

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Hansie Cronje**

(South Africa cricket captain)

"I wasn't sure about the United Cricket Board's attitude towards me but now I am and I am committed to South Africa until 2003."

While turning down an offer to coach English county side Glamorgan.

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- Which country won the SA football gold?  
Bangladesh India Nepal
- Who is the captain of Brazil?  
Cafu Rivaldo Ronaldo
- How many teams will play in next year's Asia Cup cricket?  
4 5 6
- Who won the men's 100 m in the Summer Olympics?  
Mahubub Yasin Ratan
- Who lifted the Grand Slam Cup title?  
Rusedski Agassi Kafelnikov

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## Waugh for more Tests against Zimbabwe

HARARE, Oct 18: Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh today called for more Test matches against Zimbabwe after his side won by 10 wickets in a one-off Test at the weekend, reports Reuters.

"It's been a really good feeling. I really enjoyed the Test match and off the field it's been great too."

"Everyone's enjoyed it. It's just a pity we haven't got more Tests against these guys. The way they play there's no mucking around or time wasting, they just get on with it. It's refreshing to play against a side that does that."

"They made crucial errors at the wrong times and that's probably down to (lack of) experience but these blokes are good players and they are a good test side," Waugh said as his players enjoyed an unscheduled day off.

Australia have flown in seven specialist players for a three-match one-day series that begins in Bulawayo on Thursday and finishes at the Harare Sports Club over the weekend.

## Ali intends to put gloves on

NEW YORK, Oct 18: Boxing legend Muhammad Ali, 57, was quoted yesterday as saying he planned to fight an exhibition bout over 15 rounds despite suffering from Parkinson's Disease, reports Reuters.

"Let me tell you something that will shock the earth," Ali told Newsweek magazine in an interview.

"I'm going to train and get in really good shape, lose 35 pounds and do an exhibition in Madison Square Garden with two or three contenders."

"I'll dance for 15 rounds, and whip them. I haven't forgotten. I'll be weighing in at 210 pounds. I'll just say, 'I am returned. Get the contract.'" Newsweek quoted Ali as saying. He gave no date for the planned fight.

Ali first won the world heavyweight boxing title in 1964 from Sonny Liston. His last fight was a 10-round loss to Trevor Berbick in 1981.

## Home weather greets England

Sports Reporter



The England A cricket team experienced a rainy reception on arrival in the capital yesterday.

To brighten up things, former Test player Mike Gatting, manager of the second string England side, said they were looking forward to an exciting contest during their 19-day tour of Bangladesh.

"This is going to be a tough and important tour for us," said the former England captain at Zia International Airport in the afternoon.

Although the English side, led by Gloucestershire all-rounder Mark Alleyne, was to be 15-man strong, Durham fast bowler Stephen Harmison was excluded from the tour party at the last moment.

Talking to a host of reporters at Zia, Gatting said he has seen Bangladesh in action during the World Cup in England and was also aware of

the recent tour of the West Indies to this part of the world. A charismatic top-order batsman in his hey days Gatting, OBE, rated Bangladesh as a 'promising and upcoming nation' in international cricket.

While elaborating on his team's strengths, Gatting said his was a relatively young side. He, however, added there were as many as four players who donned the England cap.

The visitors will play a series of matches against different local selections during their tour of Bangladesh.

This is for the second time a shadow England side was visiting Bangladesh since England

A's first tour in 1996.

The visitors will leave Bangladesh for New Zealand on November 5.

Bangladesh Television will cover both the limited-over matches at the Bangabandhu National Stadium live. Besides, the state-run media will also provide live coverage of the three-day match from the port city.

The England A squad: Mark Alleyne (captain), Rob Turner, Michael Davies, Paul Franks, Michael Gough, Aftab Habib, Ronnie Irani, David Sales, Chris Schofield, Alamgir Sheriyyer, Chris Silverwood, Vikram Solanki, Marcus Trescothick and Ian Ward.

### ENGLAND A TOUR ITINERARY

Date	Opposition	Practice	Day-night	BKSP
Oct 22	vs U-19	Day-night	BNS	
Oct 23	vs BCB XI	Day-night	BNS	
Oct 25-27	vs Bangladesh	3-day	Cig	
Oct 29	vs Bangladesh	Day-night	BNS	
Nov 1-4	vs Bangladesh	4-day	BNS	

## Century eludes Bhardwaj



KARNATAKA, Oct 18 (Internet report): Young Karnataka batsman Vijay Bhardwaj fell short of only

four runs from what could be his deserved century here on Monday, the second day of their three-day match against New Zealand.

Bhardwaj perished in the last ball of 82 over, prompting captain Anil Kumble to declare the Karnataka innings at 269 for nine. At close New Zealand, who scored 249 for six declared, were 12 for nought in reply to their second innings.

Having made 96, Bhardwaj tried to reach his hundred in style by stepping out of the crease and lofting Wiseman over the fence at long on but was caught on the boundary line by Horne. The middle-order bat, tipped to be a replacement for Mohammad Azharuddin in the Test side, spiced his 96 with 16 fours off 171 balls.

Coming in to bat at number four with the Ranji trophy champions reeling at 73 for 4, Bhardwaj shared a 115-run stand with Naidu, who made 52 of 93 balls.

There was a scintillating display of strokeplay after

lunch as Wiseman resumed bowling at the BEML end and was launched into by Bhardwaj. He got a boundary off Wiseman's first over to wish long-on and two more of successive balls in his second over to midwicket and cover respectively. And in Wiseman's fourth over Bhardwaj stroked three consecutive boundaries, first to wide long off, then turning the ball past the square leg fielder, and finally stepping out and lofting him just short of the rope at long on.

Wiseman finished with 3 for 99 in his 26 overs. The most successful Kiwi bowler on the day was however Chris Drum who finished with figures of 12-3-19-4.

New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming smashed an unbeaten 115 in their first innings on Sunday.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second of the three-day match between New Zealand and Karnataka on Monday:

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 249 for six wickets declared, 90 overs

**KARNATAKA:** First innings 269 for nine wickets declared, 88 overs

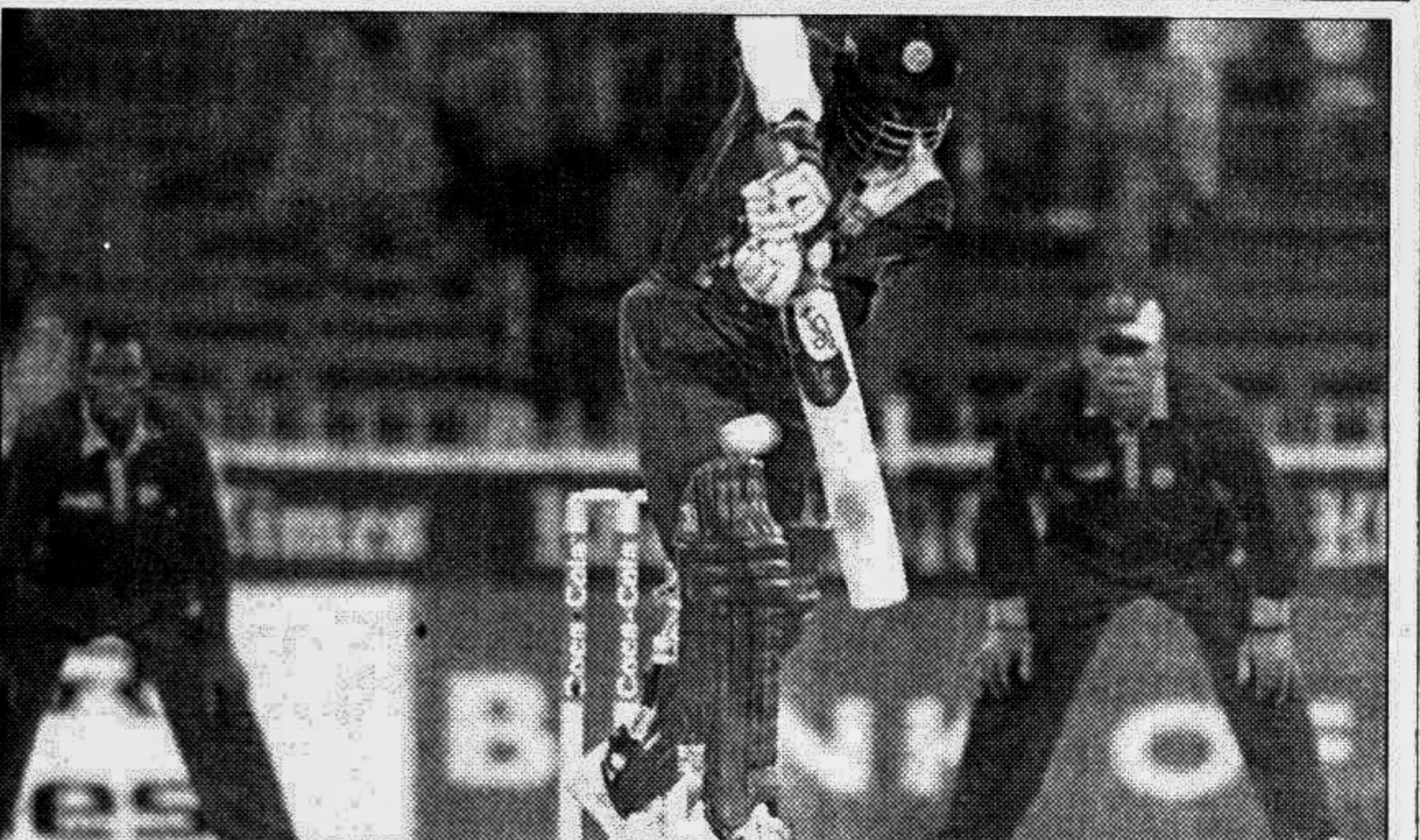
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Cairns	11	3	30	2
Penn	11	2	49	0
Drum	12	3	19	4
Wiseman	26	3	99	3
Astle	6	1	17	0
Harris	16	5	37	0

**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings

Horne not out 9  
Bell not out 2  
Extras: (b-1) 1  
Total: (O wickets in 6 overs) 12

To bat: Spearman, Fleming, Astle, Harris, Cairns, Parore, Penn, Wiseman, Drum.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ganesh	2	1	2	0
Khan	1	1	0	0
Bhardwaj	1	0	9	0
Kumble	1	1	0	0
Joshi	1	1	0	0



Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya, who was adjudged man-of-the-match, plays defensively against West Indies on Sunday. — AFP photo

## Lankans outplay Windies



SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 18: Skipper Sanath Jayasuriya smashed 88 off 80 balls as Sri Lanka shrugged off an embarrassing tie against Pakistan two days ago to whip the West Indies by nine wickets in a crucial Coca-Cola Sharjah Cup encounter here on Sunday, reports AFP.

The Sri Lankans, who lost nine wickets for 39 runs on Friday to convert a certain win over Pakistan into a tie, raised their game to outplay their rivals in the 150th international at this desert venue.

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan set up the easy win with three for 22 as the West Indies crashed to 145 all out after electing to bat in the day-night match.

Jayasuriya then launched a ferocious assault, surpassing 5,000 one-day runs in the process, as the Sri Lankans romped home in the 28th over of a match they had to win to stay in contention for a place in the final.

Sri Lanka joined Pakistan at the top of the table with three points, while the West Indies remained on two.

Pakistan take on Sri Lanka on Monday and the West Indies on Tuesday in the remaining league matches. The top two teams clash in the final next Friday.

Jayasuriya, who made 28 and one in the first two games, struck timely form with a hurricane innings containing eight boundaries and three sixes.

The left-hander plundered two sixes and a four in one over from fast bowler Mervyn Dillon and then pulled off-spinner Neheran Perry's first delivery for another six.

Jayasuriya, playing his 191st match, became the fourth Sri Lankan to complete 5,000 runs when he reached 48. Only Aravinda de Silva (8,129), Arjuna Ranatunga (7,454) and Roshan Mahanama (5,162) have scored more among his teammates.

Jayasuriya was bowled by Perry to end a 128-run stand for the first wicket with Ramesh Kaluwitharana in just 23 overs.

Kaluwitharana, whose 75 against Pakistan went in vain, continued his good form with an unbeaten 44.

Earlier, the West Indies lost their last seven wickets in the space of 19 runs as the Sri Lankans dazzled in the field.

Steady bowling by seamers Chaminda Vaas and Nuwan Zoysa restricted the West Indies to 18-1 in the first 10 overs.

By the time the 40-over mark was reached, the West Indies had managed just 121-3 on the board as the three-pronged spin attack kept the run-rate in check.

Sri Lanka were once again served well by brilliant fielding which resulted in the run out of skipper Brian Lara and rising star Ricardo Powell.

Lara began with a flick off Vaas for four and then smote Russell Arnold over long-on for six, but ran himself out in the 23rd over to make the West Indies 62-3.

It was a procession of batsmen after that as Muralitharan and Arnold (2-32) sliced through the lower half.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard of the Coca-Cola Sharjah Cup one-day international between Sri Lanka and the West Indies on Sunday:

**WEST INDIES:** 145 all out in 49.3 overs.

**SRI LANKA**  
Jayasuriya b Perry 88  
Kaluwitharana not out 44  
Arnold not out 8  
Extras: (lb-2, w-3, nb-1) 6  
Total: (For one wicket in 28 overs) 146

Fall of wickets: 1-128  
**Bowler** O M R W

Dillon	6	1	40	0
Ambrose	4	0	21	0
King	7	0	33	0
Perry	8	0	45	1
Gayle	3	0	5	0

**Result: Sri Lanka won by nine wickets.**

**Man-of-the-match: Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka).**

## Pakistan 239/8

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 18: Abdur Razzaq once again proved a stumbling block for Sri Lanka as Pakistan scored 239 for eight in a key Sharjah Cup match here today, reports AFP.

Razzaq, whose five-wicket burst last Friday denied the Sri Lankans certain victory and forced a tie, hit an unbeaten 59 off 50 balls to help Pakistan recover from a middle-order slump.

Razzaq hit two boundaries and three sixes as Pakistan added 41 runs in the last five overs after struggling at 198 for seven.

With both Sri Lanka and Pakistan on three points in the preliminary league of the three-nation tournament also featuring the West Indies, the winner is assured of a place in Friday's final.

Shahid Afridi, playing for the first time in the tournament, smashed five sixes and two boundaries in 58 off 50 balls to give Pakistan a flying start.

Pakistan raced to 70 for one by the 14th over, before Sri Lanka hit back to reduce them to 137 for five in the 34th.

Afridi, who lost his opening partner Saeed Anwar in the second over, began by lofting left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas over long-on for six.

Nuwan Zoysa dropped a skier off his own bowling to retrieve Afridi on eight, an error that proved costly for the Sri Lankans.

Afridi, who slammed one-day cricket's fastest century off 37 balls three years ago, swung Vaas for another six and then hit two more in spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's first over.

A backfoot pull off Zoysa that sailed over the mid-wicket fence was Afridi's best shot, but he fell soon after when another heave off Vaas was caught at mid-on.

Moin Khan helped Razzaq add 49 for the sixth wicket, but when he and skipper Wasim Akram fell quickly.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Pakistan innings in the Sharjah Cup one-day international against Sri Lanka on Monday:

**PAKISTAN**  
Anwar c Jayasuriya b Zoysa 0  
Afridi c Jayawardene b Vaas 58  
West Kaluwitharana b Chaminda 21

Inzamam ul-Jahid c Kaluwitharana b Jayasuriya 33  
Youhana c b Muralitharan 3  
Moin b Jayasuriya 29  
Razzaq not out 59  
Akram st Kaluwitharana b Jayasuriya 3

Mahmood b Vaas 16  
S Malik not out 3  
Extras: (lb-6, w-5, nb-3) 14  
Total: (For eight wickets in 50 overs) 239

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-70; 3-96; 4-105; 5-137; 6-186; 7-198; 8-233

Did not bat: Shabbir Ahmed

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	9	1	38	2
Zoysa	8	0	32	1
Muralitharan	10	1	57	1
Chandana	10	0	38	1
Jayasuriya	10	0	41	3
Arnold	3	0	27	0

**Result: Pakistan won by 10 wickets.**

## Selectors give Shoaib until Thursday

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 18: Pakistan will delay naming their squad for a Test series in Australia until Thursday to give fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar a chance to prove his fitness, Pakistan's chief selector said today, reports Reuters.

Shoaib developed a shoulder problem after the World Cup in England and missed last month's series of one-day internationals against West Indies in Toronto and the current Sharjah Cup.

"Shoaib is arriving on Monday and he must prove his fitness," chief selector Naushad Ali said on Sunday. "If he passes the fitness he will go to Australia."

The squad, originally to have been announced on Monday, will now be named on Thursday.

Saqib Mushtaq, who was also on the injured list, and missed the Sharjah trip, is fit and will go to Australia. "He is okay and currently training in Lahore," Naushad said.

Waqar Younis may be called up if Shoaib fails his fitness test. Waqar is in Sharjah but is not a member of the 15-man Pakistan squad for this tournament.

He was brought to Sharjah at the last minute at Naushad's recommendation so he would be available for Australia if Shoaib were not fit.

Pakistan will fly straight to Australia from Sharjah on October 24 for a three-Test series.

## Inter-service swimming

Three more national and one inter-service record were improved in the second day of inter-service swimming championship at the Bangladesh Navy Central Swimming pool at Banani yesterday, reports BSS.

M M Islam improved the national mark in 50 m freestyle with the time of 25.13 seconds, previous time was 25.24. K M M Islam bettered national record in 100 m freestyle taking 55.32 seconds. The previous record was 57.57. Both of them belong to Bangladesh Navy.



Players and officials of England A cricket team that arrived yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Rixon on top of hiring list



SYDNEY, Oct 18 (Internet report): After initially announcing he didn't want the job, former Test wicketkeeper Steve Rixon has

firmly in favourism to replace Geoff Marsh as Australia's next cricket coach.

The Australian Cricket Board is expected to announce the new appointment within a fortnight, Rixon and Queensland coach John Buchanan remain the front runners.

Former Test captain Greg Chappell and coach of reigning Sheffield Shield champions Western Australia, Wayne Clark, have also been interviewed.

Rixon claimed at the end of his three-year stint as coach of New Zealand that he was tired of cricket and would only be prepared to consider the Australian appointment if it became available 'in a year or so'.

However, the 45-year-old Rixon said yesterday he had taken a lengthy break after the Kiwis' bold World Cup campaign last June and was prepared to throw his hat in the ring when contacted by the ACB recently.

"I've been back in Australia for six or eight weeks and I was in a situation where I just needed to get right away from cricket," Rixon said.

"I've been knocking around with my family, which is what I wanted, but now if I'm going to look at doing this sort of job it has to be a full-on commitment. There's only one (cricket) job I would be interested in, and this is it."

Having taken over the New

Zealand post amid a storm of criticism from his predecessor Glenn Turner, Rixon tried to instil the uncompromising and unrelenting values he learned while wearing the baggy green cap to his new charges.

Despite the obvious lack of depth in New Zealand cricket, Rixon was able to win as many Tests as he lost while in charge and oversaw a significant change in attitude among a number of players such as

and chief executive Malcolm Speed are in Harare for the inaugural Test match between Australia and Zimbabwe.

They are understood to have used the visit to discuss the coaching appointment with Waugh who has considerable clout when it comes to recommending Marsh's replacement.

"One thing I do know is that I can work with Stephen," Rixon said.

"Nothing's really changed over all these years and I'm happy to help him out in whatever capacity he sees fit. I have no problem with egos and realise my job is to take the heat off him occasionally."

Buchanan, who masterminded Queensland's two successful Sheffield Shield campaigns, is also known to have been warmly endorsed by Waugh because of his meticulous preparation. Despite a modest career at first-class level, Buchanan has also won plaudits for his ability to motivate and communicate.

Former Queensland spinner Paul Jackson, a member of both their Shield-winning teams, saw Buchanan's coaching methods at close range. He believes in the perception of Buchanan as an academic-style coach pre-occupied with data analysis of the game is well wide of off stump.

"I describe him as a person who applies management processes to a sporting organisation," Jackson said.

"He's very good at ensuring a group of people head in a common direction to achieve their goals, and he makes sure they are all committed to achieving those goals."

ACB chairman Denis Rogers

## Zimbabwe fall apart



HARARE, Oct 18: Australia swept to a 10-wicket victory over Zimbabwe after nearly five hours and 239 balls of brave resistance.

Gavin Rennie made a comparatively bright 23 from 63 balls before becoming Miller's second victim, top-edging a cut to McGrath at Backward point.

Goodwin, born in Zimbabwe but raised in Australia, was responsible for running out captain Alistair Campbell for one and then could only watch in horror as the next seven batsmen totalled eight runs, including four ducks.

McGrath twice found the edge to remove Andy Flower (0) and Neil Johnson (5) before Warne flattened the tail.

Joined by last man Henry Olonga, 26-year-old Goodwin flapped desperately at Warne's next delivery and planted it straight into Steve Waugh's hands at extra cover.

His 91, which included 10 fours, spanned five hours and 36 minutes and came off 263 balls.

Australia will now be supplemented by the arrival of seven specialist one-day players for three one-day internationals — in Bulawayo on Thursday and Harare on Saturday and Sunday.

### SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fourth day of the Test match between Zimbabwe and Australia on Sunday:

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings

194  
**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 422 (S Waugh 151 no. M Waugh 90; Streak 5-95).

**ZIMBABWE:** Second innings (overnight 80-1)  
Gripper lbw b Miller 60  
G Flower lbw b McGrath 32  
Goodwin c S Waugh b Warne 91  
Rennie c McGrath b Miller 23  
Campbell run out (Slater) 0  
A Flower c Healy b McGrath 1  
Johnson c M Waugh b McGrath 5  
G Whittall c M Waugh b Warne 2  
Streak lbw b Warne 0  
B Strang c Langer b Miller 0  
Olonga not out 0  
Extras: 18  
Total: (all out) 232