



PHOTO: STAR  
Action from yesterday's Club Cup hockey match between Abahani and Farashganj at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium.

# Ponting full of hope

AFP, Mumbai



Fit-again Australian captain Ricky Ponting said Saturday his team had a chance of winning the first Test series in India in more than three decades after gaining an early lead.

"We are now in a good position leading 1-0 and hope to win the series in India for the first time in 35 years," Ponting told reporters after arriving here.

Australia last won a Test series in India in 1969.

The tourists, currently led by Adam Gilchrist, gained the lead following their 217-run victory in the opening Test of the four-match series at Bangalore. The second Test ended in a draw at Madras and the third starts at Nagpur on Tuesday.

But Ponting will play only the

# Woolmer blames it on too many ODIs



AFP, Faisalabad

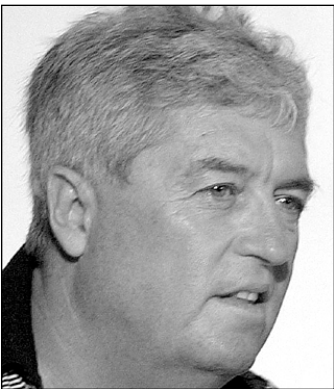
Pakistan's English coach Bob Woolmer Saturday sought to explain away Pakistan's poor performance in the opening Test against Sri Lanka as the home team tottered on the brink of defeat.

The Pakistani team went through "an extraordinary schedule of 16 one-day matches in a row with no domestic four-day cricket for the players and that didn't help", said Woolmer, whose first Test as coach has been disappointing.

He however insisted he was not trying to put up an excuse for the lacklustre performance by the home team in the Test.

"We have had enough bad sessions to be on the wrong side of this game. Our batting was disappointing in the first innings, to say the least, and Jayasuriya played magnificently (even though) we bowled well in the morning," said Woolmer.

Pakistan closed the fourth day of



BOB WOOLMER  
Sanath Jayasuriya.  
The home team faces a daunting task of either scoring 304 runs on Sunday to win or play out 83 overs to draw the Test.  
"It's going to be tough work to

fourth and final Test after recovering from a thumb injury, sustained during the Champions Trophy semifinal against England at Edgbaston last month.

"I'm excited to be back as I'm fit to play the fourth Test," he said. "I'd like to utilise the time before the fourth match to be with my teammates and do some practice to be match-fit."

The fourth Test begins at Mumbai on November 3.

He said the injury had also dashed his hopes of putting in a better batting performance in India after his dismal run on the last tour in 2001 when he could score just 17 in five Test innings.

"I had a pretty ordinary series in 2001 and I was hoping to set it right this time, but unfortunately the injury kept me out of action for the first three matches. I now have only one Test to do so," he said.

The Australian captain welcomed batting superstar Sachin

Tendulkar's return to the Indian squad, saying his team would like to be judged by winning against the best.

"It's good for India that he (Tendulkar) is fit," said Ponting.

"It's also good for us as we want to beat the full-strength Indian side and want to be judged against the best."

Tendulkar, who missed the first two Tests due to an elbow injury, was Saturday declared fit for the remaining matches of the ongoing series.

Ponting lauded stand-in captain Gilchrist for leading the side remarkably well in the first two matches, saying he was happy with the way the series was heading.

"He has executed the plans very well," said Ponting.

"We played tough and disciplined cricket in Sri Lanka before this tour and would like to continue in the same vein here."

## Eng tour of Zim ICC may have the final say

BBC ONLINE, undated

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) does not have the power to stop the Zimbabwe tour on safety grounds.

If there is a dispute between the ECB and the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) over security issues the matter will go to the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The ICC will appoint an independent advisor who will recommend whether the controversial tour goes ahead.

With just more than a month before the tour starts, an ECB safety and security delegation has visited Zimbabwe.

The delegation will report back to the ECB on whether it deems the two-week tour is safe for the players.

The ECB said on Friday: "They (the delegation) will now report back with their findings to the ECB chairman, David Morgan, and to the England team management and the players, and a further statement will be made in due course."

England are set to play five one-day internationals, starting on November 26.

They can pull out of the tour if there are legitimate safety and security concerns but it will be the ICC-appointed independent advisor who will rule on the tour going ahead or not.

The ZCU is almost certain to dispute any safety and security misgivings by the ECB, after Australia and Sri Lanka toured the African country without this year.

An ICC spokesman told BBC Sport: "There is a process in place if a dispute arises between the ECB and the ZCU."

"An independent advisor will assess the situation and make his recommendation to the ICC."

## Sharapova goes past Venus

AFP, Zurich

Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova set up an all-Russian semifinal clash with third seed Elena Dementieva after defeating Venus Williams 6-3, 6-4 Friday at the 1.3 million-dollar WTA event in Zurich.

Dementieva earlier in the day edged past Ai Sugiyama of Japan 6-1, 5-7, 7-5.

The match-up between the reigning and former Wimbledon champions largely failed to live up to expectations. There was plenty of big hitting from both players, but little rhythm and a great many errors.

## Adjustable Astle

FROM PAGE 13  
Who has 36 Test wickets to his name.

Astle observed that Bangladeshi batsmen were too impatient in the first Test that led to their downfall.

"They lack patience. Their shot selection was poor also and they let the opposition dictate the terms. They should have realised that one has to keep the scoreboard ticking too. They can take lessons from the way (Brendon) McCullum and (Jacob) Oram did the job for us," said Astle.

## Chess Olympiad

FROM PAGE 13  
Ziaur Rahman drew with IM Friedrich Volkman, IM Reefat Bin Sattar spilt point with IM Martin Neubauer and IM Enamul Hossain Rajib shared point with IM Oliver Lehner.

The women's team also won their board when they beat Guatemala 2.5-0.5. International Women Master Rani Hamid beat Carolina Silvia Mazarigos, Zakia Sultana beat Vanessa Karla Monterroso, Nazrana Khan Eva drew with Lisette Dina Castillo.

After this round, men's team collected 14.5 points while women team raised their tally to nine.

## Mariner, Abahani

FROM PAGE 13  
First half 4-0.

Jimmy, who signed for Abahani after an impressive show in the recently-concluded Under-21 invitational tournament, struck both his goals from penalty corners in each half.

BCB announces

FROM PAGE 13  
July 20-22: 3-day match against County at Gloucestershire  
July 24: one-day match against County at Hampshire  
July 26-28: 3-day match against County at Glamorgan  
Aug 1: one-day match against County at Lancashire  
Aug 3-5: 3-day match against County at Yorkshire  
Aug 7: one-day match against County at Durham  
Aug 10-12: 3-day match against County at Kent  
Aug 16-18: 3-day match against County at Surrey

ITINERARY OF SL ACADEMY TEAM  
November 22-23: 2-day match  
November 26-29: First Test  
Dec 2-5: Second Test  
Dec 8: 1st ODI  
Dec 9: 2nd ODI  
Dec 12: 3rd ODI

# Gunners are friendlier!



Football

AFP, London

Arsene Wenger said his Arsenal side have tightened up their discipline since last season's Old Trafford antics but could not promise Sunday's clash against Manchester United would be trouble free.

And he urged referee Mike Riley to keep a close eye on all the players, including Ruud van Nistelrooy, who clashed with Patrick Vieira in the melee 13 months ago.

Arsenal let themselves down with their reaction to Vieira's dismissal and van Nistelrooy's late penalty miss, with Martin Keown leading the unseemly goading of the Dutchman.

As a result, four players missed a total of nine games through suspension, while they and the club were fined 275,000 pounds (397,000 euros).

Chairman Peter Hill-Wood has admitted his embarrassment at his side's "unacceptable" behaviour, confessing that it "looked terrible."

However, he told the London Evening Standard newspaper: "We learned from it. Hopefully, that is in the past now and there won't be any kind of problem on Sunday."

Wenger was nevertheless later asked whether he felt there was any danger of a repeat performance.

He responded: "The funny thing in football is that you can never say never as it's a sport of human beings."

"You want gladiators to go out with full commitment and big pas-

sion, although also with a relaxed attitude. It went a bit overboard last season. I don't think it will happen again but....."

As for being embarrassed, he added: "I don't know about that, but I cannot say I was happy as we got a lot of negative publicity and you feel responsible for that as a manager."

"I remember Martin Keown telling me that his kids had seen him on television and weren't very proud of him."

"But despite some opinions, I still feel we were punished quite hard."

The chief proponent of the alternative view has been Alex Ferguson, who believes that Arsenal effectively "got away with murder."

Wenger nevertheless insisted: "With all the negative publicity we got, the consequence was that we got hit very hard financially if you compare with what has been done since."

"But the best response we gave was to win the fair play table. That meant we took responsibility for what we did and we have improved our attitude."

Referee Riley will be keeping a close eye on both sets of players, a fact which Wenger welcomed after accusing van Nistelrooy of having "no class" after last September's game.

"I will invite him to have a look at everybody on the pitch and, of course, van Nistelrooy is part of everybody," he said.

If van Nistelrooy had converted his last-minute penalty last September, Arsenal's unbeaten league run would not be on the verge of a half-century. It would

have stopped after just seven matches.

Wenger therefore only has some regrets from last year's encounter, given that his side also proved their strong team spirit.

"The unity in the camp was a fantastic response, that was the positive thing of the incident for me. But the fact that we didn't keep our control was not right," he said.

"When the players say that it helped us, it's not just because of the incident, but the fact that van Nistelrooy missed the penalty as that kept us going."

Strangely enough, Wenger is not expecting another physical game, even though the evidence of his side's past three matches at Old Trafford points exactly the other way.

However, with Patrick Vieira winning his fitness battle, he warned that Arsenal will be ready for anything.

"I feel that United are more of a creative side than a destructive side so I don't expect the game to be overly physical," he added.

"But I think we have to prepare to cope with any kind of situation that we may face. I am convinced that we have the qualities to cope with any kind of football."

"No matter what happens on the pitch, the best way to respond is to play our game based on speed and technique."

But had Wenger since dared to watch a video of the unseemly scenes at Old Trafford? He admitted: "I didn't need to as I saw it every half an hour on television!"

# Mutu was not up to it



Football

AFP, Lisbon

Romanian international was misbehaving in his private life.

"Sudden mood swings, isolation within the group, unexpected injuries, fatigue, difficulty in concentrating, early morning escapes from traffic police, public statements which were untrue and made no sense -- there were many situations which caused us to wonder," he wrote.

"I hope he has the strength to recover," Mourinho added.

British newspapers have reported that Mourinho himself asked for the drugs test, which was conducted earlier this month.

Mutu admits he took drugs but claims it was not cocaine but a drug to improve his sex life.

"It may be funny but it is true. I did not take cocaine. I took something to make me feel good," the player, who has been linked with a string of stunning models, told the Daily Mirror Friday. "I am not hooked on drugs. I categorically deny this."

Mutu, who signed for Chelsea for 15.8 million pounds (22.8 million

euros, 28.9 million dollars) in July 2003, told the newspaper he now expects to be sold or loaned to an Italian club. He played for Parma last season.

Mourinho and Mutu's relationship had become strained since the player failed to secure a first team place at Chelsea.

Mutu said Friday that he was on the brink of hitting Mourinho in a row over his decision to play for Romania against the Czech Republic in their World Cup qualifier last week, a claim the Chelsea coach has denied.

"Maybe he's having nightmares about me," Mourinho told reporters Friday.

Mourinho had claimed that Mutu was suffering from a knee injury that could be seriously affected by playing for his country in the World Cup qualifier but the forward defied the Chelsea boss and was fined two weeks' wages on his return to England.

"When you sign him you know the baggage that comes along with the ride. He is not the consummate professional."

After scoring 28 goals to help Werder Bremen to the Bundesliga title last season Ailton has yet to open his account in the league for Schalke.

"Five minutes of football that is my shit situation at Schalke," Ailton was quoted as saying. "I am not saying any more, ask the manager."

In contrast to Ailton coach Ralf Rangnick kept his cool.

"He left the dug-out so quickly I hardly had time to look," quipped Rangnick. "If he is that quick against Mainz on Sunday that is ok."

# SL on road to victory

FROM PAGE 13  
And 301 deliveries to reach the 200 mark, with 108 of the runs coming from boundaries and another 12 in sixes.

Jayasuriya went berserk in the post-lunch session with the maestro taking 60 off six overs after Pakistan surprisingly took the second new ball.

Jayasuriya shielded number 10 batsmen Dilhara Fernando while he mauled the Pakistani attack, at one stage hitting Akhtar for three consecutive boundaries and later striking two sixes off Shoaib Malik to reach 250.

Fernando was finally run out after contributing a mere one run in a ninth wicket stand of 101.

Jayasuriya's 253 is the highest Test score by a Sri Lankan against Pakistan, beating 230 runs made by teammate Kumar Sangakkara in the Asian championship final in Lahore two years ago.

Jayasuriya was dismissed shortly after Fernando fell when he played a tired push and was trapped leg before off leg-spinner Danish Kaneria, who was the pick of the home bowlers with 4-117.

SCOREBOARD  
Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Saturday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 243 (Samaraweera 100; Akhtar 5-60, Sami 4-71)  
Pakistan: First innings 264 (Hameed 58, Malik 48; Herath 3-68)  
SRI LANKA: Second innings (over-ning 285-3)  
Atapattu lbw b Akhtar 0  
Jayasuriya lbw b Kaneria 253  
Sangakkara c Moin b Akhtar 59  
Jayawardene c Moin b Kaneria 57  
Samaraweera run out 21  
Mubarak c Moin b Akhtar 0  
K'tharana c sub (Naveed) b Kaneria 1  
Vaas b Malik 4  
Herath lbw b Kaneria 5  
Fernando run out 1  
Malina not out 0  
Extras: (b-12, lb-5, nb-12, w-3, pen-5) 37  
Total: (All out in 109.2 overs) 438  
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-98, 3-216, 4-309, 5-314, 6-319, 7-330, 8-337, 9-438  
Bowler O M R W

Akhtar 25 1 115 3  
Sami 12 1 48 0  
Razzaq 22 7 78 0  
Kaneria 38.2 4 117 4  
Malik 12 1 58 1

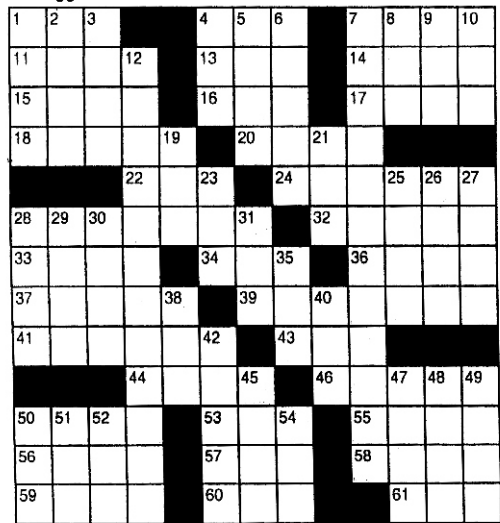
PAKISTAN: Second innings  
Hameed lbw b Fernando 17  
Farhat lbw b Fernando 53  
Kamal b Fernando 1  
Inzamam b Fernando 3  
Younahana not out 23  
Malik not out 3  
Extras: (b-4, nb-5, w-5) 14  
Total: (For 4 wickets in 41 overs) 114  
To bat: Razzaq, Moin, Sami, Akhtar, Kaneria  
Fall of wickets: 1-59, 2-65, 3-86, 4-91  
Bowler O M R W  
Vaas 9 1 42 0  
Malinga 6 2 13 0  
Herath 14 4 27 0  
Fernando 9 2 27 4  
Jayasuriya 3 2 1 0

Note: Penalty runs are awarded when the ball hits the helmet behind the stumps.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Resort  
4 Come-back to a ques.  
7 Oliver Twist's request  
11 Dumbo's "wings"  
13 Witticism  
14 1998 Goo Goo Dolls song  
15 Stead  
16 Cause of royal insomnia?  
17 Beaks  
18 100 Swiss centimes  
20 Describe  
22 Uno  
32 Settle a debt  
33 Charlie Brown's psychiatrist

DOWN  
1 Ego  
2 Poker hand  
3 Neighborhood  
4 Pump up the volume  
5 Yule  
6 Flight component  
7 "Good Will Hunting"  
8 Raw rock  
9 Cage piece  
10 Double curve  
11 Inexperienced motorist  
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CRYPTOQUIP  
Q K C F D W F Q K C V C G G T Z  
Z K T U C L R C U D Z R O R L A  
W G G Q K W Q D T W O X R A K Q  
V R L W G G F H T X C H G C W L  
Saturday's Cryptiquip: PEOPLE DO NOT DIE, THEY MERELY BECOME ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHICALLY CHALLENGED!  
Today's Cryptiquip Clue: G equals L  
The Cryptiquip 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.

## Ronaldo still in love with Inter

INTERNET SOURCE

Real Madrid striker Ronaldo has left the door open to an eventual return to Inter Milan.

The Brazilian ace told Gazzetta dello Sport: "My future is at Real, where I am very happy. But if a day came when I had to leave, the first team I would think of would be Inter."

Asked about the Milan derby, Ronaldo, still a big Inter fan, declared: "I am going to sit down



RONALDO

and watch it. I will be supporting Adriano and Vieri. I can't wait to see them play.

"For sure, Adriano and I are similar players. He is so powerful. But I'm Ronaldo and he's Adriano. We're two different people. I don't think he's quite the complete player yet. He still has a lot of improving to do."

## Ailton incensed

AFP, Gelesenkirchen

Brazilian hot-head Ailton was left infuriated at his four minute cameo role in Schalke 04's 1-1 UEFA Cup draw with FC Basel on Thursday storming out of the dug-out with a verbal tirade.

Samba star Ailton, 31, was only introduced in the closing stages of the match and the current German footballer of the year did not take kindly to the unaccustomed role of warming the substitutes' bench.

"Five minutes of football that is my shit situation at Schalke," Ailton was quoted as saying. "I am not saying any more, ask the manager."

In contrast to Ailton coach Ralf Rangnick kept his cool.

"He left the dug-out so quickly I hardly had time to look," quipped Rangnick. "If he is that quick against Mainz on Sunday that is ok."

The enigmatic Ailton has made most of his headlines off the pitch this season accidentally missing a drugs test, before returning to take it, and hinting at a move to Japan.

"Toni is Toni," said Rangnick. "When you sign him you know the baggage that comes along with the ride. He is not the consummate professional."

After scoring 28 goals to help Werder Bremen to the Bundesliga title last season Ailton has yet to open his account in the league for Schalke.

## A footballer and a spy

AFP, Budapest

Former Hungarian international Dezso Novak, 65, has admitted to spying for the secret police in the 60s and 70s when he regularly filed reports on his team-mates.

Novak won the Olympic title twice with Hungary and the UEFA Cup with Ferencvaros in 1965.

He said he agreed to spy on his team-mates after being caught smuggling watches from Austria and claims he hurt no-one. However, extracts of his reports published Friday reveal he was being less than honest in his appraisal.

Extracts from sports daily Nemzeti Sport reported that he denounced "the hypocritical political conduct" of fellow trainer Karoly Lakat, and accused another colleague, Tibor Szilagyi, of embezzling funds.

Tibor Nyilasi, who played for Ferencvaros, on Friday said Novak should "make peace with his conscience," while Florian Albert, who worked as Novak's co-trainer, said he could not find words to describe his outrage.

Novak later earned a reputation as one of the country's best trainers when he took over that job at Ferencvaros, and was honoured by the government last August for his services to Hungarian sport.