

# WI reveals WC ticket plan today

BBC ONLINE, undated

Ticketing details for the 2007 Cricket World Cup in the West Indies will be made public on Wednesday.

A news conference in Jamaica has been called to reveal prices and information about when tickets will go on sale.

Cricket World Cup chief executive Chris Dehring said the building of new stadiums and upgrading of related infrastructure will on schedule.

The World Cup, involving 12 teams, will see 51 matches played in a 47-day period from March 13 to April 28 next year.

# Makalele out for three weeks

AFP, London

Chelsea midfielder Claude Makalele will be out for up to three weeks because of a knee injury.

The Frenchman sustained the injury playing in the 3-0 win over Newcastle last weekend.

He will miss the Champions League game against Anderlecht in Brussels on Wednesday as will Dutch winger Arjen Robben who has a hamstring injury, while Shaun Wright-Phillips is suspended.

Boss Jose Mourinho, however, is likely to recall Cote D'Ivoire striker Didier Drogba after he missed the Newcastle game due to suspension.

# Brazil's base in Switzerland

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil will be based at a luxury lakeside hotel in Switzerland in the run-up to next year's World Cup finals in Germany, the Brazilian Football Confederation said Tuesday.

The world champions will prepare for the defence of their crown in Weggis, on the shores of Lake Lucerne, from May 22 to June 4 and will have exclusive use of the hotel.

The tournament starts on June 9. The CBF did not say whether Brazil had fixed up any friendly internationals during the period.



West Indies have lost five Tests in a row - to Pakistan at Kingston in June 2005 followed by 2 each to Sri Lanka and Australia.

# Showcasing the Chelsea brand



REUTERS, London

For English champions Chelsea, a club that harbours ambitions for soccer domination lasting 100 years, the World Cup next June will be a valuable publicity exercise.

The London side, with grand plans to wrest popularity and marketing power from the likes of Real Madrid, Manchester United, AC Milan and Barcelona, will have a real chance to show off in Germany where 16 of their squad will compete.

Off-first-team regulars only Damien Duff of Ireland and Iceland's Eidur Gudjohnsen will be taking early holidays next June while team mates battle in 10 different national sides to earn the ultimate soccer accolade.

Since Russian billionaire oil magnate Roman Abramovich bought the club, wiping out some 80 million pounds (\$137 million) of debt and ploughing 300 million into players, Chelsea's ambitions have increased exponentially.

In the preface to a recent history detailing 100 years of Chelsea, the Russian revealed something of his vision of worldwide dominance for the club, who won their first title since 1955 in his second season in charge.

"Of course, it's 50 years since our last title and I know that everybody at the club will be working hard to ensure that we won't have to wait that

# Pakistan protest Inzy's run-out

AFP, Faisalabad

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Tuesday it had conveyed its concerns to the International Cricket Council (ICC) over Inzamamul Haq's dismissal in the current second Test against England.

"We have conveyed our concerns to the ICC regarding the apparently unlawful dismissal of Inzamam on the second day of the second Test against England at Faisalabad," the PCB said in a statement.

The Pakistan captain was adjudged run out by third umpire Nadeem Ghouri of Pakistan on Monday after he scored a magnificent 109.

England pacesman Steve Harmison threw down the stumps at the striker's end after the batsman played a drive and stepped out of his crease.

"It is evident that Inzamam took evasive action to avoid injury and according to the laws should not have been given out."

The PCB said Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer raised the issue with match referee Roshan Mahanama of Sri Lanka.

"This issue was brought to the match referee's attention in writing by Woolmer and by PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan in a telephonic conversation with ICC president Ehsan Mani immediately after the incident," the statement added.

Inzamam has described the incident as "surprising," saying he tried to save himself from the throw.

"I never challenge an umpire's decision but I was definitely trying to save myself," he said.

# PCB to inquire Afridi incident

REUTERS, Faisalabad

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is to hold an independent inquiry into the incident involving Shahid Afridi scuffing the pitch on the second day of the second Test against England.

"Afridi has apologised for his behaviour and he has also been penalised by the International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee. But we will hold our own inquiry as it is not an incident in good taste," PCB director Abbas Zaidi told Reuters on Tuesday.

All-rounder Afridi has been banned for one Test and two one-day internationals against England after pleading guilty to damaging the pitch.

The 25-year-old described his actions as a "moment of madness". Match referee Roshan Mahanama found Afridi guilty of a level three breach of the ICC code of conduct and of violating the spirit of the game after the incident which was picked up by television cameras.

England batsman Kevin Pietersen said the incident had not soured the relationship between the teams.

Afridi will miss the third Test from November 29 and the first two one-day internationals on December 10 and 12 against England by which time Zaidi said the inquiry would be completed.

# Tense win for Dhaka

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they still rattled up the target in only 5.3 overs.

Earlier Chittagong's last three first-innings wickets added 30 runs before being dismissed for 410. It gave them a handsome 218-run lead.

Khulna pacesman Ziaur Rahman captured five for 103.

**RAJSHAHI-BARISAL**  
Captain Shahriar Nafees blazed away as Barisal scored 204 for five at stumps.

The left-handed smote ten boundaries in his 94-ball 83 while young Nasiruddin Faruque was unbeaten on 43.

Barisal took a 120-run overall lead as Rajshahi finished their first innings on 307 in reply to Barisal's 223. Golam Rabbani picked up four wickets for 79 to ensure Rajshahi's collapse after they resumed on 238-3.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**DHAKA-SYLHET**  
**SYLHET:** First innings 225 and second

innings (overnight 126-6) 164 all out in 59 overs (Moniru-zzaman 47, Rajin 33, Mowla 18, Rezaul 15, Enamul 23, extras 12; Talha 4-21, Mahmud 1-43, Rafique 4-40, Ashraf 1-19).

**DHAKA:** First innings 131 and second innings 259 for 8 in 75.4 overs (Javed 92, Rashedul 78, Mehrab 42, Ashraf 13, extras 19; Enamul 5-75, Kapali 2-74). **Result: Dhaka won by two wickets.**

**CHITTAGONG-KHULNA**  
**KHULNA:** First innings 192 and second

innings 258 all out in 69.2 overs (Bashar 54, Tushar 39, Rana 32, Hasanuzzaman

33, extras 20; Tareq 2-56, Sunny 4-42, Ararat 4-43).

**CHITTAGONG:** First innings (overnight 380-7) 410 all out in 133 overs (Masum 25, Nafees 100, Aftab 64, Ehsanul 85, Wasel 74, extras 6; Ziaur 5-103, Al-Amin 1-74, Manzarul 1-62, Razzak 2-122, Jamaluddin 1-46) and second innings 41-2 in 5.3 overs (Masum 9 not out, Nafees 10, Aftab 8, Ehsanul 14 not out; Al-Amin 2-24). **Result: Chittagong won by eight wickets.**

**RAJSHAHI-BARISAL**  
**BARISAL:** First innings 223 and second

innings 204-5 in 66 overs (Nafees 83, Faruque 43 not out, Hannan 36, Humayun 6 not out, extras 12; Alamgir 4-49, Shahajada 1-57).

**RAJSHAHI:** First innings (overnight 238-3) 307 all out in 99 overs (Moniruzzaman 16, Naeem Islam 17, Anisur 108, Hasanuzzaman 81, extras 32; Rabbani 4-79, Hannan 3-36, Salahuddin 1-47, Tariqul 1-57).

# Bandarban football

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Patia Football Khelvar Samity reached the semifinals of the DC Gold Cup football tournament defeating Banshkanta KS of Cox's Bazar in tie-breakers here today.

The match was locked at 1-1 in regulation period at the Bandarban Stadium.

# Eng on a par with hosts

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three-match series, had only themselves to blame for not keeping the pressure on. They let Bell off twice and Pietersen once.

Bell, on 38, survived a stumping chance when Kamran Akmal failed to collect the ball off leg-spinner Danish Kaneria. He was on 90 when Salman Butt dropped a catch at square-leg off seamer Navedul Hasan.

Pietersen got a "life" on 64 when Kaneria failed to judge an uppitch but powerfully struck drive off Afridi.

Key spinner Kaneria was under pressure after being warned twice by Australian umpire Darrell Hair for running onto the pitch.

Kaneria, who knows the third and final warning will debar him from bowling in this innings, looked ineffective when he changed ends and bowled round the stumps. He put down 30 wicketless overs for 90 runs.

Akhtar alone impressed, removing Pietersen and ace all-rounder Andrew Flintoff in the space of 11 runs in a fiery spell.

True to form, there were no nervous 90s for the aggressive Pietersen, who reached his hundred with a hooked six off Akhtar. The next ball was again short, but Pietersen could not time it properly and gave a simple catch.

Akhtar got another big wicket in his next over when he briefed Flintoff's middle-stump with a fuller-length delivery after the batsman had made one.

Bell, who scored only 171 in five Ashes Tests against Australia at home this summer, was in danger of losing his place but was included for the first Test at Multan after skipper Michael Vaughan pulled out due to a knee

injury.

He has made the most of the opportunity, following his first-Test 71 with a disciplined century here. He was caught behind while trying to cut Afridi after hitting seven fours in a 272-ball knock.

Afridi, banned for one Test and two one-day internationals for damaging the pitch on Monday, finished the day with two wickets.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second cricket Test between Pakistan and England at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Tuesday:

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 462 (Inzamam 109, Afridi 92, Yousuf 78; Harmison 3-85, Giles 2-85, Hoggard 2-115)  
**ENGLAND:** First innings (overnight 113-3)

Trescothick c Akmal b Sami	48
Strauss b Naved	12
Vaughan b Naved	2
Bell c Akmal b Afridi	115
Pietersen c Yousuf b Akhtar	100
Flintoff b Akhtar	1
Jones lbw b Afridi	55
Giles not out	23
Udal not out	6
Extras: (lb-1, lb-7, nb-20, w-1)	29
Total: (For 7 wts in 121 overs)	391
Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-39, 3-107, 4-261, 5-272, 6-327, 7-378	

To bat: Hoggard, Harmison

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akhtar	23	2	76	2
Naved	20	2	63	2
Sami	19	4	51	1
Afridi	25	3	74	2
Kaneria	30	3	90	0
Malik	4	0	29	0

# Blatter might ban friendly anthems

AFP, Zurich

FIFA chief Sepp Blatter favours scrapping national anthems before football internationals.

Blatter told the Schweizer Illustrierte magazine he had been shocked by the jeering and whistling that accompanied the playing of the Swiss anthem before the World Cup playoff against Turkey in Istanbul on November 16.

"That was so disrespectful and a slur on a nation's pride," he said. "It makes me wonder if it makes any sense continuing to play national anthems."

Blatter said that FIFA was looking into the possibility of discontinuing the practice.

Tensions between the Turkish and Swiss teams started in the first leg in Bern on November 12 when the visitors were angered by the home crowd jeering the playing of their anthem.

Switzerland won that match 2-0 and in the return leg four days later they hung on to reach the World Cup finals in a match that ended in fighting between the two sides as they entered the tunnel to the dressing rooms.

FIFA is examining the incidents and Blatter has said they will come down hard on anyone found guilty of involvement in the disturbances.

"As soon as you have overt nationalism mixed in with passion and emotion, it becomes an explosive situation," he said. "That is why we are considering doing away with the anthems."

Blatter also said that FIFA would consider playing such powderkeg games as Turkey against Switzerland at neutral venues where the tensions could be better contained.

# Best opens eyes briefly

AFP, London

Football legend George Best, who remained seriously ill in intensive care at a London hospital Tuesday, opened his eyes briefly but was still unconscious, his agent Phil Hughes said.

"Last night he briefly opened his eyes for a second but he's not awake. They (doctors) are still waiting for him to come round," Hughes told reporters outside Cromwell Hospital in west London.

"He's had a stable night. Nothing much has changed, which in itself is good news."

Best, 59, was admitted to hospital in early October with an infection thought to be linked to immunosuppressant drugs used to help prevent his body rejecting the new liver he received in a life-saving transplant.

Considered among the sport's greatest players alongside the likes of Pele and Diego Maradona, the former Manchester United and Northern Ireland winger began drinking heavily during his playing days.

He became an alcoholic, bringing on a succession of health problems which led to the 2002 transplant, during which he nearly died.

He was back on the booze within a year, however, having been told another drink could kill him.

# 258 not out in 40 overs!

CRICINFO, undated

In an extraordinary exhibition of hitting, Jason Aekins of the New Zealand club side Taia smashed an unbeaten 258 -- a one-day club batting record -- in a 40-over match at Wellington on Monday.

Aekin, 35, was playing against Upper Hutt in the domestic 1B grade level, and hit 16 sixes and 30 fours as Taia amassed 489 for 4 at Tremtham Memorial Park.

"It's all a bit of a blur but it wasn't very good bowling," Aekins said. "Once I got to 100 every ball was going to the boundary -- I was on fire. It just kept coming out of the middle."

# Samuels blow for Windies

AFP, Sydney

The West Indies' luckless tour of Australia suffered another blow Tuesday when batsman Marlon Samuels flew home suffering a knee injury.

Samuels' departure further depletes the West Indies' misfiring batting line-up ahead of the third and final Test against Australia in Adelaide beginning Friday.

Samuels, 24, suffered the knee injury when he was hit by a delivery from Australian pacesman Brett Lee in the first innings of the second Test in Hobart.

# BD U-19s

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Higgins 22, Cremer 26 not out; Dollar 3-19, Nazmul 2-19, Sakib 1-22, Shuvo 1-26, Humayun 1-20, Mehrab 2-4)

**BANGLADESH:** 125-1 in 12.4 overs (Tamim 60 not out, Sakib 40 not out; Nicholson 1-27)

**Result:** Bangladesh won by nine wickets.

# Reds, Blues know the task



AFP, Paris

Premiership giants Chelsea and Liverpool will be eyeing a spot in the Champions League knockout round Wednesday as Inter Milan, PSV Eindhoven, Glasgow Rangers and Schalke 04 also target qualification.

The Merseysiders lead Group G with ten points after four game and a draw would be enough to seal the title-holder's place with a game to spare against third-placed Real Betis at Anfield.

Betis, however, defeated Chelsea last month and, if they can repeat that feat, Liverpool would find themselves having to avoid defeat at Chelsea next month to be sure of progressing.

Liverpool are hoping Luis Garcia, who scored in the 2-0 win over Betis in Seville in September, and fellow Spaniard Xabi Alonso will both be fit.

Garcia suffered a hip injury in Saturday's Premiership win over Portsmouth and Alonso was also substituted, because of a knee problem.

"Both came off as precautions," Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez said. "They couldn't continue the match but they should be fine for Wednesday."

Chelsea lie second, three points behind Liverpool, and want to get back to winning ways at Anderlecht, who have lost their last eleven games in the competition.

Chelsea have not won away from home in Europe in over a year and their last defeat to Real Betis sparked suggestions that Jose Mourinho's side

were heading for a slump.

Victory for Chelsea will almost certainly assure them of a place in the knockout phase although Liverpool remain favourites to finish top of the group.

But Mourinho remains confident the Premiership champions can win the group.

"Our destiny is in our own hands," said Mourinho.

"I still think we can win the group if we win our last two matches."

A win over Artmedia Bratislava would see Group H leaders Inter Milan advance at the San Siro.

The Italians have nine points from their four matches played, four more than the Slovakian champions and Glasgow Rangers.

Rangers could however become the first Scottish club to qualify from the group stages. If the Scottish champions beat 2004 winners FC Porto, while Inter Milan defeat Artmedia Bratislava, they will qualify alongside the Italians.

Alex McLeish remains hopeful his team can repeat the success of their 3-2 win over Porto at Ibrox earlier in the competition, although he still faces the axe as his side have failed to win in five games and Saturday's loss to Celtic leaves them 15 points behind their rivals.

"We are going to have to regroup and we must keep fighting as we can't afford to quit," said McLeish.

"We still have a good chance of going through as the whole group is open and we can still have European football to look forward to after Christmas."

But he will be without star striker Dado Prso who limped off Saturday

with a hamstring injury, joining Thomas Buffel, Nacho Novo, Federico Nieto, Julien Rodriguez and Olivier Bernard, also on the sidelines for the Porto game.

Porto, meanwhile, warmed up with a 5-1 win against Academica on Saturday.

Dutch giants PSV top Group E on seven points and know victory over Schalke in Gelsenkirchen will see them qualify, and even a draw could be enough if AC Milan defeat Fenerbahce of Turkey in the other group game.

PSV, last year's semi-finalist, have yet to score away from home in Europe this season but a 4-4 draw with RKC Waalwijk at the weekend showed their prowess in front of goal.

The Dutch have won just one of their last 16 European ties in Germany but manager Gus Hiddink has fond memories having led Eindhoven to 1988 European Cup glory with a 6-5 penalty shootout win over Benfica in Stuttgart.

Schalke are level with Milan on five points in one of the tightest groups, with Fenerbahce one point behind.

The German league and cup runners-up have never reached the knockout phase of this competition, although this is only their second appearance, but victory over Eindhoven would give them a great chance of making history.

Group F sees a battle between already-qualified Real Madrid and Lyon at the Santiago Bernabeu with the Spaniards gunning to end their opponents unbeaten record and avenge their 3-0 defeat in France earlier in the campaign.

# Ferguson admits Keane loss



AFP, Manchester

Alex Ferguson has admitted his Manchester United team will be handicapped by a lack of experience as they prepare for Tuesday's crucial Champions League clash against Villarreal without the leadership qualities of former captain Roy Keane.

United face a humiliating early elimination from the Champions League if they lose to the Spanish outfit and French club Lille defeat Benfica in Paris.

With the dust still settling on Keane's dramatic departure from the club last Friday, Ferguson refused to expand on the reasons given for the Irishman's exit.

However, with Keane gone and seasoned performers such as Ryan Giggs injured and Gary Neville only just back from a three-month groin injury absence, the United manager conceded that his young team lack crucial top level experience for a game they simply cannot afford to lose.

Ferguson said: "We have not got enough experience in the team at this time and that is a handicap for us."

"If you look at the graph of teams that have success in Europe, they are mainly very experienced teams with an average age of between 28 and 30. You can't say that about our team at the moment."

"We do have young players with incredible ability, but consistency is the key to going on a run in European football and young players do have dips in form from time to time. Our job is to get as

much experience into them as quickly as possible.

"Over the last couple of years we have tried to build a new team. The 1999 team couldn't last forever and the horrible part of this job is that you see great players getting older."

"The demands are so great this club that you have to change things quicker than at other clubs, but the only reason for doing that is to make United better."

In Keane's injury-enforced absence, Giggs, Paul Scholes and Ruud van Nistelrooy have all worn the captain's armband.

However, with the controversial midfielder now consigned to United's history books, Ferguson admits that van Nistelrooy is making great claims to be handed the captaincy on a permanent basis.

He said: "We have had a fantastic response from Ruud as captain. He has been brilliant. I don't think Paul Scholes enjoyed being captain, but Ruud is doing the job very well. He has a very good knowledge of the game and he is Dutch, so he has an opinion!"

"Ryan Giggs has served his time here and he deserves to be recognised, so a decision has to be made when he and Gary Neville return to the side. But the immediate issue is for us to win the game and Ruud will be the captain on Tuesday night."

United goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar said a positive result against Villarreal was vital if the club are to maintain their recent revival and ease the pressure brought about by Keane's departure.

He said: "We are not concerned about the result going badly, but we are out of the qualifying positions at the moment and we have a duty to perform well and win. It's important that we ease the pressure on the players, the manager and the club by getting a result."

"I think that we turned the page by beating Chelsea two weeks ago and the confidence we gained from that allowed us to win at Charlton, but we have to play that way against Villarreal."

# Ballack talks to Madrid

AFP, Munich

Germany captain Michael Ballack has reportedly been in talks with Real Madrid over a move next June when his contract with Bayern Munich runs out.

His agent Michael Becker revealed as much when he said Tuesday: "We haven't reached an agreement."

English Premiership side Manchester United had been reported to be ready to offer the playmaker a 25 million pound, four-year deal but Real would be the first club to have made an approach.

However, Ballack himself said last week he would only open talks in the January transfer window when FIFA rules allowed him to.

"Michael has not yet decided what he will do next season," Becker said.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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