

for

AFP, Oslo

television show.

usually harsh.

Pakistan

first two ODI

change

venues

REUTERS, Karachi

Thursday

second for Pindi.

ask

PHOTO: AFF

Becks boots

quake charity

earthquake victims in Pakistan.

bought the boots from charity orga-

nization Norske Kvinners

Sanitetsforening in a Norwegian

The Beckham boots have a

history of charity fund raising. Norske Kvinners Sanitetsforening

acquired them in January when the

Vollvik's money will be spent on

tents for people who remain home-

less three months after the October

8 earthquake, which claimed 73,000

shelter in a region where winters are

SERIES AGAINST INDIA

Pakistan has switched the venues

for the first two one-day internation-als against India in February for security reasons, the director of

operations for the Pakistan Cricket Board Saleem Altaf said on

Altaf told this news agency the

first match would be played in Rawalpindi on February 6 and the

second in Peshawar two days later.

The first match was originally scheduled for Peshawar and the

Altaf said police in Pindi had

informed the board they did not have enough people to staff the

PCB not to

for neutral

response to the proposal.

umpires

PTI, ISLAMABAD

Three million were left without

ives mostly in Pakistani Kashmir.

proceeds went to tsunami victims.



KING HENRY: Arsenal's talismanic striker Thierry Henry (L) celebrates one of his two goals against Portsmouth during their Premiership match at Highbury on Wednesday.

dropping points."

equaliser.

but Birmingham worked hard for

Ferguson told Sky Sports.

no point going on about it."

minute equaliser.

Kurigram in JFA Cup finals

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Kurigram qualified for the final round of the Second JFA Cup U-16 football tournament with a solitary goal victory over BKSP at the Kurigram Stadium yesterday.

Hasanur Rahman separated the two sides in a keenly contested

match with a 44th minute strike. Kurigram joined Satkhira, Gaibandha, Bagerhat, Rangamati and Dhaka in the eight-team finals. The remaining finalists will be decided from Chandpur zone where the qualifiers begin from tomorrow.

Menjis off to flying start

SPORTS REPORTER

Menjis Krira Chakra got off to a flying start in the Bactrol Men's First Division Handball League when they defeated Monsoor Sporting Club 23-9 at the Dhaka Handball ground on Thursday. Asad netted seven goals for the

winners, who led the league opener 11-4 at halftime.

Earlier, Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Kutub Uddin Ahmed declared the league open.

Chelsea extend lead Football

AFP, London

PREMIERSHIP

Joe Cole helped Chelsea extend their lead at the top of the Premiership to 11 points by scoring the winner in a hard-fought 1-0 win away to Manchester City on Wednesday.

Chelsea were kept scoreless until the 79th minute when Cole pounced on a rebound from an Eidur Gudjohnsen shot. The reigning champions'

position was strengthened as second-placed Manchester United lost ground with a 2-2 draw away to Birmingham City while Liverpool remained third, despite conceding a first league goal in 762 minutes, with a 3-1 win against nine-man Everton in the 202nd Merseyside derby.

Arsenal thrashed relegationthreatened Portsmouth 4-0 and Wigan beat fellow promoted side West Ham 2-0.

But Uruguay forward Walter Meanwhile Fulham and Aston Pandiani, possibly on his way out Villa shared six goals in a 3-3 from Birmingham, equalised 12 draw at Craven Cottage and West Brom ended Tottenham's minutes from time as United six-match unbeaten run with a 2-0 win. Cold weather saw the sched-Liverpool manager Rafael uled matches between Blackburn Benitez quashed speculation that under-fire striker Djibril and bottom-of-the-table Cisse was leaving Anfield after Sunderland, Bolton and Middlesbrough and Newcastle his goal at Goodison Park sealed and Charlton all postponed. Liverpool's victory. At Eastlands, match-winner Cole paid tribute to Chelsea's

we've had all season so credit to Cisse is a player that can give a Manchester City," he said. "It lot to us as you have seen today," was a great win tonight particusaid the Spaniard.

larly with Manchester United Peter Crouch and Steven Gerrard gave Liverpool a 2-0 United manager Sir Alex lead before James Beattie pulled Ferguson saluted Birmingham a goal back just before half time. after seeing his team slip further Cisse's goal two minutes into behind but criticised referee the second period secured the Howard Webb after he failed to Reds' ninth league win in a row spot a foul on Cristiano Ronaldo and killed the game before Everton had Phil Neville and in the build-up to the Blues' first Mikel Arteta dismissed, both for

"We had good chances and two bookable offences. that's the disappointing factor At Highbury, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hailed his side's their point and I'm not denying it," return to form and said he is still targeting second place despite a "I think the referee has lisnine-point deficit on Manchester

tened to the crowd when United Ronaldo's got the ball. It was an "We have had a little bit of bad obvious foul on him but there is luck and a few injuries and we have lacked a little bit of confi-Ruud van Nistelrooy gave dence because we did not go into United a fifth minute lead and the season convincingly," he Wayne Rooney restored their advantage early in the second-half after Jamie Clapham's 18th said.

"That explains why we have less points but I always felt there was a lot of potential in the team. "We are very far from Chelsea

the 01

lbw

С

A Jewell in the Wigan

Football

AFP, London A Norwegian businessman bought a pair of David Beckham's old boots Thursday for a cool million kroner

Nobody in the English Premiership could be more thrilled with his half-(148,000 dollars), which will go to term report than Wigan Athletic manager Paul Jewell -- though he Billionaire Idar Vollvik, founder of would never admit it. Internet telephone company Chess,

In the club's top flight debut season. Jewell has taken Wigan to a previously unthinkable fifth place at the midway point following Wednesday's 2-0 victory away to West Ham United: good enough for a UEFA Cup spot with only goal difference between them and the Champions League zone.

The Latics were written off as relegation certainties the instant they won promotion from the Championship, and despite having just title-holders Chelsea, Champions League winners Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham ahead of them, fear of

Football

BBC ONLINE, undated

day

Star.

by England.

Manchester United.'

Juventus boss Fabio Capello says it

would be a dream come true to

manage Manchester United one

Capello, who has won the Italian

league with Juventus and Spanish

league with Real Madrid, says he is

the drop still haunts Jewell. "You're never comfortable in the Premier League," the 41-year-old

said. "Our only objective at the start of the season was to stay in the league. That won't change. But we should do that.

"When they mention Wigan in the Champions League, I say behave yourself! If we can finish in the top ... I'm not even going to go there," the Liverpudian said, cutting himself off.

Wigan was hitherto more famous for its rugby league team, pies, and grinning 1940s ukulele player Georae Formby. However, the Latics' brand of

attacking football on the big stage has considerably raised the northwest English town's profile.

A deserved victory against West Ham, also fresh from the Championship, sealed Wigan's fifth place with 19 matches gone. Deadly strike duo Jason Roberts

"We knew that coming into the Premiership, the most difficult thing to do besides win matches would be

and Senegal hitman Henri Camara

took their impressive partnership to

10 goals in four games with one each at Upton Park on Wednesday.

score goals," Jewell said, emphasising his forwards' endeavour. "They have that asset which frightens people -- blistering pace. Henri's elusive and Jason's quick

and he's strong and he brings people into the game. We're happy with our front two. Wigan round off their promotion

ear by hosting Lancashire rivals Blackburn on Saturday. Jewell said: "It's a lot for us. four aames in eight davs. But we've got

six points out of six and you don't feel tiredness when you win games. "We have to work on just being ugly and not particularly attractive but make sure we just see the game

out. **Di Stefano**

AP, Madrid

ing heart surgery.

favourably."

arteriosclerosis

recovering

Real Madrid's honorary president and former star Alfredo di Stefano was

breathing on his own Thursday follow-

ple aorta-coronary bypass in a five-hour

operation at Valencia's La Fe Hospital

on Wednesday after suffering a severe

Jose Luis Vicente said in a joint state-

ment that Di Stefano "was evolving

scious, communicative and has begun

Doctors Anastasio Montero and

"At the moment the patient is con-

Doctors had originally considered

carrying out an angioplasty, in which

small balloons are inflated in vessels to

improve blood flow, but ultimately

decided a bypass was necessary

because of Di Stefano's age and past

medical problems, including diabetes

and a hardening of blood vessels called

heart attack five days ago.

eating," the statement said.

Di Stefano, 79, underwent a quadru-

Capello reveals **MU** interest

"Always there are rumours about me being linked with Real Madrid and Manchester United.

"At the moment I want to end my project with Juventus and see them

"But I would never discard a

New Zealand cricket captain Stephen Fleming has pulled out of the opening one-day match against Sri Lanka following the birth of his first child, New Zealand manager Lindsay Crocker said Thursday.

He has been replaced by out-of-

Fleming returned to Wellington after his wife gave birth overnight, meaning he w nice at least the f classed and underperforming. "We one-dayer against Sri Lanka in shouldn't underestimate their Queenstown on Saturday. desire, not for revenge, but for Crocker said Daniel Vettori would another chance to beat us". captain the team, Astle would join His approach to the World Cup is them after a provincial match on simple. "We've got to face this Friday and Fleming would return later competition with humility and plenty of hard work. Favouritism can't be in the series. allowed to get in the way of real

through to the summer.

circumstances were right. The Premiership is a very attractive championship and I would love to prove that I can work in England as well as in Italy and Spain.



form opener Nathan Astle who was originally dropped from the Sri Lanka series after a disappointing time at the crease during New Zealand's recent series against Australia.

another crack at Brazil after the 2002 final that saw Germany out-

happy in Italy for now but is tempted "To be a coach of Manchester United would be a dream come true," he was quoted in the Daily "It would be the same for any manager, but I have not had any offers from the directors of Capello has previously

expressed interest in coming to the Premiership, and was expected to be in the running for the United job when Sir Alex Ferguson planned to step down in 2002, before the Scot

changed his mind. "United are a great club and they have a historic coach," said Capello. "For me, Ferguson has the

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has maximum respect. I am very happy on Wednesday dropped the idea of with Juventus and I want to win the having neutral umpires for the fivetitle and the Champions League and match one-day internationals series we are serious contenders for both

against India, who have given a cold 'Croatia Brazil's "With no response at all from them (Indians) we had no option but to ask the International Cricket potential threat' Council to appoint one umpire for the one-dayers from its Elite Panel while we will nominate the other umpire from Pakistan", a senior



Father Fleming missing first

FABIO CAPELLO chance to work in England if the

Supersub Siraji

FROM PAGE 16

striker spiked rival stopper Shuvra's knee during an off-the-ball incident.

Since then it was hard work for George Kottan's boys with one man short to stop a barrage of Orange attacks. Aminul kept Muktijoddha in the game when the diving keeper blocked a tight-angle effort by Emily before Moroccan medio Hicham Inani miskicked a chance from handshaking distance

The Muktijoddha backline, under constant pressure, gave up just when the match entered the one-minute injury time.

Emily, who struck two spectacular goals for Bangladesh in the recently concluded SAFF Championship in Pakistan, split the opposition defence with a superb through. An overlapping Siraji, who had replaced Nigerian midfielder Gilsun a couple of minutes earlier, raced down the right and placed the ball past an onrushing Aminul to break the deadlock. Ghanaian defender Ghansah made a last-casp effort to clear the ball but he could not stop it cross the line.

Brothers were more interested to sit on their slim lead after the break allowing Muktijoddha to create a great chance in the 70th minute. However Adafa's header on a Kanchan cross from left was brilliantly saved by goalie Mohammed Ali at his near post.

Muktijoddha pressed hard and Kanchan nodded a freekick by Rachid sailed just over the bar before Ali parried a low drive by Adafa from 20 vards in the last five minutes.

Brothers made some futile runs and only Liton, the substitute midfielder threatened to score with a 35-yard drive that was tipped over the bar by Aminul in the 77th minute. Red card: Jeremiah (Muktijoddha)

TEAMS

BROTHERS: Ali, Sujan, Shuvra, Masud Rana, Pranotosh (Liton), Gilsun (Siraji), Hicham, Abul, Parvez Babu, Emily (Felix) and Paul. MUKTIJODDHA: Aminul, Hassan Al Mamun, Ghansah, Rajani, Titu, Adafa, Rachid, Biddyut (Enamul), Amin Rana, Jeremiah and Kanchan. Referee: Mansoor Azad.

opponents.

"That was the toughest game

failed to win for the first time in a chaseable." game where Rooney had scored.

Arsenal were 4-0 up two minutes before half-time with goals from Dennis Bergkamp, Jose Antonio Reyes and a Thierry Henry double, the second from the penalty spot.

"Now we have different strikers with different qualities and the question now is to use the best of them in the right way.

Sizzling Symonds takes

FROM PAGE 126 minutes before tea on the fourth dav 1928.

Havden claimed his fourth century in five years at the ground and his 25th Test ton overall, with 137 in 356 minutes including 17 fours and two sixes. But he was happy for Symonds to get the kudos.

"One of the great things about this side is that it does enjoy other people's success and today was one of those days when I just so proud of 'Drew'," Hayden said. 'The amount of courage it

takes to get off a nought even if you've got 25 Test hundreds under your belt, it's always a relieving moment. "But it was a very emphatic

stroke and it just went on and on from there." Symonds clobbered sixes off

left-arm spinner Nicky Boje (3), off-spinner Smith (2) and paceman Andre Nel, while Hayden clubbed sixes off Nel and Jacques Kallis Symonds' tally of sixes was the

most in a Melbourne Test, surpassing Virender Sehwag's five for India two seasons ago. Hayden was out when he skied

Kallis, for wicketkeeper Mark Boucher to glove the catch. Two balls later Symonds holed out to Nel and Adam Gilchrist hit one down Prince's throat, forcing skipper Ricky Ponting's hand with three wickets falling in Kallis' 11th over.

Kallis finished with 3-58 and will be on a hattrick when he bowls in the Sydney Test next week.

Ponting set South Africa 366 to win off a minimum 132 overs -- a historically challenging target given that the highest last innings total to win a game at the MCG AUSTRALIA: Second innings was England's 332 for seven in (overnight 110-2)

24

31

72

Kallis

321

R

60

17

58

Nel

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25

out

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Smith

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Kallis

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Gilchrist c Prince

4-193, 5-317, 6-321, 7-321

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not

Hayden c Boucher b Kallis South Africa put on 39 before 137 Shane Warne made the break-Jaques Ibw b Nel through, drawing AB de Villiers Ponting forward to be stumped by Adam Р 0

Gilchrist for eight. Smith followed in the next over, edging Glenn McGrath's

outswinger to Gilchrist for 25.

Three overs later Shane Warne bamboozled first innings topscorer Herschelle Gibbs with a skidding top-spinner and bowled him middle stump for nine.

Symonds continued his Test resurrection with the crucial wicket of cricket's top-rated batsman Kallis for nine.

Kallis snicked to Gilchrist and the Proteas' top four batsmen were back in the pavilion for 64

runs Symonds bowled Perth Test saviour Jacques Rudolph off an inside edge and Mark Boucher "walked" after a leading edge to

close-in fielder Ponting off Warne for five. Warne had claimed 3-43 off 15 overs by stumps. South African paceman Makhava Ntini did not play Thursday because of a left medial

knee ligament strain and is in doubt for the Sydney Test. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Thursday: AUSTRALIA: First innings 355 (Hussey 122, Ponting 117; Nel 4-84, Pollock 3-67, Ntini 3-70)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 311 (Gibbs 94, De Villiers 61; Symonds 3-50, Lee 3-92)

пе раск not return any correspondence in this regard which indicated that they

were not interested in it. "Apparently, the Indians didn't take it seriously because they never bothered to get back to us on this issue at all. Feeling they were not interested we also dropped the idea because you can't have neutral umpires in ODIs without the consent

PCB official said.

of the touring team," he was quoted as saving in the News. The PCB had neutral umpires for the one-dayers against England as the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) saw no problems with it. The official also said that despite India's unresponsive attitude, the

The official said the Indians did

PCB would still pursue the matter at ICC meetings next year as it felt the concept had a bright future.

WOMEN'S ASIA CUP 28 b India crush Sri Lanka Hodge c Boucher b Nel

AFP, Karachi Hussey c Kallis b Smith

India's women cricketers on Symonds c Nel b Kallis Thursday began their Asia Cup defence convincingly, defeating Sri b Lanka by ten wickets at the Gymkhana ground. 0 India, who beat Sri Lanka in the Extras: (b-6, lb-3, nbtwo-nation first Asia Cup in 2003, 18 raced to 118-0 in 27.3 overs after , Total: (For 7 wkts decl in 83 overs) bundling their opponents out for a meager 115 in 48.5 overs. Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-82, 3-131, Hosts Pakistan, the third team competing in the double-league event, lost to Sri Lanka by 14 runs in the opening match on Wednesday. An Akram FROM PAGE 16 Pakistan's forte two years ago,' Akram said. Akram praised Inzamamul Haq's captaincy and said he had given confidence to the players. "Now every player knows that his place is secure in the team. if he has the confidence of the captain who is SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings Smith c Gilchrist b also at his best form. h

"Inzamam, Akhtar and legspinner Danish Kaneria are key to Pakistan's success," he said. A five-member Indian security team returned home Thursday after inspecting the match venues and a final tour itinerary is likely to be announced shortly.

India are scheduled to play three Tests and five one-day games



INTERNET, undated

Carlos Alberto Parreira's favoured stopper in the Brazilian defence, centre-back Lucio, has singled out Croatia as Brazil's potential danger in World Cup Group H.

"Both due to the quality of the adversary and it being the opening game of the tournament, Croatia is the most dangerous rival I think we'll face in the group stage" alerted the Bayern man.

"We played a friendly against them in Split and we know first hand that it takes a lot to penetrate that defence and at the same time protect our goal against their counter-attacks", he continued, referring to the match where Ricardinho's free-kick accuracy evened things up for Brazil.

Lucio also warned that the host nation will also be eager to get

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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V-Day b'ball

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Josephites and Bangladesh Navy will play in the Victory Day Basketball Tournament final after winning their respective semifinals at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium on Thursday.

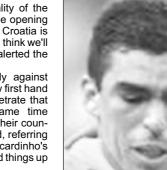
Josephites defeated Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in the first semifinal 79-52 after leading the first half 33-24.

In the second semifinal, Bangladesh Navy upset favourites Europa Youth 71-59. The winners led the first half 66-39.

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IB'Y TX-SBWG-LJLBF Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE NAME OF OUR MALL, TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR CHINESE SMALL. EATERY IS "WOK AROUND THE CLOCK." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals F

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, 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.



effort and dedication."

LUCIO