



Egypt's star striker Mido celebrates after scoring the first goal against Libya in the opening match of the African Nations Cup in Cairo on Friday.

## AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

# Mido gives Egypt a winning start

### Football

REUTERS, Cairo

Egypt striker Mido headed the early goal to set the hosts on their way to a 3-0 win over Libya in the opening game of the African Nations Cup on Friday.

The Tottenham Hotspur player put Egypt ahead in the 18th minute before Mohamed Aboutrika added a second goal in the Group A match with a superb free kick four minutes later.

Ahmed Hassan scored the third in the 78th minute from a rebound after Mido netted. Mido was saved by Libya's reserve goalkeeper Muftah Ghzalla, who had come on seconds earlier following the dismissal of Luis de Agostini.

Despite the importance of the match, the stadium was only around three-quarters full with swathes of empty seats behind one of the goals.

Libya, who despite qualifying have not won a game for more than one year, left captain Tarek Tayeb out of the starting line-up because of a muscle problem.

Egypt, under intense pressure from their own fans to make a good start, put the visitors under early pressure and won a flurry of corners.

Abdelzaker El Saqqa had the first chance when his fierce 20-metre effort was parried by de Agostini.

Mido then outjumped the defence to head home Mohamed Abdelwahab's corner.

The hosts doubled their lead

from another setpiece on 22 minutes, Aboutrika floating his free kick into the top corner from 25 metres.

Libya, beaten twice by Egypt in qualifying, showed neat touches in midfield and began to threaten.

Younes Shibani was close with a long-range shot which flew wide before Omar Daoud forced Egypt goalkeeper Essam Al Hadari into his first save with a powerful effort.

Libya brought Tayeb on in the 64th minute and almost pulled a goal back when Salem Rewani burst through only to be foiled by Al Hadari.

Their challenge ended when de Agostini misjudged the bounce of the ball and was sent off for handling Amr Zaki in the area to earn his second caution.

Although Ghzalla saved Mido's

weak penalty, Turkish-based Hassan swept in the rebound with the Libya defence slow to react.

The match was refereed by Lassina Pare of Burkina Faso whose twin brother Lossene was one of the linesmen.

On Saturday's match, Didier Drogha scored from a first-half penalty to give Ivory Coast a 1-0 win over Morocco.

The Chelsea striker earned the penalty and then converted it himself in the 39th minute to give his highly rated team a winning start in the 16-nation tournament.

But Morocco dominated the second half in what turned out to be a largely uneventful match in the nearly empty Cairo Stadium, with only a few thousand spectators in an arena that can seat 74,000.

## It can be Zidane only

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said Friday that if he could pick one foreign player to feature in his World Cup squad it would be French superstar Zinedine Zidane.

"I like Zidane a lot," Parreira told Brazilian television programme 'Bonjour Brazil.'

"He is a player without equal, he can organise play, impress his style, his force, his style to any team. He would fit perfectly into my side."

Zidane, who plays with Brazil World Cup squad stars Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and Robinho at Real Madrid, was chiefly responsible for denying Brazil the 1998 World Cup when he scored twice in the final to give France a 3-0 win.

## Rooney will star at WC: Bilardo

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

England's Wayne Rooney will be the revelation of the World Cup, says former Argentina coach Carlos Bilardo.

"There are good players in several national teams but I think the kid Rooney of England is going to be the revelation," said Bilardo, who steered the side captained by Diego to Argentina's second world title in Mexico in 1986.

"(Rooney) is a potent player, fast, a good finisher and for defenders he'll be hard to mark," added Bilardo in an interview with Reuters on Friday.

"In Mexico we had the luck to have the best Maradona."

Bilardo, whose team were also runners-up in the 1990 World Cup in Italy, said Argentina teenager Lionel Messi and Italian striker Luca Toni were also among the top players.

He said Brazil were favourites to retain their crown but that coach Jose Pekerman's Argentina can beat them.

"Brazil, from the middle forward, because of their players, look invincible but in a World Cup it's all very different and you have to show (your superiority)," Bilardo said.

"For me the champions will be Argentina, Brazil or Germany because they are the home team."

## Mourinho to follow Capello footsteps

AFP, Lisbon

Chelsea's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho said Saturday he will one day follow the example of Juventus manager Fabio Capello who earlier this week announced he will retire from football in 2009.

"My 'end' is still far off but it will be similar to Fabio's. One day I will say: 'I am finished with football'," the 43-year-old wrote in his weekly column in Portuguese sports magazine Record Dez.

Mourinho described Capello's planned retirement as "bad news", saying the Italian side's coach "leaves a personal mark on the teams he manages, makes championships seem easy to win but, above all, no one ever tires of him."

Capello, who turns 60 in June, on Tuesday gave himself three more seasons before he closes the door on a highly successful football career.

"I will quit in three years' time, that is 100 per cent certain. I want to travel, to see places. With football, you work hard and travel a lot, but see nothing," he said.

The former Italian international, widely regarded as one of the best coaches in football history, has managed Italian sides AC Milan and AS Roma, as well as Spanish giants Real Madrid, in addition to Juventus.

## Pakistan well

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**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second Test between India and Pakistan at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Saturday:

**PAKISTAN:** First innings  
Malik c Dravid b Rudra Pratap 19  
Butt c Dhoni b Zaheer 37  
Younis c Yuvraj b Rudra Pratap 83  
Yousuf c Dhoni b Rudra Pratap 65  
Inzamam not out 79  
Afriidi not out 85  
Extras: (lb-4, w-1, nb-6) 11  
Total: (For 4 wks in 90 overs) 379  
Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-65, 3-207, 4-216

To bat: Razzaq, Akmal, Akhtar, Kaneria, Asif

**Bowler**  
O M R W  
Pathan 11 1 70 0  
Rudra Pratap 17 1 77 3  
Zaheer 19 5 61 1  
Harbhajan 21 1 75 0  
Kumble 22 3 92 0

**INDIA:** Dravid, Schwab, Laxman, Tendulkar, Yuvraj, Dhoni, Pathan, Rudra Pratap, Zaheer, Kumble, Harbhajan

Toss: Pakistan  
Umpires: Rudi Koertzen and Simon Taufel

## PREMIERSHIP

# Gunners go down at Everton

### Football

AFP, undated

James Beattie continued Everton's recent revival with the 13th-minute goal that ensured a fourth successive victory for David Moyes's side and dealt another blow to Arsenal's hopes of a return to the Champions League next season.

Just seven days ago, Arsene Wenger's side had been basking in the glory of their 7-0 thrashing of Middlesbrough. But they were brought back down to earth with a bump by a spirited and passionate Everton display that left the visitors battered and bemused by the final whistle.

And to cap a miserable afternoon for Wenger and his players, Cesc Fabregas, the young Spanish midfielder, was sent off for lashing

out at Everton's Tim Cahill in the final minutes of the game.

Everton immediately set the tone of the game, imposing their more physical, uptempo approach on the shell-shocked visitors.

Arsenal's problems lay at centre back where both Philippe Senderos and the vastly experienced Sol Campbell failed to come to terms with Beattie's powerful running.

And it was that weakness that Everton eventually exploited to claim a deserved 13th minute lead through Beattie's seventh strike of the season.

The build-up to the goal was simplicity itself and undoubtedly sparked a major inquest in the Arsenal dressing room about how the Everton striker was allowed to collect Cahill's hopeful, lobbed pass so easily.

With both Senderos and Campbell covering, there should

have been no danger but Beattie simply shrugged off the defenders' flimsy challenges before calmly stabbing the ball past the advancing Jens Lehmann.

To add to Wenger's frustration, Arsenal should themselves have taken the lead just 60 seconds earlier when Freddie Ljungberg connected with Gilbert's low right-wing cross but saw his close range effort pushed onto the post by the alert Nigel Martyn.

Arsenal were never likely to be as ineffective after the break and for a 20-minute spell looked capable of hauling themselves back into the game.

But with Everton defence bolstered by the 32nd-minute introduction of Alan Stubbs following his return to Goodison Park from Sunderland - stood firm and, tellingly, reduced Thierry Henry to nothing more than a bit-part role.

## Marseille doping rocks Milan

### Football

INTERNET, undated

Milan are ready to demand the 1993 Champions League trophy after a Marseille star claimed the team was on drugs for the Final.

The Rossoneri lost the match in Munich 1-0 to a goal from Basil Boli, as their opponents became the first French team ever to lift the trophy. It was a shock, as Fabio Capello's side had a 100 per cent record until that point with 10 consecutive victories.

Now former Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Edelin has revealed in his autobiography that the game was not all it seemed to be.

"The only time I agreed to take a doping product was the 1993 Champions League Final," he confessed in the book that will come out on March 1.

"In all the clubs I played in, I saw some doping going on, except for Bastia, but this was the only time I accepted. We all took a series of injections and I felt different during the game, as my physique responded differently under strain. The only player who refused to take part was Rudi Voller (pictured)."

The news is a particular shock to Milan, as among the Marseille stars

were future Serie A heroes Didier Deschamps and Marcel Desailly.

It's not the first time that the French club has been embroiled in controversy, as it emerged they had fixed their title-clinching League game against ASOA Valence-Clime so that they could concentrate on the European Final. The side was stripped of Le Championnat, relegated and barred from defending this trophy.

Milan have asked their lawyers to look into the situation and many of the players who lost that day are hoping to be awarded the title with a 13-year delay.

"I am shocked and find this news disturbing," Daniele Massaro told the Corriere dello Sport. "If these allegations are proved, then it would be right to take the trophy away from Marseille and return it to Milan. The whole thing is simply incredible."

Roberto Donadoni, who is now Coach of Serie A side Livorno, aimed his scorn at the club hierarchy.

"I don't know what the future of that cup holds, but one thing is certain: if it's proved that all the players were on something, then the directors must've had a hand in it. I remain stunned by the fact that professionals in this sport can go to any lengths in order to win."

## Eng won't hurry Giles comeback

### Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

England will not push spinner Ashley Giles back into action in India unless his hip injury is fully recovered.

Giles, 32, struggled with the long-term problem in Pakistan late last year and had to return home early for surgery.

"It's so important we get him back but we are not going to take him if he is like he was in Pakistan," captain Michael Vaughan told the Daily Express.

"He has to be fit and mentally

right. He is going to bowl this week and it's still six weeks until the first Test."

England will check the fitness of the whole touring party, including Vaughan who has undergone knee surgery, before they depart of February 12.

The selectors have delayed naming the 16th member of the tour squad until they know whether Giles will be fully fit.

If he is slow to recover, Somerset spin all-rounder Ian Blackwell is likely to get the nod over inexperienced Northants left-armed Monty Panesar.

## Nat'l jr chess

SPORTS REPORTER

A total of 26 players were sharing the lead in the BASIC Bank National Junior (Under-20) Chess Championship at the end of the second round at the federation hall room yesterday.

The leaders are Minhaz, Liza, Elin, Mostafa, Salehin, Mohammad Sagar, Asad, Saif, Shiblu, Moni, Saif, Sayed, Shaiful, Rakib, Sharon, Halim, Mahfuz, Sharif, Tilti, Aniruddha, Mamun, Pasha, Momtaj, Tashdid, Delwar and Saifur.

The third round will take place at the same venue tomorrow.

## Zia still third

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman remained in the third position along with four others in the fourth Parsvnath International Open Chess tournament after the end of the ninth round in Delhi, India yesterday.

Zia shared point with Kazakhstan Grand Master Pavel Kotsur to improve his collection to seven points while the other Bangladeshi Grand Master Niaz Mursheed stuck to six points losing the seventh round board against FM Dzhumabaev.

International Master Abdullah Al Rakib drew with WGM Harika and International Master Enamul Hossain Rajib split point with his compatriot FM Sheikh Nasir to increase their tally to six points each.

FM Taibur Rahman beat Intkhab to secure six points.

Grand Master Alexei Fedorov maintained his solo lead with 8.5 points.

## Mashrafee

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against the two limited-overs games for the UAE, who will play their first two matches against Bangladesh Under-19 team at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra on January 23 and 24.

### SQUAD

Rajin Saleh (captain), Shahriar Nafees, Golam Rahman, Aftab Ahmed, Tushar Imran, Farhad Reza, Alok Kapali, Sagir Hossain (wicketkeeper), Abdur Razzak Raj, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mashrafee-Bin-Mortuza, Nadif Chowdhury, Mosharaf Hossain, Mahbubul Haque and Shafiq Al Jabir.

## Top teams far apart

### Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Australia and South Africa may be the two best one-day cricket teams in the world but their current fortunes couldn't be further apart.

The Aussies unearthed a new international talent with opener Phil Jaques, who made an Australian one-day debut record of 94 in their tri-series win over the Proteas on Friday.

But they also have bowling talent to burn.

Paceman Brett Lee is homing in on the mantle of world's best one-day bowler following his career-best figures of 5-22 against South Africa while wrist-spinner Brad Hogg is staking strong claim for inclusion in the 2007 World Cup team after he took 3-32.

Add to that the talents of Michael Hussey, who has a batting average of more than 121 in 24 one-day internationals and the situation is looking bright.

It looks better still for the Aussies with big-hitting Adam Gilchrist due a return to form following a week's rest and Simon Katich waiting in reserve.

Australian captain Ricky Ponting said it would be hard to drop Jaques, even if Katich, who has a groin strain, was fit for Sunday's tri-series match against Sri Lanka in Sydney.

The Australians already boast the world's top-ranked one-day bowler in Glenn McGrath but Ponting said Lee probably deserved the title on current form.

"Once you get one or two down with that new ball and he's still in the middle of a spell it's going to be hard work for any opposition side," he said.

Hogg also believes he has earned the right to represent Australia as they seek to defend the World Cup in the Caribbean next year.

"I think I've earned my spot in the one-day team and I want to keep it," he said Saturday.

Hogg, 34, has taken 88 wickets in 72 one-day matches and has been Australia's most successful one-day spinner since Shane Warne retired from limited overs cricket in 2003.

Lee has been the nemesis of out-of-form South African captain Graeme Smith, claiming his wicket three times this summer.

On Friday, he had Smith caught

behind for nine, leaving the 24-year-old averaging just eight runs for the series.

"For me it's been a little bit frustrating and it's the first time really I've gone through a slump like this," Smith said.

"You've just got to be positive and keep working and keep trying to play a part in the team."

Smith's form is indicative of the problems faced by the South Africans, already without the injured Jacques Kallis, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini and Charl Langeveldt.

But there are some positives. Veteran Shaun Pollock continues to bowl well and was also the highlight of South Africa's batting on Friday when he smacked 46 off 31 balls while coming in at number nine.

Yet Smith said there were no plans to move him up the order.

"I think it would be asking a little bit too much of Polly to go up against that new ball and Brett Lee," he said.

All-rounder Justin Kemp, who has not bowled since last month with a shoulder injury, may also be included in South Africa's attack for a short spell in their next match against Sri Lanka in Adelaide on Tuesday.

## Hingis keeps rolling

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Australian Samantha Stosur, with a possible quarterfinal match looming against second-seeded Kim Clijsters.

Clijsters beat Italy's Roberta Vinci 6-1, 6-2 in 44 minutes, showing no obvious signs of the hip and back problems that have bothered her the last 10 days.

For the second consecutive day, the tournament invoked the extreme heat policy that calls for play to be suspended on outside courts after matches already under way were completed. The roofs were closed on Rod Laver Arena and Margaret Court Arena.

Temperatures exceeded 104 degrees -- and were higher on court. Sunday's forecast calls for even hotter conditions before a cooler change next week.

Third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo was leading Michaela Krajicek 6-2 when the 17-year-old Dutch player withdrew because of heat stress.

Krajicek, with icebags around her neck, had her temperature and pulse taken by trainers before telling the umpire, "I can't play."

"I felt like I was going to throw up... I couldn't even see the ball because my eyes were burning," Krajicek said after having an ice bath to cool down.

One player who wasn't complaining was 12th-seeded Dominik Hrbaty. He won his third consecutive five-set match, rallying from an 0-3 deficit in the fifth against No. 23 Igor Andreev of Russia.

Hrbaty, who already has spent 10 1/2 hours on court, figured that his fitness -- and his pink-and-black shirt that has come under ridicule with the two cutout holes in the back for ventilation -- made the difference in his 3 1/2-hour victory.

"I was tired already going to the match," he said. "If we would play inside, I think I wouldn't win play, how much you will be able to push yourself. And I feel like, 'Always never give up.'"

Also advancing were No. 25 Sebastian Grosjean -- who needed almost 3 hours to upset No. 6 Guillermo Coria -- No. 21 Nicolas Kiefer, Tommy Haas, Paul-Henri Mathieu and Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela -- who ousted No. 3

Lleyton Hewitt in the second round.

Chela appeared to be struggling in the third set, shuffling around slowly and frequently towelling off.

"Each point was an enormous effort," Chela said. "It was too hot. But it was the same for both players."

Advancing on the women's side were No. 7 Patty Schnyder, No. 12 Anastasia Myskina, the 2004 French Open champion, No. 16 Nicole Pietrangeli and No. 15 Francesca Schiavone, who scored the tournament's first 6-0, 6-0 win -- against Maria Sanchez Lorenzo in just 42 minutes.

Playing as a wild card and ranked No. 349, Hingis overwhelmed Benesova by mixing heavy ground strokes with clever slice and angled drop shots. She even had three aces.

Hingis won the first of her three consecutive Australian Open titles in 1997. The 25-year-old Swiss star lost finals from 2000-02 and quit the tour later that season. She returned on the Gold Coast earlier this month.

With every win comes increasing expectations.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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