

Hoffenheim striker Demba Ba (top) is slide-tackled by Schalke defender Benedikt Hoewedes during their Bundesliga tie in Mannheim on Sunday.

Grade A deal

CRICINFO, undated

Ishant Sharma, Rohit Sharma and Subramaniam Badrinath are the biggest gainers in the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) new set of annual players' contracts, running up to September 30 2009. Rahul Dravid, who has been struggling for form over the last year, has been retained in Grade A -- the top bracket that will fetch him 60 lakh rupees this year -- according to the new list, released on Monday.

Ishant, Rohit and Badrinath have jumped two slots from Grade D (15 lakh rupees) to Grade B (40 lakh rupees). Other promotions were on expected lines with VVS Laxman, Harbhajan Singh, Gautam Gambhir and Virender Sehwag moving up from Grade B to join Sachin Tendulkar, Zaheer Khan, Yuvraj Singh and Dravid. Irfan Pathan, Munaf Patel and Suresh Raina have also moved up from Grade C (25 lakh rupees) to Grade B.

While Ajit Agarkar and Ramesh Powar no longer figure on the new list of 37 players, a notable drop is that of fast bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, who slipped from Group B to Group C, after missing most of the season due to injury.

Sourav Ganguly and Anil Kumble are also among the absentees on the list, after retiring from international cricket in October-November this year.

GRADE A (60 lakh rupees): Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Zaheer Khan, VVS Laxman, Harbhajan Singh, Gautam Gambhir, Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh.

GRADE B (40 lakh rupees): Rudra Pratap Singh, Munaf Patel, Suresh Raina, Rohit Sharma, Ishant Sharma, Subramaniam Badrinath, Irfan Pathan.

GRADE C (25 lakh rupees): Piyush Chawla, Wasim Jaffer, Yusuf Pathan, Praveen Kumar, Pragvan Ojha, Amit Mishra, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth.

GRADE D (15 lakh rupees): Dinesh Karthik, Robin Uthappa, Parthiv Patel, Manpreet Gony, Cheteshwar Pujara, Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Ashok Dinda, Wriddhiman Saha, Chetanya Nanda, M Vijay, R Ashwin, Shikhar Dhiwan, Sudeep Tyagi.

Pepsi V-Day

FROM PAGE 17

In the day's other match, Bangladesh Army outplayed Bangladesh Air Force also by 3-0.

The final match of the competition will be held today at 3 pm at the same venue.



American swimmer Michael Phelps holds the world record for most gold medals, eight, at a single Olympics.



ESPN Sportscenter India Sports News Live from 8:30pm

Dravid given Hoffenheim back on top

AFP, Berlin



the year as ing from behind to

team from south-west yellow cards. Germany continue the Bundesliga fairytale.

direct freekick from midfielder Selim Teber cancelled out a first-half strike from Schalke's Gerald Asamoah to put Hoffenheim back on top in their first season in Germany's

Schalke had both midfielder sides. Jermaine Jones and Orlando Engelaar sent off in the second

enough for Hoffenheim to only been promoted last year, the home side enter the winter break as leaders.

checked Nigeria striker left.

Chinedu Obasi.

Hoffenheim's defence then had only themselves to blame m finish when Schalke striker Halil Altintop slid a pass through to Asamoah and the ex-Germany leaders forwardsmashedhisshot past goalkeeper Daniel Haas on 40 The home side squandered

a string of chances to equalise, draw with nine-man Schalke but the game degenerated 04 on Sunday as the village after the break with a flurry of

Trouble started in earnest when Schalke's Brazilian A superb second-half midfielder Rafinha bundled Hoffeneim's Sejad Salihovic over the sidelines and picked up a yellow card on 52 minutes. Just four minutes later both

Asamoah and midfielder Selim Teber both picked up yellows after a tussel which But tempers boiled over as sucked in the majority of both Jones then allowed his

suspect temper to get the better of him when he hacked The single point was down Hoffenheim substitute Luiz Gustavo Dias on 59 mintake over from Bayern Munich utes and was shown his secas league leaders and having ond yellow card and the automatic red. Jones was so incensed he

had to be restrained by The match was a bad- Schalke coaches as he remontempered affair and Germany strated with the Hoffenheim midfielder Jones picked up an bench on his way to the dressearly yellow card after just 23 ing room and left his side a minutes when he body man down with 30 minutes

Hoffenheim then got the deserved equaliser when Teber curled in a superb free kick on 71 minutes.

Schalke lost another man when Engelaar was shown his second yellow on 80 minutes for yet another heavy challenge.

The result means Hoffenhein ended Bayern's temporary reign as league leaders after they drew 2-2 at Stuttgart when midfielder Sami Khedira hit an injurytime equaliser to seal the draw for the home side.

Third-placed Hertha Berlin kept the pressure on the leaders with a 4-0 win over Karlsruhe at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Hamburg are fourth after their 1-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt as Croatia striker Mladen Petric sealed victory with a second-halfheader. Bayer Leverkusen are fifth

after they were held 1-1 at home by struggling Energie Werder Bremen are up to

eighth after a 2-1 win over VfL Wolfsburg as an own goal from Wolfsburg's Brazilian midfielder Josue gave the hosts three points.

On Friday night, Borussia Dortmund moved up to sixth in the league after their 2-1 win over the league's bottom side Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Safety a major issue

AFP, Tokyo



South Africa's alarming terrorist attacks are

the number one priority of 2010 World Cup organisers, topic. but they insisted Monday fans need not worry.

Since South Africa was not a single incident. awarded the tournament four years ago, critics have roused rampant speculation over the country's readiness to host it -

not least because of the incidence of crime, with some 50 murders a day.

Rapes and violent robberies have also reached a level which other African nations recently classified as intolera-

And following the Mumbai attacks earlier this month, there have also been jitters

Danny Jordaan, head of the South African organising committee, said that over the past 14 years South Africa had

there had not been any inci-

"Security for any major event is the most important aspect," he said at a press conference here with FIFA President Sepp Blatter on the sidelines of the Club World Cup, where South Africa's preparedness was the top

"But we have had 11 major events in the last 14 years and

"The fact is that the most peaceful time in Africa is before, during and after football matches.'

South Africa will deploy 41,000 police officers specifically for the World Cup, all of whom will be sent for specialised training in crowd control.

More generally, a massive recruitment drive since 2004 will increase general police numbers by 55,000 to 200,000, he added, while millions of dollars are being spent on about safety from terrorist helicopters, body armour and high-tech bomb disabling equipment.

While the terrorist attacks in Mumbai earlier this month that left 172 dead were a worry, hosted 11 major events and Jordaan said fears of similar country.

atrocities during the World Cup were not a major concern.

"Mumbai was unfortunate but that is the kind of world we live in," he said, adding that organisers were liasing with Interpol on all aspects of security.

"As far as South Africa is concerned, it is not an issue we are overly worried about. But one must take care of that possibility.

"Our authorities have done a lot of work to recognise those possibilities."

Blatter insisted that despite its high crime rate, South Africa should not be singled out as a dangerous country.

"Security is one of the biggest problems we have but it is not only in one city and

one country," he said. "Even in Switzerland (where FIFA is headquartered), we have problems. We trust the government of South Africa to create an event where security is handled as in the last World Cups and at the Olympics in Beijing."

The World Cup will be held in 10 stadiums across the

Bolt eyes 400m WR AFP, London

World record-holder over 100 and 200 metres, Usain Bolt says that he is tempted to have a go at the nine-year-old 400 metres record held by Michael Johnson.

"Everyone wants to do it. There are no major championships in 2010 so I could go for the 400m record that year," the Jamaican told BBC's Inside Sport

"The training for 400m is so much harder but I'm thinking about it," he added

Bolt on Sunday was named as the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year after his dramatic wins in Beijing where he became Olympic champion over 100 and 200 metres.

In the latter, he shattered Johnson's 12-year-old world record with a time of 19.30 seconds.

Johnson sliced 0.11 seconds off the 400m world record to set a new mark of 43,18 at the World Championships in Seville in August, 1999. Turning to his Olympic

exploits Bolt said: "If you go out there worrying about if you are going to mess up, you mess up. "There are better starters than me but I'm a strong fin-

isher. I knew I had won the race at 75m, so that's when I started celebrating. "I didn't care about the time. It was the first time anyone from my country had won

the 100m." Appeal for space for Afro-Asia

CRICINFO, undated

Cup

The off-on-off Afro-Asia Cup was raised at last week's International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executives' meeting in Cape Town, with a request from Cassim Suliman, the chairman of the African Cricket Association, for major boards to find space for its to be staged.

The tournament has suffered from indifference and the packed international calendar, but it raises much-needed funds for African and Asian cricket, as well as designated charities. However, support from major countries has been lukewarm, and its future has been pout in more doubt with the global recession leading sponsors and media companies to review their positions.

Nimbus covered the first two tournaments but withdrew ahead of the third because the absence of many leading players meant that TV revenues were disappointing.

A source close to the negotiations claimed that Nimbus' interest had been rekindled and that Kenya had been pencilled in to hold the tournament sometime in 2009.

However, the international calendar is already heavy with the rescheduled Champions Trophy and Champions League as well as the ICC World Twenty20, on top of prearranged tours by many of those countries whose participation would be required to make the event appealing to broadcasters.

Nayeem

FROM PAGE 17 return catch to Arafat.

BRIEF SCORES KHULNA: First Innings 355

and Second innings 146-5 in 38 overs (Sadat 26, Kayes 14, Sahagir 19, Tushar 35, Shakib 34 not out, Nahidul 0, Anas 17 not out, extra 1; Shahadat 1-35, Mahbubul 1-38, Arafat 1-21, Rivad 1-10, Marshal 1-22).

DHAKA: First Innings (overnight 38-2) 181-9 dec (Javed 0, Anamul 27, Marshall 4 Ashraful 37, Mehrab 9, Riyad 23, Nadif 22, Arafat 32, Shahadat 14 not out, Mahbubul 0, Azim 0 not out, extras 13; Zia 3-33, Dollar 3-51, Robiul 1-64, Shakib 2-10).

BARISAL: First Innings 244 and Second innings 93 for 2 in 33 overs (Shaheen 14, Nasiruddin 36 not out, Hannan 36, Tariqul 0 not out, extras 7; Tareq 1-23, Arafat 1-16).

CHITTAGONG: First Innings (overnight 52-1) 198 all out in 73 overs (Masum 24, Nafis 22, Rezaul 5, Salahuddin 0, Tariq 25, Faisal 4, Nadim 23, Kamrul 13, Yasin 34, Tareq 21 not out, Younus 9, extras 18; Talha 2-33, Saju 2-39, Tariqul 2-36, Sajidul 1-36, Salahuddin 1-22, Nasir 1

RAJSHAHI: First Innings (overnight 56-5) 264 all out in 90,4 overs (Jahurul 5, Siddiqui 10, Hamidul 0, Shuvo 27, Mashud 9, Nayeem 87, Anisur 44, Sabbir 32, Shahajada 9, Delwar 22 not out, Saiful 5, extras 14; Roy 1-79, Saha 4-55, Nazmul 2-55, Nabil

SYLHET: First innings 1-0 in 4 overs (Imtiaz 1 not out, Saikat 0 not out).

Owen sets up Magpies

AFP, Portsmouth



Birthday boy himself the James. present of the opening

first away Premier League win this season.

Victory, which was conadded a second goal 13 minutes from time before Danny Guthrie made it 3-0 in the 89th the relegation zone and into and England centre-half. 14th place in the table.

just a point above bottom whose mind was made up for Sunderland.

after a loss that marked the end of a five-match unbeaten

after the Magpies had gone

Portsmouth's Arnold Mvuemba had carelessly given the ball to Jonas Gutierrez, who played in the striker on the left hand side.

Owen away from goal but his inganew contract. second was sublime as he Michael chipped the ball over onrush-Owen gave ing England goalkeeper David

Soon afterwards Pompey's Noe Pamarot headed over goal as Newcastle beat from a corner and then Defoe, Portsmouth 3-0 at Fratton found in space following a fine Park here on Sunday for their run and cross from Sean Davis down the right flank, shot wide of Shay Given's near post.

firmed when Owen's strike victory when Portsmouth partner Obafemi Martins conceded possession from a throw-in near their own box something which would have infuriated their manager Tony minute, took Newcastle out of Adams, the former Arsenal

Jose Enrique seized on the But the win still left them loose ball and released Martins, three north-east rivals him by James going to ground hattrick in the first-half alone, early and the Nigeria interna-Pompey remained eighth tional's calm finish made it 2-0 in the 77th minute.

Guthrie put the icing on the England striker Jermain Defoe right-foot shot that went particularly wasteful minutes straight through James's

Owen's goal was a vivid in the box. Owen broke the deadlock reminder, as if they needed in the 52nd minute after one, of what Newcastle would be missing if the former Liverpool and Real Madrid forward left the club.

Newcastle manager Joe Kinnear is due to hold talks

A poor first touch took with Owen next week regard-

Owen is presently on a 103,000 pounds-a-week (153,969 dollars) deal which expires at the end of the cur-

rent season. The cash-strapped Magpies could cash in on their prize asset during the January transfer window rather than suffer the financial loss that would come if Owen decided Martins made sure of to leave as a free agent at the season's end.

Kinnear, asked before this

match if he was confident of Owen extending his stay at St James' Park, replied: "I'm not confident, to be honest.

"I'm pretty confident about everybody else, but Michael is a different kettle of fish."

Defoe might have had a firing over from outside the box and sidefooting above the crossbar from close range.

Niko Kranjcar then saw his birthday cake for Owen, 29 on deflected shot well-saved by They missed several Sunday, when he met Shola Given and from the resulting chances with Owen's fellow Ameobi's pull-back with a corner Pompey might have had a penalty when former Manchester United midfielder Nicky Butt appeared to handle

Defoe, who might have won a spot-kick when fouled by Sebastien Bassong, missed another chance before the break when he shot wide after being played in by England strike partner Peter Crouch.

Bradman cap

fails to sell!

Draw at Dunedin

FROM PAGE 17 likely to feature in the second

However, what could have been an interesting final day at the University Oval turned out to be a damp squib. Heavy overnight rain and then persistent drizzle through the morning led to the match being abandoned at lunch, although such was the state of the outfield that decision had long been little more than a formality.

This ground's second Test has been blighted by poor weather, with two days completely washed out, and only one full day -- the fourth -possible. Questions have been asked about the drainage and the ability of the staff to cope with the elements. Although the rain had stopped by lunch and the covers removed, it was the state of the outfield which Munshiganj Pourashava by led to the abandonment.

Ross Dykes, the Otago dium vesterday. Cricket Association chief executive, defended the set- out for 84 runs in 17 overs after up at the ground. "We had a deciding to bat first. huge amount of rainfall and I think we probably did every- match Sohel Arman made 32 thing we could," he said. A report in the Herald on Sunday had slammed the venue and called it a "club ground". Dykes said the story was Press Club Salehin Tuhin was insulting to Dunedin, the adjudged player-of-the-University Oval and the tournament.

groundstaff. **SCORES IN BRIEF**

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 365 (Flynn 95, Ryder 89; Powell 3-63, Edwards 3-91, Gayle 3-42) and second innings 44 for 2 WEST INDIES: First innings 340 (Taylor 106, Chanderpaul 76, Gayle 74; Vettori 6-56, Mills 3 - 34)Result: Match drawn.

Munshigani cricket OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshigani

Munshigani Press Club became champions in the Victory Day Twenty20 cricket tournament when they beat four wickets at the local sta-

Pourashava were bowled

In reply, man-of-theas Press Club reached the target in 17.2 overs by losing six wickets. Captain of Munshiganj

AFP, Sydney

The baggy green cap worn by Australian cricket legend Donald Bradman in his final Test Monday failed to sell at an auction in Melbourne despite generating global media interest. The cap, Bradman's when he

'Invincibles' on their Ashes tour of England, had been expected to fetch more than 600,000 dollars (400,000 US) at the Charles Leski Auction Ahead of the auction, Leski said the item was "the most

captained the 1948 Australian

valuable item to come on the market in the sporting memorabilia field in Australia" But not a single offer was

Leski said his auction house would be negotiating with a client who had previously made an offer and he was confident it would be sold within 24 hours. The cap was given to the son

of an English friend of

Bradman's after the Australian

made at auction.

cricketer noticed the boy playing cricket in a substandard hat. "Sir Don said: 'We can't have that, we'd better get you a decent one', and a short while later in the mail the 1948

baggy green arrived," Leski

told the Nine Network

Ton-dulkar topples England

FROM PAGE 17

by wicketkeeper Matt Prior for

Dravid, a veteran of 130 Tests at an average of 52.12, may find the selectors lose patience with him after managing just 32 runs in his past four Tests.

Gautam Gambhir, who shared a century stand with Sehwag, put on 42 for the third wicket with Tendulkar as the Indians attempted to overcome the early loss of Dravid. The left-hander moved to

66, his eighth Test half-century, when he flirted with a wide ball from James Anderson and gave Paul Collingwood a low catch Flintoff3-49, Panesar 3-65)

in a fourth-wicket stand of 41 Collingwood 108, Zaheer 3-40, with Tendulkar when he Sharma3-57)

ACROSS

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House"

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29 Corral

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activities

specialty

spinner Swann to Ian Bell at night 131-1) short-leg soon after lunch. The second Test starts in

the northern town of Mohali

on Friday. SCOREBOARD Final scoreboard on the fifth

and final day of the first Test between India and England at the MA Chidambaram

Stadium in Chennai on Monday: ENGLAND: First innings 316 (Strauss 123, Cook 52, Prior 53 not out, Harbhajan 3-96, Mishra 3-99)

INDIA: First innings 241 (Dhoni 53, Harbhajan 40, ENGLAND: Second innings Venkatsai Laxman made 26 311-9 declared (Strauss 108,

dabbed at a ball from off- INDIA: Second innings (over-

Gambhir c Collingwood b Anderson 66 Sehwag lbw b Swann Dravid c Prior b Flintoff Tendulkar not out

Laxman c Bell b Swann

Anderson 11

Panesar

Yuvraj not out Extras: (b-2, lb-14, nb-4) 20 Total: (For 4 wkts in 98.3 overs) 387 Fall of wickets: 1-117, 2-141, 3-183, 4-224 M R W 0 48 0 Harmison 10

103

22 1 64 1 Flintoff 28.3 2 103 2 Swann Result: India won by six wick-Man-of-the-match: Virender

Sehwag.

Toss: England. Umpires: Daryl Harper and Billy Bowden.

Bitter pill for Kevin FROM PAGE 17 match. "Sehwag obviously started the

came in. "As a skipper and a bowling unit you try and set a field to a magician like that, and it is pretty difficult."

innings fantastically well last

night and then the little mas-

ter from Mumbai (Tendulkar)

India's Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has now won all his four Tests as captain, praised his team for fighting back from a difficult position. "We were outplayed on the first three days, so it was

said Dhoni. "We won most of the sessions on the last two days, that is why we have won this Test

important to play the next two

days with a lot of intensity,"

years in India that on the fourth and fifth day the game changes a lot and it changes brilliantly. very quickly. "We raised our standards.

We can't forget Virender Sehwag... his innings gave Sachin and Yuvraj the opportunity to win. Sachin was brilliant and Yuvraj amazing because there was a lot of pressure on the final day." Sehwag; named man-of-

reminded of the 1999 Test against Wasim Akram's Pakistan at the same ground, which India lost by 12 runs Tendulkar.

the-match, said he was

"I remember that loss to awfully," he said.

"We have seen over the finished the job," he said. "The ball was turning and bouncing but Sachin and Yuvraj batted "The atmosphere in the dressing room now is brilliant.

> Sachin ton FROM PAGE 17

"This become a very, very despite a century from special victory on a track where the ball was jumping

Pakistan, but today Sachin

We believe we can do any-

"The game-plan was to get opportunity for scoring more and more runs because the wicket was such and we could not be bogged down by that.

20).

2-55, Saikat 1-7).

By Eugene Sheffer CROSSWORD DOWN 20 Spaces 21 Neighbor-Hayworth 1 Turf 2 — Beta hood 4 Duel tool 36 Sanctify 22 Actress 8 Vatican Kelly 3 Pretenauthor 12 Surprise 40 Gridlock 4 A cube cousin sound 25 Rorhas 41 Protuber-13 Cager's

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Web site 36 Plank 37 Use scissors 38 Gabrielle Chanel 39 Idolaters recitations 40 Despot 42 Feeling poorly 43 Afternoon social

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QN AVHHZAAWVEET RIFE QIGFA, F'M AIT KT CDNQRZD

RIA ORZ BEWO NW HIC. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEONE

TYPES CAPITAL LETTERS AN AWFUL LOT, I GUESS YOU MIGHT CALL HIM A SHIFTY PERSON.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals S