

Second Test
Unchanged
India

MOHALI, India, Oct 14: India retained today the 14-member squad which played the first Test against New Zealand for the second Test which begins in the northern city of Kanpur on October 22, reports AFP.

Chandu Borde, chairman of the selection committee, told reporters here the decision was taken unanimously by the selection committee.

The team: Sachin Tendulkar (captain), Devang Gandhi, Sadagopan Ramesh, Rahul Dravid, Saurav Ganguly, Ajay Jadeja, Vijay Bhadrawaj, MSK Prasad, Anil Kumble, Sunil Joshi, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Harbhajan Singh, Debashish Mohanty.

Hussain hopes
to upset SA

LONDON, Oct 14 (Internet report): Nasser Hussain is adamant England can turn the world cricket ratings on their head by beating South Africa this winter.

The England captain, mindful of England's position at the foot of Wisden's world rankings after their home series defeat by New Zealand and South Africa's elevated standing near the top, insists nevertheless that he and his players have it in them to beat Hansie Cronje and Co.

Looking ahead to the Test series which starts next month, Hussain said, "Everyone keeps telling us we've got no chance, but that makes us more determined."

"If they think they're going to be playing the worst side in the world they've got a few surprises coming. We've got a good chance to win."

Hussain, speaking to schoolchildren in Essex as part of a Tesco-sponsored initiative, admitted: "South Africa are one of the two best sides in the world at the moment, and according to the rankings - we're the worst."

Even so he is gearing himself and his team up for a series win in South Africa, adding it is crucial he and his team deliver in the interests of the English game in the long as well as short term.

"The most important thing is for England to win. Then the stars become superstars and the youngsters find it all more exciting," he said.

"Our system at county level is not elitist enough. We need to gear everything towards playing for England."

Thompson to
stay at Kent

LONDON, Oct 14 (Internet report): Kent Cricket Club yesterday announced that Julian Thompson has agreed to play for Kent next season.

He has accepted a one-year contract that gives him the opportunity to build on his exceptional performances in 1999 and boosts Kent's chances of success in 2000.

At the end of the 1999 season the Club agreed with Julian that he should take time to consider the options available to him between his chosen career of medicine and the extension of his career in cricket.

The Club is delighted that he has elected to give himself the chance of another year in the game.

Commenting on Julian's decision, Paul Millman, Kent's Chief Executive, said:

"Everyone at Kent is delighted with the choice that Julian has made. As our Player of the Year in 1999 he made an outstanding contribution to the Club and his decision to stay is obviously a major boost to our chances of success in 2000."

"On the back of our recent signing of Rahul Dravid as our Overseas Player and the reappointment of Matthew Fleming as Captain, this development means that our prospects for next season are much enhanced."

Schett ousted
by Morariu

ZURICH, Oct 14: American qualifier Corina Morariu beat fifth seed Barbara Schett of Austria 7-6, 0-6, 6-4 yesterday to win a place in the quarterfinals of the European Indoor Championship, reports Reuters.

The 21-year-old's first victory over a top 10 player earned her a clash with world number one Martina Hingis.

"I've had a couple of close matches against the top players but haven't been able to pull through," said Morariu. "So I guess this would be the biggest win of my career."

Schett, who has yet to reach a final this season but is enjoying the best year of her career climbing to number seven in the world rankings, looked in complete control as she took a 4-1 lead in the opening set.

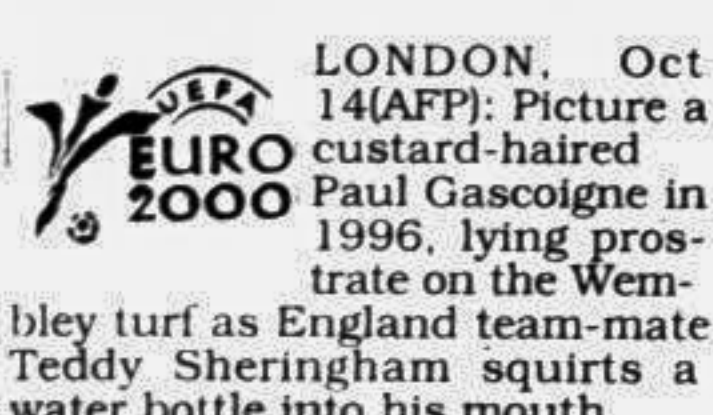
But Morariu fought back to take five of the next six games, forcing the set to a tie-break which she won 8-6.

A second set collapse by the American allowed Schett to level the match, but Morariu again struck a vein of form in the third, racing to a 4-1 lead and then holding on for victory.

"She (Schett) was a little irritated after the first set so she started really going for her shots in the second," said Morariu. "In the third I regrouped and was able to hang in there."

Fourth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa battled back from a set down to book her place in the quarterfinals with a 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over Swiss Patty Schnyder while sixth seed Julie Halard-Decugis of France avenged a first round defeat by Anke Huber in Filderstadt last week with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over the German.

Bravehearts' battle royale



LONDON, Oct 14 (AFP): Picture a custard-haired Paul Gascoigne in 1996, lying prostrate on the Wembley turf as England team-mate Teddy Sheringham squirts a water bottle into his mouth.

Picture thousands of rampant Scottish fans snapping a Wembley crossbar and hacking up chunks of the hallowed turf to stick on their mantelpieces in 1977.

Picture Scotland legends Jim Baxter and Denis Law inspiring epic Wembley victories in 1963 and again in 1967, when England were World Cup holders.

Picture all this, and you begin to understand why fans both north and south of the border are working themselves into a frenzy over the Euro 2000 play-off between England and Scotland after the two were paired in Wednesday's draw.

The fixture between the so-called Auld Enemies is the oldest international in the history of the game, dating back 127 years to 1872, when England earned a 0-0 draw in Glasgow.

In all the fixture, abandoned as an annual encounter 10 years ago because of the long history of crowd disorder it attracted, has been played 108 times, with England winning 44 to Scotland's 40.

Since 1989, the teams have met just once, on a sunny June day at Euro 96 when Gascoigne's superb individual goal helped England to a 2-0 win at Wembley.

Scotland's Gary McAllister

saw a penalty saved by David Seaman with the score at 1-0, and Scots fans swear to this day that the ball mysteriously moved off its spot just before he struck it too close to the England keeper.

Such stories are the stuff of football folklore of course, and apart from several thousand cans of lager, revenge is what the Tartan Army will be thirsting for come the second leg of the play-off at Wembley on November 17.

Former Scotland international Andy Gray certainly believes so.

"I was a supporter in Euro 96 - dressed in tartan - and I was so disappointed at Wembley because we did well that day," Gray said.

"There is a chance now for Scotland to do themselves justice. It will be a lot closer than some would suggest."

"There is no doubt that England have got a stronger squad but Scotland have got a very good team spirit, good organisation and don't give many goals away."

By the time they reach Wembley, Scotland hope to have established a lead at the revamped Hampden Park in the first leg, likely to take place on November 13 at 1:00 pm (1200 GMT).

Scotland's recent record against England is not good - they have lost four of the last five encounters and scored just one goal in the process.

The form book, of course, counts for nothing in derby matches, and both legs are

likely to be scrappy and frenetic, with tempers frayed both on and off the pitch. The Beautiful Game it will not be.

Former Rangers and England winger Trevor Steven played in the last Hampden Park game between the two countries, which England won 2-0 in 1989, and insists that the first leg in Glasgow will be the key to the tie.

"Hampden is a changed stadium now. I played in the last England game there and it was important that we won just for a bit of peace on a day-to-day basis because there were few of us playing in Scotland," Steven said.

"But you can't look past the first game - that is the vital match. England are the stronger team on paper."

"The passion of the Scots will be immense on the day but England have the better individual quality."

Security-wise, the draw is the second worst option for the authorities.

An England trip to Dublin to face Ireland would have posed greater problems following the crowd violence which forced the abandonment of a 'friendly' between the two sides in 1995.

But violence has always been associated with England-Scotland fixtures and in 1996 there were running battles between rival fans and police around London's Trafalgar Square after Scotland's defeat.

England's 2006 World Cup bid organisers will be among those hoping there is no recurrence next month.

Baby Flos
bloom

OSLO, Oct 14 (Reuters): Norwegian star striker Tore Andre Flo and his brother Jostein did not just play soccer at the 1998 World Cup finals in France - both their girlfriends got pregnant, reports Reuters.

Jostein Flo, also a striker with Norwegian club Stromsgodset, came up with the idea of simultaneous pregnancies while sharing a flat in France with Chelsea's Tore Andre and their cousin Havard Flo who plays for England's Wolverhampton.

The daily Dagbladet quoted Jostein on Wednesday as saying: "I proposed it in the room. Tore Andre took the hint but Havard was a bit slow and took an extra two months before he got round to it."

Jostein's partner Trine Grung had a baby boy, Kasper, in the middle of March. Tore Andre's girlfriend Randi Svedal also had a son, Johan, on March 26, just over nine months after Norway beat Brazil 2-1 in one of the biggest upsets of the World Cup. Havard became a father in May.

Tore Andre scored one of Norway's goals in the defeat of Brazil as Norway made it through the first round only to be knocked out by Italy.

Dagbladet discloses that the couples used to say they were going off to play 'tennis', with euphemisms for sex including 'three sets', 'five sets' or 'tiebreak'.

The Flo family have been a mainstay of Norwegian soccer in the 1990s and the selection of all three men for the World Cup marked their biggest triumph together.

Juve target
Nakata

MILAN, Oct 14: Juventus want to sign Perugia's Japanese star Hidetoshi Nakata, the Gazzetta dello Sport reported on Thursday, partly for his footballing skills and partly for his sponsorship potential, reports AFP.

Unknown here before last season, Nakata is now rated as one of the best playmakers in Italian football.

He scored twice on his Serie A debut last year, against the very club now interested in signing him, and has proved his consistency again this season.

However, the former Asian Player of the Year is being sought not only for his vision on the field, but also his lucrative image off it - particularly with Japan preparing to co-host the 2002 World Cup finals.

Juventus are interested in the player and Nakata's Japanese sponsors, along with the Turin club, are equally attracted by the idea of him playing for one of the world's greatest football teams as the finals draw closer.

The Gazzetta claimed that Nakata has already been the subject of transfer talks at Juventus in the past with the Turin club having had a chance to sign the midfielder two years ago.

The move reportedly failed to materialise as the club felt that Nakata, then only 20, wasn't ready to face the onslaught of the world's toughest football league. "Now the situation has changed a lot," the paper said.

Chang sent
packing

SINGAPORE, Oct 14: In a day of upsets, American Michael Chang was the latest high-profile player out of the Heineken Open on Thursday after losing to compatriot Jan-Michael Gambill 6-2, 7-6, (7-4), reports AP.

"I didn't have a lot going my way," Chang said after the match. I feel like I played good tennis, it wasn't my day to get the breaks. I had my chances and I wasn't able to take advantage of them."

Gambill said playing against Chang in a quarterfinal in Shanghai last week for that city's Heineken Open helped him address parts of his game he was unhappy with.

"It was great playing last week, I fixed a lot of things I was doing wrong," Gambill said. "I'm moving better today, executing a lot better and served really well."

Gambill said Chang played like a warrior. "I really had to step up my game... he's one of the most intense players."

Chang joins Mark Philippoussis on a flight out of Singapore. The big-serving Australian fell 3-6, 7-5, 7-6, (8-6) to Croat Ivan Ljubicic on Thursday.

For the No. 2 seed, the disappointment was clear.

Efforts on to
bring Laila
to London

LONDON, Oct 14: Negotiations are underway for Laila Ali, 21-year-old daughter of former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, to fight Britain's top woman boxer in London, reports AP.

The London Evening Standard reported Wednesday that sports promoter Jonathan Field was in "advanced talks" with Laila Ali's management for a fight against Jane Couch in February.

Laila Ali took just 31 seconds to knock out April Fowler in her first professional bout last Friday in Verona, New York.

"I definitely want her," said Couch, who won the first women's professional fight in Britain last year and is due to face Australia's Sharron Anyos in London on October 31.

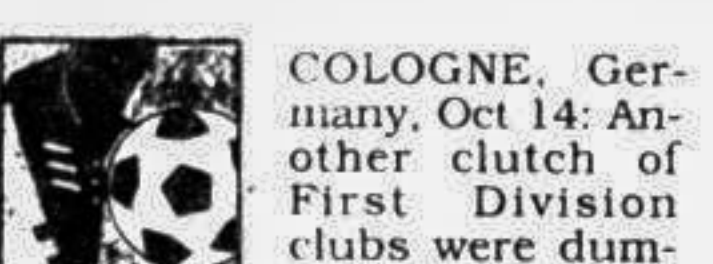
Muhammad Ali last fought in London in August 1966 when he stopped Brian London in the third round.



Aston Villa's Steve Stone (L) and Manchester United's Luke Chadwick fight for possession October 13. —AFP photo

German Cup

Another bad day for Bundesliga



COLOGNE, Germany, Oct 14: Another clutch of First Division clubs were dumped from the German Cup Wednesday by lesser lights from the lower divisions, leaving the fourth round wide open, reports AFP.

1860 Munich, Hamburg, Duisburg and Schalke all fell by the wayside, joining Champions League participants Borussia Dortmund and Bayer Leverkusen who were eliminated Tuesday after sub standard efforts, and Kaiserslautern who were knocked out by Cup holders Werder Bremen.

Bayern Munich are the only big name club to advance to the fourth round. They cantered to a 1-4 victory Wednesday at SV Meppen, a club renowned in Germany as second division perennials but who are now a division lower after last season's painful relegation.

As a gesture of friendship Bayern manager Uli Hoeness even used the trip north to sign on as a club member at Meppen, centre-pitch, in front of the sold out 16,000 crowd.

"They told me to do it so I did. The membership fee is 96 Marks and I'll be paying it in cash afterwards," Hoeness grinned.

Demand for tickets had been so great among Meppen supporters that police seized a batch of counterfeit tickets this week.

Bundesliga leaders Hamburg met their match at second division Mainz with their highly regarded strike force made up of Tony Yeboah, Roy Prager and Rodolfo Cardoso failing to score.

Turning pre-match odds on their head Mainz held off early Hamburg pressure and then advanced 2-0 after goals in each half. Hamburg's Nico Kovac was sent off with half an hour to go for kicking.

"Thank goodness we didn't let an early goal through because that was the key to our victory. When you look at how things were in the first half we were a bit lucky," Mainz coach Wolfgang Frank said.

"We controlled the game but didn't capitalise on our many chances up front in the first half and then Mainz pounced," Hamburg trainer Frank Pagelsdorf summed up.

Schalke lost a penalty shoot-out at rejuvenated East German club Energie Cottbus 5-4 after the score was level at 2-2 at the end of extra time.

Duisburg suffered a similar fate at VfL Bochum. The two neighbours from Germany's former heavy industry centre in

the Ruhr district fought out a 1-1 result with both goals coming in extra time.

Bochum were the luckier though from the spot and won a lengthy penalty shoot-out 6-5.

1860 Munich's 2-1 defeat at Eintracht Trier, a third division club on the verge of bankruptcy, sparked an angry response from the Lions' sharp-tongued coach Werner Lorant.

"We absolutely deserved to lose here tonight," Lorant said, prompting loud cheers and applause among Trier officials who turned the post-match press conference into a celebration.

"It has to be said, I don't want to beat around the bush. Of course Trier's fans are happy but I also have to say I'm deeply disappointed in my team."

Hertha Berlin's Croatian striker Ilija Aracic knocked his old team Tennis Borussia Berlin out of the competition with an extra time goal in the

95th minute.

Ironically Aracic was also the match winner a year ago when the two clubs met in the German Cup - except then he was in Tennis Borussia's colours.

Hertha, who are enjoying their best season ever, defeated their bitter city rivals 3-2.

VfB Stuttgart had a lucky 0-1 escape at Werder Bremen's amateurs while Wolfsburg were too good for second division Chemnitz, beating them 2-3.

The German Cup fourth round will see the following matches:

Eintracht Trier v Hansa Rostock
Waldhof Mannheim v Bayern Munich
Freiburg v Energie Cottbus
SV Mainz v Hertha Berlin
VfB Stuttgart v FC Cologne
Werder Bremen v SSV Ulm
Stuttgarter Kickers v Arminia Bielefeld
VfL Bochum v Wolfsburg



Bayern Munich's Stefan Effenberg (L) tries to go past SSV Ulm's Marko Myrny in a German Cup encounter on October 13. —AFP photo

French First Division

Auxerre gain at Monaco's cost



PARIS, Oct 14: Auxerre went top of the French First Division Wednesday with a 3-1 at Strasbourg while Monaco, who could have gone top if they had won, crashed 3-2 at the hands of defending champions Bordeaux, who produced their best performance of the season, reports AFP.

The French First Division has been a topsy-turvy affair this season with Auxerre, Monaco, Paris St Germain, Lyon and even Sedan all topping the table at some stage in marked contrast to last season, when Bordeaux and Marseille were streets ahead of their rivals throughout the campaign.

Auxerre's win saw them take over the summit from Lyon. It only took Auxerre two minutes to make their mark in the Alsatian capital.

Defender Laurent Ciechelski gave the Burgundy side a 1-0 lead and just five minutes Auxerre skipper Stephane Guivarch made it 2-0 to the visitors with a well-taken goal.

Steve Marlet was the creator of both goals with crosses from the right.

French World Cup winner Guivarch's return to Auxerre after a nightmare year with Newcastle and Rangers has transformed the fortunes of the club that only escaped relegation on the last day of last season.

Strasbourg narrowed the deficit after 17 minutes.

Olivier Echouafni floated into the Auxerre area unmarked to loop a header from Teddy Bertin's freekick past goalkeeper Fabien Cool.

After 32 minutes Marlet got his reward and made it 3-1 after a cross from Guivarch's World Cup team-mate Bernard Diomede. That was the end of the scoring in a match dominated by the visitors.

Bordeaux, meanwhile, made a strong start and after it was no surprise when they took the lead.

It was last season's Champi-

onship winning strikeforce of Sylvain Wiltord and Lilian Laslandes that came up with the goal.

The duo, currently France coach Roger Lemerre's first-choice starting line-up, linked up superbly. Corentin Martins freed Wiltord down the right and Wiltord, the French first division's top scorer last season, played in an inch-perfect first-time centre which Laslandes cleverly diverted past the advancing Fabien Barthez.

Bordeaux were dominating but Monaco squared the match out of the blue. Italian striker Marco Simone held off a challenge before beating Bordeaux goalkeeper Ulrich Rame with a low shot.

But almost immediately Laslandes put Bordeaux back ahead, superbly volleying a Francois Gernet cross past Barthez.

Laslandes missed a glorious hat-trick opportunity in the second period after a flowing move involving Wiltord, Johan Micoud and Martins and was then withdrawn.

Laslandes joins Guivarch in second spot in the goalscoring charts behind Monaco's David Trezeguet.

Shortly after his departure Monaco almost made it 2-2. Simone fed Ludovic Giuly, who skipped past two tackles, and his shot was half-stopped by Rame. The ball went spinning towards goal but Bordeaux defender Jerome Bonnisse cleared the ball just before Giuly could get a touch.

But Wiltord wrapped up the points with a 74th minute goal. He planted his shot wide of Barthez's right hand for his sixth goal of the season.

Monaco reduced arrears when Simone made it 3-2 with five minutes remaining. A harmless looking long throw was headed on but Rame, who had just made a superb stop from Giuly, could not prevent Simone's volley from dinking the net.

Rennes thrashed newly promoted Sedan 5-0 in the most one-sided match of the night. The pick of the goals was the second, a superb five-man moved finished by an angled shot from Cedric Barthez.

St Etienne boosted their campaign with a 1-0 win at Montpellier secured by Brazilian striker Alex while Lens crashed 2-0 in Corsica to Bastia.

Metz and Nancy finished 2-2 in the Lorraine derby while Troyes vanquished Le Havre 3-1.

Strasbourg's Habib Beye (R) challenges Auxerre's Bernard Diomede during their French First Division match on October 13. —AFP photo

English League Cup

More big names bow out



LONDON, Oct 14: The English League Cup was well and truly devalued on Wednesday as Manchester United and Chelsea fielded reserve teams and led an exodus of Premiership teams from the third round of the competition, reports AFP.

The high-profile pair were joined by Liverpool, Derby and Watford following the exits of fellow top flight sides Newcastle, Bradford and Sunderland on Tuesday.

United, fielding a virtual third team, lost 3-0 at Aston Villa while Chelsea went down 1-0 home to first division Huddersfield.

Julian Joachim, Ian Taylor and Steve Stone scored Villa's goals against a United team in which goalkeeper Mark Bosnich and striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer were the only first team squad members.

United have now conceded eight goals without reply following the 5-0 thrashing at Chelsea.

But Wednesday's result meant little as manager Sir Alex Ferguson showed how little importance he places on the second domestic cup competition in a season when his side are also competing in the Champions League and the new World Club Championship as well as the Premiership.

Kenny Irons whacked in a late drive to give Huddersfield victory against a second-string Chelsea outfit at Stamford Bridge.

Liverpool lost 2-1 at Southampton thanks to last-minute Trond Solvetd goal. Michael Owen put Liverpool ahead but also missed two sitters, while Dean Richards levelled for Saints before Solvetd's killer goal.

Derby stumbled out after a 2-1 home defeat by first division Bolton, for whom Michael Johansson scored an 87th-minute winner.

Watford missed a penalty as they were beaten 1-0 by a Juninho goal at Middlesbrough.

Premiership leaders Leeds needed a last-minute Danny Mills goal to see off visiting Blackburn of the first division 1-0.

Holders Tottenham beat Crewe 3-1 at White Hart Lane while struggling Sheffield Wednesday made it nine goals in two games with a 4-1 thrashing of Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough.

West Ham saw off Bournemouth 2-0 at Upton Park and Leicester beat Grimsby by the same score at Filbert Street.

English League Cup fourth round draw after Wednesday's matches:

Tranmere v Barnsley
Middlesbrough v Arsenal
Huddersfield v Wimbledon
Bolton v Sheffield Wed

Leicester v Leeds
Fulham v Tottenham
Aston Villa v Southampton
Birmingham v West Ham
Ties to be played week commencing November 29

FA charge
Vieira

LONDON, Oct 14: Arsenal's Patrick Vieira was charged with misconduct by the English Football Association (FA) on Wednesday over his behaviour in the players' tunnel following his sending-off against West Ham, reports AFP.

The French World Cup winning midfielder was allegedly involved in an altercation with a policeman following his dismissal for two bookable offences in the 2-1 defeat on October 2.

"Patrick Vieira has been charged by the FA in relation to his conduct in the tunnel following his dismissal from the field of play during the game against West Ham 10 days ago," said FA spokesman Adrian Bevington.

Vieira has already been charged once over a different aspect of the dismissal.

The FA are still waiting for a response from him regarding a personal hearing for his conduct on the field when he spat at West Ham's Neil Ruddock.

Vieira has until Monday to respond to that charge.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 Parboil	DOWN	21 Snoopy's pal
1 Kite	36 Early evening	1 Burg	22 Weir
part	37 Wapiti	2 Ox of crossword-style	23 Jazz
5 Mr.	38 Samoyed's cousin	3 CP	24 'Caught ya'
8 Jack Benny	41 Calendar abbr.	4 Guided	25 Disen-cumber
9 expelive	42 Crone	5 Hurdled	26 Central
12 Never again?	45 Vagrant	6 Skedaddled	27 --Locka, FL
13 Meadow	46 Suffragist	7 Lummo	28 Abner's adjective
14 Garfield's pal	48 Grand-scale	8 Ground-hog	29 Result
15 Judy on CNN	49 Scuttle	9 U2	31 Irritate
17 Bedtime	50 Lotion	10 100	34 Smith or Taylor
beastie	51 Secre-tary, e.g.	11 Sediment	35 Headed for home, maybe
18 A Bobby twin	52 Tribute verse	20 There's a small charge to it	37 Wear away
19 Pismire	20 Edison	53 Coup for Deep Blue	38 Lean-to
21 Peruke	22 Doxy companion		39 Karol Wojtyla's title
23 Powerful business-person			40 Wading bird
26 Norton's office door?			41 Sustenance
30 Cairo's river			42 Shake in the grass?
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32 --arms			46 Merriam
33 Went by canoe			48 Personal question?
			49 Son of Noah

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