asked last July whether he would

take over but turned the job down.

Eriksson was another to say No -

but only for the 2003-2004 season

He has said he will tell the English

Football Association within two

weeks whether he will stay on until

AC Milan's Carlos Ancelotti,

Roma's Fabio Capello and Bayern

Munich's Ottmar Hitzfeld, who has

already said no, are regarded as the

to expire in 2007, has led Chelsea

into second place in the Premier

League this season, nine points

upwards of 150 million pounds to

take Chelsea out of debt and initi-

ate a spending spree on players the

likes of which English football has

But with Abramovich lavishing

Ranieri, whose contract is due

favourites to succeed Ranieri.

the 2006 World Cup.

behind Arsenal.

England coach Sven-Goran

SPÖRT



England's Nasser Hussain celebrates after he takes the catch to get rid of West Indies' Shivnarine Chanderpaul on the fourth day of the second Test in Trinidad yesterday.

Hosts lift DC Gold Cup

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Gaibandha Pourashava emerged champions in the Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament beating Pabna Zila by 6-5 in the tie-breakers at the Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Thefinalended 1-1 in normal time. Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Mosle Uddin distributed

Sims rescues

FROM PAGE 13	
ZIMBABWE A: First innings	
Sibanda c Dhiman b Tareq	15
Gripper b Tareq	1
Chigumbura b Faisal	29
Sims b Enamul	80
Matsikenyere b Enamul	19
CoventrycDhimanbAlamgir	5
Maregwede not out	42
Ewing not out	30
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, nb-24, w-1)	33
Total: (For 6 wkts in 93 overs)	254
Fall of wkts: 1-10, 2-38, 3-69, 117,6-191	4-101, 5-
Bowler O M	R W

111,0-131	131			
Bowler	0	M	R	W
Alamgir	13	2	45	1
Tareq	13	3	57	2
Enamul	25	8	46	2
Faisal	14	3	50	1
Jamal	20	4	33	0
Kapali	2	0	6	(
Rafin	1	1	0	(
Ashraful	5	2	9	(

Mercury goes

not only have the momentum with them, but also the confidence that comes from successfully chasing a big score like 293.

"As a captain, a no-ball or a wide irritates me no end. The lack of discipline by the bowlers cost us the match. It is about time they put their hands up and do the job for Pakistan.

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad said he was confident the bowlers

would do better on Wednesday. "There is so much pressure on Shoaib Akhtar because he is the spearhead of our attack. He has made mistakes but I have a lot of faith in him," Miandad said.

"It has been a great series so and I am sure the finale will be as good. I hear the Indians choke in a final, I hope they choke again but we are not going to take them

The playing elevens for the decider, described by former Indian Test player Navjot Sidhu as "too close to call", will be named

just before the toss on Wednesday. India is expected to retain the same side, while Pakistan is seeking a place for dashing opener Taufeeg Umar, who hit a century in a practice match against the

Indians on March 10. **TEAMS**

ACROSS

1 River

7 Undula

structure

Seventh Seal"

director

4 Pompous 44 1962

INDIA (likely): Sourav Ganguly (captain), Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Zaheer Khan, Laxmipathy Balaji, Irfan Pathan, Murali Kartik.

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Yousuf Youhana, Shahid Afridi, Yasir Hameed, Younis Khan, Shoaib Malik, Abdul Razzaq, Moin Khan, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Shabbir Ahmed, Taufeeq

41 Skier's

43 Fan's cry

Lolita

portrayer

challenge

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

DOWN

1 Part of

2 Cruis-

3 Vikings

Eng won't lose series

Cricket

AFP,Port-of-Spain

England completed a seven-wicket win over the West Indies in the second Test here Tuesday to go 2-0 up in the four Test series.

Resuming the final day needing 28 to win, England lost a wicket second ball when Nasser Hussain edged Adam Sanford behind for

New batsman Graham Thorpe almost fell to the third delivery but Ridley Jacobs was unable to hold onto a low edge to his left.

Mark Butcher then hit the winning runs in the fifth over to finish 47 not out with England on 99 for three. England won the first test in Jamaica by 10 wickets. The win means that England have avoided a series defeat in the

Caribbean for the first time since 1968. And they retained the Wisden Trophy which they took with a 3-1 win at home in 2000. The loss was bitter for the West Indies and resulted in the immediate resignation of team manager

Skipper Brian Lara, however,

said it was not the time to press the

SCOREBOARD Final scoreboard on the fifth and last day of the second Test between England and West Indies at Queen's Park Oval on Tuesday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 208 (Gayle 62; Harmison 6-61) ENGLAND: First innings 319 (Thorpe 90, Butcher 61, Hussain 58, Giles 37; Collins 4-71, Best 3-71,

Gavle 2-20) **WEST INDIES:** Second innings Gayle b Jones Devon c Hoggard b Jones Sarwan lbw b Jones

17 13 Jacobs c Flintoff b Jones 70 C'paul c Hussain b Flintoff Lara lbw b Harmison Dwayne c sub b Flintoff Best lbw b Hoggard Sanford c Trescothick b Hoggard 1 Collins b Jones Collymore not out

0 Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-5, nb-10) 19 Total: (All out in 67 overs) 209 Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-45, 3-56, 4-158, 5-171, 6-194, 7-195, 8-200, 9-

Tillakaratne (captain), Marvan

Atapattu, Sanath Jayasuriya,

Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne

Dilshan, Thilan Samaraweera,

Avishka Gunawardene, Upul

Chandana, Chaminda Vaas,

Muttiah Muralitharan, Nuwan

Kulasekara, Kaushal

Lokuarachchi, Nuwan Zoysa,

BJP abides

Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP) will put up two giant

screens so supporters can see both

the deputy premier and the match,

said Yashpal Mahajan, a party

In New Delhi, lawmakers in the

city assembly crossed party lines to

advance Wednesday's budget

session by four hours so as not to

members of the legislative assem

bly as well as those from the oppo-

sition requested that they be

allowed to watch the match," said

of Pakistan in nearly 15 years,

prompting the state-run railways

and Indian Airlines to operate

special services to ferry Indian fans

(Monday) and there was a good

demand for air-conditioned car-

riages," said railways spokesman

DPS Sandhu, referring to well-

heeled fans hoping to travel in style

Vajpayee, a respected orator,

campaigned Monday in Uttar

Pradesh, the home-state of one-

day specialist Mohammad Kaif,

and to thunderous applause nar-

rated the player's valiant batting

that saw India overcome Pakistan

Prime Minister Atal Behari

to the Pakistani stadiums.

in Sunday's match.

"The second train left yesterday

to and from Pakistan.

The series is India's first full tour

Assembly Speaker Lalit Maken.

"Both the ruling Congress party

coincide with the cricket match.

Rangana Herath.

16

	205					
	Bowler	0	M	R	W	
	Hoggard	16	5	48	2	
	Harmison	16	5	40	1	
	Jones	15	2	57	5	
	Flintoff	12	1	27	2	
	Giles	7	1	29	0	
	Trescothick	1	0	4	0	
ENGLAND: Second innings						
	Trescothick	Bes	t		4	
Vaughan lbw b Sanford					23	
	Butchernotout					
Hussain c Jacobs b Sanford					5	
	Thorpe not o	ut			13	
	Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-1)				7	
Total: (For 3 wkts in 15 overs)					99	
	Fall of wicket	s: 1-8	3, 2-59, 3-	-71		
	Did not bat	: Flir	ntoff, Re	ad. C	Giles	

Hoggard, Jones, Harmison R W Bowler O M 0 27 Best Collins 0 26 0 32 Sanford 2 Collymore Result: England won by 7 wickets and lead the 4-Test series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Steve Harmison.

Warne after history

wickets in the last two matches, but needs 15 more to overhaul

Australia have yet to decide whether to go into the match with the same side or effect a couple of changes.

Andrew Symonds could make way for Simon Katich after contributing just 53 runs in four innings. Katich was unlucky to sit out after scoring a century in his last Test, against India at home early this Brad Williams is also in conten-

tion if Australia decide to include three pacemen and one spinner. "It (team selection) is not going to be easy. We'll sit back and talk

about it," said Ponting. Sri Lankan skipper Hashan Tillakaratne is in danger of losing

the captaincy after the hosts had lost their first home Test series in three years. "It does not bother me whether I

remain captain for the next series. If I am stepping down I just want to go on a high note," he said.

"I think we have to be mentally tough against Australia. The finishing touches are not there. We have seen how they finished the two Tests and that is lacking in our cricket. We have learnt so many things from Australia.'

Australia won both the matches after conceding first-innings leads.

"The Zimbabwe tour is round the corner and we will have to put our best foot forward. We cannot relax against them even for 10-15 minutes. It's high time we overcame our mistakes and try to win this Test," said Tillakaratne.

TEAMS

19 Mess

21 Calendar

abbr.

23 Astronaut

Grissom

provide

tance

units

base

point

source

longtime

tion to

ladv

54 Entangle

Bombeck

AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (captain), Justin Langer, Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn, Darren Lehmann, Andrew Symonds, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Jason Gillespie, Michael Kasprowicz, Stuart MacGill, Simon Katich, Brad Williams, Shaun Tait, Wade Seccombe.

SRI LANKA (from): Hashan

Age Group cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Division recorded a massive 128-run victory over Barisal Division in the Age Group Under-15 Development cricket tournament at the Faridpur Stadium vesterday. Surpiyo hammered 71 as Dhaka

made 224 for 7 in stipulated 50 In reply, Barisal were bundled out for 96 in 21.2 overs. Mehedi

Rahman picked up four wickets for Chittagong pulled off an exciting one-wicket win against Sylhet in the other match at the Rajendro

College ground. The port city boys made 132 for 9 in 48 overs in reply to Sylhet's 128 all out in 42.5 overs.

In the under-13 competition, both Dhaka and Chittagong defeated their respective rivals.

Dhaka handed Barisal a massive 147-run defeat at the Dhanmondi Club ground while Chittagong beat Sylhet by five wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket

Cricket goes

FROM PAGE 13

postponed so far are "Main Hoon Naa" (I Am There), starring Shah Rukh Khan, "Bewafa" (Unfaithful), "Uff Kya Jaadoo Mohabbat Hai, (Wow! What Magic Is Love), "Run", and "Lakeer" (Border Line).

Komal Nahata, a noted film analyst and editor of a Bollywood weekly Film Information, said, "Bollywood has a record of releasing at least two films per week, but in the last 15 days not a single film has been released in the industry.'

No Premier Division

FROM PAGE 13

outside Dhaka are also eligible to enter their names for the competi-

'We have decided that all the interested corporate houses have to sign players on 12-month contracts as employees," said Jamil. Meanwhile, there was good

news for cricketers who would have otherwise struggled to make it to the office teams. The meeting confirmed that the First Division league will go ahead as schedule.

"All the 16 First Division clubs agreed to take part in the league. We will announce a date for transfers within a day or two," said Jamil.

Tough revised draw

SPORTS REPORTER

For all their protests Bangladesh will feel hard done after knowing their opponents for the SAF Games football competition. The revised draw was conducted in Islamabad vesterday.

The defending champions now find themselves in Group A along with India, the hosts and newcomers Afghanistan. The other group features Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The Maldives, who were also drawn in that section, however pulled out at the last moment.

The revised grouping was made following Bangladesh's protests on technical grounds at having India and Maldives both semifinalists of the previous edition held in Kathmandu in 1999.

The football competition kicks off on March 27, two days before the South Asian gala event gets underway in the Pakistan capital.

ID football Big win for **Brothers**

RU CORRESPONDENT

Premier Division champions Brothers Union scored a massive 6-2 victory over Chittagong Mayor Ekadash in the Independence Day football tournament at Rajshahi

Ace striker Alfaz opened the floodgates while Tapu, Rikta, Liton, Edward and Abul scored once each and Mozammel and Yousuf

reduced the margin for the losers. In today's match Mohammedan Sporting Club will play Sylhet Mayor Ekadash.

Indo-Pak rivalry

FROM PAGE 13 men win on Wednesday they will move to 107 and Pakistan will drop

This will leave India in fifth place and Pakistan on sixth, an ICC

A Pakistani win would increase their rating to 108, while India would fall behind England to 105. A tied match will leave Pakistan with a one-point lead over India, the

ICC's official one-day rankings on Tuesday (placing, country,

Australia South Africa 113 Sri Lanka New Zealand Pakistan 107 England 106 India **West Indies** Zimbabwe Kenya Bangladesh

(Where two teams are level on points, the team with the better win ratio is given a higher placing)

Ranieri says bye!

Football

AFP, London

Chelsea manager Claudio Ranieri has told his players he will be leaving the club at the end of the season, newspapers reported Tuesday.

"I know what's going on. You know what's going on. Let's get on with the rest of our season," the Italian was reported to have told his squad after a training session.

An attempt to gain a vote of confidence from Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon fell on deaf "Now the club should say some-

thing, they should say it's rubbish," Ranieri told Sky Sports TV about the never-ending speculation he will be sacked at the end of the season. "It's not for me, it's for the

players," said Ranieri ahead of Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final first leg clash at home to Arsenal. "I think the club should support the coach and the squad.'

But Kenyon refused to respond to widespread newspaper reports the club was sounding out proespective future managers.

Ranieri has had to endure a near relentless run of stories in the British press since Chelsea were taken over last July by Russian oil billionaire Roman Abramovich all



CLAUDIO RANIERI

suggesting he would be axed at the

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson was apparently

not seen before, Kenyon warned that going trophy-less this season would constitute failure for the London club.

Chelsea have gone 16 matches without beating Arsenal and Ranieri cannot afford another defeat on Wednesday.

Gunners have all the aces



AFP,London

It is the match Chelsea cannot win and Arsenal cannot lose - at least that's what the statistics say ahead of the London rivals' Champions League quarter-final first leg match here Wednesday at Stamford Bridge.

Not only have Arsenal already beaten Chelsea 2-1 three times already this season they have not lost to their west London opponents in their last 16 meetings.

Arsenal lead the Premiership by nine points from Chelsea and are on course for a trophy treble with the FA Cup holders meeting Manchester United in the semifinals of this season's competition next month.

While at least one piece of silverware seems destined to end up at Highbury, the same cannot be said for Chelsea.

And that is bad news for manager Claudio Ranieri who, almost ever since billionaire owner Roman Abramovich, has been having to read stories in the British press saying he will be sacked at the end of the season.

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has been Ranieri's most frequently touted successor although Arsenal dismissed suggestions that Abramovich could lure their manager Arsene Venger across town.

Meanwhile any thoughts Ranieri had that winning the Champions League might be

enough to keep him at Stamford Bridge were rubbished by Monday's edition of the London Evening Standard which carried the headline "Nothing can keep Ranieri safe now".

Up until then the genial Italian, who has lavished 120

million pounds (220 million dollars) of Abramovich's money on players in an unprecedented spending spree by British standards, had laughed off all the talk about his own future. But even Ranieri, whose con-

tract is not due to expire until 2007, has a breaking point and on Monday he urged the club to end the speculation over his position. "For me everything is rubbish,

don't believe it - but of course

the club should say something if I'm under pressure," he told Sky "Not for Ranieri, the journalists have been killing Ranieri for a long time. But now, why? There is a different strategy. I don't know

why they want to kill, not Ranieri,

they want to kill the whole sea-Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon - who had previously warned Ranieri that a trophyless season would count as a "ḟaiĺure" - later came out with a statement in support of his manager although it was some way short of

a ringing endorsement. "We will not add to this speculation by responding and only wish to reiterate that Claudio run on his contract."

Meanwhile Chelsea and England defender John Terry insisted neither the Gunners' star striker Thierry Henry nor Arsenal were unbeatable.

"I think he (Henry) has got everything," Terry told Chelsea TV. "He's very quick, he's got a great finish and a great first touch. His movement and the timing of his runs are excellent.

"But Arsenal aren't invincible and neither is Thierry Henry so let's stop worrying about them. Let's just go and beat them." Chelsea are expected to start

with Hernan Crespo and Eidur Gudjohnsen in attack because Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink is nursing a hamstring strain. Neither Arsenal nor Chelsea have reached the semi-finals of

await the winners of their capital Wenger said his men knew

the Champions League where

either Real Madrid or Monaco

what was at stake. "The game at Stamford Bridge is massive for both of us," the Frenchman said.

but let's give it all against Chelsea. "We give the maximum in every game and then see what

big game. We have a game after

that against Manchester United

"I promise that you will see a

happens after that." Another factor in Arsenal's favour is that striker Dennis Bergkamp will be available for the

game. Normally the Dutchman's fear of flying prevents him from taking part in European away games but a trip across London should hold fewer concerns.

Real's Ronaldo relief

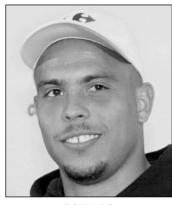
CHAMPS LEAGUE

Real Madrid go into their Champions League quarter-final with Monaco on Wednesday on the back of two defeats which have

An extra-time defeat to Real Zaragoza in the Spanish Cup final was a surprise but when the famous white shirts crashed 4-2 to Athletic Bilbao in the league on Saturday, it was the first time this season they

However Zinedine Zidane, who has been unable recently to lift the team in his normal fashion, dismissed suggestions that a team who have won the Champions League twice in the past four years were a

back, but there is no frailness about us. I have no doubt about that,'



Year said the team was not tired and believes their problems have coincided with the absence of Brazilian striker Ronaldo, who has missed the two defeats because of a thigh injury.

one against Zaragoza which really "We're not exhausted. We're still running as well as we were and as "It's always bad to lose in a final much as the others," Zidane said.

"It's not a physical problem and it's not that we're not creating any scoring chances. We are, but we're missing Ronaldo." The Brazilian is set to play at least

him as his fellow striker Raul is doubtful after injuring a thigh in the Bilbao match. Roberto Carlos must sit out the game as the Brazilian left-back completes a two-match suspension for slapping Bayern Munich player

part of the match at the Bernabeu

on Wednesday. And Real may need

Martin Demichelis in the previous David Beckham, whose frustration was evident when he kicked over a water bottle after being substituted against Bilbao, is

Monaco have also hit a rocky patch of domestic form - two draws in the league came either side of elimination from the French Cup at

But as they seek to reach the semi-finals of the Champions League for the first time since 1994, Deschamps can pick from a virtu-

ally full squad. Central defender Sebastien Squillaci, one of the pillars of the team, is set to make his return after a month out with injury and Deschamps recognises his rearguard are the key over the two

"I'm realistic," said Deschamps. "Player for player it's weighed in their favour from the start. We will have to limit their chances and make the most of opportunities when we get one.

matches.

"But Real haven't had the best preparation for this match either. For me, preparing for it has been exciting both tactically and psychologically.

FIXTURES

European Champions League quarter-final fixtures on Wednesday:

25 Fermi's ting landing 46 Hay-Mommy 26 Pumice seed 4 Curved 50 Begone kissing. 27 Vivacity 13 Malarkey 5 Satan's 53 Haul 14 Shaving-**55** 100 28 Resis-Maltese chase cream additive 15 Antitoxins 56 Nimbus 29 Scallopini power 16 Shuffle-57 "A 7 Bar Chorus 30 Humorist board 8 Happy stick 17 Libretto 31 Penorder 18 Seament 58 Seth's of society populi 35 Apiece son **59** Para-20 Channel 22 Work unit dise theless 12 Prank-24 Esprit de 60 Pirate 40 Bob's 61 Summer corps ster's 42 Engine 32 Indis pensable Solution time: 24 mins 45 Admoni-**33** KFC enhance 34 Use a 47 Gentle straw 48 Cupid 36 - Scotia 49 Survive 37 Half a **50** The 1960s 51 Swindled quartet 39 "The 52 Flamenco

CRYPTOQUIP QYMMZQQAYF

CES APCEZG CUZS NXQ QNCU EOQ MYD OSR RGXZR

A FUEL'S PARADISE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals C

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I WONDER IF AN OIL-RICH REPUBLIC LIKE KUWAIT IS BEST CALLED

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

AFP, Madrid

rocked the reigning Spanish cham-

had lost two consecutive matches.

diminished force as they prepare for the visit of Didier Deschamps' side. "We need to get our confidence, our game and our concentration

Zidane said. "We have lost two matches, that's all. We have to forget these

last two defeats and especially the

but that happens in the course of a

season. But we can win against

The current World Player of the



expected to start the match. the hands of amateurs Chateauroux and they have lost the lead in the eague to Lyon.

At Madrid

Real Madrid (SPA) v Monaco (FRA) At London

Chelsea (ENG) v Arsenal (ENG) 2nd leg matches April 6