

Eto'o makes a statement

REUTERS, Madrid

Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o said his dancing goal celebration in Saturday's 4-1 win away to Real Zaragoza was a response to the racist abuse he received during the game.

"I danced like a monkey because they treated me like a monkey," said the 24-year-old Cameroon international, who is widely expected to be named African Player of the Year for the second season in succession next week.

Eto'o, who notched his 17th goal of the season, was greeted by monkey chants when he touched the ball at the Romareda stadium and peanuts were thrown on to the pitch after he scored.

Referee Fernando Carmona Mendez did not mention the incidents in his match report, commenting only that the behaviour of the crowd was "normal".

Several clubs have been fined for the racist behaviour of their fans this season but the Spanish Football Federation has not taken any action unless the incidents have been reported by the referee.



FOREVER IN THEIR HEARTS: Bangladesh midfielder Arif Khan Joy signs the condolence book opened at the Abahani Club in memory of former Bangladesh captain and Abahani legend Monem Munna who died of kidney related complications on Saturday.

U-13 cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Old DOHS handed Brothers Union a massive 151-run defeat in the Under-13 Development Tournament at the DOHS cricket ground yesterday.

Abir Mahmud hit 72 and Nasir Mohammad Pintoo added 47 as DOHS amassed 260-8 in the stipulated 40 overs.

In reply, Brothers were bundled out for 109 in 25.3 overs. Abir Hasan picked up three wickets conceding 10 runs in 3.3 overs.

More bad news

FROM PAGE 13 of Hayden's health, telling that Hayden had "full-blown pneumonia", and was "as crook as a dog at the moment".

James, however, stated that Jones' assessment was "a bit of an exaggeration", but agreed that Hayden wasn't a 100 per cent certainty for the ODIs.

Hayden has had a wretched run in both Tests and one-day internationals over the last season, averaging just 33.67 in his last nine Tests, and 18.70 in his last ten ODIs. He was recently dropped from the one-day team during the triangular VB Series, when Michael Clarke took over as Adam Gilchrist's opening partner.

Trevor Hohns, the chairman of selectors, indicated that Hayden would get another chance to regain his spot during the one-dayers in New Zealand, but his illness means Clarke could continue with the opener's job in the series.

Sania-manial!

FROM PAGE 13 "Unlike the men, women's tennis in India lacks history and Sania has revolutionised it," said the country's finest tennis player Ramanathan Krishnan, who reached the Wimbledon semi-finals in 1960 and 1961.

"It's too early to say what she is likely to achieve. Of course, it would be great to see her reach the pinnacle of women's tennis."

The win will take Mirza close to her immediate target of breaking into the top 100. Last year, she became the youngest Indian, male or female, to win a professional title by claiming the doubles at the same event.

"It's simply unbelievable that she's done what she has so quickly," said former national champion Sai Jayalakshmy.

"She loves the spotlight, and she's extremely confident. Her self-belief is perhaps the biggest difference between her and the women players of my generation."

Tsunami orphans' rare day



AFP, Galle

Sri Lankan children orphaned by the tsunami disaster had a rare day of entertainment Sunday, when they competed against national cricketing heroes at a stadium which was itself damaged by the waves.

The grass at the once picturesque Galle International Stadium is dying after the December 26 tragedy. But schoolboy survivors and national skipper Marvan Atapattu's team played a game of softball as part of a project by the cricketers to help survivors.

"This is the first time that the children were able to get out of their relief centres and entertain themselves after the disaster," Cricket Aid chief Thilanga Sumathipala told AFP.

"For many, just getting out of the relief centre itself is fun and a good experience. They have seen their cricket heroes, now is a chance to play with them."

KB Asena Malaka, 10, lost his father and two younger brothers but was looking forward to playing with the national team in a cricket-mad

country where players are national heroes.

Malaka said he escaped because his father placed him atop a wall to escape the rising sea water. But within a minute the wall collapsed on his father, killing him.

His elder brother KB Vishva Niranjana, 12, was able to run to higher ground but the two younger boys, aged seven and two, were killed.

Sri Lanka's Commissioner of Probation and Child Care, Sarah Abeygunawardena, said there were 995 children who had lost both parents while another 3,409 lost at least one.

Sumathipala said they hoped to help at least 1,000 children and see them through their education for at least 10 years under a project that will cost an estimated three million dollars.

"There is an enormous amount of goodwill and we feel we will be able to raise this and also build at least 200 houses," Sumathipala said.

He said they expect to set up cricket townships in the southern Galle and Matara districts as well as the eastern regions that were badly hit by the tsunami.

Nearly 31,000 people were killed nationwide and nearly a million were initially left homeless.

"We are also carrying out trauma counselling for the survivors and hopefully will be able to carry on that work for another couple of months," Sumathipala said as children accompanied by their guardians enjoyed the day out.

Five softball matches were in progress simultaneously at the Galle ground, which could take over a year to recover from the salt water devastation.

Curator Jayananda Warnaweera said it would cost 300 to 400 million rupees (three to four million dollars) to refurbish the ground to international level.

The world's highest Test wicket taker, Shane Warne was here last week to meet tsunami survivors. On Sunday another Australian, John Brumby, the treasurer of the Victoria state government, was visiting.

"Two weeks ago I was at a friendly match between two clubs and they raised 20,000 dollars to help tsunami victims," Brumby said.

"There is an enormous sympathy and support for Sri Lanka," Brumby said.

Wait for Flintoff



SPORTINGLIFE, undated

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff believes he has not yet reached the peak of his powers and expects to be an even better batsman in a couple of years' time.

The Lancashire all-rounder returned home early from the tour of South Africa to have surgery on a troublesome bone spur on his left ankle in order for him to be ready to face Australia this summer.

His position in the side is seen as key to England's hopes but despite being named 2004 one-day player-of-the-year he accepts he is not the finished article just yet.

"Some of the best batters in the world probably peaked at 30 or 31, so I have got a bit in me yet. I have had a few injuries -- I had a back problem as a kid," Flintoff said.

"As a batter I am hoping I am getting better and better and when I get to 33 I hope I will be firing on all cylinders.

"By no means do I regard myself as a celebrity -- I am the same bloke I was when I was 18, except I am just enjoying my cricket a bit more now."

NZ handicapped

FROM PAGE 13 some attrition and we're going to end up using some resources," he said.

"We've got to be quite careful and it may need some changes from time to time."

Andre Adams, named in the Twenty20 squad after recovering from a virus, will likely be considered during the one-day series along with fringe men James Franklin and Tama Canning, and in-form domestic bowlers Graeme Aldridge and Lance Hamilton.

Bracewell said the rotation policy, which has been successfully used by depth-laden Australia, was necessary in such a packed season.

It was first tried with caution on the October tour of Bangladesh when Jacob Oram, currently sidelined with a back stress injury, and captain Stephen Fleming were rested.

"It's a little bit harder to make that gutsy decision to rest one of your vital players when you're playing No 1 in the world," Bracewell said.

SA widen

FROM PAGE 13 to take advantage of a third scintillating century by Kevin Pietersen.

Hampshire batsman Pietersen rescued England from 68-6 at the halfway stage by slamming 116 off 110 balls.

But the total of 240 was not enough as South Africa got home in the 49th over, with Ashwell Prince 62 not out.

Roddick in final

AFP, San Jose

Defending champion Andy Roddick advanced to the final of the San Jose ATP event with a 7-6, 6-3 triumph over third seed Tommy Haas of Germany.

The 22-year-old Roddick beat fellow American Mardy Fish in the 2004 final.

Roddick is playing his first tournament since a disappointing four-set loss to Lleyton Hewitt in the Australian Open semifinals.

In Saturday's first semifinal, unseeded Frenchman Cyril Saulnier continued his strong run with a 6-7, 6-3, 6-3 victory over seventh seed Jurgen Melzer of Austria.

The 29-year-old Saulnier, ranked 50th, reached his first ATP Tour final. Last season, he made it to a pair of semi-finals.

"The first set I started off slow," Saulnier said. "I needed to be more aggressive. I've played good matches against top 10-15 players. I've worked hard to reach this goal."

Melzer stunned second seed Andre Agassi of the United States, 6-3, 6-1, in the quarterfinals Friday, ending Agassi's bid for a sixth San Jose title.

Mike wants to give Kevin a Test call

BBC ONLINE, undated

Former England captain Mike Atherton believes rising star Kevin Pietersen has batted himself into the reckoning for an Ashes berth.

"I think the selectors will be forced into picking him this summer," said Atherton, who played 33 Ashes Tests.

"He certainly deserves to get a look-in or be considered for the Test team."

Atherton was echoing the words of Clive Rice, the man who brought Pietersen from his native South Africa to Nottinghamshire in 2001.

"Just look at the impact he has made and the innings he has played since he arrived in South Africa," Atherton told the Sunday Mirror.

"Test cricket is a different and much more different game. You will have someone like Shane Warne spinning it sideways out of the rough."

"But from what we have seen so far, Pietersen has the temperament and skill to handle it." England could be tempted to hand Pietersen his debut in the early-summer two-Test series against Bangladesh, where a positive showing would enhance the powerful right-hander's Ashes claims.

Div I hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Javed slammed a hat-trick as Bangladesh Sporting Club defeated Shantinagar Sporting Club 3-1 in the Green Delta First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhashani National Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 2-0. In the day's other match, Farashganj Sporting Club beat Victoria Sporting Club 4-2 at the same venue.

Mohammad Arafat struck twice while Rubel and Nabi Sheikh added one apiece for the winners. Sumon and Manik scored for the losers.

Nawaz fears

FROM PAGE 13 "If Akhtar and (Mohammad) Sami are fit then we must select them and two more swing bowlers and only they can turn the tables on India because we have not produced quality spinners, no one had bothered to in the recent past," said Nawaz.

Pakistan won 1-0 on their 1987 tour with left arm spinner Iqbal Qasim and off-spinner Tauseef Ahmed sharing nine wickets between them in the Bangalore win.

On their last tour, Pakistan were helped by off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq who took 10 wickets to help the team win the first Test at Madras but after Pakistan lost in Delhi Akhtar took eight wickets to help Pakistan win the Kolkata Test.

Mushtaq, who lost his place in the team last year, is recuperating from knee surgeries and is not ready for a comeback.

Nawaz said India without an injured Sachin Tendulkar would still be strong.

"Tendulkar would not be missed if he doesn't play because their real star is Rahul Dravid and other batsmen are capable enough to guide India to big totals," he said.

Pakistan are likely to announce the India tour squad on Friday.

Mamun propels

FROM PAGE 13 In reply, Bangladesh Boys finished their 50-over quota on 167-9.

It was Lalmatia's seventh victory while Bangladesh Boys have also same number of wins in their account from 15 matches.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Dhaka Wanderers (218) beat Nabin Sangha (188) by 30 runs to also register their seventh win.

Safina prepares for Mauresmo rematch



AFP, Paris

France's Amelie Mauresmo and unseeded Russian teenager Dinara Safina set up a rematch after advancing to the final of the 585,000-dollar Paris Indoor Open here on Saturday.

Mauresmo, the 2001 champion and second seed, eased past fourth seeded Russian Nadia Petrova 7-5, 6-3 in 1hr 51min as Safina battled fellow teen Tatiana Golovin of France 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 in 2hr 21min to become the first Russian finalist of the event.

As a result Mauresmo, who held the world number one spot for just over a month last year, will jump two places to overtake US star Serena Williams as the world number two whatever the result Sunday.

"My aim of course is to regain the number one place," said Mauresmo, who faces her second meeting in as many months with 18-year-old Safina, sister of Australian Open champion Marat Safin.

The girl from Moscow is bidding for her third title after Sopot in 2002 and Palermo in 2003, against Mauresmo who is looking for her 16th career title.

Mauresmo, 25, and Safina, 18, previously met in the second round

of the Australian Open three weeks ago with the French player winning 2-6, 6-1, 6-0.

"She's a player who has really progressed the last few months," said Mauresmo.

"But I've more experience of this type of match and want to go all out to get that title."

It is Mauresmo's fourth Paris final, she was twice runner-up to Williams in 1999 and 2003, but missed last year's event through injury.

Safina, a semifinalist last year, anticipated a tough encounter. "All the public are going to be behind her so it will be difficult," said the Russian.

Mauresmo was pushed hard by 12th-ranked Petrova in a first set which lasted 1hr 13min and during which the 22-year-old Russian served for the set at 5-4.

Mauresmo broke in the sixth game of the second set which she dominated and wrapped up after 38min.

"It was a long and intense match," said Mauresmo. "I gave away too many points at the beginning, but she showed signs of fatigue at the end of the first set."

Earlier Safina, who advanced to the final four after top seed Williams withdrew through illness, won a battle of nerves with Golovin.

"I'm surprised, I don't know how I did it," said Safina who was two points from defeat in the third set.

"It was a really tough match because she knows my game. But I saw that she was giving me few chances so I said to myself: 'I have to take this match'."

Safina came away with her first win in three meetings with 17-year-old Golovin.

The 48th-ranked Russian raced through the first set in 31min.

Golovin, ranked 23, came back in the second and despite struggling with her own serve broke her opponent's three times to level after 1hr 15min of play.

Both players exchanged serves again in the final set with Golovin bouncing back from dropping her serve with three double faults in the fifth game to make the crucial break in the eighth for 5-3.

But the French player threw away a 30-love advantage while serving for the match allowing Safina back in 5-4, to force a tiebreak with the Russian rushing to a 3-0 lead to take the tie on her first match point.

"I think she had one of her best matches," said Golovin, who hit 11 double faults compared to five for the Russian.

"I made some forced errors at crucial times and paid for it."

Pietersen fireworks on

FROM PAGE 13

finish with three for 52.

England opening bowler Darren Gough, his team's most consistent bowler in the series, could not play because of a virus and was replaced by fast bowler Steve Harmison.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the seventh and final one-day international between South Africa and England at Centurion on Sunday:

Table with columns for England and South Africa, listing players and their runs/wickets. Includes a 'Total' row and a 'Fall of wickets' row.

Table with columns for Ntini, Nel, Hall, Boje, Kallis, and South Africa, listing players and their runs/wickets.

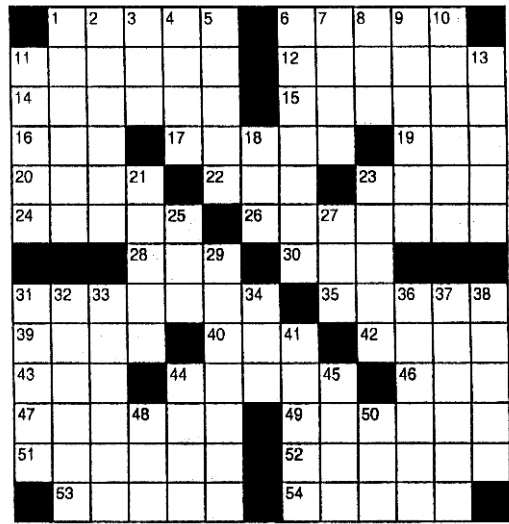
Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Brian Jerling (South Africa).



England's Kevin Pietersen waves to the crowd after reaching his century in the seventh and final one-day international against South Africa at Centurion in Pretoria yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 40 "Miser-ables" 1997 movie starring Shaq 6 Code name? 11 Balanced 12 Horrific 14 Modest 15 "That Scrambled Word Game" 16 Praise in rhyme 17 High points 19 Aachen article 20 React to reveille 22 Part of H.M.S. 23 Encourage 24 Degree, to Emmerl 26 Swears it's true 28 Journal 30 Verily 31 Mariachi instrument 35 Tapestry 39 Oodles



CRYPTOQUIP MG GSN TVA, ANQMVFN UN YOLN GSN QYMFFOQ FHRZUJOGNJ, UN MYY IJMRL M QHYI THJGNJ. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ACTOR IS ELIMINATED FROM A FILM'S CAST, I SUPPOSE HE'S OUT OF THE PICTURE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals S