# SPÖRT

#### Birthday boy Yuvi beats up guest!

PTI, Haryana

Star middle-order batsman Yuvraj Singh was on Wednesday accused of beating up one of his guests during a scuffle at the cricketer's birthday party here.

Yuvraj, who missed India's tour of South Africa due to a knee injury, allegedly got involved in a fight with one Siddharth Mahajan during the birthday bash at his residence last

SSP Hanif Quereshi said medical tests were being conducted on the complainant to ascertain the nature and extent of the injuries. An FIR could be lodged against the cricketer thereupon, he said.

Quereshi said Yuvraj also sustained some injuries in the incident.

Yuvraj's mother Shabnam said Siddharth had come to the party on the invitation of their common friend Sukhwinder But Siddharth, apparently in an

inebriated state, started abusing the quests and the Indian cricket team, resulting in the fracas, police Siddharth then called up his

mother Neelam, who alleged that she reached the spot to find her son being beaten up by Yuvraj, his younger brother and his friends.

Neelam also alleged the cricketer of manhandling her during the scuffle and approached the police.

#### Flintoff & co up against history

AFP, Perth

England captain Andrew Flintoff said his team was intent on creating history when it takes on Australia in the third Ashes Test starting at the WACA Ground here Thursday.

England are 2-0 down in the five-Test series and must draw or win here to keep the series alive and have any hope of retaining the

But to do so they would have to become the first team ever to come from 2-0 down and not lose a

series Flintoff said the current English team was capable of turning the series around.

"The team have been great throughout (the series)," Flintoff said. "There's still that confidence and the calmness that we've had all

along in this trip. "It's a side full of character and that character will have to come out in this Test.

"We're a very close unit as a side and we've stayed that way and we'll remain that way for the remainder of the trip and going forward as

Flintoff said the English players were proud of what they had achieved over the past three or four years.

"We want to carry on doing that - we want to carry on creating

history as a team," he said. "It's something that we're very

much aware of, that we'd be creating history if we came back into this series and it's something that we desperately want to do."

Flintoff confirmed that England would not name their team until the morning of the match.

He said a lot of players had put in Test claims in warm-up matches over the past week and he wanted to see what the pitch looked like on the morning of the Test before making a final decision.

Flintoff said his ankle was holding up well and he had no concerns about bowling on it during the Test.

### Ponting bucks

FROM PAGE 17 which he expects to have bounce

but be a little slow and two-paced, would suit his bowling. With Damien Martyn's retire-

ment, Mike Hussey goes up one position to No.4. While the Australians made just

the one change, the controversial England selection committee will wait until the morning of the match to name a side

Down 2-0 and on the verge of Ashes failure, there is no margin for error for England and plenty for the committee of captain Andrew Flintoff, coach Duncan Fletcher and a handful of senior players to pon-

Flintoff and Fletcher have copped plenty of criticism for the teams they have chosen for the first two Test defeats and the English must get their bowling line-up correct. TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Ricky Ponting (captain), Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Michael Clarke, Mike Hussey, Adam Gilchrist, Brett Lee, Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath,

Stuart Clark, Andrew Symonds. ENGLAND (from): Andrew Flintoff (captain), Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Geraint Jones, Chris Read, Sajid Mahmood, Monty Panesar, Ashley Giles, Steve Harmison, Ed Joyce, James Anderson, Matthew Hoggard, Kevin Pietersen, Liam Plunkett.



Chinese tennis player Zheng Jie clenches her fist on winning a point against Sania Mirza of India during the women's singles final at the 15th Asian Games in Doha yesterday.

### 'Give Steve new ball'

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Steve Harmison must be given the new ball in the third Ashes Test if England are to get the best out of him, according to ex-Test player John Lever.

The former left-armer, who took 4-28 in England's win in Perth in 1978, said Harmison was England's best weapon.

Lever told BBC Sport: "Steve outfield wondering when he is going to be given a chance. It's absolutely ridiculous.

"I would like somebody to explain that to me -- it doesn't make any sense.

Harmison bowled the first ball of the Ashes series, a ball that was so far wide of Justin Langer's off stump that it was taken by Andrew Flintoff at second slip.

He only bowled two overs before being taken out of the attack

Hameed, playing his first match in 12 months, hit three boundaries in his snail-paced 118-ball

In the final overs Abdul Razzaq (33) ded a quick 45 runs for the eighth wicket

In the final overs Aboul Razzaq (33) added a quick 45 runs for the eighth wicket with Naved (18) to boost the total.

Inzamam was ruled out by a finger injury, further depleting a Pakistan side already missing Yousuf, who skipped the match to be with his pregnant wife, and Younis, whose brother died recently.

Paceman Umar Gul and spinner Abdul Pachman was rested to make way for Afridi

Rehman were rested to make way for Afridi, Mohammad Sami, Hameed and Iqbal. The West Indies brought in Chanderpaul, Powell and Dave Mohammed. The tourists rested Corey Collymore (flu), Daren Ganga and Jerome Taylor.

Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between Pakistan and the West Indies

Total: (All out in 49.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN

Navedu

Bradshaw 43

Powell 33

Samuels brings

by Flintoff and has not taken been given a new ball since then. His figures for the series so far are 1-

Lever, who took 73 wickets in 21 Tests and was a multiple Trophy winner at county level with Essex, now coaches at Bancroft's School. He said: "If you don't throw

someone the new ball when he's a little out of form he's going to stand around the outfield feeling pretty awful about the situation."

In the 1978 match, Lever shared the bowling limelight with Bob Willis, Harmison is walking around the who took 5-44 in the first innings, while David Gower hit a century after

England had been put in to bat. The 166-run win remains England's only victory in 10 Tests at the Waca.

Lever is disappointed the Waca pitch in Perth has lost so much of the pace it possessed 28 years He said: "It was the quickest,

bounciest pitch anywhere in the

WEST INDIES

Samuels not out

Razzad

Gayle b Navedul

Chanderpaul

Extras: (lb-11, nb-7, 12)

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-11, 3-152,

Result: West Indies won by

Man-of-the-match: Marlon

Umpires: Nigel Llong (ENG),

Match referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)

0

0

"At that time Ian Botham was

#### there are some very good groundsmen around."

quite lively, a big lad who got a lot of

bounce and swung it quite a bit, and

"We had a lot of firepower

"And it was one of those pitches

"So many of these slow, low

where you knew if they nicked it. it

wickets nowadays the batsman

nicks it and the ball doesn't carry to

wickets with pace and bounce are

Lever cannot understand why

was going to carry somewhere.

the wicket-keeper or the slips."

such a rarity in modern cricket.

"At the WACA, they used

dark, almost black river loam and I

couldn't see any problems with

rules rugby across the whole

square in the winter but it was fine

difficult to create wickets like that

nowadays because a lot of technol-

ogy goes into pitch preparation and

"They used to play Australian

"I fail to understand why it's so

Bob Willis was quite quick as well.

against them

FROM PAGE 17

staying with that.

for the summer.

were demanding transfer During the same incident, the BFF general secretary had a quarrel with Abahani manager Satvaiit Das Rupu and later issued a showcause letter to the former national

Rupu's reply was discussed in gate the issue.

The BFF annual general meeting will be held on December 26.

The BFF once again appointed its controversial executive committee member Amirul Islam Babu as manager of the Bangladesh football team, which play Hong Kong in the home match of their two-leg pre-Olympic qualifier. The first match is due on February 7 in Dhaka.

#### Transfer

FROM PAGE 17

seven wickets.

Toss: Pakistan

Zameer Haider (PAK)

Samuels

seemingly gaining on the others. With most of the national players under their wings, Abahani and Muktijoddha look strongest on paper. Mohammedan will rely on the national youth booters while Brothers suffered most and might have to return to mediocrity once again after two years of brilliance. which saw them bag two Premiership titles and a National

#### No meeting

footballer.

vesterday's meeting and the BFF disciplinary committee will investi-Although the BFF has yet to say

anything about the Dhaka Premier League and the fate of the clubs who are not joining the Professional Football League, it has decided to hold the JFA Cup from February 1 and the National Youth Football Championship -- formerly the Sohrawardy Cup -- later in the same

Abu Yusuf and Saiful Bari Titu have been named technical adviser and coach respectively.

#### SA Games

FROM PAGE 17 Cricket has not been part of any multi-discipline event since the 1998 Commonwealth Games in

Kuala Lumpur. "We think it will add extra value to the event since it is the most popular sport in the region and all countries including Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan play cricket,"

#### Zheng clinches tennis gold

AFP, Doha

China's Zheng Jie capped a sensational year on Wednesday with gold in the women's singles at the Asian Games, fighting off a challenge from Indian darling Sania Mirza.

Zheng, who won Wimbledon and the Australian Open doubles titles with compatriot Yan Zi, took the first set 6-4 before Mirza fought back in the second only to be denied in the crucial third.

The 23-year-old second seed, whose steller season also included singles titles at Stockholm and Estoril, won 6-4, 1-6, 6-1.

"I played my best tennis of the tournament today," Zheng said.

But the strong-Indian crowd, who velled and cheered when she served faults, affected her game and she likened the one hour 49 minute match to being at a football match.

because everybody was supporting Sania but I just kept going and tried to play aggressively in the third," she "Actually it affected me very

"This was a tough match

much, because tennis games tend to be very quiet and elegant affairs but it felt like I was playing football

Zheng is gunning for two out of two in the women's doubles fina with Yan on Thursday.

#### SLC's bid to get back \$12m

Sri Lanka's cricket governing body is suing a private insurance company in a bid to recover nearly 12 million dollars lost when a home series was abandoned, officials said Wednesday.

"We have filed action as the company refused to pay the claim giving various excuses," a Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) official said.

The triangular one-day series involving the hosts, South Africa and India between August 14 and 29 was scrapped after the Proteas raised security concerns on the conflict-torn island

The South African team left Sri Lanka after a claymore mine blamed on Tamil rebels blew up the car of Pakistan's Ambassador Bashir Ali Mohamund and killed four of his guards. The diplomat escaped unhurt.

The blast went off close to the South African team hotel and damaged 10 vehicles.

Sri Lanka Cricket had obtained a Sports Cancellation and Abandonment Policy from the local Ceylinco Insurance Company.

#### Lamps accuses

FROM PAGE 20 feet from us on another table.

"We acknowledged him and he completely blanked both of us. In fact, when he left, we walked right past our table and didn't even have the decency to say anything whether nice or rude!

"Perhaps Lehmann's just more sensitive than the rest of us."

#### Brits fight

FROM PAGE 20

Struggling Scottish giants Rangers however must play Partizan without top goalscorer Kris Boyd who has been sidelined until January.

Scotland striker Boyd strained his ankle in the December 4 away defeat to Falkirk, which left Paul Le Guen's side in second place in the Scottish Premier League but 16 points adrift of arch rivals Celtic. Boyd, who has scored 11 league

goals for the light Blues, was injured in a tackle by Bairns defender Kenny Milne.

And reigning UEFA Cup champions Sevilla, who have already made the last 32, host Dutch side AZ Alkmaar in an attempt to win Group C and avoid any big names in the next round.

Sevilla are in good form at the moment having fought back to defeat Real Madrid 2-1 at the weekend to oust them from second spot in the Spanish League behind Barcelona.

#### Hammers FROM PAGE 20

Ham and contributed to the loss of form that led to his sacking.

Pardew has indicated that he will be seeking a speedy return to football and it is unlikely that the man who took the Hammers back

into the top flight as well as reaching this year's FA Cup final will be out of work for too long. Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger are among Premiership

managers who have said he should have been given more time to turn West Ham's season around. Wenger very nearly came to blows with Pardew in a touchline bust-up last month but he insisted

respect for his colleague. "I think this is very cruel for Pardew as he's done remarkably well there," Wenger said. "He wasn't given time by the new owners but sometimes that's the risk in our job, you undeservedly get the sack even it it's not linked with your quality."

that spat did not detract from his

### SL will do it again

Cricket

Opting to bat first on a bowler's track arguably cost Sri Lanka the first cricket Test against New Zealand, but they say they will do it again for the sake of Muttiah Muralidaran in the second.

Batting first on a lively wicket backfired spectacularly in the Christchurch Test with Sri Lanka all out before tea for 154 on the first day, and New Zealand went on to win by five wickets inside three days.

But as the teams assembled here for the second Test starting on Friday. Sri Lanka captain Mahela Javawardene said his decision on winning the toss was based on spin wizard Muralidaran bowling last, and nothing had changed. Sri Lankan coach Tom Moody

backed his captain and said the gamble at the toss was about giving Muralidaran an opportunity to square the series.

"Any world class spinner enjoys bowling in the fourth innings -- it's

where they are at their most dangerous," Moody said.

"The reason we lost in Christchurch wasn't because we

called incorrectly. Another 50-plus runs and we'd have won the game. "Murali would have been a hell of a handful on day four."

New Zealand batsmen had trouble dealing with Muralidaran, who had match figures of seven for 99 off 48 Moody's biggest concern was his

batsmen, particularly after they crashed to 45 for six in the second innings, despite the pitch flattening "We realise we've let ourselves down in the batting department. We

were short of runs in both innings

and we have to continue and adjust

to conditions." he said. The Sri Lankans trained specifically on seaming wickets with new balls in Colombo before they departed, while New Zealand have

focused on handling spin bowling. Muralidaran caused all sorts of angst in the first Test and produced a surprise turn when he approached

some right-handers from around the wicket, claiming Craig Cumming Jamie How. Mathew Sinclair and

Nathan Astle (twice). Five of his dismissals were to lea before wicket decisions as ultracautious batsmen prodded forward to smother spin that never really Even in the abbreviated Test, the

eventuated. Meanwhile, the first Test run-out of Muralidaran may continue to be a popular topic on talkback radio and newspaper letters columns in New Zealand, but it will not factor in Sri Lanka's motivation for the second

Moody said the controversial dismissal, where Muralidaran was run out while congratulating Kumar Sangakkara on a century, has been put behind them.

"I don't think we need to draw on that to galvanise us. We're a strong close unit as it is. We don't need any help in that department.

"The bottom line is it's out. It's nice we recognise the spirit of the game, and we felt a little bit disappointed that it wasn't taken into

### SA draw up pace plan

#### Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa are set to pick an allpace bowling attack as they seek to exploit India's frailty against the lifting ball in the first Test starting at the Wanderers Stadium Friday.

Left-arm spinner Nicky Boje was not replaced after his sudden retirement from international cricket Tuesday while unorthodox left-armer Paul Adams was released from the squad to play for his franchise team. That leaves a pace battery of

Makhaya Ntini, Dale Steyn, Andre Nel and Shaun Pollock, backed up by all-rounder Jacques Kallis, to mount an all-out assault on the Indian batting. The evidence of India's tour so

batting failed miserably when they

were trounced 4-0 in a one-day

series. And their leading batsmen

failed to fire in two innings in a

warm-up match against the Rest of

far suggests that it could be a winning tactic. India's top order

South Africa last weekend, even though the Indians won with a day to spare.

Yet South Africa's plan could backfire if the Indian batsmen live up to their pedigree. Captain Rahul Dravid, battling

to be fit for the Test after suffering a finger injury in the third one-day international, made his maiden Test century at the Wanderers, a ground where India have yet to be beaten in a Test match after drawing both their previous encounters The Wanderers pitch was once

bounce but in recent years it has lost its sting and has often proved a batting paradise. There was a good covering of grass Wednesday, however,

although that could change before play starts. Ironically, the best bowling figures in a South Africa-India Test at the Wanderers were recorded by

a spinner -- India's Anil Kumble,

who took six for 53 in a marathon

Kumble is again expected to be a key player with his ability to make good use of pitches which offer bounce.

Sachin Tendulkar, India's mas-

ter batsman, has yet to hit top form in South Africa but there were glimpses of his best when he topscored with 55 in the final one-day international, while VVS Laxman who spent useful time at the crease in making 23 and 31 against the Rest, has shown that he is a capable player against fast bowler.

The return of Sourav Ganguly adds experience and skill to the regarded as second only to Perth Indian batting line-up, although his in Australia in terms of pace and record against short-pitched bowling is not encouraging, while Virender Sehwag has had a miserable tour in which he has only scored 39 runs in five innings.

Fast bowler Dale Steyn took five for 22 when he played in a one-day warm-up match against the Indians at the start of the tour. He and Ntini gave promise at the end of last season of forming a highly effective new ball pair in Test matches, with the veteran Pollock filling more of a

## Forget the past: Anil

44 overs in 1992-93.

#### Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Anil Kumble has happy memories of the Wanderers, and he urged his teammates to be positive -- "Let's in the build-up to the first Test which

starts on Friday. Back in November 1992, Kumble was a young man on his way back from the wilderness, and a stupendous second-innings display, 44-22-53-6, more or less sealed his place in the side for the

best part of the next decade. "Personally, I've had a good tour whenever I've come here." said Kumble, speaking to the media after another long net session on Tuesday. With 31 wickets from his nine Tests here, Kumble will be one of the men South Africa worry about the most, but he was almost anxious to shy away from talk of the individual. "It's important that we play well collectively as a team," he said. "It's always a great atmosphere here at the Wanderers, and it will be a good Test series. The

boys are geared up.

ACROSS

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According to him, the 4-0 defeat in the one-day series was a page from the past, and he was confident that the team had the quality to bounce back over the three Tests. "If you look back at the West Indies tour, we won the Tests after we had an ordinary one-day series," he said "And in Pakistan we didn't do too well in the Tests, but came back in the one-day games.

"Not many gave us a chance when we toured Australia last time. Everyone said we would lose 4-0, and that turned out to be one of the best series we've ever played. The conditions here are pretty similar to Australia. When you look back at how the team performed, and also individuals, you can draw inspiration from that.'

When asked what lessons could be learnt from the displays of that side, which left Australian shores after having nearly ruined Steve Waugh's farewell, Kumble said, "We have more or less the same set of players. It's a matter of one innings. Hopefully, it will be the first innings of the first Test here. We picked up 20 wickets and won a Test (Adelaide), and came close to winning another (Sydney). You

By Eugene Sheffer

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need runs on the board, and you

need time. Not many gave us a chance when we toured Australia last time. Everyone said we would lose 4-0. and that turned out to be one of the

best series we've ever played. That said, South Africa are only to Australia and England on home soil since their re-admission to the Test arena in 1992. "They know their conditions well," said Kumble. "They have the bowlers to suit the pitches they play on. But then again, not many have gone to Australia and returned (nearly)

victorious, so we must be positive." Though he emphasised that the batsmen would need to get their act together over the next month. Kumble wasn't overly worried about the poor displays in the oneday series. "It's especially important for a spinner to have runs on the board," he said. "The one-day series wasn't easy. A couple of times, we had to bat under lights. and if you look at the record for those kinds of games in South Africa, it's a bit tough. We also didn't have proper practice before

the first game because of the rain.'

**CRYPTOQUIP** ROWFM VAOR OR VAM VOKM

puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

#### VX RDCZE JZVMC XW DBZWVR, O JXQBN FZBB OV Z KORV XDDXCVQWOVE Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MOVIE COMPANY WAS SCRAMBLING WITHOUT A FULL STAFF, 43 Favorable BUT EVENTUALLY IT GOT A GRIP. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals I

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