ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY Pakistan open against WI

AFP, Karachi

Hosts Pakistan and 2006 runnersup the West Indies will open the Champions Trophy on September 11, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Saturday.

"The opening match will be between Pakistan and the West Indies while defending champions and top seed Australia will open its campaign against India on 13 September in Lahore," the ICC said.

The sixth edition of the biennial event, regarded as the second biggest competition in cricket after the World Cup, will run from September 11-28.

An ICC advanced delegation is in Pakistan and has assessed facilities and security arrangements in Lahore and Rawalpindi. They will assess the third venue in Karachi on Sunday.

The eight teams in the 2008 trophy will play on a round-robin basis with two teams from each group progressing to the semifinals.

"As discussed at the ICC Board meeting earlier this week in Dubai, a full independent security assessment of the situation in Pakistan will be conducted in June," the ICC

A recent spate of salicide bomb blasts has raised security fears in Pakistan which forced the Australian team to postpone their tour to the troubled country earlier this month.

However, the ICC maintained the event will be held in Pakistan subject to security clearance. Sri Lanka is the alternative venue in case Pakistan is not given clear-

"As compared to the 2006 tournament when 21 matches were played over 29 days, 15 matches will be played in 17 days this year in what is a much shorter, sharper format," the ICC said.

The first semifinal will be played in Karachi on September 24 while Rawalpindi will host the second semifinal the following day.

on September 28. The following are the two

groups (with seedings in brackets): GROUP A: Australia (1), India (4), Pakistan (5), West Indies (8)

GROUP B: South Africa (2), New Zealand (3), Sri Lanka (6), England

SCHEDULE

OCHED	OLL	
Sept 11 / I	s PakwWI 11	Lahore
Sept 12	NZVSL	Karach
Sept 13	Ausvind	Lahore
Sept 14	EngvSL	Karach
Sept 15	SAVNZ	Rawalpind
Sept 16	Wivind	Karach
Sept 17	PakvAus	Rawalpind
Sept 18	SAVSL	Lahore
Sept 19	EngvNZ	Rawalpind
Sept 20	PakvInd	Lahore
Sept 21	Aus v WI	Karach
	EngvSA	Rawalpind
Sept 24	1st Semi	Karach
Sept 25	2nd Semi	Rawalpind
Sept 28	Final	Lahore

Dhoni, Bhajji fit for SA Tests

REUTERS, New Delhi

India vice-captain Mahendra Dhoni and off-spinner Harbhajan Singh passed fitness Tests on Friday ahead of the Test series against South Africa starting next week, the Board of Control for Cricket in India said.

Dhoni, also the limited overs captain, had a finger strain after playing in all matches on the Australia tour where India lost the Tests 2-1 and then beat the hosts 2-0 in the one-day tri-series final. Harbhajanh had a hamstring injury.

Leg-spinner Piyush Chawla will join the 14-man squad as the third specialist spinner after left-armer Murali Kartik suffered an ankle injury during a domestic tournament.

The first game in the three-Test series begins in Chennai on Wednesday.

RAWA Club bridge

SPORTS REPORTER

A day long Pairs bridge event organised by RAWA Club will be held at the club on 26 March. The tournament will start at 9:30 am. The entry fee is Tk. 200 for each pair.



The shortest person to play tennis at Wimbledon was Miss CG Hoahing (1937-1938) of Great Britain who was just 4 feet and nine inches.



Shahriar Nafees (L) receives the man-of-the-series trophy from Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani (R) at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Nefees struck half-centuries in all three ODIs against Ireland including an unbeaten 90 in the first game on March 18.

n Irish dream

now I am fully motivated since I play international cricket and I can prove these guys wrong. Things happen for a reason in life. I cannot complain for what has happened. DSS: Now on to the World Cup. Did you think you could tie a game against Zimbabwe and even beat a team like Pakistan?

KM: We did remarkably well against Zimbabwe to come back and tie that game. It shouldn't sound arrogant but we knew we could win as we thought, why turn up and just be competitive. We genuinely believed we could win. It was a great day for world cricket since Bangladesh beat India on the same day.

Wicket was green and it was similar to our home wickets. Pakistan were under pressure and they looked apprehensive after seeing the wicket. We bowled good, wicket taking balls and we bowled them out for 130-odd. We prided ourselves in fielding. During the The final will be held in Lahore break, our captain (Trent Johnston) asked us 'Do you want to go back to your day job as a teacher, farmer, post man or beat Pakistan and stay here for another four weeks?'

DSS: You faced England and beat Bangladesh in the Super Eights. Both must have been big games for

KM: It was a game that we believed we could have won and they took the game away from us in the last half-hour. Irish cricket is always fighting against English cricket. It was nice for us to play against the Old Enemy. We thoroughly deserved to win that game against Bangladesh as we played our best cricket against them.

DSS: Your favourite memory in both team and personal fronts.

one-day appearance.

"Hundred is a hundred. I was

desperately waiting to feel the taste

of a hundred in the international

cricket. You know I made few hun-

dreds in the domestic competitions

but nothing could be compared

with this," said Tamim, nephew of

former Bangladesh skipper Akram

"I didn't raise my bat after com-

pleting my fifty because my target

was to reach the three-digit mark," he

said adding that his elder brother

Nafis Iqbal asked him on Friday night

The dashing left-hander was

asked whether he would thank

Andre Botha to reach his mark as the

medium-pacer slipped a simple

knowit could have been a six if I hit it

"It's part of the game. You never

The young Chittagonian praised

"He (Nafees) asked me to bat till

his opening partner Nafees for the

40-45 overs which helped me to

concentrate on my game. I think it's

all about confidence which brings

Nafees was also happy with the

"We have been opening the

outcome as they made 109-run in

innings for the last one and a half

year but could not be successful at

all. We talked to each other even off

the field and I feel honoured that

Tamim praised me for his hundred,"

said Nafees adding that he always

Hoogenband and Sweden's Stefan

mer to break the 48-sec barrier, in

Paris, and was quick to congratu-

Nystrand was the second swim-

"It was a great record for him. I

Retired French swimmer Franck

"I was sitting on my sofa and he

"He's fought really hard to get

really believed he could beat it, but

I didn't think he would do it so

Esposito said he was stunned by

Bernard's display. But he believes

the big sprinter has the power to go

nearly blew me of it. It's stunning,'

where he is, and it just goes to show

they are doing some good work

down at his club in Antibes.

Bernard sets

catch when he was on 30.

properly," he said smilingly.

you the success," he said.

the opening stand.

FROM PAGE 17

late the Frenchman.

soon," said the Swede.

Nystrand.

even faster.

said Esposito.

century.

to get ready for his maiden century.

KM: The Pakistan game and personally, it was nice getting Kevin Pietersen out, caught at midwicket by William Porterfield.

There are so many memories that I can share with my grandkids. Mentally it was hard on us as it was a long tournament. DSS: How was the reaction at

KM: Massive. Cricket grabbed the headline for the first time. It gripped the nation. We were invited on to the Late Late show. And if you are on that show, you have made it. The country fell for us. We represented Ireland with huge degree of honour.

DSS: But after that Pakistan match, Bob Woolmer died. What happened that night?

KM: We were not in the same hotel that night. We beat Pakistan and we were at a different hotel celebrating with our fans. The death put everything into perspective that this was just a game and not a matter of life and death. It was a huge shock. He was the first to shake our hands after the defeat. DSS: After the World Cup, there were problems with your cricket board. Tell us a bit about that. KM: Two full-time employees --

CEO and our national coach, basically run cricket in Ireland. It is difficult for one man to do the work done by a few hundred people. It just goes to show what difficulties they face. Irish cricket weren't able to pay

players full time but now they pay match fees so it is working hard to make sure things are on the right direction.

inspiration from Bangladesh's here and I would have no development. We take Bangladesh

Tigers get back lost confidence

tries to be consistent in his batting.

totally failed against South Africa,

once again established one thing

that Bangladesh is now far away

from the ICC associate members.

also believed that.

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH

Aftab b Cusack

Rezanotout

178, 6-260, 7-287

Langford-Smith

Bowler

KO'Brien

Stadium in Mirpur yesterday:

Nafees c Strydom b Cusack

Ashraful c N O'Brien b K O'Brien

Ragibul c N O'Brien b K O'Brien

Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs)

Did not bat: Dhiman, Razzak

Sri Lanka

without any inhibitions and he

helped himself to an unbeaten 53

as Sri Lanka went into lunch on Day

One of the first Test against West

Indies here at a comfortable 85

without loss. Michael Vandort kept

Earlier, the tourists elected to

him company with determined 32.

WEST INDIES: Gayle, Smith

Sarwan, Samuels, Chanderpaul,

Hinds, Bravo, Ramdin, Benn,

SRI LANKA: M Jayawardene,

Vandort, Warnapura, Sangakkara,

Samaraweera, Dilshan, P

Umpires: Simon Taufel and Billy

Jayawardene, Vaas, Thushara,

bat after winning the toss.

FROM PAGE 17

TEAMS

Taylor, Powell.

Bowden.

Herath, Muralidaran.

Mahmudullah not out

Extras: (lb-5, w-8, nb-1)

Iqbal c Porterfield b Langford-Smith

Shakib c Porterfield b Langford-Smith

Mortaza c Porterfield b Langford-Smith

Fall of wickets: 1-109, 2-109, 3-160, 4-167,

batsman.

The top-order batting, which

And Ireland coach Phil Simmons

"I think Bangladesh deserved

respect from the cricket pundits

because they are a very improving

side," said the former West Indies

Scoreboard of the third and final one-day

international between Bangladesh and

Ireland at the Sher-e-Bangla National

cricket as a model to become bigger cricketing nation. DSS: Apart from being a school

teacher and cricketer, do you have

any other hobbies? KM: I play the guitar. I like Eric Clapton and Mark Weller. I play golf and I try to entertain my wife and in the English Premier League, I followWest Ham.

DSS: Who's your inspiration? My wife and my parents inspire me hugely. Nelson Mandela is someone I look up to and from the cricketing point of view, I always admired Steve Waugh, with whom I have played in 2000. His mentality was superb as there were no excuses with him.

I played with Saqlain Mushtaq last year and as an off-spinner, certainly admire him and working with him was interesting. DSS: What has been the defining

moment of your 12-year long career? KM: Intercontinental Cup in Namibia was a defining moment in Irish cricket and personally I achieved as I took four wickets.

World Cup was a defining moment and the game against Pakistan. DSS: So what of the future? KM: My primary goal will be to take Ireland to the next World Cup in 2011. But I don't think I'll be back to play the tournament. I would like to give the youngsters the same

experience I have had. DSS: Would you come back to Bangladesh?

KM: To be honest with you, I was a little hesitant but since arriving here, I think I like Bangladesh To be honest, we take simply because it is my first time hesitation in coming back.

Porterfield run out 18

K O'Brien b Shakib

Botha run out

Cusack run out

Mortaza

Razzak

Mahmudullah

Toss: Bangladesh

Wijewardene (Sri Lanka)

SPORTS REPORTER

Johnston run out

Strydom Ibw b Mahmudullah

Morgan c Aftab b Mortaza

NO'Brien cAftab b Razzak

McCallan c Reza b Shakib

Langford-Smith not out

Extras: (b-3, lb-5, w-6)

Total: (All out in 45.3 overs)

Thompson st Dhiman b Razzak

Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-48, 3-87, 4-126, 5-

Result: Bangladesh won by 79 runs and

Umpires: Enamul Haque and Th

Match referee: RS Madugalle (Sri Lanka)

Toroni Kapali

passes away

Reserve umpire: AFM Akhtaruddin

clinched three-match series 3-0.

Man-of-the-match: Tamim Igbal.

Man-of-the-series: Shahriar Nafees.

130, 6-154, 7-154, 8-190, 9-196, 10-214.

West Bengal bound U-15 squad named

SPORTS REPORTER

SPORT

Iktedar Nazeef Ahmed was named captain of the 15-member Bangladesh under-15 cricket team that will tour West Bengal from March 25.

Bangladesh Cricket Board named the squad yesterday, where wicketkeeper Liton Kumar Das was named Iktedar's deputy.

The junior cricket team will play a couple of two-day matches and three one-dayers against the CAB under-15 team during the fortnight tour.

The selected players have been asked to report to Sharif Mahmud Palash, operations Manager of the under-15 team at the GP-BCB Academy House in Dhanmondi at 4pm today. SQUAD

Iktedar Nazeef Ahmed (captain), Liton Kumar Das (vicecaptain/wicketkeeper), Ratnak Saha, Anisur Rahman, Kamran Farhad Sunny, Ahmedul Kabir, Khawja Khairuddin, Rakin Ahmed, Shihabuddin Ahmed, Shahariar Islam, Didar Hossain, Nasim Ahmed, Jashimuddin, Asif Hasan, Mehdi Hasan.

Ex-NZ captain Wallace dead

REUTERS, Napier

Former New Zealand cricket captain Merv Wallace has died aged 91 New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Saturday.

Wallace, who scored more than 7,000 runs in a 24-year career with Auckland and played 13 Tests between 1937 and 1953, died on Friday, NZC said in a statement.

He toured England in 1937 and 1949 and was coach of the team from 1956, when he was involved in New Zealand's first Test victory over the West Indies at Eden Park, until

Wallace scored 17 first-class centuries during his career in which he averaged 44.32. His highest Test score was only 66, however, and he averaged just 20.90.

The New Zealand team are wearing black armbands during the third Test against England at Napier as a mark of respect.

Five ICL players denied county registration

REUTERS, London

Five overseas players who have signed for the rebel Indian Cricket League Twenty20 competition have been denied registration to play English county cricket this

A statement from the England and Wales Cricket Board said applications for registration from Wavell Hinds (West Indies), Johannes van der Wath (South Africa), Andrew Hall (South Africa), Hamish Marshall (New Zealand) and Justin Kemp (South Africa had been rejected.

The International Cricket Council does not recognise the ICL, supporting instead the Indian Premier League which starts on April 18.

MSC take

FROM PAGE 17 BRIEFSCORES

BIMAN: 250-7 in 50 overs (Rubel 90, Nafis 72; Arafat 3-49). CITY: 250-7 in 50 overs (Imran 85 Robiul 51; Robin 3-40). Result: Match tied. MSC: 228-9 in 50 overs (Faisal 57, Aqueel 52; Saad 5-45). TORUN: 193 all out in 46.1 overs

(Bashar 75, Nayeem 51; Shuvo 5-Result: MSC won by 35 runs.

BKSP: 225 all out in 49.5 overs (Rahim 59, Mithun 51; Kamrul 2-

SONARGAON: 180 all out in 48.5 overs (Sunny 30; Anas 5-24). Result: BKSP won by 45 runs. be subsequently announced that he

240

fill-in

26 Golden

Aule

word

27 Ostrich's

28 Group

30 Resort

cousin

Pietersen saves FROM PAGE 17

SCOREBOARD

Bell c b Elliott

Broad not out

147, 7-208.

Bowler

Martin

Southee

Vettori

Sidebottom not out

Elliott, Southee, Patel.

Toss: England

Koertzen (RSA)

Collingwood c Elliott b Patel

Ambrose c Taylor b Patel

Extras: (lb-8, w-3, nb-1)

Total: (For 7 wkts in 92 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-4, 3-4, 4-36, 5-125, 6-

NEW ZEALAND: Bell, How, Fleming,

Sinclair, Taylor, McCullum, Vettori, Martin,

Umpires: Daryl Harper (AUS), Rudi

Match referee: Javagal Srinath (India)

To bat: Panesar, Anderson.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) condoled the passing away of and England at McLean Park on Saturday: Toroni Mohan Kapali, father of **ENGLAND:** First innings national cricketer Alok Kapali, who Cook b Martin Vaughan Ibw b Southee died in Sylhet on Thursday. Strauss c How b Southee BCB president Maj Gen Sina Ibn Pietersen c How b Southee

Jamali and other members of the board extended their deepest sympathy to the family members of Army put five

past Mirpur

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army drubbed Mirpur Academy 5-0 in the Dhaka Bank Independence Day hockey tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yester-

The winners led the first-half 3-In the day's other match, Old Dhaka played out a 2-2 draw with

Sipahi Para at the same venue.

Smith puts selection row behind

Cricket

AGENCIES, Chennal South Africa skipper Graeme Smith on Saturday said he had full faith his team would overcome selection controversies and excel in the three-Test series against India

starting here next week. The tourists arrived for the three-Test series amid a storm or controversy following the omission of paceman Andre Nel to fulfil the team's quota of non-white players.

Nel was furious at being dropped, prompting speculation he will quit the international game.

Fellow paceman Charl Langeveldt, a mixed-race player chosen in Nel's place, backed out of the tour as a result of the tension created by his selection, saying he did not want to be selected on the basis of his colour. Langeveldt was accommodated to conform with the board's transformation policy that requires six players of colour to fresh from a rare one-day victory be picked in a squad of 14.

Black fast bowler Monde Zondeki was named as replace-

The first Test begins in Chennai on Wednesday.

Proteas arrive in India

Smith, however, said he was confident his team would overcome the odds and succeed in the Tests, which begin on Wednesday.

"It is a bit disappointing. We feel for the players and have spoken to them. It affects the team certainly. But we are mature enough and our job is to continue with the game," he told reporters.

"India are a formidable side at home but we have the team to succeed in their conditions. We have two good spinners in leftarmers Paul Harris and Robin Peterson and a battery of young fast bowlers who are capable of dismissing India twice in a game.

"We also have good batters in the top six positions. I am confident that they are capable of fulfillingthetask," he said.

South Africa go into the series on the back of a triumphant tour against Bangladesh while India are against Australia.

India put up a solid display on their Australia tour, losing an acri-

monious Test series 2-1 before winning the one-day CB Series. where they beat world champions Australia 2-0 in the finals.

"It is going to be a big challenge," Smith said. "I know India have come back after a great tour of

However, he was confident there would be no verbal clashes like the

ones that marred India's tour. "It will be a battle of cricket and not a battle of nerves," he said.

Much is at stake in the series as the results will decide who takes the second spot in the official Test rankings, currently headed by Australia.

Former South Africa opening batsman Gary Kirsten will begin his term as India coach. The tourists are upset that he has lured mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton.

Coach Mickey Arthur said Upton's presence in the Indian camp could be a disadvantage because he knew the South African players well.

The second Test will be played in Ahmedabad from April 3 while the third and final match is slated to be held in Kanpur from April 11.

'Tendulkar wanted Dhoni'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Sharad Pawar, the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has revealed that Sachin Tendulkar had recommended Mahendra Singh Dhoni for the captaincy and suggested that youngsters should be included in the World Cup-winning Twenty20 squad instead of "players of his generation"

Pawar also told PTI in an interview that Rahul Dravid had dropped hints during the England series last year that he did not wish to remain as India captain, a decision that he finally announced after the series.

"Rahul had told me he could not concentrate on his game and requested me to find someone else. Some of the selectors wanted Sachin to lead and I conveyed it to him," Pawar said. "But Sachin said,

who should lead the side and he Rahul [Dravid], Sourav [Ganguly] said 'Give it to someone like and Anil [Kumble]. Their commit-Dhoni'. He said 'Give Dhoni the ment is unquestionable," Pawar opportunity. He has excellent said. relations with the teammates'. I told him I would not interfere but would definitely convey it to the selectors." Pawar said that it was on

Tendulkar's advice that youngsters were given an opportunity in the Twenty20 squad, which went on to win the World Cup in South Africa last September. "I was in England when we were playing them. Sachin met me and

suggested 'I know you don't interfere with the team selection but you please tell the selectors not to include players of my generation in the Twenty20 squad'. He said 'My generation is not fit for Twenty20, so give opportunity to the youngsters'," Pawar said.

"Now who would come and say 'Don't induct us', when that means losing a few lakh rupees? I think we

'Please don't do this'. I asked then are fortunate to have players like

Pawar also praised the leadership skills of Kumble, during the racism row involving Harbhajan Singh in Australia, and Dhoni, during the Twenty20 World Cup and the CB Series.

"Dhoni as a captain has done extremely good. He can motivate and has a good equation with other players. He is also cool [under pressure]," Pawar said.

Kumble, Pawar, said, displayed great maturity during the controversial Test series in Australia. "I would say Anil Kumble has been remarkable as captain. He is a good motivator and his behaviour was impeccable both on and off the field. In true sense of the term, he was an ambassador of the country and we are proud of the way he handled the entire issue," Pawar.

man squad for last year's inaugural

But he never made the cut for the

Any chance he had of playing for

England again all but evaporated

following his decision last week to

pull out of Somerset's trip to Dubai

before Saturday's statement set the

that it is in the best interests of all

Trescothick added: "I now think

seal on his international career.

WorldTwenty20 in South Africa.

Trescothick bids

FROM PAGE 17

England managing director Hugh Morris, paying tribute to Trescothick, said: "I would like to place on record my thanks to Marcus for the enormous contribution he has made to the England team in both Test and one-day international cricket.

"I fully respect and understand his decision to retire from international cricket and wish him every success in his future career with Somerset." Trescothick, 32, had not played

for England since 2006 after struggling with the effects of a stressrelated illness which forced him to come home early from two tours.

He made his international debuts in both one-day and Test cricket in 2000, having caught the eye of national coach Duncan Fletcher in 1999 by making 167 for Somerset against Glamorgan when the Zimbabwean was in charge of the Welsh county. A natural clean-striker and

notably more attacking than many an England opener, the left-hander quickly cemented his place in the In all he scored 5,825 Test runs at an average of 43.79 with 14 hun-

dreds and a best of 219, against South Africa in 2003. He also he made more than 4,300 one-day international runs at an average of

But his England career started to unravel when he came home early from the 2005/06 tour of India under a cloak of secrecy, only for it to was suffering from the effects of a stress-related illness.

After an indifferent home season, which saw him bowled for nought by Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar in a one-dayer at Southampton -- in what turned out to be his final England appearance -- on September 5, 2006, it was announced Trescothick would miss the Champions Trophy tournament in India.

He was included in England's squad for the 2006/07 Ashes tour of first Test after his illness struck again.

Australia but was home before the Trescothick returned to action with Somerset in 2007 and hopes of an

England comeback were raised when

he was included in the provisional 30-

concerned that the issue is put to rest so that the England team can concentrate on moving forward, and I can concentrate all my efforts on playing well for Somerset.

"It is a very big season for the club and I am looking forward very much to playing a full part."

FACTFILE

Full name: Marcus Edward Trescothick Born: December 25, 1975, Keynsham, Somerset Current age: 32 years 88 days Major teams: England, Somerset Nickname: Banger, Tresco Playing role: Opening batsman Batting style: Left-hand bat Bowling style: Right-arm medium Fielding position: Occasional wicketkeeper Height: 6ft 3 in

BATTING

10 219 43.79 4335 137 37.37 BOWLING 1/34 1/34 155.00 123 13 232 219 4 2/7 2/7 54.75 5.66 58.0

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 2 Puzzle 12 Thick-3 Took Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the third and final Test between New Zealand context? 15 Type

5 Now-or- 20 Judge 38 Cul into Lance 21 Showroom 'Em 6 Ante-22 Entertained 23 Fairy mate tale 7 Dry starter 8 Failed 18 Intention DOWN to be in God 19 Money 20 Midflowing 26 Single 21 Fop 23 Writer

29 "Como ment 31 Stroller, Stratford 32 Donkey 34 Tend 35 Horse

CRYPTOQUIP

ONFUIVCU JSVB NU AWCGW WCR VLB ANFPK PVUK, WS GLCSK "C ROSPP VLVLVI!" Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN PEOPLE COMMUNICATE VIA SIGN LANGUAGE, I WOULD

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals H

SAY THEY'RE RECEIVING SIGNALS DIGITALLY.

4 1970s 19 Econ. statistic samples 24 Disbeliel preceder 28 Support Solution time: 21 mins. VR UNVW VJJLNVGWSK IWS esta -7" Joyce 30 Arrange-Carol -25 Office

play?

14 Depend