

Pakistan keep same squad for 2nd Test

AFP, Karachi
Pakistani selectors Wednesday retained the same 15-man squad for the second Test against Sri Lanka starting in Lahore next week.

Selection worry for Eng 4th Test against WI starts today

Cricket
England face a few selection dilemmas in the run-up to the pivotal fourth Test against West Indies, starting on Thursday at the Kensington Oval.

The batting dilemma appears to be more straightforward with recent addition Ravi Bopara seemingly nailing down a place at No.6...

Comparatively, West Indies have no such issues, but their biggest challenge is overcoming themselves, and not falling into the lethargy that plagued them over the first four days of the ARG Test.

They are cautiously optimistic that they can lift their game to the heights required to win the Test and complete a rare Test series victory.

WEST INDIES (from): Chris Gayle (captain), Lionel Baker, Suileman Benn, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Fidel Edwards, Ryan Hinds, Brendan Nash, Daren Powell, Denesh Ramdin, Ramesh Sarwan, Lendl Simmons, Devon Smith, Jerome Taylor.

Umpires: Aleem Dar and Russell Tiffin.

Royals to face Daredevils in IPL opener

PTI, New Delhi
Defending champions Rajasthan Royals will take on Delhi Daredevils in the opening encounter in the second season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) on April 10.

The opening match will be hosted in Jaipur, it was announced in a statement issued by the IPL on Wednesday.

SCHEDULE
Apr 10: Rajasthan Royals vs Delhi Daredevils at Jaipur

Australia all-pace 1st Test against SA begins today

Cricket
South Africa's tour of Australia was such a short while ago that it feels like this is the fourth Test in a six-match series.

Phillip Hughes will become Australia's youngest Test debutant since Craig McDermott in 1984 when he walks out on Thursday at the age of 20 years and 88 days.

The other fascinating part of the series will be how the two teams use the umpire referrals. Neither side has played under the trial system, which will be overseen in all three Tests by Billy Bowden, Asad Rauf and the retiring Steve Bucknor.

Paul Harris is likely to play in a team that was so good in Australia that Prince could not break back into the side having fully recovered from his broken thumb.

TEAMS
SOUTH AFRICA (likely): Graeme Smith (captain), Neil McKenzie, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Mark Boucher, Morne Morkel, Paul Harris, Dale Steyn, Makhaya Ntini.

Australia's new faces handle the pressure of a Test tour will be a key factor in the final results. There are no such squad issues for South Africa, who have retained the core group that won in Australia and have such a strong lineup that Ashwell Prince couldn't find a spot.

TEAMS
AUSTRALIA (from): Phillip Hughes, Simon Katich, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Hussey, Michael Clarke, Marcus North, Brad Haddin, Mitchell Johnson, Peter Siddle, Doug Bollinger, Ben Hilfenhaus, Andrew McDonald.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

U-13 FESTIVAL
A total of 16 matches of the Under-13 Football Festival were held at eight venues across the country.

Inter live
Ibrahimovic stepped over Esteban Cambiasso's cross and Adriano clipped a shot just past the corner of post and bar.

Younis falls short

FROM PAGE 17
 opener Malinda Warnapura (two), caught behind off pacer Umar Gul in the first over.

record 437 fourth-wicket stand with Thilan Samaraweera (231).

240, Samaraweera 231, Sangakkara 70, Warnapura 59; Kaneria 3-170.

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 574-5) Manzoor c P Jayawardene b Mendis 27

United had one last chance with the final kick of the match from another stinging Ronaldo free-kick but Julio Cesar again was well-placed to parry the shot.

Younis, who resumed at 306, played on to Sri Lanka's Dilhara Fernando in the ninth over of the day, to the disappointment of a sparse crowd at the National Stadium hoping to see him break Lara's record, set against England in 2004.

PAKISTAN: Second innings Parnavitana run out 9 Warnapura c Akmal b Gul 2

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Price of aiming high

Cricket
India have often been accused of making slow starts to overseas tours, but no one can make that accusation this time -- their first 11 balls in New Zealand went for 25 runs.

hosts had moments where, as Daniel Vettori said, they thought they would end up chasing 300, they were set a below-par target of 162 by the time the lights took full effect.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni admitted after the game that they over-reached, aiming for around 220 when 190 might have been enough.

Three incidents in the match summed up the teams' approach. Sehwaag had smashed the first three balls he faced in New Zealand for sixes -- he hit four in all during his 10-ball stay -- but went for one hit too many. Rohit went for his second six in a row but got a leading edge off Ian Butler.

In true Twenty20 spirit, Virender Sehwaag, Rohit Sharma and Yusuf Pathan went about their task, and in true New Zealand style the home bowlers stuck to their job. So while the

Dhoni was not pleased with the way the target was assessed tonight but said it wasn't a premeditated ploy to put New Zealand under pressure right away. "One of the key things was to go into the middle with a blank mind, without a target," Dhoni said.

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Kiwis blow India out

FROM PAGE 17
 "For our guys to respond to that and to restrict India to 160 after getting away so quickly and also with how small the boundaries are -- one side was just a toy hit -- so really happy with them."

Only Suresh Raina looked to have a game plan for India and his unbeaten 61, including five sixes, formed the backbone of the tourists' innings.

Taylor b Zaheer 31
Oram not out 29
Extras: (w-5, nb-3) 8
Total: (For 3 wks in 18.5 overs) 166

Yusuf Pathan also found the boundary, hitting Nathan McCullum for three sixes in three balls but when he went for a fourth six he fell victim to an outstanding catch-of-the-match by Oram.

The tall New Zealander took the ball while off-balance just inside the boundary rope. As he was about to step across the line he flicked the ball in the air, righted himself and came back into the field of play to complete the catch.

Result: New Zealand won by seven wickets.

While India took 19 off Tim Southee's opening over, New Zealand's big hitting openers Jesse Ryder and Brendon McCullum were slow out of the blocks.

Ryder went leg before wicket for one in the second over and Martin Guptill was lucky to survive his first ball when he shouldered arms to a delivery that swung back sharply and rapped him on the pads.

Man-of-the-match: Brendon McCullum.

Television replays showed the ball would have hit the stumps but umpire Evan Watkin thought otherwise.

It was a break New Zealand needed as Guptill ignited New Zealand's run chase and went

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Did U Know?

Women's hammer throw was first included in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, after having been included in the World Championships a year earlier.



Premier Div Cricket League
Biman v City Club
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer
ACROSS 38 Nevada city 58 Lamb's inter-racer 24 Toper's subject 39 Yank 5 Adipose 40 Dead tissue 8 Roundish hairstyle 12 Reynolds 45 Erratically change- Lancashire 13 Falsehood 49 Lady's whip 15 Hee-haw 50 Sapporo sash 16 Commercial 52 Privy to 17 Den 53 Carbon 18 Rental flat, perhaps 54 Miniver 20 Play a piccolo 55 Have an inclination 19 Urban Christmas movie unit 21 Chances, for weather 57 "Hum-bug!" 24 Set up 35 Italian "slipper" bread

CRYPTOQUIP

ORO AROM RB MZZQFD BQD
DQ WRXJM ZQFMJD ZLFMJ
UM WGLAMO LDJ BQD BLWM
DQ ZXMG AQDUMF BRDXFM
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOME ALCOHOL IS PRODUCED FROM DECORATIVE WOOD VARNISH, YOU MAY END UP WITH LACQUER LIQUOR. Today's Cryptoquip: O equals D