



Adam Gilchrist
(Former Australia cricketer)
"There's no question he and his bowling tactics were inside my mind that series, and I knew I'd hit rock bottom when one night I rolled over in bed to give my wife Mel a kiss goodnight and all I saw was Freddie Flintoff." Recalling his nightmare of facing Andrew Flintoff in the 2005 Ashes.



STAR Sports
Wimbledon Championships
Fourth Round Matches
Live from 6:00pm

No WC in UAE

Cricket

AFP, London

Matches in the 2011 World Cup due to be staged in Pakistan will not take place in the United Arab Emirates, International Cricket Council (ICC) president David Morgan said here on Thursday.

Instead the 14 fixtures will, despite the wishes of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), take place in the three Indian sub-continent co-host nations of India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Morgan said the Dubai-based ICC had looked at staging matches in a "fifth country", amidst speculation that matches could be shifted to the UAE.

But he told reporters at Lord's here on Thursday: "The (ICC) board has considered that but it has decided the 14 matches originally allocated to Pakistan should take place in the three other Indian sub-continent countries of the Full Members, that is India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh."

How many games will be played in each of those countries has yet to be decided. The ICC has referred the matter back to the tournament's central organising committee and Morgan said he expected

a decision within a fortnight. "We need a recommendation from those four host nations, including Pakistan. They will come forward with the location of those matches to the commercial board of the ICC."

Asked how long it would take for the ICC to receive that decision, Morgan said: "I would expect two weeks."

The ICC ruled out matches in violence-hit Pakistan following the militant attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore on March 3 while it was on its way to the Gaddafi Stadium to resume a Test match.

But Pakistan, who last weekend beat Sri Lanka in the ICC World Twenty20 final at Lord's, remains a co-host of the World Cup.

Morgan, flanked by ICC chief executive Haroon Legat, stressed the PCB, who have taken legal action against the ICC, would still receive a hosting fee of 750,000 dollars per match - 10.5 million dollars in total.

Morgan, formerly chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), said the failure to announce where the games would be played was not down to the PCB's legal action.

"When two parties are at odds, it is often difficult to reach a settlement," he said.

"We are not given up hope

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Brazil defender Daniel Alves (L) shoots to score the all-important goal from a free-kick during their Confederations Cup semifinal against South Africa at the Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Federer reaches last 16

AFP, London



Roger Federer set up a Wimbledon last 16 clash with Robin Soderling on Friday, the man he beat to win the French Open and who was once famously described by Rafael

Nadal as the most disliked man in tennis. Federer, bidding for a record-breaking 15th Grand Slam title and a sixth Wimbledon crown, overcame a third set slump before seeing off Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 6-2, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1 in the third round.

Soderling, the 13th seed, reached the last 16 for the first time with a 7-6 (9/7), 6-4, 6-4 win over Spain's Nicolas Pietrangeli.

In the women's event, Serena Williams put her shock over the death of Michael Jackson and a snub from Wimbledon organisers to one side to power into the last 16 of the women's singles on Friday.

The American, who admitted she had been left speechless by the news of Jackson's death from a heart attack, continued her flawless procession towards a potential final meeting with sister Venus by setting up a last-16 clash

with Daniela Hantuchova.

Hantuchova, a former world number five who has shown signs of returning to her best form here, will certainly put up greater resistance than Italy's Roberta Vinci.

A 6-3, 6-4 win ensured Williams has yet to drop a set this year and the evidence presented by her 200th Grand Slam match backed up her claim that she is in the mood to add to the two singles titles she won here in 2002 and 2003.

It was the death of Jackson however that dominated her post-match press conference and Williams, who had met the self-styled King of Pop several times, paid tribute to his legacy as a cultural icon and musical innovator.

"He was a great guy and a complete icon," she said. "Words can't express my shock and horror."

"He was definitely the ultimate celebrity. Any celebrity who met him was completely in awe. I know I was."

Williams went on to make it clear she had not been impressed by the Wimbledon organisers' decision to puther out on the new Court No. 2.

Asked if she was happy with the scheduling,

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Pak fights for games

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan vowed Friday to fight for the right to co-host World Cup 2011 matches after the country was stripped of the games by the sport's world governing body because of multiple security concerns.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt told AFP they accepted the games could not be held on Pakistani soil, but were hopeful they could organise matches in a neutral country, most likely in the Middle East.

The chances of Pakistan co-hosting the World Cup vanished after gunmen ambushed the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore on March 3. The brazen attack left seven players and their assistant coach wounded, and killed

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6

Brazil edge S Africa

AFP, Johannesburg



Barcelona defender Daniel Alves spared Brazil's blushes as his late goal blunted the five-time world champions a 1-0 win over spirited South Africa here Thursday to book their place in the Confederations Cup final.

This semi-final against the hosts was heading for extra time until Alves, in an inspired move by coach Dunga, replaced Andre Santos and broke the stalemate with a curling free kick in the 88th minute.

Brazil face the United States in Sunday's final with South Africa heading to Rustenburg for the third place play-off with Spain.

South Africa were without suspended midfielder Macbeth Sibaya, his place taken by Siphiwe Tshabalala, while Brazil midfielder Luisao started for injured Juan.

The two adversaries made it into the last four in wildly contrasting ways - Brazil sauntering through as Group B leaders with maximum points, South Africa

edging through on goal difference as Group A runners-up.

With President Jacob Zuma watching, about the only one of the 48,000 fans not blowing into a vuvuzela, South Africa made a promising start as they fought to make their first final since the 1996 African Nations Cup.

Against the run of play Itumeleng Khune was forced into action to save a Ramires effort while shortly after his counterpart Julio Cesar was in full flight to cover a long range effort from speedy defender Siboniso Gaxa.

South Africa were giving as good as they got as Brazil tried to work the ball repeatedly down the left flank using Inter Milan back Maicon as the key link.

On 21 minutes they should have scored only for Tshabalala's header off a freekick to go high.

As the half hour beckoned the Kaizer Chiefs midfielder unleashed a carefully constructed 30 metre freekick with only Cesar's palm preventing the hosts taking the lead.

Down at the other end Khune safely

held onto Andre Santos' volley.

Kaka produced his first bit of magic as he darted through the South African defence but the Real Madrid forward's curving shot drifted wide of the far post.

Brazil were fortunate not to go into the break trailing as Steven Pienaar had Cesar beaten with his stinging 35 metre shot from the right but the status quo was upheld when the ball edged wide.

The holders were not at their brilliant best against a South African side that were scampering after every ball as if their lives depended on it.

On the hour, with Dunga looking on pensively, Teko Modise's close range shot deflected off Luisao before hitting the beaten Cesar's right post in a period of domination from Joel Santana's side.

With eight minutes left and as extra time loomed Dunga introduced Alves into the fray and the Barcelona defender repaid the confidence when he beat the Bafana Bafana wall with a thundering freekick two minutes from time.

Bangladesh to play Canada

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh National Hockey team takes on 11th ranked Canada today in their third and final match of the four-nation Invitational Hockey Tournament in Moscow.

Bangladesh suffered a massive 8-0 loss to South Africa in the opening match and conceded 2-4 defeat to host Russia in the second match.

The place-deciding match of the tournament is slated for Sunday.

Younus ready for SL

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan captain Younus Khan said Friday his team are ready to rise to the challenge of the Test series against Sri Lanka but admitted they were under pressure following their World Twenty20 victory.

Younus said his team should carry forward inspiration of their success in England but knuckle down for a possible resurgent Sri Lankan team whom they defeated in the final at Lord's last week to clinch the T20 title.

"The Sri Lanka tour will be a big challenge," said Younus ahead of the team's departure on Saturday.

"The celebrations become a matter of the past when you embark on the next tour, so I hope players get in the different mood soon."

Pakistan will play three Tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20 match on their tour. The first Test starts at Galle on July 4.

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka on both previous tours but Younus said their new look

SEE PAGE 18 COL 6



Swiss superstar Roger Federer stretches to play forehand against Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber during their Wimbledon Championships third round match at the All England Club in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Under the weather

Cricket

AFP, London

Australian cricketers perform better in Ashes series played on their home turf when the El Nino weather system dominates, and worse when its opposite prevails, a British study published Friday said.

The findings could help England when the Ashes are next contested Down Under, in 2010/11, said the authors of the study by Reading University in southern England, and the Royal Meteorological Society.

Risking the charge of "whingeing poms" looking for excuses for English defeats against their oldest rivals, researchers noted a striking correlation between the Pacific Ocean climate phenomenon and Australian Ashes victories.

In Ashes series played in Australia from 1882-2007, the Aussies won 13 out of 17, or 76 per cent. When the opposite, La Nina system

was prevalent, they won only five out of 13 series, or 38 per cent.

El Nino tends to make Australian weather hotter and drier, favouring for example fast bowlers, while La Nina triggers rain and cold, which England cricketers are more used to, and suiting swing bowlers.

"This study shows it may be possible to tell by next winter whether England has a better chance of success in the following Ashes series than previous tours," said Dr. Manoj Joshi of Reading University.

"The study could even influence whether the England touring team should include more fast bowlers or more 'swing' bowlers," he added.

England has only won one Ashes series in Australia in the last 100 years following an El Nino event.

That was the infamous "Bodyline" series in 1932/33 when England captain Douglas Jardine instructed his fast bowlers to pitch the ball short to a packed leg-side field in a bid

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Teletalk cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari

Rising Star Club secured a 25-run victory over Prajonmo Club in the first Teletalk cricket tournament at the Khagrachari Government High School ground yesterday.

Rising Star rode on Ziaur Rahman's 55 to score 135 for five wickets.

Monir and Shamsher picked up two wickets each and Nabi took one wicket.

In reply, Prajonmo Club were bundled out for 110 run with Mohammad Faruq making team highest 26 runs.

Sahed Alam claimed three wickets for nine runs while Raju, Mostafiz and Mamun captured two wickets each.

Ziaur Rahman was adjudged man of the match.

Flintoff back in form

AFP, London

Andrew Flintoff hit his highest competitive score since the 2005 Ashes when he thrashed 93 for Lancashire against Derbyshire in English county cricket's Twenty20 Cup on Thursday.

Less than a fortnight before the latest edition of the Ashes gets underway in Cardiff, England all-rounder Flintoff faced just 41 balls with six sixes and nine fours as Lancashire posted their competition best score of 220 for six.

Flintoff was in superb form, reaching his highest score since he made 102 against Australia during the Trent Bridge Test four years ago.

He was particularly severe on former South Africa quick

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Pressure is on Ponting

Cricket

AFP, London

England captain Andrew Strauss is used to hearing Australia skipper Ricky Ponting announce the opening batsman to be targeted during the forthcoming Ashes series.

But when asked at a news conference on Thursday if England intended to target Ponting, Strauss, in his own understated way, tried to turn the tables on the Tasmanian by pointing out that his rival captain had yet to lead Australia to a Test series win in England.

"Ricky Ponting is a class player," said Strauss, who made two centuries during England's 2-1 home Ashes series win in 2005.

"I'm sure he is dying to win a series in England. He failed last time. Whether that puts him under more pressure or not, that's for him to tell you."

Australia thrashed England 5-0 'Down

Under' when the Ashes were last up for grabs in 2006-07.

But since then several key Australian players - leg-spin legend Shane Warne, pace great Glenn McGrath, wicket-keeper/batsman Adam Gilchrist and openers Justin Langer and Matthew Hayden - have all retired from Test cricket.

But despite the absence of these stars, Ponting still led Australia to a 2-1 Test series win in South Africa in March.

"They don't have those legends they had but the guys that have come in have done a good job and they will be determined to make their own mark in Australian cricket," Strauss said.

Australia may not field a specialist spinner at all come the first Ashes Test in Cardiff starting on July 8 even though the pitch in the Welsh city has a reputation for taking turn.

Off-spinner Nathan Hauritz, the lone pure slow bowler in Australia's party, did his prospects little good with a return of none for 98 in

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Newly appointed Bangladesh cricket captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (C) is awarded a crest by the president of the Narail Press Club upon his arrival at his home district yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH