SPORT

Pakistan go for rookies

AFP, Karachi

Pakistani selectors Wednesday included five uncapped players in a new-look 15-man squad for the first Test against Sri Lanka starting here on Saturday.

Chief selector Abdul Qadir said opener Ahmed Shahzad was picked after batting a brilliant 100 in the two-day tour match against Sri Lanka.

"Shahzad was not selected in the initial squad of 22 but I said last week that we can pick a player from outside the first list, so after hitting a 100 against Sri Lanka we could not ignore Shahzad," Qadir told reporters.

Pacemen Mohammad Talha and Sohail Khan, opener Khurram Manzoor and allrounder Fawad Alam were selected after domestic match performances.

The 20-year-old Talha, who hails from Faisalabad, has impressed with his quick pace and wicket-taking ability in domestic matches.

Left-handed middle-order batsman Asim Kamal was also included in the team after breaking into the initial list.

The 32-year-old lefthander played the last of his 12 Tests against England in 2005 before losing his place due to poor form.

All-rounder Shahid Afridi and paceman Sohail Tanveer were omitted.

With frontline paceman Shoaib Akhtar ruled out of the series because of an injured knee, Umar Gul will lead the fast bowling attack with Sohail, Talha and Yasir Arafat as back-up.

Arafat played his only Test against India at Bangalore in December 2007, picking up five wickets in the innings. Leg-spinner Danish Kaneria is the only regular spinner in the

squad. The second Test starts in Lahore on March 1.

SQUAD

Younus Khan (captain), Salman Butt, Khurram Manzoor, Ahmed Shahzad, Shoaib Malik, Misbahul Haq, Faisal Iqbal, Asim Kamal, Fawad Alam, Yasir Arafat, Danish Kaneria, Kamran Akmal, Umar Gul, Mohammad Talha, Sohail Khan.

BD Boys win

FROM PAGE 17

226 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs. Orient, then fell 22 short of the winning target, were bowled out in the 45th over with Rajib and Samiul picking up two wickets apiece.

At the City Club Ground, Azad won comfortably against Shadharon Bima by seven wickets. Bima's innings was wrapped up in 44.2 overs for 141, which the victors easily chased down with 20 overs to spare. Bima have now lost all their three matches in the league.

German coach

FROM PAGE 17

modation, food and transport till the Asia Cup and the UAE Hockey Federation will bear his remuneration, subject to the discussion between the emirate board and him," said BHF general secretary Khondoker Jamil Uddin yesterday.

The BHF general secretary also said that they would consider Gerhard up to the South Asian Games in January 2010 if the German could come successful in the Asia Cup which will be held over May 8-15 in the UAE.

Rach leaves here today for Dubai, where he now resides, and will return to Dhaka after two weeks to take charge of the Bangladesh national hockey

The new coach was very optimistic about good results in the Asia Cup despite he would get a very short time for preparation.

The target in Asia Cup is to beat either China or Malaysia as well as put on good fight against India and Pakistan," said Rach, who coached India to help them finish seventh and fourth in Olympics and Champions Trophy in 2004.



The century England captain Andrew Strauss hit on the first day of the third Test against West Indies on Sunday



The picture snapped on Tuesday shows the giant plaque of Standford cricket ground in St John's, Antigua.

Stanford struck by googly

Cricket

AFP, Washington

US regulators on Tuesday accused Texas magnate and top cricket promoter Allen Stanford of fraud in selling 9.2 billion dollars in securities by promising "improbable and unsubstantiated" returns.

A US district judge froze Stanford's assets after the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said he was involved in global "fraud of shocking magnitude that has spread its tentacles throughout the world."

Stanford's wealth management and financial services group has offices across North America, Latin America, Europe and the Caribbean.

The SEC filed the civil charges against Stanford and other officials of his financial group in a federal court in Dallas.

The immediate whereabouts of Stanford, who reportedly lives in the US Virgin Islands those assets. most of the year, are not known. Subpoenas were issued to Stanford but he

has not appeared for testimony or produced a single document, the SEC said. scheme since the SEC charged Wall Street

financier Bernard Madoff with carrying out a 50-billion-dollar Ponzi scheme December. The SEC also accused Stanford's Antiguanbased Stanford International Bank (SIB) of

or indirect" exposure to the Madoff scheme. A major cricket entrepreneur, the 58-yearold Stanford faces fraud charges for "promising improbable and unsubstantiated high interest

rates," the SEC said. It charged him and three of his companies

West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) president

Julian Hunte insisted on Wednesday that the

organisation will be fine without Sir Allen

Texan businessman's implication in an alleged

billion-dollar investment fraud scheme will not

effect the operations of the game in the Caribbean.

viability of West Indies cricket has never

depended on Stanford's largesse, and thank

God for that because we are now able to pro-

months ago that he was no longer interested in

West Indies cricket, it was suggested that we

were financially dependent on his money.

He added: "When Stanford indicated a few

"I had to point out that before Stanford's

The WICB president said the controversial

"I want to make it clear that the financial

Cricket

AFP, St John's

Stanford's cash.

ceed," Hunte said.

year for five years.

dollar investment scheme centring on an eight billion CD (certificate of deposit) programme, a statement said.

Aside from SIB, Stanford's companies include Houston, Texas-based broker-dealer and investment adviser Stanford Group Company (SGC), and investment adviser Stanford Capital Management.

The SEC also linked Stanford to an additional scheme relating to 1.2 billion dollars in sales by SGC advisers of a mutual fund program, called Stanford Allocation Strategy (SAS), by using "materially false" data.

SIB chief financial officer James Davis as well as Laura Pendergest-Holt, chief investment officer of Stanford Financial Group (SFG), were included with Stanford in the SEC enforcement action.

Following the commission's action, US District Judge Reed O'Connor had entered a temporary restraining order, froze Stanford's assets, and appointed a receiver to marshal

"Stanford and the close circle of family and friends with whom he runs his businesses perpetrated a massive fraud based on false promises and fabricated historical return data It is the most high profile alleged fraud to prey on investors," said Linda Thomsen, director of the SEC's enforcement division.

Rose Romero, an SEC regional director, said, "We are alleging a fraud of shocking magnitude that has spread its tentacles throughout the world."

The charges against Stanford have raised "falsely claiming" that the bank has no "direct doubts over his cricket deals.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said Tuesday they, together with West Indies cricket chiefs, had suspended talks with him concerning a new sponsorship deal,

The 20-nation West Indies domestic 20/20 cricket tournament and the cricket Super Series with "orchestrating a fraudulent, multi-billion staged last year bear the name of Stanford.

up with him suspending payments to them and

too hasty in entering into an arrangement with

Sir Allen, who has been charged with "fraud of

Sir Allen had entered a franchise agreement

Last November, he launched a multi-million

dollar event with the WICB and the ECB that

culminated in the Stanford Twenty20 match for

20 million dollars between the Stanford

Superstars, a selection of the best Caribbean

in this part of the world, and the West Indies

Cricket Board in particular, would have known

have to wait and see what is happening from

there was anything wrong," he said.

wait to see how this unfolds.

"I don't think there was any way in which we

"In any event, he has been accused, so we

"I just want to thank him for what he has

Gayle c Anderson b Harmison 30

Powell c Collingwood b Swann

Chanderpaul c Prior b Broad

Hinds c Prior b Flintoff

Nash c Collingwood b Flintoff

Ramdin c & b Swann

Taylor c & b Flintoff

Benn lbw b Swann

Edwards not out

done for West Indies cricket and hopefully the

allegations will turn out not to be true, so that

Smith b Swann

we will be able to work together again.

with the WICB to stage the Stanford Twenty 20 Cup

in the Caribbean in 2006 and 2008 which guaran-

teed the winning team US a million dollars.

players, and England.

shocking magnitude" by the Securities

Exchange Commission in the United States.

Hunte refused to admit that the WIC were

I assume those payments will now stop."

Day of missed

FROM PAGE 17

against Partex at the home of cricket where the pair also shared a rare 200-run partnership against CCS in the open-

ing match. With the openers on song, Ahahani piled up a massive

289-6 after deciding to bat. Rony, who slammed the league's first hundred against CCS, overshadowed his more illustrious partner during his 96-ball 99 that featured eleven

fours and a six while Tamim

made 53 off 87 balls that featured four boundaries. The impressive opening stand was followed by good knocks from Indian Venugopal Rao (52 not out) and Sahagir Hossain (36) but it was Abahani skipper Mashrafe who entertained the sparse crowd with a sparkling knock of 32 which came from just 12 deliveries with the help

Mashrafe then breathed fire with the leather as his four-wicket burst restricted Partex to 178-7 in their share of 50 overs.

of four boundaries and two

Rezaul Haque fought a lone battle with 91 runs off 137 balls that featured eight fours and two sixes.

BIMAN-VICTORIA

Biman thrived on a halfcentury from Mushfigur Rahman to put up a decent total of 216 runs for nine after electing to bat.

Most Biman batsmen got started but failed to carry on except former national allrounder Mushfiq who made 55 off 72 balls that included four boundaries.

It was not a big challenge for Victoria considering their successful chase against Mohammedan in the previous match but they looked pathetic chasers this time and were crushed for a paltry 110. Arman Hossain, who hit a

hundred in the last match, was the top scorer with 31 off 54 Left-arm spinner Shakib Al

Hasan and pacer Mohammad Shahajada captured two wickets each for Biman.

BRIEFSCORES DOHS: 251 all out in 50 overs

(Imtiaz 42, Anhoor 11, Mehrab 96, Kaif 32, Abul 30, extras 25; Sajedul 2-64, Shuvo 3-33, Pankaj 1-32, Murad 1-33) MOHAMMEDAN: 213 all out

in 47.5 overs (Shamsur 13, Rokibul 18, Marshal 81, Shaheen 22, Faisal 25, Shuvo 12 not out, Sajedul 14, extras 16; Rashedur 2-28, Abul 3-45, Monir 2-37, Mehrab 1-45) Result: Old DOHS won by 38

ABAHANI: 289-6 in 50 overs (Tamim 53, Rony 99, Imran 10, Venugopal 52 not out, Sahagir 36, Mashrafe 32, extras 6

Omar 3-52, Rezaul 2-52) PARTEX: 178-7 in 50 overs (Rashed 24, Rezaul 91, Ariful 19, Omar 22 not out, extras 13;

Mashrafe 4-15, Nazmul 1-10, Nasir 1-28) Result: Abahani won by 111

BIMAN: 216-9 in 50 overs (Javed 16, Zahurul 26, Shakib 17, Sanwar 22, Mushfigur 55, Sajjad 25, Nabil 10 not out extras 22; Aslam 2-45 Sharifullah 2-34) VICTORIA: 110 all out in 34.2

overs (Amit 11, Arman 31, Akil 21, Arafat 11, Salim 10, extras 10; Shakib 2-21, Shahajada 2-22) Result: Biman won by 106

The man

FROM PAGE 17

on an eight billion savings deposit plan as well as a 1.2 billion dollar mutual fund program.

Stanford, a Texan-born businessman and longtime resident of Antigua, came to cricket prominence when he announced he was putting 28 million dollars into funding a Caribbean wide Twenty20 tournament in 2005.

It was the kind of cash injection the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) could only dream about.

The story goes that when Stanford stepped off a plane in Antigua and saw airport workers playing cricket in a nearby pasture during a break, he vowed to build them a cricket ground and made good on that word with one just across from the airport.

It might have seemed egotistical to name the new venue the Stanford Cricket Ground but this was, after all, a man who had expanded a company founded by his grandfather in 1932 into a global operation. However, he didn't stop

there. He offered South Africa and India, cricket's economic powerhouse, a winner-takes-all match, before England finally took him up on the idea in 2008. Yet from the moment

Stanford arrived at London's Lord's Cricket Ground, with a box full of millions of dollars and proclaiming his Twenty20 "Super Series" could crack a US television market resistant to the sport's charm, there was a sense of unease about the 0 project.

Benaud to quit next year

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

The pudding-bowl haircut, beige jacket and understated style did not mark him out for TV, but Richie Benaud's razorsharp judgement and engaging wit have made him one of cricket's top broadcasters.

"don't bother looking for that let alone chasing that," and "it's gone into the confectionery stall and out again" were just some of the phrases that kept generations of fans glued to their sets. Benaud, who announced

his retirement on Wednesday, is set to end nearly half-acentury of globe-trotting commentary next year when he ends his commitment with Australian television.

The 78-year-old started broadcasting full-time in 1964, after ending a distinguished playing career in which he captained Australia to three Ashes series wins.

Benaud, who has divided his time between Britain and Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1961, and in 2007 he was inducted into Fame.

influential cricketer and to complete the Test double of cricket personality since the 2,000 runs and 200 wickets. Second World War," wrote cricket writer Gideon Haigh.

"As a leg-spinner, he was full of baits and traps, and he batted and fielded with verve.

much as anything, which summoned the best from players: cool but communicative, he impressed as one "Morning everyone," to whom no event was unexpected, no contingency



RICHIE BENAUD

unplanned for.

his journalism: terse, direct Australia, was made a and commonsensical, and his broadcasting: mellow and authoritative.'

the Australian Cricket Hall of ity of his broadcasting career, some viewers are unaware of "A guru to Ian Chappell Benaud's achievements as a expect a similarly emotional and Shane Warne among cricketer. A leg-spinning all- farewell when he retires for others, he is perhaps the most rounder, he was the first man good next year.

But he won greatest acclaim for his bold captaincy, leading Australia to

Ashes series wins in 1958-59,

1961 and 1962-63 and never "Yet it was his presence, as losing a series as skipper. Now, no sooner have leading cricketers taken off their whites for the last time than they are in a commentary box. But unlike the modern breed, Benaud learnt the ropes with Noel Bailey, crime correspondent of the Sydney

Sun newspaper. In England he became a columnist with the News of the World, Britain's biggestselling Sunday newspaper and was also a key advisor for Kerry Packer's breakaway World Series Cricket organi-

sation in the late 1970s. Given his 63 Tests as a player and 45 years in the commentary box, no-one has played or watched more topclass cricket than Benaud.

He says the famous tied Test when the West Indies toured Australia in 1960-1961 was his most exciting "The same has applied to match as a player, but rates the 2005 Ashes as the best series he has watched.

Benaud was given a standing ovation by the crowd at Such has been the longev- Lord's after completing his final commentary stint there in September 2005, and can

Graeme grabs his chance

Cricket

AFP, St John's

Graeme Swann grabbed the chance of his surprise selection to bowl England to a 281-run lead over West Indies in the third Test on

for 57 runs from 24 overs, as West Indies were dismissed for 285, replying to England's first innings total of 566 for nine declared on the third day at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

aborted second Test at the Vivian Richards expected to be. Cricket Ground -- Monty Panesar was England's preferred spin bowling option.

really well in the nets to have gained a place in the final 11 two days later when the Test was hastily arranged for the ARG. "In nets, I've always tried to bowl as well as I can at the captain and luckily for me (our)

that I had a good chance of playing and then I was given the nod. "When you are on tour you have the same amount of preparation as everyone else, so you're all ready to go. If I'd been back in

He added: "I was warned the night before

some bar somewhere." Swann's off-spin bowling, rather than the The off-spin bowler captured five wickets fast bowling, provided England with the wickets at critical stages throughout the day.

England I'd probably have been slumped in

The ARG pitch was expected to misbehave, particularly a ridge in the middle of the pitch, but England's fast bowlers were not accurate Swann had not been picked to play in the enough, and batting was not the lottery it was

"Maybe that played into my hands," he said. "Everyone was expecting the (ridge) to play But Swann admitted he must have bowled havoc with the game, but I think only one ball has done anything stupid -- the one to Freddie (Flintoff) -- or at least got a wicket. Maybe people have been a little preoccupied with that."

England will now be preoccupied with building a match-winning lead after choosing captain is a left-hander and West Indies are full not to enforce the follow-on and reaching 31 for of them," Swann said. "I suppose that played one in the second innings at the close to establish a lead of 312 runs.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17

Lieutenant General Sina Ibn Jamali inaugurated the cere-

mony as chief guest. SHAHEED SMRITI

into my hands a little."

HOCKEY Bangladesh Army made a fine

start in the six-team Need for Speed Shaheed Smriti Hockey Tournament beating Dilkusha Rahmatullah Model High SC 4-2 in the opening match at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

goals and Sanwar Hossain one for the winners while Quamruzzaman and Khwaja Tayeb Reza netted one each Abdus Samad High School for the losers.

national star studded Usha KC Stadium. came from behind to beat BKSP by 2-1 goals at the same venue.

After a barren first-half, Golam Mowla put the national while Zahid Bin Talib and Government Laboratory by 75 Sheikh Mohammad Nannu runs at the Khulna Stadium.

quently

tion

abbr.

bills

32 First

37 TV.

news-

etc.

25 Ply

scored two quick goals for Usha KC in the 55th and 59th minutes to win the match.

Former general secretary of Bangladesh Hockey Federation Mahmudur Rahman Momin inaugurated the meet in the afternoon.

SCHOOL CRICKET

School beat KL Jubilee School and College by 7 wickets at the Dhanmondi Club ground in Sirajul Islam scored three the Standard Chartered Young Tigers U-16 National Cricket Tournament.

In other matches, Shaheed defeated Domsar J Institute by In the day's 2nd match, 8 runs at the Shariatpur

Modern High School won against Yusuf High School by 185 runs at the Comilla Stadium and Metro Police sports training institute team Line High School emerged ahead in the 52nd minute victorious against

India better

FROM PAGE 17

"That's probably the biggest difference between the India side of today, and the combinations of previous years: the bowling," he said. "It now has everything --

pace, swing, left-arm variation,

wrist-spin and finger-spin.

When I was there things were just starting to turn but now you really see the difference. "It used to be that the most successful Indian sides were renowned for their batting. These days the batting's still

strong but India have made huge gains in terms of the bowling. "They've probably got the best attack in world cricket at the moment, when you think

about it. "And the good news is that the gain hasn't come at the

expense of the batting. "Any side with Venkatsai Laxman, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Gautam Gambhir

and Mahendra Singh Dhoni is

going to run up some totals."

By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 41 Driver's 2 Boxer 22 Earring 1 Light ID (Abbr.) Laila 42 Fre-3 Rose 23 Scarlet applica-

4 Author 44 Dry red waves pan 29 Oodles Greene 4 Led 30 Small 8 Bean 5 Massa-Solace" chusetts combo 12 TV lawyer 50 Floral 31 Denomicape 13 Destroy 51 Incite 7 Runner- 33 Elsa of 52 Wallet "Born 14 Wading 56 Mid-8 Adomed Free,

15 Montana month a la e.g. date city Miss 35 Jewel 17 Top-notch 57 Lotion America 38 Stern-9 Orchestra 18 Young ward member 40 "Old" fellow 19 Happen-10 Sawyer's Disney dog on 12/31 59 Face (Sl.) 11 Second- 43 Members 21 Sullen

24 Genetics DOWN 20 Moreover 1 Society newbie measure Solution time: 25 mins.

61 Moment 16 Legislabrass 45 Gridiron decider 46 Witticism 47 Pakilanguage 48 A very 49 Venus de -

27 Stir-fry

46 47 48 CRYPTOQUIP

UYGS EJPFRQCRSD URKY T

UGFF-EGH UGI-EPPKGH IRJH,

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU SEE REDDISH FUMES EMANATING FROM SOMETHING, COULD

YOU CALL THEM ROSE-COLORED GASES? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals R

was his fifteenth.

tripartite agreement between the England and

WI on the ropes FROM PAGE 17 claimed two wickets -- one of them Shivnarine

Chanderpaul -- to tighten

their grip on the Test at tea. Andrew Flintoff removed Hinds and Stuart Broad got Chanderpaul for one in the space of nine balls, as West Indies reached 221 for five at the break.

Flintoff made the breakthrough for England, after Hinds had added 70 for the fourth wicket with Sarwan, when the left-hander edged a leg-cutter and was caught behind.

Next over, England got a bonus wicket, when Broad had Chanderpaul also caught behind driving loosely at a delivery outside the off-stump. After tea, England met

resistance from Sarwan and

Brendan Nash. They added 50

for the sixth wicket before

wickets from consecutive balls. cross-batted slog, and next Collingwood 113) caught and bowled when he (overnight 55 for 1)

here on in and not necessarily rush to judgment domestic tournament we issued him a licence which brought us in one million US dollars a at this point in time. "I think the ECB and ourselves have taken what I consider the appropriate action and we "He didn't pay the first year and when we got a

We're not dependent

on Stanford: WICB

Wales Cricket Board, the WICB and him, we insisted that he pay and we got two million dollars. "Apart from that, Stanford dealt with the local boards and gave them money, but it ended

> gently pushed back a full toss to the off-spinner to leave West Indies 251 for seven. England continued to SarwancFlintoffbSwann 94 mount the pressure and even-

runs in the space of 13 balls. Flintoff gave Swann steady support with three for 47 from 14.2 overs.

tually snared the last three

West Indies wickets for seven

England trail 0-1 in the series which now comprises five Tests, following an innings and 23-run defeat in the opening Test at Kingston inside four days. The other two Tests in the

Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad from March 6 to 10. SCOREBOARD

third day of the third Test between West Indies and Recreation Ground on Tuesday: Swann had Sarwan caught ENGLAND: First innings 566 ball, Denesh Ramdin was WEST INDIES: First innings Edwards

130, 4-200, 5-201, 6-251, 7 251, 8-278, 9-279. Bowler Anderson 19 1 55 series take place at Kensington Flintoff 14.2 Oval in Barbados from Harmison 12 February 26 to March 2, and Broad 24 57 24 Swann Pietersen 2 0 14 Collingwood 4 0 22 Scoreboard at stumps on the ENGLAND: Second innings Strauss c Smith b Edwards 14 Cooknotout Swann returned to snare two England at the Antigua Anderson not out Extras: (w-5, nb-4) Total: (For 1 wkt in 7 overs) 31 at mid-wicket playing an ugly for 9 declared (Strauss 169, Fall of wickets: 1-23. Bowler Taylor

Extras: (b-17, lb-5, w-2, nb-11) Total: (All out in 89.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-109, 3 OMRW R W

paddles 26 Grass drops 28 Unpaid victim 34 Pooch 36 Tragic papers, 39 Crucial

R BVNNPBG MPV'JG NFTMRSD

Bugs

53 Costello URKY T EVFF HVQC