SPORT

The Baily Star

Gang-rape investigation **Chelsea star the key?**

Football

REUTERS/SUN, London

A teenage girl's allegations she was gang raped by at least seven professional soccer players in a luxury London hotel is threatening to rock English football with its worst-ever "players behaving badly" scandal.

The story has for days commanded the front pages of British tabloids, which reported that the 17year-old said she consented to sex with one premier league player, but that seven more from different teams joined in against her wishes.

Police have neither charged nor named any of the accused, but it hasn't stopped fans from speculating about who might have been

Football

Gerard Houllier's bid to reshape

Liverpool into a more attacking side

goes on trial when Arsenal visit

Houllier has backed away from

comments he made after last week-

end's defeat by Charlton that the

game would "make or break"

points adrift of the Premiership

leaders, the Frenchman is painfully

aware that another defeat will

inevitably trigger a fresh round of

questioning of his ability to restore

Champions League spot was a

severe blow to both club and man-

ager and Houllier has reacted by

attempting to foster a more adven-

turous style built around the creative

capacity of his most significant

To date it has not been an

ungualified success. While the

Australian winger has showed only

flashes of his match-winning ability

Liverpool's normally solid defence

has found itself subject to scrutiny

that spilled over in to out-and-out

criticism over the three goals con-

Houllier remains confident that

Bundesliga preview

ceded at Charlton

summer signing, Harry Kewell.

Last season's failure to clinch a

the club to its former glory.

But with his side already six

AFP, London

Anfield on Saturday.

Liverpool's season.

Premiership preview

involved by posting their guesses on soccer Web sites, opening a wider debate over players' privacy and libel.

The Sun astonishingly revealed on Friday that the footballer at the centre of the investigation is a Chelsea player. He was the one a 17-year-old says she agreed to have sex with.

The Sun knows the identity of the footballer but is unable to reveal his name for legal reasons. Detectives who plan to quiz him soon want to know if he was involved in setting up the alleged gang rape or was an innocent bystander in any attack.

The alleged victim a sixthformer at a London Catholic school told police she agreed to consensual sex with the Chelsea player at

Saturday

doing so far this season.

doing what we believe in."

death of his father.

Arsenal travel to Liverpool on the

back of a tiring midweek Champions

League excursion to Moscow but

should be bolstered by the return to

action of England defender Sol

Campbell, who is back in training

after several days off following the

She had met him in a trendy bar at the Sanderson Hotel in London before accompanying him to the Grosvenor House Hotel. The girl told how she drank Coca-Cola with the player and

some of his pals before agreeing to let him bed her. They went to room 316 and had sex. Seven players from the other

club allegedly walked in. The girl claimed she was gang-raped and forced to have unnatural sex. Detectives are awaiting the

results of DNA tests on the girl and items in the room. Meanwhile, Premiership club

Aston Villa on Thursday denied involvement in the case. The team played in London at the weekend but a statement "categorically confirmed" no Villa players were being probed.

Anfield centre of England his side are on the right track but is Saturday pragmatic enough to recognise that

Chelsea travel to Middlesbrough on Sunday aiming to bury the memthe fans will be looking for tangible evidence of that assertion on ory of a 2-0 home defeat by Besiktas n the Champions League. "Whatever the result, it is a game

The reverse was Chelsea's first where we have to perform," he said. loss since Roman Abramovich began injecting his millions into the "We want to show what we can do and confirm what we have been club and manager Claudio Ranieri knows his new boss will not accept To me the Charlton result was a too many more setbacks.

blip. If we had been poor down there "I expect a big reaction on Sunday," Ranieri said. "We have I would have been concerned. We strong character and I am sure we just have to keep going and keep will show it."

Ranieri's confidence that they can put their midweek blip behind them is shared by his captain, Marcel Desailly. "That is the good thing about football sometimes, straight away you have the chance to show that this was just one bad moment."

FIXTURES

Alexander Zickler.

Kaiserslautern

Vfl Wolfsburg

CRYPTOQUIP

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals S

give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

XTEECODZY

CWL CFGWTXLDJZ

EJJR

D'H

SUPPOSE IT'S IN-CAR-CERATED.

a test for Bayern's understudies.

they have not won since 1995.

FIXTURES

Munich, Stuttgart v Cologne

Bayern Munich v Hertha Berlin, SV

Hamburg v Borussia

Moenchengladbach, Vfl Bochum v

Sunday: Bayer Leverkusen v

Hansa Rostock, Werder Bremen v

Any slip-ups by Arsenal could allow Manchester United to go top, provided Sir Alex Ferguson emerges victorious from his Old (1400 GMT unless stated) Trafford reunion with his former Saturday: Fulham v Leicester, loyal servant Steve Bruce, now in Leeds v Blackburn, Liverpool v charge of a Birmingham side that Arsenal <mark>(1130 GMT)</mark>, have made a flying start to their Manchester United v second campaign back in the top Birmingham, Newcastle v Southampton, Portsmouth v

Birmingham currently occupy fourth spot in the table and Bruce's side has evolved into an outfit that is notoriously difficult to beat, although the likely absence of Robbie Savage, who has an Achilles problem, could hamper them on

FIFA Women's USE

announced her retirement Thursday following China's devastating 1-0

quarter-final loss to Canada in the Women's World Cup, state press reported. "I have played my last game,"

she was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying following the loss in Portland, Oregon. "Football is just a game, now life must move on.

Sun, 30, is one of only a few

Serie A preview

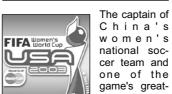
Charlton, Tottenham v Everton, Wolverhampton v Manchester Sunday: Aston Villa v Bolton (1505 GMT), Middlesbrough v Chelsea (1300 GMT)



PHOTO AFF THE LAST FALL! China's superstar Sun Wen (front, No. 9) loses balance after being challenged by a Canadian at PGE Park in Portland, Oregon on October 2.

Sun sets

AFP, Portland



1999 World Cup. "I felt we had a chance trailing cer team and 1-0 in the game," she said. " one of the never gave up. I fought until the last game's greatest players, second.

Sun Wen, to do after graduation.

so far, I have not made the decision. have a lot of time.

play for China nor for any clubs.'

of the year

Juventus, 2-1 winners at Olympiakos on Tuesday, welcome Bologna to the Delle Alpi stadium

Canada do the unthinkable

AFP, Portland



Thursday and advanced to their first ever berth in the FIFA Women's World Cup semifinals

1 - 0

οn

"This is a dream come true for me and for many of the other players on this team," said goalkeeper Taryn Swiatek, who made five saves for the shutout.

Hooper scored in the seventh minute to help Canada book a date with Sweden in the semi-finals which will feature two matchups between North America and European teams on Sunday in Portland, Oregon.

Germany overpowered Russia 7-1 in the other quarter-final on Thursday and will face the host United States

"This is going to be a huge step for our programme and also it will be a huge step for women's soccer in Canada," said Hooper.

The loss ended a year of disap-

Primera Liga preview

pointment for China which was initially supposed to host the tournament before an outbreak of SARS forced organizers to move it to the US. The game also marked the final international appearance for China's star forward Sun Wen, who plans to retire.

Dogged striker-turned-defender Hooper finished off a long ball from Diana Matheson in minute seven, heading the ball over China keeper Han Wen-xia for what turned out to be the only goal of the match.

"This is the biggest win for our women's national team," said Hooper. "It's bigger than anything we've done before. It's bigger than our World Cup qualifying final.

"Four years ago I never imagined us being in the semi-finals of the World Cup. I didn't even imagine us winning a game, and here we've won two games.

Try as they might for the next 83 minutes, the offensively-challenged Steel Roses just could not find a way past 22-year-old goalkeeper Swiatek, who smothered every shot fired her way.

The Chinese controlled nearly 65 percent of possession and took 16 shots to Canada's five.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game based on hard, hard

work and a lot of running, chasing balls. All of the players worked extremely hard," said Canadian coach Even Pellerud. Germany confirmed their status

as the European powerhouse by easily rolling over Russia 7-1. Kerstin Garefrekes and Birgit

Prinz scored two goals each as Germany set up a dream showdown with defending World Champ, the United States.

After a second-half goal avalanche, the Germans also secured their place at next year's Olympic Women's Football Tournament in Athens.

Germany lead 1-0 at the half before exploding for three goals in a five-minute span in the second half to jump out to a 4-0 lead.

Garefrekes (62, 85) and Prinz (80, 89) scored a pair each, while Martina Mueller, Sandra Minnert and Pia Wunderlich added sin-

Wunderlich's goal in the 60th minute was the prettiest of the day. Stefanie Gottschlich got the play started by moving the ball to Prinz who back-heeled it brilliantly just five yards from goal. Secondhalf substitute Wunderlich slammed it home to make it 3-0 and the rout was on.

Black beast in Barcelona

occupy the place left vacant by

Saviola should fill in for Motta

Football

Nou Camp on Sunday.

AFP. Madrid

Barcelona fans sometimes refer to

Valencia as the black beast, the

persistent nightmare which always

returns, and the 11-man league

leading monster will be back in the

an intimidating citadel for visiting

The Nou Camp has always been

Another question hanging over Barcelona's heads is how fit their team will be after their

midweek trip to Mexico for a friendly.

The excursion has been criticised in many quarters for having more to do with president Joan Laporta's desire to make Barca a global brand on par with Real Madrid than helping his club lift the league title for the first time in five seasons.

Third-placed Real Madrid will try to restore their domestic poise, after losing their own unbeaten record at Valencia, by thrashing struggling Espanyol.

Espanyol are at the foot of the table without a win to their name and a big victory over the Barcelonabased side would be even sweeter for Real Madrid fans as their opponents are coached by Javier Clemente.

Clemente became a hate figure n the Spanish capital during his sixyear reign as the Spanish national coach during the 1990s for apparently overlooking Madrid players in favour of fellow Basques.

However, Clemente knows that the Sword of Damocles, dangled by the ghostly hand of Santiago Bernabeu, will be hanging over his head this weekend. "I'd be daft if I was to say I am surprised about what they are saying about me," acknowledged Clemente ruefully on Tuesday. 'After all, last season I took over from a coach who could only get 10 points in 15 games." Real are likely to have Raul Gonzalez back to partner Ronaldo up front although they may still be without David Beckham, who

match against South Africa at the

5

56

68

19

37

82

2

w

0

0

В.

46

53

53

0 40

0 55

3

0 26

1

1

Gaddafi Stadium on Friday:

Youhana c Boucher b Hall

Razzaq c Kallis b Pollock

142, 4-167, 5-231, 6-257

Total: (for six wkts in 50 overs) 277

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-100, 3-

Did not bat: Shoaib Akhtar

Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Sami

0 м R

10

3

10

10

8

9

Dippenaar, J. Kallis, J. Rudolph, N.

McKenzie, M. Boucher, S. Pollock,

A. Hall, A. Dawson, R. Peterson, M.

Umpires: Darrell Hair (AUS) and

TV umpire: Nadeem Ghauri (PAK)

Match referee: Clive Lloyd (WIs)

SOUTH AFRICA: G. Smith,

Hafeez c Dippenaar b Pollock

PAKISTAN

Hameed run out

Inzamam b Kallis

Extras: (lb-4, w-3)

Malik not out

Latif not out

Bowler

Pollock

Ntini

Kallis

Peterson

Dawson

Hall

Ntini

Toss: Pakistan

Aleem Dar (PAK)

Younis Khan run out

missed their 3-1 Champions Cocu while Argentine striker Javier League win at Porto on Wednesday. Beckham is suffering from a bruised foot and Real coach Carlos Queiroz has the choice of replacements Ivan Helguera and Jose

Maria 'Guti' Gutierrez. Deportivo La Coruna lost their 100 per cent record last Sunday

when they went down 3-2 at Osasuna but the Galicians are still second with 12 points and could go back to the top if Valencia slip

They play host to Atletico Madrid, who have scored only one goal so far this season. A sign of Atletico's desperation is that they have already used 24 different players in just five matches.

"We have to change if we are to get anything out of the season but think we saw the start of that against Barca," said Atletico's Argentine international playmaker Ariel Ibagaza.

Villarreal lie fifth and, along with Valencia and Barcelona, are also unbeaten after five matches and they could make further progress if they notch up a club record fifth game without defeat against Real Zaragoza on Saturday.

FIXTURES

30) Real

Saturday (kick off GMT): Deportivo La Coruna v Atletico Madrid (1730), Villarreal v Real Athletic Bilbao (1930) Sunday: Malaga v Celta Vigo (1500), Murcia v Albacete (1500), Real Mallorca v Osasuna (1500), Real Sociedad v Sevilla (1500), Valladolid v Racing Santander (1500), Real Madrid v Espanyol (1700), Barcelona v Valencia (1930)

It's that time

Sun said she will further her study of international relations in Shanghai's prestigious Fudan University, but has not decided what

teams, although it has lost some of "Maybe I will become a coach. But

players in the world to have played

in all four Women's World Cups.

scoring 106 goals in 152 caps for a

Chinese team that placed second

in both the 1996 Olympics and the

its aura in recent years, but Valencia

"But one thing is certain. I have played my last game. I will neither

stake this year.

teams have rarely been cowed despite usually around 100,000 baying Catalan fans. Last season's match was a

typically full-blooded affair, with Valencia running out 4-2 winners and there is as much as ever at

Valencia are bidding to defend their position as unbeaten league leaders with 13 points while Barcelona may be back in sixth with nine points - but they have still yet to lose One man looking forward to the

encounter is Valencia's new striker Ricardo Oliveira, who scored his debut goal in the Spanish top flight in Valencia's 2-0 defeat of Real Madrid last Saturday. "I have friends who have told me

about the games of recent and especially last's season's win. I can do the sam

All eyes on Hildebrand

Football

AFP, Berlin

Vfb Stuttgart, remarkable 2-1 conquerors of Manchester United in the Champions League midweek, can write a piece of Bundesliga history on Saturday if they deny bottom-of-the table Cologne a goal

Stuttgart's 24-year-old goalkeeper Timo Hildebrand has not let in a goal for 735 minutes and is another 68 minutes from overtaking Bayern Munich keeper Oliver Kahn's unbeaten record of 802 minutes set in February

However, Stuttgart have to break a trend of having won only one of their last seven home

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 28 "What's 2 Blind 14 Not 1 Existed My even 4 Have the Line?" 3 Comfortone ed in bad quarter 15 A ability 30 The girl billior 7 Tramp times 8 Broad-33 Ref's 4 Imporvears refuter, at 19 San cast tant 10 Aesopian times date in Diego 36 Incursion Mexican attraction concluhistory 20 Resort sion 37 Breath-11 Slept (Sp.) 21 Early ing 38 Carpensoundly? 5 times, in With a 13 Quick ter's verse View" 22 Prayer picksupply 39 Iditarod 6 Soft ball 23 Contrite me-up, terminus 7 Sharpen maybe one 40 "Ula-24 Where 16 Rent 8 Houston jock 17 Ricochet lume' Joan 18 Past writer 9 Mar of Arc 41 Pigpen 10 Wire triumphed 19 Goose 25 --- chi measure egg 20 Read bar DOWN 12 "The 26 Chips in codes 1 Bottom Absinthe chips 21 Given to Drinker 28 BBQ of the artist sullenheap venue ness 29 Foolish Solution time: 21 mins. 23 On the and (near doddering defeat) 30 Viscous 25 Bull-31 Own fighter's 32 Storm center cry 26 Emana-Sting opera tion 27 Fleischer tion of D.C. 35 Whodunit basis note

matches against Cologne, whose coach Friedhelm Funkel's job is on the line.

But Funkel was defiant. "My team will go down fighting,"

he claimed Second-placed Werder Bremen and third-placed Baver Leverkusen, both a point behind Stuttgart, are at home to Vfl

Wolfsburg (6th) and Hansa Rostock (13th) respectively. Champions Bayern Munich, whose play-maker Michael Ballack is doubtful after picking up an ankle injury in the 1-1 Champions League draw with Anderlecht, have never lost in 26 years at home to

14th-placed Hertha Berlin. But Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld will be without the suspended Ze Roberto and the injured Mehmet Scholl, Jens Jeremies,

D

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ЕОЈН

AFP, Rome

Inter Milan host AC Milan on Sunday Tobias Rau, Willy Sagnol and determined to erase the painful memories of last season's cruel Champions However, Berlin, yet to win this League semi-final defeat inflicted season, should not provide too stern upon them by their city neighbours.

Football

The two-legged derby tie was finely Borussia Dortmund, yet to win balanced with little to separate the two away this season, travel to newlyteams, but Milan edged it on the away promoted Eintracht Frankfurt where goals rule.

The first match at their shared San Siro stadium ended goalless, while the return leg, in which Inter were the Saturday: Hannover v Schalke 'home' team, ended in a 1-1 draw. Milan gaulified for the final in 04, Eintracht Frankfurt v Borussia Dortmund, SC Freiburg v 1860 Manchester where they beat Juventus on penalties.

"The thing that is so difficult to stomach and annovs me the most is that we didn't lose either match and vet still didn't reach the final," said Inter president Massimo Moratti

Inter defender Ivan Cordoba feels equally hurt about missing out on the Old Trafford showpiece.

"I'm trying not to think about it because it makes me think about how close we were. There's still great regret," said the 27-year-old Colombian international.

Inter have not conceded a single goal in Serie A, but have lost ground on their championship rivals after two successive goalless draws.

While the defence has held firm. the strikers have been misfiring, scoring just three times in four matches, so the return of Christian Vieri could not be better timed.

Vieri, last season's leading Serie A goalscorer, returned to action in Tuesday's Champions League match at home to Dynamo Kiev after missing the previous four matches due to an ankle iniury.

And the 30-year-old international took no time at all in hitting the net, coming off the bench midway through the second-half to head a last minute goal to give Inter a late 2-1 win over the Ukranians

The victory took Inter to the top of JZ XJ HTQG Group B with maximum points from their two matches. WL RDZZCO

Vieri is expected to start against Milan but defender Marco Materazzi has been ruled out after failing to recover from an injury to his left thigh.

European champions Milan were Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOUR OLD AUTO IS HAULED AWAY TO THE POUND, I held to a 0-0 draw away to Celta Vigo in the Champions League on Wednesday which was enough to keep them top of Group H.

Milan, along with Roma and Juve, The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for are tied for first place in Serie A with all another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe three teams on 10 points from four matches.

boosted by striker Alessandro Del Piero's decision to prolong his stay with the reigning Italian champions.

The 28-year-old Italy international signed a four-year extension on Thursday that will keep him at the Turin club until June 2008.

Local councillors in the capital have given the go-ahead for Roma's fixture at Siena to be shown live on a giant screen close to the city centre in a bid to prevent ticketless fans from travel-

lina. Only 900 tickets have been made available to Roma fans for the match at Siena's 10,000 capacity Artemio Franchi stadium. Around 5,000 supporters were expected to head for the medieval Tuscan town.

> FIXTURES (all matches 1300 GMT on Sunday unless stated): Ancona v Udinese, Empoli v Modena, Inter Milan v AC Milan, Juventus v Bologna, Lazio v

Chievo, Lecce Brescia, Parma v Sampdoria, Perugia v Reggina (1600 GMT), Siena v Roma

The Maradona museum

way to victory in a 1986 World Cup when Maradona put the ball into the net with his fist. The referee allowed the goal and Maradona attributed the score to "the hand of God".

It will then take in Mexico and Italy FIFA centenary celebrations next May. It is also hoped to visit China

States and Spain. Maradona, 42, is now living in Cuba

cocaine addiction

Sunday and I think we will enjoy the space that the big pitch at the Nou Camp gives us," said the Brazilian

Barcelona will be without Philip Cocu and Thiago Motta, who were both sent off in last week's 0-0 draw at Atletico Madrid.

Spanish international midfielder Xavi Hernandez is expected to

Malik calls WHiZZ KID-198 FROM PAGE 13 100-2. Hameed reached his second one-day half century off 81 balls

answers with four boundaries but six runs 1. Who won the Champions Trophy later failed to beat South African hockey title? captain Graeme Smith's brilliant Ans. Netherlands throw from mid on and was run out. 2. Who clinched the Europa college Youhana and Younis Khan ran basketball crown? some quick singles to disturb the Ans. Khulna College South African bowling but at 142 3. Bangladesh lost the first Test Younis misjudged a single and was run out for 19. against Pakistan by: Kallis finished with 2-53. Ans. 7 wkts SCORECARD 4. Who became man-of-the-match Scoreboard of the Pakistan innings in the 4th Test between England and in the first one-day international

South Africa? Ans. Kirsten 5. Who won the Spanish Super Cup? Ans: Real Madrid

Ashes tray

FROM PAGE 13 beat England on home soil for the first time; a seismic event that led the Sporting Times to publish a mock obituary of English cricket, which stated that "the body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia"

Adam's sentimental FROM PAGE 13

that lay ahead he said: "The first day is likely to be the hardest, it's 25 miles all uphill. "We are going to have teething

problems and we are starting late, so I think it's going to be a rude introduction."

The UK leg of the journey will cover 594 miles across 28 days and ends in Brighton on October 31.

The team will then sail to Dieppe and cycle to Gibraltar before rowing to Tangiers.

The patron of the Fund is former Prime Minister John Major, who will be joining the fundraisers for part of the walk in London.

Srichaphan in last four

AFP, Tokyo

Thai star Paradorn Srichaphan underscored his status as Asia's number one by beating Lee Hyung-Taik of South Korea to reach the semifinals at the Japan Open tennis tournament on Friday.

The Thai third seed, who has not lost a tie-breaker this week, stormed back from early service breaks to score a 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 victory over the Korean seventh seed Asia's number two.

"I would sav it's not easy for me to be number one in Asia -- he's number two. This match put a lot of pressure on me to play against another great Asian player out there and he took the first set," said Paradorn.

"I really felt pressure in the first set, but I think I did a good job today, winning the second set, coming back slowly and winning the match.' In the semi-finals Saturday he will play second seed Sebastien Grosjean of France, the winner over

eighth seed Jan-Michael Gambill of the United States 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

0 Wishart whacks 2 1

FROM PAGE 13 Extras: (b-5, lb-4, w-1, nb-3) Total: (For seven wkts in 96 overs) 254

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-20, 3-65 4-79, 5-89, 6-149, 7-174 М 0 R w Bowler 21 36 Wilson 9 76 Wates 21 4 2 6 5 63 Angel 21 29 0 14 Worthington 29 0 1 Casson 7 10 8 Hussev 11 0 North 0 2

Toss: Western Australia.

AFP, Buenos Aires The boots worn by Diego Maradona during the controversial 1986 World Cup game against England and the telegraph announcing his first national call up are mong 400 items on show in a travelling Museum launched in honour of the Argentine idol here. Argentina beat England on their

the number Maradona wore on his jersey, will head for Rosario in Januarv where Maradona played for Argentine

where the Argentine starred with Napoli, and be presented during the

Japan, South Korea, Egypt, the United

where he went to seek treatment for

The "M10" museum, named after

club Newell's Old Boys.

on Thursday.

correct