Blatter declares war against G14

FIFA president Sepp Blatter warned Europe's elite soccer teams to prepare for "world war" if it persists in opposing the sport's governing body.

G-14, a group of major European clubs, is trying to gain greater influence. Blatter criticised the clubs for seeking compensation when players are injured while playing for their

"If they are rich, why do they ask for more money?" Blatter said during a visit to Tunisia. "It's the world upside down.'

Blatter also accused G-14 clubs of "pillaging" Africa to find new

"If they want a world war, they will get one," Blatter said Monday.

Blatter also warned that clubs that refuse to release players for their national teams could be kicked out of international club competi-

"You have to got to hit them where it hurts," Blatter said.

Blatter also said that under new rules a player guilty of racist conduct would be banned for five games. The clubs of fans who show an "incomprehensible and nasty attitude" will be docked three points for a first racist offense, six points for a second and relegation to the division below if they offend a third time. Blatter said clubs that fail to enforce these rules won't play in international competitions

Injury blow for Vieri

INTERNET, undated

Former AC Milan and Italy striker Christian Vieri could miss the World Cup after injuring his left knee in a match for his club-side Monaco against Paris St-Germain.

Vieri received the injury while playing for Monaco in the French league on Sunday and is undergoing medical tests in Italy, according to the Italian sports daily, Gazzetta dello Sport.

Vieri transferred from AC Milan to Monaco in January in order to gain more first-team football, with the aim of making Marcello Lippi's Italy World Cup squad.

Vieri missed the Azzurri's friendly with Germany after he injured his left ankle while training with Italian squad the day before the March 1

It was on Sunday that Vieri made his return to Monaco's starting lineup, but was forced off the pitch in the eighth minute after a hard tackle by Paris Saint-Germain's Bernard

If Vieri fails to return to fitness in time for the World Cup, which runs for a month from June 9. Italy coach Marcello Lippi could recall inform Filippo Inzaghi or Antonio Cassano, who has rarely played lately for Real

Roma playmaker Francesco Totti's recovery from surgery on his left leg is still on schedule and the striker is expected to be fit for the tournament in Germany.

Dravid delighted

FROM PAGE 12

164 in reply to India's 203 on a seam-friendly pitch.

England captain Andrew Flintoff (41) and Kevin Pietersen (46) were tearing the Indian bowling apart when Dravid brought on part-time spinner Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan switched ends.

"It was just the last throw of the dice." he said. "We put the pressure on them, got the breakthroughs and Harbhajan bowled brilliantly."

Harbhajan took four for nine in his six-over second spell and also top-scored with 37 in the Indian

innings. Yuvraj returned two for 32. "Strange things can happen when one is under pressure. They

put us under pressure in Mumbai and we did that here. Flintoff said his batting line-up

should reflect on the missed chance to go 1-0 up in the sevenmatch series.

"We (batsmen) should sit down and talk about what happened today," he said.

"The batters relaxed a bit and didn't get the runs. We won the toss (and bowled), I think it was the right decision. 203 on that pitch, you

expect the batters to chase it down. "We didn't get the best of starts and it was left to Kevin and me. We should have gone on and knocked

the runs off.' The success eased the pressure on Harbhajan after injury and

a recent lack of wickets "I loved it, really enjoyed it," he said. "Wickets were due for a long time. It's a great feeling to be back

with a key performance.' He did not pick a wicket in the first two tests on the Pakistan tour. An injury to his spinning finger sidelined him for the last test, which India lost, and the subsequent one-

Lyon dreaming big



Lyon will attempt to keep their European dream alive Wednesday night without star playmaker Juninho but manager Gerard Houllier is unconcerned ahead of the Champions League quarterfinal first leg tie at home to AC Milan.

The former Liverpool boss has been charged with taking the Lyon fairvtale to a new level, following the great achievements of predecessors Jacques Santini and Paul

Santini in 2002 led the mighty western club to their first ever league title before Le Guen took over to deliver three more titles and two successive Champions League quarterfinal appearances.

Now it is up to Houllier to add to the current crop of players' achievements by breaking new ground - notably in Europe.

A fifth league title in a row is a near certainty with a nine point gap on the chasing pack and having reached a third successive Champions League quarterfinal, Houllier is now aiming to take Lyon

To do so, they must overcome

winners and beaten finalists last season to Liverpool - and the absence of suspended star Juninho for the first leg at their Gerland Stadium.

"Juninho is very important for the fluidity of our game." said Houllier, before insisting: "The big clubs should be able to progress sometimes without their big play-

But for AC Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti, the bigger worry is Lyon's array of attacking talent - Sylvain Wiltord, Sidney Govou and Florent "Lyon have dominated (France)

for many years because they have been able to mix the typical qualities of French football with the flair of the great European sides," said Ancelotti.

"Their strikers are incredibly quick and mobile and they will cause us problems.

One reason Ancelotti has cited Lyon's pace as a major factor is his aging backline which, although likely to be deprived of 37-year-old Paolo Maldini, is still made up mostly of players the wrong side of

Defender Jaap Stam, 34, a former Champions League winner with Manchester United in 1999, is pushing for a recall after a calf strain, but if he does not make it,

away from hitting 40, will continue to deputise with 34-year-old Serginho, Alessandro Nesta, 30, and Kakha Kaladze, 28, making up the backline.

The only other selection dilemma for Ancelotti is whether or not to recall 16-goal forward Alberto Gilardino alongside 2004 Furopean Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko or stick with Filippo Inzaghi who started the weekend 3-1 victory over Fiorentina.

Houllier needs to decide who to bring in to replace Juninho with Portugal midfielder Cardoso Tiago and France counterpart Benoit Pedretti both possibly starting in a midfield anchored by the combative Mali international Mahamadou Diarra.

Despite the absence of their mercurial Brazilian playmaker, Lyon are confident ahead of their clash with one of Europe's super-"The whole of French football is

hoping Lyon can achieve something big and we hope to be carried by this euphoria," said goalkeeper Gregory Coupet.

"We are fabulously excited about playing this match and if we qualify we will be overflowing with

Real reveal shortlist

Football

INTERNET, undated

Real Madrid have confirmed that they have a shortlist of seven men who they are targeting to become their next Coach, with three of them

The Spanish outfit are openly looking for a new boss and they have admitted that media links with Carlo Ancelotti, Fabio Capello and Marcello Lippi are correct.

"One from Jose Mourinho (Chelsea), Capello, Rafa Benitez (Liverpool), Arsene Wenger (Arsenal), Sven Goran Eriksson (England), Ancelotti and Lippi will join us," stated chief Fernando Martin. "We know what type of coach we

want and we will choose one from the seven names, " he said in an interview with the EFE news agency. "To win or to entertain? It is just



ERIKSSON

side possible. Our fans like talent and not only victories. But if I had to choose between the two, then would go for success."

Meanwhile, Martin has suggested that Ronaldo is still a part of his Real Madrid plans despite talk of a return to Inter. However, he did suggest that the

new Coach would be free to make whatever decisions he thought "Ronaldo is a great player, the

best striker in the world when in the right condition," added the Madrid "If the Coach wanted to sell

anyone? We would listen. Nobody is for sale, but nobody is untouchable."

Sreesanth

Harbhajan

Singh (IND)

Yuvraj

Sehwag

Rudra Pratap

39

Ω

0 32

10 2

10

Man of the match: Harbhajan

Umpires: Asad Rauf (PAK) and

Match referee: Roshan Mohanama

Second one-dayer: At Faridabad

Khagrachhari

Laxmichari Zone defeated

Manikchhari in the final of the

Independence Day Football

tournament at the High School

at 1-1. Laxmichari defeated

Manikchhari in a tie-breaker that

After finishing the 90 minutes

Brigadier Mohammad Amin

Football

ground yesterday.

ended at 4-3.

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Result: India win by 39 runs.

Arani Jayaprakash (IND)

Bhaji stymies Dravid b Plunkett

Plunkett claimed the prize scalp when he bowled Dravid (34) to finish with 2-42. Seamer James Anderson took 2-41 and left-arm spinner lan Blackwell 1-24 off 10 economical

"Our bowlers did a great job and we expected to chase the target as we were in a good position at one stage. But there are still six matches to go," said Flintoff Flintoff's decision to put India in

to bat after winning the toss produced instant results as his seamers rocked the hosts with early wickets on a lively track. It was a combination of tight

bowling and poor shot-selection that put India in trouble as five batsmen -Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Yuvraj, Mahendra Dhoni and Pathan -- fell playing one stroke

Suresh Raina (24) and Pathan (28) put on 58 for the sixth wicket and Dhoni and Harbhaian 55 for the eighth, but India still failed to bat their full quota of 50 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan to 138-6.

out by rain.

124-4)

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between India and England at the Ferozeshah Kotla in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Gambhir c Jones b Ali Sehwag c Plunkett b Anderson

He received splendid support

from off-spinner Muttiah

Muralitharan, who picked up three

wickets Tuesday morning to ensure

there was no rearguard action.

Paceman Lasith Malinga also

The entire first day was washed

The second and final Test will

Scoreboard at close on the third day

of the first Test between Sri Lanka

and Pakistan at the Sinhalese

Sports Club ground in Colombo on

SRI LANKA: First innings185 (T.

Dilshan 69, Farveez Maharoof 46,

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight

Malik c Tharanga b Maharoof 13

Younis c Sangakkara b Maharoof 0

Inzamamc Sangakkara b Maharoof

Farhat c Bandara b Malinga

Faisal c Maharoof b Malinga

Akmal c Tharanga b Muralitharan

Razzag b Maharoof

Afridi b Muralitharan

Gul Ibw b Muralitharan

finished with three scalps.

start in Kandy on April 3.

Asif 4-41. Kaneria 3-44)

SCOREBOARD

Yuvraj b Ali Kaif run out Raina c Collingwood b Blackwell 24 Pathan c Plunkett b Anderson 28 Dhoni c Collingwood b Plunkett 20 Harbhaian c Flintoff b Ali Sinah not out Sreesanth c Pietersen b Ali Extras:(lb-3, nb-3, w-15) Total:(All out in 46.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-56, 3-58, 4-68, 5-80, 6-138, 7-146, 8-201, 9-203 Bowler 0 М R Anderson 10 41 8.4 45 Flintoff 8 0 31 Plunkett 2 42 0 17 Collingwood Blackwell 10 0 24 **ENGLAND** Strauss c Dhoni b Pathan Prior c Gambhir b Harbhajan

Shah Ibw b Pathan Pietersen c Gambhir b Yuvraj Flintoff Ibw b Harbhajan Collingwood c Kaif b Harbhajan 8 Jones b Harbhajan Blackwell b Gambhir b Harbhaian 10 Plunkett c Dhoni b Pathan Ali Ibw b Yuvrai

Anderson not out 12 Extras:(lb-4, nb-2, w-1) Total:(All out in 38.1 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-4, 3-57, 4-117, 5-117, 6-120, 7-137, 8-141, 9-142 R W O M Bowler Pathan

Asif b Malinga

Bowler

Malinga

Maharoof

Fernando

Muralitharan 17.4

Sangakkara not out

Jayawardene not out

Rudi Koertzen (RSA)

Extras:(b-10, lb-1)

Bandara

Bowler

Kaneria

Malik

Afridi

Kaneria not out

Extras:(b-1, w-1, nb-8)

Total: (All out in 54.4 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-25, 3-28, 4-

122, 5-127, 6-138, 7-154, 8-160, 9-

12

15

SRI LANKA: Second innings

Tharanga c Farhat b Kaneria

Total:(For 2 wickets in 73 overs)242

15 1

21 4

10 2 24

6 0

Umpires: Steve Davis (AUS) and

Match Referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)

Javasuriva c Akmal b Asif

Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-127.

M R

3 30

0 20

4 41

2 37

0

52

32

R

60

78

15

15

Kabir, PSC distributed prizes 1 21

among the players as chief

10

69

0

176

banglalink FROM PAGE 12

ference at the BFF Bhaban.

Although no financial details were disclosed due to confidentiality clauses in the contract, it was learnt that the three corporate houses will provide about Tk one crore with banglalink, the exclusive presenting sponsor, giving the major share.

They will also provide other services to the participating teams related to their products that will gain promotional benefits for their association with the mega event, told representatives of the three corporate houses.

The also hoped that the tournament will bring back the glory days of football in the country.

The AFC is spending about 2.5 million US dollars for the inaugural Challenge Cup, which is the latest in the portfolio of prestigious AFC competitions, dedicated to national teams of the emerging countries. Bangladesh Football Federation

general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal, banglalink PR and communications manager Solaiman Alam, Bata advertising and promotions manager Ekramuzzaman and Partex Beverage director of sales and marketing Khalid Raja Biswas were also present.

'Barca spoilt'

INTERNET, undated

Ronald Koeman, the hero of Barcelona's European triumph in 1992 and idol of the club's fans, has told Catalunya Radio that Barca is "spoilt". Koeman's Benfica side face that of his former Holland team mate Frank Riikaard in Tuesdav's Champions League quarterfinal showdown in Lisbon.

He said. "I have seen that Barca is a little bit spoilt because they think they will win everything. If Barca want to win they have to demonstrate that they are better than us." He added, "I'm referring only to

the club, not to the players or Rijkaard. Rijkaard said in reponse, "We

are not spoilt...I always say that we

have respect for our opponents and

we are playing (tonight) against a

team with a great history. Barcelona is the second most successful club in Spain behind Real Madrid, but has only won Europe's top prize once. In comparison Benfica has won it twice and Madrid nine times

Keeper killed by carbon monoxide

REUTERS, Kiev

Yvegeny Sukhina, a goalkeeper with Ukrainian club Simferopol Krymteplitsy, has been found dead from carbon monoxide poisoning, Ukrainian media reported on Monday.

Police found Sukhina's body and that of his girlfriend in their apartment in Simferopol, the main town in Ukraine's Crimea peninsula, the uafootball website said.

The 23-year-old keeper, viewed as a good future prospect, was on loan from Dynamo Kiev to Krymteplitsky in the Ukrainian second division.

Radiant Way sports held

SPORTS REPORTER

The day-long annual sports competition of Radiant Way Kindergarten was held at school premises at Bamoil in Demra yesterday.

Haji Md. Helaluddin, Jubo Dal chairman of Demra, and the headmaster of the school Siddigul Islam were present and distributed prizes among the winners.

Independence Day Kabaddi

SPORTS REPORTER

The Independence Day Kabaddi tournament, organised by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs got underway at the Kabaddi stadium yesterday. Bangladesh Rifles and . Bangladesh Police won their respective opening matches on th first day of the competition.

Six-shooter

FROM PAGE 12 the splice of Gibbs' bat.

Vice-captain Gilchrist led Australia in the field in the absence of captain Ricky Ponting, who had food poisoning which a team spokesman said had kept him up until 4am.

The weather was cloudy but no floodlights were switched on in contrast to Monday when the lights were on for most of the day. Clark took a second wicket.

again with a short ball, when Ashwell Prince ducked a bouncer and the ball looped to midwicket off the handle of his bat. Jacques Rudolph made a solid 36

before he was caught at silly mid-off off Warne and Shaun Pollock was beaten for pace and bowled by Brett

SCOREBOARD Final scoreboard of the second Test

(overnight 29-0)

between South Africa and Australia at Kingsmead on Tuesday. AUSTRALIA: First innings 369 SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 267 AUSTRALIA: Second innings 307-

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings

Ade Villiers st Gilchrist b Warne 46

Smith c Langer b Warne Gibbs c Warne b Clark Kallis Ibw b Warne Prince c Hussey b Clark Rudolph c Langer b Warne 36 Boucher not out 51 Pollock b Lee Boje c sub (Clarke) b Kasprowicz 48 Nel c Hayden b Warne Ntini Ibw b Warne Extras:(b-5, lb-8, nb-14) Total (All out in 99.5 overs) Falls: 1-91, 2-98, 3-122, 4-122, 5-146, 6-170, 7-181, 8-253, 9-292

ОМ 22 6 65 Clark 21 6 46 Symonds 32 35.5 Warne 9 Kasprowicz 12 51 Result: Australia won by 112 runs. Australia take unassailable 2-0 lead in the series Umpires: S Bucknor, B Doctrove

Match referee: C Broad (ENG). Third and final Test: Johannesburg, March 31-April 4.

Pakistan first to arrive

Philippines to miss Chelsea reserves

© AFC CHALLENGE banglalink banglalink

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan were the first team to arrive in Dhaka last night to participate in the AFC Challenge Cup which kicks off

It would be Pakistan's second visit to Bangladesh in three months since their trip in December for the 2007 Asian Cup pre-qualifier against Bangladesh. Coached by Bahrain's Salman

Sharida. Pakistan crushed United Arab Emirate Legends 3-0 in a warmup game in Dubai recently in the preparation for the 16-nation meet. They, however, are drawn in a tough Group D along side Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Macau.

Eight more teams, Chinese Taipei, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Brunei, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Guam and Philippines are due to arrive today.

The AFC website adds: The Philippines coach Jose Caslib will be forced to do without the services of the Younghusband brothers Phil and James -- his star Chelsea reserves -in the inaugural AFC Challenge Cup. The English Premier League leaders have refused to release the reserve players, who have been pivotal to Caslib's planning for long. In their absence, he will be depending on midfield generals Emelio Caligdong, Ali Borromeo, who plays in the US, and central defender Mark

The Philippines have been bracketed in Group A alongside India, Chinese Taipei and Afghanistan.

"My players are committed to improving their results and this tournament is a welcome opportunity to do that," Caslib told.

"India are the best team in this

group but we are also looking to make

upsets," said Caslib, who gave the South East Asian nation their first ever win in the now defunct Tiger Cup last year against Timor Leste. Caslib said that 'political situation in the country had affected the team

preparations a bit'. "It was difficult to recruit the armed forces players but we are still commit-

ted to raise the level of our play.' A top-of-the-group finish is the coach's aim but history is not on the side of the Filipinos when they are playing away. "Except for the 2004 Tiger Cup we haven't fared so well when playing away," admitted the

His men kick off their campaign against Chinese Taipei on April 1.

PALESTINE HOPEFUL

Palestinian coach Mohamed Al Sabah has warned their rivals that his men would settle for nothing short of the silverware.

Speaking on the eve of the team's departure for Dhaka from Cairo, Al Sabah told: "We are going there to win the title. We are not going there for the sake of mere narticination "

The coach said team morale was high after Palestine's shock defeat of Singapore in the AFC Asian Cup 2007 qualifiers last month. The win has propelled the team 17 places up to 128 in the FIFA World Ranking.

"The morale is upbeat and we are

beaking nicely," said the coach. "Our aim is to put up a good show and build up on our recent successes."

Al Sabah's charges checked into a one-week training camp in Alexandria where they also played a few warmup games against the topflight local

They are favourites to finish in the top-two from Group C which also has hosts Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei

Struggling Betis went 2-0 up

inside the opening 24 minutes in

the Madrigal on Saturday, before

Juan Pablo Sorin pulled a goal

favourites to progress to the semis,

"It is obvious Inter are the clear

back for Villarreal near the end.

Inter feeling the heat



Inter Milan are under a familiar pressure ahead of tonight's Champions League quarterfinal, first leg, match against Spain's Villarreal. Saturday's defeat to Parma left

Inter in third place, trailing Serie A leaders Juventus by 13 points and Roberto Mancini's side are now five points adrift of second placed Mancini knows that failure in

Europe would leave him with little to

show for his efforts at the San Siro this season and intensify speculation about his future. But the coach, who despite the result said he was pleased with Inter's performance, is determined not to let Saturday's setback turn into the kind of crisis the club have

years since their last Serie Atitle. "We can't have a drama every time that the team loses, especially after a game like the one at Parma where we played well. I am looking closely at the team and I would be worried if we had played badly,

frequently had to deal with in the 16

"In fact the only worry I have is

that the team are finding it hard work to score but that is a problem that we have had since the first day of the season. We are in good shape and playing well so I don't have any big worries," added Mancini. The poor form of Brazilian

Adriano has been a major factor in Inter's lack of sharpness in front of goal and Mancini may be tempted to look at an alternative in the form of Argentine Julio Ricardo Cruz while Nigerian Obafemi Martins will compete with Uruguayan forward Alvaro Recoba for a place in the starting line-up. Whoever Mancini opts to play in

attack will almost certainly be without the creative support of Portuguese winger Luis Figo whose muscle strain looks likely to rule him out. Without Figo, captain Javier

Zanetti will probably push forward into midfield Villarreal's Argentine playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme said his side would have to show a marked

improvement from the weekend, if

they were to have any chance against

and they will be even more so if we play like we did in the first half against Betis," Riquelme was

quoted as saying in sports daily AS "We made schoolboy errors and now it will be very difficult to qualify for Europe again next year.

"Inter are a side with a lot of experience in this competition, much more than us, and it could show.

The Betis defeat left Villarreal

eighth in the Primera Liga, three

points short of the lowest UEFA Cup slot available through the league, with eight games left. The only good news for coach

Manuel Pellegrini was the return to action of Sorin after nearly a month out with injury. Defender Rodolfo Arruabarrenna and midfielders Josico and Alessio

Tacchinardi are suspended for tonight's game. Defender Josemi is cup-tied having played for Liverpool

Ruud assured of WC place

Football

Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy's place in the Dutch World Cup squad is not in doubt, according to coach Marco van

The 29-year-old Van Nistelrooy has found himself on the bench recently for United, with Alex Ferguson preferring Frenchman Louis Saha to partner Wavne

"I made clear to him (Van Nistelrooy) that he should not worry about his spot in the Dutch squad, Van Basten said in an interview with the Dutch weekly magazine,

39 Tie up

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say "alas

40 How to

43 Sudden

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49 Blood-

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Solution time: 21 mins.

Voetbal International

ACROSS

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slangily

degree

8 Confront

12 Post-bout

wear

13 German

14 Press

15 Maple

16 Interro-

contents

18 Pie

20 Duck

21 Eggs

down

22 Sheepish

23 Impetu-

26 Corru-

gated

a coin

30 Lennon's

31 Make up

32 Debtor's

33 Favorably

verse

36 Jack

disposed

letters

vour mind

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edge on

remark?

preposi-

CROSSWORD



sitting on the bench but...it has been impossible to leave Louis Saha out since the Carling Cup final, given his tremendous scoring form," Ferguson said in the match programme for Wednesday's game.

NISTELROOY

lessor

40 Dance

41 Seed

coat

42 Tragic

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44 "Ameri-

45 Taboo

can —

Van Nistelrooy will start. "It has not been easy for Ruud

"The one thing that's certain is

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DLO'XX YA VWPB BASPA

give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

DLOK NOPUXAP, G YAB

BE FEELING A BIT DIS-CARDED. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L 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 apostrophe

N W P P A O K X L L P A S P

43 Predica-Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE GOT REVOKÊD, I RECKON YOU COULD practice

46 Got bigge 48 Jima

"Playing three strikers is possible in some games...but not always because it can leave the wrong

that all three will play their part and help us maintain the momentum."

Van Nistelroov is the joint leading scorer in the Premier League this season with 19 goals, the same as Arsenal's Thierry Henry.