BD A scrape with draw

Bangladesh A survived a scare to manage a draw against Zimbabwe A on the fourth and final day of the second four-day match at the Mutare Sports Clubgroundyesterday.

Hamilton Masakadza led from the front with a superb 209-ball 131 in his team's valiant effort to chase down an improbable target of 381 but bad lights brought the game to a halt with merely three more overs remaining with the scoreboard reading on 352-8, 29 runs adrift from the target.

The home team, which conceded a 122 runs first innings lead after bundling out for 258 runs in reply to Bangladesh's 380, resumed the day with 47-1 with 334 more runs needed on the final day to overtake the Bangladesh total.

Mufambisi chipped in with 45 off

For the tourists, left-arm spinner Enamul Haque and Sakib Al Hasan captured two wickets each while veterans Hasibul Hossain. Mohammad Sharif, Tushar Imran and rookie Mahbubul Alam, took

The second string Bangladesh side are leading the three-match series 1-0 after winning the first game by seven wickets and the third and final four-day match will start at the Queen's Sports Club ground in Bulawayo from June 30.

Controversial

FROM PAGE 17

Grosso was sent tumbling in the box and up stepped the number 10 to send the Azzurri fans wild with

TEAMS

ITALY: Gianluigi Buffon; Gianluca Zambrotta, Fabio Cannavaro (captain), Marco Materazzi, Fabio Grosso; Simone Perrotta, Andrea Pirlo, Gennaro Gattuso; Alessandro Del Piero (Francesco Totti 75); Alberto Gilardino (Vincenzo Iaquinta 46), Luca Toni (Andrea

Yellow card: Fabio Grosso (29), Gennaro Gattuso (89), Gianluca

Red card: Marco Materazzi (51) AUSTRALIA: Mark Schwarzer; Craig Moore, Lucas Neill, Scott Chipperfield; Jason Culina, Vince Grella, Luke Wilkshire; Mile Sterjovski (John Aloisi 82), Tim Cahill, Marco Bresciano; Mark

Viduka (captain). Yellow card: Vince Grella (23), Tim Cahill (49), Luke Wilkshire (61). Referee: Luis Medina Cantalejo

Attendance: 46,000.



Northern Ireland goalkeeper Pat Jennings became the oldest player to take part in the 1986 World Cup finals when he tended goal for his country during the 3-0 defeat against Brazil. The evergreen 'keeper was 41 years and 119 days and announced his international retirement at the end of the





Jose Pekerman

(Argentina football coach) Football is a combination of tactical discipline, mental stability, a winning mentality and the ability of the players at key times, and overall I think we were worthy

After beating Mexico 2-1 in the World Cup.



STAR Sports Wimbledon Championships First Round

Live at 4:30 pm

SPORTS REPORTER

GLOOM AT WIMBLEDON: A spectator waits for the rain to stop after drizzle delayed the start of play on the first day of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships

"It's the first time we've camped

out and it was very wet and cold,"

she said, as she purchased a pon-

cho in preparation for a 0330 GMT

start in the queue on Tuesday

Henman fanatic said she would

rather see England win the World

Cup than witness her hero winning

but we have to wait every four years

for the World Cup," she explained.

the Red Hot and Blue Orchestra

plinked through the motions as

fans chugged through jugs of

The announcement that the

Former tournament referee

Alan Mills said it was strange to be

back wandering among the crowds

at the Championships without the

don't have to get here early every

"I can enjoy it more now that I

"And if it rains I'm allowed to go

He said dealing with the

"It's the only spanner that can

"The British people are so stoic

with the weather, they definitely

weather was the hardest part of his

start of play had been delayed was

greeted with barely a shrug.

stress of running the show.

be thrown in the works.

don't let it affect their fun.'

Under their tent in the grounds,

'Tim could win here next year

Wimbledon.

Pimm's and beer.

day." he told AFP

home now.

But despite her devotion, the

Wimbledon's wet start

Tennis

AFP, London

After a month of blazing sunshine over Britain, grey skies and drizzle heralded the start of the Wimbledon Championships -- but tennis lovers insisted nothing could dampen their enthusiasm.

Some hardy fans had camped in the queue through an overnight downpour to secure themselves a ticket, while first-timers soaked up the atmosphere, sampling the traditional strawberries and cream while familiarising themselves with the hallowed venue.

Despite the distractions of England's run to the football World Cup quarter-finals, fans still flocked to the well-heeled Wimbledon suburb in southwest London to catch a glimpse of stars like reigning singles champions

Roger Federer and Venus Williams. Dressed in his spectacular ostrich feather hat and eyecatching red jacket, the town crier of London, Peter Moore, hollered out an ear-splitting message to the tennis throng: "O yez, o yez, o yez!" bellowed the ruddy-faced 68-year-

"Welcome to the All England Lawn Tennis Championships 2006. Good luck to Tim Henman and favourite. maybe this year we'll have a British champion. God save the queen!"

most fashionable team in Germany

FROM PAGE 17

nothing could temper such enthusiasm on the first day of

"I come every year, it's the high-light of the calendar. I think it's great," he told AFP.

The town crier had been raising spirits among those who queued "I like talking to all the real

tennis fans. There is no class distinction at Wimbledon. The common man as well as everybody else is here. Nothing dampens the true tennis fan's spirits. Newspaper seller Pam

Lawrence was having trouble shifting her soggy broadsheet titles outside entry gate five. "Had I been selling a free cape with each copy I'd have made a

fortune," she grumbled. The official Wimbledon rain ponchos were going down a storm at five pounds (9.10 dollars, 7.25

euros) each. "They've been selling quite well, more than the cushions," said vendor Rob Sorrell, 19, outside

Centre Court. "We sell more on a day when rain was not forecast as people come prepared."

Henman worshippers mother and daughter Di and Kay Webber camped out all night in the queue for the chance to roar on the home

"We desperately want to see Tim," said Kay, 30, decked out in a The gravel-throated Moore said giant, home-made "Tim" felt tie.

Ballack finds

FROM PAGE 17

his frustration in full view of the TV cameras. With anger creasing his features, he threw out an arm in a gesture of the purest irritation as the ball yet again refused to cross the goalline.

It was Ballack's 68th international and the 777th in the history of the German Football Association, but his failure to strike a 32nd goal for his country ended up being of no importance, as the player himself explained: "That fact I didn't score didn't matter at all, because our strikers combined brilliantly and looked fantastic on the ball. So it wasn't that important that I didn't score,'

In the final analysis, one thing seems a lot more critical: ahead of the eagerly-awaited quarter-final meeting with Argentina in Berlin, Ballack and the rest of the team offered evidence of a state of physical fitness not far short of 100 per

The team's labours at training camps led by fitness experts Mark Verstegen and Oliver Schmidtlein in Sardinia and Geneva ahead of the tournament have produced individuals with outstanding physical staying power and stamna. These will be essential foundations for the focus and mental strength which will be needed to counter the Argentines' exceptional technical prowess.

Leading Scorers

FROM PAGE 17 Dindane (Ivory Coast), Frei (Switzerland),

Gerrard (England), Henry (France), Maniche (Portugal), Ronaldo (Brazil), Rosicky (Czech Republic), Shevchenko (Ukraine), C. Tenorio (Ecuador), Villa (Spain), Wanchope (Costa Rica). : Adriano (Brazil), Ahn Jung-hwan (South

Korea), Al Jaber (Saudi Arabia), Al Kahtani (Saudi Arabia), Allback (Sweden), Aloisi (Australia), Appiah (Ghana), Bakhtiarizadeh (Iran), Barnetta (Switzerland), Beckham (England), Cambiasso (Argentina), J Cole (England), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Crouch (England), Cuevas (Paraguay), Deco (Portugal), Dempsey (USA), Dramani Ghana), Drogba (Ivory Coast), Flavio (Angola), Fonseca (Mexico), Fred (Brazil), Frings (Germany), Gilardino (Italy), Gilberto (Brazil), Golmohammadi (Iran), R Gomez (Costa Rica), Gyan (Ghana), laquinta (Italy), Ilic (Serbia-Montenegro), F Inzaghi (Italy), Jaidi (Tunisia), Jaziri (Tunisia), Juanito (Spain). Juninho (Brazil). Kaka (Brazil), Kalou (Ivory Coast), Kalinichenko (Ukraine), Kaviedes (Ecuador), Kewell (Australia), Koller (Czech Republic), B Kone (Ivory Coast), N Kovac (Croatia), Lahm (Germany), Larsson (Sweden), Lee Chunsoo (South Korea), Ljungberg (Sweden), Marquez Alvarez (Mexico), Materazzi (Italy), Messi (Argentina), Mnari (Tunisia), Mohamed Kader (Togo), CA Moore (Australia), Muntari (Ghana), Nakamura (Japan), Neuville (Germany), Park Ji-sung (South Korea), Pauleta (Portugal), Pirio (Italy), Raul (Spain), Rebrov (Ukraine), Robben (Netherlands), Rusol (Ukraine), Saviola (Argentina), Senderos (Switzerland), Simao Sabrosa (Portugal), Sma (Croatia), Tamada (Japan), Tevez (Argentina), Totti (Italy), Van Nistelrooy (Netherlands), Van Persie (Netherlands), Vieira (France), Xabi Alonso (Spain), Zigic (Serbia-Montenegro), Zinha (Mexico).

Ivanov

would have ended in a mass brawl. "I have heard that Blatter had

criticised my son," said Ivanov Sr., who also played on the Soviet Union team that won the 1956 Olympic gold in Melbourne and the first European Championship in 1960 in Paris and finished runners-up in 1964. "But it was FIFA itself who

demanded from referees to get tough on players using foul tactics. Valentin just tried to follow FIFA's own instructions to stamp out rough play."

Third Test nicely poised

Cricket

AFP, Basseterre

West Indies have been left to rue their questionable decision not to enforce the follow-on, after losing four wickets in their second innings in the third Test against India at Warner Park here on

Fast bowler Shantha Sreesanth and leg-spinner Anil Kumble snared two wickets apiece as West Indies, leading by 219 on first innings, reached 113 for four in their second innings when stumps were drawn on the penultimate

Venkatsai Laxman hit an even 100 -- his 10th Test hundred -- as India, replying to West Indies first innings total of 581, were bowled out for 362 about half-hour past the scheduled tea break.

Corey Collymore was the pick of the West Indies' bowlers with three wickets for 63 runs from 25 overs, and Jerome Taylor snared three for 118 from 26 overs.

Dwayne Bravo collected two for 38 from 17.3 overs, and Collins captured two for 117 from 29.3

Sreesanth then had left-handed opener Chris Gayle caught down the leg-side for three in the second over of the West Indies' second innings to give India an early break-

After playing with some enterprise to hit four boundaries, West Indies vice-captain Ramnaresh Sarwan was caught at slip off Sreesanth to leave the home team

West Indies captain and batting superstar Brian Lara arrived and he too, brought the crowd to its feet with a couple sixes off Kumble, but the wily leg-spinner outfoxed him with a flight delivery and had him stumped for 19.

Kumble then held a return catch to dismiss left-hander Shivnarine Chanderpaul for 11 to leave West Indies on 102 for four before Daren Ganga, unbeaten on 41, and Dwayne Bravo, not out on nine,

batted through to the close. Earlier, West Indies had tightened their grip on the match, when they captured four wickets -- three Collins then

to Jerome Taylor -- before lunch. Taylor pulled the rug from underneath the Indian batting in the space of six deliveries inside the first half-hour to put the skids on the visitors, after they had continued from their bedtime total of 150 for two, needing to reach 382 to avoid the follow-on.

Taylor had India captain Rahul Dravid adjudged lbw for 22 playing half forward to an off-cutter in the fast bowler's first over of the day. In his second over, Taylor struck twice in the space of three balls.

Left-hander Yuvraj Singh was caught behind for a four-ball duck edging a flat-footed drive, and Mohammed Kaif was dubiously adjudged lbw for a two-ball duck, as television replays suggested the ball might have been drifting down the leg-side.

Laxman remained unflappable and reached his 50 when he drove Taylor into wide mid-on for a single and offered not even a semblance

ofachance He held the Indian innings together before the interval and spent an hour and 45 minutes with Mahendra Dhoni trying to repair the early damage with a stand of 61 for the sixth wicket.

But Collymore had Dhoni adjudged lbw for 29 when the batsman played back and across to a well-pitched delivery that moved back from outside the off-stump. After lunch, Laxman and Anil Kumble resisted to add 77 for the seventh wicket with little trouble.

During this period, Laxman completed his hundred, when he steered a delivery to third man for a single to reach his hundred, but he was sadly dismissed with the first ball of the next over.

Collins made the breakthrough for West Indies, when he had Laxman caught behind playing on the back-foot and edging a ball angled across him after he struck 15 boundaries from 231 balls in just oversix hours.

Three overs later, Collymore had Anil Kumble caught at deep fine leg for 43 top-edging a hook at a short, rising ball. The Indian leg-spin bowler smote eight fours from 61

Collins then had Shantha Sreesanth caught at second slip for a second-ball duck top-edging an upper cut, but Patel came to the crease and upset the West Indies' plans before slicing Bravo to gully. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the fourth day of the third Test between West Indies and India at Warner Park on

WEST INDIES: First innings 581 (Ganga 135, Sarwan 116; Harbhajan 5-147)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 150

Jaffer c Lara b Bravo Sehwag c Lara b Collymore Laxman c Ramdin b Collins Dravid lbw b Taylor Yuvraj c Ramdin b Taylor Kaiflbw b Taylor Dhonilbw b Collymore Kumble c Collins b Collymore Harbhajan not out Sreesanth c Lara b Collins Parel c Ganga b Bravo Extras: (b-8, lb-5, nb-13) Total: (All out in 170 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-124, 3-157, 4-159, 5-159, 6-220, 7-297, 8-311, 9-

212					
Bowler	0	M	R	W	
Taylor	26	3	118	3	
Collins	29.3	4	117	- 2	
Collymore	25	4	63	3	
Bravo	17.3	6	38	2	
Gayle	2	0	3	0	
Samuels	7	1	10	0	
WESTINDIE	S: Secon	dinn	ings		
Gayle c Dhoni b Sreesanth					
Ganganotout					
Sarwan c Dravid b Sreesanth					
Lara st Dhoni b Kumble					
Chanderpaul cand b Kumble					
Bravonotout					
Extrac (lb-5 w-1 nb-1)					

Total: (For 4 wkts in 14 overs) 113 To bat: Samuels, Ramdin, Collins, Taylor, Collymore Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-46, 3-81, 4-

Mea					
Bowler	0	M	R	W	
Patel	7	0	43	0	
Sreesanth	6	.1	19	2	Š
Cumble	8	0	36	2	
Harbhajan	3	0	10	0	



India batsman VVS Laxman appreciates the applause of his teammates and the crowd after scoring a century on the fourth day of the third Test against West Indies at Warner Park Stadium in Basseterre on Sunday.

WE BRIESS

FROM PAGE 24 be unable to participate at the July

2 to 8 street football "world cup" in Berlin after the teams "Search and Groom" from Lagos and Ghana's "Play Soccer" saw their visa requests turned down.

A foreign ministry statement insisted the requests had been 'carefully considered" but according to Berlin daily Der Tagesspiegel the teams concerned had been found to have "no links with their country" and were from displaced families. The point of the tournament is to bring together teams from just such families, Der Tagesspiegel noted. FIFA has not commented on the issue but organiser Jurgen Griesbeck called the red card for the visas "a very painful decision."

Hard Left individuals from the pro-Communist "Militant Group" are planning to disrupt the activities of firms sponsoring the World Cup, according to Berlin police prefect Dieter Glietsch, who confirmed a report in news magazine Focus.

The Focus report said clothing firm Adidas, criticised for importing some items of sportswear from low-wage countries, was one tar-

Clickingon

FIFA's internet site www.fifaworldcup.com is breaking all records with this World Cup with more than 2.5 billion "hits" in the opening fortnight of the event. whole of the 2002 World Cup in company switchboard.

Japan and South Korea. June 22 saw 294 million site clicks with an average five million users daily. Visitors spend around half an hour online looking at, among other things, video clips of the best moments so far.

Unlucky

Some 100,000 customers of British cable company Telewest were left without coverage of England's match with Ecuador after vandals cut through cable wires in the south west.

"We normally have a back-up system but the nature of the cuts meant that it lead to a major fault," a spokesman said.

Police were investigating fol-That is more than the total for the lowing a flood of complaints to the

mentioned a little while ago -- thank

but indeed few in the crowd could have come across a worse spectacle than the one dished out on Sunday night. Playing an unfamiliar 4-5-1 with Michael Carrick in the holding role and Wayne Rooney leading the line alone, the English looked totally lost for ideas. In the hot and humid conditions they ambled around the park without any clear understanding of what is it that they wanted to do. John Terry presented Tenorio what was a glorious opportunity that the striker in slow motion

somehow managed to miss (thank Besides that the game lacked any event whatsoever with England quite content to just switch wings or keep play within themselves. And whatever shooting opportunities that they made, Frank Lampard was

on hand to blast into orbit. But if England were bad, than Ecuador were woeful. Every single Ecuador player, especially the much vaunted Valencia in his snazzy yellow boots, looked out of their depth and they seemed happy to go home with a one-nil loss. All the big talk about playing for the people disappeared into the stilling heat and there were no bananas on hand to revive them. Thanks to David Beckham for settling the issue with a freekick that for all its accuracy had little power. But Kudos to David for saving us from watching more of that dreaded spectacle that cannot be called a football match.

What I frankly don't understand is that in the knockout rounds of the biggest tournament in the world how Mora and his defenders kept playing lateral backpasses within one another with Ecuador trailing and five minutes remaining on the clock. No amount of explaining will convey the message to me. And if this is the overall quality of the third best South American team and prospective World Champions than think we shouldn't watch the

World Cup any further. Subjective comments aside, as I God for the Battle of Nuremberg.

Yes, the Battle of Nuremberg, which has now overtaken both the Battle of Santiago and the Battle of Berne, at least for the amount of cards that were on display. Four red ones and an amazing 16 yellow Netherlands versus Portugal was

always expected to be a classic. But no one realised that a game where red and yellow were the colours in vogue could also be typecast as a classic. And that was what this was. It didn't look like it would end this way after the first half which saw Costinha sent off for handling the ball, Edwin van der Sar make a smart point blank save of Pauleta all of which had come after Maniche had scored a well-taken goal. The match or more prominently the referee exploded to life in the second half and red cards flew right and left. Khalid Boulharouz went for 'elbowing' Figo, an incident that the great Portuguese made look much worse than what it was. And Figo himself shouldn't have been on the pitch as he had got away with headbutting Mark van Bommel just a while ago. But then emotions spilled over as Deco, Giovanni van Bronckhorst both got themselves sent off to make Portugal finish the game with nine men. But in spite of that they somehow held on to the victory to give Luiz Felipe Scolari his 11th win on the trot (he has never lost in the World Cup or drawn). Much of the blame must rest with Marco van Basten as he inexplicably left Ruud van Nistelrooy on the bench even though there were huge gaps in the Portugal defence. Robben and Persie were both selfish and Wesley Sneijder and Dirk Kyut rarely looked liked they belonged. The latter

But at least the Nuremberg battle made up for all the excitement that the first match lacked. It is indeed two of the most contrasting games of football you will have the chance

especially, with some glaring misses

role as a centre-forward.

and an overall painful display in his

to witness. What the first lacked in drama the second made up in droves. But in the end it was not a football match but almost a brawl. And there is no part for that in foot-

Sports science seminar ends

SPORTS REPORTER

A three-day long international seminar on recent trends in sports science ended at Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) yesterday.

Apart from local experts, specialists from Germany, India, Japan, Australia and China presented the keynote papers in differ-

tives from different organisations took part in the programme.

with no injury problems or yellow cards, also have five players on cautions going into the

were fairly common in South America. "It was just like a game in the Libertadores Cup, which is very

Argentine teams, it's war. "But in three-and-a-half years of coaching Portugal I have never ended a match with just nine play-

ers," said Scolari. FIFA always talks about

ball. FIFA Fair Play just turned into a ridiculous joke!

ent subjects in the seminar. A total of hundred representa-

Scolari stays

the first-half loss of Costinha and Ronaldo. Portugal, who started the match

Scolari shrugged off the chaotic scenes, saying similar incidents

rough," said the Brazilian. "I'm used to playing in South America. Especially against

fairplay but tonight we saw several gestures that were anything but," added the 57-year-old Brazilian.