INTERNET, Melbourne

The International Cricket Council will act as a mediator to resolve the impasse between India and Pakistan, which follows the Indian government's refusal to allow the two countries to meet.

In addition, the ICC is likely to give India the right to stage the 2002 ICC Knockout tournament. which would be a deviation from custom, with fringe nations (such as Bangladesh and Kenya) being day. given hosting rights so far.

A delegation from the ICC will be going to India to investigate the possibilities of India hosting the next ICC knockout tournament. The delegation will, at the same India and Pakistan to try to persuade them to revive cricketing relations between their two countries.

## Fleming stays the same

REUTERS, Wellington

New Zealand's cricket selectors reaffirmed support for embattled captain Stephen Fleming on Monday as they named an unchanged squad for the first two limitedovers matches against touring Pakistan.

Chairman of selectors Sir Richard Hadlee said Fleming had felt the pressure of the poor results and had been reviewing his position as captain.

"He has confirmed this morning that he would like to continue in the role. The selectors are very pleased with his decision as we believe he is the best man for the job," Hadlee said in a statement.

He said the panel had supported Fleming through the recent series against Sri Lanka and had encouraged him to continue in that role.

Before Sunday's 13-run victory against Sri Lanka, the New Zealand teams led by Fleming had won only one of the 12 previous one-day internationals, leading to media speculation that he might be replaced. New Zealand lost the Sri Lanka series 4-1.

SQUAD

Stephen Fleming (captain). Nathan Astle, Adam Parore, Roger Twose, Craig McMillan, Chris Harris, Jacob Oram, Lou Vincent, Daniel Vettori, James Franklin, Daryl Tuffey, Chris Martin.

## SL searching for Muralitharan's replacement

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka selectors have earmarked three spinners as possible replacements for spin king Muttiah Muralitharan who is doubtful for the first Test against England in Galle next week.

Left-arm spinner Niroshan Bandaratilake, leg-spinner Malinga Bandara and schoolboy offspinner Muthumudalige Pushpakumara were named in a 14-man squad to represent a Board President's XI in a four-day game against England's cricketers starting Thursday at Matara.

This game will be the run-up to the three-Test series commencing at the Galle International Stadium on February 22.

Bandaratilake and Bandara have both played Test cricket before. while Pushpakuamara has yet to make his debut.

Muralitharan aggravated a groin injury while playing for Sri Lanka in the fifth and final oneday international against New Zealand at Christchurch on Sun-

Chairman of selectors Tikiri Banda Kehelgamuwa said that he had been in touch with the Sri Lanka team physio Alex Kontouri who had assured him that Muralitharan would recover in time to play in the first Test.

## Mark

FROM PAGE 13

"It's a lot of cricket so they're going to have to see how they can fit it all in but it's good that Zimbabwe will be able to play in it they'll get a lot of income in from that," Streak said.

Meanwhile, allegations that four West Indian cricketers were involved in match-fixing were old and unsubstantiated, the International Cricket Council said Monday.

ICC anti-corruption unit boss Sir Paul Condon categorically denied the allegations related to any of the matches played in Aus-

tralia this season. He said the claims of a "stack of fresh allegations", published by

London's Observer newspaper related to matches in the 1980s.

"The article contained no new information and is a repackaging | caped but Black was knocked of unsubstantiated allegations relating to the 1980s," Sir Paul said | four men. in a statement issued here, where he addressed the ICC's executive | for a cut to the head, was expected

board meeting over the weekend. "The recycling of reports in the | teammates later Monday. British Sunday press has unfairly tarnished the reputations of players involved in the Australian se- about the whole incident," Skerritt ries."

Primera Liga

## Racing outrun Barca

Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Racing Santander provided the shock result of the weekend as they stunned Barcelona 4-0 in the Spanish first division on Sun-

The result gave Racing their first points in six games and saw them claw their way off the bottom of the table by virtue of their superior goal difference.

A fine solo effort from Urutime, meet the governments of guayan interational Mario Regueiro in the first half, superb headers from Luis Ramis and Claudio Arzeno and a fierce drive from Javier Mazzoni in the

second brought Barcelona's 18-match unbeaten run to an abrupt end.

The result means that Barcelona failed to take advantage of Real Madrid's 1-0 defeat at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday and remain eight points behind the leaders.

Real lead the table on 48 points, Deportivo Coruna are second four points behind after their 4-1 win over Real Sociedad on Saturday and Barcelona remain in

Barcelona appeared to still be dwelling on their 7-0 destruction of Athletic Bilbao last week when the game began and it was Racing who immediately impressed with their positive attitude and willingness to push forward in search of a

Jose Emilio Amavisca and defender Olof Mellberg both made good ground on the flanks, making the most of the absence of injured Barcelona wingers Marc Overmars and Simao Sabrosa.

Barcelona never managed to take control of a congested midfield and it was a more determined Racing that hunted down the ball and deservedly took the lead on 36 minutes.

Regueiro, who signed for Racing at the end of last month. robbed Abelardo just inside the Barca half and set off goalwards. He wrong-footed Sergi and then struck home under keeper Jose Manuel Reina with a fine left foot drive. Ramis added a second three minutes after the break as he headed into the ground from an

Amavisca free kick. The ball bounced in front of Reina and into the roof of the net.

The Catalan giants looked lost without the guiding influence of the suspended Pep Guardiola in midfield and were hit once again only four minutes later as Arzeno dived in at the far post to head home after a corner.

The hard-working Argentine striker Mazzoni provided the icing on the cake when he added the fourth, rifling home after a poor clearance from Sergi on 74 min-

The packed crowd at the Sardinero stadium could hardly bestanding ovation, while the dazed Barcelona players shook their heads as they walked

from the pitch. Larlier former Boca Juniors

striker Martin Palermo hit his first 10-man Villarreal come from behind to beat Real Oviedo 3-1 and move into fifth position in the table.

Palermo smashed in at the far post on 60 minutes to level after Oviedo had opened with a Djordje Tomic penalty. Unai Bergara added a second when his 20-metre free kick took a deflection and wrong-footed goalkeeper Esteban. Jorge Lopez wrapped up the win as he powered his way through on 71 minutes. On Saturday, a goal lieve the result giving their team a from Bittor Alkiza in the fourth minute was enough to give Athletic Bilbao their win over Real Madrid.



Barcelona striker Rivaldo (L) and Racing Santander defender Arceno are engaged in a tussle for possession during their Primera Liga encounter at Santander on February 11.

# Sidhu's suggestions

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

Only spinner-friendly pitches can help India face Australia on equal ago. terms in their home Test series starting later this month, according to former Indian opener Navjot Singh Sidhu.

Sidhu, who played 51 Tests in his 15-year career that ended two years ago, said Australia's batsmen could be contained only on turning tracks, despite the absence of Anil Kumble from the series following shoulder surgery.

"Tracks are going to play a very important role. And there is only one way, play on turning tracks," said the cricketer-turnedcommentator, adding India should play attacking cricket.

Australia will arrive in India determined to extend their world record of 15 consecutive Test victories and captain Steve Waugh has declared his team can claim to be the best in history only if they win the Indian series.

Sidhu, whose attacking batting was crucial in India's 2-1 home Test series win over Australia in 1997-98, also said Australian legspinner Shane Warne would be a tougher prospect for the Indian batsmen this time.

"He (Warne) didn't settle down well last time," said Sidhu, who played his part in the attack on the wrist-spinner by scoring 341 runs from five innings for a series average of 68.20.

"But this time they have done their homework. They are likely to bowl a leg-stump line. Indians are not very good at the sweep shot and playing against the spin, they are bound to give more chances,"

### Black beaten up

AFP, Melbourne

West Indies fast bowler Marlon Black was viciously beaten with a wooden club in an attack outside a Melbourne night club early Sunday, team manager Ricky Skerritt said Monday.

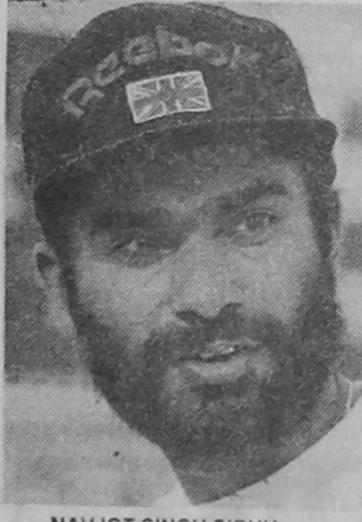
Skerrit said two players esdown by a car and attacked by

Black, who needed 10 stitches to return to the Caribbean with his

"He is in great pain and discomfort and feels very depressed

Sidhu said in an interview on Monday.

shoulder injury during the tour, bowled an off-stump line which suited Indian batsmen two years



**NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU** 

Sachin Tendulkar won a muchanticipated duel with Warne, scoring 446 runs in five innings which included two centuries for a nesburg last month. series average of 111.50. Warne Tests at an average of 54.00. Former India skipper Krish- internationals.

namachari Srikkanth gives India a "60-40" edge over Australia and Warne, who was nursing a predicted the home off-spinners would succeed against Australia despite lack of experience.

He told this news agency that he expected Sharandeep Singh, who took six wickets in his only previous Test in India's 1-0 series victory over Zimbabwe at home last year, to do well.

Sidhu said the fact that Australia had not won a Test series in India since 1969 could not be ignored.

of Kumble, India's second highest Test wicket-taker after Kapil Dev. was a big blow.

"For the last five-six years, he is the only match-winning spinner we had. He not only used to take wickets economically, he used to put pressure on the batsmen to score from the other end," he

added. Kumble is expected to be out of action at least for the next four months. He has been sidelined since last October with a shoulder injury but is on the road to recovery after an operation in Johan-

Australia's itinerary in India intook only 10 wickets in the three cludes a three-Test series, starting on February 27, and five one-day

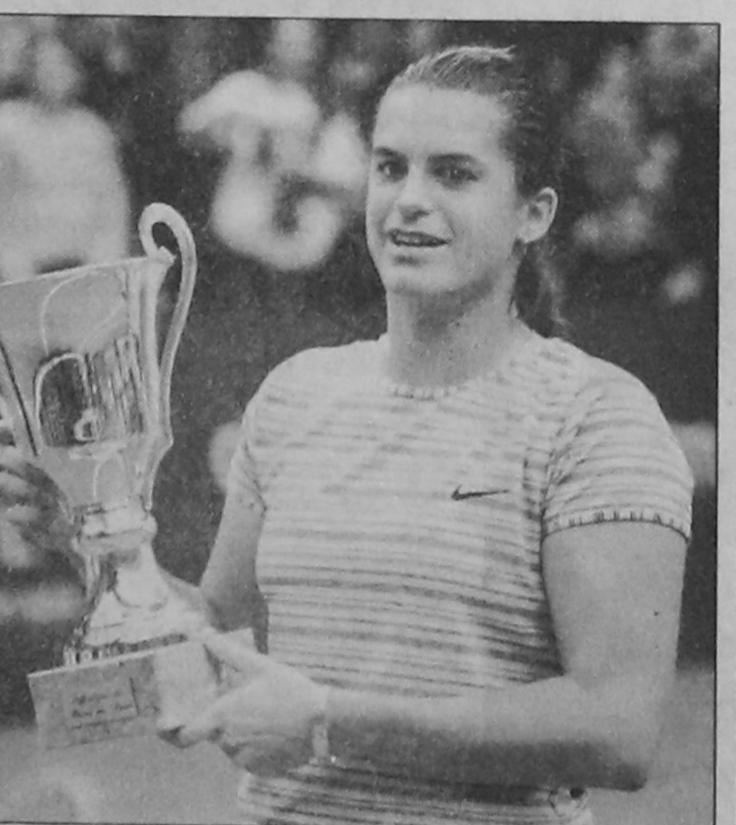


PHOTO: AFP Amelie Mauresmo of France poses with the winner's trophy after beating Anke Huber of Germany in the Paris Open final on February 11.

### Steve the best

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australian captain Steve Waugh won the Allan Border Medal on Monday after being voted Australia's cricketer-of-the-year.

Waugh, who has led his country to a world record 15 consecutive Test wins, polled 63 votes to goal since arriving in Spain to help | win the award by one vote from his twin brother Mark. Fast bowler Brett Lee was third on 61 votes.

Earlier, versatile bowler Colin Miller, nicknamed "Funky" and sporting a bright blue hairstyle, choked back tears when accepting the Test player-of-the-year award. Miller, 37, made his Test debut

as a 34-year-old, six months after switching from medium-pace to spin. Steve Waugh paid tribute to Border, his first Test captain in 1985, as typical of everything that was good about Australian cricket.

Waugh added that it was a "bitter-sweet" feeling pipping his twin by one vote.

The voting period included eight Tests and 25 limited-overs matches in which Australia played from February last year to the limited-overs finals series against West Indies which finished last

Miller (32 wickets at 21.12) won the Test award with six votes, on a countback from Steve Waugh (563 runs at 62.55) and opening batsman Michael Slater (550 runs at 42.30). Fast bowler Glenn McGrath

won the best one-day international player award, having taken 36 wickets at an average of 20.30 during the voting period.

Last year, McGrath won the Test award and the inaugural Border medal.

The late Bill Woodfull, captain during the Bodyline series against England in 1932-33, and former Test opener Arthur Morris, 79, were inducted into Australian cricket's hall of fame.

## 'Quake' meet nullified

AFP, New Delhi

India's cricket chiefs have shelved d plans to organise a four-nation limited-overs tournament in April to raise funds for victims of the devastating earthquake in Gujarat, sources said on Monday. Instead, a charity match be-

tween former Test stars of Australia and India, featuring Richie Benaud, Ian Chappell and Sunit Gavaskar among others, will be organised in Madras on March 23. "None of the teams we ap-

proached were free to come in April," the sources said, adding invitations had been extended to Australia, South Africa, New Zealand. Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

India last week turned down an offer from Pakistan to join a threenation event in Sharjah to raise funds for the January 26 earthquake which has claimed an estimated 30,000 lives and left some 1.25 million homeless.

The charity match will be played a day after the three-Test series against Australia ends in

Organisers are confident they will rope in Benaud, Chappell and Gavaskar, who will be in Madras However, he said the absence | doing television commentary on the Test series.

## Paris Open Mauresmo's

AFP, Paris

France's Amelie Mauresmo ruined Anke Huber's dreams of a fairytale comeback from a careerthreatening injury Sunday when the number eight seed took the 565,000-dollar Paris Indoor Open WTA tennis title.

Mauresmo, defeated in the 1999 finals here by American Serena Williams, scored her first victory over the sixth-seeded German in their third meeting to take the 90,000-dollar winner's

It took the 21-year-old 1hr 15min to win her first Paris Indoors title on her third attempt with a 7-6 (7/2), 6-1 score. "It's great to win here in France

on front of such a wonderful crowd," said a tearful Mauresmo after the match. "I want to thank all those who have helped me, we've worked hard and we've succeeded. Huber, who had considered

quitting after a wrist injury which has kept her out of action since

de Coubertin stadium to continue the punishment she meted out on defending champion and compatriot Nathalie Tauziat in Saturday's semifinal which she won 6-2,

## Everything against 'em?

## Cricket

AFP, Sydney

India have some important factors don't like - and have little experiin their favour to extend 30 years of home dominance over the

A key reason for Australia's record-breaking success under Steve Waugh and coach John Buchanan has been its careful scrutiny of an opponent's strengths and weaknesses and planning to counter or exploit them.

tour the Aussies will go in against a spinner Anil Kumble. well-prepared Indian team bolstered by new coach John Wright and Indian cricket board consultant Geoff Marsh.

Wright has already been lauded by captain Saurav Ganguly for his input at a pre-series training camp for India's top 25 play-

If anyone can teach the Indians to cope with Australia's new-ball attack it will be the former New Zealand Test opener. As predecessor to Buchanan as

Australian coach, Marsh knows more about this Australian team than anyone else. He will be able to deliver valuable input which will only embellish the marked home advantage.

Of 29 Tests in India, Australia have won 9, drawn 11, lost 8 and tied 1.

And home advantage means so much to the Indians. Forget their

dia for the February-April tour.

132 210

2661

3917

1195.5

309

highest score, A-average)

AFP, Sydney

BATTING

D Fleming

A Gilchrist

J Gillespie

M Havden

G McGrath

D Martyn

R Ponting

C Miller

M Slater

S Warne

M Waugh

BOWLING

Player

Fleming

Gillespie

Hayden

McGrath

Martyn

Ponting

Miller

Slater

Warne

M Waugh

S Waugh

Kasprowicz

J Langer

M Kasprowicz

Player

TEST AVERAGES OF AUSTRALIANS

Test career batting and bowling averages of the Australian squad to In-

6932

200

89

39 8722

(\* denotes not out, T-Tests, I-innings, N/O-not out, R-runs, H/S-

6817

3181

(O-overs, M-maidens, R-runs, W-wickets, A-average, B/B-best bowling)

tour here last summer when Australia scored a 3-0 series win built on the ability of the pacemen to

rip through the batting line-up. Waugh maintains the Indians

pitches expected in Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai.

four Tests at an average of 17.06.

fast bowler Michael Kasprowicz announced last week.

in the squad, edging out legspinner Stuart MacGill and pacemen Andy Bichel, Don Nash and Nathan Bracken as the replacement for the injured Brett Lee.

The Queenslander was rewarded for his heroic performances on Australia's last tour to India in 1998 when he bowled to the point of exhaustion as a badlyundermanned side went down 2-1 in the series.

On that tour Australia was without the three fast bowlers that

Waugh said. "You always back him in a tough situation and Shane is keen for the challenge."

in India was how they coped as a team with the difficult conditions talent to be successful.

than complaining about it as some teams have in the past. "We've got the players so our

Australia leave for India on Tuesday. Australia: Steve Waugh (captain), Adam Gilchrist (vice-

captain), Damien Fleming, Jason Gillespie, Matthew Hayden, Michael Kasprowicz, Justin Langer, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Colin Miller, Ricky Ponting, Michael Slater, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh.

### **FACTFILE**

AFP, Sydney

Australia's Test cricket record

1956-57 3 Aust 2-0 1959-60 5 Aust 2-1 1964-65 3 Draw 1-1 1969-70 5 Aust 3-1 1979-80 India 2-0 1986-87 3 Draw 0-0 1996-97 India 1-0 1997-98 3 India 2-1

Summary: Played 29 won 9

## USA follow holders

21.08

34.68

22.06

25.46

22.25

6.00

25.96

39.19

35.74

5-32

1-0

1-4

8-71

5-40

5-28

Tennis AFP, Paris

The United States were sent tumbling out of the Davis Cup by Switzerland Sunday in another door stadium. upset following the first round exit

of defending champions Spain. Roger Federer was the execu- drubbing by the Netherlands. tioner of the US challenge, defeating Jan Michael Gambill to themselves victory on Saturday give his team an unbeatable 3-1 lead in their world group first rubber. round clash.

Federer outfoxed Gambill 7-5. 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, in a gritty battle in Basel to clinch victory for the Swiss underdogs.

The 19-year-old right-hander who had defeated Todd Martin in Friday's opening singles - proved too strong for Gambill to wrap up victory in just over three hours.

36 Weather

40 Mafia

bigwig

41 Romance

novelist

Victoria

section

for Mary

42 Waste

47 Church

48 Money

torecast

**ACROSS** 

name

8 One of

12 Stretch

out

14 Hydro-

e.g.

chloric,

32 It means

34 Queen - ATA

35 Breakfast SHE

Jackson 5

the

5 Roy G.'s 37 Fold

1 Tug

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ability to convert pressure into Raemon Sluiter in the dead fifth breaks. He only converted two of rubber at Eindhoven's Indoor 10 break points while Federer capitalised on five of 15 during the tussle at Basel's Jakobshalle in-

lowed holders Spain's hapless The Dutch had guaranteed able 3-1 lead.

They had at one point looked set to inflict a humiliating white- ber. wash of the 2000 champions on Sunday when Jan Siemerink defeated Juan Balcells 6-7 (9/11), 6-4.

with a win in the decisive doubles

some pride to the Spanish ranks said.

20 Health

22 Race-car

driver

awards

clogged

45 Environ-

mentally

members

Iriendly

(pref.)

23 Stage

25 Gets

Granatelli

3 - pros. 21 A Kalzen-

4 Prepares

propose

5 Singer

6 Judge

Erykah

Lance

7 Not para-

Gambill was left ruing his in- with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) win over Sportcentrum.

Earlier Sunday, last year's

beaten finalists Australia had

booked their place in the last eight

The United States' defeat fol- when Lleyton Hewitt defeated Nicolas Lapentti 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 in Perth to give the hosts an unbeat-Pat Rafter wrapped up a 4-1 win against the South Americans

with a straight sets triumph over Gionanni Lapentti in the fifth rub-They will now face Brazil, who completed a 4-1 defeat of Morocco Sunday, on the clay of Rio

7-6 (7/3) to give the Netherlands a de Janeiro in a crunch battle for a semifinal place in April. "It is go-Only Carlos Moya restored ing to be extremely hard," Hewitt

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, if will equal O throughout the puzzie. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe

CRYPTOQUIP

TO MAKE WAVES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals O

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

26 PC pic 15 Magnifi-Poppins phrased the quarter-finals of the US Open 8 Of greater 27 Make 49 Juror. cence 29 Raiments last September, said reaching the 16 Late-night 31 Method TV 9 On the finals had surpassed her expecta-50 Witness rocks 33 Less of a celeb 51 Cam-10 Fork mess 17 — de "I've had it tough. I'm just 34 Smokecologne bodia's happy to be here," said the 26-18 More neighbor 11 Pervasive stack year-old, who once again had to 36 Cleaning impudent 20 Command- DOWN 13 Summersettle for runners-up spot after 1 Without a time pest 37 Fellow losing the 1997 final to Martina 19 Oil org. 38 Heavy word doubt Hingis of Switzerland. 23 Recording 39 Different "It was very tough to play here 24 Cookware 40 Pigeon 25 Clique today and Amelie had a great 43"- Sera 28 Moreover game. 29 Mixes with MESH World number 19 Mauresmo 44 Modern-BDO came back onto court at the Pierre Saturday's Cryptoquip: UNCONVENTIONAL 30 Cornlield BIAIR NE OCEANOGRAPHERS ARE GUYS WHO SIMPLY LIKE evidence

Shane Warne was hampered by a ence - of fast bowling. shoulder injury. But batting on Australia's hard, On that occasion he took 5-28 touring Australian cricket team. bouncy pitches is one thing - this as Australia won its first Test in time the batsmen so terrified of India since its last series win there Glenn McGrath and company in 1969-70. when in Australia will be far more Waugh said those efforts were comfortable on the featherbed not forgotten when it came to picking the squad, even though

However, one Indian strength But on this month's Indian has been removed - mesmerising

The leg-spinner has a great record against Australia in India, where he has taken 32 wickets in Whole-hearted Queensland

was the surprise selection in the 14-man Australian touring team Kasprowicz won the final place

Zimbabwe. Three years ago Tendulkar humiliated Warne but at that stage the champion leggie's bowling shoulder was virtually ruined. Waugh believes Warne will relish a return meeting with his

Kasprowicz.

greatest tormentor. "He's a great bowler Warnie," Waugh said the key to success

will partner Kasprowicz on this

tour - Glenn McGrath, Jason

Gillespie and Damien Fleming -

while Paul Wilson and Paul Reiffel

both broke down mid-tour and

Kasprowicz has played only one

first-class match since returning

a tour to India," Waugh said of

Australian side is a strong unit

with guys who are tough and re-

"You need strong characters on

"What we are looking for in the

Veteran off-spinner Colin

Miller will partner Warne, who

proved his recovery from a broken

finger throughout the one-day

series against the West Indies and

from a shoulder reconstruction.

saying the team had the individual "It's more important how we act as a team over there and enjoy the country and the culture rather

attitude will be the key.'

against India in India: (under series, matches, result)

(In 1986-87 First Test tied) drawn 11 lost 8 tied 1

Davis Cup