

## Amla quits deputy role

ANI, Johannesburg

South Africa batsman Hashim Amla has announced his decision to resign from the position of vice captain of the team's one-day and Twenty20 squads following his reluctance to take over the captaincy from AB de Villiers during the ODI series against New Zealand.

Requesting some time to focus on his batting, Amla said that it would be unfair for him to don the vice-captain role if he is uncomfortable about taking over the captaincy from de Villiers, Sport24 reports.

According to Amla, although captaincy has always been an exploratory area for him, after leading three ODIs and a few T20s, he felt that it was time to prepare a potential successor for the skipper role.

He also said that he will continue to be an advisor for the team and will remain active on the field as a senior player.

Explaining his decision to take a break from international T20 games, Amla said that his decision was influenced by the hectic international schedule and added that the break will give him more room to manage his time between the formats more constructively.

Amla was appointed in June 2011 and has since captained the Proteas in two T20Is and three ODIs against Australia, as well as five unofficial T20s against Zimbabwe in de Villiers' absence, the report added. (ANI)

## Rahmatganj held

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka United SC held favourites Rahmatganj MFS to a 0-0 draw in their Premier Bank Championship League match at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Rahmatganj, the former Premier League club, are currently in second position with four points from three matches while Farashganj SC hold the lead with full nine points. Djhaka United are in fourth position with three points.

Uttar Baridhara Club will take on Wari Club in the lone match of the league today at the same venue.

## Late flurry

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five-under-par (139). Bangladesh's other participant, Jamal Hossain Mollah, however could not follow the footsteps of his inspirational compatriot as he failed to make the cut with an aggregate score of three-over-par (147).

The overall lead was held by Kiradech Aphibannrat of Thailand who carded five-under-par (67) to take his tally to 13-under-par (131). The second and third positions were occupied by two Thai players as well -- Chawalit Plaphol and Thanyakon Khrongpha -- both of whom were on 11-under-par (133).

## Bangladesh

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The match will start at 4:30pm Bangladesh time and satellite channel Ten Sports will telecast the match live from the venue.

In the other matches of the day, favourites India will take on China while Ireland will play against Oman.



South Africa batsman Hashim Amla turns the ball off his hips during the 3rd Test match against Pakistan in Centurion yesterday. Amla scored 92. PHOTO: AFP

# Amla, AB drive SA

Cricket

AFP, Centurion

An inexperienced Pakistan pace bowling line-up had South Africa in trouble before AB de Villiers steered the hosts to a respectable total on the first day of the third and final Test at SuperSport Park here on Friday.

De Villiers made an unbeaten 98 as South Africa reached 334 for six.

De Villiers and Hashim Amla, who made a sparkling 92, were the only top-order batsmen to play significant innings against a three-man Pakistan bowling attack with only two Test caps between them.

Rahat Ali and Ehsan Adil, neither of whom had taken a wicket in Test cricket before, were responsible for the first five dismissals as South Africa stumbled to 196 for five.

Left-arm Rahat, playing in his second Test, took three for 95, while new cap Adil, 19, took two for 54. Amla looked set for his 20th Test century before

## U-16 football

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union beat Team BJMC 1-0 while Feni Soccer Club defeated Sheikh Russel KC by the same margin in the Grameenphone U-16 Football Tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Raqibul Islam Dipto's 11th minute strike secured the 1-0 victory for Brothers against Team BJMC. Rassel scored for Feni in the 36th minute to help his side win 1-0 against Sheikh Russel.

## Pink suits

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Were over by January 11, the final of the competition was delayed to accommodate the Bangladesh Premier League T20.

edging a drive against a wide delivery from Rahat to be caught behind by wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed.

He struck 13 fours in a 128-ball innings and shared partnerships of 69 for the third wicket with Faf du Plessis (29) and 79 for the fourth wicket with De Villiers.

With the South Africans missing star all-rounder Jacques Kallis because of a calf injury, De Villiers took over responsibility for batting out the day.

He shared a sixth wicket stand of 52 with Robin Peterson, who made 28 before being run out, and an unbeaten seventh-wicket partnership of 86 with Vernon Philander (45 not out).

De Villiers faced 179 balls and hit 13 fours.

Although they produced wicket-taking deliveries, both Rahat and Adil were inconsistent and sent down enough loose deliveries for South Africa to maintain a scoring rate of close to four runs an over for much of the day.

Off-spinner Saeed Ajmal, the only experienced bowler in the side, was easily the most economical, conceding 70 runs in 26 overs.

Pakistan finished the day a bowler short after Adil limped off with what appeared to be a hamstring strain after sending down just one delivery with the second new ball.

The injury to Jacques Kallis meant a reshuffle of

the South African team. He was replaced by fast-medium bowler Kyle Abbott, 25, who earned his first cap after being called into the squad as cover earlier in the week.

Abbott topped the wicket-takers in the domestic first-class competition, taking 49 wickets for the Dolphins at an average of 15.36.

It was the first time this season that South Africa had gone into a Test match without seven specialist batsmen.

South Africa, who had already clinched the series by winning the first two Tests, had one other injury-enforced change, with Rory Kleinveldt replacing fellow fast bowler Morne Morkel.

Pakistan made three changes, with Imran Farhat replacing opening batsman Nasir Jamshed, while Rahat and Adil came in for Umar Gul and Tanvir Ahmed.

## SCOREBOARD

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings  
Smith c Younis Khan b Ehsan Adil 5  
Peterson lbw b Rahat Ali 10  
Amla c Sarfraz Ahmed b Rahat Ali 92  
Du Plessis c Sarfraz Ahmed b Ehsan Adil 29  
De Villiers not out 98  
Elgar lbw b Rahat Ali 7  
Peterson run out (Mohammad Irfan) 28  
Philander not out 45  
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-11, w-4) 20  
Total: (For 6 wickets in 85 overs) 334  
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-38, 3-107, 4-186, 5-196, 6-248

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Irfan	16.5	3	59	0
Rahat	20	1	95	3
Adil	12.1	2	54	2
Ajmal	26	5	70	0
Younis	3	0	14	0
Hafeez	5	0	24	0

## Need time

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Sentiments: "You need to put more power on the ball since it travels slightly slower. You get a lot more time to face the ball. And when you're fielding the ball travels to you a little slower and at night it's sometimes difficult to spot the ball. I think we'll need a little time to adjust to the ball," said Ashraf. A few other players stated that the pink ball was a lot softer than the white and red ones.

Rokibul however did not think that the pink ball made much of a difference. "The colour was a bit different but that's all. As long as the ball is clean there is no problem. However, while fielding I realised that the ball is a little less bright when you try to shine it," he said.

# Clarke fights Ashwin

Cricket

THE GUARDIAN

Michael Clarke led the fightback for Australia with a wonderfully-crafted century after Ravichandran Ashwin had put India in charge on the opening day of their Test series in Chennai yesterday.

Clarke (103 not out), who was given a major let-off when on 41, sealed his hundred in the final over of the day, but the Australia captain was aided by a fine innings of 68 from the debutant Moisés Henriques, with the pair putting on 151 for the sixth wicket.

That came after Ashwin had single-handedly reduced the tourists to 153 for five and the off-spinner then ended Henriques's stay to end the day with figures of six for 88, while Ravindra Jadeja also picked up the late scalp of Mitchell Starc as Australia finished on 316 for seven.

India began the day by handing Harbhajan Singh his 100th Test appearance as well giving the seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar his debut.

Australia, after winning the toss, got off to a flying start with David Warner and Ed Cowan scoring 50 in the first 10 overs. Warner was dropped in the ninth over, Ashwin's first, when he edged to Virender Sehwag at slip only to see a straightforward chance shelled.

Warner was handed another lifeline when Mahendra Singh Dhoni failed to take a tough stumping chance off Ashwin – a failing he rectified when he whipped the balls off to remove Cowan for

Henriques's partnership was ended late on when the latter was trapped in front after missing a sweep at Ashwin.

## 2nd Test still in Hyderabad

AFP, New Delhi

Hyderabad will host the second Test match between India and Australia as scheduled next week despite twin bombings in the city that killed 14 and wounded dozens, officials said on Friday.

Rajeev Shukla, spokesman for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said government officials had given assurances about security in the wake of Thursday night's deadly attacks.

"I spoke to the (federal) home secretary, who was in Hyderabad, and had discussion with the chief minister and officials of the state government," Shukla, himself a federal minister, told reporters outside parliament.

CA chief executive James Sutherland had earlier said in a statement from Chennai that he expected the Hyderabad Test to go ahead as scheduled.

## SCOREBOARD

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings: Cowan st Dhoni b Ashwin 29, Warner lbw b Ashwin 59, Hughes b Ashwin 9, Watson lbw b Ashwin 28, Clarke not out 103, Wade lbw b Ashwin 12, Henriques lbw b Ashwin 68, Starc b Jadeja 3, Siddle not out 1, Extras: (lb-7) 7, Total: (For 7 wickets in 95 overs) 316, Fall of wickets: 1-64, 2-72, 3-126, 4-131, 5-153, 6-304, 7-307.

## Bowler O M R W

Kumar	11	1	48	0
Sharma	11	2	46	0
Harbhajan	19	1	71	0
Ashwin	30	5	88	6

# Four quicks a 'grave mistake'

Cricket

ANI, Sydney

Former batsman Dean Jones has claimed Australia's decision to play four fast bowlers against India in the first Test in Chennai is a grave mistake, adding if the tourists fail to score 400-plus in their first innings they stand no chance of winning the match.

Jones, Australia's batting hero in the famous tied Test at this very ground in 1986, also questioned the early unveiling of the tourists' XI for the series opener, saying Moises Henriques' debut should have been kept under wraps, News.com.au reports.

Captain Michael Clarke has staunchly defended the selectors' decision to opt for a pace quartet, with Australia sticking to their strengths in a boom-or-bust plan to exploit variable bounce and reverse swing.

Jones believes the Australians could rue naming only one recognized spinner in

Nathan Lyon.

Jones said Clarke says it's no gamble to play four quicks because this is their strength that they are going in with their strength but it's not the right call.

Jones added eleven of the top 12 wicket-takers on this ground are all spinners, so you can't fight what the ground offers, this is what the ground does, it will turn, you want guys to bowl tight and take your catches.

The former batsman added you don't make over 400 runs in the first innings, you are gone on this wicket, you are definitely gone, therefore, so it will come down to the batting.

Jones said a key sign the Chennai pitch will turn sharply is inconsistencies in the colour of the wicket, most notably around the batting crease at both ends.

Jones, who scored 3631 runs from 52 Tests at 46.55, expressed surprise at Australia naming their starting XI two days before the Test.

Meanwhile, Australia has won the toss and elected to bat in the Chennai Test.

## Pistorius gets bail

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He said he grabbed a 9-mm pistol from under his bed and went into the bathroom. He said he fired into the locked door of the toilet, which adjoined the bathroom, in a blind panic in the mistaken belief the intruder was lurking inside.

Witnesses said they heard a gunshots and screams from the athlete's home on an upscale gated community near Pretoria. The community is surrounded by 3-metre-high stone walls and topped with an electric fence.

In a magazine interview a week before her death, published on Friday, Steenkamp, a law graduate and model, spoke about her three-month-old relationship with Pistorius.

"I absolutely adore Oscar. I respect and admire him so much," she told celebrity gossip magazine Heat. "I don't want anything to come in the way of his career."

Police pulled their lead detective off the case on Thursday after it was revealed he himself faces attempted murder charges for shooting at a minibus. He has been replaced by South Africa's top detective.

The arrest of Pistorius last week shocked those who had watched in awe last year as he reached the semi-final of the 400 meters race in the London Olympics.

The impact has been greatest in sports-

mad South Africa, where Pistorius was seen as a rare hero who commanded respect from both black and white people, transcending the racial divides that persist 19 years after the end of apartheid.

## Fanfare on

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unique attachments created an ambience that almost resembled the atmosphere of a packed Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

The stiff competition between the students was accompanied with cheers from the crowd and fire-flares after fours and sixes. The ever-so-involved audience had their share of the fun as well, as a number of them declared 'Catch-fit', an award they received for holding on to the numerous sixes that were smacked into the galleries.

The rules of the game were slightly different from that of a conventional cricket match. A university can be represented by one team consisting of eight players. The matches are eight overs long and a wide is equivalent to two runs.

Of the 32 universities, 16 were in action yesterday. Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, BRAC and AIUB were amongst the institutions who played on the first day.

## Cilic into Memphis Quarters

AFP, Memphis

Top seed Marin Cilic saved three match points en route to a 7-6 (7/2), 3-6, 7-6 (9/7) victory over Igor Sjsling on Thursday to book a quarter-final berth in the US Indoor Tennis Championships.

Croatia's Cilic trailed 4-6 and then 6-7 in the third-set tiebreaker, but won the final three points to take the match from his Dutch foe.

Cilic next faces Japanese fifth seed Kei Nishikori, who beat qualifier Donald Young 6-3, 6-3.

World number 63 Deni Istomin reached his fourth ATP quarter-final of the season, beating Australian veteran Lleyton Hewitt 6-1, 6-2.

Istomin next faces lucky loser Michael Russell, who beat Lukasz Kubot of Poland 6-2, 6-4.

In women's action in this \$1.58 million combined ATP and WTA event, top seed Kirsten Flipkens fell prey in the quarter-finals to the upset bug that saw second-seeded Sofia Arvidsson ousted in the second round.

Seventh-seeded Slovak Magdalena Rybarikova, the winner of this title two years ago, defeated Flipkens 6-7 (11/13), 7-5, 6-3.

In the semi-finals, Rybarikova will take on third-seeded German Sabine Lisicki, who cruised past eighth-seeded Kristina Mladenovic of France 6-3, 6-3.

The other semi-final will pit Switzerland's Stefanie Vogele against Marina Erakovic.

Vogele defeated fourth-seeded Briton Heather Watson 6-1, 6-2, and New Zealand's Erakovic beat American Jamie Hampton 7-5, 6-2.