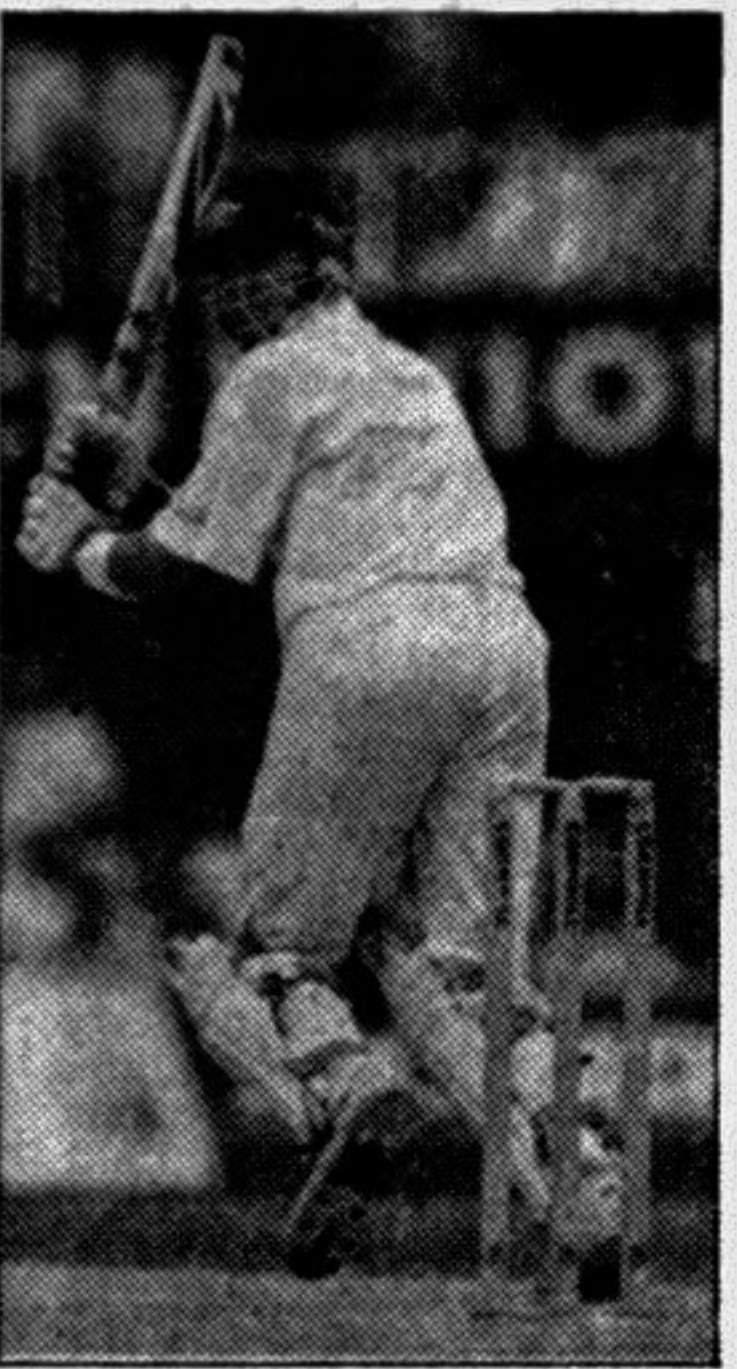


Sachin still in charge

BOMBAY, Nov 10: Sachin Tendulkar was today retained as Indian captain for the home series against Sri Lanka...

Uphill task awaits Kiwis

BRISBANE, Nov 10: Australian captain Mark Taylor set New Zealand a victory target of 319 after the home side's batsmen toiled for runs on the fourth day of the first Test today, reports Reuters.



BLEWETT ... 91

Taylor's declaration — at 294 for six — until 20 minutes before close of play at the Gabba. New Zealand opens Bryan Young and Blair Pocock survived a nervous three over the new ball to guide the tourists to four for no wicket at the close.

fourth day of the first cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand at the Gabba Ground in Brisbane. AUSTRALIA: First innings 373 (M Taylor 112, P Reiffel 77; S Doull 4-70, C Cairns 4-90) NEW ZEALAND: First innings 349 (S Fleming 91; C Cairns 64; S Warne 4-106) AUSTRALIA: Second in-



PONTING ... 71 n.o.

nings (overnight 25-1) Elliott c Fleming b Vettori 11 Taylor c Astle b Cairns 16 Healy c Fleming b Allot 25 Cairns 16 4 54 3 Vettori 36 13 87 2 Waugh c Flarore b Cairns 23 Ponting not out 78 Reiffel not out 73 Extras: (lb-4, b-1, nb-5) 10 Total (for 6 wks declared, 100.5 overs) 294

Only late in their innings, when number six Ricky Ponting and pace bowler Paul Reiffel launched an assault, did the Australian batsmen gain the upper hand on a placid wicket. Ponting remained unbeaten on 73 off 84 balls after smashing two sixes and seven fours against a tiring attack.

Australia scored 373 in their first innings before dismissing the tourists for 349 on Sunday. All-rounder and medium pacer Chris Cairns claimed three wickets in the Australian second innings to complete a seven-wicket haul for the match, in addition to his 64 runs in the first innings.

Left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori, playing only his seventh Test, bowled economically and unchanged for first three hours of play, finishing with figures of two for 87 from 36 overs.

Mark Waugh's departure for 17 completed a double failure for the stylish number four, prolonging a run of low scores.

SCOREBOARD Scorecards at stumps on the

Premier Division cricket league starts Nov 14

The Premier Division cricket league will begin on November 14. The decision has been taken in an emergency meeting of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) at the CBC office last evening.

Although the fixture was yet to be finalised, it was learnt that the matches of the ten-team elite Premier league will be held at two different venues — Dhaka Stadium and the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium — while the First Division matches will be played at the distant Mirpur City Club ground.

The first phase of the two-tier leagues will be 50-overs-a-side affairs from which top five finishers will qualify for the super league while the bottom ten will be pitting in the relegation league.

But unlike the previous years, the super league engagements will be two-day affairs as the authorities have decided to introduce 75-overs-a-side match for the second phase.

Meanwhile, the CCDM has refixed the last date for foreign players' registration. The Premier outfits will have to complete the registration formalities by November 13 while for the First Division clubs the last date has been fixed at November 15.

According to the existing by-laws each team can register maximum four foreign players, but of the quartet only two will be eligible to play in a game.

President's Cup snooker Four more matches were decided yesterday in the President's Cup snooker competition now being held at Dhaka Club, says a press release.

Up and coming AAK Chowdhury of Dhaka Billiards Centre played some scintillating snooker to come from behind and win 4-3 against Syed Masud of Gulshan Club. Chowdhury's natural aggressiveness also enabled him to post the biggest break of the day.

Narayanjan Club's Anwar Hossain, never quite came to terms with the solidly defensive game plan of the experienced AB Chowdhury, of Engineers Club, who chalked up a very clinical 4-2 win.

There was some consolation for the Narayanjan team when M Rahaman Prince trounced M H Noor of the Engineers 4-0.

Besides, A M Chowdhury of Dhaka Club stopped Comilla Club's Rafiqul Islam, beating him by a margin of 4-1.

Americans join finalists

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 10 (Reuters): The United States qualified for next year's World Cup on Sunday, Jamaica were left on the brink of clinching a berth and Costa Rica were eliminated despite a heroic draw in Mexico.

The Americans beat Canada 3-0 away, a result which, combined with El Salvador's failure to beat Jamaica in San Salvador, was enough to earn them a place at their third successive World Cup finals.



Costa Rica's Pablo Cesar Wanchope (L) and Camilo Romero of Mexico fight for the ball during their World Cup qualifier on Nov 9. The match ended in a 3-3 draw.

Jamaica shrugged off the presence of a rowdy crowd in front of their hotel on the eve of the game to hold out for a 2-2 draw away to El Salvador, they now need one point at home to Mexico next week to make their World Cup debut.

The Caribbean team, who would have qualified Sunday with a win, were leading 2-1 with two minutes left but were forced to delay their celebrations when Waldir Guerra scored a dramatic equaliser for El Salvador.

followed by the USA (14), Jamaica (13), El Salvador (10), Costa Rica (9) and Canada (6). Three teams go to France.

In Burnaby, BC the Americans, coming of a huge 0-0 draw in Mexico City, were led by recently recalled forward Roy Wegerle, who scored two second-half goals and set up an early goal for Claudio Reyna, making a triumphant return after serving a suspension.

The match with the eliminated Canadians was played before a sparse crowd of 8,420 at Swangard Stadium with a strong contingent of vocal US supporters.

"This was a great result today," said Wegerle. "Everyone

was working hard and I got some great balls. All I had to do was finish." The United States set the tone early, scoring in just the fifth minute. Joe-Max Moore headed a ball to Wegerle from the left side of the box, giving him space to carry across before sliding a pass to Reyna, who slotted home from 12 metres. Canada came close at the

13th minute when Alex Bunnbury fired from 25 metres, but US goalkeeper Brad Friedel smothered the ball at the right post.

Erick Wynald was denied a scoring chance in the 28th minute, two minutes after coming away from a collision with Canadian defender Jason Devos that left him with a mildly separated shoulder.

Players from English Premiership side Derby County, meanwhile, got on the score-sheet in both San Salvador and Mexico City.

Deon Burton headed Jamaica's equaliser just four minutes after Brazilian-born Nildenson Silva de Mello had forgotten his differences with his coach to give El Salvador a 47th-minute lead.

De Mello had been reinstated last week by Serb Milovan Djoric after previously leaving the team without permission.

Donald Stewart put Jamaica in front with 12 minutes left but Guerra's late strike forced them to postpone celebrations. El Salvador can only qualify if they beat the United States away next week while Jamaica lose.

Fabio Cesar Wanchope, another Derby player, scored four minutes from time as Costa Rica, who had not scored in their previous four qualifiers, fired in three goals in just over half an hour during a dramatic second-half comeback.

The dropped points led to another chorus of jeers for Mexico, held 0-0 by the United States a home last week.

The result could cost Mexico coach former US coach Bora Milutinovic his job. His contract is due to be reviewed by the Mexican federation later this month.

Kalpage left in the cold

COLOMBO, Nov 10: World champions Sri Lanka made several changes in their cricket squad for a two-month tour of India to finish off the year, the cricket board said Monday, reports AP.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Romesh Kaluwitharana, who gained fame as an explosive opening batsman along with Sanath Jayasuriya in last year's World Cup, was dropped after a string of low scores.

Veteran pace bowler Pramodya Wickremasinghe, who was a member of the World Cup winning team, has been recalled to join the existing pace battery of Chaminda Vaas, Ravindra Pushpakumara and Sanjeeva de Silva.

All-rounders Ruwan Kalpage and Upul Chandana have been left out.

SQUAD

Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Aravinda de Silva (vice captain), Roshan Mahanama, Hashan Tillekeratne, Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu, Mahela Jayawardena, Lanka de Silva, Muttiah Muralitharan, Chaminda Vaas, Pramodya Wickremasinghe, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Sanjeeva de Silva, Kumara Dharmasena, Jayantha Silva, Russel Arnold.

New Zealand saved themselves from an even more daunting task by restricting Australia's scoring rate to little more than two runs an over during the first two sessions of the day.

It was left to Australia's number three Greg Blewett to anchor the innings with a patient 91, his eighth Test half-century.

Blewett, who spent 262 minutes at the crease and hit 12 fours, said New Zealand faced an enormous task, particularly as the conditions would increasingly favour leg spinner Shane Warne.

"We tried to score at three runs an over and we could not quite manage it — and I can't imagine that it is going to get any easier on the final day," Blewett told reporters.

"I believe Shane could be a handful and if they come out and get the runs, New Zealand will thoroughly deserve the victory."

Only late in their innings, when number six Ricky Ponting and pace bowler Paul Reiffel launched an assault, did the Australian batsmen gain the upper hand on a placid wicket. Ponting remained unbeaten on 73 off 84 balls after smashing two sixes and seven fours against a tiring attack.

The Tasmanian was visibly frustrated at being denied the opportunity to record only his second Test century because of the timing of Taylor's declaration.

Australia scored 373 in their first innings before dismissing the tourists for 349 on Sunday.

All-rounder and medium pacer Chris Cairns claimed three wickets in the Australian second innings to complete a seven-wicket haul for the match, in addition to his 64 runs in the first innings.

Left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori, playing only his seventh Test, bowled economically and unchanged for first three hours of play, finishing with figures of two for 87 from 36 overs.

Bowling accurately into the rough from the bowlers' footmarks, the removed opener Matthew Elliott and Mark Waugh cheaply in a fine display of sustained spin bowling.

Mark Waugh's departure for 17 completed a double failure for the stylish number four, prolonging a run of low scores.

SCOREBOARD Scorecards at stumps on the

Man United go down to Gunners

LONDON, Nov 10 (Reuters): The English Premier league went goal crazy over the weekend as nine games produced 40 goals, five of them coming at Highbury where Arsenal won a top of the table thriller against Manchester United 3-2.

French duo Nicolas Anelka and Patrick Vieira had Arsenal 2-0 up but two goals from Teddy Sheringham made it 2-2 at half time.

A late header David Platt won it for Arsenal to take them within a point of the champions, Blackburn, who scored two in the last 10 minutes to beat Everton 3-2, are third on goal difference.

Sheffield Wednesday, who sacked manager David Pleat last week, blanked Bolton 6-0 to move off the bottom while Southampton beat Barnsley 4-1 and Liverpool beat Tottenham 4-0.

Off the pitch Germany captain Juergen Klinsmann could return to Tottenham as part of a partnership to replace under-pressure manager Gerry Francis.

ITALY Nigerian Taribo west struck a last minute winner as league leaders Inter Milan shrugged off the dismissal of Youri Djorkaeff to gain a 2-1 win atalanta.

Juventus stayed two points behind in second after securing the same score at Napoli — also

with a late winner. AC Milan beat Brescia 2-1 at the San Siro — their first home win of the season — while third placed Parma beat Piacenza 2-0. AS Roma won 3-1 at Bari, Lazio beat Sampdoria 3-0 and Vicenza edged Bologna 3-2.

SPAIN Eight days ago Barcelona beat Real Madrid 3-2 to spark all-night celebrations in the city but that was followed up with a humiliating home 4-0 drubbing by Dynamo Kiev in the Champions' League.

Instead of bouncing back on Sunday they suffered their first league defeat of the season — 2-1 at home to third-from-bottom Real Valladolid.

That left them four points clear of Real, 2-1 winners at Racing Santander 2-1 thanks to second half goals from Fernando Morientes and Clarence Seedorf.

Atletico Madrid, who beat Compostela 3-1, move to third a further point back, Espanyol, who lost for the first time this season — 2-0 at Real Sociedad — plummet from second to seventh.

GERMANY Kaiserslautern show no signs of slipping up in the Bundesliga as their 4-3 victory over Hansa Rostock kept them four points clear.

Second placed Bayern Munich limped to a 1-0 win over lowly Arminia Bielefeld while Schalke 04 continued their odd form to beat Karlsruhe 2-0 and

stay four points behind Munich in third.

FRANCE Olympique Marseille upset Paris St Germain 2-1 away to join them and Metz in a three-way tie at the top of the First Division.

The three leading sides all have 30 points with PSG top on goal difference. Metz, second, beat Guingamp 2-1 to end a run of five games without a win.

HOLLAND Dutch league leaders Ajax Amsterdam thrashed Sparta Rotterdam 5-0 away to take their unbeaten run to 13 matches but second placed PSV Eindhoven stayed in touch with a 5-1 defeat of AC Breda.

Ajax have now scored 48 goals in 13 games and, with 37 points, are five clear of PSV.

Vitesse Arnhem are a distant third on 25 points after beating Heerenveen 4-2 in a superb match on Saturday.

RUSSIA Spartak Moscow beat second placed Rotor Volgograd 2-0 away to retain the Russian Premier league title in a dramatic finale to the season.

Spartak needed on a draw to claim their fifth title in the six years since the start of the post-Soviet Russian league but won with two second half goals.

PORTUGAL Sporting Lisbon had two players sent off for the second consecutive game but still managed to hold on for a 1-1 draw at

leaders Porto, the point leaves Sporting in fourth place on 16 points, five adrift of leaders Porto.

Liverpool's Paul Ince (R) is about to shoot the ball while a Tottenham Hotspur player tries to intervene during their Premiership clash at Anfield on Nov 8. Liverpool 0-1.

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