

# Move 2011 World Cup out of Asia - Miandad

by RIZWAN ALI

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** - Former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad called for the 2011 World Cup to be moved from Asia on Sunday, citing Australia's decision to boycott a Davis Cup tennis series in India because of security concerns.

The International Cricket Council removed Pakistan as a co-host of the World Cup following last month's attack in Lahore on the Sri Lankan team bus that killed seven people, while retaining India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as co-hosts.

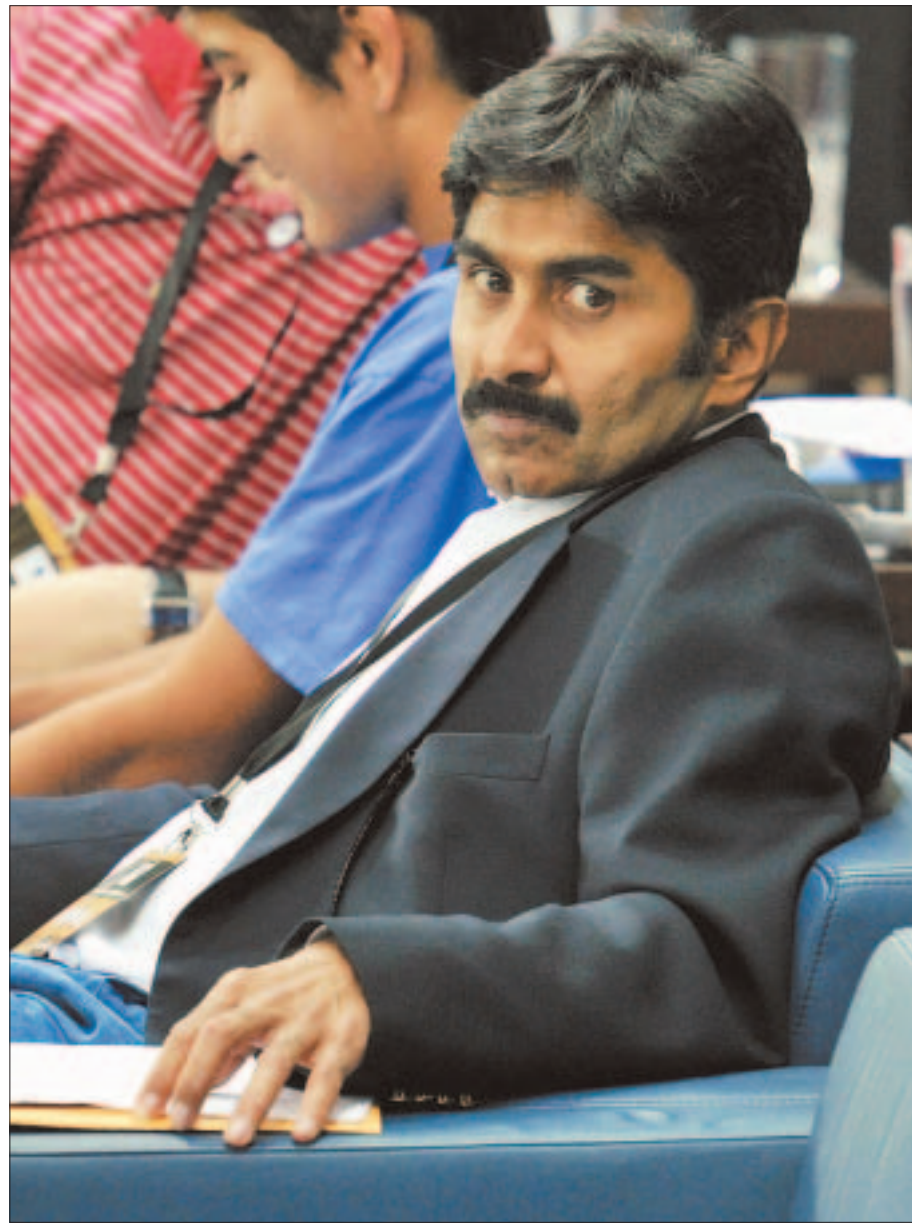
But Tennis Australia's refusal to travel to Chennai in May to play India because there was an "unacceptable level of risk" should result in the cricket tournament being shifted from the region, according to Miandad.

"If Pakistan is not safe, what will you say about India where Australia refused to go and play Davis Cup, which is not a big team sport like cricket," Miandad told The Associated Press from Dubai. "(The ICC) removed Pakistan two years before the event, but unfortunately the security situation is not ideal in the three other countries."

"It will be better if the ICC awards the 2011 World Cup to some other non-Asian country. All the four Asian World Cup hosts could then be considered for the next World Cup in 2015."

Miandad, who played in the 1992 World Cup-winning team, said if the ICC does keep the event in the region then an "offshore" Pakistan venue could be an option, like in the United Arab Emirates where Pakistan is currently "hosting" Australia in a one-day series.

"Dubai and Abu Dhabi have excellent facilities, and if we can organize our home series against Australia in these two cities we can organize our share of (World Cup) pool matches here," Miandad said. "Security wise, these two cities in United Arab Emirates are ideal and even



Javed Miandad

Australians are very happy with the security arrangements."

Last year, Pakistan organized a three-match ODI series in Abu Dhabi. After the Sept. 11 terror attacks in

2001, it played a test series against Australia in Sri Lanka and another against West Indies in the UAE because the teams refused to tour Pakistan.

# Button wins Bahrain Grand Prix

**SAKHIR, Bahrain (AP)** - Brawn GP's Jenson Button won the Bahrain Grand Prix on Sunday, giving the Briton his third win in the four Formula One races this year.

Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel was second, 7.1 seconds behind Button, and Toyota's Jarno Trulli took third at the Sakhir circuit.

The result gives Button a 12-point lead in the drivers' championship, with a two-week break before the series heads to Europe.

"This race win for us is probably the best out of the lot, because we don't have a competitive edge," said Button, referring to his rival teams' recent improvement. "We are not as strong as we used to be and had to work doubly hard."

Defending champion Lewis Hamilton was fourth for McLaren, ahead of Brawn GP's Rubens Barrichello. Kimi Raikkonen finished sixth to give Ferrari its first points of the season, with Toyota's Timo Glock and Renault's Fernando Alonso seventh and eighth.

Button's key move was when he passed Hamilton at the start of the second lap, while Vettel got stuck behind the McLaren, which was slower through bends but hard to pass because of its KERS power-boost.

"That move really made the race for us," Button said.

Glock got the best of the start to lead Trulli in the early stages, and the Toyota teammates held that advantage until the first set of pit stops. However, Toyota's strategy to use the less-preferred medium-compound tire through the long second stint of the race handed the advan-

tage to Button, who effectively led from the 13th of 57 laps.

Button has 31 points from four races, putting him 12 points ahead of Barrichello. Brawn is well out front in

the constructors' championship as well.

Ferrari's points avoided it going through the first four races of the season without a point for the first time in its F1 history.



Brawn GP driver Jenson Button of Britain celebrates on the podium after winning the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix at the Bahrain International Circuit, in Sakhir, Bahrain, Sunday, April 26, 2009. (AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

# Dilshan stars in Delhi win

**PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa (AP)** - Tillakaratne Dilshan's unbeaten 67 guided Delhi to a six-wicket win over the Bangalore Royal Challengers on Sunday, giving the unbeaten Daredevils a third Indian Premier League victory.

The Sri Lankan hit five boundaries and two sixes in 47 balls with some clean hitting mostly square of the pitch as Delhi eclipsed Bangalore's 149-7 with four balls to spare at St. George's Park.

Delhi and the Deccan Chargers are the only unbeaten teams left having each played three games, with the Daredevils second on net run rate. Bangalore is last with one win in five matches.

Dilshan and A.B. de Villiers (21) put on 42 as Delhi recovered from 42-2 after pace bowler Pankaj Singh had removed openers Virender Sehwag for 16 and Gautam Gambhir for 7.

"It's not easy when people expect things from you," Sehwag said of his poor form in the tournament.

When De Villiers fell in the 14th over, bowled by left-arm spinner K.P. Appanna after giving himself room outside off stump, the advantage appeared to drift to Bangalore. But Mithun Manhas hit 23 not out to steer Delhi home along with Dilshan.

Bangalore captain Kevin Pietersen was generally happy with his team's performance.

"It's sad to lose. I'm upset, but when you lose the way we did it's encouraging," he said. "The guys can raise their heads high."

Pietersen scored 37 for Bangalore. He will play one more IPL game before joining England to play a test series against West Indies.

## SCOREBOARD

Bangalore Innings		Delhi Innings	
J. Kallis b Nannes	0	G. Gambhir c Boucher b Singh	16
R. Uthappa c Sangwan b Nehra	3	V. Sehwag c Pietersen b Singh	7
K. Pietersen b Vettori	37	T. Dilshan not out	67
R. Taylor lbw b Mishra	31	A.B. de Villiers b Appanna	21
V. Kohli c Dilshan b Nehra	22	D. Karthik b Kallis b Akhil	12
M. Boucher c Mishra b Sangwan	36	M. Manhas not out	23
B. Akhil not out	3	<b>Extras: (4w)</b>	<b>4</b>
V. Kumar run out	0	<b>Total: (for four wickets)</b>	<b>150</b>
P. Singh not out	1	<b>Overs: 19.2.</b>	
<b>Extras: (5lb, 5w, 1nb)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-42, 3-84, 4-106.</b>	
<b>Total: (for seven wickets)</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>Did not bat: A. Mishra, D. Vettori, D. Nannes, P. Sangwan, A. Nehra.</b>	
<b>Overs: 20</b>		<b>Bowling: Kumar 3.2-0-28-0, Singh 4-0-31-2 (1w), Kallis 3-0-37-0 (3w), Kumble 4-0-22-0, Appanna 4-0-24-1, Akhil 1-0-8-1.</b>	
<b>Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-10, 3-72, 4-78, 5-139, 6-139, 7-145.</b>		<b>Result: Delhi won by 6 wickets.</b>	
<b>Did not bat: A. Kumble, K.P. Appanna.</b>		<b>Toss: Bangalore.</b>	
<b>Bowling: Nannes 4-0-24-1 (1w), Nehra 4-0-34-2 (1nb, 1w), Sangwan 4-0-32-1 (1w), Mishra 4-0-19-1 (2w), Vettori 4-0-35-1.</b>		<b>Umpires: S. Asnani (Ind) B. Jerling (SA)</b>	

# Iraq-style security for cricket tours

Increased fear over player safety on the subcontinent means New Zealand Cricket will turn to higher level security firms, with chief executive Justin Vaughan drawing comparisons with American companies operating in Iraq.

Vaughan said the old ways of managing risk had been usurped following the direct attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore earlier this year and with the New Zealand cricket team due to tour Sri Lanka in August as well as Bangladesh and India next year, security has become even more important than usual.

"Lahore has changed the landscape," Vaughan told the Sunday Star-Times. "The stakes have lifted considerably and we have to be very careful in the advice we take."

Previously, NZC and other nations have used security experts such as former Aussie police officer Reg Dickson but Vaughan said he needed to up the ante.

"We need to take security to a higher level, possibly we have to look at the way [oil company] Halliburton and other US contractors in Iraq operate. Certainly it isn't an area we're willing to short-cut."

Previously pre-tour security checks centred on whether the team might get caught in incident by being in the wrong place at wrong time but the question now, post-Lahore, is whether a team would be a direct target.

New Zealand Cricket Players' Association head Heath Mills said he had already had players asking him about security in Sri Lanka, where fighting between government forces and the Tamil Tigers has resulted in extreme travel warnings for the north-east of the country and high level warnings for the southwest, Colombo, Kandy and Galle, where the cricket tours go.

And with a New Zealand A team scheduled to go to India at the same time, there is concern following the Mumbai terror attacks and violence of the type surrounding the elections in India, which was the main reason the IPL was transferred to South Africa.

"Players have certainly asked me what's happening with regard to security," Mills said. "They want to go but the first question now is 'what's happening with security?'"



Justin Vaughan, New Zealand Cricket's Chief Executive

"Security now is the biggest threat to the game, it has surpassed corruption, and we have to have world-class security. We will not be making recommendations to our players on whether to go or not unless we're 100% confident in the security check process and the recommendations that flow from it."

Mills said threat assessment was critical but it was more important to have high level security with the team.

"The management of security when you're on the ground is the area we need to focus on more than we have in the past."

"We must have independent people with the team on the ground at all times. The situation in Pakistan showed you cannot rely on local police and army; through bitter experience we know that now," he said, referring to the Lahore attacks in which security forces deserted the mini-van carrying the umpires.

Mills said it was important to build relationships with diplomatic missions in various countries to get independent advice on security and intelligence.

Vaughan said NZC would undertake a pre-tour security check in Sri Lanka in late June or early July. "The situation changes so rapidly that doing it too far ahead of time is pointless as you'd have to do it again nearer the time."

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