

English concern over conduct

LONDON, Apr 26: England cricket chief Lord MacLaurin has expressed concern about standards of conduct on and off the field and called on the next national captain to lead by example, reports Reuters.

The England selectors meet this week to decide on a successor to Michael Atherton who resigned as captain after losing the recent series against West Indies.

In an article published in the Sunday Telegraph MacLaurin, head of the England and Wales cricket board, said the England captain was the game's leading ambassador.

"Like many spectators, players, viewers and listeners, I am concerned about the standards of conduct both on and off the field," he said.

I have no doubt that we must take a very firm grip on how the game is presented throughout the world. For example, incessant and orchestrated appealing, even when the players know full well that the batsman is not out smacks of cheating and is intimidating to the umpires.

Also, the general behaviour of cricketers and their appearance has to be addressed, no longer should we see international cricketers appearing on television, unshaven, chewing gum and looking slovenly.

Espanyol hold Barca

BARCELONA, Apr 26: Sergio Gonzales scored in the 56th minute and middle-of-the-table Espanyol drew 1-1 with crown-rivals and already crowned champions Barcelona on Saturday, reports AP.

Barcelona, who clinched the title last week, opened the scoring with a goal from the edge of the area by Portuguese international Luis Figo in the 37th minute. With neither side badly needing a victory, the game was drab for the most part with few shots on goal.

With three rounds left Barcelona improved to 74 points from 35 games. Last year's champions Real Madrid, lie second placed with 59 points and were to play their 35th-round game Sunday against lowly Merida.

Bets jumped three places to fifth after downing fourth-placed Mallorca 2-1 in Saturday's other game.

C'wealth Games on track

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 26: Commonwealth Games organiser assured today the events would go ahead as scheduled despite growing concerns a heavy smoke haze may force their cancellation, reports AFP.

SUKOM '98 director of communications Tengku Maziah Mukhtar said preparations for Games venue, transportation and other facilities were nearing completion.

"As far as SUKOM is concerned, there are no plans to shift the Games. We have invested so much money to prepare the venues, it will not be easy to move the Games out logistically and technically," she told AFP.

Tengku Maziah noted that the government had taken measures to control a recent spate of local forest fires and assisted Indonesia to douse the spreading inferno in the province of Kalimantan.

"Nobody can give a guarantee that the haze will not be back. We can only hope it won't," she said, referring to last year's haze over south east Asia which was at its height in September when the Games are to be held.

She added that SUKOM had no contingency plans in the event of a haze.

Haze and Kuala Lumpur's heavy traffic are the main fears expressed by competing nations. The Commonwealth Games federation has said events will be halted if pollution reaches danger levels on individual days.

But SUKOM and the government were counting on drought and Indonesian forest fires not being repeated this year.

Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad had Tuesday said that the government would do their utmost to ensure that the Games were held in a smog-free environment.

Switzerland 1954 World Cup

World wept for Hungary

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

The all-conquering 'Magic Magyars' were the popular favourites to win the 1954 World Cup in Switzerland. They had thrilled the world with their speedy, breathtakingly fluent football and on the way to the final scored 25 goals in four matches including four each against Brazil and holders Uruguay. But they fell, controversially at the last hurdle. And it is sad for the winners, a fine West German side that the 1954 tournament will always be remembered as Hungary's World Cup.

There were 38 original entries. England and Scotland were allowed to qualify from the home championship and there were nine other groups. Brazil emerged without trouble from South America and held holders Uruguay automatic finalists. Argentina again declined to enter.

The format for the finals was changed yet again. The 16 finalists were divided into four groups of four, but two seeded teams in each group would not play each other. Extra-time would be played in group

draw with Belgium to beat the Swiss 2-0 on one of the few hot days. Scotland were trounced 7-0 by Uruguay. Brazil after a comfortable win over Mexico (5-0), were held by the Yugoslavs and found themselves drawn against Hungary in the quarter-finals.

It was unfortunate that arguably the two top teams of the tournament, Hungary and Brazil, met so early. But what was expected to be a classic quarter-final between the best from Europe and South America turned out to be a most

South America, they were soon dispelled as Hungary and Uruguay put on one of the finest exhibitions of football ever seen. The anticipated blood-bath at Lausanne did not materialise and the ring of coal-scuttled helmeted soldiers surrounding the pitch proved unnecessary.

In torrential rain both teams put on a classic. With 15 minutes to go Hungary were two up through goals by Czibor and Hidegkuti, but Uruguay pulled them back. Schlaifflug twice putting Hohberg in to score the final goal with three minutes to go. In the extra time, the Hungarians, still without Puskas, called on all their resources and Kocsis produced two more towering headers to put them in the final, and inflict Uruguay their first-ever defeat in the World Cup.

Puskas insisted on playing in the final though he was not cent per cent fit. It looked like his gamble paid off when he followed up a blocked shot from Kocsis to put Hungary ahead in the sixth minute. Two minutes later, Czibor nipped into take advantage of a defensive mistake and put them two up.

But the Germans were hard nuts to crack. They came back immediately. Their captain and inside-left Fritz Walter hit a fast cross which Morlock converted. In the 18th minute Rahn scored after a corner and the Germans drew level. Rahn took advantage of defensive lapse and scored the winning goal (3-2). With just five minutes to go, Puskas, who had almost faded from the game, suddenly latched on to a pass from Toth and cracked the ball past Turkic. But the linesman's flag was up for offside. It was all over for the magnificent Magyars.

West Germany were the new champions. How is it possible to lose a group match in the world cup finals by eight goals to three and then beat the same nation in the final? Germany did it — and the Hungarians, so desperately unlucky, were the fall-guys.

Source: The World Cup and Football Chronicle

Table with 2 columns: Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, Group 4. Rows show match results between various teams like Yugoslavia, Brazil, France, Hungary, West Germany, South Korea, Austria, Czech, Belgium, Switzerland, England, Italy.

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London Marathon Anton's

LONDON, Apr 26: World champion Abel Anton overtook Moroccan upstart Abdelkader El Mouaziz close to Buckingham Palace and the finish straight to win the London Marathon at his first attempt Sunday, reports AP.

The Spaniard had to make up a 100-year deficit in the final mile of the race but swept last the tiring Moroccan to win the race in 2 hours 07 minutes and 57 seconds, two seconds outside the race record set last year by Antonio Pinto of Portugal.

El Mouaziz held on for second place, 10 seconds slower, and Pinto placed third in 2:08.13.

Catherina Mickenan made up a deficit of 1 minute 40 seconds soon after halfway to romp to victory in the women's race.

The Irish runner, who runs 110 miles (170k) a week in training, swept past Romania's Lidia Simon and leader Adriana Fernandez of Mexico with five miles to go and raced clear of a high-quality field to win in 2 hours 26 minutes 26 seconds in cool, sunny, breezy conditions around central London.

Liz McColgan, the 1996 titlist and runner up last year got past Simon and Fernandez and placed second, 28 seconds behind, and Kenya's Joyce Chumba, the defending titlist, was third in 2:27.22, 56 seconds slower than the winner.

The pack didn't include Olympic champion Josia Thugwane. The first black man's South African to win an Olympic gold medal and third place finisher here last year, dropped out at 10 miles apparently with hamstring problems.

With the race won, Anton, who collected a winner's prize of \$5,000 dollars, waved to the crowds long before the finish line.

Blatter Kaiser's man

ZURICH, Apr 26: Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer called Sepp Blatter "the best man we have in football" but stopped short of officially endorsing him in the race against Lehnart Johansson for the FIFA presidency, reports Reuters.

The former Germany captain told Switzerland's Sonntagblick Sunday weekly that a year ago he had backed UEFA president Johansson's bid to succeed Joao Havelange because he was the only candidate at the time.

"Now the situation has changed. I will certainly not spread election propaganda for Johansson. Blatter is the best man we have in football," Beckenbauer was quoted as saying.

Pressed on whether he was now backing the Swiss candidate, Beckenbauer said: "I will be neutral because I cannot oppose Johansson after voting a year ago (to support him)."

"I only hope that FIFA and UEFA can still work together reasonably no matter how the election turns out. "Anything else would be a disaster for football," he said.

Blatter, FIFA's general secretary, threw his hat into the ring this year, sparking a lively battle with Johansson.

The vote on the presidency will be taken by FIFA's members at their congress on June 8.

Chang, Courier enter final

ORLANDO, Apr 26: Top-seed Michael Chang beat Sweden's Mikael Tillstrom, and third-seed Jim Courier eliminated Romania's Andrei Pavel on Saturday to advance to the final of the US men's clay court championship, reports Reuters.

Chang, the defending champion and top seed, seized momentum early and never let Tillstrom into the match to cruise to a 6-3, 6-4 victory and his second-consecutive appearance in the final of this tournament.

Courier, on the other hand, had a tougher day. He lost the first set 4-6, came back to take the second set 6-3 and broke Pavel in the fifth and seventh games of the third set to win it 6-2.

"Michael and I are part of that American group of players that came on the scene at roughly the same time and have had some success and carried the flag for the US the past 10 years," Courier said. "As men we're quite different, but as tennis players there's some similarities."

The reason our rivalry has been under published is that we haven't met in a lot of big-tournament finals in America."

Chang has an 11-10 lead in career matchups between the two, and has won five of their last six encounters. In their only previous meeting on clay, Courier won in three sets in the Italian Open in 1993.

Army hockey results

BOGRA, Apr 26: Three robin league matches were held on the second day of the Army hockey championship at the Bogra Cantonment today, reports UNB.

FRANCE '98 SIDELINES

UNDATED, Apr 26 (AP): German striker Oliver Bierhoff has already announced he's moving to AC Milan from Udinese and now Croatian forward Alen Boksic, another World Cup-bound star, will sign a three-year contract and transfer from Lazio, according to reports.

The Corriere della Sera newspaper reported Saturday that Boksic's transfer was to remain secret through the end of the month, since he is to lead the Roman side when Lazio and Milan must play their second-leg final of the Italian Cup next Wednesday.

Lazio is known to be negotiating transfer of some of their current forwards after they signed Chilean striker Marcelo Salas.

National team striker Pierluigi Casiraghi, Boksic's substitute at Lazio this season, is known to be in talks with Chelsea.

Boksic rejoined Lazio last year following a single season with Juventus of Turin.

THE MORE YOU WIN THE MORE YOU GET French players won't get a centime in bonuses unless the host nation reached the quarter-final of the World Cup.

Each squad player stands to get 300,000 francs (50,000 dollars) if they make it to the last eight. And from then on, the prizes get bigger and bigger, dropped out at 10 miles apparently with hamstring problems.

With the race won, Anton, who collected a winner's prize of \$5,000 dollars, waved to the crowds long before the finish line.

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He sat out a professional J-League game Saturday for an injured hip, raising fears as to whether Japan's new rising star will be going to the World Cup. The team roster for the games against the Czech Republic and Paraguay next month will be announced soon, and they are likely to be the World Cup team.

Jo, 22, has been trying to keep up with practice despite the bruised hip suffered in last week's game, according to the Yokohama Marinos, his J-League team. But he wasn't even among the reserve players in Saturday's game against the Kashiwa Reysol.

Nakayama, 30, scored four goals in Jublo Iwata's 7-1 win Saturday against Avispa Fukuoka. He has netted 13 goals in his last three J-League games.

One forward guaranteed a spot is Masashi Nakayama, now J-League's leading scorer. DANISH BOOST FOR SEPP

The Danish Soccer Association has decided one Johansson is enough. Bo Johansson is World Cup-bound Denmark's Swedish coach. Lennart Johansson, the Swedish president of UEFA and a candidate for FIFA president, is not as popular.

The Danish Soccer Association (DBU) said Saturday that it will support the other candidate, Sepp Blatter, Swedish news agency TT reported.

In a statement, DBU said it would like to avoid a situation in which both the outgoing FIFA president (Joao Havelange) and the secretary general (Blatter) leave FIFA's board at the same time.

"A majority on the DBU board decided to support Blatter as candidate when the vote will take place in Paris June 8," the statement said.

DBU regretted that it had to make a choice between two candidates "who both have big qualities." Denmark, which won their

biggest soccer triumph in Sweden (the 1992 European Championship finals) is the first European country to announce that they will not vote for Johansson.

RAMOS RETURNS Tab Ramos, perhaps a key to the United States' chances in the World Cup, returned to the field for the first time since October as the New York-New Jersey MetroStars beat the San Jose Clash 4-3 Saturday.

The midfielder, a veteran of the 1990 and 1994 tournaments, played the second half and assisted on two goals. He tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during a World Cup qualifier against Trinidad and Tabago on Nov 24, 1996. The same knee buckled again during national team practice last Nov 2, and he needed surgery again.

"It means so much to have him out there," said defender Alexi Lalas, who scored the winning goal with 11 seconds remaining.

FAKE HEALER? Martin Peters, a member of England's 1966 World Cup winning side, thinks faith healer Eileen Drewery is 'a joke'.

Glenn Hoddle has recruited 57-year-old Drewery to help his players physically and mentally in the build-up to the World Cup finals.

But Peters, scorer of one of the goals in the 4-2 triumph over West Germany in 1966, was quoted in the News of the World newspaper as saying that behind closed doors the players would probably say she was a joke.

Peters said Drewery had become "a farcical figure" when she appeared on television claiming she was "an instrument of God whose power would help England win the World Cup."

"Then there's that stuff about using her powers to prevent Ian Wright scoring a last-minute goal in Rome because it may have triggered crowd trouble," Peters was quoted as saying.

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98. Win These Breathtaking Prizes!!! 1st Prize: Philips CD Mini System, 2nd Prize: Sanyo Twin-Tub Washing Machine, 3rd Prize: Philips Rice Cooker, 4th Prize: 5 Dozen Philips Bulbs, 5th Prize: Caps & T-Shirts. All Prizes Courtesy: Transcom Electronics Ltd. Official Licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a list of clues such as '1 Combining locks?', '6 Pussycat's partner', '9 Sarge, to privates', etc.

CRYPTOQUIP

Cryptoquip puzzle with a grid of letters and a key. Includes clues like '1 Lettuce variety', '2 Mission variety', '3 Untraditional penguin', etc.