Graveney for their selection? Coach

Duncan Fletcher for not monitoring

"The silence so far is deafening."

England cricket fans with tickets for

the Christmas Test might as well

the thousands of supporters head-

ing out for the festive holidays may

need to revise their travel plans if

they want to see Ashes cricket that

Nicholas called England's second

innings a 'farce' but also concen-

trated on the strengths of the

"Any weakness, however small,

"Also there is an indomitable

is exposed relentlessly and dealt

with ruthlessly," wrote the former

spirit exemplified by Jason Gillespie

whose calf-muscle injury prevented

him from bowling on Friday evening

but who, after a painkilling injection,

came out of the traps like a thor-

with that tag (best since Bradman).

Hayden from Kingaroy (in

Queensland) to be compared with

Bradman," the left-handed batsman

added in an interview aired on

foremost to just be playing for

Australia. This side has taken

make two centuries before his home

crowd at the Gabba in Brisbane last

week, said Adelaide Oval, the venue

for the second Ashes Test starting

on November 21, was his second-

produced an awesome perfor-

mance to bowl England out in their

second innings on Sunday for 79 in

scars for England as well." he said

"But we won't count them out

There's no doubt they'll fight back."

"I think we've opened up a few

Hayden said Australia had

favourite ground in Australia.

less than 29 overs.

"It's a great honour first and

Hayden, who was thrilled to

Australia television.

cricket to a new level."

"It's ridiculous for little old Matty

Hampshire county captain.

oughbred on Saturday."

The Daily Telegraph's Mark

change their dates.

The Daily Mail opined that

"You cannot move Christmas but

their progress? The ECB medical

Rashid to have medical test in S Africa

REUTERS, Karachi

Injured Pakistan wicketkeeper Rashid Latif is to undergo checks in South Africa to determine whether he is fit to stay with the touring squad in Zimbabwe.

"I can confirm that Rashid will be going to Johannesburg on Tuesday to seek expert medical opinion and treatment for an injury which is vet to be finally diagnosed," Pakistan Cricket Board spokesman Samiul Hasan told Reuters on Monday.

The 34-year-old Rashid pulled out of the first Test against Zimbabwe in Harare due to a neck injury, but there are also fears of a link to a chronic back problem, which threatens his career.

"We don't know the extent of his injury," Hasan said. "But it is related to his neck and back which is why he is being flown to Johannesburg to explore all possible medical treatment and opinions."

Pakistani media reports have said Rashid runs a high risk of permanently damaging his left shoulder if he continues to play in his present condition.

Caring hubby

AFP, Brisbane

Captain Nasser Hussain will leave his embattled English cricket squad later this week for the birth of his child and use the break to regroup before again facing Australia.

Hussain will leave Hobart, where England play Australia A in a threeday tour match from Friday, and head to Perth to meet with his wife

England coach Duncan Fletcher said Hussain, who led the tourists in their humiliating 384-run loss in the first Test at the Gabba here on Sunday, had the full blessing of team management to leave the Test in Adelaide on November 21.

Inzamam

FROM PAGE 13 Harare Sports Club ground on

PAKISTAN: First innings 285 (T Umar 75, Y Youhana 63; A Blignaut

ZIMBABWE: First innings 225 (T Taibu 51 not out, A Blignaut 50; M Sami 4-53, S Akhtar 3-43)

PAKISTAN: Second innings (overnight 14-1)

Elahi c Campbell b Olonga Younis c Campbell b Olonga

Inzamam c G Flower b Olonga 112 Youhana c Taibu b Blignaut Raza c Blignaut b Price Akmal not out Extras: (lb-1, nb-7, w-9) Total: (For 5 wkts in overs) Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-25, 3-205, 4-

207, 5-238 41 Blignaut 68 0 Mahwere Whittall 14 62 17 4 51 1 Umpires: D Orchard (Zimbabwe)

King Russia

and S Venkataraghavan (India).

Given up for lost, especially when Georgia led China by as much as three points in one stage, the Chinese women's pride was the glue that held them together, while the Georgians inexplicably lost ground.

Xu Yuhua and teenage revelation Zhao Xue won their games, and FIDE world champion Zhu Chen held her position against Antoaneta Stefanova, to obtain a draw worth its

The Chinese women needed some help from Yugoslavia, which upset skidding Georgia, 2-1 and Slovakia, which held Russia to a

Russia came second with 29 points, followed by Poland, who steamrolled past Olympiad revelation Vietnam, to obtain 28 points.

England's media mauling

Cricket

AFP, London

Monday is Remembrance Day for those who gave their lives for King and Country in war and the English cricket team who lost the first Ashes Test by 384 runs appeared to have been consigned to the same status judging by the English press reac-

'No guts, no discipline, no sense, no chance,' was the 'understated' headline in the Independent, whose correspondent Angus Fraser was no stranger to Ashes humiliations when he played for England during

"It started in disbelief, ended in a shambles, and there was not a great deal in between to suggest this Ashes campaign will be any different from the last -- a comprehensive series win for Australia." Fraser

"What made this loss harder to take though is that we were promised by captain Nasser Hussain a different side to the one that has had its backside kicked by the Aussies

Former Australia player Bill Brown,

a member of Don Bradman's

'Invincibles' team who toured

England in 1948, says Matthew

Hayden is a "complete opener" but

cannot be compared to Bradman as

uneasy about the comparison and

that it was ridiculous for him to be

labelled Australia's best batsman

Hayden said on Monday he was

The 31-year-old is rated the top

batsman in world cricket after scor-

ing seven centuries in his last 10

Tests, a feat unmatched by any

other Australian apart from

Bradman, and I think Matthew

Havden would be the last one who

would want to be compared with

him," Brown, 90, said on Monday.

"I don't compare anyone with

Cricket

REUTERS, Brisbane

since Bradman

Bradman in the 1930s.

Cricket

Sri Lankan captain Sanath

Jayasuriya made no attempt to hide

his disappointment after his side

crashed to defeat by an innings and

64 runs on the third day of the first Test against South Africa at the

because we won the toss and

should have put runs on the board."

said Jayasuriya. "Unfortunately the

batsmen didn't bat well and then the

South Africa's fast bowlers

blitzed the Sri Lankan batsman on a

fast, bouncy pitch which became difficult for batting as cracks in a dry

surface started to open up. The

tourists, trailing by 194 runs on the

first innings, were bowled out for

been handicapped by the loss of Perera from the bowling attack after

he was banned for the rest of the

innings for following through in the

'protected" area of the pitch, while

Dilhara Fernando had struggled to

find his rhythm, bowling 21 no-balls.

The main problem, though, was the batting. "South Africa bowled

very well and kept the pressure on

Jayasuriya said the Lankans had

"We had the best opportunity

Wanderers Stadium Sunday.

bowlers didn't bowl well.

130 in 41 overs.

"However, the new strong, vibrant England failed to turn up.

"What we witnessed was a team who buckled under pressure, a team who lacked discipline with the ball in hand and a team who could

bat for only 28.2 overs when they

attempted to save the game. "It was another match where England showed that when they are good they are competitive, but when

they are bad they are bloody awful. There is nothing in between." Fraser does praise Hussain for owning up to his error in putting

Australia into bat and a similar theme was taken up by the 'Sun' despite labelling Hussain's decision as 'his biggest cock-up'. "Nasser Hussain's acknowl-

edgement of his Gabba gaffe was refreshing, because most sportsmen hate admitting to errors.

"So what about the people responsible for the failed selection gambles? "Graham Thorpe was in the

iginal squad but pulled out. "Darren Gough confirmed what seemed obvious all along -- he was

'Hayden no Bradman'

"But he's certainly doing a won-

Hayden was made man of the

derful job for Australia," the former

Test opener added. "He's the com-

match after hitting 197 and 103 in

Australia's crushing 384-run win in

the first Ashes Test against England

which ended on Sunday, and has

been compared to Bradman by

approach Bradman as yet. The way

he got them (his runs) and his gen-

eral batting put him in a class of his

centuries from 52 matches and a

Test average of 99.94, died last year

place in the Test side at his third

attempt in March 2000, has scored

2,900 runs at 53.70, including 11

Australia's oldest living Test crick-

Brown, a former Test captain, is

Hayden said: "I'd be lying to say

Test centuries in 34 matches.

"I haven't seen anything to

Bradman, who boasted 29 Test

Hayden, who finally cemented a

plete opener now.'

captain Steve Waugh

own." Brown added

at the age of 92.

Matthew atop Test ladder

REUTERS, London

Australian batsman Matthew Hayden has cemented his place at

the top of the latest Test ratings. Hayden made centuries in both innings of the first Ashes Test win over England in Brisbane.

The ratings, compiled by PricewaterhouseCooper, put three Australian batsmen in the top six. Fast bowler Glenn McGrath, who took eight wickets in Australia's 384run victory, still tops the bowling list.

While England may have been outclassed in the first Test, opening batsman Marcus Trescothick at least managed to climb into the top 10 after his 72 in the first innings.

South Africa's innings win over Sri Lanka in Johannesburg allowed Jacques Kallis to improve his ratings in both batting and bowling, as well as extending his lead at the top of the list of all-rounders.

TOP 10 BATSMEN	
Player	Points
Matthew Hayden	937
Adam Gilchrist	860
Sachin Tendulkar	856
Jacques Kallis	839
Inzamamul Haq	827
Ricky Ponting	824
Brian Lara	812
Rahul Dravid	777
Andy Flower	776
Mahela Jayawardene	759
Marcus Trescothick	759
(Jayawardene and Trescothick are	
jointly in the tenth place w points)	ith same

TOP 10 BOWLERS	
Glenn McGrath	920
M Muralitharan	896
Shaun Pollock	861
Shane Warne	838
Harbhajan Singh	750
Saqlain Mushtaq	703
Anil Kumble	702
Waqar Younis	691
Andrew Caddick	687
Jacques Kallis	670

Sorry, says Cullinan

Cullinan has made a public apology over his refusal to play against Australia in March this year.

Cullinan withdrew from the side to play Australia on the eve of the (UCBSA)

to UCBSA chief executive Gerald Maiola in May but it is the first time he has apologised in public.

could have handled the situation better." Cullinan said at a news conference in Johannesburg. "I'd like to apologise to the team,

cricket supporters and the United Cricket Board for bringing the game into disrepute and I'd like to reconirm my commitment to the game.

they deem fit." Cullinan said he wanted to

apologise in person to the team, although he was not sure when that

Fingers crossed for Flintoff

REUTERS, Brisbane

news from the medical rooms on Monday as all-rounder Andrew Flintoff indicated he may be fit for the three-day tour match against Australia A starting in Hobart on Friday.

The Lancashire paceman, who had a hernia operation earlier this year, was overlooked for last week's first Test in Brisbane but England hope he will play this week in a bid to press selection claims for the second Test starting in Adelaide on November 21.

"This afternoon we had the results back from the scan on his groin following the hernia operation he had at the back end of the summer," England spokesman Andrew

optimistic that Flintoff will be available for selection for the Australia A

bowler Darren Gough home because of an ongoing knee complaint and Glamorgan paceman Simon Jones suffered a knee injury in last week's first Test which has also ruled him out of the five-match Ashes series Surrey's Alex Tudor and

Yorkshire's Chris Silverwood have been called up as replacements.

Combined SC post victory

Combined Sporting Club registered an exciting 3-2 victory over Dilkusha SC in the Salam Smriti Hockey Tournament at Maulana Bhasani National Stadium here yesterday. The winners led the first half 2-0.

Faisal struck twice and Rahim netted the other goal for the winners while Mushtaque and Johnny reduced the margin.

Injury spoils sisters final

Tennis

AFP, Los Angeles

World No. 1 Serena Williams, seeking to cap a triumphant year with a second straight title in the elite WTA Tour Championships, rallied from a set down to subdue third seed Jennifer Capriati in the semifinals on

But the now-familiar all-Williams final failed to materialize as world No. 2 Venus Williams, runner-up to her younger sister in three Grand

errors in the opening set to Williams' 14. But as the match progressed, Williams' ability to hit winners and come up with big serves when she needed them began to override Capriati's ability to cover the court and extend the rallies.

Williams grabbed the early break in the second set, gave it back in the seventh game then broke again in the 10th to get back on even terms.

Capriati, leading 3-1 in the third set thanks to a service break in the third game, was one point away from taking a 4-1 lead. But Williams saved the break point with a service winner and went on to hold and

Chanda Rubin at Los Angeles in By winning this event, Williams would become the first woman to earn more than 4 million dollars in a season and become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1995-96 to successfully defend her WTA Tour Championships title.

victory.

Williams said

She has won all five of her matches against Clijsters.

"I don't know, she just hit a ball

Although she was disappointed

with her number of errors in each of

her last two matches here. Serena

Williams takes an 18-match winning

streak into the final. She hasn't lost

since a quarterfinal dismissal by

out at the end, and that was it."

The most recent was a three-set Cup in Tokyo in September. One of the most memorable was in the final at Indian Wells in 2001, when Serena was jeered throughout the match because fans felt robbed of an all-Williams final after Venus withdrew from her semifinal against

"It was an experience," Clijsters said of the incident that has prompted both Williams sisters to steer clear of Indian Wells since.

beginning on Sunday that Venus, winner of seven tournaments this year, didn't have her normal range of movement. The fifth-seeded Belgian led 5-0

when Williams, after consulting the trainer, called it a day. She had started the match with her left calf and ankle taped.

"Basically I twisted my ankle during the match against Monica (Seles)," Williams said.

match, she decided to give it a try.

"A lot of times when you have an injury, with the adrenaline and other things you start not to feel it in the match." she said. "I figure that maybe I would have that opportunity, but I wasn't really able to move or get on my toes or change direc-

'There's also a certain amount of fear," she added. "The pain you have already, and then the more pain that you can get if you go to far.'

Clijsters was two points from victory over Lindsay Davenport in the semi-finals of last year's WTA

Davenport then withdrew from the final with a knee injury aggravated in that match.

Clijsters said jokingly, but added she was sorry to see the match end as it

player who has to retire," she said. "It's tough. I just tried to focus on the on the other side of the net."

Tough fight for Hewitt

few points here and there.'

Season-ender starts today

Venus Williams sits disappointed after she had to pull out from the semifi-

nals of the WTA Championships against Kim Clijsters on Sunday.

Slams this season, retired with a

lower leg strain while trailing Kim

Serena said of Venus, I was unset

that she actually went out on court

defeat Capriati 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, She

posted her seventh victory over

Capriati in 11 meetings, and has

early, making just four unforced

Capriati put the pressure on

now won their last six meetings.

"I just hope she's doing OK,"

Serena rallied from a set down to

Clijsters 5-0 in the first set.

because she was injured.



AFP, Shanghai

Llevton Hewitt has made no secret of his determination to finish world number one for a second straight year, but the young Aussie faces a gruelling battle at the seasonending Masters Cup here if he is to hold off veteran Andre Agassi.

pion eniovs a relatively comfortable 88-point lead over Agassi in the Champions Race, he has been dealt the far tougher draw in the eight-man round-robin tournament that starts Tuesday at Shanghai's New International Expo Centre.

Although the Wimbledon cham-

Hewitt, 21, has to negotiate Russian Marat Safin, who thrashed him in straight sets in the final of the Paris Masters Series event on November 3, and Spaniard Carlos Mova, who has won their past three clashes, in the red group. Recent form against the pair is

not the only worry for the tenacious baseliner. Safin and Moya are the only players in the tournament to hold a career-winning record over French Open champion Albert

Costa is the other player in the red

group but the Spaniard is regarded

as an outsider after a dismal post-Roland Garros season that has included six first-round losses. Hewitt was well aware of the challenge ahead of him as he pre-

pared for the tournament on Monday, but was still confident of retaining the number one ranking. "I've definitely got a couple of the

in form players on the tour in Safin and Moya," Hewitt told reporters. "But I feel that if I can play my

Agassi has never lost a match against Federer or Novak and has a 1-1 record against the fourth-placed Ferrero, although the American beat the Spanish baseliner easily last month in Spain in their most recent

get through the round robin stage and into the semi-finals of the 3.7million dollar event, the battle for the year-ending world number one position could come down to just

year, can crush all speculation about possible scenarios by simply winning the tournament. If he goes through Shanghai

undefeated, he will collect 150 points and run away with the top

year-ending world number one feat, there are a number of scenarios, the simplest of which is to win the tournament and hope Hewitt doesn't



When asked on Monday if he'd rather win the Masters or finish the year ranked number one, Agassi left no doubt about the task ahead of

hand in hand," he told reporters.

ending tournament that attracts the world's most elite field, Hewitt and Agassi are by no means the clear

Third-placed Marat Safin boldly declared his intentions after crushing Hewitt in Paris 7-6 (7/4), 6-0, 6-4. "I want to win and I want to take

all the money, take all the points and be happy," he said of his Masters venture. Moya, who is fifth in the

Champions Race, is another seri-

ous challenger after a strong sec-

ond half of the year that saw him recapture the form that took him briefly to the top of the world rankinas in 1999. The Spanish heart-throb qualified for the Masters Cup in style,

scoring a straight sets victory over Agassi in the quarter finals in Paris, before losing to Safin in the next Ferrero makes up the threestrong Spanish Armada in the field

and is also highly rated after a season that included two titles. At 21 and six months younger than Hewitt, Federer is the youngest player in the field and his natural

some surprises on the indoor, carpet surface at Shanghai. Federer has a 14-4 record from his last five events of the season, all

serve-and-volley game could cause

of which were played indoors. Novak is the guiet achiever of the field and is playing in his first Masters Cup at age 27 after break-

ing into the world's top 10 for the first time this year. Australian Open champion

Thomas Johansson is the alternate in the field and will step in for a big pay cheque if any of the others have to withdraw. To open the tournament. Safin

clashes with Moya in a replay of their semi-final match in Paris. followed by Hewitt against Costa. Ferrero and Federer play the third and final match on Tuesday eve-

Red Group: Lleyton Hewitt (Aus x1), Marat Safin (Rus x3), Carlos Moya (Spa x5), Albert Costa (Spax8)

x2), Juan-Carlos Ferrero (Spa x4), Roger Federer (Swi x6), Jiri Novak

Tabby!" 38 Took off 4 Nocturnal 5 A tense 39 Like visitor last situation? horror Roy word 9 Sternward films Lichten-24 Oahu 42 Holler 12 Gabrielle greeting 25 Siesta stein's Chanel genre 13 "-- take 48 Simulate ... bug 49 Gridlock against 7 Disco noise song 50 Interoffice flickerer 27 Profit 14 Carnival e-mail 8 Place-29 Front 51 Solidify kicker's venue 30 Early 52 Monad 15 Magazine 31 Born articles? 53 Yemen Neigh-16 100 borhood 35 Tertiary 54 Whicheve percent 10 Tourist's epoch 17 Shade purchase

provider 18 Encoun-19 in olden days ticate 21 That girl

20 Domes 23 "Humbug! 25 Lite, extreme 28 Football team 32 Lend --(listen) 33 Orange

variety

34 Wee

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 36 Coins 2 Show up 22 Gettys-1 "Go away, 37 Platonic 3 Pinnacle burg

> 11 Heavy 56 Not any reading vaults DOWN 20 Nocturnal 39 Enthusi-1 Con job visitor Solution time: 28 mins

format 43 Check 45 Start over 46 Congre

Address' ranean

astic 40 Tourna-41 Depend

gational 47 Out of the The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for picture 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. 49 Rose,

CRYPTOQUIP

JQGEV LDEUOSKJ VWOLSGRGJSFXR GM FQOSKJ YT TMMTFDL

D T Q H T U X Y X A R D T X H ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IFYOU DON'T BEHAVE AND GET KICKED OUT OF A SKI CHALET, HAVE YOU BEEN DIS-LODGED? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T

five matches and warned his team

Indian backlash in the remaining

"India are good enough to come back any time," he said. "But they have played a lot of cricket in this past few months and

"But it is no excuse for losing matches. The team needs to find its own motivation to stop a downward slide. Nobody accepts

to be 2-0 up in the series.

South African captain Pollock praised a top-quality bowling performance by his team. "We got the ball

Pollock said the result justified South Africa's decision to go into the match with an all-seam attack. Asked whether it was likely they would do the same in the second and final Test starting at Centurion

disappointed us but we should have done better,

especially in the first innings."

Coach Dav Whatmore said he Lanka had bowled out South Africa for 384 despite the problems encountered by Perera and Fernando. "If we had scored a few more runs in the first innings, say 250 or 260, we could have put pressure on the opposition. It would have been very difficult for South Africa batting last on that pitch when

we have Muttiah Muralitharan in our

in the right place. The guys have been working very hard in the nets."

Friday he said it would depend on It was South Africa's third successive innings victory this season, following two comfortable wins over Bangladesh. It was their fifth win in six Test matches against Sri Lanka played in South Africa.

Crucial match Sanath simply

against being complacent.

a few of them could be jaded.

failure these days." Hooper said he was delighted

"We are happy at this marvellous start to the one-day series," he said. "Our batting is beginning to jell well and it would look still better

when Brian Lara is back. "It looks to be a good nucleus for the World Cup. Barring an iniury or two, we are in the process of identifying the men we will

need for the World Cup." **TEAMS** INDIA (from): Saurav Ganguly (captain), Virender Sehwag, Venkatsai Laxman, Rahul Dravid. Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Harbhajan Singh, Sanjay Bangar, Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Ajit Agarkar, Dinesh Mongia, Jaiprakash Yadav, Ashish Nehra

and Parthiv Patel. WEST INDIES (from): Carl Hooper (captain), Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ridley Jacobs, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Mervyn Dillon, Pedro Collins, Vasbert Drakes, Ricardo Powell, Corey Collymore, Cameron Cuffy, Darren Ganga, Ryan Hinds.

Gujarat on high FROM PAGE 13

hired a Bombay-based security agency as an extra precaution for Friday's match. "About 125 private security

guards and 125 volunteers will be

deployed to check the tickets," said

Extra precautions have also

been taken to protect the pitch at the

Motera Stadium, he added. "But despite such security arrangements it is not possible for anyone to put a 100 percent foolproof security. There will be always some loopholes," Patel warned.

The cricketing authorities in Gujarat are also buying extra insurance cover for group injuries, players' injuries and trouble leading to suspension of play.

REUTERS, Johannesburg South African batsman Darvll

second Test at Newlands on March 5 over a contractual dispute with the United Cricket Board of South Africa He apologised privately in writing

"I regret the circumstances and I

"I would love to serve South African cricket in whatever capacity

England received some rare good

Walpole said on Monday. "The scan is clear and we're

England have already sent fast

Should both Hewitt and Agassi

one or two matches. But Hewitt, who became the world's youngest number one last

For Agassi to repeat his 1999



"Unfortunately for me both come

But as is fitting for the year-

GROUPS (x denotes seed) Gold Group: Andre Agassi (USA

best tennis, I can beat anyone on any given day." In contrast to Hewitt, Agassi, who reach the final at 32 is vying to become the oldest year-ending number one, has drawn Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero, Switzerland's Roger Federer and the Czech Republic's Jiri Novak in the gold group.

Clijsters said it was clear from the

Although the leg hurt before the

tions effectively

Tour Championships in Munich but lost in a third-set tiebreaker.

"Maybe it's because of me."

"It's never nice when you beat a ball and not look at who's standing

narrow the gap to 3-2.

on her first match point

Williams then broke Capriati to

"Why, why, why? I don't know.

level the set and broke her again in

the final game to capture the match

that's just the way a tennis match is.'

Capriati said of her inability to make

more of her chances in the third. "It's

pretty good that I get the break

points. I think she played tough on

those points. It's just a matter of a

Williams was equally unable to

Tennis