

### Platini gives evidence

TURIN, Jan 26: France's World Cup organiser and former captain Michel Platini testified before a Turin prosecutor on Monday as part of a continuing probe into alleged drug-taking in Serie A. The Italian news agency ANSA said, reports Reuters.

## Leboeuf Chelsea's saviour

LONDON, Jan 26: Frank Leboeuf saved Chelsea's skin in an English FA Cup fourth round match against impoverished Oxford United on Monday with an injury time penalty that gave the Premier League leaders a 1-1 draw, reports Reuters.

But player-manager Gianluca Vialli went down in the box some two minutes into injury time and French World Cup player Leboeuf, a man known for never missing spot kicks, swiftly tucked away the equaliser.

It was cruel luck for Oxford, who came so close to beating the rich and glamorous London team and achieving what only one club has done in the Premier League all season.

## Injury scare for Vialli

LONDON, Jan 26: Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli has a foot injury which could make him a doubt for Sunday's Premiership clash at Arsenal.

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### Villa to stand by Collymore

BIRMINGHAM, England, Jan 26: English Premier League club Aston Villa said on Monday they would try to help troubled striker Stan Collymore overcome his problems with stress, reports Reuters.

## Negri: The unwanted hero

GLASGOW, Jan 26: A year ago, the name of Marco Negri was on the lips of football fans as he scored the goal that sent Rangers to the top of the Scottish Premiership.

But we have tried to convince him to play for us. Advocate grew frustrated at his failure to get Negri to play. Even his team mates tried, but the moody striker simply ignored the pleas, claiming he was mentally and physically unfit.

Marco talked about me, the chairman, Walter Smith (Rangers former coach) and other players... he fell out with everyone.

### Mendy keeps his title

PARIS, Jan 26: French veteran Jean-Baptiste Mendy successfully defended his WBA lightweight title at a packed Palais des Sports here on Monday, beating Alberto Sicurella of Argentina on a points decision, reports AFP.

Now Serie A strugglers Vicenza have taken a gamble on Negri rediscovers his appetite for the game to help them avoid relegation.

Various clubs, including Real Betis, Anderlecht and Bologna all inquired about Negri, English Premier League side West Ham even took him to London on trial but were unimpressed.

Now Vincenzo are pinning their hopes on the man dubbed moody Marco.

### Enqvist enters last four

MELBOURNE, Jan 26: Unseeded Swede Thomas Enqvist was in ominous form today as he confidently put away Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 to be the first man through to the semifinals of the Australian Open, reports Reuters.



American world number one Lindsay Davenport in action against compatriot Venus Williams at the Australian Open yesterday. Davenport won 6-4, 6-0.

The pair held level up to 4-4 in both the second and third sets until Enqvist broke through against 31st-ranked Rosset and sealed each set on his own serve.

## Davenport downs Williams

MELBOURNE, Jan 26: Venus Williams saw her game, and her hair beads, fall apart on Tuesday as she lost 6-4, 6-0 to world number one Lindsay Davenport in the Australian Open quarterfinals.

round game and was serving at 2-0 down in the second set when some of her renowned multi-colored beads scattered.

"They are the rules we live by," she said. "If I wore a hat and the same thing happened to me, I'd lose the point."

### Advantage pretty ones?

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 26: The leading official of the women's tennis tour on Tuesday decried the "exploitation" of the game's young female players.

Williams caused the most noise by far. The 18-year-old fifth seed had been unable to dent Davenport's powerful all-

another fan favorite, Anna Kournikova, in the fourth round Monday.

"We are playing very sharp and it has come from lots of hard work and match practice," Paes said.

## AUSSIE OPEN NOTEBOOK

MELBOURNE, Jan 26 (AP): Petr Korda, the 1998 Australian Open champion, will fall to around 75th in the rankings following his third-round loss this year.

SPORT FIRST: WTA chief executive officer Bart McGuire is worried that the marketing of some women players is more about looks than their performance on the court.

"We're not in the business of what people in other industries call exploitation," McGuire said.



Chilean Milovan Mirosevic (R) loses his balance while chasing the ball during their South American Sub-20 tournament clash against Peru in Argentina on Monday.

### Tuta claim sparks match-fixing probe

ROME, Jan 26 (Reuters/Internet): The Italian football federation (FIGC) has opened a match-fixing inquiry into last Sunday's Serie A match between Venezia and Bari, local media reported on Tuesday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword grid and clues for Across and Down words.