

## Sport

**PCB boss pours cold water on WI proposal**

Pakistan cricket board (PCB) president Zulfiqar Ali Shah Bukhari yesterday ruled out the West Indies proposal of staging the World Cup cricket every two years instead of every four years, reports BSS.

Bukhari, who arrived here to witness the third SAARC cricket tournament at the invitation of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), told that the West Indies proposal is impossible and infeasible.

"We had organised the World Cup with India twice and we know how much organisational efforts, financial supports and other efforts are involved in organising such a tournament like the World Cup," the PCB chief said.

"The World Cup must be held every four years," he added.

Regarding the Bangladesh's request for one-day international and Test status, the Pakistan cricket chief said Pakistan would have the moral support for the Bangladesh. "But to have the such status, standard of cricket in Bangladesh and other associate members will come into discussion during the ICC meeting in June at Lord's."

Bukhari admitted the crowd support and organisational capabilities are very positive for Bangladesh and "it will go in the days to come."

**Windies call up Williams**

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, Feb 28: West Indies have recalled opener Stuart Williams and named two newcomers in a squad of 13 for the first Test against India, reports Reuter.

Leg-spinner Rawl Lewis and paceman Franklin Rose are the uncapped pair included in the early for the opening match of the five-Test series starting in Kingston, Jamaica, on March 6.

Openers Robert Samuels and Adrian Griffith, wicketkeeper Courtney Browne and pace bowler Patterson Thompson, who all went on the recent tour of Australia, have been overlooked.

Fast bowlers Kenneth Benjamin, Cameron Cuffy and Nixon McLean were ruled out by injury.

Williams, who played 12 Tests between 1994 and 1995, scoring only 386 runs at an average of 22.70, gets back into the side after a successful West Indies A team tour of Sri Lanka last October.

Lewis, 22, bowled well on the team tour of Sri Lanka, taking four for 23 to help West Indies win the second unofficial Test against Sri Lanka.

The 25-year-old Rose returned to regional cricket for Jamaica this season after a self-imposed break and immediately made his mark with a man-of-the-match innings of 96 against the Leeward Islands in the opening match.

He so far has 18 Red Stripe Cup wickets after four matches, including five for 62 against Barbados last weekend.

India's 16-man squad, led by Sachin Tendulkar, arrived in Jamaica late on Tuesday for the tour that also includes four one-day internationals.

The Indians open their itinerary today with four-day game against Jamaica at Sabina Park, Kingston.

**WI SQUAD**

Stuart Williams, Sherwin Campbell, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Brian Lara, Carl Hooper, Jimmy Adams, Roland Holder, Junior Murray, Curly Ambrose, Ian Bishop, Courtney Walsh (captain), Rawl Lewis, Franklin Rose.

**Becker set to leave Germany?**

FRANKFURT, Feb 28: Upset by tax investigators raiding his home, three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker plans to leave Germany for good, possibly as soon as next week, the Bild newspaper said Friday, reports AP.

In a front-page story, the mass-circulation newspaper said the tennis star will move to a new house in Florida. Becker's decision to leave Germany was "irrevocable," Bild said.

"Boris will never again live in his homeland," Bild said.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed source close to Becker as saying one of Germany's biggest celebrities had "closed the chapter on Germany."

"He's been effectively gone since the tax agents raided his house," the source told Bild.

Becker's villa in Munich's upscale Bogenhausen district was searched Dec. 19, while Becker was vacationing in Florida.

No charges have been raised against Becker. Media reports have said the search was conducted against the advice of prosecutors, who saw no case against Becker.

**Jim slips, Pete escapes**

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 28: Second-seeded defending champion Jim Courier was sent packing from the Advanta Championship by South African Grant Stafford on Thursday, but top seed Pete Sampras survived his second round challenge, reports AFP.

The 18th-ranked Courier rallied to force a third set only to fall 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 to the 78th-ranked Stafford.

World number one Sampras, a two-time winner of this event, struggled with his usually devastating serve before holding off 38th-ranked Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden 7-5, 7-6.



A CAPTAIN'S KNOCK: Pakistan A skipper Asif Mujtaba in the defensive mode during his responsible innings of 91 yesterday.

—Star photo

**An elementally cursed finale****Pakistan's maiden success**

Sports Reporter

STUMP DRAWING: Khurasiya into a tentative push and then moved out late to offer to Youself his second victim of the day.

Hamid Badani, the other left-hander looked solid but struggled to get a move on and when he tried clip Azhar him off the legs, skipper Mujtaba who had strategically positioned himself at short mid-wicket for the catch, gleefully accepted the offer to do the icing on a fine batting display earlier in the day.

Bahutule whose fine batting was concluded through a controversial run out decision in India's 68-run defeat to Pakistan earlier in the meet, yesterday conjured a similar dismissal though without any controversy.

Sharath, the stocky south-paw, however, maintained steady aggression in the face of these reversals and had hit five powerful boundaries in a 47 ball innings of 35 when the weather intervention led to the premature death of the match.

Azhar Mahmood exhausted his quota of eight overs for a potentially decisive haul of three for 30.

Earlier in the day, the match started one hour behind the clock due to heavy fog and Pakistan A after being put in by Khurasiya were all out for 195.

Pakistan landed the championship trophy of the four-nation regional meet of one-day tournament by virtue of a better run-rate as the already revised match could not reach its conclusion due to a shower. Chasing a victory target of 200 in 44 overs — six overs less than the standard quota of 50 overs due to heavy fog that delayed the start — the match was pretty delicately poised with India on 124 for five at the completion of 31 overs. Left-handed batsman Sridharan Sharath, man-of-the-match in the previous engagement against hosts Bangladesh was batting with a fluent 35 made off 47 balls and Prasad, the wicketkeeper batsman who had bowled through the innings in the league match, of the two teams was batting on one when the rains came down.

Facing an asking rate of 4.5 runs over India got off to a slow and watchful start with Gagan Khoda and Waseem Jaffer putting on 33 runs for the first wicket in 11.5 overs. Gagan, who justified his hurried reinforcement to fill the void of the indisposed India A skipper Ajay Sharma with a fine half century against Bangladesh, was the first to go when posthumously drove at a low and rather innocuous delivery from Md Zahid, the spearhead of the Pakistani attack whose pace and lift spelt doom for the Indians in the league match, to be smartly taken behind the wicket by Wasim Youself.

Waseem Jaffer, the tall right-hander tipped by many as a future opener of the main Indian team did his rating no good when he went for a drive against Azhar Mahmood — the man responsible for wresting back the initiative for Pakistan — to be bowled through a gap that would have allowed even a dog to run through, let alone a cricket ball. Waseem, who was involved in a couple of annoying withdrawals from his stance after the ball had been delivered, was extremely lucky to survive a splendid spell of new ball bowling by Aaqib Javed. The former integral member of the Pakistan team, specially the one-day combinations, Aaqib, contrary to his new ball partner Zahid, settled down to a perfect line and kept the young Indian openers guessing. Mostly cutting the ball away from the right-handers rather than getting it to swing in the air, Aaqib, who had no wicket to embellish his fine analysis of 12 runs from five overs, had Waseem playing and missing outside the off-stump time and again.

The arrival of Amay Khurasiya at the wicket did give some momentum to the otherwise sluggish Indian innings. A fine stroke-maker who could not quite translate his ability in achievement at least in this meet, more because of his restiveness than good bowling yesterday resoundingly announced his intention when he hit four spectacular boundaries off successive deliveries. Beginning with a punch down to long on, he played a short-arm pull past midwicket and then swivelled around to pull Zahid behind square to mark an embarrassingly costly over by the young tearaway.

The Indian skipper, who hit the first ball of the next over for a four however could not carry on for long as Azhar Mahmood, the right-arm medium pacer who managed just about perfect swing in the air to create confusion in batsmen produced the ball of the match to send him back for a run-a-ball 27. It landed on the left-hander's off

in 43.2 overs. Although Indian seamers failed to cash in on the heavy atmosphere normally deemed as ideal for seam and swing bowling, Pakistani batsmen with the exception of skipper Asif Mujtaba showed a distinct lack of application.

Left-handed Mujtaba, who was man-of-the-match in Pakistan's opening match against

Bangladesh yesterday, held the innings together with workmanlike 91. Running magnificently and relying on nudges and pushes, Mujtaba the two-down batsman who was the last out in the Pakistan innings hit only five boundaries and was duly given the man-of-the-match award.

Akhtar Sarfaraz, the other left-hander, who had bailed Pakistan out in the previous match against Sri Lanka with a fine undefeated half century, followed his skipper in the final with 31. Jamshed Mujahid and Muhammad Hussain with 26 and 18 were the other notable run-getters.

Fresh from his birthday celebration on the day of his side's seven-wicket triumph over Bangladesh, Noel David had the highest haul among the Indian bowlers. The shining star among a host undistinguished fielders for sheer athleticism, David picked up three wickets including that of Basit Ali, whom he had caught with a cleverly bowled one that forced the reputed Pakistani to air an intended big drive to Sharath at short midwicket.

Sharath who bowled his off breaks quite cleverly, got two for 30.

Harvinder Singh, the young Indian seamer took two wickets in the slog overs to finish with tournament haul of 12 wickets.

**BCB XI suffer another setback**

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI suffered a humiliating 108-run defeat to PIA in the Wills Cup cricket championship in Pakistan yesterday, reports UNB.

Batting first, PIA scored 267 for six in the stipulated 50 overs with Mehmood Hamid top-scoring with 72. Other notable run-getters were Sohail Jaffer (not out 64), Moin Khan (52) and Zahid Fazal (51).

BCB's Mofizur Rahman Munir took three wickets giving away 62 runs while Zakir Hossain captured two for 24.

In reply BCB XI made 159 for six in their allotted 50 overs. Habibul Bashar Sumon scored the highest 40 runs followed by Parvez Ahmed (34), Halim Shah (30) and Shahriar Hossain (25).

PIA's off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq claimed three wickets giving away only 19 runs, while Nadim Khan, Mehmood Hamid and Rizwan-uz-Zaman took one wicket each.

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