

Sheringham to stay another year

LONDON, May 18: Manchester United striker Teddy Sheringham agreed to stay at the club for another year after manager Sir Alex Ferguson assured him he has a big part to play at Old Trafford next season, reports AFP.

The 34-year-old could have moved to another club on a free transfer but instead has signed a new one-year contract with the Premiership champions.

Sheringham, who came on as a substitute to score the vital equaliser in last year's Champions League final triumph, had been worried about being pushed further into the background.

But Ferguson's assurances convinced Sheringham he has at least another year at the very top of English football. Sheringham, who joined for 3.5 million pounds (5.6 million dollars) from Tottenham in 1997, said: "I am really pleased that the matter has been resolved and that I am remaining a Manchester United player."

"All the players retain a real hunger for honours and we want to emulate the success of recent years, particularly that of 1999."

"I have had a fabulous three years with the club and have decided to stay in an attempt to win more trophies."

Sheringham only scored six goals for United this past season but most of them were crucial, including the equaliser in the 1-1 draw at home to Arsenal in January that proved an important psychological blow in the race for the Premiership.

Magura cricket

From Our Correspondent
MAGURA, May 18: Young Boys and Independent Club won their respective matches in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium today. Young Boys defeated Surja Tarun by eight wickets while Independent beat Akai Smriti Sangha by three wickets.

BRIEF SCORES

SURJA TARUN CLUB: 83 all out in 24.5 overs (Shameem 14, Rashed 13, Liton 11, Shekhor 2/6, Masud 2/13, Jewell 15).
YOUNG BOYS CLUB: 84 for 2 in 9.5 overs (Masud 27, Sajib 27 not out, Shekhor 11, Shameem 1/7, Sohel 1/13).

AKAI SMRITI SANGHA: 96 all out in 24.5 overs (Arit 23, Inon 12, Bappi 7, Rubel 3/8, Haradhan 2/9, Sumon 2/19, Prince 2/20).

INDEPENDENT CLUB: 97 for 3 in 15.2 overs (Biswa 30, Rubel 29, Haradhan 14, Rimon 1/15, Arit 1/20).

Danes reach final

KUALA LUMPUR, May 18: Denmark's women reached the Uber Cup badminton team tournament final for the first time in 40 years on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Defending champions China and the Danes scored identical 3-0 wins over semifinal opponents Indonesia and South Korea.

China, with players all ranked among the world's top five, made light work of Indonesia and are favourites to add their seventh title in the final on Saturday.

Indonesia's defeat marked the first time they have failed to make the final since 1992.

Denmark needed only 87 minutes to outclass the Koreans who could only provide a token resistance to the European champions.

World number one Camilla Martin easily beat Kim Ji-hyun 11-5, 11-7 while Mette Sorensen took only 37 minutes to defeat Lee Kyung-won 11-8, 11-3 and collect Denmark's second point.

Rikke Olsen and Helene Kirkegaard beat scratch pair of Lee Hye-jung and Chung Jae-hee 15-5, 15-6 to complete the rout.

But Denmark coach Kenneth Larsen recognised the big task ahead of saving China: "They have all the top players."

Schumacher the footballer

COLOGNE, Germany, May 18 (AFP): Ferrari's Formula One star Michael Schumacher switched his red racing overalls for shorts and football boots Tuesday and took part in a training session with Bundesliga club Kaiserslautern.

Schumacher's passion for football is well known and he often plays in Formula One celebrity teams for charity as well as for the local club in the Swiss village Vuffels where he lives.

The German dual world champion is currently back on home soil to contest this Sunday's European grand prix at the Nurburgring.

He was flown in by helicopter Tuesday morning as part of a public relations exercise by a company which is a major sponsor of both Kaiserslautern and Schumacher. The German driving star even managed to score a goal.

"It was a great feeling (to score) but the boys didn't take the whole thing that seriously, they didn't attack me that hard," Schumacher said.

"I got along with everyone well, but mainly with Youri Djorkaeff who I practised my Italian with. I also got along well with Mario Basler."

Coach Otto Rehhagel handed over a Kaiserslautern shirt with Schumacher's name emblazoned on the back as a memento of the occasion but that wasn't enough to tempt the Formula One pilot to turn his back on the team he really supports.

Aymes keeps Hants afloat



LONDON, May 18 (AFP): Hampshire wicketkeeper Adrian Aymes was the hero against Leicestershire at Grace Road on Wednesday, holding a shaky innings together with a painstaking 74 not out in his first County Championship game of the season.

Aymes, returning to the side after a knee operation, battled for just over four hours to keep the Leicestershire attack at bay and lead bottom-of-the-table Hampshire to 227 for nine by the close in the Division One encounter.

Earlier, they had been in real trouble at 149 for eight. But Aymes and Simon Renshaw shared a ninth-wicket stand of 64 in 22 overs to frustrate the home side.

Leicestershire's weakened attack - they were missing James Ormond and Chris Lewis because of injuries - were on top for most of the day. Phil DeFreitas claiming three for 36 with some impressive bowling.

Domestic cricket came to a halt on Wednesday as Paul Hinchinson answered an SOS for Yorkshire at Derby.

Hutchinson took three wickets after being drafted in as a late replacement to leave the home side struggling until Cork restored the balance with a disciplined 43 as the hosts closed day one on 285 for eight in their Division One clash.

Domestic cricket was poised to end a five-year run without a Sirajganj cricket

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, May 18: Ullapara Showkhin Cricket Club beat Raktumukut Cricket Club by 1 wicket at the Shaheed Shamsuddin Stadium today.

Winning the toss, Raktumukut decided to bat first and made 101 runs losing all the wickets in 35 overs.

In reply, Showkhin collected 102 runs losing 9 wickets in 22.5 overs. Shakti of Showkhin Club was adjudged man-of-the-match.

century following a rain-interrupted opening day of Warwickshire's Division Two clash with Essex at Edgbaston.

The 29-year-old from Solihull has not made a championship run since June 1995 - but he put four lean years behind him with a sparkling display of strokeplay only for a heavy afternoon shower to cause an early close and leave him unbeaten on 93 and facing an anxious overnight wait.

Last season Ostler managed only 250 championship runs, and his place on the staff appeared to be in doubt.

Nottinghamshire hit back to regain the initiative after Gloucestershire seamer Jon Lewis had taken his first ever hat-trick on day one of their Division Two clash at Trent Bridge.

An innings of great maturity from Guy Welton (74) and some excellent bowling from the Notts attack put the hosts back in the ascendancy with a score of 215 on the board and five of the opposition out for less than 50 in reply.

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

pointment of missing a home Olympics.

"There's nothing you can say. There's nothing anyone can say to make you feel better," she said.

"I guess it's bad luck for Sam but everyone is swimming so much faster now and she just can't keep up at the moment, which is a bit of shame."

The 23-year-old broke the world 200m breaststroke as a 16-year-old at the Commonwealth Games trials in 1994 but was never able to reach the same heights again.

Just six months later she was left in tears after Riley won the 100 and 200m golden double at the Victoria Commonwealth Games followed by another golden double and a world record at the Rome world championships.

The disappointment left Brown shattered. She watched the 1996 Olympics from home and retired after failing to make the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games.

But she returned to the pool last year for another shot at Olympic glory, winning her first international title in the 200m breaststroke at the world

selection trials to swim for Australia at the Sydney Olympics in four months' time, reports AFP.

The former world 100/200m champion and two-time Olympic medalist was always up against it in her quest to make the star-studded team with health problems and formidable opposition in both breaststroke events.

Her last chance was in Thursday night's 200m breaststroke final and after being up in the first two places to halfway she faded to finish fifth (2:32.02) in the final behind Caroline Hildreth.

Riley, 27, who won bronze medals in the 100m event at the Barcelona and Atlanta Olympics, is now likely to retire from swimming.

Hildreth won the final in two minutes 27.69 seconds from former world record holder Rebecca Brown (2:28.98). Both are off to the Olympics.

Riley flashed a brave smile to the adoring crowd before bursting into tears out of sight off the pool deck.

She had been out of hospital for only 10 days after a kidney infection and her setback showed as she was about seven seconds off her best to miss selection on her third Olympic team.

Hildreth said no words could console Riley for the disappointment.

Klim warms up for record mark

SYDNEY, May 18: World champion Michael Klim registered the fourth fastest 100 metres butterfly time in history at the Australian Olympic swimming trials here Thursday night to set the stage for a possible world record attempt, reports AFP.

The shaven-headed Klim powered to the wall in 52.22 seconds in his semi-final to qualify fastest for Friday's final from Commonwealth Games medalists, Geoff Huegill (52.67) and Adam Pine (52.94) and Atlanta Olympic silver medalist Scott Miller (52.95).

The final is expected to be one of the most hotly-contested of the world class trials with only two swimmers eligible to win selection onto the Olympic team.

Huegill set the stage for a fast race on Sunday, clocking a world record in the 50m butterfly - a non-Olympic event.

But Klim holds the 100m butterfly record of 51.81secs set in a time trial in Canberra last December.

He set a new Commonwealth standard of 48.56secs in Wednesday night's 100m freestyle final to put himself within striking distance of Russian Olympic champion and reigning partner Alexandre Popov's world record of 48.21secs.

The 22-year-old Polish-born swimmer holds the top five fastest times over the distance.

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

Unidentified England fielder (C) taking a tumble while trying to stop the ball during the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's yesterday. — AFP photo

FIFA deny expulsion threat

KUALA LUMPUR, May 18: FIFA president Joseph Blatter Thursday strongly denied reports that football's world governing body would consider expelling Israel if the country's forces attacked Lebanese sports facilities, reports AFP.

Blatter, speaking at a press conference here after attending the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) congress, dismissed the reported expulsion threat as "completely untrue."

He was responding to a report in the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Qabas Tuesday, which quoted AFC general secretary Peter Velappan as saying that Blatter had told him of the threat in a meeting earlier this year.

"I wish to emphasise strongly that this is entirely without foundation," Blatter said.

"FIFA has never discussed the expulsion of the member mentioned in the report and has no plans to do so. We would never take a decision like this... it would be interference in politics," he said.

"I deny and reject totally such statements which have been attributed to me," he said.

The Kuwaiti newspaper had quoted Velappan as saying FIFA would suspend Israel in the event of an attack.

"Israel won't be so stupid as to attack Lebanon during the Asian Cup or try to destroy its sporting facilities," he said in the report.

"But if this happens Israel must know that FIFA will punish it and suspend it from the international scene."

Israel's air force recently smashed electricity facilities in Lebanon in retaliation for attacks by Lebanese-backed guerrillas opposing its occupation of the south of the country.

Israel is due to pull out of the occupied zone by July.

Venus breezes

ROME, May 18: World number four Venus Williams started the defence of her Italian Open title with a forthright 6-1, 6-2 defeat of fellow American Chanda Rubin on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

But French seeds Nathalie Tauziat and Mary Pierce both struggled to find their feet on Rome's red clay before joining Williams in the last 16 of the 1.08-million dollars tournament.

Second seed Tauziat dropped her first set against Italian outsider Tathiana Garbin before recovering to win 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.

World number five and fourth seed Pierce, beaten by Williams in last year's final, was forced to save four set points at 4-5 and 0-40 down in her first set against German lucky loser Marlene Weingartner.

Pierce fought back to take the next three games en route to a 7-5, 6-3 win. She now faces compatriot and 12th seed Amelie Mauresmo in a repeat of last year's semifinal.

The other French seeds enjoyed contrasting fortunes. Seventh seed Julie Halard-Decugis brushed aside Romania's Ruxandra Dragomir 6-4, 6-0 but Sandrine Testud, seeded eighth, was beaten 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 by world number 43 Corina Morariu of the United States.

Ninth seed Anke Huber of Germany also crashed out, losing 6-4, 6-1 under floodlights to Poland's world number 143 Magdalena Grzybowska.

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario eased past Pavlina Nola of Bulgaria 6-3, 6-1 to open her 12th bid for the Rome title.

World number one Lindsay Davenport and former champion Monica Seles had booked their third-round berths on Tuesday.

Venus, playing only her second tournament after a 5-1/2 month break due to tendinitis, Williams never showed the blistering form which gave her the title on Rome's red clay a year ago.