#### Pollock misses 2nd ODI too

REUTERS, Durban

All-rounder Shaun Pollock will not return to the South African team for the second one-day international against Zimbabwe in Durban on Sunday, team management said on Saturday

Pollock, who has a long-term ankle injury, missed the first match of the series in Johannesburg on Friday. Fast bowler Makhaya Ntini will also miss the game after team management decided to rest him.

Fast bowler Charl Langeveldt who fractured his hand while batting in his Test debut against England in Cape Town in January, was likely to be called in.

"It's an opportunity to give Shaun more time to recover, and to bring back Charl after his injury," South Africa's media manager Gerald de Kock said on Saturday.

De Kock said South Africa would probably rest captain Graeme Smith for the last match of the series in Port Elizabeth on Wednesday.

#### Sharapova-Molik showdown

AFP, Doha

Fourth-seed Alicia Molik produced an awesome display of power to shock top-seeded Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo and set up a dream title clash with Russian Maria Sharapova at the 600,000-dollar WTA Qatar Open on Friday.

The Aussie world number 9 was too good for her world number 2 opponent Mauresmo especially in the second set, completing a 7-6, 6-1 victory after rain stopped play for almost four hours with proceedings tied 3-3 in the first set.

She next meets second seed Sharapova who later defeated Slovak Daniela Hantuchova 6-2, 6-

But Molik said she felt pretty confident about her game heading into the Qatar Open final against the reigning Wimbledon champion.

"I always expected myself to make it through the week in Doha and I am not surprised to see myself in the final," said Molik

#### PCB to push

FROM PAGE 13

the ICC board that the time has come to introduce neutral umpires in the one-dayers to further raise the standard of umpiring at the international level," Shaharyar said.

"We feel that the benefits of having neutral umpires for one dayers outweighs its possible

### Balaji, Nehra

FROM PAGE 13

series against Australia last vear. Kaif, who was then not considered for Test matches against South Africa and Bangladesh, will lead a Board President's team in a threeday game against Pakistan at Dharamsala on March 3.

"Yuvrai's record against Pakistan and his present form in domestic cricket prompted the selectors to pick him ahead of Kaif. However, Kaif is in the running for the remaining two Tests," said Nair.

FIRST TEST SQUAD Sourav Ganguly (captain), Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Sachin Tendulkar,

Venkatsai Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Dinesh Karthik, Zaheer Khan, Irfan Pathan, Ashish Nehra, Laxmipathy Balaji, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI: Mohammad Kaif (captain), Dheeraj

Jadhav, Satyajit Parab, Shikhar Dhawan, Venugopal Rao, Suresh Raina, Neeraj Patel, Parthiv Patel Ramesh Powar, Shib Paul, Rudra Pratap Singh, Gagandeep Singh Ranadeb Bose, Ram Kumar.

37 Old-style

trousers

40 Semester

45 Big con

47 Blueprint

addition

49 Margarine

mělody

refrain

53 Change

for a

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DOWN

1 Amahl's

C-note

50 Met

51 Born

Sebastian 52 Yuletide

CROSSWORD

5 Drill insert 41 Proof of

ACROSS

12 Touch

13 Camel

14 Cat call

15 Moving

16 Miler

18 Deep

20 Pealed

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26 They ain't

nickel

29 DHL rival

30 Santa —

Calif.

31 Piccadilly

statue

Irving

35 Clothing

hoods

36 Helps

entrance

32 Actress

33 Mine

worth a

man?

17 Differently

1 Recruits'

repast

## **SA** too strong for Zim

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Pitiful Zimbabwe were left in no doubt over how much they need former skipper Heath Streak back in the ranks after crashing to a 165-run defeat to South Africa at the Wanderers here on Friday in the first one-day international.

South Africa piled up 301-7 off their 50 overs before the tourists were shot out for just 136 in the 38th over.

Farlier in the day. Streak said he was ready to return to the national side despite being sacked as skipper in April last year when he objected to certain members of the country's national selection panel.

Fifteen senior players also said they would not play for the national side again unless Heath was rein-

Their absence was evident again on Friday when Tatendu Taibu's team were completely outclassed by the South Africans with pace bowler Makyaha Ntini doing the early damage with the wickets of Hamilton Masakadza and Stuart Matsikenyeri as the tourists chased their huge target.

That sent Zimbabwe spiralling to 41-3 and they never recovered despite Taibu hitting his side's top score of 28 before falling to Nicky

Earlier. Zimbabwe's teenage spinner Prosper Utseya took three wickets but could not stop South Africa topping 300.

Utseya, 19, took three for 40 with his off-spin.

South Africa were struggling to get on top of a spin-based attack before a late surge took them to 301 for seven after they were sent in to

South Africa scored 70 runs off the last five overs, mainly through Mark Boucher, who hit 49 off 29 balls and Albie Morkel, who hit 16 off six balls before being caught on the boundary in the last over.

#### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between South Africa and Zimbabwe at the Wanderers Stadium on Friday:

**SOUTH AFRICA** Smith Ibw b Matsikenveri Bacher c Masakadza b Utseva 56 Rudolph c Matsikenyeri b Utseya50 Gibbs c Maregwede b Rogers 40 Kemp st Taibu b Utseva Boucher b Chigumbura Prince not out 20 Morkel c Masakadza b Panyangara Boje not out Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-5) Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 301 Fall of wickets: 1-87, 2-128, 3-184,

4-197. 5-223. 6-276. 7-297

Moniruzzaman c Forhad b

Did not bat: Hall. Ntini

Bowler	0	M	R				
Panyangara	10	1	64				
Mpofu	6	0	44				
Chigumbura	8	0	45				
Matsikenyeri	9	0	62				
Utseya	10	0	40				
Williams	3	0	16				
Rogers	4	0	28				
ZIMBABWE							
Mata: Lancina at a	O:LL	- I- NI4	::				

Matsikenyeri c Gibbs b Ntini Rogers c Boje b Hall Masakadza c Rudolph b Ntini Maregwede Ibw b Morkel Taylor c Smith b Hall Taibu c Smith b Boje Chigumbura c Prince b Morkel Williams run out (Boje) 12 Panyangara b Ntini Utseya b Hall Mpofu not out Extras: (b-2, lb-8, w-10) 20 Total: (All out in 37.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-36, 3-41 5-75, 6-75, 7-110, 8-113, 9-121 O M Ntini 10 0 42 Morkel 23 Boje 21 Bacher 0 Kemp Result: South Africa won by 165 runs and take 1-0 lead. Man-of-the-match: Mark

Boucher. Toss: Zimbabwe. Umpires: D Harper (Australia) and I Howell (South Africa).

## Anything can happen

FROM PAGE 13

on the third morning, but hosts Rajshahi still took a 46-run first A inninas lead.

The visitors' efforts came to an Imitiaz c Jahurul end when Rezaul (25) was caug by Shamimul off Alamhir Kal while Hasibul remained not out

Buoyed by the important fi nnings lead, Rajshahi scored 2 for 5 in their second innings take an overall lead of 263, thar to half-centuries by Jahurul Isla and Naeem Islam.

#### **SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboards on the third day the four-day matches of t National Cricket League yest

RAJSHAHI-SYLHET **RAJSHAHI:** First innings 299 SYLHET: First innings (overnig

Golam Rahman run o

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	16		
	Rezaul c	Samimul	
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,	25	3	
u t	Nabil c Nu	ıruzzaman	
		_	

## Aussies ens

FROM PAGE 13 went downhill again.

Marshall and his twin brother James, making his debut, were both run out from cover by Andrew Symonds. Hamish Marshall top scored for New Zealand with 55 and Cairns tried his best to boost the

run rate, but on 12 flayed Lee to a diving Hussey at deep point and it was all over as Lee ended with two for 24 off seven overs.

The fourth match is in Wellington

#### **SCORECARD** Scoreboard of the third one-day

international between New Zealand and Australia at Eden Park on

**AUSTRALIA** Gilchrist c Astle b Cairns Katich Ibw b Vettori 11 Ponting run out (Papps/McCullum) Martvn Ibw b Vettori Symonds c Papps b Mills 21 Clarke not out Hussey not out Extras: (lb-2, w-7, nb-10) Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) 264 Fall of wickets: 1-68, 2-85, 3-90, 4-117. 5-128

Hoga Lee Gillespie.

Did fiot bat.	i logg,	LCC,	Omcor
Kasprowicz			
Bowler	0	M	R
Tuffey	2	0	25
Mills	9	0	57

By Eugene Sheffer

19 Petrol

21 Respond

23 Type of

25 Wilander

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26 Profound

28 Between

and

32 Physical

33 Run off

36 More

38 Rangers

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tions

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10

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in the

	~			
sure	St	7	6	S
Cairns	10	1	55	
Astle	9	0	47	(
Vettori	10	0	30	
McMillan	10	0	47	
<b>NEW ZEALA</b>	ND			
Fleming b Lee	Э			1
Astle c Gilles	oie b K	aspro	wicz	27
Papps retd hu	ırt			3
Marshall run	out (Sy	mond	ls)	55
McMillan c Hu	ussey l	b Sym	onds	26
Marshall run	out (Sy	mond	ls)	14
Cairns c Huss	sey b L	.ee		12
McCullum c F	lussey	b Ho	gg	23
Vettori c Gilch	ırist b I	Hogg		0
Mills c Kaspro	wicz t	Hogg	)	1
Tuffey not out				(
Extras: (lb-8,	w-4, n	b-4)		16
Total: (For 9 w	kts in	41.5 o	vers)1	178
Fall of wicket	ts: 1-7	, 2-45	, 3-11	4, 4
135, 5-136, 6	-161,	7-162	, 8-17	2, 9
178				
Bowler	0	M	R	٧
Lee	7	0	24	
Gillespie	6	0	14	
Kasprowicz	8	1	28	

otal: (For 9 wkts in 41.5 overs)178 all of wickets: 1-7, 2-45, 3-114, 4-								
35, 5-136, 6	5-161,	7-162	2, 8-17	2, 9-				
78								
owler	0	М	R	W				
ee	7	0	24	2				
illespie	6	0	14	0				
asprowicz	8	1	28	1				
ymonds	10	1	36	1				
ussey	3	0	22	0				
ogg	7.5	0	45	3				
esult: Australia won by 87 runs								
nd lead the 5-ODI series 3-0.								
lan-of-the-match: Michael								

Toss: Australia.

Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and Doug Cowie (New Zealand).

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
			22			23					24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31			Г		32				33			
34				35		Π		36				
37			38				39		Τ			
		40	T		Γ		41	T	Τ	42	43	44
45	46		T		47	48			49		Г	T
50			T		51	Τ			52	T	T	T
53	Τ	Τ	T	П	54				55	Τ	Τ	Τ

**CRYPTOQUIP** 

U JHAWPXLFQ X WNE U LHJJNLF

KUDI US VNA ENHDQ

XDD US'L ENASP Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WOULD GET AWFULLY SICK OF PUTTING RETREADS ON CARS. IT'S A PRETTY TIRING TASK. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals L

The Cryptoquip 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

S	h	ι	ı	٧	0
На о 37	s i b		u	n	o t
E x t 1) Total			lb-4 nin80		5
104,		6-15	5, 2-41 55, 7-18		
Bow		0	M	R	
<b>W</b> Alam 50	gir 2	2.4 3	1		0
Forh	ad	7	1	2	2
Sum 0	on	17	5	4	5
Shuv 112	'O	30 6	3		

### RAJSHAHI: Second innings Jahurul c Babel b е

Forhad c Rahman b 11 Anisur out Naeem run out Hasanuzzaman cabil b Parvez 2 Mashud batting Nuruzzaman batting

Extras: (b-3, nb-1, w-8) Total: (For 5 wkts in 75 overs) 217 Fall of wkts: 1-17, 2-108, 3-188, 4-196.5-199. **Bowlers** 2 15 Tapash Rezau Hasibul 25 Nabil

47 Parvez DHAKA-KHULNA

KHULNA: First innings 153 **DHAKA:** First innings 307 KHULNA: Second innings (overniaht 148-2) Sadat c Saijad b Sunny 19 42 Shafiul c Mehrab b Sunny Monirul Ibw b Mahmud

Hasan c Sazzad b Mahmud Asadullah c Sazzad b Mehrab 56 Jamaluddin b Sunny Mashrafee c Sazzad b Morshed 52 Salim c Jahangir b Mehrab Kabir Ibw b Mehrab Jr 23 Dollar c Anwar b Mahmud Monjurul not out

26 Extras: (b-6, lb-3) Total: (All out in 127.1 overs) 415 Fall of wkts: 1-75, 2-90, 3-159, 4-160, 5-287, 6-301, 7-347, 8-366, 9-369, 10-415, **Bowlers** 

Mahbub 43 Mehrab Jr 30.1 10 Sunny 35 Mehrab Sr 0 Niamur 0 15

CHITTAGONG-BARISAL BARISAL: First innings 238 CHITTAGONG: First innings (overnight 242-4) Tamim c Shahin b Sonnet Salahuddin b Sonnet 15 Nazimuddin Ibw b Sonnet Ehsanul st Shahin b Mosharraf 186 Azam c Nadif b Sonnet Sunny c Shahin b Mosharraf Faisal not out Wayskarani Ibw b Mosharraf

### Perera nabbed

FROM PAGE 13 The 27-year-old Perera was arrested and held in custody overnight by Kohuwala police before being released on bail.

He made his international debut against England at the Oval in 1998 but lost confidence after being reported for having a suspect bowling action by umpire Steve Bucknor in 2001

Last season Perera played only one domestic first-class match for

# cricketers

REUTERS, Johannesburg

South Africa should have at least seven black players in their squad for the 2007 World Cup, the country's cricket chiefs said on Friday.

"The target of a minimum of seven black players in a squad of 15 was recommended by both the transformation review subcommittee and the management committee," Cricket South Africa chief executive Gerald Majola said.

"The target was based on an increase on the five black players in the squad for the 2003 World Cup.

"We do not believe in tokenism, but in capacity building to ensure that all team members can take on the best the world has to offer," Maiola said.

Gary Kirsten, South Africa's most capped Test player, will run a high performance programme to identify potential members of the World Cup team.

#### Agassi reaches semis

AFP, Dubai

Andre Agassi, close to his 35th birthday, reached his first semifinal for four months here Saturday when he overcame the rising Russian Nikolay Davydenko in two tough sets in the Dubai Open.

Agassi, whose chances of his first title since August have been diminished by rain delays which have forced two semifinalists to play twice in one day, nevertheless looked lively and ambitious as he earned the possibility of meeting world number one Roger Federer.

The American's 6-4, 7-6 win depended heavily on being able to set himself up for the first telling blow in any rally with short backswing, hard-to-read, wonderfully well-controlled ground strokes, keeping his opponent on the move as much as possible.

### BCB gets its

legitimate authority," Sajjadul

Isolated from cricket activities for more than two-and-a-half years, the directors are on a collision course with Asghar and his advisors. The directors, who were elected in March 2001 with Saber Hossain Chowdhury at the helm, were thrown into oblivion after the BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) swept to power in October 2001.

"We will request the board president to convene a meeting of the board of directors as soon as possible. Besides, we also want to have a look into the accounts of the BCB and appointments then and

Asghar, a government nominee for the sport's most lucrative federation, promised to hold elections following the suspension of the board of directors. But his words never reflected his deeds, as he was more than happy to work in an undemocratic atmosphere. He is yet to call an annual general meeting, one of the pre-requisites for holding elections.

## Proteas should have 7 black No margin for error

### English League Cup final today

Football

REUTERS, London

Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard hopes a victory over Liverpool in Sunday's League Cup final in Cardiff will mark the beginning of an era of sustained success for the London club.

"It's very important to win trophies. I hope this will be the first of many." said the England midfielder. who has yet to notch up a major title in his career.

The 26-year-old was also quick to dismiss critics who hold that the League Cup is a lesser competition and that Chelsea were able to coast into the final. "It's not been a weak competition

as people like to say," said Lampard, whose side eliminated his former club West Ham United, Newcastle United, Fulham and then Manchester United in a memorable two-legged semifinal. Mourinho said Chelsea had had

a tougher path to the final than Liverpool, who met two Second Division sides as they beat Millwall, Middlesbrough, Tottenham Hotspur He added, however, that on

Sunday the two teams would start on equal terms. "When you look at the Premier League it looks like a big difference, I don't know, 20 points or 25 points

but the difference between the

teams is not big. "We are not favourites, in my opinion there are no favourites in finals. They have very good players

"They can prepare for the game

very well, they gave us two very difficult matches (in the league)." The rival managers, Mourinho

and Rafael Benitez are both looking for a trophy that will seal their first season in the English game and it is the only domestic chance for Liverpool's Spanish boss.

Chelsea were still in line only a week ago for four trophies including the Champions League but defeat at Newcastle in the FA Cup has left them with three

They hold a nine-point lead in the Premier League, their main goal, with 11 games to go but a second successive loss, 2-1 away to Barcelona in the Champions League on Wednesday, has put another trophy in greater doubt.

Lampard, reacting to questions as to whether doubts might now be getting the better of Chelsea, said that when teams played well and were winning regularly "people are waiting for you to lose one, but that doesn't mean it's all downhill now."

Team captain John Terry echoed that sentiment when he said Sunday gave Chelsea "a chance to shut people up".

"We played two very good teams (Newcastle and Barcelona) and were a bit unlucky," said Terry, who is also looking for his first major trophy. "But we are still very confi-

Meanwhile, Benitez insists all the pressure will be on Chelsea to win at the Millennium Stadium.

The competition provides Liverpool's most realistic chance of winning a trophy in Benitez's first

season in charge, but the Spaniard believes the weight of expectation will be far greater on Chelsea man-

ager Jose Mourinho. "We know Chelsea are favourites. They are top of the table,"

Benitez told a news conference at Anfield on Friday. "They are favourites because they have spent a lot of money and

have probably the best squad in

England. They need to win so they

have the pressure. If they lose another game they will be afraid." Chelsea are nine points clear at the top of the Premier League but went out of the FA Cup at Newcastle last Sunday and trail Barcelona 2-1 after the first leg of their Champions League meeting on Wednesday

"They have lost two games so maybe it's the best moment (to play them)." Benitez said.

"All teams have problems. I think Barcelona and Newcastle found something and we will try and look for some weaknesses.' Liverpool have struggled for

consistency in the league but were lifted by a 3-1 Champions League win over Bayer Leverkusen in midweek and have an impressive recent record at the Millennium

Two of their record seven League Cup triumphs have come at the Cardiff venue, while they have also won an FA Cup and Charity Shield there. England international Steven

Gerrard will return to captain the side with Fernando Morientes set to lead the attack as Benitez aims to make his first major mark at Anfield.

## Valencia fire Ranieri

Football

AFP, Madrid

Spanish giants Valencia sacked their Italian coach Claudio Ranieri after just seven months in charge following Thursday's UEFA Cup exit to Steaua Bucharest, leaving the former Chelsea boss feeling emotionally crushed. Valencia won the trophy last

season and were also crowned

Spanish champions under Rafael

Benitez, who promptly left for Liverpool, leaving an opening for Ranieri after he was dismissed by Chelsea. But the club have struggled to make an impact in the title race -they stand fifth and are currently out of the Champions League

places 19 points behind runaway

leaders Barcelona and Ranieri apologised for his shortcomings. "Firstly, I am sorry. I wanted not just to see out the three years on my contract but finish my career here - but things didn't work out," Ranieri told Valencia's

"I'll always be a Valencia fan," added Ranieri, the eighth top flight coach to lose his job in Spain this season.

Chairman Juan Soler said after a board meeting that Antonio Lopez, in charge of the

hand man to Benitez, would take charge of first team affairs with immediate effect.

"Valencia are going through a difficult period but we are doing our utmost to try and turn things around," Soler said, acknowledging that the loss to Bucharest on penalties was the last straw for a side boasting just ten wins in 23 league outings.

He thanked Ranieri "for his



**CLAUDIO RANIERI** 

added that the decision was

"down to results.' Valencia, who have a game in hand on their rivals, face thirdplaced Real Betis at home on

For the 53-year-old Ranieri

youth side and formerly right meanwhile, it is back to the coach drawing board. The former AS Roma player

was unceremoniously given the chop at Stamford Bridge a year into Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich's "Chelski" revolution after only managing runnersup spot in the English Premiership.

He began his coaching career at modest Campania before moving to Cagliari before leading Fiorentina to a 1996 Italian Cup after a spell at Napoli A 1998 Spanish Cup followed,

as did Champions League qualification in a first spell at Valencia before a less successful time at Atletico Madrid. But Chelsea were impressed enough to take Ranieri to replace compatriot Gianluca Vialli

Stamford Bridge where he

earned the name "tinkerman" for chopping and changing his squad with weekly regularity, while provoking early hilarity for his less than solid grasp of English. A Champions League semifinal loss to Monaco sealed his fate in London after an outlay of

million dollars) failed to produce silverware. But when Benitez jumped ship to Anfield, after falling out with the board, Valencia soon came

calling second time round.

some 200 million euros (240

## Good keepers hard to find



**REUTERS**, London

This week's Champions League matches highlighted a seemingly perennial problem for top English clubs -- foreign goalkeepers.

The influx of overseas players to the Premier League has drawn in keepers from around the world -more than half the 20 Premier League teams now feature non-British players between the posts. Denmark's Peter Schmeichel

was the rock on which Manchester United built an empire in the 1990s and Zimbabwean Bruce Grobbelaar's athleticism in goal took Liverpool to title after title in the Nowadays the use of players

who are not eligible to play for

England often appears more a

hindrance than a help. Liverpool shipped a late goal against Bayer Leverkusen after a mistake by Polish keeper Jerzy Dudek while German Jens Lehmann looked anything but secure in Arsenal's 3-1 defeat by

In recent years there has been a

clear trend -- foreign goalkeeping imports play well for a season, maybe more, and then lose form. Often they are relegated to second choice, or move clubs, within three or four years. United have failed to replace

Bayern Munich on Tuesday.

Schmeichel adequately since he left in 1999 despite buying a number of overseas players Australian Mark Bosnich and Italian Massimo Taibi came and went while Fabien Barthez, a World Cup winner with France, had one

great season before increasingly

becoming an embarrassment to

manager Alex Ferguson. American Tim Howard also

started superbly. Now he is backup to Roy Carroll who has made three gross errors this season, including against AC Milan in midweek. Many English fans believe the

Premier League is the toughest club

competition in the world and they

put the failure of the foreigners down to their inability to cope with the physicality, speed and stress of the English game. Consistency is the key to goalkeeping and certainly with League, FA Cup, League Cup and Champions League games coming

keeper to maintain form. Psychology plays a huge part in goalkeeping and it is more than likely that large squads and the rotation policy used in most major

clubs to ease their players' work-

up every few days, it is hard for a

load has had an adverse effect on keepers' performances.

In the 1970s and 1980s, a top English club had a first choice goalkeeper and an understudy, normally a youngster learning the trade from the master. When Pat Jennings, Peter

Shilton and Ray Clemence turned up for pre-season training, they knew they would be number one choice for their clubs for the whole season. Arsenal and England's David Seaman was the last keeper from a top club to benefit from this security. This season the London side has been swapping between Lehmann and Spaniard Manuel Almunia and neither has given much cause for confidence -- the champions have conceded 45

goals so far in all competitions. Having the same goalkeeper week in and week out allows the



**GROUNDED GOALKEEPER:** A file photo from the Champions League clash between AC Milan and Manchester United on February 23 shows United custodian Roy Carroll (R) lying on the ground in despair after spilling the alldefence to build up a relationship and work out how to cover the keeper's faults. Seaman was protected in the twilight of his career by a back four that knew how to guard against his poor judgement with

If central defenders are being

rested or are injured, and their

goalkeeper is changing from week

to week, it is no wonder Arsenal's

record at defending set pieces is so Liverpool have Dudek and Chris Kirkland, when fit, fighting for the number one shirt and the most interesting embarrassment of

riches is at Chelsea.

goalkeeper in England in 2002/3 and yet this season the Italian has sat on the bench, watching Petr Cech help the London side to the top of the league. Cech has been exceptional and

Carlo Cudicini was the best

has now gone 961 minutes without conceding a goal in the Premier Whether the Czech's form will continue beyond this season remains to be seen and Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho would do well to remember one idea preva-

Oliver Kahn at Bayern Munich, Iker Casillas at Real Madrid and Gianluigi Buffon have been fixtures in their club sides who have profited hugely.

lent in Europe -- find your best

keeper and stick with him through

Buffon cost Juventus \$46 million in 2001, a world record for a goal keeper, an eye-watering sum in the current transfer market and not fa short of the \$51.5 million United spent on forward Wayne Rooney. United have an embarrassment

of striking riches but where goalkeepers are concerned, the merry-

# 43 Stagger 34 Flightless

Solution time: 25 mins.