Germany warns hooligans

REUTERS, *Berlin*

Germany said on Thursday it was ready to tighten border controls during this year's soccer World Cup and pledged to make life hard for potential troublemakers.

Interior Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said Berlin would temporarily suspend the European Union's Schengen travel agreement to allow it to make border checks.

Travellers in the Schengen zone of 15 European countries can normally move freely across borders without showing an identity card, but member states can suspend the accord and reintroduce controls at times of heightened security alert.

Terrorism and hooliganism are the chief concerns of German officials as they prepare to host the month-long World Cup, one of the biggest events in sport.

More than a million foreign fans will attend the 64 matches and an unknown number will travel to Germany even though they have no tickets for the games.

Blatter to run for re-election

AFP, *Hamburg*

FIFA president Sepp Blatter revealed Wednesday that he intends to run for re-election in 2007, providing he is still in good health.

The 70-year-old Blatter took over the FIFA presidency from Brazilian Joao Havelange in 1998 and feels he can carry on until 2011.

"Yes I will make myself available again in 2007," Blatter said. "The only question is how my health will be then."

Swiss-born Blatter was expected to step down in 2007 but there are no obvious candidates to replace him.

In his eight-year reign Blatter has had his controversial moments such as his idea to get rid of draws in football.

In 2004 Blatter wanted to introduce penalty shoot-outs if the match was level after 90 minutes but the suggestion fell on deaf ears and was thrown out.

Inter gain

FROM PAGE 16

summer after 11 years with Italian giants Juventus, Josico and Rodolfo Arruabarrena all ruled out.

Inter were caught cold with just 45 seconds on the clock.

Jose Mari burst in between Pierre Wome and Walter Samuel and his low shot was palmed away by Francesco Toldo.

The loose ball ran kindly for Forlan, who tucked home his second goal of the competition.

The home side came close to levelling the score 60 seconds later.

Adriano broke the offside trap to race after Dejan Stankovic's chipped pass, before lobbing the ball over Villarreal keeper Sebastian Viera.

Javi Venta sped to reach the Brazilian's goalbound effort, and managed to hook the ball clear just before it crossed the line.

Adriano cursed his luck, but fortune soon smiled upon him.

The powerfully-built South American had his back to goal when Juan Manuel Pena's attempted clearance fell at his feet, and with a quick turn he slammed a left-footed shot into the net from six yards.

Recoba tested Viera from distance with a low drive, before limping off with an injury and making way for Martins.

Adriano curled two identical 20-yard free-kicks over the bar and sent a free header inches wide as Inter ended the half in complete control.

The break failed to interrupt Inter's momentum and they took the lead in the 54th minute.

Juan Sebastian Veron fed Stankovic down the right touchline and he flicked the ball over Juan Pablo Sorin's head and went haring towards the box.

Gala opening

FROM PAGE 16

will recover in time for the opener."

Chinese Taipei have been slotted in Group A along side India, Afghanistan and Philippines and will begin their campaign against Philippines on April 1.

NO HIGH HOPES FOR KARGAR

Afghanistan coach Mohammed Yousuf Kargar did not fancy his team's chances and said he wants his players to gain experience from this event.

"We have a young side and I am not hopeful of making it to the second stage but this is the best opportunity to gain exposure at the continental level," he told.

"We started training a month back but that was also not possible sometimes because of heavy snowfall in capital Kabul.

"India and Chinese Taipei are the strongest teams in our group and I know nothing about Philippines but I am sure that our players will perform well in the tournament as they won't be under pressure against the more fancied rivals."

PHOTO: AP

AC Milan midfielder Kaka drives his way past Lyon's Sylvain Wiltord (L) and Tiago (R) during their Champions League quarterfinal tie at the Stade Gerland on Wednesday.

Honours even at Lyon

UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

AFP, *Paris*

French league leaders Lyon held Serie A giants AC Milan to a goalless draw in their Champions League quarterfinal here Wednesday, leaving the Italians marginal favourites to go through.

A tense match at the Stade Gerland saw neither side truly dominate but Milan were left ruing three clear-cut chances squandered by their normally reliable striker and captain Andriy Shevchenko.

While there is still all to play for in next Tuesday's second leg, Gerard Houllier's Lyon team know they will have to produce something special at the San Siro if they are to reach the semifinals for the first time.

Six-time European champions Milan, who are desperate to atone for their catastrophic defeat to Liverpool in last season's final, will feel confident of progressing into the next round.

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti warned that the tie was far from over however.

"0-0 is a very dangerous result," Ancelotti said."Now we play for qualification at home, but we will need our fans to get right behind us at the San Siro. Lyon are a very strong side -- organised and always looking to attack.

"We had our chances, particularly in the first half, but it was a shame that we couldn't have nicked a goal."

Former Liverpool boss Houllier meanwhile said his side had been too hesitant early on. "In the second half we managed to up the tempo and stopped watching Milan -- we gave them too much respect," Houllier said.

"When we started to play our own game, then we matched them," he added. "The teams are very similar, but Milan have the edge in terms of attack."

All Milan's best opportunities to grab a precious away goal came in the opening 45 minutes, when their central midfielders Gennaro Gattuso and Clarence Seedorf ruled the roost in the centre of the pitch.

The visitors did not have to wait long for their first chance. Shevchenko was played into space by Gattuso but was unable to connect cleanly with his shot, allowing Lyon keeper Gregory Coupet to save with his legs.

Milan's early dominance meant that attacking midfielder Kaka had licence to roam, and the talented Brazilian regularly caused problems for Lyon on both flanks as well as the central channel.

Kaka had a hand in the second of three first-half chances that fell to Shevchenko, brilliantly flicking full-back Serginho back across goal to set up the Ukrainian hit-man invitingly on 13 minutes.

But with the goal begging, Shevchenko was again thwarted by the legs of Coupet, the French international blocking well despite diving the wrong way.

With their impressive Malian international midfielder Mahamadou Diarra and Portuguese partner Tiago Mendes gradually making their presence felt against Gattuso and Seedorf, Lyon slowly came into the match.

Genuine chances for the home side remained few and far between however, and Milan keeper Dida was only given one real test in the first half.

A wicked free-kick from wide on the left missed a clutch of Lyon and Milan players in the six-yard area and was heading for Dida's far post until the Brazilian palmed it wide for a corner at full stretch.

On the stroke of half-time Shevchenko was presented with his third chance. A clever header took the Milan striker past Cris, but with the whole goal to aim at Shevchenko shot straight at Coupet.

Milan had less of the play in the second half but Lyon were still unable to create much to trouble Dida.

Some neat work saw both Norwegian striker John Carew and Tiago test the Milan defence with shots in quick succession but that was as good as it got.

A speculative late effort from Tiago tested Dida on 83 minutes but the Milan keeper tipped over comfortably.

A good night's work for Tiago was spoiled in the second minute of time added on when he needlessly hauled down Kaka to earn a booking that will keep him out of the second leg.

Fletcher backs the sweep

Second ODI today

Cricket

AFP, *New Delhi*

England coach Duncan Fletcher Thursday urged his batsmen to be careful using the sweep shot after his team's defeat in the first one-dayer against India.

Fletcher refused to ban the shot, at the centre of England's dramatic collapse this week, but said his players should use it more selectively in the second match on Friday.

"Sweep is a very effective shot against spinners in the sub-continent. It is just that we have got be more selective in using this shot," he told reporters ahead of the second game in nearby Faridabad.

Five England batsmen fell playing the sweep at the Kotla stadium on Tuesday when India snatched victory to take the lead in the seven-match series.

The tourists were strongly placed at 117-3 while chasing a modest 204-run target before losing their last seven wickets for 47 runs.

The slide began with the dismissal of Ashes hero Kevin Pietersen, who swept part-time bowler Yuvraj Singh straight to Gautam Gambhir on the mid-wicket boundary.

Skipper Andrew Flintoff fell to the same shot when he was trapped leg-before by off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who went on to take five wickets.

Fletcher blamed inexperience rather than the sweep shot for the defeat.

"We have a young side. There are five new players and there are some who are relatively experienced at the county level," he said.

"Some of these players need to know how to adjust to certain conditions. The thing is what happened at Kotla could have happened in a final.

"We were vulnerable in one match, there are still six matches to go."

Fletcher said he would name the playing 11 after a look at the Nahar Singh stadium wicket on Friday morning.

England practised here on Thursday instead of making the 90-minute road trip to Faridabad, an industrial town on the outskirts of the Indian capital.

India, meanwhile, were sweating over the fitness of key all-rounder Irfan Pathan, who missed Thursday's practice with a viral fever.

But captain Rahul Dravid was hopeful that Pathan would recover in time for the match.

"Irfan had a bit of fever and sore throat after the last game," said Dravid. "We have only rested him as a precaution. Hopefully he should be fit."

Dravid said reining in middle-order batsmen Pietersen and Flintoff was key if India were to win the series.

"Flintoff and Pietersen have the power and strength to bat the way they do," he said. "It is important to get them early.

"They have dominated not only our attack. They can be devastating against any bowling on their day. We have to accept that and respect that.

"We have to keep trying different things and find a way to check them. In one-day cricket, there will be times when you get hit around the park a little bit."

England drew the preceding Test series 1-1 despite the absence of captain Michael Vaughan, star opener Marcus Trescothick and frontline bowlers Ashley Giles and Simon Jones.

Also, Flintoff will be playing in his 100th ODI career match on Friday.

Aussies go for whitewash

Cricket

AFP, *Johannesburg*

Australia will aim to maintain their supremacy over South Africa when they play a "dead rubber" third Test starting at the Wanderers Stadium Friday.

Australian captain Ricky Ponting said there would be no let-up from the world champions despite the series having already been won after the first two Tests.

Asked whether the series win might open the door for other members of the touring squad to play in the final match, Ponting said: "I wouldn't think so.

"The guys who are in the side at the moment are playing well and deserve their selection for the next Test as well. Everyone's put their hand up and done the job."

South Africa, though, might make some changes. Batsman Hashim Amla and fast bowler Dale Steyn were added to the squad after Australia won the second Test by 112 runs in Durban Tuesday and the hosts will pick from 16 players.

Captain Graeme Smith said some of his team were feeling the effects of a gruelling programme, with the current series following a 10-week tour of Australia.

South Africa still have a three-Test series against New Zealand to play, with three matches in successive weeks starting on April 15.

"The selectors have decided to have a few extra options," said Smith. "I wasn't a part of the decision. We'll go to the Wanderers and make a decision on what is best for this Test match and for the New Zealand series."

Smith admitted it would not be easy for his team to bounce back from losses in the first two Tests. "We've been outplayed in the Test form of the game.

SQUADS

SOUTH AFRICA(from): Graeme Smith (captain), AB de Villiers, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Ashwell Prince, Jacques Rudolph, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Andrew Hall, Makhaya Ntini, Andre Nel, Boeta Dippenaar, Hashim Amla, Andrew Hall, Garnett Kruger, Dale Steyn.

AUSTRALIA(from): Ricky Ponting (captain), Justin Langer, Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn, Michael Hussey, Adam Gilchrist, Andrew Symonds, Shane Warne, Brett Lee, Michael Kasprowicz, Stuart Clark.

Ronaldo 'D-Lists' fiancee

AFP, *Rio de Janeiro*

It was only a fleeting engagement but model Daniella Cicarelli quite literally left her mark on Brazilian football star Ronaldo. Now he's got rid of it.

In a gesture of love for former fiancee Cicarelli at the start of their whirlwind relationship, Real Madrid star Ronaldo had the initials 'D' and 'R' tattooed either side of a love heart inside his left fist.

Ronaldo had got into the habit of brandishing his discreet piece of body art every time he scored a goal.

But now that he has broken up with Cicarelli, Ronaldo has had the 'D' changed to an 'R' as a gesture of affection towards his six-year-old son Ronald, a product of his first marriage, Brazilian media reported.

Ronaldo and Cicarelli announced they had separated on May 11 last year, less than three months since they celebrated their engagement in a lavish party held at the French chateau of Chantilly on Valentine's Day.

Sheva laughs off Chelsea reports

REUTERS, *Milan*

AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko has rejected newspaper reports that he has agreed a move to English club Chelsea.

The Guardian reported on Thursday that Shevchenko had agreed "in principle to a four-year contract worth in excess of 110,000 pounds (191,700 dollars) a week" and that the player had told Chelsea he would put in a transfer request to Milan.

But the Ukrainian striker told the Italian news agency ANSA: "I don't know of any offer and I am calm. I don't need to deny anything, it is all clear. It is just that others keep talking about this story," he said.

Shevchenko, who is in his seventh season with Milan after joining them from Dynamo Kiev, recently said that he hoped to emulate captain Paolo Maldini and stay with the club until the end of his career.

The striker has frequently been linked with a move to Chelsea who are owned by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, but he laughed off the latest reports saying: "I'd like to thank the English journalists because this way maybe Milan will call me and extend my contract".

This season Shevchenko has scored 19 goals in 24 Serie A matches and eight in nine Champions League appearances.

Maiden Malik

FROM PAGE 16

But the spinner had a rare off-day, claiming just one wicket in 28 overs.

When Muralitharan struck, Pakistan had virtually saved the match. His lone success came in the last session when he had Inzamam caught bat-pad by Tillakaratne Dilshan at silly-point.

Pakistan began impressively when they denied the hosts success in the rain-curtailed morning session after resuming at 89-2, thanks to Malik and Faisal.

With Muralitharan going wicketless in the first session, Sri Lanka took the second new ball immediately after it was due in the afternoon session and tasted instant success.

Seamer Farveez Maharoof provided the breakthrough in his first over when he trapped Faisal leg-before, but not before the batsman had frustrated the hosts for more than a session.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and Pakistan at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground on Thursday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 185 (Dilshan 69, Maharoof 46; Asif 4-41, Kaneria 3-44)

PAKISTAN: First innings 176 (Farhat 69; Maharoof 4-52, Muralidaran 3-41, Malinga 3-30)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 448-5 decl (Sangakkara 185, Jayawardene 82, Tharanga 72, Samaraweera 64; Asif 2-71)

PAKISTAN: Second innings (overnight 89-2)

Malik not out	148
Farhat c Jayawardene b Muralidaran	34
Younis b Muralidaran	8
Iqbal lbw b Maharoof	60
Inzamam c Dilshan b Muralidaran	48
Razzaq not out	20
Extras: (b-6, lb-7, nb-5, w-1)	19
Total: (For 4 wkts in 121 overs)	337

Fall of wkts: 1-59, 2-71, 3-186, 4-267.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Malinga	13	3	44	0
Maharoof	23	8	70	1
Muralidaran	42	13	94	3
Fernando	15	3	40	0
Bandara	14	4	35	0
Jayasuriya	13	3	37	0
Dilshan	1	0	4	0

Result: Match drawn.

Man-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara.

Umpires: Steve Davis (AUS) and Rudi Koertzen (RSA)

Brazil's WC secret!

FIFA WORLD CUP GERMANY 2006

AFP, *London*

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira wants his team to play with a smile on their faces at this year's World Cup -- so has ruled out imposing a sex ban.

While Parreira's predecessor Luis Felipe Scolari ran a famously strict regime during the 2002 finals, a more relaxed mood will prevail in Germany -- and that includes as much sex as his players want.

"I don't think that sex one day before the game will have any harm on the player. Just sex, no problem," Parreira told Maxim magazine.

"The problem is, they don't eat, they don't sleep, they smoke and they drink. That is the problem. Sex? No, sex is always very good -- always welcome."

Parreira also gave an insight into the methods his team uses to maintain spirit during tournaments.

Ronaldinho is a keen player of the samba drums -- and the world champions will be packing their instruments once again when they head to Germany.

"Psychologists say it is very important in the dressing room and coming from the hotel to the stadium that you do something with your hands, with your mouth," Parreira said.

"If you just sit there worrying? Clutching your hands? That does not help. If you play something it helps relax. That is why we give them the drums and things.

"Since 1970 we have done this. We buy instruments for them, and they play on the bus -- instead of saying, 'Oh my God, we are going to play Germany or England in a World Cup game.' That does not help."

Parreira also said there was no chance that Brazil would play more conservatively in Germany.

"We have to give a good impression and keep our style. We don't have to change that because we are going to play a World Cup."

"We have to defend, as well, otherwise we go nowhere. But we can't deny our roots -- we play a happy game."

Gaucho sells better than Becks

Football

REUTERS, *Berlin*

Brazil and Barcelona forward Ronaldinho is the most commercially valuable soccer player in the world, followed by England internationals David Beckham and Wayne Rooney, a study of brand value said on Thursday.

Consultancy BBDO Germany estimated Ronaldinho's brand was worth 47 million euros (32.6 million pounds) followed by Beckham's at 44.9 million euros and Rooney's at 43.7 million euros.

Two other Barcelona players, Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o and Argentina's young forward Lionel Messi, completed the top five, both brands being worth just over 30 million euros.

While Real Madrid midfielder Beckham still had the best-known face in soccer, Ronaldinho's comparative youth and recent achievements with Barcelona made him a more attractive marketing prospect, the consultancy said.

Having just turned 26, the Brazilian is nearly five years younger than Beckham and was voted FIFA World Player of the Year the past two years.

"Beckham owes his second place in the ranking to his status as the 'metrosexual' prototype and the lucrative contracts this generated for him," BBDO said. Striker Rooney, 20, plays for Manchester United.

Beckham's Brazilian teammate, Ronaldo, came seventh in the list while Chelsea's Frank Lampard placed 8th.

RONALDINHO

Arsenal striker Thierry Henry was ninth and Germany playmaker Michael Ballack 10th.

Former European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko of AC Milan was placed 20th, three places behind the youngest European player on the list, Ajax Amsterdam's Ryan Babel.

'Van Nistelrooy Europe's best'

Football

AFP, *Manchester*

Sir Alex Ferguson hailed Ruud van Nistelrooy "the best in Europe" and admitted the Holland striker had presented him with a major dilemma after marking his return to Manchester United's starting line-up with a winning goal.

Van Nistelrooy released almost six weeks of pent-up frustration by hitting the only goal of the game as United made it seven league wins out of seven by defeating West Ham United 1-0 at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

In doing so, van Nistelrooy became the first player to score 20 Premiership goals this season, yet his place in the starting line-up at Bolton Wanderers on Saturday is by no means guaranteed.

"Ruud's the best in Europe for doing that (scoring)," said Ferguson, as his side powered five points clear of third-placed Liverpool in the race to qualify automatically for next season's Champions League.

"It was Ruud's first game for a few weeks. He needed that game and scored a most important goal for us, a vital goal.

"That's the kind of response we want to see.

"I have a tough choice to make but that's what I want."

Van Nistelrooy's 149th goal for United ensures Ferguson's side, who were 18 points adrift three weeks ago, have now reduced Chelsea's lead at the Premiership summit to nine points with seven games remaining.

Warne coming

FROM PAGE 16

with the ball in hand, powered by a bagful of variations and trickery is sure to mesmerise the crowd here.

He will be supported by fellow leg-spinner Stuart MacGill and by a five man pace attack consisting of Brett Lee, Shaun Tait, Stuart Clark and Michael Kasprowicz.

Captain Ricky Ponting has not only ensured he remains top of the ICC rankings for Test batsmen but has also given him one of the highest ratings of all-time. He also leads the ODI rankings with teammates Adam Gilchrist, Andrew Symonds, Michael Hussey and Michael Clarke also among the top ten batsmen.

Among the bowlers, Shane Warne is in second position in the ICC bowlers' rankings, with Brett Lee and Nathan Bracken present in the top bracket of bowlers in the ODI charts.

Cricket Australia (CA) have also announced the one-day side, with just a single change. South Australian off-spinner Dan Cullen replaces medium-pacer Mick Lewis who had a torrid time during Australia's 3-2 loss to South Africa in the recent one-day series. He picked up just two wickets in three games and conceded a world record 113 runs from ten overs in the final game at Johannesburg. This is Cullen's first call-up to the national side.

This will be the second series between the teams after Bangladesh's maiden tour to Australia back in July 2003. Australia won that series comfortably, winning both the Tests within three days. The world champions also won the ODI series 3-0.

The two teams are scheduled to play two Tests and three one-day internationals, starting with the first Test in Dhaka on April 9.

Test squad:Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting (capt), Damien Martyn, Michael Hussey, Andrew Symonds, Michael Clarke, Adam Gilchrist (wk), Brett Lee, Shane Warne, Stuart MacGill, Shaun Tait, Stuart Clark, Michael Kasprowicz

ODI squad: Adam Gilchrist (wk), Simon Katich, Ricky Ponting (capt), Damien Martyn, Michael Clarke, Michael Hussey, Andrew Symonds, Shane Watson, Brett Lee, Nathan Bracken, Brad Hogg, Stuart Clark, Daniel Cullen, Mitchell Johnson

Gaibandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Gorsthapara Krira Sangstha defeated Sapient Sporting Club by 43 runs in the Naheed Cotton First Division Cricket League at the Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss Gorsthanpara batted first and accumulated 171 runs before being all out in the 43rd over.

In reply, Sapient were all out for 128 runs in the 47th over.

Sumon of Gorsthanpara was declared man of the match for taking four wickets.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

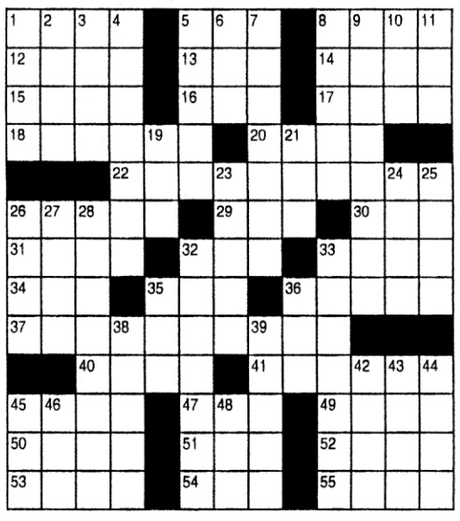
ACROSS

1 Cruising
5 Easy mark
8 Gilligan's home
12 Reindeer herder, probably
13 Japanese airline
14 Check
15 Mideast monarch
16 Spasm
17 — and letters
18 Write again
20 Winslet or Beckinsale
22 Ritzy NYC street
26 Breakfast meat
29 Census stat
30 Pismire
31 Hollywood clashers
32 Tramcar load
33 Icelandic saga
34 Detergent name
35 Hibernia (Abbr.)
36 Cookie-jar fill
37 Yosemite employee
40 Penn or Astin
41 Demosthenes, for one
45 Help a hoodlum
47 Peregrinate
49 "See ya!"
50 Vertebra neighbor
51 Right angle
52 Surmounting
53 Candle circler
54 Crafty
55 Encounter

DOWN

1 Winglike
2 Unaltered
3 Grand-scale tale
4 Suitable
5 Dionysus' attendant
6 Violinist Kafavian
7 UPS delivery
8 Enraged
9 Wooer's rendition
10 Torched
11 Type units
19 Bad review
21 "Hail, Caesar!"
23 Actress Black
24 Loosen
25 Greek vowels
26 Gridlock sound
27 Taj Mahal city
28 Least refined
32 Florida products
33 Proof-reader's catch
35 A Gershwin brother
36 "— the fields ..."
38 Yawl's kin
39 Divine
42 Recording
43 Nebraska county
44 Carry on
45 Navy boss (Abbr.)
46 Story of a lifetime?
48 Every last crumb

Solution time: 25 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

H'ZT DTQGV QLCGTFF VHLOHIFNI KHOTF CN VTKHZTG XTNXKT RTFFQATF FDT LQKKF QIAHT-N-AGQRF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I TELL YOU THE LAWN IS VERY WET THIS MORNING, I'M DEFINITELY GIVING YOU DEW WARNING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals P

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