

Rubin's e-mail death threat

MELBOURNE, Aug 30: American tennis player Chanda Rubin received an e-mail death threat during the Australian Open and considered withdrawing from the tournament...

Melbourne school student Peter Stipsianos, 17, was convicted on two charges after sending Rubin an e-mail from an IBM Internet site at the tournament in January.

Senior Constable Peter Shelton said Stipsianos went to the tennis with friends and after watching Anna Kournikova and Martina Hingis play, he went to the Internet site.

Stipsianos pleaded guilty to a charge of making a threat to kill and a charge of using a telecommunication to menace another person.

Magistrate Jack Tobin said the Stipsianos knew how to use the computer and knew exactly what he was doing.

Stipsianos was ordered to undertake 100 hours community work over six months on the first offense and was fined 250 Australian dollars (200 US dollars) on the second.

Asia cup final

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SQUADS

Australia (from): Steve Waugh (capt), Mark Waugh, Adam Gilchrist, Andrew Symonds, Ricky Ponting, Darren Lehman, Michael Bevan, Tom Moody, Shane Warne, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath, Damien Fleming.

Sri Lanka (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (capt), Marvan Atapattu, Russel Arnold, Mahela Jayawardene, Chamara Silva, Indika de Saram, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Upul Chandana, Suresh Perera, Chaminda Vaas, Muthiah Muralitharan, Nuwan Zoysa, Prasadaya Wickremasinghe.

Umpires: K.T. Francis and B.C. Cooray, TV umpire: Peter Manuel.

No room for

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Stewart's Surrey's teammate Graham Thorpe, who asked not to be considered for the Test tour but was available for the one-day squad, will not be required by England this winter.

His name is a notable absentee from the one-day side, which includes Worcestershire's Indian-born Vikram Solanki.

Commenting on the selections, the Chairman of Selectors, David Graveney said: "We have chosen both these squads with a view to bleeding new players for the Ashes series in England in 2001 and the World Cup in South Africa in 2003."

"South Africa are one of the strongest teams in Test cricket and this winter's tour will enable us to find out if the new players we have chosen are good enough to play for England at the highest level."

"After some disappointing displays this summer by our batsmen, we felt we needed to change our batting line-up."

"While we have retained experienced players such as Alec Stewart and Michael Atherton, we have also brought in a number of new batsmen and all-rounders who will add depth to our batting and make the team better balanced."

Michael Vaughan will give us an extra option with his spin-bowling while the selections of Andrew Flintoff, Gavin Hamilton, Graeme Swann and Alex Tudor will provide healthy competition for the all-rounder slot.

"The selections of Darren Gough, Dean Headley and Alex Tudor are all subject to fitness tests which will be carried out in due course."

ENGLISH SELECTIONS

Test squad: N Hussain (Capt), CJ Adams, MA Atherton, MA Butcher, AR Caddick, A Flintoff, D Gough, GM Hamilton, DW Headley, DL Maddy, AD Mullaney, CMW Read, AJ Stewart, G Swann, AJ Tudor, PCR Tufnell, MP Vaughan.

One-day squad: Hussain (Capt), CJ Adams, MW Alleyne, AR Caddick, MA Ealham, A Flintoff, AF Giles, D Gough, GM Hamilton, GA Hick, NV Knight, DL Maddy, AD Mullaney, CMW Read, VS Solanki.

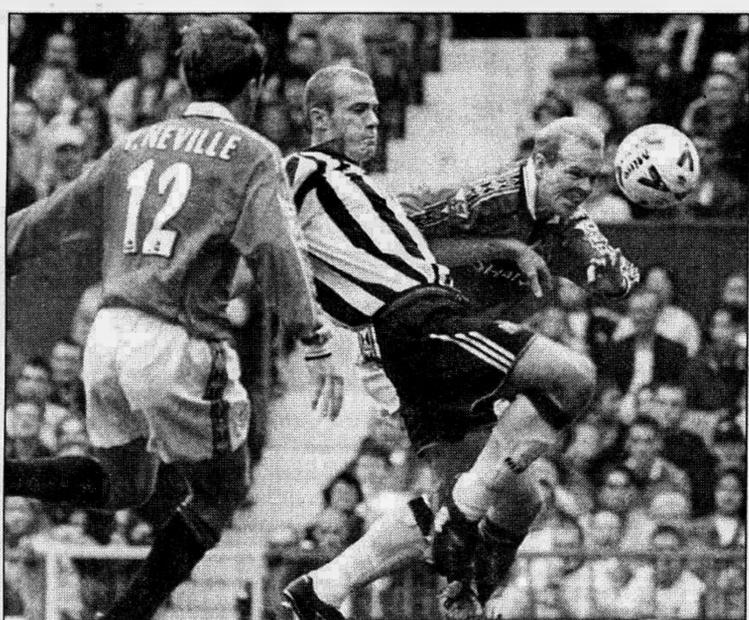
Athar, Rafiq

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internationals for Bangladesh. His last was against India at Mumbai last summer.

In his 19 innings, Athar scored 532 runs at an average of 29.55 with three fifties. He also captured six wickets with his gentle medium-pacers.

Rafiq, the south paw, played 17 ODIs and scored 243 runs with highest 77 against Kenya last summer in the tri-nation in India. He took 17 wickets, his best being 3 for 55 in that Kenya match that earned him his only man-of-the-match award.



Newcastle United's England international Alan Shearer (C) sandwiched between Manchester United defenders Phil Neville (L) and Henning Berg during their Premiership clash at Old Trafford yesterday.

Premiership

Cole clobbers Newcastle

LONDON, Aug 30: After the demise of Raul, Gullit, Newcastle United fans thought their season couldn't get any worse - but they reckoned without former hero Andy Cole, who rubbed their noses in more misfortune on Monday, scoring four times as Manchester United swamped their side 5-1, reports AFP.

A Henning Berg own goal on the half-hour to equalise Cole's 14th-minute opener was as good as it got for Newcastle's expensively-assembled team of misfits as last season's Treble winners tore them to shreds at Old Trafford.

The win put the reigning champions three points clear of second-placed Aston Villa although third and fourth-placed Chelsea and West Ham, six points adrift, both have two games in hand.

Newcastle kept United at bay for much of the first half, gangly forward Duncan Ferguson harrying Berg into the own-goal after Cole had smacked home the opener.

Newcastle recalled Gullit pariah and former England man Robert Lee for his first start of the season as temporary boss Steve Clarke manfully tried to give his side some shape.

Lee, not even given a squad number after his fall-out with Gullit, was handed the number 37 shirt and received a rapturous welcome from the travelling supporters when the teams were announced.

But Manchester United were in no mood to do them any favours.

The home side could have extended their lead on the half-hour when David Beckham found Gary Neville down the right and he squared for Paul

Scholes, whose side-footed effort dropped just wide of Newcastle keeper Tommy Wright's right hand post.

Newcastle came out for the second half believing they might just have a fighting chance of a point after a woeful start - their worst in the club's 106-year history - of one point in five games.

Cole brutally punctured their wildly-misplaced optimism seconds after the restart with the hosts' second, followed immediately by the dismissal of Greek defender Nicos Dabizas for foul abusive language.

Dabizas felt Cole had fouled him as the striker bore down on goal.

Alex Ferguson's side really had the bit between their teeth by now, and Butt's brilliant first-time ball to Beckham allowed him to get in another dangerous cross, but Barton was able to deal with it.

Barton was in action again on the hour when he and Goma did just enough to put off Scholes as he shot following a clever back-heel inside the box from Gary Neville.

But Cole wrapped up his hat-trick five minutes later as the increasingly stretched Newcastle defence gave way again.

Giggs' superb pass was perfectly weighted for the striker, left out of Kevin Keegan's England squad last week, to power past Hughes and his left-foot strike was devastating.

Beckham almost embarrassed Wright in the 68th minute with a shot from the halfway line which the keeper just grasped from under his crossbar.

Cole was still not finished and he made it 4-1 on 71 minutes after picking up Gary Neville's pass, turning swiftly and blasting the ball past the

helpless Wright. Clarke opted for damage limitation 16 minutes from time when he replaced Solano with central defender David Beharall, while Beckham was handed a well-earned rest when he made way for Teddy Sheringham.

Butt forced Wright into a good stop 10 minutes from time with a 20-yard drive, but the keeper was caught out at his near post a minute later when Giggs and Cole exchanged passes and the Welshman prodded a shot home.

On Sunday, Sunderland continued their consolidation in the Premiership after coming from behind to salvage a 1-1 draw with Coventry City here Sunday.

It was England striker Kevin Phillips who secured the point with his fifth goal of the campaign for newly-promoted Sunderland, cancelling out a first-half strike from Coventry's Irish striker Robbie Keane - his third in three matches.

English Premiership table after Sunday's match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Table with 10 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, GF, GA, Pts. Rows include Man Utd, Aston Villa, Chelsea, West Ham, Leeds, Arsenal, Tottenham, Liverpool, Southampton, Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Everton, Leicester, Derby, Watford, Coventry, Wimbledon, Bradford, Newcastle, Sheffield Wed.

Primera Liga

Real thrash Numancia

BARCELONA, Aug 30: Steve McManaman notched his first Spanish league goal for Real Madrid on Sunday as John Toshack's side cruised to a 4-1 win at home to Numancia, reports Reuters.

Real's victory, their second in two games, gave them top spot in Spain, ahead of Barcelona on goal difference after the Catalans also made it two wins out of two with a 2-1 victory against Racing Santander.

Lowly Rayo Vallecano were the only other side with maximum points from two games after their surprise 2-1 win at home to Mallorca - a third late defeat in a week for the troubled islanders.

Fellow title hopefuls Valencia also slumped to their second successive defeat, 3-2 at Espanyol, while Atletico Madrid were anchored to the bottom following their 4-1 demolition by Real Sociedad on Saturday.

Toshack's new-look Real Madrid started their game against Numancia looking anything but title contenders as they struggled to break down the packed defence of the first division newcomers.

But the introduction of McManaman as a substitute at the start of the second half had a magical effect as Real tore their visitors apart.

A terrible mix-up between defender Ivan Rocha - later to cap a miserable night with a red card a minute from time - and goalkeeper Alvaro Nunez gifted Real the lead on 46 minutes.

Brazilian Savio Bortolini then made it two as Raul Gonzalez found him in space in the area just seconds after coming on as Nicolas Anelka's substitute.

McManaman then took over, scoring his first competitive goal after Raul once again

showed good vision to find him unmarked in the box.

And the former Liverpool winger had a hand in the fourth, too, as he passed to Michel Salgado, who was clearly tripped in the area.

Fernando Hierro, who missed a penalty against Mallorca on the opening day, missed with his first attempt again, only to be given a reprieve as the referee decided there was a defender encroaching in the area.

The Spanish international defender duly took his second chance, smashing the ball high past Nunez.

In a bizarre end to the game, Numancia had Rocha sent off but still found time to reduce the arrears, three minutes into



Numancia defender Constantin Barbu (L) tackles Fernando Redondo of Real Madrid during their Primera Liga fixture on August 29. Real won 4-1.

Japanese makes instant impact

VENICE, Italy, Aug 30: Japan's Hiroshi Nanami made a sparkling debut in Italian football on Sunday, setting up Venezia's equaliser in the 1-1 draw with Udinese and being denied a superb matchwinner only by the woodwork, reports AFP.

Nanami may not have availed himself of the same way fellow countryman Hidetoshi Nakata did on his debut last year, scoring twice against then champions Juventus, but the Jubilo Iwata star clearly made his mark.

Coming on as a substitute after an hour's play, Nanami broke down the left wing before hooking over the cross which teammate Filippo Maniero crashed home to earn his team a draw.

Minutes later, Nanami moved forward after a nudged free-kick, beat a tackle and then slammed a 20-metre shot past the Udinese keeper and against the top of the post.

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Celtic blitz Hearts

GLASGOW, Aug 30: Celtic's 4-0 thrashing of Hearts earned them their fourth win in five matches in a Scottish Premier League looking very familiar with Rangers on top spot ahead of their arch rivals, reports AFP.

Celtic turned on the style to lie just three points behind Rangers following goals from Australia's Mark Viduka, Henrik Larsson of Sweden and two from Israel's Eyal Berkovic.

Midfielder Berkovic struck twice in three second-half minutes to leave Hearts on the wrong end of the same scoreline they suffered against Rangers at Tynecastle earlier this term.

The Edinburgh outfit's decision to set out their stall in the opening stages was not bought by a Celtic team who oozed confidence from the outset.

Victory by such a resounding margin is a clear sign John Barnes' men should have the ability to stay in touch with Rangers who have started with five straight wins.

Celtic enjoyed a succession of corner as every time the ball was cleared by Hearts it came straight back to them and the goal, when it came, had a sense of inevitability.

Larsson turned youngster Grant Murray expertly and measured a precise cross for Viduka to power a header into the top right-hand corner of the net for close range.

After 37 minutes, Celtic were two ahead, Viduka returning the favour by outstriking Gary Naysmith and playing in Larsson to roll the ball under keeper Gilles Rousselet.

Celtic moved three ahead after 70 minutes when Frenchman Stephane Mahé's persistence on the left earned him the opportunity to cross low for an unmarked Berkovic to slide in.

A mere two minutes later the Scottish record signing made it 4-0 with a rare header after Viduka's cross took a slight deflection and fell kindly for Berkovic in front of goal.

In other matches, Dundee United hung on to third spot with a goalless draw at home to second from bottom Kilmarnock, and St Johnstone moved up to fourth spot with a 3-0 win at bottom club Aberdeen.

Injury forces Deisler out

BERLIN, Aug 30: Hertha Berlin's teenage prodigy Sebastian Deisler will not make his debut in Germany's European champion in his final match on Saturday after suffering a thigh injury at the weekend, reports Reuters.

"I am very disappointed. I was so happy to be on the national team," said 19-year-old Deisler, whose precocious passing and dribbling skills have earned him comparisons with Liverpool and England teenager Michael Owen.

Deisler tore a muscle in his right thigh in Hertha Berlin's 1-1 draw against Werder Bremen.

Serie A Juve start on the wrong foot

MILAN, Aug 30: Juventus coach Carlo Ancelotti was busy with a damage limitation exercise on Monday after his men were held to a humiliating home draw by minnows Reggina, reports AFP.

Juventus, Italy's most successful soccer team, were expected to crush a side playing their first ever Serie A match in the club's 85-year history.

Reggina, from the southern poverty of Reggio Calabria, found themselves a goal down after half an hour.

French star Zinedine Zidane threaded the ball through and Filippo Inzaghi steered it deftly past the keeper.

But Reggina bounced back with an equaliser just two minutes after the restart as teenager Mohamed Kallon of Sierra Leone heading in a corner - and then holding on for a draw despite having Andrea Bernini dismissed.

Inzaghi said: "They hadn't had a single shot at the target and then we conceded an absurd goal on a corner."

Reggina coach Franco Colomba admitted: "It's a point we didn't expect."

As the season-opener finished 1-1 on Sunday night, Ancelotti's men were whistled off

at the final whistle by a furious Delle Alpi crowd.

Ancelotti tried to play down the upset, saying: "We're all a bit surprised by the result. But I don't think people should make a drama out of it. What annoys me is having lost two points."

"We knew that we had a lot of things to improve. We didn't have much pace in the first half, but were still able to play reasonably well and created a lot of scoring chances, and converted one of them."

"In the second half, we weren't lucid enough to create more chances and we conceded a goal because of the only lapse in concentration we had. We were punished for it, and then it became difficult to come back."

Though Inzaghi continued his pre-season goal-scoring form, there were less encouraging

Arab Cup in memory of Prince Faisal

RYADH, Aug 30: The Arab Football Federation (FAF) has launched a new Arab Cup Sunday that will bear the name of former Saudi Arabian sports boss Prince Faisal, who died recently of a heart attack, reports AFP.

As for the whistles from the home crowd, Ancelotti said: "They're understandable when you don't get a result. And I'm a bit disappointed about it as well."

"But I repeat, we've only lost two points," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport. "There's nothing else that I should be worried about."

However, his team were clearly unhappy at the way Kallon was able to rise unchallenged to head home Reggina's equaliser.

Inzaghi said: "A team like ours shouldn't concede goals like that... it was absurd."

Dutch goalkeeper Edwin Van der Sar, helpless against the potent close-range header, tried not to criticise his new teammates on his debut.

But the former Ajax star admitted: "Kallon was all alone in the penalty area when the corner came over. That's something very strange."

Vieri, the new darling

MILAN, Aug 30: Christian Vieri scored Inter Milan's first debut hat-trick in half a century last weekend and then told the San Siro fans that he wasn't yet on form, reports AFP.

Vieri's hat-trick the first on a debut here since Istvan Nyers in 1948, thrust him back into the spotlight, two months after shattering the world transfer record with his 50 million dollar move from Lazio.

However, Sunday's 3-0 win over Verona was a double celebration for Inter fans. Not only was Vieri finding the target and promising more, but the team spirit they lacked last season was already showing signs of life.

"What more could I ask for?", was Vieri's verdict on the afternoon. "Ever since I was a boy, I've been dreaming of playing and scoring goals in the Serie A. I'm pleased, but there's a way to go yet."

"I have to keep improving and if possible to enjoy myself at the same time," said the 26-year-old. "And I have fun even in the most basic training sessions. At my age, that's important."

Aside from his technique, Vieri also promised to improve on his fitness in the weeks ahead.

"I'm not in top shape at the moment," he said ominously. "I'm going to have to work on that."

His own exploits aside, Vieri knows that Inter's hopes of winning the league this season are down to their efforts as a team.

"The most important thing for me is making myself available to my teammates, because one player on his own cannot win the championship; at best, you can win a match," he said.

Vieri's comments were music to the ears of new coach Marcello Lippi, who has made team spirit his number one priority since taking over.

"This team believes in what it's doing," Lippi said. "And the rapport which it has built up with me and the rest of the coaching staff is something that I'd like to stress."

"I'm obviously pleased with the result, but also with the way the players celebrated with each other after the goals. It shows a unity of intent."

"But it was a good win. Everybody knows how hard it is against a team who have just been promoted to Serie A."

Lippi, who is re-building the team, said: "For us at the moment, it's all work-in-progress. But what I've seen so far is looking good."

As for the performance of Vieri, who Lippi had at Juventus in 1996-97, the coach said: "He cost a fortune, but today you all saw why. He is definitely a

better player than he was three years ago."

Vieri himself played down his achievement, saying: "It was 10 out of 10 for the whole team and not just for me."

"We wanted to prove to ourselves, more than to anyone else, that all the work we've put in over the last month and a half has paid off. We haven't been wasting our time, and today it showed."

"I'm dedicating these three goals to my teammates because they're the ones who've put me in a position to score."

Club president Massimo Moratti, the man whose personal fortune in oil refining paid for Vieri, also pointed to the atmosphere in the locker room.

"We have to keep our feet on the ground, this is after all only the first match," Moratti said. "They were all good as individuals, but the biggest satisfaction for me was seeing a good team game."

It was a trying time, though, for Ronaldo, short of match fitness and relegated to the subs' bench for the first half before starting the second.

The spotlight and the adoration of the fans now being en-



CHRISTIAN VIERI

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Eve, originally 1 Weaponry 5 Pale 8 "Persistence of Memory" artist 12 Stolen 13 Prior to 14 Leave out 15 Cupid's specialty 16 Shiny-leaved evergreens 18 Lie spread-out 20 Entertainer-Marcovici 21 Softball? 23 Inventor Whitney 24 Debt shirker 28 "Bom Free" subject 31 Mischievous tyke 32 Granite city of Vermont 34 Vegas opener 35 Custodian (Abbr.) 37 Impasse

Cryptogram puzzle grid with numbers 1-55 and letters Y C J C O H D H G P C W Y H G P B J M X G W R X G H W C K R J ? K V R M H A X O R H V B H A C P R B X D H B C G W R.

CRYPTOQUIP Y C J C O H D H G P C W Y H G P B J M X G W R X G H W C K R J ? K V R M H A X O R H V B H A C P R B X D H B C G W R. Saturday's Cryptquip: PEOPLE THINK THE BAKER IS ODD BECAUSE HE SLEEPS UNDER A COOKIE SHEET. Today's Cryptquip clue: P equals W. The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it equals 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.

Fans' tribute

MADRID, Aug 30: Fans of Spanish Primera Liga club Rayo Vallecano have voted to change the name of their stadium in honour of club president, Teresa Rivera, reports Reuters.