SPÖRT

Langer warns bowlers

AFP, Perth

Australian Test opener Justin Langer warned Tuesday that bowling attacks will soon be made to pay for his poor start to the international season.

"I agree it has been a slow start to the season for me, but someone is going to pay very soon," the Western Australian left-hander said, with an eye on the upcoming four-Test home series against India starting in December.

Langer, 32, has been limited to 36 runs in three innings against a depleted Zimbabwe over the past two weeks.

While he has struggled against modest bowling, his opening partner Matthew Hayden has smashed his way into the record books, hitting a world record 380 in Perth 11 days ago and then blasting a match-winning century in Sydney Monday.

Langer and Hayden form Australia's most successful opening pair in 125 years of Test history.

Before the start of the new season they averaged 68.13 runs per opening stand from 24 matches together including nine 100-plus stands and seven more between 50 and 99.

Langer dismissed suggestions his recent failures endangered his place in

"Selection pressure, you mean? I would like to think not," he said to

"I missed out against Zimbabwe, which is disappointing, but I learned some good lessons. Maybe I have to look at my preparation a bit closer, as in match preparation.

"But it wasn't that long ago that I had a great series against England and another great series against the West Indies.

Langer admitted the achievements of his teammates tended to highlight his recent failures

"I guess there is pressure because Matty Hayden is averaging nearly 60, Adam Gilchrist is averaging 60, Ricky Ponting is in the 50s and Steve Waugh is in the 50s, so there is a very high level of expectation.

"But if you look around the world, there are no other batsmen averaging 50. probably not even 45. so an average of 45 after 67 Test matches - well. I am pretty proud of that achievement

Maiden Pak

PAKISTAN: Second innings Umar b Adams

Farhat c Gibbs	s B Smith			58
Hameed not o	ut			20
Malik not out				8
Extras: (lb-6, r	nb-4, w-5))		15
Total: (For 2 w	kts in 40.	1 ove	ers)1	64
Did not bat: Y	ouhana, I	Kam	al, M	loin,
Akhtar, Sami, Mushtaq, Kaneria				
Bowler	0	M	R	W
Pollock	7	2	21	0
Ntini	6	0	24	0
Nel	5	0	13	0
Kallis	6	1	30	0
Adams	11	1	57	1
Smith	5.1	2	13	1
Result: Paki	istan wo	n b	у е	ight
wickets.			_	

Men-of-the-match: Taufeeg Umar and Danish Kaneria. Toss: South Africa.

Umpires: Darrell Hair (Australia) and Neil Mallender (England)

SERIES SALAD

FROM PAGE 13

Lancashire. He is a great motivator. I'm confident that under his guidance. Bangladesh will do well in international cricket as did Sri Lanka," said the 37-year-old great.

"Even ten years ago kids were only playing soccer here. But when I last came in 2001 and traveled to Chittagong along they way I saw cricket being played in every cor-

Akram is the only player to have taken more than 400 wickets in both version of the game. He captured 414 Test wickets and stands alone

in ODIs with 502 scalps. But the only disappointment for Akram was that it was a wet debut for him behind the microphone.

39 Kimberly- DOWN

Clark

43 "Wham!"

stories

41 Artsy

44 Life

product

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 — out a

living

4 Beast of

burden

11 Search

thor-

7 Arm bone



Pakistan's Danish Kaneria (L) and Taufeeq Umar jointly hold the man-of-the-match's cheque at the end of the first Test against South Africa in Lahore yesterday.

SA bowlers Test wkt shy'

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Lahore

South Africa captain Graeme Smith conceded that his bowlers were struggling to take Test wickets following the team's eight-wicket defeat by Pakistan in the first match on Tuesday.

Smith said the main difference between the sides was that Pakistan had a bowling attack capable of taking 20 wickets in a

"In one-day cricket it is all about containment," he told a news conference. "But in Test cricket you have to take 20 wickets. I think in this Test this was the major difference between the two sides. "We struggled to take wickets on

a good batting wicket that took spin. I think we have to look at our firepower in the bowling department for the second Test. We have to work on that aspect," Smith added. "It was not a seamer friendly

wicket but...spinners played a big role on it. But all credit to the Pakistan bowlers specially Danish (Kaneria), he bowled brilliantly on

Smith called for technology to be used more in Test cricket after two of his top batsmen. Herschelle Gibbs and Jacques Kallis, were victims of contentious umpiring decisions in

"Teams put in a lot of hard work in a Test," Smith said. "It matters a lot

the second innings.



GRAEME SMITH Smith also rued poor batting on

the fourth day Monday.

"We let ourselves down on the fourth day but we will re-group in the

next few days to come back in the second Test," said Smith.

"Monday was a crunch day and we failed to put runs on the board." Smith said his side badly wanted to win the second Test to level the

"We have to occupy the crease for a longer period of time," he said. "We have to produce the goods in Test cricket.' Pakistan's stand-in captain

part in the victory "I was not worried about the captaincy," he said. "It is not important for me. It is important for me that team wins. I believe that if every

Yousuf Youhana played down his

player performs with responsibility you win. If players don't take responsibility you lose. Pakistan coach Javed Miandad said his side had fought back well after losing the recent one-day series to South Africa.

"I think everyone has worked very hard for this win after the way we lost the one-day series," he said. "The main difference was that we got good opening stands in both nnings and that our spinners bowled very well. It is a collective

Going too far?

Cricket

BBC ONLINE. London

Darren Gough has set his sights on opening the bowling for England at the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies.

Gough, now 32, told this website he was "very annoyed" to have been ignored for the tours of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

He expects England's one-day squad to continue evolving over the next four years but believes he

still has plenty to offer. "If you were to ask me now which of the current players would be there at the next World Cup I

would say not half of them. Speaking exclusively to the BBC Sport website, he added: "You cannot plan for four years

ahead it just doesn't happen like "You'll get players who are not cutting it at this level and at some point the selectors have to ask

themselves: 'Are they good enough or not?" For the time being, Gough will

By Eugene Sheffer

1 Canyon

enon

phenom-

Surgeon

General

Austen

novel

target

5 Impale

6 Divest

7 Just in

time

8 Privv

9 Zero

10 Illustra

tions

12 Painfully

unfair

Tijuana

3 Jane

25 Animated

figure

26 Actress

27 See 50-

Across

28 Buy stuff

earner

30 Feed-bag

phone

horn, for

38 Overseas

agree-

ment?

40 Lo-o-ong

45 Urban

48 Diner

side

order

beater

initials

Doubtfire'

51 Prompt

54 Boxer

49 Deuce

50 Police

47 Capricorn

symbol

29 Medal

31 Tie up

35 Matter-

one

sit back and observe which bowlers perform in Bangladesh and Sri

He said: "There are only three one-davers in Bangladesh and three one-dayers in Sri Lanka. "To be honest, Bangladesh



DARREN GOUGH

shouldn't even be a Test side and in Sri Lanka it's a chance for some of the younger guys to have

"If it was a World Cup I would be in the side now."

He hopes to make England's

tour of the West Indies in early But even if he is passed over

for the Caribbean tour, he still has one more serious chance to get back into the England reckoning. "My next real target is the ICC Champions Trophy in England next September," said Gough.

"Then I've got two more years to build to the next World Cup." The Yorkshire seam howler is one of the most popular England

players and made a successful comeback from long-term knee injury last summer. In the successful NatWest Series campaign, he took nine

wickets at an average of 22.6, boasting a superb economy rate of 3.63. He seemed to have formed a

highly-effective strike partnership with James Anderson.

His return to the Test arena, however, proved short-lived.

And Gough announced his retirement from five-day cricket in early August after coming in for heavy punishment from Graeme Smith and his fellow South Africans at Edgbaston and Lord's.

Ferrero skips **Swiss Indoors**

has pulled out of the one-million-dollar euro Swiss Indoors tournament here on Monday, the organisers announced.

The Spaniard, whose win at the Madrid Masters on Sunday took him to the top of the Champions Race, withdrew from the event just before the

"He looked fine when he was playing in Madrid - this is very short notice," said tournament director Roger Brennwald.

American Andy Roddick, who Ferrero deposed at the top of the Champions Race, now becomes top seed, with Wimbledon champion Roger Federer of Switzerland seeded number

Ferrero, the French Open champion, is expected to be ready for the final Masters event of the season in Paris next week as well as being able to lead Spain in the final of the Davis Cup in November Roddick will face Swiss qualifier

Jean-Claude Scherrer in the first round while Federer takes on countryman Marc Rosset. Nalbandian of Argentina opens against

be back sooner REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar was confident of a quick recovery after limping out of the first Test against South Africa with a leg injury on Monday.

Shoaib may

The strike bowler, already suspended for the next Test and two one-dayers, was initially ruled out for three weeks.

But Shoaib said: "The injury is not that serious.'

He added that if the appeal against his three-match ban was successful he could even be fit for the second Test starting on Thursday in Faisalabad.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

spokesman Samiul Hasan said tests had shown Shoaib had a slight strain rather than a serious hamstring problem. The 28-year-old bowler was forced off before lunch on Monday

in the first Test after rocking South Africa with four for 36 in their second Shoaib received his ban from International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee Clive Lloyd after being censured for bad language during an incident involving Paul

Adams towards the end of the first

day of the first Test. Shoaib's appeal will be heard by former Australia captain Richie Benaud within seven days. Benaud, now a broadcaster, represents Australia on the ICC's Code of Conduct Commission.

Rain FROM PAGE 13

tourists as weathermen forecast a partly cloudy sky today and thunder shower on Thursday.

And as it was evident on Tuesday any further rain means a catastrophe for the outfield of the allpurpose venue. Over the years the ground has suffered a lot and presently the drainage system is not functioning well and that's why whenever it rains puddles crop up everywhere.

It was a pity to see that a venue of international repute needed nearly six hours to become playable after only a 15-minute shower

Vibrant Barmy

class spinners but how can that happen if county pitches are prepared only for seamers and batsmen, exclaimed Peter referring to Ashley Giles, who according to him maybe economical but is certainly not a wicket-taker.

When asked if being a member meant they were entitled to any special privileges, they all said "No way. You're given the official Barmy Army T-shirt but accommodation has to be arranged by the individ-

Inzamam

Amjad's inclusion in the squd, despite the presence of the two experienced leg-spinners Mushtaq Ahmed and Danish Kaneria, is a clear indication that the Pakistan selectors are keen to build on the success of the slow bowlers in the first Test. The PCB hopes that fast bowler

Shoaib Akhtar, banned for one Test and two one-day internationals, will feature in the second Test if his appeal against the ban is upheld by the International Cricket Council.

SQUAD

Taufeeg Umar, Imran Farhat, Yasir Hameed, Inzamamul Hag (captain), Asim Kamal, Shoaib Malik, Moin Khan, Shoaib Akhtar (vice-captain), Mohammad Sami, Danish Kaneria Shabbir Ahmad, Salman Butt, Faisal Iqbal, Mushtaq Ahmad, Kamran Akmal, Misbahul Haq, Mansoor Amjad and Abdul Razzaq.

National cricket FROM PAGE 13

Dhaka registered a six-wicket win over Faridpur at the Mymensingh

Stadium **SCORES IN BRIEF** Dhaka University v Chittagong University

Venue: DCS DHAKA UNIVERSITY: 259 for 6 in 50 overs (Anisul 89, Ehsanul 71, Debashish 27, Ali 2-49)

CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY: 117 all out in 39.5 overs (Arif 36, Parvez 20, Hakim 3-7) Result: Dhaka University won by

Dhaka v Faridpur

FARIDPUR: 107 all out in 43.2 overs (Tanmoy 19, Neeyamur 3-14, Mustafa 3-21) DHAKA: 108 for 4 in 33.5 overs (Faruque 43, Mehrab 21)

Narail v Jessore Venue: Chuadanga

(Russell 4-20, Raju 2-2) overs (Russell 25*, Ashique 16*) Result: Jessore won by ten wickets Mymensingh v Manikganj

overs (Riad 34, rashedul 25, Obayed 3-23) MANIKGANJ: 111 for 8 in 32 overs (Bashar 58, Ziko 19, Setu 7-27)

MYMENSINGH: 164 for 9 in 45

Series of injured!

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Injuries to key players has cast a shadow on the one-day triangular series between world champions Australia. New Zealand and hosts India starting on Thursday.

The high-profile series that sees Australia and India clash for the first time since their World Cup final in Johannesburg in March has lost much of its sheen because of the forced absence of some top players.

Ricky Ponting's Australians have been the worst hit with their entire first-choice bowling attack wiped Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie,

low with injuries, while star spinner Shane Warne is in the midst of a one-year ban on drug-related charges. New Zealand, who take on India in Thursday's opener at Madras, are

Brett Lee, Stuart MacGill and

Darren Lehmann have all been laid

missing express bowler Shane Bond and frontline batsman Nathan Astle, who returned home after the Test series due to a knee injury. The hosts too have not been spared injury woes with influential

captain Saurav Ganguly ruled out

for the first part of the series follow-

ing two operations on the left thigh to remove abscess from painful boils. The absence of left-arm seamer

Javagal Srinath, heroes of India's World Cup campaign, depletes the hosts further.

Each team plays the other thrice in the preliminary league with the top two advancing to the final at Calcutta's Eden Gardens on November 18.

That the 10-match series still promises to draw full houses is ndicative of the huge popularity the limited-overs game enjoys in this cricket-mad country.

The dull 0-0 deadlock in the Tests between India and New Zealand which ended on Monday has already been consigned to the record books as fans await the slam-bang excitement of one-day The powerful batting line-up of

the rivals, led by record-breaking Sachin Tendulkar of India and Matthew Hayden of Australia, will be a major draw. Australia may have lost all its key

bowlers, but the batting remains formidable in the form of Hayden, Ponting, Adam Gilchrist, Damien Martyn and Andrew Symonds. Hayden goes into the series after a world record score of 380 in the

first Test against Zimbabwe earlier this month, while Ponting hit a magnificent century to flatten India in the World Cup final. New Zealand, buoyant after

giving India a fright in the Test matches, have been bolstered by the return of seasoned all-rounder Chris Cairns and veteran Chris Harris for the one-dayers

Tendulkar, the most successful batsman in limited-overs history with 12,219 runs and 34 centuries. returns to the one-day fold for the

first time since his record-smashing tally of 673 in the World Cup. Tendulkar, who had a rare failure at home in the New Zealand Tests, stand-in captain Rahul Dravid and Virender Sehwag are expected to shoulder India's batting in Ganguly's

Australia, who take on India in their first match at Gwalior on Sunday, will arrive here on Thursday

SCHEDULE

Schedule of the limited-overs triangular series between world champions Australia, New Zealand and hosts India starting on Thursday: Oct 23: India v New Zealand,

Madras (D/N) Oct 26: India v Australia, Gwalior

Oct 29: Australia v New Zealand Faridabad

Nov 1: India v Australia, Bombay (D/N) Nov 3: Australia v New Zealand

Nov 6: India v New Zealand Cuttack (D/N) Nov 9: Australia v New Zealand Guwahati

Nov 15: India v New Zealand, Hyderabad (D/N)

Nov 12: India v Australia, Bangalore

Nov 18: Final, Calcutta (D/N)

Target Tendulkar

Cricket

AFP/REUTERS, Sydney

Indian batting champion Sachin Tendulkar will be one of the biggest challenges that Australia's new bowling spearhead Andy Bichel will confront on his team's cricket tour of the subcontinent. Australia leave here on

Wednesday for a four-week limited-

overs tournament against India and

New Zealand, and with Australia's bowling stocks drastically depleted by injury, Bichel takes over as the team's leading paceman. The big-hearted Queenslander said it would be a big challenge as he has never toured India and has

bowled just once to Tendulkar for his state several seasons ago. "That's the toughest challenge," Bichel said on Tuesday of bowling to Tendulkar on his fancied batting

Bichel said Australia, who host India for the four-Test series in December and January, were keen to crush any sign of confidence from 30-year-old Tendulkar, one-day cricket's leading run-scorer and Test

"We've got to play Sachin (in Tests) out here this summer coming up, so it would be nice to get some wood on him on his own turf just coming into the Australian summer,

Bichel said. "So we're going to be right on our game and try not to give him some momentum coming into this sum-Bichel carried a massive work-

load in the two Tests against Zimbabwe after Jason Gillespie Stuart MacGill (both in Perth) and Brett Lee (in Sydney) broke down. The extra pressure meant Bichel

suffered an infected big toe on his left foot, the result of sending down 92 overs in two Tests "It's just part of being a fast bowler, you generally go through

one a year and I'm just going through it at the moment," he said. Australia's injuries mean Bichel and Queensland teammate Michael the way I want to.



ANDY BICHEL

Kasprowicz could take the new ball in their first match, a day-night clash against India in Gwalior on Sunday. Reliable back-up bowler Bichel

who has played 17 Tests and 54 one-day internationals, said the injury-weakened Australia side would not start favourites for the tri-

good test for us, but no doubt we are underdogs coming into this," he "Going there in this role is good. It's a great feather in my cap, I

"The guys have been there,

they've done it and it's going to be a

suppose, to say that this is what I've worked for. "This is for all the years of bowling and now I've got an opportunity to get out there and really perform

The tour will also be a good test for Australian opener Matthew Hayden, who this week said he was keen to get back to the Indian wickets where he cemented his place in the side two years ago. Hayden hit 514 runs in three Tests

back, moving into the elite category of Tendulkar and West Indian Brian Australia play six pool games, with the final to be played in Calcutta

in the 2001 series and has not looked

on November 18.

SQUAD Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Michael Bevan, Andy Bichel, Nathan Bracken, Michael Clarke, Ian Harvey, Matthew Hayden, Brad Hogg, Michael Kasprowicz, Jimmy Maher, Damien

Martyn, Andrew Symonds, Brad

Mubarak's ton leads Lanka A

Cricket

AFP, Nairobi

Sri Lanka A batsman Jehan Mubarak hit his first international century in a six-wicket win and a 2-0 lead against Kenya in their fivematch one-day series at the Ruaraka sports club here on

Monday. The 23-year-old left-hander's unbeaten 102 was enough to steer the visitors to victory in a match the home side looked set to win.

Opener Kennedy Obuva and former captain Maurice Odumbe had given Kenya a flying start on their way to a good target of 273.

However their partnership of 173 runs was broken when Obuva was caught by Prasana Jayawardena and Odumbe, whose 119 earned him the man-of-the-match award, was clean bowled by Dharshana Gamage Kenya's poor fielding was clearly

evident as Mubarak, who was

dropped twice, hit the winning runs

in his remarkable 101-run third-

wicket partnership with Lanka de

Johansson to miss Paris event

AFP, Paris

Sweden's Thomas Johansson pulled out of next week's 2.24-million-euro Masters event here because of an injury to his left knee and has been replaced by Britain's Tim Henman,

The 2002 Australian Open cham-

pion, who has been hampered by

injury the whole year, joins other big-

organisers announced on Monday.

name absentees for this final Masters Series event.

Harmison FROM PAGE 13 his place in the England team. And to achieve that, he was prepared to take as much pain

behave the same today so that he is able to

and hard work as required Harmison was hoping that the pitch would

pick some more wickets

46 Dracula's oughly 13 Addams time to cousin 14 Bleak, as 50 Pinnacle 53 Arbiter film whodunits 55 Bellow 15 Base-56 Knitting runner's stitch goal **57** Old 16 Scratch French 17 Nitwit coin 18 Milky 58 Facility stones number-1 20 Stay 22 Discoveringredient 21 Two, in 24 "Merchant 61 "Love --of Venice' neighbor" 23 Sphere heroine Solution time: 24 mins. 28 Like a brief rainfal 32 Conde scend 33 Competi-

tion

34 Ewe said

36 Sharper

(Pref.)

37 Right

CRYPTOOUIP AXEON

GJKI. Z MTN HEWNTJ HAMXXO Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A MIDEASTERN COUNTRY IS COVERED OVER WITH TURF, WILL

IT BECOME SODDY ARABIA?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: II equals S 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.

AFP, Basel

World number one Juan Carlos Ferrero

Defending champion David Spaniard Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo.

Venue: Mymensingh

NARAIL: 42 all out in 24.5 overs JESSORE: 44 for no loss in 6.4

Result: Dhaka won by six wickets.

Result: Mymensingh won by nine