C'WEALTH YOUTH GAMES

Bangladesh leave on Thursday

SPORTS REPORTER

An 11-member Bangladesh contingent will leave Dhaka on Thursday for Indian city Pune to take part in the 3rd Commonwealth Youth Games.

The weeklong event will begin on October 12.

The contingent, headed by Chef de Mission and Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) deputy secretary general Anisur Rahman Dipu, will call on BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed at the BOA office this afternoon.

Canada ban the captain

CRICINFO, undated

Zubin Surkari has been handed a two-game suspension and fined by the Canadian Cricket Association for conduct and behaviour-related charges.

While no specifics have been given by the board, Surkari, who was named as Canada's captain in June, is believed to have been reprimanded after comments that he was not being given any say in the way the team operated.

It is reported locally that he clashed with board officials and that his comments were considered to be unbecoming of the captain.

As a result, Surkari will miss the T20 Canada 2008 tournament, and the side will be led by Sunil Dhaniram.

SQUAD

Sunil Dhaniram (captain), Umar Bhatti, Harvir Bhadwan, Rizwan Cheema, Manoj David, Abzal Dean, Mohammed Iqbal, Karun Jethi, Eion Katchay, Ashif Mulla, Henry Osinde, Balaji Rao, Abdool Samad.

Rajib 3rd

FROM PAGE 17

Nigerl Short who emerged champion with 9.5 points. Local GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly finished runner-up for the silver medal with nine points.

Among other Bangladeshi contestants, GM Ziaur Rahman finished 14th with eight points, GM Niaz Murshed bagged 46th place (7 points), FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon 80th, Debaraj Chatterjee 81st, FM Taibur Rahman 86th, Mohammed Javed 105th, FM Mehdi Hassan Parag 119th and FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar 126th.

A total of 272 players including 13 GMS and 31 IMs took part in the 11-round Swiss League competition for Commonwealth nations.

Three new faces

FROM PAGE 17

"We picked up Nayeem [Islam] because our regular middle-order batsman Rokibul Hasan's injury is yet to heal," he said. Rafiqul refuted the allegations

that they had given too many players international debuts during their eleven-month tenure.

"It's not true because there were some players who were on and off while we were forced to change sometimes due to injury. We never thought about junior or senior rather our main concentration was on the performance and there is no exception this time also," he defended.

There was another change from the last trip as fit-again wicketkeeper Mushfigur Rahim returned to the fold and there was no question about his return after the departure of Dhiman.

One point to note is that had the ICL-episode not taken place the captaincy issue would have definitely taken the centre stage.

Mohammad Ashraful's continued failure as a batsman has sent off worrying signs but the BCB made it clear Ashraful has been retained as captain while Mashrafe Bin Mortaza his deputy.

Roma keep

FROM PAGE 20

sent off in the seven matches -only Udinese-Torino ended with a full set of 22 players on

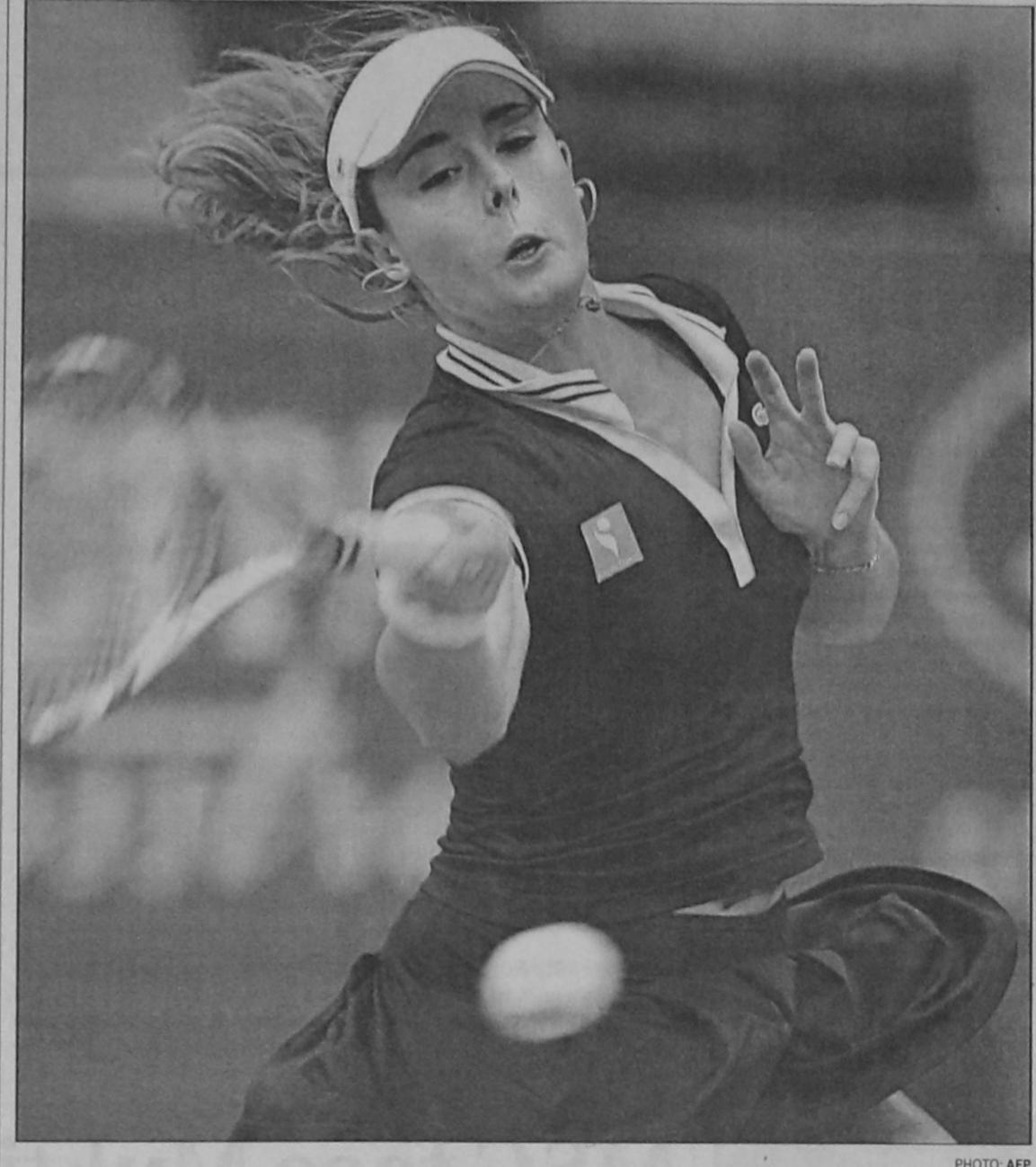
Udinese are joint top with Lazio, who were held 1-1 at home by Lecce on Saturday, and Inter, 2-1 winners over Bologna on Saturday, after the northerners won 2-0.

Italy forward Fabio Quagliarella scored both goals for Udinese, the first a minute before the break and

the second 13 minutes from time. Udinese's lofty position is not totally unexpected with likes of Antonio Di Natale and Antonio

Floro Flores also on their books. Atalanta are up to fifth after a 4-2 win over nine-man Sampdoria while Genoa held on to beat Napoli 3-2, inflicting the first defeat of the season on Diego Maradona's old team, despite also losing two players to red cards.

Alberto Gilardino continued his rich goal-scoring form since his move from AC Milan as he bagged the second in Fiorentina's 2-0 win at newly-promoted Chievo.



Alize Cornet of France plays a forehand against compatriot Amelie Mauresmo in the first round of the Kremlin Cup in Moscow yesterday. She was beaten 6-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Ramos sticking with Spurs

Football

AFP, London

Juande Ramos insisted he has no intention of quitting after Tottenham hit a new low with a dismal 1-0 defeat against Hull at White Hart Lane.

The Spurs boss looks increasingly vulnerable following Sunday's result, which condemned the north London club to their worst start for 96 years. Hull's Brazilian midfielder

Geovanni inflicted the latest dose the ninth minute and Spurs could find no way back.

After seven matches without a

rooted to the bottom of the table. Ramos's predecessor Martin Jol lost his job for less but the Spanish coach is confident he can turn the

When asked if he would consider resigning, Ramos said: "This is my job, my work. It is the same whether we win or lose.

"The attitude of the players is very positive. In training and working and speaking with the players, my feeling is that they want to finish this situation quickly. But when you don't score goals it is not easy to win."

Ramos admitted that the club's of despair on Ramos when he problems centred on their lack of struck with a superb free-kick in strikers after Dimitar Berbatov and Robbie Keane were sold in the summer.

win in league, Tottenham are worse when Russian recruit Roman

Pavlyuchenko limped off in the first half with an ankle injury which will undergo a scan this week. But Ramos refused to take the

blame totally for a situation which has left Spurs with two strikers in Pavlyuchenko and Darren Bent who they admit cannot play together.

Ramos, who admitted the decision over his future at White Hart Lane was not up to him, said: "The position of the striker is the weakest. It is the decision of the club, all the people are responsible for the good and the bad.

"The players had a big effort and a good attitude and this is the way to change the situation. The best match for us this season has been It was a situation which got against Chelsea - some things are impossible to explain."

Hughes wants more investment

Football

AFP, Manchester

Mark Hughes insisted that season and once again we will be Manchester City will need to add more players to their squad in January if they are to challenge for a Champions League spot after Dirk Kuyt's injury-time strike sealed a 3-2 win for Liverpool.

With the financial support of the Sheikh Mansour-backed Abu Dhabi United Group, City are aiming to break into the Premier League's exclusive Champions League party, with Liverpool one those clubs at risk from their new-found power in the transfer January."

away a 2-0 half-time lead to concede all three points to Rafael Benitez's men at Eastlands on Sunday, City boss Hughes admitted Garrido at half-time.

his squad. Hughes said: "People have to be

that he still needs time to reshape

realistic because we are only a few games into the Premier League frustrated by the international break this week. "That makes it more difficult to get the benefit of a clear week

ers on the training pitch. We still need to find that consistent level of performance and resoluteness in match situations. "We are still a team with obvious frailties, but we will work hard to resolve them when

when we can work with the play-

the transfer window reopens in Liverpool, who lost Slovakian

But after seeing his team throw defender Martin Skrtel with suspected knee ligament damage in the 19th minute, trailed to goals from Stephen Ireland and Javi

Nigerian group FROM PAGE 20

"Once that is sorted, we'll fine-tune

"We're prepared to look at other options if our bid for Newcastle is not successful. I've been approached by several top Premier League club offering us opportunities to buy their clubs.

"People are having a go because the businessmen have not made themselves known. But I can assure everyone they are astute, respectable and wealthy men."

They're under FROM PAGE 17

find the going tough in the Tests if the pitches assist the spinners.

"If it is a normal Indian wicket that starts to turn may be from the tea session [of the first day], then it will be tough for them. They will have to apply themselves to get the

Spinners accounted for ten of the 12 Australian wickets that fell during their four-day game against a Board President's Eleven in Hyderabad last week.

Black Caps' lone

informed BCB curator Shafiul Alam Belal yesterday.

"Another spell of rain in the night however may totally jeopardise the match," he added.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND: Daniel Vettori (captain), Grant Elliott, Daniel Flynn, Mark Gillespie, Gareth Hopkins, Jamie How, Chris Martin, Michael Mason, Brendon McCullum, Kyle Mills, Iain O'Brien, Jacob Oram, Jeetan Patel, Aaron Redmond, Jesse Ryder, Tim Southee, Scott Styris and Ross Taylor.

BCB XI: Zunaed Siddiqui, Imrul Kayes, Shamsur Rahman, Rajin Saleh (captain), Nafis Iqbal, Tushar Imran, Mehrab Hossain, Sahagir Hossain (wicketkeeper), Syed Rasel, Nazmul Hossain, Dollar Mahmud and Enamul Haque.

Afghanistan on course

AFP, Dar Es Salaam

Afghanistan's push towards a place at the 2011 World Cup continued on Sunday when they thrashed Jersey by 124 runs to make it two wins in two matches in the World Cricket League Division Four. Batting first, Afghanistan made

203 for 9 in 50 overs and then bowled out Jersey for 79, a performance which delighted their coach, Kabir Khan. "Everybody is very happy as we

have taken one step closer to the final and the team has played very well," he

"Bowling wise, I am really happy and our fielding was excellent again today. We do need to work on our batting but I was not worried because I knew 200 runs would be a winning score on this wicket."

The top two sides in the six-nation tournament here will ensure spots in Division Three with the leading two nations there progressing to the final World Cup Qualifier in April 2009.

Left-arm spinner Nadeem Ahmed took 4 for 19 as Hong Kong also maintained their unbeaten record as they defeated hosts Tanzania by 134 runs after the home team were bowled out for 121 chasing 256.

Hong Kong's batsmen rattled up 255 with man of the match Moner Ahmed top scoring with 66 while skipper Tabarak Dar chipped in with 60. Italy's opener Andy Northcote enjoyed an eventful day in his side's 254-run thrashing of Fiji.

Twenty-five year-old Northcote, who shared an opening stand of added 140 with Thushara Kurukulasuriya (73), was five runs short of century when he collapsed with heat exhaustion. He bravely carried on to reach the three figures but retired soon after.

Italy reached 318 for 5 and then dismissed Fiji for 64.

Borussia sack

FROM PAGE 20 Taking over on an interim basis will be Moenchengladbach sports director Christian Ziege, while the

search goes on for a successor. The 45-year-old Dutchman, who took over as coach in January 2007, is the first Bundesliga coach to lose his job this season.

WTA's top 10 AFP, Paris Jelena Jankovic of Serbia was con-

national selection panel.

firmed as regaining the world No.1 ranking on Monday following her win in the WIA tournament at Stuttgart on Sunday.

Ehsanul, Sajjad

The Bangladesh Cricket Board

(BCB) has appointed Ehsanul

Haque and Sajjad Ahmed as the age

eters will also be assisting BCB's

Game Development Department

age group selectors to take the

burden off the Rafiqul Alam-led

in its talent hunt programmes.

The two former national crick-

The board has appointed the

age group

selectors

SPORTS REPORTER

group team selectors.

She takes over from Serena Williams in the sixth changeover at the top since Justine Henin retired

being overtaken by compatriot Ana Ivanovic. 1. Jelena Jankovic (SRB) 4230 (+1) 2. Serena Williams (USA) 4017 (-1) 3. Dinara Safina (RUS) 4. Elena Dementieva (RUS) 5. Ana Ivanovic (SRB) 6. Maria Sharapova (RUS) 7. Svetlana Kuznetzova (RUS)

MSC face Mukti

2311

2182

8. Venus Williams (USA)

9. Vera Zvonavera (RUS)

10. Agnieszka Radwanska (POL)

FROM PAGE 17 players of defending champions Abahani from making long travels just before the trip to Malaysia.

The match will be held on October 10 at 4.30pm at the BNS before the Arambagh-Brothers match at 6.30pm.

In other fixtures, Mohammedan and Abahani of Chittagong host Rahmatganj and joint-leaders Sheikh Russel at the MA Aziz Stadium in the port city tomorrow and October 10 respectively. Both the matches in Chittagong will start from 3.30pm.

Tickets at AB

FROM PAGE 17

stadium on each day of the match. For the second Test, which will begin from October 25 at Mirpur, will be sold at AB Bank branches in Dhaka from October 22 and will also be available at ticket booths of the SBNS on each day of the Test.

TICKET RATES PER DAY ODI SERIES (MIRPUR): VIP Grand Stand: Tk 1,000, Club House: Tk 300, Special Enclosure: Tk 200 &

Gallery: Tk 100. ODI MATCH (CHITTAGONG): Club House: Tk 300, Special Enclosure: Tk 200 & Gallery: Tk 100. FIRST TEST (CHITTAGONG): Club House: Tk 150, Special Enclosure: Tk 100 & Gallery: Tk 50.

SECOND TEST (MIRPUR): VIP Grand Stand: Tk 500, Club House: Tk 150, Special Enclosure: Tk 100 & Gallery: Tk50.

3-1 predicts

FROM PAGE 17

four days, first allowing the hosts to pile up 455 in the first innings before being bowled out for 314 in reply.

The home team then smashed 292-4 in the second innings with Yuvraj Singh (113) and Wasim Jaffer (93) battering the tourists' bowlers on the final day. The Aussies finished at 127-2.

The Bangalore Test will be followed by matches in Mohali, New Delhi and Nagpur.

BCB's EGM

FROM PAGE 17

reducing the size of the executive committee from the existing 31 to 25 members.

The councillors will elect 22 directors: 12 of them will come from Dhaka clubs, ten from divisional and district sports associations while the National Sports Council (NSC) will nominate one director. The other director, which is yet to be decided, might come from the category of former players. However, the option for the president to be nominated by the government, which has been a case over the years, or be elected, still remains unclear in the draft constitution.

"In the draft constitution we have taken the initiatives to decentralise the game," said a softspoken Jamali adding that the voting system in the draft constitution would also end powerplay by any quarter. The most significant part in the

draft constitution is that the Dhaka councillors will only be eligible to elect the 12 Dhaka club directors while the divisional and district councilors will elect only their ten directors. Besides, one can't be eligible to

become a BCB councillor if he or she is involved in any other federation's executive committee.

'Either Krejza or White'

Cricket

CRICINFO, Hyderabad

Left with minimal spin resources after Bryce McGain was ruled out of the tour, Ricky Ponting has said against India in Bangalore. Both are yet to play a Test, and though Krejza gave away 199 runs from 31 wicketless overs against the Board President's XI, Ponting saw it as a "learning curve" for the offspinner.

"Jason was very nervous during the first spell of the game," Ponting said after the tour game in Hyderabad ended in a draw. "I think he improved by the end of his spell in the first innings. He got into good rhythm and used the angles round the wicket very well. We need to work out how to use him best ... the field placements and the way the Indians tend to play him.

wicket when we get there handed and bowled long spells. Jankovic held the top ranking [Bangalore] but we think one of And we've got Shane Watson who the spin department. Obviously, for just one week in August before those two will be in the side. White will come into the side and that will the last time they had Shane Warne. offers a lot since he is an allrounder; he is someone who can get a game in our side as a batsman alone. He just toured here with Australia A and did well in the onedayers." White scored 144 runs at an average of 48 and took eight wickets in five one-dayers, captaining Australia A to a tri-series win

against India A and New Zealand A. In 2004-05, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath and Michael Kasprowicz shared 42 wickets in Australia's conquest of the final bowlers would need to step up on this tour as well. "The last time we either Jason Krejza or Cameron came here we put a lot of pressure White will play in the first Test on our fast bowlers to execute a certain style of play," he said. "There is no doubt that they are the

more experienced bowlers in our

side at the moment and we expect

them to lead from front and take

pressure off from our spinners in

performance of Brett Lee, Stuart Clark and Mitchell Johnson in Hyderabad. "Brett Lee is probably a little bit underdone. He got lots of overs here and improved. Stuart Clark is very reliable. Mitchell [Johnson] was the pick of our fast bowlers," he said. "In both innings his line and length has been terrific. He has tested the batsmen; "We will have to look at the whether they were right- or leftgive us some good quality

medium-pace overs." The pressure would also be on the top order to put up the runs, Ponting said. "It's important in this series that our batters make big scores. So the pressure is on every single one of us. We like putting ourselves under pressure, pitting our skills against

every other player in the world." Ponting, who averages 12.28 from eight Tests played in India, said he owed his team some runs in India. He made 41 in the first frontier and Ponting felt the fast innings and an unbeaten 58 in the second, and hoped the time spent at the crease would hold him in good stead for the Tests. "As everybody knows -- it's been spoken a lot here already -- my record in India is not as good as it is in other parts of the world. That's where this game was very important for me to get

some confidence. "I am back from an injury; it's always a little hard to get going. To Ponting was satisfied with the spend some quality time in both innings has been good. I was sort of disappointed to get out in the first innings. I could have got a bit more time under my belt."

Yuvraj Singh, who captained the BP XI, said Australia could make up for their lack of a potent spinner with effective game-plans. "Australia won the last series here and they had their top bowlers then," he said. "They've got a good pace attack but I think they might lack in They don't have a good spinner at the moment. So if their fast bowlers don't take wickets it's going to be tough for them. At the moment it's pretty even but they always come up with a plan. Last time they played over here they planned really well. So you can't underesti-

Beau can fight back

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Beau Casson has not given up hope of adding to his one Test cap despite being overlooked for Cameron White as the late spin call-up for Australia's squad in India. Casson made his debut in the West Indies but the selectors preferred Bryce McGain, Jason Krejza and White for the India trip.

"You always want to be the number one whatever you do, whether it's bowling, batting or fielding," Casson told the Sydney Morning Herald. "I have still got a hell of a lot of work to get there, and I'm still very optimistic to get there. Hopefully I can start sending the ball down well and add to my one Test, which I thoroughly

Casson, a left-arm wristspinner, picked up three wickets in the Test in Barbados and, unlike McGain and Krejza, holds a Cricket Australia contract. probably more of a batsman who he tries his heart out."

to have a right-arm leg-spinner and an off-spinner in India, so while White joins the squad in ' Bangalore as a replacement for the injured McGain, Casson will be playing Sheffield Shield cricket against Western Australia in Perth.

"I would love to be in India but it wasn't meant to be," he said. "[The selectors] have decided to go with a combination they think will be successful over there." The decision to add White to

the squad was unexpected as he has developed into a batting allrounder whose leg-spin is used mostly as a backup for Victoria. He bowled only 84 overs during the last Pura Cup season and collected six wickets, although the selectors said they were impressed by his recent one-day form with Australia A in India, where he was the second leading wicket-taker in the tri-series.

Michael Hussey said White would be a strong addition to the squad. "In previous years he was

However, the selectors were keen could help out with the ball," Hussey said.

Darwin against Bangladesh and

"But watching him work out in

seeing some of the results against India A in India, he seems like he's really improved his bowling and is getting a lot more confidence with it. That's got to be a good sign for our team. However, the former Test leg-

spinner and spin coach Terry Jenner was struggling to understand why Casson had been ignored. He said White for McGain, who was sent home due to a lingering shoulder problem, was not a like-for-like swap.

"Bryce McGain wasn't going to bowl medium-pace leggies," Jenner said in the Age. "I am at a bit of a loss because I go back to what his mentor David Hookes always said, that Cameron was only ever going to play for Australia as a batsman who could bowl a few overs. I don't think much has changed since then, even though

Sourav sounds a caution

FROM PAGE 17 in 2001 and earned a credible 1-1 draw Down Under two years later.

The left-hander, 36, was regarded by the Indian media as a controversial selection for the first two Tests of the upcoming series after being ignored for a domestic trial match last month.

But the experience of the 109-Test veteran with 6,888 runs forced the selectors to keep faith in Ganguly despite his lean trot with the bat during the recent 2-1 loss in Sri Lanka.

Ganguly, however, dismissed

any talk of retirement and wel-

comed the pressure to perform in the series, for himself and the other seniors in the side like Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Venkatsai Laxman. "When we play for India, there is always pressure," he said. "Nothing

else matters. At the end of the day,

all that counts are the number of runs on the board." Australia, meanwhile, were counting their gains and losses in the tour opener in Hyderabad.

The tourists were embarrassed

52 Some

DOWN

out there ammo

23 Туре

ishly?

38 Siesta

40 Scarlet

41 McNally's

partner

by India's second string over the four days, first allowing the hosts to pile up 455 in the first innings before being bowled out for 314 in

292-4 in the second innings with Test discards Yuvraj Singh (113) and Wasim Jaffer (93) battering the tourists' bowlers on the final day. Mike Hussey's century and Ponting's 41 and 58 not out were

Australian batsmen, with none of the others crossing 50. The tourists' biggest worry was their spin options after 36-year-old Bryce McGain returned home with a shoulder injury and rookie offspinner Jason Krejza proved inade-

the only bright spots for the

quate to the task. Krejza, 25, went wicketless in the two innings at Hyderabad while conceding 199 runs, 63 of them in six overs on Sunday. Australia, depleted by the retire-

ments of Shane Warne and Stuart

MacGill in quick succession, have

called up one-day specialist

for the series.

Zealand

Cameron White to replace McGain

minute and then goals either side of the interval from Nabil Baha and Duda Valente firmly placed The home team then smashed Malaga in the driving seat. They finished off the scoring just after the hour mark with

Sub-par Real

Eliseu Pereira dos Santos scored

the first of his brace in the opening

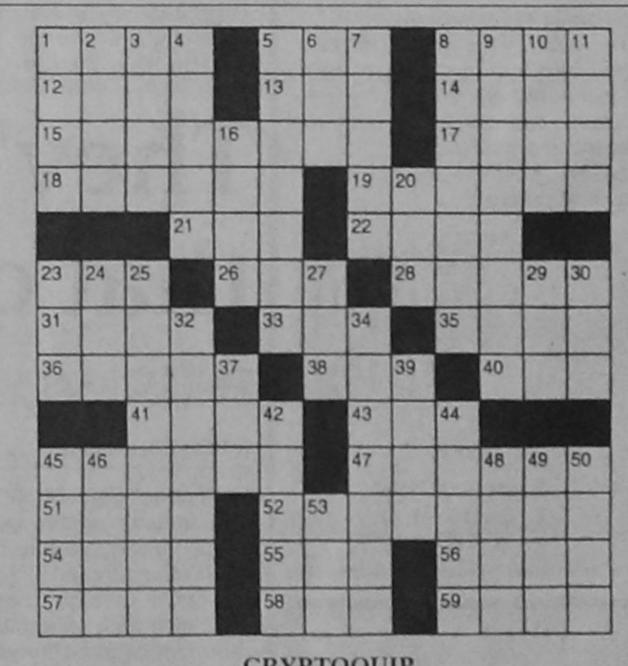
FROM PAGE 20

Eliseu's second. Racing Santander scored in the second minute of injury time at Osasuna to claim an important 1-0 victory with Juan Varela grabbing the winner.

down to claim a point in a 2-2 draw away to Getafe. Ikechukwu Uche and Francisco Casquero appeared to have secured the win before Almeria hit

Almeria came from two goals

back in the final minutes through Alvaro Negredo and Jose Chico. An early goal from Angel Lafita after 13 minutes was enough for Deportivo la Coruna to beat Numancia and end their run of a month without a win.



CRYPTOQUIP

Q ZFABZ KFQIB ZBHAZBZ ITFIEOB EF HQVVACK VAWB, HETVZ NET OQN Q FQAOAC Z'BPFB?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'RE YELLING AT SOMEBODY AT A SALAD BAR, I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT BE DRESSING HIM DOWN. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals I

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 43 Two-2 Swathe 16 Attorneys' 45 Celestial vous shadows Norse 47 Mad 5 Halves good 23 Recede 51 Joint-4 Bloodhound's 24 Bygone bird of

5 Tomb-

25 Ahab's first mate 13 Old man 55 401(k) 6 Autumn 27 Longing 14 Key alterna-29 Exploit 7 Relieve 30 Third 15 Rest a 56 Tittle 8 Frightdegree 57 Cartoon-32 Fireened 17 Eager 9 Superior, places 18 Plano 34 Squaresupply as a 58 Up to restauroot sign style 37 "CSI" 19 Texas city the time rant evidence rounded 39 Petty 59 Spud's 22 Felons' buds hoodlum 11 Give 42 It's left flights

measures 1 Performakeover 26 Maxwell mances Solution time: 21 mins. 28 Excited that 33 That girl 36 Spoke

46 Werewolf's 49 Staff 50 Greek vowels 53 Swiss canton

44 Actor Davis 45 Wrinkly catalyst 48 Sea call member?

to your

accoun-

tant