

Ashes flames fanned

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

England may have been soundly beaten in the last eight Ashes series but hopes are growing that Australia will at least be given a run for their money when they tour England next year.

remains the standard by which many England fans judge their team even when, unlike currently, the men in baggy green caps are not the best side in the world.

like being solely reserved for fast bowler Stephen Harmison. England's spearhead has yet to enjoy the same success in this series as he did in the Caribbean where he took 23 wickets.

Little & large Asia

AFP, Hong Kong



From mighty China who are aiming to repeat their medal-laden triumph of four years ago to war-weary Afghanistan who are just glad to be back, Asia is gearing up for the greatest sporting show on earth.

women's 100m entrant Robina Muqimyar is likely to be carrying the country's flag at the August 13 opening ceremony. "There was nothing for us girls to do under the Taliban except stay at home," said Muqimyar, who has a personal best of 15.06 sec and who will participate wearing a headscarf and tracksuit trousers in Athens.

China's officials have played down the team's chances of emulating the medal haul of Sydney in 2000, stressing that experience for the 2008 Games in Beijing remains a priority. "Getting 28 gold medals, as we did in Sydney, is pretty hard. I'd say if we get 20 gold medals, that would be quite good," said Li Furong, vice president of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

AFC U-17 meet BFF announces team August 8

SPORTS REPORTER

The executive committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will announce the final Bangladesh squad for next month's AFC Under-17 Football Championship on August 8.

Rumee named IAAF lecturer

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazrul Islam Rumee has been named as an International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) lecturer to conduct a Level-1 coaching course to be held in Kuala Lumpur from August 5 to 18.

Logie pulls for Lara

AFP, London

West Indies coach Gus Logie on Monday hit back at criticism of skipper Brian Lara from former players including cricket legend Sir Viv Richards. Richards called for a change of leadership after the West Indies were crushed by 256 runs in their second Test against England at Edgbaston on Sunday.

Tamada makes Bahrain weep



AFP, Jinan

A superb extra-time goal from Keiji Tamada saw Japan through to the Asian Cup final as the defending champions battled back from twice going a goal behind and a controversial red card to beat minnows Bahrain 4-3.



A distraught Bahrain booter Hussain Ali Hassan lays exhausted on the pitch as Japanese players celebrate in the background after the first semifinal in Jinan yesterday.

allowing Tamada to complete the turn around. Tournament top-scorer A'ala Hubail, who had earlier netted twice, went agonisingly close to taking the goal to penalties but inexplicably mistimed his tap-in to an empty goal.

Deisler shines in League Cup triumph

AFP, Mainz

International midfielder Sebastian Deisler grabbed two goals as Bayern Munich defeated Bundesliga champions Werder Bremen 3-2 to win the German League Cup on Monday.

Scholes' surprise retirement

Football

INTERNET SOURCE

Paul Scholes yesterday stunned the football world by announcing that he has quit international football. The 29-year-old England midfielder, who won his 66th and final cap in the Euro 2004 quarter-final against Portugal, said he felt "the time was right" to call it a day.

experience I gained. I wish them all the best and good luck for the future" Scholes came under fire for his performances in Portugal, with some pundits believing his presence in the team restricted Eriksson as the Swede could not select Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard in their favoured positions.



PAUL SCHOLES

admitted his recent international displays did not warrant selection at times, but even so, his loss will leave a massive hole in England's World Cup qualifying plans.

Hughes had fled after fatal crash

AFP, London

An English Premiership footballer fled the scene of a fatal car crash after his powerful sports car smashed into another vehicle at high speed as he returned home from a bar, a court was told on Monday.

Agassi survives Fish attack

Tennis

AFP, Cincinnati

Andre Agassi had rallied from a set down and led 4-6, 7-6, 4-1 Monday when Mardy Fish retired with a back injury to send Agassi into the second round of the 2.4 million-dollar Cincinnati Masters Series.

Fish continued to command the match until the second-set tiebreaker, but the back injury which kept him from playing in Toronto last week became too painful to ignore in the third set.

final here last year. Agassi, who numbers two trophies from Cincinnati amongst his 58 career titles, again faced the almost inevitable questions about his retirement plans.

Aftab ton puts

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Right-arm pacer Ishraq Sonnet captured two wickets while fellow right-arm seamer Nazmul Hossain and Rubayet took one wicket each.

Real's \$ 30m offer for Vieira?

AFP, Madrid

Spanish giants Real Madrid have made a 30-million-euro (36m dollar) offer for Arsenal's World Cup-winning French midfielder Patrick Vieira, it was reported here on Tuesday.

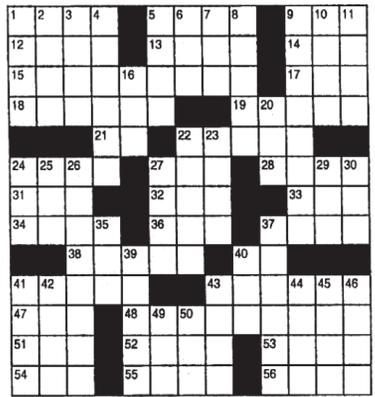


HAIR-RAISING! You would think a player currently serving an eight-month ban would have time to visit a hairdresser. But Rio Ferdinand turned up at training on Monday with the most outrageous Afro since the Jackson Five were topping the charts.

Real coach Antonio Camacho is keen to have Vieira in his side for their Champions League preliminary round tie next week with the registration deadline for players set for this Thursday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Inc., in the U.K. 1 Moist 5 Branch 9 Figure head? (Abbr.) 12 Curved molding 13 Painter's calculation 14 Filch 15 Party-line problem 17 Inseparable 18 Chopping spree? 19 Supporter of the arts 21 Young on the mound 22 Mile units 24 St. Louis landmark 27 Mal de — 28 With competence



CRYPTOQUIP Y W Z O ' E T O Z Q U Z Q E Z C P T B P M X P L P I F M . C P R J B M Z C B J Z W R M U Z F A W I Y K B C B M B K B L P A E Y X M . Yesterday's Cryptic: A PERSON COULD SAY THAT THE MENU IN A RESTAURANT PROVIDES MANY VITALE STATISTICS. Today's Cryptic Clue: M equals S

Sumon school

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Later, Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest. SAA Masrur, acting chief executive officer of Standard Chartered bank, was also present.

Napoli down in the dumps

AFP, Rome

Napoli, the team that Argentine legend Diego Maradona led to two Italian league titles, were officially declared bankrupt on Monday.

Hughes is a favourite among fans of newly-promoted West Bromwich Albion, for which he has played in two stints since 1997, scoring almost 90 goals.

Sosa ends career

AFP, Montevideo

Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa, who spent much of his two-decade career playing in Europe's top leagues, announced his retirement on Monday.