

Imran irate at ICC

Cricket AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan cricket legend Imran Khan Tuesday lashed out at the International Cricket Council's (ICC) move to bar honorary cricket officials from questioning wrong umpiring decisions...

Wasim Bari over his outburst against English umpire David Shepherd during Pakistan's 17-run defeat against Australia in the tight Videocon Cup tri-series final at Amstelveen, Holland, late last month.

Imran, a former Pakistan captain and illustrious all-rounder, said elite umpires should be open to criticism. "An elite umpire is in the limelight, more than before because they are paid more and should be open to criticism if they make fundamental mistakes which alter the course of the match like what happened in Holland," he said.

Indian TV rights hearing Sept 9

CRICINFO, undated

The Mumbai High Court will hear the case regarding ESPN-Star Sports and BCCI on Thursday, September 9. ESPN-Star Sports had earlier challenged the Indian board's decision to award the four-year telecast rights of matches to be played in India, to Zee Network.

Bangladesh may

FROM PAGE 13 would begin on a Friday. The only discrepancy would be the Boxing Day and 2 January Tests traditionally held in Australia, South Africa and New Zealand to maximize holiday time.

Win or bust for Iran

AFP, Hong Kong

Heavyweights Iran go into Wednesday's Asian round of World Cup qualifiers needing a win to keep their campaign alive while China, Japan and South Korea aim to take a step closer to Germany 2006.

another cricket score, has put a heavy accent on defence in his final training sessions ahead of Wednesday's game. "I am doing everything I can to keep the morale high," said Constantine. "Everyone knows Japan is a much stronger side, but we want to put up a good fight before our own fans."

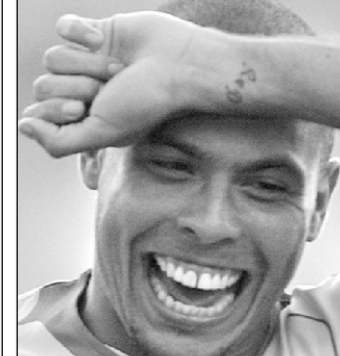
pressure to re-create the form that took South Korea to the 2002 World Cup semi-finals, was confident of overcoming third-placed Vietnam despite disappointing Olympics and Asian Cup showings.

Table with 2 columns: Group and Teams. Groups 1-5 listed with participating teams for the 2006 World Cup qualifiers.

Ronaldo to wed on January 2

AGENCIES, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil football superstar Ronaldo has set the date of January 2 next year to marry his fiancée, Brazilian model Daniella Cicarelli, probably in Paris. In an interview Sunday night for Globo Network television program "Fantastico" Ronaldo said they are to marry on January 2, 2005.



Ronaldo plays for Real Madrid. In a moment during the interview he showed a tattoo with the initials of both on the left wrist. Ronald recently tattooed "R," for Ronaldo and "D," for Daniella on his wrist.

History their nightmare

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The assault continued and Khokon finally broke the deadlock in the 54th minute. The striker broke an outside trap following a Pranotosh cross from the right and placed the ball neatly through the legs of Biplab from seven yards (1-0).

side. I'll give credit to Abahani for stretching us early. I think the match was tougher for us than any other game this season," said Brothers coach Syed Naimuddin after the match. "We made a lot of miss-passes under pressure from the opposition but I am proud of the boys because they managed to settle down at the right time. They fought back like champions and I can see that the Bangladeshi footballers have learned the way to play after going behind like the Europeans and the Africans," the former Indian national coach added.

quality striker. "We should have scored at least two goals from the chances we created in the first half. We dominated the match for an hour but they stole it in the remaining time. It was expected that a strong team like Brothers will go all out but our exhausted defenders left their attackers completely unmarked," lamented Joy.

Green signal for Maradona

AFP, Buenos Aires

Maradona has received permission to pursue treatment for his longstanding cocaine addiction in Cuba, his lawyer announced here Monday. Hector Leguizamon said the Argentine football great was given permission to return to Havana by Norberto Garcia Vedia, the judge in charge of his case.

'Time key for India'

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the innings Sunday in place of the out-of-form Virender Sehwag, who dropped down to number four. But Laxman insisted this was a temporary measure. "I think it was a one-off. It was only me who had opened before in this side. "Everyone knows the potential Sehwag has got. He has been a match-winner for us. It's just a matter of one big innings. He can turn around a match for us single-handedly for us. No-one is doubting his abilities."

another game because games between India and Pakistan are always very challenging for both countries. "We played well when we toured Pakistan. We were down 2-1 in the one-day series and we won the last two games. It's going to be about whichever team plays well on the day. At the 1999 and 2003 World Cups we beat them. "It's definitely going to be high intensity."

Chance to set records straight

AFP, Paris

England squandered a two goal lead against Austria. France travel to the Faroe Islands desperate to reignite their Group Four campaign after their hiccup against Israel. A work under construction is how coach Raymond Domenech describes the 1998 world champions but the one asset he sorely needs to carry out the regeneration-namely time-is missing.

Two. The Euro 2004 winners are now expected to be even more highly motivated than usual against traditional rivals Turkey in their Group Two match at their newly-rebuilt Karaiskaki Stadium. Greece defender Takis Fissas said in an interview with the ERA Sports radio station: "We know our fans will be behind us. It (preliminary World Cup matches) is a mini championship with 12 matches. We have played only one and nothing has been decided. We are at the beginning. "We want to give more joy to Greeks. We will try to qualify for the World Cup. We want them behind us. We saw on television how with passion they waited in long lines to buy tickets."

Table with 2 columns: Group and Teams. Groups 1-5 listed with participating teams for the 2006 World Cup qualifiers.

Star Whizz Kid Competition 21. Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Competition closes at 8 pm Sept 10, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. ACROSS 1 Shake-speare, notably 39 Trots 5 "Mamma Mia" quartet 9 Shock partner 12 Addict 13 Require a relest 14 That 15 Stead 16 Charlatan 17 Up to 18 Soother 19 Frazier 20 Snug and warm 21 Biol. or anal. 23 "Unh-unh" 25 "It's De-Lovely" composer 28 Weather map line 32 Use 33 Zest 34 Foul-smelling 36 Made bon mots 37 Crucial

CRYPTOQUIP. W S E L L Y T U T Q E H B R Z. Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A PERSON SAUTIED HIS FOOD QUITE A BIT, I SUPPOSE HE'D BE A FREQUENT FRIER. Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals P

RAZIL V GERMANY 00:45AM BST, THURSDAY

Repeat not revenge clash

Football AFP, Berlin

Germany and Brazil lock horns in Berlin on Wednesday for the first time since the 2002 World Cup final in Yokohama, although this time around the stakes are not so high with only pride to play for in what is a friendly match. Under the guidance of Luiz Felipe Scolari, Brazil ran out 2-0 winners over Rudi Voller's Germany but the issue of revenge has been brushed aside by both nations.

with revenge, firstly it is a friendly match, secondly the pressure of a final is not there." German national coach Jurgen Klinsmann aims to build on an opening 3-1 win over Austria and end a horrid sequence of results against top nations. Not since October 2000 have Germany defeated one of the recognised top teams with England falling 1-0 in the final match at Wembley Stadium.

Sebastian Deisler. Deisler, capped 20 times by his country, has not pulled on the German jersey for almost a year with his last appearance against Iceland back on September 6 2003. Injuries and a bout of depression have stunted the progress of Deisler but a stellar display against Brazil could put him back on track. Brazil have omitted AC Milan trio Dida, Kaka and Cafu, along with Bayern duo Ze Roberto and Lucio after their clubs failed to release the stars for a recent friendly with Haiti.

Henin, Venus

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But, after surviving five-set battles against Ivo Karlovic and Michal Tabara, Henman celebrated his 30th birthday with a gutsy victory over Germany's Nicolas Kiefer. The Briton looked in trouble when he trailed by a set and 3-1 but stormed back to win 10 games in succession to lead by two sets to one. Kiefer snatched the fourth set but Henman was on top in the decider, leading 6-7, 6-3, 6-1, 6-7, 3-0 when the German retired with a suspected tendon injury to his right wrist. "I felt that my game plan was pretty much spot on today," said Henman, whose semifinal appearance at the French Open in June was his first time past the last 16 at any grand slam outside of Wimbledon, where he has reached the last four on four occasions. "It's taken to have a bad back at the beginning of the tournament to sort of say to myself, 'You know, whatever happens, happens.' And if anything good happens, it's going to be a big, big bonus."