

Pak series to be played abroad

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan Sunday announced that a tri-nation tournament and a Test series it planned to host later this year would now be played outside the country.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) ruled out hosting the tri-nation series involving Australia and New Zealand in August and the Test series with Australia in October.

"The outcome of the ICC (International Cricket Council) meetings, as well as Director PCB Brigadier Munawwar Rana's several discussions on the sidelines of the ICC meeting with President and CEO of the Australian Cricket Board, is that both tri-series and three-match Tests series involving Australia would take place at a neutral venue," a PCB statement said.

Sri Lanka, Kenya, Bangladesh, Tangiers in Morocco, the Gulf and England are the likely venues and a final decision is likely to be made by mid-July, the PCB said.

The ICC last week ruled out England as one of the options to stage Pakistan's one-day tournament.

Australia's two tours to Pakistan have been thrown in serious doubt over fears of safety for the players in and around Pakistan.

New Zealand had to cut short its tour of Pakistan in May after a suicide bomb blast outside their hotel in Karachi. Fourteen people, including 11 French naval engineers, were killed in the attack.

Another blast outside the United States Consulate earlier this month left 11 people killed while security forces persist with several Al-Qaeda suspects believed to be hiding in Pakistan.

"PCB is still pursuing the Aussies to play in Pakistan. Aussies are awaiting clearance from their Foreign Office," the PCB said.

However, the PCB has reportedly yet to receive a positive response from their Foreign office in Pakistan as diplomats from major countries, including Australia, have left the country fearing attacks.

According to ICC rulings, a series hit by security problems can be staged at a neutral venue if both the countries agree.

The PCB last week ruled out playing the series in Australia as their counterparts had offered them only two Tests instead of the scheduled three in October this year.

Cricket has hit badly in Pakistan since the September 11 attacks in the US and the crackdown against Al-Qaeda units in Afghanistan since then.

New Zealand postponed its tour last year only to see the re-arranged tour cut short by a bomb blast in May this year.

Pakistan was forced to play its home series against the West Indies at Sharjah in February-March this year after West Indies refused to tour Pakistan over security fears.

Pakistan's demands for compensation over losses did not succeed at the ICC meeting last week, but PCB claimed the ICC had promised Pakistan additional one-day matches to recover the losses.



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Bouba Diop | Zidane | Klose

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Cafu | Rivaldo | Ronaldo

3. Pakistan won the last ODI against Australia by
9 wkt | 17 runs

4. Who will lead Bangladesh in the two-Test series against Sri Lanka?
K Mashud | A Khan | Alisam

5. Who won the French Open title?
Costa | Ferrero | Sampers

Name

.....

Class..... Roll No.....

School Address

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Phone: (If any)

India contain Sri Lanka

Cricket

AFP, London

Sri Lanka could only manage 202 for eight as India's pace attack strangled the life out of their innings in Sunday's NatWest triangular series one-day international here at The Oval.

Maheela Jayawardene topscored with 62 but the fact that such a normally fluent player had to face 105 balls for his runs was testament to his opponents' accuracy.

Ajit Agarkar (three for 44) and Zaheer Khan (three for 48) did the bulk of the damage. Left-arm quick Zaheer's effort was especially impressive after his first three overs went for 27 runs and no wickets.

At the end of 50 overs, Chaminda Vaas was 26 not out and Buddha Fernando four not out.

Sri Lanka, after a brisk start on a pacy pitch, lost their first wicket for 42.

First bowling change Agarkar struck with his first ball having Romesh Kaluwitharana (21) caught behind by wicketkeeper Rahul Dravid.

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya appeared to be justifying his decision to bat first, the left-hander typically aggressive as the team's half century came up off 56 balls.

Eventually, Jayawardene's responsible knock ended in the 47th over when he was caught and bowled off a Zaheer slower ball having managed only four fours.

and six fours.

But three balls later 65 for two became 65 for three when Zaheer bowled Marvan Atapattu (seven) with the first ball of his comeback spell.

Sri Lanka then slipped deeper into trouble when Russel Arnold (six) was caught behind off Agarkar to leave them 78 for four in the 16th over.

India's seamers then maintained a disciplined line and length to reel off three successive maidens, Sri Lanka scoring just six runs in five overs from the 16th to the 20th.

Captain Sourav Ganguly struck next as Sri Lanka continued to struggle.

Naveed Nawaz had just edged the first four since the 15th over when, next ball, trying to run India captain Ganguly down to third man he was caught at slip by Virender Sehwag for 11.

Sri Lanka were now 97 for five in the 24th over, Jayawardene and Nawaz having managed to put on just 19 runs in their 50-ball stand.

Then new batman Upul Chandana mistimed a hook of Ashish Nehra and was caught on the offside by a diving Mohammad Kaif for 18.

His partnership with Jayawardene was worth 43 runs but it was another slow stand, this time lasting 88 balls.

Eventually, Jayawardene's responsible knock ended in the 47th over when he was caught and bowled off a Zaheer slower ball having managed only four fours.

Vaas weighed in with a useful knock but Sri Lanka's total was well below par.

India beat England by six wickets in their opening match of the series at Lord's on Saturday while Sri Lanka's tournament started with a 44-run defeat by Nasser Hussain's side at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Sri Lanka innings in their NatWest triangular series one-day international against India at The Oval on Sunday:

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c Dravid b Agarkar	36
K Tharana c Dravid b Agarkar	15
Atapattu b Zaheer	7
Zaheardene c b Zaheer	62
Arnold c Dravid b Agarkar	6
Nawaz c Sehwag b Ganguly	11
Chandana c Kaif b Nehra	18
Vaas not out	26
Zoya c Kaif b Zaheer	4
Fernando not out	4
Extras: (lb-8, w-4, nb-1)	13
Total: (For 8 wkt in 50 overs)	202
Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-65, 3-65, 4-78, 5-97, 6-140, 7-182, 8-186	
Did not bat: D Fernando	

Bowler O M R W

Nehra	10	1	29	1
Zaheer	10	1	48	3
Agarkar	9	2	44	3
Ganguly	10	1	28	1
Kumble	10	0	43	0
Sehwag	1	0	2	0

INDIA: Sourav Ganguly, Virender Sehwag, Dinesh Mongia, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Ajit Agarkar, Ashish Nehra, Anil Kumble, Zaheer Khan

Asghar new ACC chief

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asgar took over the presidency of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) yesterday.

He assumed leadership of the regional body for a two-year period from Lt Gen Tauqir Zia, president of the Pakistan Cricket Board, during an ACC meeting in London.

Asghar's first task will be to select a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the organisation's new office, based at the moment in Dhaka.

It has been proposed that it will eventually be located in Kuala Lumpur.

Ticket scalpers made to toil

AFP, Yokohama

Touts will make less money than they had hoped at football's World Cup final with blackmarket tickets outside the stadium Sunday fetching much less than they did over a week ago, fans said.

"I am not going to be able to get as much for my ticket as I had thought," signed Ronny Walter, a 24-year-old banker from Germany who was trying to sell a spare ticket left by a friend who had had to fly home.

"The touts here control the price and if you sell for less then they will come and rip up the ticket in front of your face," Walter said, gesturing to a few English touts hanging around the station nearest to International Stadium Yokohama, venue for the tournament's deciding game between Brazil and Germany.

"But tickets are selling for less than they thought. If it had been an England-Germany final this would be a different story," he said.

"I was looking on the Internet over a week ago and final tickets were selling for 5,000 or 6,000 dollars, but they are much less now."

The going price for blackmarket tickets was 1,000 dollars, supporters and touts said, but some fans managed to buy a seat to the final for even less.

"I paid 700 dollars for my ticket (on the black market)," said Guidi Jenniges, a 37 year-old German, who flew to Japan on Wednesday once he learnt his team had made the final.

"It will be worth it. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity - whether we win or lose it is going to be a great experience," he said, cloaked in a huge German flag.

Graeme Baldwin -- an England fan but sporting a canary yellow, green and blue shirt of Brazil after the South Americans knocked his team out of the World Cup -- also bought his ticket last minute on the blackmarket, for 120,000 yen (1,000 dollars).

"It is a chance in a lifetime experience, and the price was much cheaper than I thought would be. I did not think I would be able to get a final ticket for less than 1,000 pounds (1,530 dollars), so I was really chuffed (pleased) at the price," said the 27-year-old lawyer from London.

Earlier Yuvraj's occasional left-arm spinners, made him the pick of the Indian attack with three for 39 as England were restricted to 271 for seven. The 20-year-old upstaged senior slow man Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh.

Only Marcus Trescothick (66) and England captain Nasser Hussain (54) got past the fifty mark, England some 30 runs short of setting India a reasonable target.

Earlier Trescothick was caught 14 short of a hundred by keeper David off Ganguly's medium pace as he tried to run the ball down to third man.

He faced 78 balls including one six, off Yuvraj, and eight boundaries.

Then came Andrew Flintoff. The all-rounder's blistering unbeaten 50 had helped set up England's win against Sri Lanka in Thursday's opening match of the tournament at Trent Bridge.

However, he only managed 22 in

Contrasting wins for Hs

Tennis

AFP, London

"My gut reaction was that the ball was out," said Henman.

In contrast to Henman's marathon duel, top seed Lleyton Hewitt of Australia enjoyed a stroll in the evening sunshine with a comfortable 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 win over outclassed Julian Knowle of Austria.

Hewitt wrapped up his win against the 28-year-old, who had won only one match all year on the tour going into Wimbledon, in just 88 minutes and now faces Russia's Mikhail Youzhny for a place in the quarterfinals.

Henman had four first set points before he eventually took the tie-break 8-6 on his fifth after 66 minutes although two points earlier the South African had wasted his one and only set point with a weak volley.

"I got screwed out there," fumed Ferreira after his 7-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-1 defeat at the hands of the fourth seed.

The controversial moment came as Ferreira hit a shot which was called good by the linesman.

However, Dias, from the opposite side of the court, overruled the call and instead of Ferreira having a 5-1 lead, the score was 4-2 and the South African never recovered his composure.

The 27-year-old Henman went on to take the set and eventually the match after three hours and 29 minutes of thrilling tennis in front of a packed and excited Centre Court crowd.

Henman now faces unseeded Swiss Michel Kratchovil, who put out Czech qualifier Radek Stepanek 6-2, 6-3, 6-3, for a place in the last eight.

Ferreira, a quarterfinalist here in 1994 and playing in his 47th Grand Slam tournament, broke in the eighth game of the second set on his way to taking it 6-3.

In the third set, Henman squandered three set points before Ferreira went 4-1 ahead in the tie-break.

However, it was then that the controversial overrule was called and Ferreira, brooding over the incident, was still unsettled in the fourth set where Henman broke serve three times wrapping up the match with a fine stop volley.

Youzhny overcame sixteen set Nicolas Escude of France, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, to book a match with Hewitt.

Styris smites Windies

Cricket

AFP, St George's

Test debutant Scott Styris guided New Zealand to 373 all out on the second day of the final Test against the West Indies on Saturday with a classy century that could ensure at least a series victory.

West Indies were 63 for one at the close of play, having lost