Peter starts teaching

PERTH, Oct 27: England's spin doctor Peter Philpott took a beginner's bowling class Tuesday while coach Graham Gooch spared some blushes by banning the media, reports AP. Philpott, an Australian drafted into the England camp to help them prepare to face

squad's batsmen how to bowl leg-spin. Wrist spin is the most difficult form of delivery to get righ and amateurs are quickly exposed when they fail to release

longtime nemesis Shane

Warne, planned to teach the

the ball properly. Fearing any pictures or reports of players such as Alec Stewart and Mike Atherton struggling to unravel the mystique of the difficult bowling art, Gooch kept the media out-

Warne, who has taken 85 wickets in 17 Ashes Tests, has not played since shoulder surgery last April but hopes to be fit for the first Test starting

in Brisbane on November 20. Philpott said England's knowledge of wrist spin needed expanding.

"They will be bowling them so they understand where the hand has got to be to deliver each ball," Philpott said. "Basically if you can do something a little then you have got a much better chance of understanding

Philpott said because English players were not exposed to much wrist spin, "they have developed mystiques that just aren't there.

"There's only a certain amount any leg-spinner can do. it's all logical, there's nothing mysterious," Philpott said.

Hamed coming to America

LONDON, Oct 27: After a twoday delay caused by visa problems, "Prince" Naseem Hamed flew to the United States on Tuesday for Saturday's WBO featherweight defence against Wayne McCullough in Atlantic City, reports AP.

Hamed, who was supposed to have arrived in the States on Sunday, had to delay his departure because his handlers waited until the last minute to apply for his visa.

British newspapers said the American pay-TV company HBO was furious that Hamed had missed major promotion events in New York, Atlantic City and Philadelphia.

Promoter Frank Warren, blamed by HBO for Hamed's late arrival, tried to be upbeat.

"All the problems have been solved," he said at Heathrow airport. "There was a problem with the visa and it's all been sorted. That's why we're getting on the plane.

Hamed, despite the mix-up and a falling out with trainer Brendan Ingle, predicted a quick fight as he boarded the Concorde accompanied by family members and Warren.

"I'll win in three," he said thrusting three fingers in the air. "You can put your house on it. "You couldn't lose."

Hamed, 30-0 with 28 knockouts, is making his 11th title defence. McCullough, an Irishman, is 22-1 with 14 KOs.

Advantage Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Oct 27: Organisers of the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics will have a much easier time pulling together money to meet their budget than their counterparts from Atlanta's 1996 games, reports AFP.

Organisers of the centennial summer Olympics struggled to raise 1.8 billion dollars and broke even by selling out space and sponsor deals in an overcommercialised mess.

This time, United States Olympic Committee officials have taken on much of the responsibility for the 1,453 billion-dollar budget for Salt Lake. Organisers will have to raise only about 10 per cent of that total.

A Daily Star exclusive

Enthusiasm in Bangladesh is phenomenol—Tony Greig

Hasan Masood

Anthony William Greig better known as Tony Greig needs hardly any introduction to those who have even a little idea about cricket. Born in South Africa, the tall allrounder played Test cricket for England in the capacity of a player and captain in the sixties and seventies. He is also considered the pioneer of the instant version of the game when he along with 52 other leading cricketers made a deal with the Australian television magnate, Kerry Packer, to play in the 'World Series Cricket' in

Tony is now in Dhaka as one of the six WorldTel commentators who are covering the ongoing Wills International Cup. Tony, who is now leaving in Australia, gave an exclusive interview to The Daily Star on Monday during the Sri Lanka-New Zealand match. During the 20-minute instant cogitation at the WorldTel Commentary box, Tony mostly focused on the present and the future of world

The following are excerpts of the interview:

The Daily Star: The scenario of cricket is changing rapidly after the introduction of limited-over game alongside the Test version. Could you tell us where the game is heading and what will be the future of the game after 25 years?

Tony Greig: Can I say first of all that I think the game is going forward. I said that because Test match cricket was beginning to stagnate a little bit....to stagnate the game. It had a big following with the older people and cricket needed something to give some enthusiasm to young people.... and I think that's what happened. The best parallel I can draw for you between One-Day and Test is like McDonalds restaurants and fine dining restaurant. You need those. The youngsters are going to the McDonalds and their parents like to go to a fine dining restaurant. There is a place for both of them. What you hope is that the children going to the McDonalds eventually also go to the fine dining restaurant. That's one point.

In 25 years time, I think you will find that the One-Day game will have changed by a lot. It may even be that the game is played in four innings. They will have 25 overs and then the next team goes for 25 overs and then 25 and 25. That's what I think should happen.

I also think that cricket will become more popular at the expense of Teat match cricket. The biggest challenge of all is to maintain the enthusiasm of the spectators for Test match cricket. It's a big challenge. It's not easy. And I think we've got to do that through the One-Day game. I'm not sure that we will succeed in maintaining the interest in terms of crowd. We'll still see a lot of revenue coming into cricket for the actual programming to go on television. A lot more people will be watching all sorts of games in the comfort at their homes. So it may be that the atmosphere on the grounds today may be to-

Every sportsman

is a humanist and

Australian one-

day cricket cap-

Rodger Waugh is

Steve, along with his three-

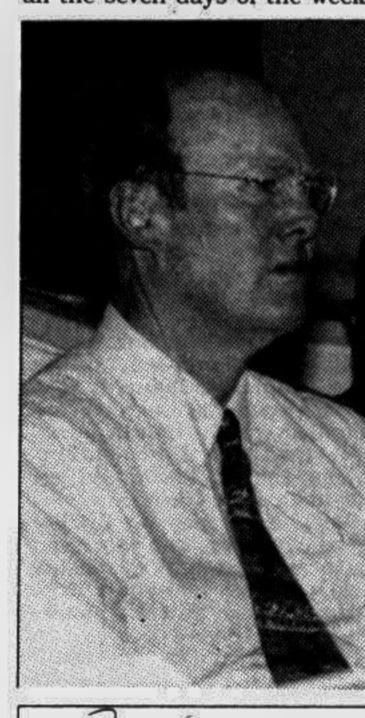
teammates - Brendon Julian,

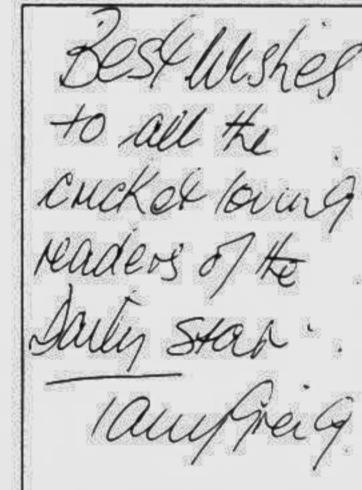
Adam Gilchrist and Andrew

Stephen

for England for quite a long period. The standard of cricket is going down in England despite formats. Can you comment on that? Whom do you want to blame for this?

TG: Well, what's happening in England is very sad and one can only blame the administrators of the game there. It's been obvious to me for a long time that the game in England seemed to be struggling. I think the most important thing is that they have to play cricket





tition is successful. That is the

Humane Australians

Sports Reporter

Symonds, spent some time with

12 under-privileged girls and

boys of Save the Children, Aus-

tralia at the Bangabandhu Na-

tional Stadium yesterday af-

shook hands with the children

and allowed them to have pho-

tographs with him. He also pre-

sented a bat signed by all mem-

"It's an inexplicable joy.

never imagined I'll see the Aus-

tralians in person with my own

eyes. And now we also played a game...," an excited Yusuf Khan

ran off before he could finish

the sentence to get an autograph

cricket dresses and in full play-

ing gears, were all smiles as the

cricketers played the friendly

game with a tape-tennis ball to

raise funds for the country's

the stadium, but journalists,

and movie and still cameras

were there when the Aussie

how to face spin or pace balls.

skipper showed the youngsters

girls, coming from remote vil-

lages in Tangail district, had

heard the names of the Aussie

cricketers and only a few of

them watched their heroes on

television. But they never

The lucky group of boys and

There was no crowd inside

flood-hit children.

October 26.

The boys and girls, in white

bers of the Australian team.

The Australian captain

ternoon.

of Steve.

way to fix English cricket. DS: If I tell you to compare

the structure between Australia

and English cricket.... TG: The Australian structure is miles better because you can turn to a national cricketer from club cricket any time. If they see you good, they will put you in sixth grade..you get some runs or wicket, you are in the fifth grade..you get more wickets you are in the fourth grade and if you can reach the first grade, the selectors will see you on the net and then go and straight play for Australia. It's a full time job there and that should be the format.

DS: Which team is your favourite in the One-day game? TG: Well, I would like to speak that the Sri Lankans are playing the most entertaining cricket. I think people like Sanath Jayasuriya, little Kaluwitharana and Aravinda....they are very exciting. And the Australians are playing some good cricket too. Very positive and attacking cricket They have got some really good players. Steve Waugh.... I think he is brilliant. He looks to be the best player in terms of commitment and results.

DS: Do you have any reservation for Indian master blaster Sachin Tendulker?

TG: Yes, I think Tendulker is the best player in the world at the moment. He is one of those players who is just absolutely wonderful to watch. You don' want to miss his batting and hope he keeps going for quite a long time. He provides a lot of entertainment for a lot of peo-

DS: Cricket in this sub-continent, specially in Pakistan, is going through major problems because of the betting scandal. What do you think in this regard?

TG: I just like to see some one make a decision. You know just like to see some one do something on that. There are too many decisions coming out from the courts. If there is any proof that any one has misbehaved or breached the code of ethics of cricket, don't pick them. If they don't do that they are going to continue with the problem

DS: Finally, what is your impression about Dhaka on your first visit? How is the crowd here and the atmosphere?

TG: Well, can I just say Bangladesh, first of all, that it's absolutely amazing to me. It reminds me of Eden Gardens in Calcutta and also the enthusiasm the people have in cricket....it reminds me of my favourite ground which is Eden Gardens. So, it's not as big ...it just holds as many people. But the enthusiasm to the game here when one considers the country is yet to play Test, is absolutely phenomenal. It seems that the morale of the people is so you know through the roof, very high. So clearly Bangladeshi people are very resilient and that's an unbelievable attribute.

DS: Thank you very much for sparing some time. TG: Thank you too.

thought of watching the stars in

like cricket most," said

Mustafiz sporting a cap given by

doing anything extraordinary

as "children around the world

dren and to do something for

them, especially those in need,"

said Waugh, who worked for the

lepers in Calcutta several

showed off some cricketing

Wendy Rose said on the great

occasion: "The team's participa-

tion shows the same generosity

of spirit that makes such a

wonderful contribution to

flood, the visit by the Aus-

tralian team will bring back for

these children some of the joy

that should be part of every

who had brought the children to

Bangabandhu National Sta-

dium, said they would auction

the bat autographed by the

players to raise funds for the

flood-hit Bangladesh children

-AFP photo

SCA official Golam Mustafa,

"After the devastation of the

Gilchrist and Julian also

SCA National Director

"We play other games, but

Steve did not think he was

"I like to play with the chil-

action in front of them.

Steve Waugh

months back.

techniques.

world cricket.

childhood," she said.

in their project areas.

Michael Chang executes a backhand return during his

match against Guillaume Raoux at the Eurocard Open on

should be helped."

Botham's

SYDNEY, Oct 27 (AFP): Cricket fans tuning in to coverage of the Ashes tour by one Australian television network might be in for fireworks.

Channel Nine have hired England's Ian Botham to share the commentary box with his arch-rival and former Australian captain Ian Chappell.

would have no problems working with his old sparring part-

they don't expect me to socialise with him because I certainly won't be doing that," he said. The two former greats have

much-publicised bar-room clash in the Melbourne Hilton in 1977. The Chappell-Botham feud

was reignited two years ago when Chappell wrote an article about Botham's chances of becoming an England Test selec-

who puts an empty beer glass in your face and says he will cut you from ear to ear," he wrote. Botham denied the beer

He said at the time he had warned Chappell to cool the pommie-bashing.

ing him into the street. He re-

treated when a police car drew

utive producer Graeme Koos, who signed Botham to line up with Chappell and Richie Benaud, said: "It's great to have a bit of rivalry. That's where Ian (Botham) will be good.

Chang bites the dust

STUTTGART, Oct 27: Troubled Michael Chang, who has nothing to do with the ongoing battle for the number one spot. suffered another embarrassing defeat when he fell to unheralded Frenchman Guilaume Raoux in straight sets in the first round of the Eurocard Open on Monday, reports Reuters

Chang, struggling to recover from a string of injuries, looked as pale as his current ranking on his way to another early

The American, a modest 25th in the latest ATP Tour rankings, fought for one set against an opponent ranked 22 places below him, then crumbled, allowing Raoux to win 7-6,

tense first set and a tie break was needed, in which Chang saved three set points before Raoux fired an ace to take it 7-5. The Frenchman moved on

The former French Open champion, who had finished in the top 10 in the each of the last

Pete Sampras, meanwhile, is

fighting to end the year with the number one ranking for a record sixth time. Chile's Marcelo Rios and Australian Patrick Rafter, currently second and third, can deprive him of that achievement.

Wednesday, giving them time to lick their wounds. They all were hampered by injury worries last week in Lyon, France.

Fast improving American Jan-Michael Gambill, who has climbed over 100 places this year to 50th in the latest ATP Tour list, reached the second round of the 2.45 million dollar indoor event by beating Czech Daniel Vacek 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

former top 10 player, showed glimpses of his old form as he crushed Sebastien Lareau of Canada 6-3, 6-3. Lareau qualified as a lucky loser after Russian Marat Safin pulled out injured

Romanian Andrei Pavel also went through, beating fellow

Agassi, back in the top five for the first time in more than two years after playing the kind of tennis which once made him the number one.

The first seeded players will be in action on Tuesday but the man the local fans are waiting to see is a wild card entrant, German idol Boris Becker.

and 1996. He faces a qualifier, Dutchman Sjen Schalken. The crowd will also cheer on another German, Nicolas Kiefer, who plays Byron Black

of Zimbabwe. The winner of that match will challenge Sam-

English hire Birkenshaw

18 Jungfrau,

19 List-ending

phrase

21 Baby talk

24 Michelle's

25 Numerical

28 Niamey is

31 Unsightly

33 Small boy

mances

36 One's

26 U-turn

classmate

from NNE

57 Aviary find

58 Coup —

shire coach Jack Birkenshaw has been called up to work with the England one-day team for their international series in Australia next year, reports Reuters.

see two training sessions in November and December, has been chosen to replace England coach David Lloyd, who will be 35 Dull-witted on Ashes duty in Australia.

Congratulations Mark!



Benaud's team beat Pakistan

2-0 in the 1959-60 series while

Taylor's team set up its 1-0 win

with a victory in the first Test

and draws in the second and

ing they didn't win the last Test

for 2-0," Benaud said. "But it

was a marvellous effort and the

team deserves every plaudit it's

tralian team to Pakistan as

captain in Pakistan in 1964-65

and coached teams led by Allan

Border in 1988-89 and Taylor

"It is without doubt a great

achievement, especially to

dominate the whole series and

win so comfortably," Simpson

said Tuesday. "The (1994 series)

was very frustrating because we

Taylor's 1994 team was de-

His first Test in Pakistan re-

probably played just as well and

prived of victory by a record

last-wicket stand in the third

Test as the hosts made more

sulted in two ducks and the se-

ries loss but he was heralded as

Australia's player-of-the-series

after the victory and his Aus-

tralian record-equalling 334 in

pected to retire in March fol-

lowing the upcoming Ashes tour

by England, said the series may

have increased his time in the

Taylor, who had been ex-

than 300 on the final day.

the second game.

in 1994. He lost all three times.

Bob Simpson led an Aus-

getting, every one.

"It was slightly disappoint-

"This series has been fantastic." Taylor told Australian radio. "I've been a winning captain. I've been man-of-the-series, made 500 runs, made a triple century in Test cricket. If that keeps continuing, well I'll

keep playing for Australia." Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a passionate cricket fan, said it was a perand Ian Healy in particular sonal triumph for Taylor who was on the verge of quitting durwere outstanding but the entire team made contributions," Benaud said Tuesday. "It's fantas-

ing last year's Ashes tour of England. "On a personal level he's repudiated, in the most convincing way imaginable, those people who a year or two ago were saying he was past his peak." Howard said. "There were a lot

faith in him. Popular television commen-

of us who didn't believe he was

past his peak, there were a lot of

us who retained a great deal of



tator Greg Chappell, who only 12 months ago was calling for Taylor to stand down after a sequence of poor scores, said better preparation for touring the subcontinent was the key to success.

"It's a very tough tour as teams have found out in recent years, but the ACB has been

sending sides from the academy

over there," said Chappell The players are a lot better prepared and the senior guys have been there before. They've

all been very well prepared.' Former skipper Hughes believes the introduction of neutral umpires to Test match cricket contributed to Australia's series success.

"What a fantastic win but we still owe the Pakistanis plenty." Hughes said.

Hughes, adamant his claim took nothing away from the "tremendous achievement" of the Australians, said his 1982-83 outfit was on a hiding to nothing from Pakistani um-

"We had a pretty handy team in '82 with guys like Greg and Dennis but it felt like we had to get 18 wickets in an innings and they (Pakistan had to get six," Hughes said.

There weren't too many lbws against them but there

were plenty against us.
"So to be brutally frank and honest, using these neutral umpires makes life a lot easier over there."

England coach Graham Gooch, preparing a side to meet Australia on its return from the subcontinent, also praised Taylor's outfit.

"It's not an easy place to win; it's tough conditions and Pakistan are a difficult side to predict," said Gooch. "They're a bit erratic but you have got to give

Australia credit, they did well. I have to congratulate them." Australian cricket writers said the series win was one of the most important in the coun-

try's history. "It ranks with victory in the West Indies three years ago as a defining moment in the modern

game," wrote Malcolm Conn in The Australian. Mark Ray, writing in the Sydney Morning Herald, said

Taylor's "place in the first rank of Australian captains was confirmed" by the victory.

would be no room for sentiment

when he returned to his "second

home" — Perth — for his side's

opening clash of the Ashes tour.

to win every game on tour," he

said at the end of a gruelling six

"We want to win it — we want

Taylor targets England

stand down as Test skipper af-



postponed plans to retire from Test cricket because of his team's historic series victory over Pakistan and his own stunning form. Speaking on Australian radio after leading Australia to

their first series win in Pakistan for 39 years, Taylor said he had no intention of stepping "I've had a very good series myself," Taylor said. "If that

keeps continuing, well I'll keep playing for Australia." Taylor had considered quitting Test cricket two years ago when his batting slumped alarmingly. But he persevered and saved his career with a cen-

tury in the first Test of the 1997 Ashes series in England. He again thought about retiring when he was replaced by Steve Waugh last season as captain of Australia's limitedovers team.

Taylor had hinted he might

ter the upcoming home series against England but, bolstered by his team's success over Pakistan and his own stunning return to form, the 34-year-old opening batsman wants to continue. Meanwhile Taylor, said to-

day England are next in the firing line. "The key is to carry on the good work and we will be up

brated his 34th birthday at a private club with colleagues. He termed the 1-0 series win Monday as "historic and one of

Australia's top wins." "The last time we played England at home four years ago." we beat them 3-1 after having lost to Pakistan 1-0. Now we have a win under our belts against Pakistan, so I am sure the result of the Ashes will be more convincing for us this

time. On the other hand, toughtalking England captain Alec Stewart warned today there

hours' practice only two days before the tourists take on an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI in a one-day hitout at Lilac Hill Park, Caversham, near here, Thursday, against a spirited England side Stewart, 35, spent eight seawho beat South Africa very resons as a young player with the cently," said Taylor, who cele-Midland-Guildford District Club at Lilac Hill before he made his mark with Surrey and later England. "Look. I was out to dinner

last night with the fellows from ... Midland-Guildford, the people In played with and who helped me ! so much," he said.

"But I told them we are going up to Lilac Hill to win. "I know it is a festival game

- I have played in it twice before - but it is a match we want to win. "I am looking forward to it.

It is great going back as England player, and especially as cap-

The Lilac Hill warm-up game, on the banks of the Meandering Swan river, has become the Australian equivalent of the traditional Arundel match which launches Australian cricket tours of England.

batsmen had gained useful advice about leg-spin during a three-hour session early in the day with leg-spinning guru Peter Philpott, an Australian Test player of the 1960s. England have hired the Syd-

Stewart said England's

ney schoolteacher in a bid to demystify the bowling of champion spin bowler Shane Warne - assuming he is fit - during the series.

TTF's warning

SYDNEY, Oct 27 A leading tourism spokesman has warned that the industry would be hurt if Australian governments gouged Olympic Games visitors with increase taxes, reports

Tourism Task Force (TTF) chief executive officer Chris Brown said the federal government's plan to introduce a goods and services tax in time to slug Games visitors and the New South Wales government's bed tax showed they were leading the way in gouging.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 59 Actor Tony 11 Bruce's 38 Fresh 1 Montana 40 Khan title DOWN missus 41 Not "fer" 1 Poke 16 Clinton's Mantegna Buddy, e.g. 43 Stout 2 Sapporo 4 Pacific 20 In the compansash island ion? 3 Sushi thick of 45 Melanincandidate 21 A/C 9 Disgracedeficien 4 Talents measures 5 Short-22 Jason's 12 Copper 47 Parisian short-long craft head? foot 23 Australian 48 Halloween 13 Dead 6 Mal de backwater 7 Born 27 Ashen 49 Big sign 29 Advantage sooner France 54 B&B 8 Longtime 30 Leo's 15 Parlor 55 Bakery lure Brooklyn remark 56 Bambi's Dodgers 32 Boo Boo's 17 Felon's aunt Ena. manager flight

9 Grown-up 34 "Mission:

director

39 Burrowing

42 Bete -

50 Realty

51 Throw in

52 Kanga's

53 Moisture

on the

marsupial

10 Jai follower

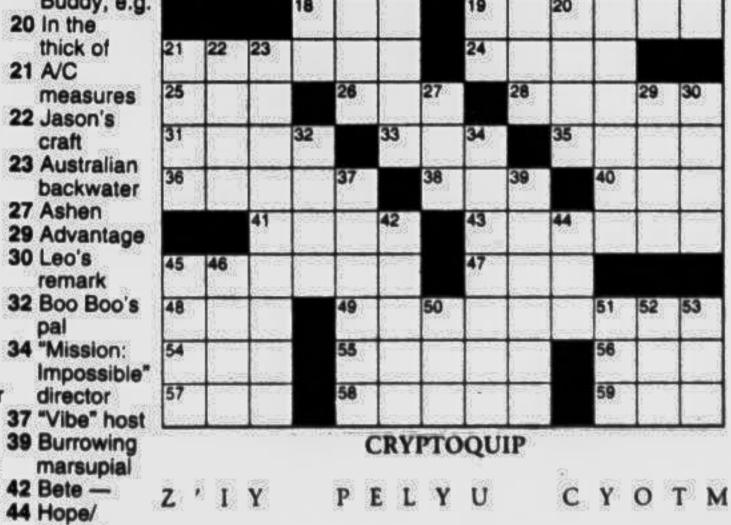
MAJOREFRY HEW 45 Rose's ODOREBEE DOGE beau

BOB YAM FUDGE 46 Protracted

Solution time: 27 min.

SPRINGFASHION

Yesterday's answer



TZIOB EOTXYTD DZXQBJ Saturday's Cryptoquip: IT SEEMS AN ABSENT-MINDED ARTIST IS ALWAYS SO LIKELY TO DRAW A

BLANK. Today's Cryptoquip clue: J equals Y
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 puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to

locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Australia captain Mark Taylor (R) and guest Ahsan Ulla Khan shake hands during the award giving ceremony after the third and final Test in Karachi, Pakistan on October 26. Taylor was adjudged player-of-the-series. -AP/UNB photo

LOCATE THE QUEEN BY COUNTING (Hand # 127)

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

no exception.

North ♦ S: 432 ♥ H: K987 West East ♦ D: A 32 ♦ S : AKQ985 AS:J ♣ C: A 107 ♥ H: 432 ₩ H: 6 ♦ D: QJ6 ♦ D:109875 South (D) ♣ C: 8 + C: Q95432 A S: 1076 ♥ H: AQJ105

Bidding: East-West were vulnerable South North West East 1 Heart 1 Spade 2 Hearts Pass 3 Hearts 3 Spades 4 Hearts Pass Pass

+ C: KJ6

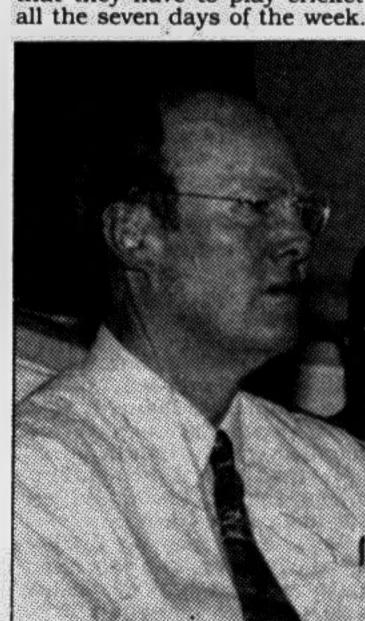
In a vulnerable position West overcalled upto three level but North South reached game contract in a competitive bidding.

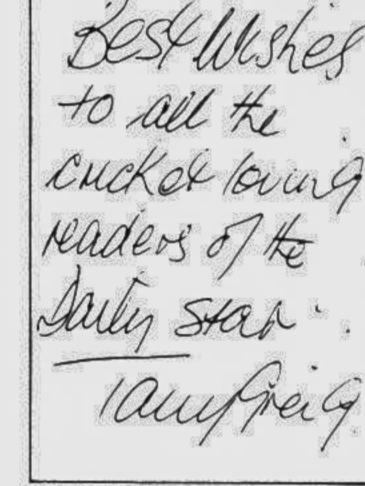
THE PLAY

West opened the King of Hearts and partner dropped the Jack, West collected three Spade tricks and then led a small Heart. The trumps were cleared in three rounds. Since the defence had already captured three tricks, the contract hinged on identifying the correct location of the Club Queen as a finesse against the Queen was possible in either hand. Before taking the finesse, the declarer wanted to have a count of the defenders' hands. From the play of Spades and Hearts it became clear that West started with 6 Spades and three Hearts. Therefore his remaining 4 cards were in Club and Diamond suits. The declarer postponed the Club play. He played the Ace King of Diamonds and ruffed the third Diamond and when West followed all three times, it was clear that West was dealt with a singleton Club. He therefore played the Ace of Clubs from the dummy. and when West dropped 8 he confidently took the finesse against the Queen. Thus, counting the opponents' hands gave the declarer the clue to take the correct finesse to land the contract.

tally going to the One-Day

DS: You have played cricket having the most busy local





They have to commit a living out of cricket. I suppose they will be able to work out and play. There are lots of very good cricketers in England who are not prepared to commit themselves to seven-day a week cricket when they are 20 years of age. Of course, that takes a lot of people out of the contention. The best thing is for England is...I don't know why they haven't done yet...is to create a very very good amateur league. In other words, an inter-town league to give people an opportunity to also play for England. They should also use a part of the millions of dollars they are collecting from television revenue to see to it that the compe-

Ashes

SYDNEY, Oct 27 (AP/AFP): Richie Benaud, the only other Australian cricket captain to win a series in Pa-

kistan, was among the first to congratulate Mark Taylor's side for wrapping up a 1-0 triumph in Karachi "I thought the senior players Mark Taylor, Steve Waugh

Chappell said today he "That's all right as long as

been sworn enemies since a

"How can you respect a guy

glass incident.

"Then, finally I could take no more so I threw a punch at Botham says Chappell offered one final insult as he left the bar and he "exploded", chas-

"I haven't had many words with him since," said Chappell today. "It would suit me if never spoke to the guy gain.

Channel Nine's cricket exec-

Former world number two

Both players held serve in a

top in the second set with Chang only a shadow of his brilliant

six years, will be happy if he manages to get back into the top

All three are in Stuttgart but none of them will play until

American Todd Martin, a

qualifier Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands 7-5, 6-3. Pavel goes on to meet Andre

The three-times Wimbledon champion, now semi-retired. won twice in Stuttgart, in 1990

LONDON, Oct 27: Leicester-

Birkenshaw, who will over-

The team will be named in mid-November and will fly to Australia on December 26.