AFP, Paris

Former Marseille midfielder Marcel Desailly on Tuesday strongly refuted accusations of doping before their 1993 European Cup final victory, revealed by a former player.

Jean-Jacques Eydelie, who played in their 1-0 final victory over AC Milan in Munich, said in Saturday's L'Equipe magazine the players received an injection before the match, implying premeditated doping.

European football's governing body UEFA have not yet opened an inquiry but have expressed their

Desailly told AFP: "It's not true," adding, as UEFA did on Monday, that dope tests were performed after the match. "The worst thing is that he is making people doubt our victory was fair-and-square. That annovs me frankly.

"In all clubs, players have injections to help them recover or have vitamin products but this is not

And the agent of the-then skipper Didier Deschamps, Jeannot Werth, said Deschamps did not want to comment on Eydelie's

Former club president Bernard Tapie said on Monday he would be suing both L'Equipe magazine and Eydelie, while Franck Sauzee, who also played in the final, said he was considering taking legal action.

Indian, Pakistani captains warned

CRICINFO, undated

India captain Rahul Dravid and Pakistan's stand-in captain Younis Khan on Monday were summoned by Ranjan Madugalle, the match referee, over the verbal volleys exchanged by the players on the third day of the second Test at Faisalabad.

A highly charged atmosphere at the Iqbal Stadium saw Pakistani bowlers - in particular Shoaib Akhtar - and fielders indulge in constant chatting with the Indian batsmen in the last session of play. Shahid Afridi was also warned verbally by the on field umpires on a few occasions.

Pathan was singled out and was often at the receiving end of what appeared to be taunting remarks made by the Pakistanis, frustrated at their inability to separate the Indian sixth wicket pair.

The captains were relieved of a fine, but were warned to maintain the spirit of the game.

2nd Test heading

Razzaq 10 runs short of his maiden

FROM PAGE 12

Pathan hit nine boundaries and

sixes during his 270-minute stay at the crease.

Kaneria then forced Kumble out of his crease for wicketkeeper Akmal to bring about another stumping. The leg-spinner claimed 3-165.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second Test between India and Pakistan at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 588 (Afridi 156, Inzamam 119, Younis 83, Yousuf 65; Rudra Pratap 4-89, Zaheer 3-135,

Kumble 3-150) INDIA: Firstinnings (overnight 441-5) Sehwage sub (Farhat) b Razzag 31

Dravid run out Laxman cAkmal b Kaneria TendulkarcAkmal bAkhtar

Yuvraic Kaneria b Asif

148 Dhonist Akmal b Kaneria Pathan lbwb Razzaq Kumble st Akmal b Kaneria Harbhajan lbwb Afridi Zaheernotout Rudra Pratap cand b Afridi Extras: (b-3, lb-15, w-3, nb-23)

Total: (Alloutin 165.4 overs) 603 Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-236, 3-241, 4-258,5-281,6-491,7-529,8-553,9-587 Bowler O M 7 100 Akhtar 6 103 Asif

28 1 126 Razzao Kaneria 6.165 Afridi 24.4 0 91 PAKISTAN: Second innings ButtcTendulkarbKumble 59 Akmal not out 64 Younisnotout Extras: (lb-2, nb-3)

Total: (For I wkt in 43 overs) 152 Fall of wicket: 1-52 To bat: Inzamam, Yousuf, Afridi, Razzaq, Malik, Akhtar, Asif, Kaneria Bowler 0 M R W Pathan 27 33 Rudra Pratap

Kumble 12 2 56 12

Indira brighten

FROM PAGE 12 **SCORES IN BRIEF**

INDIRA ROAD: 222-9 in 50 overs (Junaid 37, Proshenjit 41, Rezaul 47, extras 30; Manash 3-42)

ORIENT: 192 all out in 46.1 overs (Masum 45, Bashar 41, extras 18; Siran 2-23, Nazmul 2-35, Nayeem

2-10, Murad 3-19) Result: Indira Road won by 30 runs.



Nigeria's Wilson Oruma (R) takes a tumble while vying for possession with Ghana's Adu Sarpei during their African Nations Cup clash at the Al-Masri Club Stadium at Port Said in Egypt on Monday.

Super Eagles off the mark

AFP, Port Said



Nigeria defeated arch-rivals Ghana 1-0 thanks to a late Taye Taiwo goal in the opening match of Group D of the African Nations Cup Marseille defender Taiwo netted

Nigeria's winner in the 84th minute when he fired home a low shot from 30 metres which beat goalkeeper The result was a repeat of

Nigeria's victory in the quarterfinals of the 2002 edition of the tourna-It was a contest in which there

were very few clear-cut chances even though Nigeria were favourites to carry the day at the expense of injury-hit Ghana.

It was cautious start by both

blossom under Eddie's steward-

ship and he must have been

thrilled and energized by the chal-

Despite the years on him, it was

very evident that he had lost none

of his love, enthusiasm and passion

for the game and in many ways the

experience he had accumulated on

the field and also off it with various

development and youth squad

responsibilities in South Africa,

made him a more complete cricket

Eddie put together and structured

for Bangladesh cricket was widely

recognised at that time by the ICC

as the way forward and is still the

one that even the current BCB top

levels have had trouble finding

and the development of the game

lies in his Development Plan and

one day when Bangladesh rises to

the pinnacle of world cricket, only

then we will be able to show our

gratitude and respect to this ulti-

mate sports personality who as Ali

Bacher once told me, would have

represented South Africa at rugby

contract as coach of the Bangladesh

cricket team Eddie suffered a stroke

which in the case of any other per-

son would have meant the end of

their active life. As I stood by him in

the Combined Military Hospital

where he was quickly rushed to after

the stroke, it was apparent that

things would never be the same

again but even lying in bed Eddie

assured me and everyone else that

he was going to be okay, managing

admirably supported by his won-

derful and devoted wife, Cally, and

took an assignment in Welsh

cricket and in so doing refused to

give up. He continued to give back

to cricket, his passion, his life, right

It was one of the most painful

moments of my life to have to

convey to him the Board's decision

that in his physical condition he

could not do justice to the enor-

mous responsibilities his position

warranted and we would have to

and understandably so for one who

had focussed and committed

He was terribly disappointed

end our contractual agreement.

Eddie being Eddie soldiered on,

to crack a few jokes

till his final goodbye.

It is a tragedy that a year into his

had he not switched to cricket.

His legacy to Bangladesh cricket

The Development Plan that

individual and coach.

lenge the position entailed.

first to take the game to their oppo- Oruma's shot was parried by Adjei nents. However, the Black Stars gradually warmed their way into the match

Taiwo's bullet free kick shot after 23 minutes tested Adjei, who did well to somehow keep it out as the Eagles began to take full control Ghana striker Mathew Amoah

missed the target and four minutes later John Mensah's goalbound header off a corner was palmed away for yet another The stadium came to life in the

also let fly a shot 27 minutes but

38th minute when Iulius Aghahowa appeared to have put Nigeria ahead but his shot had only hit the sidenetting to the relief of

Nigeria stepped up their game just before the interval. Ayila Yusuf toe-poked his shot wide from teams even though Nigeria were inside the box while Wilson

Edgar John Barlow ... retired hurt

his eyes and those of Cally but also

sociation, Eddie never discon-

nected with Bangladesh cricket

and continued to follow its prog-

ress and fortunes almost reli-

giously. I was amazed whenever we

spoke or communicated over the

email how current and knowledge-

Players who had the honour of

able he was about our status.

Despite this contractual disas-

in many of ours too.

children and family

but there was no Nigerian player to put away the rebound.

Ghana too had their own chance to take the lead in the dying moments of the first half when Stephen Appiah fired home but Enyeama in goal for Nigeria pulled offasave. Both teams opened the second

half in search of goals with the Nigerians having more of these openings. Yobo, and Martins all came close to getting their names on the scoresheet

At the other end of the pitch, Enyeama made a point-blank save from Kingston Laryea on 68 minutes while Amoah's header inside the six-yard box missed target soon

The game appeared to be heading for the first draw of the championship before Taiwo produced his

The writer is a former Bangladesh

knowing him and learning from Manchester United's season took him will be the first to admit he always stood by them and was quick to their rescue when any criticism would be labeled at them. He almost loved them as his own

I vividly recall being almost puzzled at seeing an incredibly relaxed Eddie Barlow prior to our Inaugural Test against India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka in November 2000. I was tense and nervous as to

how Bangladesh would perform and if we could or would be capable of rising to the occasion. In the days leading up to the D-day, I would often check with him how things were going and how he as the coach felt we would perform.

"Relax Mr. President, the boys will do just fine" is how he would always respond back and fine they certainly did by scoring 400 runs in our first ever Test innings and for good measure in the process Aminul Islam Bulbul and Naimur Rahman Durjoy also set two world Eddie had enormous confi-

dence in the future of Bangladesh cricket and believed in it passionately. I believe he would have worked his magic and done wonders for Bangladesh cricket had he been with us for just a few more years. His refreshingly positive and competitive approach to the game would undoubtedly have inspired Bangladesh to greater heights. To me Eddie will rank as the best

coach Bangladesh cricket has had.

With respect, since Eddie's departure we have already had and will continue to have a coach of the Bangladesh national team in the future too but they will all be replacements, not successors of Eddie Barlow -- a great motivator, a fierce competitor and a wonderful

Thank you Eddie for a memorable innings and I am sure you

himself entirely to taking our enjoyed playing it as much as we that very first meeting. I was cricket forward. When he finally left enjoyed watching you play. To me, at the end, you were neither bowled or caught or run out, nor trapped leg before you have simply opted to retire hurt.

Cricket Board president.

No Scholes this season

another turn for the worse on Tuesday when the club revealed that Paul Scholes is unlikely to play again this season because of a mystery eye problem The 31-year-old former

England international has missed United's last seven league and cup games with blurred vision, but was hoping to be back in action before the end of the month.

However, Scholes has now been told to rest for three months and is unlikely to appear again this sea-

United, who are 14 points behind Chelsea in the table, released a statement confirming the midfielder needed to rest.

"Paul Scholes has a medical condition affecting the vision in his right eye," the statement said. "It is not a football related injury. This has been confirmed by a number of specialists who have all agreed that he needs to rest for a period of three months.

"Obviously it is a disappointment for Paul and Manchester United that he will miss the rest of this season.

"We look forward to having him back for pre-season training." United are mystified by what is

causing Scholes' condition. The scorer of 130 goals in 492 league and cup appearances for United complained of having difficulty seeing after the 2-2 draw at Birmingham City on December 28. Last week, United manager Sir

Alex Ferguson confessed that treatment by specialists had yet to uncover the root of the problem. "The first message we had was that it would clear up okay, that

maybe it was down to a bit of concussion," he said before United's 1-0 victory over Liverpool on Sunday. "But his vision is still blurred, so we are sending him to another

specialist to see if he can clear it up."

Henry Barca's next season?

AFP, Barcelona

Arsenal striker Thierry Henry has reached a verbal agreement with Barcelona to join the Spanish champions next season, Catalonian newspaper Sport reported on

The headline read: "Henry will come in July," and the Barcelonabased newspaper added there was "90 per cent chance that Henry would be wearing Barcelona colours next season.

Henry's move, according to the paper, was based on Barcelona having the squad to win the European Cup, the only major title to have eluded him and a

The paper emphasised that neither Henry nor Barcelona would make the news official (before the end of the season) and that the player would continue to negotiate a contract extension at Arsenal.

Henry has continually stressed his commitment to Arsenal since arriving in 1999. But he wants to be sure the club can be competitive at the highest level in both England and Europe before signing a new deal, perhaps the last major one of his career.

Five-star Juve

REUTERS, Rome

Serie A leaders Juventus have picked up five of the top awards at the annual Italian football "Oscars", which are based on the votes of their fellow footballers.

Juve's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic won two awards, for Best Foreign Player and Most Loved "Winning prizes is always a

pleasure, and especially these because they come from your colleagues," Ibrahimovic was quoted as saying in La Gazzetta dello Sport on Tuesday. His team mates Gianluigi Buffon

and Fabio Cannavaro came out top in the Best Goalkeeper and Best Defender categories respectively. Juventus boss Fabio Capello was

voted Best Coach. Capello won the Serie A title with Juve in his first season in charge and this year his team looks even stronger, leading their nearest rivals Inter Milan by eight points after 21 matches.

Juve's dominance was broken by AC Milan striker Alberto Gilardino, who scooped the award for the Best Player in Serie A.

Six-times World Referee of the Year Pierluigi Collina, who retired at the start of this season, capped his career by winning the Best Referee award.

You're staying Ronaldo: Perez

INTERNET

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez made a point of speaking with Ronaldo last Thursday to assure the Brazilian he was part of the club's long-term plans. Ronaldo has been linked with

Manchester United and a return to Inter Milan this month, but AS says Perez spoke with the striker last week and told him: "Be calm. While I am president of Real Madrid you will continue with us. You are very important to this club and we know that you are key to our future sportingplans.

Ignore the rumours. After the World Cup in Germany there will be no danger of your continuity here. I give my word to you."

Eriksson to go after WC

Hiddink could be his successor

Football

AFP, London

Guus Hiddink emerged Tuesday as the favourite to replace Sven Goran Eriksson as England coach following the announcement that the Swede will step down after the World Cup in Germany in June and

Despite pressure for Eriksson to be replaced by an Englishman, Dutchman Hiddink, who will be in charge of Australia in Germany, was installed as the bookmakers favourite to take on the most highpressure job in international football management.

Eriksson's departure was announced late on Monday after a day of negotiations at FA head-

The Swede said he wanted to draw a line under recent events and concentrate on going out with a bang in Germany. "I care passionately about this job and I want everyone to know that," the 57year-old said.

"I have always enjoyed the incredible support of the fans and I know how important they will be to us in Germany.

"This summer is the culmination of everything we have been working towards over the last five years. Let's go and win the World

after Sven was recorded claiming there was a culture of corruption in English football, as well as making a string of unflattering comments about current England fans. "The FA and Sven felt it was important to clarify his future," the

FA boss said. "There has been so

much speculation surrounding

this matter in recent weeks and

Barwick had been forced to act

months, it was important to resolve Bolton boss Sam Allardyce, Charlton's Alan Curbishley and Middlesbrough's Steve McClaren, one of England's coaches under Eriksson, will also all be in the

But the reality facing the Football Association (FA) is that there is no Englishman who is an obvious choice or can match

ment, notably in taking South Korea to the last four of the 2002

World Cup. Allardyce and McLaren have only minimal experience of

European club football, Curbishley has none and only McLaren has been involved in the international Eriksson's reign is to be cut short two years before the expiry of

his contract following a fall-out with his bosses at the FA that was triggered by a string of ill-judged comments to an undercover reporter from tabloid newspaper, the News of the World.



GUUS HIDDINK

The episode was the latest in a string of incidents which had seen Eriksson try the patience of his

In the run-up to Euro 2004, it was revealed that the Swede had been talking to Chelsea about taking up the vacancy eventually filled by Jose Mourinho.

That episode resulted in Eriksson's contract being extended to 2008, on substantially enhanced terms that mean the Swede will depart in the summer with a payoff believed to be in excess of three million pounds, equivalent to around 40 percent of the amount he would have earned had he

The governing body also had to grapple with the fall-out from Eriksson's eventful love life and subsequent kiss-and-tell revelations, including the affair with FA secretary Faria Alam that led to the resignation of then chief executive

0 45 1 35

0 43

Brian Barwick, who replaced Palios in the wake of that particular fiasco, has indicated that he wants an Englishman to succeed Eriksson but other candidates will be con-

The FA is under pressure from the League Manager's Association (LMA) and the players' union, the PFA, not to take on another for-

But it is safe to assume that an application from Mourinho, for example, would stand a good chance of success and Martin O'Neill, the former Celtic manager, also has a superior c.v. to any of the

English candidates. O'Neill, a former Northern Ireland international, is currently out of the game caring for his wife, who has cancer, and it is not certain he would be interested in the England job.

Sports Minister Richard Caborn said the FA could not afford to rule out foreign candidates.

"You would like it to be an English or British person but you have to acknowledge that football, and much professional sport, is now global. "If you look at rugby, cricket and

tennis they all have or have had foreign coaches as well so it would be wrong to restrict the search just to people from this country. 'If we want success, the most

sensible thing to do is to employ

the best person." LMA chairman Howard Wilkinson urged the FA to go for an Englishman.

My point of view as chairman of the League Managers' Association is we would hope that English contenders for the position have got more than a head start." Players chief Gordon Taylor said; "It's a bad reflection on the

game as a coach and a manager if

this country - the strongest in the world for football - can't produce a quality coach and manager. The PFA supremo added: "Brazil would virtually always go for a Brazilian manager and that is a

faith in their own system and that is a system that has proved that probably they are the best of interna-

Proteas win a thriller

Kulasekara

Jayasuriya

SRILANKA

Dilshan

Muralitharan

Dilshan not out

Atapattu run out

Mubarak c Prince b Pollock

Jayasuriya st Boucher b Hall

Sangakkara c and b van der Wath 23

Jayawardene b van der Wath 52

FROM PAGE 12 with Jayasuriya hoisting two sixes

either side of a four. Sri Lanka seemed on course for victory with a 107-run partnership between Tillekeratne Dilshan and Mahela Jayawardene

for the fifth wicket. But a succession of late wickets. sparked when Bandara was run out for a duck, left them facing a difficult assignment which they approached badly -- swiping

wildly at balls and missing.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard in the tri-series oneday international between South Africa and Sri Lanka at the Adelaide Oval on Tuesday:

Smith st Sangakkara b Muralitharan / 28 Dippenaar not out Van der Wath c Arnold b Muralitharan 0 Rudolph c and b Dilshan Gibbs b Perera 68

Kemp not out Extras: (b-2, lb-11, w-4) 4-220, 5-249

Did not bar: Prince, Boucher, Hall, Langeveldt Super-sub: Botha for Kemp

CROSSWORD

8 Experts 38 Speedy

ACROSS

tales

5 - Na Na

12 Pre-swan

13 Has the

skills

14 Santa's

home

15 "Scarbor-

17 Blueprint

18 Prior to

years

20 Tobacco-

nist's

atory

bribe

mous

Jane

26 Topic

30 Hodge-

days

offering

19 On in

1 Told

SOUTHAFRICA

Pollock c Atapattu b Kulasekara 8 Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) 263 Fall of wickets: 1-72, 2-72, 3-101,

OMRW 1 55 0 Vaas

36 Without

delay

37 Tibetan

beast

steeds

41 Embrace

42 Omega

45 Sushi

wrapper

cased

bottle

Gilels

tale

Arnold b Hall Bandara run out Vaas c Botha b Pollock Muralitharan not out Extras: (lb-6, nb-2, w-5) Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 254 Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-68, 3-68, 4-117, 5-224, 6-242, 7-242, 8-253

runs.

By Eugene Sheffer

23 Com

24 Carte

holder

DOWN

2 Lab

1 Entice

3 Other-

5 Resell for

a huge

profit

6 Difficult

8 Cider

9 Singer

11 Fax

brandy

Natalie

7 Whatever

amount

assistant?

Did not bat: Kulasekara Super-sub: Bandara for Perera Bowler OMRW 51 Pollock 62 Langeveldt 10 0 37 Van der Wath 10 38 Hall 0 53 Botha Smith 0

Man-of-the-match: Boeta Dippenaar. Toss: South Africa. Umpires: Aleem Dar and Daryl Harper.

Result: South Africa won by 9

Tangail storm into JFA Cup semifinals SPORTS REPORTER

Four-goal Syed Rafique helped Tangail thrash Kurigram 6-0 to reach the semifinals of the JFA Cup Under-16 Football Tournament at the Bangabandhu National

Stadium yesterday. Liton Barman netted the other goals for the winners. In the day's other match

ended in a goalless draw at the same venue. India deny

between Narayanganj and Satkhira

FROM PAGE 12 intent to host the event, a statement said.

ICC chief executive Malcolm

Speed said the level of interest

demonstrated the potential of the

"The range of locations of these countries also provides the ICC with the ability to schedule the event at a time of year that will

optimise its potential," said Speed. The members have until the end of February to produce full hosting submissions, which will be considered at the next ICC board meeting

in Dubai on March 20-21.

CRYPTOQUIP

SDH KYS LZ PLBMSKTM

IRTZZ

ENTER INTO AN ALTARED STATE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D

ough Fair" 46 Wicker-48 Pianist 49 Cartesian conclusion 10 Verve 50 Fairy-

21 Concilipreposisounds 20 Short tion 51 Healthy hairdo 22 Anonycondition 21 lbis's 52 Thickness cousin 53 Obtains 22 Shoveled 23 Bivouacs

Solution time: 21 mins.

podge 31 Droop 32 Malaria symptom 33 "Nonsense!" 35 Noted Fibber of radio

lead-in 25 Thou squared 4 Go blue? 26 Put into 27 Early bird? 28 Shuffle stick 29 Ball support 31 Wield a needle 34 Us (Sp.) 35 Amahi's night

16 Barnyard visitors 37 Delicious 38 From the beginning 39 The Eternal City 40 Domingo

> 41 Get better Innocent 43 Attempt 44 B&Bs 46 Party bowlful

rendition

42 Urban or 47 Moonshine

TZ NLPHWLAX TN RHKYMTMO

IRTPWTMO, AL SDHX NSBAX Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TWO PEOPLE GET MARRIED, I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY THEY

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.