Pele fears the worst

AFP, Sydney

Brazil soccer legend Pele said Monday he feared the four-times world champions might be forced to play off against Australja to qualify for the 2002 World Cup

The 60-year-old triple World Cup winner, here on a promotional trip, said three coaches in as many years and the continued unavailability of European-based qualifier on Sunday. players were proving major obstacles for Brazil.

"When you have as many coaches as we have had in such a short time and are never able to pick the same side for three consecutive matches, then you make things difficult for yourself," he said.

Brazil are currently fourth in the South American zone, two points ahead of Colombia. The fifth-placed team has to play off against the Oceania Zone winners.

who are expected to be Australia. "Australia have a good side. You have some very god players in England," he said.

Emerson Leao, the latest Brazil coach, may get an early chance to test the Socceroos in the Confederations Cup in South Korea.

A run of dismal results for Brazil continued on Saturday with a scoreless draw against minnows Canada at the tournament, a dress rehearsal for the World Cup in South Korea and Japan.

Leao recently received the dreaded vote of confidence from the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) following an awful 1-1 draw with Peru in Sao Paulo.

The Brazilian press has speculated that Leao could be fired and replaced by Carlos Alberto Parreira, who led the South Americans to the 1994 World Cup.

Brazil's next big qualifying date is in Montevideo on July 1.

They also have to travel to runaway leaders Argentina and face a lung-busting examination at high altitude in Bolivia before tackling Paraguay, Chile and Venezuela at

"We have a tough task ahead of us," said Pele.

Strikers deny

FROM PAGE 13

skewed a clearance to Leandro. Fortunately for Japan, the ball did not fall kindly and the Fiorentina forward was unable to hit the tar-

Tsuzuki made amends in the 15th minute with a courageous save at point-blank range after a low cross from wingback Ze Maria found Washington on the six-yard

The ball rebounded to Carlos Miguel but his follow-up effort was cleared off the line by Naoki Matsuda.

Ze Maria broke free on the right again in the 26th minute and flashed a powerful cross across the goalmouth into the path of Washington, who failed to hit the target with an empty net gaping in front of him.

Tsuzuki was almost caught off guard by Ramon's spectacular overhead kick from the edge of the area in the 32nd minute. But the young goalkeeper recovered in time to tip the ball over the bar.

Japan, who had been restricted to a couple of hopeful long-range shots, finally hit the target three minutes later but Nakata's low shot after a one-two with Yoshiteru Yamashita did not trouble Dida.

Nakata returned the complement five minutes later with a curling low cross but the lunging Yamashita failed to hit the target.

The Brazilians continued to dominate and Tsuzuki was relieved to see Fabío's long-range free-kick whistle past his post just before the break.

Japan coach Philippe Troussier acted to contain the threat from Ze Maria at the interval, replacing rising star Shinji Ono with the more defensive Koji Nakata on the left of midfield and forward Takyuki Suzuki with another midfielder, Hiroaki Morishima.

Subsitute Robert came close to breaking the deadlock when his 78th minute cross floated over Tsuzuki and rebounded off the top of the bar.

Four minutes later, with the Japanese defenders visibly tiring, a mazy run by Washington ended with him squaring the ball to Leandro who blasted Brazil's best chance of the night over the bar from just 10 yards out.

The Brazilians piled on the pressure in the closing minutes. but the elusive goal was not to come.

TEAMS

Brazil: Dida, Ze Maria, Lucio, Edmilson, Leomar, Leo, Fabio, Ramon (Julio Batista 63), Carlos Miguel (Robert 75), Leandro, Washington (Magno Alves 80)

Japan: Ryota Tsuzuki, Kenichi Uemura, Naoki Matsuda, Toshihiro Hattori, Yasuhiro Hato, Teruyoshi Ito, Tomokazu Myojin, Hidetoshi Nakata, Shinji Ono (Koji Nakata 46), Yoshiteru Yamashita (Masashi Nakayama 61), Takayuki Suzuki (Hiroaki Morishima 46)

Referee: Kim Nielsen (Den) Att: 37,470

Argentina virtually assured



AFP, Montevideo

Argentina are all but assured of qualifying for the 2002 World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan following their 3-0 win over Colombia in a South American zone

Marcelo Bielsa's team need just two points from their last five games to go through as one of the four automatic qualifiers from the 10-team group.

The Colombia game was mired in midfield in the opening 20 minutes, but the Argentinians broke loose in the space of 16 minutes.

Valencia striker Kily Gonzalez first crashed a shot from a tight angle past Colombian keeper Oscar Cordoba in the 22nd minute.

Claudio Lopez made it 2-0 after 35 minutes and three minutes later Lazio striker Hernan Crespo sent through by Juan Sebastian Veron held off a challenge from Mario Yepes to beat Cordoba.

Crespo was injured five minutes into the second half and was replaced by Boca Juniors striker rea. Chelo Delgado.

Argentina seemed content to sit back on their big lead and Colombia created a chance through Aston Villa player Juan Pablo Angel, but he was thwarted by Celta Vigo keeper Pablo Cavallero.

made a succession of fine saves to keep the score at 3-0 for Argentina.

The defeat leaves Colombia struggling in their quest for a third straight World Cup finals as they are two points behind fifth place side Brazil who have a game in hand as they are on Confederation Cup duty in Japan and South Ko-

The fifth placed side plays off

against the Oceania winner -- near certain to be either Australia or New Zealand - for a place in the

In the night's other game, Bo At the other end, Cordoba livia smashed five goals past Venezuela in a game opposing two sides who have next to no chance of qualifying.

In the final game of this round of matches, troubled Brazil will take on Uruguay in Montevideo on July 1. Defeat would leave them tottering on the brink of failing to qualify automatically.

STANDINGS

Cup finals followin					22	11	22
Argentina	13	10	2	1	33	11	32
Paraguay	13	8	2	3	21	11	26
Ecuador	13	8	- 1	4	17	16	25
Brazil	12	6	3	3	22	11	21
Colombia	13	5	4	4	12	12	19
Uruguay	12	5	3	4	13	8	18
Bolivia	13	3	4	6	13	19	13
Péru	13	3	3	7	12	17	12
Chile	13	3	1	9	12	18	10

Lions roar too late

Venezuela



AFP, Niigata

Olympic and African champions Cameroon salvaged some pride Monday with a 2-0 win over outsiders Canada for a consolation victory in their last Confederations

Cameroon, already out of semi-final contention, controlled much of the game against the defensive Canadians, who had stunned the World Cup dress rehearsal by battling to a scoreless draw against Brazil Saturday.

After a frustrating scoreless first half, Cameroon struck in the 48th minute for the first goal of their three Group B matches in which they earlier lost to co-hosts Japan and a second-string Brazil, each by 2-0.

Nantes midfielder Salomon Olembe dribbled deep down the left wing and flicked a cross to Bernard Tchoutang to drive the ball home.

Cameroon coach Pierre Lechantre then unleashed Europebased substitute strikers Patrick Mboma and Samuel Etoo as his side continued to threaten tower ing Canadian goalkeeper Craig

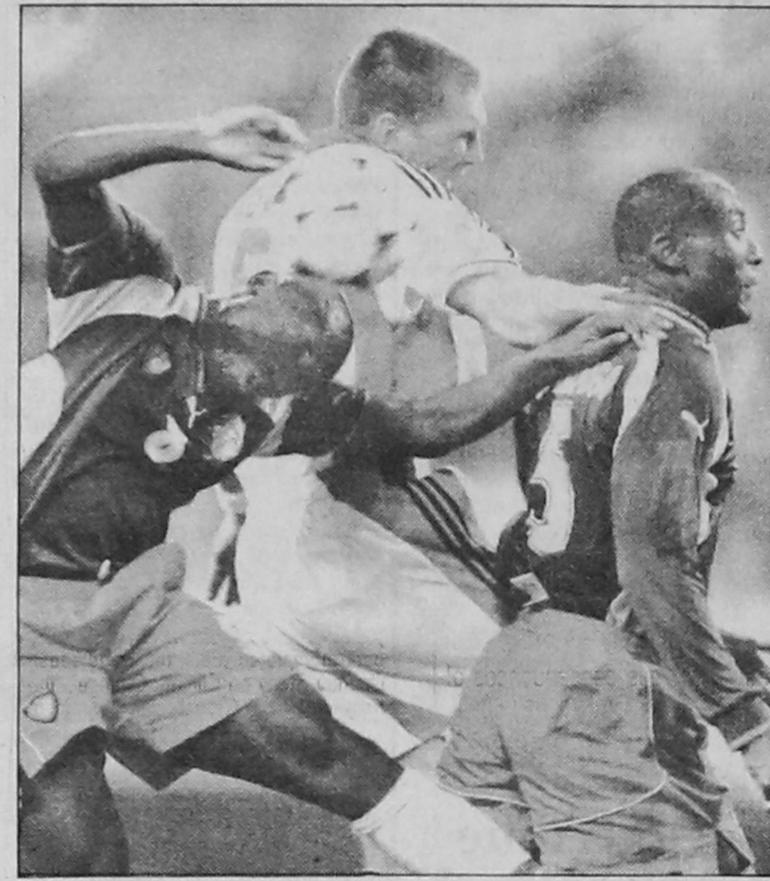
In the 83rd minute, Mboma fi nally showed his mettle as the African footballer of the year, sinking a left-foot penalty home after Olembe had been fouled in

Canada missed a few opportunities with Nottingham Forest midfielder Jim Brennan shooting wide from an unmarked position near gaol in the 24th minute, and Joel Epalle going high over Cameroon's keeper Jacques Songoo in the 52nd.

But Cameroon were making most of the running, with Olembe in the eighth minute latching on to a clearance in midfield and dribbling into the danger zone, only to shoot straight into Forrest.

Forrest stopped a 30-metre shot cross by Bernard I choutang.

The Africans missed two scor- by Nicolas Alnoudji and Pius ing chances in the 19th minute as Ndiefi volleyed over the bar from a



Jason Devos (c) of Canada is sandwiched between Cameroon defenders Raymond Kala (R) and Geremi Njitap at Niigata on June 4.

STANDINGS

Final standings and collated results from the group stage in the Confederations Cup after Monday's final matches in Group B (played, won, drawn, lost, epals for, against, points);

		Group	A				
France	3	2	0	1	9	1	6
Australia	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
South Korea	3	2	0	1	3	6	6
Mexico	3	0	0	3	1	8	0
		Group	B				
Japan	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
Brazil	3	1	2	0	2	0	5
Cameroon	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Canada	3	0	1	2	0	5	1
Semi-finals, Thurse At Yokohama, Japan Japan vs. Australia	n						

At Suwon, South Korea Brazil vs. France (1100 GMT)

Lord's Test fixed? AFP, London

The current Test series between England and Pakistan was thrown into turmoil Sunday after it was revealed the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) had warned English cricket authorities the first Test at Lord's may have been the focus of illegal bookmakers.

England won the first Test of the two match series by an innings and nine runs in under three days and are in the middle of the second Test at Old Trafford, Manchester.

According to the Sunday newspaper the 'News of the World' the head of the ACU, Lord Paul Condon, a former head of London's police force, told both the English and their Pakistan counterparts that there was a "potential threat by known corruptors to influence the series between the two sides."

A spokesman for the ICC told this news agency that they had nothing to add to the newspaper statement attributed to the ACU "That position holds good and that is as much as we have to say at the moment.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed they then warned their players for the need for "ever-present vigilance".

"The ECB was notified by the anti-corruption unit of a possible threat to influence the outcome of the first Test against Pakistan," statement from English cricket's governing body read. "As a result all of the England

players were reminded of the need for ever-present vigilance and to report any suspicious approaches to the team management. "As this match is confidential

we are not prepared to comment on the specific nature of the threats.'

Condon released a report into match-fixing on May 23, just days after England had thrashed Paki

Cuper now Inter's?

AFP, Valencia

Valencia coach Hector Cuper is to take over at Inter Milan on a twoyear contract worth 3.5 million dollars a year, Spanish radio said Monday. The radio reports said that the

deal was done late Sunday in village outside Milan. Cuper said on Friday that he was in talks with Cuper took over at Valencia

two years ago from Mallorca and European Champions Cup finals losing to Real Madrid and Bavern Munich.

But his defensive style of play and poker-face failed to endear him to the Valencia fans and he looked certain to leave even before the Bayern final.

What to watch FROM PAGE 13

6:30 am **UK Domestic Cricket** Somerset vs Yorkshire 1:00 pm

Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm Harsha Online Cricket Talk Show 11:00 pm (Tuesday) Harsha Online Cricket Talk Show 8:30 am & 1:00 pm Pakistan vs England Second Test Day Five

England play

Pakistan struck when Wagar beat Michael Atherton's defensive stroke and bowled him middle stump for 51, England 146 for one.

Former captain Atherton had faced 126 balls including eight fours in his 44th Test half-century and this was his fifth stand of 100 or more with Trescothick.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fifth and last day of the second and final Test between England and Pakistan at Old Trafford on Monday:

71, Younis Khan 65; M Hoggard 3/79, D Gough 3/94, A Caddick ENGLAND: First innings 357

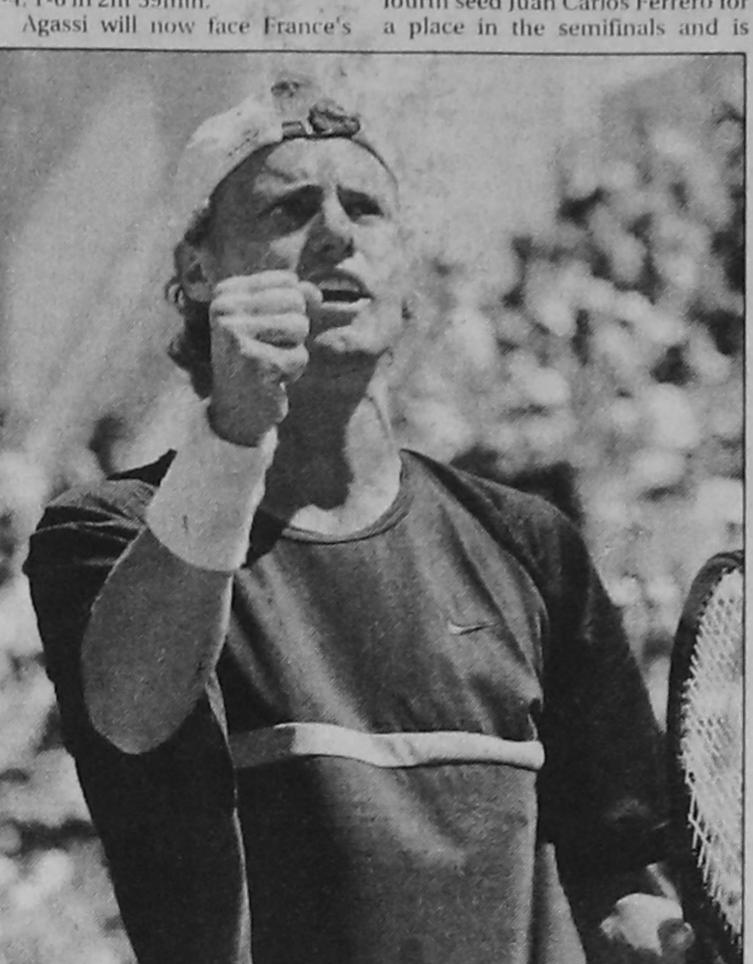
(M Vaughan 120, G Thorpe 138; A Razzaq 3/61)

Trescothick not out 112 Vaughan c Latif b Razzaq Thorpe not out Extras: (b-2, lb-4, w-1, nb-2) Total: (For 2 wkts in 80 overs) 196 Fall of wickets: 1-146, 2-174 O M Bowler R Akram 3 37

Sebastien Grosjean, who earlier now looking like a genuine title blasted his way past Spain's Galo Blanco, second round slayer of American Pete Sampras, 6-3, 6-4.

Australian sixth seed Lleyton Hewitt reached the last eight. ousting Argentine Guillermo Open men's singles quarterfinals Canas 3-6, 6-7 (3/7), 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 in 4hr 12min.

16th seed Franco Squillari 4-6, 6-2, Hewitt now faces Spanish 6-4, 1-6 in 2hr 59min. fourth seed Juan Carlos Ferrero for



Australian Lleyton Hewitt celebrates after beating Guillermo Canas of Argentina in the French Open yesterday.

Agassi, Hewitt in last eight

candidate as he bids to become the first Aussie men's champion here since Rod Laver in 1969. On Sunday, Yevgeny Kalelnikov,

the 1996 champion and seventh seed, continued his assault on Paris with an efficient 6-3, 6-4, 1-6. 6-4 win over Tommy Robredo of

The Russian plays top seed and defending champion Gustavo Kuerten in the quarterfinals.

Kuerten staved off a match point to beat qualifier Michael Russell of the United States 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, 6-1.

The Brazilian has twice wrecked Kafelnikov's dreams in five-set quarters - and on both occasions he went on to lift the Among the women, top seed

Martina Hingis of Switzerland reached the quarterfinals with a 6-1. 2-6, 6-2 win over last home survivor Sandrine Testud.

Hingis now meets Italy's Francesa Schiavone, conqueror of Zimbabwe's Cara Black in three

US sixth seed Serena Williams beat unseeded Nadia Petrova of Russia 6-3, 6-1 to set up a meeting with fourth-seeded compatriot Jennifer Capriati, who ousted an-American, Meghann Shaughnessy, 7-5, 6-1.

Belgian 14th seed Justine Henin beat unseeded Austrian Barbara Schett 6-3, 6-4 to move into the last eight for the first time and the 19-year-old will now face 17-year-old Lina Krasnoroutskaya after the Russian swept aside Silvia Farina of Italy 6-2, 6-4.

Belgian 12th seed Kim Clijsters joined Henin in the last eight after beating Slovakia's Henrieta Nagyova 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

She now plays surprise package and Hungarian qualifier Petra Mandula, who ousted Italy's Rita Grande 6-2, 6-3.

Heavy-hitters' duel

Tennis

Tennis

US third seed and 1999 titlist An-

dre Agassi survived a harsh exami-

nation before reaching the French

on Monday, bearing Argentine

AP, Paris

Jennifer Capriati is a victory away from returning to the semis of the French Open. 11 years after becoming the tournament's youngest semifinalist.

Capriati, 25, and Serena Williams will meet in by far the toughest women's quarterfinal at took the club to back to-back Roland Garros this year on Monday. It is the only match between seeded players - No. 4 Capriati and No. 6 Williams - and the only contest between Grand Slam

champions. 'I'm looking forward to the match," Capriati said. "I know it's going to be a tough one, but I've

just got to play my game.' The Australian Open champion has good reason to be confident about her chances. Since taking her first Grand Slam title in January, Capriati has risen to a careerhigh No. 4 ranking.

She is one of only two players to make the quarterfinals at Roland Garros without dropping a set. Belgian No. 14 Justine Henin is the other.

And Capriati has beaten Williams in their past two matches. '(Serena's) going to be real eager to win," Capriati said. "Es-

pecially as last time we played. I beat her.' That was in the quarterfinals of the Ericsson Open in Key Biscayne, Florida, in March, a year after she beat Williams in the

fourth round of the same event. In their last match, Williams was hampered by a thigh injury that left her bending over, hopping and grimacing in pain between points. She lost in straight sets.

43 Street

vendor's

occupant

Can. and

"store"

48 Pedestal

49 Between

pooch

13 Greek

cross

15 Had a

18 S.A.

33 Don

36 Tittle

35 Barbie or

14 Hertz rival

hand (in)

12 Unyielding

When I played her. I really shouldn't have been playing. I was just out there," Williams said Sun-

The French is her first tourna-

ment since that defeat. Knee tendinitis kept her sidelined for the next two months. The 19-year-old former U.S. Open champion suffered from the

lack of practice in her opening rounds, stumbling to a three-set victory over France's Sarah Pitkowski in her first match.

Williams hasn't lost a set since, WOMEN'S QTRS PREVIEW

and her fourth-round win over Russia's Nadia Petrova sent her into the quarterfinals at Roland Garros for the first time in three attempts.

Both Capriati and Williams are

big hitters and the match is set to be a slugging competition. Williams won their only match on clay at the German Open in 1999. more than two years ago. But Capriati has been the more consistent player so far this tournament and stands out as the favourite to reach the semifinals.

Whoever wins Tuesday's quarterfinal showdown will likely face top-seeded Martina Hingis in the semis.

The 20-year-old Swiss star dropped her first set of the tour-

THE MATCHUPS Martina Hingis (Swi x1) - Fran-

cesca Schiavone (Ita) Jennifer Capriati (USA x4) - Serena Williams (USA x6) Kim Clijsters (Bel x12) - Petra Mandula (Hun)

Lina Krasnoroutskaya (Rus) Justine Henin (Bel x14)

nament Sunday against Frenchwoman Sandrine Testud, before eventually winning 6-1, 2-6, 6-2. Hingis plays unseeded Italian

Francesca Schiavone in her quarterfinal match. In the bottom half of the draw. No. 12 Kim Clijsters plays Hungarian qualifier Petra Mandula for a place in the semifinals. Mandula defeated one of the tournament

favourites, No. 15 Jelena Dokic, in the third round. The other quarterfinal pits Henin against 17-year-old Russian

Lina Krasnoroutskava. Reaching the quarterfinals is in itself a milestone for Capriati. She hasn't gotten that far at the French since 1993. She won only three matches on Paris' red clay from

1994-2000 I've had some great memories here," she said, "and a few bad ones.

But thanks to the breakthrough in Melbourne, the French Open seems less daunting now.

"It's not going to hold me back to think: Can I win a Grand Slam or not?" she said. "I did it."

Sirajganj cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Zia Smritv Cricket Club moved into the final of the Young Star tournament beating MPKC Club by three-wicket at the local ground

vesterday. Winning the toss, MPKC decided to bat first and collected 116

runs all out in 25 overs. In reply, Zia Smrity scored 117

losing seven wickets in 23.3 overs.

12 21 22 23 27 28 29 38 39 40 43 44 45 46 47

LBKM HPVZBZUM

SURELY MAKE A NICE PEAR. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals A

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.

Hurricane Harbhajan

Cricket

day tour match.

REUTERS, Harare India warmed up for the first Test in Bulawayo later this week with a 226-run victory against the CFX Academy with 13 overs remaining on Monday at the end of a three- tail end to shreds.

India set the Academy a target of 384 in 66 overs, which the home team never looked like reaching. Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh took six for 37 off 16 overs as the Academy were bowled out for a total of 157 to add to their 192 in

the first innings. Earlier, India resumed the day on 15 without loss and declared just before lunch on 128 for five. Opener Sadagoppan Ramesh scored a fluid 52 including nine boundaries and then retired out, just as three Indian batsmen did in the first innings, to give others time at the crease ahead of the

first test starting on Thursday.

match with three players scoring centuries in the first innings. The Academy went out to salvage a draw but started badly as India's right-arm seamer Javagal 360 runs here in the opening Srinath dismissed their top three

India batted solidly in the

batsmen with just 25 runs on the Academy skipper Mluleki Nkala table defeat at bay for nearly three 108 and Shane Warne 68 in a total

Nkala finally succumbed to the spin of Singh as he edged one to for 188.

Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly for Badani retired an aggressive 59, which came from 88 balls and included eight DighelbwbS. Ervine

The final six wickets fell for just 117, 4-125, 5-128 30 runs as India gave themselves a confidence boost heading into the Macmillan first Test.

(122 balls, eight fours) but could

Final scoreboard on the third and final day of the three-day tour match between CFX Academy and India on Monday: INDIA: First innings 447-4 declared (Shiv Das 110, VVS Laxman

100, H Badani 112 not out)

SCORECARD

AFP, Worcester

192 (G Brent 72; H Singh 4-37) INDIA: Second innings Australia blow Worcester away

CFX ACADEMY: First innings

Australia warmed up in style here Sunday beating Worcestershire by match of their Ashes tour. Australia rattled up a huge lead

of 548 before declaring at 360 for But a stand of 102 between eight, Ricky Ponting and Matthew Hayeden both making 65. In the and Barney Rogers held the inevi- first innings Damien Martyn made of 351. Worcestershire were dismissed

Harbhajan c Ebrahim b Rogers 16 Rogers was unbeaten on 65 Zaheer not out Bahatule b Rogers do nothing to stop Singh weaving Extras: (b-11, nb-3, w-7) his magic as he tore the Academy's Total: (For 5 wkts decl in 36 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-89, 2-99, 3-

Ramesh retired

3 0 14 CFX ACADEMY: Second in-Duffin b Srinath Ebrahim c Dighe b Srinath Croxford lbw b Srinath Rogers not out Nkala c Ganguly b Harbhajan Ervine lbw b Bahutule Brent c Dighe b Harbhajan Macmillan b Harbhajan Soma b Harbhajan Coulson c Laxman b Harbhajan Siziba c sub b Harbhajan

Extras: (b-4, w-1, nb-2)

Bahutule

Total: (All out in 53 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-22, 3-25, 4-127, 5-128, 6-129, 7-141, 8-147, 9-157 Bowler Srinath 29 Zaheer 12 Ganguly Harbhajan

53

However, shortly before lunch

Highlights

11:00 pm

PAKISTAN: First innings 403 (Inzamamul Haq 114, Rashid Latif

PAKISTAN: Second innings 323 (Inzamam 85, Yousuf Youhana 49; Gough 3/85, Caddick 3/92, Hoggard 3/93) ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 85-0)

Atherton b Wagar

Wagar 3 58 37 14 62 1 | Saglain Result: India won by 226 runs. | Razzag 33

By Eugene Sheffer 37 Breakfast 3 Old 23 Broadway ACROSS 1 Dreyfus card musical 24 Miss 38 Uncertain game defender 41 Fleming 4 Turkey's America's 5. Bart, to capital topper or Ziering 26 Odd-5 Sans 42 Pugilists' 8 White looking House

6 Scull

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7 Source of

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9 Stratford's

Mex. river 17 Friar 10 Kitchen 50 Eternally flooring, 51 Part of N.B. countr 52 Bashful for short 19 Jungle 11 Requests 53 Alluring herd 16 Snoop 21 Staten 20 "Darnl" DOWN Island 1 Clearasil 21 Long transpor tooth 24 Habertarget 22 One of 2 Plata's dasher's

HOMES rackful partner 25 Neighbor-Solution time: 23 mins. hood 26 Visual aid 30 Diarist PUNCHLINE NAG Anais DOLE SKID 31 Not filled ALR ERN YARDS PRIM SOD LIRA SEVER WEB VAN 32 Sticky Adams OMEOWNER comedy

41 Ray -?" seat. 45 "Hail. 46 Mardi Gras 47 Take a whack at

Charles' "What'd 44 Lead to a jocularly Caesarl* monarch

beast

astic, plus

27 Enthusi-

28 Characterization 29 Bridge pay 31 College VIP 34 Unwed 35 Does the twist 37 Scroogean cry 38 Bin **CRYPTOQUIP** 39 Stash 40 Any YBPPMSKF minute

LBXJ PJBUUM HBSU Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I REALLY MUST INSIST THAT TWO ORCHARD KEEPERS WOULD