### Vaughan will remain Eng captain

AFP, London

Michael Vaughan is set to continue as England's Test and one-day captain when he eventually returns from a knee injury, according to chairman of selectors David

Vaughan missed the whole of England's international series in India when his longstanding knee problem flared up again and that led to suggestions the 31-year-old could stand down from limited overs cricket in order to extend his Test

The Yorkshire batsman himself was the beneficiary of such an arrangement when he captained the one-day team after Nasser Hussain quit leading England in the shorter form of the game after the 2003 World Cup, a move that paved the way for Vaughan to also take over as Test captain later that year.

However, Graveney said fresh talk about two permanent captains was not something on his agenda or that of England coach Duncan

"It hasn't been a subject that has cropped up in my discussions -which have mainly been about support for Vaughan -- or whatever discussions I've had with Duncan when I've made contact with him in

After regular vice-captain Marcus Trescothick also came home early from India, all-rounder Andrew Flintoff led England to a highly creditable 1-1 draw in the Test series before the side went down 5-1 in the one-dayers.

Andrew Strauss, who has captained Middlesex, also filled in as skipper when all-rounder Flintoff was rested to extend England's leadership options in the event of a permanent vacancy.

England were without several key players in India because of injury and some of those star names could yet be out of action come next month's first Test against Sri Lanka at Lord's.

As well as Vaughan, it looks as if England will be without left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, yet to start running again following his hip operation before Christmas, and fast bowler Stephen Harmison, who missed the one-day series in India with a shin problem

But Trescothick (virus) and paceman Simon Jones (knee) are both hopeful of being available after lengthy spells on the sidelines.

Graveney was adamant that England would not repeat past mistakes and rush injured players back into action before they were fully fit, with an Ashes tour and World Cup on the horizon. Not to mention the home Test and one-day series against both Sri Lanka and Pakistan as well as the ICC Champions Trophy.

### A lesson

FROM PAGE 12

Kyrgyzstan because the Kyrgyz coach knew his limitations and tried to use a way he could win. But for individual skill of Tajik players -- a good goalkeeper, a solid defender in Nosirov, four very good midfielders who are expert scorers -- helped them win the trophy

"My advice to Bangladesh is to use a football pyramid, start at grassroots, then with youth develonment and work with coaches education and correct the situation in the clubs. I'm sure if they put the plan and work accordingly, you would see development day by day," added Bader.

### New Zealand

FROM PAGE 12 SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 276 **NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 327 SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (overnight 4-0) Smith Ibw b Martin Gibbs c Styris b Franklin

Dippenaar c Fleming b Oram Kallis c Vettori b Styris Prince c McCullum b Franklin De Villiers not out Boucher not out Extras: (b-8, lb-1, nb-4) Total: (For 5 wkts in 59 overs) 148 Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-19, 3-42, 4-73

5-140. R W Bowle Franklin 12

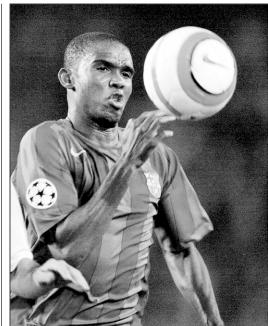
2 41 2 Martin 12 3 28 Mills 11 4 18 Oram 15 2 Vettori 0 25 9 Astle Stvris 0 3 Umpires: M Benson (ENG), D Harper (AUS).

### Marvan out

FROM PAGE 12 would heal naturally with rest, but a scan a few days back revealed that there's no

improvement," Simsek said. 'The only option available is that he has got to have surgery now."

Sri Lanka begins the tour with a three-day game against British Universities at Cambridge from April 24 and the first Test starts at Lord's





Samuel Eto'o (L) of Barcelona and Andriy Shevchenko of Milan are all geared up for an enticing semifinal clash.

# **Battle royale at San Siro**

CHAMPS LEAGUE

Barcelona take on AC Milan in the San Siro on Tuesday in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal buoyed by the return of master midfielder Ronaldinho but missing some other key figures

The Brazilian World Footballer of the Year has not played since picking up a leg injury against Benfica in the quarterfinals. While Ronaldinho's return is a

welcome fillip for Barca coach Frank Riikaard it was tempered by news that Swedish international Frank Larrson would miss the game after picking up an injury in Barca's 1-0 win over Villarreal last Friday.

The Catalan giants are also without precocious teenage winger Lionel Messi, who is returning to Argentina for treatment on his troublesome thigh, and Deco, the only European winner at the Nou Camp, who is suspended for the first

Santi Ezquerro though has been named in Riikaard's squad despite damaging his right knee against

Barca boss Frank Rijkaard, who also welcomes back Thiago Motta,

said: "With the great number of games we've been playing I'm not surprised we've been suffering

"At times like this every healthy player is a bonus.'

The Dutch coach, reflecting on the Villarreal success, added: "It was very important to get a win after the recent draws because now our spirits will be high ahead of meeting The two European heavyweights

crossed swords in last season's Group stage, with Milan winning 1-0 at home and losing 2-1 to a lastgasp Ronaldinho strike at the Nou Ronaldinho remarked: "Any

team we're going to face at this stage is going to be very tough but the one advantage is that we know how Milan play. "Out of all the remaining teams at this stage we've probably got the

toughest. Barca travel to northern Italy in the knowledge that their hosts, six times European champions to their one, have never lost a Champions League semifinal

"We're going into it with caution but also with hope," said club president Joan Laporta.

Milan too go into the match in high spirits after KOing city rivals Friday, a result that gave the Rossoneri renewed hope of catching Serie A leaders Juventus, the goal coming from defender Kakha Kaladze.

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti will be without tonsillitis-hit Filippo Inzaghi, who has proved instrumental in their charmed run to the last

Last year's beaten finalists were two minutes away from going out on the away goals rule to Lyon in the quarters until the striker saved the day with his fourth goal in the past three games. There are no such fitness con-

cerns surrounding Andriy Shevchenko, who will be itching to add to his European record of 52 goals against the Spaniards. Milan's journey to the last four took them past Lyon and in the

while Barcelona have marched past Benfica and Chelsea. Kaladze meanwhile is feeling positive about Tuesday's tie.

previous round Bayern Munich

"We are improving a lot. We have great consistency, particularly in defence, and must continue on this way because this is the decisive moment of the season," said the

### Silvio dreams of Ronaldinho

INTERNET. undated

Milan supremo Silvio Berlusconi admits he dreams of pairing Ronaldinho with his fellow Brazilian. Kaka, at San Siro.

Ronaldinho's ability has impressed Berlusconi, who will have a first hand look at the playmaker on Tuesday when Milan and Barcelona meet in the UEFA Champions League semifinals.

Berlusconi would relish the chance to bring Ronaldinho to Serie A and would be at the head of the queue if the player ever leaves

admitted Berlusconi.

"Who wouldn't like Ronaldinho?"

"Our supporters ask about him to us, I know. It would be really great to see him playing with Kaka. "I've spoken with the Barcelona

president. Should he decide to sell him, we are first in line.' Tuesday's eagerly-anticipated

clash between the two European giants has whetted Berlusconi's appetite, while he is also looking forward to the return in Nou Camp. He added: "There are many

things that bind us with Barcelona. "In that stadium we won a Champions League and I always have in my eyes 80,000 Rossoneri supporters and the win over Steaua

"It will be a really lovely match. think and I hope at the end that Milan will enjoy it more.'

# Rijkaard wants to make history



INTERNET, undated

Barcelona boss Frank Riikaard insists his side could write themselves a chapter in history by beating Milan in the Champions League semifinal. "This tie is our chance to conse-

crate us as a great side," said the Dutchman. "We are hungry for success, but now we must demonstrate that in Europe. Although Barcelona have won

the Primera Liga last season and are on the verge of doing the same this term, Rijkaard is desperate to lift the European Cup.

"We are a squad of young players who want to keep winning, but the time has come for us to leave our mark on the international stage," added the former Holland boss.

"If we want to get through this semifinal then we are going to have to do something that people will be talking about for years to come."

Rijkaard knows what awaits his side tomorrow tonight though after he himself won two European Cups with the Milan giants during his midfield career.

"They are a side with great experience," added Rijkaard, a man

who played alongside Milan boss Carlo Ancelotti.

"They have an excellent system of play and a very strong defence. It will be interesting to see how we cope against such opponents."

Rijkaard concluded by comment-



FRANK RIJKAARD

ing on reports that Milan boss Ancelotti is motivating his troops for the game by showing his men a picture of Ronaldinho.

"I prefer to pin up a picture of my team in the changing rooms because we have great faith in ourselves," he noted. "We shouldn't think about our opponents.'

# Asia confident of hosting 2011 World Cup

Cricket

South Asian cricket chiefs said on Monday that they were "hugely" optimistic that a joint bid by India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to host the 2011 World Cup would succeed.

The bid will be presented to the International Cricket Council (ICC) at its Dubai offices one day before the revised deadline set by the sport's world governing body on

Thursday. "Everything is in place and we are hugely optimistic of taking the World Cup." Indian cricket board secretary Niranjan Shah said. A rival bid by Australia and New

Zealand has already been submit-

the two offers at a meeting of its Executive Board on April 30.

India and Pakistan have twice hosted the four-yearly World Cup: in 1987 by themselves and in 1996 with Sri Lanka.

Australia and New Zealand jointly organised the 1992 World Cup and say they have the right by rotation to host the mega-event in

The joint bid for the 2011 event proposes India hosting 22 matches, Pakistan 14, Sri Lanka nine and Bangladesh six, assuming there will be 51 games at the tournament.

Like in 1996, the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore has been put forward to organise the final while India will host the two semifi-

India's 22 matches would be held

while Pakistan would use six ven-

Sri Lanka would host all its matches at two venues in Colombo. and Bangladesh listed three venues but might use only one. The four nations want the ICC to

place them in four different groups of the preliminary league so that they can play their initial matches at The ICC has ruled that the bid,

which loses the right for the 2011 World Cup, will host the next tournament in 2015. The next World Cup will be held

in the Caribbean in March-April

### Carboni rolls back the years

AFP, Valencia

Valencia's Amedeo Carboni continued to defy the march of time and become the first 41-year-old to play in the Spanish first division here or

The former Italian international left back, who had his birthday 10 days ago, started his second game of the season and lasted all 90 minutes of Valencia's 4-0 demolition of Espanyol.

"Carboni has been training well, I had no doubts he would perform well and he didn't let me down," said Valencia coach Quique Flores, who is barely two months older than the player his colleagues affectionately call 'Grandad'.

Sunday's game was Carboni's first in front of home supporters this

"But if it proves to be his last then it was a good game to look back on."

Carboni's contract at the club where he has spent the last nine seasons comes to an end in June and it is unlikely to be renewed but Carboni himself has remained reticent about whether he actually intends to retire.

"I still feel in good shape. The big disappointment about this season is that I haven't played more minutes," said Carboni recently.

Among the honours that Carboni has rattled up in his amazing 22 year professional career are 18 Italian caps, two Spanish league titles and being part of teams that won the UEFA Cup and the now defunct Cup

### **Federer** battles to victory

AFP, Monte Carlo

Top seed Roger Federer fought through to victory as he opened his 2006 clay-court season, overcoming spirited defence from teenaged Serb Novak Djokovic 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 Monday to reach the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters.

The Swiss world-beater improved his season mark to 29-1.

Federer suffered one of his four defeats last season in Monaco, losing the quarterfinals to Frenchman Richard Gasquet, who is not competing at this edition due

Djokivic won the second set and saved three match points before finally falling.

Federer, with four titles earned during the first three months of the campaign, is on a mission, with a career-first trophy at the French Open his over-riding goal.

With Australian coach Tony Roche watching, Federer demonstrated his trademark silky skills in the first and last set as he defeated Djokovic, at age 18 and ranked 67th, one of the rising young stars in the sport.

But his developing skills were no match for the master, who finally sealed victory in one hour, 49 min-

Federer joined third-seeded David Nalbandian in reaching the second round on opening day after the Argentine hammered Xavier Malisse 6-4, 6-4,

Nalbandian now stands 3-0 against the Belgian after the pair played at Wimbledon and the Australian Open. Belgium's Kristof Vliegen elimi-

nated the first seed of the week as he rallied past Finland's newlycrowned number 20 Jarkko Nieminen 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/5).

Nieminen, with the best-ever ranking for any player from his nation, was playing on clay for the first time in 2006 and was unable to cope as the challenger turned the

A pair of Frenchman crashed out,

with Belgian Olivier Rochus producing the day's major disappointment for fans with a win over Gael Monfils 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. Czech Jan Hernych beat Julien Benneteau 7-6 (11/9), 4-6, 7-6 (7/4),

but home hope Michael Llodra

managed victory as he defeated

Serb Boris Pashanski 6-3, 6-0. Britain's unseeded pair of experienced hands were due on court later, with Tim Henman facing Argentine Gaston Gaudio, the 2004 Roland Garros champion and Greg Rusedski aiming to win his first match in the principality as he faced another South American in Juan

### PDB, Titas win

SPORTS REPORTER

Power Development Board defeated Sonali Bank Club by straight 3-0 sets in a match of the United Commercial Bank Limited Premier Division Volleyball League at the volleyball stadium yesterday. In the day's another match, Titas Club outplayed Water Development Board, also by 3-0 sets.

PREMIERSHIP

## Rooney keeps **United in hunt**

Football

AFP, London

Manchester United kept their slim Premiership title hopes alive on Saturday, two goals from England superstar Wayne Rooney securing a hard-fought 2-1 win at Tottenham, meaning Chelsea's victory party is on hold for another fortnight at least.

Trailing Chelsea by nine points before the early kick-off game with just four fixtures left, United knew they had to beat fourth-placed Spurs or else risk Chelsea taking the title by beating Everton later the same day. Despite intense pressure from

Champions League qualification spot also coveted by Arsenal, United just about held on for a Rooney-inspired win. The 20-year-old, tipped to be one of the key players in this summer's

Spurs, themselves desperate to

hold onto fourth place and a

World Cup, scrambled his first from point-blank range from Cristiano Ronaldo's low cross in a lightning eight-minute counter-attack.

Then, 10 minutes before halftime, Spurs's South Korean defender Lee Young-Pyo dawdled on the ball in his own penalty area and was robbed by international teammate Park Ji-Sung. Rooney grabbed the loose ball and shot fiercely past Paul Robinson for a 16th Premiership goal of the sea-

Tottenham came out furiously after the break and their pressure paid off in the 53rd minute, Jermaine Jenas poking the ball into an empty goal from a yard out after United's defenders made a mess of clearing a Spurs corner.

Tottenham fought desperately for an equaliser but United held on and almost made the game safe in the 86th minute when Ruud van Nistelrooy hit the post from close range with Robinson stranded

While still overwhelming favourites to retain their title. Chelsea must now wait until April 29 at the earliest to be confirmed as champions -when they take on Man Utd at Stamford Bridge.

### King faces WC agony

AFP, London

England's World Cup hopes have suffered a blow with the news that Tottenham Hotspur defender Ledley King has broken a bone in his left foot.

The injury could sideline the player for three to four weeks and leave him in a desperate race against time to be ready for the finals which open in Germany on

King sustained the fracture to the fourth metatarsal of his left foot during Spurs' 1-0 Easter Saturday win over Everton at Goodison England coach Sven-Goran

Eriksson is due to name his World

Cup squad on May 8 and must submit it to FIFA by May 15, leaving the Spurs skipper with a race against time to be fit. Eriksson already had injury

problems in defence to contend with before King's setback. Real Madrid centre-back

Jonathan Woodgate is currently sidelined, Sol Campbell has suffered a broken nose and Matthew Upson suffered a ruptured Achilles during the warm-up before Birmingham's derby clash with Aston Villa and is ruled out for the rest of the season.

PRIMERA LIGA

# Valencia stay second

Football

AFP, Madrid

to draws.

Valencia hung onto second place in Spain with a convincing 4-0 win over Cup winners Espanyol on Sunday as their nearest challengers Real Madrid and Osasuna were both held

Real Madrid drew 1-1 at their neighbours Getafe and stay third while Osasuna are one point and one place further back after a similar 1-1 draw with bottom club Malaga.

Goals from David Villa, Roberto Ayala, Mista Ferrer and Ruben Baraja put the 2004 champions gesture by rarely threatening their hosts except with their wild tackling. Moises Hurtado brought down Valencia's David Villa and the

Spanish international striker had no problem getting his 19th goal of the season from the resulting penalty after 39 minutes Espanyol were reduced to 10 men on the hour when Eduardo Costa got

minute and shortly afterwards Ayala headed Valencia further ahead. Mista headed Valencia's third goal after 69 minutes and Ruben Baraja completed the scoring spree with a left foot valley four minutes from time to leave Espanyol just one point

two yellow cards within the space of a

above the relegation zone. Real Madrid's Julio Baptista hit



Valencia's premier marksman David Villa celebrates his strike against Espanyol during their Primera Liga match at the Mestalla in Valencia on

By Eugene Sheffer

53 Rendez-

vous

9 Roma's

home

54 Motif

automatic place in next season's Champions League group stage with fourth now potentially being a cursed

If Champions League semifinalist Villarreal, who will not otherwise qualify for Europe's top club contest, win this season's competition then the team that finishes fourth in Spain will be relegated to the much less-

Iucrative UEFA Cup. Valencia fans gave Espanyol, who won the Spanish Cup on Wednesday, a rousing welcome when they came onto the field and the visitors returned the friendly

style

sounds

material

51 Peaceful

52 Ales' kin

Solution time: 27 mins.

**39** Low

CROSSWORD

**ACROSS** 

1 Doesn't

have

Cosby

Show'

mom

dance

teria?

lander

20 High-

22 Dead

heat

23 Celtics

great

24 Goof-up

night

music

28 Sartorial

woe

30 Chart

31 Deduc-

tive

format

26 A little

11 Slow

**6** "The

against Getafe, a game played in an acrid atmosphere after a war of

net after 61 minutes. However, television replays strongly suggested that the Brazilian had controlled the ball with his hand and Getafe got a deserved equaliser seven minutes from time when Manuel Tena connected with a

words between the two clubs in the

last week, but the Brazilian found the

Cosmin Contra free-kick. "It was just bad luck and poor finishing that meant we didn't win,' said Real coach Juan Ramon Lopez Caro, although not everyone will

spouse

13 Set

36 Pro-

37 Fly

38 Night

lights?

Kingsley

owner's

ordeal

48 Whatever

amount

41 Primary

44 Writer

45 Dog

have seen the game this way. Osasuna took the lead through a Paco Punal's penalty after 30 mi

nutes but Malaga never threw in the towel despite their lowly position and got a point when their Uruguayan striker Chengue Morales found the net 10 minutes before the whistle, making the most of a defensive error by Cesar Cruchaga.

Last season's second division champions Cadiz have been in danger of going straight back down again since the start of 2006 but their hopes of staying up got a big boost with a 2-1 win at Real

Celta Vigo moved up to fifth place with a 2-0 win at Real Betis thanks to goals from Jorge Larena and Jesus

### Real coach denies

Becks bust-up

**INTERNET**, undated Real Madrid coach Juan Ramon Lopez Caro has moved to dispe rumours of a growing rift with David

The England captain was left out of the side's starting line-up against Getafe on Sunday. Lopez Caro admitted surprise at

reports that Beckham had been

playing several matches while

iniured and insisted the decision to

drop the player was a tactical one. Beckham's place was taken by Brazilian Cicinho although the former Manchester United midfielder was introduced in the second half.

"Beckham has not played due to my decision," said Lopez Caro. "I always search for the best for the team and I make my line-ups.

"As far as I know, he wasn't suffering from any injury. "Of course I have no bitterness towards him, but I have to always get the best 11. I am aware that I can make a mistake, but I've tried to do

the best thing for the team.

# CRYPTOOUIP

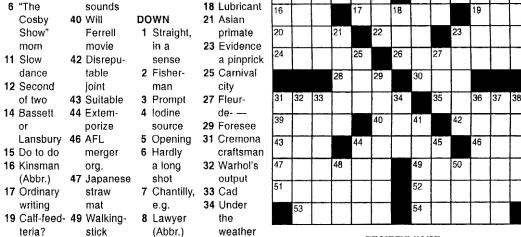
IUWC PVJNWDD DJWWCAGNFWC

A W D T Z W B K P V W

DGBBTDW DUW 0 FTWD TC UWN ZPNS

A JOB. HE WAS OK, BUT LACKED POLISH. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals O

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.



Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A CHAP WITH SCUFFED SHOES WAS JUST TURNED DOWN FOR

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

# ted to the ICC, which will discuss at its eight regular Test venues