More trouble in SL cricket

AFP/BBC, Colombo

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) chief executive Duleep Mendis has handed in his resignation amid a bitter row for control of the country's richest sporting body, officials said on Tuesday.

However, the former Test captain's resignation letter, handed in last week, has not been accepted SLC spokesman Ray Illangakoon

Meanwhile, police forced their way into SLC offices hours after Mendis resigned.

Accompanied by CID officers, the police closed the front gate and did not allow anyone to enter the building, while about 80 staff were

Illangakoon said: "So far, no one has been charged with specific crimes. The staff members, including about 20 women are very fright-

Cricket administration in the country has been mired by allegations of financial mismanagement.

The island nation's cricket administration was plunged into crisis in March when Sports Minister Jeevan Kumaratunga suspended SLC's recognition as the official

governing body. An interim committee was appointed to run the game.

StanChart cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Enam Children International managed an exciting one-wicket victory over Udayan School in the Standard Chartered Under-15 Young Tigers School Cricket Tournament at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Opting to bat first Udayan were all out for 185 and Enam Children, in reply, posted 188 with one wicket in

In the day's other matches, Green Leaf (151) handed a 50-run defeat to Mirpur Adarsha (101), Motijheel Government High (207) beat Willes Little Flower (178) by 29 runs, National Bangla (186-3) defeated BLS High (185) by seven wickets, Rashid Adarsha High (77-3) scored a seven-wicket victory over Lalmatia Housing (76) while Rayer Bazar (133-5) thumped Maple Leaf (131) by five wickets.

PREMIERSHIP

Chelsea planning Robinho coup?

Chelsea could rumble Real Madrid's hopes of landing Santos winger Robinho at the end of the season. Blues owner Roman Abramovich

could use his association with PSV Eindhoven to lure the Brazil international away from the clutches of Real Madrid, says the Guardian.

PSV Eindhoven president Harry van Raaij has acknowledged unspecified arrangements with Chelsea. These may lead to Robinho playing in the Netherlands for two years while gaining the qualifications that would let him take up employment in England. (Internet Source)

DAVIS CUP

Federer may play against **Britain**

REUTERS, London

Switzerland.

World number one Roger Federer is expected to return to Davis Cup action for Switzerland after his country was drawn to play Britain in a World Group playoffin September.

Federer skipped Switzerland's defeat by the Netherlands in March but is likely to feature in the home tie against a British side that will have to make do without leading player Tim Henman, who has retired from Davis Cup duty.

Federer said he would keep his options open for later matches in the men's team competition as long as they fit in with his schedule and a home tie against the British after all four 2005 grand slam tournaments have been

We don't lack

Even though South Africa hold an unassailable 2-0 series lead,

Sarwan believes that his partner

ship with Gayle can be the catalyst

They have a series of five One-

day Internationals against the

Proteas, before a series of three

ODIs and two Tests against

team, something which we have not

done a lot in the recent times," he

"The key for us is to play like a

"Just looking at the series,

except for that partnership between

Wavell Hinds and Shivnarine

Chanderpaul at Georgetown, there have been flashes of individual

have a partnership like this. We need to see more of it in our batting,

and even in our bowling, so that we

"So it is good to see that we car

to lift the confidence of the side.

completed is likely to suit him. Britain, who squeezed past Israel 3-2 in a Euro/Africa zonal match in March. will be underdogs for the trip to



Gunners on course to finish second best

Football

AFP, West Bromwich

Arsenal maintained their grip on second place and a direct entry into the Champions League proper with a 2-0 win away to West Brom that left Bryan Robson's relegationthreatened team second-frombottom in the Premiership.

In a hard fought match, secondhalf goals from Robin van Persie and an extra-time strike from Edu wrapped up a win for Arsenal that ensured they stayed four points clear of FA Cup final opponents Manchester United with three games remaining.

West Brom, who like the rest of the bottom four have got two matches left, stayed on 30 points the same as basement side Norwich and one behind drop rivals Crystal Palace and Southampton.

With three teams going down, the Baggies desperately need a where Robson was a hero as a player in the 1980s after moving to Old Trafford from West Brom.

After a goalless first half, where West Brom looked happy enough to settle for a point against one of the best attacks in the division, Arsenal without Thierry Henry - went ahead in the 66th minute when van Persie, played in by strike partner Jose Reyes, shot low and past Russell Hoult's right hand. Five minutes later Reyes should

rounding a sprawling Hoult but only found a tame shot that Neil Clement cleared off the line Robson eventually brought on three strikers - Geoff Horsfield, Robert Earnshaw and former

have wrapped up the points after

Arsenal favourite Nwankwo Kanu for the final 10 minutes. But he was frustrated in his ambition to get them on the field minutes earlier by an Arsenal move that saw them keep the ball for 43

straight passes. And as the Baggies pressed forward for an equaliser, Arsenal scored again in the second minute of stoppage time when Edu, released by Dennis Bergkamp, beat Hoult one-on-one, the keeper getting a touch on the ball but unable to keep it out.

The result meant the Gunners had kept their 10th clean sheet in 11

Another victory for Arsenal, over Liverpool on Saturday, will assure them of second place with one match of the season left.

Inglish Premiership table after Monday's match

Chelsea Arsenal Man Utd	35	27 23 21	8	4	67 13 76 33 54 21	77
Everton Liverpool Bolton	35 36 36	16	7	13	41 36 49 37 45 41	55

Roman wins some, loses some



REUTERS, Moscow

The success of Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich after lavishing a fortune on Chelsea soccer club has

earned him many friends in west London but resentment at home. The shy oil and metals tycoon, who sports designer stubble and a boyish grin, bought Chelsea in 2003 for \$100 million and spent another

\$400 million on players. Two years later, the spending spree has paid dividends with the Premier League title, Chelsea's first

in 50 years. "People are proud that a person from this country has created such a good team, a really pleasant team to watch," said Nikolai Roganov, deputy head of the soccer department at

Sovietsky Sport newspaper. "But there are also negative feelings -- why is a Russian businessman putting his money into develop-

ing British soccer and not Russian?" Interest among Russians in Chelsea has soared, with television stations showing as many of the team's games as possible and supporters setting up a Russian Chelsea fan club.

"Before. Russians were interested in Manchester United. Arsenal and Liverpool, but now Chelsea has become very popular," said Roganov.

Moscow's mayor Yuri Luzhkov accused Abramovich of "spitting" on his homeland when he bought

But Abramovich, who like many of

Russia's super-rich, made his fortune in the economic anarchy of the post-Soviet privatisations of the 1990s, did redeem himself after his Sibneft oil firm signed a \$54 million sponsorship deal with CSKA Moscow soccer club

Abramovich remains popular in London. In winter, fans at Stamford Bridge sport Russian fur hats and before matches loudspeakers blare Russian music

Off the pitch, 38-year-old Abramovich makes headlines in Russia with extravagant shopping trips -- newspapers describe every technical capability of his latest yacht or detail how many hectares of land

his new mansion has. Even his highly paid Chelsea players were awed by his wealth after he invited them on to one of his several vessels moored at a heavily quarded quay in Monaco last year.

Abramovich, orphaned before he was five, rarely gives interviews. Such was his invisibility that a newspaper once ran a competition to find a photograph of him.

At Stamford Bridge he is shadowed by security. When he uses the lift no one else is allowed in.

Estimated recently by Forbes magazine to be worth \$13.3 billion, making him Russia's richest man and the 21st most wealthy person in the world, Abramovich has friendships with some of the most powerful people in Russia.

At a Champions League tie between CSKA and Chelsea last year, his executive box hosted former President Boris Yeltsin, as well as two potential future presidents -- Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov and former

Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov

People close to the elusive Abramovich say he is driven by plans and projects and once he has achieved what he has set out to do, he tends to lose interest and look for

But Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho says he has been impressed by Abramovich's enthusi-

He attends almost every match and talks to players in the the dressing room afterwards, trailed by security. When it rains, a man is there to hold his umbrella for him.

He also visits the training ground

n Surrey regularly. Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon has assured fans the club is a long-term project for the Russian and the club's plan was to break even within five years so they no

longer had to rely on his handouts.

BFAME bridge

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan were leading the open teams table with 207.50 points in the 13th BFAME Bridge Championships at Hotel Sonargaon vesterdav.

Jordan followed the leader with 207.15 points while India secured 202, Sri Lanka 178.85 and hosts Bangladesh 129 after the 12th round.

In the ladies section India bagged 238 points to stay atop the table followed by Pakistan, Jordan, Palestine and Bangladesh.

Ronaldo fancies catching Eto'o

Real Madrid's two-goal hero Ronaldo says he can catch Barcelona rival Samuel Eto'o to claim this season's top scorers trophy

Ronaldo has 18 goals to Eto'o's 22 with four games in the championship remaining for both teams. The Brazilian's brace against Real

Sociedad kept Madrid within touching distance of leaders Barca and he said "I feel good. The truth is that the only thing we can do is win our games, so we left San Sebastián happy after working so hard for the win. "I believe that its still possible to catch Etoo in the goalscoring table.

hope not to experience any bad form from here to end of the season, since I had a time like that awhile ago," said the superstar who has netted six times in his last four games. "Sociedad was a very complicated game for us. We have been patient, since the trainer told us to be. Real

their defence allowed us to have options in the second half. "My work has been limited to just take advantage of the good chances that Guti has given me, but evidently the victory has been the fruit of the work of all the players," said Ronaldo. (Internet Source)

were very strong in the first-half, but

It's Rahim's

FROM PAGE 12

Meanwhile, Mashud welcomed the inclusion of the young wicketkeeper and said that it will reduce his work-

"It is always nice to see someone as a contender because its helps to improve your own performance. think it was a timely decision to add an additional wicketkeeper in the squad. I am relishing the prospect of a challenge from him," he said.

A sweet Orange

FROM PAGE 12

As soon as the match ended Wajed Gazi kissed the ground to celebrate his happiest moment of a 25-year coaching career.

The 66-year-old, who led Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra to finish runners-up in the Dhaka Premier League last year on the club's debut, has had never won a domestic trophy at club level.

"Yes, this is the best moment in my long career as a coach. I am also happy because we have taken revenge of our defeat in the Independence Cup," said Gazi whose only previous trophy came in 1992 when he led Bangladesh Ansar to the Bangladesh Games football gold. "Adil missed two open chances,

otherwise, we could have won by a bigger margin," told the Brothers coach who also praised Tareq's performance under pressure in the last ten minutes. When asked what really gave

Brothers the edge, the former national winger admitted that his ploy to mark Arman with Khokon and stop the Muktijoddha midfielder's flowing passes was the "My plan was not to let Arman

play his natural game and I succeeded even though I had to sacrifice Khokon's striking ability doing His counterpart Manik, whose

boys even did not play attacking football after going down early, blamed poor refereeing.

"We have better referees in the country who can handle pressure. But the best referee was not on the field today," said Manik. "The luck was not also with us

today and we missed key players like Arman in the second half and injured Moni for the game." Health and Family Welfare Minister Khondokar Mosharraf Hossain distributed trophies after the final. Brothers received Tk one lakh as prize money and Muktijoddha Tk

75,000. Yellow cards: Jewel, Adil, Abul (Brothers) and Harry, Iqbal, Paul (Muktijoddha). **TEAMS**

BROTHERS: Tareq, Siraji (67th minute), Sujan, Jewel, Masud Rana, Parvez Babu, Monwar (Shuvra, 89th), Khokon, Abul, Victor and Adil (Liton, 55th). MUKTIJODDHA: Aminul, Harry,

Rajani, Belal, Titu, Iqbal, Hassan Ål Mamun, Kanchan, Arman (Saiful, 46th), Enamul (Biddyut, 67th minute) and Paul. Referee: Ramkrishna Ghosh.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Runners-up

Champions

Н	1980	BU, MSC joint champs				
П	1981	MSC	Abahani			
П	1982	MSC, Abahani joint champs				
П	1983	MSC	Abahani			
П	1984	Abandoned				
П	1985	Abahani	BU			
П	1986	Abahani	BU			
П	1987	MSC	Wanderers			
П	1988	Abahani	MSC			
П	1989	MSC	Abahani			
П	1990	Was not held				
П	1991	Brothers	MSC			
П	1992-3	Was not held				
П	1994	Muktijoddha	Abahani			
П	1995	MSC	Abahani			
П	1996	Was not held				
П	1997	Abahani	Arambagh			
П	1998	Was not held				
П	1999	Abahani	Muktijoddha			
П	2000	Abahani	MSC			
П	2001	Muktijoddha	Arambagh			
П	2002	MSC	Muktijoddha			
П	2003-4	Muktijoddha	MSC			
П	2005	BU	Muktijoddha			
П						
ш						

Becks the richest booter

Football

REUTERS, Paris

Real Madrid's David Beckham is the best paid soccer player in the world, according to a survey published in France Football magazine on

With 25 million euros (\$32.17 million) a year, England captain Beckham tops the table ahead of Real Madrid team mates Ronaldo. who earns 19.6 million euros a year, and Zinedine Zidane, on 13 million.

The three each have salaries of 6.4 million euros and collect 200,000 euros a year in bonuses. But the 30-year-old Beckham

earns an additional 18.4 million euros in advertising contracts, with Ronaldo receiving 13 million for his commercial deals and Zidane earning 6.4 million for his. Inter Milan striker Christian Vieri is fourth in the standings, earning 12

million euros a year, followed by Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero on 9.5 million and Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard on 9.4 Jose Mourinho, manager of

English Premier League champions Chelsea, clearly benefits from owner Roman Abramovich's big spending policy, earning 7.5 million euros a year. Five managers working in England are in the top 10 with

million) and Arsenal's Arsene Wenger (4.4 million). Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez is ninth with 2.6 million a

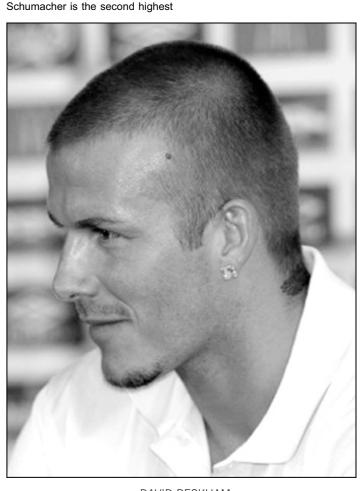
Manchester United's Alex Ferguson

coming second with six million euros a year, ahead of England

manager Sven-Goran Eriksson (5.8

However, Beckham is far behind golf's world number one Tiger Woods, who earns 66 million euros a year. Seven-times Formula One world champion Michael

Beckham is sixth behind Woods Schumacher, NFL's Archie Manning and NBA's Shaquille O'Neal and Michael Jordan.



DAVID BECKHAM

PREVIEW: PSV V AC MILAN (SEMIFINAL SECOND LEG)

Sheva has final in sight

CHAMPS LEAGUE

REUTERS, Eindhoven

Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko has returned to form at just the right time to finish off PSV Eindhoven when the teams meet at the Philips Stadium in their Champions League semi-final on Wednesday.

The European Footballer of the Year drew first blood in the first leg before Jon Dahl Tomasson wrapped up a 2-0 win with a last minute goal that has put Milan in the driving seat The six-time European Cup

winners travel to Findhoven after

a 2-1 Serie A victory at Fiorentina

confirmed that European Footballer of the Year Shevchenko is back to full fitness. With Milan trailing 1-0 at the break the Ukrainian, who has had a lengthy layoff with a broken cheekbone, struck twice to keep

top of Serie A. They are fighting on two fronts as they seek to become only the third team to win a Serie A and Champions League double.

On the horizon is Sunday's

Ailan level with Juventus at the

showdown with Juve at the San Siro but before that they must dispose of a PSV side who can consider themselves very unfortunate to trail by two goals. PSV, who won the European Cup for the only time in 1988, had

much of the play at the San Siro last week and created a number of openings as South Korean Ji-Sung Park and captain Mark van Bommel went close but they just could not find the net "We're expecting it to be a

battle in Eindhoven but we're used to those sort of games," said Shevchenko. "There is no alternative and we are happy to have

44 Spectrum DOWN

1 Blond

strip

ing

16 Idolater's

wiggler

20 Wet

Solution time: 25 mins

producers

46 Land-

scape

painter

50 Computer

51 Settled

down

52 Rallying

shout

succes-

56 Powell

57 Profes

59 Juror

theoreti-

60 Lumina

61 Big

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Carte

4 Faux

pas

8 Imple

12 Scale

13 Indiana

city

14 Tense

15 Fad toy

18 Ram's

cast

21 Strata

24 Shelte

Ferrell

movie

potato

mecca

up and

36 Prix -

37 Skiers'

39 Move

41 Petrol

42 Tucker's

25 Past

26 Will

28 Tag

32 Cat

17 Re planes

ma'am

19 "Airplane!"

member

and such

member

lead-in

games like this because we want to win everything." Milan may be chasing a double

but the Dutch champions are battling on three fronts with the domestic cup final to come later this month when they meet neighbours Willem II Tilburg. Any hope of a treble relies on overturning the 2-0 deficit but

PSV have twice recovered from a

similar setback in Europe, albeit

against lesser opponents than the Serie A leaders In 1976 PSV beat Hajduk Split 3-2 on aggregate in the European Cup quarter-finals before losing to Saint Etienne, while they beat East German side Vorwarts Oder by the same scoreline in the UEFA

Cup first round in 1984. However, Milan are the only Serie A team to have beaten PSV in Eindhoven in European competition, having won a Champions League group stage match 2-1 in the 1992/93 season before eventually losing 1-0 in the final to

Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti has a full squad to choose from including central defender Alessandro Nesta who is back after the suspension that saw him miss the first leg. Nesta's absence was notice-

able as Milan's defence struggled to cope with the pace of PSV's darting attacks and the Italian will likely partner Jaap Stam in central defence

That would mean Paolo Maldini moving to left-back at the expense of Georgian Kakha Kaladze.

The other selection choice facing Ancelotti is whether to stick with two forwards or revert to a five-man midfield featuring Rui Costa.

Argentine striker Hernan Crespo has looked below par in recent weeks, although

By Eugene Sheffer

21 Tibetan

monk

43 Footbal

45 Some

46 Distortion

of tennis

47 Nastase

fame

48 Pleasant

49 Be patient

53 Genetics

Tomasson would be a valid option if Ancelotti wants to play with two PSV's American international

winger DaMarcus Beasley is out with a shin injury picked up in Friday's 2-2 draw against Twente Enschede after a clash with Swede Daniel Majstorovic. Fullback Andre Ooijer is suspended after a first-leg booking

while central defender Wilfred Bouma, who came off at halftime in Milan with a back injury, is doubtful along with strikers Robert and Jefferson Farfan who have ankle problems. The winners will play Chelsea

or Liverpool in the final in Istanbul

Beware of ticket virus

REUTERS, Frankfur

World Cup organisers have warned prospective fans that a computer virus disguised as a ticketing confir-

mation message should be ignored.

from the addresses Ticket@fifa.de

They said fans receiving e-mails

and Gewinn@fifa.de should not open attachments supposedly confirming ticketing arrangements for next year's tournament in

The first phase of ticket sales was over-subscribed by 10 times and those fans who were successful in the lottery have already been

informed. The second phase, selling only Team Specific Tickets on a first come first served basis, began on Monday, Fans buying those tickets receive immediate confirmation at the end of their booking.

22 Shake shade speare's 2 Rawls or Reed seven 3 Comic 23 Crafty "Swell! caveman 29 Reporter's 4 Bailiwick page-1 5 MGM coup 30 Physical mascot 31 Not so 6 Unyield much 7 Student 8 Fortune knew the of life 35 Swab 9 Poetic tributes 38 Zero 40 Milwau-10 Shrek, for instance kee 11 French athlete

AFVOMFFY

CRYPTOQUIP V F

L'E BLYO NJFNFIO

UXBBOE

SLUYOE ΜО

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TWO PEOPLE WERE MARRIED FOR SIXTY YEARS, THAT'S A GOOD **EXAMPLE OF HIGH FIDELITY**

INOBBMLAEOJ

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B 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.

প্রথম আলো

Grameen Phone-Prothom Alo award winners pose with the guests at Sheraton Hotel on Monday.