

Jadeja, Laxman dropped

BOMBAY, Feb 27: India made two changes to the team which lost the Bombay Test against South Africa for the second and final Test of the series at Bangalore starting next Thursday, reports Reuters.

Former captain Mohammad Azharuddin and left-handed opening batsman Sadagopan Ramesh have replaced Ajay Jadeja and Vangipurappu Laxman, said Jaywant Lele, secretary of the Board of Control for cricket in India.

India lost the first Test on Saturday by four wickets.

Saurav Ganguly has been appointed captain for the one-day series, involving five matches, which starts March 9.

Test squad: Sachin Tendulkar (captain), Wasim Jaffer, Sadagopan Ramesh, Rahul Dravid, Saurav Ganguly, Mohammad Azharuddin, Nayan Mongia, Anil Kumble, Nikhil Chopra, Ajit Agarkar, Murali Kartik, Jagaval Srinath, Thiru Kumaran, Mohammed Kaif.

GKSP's cricket training

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Feb 27: The new Gaibandha Krira Shikkha Protisthan (no relation to BKSP) introduced a cricket training programme on February 20.

The local member of parliament launched the programme at the Gaibandha Shawdhinata Prangon. The function was presided over the institute's director general Mizanur Rahman Chunnu.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 27: Jubo Cricket School clinched the Metropolitan Cup beating Aminuddin Smriti Sangha by eight wickets in the final at the Rajshahi Collectorate ground today.

Winning the toss, Aminuddin collected 169 runs for all in the stipulated 35 overs with Niranjan scoring highest 71 runs followed by 23 from Babu.

In reply, Jubo Cricket School scored 172 runs for two wickets in 28 overs. Suman collected the highest 91 followed by 38 runs from Illas.

Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu distributed prizes.

NBL v'ball

Bangladesh Police registered the fifth victory in their seventh encounter of the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League beating Bangladesh Bank Club by 25-19, 25-19, 25-18 at the Dhaka Volleyball court yesterday, reports UNB.

Earlier on Saturday, Titas Club recorded their seventh consecutive win in the Metropolitan Premier Division League beating Water Development Board by 25-16, 25-23, 23-25, 25-21 in a crucial match at the same venue.

In the First Division League yesterday, Chand Textiles beat Jibon Birsha Corporation by 25-22, 25-22, 25-21.

Perugia goalie suspended

ROME, Feb 26: The disciplinary commission of the Italian Football Federation on Friday handed a two-year suspension to Angelo Pagotto, the goalkeeper of First Division side Perugia, for doping, reports AFP.

Should he

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Akram, 32, was not available for comment.

The recent injury leaves a shadow of doubt over Akram's career as he is reportedly having problems with the management of Pakistan's Cricket Board.

Earlier this month he stepped down as captain, surprising many in cricketing circles.

Akram said he wanted to concentrate on beating the wicket record and spending time with his family.

The second Test is scheduled in Peshawar from March 5 and the third in Karachi from March 12.

"A groin injury heals up only with rest and swimming and Wasim is doing that," Ahmed said.

Akram relinquished the captaincy after Pakistan were defeated 3-0 against Steve Waugh's Australia in the away Test series last month.

Pakistan were also beaten 2-0 in the finals of the tri-series in Australia in February. Akram also missed the last two Tests of the series against Sri Lanka in 1995-96 which Pakistan lost.

Things can

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there as one of the best sides that has played the game."

Waugh rested high-scoring Matthew Hayden along with strike bowler Glenn McGrath from Saturday's match, sent big-hitting Andrew Symonds in at No. 3 and dropped Michael Bevan one spot to five.

Yet the batsmen maintained an astonishing pace that will be long remembered by the Christchurch crowd — and the feat was achieved without injured frontline batsman Ricky Ponting.

The team is really growing together well and the bulk of this side can stay together for the next (2003) World Cup, Waugh said.

"All the guys are striking the ball very well and it's probably a unique experience at the moment and we're sort of feeling off each other."

"We had a team meeting before the game and we asked ourselves about 15 or 20 different questions about how we could improve different aspects of our game and I guess it showed."

Primera Liga

Real outclass Barca



MADRID, Feb 27: Brazilian star Roberto Carlos and French international striker Nicolas Anelka laid the foundations as Real Madrid downed arch-rivals Barcelona 3-0 in the Spanish league on Saturday night, reports AFP.

Fullback Roberto Carlos gave Real the lead — and delighted a sellout crowd — with a 35m free-kick that powered its way past Barca goalkeeper Francesc Arnau after just five minutes.

Anelka, playing for the first time since January 10, then ended his league scoring drought in the 23rd minute.

Back in action after a knee injury, he pounced to stab the ball home after the keeper had blocked a shot from Fernando Morientes with his feet.

Anelka scored three goals during the World Club Championships in Brazil but had not scored in the league since his 35 million dollar move from Arsenal last year.

He was clearly delighted to get off the mark in such a crucial game.

Real made certain of victory in the 53rd minute when Morientes claimed his 15th goal of the season with a piece of clinical finishing.

Morientes got the ball in the box, controlled it brilliantly and then shot home on the turn.

Real's form delighted not only coach Vicente del Bosque but also the 84,000 pro-Real fans.

They chanted "Ole, Ole" as Real strung together several series of passes in the second half.

The match was hard-fought as is always the case in clashes between the two teams. Real defender Aitor Karanka picked up a yellow card for a wild challenge as early as the fifth minute, whilst players from both teams engaged in an early pushing match that was sparked off by a piece of petulance by Barcelona's Brazilian star Rivaldo.

Referee Ansautegui Roca did a good job in keeping the play-

ers' minds on the game, however, finishing with only four bookings.

The Madrid side's joy was only slightly tempered by the sending off of Gutierrez late in the game for a second bookable offence.

Real always looked the hungrier, more determined outfit — and that was reflected in the score.

The win saw Real power

their way into second place in the championship, just three behind leaders Deportivo La Coruna — although they have played one more match.

Deportivo now have 46 points from 25 games to Real's 43 from 26. Barcelona are third with 41 points from 26.

In the only other match played Saturday, Valencia won 2-1 at Numancia to move into sixth spot on the table.

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