

Pakistan get Afridi shock

AFP, Lahore
Pakistan's chances of staging a fightback in their one-day series against India took a knock Tuesday when all-rounder Shahid Afridi was ruled out of the remaining two matches.

Akhtar out of Lankan tour

AFP, Lahore
Pakistan's fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar has been ruled out of next month's tour of Sri Lanka with an ankle injury, officials said Tuesday.

Bek Tero come here in August

SPORTS REPORTER
Thailand's Bek Tero FC will play exhibition football matches against local heavyweights Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani this year in Dhaka, informed Mohammedan general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan at a press briefing yesterday.

BOA chief inaugurates BSA's modern library

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) on Tuesday eyed at bright prospect in sports at regional and international level.

Murali still undecided

Cricket
AFP, Brisbane
Sri Lanka ace spinner Muttiah Muralitharan says he has not decided whether he will play in Australia again amid continuous crowd taunts over his scrutinised bowling action.

Gayle aware of his duty

Cricket
CRICINFO, undated
Chris Gayle, West Indies' opening batsman, says that he understands the responsibility he carries opening the batting in New Zealand.

blat for a quick 20. That won't do the team any good. It's just a mental part of being a batsman that you have to work out the situation out there and adapt to it."
Indies' current tour. With Brian Lara opting out of the initial one-day leg of the tour, Gayle's role becomes more important.



CHRIS GAYLE

Premiership Hammers going great guns

Football
AFP, London
West Ham moved into the top six of the English Premiership with an emphatic 3-0 victory over relegation-haunted Birmingham at Upton Park on Monday night for their seventh consecutive victory in all competitions.

now it's been a good season. The players have been absolutely brilliant and deserve all the accolades they get, adding: "These players are young and hungry."
Dean Ashton promptly added a third a couple of minutes later to wrap up another comfortable win.

Gilchrist blows SL away

FROM PAGE 12
Sri Lanka, who looked to have presented Australia with a challenging target after scoring 266 for nine, in the end were battered out of it by the ballistic Gilchrist.

The tourists recovered strongly after losing the wickets of Jayasuriya (6 off 12 balls) and skipper Marvan Atapattu (7 off 16 balls) for just 28 runs.
The Australians paid early for a series of dropped catches with Atapattu grassed in a mix-up between Gilchrist and Mike Hussey at slip on six and Sangakkara put down by Katich on nine on his way to his fifth half-century of the series.



Chief of Army Staff and Bangladesh Olympic Association president Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed clicks the mouse of a computer to inaugurate BSA's programme to set up a modern library yesterday.

Greg won't shy away

PTI, Lahore
Mired in controversies that he describes as "needless", India's cricket coach Greg Chappell has momentarily wondered whether he should stay on, but on Tuesday he told his detractors that he was not going to flinch.

Pakistan fined for slow going

CRICINFO, undated
Inzamamul Haq, the Pakistan captain, has been fined 10 per cent of his match fees for a slow over-rate during the third ODI against India on Monday. The rest of the team was fined five per cent.

Diego's

FROM PAGE 12
when he heard the news but later it was learned that he would have to wait to know about his fate. In fact, the provisional two-match suspension imposed on Cruciani by the AFC will remain in force until its disciplinary committee's verdict.

Pace before spin

FROM PAGE 12
Hopefully I'll grab the chance if it comes my way. It's a big tour in here in India and I'm looking forward to the challenges."
England will play three Tests and seven one-day internationals in the cricket-mad country where England have not won a Test series since David Gower's tourists triumphed 2-1 in 1985.

Drogba doubtful starter

AFP, London
Ivory Coast captain Didier Drogba said on Tuesday he is worried about his long running battle with a knee problem that has cast in doubt his availability for next week's mouth-watering Champions League clash with Barcelona.

ers in Argentinian Hernan Crespo and young Englishman Carlton Cole, revealed that the club had not wanted him to go to the Nations Cup.



DIDIER DROGBA

UEFA Cup Boro on a high

Football
AFP, Paris
Middlesbrough's confidence has shot up on the run-up to their midweek UEFA Cup clash at VfB Stuttgart while Bolton boss Sam Allardyce is trying not to let England manager speculation distract him.

"I am fine in my mind but I can't play as I would do usually. When I kick and change direction, I am not at my best."
Even for my goal against Nigeria, I did not kick the ball as I wanted.

Iran blasts German media

AFP, Berlin
The Iranian embassy in Germany has protested to a German newspaper for publishing a "disgusting and abhorrent" cartoon portraying Iranian footballers as suicide bombers.

Thursday night. McLaren said: "We've shown what we're capable of doing although we haven't done it enough and in the past couple of months our home record has been poor."
Bolton meanwhile almost copied Middlesbrough in beating a top team on Saturday when only a stoppage-time equaliser from Gilberto denied them a third victory over Arsenal this season.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Indigent 2 Attila, 20 "SNL"
1 Quaker's address 38 Bucca- neer's 3 Superla- tive suffix 21 Indone- sian 4 Like some island cuisine 22 King of comedy 23 Denomi- nation 24 Oppositio- nists 25 Supine 27 Excep- tional 28 See 29 Down- lar home 29 With 28-Down, naively innocent 31 Architect Saarinien 34 Molest 35 Hinge (on) 37 Kabuki alterna- tive 38 Cover of gloom 39 Suther- land solo 40 Start over 41 Branch 44 Zilch 45 Court 46 - Arbor, Mich. 47 Still

Cryptogram puzzle grid and text: CRYPTOQUIP O Q R J M M A K T B P B P S Y T Q F N J B O Z I Z R L H S S P L R J Q H Q S K B P S Q R B O P B J M M B N S V V A K R Q F N J Z V O B R. Yesterday's Cryptogram: IF YOU'RE PREVENTED FROM ENTERING ANY PUB, I GUESS IT MEANS YOU'VE BEEN DS-BARRED. Today's Cryptogram Clue: M equals L