

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

Ivory Coast into quarters



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

Victory gave Ivory Coast six points and set them fair to emulate the 1992 side that lifted the trophy while Egypt must get a point from their last match against the group leaders to secure their passage.

Morocco - who have yet to score in the tournament - must beat Libya convincingly and hope the hosts slip up in their match on Saturday.

MALIK LOSES FATHER

Pakistan recall

Naved & Gul

BBC ONLINE, undated

Ivory Coast were far from cor

vincing - 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.

Sadly he could not also play in goal as two dreadful errors by Libyan goalkeeper Muftah Ghzalla handed the Elephants victory.

Goals by Didier Drogba - his 19th in 26 internationals - and a second-half effort from Gnegneri Toure gave them victory while Libya's goal came from Abdesalam Khames, who deservedly levelled the match late in the first-half.

Ivory Coast coach Henri Michel was pleased with the result.

"We played against a very good Libyan side," said the 57-year-old

'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 arun for their money. "We deserved a draw and cer-

tainly did not deserve to lose," said the 27-year-old, who plays for Turkish side Gaziantespor. "It is our first championship in 24 years and I think we performed

well and will do our best in the final match against Morocco." The Egypt-Morocco clash, like a

lot of 'derbies', failed to lived up to its billing and was a frenetic affair with few shots testing the keepers, though Youssef Hadji almost secured the three points with a header but it was clawed away by

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

Egypt assistant coach Shawki Gharib said it was a good result. "They are one of the best sides in

Africa and they went unbeaten in all their qualifiers. "We kept trying and we were the

ones still trying to win it in the last 15 minutes.

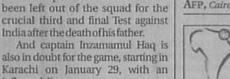
"It is a good result." Mohammed Fakhir, the

Morocco coach, said he would keep on hoping until the final whistle of the last game. "The hope is still there mathe-

matically: we still have a chance butitdoesn't depend on us."

African football in

Pakistan opener Shoaib Malik has AFP, Cairo



But paceman Navedul Hasan was declared fit after a shoulder

Pakistan Cricket Board boss Shaharyar Khan said in an open letter to Malik: "We realise that you were away on national duty on the tragic day and share your grief."

Malik left the side on Sunday night for Sialkot in Punjab to be with his father, Malik Faqir Hussain.

But he was called back to Faisalabad on Tuesday in case he was needed to bat in the second innings on the final day of the second Test.

In the end he was not needed as Pakistan secured a draw.

The home side recalled seamer Umar Gul and Faisal Iqbal, nephew of former great Javed Miandad, as cover in a 16-man squad for Karachi. Chief selector Wasim Bari said both Iqbal and Gul were drafted in

as cover for Inzamam and pace spearhead Shoaib Akhtar. Inzamam has improved but we will only know about his chances of

playing the final Test in the next three days, so Iqbal is a good backup," Bari told AFP

Bari said Akhtar was also carrying a niggle in his right ankle.

"Akhtar is not a major worry but as a precaution we have included Gul. Hope Akhtar gets fully fit for the Test which could decide the series," Bari

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.

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 vesterday.

Sagar beat Liza and Saif got walkover against Salehin to secure maximum five points while Imran Ali and Golam Mostafa drew the board to follow the leaders with 4.5 points each.

grips of 'slavery'



The slave trade by the West in Africans a couple of centuries tant with AC Milan. ago but according to Claude Le Roy it exists in a different form in agents conning the continent's footballers to come to

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

Le Roy has spent most of his time since his Democratic Republic of Congo side outclassed World Cup qualifiers Togo 2-0 in their opening Group B match of the African Nations Cup protecting his players from the agents or as he prefers to call them 'slave traders.'

He has gone to the extent of posting two of the team officials by the elevators to guard against any unwanted intruders.

He has especially had to protect his 21-year-old star Tresor Mpetu, who scored the opening goal against Togo.

"I have already had to keep away the slave masters of football," Le

"They are all over the place and

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 apparently died out and Strasbourg and been a consul-

> Mputu, who has received offers from Belgian sides Charleroi, Lokeren and Russian outfit Lokomotiv Moscow, told AFP Le Roy was doing him a service.

Claude is protecting me and I really appreciate that," said Mputu, who could see his present earnings of 500 dollars a match for his club Mazembe multiply by 10 with a move abroad.

Le Roy admits that it is not for him to decide whether a particular offer is good or not for a player but he does not want them being duped. "These guys playing in the DRC tearn around 30 dollars a

"What do you say to these guys about rejecting contracts with the likes of Anderlecht and the Moscow clubs? As long as it is done transparently and clearly then it is fine."

However Le Roy, who discovered probably the greatest African footballer of all time in George Weah, said he did not wish to see another generation of African footballers end their days in penury.

That is quite aside from hundreds of players who travel to Europe with the promise of riches, fail their trial, and end up unable to pay their fares home and no one to look after them.

"I don't want another genera-tion 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.

"Luckily now there are players like Shabani Nonda and Lomana Lualua (two DRC players who play for AS Roma and Portsmouth respectively) who set a good example and have level heads.

Le Roy's belief that it is the agents that are the slave masters is not one adhered to by Cameroon legend Roger Milla, who blames another group of people for the 'slavery' of the players.

"It is the parents fault," said the veteran of threeWorld Cup finals. "They get lulled into this belief that their son can make a lot of money in Europe and even remortgage their houses so they pay his

trip abroad. They must stop this and in fact this slave trade could also cease if the players stayed at their domestic clubs and were then seen by genuine agents who acted for a European club and offered them a proper contract."

Whoever is most at fault, the modern day form of the slave trade is bound to continue, but with prominent football figures in Africa like Le Roy and Milla speaking out there is a chance that, like its predecessor, it will become a thing of the past sooner rather

Dravid thanks young Dhoni, Pathan

Cricket

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

The drawleft the series level at 0-0 with four days until the Karachi Test. "We were thinking about a declaration after lunch but on this track getting a team out in three hours is

difficult and a waste of energy for fast "Hopefully it's a sporting wicket

willing," said Inzamam. "It's not easy to bowl on this track

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.

bat as he hit 194, revealed advice from India captain Rahul Dravid is behind his recent good form. Younis, who has made four tons

in his last fours Tests against India, spoke to Dravid at the 2004 Champions Trophy in England, during a run of poor form.

ome tips about batting and about life," he recounted. "After that everything has

changed so have I just followed his instructions and the results are

Dravid said he would take a lot of heart from a battling partnership

wicket stand of 210, with Dhoni making 148 and Pathan 90, to lift India out of early trouble towards a narrow first innings lead.

the first innings, especially from 241-5, has given us confidence," said Dravid.

field for the better part of two days. "We went into this game with five batsmen, they were all-rounders and they have given us a lot of options."

tions, if you have been out on the

Gunners down REUTERS, London

Wigan guns

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 majorfinal. Juan Antonio Reyes had a pen-

22nd minute and the Wigan keeper made several more good saves to keep the visitors in what was a pulsating, action-packed second-While Roberts was celebrating his goal, many of his teammates

alty saved by Mike Pollitt in the

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 Faisalabad on Wednesday: boss will join Los Merengues in the PAKISTAN: First innings 588 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

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

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

FROM PAGE 12 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

"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

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 anybigstatement." Sri Lanka, who seemed set for victory against South Africa in

member of the cricket community

Adelaide on Tuesday before stumbling at the last hurdle, were not expected to make any dramatic changes to the team.

AUSTRALIAN: Adam Gilchrist (c), Simon Katich, Brad Hodge,

Jehan Mubarak, Kumara

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 earn-

ing too much money. I could find at least 10 others who earn more than Ido," said Eriksson. "You have to pay that money for someone like Fabio Capello, Carlo

Ancelotti, Alex Ferguson or Arsene "When I was at Lazio I was on a

certain amount of money and compensation to match his 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 depar-

Should Eriksson not get another job paying the same salary straight

England earnings.

But Eriksson said: "Hopefully it will not cost the FA one penny. You can't be sure of absolutely everything in life but I am quite confi-

dentit will not cost the FA." The Swede said that he would not allow negotiations on a new job to interfere with World Cup prepa-

"If I want to stay in football I cannot wait until July 9 to look for a new job, that's obvious.

I'm free (a free agent) but I will not be sitting talking to people when I am supposed to be watching football in England. It will not interfere with my prepa-

As for the qualities his successor will need, Eriksson said a thick skin

would be essential. He said: "He needs to be a good coach, knowledgeable about football and his skin must be very hardaway then the FA would have to pay like arhinoceros'.

Younis misses 200

Afridi c Dhoni b Zaheer With no interest left in the game in Asif b Zaheer

the final session, the Indian cap-Akhtar not out tain donned the wicketkeeper's gloves and asked Mahendra Dhoni to bowl the first over with the second new ball. At the other end, paceman

Bowler

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

Zaheer Khan removed Abdul

Razzaq (32), Shahid Afridi (one),

SCOREBOARD Final scoreboard of the second Test between India and Pakistan at the Iqbal Stadium in

wicket in the entire series.

(Afridi 156, Inzamam 119, Younis 83, Yousuf 65: Rudra Pratap 4-89, Zaheer 3-135, Kumble 3-150) INDIA: First innings 603 (Dhoni 148, Dravid 103, Laxman 90, Irfan Pathan 90; Kaneria 3-165)

PAKISTAN: Second innings (overnight 152-1) Butt c Tendulkar b Kumble Akmal c Kumble b Pathan Younis Ibw b Rudra Pratap 194 Yousuf run out

Kaneria b Zaheer Inzamam retired injured Malik retired absent Extras: (b-9, lb-10, w-3, nb-13)35 Total: (For 8 wkts in 116.4 overs) 490 Fall of wickets: 1-52, 2-181, 3-423, 4-488, 5-490, 6-490, 7-490,

22 2 80 Rudra Pratap 22 3 75 Kumble 4 61 Zaheer Harbhaian 22 Yuvraj Dhoni 0 13 INDIA: Second innings Laxman not out Dravid not out

Extras: (w-6, nb-2)

Bowler

Result: Match drawn and series stands at 0-0.

Total: (For no loss in 8 overs) 21

O M R

Man of the match: Rudra Pratap Singh. Toss: Pakistan. Umpires: Rudi Koertzen and

Simon Taufel. Razzaq c Laxman b Zaheer 32 Final Test: Karachi, January 29.

and 4 ould never really take advan-"I bounced back nicely after the

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

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

another three set points, a total of six, on the back of Federer errors,

35 Blood-

clue

mouth

38 - Mahal

deposit

40 Actor Ron

41 Call on a

56 Actress

Moran

36 River-

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ACROSS

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1 Answers,

on "Jeop-

audience

8 Interpre-

21 Superla-

ending

22 Naviga-

tor's

23 Jazzy

26 Chop

28 Raise

31 "As -

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12 Faux

Federer got to a set point of his own

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

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

tiebreaker and Federer got to two

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

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 vesterday.

Hsin Han Lee of Chinese Taipe will meet Jeong Han Seo of Korea in the first semifinal while Indian Guirati Akash will face Joshua Dandan Kyle of Philippines in the second semistoday atthesamevenue. In the girls' semifinals,

will take on Russian Viktoriya Kamenskaya and Yoon Young Jeong of Korea will meet Nigora Sirojiddinova of Uzbekistan.

Indonesian Lutfiana Aris Budiharto

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 look-

ing stiff, spraying shots all over the

place, and finished with 48 unforced errors. But she pulled herself back together in the third "I was feeling very weird out there today," Clijsters said. "I felt very empty. The second set wasn't

sudden. I just felt no power in my legs to push off." Hingis said the difference was partly in her head.

good at all. I just hit the wall. All of a

"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.

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

"You think I'm going to give up

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

Inzamam saved his bowlers for Karachi

(in Karachi) and a result is there, God

Younis, the star of the day with the

"I talked with Dravid, he gave me

between Mahendra Dhoni and Irfan Pathan into the final Test. The young duo shared a sixth-

"The way we responded to 588 in "It's not easy, whatever the condiDamien Martyn, Andrew Symonds Michael Clarke, Mike Hussey, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Nathan Bracken, Glenn McGrath, Stuart Clark SRI LANKA (from): Marvan Atapattu (c), Sanath Jayasuriya,

Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Tilakaratne Dilshan, Russel Arnold, Muttiah Muralitharan, Chaminda Vass, Ruchira Perera, Nuwan Kulasekara, Malinga Bandara, Dilhara Fernando, Upul Tharanga.

Federer, Kiefer

but he didn't give me many chance to make winners for me," said Davydenko, who finished with five

with a backhand down the line to force a tiebreaker. The Russian worked his way to

but only won one more point as Liubicic 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3, CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 58 Desire 20 Tackle 59 Famed the political buffet cartoonist 23 Auction action DOWN 1 Venom 25 So close 2 Bedyou can

39 "Plano

Man*

singer

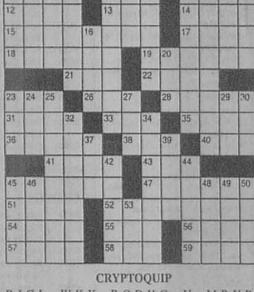
frame touch it 27 Humor 13 Sodom 43 Slithery 29 Impreevacuee squeezer 3 Narc's 14 Tortoise's 45 Zigzag measure opponent downhill 4 Piped Hurok 15 Creamy-47 Cowardly 30 Take a 5 Shimmer white 51 Earring whack at 6 Charged steed 32 Least location 17 Settled 52 Lessen fresh 7 Rampage 34 Venue of down the inten-18 Feeds 8 It gets in sity of materialthe fire 54 Puncturyour hair ism 19 Negligent 9 Fence for 37 Past ing tools 55 Pair

> 57 Come 16 Stocking 42 Void 44 Foreigner together type 45 Bridge Solution time: 21 mins. coup 46 Former "West Wing" 48 Zhivago's 49 Mayberry

defense

10 Rainbow

11 Profits



it as well."

BIGL WKX BQDHG U MRUPP

LKHUHDKL DL HJG RUQCDL. CGHHDLC U WKX

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

DL GECGBDMG?

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

50 Took off another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the 53 Idolater's puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostroph give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.