Veron Inter's Super Cup hero

REUTERS, Turin

Inter Milan won the Italian Super Cup on Saturday with a 1-0 extratime win over league champions Juventus at a rain-drenched Delle Alpi stadium.

Argentine Juan Sebastian Veron struck in the sixth minute of added time with a first-time drive after being set up by Brazilian Adriano.

The Supercup, the curtain raiser to the Serie A season, pits last season's Serie A champions against the Italian Cup winners.

There were few clear-cut chances in normal time but Juventus had an effort from French forward David Trezeguet harshly ruled out for offside on the stroke of half-time.

Alessandro Del Piero missed a great opportunity for Juve in the 72nd minute, firing wide from close range after Pavel Nedved had taken advantage of an error from Inter's Argentine defender Walter Samuel.

There was little to choose between the two teams in a competitive game that lacked real spark in

Inter opted not to feature their biggest new arrival of the close season, former Real Madrid winger Luis Figo, but Juve did play their major purchase, French midfielder Patrick Vieira from Arsenal, who has recovered from a thigh injury.

Inter finished third in Serie A last season but this win will boost their hopes that they could get their hands on the 'scudetto' this term for the first

Tendulkar optimistic

CRICINFO, undated

Sachin Tendulkar has said that his recovery from injury could happen earlier than anticipated.

He said that he had been following the rehab programme advised by his doctors and physio, and would return only after all concerned were happy with his recovery.

Tendulkar said that injuries were a part of any sportsman's life.

'If you are going to consistently push yourself hard, injuries are going to happen. At competitive levels in any sport, it's very normal to see the players go down with injuries," he told the Hindu.

"As far as I am concerned, it's part and parcel of any sport. When injuries have happened to me, I have overcome most of the obsta-

Tendulkar also said that it was natural that his body would change over the course of this long cricket-

Too much

Cricket Board managed to earn revenue of just over 300 million rupees since 2000, which includes over 220 million rupees from last year's home series against India. However, a Board source said

that the coming series against England had been sold for 15 million rupees to Bank Al-Falah which was not a bad effort since sponsors were keen to keep a budget for the series against India that follows in January-February and the Asia

"It is a packed season so naturally sponsors have a chance to pick and choose and naturally they go for

New ban threat

FROM PAGE 12 to punish urban residents who

rejected Mugabe in recent elections. The British government came under fire last year for not stopping England's cricket tour of Zimbabwe. Ministers said they had not

wanted the tour to go ahead but said the government could have been sued if it intervened. England players made no secret

of their reluctance to become involved in a political row but the England and Wales Cricket Board was able to fulfil tour commitments.

'Aussies in decline'

FROM PAGE 12 should have been going for the jugular, they had defensive field settings and two bowlers in Ashley

cracked under pressure. "Halfway through the tour, there is still all to play for and I might sit on

Giles and Steve Harmison who

the fence and predict a drawn His brother Steve Waugh, the former Australia captain, believes

the form of Adam Gilchrist could determine the outcome of the series. "The way I see it, England hold the advantage of better form while Australia have more potential to

improve," he wrote in the Sunday "The influence of Gilchrist has yet to be felt and it is here that the bal-

ance of power may rest. "Gilly's all-round game has appeared lethargic at times, and it is

no coincidence that Australia have also lacked a sharpness and edge to their play that has characterised them in the past.

"Wicketkeepers are the soul of the team and their voice and actions have consequences second only to that of the captain, so it isn't really a surprise to see so many chances being squandered at present."



Inter Milan's Argentine midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron celebrates after scoring the winner against Juventus in the Super Cup match at Delle Alpi stadium in Turin on Saturday.

draw by 10-man West Ham.

Fulham at Ewood Park.

Kuai's cross.

Blackburn have their first win of

The home side opened the

the season after a 2-1 victory over

scoring on 12 minutes as Morten

Gamst Pedersen finshed with a

crisp left-foot shot from Shefki

Brian McBride struck back for

Fulham but veteran Turkish

midfielder Kerimoglu Tugay scored

a stunning volley from Pedersen's

West Brom beat Portsmouth 2-1 at

the Hawthorns with Laurent Robert

grabbing a consolation for the

In the day's late game,

Manchester City came from behind

to beat Birmingham 2-1 thanks to a

the home side on seven minutes

before Joey Barton equalised on 20

minutes and Cole's goal two min-

utes into the second half moved the

will face last season's runner-up

ASIA XI: 267 for 7 in 50 overs

(Sangakkara 61, Jayawardene 52,

Youhana 42, Sehwag 38, Inzamam

Dippenaar c Jayawardene b Akhtar 23

Boucher c Javawardene b Zaheer 16

De Villiers run out (Sangakkara) 39

Rudolph c Sangakkara b Nehra 10

Tikolo (sub) c Sehwag b Muralitharan 43

Streak c Jayawardene b Zaheer 27

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-50, 3-71, 4-72,

O M

10

9.2

10

Result: Asia XI won by 17 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Kumai

5-118, 6-154, 7-192, 8-193, 9-235

21

R W

0 50

1 43

0 27

0 45

33

42

250

Prince run out (Razzag)

Pollock b Zaheer

Odoyo not out

Bowler

Akhtar

Zaheer

Nehra

Razzag

Muralitharan

Kemp run out (Sangakkara)

Boje c Jayawardene b Akhtar

Extras: (b-1, lb-9, nb-6, w-5)

Total: (All out in 49.2 overs)

32; Odoyo 3-45, Streak 2-64)

On Sunday, champions Chelswa

visitors up to fifth in the table.

Arsenal.

AFRICAXI

Nicky Butt opened the scoring for

wonder strike from Andrew Cole.

Geoff Horsfield scored twice as

corner to seal the three points.

American international striker

PREMIERSHIP

Spurs bury Boro

Football

AFP, London

Jermain Defoe buried his midweek Copenhagen misery to help fire Tottenham to a 2-0 win over Middlesbrough on Saturday and top spot in the English Premiership.

Spurs have a perfect six points from two matches and lead the way on goal difference with Charlton in second spot after seeing off Wigan 1-0 while Manchester United, who also have six points, are third after edging Aston Villa 1-0.

Defoe, taken off at half-time in England's 4-1 hammering at the hands of Denmark in midweek, lashed home a long-range effort four minutes into the second half to set Spurs on their way at White Hart That sparked a furious reply from

Middlesbrough but Stuart Downing wasted their best chance, blazing his shot over the bar from 12 yards with only Paul Robinson to beat in the Tottenham goal.

But Mark Schwarzer's mistake blunted the visitors' fightback as he let a weak shot from Mido slip

Sri Lankan batsmen Kumar Sanga-

kkara and Mahela Javawardene hit

polished half-centuries as the Asia XI

levelled the Afro-Asia Cup series

against an Africa XI at Kingsmead

Sangakkara was responsible for two

run outs and a diving catch while

Jayawardene held three catches in

the slips and another on the bound-

direct hit and a smart piece of thinking

which accounted for big hitting Justin

and bowled out the Africans, who

won the first match by two runs in

Centurion Wednesday, for 250 to win

Kemp was run out after Steve

Tikolo played the ball into the covers

and set off for a run. Kemp did not

respond. It seemed Tikolo would be

run out but Sangakkara did not take

off the bails and instead threw the ball

Sangakarra's run outs included a

The Asia XI made 267 for seven

Cricket

AFP, Durban

Saturday

by 17 runs.

through his hands and into the net with 15 minutes remaining to ensure the three points and top spot for

Darren Bent continued his and

Charlton's flying start to the season, scoring his third goal of the campaign as the Addicks beat Wigan at The Valley to go second. Fresh from his first call up to the

senior England squad for the midweek friendly in Denmark, Bent rose highest to head home a cross from Danny Murphy on 42 minutes. Liverpool are in sixth place, just two points behind the leaders, after

a 1-0 win over 10-man Sunderland

who had Andrew Welsh sent off in the second half. Xabi Alonso curled home a 25yard free-kick on 24 minutes after Carl Robinson had brought down Boudewijn Zenden as Liverpool's

domination finally told. Captain and talisman Steven Gerrard was substituted just 10 minutes into the second half with a slight injury and the England man will to miss Tuesday's Champions League tie against CSKA Sofia.

Afro-Asian finale set up

to the bowler, vice-captain Muttiah

Muralitharan, and Kemp, standing

side on the field after captain

Inzamamul Haq strained a groin

was laid by Sangakkara and India's

Virender Sehwag (38), who put on 91

for the second wicket off 101 balls

after Shahid Afridi had played a

typical innings, hitting the first ball he

faced from Heath Streak for six over

cover then playing across the line to

but their momentum slowed after

pinch-hitting opening batsman Mark

Boucher was dismissed when the

during which he was dropped twice.

Kemp hit 38 and Kenya's Tikolo

made top score of 43, like De Villiers

Final scoreboard in the second

match of the Afro Asia Cup series

between Asia XI and Africa XI at

AB de Villiers made a streaky 39.

total was on 23 in the fourth over.

surviving two chances.

SCOREBOARD

The Africa XI made a brisk start

be leg before off the next delivery.

Muralitharan captained the Asia

The foundation for the Asia XI total

out of his ground, was out.

when he slipped while batting.

Graeme Souness bemoaned his lack of striking options after watching his Newcastle team held to a 0-0 FROM PAGE 12

"It's very important for us to come sure," he added.

Asked to comment if his bowling Whatmore was unduly worried.

(Tapash) economy rate in the oneday games," responded the Bangladesh coach. Whatmore was happy to see

especially with the inclusion some Bangladesh A team players who performed quite well in England.

very good match preparations in there is competition for places which is something we want to see. Boys are fighting to get in the final eleven. and that's of course a good headache to have.

one-day series also offered a new challenge to both teams as they would be playing under the ICC's new rules.

"Super-sub and new field res teams in the series," he said.

Russel all over

FROM PAGE 12 Patrick out of their area two minutes

was over Russel restored their lead when Hanif leapt into the air to head the ball past goalkeeper Sohel after

squandered the easiest chance of the game when he failed to tap the ball from just a vard after meeting a low cross by Tanvir. But substitute Yusuf made it 3-1 in injury-time with his fifth strike in the championship when he pushed the ball into the open net when Sohel lost Majid's

team place after Majid's arrival, it was the first goal since his four-goal extravaganza against Youngmen's Club in the second round match.

Yellow cards: Pradeep and Sharif Khan (Russel).

TEAMS

Nehra

Afridi

Razzad

Muralitharan

ASIA XI: A

Sangakkara,

Youhana, Inz

Razzaq, Za

Full substitute

Muralitharan.

RUSSEL: Biplab, Sharif Khan (Sharif), Pradeep, Jahirul, Yusuf . Khan, Hanif, Nayan, Rachid, Tanvir, Bulbul (Yusuf) and Maiid WANDERERS: Sohel. Govinda Yakub, Mostafiz, Jahangir, Shakil

Patrick, Milon and Henry Referee: Ramkrishna Ghosh.

England chairman of selectors David Graveney launched a spirited defence of wicketkeeper Geraint Jones after naming an unchanged squad for the fourth Ashes Test against Australia starting at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

Australia-raised Jones, very much a batsman-keeper, was criticised for dropping two catches in the first Test at Lord's

And he found himself in the spotlight again after dropping a sitter off Shane Warne, having already missed a chance to stump the Australia great, in the recently drawn third Test of the five-match series at Old Trafford.

However, Jones made some amends with a superb one-handed catch to get rid of Warne in the never a chance of the Kent gloveman losing his place.

"I thought he responded brilliantly -- he had a tough period as far as the media is concerned when there was only an hour's play so his errors got a lot of attention," Graveney told BBC Radio Five Live on Sunday as he recalled the keeper's tough spell during the rainaffected third day at Old Trafford.

"But that goes with the territory and the way he responded with the bat, the way he played setting up the declaration, and also I have a very vivid memory of his brilliant reaction catch to get rid of Shane

England, who've lost the last eight Ashes series, were beaten by 239 runs at Lord's last month and ir past home encounters against

Australia, that might have led to wholesale changes.

For example, on Australia's last visit in 2001. England used 19 players in a 4-1 defeat although that figure was dwarfed by the 29 players who appeared during the six-Test 1989 series Australia won 4-0.

But Graveney insisted the selectors decision to stick by the same side had been vindicated by the way England won the second Test at Edgbaston and so nearly took a 2-1 lead in the five-match series at Old Trafford where Australia clung on for a draw with one wicket standing.

"I think our real test was after the first Test match when we didn't play well, we were outplayed, so there was a lot of comment about the same old England are we going to

Put a price

raise their level at the right time.

up with maximum success on the field. You have to take catches and capitalise on run out opportunities to put your opponents under pres-

options would be affected without having the experience of paceman Tapash Baisya to call upon.

"Check the record, what was his

healthy competition within the side

"Tushar (Imran) has done really well. In fact, all the A players had England. It's nice because now Now we've got to pick the right team

The Bangladesh coach said the

tions will be a new issue for both

into the second half.

But even before their celebration hard work by Tanvir at the right.

Six-goal Moroccan striker Maiid placing shot from his grip.

For Yusuf, who has lost a first-

CROSSWORD

(Apu). Nurul Islam, Jalaluddin,

Africa lose

FROM PAGE 12 Taibu c Sehwag b Razzag Pollock not out Streak Ibw b Afridi 14 Steyn Ibw b Muralitharan Zondeki run out (Youhana) Extras: (lb-8, w-3) Total: (All out in 32.5 overs) 106 Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-16, 3-26, 4-26, 5-26, 6-35, 7-54, 8-105, 9-106 Substitute: Odoyo.

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35 Wash

Barca start with silverware

Football

REUTERS, Barcelona

League champions Barcelona claimed their first trophy of the new season despite losing 2-1 at home to an under-strength Real Betis in the second leg of the Spanish Super Cup on Saturday.

The Catalans, who enjoyed a sparkling 3-0 win in the first leg in Seville last weekend, looked to be on course for another easy victory when African Player of the Year Samuel Eto'o put them ahead with an opportunist strike on 15 minutes.

But King's Cup winners Betis, who decided to field a shadow side ahead of next week's Champions League qualifier against AS Monaco, shocked the home crowd when reserve striker Dani grabbed two goals in the space of five first-

The rare home defeat took the shine off Barca's sixth victory in the

Super Cup. "It was important for us to win another trophy but it was a shame we couldn't win in front of our home fans at the Nou Camp," Dutch coach

Frank Riikaard told reporters. "This defeat might just serve as a wake-up call and show us that we can never afford to relax. First we have to work hard and then there will

be time for celebrations." Despite resting leading striker Ricardo Oliveira and influential winger Joaquin, Betis made a bright start with reserve strikers Dani and Xisco going close in the opening five

Barca responded by stepping up the pace and last season's leading scorer Eto'o pounced on an error by centre-back Melli to open the scor-

The Cameroon striker dispossessed the defender 40 metres out, sped off towards goal and coolly stroked the ball past keeper Pedro

Conteras. With Barca seeming to have the game under control. Ronaldinho showcased his more extravagant ball skills.

But his side were caught out in the 24th minute when former Valencia player Xisco raced down the left wing, found the unmarked Dani with a perfect cross and the pint-sized striker volleyed in.

A little over five minutes later Dani, who scored an extra-time winner to secure Betis's victory over Osasuna in the final of the King's Cup, notched his second goal.

This time he took advantage of a miscued clearance from Barca centre-back Oleguer Presas to bring the ball down with his right foot and score with his left.

'Be prepared to fight'

Football

REUTERS. Madrid

Brazil striker Robinho will have to "fight for his place" when he completes his move to Real Madrid at

the end of next week, says coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo The 21-year-old signed in a \$30 million deal after lengthy transfer negotiations with Santos and is

scheduled to arrive in the Spanish

capital on Thursday. Real side open their season with a Primera Liga match against promoted Cadiz on August 28, but Robinho can expect to start among the substitutes.

"Robinho will have to fight for his

place here, like (fellow new signing Julio) Baptista," Luxemburgo told Spanish sports daily Marca on "Julio is starting to play because he arrived earlier and has done a full

pre-season. Robinho is going to arrive later and it will be Baptista who will start playing. "There is a lot of competition here and Robinho isn't going to arrive on the 25th (of August) and go

straight into the starting line-up.

"He will have to take it step by step. He has to fit into our style of play and philosophy first." Robinho is likely to be competing with Baptista, club captain Raul,

place in the Real first team. Meanwhile, Ronaldo is confident Robinho will have a big future at Real. Robinho had joined his new Real teammates, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and Julio Baptista in Split last

Ronaldo and Michael Owen for a

week for Brazil's friendly against "The truth is I do not need to be selected for Brazil to speak with

Robinho, because we're on the

phone every day," said Ronaldo. "We were all very anxious to see him sign for Madrid. But now that it's happened, we're now all very calm. A great future waits for him at Madrid.

"All the players at Madrid wish

Ronaldo added: "At Real Madrid it is very easy to play because there is so much quality in the group. As soon as he arrives he is going to win over to the fans with his skill.



Thorpe to retire end of season

Cricket

AFP. London

ACROSS

1 Clutch

5 Occupa

8 Hit the

deck

Ford

mouse

14 Sandus

15 Anne

ky's lake

Murray

hit song

18 Cacopho-

19 Old coot

payroli

Sherilyn

21 On the

24 Actress

25 Skunk's

17 Abundant 50 Canyon

13 Man-

12 Lincoln or 42 On

Graham Thorpe announced Sunday he would be guitting all first-class cricket at the end of the

current English season. The former England batsman had already bowed out from Test cricket after being omitted from the squad for the first match of the ongoing Ashes series against Australia

And now the 36-year-old Surrey left-hander has confirmed he will stop playing competitive cricket completely at the end of the current

36 Risqué

41 Sticky

stuff

43 Snoopy's

hockey

48 Memori-

zation

49 Summer-

time

method

quencher

phenom-

baseball

52 Plaything

player's

53 Sax

enon

51 Slaughter

37 Trumpet

inserts

38 Comment

"I have decided the time has come for me to retire," he told the

Mail on Sunday. "It is an emotional moment because in the main I have had a fantastic time and there are many things I will miss, but I feel comfort-

able this is the right decision." Thorpe, who made a century on his Test debut, against Australia at Trent Bridge in 1993, scored 6,744 runs in 100 Tests at an average off 44.66 with 16 hundreds, 39 fifties and a highest score of 200 not out against New Zealand in Christchurch in 2002. He also took 105

catches.

20 Tackles

21 Sacred

23 Leo's

22 Concept

nounce-

(suspect)

anthropic

seers?

31 Ski-lift

type

34 Window

acces-

sories

37 Slande

38 Excep-

39 Harrow

rival

quand

sleuth

41 "Cabaret"

affirma

40 Mar-

44 Altar

tive

45 Eagle a

par-3

46 Article

47 Scuttle

ment

24 Red-hot

27 Smell -

28 Was phil-

mates

By Eugene Sheffer

DOWN

1 Petrol

2 Hose

3 "Who

mishap

judge?'

matter

member

7 Harassed

Molnar

neighbor

ous look

10 Existence

16 Auction

character 29 Sight-

6 "Catch-

22"

8 Writer

9 Calif

4 Particu

Zim no joy ride

Ganguly, however, has not scored an international century since then as bowlers around the world worked out his apparent weakness against

the short-pitched ball. With Tendulkar nursing an elbow injury, India need Ganguly's experience, which has given the lefthander 4,949 runs in 82 Tests at an average of 40.90 and 10,046 runs from 274 one-dayers with 22 hun-

dreds A tough and uncompromising captain, Ganguly has provided Indian cricket with some of its finest moments like the come-frombehind 2-1 series win at home over world champions Australia in 2001. a place in the World Cup final in 2003 and maiden Test and one-day

series wins in Pakistan in 2004. But how he bats in Zimbabwe will count more than his captaincy skills.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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PRGZ CRG NZTQFHT BGNMGT

CF UVZBCHFZ ZFQONKKS,

HC VZTGQPGZC N ENMHB

UQFZCNK QFEFCFOS. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A HARD-WORKING PIGLET WERE SHORT OF BREATH, I GUESS IT

WOULD BE THE PINK PANTER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T

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.

Boss behind Jones Cricket second innings after Andrew Strauss had dropped the initial slip chance and Gravenev maintained that, for all the comment, there was