# Watch out for the robot star!

Football

Robots from 31 countries went head to metallic head Wednesday in football and other competitions with a goal of triumphing against human soccer champions -- after 50 years

Researchers in ties and people in uniforms matching their machines stood alongside the robots which vied for titles in the weeklong RoboCup 2005 being held in the western Japanese city of Osaka.

"By 2050, a team of fully autonomous humanoid robot soccer players shall win a soccer game, complying with the official FIFA rules, against the winner of the most recent World Cup of Human Soccer," a statement by organizers

The soccer division has five leagues, with biped robots kicking the ball in the humanoid league. Aibos, the robot dog developed by Japanese electronics giant Sonv. took to the pitch in the four-legged

The robot that wins the humanoid competition will take home a crystal cup designed by French luxury fashion house Louis Vuitton.

Among other competitions, teams face off in RoboCup Rescue in which they show the search and rescue skills of their machines such as the speed and stability of going down stairs.

A total of 333 teams from 31 countries are taking part in the annual event, which has previously been staged in Japan as well as Australia, Italy, France, Portugal, South Korea, Sweden and the United States.

Next year's host will be the German city of Bremen.

The event was organized by researchers and sponsored by Japanese government agencies and private-sector companies.

Companies used the opportunity to showcase their robots on the sidelines. Japan's Citizen Watch displayed solar-powered microrobots playing soccer.



Japan's Citizen Watch employee Yukimi Takahashi displays solar-powered micro-robots playing football. The company developed the micro robot with a unit of solar powered watch for the demonstration at the RoboCup 2005 in

Osaka. Over 400 teams from 35 countries are participating in the five-day competition that kicked off yesterday.

## Warne saddened

elsewhere or weigh up my options when I finish," said Warne, who confirmed this would be his last Ashes tour of England.

"Things happen. You've got to take the good with the bad and move on," said Warne, Test cricket's leading wicket-taker with 583 wick-

During his year-long drugs ban throughout 2003, Warne became a regular member of the Nine commentary team, winning praise for his efforts behind the microphone and was set to join the station's roster of other Australian greats Richie Benaud, Mark Taylor, Ian Chappell and Bill Lawry on retirement.

Earlier this week Warne took responsibility for the collapse of his marriage but stressed Wednesday it would not affect his performance in the Ashes Tests, which start at Lord's next week, where Australia are looking for a ninth successive series win

"My major focus is on the Ashes series. One of my strengths as a cricketer over the years has been the ability to overcome any obstacles. Whatever's been put in front of me, I think I've always responded pretty well.



The Olympic hymn, played when the Olympic flag is raised, was composed by Spyros Samaras and the words added by Kostis Palamas. The Olympic hymn was first played at the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens but wasn't declared the official hymn





Daren Ganga (West Indies batsman) "He is not a team player." On Brian Lara.

# **England should select** Pietersen: Warne

Cricket

REUTERS, London

Shane Warne says England pose a threat in the Ashes for the first time since 1989 but should make room for Kevin Pietersen in their top order if they want to challenge Australia's domi-

The lea-spinner told a news confer ence in London: "This time, England have got a chance because they have some match-winners, which I don't think they have had over the years.

"If Kevin Pietersen plays, you probably have three or four matchwinners in their side. I expect him to play in the Test series. I think Kevin Pietersen should play. They should make room for him

"He is the most destructive player in England, him and (all rounder) Andrew Flintoff.

"England were unbeaten last year, you have a side that can compete for the Ashes for the first time since 1989." Pietersen is a fixture in England's

one-day side, with an average of 87

scored at almost a run a ball, but has yet to win a Test cap. He and Warne are teammates at English county side

South Africa-born Pietersen, 25, is vying with Graham Thorpe for England's number five spot in the Ashes team. Pietersen is seen as a much more attacking player while Thorpe, 10 years his senior, tends to anchor the middle order.

Warne said the Thorpe was a wonderful player with a good record against Australia -- he averages 45.74 against them, compared to his overall Test average of 44.66 -- but added: "I would rather Thorpe plays because I have got him out more times than anvone in England teams.

Thorpe gives them some variety, a left-hander in the middle order. He has played 100 Tests, sometimes you need experience in these sort of

games.' Warne suggested England might drop a fast bowler to fit the two players in. "Why can't they play Thorpe at five, Pietersen at six, Flintoff at seven ...

who says you can't fit them all in?" Australia have won the last eight Ashes series, with England's last victory in 1986-87. The first of the five Tests starts at Lord's on July 21.

"I've never played in a losing Ashes series," Warne said. "This is probably my last tour in England, I'm not going to be here in four years time. I'll be 40.

"I'd like to go out on a high and there are three, four, five other guys also on their last (Ashes) tour.

"Australia against England is what it's all about ... it always brings out the best in every Australia side I've played

Warne said Australia's come-frombehind victory in the one-day series against England, which they secured with wins at Lord's on Sunday and The Oval on Tuesday, meant the side were coming into form at just the right time.

"It's a good sign to have won those two games." he said. "It shows the desire and passion is still there.

"It's something we pride ourselves on over the years ... when there's a game up for grabs, or it's one-all in the finals and there's one to play, generally. 19 times out of 20, we've won those games.

Cricket

AFP, London

NatWest Challenge series 2-1.

Set 229 to win, the world champions cruised to their target with more than 15 overs to spare.

Adam Gilchrist, scoring his first one-day international hundred in over a year, finished on 121 not out and Damien Martyn was unbeaten on 24.

Gilchrist faced just 101 balls with two sixes and 17 fours.

In eight one-day matches between the teams this season, including the one-off Twenty20, England and Australia had each won three with one no-result and one tie,

the NatWest Series final 10 days ago. But it was Australia, bidding for a ninth successive Ashes series win, who had the momentum having levelled the series at Lord's on

them early on and to peel those runs off with more than 15 overs to go and only two wickets down. That's a very big and comprehensive win, Australia captain Ricky Ponting said

defeat by saying: "On Thursday, everyone was saying the momentum was with England. I certainly didn't believe that and I certainly don't believe the momentum swung towards Australia.

"One-day cricket is a totally differ-

Once more it was Australia's bowlers who created the platform for victory by causing a top order collapse that this time reduced England to 93 for six.

Then Kevin Pietersen, doing his prospects of appearing in the first Test at Lord's on Thursday week no harm, struck a rapid 74 and together with Vikram Solanki put on 93 in 95

"He's certainly given the selectors a headache," Vaughan said of South Africa-born Pietersen

Solanki, the first active batting substitute in a one-day international, made 53 not out off 63 balls with five

Previously out of touch fast bowler Jason Gillespie led the Australia attack with three for 44.

England, a bowler light after Solanki replaced Simon Jones, were powerless to prevent Australia getting off to a flying start as openers Gilchrist

and Hayden put on 91 in 93 balls. Boundaries from the left-handers rained down on England with Stephen Harmison, whose 9.5 overs

cost 81 runs, bearing the brunt. Darren Gough ended the stand with his third ball back when he had Hayden caught behind for 31 in front of a 23,000 capacity crowd.

Gilchrist went to a hundred with a single off Andrew Flintoff and celebrated his 11th one-day international century -- his first since reaching three figures against Zimbabwe in January 2004 at Hobart -- and celebrated by repeatedly punching the

Final scoreboard in the third and final one-day international between England and Australia at The Oval on

ENGLAND: 228 for 7 in 50 overs (Pietersen 74, Solanki 53 not out, Strauss 36; Gillespie 3-44, Kasprowicz 2-46) **AUSTRALIA** 

Hayden c G Jones b Gough Ponting st G Jones b Giles Martyn not out Extras: (lb-2, w-4, nb-4) 10 Total: (For 2 wkts in 34.5 overs)229 Fall of wickets: 1-91, 2-185 Did not bat: Symonds, Clarke, Hussey, Lee, Gillespie, Kasprowicz, Katich (substituting for McGrath) **Bowler** М

0 81 Harmison 9.5 37 Gough 0 0 34 Flintoff Giles 10 0 64 Collingwood 2 0 11 wickets and win three-match

Man-of-the-match: Adam Gilchrist. Player-of-the-series: Ricky Ponting.

## Robinho desperate

Brazilian international Robinho insisted Tuesday that he is ready to give up the millions that are due to him financially in order to secure a move to Real Madrid.

The 21-year-old Santos striker is desperate for a move to the Spanish capital but his Brazilian club have refused an offer from Real.

And Robinho said that he is willing to waive the estimated seven million euros (\$8.5 million) which would be due to him. "If I have to give up what's due to

problem," he told radio here. "I'm young and have all my career ahead The player's lawyer Wagner Ribeiro added: "Robinho wants to be freed so much that he said that. It's a sign of desperation. I've spo-

his rights. Ribeiro, meanwhile, denied reports that Real Madrid had ncreased their offer.

ken to him and he wants to give up

"The last conversation that we had with Real Madrid date from July 3. The offer remains the one that everyone is aware of - 21 million euros (\$25.6 million)

Santos president Marcelo Teixeira is adamant that with Robinho under contract until 2008 any club that wants to sign him will have to meet a \$50 million penalty clause for the player.

Teixeira has already said he will free Robinho after the 2006 World

As a sign of protest Robinho -whose mother was kidnapped but subsequently rescued earlier this year -- is refusing to train with his club, insisting that he can no longer get his head around playing in

## Ronaldo, Zidane donate \$120,000 to Haiti

AFP, Port-au-Prince

International football stars Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane made a 120,000dollar donation to humanitariar

The money will be spent in Cite Soleil, a shantytown of about 300,000 people in Port-au-Prince, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) announced Tuesday.

It will go toward sewerage projects and improving health and education. "I was particularly struck by the

dignity of the Haitians and their clear desire to live in decent conditions despite the difficulties they face, Brazilian striker Ronaldo was quoted as saying in a UNDP statement.

Ronaldo took part in a friendly soccer international between Haiti and Brazil in Port-au-Prince in August

## Abahani fined

FROM PAGE 12 The second leg of the Premier League will resume on July 21 provided the first leg ends as per schedule on July 17. The mid-season transfers will be held in between.

### New WI faces FROM PAGE 12

two deliveries from Malinga for boundaries.

With encouragement from Chanderpaul at the other end. Ramdin settled in to hit nine boundaries during a sparkling sixth-wicket stand of 79 runs in 84 minutes with his captain.

Ramdin's heroic knock ended shortly before tea when he played on to a delivery from Gayan Wijekoon.

Sri Lanka brought in rookie allrounder Wijekoon to form a threeman seam attack alongside Vaas and Malinga.

The West Indies gave first Test caps to Marshall, Morton and Ramdin.

**SCOREBOARD** 

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at the Sinhalese Sports Club on

WEST INDIES: First innings Joseph Ibw b Wijekoon Marshall Ibw b Vaas Morton b Muralitharan Deonarine c Sangakkara b Malinga Chanderpaul not out D Smith Ibw b Malinga Ramdin b Wijekoon Banks not out Extras: (lb-6, nb-13) Total: (For 6 wkts in 82 overs) 271 Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-72, 3-95, 4-109, 5-113, 6-192 To bat: Powell, Best, Lawson 0 M R W

Bowler 13 26 Vaas Malinga 0 67 Wijekoon 10 49 Muralitharan 29 8 56 Herath 52 Jayasuriya

Toss: West Indies. Umpires: Simon Taufel (Australia) and Nadeem Ghauri (Pakistan).



Real Madrid's Brazilian superstar Ronaldo (L) listens to coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo during a training session in Madrid on Wednesday, Real trained for the last time vesterday before leaving for a tour in Mexico and the U.S.

# Real on silver screen

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

A feature film about Real Madrid proves the nine-times European champions remain, despite recent on-pitch disappointments, world football's most glamorous club according to club president Florentino Perez. "Today is a very special day for

me," Perez said when "Real, The Movie" was unveiled to the media at the club's Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Tuesday. "Ever since I became president

five years ago I had hoped we would be able to make an official film about what is the most important club in the world. "Football and cinema share the realm of emotions and I'm proud that Real Madrid is breaking new ground

by becoming the first football club

that has inspired a film of this type. "We hope that this film will not just be enjoyed by our fans but by everyone who loves football." David Beckham, Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and Raul -- four of the club's galactico superstars -- take

that weaves together documentary footage and fiction in five short stories designed to show Real's global appeal Beckham is the subject of a story

is having problems with her envious boyfriend because of her obsession with the England captain. Zidane is the idol of a Sengalese boy who yearns for the arrival of his father to hear an account of Real's

about a Japanese teenage girl who

latest match even though he has never seen the team play. In a story set in New York, a teenage girl suffers an injury playing soccer similar to one sustained by Ronaldo and in Madrid the love of he club and its captain Raul is the one

thing that inspires and motivates the

Real Madrid great Alfredo di Stefano, the Argentine player who led the club to five successive triumphs in the European Cup, makes an appearance in a story set n the Venezuelan capital Caracas.

students of a local school.

Madrid fan, dismissed suggestions that the film was little more than a cynical marketing ploy.

Director Borja Manso, a Real

world." he said. "But what really interested me was what makes Real so special that they can reach out and inspire so many people across the globe regardless of social sta-

tus, age or sex. "In the two days while I was filming in the poorest areas of Senegal I counted 59 people wearing Real Madrid shirts, to them Zidane was almost a god. That tells you something about the appeal of the club." The film, whose budget of six million euros (\$7.31 million) is equivalent to the salary paid by the club to Galacticos such as Beckham and Zidane, will be premiered at the Bernabeu on August 25 before going on release in Spain and other European countries.

It will also be presented during the club's tour of Mexico, the United States and Asia which gets underway on July 14.

Real Madrid, who have not won a major trophy in the last two seasons, will be aiming to unseat arch-rivals and reigning champions Barcelona when the league season gets underway at the end of August.

## NZ want ICC to clarify policy on Zimbabwe

REUTERS, Sydney

The New Zealand government has asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) to clarify their position on Zimbabwe after cricket's world governing body said they had no plans to exclude the troubled African

country from future tours. New Zealand's Foreign Minister Phil Goff had asked the ICC to change their policy on Zimbabwe because of concerns about human rights abuses under President Robert Mugabe.

Goff wanted New Zealand to be allowed to cancel next month's trip to Zimbabwe without facing the sort of hefty fine could leave New Zealand Cricket in financial ruin and jeopardise their chances of co-hosting the 2011 World Cup with Australia.

(ICC) president Ehsan Mani said on Tuesday that there would be no change to the Future Tours Programme (FTP) regulations and it was up to the politicians to decide whether their players toured. Goff welcomed Mani's reply but

International Cricket Council

said he wanted the ICC to clarify whether a resolution constituted a "clear directive" or if new laws had to be passed.

37 Brief time

39 "- -hoo!"

preceder

county

group?

45 Support

40 Omega

41 Florida

CROSSWORD

**ACROSS** 

affair

4 Easter

entree

8 Stuff up

12 Sphere

13 Lotion

## First Saudi one-dayer postponed

REUTERS, Riyadh

Wednesday.

Saudi Arabia's first high profile cricket match, a one-day game between a Pakistan XI and an International XI. has been postponed to make way for a soccer match, an organiser said on

Riyadh had been put back to July 29th so a soccer final between Al-Shabab and Al-Hilal could be switched from Jeddah. He said the other two cricket

Ahmed Khaja said Friday's open-

ing match at the King Fahd Stadium in

matches were scheduled to go ahead as planned on July 21 and 22 in Jeddah Former Pakistan cricket captain

Rashid Latif said on Tuesday the

games, which will be played on artificial turf at the height of the Arabian summer, were aimed at developing and promote the game in Saudi Cricket is of negligible interest to Saudi Arabia's native population but is

closely followed by millions of expatri-

ate workers in the Gulf state from

cricket-mad nations like India,

Pakistan and Bangladesh. Inzamam-ul-Haq will lead the Pakistan XI which is expected to include Yousuf Youhana, Younis Khan, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq and Shoaib Malik.

By Eugene Sheffer

25 Adoles-

26 Con

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## Matlub heads NFL committee

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Abdul Matlub Ahmed and Manzoor Hossain Malu retained their posts as chairman and secretary of the tournament committee of Nitol Tata National Football League for the

2005-06 season. Matlub Ahmed is the chairman of Nitol Tata, which is sponsoring the National Football League (NFL) for the third time while Malu is deputy general secretary of the

Bangladesh Football Federation. The competition will begin in September with the qualifying stages across the country while the final round is expected to be held in

Dhaka in December. The entry for the qualifiers ends

## Vaughan out

FROM PAGE 12 Vaughan, 30, will miss Saturday's

match at Headingley in a bid to ensure he remains fully fit for next week's first Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's. "We need to ensure that there is no further deterioration to the groin strain that kept Michael out of two matches in the NatWest Series," said England

cal officer Dr Peter Gregory. "We are confident, however, that with rest Michael will be fully fit for the first npower Test at Lord's next week."against Leicestershire starting

and Wales Cricket Board chief medi-

CRYPTOOUIP

PY J UMAMGPMVB KJUKBANG

TNQJFN J CBEQRMJUJOEBA,

BRMVOI RN TN UJFNI

CGNAAE TME YGNVI? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE OLD BRITISH NOBLEMAN WAS QUITE HEALTHY. HE ALWAYS

HAD THREE SQUIRE MEALS A DAY. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals G 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.

# Gilchrist does it for Aus

Australia won the deciding one-day international against England by eight wickets at The Oval here Tuesday to take the three-match

Sunday. "That's as close to perfect as oneday cricket gets for us. To restrict

afterwards. However, ahead of next week's first Test at Lord's, Ponting added: "I won't read too much into the one-day game leading into the Test series."

Meanwhile Vaughan played down

ent concept.

balls for the seventh wicket.

**SCOREBOARD** 

Gilchrist not out

0 0 Result: Australia won by eight

15 SRI LANKA: Atapattu, Jayasuriya, Jayawardena, Sangakkara, Samara-weera, Dilshan, Vaas, Muralitharan, Malinga, Wijekoon,

### 48 Water additive 28 Wander mission 14 Carry on source 6 "Ostenta-29 Old 15 Peak 50 Othello 17 Pre-diploma hurdle 51 Compe 7 Sake 32 "Beauty 18 High 8 Coffee 52 Favorable regard enhancer cast 19 Longoria 9 Remiss vote of "Des-53 Goblet 10 Eggs 33 Parade 11 Jewel perate feature House 54 Sword 16 Kat-35 USNA handle 21 Arafat's 55 Golfer 36 Trumland 20 ---22 Incite populi DOWN 23 Falco of 26 Hair 38 English holder 1 Heavy "The

29 Hockey reading Sopranos" 39 team Solution time: 25 mins. 30 Anony John 31 Beatnik's "all right" 32 Parcel 33 Flame 34 Carte

42 Scruff 43 Daughter 44 Slaughter 45 "En-46 Maze lead-in 35 Seine fluid 47 Census 36 Not blue,