SPORT

PHOTO: AFF

Translations delaying probe

AFP, New Delhi

Indian police have made little headway in a probe into a 2000 matchfixing scam due a problem in translating taped conversations in Afrikaans, a report said Sunday.

In 2000, police in New Delhi had filed a case against Proteas cricketers, including then captain Hansie Cronje, and middlemen for allegedly accepting money to influence the outcome of matches.

But the police said they had made no progress in the case as they could not find a translator, the Hindustan Times reported.

"We have approached the South African High Commission and also Jawaharlal Nehru University, but failed to find a translator,' " an unnamed official of the police's elite Crime Branch told the newspaper.

Crime Branch joint police commissioner Ranjit Narayan, who on Thursday questioned batsman Herschelle Gibbs over the scandal said police were still looking for someone to decipher the conversations

Gibbs had admitted accepting money from Cronje to score fewer than 20 runs against India in a onedayer during their March-April 2000 AFP, Sydney tour

He subsequently scored 74 runs and said he had "forgotten" about the deal, but was suspended and fined. He subsequently refused to tour India after failing to obtain assurances he would not be detained.

Capello FROM PAGE 17

While Capello is reticent to argue against referee Bernardino

Gonzalez Vazquez's decision. Brazilian Ronaldo insists he is at a loss to explain his second booking. "I don't understand why I was

given a second yellow card," Ronaldo said

"I saw that (Ruud) van Nistelrooy was shouting because the referee cricket played in last year's Ashes had blown for a foul for no reason series was incredibly tough, as hard and I asked him why he had booked him. "The referee moved his head

and I said he was a 'phenomenon' and he then gave me the yellow

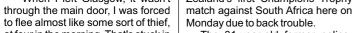
Gattuso makes

FROM PAGE 17 "I spoke to David in August in

Edinburgh and he told me the door was always open for me. There won't be any problems with money. "I know they are going through a

bad time financially, and I won't go there to take a pension either. AFP. Mumbai "I won't go at 35 or 36, I'll go when I've still act something to offer them,

Injury-prone fast bowler Shane at European level as well as Scottish. Bond has been ruled out of New "When I left Glasgow, it wasn't Zealand's first Champions Trophy through the main door. I was forced





Firebrand Australian paceman Brett Lee (L) and captain Ricky Ponting share a light moment during a practice match against Mumbai XI, in Mumbai yesterday. The world champions will play their opening ICC Champions Trophy match against the West Indies in Mumbai on 18 October.

Ricky rejects matey talk

Cricket

Skipper Ricky Ponting has rejected

suggestions that Shane Warne's

close friendship with Kevin

Pietersen shows Australia are too

friendly with Ashes rivals England.

in Brisbane on November 23.

uted to Australia's loss of the Ashes

in last year's epic series in England.

was under fire in last year's series,

says Australia will play as hard as

ever over the next couple of months.

"I can assure you that the Test

in action

TROPHY

Bond missing

But Ponting, whose captaincy

my best cricket -- as do the team -when we have a smile on our faces. "I guess a lot of people may have

newspaper

got the impression that we were too friendly by the close friendship Shane Warne has with Kevin Pietersen, but this stems back to their English county cricket.

"Similarly, the act of sportsman-Former Test stars Merv Hughes, ship between Andrew Flintoff and Allan Border and Mark Waugh have Brett Lee at the end of the second urged Ponting's team to put friend-Edubaston Test, some people ships on hold when the muchregarded that as a sign of us being anticipated five-Test series begins too friendly when it was a genuine act of sportsmanship by both play-Some former greats believe an ers. over-friendly atmosphere contrib-

"I can tell you that last year's Ashes series was an incredibly tough battle on the field, and expect this season to be no different.

Ponting says he has also addressed discipline issues with his players after admitting the team has overstepped the line in the past

as any of the Test cricket I have "The Australian cricket team played," Ponting said in an interview prides itself on playing the game with Sydney's Sunday Telegraph

conservative," he said. "We are

looking, of course, not at just this

tournament but the tournaments

down the track, in particular the

it would be nice. That's the long-

term aim which is part of the reason

why he's not playing the first match

'The good thing is that maybe

"If we can get him through to that,

World Cup.

hard but fair," Ponting said

"Having said that, I think I play "Obviously there have been occasions in the past where individuals, myself included, have overstepped the mark, and this is unacceptable

> "I have spoken to the team about this fact -- particularly for myself as captain

"We understand the profile and exposure that comes with representing Australia and we do not carry this responsibility lightly. We have addressed instances where we have gone too far."

Last month in a triangular tournament in Kuala Lumpur Ponting was fined his entire match fee by the ICC match referee for confronting umpire Asad Rauf over a wide delivery in their one-day match against the West Indies.

Cricket Australia reproached Ponting over his behaviour and said it was a concern.

It was Ponting's second offence this year. The other took place during the second Test against Bangladesh in Chittagong in April.

Tigers welcomed FROM PAGE 17

India is the only nation not to have hosted Bangladesh in the previous five-year Future Tour Programmes (FTP) of the International Cricket Council as they cancelled it twice during the period. They also didn't leave out any slot in the next six-year programme although the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has time and again said that the two respective boards will sort out a time.

Now comes the question whether money is everything for BCCI in cricket.

the injury will not affect us so much **Rusty NZ**

Pigeon's three cards

Cricket

cer.

Sunday.

AFP, Mumbai

AFP, Sydney

through her third battle with can-

The 36-year-old paceman

"England went into the last

believes three reasons point to

Australia's chances of Ashes

success, beginning at Brisbane's

Ashes after a very successful 18

months. They had the same team

together and Michael Vaughan

was doing a great job as captain.

McGrath told Sydney's Sun-

Herald newspaper from India

of confidence and winning, and

once you win games you start to

TROPHY

Mahela Jayawardene's Sri Lanka

warned Champions Trophy heavy-

weights they would be serious con-

tenders for the title after steamrolling

Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka

produced a flawless display at the

stately Brabourne Stadium here on

Saturday night to down defending

champions West Indies by nine wick-

Seamer Farveez Maharoof

Lanka to top the qualifying round and

join South Africa, Pakistan and New

Zealand in Group B of the main tourna-

ment starting later on Sunday.

Having swatted minnows

through the qualifying rounds.

"They'd been playing with a lot

ICC CHAMPIONS

Gabba ground on November 23

England and Indian cricketers joined Consummate positive thinker millions of people to back the United Glenn McGrath says there are Nations 'Millennium Stand Up three strong reasons why Campaign' against poverty before Australia will reclaim cricket's the start of their Champions Trophy Ashes against England over the match here Sunday. next couple of months.

Cricketers

ioin

AFP, Jaipur

Players, match officials and thousands of spectators at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here stood up wickets against England, is work before the Group A match to support ing his way back into bowling the campaign. rhythm after taking eight months off this year to support wife Jane

The campaign has the backing of India skipper Rahul Dravid, batting star Sachin Tendulkar, film star Aamir Khan and musician AR Rahman.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) is stepping up to the crease in a wonderful way," UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a state in last year's epic series. "It is going in to bat for a set of

simple, powerful and people-centred objectives that every man and woman in the street can easily support and understand."

The campaign will see people across the world stand up against poverty during a 24-hour period on Sunday and Monday, according to an ICC press release. Organisers hope to set a world

record for the maximum number of people to stand up against poverty within this time frame

"Our support of the campaign provides us with an important opportunity to draw attention to the need to address this and broader poverty issues." said ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed

Woolmer days numbered?

PTI, Karachi

Coach Bob Woolmer's honeymoon period in Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) may end as Shaharvar Khan's resignation has changed his situation dramatically in last few months of his contract till next year's World Cup.

According to highly placed PCB sources, Woolmer's last six months with the Pakistan team might not be as comfortable as they have been since he was appointed in June, 2004 by Shaharyar after unceremo-

niously sacking Javed Miandad. claimed 6-14, the best figures ever in It is no secret that PCB director of Champions Trophy history, as the cricket Operations Saleem Altaf, a former Test player himself, is no big West Indians were shot out for 80, their fan of Woolmer and believes he is a lowest total against Sri Lanka. liability to Pakistan cricket.

Altaf was unhappy that Shaharyar had allowed too much latitude to Woolmer and given him perks outside his contract. Jayawardene on 34.

"The number of times Woolmer has gone on vacations riled other Board officials but they kept quiet because of Shaharyar. But with him now gone, the situation could change dramatically," sources told PTI.

know how to win games, espe-(Ashes) Test series last time, and cially when those key moments since then he's taken the world by storm." McGrath said. come up.

"In regard to their confidence and everything else, there's a massive difference between England then and England now.

"They've lost Vaughan, had a lot of injuries, and haven't had the same team together. Okay, they won their last couple of Tests, but The veteran fast bowler, who their one-day form has been pretty poor. has snared 136 of his 542 Test

"Secondly, the Australian team has learnt a lot from last time. "When you lose is when you

learn the most. We identified a few areas where we could improve. "With the calibre we've got, a

McGrath says come next lot of our plans were for our team, rather than individual player January he is supremely confiversus individual player. We've dent Australia will have the Ashes moved to the next level. back after losing them in England

"England on that tour with their support staff and the way they prepared, they were the world leaders in those areas.

issue and I feel I can cope with it pretty well," McGrath says. "They had us covered there. We've identified that. We've got another major role in another (fast bowling coach) Troy Cooley and a couple of other guys in Ashes series. place now, so we're leaving no he says, "come early January, the stone unturned."

McGrath's third reason is Ashes will be in Australian hands." Australian batsman Mike Hussey, who is averaging almost 76 from his 11 Test appearances since his debut against the West Indies almost a year ago.

"Mike Hussey didn't play the

Mahela sounds caution

The West Indies, who had also wides and seven no-balls against qualified with wins over Bangladesh Zimbabwe in Ahmedabad. and Zimbabwe, will face world champions Australia, England and hosts India looked forward to the sterner tests in GroupA. ahead

Two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals. this you have to play good cricket

It was Sri Lanka's 10 consecutive one-day win and Jayawardene was determined to continue the winning streak.

"We have not put pressure on said his team was not willing to be ourselves by saying we'll win the tournament, but we will make sure we compete," the captain said.

"Winning is a very good habit. When we lose we look for what mistakes we've made, but even when we're winning we're looking to see what mistakes we made and how we can improve our game.

"That has been the battle for us in the last six months. If we're really critical about the performance against the West Indies we'd say that we bowled too many no-balls.

The Islanders then cantered home in the 14th over as the first session was The West Indian total of 80 was extended by seven minutes to faciliboosted by the 17 extras that Sri tate a quick finish with Sanath Lanka conceded, including 10 no-Jayasuriya unbeaten on 45 and balls and two wides, that turned out to be the second largest contribu-The emphatic win enabled Sri tion after Wavell Hinds' 28.

The Sri Lankans had given away 21 wides and eight no-balls in their first match against Bangladesh in Mohali and 19

written off despite the embarrassing loss on Saturday. "Last time no one gave us any chance but we won the title," said Lara, referring to the stunning West Indian win in the final of the 2004 Champions Trophy against hosts

England. "I feel we have the guys and the ingredients to do so again despite

what happened. We have to be positive and pick ourselves for the next stage where all teams start afresh. "I still think we can do it though we batted poorly. We need to assess our

batting collapses and address it or we're not going to last long in this tournament 'The only good thing is that all

eight teams start with zero points."



The Daily Star

"What Huss brings to the team

and the way Brett Lee has bowled

in the last 12 months, they're huge

bonuses for Australian cricket

That's why we'll finish with the

best primed by a lot of work, says

he will have enough preparation

before the Ashes, with two one-

He has had to adapt. not so

much because of an ageing body

but because of a subtle power

shift in which Lee has been

granted the wind at his back, two

years ago in one-dayers and in

"I've gone from bowling with

the wind to bowling against it.

Being a rhythm bowler, that's

probably the toughest thing I've

had to deal with, but it's not a huge

McGrath believes he will play

"But whether I'm there or not,'

The Sri Lankan captain said he

"It doesn't matter which group

you're in -- to win a tournament like

and beat the best sides and that's

West Indian captain Brian Lara

what we want to do," he said.

Tests last southern summer.

day series in Malaysia and India.

McGrath, a bowling machine

Ashes

UN campaign

at four in the morning. That's stuck in my throat since.

"I'm a player who wants people to see how much I put into things, not someone who just runs away in the night.

"I've got a debt towards Rangers fans because of the way I left. They helped me get where I am. I just have to go back.'

Chelsea win FROM PAGE 20

Barry struck in the 81st minute to cancel out Angel's own goal five minutes earlier after the Colombian striker had also missed a penalty.

Angel's spot-kick miss came in the 71st minute after Tottenham defender Calum Davenport was sent off for a professional foul.

Sheffield United held Manchester City to a 0-0 draw in a drab encounter at Eastlands.

United striker Rob Hulse's effort cannoned to safety off the crossbar in the first half and neither side came any closer to taking all three points. Newcastle host Bolton on Sunday and rock-bottom Charlton

travel to Fulham on Monday.





Maria Sharapova

(Russian tennis star) "I feel strongly that the tennis season needs to be made shorter, with more breaks for players to rest in order to be in peak condition when we do play."

The 31-year-old former police man, whose five-year international career has been marred by regular

ICC CHAMPIONS

injuries, suffered stiffness in his back during a practice match last "It is unfortunate that Shane is having the problem before the start

of the tournament and has to be ruled out of the opening match," New Zealand manager Lindsey Crocker told reporters here. "He will be assessed on a regular

basis. We will know on Tuesday if he will be able to bowl soon." Crocker said it was too early to comment if Bond would be available

for the second match against Sri Lanka on Friday. New Zealand captain Stephen

Fleming said it was "hugely disappointing" to lose his premier fast bowler at the start of the 10-nation tournament.

"All we try to do with Shane is be

Sachin warns mates

FROM PAGE 17 "We know exactly what we need to do now: if we want to get into the semifinals we've got to win two games and come back strongly next Saturday." SCOREBOARD

Bell Ibw b Patel Flintoff lbw b Pathan Yardv Ibw b Patel Pietersen c Tendulkar b Patel 27 Collingwood c Dhoni b Powar 38 Dalrymple c Dravid b Powar Read c Pathan b Harbhajan Mahmood c Harbhajan b Powar Harmison not out Anderson run out Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-2) Total: (All out in 37 overs) 125 Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-11, 3-17, 4-

124 Μ Bowler ο R Pathan 3 20 Patel 18 Agarkar 0 34 0 27 Harbhajan Powar 24 INDIA Sehwag c Strauss b Harmison Tendulkar lbw b Harmison

Africa, but missed cricket for the rest of that year with a toe injury. He was forced to abandon the from a back injury. tour of Zimbabwe in mid-2005. vear Dravid c Strauss b Anderson Yuvraj not out Dhoni c Collingwood b Dalrymple

Raina b Dalrymple

Harbhajan not out

Extras: (lb-7, nb-1, w-11) Total: (For six wkts in 29.3 overs) Scoreboard of the Champions 126 Trophy Group-A match between Fall of wickets: 1-18. 2-68. 3-72. 4 England and India at the Sawai 98, 5-119, 6-119. Mansingh Stadium on Sunday: Bowler ENGLAND Anderson Strauss c Dravid b Pathan 10 Harmison Mahmood 8.3 Yardy 27, 5-55, 6-104, 7-107, 8-119, 9-

overs.

9 35 Pathan c Pietersen b Anderson 19

on the slow wickets in India. It gives the other bowlers a chance to grab FROM PAGE 17 their chances.'

Arthur was undecided if Gibbs Bond who has taken 87 wickets should revert back to opening the in 45 one-davers, is regarded as innings with Smith after being one of the fastest bowlers in the dropped down the order to accomcontemporary game, but crippling modate AB de Villiers and Boeta stress fractures in his feet and back have hurt his career badly. Dippenaar.

Bond returned New Zealand's "In this tournament the emphasis best figures against Australia of 6will be on scoring runs while the ball 22 in the 2003 World Cup in South is still hard and for that reason it is not out of the question that Herschelle could return as opening batsman." said Arthur,

27

6

19

W

2

0

0

tour of England in 2004 during the Leading all-rounder Jacques Kallis. second Test after failing to recover veteran wicketkeeper Mark Boucher, the experienced Shaun A knee injury also kept him out of Pollock and fast bowler Makhaya

the game for some time after the

with both bat and ball. The World Cup will be played in the Caribbean in March-April next TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Astle, James Franklin, Peter Fulton, Mark Gillespie, Brendon McCullum, Hamish Marshall, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Jeetan Patel, Scott Styris, Daniel Vettori, Lou Vincent.

Ntini ensure South Africa run deep

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Loots Bosman Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, Boeta Dippenaar, Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Hall, Jacques Kallis, Justin Kemp, Charl Langeveldt, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini, Robin Peterson, Shaun Pollock.

Mohammedan

give Ajax their first points in four

Krira Chakra in today lone match

stuck to one point from a draw

against Mohammedan

FROM PAGE 17

time.

games.

Dalrymple 4 corners, pulled a goal back on the 0 5 hour when Indian forward Result: India won by four wickets. Satyender Singh scored a field goal. Man-of-the-match: Munaf Patel. Pakistani recruit Kashif Raza further Toss: India

0

0

0

40

34

30

10

Festivity all

0

6

FROM PAGE 17 Yardy (four) and the dashing Kevin

Pietersen (27) to the pavilion to streak with a solitary goal victory secure three wickets for 18 runs in 8 Then spinner Romesh Powar

venue. wrapped up the England innings as he picked three for 24. The batting disaster of England

and the West Indies' debacle against Sri Lanka on Saturday prompted discussions in the press box and one travelling English journalist quipped,

"Why blame Bangladesh when they can score more than England or the West Indies?'

Anna clinches **Kremlin Cup**

AFP, Moscow

Anna Chakvetadze of Russia won the WTA Kremlin Cup, beating fifth seeded compatriot Nadia Petrova 6-4, 6-4 here on Sunday.

Chakvetadze took one hour and 30 minutes to claim her second career title after winning at Guanngzhou two weeks ago to record her third win over Petrova in as many meetings.

"I was a bit lucky today (Sunday) as Nadia was not 100-percent fit," Chakvetadze said at the award ceremony. "Nevertheless, I'm happy to win at home.

"I hope the public enjoyed the match.

The 19-year-old Chakvetadze looked slightly more focused from the start breaking her opponent's serve twice in the opening set to a 1-0 lead in 51 minutes, while Petrova, who was unbeaten in the finals this year, broke back once. million dollar combined event.

Lara still

FROM PAGE 17 The Windies were shot out for only 80, failing to cope with a slow Mumbai wicket and Farveez Maharoof, who finished with ODI-

best figures of 6-14. Poor footwork and shot selection were to blame as the Caribbean

outfit lasted under 31 overs. And the skipper admits they have plenty to work on before their game against Australia on Wednesday, also at the Brabourne Stadium. Tennis

AFP, Moscow

Sunday's final.

Former world number one, and

double Grand Slam winner, Marat

Safin reached his first final for

over a year on Saturday when he

beat compatriot Igor Kunitsyn 6-4,

Safin, whose last final appear-

"I'm still trying to find my game

this week but I'm happy because I

reached my first final of 2006 and

my first final in Moscow," said

6-3 in the Kremlin Cup semifinals.

"I hope the pitch is better but we have to do some work behind the scenes working on technique to reduced the margin from a penalty make sure we give a good account corner just a couple of minutes from of ourselves," he added.

"This pitch was a bit sluggish but Meanwhile, Ajax Sporting Club it wasn't one where you should ended their three-match losing make under 100 -- there was a bit of inept batting.

against Azad Sporting Club in the "We have identified this as a first match of the day at the same problem for a few one-dayers recently, we collapsed in Malaysia in Rahat Sarwar broke the deada couple of matches against India lock in the 32nd minute when he and Australia neatly finished a combined move to

"So we have to address it, or we're not going to last long in this tournament.

Azad, who play defending cham-"The only good thing is that all pions and joint league leaders Usha eight teams start with zero points."



PHOTO: AFF

Russian starlet Anna Chakvetadze holds aloft the Kremlin Cup after defeating compatriot Nadia Petrova by straight sets (6-4, 6-4) in the women's singles final in Moscow on Saturday.

Safin sets up home final

Safin, now 65 in the world.

"I had been waiting for this moment for such a long time. Davvdenko is a solid Top 10 player and hasn't dropped a set all week. I will have to fight hard to win. I am not at my best so he's the favourite.

Davydenko enjoyed a 6-4, 6-1 win over French veteran Fabrice Santoro to set up the first ever men's all-Russian final here. "Marat can lose to any player

ance was in Halle in June 2005 but he always plays at his best before a knee injury sent his against his compatriots," said career into a tailspin, will face Davydenko. fellow Russian Nikolay Davydenko, the top seed, in

Davydenko took the first set in 41 minutes against Santoro.

In the second, Davydenko, who will be seeking a ninth career title and fourth on home soil, was in complete control allowing his

rival to win only one game, as he reached his sixth final of 2006. "It's very complicated to play

against Davydenko as he does everything well," Santoro said. "He moves well, passes well and returns well."

Kunitsyn, who appeared in the main draw courtesy of a wildcard, started well against Safin breaking early to take a 3-1 advantage but his opponent broke back twice to win the set in 43 minutes.

In the second, Safin underlined his supremacy by breaking his opponent's serve twice to win the set and the match in one hour 12 minutes.