

Malik eyes 3-0

Cricket AFP, Abu Dhabi

Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik Saturday said his team will try its level best to complete a 3-0 one-day series win over the West Indies and jump to fourth position in world rankings.

Pakistan, currently sixth, will leapfrog arch rivals India (fifth) and New Zealand (fourth) in the ICC (International Cricket Council) one-day rankings if they beat the West Indies in the third and final match here on Sunday.

Pakistan clinched a last over thriller by four wickets on Wednesday and then edged the West Indies by 24 runs in the second match on Friday.

And Malik hoped his team would achieve the clean sweep.

"We will do our best because my aim has always been to improve and come in the world's top two teams and here is an opportunity for us to do that," said Malik who is line to have his captaincy extended if the team wins.

Appointed captain after Pakistan's disastrous first-round exit from the World Cup in the West Indies last year, Malik's tenure was due to end next month.

However he said he is more concerned about the team winning than his tenure as captain.

"I don't think on those lines. At the moment we have a task on our hands and that is to win the last match which will give us more confidence for India," said Malik of the series against Pakistan's archrivals in January.

Malik said fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar is still battling a calf injury which forced him to sit out in the first two matches.

"He (Akhtar) is still struggling. Anyone can get injured here because the ground is very soft, so we will look at his fitness before the match," said Malik.

West Indian coach John Dyson said his team needs to improve its finishing to avoid a clean sweep.

"The first two matches proved that Pakistan is stronger team overall," said Dyson, a former

INTERNET, undated

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Champaka

FROM PAGE 17 "Now the problem is we don't have many bowlers who can replace Mashrafe but in the other countries they have the luxury of giving rest to their key bowlers.

"We have to develop it and then of course we can think of resting the bowlers like Mashrafe but we can't do it right now," he said when asked whether resting Mashrafe for a few matches could be a solution for his long career.

Although many fear about the lack of pace bowlers in the pipeline, Champaka was very optimistic after working with some guys in the last eight months.

"I have been involved in the pace bowling academy, the first of its kind in the country, and there was a four-month training programme from where I picked up twenty boys. It's my challenge to build them to the next level.

"The young guys were very enthusiastic and keen to develop and I think talent is there but we need the right environment to train and develop their skills," he said.

As per his observations, it's hard to search the talent in the country as there is no proper school cricket structure in the country and Champaka emphasised on good wicket and competitive first-class cricket to develop fast bowler in the country and he said that everybody should understand that there is a need for good fast bowlers when a team tours outside the Indian sub-continent.

Champaka was looking forward to the two-match Test series. He believes that his fast bowlers including Shahadat Hossain would definitely show some improvement.

One can't however see any drab picture in future pace bowlers if they listen to the Sri Lankan.

Australian opener. "We need to improve both in bowling and batting to match Pakistan who are playing very well.

Dyson said the West Indies were winning easily against weaker teams but added that against top sides "we lose easily, so we must convert our chances against teams who are in the middle of the table".

Dyson said the West Indies, currently number eight, need to bowl in the right areas while batsmen need to rotate strike.

"We are giving too many free hits in the bowling and in the batting our batsmen have the style of play the crowds in the Caribbean love, which is they like to see the ball seen crushed, but in between you have got to pick up singles, like Pakistan are doing."

No Pollock, McGrath in IPL?

CRICINFO, undated

Mumbai Indians officials are hoping to persuade Shaun Pollock, the former South African allrounder, to extend his contract with the IPL franchise. Pollock, whose contract with Mumbai Indians was only for one year, said that he didn't want to play cricket anymore.

"I have reached a stage where I think I have played enough cricket," Pollock told Cricinfo. "My contract with the Mumbai Indians was for one year and I was very happy with the way things went. I enjoyed every bit of the IPL experience but I want to stop playing now. But I will come back in some capacity."

His franchise, however, had not given up hope of Pollock returning. "We are in talks with him. We understand his position but we are positive we will be able to convince him to reconsider," a Mumbai Indians spokesperson said.

During the first season of the IPL, Pollock had told Tendulkar that he might not return next year but the seniors, including Tendulkar and Sanath Jayasuriya, convinced him to continue playing at the time.

Pollock was the captain of the franchise during the first half of the tournament after Tendulkar was injured and Harbhajan Singh was banned. He scored 147 runs in eight innings at a strike-rate of 132.43 and took 11 wickets in 13 matches at an economy-rate of 6.54.

Meanwhile Australian great Glenn McGrath, whose wife Jane died recently because of cancer, also might not return to complete his three-year contract with the Delhi Daredevils. TA Sekhar, the Delhi Daredevils' cricket director, said that McGrath was not in Australia and they were trying to speak with him to ascertain if the rumours about his unavailability were true.

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"I think losing both the openers was crucial and Tanveer swung the ball nicely," said Dyson, a former Australian opener.

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West Indies replaced Brendan Nash with Shawn Findlay.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard in the second one-day international between Pakistan and the West Indies at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Friday:

PAKISTAN: 232 all out in 49 overs (Younis 34, Misbahul 52, Akmal 45, Afridi 28, Tanveer 26; Powell 3-50, Taylor 3-38)

WEST INDIES Gayle b Tanveer 0 Chattergoon c Akmal b Tanveer 0 Sarwan lbw b Afridi 45 Marshall run out 107 Chandrapaul not out 17 Findlay run out 12 Baugh b Gul 0 Taylor lbw b Iftikhar 12 Miller c Akmal b Iftikhar 0 Powell b Gul 6 Baker b Gul 0 Extras: (lb-6, w-16) 22 Total: (All out in 48.5 overs) 208 Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-14, 3-106, 4-112, 5-143, 6-168, 7-170, 8-196, 9-208.

Bowler O M R W Tanveer 9 0 32 2 Gul 9.5 3 44 3 Iftikhar 9 0 40 1 Afridi 10 0 42 1 Ajmal 9 1 38 1 Malik 2 0 6 0 Result: Pakistan won by 24 runs and led 3-match series 2-0. Man-of-the-match: Sohail Tanveer.

INTERNET, undated



HUNDREDS NOT ALWAYS WIN MATCHES: West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul salutes the crowd at Sheikh Zayed Stadium after scoring a hundred in the second one-day international against Pakistan on Friday. The West Indies lost to Pakistan by 24 runs despite his unbeaten 107.

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Shahadat, Mehrab

FROM PAGE 17 Imrul Kayes made no mistake to take the catch at second slip to put an end to the opener's 115-ball 75 that featured thirteen boundaries.

The lanky paceman dismantled the stumps of Warren Swan in his very next over and then had Wyk caught by wicketkeeper Mushfiq Rahim as SAA XI were reduced to 180 for three. Wyk top-scored with 85 runs that came from 141 balls with the help of 14 boundaries.

Mehrab took another wicket before tea (218-4) as Swan was bowled for 13 and the left-arm spinner gave the breakthrough after the break by removing Khayelille Zondo for 25 runs.

Pacer Mahubul wrapped up the tail to spoil the home side's good start.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the first day of the

Nazmul 11 1 59 0 Shakib 16 4 41 0 Mehrab 11.2 1 43 3 Nayeem 1 0 12 0 BANGLADESH: First innings 34 Tamim b Shezi 30 Kayes not out 30 Zunaed c Bossenger b Shezi 24 Ashrafu not out 4 Extras: (lb-4) 92 Total: (For 2 wks in 22 overs) 92 To bat: Mehrab, Shakib, Mushfiq, Nayeem, Rokibul, Shahadat, Mahubul, Nazmul. Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-51.

Bowler O M R W Pietersen 8 0 25 0 Carolus 6 0 38 0 Shezi 5 1 15 2 Swanepeel 3 1 10 0 Toss: South African Airways Challenge XI. Umpires: M Erasmus and BG Jerling

Chess Olympiad Bangladesh men claim huge win

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh men's team earned a massive 4-0 win over Uruguay in the 38th Chess Olympiad in Dresden on Friday.

GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Enamul Hossain Rajib, GM Abdullah Al Rakib and FM Abu Sufian Shakil won their respective matches in the second round tie.

The women's team however were defeated by Croatia 0.5-3.5 in their second round match.

Only Tanima Parvin drew her tie with Jelica Mara as the Bangladeshi women lost badly.

Hockey team leaves today

SPORTS REPORTER

A 16-member President XI team leave for Kolkata today to take part in the prestigious 45th Nehru Cup Hockey tournament in the Indian state of Haryana.

The Bangladesh team will directly play in the second round phase of the meet and start their campaign on November 20.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Bank Limited was yesterday named the tour sponsor.

Dhaka Bank acting managing director Mohammad Abu Musa handed over a cheque of Tk 10 lakh to Bangladesh Hockey Federation general secretary Khondakar Jamiluddin.

Addressing the press conference, Hockey Federation vice president Air Commodore (ret'd) Shahjahan Sarker said they are hopeful of doing better in the tournament as the team consists of some experienced and young players.

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Local Snippets

Farshangj Sporting Club managed a 2-1 victory over Bachelors Sporting Club in the lone match of the Green Delta First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Sagar took Farshangj ahead in the eleventh minute before Latif restored parity in the 14th minute to keep it 1-1 at half time.

Rubel scored the match-winning goal for the old Dhaka outfit in the 55th minute.

NATIONAL CRICKET Paceman Sajib took five wickets to give Faridpur (59-7) a three-wicket win over Madaripur (58) and help the side advance to the zonal final of the 29th National Cricket Championship at the Faridpur Stadium.

In the other zonal semifinals, Mymensingh (103-4) beat Jamalpur (99) by six wickets, Jessore (182-6) beat Jhenidha (178) by four wickets and Pabna (72-4) beat Bogra (70) by six wickets.

In two first round matches, Laxmipur (151) beat Bandarban (126) by 25 runs and Bhola (150-6) beat Pirojpur (149) by four wickets.

DIVII FOOTBALL Motijheel T&T Club outplayed Matalui Udayan Sangsad 3-0 in the Second Division Football League at the Kamalapur Stadium.

Arman netted twice in the 48th and 63rd minutes before Jalil scored the other in the 78th minute.

The Motijheel club secured 27 points while Udayan bagged 17 points, having played thirteen matches each.

In the day's other match, Euro Famous Club beat Basabo Tarun Sangha by a solitary goal at the same venue with Hanif scoring the lone goal in the third minute.

Euro Famous have so far earned 14 points from 12 outings while Basabo Tarun Sangha remained at 17 points after 13 matches.

In today's matches, Kadamtola Sangsad face Little Friends Club and Kawran Bazar Pragati Sangha take on Uttar Baridhara Club.

Some solace

FROM PAGE 17 In each and every meeting everybody however requested one thing: It would be a great help for them if there is a South African consulate office in Dhaka as the number of Bangladeshis in the country has increased day by day.

PCB takes u-turn

Cricket AFP, Abu Dhabi

Pakistan cricket officials Saturday termed shifting of their home series against India to neutral venues as "mere speculation", saying preparations are at full swing in their country.

India is scheduled to tour Pakistan in January-February to play a side game, three Tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 but the tour is already in doubt over the security situation in the host country.

But Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief operating officer Salim Altaf voiced confidence the series would go ahead as per the schedule.

"We have not heard anything from the Indian board and until we hear something contrary, Indian team will play the first match on the 9th January in Hyderabad and the

first Test starts on the 13th in Karachi," Altaf told reporters.

The Indian government cancelled a low-profile junior hockey team's tour to Pakistan over security fears earlier this week, further raising doubts over the cricket series.

But Altaf disagreed that the move would affect cricket.

"The cricket tour is a high profile one, with both the boards guided by what their governments tell them, and normally there is a security assessment tour which will take place before the series," said Altaf.

If Pakistan were forced to shift the series to the neutral venues of Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates or to England in summer, they would endanger their home series against Australia in March and the Champions Trophy in September next year.

Australia were the first to shun a tour of Pakistan in March this year over security fears. They resched-

uled the Tests for March 2009 and one-day matches for 2010.

The International Cricket Council, forced to put off the Trophy over security fears in August this year over security fears, rescheduled the event to September next year but said Pakistan hosting India will be a trial for the elite event.

Altaf said the option of neutral venues would only be considered as a last resort.

"Our chairman (Ijaz Butt) has a flexible approach and if that situation arises we have the option of the UAE and England but what we have seen in the past is that revenues earned at neutral venues are not encouraging," said Altaf.

"Pakistan this year had no international cricket and the ardent admirers have missed Australia and so India should come so that we have other teams and other events in our country," said Altaf, a former Pakistan paceman.

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Kiwis call for cover

Cricket INTERNET, undated

Injury and illness have struck New Zealand's touring party before the first Test in Brisbane, prompting team management to request a pair of replacements be flown to Australia over the weekend.

Wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum left the field during Thursday's practice match against NSW at the SCG with back spasms, leaving Aaron Redmond to wear the gloves in his absence. A replacement, Gareth Hopkins, will join the team on Monday, as will reserve batsman Peter Fulton, who is on stand-by for Jesse Ryder.

Ryder has been struck down by a mystery illness, and has been quarantined from the remainder of the New Zealand squad. So short were the Black Caps for players Thursday that coach John Bracewell at one stage donned the whites in preparation to field.

"(Ryder) has been on his back for the best part of two days," said New Zealand team manager Lindsay Crocker. "We need to bring someone over just to cover for the possibility of Jesse not being right or having some sort of relapse."

As far as Brendon's concerned, he stayed off the field this afternoon

and there was some hope he would get back, but it was decided it was not necessary. He is hoping to be on the field Saturday morning, but we won't know that until we see how he scrubs up in the morning.

The mood of the New Zealand camp was further darkened by another ineffectual outing against the rookie NSW line-up. Having dismissed the tourists for 266 on Thursday, the Blues pressed home their advantage to finish at 6-309, holding an overall first innings lead of 43 runs.

If, as seems increasingly likely, Matthew Mott is to accept the position as New Zealand coach, he will be under no illusions as to the challenges ahead.

New Zealand spilled five catches, frustrating a bowling attack that, for the most part, struggled to dislodge NSW's youthful batting line-up.

As on day one, the tourists were tormented by several Blues teenagers. Phillip Hughes compiled an assured half-century, and all-round Steven Smith an unbeaten 47 to frustrate the Black Caps' Test-strength bowling attack. Their efforts were complemented by further half-centuries to skipper Dominic Thorneley and Moises Henriques, both of whom batted with determination and occasional flair on a good batting wicket.

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