

SA stick to same side

AFP, Port Elizabeth

South Africa will go into the first two Tests of a three-match series against the West Indies with the same squad that won successive series against Pakistan and New Zealand.

The selectors again included veteran all-rounder Shaun Pollock in a 12-man squad, although he has not made the final 11 which has played in four successive Tests since South Africa have been on a winning streak.

The first Test will be in Durban from December 26 to 30 and the second Test in Cape Town from January 2 to 6.

Coach Mickey Arthur, who announced the squad Sunday, said he was confident captain Graeme Smith would have recovered fully from a virus which caused him to miss Sunday's Twenty20 international against the West Indies in Port Elizabeth.

Arthur said fast bowler Morne Morkel, who is recovering from a foot stress fracture, would join the squad for the first two Tests but would not be considered for selection.

SQUAD

Graeme Smith (captain), Ashwell Prince (vice-captain), Herschelle Gibbs, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, AB de Villiers, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Andre Nel, Paul Harris, Dale Steyn, Makhaya Ntini.

Subhashis ensures

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Subhashis's magic spell of 10-4-24-5 saw Sri Lanka -- who lost three wickets on the same score of 87 -- slip to 95-6 and never recover.

Subhashis, who also hit the inroads, was adjudged man-of-the-match.

The fifth and final match will be played tomorrow at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The teams of the sub-continent are preparing for the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup to be held in Malaysia next February.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BD U-19s: 167 all out in 48 overs (Mintu 4, Nasir 46, Marhsall 42, Fernando 1-34, Peiris 1-18, Pathirana 1-38, Rajapaksha 1-24). SL U-19s: 118 all out in 36.5 overs (Dilshan 40, Dinesh 25, Janith 17, Dollar 1-34, Subhashis 5-24, Shiva 1-24, Nasir 1-14).

Weather could

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Swann was also included in a shortlist of 12 announced on Monday, giving the tourists the option of a second slow bowler alongside Monty Panesar in a must-win game for Michael Vaughan's men.

England will drop three places -- from number two behind champions Australia to five -- in the official rankings if they lose the match and with it the series.

A 2-0 series win for Sri Lanka will see Mahela Jayawardene's men leapfrog three places past England, South Africa and India, to number two.

India go down

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but could manage just one half-century in six innings.

India gambled with hard-hitting opener Virender Sehwag who was recalled more because of his past performances in Australia, where he has averaged 54.70 in five Tests, than on current form.

Sehwag played his last Test in South Africa in January before being axed for Test series against Bangladesh, England and Pakistan.

India will rely on their spin twins -- leg-spinner Kumble and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh -- to test a formidable Australian batting line-up as they do not have the pace attack to match their rivals.

They have named five fast bowlers in a 16-man squad, with Zaheer Khan being the most experienced with 52 Tests. Irfan Pathan, Rudra Pratap Singh, Ishant Sharma and Pankaj Singh have a combined tally of 35 matches.

India will then play a triangular one-day series in Australia, which will also feature World Cup runners-up Sri Lanka.

SQUAD

Anil Kumble (captain), Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Venkatesh Lakshman, Yuvraj Singh, Sourav Ganguly, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Rudra Pratap Singh, Ishant Sharma, Irfan Pathan, Wasim Jaffer, Virender Sehwag, Dinesh Karthik, Pankaj Singh.

Capello

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Champions League trophy.

His first match in charge will be a February 6 friendly against Switzerland at Wembley. England's next competitive match won't be until September when they begin their qualifying campaign for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

England have won just one major international tournament, the 1966 World Cup when they beat West Germany 4-2 in the final at Wembley.



Chittagong players start to celebrate their victory after the fall of last Rajshahi wicket on the final day of their Ispahani Mirzapore Tea Ninth National Cricket League four-day match at the Rajshahi Divisional Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.COM

Taylor kills off SA early

Cricket

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Fast bowler Jerome Taylor took three wickets in his first over as the West Indies beat South Africa by five wickets in a rain-shortened Twenty20 international at St George's Park on Sunday.

South Africa could make only 58 for eight in their 13 overs after being sent in to bat, but the West Indies had to survive a ferocious onslaught by in-form fast bowler Dale Steyn before sealing victory with 19 balls to spare.

Steyn took four for nine in his three overs to strike a warning to the tourists ahead of a three-Test series which starts at the same ground on December 26.

South Africa were effectively put out of the contest when they slumped to 12 for six and then 22 for seven against lively fast bowling and good fielding in seam-friendly conditions.

Jerome Taylor, who was caught by a diving Shivnarine Chanderpaul at mid-on off the first ball of Daren Powell's next over. Two run-outs, including a superb direct hit effort by captain Dwayne Bravo, plunged South Africa into an almost hopeless situation.

Brenton Parchment hit the first ball of the West Indian innings from Shaun Pollock for four and then charged down the pitch to hit the fourth ball for a huge six over long-on. He was caught at cover off the last delivery of the over.

The West Indies were 29 for one after three overs before Steyn came into the attack and rocked the West Indians.

All four of his victims were bowled by yorkers, one of them a slower delivery which deceived Marlon Samuels. The other three beat the batsmen with express pace.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Twenty20 international between the West Indies and South Africa at St George's Park

bowlers in the Test series," said the veteran.

West Indies skipper Dwayne Bravo said: "It was a fantastic team effort. What made it so special was the way we fielded."

South Africa scored five runs in the first over -- four of them from leg byes -- but then lost four wickets in seven balls without adding another run.

Taylor struck with his first two deliveries, trapping Morne van Wyk before with a slower ball and then bowling J.P. Duminy with a fast, straight ball.

With the last delivery of the over AB de Villiers was bowled when the ball rebounded off his defensive stroke.

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SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Twenty20 international between the West Indies and South Africa at St George's Park

on Sunday (match reduced to 13 overs a side because of rain):

SOUTH AFRICA

Van Wyk lbw Taylor	1
Gibbs c Chanderpaul b Powell	0
Duminy b Taylor	0
De Villiers b Taylor	0
Bodi b Samuels	8
Pollock run out (Morton)	2
Morkel run out (Bravo)	1
Philander lbw b Edwards	4
Botha not out	28
Steyn not out	1
Extras: (lb-7, nb-1, w-5)	13
Total: (For 8 wkts in 13 overs)	58
Did not bat: Ntini	
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-5, 3-5, 4-5, 5-5, 6-12, 7-22, 8-37	

BOWLER O M R W

Powell	3	0	6	1
Taylor	3	1	6	3
Bravo	2	0	16	0
Edwards	3	0	14	1
Sammy	2	0	9	1

WEST INDIES

Parchment c Duminy b Pollock	10
Smith b Steyn	7
Morton b Steyn	20
Chanderpaul not out	8
Samuels b Steyn	1
Botha not out	12
Extras: (lb-1, w-1)	2
Total: (For 5 wkts in 9.5 overs)	60
Did not bat: Sammy, Taylor, Edwards, Powell	
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-32, 3-39, 4-45, 5-51	

BOWLER O M R W

Pollock	2	0	19	1
Ntini	3	0	16	0
Steyn	3	0	9	4
Morkel	1	0	5	0
Philander	0.5	0	10	0

RESULT: West Indies won by 5 wickets. Man-of-the-match: Jerome Taylor. Umpires: Ian Howell and Brian Jerling.

Victory Day volleyball title Navy's

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Navy won the Victory Day volleyball title for the first time when they came from behind to defeat Bangladesh Army in a five-set thriller yesterday.

Army won the first set 25-18 in the Top-Five Victory Day volleyball tournament final at the Dhaka Stadium but the sailors won 25-21 and 25-21 to take the lead.

Army levelled again after winning the fourth set 25-15 but the decider went to Navy who sealed the championship 3-2 with a 15-9 victory.

It was Army's fifth abortive attempt to win the title as they finished runners-up after reaching all five finals. It was also the first time four-time winners Bangladesh Rifles failed to make the final pairing.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh VDP won the women's series 3-1 beating Bangladesh Ansar.

Abdur Rahman Sarkar, managing director of National Bank, distributed prizes as chief guest.

Bhajji rates

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Day. "It depends on how the pitches are looking, of course, but India doesn't have a problem playing spin," he said in the Herald.

"Hogg has been great in one-day cricket but I think ... Australia should use four quicks," Lawson said. Michael Clarke and Andrew Symonds could chip in to provide the slow bowling.

Lawson, whose team lost a series to India last week, warned the Australians they would not take any physical or verbal backward steps. "They will stand up to whatever is thrown at them," he said. Harbhajan agreed with Lawson's view.

Media seek

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motivated. If he fails, he has to apologise to the media for his recklessness," demanded the journalists who also threatened to boycott all news concerning Sultan.

"We will announce him persona non grata in sports if he does not seek unconditional request for forgiveness."

Kamalur Rahman, Manazrul Haque, Syed Mamun, Mosharraf Hossain, Sarwar Hossain, Aminul Haque, Moullick and Mojibor Rahman, among others, spoke on the occasion.

"He presents as the right captain of this side, I think he has the respect of the older group -- Ganguly, Tendulkar and Dravid -- but also the younger players think he's the right person at the helm."

"He will find it a testing time of his captaincy capabilities but my view is he's a pretty astute sort of person, a pretty resilient guy and pretty impervious to outside distractions."

Kumble, who is third on the list of Test wicket takers behind Mutthia Muralidaran and Shane Warne, recently led India to a win over Pakistan in his first series as skipper.

Mixed reaction

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national side," said Sajidul, who first got the news from national selector Naimur Rahman during the national league match, which he team lost to hosts Dhaka.

"Striker Lankan Chaminda Vass is my ideal because I always look for control while bowling. I had a big problem with control but I worked hard in the off-season which helped me a lot to perform well in the national league," said Sajidul, who hails from Rangpur.

The baby-faced, however, said that his main objective is to cement a place in the national side.

"It's easy to get a call up but difficult to keep the position. But I have a dream to serve the national team for a long time," he hoped.

The technology was first tested at the 2005 Under-17 World Cup and may be used at the next World Cup in 2010.

The system uses a magnetic field to provide real-time feedback to a central computer, which tracks the exact location of the ball on the field and sends the data to the referee.

"It's good. We did not notice any different particulars with regards to other Adidas balls," said Ancelotti, whose team beat Boca 4-2 in the final.

"It has a good consistency and the trajectories are respected."

World governing body FIFA did not offer any immediate assessment but said the test findings would be reviewed by an international board in March.

England set for battle

Final Test against Sri Lanka starts today

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Players and fans alike will be forced to wait just a little while longer for international cricket to return to the tsunami-ravaged city of Galle, after a late shower on Monday afternoon forced the authorities to delay the start time of the third and final Test between England and Sri Lanka.

After two days of sunshine, including a swelteringly hot final day of practice, all the puddles in the outfield had dried and the muddy banks had been baked to a golden brown finish, but such is the tight-rope that this ground has walked in the build-up to the match, that a half-hour shower was enough to tip the balance and force the start time to be pushed back by two hours.

Play is now scheduled to get underway at 12pm local time which, according to a Sri Lanka Cricket spokesman, will give the groundstaff sufficient time to tend to a damp wicket and dry the outfield ahead of a last-minute mowing. Inevitably, the news has given rise to fears that the match could end up as a complete washout, but after everything that this ground has been through in the past three years, the teams are sure to do everything in their power to get the contest underway.