

# Triumph brings relief to Pakistan

AFP, Karachi



Pakistan on Friday celebrated a nail-biting victory in the Asia Cup after a two-run win over Bangladesh that was hailed as providing some much-needed relief to the troubled country. Pakistan clinched only their second Asia Cup title in Dhaka late Thursday, sending delirious fans pouring onto the streets in major cities to celebrate, though some missed the action on the field because of power cuts.

"Our cricket team gives us joy, otherwise we're obsessed with problems of inflation, loadshedding (power cuts) and lack of security," said fan Tehmina Siddiqui, celebrating in Karachi's upmarket Clifton area.

Congratulatory messages from President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and other political leaders praised the team effort, captain Misbahul Haq's leadership and new Australian coach David Whatmore.

Despite orders from the prime minister for no power cuts during Sunday's match against arch-rivals India and Thursday's final, fans still complained of outages at home.

"We had to come out and watch the matches on big screens in the streets as power outages were as frequent as ever," complained Raza Elahi, a pupil at middle school.

Former players were delighted, having been sceptical that Pakistan would perform well after being routed 4-0 by England in a one-day series last

## Finally

FROM PAGE 16 instead it was the unheralded seamer who held sway.

The final was watched across the world and the tight finish left many breathless. Apart from the sadness of defeat, the game itself can be reason enough to be proud of the Tigers.

## Asia Cup

FROM PAGE 16 rate of 3.85.

This was Pakistan's second Asia Cup triumph while India have won it five times and Sri Lanka on four occasions.

month.

"It's a wonderful performance," said Moin Khan, who was captain when Pakistan won their first Asia Cup, in 2000, also in Dhaka. "Our players have given the nation great joy and we are proud of them."

"Congratulations to our team for winning the title," said chief selector Iqbal Qasim, who also had warm words for Bangladesh.

"They beat India and Sri Lanka in the tournament and proved a tough opponent," he said.

Bangladesh proved that "they are no more the minnows of cricket," said Qasim. "I hope they will carry on the good work and be reckoned

as one of the major forces in Asia and the world."

Former captain and director general of the Pakistan Cricket Board, Javed Miandad, said the dramatic win was testament to the side's never-say-die attitude.

"It's a great win and showed the fighting abilities of the team, but the hosts played very well," said Miandad, a member of Pakistan's World Cup winning team in 1992.

But another former captain, Rashid Latif, cautioned that Pakistan must not run away with themselves and should "sit down and analyse our weaknesses".

## LOCAL snippets

### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army registered a 66-54 point victory over Boarder Guard Bangladesh in the Citycell Independence Cup Basketball Tournament at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Army led the first half 37-26. Ataur and Amanat scored 16 and 15 points respectively for Army while Darad and Emran caged 13 and 11 points for the losing side.

In the day's other match, Rangers defeated BKSP by 48-37 points while Bangladesh Navy beat Bangladesh Police 78-41 on Thursday.

### Independence Cup Kabaddi

Bangladesh Army and Board Guard Bangladesh played out 26-26 draw in the opening match of the Independence Cup Kabaddi Tournament at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

Boarder Guard took a one point lead in the first half but could not hold the lead and were forced draw against Army.

Earleir, Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation president and Inspector General of Police Hasan Mahmud Khandoker declared the four-team meet open.

### 2nd Div Football

Bangladesh Police AC and PWD Sporting Club played out a goalless draw in the Destiny Group 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

### Women's School Football

Scholastica School registered a 2-0 win over Lalmatia Girls' School in the Plan Metropolis Women's School Football Tournament at the Sultana Kamal Sports Complex ground yesterday.

Riana and Samaha scored one goal apiece for Scholastica.

At the same ground, Dhanmondi Kamrunnessa High School defeated Kakoli High School 1-0 with Afrin Akter scoring the solitary goal.

Siddheswari Girls High School beat Natun Kuri High School 2-0 with Shakila and Nusrat scoring one goal each at the Motijheel Govt Boys' High School ground while Motijheel Govt Girls' High School and Post Office High School played out a goalless draw.

BAF Shaheen School and College recorded a lone-goal win over Dawn Grammar School with Pinki scoring the all-important goal while Rajdhani High School and BAF Shaheen English Medium School shared points.

## Randiv back for SL

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's cricket selectors on Friday recalled off-spinner Suraj Randiv for the home Test series against England, but left out in-form batsman Chamara Silva.

Randiv, who was dropped for the tour of South Africa in December-January, won back his place in the 14-man squad after picking up 37 wickets in five first-class matches this season.

The 27-year-old was selected ahead of unorthodox spinner Ajantha Mendis to partner left-arm Ranga Herath in the two-Test series starting in the coastal town of Galle on Monday.

Randiv has taken 21 wickets in six Tests since his debut against India in July, 2010 following the retirement of world bowling record holder Muttiah Muralidaran.

Silva, 32, who played the last of his 11 Tests in 2008, continued to be ignored despite scoring 163 against England in a practice match in Colombo earlier this week.

Mahela Jayawardene, who took over as captain from Tillakaratne Dilshan after the South Africa tour, will have all-rounder Angelo Mathews as his deputy.

The second Test will be played at the P Sara Oval in Colombo from April 3.

### SQUAD

M Jayawardene (captain), Mathews, Dilshan, Tharanga, Thirimanne, Sangakkara, Samaraweera, Chandimal, P Jayawardene, Lakmal, Prasad, Welegedara, Randiv, Herath.

## Ashraful proud

FROM PAGE 16 in 1988 and 2000, the Bangladesh matches sometimes didn't get a full house," he added.

He obviously had special praise reserved for the man-of-the-tournament: "Shakib is a world-class cricketer. I told him in the morning that you are the best player in your category and he told me to pray for him."

"He bats, bowls and fields so well. We have two world-class cricketers but Shakib is a notch higher than Tamim [Iqbal]. I am really proud of him," said Ashraful.

The long-serving organiser also pointed out that it was the Tigers' self-belief which gave them so much confidence, despite all the controversies ahead of the tournament.

"The eleven players who walked out believed that they are the best cricketers in the country."

"I have read in the newspapers that there were interference in selection and that would have put them under pressure. But they played very well," he said.

# SA reign in Wellington



AFP, Wellington

South Africa took control of a weather-disrupted opening day in the third Test against hosts New Zealand, compiling 136-2 on Friday on a wicket expected to favour the bowlers.

At the close of play at Basin Reserve, Alvaro Petersen was unbeaten on 44 with JP Duminy on 23, while the New Zealand bowlers were left to rue their failure to capitalise on a green-tinged wicket and overcast conditions.

Only 42 of the possible 90 overs were bowled following overnight rain that ruled out the morning session and bad light forced an early end to the day.

New Zealand captain Ross Taylor had no hesitation opting to bowl when he won the toss saying he hoped "for some early wickets", and had cause to celebrate with the disputed dismissal of Graeme Smith for five and the total at 13.

However, from there the honours rested with South Africa -- who lead the three-Test series 1-0 -- with Hashim Amla (63) and Petersen putting on 93 for the second wicket.

Amla posted his 23rd half-century in an effortless batting display, pushing the bowlers to all corners and offering few opportunities to the field.

He brought up his 50 taking 14 off one over by Dean Brownlie after Taylor turned to the part-timer in a



South Africa batsman Hashim Amla pulls one on the opening day of the second Test against New Zealand in Wellington on Friday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

desperate move to break the partnership.

Taylor also had spinner Daniel Vettori operating after only 13 overs as his quick bowlers failed to show the required aggression to dictate terms to South Africa.

Doug Bracewell, the pick of the New Zealand bowlers, was fortunate to claim Smith's wicket, caught behind by Kruger van Wyk in the sixth over.

The South African captain appealed against the decision and television replays were inconclusive with a clear sound as the ball passed the bat but no touch registered with the hotspot

detector.

Mark Gillespie, New Zealand's top bowler in the second Test, had difficulty with his line when bowling with the wind in the first session, but had better control and success running into the breeze after the tea break.

He lured Amla into attempting a pull shot with a short pitched delivery and the batsman ended up getting a top edge which was safely claimed by the South Africa-born van Wyk to have the tourists at 106-2.

Bracewell finished the day with one for 30 off 11 overs while Gillespie had one for 37 off nine overs.

### SCOREBOARD

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings

Smith c van Wyk b Bracewell	5
Petersen not out	44
Amla c van Wyk b Gillespie	63
Duminy not out	23
Extras: (w-1)	1
Total: (For 2 wkts in 42 overs)	136
To bat: De Villiers, Rudolph, Boucher, Steyn, Philander, Morkel, De Lange.	
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-106.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Martin	9	3	21	0
Bracewell	11	1	30	1
Gillespie	9	1	37	1
Vettori	11	3	28	0
Brownlie	2	0	20	0

**NEW ZEALAND:** Flynn, Gupitll, McCullum, Taylor (captain), Williamson, Brownlie, Vettori, Van Wyk, Bracewell, Gillespie, Martin.

**Toss:** New Zealand

**Umpires:** Aleem Dar and Richard Kettleborough.

# Top seeds roll in Miami



AFP, Miami

Serena Williams, saying she felt nervous and rusty, made a triumphant WTA return from a left ankle injury, defeating China's Zhang Shuai 6-2, 6-3 on Thursday at the WTA and ATP Miami

hardcourt event. Fellow former World No. 1 players Kim Clijsters, Maria Sharapova and Caroline Wozniacki also advanced to the third round at the \$9.6 million tournament, which awarded byes in the first round to seeded players.

In her first tournament match since losing in the fourth round at the Australian Open, Williams fired six aces and connected on 64 percent of her first serves while dropping only one service break to advance in

80 minutes.

The 13-time Grand Slam singles champion advanced to a third-round match against Italy's Roberta Vinci, who ousted Bulgarian Tsvetana Pironkova 7-5, 6-1.

Tenth seed Williams, a five-time winner at Miami, missed the event the past two years because of illness and injury.

Former World No. 1 Williams played for the US Fed Cup team last month, winning two singles matches in a 5-0 World Group II victory over Belarus.

But she had not been in a tour match since losing to Russia's Ekaterina Makarova in the round of 16 at Melbourne. Williams withdrew before her Brisbane quarter-final with a sore ankle in her only other WTA start this year.

Williams won a day after her sister, seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams, beat Japan's Kimiko Date-Krumm 6-0, 6-3 in a first-round match.

It was the first WTA event for Venus since she pulled out of last year's US Open with the auto-immune disorder Sjogren Syndrome, which

saps her energy and causes pain in her joints.

Russian second seed Sharapova advanced by rallying to defeat Israel's Shahar Peer 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, after two hours and 24 minutes. She denied Peer on 10-of-13 break-point chances while taking half the 10 she earned for herself.

Belgium's Clijsters ousted German 14th seed Julia Goerges 6-2, 7-5. The second set saw nine service breaks.

Danish fourth seed Wozniacki opened by ousting Czech Barbora Zahlavova Strycova 6-4, 6-0.

On the men's side, US wildcard Ryan Harrison ousted Italy's Potito Starace 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-4 to book a second-round date with Swiss star Roger Federer, who has won his past three tournaments in a row including last week's title at Indian Wells.

Marcus Baghdatis of Cyprus advanced with a 6-1, 6-1 triumph over Argentina's Leonardo Mayer, advancing to a second-round match on Saturday against Serbian World No. 1 Novak Djokovic, winner of the past three Grand Slam crowns.

## Tigers upset

FROM PAGE 16 had never seen such a vibrant dressing room before.

"The atmosphere in the dressing room was amazing. The hunger and the thought process was brilliant and we must continue it for much bigger successes. We have showed the cricketing world something and now our challenge is to keep up the good work so that no one can say it was a fluke," observed Tamim, who was under tremendous pressure before the tournament.

"We are the runners-up in the Asia Cup which I think is still a big achievement for our cricket. Now we have to ensure consistency in international cricket," added the southpaw batsman.

The Chittagonian gave a perfect reply to his critics by hitting a record four consecutive half-centuries and he believes that it was the hard work and self-belief which made it possible for him to make a shining comeback.

"After the Pakistan series I panicked and I was nervous before the first match against Pakistan. But things fell into place once I entered the ground. It became possible due to my hard work and self-belief," said Tamim.

Shakib, Mashrafe and Tamim -- all believe that from now on Bangladesh cricket will only go ahead.



PHOTO: AFP

Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova celebrates her victory over Shahar Peer of Israel in the Sony Ericsson Open at Crandon Park Tennis Centre in Florida on Thursday.

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Ser	Nomenclature	Qty	Source of fund	Description of item	Tender schedule price	Date of collection	Date of opening	Currency
1.	Earthing for DGFI-HQ	01	GOB	As per technical specification	750/-	From 25/3/2012 To 29/3/2012	15/4/2012	Local
2.	Desktop Computer (Clone)	20	GOB	do	500/-			
3.	Mobile Phone (Multimedia)	50	GOB	do	500/-			

2. Tender schedule with detail technical specifications with compliance terms and conditions will be kept ready for sale (non-refundable) at SIB, DGFI HQ (Tel: 02-8871807 Ext-649) on any office day on the abovementioned specified date of collection between 0930 hours to 1400 hours. The tender can be dropped in the tender box kept in main gate of DGFI HQ latest by 1200 hours and will be opened at 1205 hours on the abovementioned specified date of opening in presence of tenderers (if any).

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ISPR/Misc/3141  
20/4/12  
GD-1269

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