bridge', then it would be fraud which could be easily proved," said Gaspart.

Ronaldo, who is currently with the Brazilian national squad in France, has said he will not play again for Barcelona.

"I will not play the cup final (on June 28), not because of the fans but because of the man-

"We never announced anything. We merely said we had an agreement with the player, without anything being signed. If there are obstacles at the end of the month it won't be formalised."

"However, if we can do this deal, we will do it. If it can't be done then it won't be."

**Swiss city to host World Chess finals**

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, June 7: The finals of the World Chess Championships will be held in this Swiss town next January, officials said here today adding that they hoped chess champions Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov would take part, reports AFP.

Casto Abundo, executive director of the World Chess Federation (FIDE) said IBM's Deep Blue supercomputer could challenge the winner after the tournament at a location yet to be determined.

"We are considering an exhibition match with the champion in place," he said.

Last month, Deep Blue outplayed Kasparov, winning two games and losing one in their series of six games in New York.

The tournament will be held from December 16, 1997, to January 8, 1998, with Groeninger in the Netherlands, serving as a venue for the rounds up to the semifinals, which will be held in Elista, Russia.

About 100 Grand Masters are expected to start in the tournament with five million dollars as a prize fund.

**RONALDO**

ageant," said Ronaldo.

Moratti, who said on Thursday that he had an agreement with the player, declared himself surprised by the latest twist.

"We are surprised," he said. "I have put the matter in the hands of able lawyers in Italy and Spain. I hope to understand the situation better," he told reporters.

Barcelona vice-president

## The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Sunday 8th June  
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes).

## BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30  
Hard Talk 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 World Focus: Correspondent 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 India Business Report 9:00 BBC World News 9:05 Weekend World: Cracking The Code 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: Britain In View 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 India Business Report 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Window On Europe 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Film '97 3:00 BBC World News 3:05 Weekend World: Futurwatch 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 Time Out: The London International Boat Show 1997 5:00 BBC World News 5:30 Reporters 6:00pm BBC World News 6:05 Weekend World: Cracking The

Code 7:00 BBC World News 7:05 Breakfast With Frost 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 Time Out: Holiday 9:00 BBC World News 9:05 World Focus: Horizon 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: Top Gear 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Reporters 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:05 Weekend World: Cracking The Code 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 3:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report & 24 Hours 4:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World News 5:05 Weekend World: Horizon

## STAR PLUS

6:30am Voltron 7:00 Wildlife International 7:30 King Arthur 8:00 Dungeons & Dragons 8:30 Denver The Last Dinosaur 9:30 Small Wonder 9:30 Chandra 10:30 Janita Ki Adalat 11:00 Bunyad 11:30 Amul India Show 12:00am The

Great Escape 12:30 India Business Week 1:00 Living On The Edge 1:30 Star Trek 2:30 Hindi Classic Film: 'Half Ticket' (Kishore Kumar, Madhubala) 3:30 Batman 6:00 Charles Anson 7:00 Amul India Show 7:30 Priya Tendulkar Show 8:30 TBA 9:30 Reporters 10:00 A Question Of Answers 10:30 Star News Sunday 11:30 Priya Tendulkar Show 12:30 India Business Week 1:00 Star News Sunday 2:00 BBC Documentary: 'The Dream Machine' 3:00 Movie Classic: 'The Divorce of Lady X' 5:00 Film Friends

## CHANNEL V

6:00am Soul Curry 7:00 Rewind VJ Souhri 8:00 Frame By Frame 10:00 Speak Easy 11:00 BPL Oyer 12:00 Videocon Mangla Hai 12:30 Liberty First Day First Show 1:00 Son Of Time Pass 1:30 Udam Singh 2:00 Videocon Flashback 2:30 Asian Top 20 VJ Trey 4:30 The Vibe Weekend VJ Luke 6:30pm

Simply South 7:30 The Indian Top 10 8:30 Soul Curry 9:00 Launchpad VJ Samira 9:30 Mojo Working Chuck Berry 10:00 House Of Noise 11:00 The Ride 12:00 Rewind VJ Souhri 1:00 Frame By Frame 2:00 By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Pepsi Chinese Top 20

## STAR SPORTS

7:00am Nike Hoop Summit 8:00 World Cup League 8:30 World Wrestling Federation Blast Off 9:30 Asia Sport Show 10:00 World Cup Hall Of Fame 10:30 European Tour 1997 Deutsche Bank Open Highlights 11:30 Super 12's 1st Semi Final From Australia 1:00 Same Day Delay Tournoi de France 1:30 TBC 3:00 Asia Sport Show 3:30 Wimbledon 1997 The Lighter Side 4:30 FIM World Motorcycle Championships French Grand Prix 7:00 Inside PGA Tour 7:30 Super 12's 2nd Semi Final From Aus-

## STAR MOVIES

7:30am Comedy: Amos and Andrew 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 Family: Magic Adventure 11:00 The Bhaskar Ghosh Show 11:30 Family: Free Will PG 1:30 Comedy: Speed Zone 1:5 3:30 Sunday Show Time: Pee-Wee's Playhouse PG 4:30 Sunday Show Time: The Directors - Sidney Pollack (D) 5:30 Sunday Family: Double Feature: Who Has Seen The Wind 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Sunday Family Double Feature: Vincent and Me 9:30 The Bhaskar Ghosh Show 10:00 Gold: Guns of Honor Part 1 18

12:00 True Stories: 8 Seconds