ADELAIDE, Jan 7: New South Wales will appeal to former Australian captain Mark Taylor for help after their batsmen failed again in a crushing 168-run Sheffield Shield cricket loss to South Australia here Sunday, reports AFP.

The inability of the NSW batsmen to get near 300 runs in either innings on a friendly wicket was a clear concern for day, reports AFP. the team management.

NSW were bowled out for 265 in the first innings and 232 | scoring runs," admitted captain a ground on which the South Makhaya Ntini, Jonty Rhodes, in the second, shortly after tea | Sanath Jayasuriya. on the final day, while South total of 428 for nine declared | we have had success." and a second dig of 237 for five declared.

Taylor -- would be called in before their home match with been performing. Tasmania starting on February

"It's confidence at the moment, everyone's a bit low on confidence with the bat." Rixon | innings in the two Tests.

There's certainly no shortage of work going on but it's a years of under-achieving and games. we've got to get past that.

Rixon said Taylor was on the top of their list of preferred batting specialists.

traha ahead of Western Austra- overs internationals last month and Lance Klusener. lia into fourth on the standings and although they earned a third on 14. behind Victoria islanders were trounced by an Andrew Hall after completing a day-night clashes. (20) and leaders Queensland

Busta Cup scores

TRINIDAD, Jan 7: Discarded West Indies, opener Stuart Williams hit his second century of the match as his Leeward Islands set themselves on a victory course Saturday against Trinidad and Tobago after day three of the regional Busta Cup, reports AP.

The 31-year-old Williams followed up his first innings 160 with 114 as the Leeward Islands totalled 220 in the second innings in the first round clash at Guaracara park. Chasing a target of 436 for

victory. Trinidad were 82 for one at close.

Leg-spinner Rajindra Dhanraj, who played four Tests for the West Indies between 1994 and 1996, took six for 57 on his return to first-class cricket after missing the 2000 season. In Grendada, England "A"

found though opposition in the under-23 cricketers of West Indies "B", who reached 176 for six in their first innings at the end of day two.

England were earlier bowled out for 333 with Leicestershire's Aftab Habib remaining unbeaten on 87.

In the West Indies' "B" reply. Tonito Willett, son of former Test player Elquemedo Willett. topscored with 41. Northamptonshire off-spinner Jason Brown was the best of the England bowlers with three for

In Kingston, Jamaica, offspinner Shane Shillingford enjoyed a remarkable debut with seven wickets for 66 as the Windward Islands bowled out Jamaica for 175. But despite the home team's collapse from 109 for one, they still managed to secure a narrow first innings lead of seven.

At Bridgetown's Kensington Oval. another former Test representative. batsman Roland Holder, notched a century as Barbados totalled 422 against Guyana. The visitors replied strongly and ended the second day at 99 for one.

BRIEF SCORES

At Guaracara Park. Pointea-Pierre. Trinidad (Day 3): Leeward Islands 371 and 220 (Stuart Williams 114, Alex Adains 31: Rajindra Dhanraj six for 57. Dinanath Ramnarine 2/31).

Trinidad & Tobago 156 and 82 for one (Denis Rampersad 46 not out). At Queen's Park. St

George's, Grenada (Day 2): England "A" 333 (lan Ward 49. John Crawley 65. Aftab Habib 87 not out: Kenroy Peters three for 74. Jermaine Lawson four

West Indies "B" 176/6 (Tonito Willett 41, Camilus Alexander 32 not out. Kurt Wilkinson 28; Jason Brown three for

Kensington Oval. Bridgetown. Barbados (Day 2): Barbados 422 (Adrian Griffith 77. Roland Holder 117. Rvan Hinds 60. Philo Wallace 39. Sean Armstrong 33, Ian Bradshaw 30; Carl Hooper four for 88. Ron Matthews three for 82. Neil McGarrell three for 145).

Guyana 99 for one (Nicholas de Groot 45 not out. Azeemul

Haniff 32). At Sabina Park, Kingston. Jamaica (Day 2): Windward

Islands 168 and 61/1 Jamaica 175 (Chris Vayle 55, Leon Garrick 51, Franklyn Rose 21: Shane Shillingford seven for 66. Orlando Jackson

three for 46). Serena starts with a win

SYDNEY. Jan 7 (AFP): Serena Williams is convinced she and her sister Venus have taken tennis to a new level.

The Williams sisters have taken the tennis world by storm in recent years, with Venus last month signing the richest sponsorship deal in women's sporting history.

Serena advanced to the second round of the Sydney International here Sunday with a 6-3. 7-6 (8/6) win over American compatriot Lilia Osterloh.

NSW to turn to Taylor Lankans bank on approach

of-form batsmen month will continue to when they resume a one-day

"But we will carry on playing team.

Australia posted a first innings | positively because that is where

NSW coach Steve Rixon said ally reliable Marvan Atapattu, so far. batting specialists -- including the two most experienced Jayasuriya has been in par- Allan Donald.

> ticularly poor form, scoring 10 runs in the first two limited cludes one newcomer, all- Kaushalya overs games and only 34 in four rounder Justin Kemp, but se- Muthumudalige

tain in the Tests and made 2 made sure of winning the sixbit of a legacy from a number of and 36 in the first two one-day match series.

turnaround if they are not to bowler and good slip fielder but

7. Sri Lanka's out- second Test at Newlands last spiring in match fixing. Gibbs

There are four more one-day did not score. play positive, at- internationals and one more

them some hope.

lection convenor Rushdi Magiet mara. Atapattu has scored only said Kemp would probably only four runs more than his cap- play when South Africa had Wilf Diedricks (both Rsa). Kemp, 23, is a hard-hitting

Sri Lanka need a major batsman, aggressive seam Subba Row (Eng). They were beaten convinc- seam bowling all-rounders in Town (January 11), Bloemfon-The win pushed South Aus- ingly in the first two limited Shaun Pollock. Jacques Kallis tein (January 14), and Johan-

CAPE TOWN, Jan innings and 229 runs in the six-month suspension for conplayed in the second Test but

SQUADS

SOUTH AFRICA (from): The Boland Park ground at Shaun Pollock (capt), Nicky international series against Paarl about 60 kilometres (40 Boje, Mark Boucher (wkt) South Africa in Paarl on Tues- miles) from Cape Town, offers Boeta Dippenaar, Allan Donald, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kal-"Mentally we are a bit down It has one of the slowest lis, Justin Kemp, Gary Kirsten, because the batsmen are not pitches in South Africa and it is Lance Klusener. Neil McKenzie. Africans have yet to play as a Roger Telemachus.

SRI LANKA (from): Sanath South Africa will go into the Javasuriya (capt). Marvan Atamatch full of confidence, how- pattu (v-capt), Russel Arnold Jayasuriya said a key factor ever. after dominating their Mahela Jayawardene. Avishka was that both he and the usu- matches against the islanders. Gunawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, Tillekeratne Dilshan. South Africa will be boosted Romesh Kaluwitharana, Mutbatsmen in the side, had not by the return after a stomach tiah Muralitharan, Upal Chanmuscle injury of fast bowler dana, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zovsa, Pramodya Wickre-The South African squad in- masinghe, Dilhara Fernando, Weeraratne. Pushpaku-

> Umpires: Dave Orchard and TV umpire: Barry Lambson

Match referee: Raman

The matches will be played he joins a squad packed with in Paarl (January 9), Cape take those extra two weeks to nesburg (January 17). The Herschelle Gibbs returns as game in Bloemfontein will be a with 12 points while NSW are draw in a ram-hit first Test, the an opening batsman in place of day game and the others will be

Greatness depends on India

Wangh says his allconquering Austrahan Test team must beat India on the sub-continent next month the line. If we don't perform before they can be compared over there then possibly we're with cricket's greatest teams. Success in India is the that have won over there in

missing link for the Austra- other eras. lians, who have overcome cricket's toughest barriers in we're not good enough." the last decade by winning Test series in the West Indies, Paki-

hunting ground since Bill Lawry's team won 3-1 in 1969-70. leaving Waugh's team with enormous faith in his players. another chance to prove themselves after building the longest winning streak in Test cricket The Aussies stretched that over the past 15 months.

to 15 matches here Saturday series whitewash of the West

In the wake of victory Waugh declared his focus had already shifted to the three-Test series in Mumbai on February 27.

dia for a couple of months. We surroundings and that's going India on February 13.

time and this is a great challenge." Waugh said.

people to judge us on the tour. I'm quite willing to put that on not as good as these other sides

"If we're not good enough. But Waugh was confident

his team could win despite a stan, South Africa and Sri warning from Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly, who said But India has been a barren Australia should prepare for spinning wickets. Waugh has always shown

whose characters will be scru-

tinised after excelling in the less

testing conditions of Australia. New Zealand and Zimbabwe "I'm not too worried about when they completed a 5-0 whether the wickets are going to turn. We've got to go out Indies, winning the final Test by there and play positive cricket

and believe we can win on any surface in any conditions." Waugh said. "I know we've got the side to opportunities. against the Indians beginning win there. It's just a matter of

get beaten India will have to play real good cricket."

selection, with Australia facing a one-day triangular tournament at home against the West Indies and Zimbabwe starting Thursday before they head to the sub-continent.

But the debate about the potential spin attack will simmer throughout the one-day series, with Shane Warne, Stuart MacGill and Colin Miller contesting the spin berths.

MacGill and Miller have never played Tests in India and Warne has painful memories of his performances, taking 10 wickets at the costly average of 54 in three Tests.

But the record-breaking legspinner could have the inside running after being recalled from injury to the Australian one-day team while MacGill and Miller struggle for playing

There are no first-class attitude and enjoying the cul- matches scheduled in Australia Twe been thinking about In- ture and the people and the until the tour party leaves for

England where I've bowled a haven't won there for a long to be crucial to the way we perform. "We're going to go over there "I think it's fair enough for and give it our best shot. If we

Waugh said it was too early worry about that, it's just in the to talk about potential tour

Brett skips first ODI

SYDNEY. Jan 7: when he was diagnosed with that." Brett Lee will be bone stress in his lower back. ased back into international from Australia's opening limited game."

bourne on Thursday, reports another scan on his trouble- look at how he goes this week." some back Monday but will not

next Sunday. South Wales left-armer Nathan latter part of the series. Bracken to make his debut in Australia's opening match at squad after complaining of the Melbourne Cricket Ground soreness during Australia's fifth he was a surprise inclusion in Sydney Test win on Saturday the 13-man squad for the but Alcott said it was unrelated opening four matches of the to the problem which prevented

squad but he won't know his Test. immediate fate until Monday as medical staff refuse to risk him crept up on us a bit." Alcott ahead of a hectic year which includes lengthy tours of ludia

taking three wickets in six balls start with. to complete Australia's second-Test win over the Windies in siderably better after 10-14 Perth more than four weeks ago days and we'll review him after

"If the scans indicate that Brett's okay then he'll be eased ericket and has back into net bowling first with a view to missing the first Australian team overs triangular series match physiotherapist Errol Alcott with the West Indies in Mel- said Sunday.

him ready to play in Brisbane The strike bowler will have but we want to have a good

Lee's Test bowling partner play again until at least Aus- Jason Gillespie will also miss tralia's second match against the opening matches with a the West Indies in Brisbane hamstring tendon problem but That opens the door for New pected to be available for the the last two seasons.

the injury-plagued quick from Lec was included in the playing in the first Brisbane

"This is lower down but it's

"It's not that serious but it requires rest and treatment and Lee hasn't bowled since we're looking at two weeks to "We feel he should be con-

Alcott said the rest of the Test squad was free of problems as it splits between the Australian one-day squad and an Australia A squad for matches this week.

The top squad gathered in Melbourne on Sunday, with a "That would maybe leave training session set down for Monday before a warm-up match against Victoria on Tuesday.

Captain Steve Waugh said Australia was determined to stamp out the sluggish transition from Test to one-day the South Australian is ex- cricket which cost the team in

Australia have lost their Gillespie was left out of the opening game of the triangular series for the past three seasons, including a comprehensive 45-run loss to Pakistan last January.

That remains the only match Australia have lost at home in any form of cricket for the past two seasons.

SQUAD

Steve Waugh (captain). Adam Gilchrist (vice-captain). Michael Bevan, Nathan Bracken, Ian Harvey, Brett Lee, Darren Lehmann, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Ricky Ponting, Andrew Symonds, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh.



Tommy Hass of Germany holds the winner's trophy after beating Chilean Nicolas Massu in the final of the Australian Hardcourt tennis championship yesterday. - AFP photo

Warne sounds ominous

SYDNEY, Jan 7 (Reuters): Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne says he believes he is bowling as well as ever since returning from injury and expects to play a key role in Australia's Ashes defence in Eng-

Warne was sidelined in October after breaking his finger in an Australian interstate match, ruling him out of the five-Test series with the West Indies which ended on Satur-

But the 31-year-old made a spectacular return to the game this week, taking nine wickets in his first-class comeback to earn an immediate recall to the Australian one-day team for the triangular series with West Indies and Zimbabwe starting next week. He is confident of winning

his Test place back too. "I'm on the verge of getting back to the golden years. Warne told reporters in Perth late on Saturday.

"I think my bowling is back to its best and the future is going to hold some good stuff. "Sometimes when you get through tough injuries you want to rush back because you think you are right.

"But this time... I wanted to make sure and I think it's paid

Warne said he expected to play a leading role in this year's Ashes series after spending the 2000 English summer playing county cricket for Hampshire. Warne said he had spent his

time in England fine-tuning his bowling action and developing a range of new deliveries in preparation for the five-Test "I've worked on something in

straight one with more of a leg spinner's action than the flipper," Warne said. "It's something I've worked on as an alternative to the flipper but it will be back, don't

pocket at the moment."

Pless forced to quit

MADRAS, Jan 7: Danish teenager Kristian Pless withdrew 0-4 down from the first semifinal against the Czech Republic's Michal Tabara at the 400,000-dollar Indian Open here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Pless is suffering from tendinitis of the shoulder and will proceed for treatment in Melbourne, where he hopes to recover in time for the Australian Open qualifiers.

Twenty-one-year-old Tabara will take on Russia's Andrei Stoliarov in Sunday's final. Like Friday, Stoliarov had a bumpy first set before getting the better of Spanish 18-year-

old Tommy Robredo. Stoliarov won 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. Tabara, who has made his final, though he would have been happier if he had won the

match properly. "But anyway, I am very lucky to win this way," he

In the other match, Robredo also took a medical time out 1-2 down in the third set and had the trainer come in and massage and stretch his legs. He later said he was "cramping in both legs.

Stoliarov said he had started slowly as he didn't have enough time to warm up as the first match finished very quickly. "Initially, I was seeing three

going, I was fine. The doubles draw also saw a major upset, when India's Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi, who finished 1999 as the No. 1 pair in the world after reaching all four Grand Slam finals and winning the French Open and Wimbledon, lost to the British-Italian

Navarra, pairing together for the first time in a Tour event and wildcards here, won 2-6.-7-6 (8-6), 6-4.

They will meet the topseeded Black brothers from Zimbabwe, Byron and Wayne. In the day's first match on Centre Court, the Blacks beat

Haas happy on hardcourt

ADELAIDE, Jan 7: German Tommy Haas swept aside Chilean Nicolas Massu to win the final of the Australian Men's Hardcourt Tennis Championship here Sunday, reports AFP. Haas, the tournament fifth

seed, was in control throughout his 6-3, 6-1 victory in 83 minutes at Memorial Drive. It was Haas' second ATP Tour triumph and he said it was a signal his Australian

month was on track. "Definitely it will help, obviously winning some matches now gives me some confidence and winning a title is very important to me," Haas said. "It has started off good so

what happens in the next few weeks." Haas battled back stiffness throughout the final but the ailment was not obvious, particularly with a blistering start in which he delivered four con-

secutive aces. That set the tone for the remainder of the one-sided contest but Haas praised Massu's performances this week.

Marcelo Rios of Chile in traditional Qatari garb poses with his newly married wife Juliana Sotela after he stormed into Qatar Open final in Doha on January 6. - AFP photo

Marcelo in full flow DOHA. Jan , 7: mini-honeymoon with 17-year- Grand Slam, which starts in Chile's former old architecture student Melbourne in just over a week's

top ten place this game. year as a platform for a return to the top spot, produced a foray with a brilliantly wrong- ers of them all. masterful performance to reach footing topspin lob, and went the final of the Qatar Open here on to break his opponent's de- durable Czech. saved two on Saturday, reports AFP. Rios won 6-1, 6-3 against the first set. Belarus' Vladimir Voltchkov, Voltchkov made better prog- match point to overcome the

event, making it more than ever took him less than an hour to

who last year became the first ress in the second set with his Frenchman Nicolas Escude 3-6. qualifier to reach the last four fierce. flat ground strokes. 7-5, 7-6 (9/7) in the longest at Wimbledon since John sometimes taken spectacularly match of the tournament. McEnroe in 1977, and will meet from an airborne position. But the Czech Republic's Bohdan the pacev hitting suited Rios' minutes and was Ulihrach's Ulihrach, after the qualifier counter-hitting style and one seventh contest of the week. came through in three sets more break, in the sixth game against Frenchman Nicolas was decisive. Escude. This high-speed victory car- delay when Rios called for the

cial favourite will be successful months. in both money and love. The Chilean newlywed is he can once more be a serious home city of Santiago last year.

world number one Juliana and was in buoyant time Marcelo Rios, who mood from the start, breaking

livery three times altogether in match points in the qualifying

There was one disconcerting deficit to win.

His immediate focus though is trying to build a Voltchkov's serve in the first needs to be upon his opponent in Sunday's final, because Rios He completed that opening faces one of the bonniest fight-Ulihrach, the remarkably

competition and then another

It lasted two hours and 41

It was also the fourth time he had come back from a large "A cat may have seven lives, ried the comeback man to the trainer after cutting his finger but I am hoping I will have five

final of the 1,000,000 dollars reaching for a drink, but it still this week," he joked. Tired though he may well be likely that this week the unoffi- reach his first final in six when it comes to the showdown. Rios has reason to be-This suggests Rios believes ware - when they met in Rios' using the tournament as a contender in the year's first it was Ulibrach who prevailed.

"suffering as a result of his par-

Beckers trying to settle?



BERLIN. Jan 7: post reported an "insider" who Balthasar, one. The source bara Becker met as saving. in their Florida home on Fisher estranged pair came ahead of a to return home to Munich"

divorce settlement, reports AFP. as he wants.

after she had spoken to every- to prevent Boris from taking intense one in his entourage in order to them away, had evidently repersuade him to talk to her.

Boris and Bar- had spoken with Boris Becker said that Noah Gabriel was The meeting between the ents' divorces battle and wants

scheduled court hearing in Mi-

The reports said Boris, 33. "Barbara, who has been public legal battle in court,

"They are doing it for the They have two children, the Miami court proceedings

children," the Berliner Morgen- Noah Gabriel, six, and Elias live to their viewers back home

A friend of Boris's told Welt according to re- ami on Monday to determine am Sonntag (WamS) newspaper ports in the German press whether further legal proceed- that Barbara had suddenly which said Sunday they were mgs take place in the US as she been seized with a fear that trying to reach an out-of-court has sought or a German court their dispute turn into "something uncontrollable" with a first Tour final here, said he went to the house on Fisher holed up in the couple's Fisher German media interest in was very happy at reaching the Island and had a meeting of Island home since November the details of the break-up of several hours with Barbara. 34. with their two children in a bid their seven-year-old marriage is German television stations lented, according to the source. have been preparing to transmit

> -- something they would not be allowed to do under German law from a German court. WamS said that Boris had already offered an out-of-court settlement to Barbara through his lawyers on December 17, that he had repeated his offer Saturday and that she could

> "I see unusually good chances of the two coming to an agreement so that Monday's court date would thus become void. " WamS quoted Boris's friend as saving. It said he had offered to

now accept it.

staff, bodyguards and a generous subsistence allowance. Barbara has asked the Miami court for custody of the children, alimony and the Fisher Island house which is estimated to be worth three

leave her with custody of the

children, plus their house in

Munich with the necessary

million dollars. The former tennis champion has applied for divorce to a court in Munich where the couple had a residence before the split.

29 30 48 49 50 45 46 52 53 CRYPTOQUIP

GDHDMTSRDG NJJ XDRGVMU

TNGD

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MAYBE YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH HAPPENINGS IN CAMELOT BY WATCHING THE KNIGHTLY NEWS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals S

VEHDR

FDMEDIH UNJDU FSHILDU

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another, If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error,

balls on court. But once I got combination of Barry Cowan and Mose Navarra. Southpaws both. Cowan and Czech Michal Tabara makes a forehand return to Kristian Pless of Denmark during their semifinal clash of the Gold Flake Open in Madras on January 6. - AFP photo CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer the Czech combine of Frantisek Cermak and Ota Fukarek 6-3. ACROSS

41 Basic:

1 Prison

5 Once

around

Around"

17 Some-

marks

vowels

23 Pam Tillis'

handle

"dingbat"

interrup-

28 Archie's

21 Witness

22 Greek

dad

26 Man-

31 Brief

tion

35 Pound of

poetry

38 He's on

first

40 Have a

bite

charity for

Liz Taylor

33 Speck

36 Pet

Abbr.

scale

channel

protector

icence

orders

58 Timetable

abbr.

59 — good

DOWN

1 Pawn

example

Drang link

43 Sturm-

8 Applaud 45 Comfort

12 Sea eagle 47 Panicky

13 "- Been 51 Grand-

14 Give a job 52 Cable

15 Longevity 54 Highway

18 Attractive 56 Malef-

19 Insertion 57 Pub

where out 55 Car-front

2 Small

8 Data,

combo

briefly

5 Uhder-

4 Stenches

without

hearing

Gardner

6 Ms.

7 Part

of a

pound

Grant

movie

9 Real

10 "I smell

11 Pron.

16 Leak

Solution time: 21 mins.

DELAYEDEMONEY

type

slowly

8 Hepburn/

20 Packed

23 Biz deg.

24 Freddy

street

25 "50-50-"

27 Holy

29 La-la

32 Royal

proportion 34 To this

Krueger's

or "phone

a friend"

mack-

erel!"

lead-in

30 Chapeau

rosi-

point

games

39 Fairy tale

opener

Dame

Nellie

44 History

test

45 Actress

Ward

46 Autumnal

49 Put forth

50 Walter -

Mare

53 Like some

4B Split

birthstone

answers

LNXD

42 Opera's

37 Fun 'n'

dences