France went in front when Gallas

The Chelsea defender's power-

ful header off a sweetly struck

corner from Sylvain Wiltord flew

over Cote d'Ivoire keeper Jean-

Jacques Tizie giving the Blues due

produced a neat cross for Willy

Sagnol over on the right who

knocked it back to 'Zizou' only for his

header to be scooped up safely by

erupted when Wiltord sent a corner

flying across the goalmouth for

Zidane who flicked the ball left-

footed into the corner of the Cote

His beaming smile told its own

story as he savoured his 27th goal in

Five minutes later Thierry Henry,

like Gallas also celebrating his 28th

birthday, got in on the act with a fine

solo effort when he saw off a lone

Cote d'Ivoire defender and Tizie to

produce an acute left-angled shot

The Netherlands were left to rue

a string of missed chances as arch

rivals Germany came from two

Chelsea winger Arjen Robben

which trickled into an empty goal.

d'Ivoire net.

the national shirt.

Just before the break Zidane

reward for some entertaining play.

marked his 28th birthday in the best

possible way when he scored in the 28th minute in what was first ever

goal for his country.

# Clueless England, Zizou-inspired France

Football

England's belief that they are serious World Cup contenders suffered a shattering reality check on Wednesday when Denmark sent them crashing to their worst defeat for 25 years.

Fortunately for coach Sven-Goran Eriksson and his bunch of highly-paid but under-performing players, the shambolic 4-1 defeat in Copenhagen was a friendly international two weeks ahead of their next competitive challenge against Wales in a World Cup qualifier.

On a busy night of international friendlies, France celebrated the return of talismanic Zinedine Zidane from retirement with a 3-0 win against Cote d'Ivoire with the former World Footballer of the Year getting on the scoresheet.

Elsewhere, Italy hammered home their credentials as World Cup favourites with a 2-1 win against the Republic of Ireland in World champions Brazil came

back from a goal down to draw 1-1 in Croatia while Argentina beat Hungary 2-1. Bitter rivals Holland and

Germany fought out a 2-2 draw in Rotterdam where 22 fans were

But it was in Copenhagen where the real drama was happening.

Eriksson was angry after seeing his team concede three goals in seven second-half minutes in the friendly clash as England conceded four goals for the first time since they lost to Wales in 1980.

The sides had been locked at 0-0 at half-time but Eriksson made four changes at the break bringing on Michael Owen, goalkeeper David James as well as Jamie Carragher and Glen Johnsen and the Danes took full advantage.

Charlton striker Dennis Rommedahl, former Newcastle and AC Milan hitman Jon Dahl Tomasson, with his 36th international goal, and substitute Michael Gravgaard set Denmark on their way to victory.

Wayne Rooney grabbed a late consolation for England before substitute Soren Larsen added a fourth for the Danes in injury time.

There were no such problems for 1998 World Cup winners France as they enjoyed a 3-0 win over Cote d'Ivoire in Montpellier.

Zidane, lured out of retirement to help France's ailing World Cup campaign, added style and substance to Raymond Domenech's side in the warm up to next month's crucial qualifier against the Republic With the 33-year-old's every step

cheered by a sell-out 30,000 crowd the Real Madrid star, wearing the captain's armband, crowned his comeback with a second half goal which was sandwiched by efforts from William Gallas and Thierry

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The great man himself said it had been vital for France to win after a string of drawn games.

"When you draw a lot of games your confidence goes but the quality of the players is still there. "Tonight, we refound that confi-

dence. It did us good to score. scored in my first international, it felt good to repeat that! Zidane's return to the interna-

tional fray was down to some fasttalking by the wily Domenech - and a mysterious apparition at his bed-And he quickly made his mark 11

years to the day that he first donned a French shirt when in the 19th minute he came up with an angled shot that narrowly edged over the Another veteran Lillian Thuram

goals down to secure a flattering 2-2 was also returning but the Juventus draw in Rotterdam. defender's comeback lasted barely half an hour when he had to limp off gave the Dutch a 2-0 lead at the injured to be replaced by Sebastien break before captain Michael

Ballack, with his 29th goal in 59 appearances, and substitute Gerald Asamoah levelled the score

In Budapest, Manchester United defender Gabriel Heinze scored the winner to give ten-man Argentina a 2-1 friendly win against Hungary.

Heinze headed in a corner in the 62nd minute as the South Americans, who have already booked their place in the World Cup finals in Germany next summer, made up for their shortfall in num-

Maxi Rodriguez had given them a 19th minute lead before Sandor Thorgelle levelled 10 minutes later. Lionel Messi was then red-carded in Then on 61 minutes the stadium the 65th minute.

In Dublin, Italy's goalkeeper Flavio Roma and referee Paolo Costa put paid to Ireland's best efforts to salvage their manager Brian Kerr's 17-game unbeaten home record in a high-tempo friendly

After a thrilling first half which saw Italian guile register a 2-1 lead over Irish graft, the Monaco stopper pulled off a finger-tip save three minutes from time and the Portuguese referee harshly disallowed a Clinton Morrison goal for handball in injury time.

Andrea Pirlo put the Italians ahead in the 10th minute with Alberto Gilardino adding the second after half an hour. Andy Reid pulled one back for Ireland.



ZI-DONE! French superstar Zinedine Zidane is understandably jubilant after scoring on his return to international football during the match against Ivory Coast at the Mosson Stadium in Montpellier on Wednesday.

#### No stopping Mexico. USA

AFP,Los Angeles

Jared Borgetti became Mexico's all-time leading scorer on Wednesday as Mexico beat Costa Rica 2-0 in Mexico City on Wednesday to edge ever closer to a 2006 World Cup berth.

Borgetti opened the scoring against an ultra-defensive Costa Rica in the 63rd minute, his 36th goal for Mexico taking him past Carlos Hermosillo and Luis Hernandez on his country's most-

Ricardo Osorio's low cross from the right was missed by two Costa Rica defenders and ran through to Borgetti, who rifled the ball into the roof of the net at the

Francisco Fonseca scored the insurance goal in the 85th as Mexico remained unbeaten in the final six-nation qualifying group from North and Central America and the Caribbean (CONCACAF).

Mexico have won five of their six matches so far, with one draw. to head the standings with 16 points as they look toward an anticipated showdown with the United States on September 3 in

The United States, who beat Trinidad and Tobago 1-0 earlier Wednesday, have 15, as both nations have all but booked their tickets to Germany

The top three teams in the final qualifying phase automatically advance, while the fourth-placed team will play off with a team from Asia for a berth.

### Fleming says, no comment

REUTERS, Bulawayo

Stephen Fleming declined to offer an opinion on Zimbabwe's suitability for the Test arena after his New Zealand team completed their second thrashing of the home side

in Bulawayo on Wednesday. New Zealand won by an innings and 46 runs an hour before the scheduled close on the third day. They won the first Test in Harare by an innings and 294 runs in less than two days.

"It took us so long to win a Test ourselves, and I don't feel qualified to make a statement on their cricket," captain Fleming told a news conference with reference to New Zealand's own long winless period after being admitted to the elite club of Test-playing countries. "I guess as a cricket community

we've got to support them. "They have had and will have

some fine cricketers. Fleming preferred to talk about

his own team's performance. These were certainly different circumstances to Harare, we had to work a lot harder," Fleming said with

regard to the placid pitch. "You do question the standard of the opposition but we were still

pretty ruthless." Despite the return of some of their experienced players. Zimbabwe have lost seven of the eight Test matches they have

played since April last year. Former captain Heath Streak warned that the repeated defeats would sap the players' confidence.

"The guys have their pride at stake, and no-one likes to get beaten," Streak told a news confer-

"You can't allow the guys to get too down in the dumps, like they were after the loss in Harare."

# **Brazil held**

Football

AFP, Split, (Croatia)

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said he was satisfied after his world champions were held to a 1-1 draw by Croatia here on Wednesday.

The Croats took the lead in the 32nd minute through Niko Krankjar, the son of Croatia's manager, with Ricardinho levelling ten minutes later. "We just got a result against a

decent Croatian side," said Parreira. "This was good preparation for us for our next World Cup qualifier against Chile," added Parreira

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

2002 world Cup winners are

Returning to Test cricket after a 28-

month layoff, Shane Bond was

delighted with his performances in

including returns of 10 for 99 in the

second Test at Bulawayo -- his first

ten-wicket haul -- and in the process

became the quickest among all New

Zealand bowlers to get to 50 Test

his 12th match, beating Chris

few of those milestones I wanted to

achieve." Bond told Radio Sport

hard and hopefully I can tick them off

as I go along. I feel like I'm in better

condition now. I'm fitter. stronger.

Martin's earlier record of 13.

after the match.

and a smarter cricketer.'

Bond achieved the mark in only

"That's what's driven me on, a

"I've just got to keep working

He took 13 wickets at 9.23,

the two-Test series in Zimbabwe.

coasting to Germany 2006 needing just three points from their last three

But he expressed concern about two of his star players, Ronaldo and "Ronaldo and Adriano weren't at

their normal level. The game against Chile is only in a fortnight and hope that they'll be in better physical condition and more motivated after training for their respective clubs." The wet weather conspired

against any slick moving action, the last time Brazil had encountered such conditions, in the Confederations Cup final against Argentina in Frankfurt in June, the stadium roof had kept them dry.

Fitter, stronger & smarter

Bond expressed his surprise,

"I set myself high standards but

though, at the number of wickets

that came his way at Bulawayo.

Roberto Carlos freekick going close, then Ronaldo stirred the Croatian keeper into action with a shot in the ninth minute.

Having contained the Brazilians. Croatia fought back with skipper Kranicar putting them in the lead when Brazil keeper Dida failed to collect a weak back-pass and Kranjcar was on hand to pounce on the oppurtunity.

But Croatia only held the lead foor ten minutes when Ricardinho produced a neat freekickwhich flew into the back of the hosts' net.

Parreira brought on Real Madrid's new recruit Robinho in the second half but it was his teammate Ronaldo who fluffed a chance in the

got to work through them. All I

support the guys around me."

difference to their attack.

"We've gone throu

hard and come back well."

wanted to do was be consistent and

Stephen Fleming, the New

Zealand captain, admitted that

Bond's presence had made a huge

series and kept our mouth shut.

knowing we were missing possibly

one of the greatest bowlers to play

for New Zealand. He's worked very

ably good series with the bat, scor-

ing two half-centuries. His 65 in the

second Test took him past the 6000-

run mark in Tests, making him the

first New Zealander to achieve the

New Zealand's next engage-

ment is the one-day tri-series next

week, involving Zimbabwe and

India. However, Bond will have to

wait seven months to play his next

Test, when New Zealand host West

Fleming himself had a reason-

#### Zimbabwe name Curran as coach

AFP, Bulawayo

Bowling supremo Kevin Curran was confirmed Wednesday as coach of the Zimbabwe national cricket team. He replaces West Indian Phil Simmons with immediate effect afte a disastrous year for the team.

Simmons had been coach since last September when he replaced Australian Geoff Marsh.

But he came under intense local criticism in Harare after the first Test defeat by New Zealand last week, a margin of an innings and 294 runs.

That criticism intensified when his team suffered another innings defeat here on Wednesday losing the series 2-0 to the Kiwi tourists.

# We must tackle

swing for more than 10 years, mainly on the subcontinent, but the difference here is they are getting

the ball to move the other way.' Flintoff has quickly become England's dangerman with the ball despite a return of just one fivewicket haul in 50 Test appearances while Jones' productivity has also increased sharply; they have 16 and 13 wickets in the series respectively.

"Without the ball reverse swinging you do not feel Jones is supremely quick, he doesn't swing the ball abnormally but when he starts reverse swinging it he is in the ball game," said Langer.

#### Orange drown

shot that sent Tarek the wrong way

following a deflection. Zahid then sealed the victory ter minutes from time after a 40-yard dash down the middle. The diminutive midfielder, who exchanged one pass with Ibrahim to slice through the rival defence, tapped the ball into an empty net after going round the goalkeeper.

Abahani looked set to take revenge for their 4-0 loss to the Oranges -their worst ever defeat to Brothers -in the season's curtain raising Independence Day Gold Cup football tournament. However, Ibrahim pounced on a right-side centre by Tipu over the bar from handshaking distance while Parvez shot the ball iust wide of the open net in the dying minutes. Yellow cards: Shipon (Abahani) and

Liton (Brothers)

**TEAMS** 

ABAHANI: Nizam, Obaidur, Marshall, Shipon, Wali, Ibrahim (Tushar), Joy, Ndem, Ujjal (Parvez), Farhd (Zahid) and Tipu. BROTHERS UNION: Tarek, Sujan,

Pranotosh, Abul (Monwar), Puma (Tapu), Parvez Babu, Emily and Referee: Mansoor Azad.

#### Left dazed FROM PAGE 16

went right and I'm very upset. "I apologise to the fans. It seemed

like it was a holiday in the second half and I have told the players that they can forget about the World Cup if they play like that again."

The sides had been locked at 0-0 at half-time but Eriksson made four changes at the break bringing on Michael Owen, goalkeeper David James as well as Jamie Carragher and Glen Johnsen and the Danes took full advantage as England suffered their heaviest defeat since they con-

# Inzy blames batsmen BSJA honours them after losing opener

Cricket

**REUTERS, Centurion** 

Captain Inzamamul Hag blamed his batsmen for Asia's two-run defeat by Africa in the opening game of the Afro-Asia Cup on Wednesday. Chasing a modest target of 199

for victory, pre-tournament favourites Asia coasted to 50 without loss before Shaun Pollock claimed three wickets in the 11th over to turn the match on its head. Inzamam told reporters his bats-

men still "needed hard work in the nets over the next two days" to win the three-match series. "Our bowlers are experienced and I thought they did very well, 199

was not too big a total to chase. The pitch was a bit damp but it was a good wicket," Inzamam said "We had a good start when we reached 50 in the first 10 overs but then we lost six wickets in scoring the

next 50 runs. That was the turning point of the match.' Africa coach Mickey Arthur, the newly appointed South African

mentor, was delighted with the win. "I hope all the matches aren't so

In a low-scoring match, Asia were bowled out for 196 while, chasing Africa's total of 198.

top scorer from either side as he finished unbeaten on 78. Arthur was particularly pleased with 22-year-old rookie Dale Steyn,

cauldron now and the experience will

ACROSS

1 Barber-

9 Trump

casino

hotel,

12 Military

13 Ashcroft

14 — glance

15 Toledo's

16 "What's

country

--- for

17 Cartoonist

Chast

cumber

53 Farly

birds?

Solution time: 27 mins.

-Doo-Dah" 52 Addition

18 "Zip-

19 Bottom

20 Bronx

cheer

thorough

21 Examine

23 Copper

25 Holly-

32 St.

head?

wood

industry

Theresa's

me?"

briefly

no-show

predeces-

shop item

Seasons'

close but it was a fantastic win. It was a great environment to work in."

Africa's Ashwell Prince was the

who began the 49th over with Asia needing just three runs for victory but he bowled Ashish Nehra to win the

"Dale Steyn has been in the stand him in good stead for the rest of his career," said Arthur.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

drummer

kidding!"

9 Fictional

36 Easy

market

lineup

Spain"

43 Roughly

45 Moor's

46 Living

47 Differently

41 "- of

40 Buckeyes'

plantation 39 Super-

"Having only five bowlers actually turned out to be a good thing because they all took responsibility, knowing they each had to bowl their full com-

"I thought both Jacques Kallis and Shaun Pollock were outstanding, they got a lot of shape on the ball."

The remaining two matches will be played in Durban on Saturday and

#### **SCOREBOARD**

Final scoreboard of the first match of the Afro-Asia Cup series between an Africa XI and an Asia XI at Centurion Park on Wednesday:

AFRICA XI: 198 all out in 44.3 overs (Prince 78 not out, Boucher 42, De Villiers 24, extras 24; Zaheer 3-37, Akhtar 2-40) **ASIAXI** 

Sehwag c Boucher b Pollock 21 Youhana c Boucher b Pollock Ashraful (sub) c Tikolo b Pollock 0 Inzamam c Dippenaar b Kemp 6 Afridi c Boucher b Kallis Razzaq c Boucher b Boje Kumble Ibw b Kallis Zaheer not out 20 Akhtar c Ontong b Kemp 15

Nehra b Steyn Extras: (lb-2, nb-4, w-16) 22 Total: (All out in 48.1 overs) 196 Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-52, 3-52, 4-59, 5-89, 6-96, 7-152, 8-169, 9-193

**Bowler** 0 М Pollock 10 32 9.1 2 40 Steyn Kemp 40 0 2 42 10 Kallis 1 40 10 Result: Africa XI won by 2 runs. Man-of-the-match: Ashwell

Second match: Durban, August

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg The Bangladesh Sports Journalists

Association (BSJA), Chittagong Chapter yesterday accorded a reception to seven veteran sportsmen, organisers and journalists of the port city for their contribution in

respective arenas. The seven personalities were: journalist and athlete Rezaul Hag Bachchu (posthumous), who was a three-time marathon champion in the then East Pakistan from 1961 to 1963: Mahbubur Rahman, a senior sports journalist; football coach Abdul Shukkur Chowdhury; sports organiser Ali Abbas; former national footballer and national captain Ashish Bhadra: national cricketer Aftab Ahmed and sports organiser and sponsor Didarul Alam

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman was present as the chief guest in the function at the Chittagong Press Club auditorium. BSJA, Chittagong Chapter president Saifullah Chowdhury presided over the function.

# U-17 cricketers

FROM PAGE 16 Rupchanda Soyabean Oil Company will sponsor the team's air tickets and

accommodation.

**SQUAD** Saquib Al Hasan (BKSP) Suhrawardy Shuvo (BKSP), Hamidul Islam Himel (wicketkeeper), Mahmudul Hasan, Farhad Hossain Moktar Ali. Rumman Islam (Raishahi), Amit Maiumder (Khulna) Mohammad Saiib (Barisal). Iftekhai Nayeem Adib, Raihanuddin (Metropolis Green), Tamim Igbal (Chittagong), Raihan Anis and

Safayet Hossain (Dhaka). Officials: Alister de Winter, Shahidul Islam Ratan and Athar Ali.

# **Ashes Tests** sold out

Cricket

**BBC ONLINE**, London

All five days of the final two Tests between England and Australia at Trent Bridge and The Oval have sold

English counties usually sell only the first four days in advance but Surrey anticipated demand and put all five on sale in November, selling out by

"We saw the problem of a fifth day that might decide the Ashes," Surrey chief executive Paul Sheldon told the BBC. "There will be disappointed

people but we avoid administrative and policing nightmares of 50,000 being locked out." The third Test at Old Trafford witnessed chaotic scenes on the

final day, when more than 15,000 people hoping to see the conclusion of another dramatic encounter were turned away. Tickets for the first four days of the final Test at The Oval went on sale as they normally do in

early November, and were sold out by the end of the month. But Surrey decided to put the final day on sale at the same

"I don't think any ground in the world in the history of Test

cricket has sold out a fifth day in advance before, certainly not in England," he said.

This way we say 'sorry, we're

**SHANE BOND** 

you never think you're going to get a

bag of wickets. I never gave up hope

(during the injury layoff). There were

some really tough times, more

mental than physical, but you've just

sold out, we can't sell any more' and avoid havoc in Kennington! "We felt our customers couldn't lose, because we'd give them a full refund if for whatever reason the fifth day didn't hap-

Sheldon admitted that the threat of hugely inflated prices for tickets from touts and internet sales was a concern. "Sadly there isn't enough we can do," he said. "They are

going to be at a premium. Those who are not lucky enough to obtain match tickets will again be able to watch on a big screen close to the grounds, continuing a scheme partly organised by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Fans can watch the weekend of the Trent Bridge Test at Wollaton Park, Nottingham and the final Ashes weekend can be seen on Clapham Common. ECB marketing manager Tom Harrison said: "It will give those fans

dented excitement of this Ashes series with thousands of others. "If they're anything like the previous events, they'll be fantastic!"

that can't get tickets the chance to

join in and experience the unprece-

# **Bradman** India **Foundation** sees light

Indies in March 2006.

PTI, Bangalore

Bradman India Foundation was floated on Thursday with a mission to promote cricket as a valuable

cultural and sporting force in India. It is the first time that Australia's Bradman Foundation, a nonprofitable trust established in 1987 with the full support of cricket legend Donald Bradman, has gone off-

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the foundation, John Fahey AC and director of Bradman Museum of Cricket, Richard Mulvaney said the passion and tremendous enthusiasm for the game in India were the clinching factors in establishing the foundation in this country.

#### Elite Paint soccer

**CU CORRESPONDENT** 

The Elite Paint-Siraj Mohanagari Kishore Football League kicked off here at City's Dampara Police Lines ground yesterday. In the opening match defending

champions Eden Star defeated Amra Tarun Club 1-0. Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman formally inaugurated the league

### Jewel, Masud Rana, Siraji, Victor (Liton).

disaster all over the place, nothing

ceded four goals to Wales in 1980. Rommedahl's opening goal will again lead to questions over the future of James as he came sprinting out of his area to leave his team exposed.

EPSDFVYU MFCI

HYO NJOS VZLAFVSWI YLI

FO LZH OWCAFLQ SFEW Y NYFUDZJOW CZV

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ON THE SET OF "I LOVE LUCY," ONE COULD SAFELY SAY THAT EVERYBODY INVOLVED HAD A BALL. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals J 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.

