Streak may sue ZCU

Players issue ultimatum

Cricket

AFP/CRICINFO, Harare

Axed captain Heath Streak has threatened to sue the Zimbabwe Cricket Union for what he sees as his unjustified removal from the national captaincy.

After failing to get ZCU chairman Peter Chingoka and chief executive Vincent Hogg to reinstall him at a meeting on Thursday, Streak said before returning to his Bulawayo farm Friday he would consult his lawyers.

The ZCU directors have insisted that Streak is out and Tatenda Taibu

"Legal action remains an option for me and I'm going to carefully consider that," Streak said.

"I shall also be considering their offer for me to continue simply as a player. But if I do so, that will not have a bearing on my claim to continue as captain.

He added that he was disappointed "to see so much anger by volatile people in authority" over the

The row was triggered when Streak wanted the removal of two selectors, one who had not played

year's Test from their batsmen to

avoid the ignominy of a series clean

sweep to a side that has twice

suffered a similar fate at their hands

become commonplace for West

Indies in recent times when they

leave the comforts of home, but it is

West Indies' response to the

batting crisis that has afflicted them

in the series was to drop experi-

enced left-hander Shivnarine

Chanderpaul for his reluctance to

comply with the selectors' advice of

seeking medical attention for look-

ing tired and lethargic in the third

While many people speculated

about sweeping changes to the

batting line, the selection panel, led

by Vivian Richards, brought

uncapped hometown boy Sylvester

Joseph, a cavalier right-handed

batsman, into the 13-member

At the moment, Joseph is

unlikely to get the nod in the final 11

and it seems appropriate for

Ricardo Powell to add to his solitary

Test, after being labelled a one-day

cricket specialist by successive

Up until that stage, Jerzy Dudek

But within a minute of Owen's

had been into action only once -- to

turn Ljunberg's shot from a tight

miss, the Poland international was

picking the ball out of his net after

Henry's gracefully executed

the box, the Frenchman pulled

Pires's chip down with his right foot

and struck a low shot with his left in

one continuous movement, sending

the ball through Dudek's legs and in

have been a tonic for Arsenal

Instead it was Liverpool who

seemed to take greater inspiration

and they deservedly restored their

lead three minutes before the break.

through the inside-right channel

caught Sol Campbell on his heels

and Owen nipped in behind him to

prod the ball past Lehmann from

Gerrard's side-footed pass

The quality of the goal should

Having stolen a yard on Hyypia in

angle round the post.

the bar

equaliser

off the far post.

ACROSS

4 Agt.

12 Part of

H.B.H.

13 Lemieux

14 Knight-

16 Hilton's

18 Wire

20 Look

milieu

clothes?

paradise

measure

metaphor

22 Blueprint

23 Caprice

for 20

29 Crooner

Across

fired by

27 Home

addition

locale

1 Garfield,

for one

In King Henry's court

Test series clean sweeps have

in 1984 and 1986

unheard of on home soil.

England look at history

has been doing TV commentaries. This would mean one black and one of Asian descent standing down, thus leaving him open to allegations of racism, which have been widespread in the local press.

"My dedication to Zimbabwe cricket and what is best for it over the years just cannot be doubted" he said. "I knew the selection issue was a touchy one and has been for some years. And it really does need to be addressed."

Meanwhile, the crisis in Zimbabwean cricket took a turn for the worse today when the senior players issued an ultimatum to the board, asking it to meet their demands by next Wednesday or face the prospect of mass resigna-

According to London's Guardian newspaper, this happened after a marathon five-hour meeting between the players and the ZCU, in which the board stuck to its stand and refused to reinstate Streak as captain. Streak, Andy Blignaut and Grant Flower represented the players, while Peter Chingoka, the chairman of the ZCU, and Vince Hogg, its chief executive, were present along with three other board

selection panels over the last four

and Andrew Flintoff have been the

if the selectors got creative and

brought in Joseph, Powell and

Dwayne Smith, alongside Lara to

make the sweeping changes widely

expected and leave out vice-captain

Ramnaresh Sarwan and Ryan

It's hardly likely that England will

It would not be surprising though,

"We've given the delegation a mandate of 4pm on Wednesday, and if they don't come up with the goods we're out of here," the Guardian quoted a senior player as

"I don't think we're going to get anywhere with them. There is no future for Zimbabwe cricket."

If the senior players carry out their threat, Zimbabwe will be forced to field a virtual second-string side for their series against Sri Lanka. Zimbabwe is due to host a Test

and one-day international tour by Sri Lanka, which begins in Bulawayo on According to the report, the

players were concerned about the sacking of Streak, and the elevation of Taibu as captain. "There are quite a few guys who

don't want to play under Taibu, and it's not a racial issue." the unnamed player told the Guardian "It's because he is 20 years old and he's still trying to make it in

international cricket. "We've asked them to reverse the captaincy situation back to Streak, and they have said they won't. If that's the case, there are a few of us who are going to leave purely on that basis.

Manikganj cricket

West Indies are looking for a Notun Basti Ekadosh defeated MWTC Club by 6 runs in the spark in their middle order batting Shaheed Zia memorial cricket and Powell could be the short term tournament at the Mulian High answer to counter England's highlydisciplined, if not overly menacing School playground in Manikganj attack of which Steve Harmison, Matthew Hoggard, Simon Jones

Notun Basti batted first and made 170 before being all out in 19.2 overs. Alamgir topscored with

MWTC were all out for 164 in 19.3 overs. Jasim scored 72 and Badal 27 while Alamgir got two

wickets.

Abahani post make any changes to the side that

has served them so well in the

previous three Tests. If Read's batting has been a question mark, Vaughan and opening partner Marcus Trescothick should also be feeling the heat for their lack of production.

The two will be hoping that the 57-run partnership and the brief signs of form that they collected in pursuit of last Saturday's modest victory target will lead to much more

Whatever Wenger said to his

players at half-time, it did the trick.

The side that emerged for the sec-

ond half was unrecognisable from

the lacklustre outfit that had huffed

and puffed through the opening 45

Henry in particular had the air of

a man possessed. He might have

scored within 30 seconds of the

restart with a shot that flashed

across the goalmouth but quickly

made amends by starting the slick

Henry picked out Ljungberg whose

deft flick left his midfield colleague

ball past a helpless Dudek.

was Henry at his best.

From close to the left touchline,

move that led to Pires's equaliser.

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Alamgir was adjudged man-of-

Shatabdi cricketers never looked threatening apart from openers Mosharraf and Arif who reached 25 and 23. It was five run outs that eventually cost Shatabdi in the end

Mattau arrives

FROM PAGE 13 7imbabwe A

As part of the plan to utilise the services of experts before the tour to the Caribbean in May, the Bangladesh Cricket Board has also hired American baseball coach Mike Young, who has worked with the alling Australians for many years. Young will join the camp on April 13.

Bangladesh are scheduled to fly to West Indies on May 6 to play two Tests and three one-day internation-

WHIZZ KID-209 correct answers

football team at the SAF Games? Ans: Monwar

Sachin Tendulkar scored?

ATP Masters Series title? Ans: Federer

Ans: Zaragoza

with the simple task of knocking the in the fifth and final one-day interna-It was a goal that epitomised tional between India and Pakistan? Ans: Laxman Arsenal at their best. What followed

1. Who will captain the Bangladesh

2. How many ODI hundreds has

Ans: 37 3. Who clinched the Indian Wells

4. Who lifted the Spanish Cup?

5. Who became man-of-the-match

DQRSYGFQH O V

OZFD SOG VQYZRS SDQZ,

SHE REFUSED TO FALL FOR THEM.

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.



SPÖRT

Daniel Hechter (C), poses in the western Paris suburb of Clairefontaine on April 8 with some of 22 children invited on a trip organized by the Peres Center For Peace, Eleven Palestinian and 11 Israeli

Premiership preview

Chelsea full of confidence

Football

Fresh from plotting Arsenal's downfall in the Champions League, Claudio Ranieri will Saturday turn his attentions to turning the screw on the Gunners in the Premiership title race.

Chelsea know they must keep winning if they are to have any hope of overhauling their stuttering London rivals in the title run-in.

And Ranieri believes this weekend, with sides playing twice in the space of three days, could prove critical. "I have told the players that

anything can happen now over Easter. Both teams are playing twice and we must wait and see," the Italian said. "Before the game against

Manchester United they were very strong mentally but after that (FA Cup semi-final defeat) there were maybe a few doubts that crept in and now there are maybe even

Ranieri's "tinkering" with his line-up has been the subject of intense criticism all season. But the advantage of having so

many players at his disposal was clear on Wednesday night as his visibly fresher team prevailed over a weary-looking Arsenal. Ranieri will inevitably take the opportunity to inject some fresh legs into his starting line-up for

Saturday's encounter with Middlesbrough at Stamford Bridge ahead of the Easter Monday trip to Aston Villa Things have been going well for Ranieri off the pitch as well with reports that the club's Russian billionaire owner Roman

Abramovich has abandoned plans to bring in a new manager in the summer after a much-publicised but ultimately fruitless flirtation with England manager Sven-Goran Ranieri is expected to restore

club captain Marcel Desailly to the team after the French defender missed the midweek win over Arsenal through suspension.

Mathematically, third-placed Manchester United could also still overhaul Arsenal.

FIXTURES

Saturday's matches (1400 GMT): Birmingham v Man Utd, Blackburn v Leeds. Bolton v Aston Villa. Charlton Portsmouth, Chelsea v Middlesbrough, Leicester v Fulham, Man City v Wolves

Top players

FROM PAGE 13

Dhaka leagues. How many needy cricketers can the CCL accommodate?" asked Bashar.

Former national captain Khaled Mashud also echoed the same sentiment.

"No CCL team has yet shown interest in signing national players. Even if they sign us, there is hardly any chance for the cricketers concerned to play more than five matches as the league's start is being delayed annoyingly," said

When attention was drawn to the controversy Jamiluddin said that they might withdraw the pool system altogether if it proves beneficial to

Meanwhile RK Fashion and Ispahani Limited yesterday registered their names to join GrameenPhone, Partex Group, Acme Laboratories, Gazi Tank, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC). Bashundara Group, Beximco, Akte Executive Club, Biman Bangladesh Airlines and BCB Development Squad to complete the 12-team

Serie A preview

Scudetto at any cost



AC Milan remain on course for the

Serie A title but their humiliating exit from European competition has planted seeds of self-doubt ahead of Saturday's home tie against strugglers Empoli. Deportivo La Coruna defeated the

Champions League holders 4-0 on Wednesday to overturn a 4-1 guarterfinal first leg deficit in what was the greatest ever comeback in the history of the competition. "This loss was inexplicable, some-

thing we didn't expect," said Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti after his side were given a footballing lesson by the scintillating Spaniards.

"We collapsed, there was nothing we could do. We tried, but it was all in

The Italian press described Milan's capitulation as "The fall of the Gods".

Milan, who have a nine-point lead with six games left, had already shown signs of title jitters before the Deportivo drubbing with successive draws against Chievo and Modena, and can ill afford to take their relegationthreatened opponents lightly this And the Tuscans will not be short of

motivation knowing victory at the San Siro could lift them out of the drop Second-placed Roma's onematch stadium ban means their home

the Sicilian city of Palermo. The ban was imposed on them by the Italian Football League after their fans went on the rampage in last

match against Chievo will be played in

Roma will be without talismanic skipper Francesco Totti for Saturday's match. The Italy international was given a one-match suspension following his booking against Lecce last

on the Scudetto was all but lost after last week's 3-2 defeat at Inter Milan. face a Lazio team that has already upset them twice this season, in the league and the Italian Cup. Juve's failure to take points off their

Title-holders Juventus, whose grip

men have picked up just two points from their seven games against Inter, Roma, Milan and Lazio this season. With a game in hand on Parma and Inter Milan, Lazio are favourites to

finish fourth for the final Champions League place.

danger of a swift return to Serie B, while Inter play away to second-frombottom Perugia on Sunday.

who narrowly escaped the drop last season after winning a two-legged relegation play-off, entertain Udinese. Siena, aiming to pull clear of the danger zone, play at home to Sampdoria. Bottom club Ancona, who were

relegated to the second division last week, travel to Bologna looking for their first win of the season as they try and avoid becoming the worst-ever team in Serie Ahistory. The team that has so far taken just

1994-95 season.

FIXTURES

Saturday: AC Milan v Empoli, Ancona v Bologna, Brescia v Modena, Juventus v Sampdoria

Becks can't take a joke!

Football

INTERNET SOURCE

David Beckham reportedly stared in rage at a dressing room poster taunting him about his claimed fling with Rebecca Loos and finally lost his cool last week

"I didn't do it!" he stormed at shocked team-mates. "It's false. It's a rumour."

Then the 28-year-old Real Madrid star tore down the poster and launched into an impassioned defence, saying he would never be unfaithful to wife Victoria and branding the allegations against him as an act of revenge. An insider at the club said: "The

players thought they were playing a joke on Becks by writing the poster suggesting he'd been caught with his pants down. "But it hit a raw nerve with him and he was determined to set the record

straight. This was one joke he couldn't join in with. Enough was enough and he made that clear. The extraordinary scene was disclosed on Thursday as Victoria, 29. again tried to put her troubles behind her by having a second day of

fun in the snow with children Brooklyn and Romeo after her husband returned to Madrid. Becks lost his cool after a gym workout on Sunday morning. By this time rumours that he had romped with 26-year-old party girl Rebecca had already swept Real's training

At a club where stars frequently crow about their sexual conquests, it was the work of a moment for teammates to scrawl a poster repeating the revelations and pin it on the wall.

The insider said: "These joke posters are regularly put up in the dressing rooms whenever players get wind of someone being naughty with women. It's seen as a macho game and they love it. It's a 'scorechart' so people know who's got lucky

Club officials dismiss the jokey

boosting. But for normally eventempered Becks, who has struggled to join in the Real stars' "superstud" lifestyle, it was a prank too far.

Although the popular striker normally enjoys joking with players, and has joined them on nights out, he silenced the boisterous locker room by swearing his devotion to Victoria.

And he insisted Rehecca - whose claims he ridicules as "ludicrous" was plotting against Victoria because



DAVID BECKHAM

she blames the former Spice Girl for losing her job with sports agency

With Victoria spending so much time in Britain, Becks has spent most of his free hours socialising with party animals such as Brazilian striker Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos.

He says they are "like brothers" to him and was out drinking with them when pictured in a nightclub with Rebecca last year.

But while father-of-two Becks was famed as a family man, Ronaldo and Carlos both succumbed to the lure of women admirers and split from their wives in a year of joining Real. Among the women was serial

soccer temptress Nuria Bermudez who also savs she has had a fling with Becks. But her claim has been

Becks was out with Ronaldo. Carlos and another player on early hours at the Buddha Del Mar nightclub, a celebrity hang-out north of Madrid.

They were surrounded by starstruck girls. Becks looked on as Ronaldo took one into a corner and. according to witnesses, "gave her exactly what she wanted"

Yesterday, the star was back in training with Real for the first time since his family break at Courchevel in the French Alps.

He was cheered on to the pitch by a crowd of 300 fans. Nuria Gonzalez, 19, shouted: "Beckham come here, I want to eat vou." Her friend Silvia Fernandez, 20, screamed: "Come to the Cafe Buddha tonight. I've a present for you.'

In Courchevel, Victoria was doing her best to shrug off claims that her husband had liaisons with four other girls apart from Rebecca. Looking relaxed and wearing Dior

sunglasses, white ski pants and black bomber jacket, she went snowboarding with an instructor. In between sessions she found

time to send a stream of texts on her mobile phone. Brooklyn, five, in red goggles and orange ski suit, and Romeo, 19 months, went sledging. On Saturday, Victoria will reveal

she wants more children. Quizzed on ITV1's Ant and Dec show, she giggles: "I definitely want more babies. We're practising, which is really good fun." Amazingly, Victoria is being

questioned by child presenters Little Ant and Dec. They ask her why she calls Beckham 'Golden Balls'. Victoria replies: "I've upgraded

him to 'Platinum Balls'. You can ask your mummy what that means when she explains about babies.

Primera Liga preview

Real point to prove



All eyes will be on David Beckham and Real Madrid on Sunday to see how they fare against Osasuna after the team's shock departure from the Champions

League on Tuesday. The match will also be of signif-

icance for the England skipper. He missed the Champions League exit in Monaco but has endured a week of lurid tabloid allegations concerning his private ife and many will be how Beckham responds on the

Real lead the Spanish first division with 67 points from 31 outings, and seven matches remain this season, but Valencia are hot on their heels just one

point in arrears. "Paradoxically, although losing to Monaco in the Champions League was very negative, it opens the door to the league for us. I think that we will be motivated to prove ourselves in the league," said Real coach Carlos

Queiroz. Quieroz now desperately needs to win the Spanish title in

order to hang onto his job. Real president Florentino Perez is notoriously unsentimental about his employees, letting Queiroz's predecessor Vicente Del Bosque go at the end of last season despite taking Real to the

The Spanish media have been

busy penning Queiroz's professional obituary in the last three Among the names conjured up

on Thursday as potential replace-

ments for Queiroz were England coach Sven Goran Eriksson and Chelsea's Claudio Ranieri. "Deportivo coach Javier Irureta and Real Betis' Victor Fernandez

also fit the bill for Florentino.'

commented Spanish sports daily As on Thursday. Like Queiroz, the Real players were looking for a domestic silver lining in the cloud that settled over them after their 3-1 quarter-final second leg defeat in the principality, which saw them go out on

away goals after drawing 5-5 on aggregate. "We still have the league and we are going to fight for it until the end. The (Spanish) league is as important for us as the Champions League," said

Nevertheless, Osasuna will be a difficult side upon which to make an impression despite the fact that Real have yet to lose a match in the league this season in the

Santiago Bernabeu stadium. Under their Mexican coach Javier Aguirre, the Pamplonabased outfit have become one of the most formidable defensive outfits in the Spanish first division and only Valencia have a better defensive record.

Valencia coach Rafa Benitez will wait until the dust has settled from his successful UEFA Cup trip to Bordeaux before naming his team to face Real Zaragoza on Sunday but he already has several changes in mind from the side that beat Murcia 2-0 last

Club captain David Albelda is out with a twisted ankle, which could open the way the Mali international Mohammed Sissoko to return.

Third-placed Deportive 10 points adrift of Real, will look to maintain their stunning form which saw them beat Milan 4-0 on Wednesday to upset the odds and progress to the Champions League quarter-

finals. Barcelona are fourth, one point behind Deportivo, but injuries and suspensions mean that the Catalan club will probably field midfielder Thiago Motta at left back and the novice Oscar Lopez at right back against Valladolid on Saturday.

FIXTURES

Saturday (kick off GMT): Valladolid v Barcelona (1600) Malaga v Atletico Madrid (1800), Celta Vigo v Sevilla (2000) Sunday: Real Betis v Real Mallorca (1530), Espanyol v Albacete (1530), Racing Santander v Athletic Bilbao (1530), Real Sociedad v Murcia (1530), Villarreal v Deportivo La

Coruna (1530), Real Zaragoza v

Valencia (1730), Real Madrid v

Inter have a problem

⋘UEFA CUP

Newcastle put one foot in the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup with a 1-1 draw at PSV Eindhoven on Thursday but hopes of an all-British final suffered a setback when Celtic were held at home 1-1 by Villarreal.

In Marseille, Ivory Coast striker

Didier Drogba proved the hero for

the French club in a spirited 1-0 first leg win over Inter Milan. Jermaine Jenas ensured manager Bobby Robson's return to PSV. whom he led to two Dutch league titles in the early 1990s was a happy one when he scored

in first half injury time of the quar-

ter-final first leg clash. Serbian striker Mateja Kezman had given PSV the lead after 15 minutes when Aaron Hughes failed to clear Jan Vennegoor's header and the Serb striker stole in to curl the ball around Shay Given in the Newcastle goal.

looking for the equaliser and their pressure paid off in the fourth

minute of injury time when Remco Van der Schaaf fouled Olivier Bernard

Celtic, who were runners-up last season, saw their hopes of progress left hanging in the bal-

Henrik Larsson's 64th-minute header cancelled out Moreno Josico's early opener for the visitors to extend Celtic's unbeaten record in their Parkhead fortress to an astonishing 77 matches.

Larsson had earlier had the ball in the net only for the goal to

champions, could end up a regretting a host of missed chances come the return leg at the San Siro next week for which the influential Drogba will be suspended following a needless vellow card

Fellow French side Bordeaux surrendered a 1-0 lead and finished with ten men as they lost 2-1

Osasuna (1930)

Bordeaux had taken a first half lead through Albert Riera but goals from Ruben Baraja and Francisco Rufete, three minutes from time, make the Spanish side the favourites to progress to the last four where either Celtic or Villarreal will await.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

UEFA Cup quarter-final first leg results on

(SPA) 1 (Moreno Josico 9) Marseille (FRA) 1 (Drogba 46) Inter Milan

Bordeaux (FRA) 1 (Riera 18) Valencia (SPA) 2 (Baraja 75, Rufete 87)

2nd legs: Wednesday April 14

Godfrey 31 Part Santa outfit 34 Singer Eydie

11 History 35 Preten-57 Work unit 58 Sleep chapter tious 37 Matsu 17 Jodie phenom yama Foster 7 Dry, white DOWN money movie **38** Jog 1 Title 21 Diagonal 39 One of holde spar 23 Incorrect 2 Elevated 41 Collagist's 24 Not vert. need 3 Refrain 25 Doctrine 26 Daisy — 45 Unisex from wear singing? 28 Eccentric 47 Cleo's 4 Put on the 30 Census 15 Altar conslayer line statistic stellation 48 Notes that 5 Rever-31 Diner

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

52 More, to 6 Morsel of 32 Place for Manuel wisdom a plug 53 Winning 7 Long story 33 Bother 19 "M*A*S*H" 54 Fraction 8 Stick 36 Help a of 37figure? hood 9 "What 37 There Across 55 Swelled Kind of 40 Poker head 56 Orange 42 Debussy 10 Encyc. bk. 43 Gram-Solution time: 25 mins

marian's concern --- salts 45 Nephrite 46 Medley compo-48 — Paulo 49 Cries of surprise 50 Field

51 Trail the

ΗZ FDAJYY VYBB

EDABC SY WBDE SOG FDJ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FROM THE LADDER SHE SAW TWO HANDSOME MEN BELOW, BUT Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals L

month's derby against Lazio.

closest rivals has undermined their hopes of winning the league for the third season running. Marcello Lippi's

Parma host Lecce, who are in

Meanwhile struggling Reggina,

seven points from a possible 84 will be looking to improve on Brescia's alltime low of 12 points amassed in the

(all matches 1300 GMT unless stated)

Lazio (1830), Parma v Lecce, Reggina v Udinese, Roma v Chievo, Siena v Sunday: Perugia v Inter Milan

Newcastle pressed forward

Laurent Robert's free-kick was met by Jenas who headed home from close range.

ance after a 1-1 draw with Spanish side Villarreal.

be ruled out for handball. Marseille, the former European

Drogba put Marseille ahead in the first minute of the second half but was booked for overdoing the

celebrations.

At Glasgov Celtic (SCO) 1 (Larsson 64) Villarreal

PSV Eindhoven (NED) 1 (Kezman 15) Newcastle (ENG) 1 (Jenas 45) At Bordeaux