



PHOTO: AFP

West Indies captain Brian Lara (L) and fellow batsman Runako Morton punch gloves after putting on a century partnership in their ICC Champions Trophy match against Australia at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday.

'Test countries should have dope tests'

AFP, Jaipur

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has urged all Test-playing nations to conduct regular drug tests to make the game better and stronger, a top official said here on Tuesday.

"The current situation is unfortunate, but what we must do is to use it as a springboard to move forward," ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed said, just a day after Pakistani pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif failed a dope test.

"That way, if cricket does have a drug-related problem, and I do not believe it has, we can identify it, deal with it and make sure the game gets stronger as a result."

"Pakistan is one of five of our full members that are already testing their players ... and I would urge those not already doing so to follow suit for the good of the game."

Australia, England, New Zealand, Pakistan and South Africa are already conducting tests, while

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Team first: Younis



AFP, Jaipur

Stand-in Pakistan skipper Younis Khan says he is not interested in captaincy, but only wants to see his team keep defying odds in the ongoing Champions Trophy.

"I am not interested in captaincy," Younis said after leading his doping-hit side to a remarkable win over India in Sri Lanka in their opening Group B match here on Tuesday night.

"This was Sri Lanka's first defeat after 10 successive victories in one-day internationals."

"(Long-term) captaincy is not on my mind. I would like him (Inzamam-ul-Haq) to come back and handle it. We missed Inzamam a lot and spoke a lot about him, about his captaincy and professionalism," said Younis.

Younis replaced Inzamam, who was banned for four one-dayers for

bringing the game into disrepute over his side forfeiting The Oval Test against England in August while protesting a penalty for alleged ball-tampering.

But Younis stepped down, apparently over the team's selection for the Champions Trophy, saying he was not a "dummy" captain. He was reinstated on the day of his team's departure for India.

Pakistan had not bowled a single ball in the tournament when the news came that his key fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif failed dope tests and were returning home.

"We wanted to forget pressure," said Younis.

"One day before the game we got a jolt, but we only wanted to play good cricket. Winning or losing was not important, all I wanted my boys to do was to play good cricket. And we did."

Pakistan hardly missed Akhtar and Asif as all-rounder Abdul Razzaq gave a superb exhibition of seam bowling to restrict Sri Lanka to 253 on a good batting track. He finished with 4-50.

Razzaq himself completed the job under lights, smashing a rapidfire 24-ball 38 not out to steer his team home with 11 deliveries to spare.

"We've had a lot of fun over the last week," said Younis.

"We played hard, practised hard and had some competitive games among ourselves. What I could not do as a youngster, I wanted my boys to do. I encouraged them to see movies, to have fun."

"There was definitely a bit of pressure. But I don't normally put myself under pressure. If we had lost, people would have got a chance to say things against us but the boys stood together."

Younis was all praise for Razzaq, who was named man-of-the-match.

"I knew seniors in the team like me, Mohammad Yousuf and Razzaq, needed to take charge. Razzaq is very good with the old

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Really unpredictable



BISHWAJIT ROY from Jaipur

What happened in the last two days in the Pink City about cricket was an amazing experience.

It was none but the unpredictable Pakistan who staged the most exciting drama, both for the wrong and right reasons in the ICC Champions Trophy.

The depleted Pakistan team's astonishing four-wicket victory against high-flying Sri Lanka at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Tuesday not only relieved the crisis-hit side but also injected life into the high-profile tournament.

The cricket lovers in the country finally got the flavour and excitement of limited-over cricket after some dull and one-sided encounters

as Pakistan chased down a 254-run target in a nerve-wrecking day-nighter. They scored 255 for six with eleven balls to spare in reply to Sri Lanka's 253 all out in 49.2 overs.

With two big religious festivals -- Diwali for Hindus and Eid-ul-Fitr for Muslims -- round the corner, the locals went on shopping spree and making travel plans to enjoy the fiesta as cricket apparently took a backseat. But the fever has returned, thanks to Pakistan's sparkling performance.

Not only the media but also common people came to realise that it was only possible for an unpredictable team like Pakistan to stage such kind of splendid comeback -- a hallmark of their cricket history -- from a precarious position.

"I am not a fan of Pakistan cricket team but so what? I salute them for what they did yesterday. Can you imagine any other team perform such an excellent recovery?" asked an excited businessman.

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Acme in last four

SPORTS REPORTER



Acme Laboratories stormed into the semifinals of the Grameen-Phone Corporate Cricket League as Group A champions with a 43-run win over StarTel at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The match marked joining of the top cricketers of country to the tournament with national captain Habibul Bashar and Mohammad Rafique taking field for Acme, who finished their group phase with nine points from five games.

StarTel finished with four points. Channel F2 handed a 32-run defeat on Chittagong Port Authority in a rain-affected match while the match between holders Beximco and Syfang Fan was abandoned

due to wet ground at BKSP. Group B leaders Partex are the only other side to have confirmed a place in the last four.

Acme skipper Bashar won the toss and elected to bat but he reserved the last slot for himself, wishing not to take the bat in hands. His side did him a favour as their ninth wicket fell in the last ball of the stipulated 50th over with 250 runs on board. He, however, was on the field while Rafique was in full action.

Man-of-the-match Marshall Ayub was the top scorer with 64 while Pakistani batsman Zahoor Elahi notched 52.

Ahsanullah Hassan with 3-33 was the pick of StarTel attack while fellow left-arm spinner Mohammad Isam bagged 2-54.

StarTel, who failed to reach a paltry 107-run target in their previous match, batted well but got as far as 207-8 in 50 overs. Nayeem Ahmed smashed 54 while former national paceman Hasibul Hossain

picked 3-40. At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, a delayed start due to overnight rain allowed only 28 overs per side and there were little fireworks on a difficult wicket.

Channel F2 were all out for 78 but successfully defended the low total when they shot out the Chittagong outfit for only 46 with man-of-the-match Shahin Azad grabbing five wickets for seven runs. Kangkan was also on fire taking 4-17.

SCORES IN BRIEF
Acme 250-9 in 50 overs (Marshall 64, Zahoor 52, Ahsanullah 3-33); StarTel 207-8 in 50 overs (Nayeem 54, Hasibul 3-40).
Channel F2: 78 all out in 21.4 overs (Zahid 18, Shaown 16, Imam 3-15, Murad 3-10); Chittagong PA: 46 all out in 20.4 overs (Sabuj 22 n.o., Shahin 5-7, Kangkan 4-17).

Asif, Shoeb go to Bangkok today

SPORTS REPORTER

Commonwealth and South Asian Games gold medalist Asif Hossain Khan and fellow shooter Shoebuzzaman will leave Dhaka for Bangkok today for better treatment.

The two national shooters were severely injured on October 2 when police brutally assaulted them along with three others at the National Shooting Complex and again physically tortured them at the Gulshan Police Station.

The police also filed a case against the five, who were released on bail and have been receiving treatment at the Metropolitan Hospital since then. The police claimed that the shooters and National Shooting Federation (NSF) employees had attacked members of the law enforcing agency.

The NSF also filed a case against the five.

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WINDIES-AUSSIE SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the West Indies innings in the Champions Trophy Group A match against Australia at the Brabourne Stadium on Wednesday:

WEST INDIES	
Hinds b Ponting b Bracken	1
Gayle c Gilchrist b Watson	24
Smith c Hogg b Lee	8
Sarwan lbw b Clarke	21
Morton not out	90
Lara c Symonds b McGrath	71
Baugh c Ponting b Bracken	13
Samuels not out	1
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-3)	5
Total: (For six wickets in 50 overs) 234	
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-25, 3-47, 4-63, 5-200, 6-233.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	8	0	45	1
Bracken	10	1	42	2
McGrath	8	0	42	1
Watson	8	0	34	1
Clarke	5	0	18	1
Symonds	8	0	35	0
Hogg	3	0	17	0
Toss: West Indies				

Mariners sink MSC

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club sunk Mohammedan Sporting Club's title hopes in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Hockey League when they edged their neighbours 2-1 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Pakistani recruit Arshad set the opener for Prashanta Kumar and slotted the match winner either side of the break to ensure Mariners' fourth win in as many games and kept their chances alive in the race with a maximum 12 points.

Ariful Haque Prince kept Mohammedan in the game with a quick equaliser but the local giants stumbled to their first defeat of the

season and stuck to ten points with three wins and a draw in five outings.

Mohammedan had won their first meeting of the season against Mariners on way to lift the Club Cup trophy but fell back just five minutes after start.

Defender Biplab's hasty clearance just outside their area proved costly as Arshad, playing his first match in Dhaka, intercepted and found Prashanta inside the area. The Mariners forward kept his cool and hit the ball past a hapless Mahubullah Shakil under the bar to separate the two sides.

The black and whites, however, roared back three minutes later through prolific striker Prince. It was another Pakistani -- midfielder Selim Khalid -- behind the goal with a through deep from the middle and

Prince made no mistake to place the ball past an advancing goalkeeper Jahangir.

The two sides fought equally for possession but Mariners looked more defensive, successfully cutting the link between the Mohammedan midfield and attack. They also switched to counter attacks quickly and finally, unsettled the rival defence near the hour mark.

And two Pakistanis combined in the middle to create the winner when Arshad and Farhan exchanged passes between them to get behind the Mohammedan backline in the 57th minute with Arshad giving final touch to an excellent move.



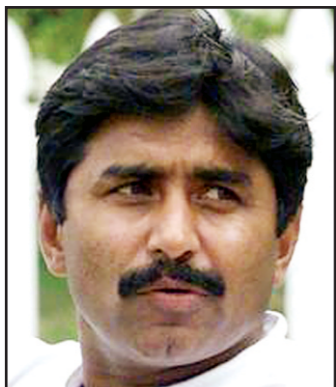
PHOTO: STAR

Action from the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match between Mohammedan Sporting and Mariners at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.



Did U Know?

Badminton made its first appearance as a full-medal Olympic sport at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.



Javed Miandad

(Pakistan cricket legend)
"I am shocked to hear about this, this is a huge blow to Pakistan cricket."
On the news that Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif failed dope tests.



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