MADRID, Nov 29: Spanish club Salamanca are negotiating with the sportswear company Nike to finance the signing of Brazilian World Cup striker Romario, according to reports in the Spanish press today, reports Reuter.

The television channel Antena 3 has also been linked with the bid to bring back the former Barcelona forward to Spain.

The El Pais newspaper said a source close to Romario's current team, Flamengo, had confirmed the Brazilian club had begun talks with the channel over the transfer.

The involvement of Antena 3 has also sparked rumours that Romario may move to Sevilla, where the TV company is a shareholder.

But Sevilla chairman Franciso Escobar denied any interest in the player to El

"Sevilla has not tried to sign him, and Antena 3 has not consulted me over any interest in bringing him here." Escobar said.

Romario spent two successful seasons at Barcelona after signing from Dutch side PSV Eidhoven, but left the Spanish side for Flamengo at the beginning of the 94-95

He is understood to be unhappy at Flamengo, who have struggled in the Brazilian league this year, and expressed his desire to return to Spain after scoring three goals in a charity America versus Europe match in Barcelona last month.

Al Nassr ride on Ibrahim

RIYADH, Nov 29: Saud Arabian champions Al Nassi warmed their fans on a chilly night here on Tuesday, beat ing Kopetdag of Turk menistan 1-0 to finish top of the West Asian league in the Asian Club Championship reports AFP.

Needing only a draw in their final match of the quarterfinal series, Al Nassr took all three points with a 79th minute winner from right-winger Ibrahim Issa.

Midfielder Ibrahim Matta beat Kopetdag's off-side trap and tried to round goalkeeper Alexandre Korobko. The ball broke for Issa to steer home from the edge of the penalty area.

The Saudis' French coach Jean Fernandez said: "I am very pleased with the result because we have had to play three matches in five days."

The victory gave Al Nassr seven points from the three games, two points more than second placed Saipa of Iran. who were held to a goalless draw by Qatar's Al Arabi in an earlier match at the King Fahd Stadium.

Sanderson's noble desire

LONDON, Nov 29: Britain' former Olympic javelir champion Tessa Sanderson said on Wednesday she would attempt to qualify for her sixth Games in Atlanta next year, reports Reuter.

Sanderson, 39, who won the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic women's title, said she had made the decision in order to raise money for sick children.

She heads an initiative to raise up to one million pounds for the children in hospital charity.

"I couldn't resist the challenge because I know how much difference it will make," Sanderson said. have been training hard but can not do this on my own.

"I will need the support of children around the country to reach our target of one million pounds and bring back a gold medal for Bri-

Sanderson is the only Briton to have competed in five Olympic Games.

Ridiculous!

NOUAKCHOTT, Nov 29: The entire Sierra Leone team walked off the pitch in the Amilcar Cabral soccer final against Mauritania on Tuesday after their goalkeeper was hit by a transistor radio thrown by a spectator, reports Reuter.

The incident happened in the second minute of extra time and the players stayed off for 10 minutes before match officials persuaded them to return.

in front of a crowd of 10,000 Sierra Leone went on to win the match 4-3 on penalties after 120 minutes of play had failed to produce

On Monday, Cape Verde beat Guinea Bissau 1-0 to take third place in the tournament.

Indians instigate rout

BOMBAY, Nov wicket-keeper Syed Kirmani. 29: Hosts India They had reason to celebrate as New Zealand, whose 348 for warded off a deeight in Nagpur was the third adly burst from highest score ever in limited-New Zealand seovers cricket, were bundled out amer Simon Do-16 short of their previous lowest ull to win the final one-day

international by six wickets

PRABHAKAR... m-o-s

moderate target of 127 in the

his first two overs, the bald

Doull hit back by removing

Vinod Kambli, skipper Mo-

hammad Azharuddin and

Sanjay Manjrekar in the

space of six deliveries to

ground to cruise home with

18 overs to spare and com-

plete a grand double, follow-

ing their 1-0 win in the rain-

Doull's spell livened up a

seemingly one-sided contest

after the Kiwis, without the

injured Martin Crowe, folded

up for a meagre 126 in 35 overs,

their lowest one-day score

the shadow of Sunday's

tragedy in Nagpur, where 10

fans were killed and 70

others injured when a sta-

the previous international.

dium wall collapsed during

tors turned up at the Brabo-

urne Stadium, a Test venue

till 1972, to witness the mat-

ch. earmarked as a benefit

game for former Indian

Still, some 40,000 specta-

The match was played in

hit three-Test series.

against India.

But the Indians held their

raise visions of an upset win.

Slammed for 27 runs in

decider.

series 3-2, reports AFP.

Auckland last year. here Wednesday and take the Skipper Lee Germon's 29 was the top score against the Doull, making his only appearance on the tour in place steady attack on which spinners Anil Kumble and Ashish of the injured Chris Cairns. Kapoor shared five wickets. grabbed three wickets in two The agile Azharuddin chiovers as the Indians made pped in with two run outs. heavy weather of chasing a

total against India -142 at

When India began their reply, Danny Morrison gave New Zealand the initial breakthrough by bowling Sachin Tendulkar for one in the third over.

Left-handed Kambli made 48, taking 16 off Doull's second over, before falling to a brilliant diving catch by Mark Greatbatch in the bowler's next over.

Fired by his first success, Doull had Azharuddin caught behind, and Manjrekar taken at square leg, in his fourth over as India slipped to 75 for four by the 15th. The fifth-wicket pair of

Manoi Prabhakar and Ajay Jadeja denied New Zealand further success, but struggled for 17 overs to score the remaining 52 runs for victory. "It was a timely win, especially since this was our last

match before the World Cup," said Azharuddin, under whom India have not lost a home series in both Test and one-day cricket since 1990. "The boys are confidently looking forward to the World Cup. That's the ultimate

prize. God willing, we will win that one too, but we have to work hard on our fielding." the Indian skipper said. New Zealand manager Glen Turner complimented the Indians, and said the tour

had given his young team first-hand experience of what to expect during the World "The tour was a good education for the players. They rallied together in unfamiliar conditions, and will be better

off when they return here in

two months for the World

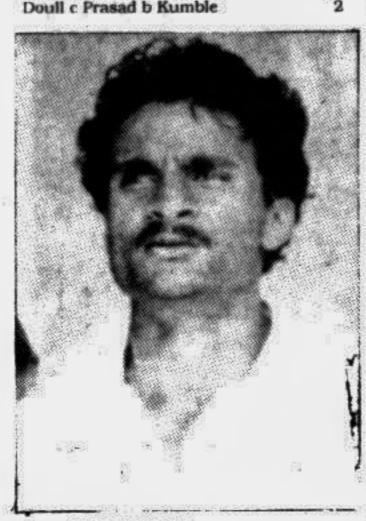
Cup," Turner said. Indian seamer Javagal Srinath won the Man of the Match award for his two early wickets in New Zealand's innings. Prabhakar was declared the Man of the Series.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard of the final oneday international between India and New Zealand at the Brabourne Stadium here to-

NEW ZEALAND

Greatbatch c Manjrekar b Srinath Astle c Prasad b Prabhakar Fleming c and b Srinath Paroe run out Twose st Mongia b Kapoor Thomson run out Larsen c Srinath b Kapoor Nash c Prasad b Kumble Doull c Prasad b Kumble



SRINATH ... m-o-m

Morrison not out Extras: (lb-3, nb-3, w-2) otal: (all out in 35 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-20; 3-38; 4-38; 5-64; 6-89; 7-97;

8-113; 9-125. Bowling: Prabhakar Srinath Prasad Kapoor Kumble INDIA

Prabhakar not out Tendulkar b Morrison Kambli c Greatbatch b Doull Azharuddin c Germon b Doull Manirekar c Thomson b Doull Jadeja not out Extras: (lb-2, w-6) Total: (for four wickets in 32 overs)128

Did not bat: N R Mongia, A Kumble, A R Kapoor, J Srinath, V Prasad. Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-71;

3-75; 4-75. Bowling: 25 2 Morrison 42 0 Doull 27 Larsen

Result: India won by six wickets Man of the match: Javagal

Man of the series: Manoj Prabhakar.

Agassi skips Davis Cup tie

MOSCOW, Nov 29: World number two Andre Agassi may come to Moscow to attend this weekend's Davis Cup final against Russia but will definitely not play, a Russian spokesman said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The flamboyant Agassi has been suffering from a chest injury sustained in the United States team's semifinal win over Sweden in September. US tennis officials said on Tuesday he had withdrawn from the final starting on Friday.

"Yesterday they said he wouldn't come. Today, they say maybe he will come but he will certainly not play." match spokesman Alexander Pesov said.

The US officials said veteran Richey Reneberg would take Agassi's place. The American team is led by world number one Pete Sampras with eighth-ranked Jim Courier and Todd Martin completing the line-up.

For the home side, who lost to Sweden in last year's final, world number six Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Chensnokov are expected to play the singles. Kafelnikov and Andrei Olkhovsky are likely to team up for the doubles.

Ponting points out his worth

DEVONPORT, Australia, Nov 29: Ricky Ponting, bidding for a place in Australia's one-day team, stroked a brilliant 99 for Tasmania in their rain-disrupted limited overs match against Sri Lanka on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Ponting was dismissed off the last ball of the Tasmanian innings going for his century as the home side reached 230 for five off their 50

Sri Lanka's target was reduced to 227 from 48 overs after the first rain interruption and they looked to be heading for a comfortable victory when they were again forced off the field after reaching 220 for five from 45.2 overs. The match was called off

with the umpires declaring the tourists winners by one run on a faster scoring rate. Aravnida de Silva top scored with 67.

The Sri Lankans, who last month beat Pakistan in a oneday series, sent the Tasmanians, into bat after winning the toss and seemed to have made the right decision after the home side lost openers Michael Divenuto for three and Dene Hills for 33.

But Ponting and allrounder Shaun Young turned the innings around, adding 147 runs before Young was bowled by Kumar Dharmasena for 76 which included a six and five fours.

Tasmania were helped by some untidy fielding from the tourists, which included an off-target throw from captain Arjuna Ranatunga when Young should have been run

Left-arm fast bowler Chaminda Vaas was brought in for his first match of the tour and after initially having problems with his rhythm. he snared his first wicket when Tasmanian captain Rod Tucker was caught behind for

Bold step in Italian soccer

ROME, Nov 29: Italy's Senate approved a measure on Tuesday which, if it became law, would allow soccer clubs to field teams composed entirely of foreign players in domestic games as long as they were European Union (EU) citizens, reports Reuter.

northern league senator Francesco Speroni, still has to go the Chamber of Deputies (lower house) for final approval in order to become

The clause, presented as an amendment to another law, says there should be no limit on foreigners playing in any sport in Italy as long as they are from EU countries.

Under current regulations Italian soccer clubs can field up to three foreigners in a match. In a statement, the Italian

soccer federation said that when thee were conflicts between regulations of sporting organisations and national law, national law prevailed. Therefore, if the amend-

ment passed today by the Senate ... should become the law of the state, sporting regulations would have to conform," the statement said But the measure could be

After a case brought by Belgian player Jean-Marc

Bosman, the European court is expected to follow its legal adviser and rule early in the new year that UEFA limits on the number of foreigners in a team contravene European Union regulations on free movement of labour.

Ajax annex another one



Edwin van der Sar saved

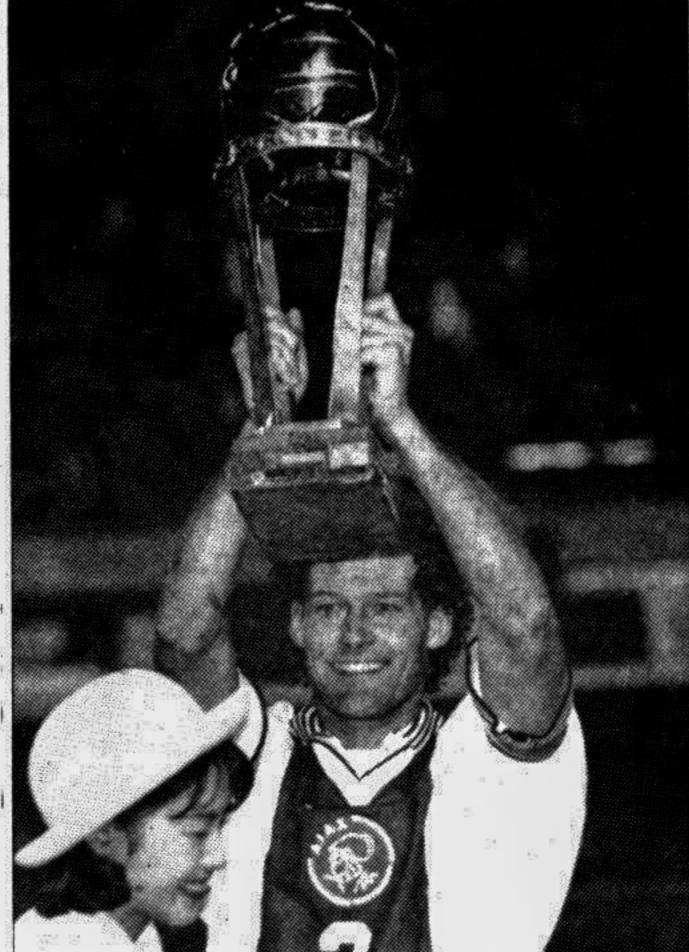
from Dinho and Francsico

Arce hit the bar with Gre-

TOKYO, Nov 29: fender Catalino Rivarola was sent off for his second book-Captain Danny able offence, a second suc-Blind-converted cessive foul on teenage his side's last striker Kluivert in the space penalty to giveof three minutes. Ajax Amsterdam

Yet in terms of clear-cut the Intercontinental Cup chances Gremio's Jardel was with a 4-3 shootout victory as guilty as Kluivert and Ajax's over Brazil's Gremio after a 0-Finn Jari Litmanen of missing 0 draw following extra-time a virtually open target more on Tuesday, reports Reuter. Ajax were always in front than once. with their penalties after

The result left South-**America leading Europe 33-21** in the annual match and 10-6 since it was switched to Tokyo's



A beaming Ajax Amsterdam skipper Danny Blind holds the Intercontinental Cup aloft after they beat Brazilian side Gremio in tie-breaker in the final in Tokyo on November 28. - AFP/UNB photo mio's second even though

draw.

Patrick Kluivert put the Dutch side's opening spot kick wide. Ajax dominated the

match but were unable to breach the strong Gremio defence even though the Brazilian side were down to 10 men from the 56th minute.

Paraguayan central de-

national stadium in 1980. It was the third time since 1985 that the match was settled by penalties and the fifth occasion it needed extra-time. In 1988, PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands lost on Penalties to

The victory finally rewarded the more enterprising side on a bitterly cold

Nacional of Uruguay after a 2-2

afternoon that had some Brazilian outfield players

wearing gloves. But when Kluivert missed Ajax's first penalty, the Dutch must have wondered if they would ever find the target after a string of misses during the 120 minutes' play, though the teenage striker

minute. Ajax appeared to have been lucky not to have Dutch international winger Marc Overmars sent off minutes after Rivarola's dismissal.

saw his looping header re-

bound off the bar in the 74th

Overmars swung an arm in front of Arilson's face and the Gremio midfielder went down holding his mouth.

But English referee David Elleray, who had his back to the incident, simply went ahead with a free kick he had already awarded Gremio after consulting his linesman.

The match could have got out of hand at that point as the Brazilians side demanded Overmars be sent off, but Elleray's firm hand steered it away from trouble.

Near the end of a first half played out almost exclusively in midfield, Kluivert should have done better with a header off a fine cross from the right by Nigerian Findi George. But , trying to rise between two defenders, he headed well wide.

Ajax should have won the match in the second half. Litmanen was too forceful with an attempted lob from the left and put the ball over early in the second half. Minutes later he found himself free right in front of goal but shot straight at Gremio goalkeeper Danrlei.

At the other end, 10-man Gremio should have gone ahead minutes after Rivarola's departure but it was the tall Jardel's who shoot wide from a good position. Jardel also put a header

from a corss by Paraguayan Arce wide after Danrlei had saved from Kluivert who was fed by a neat backheel from busy midfielder Edgar Davids. Blind was the next to

miss, his volley from a pass by substitute Nwankwo Kanu sailing high over the bar. In the dying minutes of

extra time, George Curled a fine shot from the left out of the diving Danrlei's reach and only just wide of the far off into a completely count. 120q

fear they will go under in a

the big clubs and the great

stars but also about the thou-

sands of clubs and the hun-

dreds of thousands of players

at every level across the

length and breadth of the

"Football is not just about

free market.

Mixed bag on Euro deal heavily on transfer payments



BRUSSELS, Nov 29: Small soc cer clubs will not suffer if the European Court of Justice acce-

pts advice to outlaw the player transfer system, Belgian lawyer, Jean-Luc Dupont said on Monday, reports

"Nobody is going to disappear," said Dupont, the lawyer for Belgian player

Court of Justice to declare European soccer's transfer system and limits of foreign players illegal. "The court could decide on a transitional period (to a more open system) of five

Jean-Marc Bosman who has

asked the European Union's

years," Dupont said at the end of a European parliament convention on sport. "An end to clubs organising the market would be best

for everyone," he added. Carl Otto Lenz, one of the European Court's advocates-

general (legal advisers), has

recommended that the court rule the transfer system breaks EU Law on freedom of movement for workers.

the convention that Lenz's recommendations, if accepted by the court, could create a two-tier system of Small clubs, which rely

Jordi's injury days prolonged

MADRID, Nov 29: Barcelona forward Jordi Cruyff will be out of action for two months because of a knee injury, doctors treating him confirmed on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The striker, whose father Johan is Barcelona's coach, has already missed most of the season because of the in-

Barcelona had asked for a second opinion on the injury in the hope that Cruyff would

be able to come back sooner.

continent," the presidents of the 49 national soccer associations in UEFA said in a letter. The letter dismissed

Lenz's proposal of safeguarding smaller clubs by redistributing a percentage of all clubs' income.

"(The advocate-general's) proposed alternative - that funds should be redistributed with nothing in return - is simply unworkable," it said.

Monday's convention had no legal bearing on the court decision, which is expected early next year.

Bosman's case began in 1990 when FC Liege of Belgium blocked his proposed transfer to French club Dunkirk.

Le goes the whole hog



RIO DE JANEIRO Nov 29: World record holder Le Jingyi makes a rare interna

rance at the world short course swimming champion ships this week as China seek to restore their reputation after last year's doping scandals, reports Reuter.

China stayed away from international swimming competition until this June after seven of their swim mers tested positive at the Asian Games in Hiroshima Japan, in October 1994.

the International Swimming Federation (FINA) decided to impose tougher penalties for doping abuse.

Le and compatriot Liu

ists Lu Bin and Yang Aihua were among the seven banned after positive tests at the ensuing Asian Games Nineteen Chinese swimmers

Le. world long-course champion at 50 and 100 metres freestyle, made her international return at the Hapoel Games in Tel Aviv in June while Liu, the 100 and 200 butterfly world longcourse champion, competed in the World Student Games in Fukuoka, Japan, in August.

Le won the 50 and 100 freestyle at the inaugural World Short-Course Championships in Palma de Mallorca in 1993, breaking the world record in each event.

In the 100 here she will face European champion Franziska van Almsick, the German who pulled out of the Palma event at the last minute saying influenza has

Liu won the 200 butterfly in Palma but had to settle for second in the 100 event behind Susan O'Neill, who will again be in action in a strong Australian team.

"There's no question the Australian team will be very

coach Dave Johnson said. The championships are shaping up as a significant test in the run-up to the 1996-Atlanta Olympic despite the absence of many of the world's best swimmers.

Many top performers are training through this meeting to focus on Atlanta or World Cup competition early next

Among absentees are Olympic 50 and 100 metres freestyle champion Alexander Popov, who is out with injured shoulder, fellow Russian Denis Pankratov, the 100 and 200 butterfly longcourse world record holder, and the elite Hungarians who do not compete in the shortcourse meetings.

The Brazilian hosts see this

as a snub and claim the Americans are afraid of suffering a repeat of beatings they received from Brazilians in the men's freestyle events at this year's Pan-American Games in March.

Le in the 100 freestyle on Thursday, faces another interesting test on Friday in the 200 freestyle against defending champion Karen Pickering of Britain, Palma silver medalist O'Neill and Costa Rica's Claudia Poll.

Lara's future trembles in the balance is suing the WICBC and the

international

week, reports Reuter. Lara, who was fined 10 per cent of his tour fee along with Carl Hooper, Curtly Ambrose and Kenneth Benjamin for misconduct on the tour of England this year, withdrew

West Indies Cricket Board Peter Short told the

Short said.

Asked

BRIDGETOWN Barbados, Nov 29: Brian Lara's future may be in

leading batsman withdrew from West Indies tour of Australia starting next

from the Australian tour on Monday.

Caribbean news agency CANA that Lara had not signed a tour contract. "However I explained to

about Lara's

SYDNEY. Nov

29: Australia

leg-spinner Sh-

ane Warne today

passed a stren-

uous fitness test

on the big toe he broke 11

days ago and was declared fit

to play in the third and final

Test against Pakistan starting

on Thursday in Sydney.

Warne, 26, spent the mor-

ning at the Sydney Cricket

Ground stretching, bowling

and fielding before the team's

physiotherapist and doctor.

as well as Test selector Steve

Bernard, gave him the all

told reporters he felt fine

and would not need pain-

killers to last through five

without any discomfort," said

Warne, who took 11 wickets

in Australia's innings victory

over Pakistan in the first Test

without any problems, so as

far as I am concerned and if

the selectors are happy ... I

am playing," said Warne, jok-

ing: "Unless I am 12th man."

Warne's devastating spin in

the second Test in Hobart.

Tasmania, when he fractured

the big toe on his left foot

Pakistan were spared

"I can bowl my leg breaks

"I can go out and bowl

After the practice, Warne

reports Reuter.

days of cricket.

in Brisbane.

him that I considered that there was a moral obligation.

jeopardy after

of Control (WICBC) president

prospects of playing in next year's World Cup in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Short replied: "What the future, holds is very open.

"I don't know what will happen there, I don't know what view the board is going to take I don't know what view Brian is going to take about his future and his immediate post-Australia partic-

ipation. The WICBC have shown this year that they are prepared to take a hard line by refusing to select veteran opener Desmond Haynes for

their series against Australia. Haynes failed to meet a stipulation which required all players except those on West Indies' Test duty to play in all five matches in the domestic Red Stripe competition bar-

ring injury or exceptional circumstances.

Barbados Cricket Association for loss of earnings after he was ruled ineligible for the three-Test series. Short said Lara had been unhappy about the fine and also felt very

Srinath

"Certainly he is very tired and felt a lot of pressure both on the field and off it," Short

"Brian too is hurt and disappointed with the penalty that has been handed down to him. I think he feels that his image as a sportsman and a person has been diminished and he is upset about that because he did tender an apology."

Lara, who had been asked to review his decision over the weekend, was released from his three-year contract with country champions Warwickshire last week after

The 39-year-old Barbadian pleading fatigue. Warne ready to snare

fending off a yorker from fast bowler Wagar Younis in Australia's first innings. In desperation, Pakistan made five changes to the

losing second Test side for a

match against state side Vic-

SHANE WARNE

toria, but were thrashed by eight wickets with more than a day to spare. Pakistan captain Wasim

Akram today said there would be more changes to his side for the third Test. Batsman Rameez Raja will

open with Aamir Schail. former captain Salim Malik. who suffered a cut hand in the first Test, will bat fifth or sixth, and Rashid Latif will

his final team. in contrast Australia are expected to retain their Test-winning side, despite Warne's broken toe and fast bowler Craig McDermott's disappointing form in the

Three wickets at an aver-

age of 63.00 in the first two

Tests have given rise to talk

first two Tests.

replace Moin Khan, said

Akram, who did not reveal

that the 31 years old Mc-Dermott might find himself a drinks waiter at the Sydney Cricket Ground. McDermott, fellow paceman Glenn McGrath, allrounder Steve Waugh and wicketkeeper lan Healy were all rested from last week-

end's round of Sheffield

The four had an extended

Shield and tour matches.

workout at the Sydney nets on Tuesday, while their teammates took a break, and McDermott looked to be in good rhythm. "I must have beaten Aamir Sohail 15 times in the sec-

ond innings in Hobart and it's

one of those things where I

just need a couple of wickets

and things will turn." Mc-Dermott said. "I haven't pushed any panic buttons yet and I'm certainly not feeling down about it, it will come," he

one in his eighth over.

The measure, proposed by

overtaken by events elsewhere in Europe.

But UEFA, the sport's governing body in Europe, told



tional appea

The four-day World Short Course Championships, in a 25-metre pool specially built on Copacabana beach, begin on Thursday, two days after

Limin each won two individual titles at the 1994 World Long-Course Championships in Rome where China dominated the women's events. Fellow Rome gold medal

have tested positive since

interrupted her training.

The Chinese won 10 of the 16 women's titles and set 11 world records in Palma Their performances will inevitably be the focus of attention in Rio.

strong and all eyes will be on the Chinese team to see where they're at." Canadian

Van Almsick, who takes on

