Aghahowa casts off super sub image

LAGOS, Apr 13 (Reuters/Internet): Julius Aghahowa has cast off his super sub image to become one of the outstanding players at the world youth

championship. The ginger-haired 17-year-old's superb dribbling, jinking runs and inch-perfect crosses have been a key factor in host nation Nigeria reaching the

second round. They play Ireland on Wednesday.

But it has been a struggle for Aghahowa to make his mark at international level, "Before this tournament was seeing action only in the

second half," Aghahowa said. "My friends then taunted me that I was a super sub." Aghahowa, who plays for first division club Bendel In-

surance, said it was after the African youth championship in Ghana in February where Nige-ria won a silver medal that he decided "enough was enough".
"A month before this tour-

nament I embarked on a per-sonal training schedule. It was punishing and painful but now I'm enjoying the superstar

On the opening day of the tournament Aghahowa rounded off a mazy run with a goal in the 1-1 draw with Costa Rica and after he had set up both goals in the 2-0 defeat of Germany the Nigerian fans roared: "Number 17 is top class."

Aghahowa has no intention of resting on his laurels. He wants to join the legion of Nigerians who are enjoying successful careers with clubs overseas.

"This is just the beginning. he said. "My dream is to play for a club abroad and I believe offers will come after this tournament.

"I also want to play for Nige-ria at the highest level."

UEFA warn ticketless MU fans

GENEVA, Apr 13(Reuters/ Internet): UEFA warned Manchester United fans on Tuesday not to travel to Turin for next week's sold-out European Cup semifinal second leg against Juventus unless they have a ticket.

UEFA, eager to avoid a repeat of what they described as a "chaotic situation" when United fans turned up without tickets for the quarter-final against Inter Milan, said United had been allocated 6,000 tickets for the match against Juve.

"This and other measures have been agreed following investigations into the chaotic ticket situation at the quarter-final match in Milan," said UEFA.

United were allocated less than 4,000 tickets for the Inter game and with many trying to buy tickets on the black market UEFA admitted a "difficult situation" arose for the security

All the tickets allocated to the English club bear the stamp "Manchester United supporters" and blockades will be erected around the Stadio Delle 'Alpi making it impossible for spectators without tickets to get near the stadium.

UEFA said: "We are sending this message as an urgent appeal to Manchester United supporters to refrain from travelling to Turin without tickets. To do so will simply be a waste of money, as all tickets have now been sold."

The tie is balanced at 1-1 after the first leg at Old Trafford last week. The winner will meet either Bayern Munich or Dynamo Kiev in the European Cup Final in Barcelona on May 26.

Torpedo win Moscow derby

MOSCOW, Apr 13: Torpedo Moscow climbed into third place in the Russian Premier Division with a 2-1 derby win over Lokomotiv on Monday, reports Reuters.

Torpedo came out fired up while Lokomotiv looked sluggish after holding Italian Serie A leaders Lazio to a 1-1 draw in a European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal first leg on Thursday.

Parma, Fiorentina seek cup consolation



championship hopes fading by the week, clash in the first leg of the Italian Cup final on Wednesday for what could prove a valuable consolation prize.

and

The trophy has assumed a new importance for both sides after they squandered golden opportunities to take advantage of league leaders Lazio's shock 3-1 defeat in the Rome derby on Sunday.

Fiorentina, still just in the title hunt, could have pulled to within three points of Lazio but could only draw 2-2 at home to lowly Bari despite leading

Parma saw their hopes wilt when they lost 2-1 at secondplaced AC Milan despite taking a first half lead.

"I still believe we can win the league title but I want to win the Italian Cup," said Fiorentina coach Giovanni Trapattoni. "It's a gift I'd like to give to Flo-

Parma's main priority is now the UEFA Cup, where they hold a 3-1 semifinal first leg lead over Spain's Atletico

Madrid with the home leg to come, but nevertheless they are also taking Wednesday's domes-

tic cup first leg seriously.
"Unfortunately we have wasted several big chances this season in Serie A," coach Alberto Malesnai said. "But we still have some big opportuni-ties in front of us and the UEFA Cup and the Italian Cup are not crumbs."

Parma enter the match nursing key injuries. Midfielder Alain Boghossian has been ruled out after aggravating a knee injury while Italy striker Enrico Chiesa is nursing a muscle strain and may start on the bench.

France defender Lilian Thuram, substituted against Milan due to fatigue after a long flight back from Guadaloupe, is reported to be worn out, as is Argentine Juan Veron.

"This is the most delicate part of the season and we are not in the best shape," Malesani acknowledged. Fiorentina are also feeling

the effects of a long season, according to Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa. "We are tired. For too long too many of us have played with minor injuries and now we're paying the

consequences," he said. "But if we are disappointed (about the league) Parma are even more so and so I feel positive about our

Parma won the first clash between the two 2-0 at their Tardini stadium while Fiorentina triumphed 2-1 in the return in Florence last month.

The clubs boast the two leading strikers in Serie A in Argentines Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina) and Hernan Crespo (Parma).

The cup winners go automatically into the UEFA Cup but the two finalists will be hoping for a top four league finish to guarantee a place in next season's European Cup.

Probable teams:

Parma: Gianluigi Buffon, Lilian Thuram, Nestor Sensini, Fabio Cannavaro, Diego Fuser, Dino Baggio, Stefano Fiore, Stefano Vanoli, Juan Veron, En-

rico Chiesa, Hernan Crespo Fiorentina: Francesco Toldo, Giulio Falcone, Pasquale Padalino, Tomas Repka, Moreno Torricelli, Joerg Heinrich. Sandro Cois, Rui Costa, Christian Amoroso, Edmundo, Gabriel Batistuta.

South American soccer scene



RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 13 (Reuters/ Internet): Brazil's Vasco secured the

lead in the Rio de Janeiro state championship and Argentina's Boca Juniors continued their winning streak in matches at the weekend.

In the Brazilian Carioca (Rio de Janeiro State) championship. Vasco had a tough time maintaining their lead in the standings with a hard-won 1-0 victory over Botafogo, after Juninho scored in the second

Vasco are tied on points with arch-rivals Flamengo, who beat Madureira 1-0 on Saturday, but are ahead on goal difference.

Vasco now need only to draw with Flamengo on Sunday to win the Guanabara Cup, which is awarded after the first round of the championship. In the Paulista (Sao Paulo State) championship, Sao Paulo and Santos lead groups three and four

respectively, after Sao Paulo hammered Matonense 4-0 and

Santos inflicted a humiliating 5-1 defeat on Portuguesa San-

Brazil's World Cup coach Mario Zagallo, now with Portuguesa, was jeered by fans of rivals Internacional Limeira after their side went 1-0 ahead in the 17th minute. But a late goal by Messias se-

cured a 1-1 draw and saved Zagallo's reputation. The draw guaranteed Portuguesa fourth place in group three. Meanwhile, in Argentina,

Boca Juniors and River Plate hold first and second places in the Clausura (Closing) championship. River Plate beat Independiente 2-1 on Sunday. Boca extended their un-

beaten run to 31 games with a 1-

0 victory on Saturday against

Newell's Old Boys in Rosario. Ten thousand delirious Boca fans from Buenos Aires accompanied their team despite torrential rain. Boca player Palermo was sent off for improper behaviour after celebrating the goal by dropping his

shorts. In Chilean champions, Colo

Colo strengthened their lead after a 3-1 victory over Coquimbo and Cobreloa beat Universidad Catolica 2-1.

Cobreloa are now in third place, above Universidad Catolica and Universidad de Chile, Last week, Cobreloa inflicted a humiliating 9-1 defeat on Coquimbo. In Mexico. after the 13th round of the Ver-

ano (Summer) championship,

Toluca lead comfortably with

32 points over America and At-

las, who have 29 and 27 points respectively. Toluca beat Puebla 3-0 while America defeated Monterrey 4-1. Veteran player

Benjamin Galindo scored both goals for Cruz Azul's 2-0 victory over Morelia. Cruz Azul are now in fifth place. BOLIVIA Independiente Petrolero's 3-2 win over San Jose put them top of the table with 23 points, ahead of Real Potosi. Wilstermann and Real Potosi drew 2-2. The Strongest's 3-0 victory over Oriente Petrolero yanked the team up from the bottom of the rankings to sixth place.

United not for any change The planned takeover had prices would be increased by



LONDON, Apr 13 (Reuters/ Intermier League soccer club Manchester United said

on Monday there were no plans for board changes after the British government blocked for a billion-dollar takeover by pay TV company

Polster on the move?

BONN, Apr 13 (Reuters/ Internet): Veteran Austrian striker Toni Polster could soon be leaving struggling Borussia Moenchengladbach, coach Rainer Bonhof hinted on Mon-

'I will try to talk to Polster and I will wait for his reaction to see if he still wants to

work with us," Bonhof said. "I have tried to bring team spirit into the squad but Polster has never accepted team spirit as more important than his personal interests.

Polster, 35, has scored nine goals for Moenchengladbach since joining at the start of the season from relegated

Cologne. The Austrian has often been substituted recently and was not involved in Saturday's 2-0

defeat by Nuremberg which left

Moenchengladbach bottom of

the standings, eight points

been opposed by a vocal group of net): English Pre- United supporters and small shareholders, with

chief executive Martin Edwards coming in for especially strong criticism. The United board recom-

mended the takeover and Edwards had pledged to sell his 14 per cent stake to BSkyB as part of the deal, which would have netted him some 87 million pounds (\$140.6 million). A United spokesman said

the board would remain in place and noted that the senior management would have continued in their roles had the deal gone ahead. He said that it was Edwards' own personal decision as to whether he maintained his stake at current lev-

The Edwards family has been associated with United for nearly four decades, Martin Edwards' late father Louis having turned the club into a major European force in the 1960s.

The British government blocked the BSkyB/Man Utd deal on Friday, saying it would harm competition between broadcasters and damage the quality of British soccer.

BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, is Britain's leading pay TV company while United is regarded as the world's richest soccer

The United board prompted fresh controversy last month when it said that ticket

up to 14 per cent in response to spiralling wage costs. United, European Cup semi-

finalists and still chasing a domestic FA Cup and premier league double, stressed that it was business as usual despite the takeover rejection.

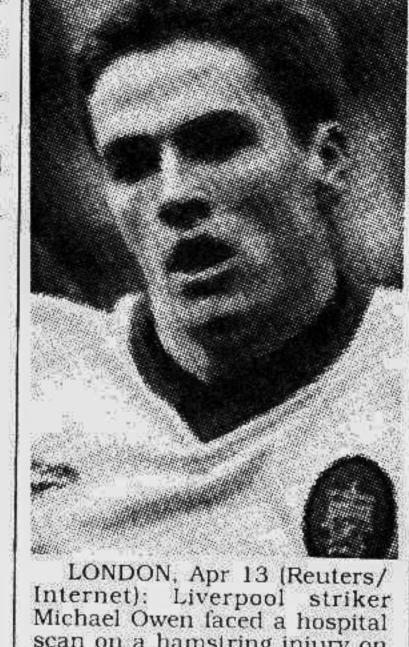
The club is investing 30 million pounds on increasing the capacity of its Old Trafford stadium to 67,400 from 55,000 and is also developing a new training ground which will open at the end of the year.

United shares, which dived 15 percent on Friday, were little changed at 186-1/2p on Mon-

Japanese Olympian dead

TOKYO, Apr 13: Masaji Kiyokawa, a Japanese swimmer who won a gold medal at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. died of pancreatic cancer at a Tokyo hospital Tuesday, the Japan Olympic Committee said. He was 86, reports AP.

Kiyokawa, a graduate of the Tokyo University of Commerce. predecessor of the present Hitotsubashi University, served as a vice president of the International Olympic Committee from 1979 to 1983.



scan on a hamstring injury on Tuesday which could upset the rest of his season, including an England friendly with Hungary at the end of this month.

ternational scene at last year's World Cup, hurt his leg during Liverpool's goalless draw at Leeds in the English premier league on Monday and was forced to leave the field. Hamstring injuries usually

require several weeks to recover

England are due to play Hungary in a friendly on April 28.

BARCELONA, Apr 13

(Reuters/ Internet): Espanyol striker Miguel Angel Benitez is ready to listen to offers from England if his club decide to sell him at the end of the season. The Paraguayan interna-tional, who scored Espanyol's winner against Real Zaragoza

Barcelona-based club to raise funds for new players.

substitute, expects to be one of

the players sold by the

premier league clubs - if Espanyol do decide to let him go. "I'm very proud that English clubs are interested in signing me," Benitez admitted.

"At the moment I just want to concentrate on playing for Espanyol but it seems it's going to be difficult for me to stay

The World Cup striker added: me much confidence over this.



Leeds fail to beat L'pool

LONDON, Apr 13: Liverpool denied Leeds United a club record eight successive win in the top flight by holding them to a goalless draw in the Premier League on Monday, reports Reuters.

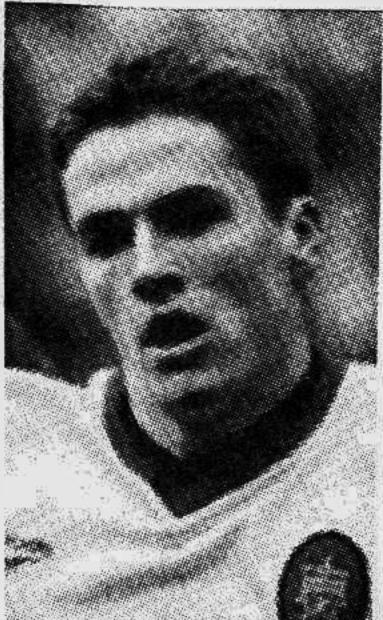
They had the better of a largely sterile game but only occasionally threatened to beat a record which has stood since

the 1973-74 season. Jimmy Floyd-Hasselbaink came closest to breaking the deadlock just before halftime but Dominic Matteo blocked his close-range shot on the goal-

Two long-range efforts from Lee Bowyer, one a clever chip, were the nearest Leeds came to scoring after the break. Liverpool's attacking op-

tions were seriously undermined midway through the first half when England striker Michael Owen was forced out with a hamstring injury.

Owen face injury layoff



women's tennis players, 1. Hingis 2. Davenport 3. Seles

20. Spirlea

29 Prompt

31 "Trading

actor

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38 Toe, e.g.

vehicle

37 Bar

41 Moon

Places"

35 Olympian's PUNNED IMPALA

Yesterday's answer

Graf 6. V Williams 7. Vicario 8. Pierce Owen, who burst on to the in-9. S Williams 10. Schnyder 11. Tauziat 12. Testud 13. Kournikova 14. Mauresmo 15.Van Roost 16. Coetzer 17. Zvereva 18. Martinez 19. Schett

Benitez open to English offers

on Sunday after coming on as a

Liverpool are reported to be leading the chase, with Tottenham, Leeds United and Chelsea also interested.

Benitez, 28, said on Tuesday he would be happy to talk to

"If the club need to sell me in order to bring in money then I'll listen to the offers I have."

"Espanyol haven't really given The truth is I don't feel appreciated here and it seems I'm valued more abroad."

Chelsea set to go atop LONDON. Apr After a dip in form, Bryan Chelsea will be at full



13(Reuters/Intern et): Chelsea will go top of the Premier League for the first time since

January if they beat Middlesbrough away on Wednesday. The Londoners took advantage of the F.A. Cup distraction

of leaders Manchester United and Arsenal on Sunday, winning 2-1 at Wimbledon, to close within two points of the top. United have 64 points from 31 games, Arsenal 63 from 32 and Chelsea 62 from 31. Leeds,

who were held to a goalless

home draw by Liverpool on

Monday, are fourth on 58 points from 32 games. With the top two involved in a replay at Villa Park, Chelsea have the chance to stamp their authority on the title race as

they seek their first championship since 1955. A month ago manager Gianluca Vialli publicly conceded the title after losing at home to Aston Villa but the players showed they felt otherwise with

three successive league wins.

strength with the return from suspension of Dennis Wise and Marcel Desailly but possibly the most important development is the return to fitness of Gustavo Poyet, who has been out since December with a knee injury. The Uruguayan midfielder

had played a huge part in Chelsea's storming start to the season, scoring 11 goals before the injury. He came on as a substitute

for two games before starting against Wimbledon where he was in dominant form and also scored a great volley. "He is so valuable because he is always going forward and getting into goalscoring positions."

said team mate Bernard Lambourde. "And he gives us extra attacking power in midfield."

added the Frenchman. Chelsea will need to stoke up the midfield against a resurgent Middlesbrough side who usu-

ally play with five men in that

Robson's team are back in form. Saturday's 2-0 home win over Charlton Athletic stretched their unbeaten run to five games, including four wins, and took them up to eighth place. It may be a slight disappointment to the fans who saw

their team rise as high as third

in October, but a solid mid-table finish would represent a successful season for a team promoted behind doomed Nottingham Forest last Mov. Wednesday 5 Cup semifin. replay promises to be just as

close at the original, which finished goalless after extra time on Sunday. Arsenal are anxious about Dutch winger Marc Overmars.

who is fighting to overcome a knock picked up on Sunday. United look certain to be without full back Denis Irwin. also hurt on Sunday, and manager Alex Ferguson may make further changes to give some players a rest ahead of next week's European Cup return

against Juventus.

Chang survives a scare



Michael Chang struggled squeeze a threeset win over unheralded Australian Michael Hill on Tuesday in a windswept first-

(Reuters/ Inter-

net): Ninth seed

top twenty ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Apr 13 (Reuters/ Internet): Top

according to the WTA Tour rankings (along with points): 5,098 4. Novotna 3,885 3,079 2,092 2,080 1,994 1,859 1,816 1,670

1,625

1,593

round Japan Open match he felt lucky to have won. Each set was decided by a tie-

break as the American, who has dropped to 40th in the world rankings, prevailed 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (7-4) over Hill, ranked 211 "I feel pretty fortunate to be able to win today's match," Chang, world number two in

1996, said after a game watched by Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko. "I think in many aspects I should have lost today's match. I get a second chance in the tournament.

Trailing 5-4 in the first set, Chang broke Hill in the 10th game, leading on to a tie-break which he won, and he repeated the feat in the 10th game of the final set and went on to take the match. Hill said he was kicking

himself for not winning. didn't take my chances. I served for all three sets." he said. Chang, beaten in the second round of last week's Hong Kong Open, has won a singles title in

each of the past 11 years. One in 1999 would bring him level with the 12-year runs of Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg, the third-longest sequences of the professional era. Japanese fans were disap-

pointed by Becker's late with-

drawal from this \$895,000

tournament after the German was beaten by Andre Agassi in the Hong Kong Open final on Monday.

Agassi, seeded second here, and top seed Richard Krajicek will be in action on Wednesday. Rainer Schuttler, beaten by Zimbabwe's Byron Black in Sunday's Indian Open final in Madras, did not survive the

first round. The German, seeded 15th, lost 6-2, 6-4 to Kenneth Carlsen

of Denmark. Two other seeds also made early exits. Australia's Mark Woodforde, seeded 11th, was beaten by American Michael Sell 7-6 (9-7), 2-6, 6-3 and 13th seed Jan Kroslak of Slovakia lost 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 to Sweden's

USOC to launch PR campaign

Mikael Tillstrom.

NEW ORLEANS, Apr 13: The US Olympic Committee unveiled a nine million dollar plan Saturday to rebuild its image in the wake of the scandal of Salt Lake and restore public trust in the games, reports AFP.

A combination of imagebuilding and concrete safeguards against corruption, the plan was announced by executive director Dick Schultz at the USOC's first meeting,

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 43 Albanian composer 19 Carried 1 Actor who 1 Jazzy style gets meaty 44 Send out roles? 45 Lending a 2 Nitrogenous years --" 3 Peace pipe 22 Nancy's 6 Agent hand 9 Bonfire 47 Pizza-4 Writer shop buy Wister 24 Yon chap remnant 12 Conductor 49 Colonial 5 Bottom **26 WWII** diplomat point Pacific 6 Ebb 13 ld counter-Silas bigwig 52 Census 7 "Zounds!" 28 Went 14 Appomatstatistic 8 D.C. type, ashen for short 53 Good, in tox man 30 Bumped 15 Propelled Grenoble 9 Wanteda gondola 54 Hall of 32 Stampede 44 poster 16 It's in your Fame's datum Hank 10 Geisel's 33 Waste no bones 55 "-- Mis-18 One nom de 20 Grate erables' 34 Wapiti plume 21 Branch 56 Officehold- 11 Like a 36 Green-card 23 Staff rope fiber 24 Shameless 57 "Funny 17 Less 38 Transfer **CRYPTOQUIP** wench 39 Mirror's cultured 25 Bob of Solution time: 26 mins. offering IUCMGSJZ "Entertain 40 Patron saint of the K X ment BMOVI Tonight" disabled 27 Lukewarm

NEEDLE WASHED 42 Goldfinger?U A C UASCX 45 In due RCCFI KX IKGSUMSOC? course Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A LINGERIE-SHOP EM-PLOYEE SADLY RÉMARKED THAT SHE HAD GOT-48 Sapporo TEN THE PINK SLIP. Today's Cryptoquip clue: X equals F 50 Prefix with

stick or stop The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it grees on the 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.

A bus cleaner brushes the face of former Australian skipper Mark Taylor whose picture has been splashed on Sydney buses in an effort to promote the 2000 Games on April 13. — AFP photo