jail term

Former Romania international

Gheorge Hagi escaped jail Tuesday

when a court gave him a suspended

fine for kicking and spitting at a

referee in a Turkish league match

sentenced to 17 months in jail for the

attack during the 2001 game

between Istanbul outfit Galatasaray

But the judges then handed him

a fine of 2,857 Turkish Liras (1,770

euros, 2,125 dollars) which was

suspended on the grounds that the

defendant was unlikely to commit

criminal activity in the future, the

Hagi played for Galatasary

between 1996 and 2001, during

which the club won four league

titles, the UEFA Cup and the Super

2004 to train Galatasaray, but

resigned in May following weeks of

speculation that he would be axed

for falling foul of the management

He later came back in March

Anatolia agency reported.

and Ankara club Genclerbirligi.

The 40-year-old was originally

AFP, Istanbul

four years ago.

#### **India okay** Karachi as Test venue

REUTERS, New Delhi

India has conditionally cleared the national cricket team to play a Test in Karachi during their tour of Pakistan starting next month, a Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) official said on Tuesday.

"The tour has been cleared (by the government). Karachi has also been cleared to play a Test, provided certain security conditions are met," Rajiv Shukla, chairman of the BCCI's media committee, told reporters.

"The government informed us yesterday," he said.

Teams touring Pakistan have been reluctant to play Tests in the cricketmad port city of Karachi due to security

The Indians refused to play a Test in the city when they toured Pakistan last year, crossing the border for a series after a 14-year absence.

Shukla said a team comprising security and cricket board officials would travel to Pakistan to make a firsthand assessment of the situation in the volatile city.

Although a major cricket venue, Karachi has been the scene of a series

of bomb blasts in recent years. Only two Tests have been staged in Karachi in the last five years with teams particularly hesitant to play there after the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States.

Last year, the Indian government cleared the team to play only a oneday game in Karachi at the last moment, but the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had requested that their neighbours should agree a Test match

The PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan had travelled to Mumbai this month to persuade his Indian counterparts on the issue.

India are scheduled to play three Tests in Lahore. Faisalabad and Karachi and five one-davers in Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan and Karachi during their tour.

#### SA Archery C'ship in Dhaka

**BDNEWS**, Dhaka

The First South Asian Archery Championship will be held in Dhaka from February 8.

A total of 96 players from India Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and hosts Bangladesh will take part in the five-day meet, said Raiib Uddin Ahmed, general secretary of South Asian Archery Federation at a press conference vesterday. Fach team contains 16 players --

eight men and eight women.

The participants will compete in two events named recurve bow and bamboo bow at the Old Airport

#### Div I cricket

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Sagar slammed his second ton as Young Pegasus registered a massive 94-run victory over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in the First Division Cricket League at the Dhaka University ground yesterday.

Pegasus rode on a 113 by Sagar to amass 292-7 in allotted 50 overs and then dismissed Eskaton for 198 in 46 overs. Sagar had earlier hit his first hundred against Surjo Tarun.

At the City Club ground, Uttara Sporting Club thrived on two halfcenturies by Gary (68) and Babu (56) to score a huge 283 for 9 in 50 overs to beat Dhaka Wanderers (247 all out) by 36 runs.

#### V-Day hockey

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Police won their respective matches in the Victory Day hockey competition at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Army beat Sonali Bank 2-1 while Police defeated Bangladesh Air

### BU storm

FROM PAGE 16 **TEAMS** 

**BROTHERS UNION: Mohammad** Ali, Pranotosh, Masud Rana, Siraji (Al Mujahid), Arup Kumar, Inani, Felix (Tapu), Liton (Rikta), Shuvro, Jislan and Paul

BANGLADESH ARMY: Monirul, Tutul, Rashedul Hasan, Mizanur Rahman Didarul Hague, Abu Naveem (Shahidul/Monwar), Atiqul. Silan Khan, Shaheen (Mamun Reza). Ragibul and Anwar Referee: Mansoor Azad

#### India cricket

FROM PAGE 16

"Sahara todav is svnonvmous with Indian cricket," he said. "We got value for money during the deal that is coming to an end now."

The new BCCI regime, headed by political heavyweight Sharad Pawar, hoped to raise another 80 million dollars a year through the sale of television rights for international matches in India.

Bids for the TV rights will be finalised by the end of the month,

Cricket-mad India, with huge television audiences, is the biggest market for the sport in the world.

## Blatter thinks otherwise Hagi escapes

Football

FIFA chief Sepp Blatter, facing court action by clubs angry at receiving no compensation for players injured in international matches, said Tuesday clubs should be paid for releasing

'My opinion is that clubs deserve a minimum of respect for releasing players and they should be paid from the allocation," he told a press conference.

He pointed out that FIFA will allocate seven million Swiss francs (4.5 million euros/5.4 million dollars) to every one of the 32 finalists in the 2006 World Cup, with the winners picking up 24 millions (15.5 million euros/18.5 million dollars).

"National associations should not only pay their players but think about the clubs," he said.

Blatter said the FIFA executive committee would discuss the subject on March 17-18

Asked if the French federation would have to pay Chelsea for players released for the World Cup, he replied: "Yes if the principle is

But he baulked at the idea of African countries paying rich European clubs like the English

Cricket

England will play for pride and

points in the international rankings

in the fifth and final one-day match

against Pakistan here on

into the last match with the series

already decided, but a lot of ranking

points are up for grabs and a lot of

pride in how we play," said acting

captain Marcus Trescothick, after

his team's narrow 13-run defeat late

lead, surviving a late-order England

rally through Kabir Ali (39 not out) and

lan Blackwell (29) who added 50 for

the ninth wicket after the home team

Ali then partnered last man

James Anderson in a 33-run stand

before paceman Shoaib Akhtar had

Anderson caught in the slips by

Younis Khan with 11 balls left in the

the ten-team International Cricket

Council (ICC) one-day rankings.

They are in danger of being rele-

gated to the qualifying rounds of

Pakistan will look to prepare hard

and bouncy pitches for the Test

series against India next month,

according to Pakistan skipper

the ones we played on against

England. We will like to have tracks

with more bounce and pace in them

as we now have a pace attack

capable of taking full advantage of

such tracks," he said in Rawalpindi

Pakistan the Test pitches were

hetter suited for the visiting seam

bowlers who with their reduced

pace took more advantage of the

little grass on the soft surfaces.

English curator Andy Atkinson had

supervised the preparation of the

pitches. Agha Zahid, the chief

curator of the Pakistan Cricket

Board who has prepared the pitches

for England series, said that for

Had reason to celebrate an old-

fashioned innings built on concen-

They were also left to contem-

Or more tantilisingly, had they

plate what might have been had

Hodge been dismissed in the sec-

justly been given an earlier crack at

the Australian middle order after

catching Ponting out early in his

innings only to see the delivery

The two teams will now head to

South African selectors were

Melbourne in preparation for the

Boxing Day Test which starts on

facing a headache about who they

should drop with Kallis expected to

return to the side along with the

likely inclusion of spinner Nicky Boje

to add variety to their attack

wrongfully ruled a no-ball.

December 26.

ond innings when dropped on 13.

tration and willpower.

Last year when India toured

"The pitches will be different to

England currently lie seventh in

managed a modest 210.

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Inzamamul Haq.

on Sunday.

fourth match.

Pakistan took an unassailable 3-1

"It is not an ideal situation to go

Wednesday after losing the series.

AFP, Rawalpindi

Monday.

"You can't ask Ivory Coast to pay Chelsea for (Didier) Drogba. That would be turning the world on its head, the rich would get richer and the poor poorer. Each case would to be examined individually."

The 2006 World Cup in Germany will generate 1.7 billion euros (two billion dollars). FIFA General Secretary Urs Linsi said 10 days



SEPP BLATTER

ago, with FIFA expecting to make a profit of around 110 million euros.

French champions Lyon and Belgian side Charleroi, backed by the G14 group of elite European clubs. have already started court proceedings against FIFA for being forced to release players who were

English pride at stake

next year's ICC Champions Trophy.

ICC rankings next April 1 will have to

play a qualifying round and England

only have two more matches

against India after the Pakistan

part in a qualifying round, with only

two progressing to the tournament.

above South Africa into second

place behind Australia if they beat

in both the Test and one-day series

against Pakistan just four months

after their Ashes triumph against

overnight and there are definite

issues to address," said

Trescothick. "We have not adapted

to situations as well as we have

from the Ashes I don't know, but you

have to work even harder going into

the next series, as people are wait-

been in a good position to win after

dismissing Pakistan for 210 on

Inzy wants hard, bouncy

Pakistani bowlers hard and bouncy

and leaving grass on the wickets are

not useful for the team. Our bowlers

need hard and bouncy tracks where

they can gain that extra pace and

make the ball swing in the air," he

pitches for the Tests in Lahore.

Zahid said that preparation of the

'Our bowlers have more pace

pitches for India Tests

tracks were more suitable.

explained

"Whether that's a comedown

Trescothick said his side had

"Yeah, I think we were in a very

"You don't become a bad team

The other four will have to take

Fittingly, Pakistan can move

England have crashed to defeat

series to avoid relegation.

England by a margin of 4-1.

Sides outside the top six in the

Final ODI against Pakistan today

then injured in what they call mean-

The G14 group wants FIFA to provide insurance and compensation to clubs for players who are injured while representing their

It says FIFA's regulations are an abuse of the body's dominant posi-

FIFA refuses to recognise or negotiate with the G14 group.

G14 argues that FIFA's refusal to contribute towards players' salaries - even though clubs lose money when they suffer injuries in international matches - is illegal.

FIFA are accused of being in breach of European Union law by abusing their dominant market position.

The clubs are seeking a share of FIFA's revenues from the World Cup. Some national federations pay for their players to be released for international duty. German clubs receive 6,000 euros per player from the German federation but poorer federa-

tions, particularly in Latin America and

The G14 says clubs are not asking for money every time a player is released but a percentage of the income from major competi-

good position to win, chasing 211. It

did spin more than expected, but we

didn't get partnerships going, lost

wickets at the top of the order and it

didn't go the way we wanted it to go,"

Pakistan captain Inzamamul

"It is a fantastic win in a crucial

Haq was delighted to clinch the

match. Now we can try out one or

two young players in the final match

but the intensity to win the match will

PAKISTAN (from): Kamran Akmal,

Salman Butt, Younis Khan,

Mohammad Yousuf, Inzamamul

Haq (captain), Shahid Afridi, Abdul

Razzag, Shoaib Malik, Navedul

Hasan, Shoaib Akhtar, Danish

Kaneria, Mohammad Sami, Arshad

ENGLAND (from): Markus

Trescothick (captain), Matt Prior,

Andrew Strauss, Vikram Solanki,

Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff,

Geraint Jones, Ian Blackwell, Liam

Plunkett, James Anderson, Steve

Harmison, Ian Bell.

remain the same." he said.

Africa, cannot afford to.

## Figo hopes big

Cup.

Inter Milan star Luis Figo is confident that Portugal, runners-up in Euro 2004, can win next year's World Cup in Germany.

"As a player I expect to take part in a great championship. As far as the team is concerned, I believe Portugal can win the World Cup in Germany, although the big favourite is Brazil," he told the Record sports

The FIFA World Player of the Year in 2001 has said he will retire from international football after the World Cup finals in Germany.

Figo, 33, announced he was taking an indefinite break from international football shortly after Portugal's 1-0 loss to Greece in the final of the Euro 2004 in Lisbon.

But in May Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, who led his native Brazil to the World Cup in 2002 recalled Figo for World Cup qualifiers against Slovakia and Estonia after the player said he was ready to return to the squad.

Portugal are in Group D along with Iran, Mexico and debutants Angola in the first round of the 2006 World Cup.

#### Curse of the 17th

REUTERS. Rome

Fiorentina striker and Serie A top scorer Luca Toni has blamed supernatural forces for his inability to score his 17th goal of the season. The Italy international started off

the season at a phenomenal rate, scoring 16 goals in Fiorentina's opening 13 Serie Amatches. In the three games since, how-

ever, he has failed to score, hitting the post and the bar in a 2-1 defeat to Juventus, missing a penalty in a 1-0 win over Treviso and then hitting the post again in a 1-1 draw with Empoli on Sunday

In Italy the number 17 is considered unlucky, just as 13 is in England and the United States.

"I admit it: I'm starting to believe in the curse of the 17th goal," Toni was quoted as saying in La Gazzetta dello Sport on Tuesday. "I'm a fairly superstitious person."

But the numerical barrier was only half the problem, he said.

Toni has also lost his lucky charm - a small red horn that usually hangs from the rear view mirror of

"The horn isn't there any more," he said. "I broke it. Or rather I lost the bit you need to hang it up. It all happened after the game against

#### India bury

FROM PAGE 16 Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-6) Total: (All out in 63.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-74, 3-74, 4-82, 5-105, 6-144, 7-155, 8-198, 9-

Bowle 36 2 18 87 25 Harbhajan 22.2 INDIA: Second innings Sehwag c Maharoof b Malinga

Gambhir c Sangakkara b Muralitharan 30

Laxman c Sangakkara b Maharoof

Tendulkar Ibw b Dilshan

Yuvraj c Sangakkara b Bandara 75 Kaif Ibw b Bandara Dhoni Ibw b Muralitharan Pathan b Muralitharan Agarkar c and b Bandara Kumble not out Harbhajan not out Extras: (b-7, lb-9, nb-2) Total: (For 9 wkts in 66 overs) 287 Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-9, 3-34, 4-81 5-100, 6-134, 7-174, 8-198, 9-247 Bowler 0 M R W Malinga 10 51

# A class apart

Football

Ronaldinho's second successive award as world player of the year here on Monday simply confirms him as head and shoulders above the rest and sits easily with the European award he picked up last month.

But as long as a decade ago, well

before he finally departed native Brazil to join Paris St Germain, the 25-year-old's path to success at both club and international level seemed already mapped out. Ronaldinho, who left the French league side in 2003 for the Catalan

giants, may owe some of his early success to his older brother Roberto Assis although most will agree his is a special kind of individual talent. Ronaldinho was only eight years old when Roberto, nine years his senior, became head of the family

after his father Joan Da Silva

Moreira was killed in a swimming pool electrical accident. Roberto was an emerging star with Gremio but his hopes of becoming a Gremio great were second-tier football in Switzerland with Sion, then in Japan and Mexico. Now Roberto is very much in the picture - he is his younger brother's manager and adviser.

Ronaldinho followed in his brother's footsteps, emerging as an even hotter talent at Gremio's youth set-up before he left for Europe after a protracted contract dispute. It was from an early age that

Ronaldinho began to nurture the kind of skills that have left dozens of the world's best defenders kicking out at thin air. "I loved dribbling. I loved to play

in the living room, round the furniture or in the garden with my dog, he said. "That was always what I loved doing the most. Having been voted the outstand-

ing player at the under-17 world championships in Egypt in 1997, won by Brazil, Gremio quickly rejected a six-million-dollar offer for Ronaldinho from PSV Eindhoven. It was an understandable approach. Only a year before the

Dutch giants had sold his compatriot

Ronaldo to Barcelona. That year

Ronaldo won the first of his two

Ballon d'Or awards

Ronaldinho did not make his full debut for Gremio until 1999, but little convincing of his potential was needed when he scored 15 times in 14 matches

He was then called up by Vanderlei Luxemburgo to the Brazil squad for that year's Copa America

in Paraguay. Again, he didn't disappoint when given the chance to prove himself. Coming on as a late substitute against Venezuela, he scored a wellremembered goal that left Brazilian television replaying it the next day,

Wales in the 1958 World Cup. Ever since PSG beat off a host of other keen observers to whisk Ronaldinho to Europe in 2001, his stock has gone sky high.

comparing it with the equally-

impressive goal Pele scored against

His mazy runs, deft feints and eye for goal - not to mention the flamboyant dances which form part of his celebrations - have added a new dimension to the European game - even at arch rivals Real Madrid, whose fans applauded his second of two goals in a 3-0 win earlier this season.

Di Canio gets

Controversial Lazio star Paolo Di Canio

has been banned for one match after

performing a Nazi salute to fans for the

international was punished after mak-

ing the gesture while he was substituted

in his team's 1-1 draw against Juventus

at the Olympic Stadium here on

Lazio were also fined 8,000 euros.

the same amount they were ordered to

pay last weekend for allowing their

supporters to brandish neo-Nazi

symbols during the Serie A match

Livorno fans in that game but managed

time this year that Di Canio had made

Di Canio also made a Nazi salute at

Saturday's incident was the third

In March he was fined 10.000 euros

for giving a Nazi salute at the end of the

The 39-year-old former Italian

second week in succession.

his due

AFP, Rome

Saturday.

against Livorno.

to escape censure.

the fascist gesture.

# Festive snub fuels fire

Football

Jose Mourinho apparently refused to shake Arsene Wenger's hand after Chelsea's 2-0 win on Sunday because the Arsenal manager had refused to respond to a Christmas Card.

Mourinho reportedly sent the card to apologise for labelling Wenger "a voyeur" in another recent But he was angry that a member

of Arsenal's staff checked if he had in fact written it. The Blues boss has sent

Christmas cards to the other 19 Premiership bosses as well, but newspapers said Tuesday he had sent a special message to Wenger in an attempt to end their public

Chelsea insiders claim Mourinho

for tickets

GERMANY

Thousands of Australian football

fans inundated officials with

requests for tickets for next year's

World Cup in Germany after the

tickets went on sale Tuesday morn-

By 5 pm more than 22,000 appli-

cations had flowed into Football

Federation Australia via email, fax

and mail for the 8,500 tickets avail-

able for the Socceroos' three group

Some 10,000 requests were

The Australian side, ranked 48th

received within the first 30 minutes

after tickets went on sale at 9:00 am.

in the world, will play champions

Brazil as well as Croatia and Japan

41 Ray's

44 Boxer

longtime

partner

43 Pantheon

member

Barkley

47 Husky's

52 Writer

home?

Buscaglia

into the

mix

54 Anne or

Calvin

55 Screw up

56 Itsy-bitsy

57 How one

DOWN

1 Siesta

CROSSWORD

13 Comedian 45 Infraction

15 Anjou and 49 Terra -

be golden 53 Throw

ing, officials said.

games.

**ACROSS** 

6 - de

1 Twangy

deux

9 Perfor-

mance

12 Farewell

**Philips** 

18 Norman

20 Destroy

N.S.

21 Grand ---,

23 Ready to

24 Series of

tennis

shots

25 Facility

27 Velcro

29 Coal-tar

forerunner

chemical

31 Christmas

opener

porize

carol

Bates's

alter ego

14 Born

**OZ** scramble

waited for Wenger before the kickoff on Sunday to shake his hand but was not acknowledged by his oppo-

Arsenal are yet to respond in this latest chapter in the ongoing feud between the two London clubs. Wenger recently threatened legal action after Mourinho said: "I

think he is one of these people who is a voyeur. He likes to watch other "There are some guys who, when they are at home, have a big

other families. He speaks, speaks, speaks about Chelsea." Wenger was furious and Mourinho then claimed he had a 120-page dossier that proved his

telescope to see what happens in

Wenger decided against taking legal action but the ill-feeling lingered on into Sunday's match at Highbury, which Chelsea won 2-0.

in their group games in June.

ONeill said in a statement.

tainly done that."

Australian public.

(5.100 US).

21 Energy

team!

24 Roulette

28 Hiawa

30 Scepter

**32** Got a

33 Exces-

36 Rub

the

wrong

market

section

drenched

negotia-

faction

42 Supports

45 Linger

way

38 Super-

39 Less

40 Strike

sively

34 Timetable

topper

glimpse

transport

22 "Go,

By Eugene Sheffer

4 Re planes 26 Motor

2 Summer-

cooler

breed

5 Has an

intense

craving

6 Pre-euro

7 Eastern

bigwig

del ---

9 Cancel

10 Beany's

11 Itsy-bitsy

the lead

19 Conversa

piece?

Solution time: 25 mins.

17 It'll aet

out

pal

8 Costa

Spanish

time

3 Cat

"It's quite an overwhelming

response and a spectacular

federation chief executive John

would exceed supply and it's cer-

tickets will be informed on Friday, he

The federation said it was contin-

uing to work with FIFA and the FIFA

World Cup Local Organising

Committee in Germany to attempt to

secure extra tickets for the

Football Federation Australia is

offering tickets for individual

matches as well as travel packages

which include accommodation and

cost as much as 6.880 dollars

"We said last Friday that demand

#### Hingis set to return in Jan AFP. Sydney

Rome derby two months earlier.

Five-time Grand Slam singles champion Martina Hingis will make a return to professional tennis in an Australian hardcourt tournament in early January, opening the way for a place in the Australian Open, it was announced Tuesday. The Swiss former No. 1 will compete in the Mondial Australian Women's Hardcourts on the Gold Coast, where she will be up against Maria Sharapova, from January 1 to 7.

"I'm very excited to be making my return to competitive tennis in Australia, I have always felt at home on the Australian courts," Hingis said in a statement.

Those successful in obtaining "I'm really looking forward to competing again and making my first trip to the Gold Coast.

"I know I'll get some tough matches and it will allow me to get used to the Australian summer coming from the European winter, both of which will be helpful with my preparation for the Australian Open," she added.

Hingis achieved world No. 1 status in March 1997, aged 16, and held the title for 209 nonconsecutive weeks until 2001.

CRYPTOQUIP GBL UKDDHIHS YB

VUHI EBQHBIH'E

QKS, VBLFS GBL

MI YUH FMIH BC MTH?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A CARTOONIST

ONE MIGHT CALL IT OVERDRAWN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals Y

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.

#### GIVES A CHARACTER WAY TOO MANY DETAILS, 35 React to a **46** Pop Man-of-the-match: Brad Hodge. choice 0 25 Maharoof Second Test: Dec 26-30, MCG. 37 Laugh-a-48 Uncul-Dilshan 12 2 36 minute 5 90 Muralitharan 21 50 Up to 2 type Bandara 16 67 38 Extem-Mubarak 0 51 Wool

# **INZAMAMUL HAQ**

Rudolph denies Australia

**SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard at the end of the first Test between Australia and South Africa at the WACA ground in Perth

tury, will clearly be hard to overlook.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 258 (Ponting 71, Hodge 41, Langer 37; Ntini 5-64, Nel 3-29)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 296 (De Villiers 68, Boucher 62, Smith 34, Pollock 34; Lee 5-93, Warne 3-AUSTRALIA: Second innings 528 for 8 declared (Hodge 203 Hussey 58, Ponting 53, Langer 47, Gilchrist

44: Langeveldt 3-117, Pollock 2-98) **SOUTH AFRICA:** Second innings (overnight 2-85) Smith Ibw b Bracken De Villiers c Hodge b Warne Gibbs c Warne b Lee

drop. In such conditions it is very difficult to keep the pitches dry of moisture and dew and to get some live grass on the surface. At times when it is freezing we even have to use heaters to keep them dry of dew and we now cover the wickets from late night to ensure the pitch retains its heat.'

Faisalabad and Karachi would not be

an easy task and would start at least

and the temperatures continue to

"The weather is now very cold

10 to 12 days before the match itself.

Pakistan beat England in the Tests at Multan and Lahore on the final days with even the second Test at Faisalabad going to the end with the home side needing just four

The chief curator said for him the most satisfying thing was that the Tests had gone to the wire and two results had been produced.

"In my 30 years game I have not witnessed such a Test series where the matches have been close and played to the end with the result not clear. It is good for cricket and for the

Prince Ibw b Warne

Kemp c Ponting b Warne

Boucher not out 13 Extras: (b-18, lb-13, nb-3) Total: (For 5 wkts in 126 overs)287 Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-55, 3-109, 4-Did not bat: Pollock, Nel,

55

Langeveldt, Ntini McGrath 24 11 39 47 21 19 37 Bracken 5 Symonds 0 Result: Match drawn.

more wickets to secure a win.