

Where have the passports gone?

CRICINFO, undated

Six Indian cricketers and five members of the support staff – including Greg Chappell, the coach – currently in Zimbabwe are without passports after their documents were either stolen or lost.

The team manager Amitabh Chowdhary, whose own passport is missing as well, has said that the necessary procedures were under-way and that fresh passports would be issued shortly.

"We lost the passports on Wednesday while I was watching the match between New Zealand and Zimbabwe at the ground on Wednesday," Chowdhary was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India.

"Follow-up action has been taken, forms have been filled and we expect the new passports to be issued by this evening."

Suresh Raina, Rudra Pratap Singh, Murali Kartik, Harbhajan Singh, Ashish Nehra and Mohammad Kaif were the six players whose passports went missing, while the same fate also befell Greg King, the trainer, physiotherapist John Gloster and Ian Frazer, the bio-mechanist. Of these, Raina, RP Singh and Kartik were selected only for the one-day squad, and will return home on September 8.

India win easily

FROM PAGE 12

Yuvraj c Dabengwa b Blignaut 120
Rao run out (Dabengwa) 27
Dhoni not out 67
Yadav not out 0
Extras: (lb-1, w-11, nb-1) 13
Total: (For 6 wickets in 48.1 overs)255
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-23, 3-34, 4-36, 5-91, 6-249
Did not bat: Harbhajan, Kartik, Agarkar
India full substitute: Rao (Rudra Pratap, India innings, 9.2 ov)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mahwire	9.1	0	40	2
Ireland	10	0	59	1
Blignaut	9	0	54	2
Ewing	5	0	23	0
Utseya	6	0	25	0
Williams	5	0	30	0
Dabengwa	4	0	23	0

Result: India won by 4 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Yuvraj Singh.
Toss: India.

Umpires: D Harper (Australia) and R Tiffin (Zimbabwe)

England recall

FROM PAGE 12

David Graveney.
"He will continue to receive treatment over the next 48 hours and be re-assessed by the medical team at practice on Tuesday."

Jones will be expected to undergo strenuous fitness tests on Tuesday and Wednesday if he is to take his place in England's line-up and not present an opportunity to Collingwood or Anderson, who claimed four for 52 on his last appearance at The Oval last year to help England claim a summer whitewash with a 10-wicket victory over West Indies.

Anderson, who has claimed 51 championship wickets for Lancashire this season, is favourite to earn a recall at The Oval should Jones fail to recover in time having leapfrogged ahead of Tremlett for the biggest Test in years following the Hampshire seamer's untimely loss of form.

Tremlett has struggled to make his mark in county cricket after being released from each England Ashes squad this summer and was inconsistent in claiming two for 48 from 9.2 overs during Hampshire's C and G Trophy final victory over Warwickshire at Lord's on Saturday.

"Chris will be disappointed not to be included in the squad having been named in the 12 for the first four Test Matches," conceded Graveney. "His involvement with the Test squad has meant limited opportunities for him with Hampshire in recent weeks and, as a consequence, we feel that he is not at the top of his game at present."

"James Anderson has big match experience with England and we feel that his inclusion in the squad will give the captain and coach another bowling option in the event of Simon Jones being unfit to play."

Graveney also confirmed Warwickshire batsman Ian Bell, who suffered cramp during Saturday's final defeat, has declared himself fit, although the inclusion of Collingwood in the squad also provides cover for him if he suffers any recurrence.

TEAM

Michael Vaughan (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Andrew Strauss, Ian Bell, Kevin Pietersen, Andrew Flintoff, Geraint Jones, Ashley Giles, Simon Jones, Matthew Hoggard, Steve Harmison, James Anderson, Paul Collingwood.



TEN Sports

US Open
Live at 5:00 am & 9:00 pm



PHOTO: AFP

Paraguayan Roberto Acuna (R) congratulates teammate Roque Santacruz after the winner against Argentina at Defensores del Chaco stadium in Asuncion on Saturday.

Paraguay down Argentina

AFP, Montevideo



Ecudao and Paraguay both took giant steps towards qualifying for next year's World Cup finals with key wins in Saturday's South American zone World Cup qualifiers.

Ecudao travelled to La Paz to inflict a 2-1 win over bottom of the table Bolivia while Paraguay edged a 1-0 win at home in Asuncion against already qualified Argentina.

In the day's other game between two out of contention sides, Venezuela defeated Peru 4-1.

Reigning world champions Brazil are expected to seal their qualification on Sunday when they host Chile, while Uruguay are home to Colombia with both sides badly needing three points.

Four teams will qualify from the

10-country zone, with the fifth team going into a play-off against Australia or the Solomon Islands. Australia defeated the Solomons 7-0 Saturday in the first leg of their Oceania Zone playoff.

Ecudao's hero was Agustín Delgado who struck twice in the seventh and 49th minute either side of a 41st minute goal by Doyle Vaca for Bolivia.

That consolidated their third position in the group behind Argentina and Brazil with 26 points from 16 games and they finish their campaign with a home game against Uruguay and away to Chile.

Ecudao's Colombian coach Luis Fernando Suarez said that his team had played decidedly better in the second half than in the first. "After opening the scoring, we let up and Bolivia took advantage to equalise," he said.

Roque Santacruz opened the scoring for Paraguay against

Argentina after only 14 minutes latching onto a through ball from Julio Dos Santos and steadying himself to plant a fine shot into the right corner of Roberto Abbondanzieri's net.

It was the first time in the history of the qualifying competition that the Paraguayans had managed to defeat their Argentinian neighbours.

The home side were happy to hold on to their lead and the Argentine cause was hardly helped in the 55th minute when Manchester United defender Gabriel Heinze was given his marching orders for a foul on striker Edgar Barreto.

Argentine coach Jose Pekerman said that Paraguay had been the better side and had deserved their win.

The win consolidates Paraguay in fourth place with 25 points from 16 games.

Blokhin keeps his word

AFP, Kiev

He was a star striker in the Soviet era. Now Oleg Blokhin's star is rising again after becoming the first coach to lead an independent Ukraine into the next year's World Cup finals.

"We did it!" Blokhin screamed after hearing that his squad had qualified for the finals. "A lot of people called me an adventurer when I promised to lead Ukraine into the finals."

"I know that they will call me crazy but I believe that now we are capable of winning the World Cup!"

Though Ukraine failed to book their pass to Germany in a head-to-head clash with Georgia, where they recorded a 1-1 draw, they still clinched a World Cup finals berth after Turkey drew 2-2 with Denmark at home.

Saturday's results left Ukraine with an unassailable seven-point lead over the Turks with two qualifiers remaining.

Ukraine became the first European team to qualify for the 2006 World Cup apart from hosts Germany.

"The dream comes true!" said the team's skipper Andriy Shevchenko. "I've got a lot of personal prizes during my career but I always have been dreaming to achieve something with my country's team."

"I'm happy! One should experience that feeling at least once in his life."

The 53-year-old former striker Blokhin, who won 112 caps and scored 42 goals for the Soviet national side and was the 1975 European Footballer of the Year, has scored another goal: making good on a promise many thought a tad bold at the time to get Ukraine into the 2006 World Cup finals.

"Blokhin is a man and a coach, who is full of ambitions," the head of Ukraine's Football Federation, Grigory Surkis, said after Blokhin was appointed in September 2003.

"He really cares about our football and the country's national squad. And he himself is a symbol of winning spirit."

The confidence of Ukraine's football supremo played off as Blokhin called back to his team experienced veterans Vladislav Vashchuk and Sergei Rebrov, bolstering his side with a set of new and talented players.

His squadron managed to collect four points in a two-match opposition with Denmark and the European champions Greece, thrashing 3-0 the 2002 World Cup bronze medalists Turkey at their home turf.

Ukraine have also maintained a 100-percent record in matches with the group's underdogs Albania and Kazakhstan.

However, the country's first success was recently under serious threat when Blokhin was forced to announce his resignation earlier this year after a row over his position as a member of Ukrainian parliament.

Blokhin, who won two European Cup Winners' Cups with Dynamo Kiev in 1975 and 1986, is a member of the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

The SDP supported Viktor Yanukovich, who lost the race for president to Viktor Yushchenko, whose supporters, Blokhin claimed, had driven him out as national coach.

"I feel pain in my heart leaving the team, which is my life and the heart of my desire to serve my Motherland," Blokhin said explaining his decision. "However I have no other choice but to step down."

Questions aplenty

FROM PAGE 12

But like the embarrassingly one-sided 11 matches between the two sides prior to this series, Sri Lanka once again had all the answers to Bangladesh's plays.

Promoted to number three, Mohammad Rafique failed to provide any fireworks and skied Maharoof while trying to slog just after the quickest team 50 in the series came in 8.5 overs.

Shahriar Nafess, who was Bangladesh's top scorer in all three games (39, 51 and 21), drove a rising delivery by Maharoof to midwicket two balls later and Mohammad Ashraful, completed a miserable series when he was trapped in front for a three-ball duck while trying to work a fuller one from Fernando on the leg side.

Bangladesh had recognised batsmen even at number nine but the men who really mattered, did not contribute. Aftab Ahmed paid the price for playing from the crease while Bashar sliced the ball to wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara. Both made one.

Bangladesh were staring at a below three-figure total when Upul Chandana in his first over successfully trapped Khaled Mashud. After three deliveries, the leg-spinner called for a slip and Mashud responded with an edge to Samaraweera who palmed a sharp low catch.

Tushar Imran, Manjarul Islam and last man Tapash Baisya managed to reach the double figures to make sure Bangladesh did not fall behind the hundred-mark for the ninth time in their ODI history. Still, the 108 all out against Sri Lanka, the lowest total against Sri Lanka, Bangladesh's previous lowest total against Sri Lanka, 76, is also their overall lowest.

Ukraine's night to remember

AFP, Paris



The qualifying is far from over for most but World Cup first-timers Ukraine were cracking open the champagne, or perhaps the vodka,

after becoming the first European team to qualify for the finals with room to spare on Saturday.

Ukraine, who join Germany, who as hosts qualify automatically, have led an impressive campaign in Group Two and it appeared they would still need a result from their next match against Turkey following their 1-1 draw away to Georgia on Saturday.

However Turkey's subsequent 2-2 draw at home to Denmark left Ukraine with an uncatchable seven point lead over the Turks.

The Ukrainians will have been grateful for the injury-time equaliser by Denmark's Soren Larsen which saved them the trouble of needing to take something from their home game with Turkey on Wednesday.

Throughout, Ukraine coach Oleg Blokhin has not just had to rely on the talent of Andriy Shevchenko, the

AC Milan marksman, and will be looking forward to parading his side in Germany next summer.

For some of Europe's big guns, however, it's far from over and there's still all to play for before qualifying winds up this October.

England, forever in search of the holy grail that is the World Cup they last won in 1966, remain second in Group Six after a Joe Cole goal allowed Sven-Goran Eriksson's side to scrape a 1-0 win against Wales.

England sit behind Poland, who continued their impressive campaign with a 3-2 win against Austria in Chorzow.

The hosts had surged to a 2-0 lead before Austria got back on track to reduce the deficit.

Poland now have a two-point lead over England but, along with basement side Ajerbaijan, have played one game more (eight) than the rest of the teams in the group.

Poland host Wales in Warsaw on Wednesday and whatever the result, and that of their final match, against England in Manchester, they are guaranteed a place in the play-offs.

For England's historical rivals France, whose international credentials are fresher having won the World Cup in 1998 and the European Championships two years later, the return of Zinedine Zidane proved a help although not decisive.

France's campaign has been flagging since Raymond Domenech took over as coach of 'Les Bleus', and Zidane and Lilian Thuram came out of their international retirement to lend a hand.

Zidane was his usual inspirational self in midfield, however it was the boots of Liverpool striker Djibril Cisse which proved most lethal to Jakkup Mikkelsen in goal for the Faroe Islands.

France dominated the match, and came out 3-0 winners to claim their first group win since beating Cyprus last October.

Cisse grabbed the opener for the hosts and added a second-half goal to an unfortunate own goal for the visitors.

France now share the same number of points as Switzerland and the Republic of Ireland but lie third on goal difference.

USA book ticket

AFP, Columbus



When they're not playing Mexico at Azteca Stadium, the Americans have discovered it has Mexico's number.

Actually, it's two numbers – two and zero as in 2-0.

That was the score of the US qualifying victory over Mexicans in the cold here in 2001.

That also was the final of the Americans' stunning triumph at the 2002 World Cup.

And not surprisingly, it also was the result of Saturday's qualifier that boosted the US into its unprecedented fifth World Cup.

It certainly was sweet for the Americans, who lost to their rivals in Mexico City 2-1 in March.

In the other CONCACAF qualifiers on Saturday, third-place Costa Rica (3-1-3) posted a 3-1 triumph at last-place Panama (0-2-5), and Trinidad and Tobago (2-1-4) edged visiting Guatemala (2-1-4), 3-2.

The top three teams from the six-nation qualifying group from North and Central America and the Caribbean (CONCACAF) automatically qualify for Germany. The

fourth-place finisher faces the fifth-place team in Asia, either Uzbekistan or Bahrain.

Goals by Steve Ralston and DaMarcus Beasley early in the second half lifted the US to victory in front of a packed house of 24,685 at Columbus Crew Stadium.

"I'm so happy, man. They made it a little bit easier on us. I expected more. After we got the first one, they were never in the game," forward Landon Donovan said after tasting champagne in the Americans locker room.

"The only thing sweeter would have been to score. At least for three or four more years they will shut up and can't say anything and I love it."

The US became the seventh country to book one of 32 spots in soccer's promised land in Germany, joining the hosts, Argentina, Japan, Korea, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the Ukraine.

Mexico will have to wait until Wednesday to qualify, when it hosts Panama.

For the first time since 1934, when it defeated Mexico, 4-2, for the lone spot in the region, the US became the first team from CONCACAF to book a spot in the Cup.

The US (6-1-0, 18 points) hasn't

lost to Mexico (5-1-1, 16pts) in a home qualifier since 1972 and raised its record at the stadium to 4-0-3.

Moreover, the US is unbeaten in seven straight home games against the Mexicans since 2000, outscoring their foes, 11-0.

As it turned out, the US ended their qualifying quest at the same stadium where they began it in June, 2004, when they defeated Grenada.

This time it took them seven out of 10 games to clinch, as opposed to nine games in 2001.

After a scoreless first half, the US found a way to break the Mexican defence.

The US broke a scoreless tie in the 53rd minute on midfielder Ralston's fourth international goal.

Beasley gave the Americans a two-goal advantage in the 58th minute as the PSV Eindhoven midfielder scored from 10 yards off a pass.

At the other end of the field, central defender Oguchi Onyewu held Jared Borgetti in check. Borgetti, a thorn in the Americans' side with two qualifying goals in as many victories, was rendered virtually useless by the 23-year-old defender.

Cook punishes Aussie attack

AFP, Chelmsford

Essex opener Alastair Cook celebrated being named England's young cricketer of the year by smashing a superb double century against Australia here on Saturday.

The 20-year-old left-hander plundered a total of 214 from just 238 balls to ensure it was a painful day for Australia's bowlers in their final warm-up match before the fifth and final Test against England, which starts on Thursday at The Oval.

Essex finished the day on a massive total of 502-4 from 105 overs.

The tourists had gone into the match looking for the extra edge they will need if they are to win the Test and prevent England from reclaiming the Ashes.

Instead it was Cook who set the tone for the day, delighting the 6,000 sell-out crowd with a flurry of boundaries, including three from Brett Lee's second over.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		38 Doctrine	3 Desert	23 TV alien
1 Hotel employee	39 Seek restitution	24 Storm locale	27 "Flying Down to —"	
5 Satchel	40 Actress Eleniak	4 Minne-sola city	25 Scound-rel	
8 Impale	43 Antl	5 Port city of 3-Down	26 Compete	
13 "Can I take that as —?"	49 Author Kingsley	6 Klein of fashion	27 "Life — cabaret, ..."	
14 Not pizzicato	50 Winged Pooch	7 Stickum	28 Skedad-dle	
15 Authentic	51 Seance sounds	8 Subordi-nate official	31 Branch	
16 One of a winter foursome	53 "— sana in ..."	9 Slender (Pref.)	34 Trail-mix eaters	
18 Knight-hood candidate	54 Have bills dandling site	11 Huguenot descendant	35 "— Mommy kissing ..."	
20 Mail dam proj.	21 1933 Support system?	17 Near the tables	36 Clear	
22 Support system?	23 Mehila-bel's friend	19 Wall climber	37 Comment	
26 Horror-movie villain	27 Horror-movie villain	22 Disgraceful	39 Prolong-ed attack	
30 Brooklyn sch.	31 Succor	32 Baltimore news-paper	40 Biblical kingdom	
33 Mercenary	36 Trade-marked name		41 Anger	
			42 Terrible guy?	
			43 Pointed projection	
			44 Somalian super-model	
			45 Mature	
			46 Existence, to Caesar	
			48 Altar affirm-mative	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
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53					54			55		

CRYPTOQUIP

X R W X G J S F S T C I L X O R
V G S G S O Z X G C H O V Z C
H W V L O N I C F S O O C N S

H J X - T V N K C H R S L K S G R .
Yesterday's Cryptquip: RECENT BOB DYLAN 'IT ABOUT A NOISY COW HERD ON A BLUSTERY DAY: "LOWIN' IN THE WIND."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: V equals O

The Cryptquip 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.

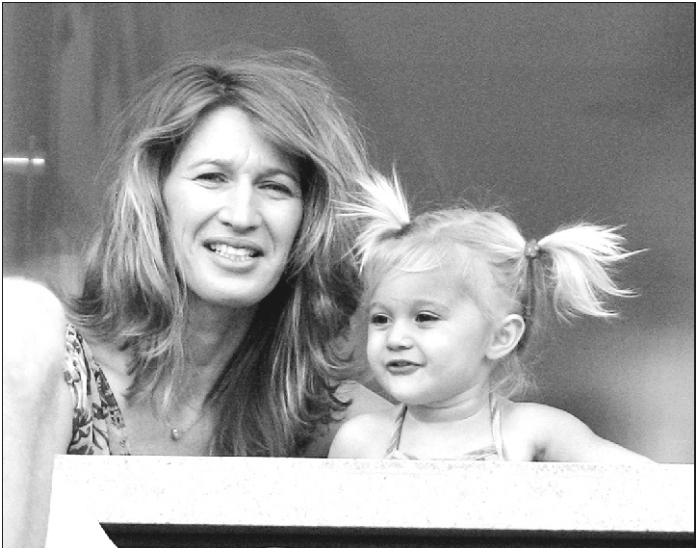


PHOTO: AFP

THE TENNIS KID: Jaz, daughter of tennis legends Steffi Graf (L) and Andre Agassi, watch her father's match in the US Open at Flushing Meadows in New York on Saturday.