# SPORT

## The Daily Star

the most marketable name in world

no doubt we're going to have to

compromise with Real Madrid and

However, Beckham will have to

Raul told the Sun newspaper:

'The number seven shirt at Real

number seven at the greatest club in

But one of Beckham's biggest

Raul was one of four Real stars

to meet the club's sporting director

Jorge Valdano last week to protest

at Beckham's possible arrival and

warn that he will not be allowed to be

a prima donna in the dressing-room.

moves to Real. Barcelona and

European champions AC Milan in

Beckham has been linked to

DB.

the last month.

One United insider said: "There's

football at a bargain price.

# **JAPAN V NEW ZEALAND Time to bury 98's ghost**



### AFP, Paris

The last time Zico set foot in the Stade de France was as assistant coach to the Brazil side humbled by

France in the 1998 World Cup final. On Wednesday he returns to the flying saucer-shaped stadium in the north of Paris as manager of Japan for the opening fixture in the 2003 Confederations Cup against New Zealand.

Five years on the Brazilian will be anxious to draw a line under that painful night when an out-of-sorts Ronaldo and company were played off the pitch by France, who are hosting this meeting of the champions of the globe's football confederations.

Zico is finding life as a coach harder than his effortless performance as one of the world's most gifted players since he took over from Philippe Troussier, the

Frenchman who guided Japan to the second round of last year's World Cup for the first time in their history. Results have not exactly gone

the Brazilian's way over the past year so he is keen for his men to give a sound display in front of a global audience.

After all, the last time Japan played at the Stade, in March 2001, they were thrashed 5-0 by France.

This will be a good opportunity for us to show the world what we can do," said Zico. "Personally, I believe in Japan's ability, but we have to prove our-

selves in a showcase event like this to convince people around the world.' Zico is looking for victory against tournament outsiders New Zealand

to spark his team's campaign. "It could turn out to be a key game for us because if we get a good result, it will help us get going in the other two (group) games," he

"We may be the underdogs against France, but I believe we are better than New Zealand and Colombia.

The 50-year-old who appeared in three World Cups has fallen in love with his the country he adopted when he first went there as a player.

"I like Japan from the bottom of my heart and that's why I took up the offer to coach them because I thought I could do something for them.

"If the offer had come from Brazil, wouldn't have taken it." he explained.

While he has had to contend with a number of players ruled out with injury one he is counting on to produce fireworks over the next 10 days is Brazilian-born Alex Santos. The 25-year-old who plays in the

J-League made an impression in his new role as left wing back in Japan's goalless draw against Paraguay last week

"He is quick to move up from the back and he can produce a very good cross. That is his strong point," said Zico.

While Japan start as favourites, New Zealand, coached by former Notts County man Mick Waitt, are the Group A outsiders. They failed to win a game in the 1999 Confederations Cup but booked their ticket to Europe with a 1-0 win over Australia in the final of the Oceania Championship.

Japan and New Zealand are joined in Group A by France and Colombia, who are in action in Lyon on Wednesday.



A DIFFICULT CHOICE! French ball boys and girls turn their heads to look at Japan's star playmaker Hidetoshi Nakata (L) while they prepare for a group photo with the team's Brazilian coach and legendary player Zico (black suit) after a training session at Stade Marcel Coene in Montataire on June 16.

# Serving up a minefield Kingstown tie drawn

Cricket



### AFP, London

Lleyton Hewitt will have to navigate his way through a minefield of big servers if he is to retain his

Wimbledon crown. The Australian, the top seed despite losing his world number one ranking to Andre Agassi last week, will begin the defence of his title with a first round match against a quali-

But he has his work cut out from there on in with his second round opponent likely to be Richard Kraiicek, one of the most dangerous

of the non-seeded floaters in Tuesday's draw. The Dutchman, the champion here in 1996, also opens up against

a qualifier. Also lurking in Hewitt's quarter of the draw are Taylor Dent, the giant Hewitt, Serena Belarussian Max Mirnyi, Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan, and, most ominously, his projected quarter-

final opponent Andy Roddick. Roddick, the fifth seed, estab-lished himself as one of the pretournament favourites by beating Agassi on his way to winning at the biggest pre-Wimbledon tournament at Queen's Club on Sunday.

MEN'S SINGLES 1. Lleyton Hewitt (AUS) Roddick begins his campaign against Italy's Davide Sanguinetti, 2. Andre Agassi (USA) while Srichaphan, who knocked 3. Juan Carlos Ferrero (SPA) Agassi out last year and is seeded 12th, has a tough opening match 4. Roger Federer (SWI) against Dominik Hrbaty. The Asian number one has lost both his previous encounters with the experienced Slovakian. In contrast to Hewitt, the draw was relatively kind to Agassi, who begins his quest to add to his 1992 title with an opening match against British wildcard Jamie Delgado, ranked 456th in the world. A projected quarterfinal against Xavier Malisse, a semifinalist here last year, looks like giving Agassi his first real test. Malisse will not however relish the prospect of a likely second round meeting with Australia's Mark Philippoussis. Home favourite Tim Henman struggling to recover his best form following shoulder surgery earlier this year, faces Spanish clay-court specialist Alex Corretja in his opening match. In theory, the draw is relatively benign for Henman but he will be wary of the prospect of facing Dutchman Martin Verkerk in the third round. Verkerk was a surprise finalist at the French Open two 31. Vincent Spadea (USA) weeks ago and with his powerful 32. Juan Ignacio Chèla (ÁRG)

### service and deft volleys looks set to make an impact on grass. If Henman can survive to the

second week he is likely to come up against France's Sebastien Grosjean, who beat the British number one at Queen's, in the last

Last year's surprise runner-up, the Argentine David Nalbandian kicks off against Vladimir Voltchkov and could find himself meeting experienced grass-court specialist ayne Ferreira in the third round.

Ferreira has a tough first round ash with Karol Kucera of Slovakia. The women's draw threw up the possibility of another all-Williams final after Serena and Venus were

awn in different halves. Serena begins her defence against compatriot Jill Craybas and should proceed untroubled to a quarterfinal appointment with Jennifer Capriati.

FROM PAGE 13

### Also in the top half of the draw is

Justine Henin-Hardenne, who bea Serena in an ill-tempered French Open final earlier this month. Two-time champion Venus

Williams opens against a qualifier and is lined up for a quarterfinal meeting with fellow American Lindsay Davenport.

Among the first round clashes in the women's singles is an all-Asian meeting of Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn and Japan's Akiko Morigami

Maria Sharapova, the glamorous Russian teenager, takes on American Ashley Harkleroad in a meeting of two of the rising stars of the women's game.

LADIES' SINGLES

2. Kim Clijsters (BEL)

1. Serena Williams (USA)

3. Justine Henin-Hardenne (BEL)

REUTERS, Kingstown Sri Lanka played out a draw with a West Indies President's XI on Monday after dismissing the home team for a first innings total of 296 in the third and final day of a rainaffected match.

Sanath Jayasuriya (44) and Fillarakaratne Dilshan (20) added to Sri Lanka's first innings total of 299, but the second innings was called to an end after 15 overs when Dilshan was caught behind off Dwayne Bravo

second day on 46 for one after Saturday

squad on Monday.

confidently on a slow Arnos Vale

Mirando set out to prove his own inninas Ganga c Jayasuriya b L'chchi 54 Smith c Jayawardene b Mirando 8 Deonarine run out

Bravo c and b S'weera Hinds c Jayawardene b Fernando Bernard c Jayawardene b L'chchi 3

Best st Dilshan b S'weera

Extras: (lb-4, w-3, nb-16)

Total: (All out in 79 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-54, 3-56, 4

126, 5-130, 6-224, 7-231, 8-258, 9-

0

15 2 61

11 0

11 3 47

19 2 56

17 6 58

4 0 17

2

Μ

0

Taylor Ibw b Mirando

Powell c Dilshan b S'weera

Daren Ganga celebrated his call-Baugh c Dilshan b Fernando up to the Test squad on Monday with Mohammed not out a workmanlike 54, but was caught at slip from Kausal Lokuarachchi.

favour with the West Indies selectors, top-scored with 83 and could not hide his frustration when he edged a catch at first slip attempting

The same bowler then had Carlton Baugh caught behind on 45. David Mohammed added an unbeaten 33 that included two sixes to carry the President's XI within spitting distance of the Sri Lankan total.

However, off-spinner Thilan Samareweera tore into the tail-end to collect three for 56, and Mirando ended the innings by trapping Taylor Ibw and posting two for 43.

SCOREBOARD

Javasuriva Tillakaratne SRI LANKA: Second innings Jayasuriya not out Dilshan c Baugh b Bravo Extras: (lb-2) Total: (For 1 wkt in 15.2 overs) 66

Fall of wickets: 1-66 Bowler 0 5 Powell Best 3 Bravo 4.2 3.3 overs (M Atapattu 59. K Mohammed

258

Bowler

Fernando

Mirando

Gamage

S'weera

L'chchi

# What's the **Real story?**

### Football

AFP, London

55 80 62

WALLERS

11

43

33

18

0

10

23

296

RW

0

44

20

2

0

1

43

10

R

28 0

12

12

12 0

1

0

1

drop our asking price if we are to Manchester United are preparing to raise the funds we need." sell England captain David Beckham to Real Madrid, it was forget getting his hands on the number seven shirt if he moves to widely reported Tuesday.

Barcelona's newly installed the Bernabeu. Spanish World Cup president Joan Laporta claims he striker Raul has a clause that he struck a 30 million pound (50 million must wear that shirt written into his dollar) agreement with United but contract. newspapers in Britain said the English champions were set to accept a 26 million pound (43 million Madrid to me is something magical dollar) bid from Real because they and wearing it is a great honour. I will recognise Beckham is determined always fight to keep and wear the to go to Madrid.

Pictures in British newspapers the world and I will never give it up, showed United chief executive no matter who comes here.' Peter Kenvon meeting Pedro Lopez, an envoy from Madrid, in Sardinia last Friday to discuss the commercial contracts is a three million pound endorsement for a matter children's clothing range at Marks Sandro Rosell, Laporta's sportand Spencer which is branded 07

ing director at Barcelona, told the Daily Mirror: "It's like when you propose to a woman - you can't make her marry you when she says no. You can't force someone to do something if they don't want to."

Laporta said Barcelona will pull out of their bid to sign Beckham unless they get a positive response from the England captain by the weekend

"The members of the board of FC Barcelona must hear from David Beckham's representatives as they have instructions to sort it out this week," Laporta told Sky TV.

"David knows our offer. He knows we have an agreement with Manchester United which depended on the outcome of my election. We won the election and now we need to know David's positition as soon as possible," he added.

Laporta, due to hold a press conference at the Nou Camp later Tuesday, also denied Beckham was used as a political pawn to help him gain power at the Catalan giants.

"Bringing David to this club was part of my project to get this job and nothing has changed," he said.

"I want to put Barcelona back to the top of world football, where I believe we will be, and David is part of that plan."

Reports said the 28-year-old Beckham, who left Tuesday for a promotional tour of Asia, would sign a five-year deal worth 90,000 pounds (151,000 dollar) a week.

United would not consider Real's Portuguese midfielder Luis Figo in maker. part-exchange but were keen on getting the Madrid club's France nternational defensive midfielder Claude Makelele.

United are desperate to offload Beckham this summer to allow manager Alex Ferguson to use the cash to strengthen his squad. The depressed transfer market,

JOAN LAPORTA

He signed a new contract with United last year which runs until 2005 but Ferguson believes he no onger fits into the tactical changes he wants to introduce at United to help them win the Champions League next year

Ferguson is chasing a goalkeeper to replace French international Fabien Barthez, a central defender, midfielder and play-

Top of his hit-list is Brazil World Cup star Ronaldinho who plays for Paris St Germain.

New PSG manager Vahid Halilhodzic is reluctant to let the player go and United face competition from Barcelona, AC Milan and Inter Milan for the 23-year-old.

oupled with United's determinatio

The touring side started the playing just 18 overs on a rain-hit

That was time enough for David Bernard to run out Sanath Jayasuriya (four) with a quick retrieval and throw.

Marvan Attapatu top-scored for the tourists on Sunday with 59. He was bowled by a yorker from 18year old pacer Jerome Taylor, who then trapped Mahela Jayawardene for an analysis of two for 22 in 10 overs and completed a memorable few days by being named in the Test

Kumar Sangakkara (41) batted

batting ability, hitting two sixes clean out of the ground and three further boundaries in an unbeaten 34. The Sri Lankan innings ended when Dharshana Gamage (nine)

was caught behind off Ganga in the final over of play on Sunday.

Ryan Hinds, who has fallen out of

to hook Dinusha Fernando.

Scoreboard for the three-day match between a West Indies Cricket Board President's XI and Sri Lanka played June 14, 15 and 16 at the Arnos Vale ground: SRI LANKA: First innings 299 all

5. Andy Roddick (USA) 6. David Nalbandian (ARG) 7. Guillermo Coria (ARG) 8. Sjeng Schalken (NED) 9. Rainer Schuettler (GER) 10. Tim Henman (GBR) 11. Jiri Novak (CZE) 12. Paradorn Srichaphan (THA) 13. Sebastien Grosiean (FRA) 14. Xavier Malisse (BEL) 15. Arnaud Clement (FRA) 16. Mikhail Youzhny (RUS) 17. Gustavo Kuerten (BRA) 18. Marat Safin (RUS) 19. Fernando Gonzalez (CHI) 20. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (RUS) 21. Martin Verkerk (NED) 22. Felix Mantilla (SPA) 23. Agustin Calleri (ARG) 24. Albert Costa (SPA) 25. Tommy Robredo (SPA) 26. James Blake (USA) 27. Younes El Aynaoui (MAR) 28. Wayne Ferreira (RSA) 29. Gaston Gaudio (ARG) 30 Denisa Chladkova (CZE) 30. Jarkko Nieminen (FIN) 31. Elena Likhovtseva (RUS)

THE SEEDINGS

4. Venus Williams (USA) 5. Lindsay Davenport (ÚSA) 6. Amelie Mauresmo (FRA) 7. Chanda Rubin (USA) 8. Jennifer Capriati (USA) 9. Daniela Hantuchova (ŚVK) 10. Anastasia Myskina (RUS) 11. Jelena Dokić (SEM) 12. Magdalena Maleeva (BUL) 13. Ai Sugiyama (JPN) 14. Eleni Daniilidou (GRE) 15. Elena Dementieva (RUS) 16. Vera Zvonareva (RUS) 17. Amanda Coetzer (RSA) 18. Conchita Martinez (SPA) 19. Meghann Shaugnessy (USA) 20. Patty Schnyder (SWI) 21. Elena Bovina (RUS) 22. Nathalie Dechy (FRA) 23. Lisa Raymond (USA) 24. Magui Serna (SPA) 25. Anna Pistolesi (ISR) 26. Alexandra Stevenson (USA) 27. Silvia Farina Elia (ITA) 28. Laura Granville (USA) 29. Nadia Petrova (RUS)

32. Tamarine Tanasugarn (THA)

wicket but was caught by Bernard off Hinds, ending a 91-run stand with Atapattu. Tail-ender Thilan Thusara

Sangakkara 41, H Tillakaratne 4, T Result: Match drawn. Mirando 34 not out; J Taylor 2-22, D Mohammed 2-55) WICB PRESIDENT'S XI: First

Asia set for Becks storm

week sojourn.

outir

Officials at Kansai International Airport in Osaka described the mob reaction to Beckham's arrival for the World Cup finals in Japan last year as an event usually reserved for movie stars.

"I have never seen such a beautiful face," a 17-year-old high school student gushed at the time, reflecting the sentiments of many Japanese women.

His book, titled "Beckham: My World", has been translated into Japanese and sold 330,000 copies nationwide since its 2002 launch. "This is by far the best selling

photo-autobiography of its kind, said Koichi Matsumoto, a spokesman for PHP Institute, the book's Japanese publisher.



DAVID BECKHAM

"The peak was the World Cup period but now that Beckham is coming to Japan, we have started to receive more orders."

Beckham's power to drive up sales is unquestioned in Asia, with the tale of confectionery manufacturer Meiji Seika Kaisha echoed around the region.

Beckham appears in two television advertisements for Meiji Seika where he is seen eating their chocolate almonds.

"We started the advertising campaign last December and our sales (of chocolate almonds) dou-

bled that month compared with the same time a year earlier," Meiji Seika spokesman Nariaki Hishiya said

"Since then our profits are up 10 percent. It was definitely a good investment," Hishiya said.

It is figures like these, as much as the midfielder's exquisite skills on the field, that many believe has attracted the interest of Spanish giants Real Madrid and Barcelona.

Real president Florentino Perez declared three years ago when he was campaigning for the job that he wanted to establish an unrivalled global footprint for his club.

With French great Zinedine Zidane's Algerian background, Brazil's Ronaldo and a host of the best Argentinian and Spanish players, Perez has got close.

But as anyone in Asia can attest, Real Madrid's popularity and marketing presence is a long way short of Manchester United's and even that of fellow Premier League contenders Liverpool.

Real are due to play a friendly in China in August and are aware of the enormous promotional spin-offs for the club if that could be Beckham's first match in their famous white shirt.

And potentially the most lucrative market, China, still awaits to be conquered.

China's rapidly modernising onebillion plus population has a disproportionate number of boys and voung men, thanks to the authoritarian government's one-child restriction on families.

IMG China's senior event manager, Brian Lau, said football was easily the most popular sport in the country and European clubs could look forward to tap into the spending power of the rising middle class.

"Now many fans in China are young boys or university students, rather than adults (aged) over 40," Lau said.

"This young generation idolises Beckham.

to sell Becks, will allow Real to sign

# Freeman may quit

Athletics

**REUTERS.** Melbourne

Olympic 400 metres champion Cathy Freeman of Australia is considering retirement after she was thrashed by Mexico's Ana Guevara last month, Freeman's manager Chris Giannopoulos says.

"She's made no firm decision but I'd be lying if I said that (retirement) wasn't a possibility," Giannopoulos told Australian Broadcasting Corp. Radio from London on Tuesday.

"It's certainly something that has crossed her mind but she's not won't be pressured into doing so," added Giannopoulos, who denied his trip to Britain was a bid to per-suade the London-based Freeman to continue towards the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Freeman took a long break after reternant took a long break after the pressure of competing at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. She returned in 2002 battling injury, weight and personal problems to win relay gold in the 400 metres at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester Manchester.

The 30-year-old has yet to qual-ify for the 400 metres individual event at the world championships in Paris in August.

Freeman was also beaten over 400 metres by Commonwealth hurdles champion Jana Pittman of Australia during the Grand Prix summer series in her home country.

Australia's most prominent Aboriginal athlete separated from her husband Alexander Bodecker in Februarv after Freeman last vear helped to nurse the American sportswear executive back to health

after throat cancer. Australian newspapers reported that the pair argued when their paths crossed at a meeting in the United States last month when the 1997 and 1999 world champion finished an embarrassing fifth

### Chucking process

FROM PAGE 13 meets in Monaco on Friday.

On the agenda on Tuesday was a meeting among the ICC's associate members, who would discuss means to further spread the game in those countries. The recommendations made by the associate members will be heard in the ICC's executive board meeting on Wednesday.



### CATHY FREEMAN

behind the top-ranked Guevara "Cathy's well, she's just going through some challenging times at the moment. Like a lot of come-backs, there's ups and downs," IMG's Giannopoulos said.

"She's just trying to weigh up whether she has it in her to strive for the ultimate success ... it's a case of whether she really wants to put herself through that any more.

### Forget World Cup

### FROM PAGE 13

stage, are aware of the need to work hard for a victory on Wednesday. "We know the kind of game the

South Americans play and it's not one we've always found easy to cope with," Henry told reporters.

France needed a 'Golden Goal to see off Paraguay at the 1998 World Cup and could only draw 0-0 with Uruguay four years later -having lost a friendly to Chile in between.

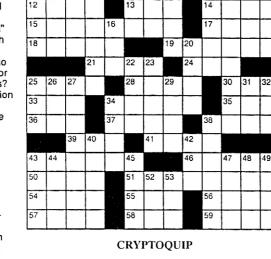
However, France are determined to re-establish themselves on the world stage, as they prepare for another, more important, defence of a trophy -- their European crown.

"We have to be clear about our target in this competition," Pires told L'Equipe on Tuesday. "We are here to prepare in the best way possible for Euro 2004.

"And the best way to prepare is to win it."

### **CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 43 Shocked 4 Bacall's 23 Pictorial

46 Mid-1 Seafood mate poser March 5 Shriner's 25 "Wham!" selection 5 Enthusiast celebrants 26 Pay with chapeau 6 Candle 8 Network 50 Burden plastic 27 One who 51 Style 12 Vagrant count 54 Singer 7 Affirmative 13 Swelled works for actions head Braxton peanuts? 55 Without 14 Lotion 8 Sir's 29 In addition additive counterfurther 31 - de 15 Lamented ado part Cologne 56 Old in verse 9 Lift 32 "All the 17 Where 10 Unrivaled Things portico heros are 57 Aware 11 Descen-You -34 Santa's made dant 58 Pavable 18 Gold. usually sackful 59 Allen 16 — -de-38 Flail silver or Ginsberg France bronze 40 "All Things 19 Tyke work 20 "Gilligan's 21 Caboose's Island' Consid-DOWN position cast ered" 24 "1 --- Sci. member medium Camera' course 22 Sans 42 Glutton 2 Portrayal 25 Keats or delay, 43 Saxo-3 Help a Shelley on a phone 28 Signet hood memo type 30 Earl Grey, 44 Hoodlum Solution time: 27 mins. for one 45 Take care 33 Field mouse's 47 Really predator busy 34 Postpone with 48 Garbage 35 One in a row? barge 36 Teensy 49 Make 37 Piece of sound 52 "Skip to work 38 Verifiable My 39 Snoop 53 Lamb's 41 Ex-frosh



TS IFBDLPH ZCP VJFF BV HDZDEI IFEOX Е ХЈРНН DLZD TPZQH E ZT APCS

### ZDDCZIDEAP

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DURING A PERFORMANCE, THE MAGICIAN GOT SO FRUSTRATED THAT HE PULLED OUT HIS HARE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T

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

Football

### AFP, Singapore

David Beckham descends on Asia Wednesday for a publicity extravaganza that analysts believe will highlight the superstar's unrivalled ability to open up the Asian market for any club he chooses.

From Bangkok to Beijing, Singapore to Seoul, the English captain is idolised for his combination of football skills, charm and good looks -- and the European clubs battling to rip him away from Manchester United know it.

"The girls go crazy over him and for the guys he brings something a

little bit special to football." the general manager of Manchester United's commercial arm in Southeast Asia, Tiong Quah Kim, told AFP.

His iconic status translates to bio bucks, as Manchester United's dominance of the increasingly lucrative football marketing industry in Asia illustrates.

The group managing director of Manchester United, David Gill, recently claimed there were about 50 million Red Devils fans worldwide, of whom just 10 million were in Britain. Most of the rest are in Asia.

Manchester United has opened at least 10 of its own "Mega Stores' across Asia over the past three years and sales of Beckham products have proved the core of their business

"Beckham products comprise between 50 to 60 percent of all Man U products sold," Bangkok Mega Store manager Veena Sitibanierd told AFP.

"The most popular (Beckham) products are mugs, notebooks and plastic toys.

Beckham is perhaps most popular in Japan, which is where he will first travel on Wednesday for a series of sponsors' promotions before heading to Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand during a one-