

KICKIN' AROUND

AFP, Paris

Michel Platini would seem to have come off the fence over his opinion of who should take over as France coach from Jacques Santini, backing his former France teammate Jean Tigana.

"He could make a very good France coach," Platini said.

Tigana has previously coached Monaco and London side Fulham to great effect.

Platini reserved judgment on another former international's candidacy, that of Laurent Blanc.

"I don't know if his qualities would be sufficient for France," said Platini.

Blanc has never coached. A third candidate, Bruno Metsu the 2002 World Cup coach of Senegal is also said to be in the frame.

RICARDO THE LIONHEART

The Portuguese press reserved its highest praise for goalkeeper Ricardo on Friday following their defeat of England, who also came in for compliments.

"Yes!" screamed the front-page of *Diario de Noticias*.

"Ricardo the Lionheart caught the English off guard. He took off his gloves, saved the last penalty and scored the winning goal."

IS THERE A PILOT ON BOARD

Denmark have obtained 10,000 extra tickets for their quarterfinal against the Czech Republic in Porto on Sunday but can't sell them in a case of too many planes and not enough pilots.

DAUM SAYS NOT HIM

Christoph Daum has quashed suggestions that he is one of the contenders to succeed Rudi Voller as coach of the German national team.

"I am not part of these discussions, there has been no contact (with the German Football Federation)."

Ask Eusebio

Portugal great Eusebio had some advice for his team's goalkeeper Ricardo before the dramatic Euro 2004 quarterfinal penalty shootout victory over England on Thursday.

Eusebio, European footballer of the year in 1965, said he approached Ricardo before the shootout, which Portugal won 6-5, and repeated a tip passed on to him by late Soviet Union goalkeeper Lev Yashin.

"Stay still and look at the player," Eusebio said.

"Then I told him, 'You're going to stop these shots and we're going to win.'"

Danes fear

FROM PAGE 13 says there is a great spirit in the camp.

"We win or lose as a team," he said.

"We have some stars but you might not notice them as they play for the team. Nobody in this team is too big to take care of his teammates. You rarely see anyone struggling alone for us."

Meanwhile, Denmark coach Morten Olsen believes his side can go all the way at Euro 2004 and emulate the success of the championship-winning team of 1992.

The Danes won the event for the first and only time in Sweden 12 years ago.

Denmark failed to qualify for that year's championships but were allowed into the tournament at the last minute in place of Yugoslavia, who topped their group.

"Football is all about tradition and history and the question I am being asked the most is 'Can you do it again?'" said Olsen, a member of the 1984 Danish team that reached the semifinals in France.



PHOTO: INTERNET

THE KILLER BLOW: An airborne Greece striker Angelos Charisteas heads in the all-important goal against France in their quarterfinal clash at the Jose De Alvalade Stadium in Lisbon on Friday.

Greek tragedy for France



REUTERS, Lisbon

Greece produced the biggest upset in European Championship history when they knocked out holders France with a 1-0 quarterfinal victory.

Greece, among the rank outsiders when the tournament started, scored the only goal after 65 minutes on Friday when Angelos Charisteas rose unchallenged to power a header past French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez from six metres.

"I want to congratulate my players for this unbelievable victory which was delivered with passion," said Greece coach Otto Rehhagel.

"They kept with the strategy that we had agreed and we won this game. Now we must regroup and are looking forward to the next game with great joy."

Greece will face the Czech Republic or Denmark in the semifinals, while French dreams of becoming the first team to retain the Henri Delaunay trophy are over.

"It's a really big disappointment," said France coach Jacques Santini. "We weren't thinking clearly towards the end of the match."

"We were just rushing forwards and that was not the best way to go about it."

Greece's record in major tournaments had previously been poor, failing to score a goal in the only two

they had reached, the 1980 European Championship and 1994 World Cup.

But in two weeks they have beaten hosts Portugal 2-1 in the opening match and now knocked out the holders, a feat never previously accomplished.

It was also the Greeks' first win over France in seven matches since 1958, and a timely boost for the nation less than two months before the start of the Athens Olympics.

Oddly, though, the match lacked the passion and drama of Portugal's penalty shootout win over England in the first quarterfinal, with the crowd largely anaesthetised by the lethargic play.

France were poorer than Greece throughout, however, only briefly coming to life after falling behind.

Even then their play lacked cohesion and focus apart from two late chances which striker Thierry Henry failed to take.

Henry, the leading scorer in England last season and a scourge of defenders across Europe for five years, was virtually marked out of the game by right back Yourkas Setitaridis, one of the leading players in the tournament.

His contribution was immense and the Greek defence was outstanding as they prevented France from scoring in a European Championship finals match for the first time in 10 games since 1996, a tournament record.

Without the injured Patrick Vieira in midfield, France lacked their driving force, and it did not help that

playmaker Zinedine Zidane was well below his best.

Zidane and Lilian Thuram set a new record for European Championship finals appearances by playing their 14th matches each since 1996 but Zidane's most notable contribution was picking up a yellow card for a clumsy challenge on Greek defender Traianos Dellas.

Greece had the better of a lacklustre first half and went close to the opening goal after 15 minutes. Giorgos Karagounis's free kick reached Costas Katsouranis whose attempted tap-in from close range was just blocked by Barthez on the line with the Greeks already raising their arms to celebrate.

SL in with good

FROM PAGE 13 At the close of the third day, Sri Lanka were six for one with captain Mahela Jayawardena on four and Tilan Samaraweera the next batsman due in.

Sri Lanka are adjusting to Australian playing conditions ahead of next Thursday's first Test against Ricky Ponting's team at Darwin's Marrara Oval.

BRIEF SCORES

NT CHIEF MINISTER'S XI: 419 (Langer 151, Bowden 75, Treumer 65; Malinga 6-90, Maharooof 2-73, Chandana 2-118) and 145 for 9 declared (Bowden 28, Williams 23; Herath 4-45)

SRI LANKA: 378 for 7 declared (Sangakkara 203 not out, Jayasuriya 64; Dent 2-51) and 6 for 1.

Au revoir the champs



REUTERS, Lisbon

France's golden age of soccer is over, perhaps not for good but certainly for now.

The 1998 World Cup and 2000 European Championship wins receded further into the distance when they lost to a Greek team that out-fought and out-thought them in the Euro 2004 quarterfinals on Friday, shacking two of the world's top players, Zinedine Zidane and Thierry Henry, in the process.

For many of the French squad the 1-0 loss, the biggest upset in the 44-year history of the competition, will mark the end of their international careers, with the average age of the team that faced Greece over 30.

Marcel Desailly, who has a French record of 116 caps, is retiring from internationals, while the likes of defenders Bixente Lizarazu

and Lilian Thuram and goalkeeper Fabien Barthez are all the wrong side of 30 and are unlikely to play for their country again.

The 32-year-old Zidane, World Player of the Year, is also nearer the end of his career than the beginning, and while it is dangerous to write off one of the game's greats, his poor showing against Greece was a surprise. Time catches up with even great players, and Zidane looked tired.

So did Henry, one of Europe's most lethal marksmen. A long club season and an average tournament appeared to have sapped his energy.

Henry will certainly enjoy other good days and will soon be among the more senior players in a new French side which must emerge.

A new crop of players are ready and waiting, but it will take time for them to become the kind of outstanding team France have had for so long.

France are entering a period of transition which will start under a new coach, probably Jean Tigana, a

member of the first great French side which won the 1984 European Championship as the host nation. He has much work to do.

Jacques Santini, who announced before the tournament he was quitting to take over as manager of English premier league Tottenham Hotspur, steadied the French ship after it hit the World Cup rocks under Roger Lemerre two years ago.

He steered them through their Euro 2004 qualifying group with an unblemished record of eight successive wins and a goal tally of 29-2.

They regained self-esteem after the World Cup by winning last year's Confederations Cup and went for almost a year without conceding a goal in 10 matches. The defeat by Greece was their first in 21 games.

But while the statistics were impressive, some of the play was not.

The defence was creaking and Desailly, once such a cornerstone, shattered like a twig in the

breeze against Croatia in the opening round at Euro 2004.

France were largely outplayed in their first match when they trailed England 1-0 going into stoppage time. Two goals from Zidane gave them a memorable victory but England had the better of the play for long periods.

Croatia nearly beat France in the second match before drawing 2-2, while Switzerland held France before Henry's two late strikes sealed a 3-1 win.

They fully expected to beat Greece too, but never played well apart from a brief spell late in the match as they became the victims of the biggest ever upset at the European Championship.

While Greece eye what would be remarkable place in the final, France are heading back to the land of the Eiffel Tower.

The French are no longer at the top looking down on the rest of the football world, however, the time for re-building has come.

Croat adventure

FROM PAGE 13 career."

It was a career which earned him almost 20 million dollars, 600 senior match victories and countless fans worldwide.

The pinnacle came in 2001. Three times a losing finalist at Wimbledon in the 1990s -- to Andre Agassi in 1992 and Pete Sampras in 1994 and 1998 -- Ivanisevic had thought his chance had gone.

He turned up on the opening Monday of the 2001 tournament not on the strength of his once-formidable serve but by virtue of a begging letter.

A fortnight later the wildest of wildcards lay face down, trembling on the sport's most famous turf, sobbing and blinking through tears after a magical run had seen him turn that wildcard invitation into life membership of the pantheon of champions.

That magical fortnight exemplified the special love affair Ivanisevic had with the most prestigious tournament of all.

It was fitting his career should end on Centre Court and he struggled with injuries for two years to ensure it did.

"Was worth it, these two years of the therapy and struggling, to come back here and to finish my career in Wimbledon," he said.

The centre of attraction



REUTERS, London

Russian teenager Maria Sharapova wowed Wimbledon's Centre Court for the first time on Friday.

The 17-year-old Siberian reached the fourth round on her Wimbledon debut last year but Friday's 6-3, 6-1 third round win over Slovak Daniela Hantuchova was her first taste of playing in tennis's most famous arena.

The 13th seed greeted her victory with a siren scream of delight and she explained afterwards: "I was happy, it was my first time on Centre Court, a great feeling. I'm playing well. There were (just) a lot of emotions out there at the end."

"I was enjoying every moment. Not every teenager gets to experience such a moment in their lives. To actually be playing at Wimbledon, it's amazing."

"The stadium doesn't look big, but it kind of surrounds you, and makes you feel like the crowd is really into the match. That's what makes the stadium so great."

Hantuchova could not cope with Sharapova's firepower.

The statuesque Russian, who won the pre-Wimbledon grasscourt tournament in Birmingham, plays American Amy Frazier for a place in the last eight.

The Florida-based Russian is a big threat in the bottom half of the draw now that compatriot and French open champion Anastasia Myskina, beaten by Frazier on Friday, is out.

Sharapova's glamorous looks keep the photographers busy and she also displays a steely resolve, evidenced on court by her habit of slapping her thigh angrily to get herself up between points.

"I'm feeling very confident. I've been playing very well," she said.

"Today my game was just on. I served very well. She served great today but I just, like a snake, tried to find my way in there."

"I am a tough girl. I don't like to give my opponents any chance. I just fight for every ball ... and it shows."

"I know that I want to win this tournament and if I don't do it this year I'm going to do it this year."

Zidane, Thuram's 'unlucky' 14th

REUTERS, Lisbon

France's Zinedine Zidane and Lilian Thuram set a new record for European Championship appearances when they started the quarterfinal against Greece on Friday.

Midfielder Zidane and defender Thuram were playing their 14th European Championship finals match, beating the record they had held jointly with seven players.

Frenchmen Didier Deschamps and Laurent Blanc, Germans Juergen Klinsmann and Thomas Haessler, Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp, Italian Paolo Maldini and Denmark's Peter Schmeichel all played 13 matches in the tournament.

Nothing wrong

FROM PAGE 13 ability and very gifted players," Scolarinoted.

Asked if he had a slight preference Scolarini smiled impishly and noted that "I know Figo has a Swedish wife (Helen Svedin)."

Portuguese reporters have been keen to prise any information they can from Scolarini on his long-term future but he insists he will not deal with it.

"The England win gave us confidence. My first goal was to get through the first phase and the second to go further. I like Portugal, my family likes Portugal. But we are playing the Euro, so I won't discuss my future while the event is on."

Team doctor Enrique Jones meanwhile said Portugal were hoping that defender Jorge Andrade and striker Nuno Gomes would recover from ankle strains in time for the semifinal.

"They are undergoing specific treatment and will not train today. But they should be back for the next game," he said.

'Pichchi' Hannan

FROM PAGE 1 dragnet in Uttara.

Debashish was captured unhurt, a Rab official said, but doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said they found him dead on arrival at 11:50pm.

A Daily Star correspondent found his hands and legs broken at joints, but no fatal injury to his head that a Rab officer claimed he suffered in scuffles after arrest.

Major Hafizul Islam Khan claimed Debashish sustained head injury in a police van on way to the elite force's headquarters.

"When we found him sick at Rab office at around 10:30pm, our doctor referred him to the DMCH," he stressed, adding autopsy report will reveal the cause of his death.

Shahab was admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar with his hands and legs broken.

Hannan, who was dubbed by police as a byword for crimes and atrocities and carried a bounty of Tk 1 lakh on his head, took admission to Insaf General Hospital near Sreepur Bus Stand after Friday's firefight that gave him bullet wounds to his abdomen.

Man with Midas

FROM PAGE 13 strategy works to a tee -- as France have found out to their complacent cost.

Asked what France had done wrong Rehhagel was adamant.

"How well you play depends on how well your opponents let you play."

"We did not let France play today."

Wimbledon

REUTERS, London

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 43 Follow closely 44 Petrol with 46 Prancer's underwire 4 Snead and Spade 8 Dag-wood's neighbor 12 Pouter's protrusion 13 Monad 14 Met 15 Expert melody 16 Manu-script section 18 Pugnacious 20 Clerical title (Abbr.) 21 Mexican money 24 Pinocchio combinations 28 Lover 32 Bygone times 33 Venusian vessel? 34 "— apple every day, ..." 37 Prompt 39 Example 41 Untethers

DOWN 1 Spill the beans offering 2 Puerto — 23 — the elbows 3 Top (shabbily dressed) 4 Highest in degree 5 Literary collection 6 Russian space subject 7 Luminary station 8 Invisible movie rabbit 9 Mound stat 10 Sartorial woe 11 Scrooge's cry 12 Prized possession 13 Ecological watchdog org. 14 Spill the beans offering 15 Puerto — 23 — the elbows 16 Highest in degree 17 Scrooge's cry 18 Prized possession 19 Ecological watchdog org. 20 Spill the beans offering 21 Puerto — 23 — the elbows 22 Highest in degree 23 Scrooge's cry 24 Prized possession 25 Ecological watchdog org. 26 Pharma-copoeia subject 27 Appear 28 Magic dragon of song 29 Some-where out there 30 Charac-terization 31 Avis adjective 32 Unso-phistication 33 Dead give-away? 34 Mid-Vith-century date 35 Tear holder 36 Pump, e.g. 37 Lawless portrayal 38 Piccadilly statue 39 Updated information 40 Beatnik's home 41 Fd. 42 Arbitr 43 Arbitr 44 Father's Day gift

Solution time: 21 mins.

SOAR DADA SAP  
ARGO ECRU TIE  
CROSSFEET ADO  
BLEND APSE  
REELS RAMS SHORN  
AILEY ALEYS  
GATEWAYS SITE  
GILLS MISDO  
GARNI GIRD  
ELI BIRDSNEST  
MTA EVIL ERIE  
SOLE SYNE YARD

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59							60			61		

CRYPTOQUIP  
M K S H C V X C F F  
M A J Z V V C H Z B J L Z H Q X J A  
Z V W S C B H Z Y Y M K X  
M S P X . L X V Z P X F K S P  
V X J Q C B H J X W .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: I GUESS TABLOID WRITERS SHOULD BE SEEN AS PEOPLE WHO WRITE OTHERS' WRONGS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: V equals N

The Cryptquip 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.

Tax list of top 100 professionals sent

FROM PAGE 1

In that meeting, committee member Moshir Rahman Ranga said, though experts believe there are 30 lakh people who can pay tax, only a few of them actually pay it. He urged for more stringent laws to increase tax payment.

Committee member Shahjahan Chowdhury said, "Many of the rich professionals do pay taxes, but, where they should have paid a minimum of Tk 300,000, they actually pay may be 30,000 taka." He wanted to know from the NBR what policy it was pursuing in this connection, and also wanted a list of larger taxpayers, both at personal and company levels.

In response to Chowdhury's query the NBR chairman said the income-expenditure accounts shown by many rich people and businessmen are false. Consequently, the tax assessment becomes difficult.

On that occasion, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said, "In third world countries like Bangladesh, there is a serious reluctance to taxpaying. It, therefore, is the role of the tax department to assess the exact taxes payable by those who maintain high living standards. But, unfortunately they (the taxmen) do not play their roles properly."

Committee chairman Mushfiqur Rahman then specifically asked the NBR to provide a list of top 100 taxpayers of each of the following groups: lawyers, engineers, doctors, chartered accountants, contractors, real estate developers and buying house businessmen.

The committee felt, despite doing a lot of business, the buying houses are not paying taxes like the garment industries do.

In compliance to the committee's directive, the NBR yesterday furnished it with the document. The committee, however, did not discuss the list yesterday as it focussed most of its deliberations on the budget proposals.

LAWYERS

Incomes and taxes paid in 2003-04 by a selected few of the lawyers listed in the NBR document are given below:

Barrister Rafique-Ul-Haq (income Tk 5,497,040) tax paid Tk 1,271,760; former chief justice Mostafa Kamal (income Tk 3,387,097) tax Tk 528,191; Dr M Zahir (Tk 2,494,137) Tk 551,034;