

Torpedo's noble act

MOSCOW, July 22: Torpedo Moscow renamed their stadium on Monday after Eduard Streltsov, arguably Russia's greatest ever footballer who spent his finest playing years in a Siberian gulag, a crime his friends say he did not commit, reports Reuters.

The man dubbed "the Russian Pele", who was denied the chance to face the great Brazilian after being arrested on the eve of the 1958 World Cup finals, would have been 60 on Monday.

Streltsov, who came back from six years in the gulag to lead Torpedo to the 1965 Soviet Championship, died seven years ago of cancer, mourned by millions of fans but overlooked by the Soviet establishment which his friends believe had him framed.

"He suffered many injustices," his Torpedo and Soviet playing partner Valentin Ivanov said as the foundation stone was laid for a monument to Streltsov at the stadium.

ESPN, Star Sports cricket deal with CSI

SINGAPORE, July 22: ESPN Star Sports has announced a four-year agreement with CSI Limited which provides exclusive live television rights across Asia for CSI-distributed cricket events for both ESPN and STAR Sports. The agreement encompasses the cricket tours of Australia, South Africa and New Zealand over the next four years, totalling over 3000 hours of live cricket coverage, says a press release.

According to Alexander Brown, ESPN Star Sports Managing Director, "We are delighted to be able to continue to strengthen the quality of cricket coverage offered across both of our networks. The agreement with CSI will ensure that ESPN Star Sports will be able to provide our viewers with the widest range of both domestic and international cricket available through the millennium."

"This is the first time that we are signing such a deal since the merger of ESPN Star Sports. With the networks' wide audience reach, our cricket will not only reach fans in India but also the increasing number of cricket-lovers all across Asia. We will provide high quality cricket to suit the ever-increasing expectations from viewers, federations and broadcasters alike," said Karl Bistany, chief executive of CSI.

Prestigious events from the package include the 1998/1999 England tour of Australia (The Ashes), India and Pakistan in Australia in 1999/2000, Pakistan and Sri Lanka touring South Africa in 1998, the 1998 World Youth Cup in South Africa and the West Indies tour of South Africa in 1999. Viewers can catch the action — live — on either or both ESPN and Star Sports.

ESPN Star Sports is a joint venture formed in November 1996 between two of the world's leading cable and satellite broadcasters, ESPN Inc and Star TV. The joint venture is comprised of sports channel ESPN, reaching 20 million homes throughout Asia, and Star Sports which is seen by more than 61 million households.

ESPN Star Sports brings the world's premier live sports as well as leading regional events to viewers in Asia 24 hours a day in English, Cantonese, Mandarin and Hindi.

CALENDAR

AUSTRALIAN CRICKET
1998/1999 England tour of Australia
— 5 Tests (The Ashes) & 15 one-day internationals

1999/2000 India and Pakistan tour of Australia
— 3 Test matches each, 12 one-day internationals and the best of 3 finals

SOUTH AFRICAN CRICKET
1998 Pakistan and Sri Lanka tour of South Africa
— 1-2 Tests & 11 one-day internationals

1998 World Youth Cricket Cup in South Africa
— All 12 final series games

1999 West Indies tour of South Africa
— 5 Tests & 7 one-day internationals

2000 England tour of South Africa
— 5 Tests & 7 one-day internationals

NEW ZEALAND CRICKET
1998/1999 South African tour of New Zealand
— 3 Tests & 5 one-day internationals

1999/2000 Australian tour of New Zealand
— 3 Tests & 5 one-day internationals

Azhar, Jadeja, Sidhu alleged culprits

Latif adds fuel to the fire



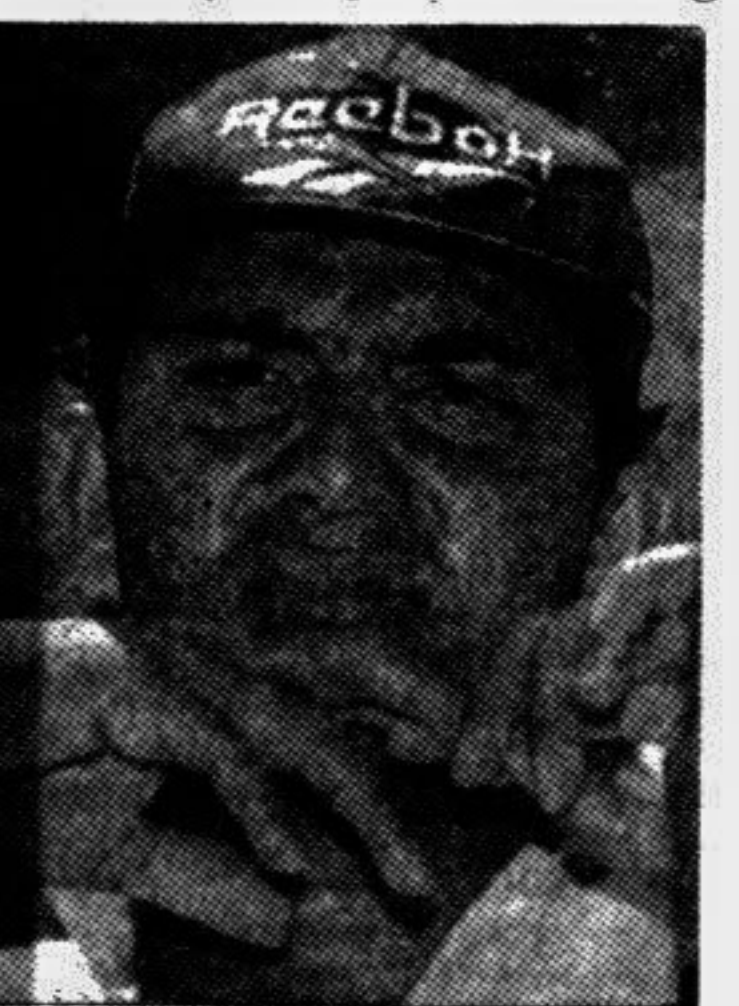
COLOMBO, July 22: Former Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin and two other Test cricketers were considering legal action here today after a magazine quoted former Pakistani wicketkeeper Rashid Latif suggesting they were involved in match-fixing, reports AFP.

Latif told India's Outlook magazine that he had named players from both India and Pakistan were involved in widespread match-fixing, adding one top Indian player was paid around 170,000 dollars per match to help illegal bookmakers fix results.

Three Indian cricketers named in the article — former captain Mohammad Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja and Navtej Sidhu, currently with the Indian team in Sri Lanka — have denied the allegations, stunned team manager Ratnakar Shetty said today.

"I have spoken to the three players this morning and they have generally denied the allegations. They also want to individually take legal action," Shetty told reporters during the Indian team's training session here.

"There is no point in refuting



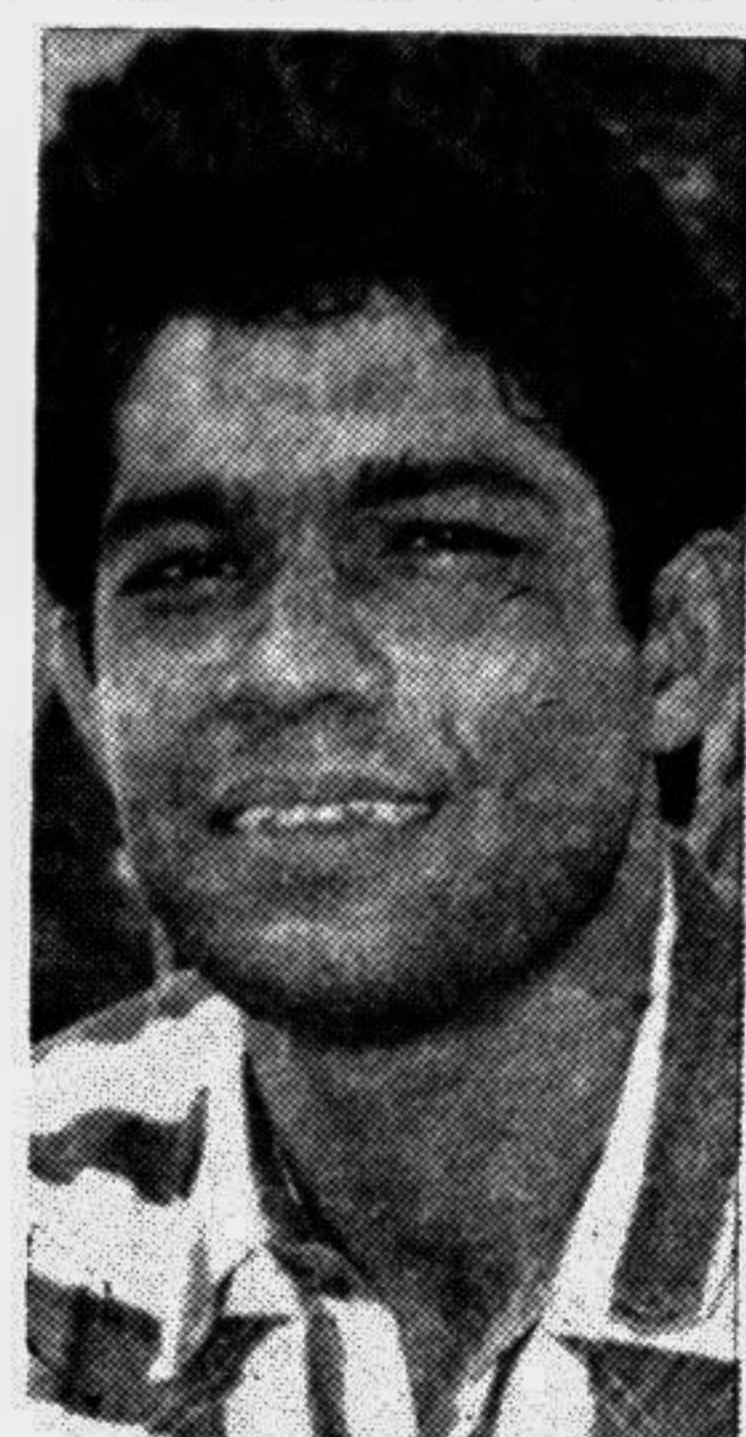
AZHARUDDIN

all the allegations because the players say they will go before a panel that is looking into all this," Shetty said.

"The proper thing for the Outlook magazine would have been to use the proper channels and go to the commission rather than sensationalise this."

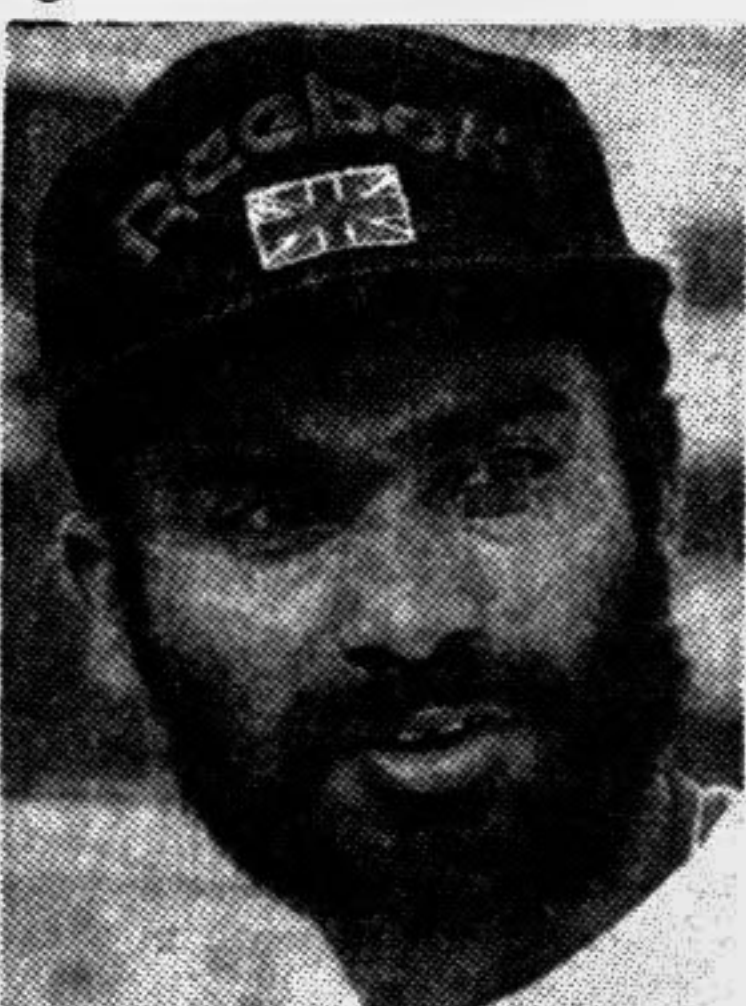
Shetty, who appeared visibly shaken as dozens of reporters mobbed him for a reaction, said the allegations were demoralising for his team.

"It has come at a bad time when the team was on tour and was concentrating on the game. It is distressing," the manager



RASHID LATIF

said. India are playing in the four-nation Asia Cup here, followed by a series of two Tests and three one-day international against the hosts.



N SIDHU

Latif, who has played 19 Tests and 85 one-day internationals but is not currently in the Pakistan side, said he had documentary and tape evidence to prove his allegations.

He said several Indian players used to telephone him for information on players, the weather and the state of pitches before matches between Pakistan and visiting touring teams.

"They had to pass on the information to other people. I used to oblige generally as it was nothing wrong on my side," the magazine quoted Latif as

saying. Azharuddin said he had received a fax from Latif stating he named the 'four players' when asked by the magazine's correspondent whether he had any friends in the Indian team.

"Latif denied ever saying anything else about us," Azharuddin told AFP. "I believe him because he is a good friend and a good human being."

"The media is only interested in sensationalism. It's all getting a bit too much. It is harming the game and the players."

Jadeja added, "My friendship with Rashid goes back a long way. I have spoken to him many times. Is there anything wrong in that?"

In June the same magazine published claims by former Indian Test cricketer Manoj Prabhakar that he was offered 72,000 dollars to throw away his wicket against Pakistan in a 1994 limited overs match.

Prabhakar has since refused to disclose name to an official match-fixing inquiry, headed by a former Indian chief justice, fearing legal action against him.

The allegations of match-fixing are not the first to rock cricket.

Former Pakistan captain



A JADEJA

Salim Malik was involved in a major match-fixing controversy in 1994 when he was accused by Australian players, including Shane Warne of offering them money to fix a result. The charges were never proved.

Latif said he himself had been offered around 35,000 dollars by an Indian national during a Test match in England to try and make sure Pakistan's score did not cross 300. He said he refused the bet and helped his team reach 350.

Illegal betting on cricket results is widespread in India, with many powerful bookmakers based in Bombay.

Egypt rules the pool

BEIRUT, July 22: Egypt dominated the first day of swimming action at the Pan-Arab Games on Monday, winning four of the six gold medals at stake, reports AFP.

Egypt also collected two gold medals in table tennis to lift its total of golds to 52, well clear of second-placed Algeria, which has 24 golds.

Syria won its fourth gold medal of the Games when Hicham Al-Masri won the men's 400m freestyle. He will also contest the 800m and 1500m freestyle events.

Algeria won the 4x200 freestyle relay while Egypt's triumphs came through Rania Alouani in the women's 200m backstroke and 4x200m medley. Chamseddine in the men's 100m breast stroke and in the women's 4x100m medley.

Ravanelli stuck with Boro

MIDDLESBROUGH, July 22: Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli will start the new season with Middlesbrough, the relegated club he wanted desperately to leave, reports AP.

The former Juventus star decided to stay with the Division One club after three hours of talks Tuesday with Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson and chairman Steve Gibson at the Riverside Stadium.

"Fabrizio Ravanelli is returning to Middlesbrough and will commence training with the team tomorrow," a club spokesman said.

The former Juventus star decided to stay with the Division One club after three hours of talks Tuesday with Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson and chairman Steve Gibson at the Riverside Stadium.

But last week, Ravanelli turned down a 7.5-million-pound 12 million dollars move to Premier league side Everton.

Man United on a roll

TOKYO, July 22: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored two first-half goals, leading England's Manchester United to a 2-1 victory over Japan's Urawa Reds Tuesday in the third and last game of a goodwill Asian tour, reports AP.

Playing before more than 17,000 spectators at the Urawa Komaba Stadium in Tokyo's outskirts, Solskjaer, a Norwegian international, received a pass from Philip Mulryne of Northern Ireland and headed in the first goal in the 13th minute.

Nicky Butt assisted when Solskjaer kicked in his second goal in the 39th minute.

Six minutes into the second half, Keiji Okamoto received a pass from German Guido Buchwald and headed in Reds only goal.

Manchester United, England's Premier League champions, outshot their opponents, currently ninth in Japan's 17-team professional soccer league, 14-9.

Manchester captain Roy Keane, an Irish international, was named the match's most valuable player for his play, although he didn't take any shots. The fighting spirit award went to Buchwald, who joined the Urawa Reds in 1994 from Germany's VfB Stuttgart.

Manchester United beat the Thai national team 2-0 in Bangkok last Thursday and the South China Club 1-0 in Hong Kong on Sunday before coming to Japan.



Manchester United's (from left to right) manager Alex Ferguson, captain Roy Keane, goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel and chairman Martin Edwards pose with the Sharp Cup during a press conference at a Tokyo hotel on July 21.

Ruling body yet to rule



ZURICH, July 22: World soccer's governing body is confident that FC Barcelona and Inter Milan will reach agreement by the end of the week over the transfer of Brazilian superstar Ronaldo, report agencies.

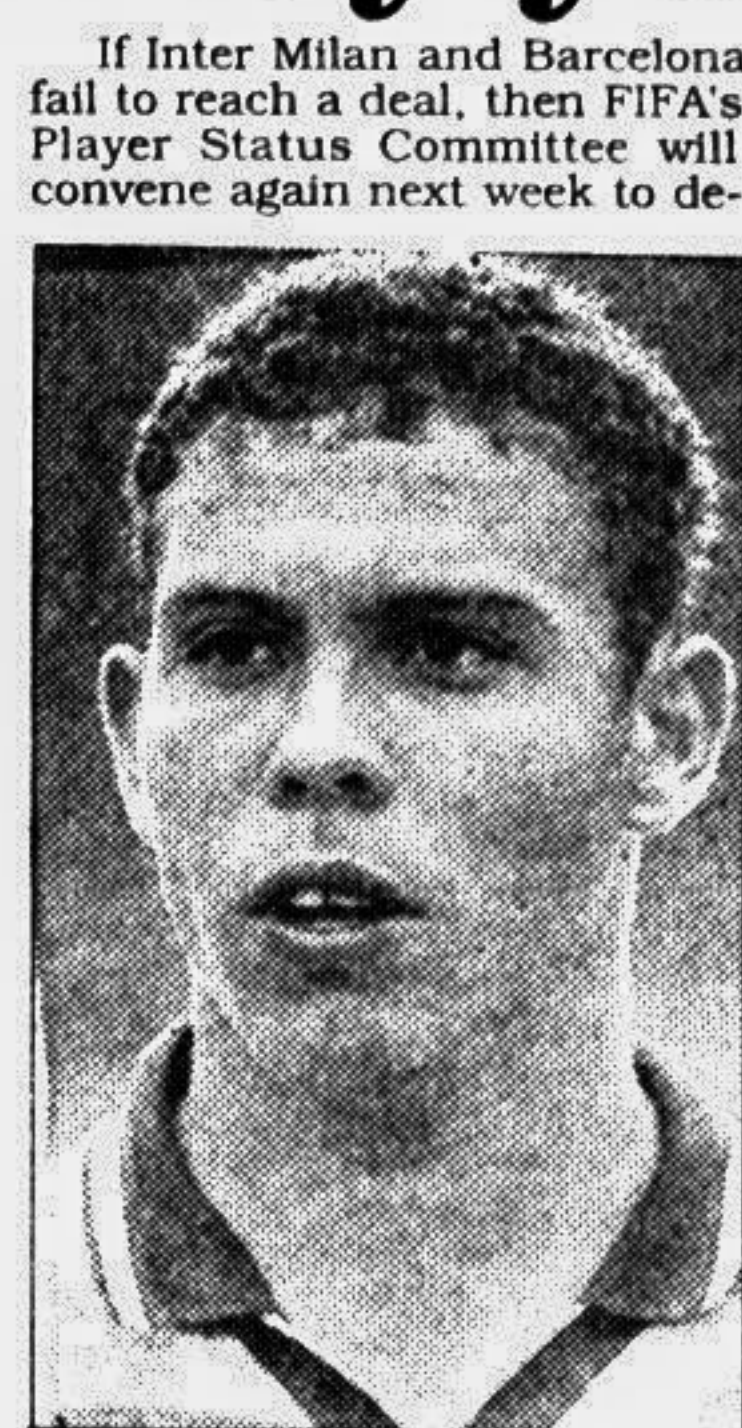
FIFA general secretary Joseph Blatter said Tuesday that representatives of the two soccer powerhouses would hold more talks in Zurich in the coming days to try to fix a price for the world's best and most expensive player.

"The compromise is just a question of money," Blatter said. "It's a case of seeing how much the transfer is worth. I am sure they will reach a deal."

Barcelona want more than the 27 million dollars that Inter have already splashed out on the 20-year-old Ronaldo.

The Spanish club have argued that Inter broke FIFA transfer rules by cutting a deal directly with the player without first approaching Spanish officials.

Under Spanish federation rules, a player can buy his way out of a contract to join another Spanish club, FIFA rules, however, state that a player cannot buy out his contract in order to obtain an international transfer.



RONALDO

side on the issue. It had been due to consider the issue Tuesday, but put this on hold.

"With two of the most prestigious clubs in the world, in two of the most prestigious leagues, with two of the most prestigious

presidents and perhaps currently the most prestigious player, it's not good if they need FIFA to act as a court," Blatter said.

Inter, owned by Italian oil magnate Massimo Moratti, gave Ronaldo 27 million dollars to buy himself out of his eight-year contract with Barcelona. This was in addition to a signing fee of 14 million dollars and a salary of 3 million per year.

That would make Ronaldo — FIFA's Player-of-the-Year — the most expensive player in history. That distinction is currently held by England's Alan Shearer, who moved from Blackburn Rovers to Newcastle for 15 million pounds (25 million dollars) last year.

Earlier, FIFA was expected Monday to rule on whether Ronaldo's transfer could go ahead.

Ronaldo will make football history if FIFA ratify his move from the Spanish side to Italy. Officials of the two clubs met for several hours in Zurich yesterday but were unable to reach agreement on a settlement.

The only case where a player bought out his contract and moved to another club was when Russian midfielder Valery Karpin moved from Real Sociedad to Valencia.

New edition of rivalry



BELGRADE, July 22: The Yugoslav war started with soccer. For many fans, the Serb-Croat feud formally ends when their teams play each other for the first time in six years Wednesday, reports AP.

The draw for the qualification round of the European Champions Cup pitted Partizan Belgrade against Croatia Zagreb in first- and second-leg matches July 23 and 30. Wednesday's game is in Belgrade.

The potential exists for trouble between the pre-war bitter rivals. Croatia (then known as Dinamo), Partizan, Red Star Belgrade and Croatia's Hajduk formed the "big four" clubs before Yugoslavia disintegrated in a civil war starting in 1991.

Fans often clashed even in peacetime. Soccer riots exploded on the eve of the war, with fans turning stadiums into battlegrounds. Now, the countries are playing in separate leagues, bringing the quality of soccer to a much lower level.

The extremist core in the fan clubs — such as Partizan's "Grave Diggers" and Croatia's "Bad Blue Boys" — joined the most notorious paramilitary units, fighting each other on the fronts.

Now, despite the war's end,

there will be no fans travelling across the border. Security precautions and still complicated visa procedures are often cited as the reason.

"The war started with soccer riots," Partizan's director Nenad Bjekovic said. "We hope that the still-existing tensions will formally end with this soccer match."

Davor Mihajlovic, one of Partizan's biggest fans, said, "We'll call it the truce. We badly miss the good old days when we fought gallant battles with Croatian fans in the stadiums. But that is the past. Croatia is a foreign land for us now."

Serbian police have been put on a heightened state of alert, and tough security measures have been imposed on the sold-out Yugoslav People's Army stadium where the Belgrade match is played.

Media in both countries have billed the game as "historic" and "do-or-die" for the nations' prestige.

"The whole of Croatia lives for this match," said Zagreb's midfielder Robert Prosinecki. "We are a better team, and we can win."

Prosinecki, a member of the Croatian national team who just signed a 1.8 million contract with Zagreb, will be returning to Belgrade for the first time since winning the Euro-

pean Cup with Red Star Belgrade in 1991.

Prosinecki, the son of a Serb mother and Croat father, didn't come to Belgrade last year when Barcelona played Red Star in a Cup Winners' Cup game. He claims Red Star owes him some money from when he left the club.

"I dream about scoring in Belgrade," Prosinecki said.

Ivica Kralj, Partizan's goalkeeper, is under special pressure and media attention ahead of the game because of his Croatian origin.

"Even though it's difficult, I'm trying to take it as any other game," Kralj said. "But the pressure is huge because the match is historic in a way."

"This is a particular match, but first of all we should look at it as a sports game," said Croatia's defender Goran Juric, who also played for Red Star in the early 1990s. "I'm sure about one thing: this is the most important match in the history of Croatia."

The main joke among the fans in Serbia and Croatia is in a question: which team will Croatian President Franjo Tudjman support?

When he lived in Belgrade as a young Yugoslav army general in the 1960s, Tudjman was Partizan's director.

German side get Sforza



LONDON, July 22: Everton, desperately seeking a major international signing before the new season, lost out to German club Kaiserslautern in the race to sign Swiss midfielder Ciriaco Sforza on Monday, reports Reuters.

Kaiserslautern, who clinched promotion to the Bundesliga last season, said it had paid 6.5 million marks (3.6

million dollars) to get Sforza from International.

The Swiss international played for the German side before moving to Bayern Munich in 1995.

Everton manager Howard Kendall, who last week failed to persuade Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli to join the Premier league club from Middlesbrough, had said earlier in the day that he was close to signing Sforza.

But he was beaten to the sig-

nature by Kaiserslautern who are not one of Germany's most glamorous clubs but boast a fanatical following.

They won the Bundesliga in 1991 and have bounced back to the top flight after just one season in the Second Division with the help of former Werder Bremen and Bayern Munich coach Otto Rehhagel.

Kaiserslautern said Sforza, who has earned more than 40 caps for his country and took part in the 1994 World Cup finals, had signed a four-year contract and would join the team in pre-season training this morning.

It was reported at the weekend in Britain that Everton had offered three million pounds (five million dollars) for the Swiss player.

"We are very near to agreeing a deal," said newly-appointed Kendall who presided over the Liverpool club's glory years in the mid-1980s when they won the league title and the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Kendall had hoped that the talks would lead to the player making a visit to the club this week. He may now turn his attention to other players before next month's start to the season.

Newspapers at the weekend linked Everton with Newcastle's Les Ferdinand after the England striker appeared to cast doubts on his future as Alan Shearer's strike partner at the club.

"We are looking for a quality striker and Ferdinand certainly is that," Kendall said. "Should he become available, we'd be interested, but that is not the case at the moment."

Ben fights for a living



BRAMPTON, Ontario, July 22: A lifetime suspension that prevents sprinter Ben Johnson from competing should be lifted because it also prevents him from earning a living, an Ontario Court was told Monday, reports AP.

The athlete's lawyers told Justice Meira Caswell of Ontario Court's general division he ban is excessive. It was imposed on the former Olympian after he twice tested positive for steroid use.

"A lifetime ban is harsh," lawyer Axy Leigh said. "This means one talent that he has taken pride in, he can't use to make a living."

A decision is expected Friday. The legal challenge seeks to have the court force the International Amateur Athletic Federation and Athletics Canada to allow the 36-year-old Johnson to compete.

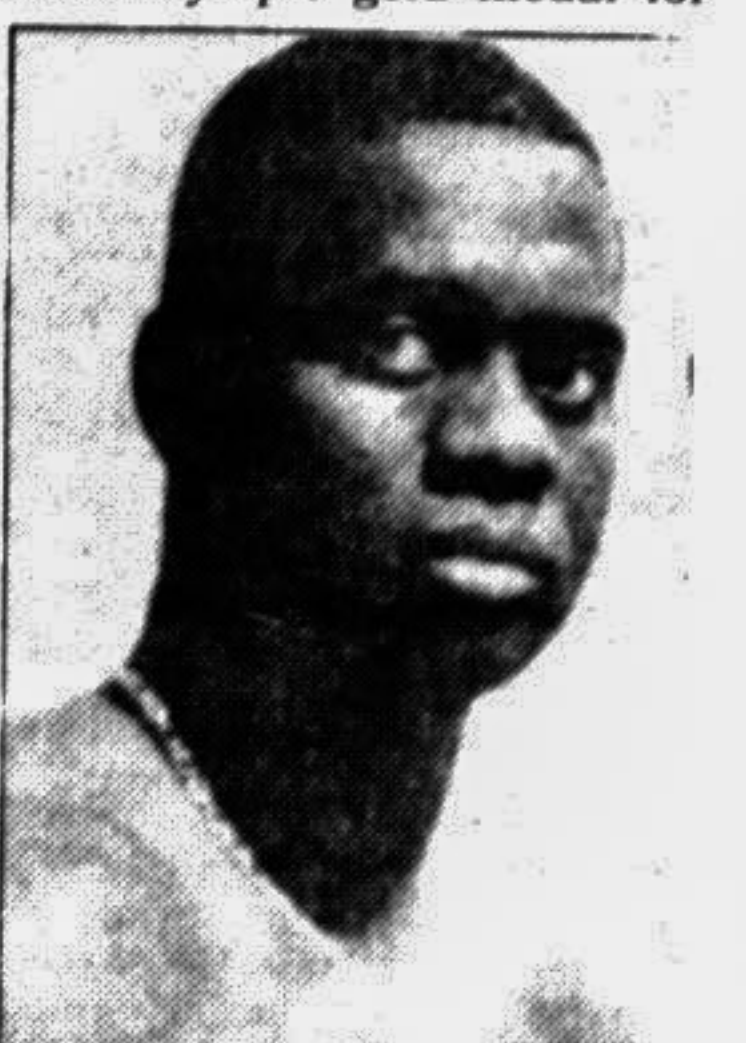
"I do what I do best (which) is run and hopefully the judge will rule on that," Johnson said as he left the courthouse. "My life was on hold for four years until we came forward to get this done."

Johnson's career ground to a halt in 1993 when a urine test showed unusually high levels of the male hormone testosterone in his system, an indication of steroid use. It was the second time he was caught using steroids.

Athletics Canada, lawyer Paul Kane insisted his client is not responsible for Johnson's inability to earn a living because most of the sprinter's money came from endorsements, not earnings from competing.

Athletics Canada has done nothing to prevent him from entering those kinds of contracts today, said Kane, pointing out that some retired athletes still get commercial endorsements.

Johnson was stripped of his 1988 Olympic gold medal for



BEN JOHNSON

the fastest 100 metres in history — 9.79 seconds — when he tested positive for steroid use.

He later returned to running, but the positive drug test in 1993 resulted in a lifetime ban.

Edward Babin, a lawyer for the athletic federation, told the court that all sides agree doping is a serious problem and sanctions are needed to deal with it.

But Johnson and his lawyers favour less extreme measures, said Babin.

"It's a little like saying a jail sentence imposed on a jewel thief is a restraint of trade," he said.

A lifetime suspension is needed to deter drug use and is a

way to "remove repeat offenders so others didn't act in the same way."

Johnson sat quietly in the court, often with his head bowed as he listened to the legal arguments that will dictate his fate as a sprinter.

Leigh urged the judge to make a quick decision, arguing that the issue is critical to Johnson's future.

"The reason this matter is so urgent to him... is because of his age and future seasons he has left," Leigh said. "His athletic ability declines as he gets older, unfortunately."

Sino squad named

BEIJING, July 22: China on Tuesday unveiled the 27-member team it will send to the World Athletics Championship, saying its medal hopes focused on three or four events, reports Reuters.

With Olympic champion Wang Junxia absent from the team due to health problems, China's highest hopes were for a silver or bronze from Huang Zhihong, former Olympic and world women's shotput winner, the Xinhua news agency said.

Other medal hopefuls included Gao Hongmiao, last year's gold medalist in the World Cup women's 10-km walk, and Ren Xijuan, who currently ranks 9th in the women's triple jump, it said.

The Chinese team features both veterans and newcomers in preparation for the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games and the 2000 Sydney Olympics, it quoted sports officials as saying.

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30 World Living: Airport 7:00 BBC World News: In the World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: Reporters 11:00 BBC Newsweek 12:00 BBC Newsweek 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Reporters 2:00 BBC World News 2:25 50 Years Of Independence 2:30 World Living: Tomorrow's World 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Airport 5:00 BBC Newsweek 6:30 World Focus: Reporters 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC

CHANNEL V

6:00am Hebat Vj Alessandra 7:00 Tuna in T [V] 8:30 Rewind Vj Sophyia 9:30 Tuna in T [V] 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:00 Simply South

STAR PLUS

6:30 Ninasad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:00 Business Agenda 9:30 Nine To Five 10:00 Madeleine Cooks 10:30 El Extreme Close Up Harrison Ford 11:00 The Wonder Years 12:30 Chicago Hope 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 The Kian Joneha Show 4:00 Kya Baat Hai 4:30 Lost In Space 5:30 Double Happiness MD 6:00 The Wonder Years 8:30pm

STAR MOVIES

7:30am Classic: My Favourite Brunette 12:30 Classic: The Inspector General PG (Hindi Subtitles) 11:30 Action: Knock about 15 (English Subtitles) 1:30 Family: The Picture Show Man 12:30 Future Shock: Stranded 15 (New Line Version) 5:30 Family: Matt The Gooseboy? 7:00 Extreme Close-Up 7:30 Adventure: Kidnapped 12:30 The Movie Show 10:00 Double Bill: Teri Gaur Miracles PG 12:00 Double Bill: Teri Gaur A Perfect Little Murder? 2:00 Action: Black Cobra IV 18 (Arabic Subtitles) 4:00 Film Club: Madonna — Innocence Lost 18 5:30 Documentary: The Metal Years 15

STAR SPORTS

9:00 Malaysian Open Badminton 1997 Semi Finals 1:00 Malboro League 1997 Chinese National Football League 3:00 Asia Sport Show 3:30 Malaysian Open Badminton 1997 Finals 7:30 Pepsi Asia Cup 1997 H/L Day 5 Sri Lanka v Bangladesh 8:30 FIM World Motorcycle Championships German Grand Prix Highlights 11:00 LIVE English Cricket AXA Life League War-

ZEE TV

6:00 Jagran 6:30 A to Z of Computer 7:30 Ghooraa Aaina 8:00 Zee News & Business 8:30 Zee News 9:00 Disney Hour 10:00 Gaane Anjane 10:30 Ashiana 11:00 Bourmiva Quiz Contest 12:00 Jaspal KJ Yeh Zindagi 1:00 Ek Duj Ka Lye 1:30 Sikhi 2:00 Hum Paanch 2:30 Kurukshetra 3:00 Dard 3:30 Celeste 4:00 Adhikar 4:30 Dhara Zalka Ka Safar 5:30 Siyaram's Cine Magic 6:30 Through The Gears 6:00 TBA 6:30 Gaane Anjane 6: