

CENTRE OF CONTROVERSY: construction work in progress on the site of a new stand at the Motera Cricket Stadium in Ahmedabad on February 7 ahead of the Pakistani cricket team's tour of India...

'We'll bounce back'

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq and coach Bob Woolmer Tuesday said their battle-hardened cricket team could do well in the forthcoming tour of India after learning from their Australia defeats.

and also coached South Africa. "We were a better side than some of the sides who lost 3-0 in Australia and gave the hosts tough fights in the Tests," Woolmer said.

Inzamam, who has been criticised for his allegedly passive captaincy and for sitting out the last two Tests with an injury, said defeat was always difficult to deal with.

Parag needs a draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Mehdi Hassan Parag will need a draw in the ninth and final round of the BASIC Bank 26th National Junior Chess Championship today to retain his title.

India being flexible

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India is not averse to dropping Ahmedabad as a Test venue for Pakistan's upcoming tour, a top cricket official said here on Tuesday.

Sobers to help Scotland

CRICINFO, undated

Legendary West Indies all-rounder Sir Garfield Sobers intends to assist the Scotland team for the 2007 World Cup, and help them make an impact on the tournament to be held in the Caribbean.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer. ACROSS 35 Cheese choice. 1 Antelope's playmate. 5 Insult. 8 Workout venues.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Includes clues like 'Y X O E W M X R F X U X Y X F'.

CRYPTOQUIP. Y X O E W M X R F X U X Y X F. K T X P W K F R K R J P V E O K M. J V E O X F K E R P O X F X E D, R M.

Saqlain's comeback chance over

BBC ONLINE, undated

Spin bowler Saqlain Mushtaq's hopes of being included in the Pakistan squad for the tour of India have been dashed by injury.

Bad news for Chelsea

AFP, London

Chelsea winger Arjen Robben will be out of action for six weeks with two broken bones in his foot which will rule him out of both the Champions League matches against Spanish league leaders Barcelona.

BRAZIL-HONG KONG FRIENDLY TODAY

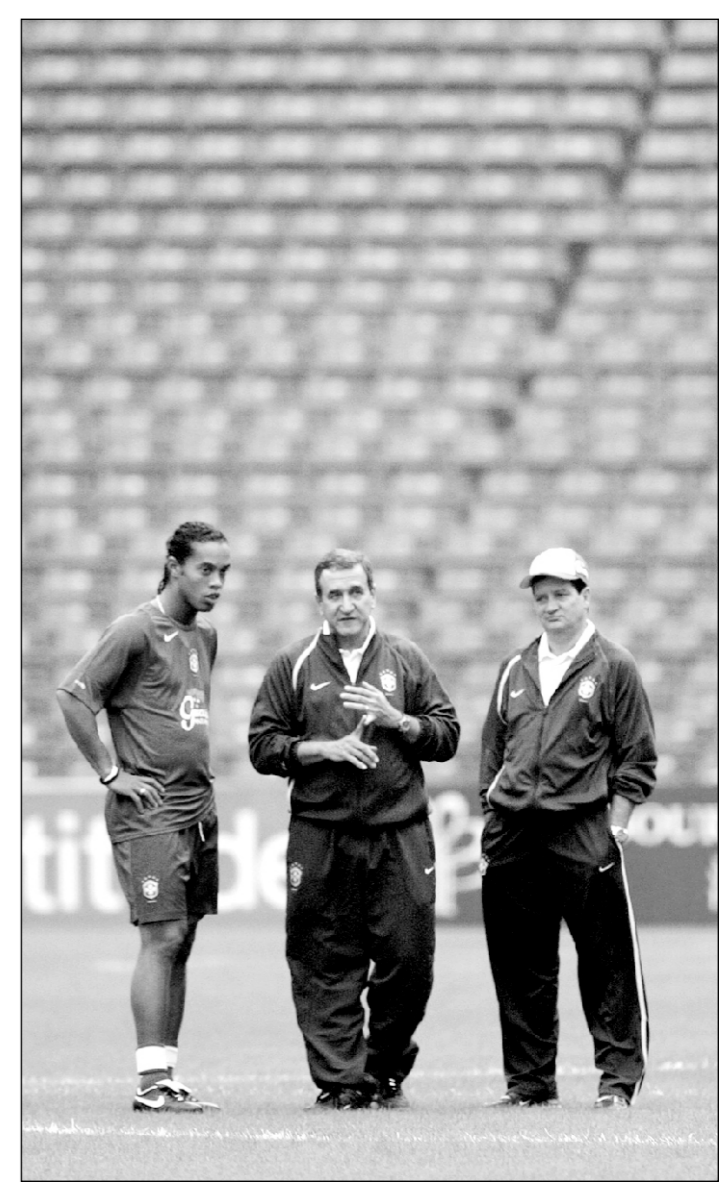
Ronaldo no-show dampens interest

Football

AFP, Hong Kong

World champions Brazil take on Asian minnows Hong Kong here on Wednesday in a lopsided international friendly overshadowed by the no-show of star striker Ronaldo.

Captain Cafu, who has represented Brazil at a record three World Cups and led them to their 2002 success, also said he was unconcerned at the lack of fans on hand to greet the team at the airport late on Monday.



World player of the year Ronaldinho (L) listens to coach Carlos Alberto Parreira (C) during a training session at the Hong Kong stadium yesterday.

Match of the day

AFP, Tokyo

A Japan boosted by two wins achieved without their foreign legion of overseas stars are confident of defeating North Korea as they begin final qualifiers for the 2006 World Cup here Wednesday.

The most impoverished. But Japan coach Zico's preparations have been troubled by three injury-hit midfield dynamos -- Fiorentina's Hidetoshi Nakata, Junichi Inamoto of Cardiff and Feyenoord playmaker Shinji Ono.

set up goals with crosses and scored a goal himself with strikers Takayuki Suzuki and Keiji Tamada refuting the theory that Japan lacked firepower up front.

which included Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. North Korea all but vanished from the international scene after losing to Japan and South Korea in qualifiers for the 1994 World Cup.

FRIENDLY: ENGLAND V HOLLAND

The Wright time?

Football

AFP, Birmingham

Shaun Wright-Phillips knows that his performance for England in Wednesday's friendly against Holland could make or break his bid to establish himself as a key figure in Sven-Goran Eriksson's plans for next year's World Cup finals.

the time the tournament kicks off and, after a lacklustre Euro 2004, has yet to prove he can recapture the kind of form - physical and footballing - that helped make him the global icon he is.

because I can learn so much from him. "People like to say that I am an obvious replacement for him on the right hand side, but I don't find that discomfoting. It's something I just get on with and I'm not bothered one bit about where I play at the moment for England. I just like causing problems for defenders and it doesn't matter what side of the pitch I'm on."

message while the Dutch will sport a special black and white strip. "I've tried to forget about the racist chanting," the son of former Arsenal and England striker Ian Wright said. "It happened and it's over and done with. I just have to concentrate on playing my football now."

Symonds fit

FROM PAGE 13

problem is only minor," said team doctor Trefor James. "He is expected to be available for selection, but not before we review him again next week."

Home teams start well

FROM PAGE 13

36-3 after new-ball bowlers Tareq Aziz Khan (3-35) Gazi Alamgir (2-55) made early inroads for Chittagong, who had put Rajshahi in. But opener Jahurul (51 off 94 balls) and Forhad (99 off 170 balls) shared 89 for the fourth wicket to put the home team back on track.

Scoreboard table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Tapash, Nazmul, Hasibul, Nabil, Sadiqur, Rezaul, Kapali, Mawla.

Scoreboard table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Shahin c & b Razzak, Nasiruddin c Mashrafe b Manzarul, Salahuddin b Jamal.

Scoreboard table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Sonnet, Mosharraf, Arman, RAJSHAHI-CHITTAGONG.