

Ronaldo fails to score

ROME, Sept 1: Ronaldo was upstaged on his Italian league debut for Internazionale on Sunday by Uruguayan Alvaro Recoba, who scored twice in the Milan club's 2-1 win over Brescia at the San Siro, reports Reuters.

The 21-year-old substitute, signed like the Brazilian in the close season, struck two stunning goals from 30 metres in less than 10 minutes after Dario Hubner had given the visitors a shock lead in the 64th minute.

Champions Juventus also left it late on the opening day of Serie A, beating newly-promoted Lecce 2-0 with late goals from Filippo Inzaghi and Antonio Conte.

But Fabio Capello's expensively assembled AC Milan stumbled at the first hurdle, letting slip a first-half lead to draw 1-1 at Piacenza.

Parma, who qualified for the Champions' League last week, continued their rich pre-season form with an impressive 2-0 win at Bari, Pietro Strada and Fabio Cannavaro scored the goals.

Roberto Mancini, who left Sampdoria after 12 successful years in the summer, picked up where he left off with his new club Lazio and scored the opening goal in the highly fancied Roman side's 2-0 win at home to Napoli.

Argentine Gabriel Batistuta, who came close to leaving Fiorentina over the summer, grabbed a hat-trick including an injury-time winner, in a 3-2 victory at Udinese.

Roberto Baggio's debut for Bologna ended in a disappointing 4-2 defeat at Atalanta, although the former Juventus and AC Milan striker scored a late penalty.

Princess Anne to miss IOC meeting

LAUSANNE, Sept 1: Britain's Princess Anne will not attend this week's International Olympic Committee session because of the death of her former sister-in-law, Princess Diana.

IOC director general Francois Carrard said Monday that Anne, an IOC member and president of the British Olympic Association, had been excused from the session following Diana's death.

The session starts Tuesday and will be highlighted by Friday's vote to designate the host city of the 2004 Summer Olympics. Anne's presence apparently was ruled out after Diana's funeral was scheduled for Saturday.

Also excused from the session was Saudi Prince Faisal Fahd Abdul Aziz Carrard, said Faisal was unable to attend because of "some political matters with the cabinet."

The absence of Anne and Prince Faisal leaves 107 IOC members eligible to vote for the 2004 host. The candidates are Athens, Greece; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Rome, Italy and Stockholm, Sweden.

Thai boxers finish first

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 1: Thai boxers won four gold medals in 12 weight classes Sunday, making their nation the overall champion in the 19th Asian Boxing Championship, reports AP.

Uzbekistan and Iran each collected three golds, but Uzbekistan won more medals overall. Uzbekistan's Abdulvaliyev also won the men's best boxer title. He easily defeated South Korean Shin Eun-chul in the 60-kilogram division.

Kazakhstan won two golds. All four Thai finalists were winners, while four Uzbekistan finalists had to settle for silver medals. Injuries from earlier rounds took a toll on the Uzbekistan team.

Subun Punnong gave Thailand its first gold when he beat Abd Rashid Ghamrani of Pakistan by decision at 48 kilograms.

Other Thai winners were Sontaya Wongprats, over Iran's Akbar Ahadiheer at 54 kilograms, and Chainarong Kanha, by walkover against Uzbekistan's Yarbekov at 75 kilograms.

Despite an injury, Uzbekistan's Turgunov won at 57 kilograms against Bajan Batmali of Iran. Teammate Mikhailov beat Topayev Arkady of Kazakhstan at 61 kilograms.



American Olympic champion Gail Devers shows her trademark long nails after winning in the 100 metres at the 'Festival of Spirit' during the World University Games in Italy on Aug 31. She declared that she would cut off the nails.

Agassi finds his feet

NEW YORK, Sept 1: Unseeded former champion Andre Agassi and second seed Michael Chang moved closer to a semifinal clash with convincing third-round victories at the US Open on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Agassi, who skipped this year's first three majors, stamped himself a legitimate title contender with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 win over Australian doubles star Mark Woodforde.

That's three in a row now I felt like everything was coming together, but you never know until you're tested and today was a step up for me, no question," said Agassi whose ranking has plummeted to 63rd in the world.

"Now it's not about comeback, it's about going out there and winning matches," said the 1994 Open champion.

Woodforde, who had picked off third-seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the previous round and beaten Agassi earlier this month in Indianapolis, noticed a definite difference in the former Wimbledon champion.

"He came out with a purpose and I think it worked very well for him. He was very focused out there," said Woodforde.

The consistent Chang, who beat Agassi in the semis here last year before falling to Pete Sampras in the final, always comes out with a purpose — to run his opponent off the court.

In a match between two of the speediest players in the game, Chang dominated the first two sets, then held on for a 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 win over 72nd-ranked Sargis Sargsian of Armenia.

The tight third set featured

nine service breaks out of the 12 games with Chang finally reaching match point with a dazzling running forehand right out of the Sampras repertoire.

"Sarg was playing some great tennis out there, really the

Woodforde then wished Agassi good luck, but added: "Not too much against another Australian."

The other Australian is 13th seed Patrick Rafter, who should provide a serious test of whether Agassi has his Grand Slam game together.

The red-hot Rafter crushed Frenchman Lionel Roux 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 in under 90 minutes after dropping a total of just five games in his previous match.

Rafter, who reached the final of his last two hardcourt tournaments, is playing like a world beater and takes at least as much confidence as Agassi into the fourth-round clash.

But as Chang said: "You can't come out here and expect easy matches. This is the US Open."

Another five-set survivor was two-time French Open champion Sergi Bruguera, the seventh seed, who fought off Argentine Hernan Gumy 6-1, 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 6-4 in three hours to set up a fourth-round meeting with 10th seed Marcelo Rios of Chile.

Who also came through a five-set marathon against German, Tommy Haas. The Chilean secured a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 1-6 and 6-1 victory.

In another match Swede Magnus Larsson defeated Brazil's Fernando Meligeni 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

The Agassi match started on a somber note, with a moment of silence and a statement of sympathy for Britain's Princess Diana and those killed along with her in an overnight car crash in Paris.

The baseline basher ended the match with a little serve and volley, belting a huge forehand volley winner before tipping his white cap to the appreciative crowd.

Woodforde then wished Agassi good luck, but added: "Not too much against another Australian."

The red-hot Rafter crushed Frenchman Lionel Roux 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 in under 90 minutes after dropping a total of just five games in his previous match.

Rafter, who reached the final of his last two hardcourt tournaments, is playing like a world beater and takes at least as much confidence as Agassi into the fourth-round clash.

But as Chang said: "You can't come out here and expect easy matches. This is the US Open."

RESULTS IN BRIEF

NEW YORK, Sept 1 (AP): Following are the US Open men's, women's and mixed doubles results on Sunday:

Doubles: (Second Round) Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Russia, and Daniel Vacek, Czech Republic (4), def. Patrik Fredriksson, Sweden, and Tom Vanhoudt, Belgium, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kuitl, Sweden (11), def. Brandon Hawk and Nathan Overholser, United States, 6-2, 6-1.

Third Round John-Laffnie de Jager and Robbie Koenig, South Africa, def. Dave Randall and Jack Waite, United States, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

Jiri Novak and David Rikl, Czech Republic, def. Trevor Kronemann, United States, and David Macpherson, Australia (14), 6-4, 7-5.

Goran Ivanisevic, Croatia, and Cyril Suk, Czech Republic, def. Martin Damm, Czech Republic, and Andrei Olhovskiy, Russia (7), 6-4, 6-2.

Wayne Black, Zimbabwe, and Jim Grabb, United States, def. Grant Connell and Daniel Nestor, Canada (15), 7-6 (7-5), 6-1.

Doubles: (Second Round) Lisa Raymond, United States, and Rennae Stubbs, Australia (10), def. Jill Hetherington, Canada, and Kathy Rinaldi-Stunkel, United States, 6-1, 5-7, 6-3.

Mary Joe Fernandez, United States, and Anke Huber, Germany (12), def. Virginia Ruano-Pascual, Spain, and Paola Suarez, Argentina, 6-2, 6-4.

Lindsay Davenport, United States, and Jana Novotna, Czech Republic (3), def. Alexia Dechaume-Balleret and Sandrine Testud, France, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2.

Third Round Yayuk Basuki, Indonesia, and Caroline Vis, Netherlands (8), def. Annabel Ellwood and Kristine Kunce, Australia, 6-0, 6-4.

Mixed Doubles: (Second Round) Elena Likhovtseva, Russia, and Jeff Tarango, United States, def. Yayuk Basuki, Indonesia, and Menno Oosting, Netherlands (7), 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.

Barca ride on Brazilians

MADRID, Sept 1: Rivaldo scored twice and Giovanni scored another on Sunday as Barcelona's Brazilians gave the club a triumphant start to the Spanish season with a 3-0 victory over Real Sociedad, reports Reuters.

Rivaldo, who replaced departed Brazilian Ronaldo over the summer, opened the scoring after 26 minutes with a bending free kick from outside the penalty area.

Ten minutes into the second half, Giovanni put the Catalan club further ahead after an outstanding run through the defence by his compatriot Sonny Anderson.

Rivaldo completed the scoring with his second goal after 80 minutes.

Real Mallorca were the only one of the three newly promoted clubs to take any points with their 2-1 victory over Valencia. Amato got a goal after just five minutes for the islanders.

Yugoslav international Miroslav Djukic equalised for Valencia after 54 minutes but then four minutes from time got the dubious distinction of scoring at both ends after turning a cross into his own net.

To complete a miserable final few minutes for the defender he also got sent off a minute into injury time for his second yellow card offence.

The other two new boys fared less well. Merida went down 2-0 at the end for whom Panamanian striker Dely Valdes got a goal after six minutes on his Spanish league debut.

Salamanca lost 1-0 at Racing Santander, going down to a 75 minute goal from Alberto Lopez.

The highest scoring match on the opening weekend of the Spanish championship came in Bilbao where Athletic lost 3-1 at home to Espana, vol.

All four goals came during a half hour spell in the first period with summer signing Juan Esnaider scoring twice in four minutes, after just seven and 11 minutes.

Reigning champions Real Madrid drew 1-1 with local rivals Atletico on Saturday, with an outstanding goal from 46 metres out by Real's Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf.

Sports world shares the pain

NEW YORK, Sept 1 (AP): From tennis courts in New York to ballparks in Toronto, the tragic death of Princess Diana was mourned Sunday at sporting events around the world.

There was a moment of silence observed at the US Open before the featured match in Arthur Ashe Stadium between Mark Woodforde and Andre Agassi as a capacity crowd and the players stood quietly.

Agassi, his head bowed, wore a black mourning ribbon on his right shoulder.

"After that complete tragedy last night, you could feel it in the air," Agassi said. "It was an absolute tragedy. It's a loss for the world. If civilisation doesn't learn from this, it's telling for where we're headed. It's a debate what goes on for so many in the public eye. For her life to be taken in the same vain and torture in which she lived is a complete shame."

John McEnroe, broadcasting the tennis for CBS, said, "It's hard to watch a match right now. I feel sick along with the rest of the world. It's beyond tragic. It's unspeakable."

Before her divorce from Prince Charles, Diana was a regular at Wimbledon, sitting in the Royal Box, often attending the matches with her sons William and Harry.

She became friendly with several players, including Wimbledon champions Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova and Virginia Wade. Graf once gave the Princess and Prince William a tennis lesson at a private club in London and Wade said she had hoped to arrange a date to hit with Diana.

Wade recalled how the princess' appearance at Wimbledon always caused a stir at the All-England Club.

Monica Seles said the players were in shock over the news of Diana's death and the circumstances of the car crash in a high-speed race away from pursuing photographers. She remembered a similar experience in Paris.

"The first time I won the French Open in 1990, two people on motor bikes followed me," she said. "They were curious where I was going to celebrate. We wanted to lose them. We stopped suddenly and they hit the right side of the car."

Joannette Kruger of South Africa, who faced American Venus Williams in the first match of the day, learned of Diana's death when she arrived at the tennis center.

"I was shocked when I heard," she said. "I only heard it when I walked in the locker room. I just realised, life is so fragile. I thought, I'm so keyed up in my tennis. What is it really, if you look at the majority of life? Where are we going next?"

The San Francisco Giants however honoured the memory of Princess Diana and her efforts in the fight against AIDS with a moment of silence during the game.

Diana was the former sister-in-law of Princess Anne, a former Olympic equestrian competitor who is an IOC member and president of the BOC.

Throughout Britain events were postponed as the shocked nation attempted to cope with the Princess' sudden death.

"In light of the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the FA Premier League has as a mark of respect to her family, decided to postpone this afternoon's Liverpool versus Newcastle fixture," Premier League chief executive Peter Leaver said in a statement.

"The world of football joins the nation in expressing our deepest sympathies to all those who knew and loved her," he added.

The First Division match between Crewe and Port Vale also was postponed, as was the Scottish Premier Division game between Kilmarnock and Motherwell.

The Scottish league also postponed Monday's traditional showdown between Celtic and Rangers.

An FA spokesman also said the Sept 10 World Cup qualifier with Moldova at Wembley stadium also was in doubt.

The British team did compete at the World Rowing Championships, which opened in Chambrey, France, Sunday.

"Our thoughts this morning are naturally with the British team," said Michel Barnier, president of the organising committee at the opening ceremonies. "We share their pain at the tragic death of Princess Diana."

The England and Wales cricket boards elected to go ahead with Sunday league matches and a full programme of rugby league games were played, though a moment of silence marked the beginning of each match.

But the Northamptonshire cricket club, which was due to play Durham, ignored the ECB's instructions and postponed the match as a sign of respect.

A motor racing festival also was postponed and officials at the Hamilton Park horse racing course held a minute's silence before beginning the day's racing. Horse racing officials said racing would be cancelled on the day of the Princess' funeral.

International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch sent a letter of sympathy to the British Olympic Association.

Princess Diana was the former sister-in-law of Princess Anne, a former Olympic equestrian competitor who is an IOC member and president of the BOC.

Throughout Britain events were postponed as the shocked nation attempted to cope with the Princess' sudden death.

"In light of the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the FA Premier League has as a mark of respect to her family, decided to postpone this afternoon's Liverpool versus Newcastle fixture," Premier League chief executive Peter Leaver said in a statement.

"The world of football joins the nation in expressing our deepest sympathies to all those who knew and loved her," he added.

The First Division match between Crewe and Port Vale also was postponed, as was the Scottish Premier Division game between Kilmarnock and Motherwell.

The Scottish league also postponed Monday's traditional showdown between Celtic and Rangers.

An FA spokesman also said the Sept 10 World Cup qualifier with Moldova at Wembley stadium also was in doubt.

The British team did compete at the World Rowing Championships, which opened in Chambrey, France, Sunday.

"Our thoughts this morning are naturally with the British team," said Michel Barnier, president of the organising committee at the opening ceremonies. "We share their pain at the tragic death of Princess Diana."

The England and Wales cricket boards elected to go ahead with Sunday league matches and a full programme of rugby league games were played, though a moment of silence marked the beginning of each match.

But the Northamptonshire cricket club, which was due to play Durham, ignored the ECB's instructions and postponed the match as a sign of respect.

A motor racing festival also was postponed and officials at the Hamilton Park horse racing course held a minute's silence before beginning the day's racing. Horse racing officials said racing would be cancelled on the day of the Princess' funeral.

International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch sent a letter of sympathy to the British Olympic Association.

Donald demolishes Essex

LONDON, Sept 1: Allan Donald's hostility and control proved far too much for Essex as Warwickshire completed a 147-run victory to stay top of the Sunday league table, reports Reuters.

The 30-year-old South African took five for 10 from 5.5 overs his best performance of the summer in the competition — as the home side were routed for 108 in 28.5 overs in reply to a total of 255 for Essex.

After Gladstone Small had undermined the top order with three for 30, Donald arrived to bring the innings to a rapid conclusion and earn the visitors a huge psychological advantage as they prepare for next Saturday's NatWest Trophy final at Lord's between the two counties.

Warwickshire also secured an eight-wicket victory over Essex in the county championship two days earlier and during the two games Donald amassed 13 wickets for 67 runs.

Warwickshire captain Neil Smith opened the innings and smashed 57 from 53 balls. David Hemp's unbeaten 70 from 65 deliveries contained four sixes.

When they replied, Essex desperately needed something special from Australian Stuart Law to make a game of it but he

match between the sides, hit five fours from 101 balls as Kent won by six wickets with more than two overs to spare.

Hampshire had been powerfully placed at 152 for five after Robin Smith had scored 35 and opener Jason Loney a rapid 29 but the tail collapsed with the last five wickets going for the addition of only 13 runs.

Lancashire trounced Yorkshire in a 10-over match to complete a miserable weekend for Yorkshire, who were still fuming at the controversial abandonment of the championship fixture on Saturday.

Yorkshire complained bitterly about the way overnight rain had seeped through the covers, turning one end of the pitch into a mudbath.

And chief executive Chris Hassell said today: "It was unforgivable and we will be in touch with Lord's. It could become an official complaint."

Lancashire's groundstaff worked hard on the pitch and Sunday's game began at 5.55pm local time at 16.55 GMT.

Lancashire's 93 for 13 included an unbeaten 31 off 13 balls from wicketkeeper Warren Hegg, whose big hitting denied Yorkshire in two cup semifinals last season. Yorkshire stumbled to 62 for eight to lose by 31 runs.

Buenos Aires, Sept 1: Colombia international goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba became Boca Juniors' latest signing as he joined the club on loan on Monday, reports Reuters.

Cordoba joined veteran Diego Maradona, striker Claudio Caniggia, Mexican star Luis Hernandez and Peruvian international Nolberto Solano on the list of new recruits for Argentina's most popular but title-starved club.

"I'm very happy with this contract. It's the most important of my career," said Cordoba, signed from Colombian team America.

The move closed the door for Paraguayan international Jose Luis Chilavert, who had been expected to join Boca from local rivals Velez Sarsfield after rivaling up a long-standing animosity with Maradona.

Cordoba's place for Colombia in the 1994 World Cup, lost his place to Farid Mondragon but regained it last month after a series of blunders by his replacement.

Cricket to get Aussie twist

SYDNEY, Sept 1: Australian cricket made a drastic change to the laws of the game Monday, in a move as revolutionary as day-night matches and players in colourful clothing, reports AP.

Critics of one-day cricket, who for years have derided the shortened game as being too much like baseball, gained further ammunition when the Australian Cricket Board voted to add an extra player to each team in the domestic limited overs competition.

The law changes allow for a "pinch-hitter", a term borrowed from baseball and recently used in cricket for a big-hitting player promoted up the batting order to score quick runs early in an innings.

Now the pinch-hitter role will be closer to the baseball model, with teams extended from 11 to 12 players. One batsman can play without fielding and one bowler will not be required to bat.

The changes were announced by Australian Cricket Board chief executive Mal Speed, who joined the ACB from another American-influenced sport, basketball, earlier this year.

When Australian media magnate Kerry Packer revolutionised international cricket, in the 1970s, one-day teams put aside their traditional white clothes for national colours and games were played under lights for the first time.

Day-night limited overs cricket consistently draws sell-out crowds in Australia while attendances at five-day Test matches vary depending on the opponents and domestic Sheffield Shield games are lucky to top 1000 fans a day.

Former Australian international Dean Jones, who was considered the best limited overs player of his time by his compatriots, gave cautious support for the move but warned Australia not to lose sight of the main game — winning the 1999 World Cup.

"We have to make sure when we are doing things we are not trying to put things up to justify our jobs," Jones said.

"Whatever we do has not to be a build up to winning the World Cup. I don't mind a bit of change but they should be making the wickets better for one-day cricket."

"A pinch-hitter may be a good idea... but it's upsetting

because batsmen who pinch ones or twos, make two into three, now will struggle as we see an explosion of the bigger hitters."

New South Wales coach Steve Small supported the move but admitted that commerce might have played a role in the changes.

"One-day cricket has probably become stereotyped in the last couple of years and anything that can generate interest has to be good for the game," Small said.

"One-day cricket is a good money spinner and we have to keep it going as well as looking for more entertainment."

South Australian coach Andrew Sincoc said it was a refreshing move.

"Limited-overs cricket had become the most predictable cricket you could play. Any change is going to be exciting," Sincoc said.

The first match, between new South Wales and South Australia, will be played on October 5 in Sydney.

Any changes to the game internationally would need to be ratified by the International Cricket Council

because batsmen who pinch ones or twos, make two into three, now will struggle as we see an explosion of the bigger hitters."

New South Wales coach Steve Small supported the move but admitted that commerce might have played a role in the changes.

"One-day cricket has probably become stereotyped in the last couple of years and anything that can generate interest has to be good for the game," Small said.

"One-day cricket is a good money spinner and we have to keep it going as well as looking for more entertainment."

South Australian coach Andrew Sincoc said it was a refreshing move.

"Limited-overs cricket had become the most predictable cricket you could play. Any change is going to be exciting," Sincoc said.

The first match, between new South Wales and South Australia, will be played on October 5 in Sydney.

Any changes to the game internationally would need to be ratified by the International Cricket Council

because batsmen who pinch ones or twos, make two into three, now will struggle as we see an explosion of the bigger hitters."

New South Wales coach Steve Small supported the move but admitted that commerce might have played a role in the changes.

"One-day cricket has probably become stereotyped in the last couple of years and anything that can generate interest has to be good for the game," Small said.

"One-day cricket is a good money spinner and we have to keep it going as well as looking for more entertainment."

South Australian coach Andrew Sincoc said it was a refreshing move.

"Limited-overs cricket had become the most predictable cricket you could play. Any change is going to be exciting," Sincoc said.

The first match, between new South Wales and South Australia, will be played on October 5 in Sydney.

Any changes to the game internationally would need to be ratified by the International Cricket Council

because batsmen who pinch ones or twos, make two into three, now will struggle as we see an explosion of the bigger hitters."

New South Wales coach Steve Small supported the move but admitted that commerce might have played a role in the changes.

Tuesday 2nd September

All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programme.

BBC 6:00am BBC World News 6:30 World Living: Tomorrow's World 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 BBC World News 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 BBC World News 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 BBC World News 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 BBC World News 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 BBC World News 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 BBC World News 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 BBC World News 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 BBC World News 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 BBC World News 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 BBC World News 5:00 BBC World News 5:30 BBC World News 6:00 BBC World News 6:30 BBC World News 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 BBC World News 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 BBC World News 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 BBC World News 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 BBC World News 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 BBC World News 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 BBC World News 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 BBC World News 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 BBC World News 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 BBC World News 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 BBC World News 5:00 BBC World News 5:30 BBC World News 6:00 BBC World News 6:30 BBC World News 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 BBC World News 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 BBC World News 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 BBC World News 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 BBC World News 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 BBC World News 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 BBC World News 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 BBC World News 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 BBC World News 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 BBC World News 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 BBC World News 5:00 BBC World News 5:30 BBC World News 6:00 BBC World News 6:30 BBC World News 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 BBC World News 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 BBC World News 9:00