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Pollock not regretful

REUTERS, Sydney

South African cricket captain Shaun Pollock has defended his decision not to try and force a result in his team's drawn tour match against

New South Wales NSW captain Michael Bevan made a sporting declaration on Saturday when he was 17 runs short of a double-century but the South Africans failed to return the favour. "It was difficult to get a result on

that wicket -- for us it was all about time in the middle," the South Africa captain explained

"I didn't declare because we've got back-to-back Test matches against Australia so we didn't want to spend too much time out in the field.'

NSW coach Steve Rixon was unimpressed by the South African attitude, saying they had no hope of ever beating Australia if they continued to use negative tactics.

"You've got to start building momentum somewhere and unfortunately I think they went about things the wrong way," Rixon said.

"I'm very disappointed actually. If I knew there was no game on, I would have batted out our last four vesterday.

Sourav lauds FROM PAGE 13

experience for the boys, more than what they can learn playing in the nets in England. It will hold them in good stead in the future."

Indian captain Sourav Ganguly conceded his team did not play well after the 10-wicket romp at Mohali, but denied they had become complacent

"The main thing is that the batting was not consistent," said Ganguly, who himself has made just one halfcentury in his last 19 Test innings.

"This has been a tough year for me, but I plan to take the next few weeks off and sort out my batting worries.

Ganguly praised the visitors for fighting back strongly after losing the opening match in less than four days.

"The Englishmen came back well in the series. They played good cricket, both at Ahmedabad and here in Bangalore," Ganguly told reporters.

"I thought we played pretty well in Mohali but not at Ahmedabad and Bangalore. Our batting has to be worked on. We did not do well enouah

"But, in the last six or seven months, we have bowled pretty well. In this series Anil (Kumble), (Javagal) Srinath and Harbhajan wled wel

S Africa held by NSW Cricket

REUTERS, Sydney

South Africa were held to a draw by New South Wales on Sunday in their final warm-up before the second Test against Australia starting in Melbourne on Wednesday. When stumps were drawn half an hour early on the fourth and final

day at the Sydney Cricket Ground, NSW were 135 for two in their second innings, 248 short of an unlikely victory target of 383. Openers Brett Van Deinsen (61)

and Greg Mail (54) both scored halfcenturies for NSW in a first-wicket stand of 101 before falling to Lance Klusener shortly before the close. Although there was little prospect of a result, South African captain Shaun Pollock declared his

team's second innings at 269 for five before tea to give his fringe bowlers another chance to press for Test selection. Most interest was centred on the

performance of veteran paceman Allan Donald, who was overlooked for the first Test, which Australia won by 246 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-games series. But Donald failed to make any

inroads, conceding 27 runs from four expensive overs to finish the match without a single wicket. South Africa's batsmen also failed to make the most of their final

opportunity for match practice before the Melbourne Test, adding 157 runs for the loss of four wickets to the overnight 112 for one when Pollock declared

Pollock finished unbeaten on 36 South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground Sunday: SOUTH AFRICA: First innings with first innings centurion Boeta Dippenaar on 31 after the tourists 498 (H Gibbs 145, B Dippenaar 115; had lost four wickets for 11 runs S MacGill 5-132)

Kirsten c Clarke b MacGill

Rudolph c Haddin b MacGill

Ontong c Haddin b MacGill

Total: (For 4 wkts decl in 80 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-109, 2-190, 3-

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Gibbs Ibw b MacGill

Klusener b Hiaas

Dippenaar not out

Pollock not out

269

Bowler

Nash

Heath

MacGill

Higgs

Bradstreet

Extras: (b-7, lb-4)

200, 4-200, 5-201

NSW: Second innings

Van Deinsen c Kirsten b Kluse

Fall of wickets: 1-101, 2-130

Total: (For 2 wkts in 41 overs) 135

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0 27

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3 33 2

0 18 0

1 11 0

Mail b Klusener

Richards not out

Clarke not out

Extras: (nb-3)

Bowler

Donald

Pollock

Elworthy

Klusener

Ontong

Henderson

before lunch. NSW: First innings 385 for 6 declared (M Bevan 183 not out, G NSW leg-spinner Stuart MacGill did the damage, once again show-Mail 54; S Elworthy 3-57) SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings ing up South Africa's deficiencies against quality slow bowling by adding four wickets to his first innings haul of five.

MacGill collected three of the last four wickets, including two in the final over before lunch, as the Proteas collapsed from 190 for one, to boost his chances of being named in the Australian team for the third Test at Sydney.

South Africa began the day well enough with Gary Kirsten and Jacques Rudolph adding 78 to the overnight total of 112 for one but then things suddenly fell apart.

MacGill made the breakthrough when he dismissed opener Kirsten for 88 before Mark Higgs removed Klusener for nought, the South African all-rounder's second duck of the match

MacGill then dismissed Rudolph for 28 and Justin Ontong without scoring in the final over before lunch to reach the break with figures of four for 56. Pollock and Rudolph added a quick

68 before the declaration allowed the South African bowlers a last chance to push for selection in the second Test but only Klusener made any impression SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fourth and final day of the four-day tour match

Rudolph Result: Match drawn. between New South Wales and

A Thai success concentrate on improving his fitness Tennis in preparation for his third consecu-

AFP, Hong Kong

Paradorn Srichaphan became the first Thai player to win the men's singles title at the Asian Championships when he beat arch rival Lee Hyung-taik of Korea in

straight sets to seal a wildcard entry into the Australian Open. Rising Korean star Cho Yoonjeong defeated compatriot Jeon Mira in three tough sets to take the

women's single title at the 60,000dollar Asian Championship and also secured a wildcard into next year's first Grand Slam.

The match of the tournament pitted the powerful baseline game of Srichaphan against the stylish pretournament favourite from Korea, and it was the Thai who emerged victorious in two tight sets 7-6, 6-3. The Thai number one came out

firing, breaking Lee in the first game but a loose forehand enabled the Korean world number 99 to break right back.

The two continued to trade huge groundstokes but it was Srichaphan who finally broke down Lee's

After Cho won a gruelling 24 stroke rally to secure an early break. tive Australian Open in a bid to Jeon's resolve appeared to crumble better his best performance of and though she continued to fight for every point. Cho raced away to take reaching the second round in 1999. the title and the 4,000-dollar first In the ladies final, the more experienced Jeon appeared nerprize cheque.

A delighted Cho said after the match: "It was really hard because we know each other's game so well. as we practice every day. At the start. I was very stressed and nervous.

"In the final set, I just tried to maintain my position and make more volleys, utJonwas hitting so deep it was tough ... but I'm delighted to make my first Australian Open.'

secured wildcard entrys into the main draw of the Australian Open, available to the men's and women's singles champions.

Alec ready to come to India AFP, London

Alec Stewart, who had ruled himself

Lankan boss **Olympic torch reaches** White House

AFP, Washington

The Olympic torch relay arrived at the White House on Saturday where the runners who lost relatives in the September 11 terror attacks were saluted by President George W. Bush.

"I am honoured to be taking part in the torch relay for the 2002 Winter Olympics and I am proud the Olympic spirit is being welcomed in the United States this winter," the president said.

He made a point of praising those runners who have chosen to represent the victims of the attacks in Washington and New York as well as the emergency services.

"The story of each one is one of compassion and courage," added President Bush who reserved special praise for Liz Howell who lost her husband in the suicide attack on the Pentagon.

"Her participation in the relay illustrates the strength of families in the country after September 11. "Liz, our prayers are with you

during this holiday season." The torch will now travel to Baltimore, Maryland, Wilmington, Delaware and Philadelphia.

The Torch Relay's turn through the northeast of the country will also include New York City, where the thousands of victims of the September 11 attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center will be remembered.

On Sunday, New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani will carry the torch on it's final leg in New York, ending in a celebration at Rockefeller Centre. The flame is expected to reach

day before the Winter Games get underway.

Scottish Premiership Celtic's first slip

Aberdeen

Football



handled a bouncing ball when back helping out his defence. Aberdeen even had centre-back

And in injury-time, a harmless

back-pass was miscontrolled by

A controversial second-half penalty, coolly converted by veteran Derek Whyte sent off four minutes Robbie Winters, and a horrendous howler by keeper Robert Douglas from time but held out under a settled a hard-fought match at barrage of Celtic attacks. wintry Pittodrie.

The spot-kick was given against Celtic striker John Hartson, who

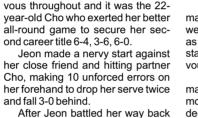
Douglas and Darren Mackie robbed him to roll the ball into an empty net. Rangers kept their slim title hopes alive thanks to a 3-2 win at Ibrox over Dundee United, giving Alex McLeish his first win in charge of the club in his first home game.

The home side opened the scoring in the 21st minute. Georgian international striker Shota Arveladze collected Ronald de Boer's defence-splitting pass before smashing the ball low into the botn corner of the net However, United fought back to level the scores eight minutes later, Steven Thompson tucking home the equalizer after good work from Jim



Anderson Howell at the White House on December 22. Elizabeth lost her

husband Brady in the September 11 attack on the Pentagon.



to 4-4 Cho hit her best two shots of

the match, a flailing backhand

Cho and Srichaphan's victory's

sacks 'em all AFP, Colombo Sri Lanka's new sports minister Johnston Fernando, has sacked the

governing bodies of cricket, athletics, volleyball and gymnastics, officials said Sunday. Fernando asked the office bear-

ers of the governing bodies to quit ahead of a revamping of the sports administration in the country, sports ministry officials said. The quit notice saw the contro-

versial Cricket Control Board members appointed in March lose their jobs

The then sports minister Lakshman Kiriella appointed an interim panel to run the country's crisis-ridden Cricket Board after sacking elected office bearers headed by Thilanga Sumathipala. The chairman of the outgoing

cricket board, Vijaya Malalasekara, had been handpicked by President Chandrika Kumaratunga whose party was routed at the December 5 parliamentary elections. The new government has prom-

ised to clean up sports governing bodies which have been accused of malpractice and corruption.

Victory Day RW Cup Golf 0

PRESS RELEASE, Dhaka

Faisal Jahangir and MH Yoon became men's and ladies champions respectively in the two-day Victory Day Cup Golf Tournament that ended at the Kurmitola Golf

Club on Friday. President of the club and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Harun-Ar-Rashid inaugurated the competition, which was participated by 261 golfers.

Later, prizes were given away by Jute Minister Maj Hafiz Uddin Ahmed (retd) in the evening at the Club House.

OTHER RESULTS

Senior winner: Brig Gen Saleem Khan, Junior winner: Khandake Rahat Tahsin Parash, Runner-up: Faisal Khan, Second runner-up: Arshi Haider, Third runner-up: Masud Ahmed, Front Nine winner Farenze Georgi, Back Nine Winner: Shawkat uz Zaman, Nearest to Pin: Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Longest Drive: Rahib Bashar, Winner Nine Hole: Brig Gen M Masud Ali Khan, Runner-up Nine Hole: Group

AFP, Glasgow

Runaway Scottish Premier League leaders Celtic crashed to their first league defeat of the season Saturday, going down 2-0 at



Winter Games

The Canadian Olympic Association confirmed Friday that it will officially enter Vancouver as a candidate city

Salt Lake City on February 7, the

No more play

FROM PAGE 13

England captain Nasser Hussain said he had been happy with the way his young team had improved over the last four weeks in India.

the line wrapped up the set in style England 's cricketers fly home for a Christmas break before returning 7-4. to India in January for a one-day until a certain Lee backhand winner series

BRIEF SCORES

ENGLAND: First innings 336 (Michael Vaughan 64, Mark Ramprakash 58; Javagal Srinath 4-73)

dently to take the match and his INDIA: First innings 238 (Sachin second title of the year. Tendulkar 90, Virender Sehwag 66; Matthew Hoggard 4-80, Andrew "Before the match I thought it was Flintoff 4-50) going to be tough, but I beat him in

ENGLAND: Second innings 33 Bangkok two weeks ago. However, I for no loss didn't expect to win in straight sets. Result: Match drawn and India

win the series 1-0. Man-of-the-match: Andrew

him miss.' Flintoff. Man-of-the-series: Sachin and this is huge for Thai tennis."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

32 Vivacity54 Drone9 Spoil33 Manage-55 Antelope's 10 Respon-

Tendulkar.

ACROSS 1 Mecca

defences with a sizzling backhand pass to lead 6-5, but the never-saydie Korean broke again to send the set into a tiebreak. A crucial double fault by Lee gave the Thai a vital mini break at 5-3, and after exchanging the next two

points, a searing backhand down

The second set went with serve

clipped the top of the net and fell

agonisingly wide to give Srichaphan

a break point. The Thai star

pounced with another uninhibited

backhand and served out confi-

A delighted Srichaphan said:

"I just wanted to keep my serve,

Srichaphan added he would

keep the ball in the court and make

PARADORN SRICHAPHAN

followed by a blazing forehand down the line, to force a breakpoint. Another forehand error gifted her the decisive break and she held comfortably to take the first set.

Both players settled down to play some constructive tennis from the back of the court in the second set but neither could hold serve, exchanging service breaks in six successive games before Jeon finally gained the upper hand to take a decisive 5-4 advantage and level the match one set all.

Korean number one Cho seemed to get a second wind in the final set and dictated the rallies, mixing up high moon balls with "I'm the first Thai to win this title powerful drives, and making more approaches to the net to put away easy volleys

out of England's Test tour to India. said Saturday he would be making himself available for the one-day internationals in India starting next month

> England are currently playing the third and final Test, with Stewart indicating that he had changed his mind and would now be available for the one-day series in January and February.

"I would go back on my word originally," Stewa

"I would be Indian one-day i whatever is now of the tour," he told Sky Sports.

The England wicketkeeper could be brought in to replace Surrey team-mate Graham Thrope who flew home from India at the end of the second Test citing personal reasons.

Stewart's place on the tour was taken by Essex youngster James Foster, who is starting to find his feet in the Test arena after a shaky start to his international career.

The England squad fly home on conclusion of the final Test on Sunday but return to India for the one-day leg of the tour early in the New Year.

Applicant cities have until February 4, 2002 to declare their intention to participate in the 2010 bidding process. "This will be the next step on a

long journey that will end with the International Olympic Committee's vote for host city of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in July 2003," COA president Michael Chambers said in a statement.

FROM PAGE 13

Wright's crowning glory came in February-March this year when India stunned world champions Australia 2-1 in a dramatic Test series at home.

But the stupendous achievement was overshadowed by India's defeats later in the year in Sri Lanka and South Africa and a 1-1 deadlock against Zimbabwe.

India may have won the latest home series against England, but critics suggested the inexperienced tourists played better than the hosts, dominating the last two Tests.

French boxer Brahim Hasloum is declared the winner over Colombian Rodolpho Blanco in their bantemweight title bout in Orleans on December 22. Hasloum won the fight on points after six rounds.

Lauchlan. But Rangers restored their lead a minute from half-time when Italian defender Lorenzo Amoruso rose high to head in Fernando Ricksen's cross



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AFP, Toronto

in late January.