series in October.

India look to keep momentum going

Second ODI against NZ today

Cricket

AGENCIES, Jaipur

Young Virat Kohli will be the cynosure of all eyes as a new-look India seek to continue the team's dominating run at home in the current calendar when they take on New Zealand in the second cricket one-dayer here on Wednesday.

In the absence of the creme de la creme of Indian cricket, the dashing right-hander from Delhi gave enough indication of why he is the one to look for in future with a match-winning century in the opening match in Guwahati.

With regular stars such as skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Zaheer Khan and Harbhajan Singh being rested for the first two one-dayers, Kohli stole the limelight with a fine hundred that paved the way for India's 40-run win in the series opener.

The young Kohli, going through a dream run having scored two back-to-back tons in Ranji Trophy apart from his second successive ODI century, would be keen to bat the way he has been doing of late at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium. India have a good record at this venue win-

ning six out of 10 matches, the last being a humdinger against South Africa in February when the hosts won by one run. India have lost just one match -- against

South Africa on February 27 -- in the two series they have played at home in 2010.

India won the series against the Proteas 2and pipped Australia 1-0 in the rain-hit

Going into the second one-dayer against the Kiwis, what would also keep the momentum in India's favour, is that both Daniel Vettori and Brendon McCullum are still doubtful starters for the match.

The New Zealand skipper is suffering from a sore back, after shouldering the bulk of bowling responsibilities in the three-match Test series, and Mclluum is also down with a similar condition. Runs from Yuvraj Singh's blade in the first match were also a welcome sight for the Indian camp.

For New Zealand, it was a case of so near yet so far in the series opener. The Kiwis were in with a chance at one stage but the wicket of stand-in skipper Taylor at a crucial juncture, seemed to have changed the course of the match.

It was no surprise that Taylor later regretted his shot selection. Nothing would boost the visitors more than the return of Vettori and McCullum, but if Tuesday's net session was any indication, the two still looks doubtful.

TEAMS

Cricket

Skipper Kumar Sangakkara expects Sri Lanka to

put in a solid performance as they seek to

clinch the series with a win in the third and final

Test against the West Indies starting

drawn matches in Colombo and Galle and the

weather is expected to play the spoilsport again

rain washed out the West Indies' practice ses-

Test provided there's play on all five days. We'll

come back tomorrow morning, assess the

situation and work hard for a win," Sangakkara

The hosts were strongly placed in the second

Test in Colombo where they bowled the tourists

out for 243 after posting 387-9 declared, but

rain denied them a chance to press home the

Sri Lanka's spinners impressed in the last

Sri Lanka had a workout in the morning, but

"The series will probably be decided on this

at the new Pallekele International Stadium.

sion at the stadium in the afternoon.

told reporters on Tuesday.

The series is tied 0-0 following rain-hit

AFP, Pallekele

Wednesday.

advantage.

FROM PAGE 17

term built both the Fatullah

Stadium and the Birshreshtha

Shaheed Mostafa Kamal

Stadium in Kamalapur at a

cost of Tk 22 and Tk 11 crore

respectively. Such invest-

ments have become an abso-

lute necessity since archery,

basketball, chess, cycling,

weightlifting, karate, wushu,

taekwondo, judo, rugby and

gymnastic still do not possess

a standard venue as the BNS is

shared by only football and

organisers believe that this

fixation with the BNS has seen

many other sports suffer from

a lack of opportunity, suggest-

Many prominent sports

INDIA (from): Gautam Gambhir (captain), Murali Vijay, Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Saurabh Tiwary, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravindra Jadeja, Yusuf Pathan, Sreesanth, Ashish Nehra, Munaf Patel, R Vinay Kumar and Ravichandran Ashwin.

NEW ZEALAND (from): Daniel Vettori (captain), Grant Elliott, Martin Guptill, Gareth Hopkins, Jamie How, Brendon McCullum, Nathan McCullum, Andy McKay, Kyle Mills, James Franklin, Tim Southee, Scott Styris, Ross Taylor, Daryl Tuffey, Kane Williamson.

SL's eyes on series



India's stand-in skipper Gautam Gambhir eyes the ball to play during a training session at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur yesterday.

Sachin is today's Bradman: Lara

Cricket

AGENCIES, Dubai

Saluting the longevity of Sachin Tendulkar, West Indies great Brian Lara has described the Indian batting legend as the 'Don Bradman' of modern era but refused to the compare the icons of different eras.

Lara, himself a legendary left-handed batsman from the Caribbean, said what astonishes him the most about Tendulkar is his longevity.

"I don't think there is any race. Both are great players. Tendulkar has shown the world what he is capable of and his longevity in the game is something to be really appreciated," Lara said.

"The time he will spend in the game, records are going to tumble. The fact that someone can be there from the age of 16 and still at the age of 37 perform brilliantly is something that I cherish more than anything else," he said. The West Indies player is of the opinion that Australian great

Don Bradman, who ended his career with an incredible Test average of 99.96, and Tendulkar should not be compared as they played and flourished in different eras. "He is our period's Don Bradman. Forget the difference in

averages with Bradman but whoever I have spoken to who have seen very old players in action, they believe that he [Bradman] would not have averaged 99 in today's cricket.

"So I believe that Sachin is our period's Bradman," Lara, who visited Dubai for a jewelry brand endorsement, told Gulf News. Lara said he has just got back into cricket by playing three

games in a Twenty20 tournament in Zimbabwe. He also denied reports that he is becoming Zimbabwean coach but said he will be helping them in the batting department. He said he is fanatical about golf these days and spend

time on the course. "I love the game and have been working hard to bring my

handicap down to five. I would love to get it a bit more lower. I spent a lot of time today at the Ernie Els Golf Course," he said.

Yuree breaks world record

SPORTS REPORTER

Martial arts grandmaster and security management expert Dr. Mak Yuree has set a new world record by breaking two baseball bats with a single shin kick in the biggest martial arts exhibition in Great Britain on

officialWorldRecordCertificate on November 14 in presence of Lord Mayor of Nottinghamshire at the Kings Battleground. The British-Bangladeshi community was highly amused with this distinct

In the event, Yuree broke two

American Louisville professional baseball bats with his shinbone (tibia). The baseball bats were made of hard wood, eight inches in diameter at the thickest part

Yuree was awarded Grandmaster of the Year title in 2007 by World Martial Arts Hall of

match, with Rangana Herath, Ajantha Mendis and part-timer Tillakaratne Dilshan taking take the step up. We were too three wickets apiece to back seamers Suranga good against New Zealand in Lakmal and Nuwan Kulasekara. the last series. Hopefully the The Sri Lankan captain said it would be

disappointing if they finished the series without a victory due to rain. "We have to be positive. The bowlers have

got to deliver in every game and so do the batsmen. Everyone has got to be tough and able enough to deal with every situation and fight as hard as we can," said Sangakkara.

The West Indies, who arrived in the country with new captain Darren Sammy and an inex-

Ad-hoc spending on BNS

situation.

the BNS.

ing that the government

should go for a diversification

of investments into other

establishments to remedy this

that grassroots development

is being exempted in favour of

the BNS and engineer Abdur

Rahman, NSC director of

development and planning,

suggested that wholesale

grassroots infrastructure

could be built for a fraction of

the money being poured into

take approximately Tk 10 crore

to build a new stadium and

about Tk 2 crore for a new

playground, although the

McDermott.

"At the upazila level, it will

There are also concerns

Third Test against WI starts today perienced bowling attack, performed better in

> in a series-winning situation. Led by Chris Gayle's superb 333, the tourists enforced a follow-on when they restricted Sri

the opening match before finding themselves

Lanka to 378 after scoring 580-9 declared. "I think we have been pretty consistent in the series and just need to continue with that,"

said West Indies coach Ottis Gibson. "There is nothing we can do about the weather, but there is still a chance to win the

series. So to be in with a chance to win the series away from home is exciting and all the players are well aware of it." Barring Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who has made 40 in two completed innings, all the top-

order batsmen have scored a half-century in the series, but Gibson said the final match was an opportunity for the veteran to regain form. "He [Chanderpaul] is very experienced and I

think he will be looking forward to score runs in this Test. He is hungry for runs and this match gives him another opportunity to get runs," said Gibson. The West Indies have lost five and drawn three

of their eight Tests in Sri Lanka.

SQUADS

SRI LANKA (from): Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Tharanga Paranavitana, Thilan Samaraweera, Angelo Mathews, Prasanna Jayawardene, Suraj Randiv, Nuwan Kulasekara, Ajantha Mendis, Dilhara Fernando, Suranga Lakmal, Rangana Herath, Thilina Kandamby, Kaushal Silva, Shaminda Eranga.

WEST INDIES (from): Darren Sammy (captain), Brendan Nash, Chris Gayle, Adrian Barath, Carlton Baugh, Sulieman Benn, Darren Bravo, Dwayne Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Nelon Pascal, Kemar Roach, Andre Russell, Shane Shillingford, Devon Smith, Devon Thomas.

figure will vary when you build

a stadium near the capital," he

country's sport and retains an

almost mythical status in the

sporting arena. But reality is

that it is increasingly seen as a

sandpit for short-sighted

infrastructural investment

that has little or no long-term

such an obsession with the

venue will cause numerous

sports in their infancy to suffer

badly. And for the stadium that

has proved the launching pad

for sport in Bangladesh, it

would be the biggest irony of

The greatest fear is that

The BNS is the mecca of the

told The Daily Star.

Akmal, Yousuf dropped for

wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal and senior batsman Mohammad Yousuf out of the Twenty20 and Test squads announced Tuesday for next month's tour of New Zealand.

Shahid Afridi (captain), Mohammad Hafeez, Ahmed Shahzad, Younis Khan, Umar Akmal, Fawad Alam, Adnan Akmal, Saeed Ajmal, Abdul Rehman, Abdul Razzaq, Umar Gul, Shoaib Akhtar, Tanveer Ahmed, Sohail Tanveer, Wahab Riaz (subject to fitness).

Mohammad Hafeez, Taufiq Umer, Younis Khan, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq, Umar Akmal, Adnan Akmal, Saeed Ajmal, Tanveer Ahmed, Sohail Tanveer, Wahab Riaz.

BHF an old

Hockey Federation (BHF) in September after his voluntary services for one-and-halfyears, claimed it was a combination of inexperience of the players and the disorganised state of the federation who have no plans for future.

According to Rach, the biggest problem for the BHF is the federation itself. "With a board which is acting like a mafia [I call it old town mafia] I have no chance to give hockey a betterment."

Rach feels that the team needs more experience and skills in order to compete with better sides.

No UDRS in Indo-SA Tests

Cricket

CRICINFO

The Umpire Decision Review System (UDRS) will not be a part of India's upcoming Test tour of South Africa. Gerald Majola, chief executive of Cricket South Africa confirmed the news to ESPNcricinfo saying, "[We] will definitely not be using it."

Majola who was in Dubai for the ICC Chief Executives Conference did not explain what had led to the decision but a CSA official said the main reason was, "India are not keen to use it".

Corrie van Zyl, the South Africa coach, said his team had been expecting this development, given India's stance on the issue. South Africa have used the UDRS in other home series, most recently against England in 2009-10. "We are not going to use it and thats the end of it," he said. "I like UDRS and it does eradicate a lot of decisions that are wrong, which can only be good for the game. "I'm not disappointed, I almost knew it was

not going to happen in any case, so it's not a major disappointment, and it will still be a very good series without it." Graeme Smith, the South Africa captain, had

said in October that the UDRS needed to be implemented consistently and that technology was the way forward in cricket. "I think if the UDRS is going to be successful it needs to be implemented properly by the ICC and not on a 50-50 basis like we have seen so far," he had said. "It must be used all of the time and not for selective series' like we see now." India have played a series in which the

UDRS was used only once -- in Sri Lanka in 2008. They struggled with their referrals on that tour, getting only one review right, while Sri Lanka successfully challenged 11 decisions. Since then the UDRS has been used in Australia, South Africa, England, New Zealand and West Indies and has found favour with several captains and players. The Indians and the BCCI, however, are firmly opposed to the system, even though the ICC have approved its use in principle during the 2011 World Cup.

reiterated his reluctance to accept the system during the recent home series against New Zealand, calling for the standard of on-field umpiring to be improved instead.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the India captain,

Winning the only option

missing the New Zealand series, echoed the same sentiment.

forgotten that we had an impressive performance in the 2007 World Cup because we won a good number of matches before the big event. So, this series is very important for us and what I believe is it would be a tougher task than New Zealand as Zimbabwe are a very good side in this conditions," opined Tamim.

"But we can beat any team in the world if we can play to our potential," added the confident left-hander, who received the Wisden Cricketer Magazine's certificate of the Test Player of the Year for 2010 from Tigers captain Shakib yesterday.

In this series the focus would also be on some individual players, especially everybody will be looking forward to see how Ashraful takes the opportunity after missing the last series because of poor form.

"Ashraful gets another chance. He's a great player but I want to see the great player dominate and make the big runs. I don't want him to score some quick 20s and 30s," coach

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29 Wapiti

31 Rocket

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Siddons forewarned.

The Bangladesh think-tank broke the winning combination to make ways for Mashrafe, "Winning is a habit and you may have not Tamim and Ashraful, who came in place of Rokibul after some good knocks in the domestic competition.

Mashrafe, the "Narail Express", expressed his optimism by saying that he was fully fit to contribute something to the team.

"I'm confident and I know I have to perform to keep my place on the team. I'm looking forward to playing competitive match after a long break. I also want to contribute with the bat because we could not capitalise on the last Powerplay due to lower-order failure," said a confident Mashrafe.

On the other hand Tamim can't wait for playing international cricket as he said that he did have the usual target of becoming the highest scorer in the series.

"I am returning to cricket after a long injury layoff and I can't wait to take to the field. My main target would be to bat as long as possible and I believe the lack of match practice would not be an issue for me," said the dashing left-hander.

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CRYPTOQUIP

SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE TO OPEN IN A CERTAIN

FLORIDA CITY, I'D SAY IT'S TAMPA-PROOF. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals O

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BOTTLE IS

November 14. He was presented with the

achievement of a compatriot.

with 2.5-inch handle.

Fame, USA.

Battle FROM PAGE 17 them down further," he said. "We have to play a bit better,

same will occur against Zimbabwe," added Siddons. For the same thing (series win) to take place, Bangladesh will have to play the three-man spin attack very well. Unlike Bangladesh, Zimbabwe have three different spinners, Price's accurate left-arm spin will be

complemented by the slow off-

spin of Utseya and Cremer's leg-breaks. Though Cremer doesn't possess the numbers like Price (24 wickets) or Utseya (19 wickets) against Bangladesh, Tigers batsmen struggle against his type of bowling. 30year-old Keith Dabengwa, not among the first choice, also bowled well against Bang-

ladesh in the past, taking his

career best 3-15 last year. Butcher, who played 402 first-class games but just the one Test for England, knows that it will be the wicket of Shakib that will be vital for his side. "The captain [Shakib Al Hasan] can make the difference. He's a good cricketer. The last time we played against Bangladesh, we bowled too short and wide. We will not let him play the cut shot," he said.

Siddons too believed that too much relies on Shakib. "We can't rely on Shakib [Al Hasan]. We need a bit more from the other players. Imrul [Kayes] and [Junaed Siddiqui] Imrose need to step up, especially Imrose batting at number three so that Shakib doesn't get exposed early on," he said. The 46-year-old Australian

frankly said that pressure during this series would be nothing like how it will be in the World Cup, saying, "There will be more pressure during the World Cup, so they'll need to handle it. This is no pressure."

Bangladesh FROM PAGE 17

Al Musabbir Sadi yesterday. "The second-leg of the

league will resume after the completion of Super Cup, which will start from April 5 at Bangabandhu National Stadium," added Sadi. He also informed that

sponsors for both of the meets have been confirmed and that the Super Cup would be held in line with sponsors' willingness to hold it the BNS after the ICC World Cup.

A thrilling start

FROM PAGE 17

athletics.

ball eluded Shastri's outstretched fingers. Shastri signalled four to the umpire, who accepted the fielder's word and did likewise but Jones was convinced it was a six, and so were the Australians sitting in the dressing room nearby.

During the innings break, the umpires, after talking with the Australian team manager, had a talk with India captain Kapil Dev and awarded the Australian team two runs to make their total 270. Those two runs were to make all the difference. India started strongly and for much of the

innings were in the driver's seat. Gavaskar gave the hosts a flying start by making a 32ball 39. McDermott was taken for 31 off his opening spell of four overs. The Little Master went with the score on 69,

but the next partnership between newcomer Navjot Singh Sidhu and Krish Srikkanth realised 62 runs in good time. Srikkanth went after a typically breezy 83-ball 70, trapped in front by Steve Waugh only to have Sidhu joined by Dilip Vengsarkar in a 76-run stand. Sidhu topscored with 73 before being bowled by

Mohammed Azharuddin followed 22 runs later, and at four for 229, India were favourites to win with only 42 runs to win. The Australians, though, had other plans.

Displaying their trademark mental strength and never-say-die attitude, they choked the Indians dry. McDermott shot through the middle-order. Having already dismissed Sidhu and Azharuddin, he accounted for Vengsarkar and Shastri to leave the hosts at 249 for six. After Dev's departure, India needed 15 runs

off the last four with three wickets in hand. More choking by the Australians saw them lose two more wickets and score only 9 runs off three of those overs. Steve "The Iceman" Waugh ran up to bowl the last over, with last man Maninder Singh on strike. He managed two doubles off the first two deliveries, taking India to within two runs of victory with four balls remaining. Waugh justified his nickname by bowling two dot balls on the trot, and with two needed off the last two, he clean bowled Singh off the penultimate ball of the match. Australia were victors by just one run.

NZ tour AFP, Lahore Pakistan left under-suspicion

T20 SQUAD

TEST SQUAD Misbahul Haq (captain), Abdul Rehman, Umar Gul

contract with the Bangladesh