SPÖRT

of WC not

BBC ONLINE, undated

chairman Nasim Ashraf says India is not certain to host the 2011 World Cup final, despite claims to the

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced several times that it will host the tournament's final as well as 22

matches or the venue for the final is done as yet," said Ashraf.

"We are holding a joint meeting on December 11 to discuss these

the tournament along with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, but Ashraf said the schedule still had to be finalised.

sort out these things," added

tation with the other boards." Pakistan and India jointly hosted

And in 1996 they were joined by Sri Lanka in organising the World Cup, with the final held in Lahore.

PCB protests Kaul claims

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan has asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) to investigate allegations made by an Indian security officer about the behaviour of Pakistani players during the Champions trophy.

The Indian security officer of the Pakistan team in the tournament, Anil Kaul, made allegations to Indian television channels that fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar slapped coach Bob Woolmer on the team bus in Jaipur.

behaviour by Shoaib and other

We have sent our protest in writing to the ICC as the Indian board has distanced itself from Kaul's appointment," Saleem Altaf, the PCB's director of cricket operations, told Reuters on Sunday.

gate the matter and take some action against this fellow based on their findings," Altaf said.

Hussain slates Harmison

Former England captain Nasser Hussain has flayed Steve Harmison for his recent lacklustre perforonly himself to blame and should

blame. He needs to have a look at the amount of bowling he has put in and needs to realise that when he is not bowling well he needs to put in twice the effort," Hussain said on

tempo with the Ashes opener in Brisbane due in 11 days.

Harmison did not play in England's tour opening debacle against the Prime Minister's XI on Friday but gets his chance to impress in a three-day game against New South Wales which began on

Christmas could

which will keep him out of England's friendly trip to Holland in

The United manager will clearly hope that the long-serving Neville is soon fit again and ready to take his place in a defence that is bringing back memories of the most

Peter Schmeichel wasn't too happy with his defence that they let in a

couple of those "Edwin van der Sar is exactly the same, on at his defenders all the time about their concentration and defending properly. We have

certainly improved in that depart-Hughes certainly agreed with that assessment and believed his team

could well have lost to the Premiership's next championship "They're more dynamic this year, their play and rotational

movement is as good as it has been for years and they have the bit between the teeth." said the former United forward.

"They've got a decent enough squad and will go close. We couldn't have done much more today (Sunday) and asked more questions of United than most teams have this season.'



New South Wales batsman Phil Jaques (L) drives the ball back past England bowler Matthew Hoggard who takes evasive action during the first day of their three-day tour match in Sydney on Sunday.

England and NSW have agreed to

play 14 players during the three-day

match -- which will not have first-class

status -- but only 11 players a side can

Scoreboard at the close of the opening

day of the three-day tour match

between New South Wales and

England at the Sydney Cricket Ground

NEW SOUTH WALES: First innings

325 for 5 in 90 overs (Jaques 107,

Cowan 26, Katich 68, Clarke 50, Smith

Drogba delights

Newcastle remained mired in the

drop zone after riding their luck to

secure a point in a goalless draw at

Manchester City, who squandered a

series of chances to win an uninspir-

Pakistan cricket chief Nasim

The issue came up after the

Ashraf said recently that the board

would consider an appeal by Malik

International Cricket Council's

executive board this month lifted a

life ban on former Pakistan fast

Malik visited the board offices on

Sunday to meet Ashraf. "I had to

come to find out if it is possible for

me to submit an appeal with the

board. I have always pleaded I am

Nasim Ashraf, the chairman of

the board said he had yet to meet

Malik and would than see what

could be done in case he wants to

cases of Malik and Rehman were

mitting perjury and a court ordered

us to consider his appeal. In Malik's

Another board official said the

"Rehman was banned for com-

innocent." Malik told reporters.

SCORES IN BRIEF

not out 36; Giles 2-46)

FROM PAGE 20

PCB ignores Malik

against his ban.

file an appeal

bowler Ataur Rehman.

Phil a thorn

bowled Ed Cowan for 26 in his fifth

Katich -- who had a life on 14 when Marcus Trescothick put down a straight-forward chance at first slip off Andrew Flintoff -- was out to a splendid outfield running catch by Kevin Pietersen

Katich lofted Giles to deep midwicket, where Pietersen took a tumbling catch just inside the boundary rope. Katich batted for 194 minutes with six fours. Anderson, who was knocked about

early, bowled better in his second spell with the wicket of Aaron O'Brien for six. caught at first slip by Trescothick.

Clarke, who played in last year's Ashes series, looked composed in his knock of 50 before he edged Panesar to Trescothick at slip ending his 132minute stay at the crease with six Flintoff got more encouragement in

his comeback from ankle surgery to get through 15 overs without problems Left-arm spinner Panesar, under-

used in Canberra where he bowled just three overs, had an extended run Sunday, sending down 18 overs. He got a late reward with Clarke's wicket

Cricket

country.

discussed.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

has overlooked former captain

Salim Malik, who is serving a life ban

for match-fixing, for a seminar to

discuss the state of the game in the

former captains and players to the

meeting on November 17 in which

preparations and strategy for next

year's World Cup and the general

state of Pakistani cricket will be

list," an official said on Sunday.

"No. Malik is not on the invitees'

Malik was banned life for his

alleged role in cricket's match-fixing

scandal in 2000, the third interna-

tional player to suffer this fate along

with former India captain

Mohammad Azharuddin and late

South African skipper Hansie

The PCB has invited around 30

reality

BBC ONLINE, undated

Aussie batsman Phil Jaques knows his Test chances are bleak despite his two tons in three days against England.

Opener Jaques hit 11 fours and two sixes in his 107, for New South Wales, just 48 hours after his 112 for the Prime Minister's XI in Canberra.

However, Matthew Hayden and Justin Langer are established at the top of the Test order and Jaques said: "The two guys that are there are fantastic players.

"I'm expecting the selectors will go with those two." Born in Sydney to English parents,

Jaques is a familiar figure in county cricket, where he has played for Northants, Yorkshire and Worcestershire

As a British passport-holder he qualified as a domestic player with Northants before deciding late in 2003 that did not want to play for England because "my heart says Australia". He has made the most of limited

case he was banned for other rea-

sons and his appeal is still pending

with the Supreme Court," the official

captains Imran Khan, Asif Igbal,

Mushtag Mohammad and Wasim

in an uneasy position at a news

conference on Sunday when it was

pointed out that the name of former

Pakistan captain Javed Miandad, a

strong critic of the board who played

124 Tests, was missing from the list.

His name must not have been

mentioned inadvertently. I have

spoken to him myself and he is

A official confirmed letters were

being sent to Miandad and another

former skipper, Hanif Mohammad

whose name had also not been

"I think it is a mistake that is all

Akram to the seminar.

coming," Ashraf said.

included in the list.

The board has invited former

Chairman Ashraf found himself

Glenn Roeder's side are now without a win in eight Premiership opportunities so far, hitting 94 -- the games and have failed to score in best by an Australia one-day debutant their last four league outings. City - against South Africa and 66 in his remain unbeaten at home this second Test, against Bangladesh

Jaques talks

The keys were presented by Sports Minister Jeevan Kumaratunga along with former cricket captains Sanath Jayasuriya and Marvan Atapattu, both of whom were born in Matara, a fishing town, and have the villages named after

Sanath Jayasuriya village comprises 50 houses while Marvan Atapattu village has 44 houses.

faces of those people. They have gone through a lot of hardship with some still living in refugee camps, Jayasuriya told AFP.

he said. "I thank all cricketers and non-cricketers in New Zealand, Australia and England for their generosity.' The Melbourne Cricket Ground hosted a charity game in January

2005 to raise funds, with stars such as Brian Lara, Sachin Tendulkar, Inzamam ul Haq, Shane Warne and Ricky Ponting playing in the match. Other games were organised in

A complete house in either of the room, two bedrooms and a kitchen.

Streets have been named after former and present cricketers including Steve Waugh, Shane

PM appeases

PTI, Melbourne

Amid concerns that Monty Panesar could face racial abuse in the upcoming Ashes series, Australian Prime Minister John Howard has assured the England spinner that there was nothing to be afraid of.

"I think it (crowd comments) will be vigorous but in the very best of humour," Howard was guoted as saying by the local media on Sunday.

While England remains hopeful Panesar will not be racially abused by Australian crowds this summer. South African skipper Graeme Smith said he feared Panesar was "going to cop an unbelievable amount of abuse" during the Ashes

The first Sikh to play cricket for England, Panesar has spent time with team psychologist Steve Bull discussing how to deal with Australian crowds. England vice-captain Andrew

Strauss has said he knew of no problems and expected tough new penalties to deter potential offend-

"I am sure they will do," he said on Saturday But Smith has warned of the

"I was chatting to some of our team just the other day and we all shivered at the prospect of what he

nature, but our own experience obviously leaves us with doubts.

him fielding on the boundary."

Yousuf shows sympathy for Winning start for Federer

Tennis

points in a second-set tie-breaker

before coming through 6-4, 6-7 (9-

week's Paris Masters citing fatigue,

committed a string of unforced

errors in a rusty first set as the

tournament kicked off with a re-run

But the Swiss machine soon

"This is the defending cham-

clicked into gear, producing some

vintage moments as Nalbandian

pion, I knew it was going to be

tough." Federer said. "He was just a

better player in the beginning, thank

the first match in a round robin so

bidding to become the first player to

win three Masters Cup titles and the first man since Pete Sampras to win

three year-ending championships. He was broken in the third game

before breaking back for 3-3, as

Nalbandian became the first

Masters Cup player to challenge a

line-call using the new "Hawkeye"

video technology and was over-

But the Argentine found a fore-

hand return to break and was gifted

the first set by Federer's only dou-

It was a different story in the

second set as Federer broke imme-

diately and thrilled the Qi Zhong

Stadium crowd with some brilliant

The Swiss took the fourth game

with a quick interchange at the net,

and charged from behind the base-

line to chase down a drop shot as

converted his first set point when

After holding to love, Federer

The game was up for

Nalbandian when the Argentine

world number seven was broken

With the error count ticking higher.

Nalbandian finally won a game for 5-1

but then handed the Swiss the first of

three match points as he dumped a

opening round-robin match to

Federer before coming from behind

to beat the hobbling Swiss in the

Nalbandian also lost last year's

tennis to level it in 28 minutes.

ble-fault of the match.

he broke again for 4-1.

Nalbandian found the net.

twice in the deciding set.

forehand into the net.

"It's always very important to win

The 2003 and 2004 champion is

God I was able to turn it around.

this is a very good start for me."

of the classic 2005 final.

imploded.

Earlier Federer, who missed last

AFP, Shanghai Pakistan's prolific batsman Mohammad Yousuf on Sunday had World number one Roger Federer kind words for bowlers, whom he came from a set down to demolish has been punishing all through the defending champion David year, saying they deserved better Nalbandian 3-6, 6-1, 6-1, while Andy Roddick won a tight match "I think world over, wickets in with Ivan Ljubicic as the Masters

general are flat and Test cricket has Cup opened on Sunday. become a batsmen-dominated The fired-up Roddick, under the game," said Yousuf. watchful eye of mentor Jimmy He said he had seen flat wickets Connors, squandered two match

since making his debut in South Africa eight years ago. "I've been seeing flat wickets for the last 10 years or so and there's

sympathy for

bowlers

AFP, Lahore

wickets.

little help for the bowlers," said Yousuf, whose century on Sunday was his sixth this year. "It doesn't mean that lot of grass should be left on the wicket where it

becomes impossible for batsmen to play strokes, but at least there should be some bounce that could encourage the bowlers," he said. He praised the West Indian

bowlers despite their relative lack of success on a flat Gaddafi Stadium "It was simply unplayable and

any team in the world could have struggled there," said the 32-yearold batsman

SLC's noble donation

AFP, Matara

Sri Lanka Cricket handed over the keys to 94 houses to victims of the devastating December 2004 tsunami in the southern town of Matara on Saturday

The Sri Lankan association, together with World Vision, constructed two villages for some of the victims of Sri Lanka's biggest natural disaster.

"It was great to see relief on the

"It gives me great pleasure to have contributed to a worthy cause,

England and New Zealand.

two villages consists of a living Both villages also have playgrounds to encourage children to play sports.

Warne and Martin Crowe.

Panesar

campaign

taunts which he feels await

could be in for," Smith said. "He is going to cop an unbelievable amount of abuse. I sincerely hope for everyone's sake, but especially his, that it isn't of a racist

"Hopefully Monty can become a bit of a folk hero. I can see how that might happen. (But) I dread to think of

final of the elite, season-ending

tournament. "I'm still in the fight, nothing is finished today." Nalbandian said.

> "I have to win the next two matches and I know if I play well I can beat them. I have to work a little bit more." In Sunday's second Red Group

> match Roddick, resurgent under Connors' tutelage, harangued the umpire in the style of John McEnroe as he emerged from two closefought sets to take the third with The combustible American drew

> whistles from the crowd as he lambasted umpire Mohamed Lahyani after a line judge called a Ljubicic serve out before changing

"I wondered if we could replay

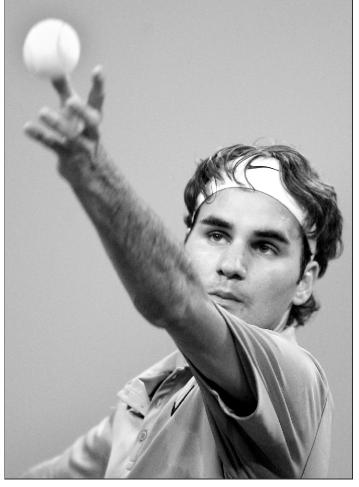
ing at himself after putting a fore-hand long, broke the fading Ljubicic twice before serving out.

"I avoided the big blow-up today. which I was flirting with. I always feel when I'm playing well I'm able to bring it back when I need to and

use it," Roddick said. "I hear that everybody here was calling this group the 'Group of Death' but the way I see it only two players are dying, so I don't want to

be one of them.' It was Roddick's first match since aggravating a foot injury at last month's Madrid Masters, and stretches his record against the oatian to 6-3.

Ljubicic was also returning to competition after suffering an allergic reaction to prescription



Swiss world number one Roger Federer is a picture of concentration as he prepares to serve during his match against Argentina's David Nalbaldian at the Tennis Masters Cup in Shanghai on Sunday.

the point. My argument wasn't with Hawkeye or with the call at all," he Roddick, who missed last year's

let slip two match points as he lost the second-set tie-break 9-11.

after five deuces to save for 2-1.

tournament with a back injury, then

But he got lucky with a net cord

The world number five, scream-

"I was in bed for 17 days," he said. "I couldn't move, I couldn't run. After 2-1 in the third set I was dead.

World number two Rafael Nadal will play James Blake in Monday's Gold Group opener while Russia's Nikolay Davydenko takes on Tommy Robredo.

Maria delighted with season

Tennis

Russian pin-up Maria Sharapova said she was delighted with her season despite seeing it ended in the WTA Championships semi-finals

here against Justine Henin-

That defeat also meant the US Open champion missed out on the chance to end the season as the world number one, a position that will be held by her conqueror when the end-of-year rankings are published next week.

But having matched her best season in winning five titles, including a Grand Slam, and having doubled her career prize money, Sharapova is understandably pleased with the way this season progressed, even if her last match was a disappointment, losing 6-2, 7-6 (7/5).

"I had a bad day. I struggled to concentrate for more than two points at a time. I don't know why," said the

"I was a bit tired but I don't think

that was decisive. It was just one of Sharapova even shrugged off the

pointed I lost, that's all.

rankings top spot and paid tribute to "Not being number one is not really a disappointment. I'm disap-

disappointment of missing out on the

"Justine deserves to finish the season as number one. She was a finalist in all the Grand Slams, she was very consistent.

"I've had a fantastic year. I'm really

pleased with the way I played these last few weeks. I hope to continue like that in 2007." Sharapova was on a 19-match winning run before Henin-Hardenne

ended it. and won three titles during that spell, including the US Open. But she came up short in her guest to regain the WTA Championships

crown she won in 2004, despite looking the form player in the group While Sharapova is looking forward to bigger and better things in

the future, Belgium's Kim Clijsters is

starting to think about her life away

To bat: Akmal, Razzaq, Gul, Nazir,

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-45, 3-133, 4-

34

18

After losing her epic semi-final to Amelie Mauresmo on Saturday, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, Cliisters repeated her desire to retire at the end of next season. Injuries, particularly to her wrist,

have taken their toll on the 23-year-"I enjoyed playing tennis this week but it's been a very frustrating year,"

"And there were definitely days and weeks even where I wanted to stop (my career) already. "Never say never but I'm going to

stop after next season. This is something that I've thought about for a long "It's been hard. My wrist will always be the weakest part of my

body. I'll be very happy to not have to do all that other stuff anymore. "I would love to start a family

There's lot of things I want to do. I enjoy working with kids. We'll see." In April Clijsters, who was once engaged to Australian tennis star

Lleyton Hewitt, announced her engagement to American basketball player Brian Lynch.

Yousuf steadies Pakistan

140.

Bowle

Taylor

Bravo

Gayle

Edwards

Collymore 16

Mohammed 12

Malik, who missed Pakistan's Test series in England due to an elbow injury, once again proved his allround abilities, hitting eight boundaries and a six during his fifth Test half West Indies had revived their

chances in the first session but lost

their way through some sloppy

fielding and inaccurate bowling.

Younis c Sarwan b Edwards

Extras: (b-4, lb-4, nb-6, w-6)

Total: (For four wkts in 91 overs)265

Inzamam b Mohammed

Yousuf not out

Malik not out

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the second day of the opening Test between Pakistan and the West Indies at the Gadaff Stadium in Lahore on Sunday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 206 (Lara 61: Gul 5-65, Nazir 3-42) PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 39-1) Hafeez Ibw b Taylor Farhat Ibw b Taylor

107

61

Umpires: Simon Taufel (AUS), Asoka de Silva (SRI)

Totti compounds

minute, when Pazzini beat visiting keeper Alex Calderoni from close

He grabbed his second on the break in stoppage time to give Fiorentina, who received a 15-point penalty for their part in the matchfixing scandal, three points.

Mauresmo **FROM PAGE 20**

the third time but lost the US Open to Sharapova

Mauresmo showed that she is gaining in confidence by the quality of her game against Clijsters who nevertheless had a strong finish to her season after three months on the sidelines with a wrist injury.

The Frenchwoman's perfor-

mance was in stark contrast from her first match this week which she lost to Nadia Petrova in straight sets after three weeks out with a shoul-She coasted through the first set against a sluggish Clijsters, and

came back from a break in the third set and six double faults to win four games in a row to take the tie. "My game got better and better as the match went on. I didn't let

anything go and am proud of the

way I hung in there," said Mauresmo. If she holds her title on Sunday she will finish the year second in the

world behind Henin-Hardenne, if she loses she will be third behind Sharapova

'Final's venue yet fixed'

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)

group matches. "I don't think the allotment of

India and Pakistan are hosting

"The meeting has been called to

"But we are confident everything will be finalised amicably in consul-

the 1987 World Cup with the final in

He also alleged other rude

"We have asked them to investi-

mances saying the fast bowler had

work harder in his preparation. "Steve has only got himself to

He said Harmison must lift his

FROM PAGE 20 the recurrence of a calf complaint

effective defensive units of Ferguson's reign. 'If we go back to the '95 season we only conceded 18 goals the whole year." said Ferguson, "And

Blackburn manager Mark England in the recent Champions'

Jones over Read: Fletcher Cricket

said Sunday

Geraint Jones has ousted Chris Read as England's preferred wicketkeeper for this month's opening Ashes cricket Test against Australia, coach Duncan Fletcher

Read, the Nottinghamshire gloveman, was left out of England's 14-man team for the latest threeday tour game against New South Wales here Sunday, giving Jones, the England keeper in last year's Ashes series, the inside running on Read was behind the stumps for

being recalled to the Test side for the last two home Tests against Pakistan in August. At stumps, NSW, after winning the toss, were 325 for five with Test opener-in-waiting Phil Jaques

Trophy tournament in India, after

topscoring with 107, his second consecutive century against the tourists in three days. England and NSW have agreed to play 14 players during the threeday match -- which will not have

first-class status -- but only 11

Sunday's play why tour selectors were siding with Jones, who was dropped for Read after playing a Test against Sri Lanka at Lord's last

"We just think that he (Jones)

handles the pressure better and

technically we think he is a better

batter out here on these wickets and

particularly in Test match cricket," Fletcher told reporters. "Those innings of Read's in the Champions' Trophy in India did influence us to some degree, we always felt he would be a better batter in one-day cricket and we took that into consideration.

innings in England, he's had five knocks there in the one-dayers and the Test matches and we just believe, and it's a very difficult decision, that Jones will do a better Fletcher also revealed that James Anderson was ahead of

Sajid Mahmood for a paceman's

spot in the November 23 first Test

after Mahmood played no part in

"But there were also a few

Sunday's play. "We respect and speak highly of him (Mahmood) but we are concerned about his consistency," Fletcher said. "And that's one thing when we go Anderson is a more consistent bowler and we know what we can get out of Jimmy on a day-to-day basis, and that's what we are look ing for at this stage. Fletcher said both players have

taken their demotions hard, but that

he expected them to take the blow

on the chin and keep themselves in

the frame for a Test recall if need

"Their mood is the same as any

player you leave out of an England side, they take it pretty hard and in some ways it's nice to see that," Fletcher said. "I would hate to speak to individuals who seem quite happy about

Fletcher said the choice between

Monty Panesar and Ashley Giles for

being left out.

the spinner's role was an onerous decision. "From the spin bowling point of view it's going to be a difficult decision and we are looking at playing two spinners in most of the Tests ...,

possible, especially Ashley (Giles) who hasn't bowled for a year, just about, and it's crucial that he gets enough overs under his belt as

"We have to give those two

individuals as much bowling as