

**Champions' hockey
Double delight
for the Dutch**

AMSTERDAM, June 5: Stephan Veen scored a golden goal to give the Netherlands a 2-1 win over Germany in the men's Champions' Trophy final yesterday, reports Reuters.

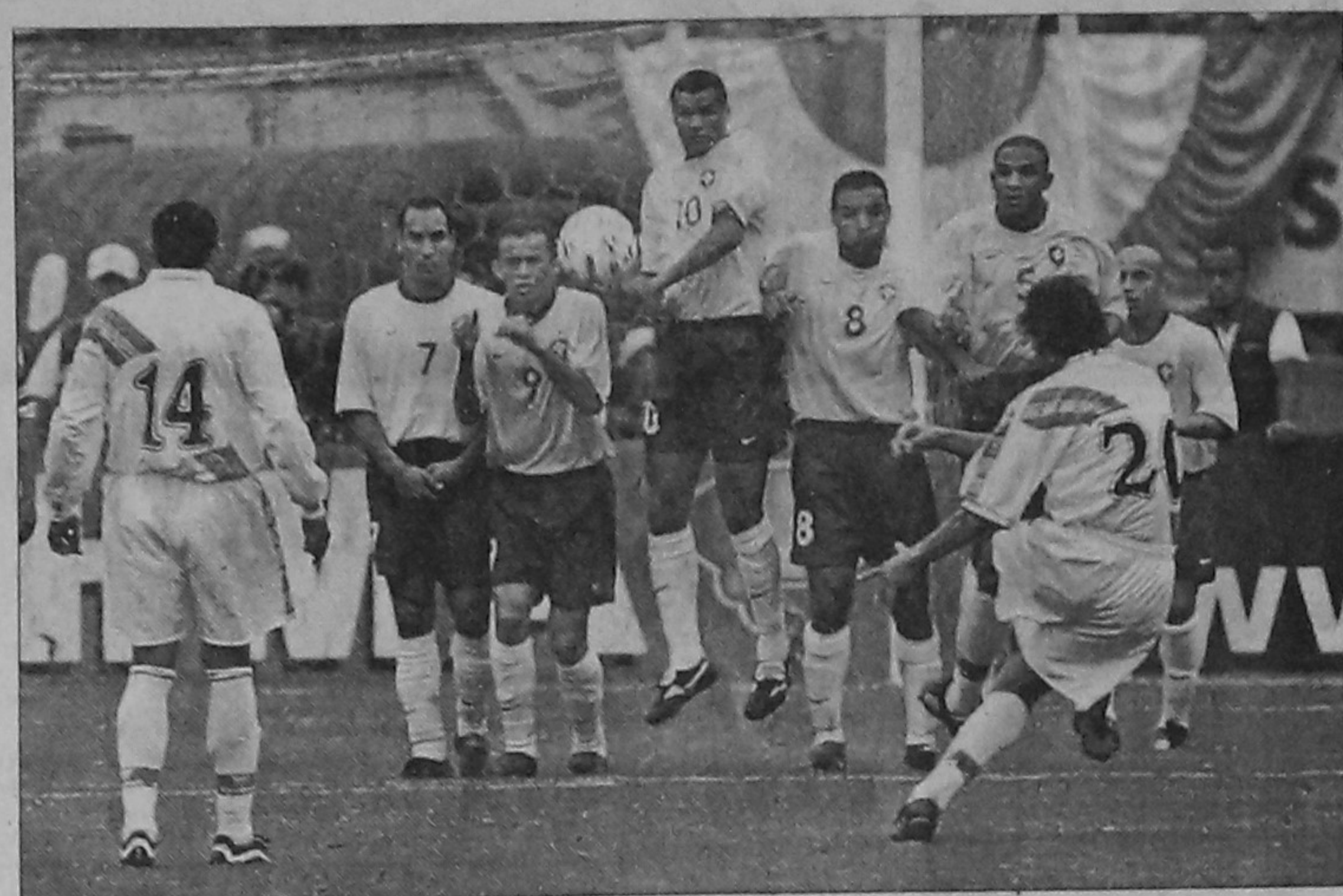
The 1999 international player-of-the-year broke the deadlock 11 minutes into extra time to make sure the world and Olympic champions go to the Sydney Games as holders of all hockey's major titles.

Veen exchanged passes with Teun de Nooier at the top of the German circle and found room to smack a shot under goalkeeper Christopher Reitz.

It was the fifth Dutch victory in the tournament and their third in five years — and avenged a defeat by Germany in last year's European final.

Marten Elkelboom turned in Remco van Wijk's pass at the right post from the first penalty corner of the game to put the Dutch ahead in the 11th minute.

Van Wijk hit the far post with an opportunistic reverse shot before Oliver Domke levelled in the 54th minute from a free hit by Christian Mayerhofer.



Jose del Solar (R) of Peru trying to curl a free-kick over the Brazilian wall during their World Cup 2002 qualifying match at Lima on June 4. —AFP photo

South American qualifiers

Squeaky wins for Brazil, Argentina



**2002 FIFA WORLD CUP
KOREA JAPAN**

offense was enough to ensure that the "Albiceleste" (Sky Blue and Whites) prevailed against Bolivia.

That means Marcelo Bielsa's side have three wins in three matches so far while Bolivia only have a point to show for their efforts.

That is in spite of Bolivia being given the right to retain the advantage of playing their home games at altitude at the Estadio Hernan Siles, known in Bolivia as El Nido del Condor (the Condor's Nest) in La Paz.

At nearly 12,000 feet the arena is the highest in international football in the world's highest capital city.

Lopez, who had replaced Inter Milan's Javier Zanetti 13 minutes previously, cracked a

corner.

Argentina's play was prompted by Lazio midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron who enjoys the central role he is given by Bielsa — at club level he plays on the flank.

Veron's best moment came when he linked up with teammate for club and country Diego Simeone to find Batistuta but "Bati-gol" failed to make the most of the opportunity.

Bielsa was looking a worried man and brought on Gustavo Lopez and Pablo Aimar.

Bolivia coach Carlos Aragonés reacted to Carballo's sending off by sacrificing striker Roger Suarez and introducing Ronald Garcia and later Gonzalo Galindo to reinforce his defence.

ACF

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dent of Pakistan Cricket Board Lt Gen Tauqir Zia, vice president of the Emirates Cricket Board Abdur Rahman Bukhatir, former Pakistani captain Asif Iqbal and Bangladesh Cricket Board general secretary Syed Ashraful Haq.

The ACF will get 64 per cent of the ICC Development Fund. However they will demand 50 per cent if Bangladesh get the Test status.

Dalmiya, who came here on Sunday afternoon, left the capital yesterday afternoon after attending the meeting.

Apart from Dalmiya, the meeting was attended by Zia, Bukhatir, Asif Iqbal and Syed Ashraful Haq, Chairman of ICC Finance and Marketing Committee Ehsan Mani of Pakistan was also present.

Cronje

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dealt with in making the agreement to accept payment and what it entailed.

Up to now the only details that have emerged from Cronje's initial confession are that he accepted a bag containing 8,200 dollars in exchange for match forecast information during the triangular tournament between South Africa, England and Zimbabwe in January and February this year.

Cronje has denied any involvement in match-fixing and McCauley has described his actions as a temporary lapse in his Christian beliefs.

Cronje also said in his written confession that he had been "tempted by Satan".

The commission will also investigate allegations that surfaced in India about the involvement of South African players in match-fixing during the recent tour to that country.

Cronje will have to explain why he had mentioned the names of Gibbs, Strydom and Boje in a tape-recorded conversation with an Indian bookmaker.

In addition, claims that the whole South African team was approached with a proposal to throw a match during its tour to India in 1996 will also be investigated. The commission will inquire as to who made the proposal, to whom, the terms of the deal and whether they were acted upon.

Apart from the incidents of alleged match-fixing and receipt of payments for information, the commission will also investigate whether South African players or officials had participated in any form of betting on the outcome of matches between November last year and April this year.

The commission will be chaired by Judge Edwin King and will be held at the Centre for the Book in Queen Victoria Street in Cape Town.

WC 2006

**Africa need
it badly**

WASHINGTON, June 5 (AFP): Shaun Bartlett looked across the field at the United States football team and saw a vision of what his South African squad could achieve by hosting the 2006 World Cup.

South Africa's all-time leading scorer has seen the US team improve since hosting the 1994 World Cup and expects the same for his nation, which has had to overcome international banishment during the days of apartheid.

"I think it was great for them," Bartlett told AFP.

"Hosting the World Cup would give us a great opportunity to make the same sort of improvement, especially since we are just coming back into international competition."

FIFA's 24-member executive committee meets on July 6 in Zurich to decide on a host for the 2006 World Cup, with South Africa, England, Germany, Brazil and Morocco vying for what could be the first World Cup hosted in Africa.

"It would mean a lot," Bartlett said.

"For the country and the continent it would be great. We have proven a lot to the world in the past few years. Africans play at a high level."

Sepp Blatter, boss of football's world governing body, supports an African World Cup, especially on the heels of the first Asian World Cup, the 2002 venture hosted jointly by Japan and South Korea.

"I'm sure we are coming a long way. The president of FIFA says we are ready. The president of South Africa says we are ready," South African coach Trofi Moloto said.

"We hope not only South Africa, but the whole continent will spread the good light of football and we can become among the most competitive sides."



Goalkeeper Iker Casillas (L), playmaker Guardiola (C) and Veleron in action during a practice session of the Spanish national squad at their Euro 2000 training base at Tegelen, the Netherlands yesterday. —AFP photo

Teams start arriving



BRUSSELS, June 5: The 16 participating nations in the Euro 2000 football finals made final preparations for their arrival at their respective bases as the buildup to the June 10 kickoff in Brussels reaches its climax, reports AFP.

The Swedes who play Belgium in the opening match in Brussels joined Spain as the first participants to take possession of their hotel keys when they arrived Saturday.

The two teams finished their preparation matches with a 1-1 draw as the two hopefuls exchanged penalties in Sweden.

Norway who are the Spaniard's first opponents on June 13 are expected to be the last arrivals on Friday when they take up residence in Knokke in Belgium.

They finished their last warm-up match with a well-earned 1-0 victory over the struggling Italian side.

A good geographic location was important in the squad's choice of base as well as security, discretion and comfort as the respective management teams aimed to give their players the best possible conditions.

World Champions France who are among the favourites to lift the title in the July 2 final in Rotterdam arrive Wednesday at the Genval castle just outside of Brussels.

Coach Roger Lemerre was so impressed with the facilities in French-speaking Wallonia that he has already taken an option to use the same location should France qualify for the quarter-finals.

Kevin Keegan's improving England squad opted for a symbolic location by choosing the Grand Hotel in Waterloo, just a few hundred metres from the historic battle fields where the British army inflicted a crushing defeat on France led by Napoleon in 1815.

England who struggled to a 2-1 win over Malta on Saturday will first spend a couple of days at the Balmoral hotel in Spa, which offers Keegan's men an indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi and golf course.

France who feature in a difficult group with Holland and the Czech Republic kick off against Denmark who complete the group on June 11 in Brugge.

England face a tricky opening match against Portugal before the big clash against defending champions Germany five days later, with Romania completing the group.

Portugal have chosen the Dutch town of Ermelo and will arrive with their own group of chefs declining the cuisine of local French and German cooks.

Turkey will take up a home away from home as they have chosen the Turkish community in Deiden which is situated in Holland close to the German border where hundreds of Turks are expected to make the short trip to support their heroes.

Outsiders Slovenia have chosen modest accommodation in another Dutch town of Soestdunum where they will have a lush buffet at their disposal offering various international dishes.

Most nations will quit the country the day after elimination, however the ever optimistic Spaniards have booked 66 rooms in their Dutch hotel regardless of what happens until the conclusion of the July 2 final in Rotterdam.

**Warm-up
Kluivert stars
for Holland**



LAUSANNE, Switzerland, June 5: Holland tuned up nicely for Euro 2000 here on Sunday with a 3-1 victory over Poland at their Swiss training camp, reports AFP.

The star of the show was undoubtedly Barcelona striker Patrick Kluivert whose two second half goals clinched the match for the Euro 2000 co-hosts after the teams had gone in level 1-1 at the interval.

His teammate for club and country Frank de Boer had given the 'Oranje' a lead from a freekick after 29 minutes before Pavel Kryszalozewicz squared the match nine minutes later after good work from Piotr Swierczewski.

But the introduction of Juventus midfielder Edgar Davids, dubbed the pitbull, after the interval gave the Dutch new impetus.

Kluivert's first goal came after a superb pass from another half-time replacement Peter van Vossen, on for Boudevijn Zenden, while his second saw him outfox much-coveted goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek, who plays for Feyenoord, after neat interplay from the de Boer twins, Frank and Ronald.

The last half hour was something of a non-event with both coaches constantly rotating their squads with multiple substitutions.

Holland coach Frank Rijkaard, a member of the team that won the 1988 European Championship in Germany, had brought his troops to Switzerland to escape the intense media and public scrutiny of the highly-fancied co-hosts in Holland, which is staging a major tournament for the first time.

And that decision looked vindicated with the Dutch appearing relaxed and focused.

Holland open their Euro 2000 campaign on June 11 at the Amsterdam Arena against Euro 96 finalists the Czech Republic, who were beaten 3-2 by Germany on Saturday.

King Hassan II Tournament

France owe Zidane one

CASABLANCA, Morocco, June 5: France 98 talisman Zinedine Zidane ensured world champions France avoided an embarrassing pre-Euro 2000 defeat at the hands of Japan, scoring one equaliser and having a big hand in the other to ensure a 2-2 draw, reports AFP.

France eventually prevailed 4-2 in a penalty shoot-out after efforts from Japan's Junichi Inamoto and Hiroshi Nanami struck the woodwork and will play Morocco or Jamaica in the final of the Hassan II Tournament.

But Japan, coached by Frenchman Philippe Troussier, were the more inventive side and constantly gave France coach Roger Lemerre food for thought a week before his team's Euro 2000 opener with Denmark at Bruges, Belgium.

First Zidane's neatly-taken goal on the hour cancelled out a first-half opener from Hiroaki Morishima.

Then Zidane linked up well with Nicolas Anelka to set up an easy goal for Youri Djorkaeff after 73 minutes just three minutes after a superb volley from Akinori Nishizara had given Japan a 2-1 lead.

But with France's many striking options failing to sparkle the suspicion remains that the World Champions are heavily dependent on Zidane in the creativity department.

Lemerre tried to take the positives from the match, saying: "The draw is just as I expected. Japan's organisation

was excellent. I was expecting it to be difficult but not as difficult as this. The Japanese have made enormous progress in their technical ability, and allied to their attitude, are a model.

"We France must prove our humility. Individually we failed. But fortunately once again we have shown our ability to come from behind."

Troussier, a long-time friend of Lemerre, said: "Our biggest win today was in Roger Lemerre's analysis of the match even if the first question asked me by the Japanese journalists was 'you have lost again, what are you going to do?'"

"We must respect that we progress in stages and two years away from the World Cup (that Japan will co-host with South Korea) tonight was an important stage. This draw allows us to go forward a stage together. What we are still lacking is the ability to finish it off," concluded Troussier, under fire in the Japanese press.

In the match itself after what was a fairly sterile opening France made the early running with Robert Pires doing well to take the ball to the byline but David Trezeguet was unable to direct his header on goal.

A lot of France's best work was coming down the left flank with full-back Bixente Lizarazu linking up with Sylvain Wiltord. Pires and Zidane but often the final ball was poor after good approach work.

Then Japan almost took a shock lead when Hidetoshi Nakata, who plays for Italian Serie A side AS Roma threw himself at the ball but saw his header sail over the bar of new Manchester United goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.

Zidane shot wide from distance in the next French foray but then Japan took the lead after some dreadful play in the heart of the France defence.

Emmanuel Petit, Lizarazu and Marcel Desailly overcomplicated matters in defence and Inamoto took the ball, playing in Cerezo Osaka star Morishima, who headed the ball in at the second attempt after his first effort was parried by Barthez.

France coach Roger Lemerre introduced two more France 98 players Djorkaeff and Christophe Dugarry after the break but Japan were looking dangerous on the break.

Nanami missed an opportunity to net a second and then Nakata wriggled past two challenges but failed to test Barthez with his shot.

Finally France equalised after an hour.

The Japanese defence was caught napping as Zidane raced on to a long ball from Petit. Japan keeper Seigo Narazaki came harrying out of his goal and Zidane flicked the ball over his head before tucking the ball away into the unguarded net.

But Japan went back ahead with a fabulous strike.

Nanami, who plays for relegated Italian Serie A side Venezia, crossed and Nishizara composed himself before volleying superbly past the flailing Barthez.

Lemerre then introduced Anelka and almost immediately the move paid dividends.

Again the credit must go to Zidane who won the ball in midfield but fed the Real Madrid striker whose centre was a formality for Djorkaeff.

Another substitute Frank Leboeuf had to scramble a dangerous ball off the line and Barthez had to produce the save of the match as Japan finished strongest and came perilously close to a clincher.

But Anelka too was felled in the last minute of normal time. Zidane was given a rousing reception as he was replaced by Thierry Henry in the last minute and seemed to enjoy playing in North Africa — the Marseille-born playmaker's parents are from Algeria.

There was still time for Barthez to make a good save from Nakata.

At the end of the match to be in considerable distress.

"Right at the start of the match I fell badly on my back," he explained. "Then right at the end of the match when I went to head the ball I felt a crack in my neck. Since then it has been hurting. I don't know if it is a vertebra or a rib," he said.

No diagnosis was immediately available but Euro 2000 rules provide for player to be added to the squad should a medically certified injury rule a player out.

Jamaica were due to play hosts Morocco in the second match of the night.

Remarkable

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DSS: How do you get on with the players and team management? Does the language and religious act as a barrier?

DK: Not at all. I get on perfectly well with players and everybody in general with regard to religion. However, I would love to learn a little more about the language. I can understand some words but really I want to master it. I know the literature is very rich. Quite frankly, most of the times the players try to speak in English. Take for instance Inzaman, who is a wonderful person. He has so much to say and he doesn't want to be limited because of language. In fact, all the players are very nice and we get on well since we are together for nearly 24 hours a day.

DSS: Explain why during a Test series against Zimbabwe you decided to leave?

DK: Martina Navratilova once said there is a difference with being involved and being committed. I feel myself being committed rather than vice versa. And the point is like this: If you eat a steak with an egg on it, the chicken is involved but the cow is committed. I'm not just involved in cricket I'm also committed to the sport.

Having said all that, the real reason I had to leave was because my wife fell ill and so I had to return home for a short while.

DSS: Thank you Dan Kiesel for talking to us.

DK: My pleasure.

AFP EURO 2000 BRIEFS



UNDATED, June 5: AFP Euro 2000 briefs on Monday:

YUGOSLAV STAR DETAINED BY POLICE

PODGORICA, Serbian police briefly detained Yugoslav international defender Nisa Saveljic Bordeaux on Sunday for "avoiding military service," a daily reported on Monday.

The 30-year-old Montenegrin, who plays for French First Division side Bordeaux and is set to be a key member of the Euro 2000 squad, was returning with the Yugoslav squad from a tour in Asia.

The police detained him at Belgrade airport for an hour, the pro-government daily Pobjeda reported.

He was released "upon intervention from a higher level," the daily said, adding that Saveljic was to remain in Belgrade and report to the Yugoslav defense ministry on Monday.

This was the first such incident in recent years, although military service is obligatory for men in Yugoslavia most

sportsmen are allowed to postpone the duty till the end of their careers.

However, since the split between federal Belgrade administration, run by allies of President Slobodan Milosevic, and the Montenegrin leadership headed by reformist President Milo Djukanovic, many Montenegrins are reportedly trying to avoid military service in the Belgrade-controlled Yugoslav army.

Montenegro, Serbia's junior partner in the Yugoslav federation, has boycotted federal institutions, controlled by Milosevic's allies since Belgrade refused to recognise the 1997 presidential victory of the reformist

Djukanovic.

Djukanovic, one of Milosevic's most vocal critics, has infuriated the Yugoslav strongman by pursuing a policy of rapprochement with the West at a time when Belgrade is isolated over its hardline policies.

ARIF OFF TO SPAIN

ANKARA: UEFA Cup winners Galatasaray began to pay for the price of their success on Monday when international striker Arif Erdem was reported to be signing for Spanish First Division strugglers Real Sociedad.

The 28-year-old, who has been with Galatasaray since 1990, will sign a two-year contract worth 3.7 million dollars it was reported by the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet.

Erdem, who will be a vital member of Turkey's Euro 2000 campaign, will be joined by compatriot and international teammate Tayfun Rorkut at the two-time Spanish champions, who only finished 13th last season.

GOOD NEWS FOR GERMANY

NUREMBERG: Striker Ulf Kirsten, midfielder Jens Jeremies and libero Lothar Matthaeus, all recovering from injuries, will be fit for Germany's opening Euro 2000 match with Romania on June 12, reports said on Sunday.



Sri Lanka's Upul Chandana is about to play a cut shot. —Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Amnesty Int'l strike deal with world champs

PARIS, June 5: Reigning football World Champions France signed a letter of agreement with Amnesty International on Monday denouncing the use of small weapons and supporting the control of the sale of arms.

These arms "are the most common reason for conflicts involving weapons" read the letter.

According to the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, children involving guns over the last 10 years have resulted in 3 million deaths — 80 percent of the victims being women or children.

Veteran defender Laurent Blanc was instrumental in the French teams involvement when he instigated the campaign last October.