BU stumble

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Muktijoddha Krira Chakra got off to a flying start in their title defence of the Tibet Federation Cup Football Tournament when they handed a 3-1 defeat on Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool at the Bangabandhu

were held to a 1-1 by Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra in the day's second

Creative midfielder Arman Mia struck twice and Nigerian striker Paul added one to help the Reds sail past the First Division side after a frustrating 1-2 home defeat against Turkmenistan's Nebitchi FC in the AFC Cup at the same venue on

Muktijoddha took a 1-0 lead in the first half through a 17th minute Arman

Paul doubled the margin just after

In the second match, league champions Brothers Union were forced to share points with Sheikh

the 24th minute but their joy lasted only one minute as Russel's Moroccan midfielder levelled in the 25th minute.

STANCHART CRICKET

Big win for **Scholars**

SPORTS REPORTER

second double ton as the Scholars School and College registered a massive 188-run victory over University Laboratory School in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers U-Nabin Sangha ground yesterday.

Scholars, batted first, scored 433 all out in 49.4 overs with the help of Nomanur's 226 off 103 balls that included 10 fours and 29 sixes. In reply, University School were all out for 245 in 34.1 overs.

while Nurul Haq High (153/5) beat Zinzira PM Pilot High and College (152 all out) by five wickets at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

At the Orient Club ground, Barnamala Adarsha High and College (190/8) beat Adarsha Biddyapith (186 between Titas Gas Adarsha High (144





Pele (Brazilian soccer legend)

On German captain Michael

Sania targets 2nd round at Roland

PTI, New Delhi

With the tennis extravaganza at the Roland Garros set to begin on May 23, the teenager said she had not set any big goals for the Grand Slam event and was rather looking to cross the first round

"I will try my best. I don't think that will win the championship. My priority is to win the first round. There is a lot of expectations, and pressure too," Sania, who won her first WTA title in Hyderabad two months back,

'Spit-ban' spits on 'em!

Football

French newspapers reacted with indignation Saturday at the "deplorable" three-month ban handed to Marseille goalkeeper Fabien Barthez for spitting on a Moroccan referee in a friendly match in Casablanca in February.

Under the French football federation's own rules, Barthez should have received a minimum six-month ban for running on to the pitch from the bench during an ill-tempered friendly between Marseille and Wydad Casablanca to confront international referee Abdellah El

Video replays clearly show Barthez raising his arms toward the referee -- although no physical contact was made -- and then spitting on him.

Sports daily L'Equipe headlined "Barthez, affair of the state," claiming French Sports Minister Jean-Francois Lamour had intervened to prompt the federation to appeal the decision of its own disciplinary com-

Lamour no doubt wanted "to avoid April 22, 2005 being labelled 'Black Friday' for our football," L'Equipe said in an editorial, adding that the disciplinary committee had been "discred-

Critics reacted with scorn at the ban slapped on the 33-year-old goalkeeper who has won 73 caps for France and has said he will retire after the 2006 World Cup.

Bernard Saules, president of the French referees' union, said: "I'm furious. The minimum is six months and he gets away with three. It's making fools of us.

A six-month ban would have prevented Barthez from starting the . 2005-2006 season with Marseille on July 30 and could have led him to bring forward his retirement date.

A three-month ban deprives Marseille of their goalkeeper as they try to pull out of a slump and hang onto the third qualifying spot in the French league for next season's Champions League.

"Deplorable, grotesque, scandalous, laughable, even if the affair isn't one of the most serious." Le Figaro

"From this kingdom of hypocrites where spitting on the body is less serious than spitting in the face. where an 'adapted' sanction will also spare the France team, it's no more than you expect. Without a revolution.

Liberation said "it's not refereeing that is sick, it's football", lamenting the "indulgence" shown to the

The paper decried "stars paid like princes ... and around them a little world of profiteers and swindlers, or licensed crooks. It also denounced "those louts

who chant racists insults and throw bottles ... and those leaders who close their eyes and encourage sporting rebelliousness."

"They have spat on justice,"

blasted France Soir. "Half-hearted

like a two-tier justice." Le Parisien/Aujourd'hui en France described the disciplinary committee's decision as a "memorable blunder that will go down in the annals of French football.

"It's very clear: if there's spit, and there was spit, Barthez could not get any less than six months," the paper

As French federation disciplinary committee chairman Jean Mazzella said Friday: "He didn't spit in his face but he certainly did spit at the offi-

Barthez, who faces an additional three-month ban for any further offences, will be allowed to play for Marseille against Nantes this week-

France can also pick their firstchoice goalkeeper when the 2006 Cup qualifying campaign resumes in September with key away matches in Ireland and

He could also be called up for a friendly with Argentina in Paris on

France next play the Faroe Islands on September 3 before travelling to Ireland on September 7 and Switzerland on October 8.

The 1998 World and Euro 2000 champions are going through difficult times after drawing four of their opening six qualifiers.

Having won their other two games, against Cyprus and the Faroes, France top Group 4 on equal points with Israel, but Switzerland and Ireland are a point behind with a game in hand.



France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez arrives at the French Football Federation hearing in Paris on Thursday.

Ferguson finds his

successor in Keane

Japan-North Korea tie at 3rd venue?



The world football governing body FIFA will hold a meeting on April 29 to determine a sanction against North Korea for crowd unrest

at a World Cup qualifier in Pyongyang last month, a report said Friday.

FIFA has informed the Japan Football Association of the date as Japan will face North Korea in an Asian region qualifier in Pyongyang on June 8, the Jiji Press news agency said. No Japanese football official was

immediately available to confirm the

North Korean players roughed up a referee and fans threw chairs, bottles and other objects onto the pitch when the Stalinist state lost to Iran 2-0 at home on March 30. A bus carrying the Iranian team was also mobbed by North Koreans outside the Kim II-Sung Stadium.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said here earlier this month that the FIFA disciplinary committee was investigating the case and that the panel has been always "very strong" in

Cricket

Brian Lara admitted he is enjoying

the freedom of batting without the

poisoned chalice of being West

stripped of the job following the

sponsorship row that threatened

to derail the current series against

South Africa, and the West Indies

Cricket Board handed it to fellow

left-hander Shivnarine Chander-

"I relish the opportunity of

going out there and assessing the

situation, and trying to get the

team in a strong position," Lara

told reporters following his epic

176 on the opening day of the

not I am captain. I am 35-year-old,

soon going to be 36, so I am a

leader in the team indirectly. I

have got to lead the way with the

bat, on the field, and anything that

'Shiv' wants in terms of help, I

"It does not matter whether or

third Test on Thursday.

The batting superstar was

Indies captain to burden him.

AFP, Bridgetown

Lara loves

batting only

maintaining order and discipline in all competitions, especially the

It has been reported that FIFA may authorize the Japan-North Korea qualifier without spectators or

move its venue to a third country. JFA president Saburo Kawabuchi has said the idea of staging the match in neutral Southeast Asia could be "better than holding a match with no spec-

The Japanese government has already asked for assurances for the safety of its team and fans and said it would seek dialogue on the game with North Korea, despite the absence of diplomatic relations. Japan have high hopes of quali-

fying for the World Cup finals after a 1-0 win over Bahrain. They also beat North Korea 2-1 at home in their opening match of Asia's lasteight qualifying round. North Korea's dreams were all but crushed by their defeat to Iran.

Japan occupied the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945 and has not established ties with Pyongyang due to an emotional row over the regime's kidnappings of Japanese civilians up to the 1980s.

have to be able to assist him with

pointed with the way he was

dismissed and the position of

seventh time in Tests, when he

bowled him off the inside-edge

just prior to the close on the first

lose too many wickets and end the

day with at least two recognised

batsmen at the crease, and we did not do it," Lara said. "With four or

five overs to go, I should have

at the decision of the West Indies

to bat first. Lara believed it was

for batting, so that if the batsmen

saw off the new ball, there were a

lot of runs out there in the middle,"

pegged back. We were 12 for

three, and we needed to put

Although many were surprised

"I thought the pitch was good

"Unfortunately, we were

"Our plan after tea was not to

Andre Nel claimed Lara for the

West Indies in the Test.

played a better shot."

the correct choice.

he said.

Lara however, was disap-

Richer Roman to spend more

AFP, London

Chelsea's English Premiership rivals have been given some bad news concerning the London's club's Russian owner Roman Abramovich Forbes magazine say he made 2.2 billion dollars in the past year and

is now worth 14.7 billion dollars, making him the richest Russian. Abramovich has already spent 213 million pounds since buying Chelsea a year ago and manager Jose Mourinho is already linked with summer bids for Liverpool's Steven Gerrard and Manchester City's

Shaun Wright-Phillips Mourinho has guided the club to the verge of their first English championship in 50 years and the Champions League semi-finals and is ready to break the British record transfer fee of 30 million pounds Manchester United paid Leeds for Rio Ferdinand in 2002.

Manchester City are said to want at least 20 million pounds to let Wright-Phillips go and Arsenal, where his stepfather Ian Wright is still the leading scorer, are also chasing the player

But Mourinho, whose Chelsea side had centre-backs Robert Huth and William Gallas on the flanks against Bavern Munich in the Champions League quarter-final, probably also wants another full-back.

Chelsea have already been accused of tapping up Arsenal leftback Ashley Cole but on Wednesday night Mourinho was seen putting his arm around Arsenal's Cameroon right back Lauren.

Wright, Ganguly were at odds!

PTI, New Delhi

India's former cricket coach John Wright has acknowledged that he was at times at odds with Sourav Ganguly but it all was aimed at making him a better captain.

"Sourav and I are great friends. We are an odd couple sometimes. He is the captain and my job is to make him a better captain and hopefully that is what we have worked towards," Wright said in an interview in the latest issue of the magazine the Week

There are times when I have probably given him tactical advice and he has done the opposite and it has worked. So, at the end of the day l always felt that the captain is the man in charge," said Wright who relinquished the job after the recent Indo-Pak series.

Wright says he will return home a satisfied man after giving his best for a side which is "the most wonderful

If Bergkamp has to stay at Arsenal

AFP, London

Dennis Bergkamp will have to resign himself to a bit-part role if he signs a one-year extension to his contract, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said.

The Dutch striker, who turns 36 in June, has been at Highbury for a decade and has indicated he wants to play on, with his aim being to complete the final season at the around before the move to the new Emirates stadium. "It's not a tough decision as

Dennis is part of the club and the team. He'll play less and less, of course, because of his age and you can understand that," Wenger said of talks to extend Bergkamp's contract. "But he can still help in training as

long as he keeps fit. It depends on who will come in, how he will take that situation and how much he wants to go on. "It will not be a money problem

though. Frankly, it has never been a money problem with him since I've "It will be more of a moral prob-

lem. He must also be completely committed to wanting to go on and to accept how many games he will

Mesmerising

Zubaier also took two wickets for day both with the bat and ball. Sylhet lost wickets at regular intervals after paceman Alamgir Kabir struck two early blows with the new ball.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KHULNA-DHAKA

KHULNA: First innings 351 and second innings 57 for 1 in 18 overs (Sajjadul 32 not out, Monirul 14 not out). DHAKA: First innings 330 all out in 115

overs (Rashedul 126, Mehrab 43, Arafat 43; Shakib 4-124, Jamal 4-61). SYLHET-RAJSHAHI

SYLHET: First innings 370 and second innings 69 for 6 in 30 overs (Parvez 13,

Kapali 19; Alamgir 2-11, Zubaer 2-7). RAJSHAHI: First innings 350 all out in 126.4 overs (Reza 74, Nayeem 76, Zubaer 86, Shamimul 51; Kapali 5-83,

BARISAI -CHITTAGONG

CHITTAGONG: First innings 230 and second innings 325 all out in 89.4 overs (Salahuddin 53, Nazimuddin 37, Ehsanul 51, Ilias 55, Habib 45; Mosharaf 9-109) BARISAL: First innings 286 and second innings 85 for 2 in 29 overs (Nasiruddin 16 not out, Towhid 34 not out, Alamgir 2-34).

which Pakistan won 4-2 after being 0-2 down, Tendulkar had scores of four, two, six, 123, one and nine.

The Mumbai batsman is the fourth-highest scorer in Test cricket with 10,134 runs, behind Australians Steve Waugh and Allan Border and West Indian Brian Lara.

13,642 runs and 38 centuries. "If Tendulkar left cricket right now, he will still be a legend,

Richards added. "He carried India's mantle for a long period. He has done his job and

in 121 Tests, dismissed suggestions that his aggressive style was being copied by batsmen like India's Virender Sehwag and Pakistan's Shahid Afridi. "Viv Richards is Viv Richards.

will not compare myself with any-

one." he said. "When I was playing I took inspiration from others, but never aped anyone. Each player has his own

United camp last week over his increasing influence on the first team. Keane, 33, is taking his coaching certificates and has already revealed he is interested in becoming a man-

Queiroz was the man for the job but

there was a reported revolt in the

But a decision on the Man United manager could come sooner than charge for at least one more year, but Ferguson expects with the United board reportedly ready to tell Ferguson that unless United improve next season he will be on his way.

Ferguson's 27 million pound swoop for Wayne Rooney last August failed to produce the expected goal rush with United's attack of Rooney, Ruud van Nistelrooy, Alan Smith and Louis Saha scoring only 48 goals in 33 games compared to Chelsea's 62 and

And United's FA Cup final with

Arsenal on May 21 represents their last chance for any silverware this

But Ferguson took a swipe at Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho, whom he described as "merely a coach". "It is said that Mourinho is the number one but at 63 I'm not jealous of

my competitors and what they win," "I have been a manager for a long, long time and won many trophies. Anyway, my job is completely different

"Mourinho has a completely different culture at Chelsea than I do in charge at Manchester United. I'm a

manager, not merely a coach. "I make decisions about signings. I have the responsibility for the first team - plus the reserves and the

Rijkaard dancing to Sacchi tune?

Football

Football

Alex Ferguson wants Roy Keane to

take over when he steps down as

believes Keane has the leadership

qualities required for the Old Trafford

son and I have a contract to do that,"

"I will carry on at United next sea-

"But when I do move on I would like

"He is a leader on the pitch and he

Ferguson had previously argued

could be that kind of leader sitting on

that his Portuguese assistant Carlos

the Manchester United bench. too.'

Ferguson insists he will be in

Manchester United manager.

Ferguson told The Sun.

to see Roy Keane taking over.

Six games to go and a six-point lead at the top of the Spanish first division should be enough for Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard to sleep easily ahead of the Catalan club's visit to Malaga on Sunday.

However, second-placed Real Madrid have initiated a war of words with their bitter rivals this week and the Dutch coach has dropped his normally placid facade and risen to the bait. Real's sports director Arrigo

Sacchi, a former coach of Italy, suggested that Barcelona's nerves were starting to show in the wake of their 4-2 defeat to Real two weeks ago.

"It is Madrid who should be anxious," Rijkaard responded on Thursday. "Barcelona is a squad full of intelli-

gent players. I didn't like the account they gave of themselves against Real Madrid and Real Betis in recent games, and told them. "But pressure? It is more likely that Sacchi realises that Real are still not

firing on all cylinders and is trying to motivate them. "There isn't a team in the world that has consistently played at the same

level we have, from the first day of the

season to this point," added Rijkaard,

actions

rich nut

47 Intensify

49 Caffeine

50 Square 51 Marry

52 Works

53 Disarray

54 Chowder

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36 Leonard

30 Literary

31 Comic

specialty 21 Bill-

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23 Low

18 League

20 O.

15 Turn

16 Long-

pound

who will not start negotiating an extension to his contract until the end of the

Nevertheless. Barcelona will travel to the Costa Del Sol side, where they lost 5-1 last season, with a few worries. Cameroonian Samuel Eto'o. the

could miss his second consecutive game after banging his right knee against Madrid Eto'o trained for the first time since the injury on Thursday.

league's top scorer with 22 goals

"I'm getting better every day and the medics have done a great job. I'd love to play against Malaga but the last word will go to the doctors," said the African Player of the Year.

Real Madrid have some concerns

of their own ahead of their game against fourth-placed Villarreal on Saturday Ivan Helguera is still suffering from a severe bout of gastro-enteritis, which led to him being hospitalised with

dehydration and put on a drip on Danish midfielder Thomas Gravesen is also doubtful as he con-

tinues his recovery from a sprained right ankle. Franciso Pavon and Borja Fernandez, the only two men without international caps to their names in

coach Wanderley Luxemburgo's

starting lineup, are expected to be their

By Eugene Sheffer

8 Scarcity

9 Aware of

tion writer

10 Revela-

11 Moistur-

izer

17 KFC

19 Com-

motion

22 Intention

23 "Hum-

buq!

24 Whatever

25 Despon-

Solution time: 21 mins.

amount

27 Polloi

28 Regis

29 Uncle

31 "CSÍ"

34 Holds

(Sp.)

evidence

scepter

35 St. Louis

36 Ford or

37 17-

39 Con-

getter 41 Golfer

42 Slapstick

43 Doctor's

44 Winning

margin

maybe

45 Merri

talk

48 Airline

revenue

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Kelly's

preceder

Villarreal will be without their suspended Brazilian midfielder Marcos Antonio Senna, but otherwise are looking forward to taking on the 29times Spanish champions.

"This game could be crucial if we are to make the Champions League for the first time. We are going to the Santiago Bernabeu to win for our own benefit, not to help Barca." said Villarreal's Argentine playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme.

fourth on the same points as Sevilla. do beat Real and go on to make Europe's top club competition it will be proof that money can buy success. Businessman Fernando Roig took over the club eight years ago when

If Villarreal, who currently sit in

they were a struggling second division side - and Villarreal were in the regional fourth division as recently as 14 seasons ago - and has poured millions into the club. Sevilla lie third, ahead of Villarreal on head-to-head encounters but a huge 14 points behind Real Madrid, and will try to recover their poise at

Athletic Bilbao on Sunday after losing 1-0 at home to struggling Osasuna last Adding to Sevilla's difficulties on their trip to the Basque country will be the absence of defenders Aitor Ocio and Pablo Alfaro, who are both sus-

together partnerships. The maestro **ACROSS** 38 Mound team in world cricket to watch." stat FROM PAGE 12 39 Ovine 5 Barbie's levelling win in the third and final . Madeline Twin ton up SA cruising 40 Savory 8 Karate and Gus Test at Bangalore. In the six-match one-day series, school Egress 12 Wan 43 Person PBS 13 Paul nel Dept benefac-

Hundreds from captain Graeme strong position in the third Test

De Villiers was undefeated on 122 and Smith was dismissed for 104 to lead South Africa to 253 for one, replying to the West Indies' first innings total of 296, when stumps were drawn on the second day.

Africans on course to gain a first innings lead. Smith, who was hampered by a leg injury and used a runner after tea, was the first of the two batsmen

A few overs after collecting his 10th Test hundred, Smith was mid-on with one of Chris Gayle's offspin darts. He hit a dozen fours and one six from 203 balls in a little over four and a half hours. When he departed, de Villiers

almost chanced his hand once too often. Hooking at a short, rising ball

from Fidel Edwards, he top-edged a delivery to long leg, but King failed to get under it close to smash a dozen fours and one six from 236 balls in just under six hours and added 62, unbroken. for the second wicket with Boeta

Dippenaar, who was not out on 23. Earlier, the South Africans needed just 4.2 overs in about 20 minutes to wrap up the West Indies' innings, after the home team

resumed from their overnight total of

37. Ntini 1-61)

wickets for 56 and 50 respectively. South Africa lead the four-Test

series 1-0, after winning the second

Test at Port of Spain by eight wick-The first Test at Georgetown was drawn, and the fourth and final Test

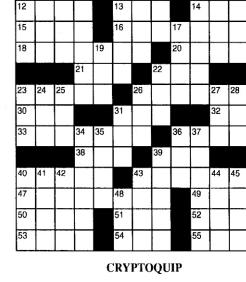
WEST INDIES: First innings 296 (Lara 176. Chanderpaul 53. Bravo 26. Sarwan 10. R Hinds 10. extras 10: Zondeki 4-50. Nel 4-56. Kallis 1-

Umpires: Billy Bowden and Simon

Tendulkar remains the most successful one-day batsman with

done it well. Richards, who scored 8,540 runs

style.



Z ZDHQZEM VGHV H LBYXX

NMVSMME H LHEEYE HEK H NMRR SYIRK NM KINNMK

"VGM NYYDMBHEQ."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ONE OF MY COMPUTER KEYS APPEARS TO BE STICKING, BUT I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals B

Mukti sail,

National Stadium on Friday. But another giants Brothers Union

encounter under lights.

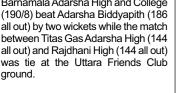
the break while Arman struck his second goal in the last quarter of the lop-sided affair. Robin struck the consolation goal for Youngmen's from

Russel after the match ended in a 1-1 Abul put the Orange side ahead in

Nomanur Rahman hit tournament's 15 School Cricket Tournament at the

Dhaka Residential Model School and College (95/2) outplayed St Joseph (93 all out) by eight wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Dr M Shahidullah Adarsha School (260/6) defeated Sunnydale (259/9) by five wickets at the Dhaka University ground while Ideal School and College (281/8) outplayed Rose Garden (277 all out) by eight wickets at the Iqbal Road ground.





"I am sorry but Ballack is not a top player. He has been playing at the same level for a number of years now and that level is not good enough. He has highs and lows but in truth he has hardly improved over the past few years.'

Garros

Apprehensive that her recurring ankle injury could land her on the surgery table, Indian tennis sensation Sania Mirza is taking no chances ahead of next month's French Open where her initial target is to cross the first round hurdle.

told reporters here Saturday.

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

Smith and fellow opener Abraham de Villiers put South Africa in a against West Indies on Friday.

The two batsmen shared 191 for the first wicket to put the South

to reach his milestone, when he pulled a short ball from Daren Powell through mid-wicket for four.

caught in the deep trying to clear

was within reach of his milestone and finally achieved his second Test hundred when he drove a delivery from Reon King to mid-off for a Just prior to the close, de Villiers

De Villiers survived until the

Fast bowlers Andre Nel and Monde Zondeki shared the last three wickets to both end with four

at St. John's, begins on April 29. **BRIEF SCORES**

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 253 for 1 (De Villiers 122 not out, Smith 104, Dippenaar 23 not out; Gayle 1-Toss: West Indies.