PCB in talks with ACB to conduct all their ODIs on a single venue in Sri Lanka

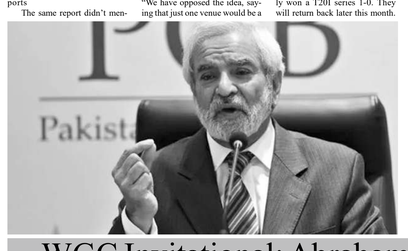
Pakistan and Afghanistan are all set to meet for a three-match One-Day International series. Initially, the series was supposed to be held in the United Arab Emirates but later it was confirmed that Sri Lanka will act as a neutral venue for the series between the two neighboring countries.

Once the island nation was revealed as the venue for the series, the two boards, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) have now got into a discussion of what will be the venue for the matches. Pakistan has reportedly asked Afghanistan to fix one venue for all three matches.

The two sides will be playing the three ODIs in the first week of September. The series is a part of the ICC ODI Super League, which forms a pathway to the 2023 World Cup, which is set to be played in India. In a report on Pajhwok, it was stated that a PCB official has revealed that, "We (PCB) have received a communication from the Afghan Cricket suggesting that the ODI series be played at two venues."

PCB looking to avoid too much travel for the national team: Reports

The same report didn't mention who that official was and didn't share any details regarding it. However, it further stated that PCB has expressed that they would be happier if the entire series is played at one venue itself. "We have opposed the idea, saying that just one venue would be a far better option," the report quoted the same PCB official saying.



Pakistan's national men's team is currently in the West Indies where they will take part in a two-match Test series and have recently won a T20I series 1-0. They will return back later this month. The PCB official further stated that due to the tight scheduling the players will find it difficult if they have to travel from one city to another in the middle of that series.

Pakistan will also play an ODI and T20 series at home against New Zealand starting from September 11. The PCB official further said, "We have made it clear to ACB that our national team members have only 10-day time between travel and the series before hosting the Kiwis on September 11."

It should be noted that when Sri Lanka recently hosted India for a three-match ODI series and subsequent three T20I matches, the two teams played at only one venue in Colombo. According to the PCB official, the same pattern should be followed for the three-match series which will ensure that the team doesn't have to travel a lot. The PCB official also said that the board is expecting to come to a conclusion within a few days from the ACB. **Monitoring Desk**

Lionel Messi joins Paris Saint-Germain on two-year contract after leaving Barcelona

The six-time Ballon d'Or winner arrived in Paris on Tuesday afternoon to complete a medical and seal his move to the French club on a two-year deal - with an option for a third - worth £25m per year after tax, plus bonuses.

Messi will receive a £25m signing-on fee as part of the move and will wear the No 30 shirt for PSG, which was the number he wore on his Barcelona debut in 2003.

The 34-year-old was set to extend his 21-year stay at Barcelona by signing a new five-year deal this summer, but the club announced on Thursday that "financial and structural obstacles" meant the contract could not be fulfilled.

On signing for PSG, Messi said: "I am excited to begin a new chapter of my career at Paris Saint-Germain. Everything about the club matches my football ambitions.

"I know how talented the squad and the coaching staff are here. I am determined to help build something special for the club and the fans, and I am looking forward to stepping out onto the pitch at the Parc des Princes."

PSG chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi added: "I am delighted that Lionel Messi has chosen to join Paris Saint-Germain and we are proud to welcome him and his family to Paris.

"He has made no secret of his desire to continue competing at the very highest level and winning trophies, and naturally our ambition as a club is to do the same.

"The addition of Leo to our world-class squad continues a very strategic and successful transfer window for the club.

"Led by our outstanding coach and his staff, I look forward to the team making history together for our fans all around the world."

Messi will give his first press conference as a PSG player at 10am (BST) on Wednesday at the Parc des Princes.

He had said he wanted to stay at Barcelona and "did everything" he could to remain at the club, including agreeing to a 50-per-cent wage cut.

However, Barcelona are hamstrung by La Liga's rules on club spending and even halving Messi's pay was not enough to ensure he remained at the Nou Camp.

WGC Invitational: Abraham Ancer wins in Memphis after playoff with Hideki Matsuyama and Sam Burns

The highs and lows of a dramatic final day of the WGC-FedEx St Jude Invitational as Abraham Ancer prevailed in a playoff against Hideki Matsuyama and Sam Burns.

Abraham Ancer became the first Mexican to win a World Golf Championship title after an extraordinary final round of the WGC-FedEx St Jude Invitational.

Ancer birdied the second playoff hole to edge out Sam Burns and Hideki Matsuyama, the top three all finishing on 16 under par as long-time tournament leader Harris English endured a horrible back-nine collapse at TPC Southwind.

English and playing-partner Bryson DeChambeau were a combined seven-over par for the final day, with English admitting he had been adversely affected when the final pairing were put on the clock as they approached the turn.

English double-bogeyed both par-threes on the inward half as he stumbled home in 40, with DeChambeau running up a triple-bogey six at the short 11th in a back-nine 41.

Harris English dropped five shots after being put on the clock

Harris English dropped five shots after being put on the clock

The trials and tribulations of the final pair, both of whom were chasing their third victories of the season, opened the door for a host of unlikely challengers, with Matsuyama and Burns mounting huge comebacks while Cameron Smith made a mess of the last and closed with a six to finish two back.

Matsuyama was nine shots adrift of English overnight, but the Masters champion made four birdies in five holes from the 12th and returning a superb 63 that earned him the clubhouse lead, which he would soon be sharing with Burns.

The American looked out of the running when he double-bogeyed the 13th to slip to 13 under, but he birdied three of the last four holes and nailed a 25-foot putt for a three at the 18th to force his way into a tie with Matsuyama.

The share of the clubhouse lead increased to three when Ancer completed a resolute 68 just as English was making a mess of the long 16th, a bogey-six seeing him relinquish his lead for the first time since Thursday.

English gave himself a chance to get into the playoff with a bold approach to 12 feet at the last, but his birdie putt lacked conviction and the required pace. He would be left as a bystander as the top three headed back to the 18th tee.

Matsuyama had the best chance on the first extra hole, but his 10-foot putt for the win was a touch heavy and lipped out on the right, and the hole was shared in pars.

Get the best prices and book a round at one of 1,700 courses across the UK & Ireland

The Japanese ace only just made the green with his approach moments later, while Ancer followed a perfect drive with a cracking second to seven feet, only for Burns to clip a wedge in slightly closer.

And after Matsuyama settled for par, Ancer rattled in his confident putt for a three before Burns did not allow enough break on the same line, his ball performing a 90-degree lipout to leave the Mexican celebrating a famous victory - his first on the PGA Tour.

Stuart Broad: England bowler an injury doubt for second Test against India with calf strain

Broad sat out Tuesday's net session at Lord's after discomfort in his calf during the warm-ups and will be assessed by medics before a decision is made over his availability for what would be his 150th Test.

The 35-year-old went wicketless in the first innings of last week's drawn series opener at Trent Bridge and lacked his usual control, but he looked in better form on the fourth evening when he took the only wicket of India's rain-shortened second innings.

Should Broad be ruled out, or if England decide not to risk him, Durham quick Mark Wood is on hand to offer a different option. Wood may well have come in anyway to freshen up a side that lacked a 90mph option in Nottingham.

Somerset's Craig Overton, who was added to the squad when Ben Stokes withdrew to prioritise his mental health, is also part of the 18-man squad.

An update from the England and Wales Cricket Board read: "England seamer Stuart Broad has tweaked his right calf in today's warm-up at Lord's.

"He was unable to train this afternoon with the rest of the England squad. Broad will have a scan tomorrow to determine the extent of his injury."

England captain Joe Root is confident Moeen Ali can once again be a match-winner in Test cricket following his recall to the squad for the second Test against India at Lord's.

Moeen has predominantly spent the last two years as a limited-overs specialist, with his only Test appearance since the 2019 Ashes coming in February, in England's second Test defeat to India in Chennai.

The 34-year-old all-rounder has most recently been in fabulous form for Birmingham Phoenix in The Hundred, captaining the team to the top of the men's table.

England captain Joe Root says he has 'always been a huge fan' of Moeen Ali and is delighted to have him back in the Test squad

"He's certainly a big contender to play," Root said on Tuesday. "He has been called up to the squad for his capability with both bat and ball.

"The message is: just to go out there and be Moeen Ali. He has the ability to win games with bat and ball, he's proven that. He plays his best cricket when he is enjoying it and he's full of confidence - it certainly looks that way at the moment, the way he has taken to The Hundred.

"With the way he has led Birmingham Phoenix, I would happily give him a huge amount of responsibility if he does play because he responds extremely well to that.

"He is a leader within the dressing room, a great personality who drags people with him on the field and in the dressing room, so it will be great to have him back around.

"He is a great ambassador for the game so it's wonderful to see him back in the Test arena. If he gets an opportunity he'll be desperate to impress and show everyone how good he is in Test cricket as well as white-ball cricket.

"When you come into a series with not much cricket behind you, that is where you have to call on your experiences and he's certainly got that in bagfuls."

Rafael Nadal withdraws from National Bank Open in Toronto with foot injury

Rafael Nadal has withdrawn from the National Bank Open in Toronto due to a lingering foot injury.

The world No 4 lost in the third round in Washington last week on his return to competitive tennis after a two-month absence.

Nadal, 35, withdrew from both Wimbledon and the Tokyo Olympics in an effort to prolong his career.

"I really wanted to play here a lot, but now is the moment to make a decision, and this is unfortunately the decision that I have taken," said Nadal, who is a five-time winner of the Masters 1000 event in Canada.

Nadal said a recurring foot injury that has troubled him since 2005 reappeared at the French Open, where he was beaten by eventual champion Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals. "I have had this issue for a couple of months, as people know," added the 20-time Grand Slam champion.

"Of course, it is not a happy situation after all the success that I had here in Canada, not being able to play this year after missing a year. It's a tough one, but that's how it is today."

Nadal's withdrawal hampers his preparation for the US Open, which begins in New York on August 30.

World No 1 Djokovic withdrew from next week's Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati on Monday to enhance his bid to secure a calendar Grand Slam.