Chelsea, L'pool eye knockouts



English rivals Chelsea and Liverpool can become the first two teams to reach the Champions League knockout round with wins on Tuesday

Chelsea, the Premiership champions, can reach the last 16 with a win at Real Betis in Spain while Liverpool, the defending European champions and second behind the Londoners in Group G, will also go through with a win against Anderlecht at Anfield. The Belgians have lost all of three matches in the tournament this season without scoring a goal and haven't won a European tie in their last 10 outings.

Liverpool are desperate for a European tonic. They are 13th in the Premiership, with just

three wins and seven goals in nine

They are a huge 18 points behind Chelsea but coach Rafael Benitez has an admirable record in Europe with 17 wins in 25 matches.

"We did a very good job in Brussels in the first leg to win 1-0," said Benitez.

"Now we intend to finish the job withanother victory. If we do that we will be virtually through into the knockout stages. We have been very positive in our Champions League matches and I hope that we can continue this now."

Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in the first meeting of the two teams and a 2-0 Spanish League defeat at home to Real Madrid on Saturday left them four places off the bottom

"Chelsea are a good team but it has been demonstrated in the past that things don't always go as expected," said Betis coach Lorenzo Serra Ferrer.

"I dont think my players are psychologically frightened about facing English sides even though Chelsea are a very

Chelsea go into the game having seen off Blackburn 4-2 which kept them nine points ahead at the top of the English Premiership at the weekend.

"I hope Betis think they can beat us and they play their normal way," said

Chelsea coach Iose Mourinho. "We know we have to face difficult match after difficult match. We never said we will beat everybody. The only thing we keep saying is we are the best

Four-time French champions Lyon, with three wins in three matches so far in Group F, could virtually make sure of a place in the next round if they beat

Adriano

Inter Milan superstar Adriano has been

under fire recently for his poor form and

lack of discipline, but on Sunday he

apologised to his club and promised to

"I analysed this difficult time with

President Giacinto Facchetti and made

him a promise: I want to find my form as

soon as possible so that I can help Inter

which, recently, I have been unable to

could explain some of my perfor-

mances, but I must shut out any excuses

The man dubbed 'L'Imperatore

(The Emperor) has been disappointing

of late and hit the headlines for all the

wrong reasons. He caused controversy

and was publicly taken down a peg by

Juan Sebastian Veron after he took an

extra three days to return from interna-

tional duty, then turned up an hour late

for Friday's training session amid

reports he had been out dancing the

I will do what the club, the Coach, my

team-mates and the fans ask of me,"

continued Adriano. "When I renewed

my contract with Inter, I made a precise

choice, because I want to win and

continue to grow both as a player and a

However, the Brazilian cannot

"I think that everyone can go

rediscover his scoring touch through

will-power alone and admits his poor

through a period where the ball just isn't

hitting the back of the net. The club

showed me affection and proved that it

cares, because the things that were said

were for my own good. I thank Inter for

this. I have promised to prove on the

field that I want to get over these prob-

lems with hard work.

 $form\,could\,last\,for\,some\,time.$

"I promised President Facchetti that

night before.

or alibis and concentrate on my work."

"The pain I still feel in my shoulder

do," he told the official club website.

Football

do better.

Self-critical

Olympiakos in Greece.

Coach Gerard Houllier, who groomed the vast majority of the Liverpool squad which went on to win last season's Champions League, believes the summer signing of Tiago from Chelsea could prove crucial as they plot a path to the quarter-finals for the

"I'm very pleased with Tiago. He is tactically very important and with his skill on the ball, gives us a bit more fluency," said Houllier

Real Madrid, who are in Lyon's slipstream in Group F, go to Rosenborg hoping that Ronaldo, Julio Baptista and Zinedine Zidane will recover from injury to make the trip to Norway.

But defender Michel Salgado will probably miss out after suffering a suspected broken jaw in Saturday's win In Group E, last season's runners-up

AC Milan go to PSV Eindhoven, who they beat in the semi-finals on the way to the final, buoyed by handing Juventus their first Serie A defeat of the season.

Milan are top of Group E with five points from three games, one ahead of Fenerbache and PSV.

1964 and 1965, top Group H with six points from three matches and face 2004 champions Porto at home

Inter Milan, European champions in

Like Liverpool, Inter are struggling on the home front and are eight points behind Iuventus.

But Inter have an excellent home record against Portuguese clubs in European competition with six wins and a draw in seven meetings.

Glasgow Rangers, 10 points off the pace in the Scottish Premier League, are second in the group behind Inter with four points and go to Artmedia Bratislava, the Slovakian team who put $out\,Celtic\,in\,the\,qualifying\,round.$ They too are looking for a continen-

tal boost against the team with whom

FIXTURES

Group E PSV Eindhoven (NED) v AC Milan (ITA)

Olympiakos (GRE) v Lyon (FRA) Rosenborg (NOR) v Real Madrid (ESP)

Schalke (GER) v Fenerbahce (TUR)

Group G Real Betis (ESP) v Chelsea (ENG) Liverpool (ENG) v Anderlecht (BEL)

Group H Artmedia (SVK) v Rangers (SCO) Inter Milan (ITA) v Porto (POR)

SERIE A

AFP, Rome

Fiorentina moved to within five points of Serie A leaders Juventus after fighting back from a goal down to beat Cagliari 2-1 on Sunday.

Fiorentina

stay close

Honduras international David Suazo capitalised on a weak backpass by Marco Di Loreto to give the Sardinians a first-half lead and increase their hopes of claiming their first win of the campaign.

But Luca Toni toe-poked his 12th goal of the season to level the score soon after the break before Martin Jorgensen's low drive sealed victory nine minutes from time.

The Florence club are now emerging as genuine title contenders but their coach Cesare Prandelli was keeping his feet firmly on the ground.

TOP SIX

Italian football league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Juventus	10	9	0	1	19	5	27
Milan	10	8	1	1	21	8	25
Fiorentina	107	7	1	2	22	12	22
Inter	10	6	1	3	20	10	19
Livorno	10	5	3	2	11	10	18
Palermo	10	4	4	2	17	14	16

Hussey covers for Langer

AFP, Brisbane

Mike Hussey is in line to make his long-awaited Test debut after opener Justin Langer admitted Monday he was losing his fitness battle to play in Thursday's opening Test against the West Indies at the Gabba.

England.

that it's hard to run and it's hard to

"You can be as optimistic as you like. But I saw the intensity and the way the guys trained this morning and if I'm not up to 100 per cent, I wouldn't be playing

Langer, who was on course to play his 100th Test against South Africa in Sydney next January, said he has been advised to rest for 10 days, which should have him ready to return for the second

But if he is forced to stand down, Langer said he could not be more delighted that the 30-year-old Hussey would get the chance to make his Test

sional and I've watched him since he was an 18-year-oldkid," Langer said.

"I've probably not met a guy who wants to wear a baggy green cap as much as Mike Hussey does.

"So if I'm going to be replaced by anyone, you couldn't have a better

Hussey was placed on standby by selectors and flew to Brisbane from "Justin's going to be given every

chance to prove his fitness. I've just got to sit and wait," Hussey told reporters.

DCCA donation

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Dhaka Cricket Club Association (DCCA) donated TK 50,000 to ailing umpire Mahbub Haque Shaheen on Monday. Shaheen has been suffering from kidney

President of the DCCA Kazi Eusha Mishu handed over the amount to



Mourinho 'special' for Wenger

Football

AFP, London

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has launched a stinging attack on his Arsenal counterpart Arsene Wenger who he claims gets his kicks commenting on Chelsea's Premiership cam-

Mourinho, whose champions and league leaders have a 14-point advantage over the Gunners, has urged Wenger to concentrate on improving his own club's results before talking about Chelsea. The Portuguese was infuriated by

Wenger's decision to comment about

After days under heavy sedation as his

life hung by a thread, George Best

started to wake up on Sunday as doc-

tors declared they were "very pleased "

The 59-year-old former footballer

began to breathe for himself as medi-

cal staff at the private Cromwell

Hospital in west London turned his

ventilator down and he showed he was

oversaw Best's liver transplant in 2002,

said he was still in a serious condition

with internal bleeding and kidney

problems but there was "an increasing

Professor Roger Williams, who

aware of his surroundings

Football

Chelsea's 1-1 draw at Everton last Sunday and their FA Cup loss to Charlton on penalties in midweek.

Wenger had said that some of Chelsea's self-belief disappeared after those two results and that hope had been restored to those clubs involved in trying to catch the runaway league

Mourinho responded by suggesting the Arsenal chief is clearly rattled by their success. "I think he is one of these people

who is a voyeur," said Mourinho after watching his side destroy Blackburn 4-2 at Stamford Bridge to make it 10 wins out of 11 in the league this season. "He likes to watch other people.

Best breathing on his own

He said: "He's recognising people.

He's better in that respect but please

don't run away with thinking he's

fantastic because there's still a long

for the internal bleeding seemed to be

working but there was much to do to get

all his organs functioning. The main

worry was Best's kidneys which were

"affected by the bleeding and the

for the next few days, he said. " It's the

long haul when somebody has been as

get back a very reasonable quality of

Best would remain in intensive care

Professor Williams said medication

way to go. He has not spoken."

they are at home, they have a big telescope to see what happens in other families. He speaks and speaks and speaks about Chelsea "It bothers me because the guy is

speaking all the time. We never speak about them. "You can do it when you are top and

you have a big morale. When you are on game number 11 and you still can't win away from home, and when you are without Thierry Henry and he can't win a game, he should be worried "He's worried about us, he's always

talking about us. It's Chelsea, Chelsea,

Phil Hughes, Mr Best's close friend

and agent said: "I started to talk to him

and he gripped my hand. He's unable

to talk as yet but he's certainly aware

Champions League clash where victory will ensure a place in the knock-

don't know. He loves Chelsea."

about the other families.

However, Argentinian striker Hernan Crespo has not travelled to Spain to face Real Betis after picking up a muscle injury in Saturday's victory.

"I might be worried if my team

"I don't know if he wants my job, I

The Blues now travel to Seville for a

made a defensive mistake. I shouldn't

be worried about what Arsenal did at

Tottenham. They are always speaking

But winger Damien Duff made the trip and may start the game on the

PREMIERSHIP

Magpies fly on Owen - Shearer AFP, London

A Michael Owen double and a late strike from Alan Shearer helped kick some life into Newcastle's Premiership campaign with a 3-0 away win at West Bromwich Albion on Sunday.

Newcastle manager Graeme Souness has been under pressure to turn around the Magpies disappointing start, which had left them eighth from bottom of the Premiership, and this fourth win from 11 games will be wel-Two pieces of news concerned

Newcastle in midweek, and both could be said to have led to Owen's opener moments after the restart.

French midfielder Charles N'Zogbia whom the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled could stay at the club after an appeal by his former side Le Havre, combined with Shola Ameobi in the 46th minute and the Frenchman sent in a probing cross for Owen from wide on the left flank.

Owen perfectly timed his run to the near post and prodded the ball home with the outside of his right foot to leave goalkeeper Tomasz Kuszczak clutching

Shearer came on to replace Ameobi and barely 10 minutes later Newcastle had doubled their lead.

Shearer found Kieron Dyer on the right and the England midfielder raced to the byline before cutting the ball back to Owen at the near post where a first time prod sent the ball high past Kuszczak. Shearer grabbed a goal of his own $10\,$

minutes from time after Dyer had started a move which left Owen with the hall in midfield.

The England striker released Peter Ramage after the defender's great run down the right and when his cross was heading across goal Shearer pounced to $divertit\,past\,Kuszczak\,from\,close\,range.$

By Eugene Sheffer

King stands by his charges

AFP, Brisbane

Coach Bennett King Monday defended his West Indian cricketers against claims by fast bowling great Michael Holding of an attitude problem, just days before the opening Test here with Australia.

Holding has criticised the current touring party, accusing the squad of not focusing on cricket and on representing the West Indies. Holding said the attitude prob-

lem would lead to the Caribbean tourists being demolished in all their three Tests against Australia. The West Indies have not won a

Test in Australia since February

"I'm concerned about their general focus. They aren't focused on their game enough, they aren't focused on representing the Windies enough," said Holding, who claimed 249 wickets in 60 Tests.

Holding, here as a television commentator on the series, pointed to the disciplining of paceman Tino Best last week over a training incident as an example of the lax attitude within the squad.

But King Monday stood up for his players and questioned Holding's knowledge of the contemporary Windies squad. "He's not privy to the group now

don't think," King told a lunch. "The group actually works really hard and I think publicly they're getting more acceptance.

Trescothick FROM PAGE 12

momentum going

England have another three-day side game starting in Lahore from November 6, before they take on Pakistan in the $first\,Test\,at\,Multan\,from\,November\,12.$

Record-breaking

Yuvraj b Dilshan Rao not out Extras: (b-6, lb-2, nb-5, w-1) Total: (For 4 wkts in 46.1 overs) 303 Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-99, 3-185, 4-

Did not bat: Yadav, Pathan, Agarkar, Harbhajan, Kartik

Substitute: Rain	ubstitute: Raina for Kartik						
Bowler	O	M	R	V			
Vaas	6	0	43				
Fernando	8	0	38	(
Maharoof	7	0	50	(
Muralitharan	10	1	46	2			
Chandana	10	0	83	(
Dilshan	5.1	0	35				
Result: India won by six wickets to							

lead seven-match series 3-0. Man-of-the-match: Mahendra Dhoni.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Next match: Pune, Nov 3.

Barca run riot

Dutchman rifled a volley into the corner of the net. It was the first goal Sociedad had conceded after five The Brazilian doubled the lead in

the 36th minute, playing a one-two with van Bommel before firing a vicious low shot inside the post. Ronaldinho put the game beyond

Sociedad with a free kick from the edge of the area on 60 minutes. Uranga earned his second yellow card before Puyol headed in the fourth

goal following a corner. Second-half substitute Larsson made it 5-0 near the end after

Silvinho's cross was allowed to bounce in the area, leaving him free to score at

CRYPTOQUIP

UM CA OCVUAR KORUJOA

CEFBOTXOAVT, U'E XCBB

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals L

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.

U V C N K F - V O O A E U O V . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A COUPLE OF COOING BIRDS TIED YOU UP AND DRAGGED

--Intenet source Rummenigge calls Makaay

Adriano is expected to start in

Tuesday's Champions League clash

with Porto at the San Siro. It's a very

important tie, as Inter lost 2-0 in

lazy

Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge insists Dutch international striker Roy Makaay needs to up his workrate considerably if he wants to end his recent barren spell in front of goal.

Makaay last scored in Bayern's 3-0 win over Hertha Berlin on August 27 and Rummenigge claimed even West Germany's striking legend Gerd Muller, who scored 365 goals in 417 international matches, had to put in the hard work.

"He (Makaay) needs to work harder for himself and the team," explained Rummenigge.

"When Gerd Muller went ten games without scoring he worked hard to be successful again. He needs to take this criticism on board and think about it quickly.

Makaay, a club record 18.75 million euro signing from Deportivo La Coruna, will hope to end his run of 994 minutes without scoring in Wednesday's Champions League trip to Juventus. 'As long as he is getting the

chances to score I am not con-

cerned," said Bayern manager Felix

Magath. "Once he ends this barren

spell he will go and score regularly

Makaay was Bayern's top scorer last season with 22 league goals as Munich won the Bundesliga title by

Langer, who fractured a rib while batting for Western Australia in a one-Cricket dav match last weekend, has until early Tuesday to prove he is fit to play

> Langer has bravely insisted he would play but on Monday the stoic lefthander admitted his chances were

> "If it's anything like this morning, I don't think I've got that much chance," said Langer, who has played 53 consecutive matches since winning a recall for The Oval Test of the 2001 Ashes tour of

> "It's pretty sore and it's a lot worse than I thought it was when I spoke to everybodyvesterday. "I'm not so worried about getting

another hit in the ribs. It's just the fact

on Thursday."

Test in Hobart starting on November 17.

"He's your consummate profes-

deflected off bowler Kemp's boot when Fleming was backing up. The New Zealand captain stroked the ball stylishly in making his runs off 90 balls with seven fours in conditions

which favoured the bowlers early in Pollock not out his innings.

Styris went on to make top score of 78 off 102 balls. After Fleming's dismissal he had partnerships of 47 and 48 with Craig McMillan and Brendon

ball of the innings. Smith's decision to send New Zealand in paid off as his pace bowlers made inroads on a well-grassed pitch

Makhaya Ntini struck twice in his first spell and finished with three for 37, while Andre Nel took two for 47. South Africa were without Jacques Kallis, their vice-captain and star

But Gibbs, who missed the early part of the season and could not play for the World XI in the ICC Super Series earlier this month because of a knee injury, took over the role of senior batsman with an elegant

over cover for six. His innings lasted 94 balls and he hit eight fours and a six.

South Africa's 12-match winning streak took them past the West Indies, who had 11 successive wins in 1984 and 1985, in the all-time list. Australia hold the record with 21 consecutive wins in 2003. **SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard of the third one-day international between South Africa

 $Smith\,c\,McCullum\,b\,Adams$

on Sunday: NEW ZEALAND: 243 for 9 (Styris 78,

and New Zealand at St George's Park

Gibbs c Marshall b Bond Prince c Mills b Adams 21 Boucher run out (Vinwhen we are talking to him. "There's no doubt that he is still seriously ill but little signs like that are

enough to say he's on the mend.' Doctors said Best's transplanted liver was functioning well, despite his acknowledged alcoholism. He has been

treated for an infection for the past four weeks, to which he is especially susceptible as a result of the immunosuppressant drugs he takes to prevent his liver being rejected, and his condition deteriorated severely earlier

--Internet Source

SA keep on winning

Justin Kemp hit New Zealand fast bowler Shane Bond for a massive six which sailed out of St George's Park as South Africa won the third one-day international with four balls to spare

South Africa took an unbeatable 3-0 win in the five-match series with a four-wicket victory. It was their 12th successive one-day international win, the second-best winning streak in

New Zealand, who set the home side a target of 244 to win, seemed to have clawed their way back into the match with some disciplined bowling and tigerish fielding before Kemp and Shaun Pollock came together in an

unbeaten stand of 43 off 24 balls. Nine runs were still needed off the final over but Bond's first ball was slightly short and Kemp pulled it high over midwicket and into the street

He hooked the next delivery for four to finish the match. South Africa's win was set up by

Herschelle Gibbs, who stroked a fluent 81, but their winning streak was in danger when Gibbs was caught at point off Bond and Mark Boucher run out by a direct hit by Lou Vincent from

of pressure but we stood up when it counted," said South African captain Graeme Smith. All three matches in the series have

"It's very disappointing to get so

Fleming and Scott Styris made

"We put ourselves under a little bit

close in each game but not get over the line," said New Zealand captain South Africa won the first match in Bloemfontein by two wickets and the

second in Cape Town by 19 runs.

had close finishes.

half-centuries for New Zealand to enable them to reach a competitive 243 for nine after a poor start. The Black Caps slumped to 49 for three after being sent in before Fleming and Styris put on 59 for the fourth wicket. Fleming made 54 before he was out in freak fashion when the ball

Professor Williams added that he should suffer no "long-term harm from these acute episodes" and should

Andre Adams slammed 25 off 14 balls before being run out off the last

which gave them early help.

batsman. Kallis was feeling ill before second match in Cape Town

He top-scored with 51 but was substituted early in the New Zealand innings. Kallis took part in a fielding practice Saturday but reported ill

innings. Gibbs reached his half-century off 66 balls and hit the next ball off leftarm spinner Daniel Vettori effortlessly

Fleming 54, Adams 25; Ntini 3-37, Nel **SOUTH AFRICA**

De Villiers c McCullum b Mills

Total: (For 6 wkts in 49.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-48, 3-101, 4-

Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-

Bowler	U	M	
R	W		
Mills	10	2	
45	1		
Bond	9.2	1	
73	1		
Adams	10	1	
40	2		
Styris	10	0	
32	0		
Vettori	9	0	
49	0		

150, 5-187, 6-202

Result: South Africa won by four wickets and lead the 5-ODI series 3-0. Man-of-the-match: Herschelle

CROSSWORD

Next match: Durban, Nov 4.

ACROSS 38 Gibson or 56 Tease 21 Scull tool 1 David's Brooks 57 Different 23 Way back weapon 40 Benevo 6 Mark DOWN 24 Towel with organiza 1 Luminary designaspots 2 See tion 12 Sports 42 Motor-46-Across 25 Pismire arenas oil 3 Perfect 26 Wild West 13 Aviatrix additive 4 Zilch festival Earhart 44 Shrek is 28 Heel 14 Does carbon type the den 46 With 30 — Paulo fuel walls 2-Down. 6 Show 31 Thickness guts 15 Governor singer 33 Storm 16 Neighboronce 7 Improve wed to 8 Cribbage 34 Sort 17 Admitting Xavier 39 Making scorer clients Cugat 9 Nice all the **19 DDE** 50 Impale 10 Occupa stops 52 "--- -Boon 41 Skater opponent 20 Kinks -Dee-Ay" 11 Grub Hughes

22 "-- Boot' 18 Idle e.g. 24 Pos-55 Merchant chatter sesses Solution time: 27 mins. 27 Isn't well 29 Horror reaction 32 Worldwide 35 Command 36 Satan's field

37 Monkey

54 Gandhi

12 Resort 42 "Wheel of Fortune' option 43 Prong 45 Pool member? 47 Ordered 48 Rabbit or Fox 49 Corn 51 Disencumber

53 Illustra-

UT JCEO OTNOXUCBBQ MFK

YOU OFF, YOU WOULD BE PIGEON-TOWED. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for