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REUTERS, Centurion

The unofficial Test between South Africa and India should not be granted Test status at a later date. Shaun Pollock has said.

"I would be very surprised if it did become a Test match -- I don't think it should," South African captain Pollock told reporters after the close of the first day's play.

"To turn it into a Test match afterwards would not be right. The guys need to know before they step onto the field what the game stands

The match was scheduled as the third Test of the series, but the International Cricket Council (ICC) withdrew the game's status after the South Africa's United Cricket Board said it would stop ICC appointed match referee Mike Denness from officiating in the match.

Denness found Indian hero Sachin Tendulkar guilty of ball tampering during the drawn second Test in Port Elizabeth.

Denness also sanctioned five other Indian players, including captain Saurav Ganguly, for bringing the game into disrepute through excessive appealing.

Pollock admitted the match against India lacked the usual intensity but added it should give his side valuable preparation for the rest of the summer.

"It definitely takes the edge off, because you know it's not a fully fledged international," Pollock said after India were reduced to 221 for eight on Friday.

"It's a little bit more relaxed than a Test match would be. The intensity was just under where Test cricket is normally.

"It's a great practice," he said. "We've got a tough tour of Australia coming up, and India go home to play England."

Murali, Vaas

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-51, 3-72, 4-126, 5-126, 6-167, 7-173, 8-173, 9-

| Bowler | 0 | M | R | ٧ | | |
|---------------------------|------|---|----|----|--|--|
| Vaas | 22 | 8 | 57 | | | |
| Zoysa | 13 | 3 | 34 | | | |
| M'tharan | 23.4 | 5 | 55 | | | |
| B'tilleke | 4 | 0 | 25 | | | |
| S'weera | 4 | 1 | 16 | | | |
| SRI LANKA: Second innings | | | | | | |
| Atanattu not o | ut | | _ | 58 | | |

Jayasuriya c Gayle b Ramnarine55 Sangakkara not out Extras: (b-3, lb-2) Total: (For 1 wkt in 47 overs) 128

Fall of wicket: 1-89

| Bowler | 0 | M | R | W |
|-------------------|---------|------|------|-----|
| Dillon | 6 | 2 | 14 | C |
| Collins | 7 | 0 | 21 | C |
| Ramnarine | 13 | 0 | 51 | 1 |
| Stuart | 8 | 1 | 20 | C |
| Hooper | 13 | 4 | 17 | C |
| Umpires: | John | На | mpsl | hir |
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(England) and MG Silva (Sri Lanka).

Zia tears FROM PAGE 13

This needs to be corrected," Zia

The PCB chairman said that while Denness was within his rights to penalise Tendulkar after watching replays on television, this was something which should have been left up to the umpires.

"They are the ones who watch everything on field. Which is why Pakistan is asking for more powers to be given to the umpires on and off the field," Zia said.

India also won guarded support from PCB director Brigadier Munawwar Rana.

"We believe that the Indians have not challenged the position of the match referee in the ICC, but some of his judgements in a particular match," Rana said.

"We consider this a matter between India and the ICC and the UCB. Our feeling is the Indians are

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Storm hits as NZ saviour

Cricket

AFP, Hobart

A thunderstorm washed out play midway through the third day of the second cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand at Bellerive Oval here Saturday.

Lightning and heavy rain hit the ground at 2:53 pm local time (0353 GMT) forcing the players from the field until scheduled tea.

The field was saturated with pools of water in the outfield and follow-up rain prevented ground staff from preparing the pitch for a resumption of play. The match was officially abandoned at 5:05 pm

At the onset of the storm, New Zealand were 71 for two off 35 overs with Mark Richardson on 25 with skipper Stephen Fleming 16 in reply to Australia's massive first innings 558 for 8 declared.

The Kiwis still have a mountain to climb and need a further 288 runs to pass the follow-on and make Australia bat again.

With more rain forecast for the remaining two days the Kiwis could yet achieve another draw, following the rain-marred first Test in Brisbane, which would leave the series locked going into the third and final Test in Perth starting next

In the little play possible Saturday New Zealand crept along, losing opener Matthew Bell and No.3 Mathew Sinclair in the pro-Jason Gillespie bowled Sinclair

with a beautiful off-cutter on the first ball after lunch for 23, leaving the Kiwis at 53 for two. Gillespie's delivery went

between Sinclair's bat and pad and crashed into his middle stump as the batsman looked on in disbelief. The day's play began 75 minutes after the scheduled early start after

rain with playing times amended. The Kiwis were under pressure from aggressive bowling and fielding with their first boundary coming

in the 17th over of the innings. Bell's lamentable series continued when he was dismissed for four grafted out in 54 minutes.

He attempted to sweep Shane Warne's second ball of the match and 14th of the innings and the ball appeared to come off the leading pad to wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist. Local umpire John Smeaton, standing in for his first Test for

injured Steve Davis (wrenched knee), quickly raised his finger signalling a catch.

Zealand line-up is under pressure after scores of six and five in the drawn first Brisbane Test.



Australia spinner Shane Warne (R) speaks to commentator lan Healy (under umbrella) during a rain-break on the third day of the second Test against New Zealand in Hobart on Saturday.

in the second over of the Test on Thursday's opening day with the Australian opener going on to reach 123, his 10th Test hundred

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at close of play on the

third day of the second Test between Áustralia and New Zealand at the Bellerive Oval Saturday: AUSTRALIA: First innings 558 for 8 declared (R Ponting 157 not out, J Langer 123, M Hayden 91; D Vettori 5-138)

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-53 To bat: Nathan Astle, Craig McMillan, Chris Cairns, Adam Parore, Daniel Vettori, Daryl Tuffey, Shane Bond. OMRW Bowler

| McGrath | 11 | 6 | 11 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Gillespie | 11 | 5 | 18 | 1 |
| Warne | 7 | 1 | 25 | 1 |
| Lee | 6 | 1 | 17 | 0 |
| Umpires: S Indies) and S | Steve Bud Steve Davis | kno (Au | or (V ustral | Vest ia). |

Bangar baffles England

Cricket

AFP, Hyderabad

England's batting preparations for the upcoming cricket Test series against India suffered a setback when they collapsed to 163-9 in a tour match, which ended in a draw here on Saturday.

Skipper Nasser Hussain was the top-scorer with 38 in the tourists' dismal second-innings performance on the third and final day of their game against the Indian Board President's Eleven.

The hosts had earlier declared their first innings at 339-7 in reply to their rivals' 320.

The tourists, who struggled against spin in the first innings, faltered against pace in the second as Sanjay Bangar exposed their batting limitations with a five-wicket

Bangar never allowed the English batsmen to settle down with his gentle pace and swing in his disciplined 14-over spell, dismissing Hussain and Graham Thorpe to put the pressure on the tourists.

Mark Ramprakash, who scored a century on Thursday, was the second-highest scorer with 32, but his teammates squandered an opportunity to bat themselves into form

By Eugene Sheffer

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before the first Test starting on

The English bowlers, however, were seen in better light in the morning as they grabbed five wickets for 83 runs after the home team had resumed at 256-2.

Off-spinner Martyn Ball enhanced his Test claims with a double strike to finish with 3-89 while seamers Craig White and Matthew Hoggard each bagged two

Hoggard provided the breakthrough in the day's sixth over when he bowled Test-hopeful Jacob

Martin for 89 after the batsman had added just six to his overnight score. Martin, who was involved in a 202-run stand for the third wicket with left-handed opener Sridharan

Sriram, struck 10 fours in his 165ball innings. Thereafter, White and Ball shared four wickets as the hosts

slipped from 315-3 to 322-7. Ball started the slide with the dismissal of Rohan Gavaskar (24),

son of former India captain, Sunil, and then accounted for Bangar for

White had Sriram caught by James Foster for his first wicket and then trapped wicketkeeper Pankaj

Dharmani to finish with 2-44.

Sriram, 120 overnight, added 29 more runs and hit 16 boundaries in his 289-ball knock.

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOCCER STARS SHOULD BE INCREDIBLY SMART SINCE THEY

USE THEIR HEADS SO MUCH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals 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 puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

SCOREBOARD

Final day's scoreboard in the drawn three-day tour match between England and the Indian Board President's XI at the Lal Bahadur Stadium on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 320 (M Ramprakash 105, N Hussain 46, M Butcher 41; Sarandeep 5-98, Kartik 3-84)

| BOARD PRESIDENT'S | XI: | First |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------|
| innings (overnight 256-2) | | |
| Sriram c Foster b White | | 149 |
| Jaffer c Foster b Hoggard | | 0 |
| Mongia c Thorpe b Ball | | 44 |
| Martin b Hoggard | | 89 |
| Gavaskar c and b Ball | | 24 |
| Dharmani Ibw b White | | 5 |
| Bangar Ibw b Ball | | 2 |
| Kartik not out | | 7 |
| Sarandeep not out | | 10 |
| Extras: (b-2, lb-3, w-1, nb-3 | 3) | 9 |
| Total: (For 7 wkts decl in 11 | | |
| : | | |

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-66, 3-268,

4-315, 5-315, 6-318, 7-322 Did not bat: Surender Singh, Tinu

| Yohannan | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|-------|------|-----|--|--|
| Bowler | 0 | M | R | 1 | | |
| Hoggard | 23 | 4 | 51 | | | |
| Ormond | 15 | 2 | 46 | | | |
| Ball | 27 | 4 | 89 | | | |
| White | 20 | 5 | 44 | | | |
| Dawson | 25 | 2 | 97 | | | |
| Vaughan | 2 | 0 | 7 | | | |
| ENGLAND: Se | econd i | innin | gs | | | |
| Butcher c Dhar | mani b | Sur | ende | r12 | | |
| Vaughan b Yoh | annan | ı | | 1 | | |
| Hussain c Kartik b Bangar | | | | | | |
| Thorpe b Banga | ar | | | 1 | | |
| Ramnrakash c | Dharn | nanil | h | | | |

13 Kartik White c Dharmani b Bangar Foster b Bangar 0 Ball not out 25 Ormond run out 6 Dawson Ibw b Bangar Hoggard not out Extras: (b-3, lb-6, nb-5) 14 Total: (For 9 wkts in 52 overs) 163

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-48, 3-80, 4-116, 5-120, 6-122, 7-144, 8-157,

| 9-162 | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|---|----|--|--|--|--|
| Bowler | 0 | M | R | | | | |
| Surender | 10 | 3 | 22 | | | | |
| Yohannan | 7 | 1 | 38 | | | | |
| Kartik | 15 | 5 | 29 | | | | |
| Bangar | 14 | 6 | 32 | | | | |
| Sarandeep | 6 | 0 | 33 | | | | |
| Result: Match drawn. | | | | | | | |

Pabna soccer **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna**

Jagaroni Sangha trounced Muktamon 10-0 in the Radhuni Second Division Football League tournament at the local stadium

Rakib netted five goals, Asadul four and Faruk one for the winners.

Denness has no hard feelings

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Beleaguered International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee Mike Denness has told Reuters he would officiate between South Africa and India again if asked, and if approved. "I would do it again if they agreed

to it and my diary is free," Denness The ex-England captain, who has become the most infamous figure in cricket in India, was due to

leave South Africa on Friday night after being replaced by Denis Lindsay for the final match between the sides. "I was hoping to go to Twickenham to watch the rugby

between England and the Springboks, but my wife called and said there is a paintbrush waiting for me at home," Denness said. "When I get back I imagine I'll be

meeting with the ICC and having a discussion about what's happened. "Today I had a lot of reports to finalise and just busied myself with

administration. "This hasn't diminished my desire to be a match referee but I'm put forward by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and they have to nominate me to the ICC.

"I do the job to the best of my ability and will continue to do so in the future." Denness was in the centre of a

row between the ICC and the Board of Cricket Control (BCCI) in India following a fine and a match suspension he imposed on star batsman Sachin Tendulkar for ball tampering during the second Test.

Tendulkar was given a suspended one-match ban and fined while Denness also sanctioned five other Indian players, including captain Saurav Ganguly, for bringing the game into disrepute through excessive appealing.

Winning only on Aussies' mind

REUTERS, Hobart

Australia coach John Buchanan believes the world champions have enough time to press for victory with two days remaining in the raininterrupted second Test against New Zealand

New Zealand, resuming at 0-0 on Saturday, made 71 for two in reply to Australia's 558 for eight declared before play was abandoned for the day after just 35 overs at the Bellerive Oval.

"There are plenty of opportunities for the game to be won, from our point of view " Buchanan said

New Zealand still need a further 288 runs with eight wickets in hand to avoid the follow-on and Buchanan said Australia's preferred option would be to send the tourists

"That would seem to be the best option (enforcing the follow-on)."

"From our point of view, it's (the rain's) quite frustrating but there's nothing much vou can do about that. "If we've got a fine day and a good (dry) ball to hang on to, yes, I think we've got some real options there," Buchanan said of Australia's

He said the wicket was providing some assistance for his bowlers, and a bit of turn for leg-spinner Shane Warne, who has so far taken

"But it's almost a re-run of the Brisbane (first) Test at this stage, 210 overs still in the game, plenty of overs.

In the rain-interrupted Brisbane Test, which ended in a draw, Australia declared at 486 for nine and 84 for two.

New Zealand, who made 287 for eight in their first innings, then fell just 10 runs short of their secondinnings target of 284 to win with four wickets in hand.

The third match in the three-Test series starts in Perth on November

Brazil keep hopes alive

AFP, Tokyo

Barcelona Olympic champions Brazil ended the day quite differently from Sydney Olympic gold medalists Yugoslavia at the World Grand Champions Cup men's volleyball tournament on Saturday.

The South American champions. also the winners in the World League this season, kept a mathematical chance of winning the title by beating the European champions 26-24, 25-20, 25-22 in 69 minutes. Earlier in the day, Cuba powered

past hosts Japan 22-25, 25-18, 25-18. 25-13 for a 4-0 win-loss record to move within a step away of winning their first major title since the 1989 World Cup victory. Brazil trailed them with a 3-1

record, ahead of Asian champions South Korea and Yugoslavia, both with a 2-2 record, followed by Japan with a 1-3 and winless Argentina. South Korea rallied to a 23-25

World Championships next year. "After losing yesterday (to Cuba), I was worried about the psychological conditions of our team, but they played with a lot of passion on the court," said jubilant Brazilian coach Bernardo Rezende.

27-25, 25-21, 25-12 over wild card

entrants Argentina, the hosts of the

Dalmiya, the macho man

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's cricket board president Jagmohan Dalmiya has emerged as a hero at home after taking a firm stand over the Mike Denness controversy that has threatened to split the Test nation fraternity. The bespectacled construction

magnate is no stranger to controversy, but his latest act of brinkmanship has raised his profile among the passionate Indian fans. Dalmiya, a former International Cricket Council (ICC) president,

grabbed the limelight this week

when he sprang to the defence of

Indian sporting icon Sachin Tendulkar. Tendulkar had been found guilty by ICC match referee Denness of tampering with the ball during India's second Test against South

Denness, a Scotsman who captained both England and Kent, slapped a suspended one-match ban on Tendulkar, who for many Indians is a symbol of perfection success and impeccable behav-

captain Saurav Ganguly, for bringing the game into disrepute through excessive appealing. As Dalmiya led the Indian board's demand for Denness to be replaced for the third Test or for his

decisions to be reviewed by the

ICC, he faced rejection from the

Denness also sanctioned five

other Indian players, including

game's world governing body.
But street protesters and parliamentarians closed ranks as all of India rallied behind Dalmiya, at the same time linking Tendulkar's censure with racism.



The game, still recovering from a devastating match-fixing scandal last year, is now braced for an unprecedented civil war.

Dalmiva, a member of a trading community known for its bargaining skills, played club cricket before turning to administering the game and he has been able to rally the South African authorities behind India in a unique act of rebellion.

The two nations decided to play what would have been the third Test of the series at Centurion Park without Denness as the referee, shrugging aside the absence of ICC recognition for the game.

In doing this. Dalmiva negotiated a tightrope but was careful not to hurt South African feelings by

vielding to demands that India cal off a tour which has been high-

lighted by controversial refereeing. The latest controversy in the game is also seen by many as a battle between the ICC's chief

executive Malcolm Speed, who

earlier led the Australian board, and the 61-year-old Dalmiya. Back-room battles are familiar territory for Dalmiva, who was elected as Indian board secretary a decade ago. He later challenged the traditional ICC powers of England and Australia to become the ICC's first Asian president and

led the council from 1997 to 2000. In 1996, he surprised his adversaries by emerging on top of a three-way battle for the post, ahead of current ICC president Malcolm Gray of Australia, but failed to win the two-thirds majority required to be elected.

While thriving on power politics within the game, Dalmiya has also emerged as a passionate cricketing evangelist, stretching its confines beyond English-speaking Commonwealth nations and arguing that the game's commercial future lies within the sub-continent. Dalmiva's leadership has raised

questions in both England and Australia but his ability to raise vast sponsorship deals, especially in India, has often helped his cause. His leadership came into ques-

tion last year, though, when matchfixing investigators turned their focus on the funding of the game but Dalmiva came out unscathed to concentrate on leading his nation's cricket board.

Shoaib sure of acquittal

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Pakistani paceman Shoaib Akhtar said Saturday he was confident he would make a quick return to Test Shoaib made his debut with

Mosman in the Sydney grade

cricket competition Saturday and is

expected to play seven matches as he attempts to get a career dogged by chucking allegations and a misconduct charge back on the "Basically it's not acceptable," Shoaib said of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision to

employ West Indies' former paceman Michael Holding to study his "It's got nothing to do with my arm. My arm is basically abnormal and my joints won't move the way I

want them to move because of hyper-extension in the elbow. "No-one can change it. It's got nothing to do with the coaching. I've had a word with Dennis (Lillee) and

what could be better than that?' "I can learn a lot from Michael Holding but he can't modify my action and he can't modify my joints," Shoaib said. "No-one can change it." Shoaib, rated the fastest bowler

during the 1999 World Cup, is expected to be available for Mosman for seven matches before Pakistan's Test series against Bangladesh and the West Indies in The fast bowler, who has taken

the chucking controversy to break back into the Pakistan team. "I will just wait and see what the ICC is going to say to me and what

46 wickets in 16 Tests, said he was

confident of overcoming injuries and

they come out with," he said. "It's very easy to understand. I've got hyper-mobile joints and ... noone can help it. I can't even help

myself and nothing can be modi-Shoaib, nicknamed the 'Rawalpindi Express', said he was tired after taking 2-18 off 13 overs in

Mosman's two-day match. However, his action is unlikely to

be questioned here. "I don't think Sydney grade cricket or New South Wales cricket has much control or say over his performance." said executive officer



SHOAIB AKHTAR

Association, Peter Hughes. "My guess would be that being a high profile player like that, they (Sydney grade match officials) would put it on their match report, but I don't think they would call him

"He's here as a guest and I doubt a match grade umpire will call him." He has been reported three times for a suspect bowling action in

for chucking.

the past two years and risks a 12month ban if he is pulled up again.

In a bid to salvage his career the Pakistan Cricket Board has enlisted the help of biomechanics expert Daryl Foster at the University of Western Australia, who will attempt to clarify how his arm action works.

In the meantime he will bowl for Brett Lee's club of Mosman to get much needed match practice.

Hewitt-Rafter duo may play at doubles

AFP, Melbourne Australian captain John Fitzgerald raised the possibility Saturday of playing Lleyton Hewitt and Patrick Rafter at doubles in next week's Davis Cup final against France.

French tennis federation official Stephan Brun agreed the combination would be tough to beat. Hewitt and Rafter together

would be very difficult," Brun said. Hewitt and Rafter beat then world No.1 Gustavo Kuerten and Jaime

Oncins in straight sets in Australia's

quarterfinal against Brazil in

Florianopolis in April. However, Fitzgerald's first option is Wayne Arthurs and Todd Woodbridge who gave Australia a decisive 2-1 lead over Sweden in the

September semifinal in Sydney.
And that pairing gives Rafter, especially, time to rest the tendinitis in his right arm. "It's the first time Pat and Lleyton

have trained together all week and

they hit for about an hour against

Todd and Wayne," Australian team official John Lindsay said Saturday. "Nothing's certain. No-one knows who will play doubles but

Fitzy is obviously keeping them (Hewitt and Rafter) sharp just in case he calls on them."