

West Indies dump Dutch

CRICINFO, undated

Netherlands proved no match for a confident West Indies side as they went down by 10 wickets in the opening match of the quadrangular series at the Clontarf Cricket Club ground in Dublin yesterday.

Dwayne Smith's medium-pace claimed four wickets as Netherlands collapsed for 80, then Chris Gayle's 41-ball half-century ensured West Indies sped home before the approaching clouds caused any problems.

West Indies needed less than 15 overs to knock off the runs as Gayle slammed six fours a six. Devon Smith provided solid support in what was nothing more than an extended net and completed the victory with a flick to leg.

Netherlands' batsmen had no such luxury as only three managed to reach double figures. Their problems started early when Ravi Rampaul trapped Tim de Grooth lbw in the fourth over and Bas Zuiderent, formerly of Sussex, fell in similar fashion. Alex Kervezee, who is on Worcestershire's books, managed five boundaries in his 22 before being caught behind off Powell and the innings continued in a rapid downward spiral.

Denesh Ramdin was kept busy behind the stumps, collecting five catches, as West Indies' seamers caused plenty of problems. Fidel Edwards proved too quick for Peter Borren then Smith's swing did the bulk of the remaining damage. Darren Sammy, who missed out on the one-day series against England, claimed two cheap wickets as the innings folded inside 32 overs.

There was no sign of West Indies relaxing following the series win against England with Gayle determined not to slip up against the Associate Members.

Netherlands, though, were clearly not up to the battle and are a few runs down from the likes of Ireland, who make up the tournament alongside Scotland. Netherlands have a chance to put up a better showing when they take on the hosts, at Stormont, on Wednesday.

Malouda now

FROM PAGE 20

He won the first of his 30 international caps in November 2004 and was part of Raymond Domenech's side that made it through to last year's World Cup final against Italy.

Chelsea's new recruit won the French championship four times with Lyon and was voted the best player in the French first division in 2006-07.

Malouda is Chelsea's latest summer purchase following Steve Sidwell, Claudio Pizarro and Tal Ben Haim.

Hammers

FROM PAGE 20

times in 42 appearances but failed to establish himself as a regular in Rafa Benitez's starting line-up.

West Ham manager Alan Curbishley will hope to pair Bellamy with Dean Ashton, who is on the verge of making his return from a long-term ankle injury.

Star man Carlos Tevez is on the verge of a two-year loan move to Manchester United.

Jekyll & Hyde

FROM PAGE 17

She had been estranged from them and father Jose since the age of 17, the latest miserable chapter in a series of family tragedies which had seen sister Florence killed in a car accident and the death from cancer of her mother, Francoise when Henin was just 12.

But Henin is now divorced, back with her siblings and talking to her father again.

"We talk to each other every day. Not everything is easy but it's great," said the world number one.

Eyes on Emily

FROM PAGE 17

from five second-leg matches including a hattrick to take his total tally to nine but it seems that the absence of Argentine defender Mariano Caporale has been a setback.

"Three out of four goals scored against us in the second leg were for defensive lapses. We have to get out of that. We are not in a position to drop points because we have only a three-point advantage over Mohammedan, who have played most of their big matches.

"So, every match is pressure for us. But it's possible to beat a team like Brothers if our players can apply themselves in the field," added the former national midfielder.

Amalesh Sen, who took over from Argentine coach Diego Cruciani in the latter part of the first-leg, has guaranteed only one foreigner in the side in Ibrahim as Emily's partner up front.

Obi Mikel John's place at the right side is under threat from inform Abdullah Parvez, who has shown the aptitude to outsmart the Nigerian.



PHOTO: AFP

China midfielder Zhou Haibin (C) and Malaysia player Muhammad Shukor Adan (R) tussle for the ball during their Asian Cup group match at the Bukit Jalil Stadium in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

China restore order

AFP, Jakarta



China broke the curse of the Asian Cup in emphatic style on Tuesday when they thrashed lowly Malaysia 5-1 to become the first favoured team to win so far in the competition.

Han Peng and Wang Dong both grabbed doubles and Shao Jiayi was also on target as the 2004 runners-up took an early lead in Group C, sending a message to their title rivals and boosting embattled coach Zhu Guanghu.

Favourites Australia and defending champions Japan have both failed to overcome unfancied sides while there have been upset wins for Indonesia and Vietnam in the first round of matches.

"This is just the start, it was the first match and we have two more matches," said China's Zhu.

"I think the final result of the group is what matters. We called back overseas players like Sun Jihai, Zheng Zhi and Shao Jiayi and

they controlled midfield and organised our attacks, so they were the key players."

China accelerated from a pedestrian start on 15 minutes when midfielder Shao unlocked the Malaysian defence with a through-ball to Wang, whose chipped cross to the far post was headed in by the unmarked Han.

Shao was on hand 21 minutes later to steer home captain Zheng's cross from the left which was narrowly missed by the diving Han. Changchun Yatai midfielder Wang put it beyond doubt shortly after the break with a deflected shot which bounced through Fauzie Nan's legs and trickled into the bottom corner.

Han stole his second on 55 minutes when he met a diagonal cross from the left first-time before Wang rounded off the scoring with a looping header in injury time.

Malaysia's chief threat was from free-kicks and corners but Hardi Jaafar's delivery was usually lacking and the co-hosts' strikers were out-muscled by the Chinese defence.

Shukor Adan had an ambitious job from distance palmed away on the hour-mark in a rare chance for the co-hosts in front of a disappointing National Stadium crowd.

But Malaysian substitute Indra Putra raised the biggest cheer of the night when he buried his right-footed strike from 30 yards with 17 minutes to go, triggering a spell of pressure.

"This is not a good start for us," admitted coach Norizan Bakar.

"We tried to match China but they kept possession of the ball in midfield so that's the area where they hurt us with long balls."

China are bidding to win their first ever Asian Cup after losing the 2004 final against Japan. But they have been unimpressive since and coach Zhu is under orders to reach the last four "or else."

Malaysia have slumped since their heyday in the 1970s and, with a FIFA ranking of 149, carry the unwanted tag of the tournament's lowest-rated team.

Regional powerhouses Iran play Uzbekistan in Group C's second match on Wednesday.

Giles unsure about future

BBC ONLINE, undated

England spinner Ashley Giles admits his cricketing future is in the balance as he fights to regain fitness after a third hip operation.

The Warwickshire star, who has already ruled himself out of this season, fears he may not be able to recover fully without suffering lasting damage.

The 34-year-old said: "The underlying thing is that you never know how much long-term damage you are doing.

"I've never thought it is not worth it, but I have to start thinking about it."

Giles fought back from a year out to play in the first two Tests of last winter's Ashes series but returned home early from Australia following a serious illness to his wife Stine.

He then suffered an injury setback and underwent his third operation just before the start of the season.

The left-arm slow bowler believes it will be at least another four weeks before he can attempt running again and another two months after that before he will be fit enough to consider playing cricket again.

He added: "I certainly don't want to look at hip replacements. It is a difficult time because cricket is what I do and cricket is what I have done for 20 years, but I do have to start thinking about the implications."

Ash happy

FROM PAGE 17 relaxed in the middle and they were not feisty enough to occupy the crease.

"I don't think we got relaxed and it's also not true that we lacked seriousness. If he (Mahela) meant we tried to enjoy the game then I am happy with that. I know it's a tough ride and nothing could be achieved overnight. Sri Lanka also couldn't achieve anything overnight," he said.

About the inclusion of Tushar Imran, the new Bangladesh captain expressed his guarded optimism.

"He is a good player but we should be careful about expectations because he has joined the team in the middle of the tour. Mehra's omission is a bit unfortunate but he will definitely be back. We were forced to bring Tushar after Shakib (Al Hasan) failed to fulfil our expectation although he is very good player," he explained.

Iran go home

FROM PAGE 20

Uzbekistan, who won the 1994 Asian Games title but only scraped into the Asian Cup in final qualifying.

"We will try to win all our matches but Iran are a very good team and I think a draw with Iran is a good result for any team," he said.

The former Soviet republic will at least be confident of improving on the last Asian Cup, where they shipped 14 goals against just two scored in their three group matches.

Europe Fergie's

FROM PAGE 20

squad with the number of games there. Yes, it's going to take management. But I think players understand today quite clearly that in order to challenge for everything you do need a strong squad and it means that they don't play all the games.

"No one will play all the games next year and hopefully they accept that and move on to the business of trying to achieve success for us."

Hargreaves intends to use his move from Bayern Munich to United to further enhance his England credentials.

But the midfielder has played down comparisons with Roy Keane.

"I think he is one of the legends of this club," said Hargreaves. "To be part of this club is a dream come true for me and I'm looking forward to making a name for myself and not trying to emulate anyone player in particular.

"It is a good opportunity. I'm 26 and have spent 10 years at a great club like Bayern Munich and had a lot of success as well. Now I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my career and have the opportunity to play for one of the biggest clubs in the world, if not the biggest."

The all-time

FROM PAGE 20

voted the third greatest of all time. In the greatest matches criterion, that unforgettable semifinal at the Azteca was followed by the Milan -Liverpool Champions League final tie of 2005 in Athens, which finished 3-3, before the Kop won on penalties. Real Madrid's 7-3 triumph over Eintracht Frankfurt in the 1960 European Cup final in Hampden came in third. Other notable mentions in this category was the Manchester United - Bayern Munich Champions League final in Barcelona in 1999 which finished 2-1 in favour of the Red Devils. It came in 11th.

World Soccer magazine carried out a poll amongst global experts to bring what they hope was a 'definitive list of the greatest goals, teams and matches of all time.'

Arjuna surprises Dav

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Dav Whatmore has expressed his surprise and disappointment at reports that Arjuna Ranatunga, the former Sri Lanka captain, has advised the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) against hiring him as their next coach.

According to Press Trust of India (PTI), Ranatunga had a chance encounter with Talat Ali, the Pakistan manager, in Scotland recently. When asked for his thoughts on Whatmore as an option, given that the two had worked together extensively and led Sri Lanka to their 1996 World Cup triumph, Ranatunga reportedly offered the advice that Whatmore should be avoided.

"I don't know what his motivations were but he is entitled to his own personal views and I have no desire to get dragged into a public argument with him," Whatmore told

CricInfo.

Whatmore was one of three Australians shortlisted by the PCB for the coaching position, lying vacant since the death of Bob Woolmer in March. Geoff Lawson, the former Test fast bowler, and Richard Done, the ICC's High Performance Manager, are the others.

"The facts are that I have indicated my desire to coach Pakistan and, if appointed, I am confident of being able to do an extremely good job with a very talented group of players," Whatmore said.

Kumar Sangakkara, who made his debut while Whatmore was in charge, endorsed his credentials to be the Pakistan coach. "I have absolutely no doubt that Dav is exactly the kind of coach Pakistan needs right now," Sangakkara told CricInfo.

"He has the expertise and the experience, including a World Cup win, the pinnacle of coaching success. I count myself as very fortunate to have broken into the

national side with him as coach. It helped me to hone the right attitude towards hard work and getting out of my comfort zone that has stood me in good stead ever since," he said.

Ranatunga's advice comes on the back of increasing chatter within Pakistan that Whatmore may not be the favourite he once was for the position. Some of the players, especially senior ones, are said to be more keen on Geoff Lawson wary of Whatmore's reputation as a no-nonsense taskmaster. According to the PTI report, Talat Ali has also given Lawson his backing.

The board, however, is refusing to say anything other than each candidate was impressive and that a final decision will be taken soon. Though Nasim Ashraf, the board chairman, has repeatedly said a decision would be made by July 1, it looks likely that one will be taken at the next meeting of the board's ad-hoc committee, in the middle of the month.

S Korea hosts EPL sides

Football

AFP, Seoul

English Premiership sides Bolton and Reading begin their preparations for the new season at the Peace Cup in South Korea this week, working on fitness levels and fine-tuning tactics.

Wanderers manager Sammy Lee and Royals counterpart Steve Coppell have brought strong squads for the July 12-21 tournament where they will face French champions Lyon, Argentine giants River Plate and Spain's Racing Santander.

Also taking part are South Korea's Sungnam Ilhwa, Japan's Shimizu S-Pulse, and Chivas Guadalajara of Mexico.

Bolton, who are in the UEFA Cup this year, get the competition underway on Thursday against Sungnam, followed by matches against Chivas and Racing Santander.

Lee is looking forward to the

challenge.

"We just had a week away in Austria which was mainly about fitness preparation," he told the club website.

"Now it's time to tie it all in with the games. You can do all the fitness work you like but when you get into the games you'll find out about it.

"We've got three -- hopefully four -- very important games and competitive games. This is about getting our shape, our style and our fitness."

"I am seriously looking forward to it because the boys have had a great week in Austria."

Lee was boosted this week with news that Nicolas Anelka is set to stay at the club after being linked with a move to Arsenal.

"This is a great club with a strong mentality based around being successful. We are heading to South Korea this week and that will be a good test for us," said Anelka, who is in Korea.

The Royals play River Plate on Friday, Lyon next Monday and

Shimizu on July 19 with Coppell taking a look at how his squad fares in those matches.

Reading have been linked with Nantes midfielder Emerse Fae, but so far have only landed Khalifa Cisse from Portuguese side Boavista to bolster the side having lost Steve Sidwell to Chelsea and Greg Halford to Sunderland.

"We want to do well but these are our first games of pre-season and we have to be mindful of a lot of factors," said Coppell, who has brought a squad of 24 with all players expected to get a game.

"Fitness is the most important thing and it might be that the fittest get the most minutes."

"It's exciting to be playing River Plate and French champions Lyon. Where else would we get the opportunity to do that?"

The tournament is run by the Sun Moon Peace Football Foundation and was won by Tottenham Hotspur two years ago.

The winner gets two million dollars.

Mourinho convinced Malouda

Football

THE INDEPENDENT

Chelsea's new signing Florent Malouda said yesterday that he turned down Liverpool because he was persuaded that Jose Mourinho wanted him more than Rafael Benitez. The French international, who cost Chelsea around 16.5m pounds from Lyon, also turned down an offer from Real Madrid to come to Stamford Bridge.

Malouda, 27, will join up with his Chelsea teammates in Los Angeles later this week. The winger said that he also spoke to Didier Drogba about joining the club. "I really felt that everyone wanted me. Didier [Drogba] pushed a lot. It was clear from the beginning. I also have gone to Chelsea to see matches as a fan, and have always enjoyed that.

"The coach really wanted me and I wanted my family to live in London. But most important was to feel he [Mourinho] wanted to

recruit me. I spoke to coaches on the telephone, especially Rafael Benitez. But I had the impression that only Mourinho really wanted me."

Chelsea's new director of football, Avram Grant, promised yesterday that he would not undermine Mourinho despite the club manager's initial opposition to the deal. Speaking for the first time in his native Israel, Grant said that his controversial appointment had been done with the "blessing" of the Portuguese coach.

Mourinho has been appeased for now that Grant's responsibilities will not diminish his own influence but there can be little doubt that he would have agreed to the decision had it not been made clear that Roman Abramovich was adamant it happened. Grant, who spent a year at Portsmouth as director of football, was on the Chelsea flight to Los Angeles yesterday having also turned down a job among Sven Goran Eriksson's coaching staff at Manchester

City.

Grant said: "I am happy, this is a dream come true for me. My work in Portsmouth was appreciated by many managers and club owners in England, who were not blind to my good work there. I would like to thank Portsmouth for a great and enjoyable season. I have a lot of work to do and I will do everything to help the many causes of Chelsea. Mourinho gave his blessing for my appointment. I will be responsible for all the professional matters in Chelsea and a co-ordinator in all football matters."

While Arjen Robben's future at the club remains in the balance, it seems that Khalid Boulahrouz's unhappy time at Stamford Bridge will be brought to an end less than a year after he signed from Hamburg for 7 million pounds. The central defender who never found favour with Mourinho last season has been given permission to speak to the Spanish side Seville with a view to a 3.5 million pound move

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Record

5 Dieter's target

9 Satchel

12 Ontario neighbor

13 Staffer

14 Altar

15 Big rat

17 Hair-care product

18 Congressional cry

19 Stormed

21 Puny one

24 "David Copper-field" girl

25 Congers

26 Fleet of ships

30 Ms. MacGraw

31 Nut-bearing wood tree

32 Chic no longer

33 Washington volcano

35 Horse-back game

36 Caspian Sea feeder

37 Arise

38 Actress Black

40 Aspiration

42 Past

43 Unpredictable

48 Writer

49 Enormous

50 Initial stake

51 NYC winner hrs.

52 "Zounds!"

53 Appor-tion

5 Confront

6 Yellow Brick Road

7 Big follower

8 Promise to wed

9 Oaf

10 "Zip- — "Doo-Dah"

11 Prospector's dream

16 Mischievous tyke

20 "Exodus" figure

21 Pekoe et al.

22 Lump raised by a blow

23 Secretary of war, 1899-1904

24 Medical types

26 Sense

27 Author

28 Hurm-dinger

29 On

31 "Streetcar Named Desire" role

34 Before

35 "The Taking of — One Two Three"

37 Petrol

38 Hardy cabbage

39 Quite some time

40 Enthusiastic

41 News-paper page

44 Bad hair-piece

45 "A Chorus Line" song

46 Mel of Coopers-town

47 Driving site

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13				14		
15				16					17		
				18			19	20			
21	22	23			24						
25				26	27				28	29	
30				31					32		
33			34				35				
		36					37				
38	39				40	41					
42				43	44				45	46	47
48				49					50		
51				52					53		

CRYPTOQUIP

JUPL ARV ZQPPM KRLZJQGMPO

XQEPL PLMUVKGXKMGXBEEA.

RLP BRVEF KVVWRKP MUXM

ARV UPQXEF UXQREF.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A CHURCH PASTOR IS VERY FRIENDLY AND GREGARIOUS, I'D HAVE TO SAY HE'S A PEOPLE PARSON.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: A equals Y