West

4 S : 64

₩ H: K4

♦ D: 76

South

2 Diamonds

THE PLAY

were parked on the Spades.

4 Spades

6 Hearts

Pass

4 C: AKJ8743

Bidding: North South were vulnerable

West

3 Clubs

5 Clubs

Pass

Pass

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

SOUTH ALSO MUST CUE BID

TO REACH GS CONTRACT

(Hand # 138)

4 S : KQ 10532

♦ D: AQJ43

C: None

48:A98

₩ H: A75

♣ C:10

♦ D: K109852

North

1 Spade

6 Clubs

With 12 HCP but strong two suiter hand North opened one Spade and

partner responded two Diamonds. North immediately smelled slam if

partner could provide the first round control in Hearts and Spades.

However, West came in with three Clubs and East called three No

Trumps showing strong Club support and values in the unbid Heart suit.

When South supported Spades North cue bid Clubs at six level asking

partner to choose between Spades and Diamonds for a Small Slam. But

holding both the Ace of Hearts and Spades South cue bid Hearts

implying that if partner's Diamond support is not strong enough he could

settle at six Spades or go to Seven in either suit. North got the message

loud and clear. As East indicated values in Hearts, he did not give too

many points to partner in Hearts. Partner was marked with the Ace of

Hearts for his cue bid and Ace and probably the Jack of Spades. Partner

could have only three points in Diamonds. Thus partner was unlikely to

have much in wasted values. Hence he decided to bid Seven but what?

He rightly assumed that since partner bid Diamonds without AQJ, he was

likely to have a long suit - minimum five but more likely six. As he

himself was holding five cards in Diamonds one opponent might be void

in the suit, and hence he chose Diamonds over Spades for Grand Slam

contract. An excellent partnership understanding for it is not easy to

There was not much to paly. West opened the King of clubs which was

ruffed in dummy. Trumps were cleared and as a safety play was

necessary in Spades to guard against 4-0 distribution, the King was led

from dummy; all was well and the contract was claimed as losing Hearts

reach seven with the total points in the combined hands.

3 Diamonds

7 Diamonds

South

East

♦ S : J7

♦ D : None

♣ C: Q9652

♥ H: QJ10932

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 No Trumps

North (D)

¥ H:86

BU

GMCC

GMCC

GMCC

GMCC

GMCC

GMCC

GMĆC

GMCC

GMCC

GMCC

GMCC

GMCC

GFA

Wari

GMCC

GMCC

GMCC

wicket.

GMCC

Dhaka Sr Div cricketers' transfer

Sports Reporter

ibs during the three-day inter-club cricketers' transfer held at the Bangabandhu The following cric National Stadium fro

FINAL LIST

132.

136.

146.

155.

156.

158.

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160.

169.

172.

173.

175.

183

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206

National	Stadium from	November 25 to	FINA
No Name		From	To
1. Tasriqu 2. Habibu	ul I slam ıllah Barkat	Azad SC Dhanmondi Clu	S Bima Azad SC
3. Ainul	Kabir Mustafiz	Azad SC Victoria SC	Uttara SC Uttara SC
5. M Rasi	hed-bin-Azad	Azad SC	Uttara SC
	Haque Parvez	Dhanmondi Clu Gopibagh FA	ib Uttara SC Ajax SC
8. Farid I	Hossain	Biman	Ajax SC
9. Iftekha 10. Nuruzz	ır Habib zaman	B Boys Lalmatia Club	Ajax SC Ajax SC
11. Monir	Hossain	Gulshan Youth	Lalmatia Club
 Barkat Aminu 	l Islam Bhola	GMCC Azad SC	Eskaton SS Ajax SC
 Mofizu Faisal 	r Rahman Talukder	Biman Wari Club	Agrani Bank Agrani Bank
16. Obaidu	ıllah	Azad SC	Agrani Bank
17. Sajjadi 18. Haris I		Lalmatia Club B Railway	Agrani Bank Agrani Bank
19. Russell	Khan	City Club BU	Agrani Bank Wari Club
21. Golam	Arif	GMCC	Lalmatia Club
 Raju Pa Zamiul 		Victoria SC GMCC	Lalmatia Club Lalmatia Club
24. Imdadı	ıl Bashar	GMCC	Lalmatia Club
25. Taher l	11 FC (C-4 T ()	S Bima GMCC	Lalmatia Club Lalmatia Club
27. Rumma 28. Shamir	am Hossain	Young Ones Young Ones	Lalmatia Club Lalmatia Club
29. Riaz Sh	nahid	Young Ones	Lalmatia Club
30. Masuki 31. Mozaffa	ur Rahman ar Uddin	Gulshan Youth Lalmatia Club	City Club Wari Club
32. Hannai	n Sarkar	Agrani Bank	Abahani Ltd
 Hasibu Mehrat 	Hossain	Mohammedan S Mohammedan S	
35. Masood 36. Sabbir		GMCC Azad SC	Abahani Ltd Victoria SC
37. Zakaria	a Imtiaz	Kalabagan KC	Victoria SC
38. Jewel F 39. Kamu	iossain	Kalabagan KC Wari Club	Victoria SC Victoria SC
40. Rehan 41. Mustad	2009:50:20 70:00:00 AB	Surjo Tarun BU	Victoria SC Victoria SC
42. Ziaul H	aque	Wari Club	Victoria SC
43. M Islan 44. Riaz Ra		Gulshan Youth Young Cricketer	City Club Eskaton SS
45. Sajedul 46. Abdur		Lalbagh USC B Boys	Eskaton SS Eskaton SS
47. Atiqur	Rahman	Dhanmondi Clu	b Eskaton SS
48. Mizanu 49. Sohel I	r Rahman slam	Biman BU	Orient SC Orient SC
50. Asif Iql 51. Mafizul	ED 451	Ajax SC Surjo Tarun	Orient SC Orient SC
52. Harun-	ur Rashid	B Boys	Orient SC
53. Akhter 54. Afim A		Orient SC Mohammedan S	Orient SC Orient SC
55. Niaz Mi 56. Humay	9000 1000 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Orient SC Gulshan youth	Dhaka Wanderers Dhaka Wanderers
57. Moniru	zzaman	Gulshan Youth	Young Cricketers
58. Faisal 1		Azad SC Azad SC	Young Cricketers Wari Club
	asan Sayeed (Pak)	Mohammedan S SurjoTarun	Kalabagan KC Kalabagan KC
62. Akbar I	Khan	B Railway	GMCC
63. Zakir F 64. Nasirul		Abahani Ltd Agrani Bank	Mohammedan SC Mohammedan SC
65. Golam 66. Sajal C		Gopibagh FA Biman	Mohammedan SC Surjo Tarun
67. Halim S	Shah	BU	Surjo Tarun
68. Nurul K 69. Sajjadu		B Railway Gopibagh FA	Surjo Tarun Dhanmondi Club
70. Ariful I	slam	Wari Club Surjo Tarun	Dhanmondi Club Dhanmondi Club
72. Jalalud	ldin	Kathalbagan GC	C Eskaton SS
73. Towhid 74. Ahsanu	Hossain Illah Hasan	Gopibagh FA Ajax SC	BU BU
75. Saidul	Islam	Orient SC	Mohammedan SC
76. Javed C 77. Sohel R	lana	Surjo Tarun Young Pegasus	Biman Dhaka Wanderers
78. Abul Ka	alam Azad a	Dhanmondi Clu Kalabagan KC	b Dhaka Wanderers Biman
80. Tanveer	r Khan	Victoria SC	Biman
81. Asadull 82. Moniru	l Islam	Azad SC Abahani Ltd	Wari Club Wari Club
83. Mokhta 84. Ahmed		Azad SC Azad SC	Wari Club Lalmatia Club
85. Parvez	Ahmed	Mohammedan S	SC Surjo Tarun
THE REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF	cul Abedin Ali Khan	Mohammedan S Biman	Sc Surjo Tarun Surjo Tarun
88. Al-Sha 89. Enamu		Abahani Ltd Kalabagan KC	Surjo Tarun Surjo Tarun
90. Khaled	Masood	Abahani Ltd	Surjo Tarun
91. Ridwan 92. Rafiqul	Islam	Lalmatia Club Ajax SC	Surjo Tarun Biman
93. Jahang	ir Talukder ah Khan	Mohammedan S Abahani Ltd	2 - Tr
95. Azim	Uddin	Gopibagh FA	Ajax SC
96. MHF 97. Ehsar	tubel 1 Yousuf	Orient SC Victoria SC	Y Cricketers Eskaton SS
98. Shari	f Kamruzzama	n Lalmatia Clu	b Y Cricketers
100. AAK	Fazlul Haque Shimul	Lalmatia Clu Azad SC	Lalmatia Club
	Khaled Khokon	GMCC Surjo Tarun	B Boys Jatrabari KC
	Uddin Sajal	Wari Club	Jatrabari KC

From Name S Bima 104. MK Liton Jatrabari KC Jatrabari KC Gulshan Youth Mahirul Islam Shahadat Hossain Jatrabari KC City Club 106. Jatrabari KC Safdar Ali 107. B Railway 108. Imtiaz Javed Nabin Sangha 109. Anwar Hossain Nabin Sangha 110. Ikramul Islam Victoria Y Cricketers 111. Sadek Ahmed Bipul S Bima Jatrabari 112. Fahim Alim Eskaton SS Lalmatia Club 113. Masudul Hasan Mitu Eskaton SS **GMCC** 114. S Abu Khalid Tota Lalmatia Club Eskaton SS Mariners Eskaton SS 115. Golam Abid 116. Shawkat Hossain Y Cricketers Eskaton SS Sajjadul Alam Y Cricketers Gopibagh FA 118. S A Mustakim B Railway Jatrabari 119. Manjur Ali Sahin Kakrail BC 120. Nahidul Haque Gulshan Youth B Boys 121. Yousuf Kabir City Club Sohel Khan Pragati SS 122. 123. M Rahman Monu S Bima 124. S M Ziad Gulshan Youth 125. S M Ali Joy Orient SC 126. Ferdous Alim Rana Victoria SC Wari Club Syed M Mostag 127. Azad SC Wari Club Sohel M Sudha 128. Gulshan Youth B Boys 129. Ershadul Haque Gulshan Youth 130. Yasin Hossain Kathalbagan Y Cricketers 131. Bikas Ranjan Das Dhanmondi Club Wanderers Majed Ahmed Khan Dhanmondi Club Eskaton 133. Jasim Uddin Eskaton Victoria SC Dhanmondi Club Mohammedan SC 134. Rashedul Haque Shafiqul I Sohag Kakrail BC City Club Imtiaz Arefin Jatrabari KC B Boys 137. Arshadul Haque A Bank City Club Aslam Khan Teigaon CC Sitanath Banik B Boys City Club Jahirul H Khan Azad SC CCS Blue Lavlur Rahman A Bank Udayan City Club 142. Raihan Ferdous 143. Gopibagh FA Nadim Ahmed B Boys Al Nazir Dhanmondi Club Mohammedan SC 145. Imran H Partha Abahani Lalmatia Club Mohammedan SC Kiran Sved Adil Ahmed Azad SC Mohammedan SC Fahim M R Sumit Kalabagan A Bank Kalabagan 149. Musfig Babu A Bank 150. M Arifuzzaman Mariners Nizam Uddin Rayerbazar City Club AKM Humayun Rashid City Club S Eagles Samit Kumar Das Azad SC M Rana Shantinagar Saidul Islam Afee Abahani Biman Zakir Hasan Kalabagan KC Victoria SC Adin Hossain Wari Club Morshed Alam Ajax SC Mohiuddin Ahmed Raverbazar Ehsanul Habib Tejgaon Orient SC Mijanur Rahman Mahbubur Rashid Wari Club Nasir Uddin Raja Orient SC Ariful Haque Hasan Amar Jyoti Dhaka Wanderers Abhijit Dutt Babu 166. Mehedi Hasan Mehbub Orient SC M Nuruzzaman Abahani Surjo Tarun Morshed Alam A Bank Eskaton SS Ishtiaque Sadek Surjo Tarun Lalmatia Club Aminul Islam Bulbul Mohammedan SC Biman Victoria SC S Rakib Ahmed Azad SC Rezaul Hasan Orient SC Victoria SC Foiz Ahmed Lalmatia Club Mazharul Hag Mridul Orient SC B Boys Uttara Faisal Khan Tejgaon 176. Ashfaq Ali Rahat Mohammedan SC Abahani Amarjyoti Y. Cricketers Azdag Samad Tanveer Khan Orient SC Dhanmondi Jatrabari **Dhaka Wanderers** Jasimuddin Agrani Bank Mosaddeg Hossain City Club Morshed Alam Azad City Club Kamaluddin Young Pegasus B Boys Dhaka Wanderers Atiqul Anam B Boys Gulshan Youth Azaduzzaman B Boys Jatrabari KC Shahiduzzaman Gulshan Youth Sadiq Hasan Gulshan Youth Eskaton SS Rashedur Rahman DOHS Eskaton SS Enavet Hossain Eskaton SS Sohel Rana Victoria Santosh Sutradhar City Club Jatrabari KC Wanderers Rashid Ahmed Agrani Bank 192 Biman Shahed Iqbal Abahani Shariful Ahsan Ajax Al-Amin Victoria Abahani Surjo Tarun M Salahuddin Jatrabari Gopibagh FA Ripon Kumar Wari B Boys Gopibagh FA Shahin Ahmed Gopibagh FA Mahmudul Hasan Kakrail Boys Lalmatia Club Muniruzzaman Lalmatia Club Ishtiaque Ahmed Teigaon KC Lalmatia Club Mehter Billah Eskataon SS 202 Young Pegasus Alauddin Ahmed Gopibagh FA S. Bima AHM Sayedur S. Bima Momtazur Rahman City Club Gopibagh FA Fazal Mahmud Wanderers Zisan Irfan Lalbagh ASC Eskaton SS Shahidur Rahman Wari Sheikh Salahuddin Abahani Mohammedan Lalmatia Club **CCS Blues** Ranjit Roy Taposh Sikder Anirbaan Club Surjo Tarun Ashraful Islam Lalmatia Club Mohammedan Mohammedan Saveduzzaman S Wari Lalmatia Club Shafiqul Islam Udavachal Mohammed Ali Victoria Abu Hamid Pival Lalmatia Club Orient SC Victoria Sohel Hossain Nazimuddin Manna Ajax

Sports Reporter

SK&F and BOC won their respective JPGL Lights Professional's Cup cricket matches played at different city venues

vesterday. The the BUET ground, BOC posted a 28-run win over

Philips. Put into bat first, BOC amassed 152 for the seven in the stipulated 30 overs with



one-down Mustafa hammering highest 35.

Opener Mostafiz (27) and middle order Arif (23) were the other notable run getters.

In reply, Philips were bun-dled out for 124 in 29.1 overs in the face of some fired up bowling from BOC new-ball bowler Nesar who finished with 3 for 12. Arif and Adud of BOC captured two wickets each for the winners.

Arif of BOC was the Nescafe man-of-the-match for his all-

round performance. Away at the Uttara Friends Club ground, SK+F registered a close two-wicket win over The Daily Star.

Chasing a small Daily Star total of 79 in 30 overs, SK+F reached 83 in 20.1 overs with

two wickets in hand. Earlier, electing to bat first on an under prepared wicket, The Daily Star could manage only 79 before they were all out in 25 overs. Skipper Morshed topscored with 29.

SK+F's Mahfuz was the wrecker in chief capturing four wickets for 12 runs. He was later adjudged the Nescafe manof-the-match.

Rindel's century at Centurion

CENTURION, Nov 27(Reuters/Internet): Northerns continued their good batting form in the second session of the opening day of their Supersport Series cricket match against Boland at Centurion Park in Centurion on Friday. Having gone to lunch on 87 without loss, the home side were 183-1 at tea.

Much of the good work has been done by opener Mike Rindel, who was undefeated on 105 having been at the crease for 261 minutes, faced 191 balls and hit 14 fours and a six. In the fifth over of the match with nine runs on the board and Rindel on six, he was dropped by Boland captain Kenny Jackson in the slips off the bowling of Henry Williams Rindel and Rudi Stevn put Northerns on the right track with a partnership of 133, which ended 50 minutes after lunch when Steyn was dismissed by left-armer Charl Willoughby, caught by Jackson, for 46.

However, Dion Jordaan, who was 24 not out, has picked up where Steyn left off in support of Rindel and 50 runs have come for the unbroken second

Caribbean tri-series in 2000

AUCKLAND, Nov 27: New Zealand and Pakistan will take on the West Indies in a one-day tri-nation series when they tour the Caribbean in 2000, a report said here today, reports AFP.

The West Indies will host the two countries each in a three-Test series before playing in the one-day matches during April and May, New Zealand Press Association quoted West Indies Board chief executive Steve Comacho as saying.

New Zealand cricket chief executive Chris Doig said: "We have talked about it before and it sounds great but West Indies have yet to tell us officially." Dates have yet to be finalised.

Happy outings for BOC, SK&F Hick may replace Thorpe



day.

Instead, they picked a 14-

man squad including Hick, who

joined the tourists just over a

week ago as a back-up for

opener Michael Atherton who

Hick was due to fly home on

Sunday after Atherton im-

proved. He is now poised to start

in a Test despite not having

"I hope the memory is good, I

"Thorpe is struggling a bit

haven't had much cricket in the

played in more than a month.

last six weeks," Hick said.

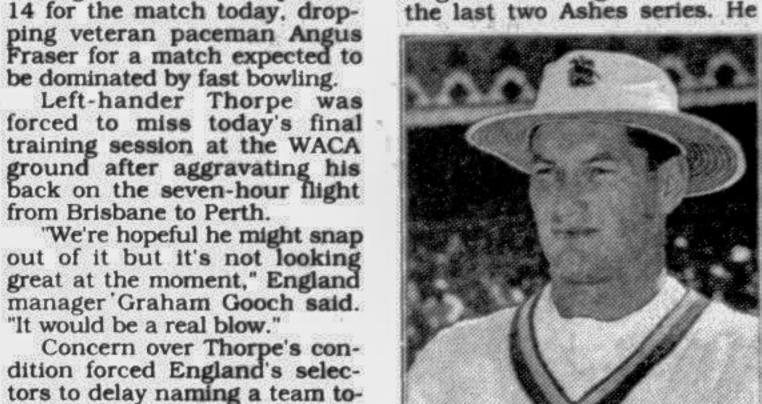
next day it's good.

chance of playing."

is also troubled by back pain.

Thorpe's loss would be a major blow to England's Ashes PERTH, Nov 27: England batsman campaign after they were lucky Graham Thorpe is to escape with a draw in the doubtful for Saturday's second first Test in Brisbane when a Test against Austhunderstorm cut the match tralia because of a recurring short as they were heading towards probable defeat.

back injury and reserve Graeme Thorpe average 48.52 in Tests against Australia and was Hick could take his place, reports Reuters. England's leading runscorer in England named a squad of



GRAEME HICK

scored an unbeaten double century in the match against South Australia, then 77 in the first innings in Brisbane.

England's main concern, however, remains their bowlers. They gambled on four seamers and a spinner in the first Test but managed to take only 13 wickets at a cost of 722

today but I have been through Because of the WACA's repuback problems and some days tation as a fast bowlers' pitch. England are almost certain to you wake up and it's bad and the drop off-spinner Robert Croft "My gut feeling at the moand replace him with an extra ment is I have a reasonable batsman, although Gooch insisted nothing would be decided

until Saturday morning. Fraser will be replaced in the starting side by either Dean Headley or the uncapped Alex Tudor

The tourists were given a clue to how the WACA wicket

might play when Australia left out leg-spinner Stuart MacGill. Australian captain Mark Taylor said: "It's going to be a predominately pace wicket with a pace barrage from both sides.

It could well be a shootout. "But I'm not overly concerned about any of their bowlers. Whoever they pick we will have to play well against but I really believe we have got the batsmen to do that.

MacGill was replaced by allrounder Colin Miller, who bowls a mixture of medium pace and off-spin, but is likely to be recalled for the third Test in

Adelaide. With Miller certain to play because of the variety he offers, Australia's 12th man is likely to come from either Jason Gillespie, Michael Kasprowicz or Damien Fleming, all proven performers at Test level

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: (from): Mark Taylor (capt), Michael Slater, Justin Langer, Mark Waugh Steve Waugh, Ricky Ponting, lan Healy, Colin Miller, Damien Fleming, Michael Kasprowicz, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath.

ENGLAND (from): Alec Stewart (capt), Michael Atherton, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, John Crawley, Graeme Hick, Dominic Cork, Robert Croft, Darren Gough, Alan Mullally, Dean Headley, Alex Tudor.

L'pool, Rovers hope for better things defeat at Coventry, should keep as manager.



LONDON, Nov 27 (Reuters/Internet) Liverpool and

Blackburn, who meet in the English Premier league on Sunday, are both looking for big improvements after poor starts to the season.

Both have sacked managers this month and while Liverpool have had a mixed return since ending the joint-managership regime of Roy Evans and Gerard Houllier, the Anfield clash represents the first post-Roy Hodgson game for Blackburn. After parting company with

Evans and placing Frenchman Houllier in sole charge, Liverpool saw an immediate improvement last Saturday when they won 4-2 at leaders Aston Villa, the league leaders' first league defeat of the season.

"That win was just the first step on a very big set of stairs for us," said Houllier. And he was right not to get

carried away as on Tuesday all the defensive failings were back as the Merseysiders committed suicide in going down 3-1 at Celta Vigo of Spain in the UEFA

Houllier has made no secret of the fact that he wants a commanding centre back but seems resigned to wait until at least the end of the Champions' League group stage before trying to find one.

In the meantime he hopes to sign 29-year-old Jean-Michel Ferri before the weekend for 1.7 million pounds (2.81 million dollars) from Turkey's Istanbulspor, but he will not be able to play on Sunday.

The good news for Liverpool is the return to form of Robbie Fowler, who looked back to his sharpest when he scored a hattrick against Villa, taking his total of goals to four in his last two matches.

"It was his best game since coming back from injury," said midfielder Jamie Ředknapp. "He turned in the complete performance."

Blackburn's woes outweigh Liverpool's, as last week's 2-0 home defeat by Southampton dropped them to bottom place in the standings and led to the surprise departure of coach Roy Hodgson. Club stalwart Tony Parkes

takes over as caretaker for the fourth time in 12 years and a trip to Anfield will not be the easiest of starts.

Club owner Jack Walker has promised more money to re-

maybe

wardrobe

46 In disarray

53 Groove on

50 Sweet-

heart

55 "Scram!"

Estrada

About

Nothing'

58 Get money

56 Actor

resort area 59 Woman of

Simpson's 44 Adam's

Evans has been mentioned

as a possible candidate, possibly in tandem with former England winger John Barnes, who has played for just 20 minutes this season at Newcastle. But Blackburn cannot af-

ford to wait for results and Parkes must try to get Hodgson's squad firing immediately. The Anfield clash is one of

three on Sunday, which also sees Manchester United hosting Leeds and champions Arsenal, who were knocked out of the Champions' League by Lens on Wednesday, at home to Middlesbrough. Arsenal are going through

their worst period for some time without a goal in any of their last four matches and with only one win in their last, Patrick Vieira (hamstring)

and Tony Adams (back) are out for goals-shy Arsenal while Emmanuel Petit (stomach) and Dennis Bergkamp (calf) are extremely doubtful.

Paul Gascoigne (ankle) is doubtful for Middlesbrough who have Robbie Mustoe back from suspension. Gianluca Festa (shoulder) and Phil Stamp (suspended) are out.

Manchester United usually struggle after Champions League outings and a number of changes are likely after the exertions of the 3-3 draw at Barcelona.

Lee Bowyer and Robert Molenaar are suspended for Leeds who have just one win to show from their last 12 league visits to Old Trafford. Lucas

Radebe (hamstring) is out. The highlight of Saturday's programme is Duncan Ferguson's debut for Newcastle at

home to Wimbledon. However, the big striker, who joined for 7.0 million pounds (11.59 million dollars) from Everton this week, may have to wait for his chance to link up with Alan Shearer as the England man is struggling

to overcome a hamstring strain. Aston Villa meanwhile,

ought to put last week's defeat behind them by avoiding defeat at Nottingham Forest. Forest, beaten 2-0 at Totten-

ham last weekend, have now gone 11 league matches without a win, and will have to show a huge improvement of their own to end that disappointing run against their midlands rivals.

Meanwhile fourth-placed Chelsea, who have not lost any of their last 18 league or cup matches since an opening-day

card brand

intrique

26 Ceremony

27 Antelope's

playmate

25 Bedouin

chips

29 Between

30 Parapher-

31 Sinbad's

tiver

35 Landon of

politics

the pressure on the leading trio by overcoming erratic Sheffield Wednesday at Stamford Bridge. Following are highlights of other matches on Saturday;

league positions in parentheses: Charlton Athletic (13) v Everton (16) Charlton have beaten Everton only once at home in the

last six league meetings but are boosted by the return of Shaun Newton after injury. Everton laboured to beat Newcastle 1-0 on Monday night

without the suspended Duncan Ferguson and they will have to show they can manage without him again after his 7.0 million pounds (\$11.59 million) move to st James' Park.

Coventry City (17) v Leicester City (12) Coventry's recent signing

Laurent Delorge will be a longterm absentee after breaking his leg in a reserve game on Wednesday. David Burrows (hamstring) is again out.

Andy Impey is in line for his Leicester debut after his 1.6 million pounds (\$2.65 million) move from West Ham United. Tony Cottee is doubtful.

Southampton (19) v Derby County (11)

Matthew Le Tissier (suspended) and Egil Ostenstad (hamstring) join Southamp-

ton's lengthy absentee list. Defender Igor Stimac (foot) is Derby's major doubt as Francesco Baiano (ankle) is out.

West Ham United (6) v Tottenham Hotspur (10) Striker lan Wright is suspended for a West Ham side that

have won their last two games and who will continue with John Hartson and Paul Kitson in attack.

Tottenham will be without Colin Calderwood (suspended), Justin Edinburgh (knee), Les Ferdinand (foot) and Ramon Vega (knee).

Blatter to visit Seoul

SEOUL, Nov 27: Joseph S Blatter, head of soccer's world governing body FIFA, will visit here early next week to check on preparation for the 2002 World Cup, South Korean soccer officials said Friday, reports

During his two-day trip starting Sunday, Blatter will pay a courtesy call on President Kim Dae-jung and talk with Chung Mong-June, chairman of the Korean Football Association, the officials said.

build the team and to get the Villarreal (18) v Alaves (17) Villarreal will be without "best possible man" to take over midfielder Angel Luis Fernandez but are otherwise untrou-CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Homer

4 Pickle

holder

7 Wheels of

fortune?

Dickens

43 Autograph

expletive

11 Oil grp. 13 Eggs 14 Pre-owned 15 Gambling 57 "Much -16 Charles 17 Hawaiian

Betis, who have won three

the knight? 12 1967 Paul 18 Deluge 60 Actor 38 "Holy cow!" 20 Aroused 22 Despon-Morrow movie 61 "Houston, 19 Speck 24 Wantedwe have no poster Solution time: 24 min. amount 28 Combatant 32 Donny's 33 Thought 34 Feathery ERNIE DELIGHT scarf 36 Assess 37 Word on the street? 39 Mountain-41 Flock watcher

Yesterday's answer

40 "---Woman" 42 "M" A"S"H" 45 Faithful 47 Field of Queens 48 One's mance 49 Egg part 50 Found-51 History EDSM 52 Pick a 54 Sallor

problem* 21 Playing

1 Give a tip 23 Symbol of

4 Profession 28 - and

DOWN

of the hat

2 October

stone

lunch?

5 Admit

6 Barber-

7 Tepidity

8 "Equi-"

9 Chaps

10 Harem

room

shop prop

3 Long

CRYPTOQUIP ATKRGMGKF BYLGM SCUU

AGL FETKL YKBE UBL? SGGRCMA Saturday's Cryptoquip: MOST PICKY GEOLO-GISTS CONCUR: WHEN HUNGRY, THEY WILL LIKE KEY LIMESTONE PIE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals G The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Atletico have injury doubts over senior players such as Kiko Narvaez, Jose Antonio Chamot and Vladimir Jugovic and the form of Brazilian playmaker Juninho has been under question of late. Barcelona hopes of emerging League and struggled to build up from the lates round of matches any momentum in the Spanish

First Division. In that time, Van Gaal's position has inevitably come under threat, with the Catalan press and public unwilling to offer the benefit of the doubt to the man that sold such crowd favourites as Ivan de la Pena. Albert Ferrer and Guillermo

But players and coach alike are calling for a fresh start at

one of the few Van Gall imports who has been an unquestioned success, will miss the game after picking up his fifth yellow card against Mallorca last week.

the team can clinch their sec-

ond successive domestic league

and cup double under Van Gaal's leadership. Despite displaying only patchy form in the league this season, Barcelona could climb

Rivaldo, they could not have chosen a better time to play

In five games away from

at the top of the standings will depend upon Athletic Bilbao overcoming leaders Mallorca

Sunday. way as Barcelona on Wednesday after their European defeat to Rosenborg of Norway, need to get back to winning ways in the league after a shaky start that has seen them slip to 15th

but behind them, coach Luis Fernandez is confident his side can build on their 1-0 victory Celta, who lost their unbeaten league record against Alayes last weekend, recovered

But they come up against an equally confident Valencia, following their 3-1 drubbing of Real Madrid in the league last

Salamanca has been postponed to give them more time to prepare for Tuesday's World Club Championship game against Vasco da Gama. ~ Following are highlights of

other Spanish First Division matches on Sunday. (League positions in parentheses):

bled by injuries. Alaves will be without the suspended Gerard Lopez following his sending-off in the confidence-boosting 2-0 victory over Celta Vigo last weekend. Valladolid (11) v Deportivo Coruna (7) Midfielder Sergio Kresic

(muscle strain) is doubtful for Valladolid but goalkeeper Agustin Elduayan and striker Diego Klimowicz should both be fit after picking up minor injuries in training. Apart from long-term injury victims Luis Ramis and Helder Rodriguez, Deportivo are at full strength. Real Betis (13) v Tenerife

out of four in the league since the arrival of former national team coach Javier Clemente. will look to recover from their UEFA Cup mauling by Bologna in midweek. Tenerife coach Juan Manuel Lillo is under even greater pressure, though, with his side stuck in 19th place and hit by injuries to striker Antonio Pinilla and midfielder Pavel Hapal.

Extremadura (20) Espanyol (14) Felix Carvallo, who scored the Extremadura goal in last week's 2-1 defeat at Salamanca, is suspended. Midfielder Pacheta and striker Manuel Serrano are injured for the visi-

Barca want to celebrate leaders as their game against least temporarily - with a two-MADRID, Nov 27 goal victory over Atletico. (Reuters/Internet)



Barcelona will look to put three difficult months behind them when they get the club's centenary celebrations underway against

Atletico Madrid on Saturday. Since the new campaign began back in August, Louis van Gall's band of Dutchmen and Brazilians, augmented by a handful of home-grown players. a Nigerian and one Portuguese. have lost the Spanish Super Cup to a more determined Mallorca side, crashed out of the European Champions'

Amor.

Saturday's ambitious centenary inauguration, which will feature hundreds of dancing figurines, a firework display and a giant mosaic covering the Nou Camp pitch. Brazilian striker Rivaldo,

But on Friday he led the pleas for a clean slate, insisting

back to the top of the table - at

And, despite the absence of them.

their Calderon stadium this season Arrigo Sacchi's side have picked up just a single point, and that a scrappy I-1 draw with Espanyol.

and Valencia getting a result at second-place Celta Vigo, with both games taking place on

Athletic, who went the same place.

And, with the distraction of

the Champions' League now all

over Tenerife last week. in style to beat Liverpool 3-1 in midweek.

Guus Hiddink's side, in fourth place in the table after the Valencia defeat, seem certain to slip further behind the