

Karpin ruling annoys 'em

MADRID, Dec 1: The Spanish footballers association wants the government to take swift action to counter a Madrid court judgement that allowed Celta Vigo's Russian midfielder Valery Karpin to quality as a European Union player, reports AFP.

The Association of Spanish Footballers (AEF) fearing that the ruling will open the floodgates for non-EU nationals to play in Spain, has asked the government to take measures to prevent "very severe consequences".

The AFE fears that the 24 non-EU players currently plying their trade in Spain's top two divisions could follow suit in seeking EU nationality, effectively killing off plans to reduce the number of foreign players on the Iberian peninsula.

Around a dozen players have announced their intention to follow in Karpin's footsteps, according to Spanish press reports Thursday.

The Russian, frustrated with a lack of team appearances due to a limit of three non-EU players per team, took his club, the professional football league and the Spanish football federation to court in an attempt to overturn the law.

He won the case after it was proved that the EU had signed association accords with Russia which effectively forbids discrimination against Russians working in the European Union simply because of their nationality.

The court also ruled that the current limit of non-EU players (three per team on the pitch at any one time) imposed by the Spanish federation on the Spanish league was unjustified.

However the president of the AFE, Gerardo Gonzalez Movilla, has stepped in to stop widespread attempts to follow Karpin's example.

Indeed, the validity of an accord signed between the AFE, the Spanish federation and league in May 1999 on limiting the total number of non-EU players to five per squad of 25 players could be under threat.

Ironically, that accord had foreseen reducing the five non-EU players to four for the three following seasons and three from the 2004-2005 season.

But a battle has now broken out, prompting the government parliamentary spokesman for sport Antonio Gonzalez Perez, speaking in Spanish newspaper El Pais, to denounce the Karpin ruling as "breaking the agreement and the rules of the game on limiting (the number of) foreign players in Spanish football".

His opposite number in the Socialist party Jeronimo Nieto has suggested "finding a formula allowing a minimal quota of national (Spanish) players" in the interests of youth development.

The 24 players in Spain's top two leagues who could seek to follow Karpin's example are from the following countries: Romania (11), Russia (7), Morocco (2), Ukraine (1), Lithuania (1), Poland (1) and Slovenia (1).

Rajshahi soccer

RAJSHAH, Dec 1: Joypurhat defeated Nilphamari 6-2 in the inter-district football competition at the local Shahid Quanruzzaman Divisional Stadium today, reports UNB.

Mahbub and Ripon netted two goals each while Sunam and Anumir netted apiece for the winners. Sohag scored both the goals for the losers.

Dragila, Taylor honoured

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico, Dec 1: Olympic gold medalists Stacy Dragila and Angelo Taylor were named the recipients of the Jesse Owens Awards for 2000 at USA Track & Field's annual meeting in Albuquerque yesterday, reports Reuters.

The Owens Awards, named for the hero of the 1936 Olympics, go to the year's outstanding male and female performers of US track and field, long distance running and race walking.

The awards will be presented in Albuquerque tomorrow, December 2.

Dragila won the gold medal in the first-ever Olympic women's pole vault and broke the world record five times - three times indoors and twice bettering her own mark outdoors, with her final world record in the Olympic trials.

Taylor was the 2000 Grand Prix overall champion and one of only four US track and field athletes to win two gold medals at the Olympic Games.

In the 400 hurdles, Taylor's draw of Lane 1 was considered the kiss of death but he used a gutsy home-stretch run to win Olympic gold by 0.3 seconds in the grueling event.

Late Pakistan

From page 13

Thorpe lbw b Akram 79
Stewart c Razzaq b Kanchia 13
Hir k c Youhana b Razzaq 18
White not out 6
Giles c Afridi b Razzaq 0
Caddick not out 2
Extras (b-4, lb-11, nb-31) 46
Total (for 8 wkts in 123 overs) 282

To bat: Darren Gough. Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-105, 3-106, 4-203, 5-235, 6-274, 7-274, 8-275.

Bowler O M R W
Akram 22 5 57 1
Razzaq 16 0 50 2
Kanchia 31 9 73 2
Saglan 28 8 57 2
Arshad 25 12 29 1
Afridi 1 0 1 0

Scintillating Sinclair



PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 1: South Africa made a solid start to reply to New Zealand's first innings total of 298 on the second day of the second Test at St George's Park on Friday.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 206-7)
Richardson c Ntini 26
Spearman c Kirsten b Donald 16
Sinclair c Kirsten b Donald 150

South Africa were 60 for no wicket at tea.

New Zealand's innings was dominated by Mathew Sinclair's 150, a record score by a New Zealand batsman in Tests against South Africa.

Sinclair and tailender Shayne O'Connor frustrated the South African bowling attack in an eighth wicket stand of 73 which was only broken five minutes before lunch when O'Connor was bowled by Jacques Kallis for a Test-best 20.

Fast bowler Allan Donald wrapped up the innings after lunch to finish with figures of four for 69.

Sinclair was caught at mid-wicket off a slower ball from Donald after batting for 407 minutes. He faced 321 balls and hit 23 fours and a six.

Sinclair became the first New Zealander to score a century in nine Tests against South Africa since the host country's isolation from world cricket ended in 1991.

The previous hundred for New Zealand was by Barry Sinclair in Auckland in 1963/64 when Peter Pollock, father of current captain Shaun, was a fast bowler for South Africa. The two Sinclairs are unrelated.

The previous highest score by a New Zealander in all Tests against South Africa was 142 by John Reid in Johannesburg in 1961/62.

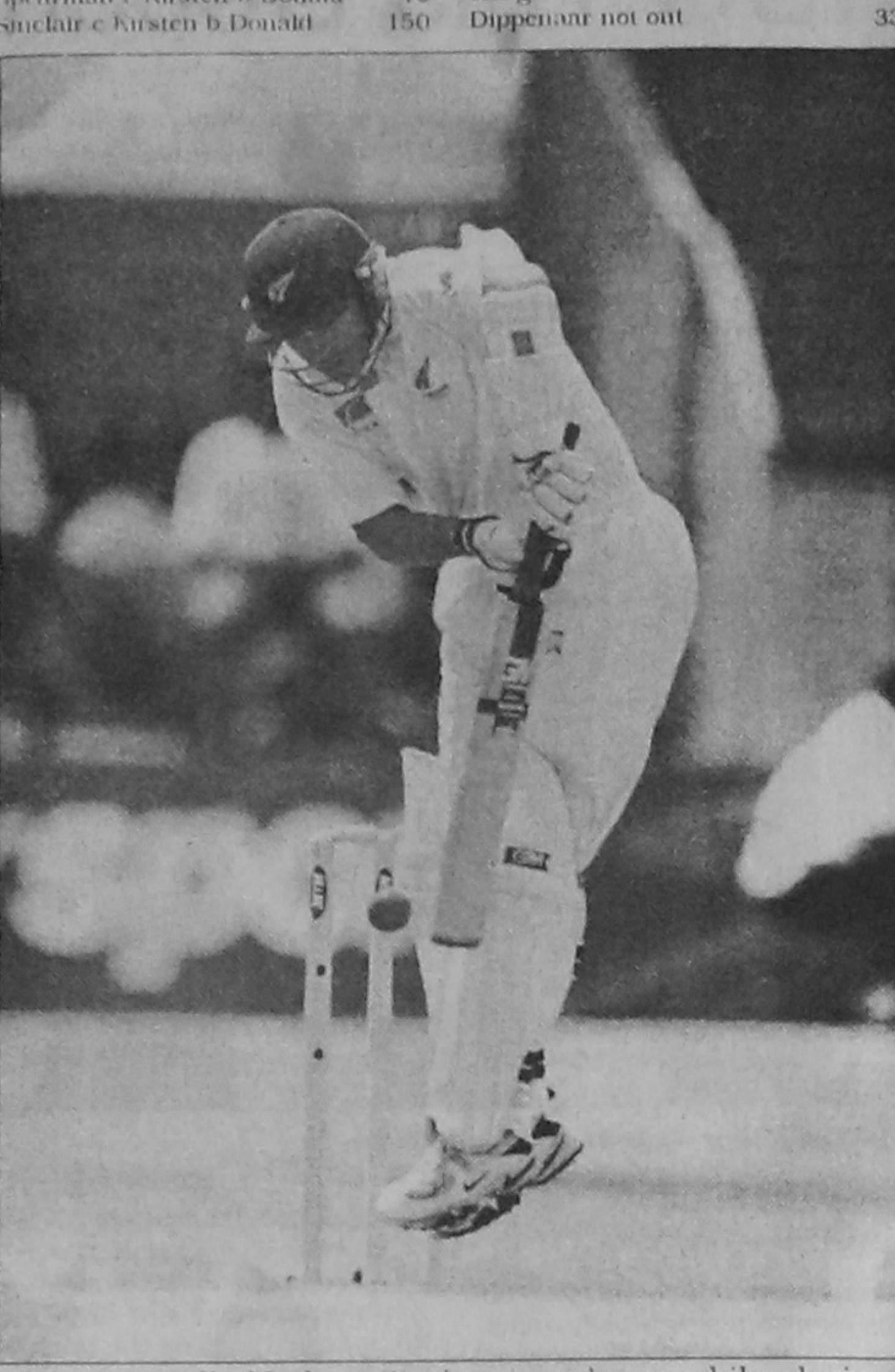
Two dropped catches by Lance Klusener in the slips cost South Africa dearly. O'Connor was dropped off Pollock when he had five and the total was 215 and Sinclair was given a life on 121 off Kallis.

Sinclair reached his second Test century after batting for 304 minutes and facing 236 balls. He hit 17 fours. His previous century was 214 on debut against the West Indies in Wellington last December.

Gary Kirsten and Boda Dippenaar started cautiously against some fiery bowling by O'Connor and Chris Martin. They posted a 50 partnership in the 19th over.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the



New Zealand's Mathew Sinclair is airborne while playing defensively on the first day of the second Test against South Africa in Port Elizabeth on November 30. Sinclair scored 150, a Kiwi record against South Africa. —AFP photo

	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Donald	26.3	2	69	4	
Pollock	32	15	64	4	
Kallis	21	8	44	1	
Ntini	22	7	59	1	
Klusener	6	2	8	0	
Boje	19	5	45	0	
SOUTH AFRICA:	First				
Dippenaar not out					33

Matthaeus eying UAE move

MUNICH, Germany, Dec 1: German footballing legend Lothar Matthaeus looks set to play on and on and on as he admitted on Thursday he could well accept an offer from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, reports AFP.

The 39-year-old, capped a world record 150 times but who looked a shadow of the player he once was in Euro 2000, also revealed that he had turned down offers from an English Premiership outfit as well as from France once it was learned that his contract with MLS club New York/New Jersey MetroStars would not be renewed.

The offer from Dubai will allow me to play from January till May," the 1990 World Cup winning captain.

However, Matthaeus, who did not start his American adventure well when he claimed the MetroStars players were only of amateur quality and needed to raise their game, ruled out a return to the Bundesliga.

"I will not be playing in the Bundesliga again," he said.

UEFA boss behind Eriksson

SEOUL, Dec 1: UEFA president Lennart Johansson has hit out at critics of England's new foreign coach Sven-Goran Eriksson, reports AFP.

Johansson said in a newspaper interview, to be released Saturday that he was "astonished" at attacks on his fellow Swede.

Since Eriksson was named as England's coach on October 31, to replace Kevin Keegan, there have been several attacks on him by high profile figures who have said the job should have gone to an Englishman.

"I must say, with all respect, that I am very astonished at the attitude of the majority of those who have published their opinions," Johansson said in an interview with the Korea Times. The UEFA boss has been attending a seminar on the 2002 World Cup finals on the Korean resort island of Cheju.

"Of course I am a Swede and Sven-Goran Eriksson is a Swede, but the English accept their players playing in Italy, Spain and wherever," he was quoted as saying.

There are Argentine, Spanish and Italian players in England. They accept having French coaches, Italian coaches and what have you in their clubs.

"But with the national team they react to having a foreigner as coach by not giving him a chance first to see what he can do," Johansson said.

Eriksson strongly defended Eriksson saying he had known the coach since he first started.

"He has formed teams, tactics and spirit such as with Gothenburg who won two major trophies for the first time ever. He also did very well with Benfica and in Italy," added the UEFA boss.

—By AP

Hatakeyama to fight American

TOKYO, Dec 1: World Boxing Association lightweight champion Takanori Hatakeyama of Japan will take on American Rick Roberts here on February 17, his manager said Thursday.

In Adelaide, three wickets to fall on Day One in reply to NSW's first innings of 226, WA had rocketed to 1-37 in 36 minutes with Ryan Campbell on 30 and Simon Katch on one.

Captain Shane Lee won the toss and batted, but Brett Van Dein (3), Greg Mail (3), Michael Bevan (2), Corey Richards (7) and Shane Lee (26) failed early.

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But Haddan cracked 87, including 14 fours and a six into North Sydney Oval's famous fig tree, in a 114-run partnership with Mark Higgs (34) that guided the Blues to a respectable total.

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