Zidane to retire

after World Cup

Real Madrid's French international

midfielder Zinedine Zidane plans

to retire after the World Cup,

Spanish sports daily AS said on

"The Frenchman told (Real

"Zizou, who is under contract

chairman) Florentino (Perez) this

will be his last season," according

with Real Madrid until 2007, is

ready to renounce his final year

with the club to go out with a bang

and give it his all in these last five months," AS wrote of the 33-year-

star, who led France to World Cup

Real to their ninth European Cup

win three seasons ago by scoring in the final against Bayer Leverkusen

of Germany, scored his first ever

hat-trick in a 4-2 win over Sevilla

which saw him show flashes of his

old form which has dipped on

Despite that showing, AS said

that Real "will accept the position

of the man from Marseille with

resignation (and admiration)."

occasion in recent months.

On Sunday, Zidane, who helped

glory eight years ago.

AFP, undated

Tuesday.

to AS.

UAE cricketers due on Jan 21

SPORTS REPORTER

A 14-member UAE cricket team will arrive here on January 21 to play four limited-overs matches against two different local selec-

Bangladesh under-19 team, which is preparing for the ICC Under-19 World Cup to be held in Sri Lanka in February, will play the first two matches under the banner of Bangladesh Academy on January 23 and 24 at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra.

The ICC associate member nation will play their next two games against Bangladesh A at the Khulna Divisional Stadium on January 26 and 27.

UAE TEAM

Arshad Ali, Ali Asad Abbas, Ahmad Raza, Fahad Usman, Wasim Bari, Basheer Bongso, Taskeen Sadique, Aosaf Ali, Naeemuddin, Sameer Zia, Saqib Ali, Shoaib Sarwar, Syed Muhammad Fawad and Usman

Kenya to come here in March

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Tuesday announced that they would host Kenya next March.

"We have informed the ICC (International Cricket Council) that we are keen to host Kenya for an ODI series or in a tri-nation tournament also involving Zimbabwe in March," said a BCB press release.

Acting on a request from the ICC, the board had earlier decided to host Kenya in February, but shelved the plan following Sri Lanka's request for an early arrival.

Niaz wins, Zia loses

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Niaz Murshed won the fourth round board against International Master Koshy in the Fourth Parsvnath International Open Chess Tournament in New Delhi yesterday.

But another Bangladeshi Grand Master Ziaur Rahman lost his game to International Master Parimarjan while IM Abdullah Al- Rakib drew with Shareen, IM Enamul Hossain Rajib shared points with IM Balasubramaniam, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag beat Mokal and FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed beat Vidit.

With the fourth round outcomes, Rakib improved their tally to 3.5 points while Niaz, Zia, Rajib, Parag and Nasir bagged three points each.

U-20 chess from Jan 20

SPORTS REPORTER

The BASIC Bank 27th National Junior (under-20 boys and girls) Chess Championship will begin on January 20 at the federation hall

The interested players have been asked to enroll their names at the Bnagladesh Chess Federation office by January 19.

The competition will be held in a 9 round Swiss-League system.

India won't play **Champs Trophy** after this year

REUTERS, New Delhi

India will not participate in the biennial ICC Champions Trophy after 2006 because it is scheduled during their peak season between October and March, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

"We're not free in October in 2007, 2008 or 2009. We have made our position very clear to the ICC (International Cricket Council) many times," BCCI vice-president Lalit Modi told Reuters over phone.

He also made the announcement at a news conference in Mumbai.

India, the game's commercial hub, will stage this year's Champions Trophy from October 7 to November 5. However, they argue that holding the event during the period cuts into their bilateral schedule and, as a consequence, on their revenue.

An Indian cricket official earlier this month said the board wanted the competition to be scrapped altogether. The event was launched in 1998 to raise funds for the ICC's development projects.

Modi said there was no confrontation with the ICC.

"We've not signed any agreement to play in future editions. It's not something the ICC have asked or we have offered."

He said the Champions Trophy had been scheduled in such a way that it did not clash with the peak season of either Australia or England.

"If others want to play they can. Why should we play in October?" Modiadded.

He said the BCCI had agreed to host Australia for three years from

2007 during October. The teams will play seven onedayers in 2007, four Tests in 2008 and seven or eight one-dayers the following year, he said.



THE BATTLE WITHIN THE BATTLE: On the left is Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o who will be looking forward to a battle with Ivory Coast's Didier Drogba (R) to become the highest scorer in the African Nations Cup when the continental event kicks off in Egypt on January 20.

Wealth of African talent descends on Egypt

Football

REUTERS, Cairo

Fans at the African Nations Cup will get a chance to see some of Europe's top club strikers in action when players such as Didier Drogba, Samuel Eto'o and Obafemi Martins open hostilities in Egypt.

Despite the absence of Africa's most expensive footballer, Chelsea's 38-million-euro Ghana midfielder Michael Essien, crowds at the tournament which starts on Friday will watch the most accomplished gathering of African players ever seen.

Essien's absence due to an ankle injury is more than compensated for by a bevy of world-class talent, notably his Chelsea teammate, Drogba.

It will be a first Nations Cup finals appearance for the 27-year-old striker, who has a prolific strike record for Ivory Coast with 17 goals in 22 appearances.

His efforts in a Chelsea shirt helped the big-spending club to win the Premier League title and League

Cup last season and they are well on their way to a second championship with a commanding lead at the top

Drogba is also a candidate for the 2005 African Footballer of the Year award, due to be announced next One of his rivals for that award is

Cameroon's Eto'o, who has won it the last twice and last month finished third in FIFA's World Footballer of the Year poll. Eto'o has also won the Nations

Cup twice before with his country and the Barcelona striker, who has been in top form in Spain this season, is likely to be the architect of another assault on the title by the Indomitable Lions. Other countries are also pinning

their Cup hopes on their bestknown forwards, a mantle of responsibility worn by El Hadji iouf for Šenegal, Émmanuél Adebayor for Togo, Benni McCarthy of South Africa and particularly ido for Egypt.

Mido, who has been through a myriad of clubs in Europe, has set

past to find form in the English Premier League with Tottenham Hotspur and will be under extra pressure before the crowds of the

However, the precocious talent Nigeria's Obafemi Martins, another player making his Nations Cup debut, could overshadow this formidable array of strikers.

Nine goals in 10 games for his country have already established the 21-year-old as key to Nigeria's chances of regaining some muchneeded credibility after failing to qualify for the World Cup.

Martins' powerful running and sharp finishing have already been on display in Serie A and the Champions League this season for his club, Inter

Supported by the wily experience of captain Jay-Jay Okocha, player of the tournament at the 2004 Nations Cup in Tunisia, the Super Eagles have a real chance of soaring again.

SOUTHAFRICA

Smith lbw b Vaas

SL beat SA once more

Cricket

A determined Sri Lanka shrugged off recent run of poor one-day form and humbled South Africa in the trithe Brisbane Cricket Ground on

Sri Lanka achieved a 94-run victory, their seventh straight win in one-day internationals against South Africa, despite being humili ated in their opening tri-series match against Australia.

The Sri Lankans made 282-6, spurred largely by a 112-run secondwicket partnership between Jehan Mubarak and Kumar Sangakkara, and then bowled their rivals out for just 188 with 5.4 overs remaining on a

perfect batting wicket. The victory raised questions about the decision by South African captain Graeme Smith to send the Sri

Lankans in first in such conditions. Smith also suffered vet another

failure with the bat, making just three before being trapped lbw by Chaminda Vaas. Sri Lanka's cause was helped by the late withdrawal of brilliant South

African all-rounder Jacques Kallis with an elbow injury. But his absence was no excuse for the Proteas' poor performance in the

field, dropping two catches. They also ran poorly between the wickets

with top order batsmen Jacques Rudolph and Herschelle Gibbs both victims of runouts.

Mark Boucher with 62 off 95 balls and Rudolph with 53 off 79 were the only two batsmen to offer serious

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the tri-series one-day international between Sri Lanka and South Africa at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Tuesday:

Ground on ruesday.	
SRILANKA	
Tharanga c Boucher b Kruger	16
Mubarak lbw b Botha	61
SangakkaracSmithbPollock	88
Dilshan c Gibbs b Zondeki	15
Atapattu run out	33
Jayawardene c Prince b Botha	14
Arnold not out	15
Vaasnotout	14
Extras: (lb-12, w-9, nb-5)	26
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs)	282
Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-145, 3-211,5-244,6-259	-172,
Did Italiania	D

Did not bat: Kulasekara, Perera,

Super-sub: Bandara for Tharanga Bowler O M R W Pollock 1 39 Kruger 0 61 Hall 10 0 58 0 Zondeki 9 0 49

10

49 0

Dippenaar b Kulasekara Gibbs run out Prince c Kulasekara 29 Boucher c Dilshan b Bandara 62 Kemp b Bandara Pollock c Atapattu b Vaas Hall b Muralitharan 4 $Both albw \, b \, Mural ith aran$ Kruger not out Extras: (lb-1, w-3) Total: (Allout in 44.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-30, 3-57, 4-93, 5-127, 6-152, 7-179, 8-184, 9-188 Super-sub: Rudolph for Zondeki O M R W **Bowler** Vaas 2 21 Perera 6 0 38 0 Kulasekara 6 0 24 6 0 29 Dilshan Muralitharan 1 34 8.2 0 31 3 Bandara Mubarak 1 0 10 0 Result: Sri Lanka won by 94 runs. Man-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara. Toss: South Africa.

Umpires: Aleem Dar and Daryl Harper.

Inzy fears crowd retreat

Rahul gains no psychological advantage

Botha

Cricket

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq has expressed fears that flat pitches which do not encourage results will

eventually keep people away from Test matches in the country. Inzamam did not hide his disappointment at the outcome of the nigh-scoring Test against India

which ended in a draw on Tuesday. "I know it is hard to get the right track in this cold weather, but the crowds we got back against

England, with a hard-fought series on good pitches, will be discouraged if we have flat tracks against India," he told a news conference.

Batsmen dominated the onesided Test on a flat pitch with six batsmen crossing the three-figure mark and Indians Virender Sehwag and Rahul Dravid sharing a 410run opening stand.

Pakistan scored 679 for seven and India replied with 410 for one in the 220.5 overs possible in the game due to bad light and showers. Inzamam said the poor weather had made the last few days very

difficult for the players. "We just never got our rhythm going and it was a track which had nothing in it for the bowlers."

He also said the team was not demoralised ahead of the second Test starting on Saturday in Faisalabad, despite the battering from India.

India captain Rahul Dravid said he would not read too much into $his \, team's \, batting \, performance.$

"It was a very good pitch for batting and very hard for the bowlers, but we wanted to make a statement in this Test and I think we did that. But it does not give us any psychological advantage for the second Test.

"In Faisalabad it will be a new match and I don't think their bowlers would be bothered by what has happened here, although the batsmen who scored runs would have gained in confidence.'

He said the decision for him to open the innings had been taken with a view to giving India the best chance of trying to win.

"But me playing as an opener is not a long-term solution and we will decide for the second Test after reaching Faisalabad.

Dravid also said criticising the pitch was easy, but preparing pitches was not an easy job.

"I don't think Pakistan intentionally wanted us to play on such a track. Despite playing for so long, even the players get it wrong at times reading tracks." The chairman of the Pakistan

Cricket Board (PCB) Shaharyar Khan said experts would be consulted over relaying pitches more conducive to Tests. "We are not going to blame anyone for the failure to have a good Test pitch in Lahore. I think the cold weather conditions played

a big role in the groundsmen failing

to get their task done properly," he Shaharyar said the board was concerned and wanted to improve pitches and encourage more

"We will soon consult former players and pitch experts and see if there is a need to relay new pitches at Test venues in the country.' Shaharyar said the board's chief

curator had already been sent to

Faisalabad to try to prepare a good

hard track with some grass.

himself

Eto'o defends

INTERNET, undated

Samuel Eto'o insists that he did not mean to spit at Athletic Bilbao defender Unai Exposito in Sunday's explosive game with

The 2-1 victory for the champions and league leaders was marred by the sending off of Deco, who pushed Bilbao's Carlos Gurpegui in the back of the head.

The red card incident led to a fracas on the field involving both sets of players, with Eto'o appearng to spit at Esposito in injury But the Cameroon star, who will

be taking part in the African Nations Cup this month, has now made a statement about the incident and claimed if he did spit on Exposito, it was not deliberate.

Speaking to Punto Radio, the striker said: "I have not done anything. At no time did I spit at him. I did spit but it did not go on him. If it

Aussies coming to India thrice in three years

PTI, Mumbai

India will host Australia thrice between 2007 and 2009 in Tests and one-day internationals, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Monday.

As per the latest schedule finalised Australia would play seven ODIs in India in 2007, four Tests in 2008 and seven or eight more limitedovers matches in 2009

India in turn would play four Tests and 11 one-dayers during their visit down under in 2007 and 2008 respectively.

Discussions were also on with the England and Wales Cricket Board to finalise a schedule for next four years. As per the current ICC future tours programme, England are to

tour India in 2009 after their forthcoming visit in February-March this The new schedule of Australia's visit was announced on Sunday after a meeting of the BCCI's marketing

committee by BCCI vice-president

Lalit Modi and former BCCI presi-

dent IS Bindra. Bindra said India would be involved in some 50 Tests and 130 one-day internationals in the next four years.

"We will confirm the countries coming to India since we do not want to leave anything to chance," Bindra, also Punjab Cricket Association

He said the BCCI and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also have agreed to hold bilateral tours with the intenon of taking the game from conti nent to continent where there is large population base. "The idea is to spread the game," Bindra said.

In a joint effort, the BCCI and the PCB have decided to play a twomatch day-night series in Abu Dhabi on April 18 and 19 for the October 8 killer earthquake victims of Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir.

Record opening stands in Tests

REUTERS, Lahore

List of record opening partnerships after India's Virender Sehwag (254) and Rahul Dravid (128) put on 410 runs in the first Test against Pakistan on Tuesday:

413 Vinoo Mankad and Pankaj Roy (India) v New Zealand at Madras

410 Virender Sehwag and Rahul Dravid (India) v Pakistan at Lahore **387** Glenn Turner and Terry Jarvis (New Zealand) v West Indies at

Georgetown 1971/72 **382** Bill Lawry and Bob Simpson (Australia) v West Indies at Bridgetown 1964/65

368 Graeme Smith and Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa) v Pakistan at Cape Town 2002/03

Imran's thoughts

Pakistan's iconic former skipper Imran Khan thinks that Pakistan has lost the initial psychological advantage over India in the current series following a ruthless batting display by Virender Sehwag in company of Rahul Dravid in the first Test.

tage which they enjoyed at the start of the series," Imran said in response to a query by Sanjay Manjrekar during a discussion on fourth day's play on Ten Sports channel. Imran's comments came at the

"Pakistan have lost the advan-

throughout the day with Sehwag and Dravid taking India to 403 without loss. Although Imran said the flat pitch at Gaddafi Stadium was not providing any assistance to the bowlers but he hinted that the Pakistani bowlers were expected to

trouble the famed Indian batting

end of Day Four which saw

Pakistani bowlers struggle

Ronaldinho heads **UEFA** team of year

Football

REUTERS, London

World player of the year Ronaldinho, Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard and AC Milan's Andriy Schevchenko were named in UEFA's team of the year on Monday, with Chelsea's Jose Mourinho named as coach.

European champions Liverpool also supplied Luis Garcia in the team voted for by 1.5 million users of uefa.com, the website of European soccer's governing body.

Milan, who Liverpool beat on penalties to lift the Champions League trophy, have two other players in the team, fullbacks Cafu and Paolo Maldini, while Ronaldinho's Barcelona team mates Carles Puyol and Samuel Eto'o are also included.

"The voting recognised both the two best teams in Europe last season...Liverpool and Milan, as well as the two clubs that have shone in their domestic leagues in the past 12 months, Chelsea and

Barcelona," said David Farrelly, uefa.com's editor in chief on UEFA's website.

Five of the names also appeared in the 2004 team while there are five appearing for the first time.

Mourinho was named coach of the side for the third successive vear while two of the London club's players, centre back John Terry and goalkeeper Petr Cech make the

Juventus midfielder Pavel Nedved is included for the third year running but there was no place for Arsenal striker Thierry Henry, who narrowly missed out after being in every previous lineup since the vote's inception in 2001.

Team: Petr Cech (Chelsea); Cafu (AC Milan), John Terry (Chelsea), Carles Puyol (Barcelona), Paolo Maldini (AC Milan); Luis Garcia (Liverpool), Steven Gerrard (Livernool). Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Pavel Nedved (Juventus); Samuel Eto'o (Barcelona), Andriv Shevchenko (AC Milan).

Coach: Jose Mourinho (Chelsea).

Capello's mind games working for Juventus



opponents' minds.

Juventus' 17-1-1 record in the first half of the Serie A season has undoubtedly made an impact in its

But Juventus coach Fabio Capello is also playing mind games with his own players, most notably club captain Alessandro Del Piero.

Del Piero scored four goals in Juve's last two wins, becoming the team's career scoring leader. He passed Giampiero Boniperti -Juve's star of the 1950s - with a hat trick in an Italian Cup match last week, then scored in a 1-0 win over Reggina on Sunday for his 186th goal in all competitions for

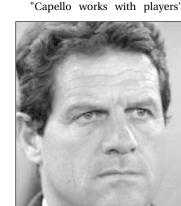
His reward? A place on the bench for Wednesday's game at Chievo Verona. Capello plans to start David Trezeguet and Zlatan Ibrahimovic instead.

"You have to pull the right strings to motivate players," Capello said. "There are no untouchables. I tell the guys, 'Accept my decisions and everyone will get their chance.' Capello has routinely relegated

Del Piero to the bench this season and maintains the player will throughout the second half of the season,'' Capello said. "He will enter the World Cup in fantastic

followed Capello from AS Roma to Juventus, knows what the coach is

Brazil midfielder Emerson, who



FABIO CAPELLO

heads, he's a great psychologist,'

Emerson said. Even Gianluigi Buffon, often regarded as the world's best goal-

keeper, has no assurances. Buffon recently returned from a four-month shoulder injury layoff and Capello said he will have to work hard to stay above Christian Abbiati. Abbiati filled in well while

Biman land finally FROM PAGE 12 take on Biman at the Fatullah

Cricket Stadium. The Relegation playoffs involving three bottomers Agrani Bank, Indira Road and Orient Sporting

Club will start on January 21. Abahani, City Club and Kalabagan on the other hand will have to close their camps since they would not take any further

part in the League. **SCORES IN BRIEF**

KALABAGAN: 105-8 in 25 overs (Uttam 23, Karim 34, Nahedul 24, extras 6; Rasel 2-8, Niaz 1-21, Jamal 1-29, Mosharraf 3-23).

BIMAN: 106-3 in 24.1 overs (Nazmus 41, Shahriar 47 not out, extras 12; Shaheen 1-22, Monirul 1-

Result: Biman won by seven wickets.

Federer flies

FROM PAGE 12 Number 12 seed Anastasia Myskina also comfortably made the second round, making her the seventh Russian women to pass the first hurdle.

Among the men, sixth seed

Guillermo Coria of Argentina booked

his berth with victory over Romanian

Victor Hanescu and Tommy Haas, considered a dark horse, continued his impressive form. The German, who beat Federer at the Kooyong Classic last week, ousted

14th seed Richard Gasquet of France in straight sets. It was a disappointing end to the day for home fans when French 25th seed Sebastien Grosjean swept past struggling hometown boy Mark Philippoussis 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 in the fea-

"Having played less, he's fresher and can be at his best Buffonwasout India openers miss mark

FROM PAGE 12 get runs against the Pakistanis and that's what happened.

there is a loose ball to hit, I go out there and hit it. That's the way I play my game," said Sehwag, who smashed 46 boundaries and a six. Dravid said it was great to "have the best seat in the house" when

"He was doing all the scoring, I was just hanging in there," the Indian captain said. "It is amazing how he hit a good ball to the fence when I may have just defended it.

Sehwag was batting.

"It was very nice to get runs under the belt because we had been under the hammer for the first two days. The honours were pretty much even at the end of it. "It goes to show how competitive this series is going to be. If the weather holds, it should be a cracker of a series."

42 Heming-

sobriquet

blind part

climber

50 Musical

51 Right

52 Scoun-

53 Verve

DOWN

drel

Horne

angles

1 Wrestling

surface

2 Pronoun

3 Thanks

abbr.

giving

Solution time: 21 mins

way

43 Blimp

49 Wall

48 Venetian

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Glove

8 Bat a

12 Needing

13 Sapporo

sash

play?

17 Crucifix

18 Diving

bird

19 Obliter

ated

21 Too thin

24 Forehead

25 Oxidation

result

things

work out"

plateaus

26 "I hope

30 Rage

31 Mini-

32 Roscoe

33 Indemni

fied

35 Sheltered

36 Tranquil

37 React to

38 Moon-

41 Humon-

gous

reveille

program

Marshall

14 Horse

liniment

Faisalabad, which begins on Saturday, will be more sporting than the one at the Gaddafi "I have no fear while batting. If Stadium here. "We all want results, not draws.

Tests," said Inzamam.

our bowlers bowled well at all. I am happy with the batting but the bowling needs a lot of improve-

Hopefully we will get a better

wicket for the remaining two

"Having said that, I don't think

The Faisalabad Test will be followed by the final Test in Karachi from January 29-February

emotions

science

26 Re earth

27 Jamaican

citrus

28 Poolroom

supply

29 Dandling

locale

accelera

(Abbr.)

34 Ostenta

tious

35 Diamond

37 Lend a

38 Semi-

displays

pattern

circular

vaulted

area

39 Cover of

aloom

October

Hopalono

Cassidy

portrave

wiggler

Eggs

45 Wet

46 Get --

for

effort

31 Unit of

By Eugene Sheffer

4 Despotic 24 Center

blow

group

letters

maybe

7 Detour.

8 Spread

care-

9 Courts

11 Lincoln

16 Eviscer-

20 Scepters

ate

21 Forbid-

22 Emana-

tion

23 Second-

hand

in-law

additive

10 Lotion

6 Blood

SCOREBOARD Final scoreboard of the first Test on the fifth and final day between Pakistan and India at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 679-7

Pakistan's Inzamam hoped the wicket for the second Test in declared (Younis 199, Yousuf 173, Afridi 103, Akmal 102 not out; Agarkar 2-122, Kumble 2-178) INDIA: First innings (overnight

Sehwag c Akmal b Naved Dravid not out Laxman not out Extras: (b-2, lb-7, nb-17, w-2)

28 Total: (For 1 wkt in 77.2 overs) 410 Fall of wicket: 1-410 46 Akhtar 16.2 6 16 94 Afridi 11 0 55 Sami 12 10 69 Kaneria 0 Malik 12 70

128

Result: Match drawn. Man of the Match: Virender Sehwag. 2nd Test: Jan 21-25, Faisalabad.

QTCOG JMHTMB QJMZ

TIICWP? U RCBPP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

another. If you think that X equals O, 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.

CRYPTOQUIP

GCBO JP UZ

G W J Q U M R J Z Z B M Z U T M . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE FORCED TO RESIGN FROM YOUR DESIGNATED POST, I'D CALL IT A DIS-APPOINTMENT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals S