



KUNG-FU! Argentina's Maximiliano Rodriguez (foreground) vies with Tunisian defender Karim Saidi at the RheinEnergie stadium in Cologne on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

F'ganj move

FROM PAGE 16 (Palash), Amirul (Jony), Felix and Walid (Rony). **YOUNGMEN'S:** Shiplu, Ariful, Mamun (Saikat), Monaem, Masud (Nayan), Ripon, Chanchal, Ismail (Zayed), Rajan, Baten and Robin. **Referee:** Tayab Hassan.

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Brothers	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
Mohammedan	4	3	1	0	9	3	10
Muktijoddha	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Farashganj	4	3	0	1	5	3	9
Abahani	4	2	2	0	8	4	8
Russel	4	2	1	1	13	2	7
Arambagh	4	0	1	3	5	10	1
Wanderers	4	0	1	3	12	1	1
Dipali	4	0	0	4	3	10	0
Youngmen's	4	0	0	4	3	18	0

SCORERS

Hattricks: Yusuf (Russel v Youngmen's), Liton (Brothers v Wanderers) **5 goals:** Liton (Brothers) **4 goals:** Yusuf (Russel), Paul (Muktijoddha) **3 goals:** Felix (FSC), Edward (Brothers), **2 goals:** Khokon, Parvez Babu (Brothers), Faisal Mahmud, Alfaz, Rony (MSC), Ibrahim (Abahani), Bulbul, Egit, Rachid, Majid (Russel), Farhad (Abahani), Kanchan (Muktijoddha), Dominic (Arambagh), Robin (Youngmen's) **1 goal:** Manju, Nakib, Donald (MSC), Kabir, Adafa (Farashganj), Ujjal, Joy, Zahid, Tipu (Abahani), Nayan (Russel), Amin Rana, Iqbal (Muktijoddha), Ritu, Morshed (Arambagh), Jalaluddin, Milon, Aminul (Wanderers), Tajul, Idris, Jalal (Dipali), Robin, Baten (Youngmen's). **Own goal:** Kamal (MSC v Arambagh)



Did U Know?

Andy Roddick of the USA and Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui played the longest final set, in terms of games played, in the history of Grand Slam events since tennis became open in 1968. Victory went Roddick 4-6, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4, 21-19 at the 2003 Australian Open.



Ricky Ponting (Australian cricket captain) *"I don't think we'll spend weeks analysing it. We will just laugh it all off."* **Reflecting on the 100-run defeat against England in their Twenty20 match.**

Inter lift Italian Cup



AFP, Milan

Inter Milan won the Italian Cup final at the San Siro Stadium here on Wednesday, beating Roma 1-0 in the second leg to wrap up a 3-0 aggregate victory and bring a positive end to a disappointing season. Serbian dead-ball specialist Sinisa Mihajlovic, who spent two seasons at Roma, put the knife into his former club with a 52nd strike that killed the game off. Despite playing without the injured Christian Vieri and Brazilian Adriano - on duty with his national squad in the Confederations Cup in Germany - Inter dominated a poor

Roma side and never left victory in doubt. Roberto Mancini's players ensured a territorial domination that allowed them an easy path to a fourth Cup win after successes in 1939, 1978 and 1982. "We didn't do much during the match and the goal was a definitive KO for us, but I congratulate Inter," admitted Roma coach Bruno Conti. Inter had two great chances to open the scoring, Nigerian Obafemi Martins just closed down by Roma's French defender Philippe Mexes in the 25th minute and delaying a fraction too long when he was in a great shoot-position 10 minutes later. Inter made their superiority count in the 52nd minute when Mihajlovic scored with an unstoppable strike.

The Milan side were then happy to play out the second half on the counter-attack, but not really going in search of a second goal. In the first leg, Adriano scored twice in the space of six first half minutes to give Inter a crucial 2-0 win. Both sides were looking to finish off disappointing seasons on a high. Inter finished third in Serie A, 14 points behind champions Juventus, while Roma ended up a massive 41 points off the pace in eighth position. In Europe, Inter were knocked out by AC Milan in the quarter-finals of the Champions League and Roma failed to get beyond the first group stage.

Maradona having fun

AP, Novi Vinodolski

Diego Maradona traded lobbs and groundstrokes with former Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic on Thursday as the Argentina star continued his charity visit to Croatia. Maradona, feted one of soccer's greatest players, was in Novi Vinodolski on a two-day visit to help raise money for a local orphanage. On Wednesday, he scored a handful of goals in a charity match featuring Ivanisevic, Boris Becker and other retired sports stars. On the sidelines of an ATP Senior Tour event, Maradona said he was inspired by Ivanisevic's victory over Pat Rafter in the 2001 Wimbledon final - when he won in five sets to become the first wild-card champion. "Goran is my tennis idol and I really wanted to play against him and test his famous serve," Maradona said. Maradona's exertions come three months after gastric bypass surgery to help reduce his weight by 50 kilograms (110 pounds) within a year. Before the operation, the 1.68-meter (5-foot-6) Maradona weighed 121 kilograms (266 pounds). Maradona, who captained Argentina to the 1986 World Cup, looked well on the tennis court, but hobbled slightly with a sore knee. "I am feeling good. Everything is only getting better and better," Maradona said, adding that he had no plans aside from a return to Argentina. "Only God knows what I will do next."

Liverpool cancel Japan trip

AFP, Kashima

Liverpool's scheduled pre-season tour of Japan has been cancelled to allow them to contest the Champions League first qualifying round next month, Kashima Antlers officials said Thursday. The English Premier League side, winners of the Champions League trophy, were to play against J-League's Shimizu S-Pulse on July 27 and Kashima on July 30 in their two-game friendly series announced in late May. But last week, European football's governing body UEFA changed its rules to allow the champions to defend their title next season, meaning they must play in six qualifying games beginning July 12 or 13. If Liverpool come through the first hurdle, they will face a second qualifying round scheduled for July 26-27 and August 2-3. "We have explored various ways to fulfil our commitment to go to Japan, but in the end we have had no choice but to cancel the Japan tour," Liverpool FC chief executive officer Rick Parry said in a statement to Kashima. "We would like to express our sincere regret to all Japanese fans who would have enjoyed seeing the matches. We look forward to being able to visit Japan as soon as possible. "And we can promise all our Japanese fans who had been looking forward to seeing us in July that we will be doing our best to make it up to them by defending our Champions League title," said Parry. UEFA had been under pressure to change their rules after Liverpool beat AC Milan on penalties in an astonishing final in May after being 3-0 down at half-time. But they had failed to qualify for the English Premiership after finishing fifth, and under existing rules the English Football Association was asked to put Liverpool into next season's competition ahead of fourth-placed Everton.

Van Persie to remain in custody

AFP, Rotterdam

Arsenal's Dutch star Robin van Persie will be held for another 14 days while police investigate rape charges, prosecutors said Tuesday. Radio reports said a DNA specimen had been taken from the 21-year-old but prosecutors' spokesman Jeichin de Graaf refused to reveal any details.

Boom, boom

FROM PAGE 16 kind of way," he said. In 209 ODIs Gilchrist has scored 6,969 runs at a strike rate of 95, with a colossal 840 boundaries and another 94 which have cleared the ropes, and sometimes the stands. Bowlers who took part in the survey also included Shaun Pollock, Muttiah Muralitharan, Heath Streak, Harbhajan Singh, Brett Lee, Shahadat Hossain, Martin Suji and Peter Ongondo. **TOP TEN HITTERS** 1. Adam Gilchrist, 2. Brian Lara, 3. Shahid Afridi, 4. Virender Sehwag, 5. Andrew Flintoff, 6. Sachin Tendulkar, 7. Chris Cairns, 8. Matthew Hayden, 9. Abdul Razzaq, 10. Ricky Ponting

Argentina edge through

AFP, Cologne



Argentina coach Jose Pekerman declared himself satisfied after watching his under-strength team see off a gritty Tunisia 2-1 in their Confederations Cup Group A opener here on Wednesday. The South Americans, fresh from securing World Cup qualification with a 3-1 drubbing of Brazil last week, outpointed the African champions with a first half penalty from man-of-the-match Juan Riquelme, with Javier Saviola doubling up after the break. Tunisia missed taking the lead when Imed Mhadhebi fluffed a 16th minute penalty but gained a deserved consolation goal when Haykel Guemamdiam made no mistake from the spot late on. Pekerman, who is resting stars like Hernan Crespo and Juan Sebastian Veron, said: "It wasn't an easy game with the Tunisians taking advantage of some of our mistakes when we were in control of the ball, but I was comforted by our scoring possibilities and excellent performances from players like Saviola

and (Maxi) Rodriguez. "The centres from (Luciano) Galletti and crossed by Saviola were encouraging, and it was an important experience for some of the young players. "Important for them and for the team as we improve." Roger Lemerre, his counterpart on the Tunisian bench, was left rueing Mhadhebi's squandered spot kick. "That would have been important for us to score. One penalty missed, one converted. That's football. "We had a good start, and had the chance to take a psychological advantage, but we were up against a great team. That's what we're missing, big matches like this." The South Americans started at a 100 miles an hour, and could have been three goals to the good within the first ten minutes. The 1992 Confed Cup winners' first chance came when Galletti slid the ball across the goalmouth for Saviola but the Monaco attacker's chip sailed over Khaled Fadhel's crossbar. Saviola had a close range effort saved shortly after before Galletti was set up by a perfect cross from the left from Juan Sorin but the Real

Zaragoza striker's header edged the right post. Then referee Roberto Rosetti awarded Tunisia a penalty after Argentina goalkeeper German Lux felled an onrushing Guemamdiam, but Mhadhebi's lackadaisical effort went wide. In the 33rd minute Tunisia captain Hatem Trabelsi was arguably harshly booked for a foul on Rodriguez in the box, with Riquelme showing far more purpose than Mhadhebi had earlier, the Villareal midfielder's low centred spot kick sending Fadhel diving wrongfooted to his right. Enjoying the bulk of the possession Argentina deserved their first half lead and they doubled up 12 minutes into the second half when Galletti lunged down the right wing to set up Saviola in the box with the French-based star slipping the ball past Fadhel from close range. German Lux was then booked for supposedly bringing down Guemamdiam in the area, and the CS Sfaxien forward duly converted to save Tunisian honour.

Media not convinced

AFP, Frankfurt



Germany may have won their opening Confederations Cup match but the knives came out after Wednesday's 4-3 triumph over Australia. "To lift the title there is a lot more required," headlined the Bild daily. "The fans in Frankfurt were world class but Germany were far from it." Germany twice took the lead only for Australia to peg them back at the Waldstadion and the German defence, in particular Chelsea defender Robert Huth, came in for some strong criticism. "A difficult baptism," concluded the Frankfurter Rundschau. "The defence stood out again for all the wrong reasons." "Huth flattened (John) Aloisi to

concede the free-kick which led to the first goal, and was then undone again for standing too far away from Aloisi." Huth dumped Aloisi in the 20th minute - receiving a yellow card for his bodycheck - and Josip Skoko drilled a free-kick under a woeful German defensive wall. Then in the 31st minute Osasuna striker Aloisi got in behind Huth again and fired a left-footed shot past Oliver Kahn to level at 2-2. A penalty from Michael Ballack and a Lukas Podolski strike secured victory but Jurgen Klinsmann's target of winning this competition and the World Cup a year later looks a long way off sight. "We will not win the World Cup with performances such as this," declared Bild. "Just to win the Confederations Cup we need to improve a lot." Klinsmann acknowledged there

was a lot of work to do on the training pitch but put a protective arm around his youthful backline. "There were problems at the back but we have a young defence and they are going to make mistakes," countered Klinsmann. "It is important the midfield provides cover too and at times this did not happen." With criticism still ringing in their ears, Germany face Tunisia on Saturday in Cologne and former Bayern Munich manager Ottmar Hitzfeld, who turned down the German national job, advised Klinsmann to ignore the media. "I would advise him to carry on with what he is doing," Hitzfeld told Kicker magazine. "He has to be positive and not read many German newspapers." German defenders would be well advised to follow suit.

Easy opener for Fed Express



AFP, London

Roger Federer's bid for a third straight Wimbledon title will begin with a first round meeting with French Davis Cup player Paul-Henri Mathieu. The world number one will not be losing too much sleep about an encounter with an opponent who has managed only one victory in his two previous appearances at the All England club. Federer could face 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt at the semi-final stage. Hewitt had been hoping to avoid Federer until the final but he could face him in the last four as a result of only being seeded third, a place below his world ranking. Australia's Hewitt faces Belgian Christophe Rochus in the first round. Second seed Andy Roddick, fresh from winning the warm-up tournament at Queen's for the third year in a row, is in the bottom half of the draw along with fourth seed and French Open champion Rafael Nadal. Roddick opens up against Jiri Vanek of the Czech Republic while

Nadal, who has written off his own chances of winning Wimbledon this year, begins his campaign against American Vince Spadea. The top seeds all managed to steer clear of dangerous floaters in the draw although Australian Open champion Marat Safin, the 5th seed, faces a tough opening match against Thai number one Paradorn Srichaphan, a winner on grass at Nottingham last year. The winner of that match could face a second round tie with 2003 finalist Mark Philippoussis. British number one Tim Henman, four times a semi-finalist here, will begin against Finland's Jarkko Nieminen and could come up against Roddick if he makes it through to the quarterfinals. Henman, 30, again represents the best chance of British success but he may have to share some of the limelight this year with the rapidly emerging Andrew Murray. The Scottish teenager -- winner of last year's US Open junior tournament -- is being tipped as a potential successor to Henman and his hopes of making an impact at his first Wimbledon have been boosted by the draw.

Youhana may avoid surgery

BBC ONLINE, undated

Pakistan batsman Yousuf Youhana is to undergo six weeks of intensive treatment on his injured shoulder. It is hoped the rehabilitation programme will avoid the necessity for an operation on the shoulder, which has troubled him for two years. A recent scan, carried out after he returned from the West Indies, revealed ruptures in the muscle tissue. But Pakistan Cricket Board spokesman Abbas Zaidi said: "Surgery should only be carried out as a last option." He now hopes to recover in time for a home series against England in October.

SCOREBOARD

FROM PAGE 16 Total: (All out in 45.2 overs) 190 Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-19, 3-39, 4-57, 5-72, 6-76, 7-152, 8-159, 9-159 **Bowler** **O** **M** **R** **W** Gough 8.2 0 33 2 Lewis 10 0 32 3 Harmison 10 0 39 4 Collingwood 8 0 36 0 Flintoff 9 2 46 0 **ENGLAND:** Trescottick, Strauss, Vaughan, Collingwood, Flintoff, Pietersen, Jones, Solanki, Lewis, Gough, Harmison. **Toss:** England. **Umpires:** Mark Benson (England) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan).

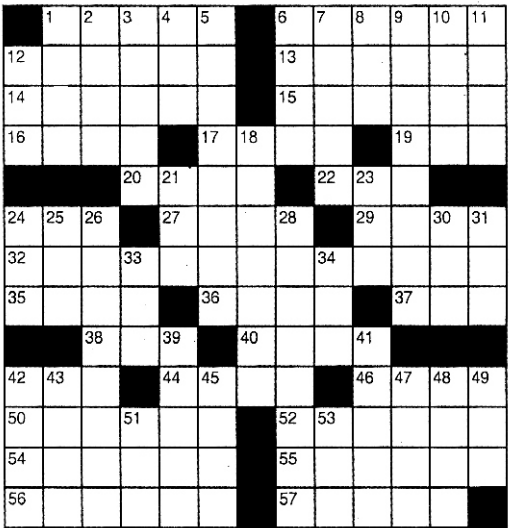
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Affirmative action 1 Tiniest bit 6 Singer Brinley 12 Half a baby's pair 13 1970 Broadway show 14 Mischievous 15 Eugene's home 16 Oil cartel 17 Doggie-bag fill 19 Schedule abbr. 20 Competent 22 Screw up 24 Sternward 27 Cleese companion 29 Aware of 32 Oldest winner of a Best Director Oscar 35 Fictional Jane 36 AMEX counter-part

DOWN 1 Freebie 2 Hitchcock tour de force 3 City on the Mohawk 4 Wrong (Pref.) 5 Indebted 6 Lady Macbeth's problem 7 Boxer's winnings 8 Preceding 9 "Flowers for—" 10 Laugh-a-minute 11 Fax 12 Resumé 13 Passed along 21 Morsel

Solution time: 27 mins.

TAB HAND BIDE
IVE AMOR ODIN
FILTIOMRE VAMS
FSTIOPS VEA
GREER FUN OBI
RAMS HIS SPIN
ANI WAX CHEST
FILLEET AHA
ABE BIRTHS
BLIP FILLERUP
ATIPA USED ELLI
ATOZ LORE EAT



CRYPTOQUIP

S L F D G X G H F S J D D F X
B Z F U G E J H O Z X M . I G V , J
U Y V V Z U F M Z Y H Z Y I B H G I I
O L G O G D F G X D F B X Y D .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M NOT SURE IF I'VE MET THIS NEIGHBORLY AVON LADY BEFORE, BUT SHE DOES RING A BELL.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals N
The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal Q throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.