England versus France

D for 'Group of Death'



England were paired with titleholders France while Holland and three-time winners Germany were drawn in the same group for the Euro 2004 finals in Portugal here on Sunday.

England and France will slug it out in Group B along with Switzerland and and Croatia.

with 1996 finalists Czech Republic and playoff qualifiers Latvia in Group D.

Host nation Portugal face neighbours Spain in Group A, while Italy will expect to qualify from Group C, which also fea-tures Sweden, Bulgaria and Denmark.

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson was relieved that England, who have never won the European title, managed to avoid Group D, which is set to earn the title of the championships' 'Group of Death'.

"D is the most difficult group," said Eriksson. "We will have the first match against France, in Lisbon. It will be a big, big, game and very nice. Difficult, but beautiful

"France is one of the favourites to win the tournament and you hope to have them in the final, but we are playing in the biggest stadium in Portugal (the Stadium of Light).

"Switzerland and Croatia are doing very well, so I don't expect that to be easy.

"France are a difficult one but I think we can beat them if we play $\frac{1}{2}$

France coach Jacques Santini said the clash with France, on June 13, would be "like a derby" because France stars such as Thierry Henry and Patrick Vieira play club football in the English Premiership.

"It's a very balanced group and each match will have its own particular identity," said Santini, who has just guided France to a run of 13 matches without defeat.

"We played the Swiss in a friendly a few weeks ago, Croatia was the last step we took before winning the (World Cup in) 1998 and well, France v England which will open our group campaign will be more like a derby given the

Davis Cup

 $\textbf{REUTERS,} \ \textit{Melbourne}$

Melbourne.

3, 1-6, 2-6, 6-0

your heart out there.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

5 Where to

Biblically

shadows

13 One side

of the

Urais

14 Flamenco

"tell it

9 Hiatus

12 Linger

1 High

Australia's

28th triumph

Australia won the Davis Cup for the

28th time on Sunday when a coura-

geous Mark Philippoussis beat

Juan Carlos Ferrero in a five-set

struggle in his home city of

Needing to win just one of the

two concluding rubbers to secure

the title, Australia snatched an

unassailable 3-1 lead when

Philippoussis defied injury to beat

the French Open champion 7-5, 6-

treatment on a pectoral muscle

after the fourth set when the

momentum had suddenly turned

against him but he decided to play

to pull out," Philippoussis said.

completely numb. I felt like I was-

n't playing but watching from the

37 Bet

both

38 Hero's

40 PC

orna-

picture 42 "— Got a

Secret'

ingredi

43 Pushing

the

48 Jam

'This is Davis Cup and you leave

"There was no way I was going

"At the end of the day I was

Philippoussis needed medical



UEFA vice-president Senes Erzik (C) of Turkey hands over the trophy of the Euro 2004 to Portuguese Football Federation president Gilberto Madail while former French superstar Laurent Blanc (L) looks on during the draw ceremony in Lisbon yesterday.

GROUP FIXTURES

GROUPINGS

Group A - Portugal, Greece, Spain, Russia Group B - France, England, Switzerland, Croatia Group C - Sweden, Bulgaria, Denmark, Italy

Group D - Czech Republic, Latvia, Germany, Holland Fixtures for the group stage matches in the 2004 European Championships to be held

June 12-July 4 in Portugal: **GROUPA**

June 12: Portugal v Greece in Porto (Dragao stadium), Spain v Russia in Faro/Loule June 16: Greece v Spain in Porto (do Bessa stadium), Russia v Portugal in Lisbon

June 20: Spain v Portugal in Lisbon (Alvalade stadium), Russia v Greece in Faro/Loule

June 13: Switzerland v Croatia in Leiria, France v England in Lisbon (Stadium of Light) June 17: England v Switzerland in Coimbra, Croatia v France in Leiria June 21: Croatia v England in Coimbra, Switzerland v France in Lisbon (Stadium of Light)

June 14: Denmark v Italy in Guimaraes, Sweden v Bulgaria in Lisbon (Alvalade stadium) June 18: Bulgaria v Denmark in Braga, Italy v Sweden in Porto (Dragao stadium)

June 22: Italy v Bulgaria v Guimaraes, Denmark v Sweden in Porto (do Bessa stadium) **GROUP D** June 15: Czech Republic v Latvia in Porto (Dragao stadium), Germany v Holland in

June 19: Latvia v Germany in Porto (do Bessa stadium), Holland v Czech Republic in

June 23: Holland v Latvia in Braga, Germany v Czech Republic in Lisbon (Alvalade

NB: first two from each group qualify for the quarterfinals which are held from June 24-27.

Streak praises

Scoreboard of the fourth one-day

FROM PAGE 13

SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE

Rogers b Edwards

Wishart lbw b Edwards

Streak c Powell b Gayle

Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-1, w-8)

Total: (For 7 wkts in 32 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-10, 3-10, 4-15, 5-

 $Taibu\,b\,Edwards$

Blignaut not out

Vermeulen c C'paul b Edwards

Matsikenvere c C'more b Edwards

number of players playing in the

Arsenal star Vieira, who is currently injured and so attended the draw in Lisbon, admitted the pairing with England was excit-

"It's going to be a very difficult game to start for us. But it's going to be an open game and also an open group. Anybody can beat

"We're pleased and worried at the same time.

"But we will approach the game (against England) the same way as we approach all the oth-

Rudi Voller, the coach of three-time winners Germany, had no doubts his side were in the hardest group after being thrown together with old rivals Holland and 1996 finalists the Czech Republic.

"That is without doubt a strong group," Voller said. "Cer-tainly there were quite a few other combinations which would have been much easier on paper. It was clear beforehand that at this tournament there would be no easy preliminary groups."

Voller, who led Germany to runners-up spot behind Brazil at the 2002 World Cup, did see some good points from the draw.

"I don't see starting against Holland as a problem because at a European championships everyone is concentrating fully right from the start. The only thing that bothers me is our late start on June 15 when all the other groups have already played.

Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni meanwhile agreed that group D was the one to avoid.

The veteran coach is positive that Italy will qualify from their group C but - perhaps referring to their last-minute defeat to France in the 2000 European Championships final - warned they would have to perform when

"On paper we are favourites (to win the group), but I say on paper because on the pitch things can turn out differently," said Trapattoni.

"I think the toughest group is D, while France and England shouldn't have problems in qual-

"For us it was important to avoid France and Portugal. Psychologically it's a small

A team's opener

requested the Board to excuse him on personal grounds.

international between 7imbabwe and Also national coach Dav Whatmore won't it seems accom-West Indies: 256 for 3 in 45 overs (Hinds pany the team to watch some 127 not out, Gayle 51, Sarwan 47; Streal matches rather he will go direct to Australia on December 10 to spend some time with his family before Sibanda c Jacobs b Edwards returning on January 3.

18

150

18

22

35

17

21

0 28 FROM PAGE 13

The camp for the Bangladesh A team resumes at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this morning.

BANGLADESH A TEAM: Mushfigur Rahman (captain), Hannan Sarker (vice-captain), Moniruzzaman, Mazharul Hague, Rajin Saleh, Manjarul Islam, Jamaluddin, Anwar Hossain Munir, Mohammad Ashraful, Ehsanul Haque, Shahriar Hossain, Alamgir Kabir, Tareq Aziz Khan, Mohammad Salim (wicketkeeper) and Mosaddek Hossain.

Murali not

FROM PAGE 13 against Sri Lanka.

But the present England side

does not match Hussain's team that had experienced pacemen in Andrew Caddick, Darren Gough and Craig White. England's batting line-up

remains formidable, but the same can not be said of their seam attack of Richard Johnson, James Kirtley, Mat the w Hoggard and Flint off.England face a big threat from

Muralitharan, who has so far bagged 459 wickets in 82 Tests. "Murali's got that touch of

genius and always looks capable of taking a wicket. I don't think there is a harder job than facing Murali at his best with fielders around you,' said Hussain.

SRI LANKA (from): Hashan Tillaka-ratne (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sanga-kkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Michael Vandort, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumar Dharmasena, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Dinusha Fernando, Dilhara Fernando,

Johnson, James Kirtley, Chris Read, Geraint Jones.

France start

4- 1 Italy

SPÖRT

7- 1 Spain

18-1 Germany

25-1 Denmark 50-1 Bulgaria

66-1 Greece 80-1 Croatia, Russia

Rivaldo on Chelsea trail

AFP, London

Unsettled Brazilian striker Rivaldo, who is set to leave European champions AC Milan during the winter transfer window, fancies a move to Chelsea -- who he has compared to an all-star NBA team.

The 31-year-old forward has failed to become a regular starter for Carlo Ancelotti since joining AC from Barcelona at the start of last season and most recently has been angling for a move to the English Premiership.

Manchester United wanted to sign Rivaldo 18 months ago while he was with the Spanish league side and the Brazilian World Čup winner has recently held negotiations with Liverpool

Premiership

Leeds end barren spell

AFP, London

Leeds celebrated the prospect of financial salvation on Saturday by ending a run of five straight

A ninth-minute strike by teenage striker James Milner was enough to secure a 1-0 win over fourth-placed Charlton and give Eddie Gray his first victory since taking over as caretaker manager following the sacking of Peter Reid.

It was only Leeds' third victory of what has been a miserable sea son so far and they remain bottom of the table because their goal difference is worse than fellow strugglers Wolves.

But a battling display will never-theless have given the Elland Road faithful reason to hope on a day, which brought good news off the pitch with confirmation that a takeover of the club is imminent.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman bin Mubarak al-Khalifa, a member of Bahrain's royal family and a Leeds fan of 25 years standing, confirmed that he was heading up a group of Gulf investors who are planning to take over the cash-strapped club.

Leeds' victory was enough to drag them level on points with Wolves, who drew 1-1 at home to Newcastle earlier on the day.

Alan Shearer rescued a point for the visiting Magpies after an embarrassing blunder by goalkeeper Shay Given had gifted Wolves the lead.

Given was left red-faced after rushing from his box in the 27th minute only to totally fluff his clearance and leave Nathan Blake with a clear run for his first goal of But four minutes later Shearer

swept home his 12th Premiership goal of the season from Lomana LuaLua's pass to bring the Magpies level and that was how it staved. although Wolves twice hit the woodwork in the closing stages. Aston Villa moved out of the

relegation zone with a 1-0 win over Southampton that was every bit as desperately-needed as Leeds's

Leicester and Blackburn completed a good day for clubs strug-gling at the wrong end of the table with wins over Portsmouth and Tottenham respectively.

Omar going FROM PAGE 13

requires just rest," Asif added.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed agreed Kapali could still bat despite carrying the niggling shoulder. "He can bat and bowl but not for

too long. If he wants to do that he might require a simple ice treat-

FROM PAGE 13

feet while Bangladesh's altitude is only 100 feet. It's is causing problem to my boys who have hardly gone out of Nepal," said Ashoke. He also raised a question about

"To me, a few of their players looked over-aged.

Beckham came off four minutes But Yousuf denied the allegafrom the end of the match with Real tion saying his squad members coach Carlos Queiroz anxious not to were selected on completion of all take any chances ahead of next necessary procedure regarding week's Madrid derby against "I will see how the ankle feels on Sunday," said Beckham.

been playing together for the last five years under FIFA goal project as members of the under-14 side.

Serie A

Inter Cruz past Juve

The title race in Italy was thrown wide open on Saturday as Inter Milan bounced back from their Champions League humiliation in midweek by ending Juventus unbeaten run with a stunning 3-1 victory over the Serie A league

scored twice and speedy Nigerian teenager Obafemi Martins added a third as Inter chalked up their extinguished the memory of Tuesday's 5-1 thrashing at home to

Inter remain fourth but close the gap on Juve to four points. Juventus are on 26 points, two

Cruz, standing in for the injured Christian Vieri, said Inter had redeemed themselves with their first away to Juventus in 10 years.

"The game against Arsenal was strange but we know we are a good team and we showed that tonight," said the former Bologna marks-

"We knew that it was going to be a very difficult game but luckily we've closed the gap on Juve which

"We were successful in putting away our chances and that was



ZERO GRAVITY: Inter Milan Nigerian forward Obefami Martins celebrates

after scoring against Juventus during their Italian league match on

Juve coach Marcello Lippi admitted a rejuvenated Inter were worthy of the three points.

crucial. Now we must maintain the

same character and then we can go

"We are a team full of quality but we were unable to express our-

selves," he said. "Inter had something extra than us in terms of character and deter-

Igor Gabilondo, who found the

net in the 2-2 Champions League

draw at Olympiakos in midweek

opened the scoring in the 29th

minute but Murcia, second from

bottom in Spain, hit back two min-

utes after the interval through Luis

TOP SIX

Primera Liga

Juve's only reply in Turin came a

minute from time when

Uruguayan defender Paolo

Inter's win not only resurrected

their own title ambitions but also gives Roma and AC Milan, who

share second place, the chance to

leapfrog Juve at the top of the table

Montero headed home from close

Ronaldo rescues Real

Football

November 29

David Beckham endured a fierce test of his composure and character on Saturday before an ankle injury put an end to his participation in Real Madrid's 1-1 draw at Osasuna.

The England skipper had been mercilessly targetted by the

leave the field after hurting his foot.

Osasuna players as well as the

crowd who booed him and pelted him with fruit and rubbish when-

ever he ventured near the touchline.

take a corner, he turned to remon-

strate with the passionate

Pamplona crowd as another shower

when he supplied the sublime

defence-splitting pass for Ronaldo to score and equalise Ibrahima

of debris headed his way

Bakayoko's opener.

At one stage, as he prepared to

However, he had the last laugh

"They played well at the start and

the pitch was not the best. I want to

be fit to play against Atletico

because I am sure it will be a great

experience. Former Marseille man Bakayoko

had put Osasuna into an 11thminute lead but Ronaldo equalised with a crisp low shot 16 minutes from time as Real escaped with a point to avoid a third league defeat of the season.

It was the Brazilian World Cup winner's 10th goal of the season but it came against the run of play against a team who had won this

SIEMENS

Spanish league table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points): 13 8 3 2 27 11 27 Valencia Madrid 13 8 3 2 27 15 27 12 8 2 2 21 9 26 Deportivo 13 7 1 5 17 16 22 13 5 5 3 14 10 20 Osasuna 12 6 2 4 15 12 20

draw at Murcia.

Germany to tour Asia

AFP, Lisbon

Germany will play friendly internationals against Japan, South Korea and Thailand in December 2004, it was announced here on Saturday.

Harald Stenger, spokesman for the German Football Federation, said that the game with Japan will be staged on December 16 at a venue yet to be decided with the match against South Korea, who lost to Germany in the semi-finals of the World Cup last year, being held in Busan on December 19.

The date and venue for the

Wolves fan hurt by fireworks

AFP, Wolverhampton

displays after a near tragedy when a device shot into the crowd and hit a female fan in the face. The woman, who was sitting

being struck just below the eye However, Deportivo La Coruna before kick-off in Saturday's can reclaim top spot on Sunday with awin over Villareal.

Premiership match against Newcastle. Seven other people Real Sociedad twice surrendered required medical treatment, the lead as they were held to a 2-2 mainly for shock.

24 Pub 21 Parka feature 25 Respon 22 Con symptom sibility 26 Open-Russia 30 Mel of Coopers 31 Paces article 33 Send 35 Child's 36 Betwe iobs

9 Circum evidence 15 Border 49 Winning vented 31 Filling 10 Winglike 17 Beige margin station 18 Kinks 11 Nerdunits maybe pack 34 Portable 19 Gets on the contents (Abbr.) close noggin 16 Larry's 35 One of 21 Foreigner, 51 Reply (Abbr. 20 Still, in Hawaiians 52 Bat a verse Lakes 37 Weeding 38 Isinglass 39 Author 40 Lead-in to bird or plane Guitarist Atkins 14 Promptly relentlessly 46 Wilde — out : living

Streak 25 44 35 Ervine Rampaul 25 0 Price 0 29 0 Gayle Powell 32 Result: West Indies won by eight wick-Hinds Result: West Indies won by 72 runs (D/L ets and won five-match series 3-2. method). Man-of-the-match: Chris Gavle. Man-of-the-match: Fidel Edwards. Man-of-the-series: Chris Gayle. Toss: Zimbabwe.

Q'land's first

outright win

Queensland, the powerhouse state in Australian cricket, snatched their

first outright win of the new Sheffield Shield season Sunday when they wrapped up a 61-run

victory over South Australia at

Australia were all out for 222 in their

second knock as pace pair Michael Kasprowicz (5-84) and Andy Bichel

Jacobs, Dillon, Rampaul, Edwards,

(4-52) captured the honours.

Gayle gives

FROM PAGE 13

Collymore

By Eugene Sheffer

23 Non-

24 Where

26 Total

members

you'll be

in hot

ticket

27 Driver's

28 Hosiery

29 Water-

gate

ID

DOWN

1 Mountain

3 Screw up

Greene

6 Nick and

Nora's

pet 7 Father's

8 Draft

Day gift

animal's

gear

4 Talents

Needing 283 to win, South

AFP, Sydney

Adelaide Oval.

CRYPTOQUIP

XADJ MFXV QCD VAFOOZJR

KACFSRA MQKKTD-TFRV' Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN A TOWN RULED BY TURKEYS, I THÍNK THE STREETS MIGHT BE MADE WITH GOBBLESTONE.

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

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals L 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

TEAMS IQZT-FCGDC, Tilakaratne Dilshan. NSH IDCMAQJGZVD

ENGLAND (from): Michael Vaughan (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Andrew Flintoff, Rikki Clar-ke, Gareth Batty, Paul Collingwood, Robert Croft, Ashley Giles, Matthew Hoggard, James Anderson, Richard

U-20s set

between Bangladesh and Nepal. "We live at an altitude of 4,800

the Bangladesh players' age.

The former Nepal midfield international, however, looked confident with his team who had

fixture for the last two seasons. "It is an important point," said match with Thailand has yet to be Ronaldo. "All points are good to decided.

Real Madrid's super striker Ronaldo (R) watches teammate David Beckham

Real were a shadow of their usual selves as, even prior to Beckham's premature departure, they were missing injured 'galactic' trio Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo and

Roberto Carlos. The point moved them briefly to the top of the table with 27 points from 13 games but they were later overtaken, on goal difference, by Valencia who beat Real Zaragoza 3-

First half goals from Jorge Lopez, Vicente and Pablo Aimar put Valencia in charge before they were stunned by a second half fightback.

English Premiership club Wolves have banned pre-match fireworks

behind the Wolves dugout, suf-fered a fractured cheek bone after

favourites REUTERS, London Football Betting on the Euro 2004 Champtonship after Sunday's 13-2 Netherlands, Portugal 15-2 England 12-1 Czech Republic 22-1 Sweden

Argentine striker Julio Cruz

ment them for the way they per-formed. We will take a look at where we went wrong but don't forget it was our first defeat of the ahead of Roma and Milan.

"On many other occasions against our rivals we have shown hat we have something more, but tonight was not the case Inter went ahead after their first

attack ended with Martins being chopped down by Montero just outside the penalty box. Cruz accepted responsibility

mination and I have to compli-

and curled a vicious free-kick which Gianluigi Buffon got a hand to but could not prevent from finding the top corner. Juventus should have drawn

level just after the half hour when a free-kick was deflected into the path of Mauro Camoranesi, but the Argentine born Italy international shot wildly over the bar from six Inter dominated at the start of the second-half and it was no sur-

of the night in the 69th minute, firing low past Gianlugi Buffon after the Juve goalkeeper had saved his Martins, who was a real handful for the Juve defence, completed Juve's misery six minutes later,

snatching possession from a hesistant Nicola Legrottaglie before slotting past Buffon Earlier on Saturday Lazio's brittle confidence sunk even lower after they crashed to a 3-0 defeat away to a spirited Siena.

Brazilian Rodrigo Taddei was the architect of Lazio's downfall, scoring twice in the final four minutes of a pulsating first-half before setting up compatriot Fernando Menegazzi for a late third as Roberto Mancini's men fell to their fourth league defeat of the season. Lazio, whose Champions League

hopes are hanging by a thread after Wednesday's disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Besiktas, were forced to play the last 23 minutes with 10 men following the sending-off of Dejan Stankovic for verbally abusing á linesman. Lazio remain fifth on 19 points while Siena, promoted as champions from Serie B last season, move up to seventh after recording only their third victory of

Standings in the Italian championship after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against,

	Juventus	11	8	2	1	25	12	26
t	AS Roma	10	7	3	0	22	3	24
	AC Milan	10	7	3	0	18	4	24
-	Inter Milan	11	6	4	1	20	5	22
1	Lazio	11	6	1	4	18	16	1
	Parma	10	5	3	2	16	10	18