Sport

The Daily Star

gave him a lot of chances to play. I

thought he was a scapegoat a lot

this season you have to keep

playing with confidence, take

people on, go there, do what they

bought you for and your time will

learning curve in his career, he's

only 24. If he becomes a regular at

Chelsea, then England will have a

from the experience of former West

Ham midfielder Joe Cole who also

Wright-Phillips can take heart

major player on our hands."

"Last season will be a major

"I told him 'whatever happens

of the time

come'

Coventry won't play for Zim

CRICINFO, undated

Charles Coventry has become the latest player to turn his back on Zimbabwe after he reportedly fell out with coach Kevin Curran and team manager Andy Pycroft, declaring that he will never play for Zimbabwe as long the duo are involved in cricket.

Coventry, who is playing in the Southern Electric League in Hampshire, said he had a spate with Curran and Pycroft during Zimbabwe's tour of West Indies in May.

"I had a falling out with the coach and the manager and have realised that there is no future for me in Zimbabwe cricket. I also decided that I would not be coming back to Zimbabwe Cricket as long as Pycroft and Curran are involved due to personal reasons."

Even though he did not go into detail, reliable sources say it was so bad that Coventry walked out of the team before Zimbabwe took on Bermuda and Canada and headed for England. Coventry said he took the deci-

sion so that he could stop worrying about the future, and even the prospect of playing in next year's World Cup in West Indies is not enough to make him change his mind

Where have

FROM PAGE 20 will be Lakshmipathy Balaji, Murali Kartik, Dinesh Karthik and VVS Laxman, who haven't found a place in the team for Sri Lanka. Ashish Nehra, currently playing in England, was also expected to join the second camp, but the board has now decided to let him continue with his Minor Counties stint.

While the likes of Australia have been hibernating longer than the average hedgehog after an exhausting season, it's straight back to the grind for the Indians, who only finished their Test series in West Indies on July 2. Fairly lengthy off-seasons in 2004 and 2005 didn't seem to help much, with the team starting sluggishly on both occasions. With the World Cup less than eight months away, perhaps a quick turnaround is the way to go -- clandestine training methods or not.

UEFA slam Eng FROM PAGE 20

The Football League, Premier League and FA representatives on the PGMO board all have an equal say in how it is run and an equal vote.

In Italy, Juventus, AC Milan, Lazio and Fiorentina were all found guilty of exerting an influence on refereeing appointments and in the case of all but Milan were demoted to Serie B with varying points deductions.

The outcome of the quartet's appeals against their respective punishments - with Milan originally allowed to stay in Serie A but docked 30 points - is expected to



Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar (R), Formula 1 racing driver Narain Karthikeyan (C) and cricketer Ajit Agarkar launch the sports book 'To Strive and To Soar' in Mumbai on Monday.

Town rejoices Floyd win

Tour de France chocolate and

The attention "just really hum-

chose to leave the Mennonite fold.

young people." Arlene Landis said

bike at age 15 at Green Mountain

first mountain bike race he entered.

Landis bought his first mountain

think this is terrific.'

use it to glorify God.

someday.

Cycling

AP, Farmersville

signs showcased the divergence of cultures -- "To God be the glory" As Floyd Landis crossed the Tour and "Floyd's the man." de France finish line Sunday, his Inside, visitors found a Phonak devout Mennonite parents were jersey signed "To Dad" and a Le

riding their own bicycles home from church. vanilla layer cake with green and Paul and Arlene Landis were so yellow icing, baked specially by confident their son would win Landis' mom for a celebration later cycling's greatest race they didn't have to choose between going to Sundav night. church and watching it on TV at a neighbour's house.

"I'm glad we didn't have to make that choice. Church is very important to us," Arlene Landis said. "We felt in our hearts he was going to win. He is not one to take second place."

The couple and their neighbours in this tiny hamlet in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country were celebrating Sunday after Floyd Landis' unlikely victory, which keeps cycling's most prestigious title in American hands for an eighth straight year.

At Farmersville's only intersection a short distance from the Landis home, neighbours scrawled: "Floyd Landis, World Winner of Tour de France 2006, -10:00 to +.59, USA." Cyclists and motorists alike snapped photos of the message, spraypainted in gigantic yellow letters, that referred to the huge time deficit Landis

overcame to win the Tour. Well-wishers also flocked to the Landis home, a white farmhouse bordered by cornfields in Farmersville, a rural crossroads of a couple dozen homes just outside the borough of Ephrata in eastern Pennsylvania.

Sunday, the home was fes-Arlene Landis, who has walked tooned with green and yellow to a neighbour's house each morning to watch the Tour, said she felt balloons, the colours of Landis' the hand of God in that perfor-Phonak team. On the front lawn. mance. "I just feel like that was given to

him not to lift him up but to show God gives strength in the face of disappointment." she said. As Landis rode the final leg to

Paris on Sunday, his parents attended 9 a.m. Sunday school and 10 a.m. worship at Martindale Mennonite Church, a conservative congregation of about 400 people.

bled me," Arlene Landis said. "I Floyd's name wasn't mentioned, not even as a joy or prayer request, All who visited, friend and and congregants seemed ambivastranger, were greeted warmly by lent about his success. Landis, the Paul and Arlene, who questioned second of six children, was raised their 30-year-old son's obsession in this church, whose members live with cycling when he was a teensimply and eschew the larger ager and were saddened when he culture

"We are disappointed with the lifestyle he lives, but I love him as a On Sunday, they said they felt "joy" at his victory and hoped he will friend and care about him," said a church member, Nelson Weaver, "People in any profession who

do their best are often lifted up as One of Martindale's pastors, examples, and I want his life to be a David Sensenig, said recognition of life of integrity and an example to individual accomplishment is frowned on in Mennonite faith. Nevertheless, he said Floyd Landis was still the talk of the congrega tion

Cyclery, a local shop. He won the "Winning the race isn't the big deal," Sensenig said. "It's what he Two years later, in 1993, he was crowned a junior national chamdoes with the results, with the fame and fortune. He can use his influpion. At age 20, he decided to move to southern California to train full ence for the betterment of the church, of Christ."

All along, he told friends he Paul Landis said he sees the would win the Tour de France victory as a chance to spread the Gospels and looks forward to After a disastrous ride meeting people he never otherwise Wednesday in which he plunged to would have met.

"I want to hear their victories and their sorrows, and we can encourage each other," he said.

Staying will be Wright decision No Lyon move for Trezeguet

AFP, Lyon Lyon chief Jean-Michel Aulas on

Monday played down speculation of a possible transfer swoop for Juventus' French international striker David Trezeguet. Aulas said while Lyon were

always in the market for quality signings, the club were still formulating their investment strategy and indicated they would not be buying new players until towards the end of next month.

Trezeguet is expected to join the mass exodus of talent from Juventus after the Turin giants were relegated to Serie B and kicked out of the Champions League for their part in a match-fixing scandal.

Despite moving to quell Lyon's interest, Aulas admitted the club were amongst Trezeguet's admir-"A player of quality is never too

expensive," Aulas said. "David is an exceptional player. Even taking into account the cost, he represents 20-25 goals a season and that is something you can't put a price on."

"But for the time being, it's too early to talk about a transfer. We haven't even reached the end of July yet and we have to finalise our investment strategy for the club by the end of August.

Glenn gets wife's nod REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia paceman Glenn McGrath will demonstrate his fitness in front of selectors in Brisbane on Wednesday after six months away from competitive cricket.

McGrath last played for Australia in a one-dayer against Sri Lanka in Perth at the end of January before missing the tours of South Africa and Bangladesh to spend time with his wife Jane, who is fighting cancer. She gave her blessing in June

for him to return to action and the 36-year-old will bowl in front of coach John Buchanan and bowling coach Troy Cooley at Cricket Australia's Centre of Excellence to assess when he can return to the Australia setup.

Good news FROM PAGE 17

renovation work is stopped now.

If the BFF cannot host the match, the AFC will go for a neutral venue and won't allow Qatar to stage both legs, informed the BFF general secretary.

If the BFF fails to arrange a neutral venue and forfeit the match, the national team could face ban from AFC competitions in future. There is however, good news

too for the national team as captain Arif Khan Joy and playmaker Arman Mian have decided to shelve their retirement plans and

even more limited next season. Following his 21 million pounds

move to Stamford Bridge, Wright-Phillips not only found first team football hard to come by but he also lost his place in the England Former England striker Ian Wright squad, missing out on the World has urged his adoptive son Shaun Cup finals in Germany. Wright-Phillips to stay and fight for

Speculation has linked him with a move away, possibly on loan, but Wright senior thinks the best thing he can do is prove his worth to Blues boss Mourinho.

"(Shaun) has to stick there, he is at the champions, you don't go to the champions and leave,' Wright told talkSPORT radio.

"I read in the papers people struggled to settle at the Bridge but calling him a flop. He didn't get the has since not only nailed down a first chance to be a flop, that hurts me. team place but has done likewise for "He didn't get the chance to England as well.

play and I didn't think Mourinho

Not a man of emotion

Cricket

Football

his place in the star-studded

figure for the champions in his debut

season as Jose Mourinho's men

landed a second straight English

als of Germany captain Michael

Ballack, Ukraine forward Andrei

Shevchenko and Nigerian young-

ster Jon Obi Mikel, the 24-year-old

former Manchester City winger

could find his first team chances

And with the close season arriv-

Wright-Phillips was a peripheral

AFP, London

Chelsea team

Premiership title.

REUTERS, London

Once in a generation sport throws up an oddity defying logic and the laws of probability.

Fifty years ago this Thursday, England and Australia began the fourth Ashes Test at Manchester's Old Trafford with the series tied 1-1. Six days later, England com-

pleted a crushing victory with Jim Laker taking 19 of the 20 Australian wickets. Theoretically someone, somewhere could better Laker's record. It is a safe bet that no one ever will

Years later England all rounder Trevor Bailey recalled his incredu-

"I said afterwards, turning to Peter Richardson as we left the field. 'We have taken part in something which will never happen again. No one will take 19 wickets in a Test match again'. It didn't make sense then and it still doesn't."

After the first Test had been drawn, Keith Miller took 10 wickets to win the second for Australia at Lord's.

Laker, who had already taken all 10 Australian wickets in an innings for Surrey, captured 11 in the third Test at Headingley to set up an England win.

Now the teams were to meet on a Old Trafford pitch seemingly devoid of grass after it had been heavily fertilised with red marl.

"The pitch...was shaven bare and marled," wrote the Observer cricket writer Alan Ross. "The outfield, in contrast to the redbrown Suez Canal-coloured playing strip, was a rich oasis green."

The simile would not have been lost on his readers. In the same year the Observer infuriated the government and alarmed thousands of its subscribers with its resolute opposition to air attacks by Britain and France on Egypt after it

nationalised the Suez Canal. on the second day, England had still At Old Trafford there was no to take a wicket. Seventeen overs later Australia still had all their first

immediate indication of the sensations to follow when England compiled 459 in their first innings with Richardson (104) and Colin Cowdrey (80) putting on 174 for the first wicket. The Reverend David Shepherd, one of a number of inspired England selections that summer, struck 113 in a short break from his parish duties.

Already puffs of dust were flying from the pitch and former Lancashire and England wicketkeeper George Duckworth commentating for the BBC, remarked: "I wouldn't want to be a pace bowler on there but spin bowlers, I think, should get some-

thing out of it in a day or two ' As understatements go. Duckworth's thoughts deserved an award of their own as Laker spun his way remorselessly through the Australian batting.

The Yorkshire-born off spinner had been blamed for failing to bowl out Don Bradman's Australians in favourable conditions in the 1948 Headingley Test. Seven dropped catches, including three off Laker, were more important factors.

Still Laker was not required on a succession of tour parties and found it difficult to command a permanent place at home, despite his extraordinary figures of eight for two in the 1950 Test trial.

Those who played with and against him swore they could hear the ball buzz through the air, such was the rip he gave it from an index finger which was to become arthritic long before he retired. By 1956 he was the ultimate off spinner with a relaxed economical run-up, deliverng from a braced left leg, and commanding a precise mastery of flight, line and length unmatched by any other bowler of his type in

When Peter May turned to Laker and his Surrey spin twin Tony Lock

around and Australia tumbled from 48 without loss to 84 all out. In 3.4 overs after tea Laker, somewhat to his bemusement, took seven for eight. Lock, whose waspish left arm spin persistently beat the bat, had he wicket of Jim Burke to show for his labours. It was the only wicket

innings wickets on the board.

Then May switched the pair

which would not be credited to Laker. Rain and the obdurate Colin McDonald threatened to deny England their victory before the sun came out on the fifth day. McDonald was caught in the leg trap for 89 and Laker went on to take all 10 wickets.

finishing with 19 for 90. The Australians were openly disgusted with the pitch and Richie Benaud showed his displeasure in the second innings by continually holding up play to check his guard

or pat down imaginary divots. Bailey believed an English county side, containing batsmen who had learned their trade on uncovered pitches, would have

coped better than the Australians Ross agreed. "One has a right to expect from Test cricketers a certain degree of adaptability," Ross commented. The Australian batting during their

brief innings on Friday night was bereft of all heart and skill. The final day was typical of an era when overt emotion was seen

as bad form. After each wicket Laker hitched up his trousers and sauntered up the pitch, indicating merely that he was rather pleased.

After the match the players soon dispersed and Laker stopped at a pub on his return to London where a television set was showing highlights of the day's play. Nobody recognised him.

history

Bayern confident FROM PAGE 20

against Charlton

Real Madrid are also interested in signing the proven goalscorer, but they have also been unwilling to meet United's asking price.

Bayern President Franz Beckenbauer hinted on Monday that the club were already in early negotiations with Bundesliga rivals SV Hamburg about offloading either Peruvian striker Claudio Pizarro or Dutch forward Roy Makaay to make room for Van Nistelrooy

Bayern kick off the Bundesliga season with a home match against Borussia Dortmund on August 11.

UEFA extend

FROM PAGE 20

'The revised deadline is therefore Wednesday 26 July 2006."

The names of the Italian clubs are required by UEFA before the seedings can be completed for Friday's draws in Nyon for the Champions League third qualifying round (1000 GMT) and UEFA Cup second qualifying round (1130 GMT).

Jockey headbutts FROM PAGE 20

"We are satisfied the horse wasn't actually distressed or suffered any injury as a result of this incident, but it sets a very poor example and is not the way to behave with animals.

"People in a position of responsibility, dealing with horses, shouldn't be behaving that way."

The incident was shown by TV channel At The Races, but racecourse stewards did not have video evidence at the time.

The O'Neill incident is highly unusual, although there have been cases before of jockeys hitting out at horses.

Timmy Murphy was given a seven-day ban in 2004, reduced to just one day on appeal, after he struck out at his mount Semi Precious following the pair's fall at Plumpton

On that occasion, the Irishman seemed to throw his whip at the horse in frustration as it got to its feet and galloped away.

CA wishes sweeter win

11th place, Landis put himself back

into contention Thursday with a

once-in-a-lifetime ride in the Alps.

ing during the series.

the last Ashes clash.

"We've already had a number of

"Australian cricket is excited

about the possibility he will play

here. It would be tremendous expe-

rience for a club player to be on the

same side, or to play against, some-

one of Flintoff's stature in the game."

Flintoff's fellow Ashes-winning

bowlers Ashley Giles (hip) and

Simon Jones (knee), who could also

of us, so we've been very sensible."

ago, to train with them.

Christmas.

league cricket under his belt

Shoaib's rehabilitation has been

However, some Australian

seek match practice in Australia.

Injuries have also sidelined

inquiries from clubs, " he said.

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Cricket Australia said Tuesday it wanted to help English Test stars such as Andrew Flintoff overcome their injuries -- because it would make defeating them to reclaim the Ashes so much sweeter.

England has been plagued with injuries since claiming the Ashes for the first time in 18 years last September, with all-rounder Flintoff the latest sidelined as he undergoes

surgery on a troublesome ankle. England chairman of selectors David Graveney has suggested

Flintoff and injured spinner Ashley Giles play club cricket in Australia to regain match fitness before the touring squad arrives in Australia in November.

Cricket Australia (CA) had no reservations about aiding its oldest enemy, enthusiastically embracing the prospect of "Freddie" Flintoff playing club cricket down under. "We have a burning ambition to

win back the Ashes, there's a vacant

newspaper are already questioning whether England should be offered spot in our trophy cabinet, but we

FROM PAGE 17

hard but I tried to do too much too early and I got a couple of niggles. "I think I will be a vard quicker

when I do come back. I hope to bowl a vard guicker in this series and if I get some good match practice I'll be right up there -- I'm not going to get slower, trust me!

Shoaib has not played since appearing in the first Test against India at Karachi in February.

He said his long-standing ankle oblem was improving steadily. 'The ankle is good, it's recover-

ing," claimed Shoaib. "I've bowled around three or four times with the full run-up and that's been no prob-

"Everything I do is calculated and we're not taking any chances. We have a long, tough year ahead play on television."

want to do it against a full strength, any assistance, with Sydney's Daily fully fit England side," CA spokes-Telegraph asking readers "should man Peter Young told AFP. we be helping the enemy?

Young was unfazed by such "We would hate to have a hollow victory against a touring second XI." auestions.

Young said Australian and "Cricket is a game that generates English fans had made the upcoma great deal of passion among the public and obviously some people ing tour a sell-out and CA wanted to will think this is not a good idea," he repay their faith by trying to ensure they saw the best players performsaid.

"We happen to think it is " He also revealed Australian He said CA had received no cricket clubs were falling over approach from English cricketing authorities and arranging club themselves to secure the services of Flintoff, the player-of-the-series in cricket contracts was a matter for individual players.

> The first Ashes Test begins in Brisbane on November 23.

Time to step

FROM PAGE 17

arrange match practice for Flintoff and other returning injury victims. Asked about Warwickshire helping Shoaib, Pietersen stressed: Why be horrible, why make enemies? Shoaib is an entertainer and we want to see him back on the field.

"We want to win the series, but we also want to see Shoaib back playing. Hopefully Australia will view this the same way and see Fred as an entertainer because it will be great to have him back for the Ashes

"Surely they would want to see Andrew Flintoff back playing in the Ashes like everyone in the world wants to see Shoaib running in and bowling at 100mph.

assisted by an offer from Warwickshire, where Pakistan change whether Shoaib is playing or not, but it does give you that extra kick and that extra buzz -- it's more of a challenge because it's no fun having someone running in who

Shoaib and Pietersen were united to help promote the urban cricket scheme designed to increase interest in the sport among schoolchildren at Heaton Park, near Manchester.

Pietersen will assemble with the rest of the squad at Old Trafford on Wednesday to begin preparations for Thursday's second Test as they attempt to bounce back from the disappointment of the drawn opener to the series at Lord's.

from toda Both the players had earlier announced they would quit from international football and will not

attend the ongoing national camp.

Maradona says

FROM PAGE 20

Maradona said he believed that Boca should target former Mexico coach Ricardo La Volpe, who stepped down after his side were beaten in the last 16 of the World Cup The Argentinian coach said he

was proud to be linked to the Boca job after arriving in Buenos Aires. "I'm honoured that an institution

like Boca -- one of the biggest clubs in the world -- is thinking of me as their coach." he said.

Milan in Europe

FROM PAGE 20 deduction or be allowed to return to Serie A with a deduction.

If the appeals of the guilty Italian clubs are unsuccessful, it is likely they will take their cases to the civi courts.

The match-fixing scandal broke in May after transcripts of former Juventus general manager Luciano Moggi telling the head of Italy's referees association which officials to appoint to specific Juve games were published in Italian papers.

Moggi used his power and influence as the key figure at Italy's most successful club to assert control of Italy's top referees and high-ranked football federation officials. The tribunal handed Moggi and

Juve's former chief executive Antonio Giraudo five-year suspen sions from all sporting activities.

Adriano Galliani, the AC Milan vice-president, was banned for one year while Andrea Della Valle, the Fiorentina president, was suspended for four years.

Diego Della Valle, the honorary president of Fiorentina, was also given a four-year ban.

Lazio president Claudio Lotito was banned for three years and six months.

Despite the chance of a lesser penalty, Juventus have already started to prepare for life in a lower league with several key players leaving the Turin club, including Italy captain Fabio Cannavaro and French defender Lilian Thuram.



PHOTO: AFF

US tennis star Andy Roddick (R) presents his new coach and legend Jimmy Connors during a press conference on Monday at the Los Angeles Tennis Center in Westwood, California.

Dalmiya now slams Bindra

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

In another rejoinder to Sourav Ganguly's scathing email, Jagmohan Dalmiya has claimed it was a witch-hunt devised by his detractors in the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA). Dalmiya has accused Inderiit Singh Bindra, the PCA president and a friend-turnedrival, of attempting to alienate and neutralise him

Speaking to The Times of India. Dalmiya highlighted his far-fromamicable relationship with Bindra. "Isn't it an open secret? This is

nothing but a witch-hunt," he said.

"I know who is behind all this. Mohali is the epicentre of all my troubles. He (Bindra) tried to implicate me in a false case, accusing me of financial irregularities. We are witnessing a blatant misuse of power."

Since last year's BCCI election, where Dalmiya's candidate for the president's post was defeated, Dalmiya has found the going tough even in his home city of Kolkata.

With the Cricket Association of the epicentre of our troubles. After Bengal (CAB) set to hold elections having gone through so much, I will soon. Dalmiya has labelled be the last person to get vindictive. It Ganguly's attack as "pitiable". was Dalmiya who claimed that he "I can't believe it's genuine...if it can never lose a BCCI election as he knew all about manipulating the

is then it's very sad," he said. When I was in power I tried to help have ruined his career, it's pitiable. In my entire career as cricket administrator, I have never harmed anyone knowingly, nor have I resorted to any witch-hunt something that is going on against me. I

ways they used to woo voters."

sations, said: "If Dalmiya feels Mohali is the epicentre of his troubles, he should not forget that he was

shall readily do so for the sake of an In regards to the legal action aken against Dalmiya earlier this year, Bindra was cutthroat: "Where have the Board accounts disappeared? Why is he not submitting them? It was he who threw me out of the BCCI because I spoke in my personal capacity about matchfixing -- among others things -something that was later proved by the Central Bureau of Investigation. He stopped the Board money that

voters. I don't think he should be talking about this." "It is surprising that of all people Dalmiya is talking about ethics. I just want to tell him one thing -- he

must understand that if he has any sympathiser left in the BCCI, it is Inderjit Singh Bindra," he added. "At any stage, if he wants my help, I old friendship."

him as much as I could. The Board appointed top lawyers to hear his appeals against match referees. I don't know much about this e-mail, but if he (Ganguly) indeed feels I

will surely bounce back." Dalmiya even questioned Bindra and Lalit Modi, the BCCI vice-president's, ascendancy to power. "Let us not get into the ways used by them to grab power," he said. "Everyone (in the Board) knows what ethical and unethical

> Bindra, in response to the accuwas due to PCA. Was that not witch-hunting?'

"My mental preparation doesn't

coach Bob Woolmer still has contacts after holding the same position at Edgbaston over a decade bowls at 95-100mph." He has done that for more than a week and is hopeful of getting some

"If it was up to me than I could play tomorrow for Pakistan," said Shoaib, who grabbed 17 wickets during England's 2-0 Test series

defeat in Pakistan before "I love playing for my country and I love being out there and it's very frustrating watching my team

will be a yard