

Ronaldo stories not Real

INTERNET, Madrid

Real Madrid have quashed reports that Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldo wants a move to Arsenal. Media reports had suggested Real were willing to let Ronaldo go after coach Vicente del Bosque labelled the striker 'selfish'. However, the club's press officer Joaquin Maroto read a statement to crush the transfer talk, saying: "Ronaldo did not make these declarations to the English paper. He never said anything of the sort. "And it would never enter his head to think that. Real Madrid completely support the player." Meanwhile Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vieira insisted on Friday that the reigning English Premiership champions don't need Ronaldo, after the Brazilian reportedly expressed his desire to join the club. The World Player of the Year joined Real from Inter Milan last year but has been criticised for failing to fit in at the Bernabeu. But Frenchman Vieira told BBC London: "We have Thierry Henry and at the moment he's better than Ronaldo. Thierry is fantastic for us so we don't need anybody else."

Ronaldo said he had become interested in a move to the Premiership after talking to his English team-mate at Real, Steve McManaman.

No hard feelings!

AFP, Munich

Germany captain and goalkeeper Oliver Kahn on Thursday apologized to Spanish opposite number Iker Casillas for refusing to swap shirts after their 3-1 international friendly defeat in Palma, Mallorca. Kahn was furious after Wednesday's match and refused the usual tradition of swapping shirts which drew strong criticism in the Spanish media. "I didn't mean to insult him (Casillas)," Kahn said. "In an attempt to say I'm sorry I will invite him to Munich for a training session." Casillas said he accepted the apology and fully understood Kahn was disappointed at the result.



BTV
Cricket World Cup 2003 Preliminary Round South Africa vs New Zealand Live at 1:45 pm

ESPN
Taking Guard Day 8 WC Cricket Talk Show Live at 1:00 pm
Follow Through Day 8 WC Cricket Programme Live at 10:00 pm
Football Asia Repeat at 12:30 pm
Taking Guard Day 8 WC Cricket Talk Show Live at 1:00 pm
Follow Through Day 8 WC Cricket Programme Live at 10:00 pm

Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 19

Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm Feb 22, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards.

- Name who became AFC's team of the month in January: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India
- Who finished first in the Prof Abdur Razzak 29th National Chess Championship qualifiers? Nasir, Aminul, Talbur
- Who clinched the Pan Pacific Open tennis title? Davenport, Hingis, Serena
- Bangladesh beat KwaZulu-Natal in their second World

Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No. _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (If any) _____

Keane bids bye

Football

AFP, London

Manchester United captain Roy Keane on Tuesday announced he was retiring from international football on medical advice.

The unexpected move, designed to prolong his club career, comes eight months after the tough-tackling midfielder walked out on Ireland's World Cup squad after a bust-up with then manager Mick McCarthy.

In a statement, Keane, 31, said he had been keen to resume playing for the Irish team under new boss Brian Kerr but had received "unequivocal medical advice" that he should cut down on the number of matches he plays.

Keane underwent hip surgery in September and only returned to action at the end of last year. United boss Alex Ferguson had made it clear he wanted Keane to give up playing for Ireland but Keane insisted it was the advice of doctors that had made up his mind.

"During a meeting with Brian Kerr last week he outlined to me his future plans for the Irish team," he said in his statement.

"It was my first meeting with Brian and I formulated the opinion

that the Irish team was in very capable hands. "It has always been my desire to play again for Ireland and following my meeting with Brian, I discussed in depth with my manager Alex



ROY KEANE

Ferguson, my wife and my immediate family the possibility of my return to international football.

"I also consulted with my medical team who operated upon my hip last September.

"The unequivocal advice given to me by my doctors was that I should not return (to international football).

"In the light of such advice I regret that I am compelled to confirm my retirement from international football.

"I am extremely grateful for all the support I have received in recent months and I am equally sorry that I am unable to play again for my country.

"I wish Brian and the players the best in the future. They will have my full support at all times," added Keane, whose injuries and controversy have often combined to prevent him from adding to his 58 caps.

A string of inspirational performances from Keane led Ireland to the 2002 World Cup at the expense of highly-rated Holland.

But his relationship with McCarthy had never been an easy one and the tensions between the two of them exploded at a pre-World Cup camp on the Pacific island of Saipan.

Enraged at the quality of the training pitch and equipment, Keane unleashed a violent tirade against the manager in a team meeting which left McCarthy with little option but to send him home.

McCarthy then led an Irish team lacking its best player into the second round of the tournament.

But his success failed to prevent him being blamed in many sections of the Irish media for the whole debacle and he finally quit his job in November.

Gil going to jail

REUTERS, Madrid

Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in jail and ordered to pay a fine of over 16 million euros (\$17.27 million) after being found guilty of misappropriation of funds and fraud by Spain's high court.

Gil will not have to serve the prison sentence while he still has the right to appeal to Spain's supreme court, a source at the high court told Reuters on Friday.

He will lose control of the club at least in the short term, though, after being told to hand over to the court his 267,000 Atletico Madrid shares, which make up around 95 percent of the club.

The court sentence relates to an investigation into Atletico Madrid's transformation into a public limited



JESUS GIL

company. Miguel Angel Gil, the president's son, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, while club director Enrique Cerezo was handed a one-year jail term in the same case.

Gil, president of Atletico Madrid for the last 16 years, has faced other recent legal troubles.

In a separate case last year, Gil was jailed and subsequently freed on bail of 700,000 euros (\$755,500) pending a criminal investigation into the alleged misappropriation of public funds.

Gil, then the mayor of Marbella, was jailed along with six co-defendants after he was accused of siphoning off 27 million euros of municipal funds and of falsifying a number of documents.

Sorry Sonn

FROM PAGE 16
tion and, if I offended anyone with my behaviour, I sincerely apologise," said Sonn.

"I apologise unconditionally, especially to all South Africans and to the world cricketing fraternity."

Latif goes

FROM PAGE 16
to Moir.

Controversy dogged Latif again during the 2003 World Cup when he was accused of making a racist remark by Australia's Adam Gilchrist when the two teams met in their opening group game.

The matter, however, was dealt with without any action being taken by either side.

He enjoyed a good Test and one-day career and is one of only a handful of keepers to have taken 100 catches at both Test and one-day level.

Taking no chances

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Facing up to the fearsome pace of Shaoh Akhtar and Wasim Akram is more likely to become a battle for self-preservation for Namibia on Sunday, but the Africans are simply happy to be appearing in cricket's showpiece event.

"It is a great experience for all of us to play in our first World Cup," said Namibia captain Deon Kotze. "It wasn't a large crowd (in the match against Zimbabwe) but it was exciting for us."

LINE-UPS
PAKISTAN (from): Waqar Younis (captain), Saeed Anwar, Taufeeq Umar, Saleem Elahi, Younis Khan, Yusuf Youhana, Inzamamul Haq, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq, Azhar Mahmood, Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif, Mohammad Sami, Shoaib Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq.

NAMIBIA (from): Deon Kotze (captain), Jan Burger, Louis Burger, Sarel Burger, Mome Karg, Daniel Keulder, Bjorn Kotze, Lennie Louw, Bryan Murgatroyd, Gerrie Snyman, Stefan Swanepoel, Burton van Rooi, Melt van Schoor, Rudi van Vuuren, Riaan Walters.

Umpires: David Orchard (Rsa), Neil Mallender (Eng) TV umpire: Simon Taufel (Aus) Match referee: Denis Lindsay (Rsa)

Shocks on cards

FROM PAGE 16
Wednesday after being bowled out for 140.

However the Netherlands put on a good showing in their first game, dismissing India for 204. Namibia, in their first World Cup, got hammered for 340 by Zimbabwe, but performed creditably with the bat before rain cut short their reply.



Manchester United's David Beckham comes under a crunching tackle by Arsenal's Ashley Cole during their FA Cup fifth round clash at Old Trafford yesterday.

FA Cup Arsenal shut MU

Football

AFP, London

Arsenal gained sweet revenge for their famous 1999 FA Cup loss to Manchester United on Saturday, stunning the 10-time winners with a 2-0 fifth round win at Old Trafford.

The victory, achieved with a deflected 34th minute free-kick by Brazilian midfielder Edu and a low shot from French striker Sylvain Wiltord just after the break, banished the ghost of Ryan Giggs' wonder-goal in the semifinal four years ago.

This time the 67,000 crowd, as well as television viewers in a reported 110 countries, saw Giggs become the villain of the piece with an astonishing miss.

The Welsh winger, who in 1999 slalomed through virtually the entire Arsenal side to win the game in extra time, somehow fired over the bar with the net completely unguarded after half an hour.

Within minutes, and with the entire United team still looking shell-shocked, Arsenal took the lead, and the Gunners began to take control of the tie.

To rub salt into Sir Alex Ferguson's wounds, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger had even rested his first-choice strike force of Dennis Bergkamp and Thierry Henry, with only the latter appearing for the last 20 minutes.

The match began explosively, with a pair of near-mass brawls and three bookings inside the first 10 minutes.

After Sol Campbell's arm caught Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in the penalty box, Paul Scholes and Patrick Vieira squared up, sparking a spate of pushing and shoving between opposing players, which led to Scholes being booked.

Then, with barely a ball kicked, Ruud van Nistelrooy sent Martin

Keown flying and the teams jostled again.

Referee Jeff Winter found himself having in the strange position of having to appeal to captains Viera and Roy Keane -- two of the most famously explosive temperaments in the Premiership -- to calm the boiling passions.

But just two minutes later, Vieira himself went in the referee's book for dissent.

Amid the chaos it took a good 10 minutes before either side began playing football to speak of, and neither side could find much fluency, although Solskjaer skimmed the side of David Seaman's left post.

The match turned on Giggs' astonishing miss, surely the worst of his illustrious career.

Through on goal after Keown missed David Beckham's long ball, Giggs did well to dribble past Seaman and then Campbell.

But with the net completely unguarded, the Welshman somehow blasted the ball over the crossbar from the edge of the penalty area.

Giggs and his teammates looked disbelieving, and their afternoon was about to get worse.

After Keane caught Vieira on the edge of the box, Edu's free kick struck Beckham's shoulder to spin wickedly past the stranded Fabien Barthez.

Arsenal then began to take a grip of the tie, and the Premiership leaders went 2-0 up just seven minutes after half time.

Edu, breaking down the right, rolled the ball to Wiltord who skipped over Wes Brown's challenge on the edge of the box and fired past Barthez.

Soon afterwards Giggs added to his misery, managed to hopelessly miscue a volley from close range, and was substituted soon afterwards.

One report said Warne could have used herbal versions of the drugs, which are not banned by sports administrators.

An act of stupidity?

FROM PAGE 16
ished".

In 'The Herald', Victorian state coach Dean Jones said it was "just a silly thing".

But former Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy was less dismissive. "It seems Shane's guilty of being dopey. All Australia players are well up on drug-testing matters".

The paper also gave four reasons why Warne just has to go

1. Shane Warne is a drug cheat;
2. Shane Warne's mum is a drug cheat;
3. Shane Warne is as stupid as a speed hump;
4. Joe the Cameraman did it.

Warne's wife Simone also found a mention. Channel Seven news showed Simone walking home from school with her kids. She just said, "I am upset".

Former English all-rounder Ian Botham called for an overhaul of the testing regime to protect players from what he described as an honest mistake.

"There's a world of difference between brazen cheats who hood-wink competitors and the likes of Shane Warne," Botham said.

A report in the Sydney Morning Herald wondered whether Warne understood the ramifications of taking diuretics.

"Warne said he understood that the tablet -- known as Moduretic and containing the diuretics hydrochlorothiazide and amiloride -- gets rid of any excess fluid in your body.

"Mrs Warne, 56, uses the prescription diuretic Moduretic to control high blood pressure. Moduretic, one of Australia's most commonly prescribed blood pressure pills, can also be used to shed weight quickly. The medication is used by 224,000 Australians," it said.

One report said Warne could have used herbal versions of the drugs, which are not banned by sports administrators.

He has more to offer

Football

AFP, Paris

Brazilian World Cup star Ronaldinho is a genius with room for improvement, his Paris Saint Germain boss Luis Fernandez claimed on Friday.

With PSG's title hopes all but gone for another year frustrated Ronaldinho last week was linked to a possible move to English champions Arsenal.

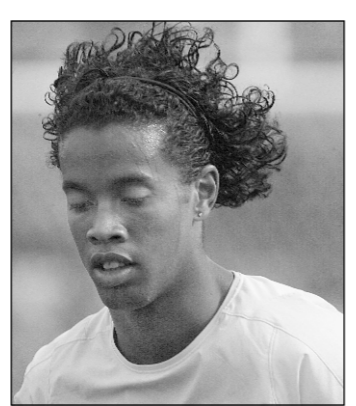
But his club manager urged him to buckle under in order to fulfil his vast potential.

"He's a genius," said Fernandez at PSG's Parc des Princes ground here.

"But he's got to accept to continue to work, to try to progress to get even better.

"His world championship badge

has given him a certain stature, but he shouldn't rest on his laurels. "It's a question of desire. If he does it there's no doubt he could be the best player in the world within



RONALDINO

the next two or three years." Fernandez said he hoped that Ronaldinho would at last begin to

blossom at the under achieving French capital side.

"Let's hope that he'll be able to make up for lost time and deliver what we've been expecting of him.

"I don't have any problem with him, I'm simply demanding."

Ronaldinho, red-carded in his last league game, is due to turn out for PSG on Sunday against division two opponents Laval in the French Cup after his midweek appearance for Brazil in the 0-0 friendly away to China.

With little prospect now of getting their hands on the championship PSG, lying eighth behind arch rivals Marseille, are setting their sights on Cup glory to ensure the 2002/03 season isn't a complete wash-out.

Fernandez reflected: "Even if I haven't given up all hope of the league title we'll be going all out to win the Cup. To do that we've got to prove that we've got the hunger and the right mentality."

Brazil have the rights!

Football

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira and his assistant Mario Zagallo have mocked criticism of their team's trip to China this week, saying the five-times world champions deserved the million-dollar fee they received from the friendly match.

Brazilian media dismissed Wednesday's goalless draw as worthless from a playing point of view while the so-called G-14 group, which represents Europe's elite clubs, were livid at their members having to release their Brazilian players for the match.

But Brazil's soccer chiefs were unrepentant.

"You only get that sort of money if you are five-times champions of the world," said Zagallo, who won the World Cup as a player in 1958 and 1962, as coach in 1970, assistant coach in 1994 and has now been made technical director at the age of 71.

Parreira, who has remained defiant in the face of criticism from the G-14 over the last two weeks, added: "Brazil has reached a high



MARIO ZAGALLO

level in international football and there's a price for Brazil to play. We would not have got this type of price if we played a game in South America."

The duo's comments, made at Rio de Janeiro on Friday after they had completed the return trip from China, are likely

to fuel the row with Europe's top clubs.

Parreira fielded Arsenal midfielder Gilberto Silva for the full 90 minutes against China, only four days before was due to face Manchester United in an English FA Cup tie. Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger said on Friday that Gilberto would be "rested" for the game.

But Parreira, who is beginning the third stint in charge of Brazil and has already won the World Cup once as coach in 1994, has insisted throughout that Brazil are following FIFA rules, which allocate five dates a year to international friendlies and allow national teams to pick who they choose.

He had pointed out before the match that FIFA had introduced approved international dates as a solution to constant whining from the clubs.

Parreira admitted, however, that his round-the-world trip had been exhausting.

"It was a massacre," he said. "We spent 60 hours on a plane, in fact we spent more time in the air than we spent in China."

'Silver Goal' time

Football

REUTERS, London

When Germany beat the Czech Republic to win Euro 96 with a Golden Goal winner from Oliver Bierhoff five minutes into extra time, pandemonium, naturally enough, reigned.

The German players went crazy, the coaching staff rushed off their benches and on to the pitch and most of the Czech players sunk to their knees in disappointment.

But not all of them. Some of them went up to Italian referee Pierluigi Pairetto to claim the goal should not stand because one of the German players was offside when Bierhoff had scored.

To his everlasting credit, Pairetto went to consult his linesman before finally declaring the goal valid. But he had as much chance of holding back the tide of people swarming on to the pitch as did King Kanute of holding back the sea.

Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl is one of the few referees ever to disallow a Golden Goal winner when he ruled against a Stefan Kuntz header against England in the semi-final a few days earlier. Germany eventually won the game

on penalties.

But the days of the Golden Goal, brought in as an alternative to what were becoming all-too-prevalent penalty shoot-outs, are numbered.

Euro 96 was the first major tournament to be decided by the method and although UEFA introduced it they have never been entirely happy with the concept -- basically because of the difficulty in ruling out ones which are not valid.

And this week they finally did something about it when they announced its replacement -- the Silver Goal.

The difference? The Silver Goal does not immediately bring the match to an end -- and so saves the referee and officials the almost impossible task of having to disallow the goal if the pitch was turned into a sea of swarming, celebrating bodies.

The new system, to be used in next year's Champions League and in the European Championships in Portugal, comes into effect in extra time when matches are level after normal time.

If there is no decisive goal in the first 15-minute period but one is scored in the second period, the match ends at the end of extra time. If there are no goals in extra time, the match will go to penalties.

UEFA president Lennart Johansson has said for years that both sides have to have a sporting chance of winning the game and he was always unhappy with the sudden-death nature of the Golden Goal decider.

The Silver Goal makes sense. It's a good idea and will doubtless add to the drama at the end of games. But UEFA should go one step further.

They should stage a penalty shoot-out before every final. That way the "losing" team will have no option but to attack like maniacs for 90 minutes. Of course the other team might well put 11 men behind the ball for the entire match as Steaua Bucharest did to Barcelona in the 1986 European Cup final, which the Romanians won on penalties.

But one way or another it would certainly add an extra edge to every key, knockout match.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Sound of contentment
5 St. Paul's architect
9 Lemieux milieu
12 Sheriff Taylor's tyke
13 General feel
14 Diarist
15 Buttonless sweaters
17 Cleveland cager, for short
18 Edit a film, maybe
19 Bronze or pewter
21 "Elsewhere"
22 Nome home
24 Pulverize
27 Big hoopla
28 Pizzeria fixture
31 Grease
32 Roscoe
33 Pitcher feature
34 Ball in a gym?

DOWN
1 Boston —
2 "— and Away"
3 Streamlet
4 Frank topper
5 Bleacherites' choreography
6 Actress McClanahan
7 Misdo
8 Twangy life of Riley
10 Farewell
11 Green-eyed monster
16 Autumnal abbr.
20 Card game
22 Nonsense
23 "You — My Head"
24 Clean a spill
25 Football flier
26 Very unempt
27 Enthusiastic, and then some
29 Graze on
30 Heston's org.
35 Soviet spacecraft
37 Summer Bobby
39 Tennis pro
40 Come-uppance
41 Martial-arts blow
42 Bay
43 "Awaiting reply"
44 Inlet
45 Sufficient, in verse
46 Fax
49 You can't stand to have one
50 Aves, once

HEAD-TO-HEAD

AFP, East London

Recent head-to-head records of matches between England and the Netherlands ahead of their Group A World Cup clash here on Sunday: Feb 22 1996 England won by 49 runs Peshawar
Total matches played: 1
England wins 1 Netherlands wins 0 Ties/NR: 0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13				14		
15			16						17		
18							19	20			
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47					48	49	50				
51					52				53		
54					55				56		

CRYPTOQUIP

D P S U A U I P F F A W N R N X N R G E A
O D E B N V P D S E A I N S W
N X X E B N E I A F G X E A W O N F
N R P P E V P D S E
Yesterday's Cryptquip: A SERPENT IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN POLICE FORCE COULD CALL HIMSELF "MOUNTAIN PYTHON."
Today's Cryptquip Clue: R equals M

The Cryptquip 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.