SPORT

The Daily Star

Olympic Eriksson hails Lampard soccer at risk Euro 2004 probables named **REUTERS.** Paris



REUTERS ,London

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has hailed Frank Lampard and hinted the Chelsea midfielder could force his way into the starting line-up at Euro 2004

Lampard made it into Eriksson's squad of 23 on Monday and is becoming a rival to Nicky Butt for a place in midfield alongside Paul Scholes, Steven Gerrard and captain David Beckham.

"He's knocking extremely hard Lampard out in two friendlies in on the door." Eriksson told reporters. "He's had a fantastic season and played more or less all the

can."

(Chelsea) games. As for England, Eriksson said: "In midfield, players like Beckham, Scholes and Gerrard should be Croatia there... then we'll see.

"Let's see when we start working who's in the best shape, who's on the best form and how we organise the midfield '

Eriksson said Lampard could play anywhere in the middle. Asked if that included the base of England's diamond-shaped midfield, the role currently occupied by Butt, the Swede said: "I'm sure he

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

the season.

Although Butt has more experinoals ence in internationals and at club level with Manchester United, Friksson pointed to Lampard's past

year with Chelsea and their run to the Champions League semi-finals. 'The experience Frank Lampard has had this season has been fantastic." Eriksson said. "He's not been to a World Cup or a

European championship but they (Chelsea) almost went all the way in the Champions League and that gives him a lot of experience of course

"He's a goalscorer as well." Eriksson gets the chance to try

Manchester on June 1 against Japan and June 5 against Iceland. The squad then heads to

Portugal, where England meet holders France in their first Group B match before facing Switzerland and The key to England's chances of

making progress will be avoiding defeat in the opener against the 1998 world champions. Pointing to his throat, Eriksson

said: "Then you would play with a knife here for the last two games in the group. "It's important not to lose, but we're not going to go out against France and only defend. We're

going to try to attack and score Soccer could be dropped from this summer's Olympic Games if FIFA does not settle a new dispute over Meanwhile, Eriksson named defenders Ledley King and Jamie Carragher in his Euro 2004 squad. doping sanctions with World Anti-Doping Agency WADA and the

King and Carragher were

handed their chances after

Eriksson's back-up options for

central defenders Sol Campbell and

John Terry were limited by suspen-

balance of the squad," said

"I am happy with the overall

"It is still a young squad,"

Eriksson said. "Those who were in

Japan two years ago are more

experienced and they should be

official squad for Euro 2004 by June

ENGLAND SQUAD

Goalkeepers: David James, Paul

Robinson, Ian Walker; Defenders: Gary

Neville, Phil Neville, John Terry, Ledley

The Swede must submit his

sion and injuries.

Eriksson.

better.

Vassell

assistant

ready to carry the team.

in central midfield for Real, a posi-

to Murcia coach John Toshack.

International Olympic Committee At its executive committee in Paris on Monday, soccer's world governing body repeated its position that each doping case should be dealt with individually.

WADA agree with that, but insist on keeping the right to appeal against any decision taken on doping by FIFA which WADA feels is too lenient.

That is the sticking point which could prevent the agreement between FIFA, WADA and the IOC being signed at FIFA's Centennial Congress in Paris on Friday.

If that fails to happen, soccer's place in the summer Olympics is in jeopardy.

FIFA are the only major Olympic federation with the International Cycling Union (UCI) to have refused to sign WADA's anti-doping code because it imposes an automatic ban of two years for doping offences

Heskey leaves the Reds

AFP, Birmingham

Birmingham City said Tuesday they had signed England striker Emile Heskey from Liverpool for 6.25 million pounds (9.32 million euros).

The 26-year-old, named Monday in England's Euro 2004 squad, has signed a five-vear deal.

Heskey, 5 goals in 40 England internationals, scored 60 goals in 177 matches for Liverpool but only 12 this season and he has lost his first-team place in the England lineup to Everton's 18-year-old

Heskey, who flew out to New York for a short break before joining up with the England squad, said he was looking forward to getting back among the goals

"I think Birmingham is a progressive and ambitious club and very much going in the right direction," he told the Birmingham website.

a sensible framework without throw-"I never understood why Madrid signed Beckham," Toshack was ing money around and jeopardising the future of the club.

clear that is the role that he sees for

BARCLAYCARD BARCLAYCARD

THEORY HENRY! Arsenal's French international star Thierry Henry holds his accolades -- the highest scorer's one in right hand and the player-of-the-year's one in the left -- before the Martin Keown testimonial match at Highbury on Monday.

Valencia's 'double' mission **UEFA** Cup final today

🚱 U E F A C U P

REUTERS, Gothenburg

Three years on from the heartache of losing a second successive Champions League final, Valencia will be desperate to claim a European trophy against Olympique Marseille in the UEFA Cup final on Wednesday.

The Primera Liga champions lost to Real Madrid in 2000 and Bayern Munich, in a penalty shootout, a year later and the pain of those defeats still haunt the Mestalla.

Eight of the present Valencia squad played in the 2001 defeat in Milan. This time the Spaniards have the incentive of completing a league and European double and put the gloss on a superb season. Valencia last tasted European

glory in 1980 when they defeated Arsenal in the Cup Winners' Cup

Vale and there is clear apprehen-

ground during the 2007 Cricket

final. They previously won the Interyielded 32 goals overall, including Cities Fairs Cup, the forerunner to 11 in Europe.

His exploits have earned him the This season's title success was Ligue 1 player of the year award and built on a rock-solid defence as well his importance to the side was none more evident than in the semi-final second leg when two superb strikes against Newcastle secured league matches while their tally of Marseille a place in the final.

Drogba has been rested since 19 from Mista, has only been picking up the injury and coach Jose Anigo will be desperate the lyory "For the game against Coast international can play some Olympique we are going to change part against Valencia.

Marseille, European champions in 1993 and beaten finalists in the UEFA Cup six years later, entered the competition at the third round stage after a disappointing Champions League campaign in which they finished a well-beaten third in their group.

should the Ivorian recover in time from a hip injury that threatens his While they have played less games than Valencia in their run to Drogba's first season at the the final, their passage has included the impressive scalps of Liverpool Velodrome since a summer move from En Avant Guingamp has and Inter Milan.

Court clears

A 1-0 win in the San Siro over Inter in the second leg of the quarterfinals to complete a 2-0 aggregate win was proof that Marseille will be no pushovers in Gothenbura.

PHOTO: AFI

Anigo, a former Marseille player and head coach of the the club's vouth academy, has revelled in the top job since taking charge in mid-January when Alain Perrin was sacked following a disappointing run of results.

The return of France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez has also coincided with Marseille's strong showing in Europe

The French number one rejoined his former side on-loan from Manchester United in January and signed a two-year permanent deal in April.

Barthez is no stranger to European success with Marseille, part of their European Cup winning side that defeated AC Milan 1-0 in Munich.

Thai deal done orandum of understanding) to

Spain."

hopes of a league, cup and following newspaper allegations -Champions League treble. denied by the player -- that he had

Then they were dumped out of the Champions League quarterfinals by Monaco and sur-David Beckham's season with Real rendered an eight-point lead at the

Honeymoon's over?



DAVID BECKHAM

top of the Primera Liga, handing the title to Valencia. Beckham's private life became

would have to play a Champions League gualifier in mid-August. the stuff of media frenzy in April That could force them to cancel a lucrative tour of Asia and the United States that was expected to bring in as much as 30 million euros (\$36 million) in revenue. Monday brought the now tradi-

tional crop of newspaper headlines **Football** lamenting the spectacular lateseason implosion of one of the most AFP, Bangkok

Beckham has been moved from his usual position on the right to play

"I am keen to play as an out-andout striker, which I haven't done since my second season at Liverpool, and Steve has made it

FROM PAGE 13

Afridi-powered

articipation in the final.

FROM PAGE 13 Mahmudullah st Salim b Kamrul 7 Bashir c Anisur b Nazmul 25 Jewel b Kamrul

the UEFA Cup, in 1962 and 1963.

With one game remaining, they

have conceded just 26 goals in 37

71 goals scored, spearheaded with

as little as possible for the final

because up to now it has worked

very well," said Valencia coach Rafa

sure to be tested by Marseille's

outstanding striker Didier Drogba,

Valencia's miserly defence is

as a potent strikeforce.

matched by Real Madrid.

Benitez.'

FROM PAGE 13 Atapattu of Sri Lanka and Andv Flower of Zimbabwe had also mod-

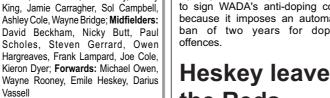
lawver Ansar Mahmood Baiwa said his purpose had been achieved. "Indian journalists and people to Pakistan for a cr o came

an affair with his former personal In their last few league games, the shell-shocked team has looked mentally and physically exhausted. Critics have not had to look far for the reasons for Real Madrid's demise. They found it in the team's Wayne Rooney. policy of signing the world's biggest stars and filling the rest of the squad

with former youth team players. The season has shown that many of the youngsters are not

tion that does not suit him according "But they are also building within

quoted as saying by El Pais news-"When he has the ball, he doesn't know how to play short and looks for the long ball. That doesn't work in



nigh-profile squads ever bled.

tage in the race to secure runners-

up spot behind champions Valencia

and an automatic berth in the

If Barcelona get a point from their

last match, Real Madrid are almost

certain to finish third, meaning they

Champions League group phase.

The expensive team boasts "galacticos" such as Brazil's Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos, France's Zinedine Zidane, Spain's Raul and Portugal's Luis Figo as well as England captain Beckham.

"Goodbye Asia", sports daily As said over a front-page photo of a disconsolate Beckham trooping off the field.

"This Madrid is pure impotence", "Marca" mocked.

It was Beckham's second sending-off since joining Real Madrid and the fourth of his professional career.

Beckham's disappointing end to the season revived talk of his future, less than a year after he moved to Madrid from Manchester United for 35 million euros.

"Many see him (Beckham) out of the team, at Chelsea, next season. although (Real Madrid president Florentino) Perez wants to exploit his 'post-modern icon' commercially for another season," newspaper El Periodico said.

Real Madrid's season and Beckham's form have gone downhill since March when they lost the King's Cup final to unfancied Real Zaragoza, putting paid to their

English Premier League side Liverpool have agreed "in principle" to sell a 30 per cent stake to Thailand, which will hold a public lottery to fund the deal, officials

said Tuesday. "(Liverpool) have agreed in

principle but there are some details which have to be further negotiated," deputy commerce m i n i s t e r P o n g s a k Raktapongpaisal said after a cabinet meeting which discussed

the 100-115 million dollar offer. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said earlier he was confident the deal would be clinched later this week, as the two sides had reached agreement on "60 percent" of the plans.

"Now 60 per cent is comfortable, and there's still another 40 percent that we still have to discuss before we agree," he told reporters.

Thaksin said there were three or four minor points which required further talks and clarification before a resolution could be announced. "In principle there shouldn't be

any problem," he said. "We submitted the MOU (mem-

"Things should conclude this week," he said, adding he would send top government, sports and

them and they countered with their

draft to us and then we have to

have further negotiation.

THAKSIN SHINAWATRA legal representatives to Britain to work out the details of the agree-

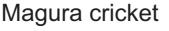
ment. Thaksin, a self-made billionaire before entering politics, had been

expected to fund the deal himself along with investors but the government has now said it will handle the financing, although it claims no taxpayer money will be used.

more rewarding in terms of money. Coupled with the easy-going lifestyle, marijuana could have far reaching consequences for the still

for any local bloke to get into and

unsuspecting Vincentian society. The biggest wakeup call however could come from cricket. Although its setting is arguably the most picturesque in world cricket, the Arnos Vale ground struggles to conform to international standards. The press enclosure is crammed, the practice nets and facilities are not fit enough for Test teams and despite the smallness of the venue, the outfield is heavy and the pitch sluggish. West Indian journalists spoke highly of the venues in St Lucia or Grenada sitting in Arnos



OUR CORRESPONDENT

Crescent Cricket Club moved into the semifinals of the Abdul Latif Smriti cricket tournament defeating Tauhid Smriti Sangha by four wickets at the Mithun-Musa-Kazal playground yesterday.

Winning the toss, Tauhid Smriti batted first and scored 92 in 17.5 overs after being all out.

World Cup. But in St Vincent you moved in music and warmth. Grenada is an

Calypso Cocktail

marijuana business which is easy sion that it could miss out as a host

island where they say that there are more spices per square mile than any other place on the planet. Haven't found that spice in life here just as yet.

Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) yesterday announced the list of its sports award recipients for the years 2002 and 2003.

Commonwealth and SAF Anisur not out Games gold winning shooter Asif Extras: (lb-4, w-14) Total: (For 5 wkts in 34.5 overs)221 Hossain Khan was adjudged the sportsman for the year 2002 while national football captain Rajani 5-152 Kanta Barman for the year 2003 to Bowler receive the 'BSJA President Award' Monjurul (Rouful Hasan Trophy), introduced Sajal in 2001. Bashir Besides, national cricketer Alok Romesh Kapali and chess player Mehdi Mahmudullah Hasan Parag have been named as the most promising sportsman for 2002 and 2003 respectively. They will receive the Masud Ahmed Rumi

Jewel Anisul Tushar Result: ARAF Apparels won by Trophy, introduced in 2002. five wickets

Saial not out Moniurul not out Extras: (b-4, lb-7, nb-3, w-17) 31 Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) 218 Fall of wkts: 1-26, 2-26, 3-36, 4-54, 5-126, 6-147, 7-193, 8-211, 9-215. RW M Bowler 0 10 0 51 Nazmul 2 10 0 28 3 Ashrafu 10 Afridi

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Mabud c Nuruzzaman b Monjurul 2

remarked. 50 0 1 0 31 0 0 47 3

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elled for the company The court also dropped another case against Akram for coaching Indian bowlers last year but a case of allegedly stealing a jeep is still pending against the renowned bowler in a court in Karachi.

"Such frivolous petitions are designed to seek publicity," Fawwad

Commenting on the dismissal of the liquor ad case, the petitioner's

Back to his luck

FROM PAGE 13 referring to Beximco's Pakistani allrounder Abdul Razzaq and Kenyan master batsman Steve Tikolo.

27 "I have recently played against 18 Razzaq, so it will be interesting battle. With 2212 ODI runs under his belt Fall of wkts: 1-17, 2-42, 3-137, 4-151, including two hundreds -- his best being 139 against Australia in w January this year -- the classy mid-2 dle-order batsman is concentrating 0 on his aspirations to be a Test opener. "I'll open tomorrow if the team wants. And I am least bothered by the 0 news that star cricketers have failed here. It does not mean that everyone 0 will fail," he said while trying at the 0 same time to catch a glimpse of

Shahid Afridi fireworks at the ground.

series two months ago told us that after our case the advertisement was stopped so our purpose was served.' Bajwa said. Since retiring, Akram has

switched to cricket commentary for a Hong Kong based television network and recently turned down an Indian film offer saving he wants to remain involved in a cricket related job.

Umpires wired

FROM PAGE 13 Meanwhile New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said he was relishing the prospect of taking on world champions Australia in the Champions

Trophy. Fleming, in England for the Kiwis Test series against England which stars at Lord's on Thursday, was in the team that won the Champions Trophy in 2000.

This time around they are in the same group as Australia and new boys the United States.

And Fleming said Ricky Ponting's men held no fears for New Zealand.

"We look forward to it, because you've got to beat them or meet them at some stage if you're going to win the competition," Fleming said at Monday's launch. "Early on is often a good time. But we know we have to play well.'

Arafat

Kamrul

ARAFAPPARELS

Ehsanul c Sajal b Bashir

Afridi c Nasirul b Jewel

Fahad not out

Halim b Romesh

Salim b Moniurul

BSJA awards UNB, Dhaka