

WICB boss to retire in May

ST JOHNS, Antigua, Mar 19: Stephen Camacho, the long-standing chief executive officer of the West Indies Cricket Board, will retire from his post on May 31 this year, reports AFP.

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 post.

Camacho is currently on sick leave and has gone to Britain to seek medical attention.

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

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 14,000-run 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. 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 Reifel 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, joined Love at the crease.

Almost 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 long-term 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 sparked 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	10	0	69	2
Singh	3	0	12	0
Tendulkar	9	1	43	0

INDIA

Ganguly c Pollock b Strydom	87
Tendulkar c Elworthy b Kallis	122
Dravid c Cronje b Boje	3
Azharuddin c and b Kallis	34
Jadeja b Pollock	5
Singh not out	10
Joshi b Pollock	4
Karim not out	2
Agarkar	
Kumble	
Srinath	
Extras (lb-3, nb-3, w-5)	11
Total (For 5 wickets 49.5 overs)	283
Fall of wickets: 1-153; 2-176; 3-256; 4-267; 5-273; 6-277	

Bowler

Singh not out	10
Joshi b Pollock	4

Result: India win by four wickets

Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar

India lead series 3-1.

Primera Liga

Barca now truly in business



MADRID, March 19: Barcelona did just enough to close the gap on Deportivo La Coruna at the Nou Camp on Saturday, beating the Primera Liga leaders 2-1 to move within two points of pole position, reports AFP.

In a match billed as a virtual title decider Barca turned in a solid if unspectacular showing and, as in their triumph at Bilbao a week earlier, made judi-

eight points clear of Barcelona yet history was not on their side 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 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

Portuguese star Luis Figo crossed for Kluijvert, 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.

Kluijvert played a short ball out to the right to Figo, who whipped over a curling cross and Kluijvert 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 Kluijvert'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 left-footed 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 Djairzinho 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.

Kluijvert 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, Valencia, who face a crucial Champions League match 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 Mendietta - also out of the United clash - thanked two goals from Miguel Angel Angulo for their point while Brazilian Catinha 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 0 Racing Lens 0
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 high-profile 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 AFP.

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 interval 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 Vieri.

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-or-die week in the Champions League by beating Cagliari 2-0.

Goals from Argentinian talisman Gabriel Batistuta and Yugoslav striker Predrag Mijatovic were enough for the Fiorentina 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 midweek if they are to reach the quarter-finals of Europe's premier club tournament.



Porto's Capucho (C) and Sparta Prague's Jiri Jarosik (R) are in pursuit of the ball during their Champions' League clash at Portugal on March 15. —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



LONDON, March 19: Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson was thankful for another brilliant performance by Ryan Giggs on Saturday after his side won 2-0 at Leicester to open up a seven-point 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 it but then he's always 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 him."

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."

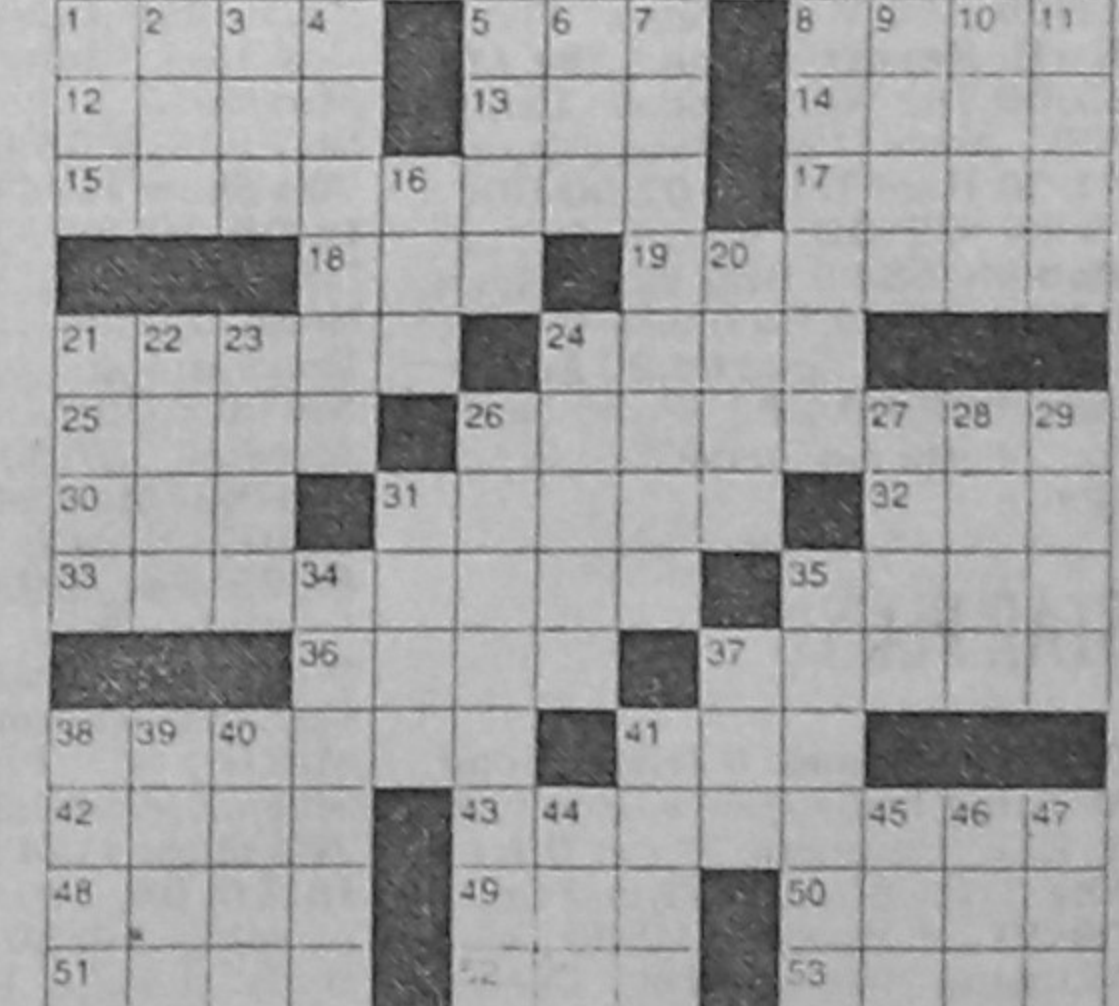
"But that didn't happen in the second half and that was a big disappointment for me. I wanted our boys to go out and play without fear of losing but we never really threatened their goal."

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

Fiorentina captain Gabriel Batistuta (R) and teammate Predrag Mijatovic celebrate a goal against Cagliari during their Serie A fixture on March 18. —Internet photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 Russian, pre-dissolution	3 Belaguered space-craft	21 Speed number
1 Leap	41 Jewel	4 Little rock	22 Inter-
5 Leap	42 It takes the cake	5 Will recipient	23 Jeans-maker
8 Pronoun	43 Veto type	6 Bobby of hockey	24 Ferber book
12 Mayberry lad	48 Gambling game	7 Animal protection equip-	26 His mom was
13 Blunder	49 Greek vowel	8 Apparition	27 Com-petent
14 Apple variety	50 PBS science show	9 Base-runner's goal	28 Persia, now
15 Fencing	51 Reaction re Yorick	10 Bradley or	29 St. Louis team
Equip-	52 Squabble	11 Shear with Khayyam	31 — gin fizz
17 He loves Latin	53 — a man	12 Shear with Khayyam	34 Jungle beasts
18 Tavern	54 Reaction re Yorick	13 Shear with Khayyam	35 Twins squad
19 Aspen clientele	55 — a man	14 Shear with Khayyam	37 Ball-bearing object
21 Teen's hangouts	56 — a man	15 Shear with Khayyam	38 Parlor piece
24 Refined chap	57 — a man	16 Ain't no more	39 Ellipse
25 Sheltered Terrier	58 — a man	17 Ain't no more	40 "Ship of Fools"
type	59 — a man	18 Ain't no more	41 Rodents
30 Kill	60 — a man	19 Ain't no more	42 Judge
31 Barber-shop request	61 — a man	20 Dangling locale	43 Lance
32 Car-front protector	62 — a man		44 Berenger or Bergeron
			45 Prior night
			47 A welcome sight



CRYPTOQUIP
E J N W P Z A N U M B Z D Z M Z H
D U W L C E Z A D L A E
E L B Z W E E J U E J Z J U X
U J Z U H L C P L M X
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DIDN'T THE ILL RACECAR DRIVER VISIT HIS DOCTOR FOR A FUEL INJECTION?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals S
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 locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.