The Daily Star

Qualifying under war's shadow



AFP, Paris

Against the gloomy backdrop of war in Iraq football will creep back towards centre stage Saturday for a raft of crucial Euro 2004 qualifiers.

England travel to Liechtenstein for a David versus Goliath contest which secured UEFA's go-ahead after initial security concerns about potential terror attacks connected with the Iraqi crisis.

While such threats off the field linger, on the field it is banana skins which Sven-Goran Eriksson's side fear as they have already endured a storm of criticism following their miserable home draw against Macedonia in their last qualifier.

Group Seven rivals Turkey are setting the early pace with three wins in three games and England, having thrown those two points away against the Macedonians, are aware another slip-up against alsoran opponents would derail their campaign.

Eriksson is determined that his charges will not concede further unnecessary ground as they head for Vaduz along with some 2,000 England fans - only 900 of whom are officially expected to get tickets.

Liechtenstein, whose entire population of 33,000 would only half fill Old Trafford, have only ever won one match. But they did manage a draw of their own against Macedonia and England will not be counting their chickens even if livestock graze behind the 3,500 capacity Rheinpark Stadium.

Eriksson has plumped for an injection of youth by drafting 17year-old Everton striker Wayne Rooney, who made his debut as the youngest ever England player at 17 and 111 days in last month's friendly loss to Australia.

Newcastle's 20-year-old midfielder Jermaine Jenas, who likewise won his first cap against the Aussies, is retained and could even keep out clubmate Kieron Dyer while Chelsea defender John Terry is a new face.

With Sol Campbell injured Gareth Southgate of Middlesbrough is likely to come in and partner Rio Ferdinand at the back

Liverpool's midfielder Steven Gerrard says England must not underestimate rivals who themselves drew at home to the Mace-

over Italy place like this on a difficult pitch. Ît's a potential banana skin, Gerrard said.

Elsewhere in England's group, Macedonia, boosted by their 2-2 draw away to England, take on Slovakia while the Turks have a free weekend.

France, like their English counterparts, face a side they should beat easily in the shape of Malta and Les Bleus have home advantage in the northern town of Lens. Robert Pires is set to miss out

with an ankle strain but Zinedine Zidane, skipper in the absence of Marcel Desailly, is over a leg strain.

The French have found Group One a cakewalk to date. They thrashed Slovenia 5-0 in their last competitive tie and although they did lose a recent home friendly to the Czech Republic they have already swamped the Maltese

FIXTURES

(All times GMT) Saturday Group 1: Limassol: Cyprus v

srael (1600), Lens: France v Malta (1845)

Group 2: Sarajavo: Bosnia v Luxembourg (1815), Bucharest: Romania v Denmark (1500) Group 3: Minsk: Belarus v Moldavia (1530), Rotterdam:

Netherlands v Czech Republic (1830)Group 4: Chorzow: Poland v

Hungary (1800) Group 5: Nuremberg: Germany

Lithuania (1700), Glasgow Scotland v Iceland (1400)

Group 6: Yerevan: Armenia v Northern Ireland (1300), Kiev: Jkraine v Spain (1700) Group 7: Vaduz: Liechenstein v England (1630), Skopje: Macedo-

nia v Slovakia (1700) Group 8: Zagreb: Croatia v

Belgium (1630) Group 9: Palermo: Italy v Finland **(1900)**, *Cardiff:* Wales v

Jacques Santini's side, the defending European champions, will therefore likely be in an envi-

able position of four wins from four starts when they head for Palermo to face Israel on Wednesday. While England struggle to prove their pedigree under Eriksson few

people would have put money on Wales beating them to next summer's finals in Portugal.

But Mark Hughes' Welsh dragsmall fry can be good for a surons are on a roll after maximum prise. points from their opening three England know that better than games, including a home success most

Portugal's test by world champs A home win over Azerbaijan in Cardiff would leave Wales within

Football

Skipper Gary Speed is warning against over-confidence, however, AP, Lisbon as beating Italy would prove point-

touching distance of a place in the

finals of a major event for the first

less if the Azeris are not sent pack

"If anything, the real hard work

"There is a danger you can

starts here," said the Newcastle

suddenly think it is too easy at the

top of the group, begin to relax and

think you just have to turn up to

Wales will have to await devel-

opments after Saturday as

Wednesday's trip to Serbia-

Montenegro has been postponed

to August 20 because of civil unrest

Italy, with just four points on the

Everything is to play for in

Group Three with Holland, the

Czech Republic and Austria all on

six points - though the Austrians

The Dutch, desperate to get to

the finals after missing out on the World Cup, will have a better idea

of their chances after hosting the

Barcelona defender Frank de

Boer is expected to become the

first Dutch star to win 100 caps in

the encounter, 13 years after mak-

as his final chance to lift a trophy

with the 'Oranie' after several near

misses, including the 1998 World

Cup semi-final loss to Brazil on

Germany, finding their feet

again after their run to the World

Cup final ended a barren spell, take

on Lithuania in Nuremberg look-

ing to ensure they remain out of

Scotland's reach, while the Scots

host Iceland in another Group Five

who lifted the 1996 European

Championship with his homeland,

Scotland go into the match on the

back of a friendly loss to Ireland

which prompted him to threaten

out the injured Michael Ballack,

meaning greater midfield respon-

sibility for Liverpool's Dietmar

Hamann, who warned his team-

mates that these days even "the

Germany face Lithuania with-

ringing the changes.

Coached by German Berti Vogts,

The 33-year-old sees Euro 2004

ing his debut against Italy.

board from three matches, will

seek to play catch-up with a win

over Finland in Palermo.

have played an extra game.

Czech Republic.

penalties.

encounter.

midfielder

time since the 1958 World Cup.

Luiz Filipe Scolari built Brazil into a team that conquered the world.

LUIZ FILIPE SCOLARI

DECO

But on Saturday the Brazilian will try to turn the tables on his country as coach of Portugal, which is eager to erase the memories of its miserable World Cup performance when it went home after the first round.

Sport

Brazilian star Ronaldo acknowledges that Scolari is Portugal's trump card for the friendly game at the Antas Stadium in Porto as the Portuguese seek their first win against Brazil in 37 years.

"It's not going to be easy for Brazil," Ronaldo said. "Scolari knows us well."

And, as usual, the pressure to perform is on the Brazilians whose roster includes 18 players from European clubs "In Brazil they've already forgotten

the great victory that grabbed our fifth world title. But that's soccer. Our team's under pressure to perform every time we go out onto the pitch," Ronaldo said.

Scolari quit Brazil after last year's World Cup success and joined tal-ented but underachieving Portugal. His mission is to capture the Euro-

pean championship title in 2004, a tournament for which Portugal automatically qualifies as host.

This is only Scolari's second game in charge, after a humdrum 1-0 defeat against Italy, and the squad is still in a phase of renewal and experimenta

Scolari courted controversy by selecting Brazilian-born midfielder Deco, who recently took Portuguese nationality

"It's a new experience, unlike anything before for me," said the FC Porto midfielder who has spent most of his career in Portugal. "I haven't stopped being Brazilian, but only I know how much Portugal means to """

Widely regarded as the best player in the Portuguese championship but overlooked by his national team, Deco s another secret weapon against the Brazilians.

"He's a fantastic player, he's proved that," Benfica striker Nuno Gomes said of Deco. "He'll be another trump card

Scolari is expected to scrap the three-man defence which was shaky against

Italy During training over the past week, he tested a midfield set-up which looks formidable: Deco lining up alongside Real Madrid's Luis Figo, AC Milan's Rui Costa and Internazionale's Sergio Conceicao.

Scolari's also called up two rookies -- Nuno Ribeiro Maniche of FC Porto and Leiria's Jorge Fernandes Silas.

Portugal is looking for its 100th home win but goes into the game as the firm underdog. The last time it beat Brazil was at the 1966 World Cup when Eusebio scored twice against Pele's team.

Brazil has won 12 of the 16 meetings between the two countries, compared with two victories for Portugal

The goal tally is also 34-9 in Brazil's fayour.

PROBABLE TEAMS

Portugal: Ricardo Pereira; Paulo Ferreira, Fernando Meira, Fernando Couto, Rui Jorge; Francisco Costinha; Luis Figo, Rui Costa, Deco, Sergio Conceicao; Pauleta

Brazil: Marcos; Cafu, Luisao, Edmilson, Roberto Carlos; Kleberson, Gilberto Silva; Ronaldinho, Rivaldo, Ze Roberto; Ronaldo. Referee: Alon Yefet (Israel)





IM Enamul Hossain Rajib (L) makes a move against IM Abdullah Al Rakib during their second round fixture of the final phase of the Professor Abdur Razzak 29th National Championship at the NSC chess room yesterday,

'Big Phil' wary Ronaldo!

Football

Brazilian star Ronaldo has said Brazil is in for a rough ride when it faces Portugal in a friendly on Saturday now that his former boss Luiz Filipe Scolari is in charge of

"With Scolari on the other side it s natural that we will have greater difficulties," he told reporters in Porto where the match will take place, sports daily A Bola reported Thursday. "'Big Phil' knows us

Scolari, who is known as "Big Phil" to his compatriots, resigned as Brazil coach in August after steering his country to their fifth World Čup victory in June. The 54-

ICC Cricket World Cup

South Africa 2003

INTERNET, Johannesburg

game's governing body.

group stage.

weight.

World Cup director Dr Ali Bacher

has revealed his proposals for the controversial second stage of the

tournament were vetoed by the

The Super Six round attracted

controversy because of a compli-

cated system that allowed teams to

carry points through from the

Minnows Kenva were almost

He explained: "An idea that I

proposed which wasn't supported

by the ICC was that you get two

you have defeated a team that goes

"You take them forward only if

points for a win in the pool.

Hopes are high in Portugal that Scolari will lead the national

Bacher plan ignored

important match." The suggestions could be exam-

ined again by organisers of the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies. Bacher expects two further teams to be added, taking the total

the game globally.'

year-old took over as Portugal oach in January. squad, which crashed out of last

with four teams in four sections

with the top two going through to the Super Eight," he went on. "You would therefore have a shorter tournament.

Bacher argued Kenya, along with fellow associate members Canada, Namibia and Holland

> "I don't believe their present undermined the integrity of this tournament," he said of the four sides.

"World Cups are about growing

Bacher dismissed suggestions



AFP, Lisbon



before a team that is not going to make our job easy," he said Ronaldo scored both goals for

DHAKA SATURDAY MARCH 29, 2003

Brazil in the 2-0 win over Germany in the World Cup final last June.

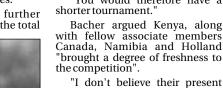
year's World Cup in the first round after losses to the United States and South Korea, to victory in the

Euro 2004 championship the

Since Portugal, as host nation, automatically qualifies for Euro 2004, Scolari has sought to line the

squad up in competitive friendlies

country will host.



donians.

"England are expected to win this game comfortably but it's not as easy as it seems to come to a



ESPN

English Premier Football League Liverpool vs Leeds United Repeat at 11:00 am **UEFA** Champions League Olympique Lyonnais vs Inter Milan Repeat at 7:00 pm Western Union World Football Repeat at 11:30 pm STAR Sports Futbol Mundial Repeat at 10:30 am



Independence

SPORTS REPORTER

Club Course vesterday.

Day Cup golf FROM PAGE 8

"I'm glad Nasser hasn't thrown away the Test captaincy, because I the job for England.

Following perhaps England's most arduous ever winter - begin-ning with the ICC Trophy in Sri Lanka before the high-profile campaigns for the Ashes in Australia and then the World Cup Caddick admits the hectic calendar

"It's been solid for the last 12

Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest.

Sadig Ouddus won the men's title

while Hiroko Kosaka clinched the

women's crown in the

Independence Day Cup Golf

Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf

312 golfers including 14 ladies

and 16 juniors took part in the two-

OTHER RESULTS

day meet.

Senior winner : Mai Gen S Ameer Ali, Junior winner: Master Salim Khan, Team winner: Maj Gen Jamilud Din Ahsan, Sadiq Quddus, Air Cdre A T M Golam Kibria, Gp Capt M Mahbubul Huq, Team runner-up: Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba, Maj Gen S Ameer Ali, Brig Gen M Ismail Talukder, Gp Capt M Ali Akkas, Runner-up: Wing Cdre Mahbubul Haq Khan, 2nd runner-up: K J Yoon, Nearest to pin : Maj Kazi Ashfaq Ahmed, Longest drive: Azam J Chowdhury.

WhiZZ KID-191 winner

Sheikh Jawad Ibrahim (Evergreen Int'l School, Dhaka)

Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on April 6. WHiZZ KID-191 correct answers 1. Who clinched the Shahjalal Bank International Rating Chess title? Ans. Rajib. 2. New Zealand beat South Africa in a World Cup Group B match by: Ans.9 wkts. 3. How many runs did Bangladesh score against South Africa in the World Cup Group B match?

Ans. 108 4. Bangladesh lost to Canada in the World Cup Group B match by: Ans. 60 runs. 5. Shane Warne has been banned for: Ans. 12 months.

back into the old grind and slogging away. think he's one of the best to take on Defeats against India and Australia at the World Cup meant Caddick's one-day career did not finish on a high note. But he is happy there are still plenty of good times for him to

does take its toll at times.

months," he said.

"International teams are playing a lot more cricket, and so winters will be a lot longer for the players.

"I've done nothing for three weeks - which is nice - but I start

1992: Qualifies to play for England.

1993-94: Takes Test career-best six for 65 against West Indies at Port

1997: Named bowler of the year in England.

1998: In the County Championship takes 105 wickets at an average of 19.82, but does not make the winter tour squad to

1999: Is named Wisden Cricket Monthly's cricketer-of-the-year after taking 71 county wickets at an average of 20.95.

Australia.

figures.

with England.

CADDICK BOX

reflect on.

go our way.

ball is bowled.

he said.

Following is a factfile on England fast bowler Andrew Caddick: Returns five for 16 at Lord's and five for 14 in the fourth Test at Headingley - including four wickets in an over and five wickets in 15 balls. 1968: Born November 21, Christchurch, New Zealand to English immigrant parents. Named as one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year. 1987-88: Represents New Zealandin Youth World Cup.

2001: Has a disappointing tour of Pakistan where he picks up just three wickets. 1991: Makes first-class debut for Somerset against West Indians at Taunton.

March - Bounces back with five wickets in the second Test win over Sri Lanka in Kandy and another four at Colombo as England come from behind to take the series 2-1.

"I've had some great moments,"

"Coming through to beat Pakistan at Cape Town was proba-bly a highlight - but unfortunately

the game against Australia didn't

"But that's one-day cricket

nothing is decided until the final

1993: Makes Test debut against Australia at Old Trafford and makes one-day international debut in Given another central contract for the 2001 season.

Texaco Trophy against Australia at same venue. Takes career-best nine for 32 for Somerset against Lancashire at Taunton. June - Finishes the drawn series against Pakistan with 14 wickets at a cost of 309 runs.

July - Takes five for 101 against Australia in the second Ashes Test at Lord's, but England still lose by eight wickets.

August - The Ashes ends on a low note as Caddick is hit for 146 without success in the fifth Test at The Oval. Finished with a total of 15 wickets.

October - Named in party for tour to India, but asks for more time to consider his participation follow-ing the terrorist attacks on the United States.

October 30 - Announces he will not go to India.

In the Test series against New Zealand takes 20 wickets at an average of 20.60 and his best yield was five for 32 at Edgbaston. 2002: January - Competes in the one-day series in India and New Zealand but plays only three matches as England prefer Matthew Hoogard December - Takes seven for 46 in third Test against South Africa in Durban, his best Test bowling Hoggard.

March 30 - Claims four wickets on the first day of the final Test against New Zealand in Auckland to become the ninth England bowler to claim 2000 Teatriciting 2000: Given a central contract claim200Testvictims

September - Following a summer when he suffered a side strain - which ruled him out of two Tests against India - chosen in England party for ICC Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka and Ashes tour of Australia. Takes a total of 22 wickets against the West Indies, 2t an average of 19.18, as England win the series for the first time at home for 31 years as partnership with Darren Gough blossoms.

FROM PAGE 8

Zealand Cricket contract for this training again on Monday, so it's year.

> O'Connor said the contract system was not a factor in his decision.

"When I first played first-class cricket I didn't think 'Aw gee, I could make a lot of money out of this," he said.

"I made up my mind a long time ago. And once I started thinking about it I looked at it with a bias for affirmation for what I was thinking.

"I was pretty determined to do well this year and I played as if I still wanted to play for New Zealand, to keep my name in the hat. But I still feel comfortable with my decision," he said.

O'Connor said he would be surprised if he played first-class cricket again.

The injury he suffered after the African tour and his time to recover over two summers were not really a factor in his decision, although he said it was while injured that he began to think about life after cricket. "I never saw myself as having a

long and illustrious cricket career, winning a county contract. That wasn't for me.

"I did what I wanted to when I set out in cricket and I'm thrilled with what I did," he said.

New Zealand selection chair-man Sir Richard Hadlee was surprised by O'Connor's decision. While giving nothing away about his thoughts of the chances O'Connor may have had of being

part of the Sri Lankan tour, Hadlee did say that experience was an asset and at 29 years of age, O'Connor had that.

Too Green

FROM PAGE 8

were arranged to help the selectors see the performance of the players before they name a 15-man Bangladesh squad for the forthcoming tri-nation series with South Africa and India.

SCORES IN BRIEF BCB GREEN: 280 for 6 in 50 overs (Nazimuddin 80, Rashedul 79, Tushar 51, Munir 3-62, Enamul jr 3-34) BCB RED: 234 all out in 44.1

overs (Shahriar 52, Akram 52, Kadir 45, Arafat 2-21, Humayun 2-43, Ashraful 2-44) Result: BCB Green team won by

46 runs

uaranteed a semi-final place after New Zealand forfeited their match in Nairobi on safety grounds. Bacher told the BBC Sport website he had suggested Super Six matches should be given added



ALI BACHER

to 16, competing in a Super Eight second round.

He has accepted the 2003 tournament was too long at 44 days, but claims extra teams could make the format more efficient.

"You would probably end up

No Real need for Beckham AFP. Madrid

Spanish giants Real Madrid said Friday there was little likelihood of them making a reported 40 million pound (60 million dollar) bid for Manchester United star David Beckham.

"The possibility that Beckham will one day play for Real Madrid is very remote," said Real sporting director Jorge Valdano.

extra days could be set aside in case of rain in group matches.

West Indies' failure to qualify for the Super Six was down in part to their washed-out match against Bangladesh, when the four points on offer were shared.

"The theory is every match should have a reserve day," Bacher admitted.

"But organising an event in three countries with 15 towns and cities involved, logistically would have been a nightmare."

Steve Waugh FROM PAGE 8

day team enabled him to shine for his state in his busiest season for the Blues since the early stages of his career.

NSW beat Queensland in the Sheffield Shield final to cap a memorable season.

In seven Sheffield Shield matches Waugh amassed 659 runs at an average of 50.69 including three centuries.

30	19 21	13 16	22		20	17	14			
	19	16	22		20	17				
			22		20			-		
	21		22			1				
30			1	23		24	1-	25	26	27
	1	1		\top	31		32	1-	+	1
		34		+	-	35		36	1-	-
	38		39	+-	+	1	40		1	-
	1	42		43	+	1	+		1	
	44		45			46	1-	47	48	49
52		1	-	53	54			55	+	
-			57	1-	1-	1-		68	1-	-
			60	1	-	-		61		\uparrow
		44	42 44 52	42 44 52 52 57 60	42 43 44 45 52 53 57 57 60	42 43 44 45 52 53 54 57 60 60	42 43 44 45 52 53 57 57 60	42 43 44 45 52 53 54 57 60	42 43 43 44 45 46 47 52 53 54 55 57 57 53 54 55	42 43 43 44 45 46 47 48 52 53 54 55 57 57 51 51 60 61 61

PK HQVXOOF RXC SN HQWK VКР UXWCKVKW NMW SRK UMF PXY SNN WNMUR XWNMVC SRK RKCUKY

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE UNDERTAKER WAS SO BUSY LATELY THAT HE WAS STARTING TO GET BURIED IN HIS WORK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals E

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.

forward with you. "But for the Super Six if you win a match there you should get three points because to me it's a more Akram or Mahmud? FROM PAGE 8 clarify whether the Board would be

ACROSS

1 "Judging

4 Freeway

access

material

12 Romance

molding

13 Medley

14 Curved

15 Work

with

16 Popular

18 Rock

20 Writer

21 Unre-

bricks

singer

paired

24 Helps a

hood

hit

32 Rue the

novel

34 Influential

with "The

business-

person

run

33 Uris

36 Ball

in a

hit

43 Accept

41 Fret

gym?

37 "Zounds!"

39 16-Across

28 16-Across

Buscaglia

8 Figurine

ending Mohsin Kamal stint as Bangladesh coach and unveil plans for a replacement.

The former Pakistan paceman took charge from Australian Trevor Chappell who was sacked mid-way through his tenure.

"We don't have that in our agenda for the day. As far as I know, his contract is up to April 30," Anam said.

44 Undeni-

ably

hit

55 Greek

letter

56 Indigent

lower

Down

57 Jai fol-

58 See 8-

59 Harbor

fleet

60 Harry's

61 Indicate

DOWN

1 Hole

it's OK

making

protection

Solution time: 25 mins.

tools

2 Castle

ELI

missus

46 Figure of

50 16-Across

speech

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

3 Vacillate

4 "Here I

Stand

rapher

Paul

biopic

measure

7 Survey 8 With 58-

Across,

shampoo

additive

Williams

9 Past

10 Billy ----

11 Conger

19 Tandoori

22 Mosque

23 Wooden

shoe

bread

bigwig

TES

17 Verily

6 Wire

25 Toyota

autobiog- 26 Grand

5 Will Smith 28 "That's a

sub-

27 Calenda

abbr.

relief!'

spearean

29 Shake-

bad

quγ

30 Admitting

a draft

salmon

31 Smoked

35 Beach-

wear

38 Laundro-

mat

lineup

40 Homer's

42 Longing

45 Impale

47 Mesabi

48 1970

song 49 Jell-O

product

CSN&Y

creation

Retton

symbol

Sky"

54 Existed

Buttermill

50 Suitable

51 Mary -

52 Yule

53

neighboi

compact