Rajshahi cricket Our Correspondent, Rajshahi

Chatton Smriti Sangha and Disari Sangha (Red) won their respective matches of the seventh Birshrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gold Cup cricket tournament at local Railway play ground yesterday.

In the first match, Chatton Smriti beat Socio Economic Sangskritik Sangha by three wickets.

Winning the toss, Socio Economic batted first and made 132

for nine in stipulated 25 overs. In reply, Chatton Smriti reached the target conceding seven wickets

in 23 overs. In the other match of the day,

Disari Sangha defeated Mirer Chalk Sporting Club by three wickets. Winning the toss, Mirer Chalk

scored 119 runs in 23.4 overs In reply, Disari reached the target (120) losing seven wickets in 24.2

Hinds returning, not Garrick

AP. Bridgetown

Left-hander Wavell Hinds will leave the West Indies team, while Leon Garrick will stay on for the upcoming one-day international series with Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe

Garrick, who had planned to return to the Caribbean after the West Indies Test series with Sri Lanka, will remain in Sri Lanka for the triangular series that also includes Zimbabwe, the West Indies Cricket Board said in a statement

Lara, Vaas

,				
FROM PAGE 1 Bowler	3 O	М	R	w
Vaas	32.3	5	120	7
Zoysa	20	4	55	1
S'weera	8	0	31	0
B'tilleke	9	2	37	0
M'tharan	37	6	115	1
J'suriya	3	0	11	0
Arnold	3	0	8	0
T'ratne	1	0	1	0

SRI LANKA: First innings Atapattu c Gayle b Collins Jayasuriya c Ramnarine b Black 85 Sangakkara c Gayle b Dhillon Jayawardene not out Arnold not out

Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-1) Total: (For 3 wkts in 59 overs) 193

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-104, 3-179 To bat: Hashan Tillakaratne Thilan Samaraweera, Chaminda Vaas, Niroshan Bandaratilleke, Nuwan Zoysa, Muttiah Muralitharan 1 49 Collins 11 38 Black 2 34 2 19

Umpires: Russel Tiffin (Zimbabwe)

Sourav angry

and Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka).

ago amidst reports of a spat with the selectors.

In an unexpected move, the selectors omitted the entire fiveman pace attack that went to South Africa, for the Mohali Test scheduled to start on Monday

Borde said that except pace spearhead Javagal Srinath, who bowled well in South Africa before being injured, the rest of the attack

had disappointed him. In their place, the selectors picked three rookie bowlers, Sanjay Bangar, Igbal Siddigui and Tinu

Yohannan. "I know our pacemen have not

bowled well in South Africa." Ganguly said.

"But are the chosen ones better. than Aiit Agarkar, Ashish Nehra and Zaheer Khan?

"We needed a left-armer to create some roughs on the wicket so that the off-spinners could turn the ball more.

"But now we don't have that option," Ganguly said, adding that

Lou not that happy

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Perth

Debutant century-maker Lou Vincent said a late New Zealand collapse had taken the shine off his special day in the third and deciding Test against Australia.

New Zealand lost four wickets for 17 late in the day to finish at 293 for

"I have mixed emotions at the end there, because I was hoping we would finish the day with a maximum of five wickets down," said Vincent.

"Seven down is a bit of a kick in the guts, but, yes, it is a special day for me despite that. I had a hundred

"It was tough at times, but it was a pretty flat wicket, with a lot of pace in it. I would say it was an ideal pitch to play cricket on, and that was in my favour.

New Zealand were outplayed in the first two drawn Tests of the series and dropped opener Matthew Bell for the right-handed Vincent, who played and missed his first ball, from Auckland.

The 23-year-old lost Mark Richardson (nine) and Mathew Sinclair (two) with only 19 runs on the board before adding 199 for the third wicket with his captain Stephen

"It doesn't matter what level of cricket you play, you want to do

"Walking out today, there was definitely a few nerves there. That first ball ... I thought it might be up around the rib cage or the helmet but it wasn't to be.

"I played and missed and I thought well I didn't nick it so it could be my day, so keep going."

Vincent, who was raised in South Australia before returning to New Zealand, became the sixth player to make a century on debut for the

"I just try to keep it simple and do

the hard work at training and stuff and learn from the other guys

"It was good to nick a couple over the top and get three figures Vincent said batting was hard work against the Australia pace attack who bowled to three slips and

two gullies for much of the day. was expecting a few more bumpers, definitely," Vincent said. " think whatever comes down, you have to be at your best and play it

"At the end of the day winning does count. It will mean a lot to me if we can get through these five days and get a result," Vincent said.



resignation. There is no reason for

him to offer his resignation and we

end of the league would happily

Indeed many teams at the other

Leeds, who sit second, are set to

give Robbie Fowler his first start

after signing him from league lead-

ers Liverpool earlier this week,

when they travel to Fulham on

David O'Leary's side are just two

points behind Liverpool in the table

and many Anfield fans are wonder-

ing why such a prize asset should be

allowed to join title rivals at this

meaning Liverpool would receive

nothing for the England striker when

his contract expires, and with

Fowler unable to secure a regular

place in the starting 11, club chiefs

clearly felt now was the time to cash

believes the Liverpool-born Fowler

thought he would stay at Liverpool

for life but I can understand

Robbie's decision," the Liverpool

and sitting on the bench isn't good enough for him," the England

has made the right decision.

club captain said.

on bigfanof.com.

Jamie Redknapp for one

"Perhaps some of the fans

"He wants to be playing regularly

"I'm sure there are a lot of players

out there who would happily pick up

their wages every week without getting a spot of first-team football

but Robbie's not like that,'

Redknapp told his personal website

travel to bottom of the table Ipswich

Town. But there will be no return for

the Londoners' former Ipswich

keeper Richard Wright. The England international has a calf

injury and with David Seaman

(shoulder) also out, third choice

Fixtures (all 1500GMT unless

stated) Saturday: Aston Villa v

Leeds, Blackburn v Middlesbrough,

Charlton v Newcastle, Derby v

Liverpool, Ipswich v Arsenal,

Manchester United v Chelsea

(1200GMT). Sunderland v West

Sunday: Everton v Southampton

(1600GMT), Fulham v Leeds

Monday: Tottenham v Bolton

Stuart Taylor is expected to start.

Elsewhere, third-placed Arsenal

But with the Bosman ruling

have certainly not asked for it."

swop places with Chelsea.

Debutant New Zealander Lou Vincent jumps for after reaching the century against Australia on the opening day of the third and final Test at the WACA

Premiership preview

Barthez question

Football

Fabien Barthez is sweating out the next 48 hours as Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson decides whether the France 'keeper merits a place in the starting line-up away to Chelsea on Saturday.

While Ferguson contemplates the English champions' woes, the ever-flamboyant Barthez will be trying to forget the string of blunders which have contributed to United's The dramatic 3-1 defeat to

Arsenal last week -- in which Barthez played a starring role -- was the fourth defeat of the season and left them in lowly sixth place Another two defeats. Ferguson

warned this week, and United can kiss goodbye to hopes of retaining In his last season in charge such

a finale would be tragic for the man who took United to seven Premiership titles and the European But in a bid to relaunch his team,

and make a sign to disgruntled fans. Ferguson may sit Barthez on the bench -- a strategy he is not afraid to employ.

Ferguson sent Peter Schmeichel off on a Caribbean holiday during the Dane's final season at United when he had a bad run, although he did return for the Treble run-in.

Before that Ferguson dropped Jim Leighton for the 1990 FA Cup final replay after the Scot had a nightmare game at Wembley.

Gary Bailey, United's first choice keeper from the late 1970s to the

19 Super-

protector

ley's First

Lady

24 Lingerie

26 Eager,

28 Overact

30 Aachen

33 White

House

spokeman

Fleischer

anniver-

snapshot

bench

Ferguson to give Barthez a break. "Psychologically you look at the

goalkeeper and you think he needs a rest," he said. "Now might be the time to give

him a break. Let things calm down and just get away from the pressure. "Whether it's Roy Carroll or

Raimond van der Gouw who goes in is up to the coaching staff to decide. remember 'Schmeics' (Schmeichel) a couple of seasons ago was going through a bad patch and Sir Alex sent him on holiday,

Bailey told MUTV.

"Maybe Fabien should get the and go and have a couple of weeks

Defensive problems are not Chelsea's main worry, having lost just one league match to lie two places and a point behind United.

In contrast, Claudio Ranieri's expensively assembled team are the Premiership's draw specialists with eight of their 13 matches end-

ing in stalemate. This has angered some sections of their crowd who feel they should be getting better value for money, especially for their expensive season tickets at Stamford Bridge.

A goalless draw against Blackburn last week did little to improve the morale of some Chelsea fans but they would have been heartened by Wednesday's 2-0 League Cup win away to Premiership leaders Leeds.

However, such is the intense focus on Ranieri that Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson felt compelled earlier this week to issue a statement saying the Italian had not offered to quit

"At no stage did he offer his

WVY AX NIXHD-UAUP Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PAIR OF SNAKES ARE FIGHTING, DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT HISS AND MAKE UP?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals I 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

ICC, India

Indian demand to replace the former England captain as the referee in the third Test and the ICC responded by declaring the match an unofficial Test.

The Indian authorities refused to accept the ICC's ruling and maintained that as Sehwag had missed the third match against South Africa he had now served his ban.

In reply the ICC said Sehwag, who had been named in a 14-man squad for the first Test, still had to serve his sentence and gave the Indian board until noon (0630 GMT) on Friday to say whether or not he would play. On Thursday the deadline was put back to Saturday.

A cricket civil war became imminent when Dalmiya said he would not accept the ultimatum, raising the possibility that the ICC would rule the Test against England unofficial

England had made it clear they would abandon their tour if the Test was stripped of its official status.

An England withdrawal would have placed the entire three Test series in ieopardy and posed guestions on the fate of five one-day international matches India and England are scheduled to play.

Plans for an emergency meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday between Dalmiya and ICC officials were abandoned earlier on Friday when the prospects of a compromise solution became imminent.

The ICC executive board meets in March. Meanwhile, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has said it is delighted an agreement had been reached between the ICC and

"I am delighted to hear this news. sense and I congratulate both the

"As we have made clear, the ECB has always been fully supportive of the ICC's position throughout

"The decision will strengthen the

said, "This is good news for the millions of cricket followers worldwide and England's supporters.

the series and I am delighted that the tour can now proceed as planned, and that the England team can continue their preparations for the first Test in Mohali without any further distractions.

Suddenly Kiwis

tion revealed no serious injury.

Despite his absence, the batspace and menace of Lee and Jason Gillespie and the wiles of star legspinner Shane Warne Lee, especially, tested the

batsmen, and one head-high beamer soared only narrowly over the head of a ducking Vincent.

ruled out by Australian umpire Darrell Hair in the 66th over, sent down by Warne.

Hair raised his finger Vincent, born in New Zealand but initially exposed to serious cricket in Adelaide, South Australia came into the side in a desperate attempt by selectors to give solidity to the top order after the failures of

In New Zealand's early troubles Mark Richardson and Mathew Sinclair fell inside the opening seven overs

After looking comfortable in the early stages, the left-handed Richardson played around a fizzing ball from Gillespie to be bowled

ing day of the third and deciding cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand at the WACA Ground

Richardson b Gillespie Vincent c M Waugh b Warne 104 Sinclair Ibw McGrath Fleming Ibw Lee 105 Astle not out 28 McMillan Ibw Gillespie 4 Vettori c Martyn b Gillespie 2 Cairns c Gilchrist b Lee Parore not out Extras: (lb-13, w-1, nb-12) Total: (For 7 wkts in 90 overs) 293 Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-19, 3-

218, 4-264, 5-269, 6-272, 7-281 To bat: Shane Bond, Chris

McGrath	13	6	25	1	
Gillespie	24	3	79	3	
Lee	18	3	89	2	
Warne	25	6	66	1	
Martyn	3	0	11	C	
M Waugh	3	0	9	0	
Ponting	4	3	1	C	
AUSTRALIA:	Steve \	Nau	gh, Jı	ustir	
Langer, Matt					
Ponting, Ma	rk Wau	ıgh,	Dar	nier	
Martyn, Ada	m Gilc	hrist	i, Sh	nane	
Warne, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie					
Glenn McGrat	h				



Australian Patrick Rafter is jubilant after beating Sebastien Grosjean of France in the second rubber of the Davis Cup final in Melbourne yesterday.

Even going at Melbourne

Tennis

But even his rival French captain

Guy Forget wouldn't have guessed

France's Nicolas Escude who had

won just one match since

September's US Open over the

world's hottest player, Australian

by Pat Rafter whose place in the

Australian team was in doubt

because of tendinitis in his right arm

in beating Sebastien Grosjean to

leave the final all square after

matches and I've watched so many

that a lot of times a lot of unexpected

"I've played so many Davis Cup

Friday's opening singles.

Then it was a gutsy performance

Lleyton Hewitt.

It started with a surprise win by

AP, Melbourne It's "even-stevens" after the first day Indian cricket officials. of the Davis Cup final, said Australian captain John Fitzgerald.

The decision is a victory for common ICC and BCCI on reaching an agreement," ECB chairman Lord McLaurin said in a statement.

ICC's authority and integrity as the world governing body for cricket, but the family of cricket is the real win-Tim Lamb, ECB chief executive,

"There is huge expectation about

things happen," said Forget. "And now again.' Rafter, who beat Sebastien Grosjean 6-3, 7-6 (6), 7-5, said he wasn't sure how his sore arm would

FROM PAGE 13

McGrath was taken to hospital for a precautionary scan after having muscle spasms, but the examina-

men still had to contend with the

Vincent appeared unlucky to be

Vincent drove vigorously and appeared to miss. As the ball spun past the stumps, a diving Mark Waugh spectacularly grabbed the ball, and Hair ruled he had taken a

The batsman did not move until

deposed opener Matthew Bell.

SCOREBOARD

Umpires: Darrell Hair (Australia) and Ian Robinson (Zimbabwe)

feel until he got up on Saturday morning But he made sure he and his

teammates felt better on Friday night after Escude had given France a 1-0 lead by beating Hewitt, the world's top-ranked player and winner of 22 of his previous 24 matches, 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. the tiebreaker but Rafter saved all

"Right now the adrenalin is pumping and it's hot," Rafter, who plans to take an extended break from tennis next year, said of his injury. "I've just iced it, so you don't know about these things until the

On Saturday, Wayne Arthurs and Todd Woodbridge were scheduled to lead Australia in doubles against Cedric Pioline and Fabrice Santoro, but changes can be made to the doubles lineup up to an hour before the match

Fitzgerald said he might do just

"We will give it a little bit of

Forget said he doesn't plan to

On Sunday in the reverse sin-

thought tonight," said Fitzgerald. "We will see how the big fellow (Rafter) is feeling and what the rest of the team thinks.

change the French doubles team.

gles, Hewitt will play Grosjean and Rafter is set to play Escude.

Rafter was down a break in the second set and Grosjean was serving for the set at 5-3 when Rafter broke back to help even the set and send it to a tiebreaker.

Grosjean had three set points in

three. Grosjean then double faulted to set up set point, then wracked a forehand long to give Rafter the tiebreaker 8-6 and the second set. "He never was the same player in the third set," said Rafter. "He was scrambling and I felt like I had him

bit of a booboo there." Escude broke Hewitt in the eighth games of the second and fourth sets, then held his serve in the pivotal eighth game of the deciding set after Hewitt held three break

on the ropes a lot more. He made a

Hewitt was only able to convert three of his 18 breakpoint chances in the match while Escude took

advantage of four of eight. "I felt the match start to go my way in the fourth, and the key was holding my serve when it seemed as if Lleyton would come back in the fifth," said Escude

Primera Liga Deportivo target Espanyol

Football

AFP, Madrid

Spanish first division leaders Deportivo La Coruna crashed spectacularly 4-1 at Real Mallorca last Sunday -- their worst league defeat for nearly two years -- but the Galician club are determined that there will not be another slip up at Espanyol.

Deportivo coach Javier Irureta rode his luck, as three of the other top four clubs in Spain also lost last weekend, to stay on top.

After resting many of his key players for a week -- only a handful, including Brazilian midfielder Mauro Silva played in Wednesday's 2-1 Spanish Cup win at third division Cultural Leonesa -- Irureta looks set Barcelona-based outfit which resembles the one which beat English Premiership side Arsenal in the European Champions' League two

weeks ago.

"The defeat on Sunday was a result of having to rotate the team all the time. However, that's going to be a continual problem if you have to play midweek, and at the weekend. every week." said Irureta, returning to his continual gripe earlier this

Against Espanyol, Irureta is expected to recall his first-choice central defenders Donato and Noureddine Naybet, neither of whom played against Mallorca or Cultural, while the mercurial Brazilian

Djalminha could be back in the

midfielder after being on the bench

for Deportivo's two most recent

However. Espanyol also have something to prove as well, having lost three of their last four games, including a 4-1 demolition at Celta Vigo on Sunday, and they have slid down the table to 15th position

Unlike his counterpart Irureta

though, Espanyol coach Paco Flores

is not expected to ring the changes

despite the recent poor run of form.

simply because he has so few other options in a squad noticeably lacking any depth. Saturday (all kick off times GMT): Espanyol v Deportivo La Coruna 1730) Real Madrid v Osasuna (1730) Alaves v Barcelona (1830)

. Valencia v Real Mallorca (1930) Sunday (all matches 1500 unless noted): Athletic Bilbao v Real Zaragoza, Malaga v Real Sociedad, Valladolid v Ray Vallecano, Real Betis v Tenerife, Las Palmas v Sevilla (1600), Celta Vigo v Villarreal (1800)



"Variety 9 Shrill bark 44 In due 12 Scent 13 Coach 45 Minister. Parseghian 47 Creamy Plata' (Montana's 49 Roll motto) with 15 Blouse punches 16 Fruity 52 Prior to 53 Female dessert 18 Shatters 20 DNA com 54 Prodded 55 Roulette ponent 21 Cartoonist

Keane 23 Conk 24 Hoedown "seats" 25 Percep-27 Harsh 29 Fun 31 Wild and crazy 35 Artist Rivera 37 Emana-

38 Mature



4 Cupid's

5 Couldn't

stand

container

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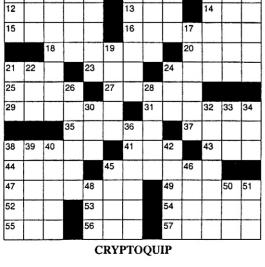
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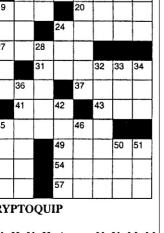
9 Mountain

Zellweger

role



YKUHYHA NVMM GXIDYW SUABWICS GIXK ABY IXWYX



possible."

(1400GMT)

(2000GMT)

pitting perhaps England and Germany together again, or Belgium and Croatia, Ireland and Portugal, Russia and Slovenia and Turkey and Sweden. Apart from the four debutants

Mother of all FROM PAGE 13 ensuring it is as open and pure as

This means that countries which met in the qualifying competition could also meet again in the finals -

Ecuador, Senegal, China and Slovenia -- and Turkey, who last appeared in the finals in 1954, most of the qualifiers are experienced campaigners at this level with 23 of them having taken part in the last two World Cups.

Scoreboard at stumps on the open-

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

io but.	Chanc	Dona,		OHILI			
Martin							
Bowler	0	M	R	W			
McGrath	13	6	25	1			
Gillespie	24	3	79	3			
Lee	18	3	89	2			
Warne	25	6	66	1			
Martyn	3	0	11	C			
M Waugh	3	0	9	0			
Ponting	4	3	1	0			
AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh, Justin							
Langer, Ma	atthew H	layde	en,	Ricky			
Ponting A	Aark Ma	uah	D	amiar			