NZ, WI neck and neck

Decisive Napier Test from today

Cricket

AFP, Napier

New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori believes there is little separating his team and the West Indies going into Friday's decisive second cricket Test here.

Neither New Zealand, ranked eighth out of cricket's nine Test teams, with West Indies one spot higher, could claim a decisive advantage after the rain-ruined draw in the first Test in Dunedin.

"Both teams will come away thinking they are in a reasonable space and looking forward to this Test match," Vettori told journalists.

"Before the first Test it was probably a 50-50 call and it's probably pretty much stayed the same.

and 44 for two in Dunedin, while the West Indies made 340 in a Test in which more than two days' play were lost to rain.

resumed after a 15-year gap

caused by cross-border ten-

Indian batting legend Sunil

"Diplomatically, there has

Gavaskar had said it would be

"impossible" for India to tour

Pakistan in the current cli-

been a fall-out between the

two nations and I don't see

why cricket won't follow suit.

So at the moment it is impossi-

ble to go ahead with the tour,'

he told a television channel

doubt when the Indian gov-

ernment denied permission to

the national junior hockey

tour of Pakistan in March and

the International Cricket

Council (ICC) put off the high-

profile Champions Trophy

there in September due to

The attacks in Mumbai left

172 people dead, including

nine gunmen, and wounded

team to visit Pakistan.

security concerns.

more than 300.

The tour was first put in

Australia cancelled a Test

FROM PAGE 17

sions.

mate.

recently.

pitch has the reputation of being a benign batting surface and both the West Indies and New Zealand pace attacks are expected to find the going

Dyson believes the second Test is going to be decided by who shows the most charac- 21 overs.

cricket. Whoever hold their nerve and whoever plays hard the longest might come out on top," the former Australian Test batsman said.

almost certain to bring in a second spinner to comple- Test. ment Vettori, who finished the West Indies innings in Dunedin with six for 56.

Off-spin bowler Jeetan Patel has played only five Tests since his debut against South Africa in March 2006, but considering a second spin Gayle (captain), Sewnarine New Zealand scored 365 Vettori sees the 28-year-old as option to back up captain Chattergoon, Xavier Marshall, the perfect foil for his own left- Chris Gayle, who took three for Ramnaresh Sarwan, arm spinners on what prom- 42 in Dunedin. ises to be a lifeless pitch.

Test match," Vettori said. The seamers will be complementary to what we're

trying to do.' Opening bowler Mark

Gillespie is the most likely West Indies coach John candidate to give way to Patel, after struggling in Dunedin to finish with none for 102 from

The other possible con-"It's going to make for hard tender to miss out is Kyle Mills, although he was the most successful of the pace bowlers in Dunedin, with three for 64. All-rounder James Franklin

has been cleared to play after New Zealand appear receiving a heavy blow to the ribs while batting in the first Batsman Ross Taylor is also

expected to play, despite dislocating a finger while dropping a slips catch in Dunedin.

"I probably put the onus on arm spinner, could come in at Ramdin, Jerome Taylor, Daren Jeetan and myself to be the the expense of fast bowler Powell, Fidel Edwards, Lionel Napier's McLean Park strike bowlers throughout this Lionel Baker, who made little Baker, Sulieman Benn.

impact in his Test debut in Dunedin.

The West Indies star batting trio of Gayle, Ramnaresh Sarwan and Shivnarine Chanderpaul have every reason to be impatient to get on to McLean Park.

Gayle scored a commanding 74 before falling to a rash attempted pull shot in Dunedin and Chanderpaul was the anchor of the innings with a patient 76 from 200 balls.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (from): Tim McIntosh, Jamie How, Daniel Flynn, Ross Taylor, Jesse Ryder, James Franklin, Peter Fulton, Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori (captain), Kyle Mills, Iain O'Brien, Mark Gillespie, Chris Martin, Jeetan Patel.

The West Indies are also WEST INDIES (from): Chris Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Sulieman Benn, a tall left Brendan Nash, Denesh

"It can work both ways," he to Dravid.

"At least he gets a chance to prepare himself mentally at number three, knowing he will go in at the fall of the first

TEAMS

INDIA (probable): Gautam Gambhir, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Amit Mishra.

ENGLAND (possible): Andrew Strauss, Alastair Cook, Owais Shah, Kevin Pietersen (captain), Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Matt Prior, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, Steve Harmison, Monty

Tender Security Amount

India call Pak England in a dilemma

FROM PAGE 17 the series, said he was not in favour of reshuffling the team

after just one defeat. "We have got to try to win the game and get the victory, that's our sole purpose now," the England captain said.

"I think the boys played brilliantly last week, they played great Test cricket, but we just unfortunately got pipped on the last day.

"I don't see a reason to change much. If a few things had gone our way on the final day we would have won that Test and been 1-0 up.

"It's a bitter pill to swallow but at least we got a lot closer than we thought in really pushing this strong Indian team to the last session of the

Pietersen said England were beaten in Chennai by Sachin Tendulkar's brilliant 103 not out on the final day and Virender Sehwag's blistering 83 off 68 balls on the fourth

bloke (Tendulkar) who bats at number four for India, and a freak who opens the batting (Sehwag)," said Pietersen.

India, meanwhile, are set to play the same team with the struggling Rahul Dravid getting another chance to redeem himself after making just 342 runs in his last 10 Tests.

"We have a lot of faith in Rahul," said captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"The important thing for him is to get to the 30-run mark, which will give him a lot of confidence. Unfortunately, he is getting out before settling Dravid, who turns 36 next

month and is one of only four batsmen after Tendulkar, Brian Lara and Ricky Ponting to score 10,000 runs in both Test and one-day cricket, made just three and four in Chennai.

Dhoni said he was undecided on pushing Dravid Panesar.

"You've got a freak of a down the order from number three to release the pressure on the beleaguered batsman.

said. "If (Venkatsai) Laxman goes in at three and gets out early, the pressure will return

wicket.

Lucia.

"বিদ্যুতের আলোর ছটায় বিদ্যা শিক্ষার বিস্তার ঘটায়"

Invitation for International Tender against DFID Fund under the 9 PBSs Project of Rural Electrification Board.

	GOVERNMENT OF THE PE	OPLE'S REPUBLIC OF I	BANGLADESH			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Power Division.				
2	Agency	Rural Electrification Board.				
3	Procuring Entity Name & District	Director, Procurement, Rural Electrification Board. Dhaka.				
4	Invitation for	Electrical line Construction Material				
5	Invitation Ref No	DFID/GAF-278 (5)/ 2008/524, Date: 18-12-2008				
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method, International Competitive Bidding (ICB)				
FUNDI	NG INFORMATION					
7	Budget and Source of Fund	Development Budget under DFID Grant				
8	Development Partners (if applicable)	Department for International Development (DFID), UK				
9	Project / Program Name (if applicable)	Intensification and Expansion of Distribution System of 9 PBS Rural Electrification Project.				
10	Tender Package No.	DFID (9PBS)-12/2 (Re-tender).				
11	Tender Publication Date	21-12-2008				
12	Tender Last Selling Date	18-01-2009 Up to 4.00 PM				
		Date	Time			
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	19-01-2009	12.00 Noon (BST)			
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	19-01-2009	12.30 P.M. (BST)			
15.	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address				
	- Selling Tender Document	Directorate of Procurement (7th floor), Rural Electrification Board, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka- 1229. Bangladesh.				
	- Receiving & Opening Tender Document	REB Auditorium (1st floor), Rural Electrification Board Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka- 1229, Bangladesh.				
INFO	RMATION FOR TENDERER					
16	Eligibility of Tenderer	All Countries except Israel				
17	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk. 3000.00				
18	Brief Description of Related Services	N/A				
19	Brief Description of Goods and amount of tender Security :					
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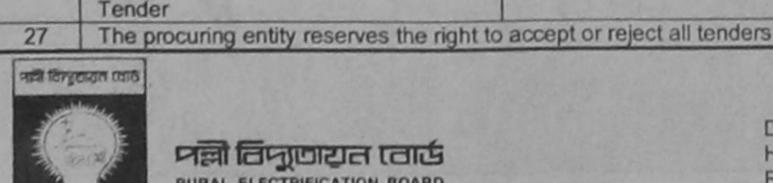
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DF	DFID (9PBS)-12/2 (Re-tender)		D(9PBS)-12-041/2 Wooden Poles		70,500.00	
20	Regarding Tender Document	Tender Document in English, may be purchased by the interested tenderers on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Tk. 3000.00 or USD 50.00. The method of payment will be by Pay order / Bank draft in favor of Rural Electrification Board, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The document may be sent by air mail for overseas delivery and courier or surface mail for local delivery. For overseas delivery, the tenderer may obtain the tender document by any International courier service to collect the same from Rural Electrification Board, Dhaka, Bangladesh. One tender document can not be used for submission of tender proposal (s) by more than one tenderer. One tenderer, however, may submit tenders against any number of sub-packages included in the tender document by purchasing only one copy of the tender document.				
21.	Payment Mode	Payment will be made through Irrevocable Letter of Credit (L/C)				
22.	Delivery Period	Delivery Period shall begin with effect from the day of L/C opening				
PROC	CURING ENTITY DETAILS					
23.	Name of Official inviting Tende	r	Syed Mosaddeque Hossain			
24	Designation of Official Inviting Tender		Director (procurement)			
25	Address of Official inviting Tender		Rural Electrification Board, Head Office Building (7th Floor), Nikunza-2,			

Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.

Tel. & Fax #8916420

Sub-Pack. No.

For the material of



पन्न विप्राणरात तार्छ RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD

Contract details of Official inviting

Director (Procurement) Head Office Building (7th Floor), Rural Electrification Board Nikunza-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh. Phone & Fax: 8916420, E-mail: rebprocure@yahoo.com

Asif hearing in London

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's Mohammad Asif will face an Indian doping tribunal in London next month after the hearing was shifted to a neutral venue at the fast bowler's request, his lawyer saidWednesday.

The 25-year-old tested positive for the banned steroid nandrolone during the Indian Premier League (IPL) competition held between April and June this year and has since been suspended from all cricket.

The tribunal will quiz Asif about the outcome of the test result and could ban him from all cricket for two years.

It comes after a first hearing held in October proved inconclusive and the next one set for November 29 had to be put off due to the terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

Since then the tribunal was unable to hold the inquiry in India due to strained relations

between Pakistan and India. Asif's lawyer Shahid Karim said the IPL tribunal agreed to shift the hearing.

"We requested to IPL tribunal that since there has been a delay in the proceedings due to the aftermath of the Mumbai incidents, it should be shifted to a neutral venue, so it will now be held on January 24 in London," Karim told AFP.

The tribunal comprises former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, Ravi Bapat, the former vice chancellor of India's Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, and lawyer Shirish Gupte.

Lewis on remand

AFP, London

Former England all-rounder Chris Lewis was remanded in custody on Wednesday after being charged with attempting to smuggle cocaine with an estimated street value of 200,000 pounds into Britain.

The 40-year-old was arrested on December 8 after border control officers at London's Gatwick airport found four kilogrammes (nine pounds) of the illegal drug in liquid form in fruit tins in baggage that had arrived from the Caribbean island of St

Lewis was arrested with Chad Kirnon, a 26-year-old one-time English league basketball player, and they were questioned by customs officials before being charged.

Mahela has

FROM PAGE 17

moments for the Lankans but they were nowhere in the Test series. Bangladesh even failed to push the Sri Lankans in the longer-version but Jayawardene said that they were hardly bothered with the past record.

"I am not a captain to give predictions. I like just to take one game at a time and concentrate on that. The one-day series will come later and I will think about it then. Right now it's the Test series," he said.

"Like I said I am not going to take anything easy. We are not going to be complacent, we are going to be very serious about the cricket that we are going to play here and try and enjoy them as well," he added.

In recent times there has been a lot of talk about security but the classy righthander was not ready to talk about the issue when asked how they think about their board's willingness to play in Pakistan as India have called off their tour to Pakistan.

"I have no comment on that. You know I am here to play cricket against Bangladesh. We will think about it when that will come, heresponded.

There was a curiosity among the reporters about the injury of Kumar Sangakara who was found limping but it was confirmed that the Sri ACROSS 35 Sense 2 Geneti- 16 Dadaist Lankan vice-captain had just a small cut on his toe which is nothing serious.

Goals galore

FROM PAGE 17

The final week's play of the first-leg will see the four-way league race intensify with the title challengers feeling the

Sheikh Russel, who take on giant-killers Rahmatganj today have the chance to cut down the lead to Abahani's lead to a couple of points if they overcome the challenge. Although not tagged as

serious title contenders, Chittagong Mohammedan -still unbeaten at home -- can well claim a place among the top three as they today host Muktijoddha, who have suffered seven defeats in nine outings.

PCB turns to Lanka 'Champions Trophy not in danger'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has moved on swiftly from the cancellation of India's tour, making an official request to Sri Lanka to visit in India's place while expressing its disappointment at the Indian board's decision.

"We received a note from the Board of Control for Cricket in India [BCCI] explaining the decision," Saleem Altaf, the PCB's chief operating officer, told Cricinfo. "Obviously we are very disappointed because Pakistan-India is always a major series. They have toured many times since 2004 so it is disappointing that such a major team, with so many superstars, will not be coming."

There had been talk of the series being possibly played at a neutral venue in the Middle East, but that scenario has also been ruled out. "Right now, there is no cricket between the two at neutral venues or anywhere," Altaf said. "We are still on normal terms with the BCCI. This is a decision that was neither in our hands nor theirs."

financially after India's pullout, they are at least likely to look forward to during that period. Sri Lanka had already publicly expressed their keenness to tour in India's place and September 2008 slot after a with Pakistan now sending an official invite, only logistics reservations over touring remain to be sorted. "We have officially requested Sri Lanka to tour in place of India," Altaf said. "They had expressed an interest and we are confident

the series can go ahead." TV rights for Sri Lanka's visit will not be as high as that for India-AFP quoted a PCB official as saying the loss from India pulling out would be around 25-30 million dollars -- but given that Pakistan have gone over a year without a Test, playing any cricket is currently the key. If Sri Lanka do come, it will be for a series of three Tests, three ODIs and one Twenty20 international. January 16 for they are on a tour

of Bangladesh till then. held in Karachi, Lahore and

Though the cancellation is a unlikely to affect the country's blow and Pakistan will suffer status as hosts of the ICC (International Cricket Council) Champions Trophy, scheduled have some serious cricket to to be held in 2009, a senior Pakistani official said.

The tournament was postponed from the original number of countries expressed Pakistan due to security concerns. It was then decided that a security review of India's tour in January would form the basis of another assessment before the tournament was cleared.

India's pulling out could affect the Champions Trophy but the PCB pointed out that security had nothing to do with the BCCI's decision. "It is too early to say anything about the Champions Trophy," Altaf told Cricinfo. "India has not pulled out over security concerns. Their government has not given them clearance to tour."

The matter is likely to be They can only arrive after discussed during an ICC board meeting in Perth on January 31. It is understood, however, that The matches are likely to be the ICC is likely to consider the security situation in Pakistan at that point in time, and will not Meanwhile, India may have be influenced by India's decicancelled their tour to sion not to tour, which is being Pakistan, but the decision is seen as a political decision.

In the next over Smith, who

was battling a nagging left

elbow problem, was attempt-

ing to continue his accelera-

tion by driving at a wider

delivery from Johnson, but he

played on to his leg stump for

48. Both settled batsmen

departed in quick succession,

something that de Villiers and

way for the same score of 63.

The pair went in the same

Kallis copied.

Johnson wrecks SA

FROM PAGE 17

moved to Western Australia so he could be closer to his girlfriend. Now the ground has another hero of speed.

He was operating well above 140kph, gaining bounce and tricking the right-handers with his subtle arc away. De Villiers and Kallis both fell for that, while the fending Duminy was undone by speed. Showing he wasn't all brawn, Johnson used a slower ball to Morkel that was ward with confidence. Smith popped to Krejza and then forced Harris to clip to leg the perfect platform until the gully. Exhausted by his effort, trend of the opening day he needed the trainer for some repeated when Australia hit muscle problems, but his back with two wickets before body was probably overwhelmed by such instant speed bump to the 90-run success.

like a swing, with Australia ning delivery to the legside starting and finishing with and was bowled for a breezy 47 whoops of joy. In between from 67 balls.

WACAin Perth yesterday.

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DOWN

1 Insult

South Africa were the ones Johnson, a Queenslander, having most fun, especially with de Villiers and Kallis combining so well. Following the loss of Graeme Smith and Hashim Amla in nine deliveries, which cut South Africa to 3 for 110, the middle-order pair first hit back before tea, and then consolidated after the

Johnson's first dismissal, of Neil McKenzie, relied on a horrible error and an ugly pull, but South Africa moved forand Amla seemed to be setting lunch. Krejza provided the partnership when Amla tried Once again the day swayed to turn a well-flighted, spin-

Separating de Villiers and Kallis was difficult as they played similar innings, mixing solid defence with punishment of loose balls. While they appeared subdued at times, they were always managing to switch the strike in a combination that looked unbreakable until Johnson intervened. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the

second day of the first Test between Australia and South Africa at the Western Australia Cricket Association ground in Perth on Thursday: AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 341 for 9) Hayden c Smith b Ntini Katich lbw b Morkel Ponting c De Villiers b Ntini 0 Hussey c De Villiers b Steyn 0 Clarke c Smith b Harris 62 Symonds c McKenzie b Harris Haddin c Duminy b Ntini 46 Lee c Duminy b Steyn Krejza not out Johnson lbw b Morkel Siddle c Boucher b Ntini 23 Extras: (lb-7, w-3, nb-5) 15 Total: (All out in 98.5 overs) 375 Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-14, 3-15, 4-164, 5-166, 6-259, 7-298, 8-303, 9-341, 10-375. Bowler O M Stevn Morkel 20 1 80 Harris 21 2 70 2 Smith b Johnson Amlab Krejza

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings McKenzie c Krejza b Johnson 2 Kallis c Haddin b Johnson 63 De Villiers c Haddin b Johnson 63 Duminy c Haddin b Johnson 1 Bouchernotout M Morkel c Krejza b Johnson 1 Harris c Krejza b Johnson 0 Stevnnotout Extras: (lb-5, w-4, nb-6) Total: (For 8 wkts in 78 overs) 243 To bat: Ntini Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-106, 3-110, 4-234, 5-237, 6-238, 7-

241, 8-241. OMRW Bowler 16 3 41 0 Lee

PHOTO: FILE Australian left-armer Mitchell Johnson took seven wickets destroy South Africa on the second day of the first Test at th

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