WICB boss to retire in May

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Mar 19: Stephen Camacho, the longstanding chief executive officer of the West Indies Cricket Board, will retire from his post on May 31 this year, reports

The West Indies Cricket Board on Saturday announced it had accepted the request of Camacho for early retirement for personal reasons.

"On behalf of the directors of the WICB and the entire cricket fraternity, I would like to thank Stephen for his unstinting and committed service to the development of West Indies cricket. Pat Rousseau, president of the WICB, said in a news release.

"We wish him every success in his future endeavours," added Rousseau, who noted the WICB will be conducting an executive search for a new chief executive officer with advertising of the

Camacho is currently on sick leave and has gone to Britain to seek medical atten-

Richard Jodhan, the chief financial officer, will assume responsibility for the day-today management of the Secretariat during Camacho's ab-

For more than 25 years, Camacho gave long and dedicated service to service to the WICB.

He pioneered work in cricket administration in the Caribbean when he started as the WICB's first full-time employee and single-handedly ran its affairs as executive secretary for many years.

The bespectacled Camacho, a former Guyana captain and West Indies opening batsman. played 11 Tests, scored 640 runs at an average of 29.09 before his retirement and subsequent posting with the WICB.

Shield final

Queensland in command

BRISBANE, Australia, Mar 19: An unbeaten 72-run third wicket partnership between first innings hero Stuart Law and Martin Love threatened to put the Sheffield Shield cricket final out of Victoria's reach here Sunday, reports AFP.

Law, who passed the 14,000run milestone during his unbeaten 35 and Love with 46. combined after tea on the third day to push Queensland's overall lead to 208 runs with a stumps score of 105 for two.

Victoria's desperation showed late in the day when specialist opener and part-time left-arm spinner Matthew Elliott was thrown the ball in the hope of breaking the third (wicket stand.

Victoria, battered by Andrew Bichel (6-47) on Saturday, resumed at 94 for six and ground out 182 with Ian Harvey (50) and David Saker (25) standing firm.

As he did in the first innings, Victorian skipper Paul Reiffel struck an early blow, again dismissing Queensland opener Jimmy Maher for two, trapping him lbw after he padded up to a delivery which moved back late.

When Harvey snared Troy Dixon (21) just after tea Queensland were 39 for two and the game was poised before Law. battling hand and wrist injuries, joir ed Love at the crease.

Almos two hours later the pair had successfully blunted the Victorian attack which toiled without creating too many problems for either batsman.

Victoria need early wickets on Monday's fourth day if they are to fight their way back into the five-day final.

Wise future Chelsea manager?

LONDON, March 19: Chelsea and England midfielder Dennis Wise is being groomed as a longterm replacement for current manager Gianluca Vialli The Sun reported on Saturday, reports AFP.

The 33-year-old fiery captain who has been on scintillating form lately and sparkled on his recall to the England side against Argentina at Wembley in February admitted he wanted to stay in the game when he eventually stops playing:

"Coaching is something I have thought about and want to do. It interests me."

India secure

From page 8 Joshi Singh INDIA

12 Tendulkar 9 43 Ganguly c Pollock b Strydom Tendulkar c Elworthy b Kallis 122 Dravid c Cronje b Boje Azharuddin c and b Kallis

Jadeja b Pollock Singh not out Joshi b Pollock Karim not out Agarkar Kumble

Smnath Extras: (lb-3, nb-3, w-5) Total: (For 6 wkts 49.5 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-153: 2-176: 3-256; 4-267; 5-273; 6-277 Bowler Pollock

Elworthy Kallis 50 Cronje 33 43 48 Strydom

Result: India win by four wickets Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar India lead series 3-1.

Primera Liga

Barca now truly in business



Camp on Saturday, beating the Primera Liga leaders 2-1 to

position, reports AFP. title decider Barca turned in a solid if unspectacular showing and, as in their triumph at Bilbao a week earlier, made judi-

move within two points of pole

MADRID, March eight points clear of Barcelona 19: Barcelona did yet history was not on their side just enough to as 'Super Depor' had never won at the Nou Camp in either league or cup and lost 24 of 29 league clashes there.

By half time it was apparent they were not going to break their duck as Barca, seeking to avenge a 2-1 beating in Coruna In a match billed as a virtual earlier in the season, roared into a two-goal lead.

A second half rally by Deportivo, who struck back with a deflected effort from Flavio



Barcelona's Brazilian superstar Rivaldo (R) tries to get past Deportivo's Manuel Pablo during their Primera Liga match on March 18. -Internet photo

cious use of the few real chances that fell their way to win with goals from Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert and Brazilian magician Rivaldo.

The result means Deportivo have 52 points from 29 matches while Barca have 50, also from 29 games

Earlier, the Madrid derby between struggling Atletico and a Real side shorn of the services of bad boy Nicolas Anelka finished 1-1. Fernando Morientes put

Real ahead after 34 minutes but Santiago Hernan Solari headed Atletico level on the stroke of half time

Real, who left England winger Steve MacManaman out of the starting line-up, are now fourth, four points off the leaders while Atletico remain in the

relegation zone. A win for Deportivo would have propelled the Galicians

Conceicao, could not save a point and the visitors lost even more face when they had two men dismissed in the final three minutes.

Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal had declared his side hyper confident after sweeping into the quarter-finals of the European Champions Cup in midweek but he had emphasised the need for teamwork as well as individual brilliance.

In the past, the Catalan club have sometimes shown too much of the latter at the expense of the former. Yet both were to the fore in

the opening 45 minutes, despite the unavailability of talents such as Jari Litmanen, Luis Enrique and Boudewijn Zenden -

Deportivo, coming off a 2-0 win last week over Valencia were floundering early on as Barca went for the jugular.

Portuguese star Luis Figo crossed for Kluivert, who elected to try a backheel which failed to find anyone lurking behind him.

Then world player of the year Rivaldo, playing against his former club, saw a header easily gathered by Deportivo's veteran Cameroonian keeper Jacques Songo'o.

After toying with their opponents. Barca eventually unlocked the visiting defence after 26 minutes.

Kluivert played a short ball out to the right to Figo, who whipped over a curling cross and Kluivert ended a fine run with a glancing header inside Songo'o's right-hand post. It was the former Ajax man's

18th goal of the season. Deportivo's own Dutch sharpshooter Roy Makaay tried to match Kluivert's finishing skills but home keeper Ruud Hesp blocked a low drive with his legs on the half hour to deny the visiting striker.

Barca were unforgiving of that miss as they went two ahead after 33 minutes through Rivaldo.

Pep Guardiola sent a brilliant 50-metre through ball over a static defence and Rivaldo sent in a vicious low leftfooted drive which Songo'o reached but could not hold.

Deportivo laid claim to a penalty when Dutch defender Winston Bogarde appeared to check their Brazilian winger Djalminha but the referee waved their appeals away.

Whatever coach Javier Irureta told his Deportivo charges at the interval had an immediate effect as they pulled things back to 2-1 within 20 seconds of the restart.

Conceicao tried his luck from almost 40 metres and the ball took a huge deflection off Frank de Boer before looping into the net past Hesp.

Rivaldo almost escaped for a third on 67 minutes with a solo run at the heart of the defence and Fran hauled him down in desperation.

Rivaldo hit the ensuing free-

kick against the post. Kluivert made way late on for 21-year-old striker Gabri, who scored in the Champions League in the midweek win over Hertha Berlin.

Deportivo played the final two minutes with nine men after Brazilian defender Mauro Silva picked up a second yellow card for holding Frank de Boer.

Pauleta then also went for an early bath after kicking substitute Fred Dehu in the final seconds. Elsewhere Saturday, Valen-

cia, who face a crucial Champions League march against Manchester United next Tuesday, drew 2-2 with Malaga as they failed to make up ground on the top five.

Valencia, missing injured midfielder Gaizka Mendieta also out of the United clash thanked two goals from Miguel Angel Angulo for their point while Brazilian Catanha bagged a brace for Malaga - his second being an 89th-minute penalty.

UEFA Cup

Collated qtr.-final first leg

summaries LONDON, March 19 (Reuters/

Internet): Collated summaries of Thursday's UEFA Cup quarter-final first leg matches: IN LEEDS:

Leeds United 3 Slavia Prague 0 Scorers: Jason Wilcox 39, Harry Kewell 54, Lee Bowyer 59 Red card: Karel Rada (Slavia Prague) 76 Halftime: 1-0

Attendance: 39,519 IN LONDON: Arsenal 2 Werder Bremen 0 Scorers: Thierry Henry 21. Fredrik Ljungberg 76 Halftime: 1-0 Attendance: 38,009

IN VIGO: Celta Vigo O Racing Lens O Attendance: 27,000 IN PALMA DE MALLORCA: Real Mallorca 1 Galatasaray 4 Scorers: Real Mallorca - Lauren Bisan 78

Galatasaray - Arif Erdem 44 Emre Belozoglu 48, Hakan Sukur 58, Okan Buruk 65 Halftime: 0-1 Attendance: 20,000

Beckham goes hairless!

LONDON, March 19: David Beckham, the star of Manchester United football club and one half of Britain's most highprofile celebrity couple, made the front pages of tabloid newspapers Saturday -- by having his head shaved, reports AFP.

Beckham, whose wife Victoria is better known as "Posh Spice" from the Spice Girls pop group, kept his new hairstyle under a cap as he arrived Friday at a hotel ahead of the European champion's match against Leicester City.

But that failed to stop the Sun and the Mirror dedicating their front pages to computer simulations of how Beckham would look.

The newspapers said he was fed up with his bleached blonde locks falling into his eyes and had paid 300 pounds (500 euros, dollars) for the haircut.

He was to reveal the new style when he takes to the field for the match on Saturday.

Serie A

Inter hopes jolted

ROME, March 19: Inter Milan's hopes of winning the Italian title all but disappeared here Saturday when their inability to defend a lead again cost them two points, reports

Inter had to settle for a 1-1 draw at home at the San Siro to unheralded Bologna just a week after conceding two late goals against Lazio. That match finished 2-2 but several times this season Inter have conceded vital goals in the closing minutes. Three minutes after the in-

terval Inter took the lead with their prolific Uruguayan striker Alvaro Recoba cracking home a fierce shot direct from a free kick. Recoba has shone during the

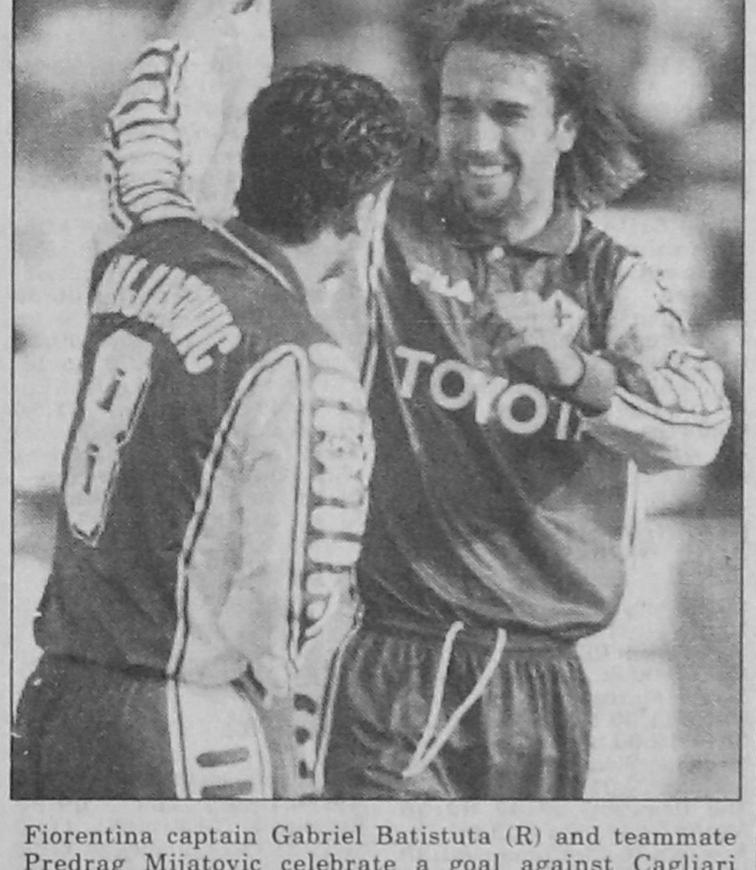
long-term absence of Brazilian star Ronaldo and again impressed with Inter also forced to do without world record 50 million dollar signing Christian

But, prompted by Swedish duo Kennet Andersson and Klas Ingesson and former Italy striker Giuseppe Signori, Bologna hauled themselves back into the match and their persistence paid off six minutes from time when defender Michele Paramatti headed home a Signori corner.

Earlier Fiorentina raised their morale ahead of a do-ordie week in the Champions League by beating Cagliari 2-0. Goals from Argentinian tal-

isman Gabriel Batistuta and Yugoslav striker Predrag Mijatovic were enough for the Florence outfit and worsened the plight of the relegation-threatened Sardinians.

Fiorentina must beat French outfit Bordeaux and hope defending champions Manchester United defeat Valencia of Spain in midwerk if they are to reach the quarter-finals of Europe's premier club tournament



Predrag Mijatovic celebrate a goal against Cagliari during their Serie A fixture on March 18.

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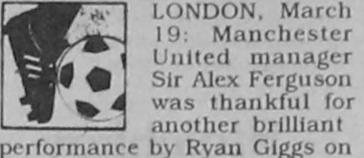
14 Apple

-Internet photo

Manchester United's David Beckham spreads his hands for joy as his teammates rush towards him to congratulate after he has scored against Leicester in their Premiership encounter on March 18. -AFP photo

Premiership

Giggs delivers again



Sir Alex Ferguson another brilliant performance by Ryan Giggs on Saturday after his side won 2-0 at Leicester to open up a sevenpoint lead at the top of the Premiership, reports AFP.

Giggs was outstanding in Wednesday's 3-1 home win over Italian giants Fiorentina which saw the Treble winners qualify for the Champions League quarter-finals. And Ferguson was delighted

with the way the Welsh winger once again breathed life into United's attacks after a dour first half hour. Giggs played a major part in

setting up goals for the newly shaven-headed David Beckham and Dwight Yorke - his fifth in the last three games. "The first goal set our game

off because we had not performed that well in the early stages," said Ferguson. "We found it difficult to get hold of the ball and Leicester showed great commitment.

"But once we got that goal I felt we were quite comfortable. Giggs sparked us into life with his breaks from midfield when we were looking a bit pedantic. "He looked particularly dangerous on the day. When he attacks defenders, they don't like

LONDON, March it but then he's atways been capable of doing that.

> "I also think though that he's easier in his mind because he's not got the worry of the hamstring problem and his exercises of the last three or four months have really helped Ferguson fielded his

strongest side and chose not to reshuffle his pack after the European game in midweek. "I did think about changing

the team," he added. "But at this time of the season we will have to play the same team after some European games and I had to get the message to the players that it can be done.

"But in all fairness they had played so well on Wednesday that the team picked itself." Leicester manager Martin

O'Neill was disappointed at not giving United a tougher match. He said: "We needed to go for it in the second half and since I've been here we've always managed to get a tempo up. "But that didn't happen in

the second half and that was a big disappointment for me. I wanted our boys to go out and play without fear of losing but we never really threatened their goal.

"Stan Collymore did fine but there were not too many over the 90 minutes who did brillliantly.

Beckham helped Manchester United on their way to victory with a trademark free-kick.

The England midfielder. sporting his new 300 pound (480 dollar) crew-cut, curled home in the 33rd minute after Ryan Giggs had been felled. United had further chances

before Yorke's 83rd minute goal ended Leicester's hopes. United are now on 64 points,

seven more than second-placed Leeds who play Wimbledon on Sunday Michael Owen was back in business for Liverpool, the Eng-

land striker's brilliant finish breaking the deadlock against Derby in a 2-0 win. Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier was beaming about Owen's performance and handed out a warning to Premiership de-

fences by declaring that the England striker has yet to reach his peak after returning from injury. "When he is back to his top level he is an extremely, ex-

tremely clinical player in his finish, which is one of the problems we have at the moment. "He's looking sharper - he

was sharper today than last Wednesday.

"So he's getting better." Titi Camara doubled Liverpool's advantage four minutes from time to put Houllier's team four points behind Leeds and two ahead of Chelsea who could only manage a goalless draw

minutes with 10 men after Croatian international Igor Stimac was sent off for two bookable offences, but Chelsea could not make the breakthrough. Kevin Davies scored both goals for Southampton in their

2-0 victory against Aston Villa

with West Ham at Upton Park.

West Ham played the final 20

at The Dell - a vital boost to Glenn Hoddle's side's hopes of avoiding the drop. The Saints are now seven points clear of third-from-bottom Bradford, whose chances of avoiding relegation suffered a

Highfield Road. Belgian striker Cedric Roussel and Noel Whelan gave Coventry a two-goal lead before the interval.

serious blow in a 4-0 defeat at

John Eustace and Peruvian striker Ysrael Zuniga wrapped up victory with both goal coming in the last five minutes. Allan Smart was the Wat-

ford hero as Sheffield Wednes-

day lost the 'wooden spoon' bat-

tle of the bottom two clubs at Vicarage Road. Smart struck with two minutes remaining to pull Graham Taylor's side to within three points of Wednesday. But both

clubs look doomed. Christian Ziege rescued a point for Middlesbrough with an 82nd minute equaliser as the north-east derby against Sun-

derland ended 1-1. Niall Quinn gave Peter Reid's side the lead with a goal in the 66th minute.

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21 | 22 | 23 27 |28 |29 38 | 39 | 40 CRYPTOQUIP

PZANUM BZDZMZH

LCEZA

JZUHE Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DIDN'T THE ILL RACECAR DRIVER JUST VISIT HIS DOCTOR

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals S The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

FOR A FUEL INJECTION?

another If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophie give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

19 (Reuters/Inter- next Tuesday and Valencia lose net): European at home to United. champions Man-CHAMPIONS chester United qualified for the last 4-1 in France. eight of the Champions League

Valencia romp, Porto miss chance

3-1 in a thrilling Group B match at Old Trafford on Wednesday. their place in the knockout phase when they led Sparta utes. Prague 2-0, blew their chance -

when they over-ran Fiorentina

at least for a week - after conceding two late goals to draw 2-2 with Sparta Prague. first place in Group A with a convincing 3-1 win over Hertha Berlin and Valencia increased their chances of progressing

from Group B with a 4-1 away win at Girondins Bordeaux. United can only miss out on top spot in the unlikely event that they lose by four goals in Valencia next Tuesday. A draw would see both teams through whatever Fiorentina do against Bordeaux because of the Spaniards' superior head-to-

head record against Fiorentina. With one round of matches still to be completed four teams are through to the quarter

finals: Barcelona, Manchester United, last season's beaten finalists Bayern Munich and Chelsea. United won a thrilling match at Old Trafford with goals from Andy Cole (20), Roy Keane (33) and Dwight Yorke (70). Cole's strike was special as

scoring record of 14 European Cup goals set by Denis Law. Gabriel Batistuta had put Fiorentina ahead with a brilliant, blistering 30-metre shot after 16 minutes but their hopes took a nosedive when Fabio Rossitto was sent off 28 minutes from the end for a hack on

39 he equalled the 30-year-old club

Yorke as United led 2-1. Manager Alex Ferguson said afterwards: "I think that is the best we have played this season. I am proud of the whole team.

With one match to play, United lead the table with 12 points, followed by Valencia on nine and Fiorentina on seven points. Bordeaux are last with one point.

Despite the defeat Fiorentina could still reach the

LONDON, March last eight if they beat Bordeaux

Fiorentina no match for MU

Valencia moved into second place after crushing Bordeaux

Miroslav Djukjic (41), Gaizka Mendieta (48pen), Kily Gonzalez (71) and Juan Sanchez (90) scored for Valencia. They But former champions Porto overwhelmed the home side -- who seemed all set to take whose only reply came from Sylvain Wiltord after 54 min-

men for the second week running when Nisa Saveljic was sent off early in the second half In other action on Wednes- -- giving away the penalty day night. Barcelona secured which allowed Mendieta to make it 2-0. Barcelona wrapped up first place in Group A with a comefrom-behind 3-1 victory over Hertha Berlin at the Nou Camp

Stadium, but Porto blew their

chance of making sure of a last

eight slot when they allowed

Sparta Prague to score twice in

pucho (64). But Sparta kept to impress."

Bordeaux were reduced to 10

the closing stages and force a 2utes to go thanks to goals from continue showing our best side Jorge Costa (16) and Nuno Ca- in Europe. We have to continue

their slim hopes of qualification alive with late goals from Vratislav Lokvenc (74) and Milan Fukal (90). The result left Barcelona

guaranteed first place on 13 points followed by Porto on seven and Sparta Prague on five. Hertha Berlin, on two points, cannot qualify. Next week's final Group A matches see Hertha host Porto

and Sparta Prague at home to Barcelona. A point will be enough for Porto who will go through anyway should Sparta fail to beat Barcelona.

Alex Alves headed Hertha ahead after seven minutes at the Nou Camp before Xavi Hernandez (10), Gabri Garcia (49) and Patrick Kluivert (82) hit back for Barcelona. Even though they have se-

cured first place in the group -and a more favourable quarterfinal draw -- coach Louis van Gaal said there would be no let-2 draw at the Das Antas Sta- up in their quest for the crown. "It's a question of image Porto led 2-0 with 26 min- above all," he said, "We have to



their Champions' League clash at Portugal on March 15. -Internet photo