

Cronje named South Africa's newsmaker of the year

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

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'.

BCCI ready to face Azhar

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi India's cricket chiefs on Tuesday scoffed at former captain Mohammad Azharuddin's decision to take legal action to revoke a life ban, saying they would fight the case in court.



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

ceedings on Monday against the BCCI. Muthiah and special investigator K Madhavan for banning him for life after he was accused of match-fixing.

On Azharuddin's charge that the probe against him was not fair and transparent, Muthiah said: "He might say what he wants to say. We will answer it in court."

"He is at liberty to go to court. He has gone to court as a citizen of this country."

The case, filed at a civil court in the cricketer's home city of Hyderabad, opened on Tuesday with judge Shyam Sunder Rao asking the BCCI, Muthiah and Madhavan to reply to the charges by February 14.

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.

quiry, headed by Madhavan, a former CBI director, endorsed the CBI's charge that Azharuddin was involved in match-fixing and found Sharma, Prabhakar and Jadhava guilty of associating with bookmakers.

All four cricketers have denied the charges against them, but the 37-year-old Azharuddin is the first to challenge the decision in court.

If the ban is not revoked, Azharuddin will go into the record books as the only cricketer in the



AZHARUDDIN world to be stranded on 99 Test appearances. He has also played more one-dayers (314) than any other player in the world.

Zidane unfurls giant portrait

AFP, Marseille

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

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.



French soccer star Zinedine Zidane standing in front of a mural bearing his image in Marseille on January 29.

Quake forces change to venue

AFP, New Delhi

The opening match of Australia's Indian tour next month has been shifted out of the western state of Gujarat where an earthquake has claimed at least 100,000 lives, officials said on Tuesday.

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

"Even though Baroda has not been damaged in the earthquake, it was not proper to hold a cricket match so soon after the tragedy," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jayawant Lele said.

Lele also confirmed the venues of two Test matches had been swapped, with Calcutta now holding the second Test and Madras the third.

The tourists, who arrive on February 15, will play three Tests, five one-dayers and three warm-up matches during the seven-week tour.

REVISED SCHEDULE

- Feb 17-19: Three-dayer v India A at Nagpur
Feb 22-24: Three-dayer v Bombay at the Cricket Club of India, Bombay
Feb 27-Mar 3: First Test at Wankhede Stadium, Bombay
Mar 6-8: Three-dayer v Board President's team at New Delhi
Mar 11-15: Second Test at Calcutta
Mar 18-22: Third Test at Madras
Mar 25: First one-day international at Bangalore
Mar 28: Second one-day international at Pune
Mar 31: Third one-day international at Indore
Apr 3: Fourth one-day international at Visakapatnam
Apr 6: Fifth one-day international at Goa

Clarke becomes Yorkshire coach

AFP, Perth

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.

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

Both to be questioned

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Leg-spinner Shane Warne and the Nine Network will have to answer to the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) after an obscene outburst was broadcast nationally during a match here on Sunday.

Viewers deluged the television network with complaints following Warne's outburst which the ACB said it "greatly regretted".

Fans watching Australia thrash 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 him for sixes.

The remark was picked up by a stump microphone and broadcast live.

ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed said he wanted to prevent any repeat of the incident.

"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 prevent a repeat of this situation," Speed said Monday.

"I am conscious of the fact that in the emotion-charged atmosphere of any sporting contest, spur of the moment comments which are later regretted can be made and I would place Shane's

comments in this category.

"Nevertheless last night's comments no doubt caused offence to many members of the community; this should not have happened and is greatly regretted."

At Sydney Airport Monday before leaving for Hobart where Australia again play Zimbabwe on Tuesday, Warne also said he regretted the comments had been heard in viewers' homes, but he did not apologise.

"I was a bit disappointed but that's the way it goes," Australian cricket's greatest Test wicket-taker said.

"I thought it was something that would be best left on the field. I was disappointed and I regret that it got into the homes of some viewers."

An embarrassed Nine Network apologised Monday for the incident.

"We're sorry it got to air," the network's director of sport Gary Burns said.

"It was definitely not our intention for that type of language to be broadcast."

"We know Shane would never say that deliberately and that his comments were said in the heat of battle."

Burns confirmed the stump mikes would stay and a Nine spokesman said there would be no

change to their use.

Speed said players were aware of their responsibilities as role models and took these obligations very seriously.

But there is a widely held ethos that indiscretions should be "left on the field" and some players have trouble coming to terms with intrusive technology -- even though the stump mike has been used for more than 20 years.

It's understood that following the complaints the Australian players were reminded of the need for circumspection when close to the microphone.

The incident follows a string of others involving Warne, including the accusation by a young English nurse last year that he had harassed her sexually on the telephone.

He has also been warned over his perceived ungentlemanly and seemingly excessively aggressive behaviour towards other players on the field.

Last season Warne was accused of the infamous "can't bowl, can't throw" sledge against his teammate and Queensland fast bowler Scott Muller during the second Test against Pakistan in Hobart.

Warne denied he had said it and the blame was eventually taken by a Nine Network cameraman.

Sandrine's solid start

Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

Sandrine Testud got off to a flying start towards repeating her excellent performance last year here as she knocked Kristina Brandt out of Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament on Tuesday.

The French fifth seed, losing finalist to world number one Martina Hingis of Switzerland last year, needed just one hour to pull off a 6-0, 6-4 win over the 42nd-ranked American.

"I'm really enjoying this tournament, to be in Japan, in Tokyo, except that I was snowing the first day that I arrived. It's a big difference coming from Australia," said Testud, ranked 15th.

"But I really like the court here, I have a very good memory, of course, of last year, and hopefully I'm gonna do as well as I did last year."

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 Italy 6-3, 6-1.

Cara Black of Zimbabwe was made to struggle before narrowly surviving a 140-minute battle against up-and-coming Daja Bedanova of the Czech Republic for 5-7, 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/3) victory.

Earlier in the day, Shinobu 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 last season.

Everything went smoothly with Testud, finalist at Canberra earlier this month, in the first five games, during which Brandt took only six points -- five of them given by errors off the French woman.

Testud found her way tougher soon afterwards and had to recover from a 0-3 down in the second set before breaking back in the fifth game thanks to Brandt's double fault on an advantage point.

A disappointed Brandt lost her serve again at love in the seventh game, allowing Testud to regain

the momentum as the French woman stormed back from a triple break point at 0-40 to serve out for the match.

"I had more tough time in the second set, because I won the first set pretty easily. I was playing well, I didn't make many mistakes, and I was controlling the game very good," said Testud.



Frenchwoman Sandrine Testud in action against American Kristina Brandt at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday.

Japan sticks to its guns

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese organisers of the 2002 World Cup finals, to be co-hosted with South Korea, remained defiant Monday over an order from football authorities not to tamper with the event's title.

In a Japanese-language press kit on ticket sales, the Japanese organising committee, JAWOC, dropped the names of the host countries from the event's title.

The official name, designated by world football governing body FIFA, should be "2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan." An English version of the brochure included the country names.

The two neighbours, who had been fierce rivals to secure the finals before both were awarded the event in 1996, had made an agreement on the official English title.

But JAWOC's executive agreed at a weekend meeting that they reserved the right to switch the

order in the country names in Japanese for domestic promotional purposes.

JAWOC tried to put Japan ahead of Korea in Japanese-

parts to file protests with FIFA. JAWOC finally decided to drop the country names altogether on the basis of an option offered by FIFA, JAWOC spokesman Ko Yamaguchi said earlier.

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

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."

language application forms for World Cup finals tickets, prompting their South Korean counter-



JAWOC to follow Euro 2000

AFP, Tokyo

The Japanese organisers of the 2002 World Cup finals to be co-hosted 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 allowed to apply for one ticket per match by mail or via the Internet and request tickets for six different matches.

The strict application rule and the online ticket sales were tried at

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



market and failing to reach buyers who had reserved them.

The ticketing fiasco, which affected fans in Japan as well as Britain, Holland, Germany and Belgium, was partly blamed on a decision by the French organisers to sell 65 percent of the 2.6 million tickets domestically.

In the 2002 finals, 1.35 million tickets will be sold for the 32 matches in Japan. Of these, 675,000 are to be sold in Japan by JAWOC and 675,000 by FIFA

abroad.

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 Korea.

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, stadium-going supporters, coaches, referees and officials registered with the national association.

Ticket prices range from 7,000 yen (60 dollars) to 84,000 yen (720 dollars) for the final.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Pouch 41 Deceived 43 Actress 44 Unaltered 46 Upper 47 Hambletonian 48 Pace 49 Anger 50 Lab 51 Assistant? 52 From the top 53 Crony 54 Lawless role 55 Wild West show 56 Bit of hardware 57 Pinch 58 Attack 59 Ambush 60 Bar array 61 Fun's directive 62 Expert 63 Kissing Santa Claus 64 Denominations 65 Shelly opus
DOWN 1 Constellation 2 Florentine river 3 Dorm denizen 4 Lagnappe 5 Steady voice 6 Downstairs, nautically 7 CBS news show 8 Wine improves with this 9 TGIFers' dread 10 Delergent brand 12 ABC news show 19 Grease 21 Vignettes 23 Vigor 25 Kudrow 26 Jal 27 Evergreen 28 Low voice 29 Writer 30 Tex-Mex entree 31 Mme. in Monterey 35 Peculiar 38 Kinsey subject 40 Mimed-over matter 42 Same as before 45 Liquefy 47 Greet 48 Comed 49 Clarinetist's silver 50 Donkey 51 Promise 52 Man-mouse link 54 Sea eagle

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-65.

CRYPTOQUIP D R N X H T V H R V C K V K X O W F Y V F V O V F Y G E N B W K K N E K P W E C B V P N E D F W T W K K W E F D K G D Saturday's Cryptopuz: MAYBE EATING AS YOU STUDY CAN BE CONSIDERED CRAMMING Today's Cryptopuz Clue: K equals S The Cryptopuz 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.