# **Ponting up** with greats

REUTERS, Mumbai

Australia captain Ricky Ponting has achieved the fifth best all-time Test batting rating following his exploits in the first Ashes Test.

The 31-year-old scored 196 and 60 not out in his team's 277-run rout of England in Brisbane, lifting him to 940 points in the International Cricket Council's rankings released

Only his countryman Don Bradman and Englishmen Len Hutton, Jack Hobbs and Peter May have achieved higher ratings.

The Brisbane century was Ponting's seventh in his last eight Tests, taking his career tally to 32, level with former team mate Steve Waugh and behind only Indians Sachin Tendulkar (35) and Sunil Gavaskar (34), and West Indian Brian Lara (34)

Pakistan batsman Mohammad Yousuf, who scored a record eighth century in the calendar year against visiting West Indies on Monday, retained second spot in the rank-

Australia paceman Glenn McGrath's match-haul of seven wickets in his comeback Test helped him overtake South African Makhaya Ntini and compatriot Shane Warne into second place in the bowlers' list behind Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.

South Africa's Jacques Kallis remained the top all-rounder. Australia retained their stranglehold at the top of the team Test rankings.

## Bagai give Canada win

CRICINFO, undated

A fine partnership of 91 in 13 overs between Ashish Bagai and Sunil Dhaniram enabled Canada to bounce straight back from their defeat against Netherlands as they overturned Bermuda by five wickets at Potchefstroom. The pair made a testing chase into a comfortable finish as Canada reached their target of 236 with 13 balls to spare.

Bagai followed up his halfcentury against Netherlands with a guiding innings from No. 3 while Dhaniram, who earlier bagged two wickets, provided the fireworks with 63 off 42 balls. He struck eight fours and a six with his half-century arriving off just 30 deliveries.

An opening stand of 66 in 12 overs had put Canada well on their way, but Bermuda fought back and at 138 for 4 the match was in the balance. However, even in their defeat to Netherlands the lower order had shown themselves to be capable batsmen and this time Dhaniram took charge.

Bermuda's innings had been held together by David Hemp's 70-ball 55. following on from his unbeaten 247 in the Interconti-nental Cup match against Netherlands Hemp's dismissal in the 46th over meant Bermuda couldn't quite make the most of their closing overs.

## Shabbir passes new test

BBC ONLINE, undated

Pakistan's Shabbir Ahmed has passed biomechanical tests on his bowling action and is expected to return from a 12-month ban in December.

Shabbir was banned after twice being reported by match officials in But University of Western

Australia tests found his elbow now straightens within the 15-degree legal

"PCB will do the needful for getting Shabbir's clearance to represent Pakistan after his ban finishes on 18 December," said a board statement.

Pakistan are keen to get Shabbir back into action before the tour of South Africa early next year with doubts over key fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif.

#### Tendulkar must

FROM PAGE 17

he has responsibility but so has Lara," he said after India's massive defeat in the third one-dayer in

which Tendulkar scored 2. "Sachin should come out and play his shots, especially in one-day cricket. When he goes back in his shell, leaving deliveries outside the off-stump, then the bowler gets to him. When Lara comes, it is totally opposite. He looks for two or three balls and he then starts playing everywhere." Akram, here as part of the TV commentary team, said he had noticed that Tendulkar had lately become conscious about adopting the correct technique.

Tendulkar, I have noticed in the last year or two, that he is very conscious when he comes out to bat. He wants to be proper, leaves

the ball around," Akram said. Akram compared Tendulkar's aggressive batting in the 2003 World Cup in South Africa to his present form to drive home his contention about certain tentativeness in the approach of the Mumbai

# Inzy slates wicket

#### Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq has described the pitch for the third and final Test against West Indies as substandard.

Pakistan were bowled out for 304 runs on the second day after struggling to 257 for seven on day one despite a hundred from Mohammad Yousuf.

The batsmen faced severe problems with the low bounce and slow pace of the pitch

'This is a very difficult wicket and t is going to get worse to bat on as the game progresses," Inzamam

"After seeing the behaviour of the pitch on the first day there is no way one can describe it as up to test

Inzamam, who struggled to 18 from 64 balls, said the pitch was not ideal for a 1 match.

"By the third day the spinners are going to get lot of turn and the variable bounce is a major concern for everyone. Getting a total of 300 is good on this track," he said.

The Pakistan Cricket Board curators at the National stadium blamed excessive rolling for the low "We just follow orders that is all.

We were told to cut off the grass and keep on rolling it to keep it dry and suitable for spinners and we did that." one said.

West Indies opener Chris Gayle also described the wicket as the

worst test pitch he had ever seen. "The pitch is horrendous for test cricket because of the extreme slowness and lowness of it," he

"It is the worst test pitch I have ever seen so far in my career because the ball was almost rolling on the very first day of the match, he added.

Gayle was out for 40 after lunch on Tuesday as West Indies lost four wickets for 131.

Pakistan lead the three-match series 1-0 after a nine-wicket win in the first test in Lahore. The second ended in a high-scoring draw in Multan.

The preparation of pitches in Pakistan has long been the subject of intense debate with the board even hiring a foreign curator, Andy Atkinson, three years ago to help the locals prepare test and one-day

West Indies have not won a series in Pakistan since 1981

# Ganga repairs Gul wreck

Kaneria to Farhat, who took a smart

catch even though the ball went close to

Under the rules if a shot hits a fields-

man on his helmetit is notout. Television umpire Rizauddin investigated replays but failed to reach a conclusion after five minutes, leaving the field umpires to rule Morton out.

Earlier, Gul chipped in with a handy knock of 26 to help Pakistan add 47 runs to their overnight score of 257-7 to be out for 304 in their first-innings.

Gul added 32 for the last wicket with Kaneria, who remained unbeaten on seven, before Powell returned for his second spell to finish with 2-83.

Corey Collymore, who returned the Windies' best figures of 3-57, removed Kamran Akmal (31) with the first delivery of the second new ball after Akmal hit two boundaries off Daren Powell in the first overofthe morning.

Powell provided the visitors with the first breakthrough when he bowled Shahid Nazir without scoring in the

second over of the day **SCOREBOARD** 

Scoreboard at close on the second day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and the West Indies at the National Stadium in Karachi on Tuesday:

| PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 257 |           |        |        |       |  |
|--|-----------|--------|--------|-------|--|
| 7)                                     |           | •      |        |       |  |
| Hafeez b Co                            | lymore    |        |        | 18    |  |
| FarhatcRan                             | ndin b Br | avo    | 4      | 7     |  |
| Younis run o                           | ut        |        |        | 20    |  |
| Yousuflbwb                             | Collymo   | re     | 10     | 2     |  |
| InzamamcC                              | Chanden   | baulb  | Ganga  | 18    |  |
| Malik lbw b Ta                         | aylor .   |        | _      | 18    |  |
| RazzaqcRa                              | mdin b E  | ravo   |        | 7     |  |
| Akmal b Coll                           |           | 31     |        |       |  |
| Nazirb Powe                            | ell       |        |        | 0     |  |
| GulbPowell                             |           |        | 26     |       |  |
| Kaneria noto                           | out       |        |        | 7     |  |
| Extras: (b-1,                          | b-7, nb-2 | 2)     | 1      | 0     |  |
| Total: (All out                        | in 100.5  | overs) | 304    |       |  |
| Fall of wicke                          | ts: 1-26, | 2-72,  | 3-112, | 4-178 |  |
| 5-222, 6-239                           | ,7-248,8  | 3-265, | 9-272. |       |  |
| Bowler                                 | 0         | M      | R      | W     |  |
| Taylor                                 | 22        | 3      | 76     | 1     |  |
| Collymore                              | 21        | 6      | 57     | 3     |  |
| Gayle                                  | 16        | 3      | 27     | 0     |  |
|  |           |        |        |       |  |

#### 83 14 6 2 Bravo 33 0 20 WESTINDIES: First innings Gavle c Razzag b Gul Ganga not out LarabGul Sarwan b Gul Chanderpaul c Farhat b Kaneria 36 Morton c Farhat b Kaneria 21 BravocAkmal b Kaneria Ramdin not out Extras: (b-5, nb-4) Total: (For six wkts in 72.4 overs)191 Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-51, 3-51, 4-114, 5-

| all of Wickets. 1 01,2 01,0 01,4 114,0 |      |    |    |   |  |  |  |  |
|--|------|----|----|---|--|--|--|--|
| 153,6-190.                             |      |    |    |   |  |  |  |  |
| Bowler                                 | 0    | M  | R  | W |  |  |  |  |
| Gul                                    | 16   | 4  | 49 | 3 |  |  |  |  |
| Nazir                                  | 12   | 2  | 38 | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Kaneria                                | 28.4 | 11 | 48 | 3 |  |  |  |  |
| Razzaq                                 | 12   | 3  | 41 | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Hafeez                                 | 4    | 1  | 10 | 0 |  |  |  |  |
| Toss: Pakistan                         |      |    |    |   |  |  |  |  |
| Impiros: Dond Horner (ALIC) Morle      |      |    |    |   |  |  |  |  |

# Umpires: Daryl Harper (AUS), Mark

# Manzarul stars for Khulna

Mushfiqur Rahman then played the anchorrole.

When day ended, he was unbeaten on 44 partnering young Shuvo who was also hitting it well, having scored 23 runs. Mosharraf took two wickets for the visitors as Rajshahi trailed by 136 runs in the first innings with two days remain-

**CHITTAGONG V BARISAL** The hosts added only ten runs to their overniaht 303 for nine before being bowled out, giving inspiration to their

But they had to work hard to get the nitial breakthrough. Right-arm off-spinner Sabbir, a rare breed in the country, bowled with guile and got the wicket of Barisal captain Hannan Sarkarfora well-made 50. He then got rid of the other opener Imran Ahmed (43) and Humavun Kabir in quick succession while left-armer Saju Datta

chipped in with three important wickets. Apart from the openers and Abul Bashar who stroked 35, other Barisal batsmen struggled to score. Mohammad Shahin and Ahsanullah Hasan showed some resistance. staying unbeaten till the end.

Sabbir, however, ended his fine day with Ishraq Sonnet's wicket in an impressive figure of 4-87

KHULNAvSYLHET

Manzarul Islam duly completed his first ton as he held Khulna's innings together on the second day.

The national discarded all-rounder struck twenty boundaries in his fivehour long knock of 120. He was supported by Sadik Khan's 22 as they put the Khulna total above the 300-run mark. For Sylhet, left-armer Nabil Samad took four for 66, while Alok Kapali captured three wickets.

Skipper Rajin Saleh steadied the Sylhet innings with an unbeaten 49, hitting six fours and a huge six. Wicketkeeper-batsman Golam Mabud supported him at the end of the day with 30 not out but Kapali, Ejaz and Imtiaz all fell cheaply. Opener Golam Rahmar struck 47.

**SCORES IN BRIEF** 

DHAKA: First Innings: 286 all out in 123.2 overs (Javed 18. Uttam 42. Anwar 20, Shamsur 36, Shahriar 13, Marshall 52. Rivad 9. Mosharraf 15. Sharif 47, Shakil 17, Azim 4; Shuvo 5-

Shahadat not out

Extras: (lb-2, w-8, nb-2)

58, Shahjada 2-38, Mushfiqur 1-48, Alamgir 2-61).

**RAJSHAHI:** First Innings 150 for 4 in 55 overs (Jahurul 30, Farhad 13, Anisur 10, Mushfigur 44\*. Hasan 26. Shuvo 23\*: Mosharraf2-42, Shakil 1-34, Azim 1-30). CHITTAGONG: First Innings 313 all out in 92.4 overs (Tamim 2. Masum 34. Salahuddin 18, Dhiman 85, Fhsanul 12, Faisal 49, Wasel 34, Sabbir 22, Tareq 0 Alamgir 5, Saju 4\*; Rajan 3-56, Arafat 2-

BARISAL: First Innings 233 for 8 in 85 overs (Imran 43, Hannan 50, Ariful 9, Bashar 35, Humayun 1, Rajan 23, Arafat 2, Sonnet 11, Shahin 22\*, Hasan 20\*; Sabbir 4-83, Saju 3-44, Tareq 1-

28, Sonnet 3-74, Hannan 1-46, Hasan

KHULNA: First Innings 306 all out in Sahaqir 16, Salahuddin 4, Manzarul 120, Asad 4, Salim 25, Sadik 22, Dollar 1, Islam 4\*. Shiblu 0: Nabil 4-66. Fnamul 1-30. Kapali 3-54. Rezaul 1-35).

SYLHET: First Innings 168 for 4 in 58 overs (Rahman 47, Imtiaz 20, Ejaz 8, Rajin 49\*, Kapali 5, Mabud 30\*; Dollar 2-35, Manzarul 1-25, Shiblu 1-35).

# A morale booster

tagged an international, television replay -- a foremost criteria -- was not provided for the third umpire according to regulation

**SCOREBOARD** 

Razzak b Ireland

Scoreboard of the first Twenty20 match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Khulna Divisional BANGLADESH

Sadat c Chigumbura b Brent Nafees b Chigumbura Aftabc&bUtseva Hasan c sub (Mpofu) b Dabengwa26 Nadif c Brent b Utseya Reza c Brent b Utseva Rahim c Williams b Dabengwa Mortuza b Chigumbura Rafique c Chibhabha b Brent

Total: (All out in 19.5 overs) 166 Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-57, 3-65, 4-85, 5-94, 6-97, 7-115, 8-142, 9-154, 10-166. **Bowler** 40 Brent 33 Ireland Chigumbura Utseya Dabengwa Chibhabha 1.5 0 14 ZIMBABWE Taylor b Mortuza Matsikenyeri c Nafees b Shahadat15 Chigumbura b Shahadat Masakadza b Razzak Williams c Reza b Hasan 38 Dabengwa st Rahim b Razzak

Nkala st Rahim b Rafique

Utseva not out Chibhabha run out (Sadat) 2 Ireland not out Extras: (lb-2, w-3) Total: (For 9 wkts in 20 overs) 123 Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-20, 3-25, 4-79 5-104.6-107.7-109.8-111.9-123. Bowler 0 М R Mortuza 0 28 Shahadat 0 22 2 Rafique 0 23 Razzak 15 30

Result: Bangladesh won by 43 runs. Man-of-the-match: Mashrafee Bin Mortuza. Toss: Zimbabwe

**Umpires: Enamul Haque and Nadir** Match referee: RS Madugalle (Sri

# The golden defender

culture," he said midway through the World Cup.

His style and quality on the field earned him the status of Serie A's top stopper, the latest in a long line of topclass Italian defenders.

AC Milan sweeper Franco Baresi and Milan captain Paolo Maldini both enjoyed reputations as the 'best defender in the world' but neither were able to win Europe's top individual award, which is usually reserved for creative or attacking players.

The award reflects Cannavaro's huge influence on Italy's success at the World Cup -- he was rock solid in the final against France, won on penalties, but his best display was in the semi-final victory over Germany.

In those 120 minutes in Dortmund the former Parma defender, who has 105 caps for his country, showed the very best of his qualities in positioning, timing and reading of the game.

There was no 'highlight moment' of that master class in central defending and there rarely is a memorable spectacular, last-ditch, sliding tackle from Cannavaro because he hardly ever finds himself needing to take desperate measures.

Cannavaro made his Serie A debut in 1993 for Napoli in a 4-3 defeat by Juventus and after three seasons with his hometown club he moved to Parma in 1995.

While he was unable to win an Italian title during his seven seasons with Parma, he played European football in every campaign and was also part of two European championship-winning Italy Under-21 teams.

After debuting for the full Italy side in 1997 he became a fixture in the line-up, with his major breakthrough coming in the 1998 World Cup when his performances caught the eye of a global audience and it seemed only a matter of time before he left Parma for a bigger club.

It took another four years before he got that chance. Having been linked to Juventus, AC Milan and Real Madrid among others, he moved to

As with so many Inter signings of that time, Cannavaro struggled for

form at the San Siro but a move to Juventus led him to regain his consistency and finally get his hands on a "scudetto" -- albeit one which was later revoked.

After an outstanding World Cup his form for Real has been less impressive and there have been some who have questioned whether he deserved his prize purely because of his performances in the tourna-

Although 33, Cannavaro remains supremely fit and looks set to remain a top-class player for another four to five seasons. During the World Cup the father of three said he followed a simple regime to keep in shape.

"Eating well, getting plenty of sleep and having sex -- these are all important things," he said.

Proud of his Neapolitan roots. many in Italy expect that when Cannavaro leaves Real he will end his career alongside his brother Paolo in the centre of the Napoli defence.

## Kenya to host pre-WC meet

REUTERS, Nairobi

Kenya will stage a pre-World Cup competition next year for the top six associate teams heading to the March-April tournament in the Caribbean, officials said on Tuesday.

The Netherlands, Scotland, Ireland, Canada and Bermuda will join hosts Kenya for one-day matches during the Jan 30-Feb 7 competition, to be held at three grounds in Nairobi.

"ICC (International Cricket Council) match referee Mike Proctor inspected all the grounds in June and made recommendations on what needed to be done," said Tom Tikolo, chief executive of Cricket Kenya and a former national cap-

"We are improving the scoreboards, outfields, pavilions, changing rooms and showers," he said, adding that the final ICC inspection of the facilities was due to take place on Wednesday.

The tournament will be called ICC World Cricket League Division One, said ICC spokesman James Fitzgerald. It will be staged at Nairobi Gymkhana. Nairobi Jaffreys and Ruaraka cricket grounds in the Kenyan capital.

"The top two from the WCL will qualify for the inaugural ICC Twenty20 World Championship in South Africa next September and will receive \$250,000 each," he told

#### FIXTURES

Jan 30: Canada v Netherlands, Kenya v Bermuda, Scotland v Ireland Jan 31: Canada v Scotland, Bermuda v Ireland, Kenya v Netherlands Feb 2: Kenya v Ireland, Netherlands v Scotland, Canada v Bermuda Feb 4: Netherlands v Bermuda, Ireland v Canada, Kenya v Scotland Feb 5: Scotland v Bermuda, Kenya Canada, Ireland v Netherlands Feb 7: Final

## Fletcher writes off Vaughan comeback

Coach Duncan Fletcher sees little chance of sidelined captain Michael Vaughan returning to help shore up England's faltering campaign to hold on to cricket's Ashes against

medical staff on his knee following surgery in July and has been mentioned as having a chance of playing some part in the five-Test series. His availability has become more topical following England's 277-run savaging by the Australians in the

Vaughan is in Australia to receive

treatment from the England team's

Ashes opener in Brisbane on But Fletcher says he is hoping Vaughan will play for England in the triangular one-day tournament with New Zealand in Australia that imme-

diately follows the Ashes series in January "We haven't altered those targets on him, we're still planning to have him hopefully for the one-dayers and if anything comes earlier than that then well and good," Fletcher told reporters

here Tuesday. "I don't think he can play in this

Test series, at this stage. "I'm not going to say when he's going to play (for England) again until he's played some games of cricket and he's come out and he's 100 percent.

"He's hoping to play a few practice games with the English academy team in Western Australia."

Fletcher said he has spoken many times with Vaughan in recent weeks and also extensively during England's campaign in the Champions' Trophy one-day tournament in India last month

"We've spoken a lot to Michael Vaughan, like I do with other senior players," he said.

"He seems to be pretty positive, he's working hard at his game, he had a couple of nets sessions.' Vaughan's steadying influence

was considered a major factor behind England's Ashes success last His batting was critical to the final outcome, scoring a sublime 166 in the first innings of the third Old Trafford Test, then backing up for a

Bridge. Vaughan is now with the England Academy side in Perth and is expected to play in a match with them on Wednesday.

vital 58 in the fourth Test at Trent

#### **Tevez** apologises

FROM PAGE 20 'He knows he made the incorrect decision in leaving and has decided he would like the players to vote on how much his fine should be and that it should go to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital (in London).

"The players will be given the chance to offer their opinions tomorrow (Tuesday) morning," Pardew

Tevez has been unimpressive since moving to Upton Park in August, the 22-year-old yet to score 10 appearances for the Hammers, and looks set to leave the club when the transfer window reopens in January, along with compatriot Javier Mascherano who joined as part of the same deal and has proved equally ineffective.

# More work for Harmison

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Steve Harmison arrived here Tuesday and went straight to the nets for remedial work as England coach Duncan Fletcher considers picking two spinners for Friday's second Ashes cricket Test against Australia at Adelaide Oval.

Pace spearhead Harmison was a major disappointment as England was hammered by 277 runs in the first Gabba Test Monday and he has three days to turn things around before the series resumes. Fletcher spoke Tuesday about

playing both left-arm spinners, Ashley Giles and Monty Panesar, on the Adelaide pitch and if he carries that through one of the three seamers will have to go. Bowling coach Kevin Shine

accompanied the misfiring bowler to

the Adelaide Oval nets Tuesday to

work on technical drills. He hoped to get the 28-year-old Durham speedster, who has 180 Test wickets, back in bowling synch, after he spectacularly imploded at the Brisbane Test, starting with a

ballooning wide in his first delivery.

"Shiney wants to work on a oneto-one basis with Steve Harmison, they have been working on a couple of things, a few technical drills and he's pretty confident he can try and improve Steve's bowling," Fletcher told reporters here Tuesday.

"He didn't want a batsman, he just wanted to go through a few technical drills and Steve seemed to appreciate Shiney's help on the last morning of the Gabba Test (in the

nets).' As a statement of England's intent to hold on to the Ashes, Harmison's spluttering form could not have come at a worse time

Harmison took just one wicket for 123 runs in Australia's mammoth first innings of 609 for nine declared and came away from the Test with the match analysis of one wicket for 177 runs

"He's got a pretty complex action and he finds it difficult to control it at times and on that occasion he wasn't able to control it for that (first) spell," Fletcher said.

"He's just got to pick himself up, that's why he worked this afternoon and hopefully he'll sort a few of the

problems out."



Brazilian legend Pele signs a football on Monday during a visit to Singapore.

# George Best banknotes

"It's a perfect day in what has been a very difficult year. For us it is so special because so many people can own their little piece of history,

we'll never forget the tribute. "We are working on getting a statue erected in front of our beautiful City Hall in Belfast which people from around the world can see, and I think that will be such an honour, and that can be the lasting tribute to

"We chose the town hall

because it's a neutral place which belongs to everyone, Protestants and Catholics alike. Belfast City airport has already been given a George Best prefix while airline flybe's Belfast to

renamed and the plane carries the image of the international star. "We don't have many popular

Manchester flight has also been

heroes in Northern Ireland," said Minne. "There is of course the musician Van Morrison but George Best is someone who really united the two

communities.

As a boy, Best used to play football on the green patches of open land in the Protestant bastion of east Belfast, where he grew up.

"As children, we all admired

George Best. As Catholics we were very happy to identify with him and to count him as one of us," Minne

Eoin Moriarty, 11, is very proud that his father Gerry, Northern Ireland editor for the Irish Times newspaper, got hold of banknote number 49. "He's one of my heroes, he's

better than Thierry Henry, an amazing footballer," the youngster said. "He was great in the 1960s. He is one of the people who made Manchester United what they are

now," said the fan of the English

Premiership leaders. His father added: "Anybody who's interested in soccer would know Best as they would know Pele. Diego Maradona or Zinedine Zidane.

"He was a bit of a rascal, led a wayward social life, went over the top, but people could forgive him because he was lovable, he was just a Belfast boy."

Best's sister concluded: "He was

very humble, shy and he loved

bother him." she said

playing football, that's why the world loved him. "He transcended all the barriers. Politics and religion just didn't

Fletcher gave every indication that he wants England to play with two spinners, and if that is the case, then it looks likely that either Harmison or James Anderson, who went for 1-195 in the Brisbane Test, will miss out this week.

"We just have to look at the side and see if there's a chance that we can play with two spinners," he said.

"It was definitely in our minds when we arrived in Australia that there are some wickets, this could be one of them, where we could go in with two spinners.

"We just have to look at the best balance we think the side will be to beat Australia in the second Test.

"It could be with two spinners, it could be with a bowling attack where Harmison could bowl well, Matthew Hoggard and Jimmy Anderson bowl well in the nets, and then we have a problem of who to leave out if we go in with two spinners."

Fletcher is confident Shine, who replaced Australian Troy Cooley as the team's bowling coach after last year's Ashes series, can fix armison's gremlins. "We've spoken to a lot of people

to try and get him right but we have to be very careful that we work him one way and when everyone else is coming from all sorts of angles," he "It's not an easy thing to fix fast

bowlers and if we go in with a whole lot of people coming in and out then it could become very confusing and then you have a bigger problem. 'Shiney is very confident he can do something, I have a lot of support

for Shiney, he was highly recommended to us from Troy Cooley. "He coaches along very similar lines to Troy and that's a real positive, that's why we went for him. Troy really thinks a lot of him because he thinks

something out with Harmison.

very similar to him. 'I believe that Shiney can sort

### 'Shoaib told to change statement'

A member of the original drugs inquiry tribunal today expressed surprise at the demand of banned fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar's lawyer for declaring the first hearing a null and void, saying the paceman was twice advised to make necessary

changes if he desired. Shoaib's lawyer Abid Hasan Manto has objected to the damaging observations made on the bowler's lifestyle by the original three-man drug tribunal in their final report after banning the bowler for two years.

man Barrister Shahid Hamid had twice advised Shoaib and his lawyer Noman Niaz during the hearing to go through the statement submitted by the pacer and make necessary changes if they desired. "Hamid himself was surprised

that in his statement to the tribunal,

Shoaib had talked about his western

The member said tribunal chair-

lifestyle, sex life and other activities." the member said. "But Shoaib and Niaz came back twice with the same statement and the tribunal had no alternative but to accept it and when the findings were released Shoaib's statement formed an integral part of the explanation of why the tribunal didn't accept his argument and that he had taken the

banned substance inadvertently."