Sachin goes to England

MUMBAI, Mar 10: Sachin Tendulkar took an Air India flight on Tuesday morning to England to get immediate medical attention to his back problem which has become acute, a Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) source revealed on Tuesday, reports ATI.

Tendulkar, who suffered back spasm in the second in-"nings of the first Test against Pakistan in Chennai in January, is unlikely to take part in the first match of the forthcoming triangular series, the source

India are to take on Sri Lanka on March 22 at Nagpur in their first round-robin league match of the limitedovers tournament.

Both the joint secretaries of the Mumbai Cricket Association Prof Ratnakar Shetty and Pravin Barve, pleaded ignorance about Tendulkar's back problem though the latter, an Air India employee, confirmed the maestro left for London.

"I do not know the details why he has gone to England or for how many days he would be away," Barve told PTI when contacted.

There are already rumours floating that Tendulkar is keen to rest his back by skipping the triangular series in India in order to attain full fitness for the May 14-June 20 World Cup in England.

Only on Monday night national selector Shivlal Yadav had revealed in Hyderabad that the maestro had turned down the offer of vice-captaincy after an unanimous decision of the selectors to give him the post at Calcutta.

Acme Div II cricket

Young Pegasus earned a massive 144-run victory against Millbarrack Club in the acme Second Division cricket league at the Mohakhali T&T ground yesterday, reports UNB. Deciding to bat first, Young

Pegasus piled up 243 for nine in stipulated 40 overs with Tony scoring highest 67 and Saeed adding 58. Nahid took three wickets for

43 runs.

In reply, Millbarrack were bundled out for 99 runs in 22.1 overs with Nahid making team highest 23 runs. Russel claimed four wickets

for 13 runs. At the Uttara Friends Club ground, CCS Blue beat Shanti-

nagar A by four wickets. Sent in to bat first, Shantinagar A scored 223 for all in 39.2 overs with Rubel making

In reply, CCS Blue reached their winning target of 227 runs for 6 in 40 overs.

Biswajit topscored with 95

DU cricket

Soil Science outplayed Physics by seven wickets in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket tournament at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday, reports APB.

Batting first, Physics made a modest 130 runs for seven wickets in allotted 30 overs with Sumon top scoring with 40 and Samiul 19.

Biplob and Saikat took three and two wickets respectively. In reply, Soil Science reached their winning target in 25.5 overs losing three wickets. Saikat made highest 50 while

Emon 17. Fazlu was the successful bowler claiming three wickets for 23 runs.

M'singh cricket

MYMENSINGH, Mar 10 County Nabin Club earned a massive 8-wicket victory over Nilkamal Club at the local circuit house cricket ground today. reports UNB. Batting, first, Nilkamal Club

were bundled out for league lowest 40 runs in 17.1 overs. Bappi was only the batsman

who reached the double-digit mark of 11 runs. Asik destroyed the Nilkamal batting lineup picking up five

wickets for 14 runs while Shawpan took two for only 2 In reply, County Nabin Club

reached the winning target of 41 runs losing only 2 wickets in 12.3 overs. Zahid made team's highest

17 runs. Limon captured two wickets conceding 19 runs.

Rokeya Hall's annual sports

The annual sports meet of Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University was held at the university playground yesterday, reports

Sonia Afroz and Sharmeen Faria became joint champions while Tanima Shabnam finished runner-up among the 40 participants took part in 23

Earlier in the morning, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university Prof M Shahadat Ali inaugurated the day-long meet while hall provost Prof Nurun Nahar distributed prizes.

Ilie running for ITF presidency

LONDON, Mar 9: Former tennis bad boy Ilie Nastase. known as much for his temper as his talent, is among eight candidates for the presidency of the sport's world governing body, reports AP.

The former Romanian star, one of the sport's biggest names in the 1970s, was among those nominated to succeed Australia's Brian Tobin as head of the International Tennis Federa-

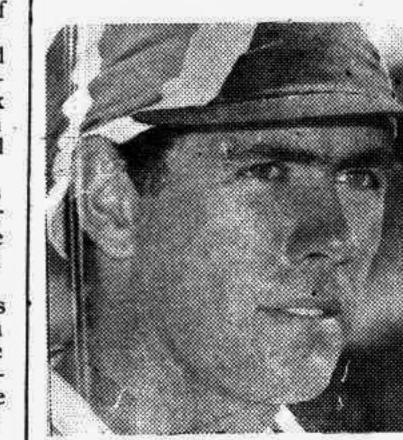
Nastase won the US Open in 1972 and the French Open in 1973 and was twice a runner-up; at Wimbledon. He retired in in the magnitude of the loss,

Second Test starts today

CHRISTCHURCH. Mar 10: South Africa's pacemen have been served up a genuine result wicket for the second Test against New Zealand after struggling on the controversial Eden Park glue-

pit, reports AP. In a move not used anywhere else in world cricket, the Eden Park pitch was sprayed with wood glue to keep it from crumbling and it was too hard to unstick the batsmen from the crease in a dismal draw.

But the teams move to Lancaster Park for Thursday's second Test with New Zealand ravaged by injury and South



HANSIE CRONJE

Africa's speedsters Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock raring "I think things have worked

out quite nice for us so far with the batters spending a lot of time in the middle and the bowlers getting a good work out," South African captain Hansie Cronje said Wednesday. "We know if we perform to

our ability we got a good chance of beating most sides in the world." Like New Zealand coach

Steve Rixon, Cronje is confident his bowlers will able to take 20 wickets to win and go a 1-0

PORT-OF-SPAIN,

Trinidad, Mar 10

(AFP/AP): The

West Indies have

made four chan-

ges to the side hu-

Fast bowlers Curtly Am-

miliated by Australia for the

second Test in Kingston, Ja-

brose, who has a back strain,

and Mervyn Dillon and bats-

men Roland Holder and Phil

Simmons were omitted from

the original 15-man squad cho-sen for Queen's Park where Aus-

tralia scored a crushing 312-

Holder strained ligaments in

Off-spinner Nehemiah Perry

his left ankle early on the first

day, could not field, and had to

bat in both innings with a run-

comes into a 13-man squad

with left-handed batsman

Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who

Perry will play alongside

The selectors hope to hear on

SYDNEY, Mar 10

(Reuters/AFP/In-

ternet): Australi-

a's press paid its

last, unkind re-

spects to West In

has recovered from a shoulder

pace bowlers Courtney Walsh,

Pedro Collins and Reon King on

a Sabina Park pitch that should

Friday from Carl Hooper, in

Australia with his Australian

dian cricket on Wednesday after

Australia buried their old ri-

to gloating. Australia's cricket

commentators were taken back

by the sheer size of the defeat

meted out to the West Indies in

the Caribbean -- a 312-run loss.

Under the headline "Un-

thinkable reduces Windies to

Collapso kings". The Aus-

tralian newspaper's Mike Cow-

ard wrote that the victory must

have felt hollow to Australia's

bankrupt of ability and inspi-

ration. It is not merely inept,"

uncharacteristic and as unedi-

undisputed champions of Test

cricket, collapsed to be all out

in their second innings for 51

in Trinidad on Monday -- their

lowest ever total in Test cricket.

ald's cricket writer, Malcolm

Knox, said the West Indies' per-

formance was "so harrowing as

to leave the impartial viewer with a sense of disbelief".

Australia had to fear for the

remainder of the series was

for an immediate recovery is

out of their hands. For them to

come back and win any of the

remaining tests, the Aus-

tralians must lose them first,"

Telegraph said Australia had

hammered "51 nails in the cof-

The Telegraph's Ron Reed

said the West Indies' batting col-

lapse was the "low point of an

extraordinary descent into

mediocrity... of what not five

years ago was one of the most

superior and intimidating

As cricket followers across

forces ever seen in any major

the Caribbean attempted to take

fin of West Indies cricket".

The Sydney-based Daily-

Knox said the only thing

"The West Indies' best hope

The Sydney Morning Her-

fying as it is unacceptable."

"West Indies cricket is

"It is as uneducated as it is

The West Indies, once the

cricketers.

Coward wrote.

complacency.

he wrote.

sport".

Fiercely patriotic and prone

vals in the first Test this week.

run win.

favour spin.

maica, starting on Saturday.

ahead before Wellington's third and final Test.

"There's a good covering of grass. It looks as though it's going to be a good test wicket," Cronje said. "Whatever the wickets are we have to keep our disciplines up to take wickets."

According to Cronje, the most worrying fact is that his ace fast bowler Donald hasn't been fit enough to complete his last three Tests. Donald, didn't bowl in the

last two session in the first Test because of stomach soreness and was similarly troubled in the 5-0 win over the West Indies. "We've been working on that

and he appears to be fine. Allan has been quick to point out that he has still managed to pick up eleven wickets (in three Tests)." Cronje said

Cronje is confident the Lancaster Park pitch will help both Donald and Pollock achieve their series targets of 16 wick-

"The Auckland surface set them back a bit but I am confident they will bounce back in the last two tests," Cronje said. He revealed the targets were

part of decision to set goals for every touring player. "But then Daryll Cullinan's was 240 runs for the series, so obviously I know my players quite well," Cronje joked. Cullinan, hit a record unbeaten 275

in the first Test, the highest by a South African in Test cricket. Rixon said his side had a lot of positives to take into the second Test from Auckland. "Although success wasn't there in the form of a win, a lot

was taken out of the last day's

play. On a fifth day wicket anywhere in the world it is awkward to bat," Rixon said. "In a situation where we could have capitulated we did well to come out the way we did. Everyone is beginning to under-stand that a little bit of hard

Rixon ruled out the possibility of playing four medium

Brian blames it on batsmen

4 changes for Kingston

wife tending to their seriously

ill newborn son. If the medical

report is good Hooper may be

dies were routed for 51 in their

second innings on Monday.

their lowest Test score ever, to

go 1-0 down in the four-match

Captain Brian Lara pin-

pointed the batting failure that

also led to the five Test white-

wash in the preceding series in

Any Test team that is bat-

ting like that is generally going

to find itself in trouble," he

done, but if we get 300 to 350

runs on the board, we are going

to be competitive because our

bowlers seem to be doing their

job," he added. "The batters

have just got to get enough

courage, enough understanding

of the situation and we've got to

gel to see how best we can get

scores for Test and first-class

cricket in the space of six weeks

in 1994. He hit 375 in the final

Test against England at St

John's, Antigua, in April to

Aussie press at a loss

former champion Michael

Holding has called for greater

cooperation between the tiny

countries which make up West

10 or 15 years to get back to the

top but unless the individual is-

land boards coordinate their

actions to fund cricket properly

at junior level and especially

funding overseas tours for West

Indian under 19s, under 23s and

A teams then the wait may be

He believes West Indian

cricketers now have the same

longer than we anticipate,"

"I don't think it will take us

Indian cricket.

Holding said.

Lara set new world record

those totals that we need."

"I know it's easier said than

South Africa six weeks ago.

In the first Test, the West In-

able to play the third Test.

series.

work and a bit of guts go a long

pacemen and felt left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori will have a role to play on a genuine

cricket wicket. "If three quicks can't do it then four won't. Daniel Vettori will have a role to play and so will Chris Harris, in a containment way," Rixon said.

test with a makeshift batting order with test debutant Gary Stead to bat at No 5. "It'll be a genuine cricket wicket and good sides win on these sorts of wickets," said

New Zealand will go into the



DION NASH

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (from): Matthew Horne, Bryan Young, Roger Twose, Nathan Astle, Gary Stead, Chris Harris, Adam Parore, Dion Nash (captain), Daniel Vettori, Simon Doull, Geoff Allot, Shayne O'Connor.

SOUTH AFRICA: Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs. Jacques Kallis, Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Allan Donald, Paul Adams.

Umpires: David Quested (New Zealand) and KT Francis (Sri Lanka). Television: Steve Dunne. Match referee: AC Smith

(England).

erase fellow West Indian Sir

Garry Sobers' previous mark of

365 and followed with an un-

beaten 501 for English county

Warwickshire against Durham

in Birmingham in June. Pak-

markedly that he scored the

last of his 10 Test hundreds

against Sri Lanka in June,

1997. He topscored with 62 in

the first innings in the first

Test but was out on Monday

enormous personal improve-

myself and for West Indies

cricket that I try my best to

solve my batting problems and

see how best I can go out and get

similar scores like I used to four

years ago," the 29-year-old left-

Lara (capt), Jimmy Adams

Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Rid-

ley Jacobs, Nehemiah Perry

Pedro Collins, Courtney Walsh,

negative attitude which oppo-

nents once adopted against the

great teams he bowled for in the

coming out with very bad body

language," he said. "They didn't

look as if they were going to

make runs. They had the same

air about them as batsmen we

saw when I was playing for the

beaten before they came out. I

warned a year ago that we

should have been trying out

youngsters against England.

Africa, Australia or Pakistan.

who were not as strong as South

"They looked like they were

"What I saw was batsmen

WEST INDIES SQUAD:

But he admitted he needed an

"I think it's important for

as the previous standard.

second ball for 3. . .

ment.

hander said.

Lincoln Roberts.

1970s and 80s.

West Indies.

Joanna Lewis, manager of the ESPN-Star Sports TV pro-

duction team, inspecting the control panel at the Banga-

- Star photo

bandhu National Stadium on Tuesday.

istani Hanif Mohammad's 499

His form has declined so

Mixed moment for Steve

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Mar 10: Steve Waugh didn't contribute much with the bat and nothing with the ball, but he led Australia to one of their biggest cricket victories in his first Test as captain here Monday, reports AP.

Waugh made 14 in the first innings and was out for 0 in the second and didn't bowl as Australia beat the West Indies by 312 runs in the first Test of the four-match series, bundling them out for 51 in the second innings, their lowest total in 71 years of Test cricket.

"I'm obviously disappointed with my performance with the bat, but the other players did contribute," Waugh said. "That's great for Australian

cricket. It's a good sign," he said. We want the younger guys coming through with match-winning performances." The 33-year-old all-rounder from Sydney took over as cap-

tain for this series after Mark Taylor retired at the end of the home series against England in Waugh identified his goal as

keeping Australia as Test cricket's strongest team.

"We're full-time professional cricketers, so we expect to play well every game and stay on top of our game," he said. "I think we are the number-one side in the world and we want to keep proving that every game."

"We can't win two or three games and then lose a game that we should be winning," he said. Waugh said he did not expect the next three Tests to be easy

because of the West Indies' weak performance. The second is at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica, starting Saturday. Waugh singled out opening batsman Michael Slater and

fast bowler Jason Gillespie for special praise. He described Slater's 106 in Australia's second innings as "one of the best Test match hundreds I've seen" and said Gillespie had "actually bowled better" than key bowler Glenn

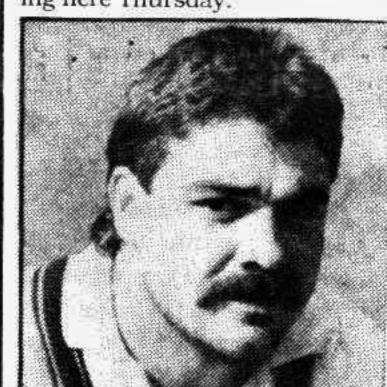
Indies second innings. McGrath took five wickets in both innings and earned the Man of the Match award. Gillespie followed a wicketless first innings with four in the second.

McGrath in the rout of the West

"Gillespie was really focused," Waugh said. "You could see that he meant business."

Boon to bid his final goodby e HOBART, Australia, Mar 10

(AFP/ Internet): Former Australian Test batsman David Boon will retire from the firstclass cricket after Tasmania's final Sheffield Shield match against New South Wales starting here Thursday.



Sherwin Campbell, Suruj Ragoonath, Dave Joseph, Brian In announcing his retirement Wednesday, the 38-year old Boon said he was leaving top-level cricket with sadness and pride so he could spend Reon King, Corey Collymore, more time with his family.

Boon made his first class debut for Tasmania aged 17 in the 1978-79 season and played 139 games for the island state, scoring 9,077 runs at an average of 41.44 runs.

The doughty right-hander played 107 Tests for Australia from 1984 to 1996 scoring 7,422 runs at 43.65 with a highest score of 200. He took 99 catches mainly at his trademark closein fielding position.

He played 181 one-day internationals for 5,964 runs at 37.04.

Boon will see out his playing days as captain-coach of English county Durham this year. He currently averages 40.96 in first-class matches for Durham.

Parma end Inter dreams

PARMA, Italy, Mar 10: Enrico Chiesa and Juan Veron scored as Parma survived the return of Ronaldo to defeat Inter Milan 2-1 and earn a ticket to the Italian Cup final, reports Reuters.

Ronaldo, who last played on January 17, showed some fine touches in a 30-minute secondhalf appearance but he could not stop the 1992 Cup champions sealing a 4-1 aggregate win.

"Let's hope this return is for good and I can stay and help this struggling Inter." Ronaldo said after Inter's third defeat in three different competitions within a week. Asked if he would play in

Saturday's derby with AC Milan, he said: "I'm thinking above all about the Manchester United match next week. I hope to be there and I'll be working very hard to reach that goal." Inter are 2-0 down after the first leg of their European Cup quarter-final against United.

Parma play Fiorentina or Bologna in the final. Fiorentina won the first leg 2-0 and the second leg is today. Chiesa opened the scoring in the third minute when he beat his marker down the left side

24 1/3 of a

1970

25 Took the

prize

26 Flushed

extras,

for short

divisions

room type

28 Stage.

31 Play

33 Ump

35 Grand-

36 Mush-

'38 Winter

scale

movie title

PEADONERUNINA

SANFORDANDSON

JONES STP GAP

AVIDEWEE MANEWAX LOX WALTZ

GOOMHAT

Yesterday's answer

and hit a powerful angled volley just inside the far post over an outstretched Gianluca Pagliuca. Parma seemed to grow complacent after having a goal disallowed for offside in the ninth minute and, taking advantage of a rare blunder by France's Lilian Thuram, Chilean Ivan

Zamorano slotted home from

close range in the 11th minute.

culture he has encouraged in the New Zealand, Mar national squad will keep them 10 (Reuters): In the

CHRISTCHURCH.

lobby of a Chri-

stehurch hotel

talking to journalists when a

stern faced man interrupts the

to you," the stranger says.

"I just want to say one thing

"Thank you. The job you've

done with New Zealand cricket

is fantastic, really. You've made

Rixon, initially wary, smiles and graciously accepts the com-

"It wasn't always like that,"

the first couple of years were

quite the opposite. There was a

lot of opposition, quite a lot of

bunch of under-achievers.

tory over India, a 2-1 lead in the

one-day series against South

Africa and an honourable draw

Injuries and illness have

robbed the team of captain

remains hopeful that the new

"In fact, the comments for

conversation.

us very proud."

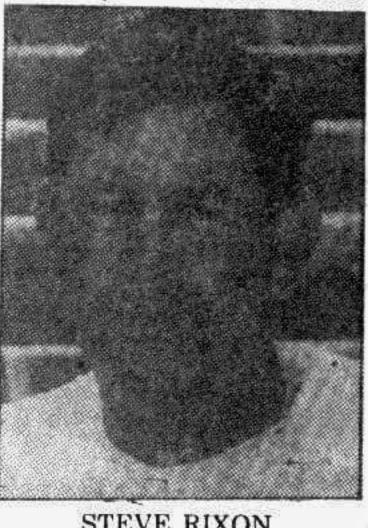
pliment.

he reflected.

when I started."

best seasons ever.

competitive. "There is only so much you can do to be innovative as a coach. Apart from skills. I have



Rixon designs Kiwi revival "There isn't a lot of depth in New Zealand cricket so maybe some players tended to cruise rather than push themselves to become even better. Some players need to be told what they can do, others know what they are capable of and need to push themselves further.

"The nucleus of our squad has really come together in terms of what they expect of themselves, and each other, and New Zealand is a lot harder to beat because of that. It's going to be incredibly hard against South Africa but the players believe they can compete.'

Part of New Zealand's problem in their past has been a tendency to have a couple of players of rare brilliance, such as Bert Sutcliffe, John Reid, Richard Hadlee and

Martin Crowe, and a squad of players who might, understandably, regard themselves as journeymen by comparison.

"We don't have superstars now, but we do have some very talented cricketers who all know they have to make things happen for themselves; no one else will do it for them. It's about accepting responsibility and getting the job done."

Rixon is not simply a good motivator. He is a perceptive coach, a clever man manager and never afraid of exploring new boundaries in his sport. He

big year for some time now," he said of the current season.



Parma's Argentine playmaker Juan Veron (R) wrongfooting Inter Milan's Brazilian international Ze Elias during their Italian Cup semifinal at Parma on March 9. Parma won

MU, Chelsea look to



LUNDON, Mar 10: Three days after their goalless tie at Old Trafford. Manchester United and Chelsea meet again Wednesday at Stamford Bridge in a replay of their FA Cup quarterfinal, reports

The match pits the two league leaders in a battle for survival in the Cup race as both teams pursue ambitions to win three major titles this season. If both teams are still locked at fulltime, the winner will be decided by a penalty shootout.

The winners will advance to an April 11 Wimbley semifinal showdown against Arsenal, defending FA Cup and league titlists and currently No 3 in the league standings.

Added motivation for Chelsea is the fact the Blues have only beaten Manchester United once in the FA Cup - a 2-0 sixth-round victory in 1950. United also has the better of the last five head-to-heads at

Stamford Bridge with four wins, including a 5-3 FA Cup third round win last season, and one tie. After Sunday's Old Trafford match, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson blasted referee Paul Durkin, who red-

carded Chelsea's Roberto Di Matteo just before halftime and United's Paul Scholes within minutes of fulltime. Di Matteo and Scholes were

sent off after their second bookable offenses for tackles

which rerguson described as "innocuous" challenges. Durkin will referee the return match Wednesday at Chelsea's home ground but both players will be serving a compulsory ban for the red card.

But Ferguson was not with-



GIANLUCA VIALLI

out blame as United failed to score against a Chelsea side reduced to 10 players for the bulk of the second half.

He made a tactical blunder by resting key strikers Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole until the final 10 minutes while United squandered several chances to score the winner.

The United stars have had a heavy schedule with league, cup and European fixtures but both strikers are certain starters for

the rematch. Ryan Giggs, who missed Sunday's match due to injury, is also expected to return.

Chelsea had four players out of action Sunday through suspension, including playercoach Gainluca Vialli, French international Frank Lebeouf, Celestine Babyaro and Dennis Wise.

Wise, Lebeouf and Babyaro will be available Wednesday after completing their suspensions at Old Trafford. Vialli said Chelsea had been

able to produce results when it counted this season. "We have to be up for it, play better, try everything to go through and make sure that the

effort which we produced in the second-half at Old Trafford does not go to waste, he said. "Obviously these type of matches take a lot out of you but

it must be done," he added. Vialli on Tuesday attempted to take the scoring onus off Gianfranco Zola by predicting a return to goal-scoring form by Norweigian strike Tore Andre

Flo, who has been injured and not scored since Dec 26, is only three weeks into a come-

back from an ankle injury. "Obviously Tore's not at his best yet ... but he's very close to being at his best in my opinion," Vialli said.

"Obviously he needs to play games to find his form and I'll be waiting for him as he's going to be a key player until the end of the season."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 10 Lady of the **ACROSS** 58 Answer 1 Adhesive 40 Precam-59 "- Sera. Sera" 11 Hideaways 4 Shipworm brian, for DOWN 16 Diarist 12 Heston's 41 Andy's pal 1 Wilde-Anais 20 Verifiable 43 Garland 13 Phan-2 Coffee 21 Emulated 45 Limn 47 Bottom Summer tom's vessel territory 3 Bell and Sanders Kettle 22 Gabrielle 14 Earlier 48 Dadaism 4 Straw hat Chanel founder than 5 Adversary 23 Caught 15 Opened, 49 Stevenson 6 Dem.'s in a way 27 3, on the 17 Ashen 54 Go fast phone 18 "Who am 7 Upright 55 Wiesel et 29 Green - judge? 8 Communiland 56 Hudson 19 Kumquat cation 30 Con game 48 devices 32 Big rig 9 Changed 34 Warm shaddock 57 Played 21 Portions the first fabric of 31 card packaging 37 Storage Across structure Solution time: 27 min.

ILGOD S U MNXRYILRJI ENGOX

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

39 Restless

YOEYDJ TUI NVV NC Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE WEIRD CLOD

42 Fence

neighbor

44 Cell's source Wonka's ISUELNCT VNNI. creator

50 Quick swim 51 Sans 52 Perrier,

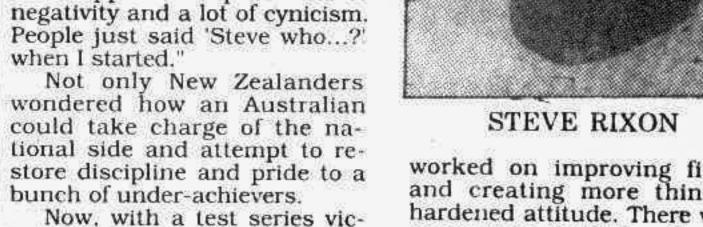
locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

CRYPTOQUIP

46 Ontario's THINKS THAT TO GET NEW NECKWEAR HE HAS TO GO TO THAILAND.

im Today's Cryptoquip clue: T equals G

STEVE RIXON worked on improving fitness and creating more thinking, hardened attitude. There was a perception that New Zealand teams were a bit soft. People aren't saying that so much now," Rixon said. Careful not to criticise his predecessors, the 45-year-old former wicketkeeper, who played 13 Tests for his country, says his new squad were not in the habit of playing for each other and did not take enough personal pride in their own performances.



in the first test, Rixon's team face back to back Tests against the South Africans with the chance to complete one of their Stephen Fleming, Chris Cairns and Craig McMillan but Rixon

employs both a technical advisor as well a sports psycholo-"We've been building up to a



-AFP photo

break the deadlock