

WC '11 base shifted from Lahore to Mumbai

CRICINFO, undated

The 2011 World Cup is shifting base from Lahore to Mumbai and India expects to get a "big share" of the 14 matches that were initially allotted to Pakistan.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is hosting a meeting in Mumbai tomorrow where the tournament's organising committee will be reconstituted without representatives from Pakistan, which was stripped of its co-host status this month due to the prevailing political situation in the country.

A decision is also expected to be taken to move the tournament's central organising secretariat, its operational nerve centre, from Lahore to Mumbai.

Apparently, the re-allotment of Pakistan's 14 matches will also be discussed at the meeting. "Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are the co-hosts and out of those two, Bangladesh has only one venue to host all the matches,"

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BCB U-15s win big

SPORTS REPORTER

An unbeaten half-century by Bayazid Amin helped BCB Under-15s secure a five-wicket victory over visiting CAB Under-15s in the one-day match at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday.

The number four batsman smashed seven boundaries during his 59-ball 55 while Yasin Ali added a run-a-ball 30 as the home side posted 153 for five in reply to CAB's 152 all out in 42.5 overs.

Earlier Sumon claimed four wickets for 31 runs as CAB were bundled out for 152.

Abhisek Mishra top scored with 34 off 66 balls that featured six boundaries.



Did U Know?

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews in Scotland, the birth place of golf, was founded in 1754.



Zlatan Ibrahimovic
(Inter Milan's Swedish forward)
"I think Spanish football is more the way I play. I like technical football and they play technical there."
Expressing his desire to play in the Spanish Primera Liga.



SET Max
Indian Premier League
Delhi Daredevils v Rajasthan Royals
Live from 8:30pm

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

TEN Sports
UEFA Champions League
(First Semifinal)
Barcelona v Chelsea
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)



Bangladesh football team players (top) cool off at the Hotel Sonargaon swimming pool while (above) Bangladesh's Brazilian coach Dido (L) makes a point to his injured striker Zahid Hasan Emily (R) during break of a jogging session at the Ramna Park yesterday. Emily might come out of the bench to play the crucial AFC Challenge Cup Group-A qualifying clash against Myanmar at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Marquee clash today

Emily might play

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh and Myanmar meet today at the

Bangabandhu National Stadium in what is set to be the biggest clash of the AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers Group-A.

It will be the second match tomorrow after Macau and Cambodia meet earlier at 3.30pm at the same venue.

With one victory each, both teams are strongly placed in the points table and are sturdy contenders to finish as group champion.

Bangladesh head coach Edson Silva Dido, who grudgingly expressed his satisfaction over the team's win in the opening match, said he expects a better performance from his boys in the match against Myanmar.

The Brazilian coach is committed to fielding an unchanged side as he believes that he has struck a winning combination.

"We did not play particularly well in the first match. We missed a lot of chances and if we had gotten more time to train as a team, things would have been different. It is really not about whom we missed during the game or whom we played. It all boils down to our training period, which we had prior to this tournament," revealed Dido about the performance against Cambodia.

"Emily is fully fit and the doctor has cleared him to play but he has not trained for this competition. He hasn't played the football that is needed before this tournament so he needs that. However, we will avail his services if we need it."

When asked whether the opponents were a stronger side Dido explained that he always stays more focused on his team rather than his opponents.

"I did not see much of Myanmar on Sunday. Maybe just 30 odd minutes in the second half but I always concentrate more on my team. The opponents can be really weak but if we don't play our best football we can't win. But I believe the boys are used to the conditions here and the tricks and strategies that I have planned can be applied on this ground

against any opposition. The ground that we had in Nepal was really bad and we couldn't do anything in terms of tricks or plans. At least we have a better playing surface and I am confident we will be putting up a good show for all our fans and as they say it here, Inshallah," said a high-spirited Dido.

As it stands Bangladesh have a dismal record against Myanmar. In eight encounters between the two sides since

1973, Bangladesh have recorded just two wins and a draw.

In the last two matches against Myanmar in 2008, Bangladesh conceded a solitary goal defeat in the Merdeka Cup Football and drew 1-1 in the Grand Royal Challenge Cup.

However, Bangladesh skipper Aminul Haque seemed determined to end the long win drought against Myanmar.

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A Myanmar player takes off his jersey after training under sweltering heat at the BUET Ground yesterday. Myanmar face off with hosts Bangladesh in a crucial AFC Challenge Cup Group-A qualifying match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

PAK WC MATCHES

BCB wants a bigger share

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

A three-member Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) delegation left Dhaka yesterday to attend the 2011 World Cup local organising committee meeting in Mumbai where re-allotment of the 14 Pakistan matches would also be discussed.

The BCB team led by president Lt Gen Sina Ibn Jamali, who is accompanied by senior vice-president Mahbubul Anam and director Shafiqur Rahman Munna, will press for a big share of the 14 matches initially allotted for Pakistan in addition to the original five games along with the opening ceremony.

As per earlier schedule Bangladesh are to stage the opening match of the quadrennial extravaganza as well as the opening ceremony on February 19, 2011 while the final will be played in India and the two semifinals shared by Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The event will have a total of 49 matches with India given 21 games, Pakistan 14, Sri

Lanka nine and Bangladesh five as per earlier decision.

But now the 14 Pakistan matches including one semifinal have to be re-allocated as the country has been stripped of its co-host status earlier this month in an ICC executive committee meeting due to the prevailing security situation in the country.

Bangladesh is looking forward to getting a handsome share of those matches and it was learnt that the BCB officials would fight for five more matches including a semifinal.

"It's too early to say but we are looking for a good number of matches including a semifinal. Let's see what happens in the meeting," said BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus.

The Bangladesh delegation may face questions about the availability of venues to host the additional matches, but it seems that the BCB is confident to arrange the venues in time for the additional matches if given.

"We have to work for additional venues. And we think it's not impossible to prepare the venues as we have number of international venues in our country," said Jalal.

Khulna & Victoria victors

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna WCA and Victoria won their respective matches in the Women's Club Cup tournament at different city venues yesterday.

Sabina Khatun picked up five wickets for 26 runs as Khulna registered a 38-run victory over Dipali JS at the Gulshan Youth Club ground. Khulna scored 159 for 4 in stipulated 35 overs with Rifat Ara making team highest 40.

In reply, Dipali were bowled out for 121 runs in 32.5 overs.

At the City Club ground, Victoria won the low-scoring match against Indira Road by 17 runs.

Jannatul Ferdous grabbed five wickets for 16 runs as Victoria were bundled out for 85 runs in 19.4 overs.

In reply, Indira Road were shot out for 68 runs in 21.5 overs.

Happy took four wickets for 16 runs.

Clarke pulls Australia

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Michael Clarke hit a fighting half-century but Australia still managed just 198-7 in their allotted 50 overs in the third day-night one-day international against Pakistan here on Monday.

The 28-year-old right-handed batsman scored 66, adding 54 with Callum Ferguson (41) for the fifth wicket as Australia were made to struggle for runs after they won the toss and decided to bat on a flat Abu Dhabi Stadium pitch.

Clarke, who hit eight boundaries during his 93-ball knock, also added 46 for the third wicket with opener Brad Haddin (26) after Australia lost two early wickets with James Hopes (15) and Shane Watson

(nought).

Australia lost Hopes in the sixth over when he failed to beat a direct throw from Pakistan captain Younis Khan and was run out. Watson was bowled by Gul off an inside edge.

Clarke and Haddin steadied the innings before Shoaib Malik removed Haddin, while leg-spinner Shahid Afridi had the dangerous Andrew Symonds for seven.

Clarke fell in the 39th over to end Australia's hopes of a big total as David Hussey (ten) and Ferguson also went in quick succession, trying for quickruns.

Ferguson hit four boundaries during his 68-ball knock.

Pakistani bowlers kept a tight line and length with paceman Umar Gul returning the best figures with 3-38, while Shahid Afridi took 2-31.

Off-spinner Saeed Ajmal,

reported for suspect bowling action on Sunday, failed to get a wicket.

Pakistan left out pacemen Shoaib Akhtar and Rao Iftikhar and brought in all-rounders Yasir Arafat and Sohail Tanvir from the line-up that lost the second match by six wickets on Friday.

Australia, who lost the first match by four wickets, replaced Ben Laughlin and Doug Bollinger with Stuart Clark and Ben Hilfenhaus.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Australia innings in the third one-day international against Pakistan at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Monday:

AUSTRALIA	
Hopes run out	15
Haddin b Malik	26
Watson b Gul	0
Clarke c & b Afridi	66
Symonds lbw b Afridi	7

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BARCELONA V CHELSEA

Beauty meets brawn

AFP, Barcelona



The biggest threat is set to come from Chelsea's physical strength, and Barcelona are especially wary of the danger they pose from set-plays.

Chelsea's Ivory Coast striker Salomon Kalou believes Tuesday represents a tough assignment, but could be a classic encounter

"These are the types of games everyone wants to play in. It's going to be really hard but we have the team to beat anyone," said Kalou, who is desperate to reach a second successive final after losing to Manchester United on penalties last year.

As well as the Champions League last four, Barcelona are in the Copa del Rey final and well-placed to win the league despite only managing a draw against Valencia at the weekend.

It will be a crucial two weeks for Barcelona.

In La Liga, they will play the 'El Clasico' against second-placed Real Madrid, who are four points off the top, in

between the Chelsea games.

"We are physically and mentally prepared for Chelsea and we must make sure that they don't score an away goal," warned Barcelona midfielder Xavi Hernandez.

"We have played Chelsea several times in the last few years and we have a lot of respect for them as they always give us a difficult game," added Xavi, who has extra incentive to reach the final in Rome after missing the victory over Arsenal in Paris

POSSIBLE TEAMS

BARCELONA: Victor Valdes, Dani Alves, Carles Puyol (capt), Rafael Marquez, Eric Abidal, Xavi Hernandez, Yaya Toure, Andres Iniesta, Thierry Henry, Samuel Eto'o, Lionel Messi
CHELSEA: Peter Cech, Branislav Ivanovic, Alex, John Terry (capt), Jose Bosingwa, Michael Ballack, Michael Essien, Frank Lampard, Didier Drogba, Nicolas Anelka, Florent Malouda

three years ago.

Chelsea defender Juliano Belletti scored the winning goal in Paris for Barcelona before moving a year later to Stamford Bridge and he believes that they are the two form teams in Europe.

"It is going to be a tough match and a game worthy of the final. There are other good teams like Liverpool and Manchester (United), who are the champions, but if you talk about the situation right now then Barcelona and Chelsea are both playing very well," he told www.fcbarcelona.com.

"There is no such thing as a team which is unbeatable. I have played for the Brazil team for many years, then I played for Barca but neither were unbeatable.

"A lot of people say that Barcelona are favourites because they have almost won their league but all teams that reach the semifinal are there by merit and as a footballer and from my experience there is no favourite."

Gibbs Deccan charger

INTERNET, Durban



A composed unbeaten 69 from Herschelle Gibbs anchored Deccan Chargers to a six-wicket victory over Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in Durban on Monday. It also kept Deccan on top of the points table with their fourth win in as many matches.

Gibbs, who opened the batting with captain Adam Gilchrist and added 67 for the first wicket in just 5.4 overs, saw his side home with three balls to spare chasing 166. He faced 56 balls and hit six fours and two sixes.

Deccan Chargers' run chase seemed to have been thrown off-kilter when Laxmipathy Balaji had Rohit Sharma caught behind after part-timer Suresh Raina's two wickets in two overs brought Chennai back in the game.

Raina snapped a rampaging Deccan Chargers opening stand by dismissing Adam Gilchrist as the Chargers chased 166. Gilchrist blasted 49 from just 19 balls including



IN FINE FETTLE: South Africa's Deccan Chargers opener Herschelle Gibbs drives his side to an emphatic six-wicket win against Chennai Super Kings in an IPL Twenty20 match at Kingsmead in Durban yesterday. Gibbs struck an unbeaten 69 off 56 balls.

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