

## Shield cricket

ADELAIDE, Dec 12 (Reuters/Internet): Western Australia and South Australia won their Sheffield Shield matches by more than an innings each on Saturday, dominating with bat and ball.

Western Australia beat New South Wales by an innings and 16 runs on the bouncy WACA pitch. It took Western Australia just two days to win the match, with the Blues bowled out on Saturday for 204 in their second innings after making only 56 in their first innings — their lowest ever Shield innings score.

Western Australia made 276 in their first innings. Their paceman Sean Cary claimed seven wickets for the match and former test fast bowler Brendon Julian finishing with six wickets.

In Hobart, South Australia crushed Tasmania by an innings and 140 runs at the Bellerive Oval. Tasmania were all out for 155 in their second innings before tea on the third day.

Mark Harry, Brett Swain and test batting discard Greg Blewett each took three wickets as Tasmania never looked like erasing their 295-run first innings deficit.

South Australia earlier scored 475 for nine declared with Blewett renewing his claims for a test recall with 152, which took his shield average this season to 99.

For Tasmania only Michael Di Venuto, who hit an aggressive 60, offered significant defiance.

At the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Queensland limped to 354 for nine declared, thanks to a rearguard action from all-rounder Geoff Foley with 97 and fast bowler Michael Kasprovic with 52.

Victoria replied to be 111 for three at stumps on the second day with dropped Test opener Matthew Elliott holding the innings together on 66 not out.

## Ramnarine recuperating

PORT OF SPAIN, Dec 12 (Reuters/Internet): Leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine, who was forced to retire home early from West Indies' tour of South Africa because of injury, has had a successful shoulder operation in New York.

Ramnarine, ruled out of the tour before the five-Test series started on November 26, is expected back in the Caribbean on Friday, having been told by doctors he could return to action in three months.

Surgeons at the New York clinic indicated to the bowler the initial diagnosis in South Africa was incorrect and his injury was not as serious as first thought.

The injury was said to be a torn ligament, but the New York specialists said a rotator cuff was the cause of the problem.

## Two-match ban on Charbonnier

PARIS, Dec 12 (Reuters/Internet): Glasgow Rangers goalkeeper Lionel Charbonnier has been suspended for two matches by the French Football Federation after walking out on the France squad preparing for an Euro 2000 qualifier in October.

Charbonnier will, however, see out the ban, which the Scottish FA have been told takes effect on Monday, long before he recovers from an injury. He may not play again this season.

(The suspension) is merely an anecdote given his present situation and we hope he plays again as soon as possible, Noel Le Graet, president of the French league, said.

Charbonnier, who is currently recovering from his injury in France, has not commented on the suspension, the minimum ban by the FFF in such circumstances.

## SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

## A GOOD DEFENCE BY SOUTH

(Hand #147)

North			East		
♠ A Q 10	♥ A 7 6 4 3	♦ D 9 8	♠ S J 4 3	♥ H K 9 8	♦ D Q J 6 3
♣ C Q 2			♣ C 10 8 6 5		
South			West (D)		
♠ S 2	♥ H Q J 10 5 2	♦ D A 10 2	♠ K 9 8 7 6 5	♥ H K	♦ D K 7 5 4
♣ C J 7 4 3			♣ C A K 9		

Bidding: East West were vulnerable

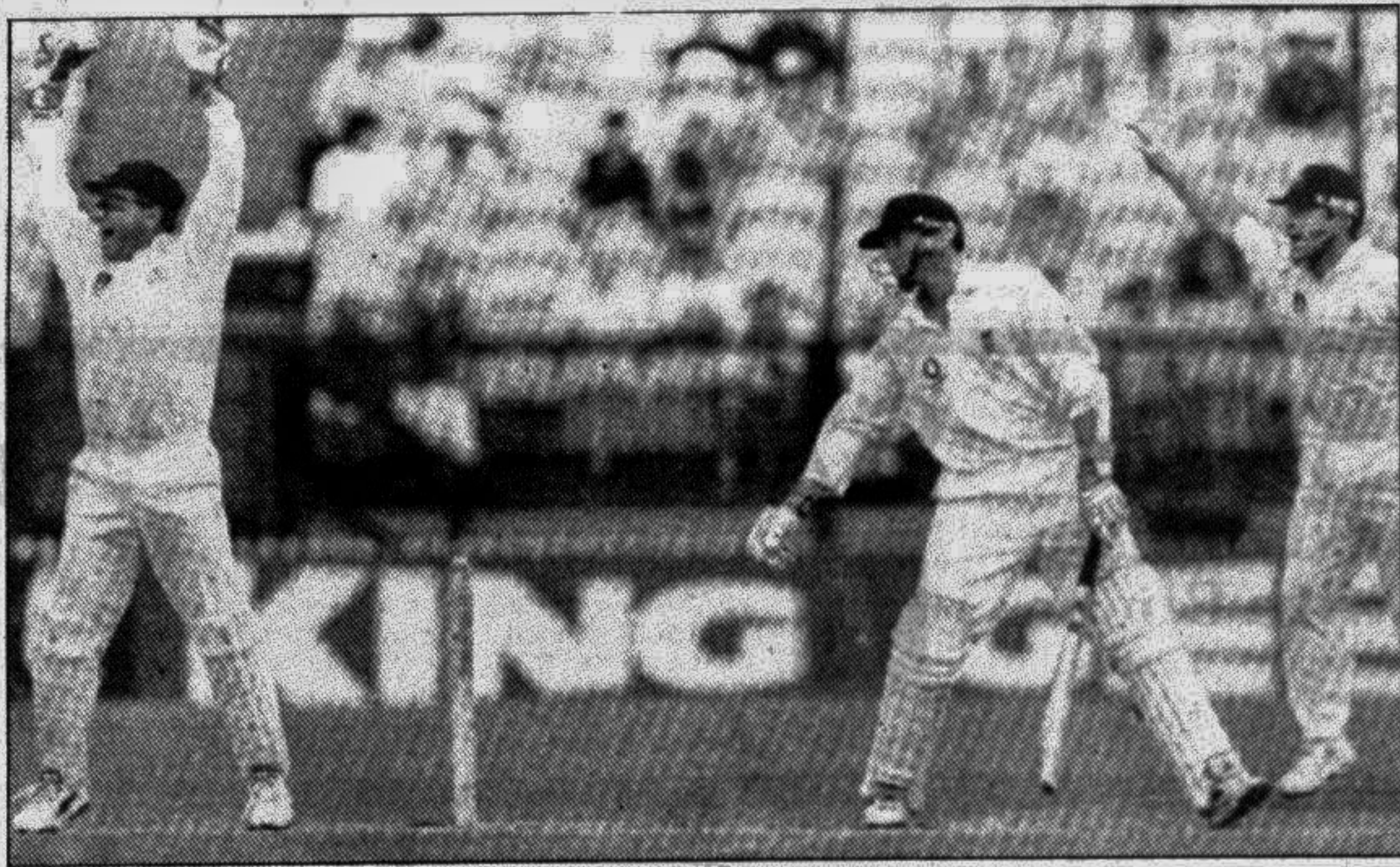
South	West	North	East
2 Hearts	1 Spade	Double	Pass
3 Diamonds	3 Hearts	3 Spades	Pass

When North doubled West's one Spade, East passed but he came in at the three level in a competitive situation. He was influenced by partner's Diamond bid in which he had an excellent support. However, it would be unwise to support partner in Diamonds at four level. A good decision. West also wisely passed three Spades.

## THE PLAY

Against three Spades North led 9 of Diamonds. This was declarer's second suit and if he had four cards, partner must have led from two-card holding. South therefore encouraged partner by playing 10. The declarer wanted to play the trump suit from dummy toward the King but as there was no entry into the dummy he played toward the Jack. North went up with the Queen and returned 8 of Diamonds. South took the Ace and gave partner a Diamond ruff. Thus, the defence collected three Spades, one Diamond and a Club for down one.

Notice that with the possible two entries in the trump suit, it was safe to lead the enemy suit to score a ruff trick. North's decision not to lead the Ace of Hearts to start with was correct as South might not have the Ace of Diamonds. In that case, he could under lead the Heart for a possible entry into partner's hand for an eventual ruff. However, had North started with a Heart, the declarer would have made the contract as the King of Hearts could provide a Club discard.



Former England captain Michael Atherton looks in despair after being caught in the slips while wicketkeeper Ian Healy and teammate Michael Slater confidently appeal. — AP/UNB photo

## England weather setback

ADELAIDE, Dec 12 (Reuters/Internet): England lodged a formal letter of complaint with officials on Saturday over a controversial catch on the second day of the third Ashes Test.

While the visitors recovered from the loss of two wickets in the space of five balls to Australia's spin attack on a crumbling Adelaide Oval pitch, events were overshadowed by the controversial dismissal of England opener Michael Atherton.

England were 160 for three at the close after Nasser Hussain, 58 not out, and Mark Ramprakash, 45 not out, went on the attack and added 76 in the final 80 minutes of play.

England were chasing Australia's first innings total of 391.

The controversy erupted when former captain Atherton was given out caught by Australian captain Mark Taylor at slip for 41 off leg-spinner Stuart MacGill in the final session. Television replays appeared to show the ball bounced off either the ground or Taylor's fingers into his hand.

Taylor told on-field umpire Steve Bucknor he was not sure he had caught it and Bucknor then referred the matter to third umpire Paul Angle.

Angle adjudged Atherton out after viewing the main replay once, while repeated showings appeared to raise some doubt about the catch.

A visibly grim Atherton shook his head several times as he watched the big screen replays at the ground on his long walk back to the dressing room.

Team manager Graham Gooch later told a news conference a formal letter of complaint would be sent to the match referee John Reid about the speed with which the deci-

sion was taken.

Ramprakash and Hussain wrested the initiative from Australia with a series of glorious drives and pulls to the boundary.

Their strong showing made up for another failure by England captain Alec Stewart, who was caught off an inside edge on to his pad for nought off the third ball he faced.

This was Stewart's third duck in five Test innings on this tour that have yielded only 41 runs.

In the morning Australia squandered their strong position of the opening day and added just 125 runs for the loss of their last six wickets.

They owed much to Justin Langer whose 179 not out was the backbone of the Australian innings.

England looked to be in trouble early in their innings but in the final hour Ramprakash and Hussain chose to attack Australia's spinners, who were extracting increasing bite and turn on a dry and wearing pitch.

England's cause was not helped by Atherton's dismissal and a controversial lbw decision earlier against fellow opener Mark Butcher, who was given out for six not offering a shot to a ball from off-spinner Colin Miller that appeared to be missing off-stump.

Butcher stood for several seconds in disbelief at the decision before trudging off.

Miller finished the day with two for 48 but the biggest threat to England could well come from MacGill who was dangerous throughout the afternoon.

It was MacGill who almost won the first test for Australia in Brisbane, where he tormented the English on the final day and only a downpour that flooded the ground saved the visitors from defeat.

Australia lead the five-Test series 1-0 and a win in Adelaide would enable them to retain the Ashes for the sixth consecutive series. England have not held the Ashes since 1989.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the third Test between Australia and England at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 266-4)

Taylor c Hussain b Such	59
Slater c Stewart b Headley	17
Langer not out	179
M Waugh c & b Such	59
S Waugh c Hick b Gough	7
Ponting c Hick b Gough	13
Healy c Ramprakash b Headley	15
Fleming lbw Headley	12
McGill b Such	11
Miller lbw Headley	10
McGrath c Stewart b Gough	19
Extras: (lb-6, nb-13)	10
Total:	391

Fall of wickets: 1-28; 2-140; 3-156; 4-264; 5-274; 6-311; 7-338; 8-339; 9-354; 10-391.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gough	29.5	4	103	3
Mullally	26	5	59	0
Headley	23	1	97	4
Such	38	8	99	3
Ramprakash	9	1	27	0

ENGLAND: First innings

Atherton c Taylor b MacGill	41
Butcher lbw Miller	6
Stewart c Slater b Miller	0
Ramprakash not out	45
Hussain not out	58
Extras: (lb-3, b-1, nb-5, w-1)	10
Total: (for three wickets)	160
Fall of wickets: 1-18; 2-83; 3-84.	

To bat: J Crawley, G Hick, D Headley, D Gough, A Mullally, P Such.

Bowler (to date)	O	M	R	W
McGrath	13	2	41	0
Fleming	8	2	22	0
Miller	13	1	48	2
MacGill	15	2	28	1
M Waugh	3	0	17	0

## Fog plays foul in Lahore

LAHORE, Pakistan, Dec 12 (Reuters/Internet): Fog and misty conditions allowed only 13 overs of play on the third day of the second cricket Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe on Saturday.

The home side added only 27 runs to their overnight score of 184 for five and was 211 for five when umpires halted play at tea owing to deteriorating light.

Pakistan led by 28 runs when the day's play ended.

Yousaf Yohanna was on 46 after having resumed at 30 while captain Moin Khan extended his overnight score of 18 by six runs.

The pair has so far put on an undefeated 64 runs for the sixth wicket as Pakistan answered Zimbabwe's meagre first innings total of 163.

A total of 91 overs were to have been bowled during the day, but weather conditions ate heavily into the proceedings.

There was dense fog when we came in the morning and conditions improved an hour after lunch, ICC match referee Cammie Smith of West Indies said.

"We in fact offered light to both batsmen an over before tea and they went off, it was early and light did not improve later," Pakistan umpire Mian Mohammed Aslam said.

Yohanna batted with confidence during his 161-minute stay and hit seven well-timed fours.

Pakistan look for a substantial lead to force a win to square the series but bad weather can hit their efforts and Test may end as draw.

"It's unwise to play Tests in Lahore in this month, they should have taken into account dense fog and bad light factor while making schedule," a meteorologist said.

Bad light cut short play by 16 minutes on first day and 35 minutes on second. Weather permitting action on fourth day will commence 30 minutes earlier.

"It's our bad luck that only 13 overs were possible, we desperately want to have a result in our favour so that we level the series," a pensive looking Pakistan coach Javed Miandad said.

Zimbabwe won their first Test abroad when they defeated Pakistan in Peshwar by seven wickets.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day

## Tyson the favourite

LAS VEGAS, Dec 12 (AP/Internet): Mike Tyson has been made a solid favourite to beat Francois Botha in his first comeback fight since being kicked out of boxing for biting Evander Holyfield's ears.

Odds makers at the MGM Grand Hotel, where the fight will be held January 16, made Tyson a 6-1 favourite in man-to-man betting.

Bettors will have to wager \$7 to win \$1 on Tyson, while those favouring Botha could win \$5 for every \$1 bet.

## Ton eludes Twose

WELLINGTON, Dec 12: A staunch captain's innings of 99 by Test reject Roger Twose was at the heart of Wellington's resistance to India under trying conditions on the opening morning of the four-day match at the Basin Reserve today, reports Reuters.

Wellington, who lost the toss, were put in by the tourists on a damp pitch which provided awkward lift before lunch, and were 273 for seven at the close of play.

Despite the help they got from the pitch, India were restricted to a meagre ration of one wicket in each of the first two sessions, and it was only after tea that they made quick inroads.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of a four-day cricket match between Wellington and India Saturday.

WELLINGTON: First innings	
Chandler c Mongia b Kumble	35
Twose c Laxman b Kumble	99
Wells c Mongia b Kumble	15
Boyer c Dravid b Srinath	54
Nevin b Kumble	9
Petrie not out	34
Franklin c Laxman b Joshi	3
Larsen b R Singh Jr	2
Jefferson not out	19
Extras: (lb-7, lb-5, w-1, nb-6)	273
Total: for 7 wickets, 90 overs	
To bat: C Bullfinch, R Kennedy	
Fall of wickets: 1-74; 2-141; 3-193; 4-207; 5-232; 6-239; 7-259	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Srinath	18	4	71	1
Mohanty	13	3	45	0
R Singh	15	6	37	1
Ganguly	7	2	24	0
Kumble	28	7	56	4
Joshi	8	1	27	1
Jadeja	1	0	1	0

## Kopke may return to Germany

COLOGNE, Dec 12: Speculation was growing on Friday that Olympique Marseille's unwanted keeper Andreas Kopke may return to his old club FC Nuremberg in Germany as club manager, reports AFP.

The 36-year-old, who helped Germany win the 1996 European Championship and was a member of three World Cup finals squads, would replace George Volkert who was fired also on Friday.

"I can't say anything about it — except that I haven't signed with any club yet," Kopke said.

He made his name at Nuremberg in northern Bavaria, leaving them when they were relegated to the Second Division in 1994. His wife comes from the city.

Kopke, who turned down a move to Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers last month because of a difference of opinion over personal terms, fell out with Marseille coach Roland Courbis earlier in the season because he was only being selected for UEFA Cup matches while Christian Porato was playing in the domestic league.

Football has global appeal!

PARIS, Dec 12: Football remains the most widely watched televised sport around the globe, according to a survey published here on Friday, reports AFP.

This summer's World Cup in France assured football of its place as sporting TV king, as much for the number of television spectators it attracted as for the extent of its coverage.

EuroData suggested its findings augur well for the 2002 World Cup to be co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.

It found that the World Cup had pulled in the biggest viewing audience in eight countries — Germany, Brazil, Denmark, Spain, Italy, France, the Netherlands and Britain, where almost half the population — 21 million people — were glued to England's match against Argentina.

"National interest inevitably plays a key role in determining the level of audience," EuroData said, using as an example the case of the Tour de France, which doubled its audience in Italy thanks to the exploits of Marco Pantani.

Yes, there are contacts," the 33-year-old told German daily Bild in an interview released on Saturday. "My adviser has held talks with Liverpool."

The English premier league club already have former Germany striker Karlheinz Riedle on their books.

Helmer, also a former Germany international, can play in central defence or as defensive midfielder. He wants to leave Bayern where he has often been left on the bench this season.

Bild said Helmer could join the Liverpool in January in a 2.7 million marks (\$1.64 million) deal.



Action from yesterday's Asia men's volleyball encounter between India and Pakistan. The Indians won 15-4, 15-7, 15-11. — AFP photo

## Disgraced duo summoned

KARACHI, Pakistan, Dec 12 (Reuters/Internet): The judge investigating charges of betting and match-fixing in Pakistan cricket issued a summons on Saturday for disgraced Australians Mark Waugh and Shane Warne to appear before him.

Waugh testified before the government-ordered hearing in October, but the judge has said his credibility was damaged by the admission this week that he and Waugh took money from an Indian bookmaker.

The two have been directed by Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum to appear before him on December 19. Ali Sibtain Fazli, a lawyer for the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), told the news agency from Lahore.

The credibility of Waugh has been severely dented after he admitted that he took money from the bookmaker. The judge

wants Mark to appear again so he can be re-examined," Fazli said.

On Wednesday, Waugh and Warne admitted taking money from a bookmaker to provide pitch and weather information during Australia's 1994 tour of Sri Lanka.

The pair was secretly fined by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) in early 1995 but the incident was not publicised until Australian newspapers broke the news earlier this week.

In October, during Australia's last tour of Pakistan, Waugh testified that former national captain Salim Malik had offered him a bribe during the Australia tour of Pakistan in 1994.

Warne has made similar allegations but did not testify because he was injured and did not make the tour.

Malik has denied the charges, and says the admissions by the two Australians

prove his innocence.

"The judge at no stage feels the Waugh and Waugh admissions mean Salim Malik is innocent, but he maintains the revelations have changed the scandal," Fazli said.

The judge was due to issue his report to the government on Tuesday, but Fazli said it would be delayed. He gave no date.

Fazli said a summons had already been sent to the ACB, but that he did not think the two would appear.

Warne is still injured and Waugh is playing in the third Ashes Test at Adelaide which ends on Tuesday.

Fazli said Pakistan skipper Aamir Sohail, who has also made allegations of corruption in Pakistan cricket, was scheduled to appear before the judicial commission on Saturday but did not because he was still suffering from an illness.

He forced him to pull out of the current second Test against Zimbabwe.

## Usha, Susanthika: The final countdown

BANGKOK, Dec 12: For two famed Asian women athletes — P T Usha of India and Susanthika Jayas of Sri Lanka — the countdown to fame or oblivion starts with Asian Games' track events beginning Sunday.

If Usha, mother of a 6-year-old son, wins even a bronze in her favourite 400 metres, the 33-year-old athlete will retire from international competition with added glory. Her name will be enshrined in India's book of athletic legends, which is very thin for a nation of 980 million people. No Indian has ever won an Olympic medal in track and field.

If Jayasinghe, 23, wins at either 100 or 200 metres, it will bring resurrection in her sport and lift her image in Sri Lanka, a nation of 18.5 million people off India's southern coast.

Jayasinghe, the youngest of five daughters who grew up on

the rubber plantations of central Sri Lanka, is considered outrageously frank.

When she returned home after the 1997 World Track Championships at Athens with a silver ahead of Jamaican runner Merlene Ottey, she made the war-scarred nation proud.

She was given money and a three-bedroom flat in Colombo, and was honoured by President Chandrika Kumaratunga, a woman.

But the good times did not last long. She raised a storm by accusing unnamed Sri Lankan sports officials of sexual harassment.

Then she had to undergo an out-of-competition drug test, which turned out positive for a banned substance.

She told The Associated Press that she feared her urine sample had been tampered with. She said it was part of an effort to defame her and end her career in retaliation for her accusations.

"I am really working hard to win a medal in Bangkok and I will prove I don't cheat anyone," she says.

Still, a medal here will not end the drug issue.

Track and field's world governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation, referred her doping case to arbitration after a Sri Lankan panel cleared her by a 2-1 verdict. Jayasinghe says she only took a drug to control her menstrual cycle.

If the next ruling goes against Jayasinghe, any medal she wins at Bangkok will be taken away.

For India's Usha, a medal of any colour means a lot.

Usha has come the closest of any Indian to winning an Olympic track medal, missing bronze by 0.01 seconds in the 400-metre hurdles at the 1984 Games.

She won silver at 100 and 200 metres in the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi, and one year later, she won gold in the 400 in the Asian champi-

onships in Kuwait and a silver in the 200.

In July, the Indian railroad official surprised everyone by coming out of eight years of athletic retirement to run in the Asian Track Championships in Fukuoka, Japan.

She was third in the 200 metres and, on the same day, anchored India's victorious 4x100-metre relay. Usha also anchored India's silver medal team in the 4x400.

On the difficult road back, preliminary heats start Sunday both Usha and Jayasinghe.

## Lippi to leave Juve in the lurch

TURIN, Italy, Dec 12 (Reuters/Internet): Juventus coach Marcello Lippi confirmed on Saturday he would leave the club at the end of this season.

"I told the directors last summer and they all know, as do the players. After five years, I felt I needed something new. I could even take a rest for a year," he told reporters.

Lippi has led Juventus to three Italian league titles and three consecutive European Cup finals in his four seasons at the Turin club. Juve won the 1996 European Cup under his guidance.