

Jilani asks ICC to reconsider

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan Sports Minister Pir Aftab Shah Jilani has asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) to review its decision to shift the 2011 World Cup matches from the country due to security reasons.

Describing the ICC's decision as a big blow to Pakistan cricket, he said it was taken in utter haste as there was still two years left for the tournament.

Jilani said the government was even willing to use the military to provide security and protection for the World Cup matches in Pakistan.

"That was an option available to us but I think the ICC has acted in haste and must reconsider its decision as this could have far ranging effects on Pakistan and its cricket set-up," Jilani, a former first class player said here.

Pakistan was scheduled to host 14 matches, including a semi-final, of the 2011 World Cup to be held in the sub-continent.

He also criticised the nation's Cricket Board (PCB) for failing to convince the ICC and its member countries to keep the World Cup matches in Pakistan.

Leverock hangs up big boots

CRICINFO, undated

Dwayne Leverock, Bermuda's most recognisable player, has hung up his boots after the side lost their ODI status and failed to qualify for the 2011 World Cup.

"I can always hold my head up and know that I gave Bermuda everything I have," Leverock said after the win over Uganda which secured Bermuda ninth place in the ICC World Cup Qualifiers. "I'm speechless right now. I shed a few tears early this morning and late on after the game when we won. It's hard for me. This is what I love to do. It's all in my heart, but this is the right time."

"There comes a time in your career when you need to take a step back. You've given all you can and your body sometimes tells you, with the aches and pains after games, that it is time to slow down. Even though my heart is still in it, the body says slow down."

"It is time to take a backseat especially with the youngsters coming through. I want to try to give them an opportunity to play and maybe I can spend some more time with my daughter. I haven't seen her as much as I would have liked to over the last four or five years."

Although the unluckiest looking sportsman, his bulk has often overshadowed his undoubted ability with the ball and he has repeatedly been Bermuda's most consistent bowler in both limited-over and first-class cricket. While his batting was poor and fielding less than agile, his weight was no barrier to him bowling lengthy spells and he missed very few games.

He will, inevitably, be best remembered for his diving slip catch against India at the 2007 World Cup and the remarkable and earth-shattering victory sprint which followed.

He is not likely to be lost to the game altogether as he has plans to go into coaching and is aiming to get the necessary qualifications to help the next generation come through.

In 32 ODIs he took 34 wickets at 33.02 with an economy rate of 4.00, and in 15 first-class outings he captured 71 wickets at 26.47.

U-15s' cricket

FROM PAGE 17 71.3 overs after resuming the day on 58 without loss. The home team had made 230 runs in their first innings.

Tazim claimed three wickets while Rony, Sajid and Shakil took two wickets each.

The BCB side scored 90 for 4 in their second innings before the captains accepted the result.

Amin topscored with 31 of 44 balls that featured five boundaries while opener Anik added 23 off 48 balls.

Satyki Dutta and Kuntal captured two wickets each.

Rayer Bazar

FROM PAGE 17 Nobin Sangha (309-5) crushed Kakrail Boys Club (218 all out) by 91 runs at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium. Ratul topscored with 95, Sagar slammed ten sixes in his 50-ball 83 and Faruque took three wickets for the the Mohammadpur-based side.

In another high-scoring match, Al-Rashid Cricket Club (313-8) beat North Bengal Cricket Academy (272 all out) at the City Club ground. North Bengal's Liton slammed a 90-ball century.

Young Cricketers (229 all out) beat East End Club (193-8) by eight runs through the Parabola method after rain intervened in the afternoon at the Dhaka University Ground.



Anil Kumble (2nd from L) of Bangalore Royal Challengers and his teammates rush to congratulate Virat Kohli (unseen) who has taken a running catch at deep to dismiss Rajasthan Royals' Ravindra Jadeja during their IPL Twenty20 league match at Newlands in Cape Town on Sunday.

Pakistan to decline games in India?

PTI, Karachi

The 2011 World Cup, scheduled in the sub-continent, ran into fresh trouble with a senior cricket board official here indicating that Pakistan might decline to play its matches in India.

Saleem Altaf, chief operating officer of the Pakistan Cricket Board, said PCB would take its time before deciding where it would play its 2011 World Cup matches.

"It is our right to decide where we play our World Cup matches now that the games have been relocated from Pakistan," he said.

PCB officials and former players remain upset after the International Cricket Council decided on Friday to shift the World Cup matches from Pakistan due to security reasons.

Pakistan was due to host 14 games, including one semi-final, and the home side was supposed to play all its matches in front of home crowds.

But the ICC now has to reschedule and allocate new venues for these 14 matches with India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, the joint hosts of the tournament, vying to get those games.

A Red Bull 1-2

FROM PAGE 20

"Yes! Yes, we made it," Vettel said on the team radio after crossing the line.

"Thank you for working so hard on the car. It was a dream to drive today. Together we made it. Thank you, thank you, thank you so much."

Webber completed Red Bull's supremacy with second place, ahead of the Brawn pair Button and Barrichello and the McLaren-Mercedes duo Heikki Kovalainen and reigning champion Lewis Hamilton.

Swiss newcomer Buemi - seventh in the Australian GP - was in the points again in eighth place, one behind German Timo Glock in a Toyota.

The Force India team was close to its first F1 points but German Adrian Sutil crashed out in sixth place with five laps remaining.

Ferrari missed out on the points again in what is now the team's worst start to a F1 season for 27 years.

PCB considers

FROM PAGE 17

Zealand we can save a lot of money on security arrangements and on various other things," said Butt, who took over as chairman last year.

Pakistan is spending a huge amount on private security guards for its limited over series against Australia, starting here from Wednesday.

The series was relocated to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after Australia refused to send its team to Pakistan on security grounds.

"If we play in New Zealand, the cost of the security comes to zero, and further the hotels are cheaper than in the UAE. And after playing in New Zealand our team can move to Australia for another series," said Butt.

Pakistan is due to start a tour of Australia in late December.

But said all the factors will be considered before taking a decision.

"We also have the option of playing in the UAE, but we want to take all the factors into consideration. Not playing at home is frustrating but we have to give our players some cricket, wherever it may be."

Vaughan said touring Pakistan is not a viable option.

"We are keen to host their series and will seek no profits if it is played on our grounds."

New Zealand's last tour to Pakistan in 2002 was hit by a suicide attack outside their hotel which killed 14 people. They abandoned the tour without playing the second Test.

Boro look

FROM PAGE 20

the 40-point mark that is usually enough to ensure survival.

Stoke are just one point away from that tally after Liam Lawrence's 75th-minute strike settled their contest with Blackburn, who will drop into the relegation zone if Newcastle beat Tottenham on Sunday.

Hull are also in deep trouble after a single goal defeat at Sunderland in a match they dominated for long periods.

Sunderland had needed a fantastic save from Scotland goalkeeper Craig Gordon to avoid falling behind before Djibril Cisse got his head to an Andy Reid cross to claim the decisive goal just before half-time.

Nadal's fifth in a row

Tennis

APP, Monte Carlo

World number one Rafael Nadal survived a battling Novak Djokovic to clinch a fifth successive Monte Carlo Masters title on Sunday and equal a century-old record at the Country Club.

Nadal turned on the after-burners at the start of the third set, winning a 13-minute game to set the tone for his 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 victory.

The Spaniard joined New Zealander Anthony Wilding from a century ago, who also won five (non-consecutive) titles at the premier clay event starting in 1908.

Nadal lost his first set here since the 2006 final against Roger Federer, but barely noticed as he powered past his third-ranked Serb opponent for the 12th time in 16 meetings, including seven for seven on clay.

"Confidence was important, I had to fight all the time and put the balls inside the lines," said Nadal, who won his 14th Masters title to now stand alongside Federer.

"I needed to play aggressively without mistakes. I was very focused on the moment, that's why I was able to win," said the four-time Roland Garros champion who will now travel to Barcelona to attempt five in a row at the Catalan venue next week.

"It is very emotional for me here, winning five in a row. I'm very, very happy."

"He's stronger than me, but I felt well throughout the match."

"It was close out there and I was playing the right game. But I was rushing some of the points and trying to end them too quickly. Rafael used his strength and experience on the surface to win again."

Nadal got through the 58-minute set but let his level drop in the second as Djokovic stormed back.

Nadal's tenacious staying power proved to be too much as he ran away with the third after claiming the opening marathon game.

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