

Pakistan retain Australasia Cup



SHARJAH, Apr 22: Aamir Sohail starred for Pakistan as they continued their supremacy over arch rivals India to lift the Australasia Cup here Friday, reports AFP.

The World Cup champions, who began the grand final of the six-nation tournament with a 11-3 record over India, played the better cricket to run away with an easy victory by 30 runs.

Asked to take first strike in perfect batting conditions, Pakistan survived a middle order collapse to pile up 250 for six in the stipulated 50 overs.

India could manage only 211 in reply as the fired-up Pakistanis bowled and fielded superbly amid strong vocal support from 20,000 fans at the overflowing Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan's hero in a tension-filled match was left-hander Sohail who hit a defiant 69 and picked up two for 22 bowling left-arm spin.

Sohail, who struck 134 against New Zealand on Wednesday during a world record stand of 263 with Izamul Haq, put on 96 for the first wicket with Saeed Anwar (47) in just 17.2 overs.

India struck regular blows after that to contain the run-rate before Basit Ali hammered

Minhaz suspended

Sports Reporter

Former captain of the Bangladeshi national cricket team Minhazul Abedin, better known as Nannu, has been suspended for three matches by the disciplinary committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) for his unseemly behaviour in a semi-final match of Pepsi 20th national cricket championship.

Minhaz menacingly barged into the VIP gallery on his way back to the pavilion after being dismissed in the semifinal against Chittagong, where a section of the spectators indulged in barracking the pavilion-bound batsman. Minhaz, however, apologised to the Board following the incident.

The suspension order will be in effect immediately for any competition under the aegis of the BCCB.

Indian cricketers on cash course

BOMBAY, Apr 22: The Indian cricket team were richer by Rs 30,000 for their two wins — against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the league stage and against the Aussies in the semifinals — at Sharjah under the Sun-Grace-Mafatal-Awards scheme released here yesterday, reports PTI.

India's in-form opening batsman Ajay Jadeja with eight points was declared the player-of-the-week. Jadeja collected four points for taking four catches and another point for a direct hit run out. He also collected two points for his superb 87 against the Aussies and another point for the century partnership for the second wicket along with Navjot Sidhu.

Wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia is breathing down Jadeja's neck with six points for his six catches from three matches. Sachin Tendulkar with five points is in the third position while skipper Mohammed Azharuddin and medium fast bowler Javagal Srinath are in the fourth place with four points each.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 "Serpico" money
 2 author 38 March
 5 Bloke 40 Skewer
 9 Hole-making tool 42 The whole enchilada
 12 Skip 43 Re cars and trucks
 13 "La Dolce Vita" locale 48 Rhoda's mom
 14 Through 49 Wicked
 15 Very tiny 50 Comedian
 17 Half of dos 52 Four-star review
 18 Took a cab 51 "Rosenkavalier" 53 Tree of Life
 19 Proclaims 54 Setting
 20 Enthusiastically 55 Neighbor of Cambodia
 21 Oscillated 56 Review
 24 Galvanizing stuff 57 Of
 25 Ebb 58 Four-star review
 26 American marsupials
 30 Fool 59
 31 Black or Eastwood 60
 32 Meadow 61
 33 International Court of Justice city 62
 35 Like lightning 63
 36 End of song 64
 37 Prize 65

DOWN
 1 AMISAWN LAST
 2 PASTICHE EMIR
 3 TOMORROW OOZE
 4 WEE YANKEE
 5 PAWEDE SEMI
 6 ARID PHAEDRA
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