## AL's U-14 soccer camp ends

SPORTS REPORTER

A three-week training camp of under-14 footballers organised by the Youth and Sports central subcommittee of Awami League concluded yesterday at the Abahani ground in Dhanmondi.

A total of 93 footballers, picked from the Sheikh Russel U-14 football tournament organised by Awami League last year, took part in the camp. Twenty-four footballers were selected from the camp for further training.

The youngsters later played an exhibition match against current and former national footballers.

Awami League's joint general secretary and former sports minister Obaidul Quader, former Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Harunur Rashid, famous footballers of the past and officials were present at the concluding ceremony.

## Akhtar going

early this month.

Pakistan will tour England from mid-lune to play four Tests and five one-day internationals, and Akhtar said he desperately wants to play.

Captain Inzamamul Haq and coach Bob Woolmer -- who have both criticised Akhtar's commitment in the past -- hailed his change in attitude in last year's victorious home series against England, when he took 14 wickets.

The injuries are a fresh blow for Akhtar, who is already ruled out of next month's tour of Sri Lanka and who missed the home one-day series against India due to a stress fracture of his left ankle.

PCB director operations Salim Altaf said Akhtar was an "asset" and everything possible would be done to gethim fit.

Shoaib bowled in pain in the Test matches on generally flat pitches, which aggravated his ankle and knee injuries," Altaf said.

"Initially we thought it was a cartilage problem but the MRI scans revealed it's a bit more seri-

Altaf said it was too early to say whether the injury was career

We'll only find out once he sees the surgeon," he added.

Pakistan suffered badly through injuries to Akhtar, all-rounder Shahid Afridi (rib) and Umar Gul (back) during their 4-1 loss to archrivals India in the one-day series which finished early this week.

## Baisya recalled

FROM PAGE 16 SQUAD

Habibul Bashar (captain), Khaled Mashud, Javed Omar, Mohammad Ashraful, Aftab Ahmed, Rajin Mohammad Rafique, Mashrafee-Bin-Mortuza, Manjarul Islam, Nazmul Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Sved Rasel, Tapash Baisva.

## No Sourav

FROM PAGE 16 Kaif has played eight Tests, but

Raina, Sreesanth, Singh and Chawla have no Test experience at all.

The team for the second Test in Mohali from March 8-12 and the third in Mumbai from March 18-22 will be named during the Nagpur Test, More said.

## SQUAD

Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Wasim Jaffar, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina, Mahendra Dhoni, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Piyush Chawla, Irfan Pathan, Sri Sreesanth, Rudra Pratap Singh, Vikram Rajvir Singh.

## Patel tears

FROM PAGE 16 Rajvir Singh.

He was treated on the field and returned to hammer 22 runs in one over from Singh, the sequence being 4, 6, 4, 4, 0, 4.

But it was evident Pietersen would not last much longer and even though he had Strauss to run for him, he retired hurt with England on 123-4.

Patel, who had dismissed Strauss and Flintoff, returned in the afternoon to bowl Jones and

Matthew Hoggard off successive deliveries Liam Plunkett denied Patel a hattrick but the pace bowler gained

his fifth wicket by shattering Steve Harmison's stumps. England will play three Tests and seven one-day internationals

during the two-month tour that endson April 15.

## BRIEFSCORES

ENGLAND: First innings 238 (Pietersen 47, G Jones 46, Plunkett 37, Blackwell 33, Strauss 23; Patel 5-59. Paul 2-26)

PRESIDENT'S XI: First innings 93 for 1 (Jaffar 48, Gambhir 33 not out; Blackwell 1-6)



Villareal's Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan (R) shoots to score against Rangers during their Champions League clash

# Comeback kids make merry

CHAMPS LEAGUE

REUTERS, London

On a remarkable night of Champions League comebacks Barcelona beat 10-man Chelsea 2-1 in London while Werder Bremen scored twice in the last three minutes to beat Juventus 3-2 in their first knockoutround first legs.

Inter Milan recovered from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 at Ajax Amsterdam while Rangers twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with Villarreal in Glasgow.

What had been billed as the game of the round at Stamford Bridge looked to have been spoiled by a red card for Chelsea's Spanish fullback Asier Del Horno in the 37th minute for a wild lunge at Argentine teenager Lionel Messi

On a muddy pitch, depleted Chelsea battled on and took the lead with a Thiago Motta own goal after

Another own goal, by Chelsea captain John Terry, levelled it 12 minutes later and Samuel Eto'o headed Barcelona's precious winner 10 minutes from time.

Barcelona won by the same score at the same stage last season, but that was at the Nou Camp and Chelsea won the home return 4-2.

Werder enjoyed a topsy-turvy night against Serie A leaders Juventus, leading 1-0 at halftime after a scrambled goal by fullback Christian Schulz having peppered the Juve goal with 17 shots and

Juve hit back to lead with goals by Pavel Nedved (73) and David Trezeguet (82) but Tim Borowski's near-post flick levelled the scores in the 87th minute and Johan Micoud then scrambled in an injury-time

Ajax produced one of their best first-half performances of the season to lead Inter with goals by Klaas-

Inter kept cool however, and after hitting the bar twice in the same attack, pulled one back with a deflected Dejan Stankovic shot three minutes into the second half and poured on the pressure before equalising when Julio Cruz swept in from close range four minutes from

Villarreal continue to impress in their debut season in Europe's elite competition, though they still have work to do after twice allowing Rangers back into the tie.

An inexplicable handball by Croatian striker Dado Prso allowed Juan Roman Riquelme to drive in an early penalty, the Scottish side levelling with a superb Peter Lovenkrands shot after 22 minutes.

Diego Forlan controversially sprung the offside trap to put Villarreal 2-1 up in the 35th minute then missed a sitter before Rangers were handed a lifeline eight minutes from time when Juan Manuel Pena

# Messi refutes cheat claim

CHAMPS LEAGUE

REUTERS, London

Barcelona winger Lionel Messi says Chelsea's Asier del Horno was out to stop him by fair means or foul with the tackle that resulted in the defender being sent off in Wednesday's Champions Leaguegame.

Chelsea were reduced to 10 men from the 37th minute when del Homo was shown the red card by referee Terje Hauge and lost the first knockout

roundfirstleg2-1. "I got past (Arjen) Robben and Del Horno charged at me with bad intent,"

Messi said of the incident close to the "Luckily I see him coming and I jumpbecauseifnothewouldhavehurt

me much more," the teenager told Argentine reporters.

Messi said Del Horno had lunged at him earlier and caught him high up on his leg with his studs, but was not punished. Del Horno's studs tore the knee-length contour shorts Messi wore under his kit for the cold London foryou,"hesaid. weather, the Argentine said.

"The first kick that he gave me left a mark," the 18-year-old international

"Thefirstonethatwaswithstudsup" hurt me more, I certainly felt that one more, but with the victory you don't noticethekicks."

Messi dismissed the remark by Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho that the teenager had indulged in theatrics when he went down after Del Horno's red card tackle.

'Idon'tdotheatre," hesaid. 'I don't attach any importance to that because we know what he's like, that he likes talking, he likes to say things and heat up the atmosphere."

Barcelona captain Carles Puyol said: "If Mourinho has doubts about the aggression againt Messi all he has to doislookathisleg.

Messi has shown a taste for running at defences since his explosive appear-

This match is the sort that any player likes to play and you try to be strong so that it goes as well as possible

anceintop-flightfootball.

"I always say that when I've got the crowd against me, I like to play more and I try to do more things." Messi hit the fartop angle of Petr Cech's goal with acurlingleft-footedshot

Ten-man Chelsea took the lead in the second half with an own goal by midfielder Thiago Motta from a Frank

Barcelona equalised when Chelsea captain John Terry headed Ronaldinho's free kick past Cech in the Chelsea goal and striker Samuel Eto'o headed the 80th minute winner.

"Barcawon because we went for the winateverymoment," Messisaid. "When it was 1-0 against us we

started to play football with the ball on the ground and began to show what Barcelona is and how we've always played. That's when the spaces opened up for us and we created a lot of

"We could have scored another goal but that's how it went, and it's good because we got an important result over here and that gives us tranquility forthereturnathome.

# Aus, SA to jump the gun

## Tour opens with a Twenty20 tie today

Cricket

South Africa and Australia are set to put an early end to cricket's controversial super-sub system ahead of its official scrapping next month.

South African captain Graeme Smith and Australian counterpart Ricky Ponting said Thursday they favoured going back to 11-a-side cricket for the 20-overs game which starts the tour at the Wanderers Stadium Friday and five one-day internationals starting at Centurion Sunday.

"The sooner we can get back to playing the cricket we're used to and the cricket we'll be playing going forward the better," said Ponting. "I think an agreement will bestruck.

Smith said: "We're going to the World Cup in 2007 and if these rules are not going to be part of the World Cup why should we be playing them?"

The captains cited the example of New Zealand and West Indies, who agreed to play without substitutes during their current series in New Zealand.

Both teams will be without two of their biggest hitters for the 20overs match. South Africa's Justin Kemp has been ruled out because of a persistent shoulder problem, while Andrew Symonds will be missing from the Australian team because of a strained left thigh. Both are expected to play Sunday,

Australia will also be without batsman Michael Hussey, who will arrive in South Africa Saturday after staying in Australia for the

South Africa, after picking an experimental 20-overs side, including only five of the squad that failed to reach the final of a recent triangular one-day series in Australia, brought back veteran allrounder Shaun Pollock in place of Kemp. But Pollock will play as a batsman only, according to Smith.

The South Africans will be boosted, however, by the return of fast bowler Makhaya Ntini, who missed the one-day games in Australia because of a knee injury.

Fellow fast bowler Andre Nel was included in the one-day squad but will miss Sunday's opener.

Smith said he hoped Nel would be fit for the remaining games, while he said he hoped all-rounder Jacques Kallis would be able to play in the last two one-day matches, ahead of a three-matchTest series.

Ponting said he expected a tough tour, despite his team's dominance over their opponents in Australia, where the world champions won a three-match Test series 2-0, three out of four one-day internationals and the inaugural 20-overs clash between the two countries.

The competition we've had here has always been strong," said Ponting. "The last series in Australia was particularly intense." Ponting said his team would hope

to maintain their dominance over South African skipper Graeme Smith, who failed to score a halfcentury against them in Australia, but warned: "He's a class player and we will have to keep coming up with newplans."

Ponting said he was not concerned about a possible hostile reception from South African crowds following complaints of racist abuse directed at the South African players in Australia.

"We expect to cop it from the crowds," said Ponting, "but it's no different from any other tour. "We've found that if we are keep-

ing the crowds quiet it is generally because we are playing good cricket. so that's what we will be trying to do.' Smith said his players were looking forward to playing at home. "South African crowds are going to support us but we also expect them to be dignified and not cross the lines that were crossed in Australia."

TWENTY20TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Loots Bosman, AB de Villiers, Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Hall, Neil McKenzie, Makhaya Ntini, Robin Peterson, Shaun Pollock, Roger Telemachus, Thandi Ishabalala, Johan van der Wath.

AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist (vicecaptain), Nathan Bracken, Michael Clarke, Stuart Clark, Brad Hogg, Mitchell Johnson, Simon Katich, Brett Lee, Mick Lewis, Damien Martyn, ShaneWatson.

FIXTURES Date

Match Venue Feb 24 Twenty20 Johannesburg FirstODI Centurion Feb 26 Mar3 Second ODI Cape Town Third ODI Port Elizabeth Mar 10 Fourth ODI Durban Mar 12 Fifth ODI Johannesburg Mar 16-20 First Test Cape Town Mar 24-28 Second Test Durban Mar31-Apr4 ThirdTest Johannesburg

### Shevchenko urges Ronaldo raid

INTERNET, undated

Milan's attempts to sign Real Madrid's Ronaldo are gathering pace with Andriy Shevchenko the latest to sing his praises. "We can't overlook a player like him," he said.

Ronaldo announced that he was unhappy at Real Madrid on the eve of his side's 1-0 defeat to Arsenal this week and was subsequently told by Adriano Galliani, live on television, that he would welcome the Brazil legend to Milan. "Our door is always open for someone likehim," hesaid.

Now Shevchenko has sent more encouraging words to the player who has grown tired of the deterioration in his relationship with Real fans, who now boo him on a regular basis at the Bernabeu. "The Brazilian doesn't seem

happy at Madrid," said the Rossoneri striker. "Certainly, in a situation like this, we can't overlook a player like him.

"It is clear that Ronaldo needs a new stimulus and in my opinion he is certainly still an excellent striker," he added. "This is not an opportunity Milan should miss out

Milan will doubtless find competition for the services of 'The Phenomenon', although any buying club would need to free Ronaldo from the golden handcuffs tying him to Los Merengues.

The disgruntled South American is currently earning over 4-million-pounds a year in the Spanish capital and his contract does not run out until 2008.

Manchester United and Inter are the two clubs most likely to challenge the Rossoneri for the mercurial centre-forward.

## Australia not upto 20/20 game yet

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Australia captain Ricky Ponting said his team have not yet grasped the requirements of Twenty20 cricket, but they were hoping to gain more experience in Friday's match against South Africa at the

"We haven't yet got fully to grips with 20/20 cricket and a few of the guys do still go into it quite lightheartedly. We're still learning and hopefully we'll get the opportunity to learn a bit more tomorrow," Ponting told reporters on Thursday.

"It's a hard game to take too seriously because you basically have to come out and swing from the word go, and sometimes you'll come off and other times you

## Barca hit

FROM PAGE 16

shot forcing Cech into a fine save low to his left.

At the other end, Chelsea had been restricted to some promising build-up play that failed to generate any clear chances. And the home team's prospects of altering the one-sided pattern suffered a serious setback ten minutes from half-time. Having once again got away

from del Horno, Messi turned inside Arjen Robben only to be floored by a crude body-check from the Spain left-back. Del Horno suffered as badly as

Messi in the collision but that did not spare him a red card once the Norwegian referee, Terje Hauge, had consulted his linesman. There can be few teams better

equipped to make a numerical advantage count than Riikaard's Barcelona, but it was Chelsea who started the second half more posi-Robben evaded Oleguer and

Ferreira tested Valdes from dis Then, a minute before the hour mark, Oleguer brought down Robben close to the left touchline for the free-kick that produced

flashed a shot only fractionally

beyond the far post before Paulo

Chelsea's goal. Whipped in by Lampard, the ball appeared destined for the arms of Valdes before Motta cut across the goalkeeper and deflected it into thenet

Barcelona's equaliser came

from a free-kick in a virtually iden-

tical position, Ronaldinho's deliv-

ery skimming off Terry's head and into the top corner of the net. The Chelsea captain was to make amends for that misfortune by twice clearing off the line as Barcelona piled on the pressure, denying substitute Henrik Larsson

The woodwork also came to the London club's rescue, Messi's sublime chip rebounding off the angle of post and bar with Cech well-beaten.

and Ronaldinho in quick succes-

But Barca were not to be denied victory. After a Chelsea counter had broken down, a Ronaldinho surge out of his own half left their back line hopelessly exposed and Eto'o was unchallenged as he rose to nod in Marquez's chip from the lefthand corner of the penalty area.

# Madrid fans want Henry

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid fans are clamouring for their club to sign Arsenal's talismanic French striker Thierry Henry after his wonder goal secured victory for the English Premiership side at the Bernabeu on Tuesday, according to sports daily Marca.

League thanks to Henry's solo strike in the last 16 first-leg clash in Madrid, a goal that saw him beat four players before slotting the ball past man-ofthe-match Iker Casillas in Real's goal. Henry's image was splashed across Marca's front page on

This one, yes, they love him." The headline made a clear reference to another striker, currently at Madrid, who is much less than loved

The first player Henry shrugged off on his mazy run was the disenchanted figure of Brazil's Ronaldo, who by contrast is currently facing the wrath of an over-expectant public for his recent listless displays.

On Wednesday, Marca claimed refuted by the club.

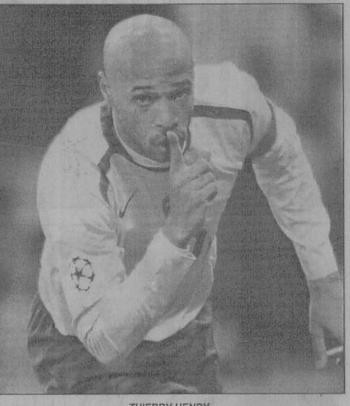
AC Milan responded to the news Ronaldo, leading Marca to suggest:

doors to Ronaldo, the Frenchman improved his chances of becomming

the next 'galactico'. galacticos left in the market and

The Frenchman is one of the rare Florentino Perez (Real's president) has already claimed to be an

The news could spark a bidding war for Henry in the summer with Barcelona already known to be interested in signing the World Cup winner and current European Golden Boot title holder - jointly with Villarreal's Uruguayan forward Diego Forlan.



clever backheel.

the net on 73 minutes.

minutes gone.

ing first half.

But former European Footballer

of the Year Nedved ended an other-

wise anonymous performance when

the Czech collected a superb pass

from Patrick Vieira to shoot high into

unpromising beginnings, Del Piero's

cross bobbled off Werder's Brazilian

defender Naldo and was headed in

by the unmarked Trezeguet with 82

But the Germans were not dead,

as Borowski nipped in front of Lilian

Thuram to poke the ball past

Gianluigi Buffon for the equaliser

before Micoud's late goal gave

The home side could easily have

On 23 minutes, a volley from the

scored three times in a highly attack-

unmarked Torsten Frings was turned

had goalkeeper Tim Wiese to beat,

Werder were rocked, and from

## Bremen stun Juve

CHAMPS LEAGUE AFP, Bremen

An injury-time header from Johan Micoud gave Werder Bremen a sensational 3-2 victory over Juventus here on Wednesday which leaves the Italian giants with work to do in the second leg of their Champions League round of 16 match. Pavel Nedved and David

Trezeguet had given Juventus two potentially crucial away goals after defender Christian Schulz had opened the scoring for Werder. When Tim Borowski put the German side level in the 87th minute

of a pulsating match, a 2-2 draw looked likely. But two minutes into injury-time, Micoud popped up with a header from a corner which rebounded in off Alessandro Del Piero on the goalline, sending the 37,000 crowd at the packed Weserstadion into wild

celebrations. WerdercoachThomasSchaafwas overjoyed.

The team gave us a fantastic evening of football with a great end to it,"he said. "After an excellent first half we

"But it is a sign of our team that they always come back. And to create that many chances against a team like Juventus shows the quality of our Schaaf's opposite number Fabio

Capello was looking at home advantage in the second leg to sway the tie in Juventus' favour. "I dont know how Bremen will play in Turin, but clearly we have to take the initiative. I hope they'll

continue to take an attacking

approach, as that is their nature,

though we have to be more careful on set-pieces," the Juve coach said. "Everyone is disappointed because we had the game hands, but at the same time to score two goals away from home is a posi-

tive result," Capello added.

"Werder are very strong at home and have scored more than anyone else in the Bundesliga. It's true they leave space at the back, but they are very attacking and physical, so not an easy side to face.

around the post by Buffon, who then produced an even better save from Frank Fahrenhorst's header. Werder arguably deserved their Juventus broke away but Zlatan victory after dominating the first half. Ibrahimovic shot wide when he only Schulz converted their early

superiority into a goal on 39 minutes although the assistant referee had when the defender found the net for raised his flag for offside. the first time this season after the After Schulz had scored, Wiese stopped attacking at the start of the Juve defence repeatedly failed to denied Trezeguet and rushed off his

# Rajshahi consolidate

By Eugene Sheffer

1 Work at 24 North

3 A Baldwin 26 "Anony-

long face 27 Piece

11 Contempt- 39 Pizarro's

the key

board

2 "Star --"

4 Opening

remark?

ley's first

5 Have a

6 McKin

7 Lettuce

8 Bad

variety

lighting?

reaction

10 Re planes

16 Resort

bet

Solution time: 25 mins.

20 Roulette

9 Sneeze

22 Apparel

Pole

25 100 cts.

mous'

on a

29 Previous

night

Kapital'

partner

soldier

35 Shock

37 Aussie

40 - de

41 Race-

deux

track

42 Mislav

43 Despot

44 Wind-

45 Full-

storm

figured

super-

model

46 Anchor's

place

50 Preceding

49 Shade

30 "---

Valentine

melody

employee

Faisal exploited the tail, finishing

with 4-46 from eight overs. Earlier, opener Gazi Salahuddin topscored 65 off 88 balls to steady the innings after Chittagong were reduced to 14-2. The middle-order worked on the solid platform by

rattling 101 runs in the last 13 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF RAJSHAHI: 177 all out in 50 overs (Naveem 65, Rosel 47, Shahjada 18, Anis 2-30, Arafat 3-11, Monir 3-45). BARISAL: 158 all out in 47.3 overs (Shahin 39, Towhid 22, Nadif 24m

Arafat 17, Prasenjit 15, Shafaq 1-24,

36 Dos

37 Union

Jack?

38 Cheese

40 Circle

ratio

choice

41 Mary-Kate

43 Made "It"?

47 Promise

51 Blond

shade

52 Emana

tion

Haven

flora

feline

gazer

54 Zodiac

55 Crystal

53 New

48 Challenge

for Deep

or Ashley

Passos

trilogy

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

wocky"

starter

5 Translu-

cent

mineral

9 Emeril's

12 "Boola

Boola"

school

13 Aroma

15 Report-

17 Historic

18 Houdin

19 Bean or

21 Mom

star

24 Advan-

tage

27 Bobby of

hockey

28 Prepared

Easter

eggs

31 Longtime

role

LM.

33 Eggs

32 Architect

34 Dog bane

Ed Asner

Welles

22 "Shopgirl"

period

specialty

er's

expletive

Mushfiq 4-30, Shahjada 2-31, Ali 2-32, Manjurul 4-41, Sadar 1-Kamrul 3-31).

Result: Rajshahi won by 19 runs

(Riyad 27, Mehrab Jr 11, Sajjad 21, Sunny 11, extras 23, Rezaul 4-19, Ashigur 1-22, Hasibul 1-24, Saif 3-18, Monirul 1-27). SYLHET: 120-9 in 37.2 overs (Rahman 17, Mawla 22, Hasibul 11,

extras 27, Mahbubul 1-21, Ashraf

2-21, Sharif 3-32, Uttam 1-2

44, Sabbir 32 n.o., extras 32, Asla

DHAKA: 119 all out in 43.1 overs

Mehrab Ir2-191 Result: Sylhet won by one wicket CHITTAGONG: 247-7 in 48 ove (Salahuddin 65, Wasel 42, Dhim

KHULNA: 230-9 in 48 overs (Aslam 96, Sahagir 18, Biplab 63, Jamaluddin 13, Manjurul 16 n.o., Rashed 1-34, Mozammel 1-32, Sunny 2-33, Yasin 1-35, Faisal 4-46).

Result: Chittagong won by 17 runs ONE-DAYTABLE

u	LUCKERES	47.6	4.8	1.64	4.63
0.	Rajshahi	6	6	0	12
	Dhaka	6	4	2	8
	Chittagong	6	3	3	6
TS	Khulna	6	2	4	4
in	Sylhet	6	1	5	2
m	Barisal	6	1	5	2
1000000	THE PARTY OF THE P	12 12 12 12 12 12	A 20 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1000	

ZYC

JY PSQKJPS MZJQX PZUST.

PBSY

CF PBSX MJYC BFKST PBSX

B Z N N J U X S L S Q Q Z M P S Q ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A TRAVEL AGENT'S FOCUS IS PLANNING RESORT TRIPS, I GUESS HE HAS A VACATION VOCATION. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals D

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to localing vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Football

Arsenal have one foot in the quarterfinals of the Champions

Thursday alongside the caption:

at the moment and rumoured to be on his way out in the close season.

that Ronaldo had played his last gameforthe Madrid giants and that a meeting had taken place among the board of directors to decide what to

by claiming they would love to sign While in Italy they are opening the