

'Don't rename it'

ADELAIDE, Aug 31 (AFP): It was not a happy 92nd birthday for cricket legend Sir Donald Bradman.

As family and close friends gathered at his Adelaide home last Sunday to celebrate, it is believed Sir Donald voiced disgust at the recent kerfuffle surrounding his name.

Last year, when he sanctioned the renaming of Burbridge Road to Sir Donald Bradman Drive, cricket's greatest batsman didn't anticipate becoming the centre of controversy.

Now, with businesses clamouring to change their titles to include the new name of the road in Adelaide's west, Bradman and his family have had enough and they want the renaming scrapped, Australian Associated Press reported.

But West Torrens City Council says it's too late — the renaming was gazetted on August 3, road signs have been completed and about 2000 businesses and residents have been informed that the change takes effect next January 1.

Signs of trouble emerged for the Bradman family when a cafe owner on the road moved to change her businesses name to Bradman's Cafe Restaurant.

The Bradman Foundation, the charitable organisation that holds rights to the Bradman name and operates various activities on his behalf, threatened legal action.

After subsequent media attention, a host of businesses along Burbridge Road served notice of their intention to alter their names — including one sex shop which wants to rename itself Erotica on Bradman.

West Torrens Mayor John Trainer sympathised with the Bradman family but believed it was impossible to reverse the road's name change.

"It's most unfortunate that after having originally given their consent, it has caused a lot of concern to the Bradman family," Trainer said Thursday.

"Now the commercial activity has apparently caused quite a bit of distress."

The Bradman family and the Bradman Foundation would not comment Thursday.

New record for Packer

UNDATED (Internet report): Media magnate and legendary gambler Kerry Packer is reputed to have lost 20 million USD in three days of gambling in Nevada.

The amount lost by Packer, whose Nine television network broadcasts cricket extensively, exceeds even his disastrous 16.5 million USD loss over three weeks in London at Crocker's casino last September.

Not that this is anything for him to lose sleep over: Packer's fortune has been estimated at 8.2 billion USD by Australian Business Review Weekly. There is also an upside: he recently won 15 million USD at the Las Vegas MGM Mirage, which then banned him. In addition, he is so vigorously courted by some casinos that much of the money he loses is effectively the casino's in the first place.

Packer's gambling is on such a big scale that he is capable of affecting a casino's value on the New York Stock Exchange.



Frank de Boer, the Dutch international playmaker, poses for photographers with the jersey of his new club Glasgow Rangers on at the Ibrox Stadium on August 30.

— AFP photo

Ronald de Boer now Rangers'

GLASGOW, Aug 31: Barcelona's Dutch midfielder Ronald de Boer on Wednesday agreed personal terms on a four-year contract with Glasgow giants Rangers, reports AFP.

Rangers have not yet confirmed the size of the transfer fee but Scottish sources have estimated it to be close to 6 million pounds (nine million dollars).

De Boer, 30, told his website www.icons.com: "My agent Rob Jansen has just completed talks with Rangers and I've agreed

personal terms on a four-year contract.

"I'm about to undergo a medical, which is always a little nerve-wracking, but I've been fairly injury-free so everything should be OK on that score."

"Apparently there are a few minor issues to be sorted out between the clubs but I fully expect to become a Rangers player."

"I'm already looking forward to linking up with my new team-mates but first I have to meet up with the Dutch national squad in good time for our match with the Republic of Ireland at the weekend. I'll be flying out later today."

The Ibrox club's spending

spree does not look like ending there with Rangers also holding talks with Wimbledon striker John Hartson over a proposed 7 million pound (10.5 million dollar) move.

Hartson, 25, trained with the Wales squad at Ninian Park on Wednesday morning ahead of Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Holland in Amsterdam.

But his agent Jonathan Barnet is believed to be en route to Glasgow to continue negotiations.

Hartson was on the verge of joining Tottenham last March but the move broke down when he failed a medical.

Transfers row**Blatter for a task force**

ZURICH, Aug 31: FIFA president Joseph Blatter on Thursday requested more time from the European (EU) to find a solution acceptable to all parties in the row over football transfers, reports AFP.

During a press conference following a meeting with European football bosses the head of football's world governing body announced the setting up of a task force to examine the situation.

The EU have been threatening for more than a year to do away with the existing transfer system, as they believe it to be incompatible with the principles of the Treaty of Rome which upholds the free passage of workers around Europe.

Blatter said that during the meeting consensus was reached concerning several modifications concerning transfers, and that football bosses had agreed with the EU on some proposals.

"Professional players should

be under contract with a club for at least a year. Afterwards a system of compensation in case of a unilateral breakdown of contract is put in place," said Blatter.

However, Blatter said that more time was needed and suggesting the setting up of the task force reporting directly to Brussels where the EU is based.

Blatter believes that the scrapping of the current transfer system would widen the gap between rich and poor and such a decision would have a devastating effect on the finances and future of clubs.

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To prevent players constantly changing clubs Blatter said that only one transfer per year should be allowed.

He said that some participants were also interested in barring transfers of international players aged under 18 years and that compensation should be paid to the training club in the case of the transfer of a player aged between 18 and 24 years.

But Blatter added the current system was indispensable because the organisation of football has a pyramid structure where the professionals cannot live without amateurs and vice versa.

J-League**Grampus win 10-goal classic**

TOKYO, Aug 31: Nagoya Grampus Eight came out on top 6-4 in a 10-goal thriller in the first leg of their J. League Cup quarterfinal away to Shimizu S-Pulse, reports Reuters.

Grampus' midfielder Kunihiko Takizawa scored twice last night in the 3-3 first half, while Brazilian striker Ueslei, Dutch midfielder Tarki Oulida, formerly of Ajax Amsterdam and Sevilla in Spain, Tetsuya Okayama and World Cup midfielder Motohiro Yamaguchi had one apiece.

Yugoslav playmaker Dragan Stojkovic had a hand in five of the six goals, and also earned a yellow card for dissent from referee Leslie Mottram.

Takayuki Suzuki after 54 minutes and midfielder Mitsu Ogasawara in the last minute.

Suzuki returned to Kashima recently from a spell on loan to Kawasaki Frontale to cover for first-choice strikers Atsushi Yanagisawa and Tomoyuki Hirase, who are with the Olympic squad in training camp.

The other two first leg matches finished level.

League champions Jubilo Iwata were held 1-1 at home by Kyoto Purple Sanga after Kazuki Sato cancelled out an opener from Jubilo's Russian striker Dmitry Radchenko, formerly of Compostela in Spain, and the Kawasaki derby match between Verdy and Frontale was goalless.

The second leg matches are scheduled for September 6.

Anelka believes Vieira will stay

LONDON, Aug 31: Nicolas Anelka believes his friend and compatriot Patrick Vieira will stick with Arsenal despite his disciplinary problems, reports AFP.

The French international striker, who left the Gunners in a 23 million pound move to Real Madrid, claims Vieira, who faces a five-match ban after being sent off in consecutive matches, loves being at Highbury.

And Anelka, 21, who moved to Paris St Germain for 22 million pounds during the summer, says that in Sylvain Wiltord, Arsenal's new coach, Kevin Keegan with only three forwards at his disposal, reports AFP.

The Sunderland forward has been troubled by a sore shoulder all week and has been unable to take part in any training sessions.

He returned to his home in the North East late Wednesday as it was concluded that he was not fit enough to travel to Paris with the rest of the squad — taking the number of withdrawals from the original 24-man party to five.

That leaves Michael Owen, Andy Cole and teenager Alan Smith — who was called into the squad earlier this week as an emergency replacement for Emile Heskey — as the only fit strikers left in the England party.

He helped me when I was having a difficult time after my move to Madrid. He kept saying that I would come through and I did."

Anelka may have left Highbury under a cloud, but he

retains close links with the French Foreign Legion at Arsenal.

"I am pleased for Thierry that things are going well. We are very close. We went to school together and we were at Clairefontaine (the French football academy) together. He had a difficult experience

Italy's Olympic football squad

ROME, Aug 31: Italian soccer squad announced Wednesday for the Sydney Olympics.

Goalkeepers: Morgan De Sanctis (Udinese), Christian Abbiati (AC Milan)

Defenders: Alessandro Grandotto (Sampdoria), Luca Mezzano (Chievo), Marco Zanchi (Juventus), Matteo Ferrari (Inter Milan), Bruno Vassalli (Salernitana), Christian Zanetti (AS Roma)

Midfielders: Gennaro Gattuso (Lazio), Roberto Baronio (Atalanta Bergamo), Massimo Ambrosini (AC Milan), Gianluca Zambrotta (Juventus), Claudio Rivalta (Perugia)

Strikers: Massimo Margiotta (Udinese), Nicola Ventola (Atalanta Bergamo), Gianni Commandini (AC Milan), Andrea Pirlo (Inter Milan)

in Italy with Juventus but Thierry is now with Arsenal and he has given him self-confidence. That is why he is scoring goals. What I am hoping is that we get the chance to play together for a long time with the national team."

Anelka described Wiltord as "mad", saying: "Twas on holiday with him in Martinique for 10 days and there was no peace. Arsenal have signed another Ian Wright. He has a big personality and is very outgoing. He will love all the music in the dressing room, all the noise. That is one thing I miss — the atmosphere in an English dressing room."

Anelka scored both goals when France beat England 2-0 at Wembley in February last year, and hopes to be given another chance to shine at the Stade de France on Saturday.

"It was a great feeling," he said. "It was the first time France had won in England and I had scored the goals. I was playing for an English club and that made it special."

"When I went back to the club, people like Tony Adams and Martin Keown said well done to me."

"I expect it to be a hard game on Saturday. I have never known it to be easy against an England team. They fight and they compete."

Bogarde joins Chelsea

LONDON, Aug 31: Dutch international defender Winston Bogarde joined English Premiership club Chelsea on Thursday after being released by Spanish giants Barcelona, reports AFP.

The 29-year-old Bogarde, who arrived in Spain in 1998, was allowed to leave on a free transfer despite being under contract with Barcelona until 2001.

Bogarde, who can play as a central defender or full-back,

has signed a four-year contract.

He announced the move on his personal website, saying: "My ultimate dream came true this morning — a move to England with Chelsea."

"I have signed a four-year deal and join them on a free transfer from Barcelona."

In a busy day of transfer dealings at Stamford Bridge Brazilian defender Emerson Thome joined Sunderland in a 4.5 million pound (6.75 million dollar) deal.

Thome, who was signed by Chelsea last December, failed to secure a regular first-team place and decided to move on.

He joined Chelsea for 2.5 million pounds (3.75 million dollars) eight months ago from Sheffield Wednesday and made 21 appearances for the London club.

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