

## We didn't throw

**FROM PAGE 17**  
"We had a little sniff of a 150 or 180-run lead and it could have been quite interesting. I would like to have seen them chasing another 100.

"Full credit to India. They've used conditions brilliantly over the five days, they've held their catches in the field and put us under pressure."

"But hopefully we can level the series at The Oval in a week and a half's time."

Vaughan said that throughout India's innings of 481 at the weekend, the team had felt they were likely to take wickets.

"Their batsmen rode their luck in certain instances," he said. "Ryan Sidebottom bowled beautifully and could have ended up with six or seven wickets."

Sidebottom, the most consistent performer all summer for England, took 1-75 and 0-28.

## Booze adds

**FROM PAGE 17**  
criticism after some of them were seen drowning their sorrows in the early hours following a loss to New Zealand.

Le Roux, who resigned perhaps because he felt his reputation was at stake after the players suffered cramp, said cramping was the direct result of the use of alcohol.

He became increasingly frustrated when some players refused to take seriously his advice of 72-hour "alcohol curfew" before matches.

## New tests

**FROM PAGE 17**  
"We have a policy to conduct dope tests for the last five years so it's nothing new," he said.

Asif returned to Pakistan's squad in the tri-series against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi in May, while Akhtar's return has been delayed after Pakistan's matches against Scotland and India -- both in Scotland -- were washed out earlier this month.

Both Akhtar and Asif are attending Pakistan's tune-up camp here. The team's new coach, Australian Geoff Lawson, is due to join them on August 20.

Lawson replaces Bob Woolmer who died during the World Cup in March.

Pakistan will open the Twenty20 World Cup against Scotland on September 12 before meeting archrivals India two days later.

## Reyes moves

**FROM PAGE 20**  
lars) on new signings since they finished seventh in the Primera Liga last season.

Uruguay striker Diego Forlan from Spanish side Villarreal, midfielder Luis Garcia from Liverpool and winger Simao Sabrosa from Benfica are among the club's new recruits.

The club is in the second qualifying round for the UEFA Cup.

## Di Michele

**FROM PAGE 20**  
They have very clear rules on the ownership of our clubs, which include the 'Fit and Proper Persons Test' (FAPPT), which go beyond any requirement by UK company law and are, to our knowledge, some of the sternest in place in any UK industry.

"But what needs to be made clear is that in the first place we accept the primacy of UK and European law. This determines who may, and who may not, legally reside in the UK, own and acquire assets, and engage in commercial and other activities."

## Thaksin

**FROM PAGE 20**  
The Premier League stood by their decision, claiming their vetting process is one of most stringent in England.

"It is important to realise that the Premier League takes its responsibilities surrounding the governance of its clubs very seriously," a Premier League statement said.

"We have very clear rules on the ownership of our clubs, which include the 'Fit and Proper Persons Test' (FAPPT), which go beyond any requirement by UK company law and are, to our knowledge, some of the sternest in place in any UK industry.

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## Deco fancies

**FROM PAGE 20**  
out.

Deco insists he is happy at the Catalan club for the moment, but the Brazil-born star is keeping his options open.

"There has been a lot of speculation about my future but at the moment that is all it is," he said.

"Right now I'm a Barcelona player and I am just looking forward to the new season and trying to win the league. But football can change very quickly. If Barcelona want to sell me then all they have to do is say and I will go.

"It wouldn't upset me if I had to go because I know there are other big clubs in the world I could play for."



Venus Williams of USA serves to Russia's Anastasia Rodionova during her first round WTA San Diego Classic match held in San Diego on Monday.

# Venus back to stretch win

## Tennis

AFP, California

Wimbledon champion Venus Williams returned to the WTA San Diego Classic for the first time in five years Monday, picking up where she left off with a victory.

The 10th seed, who dominated the event from 2000 through 2002 with three trophies on the trot, began her eighth campaign with a 6-3, 6-0 first-round victory over Russian Anastasia Rodionova in just 50 minutes.

Williams was on court for the first time since winning two rubbers in a losing US effort this month in Fed Cup against Russia in Vermont the week after earning her fourth Wimbledon crown.

"I've never stopped playing since Wimbledon. I'm healthy and everything is working well in my game," Williams said.

"I went for my shots a lot and tried to stay aggressive. I feel great going into the summer. When I'm healthy I can keep on building my game. I'm thrilled."

The fiery Rodionova was on best behavior after being fined 5,000 dollars, as she became only the second woman to be defaulted in WTA history.

The scene occurred in Cincinnati this month as the 25-year-old, ranked 81st, hit the ball towards spectators cheering for her opponent.

Williams earned her 15th victory in succession at the event, being played for the last year after a WTA calendar shake-up. She stands 26-4 at the tournament.

"It's good to be back," said the only Williams sister in the field, her

younger sibling Serena sidelined by a thumb injury sustained at Wimbledon.

"I won here three times in a row, but then I couldn't come back. I love playing in California in the summer because I'm from here."

Thai veteran Tamarine Tanasugarn lined up as a second-round opponent for top seeded holder Maria Sharapova, booking her place over American Laura Granville 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Second-seeded Serb Jelena Jankovic will start against Vania King, who beat fellow American youngster Asia Muhammad 7-6 (7/2), 6-0.

Seventh seed Martina Hingis, testing a back injury which led to an early Wimbledon loss, will face off in the second round after a bye against Michaela Krajicek.

Elena Dementieva, the number nine, joined Williams as a winner as she took out Catalina Castano 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 while number 11 Swiss Patty Schnyder beat American Jamea Jackson 6-2, 6-1.

An unexpected trip to the Wimbledon final has whetted the appetite of French fifth seed Marion Bartoli for more of the same.

"I have to reach another step in my career," the world number 12 said. "I want to be top-10 and maybe top five. But I need to be more concentrated on the big stage."

Fifth seed Bartoli's 6-4, 6-1 loss to Venus Williams in the Wimbledon final was followed by decompression after playing almost uninterrupted for two months.

But when the 22-year-old ventured out onto the summer hardcourts last week at Stanford, a virus compromised her chances on

the way to an opening loss to American Lilia Osterloh.

"Everything will be more difficult now, I have new challenges," said Bartoli, who called her Wimbledon performance was "a dream come true."

"I've been there once but I'd like to be there many more times."

## Ribery, Klose

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Rostock despite hurting a shoulder in the League Cup final.

Klose is expected to sit out Monday's German Cup match against amateur side Wacker Burghausen and his striker partner, Italian centre-forward Luca Toni, will also be sidelined because he is nursing a knee injury.

Following the sale of Roque Santa Cruz to English Premiership side Blackburn, Bayern may be forced to rely on the inexperienced Sandro Wagner for the match.

Bayern have overhauled their squad in a bid to regain their domestic dominance and make a determined bid for the Champions League after slumping last season.

## Atletico to move

**FROM PAGE 20**  
million euros (68 million US dollars) on new signings since they finished seventh in the Primera Liga last season.

Uruguay striker Diego Forlan from Spanish side Villarreal, midfielder Luis Garcia from Liverpool and winger Simao Sabrosa from Benfica are among the club's new recruits while they look to be favourites to secure the services of Spanish international Jose Antonio Reyes from Arsenal.

The club is in the second qualifying round for the UEFA Cup.

## PCB warns Inzamam

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Naseem Ashraf on Tuesday issued a clear warning to former captain Inzamamul Haq, saying he would not be considered for national selection if he decides to play for the breakaway Indian Cricket League.

"Since the International Cricket Council (ICC) does not recognise this private tournament our position is clear -- any Pakistani player who plays in the League will not be considered for national selection again," Ashraf told PTI.

"Our policy is clear we will not give permission to any of our players to play in the Indian league as it is not supported by the officialdom," he said.

Inzamam, who has been ignored by the PCB for a central contract after announcing retirement from the one-day cricket following Pakistan's World Cup debacle, on Monday said he would like to play in the League if the terms were right from the ICL organisers.

Former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif also said from London that he had also been spoken to by the ICL organisers but would not go to India unless he got PCB clearance.

"It is all too premature but I would like to have clearance from the PCB to play in the ICL," he added.

## Zaheer's sweet

**FROM PAGE 17**  
in first-class matches to gain control," he said.

Khan added: "Last year, playing county matches definitely helped in getting used to the conditions. And bowling so many overs helped me achieve consistency in line and length."

England all-rounder Paul Collingwood, who made 63 before falling to Khan, said of the India strike bowler. "He's got a great knack of swinging the ball both ways with a similar action. He's hard to pick-up."

And as for the jellybean incident, Collingwood added: "Perhaps he (Khan) prefers blue ones to pink ones."

## India go one

**FROM PAGE 17**  
Strauss 55; Zaheer Khan 5-75, Kumble 3-104)

**INDIA:** Second innings (overnight 10-0)

Karthik c Prior b Tremlett	22
Jaffer c Pietersen b Tremlett	22
Dravid not out	11
Tendulkar c Cook b Tremlett	1
Ganguly not out	2
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, w-2, nb-3)	15
Total: (For 3 wickets in 24.1 overs)	73
Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-55, 3-62.	

Did not bat: Laxman, Dhoni, Kumble, Zaheer Khan, RP Singh, Sreesanth  
**Bowler** O M R W  
Anderson 9 2 23 0  
Sidebottom 8 0 28 0  
Tremlett 7.1 2 12 3

**Result: India won by seven wickets and lead three-match series 1-0. Man-of-the-match: Zaheer Khan Umpires: Simon Taufel, Ian Howell TV Umpire: Nigel Llong Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle Toss: India**

## REMAINING FIXTURE

Aug 09-13: Third Test, The Oval

## Chelsea feeling

**FROM PAGE 20**  
ruled out until November after undergoing surgery on his hip during Chelsea's two-week spell in Los Angeles and there are also injuries to Mikel John Obi, Salomon Kalou and Lassana Diarra.

Chelsea's players were put through two intensive sessions a day during their two-week tour to America, and there has been little respite since they returned.

Despite the effects of jet lag following the 11-hour flight back to London, the players were in training again the next day, and then they travelled to Holland for a friendly against Feyenoord just 24 hours later.

Chelsea's players trained every day last week but were soundly beaten when they travelled to Ibrox to face Rangers last weekend, and many of the players are already complaining of fatigue.

## Barca head

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard says he believes the new recruits will help refresh the squad, which was plagued by conflicts last season between key players like Ronaldinho and Eto'o that fuelled media storms.

Barcelona will visit China, Japan and Hong Kong between August 3 and 11.

The squad will play three exhibition games during its Asian tour. It will face Beijing Guoan on August 5 in the Chinese capital and Yokohama Marinos in Tokyo two days later.

Barcelona will then face Mission Hills Invitation XI, a team made up of players from Kitchee FC and Happy Valley FC, in Hong Kong on August 10.

# Dravid hails Khan

## Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Captain Rahul Dravid said winning the toss was vital to India's seven-wicket win over England in the second Test.

Dravid had the option to bowl first in damp conditions on day one and he said: "It was important, if not crucial."

"But our bowlers still had to put the ball in the right areas. To get them out for under 200 was a great effort."

Asked if he thought the behaviour of players had crossed the line, Dravid said: "It was close to it in some cases but I don't think it got too bad."

Match referee Ranjan Madugalle revealed that no action would be taken against either England or India, but that both Dravid and Michael Vaughan would be spoken to about the future conduct of their players.

"I will be having a chat with them before the next game -- that is the time

to talk," he said. "The important thing is to remind the captains that they are responsible for the behaviour of their sides and it cascades down to the rest of the team."

Dravid explained that the team vowed to improve after narrowly avoiding defeat in the first Test at Lord's when bad light ended play with their final two batsmen at the crease.

"We got together after Lord's and knew we had to put in a better performance and knew we had the players to do it," he said.

"It was brilliant bowling on the first day allied to a good opening partnership that set it up for us."

The captain praised Zaheer Khan, who bowled superbly on Monday to finish with match figures of 9-134. "He led the attack like a champion, you players to take the game by the scruff of the neck."

Of the century opening stand between Dinesh Karthik and Wasim Jaffer on Saturday, he said: "We had

seen promise in the last few matches, both are young boys learning but they set it up for the middle order."

Man-of-the-match Zaheer honed his English swing bowling skills during a stint in county cricket with Worcestershire, which he described as "a wonderful learning experience."

"Bowling day in and day out helped me to achieve consistency and I was able to experiment with things."

One of the experiments that paid great dividends was the tactic of bowling around the wicket, which uprooted Matt Prior's middle stump in the second innings.

"When my bowling was wayward I started going around the wicket to counter-balance it," the 28-year-old explained.

"I was able to get the ball to go away and batsmen said it was a difficult angle and they were not used to it."

# Akhtar fitness scare

## Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan manager Talat Ali soothed fears over Shoaib Akhtar's fitness after the bowler caused a minor stir by walking off the field in a practice match between Pakistan probabilities at a camp being held at the National Stadium Karachi.

Shoaib bowled three unsuccessful overs in the searing afternoon heat before going off. He returned later for another bowl, this time completing his four-over quota, though he was given some rough treatment by Salman Butt and Imran Nazir.

Talat said the absence was due to dehydration and nothing else. "It was hot, very humid and he got dehydrated. We gave him water and time to

recover. He was a little dizzy because of the dehydration but he was fine after a cold shower and lots of water."

Shoaib took the field initially with strapping on his left knee and, coupled with his absence from practice matches on Monday, led some to suggest he was carrying an injury. "It's nothing serious," Talat said. "The strapping was only for support and nothing major. He was working out before as well and with the heat and the fact that he bowls so fast, it can happen. It's not a fitness issue at all. In our Abbottabad training camp (in June) he was the fittest guy there."

Since the beginning of 2006, Shoaib has suffered from serious injuries to both knees and his ankle. Along with the doping scandal, it has resulted in him playing four ODIs and

one Test in that time. It has led to calls that Shoaib be used selectively in future to prolong his career, though Talat would only acknowledge that the board will have to nurse him along.

"We will use him whenever he is required. We have to look after him and nurse him along," he said. "He has just come back from a long gap out and anyway we can't expect him to bowl 100mph every match."

The arrival of Geoff Lawson as Pakistan's new coach will also play a role. "He was a good fast bowler so he will be able to work closely with Shoaib and plan with him. It's a joint thing and the management and Shoaib have to work together on it. He is our star bowler and he wins us matches."

# 'Pakistan can be No 1'

## Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan's new coach Geoff Lawson plans to use his team's unpredictability as a surprise weapon against opponents in his bid to turn it into the world's No. 1 side.

"Unpredictability can be an advantage as much as a drawback, we will use that characteristic to take teams by surprise," said Lawson.

Lawson described his charges as "talented, skilled and entertaining" and sounded confident that they can rule the world. "Of course Pakistan can be

No. 1, they have the natural talent and skills to match the best in the world," he said.

Coaching Pakistan can be a highly stressful job, but Lawson is not worried. "Stress is only produced when the players and coaching staff feel outside influences are determining their own personal goals. If the players can come to a situation where they are in charge of their own performances and destiny then they will enjoy all of their cricket and life experiences whether they are winning or losing."

"Learning how to train with discipline and intensity will make sure they are prepared for anything they might

encounter in a game situation, therefore avoiding stressful situations," he said.

Known as Henry among friends and peers, Lawson doesn't have any security fears either. "I am coming to Pakistan without any issues," he said. "I don't have any more fears than if I was in London or New York or Istanbul. Cricket people are safe and sensible people."

Lawson is also well prepared for the so-called cultural shock that generally greets Westerners in Pakistan and in fact he believes that he knows more about the Pakistani society than most locals.

"As a regular visitor to the subcontinent (India in particular) I won't find anything I am not expecting. I am currently reading A History of Islamic Societies by Ira M Lapidus, so I will probably know more about Pakistan society than most locals!"

Lawson is yet to take over as Pakistan coach but is already on the receiving end of some scathing criticism. But even that doesn't bother him.

"A part of what the team must learn if they are to become more focused is to use outside influences as a positive including the press and the fan reaction. I will be looking for something positive in all that is said and written. I have worked extensively in the media so I know what it is like on the other side of the boundary rope," he said.

Lawson doesn't believe the gap between Pakistan and world champions Australia is too big. "Pakistan can beat everyone in the world."

He is planning to begin his first international stint with a bang by leading Pakistan to the title in the inaugural Twenty20 World Championship in South Africa in September. "Pakistan have the players to do well at this short form of the game. Our aim in South Africa will certainly be to win the Cup."

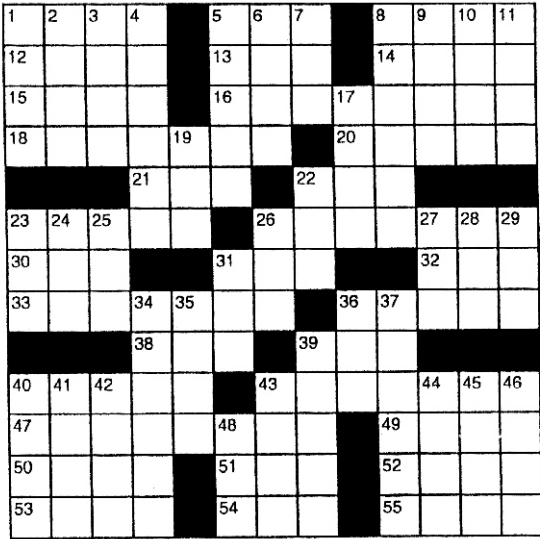
Referee: Ramkrishna Ghosh.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Cain's victim	1 Help with a crime
5 Regis and Kelly's network	2 Shower alternative
8 San —, CA	3 Birthright barrier
12 Foundation	4 Textbook segment
13 Drench	5 "When You Wish Upon —"
14 — and crafts	6 Physicist Niels
15 Greek vowels	7 PC processor
16 "OK" gesture	8 Talk on and on
18 To this point	9 Approx. mately
20 Black wood	10 Dazzle
21 — the ramparts	11 Catch sight of
22 Dollar bill	17 Waiter's handout
23 Picking solution	19 Retainer
26 "Pulp Fiction" actress	
30 Fond du —, Wis.	
31 Scenery	
32 "Little Women" woman	
33 Bambi's rabbit friend	

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	S	P	S	M	R	T	H	E	M	S
U	T	A	H	E	A	N	C	R	O	E
L	O	P	E	S	T	R	A	T	E	G
D	W	A	T	E	S	P	R	A	C	I
S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	K	I	T
O	W	E	T	E	E	U	P	N	O	R
C	A	T	I	O	N	A	N	G	E	N
U	S	A	B	L	E	K	E	T	I	L
S	T	R	A	D	D	L	E	W	I	T
P	E	E	R	G	A	Y	T	R	O	N
S	P	A	T	E	M	S	T	U	N	A



## CRYPTOQUIP

N W C Q E T I M T Q T K N F Q D  
N C F X W K - U T V V Z T Q K C V K ,  
Z T I U M E T I V D E E T I N C A C

G C D K C Q G E D V U F L L D A X F Q ?  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** IF EMPLOYEES PAUSE TO TAKE SOME REFRESHING SIPS OF SODA, MIGHT THEY BE DRINKING BREAK FLUID?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals Y