Ronaldo to

on January 2

Brazil football superstar Ronaldo has

set the date of January 2 next year to

marry his fiancee. Brazilian model

Globo Network television program

"Fantastico" Ronaldo said they are to

In an interview Sunday night for

"We love each other so much and

Although the place for the cere-

Cicarelli is a local MTV-channel

She promised visiting his boyfriend

hostess and currently lives in Sao

mony has not been announced yet,

Daniella Cicarelli, probably in Paris

AGENCIES, Rio de Janeiro

marry on January 2, 2005.

want to be together.

SPÖRT

Imran irate at ICC

Cricket

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan cricket legend Imran Khan Tuesday lashed out at the International Cricket Council's (ICC) move to bar honorary cricket officials from questioning wrong umpiring decisions, saying it was "over policing".

"ICC should concentrate on disciplining the players, coaches and managers who are directly involved, even the heads of the boards can be checked but restricting officials like selectors is over policing," Imran told AFP.

"Barring officials from criticising does not make any sense, how will then the game improve," he said.

"I think ICC's plans to include selectors in its code of conduct is

over the top.' Imran's comments come after ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed warned chief Pakistani selector

Wasim Bari over his outburst against English umpire David Shepherd during Pakistan's 17-run defeat against Australia in the tight Videocon Cup tri-series final at Amstelveen, Holland late last

captain Inzamamul Hag and Yousuf Youhana out, derailing Pakistan's victory march. Speed in a letter to Bari said his

Shepherd to retire after he adjudged

Bari called for 63-year-old

comments were "inflammatory" and "out of order". "I will ask the ICC board to

include selectors as a specific category of officials so that you and other selectors can be in no doubt about where you stand," Speed

At present the ICC code of conduct does not apply to selectors who are honorary officials, and not paid by the local cricket board. However, Speed's letter indicated selectors were also likely to be roped into the

Imran, a former Pakistan captain and illustrious all-rounder, said elite umpires should be open to criticism.

"An elite umpire is in the limelight, more than before because they are paid more and should be open to criticism if they make fundamental mistakes which alter the course of the match like what happened in Holland," he said.

"Why are the umpires being made sacred cows." said Imran. who played 82 Tests and 175 oneday game for Pakistan between 1971 to 1992.

"Pakistan Cricket Board should have protested but I am told they have not which is surprising."

Imran, who led Pakistan to their only World Cup win in Australia in 1992, said the ICC had already robbed the game of some of its

"A player can't appeal, show enthusiasm and celebrate before an umpire gives a decision. It is not understandable as it snatches the game of all the charms," said Imran.

History their nightmare

The assault continued and Khokon finally broke the deadlock in the 54th minute. The striker broke an offside trap following a Pranotosh cross from the right and placed the ball neatly through the legs of Biplab from seven yards (1-0).

Before Abahani could get comfortable. Brothers showed their true colours. Alfaz dashed his way into the danger zone from the left flank in the 65th minute and saw his scorching right-footer partially blocked by Nizam. But the half-cleared ball fell invitingly for Arman on top of the D and in a split second genius the maverick playmaker noticing Nizam was out of his line, clipped the ball into the far corner of the net with his right foot (1-

Alfaz, who was later adjudged man of the match, then sealed the victory with a powerful header when Monwar found him unmarked with in the 73rd minute.

Abahani created two chances in the dying minutes but Biplab once again rescued Brothers when his reflex parried a wicked deflection in a long-range effort by substitute Parvez while Masud Rana's drive from 20 yards skimmed the crossbar.

"It was a big match and our players did not start well against a very good side. I'll give credit to Abahani for stretching us early. I think the match was tougher for us than any other game this season." said Brothers

coach Syed Naimuddin after the

"We made a lot of miss-passes under pressure from the opposition but I am proud of the boys because they managed to settle down at the right time. They fought back like champions and I can see that the Bangladeshi footballers have learned the way to play after going behind like the Europeans and the Africans," the former Indian national coach added.

His Abahani counterpart Amlesh Sen blamed two technical errors for

"After Nizam stopped Alfaz's shot, the defenders should have gone for a long clearance. But they kept the ball in the danger zone and it came back to Arman. Niazm was also not in the right position when Arman lobbed him to score the equaliser. Secondly, Alfaz was completely unmarked when he slotted the winner. Our rightback (Siraji) could not come back in time after he went up to take a corner. He should have not gone to take that corner," rued the former national

An upset Abahani captain Joy said that they lost the match due to lack of a

quality striker.

"We should have scored at least two goals from the chances we created in the first half. We dominated the match for an hour but they stole it in the remaining time. It was expected that a strong team like Brothers will go all out but our exhausted defenders left their attackers completely unmarked, lamented Jov.

Alfaz hailed team effort but Brothers captain termed Abahani's goal as an offside.

"It was 100 per cent offside but we overcame that setback. It was exhausting playing two matches against the same side in three days and it was the reason we were a little slow at the start," the man-of-thematch said.

Yellow cards: Rajani, Parvez, Monwar (Brothers) and Nayan (Abahani)

TEAMS

BROTHERS: Biplab, Titu, Nazrul, Sujan, Rajani, Parvez, Iqbal (Abul, 53rd minute), Arman, Monwar (Rikto 88th), Alfaz and Topu (Ritu, 89th). ABAHANI: Nizam, Siraji, Hassan,

Shawkat, Masud Rana, Joy, Pranotosh (Wali, 83rd), Nayan (Parvez, 80th), Ndem, Ujjal and Khokon.

Referee: Ibrahim Nesar.

Indian TV rights hearing Sept 9

CRICINFO, undated

The Mumbai High Court will hear the case regarding ESPN-Star Sports and BCCI on Thursday, September

ESPN-Star Sports had earlier challenged the Indian board's decision to award the four-year telecast rights, of matches to be played in India, to Zee Network.

Zee Network on Monday agreed to shell out a staggering 308 million dollars to secure the rights to telecast all international cricket played in India for the next four years. The matter was due to come up

for hearing on Tuesday, but was postponed, reportedly because the BCCI received the summons late.

Also ESPN-Star Sports has sought more details and clarifications from the BCCI and Zee.

Bangladesh may

FROM PAGE 13 would begin on a Friday.

The only discrepancy would be the Boxing Day and 2 January Tests traditionally held in Australia. South Africa and New Zealand to maximize holiday time

There has been no move to mpose a maximum number of Tests in a series, with the minimum remaining at two

Speed said: "In England, Test cricket is very strong. It's not as

strong in certain other key markets. "Some serious marketing effort by some of the other nations will be necessarv."

Any changes to one-day international scheduling will only be considered when the modifications to the Test programme are agreed.

Mukti maul MSC

to level the score but his feeble header from an intelligent by substitute midfielder Amin Rana rolled out of the far post. The other occasions Mohammedan tried to break through, they were stopped on the track by Hassan Al Mamun's brilliant display which earned the fullbackturned central-defender the man-ofthe-match award.

Muktijoddha coach Manik was delighted after the match that he claimed a strategic victory.

"I was aware that Mohammedan would try to apply the pressure in the first 20 minutes. So, I told my boys to go all out to counter their strategy and it worked. I am happy that my boys played according to the plan, said the long-serving master tactician. He also promised more surprises in the final.

His Mohammedan counterpart Abul accepted the defeat and admitted that he did not pick the right eleven to start with.

"I have started with Tareq in goal instead of experienced Bijon and he was obviously nervous playing such a big match. Besides. I tried Shuvra as a defensive midfielder and that backfired. Maybe I should have stuck with the tried and tested Amin Rana from the start." said Abul adding that he was still not disappointed with the effort of his all-local

"If you considered our strength without a foreign name then it's not a bad result. Muktijoddha played better football and they won," said the former national defender.

TEAMS

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD: Aminul, Hasan Al Mamun, Prodip, Pavel, Belal, Saif, Matiur Munna, Ghansa, Kanchan (Enamul, 89th), Kabua and Moni (Biddyut, 75th).

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Tareq (Bijon 68th), Jewel Rana, Faisal Ahmed, Zahirul (Monju, 42nd), Kaiser, Shuvro, Sentu, Pappu, Faisal Mahmud, Farhad and Nakib (Amin Rana, 57th).

Referee: Mansoor Azad.

Win or bust for Iran

AFP, Hong Kong



Heavyweights Iran Wednesday's Asian round of World Cup qualifiers needing a win to keep their campaign alive while China, Japan

and South Korea aim to take a step closer to Germany 2006. Iran, facing elimination after crashing 1-0 at home to Jordan in June, have strengthened their squad with stay-away forwards Vahid Hashemian and Khodadad Azizi, who have agreed to return to

help the national cause. "I come back to help my country," said Bayern Munich star Hashemian, known as 'The Helicopter' for his aerial strength who is ending a three-year selfimposed exile.

Veteran forward Azizi, who helped Iran eliminate Australia in a two-leg play-off for a berth at France 98, has also put aside his differences with the national set-up.

"I have no problem with teammates and officials," said Azizi. "I have returned to serve the nation." However Iran, gunning for a third World Cup finals appearance, face a tough task against a defenceminded Jordan coached by Egyptian legend Mahmoud AÍ-

Gohary. The Hashemite kingdom has shot up the FIFA rankings under Gohary, who took them to the quarter-finals at their first ever Asian Cup

Meanwhile China, Japan and South Korea have notably easier tasks against minnows Malaysia, India and Vietnam. Newly crowned Asian Cup

champions Japan, the region's topranked team, will be confident of extending their 100 percent qualifying record in Calcutta after their 7-0 trouncing of India in June.

India's English coach Stephen Constantine, hoping to avoid

Top European

nations Greece,

France, England,

and Italy have the

chance to regain

their authority in

World Cup qualify-

heavy accent on defence in his final training sessions ahead of Wednesday's game.

"I am doing everything I can to keep the morale high," said Constantine. "Everyone knows Japan is a much stronger side, but we want to put up a good fight before our own fans.'

Asian Cup runners-up China who also have maximum points from their first three fixtures, should continue their long march to Germany as they travel to bottomplaced Malaysia.

South Korea, who top Group 7 with two wins and a draw, travel to Ho Chi Minh City hoping to avoid a repeat of their 1-0 Asian Cup qualifying slip-up against Vietnam last

New coach Jo Bonfrere, under

took South Korea to the 2002 World Cup semi-finals, was confident of overcoming third-placed Vietnam despite disappointing Olympics and

Asian Cup showings defending its turf. My boys have been trained to break it," said the

advance to final qualifying next year.

Turkmenistan in Group 8.

"Vietnam is expected to focus on

A total of 32 teams split into eight groups of four are taking part in Asia's World Cup qualifying tournament. The eight group winners

War-weary Iraq, fresh from their Ronaldo said it could be Paris, "befourth-place heroics in Athens, are cause it is a very romantic city." aiming to keep the pressure on Uzbekistan in Group 2 as they travel to Taiwan, while Asian giants Saudi Arabia head to second-placed

FIXTURES

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian football qualifiers on Wednesday for the 2006 World Cup in Ger-

Group 1 Jordan v Iran At Vientiane Laos v Qatar

Group 2 At Rayyan, Qatar Palestine v Uzbekistan At Taipei Taiwan v Iraq

Group 3 At Calcutta, India India v Japan At Singapore

At Penang, Malaysia Malavsia v China At Hong Kong Hong Kong v Kuwait

Group 5 Yemen v United Arab Emirates

At Pyongyang

North Korea v Thailand

Group 6 At Bishkek Kyrgyzstan v Bahrain At Dushanbe

Group 7 At Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Vietnam v South Korea Maldives v Lebanon

Group 8 At Ashgabat Turkmenistan v Saudi Arabia At Colombo Sri Lanka v Indonesia

The Euro 2004 winners are now

expected to be even more highly moti-

vated than usual against traditional

rivals Turkey in their Group Two match

at their newly-rebuilt Karaiskaki

in an interview with the ERA Sports

radio station: "We know our fans will be

behind us. It (preliminary World Cup

matches) is a mini championship with

12 matches. We have played only one

and nothing has been decided. We are

We will try to qualify for the World Cup.

We want them behind us. We saw on

elevision how with passion they waited

This will be the first time Greece have

played on home soil since winning the

"We want to give more joy to Greeks.

at the beginning.

in long lines to buy tickets.'

Greece defender Takis Fissas said

Since he made public his relationship with Cicarelli, Ronaldo celebrates his goals by raising his arm over his

head to make his tattoo visible. Last Sunday he dedicated Cicarelli his goal in the qualifier versus Bolivia, played in Sao Paulo, which ended with

mother, Sonia Nazario, were together during the training of the national team. The Brazilian team coach. Carlos

 A. Parreira, thanked the model because, according to him, she helped Ronaldo to recover his physical condi-

athlons, was helping to keep him fit and had attributed the loss of five kilos to her assistance. Ronaldo, who will turn 28 on Sept.

22, was married for four years to Milene Domingues, with whom he has a three-vear-old son. Ronald.

The couple separated last year, and Ronaldo has been seen with models and TV personalities.

Ponting eyes

easily but Ponting may pay them the compliment of watching some tapes of to blow them away.

videos and I'll have a bit of a look. Our preparation is always very thorough. We are always going flat out trying to improve and make us better as individuals and as a team. "When we play one of the smaller

countries we try to finish the game off as quickly as we can. If we perform our

"We have prepared pretty well in the last couple of weeks and our skills should be getting as good as they can

Australia's biggest problem would seem to be the make-up of their bowl-

one time," Ponting said. "There are going to be some tough selections and one of them will miss out. You can't

play them all so you've just got to make a tough pick."

Tabara, Henman celebrated his 30th birthday with a gutsy victory over Germany's Nicolas Kiefer. The Briton looked in trouble

pretty much spot on today," said Henman, whose semifinal appear-

ance at the French Open in June the last four on four occasions.

whatever happens, happens'. And it anything good happens, it's going to be a big, big bonus.'

semifinals after the Slovakian came from two sets down to beat Belgian Olivier Rochus 2-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-

for Maradona AFP. Buenos Aires Maradona has received permission to pursue treatment for his longstanding cocaine addiction in Cuba, his lawyer

announced here Monday.

Green signal

Hector Leguizamon said the Argentine football great was given permission to return to Havana by Norberto Garcia Vedia, the judge in charge of his case. The ailing 43-year-old has been

suburbs of Buenos Aires for the past four months. In April he was admitted to hospital here with life threatening heart and lung problems. The judge's ruling comes after a lengthy legal battle over where the

detained in a psychiatric clinic in the

former World Cup winner should continue his treatment for cocaine abuse. Maradona's ex-wife and daughters were trying to ensure that he stayed in

Argentina whereas he wanted to return to the rehab center in Cuba where he has lived since 2000. Garcia Vedia said last week the football great could travel abroad to Cuba for treatment as long as it was to

a site with a serious program "that

operates as a closed community."

FROM PAGE 13 the innings Sunday in place of the out-of-form Virender Sehwag, who

But Laxman insisted this was a temporary measure. "I think it was a one-off. It was only me who had opened before in this side. "Everyone knows the potential

turn around a match for us singlehandedly for us. No-one is doubting his abilities.' India face arch-rivals Pakistan at Edgbaston on September 19 in front of what will be a capacity crowd after

Both teams will be assured of tremendous support in what is set to be one of the ties of the tournament. India have lost their last two

Dutch triangular event. would be up for the challenge at the Champions Trophy, pointing out how India had beaten Pakistan in

2003 World Cups. "It's definitely not going to be just

ACROSS

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9 Shock

12 Addict

dropped down to number four

match-winner for us. It's just a matter of one big innings. He can intensity.

the game was sold out within hours of tickets going on sale.

games against Pakistan, at the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka and at last month's But Laxman insisted the team

major matches at the 1999 and

town's

theater

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49 "Terrific!"

43 Unpaid

45 Pitts-

35 Bundle of

energy

predeces

partici-

"I'm a much better player than I

Reflecting on his 281, Laxman, 29. added: "It will always will be very special for me."

Pakistan. We were down 2-1 in the one-day series and we won the last two games. It's going to be about

"It's definitely going to be high

And another fierce contest will come in October when Australia tour India for a four-Test series. Earlier this year the teams played out a

drawn series in Australia. Test-best 281, in a stand of 376 with Rahul Dravid saw India turn the Calcutta Test from what had looked like certain defeat by Australia into a victory that saw a 1-0 deficit trans-

was in 2001 because of experience. But it's going to be a crucial series... world.'

always very challenging for both "We played well when we toured

But three years ago Laxman's

formed into a 2-1 home series win.

ing on Wednesday following opening night nerves at the weekend. England only earned a 2-2 draw in Austria courtesy of a blunder by keeper

David James, France sorely missed the midfield creativity of Zinedine Zidane in a home 0-0 draw against Israel, and European champions Greece had a simply shocking result in losing 2-1 in

againstAustria.

AFP, Paris

only after a late goal by Luca Toni and they had been trailing following a John Carew goal in the opening minute. Italy travel to Moldova in their Group Five clash on Wednesday. Captain David Beckham emerged as England's main injury concern

Italy beat Norway 2-1 in Palermo but

ahead of Wednesday's Group Six match against Poland in Chorzow. Beckham was forced to leave training here early Monday after picking up a rib injury in Saturday's 2-2 draw

"Beckham took a knock on the rib during the game which was very sore today (Monday). "He will continue to be assessed by

the medical staff," a statement issued by the Football Association reported. The England team were due to leave Austria for Katowice later Monday. Steven Gerrard was the only other one of Sven-Goran Eriksson's 22-man squad who left the training session

The Liverpool skipper has fully recovered from a groin problem before Saturday's match and finished early purely as a precautionary measure, the FAsaid. Although expected to recover in time

for Wednesday's game Beckham's

iniury could not have come at a worse

time for Eriksson, under fire after

Group 1 (1400) Andorra v Romania

Group 2 (1400) Kazakhstan v Ukraine (1600) Georgia v Albania

(1800) Luxembourg v Latvia (1815) Slovakia v Liechtenstein (2015) Portugal v Estonia

Group 4 (1630) Faroe Islands v France (1750) Israel v Cyprus (1830) Switzerland v Ireland

Group 5

(1800) Norway v Belarus (1845) Moldavia v Italy (1900) Scotland v Slovenia

Group 6 (1830) Austria v Azerbaijan (1830) Poland v England (1900) Wales v Northern Ireland

(1715) Lithuania v San Marino (1815) Bosnia v Spain Group 8 (1815) Sweden v Croatia

(1915) Hungary v Iceland

Group 7

00:45AM BST, THURSDAY RAZIL V GERMANY

Football

AFP, Berlin

Germany and Brazil lock horns in Berlin on Wednesday for the first time since the 2002 World Cup final in Yokohama, although this time around the stakes are not so high with only pride to play for in what is a friendly match. Under the guidance of Luiz Felipe

Scolari, Brazil ran out 2-0 winners over

revenge has been brushed aside by both nations "Talking about revenge is absurd," Bayern Munich goalkeeper Oliver Kahn told magazine Kicker. "You cannot compare a World Cup final with a friendly match."

noped a clash between two of football's powerhouses, securing eight World Cups between them, would not develop into an ill-tempered affair. "Germany against Brazil is a classic," Parreira told German sports

agency SID. "But is has nothing to do

Brazil chief Carlos Alberto Parreira

with revenge, firstly it is a friendly Sebastian Deisler. match, secondly the pressure of a final is not there.' German national coach Jurgen

Germany defeated one of the recognised top teams with England falling 1-0 in the final match at Wembley

sides, Germany have tasted defeat Rudi Voller's Germany but the issue of nine times with France. Argentina. Italy, England, the Netherlands, Spain and Brazil all victorious. Worryingly England (1-5), Argentina (0-1), the Netherlands (1-3),

> "We will try and finally defeat a big nation on Wednesday," declared

German soil.

Deisler, capped 20 times by his

country, has not pulled on the German iersev for almost a vear with his last appearance against Iceland back on September 6 2003. Injuries and a bout of depression have stunted the progress of Deisler

but a stellar display against Brazil could put him back on track Brazil have omitted AC Milan trio Dida, Kaka and Cafu, along with Bayern duo Ze Roberto and Lucio after their clubs failed to release the

stars for a recent friendly with Haiti. Despite the absence of the guintet. Real Madrid pair Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos combined with the third and final 'r' - Barcelona's Ronaldinho - provide sufficient flair. Brazil are renowned for their subtle

flicks, dragbacks and eve-catching

goals but German captain Michael

taining the crowd in Berlin. "It is not about attractive football, it is about being successful,"

FROM PAGE 13 But, after surviving five-set battles against Ivo Karlovic and Michal

when he trailed by a set and 3-1 but stormed back to win 10 games in succession to lead by two sets to

the German retired with a suspected tendon injury to his right wrist. "I felt that my game plan was

Henman will meet 22nd seed Dominik Hrbaty for a place in the

Tick the correct answers, post The Hally Star Sept 10, 2004 and draw shortly afterwards 1. Who won the first gold medal in the Athens Olympics?

2. Who became Asia Cup cricke Pakistan Sri Lanka 3. Who clinched the Cincinnati Masters tennis title Federer Henman Agassi 4. Who lifted the 25th nat'l hockey Usha MSC Bangladesh Army

'Time key for India' between India and Pakistan are

whichever team plays well on the day. At the 1999 and 2003 World Cups we beat them.

Australia are the best side in the

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 22 Whoopi in

H X : "LT HUTLHSQ IEABRT EO KTTWPSN Η NPOQTX QTRTBHQYK. ZEA

LYTUT QE HBBRZ

CRYPTOQUIP

FREQUENT FRIER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals P

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PERSON SAUTEED HIS FOOD QUITE A BIT, I SUPPOSE HE'D BE 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.

Singapore v Oman Group 4

Chance to set records straight England squandered a two goal lead

France travel to the Faroe Islands

desperate to reignite their Group Four

campaign after their hiccup against A work under construction is how coach Raymond Domenech describes the 1998 world champions but the one asset he sorely needs to carry out the

regeneration-namely time-is missing.

nity in the North Atlantic between

Scotland and Iceland - population

This trip to the little fishing commu-

againstAustria.

46,672 - would in years gone by have been regarded as easy pickings for a team that boasted such giants of the game as Zinedine Zidane, Marcel Desailly, Lilian Thurma and Bixente

But with this quartet retired after France's failed Euro 2004 campaign, former under-21 coach Domenech has

been forced to entrust France's fortunes in a new generation of players. European champions Greece have a point to prove against Turkey in Group

AFP, Paris European qualifying fixtures for the 2006 World Cup on Wednesday (kick-off times in GMT):

(1600) Armenia v Finland (1830) Netherlands v Czech

(1845) Greece v Turkey Group 3

Repeat not revenge clash

3-1 win over Austria and end a horrid sequence of results against top Not since October 2000 have

In their last 10 outings against big

Italy (0-1) and France (0-3) all won on

Klinsmann aims to build on an opening

World champions Brazil are the top

nation according to the FIFA world rankings, Germany are 11th, prompting Klinsmann to call-up all his bigguns, even Bayern playmaker

Ballack is not concerned about enter-

every five days in Spain, where

RONALDO Ronaldo plays for Real Madrid. In a moment during the interview

both on the left wrist. Ronald recently tattooed "R," for Ronaldo and "D," for Daniella on his

he showed a tattoo with the initials of

a Brazilian victory of 3-1. Last week Cicarelli and Ronaldo's

Ronaldo has also acknowledged that Cicarelli, who competes in tri-

He added: "We might have some

skills as well as we can then games should finish early and we will be hoping to do that in the first game against the United States.

ing attack with Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Michael Kasprowicz and Glenn McGrath competing for just three places. "We can only play three of those at

Henin, Venus

Kiefer snatched the fourth set but Henman was on top in the decider, leading 6-7, 6-3, 6-1, 6-7, 3-0 wher

was his first time past the last 16 at any grand slam outside of Wimbledon, where he has reached "It's taken to have a bad back at the beginning of the tournament to sort of say to myself. 'You know

Class. Roll No.