

China need one more

AP, Osaka

Wang Nan of China won the women's singles title at the World Table Tennis Championships on Saturday as the sport's dominant nation headed inexorably towards winning every event here.

Chinese duo Wang Liqin and Yan Sen also won the men's doubles event Saturday, beating compatriots Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang 3-0.

With Wang and Kong competing in Sunday's singles final, six of seven gold medals have now fallen to the all-powerful ping pong giants.

The gold medal for Wang, who defeated yet another compatriot, Lin Ling, by 3-1 in the final, was one of the more predictable results in world sport given her current domination of women's table tennis.

The game Wang lost to Lin en route to victory was the only one the top seed conceded in all seven rounds of competition.

However Lin, seeded 11 and who had never previously got beyond the last 32 of the women's draw, played well, trading smashes with her opponent and making Wang work hard to take the decisive fourth game.

After the final Wang, also the Olympic champion, agreed she "did very well in the tournament".

Accepting that the Chinese players were now by far the best in the world, Wang said this was because of the hard work and training they had put in.

Rain

FROM PAGE 13

Asam c Rashed b Odumbe	30
Nafees c Mortuza b Odumbe	15
Asad c & b Sanwar	19
S Malik c Rashed b Sanwar	26
Anis st Mortuba b Mustadir	6
Neeyamur b Sanwar	8
Hasan not out	10
Salim run out	2
Iqbal c Parvez b Sanwar	0
Arman not out	0
Extras: (lb-6, w-12)	18
Total: (For 9 wkt in 33 overs)	160
Fall of wickets: 1/33, 2/62, 3/94, 4/101, 5/130, 6/136, 7/145, 8/148, 9/150.	

Bowler O M R W

Taposh 6 0 23 0

Shafiquddin 6 0 28 1

Odumbe 5 0 17 2

Parvez 2 0 13 0

Tikolo 2 0 14 1

Sanwar 6 0 28 4

Mustadir 6 0 31 1

MOHAMMEDAN SC

Rashed not out

Harun lbw b Iqbal

Tikolo c & b Neeyamur

Parvez c Azam b Iqbal

Sanwar not out

Extras: (lb-2, w-1)

Total: (For 3 wkt in 9.4 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1/17, 2/27, 3/34.

Bowler O M R W

Iqbal 5 0 12 2

Neeyamur 3 0 22 1

Hasan 1.4 0 7 0

Result: Match abandoned due to rain and start anew from Sunday morning.



PHOTO STAR

Abahani skipper Azam Iqbal (L) and his Mohammedan counterpart Minhaluz Abedin leave the field while talking to match referee Carlton Bernardus after the final Premier Division Cricket Super League encounter was abandoned at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Eng undecided about team

Cricket

INTERNET, London

claims for a recall.

But England could instead go for a new face from the ranks of the 'A' team which toured the West Indies during the winter, like Surrey opener Ian Ward, or someone in excellent form on the county scene.

Graveney was at Bristol on Friday, with Glamorgan's Michael Powell one of the players under scrutiny.

"We'll go to Lord's with both options covered — in other words, playing a balanced attack or going with seven batsmen," Graveney added.

"I think they're a stronger side away from home and certainly all the stuff about internal rowing, I think that's all a bit of a smoke-screen."

"I'm sure they'll come at us very strong."

The first Test starts on 17 May, with the second match a fortnight later at Old Trafford.

But Graveney said they would

both

be expected to get a first-class match under their belts before the Test squad is picked.

Cork has the chance when Derbyshire face Pakistan next week, while Hoggard could play for Yorkshire against Somerset in the County Championship.

"I know everybody looks at Australia but the challenge of Pakistan is not to be underestimated," Graveney added.

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Cricket

AGENCIES, London

Hussey made a brilliant 93 from just 111 balls and Cook continued where his fellow left-hander left off with an 86 that took the home side to within touching distance of the visitors' total of 263 for seven.

Northants desperately needed this win after losing to Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, but they did themselves few favours by dropping Nick Knight early on as he went on to smash a brilliant 101.

The England batsmen provided the backbone of a Warwickshire innings also lit up by big-hitting Dominic Oster (39) and Neil Smith (40).

In reply Hussey and Cook were helped out by Graeme Swann, whose 51 came from just 30 balls to seal a thrilling Northants victory with more than two overs to spare.

Another foreign import former Zimbabwean batsman Murray Goodwin also produced a match-

winning effort for Sussex as they grabbed their first Cup win over Middlesex for 28 years by a comfortable 62 runs.

Goodwin, who retired from Test cricket after last year's series in England because his family did not want to return to Zimbabwe on account of the political violence, made 108 off 116 balls to help his side post 243 for seven on a good pitch.

Middlesex could not recover from losing their first three wickets for only 15 and went on to muster 181 for eight.

Solid middle-order batting at least ensured Middlesex used up their full 50 overs despite falling well short of their target.

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