

India remain unchanged

AFP, Kanpur

India have retained their squad for the second Test against South Africa starting from Sunday, a top cricket board official said here Wednesday.

"The selectors have decided not to make any change in the team for the second Test to be played in Kolkata," said board secretary Karunakaran Nair.

India will then undertake a tour of Bangladesh next month, the team for which will be announced during the Kolkata Test.

"The team to tour Bangladesh will be announced on November 30," said Nair.

India leave for Bangladesh on December 7 to play two Tests and three one-dayers.

The squad: Sourav Ganguly (capt), Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Laxman, Dinesh Karthik, Mohammad Kaif, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Murali Kartik, Irfan Pathan, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra.

No retirement plan for Lehmann

INTERNET SOURCE

Darren Lehmann has rejected talk of retiring after the Adelaide Test against New Zealand and wants to stay on until next year's Ashes tour.

Lehmann was picked for the first game ahead of Simon Katich and will look to secure his place on his home ground from Friday after making just eight at Brisbane.

"I'm definitely not retiring," Lehmann told reporters as he arrived in Adelaide. "If I'm enjoying cricket I'll keep playing and I certainly am enjoying playing -- so there's no thoughts of that in my mind at all."

Lehmann also said his teammates had spoken to Adam Gilchrist, who has been under heavy scrutiny following his walking disagreement with Craig McMillan in the first Test.

"We'll support him in whichever way he goes and whatever help he needs he'll get it," Lehmann said.

James Sutherland, Cricket Australia's chief executive, said the walking debate had been "blown out of proportion" and Gilchrist did not deserve to be at the centre of it.

Despite playing several seasons for Yorkshire, Lehmann has never been on an Ashes tour and wants to make the trip next year.

"That's the whole goal," he said. "I want to get there and play a full Ashes tour."

Charity race

AFP, Adelaide

A charity foot race between the two lowest members of the Australian and New Zealand cricket teams for this week's Adelaide Test here has been arranged with full-length body suits.

Kiwi opening batsman Mark Richardson has challenged senior Aussie batsman Darren Lehmann to a 100-metre race on Adelaide Oval after the second Test, which gets underway here on Friday.

A figure-hugging, full-length body suit is being couriered from New Zealand, replete in bright yellow and green colours for Lehmann, known as 'Boof' to don, while Richardson sports a skin-tight 1980s beige and brown NZ one-day outfit, complete with Cathy Freeman-style hood.

Boof v Rig was given the green light last Wednesday when Lehmann said he would, fitness permitting, answer Richardson's challenge.

Dour left-hander and noted prankster Richardson, nicknamed Rig (as in rigor mortis), throws down the gauntlet to the slowest member of the opposition after every New Zealand Test series.

Lillee cuts ties with CA

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Cricket Australia said Wednesday it was better off hiring full-time coaches than employing bowling great Dennis Lillee, who has abruptly ended his long coaching involvement with the body.

Lillee quit his 15-year coaching role with Australia over a pay dispute and his loss means Test fast bowlers Glenn McGrath, Brett Lee and Jason Gillespie must look elsewhere for expert tutelage or hire him privately.

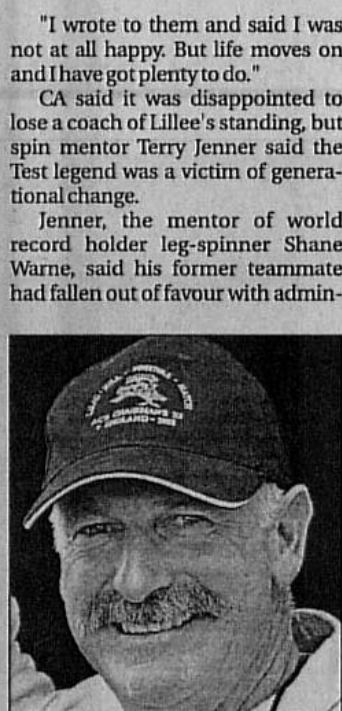
The 55-year-old Test great, who retired from international cricket in 1984 after taking 355 wickets in 70 Tests, wrote to Cricket Australia (CA) rejecting its proposed pay cut and reduced workload.

Lillee's loss has raised fears his skills and experience will be lost to the new generation of fast bowling talent.

"A proposal was put to me by the cricket academy to cut my days down from 30 to 15 per year," Lillee was quoted in press reports.

"They also didn't want me to do the (Australian) states, so I would have no contact with the ones who really need the help, the under-17s and under-19s.

"They wanted me to focus on the (Adelaide-based) academy and the Test players and wanted to cut (my work) down to about half the days and for me to take a discount on my daily rate.



DENNIS LILLEE

istrators who were keen on introducing a seachange among coaching ranks.

"I've worked with Dennis and he's a terrific coach," Jenner said in Adelaide.

"There's a bit of a thing going around at the moment that if you were a '70s cricketer that you are now old news.

"We're just a bit slower with the

computer but we're quicker with the eye -- that's the difference."

Former Australian captain Greg Chappell also voiced his support of Lillee's ability to help young bowlers improve their actions and thinking.

"I think as well as being one of the great fast bowlers, Dennis is one of the great fast bowling coaches," Chappell told ABC radio.

"He's very inspirational as a coach, he's had a lot to do with a lot of young bowlers around the world."

CA chief executive James Sutherland described Lillee as a "fantastic coach", but said emerging players needed full-time mentors instead of the occasional visits Lillee provided under his 30-days-a-year contract.

"The nature of coaching programs have changed from a decade ago," Sutherland told reporters here.

"We need to be able to continue to adapt to today's professional cricket so that day in, day out they're provided with the services they need."

Sutherland said CA's money was better spent on full-time coaches.

"Ultimately, Cricket Australia needs to make a judgement as a not-for-profit organisation about where it spends its money, where its priorities are, and we're making a judgement in saying that we haven't been able to come to terms with Dennis and that we need to allocate our resources appropriately and prudently for the future," he said.

CA had not received any feedback from the current Australian players, Sutherland said.

Clarke's focus on cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Australian batting whiz-kid Michael Clarke is trying to maintain his positive focus while the cricket world continues to shower him with praise and sponsorship dollars.

The 23-year-old prodigy swung last week's first Brisbane Test away from New Zealand with an exhilarating 141 on his home Test debut in a 216-run sixth-wicket stand with Adam Gilchrist (126) as Australia fought back to claim a crushing innings and 156 runs victory inside four days.

Clarke showed no fear when he raised his second Test hundred -- he scored 151 on Test debut in India last month -- with an audacious four off the last ball before lunch on the third day and has now scored 541 runs in nine Test innings at a stunning 67.62 average.

His big task now will be to blot out the clamour for his time and keep his feet firmly on the ground, but the Sydney youngster is humble about his achievements ahead of the second Test with the Kiwis, starting at the Adelaide Oval on Friday.

"I'm definitely enjoying myself and as long as I continue doing that and having fun, training hard and hopefully I can continue scoring runs out in the middle," Clarke told reporters after training here on Wednesday.

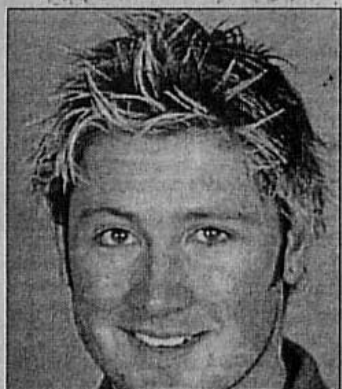
"So far it's been all positive. It's very easy in a great team, you have plenty of people to lean on, to talk to

about on-field and off-field stuff, so hopefully I can continue playing well."

Clarke, who is seen as the future of Australian cricket and even one day Test captain, said he has been receiving tremendous support and counselling from his elder teammates to cope with his instant cricket fame.

"All the guys are very supportive, so if you need them for anything they're more than happy to help," he said.

"I have my mother and father and my best mate, my manager, back at home who I use a lot, there's so many people you can go to in



MICHAEL CLARKE

such a great team.

"I don't know exactly how many calls he's (manager) had, it's got a lot

to keep him busy, so hopefully people can keep calling.

"I'm just trying to hit that little red ball at the moment and whatever else happens he can take care of that."

Clarke, preparing for just his sixth Test match this week, is realistic enough to know that his magical introduction into Test cricket won't last and on Wednesday spoke of his character-building spell with Hampshire in English county cricket this year.

"I had a pretty tough time in England, I really enjoyed Hampshire, and I think it really helped me as a person and a cricketer," he recalled.

"I had about eight games there where I didn't score more than 50 runs so it was a pretty tough time, but enjoyable.

"It was great to come out the other side, to go through that rough patch but come out on top of it and score three hundreds in a row ... Shane Warne was a great help to me while I was there."

Clarke is expecting a sterner challenge from the battered Kiwis in the second and final Test of their series.

"The Kiwis are always tough, in any sport they are a fighting nation, and always trying their best, so the Adelaide Test will be tough.

"We definitely won't be taking them lightly and hopefully we can continue playing as we have been."

Zim bans English scribes

FROM PAGE 13

the ICC, who had highlighted to the England and Wales Cricket Board the possible financial implications of a boycott, would endeavour to seek a resolution to the situation.

"It is of great concern. We heard about this refusal to grant visas quite late in the afternoon yesterday (Tuesday)," he said.

"I spoke to Peter Chingoka (president of Zimbabwe Cricket) and he has promised to come back to me today (Wednesday) as it was too late to speak to Zimbabwe (government)

officials last night.

Mani refused to accept that in the light of the media ban and the obvious political intervention by Mugabe's regime it now fell upon the ICC to call off the tour.

"That is not a matter for me to decide at this stage," he told Radio 4's Today programme. "I believe the two matters (the tour and Zimbabwe's politics) are totally unrelated. We accept that cricket and politics do mingle but our responsibility is to cricket and it is for politicians to deal with politics."

"Two wrongs don't make a right."

The ICC president denied there was a clause within the Future Tours Programme agreement which stated tours had to have suitable media representation.

"There is no such rule," he said. "But this is disappointing because we have been in communication with Zimbabwe Cricket for a couple of months and we had no indication until yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon that a large number of journalists would be refused entry."

When asked whether he thought Zimbabwe Cricket was in control of events, Mani replied: "Obviously not."

Recoba takes international break

AFP, Montevideo

Uruguay lost a second international striker in two months on Tuesday when Inter Milan striker Alvaro Recoba announced he was temporarily stepping down because he was so out of form.

The 28-year-old follows former Manchester United striker Diego Forlan in declaring himself unavailable for selection, though 25-year-old Forlan said his decision was because he was fed up playing only parts of matches.

Recoba, though, said that he did not want to turn his back permanently on the national side.

"However at the moment when nothing is working for me, the best thing to do is to not play," Recoba told Uruguayan newspaper El Pais.

"It is unbelievable, I get off the aeroplane and the next day I score a goal for Inter but with the national side nothing happens," added Recoba, who was booed by Uruguayan fans in last week's 1-0 2006 World Cup qualification victory over Paraguay.

Benaud to stay 3 more years with Nine

AFP, Sydney

Venerable television cricket commentator Richie Benaud has played down reports of his imminent retirement by signing a new three-year deal to stay with Australia's Nine Network broadcast team.

The 74-year-old former Australian cricket captain has been calling cricket at Kerry Packer's Nine Network since 1977 and has a huge following in Australia and throughout the cricket world.

"Richie is an icon of Australian cricket and he has signed a contract to stay on for another three years," Nine spokesman Jamie Campbell said on Wednesday.

"He loves the game. Cricket is his passion and his life and he has no intention of stopping as a commentator anytime soon.

"There's no point in talking about replacements for him when he's just signed up for another three years."

There had been speculation that former England A captain Mark Nicholas was being groomed to take over from the distinguished Benaud.

Benaud's deal puts to an end to suggestions for the time being that Nicholas was on the verge of taking over.

Another famous cricketer being mooted for a future place on the Nine Network commentary team is Test cricket's leading wicket-taker Shane Warne, who is expected to follow former team-mates and current Nine employees Mark Taylor and Ian Healy.

NSW ride on Haddin

AFP, Sydney

Wicketkeeper Brad Haddin hammered a fierce century to hand New South Wales a huge innings lead over champions Victoria in their Sheffield Shield cricket match here on Wednesday.

Haddin dubbed a career-best 154 from 162 balls and struck 22 fours and four sixes to spearhead NSW to 373 for seven at stumps on day two in reply to Victoria's 235. NSW led by 138 with two days to play.

Haddin came in before lunch with his side five wickets down and still needing 131 runs for first innings points, but four hours later he departed with his side more than 100 in front.

From 105 for five and in trouble, Haddin and captain Simon Katich (78) put on 104 for the sixth wicket before the latter fell LBW to the part-time off-spin of Brad Hodge.

But NSW off-spinner Jason Krejza held up an end and allowed Haddin to smash his third 50 from 38 balls as the Blues earned two innings points in the process. Krejza finished on 57 not out.

Premier hockey

FROM PAGE 13

Mariner in the Club Cup final, will be available for the Sky Blues from the second game.

Abahani are still looking for a third foreign player as they will not get Ronald Kiran, who was adjudged best player of the Club Cup.

Mohammedan are yet to confirm any foreign recruit. Mariner will retain the three Pakistanis they fielded during the Club Cup while Usha are also linked to have three Pakistanis in their squad.

The top five teams will play in the Super Five for the championship while the bottom half will play in the relegation league.

Green Delta Insurance Limited will be the title sponsor of the League for the 15 successive year.

Meanwhile, two foreign umpires from India and Pakistan are expected to reach the city today to conduct the League matches.

What happened

FROM PAGE 13

the national camp before their premier division games to avoid confusion.

"We are committed to our respective clubs also. But we are not even allowed to play the practice matches of the clubs which we feel are more important than the relentless physical training at the national camp," said a Bangladesh cricketer criticising what many say is 'over-emphasis' on fitness training in the preliminary camp.

Abul Hashem TT

FROM PAGE 13

11-5, 11-5 and Rimon beat Helal of Wari Club 11-13, 11-9, 11-8, 11-8, 11-8.

Abahani's Soma completed a double when she won the women's singles title with a 4-3 set victory against Rumi of Biman.

Soma, who had earlier won the team title for Abahani, took the first set 11-8 but lost the next three sets 9-11, 9-11 and 7-11 before sweeping the final three 11-8, 11-7, 11-8 in an exciting final.

On way to the final, Soma ousted her Abahani teammate Tumpa 5-11, 11-5, 11-6, 2-11, 11-9, 11-9 and Rumi defeated fellow teammate Jayati 9-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-9, 11-6.

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor and life member of Wari Club Sadek Hossain Khoka distributed prizes among the winners.

NZ to rest Franklin

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

Fast bowler James Franklin may be available to play in Friday's second cricket Test but he was left out of New Zealand's squad Wednesday for next month's one-day series with Australia on fitness concerns.

Franklin missed last week's Gabba Test with a groin strain but is expected to replace Kyle Mills for the Adelaide Test.

New Zealand coach John Bracewell said the decision to leave Franklin out of the Chappell-Hadlee one-day series was a precaution to ensure his groin injury was properly recovered in time for the home series against Australia next February.

"It has not had time to fully clear up and, while it is not holding him back at the moment, we need to take the right course of action to ensure his long-term fitness without the

immediate worry of demanding one-day cricket," Bracewell said in a statement.

Bracewell said fast bowler Daryl Tuffey was another notable absentee in the squad.

"Tuffey is not yet ready for a return to international cricket but is making progress with a specific rehabilitation programme. Hopes are high he will be available for selection during the home series against Sri Lanka and Australia," Bracewell said.

Bracewell said the squad was relatively straightforward to select.

"This is a squad that has performed pretty well during the last 12 months," he said.

"They have hardly lost a one-day match and there is a degree of confidence. Apart from a couple of injuries, this is the nucleus of the squad that has helped the Black Caps rise to number three on the ICC Championship points table."

Bracewell said the arrival of fresh faces in Chris Cairns, Chris Harris

and Andre Adams would bring new enthusiasm to the Kiwi camp.

"Cairns and Harris always add value to the squad on and off the field and they have been keeping cricket-fit by playing in the New Zealand Academy warm-up matches following their involvement in the one-day series against Bangladesh," he said.

"We like what Adams will offer us as an impact player in Australian conditions and he impressed during his last Australian tour."

The first match of the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy series takes place in Melbourne on December 5 with the other matches in Sydney (December 8) and Brisbane (December 10).

New Zealand squad: Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan Astle, Mathew Sinclair, Hamish Marshall, Craig McMillan, Scott Styris, Chris Cairns, Chris Harris, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori, Andre Adams, Kyle Mills, Ian Butler.

Fed Cup semifinal

France take 2-0 lead

Tennis

REUTERS, Moscow

Nathalie Dechy eased to a 6-2, 6-4 win over Maria Sanchez Lorenzo to give Fed Cup champions France a commanding 2-0 lead in their semifinal against Spain on Wednesday.

Earlier, Tatiana Golovin, making her singles debut in the competition, beat Anabel Medina Garrigues 6-3, 6-3 to give an under-strength French team the early advantage.

Hot favourites Russia take on outsiders Austria in the second semi-final later on Wednesday.

With world number two Amelie Mauresmo and 2000 French Open champion Mary Pierce, who led France to their second Fed Cup title a year ago in Moscow, missing this year's tie, 16-year-old Golovin was left to carry her country's hopes.

After a series of early service breaks, Moscow-born Golovin finally held serve in the ninth game to take the opening set 6-3.

In the second set, she earned a

decisive break in the fifth game before wrapping up the match after 94 minutes.

"This was my first singles match in Fed Cup but I wasn't nervous, if anything I was excited most of all," said 27th-ranked Golovin.

"I'm very happy to bring the first point for France," she added.

"I left Moscow when I was eight months old and never came back until now, but I'm just concentrating on playing the Fed Cup for my country and want to leave all the other stuff aside."

Medina Garrigues said she felt nervous right from the start.

"I don't have a lot of experience playing in these types of matches," said the 22-year-old Spaniard, who made almost twice as many unforced errors as Golovin.

"I've only played two singles matches in Fed Cup before, so I was very nervous playing for my country during the whole match. That's why I was making so many mistakes."

Dechy, the highest-ranked non-Russian player in the finals at 21, had little trouble against Sanchez

Lorenzo, the world number 52.

After sweeping through the opening set in 28 minutes, the 25-year-old Frenchwoman led 5-4 and 30-0 in the second set when the Spaniard appeared to pull a thigh muscle.

After receiving medical treatment on court, Sanchez Lorenzo was able to continue but lost the next two points as Dechy wrapped up victory in just over one hour.

"It was a good match and I played some solid tennis," Dechy said.

French captain Guy Forget added: "Of course, I'm happy but it wasn't as easy as it looked."

"The girls had a bit of pressure on them because they knew from the papers that their rankings are 17th and everyone was expecting them to win. They had a lot to lose so they were a little tight at the beginning."

Forget added there was little chance Pierce, who is nursing a shoulder injury, would be fit if France reached the final.

"It doesn't look good at the moment because her shoulder is still very sore," he said.

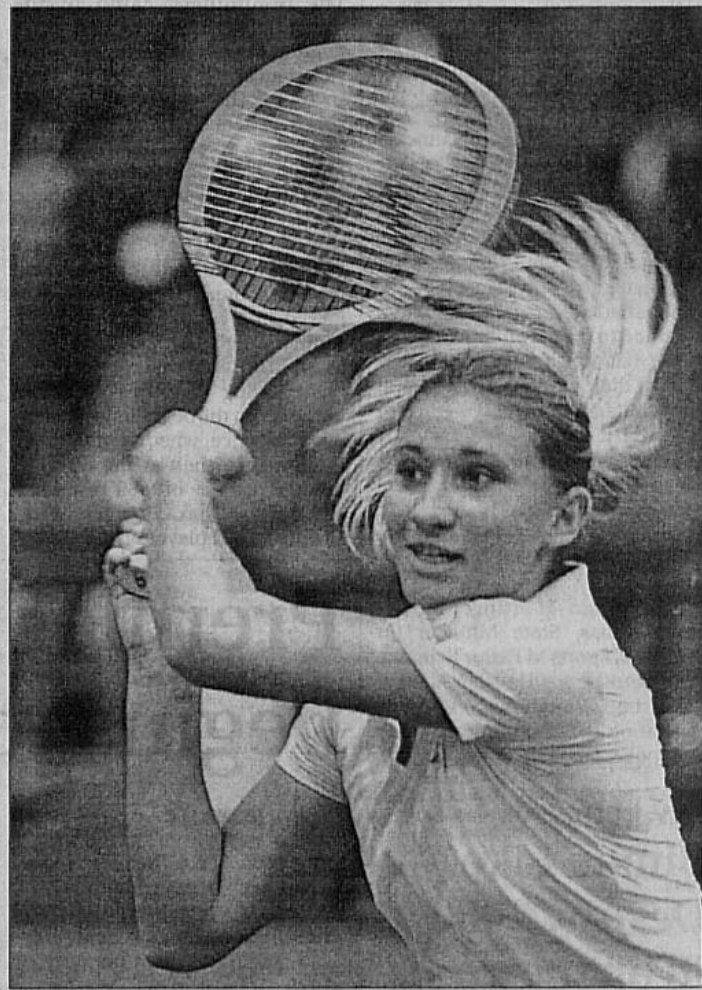


PHOTO: AFP

France's Tatiana Golovin in action during the Fed Cup semifinal singles match against Spaniard Anabel Medina Garrigues in Moscow yesterday.

Swedish challenge for Lleyton

AFP, Adelaide

World No.3 Lleyton Hewitt faces a hot Swedish challenge as he attempts a third title win in his home-town Australian Hardcourt tournament here in January.

Organisers confirmed here Wednesday that Hewitt will be joined in the 32-man draw by Swedish stars, Joachim Johansson and former title winner Thomas Enqvist in the January 3-9 tournament at Memorial Drive.

Hewitt was just 16 years and 10 months when he was granted a wildcard and won the 1998 Adelaide tournament and triumphed again in 2000.

This year's US Open semi-finalist Johansson, ranked No.12 in the world, is a close friend of the Hewitt family while 73-ranked Enqvist is the 1999 Adelaide champion and plays his best tennis on Australian hardcourts.

German Nicolas Kiefer (21), who reached finals at Memphis, Los Angeles, Indianapolis and Scottsdale this year, will also be in the Adelaide line-up along with Americans Taylor Dent (32), who reached the semi-finals here earlier this year, and Robby Ginepri (61), who made the fourth round of this year's Australian Open.

Tame draw at Kanpur

FROM PAGE 13

Harbhajan was caught by Boeta Dippenaar at silly-point off left-arm spinner Robin Peterson, whom he had clobbered for one six over long on.

South African skipper Graeme Smith felt his team had started well in the series.

"Considering that we have a number of young players in the side, it has not been too bad a result for us. We are more confident now and we will try and play hard in the next Test to try to put pressure on them," said Smith.

"We know things will not be easy for us in the next Test as we expect a turner there but I feel we have begun well enough to try and make a fight of it," he said.

The second and final Test will be played at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata from Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth day of the first Test between India and South Africa at the Green Park Stadium on Wednesday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 510-9 decl (Hall 163, De Bruyn 83, Dippenaar 48, Pollock 44 not out, Kallis 37, Peterson 34; Kumble 6-131)	INDIA: First innings (overnight 401-4)
Sehwag lbw b Hall 164	Gambhir c Tsolekile b Pollock 96
David c Tsolekile b Ntini 54	Tendulkar b Hall 3
Ganguly c Peterson b De Bruyn 57	Laxman b Ntini 9
Karthik lbw b Pollock 1	Kumble c Tsolekile b Ntini 1
Harbhajan c Dippenaar b Peterson 17	Zaheer Khan b Hall 30
Kartik not out 0	Extras: (b-10, lb-9, nb-7) 26
Total: (All out in 134.4 overs) 466	Fall of wickets: 1-218, 2-294, 3-298, 4-394, 5-407, 6-408, 7-419, 8-420, 9-456.
Bowler O M R W	Pollock 38 11 100 2
Ntini 39 0 135 3	Peterson 21 2 90 1
Hall 25.4 7 93 3	

De Bruyn 11 3 29 0	SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings
Smith c Gambhir b Kartik 47	Hall c Karthik b Harbhajan 26
Van Jaarsveld lbw b Kartik 13	Kallis not out 28
Rudolph c Karthik b Harbhajan 2	Dippenaar not out 31
Extras: (b-12, lb-5, nb-5) 22	Total: (For four wickets in 64 overs) 169
Fall of wickets: 1-67, 2-100, 3-110, 4-115.	
Bowler O M R W	Zaheer 8 2 26 0
Kumble 21 8 52 0	Harbhajan 16 5 39 2
Kartik 14 6 17 2	Tendulkar 5 1 18 0
Result: Match drawn.	Man-of-the-match: Andrew Hall (RSA)
Next match: Nov 28-Dec 2 (Calcutta)	
Toss: South Africa	Umpires: Darryl Harper (AUS) and Simon Taufel (AUS)
TV umpire: A.V. Jayaprakash (IND)	Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sixth sense

4 Hood's knife

8 Round of applause

12 Moo — gai pan

14 Head-light

14 Andrea Bocelli album

15 All over the world

17 Hinge (on)

18 Mum

19 Computer program, for short

21 "De-Lovely"

22 Archie's daughter

26 Great pain

29 Crucial

30 "Not only that, ..."

31 Group of crones

32 Russian spacecraft

33 Snack

34 Chic no longer

DOWN

1 Early birds?

2 One's "Weapon"

3 Completely

40 McKinley's first lady

41 Laverne, to Shirley

45 Imposture

48 Mills

50 Incite

51 Relaxation

52 "What Kind of Fool —?"

53 Existed

54 Took off

55 Writer

9 Exist

10 Zero

11 Rotation

16 Personality

20 Thickness

23 Race-track boundary

24 Liking a lot

25 Yemen

26 Flabbergasted

4 Hut

5 Brings to an end

6 Under the weather

7 Capt. Jane-ways

33 Down-ship

8 Winfrey's production

36 Moved smoothly

38 Franc's yokemate

39 Obeyed

42 Lamentation

43 Cookbook compiler

44 Send forth

45 Boston, with "The"

46 Raw rock

49 Once around

Solution time: 25 mins.

SAPE DEAR IRE

NOEL ALLO NOO

INTERVIEW TAG

REDEED OYERS

GO BOYAN

ORIE DAIN FEND

TON ABC BRA

BYTE BEE ETON

EABLE EL

NORTH BRIDES

ALL FATHERS

OTTO HOUN AGHE

SOL EDGE HOOP

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55

CRYPTOQUIP

Y B A C J Q J O A O U L M K A U

J C H V V N X A O U B J N O .

X I Z K T M H Z U J M B A B J T

J Q Z O U B Y N L B A K J Y

Yesterday's Cryptquip: AT THE GUM-CHIEVING TOURNAMENT, THE OFFICIAL RULES WERE FULL OF BUBBLE STANDARDS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals R

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.