# SPÖRT

#### **Batty survives** surfing scare!

AFP, Galle

England spinner Gareth Batty went into Tuesday's first Test against Sri Lanka in this coastal town after being rescued from the sea outside the team hotel a day earlier.

Batty had been body-surfing with captain Michael Vaughan and fast bowler Matthew Hoggard on Monday afternoon when all three were caught by a rip tide that washed them away from the coast.

The well-built Hoggard managed to swim ashore, while Vaughan scrambled onto some rocks and alerted lifeguards as Batty struggled to escape the strong currents.

"There was a point when I feared the worst," said the 26-year-old Batty, clearly shaken by the incident.

"The rocks I was getting washed up against were hellish sharp. Vaughany could tell I was strug-gling and he was getting pretty animated on the rocks.

"It was his waving that caught the attention of five or six blokes on

Wellage Gamini, one of the lifeguards who rescued Batty, said the cricketer was lucky to survive.

"We always tell Europeans it is all right to swim in the sea, but always near the shore," Gamini said.

The off-spinner, however, recovered from the shock to take his place in the England line-up for the first of three Tests against the

#### **Banking on Byas**

AFP, London

Yorkshire have appointed former captain David Byas as their director of cricket and will have Australian World Cup player Ian Harvey as one of their overseas players as they bid to get back in the title race next season.

Byas, who in 2001 led his native county on the field to their first County Championship title for 33 years, said on Monday he had agreed to return to the club because all-rounder Harvey had been persuaded to join from

"I see it as a terrific challenge," said 40-year-old Byas. "These sorts of opportunities do not come along every day, and I thought it was too good to miss."

"He (Harvey) is a wonderful player and a terrific signing. I look forward to working with him."

Yorkshire do not anticipate any problems with receiving clearance for Harvey from the Australian

Harvey, who will join fellow Australian Darren Lehmann at Headingley, said in a statement: "This took no thinking about. I wanted to be part of trying to bring Yorkshire back to where it should be and I am eagerly looking forward to this major challenge and playing a full part in their success."

Harvey was only called into Australia's squad for this year's World Cup as a late replacement for the injured Shane Watson, but he made six appearances in the tournament, taking eight wickets at 19.6 apiece and averaging 22

Dermot Reeve had been tipped to join Yorkshire in a coaching capacity but has decided that his broadcasting commitments would prevent him giving the job his full

### Eng keep

33 Batty

Butcher, Thorpe, Flintoff, Batty, Collingwood, Giles, Hoggard, Johnson, Read

Umpires: Srinivas Venkatraghavan

CROSSWORD

**ACROSS** 

1 Petrol

26 Rick's

32 Black

pianist

catche

and-white

cookie

36 Practice

ring

37 Anorak

in the

ENGLAND: Vaughan, Trescothick,

Toss: Sri Lanka

(India) and Darryl Harper (Australia).

41 Whopper

42 B&B

## Dravid spurs mates on

Cricket

**AFP,** Brisbane

Indian batsman Rahul Dravid sees it as the team's responsibility to do well in the forthcoming fourmatch Test series against Australia to reward his cricket-crazy countrymen's unstinting love for the

Dravid, who helped to turn around the 2001 series at home against Australia with a matchwinning partnership with Venkatsai Laxman, sees the series with Australian captain Steve Waugh's team as a great opportu-

The 30-year-old and Laxman mounted a 376-run fifth-wicket stand to fight back in the second Test in Čalcutta against the Australians, who until then had been dominant. Dravid's 180 and Laxman's 281 helped India to a famous victory against all expectations, subsequently spurring the home side on to a series win.

"We were really under the mat

Flemo may miss

India which also involved

"I was hopeful it would improve with rest and I would not need an

injection but that hasn't been the

case, which is a worry," Fleming

"The tear is very deep and I'm in

Pakistan beat New Zealand,

who are being captained by Chris

Cairns, by 124 runs in Lahore on Monday to take a 2-0 lead in the

one-day series between the two

The next match in the five-game series is in Faisalabad on

**DMFLC** meets

He however ruled out the possi-

"We will discuss everything in

bility of an early start to the league.

the meeting. We are aware of the big clubs' problems but we also

have some problems to solve before the league starts. We are yet

to finalise a contract with the sponsor as well as other issues," He added.

Cairns was run out for 29, trig-

gering a middle-order collapse which saw his team lose six wickets

"Losing all those wickets was inexplicable, but having said that

Sami is a good performer, they

were his conditions and he blew us

5-0 whitewash by the home side.

He dismissed any prospects of a

"I'm not even contemplating

that yet to be honest. We're still in the series and while we're 2-0 down

"That has to be the focus, I don't

walk out there thinking about

NEW ZEALAND (from): Chris Cairns (captain), Tama Canning, Craig Cumming, Chris Harris, Paul Hitchcock, Richard Jones, Hamish

Marshall, Brendon McCullum,

Mathew Sinclair, Daryl Tuffey, Daniel Vettori, Matthew Walker,

Haq (captain), Imran Farhat, Saleem Elahi, Yasir Hameed, Yousuf Youhana, Shoaib Malik,

Abdul Razzaq, Azhar Mahmood,

Moin Khan, Danish Kaneria, Shabbir Ahmed, Mohammad

Sami, Shoaib Akhtar, Misbahul

Haq, Umer Gul.

cleave

By Eugene Sheffer

DOWN

Solution time: 25 mins.

1 Astronaut

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul

Kerry Walmsley, Michael Mason.

anything other than winning.

**TEAMS** 

Shoaib bad

Haq Mukta yesterday.

a race against time not only for the

Test but just to get some cricket

told reporters on Tuesday.

FROM PAGE 13

under my belt.

in the series until then. We'd been hammered by the Australians, by the press, hammered by everybody all round," Dravid recalled today at a Test match function in Brisbane

"Just to come back from the situation we were in and have that special day was absolutely brilliant and set up the series for us from there on.



RAHUL DRAVID

Despite India's poor away record, with just six wins from their last 67 Test matches on the road, Dravid said the squad was excited about the series in Australia, starting at Brisbane's

Gabba on Thursday. "The guys are very keen to come here and do well here, it's a great place to play cricket," he

"I view it as a great responsibility and a great opportunity because when we do well or when we succeed we have a chance to make so many millions of people happy. "A lot of people have worries and problems in their lives and

when the cricketers do well it gives them a reason to be happy. "The guys understand and value the support and the love and affection that we get from our

supporters and we're very keen to try and reward some of that love and affection.

When Dravid scores heavily his team does well: India has only lost once in the 15 matches in which he has scored a Test century.

### Hayden thinking of a special bye to Steve

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

The Australian cricket team was aiming to give captain Steve Waugh an emotional send-off on his farewell four Tests against India this southern summer, opening batsman Matthew Hayden said on

The opening match in the series gets underway at the Gabba here on Thursday and Waugh is planning to play his final game in the last Test in Sydney on January 2-6.

"Stephen holds a very special place and has touched us all per-sonally, in fact he's personally touched the lives of Australians for almost 20 years," Hayden said. "It is emotional and I think

ing that emotion and not veering away from it. "I'm sure Stephen will go through a few ebbs and flows

we're looking forward to embrac-

during the summer. "But in many ways his home Test match in Sydney will be one that all of us will remember. All of

us can celebrate the end of a Test "I'm sure he is capable of going out with a massive bang."

Hayden, the world record holder for most runs in a Test innings after his 380 in Perth against Zimbabwe in October, said while the bouncy Gabba pitch would favour Australia through

their familiarity with it, he expected off-spinner Harbhajan Singh to enjoy the conditions.

"Harbhajan will extract a lot of

bounce so we've got our work cut out for us," said Hayden. "They've (India) actually toured considerably better over the last

"They've got some batsman like (Rahul) Dravid who really puts together his game plan on bouncy wickets and they sort of bat around

"Then you've got the likes of (Sachin) Tendulkar and (Virender) Sehwag who will no doubt bring crowds to their feet the way they

Meanwhile, wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist missed Australia's training session here Tuesday ahead of the first Test.

Gilchrist was resting with a viral infection, a team spokesman said. However, team officials believed he would be fit to play in

through illness before last year's first Ashes Test against England here but recovered in time.

Recuperating fast bowler Brett Lee worked out with the Australians in the nets on Tuesday.

Lee has been sidelined by a stomach muscle strain and ankle surgery but returns to play for New South Wales in a domestic one-day match against Victoria next

#### First woman to cross English **Channel dies**

AFP, New York

Gertrude Ederle, who battled male chauvinism and 20-foot waves to become the first woman to swim the English Channel, died Sunday at a nursing home in New Jersey. She was 98.

Staff at the nursing home said she died peacefully in her sleep.

Ederle was only 19 when, in 1926, she confounded expectations by swimming the stretch of water between England and France in just 14 hours and 31 minutes, a new record that eclipsed the efforts of the five men who had previously completed the marathon swim.

XZZW: "JIAD HSZ HXZIK

WCZKKLCB." Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU GOT WHIPPED IN A FISTFIGHT, CHANCES ARE YOU WOULD PROBABLY BE A SORE LOSER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals M

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.

### Jaques an **Aussie or** English?

AFP, London

Northampton will ask their lawyers to make a special plea for Australian left-hander Phil Jaques to be allowed to play for the club as an England-qualified player.

Jaques has signed a three-year contract with Northampton and was set to play alongside overseas players Martin van Jaarsveld and Andre Nel next season, however a playing stint with New South Wales in first-class cricket down under means he can only return to Northampton-shire as an overseas

The county already have their two overseas players South Africans van Jaarsveld and Nel but are hoping that lawyers can build a special case for his registration based on European employment

Chief executive Steve Coverdale told the club's official website: 'What was a hypothetical scenario has now become a definite one in that Phil has played first-class cricket for New South Wales in

"The national registrations committee has recently discussed Phil's situation and the outcome of these discussions is that they stand firmly behind the current regulations, preventing Phil Jaques from playing for Northamptonshire next

"Our solicitors are having a look at the case and they believe that the current regulations are in breach of European employment law.

"They will be making further representations on Phil's behalf within the next week or two and we expect to have this matter resolved early in the New Year.

#### McEnroe rules out comeback

BBC ONLINE, London

John McEnroe has ruled out a return to competitive men's tennis. There had been speculation that the American could make a comeback in an attempt to overhaul the record of 78 doubles titles shared jointly by Tom Okker and Γodd Woodbridge

#### Vieri off limits

Inter Milan's sporting director Marco Branca has quashed specu-lation that the club would be willing to sell striker Christian Vieri when the transfer window reopens next month.

Big spending English Premiership club Chelsea, bank-rolled by Russian oil tycoon Roman Ábramovich, madé a 20 million pound (29 million euro) offer for Vieri in the summer but were told by Inter president Massimo Moratti that the player was not for sale at any price.

Chelsea then turned their attention to Vieri's strike partner Hernan Crespo and were successful in prising the Argentina international away from the San Siro for 16.5 million pounds (24 million Reports in Italy have suggested

that Abramovich now wants to reunite Crespo with the 30-year-old Vieri, but Branca poured cold water on the rumours, saying Vieri still had a big part to play in the club's future. "Vieri is not on the market and

remains an important member of our squad," he said. "He is a key figure for us. Italy international Vieri joined

Inter in 1999 following successful spells at Lazio, Juventus and Spanish club Atletico Madrid.

#### Ronaldinho ruled out

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona's hopes of putting one over their arch-rivals Real Madrid next weekend suffered a blow on Monday when the club revealed Brazil star Ronaldinho will miss the game through injury.

Club doctors Jordi Ardevol and Lluis Til said the latest tests on a torn leg muscle indicated the World Cup winner would not recover in time for the Nou Camp Ronaldinho was again badly

with Valladolid, which left the Catalan club fifth in the table, seven points behind leaders The result prompted Marca magazine to comment laconically

that "the best substitute for

Ronaldinho is ... Ronaldinho" as

missed in Sunday's goalless draw

without him the team appears short on inspiration. The star, who said a fortnight ago he did not want to rush back from the injury sustained against Betis, is not expected to return to training for another week

#### An all-Aussie

experts for 15 players in not enough than the Board has arranged a two-week pre-conditioning tour of Namibia starting in the last week of January.

It is certainly going to be the most intensive preparation the Tigers have ever faced before

### Nat'l players

FROM PAGE 13

According to the fixture of the tourney, three matches will be held on the opening day at three different venues of the country.

On the opening day, Dhaka will host Barisal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium while Comilla welcome Chittagong at the Comilla Stadium and Khulna travel to Sylhet to play their away match at the Sylhet Stadium.

Teams will play in a four-day match first and then meet in a limited-overs game the following

#### Akram for hire

FROM PAGE 13

city Lahore has been asked to take action to prevent Wasim coaching Indian players. Wasim said he would sue the private individual who filed the petition.

"I am amazed at the narrow-

mindedness of the people, they make mountains out of a molehill and I am going to sue them instead," he vowed Wasim is also facing a court case

for appearing in a liquor advertisement in India two years ago.

#### Ponting can

FROM PAGE 13 In the last 12 months, Ponting has

hit 1,282 runs in 11 Tests at an average of 80.13. He led Australia to a successful

World Cup defence despite Shane Warne's doping scandal and scored 1,085 runs in limited-overs internationals, including a breath-taking 140 not out in the World Cup final win over India. Ponting said at the Wisden

function that he was in the best form of his career and was in the happiest period of his life, thanks to his marriage last year to Rianna. "I've developed a lot as a person and a cricketer since the day of my

game of cricket and all the people around me, teammates included." Ponting received his Wisden award at a Brisbane function, while Test opener Matthew Hayden was honoured for being one of international chronicler Wisden's five cricketers of the year.

wedding to Rianna," he said. "I

## Barca after 'em?

Football

SPORTINGLIFE, Madrid

Ruud van Nistelrooy and Thierry Henry were among the interna-tional football stars who spoke with Barcelona president Joan Laporta on Monday at the Nou Camp during a meeting arranged for commercial reasons

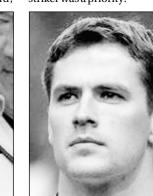
**VAN NISTELROOY** 

Laporta has already stated that he aims to buy a world star each season and the appearances of the English-based players, along with Emerson, Francesco Totti, Fabio Cannavaro and Tim Howard at a

get-together arranged by Nike has fuelled speculation in the Catalan capital that one could end up with the club by next

Laporta, vice-president Sandro Rosell and ex-coach Johan Cruyff talked to the players, although the club's official line was that they were discussing themes other than a possible transfer coup.

German newspaper Bild,



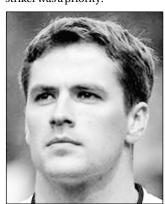
THIERRY HENRY

meanwhile, has claimed that Liverpool's Michael Owen and Juventus' Pavel Nedved are the players wanted by Barca.

However, club spokesman Juanjo Castillo said the club had not set their eyes on a particular

"At the moment we are still going through the squad with the coach, looking at which players to keep and then we will see who is available and at what price but at the moment we are not looking at Michael Owen or any other

player in particular," he said. Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard, speaking exclusively to PÁ International, admitted a striker was a priority.



**MICHAEL OWEN** 

"What we need is a striker who can create chances in the box, is quick, has good feet and can run on to balls from the wingers," he

Asked if that player is Owen he replied: "What do you think?"

training session with a groin strain.

Ronaldo, Raul's strike partner, told Marca magazine that Real had

to ensure they do not slip up either

in midweek or on Saturday, when

he will also have to brave the wrath

of Barca fans having left the

Catalan club for Inter Milan six

Madrid. I think we can beat Atletico

and Barcelona in the same week

and I'm counting on six points," the Brazilian marksman told

Barcelona, who are in Malaga

on Wednesday aiming to eat into a

seven-point deficit to Valencia

suffered a blow on Monday when

the club revealed Brazil star

Ronaldinho would miss the game

and the meeting with Real as he

battles to get over a torn leg muscle suffered three weeks ago.

and Rafael Marquez are also out of the Malaga game with an ankle

Barca defenders Carles Puyol

"It's an important week for Real

seasons ago.

### Primera Liga

### Real on Beckham alert

Football

AFP, Madrid

England star David Beckham is set to face another week of testing league action for Real Madrid who face city rivals Atletico in midweek ahead of an explosive trip to traditional foes Barcelona on Saturday.

League however their aim of winning back the Spanish league title could hinge on two potentially explosive encounters in the space of five days. Beckham -- who experienced at close range the ire of Osasuna's fans last weekend -- will experience

Real are safely through to the

second phase of the Champions

his first Madrid derby when fellow league contenders Atletico visit the Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Wednesday. Days later, the England midfielder will hope the footballing qualities that got him awarded an OBE (Order of thge British Empire)

by the Queen last week come to the fore in Catalunya. Despite their star-studded lineup Real go into their 14th league match of the campaign in second spot, trailing Valencia on goal difference while Atletico sit in fourth - although a win for the poorer of the capital's top flight

teams would close the gap to just two points. For Beckham, who is set to recover in time from an ankle strain which forced him to withdraw near the end of Saturday's 1-1 draw at Osasuna, Wednesday's match will

be another test of temperament as

he renews his acquaintance with

Argentine star Diego Simeone. Beckham's petulant kick at former Lazio midfielder Simeone

earned him a red card at the 1998

World Cup where Argentina won a tense second round match on Beckham, already booked, kicked Simeone while lying on the floor after being fouled by the

But the pair had buried the hatchet by the time they met in last year's World Cup rematch where Beckham, this time wearing, rather than seeing, red scored the only goal from the penalty spot. "That's all forgotten now," said Beckham of the incident which saw

him vilified in England as the man

branded responsible for his country's World Cup exit. Beckham, whose weekend reception at Osasuna was hostile as fans pelted him with fruit, can expect more of the same on Saturday having opted not to succumb to Barca's overtures in

the summer. Some Barcelona fanatics threw pig's head, a mobile phone and part of a brick at Real teammate Luis Figo when the Portuguese playmaker returned to his former stamping ground after committing Spanish football's cardinal sin of swapping Barca's claret and blue

Putting the Barca visit to one side, Beckham is focusing squarely on his first Spanish derby encoun-

"I'm sure it will be a special match for us and for the fans," he One doubt for Real is talismanic

striker Raul, who missed a Monday

strain and gastroenteritis respectively but both hope to be fit to host Valencia visit struggling Real

Sociedad in a game brought forward to Tuesday.

Wednesday: Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid, Valladolid v Deportivo La Coruna, Malaga v Barcelona, Espanyol v Osasuna, Celta Vigo v Albacete, Real Betis v Murcia, Villarreal

v Real Mallorca Thursday: Racing Santander v Seville,

Real Zaragoza v Athletic Bilbao

## **Keane's warning**

### Football

Champions League.

the Sun newspaper.

Manchester United captain Roy Keane has urged manager Alex Ferguson to buy a striker next month if they want to hold on to the English Premiership title and have a chance of winning the European

Keanes fears were highlighted by Sundays 1-0 defeat at titlechallengers Chelsea He believes Chelsea owner

Roman Abramovich will bankroll

another big transfer plunge to keep

the Blues on top of the Premiership

in the January transfer window. "The biggest disappointment is we didn't score at Chelsea and I feel maybe the manager needs to buy a striker in the New Year," Keane told

"Were a bit short up front at the moment and if one or two are injured we could struggle. "I am sure the manager is already taking care of that, particu-

larly as we are looking to win the

Premiership, the FA Cup and the

Champions League. "We know its going to be tighter than ever this season.

"And who is to say Chelsea wont go out and spend even more money in January?' Ferguson, hoping to sign a new

contract which will keep him at Old Trafford beyond his 65th birthday, now have respect for myself, the might be given more money by the United board which signed a new 36 million pound sponsorship deal with mobile phone company Vodafone on Monday. Keane feels United depend too on December 13.

much on Ryan Giggs supplying the bullets for Ruud van Nistelrooy and he obviously does not believe Uruguayan Diego Forlan or Portuguese teenager Cristiano Ronaldo are consistently good enough to give United the edge in

But the 32-year-old Keane

might have to look at his own performance. Despite his fantastic workrate, the ManUtd.com website didn't

rate him very highly against Chelsea when he was seen to have made too many reckless challenges, one of which led to



Chelsea's match-winning penalty.

But United should pick up when England midfielder Paul Scholes returns after his groin surgery. United were hoping he would

be fit face Aston Villa on Saturday. But if he cannot make his senior comeback then, he could be back

for a home date with Stuttgart in the Champions League Group E final match on December 9 or the Manchester derby at Old Trafford United were also pleased to

hear Wes Brown is set to end a seven-month knee ligament injury absence in the reserves against

West Brom on Thursday.

With Rio Ferdinand sweating on a ban after his failure to take a drug test, Ferguson was expected to swoop for a defender next month. But he may shelve those plans if

Browns return proves a success.

Giggs, Ronaldo escape bans

AFP, London

Manchester United duo Ryan Giggs and Cristiano Ronaldo both escaped suspensions but were each fined and given warnings as to their future conduct by the Football Association (FA) here on Monday.

After a five-hour hearing at a

Heathrow hotel, Giggs received a

7,500 pound (12,900 dollar) penalty

and Portuguese youngster Ronaldo was fined 4,000 pounds (6,700 dollars) for their part in the fracas which followed Manchester United's 0-0 draw with Arsenal at Old Trafford on September 21. Both players were found guilty

of improper conduct, but the fines were low compared to the combined nine-match bans handed down to Arsenal players Lauren, Martin Keown and Ray Parlour, and the record 175,000 pounds fine imposed on the London club as a result of the melee. Giggs is facing a UEFA inquiry

on Thursday into alleged use of an elbow during Wales' Euro 2004 play-off against Russia in Moscow on November 15.



Cliburn

Turne

49 Blemish

53 Mauna

54 Earlier

takes the