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LONDON, June 12: Alex Ferguson, the man who masterminded Manchester United's spectacular English Premiership, FA Cup and European Cup treble last season, was rewarded with a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours' List Saturday, reports AFP.

The Scot headed an impressive list of top figures from the world of football who were recognised in the list.

The United manager's knighthood, after an unforgettable season for his club, was for services to association football.

Tony Adams, the Arsenal central defender and former England captain who has won more than 50 international caps and who famously triumphed over alcoholism, received an MBE.

There was a CBE for Scotland's ever-cheerful coach Craig Brown, a resolute figure who invariably manages to smile in the face of adversity.

Jamaican international and Wimbledon midfielder Robbie Earle got an MBE. The former Tottenham Hotspur star, now a TV pundit, Garth Crooks, once chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, received an OBE for services to the

Institute of Professional Sport. Stephanie Moore, widow of the late, great Bobby Moore, captain of the triumphant 1966 England World Cup team, received an MBE for services to the Bobby Moore Fund.

David Moorcroft, chief exec-

utive of UK Athletics, and a former 5000 metres world record-holder, won an OBE, while Welshman Iwan Thomas, the 400 metres runner, who claimed three gold medals in six weeks at major championships last summer, got an MBE.

Another MBE went to judo



ALEX FERGUSON

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expert Kate Howey, world middle-weight champion in 1998, and the only British woman to win a world title in any Olympic sport last year.

Soldier Peter Nicoll, who has ranked as Number One squash player in the world, as well as being a Commonwealth Games gold medallist, gets an MBE.

Janette Brittin, who has retired after being England's most capped woman cricketer, gets an MBE for services to women's cricket.

Last year she became the highest woman run-scorer in Test history, breaking the record of 1,594 runs set by former England captain Rachael Heyhoe-Flint 19 years earlier.

And one of Wimbledon's top officials over the years, Chris Gorringe, chief executive, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club and the scourge of the ticket touts, gets a CBE.

Chef champion Nigel Short receives an MBE in the Diplomatic List.

There is also an MBE for veteran golfer Joan Lawrence, who regularly used to win the Scottish Ladies' Championship. This is for services to ladies' amateur golf.

Michael Melluish, treasurer of the Marylebone Cricket Club, gets an OBE for services to cricket.

"Vieri is an experienced player but he'll need to keep his head because the burden of the responsibility is very tough."

"If you are going to a new club and don't start scoring goals quickly then the pressure soon starts to rise," Denilson added.

## Denilson's advice for Vieri

SEVILLE, Spain, June 12: Brazilian midfielder Denilson on Friday advised Christian Vieri to try to stay calm despite inheriting the tag of the world's most expensive player, reports Reuters.

The Italian international striker was transferred from Lazio to Inter Milan on Wednesday in a deal worth 50 million dollars.

Denilson had held the previous record when he moved from Sao Paulo to Real Betis for 35 million dollars.

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"If you are going to a new club and don't start scoring goals quickly then the pressure soon starts to rise," Denilson added.

## Blanc not leaving Marseille

MARSEILLE, June 12: Speculation of the possible transfer of France's World Cup winner Laurent Blanc from French First Division side Marseille was dismissed by club director Marcel Dib here on Friday, reports AFP.

"Laurent Blanc is certain to be at Olympique Marseille next season," said Dib, scotching rumours that the central defender was about to sign for English Premiership side Liverpool.

Marseille have recently recruited two French defenders Eric Decroix and Lamine Diatta and are reported to be interested in signing another World Cup star Marcel Desailly from English Premiership side Chelsea.

However, Desailly said earlier on Friday that he was happy to stay at Chelsea for another season.

# Mixed day for Britons

LONDON, June 12: British third seed Tim Henman squeezed into the semifinals of the 750,000 dollars London Queen's Club Grasscourt championships on Friday with a tense 6-1, 6-7, 7-6 win over Slovak sixth seed Karol Kucera but compatriot Greg Rusedski flopped, reports Reuters.

The set again went into a tiebreak but this time it was Henman, keeping alive British hopes as Queen's Club, who won it after Kucera's nerve finally snapped and he committed a series of errors.

"It was incredibly tight and I am just glad I got through a match of that nature," Henman said.

"It seemed to be really slow out there ... the balls were heavy and you really had to hit everything really hard and that's not what you want on grass."

"When it's so slow you really have to get a good serve in and that adds a lot of pressure, so I am pleased with the result."

Sampras looked at his impudent best against the erratic Ivanisevic and broke in the 12th game of the first set with a crunching forehand down the line to seal it.

A single break was all the American needed in the second set to wrap up the match when Ivanisevic pushed a forehand long on the third match point he faced.

"It's been a while since I won three straight matches," said Sampras. "It's a roller-coaster ride whenever I play Goran on any surface but especially on grass."

"I feel like I'm getting my rhythm and starting to play well."

Rusedski could barely keep the ball in court as he was broken twice in the opening set of his quarterfinal to lose it 6-2 after only 21 minutes.

His serve did not work and the Canadian-born Briton had no touch on his volleys.

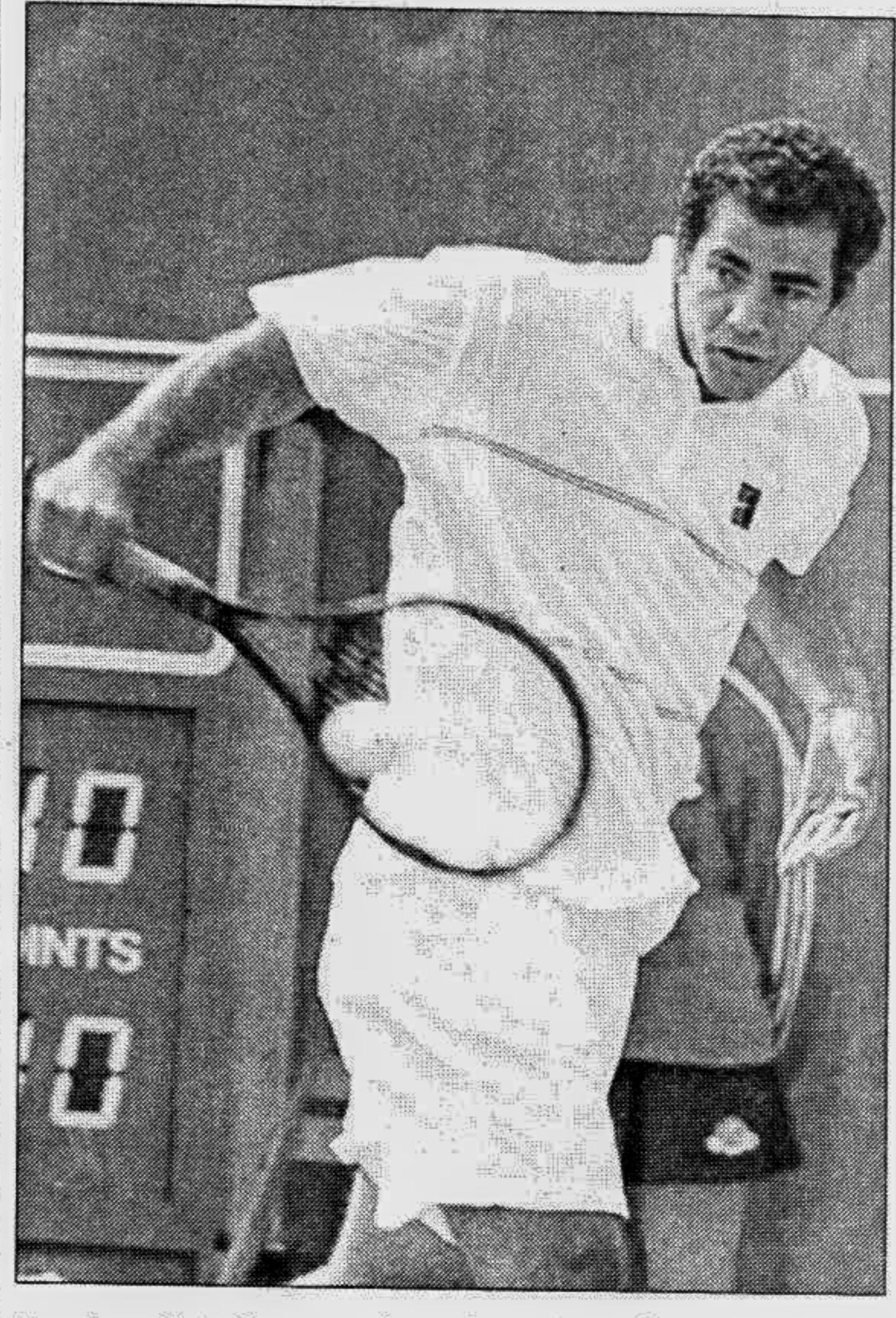
Sampson broke Rusedski again in the seventh game of the second set and served out two games later to put the world number 13 out of his misery.

"This is amazing ... it feels really great," the Armenian said. "I felt I was playing really well and seeing the ball really well."

"I won a tournament (Surbiton) last week and that has made all the difference to my confidence and to my timing. He meets Henman in the semifinals."

Rusedski refused to be downhearted despite the manner of the defeat. "It was just one of those days," he insisted.

"I'm not too worried. Basically, I think we were both really nervous out there. He got the first break and that settled him whereas I never settled down."



American Pete Sampras in action against Goran Ivanisevic at the Queen's Club tennis championship in London on June 11. Sampras won 7-6, 6-4.

—AFP photo

Rusedski, seeded seventh, went out 6-2, 6-4 to 74th-ranked Armenian Sargs Sargsian, the man who dumped outgoing world number one Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the second round.

Pete Sampras, who will take back the world's top ranking on Monday, marched mercilessly on, crushing eighth seed Goran Ivanisevic 7-5, 6-4 to set up a

audible obscenity.

Henman strolled through the first set against world number 14 Kucera and led 3-2 with a break in the second. But Kucera toughened up his act and broke back, forced a tiebreak and won it when Henman double faulted at 6-7.

The Slovak got the early break in the third set, cracking

# France falling fast

PARIS, June 12: (AP) How the mighty have fallen.

Eleven months after their World Cup triumph, France are under fire after scraping a late 1-0 win against tiny Andorra.

"Close to a catastrophe," roared Thursday's front page headline in the daily Le Parisien. "Mediocre, badly organised and without rhythm," the newspaper said.

It could have been much worse.

Andorra were on the way to pulling off one of the biggest shocks in recent soccer history in Wednesday's match until Frank Leboeuf's 85th-minute penalty won the Euro 2000 qualifier.

Against a determined team ready to pull 11 men behind the ball at every opportunity, France struggled to create goalscoring chances in Barcelona.

"I knew that it would be difficult, but not that difficult," French coach Roger Lemerre, who admitted to being mightily relieved after the match, told the sports daily L'Equipe.

There was a problem of fo-

cus. I can't reproach the players on the pitch tonight, but the importance of certain (missing) players such as (Didier) Deschamps, appeared," Lemerre said.

France's lack of a top class goalscorer predares the World Cup.

Such strikers as Stephane Guivarc'h, David Trezeguet, Thierry Henry, Lilian Laslandes and Tony Vairelles have all been called up and dropped in the hunt for a consistent marksman.

Nicolas Anelka is the current holder of the No. 9 shirt.

But the 20-year-old, the subject of a bid from Real Madrid, didn't look anything like a 20 million dollars striker, either against the impressive Russians or Andorra's amateurs.

Without Zinedine Zidane, who has missed France's last four games because of injury, the French lack ideas in midfield.

The narrow win against Andorra is putting Lemerre in the spotlight.

One of the world's youngest soccer nations, Andorra's team conceded ten goals in its last two matches.

Last Saturday, Russia in-

sisted the first defeat on the French since the World Cup with a 3-2 win at the Stade de France.

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## CARTOON NETWORK

5:30 World Famous Toons 6:30 Jetsons 7:00 Flintstones 7:30 The Popeye Show 8:00 Scooby & Scrappy D 8:30 Cave Kids 9:00 Big Bag 10:00 Timeless Tales 10:30 The Detective Squad 11:30 Dumb & Dumb 12:30 The Real Adventure of Johnny Quest 3:00 Goobers & The Ghost Chasers 3:30 Casper and the Angles 4:00 Goldie and Action Jack 4:30 The Detective Squad 5:30 Dexter's Laboratory 6:00 Tom & Jerry Show 12:30 Tom & Jerry Show 12:30 Bugs & Daffy Show 2:30 Stupid Dog 8:30 Scooby Doo Where Are You 9:00 The Popeye Show

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