## The Daily Star



in real doubt.'

keen on pairing Owen with Wayne

Rooney next season and he knows

Ferdinand's future at Old Trafford is

pre-season tour of the United States

and Asia without defenders Walter

Samuel and Jonathan Woodgate

but with want-away winger Luis

Figo. The Portuguese superstar's

future was in doubt with widespread

Samuel was to undergo a nose

operation while Woodgate, who

missed all last season through

injury, was continuing training under

the supervision of the club's physios.

The former Newcastle defender

Real play friendlies in Chicago

"Cricket was the last thing on our

"It does not matter whether it is

"Every sportsman likes to test his

Muralitharan was the world's

Australia zoomed ahead in the

intervening period and now starts

second Sri Lanka-West Indies Test

begins in Kandy -- with a world

two World Cups as a player in 1987

and 1999, replaced compatriot John

Dyson as Sri Lanka's coach in June

after being interviewed, and

rejected, by India in favour of Aussie

Lanka and the West Indies for a

one-day triangular series from July

Chappell's India will join Sri

batting legend Greg Chappell.

Moody, who helped Australia win

record tally of 583.

30.

reports he will be joining Liverpool.

Real Madrid leave Thursday for a

# 'Some people enjoy all the exposure but I never liked it'

## Football

#### FIFA.CON

Tired of terrorising goalkeepers, beating records and appearing on the front page of sports papers around the world, Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta decided to call time on his career in the relative peace and quiet of Qatar. FIFA.com caught up with the icon and Argentina's all-time leading scorer and chatted with him about his illustrious past and plans for the future.

Now 36. Batistuta was in relaxed mood as he revealed a largely unseen side to his character. A qualified pilot, near-professional scuba diver and self-confessed golf addict, he claims not to miss football. He still regrets not having been able to bow out with Argentina at the Olympics, however, and told FIFA.com, "I was never happy when I was playing. I always wanted more.

Question (Q): Gabriel, it is now three months since your retirement. How do you feel?

Answer (A): Great. I'd been thinking about retiring for a while, and the fact is I don't regret it at all. Now I can do the things I never could before. It wasn't an overnight decision - I'd been mulling it over for some time.

Q: There has been a lot of conjecture in the press, but what was the real reason for retiring?

A: My injury problems were getting worse, particularly my ankles, and I just found it harder and harder to motivate myself. I was getting fed up and just decided to put an end to it.

Q: Do you think you made the right decision in finishing your career in Qatar?

A: My family and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I'd never been there before, although I did go to check out some schools for my children. When I saw how good they were I didn't think twice about it. It's a different culture here, very different to everywhere I've been before. I like that, though, and I love new experiences.

Q: Is it true to say you were tired of the limelight?

A: It's all so professional now and I was getting a little tired of it. Some people enjoy all the exposure but I never liked it. I played football because I enjoyed it and wanted to make a living, reach the goals I'd set for myself. Fame was never part of it for me.

Q: And your plans for the future? ou missing home A: I'm taking a coaching course **Q:** You said not so long ago that run by the Argentine Football your career was a personal triumph Association and I'm studying hard. over the people who doubted you. More than anything else I'd like to find out what they teach managers,

Could you expand on that a little? A: Well, the fact is I never played

[laughs]. Seriously though, why not? One thing's for sure: if they ever did call me, I'd have to think long and

hard about it. Q:You have often said you are not a big football fan. Something of a

paradox, no? A: I know, but it's true. I could easily make a living doing something else. I really enjoy studying and reading, and I'm also a qualified pilot, but I wouldn't kill myself if I couldn't go and fly. It's the same with everything else. I'm virtually a professional scuba diver and I get a kick out of learning new things. I

either because there are no absolute truths. Not everything's black and white - there are plenty of grey areas too. Q: You left Argentina in 1992. Do

you miss it at all?

be honest, I couldn't care less what

Q: You scored all sorts of goals Which one do you remember most? A: That's a difficult question. There are so many I can't pick just one. Every goal has a story to it that people don't know. Some of them were pretty scrappy but were special to me because they followed an injury or something important in my life. I remember quite a few, and the ones for Argentina have a special

place in my heart. Q: Who did you most enjoy playing with?

A: It's hard to say. I was lucky to don't like arguing about football play with some great footballers like Rui Costa, Francesco Totti, and many more. With Abel Balbo everything seemed to click even though we didn't play too often together. We had a telepathic understanding.

the others think.

A: I've no idea [laughs]. I hope they say I was a good guy and a great professional who gave everything wherever he went. Goalscoring records mean nothing in comparison. When you think about it, I only scored those goals because I worked so hard at my game. The most important thing

when you hang your boots up is that you can look people in the face, and here's no question I can do that. Q: You have taken up golf. would imagine you would be happy

if you achieve ten percent of what you achieved in football.

A: I play a lot but not as much as I'd like. My football career may be over but I can carry on playing and enjoying golf until I'm 70. That's the difference, you see. When I was playing football I never enjoyed it that much, I was never happy ... if I scored two goals, I wanted a third, I always wanted more. Now it's all over I can look back with satisfac tion, but I never felt that ay when was plawying.

### The 'Beast' not moving LONDON

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has been dealt a hammer blow to his preparations for the new campaign after Sevilla striker Julio Baptista turned his back on a move to Highbury.

The Brazilian, dubbed 'Beast of Seville' for his physical presence, looked set to make the switch to England after confirming his desire join either the Gunners or to Manchester United

to Spain last week to finalise the deal, but it now seems all the hard work will come to nothing.

more season," he told the Daily Mail. "Then I will be able to gain dual nationality and become a European citizen. If I went to Arsenal now,

by Spanish giants Real Madrid and Barcelona, but they'll have to wait at least one more season before moving for the 23-year-old. Internet Source

A son of a former Pakistani cricket

captain and a daughter of India's

most wanted man are to marry in

Dubai on July 23, the groom's father

sparked intense interest across

south Asia, including in India where

the bride's father, Dawood Ibrahim,

has been accused of a wave of

bomb attacks in the city of Mumbai in

Dubai on July 23 followed by a

reception in Karachi in early

August," former Pakistani captain

"We will invite our relatives,

Miandad declined to comment

Ibrahim has not been seen in

public for years. India says he is

hiding in Karachi, but Pakistan

accused by the United States of

financing Islamic militants. The US

Treasury put him on a global terrorist

Ibrahim's daughter, Mahrukh

and Miandad's son, Junaid, met in

London where they are both study-

list, linking him to al Qaeda, in 2003.

when asked if Ibrahim would attend

friends and well-wishers. We have

"The marriage will be held in

1993 that killed 260 people.

Javed Miandad told Reuters.

nothing to hide," he said.

the wedding.

denies that

na

planned marriage.

News of the engagement has

Junaid Miandad **Starting afresh** weds on July 23 with Morientes REUTERS, Islamabad

said on Monday.

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez has described Fernando Morientes as 'like a new signing' and revealed he has high hopes for him this coming season.

AFP, Liverpool

Morientes netted twice in Liverpool's opening pre-season fixture at Wrexham on Saturday and looked sharp during the 45 minutes he was on the pitch.

The Spanish striker endured a frustrating time at Anfield since joining the Reds from Real Madrid during the January transfer window.

Prior to Saturday he'd netted just three goals in 14 games but Benitez was impressed with what he saw from him at the Racecourse Ground and remains a big admirer.

"He's almost like a new signing,' Benitez said.

"Last season he wasn't training for three or four months, so it was difficult when he came in because the pace here is higher than it is in Spain. Here it is more physical too.

"People say all the time that There's Claudio Caniggia and Diego football is the same in all the coun-Maradona too. How could I leave tries, but it's not true. Some players Q: Did it hurt being left out of the need four, five or six months to squad for the 2004 Olympics in adjust.

"He can play in the Champions A: That's water under the bridge League which is good news for us and I don't like looking back on and I hope he can score more goals

things. Of course, I would have for us in the league. loved to have been part of it. I've Benitez will have Morientes always admired sportspeople from Djibril Cisse and Milan Baros vying countries like Argentina because for striking positions next season.

weekend between the two clubs and Perez indicated on Sunday night the deal was very close to being rubberstamped. "He is 21 years old, but he is Arsenal chief David Dein flew out someone who behaves as if he was 45. His common sense is admirable," said Perez, "His calmness over this tense situation demonstrates

MADRID

Monday.

phone hook-up occurred over the

Along with Perez, Real chiefs

Antonio Garcia Ferreras (Communi-

cations), Carlos Martinez de

"I want to stay with Sevilla for one that we have gambled right in his signing. Jose Angel Sanchez (marketing),

would not be able to." Baptista was also being tracked

### Robinho could be Real's soon Football 'United boss Sir Alex Ferguson is Albornoz (Corporate), Manuel

Redondo (Board President) and Antonio Vázquez (club lawyer) were all on the phone to Brazil and Santos over the last 48 hours finalising details of Robinho's Real Madrid president Florentino Perez hopes to confirm the signing transfer, which could cost as much of Santos winger Robinho sometime as £18 million for the Spanish aiants. A flurry of negotiations via tele-

Meanwhile, Real are reportedly prepared to swap Michael Owen in exchange for Manchester United's Rio Ferdinand.

With Brazilian hot-shot Robinho Madrid-bound, Owen is deemed expendable by the Spanish giants, while Ferdinand's contract negotiations with United have reached an impasse. Apparently, £100,000-aweek isn't enough for Rio to live on. According to The People, 'The

was expected to be fit for the new Spanish giants want to swoop for eason. the United defender to solve a crisis of fit centre-halves and they and Los Angeles before heading for China, Japan and Thailand. believe his England team-mate Owen is the perfect bait. Internet Source

## WI's mission impossible

Cricket AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka begin an emotional Test series from Wednesday, the first at home since the tsunamis ravaged the island nation seven months ago, hoping their depleted West Indian rivals will join the party.

The protracted sponsorship row between the cricketers and officials has robbed the West Indies of almost all their big players, including the world's top-ranked batsman Brian Lara, for the two-Test series.

Captain Shivnarine Chanderpaul, a veteran of 86 Tests, is the only one in the 14-man touring party to have played more than 10 Tests. Six of them are absolute rookies.

"Chanderpaul and his cricketing babes face what appears to be a mission impossible," said respected West Indian cricket writer Tony Cozier

"The players are inexperienced and unprepared for the sudden challenge that has come their way.' Lara's absence is particularly galling for Sri Lankan fans, who fondly remember the brilliant left-

hander's astonishing 688 runs in just three Tests in 2001 despite a 3-0 romp by Sri Lanka. "My disappointment at not see-

ing Lara this time is bigger than an elephant," said Percy Abeysekera, Sri Lanka's most recognised and As well as being one of India's most wanted men, Ibrahim is

## Test matches

vocal cricket fanatic. "We don't want one-sided matches.

minds in December, but now we are The sponsorship dispute, keen to get on with the game," said described by Cozier as "a senseless Atapattu. and self-defeating squabble" denies Lara a chance to move the first Test or the 150th, we have to

closer to becoming the most sucdo our best. The team will be motivated enough even though we are cessful Test batsman of all time. disappointed we will not be playing With 10,818 runs from 117 Tests, Lara is only 356 runs short of the best West Indian team. Australian Allan Border's world record of 11,174 from 156 matches.

might against the best." Sri Lankan captain Marvan Atapattu admitted the absence of leading bowler with 532 wickets Lara and other regulars will dampen when he injured his shoulder during a home Test against South Africa in the excitement of taking part in a landmark series for his team. August last year. Spin rival Shane Warne of

The first Test at the Sinhalese sports club here will not only be Sri Lanka's 150th match, but also launch Australian Tom Moody as the Ashes series against England on July 21 -- the same day the national coach and mark prolific spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's return after 11 months from a shoulder injury.

The series will also enable the cricket-crazy nation to put aside memories of the tsunami disaster.

Some 31,000 were killed and millions made homeless when giant waves struck Sri Lanka on December 26 last year and damaged beyond repair the Galle international cricket stadium on the south-west coast.

Sri Lanka called off an ongoing tour of New Zealand as news of the tragedy broke and waited till April to return there for two rescheduled

## Lee Tests selectors

## Cricket

AFP, London Miandad brushed aside the Brett Lee did his chances of a Test controversy surrounding the recall no harm at all by taking five

return to the 'home of cricket' for the first Ashes Test of a five-game campaign.

And Lee could well feature instead "I'm not looking too far ahead but if I

sionally Stuart MacGill providing spin support. But in 11 days' time the tourists

out but I put that right behind me now.

I'm not worried about looking to the future anymore. I'm just focused on what I am doing right now," said the 28-year-old New South Wales quick.

"I was pretty disappointed I missed

but I'm not desperate to start coach ing right away, not in the immediate future at least. Right now, I'd rather take an organisational role in a club or company.

Q: So you would like the Argentina job at some point?

A: Look, if they rang tomorrow and asked me to take over, I'd do it it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I can't really see it happening, though

hey don't get much support and e. I've always giver everything for every team I've have to sacrifice so much just to played for so that the ordinary fans, take part. We forget about so many the people in the stadium, could of them for the four years in identify with me. I owe a lot to the between. They make the effort fans of Roma, Fiorentina and because they love sport. I would Argentina. They were the reason I have loved to have been there with played, my inspiration. I always them worked hard to improve my game, to

**GABRIEL BATISTUTA** 

them out?

Athens?

A: All the time. My family and

friends are there, all my people.

Luckily, though, I've always man-

aged to settle down wherever I've

been. I've never had any problems

making friends, but that doesn't stop

Q: What do you think people will prove to myself that I could be one of say about you to your children in the the best for as long as possible. To future?

Cisse joined the Anfield club last summer for 14 million pounds but only played 15 games before breaking his leg. He retuned to play in the Champions League final win over AC Milan.

And Benitez will be hoping for a fully-committed Harry Kewell who had groin surgery in May after an injury-plagued season.

### Ganga says it too

#### FROM PAGE 12

"But as captain," Ganga said, "you need to express yourself, you need to encourage your players, you need to show selflessness. In that aspect, he could be a little bit better. But I understand that he has got a lot to take on as well, so I don't really necessarily look forward to him coming to me and sharing his words of advice. Nobody would go to him, but generally speak ing he has been good to me and I do hope I can learn a lot more from him." . Though Ganga felt that

Chanderpaul was more of a team player, he was concerned about his communication skills and the influence he could have on the side. "Shiv has got a very introspective sort of personality," he said. "He doesn't speak that much and he is more laid back. As a leader, communication is important and I think Shiv struggles in that sort of area, although he is a good team player

"I think he has got a little more strength in terms of that aspect but in terms of communication. he falters. It's very difficult to lead guys when you can't really let them know exactly what you want them to do, and motivate and lead them as a true leader would."

### It's Ponting after

### FROM PAGE 12

Martyn not out Symonds not out Extras: (lb-2, w-4, nb-4) Total: (For 3 wkts in 44.2 overs)224 Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-96, 3-216 Did not bat: Clarke, Hussey, Lee Gillespie, Kasprowicz, Haddin (substitute for McGrath) ́М Bowler ο R w 0 43 6.2 Gough 1 S Jones 5 0 29 0 Harmison 10 0 48 0 Flintoff 0 44 8 38 Giles 10 0 Collingwood 20 0 0 5 Result: Australia won by seven wickets. Man-of-the-match: Brett Lee.

"It is our personal matter and we wholeheartedly have accepted the girl as our daughter-in-law," he said.

### Bad stalemate FROM PAGE 12

Ujjal committed an unpardonable mistake in the 63rd minute when he skimmed the upright from a handshaking distance. Joy spoiled the easiest chance of the day, pushing a rebound over the bar after Piru had half-cleared substitute Anwar's powerful drive in the 74th minute. Red cards: Joy (Abahani, 89th minute) and Amirul (Farashgani, 84th minute) Yellow cards: Ibrahim, Tipu, Farhad

(Abahani) and Scylla, Adafa (Farashganj) TEAMS

ABAHANI: Anwarul, Obaidur, Pradeep, Ngassa, Lajuk, Zahid (Parvez), Joy, Ibrahim, Ujjal, Farhad

Faisal, Scylla, Khaled, Arup, Kabir, Adafa, Amirul, Felix (Johnny) and Palash (Walid).

### Shep prepares

year umpiring career came in 2001, when England hosted Pakistan at Mushtaq took four wickets in the second innings to win the game for Pakistan and level the series but three of his victims were dismissed with no-balls. Shepherd was so distraught over missing Saqlain's overstepping that he considered He continued to be held in high esteem, though. The International

Shepherd, who still lives in the village of Instow in Devon where he was born, turned down the offer,

any fuss made of him.

wickets as Australia strolled to a sevenwicket one-day international win against England at Lord's here Sunday.

Fast bowler Lee finished with five for 41 as the world champions held England to a modest 223 for eight.

In reply, Australia captain Ricky Ponting made 111 as Australia won with nearly six overs to spare. But it was man-of-the-match Lee's

performance with the ball that set up a victory that saw the world champions level the best of three-game series at 1-1 ahead of Tuesday's Oval decider. Despite his standing as one of the world's quickest bowlers, Lee hasn't played Test cricket for over a year since appearing against India in Sydney in

January last year. Instead he has been sat on the sidelines while veteran Glenn McGrath. Jason Gillespie and the revitalised Michael Kasprowicz monopolised the three front-line pace spots with Shane Warne and occa-

35 Charon's

river

dance

40 Observe

41 Hibernia

be or

discor-

dantly

38 Outdo

43 "To

45 Ring

47 Links

51 North

Sea

feeder

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54 Measur-

55 Gratuity

56 Duel

tool

57 Doctor's

income

Solution time: 21 mins.

58 Chapeau

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12 Ontario

13 Bud's

partner

14 Bouquet

holder

type

18 Gour-

19 Failed

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e.g.

23 Without

delay

26 Surfing

site

28 Hotelier

31 Utter

Helmsley

defeat

33 French

noble

(Abbr.)

22 Alphabet,

21 Heir,

17 Genuine

mand's

pastime

miserably

15 Bed

neighbor

5 Keep

8 Open

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

59 Aats

DOWN

2 Met

Lapdog,

perhaps

melody

behavin'

cohort

3 "--- Mis

4 Kelly's

5 In a

row

atv.

7 Airs for

pairs

8 Routes

winnings

competi-

10 Connors'

tor

11 On pens.

16 January

forecast

9 Big

6 Florist's

of Gillespie whose lacklustre start to the tour continued Sunday with seven wicketless overs costing an expensive 42 runs.

Gillespie's performance was in contrast to that of his fellow seamers who, between them, reduced England to 45 for four in 16 overs after Kasprowicz made the initial breakthrough to get rid of Andrew Strauss.

"It's always great to take early wickets," said Lee, whose figures were the best by an Australian in a one-day international at Lord's, told reporters afterwards.

"On a personal note, I trained very hard yesterday (Saturday) in the nets and worked on some different balls. To take five wickets at Lord's is pretty special.'

Lee, who in 37 Tests has taken 139 wickets at a shade over 31 apiece, also starred during the one-dayers during the tour of New Zealand earlier this year only to be omitted from the Test side

20 Comcast

rival

23 Expert

24 Billy Ray

Cyrus

series

bigwig

other

hand

Guv'

Bill

30 Dump

32 Sets

34 Idea

37 Zilch

39 Indigen

42 Under,

44 Potato,

e.g.

Fox-

48 Ready

49 Dance

50 Views

53 Spy org

poetically

45 Comedian

worthy

46 Sheltered

for the

picking

lesson

as a

goal

"Science

from the

payroll

29 TV's

27 On the

25 Hive

get the call to play in the 1st XI come Lord's on July 21 I'll be over the moon, to say the least."

Ponting added: "I thought he (Lee) bowled as well as I've seen him in the one-day series in New Zealand and unfortunately for him didn't get picked for the Test side.

"But right from the start of this tour he's done everything he can and I know he'll keep doing that. He's bowl-

ing fast and he's getting early wickets. "He works as hard as anybody on his own game. He's giving himself the best chance and that's all he can

do. Ponting said victory had come at an important time on a tour where Australia had already lost two onedayers against England, including a nine-wicket reverse in Thursday's series opener at Headingley and suffered the embarrassment of being beaten by minnows Bangladesh during the Triangular tournament.

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45	46		1	$\top$	$\uparrow$		47		1	48	49	5
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54	1				55		1		56	$\uparrow$		$\dagger$
57	+	1	+		58	+	1-		59	+	+	$^{+}$

MNZDB GAAEZPT OLRRBH,
U TZHD, XLZSB ZHEBW
US U VBDDAM, RDUPSBW
U X L Z G N B A P N Z O V U G B. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU LIKE COASTLINES THAT CONTINUE FOR MILES, MICHT THAT MAKE YOU A LONGSUMOREMAN?

MIGHT THAT MAKE YOU A LONGSHOREMAN? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals Q

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.

FROM PAGE 12 The name was coined in the mistaken belief that Nelson had one eve, one arm and one leg. In fact he had two legs but the superstition has stuck. The low point of Shepherd's 24-Old Trafford. Off spinner Saqlain

39 5 10 quitting the game.

Cricket Council, were willing to make an exception to their own rule of neutral umpires to allow Shepherd to end his career by umpiring in the first Ashes Test at Lord's next month.

arguing the game was about the players and saying he did not want

(Anwar) and Tipu. FARASHGANJ: Zia (Piru), Apu,