### Thumbs down in China

REUTERS, Beijing

Real Madrid earned millions in its four-day tour of China, but its lacklustre performance and the absence of David Beckham may have cost the team some of its many Chinese fans, the China Daily reported on Monday.

The Spanish giants netted as much as \$4 million dollars in appearance fees in China, including 5 million yuan (\$616,000) for a five-minute free kick competition in the eastern city of Tianjin, the newspaper said.

England captain Beckham did not play in Real's rain-soaked 3-2 win over Chinese side Beijing Guo'an on Saturday because of a hamstring injury sustained during a tour match in the United States last week

"Many female spectators came to watch their idol (Beckham) rather than the match itself and were forced to leave the stadium in frustration,' the newspaper said.

Zhang Ran, an 18-year-old fan, said, "The organisers should have told us that Beckham would miss the match. It's like we have been cheated.

Despite the enormous hype behind Real's visit, the 70,000capacity Beijing Workers' Stadium was only just over half full for the

Other Real stars like Ronaldo, Michael Owen and Zinedine Zidane came off the field in the second half.

In a post-match Internet survey, 62 percent of Chinese fans said they would not support Real if the team returned to China and over one quarter said they were bored by the water-logged game

Real Madrid have flown to Japan to play on Monday and Wednesday and will wrap up the money-spinning tour with a friendly in Bangkok on

#### Muralitharan

FROM PAGE 12					
Sangakkara not out			1	57	
Jayawardena b Lawson				43	
Samaraweera c Ramdin b Lawson0					
Dilshan c Morton b Banks				49	
Wijekoon b Powell				12	
Vaas b Banks				19	
Herath not out				15	
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-9, w-6)				25	
Total: (For 7 wkts decl in 107 overs)					
375					
Fall of wickets:	1-55, 2	-57,	3-155	5, 4-	
155, 5-264, 6-278, 7-321					
Bowler	0	М	R	W	
Powell	28	4	89	2	
Lawson	29	1	104	3	

84 3 Best 47 Banks 13 Deonarine Morton 15 1 13 Chanderpaul WEST INDIES: Second innings Marshall Ibw b Malinga Ramdass c Jayawardena b Muralitharan 23 Morton Ibw b Muralitharan

Chanderpaul c Jayawardena b Herath Joseph c Jayawardena b Muralitharan Deonarine b Muralitharan Ramdin b Muralitharan Banks c Sangakkara b Muralitharan1 Powell c Javawardena b Muralitharan Best b Muralitharan Lawson not out Extras: (b-4. lb-2. nb-5. w-2) Total: (All out in 41.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-38, 3-49, 4-49, 5-77, 6-105, 7-111, 8-119, 9-131

Wijekoon 8 Muralitharan 16.2 4 46 Herath 2 29 Result: Sri Lanka won by 240 runs and take two-Test series 2-0 Man-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara. Man-of-the-series: Chaminda

Malinga

12

2 48



CHECKED! Ronaldo (C) is blocked by two Tokyo Verdy 1969 defenders at Tokyo Stadium on yesterday.

## Verdy make a Real mess

Football

Spanish powerhouses Real Madrid suffered a shock 3-0 defeat to struggling J-League club Tokyo Verdy in the third leg of their fourcountry football friendly series on Monday.

The two-time world club champions looked good at the start with English star David Beckham shooting over the bar in the fifth minute.

But just a minute later Tokyo Verdy's Daigo Kobayashi netted to open the scoring.

surprise the visitors by often intercepting their opponents passes and Takuya Yamada set up Brazilian

Yamada scored his second of the match with a diving header from Kobayashi's corner to make it 3-0 in

striker Washington's goal in the 26th

position in the J-League, it was sweet revenge for their 4-0 loss to Real a year ago Real coach Vanderlei Luxembourgo

For Verdy, struggling in 17th

blamed tiredness for their surprise "We couldn't play our normal game because of fatigue caused by

a long trip, and we are not in good

condition," said Luxembourgo

"Because of nothing but fatigue everybody has been worn out ... The best weapon of our team is our strategy and we couldn't use it," he

"We also lost two goals in China on the wet pitch and we scored three goals to win it 3-2. But today, when we were down 2-0 in the first half. felt we couldn't play our usual

The Spanish team, having won their three games 3-1, 2-0 and 3-2 in the United States and China, will play another J-League team Jubilo Iwata on Wednesday before moving to Thailand for their last match on

scored three and four and that's

three has to get runs. I didn't get

them in this match, but I've been

in this position before and I'll

And England coach Duncan

Fletcher insisted the Yorkshire

batsman could bounce back come

the second Test at Edgbaston

before so why can't he do it again?

We had a wicket at Lord's that

only two bowlers I know in the

world could use effectively and

the other one was Shaun Pollock,"

bowled outstandingly well. You

don't get the amount of wickets he

does without having a bit of class

before and he's a class batter. The

Australians admitted last time that

they struggled to get him out and I

think he's got the ability to come

clinic under the supervision of West

Indies great Andy Roberts. Although

there is nothing else to know from

him I still think he can still assist the

young players," said the Narail

tearaway, who was satisfied with his

His new-ball partner Tapash

"At my age there are hardly any scope to change my action. At best

what he can do is correct minor faults. I think Karppinen is doing an

excellent job for us," said the right-

welcomed the chance to work under

problems like how to bowl to a left-

hander. I think we can get valuable

But young Nazmul Hossain

"He will help us to deal with small

Meanwhile, Whatmore had his

hands full running the camp as

physio Paul Close and Karppinen

were given permission to fulfil their

minute counter-attack was cleared

off the line by Lajuk. Cameroonian

centre-back Marshall's inspired

defending also rescued Abahani

from humiliation in the dying

moments when he made another

goalline save after Arambagh substi-

tute Rintu placed the ball past stand-

(Abahani) and Ramjan (Arambagh).

ABAHANI: Nizam, Obadur,

Pradeep, Marshall, Lajuk, Zahid,

Ujjal, Selim (Tushar), Wali, Ibrahim

ARAMBAGH: Shakil, Dulal

(Ghansah), Akram, Juku, Russell,

Khalil (Rintu), Imrul, Morshed, Ritu

Referee: Abdul Hannan.

Yellow cards: Obaidur, Tushar

back and get a lot more runs."

We have

bowling in England.

arm paceman.

echoed similar sentiments.

a specialist bowling coach.

tips from him (Roberts).'

Abahani

FROM PAGE 12

in keeper Nizam.

**TEAMS** 

and Anwar

and Patrick

FROM PAGE 12

"Michael has come back

"He's scored runs against them

"Against Australia the number

not good enough.

come through it.

starting August 4.

Fletcher said.

## McGrath after Vaughan "I batted at number three and

### Cricket

AFP, London

Ricky Ponting has promised Michael Vaughan more Glenn McGrath-inflicted misery during the Ashes series after the champion fast bowler dismissed the England captain cheaply during Australia's conclusive 239-run first Test win here at Lord's.

McGrath bowled Vaughan for just three in England's first innings 155 when home hopes were high after they'd dismissed Australia for

Vaughan, who averaged over 63 with three hundreds during the last Ashes series in Australia in 2002-03 when he was an opening not a number three batsman, managed just seven runs in the match after again losing his off-stump, this time to Brett Lee, for four in the second innings.

But it is man-of-the-match McGrath, who finished with figures of nine for 82, whom Australia skipper Ponting believes is bestplaced to target Vaughan and so demoralise England, just as the great West Indies teams of the 1980s did when they went after the opposition captain.

"He played superbly against us last time but he wasn't captain," Ponting told reporters after Australia

won with a day to spare to extend their unbeaten Test record at Lord's to 18 matches since their last loss in "I think we bowled exceptionally

well to him in this game. We didn't give him any easy runs when he first came out and Glenn was probably the main reason for that. "I whipped Glenn back in the

attack when Michael came out in the second innings. I don't think he likes facing him to tell the truth. "In the one-day games I had the feeling Glenn was over him as

well. I can see McGrath bowling a lot more to Vaughny as the summer goes on." Meanwhile 35-year-old paceman McGrath, who in the course of the match became only the

wickets, said: "If you get on the captain then it can have an effect on the rest of the team." McGrath, who dismissed former England skipper Michael Atherton a record 19 times in Tests, added: "It's not Vaughan's

fourth bowler to take 500 Test

technique, it's his confidence. "You don't lose your technique overnight, but he's got a bit of work to do now. I enjoyed bowling to him in the last series as well. I didn't have to target him then, because he announced he was coming after me, but he wasn't captain then."

Meanwhile Vaughan admitted:

## Inter to tour **England**

Italian giants Inter Milan performed a u-turn on Sunday and agreed to come over for their four match tour of England after originally cancelling it over safety fears sparked by the London bombings.

British Government Sports Minister Richard Caborn told Sky News that after the club had received reassurances from the Italian FA and his Italian counterpart, Mario Pescante, they had agreed to fly to England.

"I contacted my opposite number Mario Pescante and he spoke to the Italian FA head Franco Carraro. They then spoke to Inter Milan and believe they are on their way to the Midlands." said Caborn, referring to Inter's first match against Championship side Leicester on Monday.

"Sometimes clubs get a distorted view of what is going on but the reassurances they were given by the Sports Minister persuaded them to

"We've had the Ashes Test and the athletics in recent days in London and they have passed off okay.
"We are not going to offer them

any more security than they already

The Italian club had on Sunday told the BBC they were "looking into the possibility of finding a positive

#### Doha Games

Al-Khulaifi security would be tight for the Games, in which over 10,000 athletes from 45 countries are expected to take part.

"We have security plans in place to provide a trouble-free games. Terrorism is a global menace and it is not just in one country," Al-Khulaifi said at a press conference.

Qatar will be the first Arab country to host the continental games and he promised a spectacular event from December 1 to 15, 2006.

## Simone bares

diuretic and months later South African woman Helen Cohen Alon accused him of bombarding her with lewd text messages.

Then a Melbourne stripper Angela Gallagher told of her wild nights with Warne, which led the Warnes to decide to start afresh in England and a home was purchased in Southampton.

It was in the eight weeks that Warne was away from his family that the latest indiscretions surfaced in the British media forcing Simone Warne's hand.

#### nim and he gives us lots of options." Crouch hopes to play some part n Tuesday's tie

Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez believes his Champions League winners are stronger than last season and is confident his new signings can see the Anfield giants into the lucrative group stages again this season.

CHAMPS LEAGUE

The five-time champions face FBK Kaunas of Lithuania in the second qualifying round first leg on Tuesday

And Benitez insists that his summer spending spree, which peaked with the seven-millionpound capture of Peter Crouch from relegated Southampton and a improved deal for skipper Steven Gerrard, will propel his team onwards

"I think we are strong in midfield We have Steve, Xabi (Alonso), Didi (Hamman). Momo Sissoko and we have lots of options. It means I can rest players when they need to be and bring others in who will do a very good job," said the Spaniard.

Benitez was also happy with Crouch's goal-scoring debut in the 4-3 friendly win against Greek side Olympiakos in Liechtenstein at the weekend.

"Peter played well. He did very well for the first goal and he is a and can bring other players into the game. He knows what we want from

Benitez high on confidence

"We have an important game on Tuesday night and hopefully I can get a start. That's up to the manager. All I can do is keep working hard," said the striker.

## ND QUALIFYIN

Dinamo Tbilissi (GEO) v Brondby IF

Dynamo Kiev (UKR) v Thoune (SUI)
Anorthosis Famagusta (CYP) v Trabzonspor (TUR) Anderlecht (BEL) v Neftchi (AZE) Valenrenga (NOR) v FC Haka (FÍN)

Wednesday

Dudelange (LUX) v Rapid Vienna (AUT) Partizan Belgrade (SEM) v FC Sherif

FBK Kaunas (LIT) v Liverpool (ENG)

Malmo (SWE) v Maccabi Haifa (ISR) FK Rabotnicki (MCD) v Lokomotiv Moscou (RUS) Artmedia Bratislava (SVK) v Celtic (SCO) Shelbourne (IRL) v Steaua Bucharesi

Tirana (ALB) v CSKA Sofia (BUL)

Scottish giants Celtic, the 1967 European champions, also making their bow hoping to avoid a slip-up at Artmedia Bratislava in Slovakia on Wednesday.

"We have to be ready," said Celtic striker John Hartson.

"We have no choice. It's a massive game for the fans and the club. "The club should be in the Champions League group stages every year so we have to go out to

make that happen." Steaua Bucharest, the champions in 1986, take on Irish side Shelbourne who came through a first qualifying tie against Northern Ireland's Glentoran 6-2 on aggre-

F91 Dudelange, the first Luxembourg side to reach this stage, face Austria's Rapid Vienna.

Meanwhile, an estimated 1,000 riot police will be on duty on . Wednesday when Cyprus league champions Anorthosis face a first ever European tie against Turkish opposition in the shape of Trabzonspor in Nicosia.

UEFA has categorised the game "high risk".

Anorthosis is supported by Greek Cypriots who were displaced from the eastern city of Famagusta by Turkey's 1974 invasion and plays "in exile" in Larnaca.

## Murali not chasing Warne

## Cricket

AFP, Kandy

Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan said on Monday he was not after Shane Warne's world record after demolishing the West Indies in the second cricket Test here.

The off-spinner grabbed eight for 46 as the tourists, set a huge victory target of 378, folded for 137 before tea on the fourth day at Kandy's Asgiriya Stadium

The 33-year-old now has 549 Test wickets from 93 matches, second only to Australian Warne, who took his tally to 589 from 124 games after Sunday's first Test against England at Lord's. "I think I have a long way to go

before I can catch up with Warne, Muralitharan told reporters after the win helped Sri Lanka sweep the short series 2-0. "Shane is a great bowler and he is bowling beautifully at the moment.

Frankly. I do not think of the record when I go out there to bowl. My job is to bowl well and help Sri Lanka win.

my country in the past and I hope I can continue doing that. As far as the world record is concerned, whichever of us plays longer will hold the record. It is as simple as that

Warne, at 35, is two years older

than Muralitharan. The Sri Lankan wants to play on for another three to four years. "I want to go on for some time.

maybe three to four years. We have a lot of cricket in that period.' Muralitharan's 14th haul of 10 wickets in a match -- he claimed 2-37 in the first innings -- gave him 17 wickets

in what was his first series in 11 months

following a shoulder injury. He also holds the world record of 46 hauls of five wickets or more in an

"I have no problem with my shoulder now," he said. "I am fit as I have ever been but it will take me time to get back to my best.' Muralitharan, whose brilliant

career has been marred by accusations of chucking, says the controversy may never leave him. "It is really hard to say if it will ever

be over," he said.

"I know I have been cleared but

say. They always do whenever I do well. I never know what will happen The West Indies, missing 10 top

stars including the world's leading batsman Brian Lara following a sponsorship dispute at home, had no clue now to play spin on the wearing wicket. Muralitharan made up for the

absence of left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas, who has been ruled out of cricket for at least a week due to a hamstring strain. Vaas, who had claimed 13 wickets

was advised to rest ahead of the oneday tri-series against India and the West Indies starting later this week. "Vaasv is a great bowler but unfor-

in three previous innings in the series.

tunately he got injured," Muralitharan "So it was my turn to fight for the

team. The West Indian batsmen were a bit inexperienced so I just had to keep the ball in the right place. The West Indian batting was a bit

thin in the absence of Lara and others but they are a young team always willing to learn.

### Gold Cup **USA's**

AFP, East Rutherford

Santino Quaranta, Landon Donovan and Brad Davis scored on penalty kicks in a shootout to give the United States a victory over Panama here Sunday in the Gold Cup football final.

After the teams played a goal-less draw through extra time, the Americans claimed the CONCACAF tournament crown for the third time in eight editions, following upon titles in 1991 and 2002.

Felipe Baloy managed the only goal for Panama in the penalty kick showdown before 31,018 spectattors at Giants Stadium.

US players, who are well on their way to qualifying for next year's World Cup in Germany, won four matches and played two goal-less draws in the 2 1/2 week tournament played on home soil.

The hosts dumped Jamaica 3-1 in the quarter-finals and edged Honduras 2-1 in the semi-finals.



US goalkeeper Kasey Keller (L) sends Panamanian Luis Tejada (C) flying during the CONCACAF Gold Cup final at

### Robben downs Milan

AFP, Foxboro

Dutchman Arjen Robben scored in the 12th minute to give reigning English Premiership champion Chelsea a 1-0 victory over UEFA Champions League runner-up AC Milan on Sunday in a football friendly. Robben took a pass from Frances

for the game winner against the Italian Serie Apowerhouse before 26,208. AC Milan, a loser on penalty kicks to Liverpool in this year's UEFA Champions League final in May, was without Ukrainian standout Andriy Shevchenko as well as Brazilian star Kaka and talented Italian striker Paolo

Claude Makelele and blasted a 20-

meter shot into the bottom right corner

Argentina's Hernan Crespo received the start for Chelsea against AC Milan, the club for which he played last season. AC Milan and Chelsea will meet

again next Sunday at Giants Stadium

in East Rutherford, New Jersey, to

conclude their US tour. Each will face a Major League Soccer club in an exhibition friendly before the rematch. AC Milan will visit the Chicago Fire on Wednesday while Chelsea will travel to D.C. United, the reigning US league champion, on

#### Giants Stadium in East Rutherford on Sunday. CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 39 Cohort of DOWN **ACROSS** 23 Watt's 1 Taste 14-Across 1 Trade 2 Ottum-25 Nonpaythe tea **41** Key 4 Actress wa's state 3 Rid of rind Downey 43 Saga penalty,

8 Billie

King 4077th 26 "So be it!" exten-12 Affliction 44 Early 27 Queue sively 13 McCorbird? 5 - pro 28 Fido's 46 Hoods mack of nobis utterance "Will & 50 1992 6 Russian 29 Largest Grace' Olympics spaceof the 14 Glee club site craft seven member 55 Ump's 30 Freeway 7 Derma-15 Bowl over call tology access 16 Clingy 56 Beyond subject **31** "GWTW" types control 8 Hoisted estate **18** 2005 57 Stench 9 Blueprint 35 Throw **58** Aye "Survivor" addition setting undoer 10 Put away 38 Motes 59 Cacopho-20 Wapiti

4 Changed

ality' one's way 19 Qty. 24 Wild 61 Monkey 22 Belgrade 28 He had a list of citations

60 Make

Congeni-

Solution time: 21 mins. 32 Ms. Moore 33 Simile center 34 Tire pattern 36 Pigs' digs 37 Spectacles wearer's

11 Ph. bk. 40 However 17 TV alien 42 Candle count 45 Radiate 47 Refuse to native 48 Waikiki winadina 49 Charon's river 50 Yucky 51 Parisian pal 52 Director Howard 53 Praise in verse

**CRYPTOQUIP** 

RZTX QLJSU GLJ QTSS

TAG YTXZVM RZL QLWVI

YMLW HAUHTAT? H`RLJSU

"ZLLIHVM UTUUG! Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ALTHOUGH MY FINGERS OFTEN AGREED WITH ME, MY THUMB ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE OPPOSED.

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.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals L The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

# 54 "Smoking