Bob's mind

NAPIER, New Zealand, Mar 24: Bob Woolmer's career as a Test match coach may be over for now but South Africa's bid to win the World Cup is occupying every minute to his time and leaving little room to spec-ulate about the future, reports Reuters.

Woolmer's five years at the helm of the South African side comes to an end after the World Cup in England in May and June despite unprecedented suc-cess which has brought 21 wins in 44 Tests and a win rate of 80 per cent in limited over internationals.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), told Woolmer last year that everything has a natural lifespan and it was "time for a change."

David Lloyd's announcement that he would step down as England coach after the World Cup has fueled specula-tion that Woolmer will be approached to take over as coach of the country for which he played 19 Tests between 1975 and 1981, scoring three cen-

"No one from the ECB has contacted me and I certainly haven't been made an offer. There are offers on the table from other people but all my concentration is being spent on winning this series and then the World Cup," Woolmer told Reuters in Napier where the South Africans are preparing for the fourth match in a six match series against New Zealand which they trail 2:1.

"I won't make any decisions until after the World Cup and then my biggest priority is some rest and recuperation. I think I'll need a period of at least six months to relax and see how things lie," Woolmer said.

In 12 years since 1987 Woolmer has worked 19 out of 24 seasons in both northern and southern hemispheres and is keen to spend some time with his family in Cape Town before resuming his career.

Kasprowicz to join Leicester

SYDNEY, Mar 24: Australian Test discard Michael Kasprowicz has agreed to play for English county side Leicester, reports AP.

Kasprowicz had a frustrating Australian season, playing just a handful of first-class matches and spending long days as the national team's 12th man.

A lack of match practice cost the Queensland paceman a place on the tour of the West Indies and the World Cup squad.

"The season never really got started for me in Australia,' Kasprowicz said Wednesday. "If I was staying here at home and it was bang, end of season and that's it now' I wouldn't feel fulfilled, really."

Kasprowicz took a first-class

hattrick against Victoria as the highlight of his season, which included the Shield final loss to Western Australia on Monday.

Alan Mullally, Vince Wells and Chris Lewis at Leicester in his third stint in England. He took 60 wickets in the

1994 season with Essex, 27 | 1996. wickets on the Australia A tour in 1995 and finished the Ashes series in 1997 at The Oval against England with a careerbest 7-36 in Australia's victory.

"Going back now I'm a far better player than when I first went over, even on the Ashes tour ... I've learnt a lot since then," Kasprowicz said.

"(And) the blokes are a lot of fun, very similar to Aussies really in the way they enjoy their cricket and have a good laugh."

Hendry to hang up his boots after Euro 2000

LONDON, Mar 24: Scotland World Cup captain' Colin Hendry plans to retire from international soccer after the 2000 European Championship

campaign, reports AP. The burly, fair-haired defender, who will miss Scotland's next two Euro 2000 qualifiers against Bosnia and the Czech Republic through injury. announced his intentions on Glasgow club Rangers' website.

"My aim is to go to Euro 2000 and then go after that," he said. "I've always done myself justice for Scotland, but staying on after that could be a bridge too

The Scots are second in Group Nine behind the Czechs and ahead of Lithuania, Estonia, Bosnia and the Faeroe Islands and stand a good chance of gaining the finals either as a group winner, as the best runners-up or through the playoffs of the other eight second-place

finishers. .The 33-year-old Hendry has won 38 caps for Scotland since making his international debut at age 27 against Estonia in

May 1993. Known as "Braveheart" among the Scottish "Tartan Army" of supporters, he led Scotland in a 2-1 loss to defending titlist Brazil on the opening day of the France '98 World Cup. After a promising start, Scotland were bundled out of the World Cup finals after the first round and have never made it to the second round in eight at-

tempts. Hendry played for Dundee in Scotland before heading to England to link with Blackburn in 1986. He had a three season stint at Manchester City starting in 1989-90 before returning to Blackburn in 1991-92 and winning the Premier League championship with Rovers ahead of Manchester United in

He returned to Scotland this season, where he linked with Rangers in a three-year deal.

Nothing but the Windies A caught in Dale storm

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Mar 24: An exceptional spell of swing and seam bowling from Adam Dale gave Australia an emphatic 154-run victory over West Indies A at the

Tuesday, reports Reuters. The Queensland mediumpacer claimed 6-66, taking six of the seven wickets to fall on Tuesday, as the A Team collapsed to 310 all out before lunch on the fourth and final

Antigua Recreation Ground on

Resuming at 249 for three chasing 465 for an unlikely vic-tory. West Indies A lost their last seven wickets for 61 runs as Dale weaved his spell with the second new ball.

He made an impact in his first over, the second of the day, when he had Carl Hooper caught at third slip by Michael Slater without adding to his overnight score of 102.

He then had Ricardo Powell caught at gully while Wavel Hinds lasted another half an hour, scoring 32, before he attempted to drive and was caught at slip by Shane Warne.

Neil McGarrell drove Dale to the boundary for his only runs before falling in the same over, sharply caught by Ricky Ponting at short cover.

The last three wickets fell without addition to the score. Nixon McLean pulled successive short balls from Colin Miller to the boundary but the left-hander was leg before

wicket for nine when a Dale de-

livery cut back. The only wicket not to fall to Dale was wicketkeeper Matthew Sinclair, caught behind for a scratchy 20 off a Miller outswinger.

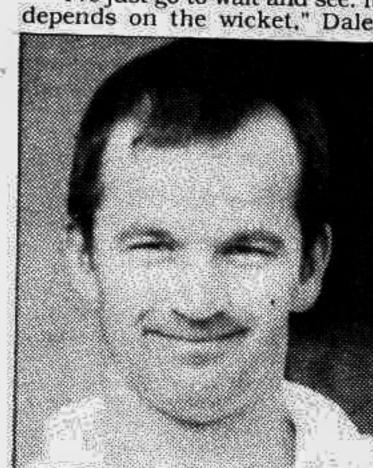
Anthony Lake gave Dale his sixth wicket, chipping a ball to Greg Blewett at mid-wicket

without scoring. The seamer's latest performance follows a career-best 7-

24 during the opening game of the tour in Antigua against a West Indies Board XI last month. However he is still only an outside chance of playing in the

dos on Friday. "I've just go to wait and see. It depends on the wicket," Dale

third Test, beginning in Barba-



DALE... 6 for 67

Captain Steve Waugh remained non-committal on Australia's final line-up. "Adam has done very well again and has to come into contention for a Test spot but I wouldn't envisage too many changes," Waugh

The tourists travel to Barbados to prepare for the third Test with the series level at one-all.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the fourday match between West Indies A and Australia at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Tuesday: AUSTRALIA: First innings 303 (Langer 134, Hooper 5-53)

WEST INDIES A: First innings 102 (Hinds 24 not; MacGill 3-3)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings Elliott b Hooper Slater c Sinclair b McLean Ponting c Sinclair b McGarrell S Waugh c and B McGarrell Blewett e Rose b McGarrell Healy e McGarrell b Hooper Langer lbw b Hooper Warne c McGarrell b Hooper Dale not out Extras: (b-6, lb-5, w-3, nb-7) Total: for 8 wickets dec in 87.4 overs)

Did not bat: Miller, MacGill. Fall of wkts: 1-40; 2-121; 3-143; 4-233; 5-234; 6-246; 7-249; 8-263 Bowler R McLean 52 37 Rose McGarrel 8 64 Hooper Lake Powell

WEST INDIES A: Second innings (overnight 246 for 3) Williams c Warne b MacGill 50 Gayle c Slater b MacGill McLean lbw b Warne Hooper c Slater b Dale Hinds c Warne b Dale Powell c S Waugh b Dale Sinclair c Healy b Miller McGarrell c Ponting b Dale McLean lbw b Dale Lake c Blewett b Dale Rose not out Extras: (b-3, lb-3, nb-4) Total: (All out) Fall of wickets: 1-58; 2-95; 3-

205; 4-253; 5-268; 6-278; 7-296; 8-310; 9-310. O M R Bowler 13 67 31 Miller 4 114 MacGill 6 Warne 3 63 Blewett 10 2 Elliott 6 0 Result: Australia won by

BCCSL presidency poll Sunday

COLOMBO, Mar 24: Two months before Sri Lanka begin their campaign to retain the World Cup title, a big battle is building up over the board's presidency with the election due on Sunday, reports

Reuters. Cricketing officials said today the stakes had been raised after Clifford Ratwatte, Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike's brother, announced his surprise candidacy earlier this month.

Ratwatte, who is also president Chandrika Kumaratunga's uncle, is pitted against the current president Thilanga Sumathipala amid a barrage of charges and counter-charges gleefully carried by the local

estern Australia on Monday. The presidency of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lankan (BCCSL) has become prestigious and influential after the tiny Indian ocean island's shock world cup win in

Since then the board president is probably better known than many ministers in this

LAS VEGAS, Mar

24(Reuters/Inter-

net): A late deluge

of money -- per-

haps more than

one million dol-

lars -- was wagered on Evander

Holyfield just before he stepped

into the ring with Lennox

Lewis, drawing the attention of

Board confirmed Monday that

it is looking into the bets made

at a number of Las Vegas sports

books in the hours before the

March 13 fight at Madison

Almost all of the money

ended up being refunded to bet-

tors when the fight was ruled a

draw, even though Holyfield

The probe by gambling regu-

lators comes on top of investi-

gations by a Manhattan grand

jury, a state Senate committee

and the New York State Athletic

Nevada investigators are

primarily concerned with

whether the money was bet on

behalf of one individual or

group by so-called "messenger"

bettors, which is against

Nevada law. But a source close

to the probe told The Associated

Press that the agency was also

working with out-of-state agen-

cies investigating the fight.
"We're looking at any betting

patterns we can find," said

Keith Copher, chief of enforce-

ment for the agency that regu-

lars may have been bet just be-

fore the fight in Las Vegas

sports books and those run out

of the Caribbean, causing the

odds favoring Holyfield to

One longtime Las Vegas bet-

tor said the betting pattern was

so unusual that he suspected the

money was bet with inside

knowledge of what the outcome

"This was a real scam, except

didn't work," said Lem

Banker, one of a very few sports

bettors who has made a living

over the years wagering on

sporting events and is well re-

call 'unnatural money' wagered

"There was a lot of what I

spected in the industry.

More than one million dol-

lates Nevada casinos.

might be.

on Holyfield.

The Nevada Gaming Control

investigators.

Square Garden.

Commission.

appeared to have lost.

cricket-crazy nation. The Midweek Mirror today

quoted former cricket administrators as saying that the scramble for the top post in the cricket body was inevitable due to the current poor form of the national team. Sri Lanka have had a bad

run since their controversial Australian tour and the team is currently plagued by injuries to several top players including opening batsman Sanath Jayasuriya and off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan. "The set-up was never like

this say five years ago. I know society has changed but cricket should be for what it stands fair play and sportsmanship," said one former administrator. While Ratwatte is promising

to clean up the administration and discipline in financial matters, Sumathipala says he would develop cricket infrastructure in a country where players have star-status and get verses written about them by

last-minute bets

Holyfield had been a slight

favorite in the week before the

fight, but the bout was nearly a

pick 'em by Saturday, said Pete

Korner of Las Vegas Sports Con-

sultants, which sets the odds for

gan close to midnight EST, a

rush of money pushed odds to as

much as 8-5 and 9-5 on Holy-

"Obviously somebody or some group was playing Holy-field very late," Korner said.

"They did their homework well

waiting for the price to come

tor at the Stardust hotel, said

the late Holyfield money caused

the line to move from minus

130 to minus 160 (8-5) just be-

fore the fight. But Lupo said he

Joe Lupo, sports book direc-

down before they bet it."

field, he said.

Then just before the fight be-

most Las Vegas sports books.

Meanwhile, AP says, a group of rowdies stormed a district cricket board meeting and abducted two officials ahead of

balloting, police said.

The officials, supporting the reelection of Sumathipala, were later released after the incident Tuesday, police said.

"Hooligans had attacked the officials and disrupted the meeting of the Badulla district Cricket Board and ... it was reported that they (members) had been abducted," said Dammika Ranatunga, chief executive of the BCCSL. Ranatunga added he knew only what the police told

No arrests have been made. No eyewitness could give a detailed description of the abduc-

Ranatunga said he ordered: cancellation of the meeting, which was to elect district officials of March 28 voting in Colombo for the post of the president. The district will try again tomorrow or Friday to elect some electors.

Badulla, in central Sri Lanka, is about 230 kilometres (142 miles) east of Colombo. Ranatunga, who is the elder brother of Sri Lankan cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga, is supporting Sumathipala in the

believes the bets were not out of

ting," Lupo said. "It was all

small money, no real large wa-

of the largest casino sports

books, had no comment, ac-

cording to spokeswoman Jenn

Among other things, inves-

tigators want to know whether

the money was bet by "messen-

ger" bettors who fanned out to

various casinos to make bets at

Messenger betting is done

primarily by big bettors to get

bets down at various casinos

without the odds being raised

too quickly and to avoid the

identification forms that must

be filled out for any bet of

10,000 dollars or more.

the direction of one bettor.

"I didn't see any unusual bet-

The Mirage, which has one

the ordinary.

Michaels.

Busta Cup BRIDGETOWN, Mar 24: Bar-

Barbados lift

bados duly won the Busta Cup after earning a comfortable 161-run victory against Trinidad and Tobago on the final day of their four-day match here on Tuesday, reports AP.

Set to score an imposing 329 runs for victory, Trinidad were restricted to 178. Barbados bowlers Corey Col-lymore and Winston Reid

shared eight wickets. Apart from 53 by West Indies opener Suruj Ragoonath, Trinidad's other notable contribution came from 31 extras.

SCOREBOARD Final scoreboard of the fourday Busta Cup cricket final be-tween Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago at Kensington Oval

BARBADOS: First innings 289 (Campbell 62, Griffith 58: Dillon 4/57) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:

First innings 219 (Bishop 52;

on Tuesday:

Collymore 3/39)
BARBADOS: Second innings (overnight 259 for nine) Campbell lbw b Simmons Wallace c Ganga b Dillon Griffith c and b Black Reifer lbw b Bishop Hoyte b Persad Hinds e Williams b Dillon Browne c Ragoonath b Bishop 26 Bryan c Bishop b Black Reid run out Collins c Bishop b Dillon Collymore not out Extras: (b-6, lb-9, nb-6)

Total: (All out) Fall of wkts: 1-1; 2-26; 3-61; 4-107; 5-125; 6-138; 7-195; 8-244: 9-247. Bowler Dillon 50 13.1 Black 48

60 Persad 43 Bishop Rampersad TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:

43

Simmons

Second innings Ragoonath c Wallace b Collins Ganga run out Rampersad e Browne b Reid Roberts c Hoyte b Reid Simmons b Collymore Smith c Reifer b Reid Williams c Griffith b Collymore Bishop c Wallace b Collymore Dillon b Collymore Persad lbw b Reid Black not out Extras: (b-3, lb-14, w-1, nb-13)

Total: (All out) Fall of wkts: 1-16; 2-94; 3-99; 4-132; 5-141; 6-156; 7-156; 8-156; 9-163. M R W Bowler Collins 29 Collymore 43

61 Bryan Result: Barbados won by 161 runs.

Anelka keen on Italy but fears Ronaldo's fate

ROME. Mar 24(Reuters/Internet): Arsenal striker Nicolas Anelka was quoted on Wednesday as saying he would like to play in Italy but did not want to burn himself out and "end up like Ronaldo". Italian newspapers have re-

ported that Juventus coach Carlo Ancelotti wanted to sign the 20-year-old French international for some 20 million. "Officially, I don't know anything about this," Anelka was

quoted as saying in Gazzetta dello Sport. Anelka said he was unaware if the two clubs had discussed

Vegas board probing any transfer deal. An Arsenal spokeswoman said: "We don't comment on transfer specula-Anelka, whose stock has soared since scoring both goals in France's 2-0 win over Eng-

land in a friendly at Wembley last month, said he thought it might be better to avoid the pressures of a big Italian club for a further two or three sea-"I'm still young and in a

couple of years I don't want to have the same problems as Ronaldo, who perhaps gave a bit too much of himself between the ages of 17 and 20." Former world footballer of

the year Ronaldo, now 22, has been troubled by injury this season following his lacklustre performance in last summer's World Cup final against France. Anelka's comments to

Gazzetta were echoed in London's Evening Standard on Wednesday. The paper quoted him as saying: "I may go one day to Juventus -- in three or even 10 years perhaps -- but not next, for certain. Next season I will be playing for Arsenal."



A FAMILY MOMENT: Superstar Ronaldo and his fiancee Suzana Werner flank Ronaldo's mother Sonia during a birthday party for Suzana in Rio de Janeiro on March 23.

-AFP photo

First wins for Belle Vista, Velez Sarsfield



RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 24(Reuters/ Internet): Bella Vista and former champions Velez Sarsfield won for the first time in the Liber-

tadores Cup to keep alive their chances of reaching the second round. Four players were sent off in Tuesday night's three matches, the third of which saw Bolivia's

Wilstermann twice come from

behind to beat already qualified Emelec 4-2. First half goals by Argentine Facundo Gareca and Leonel Pilipauskas earned Uruguay's Bella Vista a 2-0 win over their Mexican opponents in group one, leaving both teams level on

Nacional (Uruguay) and Estudiantes (Venezuela), both on nine points, have already gone through. Three out of four teams in each first round group qualify.

four points with one game each

Monterrey, away to Nacional in their last game, finished with nine players following Raul Chabran's dismissal for a

violent tackle. Eber Moas was shown the red card for complaining about his team mate's sending-off.

Argentina's Velez Sarsfield, who won the title in 1993, left compatriots River Plate four

Zidane out of Ukraine tie

CLAIREFONTAINE, France, Mar 24: World player-of-theyear Zinedine Zidane will miss the European Championships qualifying match against Ukraine in Paris on Saturday, it was announced Tuesday at the team's training camp, reports AFP.

The 27-year-old Juventus midfielder, out of action for two weeks following a knee injury last week, may also have to miss the qualifying match against Armenia in Paris on March 30.

"I'm out of the match against the Ukraine," said Zidane on Tuesday. "But I have not yet taken a decision about playing in the match against Armenia.

points adrift at the bottom of group two after Dario Husain gave them a 1-0 win over Colombia's Caldas in Buenos Aires.

Caldas, who had Jorge Salcedo sent off in the 80th minute, are second with seven points from five games but are still not

assured a second round place. Velez are third with six points from five games, while River Plate have two points but a game in hand. They play both remaining matches at home. Leaders Deportivo Cali (Colombia) have already quali-

Brazilian Sergio Joao, top scorer in last year's Libertadores playing for Bolivian club Bolivar, grabbed two goals in Wilstermann's group five win over Ecuador's Emelec.

Wilstermann, with one game to play, stayed third in the group but are now six points clear of compatriots Blooming who have two games remaining. Leaders Liga de Quito and Emelec are already through.

Ireland reluctant to play Macedonia qualifier

DUBLIN, Mar 24(Reuters/ Internet): Ireland's soccer team would prefer not to play in Macedonia on Saturday because of the threat of NATO air strikes in the region, a spokesman for the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) said on Wednesday.

"UEFA is saying the match is still on. The FAI's feeling is that it's an unwise decision," the spokesman told Reuters. The match against Macedonia is a qualifier for the European championship in 2000.

The spokesman said the team was particularly concerned about the group eight qualifier because the Irish government had advised citizens not to travel to Yugoslavia. the Serb part of Bosnia or Macedo-

The spokesman said the FAI would hold a news conference about the game at 1800 GMT.

National broadcaster RTE said FAI chief executive Bernard O'Byrne was negotiating in Dublin with officials from European soccer's ruling body UEFA and a decision was expected later. Earlier UEFA postponed two qualifiers involving Yugoslavia and said a decision on the Macedonia/Ireland game was still pending.

RTE quoted Irish coach Mick McCarthy as saying that although the players were unhappy about flying into a danger zone, they were committed to playing the game if they would otherwise lose qualifying points.

Havelange's disgust

World player-of-the-year Frenchman Zinedine Zidane at a

media conference on March 23 at Clairefontaine. Zidane

announced that he will miss France's Euro 2000 qualifier

against Ukraine on Saturday due to injury. -AFP photo

Britain.



RIO DE JANEIRO. summer followed a rigged vote. Mar 24: Former FIFA president Joao Havelange of Brazil on Tuesday blasted media attempts to shed light on alleged vote-rigging for last June's

election of his successor Sepp Blatter, reports AFP. Havelange, who retired at last year's World Cup aged 82 after ruling world football for 24 years, said he was irritated that reporters were still trying to dig bout whiffs of scandal at FIFA

and also within the Interna-

tional Olympic Committee. "It makes me sad when a journalist comes to me to ask about scandals which I might allegedly be involved in." Havelange told Rio's Commercial Association, who had invited him to address them as their guest of honour.

have always worked hard for the benefit of others." Havelange was asked about his reaction to English author David Yallop's controversial book "how they stole the game," which claims Blatter's eleva-

ition to the FIFA presidency last

hunting down to "Frustrated

Blatter, who has already had the book banned in Switzerland, is taking legal action against Yallop. But the book has already been published in Germany and the Netherlands and is due to appear shortly in

The book, extracts of which were printed in Britain's the Observer newspaper last week, claims that twenty members of FIFA allegedly accepted a million dollars in bribes to fix the vote.

Havelange intimated that the book was written partly out of resentment in Britain which was born out of the fact he beat Britain's Stanley Rous to the presidency in 1974.

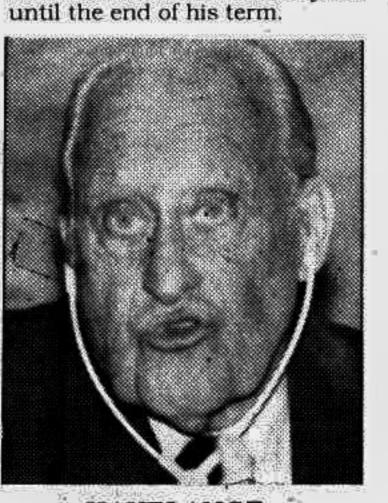
"They (the English) will never forget this defeat," said Havelange, who insisted that the Yallop book "contains fibs". On the scandals which have

Havelange put the scandalbroken over the IOC following the Salt Lake bribes-for-votes people who gain satisfaction controversy. Havelange said he from denigrating those who detected a campaign to make life difficult for Samaranch in case he decided to stand for reelection to the IOC presidency when his current mandate expires in 2001.

The 78-year-old Samaranch admitted last weekend he should have stepped down after the 1992 Barcelona games. Last Wednesday he won a

sweeping vote of confidence

from IOC members to carry on



HAVELANGE ID kabadi Bangladesh Rifles Senior,

Rifles Junior, Police A and Fire Service A moved into the semis of the Independence Day kabadi tournament winning their opening matches at the Outer Stadium yesterday, reports



Nicolas Anelka (L), France's hottest striker at the moment, practising with teammate Youri Djorkaeff during a training session at Clairefontaine on March 23 ahead of their Euro 2000 qualifier against Ukraine. -AFP photo THE ALL AND THE REAL PROPERTY.