

Sport

England stay the same

LONDON, July 9: England cricket selectors on Tuesday expressed a vote of confidence in the side which lost the third Test to Australia by keeping the same players for the fourth Test starting on July 24, reports Reuter.

In a surprise move, the 12-man squad was named more than two weeks before the start of the next Test at Headingley in Leeds.

Spinner Phil Tufnell was the only player added to the team.

Fast bowlers Devon Malcolm and Mike Smith, who were included in the squad for the third Test, were overlooked by selectors.

Albanian booters seek asylum in Spain

MADRID, July 9: Six Albanian under-21 international soccer players seeking political asylum in Spain pleaded on Tuesday with Spanish clubs to sign them, reports Reuter.

The six, and the team Masseur, sought asylum in April after the European soccer governing body UEFA had ordered their match against Germany to be played in the Spanish town of Quadiu because of the unstable political situation in Albania.

Only one of the group, Ervin Fakaj, has been signed by a Spanish club, Second Division side Toledo.

"We realised it would be difficult to get signed by a First Division club but we all thought that we'd be playing in the Second Division," said their spokesman Kresnik Zeka.

The problem is that we do not have the knowledge of how to go about getting a contract and what to put on it. The Spanish federation promised to act as our agents but only Ervin has been found a team."

FIFA, the sport's world ruling body, has authorised the Spanish Football Federation to allow the signing of the players while they wait to see whether they are given refugee St Atus.

They are presently learning to speak Spanish in the mornings and training in the afternoons.

World Cities chess results

JAKARTA, July 9 (Xinhua): Following are second round results of the inaugural World Cities Chess Championship in Jakarta today:

Round 2

Oslo, Norway, drew with Depok Beli, Indonesia, 2-2

Depok Kelapa, Indonesia, 2.5-1.5

Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam 2.5-1.5

Mandaluyong, Philippines, bt Moscow, Russia, 2.5-1.5

Donetsk, Ukraine, bt Bandung, Indonesia, 2.5-1.5

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, drew with Depok Margonda, Indonesia, 2-2

Sydney, Australia, bt Ambon, Indonesia, 3.5-0.5

Bontang, Indonesia, bt Jakarta Women, Indonesia, 3.5-0.5

Medan, Indonesia, bt Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 3.5-0.5

Yangon, Myanmar, bt Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 3.5-0.5

Mandalay, Myanmar, bt Jakarta B, Indonesia, 3-1

Raffles City, Singapore, bt Sentosa, Singapore, 3.5-0.5

Hong Kong, China, drew with Kuching, Malaysia, 2-2

Victoria, Seychelles, bt Noumea, New Caledonia, 3-1

Palu, Indonesia, beat Bogor, Indonesia, 4-0.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Nazmul Hossain scored the only goal of the match to steer Jatrabari Krira Chakra to a 1-0 victory over Rayerbari Athletics Club in the lone Third Division football super league encounter played at the Army Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Nazmul broke the deadlock firing the ball home in the 53rd minute.

Army football on

The annual football championship of Bangladesh Army got underway at the Comilla Cantonment yesterday, reports UNB.

The Comilla Area drew 3-3 with the Bogra Area in the opening match.

Sampras joins select band

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan

LONDON, July 9: Pete Sampras heralded his arrival on the world tennis scene back in 1990 when at the age of only 19 years and 28 days he defeated Andre Agassi in straight sets to win the US Open Championships as the youngest player.

And on his way to the final he accounted for Ivan Lendl and

By winning the 1997 men's title at Wimbledon Sampras has joined the select band of players who had won four or more titles here. The others are: William Renshaw (7), Laurie Doherty and Bjorn Borg (5), Reggie Doherty, Anthony Wilding, Rod Laver and Pete Sampras (4).

But the fact remains that William Renshaw won it six times on the trot while Borg won it five times in the Open Era between 1976 and 1980. Sampras is likely to win many more titles here but may not be able to match the Swede's record.

Sampras' mastery over his opponents was so complete that in the seven matches he won, he played 118 games involving 24 sets and dropped his service only twice. The only worthwhile opposition he met was from the thin Czech Petr Korda, the 16th seed in the fourth round. Sampras has now 10 Grand Slam titles to his credit (2 Australian, 4 Wimbledon and 4 US Open). Only three players are ahead of him — Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg with 11 titles each and Australian Roy Emerson topping the list with 12 (six Australian, 2 each in Wimbledon, French and US Open).

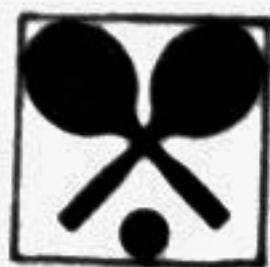
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United States.

The best compliments for this tennis genius came from John Parsons who wrote in The Telegraph: "As a schoolboy, Pete Sampras used to say his lifetime ambition was to play well enough to be regarded as a right-handed Rod Laver. Most watching him outplay Frenchman Cedric Pioline so comprehensively on the Centre Court yesterday will feel that the



PETE SAMPRAS



John McEnroe.
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Sampras' mastery over his

Pepsi to sponsor Asia Cup cricket

Pepsi will be the title sponsor of the Asia Cup the four round one-day cricket tournament which will be played in Colombo from July 14, 1997. This year's participating countries are India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, who play their first international tournament after being accorded recognition by the International Cricket Council, says a press release.

The Pepsi Asia Cup has been initiated by the Asian Cricket Council to promote the game in Asia. Amongst the non-Test playing countries in Asia, a tournament is held every year and the winners of the Pepsi Asia Cricket Council Trophy earn a berth to the Pepsi Asia Cup. Bangladesh, being the proud winners of this year's Pepsi Asian Cricket Council Trophy, qualified for the Pepsi Asia Cup to be held in Sri Lanka. This marks a new era and a new generation of cricket in the sub-continent. Pepsi's ongoing sponsorship recognises the emotional connect between young people and cricket across South Asia.

Pepsi has been the title sponsor for Asia Cup (titled as Pepsi Asia Cup) from 1995 onwards and this would be the second to be held. In 1995, the first was played in Sharjah, UAE and the participating countries were India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and UAE. Pepsi will be sponsoring this event till the year 2000.

This is second major event that Pepsi brings to Indian cricketing fans in 1997 after the recently concluded Pepsi Independence Cup in India. Further, Pepsi was the associate sponsor of the Calypso and Safari Series early this year on Star TV. Exciting promotions and contests are planned by Pepsi prior to and during the tournament, aimed at providing maximum excitement for young cricket enthusiasts.

Live coverage of all the matches will be provided to millions of cricket buffs across 58 countries in Asia on Star Sports & BTV.

Steffi hopes to play in late autumn

FRANKFURT, July 9: Germany's tennis star, Steffi Graf, who is recovering from knee surgery, says she expects to return to play this fall, reports AP.

"If everything goes well, I'll be able to play again in late autumn and will then be in the tournament of the Masters of Champions in Frankfurt at the beginning of December," Graf told Sunday, a German weekly newspaper.

"Their strength is foot speed, they take all the balls very early," said Davenport, who boasts a 12-2 Fed Cup singles record.

"If they have a weakness, it would be in their serves," added world number seven Davenport, who at 6-foot-3 (1.90 m) is nearly a foot (30 cm) taller than her singles opponents.

"On the hardcourt, the higher the bounce the better for us, because we're taller than they are," said Navratilova.

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Following major knee surgery on June 10 in Vienna, Austria, the 28-year-old Graf, who has won Wimbledon seven times but was unable to defend her title this year, says she has no complaints.

With the retirement of Kimiko Date, the Japanese hopes rest with 34th-ranked Ai Sugiyama, and 47th-ranked Naoko Sawamatsu, who Davenport called "two very difficult players."

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