



BALLET TROUPE! Ivory Coast players dance for joy after Didier Drogba's strike against Libya during their African Nations Cup encounter in Cairo on Tuesday.

Ivory Coast into quarters

AFP, Cairo
Ivory Coast became the first team to make it into the last eight of the African Nations Cup as they convincingly beat Libya 2-1 and Group A rivals Egypt and Morocco drew 0-0.

vinging - just as they hadn't been against Morocco in the opening 1-0 win - against a Libyan side that boasted the most stylish player on the pitch in playmaker and skipper Tariq El Taib.

"We started the match well and perhaps that is why we took our foot off the pedal."
El Taib bemoaned his side's luck but with nothing to lose in their final match they could well give Morocco a run for their money.

Egypt's glamour boy Mido was shadowed all night by Spurs teammate Nouredine Naybet, who even at 35 showed there is life in those old legs, and the 22-year-old striker was replaced before the end.

Malik loses father Pakistan recall Naved & Gul

BBC ONLINE, undated
Pakistan opener Shoaib Malik has been left out of the squad for the crucial third and final Test against India after the death of his father.

African football in grips of 'slavery'

AFP, Cairo
The slave trade by the West in Africans apparently died out a couple of centuries ago but according to Claude Le Roy it exists in a different form in agents conning the continent's footballers to come to Europe.

don't get me wrong they are not just white, they are also black," added Le Roy, who has also had spells managing Paris St Germain and Strasbourg and been a consultant with AC Milan.

"I don't want another generation of 35-40 year-old African players ending up on the streets without any money because they were never given the guidance they needed as to what to do with it."

Inzamam saved his bowlers for Karachi

SQUAD
Inzamamul Haq (captain), Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Abdul Razzaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Shahid Afridi, Mohammad Sami, Salman Butt, Navedul Hasan, Kamran Akmal, Arshad Khan, Danish Kaneria, Imran Farhat, Mohammad Asif, Umar Gul, Faisal Iqbal.

The 58-year-old Frenchman knows what he is talking about as he has vast experience of coaching in Africa with spells there dating back to 1986 when he took control of the Cameroon team and guided them to the 1988 African Nations Cup title.

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Jr chess

SPORTS REPORTER
Minhazuddin Sagar and Abdullah Al Saif were sharing the lead in the BASIC Bank 27th National Junior (Under-20) Chess Championship after the end of the fifth round at the federation hall room yesterday.

Dravid thanks young Dhoni, Pathan

BBC ONLINE, undated
Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq said he decided not to declare on Day Five of the second Test against India to keep his bowlers fresh for the final game.

Cricket

but the bowlers really worked hard."
When Pakistan were finally bowled out for 490, with the injured Inzamam choosing not to bat, they opened the bowling with Shahid Afridi and vice-captain Younis Khan.

Cricket

Dravid said he would take a lot of heart from a battling partnership between Mahendra Dhoni and Irfan Pathan into the final Test.

Wigan guns Gunners down

REUTERS, London

Jason Roberts struck in the last minute of extra-time to send Wigan Athletic into the League Cup final, a 2-1 defeat at Arsenal on Tuesday putting the underdogs through on the away goals rule after a 2-2 aggregate scoreline.

Twice former winners Arsenal looked on course to advance after substitute Robin van Persie netted a spectacular free kick in the 18th minute of extra-time to make it 2-0 after Thierry Henry had headed the hosts into a 1-0 lead in the 65th.

But Roberts, who had earlier missed half a dozen chances, broke clear in the 119th minute, forced his way past two defenders and kept his cool to tuck the ball home and send Wigan into their first major final.

Juan Antonio Reyes had a penalty saved by Mike Pollitt in the 22nd minute and the Wigan keeper made several more good saves to keep the visitors in what was a pulsating, action-packed second-leg game.

While Roberts was celebrating his goal, many of his teammates and many of the travelling fans were preparing for penalties, unaware the away goals rule applied.

"A few of the boys didn't even know we'd won, they thought it was going to penalties, I knew we had," Roberts told Sky Sports.

"It's absolutely fantastic," said Wigan manager Paul Jewell.

"Everyone deserves it. The chairman's on the pitch, it's just a fairytale that continues, we've even got a good chance of getting into Europe."

Capello makes 'Real' demands

INTERNET, undated

Fabio Capello will agree to go to Real Madrid on condition that Ronaldo leaves the Bernabeu, according to reports in Spain.

Spanish daily 'AS' continues to persist with claims that the Juve boss will join Los Merengues in the summer and has reported that he has agreed to take charge of Real on the proviso that certain individuals leave the Madrid club.

Reportedly, Ronaldo tops Capello's blacklist, while the older generation of players including Roberto Carlos, Michel Salgado and Ivan Helguera are also wanted out by Fabio.

Capello made similar demands 10 years ago before taking the helm of the Spanish giants and guiding them to a title win in his only year in charge.

Real are said to be reluctant to accede to the departure of Ronaldo, who is still held in high esteem by President Florentino Perez, who also believes it will be politically impossible to allow the star striker to leave - especially if Brazil win the World Cup in the summer.

For his part Capello has continued to respond ironically to suggestions that he will rejoin the European giants.

"Real's offer isn't bad," he said yesterday. "If only it were true."

Aus-SL return

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He argued that it was "lame" to suggest McGrath was told to rest after playing about 27 days of cricket since the Ashes 135 days ago.

Waugh also told the paper that McGrath was a bowler who needed a heavy workload and said Ponting, as captain, should not be rested when Australia was still chasing a finals berth in the series.

"To be having a rest at a crucial juncture in the one-day series is tempting fate and opening the door to both Sri Lanka and South Africa, who will see this move as a lack of respect and be motivated by it," Waugh was quoted as saying.

Gilchrist was cautious when asked about a response to Waugh's remarks.

"I thought we had some sort of rotation policy when Steve was captain, if my memory serves me correctly, so maybe with a few years on and experience he thinks it's not the right thing to do," Gilchrist said.

"He's an extremely well-respected member of the cricket community and I'm not going to doubt too many things Steve says, but I'd have to speak to him directly before I could make any big statement."

Sri Lanka, who seemed set for victory against South Africa in Adelaide on Tuesday before stumbling at the last hurdle, were not expected to make any dramatic changes to the team.

Eriksson slams salary critics

Football

AFP, London

Sven-Goran Eriksson on Wednesday hit back at those who claim he has not been worth his money.

The England head coach will step down after the World Cup in Germany, two years before his contract is due to expire.

But the Swede warned that the Football Association (FA) will have to pay his successor a similar salary to his own earnings - around 4.5 million pounds (eight million dollars) annually.

"I never understood in this country that I'm accused of earning too much money. I could find at least 10 others who earn more than I do," said Eriksson.

"You have to pay that money for someone like Fabio Capello, Carlo Ancelotti, Alex Ferguson or Arsene Wenger."

"When I was at Lazio I was on a

certain amount of money and when I started in England I was on more or less the same."

Eriksson also claimed the FA will



SVEN-GORAN ERIKSSON

not have to pay for his early departure.

Should Eriksson not get another job paying the same salary straight away then the FA would have to pay

Younis misses 200

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With no interest left in the game in the final session, the Indian captain donned the wicketkeeper's gloves and asked Mahendra Dhoni to bowl the first over with the second new ball.

At the other end, pacesman Zaheer Khan removed Abdul Razzaq (32), Shahid Afridi (one), Mohammad Asif (zero) and Danish Kaneria (zero) in successive overs to finish with 4-61.

Pathan, Kumble and Rudra Pratap grabbed a wicket each while Harbhajan has not taken a wicket in the entire series.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the second Test between India and Pakistan at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Wednesday:

Table with columns for India and Pakistan scores, bowlers, and match details.

BKSP tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

The semifinal line-ups of the boys' and girls' singles in the SBSL-BKSP International Junior Tennis Tournament were finalised at BKSP yesterday.

Hsin Han Lee of Chinese Taipei will meet Jeong Han Seo of Korea in the first semifinal while Indian Gujrati Akash will face Joshua Dandan Kyle of Philippines in the second semis today at the same venue.

In the girls' semifinals, Indonesian Lutfiana Aris Budiharto will take on Russian Viktoriya Kamenskaya and Yoon Young Jeong of Korea will meet Nigora Sirojiddinova of Uzbekistan.

Clijsters halts

FROM PAGE 12

Clijsters led by a set and a break, and an easy victory seemed certain. Then, Hingis settled in and started measuring Clijsters' speed as the Belgian made numerous errors.

Clijsters, who has been suffering from hip and back pain, was looking stiff, spraying shots all over the place, and finished with 48 unforced errors. But she pulled herself back together in the third set.

"I was feeling very weird out there today," Clijsters said. "I felt very empty. The second set wasn't good at all. I just felt no power in my legs to push off."

Hingis said the difference was partly in her head.

"I always used to have this mental edge over other players," she said.

The comeback will continue, with Hingis heading next to Tokyo while mapping out which tournaments -- and how many -- she will play in this year.

"You think I'm going to give up right now?" she asked.

Clijsters sees good things ahead for Hingis.

"I think she definitely hits the ball a lot harder than she used to," Clijsters said. "That was something that she was missing when Venus and Serena started coming up. She's definitely, definitely capable of getting back to the top."

"By getting more matches and more rhythm and everything, she's going to improve even more. She puts a lot of work into not just her tennis, but everything else around it as well."

Federer, Kiefer

FROM PAGE 12

and he could never really take advantage of it.

"I bounced back nicely after the second set and then I had to play tough and get into the long rallies if I wanted to beat him and thank God I understood I had to do that."

Davydenko said: "I knew how I needed to play against Federer to beat him, but it was very difficult, too much running, like I did in the first and second and the third set."

"I tried to play a little bit longer and slower to make it easier for me but he didn't give me many chances to make winners for me," said Davydenko, who finished with five service breaks to Federer's four.

He held two set points on Federer's service in the 12th game of the third set but the Swiss held with a backhand down the line to force a tiebreaker.

The Russian worked his way to another three set points, a total of six, on the back of Federer errors, but only won one more point as

Federer got to a set point of his own at 8-7.

Davydenko didn't handle the pressure and served a double-fault to hand the set to Federer.

Both players exchanged service breaks in the first games of the fourth set and Federer had a match point on Davydenko's serve in the 12th game but he saved it.

The match went into a second tiebreaker and Federer got to two match points and won it on his second with a blistering serve down the middle.

The win took Federer's match record to 7-0 over the Russian, and prior to Wednesday's match he hadn't drop a set in the last three matches with Davydenko.

Earlier on Tuesday, unseeded Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis fought his way into the semifinals with a five-set upset of Croatian Ivan Ljubicic 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid and clues.

CRYPTOQUIP
BIGL WKX BQDHG U MRUPP
LKHUHDKL DL HJG RUQCDL
UQG WKX CGHDL C U
BKQE DL GECGBDMG?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY IS LEARNING THE ART OF MOUNTAIN CLIMBING, DO THEY STUDY THEIR CLIFF NOTES?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals Y
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.