

Sport

Spurs won't sell Ginola

LONDON, May 11: Tottenham Hotspur director of football David Pleat on Wednesday insisted that French winger David Ginola would not be sold following his bust-up with the club after being dropped for the clash against Manchester United, reports AFP.

White Hart Lane boss George Graham wanted to give several Spurs youngsters a run-out against United, a decision that clearly upset Ginola.

Spurs assistant manager Stewart Houston broke the news to Ginola with Graham still away from the club suffering from arthritis.

Pleat said: "We have no intention of selling David and I have no knowledge of any offers for him."

"Ginola is a great talent and a difficult one for any manager to have among his flock."

"He is marvellous in possession, has bewitching skills, and the class to rise above mediocrity. But if we had two or three better players his brilliance wouldn't be so shining."

"When possession changes hands he is a problem to any manager. He is not naturally a player to get into positions when a team defends. He is a fine player, an existing Spurs player and the manager has to use him when and where he sees fit."

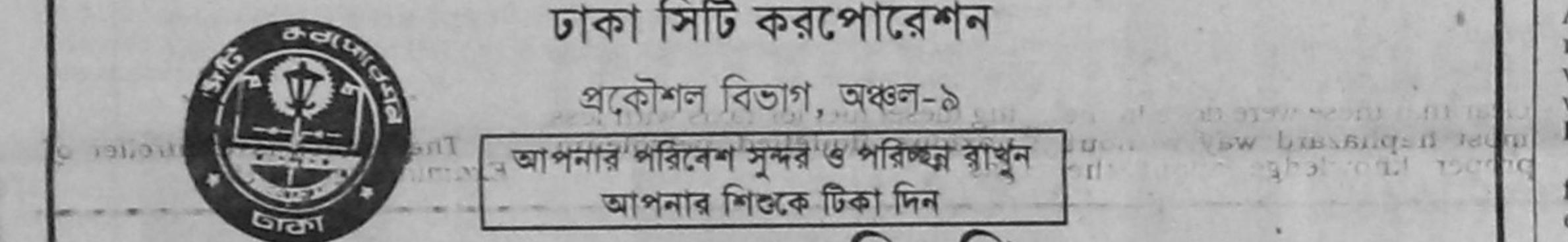
"Against United the manager wanted to give his younger players a taste of the big time and I thought it was a very good decision."

Chelsea deny Fenerbahce's interest in Zola

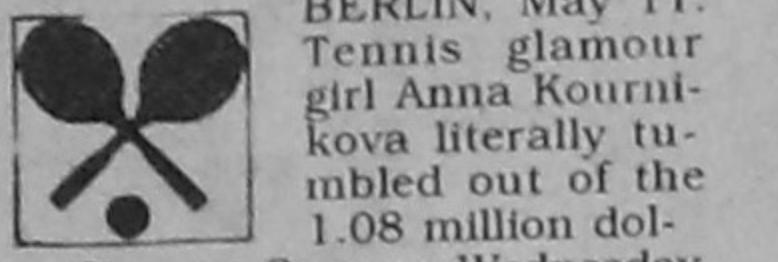
LONDON, May 11: Premier-ship club Chelsea on Wednesday insisted they have received no approaches to buy Italian striker Gianfranco Zola following reports in Turkey that the striker has agreed to join Fenerbahce next season, reports AFP.

Turkish sports newspaper Fotomac had reported that Zola would announce he was leaving Stamford Bridge after the FA-Cup final on May 20 as long as he could first convince Chelsea to release him from his contract.

But Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson said: "We have received no approaches whatsoever from any club in Turkey, or any club anywhere else, for Gianfranco Zola."



Anna Kournikova executing a backhand during her German Open fixture against Spain's Gala Leon Garcia at Berlin on May 10. —AFP photo



BERLIN, May 11: Tennis glamour girl Anna Kournikova literally tumbled out of the 1.08 million dollar German Open on Wednesday when she was beaten 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 by Spain's Gala Leon Garcia, reports AFP.

The seventh-seeded Russian fell near the baseline to give the Spaniard her third match point, and although Kournikova continued after treatment Leon Garcia claimed victory as Kournikova buried the ball in the net.

Kournikova was clearly suffering long before her fall. She showed signs of tiring early in the third set, bending over and holding her hip, and at 4-5 after saving one match point she received treatment to her left arm.

She then had her left ankle strapped after the match and left the court crying.

The two-hour-29-minute battle had remained finely balanced from beginning to end, with Kournikova showing flashes of the skills that have taken her to the top 10 but fail-

ing to put her game together for any length of time.

Leon Garcia was persistent rather than inspired, but she mixed her game up well to keep Kournikova guessing.

Leon Garcia was not convinced that Kournikova was as injured as she claimed, and accused her of trying to break her concentration at such a critical stage of the match.

"I think she was trying to break my concentration because she was very tired and maybe had some little cramps, and it was a very important point of the match," said Leon Garcia, who fought back from 2-4 in the final set.

"Then she played very good the next (last) point. She ran and she hit the ball."

It was later announced Kournikova had received treatment for cramp in her arm after the first match point.

Kournikova's antics only served to draw the crowd further towards her opponent. They had earlier begun to side with the Spaniard and they ended by whistling and slow-handclapping Kournikova.

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Kournikova was then deemed too injured to attend a press conference, and was carried from the grounds in the arms of a member of her entourage, which includes ice hockey player Sergei Fedorov.

Sixth seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario also became a second round victim, losing 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 to Elena Dementieva. The 18-year-old Russian, who recently reached the semi-finals at Indian Wells, took advantage of a listless opponent, attacked well with a big forehand and refused to be shaken off in the rallies.

The gap between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' continues to grow," analyst Gerry Bonn said.

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