

PRIMERA LIGA Barcelona almost home

Barcelona all but wrapped up their 18th Spanish league title on Friday with a 1-0 home success over fellow Champions League semifinalists Villarreal...



Inter Milan forward Adriano (R) looks on as AC Milan's Kaladze (L) is congratulated by teammate Seedorf after he scored a goal during Serie A match at the San Siro on Friday.

SERIE A

Kaladze settles Milan derby

Football

REUTERS, Milan

AC Milan celebrated a 1-0 derby win over city rivals Inter thanks to a 70th minute strike by Georgian defender Kakha Kaladze in Serie A on Friday.

The decisive goal came when Milan's Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf looped in a high cross from the left and with the Inter defence stationary Kaladze chested the ball down and blasted past Inter keeper Julio Cesar.

was embarrassingly wide. After the break Seedorf had a low shot blocked by the feet of Julio Cesar and on the hour Inter's best chance was wasted by Figo...

Flintoff wants captaincy in future

England stand-in skipper Andrew Flintoff has said he would be willing to do the job on a permanent basis in the future.

Flintoff, who was himself rested from England's seventh and final one-day international against India, a seven-wicket defeat in Indore on Saturday...

PREMIERSHIP

Chelsea edge towards title

Football

AFP, Bolton

Frank Lampard, 12 months after his goals secured Chelsea's first Championship for 50 years, returned Saturday to the Reebok Stadium to claim the second in his side's 2-0 win over Bolton Wanderers...

championship by United's unexpected slip, it was perhaps inevitable that Jose Mourinho's side would not be at their best and for the opening 44 minutes they looked a shadow of the side that has been so impressive for the past two seasons.

Cech. Kevin Nolan, the Bolton captain, almost enhanced his claims for a place in England's World Cup squad when he sent a 20-yard snapshot narrowly wide but having briefly threatened to reignite the title race...

Eto'o signs for Al Ittihad

INTERNET, undated

Barcelona's Cameroonian striker Samuel Eto'o has joined AFC Champions League champions Al Ittihad in a loan move.

SL hire Aussie spin coach

REUTERS, Colombo

Former Australia off-spinner Ashley Mallett has been hired as a consultant spin coach for Sri Lanka.

Dravid defends Sehwag, Kaif

AFP, Indore

Indian captain Rahul Dravid jumped to the defence of non-performing teammates Virender Sehwag and Mohammad Kaif on Friday, saying their poor form was a passing phase.

Poisoned pens poised for Italy



REUTERS, Rome

When Italy open their World Cup campaign against Ghana on June 12 they won't be facing one set of adversaries but three.

at Euro 2004, holding up a newspaper article that claimed he had fallen out with goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon. Zuccala also believes the tortured relationship between the scribblers and the dribblers has as much to do with fierce regional loyalties in Italy...

Germany in the final, but the breakdown of communication during Italy's finest hour left a bitter taste that refuses to go away even today.

Hiddink vows to return Russia to former glory

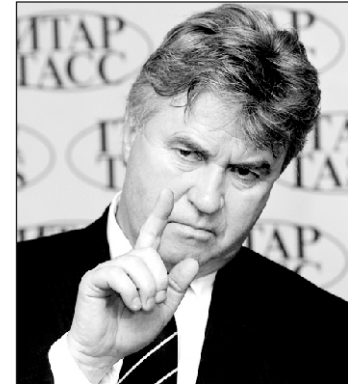
Football

REUTERS, Moscow

Dutchman Guus Hiddink promised on Friday to restore Russia to their former glory after signing a deal to become the national team's coach.

funded by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, who owns English Premier League champions Chelsea.

my agents and some people at the FA," Hiddink said. "But I was curious about the Russian challenge. At the end I didn't have any doubts."



GUUS HIDDINK "England was mentioned. There were some contacts between me,

Tajikistan-Sri Lanka

FROM PAGE 12 Apart from Yusuf Rabiev, the top scorer for the Central Asians with four goals including a brace against Kyrgyzstan in their 2-0 semifinal victory, the entire midfield and the striking zone have contributed to the team success by scoring regularly.

Mills makes early inroads

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

New Zealand opening bowler Kyle Mills took three of the first four wickets as South Africa, struggled on the first day of the first Test against New Zealand at Centurion Park on Saturday.

ping middle order batsman Jacques Rudolph and restoring Gibbs as an opener more than a year in the middle order or at number three.

To bat: Boucher, Pollock, Boje, Ntini, Steyn. Bowler O M R W Mills 13 5 26 3 Franklin 10 2 44 1 Martin 13 3 37 0 Oram 10 6 15 0 Vettori 6 1 14 0 Astle 5 2 11 0

Young Indians crush Eng

FROM PAGE 12 Over, and left-arm paceman Rudra Pratap Singh for three consecutive fours in the next.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Player, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Sreesanth, Pathan, Sreesanth, Rudra, Vikram, Powar, Yuvraj.

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Total: (For 3 wkts in 49.1 overs) 289. Fall of wickets: 1-166, 2-166, 3-281. Did not bat: Rao, Karthik, Powar, Rudra Pratap, Vikram, Sreesanth.

KABADDI FESTIVAL

Ansar & VDP, Mirpur Ideal champions. The Ansar & VDP defeated Nawabpur Government High School 44-33 in the final to become champions in the boys' section.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Team, Score, Overs. Includes teams like South Africa, New Zealand, and Centurion Park.

Premier v'ball

Sonali Bank continued their winning run with another impressive victory over Dilkusha Sporting Club in the United Commercial Bank Limited Premier Division Volleyball League at the volleyball stadium yesterday.

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include 'Erie Canal', 'Acting mule', 'Battle for superiority', etc.

CRYPTOQUIP

Cryptoquip puzzle with a grid of letters and a clue: 'Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T'.

Man-of-the-match: Sri Sreesanth

Man-of-the-series: Yuvraj Singh. Toss: India. Sponsors: Rudi Koertzen and Arani Jayaprakash.

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