

Kenya assures of highest security

AFP, Nairobi

Kenyan organisers of the two cricket World Cup games in Nairobi early next year moved fast Friday to assure the Sri Lankan and New Zealand teams of maximum security during their visit.

"The International Cricket Council has not expressed any concern about any insecurity here," said the Kenya Cricket Association committee chairman Sharad Ghai.

"We have taken elaborate security (measures) for the two games. We have even gone further to invite South African security officials to inspect all the security arrangements," he said.

Ghai was reacting to a statement by the Sri Lanka team manager Ajit Jayasekara in Perth, Australia that his team is concerned about playing in Kenya in February next year because of last month's terrorist attacks in the port city of Mombasa.

India get

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tions, only to find to his horror the delivery hitting his gloves for Mark Richardson to take an easy catch at short-leg.

The Indian batting continued to wobble as Sachin Tendulkar (9) also fell cheaply after having looked unconvincing during his 39-minute stay at the crease.

The master batsman cut Oram over the slips and just began playing shots when Tuffey found the edge of his bat with the one that moved away a bit, with Scott Styris making no mistake at third slip.

Skipper Saurav Ganguly walked in to bat at 26-3 and left his team struggling at 34-4 as he was beaten by the movement to be caught by his counterpart Stephen Fleming at first slip.

Tuffey continued to exploit Indian batsmen's weaknesses and soon added Rahul Dravid (9) to the list of his victims.

Dravid was beaten by a little bit of movement off the pitch and was caught behind to expose his team's tail.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second and final Test between India and New Zealand at the Westpac Park on Friday.

INDIA: First Innings
Bangar c Oram b Tuffey 1
Sehwag c Richardson b Bond 1
Dravid c Hart b Tuffey 9
Tendulkar c Styris b Tuffey 9
Ganguly c Fleming b Tuffey 5
Laxman b Bond 23
Patel not out 8
Harbhajan b Bond 20
Zaheer b Oram 0
Extras: (lb-12, nb-4) 16
Total: (For 8 wickets in 37.1 overs) 92
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-11, 3-26, 4-34, 5-40, 6-70, 7-91, 8-92

To bat: Ashish Nehra, Tinu Yohannan

Bowler O M R W
Bond 14 7 33 3
Tuffey 9 6 12 4
Oram 9.1 1 21 1
Styris 2 0 10 0
Aisle 3 2 4 0

NEW ZEALAND: Stephen Fleming, Mark Richardson, Lou Vincent, Craig McMillan, Nathan Astle, Scott Styris, Jacob Oram, Robbie Hart, Daniel Vettori, Daryl Tuffey, Shane Bond.

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka) and Daryl Harper (Australia).



Indian master batsman Sachin Tendulkar looks at the sky while a helicopter flies low to dry out the outfield of the Westpac Park in Hamilton yesterday.

Zimbabwe sighs in relief

AFP, London

Zimbabwe was given the go-ahead on Thursday to host World Cup matches next year after the International Cricket Council (ICC) ignored a boycott call by British politicians.

Two days ago, a British government minister called on England to pull out of their match in Harare in protest at the policies of President Robert Mugabe.

But the ICC have upheld a report by their inspection team which supported Zimbabwe as hosts.

Zimbabwe is scheduled to stage six matches when the tournament gets underway on February 8, although the bulk of fixtures will take place in South Africa, with two also set to be played in Kenya.

"While some countries have imposed specific sanctions on Zimbabwe, no government in any part of the world has identified sporting sanctions as an appropriate tool to achieve a political outcome," the ICC's Australian president Malcolm Gray said.

Malcolm Speed, the ICC's Australian chief executive, added: "On the evidence obtained and assurances given during the inspection visit, we believe it will be safe to play these games and that the original schedule of matches can now be confirmed."

Seven countries -- Australia, England, Holland, India, Namibia, Pakistan and Zimbabwe -- are due

to play CWC games in Bulawayo and Harare in February and March.

"The recent visit to Zimbabwe gave every country due to play there, and other key stakeholders, the chance to assess the situation at first hand. Ultimately, it allowed a professionally considered and fact-based judgment to be made about the safety and security position in the country," Speed went on.

But the ICC's announcement is set to cause a political furor.

On Tuesday Mike O'Brien, a junior minister in Britain's Foreign Office, told a parliamentary debate: "We will not issue orders to the ICC and ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board). But my personal view is that it would be better if they did not go."

Britain's sports minister Richard Caborn has repeatedly said that the ultimate decision on Zimbabwe's host status should be decided by the ICC, not politicians.

Last month's inspection team restricted itself to asking if player safety would be compromised by World Cup matches going ahead in Zimbabwe, rather than wider political issues.

Its report was presented to the 15 members of ICC's executive board, six of whom went to Zimbabwe, last Friday and they have now authorised that matches should go ahead as planned.

The delegation was led by Speed and contained representatives from the six countries -- England, Australia, India, Pakistan, Holland and Namibia -- due to play World Cup matches in Zimbabwe.

Pakistan played two Tests and

five one-day games in Zimbabwe last month.

India, Kenya, Namibia and Pakistan have shown no hesitation at playing in Zimbabwe.

But Australia, who cancelled their tour of Zimbabwe earlier this year, and England, both of whose governments have attacked Mugabe's policies, have expressed their concern.

And countries could yet withdraw their teams from Zimbabwe if they thought player safety was at risk and still qualify for the knockout stages of the tournament.

But Vincent Hogg, chief executive of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, welcomed the ICC ruling.

Zimbabwe has come under international scrutiny over the forcible eviction of white farmers, who owned more than 30 percent of the country's most fertile land before the policy to move them was launched in 2000.

The ICC announcement came on the same day Mugabe admitted there was serious famine in the country, though he blamed it solely on drought.

Mugabe, as well as being criticised for alleged human rights abuses, has also, according to his own government's statistics, presided over an economic collapse.

Zimbabwe was suspended from the Commonwealth in March after savage international criticism of the presidential elections. A special Commonwealth troika consisting of the leaders of Australia, Nigeria and South Africa is due to review Zimbabwe's suspension next March.

England top the table

AFP, Perth

England crushed Sri Lanka by 95 runs here Friday night to romp to the top of the ladder in the tri-nation limited-overs competition.

It was England's second win over Sri Lanka in three days, giving Nasser Hussain's men new heart after their humiliation by Australia in the Ashes series, in which Australia are leading 3-0.

A rejuvenated England hammered 258 for nine wickets at the WACA ground before stultifying the 1996 World Cup one-day champions for 163 in 43.4 overs.

After Paul Collingwood starred for England with the bat, Andy Caddick gave the side a wonderful start when they hit the field, claiming 3-14 in his opening six overs.

He finished with 3-30 from ten beautifully-directed overs.

Pacemen James Anderson and Steve Harmison and spinner Ian Blackwell picked up two wickets apiece.

England's win -- plus the bonus point they snatched -- gave them six points from the match, pushing them to an aggregate of 12, one more than Australia, who won their two opening matches.

"We knew we could beat Sri Lanka because we had worked hard and, if we played to our best, we had a good chance," Hussein said.

"But we are not kidding ourselves -- we still have a lot of work to do, but it is definitely better to win than to lose."

White was a valuable ally, fashioning his score from 64 balls.

Sri Lanka again paid a high price

Sri Lanka earned a solitary point in two fixtures and desperately need a win against Australia Sunday to maintain their chances of reaching next month's best-of-three finals.

On Friday, the Sri Lankan innings never built up momentum, with only Russell Arnold (44 from 84 balls) and Mahela Jayawardene (30 from 39 deliveries) threatening to challenge the England total.

England's competitive total was built around a superbly paced knock off 100 by number five batsman Collingwood.

The solidly-built 26-year-old right hander from Durham held the innings together to become the senior partner in a spirited stand with all-rounder Craig White (48) that yielded 110 runs -- a record for England's seventh wicket in one-day internationals.

It was Collingwood's first three-figure score in international ranks, surpassing the 77 he hammered against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo last year.

Surviving a close shave when he was 11 -- an embarrassed Thilan Samaraweera put down a chance at slip off paceman Chaminda Vaas -- Collingwood collected his runs from 127 balls in almost three hours.

An indication of his coolness in a pressure situation was that he patiently gathered 62 singles while reaching the boundary only six times, with four fours and two sixes.

He trumped his opening 50 from 66 balls; the next half century from 60.

White was a valuable ally, fashioning his score from 64 balls.

Sri Lanka again paid a high price

for at least four missed catches following the turfing of three in their match three days ago against England.

In the latest saga of missed opportunities, three chances went to ground off the bowling of energetic young paceman Dilhara Fernando.



COLLINGWOOD...m-o-m

Despite that, the 23-year-old from Colombo captured a highly merited 4-48 from ten overs.

Fellow speed merchant Chaminda Vaas caused England's early woes, snatching 3-14 in his opening 4.3 overs. He finished with 3-36 from ten overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the tri-nation day-night one-day match between England and Sri Lanka at WACA Ground on Friday:

ENGLAND
Trescothick c Gunaratne b Vaas 11
Knight c Fernando b Vaas 15
Irani lbw Vaas 4

Hussain c S'kara b Nissanka 25
C'wood c Atapattu b Fernando 100
Stewart c J'wardene b Nissanka 4
Blackwell c J'wardene b Fernando 19

White b Fernando 48
Caddick c Arnold b Fernando 9
Anderson not out 1
Extras: (b-5, lb-5, w-5, nb-7) 22
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs) 258
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-26, 3-39, 4-89, 5-93, 6-122, 7-232, 8-250, 9-258

Bowler O M R W
Vaas 10 0 36 3
Gunaratne 8 0 45 0
Fernando 10 0 48 4
Nissanka 10 0 59 2
Jayasuriya 10 0 49 0
S'weera 2 0 11 0

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c and b Caddick 10
Atapattu c Knight b Caddick 3
Mubarak c Hussain b Caddick 14
Sangakkara c Stewart b Anderson 7
Jayawardene c Knight b White 30
Arnold c Stewart b Harmison 44
S'weera c Stewart b Blackwell 27
Vaas c Collingwood b Blackwell 3
Nissanka not out 7
Fernando c Harmison b Anderson 1
Gunaratne b Harmison 0
Extras: (lb-10, w-6, nb-1) 17
Total: (All out in 43.4 overs) 163
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-19, 3-42, 4-46, 5-91, 6-144, 7-149, 8-162, 9-163

Bowler O M R W
Caddick 10 3 30 3
Anderson 8 2 23 2
Harmison 9.4 0 45 2
White 8 1 25 1
Irani 5 1 16 0
Blackwell 3 0 14 2

Result: England won by 95 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Paul Collingwood.

Top Four v'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles defeated Bangla-desh Navy 25-13, 25-23, 18-25, 15-10 points in the Victory Day Top Four Volleyball Tournament yesterday.

Mohammed Haider Ali of Bangladesh Rifles was adjudged man-of-the-match.

TODAY'S MATCH

Navy vs Air Force (3:15pm).

Caddick on for 4th Test

REUTERS, Perth

England's main strike bowler Andy Caddick hurt his ankle in a one-day match against Sri Lanka on Friday but will be fit for next week's fourth Test against Australia, a team spokesman said.

Caddick blasted through Sri Lanka's top order in the match at Perth's WACA Ground, a track that suits fast bowlers. fit to play the Test match, "breaking his thumb while batting against New South Wales in a one-day match in Sydney on December 6.

DBBL BD Open Digvijay joins Mukesh atop

PRESS RELEASE

Digvijay Singh fired a superb round of six-under 66 in front of a holiday crowd to join Mukesh Kumar atop of the Taka 20-lakh Dutch-Bangla Bank Bangladesh Open at the Kurmitola Golf Club course yesterday.

At the end of the penultimate round, he had a tally of 10-under 206 while Kumar carded three-under 69 today.

Xai Kippen also had a scorching round of five-under 67 to be in the third spot at 209. Winner of the second edition Ashok Kumar overcame a horrifying start to finish at two-under 70 and was fourth at 211.

Top pro scores after 54 holes: 206-Digvijay Singh (69,71,66) Mukesh Kumar (72,65,69); 209-Zai Kippen (70,72,67); 211-Ashok Kumar (71,70,70); 212-Siv Prakash (70,74,68); 214 Sanjay Kumar (74,70,70), S Murthy (69,74,71), Naman Dawar (70,70,74); 215-SSP Chowrasia (71,72,72) Vivek Bhandari (72,69,74), Mohd Ismail (70,69,76), Uttam Singh Mundy (68,70,77).

Amateurs: 215-Siddiqur Rahman (70,71,74); 222-Mohd Sayyum (72,77,73); 224-Mohd. Sohel (77,73,74).

Waugh's reminder

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Love, who made double hundreds for Australia A and Queens-land earlier this season, both times against England, hit 190 in eight and a half hours with 28 boundaries in his 388-ball innings.

Lee Carseldine contributed 55 in a partnership of 156 with Love for the fifth wicket. Carseldine fell at 349 and Love was out five runs later when he sliced a ball from Scott Kremerskothen (3-53) Michael Di Venuto in the gully.

Tasmania were 50 for two in reply at the close of play at Bellerive Oval.

In Adelaide, Test opener Justin Langer smashed 164 from 263 balls with 16 fours and two sixes as Western Australia reached 299 for two at the close of play in reply to South Australia's 226. Former Zimbabwe Test batsman Murray Goodwin was unbeaten on 108 with Mike Hussey on nine.

At the end of the penultimate round, he had a tally of 10-under 206 while Kumar carded three-under 69 today.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman (3rd from R) inaugurates the Nitol-Indica Victory Day International Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi basketball gymnasium yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

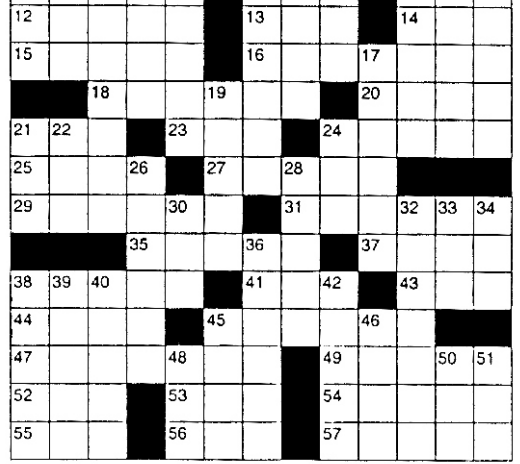
ACROSS
1 "If only it were so!"
6 English channel
9 Young fellow
12 Home of ASU
13 Arg.
14 Flamenco cry
15 Calyx
16 Drive
18 As opposed to
20 Ashcroft's predecessor
21 Conger
23 Inseparable
24 Doctrine
25 Sudden rush of wind
27 Rathskeller prop
29 "Summer Nights" show
31 Delicious drink
35 Wood-working machine
37 Long lunch?

38 Wipo the mirror
41 Illustrations
43 Wane
44 Dr. Seuss' "If -- the Zoo"
45 Portuguese island group
47 Drive
49 Leading man?
52 Heavy weight
53 "East of Eden" character
54 Feed the furnace
55 Coach

56 Type squares
57 Fully filled
DOWN
1 "Monty Python" opener
2 Tiny
3 Drive (Abbr.)
4 Bridge
5 Conversation piece?
6 Two-pointer for Shaq
7 Highland hillside
8 Scoundrel
9 "Two Women" star
10 Dior original
11 Station
17 Deep ditch
19 Map with-in a map
21 Quiche ingredient
22 One side of the Urals (Abbr.)
24 Father's Day gift
26 Claws
28 First month (Sp.)
30 Succumb to gravity
32 Drive
33 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
34 Plagiarize star
36 Eye shades?
38 Judicial assertions
39 Fielder's foul-up
40 Animal life
42 Blind (up)
45 He raised Cain
46 "Como -- usted?"
48 Expert
50 Scrape by, with "out"
51 Embarrassed

Solution time: 25 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP
G L J D S H Z U C M G H Z U C M
R Y T J Y O Z L O C P O P ? Y V Y E H Q J
S J ' G S P T J C L Q J D Y G J Y O
E Q J P C V P R R D
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF AN ANGEL HAS A GLOWING HALO, I IMAGINE HE MIGHT FEEL SOMEWHAT LIGHT-HEADED.
Today's Cryptiquip Clue: U equals P
The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



CRYPTOQUIP

Solution time: 25 mins.