

## 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 sub-committee 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.



PHOTO: AFP

Villarreal's Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan (R) shoots to score against Rangers during their Champions League clash at the Ibrox Stadium in Glasgow on Wednesday.

## Akhtar going

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Pakistan will tour England from mid-June 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 get him 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 serious."

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

"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 arch-rivals India in the one-day series which finished early this week.

## Baisya recalled

FROM PAGE 16

Habibul Bashar (captain), Khaled Mashud, Javed Omar, Mohammad Ashraf, Aftab Ahmed, Rajin Saleh, Alok Kapali, Shahriar Nafees, Mohammad Rafique, Mashrafebin-Mortuza, Manjaur Islam, Nazmul Hossain, Abdul Razzak, Syed Raseel, Tapash Baisya.

## 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 Jaffer, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Laxman, Mohammad Kaif, Suresh Raina, Mahendra Dhoni, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Piyush Chawla, Irfan Pathan, Sri Sreesanth, Rudra Pratap Singh, Vikram Rajiv 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 hat-trick 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 ends on April 15.

## BRIEF SCORES

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 (Jaffer 48, Gambhir 33 not out, Blackwell 1-6)

## 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 like him," he said.

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 on."

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 Wanderers.

"We haven't yet got fully to grips with 20/20 cricket and a few of the guys do still go into it quite lightly," he said.

"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 won't."

## Barca hit

FROM PAGE 16

right-back Oleguer, his first-time 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 Rijkaard's Barcelona, but it was Chelsea who started the second half more positively.

Robben evaded Oleguer and flashed a shot only fractionally beyond the far post before Paulo Ferreira tested Valdes from distance.

Then, a minute before the hour mark, Oleguer brought down Robben close to the left touchline for the free-kick that produced 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 the net.

Barcelona's equaliser came from a free-kick in a virtually identical position, Ronaldinho's delivery 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 and Ronaldinho in quick succession.

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.

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 helplessly exposed and Eto'o was unchallenged as he rose to nod in Marquenez's chip from the left-hand corner of the penalty area.

# Madrid fans want Henry

## Football

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.

Arsenal have one foot in the quarterfinals of the Champions 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-of-the-match Iker Casillas in Real's goal.

Henry's image was splashed across Marca's front page on Thursday alongside the caption: "This one, yes, they love him."

The headline made a clear reference to another striker, currently at Madrid, who is much less than loved at the moment and rumoured to be on his way out in the close season.

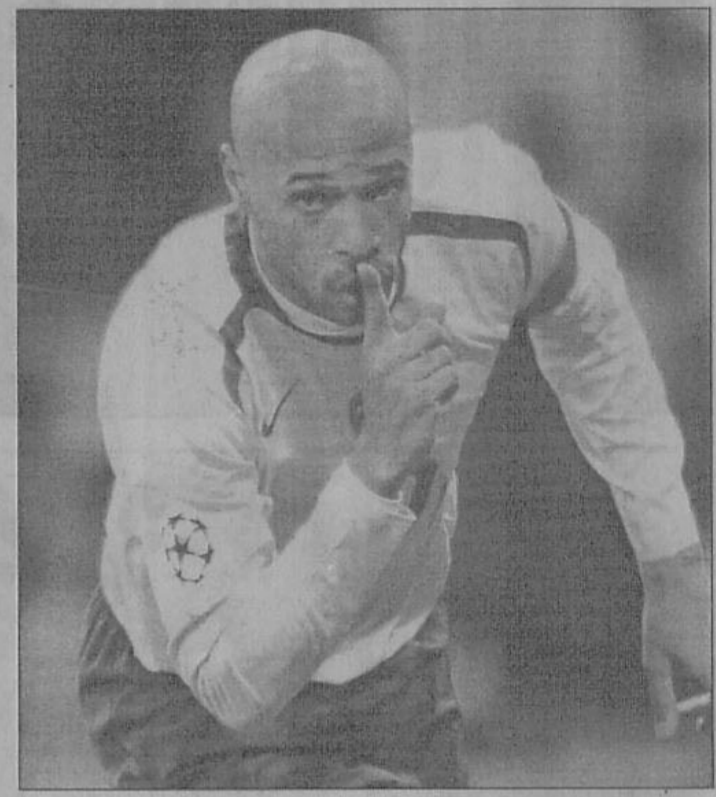
The first player Henry shrugged off on his mazy run was the disenchanted figure of Brazil's Ronaldo, who by contrast is currently facing the wrath of an over-enthusiastic public for his recent listless displays.

On Wednesday, Marca claimed that Ronaldo had played his last game for the Madrid giants and that a meeting had taken place among the board of directors to decide what to do with the player - a claim later refuted by the club.

AC Milan responded to the news by claiming they would love to sign Ronaldo, leading Marca to suggest: "While in Italy they are opening the

doors to Ronaldo, the Frenchman improved his chances of becoming the next 'galactico'."

"The Frenchman is one of the rare galacticos left in the market and Florentino Perez (Real's president) has already claimed to be an admirer."



THIERRY HENRY

# 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 goaline, sending the 37,000 crowd at the packed Werserstadion into wild celebrations.

Werder coach Thomas Schaaf was overjoyed.

"The team gave us a fantastic evening of football with a great end to it," he said.

"After an excellent first half we stopped attacking at the start of the second period because we were

clever backheel.

But former European Footballer of the Year Nedved ended an otherwise anonymous performance when the Czech collected a superb pass from Patrick Vieira to shoot high into the net on 73 minutes.

Werder were rocked, and from unpromising beginnings, Del Piero's cross bobbed off Werder's Brazilian defender Naldo and was headed in by the unmarked Trezeguet with 82 minutes gone.

But the Germans were not dead, as Borowski nipped in front of Lilian Thuram to poke the ball past Gianluigi Buffon for the equaliser though before Micoud's late goal gave Werder a realistic chance of reaching the last eight.

The home side could easily have scored three times in a highly attacking first half.

On 23 minutes, a volley from the unmarked Torsten Frings was turned around the post by Buffon, who then produced an even better save from Frank Fabrenhorst's header.

Juventus broke away but Zlatan Ibrahimovic shot wide when he only had goalkeeper Tim Wiese to beat, although the assistant referee had raised his flag for offside.

After Schulz had scored, Wiese denied Trezeguet and rushed off his line to thwart Vieira.

# Rajshahi consolidate

FROM PAGE 16

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

RAJSHAH: 177 all out in 50 overs (Nayeem 65, Rosel 47, Shahjada 18, Anis 2-30, Arafaat 3-11, Monir 3-45).

BARISAL: 158 all out in 47.3 overs (Shahin 39, Towhid 22, Nadif 24m Arafaat 17, Prasenjit 15, Shafaq 1-24,

Mushfiq 4-30, Shahjada 2-31, Kamrul 3-31).

Result: Rajshahi won by 19 runs DHAKA: 119 all out in 43.1 overs (Riyad 27, Mehraj Jr 11, Sajjad 21, Sunny 11, extras 23, Rezaul 4-19, Ashique 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, Mahubulul 1-21, Ashrafal 2-21, Sharif 3-32, Uttam 1-20, Mehraj Jr 2-19).

Result: Sylhet won by one wicket CHITTAGONG: 247-7 in 48 overs (Salahuddin 65, Wasel 42, Dhiman 44, Sabbir 32 n.o., extras 32, Aslam

Ali 2-32, Manjurul 4-41, Sadat 1-50).

KHULNA: 230-9 in 48 overs (Aslam 96, Sahagilz 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-DAY TABLE

Teams	M	W	I	Pts
Rajshahi	6	6	0	12
Dhaka	6	4	2	8
Chittagong	6	3	3	6
Khulna	6	2	4	4
Sylhet	6	1	5	2
Barisal	6	1	5	2

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

1 ACROSS	36 Down	56 Stench	22 Apparel
13 Jabberwocky starter	Passos trilogy	37 Union Jack?	23 Met melody
5 Translucent mineral	38 Cheese choice	2 "Star" ---	24 North Pole
9 Emerald's explosive	40 Circle ratio	3 A Baldwin	25 100 cts.
12 "Boola"	41 Mary-Kate or Ashley school	4 Opening remark?	26 "Anonymouse" on a Valentine
13 Aroma	47 Promise	6 McKInley's first lady	27 Piece of work
14 Shelter	48 Challenge for Deep	7 Lettuce variety	29 Previous night
15 Report-er's card	51 Blond shade	8 Bad lighting?	30 "Kapital"
17 Historic period	52 Emanation	9 Sneeze reaction	35 Shock partner
18 Houdini specialty	53 New Haven	10 Re planes	37 Aussie soldier
19 Bean or Welles	54 Zodiac flora	11 Contemptible	39 Fizaro's
21 Morn	55 Crystal faline	16 Resort	40 - de
22 "Shoggin" star	55 Crystal gazer	20 Roulette bet	41 Face-track
24 Advantage			42 Mislaid
27 Bobby of hockey			43 Despot
28 Prepared Easter eggs			44 Wind-storm
31 Longtime Asner role			45 Full-figured supermodel
32 Architect I.M.			46 Anchor's place
33 Eggs			49 Shade
34 Dog bane			50 Preceding

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		56

## CRYPTOQUIP

JY PSQKJPS MZJQX PZUST.

CF PBSX MJYC BFKST PBSX

UFLS ZYC PBY UJLS

BZNNJUX SLSQ QZMPSQ?

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A TRAVEL AGENT'S FOCUS IS PLANNING RESORT TRIPS, I GUESS HE HAS A VACATION VOCATION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: C equals D

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.