

## Ponting recalled

BBC ONLINE, undated  
Australia are back at full strength for their last two VB Series group matches against South Africa with the return of captain Ricky Ponting. Ponting was rested for the last two games against Sri Lanka but comes in for Brad Hodge in a 14-man squad. Paceman Nathan Bracken is also back after missed the victory in Perth on Sunday for personal reasons. Australia, almost certain of a final place, face the Proteas in Melbourne on Friday and Sydney two days later. There has been some criticism of the hosts' policy of resting key players but Adam Gilchrist believes it is working. The wicketkeeper smashed a superb century in Perth after also sitting out two matches. "There is no doubt the rest helped me immensely, as it has done in the previous four years," he said. "People are questioning a couple of guys having a rest. We have been doing this for a long time now, particularly in my position. "People are passing judgement -- that's fine -- but we are trying to manage our team the best way we see possible, for the short and long-term."

**SQUAD**  
Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Michael Hussey, Simon Katich, Damien Martyn, Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, James Hopes, Brett Lee, Brad Hogg, Brett Dorey, Nathan Bracken, Stuart Clark, Glenn McGrath.

## MERIL CUP Channel I in last 8

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Channel I became the first team to qualify for the quarterfinals of the Meril Cup Media Football Tournament when they blanked news agency ABAS 4-0 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Channel I won both their group matches to emerge champions. On the second day of the 7-a-side tournament organised by Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA), seven more matches were played. BBC, who suffered a massive 8-1 defeat in their opening match, beat Financial Express 2-0 to end the tournament on a winning note. In other matches, UNB defeated Sangram 2-0, New Nation beat Manavzamin by the same margin while BD News defeated Observer 3-1. Three matches -- Naya Digantha v BTV, Bhorer Kagoj v New Age and RTV v BSS -- ended in goalless draws.

## Inter-college h'ball begins

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College recorded an 18-8 win over Dhaka College on the opening day of the EXIM Bank inter-college men's handball tournament at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday. In the day's second game, Notre Dame College trounced RK Chowdhury College 17-1.

## Inzamam Pak

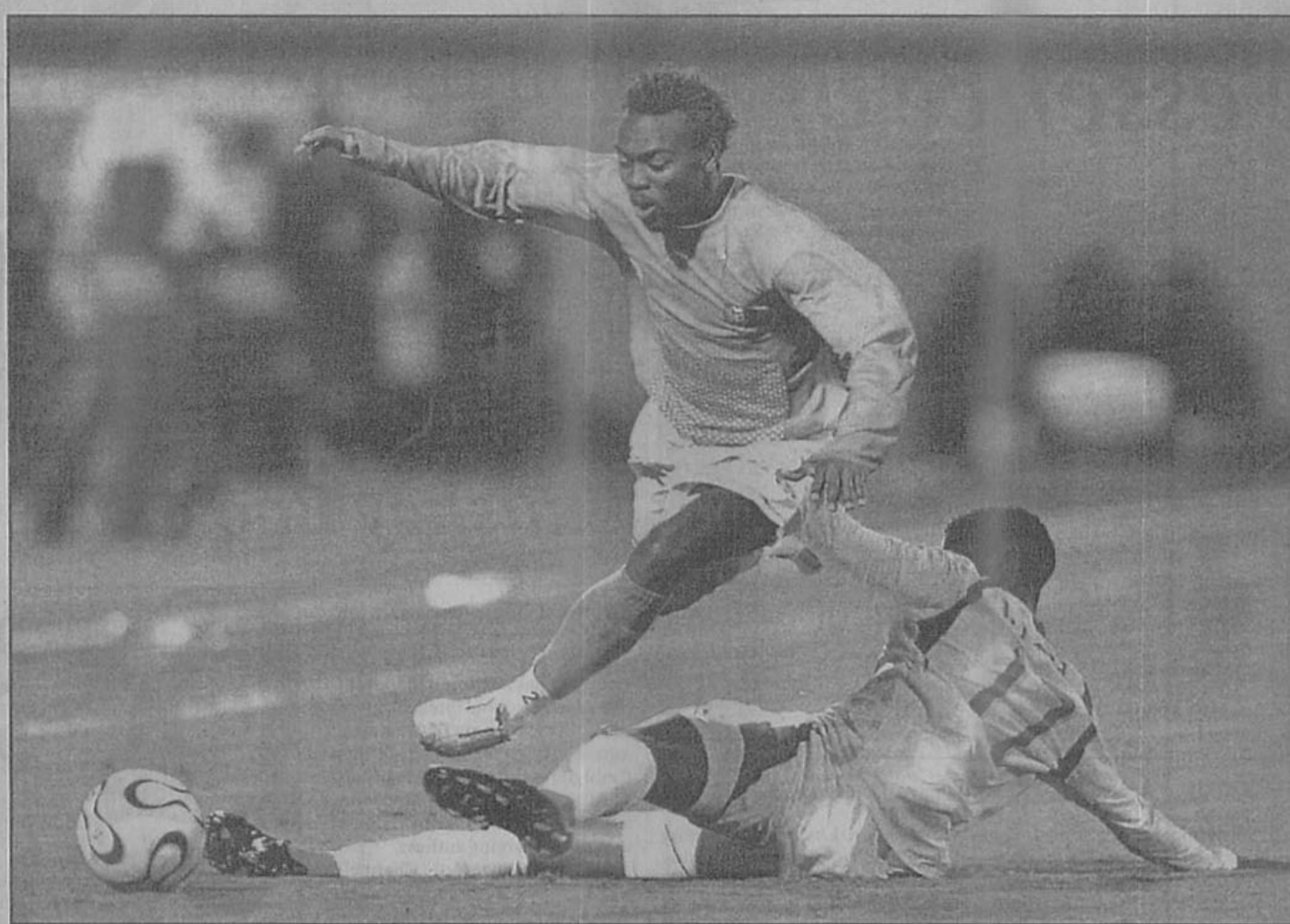
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the main awards, which would be given each year. Inzamam was also among the nominees for the 2005 International Cricket Council player of the year award that went to England's Andrew Flintoff.

## Aussie team

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with the presentation on security by the CMP and linked the CDS venue because of it has beautiful natural surroundings," Salman said. Shanin Aftab said the Australian officials have suggested keeping one entry passage instead of existing two at the CDS. The officials left the city in the afternoon.

## Dhaka clinch

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of the competition last year, put Dhaka ahead in the 66th minute when he drilled a low drive into rival keeper Liton's near post. But Tangail, fighting back against their more mature opponents, made it 2-2 nine minutes from time when Liton Barman's exquisite volley on a right-flank corner by Ranajit found the net. Tangail's Rafiq was the top scorer of the tournament. Mosaddek Ali, MP, distributed trophies after the final as chief guest. The tournament, however, was marred by participation of over-aged footballers, especially champions Dhaka. Before the start of the final rounds, the medical committee of the Bangladesh Football Federation had declared only nine Dhaka booters eligible to play. But the tournament committee later overruled the medical committee decision and allowed all the teams to field over-aged players.



Guinea's Pascal Feindouno skips a sliding tackle by Issam Jemaa of Tunisia during their African Nations Cup encounter at Alexandria in Egypt on Monday.

## Dark night for champs

AFP, Alexandria

Monday was not a night for champions as reigning African Nations Cup holders Tunisia were trounced 3-0 by Guinea and ended up second in Group C. While coach Roger Lemerre's gam, while on playing a second string side backfired -- admittedly they were beaten by a virtual reserve side themselves -- at least they still have an interest in the tournament whereas 1996 champions South Africa reached new depths as they were beaten 1-0 by Zambia. Not only did Bafana Bafana finish bottom but they failed to register a point or score a goal -- surely the end of their 69-year-old coach Ted Dumitru and a real need for a complete overhaul of the side. Whether victory -- the goal coming from Christopher Katongo 15 minutes from time -- keeps Zambian football legend Kalusha Bwalya in a job is open to question after he was openly criticised by the authorities. Lemerre's misery -- they also had Issam Merdassi sent off -- was his French compatriot Patrice Neveu's delight as the previously unheralded coach pulled off a magical win.

## Jose's 12-yr deadline

SPORTING LIFE, London

Mourinho spoke of his long-term ambitions after being awarded the Ordem do Infante D Henrique -- Portugal's highest civilian honour -- at a ceremony in London. "I really want to coach the Portuguese national team and I feel as though Portugal also want it," he said. "The ideal time would be 12 years from now in order to spend four years in the role, covering the World Cup (2018) and the European Championships (2020)." Mourinho, who turned 43 last week, was delighted at being honoured by his native country after receiving the award from Portuguese ambassador Fernando Andresen Guimaraes. "It's the most beautiful award, the most important and the one that has the highest symbolism," he said. "I had to disguise a little bit my emotions in order not to show what I was feeling. "You can win the prize for the best coach in the world or the best European manager today and lose it tomorrow but this award will always be here."

## Another twist in Mikel saga

REUTERS, London

Chelsea have rebutted allegations of misconduct made by Manchester United in an eight-month-old letter to FIFA concerning John Obi Mikel that was leaked to the media on Monday. Nigerian midfielder Mikel has been involved in a transfer dispute between Chelsea, Manchester United and Norwegian club FC Lyn Oslo, where he has been playing. "Chelsea is aware that at least one copy of a private and confidential letter from FC Lyn Oslo and Manchester United to FIFA dated May 18, 2005, that made unfounded allegations against Chelsea in the case of John Obi Mikel, has been leaked to the media," Chelsea said in a statement on their website. "It is outrageous that private and confidential correspondence relating to proceedings before FIFA has been deliberately leaked in this way in an attempt to smear Chelsea's name and, more importantly, to undermine an active FIFA process and pressurise Mikel." According to a BBC Radio Five Live reporter who had seen the correspondence, United wanted FIFA to consider imposing a transfer ban on Chelsea, with whom Mikel trained in 2004, as well as barring them from certain tournaments. Lyn Oslo and United lodged a complaint with world football's governing body last May over Chelsea's pursuit of the 18-year-old Mikel. Mikel signed for Manchester United in April 2005 but the deal was thrown into doubt when the teenager said he had been put under pressure to sign a deal. He then travelled to London and said that he really wanted to play for English champions Chelsea. Mikel turned up in Norway in September and resumed playing for Lyn after several months' absence. "For the record, Chelsea was asked by FIFA for a response after this letter was sent to Chelsea in May 2005," the English champions said. "Chelsea informed FIFA at the time that these allegations were without foundation. The leaking of such fabrications some eight months later does not change Chelsea's position. "As far as Chelsea is concerned this whole issue is a matter for FIFA, which is the correct and most competent authority to decide on it. Such proceedings involve Mikel, United and Lyn. Chelsea is not a party to those proceedings."

# A bitter-sweet African connection

AFP, Cairo



Claude Le Roy's managerial career has been forged in Africa and he has won the continent's premier trophy, the African Nations Cup, in 1988 with Cameroon. But the 58-year-old Frenchman's days as coach of the Democratic Republic of Congo look numbered. He has succeeded in guiding his new team into the quarterfinals of this year's finals, but it seems the frustrations of the job are getting to him. "If they (the DRC federation) were to construct a proper training ground and I could fly back to France more often as my wife finds it difficult living in the DRC then I might consider staying on," Le Roy, who has only been paid 30 percent of his salary since June, told AFP. "Also if the game is better structured then that would also be a help." Congo possesses just one proper training pitch -- paid for by Lebanese businessmen -- and Le Roy revealed the national squad

has only been able to train once on it. "I have had the right to set foot on it just once," said Le Roy. It is not the first time that he has threatened to leave. "When we were in South Africa (for a qualifier) I seriously considered leaving the job, but I looked at the players and the way they sang in unison on the coach moved me and I decided that they were too good a bunch of fellows to dump like that," he said. Le Roy is used to the financial dramas that riddle African football, but while he sorted out his players bonuses on the eve of the opening 2-0 victory over Togo, he himself is more phlegmatic about his own payment. "I don't want to be the richest man in the cemetery," he said. "It's never been my reason for being involved in football. "Otherwise I would be working in Qatar," added Le Roy, who has also coached French clubs Paris St Germain and a traumatic period at Strasbourg, where to his amazement the fans started making monkey noises at him because of his background in African football. With a charming house in Avignon -- where he revels in the

legendary summer arts festival having been brought up in Brittany amongst poets, painters and writers -- Le Roy has already laid down his investment for his eventual retirement. However as he experienced when in charge of Cameroon from 1986-88 there was no danger of him being the richest person in any graveyard -- European or African. "I quit the post in 1988 (after the African Nations Cup victory) because I wasn't paid my bonus," he said. Le Roy, who has written a column for French daily Liberation and is working on a film script, wrote it off as a loss until it was resolved in typically African fashion. "10 years later the President of Cameroon (Paul Biya) asked me to help out with the team at the 1998 World Cup finals in France. "He came to the first match (v Austria in Toulouse) and I went to his hotel room. There in an envelope was my 10-year-old bonus! It would not mean Le Roy's love affair with Africa is over -- far from it -- and no doubt some of the phone calls that came in following the victory was from Africans looking for a coach capable of improving their fortunes.

## Sri Lanka fizzle after

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The Proteas suffered a mini-collapse of their own, with wily spinner Muralitharan playing a leading hand as they lost four middle-order wickets for 26. But they never looked in danger of losing the match and simply took more chances as they pushed for a bonus point by winning within 40 overs. **SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard in the triangular series limited-overs match between Sri Lanka and South Africa at the Western Australian Cricket Association ground on Tuesday: **SRI LANKA** Mubarak b Smith 31; Jayasuriya c Prince b Smith 86; Sangakkara c Kemp b Langeveldt 16; Jayawardene lbw b Smith 1; Atapattu c Rudolph b Van der Wath 7; Arnold c Kemp b Pollock 15; Dilshan run out 37; Muralitharan lbw b Smith 0; Vaas run out 0; Kulasekara c Kemp b Pollock 1; Bandara run out 11; Muralitharan not out 1; Extras: (lb-10, nb-2, w-3) 221; Total: (All out in 47.4 overs) 221; Fall of wickets: 1-94, 2-137, 3-142, 4-144, 5-159, 6-179, 7-179, 8-182, 9-217

## Inzy will get treatment abroad

REUTERS, Karachi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) may send captain Inzamam-ul-Haq abroad to see a specialist for his back problem. "It is basically an old problem for him and he has had to follow certain exercises to keep fit. But travelling is a major source of discomfort for him and it accentuates the back problem," PCB Chairman Shahryar Khan told Reuters on Tuesday. "One option we are studying is sending Inzamam abroad to consult specialists." Inzamam missed the third and final Test against India after the injury flared up in the drawn second Test.

## Zim cricket manager sacked

AFP, Harare

Zimbabwe's national cricket team manager Mohammed 'Babu' Meman was sacked by Zimbabwe Cricket authorities here Tuesday after 15 years in the position. A letter giving him three months notice was delivered to his home. Calling it "a disgrace" Meman went immediately to his lawyer to discuss his termination of service. He has worked for Zimbabwe Cricket and previously the Zimbabwe Cricket Union for a total of more than 20 years and was previously a selector. Also sacked Tuesday was former international spin bowler and long time selector Richie Kaschula, who has been employed for several years by ZC as one of its three national selectors. The other two, Ethan Dube and Macsodh Ebrahim, were volunteers, but have stood down.

## Sociedad sack Amorrotu

AFP, Madrid

Twice Spanish champions Real Sociedad sacked coach Jose Mari Amorrotu on Monday following a dismal 3-1 home defeat against then-bottom side Alaves at the weekend. The struggling Primera Liga club have installed reserve team coach Gonzalo Arconada in temporary charge until the end of the season. Amorrotu was the second top-flight coach to lose his job on Monday after Malaga, who slumped to the bottom of the table with a 3-1 defeat against Espanyol, fired Antonio Tapia. The pair became the fifth and sixth managers to be shown the door this season in the Spanish top flight following Jose Luis Mendilibar (Athletic Bilbao), Wanderley Luxemburgo (Real Madrid), Chuchi Cos (Alaves) and Carlos Bianchi (Atletico Madrid). Basque team Sociedad, who were champions of Spain in 1981 and 1982, now sit 15th in the table, just four points above the relegation zone. Just two seasons ago, they were playing Champions League football but have been in decline ever since challenging Real Madrid for the title in 2003. Amorrotu, 52, was at Sociedad since 2004 but a club statement issued on Monday said: "The Real Sociedad board has decided to terminate the contract of Jose Mari Amorrotu as first team coach." "Gonzalo Arconada has been nominated the new coach of Real Sociedad until June."

## Football

REUTERS, London

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A file of Lyn Oslo's Nigerian recruit John Obi Mikel.

PHOTO: AFP

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 Impetuous	43 Heater	6 Strictly	27 "Monty Python" opener
2 Pismire	49 Coll. peak	7 Rocky	28 Bro's cohort	
3 Supermarket lineup	50 "It's a Sin to Tell" -- patriarch	8 Bach	29 Dinner for	
4 Additive	51 Crome	9 Sleeping chip	30 Dobbin format	
5 Court	52 Chip in a	10 Obayed revellie	31 Movie prepared for	
6 Reed instrument	53 Peruse	11 Collec-tions	32 Prepared for shingles	
7 Thwart	54 Flaw rock	12 Son of Odin	33 Grooving on	
8 Outermost	55 Wise competitor?	13 Kin of ifs and buts	34 Found Table address	
9 Merely miffed	14 Rabble, for short	14 Embrace	35 Yearly move slightly	
10 Devil's domain	15 Moises of baseball cross	15 Greek	36 Whine melody	
11 Internet address	16 Evening in Paris	16 Balloon filler	37 "Factor" Kournikova or Karenina	
12 Sweetie	17 Balloon	17 Terrible	38 Metropolis is --	
13 Fernie's blis	18 Terrible	18 Supply	39 Decem-ber 24 and 31	
14 Supply	19 "Norma"	19 Pooch	40 Personal question?	
15 "Norma"	20 Actress	20 Carrera		
16 Pooch	21 Carrere	21 Sneaky		
17 Actress	22 In Paris	22 Impudent		
18 Carrera	23 Balloon	23 Moreover		
19 Sneaky	24 Balloon	24 Crib		
20 Impudent	25 Balloon	25 Not together		
21 Moreover	26 Terrible			
22 Crib				
23 Not together				

**Down:** 21 Pooch; 22 Actress; 23 Carrera; 24 Sneaky; 25 Impudent; 26 Moreover; 27 Crib; 28 Not together.

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**CRYPTOQUIP**  
VMEK OUIJG QUI OEJ  
KMRCSL JRYW LKHRCSL  
MEZZWHL ECG VUUGWC

YVQQL? BRECU BRWOL  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A CERTAIN DENTAL PRODUCT WERE WAY UNDERPRICED, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE A FLOSS LEADER.  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: J equals I.

The Cryptquip 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.