reports AFP.

West Indians' sports therapist.

claimed that the injury was not

serious enough to rule the bean-

pole West Indies fast bowler out

him not being able to play or

anything like that." Rogers

problem has been recurring for

years. It's just that I want to

know what is causing it in order

to deal with it. That's the reason

taken him out of activities (for

the time being) while we control

spell on Thursday during train-

ing which simulated match

he took no further part in train-

ing and saw a doctor who pre-

comes on the heels of an ankle

injury to his long-time new-

ball partner Walsh, who is also

recovering from a bout of in-

fluenza which has kept him out

of much of the activities in a

Walsh, who needs nine

WC 2006

England bidders

in Tunisia

stepped up their bid to stage the

2006 World Cup on Thursday

when former British sports

minister Tony Banks and 2006

campaign director Alec McGi-

van arrived in Tunis to promote

drum up international support.

are making their second visit to

as the newly-appointed presi-

dent of the Tunisian Football

also a member of football's in-

Germany, Brazil, Morocco and

host the 2006 competition.

winner on July 6 in Zurich.

England are competing with

FIFA will announce the

The two men, looking to

They will stay until Satur-

their bid, reports AFP.

Tunisia

TUNIS, March 10: England

nine-day training camp.

scribed anti-inflammatories.

Ambrose bowled a five-over

Once his spell was complete,

The concern about Ambrose

the swelling," he added.

"It gets puffed and I have

"There is no concern about

"He is feeling no pain and the

of the opening Test.

for the X-ray.

conditions.

Gade enters last eight

BIRMINGHAM, England Mar 10: World men's number one Peter Gade reached the All England quarterfinals with a comfortable 15-3, 15-9 victory over Indonesia's Budi Santoso on Thursday but women's top seed Ye Zhaoying was beaten 11-9. 11-9 by a revitalised Mia Audina, reports Reuters.

Mighty Rafique

From Page 13

then shared a match-winning 83-run stand for the seventh wicket before Brothers captain Khaled Mahmud removed Neevamur for 33 with a bril-Hant return catch in the 47th over. Neeyamur faced 44 balls

and struck two boundaries. When Tillekeratne departed courtesy of yet another run out for a 56-ball 42 it left Mo-

hammedan on 208 for eight in 47.3 overs. But Rafique's cameo denied

the Gopibagh club their victory. Earlier, put into bat, Brothers were all out for 227 in 49.4 overs with their new Pakistani recruit Farhan Adil hammering highest 84.

The Pakistan under-19 captain who arrived on Thursday, faced 99 balls and hit three fours. His compatriot Abid Hanif, with a 100-ball 55, was the other notable run-getter.

Left-arm seamer Monjurul Islam captured three for 43 from 8.4 overs followed by Athar Ali who took two wickets for 35 runs from ten overs.

It was the fourth win for Mohammedan in five matches which placed them in the second place of the 12-team league table along with Kalabagan Krira Chakra and Surjo Tarun Club. They trail leaders Biman and Abahani Krira Chakra by a win. On the otherhand, it was the third defeat for Brothers from as many matches.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Premier Division Cricket League match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union Chib played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday: **BROTHERS UNION**

Shahriar c Rafique b Athar Ehsanul c Mortuza b Athar Jahangir c Monjurul b Kalpage 19 A Hanif c Hannan b Dharmasena 55 Farhan b Monjurul Sanwar c Tillekeratne b Monjurul S Mehmud run out

K Mahmud c Monjurul b Rafique 18 Muktar run out Jamaluddin not out Shafiuddin c Hannan b Monjurul

Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-2, w-10) Total: All out in 49.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1/2; 2/16;

3/72; 4/128; 5/165; 6/168; 7/217; 8/221; 9/225 OMRW Bowler 43 Monjurul 35 Athar 1 | South Africa for the right to 46 Kalpage 0 49 Dharmasena 9 0 20 Tillekeratne

MOHAMMEDAN SC Rashed b K Mahmud Hannan lbw b Shaffuddin Nasirul lbw b A Hanif Athar st Mukhtar b S Mehmud Kalpage c Mukhtar b S Mehmud Dharmasena b A Hanif Tillekeratne run out Neeyamur c & b K Mahmud Rafique not out

Mortuza c Mukhtar b S Mehmud

Monjurul not out Extras: (b-2, lb-7, nb-3, w-17) Total: (For 9 wkts in 49.3 overs) 231 Fall of wickets: 1/7: 2/14:

3/65: 4/85: 5/106: 6/116: 7/199: 8/208; 9/219 M Bowler 35 K Mahmud Shafiuddin Sanwar 0 41 A Hanif

10

S Mehmud 0 48 Jamaluddin 6.3 Farhan Result: Mohammedan SC won by one wicket.

Masood

From Page 13

0 43

Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-1, w-9) Total: (For 3 wkts in 43.1 overs) 183 Did not bat: Enamul Hoque, Rajesh Chauhan, Zafar Sarfraz. Imran Ahmed, Suja Erfan and Morshed Ali Khan. Fall of wickets: 1/20; 2/32;

3/62 Bowler 0 30 10 Mizan 23 Mofizur 0 Haidar 0 27 S Malik 29 Mosaddeq 0 52 Russell Mridul Result: Surjo Tarun won by seven wickets.

Lothar off to the States

MUNICH, Mar 10: Lothar Mattheaus flew to New York today to start his new soccer career in the United States, reports Reuters.

The 38-year-old libero, who wore Bayern Munich colours for the last time in their 4-1 defeat of Real Madrid at the Olympic stadium on Wednesday, has signed a one-year-contract with New York-New Jersey

MetroStars. The captain of Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning side avoided waiting reporters at the Munich airport before heading

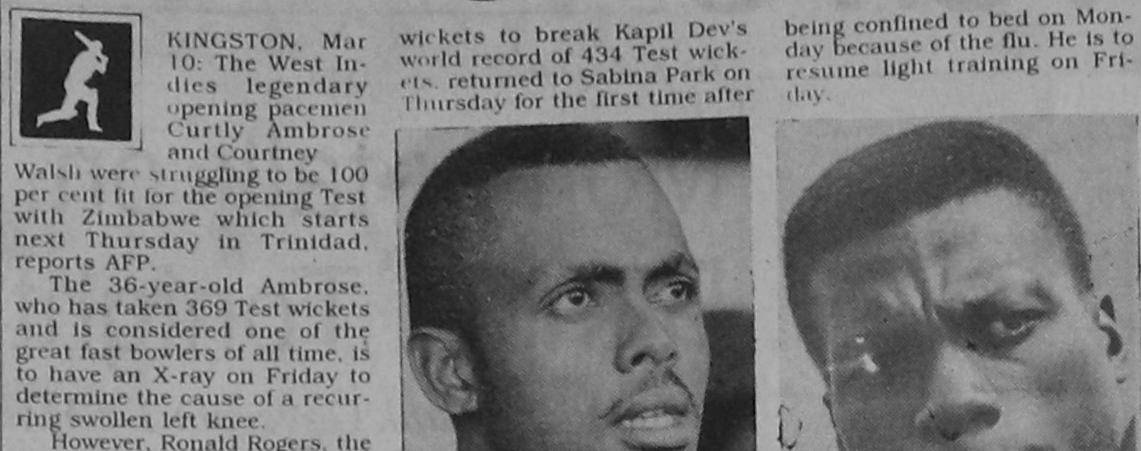
for an uncertain future. Mattheaus first played for Bayern from 1984 to 1988 and re-joined them in 1992 after a four-year spell with Inter Mi-

Mattheaus, arguably the greatest German player since Franz Beckenbauer, plans to end his international career after this year's European championship finals in Bel-

gium and the Netherlands. He will be back in Munich on May 26 for his farewell match between Germany and a Bayern

selection.

WI duo fighting fitness No Ponting for Trans-Tasman Test tussle

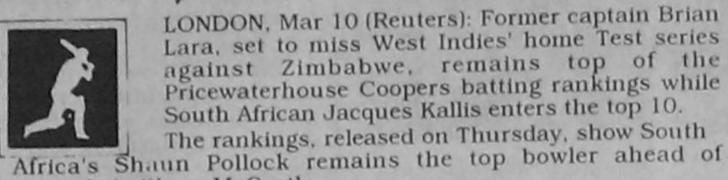


COURTNEY WALSH



CURTLY AMBROSE

Lara, Pollock leaders



LONDON, Mar 10 (Reuters): Former captain Brian Lara, set to miss West Indies' home Test series against Zimbabwe, remains top of the Pricewaterhouse Coopers batting rankings while South African Jacques Kallis enters the top 10. The rankings, released on Thursday, show South

Australia's Glenn McGrath.

2. Glenn McGrath

4. Curtly Ambrose

5. Muttiah Muralitharan

3. Allan Donald

6. Chris Cairns

7. Anil Kumble

BATSMEN			
Player	Team	Points	Career Average
1. Brian Lara	West Indies	900	51.60
2. Sachin Tendulkar	India	863	55.37
3. Steve Waugh	Australia	852	50.36
4. Ricky Ponting	Australia	829	47.51
5. Saeed Anwar	Pakistan	810	46.53
6. Aravinda de Silva	Sri Lanka	783	43.89
7. Nasser Hussain	England	750	39.13
	South Africa	747	43.16
8. Jacques Kallis	England	738	40.78
9. Alec Stewart 10. Justin Langer	Australia	731	40.10
BOWLERS			
1. Shaun Pollock	South Africa	905	20.33
2 Glenn McGrath	Australia	901	22.42

Australia

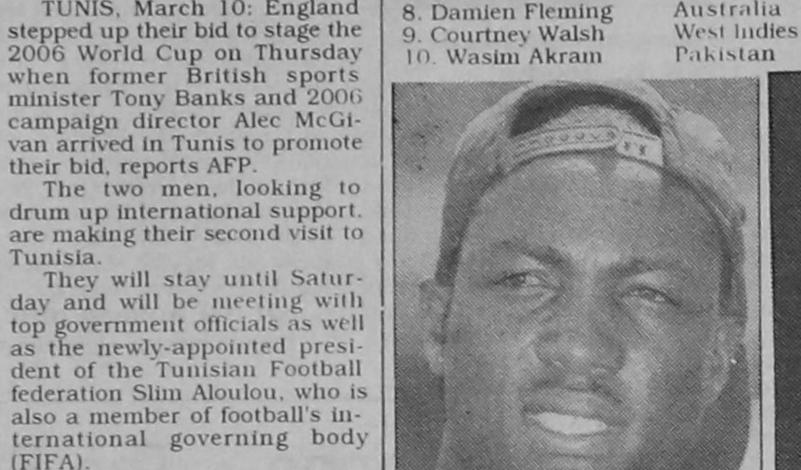
West Indies

Sri Lanka

India

South Africa

New Zealand





BRIAN LARA



877

814

766

733

722

720

698

697

21.59

21.31

26.36

29.30

28.01

24.90

25.47

23.12

SHAUN POLLOCK

Premiership preview

Easy outing on paper for MU

Third-placed Chelsea host

Gianluca Vialli has seen his

Everton, looking to extend their

unbeaten league run to 12

side move back into a Champi-

ons League qualification spot

after victory at Newcastle last

week and will start red-hot

favourites against the

Merseysiders who will be with-

into a striker crisis after

Everton have been plunged

out top striker Kevin Campbell.



10: Manchester United will be looking to build on their Champions League success

in midweek by stretching their lead at the top of the Premiership when they host strugglers Derby on Saturday, reports AFP. The reigning champions are

close to securing a place in the last eight of Europe's most prestigious trophy after coming from behind to win 2-1 away to French champions Bordeaux on Tuesday night.

And as they turn their atten- a specialist tion to league matters this weekend, United will be expectwhich has won just seven games all season, while second-placed Leeds face a tricky trip to Bradford on Sunday.

meeting between the West York- 1994. shire neighbours ended in a 2-1 victory for David O'Leary's men back in November last year but Bradford are no longer the whipping boys of the Premier-

The Premiership newcomers day, belie their lowly league position and against two top-five clubs to visit Valley Parade this season, Paul Jewell's side beat Arsenal 2-1 and held Chelsea to 1-

Derby matches are traditionally great levellers and Leeds cannot afford any more slip-ups if they are to last the pace at the top of the league as

the race for the title hots up. Much will depend on how quickly Leeds recover from

Thursday. ians they will surely be on a United last weekend.

Campbell was this week ruled out for at least another month. Campbell has a knee injury and has been advised to rest by

However, Stephen Hughes, Everton's 3 million pound (4.8 ing three points against a team million dollar) signing from Arsenal, is expected to make his debut.

Everton have won only once at Stamford Bridge in the last The first-ever top flight eight visits back in November

Goal-shy Middlesbrough must find their shooting boots if they are to avoid being sucked into the relegation zone - but face a stiff test at home to fourth-placed Arsenal on Sun-

Bryan Robson's side scored only their fifth goal in nine games in Saturday's 1-1 draw at Southampton - and that was from the penalty spot - while at home they have hit the net a paltry 11 times in 14 games, the second worst ratio in the Premiership, behind Sheffield Wednesday

forced to sit out the second-half But having ousted the Ital- in the 1-1 draw at Manchester

The Anfield skipper needed, senal.

five stitches in an ankle wound after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer late

But fellow stopper Veggard Heggem, who suffered a hamstring injury in the same game, is not so fortunate and will be out for another three weeks.

The Anfield crowd hope they are in for a treat after news emerged Thursday evening that the Merseysiders have agreed an 11 million-pound (17.5 million dollars) fee for Leicester and England striker Emile Heskey, who was due to put pen to paper on Friday and could make his debut.

Sunderland are on their worst league run for 14 years three points from a possible 27 while Liverpool have lost just twice in 16 matches.

Peter Reid's men will be hoping 24-goal top-scorer Kevin Phillips can breach the Pre-

miership's meanest defence. Newcastle get an immediate chance to redeem themselves after their 14-game unbeaten home run came to an end at

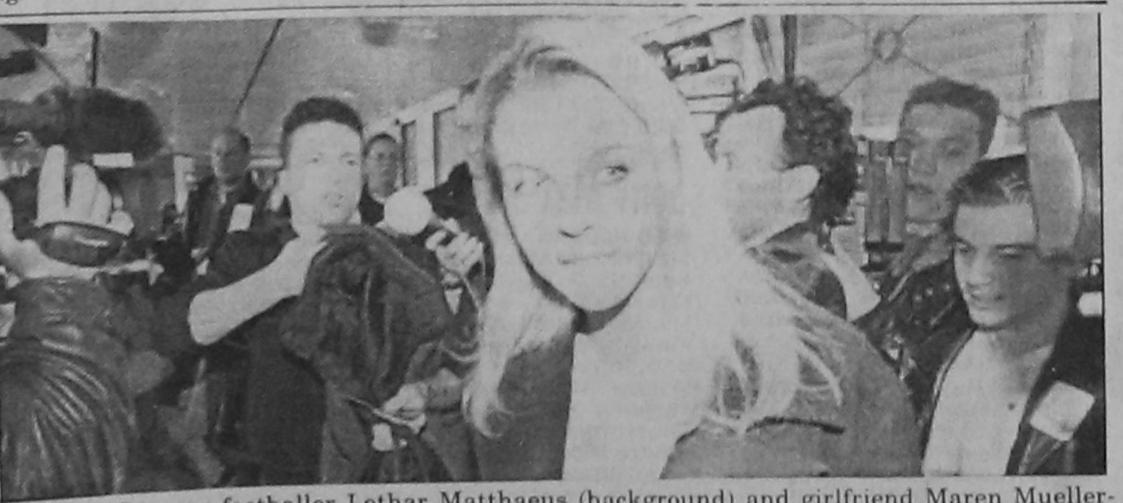
home to Chelsea last Saturday when they host Watford. Watford have the worst home and away record in the league and look doomed to rele-

With just one win in 14 at tempts, victory at St James's Park will be viewed as a giant-

FIXTURES (kick-off 1500GMT unless stated):

Saturday: Aston Villa v Coventry, Chelsea v Everton, Liverpool v Sunderland Liverpool, in fifth, are Manchester United v Derby, hopeful their Finnish defender Newcastle v Watford, Sheffield their exertions in the UEFA Cup Sami Hyppia will return at Wednesday v West Ham, Tottenclash at home to Roma on home to Sunderland after being ham v Southampton, Wimbledon v Leicester.

Sunday: Bradford v Leeds (k/o 1600), Middlesbrough v Ar-



Veteran German footballer Lothar Matthaeus (background) and girlfriend Maren Mueller-Wohlfahrt are swamped by reporters at Munich Airport yesterday. - AFP photo

SYDNEY, Mar 10: Australian batsman Ricky Ponting will be out of cricket for six months after successful surgery revealed more damage to his right ankle than anticipated. reports AFP.

Although Ponting had originally expected to be out of action only briefly, surgeon Martin Sullivan Friday said the right hander had done enormous damage to the ankle and would be sidelined for a lengthy period.

"We gave him every opportunity to get better without surgery but we knew all along he needed surgery," Sullivan "The guy's had major

surgery, it was a terrible injury. The bottom line is he hit the fence at ferocious speed and did a lot of damage." Ponting injured the ankle when sliding into the boundary fence at the Sydney Cricket

Ground while fielding in a oneday match against Pakistan last month. The one blessing is that the injury comes at a good time for the Tasmanian right-hander, who will only miss the current tour of New Zealand and a

three-match one-day series in South Africa next month. Australia play a return three-match home series against South Africa in August and then have no commitments until the home Test series

against the West Indies starts in October. "That's ideal, we're looking at getting him right for summer," Sullivan said.

Ponting said being out of the Australian team would fuel his desire to make a full recovery. "It's not nice being on the outskirts and I don't intend being here for long," he said in a

statement. Sullivan expected Ponting to be fully recovered within five to six months.

Twin tons put Tasmania on top

HOBART, Australia, Mar 10: Tasmania's Andrew Dykes and Shaun Young almost certainly snuffed out Victoria's faint hopes of hosting the Sheffield Shield cricket final this season with centuries here Friday, reports AFP.

Dykes hit a career high 153 and Young an unbeaten 104 as they transformed a match that Victoria had dominated through the morning session. At the close, replying to Vic-

toria's first innings of 279 for nine declared, Tasmania were 351 for five, a lead of 72 runs. Earlier Tasmania had

slumped to 37 for four in the face of a hostile attack led by former Test fast bowler Paul Reiffel. In wet Sydney, Jo Angel.

Ryan Campbell and Mike

Hussey ensured that New South Wales' miserable season continued by putting Western Australia in a commanding position with two days left of their match. NSW resumed on 205 for five but were rolled for 255 as Angel took a career-best haul of 6-64

239 for one by stumps with Mike Hussey unbeaten on 123 and Ryan Campbell scoring a breezy 93. In Brisbane, South Australian Brett Swain was looking for a place to hide after explosive Queensland batsman Andrew Symonds savaged the

In reply, WA had motored to

SA bowling to rescue Queensland in their match at Allan Border Field. Swain, who bowled well to take two wickets, was the villain after dropping Symonds off spinner Brad Young's bowl-

ing, putting down a sharp, headhigh chance in the gully before Symonds had scored

Symonds, who should notch his 21st first class century Saturday, then proceeded to plaster the ball all around the ground. Symonds and Geoff Foley smacked 12 fours and four sixes

The opening day was washed

in a rapid-fire 91-run partner-

Agassi, Sampras depart

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Mar 10: World number one Andre Agassi was in a daze and Pete Sampras in pain after each was knocked out of the Franklin Templeton Tennis Classic on Thursday, Agassi by Francisco Clavet and Sampras by a back injury, reports Reuters. Agassi lost a lightning-fast,

6-1, 6-2, second-round match. "I'm shocked," said Agassi after the 49-minute beating from the Spanish baseliner. " haven't lost like this in a while and it didn't feel good. It just wasn't a good day out there." The tournament was left without its two top seeds when

less than an hour after Agassi's

thumping Sampras pulled out with a back strain. "It's not disk, it's a strained ligament on the lower side of my right back," said Sampras. "It's a little strained and you don't want to make this problem worse by playing on it. It's best to have some rest and

Spaniard Alex Corretja advanced on Sampras' withdrawal, and next will face countryman Juan Carlos Fer-

treatment on it.

Agassi, riding high after winning the French and US Opens last year and this year's Australian Open title, endured his worst outdoor hard court defeat since losing to Andres Gomes 6-2, 6-0 in 1987 at Tokyo.



Steve Waugh's iuggernaut Austheir master leg-

spinner Shane Warne begin a three-Test series strive for the records. with New Zealand here Saturday with new records in their sights, reports AFP.

Australia need to win the Eden Park Test to equal an 80year-old record of eight consecutive Test wins, just days after the one-day world champions established a new record of 14 unbeaten matches in beating the Kiwis 4-1 in a limited-overs



STEVE WAUGH

series. Warne needs five wickets to overtake fast bowling great Dennis Lillee's 355 wickets and become Australia's all-time leading Test wicket-taker.

The Australian team are closing in on the Australian record of eight consecutive victories set by Warwick Armstrong's 1920-21 team.

Having whitewashed Pakistan and India 3-0 in home Test series and beaten Zimbabwe in Zimbabwe, the Aus-

AUCKLAND, New tralians are confident of adding Zealand, Mar 10: the Kiwis to their Test scalps.

But looking for a positive slant, New Zealand team coach tralian team and David Trist has hinted the strain of expectation could sidetrack the Australians as they

"There's a lot of fuss being made about it but, at this point in time, they haven't actually got (the record) yet," Trist said

"I'm suggesting they've got a fight on their hands." Trist's belief hinges on the Cricket Ground in January. ability of spinners Daniel Vettori and Paul Wiseman to come up trumps on a wicket expected to turn significantly during the

five days. The 21-year-old Vettori is highly rated by the Australians while Wiseman is still finding his international feet but Trist is confident the slow men can take the fight to Australia's aggressive batsmen.

"We are comfortable with the first Test being played here in Auckland and I think it will be a huge fight," said Trist.

"Daniel Vettori has established himself as a world-class left-armer, probably the best in the world at the moment, and Wiseman is coming along in leaps and bounds."

Australia have champion leg-spinner Warne to cash in on the spinning conditions -- but he has preferred to play down the conditions as he contemplates taking his recordbreaking five wickets.

"My outlook now is that if it happens (breaking the record). it happens and if it doesn't, then hopefully eventually it will. "But that's the way it goes.

My mindset is to get on and bowl and get back to the things that are important -- bowling maidens, bowling in partnerships and maintaining pres-

Warne will be partnered by slow bowler Colin Miller while batsman Damien Martyn will

play his first Test in more than six years, replacing injured Ricky Ponting Miller takes the place of in-

jured Victorian swing bowler Damien Fleming, who is unavailable with a knee problem. They are the only changes to the Australian team which recorded their seventh consecutive Test win with an innings

defeat of India at the Sydney

SQUADS AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh



Blewett, Justin Langer, Mark

Waugh, Damien Martyn, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne, Brett Lee, Colin Miller, Glenn Mc-Grath, Michael Kasprowicz (12th man).

NEW ZEALAND: Stephen Fleming (captain). Craig Spearman, Matthew Horne, Mathew Sinclair, Nathan Astle. Craig McMillan, Chris Cairns, Adam Parore, Daniel Vettori. Simon Doull. Paul Wiseman, Shavne O'Connor (12th man to be named).



Russian tennis star Anna Kournikova wipes her forehand while her partner Jennifer Capriati watches during a practice at Indian Wells on March 9.

Cronje vows to bounce back



wickets?

ACROSS

1 State

9 Pair

5 Rickey

12 Tibetan

monk

en route

blanca

quisher

14 Edge

17 Dream

Team

ond now

24 "Star -"

25 Blunders

gently

30 Brooklyn

drinks

1933 pro.

staff list

Rabbit,

plenitude

26 Patted

sch.

32 Noms'

33 Maga-

35 Dirt

36 Roger

37 With

zine's

31 Soft

ingredient

13 Stopover 48 Half a

15 Ace van- 51 One

18 Any sec- 53 Stitched

19 Executive DOWN

bellyache 1 Ht.

21 Detested 2 Secon-

to Casa- 49 "Shane"

Mar 10 (Internet report): South Africa's cricketers leave Cochin on Friday trailing India 1-0 in the five match limited-overs series,

but skipper Hansie Cronje has warned against writing his team off. "We'll be back," he promised

before a hectic three-flight trek to Jamshedpur for Sunday's second shoot-out. But just how does one bounce back after scoring 301 for three

"I think 99 times out of 100

we would have won," Cronje

pointed out, but he conceded that the bowling was one area where the tourists had lost their And considering that there was only one bowler among the four squad members who

watched from the side, there are

not a lot of options to beef up the attack. Bringing in 1999 World Cup regular Steve Elworthy for the next match would appear a certainty at this point, possibly at the expense of off-spinner Derek Crookes.

One man, however, does not make a team and Cronje is fully aware of the importance of evervone achieving his maximum - something that did not happen

on Thursday. "We're going to have to work

40 Unless:

Latin

43 Major

42 - Dhabi

carrier

50 Eternally

of the

scors?

dary sp.,

cross-

words

52 Sight-

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

sawbuck 7 Scratch

Kennedys 11 Gen.

bird

4 Egyptian

royal

name

5 Crazy

6 OPEC

B Lasts

9 Road

side

Bradley

compart-

melody

16 Space-

craft

ment

20 Guitarist

Paul

22 Met

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer

member

10 Judicious 29 What's

21 Steering 35 Reac-

38 Eucharist 3 Aussie

dle period we didn't put enough pressure on (Ajay) Jadeja early in his innings. India's number six bat hit 92 in two match-winning partnerships -- 79 with Mohammad Azharuddin (42) and 92 with

plans up front. And in the mid-

Robin Singh (42 not out). Henry Williams, unlucky not to bag a wicket, was the



HANSIE CRONJE

with his nine overs costing 40 runs - a rate of 4.4 per over. Left-arm spinner Nicky Boje was next best at 5.6. And the economy rates slid right down Kallis and 7 4 by Crookes It wasn't all a matter of bad morning.

23 "Not till

24 Folk

money

song

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27 Southern

28 Satan's

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37 Inquire

38 Float

39 Anne

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Nichols

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Dems.

45 "- been

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44 Beam

46 Fresh

47 Sea

Reps. nor

41 Neither

pride

31 Gleeful

34 Place-

26 "Fargo"

you're 21"

a lot harder . . . I was a little un- bowling, however. There was KOCHIN, India, happy we didn't stick to our some bad luck involved too. Lance Klusener, still suffer-

ing from a twisted ankle sus-

tained just more than a week ago, was unable to bowl, although he may again be unable to share the ball duties come Sunday. Fast bowling sensation Mornantau Hayward, after an

excellent opening spell of four overs for 16 runs which included the wicket of Sachin Tendulkar, quickly deteriorated from dehydration in stifling conditions.

He could send down only two

overs after that - and they were carted for 19 runs. Herschelle Gibbs, who with Gary Kirsten, posted an all-time SA record partnership of 235.

also suffered in the heat. He had to leave the field because of cramping and a hamstring twinge. Team management, how-

ever, insists that both will be fit for the next contest. Yet, as poorly as the bowlers performed overall, just two balls separated the teams in the end and India's multitudes of banned sport bookmakers will not be offering too much against a rejuvenated SA level-

ling the series come Sunday. The tourists will get to the nets on Saturday, after flying to Calcutta via Mumbai on Friday to seven an over by Jacques and then taking a charter to Jamshedpur on Saturday

21 22 23 45 45 47 CRYPTOQUIP

ISATW IRS

EBCNRXWV EBXUF

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Leguals T

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

give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

ATBBX-FU LS T UFWLXNL

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOR LUNCH, I BET THAT FROGS ADORE EATING BURGERS AND FRENCH FLIES

puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe