Sport

Agassi v Roddick looms

AFP, Melbourne

Defending champion Andre Agassi and top-seed Andy Roddick raced into the last 16 of the Australian Open Friday as women's favourite Justine Henin-Hardenne passed her first serious test.

Agassi and Roddick both blasted aside their opponents to record straight sets victories and move a step closer to a semifinal 'clash of the generations.'

World number one Roddick overwhelmed 27th seed Taylor Dent in the evening match, bombarding his American compatriot with a crushing 6-2, 6-0, 6-2 in just 71 minutes.

"Taylor didn't have his best night tonight and I played pretty well," said Roddick, who now plays 16th seed Sjeng Schalken in the fourth round.

"I was pretty happy with the way I played and I'm just pleased to be in the fourth round."

Agassi was similarly emphatic in his 6-0, 6-3, 6-3 demolition job of Sweden's Thomas Enquist, who has the best record of any active player against the 33-year-old American -- now an even 5-5.

"I did everything I was looking to do," said Agassi, who set the tone for the encounter by hurtling through a 21-minute first set and breaking serve a total of seven times.

Agassi now faces Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan, the 13th

Easy victory FROM PAGE 13

199/7 in 35 overs (Arefin 83 n.o, Russell 20; Masubur 3-42)

BADC HIGH SCHOOL: 164/10 in as as possible to see them but 27.1 overs (Ziaul 21; Sajiad 4-27, whether the urn could be safely Russell 2-21, Sultanur 2-25) transported around the country is something we would have to look Result: MA Latif Memorial won by 35 runs

KEYA KINDERGARTEN: 195/10 in Australian cricket that, regardless 33.2 overs (Billal 31, Judge 24, of the result of an Ashes series, the Hossain 22; Sumon 2-20, Ali 2-26, urn itself has remained with the Anit 2-36 MCC where it is usually displayed

SONNET KINDERGARTEN AB in the Lord's museum. HIGH SCHOOL: 173/9 in 35 overs (Rockey 24; Sabuj 4-21, Billal 2-28). since 1989 with England's last Result: Keya Kindergarten won by series win over their oldest cricketing opponents coming on their 1986-87 tour.

22 runs. ANANDADHARA BENAROSHY: 90/10 in 24 overs (Wahid 13, Al-Amin 2-13, Jamal 2-14, Babul 2-14) BLS SCHOOL: 93/7 in 22.4 overs (Sumon 22, Jamal 22, Jasim 3-31, Ali2-14).

perceived unfairness of the urn Result: BLS School won by 3 wickstaying in England regardless of series results, the MCC commis-

Red Crescent Fund Raising Cup golf held

SPORTS REPORTER

seed going into the Open's fourth round for the first time after beat-Australian 🔊 Open ing former world number one Gustavo Kuerten 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

In other men's results Friday, fiery Russian Marat Safin kept his cool to beat US veteran Todd Martin in a five-set marathon 7-5

1-6, 4-6, 6-0, 7-5. The show of level-headedness by the former world number one opened the possibility Safin could emerge as a dark horse.

Robby Ginepri, the 32nd seeded American, dismissed French wildcard Nicolas Escude 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, and fellow American James Blake powered past the last remaining men's qualifier in the tournament. Olivier Patience of France, 6-1, 6-3,

On the women's side, Henin-Hardenne survived the first real challenge to her quest for back-toback Grand Slam titles in a hard fought match against 30th seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia.

The top seeded Belgian, who lost only five games in breezing past her first two opponents, had her serve broken twice and committed 27 unforced errors in the one hour, 17 minutes it took her to

beat Kuznetsova 6-2, 7-5. It was a far from convincing erformance from Henin-Hardenne, the hot tournament favorite after winning the US Open in September and who now faces

Italian qualifier Mara Santangelo. Nevertheless Henin-Hardenne insisted she was pleased with her form, saying she was glad to be tested after routine victories in her opening two matches.

Ashes going

to speak to Cricket Australia and

"We'd like as many cricket fans

It has long been a sore point in

Australia have 'held' the Ashes

The only time the urn left London was in 1988 when it was

taken to Australia for the country's

sioned an Ashes-shaped Waterford

crystal trophy which was first

presented to Australia captain

Mark Taylor after the 1998-99

In contrast to the Ashes, this new trophy remains the property of the winning side.

In order to try to remedy the

bicentennial celebrations.

Ashes series.

FROM PAGE 13

the insurers about.

"It was a good fight. It's the kind of match that I like to play very early in the tournament," said Henin-Hardenne, who rose to the top of women's tennis last year with victories in the French and US Opens

"I'm pretty happy because she's a tough opponent and I won in two great to have this kind of match in the third round because l knew that before going on to court, I had to be 100 percent if I wanted to win.

"The kind of matches I got in the first two rounds don't help me too much too improve my game.

Henin-Hardenne's biggest hurdle to another Grand Slam final fourth seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France, had far less difficulty oustng unseeded Anabel Medina Garrigues of Spain 6-1, 6-2 in just a minute over one hour.

But the Frenchwoman, a 1999 Australian Open runner-up, was twice treated during the second set for tightness in the muscles of her lower left leg, a problem she said had been nagging her for several days.

"It bothers me a bit and I will really try to take care of it, but I don't really know where it comes from or what it is, so it's difficult to say," she said. "I've never had this before.

Asked if the problem could derail her title hopes here, Mauresmo said only, "I hope not."

Also in the same half of the draw is fifth seeded American Lindsay Davenport, who recovered from 4down in the opening set to oust world number 54 Laura Granville 6-4, 6-0.

BCB beat Media

six wickets in a friendly match at

Opting to bat first, the Media

team scored 126 for 9 in the stipu-

lated 25 overs with Mim making the

In reply, BCB's media commit-

tee chairman Reazuddin Al

Mamun cracked 56 off just 45 balls

as his side eclipsed the 137

required in 20 overs for the loss of

four wickets. Mamun was later

The old committee had been

accused of nepotism over the selec-tion of the Pakistan under-17 team

currently touring India, which

defended his time in the post.

"I did my job honestly and am happy that I have revived a team which, if it plays up to its potential, can beat India," he said.

declared man-of-the match.

PCB chief

FROM PAGE 13

tors.

the Old DOHS ground yesterday.

SPORTS REPORTER

highest 47.

School cricket **OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Gaibandha

Gaibandha Boys High School defeated Akbar Ali Khan High School by six wickets in the inaugural match of the Standard Chartered 22nd National School Cricket Championship at the Gaibandha Government Boys High School ground yesterday.

In the second match of the day, Harinsingha High School defeated Dariyapur High School by 30 runs. A total of 10 schools of

Gaibandha district region are participating in the meet.

Singer chess **SPORTS REPORTER**

Five players jointly shared the lead with 6.5 points each after the end of the eighth round games of the preliminary phase Singer 30th National Chess Championship-at the NSC yesterday.

They are: FM Khandkar Aminul Islam, Shawkat Hossain Pallab, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Debaraj Chattarjee and Aminul Islam Polash

In this round Nasir beat FM Rezaul Haque, Debaraj beat Sohel Chowdhury, Maleq beat Din Mohammad, Arman beat Humayan Kabir, Javed beat Taherul Islam and Enayet beat Uten. Amin drew with Pallab and Lavlu drew with Polash.

Int'l Open chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman earned maximum 2 points after the second round games of the first Interna-tional Open Chess tournament yeaterday which is now being held at Chennai, India.

Zia beat Rahul Sangma of India. IWM Rani Hamid, Zakia Sultana and Afroza Khanam Bably earned 1 Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI point each. defeated a combined Media XI by

Total 105 players from different countries are taking part in the meet.

Inzamam stays skipper AFP. Karach

The Pakistan Cricket Board Friday retained current captain Inzamamul Haq for the upcoming year, which will include the ice-breaking home series against rival India in March.

"The chairman of the PCB Shaharyar Khan has reposed confidence in Inzamam and has appointed him captain for the calendar year 2004," it was announced in a statement.

includes the son of one of the selec-"The PCB is optimistic that under his leadership, the Pakistan Sohail, who had also been criticised for being a commentator while serving as chief selector, cricket team will continue to make upward progress," Khan said.

Pakistan won the two-match Test series in New Zealand 1-0 but lost the one-day series 4-1 in an unimpressive manner.

The 33-year-old portly cricketer from Multan took over as Pakistan

Primera Liga preview Valencia feel like Real

Football

AFP, Madrid

Valencia have swept aside the importance of their 3-0 Spanish Cup defeat to Real Madrid in midweek to affirm they are now the main challengers to the reigning Spanish league champions.

"We have taken over from Barcelona as the main rivals of Madrid, stepping into the vacuum Barca have left behind," Valencia president Jaime Orti declared earlier this week.

"We are on a par with Real. Valencia have won, and deserve the respect of everybody, not just Madrid," added Orti

Orti's affirmation may be bold but it comes as no surprise. Valencia, the champions in 2002, lead Real by one point in the league table and will be out to boost their title hopes by beating Osasuna at home on Sunday.

Valencia have won their last four games at their Mestalla stadium and are unbeaten in nine outings - while the Pamplona-based side have only won once in 24 visits to Valencia, and that was 12 seasons ago.

"The players will want to show in the best way possible that the defeat in Madrid was not a reflection of their true abilities,' Valencia coach Rafa Benitez sug-

FA Cup preview

Football

Real medical staff will examine gested on Thursday. Ronaldo again on Friday before Benitez will be without Spanish deciding if he can play. international midfielder Ruben Baraja, suspended, and Mohamed Sissolo, who is on African Nations Cup duty for Mali, leaving Valencia

short of a midfield playmaker. In order to fill this particular vacuum, Benitez is expected to ask Pablo Aimar to play deeper than usual, leaving his options open as to who will accompany Mista muscle.

Ferrer up front. Real meanwhile host Villarreal on Saturday and know that their 100 per cent home record in the league will be under more threat than on most of the other 10 occasions they have won in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in this campaign.

Last season, Villarreal managed a 1-1 draw and, with them flying high in fifth position and bidding for a place in Europe next season, they are determined to go one better this time around.

The last time Chelsea visited

Scarborough's tiny McCain sta-

dium they went away as losers, beaten 3-2 in the second leg of a

League Cup tie to go out of the

Saturday, Scarborough will have

had a season to remember. The 500,000-pound windfall they will earn, largely as a result of the

unchtime tie being televised live,

has secured the cash-strapped

club's immediate future and will

help smooth a planned move to a

Scarborough are one of two non-league sides who have made it

The other, Telford, look to have

a more winnable clash against first

The pick of Saturday's ties is Liverpool's Anfield clash with

lewcastle in a match that could

have a significant psychological

edge in what most people expect to

be a battle between them for fourth

lace in the league, and the final

Another all-Premiership clash

Champions League place available

Regardless of the outcome on

tournament 4-3 on aggregate.

Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz has a few dilemmas to resolve ahead of Villarreal's visit. Queiroz will have to replace his

suspended Spanish international Ivan Helguera and the Portuguese coach is expected to turn to Jose Maria 'Guti' Gutierrez.

history

new stadium.

to the fourth round.

division Millwall.

to English clubs.

AFP, Rome

There is also a big question mark over the fitness of Ronaldo, who pulled a thigh muscle in Wednesday's win over Valencia.

If Ronaldo gets the thumbs down, Javier Portillo is likely to grab what would be just his third start this season with both hands. Real are also without FIFA World

Player of the Year Zinedine Zidane. The Frenchman is out for at least another week after tearing a thigh

Catalan giants Barcelona travel to Sevilla on Sunday and a win could see them finally claw their way back into the top six after an erratic first half of the season.

However, Barca's beleagured Dutch coach Frank Rijkaard will keep Madrid and the stories are all just rumours," Ronaldo was quoted as his fingers crossed that Thursday saying in an interview with Cadena night's Spanish Cup game against Cope radio in Spain. Real Zaragoza will not leave him with more players on his club's already explain the trip because it was just to have some (publicity) photos taken ... (but) with the Russian guy extensive injury list.

FIXTURES

Saturday (kick off GMT): Real Madrid v

today **Bet on Scarborough!** UNB, Dhaka

> Protistan (BKSP) and Morning Sun moved into the Super League of the Office Hockey League eliminating their respective rivals at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

> In the day's first match, BKSP outplayed Bangladesh Navy 7-1 while Morning Sun blanked Bangladesh Police 4-0 in the second match.

Four teams - Bangladesh Army, Friends Library, BKSP and Morning Sun will play in the super The pick of Sunday's ties is a rerun of the 1981 final between league today at the same venue.

Mi, Roy write

FROM PAGE 13

earned them 60 ITF junior points respectively. The losing finalists, on the other hand, collected 45 FIXTURES points

The boys' doubles final turned out to be an anti-climax when Roy and his partner Anushuman Dutta were awarded the title after one of their opponents had to retire having conceded the first set 6-2.

The press release faxed by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation failed to mention the names of who Roy and Dutta were playing.

On the concluding day Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Zafar Imam gave away prizes among the winners.

Elvis is more likely to be found alive than Scarborough are to win the FA Cup. At least that is the view taken by Britain's bookmakers, who offer odds of 5,000-1 against the nonleague side going all the way to the

AFP. L

Millennium Stadium in May, compared with only 1,000-1 against a confirmed sighting of the king of rock and roll. A bit hard on the club known as the Seadog perhaps. But the vagaries of odds setting do give a realistic indication of the scale of the task facing the Nationwide Conference club as they prepare to entertain Chelsea

in the fourth round of the tournament on Saturday. The club that manager Russell

Slade has guided to the last 32 of the world's oldest tournament for the first time in its 125-year history has twice been on the verge of financial extinction in the last two years.

Claudio Ranieri's squad cost 150 million pounds (280 million on Saturday pits Cup holders Arsenal against Middlesbrough in dollars) to put together. Slade's was assembled for the grand total of 2,000 pounds, less than some Chelsea players earn for a morning's work

Villarreal (1830), Albacete v Atletico Madrid (2030) Sunday: Celta Vigo v Real Sociedad (1600), Espanyol v Real Betis (1600) Malaga v Valladolid (1600), Racing

Santander v Murcia (1600), Valencia v Osasuna (1600), Real Zaragoza v Real Mallorca (1600), Sevilla v Barcelona (1800), Athletic Bilbao v Deportivo La Coruna (2000)

meeting with fellow first division

side Gillingham has the most

500,000 pounds by the end of next

month to avoid financial collapse

and everyone at the club is keenly aware that the Cup could prove to

Manchester City and Tottenham,

which Spurs won in a replay thanks

to Ricky Villa's famous winning

Saturday: Arsenal v Middlesbrough,

Birmingham v Wimbledon, Burnley v

Gillingham, Coventry v Colchester,

Ipswich v Sunderland, Liverpool v

Newcastle (1735 GMT), Luton v

Tranmere, Portsmouth v Scunthorpe

Scarborough v Chelsea (1230 GMT),

Sunday: Everton v Fulham, Manchester

City v Tottenham (1300 GMT)

(1605 GMT), Nottingham Forest v

v Manchester United

Swansea v Preston, Telford v Millwall

(1500 GMT unless stated)

Burnley need to raise more than

riding on its outcome.

be their salvation.

goal.

"Abramovich has never called me," he said. "If they are interested, it's always nice to be appreciated. Ronaldo is Real's top scorer this season with 15 league goals.

Office hockey Super League

The Daily Star

Ronaldo warns

Chelsea's buying power under the

ownership of Russian billionaire

Roman Abramovich is a concern

for Real Madrid, Brazilian striker

Ronaldo was fined by Real for

making an unauthorised trip to

London earlier this month and

The player has categorically

denied newspaper speculation that the trip might have had something

to do with interest from Chelsea but

he recognises why the story caused

"I'm very happy here at Real

"Real haven't asked me to

(Abramovich) wanting to sign

Chelsea signed Claude Makelele

from Real Madrid just before the

start of the season but Ronaldo said

he had no plans to join the French

everyone they're scared.

midfielder in London.

arriving back late for training.

of Roman

power!

REUTERS, Madrid

Ronaldo said on Friday.

disquiet at Real.

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Cup semi-final first leg in midweek. It may not be the most glamorous of Saturday's clashes -- but there is no doubt that Burnley's

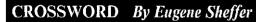
Air Commodre Muhammed Murad Hossain won the men's title while T W Hong clinched the ladies' crown in the Red Crescent Fund Raising Cup golf tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

182 golfers including 6 ladies took part in the meet.

Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury gave away prizes among the winners.

OTHER RESULTS

Senior winner: Abdul Wahed, Junior winner: Master Shariar Khan, Best Gross: Saddiq Quddus, Ladies Best Gross: Ayesha Farid, Second Best Gross: Masud Ahmed Runner-up: Mohammed Baten, Second runner-up: Iftekhar Rahman, Nearest to Pin: Maj Gen Jiban Kanai Das, Longest Drive: Shawkat-uz-Zaman.



ACROSS	35 Call a halt	DOWN	20 Musician
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			TIQ: IL



President of Kurmitola Golf Club and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury (fifth from right) poses with dignitaries after teeing-off the Red Crescent Fund Raising Cup Golf Tournament yesterday.

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give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

captain in the one-day series against Bangladesh after Rashid Latif was suspended for the series on charges of claiming an unfair

32

3

Al-Amin

Shafiul

38

o u

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KHULNA V SYLHET

Venue: Shamsul Huda

Stadium, Jessore

Mabud c Hasibul b Russell

Mowla lbw b Nizamuddin

Atiq c Hasanuzzaman b Bashin

Jakwan c Bashir b Russell

Extras: (b-4, lb-1, nb-4, w-6

Total: (All out in 38.4 overs) 115

Fall of wkts: 1-14, 2-18, 3-33, 4-68, 5-89, 6-93, 7-97, 8-111, 9-115, 10-115

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Extras: (b-5, nb-1, w-19)

Total: (For 4 wkts in 37.3 overs)

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Parvez c and b Rai

Nasirul

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Rana run ou

Nabil

Bowler

Russell 30

Al-Amin 22

Shafiul

22

Raj 15

Bashir

Nizamuddin

Neaz not out

Bowler W

Jakwan

Shafiul lbw b Sami

Jalaluddin

Nizamuddin

Hasanuzzaman

Fall of wkts: 1-16, 2-23, 3-32, 4-42

Habib c Mabud b Parvez

KHULNA

Eiaz c Jalaluddin b Rai

0

Sami 15

Parvez 14

Nabil 31

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RAJSHAHI

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Bowler

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Tariqul 36

Arman 27

Mustadii

BARISAL

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Nuruzzaman b

Hasanuzzaman

The one thing Scraborough do have on their side is a little bit of

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Man-of-the-match: Hasanuzzaman

RAJSHAHI V BARISAL

b

enue: Rangpur Cricket Garden

Result: Khulna won by six wickets

0

Salahuddir

Navan

Mustadir 47

l b w

c Anisur b Tariqul 18

Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-18)

Total: (All out in 49.2 overs)

Fall of wkts: 1-2, 2-24, 3-72, 4-118, 5-120, 6-133, 7-159, 8-163, 9-170, 10-170

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the third of the four meeting between the two clubs this month.

Sheffield Utd (1400 GMT) Arsenal won the first encounter. a league match, 4-1, but paid the Wolverhampton v West Ham (1400 price for fielding a second string side as Boro won 1-0 in the League

Holders AC Milan remain on

course to retain the Italian Cup

after clinching their place in the

last four with a 2-1 victory over

Roma in the second leg of their

Milan's win, their third over

Roma in 16 days, saw them

advance to the semi-finals thanks

to a 4-2 aggregate score having

defeated the current Serie A leaders

Milan, who beat Roma in last

year's final and are the only team to

beat them in the league this season,

2-1 at the San Siro last week.

quarter-final here on Thursday.

GMT) Italian Cup Milan in semis Football round

Roma dominated the first half, but for all their possession they lacked a cutting edge in the final third of the field.

And they were made to pay four minutes after the break when substitute Alessandro Nesta rose high at the back post to head Milan in front with a rare goal.

Worse was to follow for Roma eight minutes later when Danish striker Jon Dahl Tomasson turned inside Christian Panucci to fire a crisp shot high into the net to put the tie further out of Roma's reach. The home side pulled one back

in the 81st minute through Amantino Mancini, but the Brazilian winger's fierce strike proved to be nothing more than a consolation goal.

> "I think deep down somebody was watching and helping us last night when we were out there for

February to discuss this new monoshirt but rule four stipulates that kits should have contrasting colours and that is not happening if you are wearing a one piece body-suit.

"I am sorry that the suppliers didn't talk to us about it before they started manufacturing. We could have told them that they are not acceptable

"If Cameroon play in this bodysuit, it will be against the laws of thegame

Blatter also said that his recent remarks about women players in which he was reported to have claimed that the sport would win more fans if they turned out in skin tight shorts had given women's soccer a huge boost.

"There was a hint of creativity by the media in what I said but it put women's football on the front pages of newspapers even in those countries where the sport is not popular, he said.

"I think that instead of complaining, women players should have applauded what I said."

MSC decision FROM PAGE 13

Anwarul Haque Helal denied Lokman's claim that they would disallow the goal.

"No one has the authority to change the verdict of the referee no matter how wrong it may be. So we can not cancel that goal. Besides, we also can not take action against the referee because it is the matter of Referee's Association to review the performance of the officials." said Helal.

Helal admitted that the emergency meeting has been called only to discuss the Mohammedan issue and expressed his hopes for a positive solution.

The DMFLC, in an emergency meeting on Wednesday evening, postponed all the matches of the league until today (January 24).

In the name FROM PAGE 13

"It's been a terrible thing what has happened and the guys really felt yesterday, there was a fair bit of emotion out there, and we really wanted to walk away with a win.

those last couple of balls."

Booters FROM PAGE 13 Union), Titumir Chowdhury,

Rukunuzzaman Kanchan, Papel Mahmud (Muktijoddha), Khaled Hossain, Atiqul Islam Tareq, Ashraful Karim, Shamsher Alam, Arman Aziz and Kallol Kumra Ghosh (Arambagh), Kamal Hossain, Harisuzzaman, Jahangir Alam (Sheikh Russell), Noor Islam Hafizur Rashid, Al-Amin (Badda

lagarani), Ratan Ali (Dhanmondi), Isĥrafil (Victoria), Zahidul Hossain, Monir Hossain, Sabbir Ahmed (Wanderers), MN Shakil (Mohakhali XI), Akram Hossain (Prantik), Masud Alam (Farashganj), Rafiqul Islam (Wari), Enamul Haq (Youngmen's Club), Shakil Ahmed and Babu Das (Rahmatganj).

> The above mentioned players have been asked to report to BFF's member secretary of team management committee Sayed Hasan Kanan on January 27, Tuesday at 9am at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Trunisia 2004 AFP, Tunis FIFA president Sepp Blatter launched a double offensive on football fashion on Friday warning that Cameroon's revolutinary onepiece strip is illegal and then insisting that women players should be grate ful for his remarks suggesting they should wear sexier clothing. Cameroon's new outfit, which

But Blatter is not impressed.

Imran c Anisur b Mahbub "This happened at the last African Nations Cup in Mali where the Fazle c Rezwanul b Shafaq manufacturer gave them sleeveless Jamal st Shamimul b Saifullah shirts but the rules drawn up by the International Board say that a shirt Nahidul lbw b Rezwanul must include the sleeves," Blatter told a press conference here. o u t

"We will now have a meeting in

will now meet Lazio in the next **Blatter irked**

combines jersey and shorts, has zips on the shoulders and red flashes on the sides which the manufacturer describes as "scratches" in keeping with Cameroon's nickname of the Indomitable Lions.