

PCB happy with WC deal

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan may have lost out on the chance to host the 2011 World Cup final to India but they are pleased with the decision to have the headquarters of the central organising committee based in Lahore.

Dr. Naseem Ashraf, Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, said on Friday he was happy that the preparations for the 2011 World Cup would be made from Lahore.

The PCB headquarters is also based in the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

"The fact that three other hosts of the World Cup have decided to have their central organising headquarters in Lahore shows the amount of confidence they have in Pakistan cricket and its administration. It is an example of Pakistan cricket's credibility abroad," Ashraf said.

"Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh was given joint hosting rights of the 2011 World Cup by the International Cricket Council earlier this year in April.

"We are satisfied with the way the matches have been distributed," he said.

Chess team

FROM PAGE 21
place by virtue of their higher match points although finishing level with Philippines on 14.5 points. They beat Bahrain, Japan, UAE and Syria, drew with bronze medallist Iran and Philippines and lost to Turkmenistan, Indonesia and China.

Among the three Bangladeshis, Rajib who remained undefeated in the last six rounds, won three games, drew five and lost only one. Reefat did not have fine time though, winning three and losing five while 17-year-old Liza had the most impressive show with five wins and one draw.

Kazakhstan and Indonesia finished on 16 points, one point ahead of hosts Qatar who had included a Chinese WGM in a bid to win a chess medal but in vain.

Uzbekistan and Mongolia both followed Bangladesh closely in the table with 14 points.

MEDALS TABLE

Nation	16s	25s	32s	Total
China	58	53	82	193
S Korea	58	71	77	198
Japan	23	19	43	85
Kazakhstan	13	15	26	54
Thailand	11	15	22	48
Iran	11	14	24	49
Uzbekistan	11	14	24	49
India	10	18	26	54
Qatar	9	12	11	31
Taipei	9	10	27	46
Malaysia	8	17	17	42
Singapore	7	12	27	44
Saudi Arabia	8	6	14	20
Bahrain	7	10	4	21
Hong Kong	6	12	10	28
North Korea	6	9	16	31
Kuwait	6	5	2	13
Philippines	4	6	9	19
Vietnam	3	13	7	23
Emirates	3	4	3	10
Mongolia	2	5	8	15
Indonesia	2	3	15	20
Syria	2	1	3	6
Tajikistan	2	0	2	4
Jordan	1	3	4	8
Lebanon	1	0	2	3
Myanmar	0	4	7	11
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	6	8
Iraq	0	2	1	2
Macau	0	1	6	7
Pakistan	0	1	3	4
Sri Lanka	0	1	2	3
Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
Lao	0	1	0	1
Nepal	0	0	3	3
Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
Bangladesh	0	0	1	1
Yemen	0	0	1	1



Did U Know?

Monty Panesar of England took 5 for 92 in the first innings of the third Ashes Test against Australia at the WACA Ground. It was the third time that he has taken five wickets or more in an innings, first against Australia.



Lindsay Davenport

(American tennis star)
"I hate the word 'retirement' but this season was such a struggle physically for me and I can't imagine playing again."



Man-of-the-match Sakib Al Hasan (L) receives his award from chairman of AKTEL Salahuddin Kasem Khan after the end of the first one-day international against Scotland in Chittagong yesterday.

A day to remember

FROM PAGE 21
no Test matches in 14 months for Bangladesh, which is very unfortunate for Bangladesh cricket as well as its cricketers.

"If we had played some more Test matches this year then that would have helped Bangladesh and would have been beneficial for the players."

Mashrafe, however, was unaware of his achievement. "I thought I needed one more wicket to get the record, but when I returned in the dressing room I was

told that I have done it."

"It is quite difficult (on home pitches) but there is no pressure at all. I always enjoy playing in front of our crowd no matter what kind of pitches are on offer," said Mashrafe who rated his 6-23 against Kenya back in August as his best effort.

"If there were no injuries then I might have bowled faster only. I might not have learnt the control in line and length.

"What has happened in the past

is over. I am happy with the present and looking ahead to the future," concluded the young bowler who now joined the likes of Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Alan Donald as the top wicket-takers in a calendar year.

For Nafees, he has West Indies' dasher Chris Gayle and the Sri Lankan trio of Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardena and Sanath Jayasuriya ahead of him and must now look to flourish in the years to come.

MASHRAFE ON TOP

Following are the top run-scorers and wicket-takers in the year 2006, that features Tigers batsman Shahriar Nafees and bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza respectively:

Batsmen	M	I	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100	50
C Gayle (WI)	31	31	1210	133*	43.2	83.9	4	4
K Sangakkara (SL)	34	31	1208	109	43.1	79.5	1	11
M Jayawardena (SL)	34	32	1147	126*	40.9	88.0	2	8
S Jayasuriya (SL)	24	23	1041	157	47.3	105.9	4	2
S Nafees (BD)	27	27	1009	123*	42.0	71.0	3	4

Bowlers	M	W	Avg	Best	5w	SR	Eco
M Mortaza (BD)	26	47	20.51	6-26	1	29.0	4.2
N Bracken (AUS)	23	46	18.82	5-67	1	25.3	4.4
B Lee (AUS)	26	44	24.88	5-22	2	31.5	4.7
A Razzak (PAK)	25	41	19.14	5-33	1	32.3	3.5
J Taylor (WI)	24	39	24.51	4-24	0	30.3	4.8

Tigers too good for Scots

FROM PAGE 21
was adjudged the man of the match for his all-round performance as he scored unbeaten 20 off 25 balls in addition to economic figures of 1-13 in 10 overs.

"Yes, I was surprised a bit because Rajib (Shahadat Hossain) and Mashrafe bowled very well at the start and made the game ours. For that I did not think that I would get that prize," said the young all-rounder, who got the prize for the first time in 13 ODI appearances.

The second and final ODI of the series will take place at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium tomorrow.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Bangladesh and Scotland at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Friday.

SCOTLAND	Wickets	Runs
Watts c Aftab b Mortaza	18	

Poonia c Aftab b Shahadat	0	Aftab c Hoffmann b Lyons	66
Watson b Mortaza	0	Sakib not out	20
Hamilton c Bashir b Shahadat	29	Bashir b Lyons	14
Brown c Bashir b Sakib	10	Ashraf not out	4
McCallum lbw b Shahadat	0	Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-3, nb-1)	6
Smith c Shahadat b Mehrab	30	Total: (For 4 wks in 29.1 overs) 154	
Wright run out	0	Did not bat: Rahim, Mortaza, Razzak, Reza, Shahadat.	
Rogers b Razzak	20	Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-108, 3-124, 4-145.	
Lyons lbw b Razzak	28	Bowler O M R W	
Hoffmann not out	1	Brown 6 0 27 1	
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-9, nb-3)	17	Hoffmann 6 1 20 0	
Total: (All out in 45.1 overs)	153	Wright 4 0 25 0	
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-5, 3-50, 4-57, 5-58, 6-73, 7-74, 8-113, 9-130, 10-153.		Rogers 7 0 28 1	
Bowler O M R W		Lyons 6.1 0 52 2	
Mortaza 9 0 49 2		Result: Bangladesh won by 6 wickets.	
Shahadat 8 0 38 3			
Razzak 7.1 1 16 2			
Reza 6 2 12 0			
Sakib 10 4 13 1			
Mehrab 5 0 20 1			

BLANDESH
Nafees c Brown b Rogers 36
Mehrab c Smith b Brown 8

SCOTLAND
Watts c Aftab b Mortaza 18

Sangakkara stands

FROM PAGE 21
reached 25 before he was out on the last ball before tea when trapped in front by spinner Daniel Vettori.

With those two partnerships out of the way, the Sri Lankan batting collapsed for a second time and the last five wickets fell for 29 runs.

Martin, the pick of the New Zealand bowlers, ripped through the Sri Lankan top order and finished the day with three for 50.

He struck with his third ball of the day which Sanath Jayasuriya (0) edged straight to Fleming at first slip. Upu Tharanga (7) knicked Martin to wicketkeeper McCullum, and Jayawardena (0) was bowled by the speedster.

Chamara Kapugedera contributed five in a 40-run partnership with Sangakkara for the fourth wicket before guiding Jacob Oram to Matthew Sinclair in slips.

Vettori cleaned up the Sri Lankan tail, taking three for 53 and when New Zealand opens Jamie How and Craig Cumming went out to the middle, Sri Lanka's total of 268 did not seem a significant task.

But when New Zealand reached 30, they staged their own collapse when Cumming was bowled by Farveez Maharoof for 13.

Lasith Malinga proved too much for the New Zealand batsmen, taking How for 26 and then the prized wicket of Fleming without scoring and New Zealand were three for 40.

When Nathan Astle looked like he could lead a New Zealand revival, Malinga clean bowled him with a 147-kilometer-an-hour late-swinging delivery to end the day's play.

New Zealand lead the two-Test series 1-0.

Younis not available

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan vice-captain Younis Khan is unavailable for selection for the final one-day international against West Indies at Karachi on Saturday because of his brother's death last week. Younis had missed the third and fourth ODIs as well. However, Mohammad Youf, who also missed the fourth ODI at Multan to be with his sick wife, is certain to play at Karachi.

"Younis doesn't feel he is in the right frame of mind presently. At the same time we felt it would be an unwise move to ask him to play after this latest bereavement in his family. Our sympathies are with him," Wasim Bari the chairman of selectors, told Dawn. "Younis is a definite starter for the Karachi match."

Bari was hopeful that Inzamam-ul-Haq, the Pakistan captain, would recover from a finger injury in time for Saturday's encounter. Inzamam had injured the little-finger in the field during the third ODI and needed three stitches on his left hand.

Pakistan were leading 2-0 in the series after the first match was washed out but West Indies pulled one back at Multan where Pakistan were without Inzamam, Younis and Yousof to keep the series alive.

Shahid Afridi, whose poor form continued at Multan, could get another opportunity to come good at Karachi and Mohammad Sami was also likely to play. Bari hoped that Pakistan would be able to field their strongest team and said that no drastic changes were necessary at this stage of the series.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings
Cumming b Maharoof 13
How lbw b Malinga 26
Sinclair not out 6
Fleming c P Jayawardene b Malinga 0
Astle b Malinga 17
Extras: (lb-3, nb-1) 4
Total: (For 4 wks in 22.4 overs) 66
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-40, 3-40, 4-66.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	4	0	8	0
Malinga	9.4	2	37	3
Maharoof	5	2	10	1
Muralidaran	4	1	8	0

Toss: Sri Lanka
Umpires: Simon Taufel (AUS), Brian Jerling (RSA)
Match referee: Javagal Srinath (IND)

Kevin stands by remarks

CRICINFO, undated

Kevin Pietersen has refused to back down from his claim that racism in South African cricket forced him to pursue his career in England, despite being reprimanded by the ECB.

His comments prompted a demand from Cricket South Africa that the ICC and ECB take action. The ECB chief executive David Collier said as a result Pietersen had been ordered not to comment on cricket in South Africa.

But Pietersen this week confirmed he would not retract his accusations. "I stand by it," he told The Australian. "I'm entitled to my own opinion. Some people might not like it. I've said what I have to say. It's just a case of me going on and loving playing my cricket for England."

The furore began when Pietersen said in South Africa's GQ magazine that the quota system, in which each first-class team in South Africa is expected to have at least four non-white players, had led to his moving to England. But the former head of the Kwazulu-Natal Cricket Union, Rob Kurz, said he told the young Pietersen that if he was good enough, he would gain a place in the team regardless of the quota policy.

Batch 04 in final again

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Batch 04 and newcomers Batch 06 reached the final of the North South University Intra-Batch Football competition at the Brothers Union ground yesterday.

In the first semifinal, Batch 04 won on penalties against Batch 05 after both sides were level on 0-0 at the end of full-time. Batch 04 won 4-3 in the tie-breaker.

The second semifinal had more drama as the new boys Batch 06 defeated Batch 1-0. Babu scored the winning goal when he latched on to Minhaj's shot that struck the bar just five minutes short of the lemon break.

The final will be held today at the WAPDA ground.

ZC in deep

FROM PAGE 21
come and explain what exactly was happening which involved foreign currency.

"We all know that ZC earns a lot of money in foreign currency and there is need for us as custodians of all associations to closely monitor how the funds are being handled," the source continued. "While the court found them guilty, we also feel there is more to it than what came out in court."

It is not the first time that ZC has been in hot water over forex breaches. Chingoda, the ZC chairman, and Ozias Bvute the managing director, were questioned last year in connection with investigations into the externalisation of huge amounts of foreign currency.

Charges against the pair were, however, dropped after what the local media reported as an intervention by senior government officials.

Chelsea

FROM PAGE 24

The Swiss centre-back told Arsenal's website: "The Premiership does not end until May and we are just trying to win every game."

"Obviously we are a bit low at the moment and Chelsea and Manchester United are above us. But we are going to try and catch up with them. Everybody says 'oh it is hard, it is hard' but the belief is there."

Leverkusen

FROM PAGE 24
sharp again."

Sevilla were on course to claim top spot in Group C when Uruguayan striker Ernesto Chevanton fired home a 52nd-minute penalty but his goal was cancelled out 10 minutes later by Arveladze who beat David Cobeno with a low drive.

The Georgian then had the final say, snatching the winner for AZ in the third minute of added time.

Livorno were surprise qualifiers from Group A after Cristiano Lucarelli's goal, a header from Dario Passoni's corner, earned a 1-0 win at AJ Auxerre which eliminated the French side.

How Livorno president Aldo Spinelli will react to his side's progress is anyone's guess, having stated before the start of the group stage he hoped his team would make a swift exit as they lacked the resources for both a European and Serie A campaign.

Rangers went through as group winners, Alan Hutton's second-half header enough for a 1-0 victory over Partizan Belgrade at Ibrox.

Two goals from David Lopez in a 3-0 win at Group D winners Parma put Osasuna into the last 32. Racing Lens took third place despite losing their final game 1-0 at Heerenveen.

Yousuf reinforces Pakistan

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan received a boost with the return of captain Inzamam-ul-Haq and star batsman Mohammad Yousuf for the series-deciding fifth and final one-day international against the West Indies here on Saturday.

Inzamam missed the fourth match at Multan due to a finger injury while Yousuf was looking after his pregnant wife and the West Indies ran away with a seven-wicket victory, leaving the five-match series at 2-1.

Vice-captain Younis Khan remains unavailable after his brother's death last week but Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer said his team would go all out to stop the tourists from levelling the series.

"Inzamam has recovered 98 percent and is sure of playing. Yousuf has also returned so we will be going tough in this series-deciding match and do our best to clinch it," Woolmer said on Friday.

Pakistan won the second match at Faisalabad by a narrow margin of two wickets before recording an emphatic seven-wicket win in the third match in Lahore. The first match in Rawalpindi was washed out.

In the latest match, West Indies paceman Darren Powell took three wickets to restrict Pakistan to 209 before Marlon Samuels hit an unbeaten 100 to steer the tourists to victory.

Woolmer said the defeat at Multan was disappointing but the absence of key players allowed some reserves to show their worth.

"We were 2-0 ahead in the series and had the right to experiment and although the defeat was disappointing yet we had some lessons to learn from our mistakes," said Woolmer.

West Indies coach Bennett King was confident his team would end a non-stop three-month period of cricket on high note.

"Hopefully we can come out with a series-drawing match. We found some good form the other night and we are looking forward to this match and it would be a good end to a long tour," said King, an Australian who took over in November 2004.

The West Indies finished runners-up to Australia in a tri-nation series in Malaysia in September and again in the Champions Trophy in India last month.

"We made the final of two big competitions against good sides and our one-day results are encouraging," said King, whose team lost the preceding Tests against Pakistan 2-0.

King also felt the series decider would give some benefits ahead of next year's World Cup, where Pakistan and the West Indies play the opening match in Jamaica.

"It is important that we finish the series on a good note with Pakistan being in our pool. From our perspective, when we played Pakistan in the West Indies last year to where we are now there has been a lot of improvement."

"We are an dangerous force in world cricket -- and 'danger' is an interesting word because it means we are not always on top of the tree -- but we are more often than not," said the 42-year-old King.

SQUADS

Pakistan: Inzamam-ul-Haq (capt), Imran Farhat, Mohammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Yousuf, Abdul Razaq, Shahid Afridi, Faisal Iqbal, Kamran Akmal, Rao Iftikhar, Rana Naved-ul-Hasan, Umar Gul, Abdul Rehman, Danish Kaneria, Mohammad Sami, Yasir Hameed

West Indies: Brian Lara (capt), Chris Gayle, Lendl Simmons, Daren Ganga, Marlon Samuels, Runako Morton, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Dwayne Smith, Denesh Ramdin, Ian Bradshaw, Corey Collymore, Jerome Taylor, Daren Powell, Dave Mohammed

Monty mania Down Under

Cricket

AFP, Perth

England's Monty Panesar dominated the Australian media on Friday following the left-arm spinner's five-wicket haul on the opening day of the third Ashes cricket Test at the WACA Ground here.

The Australian newspaper said that despite a nervous start in the field, Panesar was transformed when he came on to bowl.

"Panesar showed what English cricket fans long suspected and the team's selection hierarchy had ignored by dropping immediately on to a length and bowling with flight and guile when brought into the attack after 22 overs," its correspondent Andrew Ramsey wrote.

"It took him just seven deliveries to find stride and justify his selection, as he landed a ball so tantalisingly

close to off stump that Langer only had to play marginally inside the line to lose his wicket.

"It was the final ball before lunch, but the celebration it sparked resembled the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve."

Needing at least a draw to keep their Ashes defence alive after losing the first two Tests, England eventually bowled Australia out for 244.

Trevor Marshall, writing in the Sydney Morning Herald, said Panesar had confirmed the promise he had shown during the English summer.

"Bowling into the Fremantle Doctor intelligently to gain dangerous drift and loop, and extracting awkward bounce from a pitch that was more helpful for bowlers than expected, Panesar claimed the key wickets of Justin Langer for 37, Andrew Symonds for 26 and Adam Gilchrist for a duck," he wrote.

And writing in the two largest

selling newspapers in Australia, Sydney's Daily Telegraph and Melbourne's Herald Sun, long-time cricket correspondent Robert Craddock said the decision to leave Panesar out of the first two Tests was "astounding".