BDNEWS, Dhaka

Pakistani former booters will play five friendly matches against Bangladeshi counterparts in Narayanganj, Dhaka, Cox's Bazar

Pakistan team comprising for-mer national hooters will play the first match against Narayanganj Sonali Otit Club on February 28 at the Jimkhana Alauddin Khan

Former national booters Riaz, Nipu, Aminul, Jakir, Gaous, Chunnu and others will play for Narayanganj

The second match will take place at Dhanmondi Club ground under the Boodlight on March 1 or 2.

They will play the third match igainst Dhaka Sonali Otit Club on March 3 at limkhana Alauddin Khan

Stadium in Narayanganj.

However, Cox's Bazar and Chandpur matches are yet to final-

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) joint secretary and president of Sonali Otit Club Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chunnu told reporters at a press conference at the BFF House Sunday, Former Pakistani booters were also present.

A 22-member Pakistani team arrived here on Friday.

Tait cannot stop NSW

Australian Test fast bowler Shaun Tait took six wickets but could not prevent New South Wales from winning the domestic one-day cricket title for the fourth time in six seasons at the Adelaide Oval here Sunday.

NSW hung on to win by one wicket in a thrilling finish to chase down South Australia's 154 to score 155 for nine with 9.4 overs to spare in

Tait, coming back from a shoulder operation which kept him out for nearly all of the Australian cricket season, almost clinched victory for South Australia with a withering haul of 6-41 off his 10 overs, including three wickets in one over.

Test leg-spinner Stuart MacGill hit the winning runs for NSW to claim victory in a tense finish.

Mark Cosgrove's 49 was the only significant score for South Australia, who were troubled by NSW pacemen Aaron Bird (3-30) Doug Bollinger (2-35) and talented teenager Moises Henriques (1-35).

But man-of-the-match Tait almost bowled South Australia to a sensational victory with inspired spells of hostile fast bowling.

Kochi ODI is a day game

PTI, Kochi

The Kerala Cricket Association on Saturday said the India-England one-dayer to be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on April 6, would be a day match after it was decided in the BCCI meeting at New Delhi.

Talking to reporters here, KCA president SK Nair said the association had no plans to make it a day night affair as it would be expensive to change the lighting arrange ments since as it was a multipurpose stadium.

Board of Control for Cricket in India curator Kasturirangan will oversee the pitch preparation, Nair

Easy win for Zimbabwe

BBC ONLINE, undated

Zimbahwe cruised to an eightwicket win in the first one-day international against Kenya in

Kennedy Otieno hit 74 and Thomas Odoyo contributed 54 in the tourists' 226-9 after they had But Zimbabwe, despite fielding

a clutch of novices, raced to 232 for the loss of two wickets in the 44th over with half-centuries for Terry Duffin, Brendan Taylor and Hamilton Masakadza.

Gavaskar tells

FROM PAGE 12 Ganguly was India's most success-

ful skipper until he was sacked and then left out of the one-day side after a dispute with Chappell last The left-hander was also eased

out of the Test squad but returned against Sri Lanka and Pakistan, where he enjoyed moderate suc-

Another former Test player, Vivek Razdan, believes the situation has been handled badly by the Indian hierarchy

"He should not have been treated like this, especially after a not bad performance against Pakistan," he said.

"There should be some kind of communication between the selectors and Ganguly regarding



presence of Fernando Torres and he

showed tonight why that is and what

The Spanish international striker

opened the scoring after five minutes

when he stabbed the ball home with

a left foot effort from the edge of the

find the net again, this time using his

right foot to fire home from just

inside the area after a cross from

Maxi Rodriguez put Atletico 3-0

up six minutes before the break but

Malaga were saved from further first

half embarrassment when Inaki

Goitia stopped a penalty from

Kezman in injury time after the

keeper had brought down Maxi

pitch less than a minute, coming on as a second half substitute for Martin

Petrov, but found the net with a looping left foot shot from nearly 25

More misery came Malaga's way

13 minutes from time when Duda

back of the head and the Atletico

midfielder made Malaga pay by

getting his second goal of the game

The win was Atletico's biggest

since they returned to the Spanish

metresafter66minutes.

Juan Valera had only been on the

Torres took just four minutes to

heiscapable of," added Murcia.

six-yard box.

Mateja Kezman.

Barcelona's Ronaldinho (C) refrains teammate Samuel Eto'o (L) from leaving the field after the ace striker was a subject to racial abuse from the Zaragoza crowd during their Primera Liga match at the Romareda Stadium on

PRIMERA LIGA

Racist slur mars Barca win

Football

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona beat Real Zaragoza 2-0 to Spanish league on Saturday but their victory was overshadowed by the appalling racist abuse of Samuel

The three-time African Player of the Year and Spanish first division's leading scorer, had suffered throughout the game with Zaragoza supportutes he decided that they had gone

Eto'o started to leave the field, telling the referee why he was walking to the sidelines, and was only persuaded to carry on playing by his teammate Ronaldinho and Zaragoza's Ewerthon, both black

The incident was an alarming repetition of what happened 12 months ago when Barca visited Zaragoza.

responded to the moronic monkey chants from the home crowd by celebrating a goal with a monkeystyleimitation.

"If they want to treat me like a monkey then I'll dance like one," said Eto'o at the time

Samuel Eto'o has received the full

backing of his Barcelona teammates

after making a protest against the

racist abuse he received during the

game against Real Zaragoza on

The Cameroon striker was ready

to walk off the pitch after being the

victim of monkey chants, but was

persuaded to see out the remaining

minutes of the game by the players,

of the fans were doing and he said

that he wanted to go," Barcelona

"Everyone could hear what some

the Barca coaches and the referee.

captain Carles Puyol explained.

Football

INTERNET, undated

Barcelona showed that they were not to be intimidated by scoring two late goals to avenge their 4-2 defeat at Zaragoza in the Spanish Cup last

Ronaldinho broke the deadlock stay comfortably at the top of the with a penalty after 80 minutes, after an Edmilson shot had been pushed over the bar by Zaragoza midfielder and former Barca player Albert

Celedes was also sent off for deliberately handling the ball.

Henrik Lagsson then added Barcelona's second two minutes later to provide a well-deserved The win gives Barcelona a nine

point advantage over their nearest rivals Valencia, although the 2004 champions have a game in hand and play host to Getafe on Sunday. By contrast, Zaragoza can expect a heft fine, at the very least, for the latest

outbreak of racism, which continues to tarnish Spanish football. Fernando Torres' lightning double strike helped Atletico Madrid notch up their sixth consecutive victory as they romped to a 5-0 win over hapless bottom club Malaga

earlier on Saturday. "We hope to continue our winning streak at Real Madrid next Saturday," said Atletico coach Pepe

Teammates behin

Teams get very nervous in the

and in the end we said to him that he

should rise above it and focus on

playing, because the people wanted

to see him leave which I just cannot

understand. This is not the first time

this has happened and it must be

players were all in agreement with

the club's top goalscorer and were

and he has his principles. At times

like this we have to be by his side and

of his team after the victory and

praised referee, Victor Esquinas

Torres, for his handling of the situa-

helphim," the goalkeeper said.

ready to helphim.

Victor Valdes claims that the

"He is a very impulsive person

Frank Rijkaard said he was proud

Fiorentina stage heroic fightback

Fiorentina shrugged off two straight defeats to stage a come from-behind 4-2 win over Parma on Saturday and move into fourth in Serie A.

The visitors were on the back foot after just three minutes when Brazilian Fabio Simplicio scored from the penalty spot after Bulgarian Valeri Bojino handled the ball in the box.

Mark Bresciano doubled Parma's lead in the 29th minute before Bojinov made up for his earlier error with a double within the space of four minutes to get Fiorentina back all square.

Martin Jorgenson put Cesare Prandelli's side in front for the first time early in the second half with Luis Antonio Jimenez completing the recovery in the 68th minute.

The result pushed Fiorentina up to fourth on 53 points, with Parma sixth from bottom on 26.

Saturday's early match between Reggina and Livorno ended 1-1.

Kewell strike sinks City

AFP, Liverpoot

Australian winger Harry Kewell strengthened Liverpool's hopes of finishing in the Premiership's top two as Manchester City lost 1-0 at Anfield on Sunday.

The Australian winger's second goal of the season saw Rafael Benitez's side bounce back from their Champions League defeat to Benfica in midweek as they rattled up a third straight league win to go level on points with second-placed Manchester United.

Liverpool made four changes to the side which slipped to a 1-0 defeat in Portugal five days earlier, influential captain Steven Gerrard among those recalled after his surprise omission from the starting line-up in Lisbon

Gerrard looked refreshed from his break and it was the England midfielder who was the architect behind Kewell's 41st minute winner which lit up a scrappy and unexciting first-half.

Gerrard out-fought Barton to send Kewell clear, and the Australian executed a crisp low finish to leave England and former Liverpool keeper David James well

Yet the 10 men of City pushed their opponents all the way with Jose Reina forced to make smart saves to keep out Trevor Sinclair and substitute Bradley Wright-

We hate Chelsea, says Messi

INTERNET, undated

Barcelona's controversial star Lionel Messi has underlined the deep resentment he feels towards Chelsea.

The talented Argentine also insists he is not alone in his 'hate for The Blues with Wednesday's tumultuous UEFA Champions League clash appearing to have irrevocably damaged relations between the two clubs.

Ahead of what is sure to be an emotionally-charged second leg at Camp Nou, Messi has also claimed the rivalry which now exists between the two surpasses even that of the fierce hostility which underpins clashes between Buenos Aires rivals River Plate and Boca Juniors.

"There are players here who hate Chelsea more than Real Madrid," Messi told the News of the World. "I never thought I would hearmyself say that. "I also never thought I would see

something worse than the Boca and River Plate rivalry or Brazil v Argentina -- but this is. 'We would rather play Arsenal,

Manchester United or anyone else than be on the pitch with Chelsea."

Aussies' late

Martyn Ibw b Pollock Clarkec De Villiers b Pollock Hussey c Dippenaar b Pollock Hoggrun out (Gibbs) Leenotout Bracken run out (Boucher) Johnson not out Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-8) Total: (For 8 wkts in 47 overs) 229 Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-5, 3-25, 4-125, 5-132, 6-157, 7-208, 8-227 Did not bat: Lewis Super-sub: Clark Bowler M R

Pollock 10 23 42 10 0 62 0 Peterson SOUTH AFRICA: Smith, Dippenaar, De Villiers, Gibbs, Kemp, Pollock, Boucher, Peterson,

Toss: Australia. Umpires: Brian Jerling and Jeremy Premiership

Chelsea bounce back

Football

REUTERS, London

Frank Lampard steered Chelsea to a 2-0 win over Portsmouth while Arsenal's Champions League hopes for next season suffered a bodyblow with a 1-0 defeat at Blackburn Rovers on Saturday.

England midfielder Lampard slotted home the breakthrough goal for the champions at Stamford Bridge after 65 minutes and Dutch winger Arjen Robben made sure of the points with their second on 78

The laboured victory on a heavy pitch, just three days after their Champions League loss there to Barcelona, extended Chelsea's lead at the top over Manchester United to

Arsenal, who beat Real Madrid 1-0 away on Tuesday, failed to close the five-point gap on north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur in the race for next season's Champions League after Norway's Morten Gamst Pedersen got the only goal at Ewood

Newcastle United's fine form

under caretaker coach Glenn Roeder with only 10 men. continued with a 2-0 home win over Everton in the late kick-off, with Peruvian Nolberto Solano getting

Birmingham City beat Sunderland 1-0 in their relegation scrap with an Emile Heskey goal while Charlton Athletic were held to a 0-0 drawathome by Aston Villa.

Chelsealooked jaded after their 2-1 defeat with 10 men by Barcelona and took their time warming up against Harry Redknapp's side, who fourth. now look firm candidates for the Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba

Lampard, with the England midfielder making up for what had been a disappointing performance with a fine finish. Robben did the same after being

lined up the precious opener for

set up by a superb ball over the top of Portsmouth's defence by Icelandic striker-cum-midfielder Eidur Gudjohnsen. "The game in midweek was

draining physically and draining mentally," said Chelsea's assistant manager Steve Clarke.

"It was always gong to be difficult ...especially after playing 60 minutes

"We looked at the stats and saw that some players ran two km more than they would normally do."

The win lifts Chelsea to 69 points, well clear of Manchester United on 54 points and third-placed Liverpool

The big loser on Saturday was clearly Arsenal, who suffered their eighth away league loss of the season and squandered their game in hand on Tottenham in the race to finish

Spurs hold that slot with 46

points, while Blackburn's victory means they leapfrog Arsenal into fifth place on 43, leaving Arsene Wenger's side sixth on 41 and under threat by West Ham United, who also have 41 and a game in hand. 'I'm very sad because I don't

think we deserved to lose this game...we were always on top but just couldn't score," Wenger told Sky Sports News after their 10th defeat of

"We gave absolutely everything, but we lacked a little bit of mental sharpness maybe because of Tuesday night...We were really unfortunate not to get something out of

Becks caught off guard by his son

Football

England captain David Beckham confessed he is befuddled by his six-year-old son Brooklyn's maths homework in an interview with The Mail on Sunday newspa-

Beckham, 30, admitted to being baffled when Brooklyn recently asked for help with a school assignment and had to turn to his former Spice Girls pop star wife Victoria to help out.

Their homework is so hard these days. I sat down with Brooklyn the other day -- and I was like, 'Victoria, maybe you should do the homework

"I think it was maths, actually. It's done totally differently to what I was teached when I was at school, and you know, I was like, Oh my God, I can't do this'.

Brooklyn was like, 'Please do it with me', and I'm like, 'I'll read your book with you'."

The Real Madrid midfielder's son attends the exclusive Runnymede College in the Spanish capital, which follows the British national curriculum.

The Mail on Sunday gave examples of some national curriculum maths questions set for seven-year-olds.

They include: "Bet went to the shop at 11:45. She came back half an hour later. What time did she come back?" and "What is 12 divided by three?" Beckham also admitted he has

no "lucky" pre-match routines, with them too being tough to "I find that if I follow a routine it gets to the stage where you

are thinking, 'Right, was it the left side ... the left boot I put on first, or the right side?" "There are so many things that

can go through your mind." Beckham is set to skipper England in Wednesday's friendly against Uruguay at Liverpool's Anfield stadium.

Heinze on the comeback trail

REUTERS, Manchester

Argentina defender Gabriel Heinze is winning his battle to be fit for the World Cup finals in Germany starting in June, according to Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson. Heinze looked likely to miss the

tournament after suffering a serious knee injury in a European Champions League match at Vilarreal on Sept. 14 But after a successful operation to repair cruciate ligament dam-

age, the 27-year-old has been working his way back to full fitness in Argentina. "His progress is very good now.

He's on full throttle and training very well every day," Ferguson told reporters. "He wanted a particular surgeon to do the operation, which every player is entitled to and the surgeon_

plete control of his rehabilitation. "Our latest development is that he will possibly be here at the

who did the operation is in com-

beginning of April with the possibility of playing before the end of

A Barisal surprise

potential match-winning fifty. He also got good support from the lower-order with Golam Moula and Rana contributing 33 runs

CHITTAGONG-KHULNA

Hosts Khulna gave a fitting reply after Chittagong posted a massive first-innings total of 422 at the Khulna Divisional Stadium. The home side were 217-3 at

stumps on the third day with Sazzadul Hasan batting on 70. Sazzad featured in two beefy stands after Chittagong added 44 runs to their overnight total of

He shared 91 runs with Nazmus Sadat (48) for the second wicket and added 95 for the third with Sahagir Hossain, who was the last batsman out after scoring a dominating 62 that 33).

1 Honda

model

6 Cause

contained six fours and a six. fours in his watchful undefeated knock.

But Chittagong with firstinnings advantage looked the likely team to win at least four

SCORES IN BRIEF

25 "Alley

26 Plentiful

BARISAL: First innings 168 and second innings 320 all out in 95.3 overs (Hannan 41, Shahin 68, Nadif 49, Marshall 54, Salahuddin 27, Nasiruddin 32*; Shafaq 3-65, Alamgir 2-70, Farhad 3-79, Kamrul 2-50).

RAISHAHI: First innings 261 and second innings 112 all out in 42.2 overs (Junaid 24, Farhad 13,

Nayeem 18, Shamimul 15*,

Shafaq 10; Anis 3-16, Monir 3-

Sazzad struck a quartet of SYLHET: First innings 203 and second innings 286 all out in 110.4 overs (Rahman 26, Ezaz 25, Rezaul 24, Mabud 84, Mowla 33, Rana 33, Hasibul 20; Talha 3-35, Sazzad 3-42, Ashraful 1-27). points in the match heading for a DHAKA: First innings 152 and second innings 22 for 1 in 17

overs (Uttam 7, Anwar 5 batting,

Kamrul 2 batting; Hasibul 1-7).

KHULNA: First innings 292 and

second innings 217 for 3 in 75

overs (Sadat 48, Sazzadul 70

Result: Barisal won by 115 runs.

batting, Sagir 62, Asadullah 13 batting; Wasel 1-16, Ilias 1-41). CHITTAGONG: First innings 422 all out in 105 overs (Masum 28, Salahuddin 59, Ehsanul 15, Faisal 180, Wasel 43, Dhiman 19, Sabbir 22, Ilias 34*; Ziaur 3-56, Manjurul 2-76, Sadik 1-81,

Jamaluddin 2-68, Sadat 1-65).3

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 4 Rage ACROSS 37 List-end-24 Sibling

5 Garages

of a sort

6 Sorcerer

ing abbr.

38 Ultimate

40 Biblical

tally

squeezer

27 Weaponry

29 Piccadilly

statue

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some are Solution time: 27 mins. soft 47 What a stent tries to prevent 48 Creche figure 49 Double curve 51 Standard 53 401(k) alterCRYPTOQUIP

YR ZCTAT INKE TPKBY

UBS ENK YFXZI YK XFRFC

QFTRF TXSYNVXU "KAVIIVKX VAHKIIVPQF."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE THAT TECHNICAL RULES FOR THE BUILDING OF PUBS SHOULD BE CALLED BAR CODES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals V

puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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

Dubai Open goes to Henin-Hardenne Tennis lem - and could remain a greater force within the game during 2006

than she sometimes suggests. AFP, Dubai After escaping from danger Henin-Hardenne got on top in the Justine Henin-Hardenne looked second set, becoming the more

nothing like the exhausted player

maintained an unbeaten record

with a 15th win from 15 matches in

three tournaments on the slowish

It also suggested that Henin-

Hardenne is learning to cope with

her fitness problems - a trouble-

legacy of a long-lasting viral prob-

hard courts here.

who had retired in the final of the exchanges, and creating more Australian Open a month ago as pressure with her varied angles and she outplayed Maria Sharapova to smoother changes of direction. win the Dubai Open for a third time "It was a high quality match, in four years. especially in the first set" she said. The Belgian French Open cham-"Maria put a lot of pressure on me. I pion's 7-5, 6-2 win over the former think the key was when I tried to hit Wimbledon champion from Russia the ball down the centre more,

some shoulder and the debilitating hers and so was the first break of

rather than playing her out wide. "But I felt very tired at the end," added Henin-Hardenne. "I have had stomach, knee and shoulder problems this week." But Sharapova rather missed her chance. The first escape was

consistent player in the baseline

England, India reach Nagpur PTI, Nagpur

England and Indian cricket teams arrived here Sunday for the first Test to be played at the Vidarbha Cricket Association ground from Wednesday. English team led by Michael

Vaughan arrived in the afternoon by a chartered flight from Vadodara after playing a threeday warm up tie there. From the Indian team skipper Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman reached here Saturday night

while Sachin Tendulkar, Wasim

laffar, Suresh Raina, Mahendra

Dhoni and Rudra Pratap Singh

joined the duo Sunday morning. Rest of the players of the squad and coach Greg Chappell accompanied the English team. Both the teams will have net practice today.

human being and he felt bad on the pitch," Rijkaard said. "But I was pleased with the attitude of his teammates who told him to continue. "He proved he was able to overcome the circumstances and he

made a valuable contribution to our "It is a real shame that things like this happen as it is thanks to players like Samuel that the fans come to the

stadium to be entertained. "I would also like to say that the referee acted very well.

Last season Zaragoza were fined just 600 euros by the Spanish Football Federation after a minority of their supporters racially abused Eto'o, who responded by imitating a monkeyin protest.

FROM PAGE 12 Katich b Ntini

> Hall, Ntini, Nel. Super-sub: Prince.

Lloyds.