ICC, BCCI to talk Champs Trophy

REUTERS, New Delhi

International Cricket Council (ICC) officials were to meet members of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Saturday to sort out differences over venues and contracts for 'this year's Champions Trophy.

BCCI secretary Niranjan Singh told Reuters on Friday the board wanted the world governing body to ease conditions in the contract to allow Mumbai and Delhi to retain existing endorsement deals.

The biennial one-day tournament is scheduled from October 7 to November 5.

Captains call for calm

REUTERS, Karachi

The captains of Pakistan and India have called for the third and final Test starting on Sunday to be contested in a sporting manner while playing down reported sledging incidents in the drawn Lahore and Faisalabad matches.

"If the incidents had been serious the match referee would have reported the players," Pakistan skipper Inzamamul Haq told a news conference on the eve of the series decider.

"I think these things have been overplayed and cricket is played with aggression. Relations are good between players, who know the importance of not allowing things to get out of hand."

India captain Rahul Dravid echoed Inzamam's sentiments.

"Both teams know the importance of the series and I am sure the players are aware of their responsi-bilities," he said.

Square Cup golf held

SPORTS REPORTER

Maj Md Atiq Mahmud clinched the men's title while Medeau Pascle won the women's crown in the Square Cup Golf Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday.

A total of 389 golfers including 23 ladies took part in the two-day

Chief of Army Staff and presi-dent of Kurmitola Golf Club Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed distributed prizes among the winners. Tapan Chowdhury managing director of Square Pharmaceuticals Limited, along with other high officials of Square Group attended the function.

Senior winner: Col Oli Ahmed (retd); Junior winner: Master Shiam; Runner-up: Col Manzur Murshed (retd); Ladies Runner-up: Fatima Matiur; Best Gross: Brig Gen Sharif Uddin; Front Nine winner: I O Park: Back Nine winner Gp Capt Shahnul Islam (retd); Nearest to Pin: Air Cdre Zilani; Longest Drive: Mario Zavaley; Winner Nine Hole: A T M Abdul Bair; Runner-up Nine Hole: Col Lutfur Rahman; Senior winner Nine Hole: A Wahed.

19 join Cruciani camp

A total of 19 booters reported to the national coach Andres Cruciani for the camp beginning Monday.

Michael Hussey said Saturday that the home side was well aware of Rajani Kanta Barman, Arman the damage the veteran could Aziz and Mehdi Hasan Ujjal didn't report due to their personal probcause and was making its plans lems and they are expected to join accordingly. tomorrow.

The national team will prepare for their upcoming Asian Cup Qualifying matches.

All focus

FROM PAGE 12 field, vice-captain Younis Khan will lead the hosts while left-handed opener Imran Farhat and middleorder batsman Faisal Iqbal could

Inzamam confirmed that pace spearhead Shoaib Akhtar was fit from a niggle in the left ankle and was certain to take part in the

"I want to play three specialist seamers," said the Pakistan captain, hinting that the other two places would be a toss-up between Mohammad Asif, Navedul Hasan, Umar Gul and Mohammad Sami.

INDIA (from): Rahul Dravid (captain), Yirender Sehwag, Venkatsai Laxman, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Dhoni, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Zaheer Khan, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Rudra Pratap

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Salman Butt, Imran Farhat, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Faisal Iqbal, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq, Kamran Akmal, Shoaib Akhtar, Navedul Hasan, Danish Kaneria, Mohammad Asif. Umar Gul, Mohammad Sami, Arshad Khan.

Umpires: Daryl Harper and Simon



Nigeria's John Obi Mikel (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Zimbabwe during their African Nations Cup match at the Port Said Stadium on Friday.

Super Eagles flying high



Two-time African Nations Cup winners Nigeria moved closer to the last eight on Friday after beating Zimbabwe 2-0 in their Group D clash. However while Zimbabwe will

be going home after the last match, World Cup finals debutants Ghana ensured a nervy final round of matches for them and Senegal as they beat the 2002 finalists 1-0 in an ill-tempered match that saw both sides finish with 10 men.

With Ghana due to round off the group stage against pointless and goalless Zimbabwe the odds are on them progressing at the expense of Senegal, who play Nigeria.

Senegal and Ghana have three points each after two rounds with the 'Teranga Lions' enjoying a marginally better goal difference.

The Super Eagles may have missed out on the World Cup finals but they, like fellow absentees Cameroon, have shown a clean pair of heels to their opponents so far and they made no mistake with

The Zimbabweans did create chances with Portsmouth's Benjani looking sharp but they finally cracked twice in four minutes in the second-half.

First Udinese's Christian Obodo rose above the defence to head home a corner and then on the hour mark substitute and highly

Acting Australian vice-captain

"Obviously he's a huge boost

"We all saw how well he played

in Sydney so we definitely need to

"He's obviously a key player for

"We are going to have to try and

them -- one with a lot of experi-

ence and obviously one with a lot

curb his brilliance, definitely, if we

are going to have a good chance of

Jayasuriya flayed the Australian

attack for 114 runs off 96 balls

be a bit more specific in our plans

for them," Hussey said.

when we try to get him out.

of batting ability as well.

winning the game.

scored with a shot from the edge of the area to show why Manchester United and Chelsea are in a tug of war over signing him.

Nigeria coach Austin Eguavoen expressed his delight at making the last eight as his side attempt to win their first Nations Cup title since 1994, but warned Senegal they could expect no let up just because they were already through.

"I was satisfied with my team's overall performance," said Eguavoen.

"It was a tough game against Zimbabwe and I expect another tough match against Senegal. But I have a team that is focussed and capable of beating any team. We will work harder and with some luck we will achieve our targets

Zimbabwe coach Charles Mhlauri blamed lapses in concentration in his defence for their "We lost concentration in the

defence in the second half. But against Ghana we will not lie down, we will take the game very seriously so as to take something back Ghana dug deep to get the win

they desperately needed so as to keep their hopes alive as Borussia Dortmund striker Matthew Amoah got the only goal against Senegal. He burst past slow-reacting

Stop Jayasuriya: Hussey

the series, just two days after stepping off a flight from Sri

In his second match, against

Team officials said on Friday

South Africa, he scored 37 off 30

that the 36-year-old, who has

more than 10,000 one-day inter-

national runs to his name, was

expected to play after missing Sri

Lanka's last match against

Australia in Adelaide on Thursday

"We're doing everything we possibly can to get him fit," Sri

Lankan coach Tom Moody told

stage. He's got a final fitness test

tomorrow morning, but he's on

not been able to plug the gaps

after losing Jayasuriya against

his capacity (not playing), any side

looks pretty limp at the top," he

captain for Adam Gilchrist, who

has been promoted to skipper in

the absence of the resting Ricky

Hussey, standing in as vice-

"It's looking pretty good at this

Moody said the Sri Lankans had

"When you've got a player of

Radio 6PR in Perth on Saturday.

balls before being stumped.

defender Lamine Diatta from a long throw-in before beating Tony Sylva with a shot from an acute angle.

Do or die Aussie-Lankan tie today

with a thigh injury.

the right track."

defeat by Nigeria, something which their coach Ratomir Dujkovic said had been imperative. "We played differently from the

game against Nigeria because we did not have any option but to win," he said.

"We played with more strikers but at the same time, my fullbacks did not join the attack like they did against Nigeria because we know Senegal have some quick and excellent strikers." Senegal coach Abdoulaye Sarr

said his team did not play well and will have to be at their best to beat Nigeria on Tuesday. "Ghana were better organised.

They were also highly motivated. This was not the case with my team," said Sarr. "But we will do our best to ensure we beat Nigeria in our last

game and qualify for the

Meanwhile, both Egypt and Libya paid for bad behaviour by sections of their supporters in Tuesday's Group A double header at the Cairo International Stadium.

The disciplinary committee of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) fined the Egyptian federation 5,000 dollars and their Libyan counterparts 7,000 dollars after their fans exchanged taunts and threw objects at each other at half-time of the 0-0 draw between Egypt and Morocco.

The Libyan fans had stayed on after their earlier 2-1 defeat by

Western Australian Cricket

Association (WACA) Ground was

The wicket has a long-

established reputation for being

fast and bouncy and not suited to

Sri Lanka's favoured spin bowling,

although in more recent times

players have reported that some of

very flat, no grass on it, nice and

hard -- so I think it's going to be a

that the Sri Lankans preferred

what I've seen at the WACA in the

past 12 months, I don't think the

wicket's anywhere near the old

"It doesn't seem to have the

"All our batsmen enjoy pace

same pace and bounce we've seen

and bounce. It's a bit of a myth

that Sri Lankans like the ball

bouncing around their knees and

The Australians, with 14 points,

head the triangular series table

with Sri Lanka second on nine

points and South Africa, who have

Sunday, it would take a minor

miracle to displace them from the

best-of-three finals series while Sri

They are scheduled to play

South Africa in Perth on Tuesday

but with three games left to play

following that fixture compared to

Sri Lanka's one, the Proteas would

Lanka would be in deep trouble.

Should Australia win on

a game in hand, on eight.

great spectacle," Hussey said.

"It looks magnificent. It looks

But Moody said it was a myth

"From my understanding and

perfect.

the pace has gone.

slow, flat wickets.

in the past.

slow wickets."

WACA wicket," he said.

Robbie Fowler made a shock return to his first love Liverpool on Friday and admitted he never dreamt he would be handed the chance to play again for his hometown club.

player back to the hotel.

Ivory Coast have already qualified

for the last eight but need a point

against Egypt to ensure they finish

top and probably avoid Michel's

nightmare scenario of playing

Cameroon in the quarterfinals

Fowler back

at Liverpool

AFP, London

Drogba dropped

Ivory Coast captain Didier Drogba

for Egypt clash

AFP, Cairo

The 30-year-old ex-England striker scored 120 goals in 210 league appearances in nine years in his first spell at Anfield before joining Leeds for 11 million pounds in November 2001

Fowler moved to Manchester City for six million pounds in January 2003 but has not started a Premiership game this season under Stuart Pearce after missing the start of it with a back injury.

"Honest to God, I'm so happy it's frightening. I'm just so chuffed," said Fowler who has joined Rafael Benitez's team on a free transfer.

"Deep down I have always wanted to come back and it has been a long time but I'm glad to say I'm back now.

"When I did leave I played against Sunderland and I got taken off at half-time and I never got a proper chance to say good-bye. It will be nice to get back out at Anfield wearing the red shirt again. Just to walk back out the tunnel will be amazing.

I'm a Milan man for life: Kaka

INTERNET, undated

Brazilian star Kaka has pledged to stay with Milan for the rest of his career, but admits Carlo Ancelotti has changed his management style.

"I want to stay with the Rossoneri for my whole life," smiled the creative midfielder. "This is the top club in the world, so to go anywhere else would be a step backwards. I don't ever The former Sao Paulo star arrived

for under 5 million pounds in 2003 and made an immediate impact on Serie A, scoring 24 goals in 86 games.

The 23-year-old is in the mood for settling down at the moment, having married his sweetheart Caroline during the Christmas break.

prepared" hesaid.

players which is our main strength. The team has batting depth to put pressure on the opponents. The bowling attack comprises a branch of well pacers, who are capable of taking early advantage of the pitch. And most importantly we have a very strongspindepartment,"hesaid.

The Australian, however, believed that the tournament opener against New Zealand was very important.

Allister said that he has no idea about his two opponents New Zealand and Uganda but it would not a big factor.

"We can see our opponents in the practice matches. Most importantly the condition is very familiar with

is not up to the mark compared to the other department but manager Golam Nawsher Prince didn't agreed

"They (pacers) can bowl in right area which is most important in the shorter-version game, so you can't say the pace department is weak," said the former left-arm paceman.

will play one of four tournament openers against New Zealand on February 5 at P Saravanamuth Stadium.

is billed for the next day (February 9) at Singhalese Sports Club ground. Mushfigur Rahim (cap), Shamsur

Becks wants focus on WC

Football

was sensationally dropped to the bench for their final African Nations Cup Group A match against hosts England captain David Beckham Egypt on Saturday.
The 27-year-old Chelsea star wants the nation to forget the controversy surrounding coach scorer of two of their three goals so far

Sven-Goran Eriksson leaving and reportedly had a bust-up with concentrate on the team winning coach Henri Michel at training on the World Cup. Friday according. Michel was unhappy when

Eriksson is leaving after the World Cup, two years before his contract was due to expire, after Drogba kept the squad waiting on the bus for 15 minutes at their hotel five turbulent years in the job.

The Football Association are and when they got to the training ground the Frenchman ordered the

now searching a successor who they plan to have in place before the World Cup starts in Germany. But Beckham wants the focus to return to England's attempts to win

the tournament for the first time

since 1966. "The most important thing is we move on from this. For two weeks it's been a circus and the focus has been taken away from the team and what we want to accomplish in the World Cup finals. We need to

stick together and forget what has

happened," Beckham told The

"I didn't know Sven was going, I had no clue whatsoever. It's sad but, hopefully, in the end it might not be sad at all. If we go all the way in the competition, it would be a great ending for him."

Beckham does not believe that England's chances will be ham-



DAVID BECKHAM

pered by the uncertainty concern-

will be taking us to Germany. People ask if it will affect morale but it won't. It's the biggest competition in the game and we want to

"Every one of the players has a great relationship with this manager. We will stick by him and he will stick by us.

Beckham insisted that he was not pining for the Premiership and that his main concern was for Real Madrid's success.

"Every summer there have been rumours about me going back, Of course I discussed it with Sven when I met up with England but I'm happy in Madrid right now and all that's missing is a trophy."

England have been drawn alongside Croatia, Russia, Israel, Estonia, Macedonia and Andorra in Group E for the Euro 2008 qualification campaign, and Beckham admits it could have been tougher.

"There are some tricky games in there. It's a cliche but there are no easy games. Having said that, it could have been harder."

BUNDESLIGA

Makaay sends Bayern clear

Football

AFP, undated

The six-week winter break failed to knock Bayern Munich out of their stride as they got back into the groove with a 3-1 win over Borussia Monchengladbach on Friday to move nine points clear at the Bundesliga summit.

Dutch international Roy Makaay had failed to score in friendly games during the break but showed he had not lost his golden touch producing two predatory strikes to move into double figures for the season.

Incredibly 19-time champions Bayern had not won at Gladbach, one of their bogey teams, since 1998 and failed to find the net in seven barren years. Makaay ended the wait after just

kind deflection to slot calmly past US international goalkeeper Kasey "It was a good performance and we had the game under control for

13 minutes taking advantage of a

the most part," said Michael Ballack. "It was good that Roy got back among the goals again. He is a key player for us and showed that

Gladbach, a surprise package this season in seventh, may have hoped Bayern's midweek cup outing - where they needed 120 minutes to beat Mainz 05 3-2 - had could be further from the truth. Bayern pushed on and doubled

their lead in the 55th minute with German international captain Ballack producing a trademark Ballack, who has yet to reveal his

plans for when his contract expires at the end of the season, curled a ferocious free-kick over the wall eaving Keller with no chance.

But with Bayern coach Felix

sapped their energy but nothing foot in after the visitors switched However it was to be Makaav's

> night and in the 69th minute he showed great technique to unleash a sublime first-time volley that left Keller's net bulging.

"I had a good feeling before the game and felt I would score," said Makaay. "My confidence was high after the first goal and I think you could see that from the way I took



Bayern Munich striker Roy Makaay celebrates his strike against Moenchengladbach on Friday.

Magath already thinking about taking the points home Gladbach scored straight from the restart.

Belgian international forward

Magath pulled off Makaay just ten minutes after his wonder strike and the Dutch star got a standing ova-

Mauresmo's moment comes | Bryan twins lift

FROM PAGE 12

Known for getting tight at crucial times, Mauresmo really had nothing to get nervous about this time. She won 19 of the first 24 points en route to a 5-0 lead.

Henin-Hardenne called the trainer after falling behind 2-0 in the second set and played only two more

"Last night, I was feeling so bad I thought I would have to go to see a doctor at 3 in the morning because I was such in pain," said Henin-Hardenne, who went into the match on a 13-match Melbourne Park winningstreak.

"I knew at the beginning of the match I couldn't win it. You always want to try because you know it's a Grand Slam final. If I would have kept playing, maybe I would injure something else. I have no regrets."

Mauresmo had the secondlongest wait for her first major title in throughout.

37 Some-

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39 Ostrich-

40 Chum

48 Worm-

50 United

45 Gabrielle

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3 Cold War

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21 Take in

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26 Narrowly

evade

30 Meadow

31 - Nicole

Smith

32 Bankroll

33 Nerdy

34 Director

35 Mardi

VIP

36 Penniless

Howard

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12 Part of

for short

4 New

the Open era, 32 Grand Slam events. Jana Novotna won Wimbledon in 1998, her 45th major.

"I worked so hard, came close many times," Mauresmo said. "Finally this is it. Finally!" Henin-Hardenne has four Grand Slam singles titles, including the 2004

couldn't defend last year due to injury. She burst into tears when she reached acourtside chairafter quitting. "I don't know what is harder, to lose even when you're playing well or

Australian Open crown that she

when you have to retire like that. Henin-Hardennesaid. Despite a recent rash of injuries, she said she doesn't feel jinxed and hopes she'll be able to play again in a

few days. Storms outside produced the only thunder of the match. The stadium roof was closed, trapping several birds inside, and they chirped loudly

23 Bread

24 Stench

26 TV

quiche

Moulton

28 Wayfarers

trans-

32 Swamp

33 Wood

35 Geneti-

cist's

letters

36 Pugilism

physics

particle

42 Dazzle

43 From one

t'other

45 "King of

Queens"

mission

chef

27 Handle

doubles title

REUTERS, Melbourne

Top seeds Mike and Bob Bryan of the US came from a set down to beat Czech Republic's Martin Damm and India's Leander Paes 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the Australian Open men's doubles final on Saturday.

In a tense, dramatic match full of

superb net play by both pairs, Paes

and Damm broke Mike Bryan's serve in the seventh game of the match to give them the first set.

The twins broke Paes in the eighth game of the second set to send it into a

They broke Damm early in the third set then had their own serves placed under intense pressure, saving one break point in the sixth game and four in the eighth to set up the opportunity to serve out for the match.

Favourite up against

when the two teams first met in Ponting, said the wicket at the

matches against Baghdatis, including a straight-sets victory two weeks ago while the Swiss player was defending his Qatar title. They also met in the US Open's second round in 2004, where Federer won in straight sets, and in the fourth round here last year, where Federer needed four sets to win. Federer has a big career edge in

prize money -- 20 million dollars to 392,000; and in tournament victories, 34-0. Baghdatis will not be taken lightly, though.

"Everybody's talking about the young guns coming up and not really about Marcos," Federer said. Thank God I've played him three times, it makes me relax a little bit." Federer saw some parallels

between himself and Baghdatis.

up in rankings," Federer said. He said he was nervous going

into his match against Kiefer. "I just had a sort of strange feeling, not a negative one,' Federer said. "I knew how close I

worked so hard to get there. To lose in the semis would be a big disappointment." He said he knows Baghdatis has "improved incredibly" in the past

"I think we are all surprised he

got so far," Federer said. "He

proved us all wrong. He beat qual-

ity players and he deserves to be in

the 2003 junior world champion. "I was also No. I junior back in 1998 ... it took me some time to get

was to another Grand Slam, and

be in the box seat.

AUSTRALIA (from): A Gilchrist (captain), M Hussey, S Clark, M Clarke, B Dorey, B Hodge, B Hogg, J Hopes, S Katich, B Lee, D Martyn, GMcGrath, A Symonds. SRI LANKA (from): M Atapattu

(captain), S Jayasuriya, C Vaas, M Jayawardene, K Sangakkara, T Dilshan, U Tharanga, M Vandort, M Muralitharan, M Bandara, J Mubarak, R Arnold, D Fernando, N Kulasekera, C Kapugedara, A

Rahim exudes

FROM PAGE 12

matches against United Arab Emirates (UAE), the team is now well

"We don't rely on one or two

most of the boys, "he added. Many thinks that the pace attack

Bangladesh, who will place two practice matches against USA (February 2) and Zimbabwe (February 3),

The second match against Pakistan will be held on February 8 at Nondescripts Cricket Stadium while the last group match against Uganda

Rahman, Tamim Iqbal, Mehdi Hasan, Mehrab Hossain, Saqibul Hasan, Raqibul Hasan, Rezaul Islam, Sirajullah Khadem, Sohrawardi Shuvo, Dollar Mahmud, Ishraq Sonnet, Kamrul Islam and Nabil

By Eugene Sheffer 25 Prepare a 38 Holocene. CRYPTOQUIP 39 Quantum QAJMYV LWYCJ L

EZY MYVVCSFQ EAJZ FBVQ.

VLGBFQ LSX WAPMZFQ 44 Broadcast

MYVGLSI

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A TURTLE HAD TO DO SOME REFUELING, I SUPPOSE HE MIGHT network 46 Flamenco STOP AT A SHELL STATION. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals A 47 Barracks

"JPFF'Q

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 49 Hallow give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error,

Cricket Australia will tailor their game plan to try and stifle the flair of Sri Lankan batsman Sanath Jayasuriya when the two teams clash in their make-or-break triangular series BDNEWS, Dhaka limited-overs clash in Perth on Sunday.