

Cristiano Ronaldo visits Banda Aceh

Football

JAKARTA PORT

Portuguese soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo's whistle-stop visit to Banda Aceh on Saturday encountered a hitch when crowd control problems forced the cancellation of a coaching clinic.

The 20-year-old Manchester United player, on a two-day visit to Banda Aceh and Jakarta for tsunami relief, was scheduled to lead the clinic for elementary school and junior high school students at a soccer field.

However, the huge crowd outnumbered the security officers on hand. Ronaldo made one attempt to walk out to the field (shown in photo) from his bus, but eventually retreated to the vehicle when a path could not be cleared.

Although officials tried to restore order, Ronaldo left after about 30 minutes for his flight to Jakarta.

Earlier, Ronaldo had visited the coastal area of Ulee Lheu to see the destruction from the Dec. 26 earth-

quake and subsequent tsunami. He was accompanied by eight-year-old survivor Martunis, who the Portuguese national team hosted last Saturday in Lisbon. "I'm very tired after playing Estonia in the World Cup qualifiers," Ronaldo told reporters on the plane journey to Jakarta, referring to Portugal's victory in Tallinn on Wednesday, in which he scored the winning goal.

"I was happy to see the Acehnese people, and I'm only sorry that my physical condition was not up to it today."

Some in the crowd expressed their disappointment after Ronaldo left, Antara news agency reported.

"The organizers weren't ready ... If things end up like this, then they shouldn't bother inviting famous people," said one of the chaperones of the children.

A spokesman for the event organizer said there was a "misunderstanding" with the security officials.

Ronaldo is scheduled to meet with Vice President Jusuf Kalla on Sunday afternoon before attending a fund-raising dinner.



PHOTO: INTERNET SOURCE

Manchester United star Cristiano Ronaldo (C) is mobbed during a visit to the tsunami-hit town of Banda Aceh, on the Indonesian island of Sumatra on Saturday. Banda Aceh, is the provincial capital of Aceh province where more than 160,000 people were killed in the December 26 tsunami.

Pakistan-1, India-1

AFP, Quetta

Striker Mohammad Essa scored from a free-kick Sunday to help Pakistan hold India 1-1 in the thrilling opening match of the first football series played between the South Asian rivals.

An enthusiastic crowd of 20,000 fans cheered as Essa scored the equaliser after India's 65th minute goal from Sunil Chettri following a barren first half.

Essa, the top scorer for Pakistan in last year's SAF Games, where his side beat India in the final, held his nerves to score with just 12 minutes left.

The second match is scheduled at Peshawar on Thursday and the last match will take place at Lahore on Saturday -- both to be played under lights.

Pakistan matched India move for move in the first half during which the visitor's captain Shanmugam Venkatesh helped India create three good scoring chances -- all thwarted by home team's impressive defence.

Iron Mike loses

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sixth round, delivering a nasty cut over the Irishman's left eye.

With blood gushing down his face, McBride continued to work inside, pushing the flagging Tyson to the canvas as the round ended.

Appearing unhurt but short of energy, Tyson staggered to his corner and slumped on his stool where his cornermen requested referee Joe Cortez to stop what could be his last fight.

Chappell's challenge

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

When Greg Chappell begins his first coaching session next week with his mantra of "commitment to excellence", he faces the twin problems of form and fitness afflicting Indian cricketers.

All is not well at the moment with cricket in India, who lost their first home Test series to Australia in 35 years and then drew a three-Test series against a young Pakistani side last season.

Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar has been ruled out of international action for four months following elbow surgery and captain Sourav Ganguly is struggling to overcome the worst slump of his career.

The attack is also reeling with fast bowlers Irfan Pathan, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra and Laxmipathy Balaji in and out of the team either due to form or fitness in recent years.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh is under the scanner for a suspect bowling action. Only leg-spinner Anil Kumble has managed to keep his reputation intact, but he is in the twilight of his illustrious career.

Challenges also lie off the field for Chappell, appointed until the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies.

Coaching India has never been for the faint-hearted, considering inflated expectations of hundreds of millions of fans and an ever-probing media, and the former Australian batting great will be under great

pressure to deliver.

Some former Indian Test cricketers have given Chappell's appointment a lukewarm reaction as they believe a local coach could produce better results than a foreigner, despite John Wright's successful five-year stint with the team.

Wright, a former New Zealand captain and Chappell's predecessor, transformed India into a force to be reckoned with after taking over in 2000.

The New Zealander was appointed with India's credibility at its lowest ebb following the match-fixing scandal and poor results on the field.

It was a tribute to Wright's skills that he managed to mould the youngsters into an outfit which beat formidable Australia at home in 2001 and reached the 2003 World Cup final in South Africa.

Chappell's task is different from Wright's in that he has more or less inherited a settled but out-of-form side plagued by injury problems.

His major worry is Tendulkar, who has been in the news as much for his lack of form as for his fitness in recent months.

Tendulkar, the fourth-highest scorer in Test cricket with 10,134 runs in 123 matches with 34 centuries, has been under fire for tempering his flamboyant batting style.

"I just need to sit down with him and work out where he is at and where he wants to go. What expectations and what goals he has, and hopefully motivate him perhaps with some new chal-

lenges," Chappell said in a recent interview.

"He's been around for 15 years and his performance has been extraordinary. He was always going to have some down periods, he's had some injuries, he's perhaps had a bit of a crisis over what his role and place is in the team."

Chappell has also to deal with Ganguly whose recent slump with the bat (48 runs in three home Tests against Pakistan) has already put his captaincy as well as his place in the side in doubt.

In-form Rahul Dravid and swashbuckling Virender Sehwag have been touted as Ganguly's likely replacement, even though both deny harbouring ambitions to lead India.

One certainty, however, is that Chappell will not tolerate indiscipline and lack of commitment even from star players in his pursuit to put India on a par with world champions Australia.

"They (Indian players) are going to have to work a lot harder in some areas. That's going to be the challenge: some of the senior players may not want to work that hard," Chappell warned.

"There are certain things you have to do that are non-negotiable and therefore a lot of discipline is required."

Chappell's first assignment is a triangular one-day series in Sri Lanka, also involving the West Indies, in August.

Unhappy Euro champs

AFP, Cologne

European champions Greece have seen their preparations for the Confederations Cup disrupted with several players claiming they have not yet received their full bonus for the Euro 2004 success.

Greece stars insist they were promised one million euros a man for winning the Portugal finals, but Greece international striker Vassilis Tsirtsis of FC Cologne claims they have only received 750,000 euros.

"A year ago they were calling us heroes," Tsirtsis told Bild am Sonntag. "But now it is clear what they think of us. We were promised a certain amount but that promise has not been kept."

Greek sports minister Giorgios Orfanos countered that claim and said talk of a one million euro win bonus was wide of the mark.

Greece were the surprise package in Euro 2004 defeating hosts Portugal 1-0 in the final courtesy of an Angelos Charisteas goal.

On Thursday Otto Rehnhage's side face world cup holders Brazil in Leipzig in their opening match of the Confederations Cup.

Nazmul

FROM PAGE 12
But Nazmul was definitely the best bowler on the day for Bangladesh and with two consecutive good performances almost confirmed his place for the first one-day international against England.

He bowled eight overs and claimed three wickets and gave away 24 runs in his 8 hostile overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-day practice match between Worcestershire and Bangladesh at the County Ground, New Road on Sunday:

WORCESTERSHIRE				
Moore b Nazmul	9			
Davies c Saleh b Nazmul	11			
De Bruyn lbw b Mahmud	34			
Smith c Manjarul b Mahmud	17			
Mitchell b Aftab	2			
Peters b Manjarul	2			
Pipe c Omar b Nazmul	22			
Price c Saleh b Baisya	7			
Akhtar b Manjarul	11			
Malik not out	5			
Wigley c Saleh b Mahmud	2			
Extras: (b-5, lb-2, w-33, nb-6)	46			
Total: (All out in 44.1 overs)	168			
Fall of wkts: 1-19, 2-43, 3-96, 4-97, 5-100, 6-112, 7-143, 8-159, 9-162, 10-168.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Baisya	10	0	41	1
Nazmul	8	1	24	3
Mahmud	7.1	0	29	3
Aftab	10	0	46	1
Manjarul	9	1	21	2

BANGLADESH				
Omar c Moore b Price	43			
Nafees b Malik	0			
Saleh c Pipe b Akhtar	1			
Imran c Davies b Wigley	7			
Ashraful c Peters b Malik	40			
Bashar not out	26			
Aftab b Price	16			
Manjarul not out	16			
Extras: (b-2, w-18)	20			
Total: (For 6 wkts in 36 overs)	169			
To bat: Mahmud, Baisya, Nazmul.				
Fall of wkts: 1-1, 2-4, 3-24, 4-106, 5-106, 6-125.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akhtar	9	1	34	1
Malik	8	0	32	2
Wigley	5	0	28	1
De Bruyn	4	0	39	0
Price	10	3	34	2
Result: Bangladesh won by 4 wickets. Toss: Worcestershire				

All depends

FROM PAGE 12
The hockey body took the decision at its executive committee meeting yesterday.

BHF general secretary Shamsul Bari, however, informed reporters that they talked with the Pakistani yesterday.

"He (Qamar Ibrahim) said that his father illness made the delay of his return. Qamar also assured us about the return of trainer Ershad Haider within couple of day. But we will search a alternative person if Qamar failed to join by first week of July," said Bari.

Owen the Real carrot?

Football

MADRID

Real Madrid could offer Manchester United £10million plus Michael Owen in exchange for Cristiano Ronaldo, according to Saturday's newspapers.

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has made no secret of his desire to see Owen link up with England colleague Wayne Rooney at Old Trafford following the Reds' goalscoring problems last season.

And Spanish giants Madrid - still looking their wounds following an early Champions League exit and Barcelona's La Liga title triumph - have made it equally clear they want to freshen up their midfield with Ronaldo.

Real sporting director Arrigo Sacchi said of the 20-year-old Portuguese winger: "The quality that he has and his age mean he

would be welcome at any club in the world."

Real coach Wanderley Luxemburgo is just as big a fan, so has instructed Bernabeu bosses to tempt United with a carrot of a cash deal plus Owen, who failed to dislodge Brazil hitman Ronaldo and Spanish forward Raul from their regular first-team spots last season.

Meanwhile, Owen has said that he will only leave Real Madrid if the club tells him to leave.

There has been much speculation linking him with a return to the Premiership but he says he is content to stay in Spain.

"I don't know what my situation is at the moment, but I know I am happy here," the England striker said in an interview with Spanish sports daily Marca on Sunday.

"All that I've been told is that Real Madrid are happy with me. I'm happy with the way things have gone, I want to win things with Real Madrid and I'm not thinking of leav-

ing. "Of course if someone comes and tells me there is a club interested in me and that I have to leave, then I'll have to go.

"But I like this club and its fans and I have enjoyed myself more and more as each month has gone by."

Owen, who joined Real from Liverpool for 12 million euros (\$14.55 million) last August, had a difficult first few months at the club but earned himself a regular place in the starting line-up by the end of the season.

He finished up as Real's second highest scorer in the league with 13 goals, eight fewer than Ronaldo but four more than fellow forward Raul.

The 25-year-old has been linked with several Premier League clubs in recent weeks, including Arsenal and United, while Spanish media report that Real are trying to close a deal to sign Brazilian international forward Robinho from Santos. (Internet Sources)

Brazil target final

REUTERS, Frankfurt



Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira is promising that the world champions will not be treating the

Confederations Cup as a two-week German holiday.

Brazil arrived on Saturday without striker Ronaldo but with a strong squad that includes Ronaldinho, Robinho, Adriano and Kaka.

There is little at stake for the eight teams taking part in a tournament that lacks prestige but the Brazil coach expects to see the competition through to the end on June 29.

"Whenever a Brazilian team enters a tournament, we want to reach the final," said Parreira.

"The opportunity to play in the Confederations Cup exactly a year before the World Cup was one that we did not want to miss.

"Everything looks ready here except the weather, which is a little cold."

The tournament begins on Wednesday, with Brazil playing their first match on Thursday against Greece in Leipzig.

Brazil will also play Mexico and Japan in Group B, while Argentina, Australia and Tunisia line up with hosts Germany in Group A.

Brazil suffered a 3-1 defeat to Argentina in Buenos Aires before

coming to Germany -- a result that left them still waiting to seal qualification for next year's World Cup -- and Parreira would love a chance for a rematch.

"It would be fantastic to play Argentina or Germany in the semi-finals," the coach said.

Seven of the eight teams were in Germany by Sunday morning, with Tunisia due to arrive on an evening flight.

"I'm delighted to see the new stadia which will be used for the World Cup as well as the new German team during this competition," said Parreira. "I want to use our strongest team here but it's also a good opportunity for the five new caps."

Hayden smashes Leicester

Cricket

AFP, Leicester

Opener Matthew Hayden smashed a century while Andrew Symonds and Damien Martyn also turned on the style as Australia crushed Leicestershire by 95 runs in a one-day clash at Grace Road here on Saturday.

It was a timely win for the Aussies who face England in a Twenty20 clash at Southampton on Monday.

Hayden helped himself to 107 off 96 balls while big-hitting Symonds lashed 92 off just 59 balls as the tourists raced to a massive 321-4 off their 50 overs.

Martyn said that Australia are confident of a convincing performance when the one-day international series gets underway next week with the tourists set to face England in Bristol on June 19.

"We really want to do well in the one-day games. We are number one in the world and we want to keep it that way," said Martyn ahead of the tri-nation series which will also feature Bangladesh.

Chasing Australia's huge target on Saturday, Leicestershire struggled to 226-8 off their 50 overs after enduring a slow start to their reply, with Tom New and Darren Maddy pinned down by the accurate attack of Brett Lee and Glenn McGrath.

Any hopes the home side had of an unlikely win were further dented when Brad Hogg took three wickets sending Leicestershire slumping to 120 for 6.

West Indian Otis Gibson hit 50 while Paul Nixon made 43 to slow

the Aussie victory march.

Earlier Hayden and Martyn put Leicestershire on the rack before Symonds bludgeoned 10 fours and three sixes in his unbeaten 92.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 321-4 in 50 overs (M Hayden 107, D Martyn 85, A Symonds 92 n.o)

LEICESTERSHIRE: 226-8 off 50 overs (O Gibson 50)

Result: Australia won by 95 runs.

Sharapova set for title repeat

AFP, Birmingham

Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova closed in on her second successive Birmingham WTA title on Saturday with a 7-5, 6-1 victory over last year's runner-up Tatiana Golovin.

The 18-year-old Russian will face 20-year-old Jelena Jankovic, of Serbia and Montenegro, the third seed who breezed through to her third tour final with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Laura Granville of the United States.

Jankovic lost to Sharapova in the first round of the US Open last year and was also beaten by the Russian at the quarterfinal stage in Beijing.

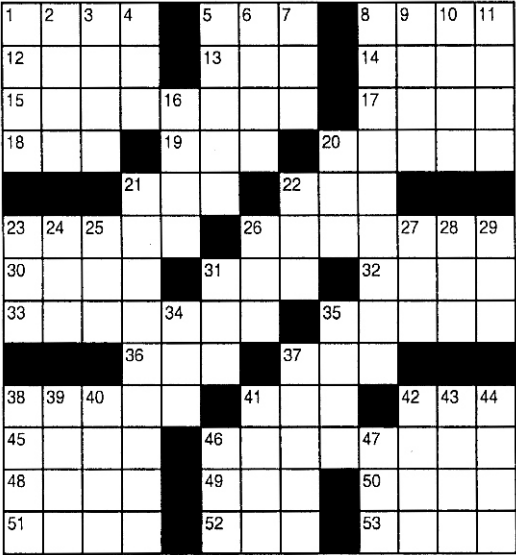
Sharapova said she will spend the week before Wimbledon enjoying a week off in London as she seeks to shake off a cold and ease the aches and pains caused by the transition from French clay to the grass of Birmingham.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Ernie Banks, notably	DOWN	20 Tie up the phone
1 Overly theatrical	37 Pos-sesses	1 Dog-patch's "founder"	21 Airdrop
5 Solidify	38 Frivolous	2 Jai follower	22 No longer chic
8 Accumulation	41 Moonshine	3 Oliver Twist's request	23 Journal
12 Lotion	42 Calendar abbr.	4 Shell game	24 Ms. Gardner
13 Emanation	45 Birthright	5 Pulverize	25 Gibson or Tillis
14 Say confidently	46 Lover spot	6 Relaxation	26 Clampett patriarch
15 Unimprovable	48 Move like a butterfly	7 Caustic solution	27 "See ya!"
17 "The Amazing —"	49 Melody	8 Pet shop birds	28 — pro nobis
18 Chart type	50 Wheel-base	9 Terrible guy?	29 Taken out of context?
19 Inseparable	51 Far (pref.)	10 Tress	31 Pugilistic ploy
20 Pulls hard	52 Crafty	11 Lambs' dams	34 "Survivor" structure
21 Spacecraft compartment	53 Turns blue?	16 "Let's Make a Deal" option	35 Long story
22 Erstwhile acorn			37 Get a move on
23 Truman's birthplace			38 Got a move on
26 Record holder?			39 Spot on the map
30 Finished			40 Track star
31 Lustrous black			41 "Monopolly" corner
32 Rochester's love			42 See 52-
33 Grail seeker			43 Hold the scepter
35 Lieu			44 Enrages
			46 Half the parents
			47 Frenzied

Solution time: 21 mins.

SPA	TAJ	DIVA
WIND	EVA	OMAR
ALTO	NOM	CLASK
BEECH	WEAK	
ALCOHOL	SMOOTH	
COOL	KAT	TRIUM
TOLLS	BISHOPS	
STAYED	LEE	
WEIR	ABHOR	
CAPO	VAN	AURA
OHIO	ERA	YELP
WAND	REB	SYIS



CRYPTOQUIP

L T A A F L C U E J F T P X B S F
H X G G J X G F T U B D G . Y F F U V,
C G V H N F U C S D C E P S Y V

X A X S F U S P V Y X H N .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY FAMILY
OSTEOPATH REALLY LIKES TO KID AROUND.
HE'S FOND OF PULLING PEOPLES' LEGS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals R

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.