Windies WC tickets go on sale

AFP, Kingston

Organisers on Monday started selling 800,000 tickets for the 2007 cricket World Cup and said Britain had immediately become the top buying nation outside the West Indies hosts.

The first 3,000 applications came from 50 different countries with Britain, the United States and Australia the top buyers in the early hours, said Chris Dehring, managing director of ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies 2007.

"It is going very well," Dehring told AFP. "We were up at midnight and it was very exciting to watch all the different

The organisers expect more than half of the 800.000 tickets to be sold within the West Indies for the tournament, which starts March 13 and runs through to April

Dehring who is in charge of the World Cup marketing operation said organisers were still hopeful of selling all the tickets. Internet sales on www.cricketworldcup.com will run through July

There is a general guideline reserving 50 percent of tickets for games for the West Indies market.

But this would be changed for high interest internationals such as games involving England and Australia.

England suffer more injury blow

REUTERS, London

will miss the Test series against Sri Lanka because of a back injury, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Tuesday. Anderson's county Lancashire has

England fast bowler James Anderson

received scans that confirmed that the 23-year-old seamer suffered a stress fracture of the lower back, the ECB said. He will be out for at least two months

and will also miss the five Sri Lanka oneday internationals. Anderson has not featured for

Lancashire since returning from England's tour of India and had been considered doubtful for the Test series against Sri Lanka which starts on May 11. England suffered another blow on

Monday when fast bowler Simon Iones left the field with knee trouble during Glamorgan's C&G Trophy match Jones, who missed England's tours of

India and Pakistan with ankle and knee problems, was also due to have a scan on Tuesday.

England captain Michael Vaughan (knee injury), fast bowler Steve Harmison (shin) and spinner Ashley Giles (hernia) are all ruled out of the first TestatLord's.

Bits and Bobs

FROM PAGE 12

Lippi's squad does not include players from Roma and Internazionale due to their Italian Cup final showdown this week, while Christian Vieri has also been omitted after doctors reported $disappointing \, progress \, in \, the \, Monaco$ striker's recovery from injury. Unfortunately for the 32-year-old, his chances of taking part in another FIFA World Cup now appear slim.

Inevitably, the size of the squad and absence of any players from Roma and Inter ensures Lippi's selection offers only limited clues about the final 23 that will be chosen in a fortnight's time. However, the recall of Inzaghi his first call-up by Lippi - suggests that he will almost certainly make the cut for Germany 2006.

With Luca Toni, Alessandro Del Piero, Alberto Gilardino and the recovering Francesco Totti all deemed to be certainties for Germany, and Inzaghi also having seemingly squeezed in under the wire, only one place remains for another striker.

The real

FROM PAGE 12

"Once, after he had done some mischief, I asked him to keep running till I came back," said Das. "When I came back after five hours, I was stunned to find him still running.'

Das said he hoped India's athletics officials will take note of him.

"I think if they send him to Kenya to train for a few years Budhia could be a serious contender at the world level," he said. "He eats and runs, that's all."

Paediatrician Sunil Sehgal, who specialises in child injuries, urged caution.

"That boy needs to slow down," he told AFP. "His body has obviously got used to running because he is doing it everyday, so there may not be immediate problems.

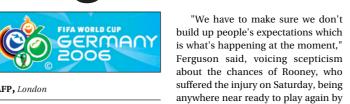
"But he could develop serious cardiac muscular enlargement if he is allowed to run for miles together at a stretch regularly.'

The Orissa state government says it is keeping a close watch on Budhia and his coach and will step in if anyone misuses the boy.

The state's sports minister, Debashis Nayak, has already ruled that Budhia cannot take part in long distance races without clearance from a team of doctors.

Fergie blasts Eriksson An untimely call Boots on the spotlight

"Sven is going on saving he will take



England's World Cup plans were in the time the World Cup kicks off. total disarray on Tuesday after the lad in six weeks and then he will Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson made it clear he would have two weeks to play in the oppose plans to take an injured Wayne quarterfinals of the World Cup. That is

The Scot's sceptical blast poured

icy water all over Eriksson's optimistic

plan to name Rooney in the squad he

will announce on May 15, even if he is

certain not be fit for England's World

Cup opener against Paraguay on June

Rooney to Germany Ferguson described England coach "It's important Wayne gets a good recovery time. It's folly to say Wayne Sven Goran Eriksson's hopes that could be out there in six weeks and Rooney would have recovered from a broken metatarsal bone in his right then play in the World Cup quarterfinals. If Wayne's not ready foot in time to feature in the latter stages of the tournament as "a wild he's not going to go.'

a wild dream

Ferguson had earlier insisted that he would do everything he could to help England's medical staff get Rooney ready in time to play some role in the tournament.

The United boss also acknowledged that Rooney would be personally distraught at missing out after suffering an almost identical injury to the one that ended his involvement in Euro 2004, the tournament at which he announced himself to the world as a precociously talented 18-year-old.

"This time round it's even worse because he's more mature and is a more rounded player who has improved dramatically over the last two years," Ferguson said. "So it's a real, real blow.' The only consolation for Ferguson

was that the striker would be relieved of the burden of carrying all England's hopes in Germany. "I said a few weeks ago I didn't want

to see this kind of pressure on a lad of 20 years of age," he said. "Other more experienced players such as David Beckham, Steven Gerrard, Frank Lampard, John Terry, Rio Ferdinand and Gary Neville, should be taking the

"If England don't have Wayne Rooney they will need to look at getting inspiration from other players."

Primera Liga

Barca ready for party

Football

Barcelona can become Spanish champions for the second successive year if they win at Celta Vigo on Wednesday

It will be the third opportunity for the Catalan club to clinch the title.

For the last two weekends, Barca have been relying on their nearest rivals Valencia to drop points to clinch the title but the 2004 champions failed to oblige. Now, finally, Barcelona's destiny is in

their own hands. Valdes dismissed suggestions that

they would take it easy and then try to win the title in front of their home fans against local rivals Espanyol on Saturday. One worry for Barcelona coach Frank

Rijkaard is that Brazil forward Ronaldinho didn't train on Monday, suffering again from muscle twinges in his legs, but club officials said the World Player of the Year should be fit to play against Celta.

Celta are unlikely to roll over and give Barca an easy victory after having launched a late bid to qualify for the Champions League next season.

They have won their last four games to

move up to fifth, just two points behind fourth-placed Osasuna, and last time out they scored an impressive 2-0 victory in the local Galician derby at Deportivo La

The expressive Vazquez will not be able to direct his players from the sidelines and will have to bite his nails in the stands as he was sent off on Saturday for his constant comments to the referee.

Barcelona must go all out for a win, even though they have one eye on the Champions League final against Arsenal on May 17, because life could become much more complicated if they drop Valencia are Barca's nearest rivals and

eight points behind them, but they have a better head-to-head record and are on a five-game winning streak.

If Valencia close the gap with a win at struggling Real Mallorca earlier on Wednesday then Rijkaard may not be able to afford to rest players in the two remaining league games before the Champions League final. Valencia captain David Albelda will

return after a one match ban while Mallorca will be without their suspended

Third-placed Real Madrid, who are two points behind Valencia, travel to Racing Santander on Thursday

Real will be without their Spanish international goalkeeper Iker Casillas, who was sent off on Sunday during their fraught 1-0 win at Osasuna, so Diego Lopez will start his first league game between the posts for the 29-times Spanish champions.

Julio Baptista, Real's goalscorer at Osasuna, sprained his right ankle late in Sunday's game and is doubtful for the trip north but his place can be filled easily with Zinedine Zidane available again after

(1800 GMT kick-off unless stated) WEDNESDAY

Alaves v Real Betis, Atletico Madrid v

Osasuna, Athletic Bilbao v Real Zaragoza, Cadiz v Real Sociedad, Espanyol v Deportivo la Coruna, Real Mallorca v Valencia, Sevilla v Getafe, Villarreal v Malaga, Celta Vigo v THURSDAY

Racing Santander v Real Madrid (2000)

FIXTURES

Second Test duly drawn

13

30

512

Cricket

Ashwell Prince made an unbeaten runs in his first three innings in the Vettori series lead by drawing the second Test against New Zealand at Newlands Monday.

Prince scored 108 not out as South Africa made 512 all out in reply to New Zealand's first innings total of 593 for eight declared. With no prospect of forcing a result to level the threematch series, New Zealand were 121 for three in their second innings when bad light ended the match.

Prince batted patiently on a pitch that once again offered no help to the bowlers. It took him almost two hours to move from his overnight score of 70 to his fourth Test hundred, which he reached with a straight drive for four off New Zealand left-arm bowler James Franklin. He faced 259 balls and hit nine fours. The South African innings ended shortly after lunch.

New Zealand's opening batsmen again looked shaky against South Africa's new ball pair of Dale Steyn and

Man of the match Stephen Fleming, who scored 262 in the first innings, did not bat in the second innings. Scott Styris, who scored 30 Franklin series, batted in Fleming's usual place Patel at number three and made an unbeaten 54.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Newlands on

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 593-8

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 427-5) 25 Smith c and b Patel Dippenaar b Patel 47 Amla lbw b Vettori Kallis c Martin b Oram 71 Prince not out 108 De Villiers c Papps b Patel 13 Boucher c Fleming b Franklin Boje lbw b Franklin Nel Ibw b Franklin 12

O M R W 63 10 147 2 2 10 33 18 10 24 Oram 0 9 **NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings Papps c Prince b Steyn 20

Fulton c Kallis b Ntini 11 Astle c Smith b Kallis 14 Oram not out Extras: (b-1, lb-9, nb-4) 14 Total: (For 3 wkts in 37 overs) 121 Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-41, 3-81. M Bowler Steyn 9 3 26 2 25 Ntini Nel 2 41

Kallis 3 5 14 Result: Match drawn and South Africa lead the series 1-0. Man-of-the-match: Stepher

Fleming. Remaining Test: Johannesburg, May

Umpires: M Benson (ENG), A de Silva

WI improve to win big

Steyn st McCullum b Vettori

Extras: (b-15, lb-10, nb-5)

Total: (All out in 188 overs)

Ntini run out (Astle)

Cricket

AFP, St John's

West Indies heeded captain Brian Lara's demand for improvement and completed a tidy 98-run victory over Zimbabwe in the second limited-overs international on Sunday at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

Zimbabwe were dismissed for 144 in 46.2 overs chasing a victory target of 243. Lara had called on his team, particu-

larly the new-ball bowlers Jerome Taylor and Fidel Edwards, to show a drastic improvement on their performance $from\,Saturday\,and\,they\,responded.$ Zimbabwe never recovered from the

nightmare of losing their first three wickets -- all to Taylor -- for 11 runs Taylor was the pick of the bowlers with a career-best 4-24 from his allot-

ment of 10 overs to earn the man-of-thematch award for the second straight day. Justice Chibhabha, playing in only his third limited-overs international,

was again the rock upon which Zimbabwe built their total. The 19-year-old hit the top score of

67 from 100 balls which contained eight

boundaries, and added 56 for the fourth wicket with Elton Chigumbura.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-108, 3-252, 4-

West Indies had mounted a late charge to reach 242 for nine from their 50 overs, after purposeful bowling from the Zimbabweans had kept a tight rein on their batsmen.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day

international between West Indies and					
Zimbabwe at the Antigua Recreation					
Ground on Sunday:					
WESTINDIES					
Gayle c Taylor b Mahwire			4	49	
Morton c Taylor b Mupariwa				16	
Sarwan c Coventry b Mupariwa			a :	55	
Ramdin lbw b Utseya				4	
Chanderpaul c Taylor b Chibhabha			4	46	
Lara c Mahwire b Mupariwa				5	
Bravo b Rainsford				9	
Smith b Chibhabha				30	
Bradshawnotout				6	
Taylor b Mahwire				6	
Edwards not out				2	
Extras: (b-1, w-5, nb-8)				14	
Total: (For9wktsin50 overs) 242					
Fall of wickets: 1-70, 2-80, 3-85, 4-154, 5-					
162,6-183,7-218,8-230,9-238.					
Bowler	0	M	R	W	
Rainsford	10	1	32	1	
Mahwire	10	0	58	2	
Mupariwa	10	1	46	3	

7 0 39 10 Utseva 0 51 15 0 Strydom 0 ZIMBABWE Rinke c Bravo b Taylor Duffin b Taylor Chibhabha c Ramdin b Bradshaw Taylor b Taylor Chigumbura c Gayle b Edwards 13 Strydom run out (Bravo) Coventry c Morton b Bravo 0 Mahwire c Ramdin b Gayle 6 $Ut sey a\,c\,Gayle\,b\,Taylor$ Mapuriwa c Edwards b Gayle 16 Rainsford not out Extras: (b-2, lb-7, w-10, nb-2) Total: (All out in 46.1 overs) 144 Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-11, 3-11, 4-67, 5-91, 6-95, 7-114, 8-116, 9-116. M 0 Edwards 0 39

2 21 Smith 0 11 Result: West Indies won by 98 runs and Man-of-the-match: Jerome Taylor Toss:West Indies Umpires: S. Bucknor, B. Bowden.

10

10 0

9.2

3 24

1 13

27

Taylor

Bravo

Gayle

Bradshav

Olympique Marseille goalkeeper Fabien Barthez says he missed Saturday's French Cup final medals ceremony because he had to go and answer the call of nature.

The France keeper did not show up to collect his medal for the runners-up after Marseille lost 2-1 to arch-rivals Paris St Germain in the final at the Stade de France.

"After the match I was dying to go, so I went to the locker room," Barthez said in comments posted on his club's

"There, I met (Marseille officials) Jose Anigo and Louis Acaries and we talked. When I went to collect my medal, I bumped into my teammates who were coming back (from the

"It all went very quickly. I have no problems whatsoever with the Federation or the League.

Barthez, competing with Olympique Lyon's Gregory Coupet for the number one spot in France's World Cup squad, was suspended for six months last year for spitting at a

Sheva cools rift rumours

INTERNET, undated

Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko has denied stories of a rift between himself and boss Carlo Ancelotti

The latest speculation of possible problems between the pair erupted on Sunday afternoon after Shevchenko's controversial exit from the Livorno

After seeing his side go 2-0 up, the Ukrainian international was substituted and reacted by mouthing vulgarities towards the Rossoneri bench. However, the former European

Footballer of the Year has quickly diffused the situation by apologising for his foul-mouthed behaviour. "I was upset with myself," he stated on national television last night. "I was

didn't take advantage of two or three "We've had a hard season and it is clear that we are all a little tired and it's hard to keep in charge of our emo-

a little agitated with the fact that I

"The game was important and l always look to do my work in the best possible manner, I expect a lot from

need to discuss anything," he added. "I really didn't think that this controversy could be born out of what happened this afternoon during the

the game because there really was no

"Ancelotti? We didn't speak after

"I have great respect for Carlo as a Coach and also as a man. We have a great relationshin.'

42 8 117 3 **West Indies** extend side

AFP, St John's

54

West Indies have increased their squad to 14 for the third and fourth limited-overs internationals against Zimbabwe on Saturday and Sunday at Guvana's Bourda Oval.

Left-handed opening batsman

Sewnarine Chattergoon, who hails from Guyana, is the only complete newcomer of the three replacements brought into the squad. Fast bowler Tino Best and left-arm

chinaman bowler Dave Mohammed are the other players that have been added. All-rounder Dwayne Brayo and

Bradshaw are the players that will make room from the 13 named for the first two matches. West Indies captain Brian Lara had indicated last week when he was appointed to the position for the third time that he would like to see more

left-arm medium-fast bowler Ian

ICC World Cup in the West Indies. The selections for the third and fourth matches seem to be in keeping with this policy. It affords Chattergoon his first crack at the international level, and earn Best and Mohammed recalls

players exposed ahead of the 2007

The home team will travel to the Guyana capital of Georgetown on Wednesday, leading the seven-match

Ashraful goes "I don't know where the problem lies.

On most occasions I had a good start but failed to capitalise. I think playing for Rainhill will be an opportunity for me to gain consistency. I believe that it is always exciting and challenging to score runs in English conditions," said Ashraful, who have played some brilliant knocks in both version of the game.

BU end losing FROM PAGE 12

But we could have won had Emily or Masud Rana utilised two good chances," said Brothers coach Wajed Gazi after the match.

"We were defensive because the opponents were stronger. I hope we play better in our next match against Mahindra," he added.

Football

AFP, London

If Wayne Rooney's latest injury has got England fans worried, the use of new, lightweight football boots by some of the world's top players could start alarm bells ringing.

Four years after David Beck-ham's foot injury first brought the words 'metatarsal bone' into common parlance, Rooney is facing the same

he will wear during the World Cup.

injury agony ahead of the 2006 finals.

The World Cup hopes of England's

most deadly striker are now hanging in

the balance after he broke a metatarsal

in his foot while playing for

Manchester United in their 3-0 defeat

other England teammates in a race

against time to be fit for the start of the

However it is the nature of

Rooney's injury, the latest in a long

line, which has raised questions over

Rooney, 20, has now joined two

to Chelsea on Saturday.

World Cup finals on June 9.

football boots which, some say, are being designed with fashion more than effectiveness in mind.

"We are becoming more concerned about style now," former England international John Hollins told The Daily Telegraph.

"It is a matter of showing what you have on your feet: green boots, yellow boots, white boots, '

Rooney's injury has not only sent shockwaves through the England

lighter micro-fibres in the boot con-World Cup squad and its loyal army of struction rather than old-style leather. "Nothing occurred in any of our tests to indicate the player would be at

The boot is more durable and it keeps the shape around the player's foot. "In some ways, I think these inju-

ries are more linked to the speed the game is played at now." Like many similar boots, Rooney's are designed to offer more 'feel' with the ball. But as opposed to older foot-

ball boots, which players would use for a season, the newer models are often discarded after a few weeks or games. A number of injuries to key players -- and at crucial times for England in particular -- has placed doubts over the ability of hi-tech boots to protect

Rooney's England teammates David Beckham, Gary Neville, Michael Owen and Ledlev King have all suffered similar foot injuries.

players from the rigours of British

Newcastle striker Owen is cur-Nike said Rooney -- who helped to rently fighting to be fit for the finals design the Total 90 model, which is after injuring the fifth metatarsal bone made from synthetic materials and in his foot, and King is facing a similar features laces on the side rather than on the top of the boot -- had already

Lizarazu to retire

Picture shows Wayne Rooney holding the new lightweight boots by Nike that

Football

Former French international defender and World Cup winner Bixente Lizarazu will quit football at the end of this season, the player said Sunday.

The 36-year-old Bayern Munich full-back follows fellow 1998 World Cup hero Zinedine Zidane into retirement after the Real Madrid star announced he was quitting after the World Cup this summer.

"I am following a little like Zidane who annouced his retirement just a few days ago. I have been a professional footballer for 18 years and I have decided to stop at the end of this season," Lizarazu told Canal+ televi-

"My last match will be on May 13 with Bayern Munich. It's the end of a will have a new job there." Lizarazu started his career at Bordeaux (1984-1996) before moving to Bayern where he spent the next seven years until July 2004. He returned to France and played at Marseille for six months before

heading back to Bayern, the team he

long road but also the start of a new

fans, it has also forced his new sponsor

The sports giant have reacted

strongly to any suggestions that their

boot may be to blame for Rooney's

injury, stressing that medical staff at

United had confirmed there was no

Nike on the defensive

worn them for two weeks.

helped to five German titles and five He also picked up a Champions League winner's medal and

Intercontinental Cup trophy in 2001. He played 97 times for France and scored twice with the highlight of his international career coming in 1998 when the French won the World Cup

followed by the Euro 2000 title. Lizarazu quit international football after France's quarterfinal defeat to $Greece\,at\,Euro\,2004.$

declaration timing one as I am going into television and **AFP,** Cape Town New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said after a drawn second Test against South Africa at Newlands Monday that he declared too early when his side scored a massive 593 for eight in the first

Fleming rues

Fleming countered criticism of his decision to bat on into the third day. He said the best chance of winning

had been to force South Africa to follow "I needed everything I could get. I probably needed more. The follow on was our only real chance. We had to bowl

South Africa twice. When you commit to that you have to get enough cash in the bank." He said it might have been better to let James Franklin and Jeetan Patel

continue their free-scoring unbeaten

ninth wicket partnership of 58 for anotherhalfhour. However, South African captain Graeme Smith said he was surprised New Zealand had batted on so long, especially the way the Test match had gone with light in the evening and dew in the morning. They went past a point of having to make a game of it, they had to

South Africa responded by scoring 512, with centuries by Hashim Amla and Ashwell Prince, batting until after lunch on the final day. New Zealand were 121 for three when bad light ended the

try and make us follow on."

Johannesburg on Friday.

Smith said South Africa would look to play more aggressively in the third and final Test starting at the Wanderers in

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 34 Techno 52 What-20 Lamb's 1 Monotransever's 23 Shea mission left over logue 35 It's 53 Witness compo-

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BIXENTE LIZARAZU

hope ounce 8 Be philan- 37 Viral 2 Emana ailment thropic tion 38 GE. to 3 "- life! otherwise 4 Consider 13 Tom Joad. 45 Enthusi 14 Second-46 Nimbus 6 Old Italian 15 Skill 48 Sousa bread 16 Galley 7 PC place phone's

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Solution time: 27 mins.

athlete 24 Grecian vessel 25 Cambridge sch. 26 Cake maker's shortcut 27 Kids' card 29 Mauna 31 Big cat 32 Decisive 34 Enjoy

35 Close, but no cigar 36 Majestic ETUVRF 37 Creates origami CBMTQQA MVV GNTG'F VIAY 38 Labyrinth choice

symptom 40 Judicial 41 Walking stick 42 Rara -

river

Boola

44 "Boola

39 Malaria GNA KTFF UAYTDAQBA. 43 Cleo's

CRYPTOQUIP

IKTX TCVRG T

VYKX GV XVRYD DBQKF:

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CUSTOMER IS GROSSLY OVERCHARGED FOR AN UMBRELLA, I RECKON THEY'VE BEEN SOAKED. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals O

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.

any risk," said Collet. "The boot was specifically designed for Wayne and has incorporated three different types of protec-"Every time we bring a boot out, the safety aspect is improved in some way

"Any boot needs to be a mixture of

"Medical staff at Manchester

protection and performance, however

no boot can provide a guarantee

against injuries," said a Nike spokes-

United have confirmed that there is no

ink between the boots and the injury

And Nike boot developer Cedric

Collet insisted there was no added risk

to the safety of a player by the use of

sustained by Wayne.'