SPORT

The Daily Star

"For me there's no striker to

France's presence in the last

"It's a great pleasure to be here

"Arriving in Germany my one

eight is proving especially enjoyable

for Thuram as the veteran Juventus'

star knows this is his last appear-

as this is my last World Cup, I'm very

thought was -- I hope this isn't going

to turn out like 2002 (when the then

defending champiomns crashed out

of the first round without scoring a

group last Friday against Togo it was

a liberating moment both for me and

cap having passed Desailly's

benchmark of 116 appearance against Togo, and asked what that

milestone meant to him he

shrugged: "Honestly I'm not thinking

about my record number of caps, I

didn't come here to do that, maybe

after the World Cup's over I'll reflect

record at Headingley, having wor

He is again likely to have Alastair

back on it properly, but not now.'

"So when we qualified from our

Thuram will be winning his 119th

ance in the competition.

ucky to be participating in it.

touch him."

goal)

the team.

TEAMS



Roger Federer of Switzerland reaches for the ball against Frenchman Nicolas Mahut in the Wimbledon Championships in London on Friday.

Federer 'free' until final

WIMBLEDON

AFP. London

Roger Federer was left with a clear run to a fourth successive Wimbledon final on Friday when dangermen David Nalbandian and James Blake both crashed out in the third round.

Argentine fourth seed Nalbandian, one of just four men to have beaten Federer since the start of 2005, was dismissed by Spanish 28th seed Fernando Verdasco 7-6 (11/9), 7-6 (11/9), 6-2.

Blake, the eighth seeded American, lost a gruelling five-setter to Belarussian giant Max Mirnyi 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-0

of the draw The triple champion and world

number one took full advantage of his rivals' slip-ups by clinching his 45th consecutive grass court win with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 victory over France's Nicolas Mahut.

He will now face either Tommy Haas of Germany or the Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych for a place in the quarterfinals.

Nalbandian, the 2002 runner-up, paid a heavy price for demanding that his match be scheduled as early possible to allow him time to watch Argentina face Germany in the World Cup quarterfinals.

China was also celebrating when Li Na became the first Chinese woman to reach the fourth round here when she came from behind to

beat Russian fifth seed, and forme US Open champion, Svetlana Kuznetsova 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Li, the 27th seed, will face either Nicole Vaidisova of the Czech Republic or Croatia's Karolina

Sprem for a quarterfinal spot. Lleyton Hewitt, the 2002 champion, reached the third round after

edging a marathon five-setter against South Korea's Lee Hyung-

The sixth-seed Australian, and one of the few men seen as having a chance of derailing Federer, broke Lee's service in the tenth game of the fifth set to clinch a 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (5/7), 6-4 victory in a match that had been interrupted on Thursday night at the end of the fourth set

In total, the Australian was on

A generations game

court for five minutes short of four hours -- far from ideal preparation for Saturday's third round meeting with Belgian Olivier Rochus.

In the other third round match held over from Thursday, Britain's Andy Murray saw off France's Julien Benneteau 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 to set up a fourth round clash against Andy Roddick.

In the women's event, Justine Henin-Hardenne, fresh from her third French Open triumph, moved into the fourth round as she targets winning the only Grand Slam to have eluded her.

The Belgian third seed eased past Anna Chakvetadze, the Russian 30th seed, 6-2, 6-3 and will take on Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia for a place in the last eight.

'We've to raise our game'

insisted

GERMAN

The Juventus defender, who

passed Marcel Desailly's record as

France's most capped player last

"Now we have to raise it again for

The bespectacled 34-year-old

"We've got a very good squad who have a desire to achieve, that's what's impressed me the most. "We want to be solid together. and each player is linked to the

others, the essence of a good team. He spoke in near reverential

terms about the opposition lving in wait in Saturday's quarterfinal in Frankfurt.

"When you look at Brazil's players it's extraordinary the talent they've got, two Footballers of the Year in Ronaldo and Ronaldinho. Kaka, Adriano, Cafu and a very good keeper.

"They're favourites but the Thursday: "It was good to come up beauty about football is that favourites don't always win." Indeed France are something of a

bogey team for Brazil who lost to les Bleus in the 98 final and at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico on penalties.

Thuram revealed he'd been surprised at the cricitism Ronaldo had received in the run up to Germany.

"I can't understand why that's was reborn in Tuesday's polished 3-"The roots for that success were put down a long time ago," he

happened. He's a top quality player, there must be a reason why he's the World Cup's top scorer, the figures don't lie.

Eng to play for pride

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

1 win in Hanover

England have a last chance to salvage a measure of pride from the one-day series against Sri Lanka when the two sides meet at Headingley on Saturday.

They have not been whitewashed on home soil since losing 3-0 to Mark Taylor's Australia side 13 years ago

Captain Andrew Strauss told BBC Sport: "There's a lot of guys with a hell of a lot of talent in our dressina-room

"We haven't shown what we are capable of yet and we are motivated by that rather than avoiding a whitewash

Strauss, who may be able to welcome back batsman Kevin Pietersen and all-rounder Paul Collingwood, added: "We have one more chance to show what we can

Sri Lanka lead the series 4-0 seven of their last one-day games at after performances up and down the the ground, including a nine-wicket country which have been far more success against Australia last year convincing than England's. when Marcus Trescothick hit an Organisers at Headingley plan to unbeaten 104.

use drinks breaks to screen updates from England's football World Cup Cook as his opening partner after quarterfinal against Portugal in they launched the innings with a Gelsenkirchen. stand of 77 at Old Trafford on That match starts at 1600 BST, Wednesday

but Strauss hopes that if England's players are in the field they will be fully focused on the cricket.

"We can't afford to be distracted. We need to be right on top of our game," he said.

"If the crowd's a little bit distracted we'll forgive them for that, but hopefully we will provide enough entertainment for them not to follow the football too closely

"As captain I'll be a bit annoyed if the fielders aren't watching what I am doing and watching the football instead! England have a good recent

tain), M Trescothick, I Bell, K Pietersen, P Collingwood, A Cook, V Solanki, J Dalrymple, G Jones (wkt), T Bresnan, A Loudon, L Plunkett, S Harmison, S Mahmood, Kabir Ali. SRI LANKA (from): M Jayawardene (captain), K Sangakkara (wkt), S Jayasuriya, U Tharanga, T Dilshan, C Kapugedera, R Arnold, F Maharoof, C Vaas, L Malinga, D Fernando, R Perera, M Bandara

ENGLAND (from): A Strauss (cap-

Ullrich, Basso thrown out

Cycling

BBC ONLINE, undated

Pre-race favourites Jan Ullrich and Ivan Basso are out of the Tour de France after both were named in an anti-doping investigation in Spain. The T-Mobile team has sus

of Sport handed the file to the Team manager Olaf Ludwig said: cycling federation who passed it on to UCI and Tour organisers.' If it's your own blood why is it cheating?

The current scandal is the bigdoubt the riders' statements, but that situation has now changed profoundly."

Ullrich and Basso are unlikely be

"We talked to the riders several times and even have their declarations of innocence in written form. "At first we had no reason to

any way

gest doping controversy to hit the sport since the Festina affair rocked the 1998 Tour.

Ullrich, the 1997 winner, had

AFP, London Who's saying what at Wimbledon: "Scotland sorry. Oh God, I just shot myself in the foot. It's gonna be everywhere. Excuse me. Scotland, I knew

What they say

that.' Andy Roddick quickly correcting himself after referring to Britain's Andy Murray as coming

now.

Maria Sharapova after revealing she collects stamps "If the All England Club felt that five sets was the way to go, the women players would be prepared to play. I would have no problem with it. I think it

would be a whole lot of fun." Venus Williams happy to play five-set matches instead of three if it would help her equal prize money

"The years I missed here I don't think I would have been in the mix but I

at Wimbledon

PHOTO: AFF

from Ireland "Everyone's calling me a dork



Ray Wilkins became the first English player sent off in the 1986 World Cup finals, when he threw the ball in the direction of the referee during the 1-1 draw with Morocco.



-

Gilberto Silva

(Brazil defender) "I really believe that we are not playing to the best of our ability right now. We can play much, much better than this and we will need to if we want to go to the final." On their performance at the World Cup.



Live at 3:45 pm Wimbledon Championships Third Round Same Day Delay at 11:30 pm



AFP, Londor

When Andre Agassi made his Wimbledon debut in 1987, Rafael Nadal had just celebrated his first birthday.

Now, almost 20 years later, the old warrior and the young, lefthanded gun clash in a match which Nadal hopes will boost his grass court credentials while Agassi, the 1992 champion, dreams of a third final in his last All England Club appearance.

At 36, Agassi, will quit after the US Open with 60 career titles to his name including eight Grand Slams.

At 20, Nadal, has one of the brightest futures in the game and has already collected two French

Lampard, Neville

FROM PAGE 17 Manchester United defender Garv Neville, who has missed the last three games with a calf injury, is also fit and will play, handing the side a massive boost. "Yes, he is okay and yes he will

play," said Eriksson of Neville, who will win his 81st cap.

Earlier Friday Lampard and Neville took part in training at the Aufschalke Arena here and neither showed any indication that he was struggling.

Lampard has yet to produce his best form during the tournament, but Eriksson regards him as a key member of the England line-up especially for his goal-scoring abilities.

Voted second best player in the world this year behind Ronaldinho, Lampard has vowed to rediscover his touch in front of goal.

'The goals are just not going in for me, chances which I would normally eat up," he said after the Ecuador game during which he missed a sitter after being set up by Wayne Rooney.

"That's not unusual for a midfield player but with the standards I have set I expect to score."

Neville is another vital cog in the England team and his return will likely see Owen Hargreaves move into the holding midfield role with Michael Carrick, who performed the iob against Ecuador. on the bench.

won't be easy in Saturday's third round assignment. "Nadal has great speed. The way

he moves around the court, he's always playing within the high margins because he can cover so much ground," said Agassi.

"He's very aggressive because he doesn't have to end the point. If you get one away he's going to chase it down. That movement is probably his greatest asset.

"Also his mind, his concentration, his determination, that's a big weapon too." Agassi has the greater grass

court pedigree while Nadal, bred on clay courts, is still coming to terms with its peculiar demands.

He was almost caught out by American journeyman Robert

The International Cricket Council

(ICC) will decide whether to allow

players to appeal against decisions

to the third umpire at a two-day

meeting of its chief executives

If accepted, the plan to allow

three appeals per innings would

have to be ratified by the ruling

body's executive board which meets

on Wednesday, an ICC news

The ICC's cricket committee

narrowly endorsed the proposal in

May but faces opposition from

and we will put across our point of

view strongly to the ICC," Pakistan

Cricket Board chairman Shaharvar

If endorsed, the process would

be on trial at the ICC Champions

Trophy in India in October and

by former India opening batsman

Sunil Gavaskar, gave guarded

The cricket committee, headed

Khan told Reuters this week.

"We are opposed to this proposal

starting at Lord's on Sunday.

release said on Friday.

Pakistan.

November.

Cricket

REUTERS. London

ICC to settle

appeal issue

 Opens amongst his 17 Kendrick in the second round when he had to recover from a two-set
The veteran American knows it deficit to stay on track.

But Agassi is aware of the danger posed by the muscle-bound Spaniard.

"He's 20-years-old and he has the time to figure out the grass. The fact that he's called this tournament the one he wants to win just speaks volumes for his mindset."

The two have clashed just once before with Nadal winning their final at the Montreal Masters last year in three sets.

But that was on hard courts which, Agassi insists, will have little relevance to Saturday's outcome.

Nadal admits he was too young to remember Agassi in his prime. "I saw him a lot of times when I

approval last month and expressed

reservations about the implications

such a plan would have on the spirit

of the game and the authority of the

on-field umpires.

before the panel.

president.

FROM PAGE 17

price, he added.

handedly.

hear edges more clearly.

Gerrard wants

was kid on TV," said the Spaniard. "But I never had an idol. I only watched me."

Andre Agassi wishing he had played Wimbledon more often in his early days

"It seems the toilet's worked." Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn on using the same rest room as a lucky charm before her matches

Berlin on fire

FROM PAGE 17 German supporters at the Fan Mile early on Friday.

Sebastian Boecker, of the German Red Cross, told N24 television that he was expecting the atmosphere on the Fan Mile to remain calm regardless of

the result. "It has been very peaceful so far. And we hope it will stay that way," he

said. Despite Germany's promising start to the World Cup, with four wins out of four, they have not beaten a top-level footballing nation since 2000. Argentina, with two World Cups to

their name, are among the strongest countries, but Germany have the undoubted advantage of home support.

In the search for the luck which could tip the match in Germany's favour, Bild newspaper revealed it had buried an old 'pfennig' coin under the turf of the Olympic Stadium before the host nation's 3-0 win over Ecuador in their final first-round match on June 20.

Chief defends

International Football Association Board, the game's ultimate lawmaking body, to examine if they saw

fit. Villar is the president of the Spanish FA, a FIFA vice-president and executive committee member and a former Spanish international

He was once red carded for punching Johan Cruyff in the face

Champions League. So it would be FROM PAGE 24 nice to get one over them," he said. 'Costinha and Deco are special To do that, England must close players," said the coach who took Luis Figo out of the game or pay the Brazil to the 2002 World Cup title and Portugal to the final of Euro

> "All our squad players are special," Scolari said. "Those who play in their place are also special players and we trust them.'

pended all Ullrich, teammate Oscar Sevilla and team manager Rudy Pevenage.

Organisers of the Tour, which starts in Strasbourg on Saturday, have now excluded basso

All four denied any wrongdoing when allegations first began to emerge earlier this week.

Following the first reports of the scandal emanating from Spain, T-Mobile management asked all its riders to sign written declarations stating that they were not involved in

Eng in captaincy crisis sonal problems.

available.

things

comeback.

Graveney

him feel.

maior operations.

the last big names to be suspended been among the favourites for this from the Tour de France after organyear's Tour.

In addition to his win in 1997, the German has been runner-up five times and was third last year.

CSC rider Basso, who recently won the Tour of Italy, has finished on the podium of the Tour for the last two years.

Italy's Lorenzo Bernucci and men, including Manolo Saiz, who recently resigned as boss of the Germany's Stephan Schreck will now replace Ullrich and Sevilla in the T-Mobile team.

ASO spokesman Philippe Sudres said: "The Spanish Ministry

Whoever the selectors consider for

decisions about who is going to captain

the side in the winter because at the

moment we don't know." explained

chairman of selectors David Graveney.

clearer later in the summer we won't be

looking at that issue. We need to get as

much information as possible about the

injured players before we consider

ing emotion is sympathy towards

Vaughan as he begins yet another long

process of rehabilitation towards his

"I have been ringing him every day

during this period and he has been

battling really hard to recover from this

injury, working long hours on his own in

the gym so we all feel for him," added

to have got down during this period. He

is desperate to play for England and

has been hearing how England can't

play without Michael Vaughan so you

can just imagine how that has made

"He is a human being so he's bound

For the time being, the overwhelm-

"Until the situation becomes a little

isers ASO (Amaury Sport

Organisation) revealed that they

have been given a list of more than 50

A six-month doping investigation

in Spain, nicknamed Operation

Puerta, led to the arrests of five

riders involved in the probe.

Liberty-Seguros team.

Clarke wants McGrath to play Ashes

BBC ONLINE, undated

Australia batsman Michael Clarke is convinced veteran seam bowler Glenn McGrath will play in this winter's this summer, they are not prepared to Ashes series against England.

discuss the captain for the winter tour of the Ashes yet until more information is McGrath has been out of action known about which players will be since February in order to care for his wife, who has cancer.

Vaughan is unlikely to play a part, But Clarke said: "We trained certainly for the early stages of the tour, together a couple of times last week while both Ashley Giles (hip) and Simon and he's in good spirits. Jones (knee) have also recently had "I know Glenn is keen as mustard

to play and it's just a matter of making "We won't be making any quick sure everything is OK at home."

Australia are desperate to reclaim the Ashes after losing 2-1 in England last year, beaten at Edgbaston and Trent Bridge.

Ironically, McGrath miss both those Tests because of injury

The 36-year-old is the most successful seam bowler in Test history. having taken 542 wickets in 119 appearances, and a return to action by him would be a major boost to Australia's chances.

"He's an absolute champion. He is great for someone like me, a young guy, to associate with.

"He loves training and he loves pushing himself. It's great to be good mates with him and it's great to see him back at training," said Clarke.

McGrath would be first choice to take the new ball with Brett Lee, leaving the selectors to choose a third seamer from Stuart Clark, Jason Gillespie, Shaun Tait or any other bowler who thrusts himself into the reckoning before the opening Test starts on 23 November.

The chief executives will also take up a recommendation to equip umpires with earpieces connected to the stump microphones for inter-FROM PAGE 24 national matches, helping them

Confirmation of guidelines relating to scheduling in the Future Tours Programme will also go

The meetings will end with the ICC's annual conference on Friday when South Africa's Percy Sonn is player. set to take over from Ehsan Mani as

during a match in Spain.

Scolari warns

"I think it is vital we stop Figo 2004

playing. If you give him time and space he will crucify you and he'll win the game for Portugal single

Cricket

AFP, London

England selectors will be considering during the next week that they will choose to replace Michael Vaughan as captain for the rest of the summer.

Thursday's announcement that consider an alternative captain.

Key all-rounder Andrew Flintoff filled in for Vaughan when he was forced out of the tour of India in March and also in the drawn home series against Sri

But Flintoff has been forced to sit out the NatWest Series with ankle trouble and is by no means certain of being fit for the opening Test against Pakistan starting at Lord's on July 13.

In his absence Andrew Strauss has led a side decimated by injuries to four successive defeats against Sri Lanka, who are hoping to wrap up a 5-0 series whitewash in the final match at

The situation has given England a difficult decision and coach Duncan Fletcher said: "From my point of view I just want the best person for the team and we'll be deciding that before the first Test."

Another alternative could be Marcus Trescothick, who has filled in on occasions but has only just reestablished himself back in the side after flying back from India with per-

Vaughan would have a fourth operation on his troublesome right knee on Monday, ruling him out for four to six months, has forced the selectors to

Lanka.

Headingley on Saturday.