

## M United sign Van der Sar

REUTERS, London

Manchester United have signed Dutch international goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar from Premier League rivals Fulham, United said on their website on Sunday.

Van der Sar, who played in the Netherlands' 2-0 World Cup qualifying win over Romania on Saturday, has signed a two-year contract beginning on July 1. The transfer fee was not disclosed.

The 34-year-old, who is five caps short of a century of international appearances, joined Fulham from Juventus for 5 million pounds in 2001 and has been a consistent performer for club and country.

United have struggled to find a long-term replacement for Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel who left Old Trafford in 1999.

Australian Mark Bosnich and Frenchman Fabien Barthez left the club after failing to impress manager Alex Ferguson, and Roy Carroll and American Tim Howard shared the goalkeeping duties last season.

United released Northern Ireland's Carroll and Spaniard Ricardo, their third-choice keeper, last month.

## FRENCH OPEN DOUBLES

## Pascual & Suarez retain crown

AFP, Paris

Spain's Virginia Ruano Pascual and Paola Suarez of Argentina, the top seeds, successfully defended their French Open women's doubles title on Sunday to collect their fourth Roland Garros championship.

They defeated second seeds Cara Black of Zimbabwe and South Africa's Liezel Huber 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the final.

The win was also the pair's eighth Grand Slam title in all.

They also hold the second-longest streak of consecutive major doubles finals reached - nine between Roland Garros 2003 and Roland Garros 2005.

Only Martina Navratilova and partner Pam Shriver have fared better, appearing in eleven finals between Wimbledon 1983 and the Australian Open 1985.

## Lara strikes

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batting partner steady support, even offering Lara a few calming words, when he may have shown a rush of blood.

Lara and Sarwan had been brought together when Abdul Razzaq bowled Devon Smith for 25 in the second over after West Indies continued from their lunch position of 59 for one.

Sarwan, Lara's former deputy, also played a few telling strokes, including a punishing cut off Shahid Afridi through cover for four, and they helped West Indies to cruise to 162 for two at tea.

After the break, just when the crowd was settling down for the Lara and Sarwan Show for the remainder of the evening, the breakthrough came for Pakistan.

Sarwan, playing the hook shot that has cost him his wicket several times in the past, top-edged a short ball from Shabbir and was caught inside the long leg boundary. He batted three hours and struck eight fours from 137 balls.

Chanderpaul entered, and played the role he typically does whenever he finds Lara at the wicket. He nudged and nudged, and shepherded his illustrious predecessor to his milestone.

Again, just when it appeared that the batsmen were in firm control, Chanderpaul was caught behind for 28 edging a non-descript backfoot shot.

Before lunch, Smith in concert with fellow left-handed opener Chris Gayle, in particular, had given West Indies a flying start when they shared 48 for the first wicket.

Gayle struck boundaries from the first three deliveries of the innings from Naved. He drove the first delivery through extra cover, then glanced the next ball to deep fine leg, before he whipped the following delivery through mid-wicket.

Razzaq, who replaced Naved, made the breakthrough, when he had a leaden-footed Gayle caught behind for 33, edging a well-pitched leg-cutter.

Earlier, it took West Indies almost an hour to wrap up the first innings of Pakistan, who continued from their bedtime position of 336 for six.

Fast bowler Corey Collymore, who snared four wickets on the opening day, ended with seven wickets for 78 runs from 27.3 overs to be the principal wrecker of the Pakistan innings.

## BRIEF SCORES

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 374 (Younis 106, Kamal 51, Inzamam 50, Akmal 49, Afridi 33; Collymore 7-78, Powell 2-69, Gayle 1-85)

**WEST INDIES:** First innings 275 for 4 (Lara 125 not out, Sarwan 55, Gayle 33; Razzaq 2-36, Shabbir 1-40, Kaneria 1-69)

## UEFA QUALIFIERS

# Ukraine getting closer

AFP, Paris



Ukraine made a firm step towards their first ever World Cup finals with a 2-0 home victory over Kazakhstan, helped by a goalless draw in the clash between Turkey and Greece.

AC Milan sharpshooter Andrei Shevchenko netted Ukraine's opening goal, while Kazakhstan's full back Igor Avdeyev netted an own goal.

Ukraine now have 20 points from eight matches and are five points clear of second-placed Greece and seven ahead of Turkey with only the group winners earning an automatic qualifying berth to the 2006 finals in Germany.

The Istanbul Group 2 clash between arch rivals Turkey and Greece had been eagerly-awaited and the away side, although the reigning European champions, have still never beaten Turkey.

Ukraine looked in complete command as they began testing the visitors' defence right from the kick-off, keeping Kazakhstan's goalkeeper Yury Novikov on his toes.

Kazakhstan defended stoutly but were unable to prevent Shevchenko's opening goal after 18 minutes when Ukraine's skipper sent the ball into the net from the edge of the six-yard box.

The home side dominated play till the break and missed many chances to increase their lead.

After the restart, Ukraine were still in command but they lacked precision in the final phase of their attacks while Kazakhstan packed their defence and stifled any offensive moves on the edge of their box.

However the visitors failed to resist Ukrainian pressure and defender Avdeyev sent the ball into

his own net in an attempt to stop Ruslan Rotan's cross from the left with seven minutes remaining.

A lot was expected of the Turkey versus Greece clash. World Cup semi-finalists Turkey have never lost against Greece but this was the first match between the sides since Greece won last year's Euro 2004 tournament.

For the record, Turkey won the first match between the sides - a friendly in 1988 - 3-1 and returned from Athens six months later with a 1-0 victory.

The sides' next encounter, 15 years later and in the current qualifying campaign, ended in a goalless draw at the Karaiskaki stadium in Piraeus last September.

For Greece, they have started their World Cup qualifying campaign slowly and, though a draw in Istanbul is on paper a creditable result, failing to win has meant winning the group, and an automatic qualifying berth, looks less likely.

Turkey's Belozoglu Emre tested Antonis Nikopolidis with a superb shot in the sixth minute but the Greek keeper ably parried the ball away and the match settled into a controlling game by the Greeks, past masters as seen in their European championship winning exploits in Portugal last summer.

Stelios Giannakopoulos nearly put the Greeks ahead in the 36th minute on a counter attack but Turkey keeper Recber Rustu saved at full-stretch. Giannakopoulos also hit the crossbar eight minutes after the break.

The inclusion of Fenerbahce striker Tuncay Sanli for Turkey in the second half heralded a period of pressure from the home side and Tuncay nearly scored with a shot that skimmed the left hand post.

Although without their playmaker Emre, who left the field injured in the

79th minute, Turkey kept up the pressure and Serkan Balci had a chance in the final minutes.

Drama in the closing stages came in the shape of Turkey's Yildiray Basturk being sent off for a second yellow card in the 89th minute after contesting a decision by German referee Markus Merk.

Holland beat Romania 2-0 in Rotterdam to hold on to their lead in Group 1 but coach Marco van Basten was not entirely happy. "It wasn't a great match tonight. We didn't play as well as we could have but overall I'm satisfied. I have to take my hat off to young players such as Robben, Lucius and van Persie who did very well."

In Group 3, Portugal beat Slovakia 2-0 after a great performance from Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo.

VfB Stuttgart defender Fernando Meira, set up by Paris Saint Germain's Pauleta, gave Portugal the lead on 21 minutes before Ronaldo doubled the scores four minutes before the break with a 25-metre shot.

Israel kept up the pressure in Group 4 as they came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with the Republic of Ireland in Dublin.

While all the goals came in the first half - in fact there were five with Robbie Keane having one ruled out for offside - the second half was characterised by acrimony and bookings.

Italy remained top of Group 5 after a goalless draw against Norway in Oslo, Spain beat Lithuania 1-0 in Valencia to draw level on top of Group 7 with Serbia-Montenegro who drew 0-0 against Belgium, and Croatia and Sweden both had victories to stamp their authority on Group 8.

## A dream come true

## Football

AFP, Lisbon

An Indonesian child survivor of Asia's deadly tsunami fulfilled his dream Saturday and watched as his heroes, Portugal's national team, defeated rivals Slovakia 2-0 in a World Cup qualifier in Lisbon.

Martunis, who was seven when he was rescued after spending 19 days alone on a Banda Aceh beach following the December 26 disaster wearing a red-and-green Portugal jersey, sat in the stands beside AC Milan midfielder Rui Costa, who retired from international football last summer.

He shook hands and was kissed on the cheek on the pitch by players

from both sides before the start of the match as a sellout crowd of some 60,000 cheered and waved flags.

Among those in attendance were Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio and visiting East Timor Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter gave the boy a cheque for 40,000 euros (48,900 dollars), a gift from Portugal's football federation which organized the trip.

The money includes funds raised from an auction of jerseys used by Portuguese football stars such as Real Madrid's Luis Figo and Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo as well as direct donations from the players.

"Seeing his happiness today left me feeling happy too," Costa told

state television RTP after the match.

Martunis is believed to have survived on puddle water and dried noodles after he became separated from his family as they fled the fast-moving tsunami that left more than 217,000 dead and missing around the Indian Ocean.

Among the missing are Martunis' mother and four siblings.

The boy, who is being accompanied on his trip by his father and a psychologist, arrived in Portugal last Sunday and will return to Indonesia on Monday.

He has stayed mostly out of the media's eye during his visit but has met with members of the Portuguese squad on numerous occasions during his stay.

## Liverpool decision soon

AFP, London

UEFA how vowed to find a positive solution to benefit everyone in the controversy surrounding Liverpool's bid to defend the Champions League next season.

Pressure has increased on European football's governing body in the past week to include the Reds in next season's competition following their stunning penalty shoot-out triumph over AC Milan in Istanbul.

The G14 group of elite European clubs have added their voice to the clamour, while Football Association chairman Geoff Thompson - who is also a UEFA vice-president - has continued lobbying for England to be allowed to enter five teams in the 2005/06 tournament, thus enabling Liverpool to defend the trophy.

But so far, UEFA have insisted that the competition's rules, which state no more than four clubs from any one country may compete in the tournament, must be adhered to.

"I feel the situation is very difficult," reflected Eggert Magnusson, an executive committee member and president of the Football Association of Iceland, in an interview with BBC radio Five Live.

"I have always said this was a matter the English FA should have taken firmly, maybe two or three months ago when they faced the possibility Liverpool could be in the final or even win the competition.

"The regulations say it quite clearly that there can only be four teams from each nation, maximum, in the Champions League.

"I think a lot of people within UEFA, within the executive committee, have a feeling in their heart for Liverpool, but the rules are there to be followed, and that is something we also have to stand by.

"This is being looked into and I am sure we will try to find a positive solution that everybody can be happy with."

The Anfield club will probably have to wait until the middle of the month before the issue is resolved by UEFA's 15-man executive committee at a meeting in Manchester on June 17.

## CONCACAF QUALIFIERS

# USA, Mexico on a roll

AFP, Salt Lake City

Landon Donovan scored twice and Kasey Keller made a pair of crucial second-half saves Saturday as the United States breezed to a 3-0 win over Costa Rica in a CONCACAF qualifier for the 2006 World Cup.

The Americans (3-1-0) have nine points after four matches and are one point adrift of first place Mexico who blanked Guatemala 2-0 on Saturday.

Playing its first qualifier since March 30, the US fed off the energy at Rice-Eccles Stadium and struck quickly.

Donovan received a crossing pass from Josh Wolff and drilled it in the top left corner in the sixth minute.

The score remained 1-0 thanks to Keller, who dove to his right to keep out a drive by Jafet Soto in the 47th minute and thwarted another effort by Soto with a dive to his left in the 59th.

Three minutes later, Brian McBride attempted a diving header at Costa Rican goalkeeper Alvaro Mesen, who made the stop. However, the rebound came right to Donovan for the easy tap-in.

McBride was rewarded for his solid effort with a score in the 88th minute - the 27th of his international career.

In another Saturday's CONCACAF qualifier, Trinidad and Tobago posted a 2-0 home victory over Panama, which hosts the Americans on Wednesday.

Stem John in the 33rd minute and Dennis Lawrence in the 70th gave Trinidad and Tobago three valuable points in the six-nation group.

## Narail lift youth volleyball title

SPORTS REPORTER

Narail clinched the title of the City Bank National Youth Volleyball Championship beating Jessore 3-0 sets in the final at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Dinaipur finished third beating Tangail 3-2 at the same venue.

## Aftab has arrived

FROM PAGE 12  
4-125, 5-195, 6-235, 7-245, 8-251, 9-311

**Bowler** O M R W  
Hoggard 15.5 3 73 5  
Harmison 17 1 86 1  
S.Jones 10 1 49 0  
Flintoff 15 2 58 3  
Batty 15 2 44 1

**Result: England won by an innings and 27 runs to clinch the 2-Test series 2-0.**

**Man-of-the-match: Matthew Hoggard.**

**Man-of-the-series: Marcus Trescothick.**

**Toss: England**  
**Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia) and Tony Hill (New Zealand)**

# That's what's missing

SUN-SENTINEL



The greatest soccer show on Earth will be without its marquee player when Brazil plays Argentina in a 2006 South American World Cup

qualifier on Wednesday in Buenos Aires.

Conspicuously absent from the showdown will be Brazilian striker Ronaldo, who wants to play, but won't because coach Carlos Alberto Parreira won't let him. Ronaldo was dropped by Parreira last week after asking to be excused from the eight-team Confederations Cup that

begins on June 15 in Germany.

With the conclusion of the 10-month Spanish League season last Sunday, the three-time FIFA Player of the Year argued that this summer will be his last chance to rest before the 2006 World Cup. In an all-or-nothing decree that showed who's boss, Parreira told Ronaldo if he doesn't want to play in the Con Cup, then he can't play in today's South American qualifier against Paraguay or Argentina.

While Parreira has every right to assert his authority, it's a pity he took such a firm stance with Ronaldo. Greatness is measured by how well a player does in epic games, and

more often than not in recent years, Ronaldo has risen to the occasion and taken Brazil with him.

In performance that only he could produce, Ronaldo used his breath-taking quickness to set up and score three penalty kick goals in Brazil's 3-1 win over Argentina in a qualifier played last summer. He has scored nine goals in South American qualifying to lead all scorers.

Recent history shows, however, that without Ronaldo, Brazil's yellow jerseys lose some of their glow. He missed 2002 qualifiers with a series of knee injuries and Brazil sputtered to a record six losses. He returned in time for the 2002 World Cup and scored eight goals to lead Brazil to its fifth title.

Now, Parreira will see whether Ronaldo can be replaced by the next generation of supernatural Brazilians. He's expected to start Copa America hero Adriano and possibly Robinho as his strikers, with Ronaldinho and Kaka as the attacking midfielders. Poor Brazil.

Reigning FIFA Player of the Year Ronaldinho just led Barcelona to its first Spanish League title since 1999. Kaka is an emerging soccer artist after two seasons at AC Milan. Adriano scored seven goals in the Copa America last summer, the last one coming in the 93rd minute to tie Argentina in a championship match Brazil won in penalty kicks.

And then there's Robinho, the next great Brazilian. The lithe 21-year-old is making headlines on a weekly basis for domestic league power Santos, where he produces goals that remind people of Pele. Reports out of Brazil have him close to signing with Real Madrid as early as next week, where he would play alongside Ronaldo.

Still, Robinho has hasn't played Argentina in Buenos Aires. Last year's game was a beauty to behold as each side played to their strengths; Brazil through the individual genius of Ronaldo and Kaka, and Argentina through its highly cultured midfield. The difference was Ronaldo and only Ronaldo.



RONALDO

# Australia keep title

FROM PAGE 12

"We were surprised to get into the final in the first place and we played our best, but Australia are a tough team and I'm happy with my players' performance," said Cho.

After Michael McCann gave Australia a ninth-minute lead with a field goal, the sleek Koreans took control and turned the match with two quick goals just before the interval.

First, Lee Nam-yong converted a penalty corner in the 30th minute and soon afterwards, Seo Jong-ho scored from close range to make it 2-1 to Korea.

Striker Jang Jong-hyun scored Korea's third three minutes into the second half with a penalty corner.

Australia looked out of contention, easily losing possession and allowing the Korean players to pass and run at will.

But giant defender Luke Doerner brought the Kookaburras back to life with 17 minutes left when he slammed home a penalty corner.

McCann tied it nine minutes later with a deft deflection off Jamie Dwyer's shot from the top of the circle.

Australia finished strongly, despite having Liam De Young yellow-carded in the 66th minute, and forced Korean goalkeeper and man of the match Ko Dong-sik into two excellent saves in the dying moments.

The Aussies continued to dominate in extra-time, missing a number of chances. Although it was still 3-3 after the first period of seven and a half minutes, Victory spared them the ordeal of a penalty shootout with his 81st-minute winner.

Earlier, Pakistan defeated New Zealand 4-2 to secure third place.

It was scant consolation for the Pakistanis, who threw away their

chance of reaching the final when they were beaten 1-0 by hosts Malaysia in league play on Friday.

Pakistan had been the most impressive side in the seven-team event but their shock loss on Friday relegated them to the third/fourth-place play-off and allowed South Korea to sneak into the final against defending champions Australia.

Rehan Butt and Adnan Zakir put Pakistan 2-0 ahead after only 19 minutes but New Zealand fought back with a penalty stroke from Dean Couzins and a short corner from Richard Petherick.

Pakistan lifted a gear in the second half with goals from Mudassar Ali Khan and Butt sealing victory.

"At the start of the tournament, it was not in our minds to win it, but we came close," said Pakistan coach Tahir Zaman. "Ultimately, we were able to give some young players exposure to top-class hockey and that will definitely benefit them."

In other play Sunday India gained a measure of revenge against Malaysia when they beat the hosts 2-1 in extra-time to finish fifth.

India were thrashed 4-1 by Malaysia during the round-robin stages of the competition last week but were given a chance to redeem themselves in the play-off for fifth and sixth place.

However, they needed a field goal from Prabhjot Singh seven minutes into extra-time for the victory after the two sides completed 70 minutes locked at 1-1.

Malaysia, who finished fifth in league play, one place ahead of India, took an early lead when Hairul Nizam Abdul Rani scored with a field goal. India's short corner specialist Len Ayappa equalised for his country 17

minutes later from the set piece.

Neither side were able to score in the second half and tempers flared late in the game, resulting in red cards for Malaysia's Jiwa Mohan and India's Deepak Thakur.

## Mukti survive

FROM PAGE 12

minute earlier. The penalty was awarded after national centre-back Rajani, who struggled throughout the match, felled Morshed inside the box.

In between, Ritu and Morshed both failed to keep their shots on goal in spite of tormenting the rival defence. The way the Mukti's experienced backline handled the situation in the last 15 minutes, would be a headache for coach Shaiful Islam Manik who has to prepare the boys for their next match against an in-form Mohammedan.

After two rounds, MuktiJodha share the lead with Mohammedan, Abahani and Brothers - all on six points - while Arambagh are yet to collect any points.

Yellow cards: Rajani, Harry, Saiful (MuktiJodha).

## TEAMS

**MUKTIJODHA:** Aminul (Titumere), Harry, Rajani, Belal, Titu, Biddut, Iqbal (Saiful), Hassan Al Mamun, Arman (Haris), Paul and Kanchan.

**ARAMBAGH:** Mitul (Al Amin), Dulal, Murad (Jewel), Ramjan, Akram, Russell, Juku, Imrul, Morshed Dominic and Ritu (Ridon).

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Mexican entrée  
5 Upper limit  
8 Walk tiredly  
12 Last writes?  
13 That girl  
14 Dorothy's basketful  
15 Oriental restaurant  
17 Inside (pref.)  
18 Shade provider  
19 Shop talk, maybe  
21 Beet's cousin  
24 Grayish purple  
25 Botox recipients  
26 Zoo  
30 Pub order  
31 Make a name for oneself?  
32 Promptly  
33 Place of disfavor  
35 Jenga setup  
36 "Judith" composer

**DOWN**  
3 Spy novel org.  
4 "Do unto ..."  
5 Crony opponent  
6 DDE's opponent  
7 Draw a hasty opinion  
8 Speaker system  
9 Protract-ed  
10 Sgt. Snorkle's dog  
11 Hoodlum  
16 Anti-quoted  
20 Not merely smart?  
21 Deeked out  
22 City near Kilauea  
23 Taken down - or two  
24 Analyze grammar  
26 Large heap  
27 Monad  
28 Unrivaled  
29 Rams' ma'am's  
31 St. Andrews warning  
34 Vie for a better price  
35 Temple with curved roofing  
37 "Humburg"  
38 Pack down  
39 Malaria symptom  
40 Winning streak  
41 Dance lesson  
44 Sony rival  
45 Internet address  
46 Dine  
47 Type squares

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