

Iran Participates In Dubai Chess Championship

DUBAI, UAE, July 5- Islamic Republic of Iran's teen-aged chess masters are competing at 7th Dubai Open Chess Championship, Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan ale-Maktoum Cup.

According to IRNA some 122 champions from 14 countries are competing in 10, 12 and 14-year-old categories of this year's games.

The games are organized in nine rounds, Swiss method, and Islamic Republic of Iran's Young Adults National Chess Team is fielding 20 male and

female champions--the second largest number of participants at the international event next to the host, UAE.

The United Arab Emirates has entered some 60 male and female contestants at the games while the third highest number is that of India with 12 young chess masters, some of whom have come to Dubai from the United States where they are studying or residing.

The opening ceremony of the international event, attended by Secretary General of

UAE's Sports and Youth Organization Sultan Saqar al-Suwaidi and Head of UAE's Chess Federation Ibrahim al-Banaa was held here on Monday evening.

According to the organizing committee of the games, Australia, Britain, and the United States are participating at the championship for the first time. The cash award for each age group in this year's games is \$10,000 and the top three winners at each age group would also take home the related cups.

Galindo, Carmona Banned On Doping Charges

MEXICO CITY, July 5-The Mexican Football Federation has handed out one-year bans to a pair of international defenders after they were expelled from last month's Confederations Cup in Germany for doping offences, Reuters said. "The organization decided to suspend Salvador Carmona and Aaron Galindo from all sporting activity con-

trolled by the Mexican Football Federation for the period of one year, as of today," general secretary Decio de Maria said on Monday.

The pair tested positive for a derivative of nandrolone, a banned anabolic steroid.

Carmona, 29, is an established international who went to the last two World Cups, while the 23-year-old Galindo

played in the Confederations Cup as a replacement for injured Barcelona defender Rafael Marquez.

They had helped Mexico beat Japan 2-1 and upset Brazil 1-0 in the tournament in Germany.

FIFA had ordered the Mexican federation to deliver a full report soon and impose punishment if appropriate.

LONDON, July 5- Chelsea have made a British record 32 million pounds (\$56.28 million) bid for Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard, British newspapers reported on Tuesday, Reuters reported.

The offer from the Premier League champions to prise the inspirational England midfielder away from his hometown club could rise to 35 million pounds depending on future honors.

That would eclipse the 29.1 million pounds Manchester United paid to Leeds United for England defender Rio Ferdinand in 2002.

Real Madrid are also

rumored to be waiting in the wings.

Liverpool are reported to have responded to a breakdown in talks with Gerrard over the weekend by offering him a two-year contract extension to 2009 on 100,000 pounds a week.

This belatedly matches the package Gerrard was said to be looking for when contract negotiations opened last Wednesday.

The 25-year-old is thinking over the proposal made at the club's Melwood training ground after the club held talks with Gerrard and his agent Struan Marshall on Monday.

Liverpool chairman

David Moores and chief executive Rick Parry were reported to have left a scheduled board meeting at Anfield to join manager Rafael Benitez at the training ground.

They met Gerrard and his representative after the players' second training session to try to persuade him to stay at Liverpool, who he led to Champions League success in May.

Gerrard was tight-lipped as he left Melwood on Monday after discussions with Benitez, who earlier told a news conference he wanted the midfielder to stay for the rest of his career and also said the player should become



Steven Gerrard

Liverpool's next manager.

The uncertainty surrounding Gerrard's future comes as the club start

preparing to face Welsh part-timers TNS in their Champions League first round qualifier on July 13.

Chelsea Make Record Bid for Gerrard

Boonen Blasts Sprinters

TOURS, France, July 5-Belgian ace Tom Boonen unleashed another powerful sprint to blow away his rivals and win the third stage of the Tour de France held over 212.5km between La Chataigneraie and here Monday, AFP reported.

Quick Step rider Boonen held off Austrian Peter Wrolich of the Gerolsteiner team and Australian Robbie McEwen before throwing his arms into the air in triumph to claim his second stage of this year's race and his fourth overall.

Australian champion McEwen was later disqualified for leaning into compatriot Stuart

O'Grady, and the Cofidis rider moved up from fourth to third place for the stage.

"It was a bit too much really, too aggressive," said O'Grady of his compatriot's move.

"I was heading towards the line and then I suddenly saw Robbie McEwen's head on my shoulder."

American David Zabriskie meanwhile spent his third day in the race leader's yellow jersey, and got a friendly nudge from six-time winner Lance Armstrong.

The 26-year-old from Salt Lake City admitted however that his CSC team, who are no slouches at the event, would be

giving their all in the 67.5km race from Tours to Blois.

"I'm looking forward to the time trial, and everyone on the team is good at that event," said Zabriskie, whose zany sense of humor has had most people on the Tour either in fits of laughter, or frustration.

The team time trial is something that Armstrong, and his former team US Postal, have mastered several times in the past, including last year.

Barcelona to Play Friendlies in Denmark

MADRID, Spain, July 5-Spanish champions Barcelona will play two friendlies in Denmark before embarking on a tour of Asia, the club said on Monday, Reuters reported.

Frank Rijkaard's side, who will spend six days training in Aarhus between July 20-26, meet a selected side from the Danish second division on July 23, and then play AGF Aarhus on July 25.

A tour of Asia is expected to start on July 28 with one game already confirmed against Chinese side Shenzhen Jianlibao in Macao on August 3.

Barca play Real Betis in the Spanish Supercup on August 13 and 20, and host Italian champions Juventus in the Joan Gamper trophy on August 24 before the Primera Liga season starts again on the weekend August 27-28.

Philippoussis Out of Australia Davis Cup

SYDNEY, Australia, July 5-Mark Philippoussis has been ruled out of Australia's Davis Cup quarter-final against Argentina this month because of an ankle injury, with Peter Luczak called into the team to replace him, Reuters reported.

World number two Lleyton Hewitt and Davis Cup veteran Wayne Arthurs will likely shoulder most of the burden after the loss of Philippoussis and the retirement of record-breaking doubles player Todd Woodbridge.

The 28-year-old Philippoussis had not recovered from the ankle tendon injury he suffered during Wimbledon, Australia's Davis Cup captain John Fitzgerald said on Tuesday.

Philippoussis, a former Wimbledon and US Open runner-up, has slumped to 208 in the rankings and was beaten in the second round

of Wimbledon last month by Russian Marat Safin.

Fitzgerald has now turned to Australia's third-ranked player, world number 147 Luczak, for the tie, to be played on grass at the Sydney Olympic tennis centre from July 15-17.

Luczak comes in alongside world number 183 Chris Guccione, who made his first Davis Cup appearance in Australia's 5-1 defeat of Austria in the first round in March.

"With Todd Woodbridge's recent retirement from tennis and Mark Philippoussis not fit, the door has opened for Peter Luczak and Chris Guccione to step up into the Australia side," Fitzgerald said.

Australia faces a difficult tie against an Argentina team including world number 10 David Nalbandian, number 12 Mariano Puerta and 15th-ranked Guillermo Coria.



Mark Philippoussis

LONDON, July 5- Williams have praised Mark Webber for showing 'real Aussie grit' in racing through the pain barrier in Sunday's French Grand Prix, Reuters reported.

The Australian Formula One driver needed medical treatment after the race at Magny-Cours for burns to his right hip which the team said had been exposed to air temperatures of up to 80 degrees Celsius.

"He showed real Aussie grit and got on with the job despite circumstances that would, I'm sure, have seen most of the other drivers on the grid quit," said a team spokesman on Monday.

"We weren't as a team having the best of weekends which made Mark's commitment all the more remarkable. His attitude is representative of the whole team--we are 100 percent committed and if you have the courage to stick to your gameplan, it can pay dividends."

By remaining out on the track, Webber made sure of a reasonable start-



Williams Praise Webber

Australian BMW-Williams driver Mark Webber steers his car during the fourth free practice session on the eve of the Grand Prix of France, in Magny-Cours, France on July 2. (AFP Photo)

formance of the season, at a track where they have been highly successful in previous years.

Germany's Nick Heidfeld was 14th and the former champions failed to score points at the circuit for the first time since they won the debut race there in 1991 with Briton Nigel Mansell.

ing position in qualifying for the next British Grand Prix on Sunday by finishing 12th.

"Yes, it was pretty uncomfortable," said the Australian, who asked his mechanics to pour water around his seat at the pit-stops.

"But I got through it because I wanted a qualifying slot next weekend at Silverstone. It hurts a fair bit, but there's no question of it stopping me racing next weekend."

The team said a small component in the cockpit had failed and a solution would be in place for Silverstone.

The French Grand Prix was Williams' worst performance of the season, at a track where they have been highly successful in previous years.

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Senegal Names New Sports Minister

DAKAR, Senegal, July 5-Senegal named a new sports minister on Monday almost two weeks after his predecessor was sacked following the national team's weak showing in a World Cup qualifier, Reuters said.

President Abdoulaye Wade named Daouda Faye, a businessman known in Senegal for helping organize the

African Nations Cup in the West African country in 1992, for the job, a sports ministry official told Reuters.

Wade fired the previous sports minister, Youssoupha Ndiaye, last month following heavy criticism of the 2-2 draw with Togo on June 18, which jeopardized Senegal's chances of reaching the 2006 World Cup. The team's

French coach Guy Stephan was also sacked.

The draw with Group One leaders Togo left Senegal third in the standings, two points adrift of their opponents and a point behind Zambia with two matches left in the race to reach next year's finals in Germany.

Only the winners from the five African zone

groups will qualify for the finals.

Senegal beat former colonial power France, who were the world champions, in the opening game of the 2002 World Cup on their way to the quarterfinals. The victory brought thousands of people on to Dakar's streets, some of them slaughtering chickens in frenzied celebration.

Robredo Through to 2nd Round

BASTAD, Sweden, July 5-Third seed Tommy Robredo eased through to the Swedish Open second round on Monday with a 7-5 6-0 win over Czech Michal Tabara, Reuters reported.

The Spaniard, a French Open quarterfinalist this year, will face the winner of the encounter between doubles specialist Jonas Bjorkman and French hope Gael Monfils.

Home favorite Andreas

Vinciguerra, a finalist on the Swedish clay in 1999 and 2000, won his first ATP match in nearly two years when he ousted compatriot Michael Rysderstedt 6-3 6-1.

French Open champion and top seed Rafael

Nadal takes on Argentine Juan Monaco, his doubles partner at the tournament, on Tuesday.

Nadal's fellow Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero plays Czech qualifier Lukas Dlouhy.

Islamic Republic of Iran's Ports and Shipping Organization

Tender Notice

Ports and Shipping Organization (PSO) intends to assign the implementation of a part of Phase One of the development of Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar to eligible consortia based on a contract in the EPC or finance mode. The development project will include:

1. - Extension of breakwater by approximately 1,500m
2. - Construction of a pier approximately 1,800m in length
3. - Dredging approximately 15 million cubic meters
4. - Reclamation and restoration of 200 hectares of land
5. - Site development and establishing port facilities
6. - Purchasing, installing, commissioning operational facilities and navigational aid

All interested companies with successful experience in similar projects and able to secure the required finance for the development project (estimated at \$400 million) are hereby invited to obtain the tender documents from the Management of Chabahar Development Project (Khakbaft Company) located at 2nd Southern Apt., 15, Falsafi Alley, Shariati Street (further up from Mirdamad St.), Tehran, Iran, by July 16, 2005.

Fax: 2264001

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Management of Chabahar Development Project

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