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## Sachin's novel plan for Yuvraj

PTI, Canberra

Yuvraj Singh has been asked to bowl in order to improve his batting and he takes this advice rather seriously as it comes from none other than Sachin Tendulkar.

Tendulkar spent a great deal of time in the nets with the left-hander before the start of the three-day game in order to put the exciting stroke-player back on track.

Yuvraj has been an utter failure in the series so far, struggling to last a dozen deliveries, and Tendulkar believed his advice to the princely left-hander can no longer wait.

Tendulkar, it is now known, wanted Yuvraj to bowl a fair deal in the nets and in side games in order to gauge the bounce on Australian pitches.

Yuvraj still has not come to terms with the conditions in Australia and Tendulkar offered a lot of advice for him to overcome the problem.

The Punjab batsman has been advised not to go for his shots as soon as he comes to the crease on these wickets.

Tendulkar apparently has told him that even he in 1991-92, allowed a lot of deliveries to go before starting to play aggressive shots.

Tendulkar cited the example of his unbeaten 154 in Sydney where he did not go for hook or pull shots even when he was in his 90s.

"At least, don't go for your horizontal shots till you are truly in," Tendulkar is believed to have told Yuvraj.



## Did U Know?

The first televised game was an Arsenal practice match at the Highbury ground in 1937.



## Ruud van Nistelrooy

(Real Madrid's Dutch striker)  
"I am really pleased to be staying here. It's an honour to be a part of the history of this club."

After signing a new deal with the Spanish champions until 2010 on Wednesday.



## What to WATCH

**SAB tv**  
New Zealand v Bangladesh  
Second Test, Day Two  
Live from 4:00am (Sunday)

**TEN Sports**  
South Africa v West Indies  
Third Test, Day Three  
Live from 2:00pm

**ESPN**  
English Premier League  
Chelsea v Tottenham  
Live from 8:55pm

**STAR Sports**  
English Premier League  
Middlesbrough v Liverpool  
Live from 8:55pm

**Primera Liga**  
Barcelona v Murcia  
Live from 1:30am (Sunday)

**Bilbao v Sevilla**  
Live from 3:00am (Sunday)



Bangladesh vice-captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza lets one go during training at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on Friday.

## 'Ponting didn't want to listen'

Cricket

ANIL KUMBLE

I'd like to point out that someone clearly edged the ball to slips in the second innings of the Sydney Test, and stood there even when there was not an iota of doubt over the dismissal. He then claimed a catch that showed more than reasonable doubt and said he was 100 per cent certain it was clean.

At this point, a few days before the big Test at Perth, I can tell you that that behaviour will play a big role in my decision on the continuation of the agreement that Ricky and I had made before the series began.

We had decided that in the case of a disputed catch, we would take the word of the fielder concerned, if he was certain. But that agreement

was based on the premise that come what may, whatever the situation, the fielder concerned would be completely straight on what happened. Now, there will obviously be a big question mark moving forward on that.

On the other events so far, I can only say that I spoke to Ricky that day and having heard from Bhajji and Sachin before that, I was convinced that there had neither been any racist remark made, nor intended. I asked Harbhajan why he started it and he said he hadn't, Symonds did and goaded, he responded. But he insisted he made no racist comment.

Ricky, meanwhile, was just not willing to listen, nor see my point. When I offered to apologise as Bhajji's skipper, it was only to smooth things over. At no stage did I admit that he had made a racist remark, in fact, I said he had not.

Unfortunately, these days, when someone apologises, it is seen as either a sign of weakness or an admission of guilt. I am neither unnerved nor am we guilty. In the larger interests of the game, if an apology could help build bridges and smooth things over, then it is better made than left unsaid because of egos.

In my book, it's really important that when somebody is accused of being a racist, whoever that someone is, the charge is not made lightly, followed up just to prove a point and is not deemed as proven unless there is absolute evidence. Unfortunately, this did not happen in Bhajji's case.

Then again, he is a colleague and I have a responsibility towards him as his captain and as a fellow Indian. It is a serious allegation, calling someone a racist. You are

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## Pollock retires

STAR SPORTS DESK

South Africa all-rounder Shaun Pollock has announced his retirement from all international cricket.

Pollock, 34, announced his decision following the second day's play against West Indies in Durban on Thursday. The current Test -- his 108th -- will be his last, and the one-day series that follows his final matches for his country. He has also featured in 298 one-day internationals for his country.

He regained his Test place for the deciding match against West Indies after not playing in the five-day game since January 2007. His first Test victim was Graham Thorpe, in November 1995, and he has gone on to take 420 wickets in all, the most by a South African, and 387 in ODIs. There is a chance he will finish with 400 in both forms depending on his success in the one-day series against West Indies.

Having been overlooked by the selectors for Test duty in recent months, he returned to take 4-35 against West Indies in 11 overs.

## Tigers mourn the death of Hillary

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team touring New Zealand yesterday condoled the death of Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to scale Mount Everest.

The Tigers expressed their deep sympathies to his family and friends. Hillary, the modest New Zealand beekeeper who shot to global fame as the first person to climb the world's highest peak Mount Everest in 1953, died Friday at age 88.

Tagged 'the best-known New Zealander ever to have lived', Sir Hillary had inspired generations of Bangladeshis and his feats as adventurer, diplomat and philanthropist will be forever revered.

Hillary embarked on another great adventure in 1957, establishing New Zealand's Scott Base in Antarctica and leading the first vehicles overland to the South Pole.

The New Zealand cricket team will honour Hillary by wearing black armbands and observing a minute's silence at Basin Reserve where they play the second and final Test of the series against Bangladesh.

## Lara writes off comeback talk

CRICINFO, undated

Brian Lara has dismissed speculation that he might be considering a return to international cricket.

Speaking after Trinidad and Tobago's win in their opening Carib Beer Series match against Guyana, Lara made it clear there was no substance to the rumours. "I've had my time," he said. "And when I called it a day, I knew that this was the time and I don't want

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## Shakib in for Enamul

Cricket

TIGERCRIKET.COM, Wellington

During their first training session at the Basin Reserve on Thursday the Bangladesh team was greeted by the legendary Wellington wind and an overcast sky and out came the white sweaters which have not been used much over the last month. The powerful force of the chilly wind and the green wicket did come as a surprise for the tourists who have not experienced anything similar in the other venues.

The practice pitches at the Basin were also grassy and it took a bit of time for the batters to get their eyes in. Pacers Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Sajidul Islam were not complaining though. They came tearing in and Mortaza in particular had the ball doing all sorts of things both yesterday and day before. After Friday's practice captain Mohammad Ashraful thought the centre wicket could be similar in nature.

"Although there is grass it still felt very hard and almost made a tonking noise. That tells me that this pitch will have good consistency bounce, maybe a bit more than in Dunedin and other venues and will have more pace in it. For stroke-makers this could be a very

fine track if they get in."

Today was a less breezy day and the sun was shining all through. The pitch also did not have as much grass as yesterday but conditions do vary here from day to day.

Bangladesh, one down in the series have made one change to their line-up. Left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Jr. has made way for all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan.

"Enamul did not get much purchase out of the wicket in Dunedin and we thought Shakib will be a better option for the conditions here. He has bowled his left-arm spinners very well on this tour and his inclusion is mainly for his bowling. We hope he'll be able to turn the ball. His presence also strengthens our batting and he'll come in at number eight," said Ashraful.

The Basin Reserve has traditionally been a free-scoring venue since its inception as a Test ground in 1930. In 1990-91 Martin Crowe hit 299 and Andrew Jones made 186 in a partnership of 467 for the third-wicket against Sri Lanka which was back then a world record stand for all wickets. In the last 18 Test innings' here teams have crossed 500 runs twice, made scores in excess of 300 thrice and on nine occasions have gone past 200.

Seam bowlers have also had their moments, none more than

the great Sir Richard Hadlee who took his 300th Test wicket here and claimed 53 of his 431 Test victims at the Basin.

The last time Bangladesh were here they were put in and were shot out for 132 and 135. New Zealand batted once scoring 341 for 6 declared.

"In recent times our problem has been the first innings. We lost the match with our first innings batting in Dunedin. That is something we have to be careful of. We have simple team rules for the matches. The batsmen should try to stay in as long as possible and should take minimum risks. The bowlers must concentrate on pitching the ball in the areas they are expected to bowl and build up pressure," said Ashraful.

## TEAMS

**BANGLADESH:** Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Habibul Bashar, Aftab Ahmed, Shahriar Nafees, Mushfiqur Rahim (wicketkeeper), Shakib Al Hasan, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Sajidul Islam, Shahadat Hossain.

**NEW ZEALAND (likely):** Craig Cumming, Matthew Bell, Peter Fulton, Stephen Fleming, Mathew Sinclair, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum (wicketkeeper), Daniel Vettori (captain), Kyle Mills, Iain O'Brien, Chris Martin.

## Sharma shines for India

Cricket

AFP, Canberra

After several of their fringe batsmen struggled on the opening day of India's three-day tour match against the Australian Capital Territory XI, the tourists' second-string bowlers also failed to impress on Friday.

Only teenage pace bowler

Ishant Sharma, who put the controversy and disappointment of the second Test behind him to claim three early wickets, fired as the Indian attack struggled to dismiss a side featuring only one current first-class player.

After India made 325 for nine (declared), the ACT XI were 292 for eight at stumps on the second day, with West Australian Test hopeful Chris Rogers making 60 and local unknown John Rogers narrowly

missing a century.

The likes of Irfan Pathan, Pankaj Singh and Vikram Singh failed to take their opportunity to press for selection.

Harbhajan Singh was hit in the head by a ball before play started and then struggled to make a major impact in his first outing since being banned for three Tests for racial abuse during the contentious Sydney Test, although he picked up the prized wicket of Chris Rogers.

With India using nine bowlers, Sharma struck three times in his first spell of the day and finished 26 for three from 11 overs to enhance his chances of retaining his spot for the Perth Test.

With his first ball he found the inside edge of opener Ed Cowan's bat and the ball ricocheted on to the stumps to dismiss him for 14.

Three balls later, Sharma enjoyed some overdue fortune with the umpires, trapping Jonathan Dean lbw for a duck as the ACT slid to 2-45.

Chris Rogers and ACT captain Mark Higgs then added 38 before Sharma struck again in his fourth over of the day, dismissing the latter for one, caught behind after edging an attempted pull.

Harbhajan made a late start to his duties in the field and finished 32 for one from 13 overs, trapping Chris Rogers LBW when he misjudged a full toss. However, Harbhajan didn't bowl after tea.

Rogers is tipped to replace veteran batsman Matthew Hayden, who is battling a hamstring injury, at the top of the order in the third Test at Perth's WACA Ground and was confident he had done enough to impress.

"The wicket is pretty good so it's disappointing to get out just after lunch," he said, adding: "I probably couldn't script it better to be at the WACA at the home ground with a home crowd. It would be pretty amazing I reckon."

John Rogers frustrated the Indians in making 98, before falling to RP Singh late in the day.

Pathan, Pankaj Singh and Vikram Singh picked up just one wicket between them, Pathan claiming tailender Adam Richard just before stumps.



India's young fast bowler Ishant Sharma (L) celebrates the wicket of ACT Invitational XI's Ed Cowen during Day Two of the tour match at Manuka Oval ground in Canberra on Friday.

## Sourav admires Aussies

Cricket

AFP, Canberra

Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly has played down concerns over Australia's behaviour on the field, admitting he admired the team's fierce determination to win the controversial second Test.

Australia have been widely criticised by, including former players, since the match for their aggressive tactics, particularly on the last day. And there have even been calls for captain Ricky Ponting to be sacked.

Ponting's men won the match by 122 runs to take an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the series and retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Ganguly believes better umpiring could have prevented much of the ill will generated by the Test and conceded the poor relations between the sides was disappoint-

ing for cricket.

But he admitted a grudging respect for the hard-nosed Australians.

"Sometimes things happen in the heat of the moment," he told sports channel ESPN on Friday during India's three-day tour match against the Australian Capital Territory XI. "But I also quietly admired how desperate they were to win. That's not a bad thing in sport. It showed why they win so many Test matches."

But Ganguly maintained that a number of costly decisions went against the Indians.

He himself was controversially given out for 51 in the second innings in Sydney after standing his ground when Australian fielder Michael Clarke claimed he had taken a low catch in slips.

Ganguly said umpire Mark Benson, who accepted the word of Clarke, should have consulted Steve Bucknor before giving him out.

"I thought he (Benson) could have done a better job speaking to Steve Bucknor as well," he said. "The moment he caught it, I nicked it and turned back and saw it didn't carry. But that's the way it is."

Even though the captains had agreed to an honour system before the series, Ganguly said there were times in Sydney when the umpires needed to take more responsibility.

"If it's a decision by the captains then I think in modern day cricket it's fine," he said.

"But the umpires have a responsibility too. You can leave it to the fielders but the umpires have to make a judgment and I think the umpires should interfere if they feel it's a 50-50."

In the wake of the match, spinner Harbhajan Singh was given a three-Test suspension (pending appeal) for alleged racial abuse, while there was a code of conduct charge against Australian Brad Hodge.

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West Indies captain Dwayne Bravo takes a sharp catch at silly mid-off to dismiss South Africa batsman Hashim Amla during the second day of the third Test at Kingsmead in Durban on Friday.