REUTERS. Rio de Janeiro

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has included 13 uncapped players for next week's friendly at home to Guatemala and recalled 39-year-old Romario for a farewell appearance.

"He will start the game and play for at least the first few minutes,' said Parreira. "It's a tribute to one of Brazilian football's great players."

Romario, who scored five goals as Brazil won the 1994 World Cup with a team also coached by Parreira, last played for his country in a World Cup qualifier away to Uruguay in 2001.

He currently plays for Rio de Janeiro's Vasco da Gama, the club where he began his career.

Parreira was forced to pick only home-based players for the game. which is not being played on a FIFA international date and has been arranged to celebrate the 40th anniversary of a Brazilian television

Despite not being able to call on any of Brazil's top players, such as Ronaldo, Ronaldinho, Kaka and Adriano, Parreira said he was spoilt for choice when picking the side.

"There wasn't room for everyone," he said. "It was difficult to get it down to 22. That shows how strong Brazilian football is."

Brazil face the Central Americans at Sao Paulo's Pacaembu stadium on April 27. The teams drew 1-1 in their only previous meeting at the CONCACAF Gold Cup in 1998.

Lehmann denied contract

AFP, Sydney

Australian selectors dashed any faint hopes batsman Darren Lehmann held of regaining a spot in the national side Tuesday when they included the 35-year-old in a group of six players not offered new contracts for the 2005-06 season.

Selectors opted to bring fresh faces into the 25-man group of contracted players, which forms the core of Australia's Test and one-day

They axed ageing fringe players Martin Love, Ian Harvey, Matthew Elliott, Jimmy Maher and Brad Williams, who had failed to pressure the incumbent starting line up.

Instead, selectors opted for Victorian all-rounder Cameron White, 21, South Australian offspinner Daniel Cullen, 21, Queensland all-rounder James Hopes, 26, NSW wicketkeeper Brad Haddin, 27, and Victorian quick Michael Lewis, 30.

NSW fast bowler Nathan Bracken, 27, found his way back into the fold after being dropped in

Lehmann was the highest-profile casualty, with chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns confirming the bats and his international career is over after 27 Tests (1798 runs at 44.95).

"We are indicating that it is time for us to look toward the future,' Hohns said. "We are confident that the young players on the contracted list will fill the void left by Darren's omission."

Cricket Australia's contracted players for 2005-06: Ricky Ponting (captain), Nathan Bracken, Michael Clarke, Daniel Cullen, Adam Gilchrist, Jason Gillespie, Matthew Hayden, Brad Haddin, Brad Hodge, Brad Hogg, James Hopes, Michael Hussey, Michael Kasprowicz. Simon Katich, Justin Langer, Brett Lee, Michael Lewis, Stuart MacGill, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Andrew Symonds, Shaun Tait, Shane Warne, Shane Watson, Cameron White

Kasparov hit on head with chessboard!

AP, Moscow

Garry Kasparov, the world's former No.1 chess player who quit the professional game last month to focus on politics, has said he has been hit over the head with a chessboard in what appears to have been a politically motivated attack.

Kasparov was not injured when he was hit with the chessboard on Friday after signing it for a young man at an event in the Russian capital.

A spokeswoman for Kasparov. Marina Litvinovich, said the assailant told the chess champion: "I admired you as a chess player, but

you gave that up for politics." She said the unidentified attacker -- who did not reveal his political allegiance -- had tried to hit

Kasparov a second time but was hauled away by security guards. "It was a fairly nasty incident, it was not very pleasant psychologi-

cally," Kasparov told the private NTV television "Yesterday, I was just about able to muster up enough humour to joke darkly that, luckily in the Soviet

Union, chess and not baseball was



SHEER WIZARDRY! Brazil's Kerlon Moura (C) sets off on a 'seal dribble' through two Uruguayan defenders during their U-17 South American final round match at Pachencho Romero stadium in Western Maracaibo, Venezuela on April 17.

Prepare to be bewitched

Football

BBC ONLINE

Ronaldo Ronaldinho Gaucho and Adriano did not become overnight stars for the Brazilian national team. All of them first represented their

country at Under-17 level, and the experience was invaluable as they made their way in senior football. It would be wonderful if the current star of Brazil's Under-17 side

could go on to make a similar impact. Kerlon of Cruzeiro was top scorer in the South American Under-17 Championship, which came to a close in Venezuela on Sunday. He curled home some wonderful

free-kicks, outpaced the defence to lob past the keeper and scored with some typical penalty area poachers' But it is not just his eight goals in

bered. The more lasting memories will surely come from his new invention - the seal dribble Kerlon flicks the ball in the air and runs with it like it is tied to his fore-

Venezuela which will be remem-

He does it quite systematically, a few times in every game, and his overall co-ordination are so outstanding that he can perform the feat at pace or while changing direction.

It may sound like a circus trick, but the seal dribble is no laughing matter for the opposition. It is a move which is very difficult to stop by legal

On the evidence of the South American Under-17 Championship, on the majority of occasions either Kerlon manages to get past the defender or he wins a foul. If he chooses the right time to unleash the

it is truly inspirational to find a young player with the creative genius to come up with such a move.

The game is all the richer for improvised and acrobatic inventions such as the backheel, the bicycle kick and the Cruyff turn, and maybe Kerlon's seal dribble can take its place among them.

As football looks forward in the search for new ways to win, the game also looks back to honour the heroes of the past - a point also made very clear in the South American Under-17 Championships.

Boosted by Kerlon's goals, Brazil were the champions - but only just.

Another minnow threatens to derail

AC Milan's title challenge when the

reigning Italian champions host

lowly Chievo at the San Siro on

three points after Sunday's shock 2-

1 defeat at struggling Siena and can

ill afford another hiccup with just

swept aside Barcelona and

Manchester United on their way to

the semi-finals of the Champions

League, but they have lost to

Messina, Bologna, Siena and

Shevchenko explained why the six-

time European champions have

bers and don't allow you space to

play," said the European Footballer

Milan's Ukrainian striker Andriv

The Scudetto holders have

seven games of the season left.

Milan trail leaders Juventus by

PREVIEW: SERIE A

ship Uruguay's Acosta blasted a free kick against the Brazilian bar. Two inches lower and the title would have belonged to his country.

Uruguay's outstanding player was six-goal striker Elias Figueroa, who showed strength, an excellent left foot and the rare gift of having time in the penalty area. His name is

already familiar to football fans. The first Elias Figueroa was one of the game's truly great defenders good enough to represent Chile from the World Cups of 1966 to 1982.

He remains an idol in Brazil where he starred for Internacional, and in Uruguay, where he played for Peñarol.

The father of Uruguay's current Under-17 striker is a Peñarol fan who happens to share the same surname as 'Don' Elias. In tribute to the great Chilean he gave his son the name of Elias Figueroa - and by the ironies of football he is turning into a proficient scorer of goals rather than a master of the arts of preventing them.

Kerlon's seal dribble and Elias Figueroa the second, stars of the future and heroes of the past were all in evidence in Venezuela at the South American Under-17 Cham-

"That is something we need to

improve on Against Siena we

were 1-0 up and had the game in

the palm of our hands only to

mum points and hope city rivals

Inter can do them a massive

favour by stalling Juventus in

Inter on Wednesday, Shevchenko

replied: "Certainly, it's an important

match, but I believe we should be

thinking only about ourselves, our

In the battle for Champions

League places, fourth-placed

Sampdoria play away to fourth-from-bottom Parma, Udinese host

Livorno and Palermo take on sec-

FIXTURES

Brescia, Parma v Sampdoria, Reggina v

Atalanta, Roma v Siena, Udinese

ond-from-bottom Brescia

games and where we can improve.

Asked if he would be cheering

Milan will be looking for maxi-

throw it away.

Turin.

Real racists!

A group of Real Madrid fans has been reported to the Spanish Football Federation for racist chanting during their side's league match at Levante during the weekend.

Referee David Fernandez Borbalan noted the behaviour of visiting fans in his report on the match which Real won 2-0.

"During the second half a group of Real Madrid fans ... shouted monkey noises whenever Levante's two coloured players wearing the numbers seven and 16 touched the ball," said Fernandez Borbalan.

Colombian forward Edwin Congo and Ivory Coast midfielder Felix Ettien were the two players targeted by the supporters who appeared to belong to the club's radical Ultra Sur group of fans.

"I don't understand it, it's very upsetting when this sort of thing happens," said former Real Madrid player Congo.

Racist behaviour by fans has been on the rise in Spanish football this season, with insults directed at visiting black players a common occurrence at many grounds.

Espanyol's Cameroon goalkeeper Carlos Kameni had a banana thrown at him by an Atletico Madrid fan during his side's league

Botham on SL tsunami

mission

Former England cricket skipper lan Botham is to visit Sri Lanka's tsunami-hit southern region Wednesday as part of efforts to raise money for survivors, officials said. Botham is to visit the Galle

International Cricket Stadium, 115 kilometres (72 miles) south of Colombo, as well as villages ravaged by the December 26 tsunamis that claimed nearly 31,000 lives in the island. Organiser Kushil Gunasekara

said Botham was visiting the island as an ambassador for a British charity helping tsunami victims and in Sri Lanka he will be hosted by star spinner Muttiah Muralitharan. Australia's Shane Warne trav-

elled to the south of the island in

Paradorn back

AFP, Barcelona

on track

Paradorn Srichaphan powered to his first clay-court victory since Roland Garros last spring, crushing Kenneth Carlsen 6-1, 6-2 to advance Monday

at the 850,000-euro Barcelona Open. The Thai 15th seed, beaten by Cyril Saulnier in the first round in Monte Carlo, turned his poor form on its head with the win at the Real Club

In Paris last year, Paradorn beat Czech Tomas Berdych before losing to former finalist Alex Corretja of Spain, his last outings on the surface prior to last

The top Thai's success sets up a Wednesday meeting against a young player personally schooled by Roger

Federer. Swiss Stanislav Wawrinka occasionally takes tips from the world number

one, his frequent practise partner. The former junior champion in Paris

showed that his clay game packs a punch with a demolition of Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-3, 6-1,

Federer's ad hoc guidance could serve the 20-year-old well as he plays in only his third ATP-level event of the

With Rafael Nadal coming off the high which marked his Monte Carlo Masters title Sunday over Guillermo Coria, the fourth-seeded teenager from

Mallorca will be the focus of attention in tennis-mad Barcelona.

PREVIEW: PREMIERSHIP **Sparks will still fly**

Football

Chelsea may have an 11 point lead over Arsenal at the top of the Premiership table and be closing in on their first top-flight title in 50 years ahead of Wednesday's meeting with their London rivals at Stamford Bridge but not everything is so assured off the field.

The Blues were forced to issue another denial Monday that they had tapped up Rio Ferdinand after evidence emerged the Manchester United defender met Chelsea officials not once but twice at different London restaurants on the same Chelsea insisted again they had

'no interest in signing Rio Ferdinand and, regardless of where this encounter took place, there is absolutely no significance in Peter Kenyon seeing Rio." But United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, trying to negotiate a

contract extension with Ferdinand -

who is apparently demanding

150,000 pounds a week - is unlikely

Spain's former King of Clay Juan

Carlos Ferrero showed increasing

signs of life on the surface Tuesday,

scraping through a 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 mara-

thon over compatriot Alberto

Montanes at the 850,000-euro

pion, who lifted the Barcelona trophy in

2001, struggled in the first round

meeting before finally following up on a

semifinal showing last week in Monte

suffered through a season of injury

and illness in 2004, overcame a

potentially distracting moment late in

the match as Montanes took treatment

for thigh cramps at 30-all while serving

nerve, breaking his countryman to

after two hours, 42 minutes, when

Montanes drove a forehand into the

net as he returned a Ferrero ball which

Special Exempt entry due to his

prowess last week in the Principality,

where he lost to Guillermo Coria,

notched his 13th victory of the season

Ferrero, unseeded but with a

But after the delay, Ferrero held his

The end came two games later

The former world number one who

The former Roland Garros cham-

Barcelona Open.

for the match 5-4.

square the set at 5-apiece.

bounced off the net cord.

Ferrero advances

to be alone in his suspicions of Chelsea's good faith. Arsenal come into this match on

the back of a 3-0 FA Cup semi-final humbling of Blackburn Rovers. But they are set to be without France striker Thierry Henry, who

missed the victory in Cardiff with a groin problem while midfielder Freddie Ljungberg is doubtful after he went off with a recurrence of his hip injury just after half-time at the Millennium Stadium. Arsenal manager Arsene

rience, warned Chelsea their golden spell would come to an end. "We climbed Everest but, at some stage, you have to come down again. Then you have to go up

Wenger, citing Arsenal's own expe-

again and that takes a while to find your togetherness and motivation." Manchester United, who will face Arsenal in the FA Cup final, after a 4-1 stroll against Newcastle on Sunday, are three points behind the Gunners in the race for second spot. They travel to fourth-placed Everton, themselves involved in a manic scrap for the last Champions

League place. Former Everton striker Wayne

Rooney will return to Merseyside having already come through the experience of playing in February's 2-0 FA Cup win at Goodison Park.

The 19-year-old England forward, who has scored 15 goals for United so far this season, said he had asked United manager Sir Alex Ferguson to make him captain for

"There was no way that I wanted to miss that game. To go back to Goodison was special for me," he told the official United magazine. "I actually went up to the manager and said, 'You should make me captain' I wanted to be the captain but I'm not sure Roy (Keane) would have been too happy about that."

FIXTURES

The Spaniard, who dominated the

surface two seasons ago, has vowed

to lift his level. He next faces another of

the 19 other Spaniards who began the

week at the real Club de Tenis when he

Roland Garros," said Ferrero. "I'm am

going to try to be better and better each

sunny afternoon with 11th-seeded

Czech Radek Stepanek earning a

comeback win over Irakli Labadze of

specialists sailed through with

Argentine 14th seed Juan Chela

ousting Spaniard Alberto Portas 6-4,

tournament. We'll see how I'll do."

Georgia 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

second round.

Monfils 7-6, 7-6.

"I have a lot of tournaments until

Play on the clay dragged during a

Spanish and South American

Locals Alberto Martin, a 6-4, 6-3

winner over Younes El Aynaoui, and

Santiago Ventura, who beat veteran

Galo Blanco 6-3, 6-3, also reached the

the hopes of French teenager Gael

Argentine Agustin Calleri ended

takes on 12th seed Feliciano Lopez.

(1845GMT unless stated)

Wednesday: Aston Villa v Charlton Blackburn v Crystal Palace (1900GMT), Chelsea v Arsenal (1900GMT), Everton v Manchester United (1900GMT) Manchester City v Birmingham, Norwich v Newcastle, Portsmouth v Liverpool,

Reds' crucial tie

final of the Independence Cup after recovering from a knee injury while Rajani missed the last match due to a one-game ban.

Despite their recent high, Manik said that his side would adopt a cautious approach.

"A win is my main concern. It doesn't matter how it comes. We won the away match with similar tactics and we will stick to it here. We don't want to be over enthusiastic in bid to dominate and lose the game.'

Tikolo regains

FROM PAGE 12

In addition to Tikolo, the selectors have included two new capped players including 17-year-old batsman Tanmay Mishra for the April 22-24 in Kampala.

But there was no place on the side for seamer Ragheb Aga who acted as stand-by captain in the semifinals and finals of the inaugural Intercontinental Cup in the United Arab Emirates last

Steve Tikolo (capt), Thomas Odoyo, Kennedy Obuya, David Obuya, Maurice Ouma, Martin Suji, Peter Ongondo, Hitesh Modi, Collins Obuya, Tanmay Mishra, Lamech Onyango, Malhar Patel, Kalpesh

Third-seeded former champion Carlos Moya, a Monte Carlo first-TEAM round victim, was opening against Finnish qualifier Jarkko Nieminen, who beat him in their only other meeting on hardcourt in Bangkok two years Patel, Nehemiah Odhiambo



Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Syed Wahidul Alam inaugurates the Sunnydale third mini boys handball tournament at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex on Tuesday.

Wrong number! Milan in minnow awe AFP, Glasgow Celtic chairman Brian Quinn has

Wednesday.

Livorno in Serie A.

Football

admitted he rang a teenage girl in England when he tried to berate manager Martin O'Neill over player

Quinn left a message criticising the manager on a mobile phone belonging to 18-year-old Kayley Elkington from Walsall in England. "When you reach my age, it is

perhaps advisable to steer clear of

newfangled devices like mobile phones!" said Quinn. "I have had a chat with Martin and I will take him through the salary bill with the help of a bottle of wine and

my abacus. O'Neill has disputed Quinn's assertion that club wages come to 40 million pounds - 10 million more than Glasgow rivals Rangers - and with debts of 17 million pounds Celtic would be working to reduce their wages-to-turnover ratio.

That was believed to mean Celtic would not be able to afford Craig Bellamy who

is on loan from Newcastle. But Jim Divers, general secretary of the Celtic Supporters' Association, warned the fans would not accept a decision to pull out of a Bellamy deal.

SAN MARINO GP

Montoya out, Wurz in

Austrian Alexander Wurz will stand in for injured Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya at McLaren in Sunday's San Marino Grand Prix, the Formula One team said on Tuesday.

The race will be the 31-yearold's first since the season-ending Malaysian Grand Prix of October 2000, when he drove for Benetton. Montova fractured his shoulder

in a sporting accident last month. officially playing tennis although the paddock rumour mill has suggested he was on a motocross bike, and is now expected back at the Spanish Grand Prix in May.

"It is disappointing that Juan Pablo is not yet fully recovered from the injury he sustained to his shoulder...however it is imperative that his shoulder heals properly to ensure no additional risk," said McLaren chief executive Martin Whitmarsh. "We will assess the situation

again next week but at this stage we are optimistic he will return for the Spanish Grand Prix as the shoulder is healing well. "As Alex is now fully comfort-

able in the MP4-20, we have taken the decision that he will deputise for Juan Pablo at Imola," he added. Montoya was replaced by Pedro de la Rosa in Bahrain, the Spaniard finishing a fine fifth in that race, but

race of the European season. He had more tests and scans on Monday but doctors advised it was too soon for him to return

McLaren had hoped the Colombian

would recover in time for the first

Boys' handball

SPORTS REPORTER

St Jude's International, Sunnydale and BAF Shaheen got off to flying starts in the Third Mini Boys Handball Tournament which began yesterday at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports St Jude's International thumped

South Point 15-0 while Sunnydale blanked Summer Field 13-0 and BAF Shaheen outplayed Radiant International 13-0. In the day's other matches, Ansar and VDP beat BIS 7-1, Banani

Bidyaniketan defeated Dhanmondi

Tutorial 8-2 and Green Herald beat

Scholastica 6-2. A total of 14 schools split into four groups are taking part in the first

(all 1930 GMT kick-off) often struggled against mediocre Wednesday: AC Milan v Chievo, Cagliari opponents. / Lazio, Fiorentina v Messina, Juventus v "We've had difficulty against the little teams as they defend in num-Inter Milan, Lecce v Bologna, Palermo

Ball to sell his wealth Football

AFP. London

Alan Ball, the youngest member of the England team which won the 1966 football World Cup, is to sell his personal winners' medal at auction. auctioneers announced on Tuesday.

The 60-year-old former mid-

fielder is selling a series of medals won during his long playing career later this month at Christie's auction house in London. The highlight is the medal from 1966 -- the only time England have ever won football's top prize -- which has an estimated price of between

(120,000-175,000 euros, 150,000-230,000 dollars). Ball, who was only 21 at the time of the World Cup triumph, won 72 England caps in a playing career which stretched as far as 1983.

80,000 and 120,000 pounds

In more recent years he had a less distinguished career as a manager, including a spell at Manchester City, who sacked him in 1996 after the club were relegated

37 Cartoon

39 Nursery

article

hood

45 Fairy-tale

baddie

particular

surface

for me?"

vania port

48 Having a

50 "What's

51 Pennsyl

52 Public

radio's

Glass

hends

54 Back talk

53 Compre

55 Sauce

neighbo

40 Italian

kid with a

laboratory

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Food

4 Dressed

8 Beanbag

sound

Things

You -

your head

13 It's over

14 Stash

15 Multiply

by six

18 Spuds

19 Big flap

21 Expert

22 Vicente

17 Groucho-

like look

Fox's land

26 Opposite

of "go"

lotte's

30 Train com

ponent

32 Standard

problem

33 Titanic

34 Smeltery

35 Predica-

ment

holde

31 Easy

29 Char-

chair

12 "All the

from the English Premiership. A statement released by Christie's on behalf of Ball said he was selling the medals to "secure the future of my family" following the recent death of his wife.

In 2001, the World Cup winners' medal won by Ball's 1966 teammate Gordon Banks, goalkeeper in the famous side, fetched almost 125,000 pounds at auction. The medal belonging to the late captain of the team, Bobby Moore, was part of a collection of his medals

and trophies bought in 2000 by his former club West Ham, for an undisclosed sum The May 19 auction of football memorabilia will also include an even more valuable item, the sale of

which was announced in January. Christie's will be auctioning the oldest existing example of the English FA Cup trophy, an item described as one of the most important items of football memorabilia ever sold The cup, presented to winning

teams between 1896 and 1910, is expected to make between 200,000 and 300,000 pounds (285,000 to 430,000 euros, 375,000 to 560,000 dollars).

By Eugene Sheffer

24 Check for

25 Wanton

26 Lummox

proof of

revelry

27 Traditional

28 Pinnacle

29 Depilation

method

32 Penzance

stadt's

35 Swamp

38 Massa

39 Urban

42 "Exodus"

43 Pianist

Peter

44 Moment

maybe

45 Freak

(out)

47 Brighter

ed up

36 Con-

was blue

queror of

chusetts

22-Across

33 Ron-

DOWN

1 Throw

2 Vicinity

3 Barbei

shop

4 House of

worship

5 Omission

Visionary

pink, e.g.

9 Golfer's

10 Metrical

concern

tribute

11 According

to

16 Rib

20 Society

23 Carol

Solution time: 25 mins

Higgins

Clark

6 Have a

bug

8 Moss

call

YRZSICHD GPRZ PBV IPZHD,

BEMM DADVURCMMG

THAT THE VANDALS DESTROYED ROAD SIGNS, PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS?

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

GPRODSEOD

ICAD UP YPVG RY Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HAVE YOU HEARD

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals P

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.