

Mukti sail, BU stumble

SPORTS REPORTER
Holders Muktiyodha Krishna Chakra got off to a flying start in their title defence...

'Spit-ban' spits on 'em!

Football

AFP, Paris
French newspapers reacted with indignation Saturday at the "deplorable" three-month ban handed to Marseille goalkeeper Fabien Barthez...

decision of its own disciplinary committee.
Lamour no doubt wanted "to avoid April 22, 2005 being labelled 'Black Friday' for our football..."

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

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



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

Japan-North Korea tie at 3rd venue?

Cricket

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

maintaining order and discipline in all competitions, especially the World Cup.
It has been reported that FIFA may authorize the Japan-North Korea qualifier without spectators or move its venue to a third country.

Big win for Scholars

Nomanur Rahman hit tournament's 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-15 School Cricket Tournament at the Nabun Sangha ground yesterday.

Richer Roman to spend more

If Bergkamp has to stay at Arsenal

Rijkerd dancing to Sacchi tune?

Chelsea's English Premiership rivals have been given some bad news concerning the London 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.

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 ground before the move to the new Emirates stadium.

Mesmerising

Wright, Ganguly were at odds!

FROM PAGE 12
Zubaer also took two wickets for seven runs to complete a satisfying day both with the bat and ball. Sylhet lost wickets at regular intervals after pacesman Alamgir Kabir struck two early blows with the new ball.

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," Rijkard responded on Thursday.

FROM PAGE 12
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Lara loves batting only

Cricket

Brian Lara admitted he is enjoying the freedom of batting without the poisoned chalice of being West Indies captain to burden him.
The batting superstar was 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 Chandernapaul.

have to be able to assist him with it."
Lara however, was disappointed with the way he was dismissed and the position of West Indies in the Test.
Andre Nel claimed Lara for the seventh time in Tests, when he bowled him off the inside-edge just prior to the close on the first day.

PTI, New Delhi

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

CRYPTOQUIP



Pele (Brazilian soccer legend)
"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."

PTI, New Delhi
Hundreds from captain Graeme Smith and fellow opener Abraham de Villiers put South Africa in a strong position in the third Test against West Indies on Friday.

South Africa lead the four-Test series 1-0, after winning the second Test at Port of Spain by eight wickets.
The first Test at Georgetown was drawn, and the fourth and final Test at St. John's, begins on April 29.

BRIEF SCORES

WEST INDIES

Table with crossword clues: ACROSS 1 Desire, 5 Barbies, 8 Karate school, 12 Wan, 13 Paul Bunyan prop, 14 Carbon compound, 15 Turn on a pivot, 16 Long-fellow subject, 18 League championship, 20 O, 21 Henry's specialty, 21 Billboards, 22 Colony dweller, 23 Low voice, 26 Snobbish, 30 Literary collection, 31 Comic DeLusse, 32 Sapporo sash, 33 Fireplug, 36 Leonard Marx, 38 Mound stat, 39 Ovine comment, 40 Savory jelly, 43 Personnel Dept. actions, 47 Intensify, 49 Caffeine-rich nut, 50 Square, 51 Merry, 52 Works with, 53 Disarray, 54 Showdown-head, 55 Wines, 1 AVOID, 4 Laughing pack, 5 Madeline and Gus, 6 Egress, 7 PBS benefactor, 8 Scarcity, 9 Aware of, 10 Revelation writer, 11 Moisturizer name, 17 KFC piece, 19 Corn-mot, 22 Intention, 23 Humbug!, 24 What-ever amount, 25 Despondent, 26 Stolen, 27 Pollot preceder, 28 Regis, 29 Kelly's network, 29 Uncle (Sp.), 31 "CSI" evidence, 34 Holds the scepter, 35 St. Louis attraction, 36 Ford or Lincoln, 37 17-, 37-17-, 39 Constricts verses, 40 Attention getter, 41 Golfer Balles-teros, 42 Slapstick arsenal, 43 Doctor's revenue, 44 Winning margin, maybe, 45 Merriment, 46 Back talk, 48 Airline initials.

Twin ton up SA cruising

Cricket

caught in the deep trying to clear mid-on with one of Chris Gayle's off-spin 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 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 single.
Just prior to the close, 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.

De Villiers survived until the 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 292 for seven.
Fast bowlers Andre Nel and Monde Zondeki shared the last three wickets to both end with four wickets for 56 and 50 respectively.
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WEST INDIES

First innings 296 (Lara 176, Chandernapaul 53, Bravo 26, Sarwan 10, R Hinds 10, extras 10; Zondeki 4-50, Nel 4-56, Kallis 1-37, Ntini 1-61)
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 253 for 1 (De Villiers 122 not out, Smith 104, Dippenaar 23 not out, Gayle 1-41)
Toss: West Indies.
Umpires: Billy Bowden and Simon Taufel.

The maestro

FROM PAGE 12
leveling him in the third and final Test at Bangalore.
In the six-match one-day series, 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.
Tendulkar remains the most successful one-day batsman with 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 done it well.
Richards, who scored 8,540 runs 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. I will not compare myself with anyone," he said.
"when I was playing I took inspiration from others, but never aped anyone. Each player has his own style."

Sania targets 2nd round at Roland 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.
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 I 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, told reporters here Saturday.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals B