

No World Cup in Pakistan

Cricket

AGENCIES, undated

Pakistan was stripped of its 2011 World Cup matches by the International Cricket Council on Friday as growing security concerns cast the Asian giants firmly into the sporting wilderness.

The decision came at an ICC executive board meeting here with the international body saying it had acted after noting the "uncertain political situation" in Pakistan.

"It is a regrettable decision (but) our number one priority is to create certainty and deliver a safe, secure and successful event," ICC president David Morgan said in a statement.

"However, our number one priority was and is to deliver a safe, secure and successful event and the uncertainty created by events within Pakistan created a huge question mark over our ability to do just that," said the ICC chief.

Morgan also added that the country could be compensated for the loss of its World Cup matches.

"As far as compensation is concerned,

it is not a matter to be discussed now. But it can be considered as Pakistan spent money and has lost World Cup revenues."

Ijaz Butt, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, expressed his regret at the decision to French news agency AFP.

"It's a disappointing decision but it can't be helped. Nobody wants to play in Pakistan following the attacks in Lahore," said Butt, referring to the March 3 attack on the Sri Lankan squad in the city which killed eight Pakistanis and wounded seven Sri Lankan players and their assistant coach.

The tournament was to be held jointly by India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as well as Pakistan, which was to have hosted 16 matches.

Former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad expressed his dissatisfaction with cricket's governing body.

"Pakistan cricket is going through bad times and unfortunately the support and understanding we expect from the ICC and other countries is not forthcoming," said Miandad.

"There was still time left for the tournament and the board was willing to do everything to keep the World Cup matches and host them safely," added the

country's former coach.

Ramiz Raja, another former captain, predicted an outcry in his country following ICC's decision.

"The World Cup is a global event and I don't think the Pakistani people will like this ICC decision. How do you expect the sport to survive in Pakistan when the ICC is isolating Pakistan as a cricketing nation?" asked Raja.

"This decision will hurt Pakistan cricket no doubt about that. It is a big setback for us," said the former Pakistan opener.

Meanwhile, CEO of the 2011 World Cup organising committee Saleem Altaf was also saddened by the big decision.

"I don't know what has transpired at the ICC meeting in Dubai for this decision to be taken. But it is disappointing as we were keen to host the World Cup matches and were working hard on a security plan to convince the ICC and other countries."

Pakistan's status as a host of international matches has been uncertain for some time -- the Champions Trophy was shifted out last year and, in January, India became the latest country to cancel a tour when they pulled out of a bilateral series.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Four qualify for 2011 WC

AFP, Johannesburg

Canada, Ireland, Kenya and Netherlands will represent the minnows of cricket at the 2011 World Cup after a thrilling climax to the qualifiers Friday.

Ireland and Canada occupied the top two places on the final Cricket World Cup Qualifier Super 8 standings despite losing their final mini-league games while Kenya and Netherlands triumphed to snatch the other top-four slots.

Kenya upset Ireland by six wickets in Pretoria thanks to undefeated knocks from Collins Obuya (66) and Thomas Odoyo (50) while Netherlands won by a similar margin against erratic Canada in Johannesburg.

The Irish clinched their place Wednesday, leaving the other seven survivors fighting for three places at the quadrennial showcase of international one-day cricket.

There was some consolation for fairytale contenders

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Ganguly ignored as captain

PTI, Cape Town

After weeks of speculation, New Zealand's Brendon McCullum as captain of the Kolkata Knight Riders team has replaced Sourav Ganguly for the second Indian Premier League starting here on Saturday.

KKR's captaincy was a topic of much speculation after its Australian coach-director John Buchanan came up with the idea of having multiple captains.

The Knight Riders management on Friday put an end to all speculations by deciding to name McCullum as the new skipper, team sources said.

Buchanan had earlier proposed rotating the captaincy among Ganguly, McCullum, Chris Gayle and Lakshmi Ratan Shukla, which created quite a furore.

Ganguly openly opposed the idea saying, "On Saturday I can ask for four different coaches".

Team owner, Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan felt the proposal should be given a chance and said he would rather try and fail. McCullum, the swashbuckling New Zealand wicket-keeper batsman, was the front-runner to get the job.

Meanwhile, Gayle told an Indian newspaper that the system is worth to be tried out.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



PHOTO: INTERNET

Mumbai Indians captain Sachin Tendulkar drives on the up during a practice session in Cape Town yesterday ahead of the blockbuster Indian Premier League opening game against defending champions Rajasthan Royals today.

Parade wakes the Cape

AFP, Cape Town

Bollywood glitz and cricket razzmatazz combined in a colourful, star-studded parade through Cape Town on Thursday as the 2009 Indian Premier League made its high-profile brass entrance.

Nine floats, one for each of the eight teams plus one for the IPL, made their way along one of the main streets, accompanied by energetic Indian dancers and brass bands drawn from the local community.

More than 150 cricketers were in attendance, as were Bollywood stars Shah Rukh Khan, Preity Zinta and Shilpa Shetty, part-owners of the Kolkata Knight Riders, Kings XI Punjab and Rajasthan Royals respectively.

Hundreds of people lined the streets to watch the parade, which launched festivities that will run until the grand final in Johannesburg on May 24.

One of the tournament's initiatives aimed at maintaining the buoyant atmosphere is the introduction of a Miss Bollywood South Africa competition with contestants

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Tigers eager to make eleven

SPORTS REPORTER



There is little chance to see Bangladesh captain Mohammad

Ashraf playing in the opening match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) that kicks off today at Newlands in Cape Town.

The Tigers skipper may be seen in the 'dugout' (players' waiting area) just beyond the rope while his Mumbai Indians teammates take on last year's runners-up Chennai Super Kings.

Bangalore Royal Challengers face off with champions Rajasthan Royals in the other opening day fixture.

The ace right-hander played three practice matches and his coach Shaun Pollock, the former South African skipper, was impressed by his performance.

"I still don't know whether I will play tomorrow's opening match but apparently there is some chance (for me to play). I have to fight with South

Africa's middle order batsman JP (Jean-Paul) Duminy," said Ashraf over telephone yesterday.

"But I am hopeful to play the next games as my coach (Shaun Pollock) was impressed by my performance in the practice matches where I made three runs in the first game but scored 29 off 15 balls and an unbeaten 37-ball 44 in the remaining two games," he added.

Ashraf was surprised by the enthusiastic public response for IPL in South Africa, where the second version of the tournament was shifted last month due to security concerns and logistical issues surrounding the general elections currently being held in India.

"The atmosphere is really fantastic. We took part in a huge rally yesterday and as far as I know, all the tickets were sold out for the opening games." "On the other hand I am enjoying every moment with my teammates from different countries," said an excited Ashraf.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



PHOTO: AFP

Rajasthan Royals captain Shane Warne (L) and team co-owner Shilpa Shetty wave to the Cape Town crowd from an open-top bus during a parade in the South African city on Thursday.

Royals' tough opener

Second IPL begins today

AFP, Cape Town



When the glitz and the glamour of the build-up to the Indian Premier League makes way for cricket action Saturday, past form will not count for much.

Defending champions the Rajasthan Royals could find it tough this time around, starting with their opening clash against Bangalore Royal Challengers in the second match of a double header which gets the five-week, 2009 tournament underway.

Mumbai Indians meet Chennai Super Kings, who were runners-up last year, in the early match.

The relocation of the world's richest cricket

league from India to South Africa means that conditions will be different, with seam bowlers likely to get far more assistance than they did in the inaugural tournament in India last year.

The Royals had an early taste of the Newlands pitch in a warm-up match last weekend when batsmen struggled to play the sort of dominating innings that marked the first IPL.

It is a major blow for the champions will be without all-rounder Shane Watson and left-arm fast bowler Sohail Tanvir, two of the main match-winners for the underdogs who spent the least money on players but carried away the 1.2-million-dollar prize money. The Royals, who will again be led by veteran Australian leg-

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURE

Match schedule for the Indian Premier League Twenty20 tournament starting in South Africa on Saturday. Each of the eight teams plays the other twice in a round-robin league with the top four advancing to the semifinals.

DATE	TIME	GAME	VENUE
Apr 18	1630 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Mumbai Indians	Cape Town
Apr 18	2030 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Rajasthan Royals	Cape Town
Apr 19	1630 BST	Delhi Daredevils v Punjab Kings XI	Cape Town
Apr 19	2030 BST	Deccan Chargers v Kolkata Knight Riders	Cape Town
Apr 20	2030 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Chennai Super Kings	Port Elizabeth
Apr 21	1630 BST	Punjab Kings XI v Kolkata Knight Riders	Durban
Apr 21	2030 BST	Mumbai Indians v Rajasthan Royals	Durban
Apr 22	2030 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Deccan Chargers	Cape Town
Apr 23	1630 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Delhi Daredevils	Durban
Apr 23	2030 BST	Kolkata Knight Riders v Rajasthan Royals	Cape Town
Apr 24	2030 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Punjab Kings XI	Durban
Apr 25	1630 BST	Deccan Chargers v Mumbai Indians	Durban
Apr 25	2030 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Kolkata Knight Riders	Cape Town
Apr 26	1630 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Delhi Daredevils	Port Elizabeth
Apr 26	2030 BST	Punjab Kings XI v Rajasthan Royals	Cape Town
Apr 27	1630 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Deccan Chargers	Durban
Apr 27	2030 BST	Kolkata Knight Riders v Mumbai Indians	Port Elizabeth
Apr 28	2030 BST	Delhi Daredevils Rajasthan Royals	Centurion
Apr 29	1630 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Kolkata Knight Riders	Durban
Apr 29	2030 BST	Punjab Kings XI v Mumbai Indians	Durban
Apr 30	1630 BST	Deccan Chargers v Delhi Daredevils	Centurion
Apr 30	2030 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Rajasthan Royals	Centurion
May 1	1630 BST	Kolkata Knight Riders v Mumbai Indians	East London
May 1	2030 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Punjab Kings XI	Durban
May 2	1630 BST	Deccan Chargers v Rajasthan Royals	Port Elizabeth
May 2	2030 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Delhi Daredevils	Johannesburg
May 3	1630 BST	Punjab Kings XI v Kolkata Knight Riders	Port Elizabeth
May 3	2030 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Mumbai Indians	Johannesburg
May 4	2030 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Deccan Chargers	East London
May 5	1630 BST	Punjab Kings XI v Rajasthan Royals	Durban
May 5	2030 BST	Delhi Daredevils v Kolkata Knight Riders	Durban
May 6	2030 BST	Deccan Chargers v Mumbai Indians	Centurion
May 7	1630 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Rajasthan Royals	Centurion
May 7	2030 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Punjab Kings XI	Centurion
May 8	2030 BST	Delhi Daredevils v Mumbai Indians	East London
May 9	1630 BST	Deccan Chargers v Punjab Kings XI	Kimberley
May 9	2030 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Rajasthan Royals	Kimberley
May 10	1630 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Mumbai Indians	Port Elizabeth
May 10	2030 BST	Delhi Daredevils v Kolkata Knight Riders	Johannesburg
May 11	2030 BST	Deccan Chargers v Rajasthan Royals	Kimberley
May 12	1630 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Kolkata Knight Riders	Centurion
May 12	2030 BST	Punjab Kings XI v Mumbai Indians	Centurion
May 13	2030 BST	Deccan Chargers v Delhi Daredevils	Durban
May 14	1630 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Chennai Super Kings	Durban
May 14	2030 BST	Mumbai Indians v Rajasthan Royals	Durban
May 15	2030 BST	Delhi Daredevils v Punjab Kings XI	Bloemfontein
May 16	1630 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Mumbai Indians	Port Elizabeth
May 16	2030 BST	Deccan Chargers v Kolkata Knight Riders	Johannesburg
May 17	1630 BST	Deccan Chargers v Punjab Kings XI	Johannesburg
May 17	2030 BST	Delhi Daredevils v Rajasthan Royals	Bloemfontein
May 18	2030 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Kolkata Knight Riders	Centurion
May 19	2030 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Delhi Daredevils	Johannesburg
May 20	1630 BST	Kolkata Knight Riders v Rajasthan Royals	Durban
May 20	2030 BST	Chennai Super Kings v Punjab Kings XI	Durban
May 21	1630 BST	Delhi Daredevils v Mumbai Indians	Centurion
May 21	2030 BST	Bangalore Royal Challengers v Deccan Chargers	Centurion
May 22	2030 BST	First Semifinal	Centurion
May 23	2030 BST	Second Semifinal	Johannesburg
May 24	2030 BST	Final	Johannesburg

*All times are converted to Bangladesh Standard Time (BST).

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Kaif given the boot

INTERNET, undated



At a dinner on the eve of the Rajasthan Royals' departure to South Africa, Mohammad Kaif was beaming. He was looking forward to playing the second edition of the Indian Premier League, believing his experience of playing in South Africa would be handy. He also wanted to help mentor the younger players. Within a week his world came crashing down.

It is learnt that on Tuesday afternoon Kaif got the call from the team management. When Warne dropped the bombshell that he "wasn't in their scheme of things", Kaif was stunned. The seven players, who were told to pack their bags, were called individually for an interaction with Warne and Co.

According to sources, Kaif was upset on two counts. He couldn't hide his disappointment when he realised that he would play no part. Also, he couldn't understand why the Royals captain-cum-coach did not tell him earlier that his services would not be required.

"If Kaif was informed ahead of the transfer window that ran from December 22 to January 22 that he may not make the final squad then he could have considered playing for another team. Seven other squads were looking for players," the source added.

Kaif conveyed his displeasure to both Warne and co-owner Manoj Badale. He told the owner and the skipper that he isn't a rookie whose game will unravel or gain a new dimension after a practice match. The team think-tank, which shelled out \$ 675,000 for Kaif, knew his

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Booters' practice match today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team will play their one-off warm-up match against Nepal Police today.

The match will kick off at 3:45 pm Bangladesh time at the Police ground in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu. According to a message received in Dhaka, the team has to play at the match in a poor ground, as the country's premier venue -- Dasharath Stadium -- was not available as it is holding another tournament.

The 20-member national football team, led by goal

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Meet the IPL teams

AFP, Cape Town

Owners, coaches, captains and leading players of the eight teams contesting the Indian Premier League which starts in South Africa on Saturday:

Bangalore Royal Challengers

Owner: Vijay Mallya (liquor and airline baron)

Coach: Ray Jennings (RSA)

Captain: Kevin Pietersen (ENG)/Jacques Kallis (RSA - for last three weeks)

Foreign players: Kevin Pietersen (ENG), Cameron White (AUS), Dale Steyn (RSA), Dillon du Preez (RSA), Jacques Kallis (RSA), Jesse Ryder (NZL), Mark Boucher (RSA), Nathan Bracken (AUS), Roelof van der Merwe (RSA), Ross Taylor (NZL).

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Australia 303/7

AFP, JOHANNESBURG

Australia made a flying start, stumbled in mid-innings but still managed a total of 303 for seven in the fifth and final one-day international against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium here on Friday.

Australia seemed to be heading for a huge total when Brad Haddin and Michael Clarke put on 127 off 116 balls for the first wicket after the tourists were sent in to bat on an excellent batting pitch.

Haddin hit 62 off 64 balls and Clarke 66 off 69 as they put together their second successive century partnership, but they were out in quick succession.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of Australia innings in the fifth and final one-day international against South Africa at New Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Friday:

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

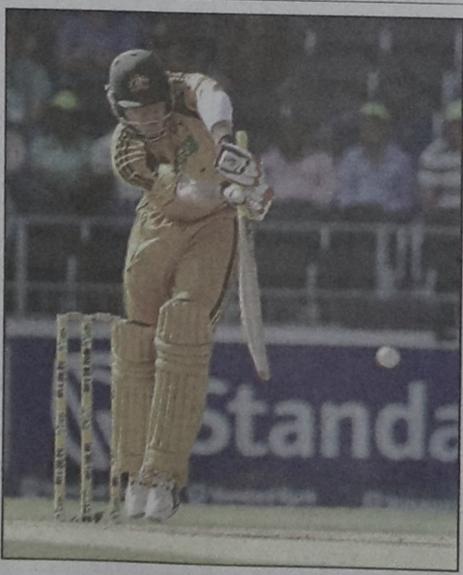


PHOTO: AFP

Australia opener Brad Haddin strokes the ball on the on-side off South Africa fast bowler Makhaya Ntini (not in picture) during the fifth and final one-day match at the Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday.

What to WATCH

SET Max

Indian Premier League
Chennai Super Kings v Mumbai Indians
Live from 4:30pm
Bangalore Royal Challengers v Rajasthan Royals
Live from 8:30pm

ESPN

English Premier League
Aston Villa v West Ham
Live from 7:55pm

STAR Sports

English Premier League
Stoke City v Blackburn Rovers
Live from 7:55pm
Primera Liga
Real Madrid v Recreativo
Live from 2:00am (Sunday)

TALK TURKEY



Ross Taylor

(New Zealand batsman)

"If you're dead you can't earn any money. Life's obviously more important than earning cash."

While expressing his relief at the IPL's move from India to South Africa on security grounds.