

## 7 Test players in Pak A side

REUTERS, Rawalpindi

The Pakistani selectors have announced a strong Pakistan A squad to take on England in the second three-day tour match in the eastern city of Lahore from November 6.

Batsman Hasan Raza, who has been named in Pakistan's squad for the first two Tests, will lead the A side which includes seven test players.

The selectors have not retained any of the players from the PCB Patrons XI which lost to England by 52 runs on Wednesday in the first three-dayer in Rawalpindi.

### ASQUAD

Hasan Raza (captain), Imran Farhat, Taufiq Umar, Shahid Yousuf, Faisal Athar, Mansoor Amjad, Arshad Khan, Aminur Rehman, Mohammad Asif, Shahid Nazir, Mohammad Khalil, Rizwan Ahmed, Junaid Zia and Usman Tariq.

## Ponting takes Clarke under his wing

APP, Brisbane

Australian captain Ricky Ponting is working with Michael Clarke to try to make the most of one of the great talents of Australian cricket.

Clarke's star has waned since his 15 in his debut Test against India in Bangalore and the 141 in his first home Test here against New Zealand a year ago.

In his next 17 innings the 24-year-old right-hander, known by team-mates as 'Pup', has been unable to compile another Test century.

Ponting can identify with Clarke.

He scored 96 in his first Test against Sri Lanka in Perth in 1995 and the first of his 23 Test centuries in his seventh Test match and has now amassed over 7,000 Test runs.

"I think he's finding his feet a little bit at Test level," Ponting said Wednesday before the first Gabba Test with the West Indies.

"We know he made a dynamic start and probably the same way that I did at the start. Our careers are following fairly similar paths."

"He's someone who's going to be around the team for some time, he's got immense ability and potential and he's moved up the order to No.4 spot, he's working extremely hard on his game."

"I've done a lot of one-on-one work with him over the last few weeks, talking about the game and working on a few technique side of things with his game."

"We know how good he can be and if he gets his game in order and keeps learning about himself and what he has to do to prepare for Test matches, then you'll see Michael Clarke make some big runs this summer."

Clarke has been elevated to No.4 in the Australian batting order, coming in after Ponting in the batting and taking the place of discarded Damien Martyn.

## Kaushalya hits fastest fifty

APP, Colombo

Former Sri Lankan international Kaushalya Weeraratne set a new limited-overs cricket record this week when he hit the fastest half-century off 12 balls in a domestic match here.

Weeraratne, 24, created the record on Tuesday playing for Ragama cricket club against Kurunegala in Sri Lanka's premier limited-overs tournament.

The effort surpassed England all-rounder Adam Hollioake's half-century off 15 balls for Surrey against Yorkshire at Scarborough in 1994.

Weeraratne ended on an unbeaten 66 off 18 balls, an innings studded with eight sixes and two boundaries.

He took five successive sixes and a boundary in one over from 40-year-old left-arm spinner Ajith Ekanayake.

"I did not know it was a record until I heard it in the news," said Weeraratne, who represented Sri Lanka in 11 one-day internationals before being dropped.

Weeraratne's feat, however, ended in vain as the match ended in a no-result due to rain.

Sri Lanka's senior squad is trailing 0-3 in a seven-match one-day series in India.

Another Sri Lankan, Sanath Jayasuriya, holds the record for the fastest half-century in one-day internationals. He made 50 off 17 balls against Pakistan in Singapore in April, 1996.

### ONE-DAY'S FASTEST 50S

Balls	Batsman	Year
12	K Weeraratne	2005
15	A Hollioake	1994
16	G Rose	1990
16	M Fleming	1996
16	M Fleming	1991
17	S Jayasuriya	1996



WHAT'S GOING ON? Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho (L) tries to come to terms after his side's defeat at Real Betis in the Champions League on Tuesday. Betis' Dani (R) celebrates after striking the winner.

## Batting failures doesn't worry Vaughan

REUTERS, Rawalpindi

Captain Michael Vaughan is not worried about England's batting failures in their opening tour match in Pakistan.

"No, it is not a worry. This was a practice match and it was not played in a Test match environment. We have the mental resolve for Test cricket," he told a news conference after England conjured a 52-run victory against a PCB Patron's XI.

England's only stand-out batting performance in the low-scoring game came from opener Marcus Trescothick who scored 124 and 38, when batting at nine, without being dismissed.

Reserve wicketkeeper Matthew Prior also made 50 in the first innings.

The England captain said on Wednesday he was not happy with his own batting in the match. He collected just nine runs and said he would spend a lot of time in the nets.

### Aussies go

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"I had a chat with Brett yesterday. He's working very hard on being able to maintain line and length for longer periods of time in Test cricket, rather than be out-and-out tearaway," Ponting said.

"He thinks that it will make him a better bowler by being more patient."

"I'll be still wanting him to bowl (with venom) more often than not in the Test, that's his greatest strength, to run in and be able to intimidate batsmen."

"But if he can couple that aggression with some really good line and length disciplined bowling then it will make him a better bowler."

Ponting said the Ashes loss to England was now behind the team but they would pay the unpredictable West Indies the utmost respect during the three-Test series.

Jefferson Farfan scored the only goal after 12 minutes which lifted PSV up from third to top on seven points.

Milan, whose Dutch defender Jaap Stam saw red on his return to his homeland six minutes from time, are second with five points, the same as Schalke 04 who beat nine-man Fenerbahce 2-0 in Germany. The Turks slipped from second to fourth.

Anderlecht were losing, their rivals and neighbours Inter came from behind to beat Porto 2-1 with two late goals from Julio Cruz to stay top of Group E. Artmedia twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with Rangers in Bratislava.

Inter, with nine points from four matches, look set to qualify while Artmedia (5), Rangers (5) and Porto (3) all still in the hunt for a place in the knockout phase.

"We know they are a very dangerous side and we have spoken about that in our meetings," he said.

"Their batting is very good, they've got quality batsmen right down through their list and we've had a look at their bowlers (on tapes) and most of them can bowl quite quick and there are a lot of guys we haven't seen much before."

"It's a matter of us winning the first hour of tomorrow's play and keeping the West Indies under pressure for long periods in this game."

"The Ashes loss is a long way behind us and the next time we play for them is a long time ahead of us, and we have to stay right in the present now and make sure we are paying attention to the West Indies team."

### TEAMS

**AUSTRALIA:** Matthew Hayden, Mike Hussey, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Simon Katich, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Watson, Shane Warne, Brett Lee, Nathan Bracken, Glenn McGrath.

**WEST INDIES** (from): Chris Gayle, Devon Smith, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Brian Lara, Shivnarine Chanderpaul (captain), Marlon Samuels, Dwayne Bravo, Dinesh Ramdin, Tino Best, Darren Powell, Fidel Edwards, Jermaine Lawson, Corey Collymore.

**Umpires** Ian Howell and Rudi Koertzen (both South Africans)

## Arjuna fears

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"When a senior pro like Sourav Ganguly cannot find a place, and he would soon I am sure, it brings the hunger back in the team," he said.

Former captain Ganguly, one of only four players in the world to score more than 10,000 one-day runs, was not picked despite scoring a century in a domestic first-class match last month.

Wenger, who is much appreciated by journalists for his willingness to respond directly to most questions, suggested Chelsea may have lost a little bit of self belief following a 1-1 draw with Everton, which ended their winning start to the season in the league, and a League Cup exit at the hands of Charlton.

That prompted Mourinho to claim Wenger was rattled by Chelsea's success. "I think he is one of these people who is a voyeur," the Portuguese coach claimed.

Wenger branded that remark "out of order, disconnected from reality and disrespectful," and added: "I will see if I take any action on that."

Wenger insisted that he had simply been attempting to answer questions about Chelsea, rather than deliberately setting out to make comments aimed at unsettling the champions.

As well as a potential legal action for slander, Wenger could ask the Football Association to charge Mourinho with bringing the game into disrepute, although he may not be immune from such a charge himself.

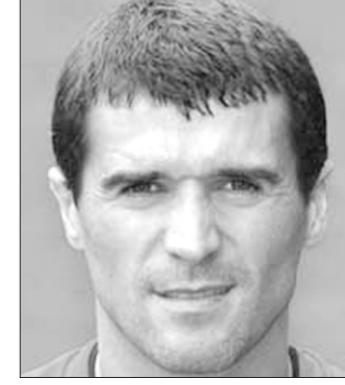
The Frenchman insisted: "I'm not obsessed at all with Chelsea. I'm at a club where I'm very happy. Things have changed over the years in English football."

"There wasn't anything malicious in what I said. I was asked a question about Chelsea and I gave an honest answer, just as I expect any other manager to do when he is asked about his team."

"I can't see what is wrong there, or we would all have to close our Press conferences."

"It seems to be in this club that you have to play badly to be rewarded. Maybe that is what I should do when I come back - play badly."

Keane, currently sidelined with a broken foot, was not shocked by the heavy defeat at the Riverside.



Roy Keane

"I wasn't surprised by the result. I had been expecting one like this. The players have been asked questions and they are just not coming up with the answers."

"I am sick of having to say it and they are sick of listening to me. They have let down the club, the manager and the fans."

## 'Get rid of 'em in January'

### Football

APP, London

Manchester United captain Roy Keane reportedly wants the club to get rid of their under-performing stars in the January transfer window.

Keane blasted his teammates in an interview with United's television station MUTV which manager Alex Ferguson ordered to be pulled.

It followed the 4-1 weekend mauling at Middlesbrough in the Premiership. United are seventh in the table, 13 points behind leaders Chelsea with one game in hand.

"There is talk about putting this right in January and bringing players in," Keane told MUTV according to the Daily Mirror. "We should be doing the opposite - we should be getting rid of people in January."

England defender Rio Ferdinand was one of the teammates Keane singled out for criticism.

"Just because you are paid 120,000 pounds a week and play well for 20 minutes against Tottenham, you think you are a superstar," said Keane.

"The younger players have been let down by some of the more experienced ones - they are not leading. There is a shortage of characters."

## Mourinho, Wenger on warpath?

### UEFA CHAMPS LEAGUE

APP, London

Jose Mourinho has escalated his war of words with Arsene Wenger by revealing that he has compiled a 120-page file of comments the Arsenal manager has made about Chelsea over the last 12 months.

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## Sami likely

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selection committee, told CricInfo, "Sami has got a small niggle but he is hoping to be fit in time for the Test. The team management has not yet asked for a replacement to be picked and Sami is receiving treatment with the physiotherapists at the moment. We can't rule him out definitely just yet."

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	43	One "Sweet"	4	Part of a pirate costume	24	Ostrich's cousin
	5	Nurse a girl of drink	5	Burma	25	Hirsute Addams
	8	Greek cheese	7	Shave	26	"See ya!"
	12	Lotion additive	10	trade-marks	27	Cretan mountain
	15	49 Stench	12	6 "Dies"	28	Ph. bk. info
	18	50 Square	13	7 Ballerina's step	29	Tolkien tree
	23	401(k) alternative	14	8 Regarding offspring	30	creature
	24	51 Earl Grey, e.g.	15	9 Green	31	Conclude
	25	52 Radius'	16	10 Coloration	32	"Loch"
	30	53 Out of play with	17	11 On the brink	33	"American"
	33					