

ICC body

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tions with the ICC president at Calcutta. The documentary evidence comes from Doodardshan's 27-page report on the ICC knockout tournament and is counter-signed by Doodardshan's deputy director-general (finance), P K Seth and by the chief executive officer at the time, S S Gill. "I can authenticate it," said Gill's successor as CEO, Dr K Ajariwal, from New Delhi, yesterday.

Pakistan make

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221 for five, were tied down by purposeful bowling from West Indies and saw their last five wickets surrender for 43 runs. West Indies broke the sixth-wicket partnership between Inzamam-ul-Haq and Abdur after 80 minutes in the morning period, but had they accepted the chances and half-chances offered by the Pakistani batsmen, the complexion of the match might be different. Fast bowler Reon King captured the prized wicket of century-maker Inzamam-ul-Haq with the first ball of his first spell of the day, but West Indies allowed Pakistan to reach 262 for six at lunch. Inzamam and Abdur had batted through from 50 minutes prior to lunch on the opening day until the close

to lift Pakistan's innings from the tatters of 39 for five to 221 for five. They got firmly rooted into their work when play commenced on Saturday and were encroaching on Pakistan's sixth-wicket partnership record of 216 set by Hanif Mohammad and Majid Khan against New Zealand at Lahore in the 1964-65 series. Inzamam could have been dismissed as early as the sixth over of the day, when on 121 he drove back a sharp, but comfortable return chance to fast bowler Courtney Walsh. West Indies however, had to wait about eight overs to dislodge him after he had batted for close to seven hours to add 206 with Abdur. Failing to properly negotiate his full-length 254th ball, he was struck coming forward by King. Inzamam struck 20 boundaries in his third century against West Indies to take his tally of runs in seven Tests against them to 580 at a healthy average of 72.50. When he departed, Pakistan had only added 24 runs in just over an hour to their bedtime score, and Abdur only seven to his first day 80. Such was the restraint the West Indies had placed upon the opposition batting. Their predicament could have been even worse had Wasim's two early chances not been muffed. On nought, he cut hard through the hands of gully Chanderpaul off King, and on five, he edged a straightforward chance to Adams at second slip. After the interval, Pakistan lost their last four wickets for 26 runs to be dismissed about 45 minutes prior to the tea break. They suffered an immediate setback when left-hander Wasim Akram edged a forward defensive stroke at the first ball after lunch from Courtney Walsh to wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs. In the next over, Abdur fell 13 short of a maiden Test century when he edged a backfoot drive at a rising ball from fast bowler Nixon McLean chest-high to Chris Gayle at first slip. He batted for two minutes shy of seven hours, faced 320 balls and struck 11 boundaries in his innings which was critical to Pakistan mounting a meaningful, rather than meaningless first innings total. Pakistan then eked out a further 36 to extend the innings for more than an hour after the interval but would have been disappointed with their final total. Ambrose was West Indies' most successful bowler with five wickets for 43 runs from 25.3 overs, while there were two wickets apiece for the other three fast bowlers Courtney Walsh, Reon King and McLean.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for team, batsman, runs, and bowler. Includes sections for Pakistan and West Indies first innings.



Barcelona superstar Rivaldo is being tackled from behind by Rayo Vallecano's Poschner during their Primera Liga match at Barcelona on May 6.

Primera Liga

Barca staring at doom

MADRID, May 7: Primera Liga leaders Deportivo La Coruna are on the verge of their first ever title success after rivals Barcelona crashed 2-0 at home Saturday to Rayo Vallecano, reports AFP. Barca, roundly booed by their fans, now face ending the season empty-handed after their 4-1 Champions League semi-final thrashing at Valencia. They were also kicked out of the Spanish Cup after refusing to play Atletico Madrid in last month's semi-final second leg, saying too many of their players were on international duty. Real Madrid, who in contrast to Barca are two goals to the good in Europe after beating Bayern Munich in midweek, also flopped as they went down 1-0 at the Bernabeu stadium to Alaves, who rocketed up to third in the table. Barca remain second with a two-point gap to make up on Deportivo, who face fifth-placed Real Zaragoza on Sunday knowing that they are now

within touching distance of the championship having led the table since the ninth week of the season. Last week, they lost their nerve in losing 2-1 in the Galician derby at Vigo. Twice in the 1990s Deportivo lost the title on the last day of the season when leading at the start of the day - most famously in 1993-4 when their Brazilian striker Bebeto - who two months later won the World Cup with Brazil - missed a penalty that would have secured the crown. But Barca and Real have been dogged by inconsistency and have both done their best to throw the title away. Real, who lost out to an 87th-minute Jorge Azkoiita goal on Saturday to slide to sixth, can at least look forward to the Champions League final if they keep their heads in Munich next week as they target an eighth European crown. Two years ago they won their seventh at the expense of Juventus but came just eighth in the league and that low placing signalled the end of German Jupp Heynckes' reign as coach.

The future of Barca's Dutch coach Louis Van Gaal, who had insisted before the game that a third straight title was the Catalan club's priority - after earlier insisting the European Cup was the target - is now very much in doubt. Barca were stung by a goal eight minutes after the start and eight before the final whistle from Jon Perez 'Bolo' for midtable Vallecano and the Nou Camp crowd shrieked their disapproval. Valencia showed, meanwhile, that the punishment they meted out to Barcelona was no fluke by blitzing lowly Real Sociedad 4-0 with midweek heroes Miguel Angel Angulo and Claudio 'Piojo' Lopez both on target alongside defender Amadeo Carboni and midfielder general Gaizka Mendietta. The win sent Valencia up to fourth - enough for a Champions League slot even if they fail to land the trophy in three weeks time. However, veteran French defender Jocelyn Angloma had to go off injured and is doubtful for the Champions League return in Barcelona.

Hoeness blasts Matthaeus' choice

COLOGNE, Germany, May 7: Lothar Matthaeus, the world's most capped player, made a tremendous blunder in choosing to end his career in the United States according to his former boss Bayern Munich manager Uli Hoeness, reports AFP. Hoeness told the 'Welt am Sonntag' newspaper in an interview released ahead of publication it was "the biggest mistake of Matthaeus' career". "I am not just saying that because the Metrostars aren't playing well. I said that to him right from the start," Hoeness said. The 39-year-old Matthaeus has left a giant hole in Bayern's defence since he left for the New York/New Jersey Metrostars in March. It's a gap which the German champions continue to struggle to plug with Jens Jeremies clearly struggling after two own goals in the last three weeks. Hoeness flatly rejects Matthaeus' claims, however, that he would have stayed in Munich if Bayern had treated him better and let him know he really was wanted. "That's rubbish," Hoeness countered. "We always held our discussions in private or with one other person present and he always said in those talks he couldn't get out of the New York deal."

As difficult as life has been for Bayern since Matthaeus left - Bayern are three points behind Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga with only two games left and may exit the Champions League after losing the first leg of their semi-final to Real Madrid 2-0 - Hoeness insists there is no way back for him. "I would say, Lothar, we are all looking forward to your benefit match on May 26th. But as far as the new season goes we are going to have to find an alternative."

English thugs worry Charlton

LONDON, May 7: Former England international Sir Bobby Charlton is worried about English hooligans at this year's European championship could upset England's hopes of winning the right to stage the 2006 World Cup finals, reports Reuters. World soccer chiefs will make the decision on the venue of the finals after a meeting on July 5 and 6, just a few days after the end of the Euro 2000 tournament in Belgium and the Netherlands. Charlton, who is helping to front England's bid for the finals, told Britain's Sunday Times newspaper that he was very proud of the way hooliganism had largely been cleaned up in the domestic English game. But he added: "I just hope that this summer our police are on top of what is a potential problem. That also applies to the Dutch and Belgian police who I hope are on the alert. A disastrous Euro 2000 with the hooligans would undermine everything we have worked so hard for."

England faces fierce opposition from strong bids by South Africa and Germany. England and Germany play each other during the finals in a potentially explosive game in Charleroi in Belgium on June 17. "The England v Germany match has an obvious potential for trouble and it would be just fantastic, for them and for us, if that game passed without problems," Charlton said. Scottish Premiership Hearts kept waiting. GLASGOW, May 7: Hearts' UEFA Cup dreams were put on hold for another week after their ten men hung on for a point at home to St Johnstone in the Scottish Premier League clash on Saturday, reports AFP. The Edinburgh club needed victory to clinch third place and qualification for Europe next season, but their efforts were not helped by the second half dismissal of striker Gary Naysmith for kicking out at Darren Dods.

German Cup

Bayern's 10th triumph

BERLIN, May 7: Bayern Munich snared their first and possibly only title this season in beating Werder Bremen 3-0 in Saturday's German Cup final, exacting sweet revenge for last year's loss against opponents who won a shootout against them 12 months ago, reports AFP. It was Bayern's 10th victory in 12 final appearances and, despite all the negative hype before the game, was an emotional and hotly contested game. After last week's bitter 0-2 semi-final first leg defeat by Real Madrid in the Champions League club president Franz Beckenbauer proclaimed no one was interested in the German Cup and said all Bayern's energies would be devoted to next Tuesday's return game against Real. Club manager Uli Hoeness even declared he would send out a B-team to save the energy of Bayern's big guns. "That wasn't the case."

Midfield star Stefan Effenberg even made an early comeback after three weeks out with a calf injury and played for a full 80 minutes, longer than planned. Effenberg was the key to Bayern's success, transforming them from the sorry band of also-rans who were steam rolled in Madrid to worthy Cup winners. He was the man who fed Giovane Elber in the 57th minute with a bouncing pass which the Brazilian sank high into the net with his left foot for Bayern's opener. Bayern, in particular Elber, had a host of opportunities to take the lead in the opening 20 minutes but on each occasion they were profligate in front of goal. "We closed ranks today, put in a fabulous team performance and really deserved to win," Effenberg said. "We played great football in the first half, we had a lot of chances to score and then used those chances in the second half. In the lead up to this game it

was so important that the German Cup is not so important but we showed today it is, important, to us and to the fans, and that's why we wanted to win." Emotions were high with Bayern keen to avenge last year's disappointment and referee Alfons Berg struggled to keep a lid on fiery moods which eventually settled after the break. Brazilian Paulo Sergio put the game beyond Bremen's reach in the 83rd minute when he flipped the ball cleverly over the shoulder of defender Viktor Skripnik, and then took it past keeper Frank Rost. As the 78,500 strong crowd in Berlin's Olympic stadium celebrated the first real high point of Bayern's season late substitute Mehmet Scholl, who came in for Elber, chipped in a third goal seconds before the end. "It wasn't just the Cup itself which was important but also a win in relation to Tuesday's Champions League game against Real Madrid," Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said. "If we hadn't won today we would have copped some heavy criticism. We have played well over the last 10 months and achieved a lot. When you are high up but not right at the top you have a lot to lose. That's why winning this trophy is important for our work over the whole season." Bayern face an uphill battle to reach the Champions League final after last week's humbling defeat at Real Madrid. In addition, Bayer Leverkusen, three points ahead of Bayern, are set to win their first ever Bundesliga title with only two games to play. As they celebrated Saturday's triumph team joker Giovane Elber drenched Hitzfeld by dumping an oversized glass of beer over his head while fellow Brazilian goal scorer Paulo Sergio struggled to wave an enormous flag bearing Bayern's club emblem. Bremen, meanwhile, preferred to forget a bad day at the office. They hardly tested Bayern keeper Oliver Kahn, leaving coach Thomas Schaaf to apologise for a poor performance. "You can always tell how things are going to go in the first few minutes and today you could see clearly we didn't have a chance," Schaaf said. "Bayern were by far the better side and as Ottmar said, we only had one or two chances to score over the full 90 minutes. That's just not enough."



Bayern Munich's Brazilian recruit Paulo Sergio kissing the German Cup after the final victory against Werder Bremen at Berlin on May 6.

Bergkamp loves Gunners!

LONDON, May 7: Dutch international striker Dennis Bergkamp will like to stay at Arsenal when his contract runs out, reports AFP. Bergkamp, who turns 31 on Wednesday, was expected to leave the north London club as a free agent when his contract expires next summer. But the former Ajax and Inter Milan star has rubbished suggestions he will move back to Holland or join the Dutch exiles playing under Louis van Gaal at Barcelona in Spain. "I have another year to go at Arsenal and after that I want to carry on for a few more years. I will be 32 when my contract expires," he told The Mail on Sunday. "Because I have always looked after my body I know I am not worn out yet, like some strikers. I can see myself staying at Arsenal."



DENNIS BERGKAMP

"The club would really like to know my plans right now. They are afraid I will leave. That's why I think they will invite me to have some talks over my future very soon." But Bergkamp hinted that his decision to stay at the club depended on whether they were prepared to invest in new players. "I want to know if the club is prepared to strengthen the team," he added. "I know I will still be good enough to play at the highest level in two years' time. I would like to have quality players around me. Then we can have another aim at winning big things at Arsenal." Bergkamp said the atmosphere in the Premiership was one of the main reasons for wanting to stay in England. He added: "People in England appreciate my football much better than in Holland. Everywhere in England I feel warmth, love from the fans and passion. At Arsenal the fans know I have guided the club to a higher level. I feel at home and I feel respect from the fans."

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL BRIEFS

LONDON, May 6 (Reuters/Internet): Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson is reportedly keen to stay on at the English champions when his contract expires in 2002. "I'd like to stay here after my current two years are up," Ferguson was reported as saying in Britain's News of the World newspaper. "If it is time to move on I have no problem with that. But it would be nice to play some part and to remain attached to this club." Ferguson said at the beginning of the year that he planned

to remain active in the game after his time as United coach and could take up some consultancy work. The Scot signed a three-year contract last year to manage United until June 2002. He was sorely missed in Bayern's 2-0 defeat by Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal but will play in the return leg in Munich on Tuesday. Effenberg, capped 35 times, was sent home in disgrace from the 1994 World Cup for making an obscene playmaking inspired Bayern Munich to their 3-0 win over Werder Bremen in Saturday's German Cup final, has ruled out playing for Germany at Euro 2000. "I want to give all I have to Bayern," said Effenberg who has repeatedly ignored calls for him to return to the national team. "He has never been so strong," Kaiserslautern coach Otto Rehhagel said of Effenberg

after watching Saturday's game in Berlin. "He must absolutely be in the Euro 2000 squad." Effenberg was back in action on Saturday after three weeks on the sidelines with a torn thigh muscle. He was sorely missed in Bayern's 2-0 defeat by Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal but will play in the return leg in Munich on Tuesday. Effenberg, capped 35 times, was sent home in disgrace from the 1994 World Cup for making an obscene playmaking inspired Bayern Munich to their 3-0 win over Werder Bremen in Saturday's German Cup final, has ruled out playing for Germany at Euro 2000. "I want to give all I have to Bayern," said Effenberg who has repeatedly ignored calls for him to return to the national team. "He has never been so strong," Kaiserslautern coach Otto Rehhagel said of Effenberg

Violence kills Swansea fan

ROTHERHAM, England, May 7: A Swansea City fan died in hospital after he was injured in violence before an English Third Division football match on Saturday, reports AFP. Terry Coles, 41, suffered serious injuries after rival supporters threw bricks and stones before the division decider at Rotherham's Millmoor ground. Police said on Sunday they believe Coles fell and hit his head and was then trampled by a police horse. He was taken to Rotherham District General Hospital where he died in theatre. A police spokesman said trouble erupted in Rotherham town centre before the match and 20 fans were arrested. The match was stopped twice by police after pitch invasions, once when Swansea scored near the end and again when Rotherham equalised with a penalty. The game ended 1-1, securing the title for Swansea.

SIR ALEX FERGUSON He has been at the club since 1986, turning them into the dominant force in English soccer and winning an unprecedented treble last season of European Cup, English premier league and F.A. Cup. They recently retained their league title. Police said on Sunday they believe Coles fell and hit his head and was then trampled by a police horse. He was taken to Rotherham District General Hospital where he died in theatre. A police spokesman said trouble erupted in Rotherham town centre before the match and 20 fans were arrested. The match was stopped twice by police after pitch invasions, once when Swansea scored near the end and again when Rotherham equalised with a penalty. The game ended 1-1, securing the title for Swansea.

Sparta Czech champions

PRAGUE, May 7: Sparta Prague won their fourth consecutive Czech Republic league title when they thrashed closest rivals Slavia Prague 5-1 here on Saturday, reports AFP. With a record of 23 wins three draws and only two defeats, Sparta moved seven points clear of Slavia with only two matches to go giving them a remarkable eighth title in the last ten years.



Patrick Vieira (R), Arsenal's French international, fighting for possession with Chelsea's Mario Melchiot during their Premiership fixture at Highbury on May 6.