FIFA gets tough on racism

REUTERS, Zurich

Soccer's world governing body FIFA agreed on Thursday to punish acts of racism with severe penalties including the deduction of points and disqualification from competi-

The proposals, put forward by FIFA president Sepp Blatter, were agreed during the first day of a twoday executive committee meeting in which French international and Juventus player Lilian Thuram gave a testimony about racism in football, describing it as a "plague".

Confederations and national associations will be compelled to incorporate the measures and infringements could lead to a twoyear exclusion from international soccer, FIFA said in a statement.

"I have repeatedly stressed FIFA's and my firm personal stance against racism and discrimination but recent events have demonstrated that there is a need for concerted action and an urgency for more severe measures to be adopted in order to kick this evil out of the beautiful game," Blatter said.

FIFA outlined the punishments which will be implemented on the world stage.

These will range from match suspensions to point deductions -three for a first offence, six for a second and relegation in case of further transgressions. A team could also be expelled from a competition depending on the severity of the

Aussies take

In shooting, India's Abhinav Bindra and Gagan Narang won the men's 10m Air Rifles pairs event while, among the women, Tejaswini Sawant and Avneet Sidhu took the gold in the 10m Air Rifle pairs and Saroja Jhuthu and Sushma Rana won the 25m Pistol pairs title.

Australia's golds came through David Moore and Daniel Repacholi in the men's 50m pairs with Olympic champion Michael Diamond and Adam Vella successfully defending their Trap crown.

Suzanne Balogh and Deserie Baynes took the women's Trap.

"Taking three golds is a great start. We are very confident of the remaining events as well," said Indian team coach Sunny Thomas.

Chinthana Vidanage won Sri Lanka's first ever Games weightlifting gold when he took the 62kg title snatching victory with the final lift of a dramatic competition.

The 24-year-old edged India's Arun Murugesan with a huge lift of 153kg taking the gold courtesy of having a lower body weight after both men had finished on 271kg.

Abdul Rashid Roswadi of Malaysia took bronze.

Maryse Turcotte of Canada successfully defended her women's 53kg title. The 31-year-old twice Games record to finish ahead of Dika Toua of Papua New Guinea and Australia's Nadeene Latif.

But the sport was still under a drugs cloud when it was announced that the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) would hold an investigation into recent doping controversies.



The FIFA World Cup was officially born on May 28 in 1928 through the efforts of Jules Rimet.





the world as they did in the Ashes. But you only become great when the odds are really stacked against you and you come out on top.

While warning England that they had no right to call themselves a great team until they beat both Pakistan and India away from



Schalke left-back Levan Kobiashvilli (L) scores from the penalty spot during their UEFA Cup second leg match

against Palermo in Gelsenkirchen on Thursday. Schalke carry German hopes

WUEFA CUP

Schalke 04 gave German football something to smile about after a difficult few weeks by overturning a first leg deficit to beat Italian side Palermo and advance to the UEFA Cup quarterfinals Thursday.

Germany has seen its international team humiliated and its top club sides bundled out of the Champions League in the past fortnight, while a fresh corruption scandal made headlines off the

Yet in-form Schalke provided a rare shaft of light amid the prevailing gloom to come back from 1-0 down to beat 10-man Palermo 3-0 in Gelsenkirchen.

Palermo pressed the selfdestruct button close to half-time with defender Eugenio Corini sent off for intentionally handling the ball

Georgian international Levan Kobiaschvili converted the resulting spot-kick to level the tie at 1-1 on

Schalke, winners of this competition in 1997, made their numerical advantage count as Danish international Soren Larsen put them ahead for the first time in the tie on 72 Slomka Mimoun Azaouagh

made it 3-0 eight minutes later to book his team's place in the last Elsewhere Thursday, Russian side Zenit St Petersburg booked

their passage to the last eight a 1-1 draw at home to French former European champions Marseille. Russian international striker Alexander Kerzhakov scored for the hosts, while Frederic Dehu was on target for Marseille, who were

eliminated 2-1 on aggregate. In Seville, 1986 European champions Steaua Bucharest over-ran Spanish outfit Betis 3-0 to advance to the last eight. Goals from Banel Nicolita and Victoras Iacob settled

the tie in the Romanians' favour after a goalless first leg.

Marseille's exit capped a disappointing night for French teams, with Strasbourg also bundled out by Swiss team FC Basel. Strasbourg had been left with a huge task after losing the first leg 2-0, but made a brave fist of the tie to secure a 2-2 draw in Thursday's return match.

Strasbourg got off to the worst possible start when Eduardo fired the visitors into a 1-0 lead after just three minutes, meaning the French league strugglers -- who are third from bottom in their domestic championship -- would have to score four times to have any chance of pro-

Though they clawed their way back with a goal from Rudi Carlier Eduardo struck again to snuff out any hopes of Strasbourg salvaging

Cedric Kante struck a secondhalf goal to level the tie on the night but it was merely a token gesture.

PRIMERA LIGA

Europe beckons Villarreal, Atletico

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

The battle for the European places in the Primera Liga takes centre stage when Villarreal host in-form Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

Both teams have their eyes on Spain's four Champions League slots at the top of the table, with 11

Manuel Pellegrini's Villarreal, who face Inter Milan in the quarterfinals of the Champions League in two weeks time, are seventh but have only won twice in their last seven league outings.

A major problem for Pellegrini, who signed a one-year contract extension during the week, is the suspension of leading scorer Juan Roman Riquelme.

The side usually struggle without the Argentine playmaker.

Atletico are two points behind Villarreal in eighth place but are the form team with seven wins from their last eight league games. Atletico are without suspended

midfielders Martin Petrov and Gabi while Argentine forward Maxi Rodriguez continues to struggle with injury.

At the top leaders Barcelona travel to 14th-placed Real Sociedad on Saturday looking to put right their recent wobble.

Their 2-1 defeat to Osasuna last weekend was their third defeat in six league outings but they still hold a nine point lead over Valencia and Real Madrid.

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

ond cricket Test.

Frank Rijkaard's side will be

The New Zealand cricketers found

they could survive without Shane

Bond Friday, as a five-wicket haul to

James Franklin left the West Indies

reeling at 182 for eight on a rain-

shortened opening day of the sec-

There were distinct jitters in the

New Zealand camp when Bond, the

hero of the 217-run first Test win,

pulled out of the second Test with a

stomach virus shortly before play

in on the weakened attack by opting

to bat first on what looked an ideal

track, and when Chris Gayle and

Daren Ganga moved smoothly

through to 43 without loss the deci-

But when Franklin found his line,

pitching up and inviting the drive,

three wickets fell for six runs and he

ended the day with five for 44,

The West Indies looked to cash

began at the Basin Reserve.

sion seemed justified.

Lionel Messi is injured. Valencia are away to Racing Santander, while Real Madrid, who are kept in third place on head-tohead results with Valencia, are at home to third-from-bottom Real

without Thiago Motta who is sus-

pended while Argentine forward

Fourth-placed Osasuna are away to King's Cup finalists Espanyol. At the foot of the table the bottom

seven clubs are separated by only six points as the spectre of relegation starts to loom large.

Bottom club Malaga, with 22 points, host Real Zaragoza, while second-bottom Cadiz on 25 points are at home to 17th-placed Alaves who have 26.

Athletic Bilbao, also on 26 points in 16th place, are away to Champions League chasing Celta Vigo, and 15th-placed Real Mallorca on 27 have a similarly tricky trip to face UEFA Cup quarterfinalists Sevilla.

FIXTURES

(1600 GMT kick-off unless stated) SATURDAY Getafe v Deportivo La Coruna (1700)

Real Sociedad v Barcelona (1900). Villarreal v Atletico Madrid (2100) SUNDAY

Seville v Real Mallorca, Cadiz v Alaves, Espanyol v Osasuna, Racing Santander v Valencia, Malaga

Real Zaragoza, Real Madrid v Betis (1800), Celta Vigo v Athletic Bilbao

including top-scorer Runako Morton

The New Zealand left-armer

started with the dismissal of Gavle

for 30, tempting him to drive at one

around the off-stump and edging it

to wicketkeeper Brendon

McCullum, and then took the prized

four balls he faced before edging

one to Stephen Fleming at first slip.

dismissals, Kyle lured Daren Ganga

to chase one down leg side into the

gloves of wicketkeeper Brendon

McCullum and with the West Indies

three wickets down for 49 the lift in

the New Zealand side was plain to

On the last ball before lunch,

when television replays

Shivnarine Chanderpaul was

unlucky to be given out caught

clearly showed the ball came off his

success in the middle session with

the wickets of Dwayne Bravo, leg

Franklin continued his run off

Lara had looked unsettled in the

In between the Gayle and Lara

scalp of Brian Lara for one.

NZ have Windies on the ropes

First Test FROM PAGE 12 Rudolph c Gilchrist b Kasprowicz Boucher c Gilchrist b Clark

Hall c Hayden b Lee Boje Ibw b Clark Nel Ibw b Lee Ntini not out Extras: (lb-6, nb-15) Total: (All out in 63.5 overs) Fall of wkts: 1-24, 2-42, 3-48, 4-61 5-76, 6-104, 7-124, 8-148, 9-173 Bowler 37 44 22 55 14.5 Kasprowicz 0 13 10 Symonds AUSTRALIA: First innings Langer Ibw b Nel Hayden c Rudolph b Ntini Ponting c Hall b Kallis Martyn c Boucher b Kallis Hussey c Boucher b Hall Svmonds not out Gilchrist c Smith b Kallis Extras: (lb-7, w-1) Total: (For 6 wkts in 76 overs) 273 Fall of wkts: 1-21, 2-175, 3-192, 4-214, 5-236, 6-272. **Bowler** 0 2 6 21 12 3 Kallis 10 0 39

To bat: B Lee, M Kasprowicz, S Clark. Umpires: Aleem Dar (PAK), B Doctrove (WIS).

England look

FROM PAGE 12 it rich with six wickets.

The match is also special for star batsman Tendulkar, set to make an Indian record 132nd Test appearance.

"What he (Tendulkar) has done over the last 16 years, to have carried the pressure and expectations of the nation, has been phenomenal." said Dravid. "He is still a very big hero. It's a

compliment to be playing with him when he achieves another feat."

before wicket, and Denesh Ramdin who chopped the ball on to his

His success inspired Chris

Martin, who had trouble early set-

tling on a line, before he tightened

up to capture the wicket of Rawl

Lewis for 22, just as Lewis and

Morton were staging a mini-

recovery with a 36-run stand for the

at one end. Morton stood firm at the

injured Ramnaresh Sarwan, Morton

played confidently on both sides of

the wicket to bring up his maiden

Test 50 before being undone by a

Franklin delivery that cut back

during one of the brief periods of

the rain and poor light before the

umpires called stumps to ensure

the West Indies were still at the

crease at the start of the second

Play was held up three times by

play in the final session.

But while the carnage continued

Brought into the side for the

seventh wicket.

Moratti offers Ronaldo return

INTERNET, undated

Internazionale owner Massimo Moratti has opened the way for a possible return to the Serie A club by Real Madrid striker Ronaldo.

The former World Player of the Year sparked transfer speculation last month when he said he felt unloved by Real's fans, and Moratti has fuelled that fire by publicly stating he would welcome a move for the Brazilian.

"If he is strong, athletically and mentally, and we believe he can play well with (striker) Adriano, we will think about it." Moratti told Gazzetta dello Sport.

Ronaldo played for Inter for five years before joining the Spanish giants in 2002 under a cloud of controversy. "It's a practical and sporting

question, not an emotional one, Moratti said. "Besides, I'm not a man that holds a grudge and I've always liked Ronaldo personally. I've never

forgotten the past. "He was enormously successful as an image for our club. With him on the pitch we won the UEFA Cup and twice came close to winning the

Serie Atitle.' If Ronaldo decides to leave Real, then Inter face competition from a number of clubs including Brazilian club Flamengo, and city rivals Milan, with Rossoneri vice president Adriano Galliani claiming last month that "the doors were open" for him to

FIFA keeps squad deadline

Football's international governing body FIFA Thursday rejected calls to push back its May 15 deadline for World Cup squads to be announced

Several leading coaches -including Germany's Jurgen Klinsmann and England's Sven-Goran Eriksson -- had sought an extension for the cut-off date for countries to submit their final 23man squad for the finals.

The coaches believed the extension would help them weigh up late injuries to players. But a meeting in Zurich of FIFA's Bureau of the Organising Committee of the World Cup rejected the pleas, re-affirming the original May 15 cut-off date. Explaining its decision, FIFA said

the original deadline had been set to ensure that the players concerned had "adequate recovery time, although injured players may be replaced after this date following a specific procedure." FIFA said in a statement the date

had also been set to "avoid falsification of domestic competitions." The World Cup takes place from Bundesliga players, including a full

June 9 to July 9.

Asif, Anjan

FROM PAGE 12

the weightlifter finished sixth among 18 competitors in the 62-kg catergory. He lifted a total of 256kg, 110 in snatch and 146 in clean and jerk.

Swimmer Jewel Ahmed clocked 26.68s to be last in the sixth and final heat of the men's 50m butterfly, where champion swimmers like South African Roland Schoeman and Australian Michael Klim finished first and second. The overall position of Jewel, who was 3.09s behind Schoeman, was 28th among 43.

Rakib upsets

FROM PAGE 12

board against Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon to stretch his collection to 5.5 points.

In the day's other matches, GM Niaz Murshed beat Abdul Maleq, FM Abu Sufian Shakil heat FM Rezaul Hague, Mehdi Hasan Parag beat Enayet Hossain and Delwar Hossain beat Mohammad Hassan

Scoreboard at close of the first day of the second Test between New Zealand and the West Indies at Basin Reserve on Friday:

Gayle c McCullum b Franklin Ganga c McCullum b Mills Morton Ibw b Franklin Lara c Fleming b Franklin Chanderpaul c Fleming b Martin 8 Bravo Ibw b Franklin Ramdin b Franklin Lewis c Fleming b Martin Bradshaw not out Extras: (b-2, lb-1, nb-3) Total: (For 8 wkts in 56 overs) 182

Bowler 1 66 Martin 14 44 17 Franklin 6 52 17 5 Vettori 2 13 Astle Toss: West Indies Umpires: Mark Benson (ENG)

Daryl Harper (AUS).

WEST INDIES: First innings

took a fine catch diving to his right. After Maharoof's strikes, legspinner Lokuarachchi took the

5-102, 6-108, 7-142, 8-165. O M

Fall of wkts: 1-43, 2-45, 3-49, 4-80

Premadasa Stadium on Friday: **PAKISTAN**

PREMIERSHIP

Neville senses Red revival

Football

Manchester United may be resigned to being second best to Chelsea this season but Gary Neville has detected the stirrings of a revival he believes can restore the club to the top of the English game.United captain Neville's personal view of the future has been give a distinctly reddish hue because of the quality of his teammates' performance in last weekend's win over Newcastle.

Wayne Rooney's double resulted in a 2-0 victory but United generated enough chances to have won far more comfortably and, for Neville, that underlined the depth of quality already installed at Old Trafford.

"If we can get to the level we were at against Newcastle, I don't care what other teams buy, it will be difficult for them to live with us," Neville declared "That would be fantastic and

that's what we expect to happen. We expect over the next few years we're going to start winning champi-

United travel to struggling West Brom on Saturday aiming to open up a five-point advantage over Liverpool in the tussle for second place and an automatic spot in next season's Champions League.

Chelsea can move to within four wins of a second title by beating west London neighbours Fulham, in a match which could end up being Chris Coleman's last in charge at Craven Cottage. The Cottagers remain vulnerable

to being drawn into the relegation dogfight and, although a loss to Chelsea would be seen as forgivable, another defeat at Aston Villa next week could be the trigger for a dismissal. At the bottom, Portsmouth will hope weary legs at West Ham will

help them build on last weekend's dramatic last-gasp win over Manchester City, which has reignited their hopes of survival. The Hammers were forced into extra-time before winning Wednesday's FA Cup replay against

Bolton and they have to manage

their depleted resources with

Monday night's quarterfinal against

Manchester City in mind. A Manchester United win at West Brom would present Birmingham selves out of the relegation zone.

But Steve Bruce's side face a tough task in attempting to take all three points from Champions League-chasing Tottenham.

Arsenal, who are snapping at their local rivals' heels in the race for the fourth and final Champions League slot, could have Sol Campbell and Robert Pires available for their Highbury clash with Charlton after the duo came through a reserves outing in midweek.

FIXTURES

(1500 GMT kick-off unless stated) SATURDAY

Arsenal v Charlton, Birmingham v Tottenham (1715), Blackburn v Middlesbrough, Bolton v Sunderland, Everton v Aston Villa (1245) Manchester City v Wigan Athletic (1500). West Brom v Manchester Utd. West Ham v SUNDAY

Fulham v Chelsea (1600), Newcastle v Liverpool (1330)

Bastian betting report dismissed

Football

AFP, Munich

German football chiefs on Thursday issued a vehement denial of a newspaper claim that Bayern Munich star Bastian Schweinsteiger was the international footballer involved in a betting scandal.

The Munich-based TZ newspa-

per said it would report on Friday that Schweinsteiger, 21, was one of three Munich-based players involved in placing suspiciously high bets on matches which were allegedly fixed. "The conduct from sections of the

media is completely irresponsible," Theo Zwanziger, president of the German Football Federation (DFB), told German news agency dpa. "There are no facts and so long as that remains the case we have to

protect our players and our sport. "It is primitive conduct and damages the reputation of players, Bundesliga clubs and the German

national team.' On Wednesday, 'Plusminus', an online sports magazine for the respected German television channel ARD, claimed several

German international, were involved in illegal betting. The Munich prosecutor's office

said it had not released any names

Italy defeated the Germans 4-1 in friendly on March 1, but Lippi perspective and not to judge goals between us and Germany. "Everything went our way in that

SCHWEINSTEIGER

to the media

Schweinsteiger, 21, is one of Germany's brightest footballing prospects and a certainty to make Jurgen Klinsmann's final squad for this summer's World Cup finals.

Bayern Munich general manager Uli Hoeness was enraged, saying Schweinsteiger had told the club "he had never bet a euro on a match in

Lippi cautious

Italy coach Marcello Lippi on Thursday warned his side about getting too carried away by their recent demolition of World Cup hosts Germany.

believes that the result will have no bearing in the World Cup finals. "You have to keep this result in

Germany on that performance," said Lippi.
"There isn't such a big difference in

match, while the Germans couldn't get anything right. We have to wait for other occasions to see clearer.

"At the World Cup Germany will be at home and could be more efficient. "Germany will be a leading figure. England, France, the Netherlands Italy -- these teams are going to the World Cup with a hope of winning. But they all know that the main candidate

is Brazil." Lippi believes that Italy have the talent to go far this time as they face the United States, the Czech Republic

and Togo in their Group E. "We respect all our rivals but we don't

fearanyone in particular," said Lippi. "We have to focus on our strengths and possibilities because we have the potential to take on any of

Milanese battle for second

Football

REUTERS. Rome The race for second place in Serie A hots up when Inter Milan host Lazio and AC Milan play Udinese away on

Sunday Barring an unlikely late collapse hy leaders Juventus, the title seems

bound for Turin. Juve's 0-0 draw with secondplaced Milan last weekend cemented the reigning champions' position at the top of the division on 74 points, 10 points clear with nine games to play.

two points behind Milan, the battle for the runners-up spot and the second automatic place in the group stages of the Champions League looks set to run to the end of the

But with third-placed Inter just

Rome-based Lazio have lost all their star players since almost going out of business three seaons ago and are a shadow of the side

Mancini guided to a fourth place finish in 2003. They have performed above

expectations this season, however. under new coach Delio Rossi. Lazio's standard bearer Paolo Di Canio, is suspended, but the team can still boast two excellent

counter-attacking strikers in

Tommaso Rocchi and Goran

If Inter drop points, in-form Milan will almost certainly take advantage by beating Udinese, who began this season competing in the Champions League, but risk ending it in the Serie A relegation zone after a run of eight winless games.

favourites to take the points at Livorno, who are sixth but have had a run of disappointing results since Roberto Donadoni quit as coach last month The Tuscan side come into the match on the back of successive

defeats against relegation-threatened

Cagliari and Parma and will be without their leading scorer Cristiano Lucarelli,

Juventus also start as strong

who has a thigh injury

our opponents.

In the other matches, Fiorentina host mid-table Ascoli. The tiny club from the Le Marche region were expected to make a swift return to Serie B, but have proved their critics wrong and are unbeaten in their last

seven matches. Fifth-placed Roma, one point behind Fiorentina, know how dangerous Ascoli can be after losing 3-2 to them last weekend, but will be hoping to get their bid for a Champions League place back on track by beating Messina.

FIXTURES

(1400 GMT kick-off unless stated) SATURDAY

Juventus (1930) SUNDAY Chievo v Siena, Fiorentina v Ascoli, Inter

Treviso v Cagliari (1700), Livorno v

v Lazio, Lecce v Parma, Reggina v Empoli, Roma v Messina (1930), Sampdoria v Palermo, Udinese v AC

Rain mars SL-Pak ODI

Maharoof removed Inzamam (24), who played a loose shot to a wide ball outside off and wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara

important wickets of Yousuf, hardhitting batsman Shahid Afridi (two) and all-rounder Abdul Razzag (32). Younis Khan (41) battled hard towards the end but the runs never

The remaining two matches of

the series will also be held in

Colombo. A two-Test series with

matches in Colombo and Kandy will follow the one-davers. **SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard of Pakistan's innings in

the day-night first one-day international against Sri Lanka at the Butt c Lokuarachchi b Malinga 26 Akmal b Maharoof Luseno not out Malik b Maharoof Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-7, nb-4) Yousuf c Dilshan b Lokuarachchi 46 Inzamamul c Sangakkara b Maharoof Younis b Prasad

Naved not out Ifthikar not out Extras: (b-3, lb-2, w-3, nb-5) Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 201 Fall of wkts: 1-8, 2-27, 3-54, 4-107, 5-121, 6-127, 7-179, 8-188. М **Bowler**

Razzag c Tharanga b Lokuarachchi 32

Afridi Ibw b Lokuarachchi

Malinga 10 1 38 Maharoof 10 Prasad 10 0 Muralidaran 10 Lokuarachchi 10 Toss: Sri Lanka Umpires: Steve Davis (AUS) and Asoka de Silva (SRI)

Tigers show

Total: (All out in 48.1 overs) Fall of wkts: 1-11, 2-29, 3-38, 4-45, 5-74, 6-88, 7-94, 8-125, 9-161 **Bowler** 0 М R Mortuza 2 Rasel Shahadat Razzak Rafique 10 0 36

Man-of-the-match: Shahriar Nafees.

2.1 0 9

Result: Bangladesh won by 131

Toss: Bangladesh Umpires: Nadeem Ghauri (PAK)

and Nadir Shah (BAN)

Ashraful

