Flying start

superb cross from Mariano Pernia. but his powerful header went

for Spain when he ran on to a through ball to beat the stricken keeper with an unstoppable shot just inside the area in the 81st

TEAMS

Pablo, Carles Puvol, Mariano Pernia: Xavi, Xabi Alonso (David Albelda 55). Marcos Senna; Luis Garcia (Francesc Fabregas 77); Fernando Torres, DavidVilla (Raul 55).

Volodymyr Yezersky, Andriy Rusol, Vladislav Vashchuk, Andriy Nesmachnyi; Oleg Gusiev (Andriy Vorobyey 46), Anatolii Tymoschuk, Andriy Gusin (Oleg Shelayev 46), Ruslan Rotan (Sergei Rebrov 64); Andriy Voronin; Andriy Shevchenko.

VolodymyrYezersky (52) Red card: Vladislav Vashchuk (47) Referee: M Busacca (Switzerland) Attendance: 43,000

LEADING SCORERS

Alonso (Spain), Zinha (Mexico).

WC BRIEFS

Dujkovic-Strasse, after the names of the Italian and Ghanaian handlers and hanging up the names of Mexico's Ricardo Lavolpe and Luis

2nd-hand chewing-gum

Cup and tournament-related memorabilia knows no ends on eBay, the online auctioneer.

owned and munched by German keeper Jens Lehmann as he conceded the second goal during the opening day 4-2 win over Costa Rica -- according to the seller -went up on the site for one euro. The sticky item went for four euros.

Inviting Nivel

Nivel spent six months in a coma after being attacked by German hooligans before the 1998 World Cup in France. A German with links to the far-right was sentenced to five years in jail







(England's World Cup midfielder) "Chelsea is a great club with great fans and when the World Cup is over I am looking forward to the new season when we will challenge again for the Champions League and all the other trophies." After signing a new four-year

FROM PAGE 17 straight to Shovkovskyi.

Torres then capped the goalscoring

SPAIN: Iker Casillas; Sergio Ramos,

UKRAINE: Oleksandr Shovkovskyi;

Yellow card: Andriy Rusol (16)

FROM PAGE 17

(Spain), Frings (Germany), Golmohammadi (Iran), Iaquinta (Italy), Kaka (Brazil), Koller (Gzech Republic), Lahm (Germany), Lee Chun-soo (South Korea), Mohamed Kader (Togo), Nakamura (Japan), Pauleta (Portugal), Pirlo (Italy), Robben (Netherlands), Saviola (Argentina), Xabi

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Legendary West Indian off-spinner

Lance Gibbs spent some time with

Harbhajan Singh, advising him

how to bowl the straighter one

crucial half-an-hour session in

Harbhajan's career, he was taught

how to use the index finger judi-

ciously during his delivery process.

bowling the straighter one without

any change of action," Gibbs told

bowled it without my spinning

finger (index finger) touching the

We know the England game will be

very tough," John said. "You are

only as good as your last game but

we ground out a result against

Sweden and hopefully we can build

ing all over the world will be talking

about this and Trinidad and Tobago

Beenhakker -- who must be the

only coach in the World Cup who

bicycles to training -- has been in

Scots backing Trinidad

British bookmakers said

Wednesday they were bracing for

the biggest betting mismatch in

World Cup history, with only a

handful of Scots backing Trinidad

pounds (dollars, euros) has been

wagered on England to win

Thursday's Group B match in

Nuremberg, less than a thousand

pounds has been bet on the unfan-

cied Soca Warriors, said bookmak-

And their biggest backer -- who

placed exactly 100 pounds (184

dollars, 146 euros) on them to win

at odds of 11 to one -- is a com-

puter-betting Scot living on the

more on Trinidad and Tobago -- but

to date we've taken over a hundred

bets on England for every one

we've taken on them," said

Ladbrokes spokesman Robin

"This could be the biggest mis-

"The only money we've seen

(for Trinidad) has come from north

of the border unsurprisingly -- and

even they're not too confident. We

might buy Shetland to celebrate

and move in next to the Internet

The bookmaker has taken just

11 bets totalling 20.20 pounds on

the Soca Warriors winning 1-0 at

Trinidad and Tobago are a popu-

lar team among Scottish punters

keen to see the auld enemy humili-

ated -- particularly because they

have a certain striker Jason

Scotland, who plays for Scottish

Scotland's First Minister Jack

McConnell has publicly refused to

support England in the World Cup

and has since been accused of

British bookies took around 350

million pounds during the 2002

World Cup in Japan and South

first division side St Johnstone.

stoking anti-English racism.

match in World Cup history.

customer if they win."

odds of 20 to one

"We're expecting a few pounds

remote Shetland Islands.

While hundreds of thousands of

and Tobago to beat England.

AFP, London

ers Ladbrokes.

Hutchison.

players for years to come."

"People who have been watch-

Trinidad's Dutch coach Leo

FROM PAGE 17

"He wanted to know about

"And I showed him how I

In what could turn out to be a

without changing his action.

Oliveira Goncalves instead.

You can buy anything at the World

A piece of chewing-gum formerly

Daniel Nivel, the French policeman who suffered brain damage after being attacked by German hooligans at the 1998 World Cup, was Wednesday attending Germany's match against Poland in Dortmund following an invite from German football federation

general secretary Horst R Schmidt.

Uwe Seeler of West Germany became the first European player to play in four consecutive World Cups. He played his last





Joe Cole

champions Chelsea.

contract with Premier League

The local **World Cup**

SPORTS REPORTER

The first-ever BRAC Bank Cup -- a five-a-side football tournament is to get underway at International School Dhaka's (ISD) indoors facilities on June 16.

Thirty-two teams from the top corporate houses of the country are taking part in this weeklong com-

The tournament was launched in light of the ongoing FIFA World Cup and the ensuing passion it has

BRAC Bank is the main sponsor of the event along with RC Cola.

Managing director of BRAC Bank Imran Ahmed, chief operating officer of BRAC Bank Kaiser Tamiz Amin, head of external affairs of BRAC Bank Imtiaz Ahmed Siddiqui and owner of Excalibur Holdings Farhan Quddus were present at a press conference organised in this connection at a local restaurant yesterday.

Sania survives early hiccup

BBC ONLINE, undated

shared with Greg Chappell, India's

coach. Gibbs had played along with

Chappell at both Glenelg, at club

level, and South Australia, at state

Sunday, Gibbs had said, "I haven't

yet met Chappell but I'm certain

that he would want me to have a

Gibbs isn't the first expert to

work with members of the Indian

team on this tour. Rudi Webster, the

famous psychologist, too had

spent some time with the players,

including a two-and-a-half hour

session with Virender Sehwag,

while Andy Roberts, the legendary

fast bowler, offered some valuable

tips with regard to Irfan Pathan's

two and two make four -- but in

football they often make three or

Beenhakker has also ques-

"England have great players but

"It's like Real Madrid. You can

"Prisoners are provided with

cable television in a designated

area. Some are very keen to watch

the matches as their countries are

The jail has 643 foreign inmates,

Inmates at Karachi's main

women's prison have also caught

World Cup fever, and they too are

being allowed to stay up late, said

cheer every goal. They seem to

forget their problems," Bashiran

said of her charges who include

three women from Ghana, one

from Germany and six from Ivory

Pakistan has never played in a

World Cup finals and comes 153rd

in world football rankings but the

World Cup is followed with huge

man-of-the-match awards

because the prize is sponsored by a

leading beer company, officials

The Saudi Arabian Football

Federation made the announce-

ment ahead of the desert king-

dom's opening game, an all-Arab

No beer-sponsored

awards

said on Wednesday.

"They watch intensely and

warder, Bashiran Bibi.

most of them serving time for drug

tioned whether England are genu-

ine title contenders, and believes

they have struggled to gel as a unit.

they don't win tournaments and

you have to ask yourself why,'

have all of the stars in the world but

if you cannot play as a team then

Eriksson said.

the stars do not matter.

BITS AND BOBS

the World Cup.

told reporters.

chat with Harbhajan."

While chatting with Cricinfo on

India's Sania Mirza was given a tough first-round game at the DFS Classic in Edgbaston by Ukraine's Alona Bondarenko before coming through 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Mirza's match was one of only four to be completed on a rain-hit second day.

Two-time defending champion Maria Sharapova's match with Ahsha Rolle was one of those rained off and the pair will now play their match on Wednesday.

Jarmila Gajdosova of Slovakia, Shuai Peng of China and American Bethanie Mattek were the only other

Brazil 'planned'

FROM PAGE 24

champions they could not be intimidated. One brilliant tackle in the second half by Robert Kovac summed up their speed of thought and their commitment.

Kranjcar's son Niko had a fine game in his usual attacking midfield role and went close with a header late in the game when Croatia looked as though they were easily capable of securing a draw.

Captain Niko Kovac, who failed to finish the game after picking up a rib injury following a heavy chal-lenge from Brazil's Ze Roberto towards the end of the first half, agreed with his coach on what their priorities were now.

"We have to win both of the other games. We knew that before but now it's reality," he said. "Now we all need to concentrate on that.'

training later on Wednesday whether he would be fit in time for the next game against Japan on

He said he would know after Sunday in Nuremberg.

Nearby Bahrain has used a locally produced fizzy drink

AFP, London

Scotland's leading politician has stoked anti-English racism by refusing to support the England team playing at the World Cup in Germany, an England fan charged

First Minister Jack McConnell of putting English people living in Scotland at risk, after Robinson's windows were smashed because he was displaying the St. George's flag, The Times reported.

tigating an "act of vandalism" on Robinsons home in Coatbridge in which three windows were smashed during the opening game of the tournament last Friday.

and my windows going through, I think its all to do with what Jack McConnell says," Robinson was quoted as saying.

Asked last month whether he would be supporting England, McConnell said: "No, I will not. Scotland is not there and thats disappointing. And there are people who think that as First Minister should automatically support England instead. But football is not The First Ministers office denied

that McConnell had encouraged racism against the English, according to The Times. A spokesman refused to discuss the incident but said: "There is no

place for racism in Scotland and we will do whatever we can to tackle This week a group of 60 chartered surveyors from England typical European style, both trying to weigh each other's strength, perhaps bothered by the fact that France and Switzerland -- pitted in the same qualifying group -- drew

In another goalless draw, France revived memories of Korea/Japan mate, not the way one shoots at the opposition goalkeeper. Here goes zero'. If France are to go anywhere in the tournament, Henry will have

The closest Henry came when his shot hit defender Patrick Mueller's hand inside the box with the Russian referee, who showed eight yellow cards -- not all of them looked bookable offences -- giving. benefit of doubt to the Swiss.

Compact and well organised, Switzerland seemed happy with a draw against the group top-seeds. Why shouldn't they be, this was their first ever match in a World Cup without conceding a single

French goal when his legworks substitute midfielder Daniel Gygax. Barthez, playing his third World Cup, however, could thank Alexander Frei for mistiming a header from close range when Tranquillo Barnetta's long-range freekick ran harmlessly across the

England beat neighbours

AFP, Belfast

A complete washout

Cricket

India hopes of victory may have been

dashed, and West Indies' chances of

salvation enhanced, when not a ball

was bowled on the scheduled fourth

Beausejour Cricket Ground through-

out the day, and West Indies, follow-

ing on 373 runs behind on first

The home team was set to con-

tinue from their bedtime total of 43

for one in their second innings, with

opener Daren Ganga not out on 24,

alongside West Indies captain and

batting superstar Brian Lara not out

Replying to India's first innings total of 588 for eight declared, West

Indies had been dismissed for 215

about 10 minutes past the scheduled

teabreak on Monday's third day, and

Umpires Simon Taufel and Asad

Rauf conducted several inspections

of the outfield on Tuesday, but the Kingston (June 30-July 4).

India enforced the follow-on.

innings, were offered respite from

Persistent showers drenched the

day in the second Test on Tuesday.

AFP, Gros Islet

the eager Indians.

rain never relented, and play was

eventually called off about half-hour

The weather outlook from the St

"Cloudy to overcast with periods

The Met Office added that a tropi-

cal wave -- a typical phenomenon at

this time of the year in the Caribbean-

- is producing cloudiness, showers,

and thunderstorms over the islands,

including St Lucia, at the southern

The first Test of the series at the

Antigua Recreation Ground ended in

a tense draw, with the West Indies'

last wicket pair of Edwards and

Collymore surviving the last 19 balls

Basseterre (June 22-26), and

The series concludes with Tests at

Lucia meteorological office has

predicted more of the same on

Wednesday's fifth and final day.

their website indicated.

end of the Caribbean chain.

from June to October.

of the match.

England won their inaugural oneday international against Ireland by 38 runs at Stormont at Belfast on Tuesday.

England, who won the toss, of moderate to heavy showers and made 301 for seven in their 50 isolated thunderstorms," a report on overs and Ireland in reply finished on 263 for nine.

Opener Marcus Trescothick's 113 was the centrepiece of England's total and, when the visitors fielded, fast bowler Stephen Harmison led the attack with three for 58.

The four-Test series, level at 0-0, South Africa-born Andre falls at the start of the Botha's 52 was Ireland's only fifty rainy/hurricane season in the of the match. Caribbean that traditionally runs

England's first one-day international of the northern season served as a warm-up for their five match limited overs series against Sri Lanka, starting at Lord's on

But before then they face Sri Lanka in a one-off Twenty20 encounter at Hampshire's Rose Bowl ground on Thursday.



AFTER A LONG TIME: Former Russian tennis player Anna Kournikova (R) and her popstar boyfriend Enrique Iglesias watch the NBA finals between Miami Heat and Dallas Mavericks at the American Airlines Arena in Miami on Tuesday.

Third Eye

Ronaldo who took the role of a

holding midfielder during their final training session before the opener, gave a pedestrian performance before the 2002 World Cup hero was substituted by his Real Madrid teammate, the young and exuberant Robinho. Brazil's strikeforce never looked like scoring as Adriano looked short of sharpness as well. Dida could easily fill in either for Ronaldo or Adriano as striker, he scored twice in the training session, but the towering AC Milan star would be needed at Brazil goal to make up for a leaky defence that was exposed by Dado Prso's indefatigable runs. Apart from Dida, who stopped three close-range shots to save the holders from possible embarrassment, Kaka and Emerson were the only persons consistent in their roles of providing passes and stopping opposition attacks respectively.

The Brazilians, constantly chased by a packed Croatian midfield, played so unlike them that there were no defence splitting passes in 90 minutes. They only threatened on long-range efforts with Kaka, Ronaldinho and Roberto Carlos taking their chances. Ronaldinho only sparkled outside the penalty area and he looked a shadow of the player who has won the FIFA Player of the Year award in successive seasons.

Had not Croatia lost their captain and playmaker Niko Kovac before the break, things could have been different. Well, they say the team to have a flying start do not always go all the way. Picking up at the right moment is the key.

Brazil beware, playing like this

At Stuttgart, the start was of

both the games. 2002 when the 1998 champions went out of the group stage without scoring a single goal although Zinedine Zidane provided some flair. The biggest disappointment, however, was Thierry Henry who got the ball in the danger zone quite often but the Arsenal penalty area specialist failed to transform his club-form into international success once again. He took a few attempts but most of them were like sending nice passes to a teamthe phrase, 'Arsenal hero, France to be sharper.

They created the best chances on the day but veteran Fabian Barthez proved his worth at the denied a close-range header by

pitch in the first half after kissing the far post.

Frank Ribery, who for the first time started for the Les Blues, sparkled occasionally while subs Luis Saha and Vikash Dhorasoo combined to almost give France a late winner. No wonder Juventus striker David Trezeguet -- third in France's all-time goalscoring list -was screaming from the sideline throughout the game t have a piece of the action. But it seemed that coach Raymond Domenech wasn't

listening. In the first game of the day, South Korea and Togo both had points to prove. Debutants Togo, going through chaos after the tournament's oldest coach Otto Pfister's quitting the team and return before the game, took a stunning lead through Mohamed Kader who plays for French club Guingamp. The Africans were celebrating too early and Korea, under pressure to prove their success four years back at home was no fluke, levelled with a spectacular freekick from Lee Chun-Soo as soon as Togo captain Abalo was sent-off.

Korea took things under control and it was their 2002 World Cup hero Ahn Jung-hwan, scorer of crucial goals on way to the semifinals four years earlier, made it 2-1 with a dipping shot coming in as a substitute to give the Asians their first ever World Cup victory on

Korea's Dutch connection seemed to have done the trick as they started with an attacking 3-4-3 formation under coach Dick Advocaat and the introduction of Ahn saw them play with four strikers to the end. Well, this World Cup was promised to be full of attacking teams and we have found nothing

trophy, at Arsenal's expense, and Shevchenko refused to talk about Puyol in the build-up to the Spain Saudi Arabian footballers will not be allowed to accept World Cup Puyol insisted: 'We both have

our own interests but there is no problem between us. 'I'm not sure if he is 100% but even if he is not he is a very danger-

ous player and I will have to take

Imran Ahmed, managing director of BRAC Bank, addresses a press conference of the BRAC Bank Cup at a city res-

about the basics of off-spin bowl-

to demonstrate how it was done

but he revealed that he planned to

have a session during the fifth day

wickets in 79 games and even held

the world record for a short while,

was known for his lethal drifter, one

which he bowled with hardly any

change of action. "I used to bowl it

differently," Gibbs said about the

ball that left the right-handed

away from the seam of the ball and

get the ball to go in straight or let it

was one Gibbs expected to have,

fans into practice sessions for team

and Real Madrid coach says

Trinidad showed against Sweden

that his players would not be intim-

idated by facing England's super-

"The Swedes played with strik-

"We're not talking mathematics

ers from Juventus, Arsenal and

Barcelona. We had lads from

Jabloteh, Gillingham and

Korea and are expecting to do three

or four times better for this year's

Puyol denies Sheva rift

Spain defender Carles Puyol insists

there is no bad blood between

himself and Ukraine striker Andriy

close contact later on Wednesday

when the eastern Europeans make

their World Cup debut at the

Zentralstadion in Leipzig, although

Shevchenko, Chelsea's £30million

capture from AC Milan, will have to

pass a fitness test on a knee prob-

pitch, in April, there was even more

at stake as Barcelona and Milan

were fighting for a place in the

leg but in the return at the Nou

Camp Shevchenko thought he had

cancelled out that advantage - only

to be penalised for a foul on Puyol

The Catalans went on to lift the

Barcelona led 1-0 from the first

When the pair last met on the

lem if he is to take part.

Champions League final.

he insists never happened.

The pair are likely to come into

tournament in Germany.

INTERNET, undated

Shevchenko.

The 63-year-old former Holland

The interaction with Harbhajan

"I could take my spinning finger

Gibbs, who ended with 309 Test

of the match.

drift a little.

Time to turn on the style

starline-up.

relaxed mood this week, allowing here," said Beenhakker. "Normally

Wrexham," he said.

seam. We generally discussed considering the friendship he

Gibbs didn't get the opportunity

Gibbs's tips for Bhaji

Late night watching

permitted REUTERS, Karachi

Authorities in one of Pakistan's biggest jails are letting footballmad inmates, including hundreds of foreigners, stay up late to watch World Cup soccer matches. Prisoners in Landhi jail in

Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, are

usually only allowed to watch

television until 11 p.m. (1900 GMT)

but the rule has been dropped for

Federation. player should accept it."

Dabel of the Saudi Arabian Football "We won't accept this award for religious reasons. No Muslim

clash with Tunisia. "The main reason is because the sponsoring company specialises in alcohol, and the award itself is a cup of beer," said Abdullah al-

The Islamic nation enforces a strict ban on drinking, producing or importing alcohol with transgressors facing weeks or months in prison or even lashes.

instead of champagne to spray on the podium at the end of its Formula One Grand Prix. **Anti-English sentiment**

playing in it. We've allowed some relaxation," said the superintendent of the prison, Anwar Mustafa

in remarks published Wednesday. Allan Robinson, 44, accused

Police said that they were inves-

"Me putting up a single flag.

about politics, so I will not be."

won't get you past the Round of 16, where the two most dangerous teams of the tournament, probably cancelled a two-day conference at Czech Republic or Italy, would be a hotel in Scotland because of waiting for you. McConnells comments.