

## **Heskey too** nice!

AFP, Liverpool

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier has told his slumbering giant Emile Heskey to wake up and start throwing his weight around.

"Emile is one of the most powerful players in the entire country and when it all comes together there is no stopping him," Houllier said before Liverpool's League Cup semi-final with Sheffield United late Wednesday.

"Sometimes you have to push him a bit. Maybe he is just too nice a guy. I said to him recently that he was a sleeping giant and he did not argue," Houllier added.

"He knows that is the case. It is worth remembering that he does contribute, even when he is not scoring. He makes goals with challenges and opens up situations for team-mates

"He is also still young but he does need to promote himself a bit

Heskey, who turns 25 on Saturday, has managed only one Premiership goal all season but Houllier feels there are extenuating circumstances.

"He has been hampered by injury and the aftermath of the World Cup." the Frenchman said.

"He is one of those very unselfish players who likes to play for the team, and that is no bad thing. But he could do with pushing himself forward a bit.'

Heskey's scoring skills were in demand as England striker Michael Owen was expected to miss his third match in a row Wednesday.

Owen has been troubled by a hamstring injury which has caused him to sit out the FA Cup victory against Manchester City and the league defeat by Newcastle on New Year's Day.

4 28 1

### Barisal

Nadif	28	9	62	5		
Arman	18.4	7	31	2		
Pijush	11	2	57	0		
Nahidul	2	1	3	1		
BARISAL: Second innings						
Imran b Parv	ez		į	57		
Sadik c Mabud b Ejaj 4						
Nayan c Mabud b Rezaul 0						
Nahidul c Imtiaz b Rezaul 21						
Towhid Ibw b Rezaul				28		
Prosenjit run out				3		
Kamal c Mab		9				
Arman c Mabud b Rezaul				0		
Nadif run out				0		
Pijush batting				10		
Anisur batting				01		
Extras: (b-8, lb-1, nb-1, w-6)			) 1	6		
Total: (For 9 wkts in 78 overs) 169						
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-56, 3-95, 4-						
404 5 445 6	450 74		4-0	^		

134, 5-145, 6-152, 7-152, 8-152, 9-

158.					l
Bowler	0	M	R	W	
Rezaul	18	4	41	5	
Nasir	9	3	25	0	
Parvez	20	6	37	1	
Imran	12	4	29	0	
Ejaj	5	1	13	1	
Rajin	14	5	15	0	
					ı

### Zaheer zaps

fast bowler Javagal Srinath (2-24).

### **SCOREBOARD**

Complete scoreboard of the daynight fifth one-day international between India and New Zealand at the Westpac Stadium here on Wednesday

### **NEW ZEALAND**

Fleming c Dravid b Nehra	19
Astle Ibw b Zaheer	0
Sinclair b Zaheer	0
Harris Ibw Zaheer	1
Cairns b Srinath	25
Styris b Nehra	13
McCullum b Kumble	35
Adams c Kaif b Ganguly	35
Vettori not out	16
Tuffey b Srinath	4
Bond Ibw b Kumble	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-7, nb-6, w-3)	20
Total: (All out in 42.4 overs)	168
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-0,	3-3, 4-

48, 5-51, 6-92, 7-140, 8-158, 9-167 0 M R Bowler Srinath 10 2 24 0 30 Zaheei Nehra 1 38 2 0 27 Ganguly 6 Kumble 9.4 0 38

Ganguly c McCullum b Tuffey 45 Sehwag c Fleming b Styris Mongia b Bond Tendulkar Ibw b Bond Dravid c McCullum b Stvris Yuvraj c Harris b Vettori 54 Kaif c Fleming b Adams Kumble hit wkt b Adams

34 Zaheer not out Srinath not out Extras: (lb-5, nb-2, w-16)

Total: (For 8 wkts in 43.2 overs) 169

10

10

Result: India won by two wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Zaheer Khan.

Sixth match: Jan 11. Auckland.

66, 5-91, 6-114, 7-116, 8-160.

Bowler

Tuffey

Bond

Styris

Vettori

Adams

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-19, 3-25, 4-

M R

2 40

47

29

14

0 34

0

1

balls before he was bowled in lan Blackwell's first over.

change came through, threatening

Whitney 47 Bradstreet Thornlev 30 30 MacGill 0 49 Katich 0 11 **BRADMAN XI** 

Bowler

Bollinger



# Ponting wary of Murali

## Tri-series resumes today

Development side during a practice match at BKSP yesterday.

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian one-day captain Ricky Ponting Wednesday rated controversial Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan the world's best bowler.

And Ponting admitted he did not know how to play the little wizard who has been no-balled for throwing on previous Australian tours.

Recovered from injury, Muralitharan is expected to be back in the firing line Thursday when his country take on Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground in a tri-nation series one-day clash. Ponting forecast Muralitharan's

return would spell danger for the rest of the Sri Lankan bowling attack, with Australia set to target his team-mates Ponting conceded his team-

mates were likely to take a softly, softly approach with the Sri Lankan talisman and wield the big stick on the rest of the tourists' bowling. Asked how Australia would play

Muralitharan, Ponting replied: "Who knows? I think just knowing how important a player he is for their side, you negate him as much as you can and try to score off the other "He might be bowling very well

and back into his stride tomorrow. If he is, it's going to be very hard for any of our batsmen to get on top of him."

Muralitharan has been a highprofile spectator on Sri Lanka's tour

so far after undergoing a hernia operation. He has been sorely

The Sri Lankans have lurched from one disaster to another in his absence, culminating in Tuesday's embarrassing capitulation against

But his return will give the struggling tourists an instant shot in the

"The world's best bowler coming back into any side is going to help them, probably more so for Sri Lanka," Ponting said. "They really feed off him and run

His return also ensures Ponting will take few risks with his batting line-up, despite the need for Michael

Bevan and Damien Martyn to spend some time at the crease "Bevo and probably Marto haven't had much of a hit in the first few games, that probably won't happen

tomorrow either," Ponting said. "We have to look to the World Cup as well. Shuffling the batting order around now is probably not going to do much for the guys when the World Cup comes around, because it's going to be a settled and balanced

line-up in the World Cup team." The Sri Lankans, on the other hand, have been afflicted with

batting collapses this summer. Their tour reached its lowest ebb Tuesday as they were bundled out for 65 by Australia A at Adelaide Oval.

'You can't just say it was one of those days because the batting has been the problem since we came here," captain Sanath Jayasuriya

"The batting is not consistent enough. All the batsmen are going through a bit of a patch at the moment.

Their dismal form has left them needing to make history to qualify for the tri-series finals.

No team have ever lost their opening three games and qualified for the finals of the Australian limited-overs contest, but Muralitharan's return is a good start.

"The last few days he's been bowling a lot," Jayasuriya said. "He has been the match-winning bowler for Sri Lankan cricket and he can do lots of things to change a match. "When he comes to the team it's

a big difference Whether it's big enough to over-

come the in-form Australians is another question At least the Sri Lankans confront an Australian side missing strike

bowlers Glenn McGrath (side strain), Shane Warne (shoulder) and Jason Gillespie (elbow). Their absence has thrown pressure on the shoulders of pace pair

Brett Lee and Andy Bichel, who will lead an understrength attack

### **TEAMS**

AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist, Michael Bevan, Andrew Bichel, Matthew Hayden, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Darren Lehmann, Jimmy Maher, Damien Martyn, Andrew Symonds, Shane Watson (12th man to be named). SRI LANKA: to be named.

Haddin b Hoggard

Katich b Blackwell

Cox Ibw b Hollioake

Extras: (lb-11, w-12, nb-4)

Total: (For 4 wkts in 46.3 overs)285

0

10 2 60

10

0.3 0

Result: Bradman XI won by six

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-62, 3-86, 4-

Waugh not out

Mail not out

Bowler

Kirtley

Snape

Irani

Knight

Hoggard

Anderson

Blackwell

Hollioake

108

27

R

49

38

0 25

0 24

0 48

0 24

# Bradman XI too beat Eng

## Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Former Australian batting star Mark Waugh Wednesday led Bradman XI to a six-wicket victory over England in a one-day cricket clash at Bowral New South Wales.

Defying poor light and playing through mist, Waugh crafted an unbeaten 108 to lead the Bradman XI to 285 for four wickets in 46.3 overs in reply to England's 279 for eight wickets off their 50 overs. Delighting an enthusiastic coun-

try crowd, Waugh brought up his century with a six over extra cover.

He faced only 92 balls and hit four sixes and seven fours in his match-winning exhibition.

In near darkness, Waugh wrapped up the festival match with another six. It was Waugh's first century since

he forged to three figures in Durham last year ahead of his final tour in Australian colours, against Pakistan in Colombo and Sharjah. He was then dropped from the

Test side two months ago and announced his retirement from international cricket. "I still think I'm good enough to

play international cricket," Waugh

"That's probably the hard bit (about being dropped). I'd love to be at the World Cup. I think I'm still good enough for that, but that's just the way the cards have fallen, with so much strength and depth in Australian cricket, I'm not there." Waugh, batting down the order,

starred after former Test opener Michael Slater lasted just three balls before he was bowled by Matthew Hoggard for a duck to give his side a Hoggard also bowled Brad

Haddin (28) in an accurate opening Simon Katich made 36 off 47

That paved the way for Waugh to enter the fray just as a southerly

Conditions darkened and the temperature dropped but rain stayed away long enough for Waugh to unfurl superb strokes,

three sixes and three

He and Tasmanian Jamie Cox forged a century stand from 93 balls, as Waugh's team reached 200 for three wickets in the 33rd over. Cox (49) hit five fours and a six in

his 60-ball stay. Earlier, Owais Shah -- overlooked by England for the World Cup starting next month -- scored

127 to anchor England's innings. Opening the innings, Shah survived a tough early period, and was dismissed in the 48th over after

facing 154 balls. He hit nine fours and two sixes before he was caught on the boundary by Stuart MacGill off part-time bowler Greg Mail, who bowled at the end of the innings for an impressive

return of 2-11 from three overs. Shah needed 81 balls to reach 50, but scored his last 77 runs off 73 balls. England blasted 91 runs off the final 10 overs, thanks mainly to Shah and Adam Hollioake, who hit a quick half-century to add 105 off 83

England left out the bulk of their Test players, with Robert Key and Hoggard the only players from the victorious fifth Test side backing up two days later.

### **SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at end of England-Bradman X1 one-day cricket tour match at Bowral, New South Wales, on Wednesday: **ENGLAND** Shah c MacGill b Mail 127

Knight c Katich b Thornley 13 Irani Ibw b Thornley Collingwood run out Blackwell b Katich Hollioake run out Snape b Mail Key run out Kirtley not out Hoggard not out Extras: (b-5, lb-3, nb-5, w-4) Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 279 Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-122, 3-134, 4-142, 5-247, 6-262, 7-271, 8-

Gillingham recovered from conced-60 44

Gillingham's victory set up a lucrative fourth round tie at home to Premiership side Leeds United. Wednesday took a fourth minute lead through Gerald Sibon but then saw Gillingham striker Marlon King

## ECB has no way out

REUTERS, London

SPÖRT

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is in a no-win situation ahead of talks with the government on Thursday to discuss England's participation in a World Cup match in Zimbabwe

If the ECB agrees with the government and boycotts the February 13 game in Harare, England will forfeit two points and lose millions of pounds. But if it chooses to play the game it could be accused of endorsing Robert Mugabe's leadership. The ECB has been put under

increasing pressure to boycott the match following Mugabe's controversial land reform programme, his hardline tactics against opponents during his March re-election victory and food shortages that have left his country close to starvation. Several England players and

ECB officials have said that if the decision to boycott the Zimbabwe game is a political one then it should be taken by the government, not a sporting body.

But while the British government has said it is strongly opposed to England playing in Harare, it has also maintained that it cannot make the final decision.

"We cannot order the ECB not to go to Zimbabwe, but we have asked them not to," Foreign Office minister Mike O'Brien said in a statement. "The final decision must rest with

"Our opinion is clear. Given the abuse of human rights and the dire circumstances of the people of Zimbabwe, it would be wrong to play a game of cricket there."

The International Cricket Council (ICC) says it has a contingency plan to move games away from Zimbabwe, almost certainly to South Africa, but still intends to play there after an inspection of the country said players would be safe.

The government will be represented by Sports Minister Tessa Jowell and Foreign Office Minister Baroness Amos in Thursday's

#### We're not

FROM PAGE 13

last three months. Also don't forget the Maldives who are improving with every game," said the balding Constantine.

Besides, he did not discount the threat of Pakistan against whom India play the tournament opener on Friday.

"Pakistan on their day can be a match for anybody," he said.

He rather considered Bangladesh would be the team to beat as they have home advantage despite their recent 3-0 loss to India at the Busan Asian Games.

Constantine had earlier visited Bangladesh when Nepal featured in the Bangabandhu Cup in 1999. The Indians chose to stay

indoors instead of practising in the cold. They will train Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium this morning. Earlier, Indian's bitter rival

Pakistan arrived the capital. But for the Pakistanis their only order of business is beating their old foes on the football field, which they last achieved in the 1995 SAARC Gold

It goes without saying this match in particular will bring both teams together at least for 90 minutes. New Delhi maintains a no sporting link policy with Islamabad.

Asked to comment on Bhutia's not playing here, the Pakistan coach Tario Lutfi said that he was not aware of it.

"We always enjoy our rivalry with India on the field. I think it will be a good contest," he said adding that his squad contained five players including long-serving captain Haroon Yousuf that took part in Goa. Lutfi. 31. said that his players had spent four weeks in training but did not play any warm-up matches.

## Whitewash

question Nasser's captaincy.

"I just can't believe someone like

Botham can go so hard on Nasser. I

don't think Botham won one Test as

captain," explained Hussain, who

played first-class cricket in his

native India and now runs an indoor

cricket school in Essex, eastern

Nasser Hussain has said he will

discuss his future with the England

selectors after the World Cup which

begins next month in South Africa

although rumours persist he has

already decided to resign the cap-

Meanwhile England coach

Duncan Fletcher, who wants

Hussain to stay on as captain, said

the Sydney victory would bolster his

"This win was pretty crucial for

"At times he was under pres-

"You've got to have a win some-

sure. But he played so well. He won

an important game for England

where along the line. You can't just

taincy after the tournament.

FROM PAGE 13

England.

self-belief

him," Fletcher said.

through his captaincy.

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

**SWID** sports

A sports competition of the intellectually disabled students of Ramna branch of Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled (SWID), Bangladesh was held at Khilgaon Government High School ground on January 3.

About 200 participants took part in the competition. A cultural function was held after the meet. Afroz Rahim, chairman of

Rahimafroz (Bangladesh) Limited attended the function as chief guest.

### FA Cup Gillingham set up Leeds meeting AFP, London

ing an early goal to beat fellow First Division side Sheffield Wednesday 4-1 in the third round of the FA Cup at the Priestfield Stadium on Tuesday.

keep captaining and losing, losing and still enjoy the job," former Zimbabwe captain Fletcher added. "To win like that and to win so convincingly must have given him a lot of confidence.

## **English League Cup**

## Rovers keep MU in check

Football

AFP, Manchester

English League Cup holders Blackburn Rovers' hopes of a succesful defence of their title were still alive after a 1-1 draw with Manchester United in the first leg of this season's semi-final here at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

England midfielder Paul Scholes gave United a second-half lead with his third goal in successive matches and 10th of the season in this all-Premiership clash. But minutes later David

Thompson equalised with what could turn out to be a valuable away goal - the first goal United had conceded in the competition this season - and was only the third time Uunited had failed to win at home in 21 matches this season.

The result stretched United's unbeaten run in domestic Cup semifinals under Alex Ferguson to 16 matches but that would have been little consolation for the Scot as his side failed to take their chances. The second leg takes place at

Ewood Park on January 22.

First Division Sheffield United face Liverpool in the first leg of the other semi-final at Bramall Lane on Wednesday

After a disappointing first half, United took the lead in the 58th

Argentina international Juan Sebastian Veron's long-range freekick picked out Ruud van Nistelrooy.

He found England captain David Beckham out on the right wing. Beckham's low centre across the face of goal was too hot to handle for Blackburn's American keeper Brad

Friedel and he spilt it straight into the

path of the onrushing Scholes who

bundled home from barely a yard But in the 61st minute Rovers

were level Former United winger Keith Gillespie, on as a substitute, crossed from the right and the unmarked Thompson powered

home a header. Gillespie himself almost scored with nine minutes remaining. Another United old boy Dwight Yorke, playing up front with fellow ex-United striker Andy Cole, saw his shot blocked.

United failed to clear the danger and what looked like a centre from Northern Ireland international Gillespie had to be headed off the line by United centre-back Wes Brown

And in the 87th minute Blackburn might have had a penalty when Australian midfielder Lucas Neill went down in the box under a challenge from United's France defender Mikael Silvestre

But referee Uriah Rennie was so unimpressed he not only rejected

the penalty appeals but also booked Neill for diving which rules him out of

the second leg. United though almost won the match in stoppage time when substitute striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer saw his shot chested off the line by Rovers' teenage defender James

McEveley. United ought to have taken the lead in the 54th minute through van Nistelrooy but the Dutch forward ballooned the ball over from barely five yards out from Beckham's inviting cross

Despite fielding his strongest available side, in a competiton where he has frequently put out weakened teams, Ferguson saw his men create just one clear chance in the first half - and that was in stop-

However, van Nistelrooy's strike from six yards was comfortably saved by Friedel. Earlier Neill forced United keeper

Fabien Barthez to punch away his 20 vard strike. Barthez was one of four United

changes to the team that beat Portsmouth 4-1 in the third round of the FA Cup on Saturday. Veron was back in midfield alongside Phil Neville with Scholes

and Brown also returning. But midfield dynamo Roy Keane was absent after sustaining a hamstring strain against Portsmouth.

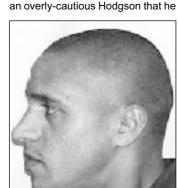
## Carlos' Italy thoughts

Football

AFP, Rome Real Madrid's explosive wing-back Roberto Carlos would like to finish his career at Inter Milan where he spent one season before moving to Spain, the Brazilian World Cup winner told an Italian sports news-

paper here Wednesday. The 29-year-old played for Inter during the 1995/96 season during which he scored six goals in 30 appearances, but was sold after falling out with Inter's former English coach Roy Hodgson.

Carlos told the Gazzetta dello Sport: "For the next two years I will definitely stay at Real Madrid. Then perhaps (Inter president Massimo) Moratti and (Real Madrid president Florentino) Perez could reach an agreement. I would happily end my



**ROBERTO CARLOS** 

should defend more. "I played well in Italy that year but in Italy the mentality is different," he

"A full-back is not supposed to drive forward like I do and this he was sad to leave the San Siro, but couldn't cope with being told by complicated things. "I enjoyed life in Milan and had a good rapport with Hodgson and Moratti.

> Carlos revealed his sadness at playing for Inter for the last time almost seven years ago.

> I signed for Real because they

They simply made a choice and

"I enjoyed my time there and felt upset when I had to leave them," he said. "I remember after my last match

at the San Siro. I took my car towards my home in Como. "As I left the stadium slowly, I saw loads of kids outside waiting for me, many of them wearing my number

six shirt. "They ran after me as I drove

away. It was wonderful." Since arriving at the Bernabeu, Carlos has won three Champions League titles and two league cham-

Who else but

Italian official Pierluigi Collina was

Milton Nielsen, who came in third

"The year 2002 was an extraordi-

nary year for me, but now I am just

pionships with Real.

Collina!

## Giggs understands fan reaction

Football

still behind him.

AFP, Manchester Star Welsh winger Ryan Giggs, who only last month turned down a move to Inter Milan, believes the real Manchester United fans are

The 28-year-old has fallen out of favour with the Old Trafford fans who cheered when he was substituted during Manchester United's League Cup semi-final draw against Blackburn on

getting criticised is that this season, and maybe last, my performances have been better away from home," Giggs said. He agreed with Roy Keane who claimed the real fans were

"Probably the main reason I'm

the ones that travelled to away

"I never get stick off the fans who go to games week in, week out," Giggs claimed.

"Perhaps my biggest critics CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 36 Thanks-DOWN 1 Gladstone, 1 Smile from 24Ms. giving veggie 37 "So that's e.g. 4 Rock ear to ear

your game

48 Well-bred

bloke

equipment 8 Spring-38 Nabors series 45 Revion sobriquet 12 Mound stat 46 Fellows 13 Cartoonist 47 "Mission: Impossible 14 Last 2" director

concert

writes?

15 Football

filling 49 Robert 16 Blood 50 Sort hound's 51 "Puppy clue Love' 17 Swain singer 18 Young 52 Lawless character series 21 Pismire 53 "Holy

33 Uncivilized

34 Massachu-

35 Not these

22 Road 23 Explode 26 Internet branch 27 Speed 30 Uncontrol 31 Scoundrel 32 Dorothy's dog

Solution time: 23 mins.

are the Old Trafford season ticket-holders because maybe have not been producing my best

producing my best form away and that is a lot harder to do. "The fans pay their money and expect something special every

form at home

always possible." Giggs has made 520 appearances for Manchester United since making his debut in 1990. Nicky Butt, who has not

round match against West Ham United on Jan 25. "I have slowly being upping and upping the training and I will be doing some football work on Thursday and then full training

"I have to be careful because

if it flares up again I could be out

for another two or three months."

looking forward to the next 12 played since damaging his ankle months," Collina said. playing for England against "I am obviously very proud to be Macedonia in October, hopes to named as the best referee. It is a return for United's FA Cup fourthclear signal that I am well respected,

> Collina said his proudest moment came last year in Yokohama, Japan when he refereed the World Cup final.

but this honour is also testimony to

the good work done by the Italian

refereeing system."

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity," he said. "It was an honour that few referees in history have had the chance to experience.

## 23 Ingot Thurman 25 Go gently

on Monday," he said.

26 Bankroll 27 Menagerie 28 "Monty 5 Surround-Python opener 29 Master macabre 31 Intricate

stream

2 Met solo

co-star

4 Quantity

ings

aid

6 Blizzard

about

8 Canter-

9 Do as

11 Poker

19 Barrel

bury cop

kingdom

"Mr. Mom

34 Jam ingreyou're told 10 Mongkut's 35 Rachel Carson's "— Around Us" 36 Busybody 37 Bygone

32 Grand

38 Head over 39 It takes 40 Brother 41 Eli's 42 Hearty drink

43 Thwarte

game

44 Coal

in an ABC

**CRYPTOQUIP** KQJ RUDU DLIIUO Q

NJOUDRUQD, H TNUGG FLN KHTYV GQF

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals B

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error

IUUJOUIDHUZUO Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU FIND YOURSELF MISSING YOUR GOLF-BALL HOLDER, MIGHT THAT BE AN ABSENT-TEE?

byproduc

#### the fifth consecutive year by the International Federation of football history and statistics on Tuesday. "But I am quite happy that I am Collina, who took charge of last year's World Cup final between Brazil and West Germany, collected 222 points, finishing well clear of second-placed Urs Meier of time I touch the ball, but that isn't Switzerland and Denmark's Kim