

## Ashes urn moving down under

AFP, London

The famous Ashes urn, which dates back to 1883, will be displayed in Australia next winter, the Marylebone Cricket Club president Tim Rice confirmed.

The urn had been scheduled to be transported to Australia this winter to mark the centenary of the first Ashes series, but never made the journey as experts claimed it was too fragile to transport.

But intricate repair work will be carried out on the artefact over the next few months, with a view to moving it during the 2003/04 Australian season, where it is likely to be displayed in Melbourne and Sydney before being returned to England.

## Pak incentive

FROM PAGE 13 scheduled to be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya in February-March, and Pakistan is reckoned among the Cup's top four favourites.

A win would go a long way to help assuage the litany of brickbats and stream of match-fixing inquiries to which Pakistan's cricketers have been subjected in recent years.

The country's players were blasted with match-fixing allegations after their quarter-final loss in the 1996 World Cup, jointly hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and after their runner-up finish in the 1999 Cup held in England.

Pakistan had to conduct a World Cup match fixing inquiry on their surprise defeats against Bangladesh and India in the 1999 World Cup but the team and all players were cleared.

"Pakistan players play for their country and cash awards are just incentives," Hasan said.

## Rhodes

FROM PAGE 13 The five-match series started two days after South Africa completed a 4-1 series win over Sri Lanka, while Pakistan arrived in South Africa after trouncing Zimbabwe 5-0 in Zimbabwe.

Pakistan were unable to pick fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, who was suspended for one match following an incident in which he threw a plastic bottle into the crowd in the last match against Zimbabwe in Harare.

South Africa picked what appeared to be their strongest combination after making some experimental changes in the last match against Sri Lanka. Smith, Jacques Kallis, Nicky Boje and Makhaya Ntini returned to the side in place of Andrew Hall, Boeta Dippenaar, Robin Peterson and Monde Zondeki.

## BD to tour

FROM PAGE 13 Faruque while talking to The Daily Star Sport on Saturday.

Anam also reported Faruque's view and said if everything goes fine the team will fly to Namibia on January 15 and remain there until January 31 before heading for South Africa.

In South Africa, Bangladesh will also play two practice matches on February 3 and 5 against Natal and Durban provincial sides before they face Canada in their World Cup opener in Kingsmead on February 11.

## SERIES SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 13 1999, came over here as a television commentator for ESPN-Star Sports.

Gordon, who was given honorary citizenship after he inspired Bangladesh to the ICC Trophy title in April, 1997, renewed his Bangladeshi passport. He was also offered to take over Bangladesh once again during his eleven-day's visit.

A BCB bigwig confided that Gordon, who was sacked midway through the World Cup in England following a conflict with the tour management, did not give any answer to the Board offer before his departure.

As always, Gordon also kept the fourth state at bay. It was reported that he tried to assault a photojournalist when he was taking his snaps on his arrival at the hotel lobby.

The ESPN-Star Sport commentary panel will now be down to four—Tony Cozier, Athar Ali Khan, Arunlal, Ian Bishop and presenter Allan Wilkinson.

**MASHUD'S COIN MISERY** Coin is not being friendly with Bangladesh captain Khaled Mashud.

Mashud was asked to toss the coin yesterday. The coin slipped through his fingers in his first attempt. In his second attempt, it again fell on to the pitch and travelled near to the stumps from the middle of the crease, forcing match referee Ranjan Madugale to have some extra work.

However, West Indies captain Ridley Jacobs should consider Bangabandhu National Stadium as his lucky ground for winning the toss three times in a row.

Ridley elected to bat on the first two occasions, but opted to field this time.

And his bowlers vindicated his decision by bowling Bangladesh out for 139 shortly after the tea break on the opening day.

# India finally hit form



AFP, Napier

Batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar and opener Virender Sehwag warmed up for the opening Test against New Zealand with impressive half-centuries in a drawn tour match here on Sunday.

Tendulkar slammed an unbeaten 52 and Sehwag a brisk 61 as India batted better in their second innings to post 191-3 at stumps on the third and final day after conceding a lead of 86 to Central Districts at the McLean Park.

Opener Sanjay Bangar (70) was the other batsman among runs ahead of the first Test, starting at Wellington on December 12.

The only disappointing news for India was reliable middle-order batsman Rahul Dravid's twin failures in the only practice game before the Test.

Dravid missed out on a big score as he contributed just one before being bowled by fast bowler Andrew Schwass, who finished with 2-28 on a day when 53.4 overs were possible due to rain.

Dravid had failed to score in the first innings.

"Though Dravid has missed out on a big score, he is a quality player. Technically, he is perhaps the best equipped to score runs in New Zealand," said Indian coach John Wright.

"But there were positives from the game. Sehwag, Tendulkar and Bangar all scored runs. Bangar is a very committed cricketer who is also capable of playing attacking innings."

Wright said he was not worried over India's batting collapse against fast bowling in the first innings.

"I won't be too concerned about the first innings. They are all quality batsmen capable of doing well here," said Wright, who is also a former New Zealand captain.

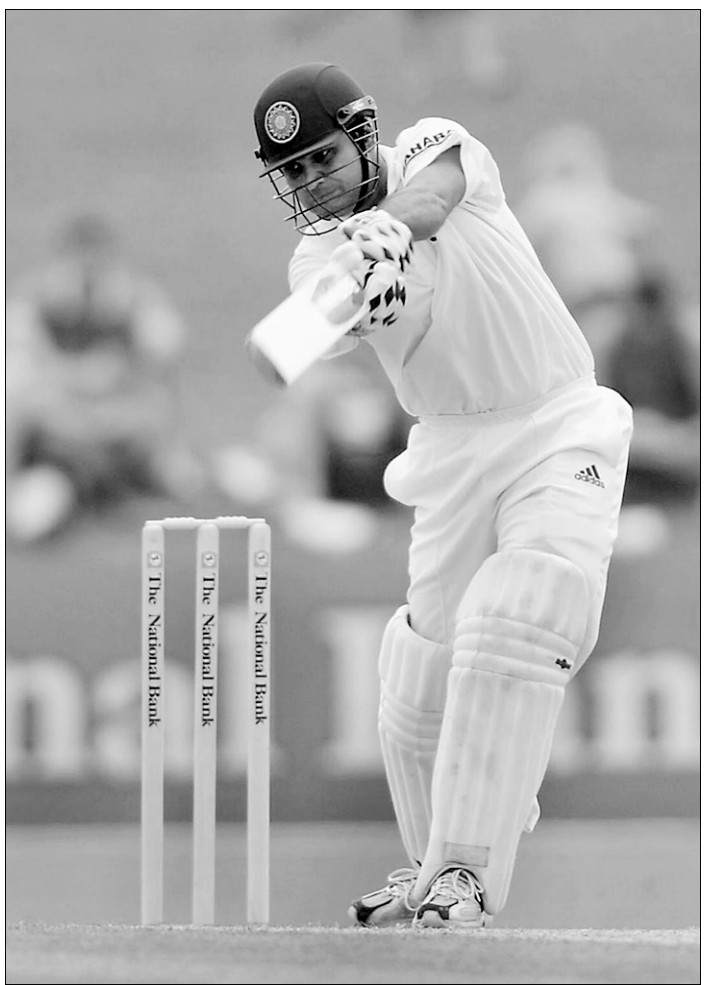
Sehwag's return to form augured well for India, who had been looking for runs from their openers ahead of the Test after crashing to 209 in the first innings on a lively track on Friday.

The hard-hitting opener, who made 12 in the first innings, made amends for his failure with a blistering 61 off just 55 balls with 11 fours.

Sehwag held centre-stage in the first session against fast bowlers as he timed his shots remarkably well.

He reached his fifty in 51 balls, on-driving paceman Brent Hefford for the first of his three boundaries in a

over. Sehwag eventually fell playing strokes as he edged Schwass to wicket-keeper Martyn Sigley, but not before adding 91 for the opening wicket with Bangar to ensure a draw. Bangar gave valuable support to both Sehwag and Tendulkar. Tendulkar played his shots with freedom from the other end, dominating the four-man pace attack during his 87-run stand for the third



Hard-hitting Indian batsman Virender Sehwag drives during his innings of 61 on the third day of the four match against Central Districts in Napier yesterday.

wicket with Bangar. **SCOREBOARD** Complete scoreboard on the third and final day of a drawn three-day tour match between India and Central Districts at the McLean Park here on Sunday: **INDIA:** First innings: 209 (S. Ganguly 48, S. Tendulkar 44, M. Mason 3-46, A. Schwass 3-46) **CENTRAL DISTRICTS:** First

innings: 295-9 decl (B. Griggs 100 not out, C. Spearman 58, M. Sinclair 52, A. Agarkar 4-50). **INDIA:** Second innings 70. S. Bangar c Hefford b Sulzberger 70. V. Sehwag c Sigley b Schwass 61. R. Dravid b Schwass 1. S. Tendulkar not out 52. V. Laxman not out 1. Extras: (nb-6) 6

Total: (for 3 wickets in 53.4 overs) 191

Fall of wickets: 1-91, 2-99, 3-186.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mason	11.4	4	21	0
Hamilton	11	0	71	0
Hefford	11	2	42	0
Schwass	14	4	28	2
Sulzberger	6	1	29	1

Overs: 53.4 **Result:** Match drawn **First Test: Wellington (Dec 12-16)**

## Adam earns WC call up

AFP, London

Former England one-day captain Adam Hoolioake was named in England's provisional squad here Saturday for next year's World Cup in South Africa.

The Surrey captain, who took time out at the start of the last northern season following the death of his brother Ben in a car crash in Australia, eventually enjoyed an impressive season with both bat and ball as he led his county to their third championship title in four years.

Australian-born Hoolioake, 31, who last played for England in the 1999 World Cup when England, on home soil, crashed out after the first round, is currently on standby in Australia in case of further injuries to the England one-day squad there.

Off-spinner Jeremy Snape is also included despite being ruled out of the start of the triangular one-day series in Australia, which also features Sri Lanka.

Snape suffered a hand fracture after being struck by a Brett Lee delivery during England's crushing one-day defeat by New South Wales on Friday and is set to be sidelined for four weeks.

He is included along with the rest of the England one-day squad currently in Australia.

But some could yet miss out, with England, in common with all other 13 World Cup participants having to name their final 15-man party by December 31.

### PROVISIONAL SQUAD

Nasser Hussain (Essex), Marcus Trescothick (Somerset), Nick Knight (Warwickshire), Michael Vaughan (Yorkshire), Owais Shah (Middlesex), Alec Stewart (Surrey, wkt), Ronnie Irani (Essex), Paul Collingwood (Durham), Andrew Flintoff (Lancashire), Craig White (Yorkshire), Ian Blackwell (Somerset), Jeremy Snape (Leicestershire), Ashley Giles (Warwickshire), Andrew Caddick (Somerset), Matthew Hoggard (Yorkshire), James Kirtley (Sussex), Robert Key (Kent), Darren Stevens (Leicestershire), Vikram Solanki (Worcestershire), Anthony McGrath (Yorkshire), Matthew Maynard (Glamorgan), Adam Hoolioake (Surrey), Chris Read (Nottinghamshire, wkt), Richard Dawson (Yorkshire), Martin Suggers (Kent), Kyle Hogg (Lancashire), Kabir Ali (Worcestershire), Stephen Harmison (Durham), Ryan Sidebottom (Yorkshire), James Anderson (Lancashire)

"My heart is full of emotion. I am happy and tired but fantastic tired," said Argentina's coach, Sergio Vigil.

"I knew after Netherlands scored that my team would still win as I was



Argentine players jubilate after winning the Women's Hockey World Cup in Perth yesterday.

# Argentina lift World Cup



AFP, Perth

Argentina's women were crowned world hockey champions on Sunday after beating the Netherlands in the first final to be decided by sudden-death penalties.

The South Americans celebrated their first world title with wild scenes of jubilation after the Netherlands' Fatima Moreira de Melo pushed her shot against the left post to hand them the game 4-3.

Scores were tied 1-1 after extra time and after the first five penalties, taking the shoot-out to sudden-death.

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge handed out Argentina's first gold medals after silvers at three World Cups and the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

"My heart is full of emotion. I am happy and tired but fantastic tired," said Argentina's coach, Sergio Vigil. "I knew after Netherlands scored that my team would still win as I was

confident in the mental ability and speed of my team."

The Netherlands' coach said he was disappointed after outplaying favourites Argentina, who finished the tournament unbeaten, towards the end of the match.

The Dutch were also beaten by Argentina in the Champion's Trophy final in Amsterdam last year.

"We are sad as a team as we were so close but we were not strong enough," said Dutch coach Marc Lammers. "Even though we played better than Argentina in the second half we didn't score from enough of our penalty corners in the second half and we had two corner chances in extra time."

Player of the tournament, Argentina's Luciana Aymar, said her award was a tribute to the whole team.

"There are people in Argentina dying of hunger and if we can win this tournament in sport to make people at home happy it is worth while," she said.

"The prize is for the whole team as the whole team fights for the same thing and the team includes the players, coaches assist

coaches and everyone who contributes to the team."

Argentina got off to the best possible start, Luciana Aymar picking up a loose ball in centre midfield and out-running the Netherlands' defence into the circle on five minutes. She passed to the right to Ines Arondo who pushed her shot beneath the diving Netherlands goalkeeper Clarinde Sinnige.

Argentina's defence was impenetrable in the first half and the Dutch had no answers to the South Americans' superior ball control and positional play for most of the game. But 10 minutes from time the Netherlands began to pile pressure on Argentina, gaining possession in Argentina's defensive quarter and earning a penalty corner.

Ageeth Boomgaardt flicked but the shot went wide to the right of goal. Three minutes from time, Dutch coach Marc Lammers inserted Maarje Scheepstra into centre forward and immediately captain Mintje Donners forced a penalty corner.

# Eng throw away victory



AFP, Sydney

England crashed to defeat again here Sunday at the hands of Australia A in a match they so easily could have won.

On the verge of finally winning a game after 52 days on tour, the visitors suffered yet another catastrophic batting collapse to hand Australia A victory by 23 runs in a limited-overs clash at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Nasser Hussain's men came within sight of winning the 10th fixture of their trip but, chasing Australia A's modest 205 for nine wickets, England crashed from a dominant 110 for three wickets to be

all out for 182 in 47 overs.

England have now lost six clashes and drawn four encounters since the start of a tour aimed at regaining the Ashes.

The latest loss came despite England's best effort of the season in the field, with Nick Knight taking two superb catches.

But the middle and late-order batting was again woeful, allowing the Australian second 11 to snatch a win that had seemed beyond them.

Batting first after winning the toss, Australia A struggled, with captain Justin Langer making 62 from 103 balls and Mike Hussey a boundary-less 44 not out from 47.

In reply, England were three for one wicket after two overs when Hussey ran out Craig White, but instead of falling apart at that stage, the visitors moved towards what

appeared to be a likely success.

All-rounder Ronnie Irani and then captain Hussain looked to be in charge before the big collapse.

Irani, who had taken 3-30 from 10 overs of tight medium pace, was trapped in front by Ashley Noffke for 33 from 22 balls. Hussain also made 33.

Irani was named man of the match.

Knight (20) and Robert Key (11) threw their wickets away with slogs that were not necessary.

Pace trio Brad Williams (1-33), Noffke (2-29), and Greg Blewett (1-15), with spinners Brad Hogg (3-32) and Andrew Symonds (1-24), shared the spoils.

Australia A started terribly when Jimmy Maher went for a duck, caught at point from an inside edge on to his pads.

Young Michael Clarke, a player considered to be on the threshold of a senior international career, strutted to the crease at 2-59 and promptly dispatched his first three balls to the fence with glorious cover drives.

But Clarke came unstuck when he charged Irani and was bowled. Hussey made a late contribution but the rest of the Australia A middle and lower struggled, unable to find the fence from the 33rd over until the 48th.

Irani was well supported by off-spinner Ian Blackwell, who took 1-24 from 10 overs.

England's next match is against the Prime Minister's XI at Canberra on Tuesday.

# Gray's neutral option



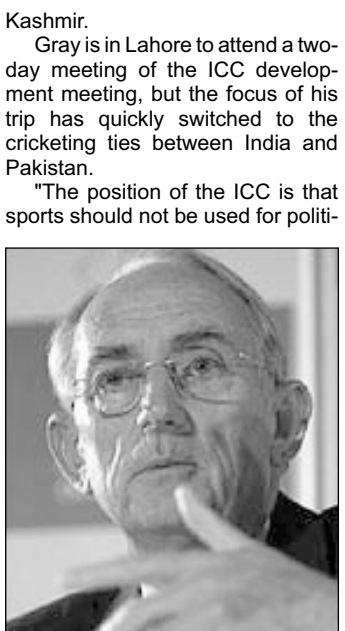
AFP, Lahore

Pakistan and India should consider playing each other at a neutral venue, International Cricket Council president Malcolm Gray said Sunday, voicing regret that the sport was being used for "political ends."

"I think that the proposal of Pakistan and India playing at a neutral venue is a good one. I think that the two (national cricket) boards and the governments should give this consideration and no politicians should get involved in the matter," Gray told AFP.

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf has urged India to go ahead with an April-May tour of Pakistan to play three Tests and as many limited over internationals. Pakistan are scheduled to make a return visit to India in 2004.

Indian Sports Minister Vikram Verma on Saturday rejected Musharraf's offer, saying a cricket tour was incompatible with what he said was Pakistan's support for "terrorist activities" in divided



MALCOLM GRAY

cal ends," Gray said. "It is regrettable that at the national level it seems to be used for political ends. Cricket can be a great unifier and can bring people of both the countries together."

Pakistan and India last played each other two and a half years ago in Bangladesh at the Asia Cup. The two countries are expected to square off next on March 1 in South Africa at the World Cup, a match India are bound to play.

Gray stressed that there were still "sporting contacts" between Pakistan and India, noting that Pakistan were playing in Madras for the World Cup of blind cricketers.

He acknowledged he had limited power to resolve the dispute.

"The ICC can only use its powers of persuasion; ultimately the ICC doesn't have any legal or political powers and it is government that determines foreign policies."

Gray said the ICC needed to be given more power.

"Cricket was organised on a federal system and in other words the powers resided in the country and not in the central body, whereas in other sports like football power resided in the central body and goes downward."

"Ultimately some of that power must be ceded to the ICC. Ultimately that really has to happen for the sake of cricket to compete with other sports."

# Bishop with a difference

FROM PAGE 13

the future. It's unfortunate that it has taken Drakes this long to get a regular place in the side. But he has done wonderfully well. His experience and variation have given a new dimension to the West Indies bowling. At this stage, he needs to play as many matches as he can. He will be more than a handful in the World Cup (in South Africa) because of his experience of playing first class cricket there.

**DSS:** You were regarded as one of the fastest bowlers of your time. Although the new West Indian pacemen are talented, there is still a shortage of express bowlers. Is someone with genuine pace around for the World Cup?

**IB:** I don't think there will be any surprise inclusions in the World Cup squad. I believe the guys you're seeing here — Collins, Drakes, Lawson, Cuffy and of course Dillon will be the ones the selectors will be taking to South Africa.

**DSS:** Your career was frequently hampered by serious injuries. Looking back, how disappointing was it for you to leave cricket and how did you cope with it?

**IB:** Well, I didn't leave because of injuries. Rather, I thought it was the right time to go. You're right about the injuries, they made it difficult for me to make comebacks. It came to the point where I found out that I needed to work more to get fit. Yes, I was disappointed but I don't have

any regrets. I am pretty content with what I've achieved.

**DSS:** How are you enjoying your present role as a cricket commentator?

**IB:** It's totally different from playing. As a cricketer, your statistics speak for you at the end of the day. But in commenting, someone may or may not like your voice. That's the way it is, you can't impress everybody. But it's nice to see cricket from a different perspective and you're getting well paid for the job. The key here is enjoying what you're doing. I am certainly enjoying myself.

**DSS:** Are you giving something back to the development of West Indies cricket in any capacity?

**IB:** I do my bit of coaching. I've been the manager of the West Indies under-15 team and also the Trinidad and Tobago squad. That way I feel I've contributed. Overall, former cricketers have got themselves involved during the last couple of years in developing the game and you can see now that

their efforts are starting to pay off.

**DSS:** Speaking of former players. The likes of West Indies greats Vivian Richards and Gordon Greenidge are now associated with the present squad. Apart from selecting the teams, what more significant role are they playing?

**IB:** I can tell you for a fact that Viv's got a more hands on approach. He talks to the players and occasionally he'll go to the dressing room to express or share his views. More importantly, the sheer aura of someone like Viv or Gordon Greenidge has brought about a change in the dressing room culture of the team. A couple of years ago it was a bit airy-fairy but now the whole atmosphere is different. Coach Roger Harper has done a good job in this regard.

We now have a more settled looking team. We may have struggled over the past few years but from that experience the players have benefited and now the West Indies are coming up. That is also true in Bangladesh's case from what I'm seeing here.

**DSS:** One last question. Do you honestly believe that the West Indies can be serious contenders for the World Cup?

**IB:** Absolutely. I have no doubt whatsoever.

## McKenzie pilots SA

AFP, Bloemfontein

Neil McKenzie, a borderline prospect for a World Cup place, took South Africa to a six-wicket win in the fifth and final one-day international against Sri Lanka at Springbok Park Friday.

McKenzie made 70 not out as South Africa completed a 4-1 series victory against a Sri Lankan team which had a disappointing tour.

It was another lacklustre performance by the Sri Lankans, although wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara returned to form with 77 not out in a Sri Lankan total of 228 for eight. The left-handed Sangakkara's highest score in the first four internationals was ten.

### SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard in the fifth and final one-day international between South Africa and Sri Lanka at Springbok Park Friday:

**SRI LANKA** Atapattu c Hall b Zondeki 53 Jayasuriya c Rhodes b Donald 2 De Silva c Boucher b Pollock 0 Jayawardene c Boucher b Pollock 3 Sangakkara not out 77 Arnold c Pollock b Hall 36 Samaraweera run out (Gibbs) 33

Vaas c Gibbs b Donald 0 Nissanka run out (Donald) 0 Gamage not out 3 Extras: (b-2, lb-6, nb-3, w-10) 21 Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 228

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-7, 3-48, 4-84, 5-145, 6-201, 7-208, 8-208.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
S. Pollock	10	4	23	2
Donald	9	0	64	2
A. Hall	10	0	37	1
L. Klusener	5	0	24	0
M. Zondeki	8	0	37	1
R. Peterson	8	0	35	0

Did not bat: P. Gunaratne

**SOUTH AFRICA** H. Gibbs b Gamage 47 Hall c Sangakkara b Gunaratne 18

R. Peterson c Sangakkara b Vaas 5 N. McKenzie not out 70 H. Dippenaar run out (Atapattu) 36 J. Rhodes not out 25 Extras: (lb10, nb2, w16) 28 Total: (For 4 wkts in 45.1 overs) 229

Falls: 1-44, 2-53, 3-87, 4-175.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	10	0	37	1
Gamage	10	1	52	1
Gunaratne	8.1	0	40	1
Nissanka	10	0	48	0
Samaraweera	4	0	25	0