

Bucknor blasted

FROM PAGE 13
insult to the peerless Tendulkar".

There were claims that Tendulkar, the fifth all-time greatest Test cricketer with 8,882 runs, received a raw deal when he toured Australia.

Former Indian batsman and now television commentator Ravi Shastri pointed to perceived injustices suffered by Tendulkar during India's previous series in Australia in 1999-2000.

"It's huge, and if you go and ask any of the Indian journalists they'll say it happened in Adelaide four years ago, in Sydney he got a rough one," Shastri told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"He got two or three rough decisions in five innings and still averaged over 50 in that series.

"It's bound to stay on their minds, especially when he's rated as the best player in the world."

Four years ago, Tendulkar was twice given out by Australian umpire Daryl Harper in bizarre circumstances in the Adelaide Test, one when a rising Glenn McGrath bouncer struck him on the shoulder while he was crouched before the stumps.

Robert Craddock in the Brisbane Courier-Mail said Sunday's incident "renewed the belief that visiting teams traditionally get the rougher end of the pineapple when they visit Australia, despite the advent of neutral umpires."

Tendulkar was praised for the gracious manner in which he took his contentious decision.

"A television close-up caught Tendulkar in the split second before he had time to reel in his emotions, starting to mouth the word 'what', but he got halfway through, tried to suck the word back and then marched off without protest," the Courier-Mail said.

"It was inspiring stuff. In a season where we have heard some fairly pretentious chest thumping about the spirit of cricket there have been a stellar example of what it all means."

Cairns cautions

FROM PAGE 13
The Kiwi captain on Sunday said team chiefs had made the right decision to send the Black Caps to Pakistan despite security fears.

Speaking at the end of five one-day series that his side lost 5-0, he said the tour had been a success despite early fears for the players' safety in the strife-torn country.

"I can only speak from my experience and that's been very good. It was a correct decision to send us and I hope that other teams follow because it was good that cricket was played in Pakistan," Cairns said in post-match comments.

The tour was delayed by a week after four of New Zealand's players Craig McMillan, Scot Styris, Ian Butler and Lou Vincent pulled out after they received threats of death if they toured Pakistan.

The injury-prone all rounder is also to try to win back his place in the Test side.

Cairns, 33, told reporters on Sunday he would be playing a four-day game in New Zealand to attempt to prove his fitness for the home series against Pakistan.

"I would not mind having a look at it (captaincy) again. But first I have to prove my own form and fitness before they consider me for the Tests against Pakistan. I have not played Test cricket for the last two years."

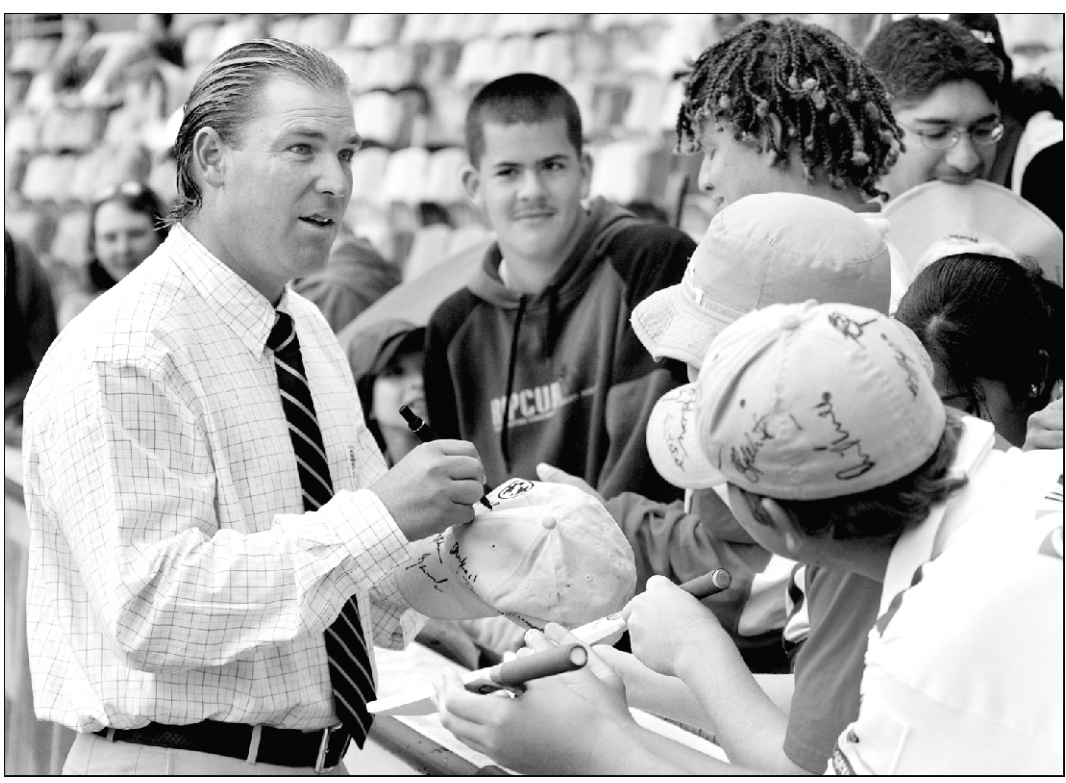
The first match in the two-Test series starts in Hamilton on December 19.

A team all set

FROM PAGE 13
SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahman (captain), Hannan Sarkar, Moniruzzaman, Rajin Saleh, Manzarul Islam, Jamaluddin, Anwar Hossain Munir, Mazharul Haque, Mohammad Ashraful, Ehsanul Haque, Shahriar Hossain, Alamgir Kabir, Tareq Aziz Khan, Mohammad Salim and Mosaddek Hossain.

Officials: Shahidul Alam Ratan (coach) and Ather Ali Khan (manager).



Banned Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne obliging a fan at the Gabba on December 6.

Warne may be back in SL

Cricket
AFP, Brisbane

Disgraced leg-spinner Shane Warne may return for Australia in their three-Test series in Sri Lanka next March, chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns hinted here on Monday.

Warne's 12-month suspension for taking a banned diuretic ends on February 10, just before the Australian team heads off for a five-match one-day international series in Sri Lanka in late February.

Warne won't be available for selection in the one-day team but, with the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle not starting until March 8, he has time to state his case for selection in a four-day Sheffield Shield game for Victoria against Western Australia from February 16.

Hohns said the selection decision over Warne will be difficult.

"Everyone expects Shane to come back and bowl well and I would have thought you wouldn't just lose that ability in 12 months," Hohns said in an interview on Channel Nine on Monday.

The Test squad to play Sri Lanka is likely to be named around March 1.

"As far as regaining his position in the Australia side ... there's a period of time there before we pick the Test match side to go to Sri Lanka where Shane will have the chance to play a couple of games for Victoria," Hohns said.

"Then we have to make the assessment whether he's bowling well enough to be included in that squad and of course we've also got Stuart MacGill, who is performing very, very well for Australia. It's a very difficult thing."

Hohns said he speaks to Warne regularly and the second all-time leading Test wicket-taker with 491 understood the situation.

"He wants to play as soon as he possibly can but he understands he has to get a little more cricket under his belt as well," Hohns said.

Meanwhile, Hohns said the selectors were happy with the way

'Bowl better, Harbhajan'

Cricket
AFP, Brisbane

Indian cricket captain Saurav Ganguly has urged his bowlers, particularly key spinner Harbhajan Singh, to bowl better if his side is to beat Australia in the current Test series.

The rain-ruined Gabba Test ended in a draw in Brisbane on Monday, and the series now heads to Adelaide for the next match on Friday.

Ganguly, man-of-the-match for his first century against Australia to steer India to an 86-run first-innings lead over the home team, said his bowlers had to perform to give the team a chance of victory.

He was happy with the performance of strike bowler Zaheer Khan, who took five wickets in the first innings, and Agit Agarkar, but pointed the finger at left-arm pacer Ashish Nehra and Harbhajan, who has 151 Test wickets to his name.

"A few of the bowlers were disappointing. I was pleased with the way Zaheer Khan bowled, and I thought Agit (Agarkar) bowled well. He bowled with a lot of heart, (but) Ashish and Harbhajan have to do better," he said.

"We have to bowl as a unit and get 20 wickets. I think they know that and I hope things improve in Adelaide."

Ganguly said that 23-year-old Harbhajan, who destroyed the Australians with 32 wickets in the three-Test home series in 2001, was not bowling up to his usual high standards.

"I don't think he (Harbhajan) is hope he picks up his form in the next Test."

Harbhajan, looking out of form, went wicketless at a cost of 68 runs in Australia's first innings, although he did claim the wicket of in-form opening batsman Matthew Hayden for 99, who swept him to Virender Sehwag at deep square leg in the second innings.

Harbhajan should also have taken the wicket of Australian captain Steve Waugh when wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel fluffed a stumping chance with Waugh well out of his crease having made just eight runs. He finished unbeaten on 56 when he declared Australia's second innings.

"When you play against a good side like Australia we all have to perform," Ganguly said.

"You have to improve when you play against a good side. I think the bowling needs to be a bit better."

"We certainly have to keep on getting 400 runs against Australia. We have to improve in both departments of the game."

Ganguly said he would wait until the team arrived in Adelaide on Tuesday and have a look at the Adelaide Oval pitch before deciding on his spinning options, with the more experienced Anil Kumble waiting in the wings.

The 33-year-old veteran with his bag of 358 Test wickets was not named in the 12-man squad for the Gabba Test.



HARBHAJAN SINGH

Biman fly past DU

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Biman got off to a flying start in the First Division Chess League with a 4-0 thrashing of Dhaka University chess team in an opening round match at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On the opening day of the 16-team league, Grand Master Ziaur Rahman and three International Masters (IM) Reefat-bin-Sattar, Abdullah Al-Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib won their boards against Dhaka University's Uten, Hasan Imam, Ruhul Islam and Ariful Islam to give a national flag career a sound start.

Biman apart, Bangladesh Ansars, Dynasty 2000 and Farashganj Sporting Club also earned full four points defeating Anushilan Daba Krira Chakra, Fighter Krira Chakra and Rajshahi Daba Unnayan Parisad by identical (4-0) margin.

In the day's other matches, Mohakhali Prodig Sangha beat Kamlapur Samaj Kallyan and Krira Sangha by 3.5-5, Titas Club beat Monipur Chess Club 3-1, Sonali Bank beat Nakhlapara by 2.5-1.5 while the other match between Leonine Chess Club and Narayanganj City Club ended in a 2-2 draw.

The second round will start at the same venue today at 3 pm.

Australia keep the same squad

REUTERS, Brisbane

Australia named on Monday an unchanged squad for the second Test with India starting in Adelaide on Friday.

The first Test ended in a draw at the Gabba on Monday.

SQUAD

Steve Waugh (captain), Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Damien Martyn, Simon Katich, Adam Gilchrist, Andy Bichel, Jason Gillespie, Stuart MacGill, Nathan Bracken, Brad Williams.

U-19 sans Aftab

FROM PAGE 13

suggests a different explanation regarding the affairs of the Under-19 team only two months before the biggest youth cricket carnival in the country.

It was revealed that Aftab, who had an acrimonious relationship with captain and Chittagong mate Nafees Iqbal, was also not happy with the Australian's go-tough approach.

"There is little doubt about his (McInnes) professionalism but I think his training method is too hard for our boys and maybe Aftab could not take the pressure anymore and decided to quit," said a local coach preferring anonymity.

But he termed Aftab's disappearing act as totally unacceptable and hoped that the Board looked into the whole affair to maintain strict discipline in the youth team, which has had a history of players ganging up on each other during the last World Youth Cup in New Zealand.

19th BAGC

FROM PAGE 13

Local hopes will rest on 2001 winner Siddiqur Rahman in the absence of Anura Rohana of Sri Lanka.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will give away trophies to the winners on the final day at the Sena Kunja.

A media briefing was held at the conference room of the KGC yesterday. It was attended by KGC vice president and chairman of the organising committee Maj Gen Jiban Kanai Das, Brig Gen (ret) Shahedul Anam Khan, the chairman of the tournament committee, Vice-chairman of sponsors Partex Aziz Al Kaisar. Captain of the club Manzoor Ahmed also spoke in the occasion.



Major General Jiban Kanai Das (2nd from R) speaks at a press conference organised in connection with the Partex 19th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Celebrating the champ

Boxing
AFP, Miami Beach

Forty years on, Muhammad Ali returned to the scene of his first heavyweight title victory late Saturday for the US release of a mammoth new book celebrating his life and accomplishments.

Ali sat at the foot of the ring where, as a 22-year-old named Cassius Clay, he upset 7-1 odds to defeat Sonny Liston on February 25, 1964. The decor, ambience and lighting of the fight were recreated in an amphitheater at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

The evening, billed as "A Night to Celebrate the Champ," marked the US release of "GOAT -- Greatest of All Time" -- a 34-kilogram (75-pound), 800-page book of photographs, artwork, articles and essays about the boxing legend.

Actor Will Smith, who portrayed Ali in the film of the same name, acted as spokesman for the boxer during the evening. "He told me I was almost pretty enough to play Muhammad Ali," Smith joked, in a reference to Ali's famous bragging.

"Ali is my hero, and yours," said Smith.

"We met in 1957. What a great time. He was the greatest, and he is still the greatest," said Dundee.

"He is the most recognizable living icon on the planet," Yuman said.

The tribute and book release featured videos and photos of the champion and recordings of his famous boasts -- many of which caused Ali to smile.

The most salient phrase of the evening -- ubiquitous on shirts and banners throughout the hall -- was Ali's famous words describing his boxing style: "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee."

Considered one of the best athletes ever, Ali was known for "dancing" in the ring -- shuffling his powerful legs while delivering blows -- for haranguing banter in the ring and outrageous, often poetic boasts to the press.

But he is also remembered for his actions outside the ring. As the first national figure to speak out against the war in Vietnam, he nearly sacrificed his career by refusing to be drafted.

Stripped of his championship title, his passport and all his boxing licenses, and facing a five-year prison term, Ali did not fight for two and a half years.

The Supreme Court ultimately reversed his conviction and Ali staged a comeback that saw some of his most famous fights, such as the "Rumble in the Jungle" match-up with George Foreman in the former Zaire, in which Ali was pounded for seven rounds before knocking Foreman out in the eighth.

Now retired, Ali lives in Michigan with his fourth wife, Lonnie.



ONCE A CHAMP ALWAYS A CHAMP: Boxing legend Muhammad Ali takes up his boxing stance at the US premiere of his tribute book "Greatest Of All Time" at the Miami Beach Convention Centre in Miami Beach on December 6.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Sorry!"
5 More, in tell
8 Urban square
12 United nations
13 Aard-vark's lidbit
14 "It -- nice ring to it!"
15 Dr.

DOWN

11 Long, deep cut
19 "-- way!"
21 Literary collection
24 Semi-sawbuck
25 Boise's county
26 South American monkey
28 Ike's WWII
29 Aromatic command
30 Detective agency logo
31 Morning moisture
36 Comic Joan
37 Pink-slip
38 Overseas
41 Article
42 Untalkative one
43 Song-writer's inspiration, often
44 "Cool!"
46 Desire
47 Wit-nessed
48 "Bonanza" roleplay
51 Platonic

Solution time: 25 mins.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
15					16				17	
18				19			20	21		
			22				23			
24	25	26			27	28	29		30	31
32				33					34	
35			36	37				38		
			39				40	41		
42	43			44	45			46	47	48
49				50	51			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		

CRYPTOQUIP

Q Z P X H Q Q X P S D J H G
S P H I C E P M J U I I D J H I C
Q D Y P D Y X P . Z P ' G D I
Z H G Y P G Q S P Z U E H D M .
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF A MATADOR BECOMES A BASEBALLER, DOES HE SPEND MUCH OF HIS TIME IN THE BULLPEN?
Today's Cryptiquip Clue: I equals N

India draw

FROM PAGE 13

In 2001, Hayden amassed a world-leading 1,391 runs at an average of 63.22 from 14 Tests. Last year, from 11 Tests, it was 1,160 runs at 72.50.

So far this year he has scored 1,094 runs from 10 Tests at 78.14. Australia have two more Tests to play against India before the end of the year.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the first Test between Australia and India Monday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 323 (Langer 121, Ponting 54; Zaheer 5-95, Agarkar 3-90)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 362-6)
Chopra c Hayden b Gillespie 36
Schwag c Hayden b Bracken 45
Dravid c Hayden b Gillespie 1
Tendulkar lbw b Gillespie 0
Ganguly c Gillespie b MacGill 144
Laxman c Katich b MacGill 75
Patel c Bichel b Gillespie 37
Agarkar c Hayden b Bichel 12
Harbhajan not out 19
Zaheer b MacGill 27
Nehra lbw b MacGill 0
Extras: (lb-6, w-1, nb-6) 13
Total: (All out in 120.1 overs) 409
Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-62, 3-62, 4-127, 5-273, 6-329, 7-362, 8-362, 9-403

Bowler O M R W

Gillespie 31 12 65 4
Bracken 26 5 90 1
Bichel 28 6 130 1
MacGill 26.1 4 86 4

Bowler O M R W

Zaheer 7 3 16 0
Katich 2 0 16 0

AUSTRALIA: Second innings
Langer c Patel b Agarkar 0
Hayden c Sehwag b Harbhajan 99
Ponting c Sehwag b Nehra 50
Martyn not out 66
Waugh not out 56
Extras: (b-4, nb-9) 13
Total: (For 3 wks decl in 62 overs) 284
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-146, 3-156

Bowler O M R W

Zaheer 3 0 15 0
Agarkar 12 3 45 1
Nehra 19 1 89 1
Harbhajan 21 1 101 1
Tendulkar 2 0 9 0
Sehwag 5 1 21 0

INDIA: Second innings
Chopra c Langer b Bracken 4
Schwag c Martyn b Bracken 0
Dravid not out 43
Laxman not out 24
Extras: (nb-2) 2
Total: (For 2 wks in 16 overs) 73
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-4

Bowler O M R W

Gillespie 5 1 17 0
Bracken 4 1 12 2
MacGill 4 0 32 0
Bichel 3 0 12 0

Result: Match drawn.
Man-of-the-match: Saurav Ganguly.
Toss: India.
Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) Rudi Koertzen (South Africa).