your own defences.

nounce them if they lose. We

have never been in such a com-

fortable position before. In fact, no World Cup-playing team is.

The best thing is that we all

have our little side bets going

Let us start from the players

their WC venture successful if

they can avoid a goose egg, per-

haps reach the double figures on

a couple of occasions, hit a

World-class bowler for a four, a

six would be something to talk

made if he could claim the

wicket of anyone within the top

ten of the CEAT ranking. And,

as long as there is cricket, our

bowler's will have the added ad-

vantage of being able to blame

the fielders for dropping

catches, in which the latter in-

The coach? Well, I have not

seen a more muted West Indian

in my life. The last time I saw

him was at the Emirates 'bon

voyage' reception at the Sonar-

gaon Hotel. A Bangalee journal-

ist greeted him with all 32 as

they crossed each other. The

poor 'upset-for-whatever-rea-

son' soul passed by like a robot.

have never been to the

Caribbean but from what I have

heard, such cold demeanour is

unthinkable in the 'paradise on

earth'. If his batting was tinged

with the pigments of the bright

Caribbean summer, his stint as

and in-fighting within the

were through to be behind the

UEFA Cup holders dramatic de-

captain broke a three-week si-

lence to reveal that the squad

has been a nest of vipers for

table in the Serie A, after being

expected to win the title, and are

out of the European Champions

League after being widely tipped

Two coaches have been

to at least reach the semifinals.

sacked since November, Gigi

these rows and start behaving

"We've talked amongst our-

selves over the last few days in

the hope we can at least finish

the championship without hav-

from the injuries, which have

with a hard-fought 2-1 win over

European hopefuls Mallorca

that saw a frenetic finish,

ing 2-0 through first half goals

from Frank de Boer and Patrick

Louis van Gaal's side, lead-

reports Reuters.

And he admitted: "apart

BARCELONA, Sp-

ain, Apr 18: Bar-

celona continued

their march tow-

ards the Spanish

Primera Liga title

ing to play the intertoto."

like a team again.

Inter are struggling mid-

Injury and poor coaching

But their newly-appointed

team, reports AFP.

months.

MILAN, Apr 18:

Ronaldo revealed

today that Inter

Milan's disastro-

us season is down

to petty jealousy

A bowler's day would be

about to their grandchildren.

The batsmen would consider

along the way.

evitably oblige.

Pioneer

Richard Krajicek

(Dutch tennis player)
"I didn't buy anything for my Emma, but I won the Lipton

tournament for her.' After lifting the Lipton title a day after his 4-year-old daughter's birthday.

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-114

Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm

April 23, '99 and draw shortly afterwards What is the result of the Australia-

West Indies Test series? 3-1 Who was the man-of-the-series in

the Australia-West Indies Test series? Lara S Waugh McGrath Who won the Pepsi Cup in India?

India Pakistan 4 Who was the man-of-the-final in the Pepsi Cup?

Mahmood | Ganguly | Inzamam Who lifted the Meril Int'l Cup? Bangladesh Zimbabwe Kenya

...........

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Office football begins today

Bangladesh Army will take on Fields Kings Sports & Garments in the inaugural match of the first ever Office football league, which begins at the Bangladesh Army Stadium today, reports UNB.

Deputy Minister for LGRD Saber Hossain Chowdhury will inaugurate the meet at 3:45 pm as the chief guest.

two semifinals and the final. will be held at the Mirpur Shere-Bangla National Stadium.

Twelve teams, spilt into three groups, are taking part in the league championship. The three group champions along with the third best finisher will qualify for the semifinals.

GROUPS

Group A: Bangladesh Army. Neer Limited, Police AC and Fields Kings Sports & Garments.

Industries.

Bangladesh Air Force and Hossain Group of Industries.

Friendly cricket JPC beat CPC

Jatiya Press Club (JPC) beat Calcutta Press Club (CPC) by 161 runs in a friendly cricket match at the Bangladesh National Stadium on Saturday, reports BSS.

Batting first, JPC piled up 250 for five in the stipulated 30 overs with Mujtaba Danish hammering a quickfire 74 off 45 balls that included 14 fours. He was adjudged man-of-thematch.

Partha Tanveed hit 59 off 29 balls with 10 spectacular fours. Nasimul Hasan Dodul with 20 (8 balls), captain M Qamruzzaman 19 (retired) not out, Badal Mustafiz 18 and Saidur Rahman Shamim 18 were the other

scorers. Alokesh Sen took two wickets for 33 while Sudhir Karmakar, Ashish Chakrabarty, Devdut Ghosh Thakur got one wicket each. The CPC were all out for 89

in 24.3 overs.

Column One Cricket's contradictions and complexities

Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed

These are times to build up a coach has rarely been above black-and-white. He has the The Bangladesh cricketers English weather and our lack of have been transformed from 38 talent (by his own admission) to degrees to one below freezing. fall back on when we do badly. We are all rubbing our palms, For our successes, well, he can not to fight off the bitter Enalways put his head out and say, glish cold in sympathetic re-"I was the coach for the past two sponse, but more in preparation to cheer if our team does well, or to hit out if they sink our *ijjat*. Yes! we are ready to rejoice on their success and all set to de-



The manager is in the most precarious position. Well, most managers are, but ours for a very different reason. He might start mumbling a silent prayer every time it appears that Bangladesh was about to beat Scotland, or for that matter, anyone else. In fact, he has all his defences packed for a wholesale routing of the Bangladesh team at the World Cup. What, if we do even a shade better than what the manager ordered?

Then there is the group within the BCB, which selected Minhazul Abedin in a late drama, and the group that opposed. If Minhazul does reasonably well, even by Bangladesh standards, the pro-group will celebrate with chicken tikka a nun rooti. If the Chittagonian falters, it could be panta bhaat for them and an ascent for the opposition. To a great extent, for some of them. the 'Minhazul factor' has emerged as more important than how Bangladesh perform.

The erstwhile Selection Board, however dubious may have been its sacking, will be praying for an altogether different reason. Should Minhazul fail, or create indiscipline in the team as feared by some, will the BCB reinstate the sacked Selection Board?

Things could have been so much better had we all played as a team, and that's not only within the playing team. Cricket, and I have to contradict the pundits, is such more than batting, bowling and fielding. Many a game is won and lost in the dressing room, in the shades of the BKSP, in the corridors of the Bangabandhu Stadium. An encouraging statement from a responsible person, a pat on the back from another, can fire up a team (playing and non-playing) to perform beyond them. Unfortunately, the reverse is also

As far as the coming World Cup is concerned, we all have our own defensive walls and offensive weapons ready; the adversary are but from within us. We shall shield ourselves from their attack and unleash aggression on them. We shall fight each other as we do on every other front: social, political cultural . . .

But, only to keep the records straight, because we so often change our minds (and words), every concerned party should write down their pre-World Cup forecast, seal it in an envelope and deposit the same with the Bangladesh Bank or in the deep seat of your conscience. The advantage of the most-

oft used phrase in Bangladesh, T had told you', is that it can be used either ways, in victory and in defeat, in failure and in suc-

Abahani-Usha tie today

Leaders Abahani will lock horns with title contenders Usha KC in a crucial return league tie of the Green Delta Premier hockey today, reports

The match will kick-off at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium

Abahani who tamed Usha by a solitary goal in the first league match, are in an advantageous position having 31 points from 11 outings. Usha have managed 27 points in as

many as engagements.

This is going to be a 'do-or-die' match for Usha as a win will keep them afloat in the title race. The absence of Indian playmaker Dhanraj Pillai in the Abahani arsenal will certainly give their opponents an

Pillai scored the all-important goal in the first league match that pushed Usha down to second position.

Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Apr 18: Sangskriti Majlish became champions beating Four-H Club by 48 runs in the final of the First Division cricket league here at the Shaheed Adbur Rab Serniabat Stadium yesterday. Sangskriti Majlish won the

league title for the third time in a row. Winning the toss, Sangskriti Majlish decided to bat first and

scored 196 losing all in 49.5 Opener Manju made 43 and

Rezwan 47. Faruk also scored 24.

Mintu of Four-H Club took 5 wickets for 28 runs in 10 overs. In reply, Four-H collected 148 runs losing all the wickets in 44.1 overs. Babu and Nayan managed 15

and 40 runs respectively. Faruk, Tutan and Manju captured 1,2 and 3 wickets for

Manju was adjudged man-ofthe-match.

Ctg cricket

CHITTAGONG. Apr 18: Con-Captain Ronaldo speaks tinental Mahanagari Junior Cricket competition for under -19 boys began at the Dampara Police Line ground here on Saturday reports BSS. Nasirabad Sporting Club

beat Rafa Cricket Club by three wickets in the opening match. Rafa batted first and scored 129 in 39.5 overs.

In reply, Nasirabad scored 130 for seven in 26.2 overs. A total of 15 teams are participating in the competition being held under the auspices of Chittagong Mahanagari Krira Sangstha (CMKS).

ATM Ahmedul Hoq Chowdhury, president of CMKS and commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police inaugurated the competition as the chief guest.

M'singh cricket

MYMENSINGH, Apr 18: Panditpara Sporting Club beat County Nabin Sangha by 87 runs in the local First Division cricket league at the Circuit House ground today, reports

Batting first, Panditpara piled up 226 for three in curtailed 40 overs. The overs were reduced due to rain. Moni made 67 not out, Sajal

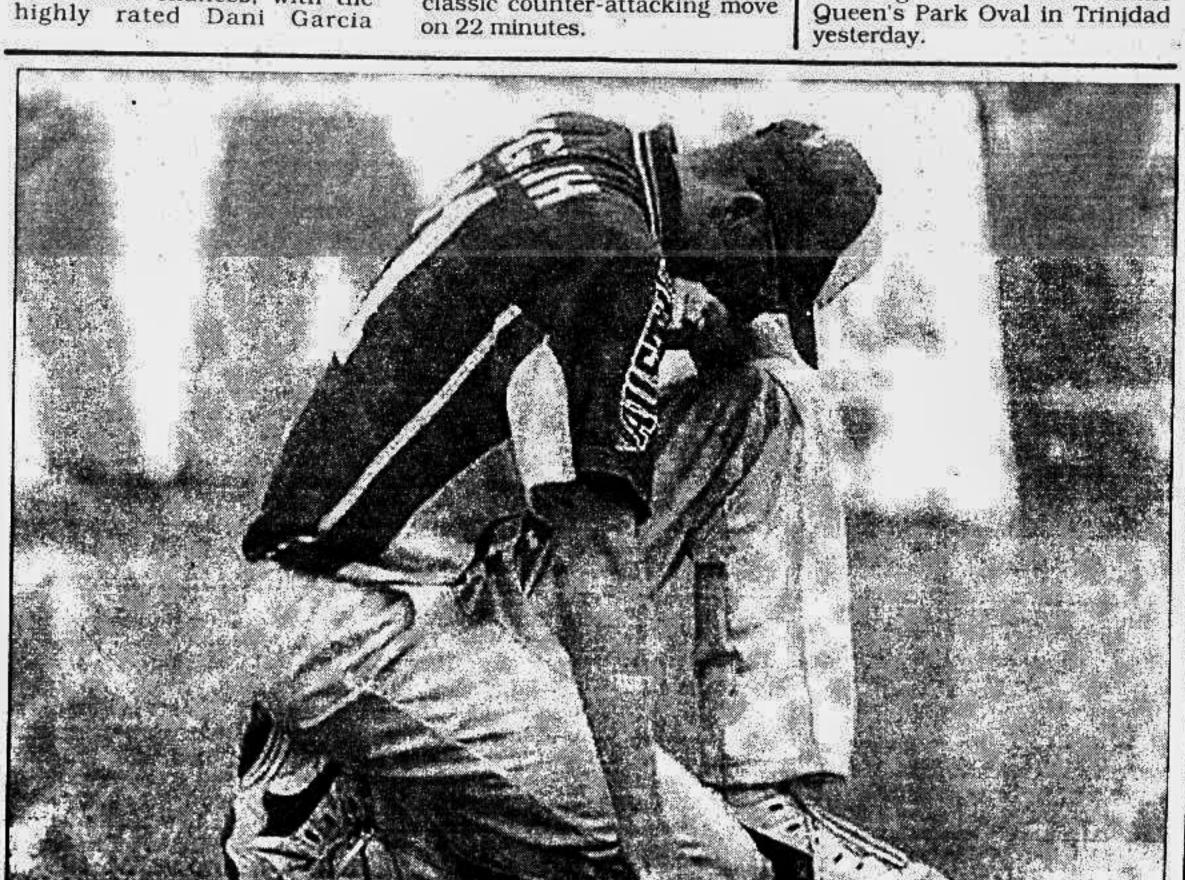
scored 52 and Liton an unbeaten 51. Habul, Dipu and Rony took one wicket each.

In reply, County were all out for 139 runs in 35.4 overs with Dipu contributing an unbeaten

Shamim and Sani picked up three wickets each for 22 and 26 runs respectively.

Australia 189/9

Austarlia scored 189 for nine in their allotted 50 overs in the fourth one-day international against West Indies at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad yesterday.



OH NO! Australia's premier fast bowler Glenn McGrath contemplates his future after

TRINIDADIAN TERROR! An imposing looking West Indian fan invades the Queen's Park Oval pitch after the home side won the third one-day international against Australia on April 17, - Internet photo

Adams assaults Australia

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Apr 18 (AP/Reuters): Jimmy Adams's career-best 82 and

successive partnerships of 109 with Sherwin Campbell and 70 with Carl Hooper carried the West Indies to a five-wicket victory over Australia on Saturday in their third one-day international.

The match left the topranked Australians trailing 2-1 in the series. Worse, premier fast bowler Glenn McGrath sprained his left ankle and left for treatment after bowling only one over. His involvement in the re-

maining four matches was in doubt and Australian physiotherapist Errol Alcott said he would not play in Sunday's fourth match at Trinidad's queen's Park Oval. Chasing an Australian 50

overs total of 242 for eight wickets, the West Indies were always on course for their target. They finished 244 for five, winning on Brian Lara's boundary with an over to go.

The left-handed Adams, in the No 3 position because Lara was carrying a wrist injury aggravated when struck while fielding, came in after the early loss of opener Stuart Williams to Damien Fleming, the medium-pacer who was Australia's best bowler with three for 50 from his 10 overs.

He and Campbell revived the innings, exploiting McGrath's absence, which prompted Australia's captain Steve Waugh to use seven other bowlers on a favourable batting pitch and fast outfield.

Australia's eighth bowler, occasional left-arm spinner Darren Lehmann, broke the partnership by bowling Campbell for 64, made from 83 balls with four fours. But Adams found another solid accomplice in the elegant Hooper. They carried the West Indies

to within 49 of their goal when Fleming produced a perfect yorker to bowl Adams for 82. The Jamaican was made manof-the-match. His total came off 102 balls

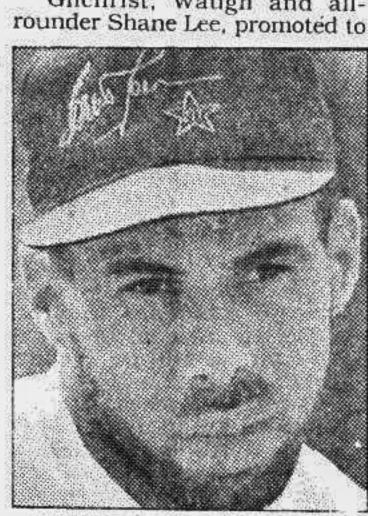
and included eight fours, bettering his unbeaten 81 against Pakistan in Sharjah in 1993. Fleming struck again when he bowled Hooper off the inside

edge for 56, his highest score of the series. By then the outcome was little more than a formality, even though the West Indies lost Phil Simmons for nine to a confused run out before Lara put the finishing touches to the day.

Australia, batting first after Steve Waugh won the toss for the third successive time in the series, based their total on an opening partnership of 108 between Mark Waugh and Adam Gilchrist. Waugh hit a straight six

from off-spinner Hooper and five fours in his 74 before he was one of the two run-out victims of sharp West Indian fielding. The left-handed Gilchrist made 43 before he hoisted a deep field catch to Curtly Ambrose from off-spinner Nehemiah Perry, the West Indies's best bowler with three wickets for 45 from his 10 overs. Once they were separated in

the 25th over, the West Indies. backed by a capacity crowd of 25,000, kept the scoring rate down to less than five runs an over with their fielding and steady bowling. Gilchrist, Waugh and all-



JIMMY ADAMS ... m-o-m No 3, were out within 20 runs of

each other. Damien Martyn and left-

hander Lehmann, who hit an unbeaten 110 in Australia's victory in the second match of the series, rebuilt the innings with a stand of 44 from 74 balls before Perry's fast, accurate throw from short fine-leg uprooted the stumps to run out Martyn for

The Australian innings again sputtered a Steve Waugh (2) and Lehmann (40) were removed by medium-pacer Simmons and Perry bowled Tom Moody with a faster ball for 2.

It was left to Michael Bevan the left-hander known as "The Finisher" for his ability to gather quick runs in the closing over, to accelerate the scoring with an unbeaten 27 off 22 balls in a stand of 27 with Shane Warne.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the third one-

day international between Australia and West Indies on Saturday: AUSTRALIA M Waugh run out

Gilchrist c Ambrose b Perry Lee lbw b Perry Martyn run out Lehmann c Hooper b Simmons S Waugh b Simmons Bevan not out Moody b Perry

Warne not out Extras: (lb-3, w-6, nb-2) Total: (for 7 wkts in 50 overs)242

Did not bat: D Fleming, G McGrath Fall of wkts: 1-108; 2-123; 3-

128; 4-194; 5-201; 6-210; 7-215 M R W Bowler Ambrose 40 Bryan Hooper Arthurton Perry Simmons WEST INDIES

Adams b Fleming Hooper b Fleming Lara not out Simmons run out Arthurton not out Extras: (lb-1, w-9) Total: (for 5 wkts in 49 overs)

Williams lbw b Fleming

Campbell b Lehmann

Did not bat: R Jacobs, H Bryan, N Perry, C Ambrose Fall of wkts: 1-15; 2-124; 3-194; 4-225; 5-236

Bowler McGrath Fleming 49 32 Moody 16 Martyn 59 39 M Waugh 30 0 Lehmann Result: West Indies won by

five wickets. Man-of-the-match: Jimmy

Latin Clash tops the bill



LAGOS, Apr 18: With Argentina gone, its up to Brazil or Uruguay —

most likely Brazil - to defend South America's honour at the World Youth Championship, reports AP. And only one will survive

past Sunday's quarterfinals. Sunday's clash at 4 pm (1500 GMT) in Lagos is one of two intracontinental clashes. African rivals Mali and hosts Nigeria clash in Enugu in the other. Other quarterfinal games have Mexico, which eliminated

two-time defending champions Argentina, playing Japan, and Spain facing African champions Ghana. both at 7 pm (1800 In the all-South American

match, much more is expected of Brazil. Uruguay lost the 1977 U-20 World Cup final in Shah Alam,

Malaysia to Argentina 2-1, but this year side appears decidedly less polished. And besides being four-time World Cup champions, Brazil also are a three-time champions at the under-20 level.

"We're under the same pres-

sure as the senior team," Brazil-

ian coach Joao Costa da Silva said Saturday. "We have to win this fourth cup. This a Brazilian team and second place is no good." Brazil have recovered from

losing their opener against

Spain 2-0 by winning their last three — beating Zambia, Honduras and Croatia - and now boasts a tournament high of 12 goals while only allowing three. "We had to improvise the first game. The team only came

together five days before tournament and the players have hardly been together," said Costa Da Silva, who was appointed coach a week before coming to Nigeria. Uruguay also lost their first

game against Ghana, squeeked past South Korea, had a scoreless draw against Portugal and narrowly defeated Paraguay. On Sunday, the Uruguayans will be missing injured defender

Carlos Diaz and midfielders Omar Pouso and Damian Macaluso, both sent off in the match against Paraguay. "We can't wait to play Brazil. It'll be a classic," said coach Vic-

tor Pua, who headed the side in Malaysia in 1997. Uruguay and Brazil twice played to stalemates in the South American under-20 championship, which served as the qualifying event for the World Cup. Mexico, who showed some

stunning form against Argentina, are undoubtedly Japan's toughest test so far. The Asian side, led by senior team midfielder Shinji Ono, owe their place in the quarterfinals to an unrelenting tenacity that has beaten opponents so such as the United States, England and Portugal by simply exhausting them.

Spain, who impressed many in the first round by beating Brazil, showed some weakness in their last outing when they let the United States rally from a three-goal deficit in the first half with a pair of goals in the final 45 minutes before finally prevailing 3-2 in the second round.

A late collapse could be dangerous against Ghana, who have demonstrated the stinglest defence in the tournament, allow-

ing only one goal in four games. Spain should be thankful they are not playing Mali, who rallied from a 4-2 deficit in the final minutes of their secondround clash against Cameroon

to win 5-4 in extra time. Mahamadou Dissa scored the equaliser and the gamewinner, giving him a share of the tournament scoring lead with four goals.

Nigeria, meanwhile, with a 1-2-1 record, have yet to knock their immensely talented team into a disciplined and compact

SAHCO nat'l v'ball

Comilla, Gazipur, Rajshahi and Rangpur won their respective matches in the SAHCO national youth volleyball competition in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Comilla beat Jhenidah 25-12, 25-18, 25-20, Gazipur beat Sylhet 25-9, 25-19, 25-11, Rajshahi beat Narail 25-9, 25-14. 25-17 and Rangpur beat Khulna 25-22, 25-20, 25-23,

Simoni and Mircea Lucescu, but the poor performances have continued - culminating in last week's humiliating 2-0 defeat to relegation strugglers Salerni-Ronaldo rang the alarm bell on Saturday, saying: "Now it's time for us to stop having all

Barring the opening day, all other matches, including the

Group B: Bangladesh Navy, Neptune Spinning Mills, Janata Bank and Apex Foam Group C: Agrani Bank SC. Dhaka City Corporation.

> Kluivert, were almost denied victory at the death as Philip Cocu conceded a penalty for handball in the final minute. The Dutch midfielder received the red card, Leonardo Biagini netted the spot kick and

Barcelona had to survive three torturous minutes of injury Barcelona just managed to hold on and duly extended their lead at the top of the table to 10 points, although Celta Vigo can

reduce the deficit to seven if

they win at home to Alaves to-Mallorca, with half an eye on Thursday's European Cup Winners' Cup semifinal decider with Chelsea, looked to play a cautious game, packing the midfield and attempting to deny space to Rivaldo and Luis

Figo. But the islanders were undone as early as the fourth minute when their muchvaunted defence went to sleep. A short corner on the left led

to a dinked cross and an un-

marked Frank de Boer nodded

still to play and we need to give everything. "Now is the moment for us to

between us. have to fell positive about the player nearest to them," he told the Gazzetta Dello Sport.

The climate of in-fighting

Mallorca had most of the

possession throughout the first

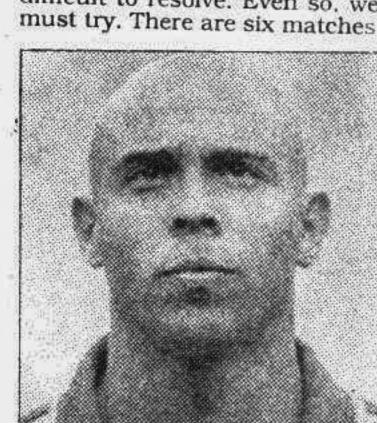
half but they struggled to create

worthwhile chances, with the

season, there have been a lot of dressing room problems and they are still there now.

"Every team has its problems, but ours are going to be

undoubtedly penalised us this



nastiness which has gone on "If people want to have a row off the pitch, that's one thing. But when we're playing, they

acute." Ronaldo said. "And as the problems get worse, they are

difficult to resolve. Even so, we must try. There are six matches

RONALDO

forget about egos and all the

has inevitably formed a vicious circle with the team's losing When you lose, the problems obviously become more

> bound to lead to further de-Ronaldo, who like Roberto Baggio and star winger Francesco Moriero has been dogged by injury all season, was doubtful that the number of foreign players was to blame.

Last weekend, Inter fielded only one Italian. "I don't think so," said the Brazilian. "We are all workers, with one objective victory. Though several players are involved in the trouble. Ronal-

"There's no point telling the newspapers," he said. "It's something we have to sort out amongst ourselves. Whether or not the differences can be resolved. Inter Milan are heading for a shake-up

anyway this summer when new

do refused to name names.

coach Marcello Lippi takes over from stand-in Luciano Caste-Aside from the new signings club president Massimo Mo-

ratti has warned his troops that a clear-out in the offing. Ronaldo admitted: "there's a need to change the players, the structure of the team and the way it plays. But these things

And one foray forward led to

Barcelona's second, from a

classic counter-attacking move

aren't for me to decide.

anonymous up front.

Barca overcome Mallorca

Sports Reporter



twisting an ankle while fielding during the third one-day international in Trinidad on April 17. - Internet photo