

Identical twins for first time

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand's Marshall brothers were named as the first identical twins to ever play Test cricket Wednesday after Black Caps selectors lost patience with the struggling opening partnership of captain Stephen Fleming and Craig McMillan.

Fleming was moved down the order to bat at number four for the third Test against a dominant Australia, while McMillan was dropped in favour of debut batsman James Marshall.

James will join his identical twin Hamish, already an established Test batsman, in a first for the five-day game. Previous Test-playing twins, such as Australia's Waugh brothers, have been fraternal, not identical.

"I'm feeling good mentally at the moment," James said. "I've been hitting the ball well and scoring runs and the selectors have rewarded that."

The brothers played together in the one-day international series that ended earlier this month with a 5-0 whitewash for Australia.

SQUAD

Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Astle, Craig Cumming, James Franklin, Hamish Marshall, James Marshall, Chris Martin, Brendon McCullum, Iain O'Brien, Daniel Vettori, Lou Vincent, Paul Wiseman.

Independence Day Cup kabadi on

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army defeated Bangladesh Navy 42-16 in the opening match of the Independence Day Cup kabadi tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

The other match, between Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Air Force was abandoned due to heavy rain.

Earlier, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Rezaul Karim inaugurated the six-team event.

Barnak beat BAF

SPORTS REPORTER

A hatrick by Soheli helped Barnak Samaj snatch a 4-3 win over Bangladesh Air Force in the Independence Day hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Two early goals by Soheli put Barnak 2-1 ahead in the first half and the striker completed his treble two minutes after the break.

Arif added the other for the winners while Russell, Dinse Ali and Mamun scored one goal each for Air Force.

Inter-office v'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Operation and Maintenance Circle lifted the inter-office volleyball title of Bangladesh Water Development Board defeating Directorate of Accounts by 2-1 sets in the final at Sagardi, Barisal yesterday.

Mostak Hossain of Dhaka Operation and Maintenance Circle was adjudged player of the 28-team annual event tournament.

Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed distributed prizes after the final.

Munna's chehlum tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The chehlum of former national football captain Monem Munna, who died on February 12, will be held at the Abahani club premises tomorrow after the Jumma prayers.

A Quarakhwani will be held in the morning while food will be distributed among the poor in the afternoon.

Similar programmes will be held at Munna's Narayanganj residence on Saturday.

Wright makes

FROM PAGE 12

The 50-year-old, who became India's first foreign coach in 2000, strung together impressive performances by Sourav Ganguly's men.

India beat Steve Waugh's Australians 2-1 in a home Test series in 2001, qualified for the 2003 World Cup final in South Africa, drew the four-Test series in Australia in 2004 and posted a maiden Test series win in Pakistan in March-April last year.

This season, India lost the return series against Australia at home in October before defeating South Africa and minnows Bangladesh in November-December.

India are leading Pakistan 1-0 in the ongoing Test series, having won the second Test in Kolkata by 195 runs on Sunday.

India will have to find a new coach before another one-day series in Sri Lanka in July also featuring the West Indies.

Wright, a left-handed opening batsman, played 82 Tests for New Zealand between 1977 and 1993 and scored 5,334 runs at an average of 37.82.

He also featured in 149 one-day internationals, making 3,891 runs at 26.46.

Chin up Mourinho

Football

AFP, Lisbon

Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho said Tuesday his focus on his job has not been hurt by UEFA's decision to open disciplinary proceedings against him and the London-based club on charges of bringing the game into disrepute.

"My job is to coach, to play, and to try and obtain the best possible results," he told Portuguese television SIC from his home in England.

"At this moment I have to be exactly at this point which is to ignore completely what is going on around me," the Portuguese coach added.

European football's governing body UEFA said Monday in a statement that the action follows comments and statements made by Mourinho and Chelsea after the Champions League game against Barcelona at the Nou Camp on February 23.

The last 16 round game was won

by Barcelona 2-1, and afterwards Mourinho called into question the refereeing and integrity of Swedish official Anders Frisk.

Frisk subsequently said he had received death threats from Chelsea fans and announced he was retiring from refereeing international matches.

The UEFA statement said that disciplinary proceedings had been opened against Chelsea, Mourinho, assistant manager Steven Clarke and club security official Les Miles "for making false declarations, notably in the complaint sent by Chelsea FC following the UEFA Champions League match played against FC Barcelona at the Camp Nou on 23 February 2005."

The statement added Chelsea had deliberately created "a poisoned and negative ambience amongst the teams and to put pressure on the refereeing officials."

Mourinho said in his interview with SIC that he had been advised by Chelsea's lawyers not to speak about the case to the media until it is

settled.

"I have many thoughts about this issue but at this moment I can't talk," he said.

Meanwhile, Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard wants Uefa to punish Mourinho but does not want the Blues thrown out of the Champions League.

Chelsea could face ejection if Uefa find them guilty of making "unfounded allegations" against Rijkaard and referee Frisk at the Nou Camp.

But Rijkaard said: "They shouldn't be forced out as Mourinho's attitude and that of the club are separate issues.

"My objective is that in the future these types of comments are stopped."

The UEFA statement said that the disciplinary case would be dealt with by the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body on March 31.

Chelsea went on to win the second leg 4-2 and qualified for the Champions League quarter-finals where they were drawn against Bayern Munich.

Platini thinks he has edge over Kaiser

AFP, Berlin

France legend Michel Platini has spiced up the race for the 2006 UEFA presidency claiming his main rival, West Germany's 1974 World Cup winner Franz Beckenbauer, would have been better going for the post a decade ago.

"Beckenbauer is occupied with the World Cup until 2006 and after that he can do what he likes," Platini told magazine SportBild.

"But it would be a shame if he decided to run in the same year I am standing. He could have put himself forward for the post ten years ago."

France's 1984 European championship hero Platini is ten years younger than the 59-year-old Beckenbauer and hopes his UEFA connections - he is already a member of the executive panel - can help him replace Swede Lennart Johansson in 2006.

Beckenbauer, head of the organising committee for the 2006 World Cup, has long been touted as the next UEFA president and FIFA president Sepp Blatter has already backed the German for the post.

MCC honours for Stewart, Hussain

AFP, London

Former England cricket captains Alec Stewart and Nasser Hussain have both become honorary life members of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the owners of London's Lord's Cricket Ground announced here Tuesday.

Stewart is England's most-capped cricketer; he played 133 Test matches and 170 one-day internationals before retiring after the final Test of the 2003 series against South Africa.

Hussain represented England in 96 Test matches and 88 one-day internationals; he retired from cricket after hitting a match-winning century against New Zealand at Lord's last May.

Commenting on the news, Stewart said: "It is an honour to be given this recognition by MCC. The Club is the most historic in the world, with a very proud tradition. I am delighted to have been given lifetime membership of MCC."

Hussain said: "I was thrilled to be made an Honorary Life Member. It is the greatest cricketing accolade I could receive."

Rani runner-up

SPORTS REPORTER

Outgoing champion Rani Hamid finished runner-up in the 26th National Women's Chess Championship which concluded yesterday.

Rani, a 14-time winner, lost to Nazrana Khan Eva in the 12th and final round at the Chess Federation hall-room. With 7.5 points, the International Woman Master finished behind Shamima Akhter Liza, who had ensured the title in the previous round with 9.5 points.

Play-off matches will be held today to decide the third and fourth positions between Eva and Afroza Khanam Babiee, who are locked on 6.5 points, and for the 5th-7th places among Zakia Sultana, Masuda Begum and Sharmin Sultana Shirin who have earned 4.5 points each.

In other final round games, Zakia beat Shirin, Masuda drew with Saima and Shimmi drew with Anny.

Bashar signs off

FROM PAGE 12

before tea, Bashar, overnight 20, shared 125 runs for the fourth wicket with Tushar Imran (68). But by the time Bashar completed his century, the game as a contest turned into a mere formality.

Chittagong, set to score 360 for win, could bat for only 20 over and scored 44-1 before bad light stopped play.

SYLHET-BARISAL

A defiant 71 by Towhid Hossain and stubborn resistance from the Barisal lower-order frustrated Sylhet on the final day.

Resuming the day on 187-6, the visitors batted for another 41.3 overs before their first innings ended at 263 with their last wicket pair batting for nearly an hour.

Although Sylhet, who scored a massive first-inning total of 478, got the chance to enforce the follow-on but decided against it in the final session.

Rather the home side did batting practice in the remaining 34 overs. They scored 119-3 with Alok Kapali hitting a breezy 55 off 42 balls.

Dinajpur BDR h'ball champs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Dinajpur clinched the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) inter-sector handball tournament title beating Mymensingh 14-10 at Netrakona BDR training ground on Tuesday.

Twelve sector teams took part in the 21-day tournament.

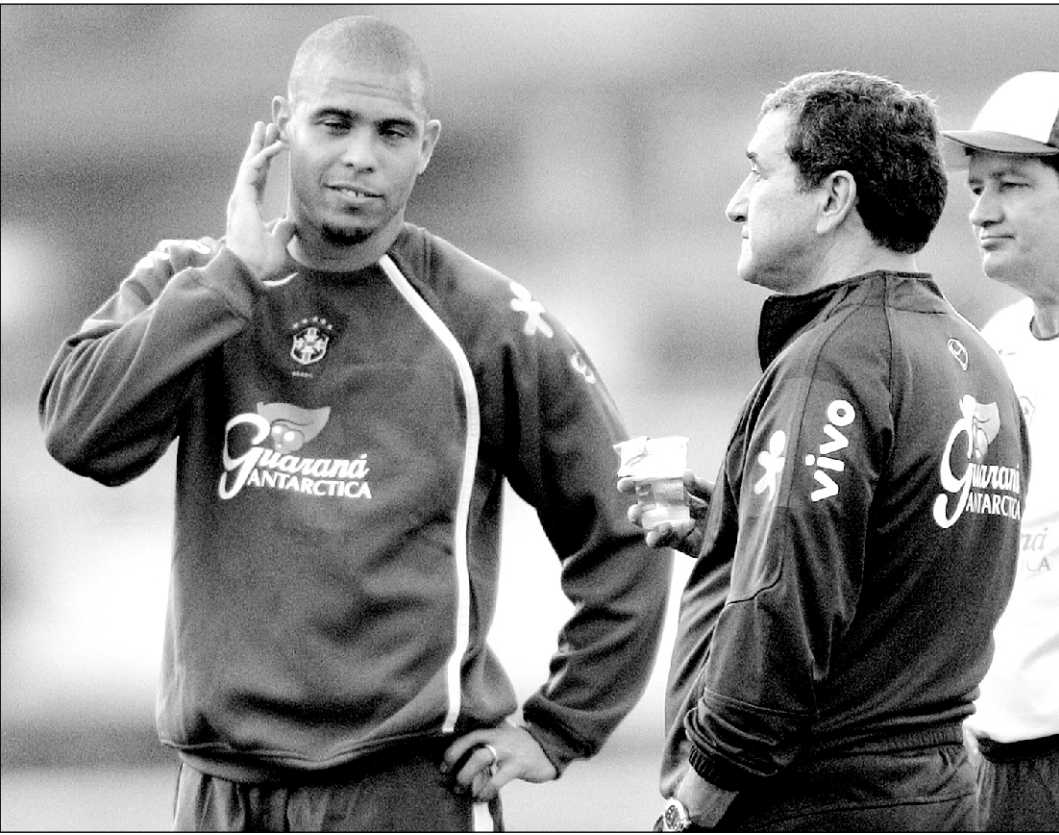


PHOTO: AFP

I'M LISTENING! Brazilian superstar Ronaldo (L) gestures as coach Carlos Alberto Parreira makes a point during a training session in Teresopolis on March 22. Brazil face Peru on March 27 in a World Cup qualifier.

Parreira backing Ronaldo

REUTERS, Tresopolis



Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira is confident that star striker Ronaldo will soon be back to his best.

Ronaldo is having a difficult time with his Spanish club Real Madrid, but Parreira said: "He just needs time to train and have a few good games."

Parreira, speaking as the world champions began training for Sunday's World Cup qualifier at home to Peru, added: "In a short time, he'll once again be the Ronaldo that everyone knows."

Ronaldo has suffered a goal drought in the last two months, his

loss of form coming amid media reports that he has fallen out with Real coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo.

He apologized on Monday for throwing a plastic water bottle into the crowd after being verbally abused by fans during Real's 1-0 home win over Malaga the day before.

The incident occurred when Ronaldo was being substituted five minutes from time and had to endure a barrage of whistles as he walked off the field.

Parreira said it was natural that Ronaldo, the only Brazil player who refused to talk to the media on Tuesday, was attracting attention.

"He's a celebrity and one of the best-known faces on the planet," Parreira said. "While he's playing

football, everything he does will have repercussions. He will always be making news.

"I'm going to talk to him. I'm certain he will be very important for us."

Ronaldinho also gave fellow striker Ronaldo a vote of confidence.

"They criticize him but he's still playing well," the Barcelona forward said.

"As far as I'm concerned, he's still the best in the world. I'm going to try and help him score goals to boost his morale."

Brazil are second in the 10-nation South American qualifying group with 20 points from 11 games. The world champions are also away to Uruguay on March 30.

Fischer's journey continues



Chess

AFP, Tokyo

Former US world chess champion Bobby Fischer, who is set to move to Iceland after eight months' detention in Japan, is widely considered one of the sport's most brilliant minds of all time.

Known for his strong character, he was a symbol in the United States of the Cold War-era struggle against communism, battling it out with the greatest Soviet chess champions.

In 1972 in Iceland he broke 24 years of Soviet dominance by defeating Boris Spassky and took home a World Championship.

Born March 9, 1943, in Chicago, the son of a German physicist, Robert James Fischer was brought up in Brooklyn, New York, by his mother after his parents divorced.

At the age of six his elder sister introduced him to chess and it swiftly became his one and only passion. At 14, he won junior and senior US Championships before becoming the following year the youngest contender for a world championship.

In 1959, he dropped out of school, deeming it a waste of time, to turn professional. His IQ reportedly was higher than that of Albert Einstein.

His success as a child prodigy and his impressive earnings helped earn him star status.

After a poor showing in 1962, he accused the Soviets of conspiring against him and soon thereafter joined a sect called the Worldwide



BOBBY FISCHER

In 1975 he contested federation rules for the game, and lost his title to the Soviet Anatoly Karpov. For almost 20 years, nothing could lure him back -- neither top-dollar offers nor tough economic times after the sect left him in dire financial straits.

Unpredictable and taciturn, he steered clear of reporters and media and grew increasingly vocal in his denunciations of the United States and of Jews.

In 1992 he jumped back into chess with a "revenge match"

against Spassky. The match, that would earn him more than three million dollars, was held in Montenegro, in the former Yugoslavia, despite the UN embargo in effect over the Balkan wars.

After he bagged the prize, US authorities charged him with a transaction in violation of US sanctions and issued an arrest warrant.

Fischer travelled often between Europe and Asia, particularly to the Philippines and Japan where he often lived for extended periods.

The one-time American hero grew increasingly vehement in his denunciations of the United States, going on Filipino radio on September 11, 2001 to hail the terrorist attacks as "wonderful news" and launch an anti-Jewish tirade.

He was detained in July as he tried to fly out of Narita airport near Tokyo for Manila on his revoked US passport.

The United States had called on Japan to hand over Fischer and urged Iceland not to accept him.

In detention, his supporters said he became haggard, growing a long beard and losing weight. He was put in solitary confinement for four days earlier this month over a brawl with guards about an egg.

He also became engaged in detention to Miyoko Watai, the head of the Japan Chess Association, who said she would move to Iceland with him.

After eight months in limbo and calls from the United States for his extradition, Iceland on Monday made him a citizen -- setting the stage for him to start a new life.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Leftovers
 - 5 Biz recipe
 - 8 Differently
 - 12 Bleacher-ites'
 - 13 Branch
 - 14 "Diff'rent Strokes" star
 - 15 Figure-skating jump
 - 16 Con
 - 18 Hunter's companion
 - 20 Staffers
 - 21 Listening device
 - 22 Hostel
 - 23 Light-heartedly silly
 - 26 "Consume it all"
 - 30 Dined
 - 31 Enjoyment
 - 32 Deterioration
 - 33 Turned, as milk
 - 36 Chamer's snake
 - 38 Clark or Rogers
- 39 In favor of
- 40 Plankton, in part
- 43 Fast traveler?
- 47 Bygone movie-house offering
- 49 From square one
- 50 Dangling locale
- 51 "OI course"
- 52 Singer Turner
- 53 Straight flush, e.g.
- 54 Prior to
- 55 Vortex
- 3 Incessantly
- 4 Used an acetylene torch
- 5 Main course of study
- 6 Boast
- 7 Parisian pal
- 8 In recession
- 9 Deposited
- 10 Paddock papa
- 11 Tackles' team-mates
- 17 Singer k.d.
- 19 Rotation duration
- 22 Saturn auto model
- 23 Joke
- 24 Judge Lance
- 25 Hideaway
- 26 Flop
- 27 Scepter topper
- 28 Neither mate
- 29 Greek vowel
- 31 Actress Wray
- 34 Obliterated
- 35 Dutch South
- 36 Massachussets cape
- 37 Highly decorated
- 39 Perjurious
- 40 Egyptian cross
- 41 Horne or Olin
- 42 Stefani of No Doubt
- 43 "Cheers" supply
- 44 Okla-homa city
- 45 Make one's way
- 46 Vacillate
- 48 Keep tabs on

Solution time: 21 mins.

STOP	OFF	OMEN
NODE	QUE	PALE
UFOS	TREATISE	
BUREAU	TRINITY	
TIFFS	LOS	
TREADLES	NAME	
AHA	SEEPY	TON
TORS	TREAGLES	
LEW	SARA	
IBTDEM	KNEADS	
TREASURE	SCAT	
EAIST	FAIR	ARIA
MEITE	EMS	REST

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			32		
33			34	35			36	37		
			38				39			
40	41	42			43			44	45	46
47					48			49		
50					51			52		
53					54			55		

CRYPTOQUIP

E C W U N L J R P M X P E X B

V D B R W J R H N Z E D P X W N J Z L

R U N X J J E Y X L C X V X W P E Y X

J D H X C D M X Z X P U E Y

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DOCTOR WAS A GENIUS AT BANDAGING, HE COULD BE CALLED "THE WIZARD OF GAUZE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals S

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.