Court stays **BCCSLAGM**

AFP, Colombo

A court Monday suspended the scheduled annual general meeting of the crisis-ridden Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) amid an intense battle for its leadership.

The Colombo District Court issued an order restraining the BCCSL from going ahead with plans to hold its annual election of office bearers on March 31 following a petition from a candidate for the coveted presidency.

A candidate, Sumith Perera, had petitioned the court that the outgoing board members had not followed the correct procedure in sending out notices for the March 31 annual general meeting.

The incumbent president of the BCCSL, Thilanga Sumathipala, said they hoped to file their answers in court by Friday and have the matter cleared up.

Meanwhile, BCCSL Monday sacked its chief executive officer, Dhammika Ranatunga, following a four-month investigation into a number of allegations against him.

Ranatunga, the brother of Sri Lanka's world cup winning skipper Arjuna, was dismissed and replaced by former Test skipper Anura Thennakoon, the Board

Sumathipala said there were five main charges against Ranatunga, but declined to give details. "There were some allegations of a financial nature, but we can't give details," he said. Ranatunga was not immediately available for comment.

Blame it on home crowd

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore said that lack of crowd support contributed to the home team's humiliating defeat in the recent three-Test series against England.

"The lack of local support for the Test series had a lot to do with the team morale. The Sri Lankan spectators were outnumbered in the Test series by England supporters," Whatmore said. "That had an effect on the players."

Sri Lanka lost the three-Test series to England by a margin of 2-1. In contrast, Sri Lanka have won the first two one-day internationals in the three match series that will end with the final game here Tuesday.

"The crowd support we got in Dambulla (the venue of the first one-day) was fantastic. There was a lot of English fans at the R. Premadasa vesterday, but the locals were also there in numbers and I was very happy," Whatmore said.

"It was harder coming back from the Test defeats and to go into the one-dayers. Definitely for me, I was worried the first time we were playing at Dambulla.

"The bowlers did the job and the fielders backed them up well and allowed the batsmen to come back after they were a little bit down in confidence. That win sort of helped to keep them down a bit and had a reverse effect on us, said Whatmore.

The Sri Lanka coach praised Mahela Jayawardene for his century that paved the way for their series clinching 66 runs win at the R. Premadasa Stadium on Sunday. "Mahela played a fantastic in-

nings. He played superbly. It came at a time when we desperately needed it.

He said that his team was looking forward to a clean sweep at the SSC where the third and final one-day international takes place on Tuesday.

Reefat

FROM PAGE 13

and Zia fourth respectively. Six players earned six points

each and finished between fifth to That series, which was to have go for the tournament, no one has tenth. They are: Khandkar Aminul featured India, Pakistan and Islam, Shawkat Hossain Pallab Bangladesh, was called off amid Tayebur Rahman Sumon, Kajol local media reports that India's Mahmud, Kazi Taher and Monifederal sports minister was against ruzzaman Khan. the national team's participation. Bukhatir said he could not dis-

Ahmedul Haque, Tanima Parveen and Sved Ruhul Kabir Shiplu finished 11th, 12th and 13th re spective having earned five-and-a-

half points each. Besides, Zakia Sultana, Nazrana Khan Iva and national sub-junior champion Minhazuddin Ahmed who earned five points apiece, were given special awards. A total of 15,000 taka was distributed among the winners.

NZ

FROM PAGE 13 Franklin NEW ZEALAND: First innings Richardson not out Bell not out

Extras: (lb-5, nb-2)

start his investigation. Total: (For no loss in 45 overs) 160 To bat: S Fleming, M Sinclair, by Jeff Reed, chief investigator of N Astle, C McMillan, A Parore, G | the anti-corruption unit, the Franklin.

Bradburn, D Tuffey, C Martin, J BCCSL said in a statement. Cricket sources said the two Bowler players will be questioned while Wagar the investigators are expected to Akbar seek assistance from several others Akram players who were in the team in Saglain 0 1994.



TIGERS AGAINST POLIO: BCB Eleven team members pose in front of a banner reading 'Bowl Out Polio' before the exhibition day-night on Tuesday.

About time Aussies U-turned

Cricket

World champions Australia face in the Tests, the left-handed another stiff challenge when they take on India in the second onedayer of the five-match series in the western city of Pune on Wednesday.

60 runs at Bangalore, the Australians are up against an Indian team high on confidence. It would require more than mere team kar. effort to lift the Aussies back into the reckoning for the limited-overs honours.

Flat pitches, huge crowd support, humid weather and three losses in a row (two Tests and a one-dayer) appeared to be taking their toll on the famed mental strength of the Australians.

Listless bowling and none-tooimpressive fielding during the one-day match in Bangalore were the match. big pointers.

under pressure," skipper Steve Waugh said after the loss at Bangalore, which also ended the team's 11-match winning streak. The batting collapses have been, where he was adjudged man-of-

The chief organiser of next

month's one-day cricket tourna-

ment in Sharjah said on Tuesday

the Indian government had yet to

say whether its national side

us anything," Abdul Rehman

Bukhatir, chief of the Cricketers'

Benefit Fund Series (CBFS), told

Emirates ambassador to New

Delhi met Indian foreign ministry

officials on Tuesday to request

that the Indian team be cleared to

play in the April 8-20 event also

sue was still under consideration.

Indian authorities said the is-

Doubts over India's participa-

tion arose after the government

cancelled a Test tour of Pakistan

late last year because of political

tensions over the disputed Hima-

cricket officials cancelled a pro-

posed one-day series in Sharjah in

cuss a possible replacement for

India in the Sharjah tournament

Condon coming

The International Cricket Council

(ICC) will question Sri Lanka's

World Cup winning skipper Ar-

juna Ranatunga and his deputy

Aravinda de Silva over allegations

that they took bribes to throw a

Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) said

64 | chief, Sir Paul Condon, will arrive

the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit

in the Lankan capital on Friday to

Condon will be accompanied

The Board of Control for

1994 Test match with India.

to Colombo

AFP, Colombo

The uncertainty increased after

aid of Indian earthquake victims Gulf emirate.

layan province of Kashmir.

last month.

Bukhatir and the United Arab

"I don't know. Nobody has told

Cricket

AGENCIES, undated

would take part.

Reuters in New Delhi.

involving Sri Lanka.

to make the series interesting.

Two win, the Aussies would Singh. have to follow Matthew Hayden's footsteps. After amassing 549 runs opener justified his team's faith in him by piling up 99 runs in the first-one-dayer. The Indians appear to be on a

roll. Their batsmen are in great Having lost the first match by form, particularly Venkataai Laxman, whose double century in the second Test match helped India win the series, and Sachin Tendul-

> Tendulkar is just 66 runs away from becoming the first batsman to score 10,000 runs in limitedovers cricket. He is also two wickets short of reaching the threefigure mark in his bowling record.

While that would be cause for celebration, the news that allrounder Virender Sehwag was pulled out of the rest of the series was disheartening on the eve of "He has fractured his thumb. It

"The later order didn't bat well needs an operation," Jaywant Lele, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said Tuesday. Sehwag, who injured his

thumb while fielding at Bangalore, the visitors' Achilles heels, and the the-match after making 58 runs

'We can't look for a replace-

He said he was worried by In-

ment before we get a yes or no. I

have been here for two days and I

message going around is not

participation, we will accept that

because it is a political thing and

something that concerns us di-

ahead with the limited-overs

tournament despite India's reluc-

with two teams or three," said

Bukhatir, chairman of CBFS which

been invited to replace India in the

refusal to participate in the meet,

the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

had requested its tour manage-

Following India's controversial

Zahid Noorani, the chief ex-

Sharjah," Bukhatir told AFP.

and extend the invitation.

"But if it about Sharjah, as

we can't do anything about it.

not take part.

don't know.

ble match-fixing.

good," he said.

tance to take part.

trend-would have to be reversed and taking three wickets, will be replaced by left-hander Yuvraj

Singh is in Dhaka and is expected to join the team for the third game of the series, in the central city of Indore of Saturday.

All-rounder Robin Singh was expected to replace Sehwag or Wednesday.

The remaining three matches are March 31 in Indore, April 3 in Visakhapatnam and April 6 in Goa. **TEAMS**

AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh (captain), Mark Waugh, Matthew Hay den, Ricky Ponting, Michael Bevan, Demien Martyn, Adam Gilchrist (vice captain wicketkeeper), Ian Harvey, Darren Lehmann, Shane Lee, Shane Warne, Andrew Symonds, Nathan Bracken, Damien Fleming, Gleen McGrath

INDIA: Saurav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Venkata Sai Laxman, Rahul Dravid, Hemang Badani, Vijay Dahiya (wicketkeeper), Ajit Agarkar, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Harbhajan Singh, Robin Singh, Dinesh Mongia. Sunil Joshi.

Umpires: I Shivram, S C Gupta (both from India).

India didn't say anything until it was clear that they would ecutive officer of CBFS has forwarded the financial details to New Zealand Cricket's (NZC) chief

executive Chris Doig. While NZC spokesman John Knowles confirmed the invitation had been extended, Doig declined to comment.

dian media reports that the government had refused permission "We have received an invitabecause of concerns that Sharjah tion," Knowles said. "It is an additournaments had links with possitional tour and it has to be discussed at the board level. Until "That is our concern. That is such time nothing will be made why the ambassador is here. The official.

The latest development came after the PCB announced it would "If it is because of Pakistan's not play India anywhere in the world in the future following their refusal to take part in the Sharjah

"We are doing our best to get some reports suggest, we have a New Zealand to Sharjah," Pakistan | players. right to know the reason. It's not team's media manager Farouq Mazhar told the Associated Press. fair to keep us in the dark about

"The invitation is for a 16-man tour party and we are keen to have However, Bukhatir vowed to go New Zealand in Sharjah. NZC has asked for the financial commit

ments from the organisers and it will be decided soon," Mazhar "Cricket will go on in Sharjah, Former Pakistani captain Asif Iqbal, who works as a CBFS coordinator, has been accused in

organises one-day matches in the various match-fixing probes of being a conduit of bookmakers. "With less than a fortnight to "If Asif is guilty in any way, he told us why India will not play in

would have been arrested by the police in the UAE long ago. But no Meanwhile, New Zealand has one has complained yet. Bukhatir revealed that the In-

ternational Cricket Council had decided to move the 2002 knockout tournament from India to Australia because of the current

"The future of cricket lay in ment to approach New Zealand Asia but we are giving it away on a minutes. platter," Bukhatir said.



WC QUALIFYING **FIXTURES**

Group One Russia v Faroe Islands Switzerland v Luxembourg Slovenia v Yugoslavia Group Two Andorra v Republic of Ireland Cyprus v Estonia Portugal v Netherlands Group Three Bulgaria v Northern Ireland Czech Republic v Denmark Group Four Slovakia v Azerbaijan Macedonia v Turkey Moldova v Sweden Group Five Poland v Armenia Wales v Ukraine

Belarus v Norway Group Six Scotland v San Marino Group Seven Liechtenstein v Bosnia Austria v Israel Group Eight Georgia v Romania Italy v Lithuania Group Nine Albania v England

Queensland keep title

AFP, Brisbane

Greece v Germany

Queensland captain Stuart Law | des. . refused to walk in an incident which led to Victoria captain Paul | famous for its Panama hats and Reiffel being fined for misconduct | stunning scenery, has seen its as the defending Sheffield Shield | football make a steady improvechampions claimed their fourth | ment over the last decade. title in seven years here Tuesday.

caught from a no-ball as Queensland crawled to 224 for six to win ten-team South American group by four wickets.

But it was an incident from Law's very first delivery which threatened to ignite the decider as the game threatened to slip away from Queensland, who began the final day at the relatively safe score of 137 for two.

Rivaldo reopens AC Milan talk

AFP, Milan

Barcelona's Brazilian playmaker Rivaldo has fuelled speculation of a move to Italian Serie A side AC Milan, the Italian sports press reported Tuesday.

In remarks reported in the Italian press Rivaldo said a transfer would suit both him and Barca.

"I would understand if they decided to let me go because of my age," he said. "Every year that passes my market value drops .. this way Barcelona could get lots of money and invest in younger

"I am 29 the time is right. It would be a good deal for everyone," said Rivaldo, who turns 29 next month.

Milan have had a longstanding interest in the former FIFA World Player of the Year.

Litmanen out of action

REUTERS, London

Liverpool's Finnish forward Jari Litmanen will be out of action for six weeks after sustaining a broken wrist in Saturday's international against England, Sky Sports has reported.

Litmanen suffered the injury early in the second half of the World Cup qualifier, wich England won 2-1, but played the entire 90

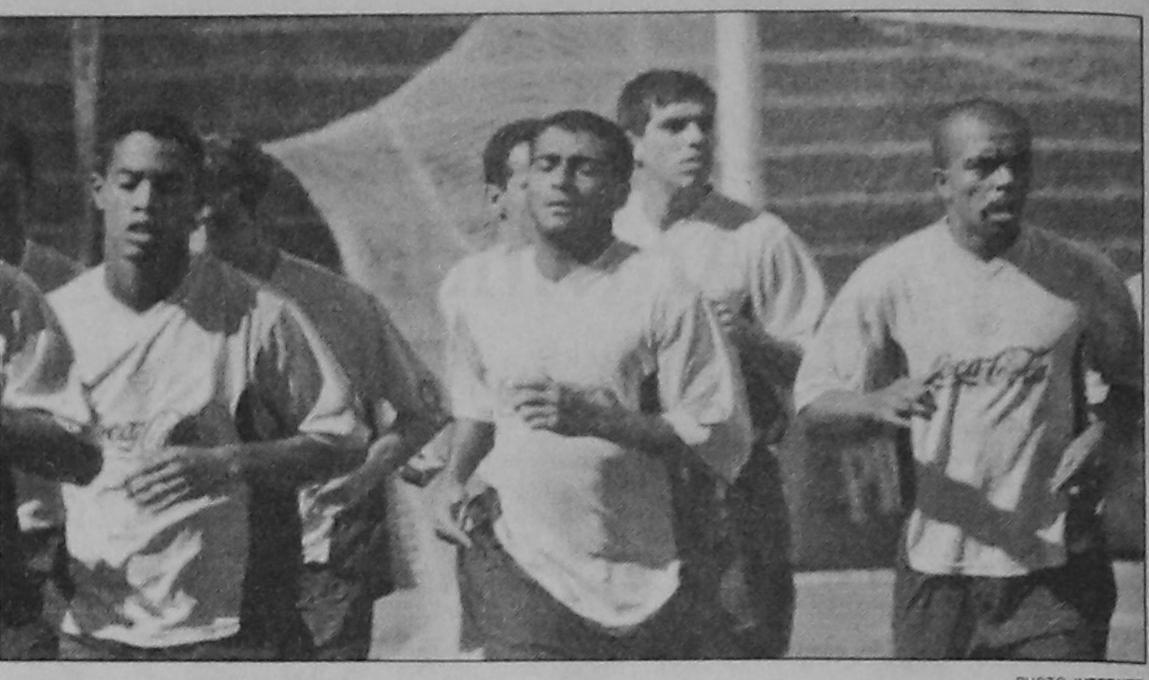
Litmanen had only just returned to action after missing four games with a groin strain.

He will miss Liverpool's twolegged UEFA Cup semifinal against his former club Barcelona, the FA Cup semifinal against Wycombe Wanderers and important league games against Manchester United, Leeds United and Everton.

Tour tie drawn

day match against a West Indies Board XI at Kensington Oval Mon-

The match ended in a draw. The Board XI made 84 for one wicket in their second innings after a token declaration left them



Brazilian soccer players Ronaldinho (L), Romario (C) and Emerson jog during a training at the Monumental stadium in Guayaquil on March 26 ahead of their World Cup qualifier against Ecuador.

Ecuador eyeing Brazil

Football

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Ecuador's players are dreaming of an unprecedented win over Brazil on Wednesday which will allow them to maintain their challenge for a first appearance at the World Cup finals in 2002.

The South American underdogs have never beaten the fourtime world champions, with seven and eight goal defeats among their earlier results.

But they believe that history will count for nothing on Wednesday, when the visitors will have to confront their fear of playing at altitude.

"Wednesday will be a different day for Ecuador," said Ecuador coach Hernan Dario Gomez. "We want to change the history the rarefied air.

of our football with a win over Brazil," added striker Ivan Kavie-The small Andean nation, more

Ecuador are unbeaten at home Law was dropped twice and in the current World Cup qualifying campaign and fourth in the

Along with Venezuela, they are

with 16 points from five games.

the only South American country never to have played at a World Cup and a win on Wednesday breaking their duck. They will have the advantage of

playing at 2,800 metres above sea level in the Atahualpa stadium, where Argentina were beaten 2-0 in a qualifier for the 1998 World Brazil have failed at altitude

before and suffered their first-ever injured striker Alvaro Recoba, World Cup qualifying defeat in 1993 against Bolivia at La Paz, a venue they still have to visit in this campaign.

record in their three matches un- gota. der coach Emerson Leao, plan to arrive in Quito only two or three hours before kick-off, hoping this ploy will minimise the effects of

They will spend the previous two days training at sea level in Guayaquil, Ecuador's biggest city.

Brazil have 20 points and are second in the group, from which the top four teams qualify automatically for Japan and South Korea, whilst the fifth plays off against the Oceania winners for another place.

With the competition just past the halfway point, leaders Argen-

tina -- five points ahead of Brazil and Paraguay -- who trail Brazil on goal difference -- seem certain of a World Cup place.

Ecuador, Uruguay and Colomwould go a long way towards bia are the main contenders for the remaining spots.

Argentina should stay top as they host Venezuela, who have never picked up a World Cup qualifying point away from home since entering the fray in 1965, in Buenos Aires on Wednesday.

Uruguay, who will be without need to beat Paraguay in Montevideo to keep up their challenge. The action kicks off on Tuesday

when Peru take on Chile in Lima

Brazil, who have an unbeaten and Colombia face Bolivia in Bo-Chile, beaten 3-1 by Honduras in a friendly last week, must win to keep their fading hopes alive. Peru

> have recalled Nolberto Solano and Claudio Pizarro, but already appear wellout of the running.

> Victory is also crucial for Colombia, who have recalled Faustino Asprilla one year after he said he never wanted to play for his country again.

The Colombians have slipped after losing their last two games and failing to score in either.

Dutch on Figo alert

Football

AFP, Paris

Dutch coach Louis Van Gaal has warned his players to beware Luis Figo as the Netherlands prepare to face Portugal in the pick of European World Cup qualifiers on Wednesday.

Van Gaal - who coached Figo at Barcelona before leaving Spain to take up the Netherlands job last year - is well aware of the havoc the Portuguese star can wreak on any defence. "He is one of the best players in

the world and is very important for the Portuguese national side," Van Gaal said ahead of the Group Two tie in Porto. Portugal lead the group with 10 points from four matches, while

the Netherlands are third behind the second-placed Republic of Van Gaal knows defeat on Wednesday could deal a fatal blow to his team's chances of qualifying

for the 2002 finals in South Korea and Japan, and hinted he will send the Orange men out to attack. "This match is very important

for us because Portugal would take a great step toward qualification if they manage to beat us," he said. 'A draw could be quite nega-

38 Expire

5 Spacecraft

wine

town

12 Caspian

feeder

13 Melody

news

time

way

22 Respon-

sibility

choices

19 This

21 Dine

23 Male

15 Tea

17 Still

Sea

compart- 43 N

1 Old video 40 - Moines 59 Depend

41 Animator

Freleng

modifier

45 Soporific

Jersey

team

47 New

tive for us too, that's why we can only allow ourselves to think of victory. The Dutch go into the match

fresh from thrashing Andorra 5-0 in Barcelona last weekend. The form of strikers Patrick Kluivert, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink

and Pierre Van Hooijdonk, who all got on the scoresheet at the weekend, will have encouraged Van But while Van Gaal has a glut of attacking talent at his disposal, both Germany and England are

facing striking headaches as they

prepare for their Group Nine matches against Greece and Albania on Wednesday. Sven-Goran Eriksson became the latest England manager to be perplexed by the profligacy of

Andy Cole during Saturday's 2-1 win over Finland at Anfield. Cole - a goal machine for Manchester United but yet to get off the mark for England in 12 appearances - squandered a glorious

second-half opportunity at the weekend For the moment Eriksson has vowed to stand by Cole, believing his partnership with in-form Liverpool star Michael Owen will

"I am happy with the way Cole

victory, which resurrected England's hopes of reaching the World

Cup finals. "He had one good chance and did not score. But so what? He was unlucky, Andy Cole is still an excellent football player," said Eriksson, who admitted he knows next to nothing about England's Alba-

nian opponents. "No I haven't seen them before. But I expect it will be a difficult match. They were unlucky not to draw against Germany on Saturday, so we know how difficult they will be," he said.

Eriksson is expected to pick Nicky Butt in midfield in place of the injury-jinxed Steven Gerrard, as England chase victory in Tirana. Group Nine leaders Germany

coach Rudi Voller facing growing calls to drop striker and skipper Oliver Bierhoff. Bierhoff was substituted at half-time during the Germans scrambled 2-1 win over Albania in Leverkusen last weekend and now

take on Greece in Athens, with

"Bierhoff has absolutely no self-confidence at the moment and he became weaker and weaker during the game until he

faces an uncertain future in the

was of no help to us," a worried Voller said.

19 20 48 49 50 45 |46

CRYPTOQUIP

XAAQWUFMD QUMD

EHG AJ EHNEI GA

THFY WYF XQUG XYYG. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD ANYONE HERE KNOW HOW TO TELL A DOGWOOD TREE? BY ITS BARK, I GUESS!

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

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) brought out a rally in the city on Tuesday to mark the 30th Independence Day.



PHOTO: STAR

AFP, Bridgetown Opening batsman Herschelle Gibbs made a solid half-century as South Africa opted for batting practice on the final day of a three-

with 228 to win in 38 overs.

eventually bear fruit. is playing." Eriksson said after the

11 B&Bs (on) 16 Intend 20 Recipe DOWN 1 Brownmeasure 23 LX times 2 Evangelist 24 "Eureka!" Roberts 25 Mythol-

By Eugene Sheffer

58 USN VIP 10 "Family

51 The bell 3 Appellaogy compiler song? tion 27 Become 52 Unshod 4 It could 14 Conceited 54 A single one 29 Prompt catching 5 Creative 30 Pinalore 55 Genetiletters cist's sort ... 32 Sale 18 Late-night abbr. 6 ... who 56 One side may use venues of the this maybe 7 Fear 34 Chart Urals

Solution time: 21 mins.

swan 26 Fresh 28 Juicy ENE WHY KNEED 31 Drink the whole JAPAN ROMULUS OVEN DIG TAKE steinful at BATHTUB LATEX once ALDFAN 33 Flushed 35 - roll 36 Soft drink

57 Cheer-

calls

leaders

8 Ducked

9 G.&S.

fan

45 Stench 46 colada 48 Wine's

bouquet

to Fido

37 Perch

39 Falco of

"The

42 Gridiron jocularly 44 "Aladdin"

Sopranos"

49 Drudgery 50 Command

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals L

53 Moreover give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.