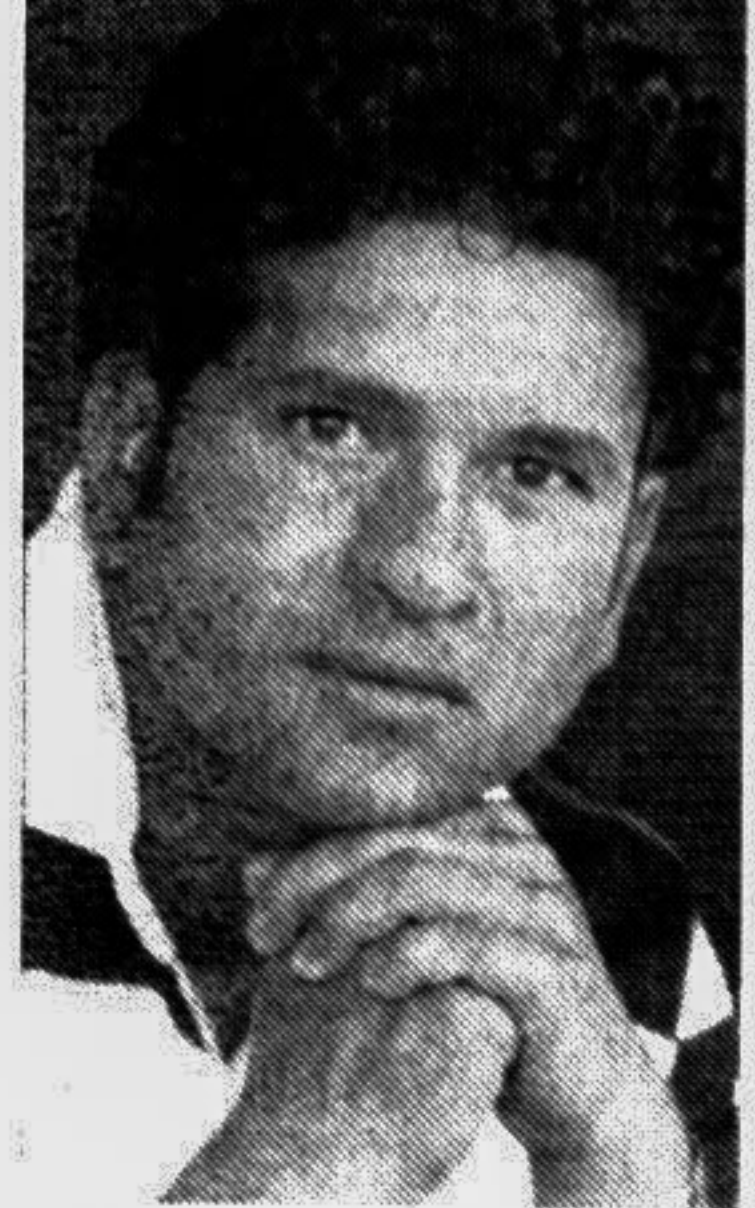


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Sachin Tendulkar
(Indian cricket captain)
"They (selectors) have saddled me with a B-grade team for the Asia Cup. I have decided to speak the truth... I will allow no one to use me."
Reacted on the omission of his school friend Vinod Kamble and Nayan Mongia.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-74
Tick the Correct Answers
Competition closes 8 pm, July 25, '97

- Who lifted the Wimbledon ladies' singles crown this year?
Majoli Hings Vicario
- How many times has Sampras won the Wimbledon?
Two Three Four
- Which nation clinched the Copa America title?
Brazil Peru Bolivia
- Who became champions in the World Youth Soccer Cup?
Ghana Colombia Argentina
- Who won this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league title?
Mohammedan Abahani Usha

Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No.: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (If any) _____

Bidding for Baggio
MILAN, July 15: Roberto Baggio, being chased by English Premiership club Derby County, has also attracted bids from Serie A sides Udinese and Bologna, reports AFP.
Udinese are reported to have offered 6 billion lira (3.45 million dollars) to AC Milan for the 1994 World Cup star while Bologna have offered half that amount.
Bologna are reported to have offered the 30-year-old player better personal terms — 2.87 million dollars for a two-year deal.
However, Derby's 8 million pound (13 million dollar) package betters anything Udinese or Bologna have offered.
Derby revived interest in Baggio when a move to Parma collapsed.

Davis Cup roundup
LONDON, July 15: Egypt defeated Lithuania to secure its place in next year's Euro/African zone Group 2 of the Davis Cup Monday while Georgia completed a 5-0 whitewash of Nigeria in Tbilisi, reports AP.
Bad light in Cairo forced the final reverse singles match between Egypt's Hisham Hamed and Evgenidis Carovos of Lithuania to be abandoned Sunday.
The teams were locked 2-2 before the deciding match and when the players resumed Monday Carovos lead 3-2 in the final set.
But the Egyptian crawled back and finally triumphed in a marathon victory 6-2, 7-6(7-4), 6-7(6-7), 5-7, 11-9.
Georgia, already up 3-0, had already secured its place in next year's Group 2 of the zone before rain prevented any play on Sunday.
Monday's play saw Georgia's Givi Samkharadze defeat Sule Ladipo 6-3, 3-0 after the Nigerian retired.
Vladimir Margalidze then defeated Nigeria's Jean Louis Adikan, 6-1, 6-2 to complete the 5-0 whitewash.

Monaco sign Costa
PARIS, July 15: French champions Monaco made a surprise signing today when they snapped up midfielder Francisco Jose Rodriguez da Costa whose contract with Portuguese Second Division side Nacional Madeira had expired, reports AFP.

Locals' first test by fire

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh, who have promised to fight till the last ball is bowled, will be out to prove the game's glorious uncertainty.
The national team, however, had a light practice session at the Premadasa Stadium last evening to tune themselves up for the big occasion.

TEAMS
BANGLADESH: Akram Khan (capt), Aminul Islam Bulbul, Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Enamul Haq Moni, Athar Ali Khan, Khaled Masud Pilot, Habibul Bashar Sumon, Saiful Islam, Hasibul Hossain Shanta, Sheikh Salahuddin and Naimur Rahman Durjoy.
PAKISTAN: Rameez Raja (capt), Saeed Anwar, Amir Sohail, Shahid Khan Afridi, Inzamamul Haq, Salim Malik, Moin Khan, Saqlain Mustaq, Aaqub Javed, Arshad Khan and Kabir Khan.



Bangladesh's Hasibul Hossain practises in the nets while manager Gazi Ashraf Hossain performs behind the stumps the day before their Asia Cup match against Pakistan in Colombo today. — AFP/UNB photo

ASIA CUP RESULTS

Results of the 10 Asia Cup matches played by Bangladesh: **Second Asia Cup, Colombo 1986 (Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh):**
Pakistan beat Bangladesh by 7 wickets (Bangladesh 94 all out, Pakistan 95/3)
Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by 7 wickets (Bangladesh 131/8, Sri Lanka 132/3)
Champions: Sri Lanka, runners-up: Pakistan
Third Asia Cup, Dhaka 1988, (India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh):
India beat Bangladesh by 9 wickets (Bangladesh 99 all out, India 100/1)
Sri Lanka defeated Bangladesh by 9 wickets (Bangladesh 118 all out, Sri Lanka 120/1)
Pakistan beat Bangladesh by 167 runs (Pakistan 278/3, Bangladesh 111 all out)
Champions: India, runners-up: Sri Lanka
Fourth Asia Cup, Calcutta 1990 (India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh):
India beat Bangladesh by 9 wickets (Bangladesh 170 all out, India 171/1)
Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by 71 runs (Sri Lanka 249/4, Bangladesh 178/8)
Champions: India, runners-up: Sri Lanka
Fifth Asia Cup, Sharjah 1995 (India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh):
Pakistan beat Bangladesh by 6 wickets (Bangladesh 151/8, Pakistan 152/4)
Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by 107 (Sri Lanka 233 all out, Bangladesh 126 all out)
India beat Bangladesh by 9 wickets (Bangladesh 163 all out, India 164/1)
Champions: India, runners-up: Sri Lanka.

ICC ushers in few changes

LONDON, July 15: The International Cricket Council (ICC) while significantly curtailing the volume of international cricket Monday announced some major changes in playing conditions with a nod to the use of floodlights in Test cricket when poor visibility threatened to disrupt play, reports PTI.
David Richards, chief executive of the ICC, briefing reporters after the first-ever meeting of Test captains and its cricket committee at the weekend said the use of artificial lights would be allowed providing both countries agree to the same before Test series and without any change in hours of play for day and night Test cricket.
The ICC also responded positively to persistent complaints by players that there was "too much cricket" and put a limit on each country to playing no more than ten to 12 Test matches and 25 to 30 one-day internationals per year.
Other major decisions taken were to allow the practice of bowling two bouncers per over in Tests and the use of the third umpire television replay system by two umpires to decide whether or not a catch had been cleanly taken.
Elaborating on allowing third umpire decisions on doubtful cases of close catches, Richards said, "If the bowling umpire is uncertain as to whether the ball carried, he will follow the normal practice of consulting the square leg umpire. Only if both agree, then only can they signal for a television replay and decision through red or green lights."
The ICC has made it mandatory to have one absorbent roller in order to expedite the resumption of play after heavy rains as part of its aim to standardise equipment on all grounds used as venues for international events.
It has also been decided to not to impose over-rate fines if a side was dismissed in 50 overs or less in Tests or in 35 overs in one-day internationals. "This recognises the difficulty of meeting the average of 15 overs per hour with only fast bowlers in operation through such short innings and the fall of all wickets," he said.
"Captain and cricket committee members are concerned at the general decline throughout the world in standard of pitches, especially for Test cricket," Richards said adding that this issue would be raised with respective boards as a matter of priority.
The ICC chief executives called the captains conclave as "Very fruitful exercise. The meeting produced excellent results on a number of issues pertaining to cricket." He said the captains and cricket committee members wanted "ideally to include eight-week break to allow players to recharge mentally and overcome minor injuries."
He said all these decisions would be discussed by the executive committee of the International Cricket Council at its meeting in Calcutta in December this year. This would be the first ever meeting of the ICC executive council outside the Lord's cricket ground.



Britain's Lady Diana is taken by an unidentified young girl for a jet-ski ride in the French Riviera on July 14. — AFP/UNB photo

Div III cricket qualifiers from July 22

Sports Reporter
The qualifying round of the Lotus Kamal Third Division cricket league 1997-98 will begin in the city on July 22, under the auspices of Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM).
The clubs who already made their entries have been asked to collect the fixture from Bangladesh Cricket Board office at the Dhaka Stadium on July 19. According to a CCDM official yesterday, 74 clubs have enrolled so far.

Hockey trial

Sports Reporter
Barnak Samaj Kalyan Krira O Sangskritik Angan of Mirpur has organised a trial on July 19 to select a hockey team which will participate in the Second Division league this year.
Interested players have been asked to be present at the club ground by 7 am.

M United to get Silva

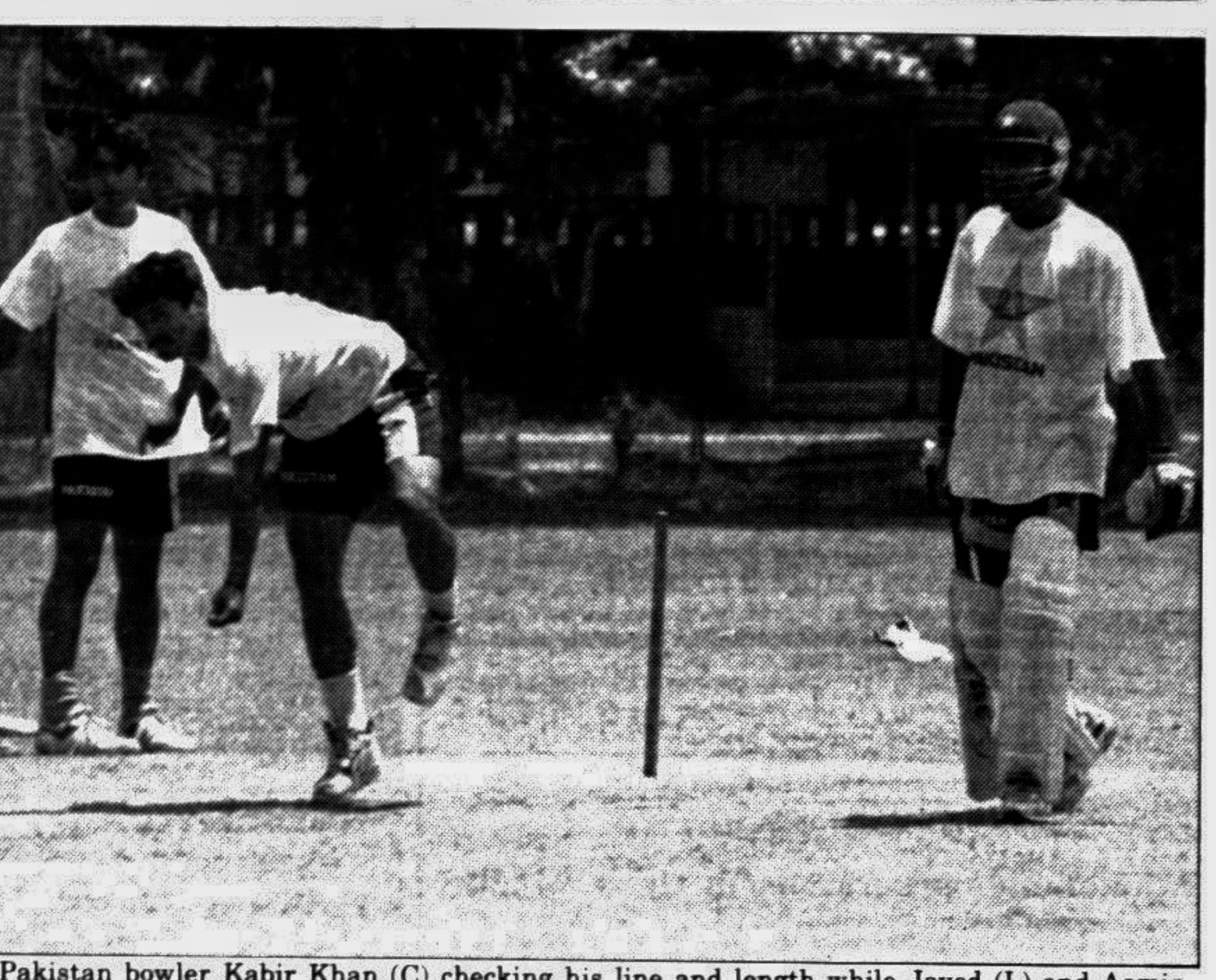
MANCHESTER, July 15: English Premiership champions Manchester United confirmed Monday they have agreed a fee for Brazilian defender Celio Silva, reports AFP.
The 29-year-old centre-back was in Manchester negotiating personal terms. But his Brazilian club Corinthians have accepted a bid — believed to be around 3.5 million pounds (about 5.5 million dollars).
Club lawyer Maurice Watkins said: "A figure has been agreed with his club and negotiations are well advanced with the player."
Because Silva, who was outstanding for Brazil during the Tournoi de France, is a non-EU national, United will need a work permit before he can play for them.
Watkins added, "The actual transfer will not be completed until we have lodged the work permit application with the Department of Employment and that has been granted."
The club are not anticipating any problems — Silva has been a regular in the Brazil side since 1995 and fulfills the necessary requirements for the permit to be granted.
Silva would be manager Alex Ferguson's second major signing of the summer, following England strike Teddy Sheringham's 3.5 million pound move from Tottenham.
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Ginola on the move?

LONDON, July 15: French winger David Ginola is set to join Tottenham from Newcastle after agreeing personal terms with the English Premier league club's chairman Alan Sugar, reports Reuters.
The London club's clubcall line said Monday that a deal was "all but done."
There was no other official comment from either the North London club or from Newcastle.
The clubcall line said the transfer was expected to be for around 2.6 million pounds (4.4 million dollars) and the 30-year-old Frenchman was expected to sign shortly before joining the squad on their tour of Norway this week.
The clubcall service quoted Ginola's agent Michel Benguigui as saying that the player had met Sugar on Sunday in the south of France and they had agreed personal terms for the move.
"The two clubs need to finalise a fee but David will have a medical on Tuesday and should link up with the other Tottenham players on their pre-season tour of Norway on Wednesday," Benguigui said.
Ginola, who joined Newcastle from Paris St Germain two years ago, has been unable to hold down a steady first team place at the club since Kenny Dalglish took over as manager from Kevin Keegan last season.
The winger will fill the gap left at Tottenham after the shock departure last month of England striker Teddy Sheringham to Manchester United.

Stojkovic put on suspension

TOKYO, July 15: Yugoslav player Dragan Stojkovic of the Nagoya Grampus Eight will be suspended for four games for insulting the referee, the Japan Professional Soccer League said Tuesday, reports AP.
Hiroshi Kazayama, a spokesman of the J-League, said the 32-year-old Stojkovic made insulting remarks to referee Shinichiro Obata when shown a yellow card during a match against the Yokohama Marinos last Wednesday.
Kazayama declined to specify what the player said, but Stojkovic took the card from the referee's hand while complaining against his ruling.
The Marinos blanked Nagoya 1-0.
Nagoya now stand 13th in the J-League and the Marinos fourth with two games remaining in the season. A 16-game first stage. It will be Stojkovic's second penalty this season. He was suspended for two games after he insulted a referee in a game May 7 against Kashiwa Reysol.
Former Yugoslav national team player Stojkovic joined Nagoya in 1994.
He is the team's second leading scorer overall, with 29 goals in the past four years, but has not scored yet this season. Yasuyuki Moriyama leads with 48 goals.



Pakistan bowler Kabir Khan (C) checking his line and length while Javed (L) and Aamir Sohail look on during a practice session in Colombo yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

Bevan's berth at stake

CARDIFF, July 15: Australia's three-day match against Glamorgan Wednesday is the first of two first-class encounters which will decide the tourists' troubled No 6 batting spot before the crucial Fourth Test at Headingley, reports AP.
Fringe batsmen Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting and Michael Slater are vying for the position of Michael Bevan, who has contributed little to Australia's Ashes effort.
The left-handed batsman exposed his vulnerability against short-pitch bowling in the first three Tests when he scored eight, 24, four, seven and eight.
He has picked up just two wickets with his chinaman's wrist spinners. Australia's liking for a second spinner to assist Shane Warne in the Tests appears the only reason why Bevan has also been included in the shortlist of 12 against Glamorgan. But he will need a bag of wickets and a big century to keep his Test spot.
Slater, who scored freely against the English during Australia's Ashes victory in England four years ago, is the third opener in the tour party. He did his Test chances no harm with an electrifying 95 against Scotland in Edinburgh last week.
Left-handed Langer and Ponting are both No 3 batsmen, but may bat lower in the order, below the experienced Steve Waugh to provide some solidity to a batting line-up that has been left down by the top four.
In the three Tests so far, Waugh has most of the time held the innings together, after Australia was reduced to 54 for eight at Edgbaston. 159 for six

Tragic!

RAMAT GAN, Israel, July 15: The 370-strong Australian team at the Olympic-style Maccabiah Games decided today to stay on and compete despite the deaths of two members when a bridge collapsed during the opening ceremony, reports AFP.
Games organisers encouraged the team members to continue at the Games for Jewish athletes, but said they would not prevent anyone from returning home if they wished.

FedEx sponsors Benetton team

DUBAI, July 15: FedEx Express Corporation (FedEx) announced Friday a major sponsorship deal with the Benetton Formula 1 racing team. As part of a global branding programme the distinctive FedEx logo will now be prominently positioned on both race cars and emblazoned on drivers Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger, says a press release.
Commenting on the sponsorship deal, FedEx Vice President, Marketing and Customer Service, Paul Evans said: "The ingredients required to be a successful F1 team are speed, reliability, innovative technology and outstanding team work. That same mix of skills has established FedEx as the leading global Express transportation company. Our alliance with F1 racing and the Benetton team is a perfect fit."
Managing Director of Benetton Formula 1 Flavio Briatore, added: "Its important for us to attract the right type of sponsor. FedEx is No 1 in its own market and that's exactly where we want to be. On a practical level, it's also good to team up with a service provider like FedEx, who can get our critical car components to and from race tracks around the world within hours. We are delighted to welcome them as a major new sponsor."
In only ten years the Benetton Formula 1 team has earned three Championship titles Driver's Championship 1994, Drivers and Constructor's 1995. The team now has a tally of 185 Grands Prix, 13 pole positions, 26 victories and 35 fastest laps, and is one of the most competitive in Formula 1, along with the historically more established teams. Each member of the Benetton team plays their part in the construction and marketing of the Benetton B197 where some 12,000 components and 4,500 drawings are used for just one car.



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Car for hire
8 Dog-patch's creator
12 "X-Files" vessel?
13 Low-pH premium
15 TV phone part
17 Transmit abroad
19 Counterpart of con
21 Itsy-bitsy
22 Notorious
29 Take to the skies
30 Bustle
31 Islamic chieftain
32 Item in sack
33 Caron role
34 Pin number?
35 Dowel
36 Ford Agency

DOWN
3 Betty of cartoons
4 Enmity
5 Less than 90 degrees
6 Pen point
7 With destiny
8 Ersatz chocolate
9 It would not wither
10 Chart type
11 Spacecraft
16 Leafy recess
20 Beam
23 Set down
24 Advantage
25 Durdny
26 Goat's milk
27 Congressional cry
28 Revealing skirt
29 Visibility hindrance
32 Communications satellite
33 Did and
34 Gogo waited for him
35 - de deux
36 Place for a trophy, maybe
38 Best Picture of 1955
39 Squander
42 Destroy
43 Disco-era quartet
44 Refusal to relinquish
45 Squad member
46 "Ben-"
47 Botanist
48 Chemical suffix

Solution time: 28 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP
AXE IUQVR EXWPH RXW
FASUZ I ZIUQIVXX QBFN?
SF'N NSCTPB: AXTTSUQ CIH.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: APT SIGN WHICH IS ON A SCALE AT THE HEALTH SPA: QO WEIGH!
Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals P
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.