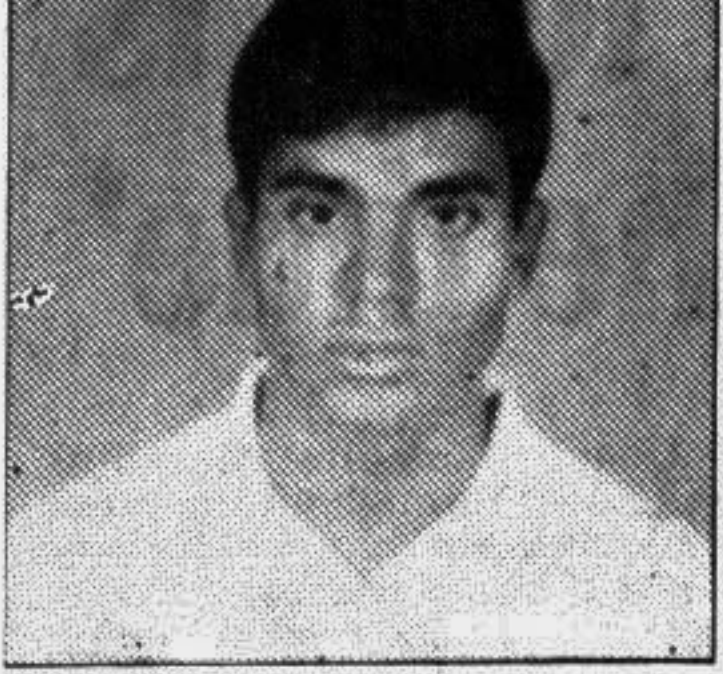


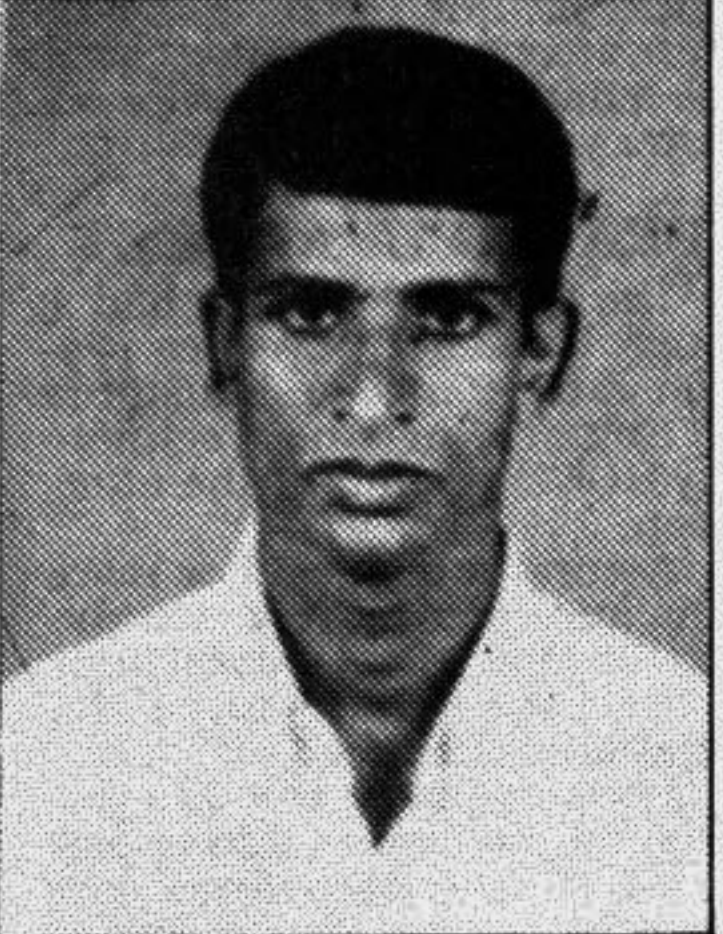
Long distance swimming
Bangladeshis grab
top positions

Two swimmers — Md Elias Hossain and Md Nazmul Kabir of Bangladesh Navy — secured first and second place respectively in the 55th World Long Distance Swimming competition held at Murshidabad, West Bengal, yesterday, reports BSS.

Lt General Muhammad Mahubur Rahman (retd),



MD ELIAS HOSSAIN



MD NAZMUL KABIR

president, Bangladesh Olympic Association has congratulated both the players on behalf of Bangladesh Olympic Association.

Fifteen swimmers from 18 countries participated in the 19 km swimming competition.

FIGC inquiring
into bribery

ROME, Oct 26: Italy's Football Federation (FIGC) announced on Sunday that it had opened an enquiry into allegations that a Serie A referee was offered a bribe before the match between Sampdoria and Empoli, reports AFP.

The federation said that match official Stefano Farina reported being contacted at his hotel in Genoa on Saturday by someone who asked him to referee in favour of Empoli.

Farina promptly asked Sergio Gonella, who heads Italian refereeing authority, to be substituted for Sunday's game and he was duly replaced by reserve ref Piero Ceccarini.

Gonella then informed investigators at the FIGC, who immediately opened an enquiry into the allegations.

The federation said that three men were questioned in connection with the affair on Sunday — Empoli club president Fabrizio Corsi, another senior official of the club and also the person who met Farina and allegedly asked to referee in Empoli's favour.

Empoli managing director Fabrizio Lucchesi said: "It's a bolt from the blue. No one told me anything. At this point, I don't know whether to laugh or cry: We lost the game 3-0, so you can imagine what our morale is like."

Lucchesi said he had only been made aware of the referee change on Sunday morning, and thought that Farina had simply been unavailable. "as happens from time to time."

But he insisted: "I'm not alarmed."

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

NORTH MAKES AN IMAGINATIVE BID BUT WEST SHOWS MORE IMAGINATION IN UNDERLEADING HEARTS

HEARTS
(Hand # 126)

North
♠ A-1062
♥ H-4
♦ D-Q1076
♣ C-AQ105

East
♠ S-QJ987543
♥ H-J32
♦ D:None
♣ C-73

South (D)
♠ S-K
♥ H-76
♦ D-AK9842
♣ C-KJ86

West
♠ S:None
♥ H-AKQ10985
♦ D:J53
♣ C-942

Bidding: Neither side was vulnerable

South: 1 Diamond*, 2 Hearts, 4 Diamonds, Pass

West: 2 Hearts, 4 Hearts, Pass

North: Double, 6 Diamonds

East: 3 Hearts, Pass

* Artificial opening.

THE PLAY

West on lead thought carefully as to how to create an entry into partner's hand and induce him to lead a Spade for him to ruff. He therefore led the 9 of Hearts (not the 10) and partner played his third hand highest — the Jack — not in the hope of winning the trick but primarily as a matter of habit. When he surprisingly won the trick his thought machine started kicking. Why on earth partner underled Hearts? Obviously, he wanted to gain an entry in East's hand and wanted to ruff something. Which suit? No doubt, it was Spade, because he led an unnecessarily high card. If he wanted to ruff a Club he would have led a small Heart. Moreover, East held a long Spade suit in which partner was likely to be void. But he did not have to guess-partner made it easy by leading a high card. Down one.

Warne rates Gough highly



MELBOURNE, Oct 26: Injured Australian star Shane Warne believes England's Ashes hopes depend more on gritty paceman Darren Gough than his own presence in the five-Test series, reports AP.

Warne aims to take a major step towards proving his fitness for the November 20 first Test when he attempts to bowl in the nets and in a match for his district team within the next week. He has two Sheffield Shield matches before the Test and if he plays in both he expects to get his spot back to meet England in the Brisbane series-opener.

Warne did some light bowling in the nets last week and then scored a century for his district team on Saturday. He had further treatment on his shoulder injury Sunday but on Monday was looking forward to stepping up his practice.

"I want to get up there and then start to rip a few out and knock a few people over in the nets and then hopefully play on Saturday," Warne said. "If I can play the next two Shield games then I'm a big chance for the Test — but if I can only play one or none then I'm no chance."

England captain Alec Stewart has said he wants Warne in the Tests so that Australia won't have any excuses if they lose. England have prepared for the record-breaking leg-spinner, bringing in a former Australian Test player Peter

Philpott to help their batsmen get ready for a match with Warne.

But Warne believes England's hopes are in their own hands — particularly those of Gough, who has yet to stay fit through a five-Test series but has played several inspired games against Australia.

"If England have any chance, Darren Gough's the guy they're going to have to keep on the park, he's going to have to perform," Warne said. "If Gough



DARREN GOUGH

doesn't bowl as well as he can, Australia will probably win comfortably. But by saying that, I don't think England will be a pushover. In Perth, England were al-

ready preparing for Warne, with several local leg-spin bowlers invited to Test the batsmen at practice Monday.

Afterwards, Philpott said England must attack Warne.

"With a bowler of the quality of Warne if you just sit and wait it's a matter of time before you get out," Philpott said. "You have got to have some positive play in trying to attack him. You can't just rely on survival, it doesn't work."

Philpott, a professional leg-spin coach who played eight Tests for Australia, said England may be giving Warne more respect than it deserved.

"I'm sure that right around the world — and particularly in New Zealand, England and South Africa — there has been a slight misunderstanding of wrist spin through lack of exposure," Philpott said. "Consequently they have developed mystiques that aren't quite there but there's only a certain amount any leg-spinner can do and it's all logical, there's nothing mysterious."

Meanwhile paceman Dean Headley was unable to train for a second day running because of his knee injury.

"When he was finishing his spell yesterday he slipped on the crease and felt a little bit of pain in the inside of his knee," said physiotherapist Wayne Morton.

"He has a bit of soreness, tenderness and a bit of swelling but it is only the third day so as a precautionary measure we have rested him."

Sohail puts on a brave face

KARACHI, Oct 26: Pakistan captain Amir Sohail today lamented fitness problems and lack of pitch experts after losing the three-match series against Australia, reports AFP.

The Australian 1-0 victory over Pakistan soil was their first in 39 years.

"Fitness problems did not allow us to play with full strength and in future we will only play fully fit players," Sohail said after the final match here ended in a draw.

Pakistan badly missed the services of ace speed merchant Waqar Younis who missed the whole series due to an elbow injury.

Another Pakistani fast bowler Wasim Akram missed the second Test and was not in his full form here due to diabetes.

Sohail won his second Test as captain in Durban when Pakistan beat a formidable South Africa by 29 runs in February.

He praised Taylor's captaincy and Australian team.

"They are a very tough side and to beat them one needs to be mentally very tough, we were not," Sohail accepted.

"Pakistan's coach Javed Miandad was clearly disappointed over his team's poor show. "We failed to play up to our potential and allowed them to take a lead in Rawalpindi where we should have won," Miandad said.

He believed the team needed time and too much cricket affected its performance. "I think switching from one-day Tests was a bit difficult," Miandad said.

Kookaburra balls troubling English

PERTH, Oct 26: Shane Warne is injured and his teammates are out of the country but Australian cricket balls are already causing trouble for England's Ashes tourists, reports AP.

England bowling coach Bob Cottam has noted that the Kookaburra balls used down under don't swing as much as the Reader brand used at home.

Cottam said England must rely on their ability to reverse swing the ball in the later stages of an innings to be effective during the five-Test series and will need to keep a tight and disciplined bowling line.

The new Kookaburra ball stays hard and swings for about 20 overs — it roughs up immediately," Cottam said Monday. "All these balls have quite a proud seam to start with which is made of nylon and it shears away, so we have to try working on reverse swing which hasn't done yet in the nets."

If England's bowlers fail to make the Kookaburra reverse swing they must strike early and mix up their pace later in the innings.

Agassi storms into top five

OSTRAVA, Czech Republic, Oct 26: US showman Andre Agassi stormed into the top five on Sunday after beating Slovakian qualifier Jan Krosiak 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in the final of the 975,000-dollar Czech Indoor championships here, reports AFP.

Second seed Agassi had a clear run to his fifth win of the season in eight final showings once top seeded Czech Petr Korda crashed at the first hurdle to Russian teenager Marat Safin.

And the American, who picked up the 137,000-dollar winner's cheque, did not disappoint despite a second-set hiatus, when his 153rd-ranked opponent drew level before fading in the deciding set.

Got players kept the crowd entertained, particularly in the fifth game of the first set, where Krosiak saved nine break points. The game, which lasted 15 minutes, went to 13 deuces.

Krosiak enjoyed a purple path at the start of the second when he raced 3-0 ahead and that momentum carried him through before Agassi got his game back together in the final set.

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The Las Vegas showman won his fifth tournament victory of the season despite the absence of coach Brad Gilbert and wife Brooke Shields and joked: "That doesn't mean I don't need them."

Anand held

TILBURG, Oct 26: India's Vishwanathan Anand was held to a quick 21-move draw by Jeroen Piket of the Netherlands in the third round of the Tilburg international Grand Masters chess tournament here, reports PTI.

Anand still leads the 12-man field with 2.5 points after wins over Joel Lautner of France and Russian world number three Vladimir Kramnik in the first and second rounds, followed by Englishman Michael Adams and V Topalov of Bulgaria on two points.

Playing with black pieces for the first time in the tournament, Anand adopted the semi-Slav defence against Piket.

The Dutchman, bouncing back from his loss against Peter Svidler in the previous round, tried to trap a wary Anand in his 19th move. After 21 moves, Anand offered a draw when no result was possible.

The highlight of the third round was a fine win by Kramnik, who crushed Lautner in just 24 moves after a queen's gambit declined start. Errors by Lautner in the middle game saw his defence being torn apart by the Russian for a quick win.

Svidler, a winner in the second round, crashed to defeat at the hands of Topalov after a Spanish opening.

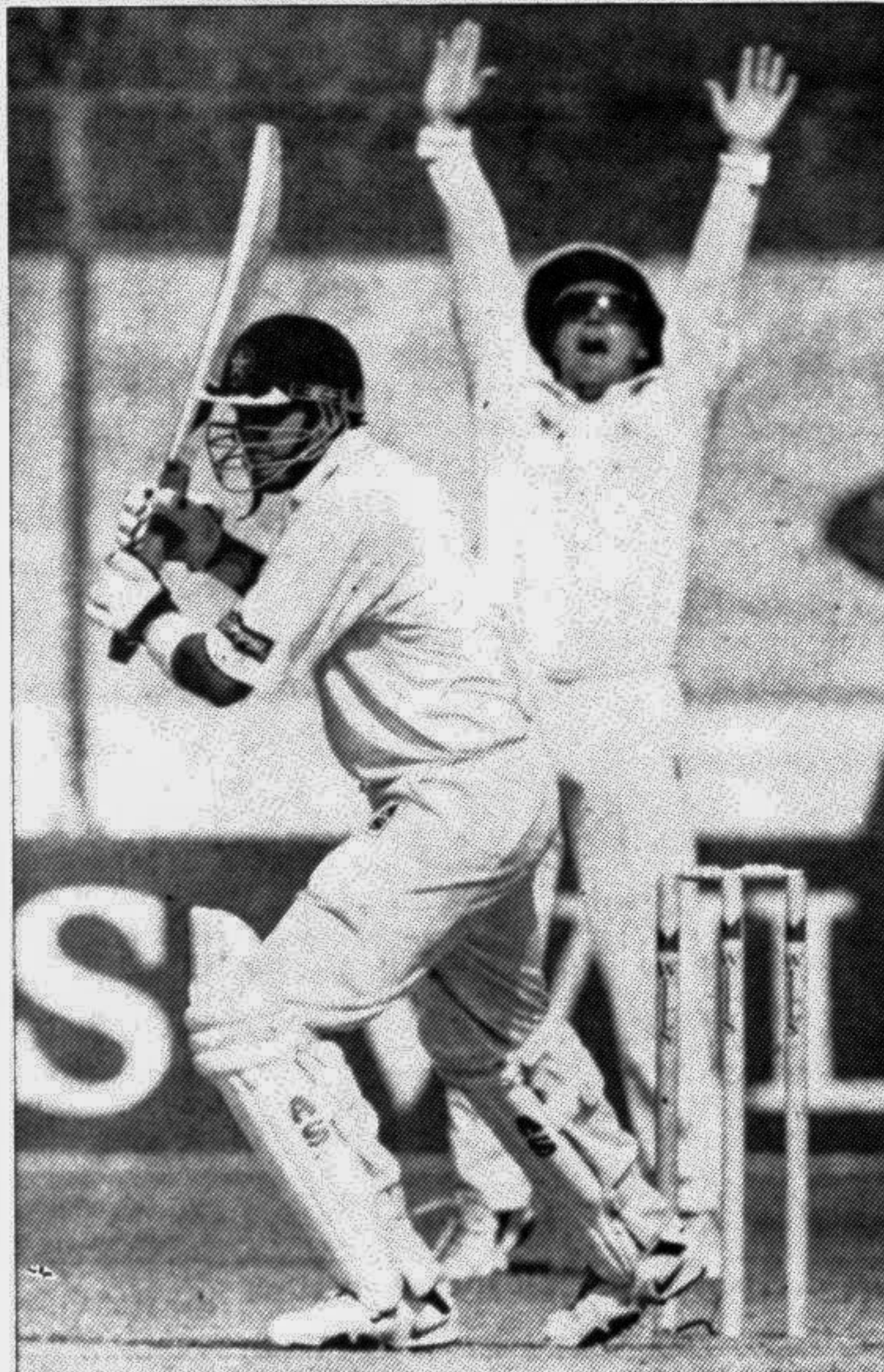
Australia end 39-year drought
Ijaz, Moin save Karachi Test



KARACHI, Oct 26: Ijaz Ahmed and Moin Khan halted an alarming slide to claim a draw for Pakistan in the third and final Test here today but Australia still celebrated their first series victory in Pakistan for 39 years, reports AFP.

and the guys did extremely well to help achieve this feat," said Taylor, who hit an unbeaten 334 in the second Test in Peshawar.

No Australian team had won a series on the sub-continent since Bill Lawry's Australian team beat India 3-1 in 1969-70. Taylor's Australia lost to India 2-1 earlier this year.



Australian skipper Mark Taylor appeals successfully against Pakistani opener Shahid Afridi who was caught behind for six off Collin Miller on the final day of the Karachi Test yesterday.

The home team averted humiliation through an unbeaten 120 by Ijaz and Moin's 75. They rescued Pakistan from a precarious 75-4 with a stubborn 153-run fifth wicket stand.

Australia were in sight of a victory when they had Pakistan on 78-4 at lunch but missed two crucial catches that could have ensured victory.

Ijaz was dropped by Australian skipper Mark Taylor off Glenn McGrath, when on two. Moin got a life on 30 when Mark Waugh spilled a chance in the slip off Stuart MacGill.

Australia still clinched the three match series 1-0, thanks to their innings and 99-run victory in the first Test in Rawalpindi. It was the first Test and series victory in Pakistan since Richie Benaud's side beat Pakistan at Lahore in 1959-60.

Taylor's ambition had been to win a series on the sub-continent and he fulfilled it on the eve of his 34th birthday.

"I am really very delighted

The day also belongs to Ijaz, who hit 16 fours in his 327-minute vigil and was given the player-of-the-series award. He slammed a career best 155 in the second Test.

Ijaz completed his ninth Test century in 265 minutes of 211 balls, hitting 14 fours in his fifth Test against Australia.

Australia after scoring 280 and 390 in their two innings and getting Pakistan out for 252 in their first innings, set the home side the near impossible winning target of 419. And Pakistan were reeling at 40-3 an hour after the start of the final morning.

Tasmanian pace bowler Collin Miller struck three crucial blows in his first spell.

Opener Amir Sohail hit three fours off Glenn McGrath's second over taking 14 runs in all. But with the first ball of the fourth over Miller's rampage began.

Miller had opener Shahid Afridi caught behind by Ian

Healy for six.

Sohail was trapped leg before by Miller for 25.

The Pakistani captain, who was made player-of-the-match for his 133 in the first innings, was clearly upset over South African umpire Dave Orchard's decision.

Match referee Peter van der Merwe of South Africa decided not to take any action after confirming it with Orchard.

Pakistan's most experienced batsman Salim Malik got his second zero when he was adjudged lbw off Miller. Pakistan were then on 35-3.

Yusuf Yohanna added 40 with Ijaz for the fourth wicket before falling victim to Stuart MacGill after making 11. Mark Waugh held a low catch at silly mid-off.

Moin was left off by Mark Waugh in the slip off MacGill when on 30.

The two lapses allowed Pakistan to see off the second session without losing a wicket.

Moin reached his fifty off 92 balls, with eight fours. He holed out at long leg off Darren Lehmann after making a solid 75.

Inzamamul Haq who came at seven, after not being able to field during the fourth day, remained 21 not out. Miller was the pick of Australian bowlers with figures of 3-82.

"We had some injury problems throughout the series but lost the series to a formidable team," Sohail said.

"One has to be a really tough to beat a team like Australia. We were not," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard at close from the fifth and final day of the third cricket Test between Pakistan and Australia on Monday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 280 (M Slater 96, I Healy 47; Shahid Afridi 5-52)

PAKISTAN: First innings 252 (Amir Sohail 133, Wasim Akram 35; G McGrath 5-66)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 390 (M Waugh 117; M Taylor 68, J Langer 51, G Robertson

SOHAIL ... p-o-m
45; Shakil Ahmed 4-91)
PAKISTAN: Second innings
Sohail lbw b Miller 25
Afridi c Healy b Miller 6
Ijaz not out 120
Malik lbw b Miller 0
Yohanna c M Waugh b MacGill 11
Moin c MacGill b Lehmann 75
Inzamam not out 21
Extras (lb-2, nb-2) 4
Total (for 5 wickets) 262
Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-33; 3-35; 4-75; 5-228.

Bowler: O M R W
McGrath 18 11 40 6
Miller 25 5 82 3
MacGill 17 2 66 1
S Waugh 8 5 10 0
Robertson 16 2 56 0
Lehmann 2 0 6 1

Did not bat: Wasim Akram, Shakil Ahmed, Arshed Khan and Shoaib Akhtar.

Umpires: Dave Orchard (South Africa) and Riaz-Uddin (Pakistan).

Result: Match drawn.

Player-of-the-match: Amir Sohail.

Player-of-the-series: Ijaz Ahmed, Mark Taylor.

Asian U-19 soccer results

BANGKOK, Oct 26 (Xinhua): Following are the results from the under-19 Asian Youth Football championships in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on Sunday:

Group A
Saudi Arabia bt Kazakhstan 2-1 (halftime 0-1)
Thailand tied Kuwait 1-1 (0-0)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Chum
4 Delany or Carvey
8 Pool-table cushion
12 Actress
13 Lyric
14 Sheltered
15 Roast pig
16 Irish dish
17 Domestic
18 Couturier's concern
21 "Golly!"
22 Marnie's man
23 Prime study
26 Sauté
27 Chop down
30 Stench
31 Spell-down
32 Venetian bigwig
33 Go up
34 Thanksgiv-ing veggie
35 Cheat a little
36 Yak
37 Billy, when
101 Dal-matians
24 "Much — Nothing"
25 Exemplar of patience
26 Not masc.
27 Brickwork-er's prop
28 Silly Putty
29 Infinitesimal
30 Jai follower
31 Scene of luxury and evil
32 Garb
34 Tibetan beast
35 Enthusi-asts, plus
36 Aphorism
37 Black-and-white snake
38 "Anna and the King of"

Cryptogram grid with letters and numbers for a puzzle.

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterdays answer
BAH BUM SHOES
UNO ANA KOALA
DOT RINTINTIN
ODE SCOUT
YELP EREG CLAD
VENETIAN BIGWIG
ATTOLL AGE
ANDY GUM SAGS
GASPERS SHA
HIMANDHER PAN
ARENA ERA END
MANET RES NAY

CRYPTOQUIP

TRUADA GVRPQR
XMGHP FW XRYDXH
QW AVGM G IXGUY
Yesterdays Cryptquip: YOU MIGHT SAY THAT AN ARMY GENERAL IS TRULY AN ATTENTION GETTER.
Today's Cryptquip clue: I equals B
The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Barcelona's Dutch international Patrick Kluivert celebrates scoring a goal in the Spanish league game against Espanol on Oct 25.