They had originally said any

offer would be non-negotiable

but finally backed down rather

than risk a second public snub

after veteran Luis Aragones on

Sunday became the first man to

decline an offer to coach the

was renowned for his uncom-

promising attitude, was in-

volved in a similar round of

brinkmanship earlier this year

when a row over the appoint-

ment of physical trainer Loren-zana led to his departure from

Real Madrid after just 22 days

That left Camacho a free

Camacho, who as a player

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Reuters/ Internet): Indian cricketer Amay Khurasia collapsed while fielding in a Commonwealth Games match against Australia on Tuesday and was taken to hospital suffering from heatstroke.

A team official said Khurasia was not seriously ill and would have batted if had India a chance of topping the Australian total of 255 for six in their 50 overs. India were 99 for six when an ambulance took Khurasia off to hospital, more than three hours after he was carried off the field in Kuala Lumpur on a stretcher.

Khuracia had bags of ice placed on his body in an attempt to get his temperature down and was put on a saline drip. His temperature hit 39.5 Celsius, the official said.

The heat and humidity of the Malaysian capital had been a major worry of many of the 4,200 athletes at the Games whose sports require stamina.

Nakata makes Japan proud

TOKYO, Sept 15: Japanese fans held their heads high Monday after star midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata made his debut in Italy's Serie league overnight with two stunning goals against champions Juventus, reports AFP.

"His feat may raise the value of Japanese players and the J-League," said Saburo Kawabuchi, chairman of Japan's five-year-old professional league after watching on television Nakata's Perugia go down 3-4 to Juventus at home.

"He might have changed the attitude of European people toward Japanese soccer, Kawabuchi said.

Shunichiro Okano, president of the Japanese Football Association, said he could hardly wait for more matches starring the 21-year-old Nakata.

Kaiser' likes that

BONN, Sept 15 (Reuters/Internet): Franz Beckenbauer hinted on Tuesday he might stand for the presidency of the German Soccer Federation

Amid widespread criticism of current DFB president Egidius Braun, Bayern Munich vicepresident Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has pressed for reforms and said Beckenbauer should take the top job.

"The ideas of Karl-Heinz Rummenigge are very good," Bayern president Beckenbauer, a World Cup winner as both player and coach, told Bavarian television. "There is a great need (for a change).'

Braun, 73, has come under fire for his search for a new national coach since Berti Vogts stepped down last week.

He was criticised in the press for offering the coach's job to former international Paul Breitner before changing his mind after Breitner blasted DFB officials in a newspaper interview. Braun eventually appointed 61-year-old Erich Ribbeck, who has plenty of experience but not the pedigree of his predecessors.

After hinting he might retire, Braun said in a interview released on Sunday that he would apply for another term at next month's DFB congress.

West (D)

S X

♥ H: J109

D : None

South

Double

5 Diamonds

partner's suit.

THE PLAY

Diamonds were made

♣ C: AKQJ109765

BIDDING (Both sides were vulnerable)

West

2 Clubs*

4 Clubs

Pass

Club suit but maximum 17 HCP.



HEAT HAS HAD ITS TOLL: Indian batsman Amay Khurasia being stretchered off the field after he had fainted due to heat exhaustion during the Commonwealth Games cricket match against Australia at Kuala Lumpur yesterday. -AFP photo

'Inter more than Ronaldo'

Sept 15 (Reuters/ Internet): Real Madrid's Raul Gonzalez has warned his side not to pay too much respect to Inter Milan striker Ronaldo in Wednesday's

opening group C Champions' League encounter. The European Cup holders could not have been handed a more difficult start to the defence of their crown as they

travel to Seville for a 'home' clash with the Italian giants. But Raul is convinced that worrying too much about the Brazilian would be the biggest

mistake his side could make. "Inter Milan are a lot more than just Ronaldo," he cautioned. "Inter have quality players, and in better form than Ronaldo, with the likes of Ivan Zamorano and Nicola Ventola.

We need to look out for them. Ronaldo, who missed Inter's 2-2 away draw with Cagliari in

their Serie A opener on Sunday. will be making his debut in the Champions' League.

"Games like this really get you going, they are the very salt of sport and I always want to win them," he said.

Ronaldo will be partnered by Chilean and ex-Real Madrid star Zamorano with Roberto Baggio, Inter's biggest summer signing, just behind the two front men.

Inter will be without two first choice defenders in Nigerian Taribo West and Francesco Colonesse, both suspended.

Coach Guus Hiddink has named all available 21 players in his party -- Real have been forced to travel because of a one-match home ban following crowd problems at last year's semifinal against Borussia Dortmund -- including Croatian World Cup pair Davor Suker and Robert Jarni.

Suker has still not recovered

from a knee injury sustained in a pre-season friendly and is definitely ruled out but Jarni could make the bench if he passes a late fitness test.

Hiddink is almost certain to stick with the side that beat Valladolid on Saturday, with no place for Christian Karembeu, the Frenchman who scored a remarkable double last season with European and World Cup winner's medals.

PROBABLE TEAMS: Real Madrid: Bodo Illgner; Christian Panucci, Fernando Hierro, Manuel Sanchis, Roberto Carlos, Clarence Seedorf, Fernando Redondo, Savio, Raul Gonzalez, Fernando Morientes, Pedrag Mijatovic.

Inter Milan: Gianluca Pagliuca; Salvatore Fresi, Giuseppe Bergomi, Fabio Galante, Javier Zanetti, Benoit Cauet, Diego Simeone, Aron Winter, Roberto Baggio, Ronaldo, Ivan Zamorano.

First round of talks satisfactory



SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

NORTH MAKES AN IMAGINATIVE BID

(Hand # 94)

♠S:876543

♦ 5 : AKJ109

◆ D: A 10 6 5 4 3

West opened an absolute 9-card Club suit. Both North and East passed.

South with a powerful two-suiter hand doubled. With 9 tricks in his own

hand West jumped to 4 Clubs partly to convey to the partner that he held

strong Club suit and partly to keep yulnerable North South out of an

appropriate game contract. East with a singleton Spade raised it to 5

Clubs fearing that North South might be bidding 4 Spades which might

be unbeatable. South however bid 5 Diamonds which was raised by

partner to Little Slam. This was an imaginative bid by North. Since, in

spite several passes by North, South alone bid 5 Diamonds in a

vulnerable position he calculated that South did not have any loser in

Clubs. In Diamonds, the maximum number of high card points that

South could have were 8. To bid at 5 level South must have much more

than a minimum hand. If South had 3 or 4 cards in Hearts headed by

Ace, there would be no Heart loser. The Diamonds must be 6 cards with

no loser. The Spade holding could be AK 3 or 4 cards. In that case there

might be at best one Spade loser. Hence, it was safe to bid LS in the

West led the King of Clubs which was ruffed by the declarer in the closed

hand. There were no losers in the side suits. Therefore all depended on

the distribution of the Diamonds. Three Diamonds with KJ were out. If

they were distributed 1-2 playing of the Ace was safe. But if they were 0-

3 (East having three cards) the trump suit must be played from dummy.

However, if West had 3 Diamonds, the trump must be played also from

the dummy. Hence, the declarer entered dummy with the King of Hearts

and led the nine of Diamond with the intention to let it ride if East did

not cover. East played the Jack, the declarer covered with the Ace and

West showed out. Ultimately East was given a diamond trick and six

North

Pass

6 Diamonds

♦ D : Q982

North

+ C 8

South

₩ H: A5

♣ C: None

GENEVA, Sept 15: A newly-formed UEFA "task force" met for the first time on Monday to discuss ways to prevent the form-

ation of a breakaway European Super League. Officials said no decisions were made, reports Reuters.

The European soccer body's "European Club Football 2000" group considered proposals to remodel the Champions' League into four groups of six clubs. with a possible expansion from 24 to 32 teams, and to merge the Cup Winners' and UEFA Cups.

UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner said the meeting focused on those issues and their likely impact on individual national league fixture lists and competitions.

He denied that the proposals were a 'knee-jerk' reaction to the threat of a breakaway com-

East

4 S Q

♦ D KJ7

C.432

♥ H. 876432

East

Pass

Pass

5 Clubs

petition organised by the Milan-based marketing company Media Partners who are pushing a proposed Pan-European league involving 36 clubs. The meeting, which Aigner

said was aimed at modernising UEFA's competitions, was generally welcomed positively by delegates from domestic leagues and major clubs. "We wanted to hear the clubs'

views of the future and we put forward some proposals of our own too," Aigner told a news conference following the fivehour long meeting. "We took note of and pro-

posed some ideas for discussion. These are all still open, no decisions were taken today. "We examined the possibility of a second competition, too,

and the possibility of going up to 32 clubs in the champions' competition.' He said UEFA would make a draft report for the executive

committee to consider at a meeting in Lisbon on October 6 and 7. Peter Leaver, the representative of the English Premier League on the newly-formed UEFA committee for profes-

sional football which was represented by three members, said the meeting had been satisfactory and constructive. He said: "It a question of making changes and UEFA have shown that they want to

make the necessary changes, from that point of view, it was a very useful and constructive dialogue. He said he hoped that the

task force — under the guidance

of UEFA's Euro 2000 director Guido Tognoni and chaired by UEFA vice-president Senes Erzik of Turkey — would have a full proposal ready by early December.

Liverpool's Rick Parry whose club was one of six invited to send someone to the meeting - said the talks were helpful but added: "It is too soon to draw any conclusions on the future. There is a lot of work to be done." Juventus, Ajax, Porto, Lyon

and Bayern Munich, who were represented by former Germany striker Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, were also invited to the Airport Hotel meeting. "We did not discuss any of

the financial aspects today, but we will have to in the future," said Rummenigge.

"I expect we will at the next meeting. It is not a matter of sitting and comparing the offers from UEFA and Media Partners side by side. But finances do come into it. Football has changed so much in the last 10 years and today it is a big busi-

"But it is still a sport for people and it should be a sport that is open to everyone."

Aigner believed that most clubs understood the need to keep the sport open, to encourage smaller clubs to compete against bigger ones and to look to the future.

"We can't stop some of the things that are happening or choose who owns clubs, but we want the clubs to stay with us and we are comfortable that they will," he said.

Schumacher arrives BHF picks 28 Sports Reporter

York Schumacher, a 34-year-old German hockey coach arrived in the capital yesterday to train the Bangladesh na-tional team which will take part in the Asian Games in Bangkok next December.

During his six-week long stay, Schumacher will supervise the preliminary camp of the national team at the BKSP which will start in a couple of days time, informed Shamsul Bari, the general secretary of Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF). The German will return home on October 30.

Meanwhile, the BHF has called 28 players for the camp on Monday. The list includes ace forward Mohammad Sadeq. who was dropped from the Commonwealth Games squad. The following players have been asked to report to the federation today at 4 pm: Mohammad Javed, Jahangir Alam, Rashed Khan Bappi, Islam, Mamun-ur-Ainul Rashid, Mahfuzul Alam Nixon, Isa Miah, Ishtiaque Ahmed Shipu, Rafiqunnabi Nakib, Rabiuddin Ahmed, Shahidullah Khokon, Khurshid Alam, Mahbub Harun, Ashiquzzaman, Musa Miah, Mirajul Ahsan, Tu-tul Kumar Nag, Giasuddin Rubel, Ramijuddin, Rafiqul Is-lam Kamal, Mohammad Sadeq, Alamgir Alam, Muzahidul Islam Shiplu, Mahbub Ehsan Rana, Ashiqur Rahman Rajib, Ariful Haque Prince, Moududur Rahman Shuvo and Shamsuzzaman Khokon.

Defence Otto's worry

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany. Sept 15 (Reuters/ Internet): A leaky defence is Kaiserslautern coach Otto Rehhagel's main concern ahead of Wednesday's opening Champions' League match at home to Portuguese team Benfica.

The German champions, who made history last season by becoming the first promoted club to win the Bundesliga title, have conceded seven goals in their last two league outings.

After crashing 4-0 away to VfB Stuttgart last Tuesday they produced another shaky defensive display on their way to a hard-fought 4-3 win over Hertha Berlin at the weekend. "We have a problem there,"

acknowledged Rehhagel, who will not reveal his starting lineup until shortly before kick-off but should ask Egyptian Hany Ramzy to fill the libero slot again.

Striker Olaf Marschall, who struck twice on Saturday and will once again be his side's most dangerous weapon in at-

Kaiserslautern have injury worries about midfielder Andreas Buck and Sforza, who both missed training on Monday. But Rehhagel said they should be fit to play. Benfiea_who lead the Per-

tuguese league with maximum points after crushing Beira Mar 3-0 on Saturday, will be without injured former Chelsea defender Scott Minto. Star striker Joao Pinto re-

turns from suspension but Sweden's Martin Pringle and former Sheffield United player Brian Deane have been so impressive lately that coach Graeme Souness could decide to leave him on the bench.

Benfica, who won the European Cup in 1961 and 1962, are returning to the Champions' League after a three-year absence.

PSV Eindhoven of the Netherlands and HJK Helsinki are the other two teams in group

PROBABLE TEAMS: Kaiserslautern: Andreas

Reinke: Hany Ramzy, Axel Roos, Michael Schjoenberg, Andreas Buck, Ratinho, Ciriaco Sforza, Martin Wagner, Marco Reich, Olaf Marschall, Uwe Roesler.

Benfica: Michel Preud'homme: Tahar Khalej. Paulo Madeira, Ronaldo Guiaro, Bruno Basto, Karel Poborsky, Michael Thomas, Jose Calado, Mark Pembridge, Brian Deane, Martin Pringle.

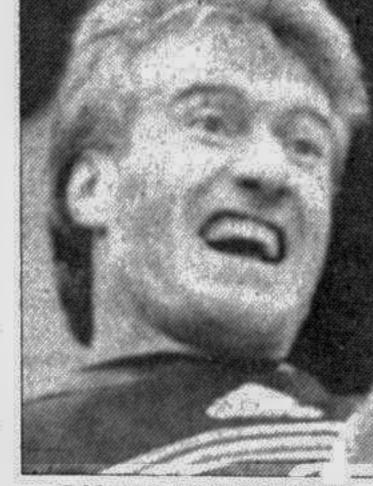
French duo questioned



TURIN, Italy, Sept 15: Juventus French World Cup stars Zinedine Zidane and Didier Deschamps were interviewed by a

state prosecutor here on Monday as part of an enquiry into doping in Italian sport, reports

Zidane arrived at 8:30 am for his session with magistrate



DIDIER DESCHAMPS Raffaele Guariniello, and was followed by Deschamps, who had already been interviewed here on August 18, about an

hour and a half later. Zidane emerged after nearly two hours but had no wish to. discuss the meeting, saying he had "no idea" either about Guarinello's enquiry or the doping issue in general. The French playmaker said

he had been asked about Juventus' use of creatine, a perfectly legal aminoacid which improves muscle performance. and had denied that too much was given. The question follows a re-

cent interview with Juventus' new training adviser, Dutchman Henk Kraaijenhof, who reportedly told the magistrate that high doses of 10 to 20 grammes a day were being administered at the club.

Zidane then left reporters behind saying: "I have to go and train."

Deschamps, who has been with the Italian champions for four years, was light-hearted in his answers to reporters' questions.

"Why am I here again? Because I like it here. I might even come back next week," he quipped. "Perhaps last time we didn't understand each other very well. I'm French and I don't speak Italian very well." One serious comment Deschamps did make was to add that Guariniello had indeed asked about the use of creatine "but not just about that."

Though available in concentrated form, reserves of creatine are found naturally in human muscle and can be increased by eating a steak. But it has been in the spot-

light here in recent weeks as some experts believe that in sufficient doses it actually increases muscle mass and should therefore be banned. Supporters of creatine claim

that it is precious restorative

for helping top athletes recover

from their gruelling training

They also point out that it does not appear on the banned list of the international Olympic Committee, the widely accepted reference for al sports. Guariniello is leading an

enquiry into the illicit distribution of banned substances in soccer and cycling, following a warning two months ago by AS Roma coach Zdenek Zeman.



ZINEDINE ZIDANE

The Frenchmen, along with Alessandro Del Piero, are among several current and ex-Juventus players seen by the magistrate in recent weeks. Guariniello has also inter-

viewed all three of the country's top soccer officials — national Olympic committee president Mario Pescante, football federation chief Luciano Nizzola and league boss Franco Carraro.

Evolution possible, but revolution impossible



MADRID, Sept 15 (Reuters/ Internet): Jose Antonio Camacho was named the new coach of Spain on

Tuesday but promised only minor changes for his first game in charge, a friendly against Russia on September The 43-year-old former Real

Madrid left-back agreed a twoyear deal to coach the national team following the departure of Javier Clemente last Thursday. The Basque was forced out in the wake of a shock 3-2 defeat to Cyprus in a European champi-

onship qualifier. That reverse could have been the signal for a major overhaul of the squad but Clemente insisted that any changes will be minimal.

"A lot of people have asked me if there will be a revolution now that I'm in charge, but I

don't think so," Clemente said after his appointment was an-

nounced. "The players that have been in the squad were there for a

reason and the majority are going to stay there. "Of course, the old coach had his ideas and I have mine but there are not going to be many immediate changes."

Camacho, offered the job on Monday, had been involved in tough negotiations with the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) over the appointment of his two long-term assistants. Pepe Carcelen and Carlos Lorenzana.

The RFEF eventually agreed to take them on and the three will take charge of Spain for the first time in a 'fair play' international against Russia on September 23.

For the RFEF, the decision to agree to Camacho's demands represents a major climbdown.

agent and he has made no secret of his desire to take up the national team post, which he described as "the highest honour for any coach". The Murcia-born Camacho pleaded for a clean slate following the Cyprus game as he bids to get Spain's Euro 2000 qualifying campaign back on track. "There is a new stage starting now and we need the support of the players, the directors, the public and the press." Press support should come a lot easier for Camacho than for Clemente, who was subjected to a venomous campaign for his dismissal following Spain's dismal showing in the World Cup and again after the Cyprus defeat. But although Camacho enjoyed an incredibly successful career as a player, his record as coach is not outstanding. After 16 seasons with Real Madrid, during which he won nine league titles, five Spanish Cups and two UEFA Cups, as well as playing 81 times for his country, he took over as coach

in charge.

tempt He repeated the feat with Espanyol in 1993 but has struggled a little since then. The closest he has come to winning any silverware was in 1996 when he guided Espanyol to fourth place in the league.

of Rayo Vallecano in 1991,

winning promotion from the

second division at the first at-

Disappointing spells followed at Sevilla and again at Espanyol before he was appointed coach at Real Madrid this summer -- only to leave in anger three weeks later. To ensure his spell as na-

tional coach does not end on a similar note he will not only have to secure Spain's place in the European championship finals but also succeed when the side gets there.

Dimitrov plans to rev up Bulgaria team

-Internet photo

Antonio Camacho, Spain's newly-appointed national foot-

ball team coach, speaking at a media conference at Madrid



on September 14.

(Reuters/Internet): Dimitar Dimitrov said that if he accepted the post of Bulgaria natio-

nal team coach he would continue his predecessor's policy of rejuvenating the team. Dimitrov, who coaches Bul-

garian champions Litex Lovech, was appointed national team coach on Monday by Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) president Ivan Slavkov. "As (Hristo) Bonev's assistant I accepted the idea for

gradual rejuvenation of the squad and I plan to keep on following it -- if I become a national team coach, as things are not yet 100 percent clear and precise," Dimitrov said in a radio interview on Monday evening. Slavkov informed neither

Dimitrov nor the BFU's Executive Board of his decision. which was announced by a BFU spokesman without any information on the contract's conditions.

Dimitrov, who led Litex to their first-ever league title last season, said at the Black Sea port of Bourgas that he was concentrating on Tuesday's UEFA Cup match against Austria's Graz AK and would discuss the

41 Droop

letter

45 Roster

48 Notion

50 Responsi-

51 Incubator

the Little

Women

1 - Nostra

35 Big number Yesterday's answer

53 Freeway

noise

52 One of

12 Leak slowly 42 Hebrew

13 Playwright

15 Elly May

17 Twiddling

thumbs

19 "Caught

18 Foolish one

ed spots

21 Firmament

22 Yang coun-

terpart

23 Scarlett's

26 Broken

31 "Please

32 "Mikado"

character

33 Rodin mas-

in Carlisle,

originally

30 Rani's wrap

20 Oft-patch- DOWN

2 "How silly

machine

guns

4 Corral

6 Vicinity

headsail

pherson

11 Serves the

purpose

20 Kipling boy 37 Tooth

band in a 38 Snippet of

16 Benefit

21 Rock

Solution time: 27 mins.

BON OWL HIES OOTS EARNEST

mock

7 Battle

cargo

10 Model

46 Fox sitcom 8 Yacht's

49 Com spike 9 Take on

3 9mm sub- 22 Go off

5 Terse and 24 "Hooray!"

meaningful 25 Jackie's

of me!"

Bonev resigned a week ago after coming in for criticism for Bulgaria's 3-0 defeat by Poland in their opening European championship qualifier earlier this month.

The Poland match marked Dimitrov's debut as a national team assistant coach.

Dimitrov, 39, said he wanted

Div II football Adamjee SCC earned a hard-

fought 3-2 victory over Ganderia Famous SC in the Metropolis Second Division football league at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB. Shaheen, Ayub and Ruhul

scored for the winners while

Tito and Swapan for the losers. In the day's other two matches, the Muslim Institute shared points with Avijatrik Malibagh while City Club split points with Mohakhali Eleven. both are the goalless affairs at the same venue.

Wednesday's matches: Little Friends Club vs Prantik KC (2:30 pm) and Jurain Janata Club vs Eskaton Sabuj Sangha (4:30 pm) at the Mirpur Stadium and Basabo Tarun Sangha vs Jatrabari KC (3 pm) at the Army

documen

course

second

28 - out a

living

31 Line of

34 Tease

fashion?

35 Affixen X

39 Conceal

29 Get

23 "Spring

SOFIA. Sept 15 BFU requirements later this to know what the BFU leadership would demand from him and whether they would approve his future plans for the

> One of his preconditions is a contract of at least two years and not only for the European championship qualifiers.

> "Our main goal should be to form an efficient team which will start the 2002 World Cup qualifiers successfully," he said.

> Dimitrov, regarded as one of Bulgaria's most talented but also most temperamental coaches, took Neftochimik Bourgas to second place in the league before his winning season with Litex.

He has been sanctioned twice

by European soccer's governing body UEFA this season for incidents in his club's European Cup qualifying matches. Dimitrov was suspended for

one game when he went on to the pitch to congratulate his players after they scored a second goal against Sweden's Halmstad in Bourgas on July

He received another onematch suspension a week later in Halmstad when he shouted from the stands during the return match. UEFA also fined him \$3,000 Swiss francs (\$2,158).

ahead" hrs. 26 "Le Coq --" 27 Head of st. dressed in CRYPTOQUIP

explains it" V Y YQV YC DT product BKTE HV FEYBF HF
42 Coquettish V L Q W N M C W M R T .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU IMAGINE THE 43 Needle ONLY MALADY KARATE FIGHTERS SUFFER FROM 18 KUNG FLU? 44 Computer fantasy-

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

WHRTF MENDYPN

Today's Cryptoquip clue: C equals F

adventure 46 Vast quantity Sebastian locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS lowa 36 Pick a 1 Winning stroke 5 Garfield's 37 Evergreen 38 The French "hand" 8 Rosebud, Chef