

### Arshad barred by his bank

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan off-spinner Arshad Khan has been ordered to break off from his role in this month's one-day series against India and return to his job in a bank.

Allied Bank said the 34-year-old cannot be given permission to play for Pakistan in the series and must return for normal banking duties within seven days or face disciplinary action.

This decision has been conveyed to you and the request of the Pakistan Cricket Board for your participation in Pakistan team against India could not meet approval of competent authority," wrote Khalid Sohail Azmi, a regional head of the bank, to Arshad in a letter obtained by Reuters.

Most players are employed by banks or big departments and are automatically released and treated 'on-duty' if required to play for Pakistan.

Arshad was a member of the Pakistan squad for the series against England before Christmas and was in the squad for the India series.

He played in the one-day series against England but was not picked for either of the three Tests against India.

Arshad has played nine Tests and 56 one-day internationals for Pakistan.

### Meril Cup semis today

SPORTS REPORTER

Ajker Kagoj will take on Janakantha and Sangbad face Samakal in the two semifinals of the Meril Cup Media Football Tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Ajker Kagoj eliminated holders Jugantor 1-0 in yesterday's first quarterfinal with Anjam scoring the match winner. Samakal brushed aside Bhorer Kagoj 6-0 with Ujjal slotting five goals while Janakantha ousted Channel 1 4-1 with Asif and Feroz evenly sharing four goals.

### 7th wins for Azad, Rupali

SPORTS REPORTER

Azad Sporting Club and Rupali Bank both recorded their seventh wins in the First Division Cricket League yesterday.

A brilliant all-round show by Ashiq, who captured 5-31 and scored 49, helped Azad (199-6) beat Jatrabari Krishna Chakra by four wickets at the Dhaka University ground while Rupali (240) handed a 71-run on to Bangladesh Boys (169) at the City Club ground.

### Sharapova meets Hingis in qtrs

REUTERS, Tokyo

Top seed Maria Sharapova powered past American Lisa Raymond 6-4, 6-4 to join Martina Hingis in the Pan Pacific Open quarterfinals on Thursday.

Four-times Tokyo winner Martina Hingis fought back to beat third seed Nathalie Dechy 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 and remain on course for a semifinal showdown with defending champion Sharapova.

The Russian world number four's victory came with the minimum of fuss, Sharapova converting her first match point with a blistering backhand pass off a sharp Raymond volley.

"When I had the opportunity to win, I did," Sharapova told reporters. "But I think I will play better. If I keep improving I definitely feel confident I can win it again."

In contrast, Hingis was forced to dig deep after an erratic start.

The former world number one returned to tennis last month, reaching the last eight of the Australian Open in her first grand slam since injury forced her into early retirement in 2002.

Hingis struggled to hold serve for the first set and a half but dug in to force a third set as Dechy's nerve began to waver.

The 'Swiss Miss' dominated her French opponent in the deciding set, showing glimpses of the form that brought her five grand slam singles titles between 1997 and 1999.

### Jamil wants

FROM PAGE 16

Club although I am a member of the club. I could do that because I had reports. I can not personally go and watch every match. The match referee is responsible to report back of the incidents. I will try to check whether he has been dishonest or not, although it is out of my jurisdiction," said Jamil.

To find out the truth, the CCDM chairman can easily take help from video footage of the match.



Manchester United striker Louis Saha (C) celebrates his goal against Blackburn Rovers with teammates during their Premiership match at Ewood Park on Wednesday.

### PREMIERSHIP

## Big guns humbled

### Football

APF, London

Fifteen points clear with 14 matches left to play: Chelsea's march to a second consecutive Premiership title was left looking unstoppable despite being held to a 1-1 draw at Aston Villa on Wednesday.

It was a far from convincing performance from Jose Mourinho's side.

But neither Manchester United, beaten 4-3 at Blackburn, nor Liverpool, who were held to a 1-1 draw by ten-man Birmingham, proved capable of taking advantage of the champions' slip-up.

Chelsea never found top gear but Arjen Robben's fifth goal of the season, drilled in after Joe Cole had chipped down a William Gallas cross, looked to have earned them victory before Luke Moore snatched a point for Villa with a scrambled late equaliser.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho launched an incredible post-match attack on referee Rob Styles.

"Somebody has to teach the referee that there is no law for compensation in football and if he has made a mistake in the first-half he should not make a lot of other mistakes in the second-half," he said after both sides had strong penalty claims turned down.

Former Arsenal winger David Bentley celebrated his permanent move to Blackburn with a hat-trick as Mark Hughes's side held off a United fightback in a seven-goal thriller at Ewood Park.

Bentley put Blackburn ahead by snaffling up a rebound from Morten Gamst Pedersen's free-kick, only for Louis Saha to equalise inside two minutes.

Blackburn got back in front after a mix-up between Rob Ferdinand and United goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar presented Bentley with the easiest of opportunities to claim his second goal of the evening.

Lucas Neill's penalty in first-half stoppage time, after a handball by Wes Brown, and Bentley's third of the night, 11 minutes after the restart, added to Blackburn's advantage.

Ruud van Nistelrooy came off the bench to claim two trademark poacher's strikes and put United back in the game but Sir Alex Ferguson's men were unable to get the equaliser they strived for.

The match finished acrimoniously with Ferdinand sent off after a reckless tackle that ended Robbie Savage's involvement in the game.

An angry Ferguson was also unhappy with the refereeing.

"Rio says he hasn't touched him (Savage), so I'll just have to see the video," Ferguson said.

But Blackburn manager Mark Hughes, the former Wales striker who played under Ferguson at United, said: "It looked a poor challenge. Robbie has a badly gashed shin and is shaken up."

Birmingham's prospects at Anfield were not helped by the straight red card midfielder Damien Johnson received for a wild lunge at Daniel Agger midway through the first half.

But after Steven Gerrard had put the Reds ahead in the 62nd-minute, Steve Bruce's side claimed an unlikely point thanks to a Xabi Alonso own goal within two minutes of the end.

Arsenal's domestic troubles intensified with a 3-2 home defeat by London rivals West Ham.

Nigel Reo Coker and Bobby Zamora both took advantage of errors by Sol Campbell to put the Hammers two-up completely against the run of play.

Campbell was also at fault on the Hammers' second, failing to close down Bobby Zamora before the striker curled a shot round Lehmann.

Arsenal pulled one back just before half-time, Thierry Henry

getting the faintest of contacts on a Robert Pires shot.

But the Gunners were left shell-shocked when Matthew Etherington claimed a third for the visitors with just over ten minutes left, ensuring that a late Pires effort for Arsenal had no impact on the outcome.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger feared for Campbell's mental health after the England centre-half stormed out of the ground after being substituted.

"I took him off because he was in a mental shape, I felt, too much down to come back," Wenger said after the defeat, with his star defender nowhere in sight.

He said the 31-year-old had charged off without permission and was too depressed to continue playing.

Manchester City piled fresh pressure on to embattled Newcastle manager Graeme Souness with a convincing 3-0 win at the City of Manchester stadium.

City boss Stuart Pearce included went-away Joey Barton in his starting line-up and the midfielder was given a predictably hostile reception from the fans.

But that did not prevent him from creating City's opening goal with a cross for on-loan Spaniard Albert Riera, who volleyed superbly into the corner of the net.

An Andy Cole header and a Darin Vassell strike midway through the second half completed a miserable night for the Newcastle players, who were roundly abused by their own travelling fans.

Struggling Portsmouth claimed a point at home to Bolton, for whom Khalilou Fadiga squandered a first-half penalty.

The Senegalese midfielder made amends after the break with a long-range free-kick that evaded Dean Kiely but Portsmouth deserved the equaliser claimed by substitute Azar Karadas five minutes from the end.

### 'Drogba is not a one man team'

AFP, Cairo

Cameron have a lot more to worry about than just Ivory Coast's star striker Didier Drogba in Saturday's African Nations Cup quarterfinal, said the Indomitable Lions captain Rigobert Song on Thursday.

The 29-year-old two-time African Nations Cup winning defender admitted that Drogba - scorer of two goals so far - was a top class forward but if they concerned themselves too much with him then they risked disaster.

"Didier Drogba is one of the top strikers in Africa, and in the English Premiership," said Song.

"We must be focused and vigilant as regards him, but there are many others in the Ivory Coast team that are also dangerous," added Song, who is set to win his 103rd cap and extend his record of African Nations Cup finals appearances to 27.

Drogba's Chelsea teammate Geremi echoed his captain's feelings.

"Didier is a damn fine striker, he is as effective with his feet as his head, and we obviously have to keep an eye on him," said Geremi, who scored in the 2-0 win over Democratic Republic of Congo.

"However Ivory Coast did not just qualify for the World Cup finals because of him. Yes his goals helped but they have many others in the team that are capable of hurting us if we focus too much on Didier," added Geremi, a member of the 2000 Olympic winning team and two African Nations Cup title victories.

### Parreira unfazed by Dida's poor form

INTERNET, undated

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has played down concerns about AC Milan goalkeeper Nelson Dida's recent poor form.

Dida who is set to defend Brazil's goal in the World Cup in Germany later this year, has given unconvincing performances for his club in recent games.

The Milan keeper was stunned in Saturday's 1-1 draw against Sampdoria, with Andrea Gasbarroni's long-range effort bouncing off Dida's arm and into the net.

The result distanced Milan from the Scudetto as they are currently 12 points behind Serie A leaders Juventus.

"I am not worried about Dida's current form," said Parreira.

"I have full confidence in him and in his quality. He has a lot of experience and is a hard worker" Parreira added.

### Int'l jr tennis from tomorrow

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The weeklong Dhaka Bank International Junior Tennis Tournament (Group-3) will tomorrow at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna.

A total of 163 players including 89 boys are taking part in the tournament, general secretary of Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) Sanaul Haque told at a news conference on Thursday.

Managing Director of Dhaka Bank Shahed Noman, BTF vice-president Alauddin Chowdhury, BTF treasurer Manjurur Rahman Raskin, tournament director Ahsan Habib also spoke on the occasion.

The participating 24 countries are Armenia, Belarus, Canada, China, Spain, Indonesia, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Pakistan, Moldova, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Portugal, Russia, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Uzbekistan and the hosts Bangladesh.

The single's champion will earn 60 ITF junior ranking points while the doubles winners will get 50 points.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will inaugurate the tournament as chief guest. Founding chairman of sponsors Dhaka Bank Limited Abdul Hay Sarkar will be present as special guest.

### Lee relief for

FROM PAGE 16

"Brett in particular has bowled very, very well to him."

"Our plans that we've had set for him have worked very well and we've got a few more opportunities now to keep him under pressure and when we get back over there it would be nice to have him under pressure in South Africa as well, in front of his home crowd."

### EUROPEAN CUPS TIES

## Barca, Juve knocked out

### Football

REUTERS, Barcelona

Spanish champions and Primera Liga leaders Barcelona were knocked out of the King's Cup on Wednesday despite claiming a 2-1 victory over Real Zaragoza at the Nou Camp.

Zaragoza's emphatic 4-2 win in the first leg was enough to earn them a 5-4 aggregate victory over the Catalans, who were reduced to 10 men late in the first half after the sending-off of Ronaldinho.

Victor Munoz's side now face a semifinal showdown against Real Madrid, the team they beat in the final two years ago.

Deportivo Coruna joined Zaragoza in the last four after a 1-1 draw at Valencia gave them a 2-1 aggregate victory in their resumed quarterfinal tie which was played behind closed doors at the Mestalla.

Deportivo midfielder Victor's 70th minute penalty cancelled out David Villa's strike in last week's abandoned game and ensured the Galicians a place in the semis.

Barcelona faced an uphill task at the Nou Camp, but they wasted no time pushing forward.

Argentine teenager Lionel Messi grazed the far post with a low drive in the eighth minute after he had been put clear by Ronaldinho and midfielder Deco went close with a rasping free kick.

Mexican midfielder Rafael Marquez then had a powerful

header cleared off the line by centre-back Diego Milito. But the Catalans' ambitious game plan meant they were living dangerously at the back.

Reserve keeper Albert Jorquera pulled off a fantastic reflex save to turn a thundering shot from midfielder Cani over the bar just before the half hour and produced another great stop to block a point-blank header from Ewerthon.

Barca's hopes of turning round the tie took a heavy blow when Ronaldinho was controversially given a straight red card for a challenge on Cani, sparking an angry response from the home fans.

But the incident only served to breathe new life into Frank Rijkaard's side and four minutes later Messi put them 1-0 up on the night when he headed in Ludovic Giuly's cross.

Still needing another goal, Barca continued to pour forward after the break and midfielder Andres Iniesta hit the base of the post early on.

Their hopes of a comeback were extinguished, however, when Zaragoza midfielder Oscar found himself in space on the left and curled a swirling shot past Jorquera. Henrik Larsson's stoppage-time goal mattered little.

In Italy, Serie A leaders Juventus were knocked out of the Italian Cup on the away goals rule on Wednesday after a 1-0 win at AS Roma meant the quarterfinal finished 3-3 on aggregate.

Urged on by a crowd of 51,000 at Rome's Olympic Stadium, the home side started strongly with Francesco Totti forcing Juve keeper Christian Abbiati into a diving save from a free kick.

In the 18th minute a foul by Pavel Nedved on Totti led to opposing players almost coming to blows and red cards being shown to Roma midfielder Olivier Dacourt and Juve striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

The dismissals did not stop Roma pressing forward, midfielder Daniele De Rossi heading narrowly wide before the half-hour.

Juve's first real scoring chance came a minute before halftime when keeper Gianluca Curci reacted well to tip a Marcelo Zalayeta header over the bar.

Having played so well up to the interval, Roma let Juve back into the contest three minutes after the restart when Simone Perrotta handled in the box and Adrian Mutu converted the penalty.

Coach Fabio Capello sent on Emerson and striker Alessandro Del Piero, scorer of Juve's two first-leg goals, as he went on the attack.

Del Piero struggled to impose himself against a solid Roma back four but in the 71st minute teammate Patrick Vieira almost netted with a superb right-footed shot that hit the base of the post.

In the semifinals Roma will face Palermo, who eliminated AC Milan on Tuesday.

Another side to progress on the away goals rule was Udinese, who drew 2-2 at Sampdoria on Wednesday to leave the tie drawn 3-3 on aggregate.

## Magpies sack Souness

### Football

AFP, Newcastle

Graeme Souness's troubled 15-month reign as Newcastle manager came to an end on Thursday when the club terminated his contract with immediate effect.

The sacking, which had been anticipated for weeks, came the day after a 3-0 defeat at Manchester City left the Magpies 15th in the Premiership table, just six points above the relegation zone following a run in which they have taken one point from six matches.

For a club with one of the biggest and most passionate supports in English football, such a position was untenable, particularly given that Souness had been allowed to spend nearly 50 million pounds on bringing in new players.

"Newcastle United today announced that the employment of Graeme Souness has been terminated with immediate effect," a statement from the club said.

Glenn Roeder, the former West Ham manager who is currently



GRAEME SOUNESS

head of Newcastle's youth academy, will take charge of the first team for Saturday's match against Portsmouth, with club captain Alan Shearer assisting him.

Shearer, who is due to stop playing at the end of this season, has long been seen as a future manager of his hometown club.

The 52-year-old Souness began as player-manager at Scottish giants Rangers, revolutionising Scottish football with big-name imports from England before

moving to Liverpool, where he had enjoyed huge success as one of the finest midfielders of his generation.

After two seasons at Anfield, during which he under-went open heart surgery, Souness had spells at Turkey's Galatasaray, Southampton, Torino, Benfica, Southampton and Blackburn before joining Newcastle.

## FA begins hunt for Sven successor

INTERNET, undated

The Football Association will begin their search for Sven Goran Eriksson's successor on Thursday.

The FA board will meet for the first time since Eriksson's summer departure was confirmed and their first task will be to elect a five-man panel that will decide on England's new coach.

Chairman Geoff Thompson and chief executive Brian Barwick will be part of the group, while director of football development Sir Trevor Brooking is expected to play an advisory role - as he is considered by some to be a contender to be part of the new coaching set-up.

Reports suggest the other three members are likely to be Noel White, chairman of the FA's international committee, chairman of the Premier League Dave Richards and Arsenal vice-chairman and board member David Dein - who played a major role in Eriksson's appointment.

Once appointed, the panel will draw up a shortlist for the position before deciding on whom they should make a move for.

Current favourites Gus Hiddink and Martin O'Neill are expected to head the shortlist, with Englishmen Alan Curbishley, Sam Allardyce, Stuart Pearce and Steve McClaren all likely to be considered.



Dhaka Bank managing director Shahed Noman addresses a press conference at the National Tennis Complex on Thursday.

### INDO-PAK TESTS AVERAGES

REUTERS, Karachi

Averages for the three-match Test series between India and Pakistan which the hosts won 1-0 on Wednesday.

BATTING (Tabulate under matches, innings, not out, runs, highest score, average, 100, 50, \*denotes not out):

PAKISTAN	Batsman	M	I	NO	R	HS	Ave	100s	50s
	Younis Khan	3	5	0	553	199	110.60	2	2
	Kamran Akmal	3	5	2	293	113	97.66	2	1
	Mohid Yousuf	3	5	0	461	173	92.20	2	2
	Faisal Iqbal	1	2	0	144	139	72.00	1	1
	Shahid Afridi	3	5	0	330	156	66.00	2	1
	Inzamamul Haq	2	2	0	120	119	60.00	1	-
	Abdul Razaq	2	4	0	204	90	51.00	-	1
	INDIA								
	Rahul Dravid	3	5	2	241	128*	80.33	2	-
	Virender Sehwag	3	4	0	294	254	73.50	1	-
	Mahendra Dhoni	3	3	0	179	148	59.66	1	-
	Yuvraj Singh	3	3	0	171	122	57.00	1	-
	VVS Laxman	3	5	2	138	90	46.00	-	1
	Sourav Ganguly	2	2	0	71	37	35.50	-	-
	Sachin Tendulkar	3	3	0	63	26	21.00	-	-

BOWLING (Tabulate under matches, overs, maidens, runs, wickets, average, best figures, 5 wks/innings, 10 wks/match):

PAKISTAN	Bowler	M	O	M	R	W	Ave	Best	5	10
	Mohammad Asif	2	65.1	8	229	8	28.62	4-78	-	-
	Abdul Razaq	2	62.4	4	281	9	31.22	4-88	-	-
	Shahid Afridi	3	44.4	0	184	3	61.33	2-91	-	-
	Danish Kaneria	3	82	6	309	5	61.80	3-165	-	-
	Shoaib Akhtar	3	65.2	17	253	4	63.25	2-70	-	-
	INDIA									
	Zaheer Khan	2	94.4	17	374	10	37.40	4-61	-	-
	Rudra Pratap	2	87	8	345	9	38.33	4-89	-	-
	Irfan Pathan	3	115.1	17	486	8	60.75	5-61	-	-
	Anil Kumble	3	143	14	629	9	69.88	3-150	-	-
	Sourav Ganguly	2	24	2	91	1	91.00	1-68	-	-

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Fleet member  
5 Apply lightly  
8 Airport lineup  
12 Novice  
13 Blunder  
14 Waikiki wing-ding  
15 Pedestal occupant  
16 Judge Lance  
17 Elemental unit  
18 Gets more maga-zines  
20 Clean up  
22 1978 Vietnam movie  
26 Mantle follower  
30 Gun the engine  
31 Rhinehart and Winston  
32 Central  
33 Existed

DOWN

19 Moo goo gai pan  
21 Census statistic  
23 "A tale told by an un-... agent?"  
24 Un-adorned  
25 Squared  
26 Stylish  
27 Crazy  
28 Interval between games  
3 Press  
3 Skunk  
5 Advocacy  
45 Equitable  
49 Barrel part  
50 Terrible  
51 USNA grad  
52 Division word  
53 Hotel  
54 Society-page  
11 Bottom line  
6 Illustrations  
7 Toasted  
8 Opposite of "go"  
9 Wrote  
10 Writer  
Belte Lord  
39 Pirilco entrant  
42 Many millennia  
43 No totalers, they  
44 Espy  
45 Not quite a whopper  
46 "Hail, Caesar!"  
48 Indivisible

Solution time: 25 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP

E F K A W Z M ' J K V B O O A U

V Z M O . B V M O O Z V K

V Z Q K C Z P W Q B U F S V T W

"PZA'S ETVSK WZMJ CJZSF!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A NATIVE OF ALASKA HAD SUPER-SHARP VISION, I THINK I'D CALL HER AN OPTICAL ALUTIAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals R

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.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15				16					17		
18			19			20	21				
			22			23			24	25	
26	27	28			29				30		
31			32						33		
34					35				36		
37			38				39				
			40				41		42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49		
50							51		52		
53							54		55		