Cicarelli denies earning from separation

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

The ex-fiancee of Real Madrid's Brazilian striker Ronaldo hit back at accusations that she had reaped millions following her split with the World Cup winner

Former model Daniella Cicarelli separated from Ronaldo earlier this month just three months after an enormous Valentine's Day party to celebrate their engagement was held at the Chantilly chateau to the north of

The party was for their engagement as according to Spanish law 28year-old Ronaldo cannot re-marry for at least one year after divorcing his first wife Milene Domingues.

The 2002 World Cup star and Domingues, who have one child, separated at the end of 2003 after four

"It was a mad passion which lasted a year and I have no regrets," the 25year-old Cicarelli said in an interview with the weekly lstoE.

"I've lost someone, and it hurts so much that I'm putting off going to

Madrid to collect my belongings." Cicarelli returned to her native Brazil after just 63 days living with the

footballer in Madrid.

But she denied reports that she had received a 4-million-euro (4.8m dollar) payoff, an estimated 63,000 euro a day for their time together, because of a pre-nuptial agreement agreed with the footballer.

"Our story wasn't about money. No one marries and signs a pre-nuptial agreement under which she receives 4 million euro after three months." While Ronaldo has insisted that he

will keep the tattoo which declares his love for her, Cicarelli said that she was no longer in love with the footballer. "I'm sad because it looks as if I'm

the bad guy," she added.

Sachin past his prime: Kapil

PTI, Chandigarh

Joining the debate whether Sachin Tendulkar was past his prime, legendary cricketer and former captain Kapil Dev Tuesday said the best days of the batting maestro were behind him. "His youth is not coming back as

he is 32 years old and his best is gone," the former India all-rounder told reporters here on the sidelines of a blood donation function organised by the Rotary and Blood Bank Society Resource Centre.

Asked if there was pressure on Tendulkar to perform, Kapil said, "There is always pressure on a big player, that is why he is such a big player. I think he should stand up to the occasion and say 'I will per-

He said the expectations on Tendulkar were always too much.

career had come to a stage where he should call it a day, Kapil said it was for the player to decide. "He is too great a player. If he is

an honest player, which I believe, he is then I think will take this decision by himself," the Wisden Indian cricketer of the century said.

"I wouldn't like somebody pushing him out. Whenever he calls it a day, may be two years or five years from now, he should go with grace and we should love him for that.'

Kapil declined to make comments on the batting form of Sourav Ganguly, saying it was the lookout of the national selectors and the

Strategist Harmison

Cricket

AFP, London

Fast bowler Steve Harmison, a key player in England's attempts to win back the Ashes this summer, said he was not expecting to be used sparingly in the run-up to Test battles with the Australians for strategic reasons.

The 26-year-old Durham bowler provided evidence he could be a significant threat this summer during Sunday's stunning three-wicket victory over Australia in Bristol when he claimed three wickets in four balls and finished with career best one-day international figures of five for 33.

But he remains resistant to suggestions of resting him for future encounters with Australia on strategic grounds and wants to continue an impressive run of form, which began with Durham at the start of the season.

"Why would England hide me?" questioned Harmison. "Would

Australia hide Brett Lee or Glenn McGrath or Shane Warne? I don't think so. What would be the point of it because they've played against me before and I don't really think there's any point in hiding anybody.

I'm sure England will look after me and not play me in every game between now and the Ashes on fitness grounds, but while things are going well for me I want to play in as many games as possible and I'm sure England will be quite happy on me

Australia's last glimpse of Harmison was when he struggled with wides and no-balls during the Ashes tour two years ago, but showed glimpses of his potential by making their top order hop around before clinching a close victory in Melbourne.

He has since developed into a significant presence and was briefly ranked as the world's number one bowler, while his performance in Bristol has convinced coach Duncan Fletcher that he has already won a few

"That's the best I've seen him bowl," said Fletcher. "His lines and lengths were so impressive that I donôt think he's bowled that consistently even in a Test match -- you could see the Australians didnôt enjoy facing

For all the success and clamour he has enjoyed recently -- only overshadowed by the superlatives directed at Kevin Pietersen following his matchwinning innings at the County Ground -Harmison remains a firm disciple of the team ethic.

"I don't think I'm the big thing that everybody is talking about," he stressed. "The big thing for England is that all 11 players perform.

"If you look at our game against Australia I think we had more players that performed on the day and that's why we won the game and if we can continue that then hopefully we can be victorious in the Ashes series.

Sharapova's rusty sail



REUTERS, London

Her 18 carat gold shoes sparkled in Wimbledon sunshine on Tuesday as Maria Sharapova opened her title defence, but despite a one-sided scoreline her tennis was of a lesser lustre on Centre Court.

The Russian moved into the second round 6-2, 6-2 but the scoreline had as much to do with Spanish clay-courter Nuria Llagostera Vives' unease on the slick grass as the champion's prow-

Men's second seed Andy Roddick was far more impressive, thumping Czech Jiri Vanek 6-1, 7-6, 6-2.
The man with the world's fastest

serve cracked 14 aces past his opponent as he racked up victory in 82 minutes. Arriving at Wimbledon as the

Stella Artois champion for the third successive year. Roddick set up a possible second-round showdown with Croatian Ivo Karlovic, his final

secutiry check

The England and Wales Cricket

Board (ECB) will send a high-level

security delegation to Pakistan next

week to assess security arrange-

ments ahead of this October's

accompanied throughout by an

official from the Pakistan Cricket

about playing in Karachi because of

continuing security issues in the city.

The PCB, however, has said that it is

not willing to consider replacing the

Karachi Test with one at an alterna-

In July 2004, a bomb was found

outside the US embassy in the city;

in February of this year, two small

bombs exploded, and last month

five people were killed in a suicide

The two-man party will be

Concerns have been raised

England to

in Pakistan

CRICINFO, undated

Board (PCB).

tive venue.

opponent on the Queen's Club grass a week ago.

While Roddick had been surefooted on the Wimbledon turf, Sharapova sprayed backhands long and shanked miss-hit forehands wide.

Little in her opening display will have rattled her rivals for the "I can get a lot better from here

obviously," she said. "I did enough to win and so, you know, I'm pretty "The pace of the court here is a

lot different (to clay). I think she struggled with that a little bit." Still, though, Sharapova could not help but enjoy her match.

"It was so amazing. I was just smiling," she said. "I usually don't smile when I go out on the court. "The people are clapping.

You're just taking it all in. You're remembering last year. 'This is where magic happened, guess. So it was just really good to

eel that again." French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne, Sharapova's conqueror in Paris, faces Greek

serve-vollever Eleni Daniilidou ater on day two.

The Williams sisters Venus and Serena are also in action Champion in 2000 and 2001. Venus plays Czech Eva Birnerova

Fourth-seeded Serena -- champion in 2002 and 2003 before finishing runner-up to Sharapova last year -- meets fellow American Angela Haynes. British wildcard Andrew Murray

crowned his grand slam debut with a

6-4, 6-2, 6-2 victory over George Bastl is best known for beating seven-times champion Pete

Sampras in the American's last trip to Wimbledon in 2002. But on the same court on which he recorded that milestone win, the Swiss journeyman was no match for

18-year-old Murray. Britain's best hope of ending a 69-year-wait for a men's champion, Tim Henman, opens his account later on Tuesday against Finn

Fourth seed and French Open champion Rafael Nadal faces

Jarkko Nieminen.

Stephen Fleming to a fantastic catch by Mohammad Kaif, to lash the ball all round the ground hitting five sixes and seven fours "I really enjoyed it as I haven't played in front of a full house like

that for five years as I have been playing a few games for a village cricket side," he said.

"It was nice to play alongside l mates like Shan Brian Lara it was like old times." Lara, who could muster only

nine runs, said it was magnificent in the way cricket had come together to help the appeal. 'This was my third match and it

was fantastic to raise so much money for the appeal.

"It is great that cricket has made such an effort."

Dravid too said it had been a massive effort by the sport, though, he joked that it had been an easier task batting in Twenty20 than captaining. "I don't know where to place the

Hollioake turns up heat

fielders because of the manic Australian batting top order, put nature of the batting!" aside the early departure of

On December 26 last year a Tsunami tidal wave which affected coastlines throughout Asia and caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands as well as massive destruction of property.

BRIEF SCORES

ASIA XI: 157 all out in 19.1 overs (Jayasuriya 27, Sangakkara 15, Dravid 62. Javawardene 24. Vaas 14; Pollock 1-14, Cairns 1-35, Styris 2-20, Hollioake 3-16, Thornely 2-6) INTERNATIONAL XI: 161 for 4 in 18.1 overs (Blewett 91 not out, Flower 15, Styris 39; Pathan 1-24, Kumble 1-19, Harbhajan 1-36) Result: International XI won by 6

wickets. Man-of-the-match: Greg Blewett. Toss: Asia XI.

Greg awaits

FROM PAGE 12 Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Mohammad

Kaif, Yuvraj Singh, VVS Laxman, Dinesh Mongia, Gautam Gambhir, Suresh Raina, Venugopala Rao, Niraj Patel, Dheeraj Jadhav, Sridharan Sriram, Hemang Badani. Medium-pacers: Zaheer Khan, Laxmipathy Balaji, Ashish Nehra, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Gagandeep Singh, SS Paul, Ranadeb Bose, Harvinder Singh, Amit Bhandari, Siddharth Trivedi, Sree Santh, Joginder Sharma Munaf Patel, JP Yadav, Rajamani Jesuraj.

Wicketkeepers: Mahendra Dhoni Dinesh Karthik, Parthiy Patel. Spinners: Anil Kumble, Harbhajar Singh, Murali Kartik.

Battle for top

FROM PAGE 12

played bottom-table teams so far and it would be an acid test. We need to get back the rhythm we have lost after a good start," said Amer whose side next face heavyweights Muktijoddha and Abahan before finishing the first leg against last year's runners-up Sheikh Russel

"The absence of Alfaz will be an advantage for us but for the sake of a good match, I wish he could play, the Brothers manager added.

MSC jersey gets a sponsor

SPORTS REPORTER

Weekly magazine Khaborer Antarale will sponsor the jersey of the popular Mohammedan Sporting football team in the Premier Division Football League

Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, who is also chairman of the club's governing body, handed over the jerseys to Mohammedan captain Alfaz Ahmed

Go to grave in club colours

REUTERS, London

Fans of English soccer club Reading can now take their allegiance to the grave as a local funeral director is offering coffins in the club's colours.

Anyone not content with a scarf or replica kit can buy a 500 pounds (\$909) blue and white striped coffin adorned with the club crest, an image of the Madejski Stadium and a football.

An official of the second division club said the 50 pounds commission on each coffin would go directly to their Kicks 4 Kids charity scheme.

Reading spokesman Boyd Butler said the club were happy to endorse the new product and an associated blue and white ashes urn, aware that many fans ask to be buried in their favourite team's colours.

"People like to liven up their funerals these days," he told Sky

Barry Kirk, formerly the club's chaplain and now pastor at a local church, told the Reading Evening Post: "You love your club through life and death.

"Increasingly over the years more and more people have wanted their last wishes to be honoured by having a ceremony at the football club or have their ashes scattered around there.

"The club was very helpful in that respect and to have an official Reading coffin to be cremated in. well I can imagine a lot of fans will say 'yes please'.'

'It is Warne's private affair'

AFP. Melbourne

Cricket Australia said Tuesday it would take no disciplinary action against champion leg-spin bowler Shane Warne over new sex allega-

The 35-year-old world record wicket-taker, who has been at the centre of a series of scandals, allegedly stripped himself naked and begged London woman Laura Sayers, 25, for sex before she gave in to his pleas, according to a British

Warne has refused to comment on the claims, issuing a short statement on Monday saying he was sick of having to defend himself against publicity-seekers who try to gain notoriety at his expense.

Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland did not want to get involved in the matter, saying it did not reflect badly on Australian cricket because Warne was not a member of the national team at the

"This is a private issue and it is an issue that Shane needs to deal with his own immediate family, Sutherland told a press conference.

Sutherland said off-field incidents surrounding Warne were "a concern" but not really the business of his organisation.

"Shane Warne is an cricketer but at the same time there is a line that needs to be drawn somewhere about a player's private life and when a player is on duty," Sutherland said.

Players' union chief Tim May said it was a "long bow" to link Warne's reported behaviour to damaging the image of Australian

"I don't believe that it brings the game into disrepute -- it may well bring the individual into disrepute -but not the game," May said.

ICC's Lord's swansong

CRICINFO, undated

The world's top cricket administrators will meet at Lord's at the end of this week for a series of meetings culminating in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) annual conference next Tuesday.

It will be the last time that the great and the good assemble at Lord's, the ICC's headquarters since 1909 -- in August the ICC relocates to Dubai.

The series of meetings will begin with the ICC chief executives' meeting on June 24 and 25 and incorporated into the programme will be a meeting of the ICC executive board on June 27, the annual ICC associate members meeting and the first ever ICC women's committee

No Collina at 2006 finals

AFP, Berlin

Italian referee Pierluigi Collina, widely considered the world's top match official, will definitely not be allowed to officiate in the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.

Collina will be over the age limit of 45 set by world body FIFA by the time of next year's finals.

"We must abide by the rules," said Volker Roth, the head of the referees' committee for European body UEFA. Roth admitted Tuesday that

Collina was "something special" but added: "We have so many good referees from all over the world. We'll be able to find a good replacement for Collina."

Brazil v Japan

LIVE ON ESPN 12:40AM

Parreira to gamble

REUTERS, Nuremberg



Carlos Alberto Parreira will take a calculated risk by naming a much-changed Brazil team to

play for their Confederations Cup future against Japan on Wednesday. Brazil's surprise 1-0 defeat by

Mexico in Group B means the world champions will be on their way home if they lose against Japan in That would be all the more embarrassing given that Japan are coached by Zico, one of Brazil's

Parreira is still preparing to gamble by dropping up to four of his first-Among those to make way could be Ronaldinho and Kaka, the two most creative players in the squad. But Parreira is determined to live

with the inevitable criticism should

greatest former players, but

"If we were in the World Cup and

playing for our future that would be different. But we'd planned all along to make changes for the third game and that's what we're going to do," Parreira said.

"I'll take responsibility for that. There will probably be three or four new players in the team.

"We want to win and go through. This is an important tournament, with all the continental champions. but above all it's a test ahead of the

Kaka, Parreira hinted that one or both could be rested ahead of a possible semi-final. "Both have had tiring seasons in

Asked about Ronaldinho and

Europe and we may try and ensure that they're fresh for the next game,' the coach said. Juninho Pernambucano, who scored with a spectacular free-kick

in the 3-0 win over Greece, would be

first in the queue to come into the

Zico's Japan showed in their 1-0 win over European champions Greece that they are well capable of causing Brazil problems - if only

midfield.

With Hidetoshi Nakata and Shunsuke Nakamura in effervescent form, they made the Greece

> chances they created. "Our main problem is taking chances and obviously we have to

midfield dizzy only for the starting

forwards to miss the countless

mprove," said Nakata. Zico believes his forwards have a mental block in front of goal but ne remains confident his team can cause a big upset on Wednesday and get the win they need to qualify for the semi-finals alongside

"The important thing is to retain the sprit and the belief that we can do it," the coach said.

"Brazil are always Brazil but I'm now the coach of Japan and I want to help them to win.'

Mexico will make certain of wining the group if they get at least a draw against Greece, who are certain of being eliminated, in the other game in Frankfurt.

MEXICO V GREECE

A chance for solace

AFP, Frankfurt

things go wrong.



Greece surprised everyone by lifting the Euro 2004 title in Portugal but the European

champions are

merely playing for pride in the Confederations Cup match here in Frankfurt Wednesday, when they face a buoyant Mexico Greece are the only team yet to score in the tournament after losing

Mexico have already qualified for the semifinals with a maximum six Mexico produced the biggest shock of the tournament by defeat-

ing world champions Brazil 1-0 in

to Brazil (3-0) and Japan (1-0) while

They will face Argentina or Germany in the semi-finals "It's satisfying to see how we're growing and able to beat great

teams. We're getting better all the time." said Mexico coach Ricardo Lavolpe. In contrast, Greece have been on a downward spiral since Euro

Rehhagel is a disappointed man. "I really thought my team would have played better in this tournament," he said.

2004 and their German coach Otto

After a dreadful tournament Rehhagel has switched his focus to some vital qualifying matches for the 2006 World Cup. "We have a very important match

against Kazakhstan on September

7. That will be something else, we

have plenty of time," promised

While Greek fans are ready to go

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 12:40AM

home, Mexican supporters are dreaming of a repeat of their 1999 success in this competition. That year Mexico also defeated

Brazil, winning the final 4-3 in front of their home fans, and a point against Greece would secure top spot in the Group B.

"We have to get used to winning, make it a habit. To beat the champions of the world gives us great confidence in our own ability, beamed coach Lavolpe.

Having already reached the semis Mexico have nothing to lose against Greece but a milestone could push them on.

Lavolpe's side have gone 19 games unbeaten and a win or draw

Pay rise for Aussies

Cricket

their last group match.

the players' union.

AFP, Melbourne Australia's contracted cricketers wil receive pay rises and improved welfare support under a new agreement announced here Tuesday between Cricket Australia (CA) and

After months of difficult negotiations, it was agreed that Cricket Australia-contracted player retainers will increase by almost six per cent annually.

Under a four-year memorandum of understanding agreed by CA and the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA), players will receive 25 per cent of an Australian cricket revenue pool.

receive 55 per cent of the pool money, while state-contracted players will get 45 per cent. A higher negotiated amount of 2.8 million dollars (2.1 million US) will be invested in career and wel-

fare programs over the life of the

agreement, including a set fund

dollars (112,000 USD) under their

CROSSWORD

13 Oklahoma 37 "In & Out

ACROSS

1 Jettison

5 Wrong

8 Punch

12 Vicinity

city

14 Chaste

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tattooed

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18 Waste

20 Rem-

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(Abbr.)

26 He took

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CA-contracted players will

designed to encourage players to take up tertiary study. CA-contracted players will receive a minimum of 145,000

35 Pussy-

cat's

36 Football

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41 Rill

45 Pop

47 Hole

partner

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49 Birthday

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time

51 Caviar

52 Austin

foe

retainers for the 2005-06 season. rising by 5,000-dollar increments over the following three seasons in the life of the agreement. No maximum figures were revealed.

Match fees for Test matches will

be 12.250 dollars for the next two

seasons, rising to 12,750 dollars a match in the last two seasons of the period of the memorandum of understanding. Contracted players will get 4,900 dollars for a one-day international,

season. Twenty-five cricketers are currently on CA retainers with each of the six Australian states allowed between 16 to 20 contracted play-

rising to 5,100 dollars in the 2007-08

"Our starting point in negotiating this new agreement was to ensure that we can continue paying our players well, allowing them to share in the financial success of the game, without compromising the game at grassroots level." CA chief executive James Sutherland said in a

statement Tuesday. "Results of a recent review into Australian cricket suggest it is in good shape, but cant afford to rest on its laurels and expect to maintain its privileged place in the Australian

By Eugene Sheffer

lord's due 23 Art

1 Lecturer's 25 Remnants

-Magnon

11 Barbie's

19 Petrol

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35 Indivisible

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32 Clumsy

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7 Siberian

8 Relieve

Solution time: 25 mins.

sled dog

the-Plow'

playwright

opening

address

54 Web-site

"We need to nurture the game,

both at the elite level and the grassroots and due to the co-operation of the ACA we are now in a better position than ever to do this," he

Outgoing ACA chief executive Tim May said the new agreement was an acknowledgement of the players contribution to the success of Australian cricket off and

on the field. "Our plavers have worked hard and achieved great things for Australian cricket and they deserve to be rewarded for this success and the revenue growth that this success has created," the former Test off-spinner said in the

statement.

share of Australian cricket revenue (pool), players have an incentive to grow the games revenues and satisfy and support sponsor initia-"An important platform of the

"By maintaining a 25 per cent

new agreement is the significant increase to funding for the players career and welfare program. The programme will assist and

encourage players to commit to higher education and development of their post-cricketing careers, together with an expanded base of welfare resources off the

CPQIGGCL

SGUOOT WUICBC,

ULM "HUT B AG XSUIM?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ONE WOULD THINK THAT A TREE SURGEON COULD BE FOUND WORKING OUT OF HIS BRANCH OFFICE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals K

CRYPTOQUIP

NPK

SGWMPI HBQNK

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 46 Lennon's give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.