

Flintoff's belief

Cricket

AFP, London

Andrew Flintoff claims England's batsmen can handle the challenge of Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne despite their crushing opening Ashes defeat by Australia.

"He's a fine bowler so it's up to us to raise our game. We do have plans when facing him -- we just don't walk to the crease without thinking about what we're going to do."

Dhoni shines as India win again

Cricket

Wicketkeeper Mahendra Dhoni scored a stylish 88 to guide India to a 93-run victory over a Kurunegala District Invitation XI on Wednesday.

School kabaddi semis today

Sports Reporter

The semifinals of the school kabaddi tournament will be held today at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court.

Barca securing Rijkaard, Ronaldinho

Sportinglife

Barcelona president Joan Laporta claims the club are close to agreeing a new deal with coach Frank Rijkaard but admits that negotiations are still ongoing with Ronaldinho.

Phelps back

FROM PAGE 12 South African Ryk Neethling was third in 1:46.63.

Pakistan reject Multan switch?

BBC ONLINE, undated

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has rejected a request from its English counterpart to move the first winter Test from Multan to Rawalpindi, says reports.

Rain spoils

FROM PAGE 12 Glamorgan at Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny on Wednesday.

Issa Khan Navy's

FROM PAGE 12 eight teams took part in the five-day meet.



PHOTO: AFP

LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE! Brazilian idol Ronaldinho plays with a kid at the skip soccer clinic in Madrid on Tuesday.

'Jones needs to improve' Russell stands by the England keeper

Cricket

AFP/BBC ONLINE, undated

England wicketkeeper Geraint Jones needs to improve to make sure of his place in the side, former Australia captain Allan Border said.

medium pace. Someone like Paul Collingwood could fulfil this role."

wicketkeeper, told BBC Five Live: "As a keeper you're in the firing line most of the time and you don't get them all."

Ronaldo sinks Jubilo

Football

TOKYO

Ronaldo struck twice to help Real Madrid to a 3-1 win over J-League side Jubilo Iwata in Tokyo in the penultimate match of their pre-season tour on Wednesday.

Owen only for the ball to fall kindly for Raul to slot home.

Bobby Cullen missed a decent chance to pull Iwata level at the other end.

Liverpool survive a scare

Cricket

AFP, Kaunas

Champions League holders Liverpool came from behind to beat Lithuanian champions Kaunas 3-1 in their Champions League second preliminary round first leg clash.

contact on it the ball bobbed past Jose Reina and into the back of the net to have the home fans on their feet.

in cross was met with a spectacular backheeled flick by Eimantas Poderis which scraped past Reina's post.

Santos boss tempted

Football

RIO DE JANEIRO

Santos President Marcelo Teixeira admitted Tuesday that the 30 million dollars offered by Real Madrid "are luring me," but are not sufficient to negotiate the transfer of striker Robson de Souza "Robinho," the jewel of the team.

back to train, after a month absence from training sessions.

Meanwhile, Real have reportedly finalised the 16 million euro sale of Argentina defender Walter Samuel to Inter Milan but were waiting to hear from FIFA if their bid for Robinho would go through.

Baptista not interested!

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Sevilla's Brazilian forward Julio Baptista has restated his refusal to accept a move to English club Arsenal because he wants to become a Spanish citizen.

at this time," the 23-year-old forward told Radio Marca. "It's very important for me for me to become Spanish."

Spanish media have reported that both Barcelona and Real Madrid are interested in signing Baptista once he earns European Union status and the player admitted he was flattered by the reports linking him to both teams.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Star Bangladesh cricketer Mohammad Rafique, who has joined NSDP as a spokesperson, is flanked by NSDP chief of party Robert J. Timmons (R) and deputy chief of party Tamara Smith after the signing ceremony on Wednesday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Foam about 4 Difficulty 7 Turned to dust 12 Bullring bravo 13 -- fix 14 Hepburn co-star 15 The whole shootin' match 16 High-ranking 18 Minutia 19 Mirror fogger 20 Booly 22 Freddy's street 23 Relaxation 27 Listening device 29 Famous bell 31 Trademark 34 Mountain nymph 35 Halluc 37 Inseparable 38 Lovey-dovey sounds 39 Standard

41 Traverse the runway 45 Cage components 5 Not a bit 48 Expensive 52 401(k) alternative 53 Foreigner 54 Swelled head 55 Nursery denizen 56 Secluded valleys 57 Crow's cousin 58 Fire-fighter's tool 21 Blokes 23 Heron's kin 24 Rushmore face

25 Bounding main 26 Remnant 28 Big fuss 30 Charged bit 31 English channel? 32 Carnival venue 33 Past 36 Grand-scale tale 37 1980s Nicaraguan leader 40 Answered, "Jeopardy!" 42 Anxiety 43 Office-machine name 44 Ticked off, and then some 45 Change for a sawbuck 46 Pack away 48 Satchel 49 Under the weather 50 Bestow, to Burns 51 Perfect score

Cryptogram grid with letters and numbers 1-66.

CRYPTOQUIP Q N I I Q F M L K J J Y N K X J M Q A , N A R A V K R A R Q Y I A F H I L V N H P F A N K J P H G A Q Y N H X X L G H P P . Yesterday's Cryptogram: FOR THE SAFETY OF NOAH DURING THE FLOOD, DO YOU THINK THAT GOD SENT AN ARK ANGEL? Today's Cryptogram Clue: I equals L. The Cryptogram 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.