

Santos arrested after car chase

Arsenal defender Andre Santos was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving after a car chase the day before the club's first Premier League game of the season, police said. The Brazil international left-back, 29, was detained near the north London club's training ground in the county of Hertfordshire, north of the British capital, last Friday morning. Police said the vehicle involved was a powerful black Maserati sports car which officers noticed was being driven erratically and which failed to stop. Santos was on the bench for the Gunners' home game against Sunderland on



Shakib back on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan returned to the top of the ICC Test all-rounders' table in the latest ICC Test player rankings, with South Africa great Jacques Kallis slipping to second position.

Shakib had earlier been displaced from the top spot -- having reigned as the top Test all-rounder for seven months -- after the first Test between England and South Africa which ended on July 23. In that match which South Africa won by an innings and 12 runs, Kallis scored 182 and took two wickets, a performance that elevated him to the top spot. Over the next two Tests Kallis scored only eighty runs and took two further wickets, which contributed to him slipping down to number two. Shakib hadn't played any Test cricket over the period.

The latest rankings have Shakib in number one spot with 404 points and Kallis in second place with 390 points. Shakib is also the number one all-rounder in ODIs with 447 points, trailed by Shane Watson with 412 points. He occupies eighth position in the all-rounders' list in Twenty20 Internationals.

Riyad 4th to SLPL

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahmudullah Riyad became the fourth Bangladeshi player to take part in the ongoing Sri Lanka Premier League (SLPL).

The Bangladesh vice-captain left Dhaka on Saturday to play for Basnahira Cricket Dundee. Earlier Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim, dashing opener Tamim Iqbal and all-rounder Nasir Hossain left to play the T20 tournament.

On Tuesday Riyad made 13 runs against Uthura Rudras, who won the match by four wickets at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium.

SAFF WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Bangladesh pitted with India

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's football team will take on favourites India in the opening match of the SAFF Women's Championship which kicks off on September 7 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, according to a press release from Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday.

The tournament featuring all eight teams of the South Asian region will run up to the 16th of September. The draw was held in Colombo on Monday which pitted Bangladesh in Group A along with India, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. Bangladesh will play against Bhutan on the 9th and Sri Lanka on the 11th.

Group B consists of Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives and Afghanistan. India are the defending champions of the tournament.



PHOTO: AFP India's masterblaster Sachin Tendulkar tests the stroke of his bat during a training session at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on Wednesday ahead of the first Test against New Zealand which starts today.

U-19s fail to make the cut

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-19s failed to turn the tide against their two mighty opponents -- Australia and England -- in the U19 World Cup at the Endeavour Park No 2 in

Townsville.

Bangladesh suffered a five-wicket defeat in the first quarterfinal on Sunday against Australia, the defending champions who moved within one more victory of retaining the title after a four-wicket success over South Africa in the first semi-final at Tony Ireland Stadium on Tuesday.

Australia will take on the winners of today's second semifinal between India Under-19s, who beat their archrivals Pakistani counterparts by one-wicket to reach the semifinal, and New Zealand Under-19s. The final will take place at the Tony Ireland Stadium on Sunday.

On Tuesday, Bangladesh Under-19s succumbed to a four-wicket defeat to England Under-19s in the fifth place play-off semifinal despite opener Liton Das's brilliant hundred.

Bangladesh will play their last match tomorrow when they take on Pakistan in the seventh place play-off match at Endeavour Park No 2 in Townsville.

Back to Bangladesh's quarterfinal match, Anamul Haque's team's dream of reaching the semifinal was shattered by a poor batting effort. Soumya Sarkar played a well-composed innings of 73 that came from 80 deliveries with the help of six fours and three sixes. But the opener's lone effort was not enough for his side to post a fighting total as they were bundled out for 171 runs in 43 overs.

The second-highest score came from the other opener Liton Das who scored 22 off 45 balls with two boundaries.

Australia recovered from 33 for four to reach the target for the loss of five wickets with 25 balls remaining. William Bosisto led from the front with a 134-ball 71 that featured seven boundaries.

Taskin Ahmed and Abu Jayed took two wickets each.

In the fifth place play-off match against England, Liton scored 102 off 134 balls with nine fours and a six, the second century by a Bangladeshi batsman in the tournament after Anamul's ton in the opening match. This time the skipper contributed 56 off 80 balls that contained eight fours to help Bangladesh post 217 for 7 in 50 overs.

Left-arm pacer Reece Topley claimed five wickets conceding 32 runs in 10 overs.

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KP out of World T20

AFP, London

Kevin Pietersen was left out of England's World Twenty20 squad announced on Tuesday, as his international cricket exile continued.

The South Africa-born batsman was the man of the tournament when England won the 2010 World Twenty20 in the Caribbean -- the first time they had lifted a major piece of International Cricket Council silverware.

But he was dropped from the England team that lost the third Test against South Africa at Lord's by 51 runs on Monday after sending "provocative" text messages, allegedly criticising England Test captain Andrew Strauss, to South African players.

England national selector Geoff Miller, explaining Pietersen's omission from the one-day and Twenty20 squads to play South Africa, said: "Kevin Pietersen's future involvement is still being determined and he was therefore not considered for selection in either squad."

SQUAD

Stuart Broad (captain), Jonathan Bairstow, Ravi Bopara, Tim Bresnan, Danny Briggs, Jos Buttler, Jade Dernbach, Steven Finn, Alex Hales, Craig Kieswetter, Michael Lumb, Eoin Morgan, Samit Patel, Graeme Swann, Luke Wright

India counting on fresh blood

First Test against New Zealand starts today



AFP, Hyderabad

India hope their youngsters will rise to the big occasion in the two-Test series against New Zealand starting on Thursday to soften the blow of losing Rahul Dravid and Venkatsai Laxman.

Dravid quit Tests in March after scoring 13,288 runs in 164 matches while fellow prolific batsman Laxman retired on Saturday with 8,781 runs in 134 Tests, leaving a gaping hole in the middle order.

"One of the ways to look at it is to look ahead for the future. These two are great players and we will miss them on the field," Indian skipper Mahendra

Singh Dhoni told reporters on the eve of the Hyderabad Test.

"But at the same time, it's an opportunity for youngsters to take up the responsibility in the longest format and we are hoping they will grab these opportunities and do well."

The 24-year-old Cheteshwar Pujara, and Suresh Raina, who is a year older, are likely to replace Dravid and Laxman. The promising duo have a combined tally of just 18 Tests and both return to the Test squad after a year.

India will also feel the absence of Dravid and Laxman in the slips, where the pair held many superb catches. Dravid took a Test record 210 catches and Laxman 135.

"We are hoping we won't miss

them... We have seen some of the youngsters and they catch really well. We have Virat Kohli, Raina and Virender Sehwag," said a bullish Dhoni.

"I don't think we will be short of fielders in the slips. Let's just look ahead and give the youngsters a chance, and one of them may take some catches."

The Indian captain said his team were keen to start the new home season on a positive note after losing eight successive overseas Tests, four each in England and Australia, in the past 12 months.

"We had a disappointing last eight (away) Test matches, but if you look at the positive side of it, there is only one

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5-star Philander dethrones Eng



AFP, London

Vernon Philander took five wickets as South Africa replaced England as the world's number one Test side with a 51-run win in the third Test at Lord's on Monday.

England set 346 for victory, were dismissed for 294 on Monday's final day as South Africa took the three-match series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match Philander wrapped up the contest with two wickets in two balls to finish with five for 30 after Matt Prior had threatened to lead England to an improbable victory with a dashing 73.

South Africa, who won the first Test at The Oval by an innings and 12 runs before the

second Test at a draw at Headingley, only had to avoid defeat at Lord's to replace England at the top of the International Cricket Council's world Test rankings.

History was against England as the most they had ever made in the fourth innings to win a Test was the 332 for seven they posted against Australia at Melbourne back in 1928/29.

Seam bowler Philander had removed England captain Andrew Strauss, in his 100th Test, and fellow left-handed opener Alastair Cook late Sunday to reduce the hosts to 16 for two at the fourth day's close.

Philander struck again early Monday when he had Ian Bell caught, at the second attempt, for his overnight score of four by

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Laxman bids adieu



AFP, Hyderabad

Veteran Indian batsman Vangipurappu Venkata Sai Laxman announced his retirement from international cricket on Saturday, saying it was time to make way for the next generation.

"I am retiring with immediate effect. I think this is the right time to move on," the stylish middle-order batsman, who turns 38 in November, told reporters in his home city of Hyderabad.

"I have always kept the country's success ahead of personal aspirations. I think it is time to give youngsters a chance at



VVS LAXMAN

home ahead of a tough season.

Laxman, better known by his initials VVS, played 134 Tests since his debut in 1996, scoring 8,781 runs at an average of 45.97 with 17 centuries and 56 fifties.

He also scored 2,338 runs in 86 one-day internationals with six hundreds, but had not been part of India's limited-overs squad since 2006.

Laxman decided to call it a day even though he was included in the Indian squad for the two-Test series against New Zealand starting in front of home fans in Hyderabad on Thursday.

"Till last night I was unable to make up my mind, but in the end I listened to my inner voice and arrived at my decision to retire," he said.

"I informed the chairman of selectors (Krishnamachari Srikkanth) this morning that I am not going to continue playing for India. I also spoke to many of my team-mates. They were surprised that I was retiring before the series.

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Table with 10 columns: Batting & fielding, M, Inns, NO, R, HS, Ave, 100, 50, 4s, 6s, Ct, St. Rows include Tests, ODIs, Twenty20.

Table with 10 columns: Bowling, M, Inns, B, R, Wkts, Ave, Econ, SR, 4w, 5w, 10. Rows include Tests.



South Africa captain Graeme Smith (R) and teammates celebrate with the ICC World Test Mace after usurping England as the number one Test side following their victory in the Lord's Test in London on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP