Sport

The Daily Star

Wolves tried to

Wolverhampton boss Dave Jones admitted Friday that he was one of

three Premiership managers chas-ing Brazil World Cup winner Rivaldo.

Jones made an approach for the striker following his release from

AC Milan earlier this week but said

"The answer was pretty much what we expected -- Rivaldo feels he has bigger fish to fry," said Jones.

But the Wolves boss added:

'You never get anywhere without

Jones had been hoping for a star

of Rivaldo's calibre to get Wolves back to winning ways with the club

sitting second from bottom with

ust two wins out of 14 games and

the worst goal record in the Premiership with nine netted so

Rivaldo has already expressed

an interest in joining Chelsea and

his wage demands narrow down the possible Premiership clubs

He was reported to be on 215,000 euros (258,000 dollars) a

The former FIFA World Player of

But Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti

limited him to just 16 Serie A

matches, and eight Champions

the Year joined Milan after Brazil's

World Cup triumph in Japan.

who could afford the 31-year-old.

week at Milan.

he was knocked back.

asking.

lure Rivaldo

AFP, London

Premier Div cricket **CCDM plans for** new format

SPORTS REPORTER

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolis (CCDM) is planning to bring some changes in the upcoming Premier Division Cricket League format to make it more competitive.

The CCDM met 12 club officials yesterday where national coach Dav Whatmore, Under-19 coach Richard McInnes and BCB chief executive officer Macky Dudhia were also present.

"We are thinking to divide the teams into two groups where the two top teams from each group will play in the semifinals but everything will depend on the partici-pating clubs. We will meet again next Saturday to take a decision, said CCDM chairman Khandakar Jamil Uddin last night.

But he said that the league would be a two-day 90-over affair.

The most exciting domestic competition is likely to start from March 1. Before that the three-day inter-club players' transfer will start from December 27.

Cairns gives in? AFP, Rawalpindi

New Zealand captain Chris Cairns feels it would be hard for his exhausted side to avert Pakistan's clean sweep when the sides meet in the fifth and final one-day international at Pindi Stadium here Sunday.

Pakistan lead the series 4-0. New Zealand was hit hard by the pre-series pull out of four key players over security fears and three others due to injury.

A fast maturing Pakistan side outlasted New Zealand by three wickets in the first match and then had comprehensive 124-run, 51run and seven-wicket wins in the next three.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (from): Chris Cairns (captain), Tama Canning, Craig Cumming, Chris Harris, Paul Hitchcock, Richard Jones, Hamish Marshall, Brendon McCullum, Jacob Oram, Mathew Sinclair Daryl Tuffey, Daniel Vettori, Matthew Walker, Kerry Walmsley, Michael Mason.

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), İmran 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.

Zico expects FROM PAGE 13

Oman at home on February 18.

"India have also built a fine team," said Kozo Tajima, director of technical development at the association. "We fully expected that our opponents will be of such a level. I am determined to train the team without fail.'

year, face Denmark and Greece in Japan reached the last-16 round Group 2. in the last World Cup finals in

World Cup 2006 32 countries will play in the final round EUROPE CONCACAF Host country 3 or 4 qualify out of 34 14 qualify incl. German Germany EL.



2006 World Cup

OCEANIA

Group 1: Tahiti, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Tonga, Cook Islands. Group 2: Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, American Samoa. Qualifiers: One team into playoff against fifth-placed team in South nerican qualifying.

Group 2: Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, American Samoa. Qualifiers: One team into playoff against fifth-placed team in South American qualifying.

First two from each group qualify for six-team tournament which includes Australia and New Zedland who are exempt from the first round The first two in this group play off in two-legged tie in September 2005, with the winner going on to play the fifth-placed team in South America.

ASIA

Group 1:Iran, Oatar, Jordan, Laos Group 2: Uzbekistan, Iraq, Palestine, Taiwan

- Group 3: Japan, Oman, India, Singapore
- Group 4: China, Kuwait, Malaysia, Hong Kong
- Group 5: United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Yemen, North Korea
- Group 6: Bahrain, Syria, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
- Group 7: South Korea, Lebanon, Vietnam, Maldives

Group 8: Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Turkmenistan, Sri Lanka

Qualifiers: Four and one team into playoffs Eight winners from the first phase qualify for second phase, with two groups of four. Top two in each group qualify for World Cup finals in Germany.

Third-placed groups in each group play off over two legs and the winner plays off against fourth-placed team from North, Central America and Caribbean (CONCACAF) region.

Seven teams have already been eliminated in a preliminary round: Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Macao, Pakistan, Mongolia, Guam, Nepal.

SOUTH AMERICA

Number of finalists: Four plus one into playoff. Preliminary tournament consisting of one group of 10 teams has already started. The top four qualify for the finals. The fifth-placed team goes into a playoff against the Oceania qualifier.

Brits in same boat

they are the best in Africa after they "There were two or three big teams were drawn against Egypt and the that we had to avoid and we've Cote d'Ivoire. been lucky in that respect," admit-

After failing to live up to expectations in the last World Cup in Spain will be confident of win-Japan and South Korea, Schafer ning a modest Group 7, where the knows the pressure is on because strongest opposition will come only the winners of the five African from Belgium and Serbia and groups qualify for the finals.

"We are the biggest team in Africa and we have to show that," said Schafer. "Our fans expect us to travel to the World Cup in Germany come 2006.

"We do not want to disappoint them.

finalists last year in Asia on their World Cup debut, were drawn against Mali, Zambia, Liberia, Togo and Congo in Group 1. The most competitive group in Africa appears to be Group 5, in which north African rivals Tunisia are up against Morocco.

South Africa, who are one of the front runners in the race to stage the 2010 World Cup, were pitted against the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burkina Faso in Group

African football powers Nigeria have a tough draw against Algeria Japan must face Oman. India

Rains eat up **Day Three** REUTERS/AFP, Brisbane

India needed only one delivery to mop up Australia's first innings on Saturday before heavy rain washed out their chances of making a significant reply in the first Test at the Gabba the Gabba. Australia finished with a first

innings total of 323 after their worst batting collapse on home soil in a decade. India were 11 without loss when more showers forced play to be abandoned early on the third day.

Only 38 balls were bowled after the start delayed for six hours.

Less than 85 overs have been completed in the first three days. The umpires will try to make up some of the lost time on the final two days.

Australia, resuming at 323 for nine, decided against a declaration but lost their last wicket immedi-ately when tail-ender Stuart MacĞill, on one, took a wild swing and top-edged a short ball from Ajit Agarkar to Akash Chopra at short third man. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between Australia and India at the Gabba on Saturday

AUSTRALIA: First innings (323 for 9 overnight) 121 Langer lbw b Agarkar

Hayden c Laxman b Zaheer 37 Ponting c Patel b Zaheer 54 Martyn run out (Harbhajan) 42 Waugh hit wicket b Zaheer Katich c Patel b Zaheer Gilchrist c Laxman b Zaheer Bichel c Laxman b Agarkar Gillespie run out (Harbhajan) Bracken not out

MacGill c Chopra b Agarkar Extras: (b-4, lb-7, w-2, nb-14) 27 Total: (All out in 78.1 overs) 323 Fall of wickets: 1-73, 2-162, 3-268 4-275, 5-275, 6-276, 7-302, 8-310, 9-

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0 Μ RW 3.1 2 1 0 0 Bracken 3 9 **Div II cricket**

from Dec 10

SPORTS REPORTER The Acme Second Division Cricket League will begin from December

Newcomers Young Cricketers' Club will take on Gulshan Youth Club in the opening match at the

Giggs given

2-game ban



match in Moscow on November

Even though Russia withdrew their initial citing after failing to

have Giggs banned for the second leg, an UEFA disciplinary commit-tee handed out the ban in Nyon,

Giggs had only been charged

with improper conduct, which normally carries just a fine, rather

than the more serious charge of

UEFA said in a statement:

Wales' Ryan Giggs was suspended

for two matches for elbowing a

Russian opponent during the Euro

2004 play-off match that took place

The Football Association of

in Moscow on November 15.

Switzerland, on Friday.

violent conduct.

AFP, London

nent.



RYAN GIGGS

Wales have always insisted Giggs was heavily provoked beforehand and that he made minimal contact with the Russian, whose goal in the second leg in Cardiff settled the tie.

Earlier this week Giggs was fined 7,500 pounds by the Football Association for his part in the fracas after the Premiership game against Arsenal at Old Trafford on September 21.

Giggs and United are still considering whether to appeal against that punishment, with Wales having three days to consider launching an appeal for the two-match ban. League games last season, when he only made the bench in the Champions League final against Inter Milan.

Cisse to miss Euro 2004

worked out," he said. AJ Auxerre coach Guy Roux said the sanction was too heavy. "I think

it could be rectified on appeal,' Roux said after training on Friday. Cisse's ban is bad news for Santini because he has little direct



DJIBRIL CISSE

cover for Thierry Henry and David Trezeguet if they are injured or lose form dramatically during the European championship in Portugal

Santini must be regretting his decision to allow Cisse to play for the under-21 side in a playoff against Portugal, rather than company his national team to



Djibril Cisse, the most exciting French striker in Ligue 1, will almost certainly miss Euro 2004 after being banned for five matches for kicking an opponent in an under-21 international against Portugal

The French and Portuguese federations were each fined 6,400 euros (\$7,700) for the behaviour of their players and the Portuguese have been ordered to pay for the damage caused to their dressing room in Clermont-Ferrand.

The ban counts only for official matches, not friendlies, and will therefore start at Euro 2004. AJ Auxerre's Cisse, the top scorer in Ligue 1, would only be available for the final if France got that far.

"France forward Cisse was sent off for deliberately kicking an opponent," UEFA said in a statement.

"The player then did not leave the pitch immediately, protesting and insulting the referee as well as acting aggressively towards Portuguese players.

France coach Jacques Santini said he was stunned by the ban. "No decision will be made until all Everything went according to plan in the first leg of the playoff in Guimaraes with Cisse scoring the

goals in a 2-1 French win. He also scored in the second leg but was sent off shortly before halftime. Portugal won the tie on a pen-

alty shoot-out. Another French player, Gael Givet, was banned for wo matches for his attitude towards the referee at the end of the second leg.

Cisse, tall, powerful and almost as fast as Henry, is leading the goalscorers' list in France with 12 goals in 16 games. He has 16 caps and was in the France 2002 World Cup squad, coming on three times as a substitute.

Henry and Trezeguet are proba-bly the best striking pair in European soccer but they failed to fire in 2002 when France were knocked out in the first round. With the system favoured by Santini, they have few direct replacements apart from Cisse.

Sydney Govou of Olympique Lyon is the next best thing but he does not scare defenders like the shock-haired Auxerre player and is not as natural a goalscorer. Manchester City's Nicolas Anelka would fit the bill but his

relationship with Santini is glacial The manager said in August Anelka was France's "most ineligible' player for Euro 2004.

Ag Ha Ga IN Ch Se Ex To Bowler Gillespie

Bo Za Ne return from injury in a one-day domestic cup match against Victoria in Melbourne on Sunday. The second Test against India

begins at the Adelaide Oval on December 12.

for the following week when NSW take on Tasmania here in a fourday game starting on December 19. The 430-Test wicket paceman has not played since minor surgery following the home Test series

ASIA

OCEANIA

0 or 1 qualify* out of12

Glenn to return

Australian pace spearhead Glenn

McGrath is expected to make his

return to cricket with New South

Wales (NSW) within a fortnight,

from ankle surgery, was not con-

sidered for selection in the NSW

team named on Saturday for a

Sheffield Shield match against

Victoria in Melbourne, beginning

But team officials said 33-year-

old McGrath was likely to be ready

McGrath, who is recovering

team officials said on Saturday.

in a fortnight

AFP, Sydney

next Friday.

AFF

against Bangladesh in July. His recall comes after fellow Test speedster Brett Lee makes his

which South Korea lost to Germany in the semifinals.

Cameroon coach Winfried Schafer called on his side to prove

Portugal, who host the Euro

2004 finals, face Russia and

Slovakia in Group 3. Turkey, sur-prise World Cup semifinalists last

ted Santini

Montenegro.

Senegal, the surprise quarter-

and Singapore in Group 3 of the Asian qualifying competition.

South Korea, who reached the semifinals of the 2002 World Cup finals that they co-hosted with Japan, will play against Lebanon, Vietnam and the Maldives in Group 7.

Europe will contribute 13 of the 32 finalists, plus Germany as host nation.

The Asian region provides four automatic qualifiers, Africa five, South America has four automatic places and three teams from North. Central America and the Caribbean (CONCACAF) region qualify automatically.

The winner in Oceania faces a play-off against the fifth-placed South American team, while the fourth CONCACAF team plays off against the team, which finishes fifth in Asia.

Giles, bad light

FROM PAGE 13

time the bowler had bagged 10 or more wickets in a Test.

Sri Lankan skipper Hashan Tillakaratne took the second new ball in fading light at 190-7 in a last-ditch effort to grab the remaining Vaughan c T'ratne b Fernando 8 ButchercSangakkarabVaas 54 ThorpecVaasbMuralitharan 10 three wickets, summoning spinners Kumar Dharmasena and Muralitharan to open the attack. Collingwood c T'ratne b D'sena 36 Flintoff c Tillakaratne b Vaas

Muralitharan could grab only two in the last session as there was no dislodging Giles, who batted sensibly in testing conditions to coublicteam save his team.

Giles' match-saving innings also put in shade useful contributions from left-handed Mark Butcher (54) and debutant Paul Collingwood (36).

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-62, 3-73, 4-125, 5-125, 6-148, 7-170, 8-204, 9-208 Butcher looked solid during his second successive half-century as he hit six fours and a six in his 169-minute knock and added 52 for the fourth wicket with Collingwood. Bowler

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the first Test between Sri Lanka and England at the Galle International Stadium on Saturday:

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; Murali-tharan7-46)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 226 (Jayawardene 86 not out, Atapattu 35; Giles 4-63, Batty 3-55) Umpires: Sri Venkatraghavan (India) and Darryl Harper (Austra-lia)

Jagannath Hall ground. A total of 28 teams -- split into

four groups -- will take part in the first phase and then top two finishers from each group will compete in the super league. The champions and runners-up

will play in next year's First Division League.

"The sponsors have agreed to provide Tk 4 lakh," said Ali Hossain, the secretary of the league, at a press briefing yester-

CCDM chairman Khandakar Jamil Uddin, director of Acme Laboratories Limited Tanveer Sinha also spoke on the occasion.

Mercedes Golt FROM PAGE 13

Management Company.

night 4-0)

Mercedes-Benz is one of the world's leading car manufacturers. Rancon Motors is a subsidiary of RANGS Group.

ENGLAND: Second innings (over-

Read c Jayawardene b M'tharan 14

Total: (For 9 wkts in 108 overs) 210

0 M

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4 0 29

3 1 9

37 18 47

18 8 36

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Trescothick b Jayasuriya

Batty b M'tharan

Hoggard not out

Johnson b M'tharan

Extras: (b-10, lb-1, nb-7)

Gilesnotout

Vaas

Fernando

Iavasuriva

M'tharan

Chandana D'sena

Result: Match drawn.

Man-of-the-match: Muttiah Muralitharan.

Next match: Kandy, December 10-14.

S'weera

Middlesbrough midfielder Gaizka Mendieta has set his sights on a recall to the Spanish national side for the Euro 2004 finals after rediscovering his best form in the Premier League.

The 29-year-old former Valencia player, who played in last year's World Cup finals and has been capped 40 times, says Spain's bid for success in Portugal would be strengthened by the inclusion of players with experience of international tournaments.

"The Spanish team always has very good players and now it is a

young team and they have already showed that they can do well at Euro 2004 but it is important that there is also experience of that sort of com-

petition in the squad," Mendieta told reporters on Friday. "I would like to be involved in Euro 2004 which is a very important competition that every player wants to be involved in but for the moment am just worrying about Middlesbrough.

"If I play well for Middlesbrough and give them what they want, which is a place in Europe, then the national team will come. If not, it is not a problem.

Mendieta joined Middlesbrough, who host Portsmouth in the league on Saturday, in August initially on a one-year loan from Italian side Lazio

but has already agreed to stay on at the Riverside for a further four years.

He has scored two goals in 10 appearances for Boro this season and says he feels revitalized after a disappointing spell in Serie A.

"I've settled in here because of the club and the team and also because the way football is played in the Premiership is pretty similar to the Primera Liga so it makes it easier to adapt for players who come from Spain," Mendieta added.

"The English game allows me the time to do what I do best because the games are very open. You get the chance to get the ball and play football and if you are patient you can find the space to play and try to do things.

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G'NG TANG BKG OXGYGN GNTRE FKR UEYGEBGH GXYGB IATB KVYG IVHG E U O G M U X G Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU FEEL YOU

UST CRASH A HOUSEBOAT PARTY, I GUESS OU CAN SIMPLY BARGE IN! Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals R

e Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for nother. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the uzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe we you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

the appeal possibilities have been

Germany for a friendly. Mendieta has a dream

Football **REUTERS,** Middlesbrough

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