CJKS-

Australia touring Zim

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Cricket Australia said it was committed to tour Zimbabwe next month despite reports of upheaval within the Zimbabwean team

A boycott by up to 11 Zimbabwe players is seen as the first direct consequence of the simmering crisis over the ousting of national captain Heath Streak, which has split cricket in the African nation along racial lines.

Australia are scheduled to play two Tests and three one-dayers in Zimbabwe, with the opening warmup game starting on May 17.

Zimbabwe's most capped player, Grant Flower, has warned the Australian tour could prove farcical and told the Sydney Morning Herald on Tuesday he believed there was a

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Poor old Graham Thorpe. To be in

the field for the entire duration of one

record-breaking Brian Lara innings

field again for another 13 hours, 10

years on, must feel like the cruelest

Lara's quadruple Test century --

sounds strange, doesn't it -- came at

a time when West Indies cricket is at

being the first Windies captain to

preside over the wrong sort of home

Lara was in serious danger of

England's bowlers have been

rampant. The West Indies batting

has been abject. Lara himself has

looked ordinary, troubled by Steve

Harmison's lift and bounce and

uncertain in his handling of his

greatest Test innings of all time.

From that mess he produced the

Only Don Bradman has scored

The statistics on the innings are

But this was about more than

more than 300 twice in Tests. No-

one has ever broken the Test batting

staggering. Lara made 139 in sin-

gles alone, another 172 just in fours.

mere maths. If you are going to set a

new world record, it takes a special

kind of bravery and sense of occa-

sion to do so by crashing a six over

long on and then, next ball, sweep-

two and a half days at the crease.

Lara barely gave a chance in his

To be chasing the ball around the

could be considered bad luck.

form of cricketing deia-vu.

its lowest ebb.

whitewash.

record twice.

"very good possibility" Zimbabwe could lose their Test and one-day international cricket status.

But Cricket Australia spokesman Graeme Vimpani said here on Tuesday the uncertainty within the Zimbabwe team would not affect the decision on whether to tour.

"We are committed to the tour contingent on safety and security -as long as those two boxes are ticked we will go," Vimpani said.

"Our position is not to make any comment on what happens in Zimbabwe. We are concerned with our own backvard. "It is up to Zimbabwe to work

through those issues, it's not up to

Australian Test batsman Matthew Havden said the situation in Zimbabwe cricket was a concern. but he believed the tour should go ahead

Thorpe was there

"I think it's taken them and will

There was the potential leg-side

catch that Geraint Jones missed

once he had made 350, but that

apart it was a near-flawless perfor-

those levels of concentration, was

remarkable enough when he was

physical gifts are on the wane, and

when all around are calling for the

end of your captaincy, takes

GRAHAM THORPE

about the injuries England suffered

to Ashley Giles and Matthew

Hoggard, and point out that

Harmison was forced out of the

nature of the batting surface at St

John's or the diminutive size of the

picky, if the track is that flat, how

You could snipe about the flat

Then again, if you want to be

attack for running on the wicket.

Antigua Recreation Ground.

You could quibble if you wanted

immense mental resolution.

To bat for that long, and with

To do so at an age when natural

take them a long time to become a world leader in cricket but that doesn't neglect the fact that we need to take the opportunities to develop that," Hayden said on

"It took New Zealand 27 years to win a Test match -- we need to go over there and show our support for the global game.

Streak triggered the biggest crisis to hit Zimbabwe cricket since it became a full member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) more than a decade ago when he called earlier this month for the removal from the selection panel of anybody who had not played at least first-class cricket, and of a TV commentator.

Streak was immediately sacked and there was no debate about his

come England ended the day on

Was the Zimbabwe bowling that

Matty Hayden took for 380 a lot

stronger, or the Pakistan opposition

that Sir Gary Sobers belted around

Kingston almost half a century ago?

ment that, somehow, Lara's innings

has done more harm than good to

West Indian cricket -- covering up

the serious flaws in the side, making

his position as captain invulnerable

just when a new man should be

given his chance. That reasoning is

flawed. Would a young, inexperi-

enced side benefit more from

another soul-crushing defeat than

an inspirational show of force from

Lara's innings contained within it

Conscious of the pivotal nature

Aware that he is not flawless, that

every lesson that his tyros need to

of his innings, he cut out the flam-

boyance in favour of steady run-

he has that weakness against the

short ball, he stood firm in the face of

Above all, there was a single-

minded absorption in his task that

only broke briefly -- and understand-

ably -- when Hayden's old mark fell.

say to his grandchildren, "I was

there when Lara broke the record --

Hey, at least Graham Thorpe can

scoring all around the ground.

England's early assault.

their natural leader?

There is also the perverse argu-

You think the attack was weak?

171-5?

cricket

CU CORRESPONDENT

Ispahani

Chittagong City Corporation Ekadosh recorded a two-wicket victory over Friends Club in the CJKS-Ispahani Premier Division Cricket League at the MA Aziz Stadium yes-

Sent into bat, Friends Club made 212 before being all out in 49.5 overs. Sabbir Khan top-scored with 60 while skipper Titu added 28. Saifullah Khan grabbed four wickets for winning team.

In reply, CCC Ekadash reached 213 for eight in 49.2 overs. Former national skipper Akram Khan hammered a glorious 95 not out that featured eight hits to the fence. Friends Club's Rahul took three for 44.

FIRST DIVISION

Meanwhile, Bengle Club defeated Jalalabad Sports Association by two wickets at the Dampara Police Lines ground

After winning the toss, Jalalabad scored 149 all out in 35.1 over. Babu scored highest 41. Jitu of Bengle Club snatched five wickets.

In reply, Bengle Club reached 153 for eight in 43.4 overs. Jitu top-scored 26 runs. Shoheld and Tutul of Jalalabad Sports Association took two wickets each.

On Monday, Brothers Union recorded a comprehensive 118-run victory over Satadal Club

Put into bat, Brothers Union scored 285-7 with Nuruzzaman hitting 69. Naeem (58) and Arif Ahmed who added 52, were the other main contributors. Tayeb grabbed two wickets for Satadal Club.

In reply, Satadal Club scored 167 before being all out in 42.4 overs. Brothers' Mominul Haque starred with the ball claiming four wickets. Nuruzzaman also took two wickets.

Elsewhere, Bakalia Ekadash defeated Kollol Sangha by three wickets in their First Division match.

Batting first, Kollol Sangha scored 117 in 45.1 overs. The winners replied with 120-7 in 40 overs.

Cricket can

FROM PAGE 13 fans waving the saffron, white and green national flag surrounded by thousands of ecstatic Pakistanis.

have had a greater impact than any politician's speech. Cricketers past and present recog-

nise that the series goes far beyond the boundary rope.

"This was the medium to get everyone together." former Pakistani player Intikhab Alam said.

Foreign secretaries are due to meet in May or June before foreign ministers gather in July or August to push forward a "composite dialogue" that will include the key issue of Kashmir, the Himalayan region claimed by both countries.

The two sides have agreed a ceasefire along the de facto border separating their armies in Kashmir, which lies at the heart of their dispute and triggered two of three wars they have fought since independence and partition in 1947.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and India at the Rawalpindi Stadium on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN: First innings Farhat Ibw b Nehra Umar Ibw b Balaii

I latticed C Laxit	ianibi	auiaii		U
Inzamam c Pate	l b Neh	ra	1	5
Youhana b Path	an			13
Kamal Ibw b Bala	aji		2	21
Akmal c Laxmar	nb Bala	ji	1	7
Sami run out				49
Akhtar b Balaji				0
Akbar Ibw b Kun	nble		2	25
Kaneria not out				4
Extras: (b-14, lb-	-5, nb-3	, w-7)	29	9
Total: (All out in 7	2.5 ove	ers)	224	ļ
Fall of wickets:	1-34, 2-	34, 3	-77, 4	1-7
5-110, 6-120, 7-	137,8-1	137,9	-207	
Bowler	0	M	R	٧
Pathan	22	7	49	-

Impires: David Shepherd (England) and Rudi Koertzen (South Africa)

NMQYKD ML'E CQUL Repeat final

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

'Absurd' says Beckham

Football

AFP,London

England football captain David Beckham, engulfed by a media storm surrounding his love life, said Monday newspaper allegations that he had cheated on his wife Victoria with two other women were "ab-

"This weekend a series of even more absurd and unsubstantiated claims have been published about David and Victoria Beckham," said a statement from 19 management, the agency which represents Victoria, also known as Posh Spice.

Beckham had already rejected as "ludicrous" claims by his erstwhile personal assistant Rebecca Loos, 26, that they had sex together after he moved from Manchester United to Real Madrid while Victoria staved in Britain.

The furore intensified Sunday when Malaysian-born Sarah Marbeck, 29, told the News of the

World newspaper that she had a two-year affair with Beckham that started during a Manchester United tour in Singapore in July 2001.

"The couple continue to dismiss these stories and they will not be commenting upon them further at this time," said the Beckhams' statement Sunday.

Amid speculation that 28-yearold Beckham might consider legal action, it added simply that the couple had "instructed lawyers" but did not give any more details.

But a News of the World spokes-

woman said: "We note a further dismissive statement issued by the Beckham camp, this time on behalf of both Mr and Mrs Beckham." "The News of the World's posi-

tion remains totally unchanged," "Once again we stand by our

reports 100 percent -- our revelations speak for themselves," she

The Beckhams made a show of unity Sunday night travelling to London from their Hertfordshire home -- dubbed "Beckingham

the exclusive Claridges restaurant.

After three hours at the celebrity hotspot, the pair emerged smiling before a horde of waiting photographers and journalists.

But the media frenzy surroundng arguably Britain's most celebrated couple is unlikely to subside in a hurry.

Sky News, Britain's mostwatched 24 hour news channel said late Sunday it had scooped a TV interview with Loos to be screened on Thursday at 10:00 pm (2100 Loos gave a "kiss-and-tell"

interview to the News of the World on Sunday, a week after the allegations first surfaced that she had bedded Beckham.

Meanwhile, Marbeck, 29 released a statement which claimed her relationship with the Real Madrid midfielder had changed her

"In response to many questions about my motives, the reason I decided to go public with details of my relationship with David my life was on hold while I waited for him," she said in the statement released by Melbourne-based lawyer Michael Brereton.

"He said he loved me and I slept with the phone by my bed waiting for it to ring," she said.

"But in that time my life changed forever, and there is no way back for me. I am not a celebrity seeker, and I am not interested in extra fame, but I have found myself at the centre of a media storm, and I am shocked by the intense level of public interest in

Marbeck said she had finally "accepted that my relationship with Beckham was over" and decided to

But Sydney's Daily Telegraph published a story Tuesday quoting unnamed "friends" of Marbeck as saying she was obsessed with Beckham, describing her recent behaviour as "erratic," and treating cautiously claims that she had slept

Premiership

Easy equation for Gunners

Football

AFP, London

Arsenal need just nine points from their last six matches to clinch the Premiership title after Aston Villa crushed Chelsea's lingering hopes of catching the Gunners.

A shock 3-2 win at Stamford Bridge gave Villa's own hopes of European football next season a lift and did Manchester United a huge favour in their race with Chelsea for

A superb Shaun Bartlett header dealt another blow to Liverpool's chances of Champions League football next season as Charlton held out for a 1-0 win at Anfield.

At the bottom, Portsmouth gave their survival chances a huge boost with a 3-1 win over Birmingham but Manchester City were dragged a little closer to the drop zone after squandering an early lead to draw 1-1 at Tottenham. Chelsea had looked set fair for

victory when Hernan Crespo put them ahead with an 11th-minute tap-in after Adrian Mutu had headed Wayne Bridge's cross on to the post. A rout even looked on the cards

briefly. But Claudio Ranieri's side took their foot off the pedal and were punished by three goals in the space of ten minutes spanning the

penalty spot before Thomas Hitzlsperger and Lee Hendrie put Villa in the driving seat. Crespo curled a shot past

Thomas Sorensen in stoppage time but his second strike came too late to prevent Chelsea losing, leaving Ranieri to contemplate a tight race for second place. "Manchester can achieve sec-

edged. "It will be a good battle between the two sides. "What delighted me was that my players bounced back," Villa boss

Charlton were worthy winners at Anfield against a lacklustre Liverpool side

hour mark, South African striker Bartlett rising to meet Claus Jensen's corner with a powerful header into the top corner for his

Manchester City had looked on track for a desperately needed win when Nicolas Anelka gave them a first half lead. After collecting a pass from Steve McManaman, the Frenchman skipped past Gary

rebound after Kasey Keller blocked his first effort But Jermain Defoe snatched an

equaliser seven minutes after the break and despite some intense late pressure, City were unable to produce a winner

Portsmouth took the lead in dramatic fashion after Birmingham goalkeeper Maik Taylor was sent off for handling outside the area on the stroke of half-time. Yakubu Aiyegbeni rolled the

loose ball into the net but referee Barry Knight ruled that a free-kick should be taken. After several minutes of arguments, Dejan Stefanovic finally took and scored from the free-kick. Lomana LuaLua extended

Pompey's lead. Stern John ensured some nervous moments for the home supporters by pulling one back for Birmingham but Yakubu made the points save from the penalty spot after Kenny Cunningham handled the Nigerian's

A stoppage time winner from Kevin Davies gave Bolton a 2-1 win over Wolves that all-but condemns Dave Jones's rock-bottom side to first division football next season.

Henrik Pedersen had headed Bolton ahead just before half-time against the run of play.

Wolves equalised almost imme-

Senegal winger Henri Camara but Davies's late hammer blow leaves them six points adrift of safety with only five games left to play

In the day's other game, Middlesbrough produced one of their best performances all season to beat Southampton 3-1 and leapfrog the Saints into the top half of the table.

Goals from Brazil's Juninho, Slovakia's Szilard Nemeth and Italian forward Massimo Maccarone secured the points before James Beattie's volley gave Southampton some slender consolation.

TOP SIX

English Premiership table after Monday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals or, goals against, points):

Arsenal	32	23	9 0	62	22	78
Chelsea	33	22	5 6	60	27	71
Man Utd	31	20	5 6	58	31	65
Liverpool	33	13	10 10	48	36	49
Newcastle	32	12	13 7	45	33	49
Villa	33	13	9 11	44	40	48

Expert

defends

"doosra" delivery

slowing down of action.

testing procedures.

in the Test matches.'

Muralı tests

An Australian biomechanical expert

has defended the testing proce-

dures involved in examining spinner

Muttiah Muralitharan's controversial

Jacque Alderson from the

University of Western Australia said

it would be difficult for the Sri Lankan

spinner to deliberately change his

bowling technique without the

biomechanic's team detecting a

Australian vice-captain Adam

Gilchrist questioned the value of the

bother doing a test like that, whether

it is Murali or anyone else in world

cricket," Gilchrist told Channel

Seven on Monday. "Because there

is nothing similar between that in a

laboratory and what you are facing

the past for commenting on

Muralitharan's action, being repri-

manded in May 2002 by the (then)

Australian Cricket Board for calling

general off-break any more because

want, every single delivery in a Test

match, whatever they want to do

"A bowler can change what they

we have cleared that." he said.

with their wrist or the arm.

Gilchrist has been in trouble in

Her comments come after

"I have got to question why they

400: Beat that!

fours from 86 halls in 128 minutes.

More success came West Indies way when Graham Thorpe, a century-maker in the previous Test, topedged a hook and was caught inside the deep fine leg boundary for 10 off Fidel Edwards to leave England 98

Flintoff and Jones batted confidently to resist the West Indies attack for almost two hours to make sure that no more wickets fell. They defied the fast bowlers and forced Lara into an all-spin attack of Ramnaresh Sarwan with leg-spin and Rvan Hinds with orthodox leftarm spin to share 73, unbroken, for

the sixth wicket. There was a piece of drama just before the close though, when Flintoff, then 27, survived a chance to Lara when he top-edged a cut to slip off Sarwan.

England lead the four-Test series 3-0 after convincing victories at

37 "Mary

ACROSS

that

moment

35 Sartorial

36 Zero-star

Kingston, Port of Spain and Batty Bridgetown **SCOREBOARD**

Extras: (b-4, lb-5, w-2, nb-5) Total: (For 5 wkts decl in 202 overs) 751 Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-98, 3-330, 4-

380, 5-469										
Did not bat:	Best,	, Collymore								
Bowler	0	M	R	W						
Hoggard	18	2	82	0						
Harmison	37	6	92	1						
Flintoff	35	8	109	1						
S Jones	29	0	146	1						

and	Batty Vaughan	52 13	4 0	185 60	2								
	Trescothick	18	3	68	0								
on the	ENGLAND: First innings												
third day of the fourth and final Test Trescothick c Jacobs b Best													
between West Indies and England Vaughan c Jacobs b Collins													
on Monday: Butcher b Collins													
(over-	Hussain b Best				3								
night 595-5) Gayle c and b Batty 69 Thor													
	Flintoff not out				37								
	G Jones not out 32												
Future													
Salwari C I tiller b Harrison 90													
36	Fall of wickets 1	-8, 2-4	5, 3-	54, 4	-98,								
107	5-98												
16	To bat: Batty, S	Jones	s, H	larmi	son,								
751	Hoggard												
	(over- 69 10 400 90 23 36 107 16	Vaughan Trescothick on the al Test Ingland (over- 69 10 400 90 Extras: (lb-2, w- Total: (For 5 wkts 36 Fall of wickets 1 107 5-98 16 Trescothick c Ja Vaughan c Jacol Butcher b Collins Hussain b Best Thorpe c Collins Flintoff not out G Jones not out Extras: (lb-2, w- Total: (For 5 wkts 107 5-98 16 To bat: Batty, S	Vaughan 13 Trescothick 18 ENGLAND: First inning Trescothick c Jacobs b Vaughan c Jacobs b Co Butcher b Collins Hussain b Best Thorpe c Collins b Edwa Flintoff not out G Jones not out Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-12 Total: (For 5 wkts in 58 of Fall of wickets 1-8, 2-44 To bat: Batty, S Jones	Vaughan 13 0 Trescothick 18 3 on the al Test Trescothick c Jacobs b Best Vaughan c Jacobs b Collins Butcher b Collins Hussain b Best Thorpe c Collins b Edwards Flintoff not out G Jones not out G Jones not out Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-11) Total: (For 5 wkts in 58 over 5-98 To bat: Batty, S Jones, H	Vaughan 13 0 60 Trescothick 18 3 68 on the al Test rescothick c Jacobs b Best vaughan c Jacobs b Collins Butcher b Collins Hussain b Best Thorpe c Collins b Edwards Flintoff not out G Jones not out G Jones not out Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-11) Total: (For 5 wkts in 58 overs) 17 5-98 To bat: Batty, S Jones, Harmi								

M R W

10

13 3 32 0

4.3 1 20

3 37 2

1 41

Bowler

Edwards

Collymore

18 37	6	92	1	ŀ	Hind	s			9.3	4	1	7	0	AkmalcLaxma	n b Bala	ji	-	7
35	_	109	1	5	Sarw	an			7	0	1	8	0	Sami run out				49
9			1	(Gayl	e			1	0		4	0	Akhtar b Balaji				0
.0	U	140	٠		- a.j.					•		•	•	Akbar Ibw b Kui	mble		2	25
														Kaneria not out				4
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	7	Extras: (b-14, lt	,	,	,	-
10	-	-	<u> </u>				_				-		4	Total: (All out in		,		-
12			1		13	1			14	1	1	1	1	Fall of wickets:	,	,		
15	+-	+	 	16	-	 			17	+	+	+-	1	5-110, 6-120, 7		,		
									.,					Bowler	0	М	R	W
18	Т	T					19	20					1	Pathan	22	7	49	2
	L.			-			_		-	-				Balaji	19	4	63	4
			21	1	22	23		24	1					Nehra	21	4	60	2
25	26	27	-	-	28	 -	29	_		30	31	32	٩.	Ganguly	2	0	9	0
123	120	12'	1		20	1	2.5			30	١,,	102		Kumble	8.5	2	24	1
33		\top		34				\vdash		35			1	INDIA: Firstinn				
_	┺				-	_	_	_			1	1_	_	Sehwag c Ham	eed b Ak	khtar		0
36				37		1			38	1	1		1	Patel not out				13
		39	40	-	-	41	├-	42	-		1_	١		Dravid not out				10
		38	140	1		41	1	142					•	Total: (For 1 wk		ers)	23	3
43	44		\vdash	\vdash	45			46		47	48	49	7	Fall of wicket: 1	-			
	_		_	_				_		_		_		To bat: Tendull	kar, Lax	man,	Gan	guly,
50	1		1		51	52	53		1	1		1	1	Yuvraj, Pathan,	, Balaji, K	(umb	ole, Ne	ehra
54	+-	+-	+-	-	55	+	+-	-	56	+-	+-	+	-	Bowler	0	М	R	W
54	1				55	1	1		30			1		Akhtar	5	4	4	1
57	\top	_	\top		58	1	1		59		+	T	٦	Akbar	5	0	14	0
L							_						╛	Kaneria	3	0	4	0
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				,	CRY	rit	Jyt	Ir						Umpires : Davi	d Shepl	nerd	(Engl	and)

PFVVLP

NF DNLXC, Q KZLDD ML

EFZVCL Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PEACEFUL PROTEST FOR WHICH YOUR OLD, SMELLY FOOTWEAR IS NEVER REMOVED: A SHOE-IN. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals T

Inter Milan will be looking to spare Italian blushes when they bid to

®UEFA CUP

Marseille in the UEFA Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday. Dominant in Europe 12 months

ago, Italian sides have had a miserable tiome of late failing to qualify one of their number for the Champions League semis and down to just Inter in the UEFA Cup. Inter are languishing in fifth place in the Italian league, a whop-

ping 23 points behind city rivals AC

Milan and success in Europe's secondary club competition is their only hope of salvaging something from their season. But Marseille, after a tough start to the season, have rebounded under new coach Jose Angino and

Didier Drogba's solo strike in the first leg last week could be enough to put them through to the semi-Drogba however will miss the second leg at the San Siro after picking up a needless yellow card at the Stade Velodrome with

striker Mido The other French club still in contention, Bordeaux, have their work cut out to make the last four after losing 2-1 at home in the first leg to Valencia of Spain.

Angino turning to bustling Egyptian

The Mediterranean coast side moved above Real Madrid atop the Spanish first division at the weekend and are in top form.

They will have to do without influential Argentine midfielder Pablo Aimar and Mali international Lamine Sissokon, how-

back in the picture having scored the winner against Real Zaragoza on Sunday Bordeaux coach Michel Payon is hoping recent history -Monaco's shock win from a seem-

Striker Miguel Angel Angulo is

ingly hopeless position over Real Madrid in the Champions League last week springs to mind - may have a bearing on the outcome. 'You never know, we've seen things like that happen already. And Valencia may have other

things on their mind," he added,

alluding to their fight for the

Spanish league title. Spanish outfit Villareal hold a slight advantage over Celtic after a valuable away goal with a 1-1

draw in Glasgow. Both clubs are expected to field full strength sides.

Celtic captain Jackie McNamara said his team were under no illusions of what lay

"I think Villarreal are as good a side as we have played in Europe over the last few seasons," said McNamara, trying to relieve some of the pressure on last season's UEFA Cup finalists. "Last week was an open game

but I'm not sure it will be the same there," he added, hinting that he expected Villarreal to try and keep things tight in their claustrophobic El Madrigal, which only holds

As a precaution because of a tender hamstring, McNamara was rested from Saturday's Scottish Livingston.

Wednesday," said the 30 year-old Newcastle manager Sir Bobby

his former club PSV Eindhoven. Newcastle, who held Premiership champions-elect Arsenal to a goalless draw on

Sunday, go into the second leg

"The Eindhoven match will be very tough, especially as it comes just after a difficult match against Arsenal," predicted Robson, who guided PSV to two championships in his spell there in the early 1990s.

First leg 1-1 Inter Milan (ITA) v Marseille (FRA) First leg 0-1 Eindhoven (NED) First leg 1-1

Newcastle United (ENG) v PSV

him a chucker. "What I find interesting is they say you don't need to look at his

"I don't see that you can say they are cleared, we don't need to look for

Van the man for Barca?

Football

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona president Joan Laporta has reportedly met Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy's agent for informal Spanish media reported

Tuesday Laporta met Rodger Linse to talk numbers. The Dutch striker recently extended his contract at United for four years to

Manchester are said to want 64 million euros for their leading millions pounds (29 million euros) from PSV Eindhoven in 2001. And van Nistelrooy's 6 million euro wages might be too much for

scorer whom they bought for 19

Barcelona, who have been trying to off-load van Nistelrooy's compatriot Patrick Kluivert for the last year because of his wages. Kluivert, in his sixth season at Barcelona, was forced to take a

two million euros pay cut last July. His salary is now believed to be around five million euros a year. Barcelona, who were outbid by Real Madrid for David Beckham

last year, are also interested in the Juventus striker David club they will not go beyond 15 million euros for the France Linse, who lives in Catalonia,

said his meeting with Laporta was a chat over a cup of coffee. Reports in the British press

Trazeguet but have told the Turin

said Chelsea were considering a 50 million pound (76 million euro) bid for Barcelona's Brazil World Cup winner Ronaldinho whom Barcelona snatched from under the noses of Manchester from Paris St Germain last year.

Lauding Lord FROM PAGE 13

else getting to 400 in my lifetime.' England skipper Michael

Vaughan took time out at the end of the day's play to pay tribute to the record-breaking innings. "We all set out to achieve greatness, but he is a gifted, gifted

player," he said. "He is one of the all-time great players, he has achieved something

that has never been achieved before even with the amount of pressure he had on him before the start of this Test. "He will go down as one of the

greats of the game and it will take some player and some performance to beat his 400."

1 Impale Little 1 Goblet ballot 5 Spigot Lamb" feature 22 "Turan-8 Unwanted 38 Alluring 2 Danza dot" e-mail 39 Sugar 12 Sky-high suffix 3 Hanni-23 Makes 13 Have a 41 Put an bal's like end to bug hurdles new 14 Mr. 43 Turkish 4 Big 25 Chart Green's 26 Ms. spot 46 Parking 5 Greek Thurman 27 Center of 15 PR attendan 50 Speak 6 Melody agent's attention concern unclearly 7 Arraign 29 Torme's 17 Broadway 51 It's at ment forte hit from the X offering **31** Snap-1996 54 Angry 8 Rx. for shots 32 Agent 18 Johnny 55 Squirrel's short Mathis hide-9 Joy 34 Flushing

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

DOWN

10 Family classic away field 19 Fly 38 Tics 56 Primary mem-57 Prepared 21 Stuff ber 40 Vestige 24 Harvest 11 Apportion 42 Eggs to drive goddess 58 Itty-16 Part of 43 "Hey, 25 Oodles 44 Lotion 28 Take it 59 Phoenix U.A.R., additive easy cagers 30 Boom 45 Pack Solution time: 21 mins. 33 "Little Women woman 34 From

47 Waikiki wingding 48 Green acres 49 Change for a C-note 52 Actress Charlotte -- out a

DLLD

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.

overhaul a 1-0 deficit at home to

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0 14 0 1 0

SABUJ KANAN HIGH: 132 all out in 43.3 overs (Gourav 36, Babu 18; Hanif 3-21, Rajib 2-20, Mithu 2-32) PARJIAR KALINDI HIGH: 136 for 2 in 32 overs (Ali 53, Masud 47; Johnny 1-15, Rubel 1-22)

Result: Parjiar Kalindi High won

by eight wickets.

Darius Vassell scored from the

ond place." the Italian acknowl-

David O'Leary said. "They kept their belief and kept going forward despite going a goal

The winner came just after the

second goal in as many games.

Italian pride at stake

23,000 fans.

Cup semi-final victory over "It was a bit tight after the first leg but I should be OK for

Robson is plotting the downfall of

after a potentially vital 1-1 draw in Holland.

FIXTURES Villareal (SPA) v Celtic (SCO)

Valencia (SPA) v Bordeaux (FRA) First leg 2-1