

PSG clinch French Cup

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint Germain won the French Cup for the seventh time with a 2-1 victory over bitter rivals Marseille on Saturday but the showpiece was scarred by fighting between fans outside the Stade de France.

Bonaventure Kalou, after six minutes, and Vikash Dhorasoo, in the 49th minute, put the capital city side in charge before a 67th-minute reply from Toifilou Maoulida gave Marseille a glimmer of hope.

Outside the ground, fears of trouble between the two sets of supporters were violently realised with riot police using CS gas to break up running battles in the streets.

Police made 32 arrests with charges ranging from theft to assault.

Maccarone reiterates exit plans

INTERNET, undated

Middlesbrough's UEFA Cup hero Massimo Maccarone has reiterated that he will not sit on the bench again next season.

The Italian has bagged five goals this season, but most of his performances have come from the bench as he continues to play the fourth striker role behind Yakubu Aiyegbeni, Mark Viduka and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink.

The Italian international, still the club's record signing, has never hidden his displeasure at the lack of first team chances and he admits he will look to leave - if things remain as they are over the summer.

Where are Al Muharraq?

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is in dark about Al Muharraq as the Bahrain club did not reach Dhaka as per schedule Sunday to play their AFC Cup away match against Brothers Union till this report was filed last night.

The Bahraini club, who earlier informed BFF that they would arrive here on April 30 (Sunday), but did not arrive Sunday leaving BFF into dark about their tour, said the BFF communication manager Ahmed Sayed Al Fatah.

The match between Group A leaders Al Muharraq and Brothers Union will take place Tuesday at Bangabandhu National Stadium at 4pm.

The BFF official informed that Maldives' match commissioner has already arrived in city and match referees are also scheduled to arrive here Monday.

Al Muharraq, who defeated Brothers 2-0 in their home game, are still unbeaten and have ten points from four matches while Brothers Union, already out of competition for a place in the quarterfinals, have only one point from a 2-2 draw at home against India's Mahindra United.

We're on right track: Ponting

AFP, Sydney

Australia's cricketers are on track to regain the Ashes from England in the Test series beginning later this year, captain Ricky Ponting said on Sunday ahead of a five-month break.

Since losing the coveted trophy to England for the first time in 18 years last September, Australia have won 11 and drawn one of 12 Tests and won 18 of 25 one-day internationals.

"I'm really happy with the way things are going with both forms of the game," Ponting said at Sydney Airport as the team arrived home from gruelling tours of South Africa and Bangladesh.

"We've got Damien Martyn back in the Test side again now, we've got that really steady-looking batting line-up which I think will be very good against the English out here in our conditions.

"We believe that everything is sort of on course with Glenn (McGrath) at the moment and he's obviously very keen to play in the Ashes series."

The Australians would potentially have a better preparation for the Ashes series than England, who face seven Tests against Sri Lanka and Pakistan before arriving in Australia for the Ashes series in November.

Ponting said he expected the next Ashes showdown to generate similar levels of excitement and exposure for the game as the memorable series in England last year.



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney shouts out after breaking a bone in his right foot during his team's Premiership match against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in London on Saturday.

Requiem for Rooney



AFP, London

Manchester United's Wayne Rooney dominated Sunday's English press which viewed the fracture of the metatarsal bone in his right foot as a potentially fatal blow to England's World Cup chances. Photographs of the 20-year-old England striker collapsing in agony after Paulo Ferreira's challenge in Chelsea's 3-0 win Saturday featured prominently on both the front and back pages.

The gloom was made worse by news that Rooney's England strike partner, Michael Owen, needs to see a specialist after a recurring problem with his foot during his comeback for Newcastle United against Birmingham City.

"World Cup Nightmare. Rooney and Owen crocked," the News of the World said, exhorting its readers to "Pray" for the star duo to recover in time for the start of the tournament in Germany on June 9.

"End of the World: Injury jinx could rule out Rooney and Owen" said the Sunday Mirror while the Sunday Peoplesaid simply: "Disaster!"

In the Mail on Sunday under the headline "Rooney's World Falls Apart" Old Trafford manager Sir Alex Ferguson was quoted as saying that the player, expected to be a star of the

tournament, was definitely out.

"The boy is absolutely devastated. He was so looking forward to going to Germany. Right now he feels his football world is in pieces but the lad's got a lot of football in him and there will be another time for him," he said.

On its inside pages, former England manager Sir Bobby Robson, wrote that the country's World Cup chances were as good as over without the young striker.

"With Rooney in our team, England were genuine contenders to win the World Cup in my view. Realistically, we are outsiders without him," Robson considered.

Meanwhile, the newspapers were dominated by reflection on the infamous metatarsal bone that was little known among fans until it was sustained by England captain David Beckham before the last World Cup in South Korea and Japan in 2002.

Rooney's name was added to the growing list of England players who have succumbed to the "curse of the metatarsal", complete with diagrams normally only seen in medical textbooks and with commentaries from resident experts.

As speculation began on who might replace him up front, Rooney himself told The Observer what is like the first time he broke his foot, limping off at the European Championships in Portugal in 2004.

In an interview given last week -- and ironic given Saturday's events -- he said: "It was devastating. It was

horrible. You just want to keep yourself.

"To see any player get injured and miss the World Cup... that would be horrible. Horrible."

The news that England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson and every England fan dreaded came late Saturday in a brief statement from United after Rooney had been checked over by a specialist.

"Wayne Rooney has fractured the base of the fourth metatarsal on the right foot and he will be out for six weeks," said the United statement.

When Rooney fractured the fifth metatarsal on the same foot in the Euro 2004 quarterfinal defeat to Portugal, it was 10 weeks before he played again.

With England's opening World Cup game just six weeks away, national coach Sven-Goran Eriksson faces a major dilemma over the player's selection.

Yet Rooney is such a key figure in an England side widely tipped to challenge for the trophy, Eriksson may deem it a risk worth taking him even though the former Everton star will definitely miss the final two matches of Manchester United's domestic programme and England's pre-tournament friendlies against Hungary and Jamaica.

The importance of a fully fit Rooney playing on the biggest football stage of all was underlined by Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho who said: "The World Cup needs Rooney."

Ballack gives Kaiser the Blues

INTERNET, undated

Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer has accused Michael Ballack of already mentally being at Chelsea.

Beckenbauer claimed the midfielder underperformed in the DFB-Pokal Final on Saturday night, which the Bavarian giants won 1-0 over Eintracht Frankfurt.

The 29-year-old midfielder is expected to leave the Bavarian club when his contract expires in the summer and some reports in Germany say Ballack has decided on Chelsea.

As far as Beckenbauer is concerned, German international Ballack is already playing for the Blues.

"Ballack is just saving his strength for Chelsea," Beckenbauer told ZDF television after the final.

Ballack has not been at his best recently and Beckenbauer, it seems, will be happy to see the back of him this summer.

"Sometimes I think to myself, is he playing with us or not?" added Beckenbauer, known in Germany as "Der Kaiser".

"The way he (Ballack) runs around the field has little to do with football.

"He isn't trying anymore and I was waiting for him to be substituted." Ballack replied: "It doesn't matter what he (Beckenbauer) thinks.

"I'm delighted about the (Cup) title, which is the third in four years." "All that matters is we have won, but if Der Kaiser says that..." he added with a smile.

Beckenbauer simply replied: "He knows I am right!"

Harbhajan

FROM PAGE 12

Ganguly, Harbhajan had openly accused India's coach of adopting double standards and instilling "fear and insecurity" among the national cricketers, but matters have taken a turn for the better.

"It took some time for me to get adjusted to a new coach. Today I enjoy playing under him (Chappell)," Harbhajan told the Press Trust of India.

"He has great knowledge about the game and it has been a very successful year for us under him. He has lifted our team to great heights."

Harbhajan has struggled to regain the form that saw him collect 32 wickets in three Tests against Australia in 2001 while none of his teammates managed more than three, but came back well in the one-dayers against England recently. He said it was his intent to pick up valuable tips from other contemporary spinners and apply it to his trade.

Harbhajan is part of the Test and one-day sides set to play five one-day internationals and four Tests against West Indies from May 12.

Amla, Kallis'

FROM PAGE 12

Amla and Kallis put on 144 for the third wicket, batting for 192 minutes and using up 50.2 overs. Amla and Ashwell Prince (70 not out) added 92 for the fourth wicket.

New Zealand were given renewed hope immediately before tea when off-spinner Jeetan Patel had AB de Villiers caught at short leg for 13 but Prince and Mark Boucher were seldom troubled by the bowlers as they took South Africa past the follow-on target of 394.

Prince and Boucher added an unbeaten 66 for the sixth wicket before bad light ended play with nine overs due to be bowled.

The South African team management announced that left-arm spinner Nicky Boje would be out of action for between seven and ten days after having five stitches in his right hand, although he would be able to bat if necessary in the current Test.

He split the webbing between his thumb and forefinger while fielding Saturday. He is likely to miss the third and final Test starting in Johannesburg Friday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the second Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Newlands on Sunday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 593 for 8 decd (Fleming 262, Franklin 122no Astle 50; Ntini 4-162)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 155-2) Smith c & b Patel 25 Dippenaar b Patel 47 Amla lbw b Vettori 149 Kallis c Martin b Oram 71 Prince not out 38 De Villiers c Pappas b Patel 13 Extras: (b-11, lb-6, nb-1) 18 Total: (For 5 wickets in 128.5 overs) 361 Fall of wickets: 1-362-1083-2-524-344-5-361.

To bat: M. Boucher, N. Boje, A. Nel, D. Steyn, M. Ntini.

Bowler O M R W Martin 14 4 47 0 Franklin 23 5 60 0 Vettori 40 5 85 1 Patel 34.5 6 106 3 Styris 7 2 24 0 Oram 8 4 13 1 Astle 2 0 9 0

PRIMERA LIGA

Barca on the verge



AFP, Madrid

Barcelona made hard work of beating struggling Cadiz but their 1-0 victory on Saturday against the second-bottom team in the Spanish first division took them to the verge of being crowned champions.

Valencia's failure to beat Alaves at home on Sunday would give Barcelona their second successive championship.

Even if the Valencia beat their struggling Basque visitors, then a Barcelona victory at Celta Vigo on Wednesday will clinch the title.

Ronaldinho's goal after nine minutes was enough to claim all three points.

The World Player of the Year has scored many more spectacular goals during his career but a simple shot from right on the penalty spot sufficed this time.

Ronaldinho found the target after his Brazilian compatriot Belletti had provided the crucial pass from out on the right flank.

Barca's 90,000 fans in the Nou Camp were silenced two minutes later

when Jonathan Sesma scored only for the chants of 'Campeones, Campeones' to start up again when the Cadiz striker's effort was ruled out for being him just offside.

Samuel Eto'o was given the chance to add to his tally of 24 goals this season when Cadiz defender Magnolo Berizzo tripped Mark Van Bommel just after the hour but the first division's leading scorer sent his penalty straight to Cadiz keeper Oscar Limia.

Perhaps the biggest cheer of the night was not produced for Ronaldinho, Eto'o or any of the other men who have taken Barca to the verge of their 18th league triumph in recent months but midfielder Xavi Hernandez.

The Spanish international made his entrance nine minutes before the end to take part his first game for five months after being out of action with damaged right knee ligaments.

The defeat still leaves Cadiz, last season's second division champions, still in dire trouble and in danger of an immediate return to the lower division.

Celta Vigo continued their surprising season with a 2-0 win at local Galician rivals and fellow UEFA Cup contenders Deportivo La Coruna on

Saturday. A goal in each half from David Silva and Jesus Perera gave Celta three vital points to keep them in fifth place and still with a good chance of qualifying for the Champions League.

Silva put the visitors ahead from close range after 34 minutes, scrambling the ball into the net following a Nestor Canobbio corner.

Perera then completed Celta's joy with an angled left foot shot from side of the area three minutes from the whistle.

Deportivo's misery was compounded by having their World Cup-bound Argentine defender Fabricio Coloccini sent off 10 minutes from time after receiving his second yellow card.

Real Betis were held to a 1-1 draw by fellow strugglers Athletic Bilbao, a result that does neither side any favours and leaves both of them still worryingly close to the relegation zone.

Betis winger Edu sent a crafty chip into the six-yard box after 24 minutes and his Brazilian compatriot Robert was on hand to head home the opener but the Basque visitors equalised through a Jesus Lacruz goal after 65 minutes.

Why keep a second one



AFP, London

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho said Saturday he threw his English Premiership winner's medal to the Blues fans because he had no need for a second one in his collection.

The eccentric boss hurled not one, but two medals into the Matthew Harding Stand after Chelsea crushed Manchester United 3-0 to seal a second consecutive title -- Mourinho's fourth in a row after winning the Portuguese league twice with Porto.

Trophy-laden Mourinho said there was only so much silverware he could keep his hands on.

"I kept a Premiership one for myself. I have one from the last season, it's the same medal," the Blues boss said after the match. "I want only one. I cannot keep everything I have.

"I think the crowd, especially the people behind that goal, the Matthew Harding Stand, they are the best supporters we have.

"I felt one of the reasons we were champions was because at home, we have an incredible record of one single draw and they had a big part in that so I threw the medal to share it with them.

"In Porto I kept a medal for me. It was a Champions League medal, it was only one and I was guessing, maybe in the future it could be difficult to get

another one!"

He said the fan who grabbed his medal out of the air had either a splendid souvenir of Chelsea's third title in their 101-year history or something to auction online.

"The medal was for everybody but the person who got the medal is a lucky guy and goes home with a fantastic memory. Or goes to eBay and makes a fortune."

Asked why he threw his replacement medal into the crowd, he replied:



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho waves a club flag at Stamford Bridge after his side secured the Premier League title on Saturday.

WI struggle to victory

ZIMBABWE	Bowler	O	M	R	W	Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-38, 3-71, 4-77, 5-121.
Rinke c Smith b Taylor	Edwards	9	2	23	0	Did not bat: D. Smith, I. Bradshaw, J. Taylor, F. Edwards.
Duffin c Ramdin b Smith	Bravo	10	2	19	2	
Chibhabha c Edwards b Smith	Bravo	8	1	23	2	
Taylor c Bradshaw b Bravo	Bradshaw	8	0	24	0	
Chigumbura run out (Chanderpaul-Gayle)	Smith	8	0	29	2	
Strydom c Bravo b Gayle	Gayle	7	0	30	2	
Dabengwa c Chanderpaul b Bravo	West Indies					
Mahwira c Sarwan b Taylor	Gayle c Chibhabha b Utseya	35				
Higgins c Bravo b Gayle	Morton c Higgins b Rainsford	0				
Utseya not out	Sarwan run out (Utseya)	14				
Rainsford not out	Ramdin b Utseya	37				
Extras: (lb-3, w-10, nb-1)	Chanderpaul c Taylor b Utseya	3				
Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs)	Lara not out	40				
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-69, 3-105, 4-121, 5-126, 6-135, 7-142, 8-142, 9-150.	Ramdin not out	9				
	Extras: (lb-1, w-12, nb-3)	16				
	Total: (For 5 wkts in 38.2 overs)	154				

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 "Kling" Cole	7 Bandage material	12 Poetic tribute	13 Milwaukee product	14 Entanglement behind a desk	15 Part of some German names	16 Odin's maidens	18 Illustrations	19 Blotch	20 Handle	22 View-finder?	23 Make coffee, maybe	27 In need of repair	29 "Vagabond Lover" singer	31 Oklahoma tribe	34 Pal of Bugs and Elmer	35 Treasured	37 Wood-shaping tool														
DOWN	2 Decorate before the hour	4 Dallas NBA team, for short	5 Cheered up	6 Post-pone-ment	7 17th-century English actress	8 Melody	9 Swiss canton	10 Last letter	11 Seventh before-10-Down	17 Chicken	21 Counterfeit square	23 Public square	24 Sprite	25 Ump	26 Indispensable	28 Shelter	30 Throw into the mix	31 Breakfast for Brutus	32 Kenny G's instrument	33 Will Smith's birthplace	36 Pub missile	37 Unmelodious	40 Self-confidence	42 Poorly thought out	43 Put one's two cents in	44 Busybody	45 What rodents do	46 Spoo	48 Crossword clue abbr.	49 Candle count	50 Part of UCLA	51 Anteceding

Solution time: 25 mins.

RIP	FETA	HALLO
ADO	IMAM	AMID
POT	STL	DEE
POPE	THE	BAR
EGG	RIO	KOPEK
ERNS	GLO	NOVA
KEEPS	YAP	SIT
YER	KETTLE	
PATHWAY	SIG	
OREO	POSTMARK	
REAL	AWOL	ROTI
TAKE	SLUVE	DEN

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										
15			13			14				
18			17							
20			21			22			23	24
			27	28		29	30			
31	32	33				34				
35						36			37	
38						39	40		41	42
						45			46	47
48	49	50	51						52	
53						54			55	
56						57			58	

CRYPTOQUIP

Q M R V J N L G P I U Q N

XUGNNDAGEIUVORUXIKMGU
RWJPHUIDDRQUIVTGW

LOIA'EIHIIWNGRTIK.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN THE WEDDING PARTY MEMBERS WERE COMPETING, SOMEBODY CRIED "MAY THE BEST MAN WIN!"
Today's Cryptquip Clue: Q equals I

The Cryptquip 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.

Bayern win German Cup



AFP, Berlin

A Claudio Pizarro header earned Bayern Munich a 1-0 German Cup final victory over Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday to put them firmly on course for a second consecutive league and cup double. Pizarro found the net from a corner by substitute Ze Roberto in the 59th minute and it was enough to earn Felix Magath's team their 13th German Cup crown.

Bayern clinched the double last season with a 2-1 cup final victory over Schalke 04 and a second successive league title is on the cards with just five points needed from the remaining three games to ensure their Bundesliga crown.

The 74,349-strong crowd, includ-

ing Germany coach Jurgen Klinsmann, saw a largely well-balanced contest where outsiders Frankfurt refused to make things easy for their more famous opponents.

Early on, Frankfurt managed to close down the channels through which Bayern have fed long passes to Roy Makaay and Pizarro with such success this season and Michael Ballack, as well as the rest of the Bayern midfield, did not have their best of matches.

The first chance of the match fell to Dutchman Makaay after three minutes though Frankfurt had the best opportunity of the first half when lone striker Ioannis Amanatidis narrowly missed the target with a fierce shot from the edge of Oliver Kahn's box.