PREVIEW: PREMIERSHIP

Super Sunday

Football

AFP, London

Chelsea and Arsenal will be looking to strike a significant psychological blow against each other when the two London giantsclash at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

Jose Mourinho's champions had the better of the teams' Community Shield encounter two weeks ago as a Didier Drogba double helped the

Blues to a 2-1 victory. Arsenal dominated the ball for long periods of that game though, and have not lost to Chelsea in the league for 10 years.

But young Swiss defender Philippe Senderos will have to find a way to halt the rampaging Cote d'Ivoire striker if Arsenal are to upset the odds and deal an early blow to Chelsea's hopes of retaining the

Senderos was led a merry dance by Drogba in Cardiff's Millennium stadium during the Community Shield and was brushed aside like a flimsy twig for both of the former Marseille man's goals

Chelsea should be boosted by new Ghanaian signing Michael Essien from French champions Lyon but he may have a hard task on his hands just winning aplace in the side although Eidur Gudiohnson could be the man to make way in

midfield But Mourinho is already facing the biggest crisis of his managerial career at Chelsea as the seeds of discontent are starting to grow and

At the end of last season, centreback William Gallas complained bitterly at being used as a makeshift left back, but having regained his place in the centre of defence at the start of this season, now it is Ricardo Carvalho's turn to speak out against his manager.

Earlier this week, Carvalho told Portuguese newspaper A Bola: "I want to know why I didn't play.

Hewitt, Safin

in last eight

Lleyton Hewitt and Marat Safin

steamed into the quarter-finals of

the 2.45-million-dollar ATP

Cincinnati Masters here Thursday,

with Safin determined to put a

recovering knee out of mind on

Wimbledon after undergoing ther-

apy in Italy in place of surgery, the

fourth-seeded Russian plans on

champion got through a difficult

opening game before routing

Dominik Hrbaty 6-0, 6-3, winning

the first eight games before the

patch up his game after a stomach

illness last week, picking up his

pace at the expense of Croatia's

Third seed Hewitt continued to

The reigning Australian Open

playing himself into form.

Playing his first event since

AFP, Cincinnati

Mourinho said I have to wait for another opportunity to play this

"It's incomprehensible that I will become third choice.

Mourinho who responded in an interview with Record newspaper, saying: "Ricardo Carvalho seems to have problems understanding things, maybe he should have an IQ

"Ricardo has worked with me for four years and I do not understand these quotes, he probably needs to see a doctor

"We can't have this kind of thing at Chelsea.

With Essien's arrival and the return of Hernan Crespo to the firstteam fold, competition for places will get ever tougher and the number of disgruntled reserves is likely to increase as well.

Meanwhile, Arsenal forward Thierry Henry has signalled out fellow French international Claude Makelele as Chelsea's key figure.

Henry said: "I respect the guy and whoever loves Chelsea should respect what Makelele does.

"A lot of people talk about Terry, Lampard, Robben but for me Makelele just edges it a bit.' With the two heavyweights

playing each other, the weekend's big winners could be Manchester United if they can overcome Aston Villa at Old Trafford in the Saturday lunch-time game. United looked like stealing an

early march on their rivals last week until Arsenal's late brace against 10man Newcastle and Crespo's last minute wonder strike against Wigan allowed last year's top two to scrape home with opening day victories. The Red Devils have opened in

the best form of the three major title rivals, already powering past Hungary's Debrecen 3-0 in the Champions League qualifying round and then winning 2-0 at

With strike pair Ruud Van

"I don't understand why Nistelrooy and Wayne Rooney already off the mark in Europe and at home, United look set to avoid the pitfalls of last season where they dropped nine points from their first five games and found themselves That angered manager already playing catch-up in

> European Champions Liverpool will be hoping to secure their first win ofthe season and keep

pace with the front-runners as they entertain Sunderland at

The Reds have been linked with a move for Bayern Munich's wide man Hasan Salihamidzic this week as well as a loan move for former striker Michael Owen but they will once again rely on the drive of Steven Gerrard to inspire them. along with rejuvenated target man Fernando Morientes who has enjoyed a strongstart to the season.

In the weekend's other games. newly-promoted West Ham will be hoping to build on their good start with a trip to Newcastle. Tottenham play Middlesbrough and West Brom will parade new signing Nathan Ellington as they tackle Portsmouth at home.

Fulham travel to Blackburn with both sides looking for their first win, Wigan are at Charlton hoping to make up for their last gasp heartache against Chelsea last week, Birmingham take on Manchester City and Everton have a trip to

FIXTURES

Saturday (1400 GMT unless stated): Birmingham vManchester City (1615 GMT), Blackburn v Fulham, Charlton v Wigan, Liverpool vSunderland, Manchester Utd v Aston Villa (1145 GMT), Newcastle v West Ham, Tottenham v Middlesbrough, West Brom vPortsmouth Sunday: Bolton v Everton (1230 GMT),

Chelsea v Arsenal (1500GMT)

Techno-Foki golf

Tousif Lodi clinched the men's title

while Shaheen Khan won the

women's crown in the Techno-Foki

Monsoon golf tournament at the

A total of 262 golfers including 11

Chief of Army Staff and president

ladies took part in the two-day meet.

of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen Moeen

U Ahmed inaugurated the tourna-

ment and later he distributed prizes

Senior winner: Col Bazlul Ghani

Patwary (retd); Junior winner: Master

Nasser Zahedee; Best Gross: Ki

Wook Jin; Second Best Gross: Sadiq

Quddus; Runner-up: Faruque Ahmed;

Nearest to Pin: Brig Gen Md. Ismail

Talukder (retd); Longest Drive: Faisal

Jahangir; Winner Nine Hole: Col

Muhammad Wali Ullah; Runner-up

Nine Hole: Brig Gen Danial Islam

(retd); Senior Winner Hole: Brig Gen

Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

SPORTS REPORTER

among the winners

OTHER WINNERS

FUTURE OF MILAN! French kids pose during the "Junior Camp" organised by the Italian giants AC Milan during a week in Lesigny, east of Paris on Thursday. Participants in Milan Junior Camps all over the world can be selected by the technical staff of AC Milan to play football together in the colours of the rossoneri at AC Milan's facilities as well as participate in halftime events at San Siro during an AC Milan match during the "Milan Junior Camp Day".

Ronaldo back

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Real Madrid star Ronaldo will make his return to the national team for World Cup qualifiers when he was named by coach Carlos Alberto Parreira on Thursday in his 22-man squad for the September 4 tie against Chile.

Ronaldo was left out of Brazil's 4-1 win over Paraguay and 3-1 defeat to Argentina for having asked to be omitted from the June 15-29 Confederations Cup in Germany for personal reasons.

But he returned to international action during Wednesday's 1-1 friendly draw against Croatia in Split. Barcelona star Ronaldinho and

Bayer Leverkusen defender Roque Junior will both miss the vital qualifier because of suspension. Parreira has kept faith with

midfielder Santos Ricardinho who scored the equaliser in Split, but he Adriano after Wednesday's match. "Ronaldo and Adriano weren't at their normal level. The game against

Chile is only in a fortnight and I hope that

they'll be in better physical condition and more motivated after training for their respective clubs," said the Brazil coach. The reigning world champions stand second in the South America WorldCup qualifying group zone on 27 points, 4 points behind Argentina after

15 of 18 matches. They need three more points and a win against Chile would see them

qualify for next years finals in Germany. Chile are sixth, 11 points behind Argentina, with the top four teams qualifying for the finals in Germany and the fifth team going into a playoff against the winner of the Oceania group.

SOUAD

Goalkeepers: Dida (AC Milan/ITA), Julio Cesar (Inter Milan/ITA)

Defenders: Cafu (AC Milan/ITA), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid/ESP), Cicinho (Sau Paulo/BRA), Gustavo Nery (Corinthians), Lucio (Bayern Munich/GER), Juan (Bayer Leverkusen/GER), Alex Rodrigo (PSV Eindhoven/NED), Luisao (Benfica/POR). Midfielders: Kaka (Milan AC/ITA) Juninho Pernambucano (Lyon/FRA), Zé Roberto (Bayern Munich/GER), Emerson (Juventus/ITA). Renato (Sevilla/ESP) Gilberto Silva (Arsenal/ENG), Ricardinho (Santos), Julio Baptista (Real Madrid/ESP).

Strikers: Ronaldo (Real Madrid/ESP), Adriano (Inter Milan/ITA), Robi

However, Cairns believed that

"The political side of things will

"But when you're getting perfor-

Cairns, who has retired from Test

spinner, will also join the one-day

Warne's new weapon for qualifier

Cricket

Shane Warne has adopted the slogan "finding a way" for Australia's crucial fourth Test at Trent Bridge starting on Thursday. Warne, who is the leading wicket-taker in the series with 20, is desperate to discover a method to sweep past England after they have run over his

Heading into Trent Bridge with the contest at one-all, Warne told the Herald Sun his opponents currently had the form and mental advantage, but Australia could lift.

game, find a way to build a partnership, find a way to bowling partnerships, find a way to catch a ball, find a way to stop it. All those little things

Struggling Zimbabwe will hope that

a change of coach will help revive

their flagging fortunes in the three-

nations ODI series against New

A series of six matches begins on

Tuesday against the Kiwis at the

Queens Sports Club where the

home side went down by an innings

and 46 runs, a defeat that followed

one by an innings and 294 runs last

The new national coach, Kevin

Curran, who replaced Phil Simmons

of West Indies, provides an entirely

new policy and background and he

took charge of Friday's training

session at the Harare Cricket

Academy, nursery of all promising

Meanwhile the five New Zealand

young players in the country.

Cricket

AFP, Bulawayo

Zealand and India.

week in Harare.

that add up to putting in a good Warne said Australia had given

England a boost by dropping

100, one or two of these guys to come out and take 'em on.' On his final Ashes tour, Warne, who split from his wife Simone before the first Test, said his three

he expects improvement, especially

in the first 30 overs of each innings.

"You're only as good as your next

one game away from being back in

form. So in this next Test it takes

Gilly to come out and smash a 100.

Hayden at the top of the order get

"You're only one innings away or

game," he said

children were his inspiration. "They're the ones that I can just

feel inside me, they're the ones stirring me on," he said. "I have some pretty sad and

pretty ordinary days and I have to go out there and do my job.'

Warne has done magnificently on the field with his wickets coming at an average of 20.90, and he also has 204 runs at 34.00 to be third on Australia's list.

Reds improve

AHM Abdul Momen (retd).

FROM PAGE 12

Kanchan was rushing and made no mistake to slam the ball into the roof of the net with his favourite left foot for his seventh goal.

In between the goals, Dipali goalkeeper Sameer was stretchered off the ground to receive treatment for serious injury.

The minnows had golden chances to reduce arrears in the last 15 minutes but Idris' 75th minute shot past Aminul was cleared off the line by Hassan Al Mamun while the Ugandan was defied by Aminul in a one-on-one situation just before the final whistle.

Yellow card: Rony (Muktijoddha)

TEAMS MUKTIJODDHA: Aminul, Hassan

Al Mamun, Riad, Harry, Rajani (Igbal), Titu, Amin Rana (Rony), Arman (Moni), Kanchan, Jeremiah and Paul.

DIPALI SANGHA: Sameer (AtiquI), Tarek, Apu (Azad), Domba, Aihara, Chanchal, Rizvi, Daulat, Tajul

Great news for Owen!

LONDON

His professional life may be in the balance, but Michael Owen's family life is about to become even more settled. The England player and his wife have just announced that they are expecting their second child.

"We are absolutely delighted with the news." said the Real Madrid player, who tied the knot with childhood sweetheart Louise earlier this

The new arrival will be a sibling for the couple's two-year-old daughter Gemma Rose. And if his reaction to his daughter's birth is anything to go by Michael described the sensation as unlike anything he had ever known, and confessed to shedding a tear it means the former Liverpool striker has more excitement lined up off the pitch than he's seen on it recently

With his future at Real Madrid still unclear, there has been speculation that the baby news will further fuel Michael's desire to return to the UK, where the family own a grade-II listed mansion in North Wales.



Michael Owen with wife Louise (L) and daughter Gemma Rose.

Individuals FROM PAGE 12

Mario Ancic 6-1, 6-4.

Slovak had a look-in

Prince was also touched by Alok Kapali's effort although the batsman could not perform.

"He had some good starts but failed to capitalise on them. But I must say he tried very, very hard but sometimes luck deserts you no matter how hard you work."

Captain Shahriar Nafees Ahmed had a good trip with the bat. He was however not too perturbed with the fact that the A side could not win any of the three-dayers.

"Looking at our results, you might say it was a bad tour but from a cricket education point, this tour had immense value. We learned a lot and should be better players because of the experience. We also realised that we need to work a lot on our second innings batting."

Aussies under

FROM PAGE 12 is an exceptional leg-spinner but not unplayable."

Thorpe, who earned 100 Test caps but never played in a winning Ashes side, retired from international cricket after being left out of the squad for the first Test at Lord's.

And he confirmed that he would not change his decision, even if the current side suffered an injury. "England have got enough players in their pool -- I have retired now,

and that is it. Your life moves on," he Despite the selection of Kevin Pietersen, which prompted his decision, Thorpe insists the selectors have already been vindicated with

the South African-born player flourishing in the Test arena. The selectors have made their decision and they will be happy with the way things have gone -- you can't

"Players come and go, and the game carries on. I think it's easier when you have had a fulfilling career and when your life is in a good place 'They will be chuffed with the way the side has responded to the challenge of Australia, and I wish them all

An Essien-tial signing

Football

AFP, London

Chelsea finally got their man on Friday signing highly-rated Ghana midfielder Michael Essien from French champions Lyon.

The English champions had been chasing the 22-year-old Essien throughout the summer, but Lyon at first refused to allow him to

But once it became clear that he was determined to join up at Stamford Bridge, Lyon relented and it was just a question of completing the relevant paperwork after that.

That was achieved this week with Essien passing a medical and agreeing personal terms. The fee, according to Essien's agent, was 24.4 million pounds (36 million euros).

Coach Jose Mourinho said that he had been looking for a player like Essien to finish off what he said was a "very, very strong squad."

"We believe he is the best we can get for that position. He can play every position in the midfield, but he will have to fight for his place. "He is young, he has a lot of ambition and he has enjoyed suc-

"I know the questions will be around the money Chelsea has spent, but that is the reality of modern football.'

cess in France.

Essien said that it had been his ambition to play in the English Premiership and that he had been delighted Chelsea had made a

"I don't think it will be a problem for me to fit in," he said. "I speak the language and also I speak French.

so it's going to be easy for me." "But it's going to be a tough competition for places here and I

am ready to fight for my place." Essien began his career in local club Liberty in his native Ghana and

scouts when he played in the Under-17 World Cup in 1999 in New Zealand. He transferred to Corsica side Bastia in September In 2001 he took part in the World

came to the attention of European

Youth Championship in Argentina, and made his Ghana full team debut in the 2002 African Nations Cup.

chester United Essien moved to Lyon in July 2003 in an 11-millioneuro deal after failing to get a permit to work in England.

Playing a defensive midfield role he helped Lyon collect their third and fourth consecutive league titles and in the process was named 2005 French league player of the

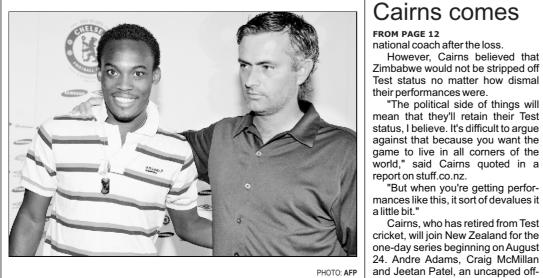
Last month the Ghanaian declared that he would "go on strike" against Lyon because of the club's refusal to trade him to

At Stamford Bridge he will join Jose Mourinho's galaxy of highprofile, big-earning stars that include England stars Frank Lampard, John Terry and another new signing Shaun Wright-Phillips, Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba and French international midfielder Claude Makelele

Drogba, who joined from Marseille for 24 million pounds (35) million euros) a vear ago, had been the club's previous record signing.

Essien will link up in midfield with Lampard and Makelele with Mourinho looking to defend their Premiership crown and add the European Champions League title. Chelsea suprisingly fell in the

semi-finals last vear to Liverpool who went on to win the trophy. Mourinho said it was unlikely that Essien would line up against Arsenal in this weekend's Premiership showdown as his work permit papers had yet to be completed.



Ghana's highly-rated midfielder Michael Essien and Chelsea Manager Jose Mourinho (R) pose after a press conference at Cobham, Surrey to officially introduce the 22-year-old player on Friday.

CRICINFO, undated

side in the past two Tests.

told the paper. "Find a way to get back in to the

"You've just got to find a way," he

SHANE WARNE

catches, mis-fielding and not hitting

Curran hopes for the best replacements for the ODIs squad, Chris Cairns, Craig McMillan, Andre Adams and Jeetan Patel for Paul

> arrived in Zimbabwe and are hard at India are due here on Tuesday with their 15. Sachin Tendulkar, out of action for several months with knee surgery, is expected to be

Wiseman, Craig Cumming, James

Franklin and James Marshall have

Curran said his priority in coaching will be team effort and the team

"This is natural in Zimbabwe, where schools here, right through from a very young age, are given coaching of a good standard by teachers, who regard sport as an integral part of education," he said.

"I have been part of that culture, right from childhood. I know it, respect it, and all the players it has

produced in 30 years. But he added that they need to go further, because of the small first class (four provinces) structure, which is good, but not good enough. Hence the tours next year. "The intensive and long standing

sports culture is why this small

country has produced a number of world class sportspeople over the "I want all the team to rapidly improve by five per cent, let's say, because that will impact on the team

as a whole. I am a team man but

also a really competitive person,

and always have been. I want that to rub off and I'm sure it will "It's all very exciting for me, ever though it will be a lot of hard work." Curran added that there is a verge large pool of talent in

Zimbabwe, but they are so young. "When people say they need time, that's very true. One day before not very long we shall be a force in world cricket. That, basi-

cally, is down to me.'

(Rajib), Idris and Rubel. Referee: Azad Rahman.