5-0 down to

Uzbekistan

SPORTS REPORTER

Dynamo Kiev star Maksim Shatskikh and his injured striking partner Alexander Geynrikh each scored twice as Uzbekistan downed Bangladesh 5-0 in the Group F opener of the 2007 Asian Cup qualifier at Tashkent vesterday.

The home side, who came close to qualify for the World Cup 2006 but eventually failed to book a ticket for Germany, were leading 3-0 at the break at the Pakhtakor Stadium in the Uzbek capital.

Geynrikh opened the scoring for the eighth-ranked side in Asia after ten minutes and Bangladesh lost their goalkeeper Aminul immediately after conceding the lead. The injured keeper, replaced by Biplab, was taken to the hospital but he was reportedly okay.

Geynrikh scored his second goal seven minutes after the breather while Shatskikh, AFC Player of the Year 2005 nominee, found the net in the 34 and 84 minutes.

Server Djeparov, one of the 11 Pakhtakor players chosen for the national side by new coach Valeri Nepomniatchi -- the former Cameroon coach -- added the other from the 24th-minute pen-

Uzbekistan were reduced to ten men for the last five minutes after one of their midfielders received his second yellow card for a foul on

Bangladesh, playing before a 30,000-strong crowd on a cold afternoon (8 degrees Celsius), created opening either side of the break but Arman and Emily failed to utilise the opportunities.

Bangladesh will play their second match in Dhaka on March 1 against Hong Kong, who suffered a 3-0 home defeat to Qatar. He team will return home tomorrow morn-

In Group A, Japan brushed aside visiting India 6-0 at Yokohama. In Group E, Singapore shocked touring Iraq 2-0 while China blanked Palestine by the same margin at home. South Korea edged Syria 2-1 in a Group B game.

First ever motor sport in March

SPORTS REPORTER

The first ever motor sport in the history of Bangladesh will take place in Dhaka on March 17

The event dubbed as EBL Treasure Hunt Challenge, organised by Bangladesh Motor Sports (BMS) and sponsored by Eastern Bank Limited (EBL), will start from Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre and finish after reaching different points of the city.

Any individual with a private car and valid driving license will be able to participate in the event on the basis of first come first served. The participants, under the

banner of any club, organisation, will be able to register their names paying taka 2000-2,500.

K Mahmood Sattar, managing director of EBL said, "We appreciate the initiative to promote safe and entertaining family motor sports in the country for the first



Bangladesh won their first ever ODI series against Zimbabwe in 2005. The result was 3-2.





Khaled Mahmud (Former Bangladesh cricket cap-

"I think it is a great honour to quit international cricket from the ground. There is no such example in our country so I think f am very fortunate.



Arsenal striker Thierry Henry (R) celebrates with teammate Alexander Hieb after scoring against Real Madrid in their Champions League encounter at the Santiago Bernabeu on Tuesday.

Henry shows Real class

CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, Madrid

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger said on Monday that he expected great things from Thierry Henry against Real Madrid and the French striker didn' t disappoint as The Gunners ran out 1-0 winners here Tuesday.

Henry's goal, two minutes into the second half after using his skill to go past three Real players, puts Arsenal in the driving seat ahead of their Champions League last 16 second leg match at Highbury in two

The goal inevitably spurred a reaction from Real but Arsenal goalkeeper Jens Lehmann and the inexperienced four in front of him followed Henry's example and showed that they were not overawed and would not be outclassed.

Arsenal defied their underdog status from the start and by the end could easily have won by two goals or more as Real became increasingly

desperate to find the net.
"We started well and that may have made Real insecure. I'm happy in every department. In fact, my only regret, if there is one, is that we did not add one or two more goals," said

Real's defence left goalkeeper Iker Casillas, who could not be faulted for the goal, stranded twice late in the game and only the Spanish international's quick reflexes saved Real from further embarrassment.

The victory and away goal will give Arsenal a huge advantage for the return match and will also go a long way towards silencing the club's critics who have become vocal after their recent lean period in the Premiership.

By contrast, with the odds now against Real making the Champions League quarterfinals and seven points behind Spanish league leaders and bitter rivals Barcelona, it is becoming increasingly likely that the nine-times kings of Europe will go a third consecutive season without a majorhonour. "But I still think they will turn up

and give everything, to sit on our lead at Highbury would be a major mistake. We have to come out and score goals but we have a fantastic chance to qualify. It will be a very interesting game, "addedWenger.

Wenger sprang a surprise on Real even before the kick off, naming Belarus international Alexander Hleb to the starting line up and leaving

The visitors also tried to catch Real on the hop straight from the start with Jose Antonio Reyes, Freddie Ljungberg and Henry all having chances to open the scoring

in the first 10 minutes. Real took their time getting into their stride with their fans having to wait until midway through the first half for their first serious attempt

However, Robinho mistimed his attempt to head home David Beckham's pass and Lehmann had ittle problem gathering in the ball.

Beckham then had two good chances to break the deadlock, firstly a header went just wide and a few minutes later a break left him with only Lehmann to beat. However, Arsenal's German

England captain as well as the rest of Real's star-studded side. To add injury to the insults that were being bawled at Real by their fans at the end of the game, the injury-prone England defender Jonathan Woodgate limped off after just nine minutes with a hamstring

keeper managed to thwart the

On a night when little went Real's the game was Roberto Carlos's 100th in the Champions League and the Brazilian left back becomes only the fourth player to reach that milestone.

1 32

0 51

Mason

Vettori

Vettori guides NZ home

Cricket

An unbeaten half-century by Daniel Vettori ensured a threewicket victory for New Zealand in their second one-day cricket international against the West Indies here Wednesday after a top-order collapse threatened to put the modest target beyond reach.

The West Indies could only manage 200-9 after batting first but their opening bowlers Fidel Edwards and Ian Bradshaw reduced New Zealand to 13-4 before a lower order fight back saw New Zealand safely to 204-7 and a 2-0 lead in the five match series.

After losing their first wicket with 10 on the scoreboard, reaching 13 proved unlucky for the home side, with three wickets falling without another run being added.

Both Peter Fulton (49) and wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum (45) were unlucky not to reach their half-centuries after setting the New Zealandinnings back on course.

McCullum in particular was in a belligerent mood, hitting his runs at better than a run a ball. He did most of the damage when 22 runs were taken off Jerome Taylor in the 17th over in what may have been the After McCullum's arrival at 49-5

in the 15th over, he and Fulton put on 71 runs for the sixth wicket. But Vettori, relying heavily on

cleverly angled shots behind square. and James Franklin (15 not out) put on 61 runs as the West Indies ran out of ideas on how to grab back the

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the second one-day

international between New Zealand and the West Indies in Queenstown on Wednesday WESTINDIES Gayle b Bond Ganga c McCullum b Mason MortoncAstlebVettori Sarwan c McCullum b Mason Chanderpaul b Franklin HindscMcCullum b Bond Smith run out (Styris) Ramdin not out Bradshawb Patel Edwards run out Franklin Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-1, nb-3) Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-10, 3-37, 4-60,

5-130, 6-158, 7-184, 8-197, 9-200

Super-sub: Lewis for Sarwan

Asue	4	U	10	U
Patel	2	0	14	1
NEW ZEALANI)			
Vincent b Bradshaw 5				
How Ibw Edwards				0
Astle c Hinds b Edwards				2
Fleming lbw Bradshaw				0
Styris c Gayle b Taylor				10
Fulton c Ramdin b Lewis				49
McCullumrun	outMo	rton		45
Vettorinotout				53
Franklinnotou	IT			15
Extras: (lb-7, w-	-14, nb-	4)		25
Total: (For 7 wkts in 47 overs) 204				
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-13, 3-13, 4-				
13,5-49,6-120,7-143				
Did not bat: Bond, Patel.				
Super-sub: Patel for Mason				
Bowler	0	M	R	W
Edwards	10	1	41	2
Bradshaw	10	2	31	2
Taylor	5	. 0	40	1
Gayle	8	0	40	0
Smith	3	0	18	0
Lewis	6	0	29	1
Result: New Zealand won by 3				
wickets and lead the series 2-0.				
Man-of-the-match: Daniel Vettori.				
Toss: New Zealand.				
Umpires: Rudi Koertzen and Billy				
Bowden.				

Dalmiya probe first

Bowler

Franklin

Did not bat: Taylor

BCCI puts Champs Trophy issue aside

Cricket

AFP, Vadodara

Venues for the International Cricket Council's Champions Trophy later this year remained undecided Wednesday after infighting broke out in India's rich but faction-ridden cricket board.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which had to finalise the venues by Tuesday, instead launched a probe for alleged financial irregularities by its former chief Jagmohan Dalmiya.

The BCCI has accused Dalmiya, a former ICC president, of bungling accounts relating to the 1996 World Cup which India hosted jointly with its South Asian neighbours Pakistan

and Sri Lanka. BCCI vice-president Lalit Modi claimed that Dalmiya had committed a multi-million dollar fraud which warranted a criminal investigation, a charge backed by the board's current treasurer N status.

Dalmiya, whose group was ousted by political heavyweight Sharad Pawar in the bitterlycontested BCCI elections in November, rubbished the accusations against him.Dalmiya was the secretary of Pakistan-India-Lanka Committee (PILCOM) which organised the World Cup in the three South Asian countries in 1996.

The current BCCI regime, buoyant after securing a staggering 612million dollar TV rights deal last week, meanwhile continued to put the Champions Trophy on the back-

The event, organised by the ICC every two years to raise funds for the promotion and development of the game worldwide, is scheduled to be held in India between October 7 and November 5.

The tournament, regarded as a mini World Cup, features the top six limited-overs nations as on April I, 2006 plus two qualifiers drawn from the remaining four teams with Test

India is a reluctant host with officials saying over the past few months that the tournament needed to be scrapped because it diluted the importance of the four-yearly World Cup and caused huge financial losses to the host country since the ICC pocketed a major part of the reve-

Major Indian cricket centres like New Delhi and Mumbai, which were selected by the ICC, backed out on the plea they could not give the ICC complete control of the stadiums because of prior commitments for providing on-ground advertising and tickets to their own sponsors.

The ICC insists the entire monthlong tournament should be held at only three venues for logistical rea-The BCCI's Srinivasan said he was

confident the issue will be sorted out soon, but declined to reveal which three venues were the front-runners. The previous four editions of the Champions Trophy were hosted by

Lanka (2002) and England (2004).

for Barca INTERNET, undated

No Henry

SPORT

Barcelona have no intention of pursuing their reported interest in Thierry Henry in the short term.

The Catalan club are satisfied with the players they have at the Nou Camp and do not feel inclined to try to tempt Henry away from Arsenal, according to their vicepresident Ferran Soriano.

There are a lot of rumours in this industry. We are very happy with the players we have," Soriano told BBC Radio Five Live.

The French striker is admired at Barca, but it seems his services are not coveted at present.

"He is an amazing player. Everybody would like to have Thierry Henry in their team - all the teams in the world," added

"But he has a team and a contract, and we respect that. One day if he is available we would talk - but

Sissoko suffers retina damage

INTERNET, undated

Liverpool have confirmed that Mohamed Sissoko has damaged the retina in an eye after being hit in the face by Benfica's Beto on Tuesday night.

The Mali midfielder clashed with Beto and was caught by a high boot from the Benfica man, who was cautioned for the offence.

After being stretchered off at Estadio da Luz, there was obvious concern for the health of the Reds powerhouse, and tests have confirmed that his eye has been dam-

The 21-year-old was left behind in hospital in Portugal as he complained of blurred vision in his right eye and needed medical

Beto has already apologised for the challenge but it seems likely that Sissoko will be missing from action for a spell. The exact extent of the problem has yet to be estimated by Liverpool, so it is difficult to put a timeframe on any comeback.

Both Sehwag, Harbhajan fit

REUTERS; Baroda

India opening batsman Virender Sehwag has recovered from a shoulder injury and will be available for next week's first Test against England, chief selector Kiran More

said on Wednesday.

The explosive Delhi player, 27, had been sidelined after the first two games in the five-match one-day series in Pakistan, which his team clinched 4-1 on Sunday.

Indian selectors name the squad on Thursday for the first Test.

Sehwag's fitness boost comes a day after in-form batsman Yuvraj Singh was ruled out of the opening game due to a hamstring injury.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has also been declared fit after suffering a finger injury which sidelined him from the Pakistan one-dayers.

Ganguly

FROM PAGE 12 Influential cricket board member Raj Singh Dungarpur, who managed the Indian team in Pakistan, was sceptical about Ganguly playing against England.

"I think it will be very difficult for Sourav to come in," Dungarpur told reporters soon after the team's return from Pakistan earlier this week.

"The young guns have come in and there is no place for him now. "He scored 30-odd runs and chucked away his wicket. If he would have made 75, 80 or a hundred, it would have been different.'

Former Test wicketkeeper Kiran More, who heads the five-man selection committee, emphasised the importance of grooming younger players.

Asked if Ganguly would replace

Yuvraj, More said: "Besides

Ganguly there are a lot of cricketers like Suresh Raina and Mohammad Kaif. We have to look at everybody and choose the best considering all aspects." A place was created for Ganguly in the middle-order in Pakistan

only because skipper Rahul Dravid opted to open the innings himself with Virender Sehwag in place of two specialist openers, Wasim Jaffar and Gautam Gambhir. Dravid indicated after the Karachi Test that he might revert to the middle-order for the England

series, leaving open the number six spot behind Sachin Tendulkar and Venkatsai Laxman. Yuvraj, a left-hander like Ganguly who hit peak form in Pakistan before being injured in the final one-dayer, backed his former

Akram inswinger FROM PAGE 12

captain to play against England.

because he should have led the side from the front to set an example for the others. Now the series levelled at 1-1, I

firmly believe that Bangladesh have the potential to upset the visiting side and lift the three-Bangladesh (1998), Kenya (2000), Sri match series. We are looking forward to a great game in Chittagong.

It's visitors' night



Three of the four away sides came away with positive results from their Champions League last 16 first leg clashes on Tuesday night.

In fact, even holders Liverpool could feel optimistic about their chances of progressing despite losing 1-0 away at Benfica on a night when goals were at a pre-

Arsenal probably pulled off the result of the night when a moment of individual brilliance by Thierry Henry made the difference as the Gunners beat Real Madrid 1-0

Their inexperienced defence then held out well, far better in fact than Real's England defender Jonathan Woodgate, who further embellished his reputation as 'Mr Sick Note' by going off early in the encounter with a hamstring injury.

Liverpool's former manager Gerard Houllier enjoyed a more pleasant evening as his Lyon outfit matched their conquerors from last year's quarterfinals PSV Eindhoven in The Netherlands in the first-half and then edged them 1-0 with a second-half freekick by Brazilian playmaker Juninho.

The four-time French champions then had to hold out for the last 10 minutes with 10 men after

Sidney Govou was sent-off by the extremely card-happy Greek ref-

eree for a second bookable offence. The other match saw Bayern Munich held 1-1 at home by Italian giants and finalists last time out AC Milan. However, the Andriy Shevchenko penalty that got the visitors their invaluable away goal

sprung from a dubious decision. Arsenal have had a pretty rough time domestically this term but like Liverpool last year they appear to have saved their best performances for the Champions League. Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger was

justifiably proud of his relatively young and inexperienced team. We needed big nights from Thierry Henry, Kolo (Toure) and Gilberto (Silva) but the young

players did well. In fact there was

not a single player who did not have an outstanding game." Real coach Juan Ramon Lopez Caro admitted his side had underperformed and let themselves down after reviving their league campaign over the past six

"We just did not play well," he said. "We were convinced we were going to put on a great performance but we hit a barrier and will have to play really well in a fort-

Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez was more concerned by the serious eye injury sustained by Mohamed Sissoko when it connected with Beto's highflying boot than the overall per-

formance of his champions, who

went down to a goal by Luisao. "For me it was a game for a draw

and then we conceded from a freekick," said the Spaniard. However he had far from given

up hope for the return leg in a fortnight's time. "We know the other team is very difficult, but if we score one goal we

behind us maybe we can go and get His predecessor in the Liverpool hotseat, Houllier was not counting his chickens yet even after securing the excellent result at Eindhoven, who had not been beaten at home

in any competition since

start again and with the supporters

December 2004. "I am going to say something really banal but a realistic banality: we are only at half-time, we're leading 1-0 but nothing has been accomplished," said the 58-yearold former France and Liverpool

His PSV counterpart Guus Hiddink was less than gracious in defeat and felt his team had been

AC Milan handler Carlo Ancellotti rejected any accusations his Italian boys had stolen a draw at Bayern with the penalty awarded against the German side's Valerien Ismael for handball

Bayern coach Felix Magath was incensed by the penalty but vowed that his team would do their best to set the record straight in Milan.

'Ronaldo not for sale'

defeat by Arsenal.

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid say they have no plans to sell Ronaldo despite media reports that they are thinking of offloading the Brazil striker after

his criticism of the club's fans. "We want to make it clear ... that the board of directors did not discuss the future of Ronaldo or any other player at their meeting yesterday," the club said in a statement

on their website on Wednesday. "The board analysed the financial situation of the club and also showed its satisfaction with the work being done by the team coach (Juan Ramon Lopez Caro) and the technical staff." Ronaldo has come under fire in the Spanish media for criticising the fans and threatening to leave the club on the eve of



"I've never felt at home at the

RONALDO Bernabeu, the fans have never

treated me with affection," the

Tuesday's 1-0 Champions League three times World Player of the Year told a news conference on Monday.

> me and their reaction is something to take into account when thinking about my future. I've always said that I don't want to be where I'm notloved. There were several banners in support of the Brazilian at the

"The fans have never accepted

and fans refrained from whistling him as they had done in the weekend league match against Alaves. The 29-year-old had a quiet

Bernabeu during the Arsenal game

match and barely touched the ball as Real slumped to a first leg defeat in the last 16 tie. His comments about Real's fans

drew an interested reaction from AC Milan, whose president Adriano Galliani told Wednesday's Gazzetta dello Sport that their door was open to the former Inter Milan

Tigers all smiles

triumph in 1996, was also excited. "It is definitely very special to me. It is nice to beat Sri Lanka at last. I am happy to see that my boys have finally implemented our strategy in the middle. If we can continue this kind of attitude, we will win more matches," the

Australian said. Whatmore agreed that criticisms sometime gave his team the much-needed inspiration to come out of bad patches.

"Yes, sometimes it helps

because the boys then realise that

they should do something," he Sri Lanka coach Tom Moody and skipper Mahela Jayawardene did

not turn in the post-match brief-

Wednesday:

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SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra on

40 SAT

subj

41 Footnote

abbr.

Mubarak c Mashud b Rasel Jayasuriya Ibw b Rafique Sangakkara c Mashud b Rasel 23 Jayawardene c Bashar b Rafique 5 Kapugedera c Mashud b Kapali 13 Dilshan cand b Kapali Fernandolbw b Aftab Maharoof c Bashar b Mashrafee 21 Bandara run out Fernando c Ashraful b Nazmul 13 Perera not out Extras: (b-1, w-8, nb-2)

212

Total: (All out in 49 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-72, 3-87, 4-116, 5-122, 6-132, 7-168, 8-187, 9-Super-sub:Tharanga (unused) OMRW Bowler Mashrafee 10 2 31 2 28 Rasel 10 59 Nazmul 0 40 Rafique Kapali 0 29 Aftab 24 BANGLADESH

Saleh Ibw b Maharoof Ashraful c Bandara b H Fernando Bashar c Kapugedera b Jayasuriya Aftab not out Kapalic H Fernando b D Fernando Mashud not out Extras: (lb-1, w-6, nb-7) Total: (For 6 wkts in 47 overs) 213 Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-45, 3-91, 4-154, 5-155, 6-206 Did not bat: Mashrafee, Rafique, Rasel

Bowler OMRW 1 30 0 Perera 0 38 Maharoof D Fernando 0 48 0 42 Bandara Javasuriva 9 0 36 H Fernando 6 0 18 Result: Bangladesh won by four wickets and level the series 1-1. Man-of-the-match: Afrab Ahmed. Toss: Bangladesh.

Umpires: Krishna Hariharan and

Third ODI: Feb 25, Chittagong.

Mahbubur Rahman.

Super-sub: Saleh for Nazmul

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 59 Slight 11 Grub amounts 16 Capri,

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Nafees c Sangakkara b D Fernando

43 High-8 Lotion 1 Santa -, repair 23 Albanian additive lander's Calif. 12 Storybook hat 2 Protection money 45 Joey of 24 Gibraltar villain (Var.) 13 - Khan 'NSYNC 3 Wall beast 14 "Long 47 Stir up 25 Offered Street live ...!" 51 Anisewheelerunwanted 15 Bloodline flavored dealers advice 4 Big fracas 27 Sartorial sharers liqueur 17 Be 52 Scriptural 5 Johnny tangent to 54 Keatsian 29 Charged 18 Rate works 19 Tribal 55 Punctur-6 Early 30 Kvetch emblems bird? 32 Last ing tool 7 Trattoria 21 Inventor car 56 Ecto-34 Especially Whitney entree 22 Winglike morphic 8 Video-37 Crib 23 "Mighty 57 Ocean game 39 Count symbols motion counter Rose" 58 Clark or 9 Free part 26 Always, Campan-10 See 42 Preclude

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CRYPTOQUIP EU T JQTWRG TIRFJ'A

UXZBA EA KGTFFEFI QRAXQJ

JQEKA, E IBRAA CR CTA

WTZTJEXF WXZTJEXF Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN POSTAL CARRIERS SPEND TIME TOGETHER CHATTING AND SUCH, WOULD THAT BE MAIL BONDING?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals S 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 aposts give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.