

Zoysa injured

in rained off

tour opener

Fast bowler Nuwan Zoysa is a doubt

for Sri Lanka's first one-day interna-

tional with New Zealand this week-

end after dislocating a finger on

the finger attempting a return catch

off Ewen Thompson against Central

A team doctor was able to put the

digit back in place but Zoysa had

also suffered a deep cut that needed

stitching, casting doubts over his chances of playing the Kiwis on

Tuesday's warm-up match, Sri

Lanka's first on a tour that features

five one-day internationals and

three Tests, was later abandoned

The home side batted first, mak-

ing 220 for seven from 49 overs, and

Sri Lanka were 20-2 in reply when

the match was called off because of

Lee on Aussie

Brett Lee, who has endured a frus-

trating run as Test cricket 12th man,

has been picked for Australia A in

one-day matches against Pakistan

included in a 13-man Australia A

squad for one-day matches against

the West Indies at Hobart's Bellerive

Oval (January 8 and 9), another

against Pakistan at the Adelaide Oval

(January 12) and then the country's

first international Twenty20 match

against Pakistan in Adelaide on

Naveem keeps

Yamin, who dodged past Usha defender Yamin Hossain and

sounded the board with a superb

Mariner pressed hard for an equaliser but failed to convert any of

their six penalty-corners inside a

from time when captain Moududur Rahman Shuva tapped home after a

concerted move by Mazharul Islam

Usha were relieved one minute

revrse hit from the top of the box.

The fast bowler was Tuesday

and West Indies next month.

after heavy rain.

the persistent showers.

A squad for

1-dayers

AFP, Sydney

Districts at New Plymouth.

The Sri Lankan left-armer hurt

REUTERS, Wellington



Action from the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter between Mariner Youngs and Usha Krira Chakra at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Harbhajan doosra reported

Cricket

AFP, London

India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has been reported for a suspected illegal bowling action after concerns were raised over his 'doosra' delivery, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced here Monday.

Among those making the report was former England batsman Chris Broad, now a match referee, who earlier this year raised similar concerns about Sri Lanka's former Test wicket world record-holder Muttiah Muralitharan's 'doosra', a delivery which turns away from a righthanded batsman -- the opposite of an orthodox off-spin ball.

In a statement, the ICC said the report had been made following the conclusion of Monday's second Test between Bangladesh and India in Chittagong where Harbahajan took two for 19 in the hosts's second innings during an innings and 83 run-win that saw India clinch the series 2-0. As well as Broad, the ICC said the

report was made by on-field umpires, Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and Mark Benson (England) and the TV umpire, Mahbubur Rahman (Ban-

ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said: "Having closely reviewed the action Harbhaian

England captain Michael Vaughan

hailed a "very special" achievement

after his team completed a record

eighth successive Test win by beat-

ing South Africa by seven wickets on

the fifth day of the first Test at St

African captain Graeme Smith made

a thinly veiled criticism of his coun-

try's administrators, who have

sacked two coaches, two convenors

of selectors and one captain in the

African cricket," said Smith. "We

have to get on a path and work

towards a goal. As a captain you start

something and then six months

later you have to start again, with a

new coach, new convenor and new

players. The United Cricket Board

40 On the

other

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51 Zilch

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43 7th

"We need to stabilise in South

past two-and-a-half years.

worse things become.

ACROSS

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9 Glutton

12 Duel tool

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14 Brewed

15 Kansas

17 Writer

symbol

Fleming

18 Analyzes

out who-

done-it

19 Figure

21 Yours

cessor

13 Cheney

CROSSWORD

5 Send forth 41 Forbidden

beverage 48 Sellout

While England celebrated, South

Cricket

George's Park Tuesday.

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Singh employs during this delivery, the match officials decided to report the bowler to the ICC and, in line with the protocol, notified the India team management of this course of

He added: "Harbhajan Singh will now work with an expert team over the next six weeks to address these



HARBHAJAN SINGH

concerns. He can continue to play international cricket and cannot be reported again during this period."

Although the ICC ultimately has the power to ban from international cricket any bowler it considers has an illegal action, its rules for dealing with such cases are currently in

A committee made up of former Test players, chaired by former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, has recom-

"When we were in England last

year we started well and England

came back, so we've had it happen

to us. We have to regroup quickly. We

have to improve on a few areas of our

star, taking the man-of-the-match

award with innings of 126 and 94 not

out. He made 43 of the 52 runs

scored by England Tuesday as they

took only 36 minutes and 9.4 overs

Vaughan. "He doesn't get too high

when he's doing well or too low

when he's not performing. His

technique is pretty good and men-tally he's got the ability to be a star

for England for many years to

had shown character in coming

back from a defeat by South Africa A

Vaughan said the whole team

"His attitude is spot on," said

to complete their victory.

come.

Andrew Strauss was England's

game, especially under pressure."

intended to come back strongly in resolve was needed.

mended a new rule allowing bowlers to straighten their arms by up to 15

The new rule varies the amount of straightening allowed depending on the type of bowling. Under exisiting regulations spinners are restricted to five degrees, medium pacers to seven and a half degrees and fast bowlers to 10 degrees.

Under the proposed ruling, which will be put to the ICC chief executives' committee of the 10 Test-playing countries at its next meeting, in Melbourne, Australia, in February, almost all modern bowling actions would be classified as

Tests showed that Muralitharan's elbow straightened by 14 degrees, nine degrees more than the current limit for spinners, when bowling the

Extensive research into the biomechanics of bowling over the past four years has revealed that almost every bowler straightens his arm before letting go of the ball.

This is not the first time Harbhajan, nicknamed the 'Turbanator' on account of the head covering he wears as a Sikh, has had his action come under official scru-

Back in 1998 he was forced to undergo remedial work in London where former England off-spinner Fred Titmus helped him remodel his

that England had won despite not

performing to their full potential,

although he said his players

expected South Africa to "hit back

hard" in the second Test starting in

"We need to be up for that chal-

He said of the eight-match win-

ning streak: "It wasn't something I

was thinking about coming into the

match. I just wanted us to put in a

good performance. But now that

we've done it I know we've created

had stood for 116 years. England

won seven Tests between 1884-85

and 1887-88, a record that was

equalled between 1928 and 1928-29.

started when they beat New Zealand

in all three home Tests earlier this

year and followed up by a 4-0 clean

England's record sequence

England's win beat a record that

Durban on December 26.

something very special."

lenge," he added.

Strauss leads

FROM PAGE 13 getting in the act with a square

four-minute blitz.

Vaughan hails record win drive for four as 11 came off the penultimate over. Strauss batted for three hours, Smith vowed that South Africa into this match. A lot of mental

faced 134 balls and hit 12 fours He made 126 in the first

innings, meaning he had scored centuries on both his home and away debuts. England, who whitewashed

New Zealand 3-0 and West Indies 4-0 at home before coming to South Africa, won seven consecutive Tests between 1928 and 1929 under Percy Chapman.

"You don't go out to make history, it just comes along, England coach Duncan Fletcher

There were more landmarks for Strauss. He became the third player in Test history after Australians Johnnie Taylor and Jack Gregory to be on the winning side in his first eight Tests.

West Indian Eldine Baptiste, Australia's Brett Lee and Thilan Samaraweera of Sri Lanka won their first 10 Tests, and the record of 15 is held by Australian Adam Gilchrist.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth day of the first Test between South Africa and England at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth on Tuesday: South Africa 2nd Innings 229

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 337 (Dippenaar 110, Rudolph 93, Pollock 31; Hoggard 3-56, Flintoff 3-72. Giles 2-69) ENGLAND: First innings 425 (Strauss 126, Butcher 79,

Trescothick 47, Flintoff 35, extras 57; Ntini 3-75, Pollock 2-61, Hall 2-95, Steyn 2-117) SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 229 (Kallis 61, Smith 55, Rudolph

Total: (For 3 wkts in 40.4 overs) 145

0

11

6.4

Result: England won by seven

wickets and take 1-0 lead in the 5-

Man-of-the-match: Andrew

Second Test: Dec 26-30, Durban.

MRW

24 1

14

29

0 39

2 36

1

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-11, 3-50

Bowler

Pollock

Ntini

Hall

Steyn

Smith

Strauss.

28; S Jones 4-39, Giles 2-39, Flintoff 2-47) ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 93-3)

Trescothick c Tsolekile b Pollock 0 Strauss not out comment. Butcher c Smith b Ntini Vaughan b Steyn 15 Thorpe not out 31 great year. Extras: (lb-3, nb-2)

His club Barcelona are racing

quarter-finals to set up a goal for Rivaldo, and his audacious free-kick caught out David Seaman to seal a 2-

FIFA world rankings

Brazil's hattrick

Team

Brazil

2 France

Spain

Mexico

8 England

9 Portugal

12 Repofire

13 Sweden

14 Denmark

14 Turkey

16 Uruguay

17 Japan

18 Greece

19 Germany

10 Italy

11 USA

Argentina

Czech Rep

Netherlands

Football

World champions Brazil have topped FIFA's world rankings for the third year running, football's world ruling body announced Monday.

France, the World Cup winners in 1998, remain in second place ahead of another of South America's giants, Argentina. All three teams retained the places they held at this time last year

Teams having moved up the table since December 2003 include the Czech Republic, who dislodged Spain to take fourth place while the Spaniards drop to fifth, China, Greece and Japan

Mexico moved up one place to seventh with England going in the other direction down to eighth.

The biggest achiever in the current top ten is Portugal, who moved up eight places to ninth thanks mainly to their performances during their hosting of the 2004 European Championships.

China meanwhile moved up a massive 32 places to 54th, in the process winning the Best Mover award after adding 101 points to their 2003 total.

However because they failed to qualify for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany, the Asians dropped five places since November this year.

while Greece, who stunned a host of more prestigious teams by winning the European Championships, also moved up 12 places to sit in 18th

Three other teams have also climbed 30 or more places since December 2003 - Ivory Coast (40th, up 30), Uzbekistan (47th, up 34), and Vincent and the Grenadines (137th, up 32).

Another nine teams have gained more than 20 ranks on last year,

YEAR END RANKINGS

708 707

706 705

including Australia (58th, up 24) Libya (61st, up 22), Panama (100th, up 25) and Oceania Nations Cup surprise packages Solomon Islands (130th, up 26).

With 1019 games having already been played this year and close to 30 matches still outstanding (Tiger Cup, Gulf Cup, CECAFA Cup), 2004 may well set a new all-time record (currently 1044 matches in 2000).

The next FIFA World Rankings will be published on 19 January

Change since Dec 03

Roberto Carlos wants a transfer

AFP, Madrid

Brazil World Cup star Roberto Carlos, continually thwarted in his pay demands, has demanded a transfer after Real Madrid dropped him for last weekend's 3-2 league win over Racing Santander.

The 31-year-old has told Real sporting director Emilio Butragueno he wants to move in the January transfer window, newspapers

The world's most famous left back joined Real in 1996 and his contract runs to 2007 but he has demanded a move several times in the past over Real's refusal to put him on the same wages was topearners Raul, Luis Figo, Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and David Beckham who all pick up 6 million euros free of tax a year.

Glazer ponders new offer for MU

AFP, London

The board of Manchester United said Monday said that US sports tycoon Malcolm Glazer was considering "potential revisions" to his previous unofficial takeover offer for the English football giants.
"The board of Manchester

United confirms that at a shareholder meeting Glazer has indicated, on a very preliminary basis, potential revisions to its previous proposal," a statement to the London Stock Exchange said.

"The board does not intend to open discussions on this matter unless it receives a definitive proposal from Glazer," the statement

Manchester United ended talks with Glazer in October over his possible takeover, saying his bid risked leaving the club mired in Glazer and his family have built

The tycoon caused a stir recently

by ousting three members of the

board at United's annual general

meeting, causing bankers JP

Morgan to pull out of plans to finan-

Tampa Bay Buccaneers could how-

ever now be ready to raise the funds

to complete a hostile 800 million-

The owner of NFL franchise

cially support Glazer's bid.

up a stake of 28.1 percent in Manchester United, the world's richest football club, but have not yet put a formal offer on the table.

"Madrid know they must do something about me. They must

that a club of their stature wants me. "I have made it clear to Madrid what my position is and they under-

not played, and I need to be playing. If the chance comes in January

Perera c Shamsur b Wasel

Extras: (b1, lb3, nb3, w8)

Total: (six wickets in 46.2 overs) 214

Fall of wickets: 1-52, 2-75, 3-106, 4-

0 M

8.2 2 37

6

9

Result: Sri Lanka Academy won by

1 43

1 41

0 34

10 1 34

3 0 21

Wijaysingha b Sakib

Gihan not out

Indika not out

110, 5-116, 6-151.

BOWLER

Tareq

Russell

Razzak

'No Gerrard for Morientes'

Football

AFP, Liverpool

Liverpool have told Real Madrid to forget about using Fernando Morientes to lure Steven Gerrard to the Bernabeu next summer. Liverpool made their first official

move for Rafael Benitez's top transfer target on Monday when they lodged a 3.5 million pound bid with the Spanish giants. Madrid are holding out for 7.5 million pounds but have hinted they

will lower the price if an agreement can be reached over signing Gerrard Madrid president Florentino Perez is worried Chelsea or Arsenal might beat him in the race for the

available in the summer. But Anfield officials have made it clear to Madrid that Gerrard will not eature in negotiations to bring

England midfielder if he becaomes

Morientes to Merseyside in the

Benitez wants to add at least two

January transfer window.

FERNANDO MORIENTES

The nine-time European Cup winners are in no hurry to sell a player with 18 months left on his

players to his squad in January but has only 5 million pounds to spend.

Madrid to lethim go. He was loaned out to Champions League finalists Monaco last season and had been expected to join

But Morientes has pleaded with

Liverpool last summer when Michael Owen went to the Bernabeu but that move fell through when then coach Jose Antonio Camacho refused to let him go. However, he is still behind

Ronaldo, Raul and Owen in the pecking order.

sort out the situation by being sensible," he said. "I like Liverpool and I am pleased

stand that they have to resolve the situation. "I have been patient, but I have

pound bid, despite deep opposition from the club's fans. Tigers begin

FROM PAGE 13 He also said that the playing eleven would be announced after the final training session today.

When Bangladesh had a serious training, the Indians preferred to relax at the team's hotel.

Indian coach John Wright opted to give his star players some rest and instead put the six new replacements through their paces in a twohour drill. Opener Virender Sehwag understandably attended training after two disappointing innings in

Dhaka and Chittagong. Meanwhile, six Indian cricketers arrived in Dhaka on Monday night and joined the team in Chittagong. They are Yuvraj Singh, Ajit Agarkar, Dinesh Mongia, Sridharan Sriram, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Joginder Singh.

They will replace Anil Kumble, VVS Laxman, Gautam Gambhir, Dinesh Karthik, Gagandeep Singh and Shib Shankar Pal.

Laxman and Gagandeep left Dhaka yesterday while the other four Indian cricketers departed on

World's best to fight racism

eradicate racism from football.

"During the last few weeks and months, football has once more emerged to become the victim of racism," Blatter said. "But we need society as a whole to help us."

Meanwhile FIFA's disciplinary commission has decided what action to take following the racist chanting aimed at England players during Spain's 1-0 victory in Madrid on November 17. However FIFA said they would

not reveal their decision until Tuesday or even Wednesday. Rumours suggest the Spanish football federation will suffer a severe punishment but FIFA declined to Meanwhile the top player of

2004, Ronaldinho, has simply had a

away at the top of the Spanish league and Brazil are well on course to qualify for the 2006 World Cup from South American qualifiers. Ronaldinho was acclaimed by

Pele himself as the best player at the 2002 World Cup and it is not surprising his talent has been finally recognised with this award.

Ronaldinho's blinding pace unhinged England's defence in the Barcelona is the perfect club for me and I want to go down in history

Arguably he was the most impor-

tant component of Brazil's vaunted 'Triple R' strike-force at those 2002 finals, surging forward from just behind Ronaldo and Rivaldo and pulling opposing defenders out of Undoubtedly he was one of the key

components of Brazil winning their unprecedented fifth World Cup title. The award comes after a great

signed from PSG for 30 million euros in July 2003 under the noses of Manchester United who were also courting him. After a lacklustre first six months in the Catalonian capital, he started to show top form and helped them

year at Barcelona, for whom he

to an incredible late season surge which saw them just fail to take the title from eventual champions This season, his confidence has grown under coach Frank Rijkaard

and he has blossomed into a truly magnificent player, aided by the excellent Portuguese midfielder Deco. Ronaldinho said: "Barcelona have treated me exceptionally well and I didn't think I would be so well received. I am very happy there.

His prowess was encapsulated

there as a winner."

when he scored a superb winner in the dying seconds of Barcelona's 2-1 Champions League victory over AC Milan at the beginning of November.

The Brazilian went past two Milan defenders and then unleashed a left-foot shot from the edge of the area, which his compatriot Dida had little chance of stop-

And Brazil are sitting in second spot in the 10-country group of South American qualifying for the 2006 World Cup in which Ronaldinho has contributed well.

RONOALDINHO FACTS

Factfile of 2004 FIFA World Foot-

baller of the Year, Ronaldinho:

AFP, Zurich

Surname: De Assis Moreira Name: Ronaldo Nickname: Ronaldinho (Ronaldinho Gaucho in Brazil) Date of birth: 21/03/1980 Place of birth: Porto Alegre, Brazil Nationality: Brazilian Height: 1.80m (5ft 11in) Weight: 76kg (168lb)

Position: Midfielder or striker Clubs: Gremio Porto Alegre (BRA) 1986 to 2001, Paris Saint Germain (FRA) July 2001 to July 2003, Barcelona (SPA) since July 2003 BRAZILNATIONALTEAM Appearances: 50

Debut: 26/06/1999 in 3-0 victory at home to Latvia First goal: 30/06/1999 in 7-0 victory overVenezuela at home

2002 World Cup winner 1999 Copa America winner 1997 FIFA Under-17 World Championship winner

PASTWINNERS AFP, Zurich

RECORD

Past winners of the FIFA Player of the Year award: 2004: Ronaldinho (BRA/Barcelona) 2003: Zinedine Zidane (FRA/Real

Madrid) 2002: Ronaldo (BRA/Real Madrid) 2001: Luis Figo (POR/Real Madrid) 2000: Zinedine Zidane (FRA/-

Iuventus) 1999: Rivaldo (BRA/Barcelona) 1998: Zinedine Zidane (FRA-/Juventus)

1997: Ronaldo (BRA/Inter Milan) 1996: Ronaldo (BRA/Barcelona) 1995: George Weah (LBR/AC Milan) 1994: Romario (BRA/Barcelona) 1993: Roberto Baggio (ITA/-Iuventus)

1992: Marco van Basten (NED/AC Milan) 1991: Lothar Matthaus (GER/Bayern

Munich)

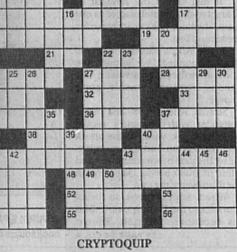
40 Mythical truly 22 Watt's provide DOWN power 24 Otherwise 27 "Humbugl" Dionysus 42 Met 28 Mexican Solution time: 25 mins. entree 43 Condo 31 Swamp 32 Had 28 Across 44 "Cooll" 33 Diamond 45 Bruins' score 46 Revue 36 "See yal" 37 Computer 49 Census Info unit 38 Silicon 50 Misfortune sliver

in their only warm-up game before have to stabilise the key positions. sweep at home against the West The more you jump around the "We were under pressure coming Indies By Eugene Sheffer 2 Comic 23 Quaker's address penguin 3 Photog's 24 Salamanchoice 25 MGM 4 Slander 5 Hollywood mascot clashers 26 Grow 6 Take exponen blades to tially 27 Innocent blades 7 Anger 29 Slash 8 Laconic 30 Indivisible 9 Long forward pass 35 7-laced 10 Scandidoctor of

YM JXYJKX, OLX FSXOTL

RECKON IT'D BE A HERETICK. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T

The Cryologuip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



HVYICFO FRMMYTHOUIC VRKOUORWX

H Q O U F O W Q X N H T Q Y N W . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PARASITE HAD STRANGE, ARGUABLE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, I

Low performing HP FROM PAGE 13 Sandarwan Ibw b Wasel Lankan bowlers with 3-21 from ten Nafees c Gihan b Perera Vithana lbw b Wasel Al Shahriar c Nawala b Abydeera 17 Nawala run out Touring coach Jeromy Jay-

Tushar run out

Sakib not out

Russell run out

194, 10-213.

Wellegedera

V'Pathirana

Gunathilaka

Wijaysingha

SLACADEMY

BOWLER

Perera

Nawala

Abvdeera

Wasel c Indika b Gunathilaka

Riyadh b Wellegedera

Dhiman lbw b Perera

Razzak b Wellegedera

Extras: (b2, lb5, nb8, w9)

Total (all out in 50 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-51, 3-77, 4-

105, 5-128, 6-150, 7-153, 8-194, 9-

10

10

Muttaliph st Dhiman b Razzak 27

2

0

2 36

0 19

0 6

21

36

46

42

aratne, happy at the performance of the second batch of the Academy, said after the match that his boys were never threatened by the Bangladesh attack in the two matches. "I found their bowling pretty

ordinary but they have a few good batsmen. Still, they need to brush on their technique," said Jayaratne adding that they did their homework on the players ahead of the tour with information available on different websites.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the limited-overs match between BCB HP Squad and Sri Lanka Cricket Academy at the

HPSQUAD

Rashedul b Wellegedera