

## No cutting of MU fees

SYDNEY, July 12: Promoters of Manchester United's two-match tour of Australia have dropped a threat to withhold half the team's 4 million Australian dollars (US \$2.7 million) fee over the absence of England international David Beckham and manager Alex Ferguson, reports Reuters.

Rivkin Entertainment said last week it was considering withholding the money, claiming their contract with United was based on Beckham and Ferguson being a part of the touring party for the forthcoming matches in Melbourne and Sydney.

Ferguson said on Friday the club never intended to include Beckham on the Australian tour, although he could fly out to meet up with the squad for the China and Hong Kong leg of the trip.

Ferguson would also miss the trip to accept his knighthood from the Queen at Buckingham Palace on July 21.

But Rivkin Entertainment said in a statement on Sunday night that the availability of Beckham, who has been on his honeymoon, would depend on a fitness test.

"Manchester United has told us they want to sort it out with Alex Ferguson and that they want Beckham to come," RE managing director Dominic Galati also told local media. Galati said they had been told Beckham was recovering from a hamstring injury.

"They say if he's coming he'll only play in the second match or he'll be on the bench," Galati said. "They're trying to do the right thing, they don't want to let the fans down."

The statement said Beckham's fitness would be assessed "as soon as practicable in Manchester".

"Following our most recent discussions with Manchester United we are satisfied with the composition of the traveling party and the explanations provided for the missing personnel," it said.

**Women's cricket**  
**England beat India**

LONDON, July 12 (Internet report): Captain Karen Smithies completed a maiden international century and then struck the final ball to the boundary to clinch a three-wicket victory for England in the third and final women's one-day international against India.

England needed four runs off the last delivery of their 50 overs at Trent Bridge to over-haul the Indians' 220 for five.

Smithies hit the ball from Deepa Kukarni to mid-wicket and it trickled to the ropes despite despairing dives from two fielders as England reached 221 for seven with the skipper unbeaten on 110 from 146 balls.

England, having already lost the first two matches, had always been behind the asking rate until a robust 27 off 23 deliveries from Suzanne Redfern gave them a chance.

Vice-captain Clare Connor added 31 runs to her bowling haul of three for 43, which followed the left-arm spinner's hat-trick and figures of five for 49 in the second game.

A late flurry of runs from Hemlata Kala had enabled India to post the highest score of the series.

Hemlata blasted an unbeaten 33 off 34 balls with three fours and a six over mid-wicket.

The tourists had also made a flying start with 100 coming up in the 25th over after a first-wicket stand of 77 between captain Chander Aheer (58) and Anju Jain (45).

**SFA to summon Brown**

GLASGOW, July 12: Scottish soccer chiefs plan to talk to national coach Craig Brown as soon as possible after a newspaper alleged he sang anti-Catholic songs on an answer-phone message to a girlfriend, reports Reuters.

The News of the World alleged on Sunday that Brown sang parts of traditional terrace songs popular with Rangers fans but which predominantly Catholic Celtic followers consider offensive and inflammatory.

"Office bearers (officials) have not had a chance to speak to Craig but they are looking to do so at the earliest opportunity," a Scottish Football Association (SFA) spokeswoman said.

Brown, a former Rangers player and a popular figure in Scotland who has made enormous efforts to break down the religious divide which had dogged the game, denies any allegations of bigotry.

"There is no way in which I can be accused of bigotry," he told a radio interviewer today. "I have been in football for 40 years. Everybody in Scottish football knows me and there is not one person I know who would accuse me of bigotry."

Celtic and Rangers, the two biggest clubs in Scotland, have a long history of antagonism based on their Catholic and Protestant supporters.

In May, Donald Findlay, a Rangers vice-chairman, resigned after being filmed on video singing anti-Catholic songs at a victory celebration after the Scottish Cup final.

But Brown said: "I don't think there is a parallel here and I think that will emerge in any legal situation which follows."

He has said he intends to take legal action against the newspaper.

Brown, 59, is one of the longest-serving international managers in the game having taken over from Andy Roxburgh in September 1993.



Us custodian Briana Scurry meeting fans during a rally for the World Cup winning squad at the Convention centre in Los Angeles on July 11. —AFP photo

## Heroines parade Disneyland



LOS ANGELES, July 12: The triumphant US Women's World Cup team celebrated their victory over China with a Disneyland parade Sunday morning, followed by a rally in downtown Los Angeles, reports AFP.

The trip to a Disney theme park has become something of a tradition for US sports champions.

On Sunday the American women, who beat China 5-4 on penalties after playing 120 scoreless minutes in the final at the Rose Bowl on Saturday, were the stars of a Disneyland Main Street parade.

As usual, Disney had put together an advertisement featuring

ing the team within hours of the game's completion, and the parade included fireworks, dances, bands and confetti.

On Sunday afternoon, the team posed for photos outside the Los Angeles convention center. Some of the players, who became the talk of the nation during their three-week championship campaign, took the opportunity to turn the tables a little, taking photographs of fans and each other in the light-hearted atmosphere.

The players, who came under intense media scrutiny throughout the tournament, are already signed up for a second media blitz.

But this time their round of late-night and morning chat-shows promises to be more relaxed with the title already secure.

Brandi Chastain, who fired the winning penalty kick, has

already appeared on "Meet the Press" -- alongside US Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers.

The Sunday morning news programme featured discussion of the budget surplus, tax cuts and penalty kicks as a means of deciding matches.

"We're just doing whatever we're told, and having a good time," Danielle Fotopoulos said. "We're supposed to be on the cover of Newsweek, Time, Sports Illustrated and People."

There will be an appearance on Late Night with David Letterman. Letterman is the chat-show host who dubbed the team "Babe City" after Chastain appeared on his programme.

"It's all a blur," said goalkeeper Briana Scurry, whose diving save of one Chinese penalty attempt opened the door for Chastain. "I'm sure by Wednesday I'll be hitting the wall big time."

## Getting back to reality!



LOS ANGELES, July 12 (AP): The lasting image is of game-winning goal scorer Brandi Chastain sliding on her knees near the penalty spot, celebrating the US women's World Cup triumph with a full-throated roar and waving her jersey in instead of wearing it.

What remains to be seen is whether a nation that fell under the spell of a sport and the female athletes who played it this summer will still love them both by next week.

"Let's be real about this," Hank Steinbrecher, general secretary of the US Soccer Federation, said Sunday. "We caught lightning in a bottle. The Queen Mother doesn't have enough money to pay these women what they deserve right now."

Steinbrecher spoke just minutes before Chastain and her teammates swept past during a parade at Disneyland.

Team members were showered with confetti as they rode a float that swept through Disneyland's Main Street. They rubbed elbows with Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Later, several hundred fans clad in red, white and blue turned out in 95-degree (35 C) heat for the rally in front of the Los Angeles Convention Centre.

The festivities marked the start of a two-day, two-coast whirlwind tour that will put the team in front of the cameras that missed them the first time around -- when they crisscrossed America en route to winning the 16-nation, 32-game tournament that concluded Saturday with a 5-4 victory over China on penalty kicks following a scoreless tie.

The Americans' thrilling triumph produced the most-watched soccer game ever on US television, with the ABC network estimating that 40 million viewers tuned in. Its ratings were 4 per cent higher than the previous record, a 12.8 for the 1994 men's World Cup final, also played at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

Michelle Akers, the 33-year-old grande dame of the American team, did not make the Disneyland parade because she

## Da Silva world's fastest student

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Spain, July 12: Brazil's Andre Da Silva caused the biggest upset of the four days of athletics at the World Student Games by winning the men's 100 metres title yesterday, reports Reuters.

Da Silva was quickest out of his blocks and crossed the line in 10.34 seconds.

The American sprinter John Capel was the favourite after running 10.03 seconds this year, but a mediocre start left him too much to do.

Capel had to settle for the silver medal in 10.35 seconds, despite closing rapidly on Da Silva over the final 40 metres.

"The American sprinters are always mouthing off. I just keep quiet and I win," Da Silva commented.

was still recovering from heat exhaustion. And US coach Tony DiCicco skipped the festivities, too, saying he wanted to get back home to the wife and four sons he's barely seen since April. Both are expected to be back when the US team resumes training in August.

The Americans will meet several as-yet-unnamed national teams in October's US Open Cup. The team will remain largely intact to defend its Olympic gold medal next summer in Sydney, Australia, and at the 2003 World Cup.

For the moment, satisfying demand after this World Cup will be tough enough.

Chastain turned up on Sunday morning news programme, stunned by her instant celebrity when she heard the voices of fellow guests first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright through her earpiece.

Chastain and her teammates were paid between 25,000 dollars and 45,000 dollar, plus a bonus that has been increased from 12,500 to between 40,000 dollar and 60,000 dollars each for winning the tournament.

From Disneyland and the downtown rally, the US women were set to fly to New York for another round of television appearances on Monday.

It was a far cry from 1991, when the US women returned victorious from the World Cup staged in China. Back then, midfielder Julie Foudy was a student at Stanford University and the only person who even mentioned "finals" to her was a professor, who wasn't sympathetic about granting her extra time to finish her course work or the exam.

The goal is to take what we've learned about women's equity, what we've learned about women as equal partners and not subordinates, and export it around the world," he said. "I think we're on the cutting edge of a revolution."

That explained, in part, why even as they soaked in the applause and adulation this time around, the women and US soccer officials like Steinbrecher made plans to get back to work.

At the top of their agenda is charting a course to make sure the momentum built up during the past three weeks doesn't dissipate.

After all, the United States played host to the men's World Cup in 1994, but the men's national team and the professional league created soon afterward are still struggling for attention in a crowded sports landscape.

Undaunted, most of the US women team members want a professional league of their own. And despite startup costs as high as \$150 million, they sounded determined to get it.

"This team is about making things happen," Chastain said. "If it takes each one of us knocking on doors to get that, we'll do it."

The US Soccer Federation, which developed the business plan for Major League Soccer before turning the enterprise over to private investors, has launched a similar feasibility study for a women's league. And while Steinbrecher was cautious about whether the World Cup had been successful enough to launch and sustain a pro league, he had no doubts about its success in another, more important sense.

"The goal is to take what we've learned about women's equity, what we've learned about women as equal partners and not subordinates, and export it around the world," he said. "I think we're on the cutting edge of a revolution."

That's at Trent Bridge against Nottinghamshire in the National League on July 18 and it might be more sensible to come back in a one-day match. It seems to be a bit more realistic."

He added: "Glamorgan's championship form has been disappointing so far but cricket is a funny game and there is still a long way to go. And the NatWest Trophy gives us a real opportunity to win something."

Brandi Chastain of the USA is ecstatic after scoring from the deciding penalty against China during the final of the Women's World Cup At the Pasadena Rose Bowl on July 10. —AFP photo

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## Woodbridge out of Davis Cup

SYDNEY, July 12: Australia's Davis Cup captain John Newcombe says doubles specialist Todd Woodbridge has withdrawn from the quarterfinal tie against the United States because his nerve has failed him, reports AP.

Woodbridge, who forms one of the world's top doubles teams with Mark Woodforde, was carrying a minor arm injury but Newcombe said his mental state was the main reason he pulled out of the match starting Friday in Brookline, Massachusetts.

"I don't think the injury is the primary reason," Newcombe said. "I think he honestly doesn't feel like he can cope with it mentally."

"His singles ranking has dropped way down and they (Woodbridge and Woodforde) lost first round in Paris and halfway through Wimbledon."

The Woodies have won 51 career titles, including nine Grand Slams, and have lost just twice in 15 Davis Cup matches since their debut in 1993.

"Todd feels like he didn't take a few chances at Wimbledon and his nerve failed him," said Newcombe. "He says he just doesn't want to let anyone down."

The Australian team is already missing US Open finalist Mark Philippoussis, who withdrew from his Wimbledon quarterfinal against Pete Sampras with a knee injury. The five-match competition starts Friday with Australia facing a strong US team of Todd Martin, Jim Courier, Pete Sampras and Alex O'Brien.

Woodbridge was replaced by Sandon Stolle, who is ranked No. 3 in the world in doubles, but Patrick Rafter might be partner Woodforde or Stolle.

Newcombe said Woodbridge's decision might cost him his place in Davis Cup in the future, but added it was a brave move.

"I suppose in a way it could turn out to be a courageous decision because there is no way we wouldn't have played the Woodies, but we've pulled through some tough ones before," said Newcombe. "We haven't lost a doubles match at Davis Cup for five and half years."

The US holds a commanding 14-8 match lead against great Davis Cup rival Australia in matches on US soil, and the Australians haven't won in the US since 1973 when Newcombe and Rod Laver completed a 5-0 whitewash.

**Sachin shines in soccer show**

NEW DELHI July 12 (PTI): It was a different ball game, but there was no stopping Sachin Tendulkar from claiming the limelight.

The star batsman struck two goals and a lanky paceman Venkatesh Prasad banged in three as the Indian cricket team walloped a spirited side comprising top Hindi film stars 6-2 in a high-profile benefit tie at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to raise funds for the jowans who fell fighting in Kargil.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Defence Minister George Fernandes and Information and Broadcasting Minister Pramod Mahajan along with a galaxy of top actors were among a huge gathering of over 25,000 assembled for the grand show this evening.

Tendulkar once again showed his competitiveness and dribbling prowess by scoring the first and fourth goals as the cricketers led 5-0 at half-time before Navjot Sidhu made it 6-0.

The celluloid heroes left their play-acting a bit late, rallying to pump in two late goals through Akshay Khanna and the popular star Shahrukh Khan, who headed the ball in.

The Indian World Cup squad, barring skipper Mohd Azharuddin, Anil Kumble and Jagavallab Singh were seen in action in the match played over 80 minutes. But the film star eleven, with Mithun Chakraborty, Govinda, Anil Kapoor, Akshay Khan, Sanjay Dutt, Salman Khan and Sai Ali Khan in the forefront played their hearts out.

**Kallis lands in Glamorgan**

LONDON, June 12 (Internet report): There was good news and bad news for Glamorgan and their frustrated supporters as South African star Jacques Kallis arrived in Cardiff.

The Welshmen have endured a difficult first half of the season and were looking forward to the acquisition of the all-rounder after the World Cup only for a stomach strain sustained in the final stages of the tournament to delay his introduction.

The 23-year-old has finally made it to Cardiff but is rated doubtful for the County Championship match against Lancashire that begins in Blackpool on Wednesday.

"The medical people said at the time that it would be about four or five weeks before I could play again and it seems to be working out that way," Kallis said as he watched his new team-mates being put to the sword by Essex.

"There is still a chance that I could be fit to play against Lancashire but it is more likely to be the match afterwards."

That's at Trent Bridge against Nottinghamshire in the National League on July 18 and it might be more sensible to come back in a one-day match. It seems to be a bit more realistic."

He added: "Glamorgan's championship form has been disappointing so far but cricket is a funny game and there is still a long way to go. And the NatWest Trophy gives us a real opportunity to win something."

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## Cubans sizzle on Day 9

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Balearic Islands, July 12 (AP/Reuters): Several eligible athletes have stayed away from the University Games. Some who are here admit they look at the event as a chance to sight see more than compete.

But Cuba has taken the competition seriously, fielding a top-flight team that has a collection of medals to show for it.

Cuba captured eight medals Sunday — ninth day of the competition — including two gold, raising its total for the Olympics-style event to 23 total medals.

Only the United States and Russia have won more than Cuba's 11 gold.

"Cuba is a country that likes to fight, and here we're fighting to be first," Norberto Telles said after defending his Games title in the men's 800 metres by running 1 minute, 46.11 seconds. "This isn't just a personal triumph, it's a triumph for the country."

Telles, a silver medalist at the World Athletics Championships two years ago, shared the spotlight Sunday with diver Jose Guerra, who won the men's platform event.

Other stars in Mallorca have included Daymi Pernia, who broke the event record for the