Hants plan floatation

A company that owns one of England's top county cricket teams is mulling listing on a junior stock market as interest in the sport grows, the Financial Times newspaper reported on Saturday.

Rose Bowl plc, which owns Hampshire Cricket in southeast England, "plans to open its innings in 2007 or before," the economic

In the first such plan of its kind for the centuries-old sport, the Financial Times said the firm was looking at floating on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

Rod Bransgrove, chairman and majority owner, said a public listing was his preferred route, according to the daily.

"We are profitable on the earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation line but not vet at the pre-tax level." Bransgrove was quoted as saying. "I would like to do a bit better than that. I think we will go into the black this year."

A renewed interest in cricket is sweeping England as its team battles to beat the Australians in an Ashes series for the first time in nearly 20 years.

Pak-Kashmir

surrounding the city are clearly visible from the stadium.

Authorities believe such grounds will help develop and promote cricket in the region, allowing locals greater opportunity to develop and play for the Pakistan national team.

Deewan Ali Khan said a delegation from the PCB had visited the stadium and declared it up to standard for the international cricket.

"I am confident that people of the region would welcome such matches being organised in the

region," he said. The proposal has solid support from cricket enthusiasts across

Local observers feel such an initiative would be a symbolic gesture in promoting the peace process

Observers say it will also help to create a positive image of an area described by former US president Bill Clinton as the most dangerous

Ruud calls

between the two countries.

FROM PAGE 12

contribution, the Korean withdrawn on the hour mark along with John O'Shea as Sir Alex Ferguson introduced Gabriel Heinze and Cristiano

The bid to inject greater urgency into United's play paid off almost immediately with headers from Heinze and Ronaldo provoking another pair of fine saves from Sorensen.

Villa were looking increasingly stretched and they were punished for failing to stem a Rio Ferdinand charge upfield in the 66th minute.

The England centreback was allowed to advance from the edge of his area deep into the visitors' half before feeding Ronaldo on the right.

The Portuguese winger's cross was met by Olaf Mellberg but the Swede only succeeded in deflecting the ball over and beyond Sorensen, leaving Van Nistelrooy, lurking at the far post, with a simple tap-in for his second league goal of the campaign and his third in as many matches in all competitions.

Scholes should have killed the contest six minutes later when Garv Neville's cross found him unmarked on the six-yard line, the midfielder directing the simplest of headers straight at a relieved Sorensen.

It did not matter in the end. United comfortably closing out a game in which new goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar did not have a significant save to make.

SL pair shine

ground was less than half full for a

match played out of South Africa's normal cricket season.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the Asian XI in the

second match of the Afro-Asia Cup against an Africa XI at Kingsmead on Saturday:

Sehwag c Boucher b Odoyo Afridi Ibw b Streak Sangakkara c Boucher b Odoyo 61

Jayawardene st Boucher b Odoyo Youhana c Pollock b Kemp

Inzamam not out Razzaq run out (De Villiers) Akhtar c Boucher b Streak Zaheer not out Extras: (lb-6, nb-5, w-6)

Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 267 Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-98, 3-120, 4-199, 5-225, 6-225, 7-235 Did not bat: Muralitharan, Nehra. Substitute: Ashraful.

O

Pollock 10 3 36 Streak 0 Zondeki 64 10 45 Odoyo Boje 0 24 0 28 AFRICA XI: Pollock. Dippenaar. Boucher, De Villiers, Rudolph,

Prince, Kemp, Boje, Streak, Odoyo, Zondeki Substitute: Tikolo.

Bowler

the treasure post as there was only Toss: Asia XI. one nomination paper submitted for Umpires: Billy Doctrove (West Indies) and Steve Davis (Australia).

Wenger's milestone match | Zizou, Ronaldo to appear on

Football

Ahead of his 500th match for the Gunners, Arsene Wenger admitted that he is still striving for perfection.

Wenger's milestone game comes on Sunday at Chelsea, and the Frenchman concedes that his only thought will be how to topple Jose Mourinho's side who took the title last season.

Having arrived at Highbury as an unknown in 1996, Wenger has since filled the trophy cabinet with three Premiership titles, four FA Cups and four Community Shields, as well as going through an entire league campaign unbeaten.

But the 55-year-old from Strasbourg in France's eastern, Alsace region admitted he has no idea where any of his medals or trophies from his first 499 games are

The only thought he has is how to achieve further success.

"It's 500 already but I feel like arrived at Highbury yesterday. I can't believe I have 500 games,' said Wenger, who played professionally as a sweeper for Strasbourg in the late 70s.

"I don't have one piece at home from my whole career, because I'm only concerned by what's happening tomorrow. In our job, you always have to worry about the future," he said.

"I have the medals at home, but I couldn't tell you where they are. There are some here, some there. but I have no safe. I'm just not interested in all that.

"I'm only concerned by the Chelsea game. I feel lucky in this job to make 500 games but I've never been a big fan of looking back.

"I just try to use history to be better tomorrow. I don't think that

concerned by what I've lost.

The bad moments always stick out more. The good moments you feel are normal because you work



ARSENE WENGER

for them, that can sound a bit pretentious but the bad moments, they hurt you deeply."

The bad moments for Wenger are the 89 defeats Arsenal suffered in all competitions during his 499 games in charge.

Those that stick out however are the 2000 UEFA Cup final defeat, losing two Champions League quarter-finals and a 6-1 hammering at Old Trafford, as well as an FA Cup final defeat by Liverpool.

"You always strive for perfection and the closest we got to that was when we played the whole season unbeaten," said Wenger

Since his arrival, the man known as the Professor, has turned the Gunners into a successful battalion. His French connection saw north

London witness a flood of French talent including Nicolas Anelka, who was bought for 500,000 pounds and sold to Real Madrid for 22 million pounds; Thierry Henry, the club's new captain was saved from a Patrick Viera was snapped up from AC Milan's reserves to become one of the world's best midfielders.

The season before Wenger was recruited Arsenal scored 67 goals at a rate of 1.43 a game. In their last campaign this had jumped to 117 at

When he arrived in England Manchester United were the dominant force, now they have been replaced by Chelsea, who are providing a new and different chal-

The dominance of Chelsea is not comparable to Manchester United's, although maybe it will

United were an exceptional bunch of players together coming from the youth system, all British, and they had something special that made them up for it in every game. It will happen only once in every 100

Arsenal's vice-chairman David Dein paid tribute to Wenger's contribution over the past nine years.

"There is no doubt he's the best signing the club has ever made. He's an extraordinary committed professional and the future of the club is safe in his hands," said

Former England and Newcastle United manager Sir Bobby Robson added: "I like what Arsene Wenger has done with the modern Arsenal They are a great team, a really accomplished outfit."

Next season Arsenal will start their campaign at the new 60,000capacity stadium at Ashburton Grove which stemmed from another Venger decision

But for now it's down to business as usual for the Professor.

Rafa not after Owen?

Football

AGENCIES, London

Rafa Benitez has once again rejected rumours he is planning to bring Michael Owen back to Liverpool as the Reds boss considers offers for Milan Baros.

Former Liverpool favourite Owen is being strongly linked with a return to Anfield after being granted permission to speak to other clubs. Newcastle United want to sign

the England ace, while reports in Spain persist that Liverpool are in Benitez has frequently denied

speculation he is chasing Owen and has reiterated his stance that he does not require a new striker. Instead, Benitez is close to

shipping Baros out of his squad, with Lyon and Aston Villa both lodging bids for the Czech Republic

Baros will remain in contention to play for The Reds while Benitez mulls over the offers, and the Spanish coach also scotched talk of fielding any enquiries for Diibril Cisse.

"I was waiting for [a question

about] Baros, maybe another one about Owen and maybe about Cisse," said Benitez "Baros we don't have news on. We have a good offer from

Olympique Lyon and another one from Aston Villa. "We must analyse both and while

we analyse he will be playing for us. "About Owen and Cisse there is no news. Cisse is our player and I can assure you we are looking for a centre back, not a centre forward. "When I read the Spanish press I

smile as we have not made an offer [for Owen] and are only thinking about the centre back position."

As part of Villa's bid to sign Baros, there have been suggestions that Benitez wants Nolberto Solano

Villa boss David O'Leary revealed Liverpool's interest in the Peruvian but Benitez insists he has

not made a bid for the winger. He added: "I only read the news and see on the TV they rejected our offer for Solano. We have not made

any offer for Solano. We are only talking about Milan and are waiting for a good price." O'Leary has again clarified his

desire to keep Solano at Villa Park and the Irishman cooled talk that he is tracking Juventus forward "No one has spoken to me about Nobby going to Liverpool," said

lose him as I'm already short of "Instead, I'm hoping that we might see some new players before the deadline, although I see my

O'Leary. "Obviously, I do not want to

name mentioned with a player in Italy but that is news to me.

Reds to take part in **World Club meet**



AFP, Liverpool

Rafael Benitez has set his sights on adding the world championship to his team's European crown after finally confirming Liverpool's participation at December's World Club

Championship in Japan. Liverpool had stalled on confirming their place at the event which debuted in Brazil six years ago.

It replaces the old format which consisted of a single match between the champions of Europe and South

America. Last month. Liverpool were drawn to face either Sydney FC of Australia or Costa Rica's Deportivo Saprissa in the semi-finals of the

competition But the European champions feared they would suffer from a fixture pile up if they took part in the FIFA showcase from December 11-

Mahbub GS-elect

Shamim Arju, a councilor from

Kushtia, was the other candidate who

withdrew his candidature from the

mant to fight for one of the four vice-

president posts along with Shafigur

Rahman Munna, Khondokar Jamil

Uddin, Gazi Golam Dastagir

Chowdhury, Golam Rasul Mulla and

There were three candidates --

Reazuddin Al Mamun, Rafiqul Islam

Babu, Iqbal Yousuf Chowdhury Miku --

for the two joint-secretary posts after

Kazi Tabarukul Islam Arif withdrew his

A total of 30 candidates had sub-

mitted their nomination papers for the

20 member posts but six withdrew

their names. Now 24 candidates will

Rahman Sinha was the other candi-

date who was elected unopposed for

Prominent businessman Afzalur

contest for the member posts.

But Aziz Al Kaiser Titoo was ada-

FROM PAGE 12

vice-president post.

Shaheen.

18. right in the middle of a busy Premiership schedule "We feel we must go to Japan," said Benitez.

"Looking at the Premiership fixtures, we will have to rearrange only one league game.

"Because we are Furopean champions, I think it's good for us to be there. "The problem has always been

the number of games for us this season, not because we don't want to go. For the club and the players, it

will be a great experience to play against teams from other conti-"Obviously when you have a lot

of fixtures, it's not easy, but we will

be positive about it. There was once a time when the European Cup wasn't as big as it is now. "Maybe in years to come, this competition will have grown. It will be good for us if in years to come

people see Liverpool has won the

world championship.

schedule of potentially more than 70 matches this season if they progress to the later stages of all five cup competitions they will play in this

As well as the World Club Championship, UEFA Champions Russia in Monaco.

later in the league campaign.

The World Club Championship is a lucrative competition with the winners taking home 4.5 million dollars (3.7 million euros, 2.6 million pounds), the runners-up 3.5 million dollars, third place-getters 2.0 million dollars and fourth 1.5 million

Federer sails, Safin fails



World number one Roger Federer

Fifth seed Andy Roddick battled past Russian Mikhail Youznhy 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 and now plays third seed Lleyton Hewitt of Australia, who saw off sixth-seeded Russian Nikolay Davydenko 6-2, 6-3

Top seed Federer let slip an early lead in the first set when his Argentine opponent Jose Acasuso recovered from 3-0 down to 3-3.

The Reds face a congested

League, FA Cup and League Cup, Liverpool will also play in the European Super Cup next week where they face CSKA Moscow of

Benitez will rest some key figures, such as Steven Gerrard, in that game to help avoid burn-out



REUTERS, Cincinnati

rolled into the semifinals of the Cincinnati Masters on Friday while fourth seed Marat Safin was dumped out by American wildcard Robby

But once the Swiss, in his first event since he won a third consecutive Wimbledon title, had taken the first set it was plain sailing as he clinched a 6-4, 6-3 victory. "I have the feeling I'm back," Federer said.

"My confidence is back. You lose it when you don't play, and you've got to earn it again. I am really happy with the way I'm playing now. Federer will meet Ginepri in the last four after Safin, who had impressed in his victory over Dominik Hrbaty in the

previous round, was dumped out 6-2,

6-3 in 56 minutes With Ginepri cutting down on the unforced errors, Safin selfdestructed, smashing a ball out of the stadium and throwing his rackt in disgust at his performance.

Maradona show

REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Diego Maradona said on Friday that Real Madrid stars Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos had agreed to appear on his weekly television show, "La noche del 10" (The Night of the 10).

"I spoke to Ronaldo, he confirmed yesterday (Thursday), Roberto Carlos confirmed, so did Zidane and so did (former Uruguay striker) Enzo Francescoli, Maradona said in a radio interview. Maradona said he also wanted

political figures to appear on his programme, including Argentine President Nelson Kirchner and Cuba's Fidel Castro, with whom Maradona shares a long friendship. "There are possibilities with Kirchner, I would like to have a head

adding that a possible interview with Castro would take place in Cuba. The show kicked off last Monday

to head with him," said Maradona,

with Pele as the main guest. Maradona buried his past differences with the Brazilian in a 2-hour encounter which had them hugging, chatting and singing off-key.

Djorkaeff faces old friend

MetroStars midfielder Youri Djorkaeff will face Zinedine Zidane, his former teammate on France's 1998 World Cup champion, when a Major League Soccer select side opposes Real Madrid in a friendly next week in

Djorkaeff was among 19 players selected Friday by MLS executives and New England Revolution coach Steve Nicol, who will lead the team in Tuesday's Trofeo Santiago Bernabeu.

The friendly has served as Real Madrid's final preparation match before they begin their Spanish season since 1979. Real Madrid open their schedule at Cadiz on

Bayern give Ballack an ultimatum

AFP, Munich

German champions Bayern Munich have issued an ultimatum to German international star Michael Ballack giving him six weeks to decide whether or not he wants to

stay at the Allianz Arena. Ballack is out of contract at the end of the season and Bayern have offered a lucrative four-year extension but are growing impatient at the plaver's reluctance to sign on the dotted line.

"We want an answer by the end of September or beginning of October," general manager Uli Hoeness told the Abendzeitung. "Our offer is on the table. There is

no need for more negotiations. He

has to just say 'yes' or 'no'." German international captain Ballack has been strongly linked with Manchester United and Real Madrid and his agent, Michael Becker, has admitted to testing out

the market value of his client. "Bayern took a long time putting their offer on the table," Becker told

Kicker magazine. Ballack joined Bayern from Bayer Leverkusen in the summer of 2002 and said at the time he was not ready for a move abroad, but at 28 this could be his last chance to ply his trade in another league.

If Ballack does shun Bayern's contract offer the club are likely to immediately put the German player of the year up for sale rather than risk losing him for nothing at the end of the campaign.

Steaua fined over Cisse abuse

AFP, Paris

Steaua Bucharest have been fined hv UEFA after Liverpool striker Diibril Cisse suffered racist abuse in a Champions League qualifier at the Bulgarian club this month The France international was

subjected to monkey chanting from Steaua fans during the third qualifying round first leg tie on August 10. UEFA's match observer reported. resulting in a 19,500 euro fine. But Steaua's executive director denied Cisse had been the victim of

appeal the quilty verdict. "We're unhappy because the demonstrations reported during the match weren't racial in character, insisted Valeriu Argaseala.

Cisse said after the incident that

racism, and said the club planned to

racists would never "grind me down". And he questioned what powers UEFA had to tackle the problem.

"You can say UEFA should take stronger action when it happens, but I'm not sure what they can do about it. You can't really stop these kind of people doing this."

Eriksson does it again!



Football

THE SUN, London England football manager Sven Goran Eriksson has been enjoying secret phone chats with ex-mistress

Faria Alam in a bid to win her back,

The Sun can reveal Eriksson, 57, spent hours talking to the 39-year-old former PA on his mobile -- behind the backs of Football Association bosses and his

Former England assistant manager Phil Neal said Friday night Eriksson should be "hung, drawn and quartered" over his phone chats

long-term lover Nancy Dell'Olio.

Sven has been in contact with a woman suing the FA "It's worse than having a spy in the camp. He should be hung,

Neal said: "I find it incredible that

drawn and quartered for this.' Neal called on Eriksson to guit when his affair with Faria first

England soccer legend Jimmy

Greaves says in his Sun column: "If Eriksson had been an Englishman

Former England captain Terry Butcher said: "If the performance should deteriorate as a result of anything that a coach or manager does outside football then you do

he would have been sacked as

manager a long time ago. A for-

eigner is getting the benefit of the

raise questions." The FA would be forced to pay eight million pounds to axe Eriksson, who still has two years to run on his watertight contract.

He is signed up to take the national team to next year's World Cup and has an option for a further two vears. At the height of the Svengate

gross misconduct without compen-But the FA's Colin Gibson was caught trying to expose Eriksson's relationship to cover Mark Palios

affair, the FA planned to sack him for

affair with her. Sven had a case for constructive dismissal.

Eng v Arg in Nov

England will play Argentina in a friendly match in November if they don't have to compete in playoffs to qualify for next year's World Cup.

The match is scheduled for Nov. 12 in Geneva. Switzerland.

England have played Argentina 12 times since 1951.

Matches between the two countries have inspired a fierce rivalry, notably from Diego Maradona's "Hand of God" goal in Argentina's 2quarterfinal win over England at the 1986 World Cup.

Media blast Klinsmann's selection

AP, Berlin

Germany's comeback from two goals down in a 2-2 draw in the Netherlands on Wednesday didn't stop the country's media from looking for scapegoats.

Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann brought back veterans Dietmar Hamann and Christian Woerns -- their first match since Germany's first-round exit at Euro 2004-and the media were scathing about their performances. "Rarely has a return to the

national team backfired as badly as

those of the two oldest German field players in Rotterdam," the Berliner Zeitung wrote. German news agency DPA said that the 31-year-old Hamann and the 33-year-old Woerns didn't fit into Klinsmann's youthful team, which

traditional German sides. "Safe passes aimed sidewavs instead of taking a risk, controlling the ball instead of pushing it up front, Hamann looked like a relic from an earlier era," DPA said.

nas an attacking style at odds with

Woems, expected to stabilize a oung German defence, was widely plamed for both of Arien Robben's first-half goals. But Germany hit back from a header by captain Michael Ballack in the 63rd minute and then equalized through striker Gerald Asamoah's 81st-minute goal.

Mourinho lays down law

Football

REUTERS, Cobham Jose Mourinho showed new recruit Michael Essien what to expect if he

crosses the Chelsea manager after giving defender Ricardo Carvalho a dressing down in front of his team mates this week Carvalho earned a fine and the full wrath of his boss who questioned the intelligence of his Portuguese compatriot after the

player complained publicly about being left out of Chelsea's first two games of the season. Mourinho has a highly paid, talented squad of internationals at his disposal but has always said the team ethic is more important than

"A private conversation was not

enough. He (Carvalho) gave a

reaction to the world and so I felt

individual skills

'why not in front of the family?", Mourinho explained after a training session ahead of Sunday's clash with Arsenal. Mourinho said it was a good opportunity to show Ghana's Essien, who signed from Olympique I von for 38 million euros (47 million dollars). how things were run at the

English champions, where top players were competing for each starting spot.

"These are problems a manager likes to have," he said. "Imagine, he (Essien) arrives in the dressing room and the manager

38 Under-

40 Little

louse

41 Rainbow

43 Pictures

47 Society

45 Countable

newbie

Sage of

Baltimore"

48 Skedad-

49 "The

54 Candle

55 Amelio

rate

Women

mate

59 Calendar

58 Carries

56 "Little

garment

By Eugene Sheffer

16 Under the

weather

duration

21 Almost

22 Sandwich

treat

23 "Walder

Two"

27 Cistern

29 Actress

30 Collec-

32 Garr or

34 Posei-

Polo

don's

spear

51 "Krazy

52 Ostrich's

cousin

Louis

Falco

author

DOWN

2 Bill-

1 Intimi-

boards

3 Cribbage

score

4 Proves

false

5 Prohibi

6 Black-

compo

nent

7 Mattress

8 Wyoming

range

Potter's

10 Stocking

11 Hawaiiar

resort

area

Solution time: 24 mins

9 Harry

kills Ricardo Carvalho in front of

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Upper

4 Beauty's

12 Praise in

verse

14 "Kitchy-

15 "H.M.S.

17 Director

18 - Fail

Pinafore'

Howard

(sacred

stone)

Camry

altruistic

24 From the

25 Sandy's

reply

28 Bargain

events

31 Waistcoa

longer

attraction

35 Carnival

36 Hitched

draft

animal

33 Chic no

26 Pvt.'s

21 More

19 Corolla or 57 Neither

lyricist

stands everything." "I do not need to be in love with my players, I just need to have the correct relationship with He said he had explained to Carvalho privately that he wanted

France's William Gallas in central defence to kick off the season. In the 20 matches Terry and Gallas have played in those positions since the start of last season

captain John Terry to partner

Chelsea have conceded only two

shown no desire to quit Chelsea everyone...now Essien under-The manager added that he would not be free to go anyway as he was important to the group and after such remarks a transfer was out of

the question.

when I do not do so...

Friday saying his comments came from frustration. "They were a mistake...I want to play for Chelsea and be part of the

The defender apologised on

group," Carvalho said in a statement on the club's website. "Like all footballers I want to play every game and I am disappointed



JOSE MOURINHO

CRYPTOQUIP

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A JUDGE IS BUYING SHAMPOO AND TOOTHPASTE, MAYBE HE'LL

puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

37 Agitation 39 Restitu-TJKO-EVKUQAX 42 Alabama 44 Basic EMKM RTVKB VS lesson 45 Drescher YKMJBT, Q XHMRR QB EVHZO Tarkenton 46 Shake-BTM IQAU villain 50 Chaps

JUST PREFER TRIAL-SIZE TUBES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals H 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