REUTERS, Cape Town Disgraced former South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje has been voted Newsmaker-of-theyear 2000 by the Pretoria Press

The award is to be shared with members of the South African Air Force who were involved in flood rescue operations in Mozambique.

Chairman of the Pretoria Press Club, Yusuf Abramjee, said the award was in recognition of the amount of space and time Cronje's involvement in matchfixing had occupied in the South African media last year.

"This is a news award, not a merit award, and we've made that point very clear," Abramjee said.

Cronje has been banned for life by the United Cricket Board of South Africa following his admission last June that he took up to 100,000 USD from illegal bookmakers in return for agreeing to influence matches.

## Boris admits romantic liaison

REUTERS, Berlin

Former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker said on Monday that he had started a romance with rap singer who was once voted Germany's 'most erotic woman',

"It is a completely fresh clationship," Becker told ermany's RTL television which relationship," Becker Germany's RTL television which showed grainy pictures of the former tennis ace embracing singer Sabrina Setlur in a hotel.

But Becker, 33, who divorced his wife Barbara earlier this month after seven years of marriage said his relationship with Setlur, 27, was not behind the break-up.

"I only started seeing Sabrina a (ACB) after an obscene outburst few weeks ago, shortly before Christmas," he said. "The one has nothing to do with the other. Unfortunately it fits well with the story that because of the one the old relationship went wrong."

The three-times Wimbledon champion announced he was leaving his wife in early December and a financial and custody battle ensued.

The pair, who had two sons together, were divorced on January 15 in Munich and reached out-of-court financial settlement reported to be worth 14 million dollars that was finally sealed on Friday.

"It was certainly the worst time of my life. Anyone who has had to go through a divorce and particularly with children know what I am talking about. Now, happily, it has been sorted out."

German popular newspaper Bild said Becker had taken a paternity test in London to clear up reports alleging he had fathered a daughter with a Russian woman.

"That is all being taken care of," Becker said. "I am a serveand-volley man. I decided a few weeks ago to clear up issues on every front. After that 1 hope that others will dominate the headlines for a while."

Becker burst on to the world sports scene as a teenager, becoming the youngest man ever to win Wimbledon at the age of 17 in 1985.

## Nasser knows FROM PAGE 13

"People said before we went to lent performance last year here as Pakistan that we could not play spin but we coped with Saglain (Mushtaq)," said Hussain referring to England's recent 1-0 series win in Pakistan.

"But just because we've played tina Hingis of Switzerland last three Tests on the sub-continent in the last 15 years does not make us experts," the Essex batsman added.

England have won three Test nament, to be in Japan, in Tokyo, series in a row (Zimbabwe, West) except that it was snowing the first Indies and Pakistan) under the day that I arrived. It's a big differleadership of Hussain and coach ence coming from Australia," said Duncan Fletcher, with much being Testud, ranked 15th. made of the former Zimbabwe I have a very good memory, of

captain's input. Hussain though had a more course, of last year, and hopefully old-fashioned explanation for I'm gonna do as well as I did last England's recent run of good form. "It's all about individual performances - Michael Atherton batting for six hours. Darren Gough, Andy Caddick and the youthful energy of Michael Vaughan and Marcus Tresco-

thick." The improved form of allrounder Craig White was another important factor in England's progress according to Hussain "He's got two strings to his bow three if you include his fielding. His ability to reverse swing the old ball at 90 miles per hour is a great asset for any captain."

SQUAD Nasser Hussain (captain), Michael Atherton, Jason Brown, Andrew Caddick, Robert Croft, Ashlev Giles, Darren Gough, Graeme Hick, Matthew Hoggard, Paul Nixon, Alex Stewart, Graham Thorps Marcus Trescuthick, Michard Vaughan, Craig White.

# Cronje named South Africa's BCCI ready to face Azhar

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket chiefs on Tuesday scoffed at former captain Mohammad Azharuddin's decision to and transparent, Muthiah said: take legal action to revoke a life ban, saying they would fight the say. We will answer it in court. case in court.

levelled by Azharuddin in court. this country." We will defend our actions," said



AC MUTTIAH

AC Muthiah, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Azharuddin initiated legal pro-

Leg-spinner Shane Warne and the

was broadcast nationally during a

network with complaints follow-

ing Warne's outburst which the

Zimbabwe in a Carlton tri-series

match at Sydney Cricket Ground

clearly heard Warne utter a string

of obscenities at Stuart Carlisle

after the batsman had twice hit

The remark was picked up by a

ACB chief executive Malcolm

"I will discuss both the nature

of the comments with Shane and

the fact that they were put to air

with Channel Nine to seek to pre-

vent a repeat of this situation,"

spur of the moment comments

Sandrine Testud got off to a flying

start towards repeating her excel-

she knocked Kristina Brandi out of

Pan Pacific Open tennis tourna-

The French fifth seed, losing fi-

nalist to world number one Mar-

year, needed just one hour to pull

off a 6-0, 6-4 win over the 42nd-

"I'm really enjoying this tour-

"But I really like the court here,

Seventh seed Lisa Raymond

was an easy 6-1, 6-4 winner over

fellow American Lilia Osterloh,

while Tatiana Panova of Russia

brushed aside Tathiana Garbin of

made to struggle before narrowly

surviving a 140-minute battle

against up-and-coming Daja Be-

danova of the Czech Republic for

Asagoe of Japan posted a 6-2, 6-4

win to gain sweet revenge for her

loss to Canada's Sonya Jeyaseelan

who stopped Asagoe making the

main draw at the Australian Open

Testud, finalist at Canberra earlier

this month, in the first five games.

during which Brandi took only six

points -- five of them given by

errors off the French woman.

Everything went smoothly with

Earlier in the day, Shinobu

5-7, 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/3) victory.

Cara Black of Zimbabwe was

Speed said he wanted to prevent dent.

phere of any sporting contest, battle."

stump microphone and broadcast

any repeat of the incident.

Speed said Monday.

Tennis

AFP. Tokyo

ment on Tuesday.

ranked American.

Italy 6-3, 6-1.

last season.

Fans watching Australia thrash

ACB said it "greatly regretted".

Viewers deluged the television

Nine Network will have to answer

to the Australian Cricket Board ted.

Cricket

match here on Sunday.

AFP, Sydney

him for sixes.

the probe against him was not fair bookmakers.

"We will answer the allegations He has gone to court as a citizen of

The case, filed at a civil court in books as the only cricketer in the the cricketer's home city of Hyderabad, opened on Tuesday with judge Shyamsunder Rao asking the BCCI, Muthiah and Madhavan to reply to the charges by February

Azharuddin's lawyers wanted the judge to dispose off the case quickly so that their client could be available for the upcoming home series against Australia, starting on February 27.

"We have taken the first steps towards fighting the injustice meted out to Azharuddin," lawyer T Jagdeeshan told AFP. We will seek revocation of the

ban as my client is innocent and the BCCI has not followed proper legal procedure in taking action against him," he said. The BCCI banned Azharuddin

and former Test star Ajay Sharma for life and suspended Ajay Jadeja and Manoj Prabhakar for five years after they were found guilty of wrongdoing by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

comments in this category.

The BCCI's own internal in-

"Nevertheless last night's

community; this should not have very seriously.

cricket's greatest Test wicket-taker the microphone.

comments no doubt caused of-

happened and is greatly regret-

heard in viewers' homes, but he

that's the way it goes," Australian

that would be best left on the field.

gret that it got into the homes of

apologised Monday for the inci-

Sandrine's solid start

the fifth game thanks to Brandi's

ond set before breaking back in the match.

game, allowing Testud to regain good," said Testud.

"I thought it was something

"I was disappointed and I re-

An embarrassed Nine Network

network's director of sport Gary on the field.

did not apologise.

some viewers."

be broadcast.

in the emotion-charged atmos- comments were said in the heat of Hobart.

made and I would place Shane's spokesman said there would be no man.

ceedings on Monday against the quiry, headed by Madhavan, a BCCI, Muthiah and special inves- former CBI director, endorsed the tigator K Madhavan for banning CBI's charge that Azharuddin was him for life after he was accused of involved in match-fixing and found Sharma, Prabhakar and On Azharuddin's charge that Jadeja guilty of associating with

All four cricketers have denied "He might say what he wants to the charges against them, but the 37-year-old Azharuddin is the first "He is at liberty to go to court. to challenge the decision in court.

If the ban is not revoked, Azharuddin will go into the record



AZHARUDDIN

world to be stranded on 99 Tes He has also played more one

dayers (334) than any other player in the world.

Speed said players were aware

But there is a widely held ethos

that indiscretions should be "left

the complaints the Australian

The incident follows a string of

others involving Warne, including

nurse last year that he had har-

assed her sexually on the tele-

Last season Warne was ac-

"I had more tough time in the

set pretty easily. I was playing well,

for circumspection when close to

of their responsibilities as role

change to their use.

fence to many members of the models and took these obligations

At Sydney Airport Monday be- on the field" and some players

fore leaving for Hobart where have trouble coming to terms with

Australia again play Zimbabwe on intrusive technology -- even

Tuesday, Warne also said he re- though the stump mike has been

"It was definitely not our in- cused of the infamous "can't bowl,

Testud found her way tougher the momentum as the French

soon afterwards and had to re- woman stormed back from a triple

cover from a 0-3 down in the sec- break point at 0-40 to serve out for

double fault on an advantage second set, because I won the first

serve again at love in the seventh. I was controlling the game very

A disappointed Brandi lost her I didn't make many mistakes, and

gretted the comments had been used for more than 20 years.

## venue AFP, New Dellii The opening match of Australia's

officials said on Tuesday.

A, originally scheduled to be played in Baroda from February 17-19, has been switched to the central Indian city of Nagpur.

been damaged in the earthquake, match so soon after the tragedy," Lefe said.

swapped, with Calcutta now

The tourists, who arrive on February 15, will play three Tests, It's understood that following | five one-dayers and three warmup matches during the seven-"I was a bit disappointed but players were reminded of the need | week tour.

REVISED SCHEDULE

Feb 22-24: Three-dayer v Bombay the accusation by a young English at the Cricket Club of India, Bom-

Feb 27-Mar 3: First Test at Wank hede Stadium, Bombay He has also been warned over | Mar 6-8: Three-dayer v Board his perceived ungentlemanly and President's team at New Delhi

"We're sorry it got to air," the behaviour towards other players | cutta Mar 18-22: Third Test at Madras Mar 25: First one-day internal tional at Bangalore

teammate and Queensland fast | tional at Pune "We know Shane would never bowler Scott Muller during the Mar 31: Third one-day interna-"I am conscious of the fact that say that deliberately and that his second Test against Pakistan in tional at Indore

Apr 3: Fourth one-day interna-Warne denied he had said it | tional at Visakapatnam

which are later regretted can be mikes would stay and a Nine taken by a Nine Network camera- at Goa

## Clarke becomes Yorkshire coach

Former Australian Test fast bowler and current Western Australian coach Wayne Clark has accepted an offer to coach county side Yorkshire from the start of this English season.

## Zidane unfurls giant portrait

France and Juventus playmaker Zinedine Zidane on Monday unveiled a giant-sized portrait of himself in his native city of Marseille.

AFP, Marsellle

A proud Zidane, who unveiled the full colour photo which replaces a giant monochrome photo erected for the 1998 World Cup said: "I'm very proud. It's a big honour for me. More than anything I'm happy that this photo is still here."

The giant-sized black and white photo of Zidane which was originally erected was taken down in November after it was daubed with red paint by vandals.

Initially, it was only supposed to hang for a month for the duration of the 1998 World Cup.

However after Zidane inspired France to victory, the poster became one of the southern port city's main attractions.



Japan sticks to its guns

Japanese for domestic promo-

ahead of Korea in Japanese-

tional purposes.

## Quake forces change to

Indian tour next month has been shifted out of the western state of Gujarat where an earthquake has claimed at least 100,000 lives.

The tour opener against India

"Even though Baroda has not it was not proper to hold a cricket Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jayawant Lele also confirmed the venues

of two Test matches had been holding the second Test and Madras the third.

Feb 17-19: Three-dayer v India A at Nagpur

seemingly excessively aggressive | Mar 11-15: Second Test at Cal-

tention for that type of language to can't throw" sledge against his | Mar 28: Second one-day interna-

Burns confirmed the stump and the blame was eventually Apr 6: Fifth one-day international

AFP, Perth

Western Australian Cricket Association confirmed Monday Clark, 47, who played in 10 Tests in the late 1970s.

## ACROSS 1 Pouch 4 Chuck lonian pace 13 Anger 16 Crony 17 Lucy show 20 Bit of 22 Pinch 24 Attack 32 Funt's directive 33 Vacation-34 Expert 36 "--Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" 37 Denominations 39 Shelly

opus

Keats

elegizing

FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA APAN But JAWOC's executive agreed language application forms for

at a weekend meeting that they. World Cup finals tickets, promptreserved the right to switch the ing their South Korean counter-

order in the country names in parts to file protests with FIFA.

JAWOC finally decided to drop the country names altogether on JAWOC tried to put Japan the basis of an option offered by FIFA, JAWOC spokesman Ko Yamaguchi said earlier.

"We have always respected the official designation in English," he

But Yamaguchi said that when the tournament was awarded to the two countries, some flexibility was offered. "At that time, FIFA said that it could be either Japan/Korea or

Korea/Japan when the organisers use it in their own country and in their own language," he said. However in Cannes, FIFA secretary general Michel Zen-Ruffinen told AFP Monday JAWOC

had been told that they could not change the name. "The title is the 2002 FIFA

World Cup Korea/Japan and that is that," he said. "I sent a letter to them last Friday to tell them of FIFA's decision.

# JAWOC to follow Euro 2000

AFP, Tokyo

AFP, Tokyo

with the event's title.

the country names.

Japanese organisers of the 2002

World Cup finals, to be co-hosted

with South Korea, remained defi-

ant Monday over an order from

football authorities not to tamper

kit on ticket sales, the Japanese

organising committee, JAWOC,

dropped the names of the host

by world football governing body

FIFA, should be "2002 FIFA World

Cup Korea/Japan." An English

version of the brochure included

been fierce rivals to secure the

finals before both were awarded

the event in 1996, had made an

agreement on the official English

The two neighbours, who had

The official name, designated

countries from the event's title.

In a Japanese-language press

The Japanese organisers of the 2002 World Cup finals to be cohosted with South Korea unveiled on Monday details of the ticket application procedures, which are on the same lines as those used for the Euro 2000 tournament.

Shinichiro Mizono, in charge of ticketing for the Japanese organising committee, JAWOC, said they expected tickets to be about seven-and-a-half times oversubscribed.

Five million people are expected to apply for the 675,000 tickets to be sold domestically for the 32 World Cup matches played in Japan.

To prevent tickets from ending up on the black market, they can be sold to applicants who clearly identify themselves, and for use only by the designated buyers, Mizono said. "We are considering printing

the names of winners (in the application lottery) on tickets," Mizono said. "We might also ask for proof of identity on entering stadia but this would be difficult in such cases as when the kick-off time is near." Each applicant would be al-

lowed to apply for one ticket per match by mail or via the Internet matches.

the 2000 European Championships, hosted jointly by Holland and Belgium.

The allocation of World Cup tickets caused chaos at the 1998 tournament in France, with a bulk of tickets handled on the black

FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA APAN

market and failing to reach buyers Sherpur cricket who had reserved them.

The ticketing fiasco, which af- UNB, sherpur fected fans in Japan as well as Britain, Holland, Germany and Riding on a brilliant century by tickets domestically.

the online ticket sales were tried at JAWOC and 675,000 by FIFA 27.3 overs.

Of the 675,000 tickets to be sold by JAWOC, 45,000 will go to official sponsors and 630,000 will be sold elsewhere. For 90 percent of the balance

of 630,000 tickets for general sales, applications will be made between February 15 and March 14 and the remaining 10 percent will go on sale after the final fixture draw on December 2 in Pusan, South Ko-In the initial sales, 221,000

tickets will be sold to the general public, 157,000 to the "football family" and 126,000 to residents of the 10 communities hosting World Cup matches. The football family includes registered football teams, sta-

dium-going supporters, coaches, referees and officials registered with the national association. Ticket prices range from 7,000

ven (60 dollars) to 84,000 yen (720 dollars) for the final.

Belgium, was partly blamed on a Gulzar, Maitribari Cricket Club decision by the French organisers (MCC) outplayed Tinani Red by to sell 65 percent of the 2.6 million 174 runs in the First Division cricket league here today.

In the 2002 finals, 1.35 million Batting first MCC made 260 for and request tickets for six different tickets will be sold for the 32 four in 38 overs with Gulzar makmatches in Japan. Of these, ing 102 and Sumon 85. In reply, The strict application rule and 675,000 are to be sold in Japan by Tinani Red were all out for 86 in

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 41 Deceived DOWN 19 Grease 43 Actross 1 Constel- 21 Vegas Journa lation поницы 7 Unaltered 44 Egress 23 Vigor 11 Hamble- 46 Upper 25 Actress nent 2 Florentine Kudrow 25 | 26 | 27 river 26 Jai 3 Dorm 28 29 30 follower denizen 27 Ever-50 Revion 4 Lagniappe greens 15 From the 53 Com-5 Speedy 28 Low monest steed voice English 6 Down-29 Writer Wister word stairs, 55 Relaxnautically 30 Tex-Mex Lawless 47 48 49 ation 7 CBS news entree 18 Wild West 56 Work show 31 Mme., in 50 |51 |52 Monterrey in the 8 Wine mailimproves 35 Peculiar hardware room with this 38 Kinsey 57 Pitch 9 TGIFers subject 58 Location dread 40 Mined-59 Vacillate 10 Detergent over CRYPTOQUIP ambush 60 Possess brand matter 28 Bar array 61 Young 12 ABC news 42 Same as before

45 Liquely

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47 Greet

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link

Solution time: 24 mins.

RNXHT

GENBWKKNE'K usted?" 49 Clarinet-BVPNEDFW TWKKWEF DK GD. ist's Saturday's Cryptoquip: MAYBE EATING AS sliver 50 Donkey YOU STUDY CAN BE CONSIDERED CRAMMING. CIOIOIKI DE S HAIMAN 51 Promise

> The Cryptoguip 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.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals S



Frenchwoman Sandrine Testud in action against American Kristine Brandi at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday.