Vaughan the man to stop

AFP, Perth

Australia's fast bowlers will target star England batsman Michael Vaughan with a barrage of shortpitched deliveries in the third Ashes cricket Test starting here Friday.

Andy Bichel, one of the home country's three-pronged pace attack, said here Wednesday he and Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie had worked out a strategy they hoped would enable them to dismiss the Yorkshire opener cheaply.

Vaughan hammered 177 and 41 in last week's second Test in Adelaide, even though the tourists were crushed by an innings and 51

"There is no doubt that in that first innings he looked uncomfortable at certain times against short balls," Bichel said.

"We will definitely be targeting him again at certain times -- there is no doubt about that."

Vaughan has displayed a strong appetite for hooking short deliveries, and is not afraid to loft the ball.

That brand of batting brought him many runs in Adelaide, but it could be much more hazardous at Perth's WACA Ground where the extra pace and bounce of the pitch presents additional problems

Bichel said he had been surprised to hear talk of a possible 5-0 whitewash by Australia in a series they already lead 2-0 after runaway wins in Brisbane and Adelaide.

Such a result has been achieved only once before in 120 years of Ashes Tests.

Australia's Warwick Armstrong led his side to a 5-0 rout over Johnny Douglas' visitors in 1920-21.

'I was a bit surprised to hear the talk of a whitewash because in recent times in England the Englishmen have played some wonderful cricket," Bichel said.

Muralitharan

FROM PAGE 13 three and six weeks to "get back to

work or full activity" Quintus de Zylva, an Australiabased Sri Lankan team doctor, said it would be three weeks before Muralitharan trained

"He's recovering okay," de Zylva said on Wednesday.

"But he's unlikely to be fit for competitive cricket until in the New

It was initially understood Muralitharan underwent the operation as a precautionary measure ahead of next year's World Cup in South Africa.

But de Zylva said the operation would ensure the brilliant offspinner wouldn't be sidelined for a longer spell in the future.

"It was important for it to be fixed, with the amount of physical stress they put themselves through, rather than have an emergency procedure

Muralitharan is recovering here and is yet to decide between returning home or awaiting his teammates' arrival

Sri Lanka will arrive on December 11, in time for their first tri-series clash against England in Brisbane six days later

Rampant Elahi

FROM PAGE 13					
Elahi run out (Ervine/Taibu)			10	8(
Youhana not out			100		
Afridi c Nkala b Bre	nt			0	
Akmal not out			2	24	
Extras: (lb-8, w-14,	nb-1)		2	23	
Total: (For 3 wkts in	50 ov	ers)	32	3	
Fall of wickets: 1-1	54, 2-2	246, 3	-24	16	
Did not bat: Faisal	Iqbal,	Inzan	nai	mu	
Haq, Wasim A	kram	, Sa	ql	air	
Mushtaq, Waqar	You	nis, N	ďо	ha	
mmad Zahid					
Bowler	0	M F	₹	W	

Hondo 65 Ervine 10 10 0 60 Nkala 10 0 80 G Flower 10 0 52 7IMBABWE: Mark Vermeulen. Dion Ebrahim, Alistair Campbell, Andy Flower, Grant Flower, Craig Evans

Tatenda Taibu, Mluleki Nkala, Sean Ervine, Gary Brent, Douglas Hondo. Umpires: K Barbour and D Orchard.

Rashid bids

FROM PAGE 13 the PCB.

Latif's recent replacement young Kamran Akmal has impressed with both his glovework and batting. Equally comfortable keeping wickets to both spinners and pacemen alike, Akmal has won the appreciation of several pundits.

With Latif's retirement from Test cricket, it is widely believed that the Pakistan selectors will persist with Akmal in Tests while sticking with Latif in the one-dayers.

The situation however also gives a glimmer of hope to Moin Khan who is playing domestic cricket in Pakistan at the moment

Latif, who played 34 Tests in his career spanning over ten years led Pakistan on three occasions. A safe. if not flashy keeper, Latif chalked up 102 catches and 10 stumpings in Tests. A useful lower-order batsman Latif came to Pakistan's rescue more than once, scoring one hundred and six fifties in reaching 1277

runs at an average of almost 30. It is also worth remembering that Latif retired from all forms of cricket once in 1995 due to administrative problems with the Pakistan cricket set up but later reconsidered his

Mike makes Nasser angry

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Besieged England captain Nasser Hussain responded angrily here Wednesday to criticism by former England skipper Mike Gatting, the last Englishman to lead his side to an Ashes series victory over

Gatting, whose side beat Allan Border's team here 2-1 in the 1986-87 campaign, condemned Hussain for leaving for Australia two weeks before the rest of his team to travel to Perth with his heavily pregnant

"Nasser hasn't helped the cause by spending time away with his family," Gatting told the London Daily Express.

"Pregnant wife or not, I just couldn't believe he had left for Australia two weeks ahead of the rest of the party.

"It is simply unheard of for a team to travel without the skipper on

But Hussain, visibly angry, rejected the criticism at a media conference two days before his side takes on Australia in the third Test at the WACA Ground, aiming for an improved performance after crash-

ing heavily in the first two clashes. "If that's what an ex-England captain thinks is the difference between the sides, then so be it,'

"If he believes we are losing 0-2 because I came out two weeks early, then that's his opinion.

If that is why we are losing to Australia for the last 12 or 16 years, because I came out two weeks early, then English cricket has got some real things to think about."

Hussain was also irritated by a question about the psychological advantage some observers suggest Australia hold over their English opponents "I don't wish to be rude, but if I am

going to do press conferences I don't wish to repeat myself." he said. "I answered this question after

the second Test, and unless some miracle has happened in the past two days, the answer is exactly the

"Australia do not have a psychological hold on us," he insisted.

"What they do have is people who do their disciplines and play the game of cricket at the moment better than us -- simple as that.

"At the moment, they are playing the game, putting the ball in the right areas, being much more positive about their batting and playing the "It is not a psychological thing -- it

is just a technical and ability thing. The sooner we watch them, watch how they practise, watch how they play the game, watch their disciplines when they bowl and when they bat, the sooner we will get this big blase thing about mental attitude and stuff like that.

"Because that will only get you so far. You really do have to do the game properly -- bat and bowl properly if you are going to beat Australia. Hussain dismissed suggestions

he was under pressure after the side's abvsmal start to the tour -they have lost three of seven games and have yet to register a win.

"I have lost two Test matches on the bounce, and that is just the way it is at the moment.

"We can improve. I know that we are not playing the best cricket and as captain, the buck stops with me. But, as long as I am giving it my best shot and doing what I believe is right for the team, then I don't feel the pressure.

"I am only answerable to myself and my team.

On the injury front, Hussain said fast bowler Andy Caddick, middleorder batsman John Crawley and star opening batsman Michael Vaughan were all fighting to be fit for Friday.

Caddick, who injured his back in Adelaide, faces a fitness test Thursday.

Crawley, who has a torn hip, was rated by Hussain at 65 per cent fit Wednesday

But Vaughan, struggling with a knee problem, was almost certain to play, Hussain said.

Whitewash the target

When Waugh returned from ICC Cricket World Cupajury, Australia won the final Test of South Africa 2003

AFP, Perth

Steve Waugh's irrepressible Australians set out here Friday to wrap up the Ashes series against a demoralised England -- and move a step closer to a record-equalling clean sweep against the old cricket

Victory at the revamped WACA Ground would carry the home country -- already two-nil up after runaway four-day wins in Brisbane and Adelaide -- to an unbeatable three-nil lead in the five-match

It would also take them closer to a five-nil whitewash, a feat achieved only once before in the 120-year history of Ashes combat

Warwick Armstrong was at the helm when Australia swamped their English visitors in all five clashes of the 1920-1921 campaign. England have recorded five wins

in a series, but that was in a six-Test programme won 5-1 by the astute Mike Brearley in 1978-1979 when Australian ranks were depleted by the breakaway World Series camp.

Waugh, a captain who likes to tackle one game at a time, must matching Armstrong's achievement.

It is no secret that he and his team-mates were bitterly disappointed when, after leading 3-0 in the series in England last year, they lost the fourth Test at Headingley after acting captain Adam Gilchrist made a generous second innings declaration which let England back the series by an innings -- but the chance of a wipeout of the opposition had gone. Australia, having demolished the

injury-racked Englishmen in the opening two battles of the current campaign, go into the Perth clash as the hottest of favourites. The home team are likely to be unchanged, with prolific opening

batsman Matthew Hayden (346 runs at an average of 115.33 in the first two Tests) expected to be able to shape up after having surgery in Adelaide for haemorrhoids. England, on the other hand, have

so many injury concerns they will be forced to wait until the last minute to Veteran fast bowler Any Caddick

is under a major cloud after injuring is back in Adelaide England physiotherapist Kirk

Russell said Caddick was to have his condition re-assessed after he had a steroid injection in his back. "At this stage he is not ruled out,"

Russell said. Middle order batsman John Crawley's torn hip will almost certainly sideline him

There are high hopes that star opening batsman Michael Vaughan, who is averaging 62.75 in the series, will be able to overcome a

severely bruised right shoulder If Caddick cannot play, he is likely to be replaced by Alex Tudor, one of the five replacements named by England since their touring squad was originally picked.

Tudor shook up the Australian batsmen when he made his Test debut at the WACA Ground four

England is all-rounder Paul Collingwood, who has been plucked from Melbourne club cricket to boost the tourists' ailing squad.

Aged 26, Collingwood is a righthand batsman and right-arm medium-pace bowler who has played in 25 one-day internationals, but is yet to make his Test debut.

Off-spinner Gareth Batty, 25, who is working at England's cricket academy in Adelaide, has been placed on standby to race to Perth it another player is injured. The outcome of the Perth match

appears to hinge on the clash between England's shell-shocked batsmen -- routed for scores of 79 and 159 in the second innings of the first two Tests -- and Australia's champion pace attack, headed by Glenn McGrath and Jason

The WACA Ground wicket is not as lightning fast as in earlier times, but still rewards class pacemen, especially in the early stages. It should be ideal for the Australian pair, who will be probably be supported by the reliable Andy Bichel. WACA curator Richard Winter

said the pitch should reward good bowling and penalise bad batting. "It has rolled out well and should

have some lively pace and bounce,"

England's only hope appears to be to bat first and make a competitive total, with skipper Nasser Hussain and the experienced Mark Butcher and Alec Stewart giving greater support to openers Vaughan and Marcus Trescothick before the brittle tail is exposed.

Tyson ready for comeback



AFP, Tunica

Mike Tyson cracked jokes and laughed at a news conference here Tuesday announcing his first fight since losing to Lennox Lewis last June, a return to nearby Memphis next February.

In the same ring where British heavyweight champion Lewis kncoked him out in the eighth round, Tyson will face fellow American Clifford Etienne in a 10-round fight on February 22 at the Pyramid arena in the Tennessee city.

"I'm happy to be back. You must've loved my last show," Tyson said with a laugh. "I'm just happy to be here.'

Tyson, 49-4 with 43 knockouts, will have a layoff of nearly eight months before fighting "The Black Rhino", who fought a 10-round draw with South Africa's Francois Botha in July in his most recent outing.

Former undisputed world champion Tyson was an angry and outspoken fighter before the lewis fight, hyping the fight with Lewis by making himself the bad guy in a showdown with the reigning champion that ended with Tyson beaten and bloody.

"For health reasons, I hope it's different," Tyson said. "This is going to be a different fight. I'm just happy to be here, I'm just glad you guys called me back.' Tyson's relaxed personality was

far from what Tyson showed last January in New York at a news conference to announce the Lewis fight, one that ended with Tyson and Lewis in a scuffle.

Tyson, noted for biting Evander Holyfield's ears during a title fight, bit Lewis on the leg during the melee.

Contracts for the original fight allow for Tyson and Lewis to fight a rematch after one intervening fight. but Lewis has said he will not fight Tyson again unless there is sufficient interest and money in such a

Lewis is expected to take on Ukraine fighter Vitali Klitschko next March or April in defense of his World Boxing Association crown. Etienne, an ex-con with a weak

MIKE TYSON

chin, is 24-1 with a draw and 17 knockouts. He said a stint in prison for armed robbery matured him. which prompted Tyson to proclaim once more his innocence about a rape conviction from a decade ago.

"I don't know about him, but I didn't do what they locked me up for," said Tyson, who spent 3 1/2 years in prison after being convicted of raping a beauty pageant contestant in Indianapolis

Between having his license suspended for 15 months for biting Holyfield's ear and being jailed for assaulting a pair of motorists nea his Maryland mansion, Tyson stopped Botha in five rounds on January 16, 1999 in Las Vegas.

Until the knockout at the hands of Lewis, Tyson had not lost in six bouts since his suspension. Tyson's bout with Etienne will be only his third in 28 months. In 1986, a 20-year-old Tyson

became the youngest heavyweight champion in history when he dropped Trevor Berbick in the second round. He held the title for nearly four

years before being knocked out by Buster Douglas in a stunning upset in 1990 at Tokyo. Tyson has not owned a major title

since 1996 and his chances of

claiming another depend largely upon winning this fight and rebuilding his place among the contenders. In addition to Lewis' fight, World Boxing Association champion John Ruiz is set to defend March 1 in Las Vegas against undisputed lightheavyweight king Roy Jones. The vacant International Boxing Federation title goes to the winner of December's Holyfield-Chris Byrd showdown in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Depression

Mohsin Kamal said his team lacked a match-winning bowler like Wasim Akram or Waqar Younis. But it will not take much time to produce one or two match winners like them. "We had been working hard on

how the team can perform collectively. That's the area we are eagerly looking forward to click," said the former Pakistan fast bowler. Team managers, Ricky Skerit of West Indies and ASM Faruque of

Bangladesh, also attended the

media briefing. Both team had their

nets at the MA Aziz Stadium yester-

Blaming Bradman

AFP, Sydney

Donald Bradman's unwillingness to pay players better and improve conditions was a major factor behind the World Series Cricket rebellion in the 1970s, according to former Australian captain lan Chappell

Chappell said the late Bradman's tightness with the Australian Cricket Board's money led as much as anything else to starting the breakaway series.

"Bradman to me has as much to do with the starting of World Series Cricket as anybody because I got the feeling Bradman treated the board money as though it was almost his own money," says Chappell on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's "Cricket in the 70s, The Chappell Era" television documentary shown on Wednesday.

Even though Bradman, considered the greatest batsman of alltime, was no longer chairman of the ACB. Chappell said he dominated two board meetings Chappell attended to lobby for better conditions for cricketers

At the time the ACB had gate receipts of up to 250,000 dollars (140,000 US) per Test while players received only 200 dollars (112 US)

Chappell revealed in the program he was approached three times during his Australian leadership from 1972 to 1975 to play privately-funded exhibition matches outside the normal international program.

Chappell was coaxed out of retirement to lead Kerry Packer's breakaway cricket series from 1977 to 1979 as the media mogul sought to gain exclusive international coverage for his Nine Network, signing 55 players from all Test

Hayden hopeful

AFP, Perth

Australian opening batsman Matthew Hayden, recovering from surgery for haemorrhoids, was hopeful Wednesday he would be fit for the third Ashes cricket Test against England starting here

The popular Hayden made fun at his own expense when he rejoined the Australian squad here after remaining in Adelaide to recover.

"I've had a pretty unrewarding six days and the bottom line is that it's been a pain in the neck, but now I'm here my tail is up and I'm ready for the Test," Hayden said.

"If worse comes to worst, I could have a local anaesthetic, but I'm hoping it won't come to that.' Hayden has slammed 346 runs

off the England bowlers in just two He went straight from Perth roort to the nets at the WACA Ground to bat for the first time since

scoring 46 during Australia's victory by an innings and 51 runs in Adelaide last week. "Sitting down on the flight was hard work, but I've come across here earlier than anticipated, so

that's a good start," Hayden said. "If I'm not 100 per cent, then I won't play and I've got some fitness tests to do. I've only just started walking, but I think I'll be alright.

"I love the Perth Test and playing

in Perth. It's a great event and now

it's massively important for the

Zimbabwe's

FROM PAGE 13 Zimbabwe is going to act in this way then the ICC should consider

whether it is a fit and proper place to run international cricket matches. Speed responded that his group would attempt to speak to immigra-

tion authorities about it. They will also have meetings with the Sports Minister, city mayors, police authorities, foreign diplomats and security organisations. There are, however, no plans to meet President Mugabe, who is patron of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union.

The visiting officials will also consider the possibility of severe food and fuel shortages which might prevail in the crisis-hit country. Speed was adamant that none of

the six nations' governments had made contact with him or their cricket chiefs prior to arrival in Zimbabwe, "so there has been no political pressure" "Sport is a blunt political instrument and doesn't work," he

emphasised, ignoring a comment

on British minister (for Wales) Peter

Hain's campaigning activities in

helping to bring down the apartheid

government of South Africa almost

20 years ago. Referring to sanctions he said: "I should say there are no sporting sanctions in place on Zimbabwe."

If any country independently declines to play here, following the ICC visit, its match against the Zimbabwe side will be moved to neighbouring South Africa. If the ICC report is adverse. Zimbabwe cricket will be severely damaged, both in status as a Test

nation and financially as Zimbabwe

would lose about four million US

dollars in television and advertising

Hockeyroos earn full points

Hockey

AFP. Perth

Olympic champions Australia made it three wins out of three at the women's hockey World Cup here Wednesday with a hard-earned 2-1 win over plucky Ireland in Pool B.

A spectacular backstick shot from Katrina Powell proved decisive for the Hockeyroos, who had earlier opened the scoring with a Karen Smith strike from a penalty corner. "We are satisfied with the three

points. Three wins from three matches, but they gave us trouble, Australia coach David Bell said. Bell had given his team a halftime dressing down after Ireland had pulled a goal back through

"I told them 'Be more aggressive and stop allowing intercepts through the midfield'," Bell said. Australia came out firing in the

second half, getting quality passes into the circle but not scoring. Australia failed to convert six penalty corners as they camped in

Ireland's half and failed to add to the

Jenny Burke for a 2-1 scoreline at winning as we beat USA 3-1 in our

for us to attack when she is in

half time score despite 28 circle penetrations and eight shots on

In Wednesday's earlier matches. Japan battled back from a goal down to upset 11th-seeded USA 2-1

another Pool B game. A lucky Kristen McCann goal on 14 minutes put the Americans into the lead after veteran skipper Tracey Fuchs tried an ambitious long-range effort from outside the

But Japan battled back and secured an impressive win courtesy of two goals from Kaori Chiba. pouncing on an error by USA goalkeeper Peggy Storrar to make it 1-1.

Chiba capitalised on indecision in the USA defence for the winner, connecting with a loose rebound from a Sachimi Iwao free-hit to deflect a flick into goal. "We felt we had a good chance of

tournament in Japan," Japan coach Zenjiro Yasuda said. "We also realised that USA has been playing captain Tracey Fuchs deeper in defence and it was hard

last encounter in the Six-Nations

In the earlier match, Spain bear

South Africa 3-1 "We did not play a good match but we got the three points," said Spains coach Jack Holtman. "The

team felt pressure after the loss to Australia," he added Nuria Morena relieved that pressure, carving through the midfield unopposed, drawing Caroline Birt out from South Africas goal to set up 17-vear-old Maria

Ramagosa to tap in Spains first goal and her second of the tournament. Spain took a two-goal lead into the break when Raguel Huertas latched onto a loose ball in the circle, flicking high into goal six

minutes before the break. South Africa pressured Spain's goal after the break. Spain weathered the pressure and replied with an individual goal by Nuria Camon. driving into the circle from the left.

drawing Caroline Birt and flicking into the empty goal from in front. Pietie Coetzee kept up her average of a goal in every international -- 128 goals, 127 caps -scoring with a drag flick from South Africas fourth penalty corner to give South Africa a face-saving goal

was portrayed as a triumph for the

All that changed when the Soviet

Union broke apart in 1991, with

Russia's first democratically leader

Boris Yeltsin proclaiming his passion

for the game and introducing tennis

the most popular sports among

Russian politicians and business

barons, many viewing the green

Tennis quickly evolved into one of

Communist system.

courts to the Kremlin.

Stage set for hero's farewell

Russia goes top of the pile in inter-

national tennis by winning the Davis



The retirement of Russian tennis icon Yevgeny Kafelnikov, which may come this weekend should his side defeat France in the Davis Cup final, would lower the curtain on a brilliant career that helped put Russian tennis on the map.

A native of the Black Sea resort town of Sochi who turned pro in 1992. Kafelnikov spearheaded the game's post-Soviet revival, the first Russian player to top the ATP rankings in May 1999.

The 28-year-old was also the first Russian to win a Grand Slam title, claiming the French Open in 1996 and the 1999 Australian Open. And he almost single-handedly led Russia to two Davis Cup finals.

which to Kafelnikov's bitter disap-

pointment his side lost at home -- 4-1

to Sweden in 1994, and 3-2 to the United States in 1995. But the winner of 26 ATP singles titles and more than 23 million dollars in prize money has pointed to the 2000 Olympic gold medal which he won for Russia at the Sydney Games as his most significant

achievement so far.

CROSSWORD

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Tennis was never a big sport in the Soviet Union, the ruling Communist Party viewing the game as a vulgar amusement of wealthy capitalists that would only tarnish the upstanding moral code of the Soviet people.

The rare successes of Soviet players were never widely publicized, even as every win of the Soviet's mighty ice hockey squad

courts as a perfect opportunity to hobnob with the Kremlin elite. Sports clubs and tennis courts have mushroomed across the country since then, bringing not only establishment figures but also crowds of young talents into the The prize fund of the Kremlin Cup, the first professional men's tennis tournament in Russia, rose from 330,000 dollars in its inaugural YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV year of 1990 to 2.24-million dollars this year for the joint men's and

> ntry list this year. Inevitably, the tennis boom paid off with an infusion of Russian talent

into both the ATP and WTA circuits.

Moscow-born hard-hitter Marat

Safin, who turned professional in

1997, and has won 11 ATP titles including the US Open in 2000, is

Now. 22. Safin will team up with Kafelnikov in Paris this weekend. Another Muscovite, the 20-year-

included in the squad. along with glamour girl Anna Kournikova, still without a tournament win but one of the most recog-

Some suggest Russia would have been unable to scale these heights without their tennis godfather Shamil Tarpishchev, who has headed the Russian tennis federation since 1991

Yeltsin's sports and physical culture Tarpishchev ruled the Russian president's council in sports from

squad to its two Davis Cup semi-

Tarpishchev, who lead the Soviet

French doubles partners Arnaud Clement (L) and Sebastien Grosiean discuss their strategy during a Davis Cup practice session at the Palais Omnisports Centre in Paris yesterday.

By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

UOXTH Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON, DO FENCING SCHOOL STUDENTS

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 Duzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe

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

внхе ZXFFVNRS UQXTH DXKEXBH VXT'MM

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals L

49 Bottom 50 Eastern

NH'B

women's events. Russia's second city of Saint Petersburg is also staging a onemillion-dollar ATP tournament, attracting superstars like Andre Agassi, who headed the event's

the foremost example of this new breed.

old Mikhail Youzhny, who won his first ATP title this season, was also On the women's side, 2000 Olympics silver medal winner Yelena Dementieva, Tatiana Panova, Anastasia Myskina and Nadia Petrova now play for Russia

nized faces in the game, thanks to her pinup looks.

finals (1974, 1976), was also adviser in 1992-94 1994 to 1997, when he became

Russian Davis Cup team's skipper.

RXHYNRS GET HUNGRY AND GO OUT TO LUNGE?

KTMDY