

2010 World T20 Championship in Caribbean

AFP, Mohali

The West Indies will host the World Twenty20 Championship in 2010, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced here on Saturday.

The event will be held in place of the Champions Trophy that was to be hosted by West Indies in 2010, ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat said at a press conference.

"With the Champions Trophy set to be hosted by Pakistan in 2009 after its cancellation this year, we decided to have a Twenty20 World Championship instead in April-May 2010 in West Indies," he said.

"Although World Twenty20 is to be held every second year, we decided to hold it on the trot to set the calendar right and ensure a better spread of tournaments."

The event, slated to be held from April 23 to May 9, will be staged at three venues to be chosen by the ICC Board in January 2009 following nominations from the West Indies Cricket Board.

"With the ICC Champions Trophy being the final major ICC event of 2009, and the ICC Cricket World Cup being the 50 over event in 2011, it makes perfect sense to have a tournament of a different format in between," Lorgat said.

"It means we will avoid staging the ICC Champions Trophy and the ICC Cricket World Cup close together, as happened in 2002-03 and 2006-07."

"We will aim to make both those events special to ensure we have a great blend of the ICC's three majors, with two ICC World Twenty20s (2009 in England and 2010 in the West Indies) as well as an ICC Champions Trophy (in 2009) and an ICC Cricket World Cup (in 2011) over the next three years."

India won the inaugural World Twenty20 Championship in South Africa in 2007.

"We will aim to make both those events special to ensure we have a great blend of the ICC's three majors, with two ICC World Twenty20s (2009 in England and 2010 in the West Indies) as well as an ICC Champions Trophy (in 2009) and an ICC Cricket World Cup (in 2011) over the next three years."

India won the inaugural World Twenty20 Championship in South Africa in 2007.

Pakistanis hail

FROM PAGE 17

Miandad said Tendulkar's "achievement was a matter of great pride for Asia."

Miandad said Gavaskar told him about Tendulkar's talent before the 1989 series.

"Gavaskar told me that Tendulkar was a player who could make his mark and would create records. It is now for youngsters to follow Tendulkar's footsteps," said Miandad who scored 8,832 runs in 124 Tests -- the most by a Pakistani.

Another former great, Zaheer Abbas, said Tendulkar's record was likely to last.

"He (Tendulkar) has set records which will be hard to break," said Abbas, who was called the Asian Bradman for his batting. "It is a great achievement and I congratulate him for being the doyen of batsmen."

Current Pakistan paceman Shoaib Akhtar saluted Tendulkar.

"It is a great honour for me that I have played at a time when greats like Tendulkar, Lara, Ponting and Adam Gilchrist have been on the field.

"The world of cricket will not be the same when Tendulkar retires. He is not only a great player but a great man," said Akhtar, one of only four bowlers who got the Indian legend for a first-ball duck in Tests.

"Getting him out for nought is always a moment I cherish."

6-shooter Shakib

FROM PAGE 17

Patel	21.1	7	67	2
Vettori	36	15	59	5

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

Redmond lbw b Shakib	19
How c Rajin b Shakib	16
Ryder c Rajin b Shakib	1
Taylor lbw b Razzak	12
McCullum c Razzak b Shakib	25
Flynn c Mushfiqur b Nayeem	19
Oram c Mashrafe b Shakib	0
Vettori not out	48
Mills c Mushfiqur b Shakib	4
Patel c Shakib b Ashrafal	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-1)	11
Total: (For nine wkts in 60.3 overs)	155

To bat: O'Brien.

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-29, 3-46, 4-52, 5-99, 6-99, 7-100, 8-126, 9-155.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	7	4	13	0
Shahadat	11	0	35	0
Shakib	24	7	31	6
Razzak	14	1	46	1
Mehrab	1	0	8	0
Nayeem	3	0	11	1
Ashrafal	0.3	0	1	1

Former India opener Sunil Gavaskar on Saturday led a galaxy of cricketing greats in praising record-smashing Sachin Tendulkar, saying his compatriot had always been an extraordinary batsman.

Tendulkar became the leading scorer in Tests on Friday when he shattered retired West Indies captain Brian Lara's record of 11,953 runs during his 88 against Australia in the second Test in Mohali.

Gavaskar, the first batsman to complete 10,000 Tests runs, said he was convinced that Tendulkar would achieve greatness when he first saw him bat in the nets two decades ago.

"I stood hidden in the players' enclosure and had my first glimpse of the genius of Sachin Tendulkar," Gavaskar wrote in his Hindustan Times column under the headline

India corner Australia

FROM PAGE 17

hard for my runs today because field settings were such. I tried to be patient and score off loose deliveries."

Dhoni, leading the side in the absence of injured captain Anil Kumble, was severe on debutant fast bowler Peter Siddle, pulling him over fine leg for the first six of the innings.

Dhoni's fiery knock was brought to an end by Siddle, who trapped him leg before with a searing inswinger, while Zaheer was run out by Lee.

White said bowling to the in-form Indian batsmen was not easy.

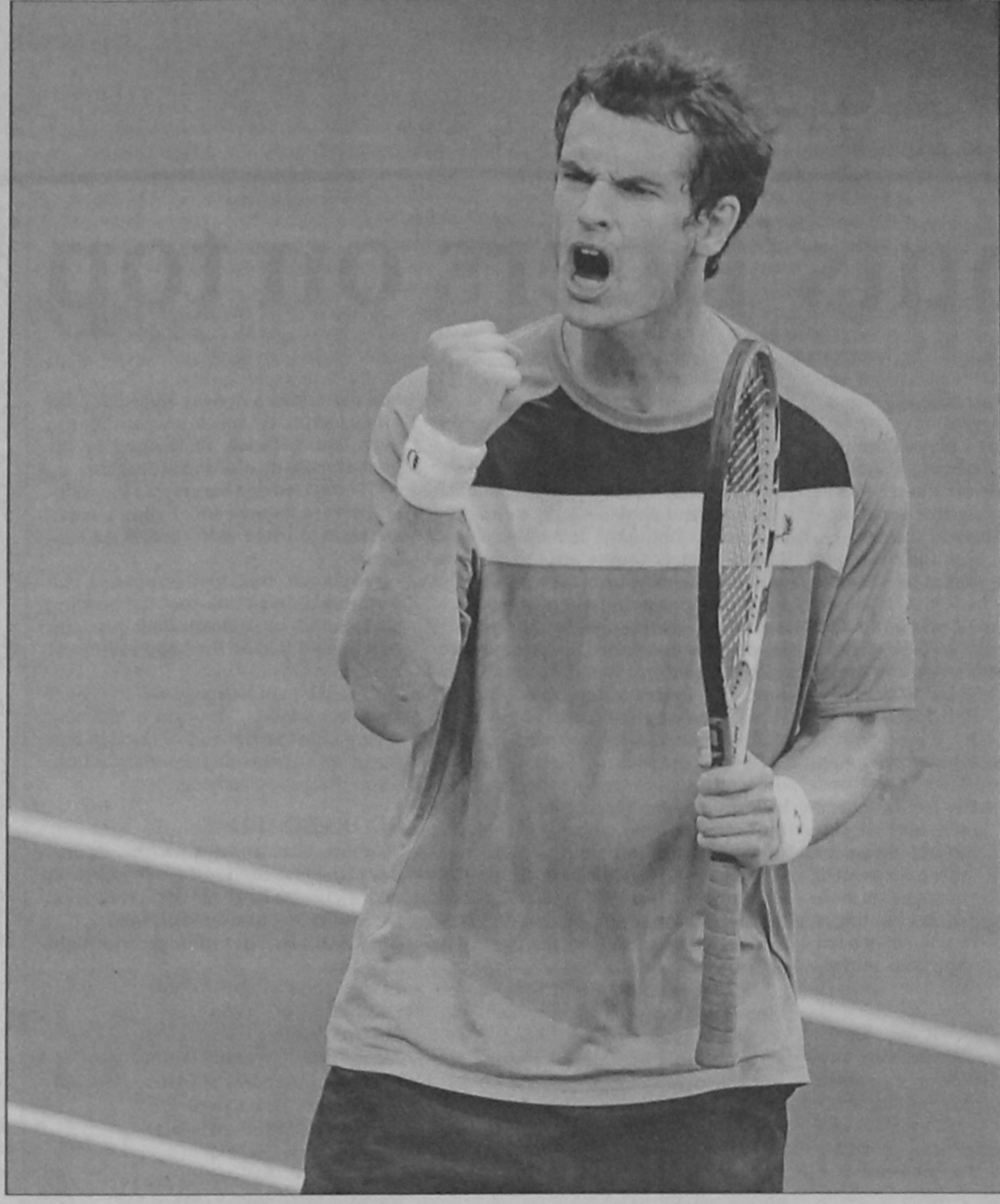
"It was pretty difficult to bowl to the Indian top-order in conditions familiar to them," he said.

"The first half tomorrow is going to be crucial as it will dictate which course the game takes."

Australia paceman Mitchell Johnson finished with 3-85 while Siddle also picked up three wickets

Did U Know?

India batting superstar Sachin Tendulkar scored his fifth half-century on the first day of the second Test against Australia on Friday. He also became the first player to exceed 12,000 runs in the longest-version of the game during his knock of 88 in the day.



Andy Murray of Britain celebrates after his comeback victory over Swiss star Roger Federer in the semifinals of the Madrid Masters on Saturday.

Murray stuns Federer

AFP, Madrid

Andy Murray took his revenge for a US Open final loss to Roger Federer six weeks ago with a 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 comeback win in the semifinals of the Madrid Masters on Saturday.

The Scot seeded fourth will play for the trophy - and potentially his second straight Masters shield after winning Cincinnati in August - when he takes on either Rafael Nadal or Gilles Simon.

Murray fired 14 aces and broke in the penultimate game to turn the tables on the Swiss second seed to improve his record in their series to 2-1 this year after a victory in Dubai during February.

"That was a great match, a top five match for me," said Murray of his performance this season.

"When you play Federer or Nadal, you have a respect for them, you expect a tougher match."

"When it's close they can raise their game and they come back when they are behind."

The confident Scot, now a "man" in the words of Federer, won his 47th match of the season against 14 defeats as he cements his world number 4 status.

"Against Roger it's difficult to play, once he gets confidence he's hard to stop," said Murray.

"Today I changed my serve. He missed a lot when I wasn't expecting it."

Federer looks like proving to himself this week in Spain that his decision to end a three-week hiatus from tennis by playing again was a wise decision.

The Swiss said that he will play his home event from Monday in Basle after taking three weeks off

broken by a return in Madrid.

"Andy served very well and returned with much more confidence than he did in New York," said the 13-times grand slam champion Swiss.

"It was an even match, a close match at the end."

"He had more opportunities in the third set. This surface plays so quick, it was a frustrating loss in some respects."

"But if someone is serving well there is not a lot you can do."

Federer said that Murray, 21, has matured on court.

"He has improved at his own pace. He's grown up a little bit and become a man. He's taken that step well, he's now more relaxed."

Murray said he was not bothering to watch the Nadal-Simon match, leaving that chore to his coach. The Scot is bidding for his fourth title this season.

'Sachin a special talent'

AFP, New Delhi

"A talent designed by God himself."

"He played a couple of forcing shots to midwicket off the backfoot off (former India paceman) Raju Kulkarni, and that was enough to convince me that he was a special talent."

"There wasn't the slightest of doubt that he was destined to bag all batting records."

The 35-year-old Tendulkar also holds three more world marks -- most runs in one-day internationals (16,361) and highest number of centuries in Tests (39) and one-dayers (42).

"It is hard to imagine any player in the history of the game who combines classical technique with raw aggression like the little champion does," said Gavaskar.

"There is not a single shot he cannot play. The batting records couldn't be in better hands, for here is a player with special talent who has been a role model for a generation."

Former Australian captain Allan

Border said he was highly impressed with Tendulkar's ability to adapt himself to different conditions.

Tendulkar scored an unbeaten 148 in the Sydney Test and 114 in Perth against Border's team in 1992.

"He was amazed at his impeccable adjustments in technique and his stunning proficiency off the back foot," Border wrote in the same newspaper.

"He enjoyed playing strokes off the front foot, but his adjustments and supreme control off the back foot at Perth were a treat to watch."

Sri Lankan batsman Sanath Jayasuriya said it was always difficult to find weaknesses in Tendulkar's batting because the Indian was good against both pace and spin on fast and slow pitches.

"In my opinion, Sachin is unquestionably the best player of the modern era," said Jayasuriya, the only Sri Lankan to have completed 10,000 runs in one-day internationals.

4-163, 5-305, 6-326, 7-435, 8-442, 9-469, 10-469.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	24	5	86	1
Siddle	28	6	114	3
Johnson	27	4	85	3
Watson	24	3	71	0
Clarke	7	0	28	0
White	19	0	71	2

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Hayden b Zaheer	0
Katich b Mishra	33
Ponting lbw b Sharma	5
Hussey not out	37
Clarke lbw b Mishra	23
Extras: (lb-1, nb-3)	4
Total: (For four wkts in 40.5 overs)	102

To bat: Watson, Haddin, White, Lee, Siddle, Johnson.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-17, 3-62, 4-102.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	13	4	24	1
Ishant	9	3	28	1
Harbhajan	10	2	28	0
Mishra	8.5	1	21	2

Shoaib hearing after Oct 24

CRICINFO, undated.

A Lahore court has postponed a hearing into Shoaib Akhtar's pending fine until October 24.

"The judge was not available today and the new date is set for October 24," Tafazzul Rizvi, the PCB's lawyer, said.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is seeking a ruling from Lahore High Court Judge Sayed Zahid Hussain on whether Shoaib is eligible to play in or for Pakistan without paying an outstanding fine of 7 million rupees (approx 105,000 dollars) for his criticism of not being awarded a central contract.

Despite the pending court decision, the PCB allowed Shoaib to compete in the four-nation Twenty20 tournament in Canada last week in "national interest."

The PCB had sought a ruling from the court on whether Shoaib was eligible to play domestic and international cricket without paying the fine. The board hit Shoaib, 33, with the punishment earlier this year after he criticised the PCB over its failure to award him a central contract. He was initially banned by the PCB for five years, but the sentence was subsequently suspended pending a final decision by the Lahore High Court.

All eyes on ICC

FROM PAGE 17

meantime David Morgan, the ICC president, is expected to hold behind-the-scenes discussions with officials of member boards on how to resolve the issue.

While the BCCI has clearly stated that there are no plans for a further meeting with ICL, Subhash Chandra, the league's owner, has written to Morgan asking him to convene a board meeting by November 7 and communicate to us the decision taken."

"Alternatively, we will have no option but to initiate legal proceedings in the appropriate court of law," the letter says.

ICL officials say the letter was sent to Morgan on Thursday, after the meeting with the BCCI, but no confirmation was available from the ICC.

The letter claims Chandra was informed by Morgan, after the ICC board meeting, that Manohar had undertaken "to sit with ICL officials and resolve the matter."

"I am told that Manohar also mentioned in the board meeting that the ICL has not so far made any formal request to the BCCI for recognition," the letter says. It adds that when such a request was presented to Manohar during Thursday's meeting, the BCCI president, who is also a well-known lawyer, "refused" to see it. Chandra also claimed that Manohar said the Indian board would deal with him only if he disassociated himself from the ICL, a proposal Chandra says he rejected.

"We strongly feel and are of the view that such an attitude and behaviour of your member board in India is against the very essence of natural justice and infringes the very basic right of preventing an individual from earning his livelihood," the letter says.

Asking the ICC to take the initiative in granting the league approval, the letter says the issue "needs to be resolved by ICC as the conflict is affecting many cricket-playing countries and not only India."

Second defeat

FROM PAGE 17

Still it could have been a different story if two good chances were not spoiled in the last moment. Wali Faisal's shot from the danger zone was saved by the opponents goalkeeper while Emily frustrated everybody by missing an open net chance.

In the injury time Emily, who also wasted a great chance in the first match to put the team ahead, squandered the most easiest chance when he played over the cross bar with the goal at his mercy.

Anisur propels

FROM PAGE 17

Elias Sunny took three wickets.

BARISAL-KHULNA

Robiul Islam claimed four wickets as Barisal were reduced to 120 for seven but wicketkeeper Shaheen and Sajedul hit half centuries to rescue Barisal.

Shaheen was batting on 51 while Sajedul was trapped lbw by Nazmus Sadat but before that he scored team highest 75 off 159 balls that featured seven fives.

Number five Nasir Hossain was the other notable batsman with a 92-ball 67 that contained nine fours and two sixes.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI: First innings 275-4 in 90 overs (Shakil 13, Zahurul 22, Farhad 88, Rafique 20, Anisur 111, Mashud 3*, extras 18; Mokter 1-50, Younus 1-69, Yasin 1-59).

SYLHET: First Innings 253-5 in 90 overs (Rahman 71, Intiaz 10, Saikat 4, Mithun 69, Kamrul 53*, Sharifullah 2, Ejaz 36*, extras 8; Emon 1-45, Azim 1-12, Elias 3-64).

BARISAL: First Innings 278-8 in 90 overs (Uttam 3, Hannan 4, Nasiruddin 2, Imran 20, Nasir 67, Rony 6, Arafat 1, Shaheen 51*, Sajedul 75, Talha 16*, extras 33; Dollar 1-50, Robiul 4-83, Murad 1-51).

Tendulkar v Lara

AFP, New Delhi

India's Sachin Tendulkar is celebrating breaking Brian Lara's world record for most runs in Test cricket, but he lags behind the West Indian when it comes to playing marathon innings.

Tendulkar surpassed the retired Lara's mark of 11,953 runs during the second Test against Australia in Mohali on Friday, but would dearly love to match a couple of "batathons" played by the left-hander.

Tendulkar holds four world records -- most runs and centuries in Tests (12,027/39) and one-day internationals (16,361/42) -- but still believes that performance matters only when it helps his team win.

Lara was peerless when it came to playing long innings, still holding world records for the highest innings in first-class cricket (501 for Warwickshire v Durham in 1994) and in Tests (400 not out v England in 2004).

The West Indian made 375 against England in 1994, a record that was beaten by Australian Matthew Hayden (380 v Zimbabwe in 2003), before being reclaimed by Lara.

Tendulkar is considered more consistent and technically sound than Lara, but has failed to convert any of his four double-centuries into a triple-hundred in 152 Tests. His best remains an unbeaten 248 in Bangladesh in 2004.

"He (Tendulkar) is in the same league with Lara, but I've always felt Sachin has a tighter technique," Australian captain Ricky Ponting said recently.

"Because he (Tendulkar) is so solid, our bowlers have had to work hard to get him out. At different times, we've worked out different plans, but Sachin comes up with something to combat them... the sign of a truly class player."

Pundits find it baffling how a Test triple-century has eluded Tendulkar while compatriot Virender Sehwag has two to his credit despite lacking the master batsman's consistency.

Tendulkar and Lara both made their Test debuts in Pakistan -- the Indian as a 16-year-old in 1989 and Lara the following year.

The pair were at the top of the game for more than a decade, scoring a bucketful of runs against quality pace and spin attacks in all conditions.

Both were feared and respected by their opponents, with Australian leg-spin genius Shane Warne once saying that Tendulkar and Lara were the two best batsmen of his era.

Lara spent most of his international career in a declining West Indies team and it was a tribute to his genius that he never allowed the side's repeated failures to affect his batting.

He plundered 688 runs in three Tests in Sri Lanka in 2001, only to see his team lose the series 3-0. His last Test series was a similar story -- he scored 448 in three matches in his team's 2-0 defeat in Pakistan in 2006.

Tendulkar was also in a similar situation for a few years in the 1990s when he virtually carried the burden of his struggling team on his shoulders, especially in one-day internationals.

But he avoided Lara's fate as the emergence of world-class batsmen in Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, Venkatesai Laxman and Sehwag considerably eased the pressure on him.

Lara, considered one of the best finishers in the game, was renowned for winning matches from hopeless situations despite receiving little support from the other end.

The West Indies were reeling at 248-8 chasing a 308-run target in the third Test against Australia in Bridgetown in 1999 when Lara (153 not out) steered his team to a one-wicket win in the company of the tailenders.

Four years later at the same venue against the same opposition, Lara's brisk 60 set up his side's record 418-run chase.

Controversy following Lara more than Tendulkar, with the West Indian often having brushes with authorities over selection, contracts and sponsorship deals.

Both Lara and Tendulkar never really enjoyed captaincy.

Tendulkar stepped down after losing a home Test series against South Africa in 2000 and since then has said no to captaincy. Lara was in his third stint as captain when he quit the game after the 2007 World Cup.

Lawson couldn't care less

CRICINFO, undated

As Pakistan cricket undergoes its umpteenth revamp and a new Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman with new ideas and possibly personnel settles in, Geoff Lawson, Pakistan's coach, remains indifferent to the criticism directed at him after an uncertain year in charge.

Lawson's tenure has been a difficult one; a lack of cricket coupled with some poor on-field performances has made him an easy target. Even Jaz Butt, the newly-installed chairman, has questioned his contribution. But in an interview with Cricinfo just after the four-nation Twenty20 tournament in Canada, Lawson was in a bullish mood about his stint and the future for Pakistan.

"The only criticism I take any notice of is the criticism within my group and my own criticism," he said. "I'm very harsh on myself about what we need to do and I certainly

don't take any notice of the media."

Lawson has had a spiky relationship with the Pakistan media, which reached its lowest ebb during the Asia Cup, when the media walked out of his press conference in Karachi. Lawson insisted, however, that the only support he needed was from the players and the board.

"I pick up the paper and laugh. You can't take any notice of it, you just have to ignore it. It's one of the big issues I've brought up with the players, I've said 'look you can't let what people say in the press, particularly the Pakistani press, affect how you play the game. You have support from the coaching staff and from the board itself, so play the game'... My life is not affected by what the media say."

In a wide-ranging, typically honest chat, Lawson also spoke about the Australian attitude he was trying to instil into the Pakistan side and the changes that need to be made to improve the game in the country.

"One of the main reasons I was

employed by the PCB was to bring that sort of attitude to the Pakistan team," Lawson said. "I've played the game hard, I've played to win and I've played an aggressive style of cricket. When you have talented players you can do that. The job now is to get over all the hurdles that are placed in your way, to transfer that to the team."

When asked about the nature of the hurdles, Lawson pointed to the lack of facilities in some areas of the country. "Well, the fact that there aren't good enough gyms in all the outlying regions. All the players can't follow a high-level fitness program. That's a basic thing. It's great in Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi, but not everywhere. And if you live in an outlying region, or even Quetta or rural Sindh or Punjab you don't have all that access. Within Australia or England, you just take it for granted that the players will be able to train at a high level. That's a fairly significant hurdle, but the PCB are trying to work on those sorts of things."

Empty stands worry ICC

AFP, Mohali

Concerned by dwindling spectator interest in Test matches, the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Saturday said it was looking into ways to jazz up the long version of the game.

"We are quite concerned at lack of spectator interest in Tests," ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat said here at a press conference.

"We at ICC are very clear about preserving the primacy of Test cricket. We want to promote and protect this form of the game and we are looking at it very seriously," he said without providing details.

"We get evidence of interest in Test matches from attendance of spectators at the ground. Bangalore had a great crowd but we are certainly disappointed by the crowd numbers in Mohali."

Only a quarter of the stadium

was full here on the first day of the second Test between India and Australia on Friday which saw Sachin Tendulkar break the record of West Indian Brian Lara for most Tests runs.

The same stadium though was packed during the Twenty20 matches of the inaugural Indian Premier League (IPL) earlier this year, a fact not lost on Lorgat.

"It is indeed a challenge for us because the attraction in the shorter form of the game is indeed very strong."

"It is a challenge not only for the ICC but also the member boards to convert that attraction into the longer form of the game."

Lorgat said the ICC would consider whether a window could be created for the IPL to avoid a clash with Tests.

"The member boards are committed to primacy of Test cricket. We haven't discussed a window for IPL till now. We will see how the second edition of the IPL unfolds."

A clash of dates with IPL has

already put Sri Lanka's tour of England next year in jeopardy with some of the tourists' top players contracted to the IPL.

"A series of discussions is going on over Sri Lanka's England tour. The Lankan board is committed to tour England and the English board is also very keen to host them. We are keeping a close watch on this," Lorgat said.

The ICC chief also said it was awaiting a report from the Indian board on the status of its talks with the rival Indian Cricket League (ICL).

"We are yet to receive a report from them on the outcome of their meeting with ICL. We are not mediating between IPL and ICL at this stage. We are also in the process of dealing with the ICL application on recognition."

The ICL, involving Twenty20 matches between club sides, is not sanctioned by the Indian Cricket Board and players linked to it have been banned by their respective boards.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39 Mop the deck	56 Basin accessory	20 Loser one's job
1 Moolah	42 Kyoto booty	DOWN	22 Lind-bergh's view
5 Burglar's	cumber-bund	1 Arrived	24 Manages somehow
9 Pouch	Center's ailer	3 Span-lard's	25 Flop
12 One side	"Sports-of the Center"	2 Now, in a memo	26 Compass pt.
13 Sea eagle	48 Play-voler	4 Meticious	27 "A pax upon thee!"
14 Favorable	ground game	5 Bikar's protection	29 "Eureka!"
15 Sall	49 Ponting verbal support	6 Neigh-borhood	30 Skater
16 Lascivious	51 Id	7 See	31 Pussycat's partner
17 Succor	counter-part	8 Started	35 Royal attendant
18 Grand story	52 Sentyr's command	9 Practed in the ring	36 Delicate lesson
19 Scratch the surface	53 Lawless portrayal	10 Met meoldy	40 Carry on!
20 Showing signs of age	54 "Married ... With Children"	11 Buffalo Bill	41 Quite enthusiastic
21 Wrend whacker	55 Sibling's	12 Met	43 Watson's co-worker
23 Expert	less	13	45 Passel
25 Flaw		14	46 Com recipe
28 Spud		15	47 Approximate
32 Join together		16	49 "What have we here?"
33 "Phoey!"		17	
34 Record player?		18	
36 Party's		19	
37 "A chorus line"		20	
38 Volcanic output		21	

Solution time: 27 mins.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
12					13				14				
15						16			17				
18						19			20				
				21	22			23	24				
25	26	27						28		29 30 31			
32								33					
34								35	36				
								37					
								38					
39	40	41						42	43	44	45	46	47
48								49				50	
51								52				53	
54								55				56	

CRYPTOQUIP

G R P M Y H N C J J A M G D P B J
 R P Z A D P L V H C J K G O A Y G O U O G C Z
 P M K C R W N P W A N J V U P B O L
 D A J C J O A L "O C A M P M Z A."
 Yesterday's Cryptiquip: BECAUSE THE TWO OLD PIECES OF BREAD WERE FRIENDS, PEOPLE HAD BEGUN CALLING THEM STATEMATES.
 Today's Cryptiquip Clue: D equals B