

TEN CRICKET
South Africa v England
Second Test, Day 3
Live from 2:30pm

STARSPORTS1
Australia v West Indies
Third Test, Day 2
Live from 5:30am

MURRAY & MAURESMO HIT IT OFF

World No. 2 Andy Murray defeated coach Amelie Mauresmo, not on the tennis court -- but in a game of air hockey. The Frenchwoman is back in Murray's camp after taking some time off for the birth of her child and the two seem to be hitting it off just like before. With Mauresmo joining Murray's team in time for the new season, Murray decided to work with her and announced that Bjorkman will no longer be part of his coaching team. Murray will begin his 2016 season in Perth where he will be competing in the Hopman Cup alongside Heather Watson. The Scot will be hoping to lead his team to yet another win -- after leading the Brits to their first Davis



Chelsea's three goal-scorers (From L) Oscar, Diego Costa and Willian celebrate after Costa scored the third goal and effectively sealed his side's win against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Atletico take advantage of Barca stutter

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona dropped points for the third time in four league games as they were held 0-0 by local rivals Espanyol in a heated Catalan derby on Saturday. Atletico Madrid moved two points clear of Barca at the top of the table, having played a game more, and thanks to substitute Thomas Partey's late winner to edge past Levante 1-0. Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez hit the woodwork for Barcelona either side of half-time, but Espanyol's physical approach was rewarded with a first point against Barca in 8 matches. "The result in general was fair based on what both teams created, although I thought we had a lot of chances," said Barca boss Luis Enrique. Espanyol committed 22 fouls despite a lenient approach from referee Jose Luis Gonzalez, but Luis Enrique refused to blame the officials for a stuttering start to the new year. "It's a contact sport. That is why we have a referee there to control the game," he added. At the Vicente Calderon, Atletico's strug-

RESULTS

Rayo Vallecano Llorente 16, Jozabed 49	2 - 2	Real Sociedad Elustondo 27, Bruma 62
Espanyol Partey 80	0 - 0	Barcelona
Atletico Madrid	1 - 0	Levante
Malaga	2 - 0	Celta Vigo

gle for goals continued, but they were bailed out by an error from Levante 'keeper Diego Marino 10 minutes from time. "Once again the changes gave us the quality we needed in the game, especially in the movement for the goal," said Atletico boss Diego Simeone. Atletico had a big claim for a penalty turned down when Angel Correa was clipped inside the area and Stefan Savic then headed against the bar as they pushed for the opener. Simeone's men's luck appeared to be out when Koke unleashed a piledriver from Martinez's knockdown against the bar. However, their persistence was rewarded when just as against Rayo Vallecano in midweek, Partey came off the bench to make the telling contribution as he skipped through the heart of the Levante defence but his shot ought to have been stopped by

Ivory Coast defender found dead in river

REUTERS, Berlin

The body of former Ivory Coast defender Steve Gohouri has been recovered from the River Rhine after he went missing in mid-December, German regional league club TSV Steinbach said on Saturday. Gohouri, 34, played in the Premier League with Wigan Athletic between 2010 and 2012 after joining from Bundesliga side Borussia Moenchengladbach. TSV said on their website that the player's death had been confirmed by Duesseldorf police who found the body near the city of Krefeld. Former team mate and Wigan manager Gary Caldwell expressed his sadness. "I heard the fans singing his name and we heard about the news in the dressing room," he said. "For somebody so young to lose their life is very sad." Former Ivory Coast and Chelsea striker Didier Drogba also paid tribute to Gohouri. "So sad about this news...lost one of my soldiers, Cote d'Ivoire lost one of its most loyal sons. My thoughts go to the family. RIP bro," said Montreal Impact player Drogba on his Twitter account.

Hiddink gets first win

AFP, London



Guus Hiddink enjoyed his first victory since taking over as Chelsea interim manager as the troubled Premier League champions crushed Crystal Palace 3-0 on Sunday. After draws against Watford and Manchester United following his arrival as short-term replacement for the sacked Jose Mourinho, Hiddink was at last able to celebrate three points at Selhurst Park. Oscar opened the scoring in the first half before Willian's cracker and a Diego Costa strike extended Chelsea's unbeaten run since Mourinho's departure to four matches. In such turmoil for much of a season ruined by the breakdown of Mourinho's relationship with his squad, the Blues are slowly getting back in the groove under Hiddink and moved six points clear of the relegation zone after their first away league success in eight attempts. After climbing into contention for a European place, Palace's first defeat in seven matches left Alan Pardew's men without a win or a goal in their last three games. With torrential rain lashing Selhurst Park, Palace forward Wilfried Zaha went close early on with a low strike that skimmed off the slick pitch. Eden Hazard saw a long-range effort deflected wide at the conclusion of Chelsea's first serious attack, but the Belgium playmaker began limping immediately after the shot. Hazard, lambasted by Mourinho for not trying to play on when injured at Leicester last month, briefly carried on but in the 15th minute he decided he needed to come off. Palace defender Damien Delaney had a pair of headers saved by Thibaut Courtois as the hosts tried to take advantage of Chelsea's tepid start. But crucially Palace striker Frazier Campbell scuffed wide from Jason Puncheon's cross midway through the half and Hiddink's team finally awoke from their slumber to snatch the

lead in the 29th minute. Hiddink had made two changes from Monday's draw at United as Costa returned from suspension and Cesc Fabregas came in for Nemanja Matic. Both repaid their Dutchman's faith with decisive contributions to the opener. Fabregas was the architect with a pass that sent Costa racing away from Delaney down the right edge of the Palace area. Looking up, Costa unselfishly ignored the chance to shoot himself and, with goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey out of position, the Spain striker pulled the ball back to Oscar, who had the simple task of slotting home from close-range. Hiddink had called for players other than Costa to take the responsibility of scoring and Oscar's fifth goal of the season was a well-timed response from the Brazilian. Cesar Azpilicueta almost made it two when he beat the Palace offside trap, surging clear to test Hennessey with a powerful strike that drew a fine stop from the Palace keeper. While Palace were typically tenacious in their tackling, they were clearly missing the class of France midfielder Yohan Cabaye and influential winger Yannick Bolasie, absent through suspension and injury respectively. Kurt Zouma should have doubled Chelsea's lead when he rose highest to meet Willian's free-kick, but the defender couldn't keep his header on target. However, Zaha was unable to summon the power or accuracy to beat Courtois from a promising position and Willian made Palace pay in the 60th minute. When Scott Dann tried to block Oscar's progress the loose ball ran to Willian and the Brazil winger smashed a superb strike high into the roof of the net from 20 yards. Costa wrapped up Chelsea's biggest league win of the season six minutes later when he claimed his seventh goal of the season from close-range after Hennessey pushed Willian's shot into his path.

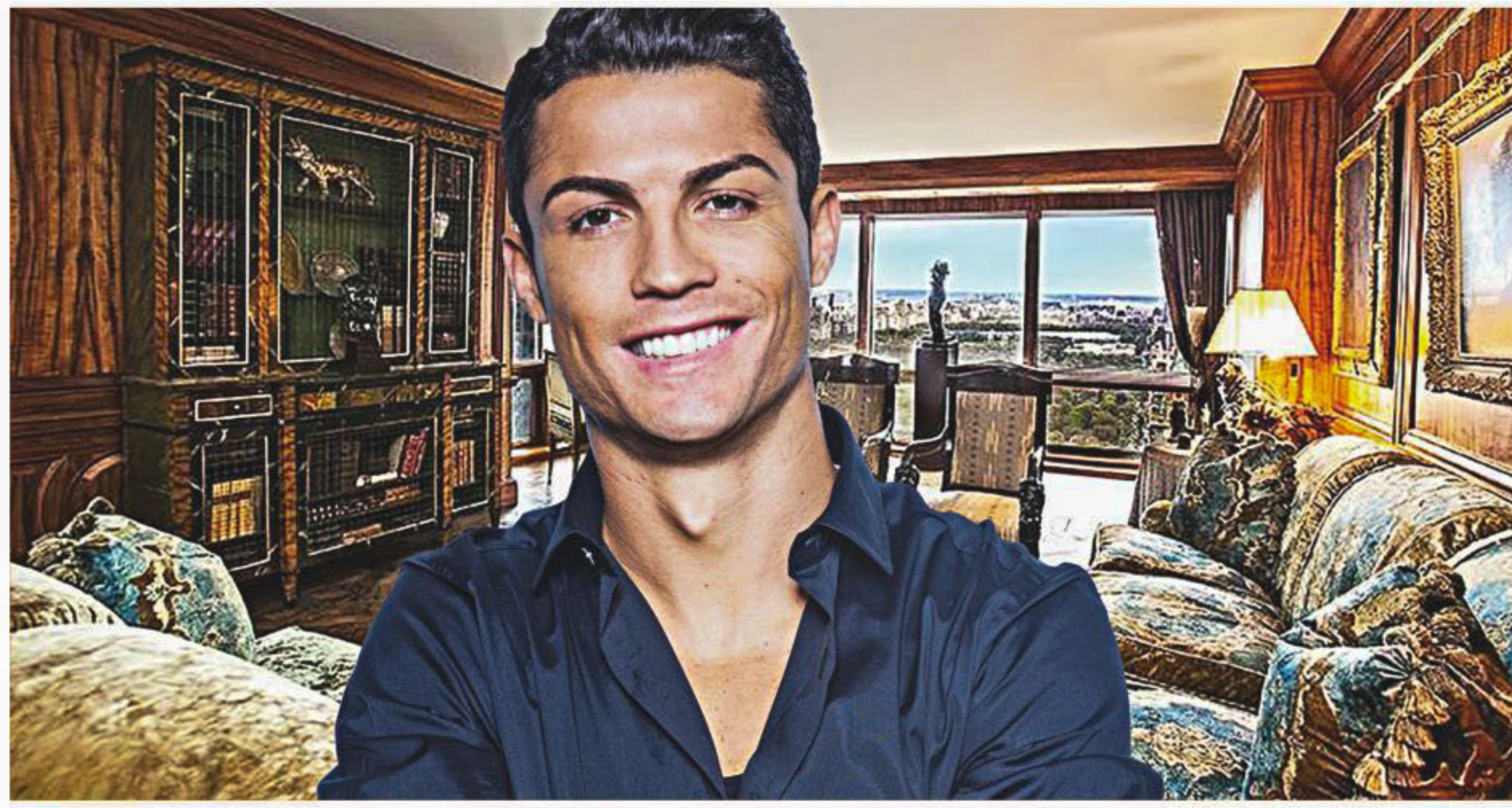
'I want to live like a king'

AFP, Madrid



World Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo has claimed he will "live like a king" once his playing career comes to an end, but has ruled out a move into coaching when he hangs up his boots. In a wide-ranging interview with Spanish newspaper El Mundo, he admitted football doesn't always captivate his interest. "I have a top life, but I think I am going to enjoy it more when I finish my career, when I have time to do what I like," he said. "This Saturday there is a boxing bout in Las Vegas and I would like to take my friends and family to see it, but I can't because I don't have time. I am not going to cry about it now because I am making a 'sacrifice,' but after I'm done I want to live like a king." Ronaldo is the world's third highest paid athlete according to American business magazine Forbes with an annual income just shy of 80 million dollars. And the 30-year-old believes he will continue to work on his brand once he retires from playing rather than a more traditional move into coaching. "If you ask me now if I want to be a coach, I would say no. Nor a sporting director or president of a club," he added. "Since I was 27 I have had my own line of clothes and I want my brand to keep growing because football will finish in five, six, seven or 10 years." The Portuguese captain's success

has also attracted critics of his at times egotistical nature. His decision to go ahead with a lavish 30th birthday hours after Madrid had lost 4-0 to Atletico Madrid in the capital derby in February dominated headlines in Spain for weeks afterwards. Yet, despite admitting to making mistakes, Ronaldo believes it is his confidence that has moulded his talents into a three-time World Player of the Year. "Many people say they don't regret anything. That is a lie," he added. "I at least regret things a lot, but that also explains the kind of person you are. "I am like this. If all I have achieved in football is by being like this then you can't ask me to change. If people ask me to improve, I accept it, but to change is very difficult."



Baz backs Amir return

AGENCIES, Wellington

New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum says convicted spot-fixer Mohammad Amir should be given "the benefit of the doubt" and allowed to play for Pakistan in limited-overs matches in New Zealand this month. Amir has been named in the Pakistan squad which will play three Twenty20 and three one-day games against New Zealand over the next three weeks but his participation depends on New Zealand immigration officials allowing him a visa. The fast bowler was only 18 when he handed a five-year ban from cricket in 2011 for his involvement in spot fixing. He also served three months of a six-month prison term. His ban, imposed by the International Cricket Council, has now ended and McCullum said Sunday he should be allowed to resume his career.

United backing Louis van Gaal Gigg's to take over after?

AGENCIES, Manchester

Manchester United have told manager Louis van Gaal his position is safe and there are "no plans" to sack him as they intend for Ryan Giggs to succeed the Dutchman when he is ready to take the step up. The Times, based in United Kingdom, reported that the owners of the Red Devils have passed on their assurances to the current boss, as executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward and the Glazer family want the former playing legend as the next Old Trafford coach. The board are reportedly willing to let the opportunity of hiring Jose Mourinho slip through their fingers, sticking to the plan they formulated when Giggs was made LvG's assistant 18 months ago. The news will surely upset and antagonise a section of United fans, who believe Van Gaal and his coaching staff have taken the team as far as they can. Mourinho would not be a stylistic step forward for United, but he is a manager with a world-class record, besides his blip at Chelsea this year after leading them to the title last season. Giggs would undoubtedly receive the full support of the Old Trafford faithful if he lands the job, but it's questionable he has the experience to be a success in the hot seat. Former United assistant manager Steve Round told Sky Sports News that Giggs deserves his chance as the Red Devils manager, agreeing with the Glazer family's long-term strategy.

Windies off to shaky start

AFP, Sydney



Nathan Lyon claimed his 100th Test wicket in Australia with the dismissal of top-scoring opener Kraigg Brathwaite late on the opening day of the rain-hit third Test against the West Indies in Sydney on Sunday. Brathwaite had defied Australia's bowlers and two rain delays before he gave away his wicket late in the day to Lyon for 85. Brathwaite, one of the few shining lights in a dismal Windies tour with 94 in the first Hobart Test, was in sight of his fifth Test century before he fell to Lyon. It gave the Australia off-spinner his 100th Test in Australia and 184th scalp overall. At the close, after 75 overs were squeezed in around two lengthy rain interruptions, the West Indies were 207 for six with Denesh Ramdin on 23 and Carlos Brathwaite belting two sixes and four fours in his unbeaten 35 after winning the toss. "I'm pretty proud of that. It's a pretty big achievement for myself. I knew I was close, but I didn't know the exact number," Lyon said of his

century of home Test wickets. "It's a big challenge for me, it's spinning pretty big and it's got decent bounce. It's a challenge for me to try and hit the stumps. I'm enjoying that challenge right now." Australia have already retained the Frank Worrell Trophy after huge wins in the first two Tests and are chasing a 3-0 series clean sweep. Brathwaite, who along with Darren Bravo has been the best-performing batsman in the series for the struggling visitors, before he was deceived by Lyon's extra bounce and attempted to steer the ball past slip. But instead he dollyed a catch off his glove to Steve Smith at slip. Brathwaite's dismissal was quickly followed by the wicket of skipper Jason Holder, who was instinctively caught by Joe Burns at short leg for one off left-arm spinner Steve O'Keefe. Brathwaite watched four batting partners come and go as Australia used two recognised spinners in Lyon and O'Keefe for the first time in a home Test for a decade. Shai Hope, recalled for injured opener Rajendra Chandrika, began positively with some crisp drives but fell in the fifth over. Josh Hazlewood got him to prod

outside the off-stump and he was snapped up by Peter Nevill for nine. Brathwaite put on 91 runs for the second wicket with Darren Bravo before Bravo was out in the third over after lunch for 33. James Pattinson dug one in and Bravo top-edged to Usman Khawaja at backward square leg. Marlon Samuels was run out in a dreadful mid-pitch mixup with Kraigg Brathwaite before the first rain interruption in the afternoon session. Samuels, who has scored a total of 35 runs in five innings in the series, hit towards point and darted off for a run only to stop in the middle of the pitch. Brathwaite had dropped his bat before retreating to his end and Samuels was stranded by Hazlewood's throw to the striker's end. "I think those things happen in cricket. I'm not sure what to say about that," Brathwaite said. "It was just a misunderstanding." The West Indies, who are playing in their first Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 15 years, have not won a Test in Australia since 1997.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: First innings 207 for 6 (Brathwaite 85, Bravo 33; Lyon 2-68)

Ranatunga loses vote

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's World Cup-winning skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and his younger brother Nishantha suffered humiliating defeats Sunday in elections for the country's cricket board. Arjuna, who led Sri Lanka to its only World Cup victory in 1996, sought the position of vice president but lost by 22 votes to businessman Jayantha Dharmadasa, according to official results. His brother Nishantha Ranatunga stood for president of crisis-ridden Sri Lanka Cricket but lost by 32 votes to businessman and politician Thilanga Sumathipala. There was no immediate comment from the Ranatunga brothers, both of whom had previously held top positions at Sri Lanka Cricket. Cricket clubs affiliated to the island's governing body were eligible to vote Sunday and to elect new office-holders