

U-20s suffer

FROM PAGE 13
If we could've scored another goal in the first half that would have sealed our place," bemoaned the Bangladesh coach.

However he did want to talk too much about the own-goal. According to him it could happen at any moment in a football match no matter who was playing.

His Nepalese counterpart Ashok Babu praised his boys for showing their fighting qualities when put under pressure.

Yellow cards: Pralaya Rajbhandari and Shekhar Thapa (Nepal).

Dispute

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secretary post behind Zahidur Rahman Pushkin.

But Mohammedan did not welcome the move saying they wanted their man to occupy the number one position.

On the other hand Pushkin, the hockey secretary of Abahani Krira Chakra, has said he will not surrender without a fight.

Akram

FROM PAGE 13
returns from Zimbabwe in the middle of March," said the BCB official.

Akram, who retired from international cricket in May, had hinted last Tuesday that he was willing to not only to coach his countrymen but also aspiring cricketers from other countries.

Zaheer wrecks

FROM PAGE 13
Katich c Patel b Zaheer 16
Gilchrist c Laxman b Zaheer 0
Bichel c Laxman b Agarkar 11

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Zaheer, Nehra, Agarkar, Harbhajan, Ganguly.

Toss: India
Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WIS)

WHIZZ KID-200 winner



Sumaiya Subhana Monsur (Viquarunnissa Noon School)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. ACROSS 40 Carnival, 1 Tank filler, 4 Wild and crazy, 9 Have bills, 12 Plate arbiter, 13 "Swan Lake" role, 14 Third degree?, 15 Cather work, 17 Square root of IX, 18 Paddle of a sort, 19 Date, perhaps, 21 Absorber, 24 Bedazzle, 25 Saturn sedan model, 26 Work unit, 28 Stream-lined, 31 Cauldron concoction, 33 Muppet eagle, 35 Gull-like bird, 36 Tempest, 38 Snapshot.

Premiership preview

Test against the riches

Football

AFP, London

Leeds go into Saturday's top versus bottom Premiership clash with Chelsea determined to prove that the gulf between the two sides' respective finances is not matched by a similar chasm on the pitch.

Chelsea are top of the league. Leeds are anchored to the bottom. But regardless of their respective positions in English football's hierarchy, meetings between these two sides over the years have tended to be fiercely competitive and close affairs.

And despite Leeds' problems, they showed enough quality in last weekend's win at high-flying Charlton to suggest that will be the case again on Saturday, particularly if Mark Viduka continues to display the renewed appetite for the game he has displayed since Eddie Gray took over as caretaker manager following the sacking of Peter Reid.

Chelsea boss Claudio Ranieri meanwhile has brushed off suggestions that one of his biggest sum-

mer signings, the 16.8-million-pound Argentinian striker Hernan Crespo has lost his scoring touch. After seven goals in his first nine appearances, Crespo has failed to score in his last three matches.

But Ranieri insists the Argentinian is settling in perfectly at Stamford Bridge. "When Hernan first joined us he began scoring first very quickly but he didn't link so well with the other players," Ranieri explained.

"Now he is linking very well, but not scoring so many goals. I'm very happy with his attitude and the way he is playing for us now. It was important for me to find a new striker who could link up like Jimmy (Floyd Hasselbaink) and Eidur Gudjohnsen used to do."

Having played against Reading in midweek, Crespo could be rested with next week's Champions League match against Besiktas in mind.

Arsenal, who slipped to second place behind Chelsea after failing to break down Fulham on Sunday, will look for a return to winning ways in the league when they travel to Leicester, boosted by the return of Thierry Henry.

The French striker was given the night off as Arsenal's young stars demonstrated their quality in a 5-1 thrashing of Wolves in their midweek League Cup action.

But Gunners boss Arsene Wenger was quick to insist that the plaudits for the club's recent form should be shared around.

"Everybody is talking about Thierry now but there are other

players who have done well.

"Ashley Cole, for example, had an outstanding game against Inter Milan and doesn't get the praise he deserves," Wenger said.

Manchester United are hopeful Paul Scholes will be fit enough to play some part in their home clash with Aston Villa.

The England midfielder has been out of action since the end of October, when he underwent surgery to correct a groin problem.

United boss Alex Ferguson admits he cannot wait to get Scholes, and fellow crock Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, back in his squad.

"You are talking about two very experienced, two great players and anybody would miss those players," Ferguson said.

"But Paul is very close to being back and Ole should be ready for New Year so you are going to have two very influential players coming back."

FIXTURES

(1500 GMT unless stated)
Saturday: Birmingham v Blackburn, Fulham v Bolton, Leeds v Chelsea, Leicester v Arsenal, Man Utd v Aston Villa, Middlesbrough v Portsmouth, Newcastle v Liverpool, Tottenham v Wolverhampton
Sunday: Everton v Man City (1400 GMT), Southampton v Charlton (1605 GMT)

Not Waugh like!

Cricket

AFP, Brisbane

Steve Waugh cannot allow the emotion of his impending retirement from Test cricket to destabilise the Australian team, former captain Greg Chappell said on Friday.

Waugh's madcap innings of just nine minutes was the trigger that brought India back into the first Gabba Test, Saurav Ganguly's team taking 7-61 as Australia staggered to 323 for nine after 16 overs were squeezed in on a rain-hit second day.

Waugh was out for a four-ball duck, two balls after being involved in a dreadful mix-up that resulted in Damien Martyn (42) sacrificing his wicket in a needless run-out.

Waugh kept charging up the pitch despite Martyn raising his arm and sending him back.

Greg Chappell blamed the Australian skipper for the run-out and accused Waugh of snubbing opener Justin Langer by hurrying on to the field before Langer had left after his top-scoring 121.

The crowd was giving Waugh a standing ovation in tribute to his last Test in Brisbane as Langer disappeared with little acknowledgement after one of the best centuries of his Test career.

"He snubbed two players today and I think he would like to have that over again," Chappell said on ABC radio.

"I'm sure it wasn't intentional, particularly the Justin Langer one. Justin had played a fantastic innings in difficult conditions, and had done himself and his team proud and Steve stole the thunder from him by going out too early."

There's a feeling Waugh's gallop to the middle and his headlong pursuit of a third run against Martyn's wishes could be attributed to the emotion building around his final four Test matches after his well-publicised retirement announcement last week.

Australian coach John Buchanan acknowledged Waugh's farewell tour could disrupt the world champion team.

Buchanan said the issue was big enough to be raised at a team meeting.

"We talked about that at the

beginning of the Test match and we understand there will be certain external factors brought to bear on Stephen because it's the last four Tests he's going to play," Buchanan said after Friday's play.

"We're aware throughout the series there will be a whole range of issues -- as you're (the media) trying to make out at the moment about a run-out -- which could potentially be an issue for Stephen and the team but hopefully we're much stronger than that."

"We see those as things that we recognise will happen but hopefully won't detract from the way we play the game."

Chappell said it was already happening, labelling the season the "Steve Waugh show".

"He (Waugh) would hope that the summer doesn't continue along those lines."

"It has got off to a bad start, and he needs to do something about it. He can't allow the event of Steve Waugh's retirement to overtake the rest of the team, and at the moment, the first signs are bad," Chappell said.

Younis

FROM PAGE 13
series against South Africa this year.

Also back in the team is opener Taufiq Umar, who was rested for the five-match series against New Zealand due to a knee injury, chief selector Amir Sohail said.

Azhar Mahmood will join the team for the five-match one-day series, which followed the two-match Test series.

SQUAD: Taufeeq Umar, Imran Farhat, Saleem Elahi, Yasir Hameed, Yousof Youhana (vice-captain), Inzamamul Haq (captain), Asim Kamal, Younis Khan, Moin Khan (wicketkeeper), Abdul Razzaq, Shoaib Malik, Danish Kaneria, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Shabbir Ahmed, Umar Gul.

Kale affair takes new twist

AFP, Bombay

India's cricket chiefs on Friday moved to investigate Abhijit Kale after a preliminary inquiry suggested he may have tried to buy his place in the national team.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) constituted a three-man disciplinary committee to probe allegations by two selectors that Kale offered them each a bribe of one million rupees (22,000 dollars).

Eng face stiff target

FROM PAGE 13
half-century in 52 Tests.

Jayawardene, 14 overnight, initially batted cautiously before going for his strokes in last-man Muralitharan's company. The pair added 46 crucial runs for the last wicket.

Hewas also involved in two more useful stands, putting on 38 for the sixth wicket with Chaminda Vaas and 40 for the next with Upul Chandana.

"I knew our tail-enders were capable of batting and it was important for me to hang in there. I think the runs scored by our lower-order could prove to be decisive," said Jayawardene.

"I hope tomorrow will be bright and sunny so that we can go for a win. A couple of early wickets will be ideal and then Murali could come up with his magic."

Vaas, promoted in the batting order, spent 104 minutes at the crease for his 19 runs before falling to a controversial decision.

Indian umpire Srinivas Venkataraghavan ruled Vaas out caught by debutant Paul Collingwood at forward short-leg off left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, but TV replays showed the ball had hit only the pad.

Giles then trapped Chandana leg-before to emerge as the most successful bowler with 4-64 off 40 overs.

Off-spinner Gareth Batty bagged 3-55, while seamer's Andrew Flintoff and Matthew Hoggard shared two wickets.

Nearly 90 minutes' play was lost due to rain in the first two sessions.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the fourth day of the first cricket Test between Sri Lanka and England at the Galle International Stadium on Friday:
SRI LANKA: First innings 331 (Sangakkara 71, Jayasuriya 48, Samaraweera 45, Muralitharan 38; Giles 4-69, Flintoff 3-42).
ENGLAND: First innings 235 (Butcher 51, Thorpe 43; Muralitharan 7-46).
SRI LANKA: Second innings (over-night 99-5)
Atapattu st Read b Batty 35
Jayasuriya c Trescothick b Giles 17

Kewell blow for Liverpool

AFP, Liverpool

Liverpool's miserable season took another turn for the worse on Friday when the club confirmed Harry Kewell will be out for up to three weeks with ankle ligament damage.

The Australian winger incurred the injury at the end of Wednesday night's League Cup defeat by Bolton at Anfield.

He now faces a race against time to be fit for Liverpool's busy Christmas programme later this month.

Reds boss Gerard Houllier admitted: "It is a blow for us. Harry took a whack on his ankle with his last kick of the game against Bolton and suffered ankle ligament damage."

"He will be out for between two and three weeks. Obviously we are disappointed because Harry and Michael Owen give us a lot of attacking efficiency and we are without them both at the moment."

"Harry has done well since he has come to the club. He has provided the missing link between midfield and attack and has scored some important goals."

A 3-2 defeat by Bolton on Wednesday ended Liverpool's hopes of retaining their League Cup trophy and left Houllier's men with only the UEFA and FA Cups to play for in terms of silverware this season.

The club lie sixth in the Premiership and with a 14-point gap between them and leaders Chelsea, Houllier has already conceded that they are out of the title race.

The main target now is ensuring fourth place and a spot in next season's Champions League.

2006 World Cup Ticket rates fixed

AFP, Frankfurt

The cheapest ticket at the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany will cost 35 euros with the most expensive, at the final in Berlin on July 9, priced at 600 euros, FIFA said on Thursday.

World football's governing body rubberstamped the proposed prices from the tournament's organizing committee headed by Franz Beckenbauer.

Tickets priced 35 euros will be available for the 47 first round matches with the exception of the opening match on June 9 in Munich.

The least expensive ticket for the second round will be 45 euros, for the quarter-finals 55 euros, for the semi-finals 90 euros, and the final 120 euros.

The organizing committee wanted similar prices as the 1998 World in France which were priced between 32 and 480 euros. In the Far East in 2002, match tickets had been more expensive with the cheapest tickets 51 euros and the most expensive 950 euros.

To avoid tickets getting on to the black market, only two tickets will be issued to each person. The sale of about 3.2 million tickets will start in December next year at the earliest.



LET'S GET EVERYTHING RIGHT: Former South Korean star Cha Bum Kun (L) participates in a rehearsal for Friday's World Cup 2006 preliminary draw at the Frankfurt/Main Congress Center on December 4.

Primera Liga preview

Nothing else matters

Football

AFP, Madrid

A derby match between Barcelona and Real Madrid is one of world football's great clashes but Saturday's match has had the tension turned up even further after recent events.

Real comfortably eased past local rivals Atletico 2-0 on Wednesday to grab a two point lead at the top of the Spanish first division while Barca crashed the same night 5-1 in Malaga, their worst defeat for nine seasons.

The contrasting fortunes of the two giants of Spanish football on Wednesday now means that everything is at stake in the Nou Camp.

The reigning league champions from the Spanish capital can consolidate their lead with a victory but they have not won in the Catalan capital for 20 years.

However, Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard will not want to go down in history as the man who was at the helm when that historic streak came to an end.

Rijkaard also knows that a draw will not be enough to satisfy the club's impatient and critical fans and ease the pressure on him, with Barca having only taken one point from their last three games.

"We have to raise our heads before Saturday," said Rijkaard, acknowledging that his squad's morale had been decimated on Wednesday.

"The only good thing I can take from a defeat like this is that things cannot get much worse."

Giving Barca fans' spirits a small

lift is the prospect that both Carles Puyol and Ronaldinho may return for Saturday's match after injuries caused them to miss the disastrous trip to Malaga.

Rijkaard's opposite number at Real also has a psychological matter on his hands but the tasks facing Carlos Quieroz are of a rather different nature.

"Being Atletico was an important victory and will calm our nerves ahead of the derby. To win like that was a big confidence boost, now the players have to keep their feet on the ground," said the Portuguese coach on Thursday.

Adding spice to the mix will be the fact that it will be the first derby match for England captain David Beckham.

Beckham is no stranger to the Nou Camp and arguably his finest hour was there in 1999 when he won the Champions League with his former club Manchester United.

"I've been dreaming about this match," said Beckham on Thursday.

"It will be different to anything I've ever experienced before and if we win then it will be historic, and not just for me but the whole of the Real squad and our fans."

The night will certainly be unforgettable, although probably not in quite the fashion Beckham seemed to expect, with a capacity 98,000 baying Catalans often posing dangers that extend beyond the Real players' ear drums.

Last season former Barca player Luis Figo was pelted with various objects when he tried to take corners, including a whisky bottle and a pig's head - and Barcelona have still yet to serve the ground closure

order that was imposed after the game.

In 1997, Real defender Roberto Carlos was floored and lost a small chunk of his scalp when a metal

cigarette lighter found its target. "I am not worried, it's my job to take corners and why wouldn't I take them in Barcelona," asked Beckham.

Nevertheless, Beckham may sadly, like many Real players before him, find an answer to his question on Saturday night despite Barca putting additional police and stewards on duty after the incidents of last season.

Other games almost pale into insignificance in Spain on the weekend when the two old enemies meet but if Real should slip then Valencia, two points in arrears of Madrid, could reap the rewards.

The 2001-02 champions play host Athletic Bilbao and will regain the top spot if they beat the Basques and Barca thwart Real's ambitions of ending their 20-year win drought.

Serie A preview

Lazio's crunch moment

Football

AFP, Rome

Lazio coach Roberto Mancini is demanding a lionhearted performance from his team on Saturday when Juventus visit the Olympic stadium.

Mancini was critical of his players for lacking character in their 3-0 defeat at Siena and is calling for a positive reaction this weekend against the reigning Serie A champions.

Lazio's defeat in Tuscany last Saturday, their fourth of the season, left them in sixth position on 19 points from 11 matches played, seven adrift of third-placed Juventus and eight behind joint leaders Roma and AC Milan.

But a win over Juve would kickstart their faltering championship challenge and take them to within four points of the title-holders.

Juventus however will be no easy touch as their pride has also been wounded following their first defeat of the season at home to Inter Milan last Saturday.

Two goals from Julio Cruz and another from Obafemi Martins gave Inter a 3-1 win, their first away victory to Juventus for 10 years. Paolo Montero's consolation goal came too late for the home side to mount a recovery.

That upset for Juve was followed three days later by a poor performance in Germany where the under-strength Italians were beaten 2-0 by Galatasaray in a rearranged Group D Champions League tie.

Juve were sunk by Hakan Sukur's double strike which left them still needing a point from their final first phase match at home to already-eliminated Olympiakos to win the group and secure a more favourable draw in the knockout phase.

Worryingly for Juventus coach Marcello Lippi, Juventus have kept only three clean sheets all season and face a Lazio side who took four points off them last season.

Lippi must decide whether to stick with Alessandro Del Piero whose toothless performance in attack against Inter may see the Juve captain dropped in favour of Marco Di Vaio.

The former Parma forward, who missed two gilt-edged opportunities against the Turks in midweek, has scored seven goals in 11 league matches.

Lazio will be without suspended Serbian midfielder Dejan Stankovic following his red card at Siena for insulting a linesman.

In Saturday's early match, European champions AC Milan should have few problems overcoming second-from-bottom Empoli and extending their unbeaten league record to 12 matches.

Empoli have won just once this season and are in real danger of returning to Serie B after just one season in the top flight.

Roma face a far trickier task away to Chievo on Sunday but they do possess the second most prolific strike force in the division with 25 goals scored.

Together with Milan, Roma also have the meaneast defence having conceded just four goals.

Chievo come into the match on the back of successive defeats to Milan and Parma respectively.

However, Roma were unable to get the better of them last season, losing 1-0 in Rome and drawing 0-0 in Verona.

Elsewhere on Sunday, fourth-placed Inter Milan, seeking their fifth consecutive Serie A win, entertain Perugia, lying third from bottom without a win this season.

Farhat flays Kiwis

FROM PAGE 13

Shoaib did the early damage, removing opener Craig Cumming off the fifth ball of the innings without any score on the board, trapping him leg before.

Shoaib conceded just five runs in his first four overs.

The last match is due on Sunday at Rawalpindi.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Rows include Jones, Sinclair, Marshall, Harris, Cairns, McCullum, Canning, Hitchcock, Elahinotout, Malkinotout, Masonotout, Extras, Total, Fall of wickets, Bowler, Akhtar.

FIXTURES

Saturday (kick off GMT): Deportivo La Coruna v Malaga (1830), Osasuna v Celta Vigo (1830), Real Sociedad v Real Betis (1830), Barcelona v Real Madrid (2030)
Sunday: Albacete v Racing Santander (1600), Real Mallorca v Valladolid (1600), Murcia v Villarreal (1600), Sevilla v Real Zaragoza (1600), Atletico Madrid v Espanyol (1800), Valencia v Athletic Bilbao (2000)