"I know I won't just be in peo-

told Reuters in an interview.

mistake."

during his career.

always tried to put my origins

behind me. For this reason I con-

sidered all unfair means to stop

However much disciplinary

problems marred his reputation,

few can dispute the sublime skills

that made Hagi many fans' choice

as the star of the 1994 World Cup

and took him to both Spanish

giants Real Madrid and Barcelona

charest's Lia Manoliu stadium

reminded fans of his dazzling side,

replaying highlights of his per-

formances at three consecutive

World Cup finals from 1990 and

three European championships

tured 10 team mates from the 1994

finals, where both Romania and

Bulgaria proved eastern European

teams could take on the world's

pescu almost spoiled the show

with an own goal but a fine save by

Bogdan Stelea tipped his misdi-

rected header over the bar to spare

tional matches make him Roma-

nia's all-time top-scorer but he

failed to round off his swansong

appearance by hitting the back of

the net -- despite giving himself a

freer role than even he would usu-

However, Bulent Korkmaz, a

team mate at the Turkish club

Galatasaray with whom Hagi won

the UEFA Cup last year, said the

man nicknamed the "Maradona of

the Carpathians" was always more

valued for his inspirational pres-

fear with Hagi on the pitch," said

night's World XI. "He is forceful,

he gave us confidence, he was

his testimonial to orphans in his

home town of Constanta, now

qualify for the next World Cup,

a post-Hagi future, as Tuesday

"All beautiful celebrations are

plans to become a coach.

Platini acknowledged.

France captain said.

epitaph to Hagi's career.

player and a great one.

is a very temperamental player,

maybe too much sometimes. But

this is an ingredient that makes

Hagi, who is giving profits from

Korkmaz, a defender in Tuesday

"Galatasaray had nothing to

Hagi's 35 goals in 125 interna-

his blushes.

ally expect.

born a leader."

Veteran sweeper Gheorghe Po-

Hagi's Romanian squad fea-

with a laser lightshow backdrop.

And three giant screens in Bu-

Bangabandhu Jubo Kishore Sangsad and Young Eleven Star won their respective matches of the Begum Wazeda Ahmed Memorial Gold Cup cricket tournament at the local stadium on Wednesday.

Bangabandhu defeated Hercules Cricket Club by 94 runs in the first match.

Batting first, the winners scored 184 for nine in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Hercules were all out for 90 in 22.5 overs.

collected 127 runs for four wickets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Surjo Tarun Cricket Club defeated

Three Star Cricket Club by 40 runs

in the second round of the Sha-

heed Freedom Fighter Ranga Mia

Cup at the Shahjadpur Junior High

batted first and collected 160 los-

Winning the toss, Surjo Tarun

In reply, Three Star were all out

School playground yesterday.

for 120 in stipulated 35 overs.

128 losing all the wickets.

Sino paddlers

The Chinese table tennis steam

roller began gathering momentum

on the second day of the World

Championships Tuesday, with

both the men's and women's

teams cruising through the pre-

many here would bet against a

as in the singles and doubles, be-

The all-conquering women's

side hardly broke into a sweat

her with sixth seeded Yang Ying.

Yang, alongside double Sydney

Olympic gold medalist Wang Nan

and world number three Zhang

Yining, thumped the Lithuanians

in just over an hour, at which

point ties on neighbouring tables

had barely finished their first

players in the world, China are

considered a near-certainty for the

side averaging only 22 years old

and propelled by the skill of

Olympic champion "King" Kong

Linghiu, also cemented their place

in the next stage with a 3-0 victory

third title of the year last Sunday at

the Monte Carlo Master series,

last year and has denied permis-

Canada, for two successive years.

ited-over competitions like the

clear-cut guidelines on where the

naments, it's BCCI's headache."

The government said earlier

this month that tournaments in

Toronto, Singapore and Sharjah,

in the United Arab Emirates, are

the cricketers from playing there.

"non-regular" venues and banned

over Yugoslavia.

AFP, Barcelona

FROM PAGE 8

whom.

years."

Kuerten

withdraws

The Chinese men, fielding a

China took a clean sweep of

ing all wickets.

the same venue.

lated 30 overs.

advance

AFP, Osaka

liminary round.

ginning next week.

Lithuania.

brink of the 1994 World Cup semi-In the second match, Young finals, Hagi showed flashes of bril-Eleven Star recorded a six-wicket liance throughout and set up both victory over Dilip Smriti Sangsad. the goals his Romanian select side Dilip Smriti batted first and scored in a 2-2 draw against a

in 20 overs. To most of the 60,000 fans In reply, Young Eleven made cheering his name as he took a lap 129 for four in 18.4 overs. of honour -- and to millions of B'baria cricket ordinary Romanians seeking a source of national pride after the collapse of communist rule in

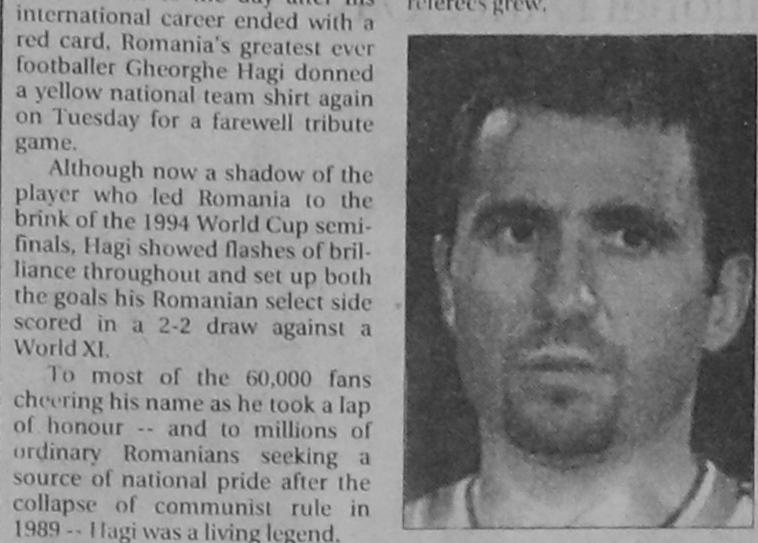
1989 -- Hagi was a living legend. But he knows many others will

Football

REUTERS, Bucharest

remember the controversies which dogged the latter stages of his 18-year career as his talent waned and his frustration with Ten months to the day after his referees grew,

Hagi's goodbye to Romania



GHEORGHE HAGI

World XI.

1965: Born February 5, in the eastern village of Sacele. 1974: Joins nearby Black Sea club Farul Constanta.

1978: Plays for Romania's national youth team. In the other match of the day, 1981: Moves to Bucharest for intensive training at Luceafarul soccer Agradut Cricket Club beat Malay-

school before returning to Farul Constanta.

esh Cricket Club by six-wicket at 1982: Makes First Division debut against FCM Bacau.

1983: Given full international debut for Romania by coach Mircea Lu-Winning the toss, Agradut cescu in a 0-0 friendly against Norway.

scored 130 runs for four in stipu-1984: 1987: Scores 141 goals in 223 matches for Sportul Studentesc In reply, Malayesh collected 1984: Plays at the European championship finals in France.

1985: Captains Romania, coached by Mircea Lucescu, for the first time

in a World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland. 1985: Named Romanian player of the year -- an accolade he wins

again in 1987, 1993, 1994 and 1996. 1987: 1990: Wins three national titles and two Romanian cups with Steaua Bucharest after scoring from a free-kick on his debut to clinch the 1987 European Super Cup with a 1-0 win over Dinamo

1989: Steaua beaten 4-0 by AC Milan in European Cup final. 1990: Plays in the World Cup finals in Italy, where Romania reach the

Kiev. Scores 76 times for Steaua in 97 games.

knock-out phase. 1990: Moves to Real Madrid for dollars 4.3 million, a Romanian transfer record lasting seven years. Scores 15 times in 64 games for

Real and wins the Spanish Super Cup in his first season. 1991: Scores what ranks as the best of his many spectacular goals -- a 45-metre strike for Real against Osasuna in a Spanish league

table tennis gold medals at last game. Wins Spain's Super Cup for the second year running. year's Sydney Olympics and not 1992: Moves to Italy as captain of Brescia. Plays 61 matches in a twoyear spell at the club, scoring 14 goals. repeat in the team events as well

1994: Delivers arguably the best performance of the 1994 World Cup finals, helping an inspired Romania to the brink of the semifinals before defeat against Sweden on penalties.

1995: Returns to Spain to join Barcelona but does not settle. 1996: Plays in the European championship finals in England, notching

up his 100th Romanian cap against Spain. during their 3-0 pummelling of 1996: Moves to Galatasaray as captain, winning four Turkish titles in a

row from 1997 to 2000 and three domestic cups. China rested world number two, Li Ju, for the tie, substituting

1997: Breaks a 58-year-old Romanian international scoring record with his 31st goal for the national team against Iceland.

1998: Announces in April he will retire from international soccer after

the World Cup finals in France. 1999: Reconsiders his retirement and returns to help Romania to their

first win against neighbouring Hungary in 64 years. 1999: Named Romania's best footballer of the century.

2000: Wins the UEFA Cup with Galatasaray -- the first major European trophy won by a Turkish club. Under a different coach, Galatasaray also beat Real Madrid to win the European

Super Cup. With five of the top-six ranked | 2000: Plays his last match for Romania against Italy in the European championship finals, ending a career in wich he played 125

times for his country and scored 35 international goals. 2001: Hagi assembles a Romanian select side and a World XI for a testimonial charity match in Bucharest. He will retire as a player at the end of the season and hopes to become a coach.

AGENCIES, New Delhi

ple's memories for the goals I An investigation into former Inscored but also for how many dian coaches Kapil Dev and Ajit times I spat and hit opponents and Wadekar in connection with a how often I was sent off," Hagi match-fixing scandal has been completed and will be submitted "I grew up in a peasant housesoon, the Indian cricket board said hold with the animals," he said. Tuesday. "I'm not ashamed of my past but I

AC Muthiah, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), told reporters that its investigator, K Madhavan, was me much more than a simple preparing his report.

"Madhavan wanted to interview a few players who were playing against Australia earlier this month and so the report was delayed," Muthiah said.

Madhavan interviewed Dev and Wadekar after they were questioned by federal investigators in connection with the scandal which rocked world cricket last

However, Madhavan also said he would have to question current players.

"I need to conduct some more interviews with current cricketers who are relevant to my inquiry, he told the Associated Press.

"They have got no role in match-fixing but are just relevant to my inquest," he said. "I am looking at finishing my inquiry and submitting my report to the cricket board in a short while."

The Central Bureau of Investigation's probe report implicated five Indian Test players - Mohammad Azharuddin, Manoj Prabhakar, Ajay Jadeja, Ajay Sharma and Nayan Mongia.

Mohammad Azharuddin and Ajay Sharma were subsequently banned from the game for life by the BCCI, Ajay Jadeja and Manoj Prabhakar were suspended for five years while Navan Mongia was exonerated.

BCCI in need of wealthy sponsors

REUTERS, New Delhi

The four bids so far submitted for the sponsorship of the Indian cricket team are not satisfactory, the treasurer of the country's cricket board (BCCI) said on Wednesday.

The BCCI are looking for a new sponsor after Indian cigarette maker ITC pulled out of their deal following a government move to ban tobacco sponsorship. The Indian board opened four

But as Romania struggle to bids - from 21st Century, Hero they are a long way from building Honda, Gayatri Arts and Sporting Frontiers - at a marketing comnight's guest of honour Michel mittee meeting on Tuesday. Kishore Rungta said automo

bile maker Hero Honda was the beautiful but this day is a sad one only company among the four, with the others being agents for for Romanian soccer," the former various companies. He did not In a letter apologising for his identify the companies. absence from "Gala Hagi", Sepp "The highest bids at the mo-

Blatter, the president of world ment match what ITC was giving us. Since that contract was done soccer governing body FIFA, wrote what many would see as a fitting last year, we were looking for much higher bids this time,' "Hagi is a touching player. He Rungta told this news agency.

ITC paid 3.7 million rupees (79,000 dollars) for every Test match played by India and 3.45 the difference between a good million rupees (73,600 dollars) for every one-day international.

Last year, India played 34 oneday internationals and six Tests. Rungta said the board was now trying to negotiate with the bid-

"Bidding is a new thing. Normally these deals are finalised

through successful negotiations. We're hopeful we'll manage to get a much higher bid after we talk to the interested parties," he said.

Ticket issue heats up

AP, New Delhi

The Indian cricket board has been dragged into a ticket scandal in the western state of Goa, where police have arrested local cricket officials for their role in circulating fake match tickets.

Goa Cricket Association offi cials have blamed the Board of Control for Cricket in India for the mess, saying the sport's national governing body demanded extra tickets be printed for its use during an India vs Australia limited-overs clash April 6 in Goa.

Dr AC Muthiah, president of the BCCI, on Wednesday said the national board had been wrongly dragged into the episode. "Certain allegations have been

made by the (Goa) officials about the board's role in the circulation of excess tickets," Muthiah said. "But the BCCI has no role to play in printing and circulation of tick-

"The BCCI on its own is probing the issue and shall behave as a responsible regulator," he added. "We are seeking an explanation from Goa's cricket authorities."

Several top GCA officials were arrested after the fake ticket scam erupted in the wake of a police baton charge on fans seeking entry into the stadium in Margao, Goa, for the series deciding clash match.

The sale of several thousand fake and extra tickets-beyond the capacity of the stadium-led to a clash between fans and police outside the venue as authorities moved to prevent overcrowding inside the stadium.

Questioning of Kapil, Ajit ends See you down under'

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

There is one remaining challenge for Shaun Pollock's South African cricket team - to beat world champions Australia in a Test

The opportunity will come in December this year when South Africa play three Tests in Australia. with the Australians making a reciprocal tour of South Africa, also with three Tests, in February and March 2002.

By then there will be an official world championship at stake the first time such a crown has been up for grabs in cricket his-

A 2-1 victory in a five-Test series in the West Indies which ended Monday strengthened South Africa's position as the only realistic challengers to Australia.

The International Cricket Council agreed at a meeting in Melbourne, Australia, in February to sanction an official world championship, based on a format devised by the English magazine, Wisden Cricket Monthly.

The details have still to be worked out by the ICC but Wisden's latest unofficial log has Australia on top with 25 points from 15 series, based on two points for a win and one for a shared series.

South Africa have 24 points from 16 series. The numbers of series varies because Australia have yet to play against Zimbabwe in Australia. Neither side has had a series against Bangladesh.

Some of the points may be deducted when the official championship is launched, because the ICC may insist that only series of what proved a critical first innings against a very good side," he said. two or matches will count. South Africa's home and away wins against Zimbabwe were both in one-off Tests, while Australia's West Indian conditions. "We velopment of the young players in away victory against the same opponents was also in a single

with results from the most recent contests between teams replacing those from previous encounters.

Australia beat South Africa at home and away between 1996/97 and 1997/98 so will be defending four points in the upcoming matches.

It will mean that victory for South Africa will earn them the

championship. too far ahead, or comparing his

team against other sides. "We take one series at a time and concentrate on our own performances," he said.

Before going to Australia, South Africa have two Tests in Zimbabwe in September followed by a three-Test home series against India.

But all-rounder Jacques Kallis spoke for several of his teammates when he said in an interview in the South African Sunday Times last weekend that his ambition was to be in a winning side against Aus-

Kallis said he felt South Africa were ready for the challenge. "We have a young side, which is fantastic when you look at a few teams around the world, especially the Australians, who have got quite a few old guys."

The age issue has already provoked a reaction from Australian When it was pointed out that the at 25.60 and 30.85 respectively. Australians who will play in Eng-Australian teams to tour England.

doesn't matter how old you are." Meanwhile both teams had 52.83. something to celebrate after the against South Africa by 130 runs at

Sabina Park Monday. cency to slip in after clinching the perience during the series. series in the fourth Test. He said this could have contributed to last Test because we were up

collapse to 141 all out. But Pollock was delighted with the way his team had adapted to win was a crucial step in the deplayed in conditions which didn't the team. "We talk a lot about suit us and I was very happy with what is needed to win a Test The log will be a revolving one, through, with all the players making a contribution at different doing it.

> No man of the series was named after the Tests because there is a single award covering both the Tests and a seven-match one-day international series which starts in Kingston Saturday.

Pollock, though, would have been a prime contender if an award had been made. He hit 302 Pollock is wary about looking runs at an average of 75.50 and took 20 wickets at 23.15.

South Africa's batting was less solid than usual, with wicketkeeper Mark Boucher and allrounder Lance Klusener struggling throughout the series. Opener Gary Kirsten started with 150 in the first Test in Georgetown, Guyana, but then made only another 100 runs in nine innings.

Herschelle Gibbs (463 runs at 51.44) and Daryll Cullinan (459 at 51.00) were South Africa's most successful batsmen while allrounder Kallis made up for less success than usual with the bat, scoring 267 runs at 29.67, by topping the bowling averages with 20

For the West Indies, who emerged from a long slump, veteran fast bowler Courtney Walsh finished his Test career on a high note. He was the leading wicket taker on either side, with 25 at 19.68. Fellow fast bowler Mervyn Steve Waugh, who with twin Dillon and leg-spinner Dinanath brother Mark turns 36 this year. Ramnarine both took 20 wickets,

Brian Lara topped the West Inland this year are one of the oldest dian run-scorers with 400 runs at an average of 40.00 but wickethe said: "If you're good enough, it keeper Ridley Jacobs topped the averages, making 317 runs at

New captain Carl Hooper West Indies won the final Test scored 358 runs at 35.80 and said after the series that he believed the West Indies were on the road to Pollock admitted that his team recovery, with several promising might have allowed some compla- young players having gained ex-

"It was important to win the

Coach Roger Harper said the the way we fought our way match but now these young men have the physical experience of

Harper said the team had continued to work hard throughout the series. "At the back of our minds was the thought that we had not played as well as we could for a whole game. In this match we came close to doing it."

MU eyeing O'Neill?

Football

AFP, Glasgow

Celtic fans heard the words they would be dreading to hear Tuesday when Celtic director Dermot Desmond admitted that Martin O'Neill could become the next manager of Manchester United.

O'Neill, who took over at Parkhead at the start of the season and has already won a double of the Scottish Premier League title and League Cup, has been thrust to the top of Old Trafford's wanted list.

Current United manager Alex Ferguson is due to step down at the end of next season and although O'Neill has restated his commitment to seeing out his contract, Desmond expects O'-Neill to become one of the most sought-after managers in Europe.

But the Celtic director hopes that by offering him a place alongside him on the board he will resist the lure of the Old Trafford hot-

"There's always the chance of Martin (O'Neill) going to a big club in Europe," Desmond told Sky Sports. "He's one of the outstanding managers.

"It's to his credit that he might be in demand by Manchester United, Barcelona or Inter Milan, He's an outstanding manager, but I can't handcuff him.

37 Gotham

commis-

sioner

39 Evergreen

41 Confiden

tial info

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48 Not mere

ly pretty

thick of

neighbor

specialty

51 Narthex

52 Astaire

53 Unclear

it all!"

Khan

54 "Consarn

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50 In the

40 Give

ACROSS

4 Stage

8 Float

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13 Avis

adjective

14 Revion

rival

15 July's

People'

author

17 Libretto

18 Sordid-

ness

19 Gorilla

22 She'll

21 Buddhist

give you

enhancer

30 George's

brother

moving

33 Applaud

dozen

34 Born

35 Half a

36 Shucks

31 Saharan

32 It'll get

a stony

look

26 Expecta-

tions

29 Bagel

1 Mandible

"If Martin wanted to join the a PLC director of Celtic." O'Neill himself recognised that

football management was unpredictable - but hoped to complete his contract at Parkhead. He said: "It's been a fantastic

first year and I've got two more years to go and that is precisely "I've got no intention of going

out any other way - I'll be kicking and screaming at the end - but I know how fickle the game is."

Celtic stand on the brink of a famous domestic treble - but Desmond admitted that he would have settled for one trophy in

"I'm surprised we've won so many trophies this year. I was hoping that we would win one," said Desmond.

"I thought it was asking a lot to win two trophies. I'm not surprised about winning because I think Martin is a winner and will

always be a winner." Desmond has poured praise on O'Neill for his success this season

and insists their success comes down to him. But despite looking forward to the Champions League for the first

time in their history the board are

refusing to give the manager more

cash to spend.

16 Stunned

23 Breathing

organ

24 Examina

format

tion

25 Entries

baby's

agenda

maybe

structure

ingredient

27 Sandwich

treat

28 Harbor

29 Remiss

32 Dressing

33 Talk a

blue

streak?

hardware

39 Earliest

42 Minimal

47 Violet-

eyed

actress

49 -- - Locka.

amount

on

26 Put up.

20 Plague

By Eugene Sheffer

DOWN

2 MP's

quarry

3 -- off to

show loot

5 Oriental

noodles

6 Raw rock

8 Tend the

house-

plants

(abbr.)

10 "Back to

Future"

11 Stick with 35 Hose

the

star

Solution time: 25 mlns.

ARIZONAVY

FUUTH INFAN

ALIASKATER

9 Thorough-

7 Ideal

exercise

City police 1 Runs for

heave-ho 4 Game-

"I think Martin has ownership board I think he'd be welcome. I of that team, he has to be given the think he has the capabilities to be credit for that," admitted Des-It's his team, his style, his play

> behind him. Naturally the manager is the most important person around the football team. "When we took on Martin we

and his passion and we're right

agreed a budget for this year and next year and that will remain. "We have to operate as a busi-

ness, so I don't think that throwing money to buy players will buy "That's been proved by Celtic

this year, Martin has spent under

Jacquet's concern

AFP, Paris

his budget."

World Cup winning coach Aime Jacquet on Tuesday slammed the emerging Europe as a threat to the unique form of football training which was the heart of French football.

Jacquet, who lead France to a surprise 1998 World Cup victory over Brazil and is now French federation technical director, said that the French league was being plundered of its star players by European laws on free movement.

19 20 23 24 25 26 27 28 42 43 44 45 46 47

CRYPTOQUIP

36 Carpentry OJDYS MPROJOVPTH XUJSPHO YIU.YUTDVP

WEPRPE

43 Two-way IOXW YUUSOPQ 44 Catch Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU ENTER A sight of 45 "Humbug!" HAUNTED HOUSE IT'S A REAL GOOD IDEA TO YELL, "WHO GHOST THERE?" 46 Doc's org. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals C

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.

Ecuador move to third 2002 FIFA WORLD CUP



AFP, Montevideo

World number one and topseeded Gustavo Kuerten has Two goals from Ecuador's Agustin pulled out of the one-million-Delgado earned them a 2-1 victory dollar Barcelona Open Tuesday over Paraguay in a 2002 World because of a recurring thigh in Cup South American qualifier in jury. Quito on Tuesday night. The Brazilfan, who took his

said that he was suffering from hampering their efforts and Ecuapain in his right thigh and had dor even finished the match with been ordered to take a few days just nine players after substitute Wellington Sanchez was red carded with seconds remaining. No only Ecuador moved up to third spot in the 10-team table just a

second should they beat Peru in sion for a five-match one-day se Sao Paulo on Wednesday night. ries against Pakistan in Toronto, Top country Argentina play at The Board of Control for 3,600m above sea level in La Paz against Bolivia in Wednesday Cricket in India said Tuesday it will not participate in major lim-

night's other game. In Tuesday's other matches, visitors Colombia, two goals down World Cup. ICC knockout and Asia Cup until the government gives against bottom country Venezuela with less than 10 minutes to go in Indian team can play and against San Cristobal, saved face with Gerardo Bedoya and Victor Bonilla

both finding the net to draw 2-2. "The BCCI decision is hasty An own goal by Italo Diaz in and inappropriate," she said. "But the 11th minute was enough to If the cricket board still does not bring Uruguay a 1-0 victory over want to participate in these tour-

Chile in Santiago. Fifth-placed Colombia and "In my opinion there's no need sixth-placed Uruguay had vital letfor any clarification," she said. offs with just six matches to go in "The government's policy has the competition. Only the top four been made clear to the BCCI, that qualify automatically with the fifth it would be inappropriate for the Indian cricket team to play in nonin a play-off. regular venues for at least three

side meeting the Oceania winners Ecuador coach Hernan Dario Gomez predicted a tough next match against Peru in Lima in June. "It will be a difficult game and we will have to prepare for it

very carefully. But we are a unified

side with good team spirit.'



Paraguay's Jose Cardozo (R) is being congratulated by teammate Carlos Gamarra after the former scored against Ecuador in their World Cup 2002 qualifier in Quito on Tuesday.

STANDINGS

Table in the 2002 World Cup South American qualifying competition following Tuesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points): Argentina 1 27 Paraguay

Total -	12		4	3	20	11	
Cuador	12	7	1	4	15	15	
Brazil	11	6	2	3	21	10	
Colombia	12	5	4	3	12	9	
Jruguay	12	5	3	4	13	8	
'eru	11	3	2	6	10	14	
Chile	12	3	1	8	12	17	
Bolivia	11	2	3	6	5	16	
/enezuela	12	1	1	10	8	35	
						1	