

'When they're hot, they're really hot. We have to find ways of trying to cool them down'

New Zealand's Mitchell Santner on Pakistan



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QREC renews Qatar Goodwood Festival sponsorship till 2024 **PAGE 15**



THE BIG ONE
CRICKET WORLD CUP
NEW ZEALAND VS PAKISTAN

STANDINGS

TEAM	P	W	L	T	NR	PTS
AUSTRALIA	7	6	1	0	0	12
NEW ZEALAND	6	5	0	0	1	11
INDIA	5	4	0	0	1	9
ENGLAND	7	4	3	0	0	8
BANGLADESH	7	3	3	0	1	7
SRI LANKA	6	2	2	0	2	6
PAKISTAN	6	2	3	0	1	5
WEST INDIES	6	1	4	0	1	3
SOUTH AFRICA	7	1	5	0	1	3
AFGHANISTAN	7	0	7	0	0	0

Note: Top four teams qualify for semi-finals.

Finch to the fore as Aussies crush England, make semis

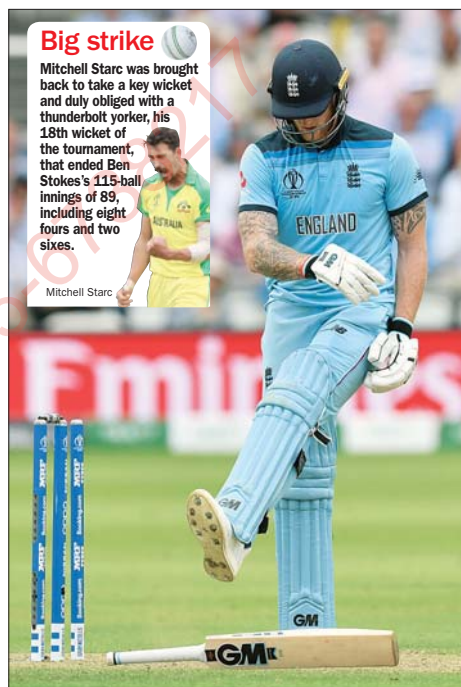


Five-wkt haul for Jason Behrendorff

AFP LONDON



Australia captain Aaron Finch celebrates his century against England at Lord's in London on Tuesday. Finch topscored for his side with an exact 100. (AFP)



England's star all-rounder Ben Stokes reacts after being cleaned up by a yorker from Australia paceman Mitchell Starc at the Lord's Cricket Ground on Tuesday. (AFP)

WI legend Lara admitted to Mumbai hospital

AFP MUMBAI

WEST Indies batting legend Brian Lara was admitted to a hospital in Mumbai Tuesday after complaining of chest pain, Indian media reports and sources said.

The 50-year-old Trinidadian was rushed to hospital after he complained of discomfort during a promotional event, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said, quoting a source close to the player.

"He is fine and will be discharged soon," the source told PTI.

Lara is in Mumbai to take part in events organised by Star Sports, the official broadcasters of the ongoing Cricket World Cup. "He complained of chest pain and uneasiness this morning and was sent for a routine check-up. He is fine now," a source at the broadcaster, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

One of the best batsmen of the modern era, Lara holds two world batting records -- the highest ever Test score of 400 not out and the highest first class knock of 501 that he scores in English county championship in 1994. The former skipper retired in 2007 after a dismal West Indies campaign in the World Cup.

Snookered: Murphy flops in Open golf bid

LONDON: Former snooker world champion Shaun Murphy and ex-international cricketer Sean Ervine failed to make the cut as they swapped the cue and bat for golf clubs in qualifying for the British Open on Monday. Both were eligible to enter qualifying thanks to a scratch handicap, but on this evidence will not be rivaling the tour professionals in their adopted sport. (AFP)

AUSTRALIA captain Aaron Finch hit a hundred before left-arm quicks Jason Behrendorff and Mitchell Starc shared nine wickets as the reigning champions thumped England by 64 runs at Lord's on Tuesday to book their place in the semi-finals of the World Cup. Finch made exactly 100 in a total of 285, 7 before England slumped to 221 all out with 32 balls left.

The recalled Behrendorff took 5-44 -- his first five-wicket haul in a One-Day International -- while Starc became the leading bowler at the tournament with 19 scalps thanks to a haul of 4-43.

For England, who entered the showpiece event as the top-ranked side in ODI cricket, this was a second straight defeat after their shock 20-run loss to Sri Lanka.

The host nation, bidding to win a first World Cup title, can still qualify for the semi-finals but they are likely to need to beat at least one of India and New Zealand in their remaining two group games.

"There are teams that you have confidence playing against but I have had plenty of low scores against England as well," said man-of-the-match Finch.

"It was nipping around first thing. We were as tight as we could be and then took advantage of any width."

England's reply saw them lose a wicket off just the second ball of their chase, with the struggling James Vince -- only playing because Jason Roy was out with a hamstring injury -- bowled by a Behrendorff inswinger.

Starc then took two wickets

in nine balls. Joe Root was plumb lbw to an inswinger for eight before England captain Eoin Morgan (four) fell into a hooking trap when a top-edge was held safely by Pat Cummins at fine leg. Australia, who had lost 10 of their previous 11 ODIs against England, were in complete charge with the hosts now 26-3.

England surged to the top of the ODI rankings on the back of aggressive run-scoring but the worry for Morgan's men is that too many of their top-order appear to know only one way to bat.

Jonny Bairstow, for example, fell next to a careless hook off Behrendorff before Stokes

and Jos Buttler (25) repaired some of the damage with a fifth-wicket stand of 71.

Buttler was well caught by Usman Khawaja, running round and staying just inside the deep square leg boundary off Marcus Stoinis.

Stokes defiantly hit Glenn Maxwell for two sixes in three balls but, shortly before completing his fifty, the all-rounder pulled up with a calf injury.

Starc was brought back to take a key wicket and duly obliged with a thunderbolt yorker, his 18th wicket of the tournament, that ended Stokes's 115-ball innings of 89, including eight fours and two sixes.

Stokes's dismissal left England 177-6 in the 37th over and

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA	ENGLAND
A. Finch c Woakes b Archer 100	J Vince b Behrendorff 0
D. Warner c Root b Ri 53	J. Starc c Cummins b Behrendorff 8
U. Khawaja b Stokes 23	J. Root lbw b Starc 8
S. Smith c Archer b Woakes 38	E. Morgan c Cummins b Starc 4
G. Maxwell c Buttler b Wood 12	B. Stokes b Starc 89
M. Stoinis run out 8	J. Butler c Khawaja b Stoinis 25
A. Carey not out 38	C. Woakes c Finch b Behrendorff 26
P. Cummins c Buttler b Woakes 1	M. Azeem Ali c Carey b Behrendorff 6
M. Starc not out 4	A. Rashid c Stoinis b Starc 25
Did not bat: Jason Behrendorff, Nathan Lyon	J. Archer c Warner b Behrendorff 1
Extras: (04, w4) 8	M. Wood not out 1
TOTAL: (For 7 wickets, 50 overs) 285	Extras: (05, 61, w3) 9
Fall of wickets: 1-23 (Warner), 2-173 (Khawaja), 3-185 (Finch), 4-213 (Maxwell), 5-228 (Stoinis), 6-250 (Smith), 7-259 (Cummins).	TOTAL: (81 out, 44.6 overs) 221
Bowling: Woakes 10.0-46-2 (1w); Archer 9.0-56-1 (1w); Wood 8.0-59-1 (2w); Stokes 6.0-29-1; Ali 6.0-42-1; Rashid 10.0-49-0.	Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Vince), 2-15 (Root), 3-26 (Morgan), 4-53 (Bairstow), 5-124 (Buttler), 6-177 (Stokes), 7-189 (Morgan), 8-202 (Woakes), 9-211 (Archer), 10-221 (Rashid).
Test: England; Man-of-the-Match: Aaron Finch	Bowling: Behrendorff 10.0-44-5 (1w); Starc 8.1-43-4; Cummins 8.1-41-0 (1w); Lyon 9.0-43-0; Stoinis 7.0-29-1 (1w); Maxwell 2.0-15-0.
Result: Australia won by 64 runs.	

effectively ended the contest. Starc ended the match when he dismissed Adil Rashid.

Earlier Finch, dropped on 15, and fellow opener David Warner (53) shared a stand of

123 as too many of England's pacemen, with the exception of Chris Woakes, dropped short.

The skipper's exit sparked a late flurry of wickets but Australia had enough runs. Both Warner, the World Cup's leading run-scorer, and Steve Smith were booed as they entered and exited the field following their recent return from year-long bans for ball-tampering.

Finch went to his century thanks to a mistfield by Woakes but next ball he missed a hook off Jofra Archer and Woakes held the catch at fine leg.

The skipper faced 116 balls, with 11 fours and two sixes in his second century of this World Cup following his 153 against Sri Lanka.

Qatar's Ambassador to Singapore hosts national tennis team ahead of Davis Cup

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK SINGAPORE

THE Ambassador of Qatar to Singapore HE Abdullah bin Ibrahim al Hamar held a dinner banquet in honour of the delegation of Qatar's national tennis team ahead of their campaign in 2019 Davis Cup.

On this occasion, HE Al Hamad stressed on the importance of the tournament which features the participation of our national tennis team.

He also hailed the great sporting boom in Qatar under the leadership of the Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, where many sporting accomplishments have been achieved in all fields, the recent being the participation of the national football team in the 2019 Copa America in Brazil.

The Ambassador also

stressed the fact that tennis became popular in Qatar as the federation hosts a large number of international tennis events including Qatar ExxonMobil Open and Qatar Total Open which attracts world stars.

He wished all success to the Qatar national team for the Davis Cup.

Qatar are competing in the Asia/Oceania Group III for a fifth consecutive year.

The team consists of players Mubarak Shannan Zayed, Rayane Alami, Mousa Zayed, Rashed Nawaf with Sultan Khalifan al Alawi as the captain.

Qatar, who made their Davis Cup debut in 1992, have played in Asia/Oceania Zone Group II on three occasions.

In 2018, Qatar won three of their five ties at the Asia/Oceania Group III event.



Ambassador of Qatar to Singapore HE Abdullah bin Ibrahim al Hamar with Qatar tennis team members.

Asia/Oceania

Qatar have been drawn in Pool B of Davis Cup 2019 Asia/Oceania Group III. The matches will be played at the OCBC Arena in Singapore on round-robin basis with two pools of 4 teams (Pool A (Vietnam, Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Singapore) and B (Iran, Qatar, Syria, Malaysia)). The winners and runners-up will qualify to Group II.

The 2019 Asia/Oceania Group III is being hosted by Singapore and is joined by teams from Vietnam, Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Syria

and Malaysia. Qatar have been drawn in Pool B. The matches will be played at the OCBC Arena in Singapore on round-robin basis with two pools of 4 teams (Pool A (Vietnam, Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Singapore) and B (Iran, Qatar, Syria, Malaysia)). The winners and runners-up will qualify to Group II.

The matches will be played on Wednesday, 26 June to Friday, 28 June. The play-off matches will be played on Saturday 29 June as follows.

The head of Qatar's delegation to the event Ahmed al Obaiddi thanked Qatar's Ambassador to Singapore HE Abdullah bin Ibrahim al Hamar for his support to the Qatar national team.

Al Obaiddi said the players will do their best to qualify for Davis Cup Group II.

Cavani praises Uruguay's 'mentality' in Chile win

AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO

URUGUAY demonstrated a winning attitude and mentality in their 1-0 Copa America success over Chile on Monday that gave them top spot in Group C, match-winner Edinson Cavani said.

Uruguay began the game in second place in their pool behind the reigning champions and facing a daunting potential quarter-final tie with Colombia, the only side to go through the group stage with three wins.

But Cavani's header eight minutes from time from Jonathan Rodriguez's cross propelled Uruguay above Chile and into, what looks on paper at least, an easier last eight challenge against Peru.

"In some moments we played well, in other moments less well, but always with the (right) attitude and mentality we were able to snatch the game," said the 32-year-old, who scored his 48th goal for his country.

But the Paris Saint-Germain forward insisted thoughts of a potentially easier quarter-final draw played no role in Uruguay's approach.



Uruguay's Edinson Cavani scores the winner against Chile during their Group C match of 2019 Copa America championship at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Monday. (REUTERS)

"We wanted to win the group without knowing what would come next, to show a good image in the group and continue with this attitude," he said following the match at Rio

de Janeiro's iconic Maracana stadium. Captain Diego Godin said this win "is important for confidence, to rediscover the feelings after Japan" in which they were

surprisingly held to a 2-2 draw. Veteran coach Oscar Tabarez admitted there was little between the two sides. "It was a keenly contested match with few spaces. We

managed a little bit better than our opponents," he said.

More so than avoiding Colombia, Tabarez was most pleased that Uruguay will get an extra day of rest ahead of their quarter-final, against a Peru side that has had two extra days to recover from their pool efforts, on Saturday in Salvador.

Chile will face Colombia the day before in Sao Paulo. "One extra day of rest is useful, it's important, because we're on the limit," said Tabarez.

Chile's Colombian coach Reinaldo Rueda, who was jeered by many of his team's fans when his name was announced before the match, said his side were beaten by "Uruguay's strength" - their aerial game.

"Undoubtedly, it was a very close game. We knew about our opponents' quality, with a well defined system, a difficult style in terms of their aerial game," he said.

"But we played very well, we showed character, we showed discipline."

Still, defeat was hard to take. "We lost, that's tough on the players' motivation," said Rueda.



Our players need to learn as much as they can, with great humility, respecting their opponents and understanding that they can develop our football.

- Hajime Moriyasu

Japan coach Moriyasu says Copa exit a learning process

AFP

BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL

JAPAN coach Hajime Moriyasu said his team would learn from their Copa America heartbreak after missing out on a place in the quarter-finals following Monday's 1-1 draw with Ecuador.

Shoya Nakajima gave the Blue Samurai a 15th minute lead in Belo Horizonte while substitute Daizen Maeda had a late chance to win it when put through one-on-one with goalkeeper Alexander Dominguez.

Angel Mena's equalizer on 35 minutes and teenage sensation Takefusa Kubo's potential injury-time winner being ruled out by VAR meant Japan came up short.

"They're learning to compete with top level opponents," said Moriyasu, who brought a mostly under-23 team to Brazil as several clubs refused to release regular first choice players.

"Our players need to learn as much as they can, with great humility, respecting their opponents and understanding that they can develop our football."

This squad will at least form the basis of the under-23 team that competes in next year's Tokyo Olympics.

But it was an inglorious exit for Asia's two guest participants in South America's flagship tournament.

Asian champions Qatar finished bottom of Group B with one point from three games, while the team they beat in February's contin-

ental final in the United Arab Emirates, again failed to win a match in their second Copa America participation.

However, they did improve drastically on their opening match - a 4-0 thrashing by Chile - in drawing their next two games against Uruguay (2-2) and Ecuador.

"It's a shame that we couldn't progress to the next stage, we need to improve," said Moriyasu.

"Football is improving in Japan and in Asia in a general manner. We've managed to play good matches against strong teams from all over the world."

Ecuador's goalkeeper Mena said he felt proud of his team but bitter at missing out on the next round.

"What I take away is the team's attitude after the loss in the first game," he said, referring to a 4-0 humbling by Uruguay.

"A lot changed for the second match and the team played the football it is capable of. We had chances but did not convert them today."

"More importantly, the attitude and pride we displayed were paramount."

And the 31-year-old said his goal was scant consolation.

"We are eliminated and sad. It's great to score goals, but it didn't help much. We leave with a sour taste."

Defender Arturo Mina felt Ecuador had deserved more.

"Japan sat back in defense, we controlled the game. I think they managed two or three chances, but we were superior," he said.

Cameroon begin AFCON title defence with a win

AFP

ISMALIA, EGYPT

STEPHANE Bahoken scored two minutes after coming off the bench to seal a 2-0 win for defending champions Cameroon over Guinea-Bissau Tuesday in the Africa Cup of Nations.

There was little to excite the small crowd in Egyptian city Ismailia until the five-time trophy-holders struck twice within three minutes midway through the second half.

Giant defender Yaya Banana nodded Cameroon in front on 66 minutes and forward Bahoken struck from close range three minutes later in Group F, which includes Benin and Ghana.

Cameroon were the fifth of the six top seeds after Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and Morocco to win their opening match at the tournament while Tunisia were surprisingly held by Angola.

The Cameroon line-up included four starters from the 2017 final - centre-backs Mi-

chael Ngadeni and Ambrose Oyono, midfielder Arnaud Djoum and forward Christian Bassogog.

Georges Mandjeck, who came off the bench during the 2-1 title-decider triumph over Egypt in Gabon, was also included by coach Clarence Seedorf.

The best chance of a goalless, uninspiring opening half at the Ismailia Stadium came after 31 minutes when Bassogog ballooned wide a Karl Toko Ekambi cutback.

The second half was meandering along with no hint of a goal until Cameroon netted twice within three minutes to swing the match in their favour.

From a corner, Banana soared in the middle of the goalmouth to nod powerfully into the net off Guinea-Bissau defender Rudi Silva.

The goal rattled the outsiders and fell further behind when a cross struck a defender and fell invitingly for Bahoken to fire past Mendes.

Djokovic has sympathy for Nadal over Wimbledon seedings gripe

REUTERS

LONDON



Novak Djokovic speaks to the media recently ahead of Wimbledon. (AFP)

SPANIARD Rafael Nadal received support from Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic on Tuesday after criticising the unique seedings formula used by the grasscourt Grand Slam which gets underway at the All England Club on Monday.

Nadal looks set to fall victim to the formula which tweaks the seedings based on previous form on grass, with the 33-year-old expected to be seeded third behind top-ranked Djokovic and Roger Federer despite being world number two.

Wimbledon, which will announce the seedings on Wednesday, is the only one of the four Grand Slam tournaments not to stick rigidly to the ATP and WTA rankings.

With Nadal, seeking a first Wimbledon title for nine years, seeded three it would mean he would most probably have to beat eight-time champion Rog-

er Federer and four-time winner Djokovic to get his hands on the trophy for a third time.

"Wimbledon is the only tournament of the year that doesn't follow the ranking," the 33-year-old Nadal told Spanish TV station #Vamos on Tuesday.

"It's their choice. Either way, being second or third seed, I have to play at the best level to aspire to the things I aspire to. It is better to be second than third, but if they consider that I have to be third I will accept. I don't think it's a

good thing that Wimbledon is the only one with its own seedling formula."

Nadal lost a semi-final epic to Djokovic last year but in his previous five appearances he never got past round four.

Wimbledon top seed Djokovic said he could understand Nadal's frustration.

"It's their rules and you have to respect it although it's a little bit surprising to be honest," the Serb said at the Boodles exhibition event on Tuesday.

"Roger is the greatest of all time and has won the most Wimbledon titles of any player in history and if any player deserves it's him. But at the same time it's Nadal that he is taking over (from us) the second seed so it's surprising to be honest."

The top 32 players on the ATP ranking list, who are present at Wimbledon, will take the seeded places, but a formula using results on grass for the past 24 months can change the order.

Al Duhail to hold pre-season camp in Portugal



Amer Cup champions Al Duhail will travel to the Portuguese capital of Lisbon from July 1 to July 26 for their training camp in preparation for the 2019/2020 season. Al Duhail will start the season with the AFC Champions League round of 16 clash against rivals Al Sadd on August 6. Both teams will then clash again for the Qatari season-opener Sheikh Jassim Cup on August 17.

Courtside

Bucks' Antetokounmpo named NBA Most Valuable Player

MILWAUKEE Bucks star forward Giannis Antetokounmpo was named the NBA's Most Valuable Player for the 2018-19 regular season on Monday. The 24-year-old from Greece wept as he accepted the honor at the glitzy NBA Awards show broadcast from Santa Monica, California, becoming the youngest MVP since Derrick Rose was the youngest winner ever in 2011. Antetokounmpo beat out 2018 MVP James Harden of the Houston Rockets and Oklahoma City Thunder forward Paul George for the honor. Antetokounmpo, in his sixth season with the Bucks, averaged 27.7 points and 12.5 rebounds as he led Milwaukee to the best regular-season record in the league with 60 wins and 22 defeats. "I want to thank my team, my teammates," Antetokounmpo said. "It takes more than one person to win 60 games. Every time I walked to the locker room I saw my teammates were ready to fight, they were ready to go to war with me." (AFP)

UNOCT, ICSS sign agreement to prevent & counter terrorism at major sporting events

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
NEW YORK

THE United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the International Centre on Sport Security (ICSS) through ICSS INSIGHT, have signed an agreement at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to prevent terrorism in major sporting events.

This new agreement will foster cooperation around matters related to preventing and countering terrorism, particularly with regard to the protection of vulnerable targets.

The agreement aims at promoting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and enhancing public-private partnerships in preparation, and during, major sporting events and other international sporting competitions.

As a result, UNOCT and ICSS, which is a global, non-profit organization based in Doha, will convene international and regional events, develop tools, guidelines and capacity-building programmes to enhance the security of major sporting events and pro-



Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations HE Sheikha Alya A. al Thani (centre), Massimiliano Montanari, CEO ICSS INSIGHT, and UNOCT Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov during the agreement signing event at the UN Headquarters in New York.

mote sports and its values to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, HE Sheikha Alya A. al Thani, was present at the signing ceremony, welcoming the partnership.

"The State of Qatar assigns high priority to sports as a means for peace and development and, being a reputable venue for many international and regional sports events, can offer valuable contribution and standards for the successful man-

agement of sports and other major events; therefore, we welcome this cooperation between the UNOCT and ICSS," she said.

Commenting on the signing, Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism said: "On the one hand, Security Council Resolution 2296 (2017), calls on Member States to protect vulnerable targets, including in the context of major sport events. On the other hand, sports can also help engage youth and rein-

force communities' resilience, which is key to prevent the spread of violent extremism conducive to terrorism. We are pleased to launch a new initiative that will contribute to better support Member States in addressing both areas and we are grateful to have ICSS as an important partner of this endeavour."

Chairman of the International Centre for Sport Security, Mohammed Hanzab, in a statement commented, "We feel honored to start this collaboration with UNOCT, and to offer our assistance in the development and promotion of advanced international approaches to enhance the security of major sporting events, a common good for the international community."

ICSS INSIGHT CEO Massimiliano Montanari said: "Protecting major sporting events means protecting all the socio-economic opportunities these events can generate. At the same time, major sporting events are unique laboratories of innovation also in the security field and are able to generate long-term forms of international and multisectoral cooperation."

QREC renews Qatar Goodwood Festival sponsorship till 2024

Partnership enhances Qatar's equestrian sport's standing and realises QREC's vision: Issa al Mohannadi

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

A new step has been taken, reflecting Qatar's success in sponsoring global horseracing events and asserting its ability to occupy its well-deserved standing at the most famous racing level worldwide. It has been announced that Qatar, represented by the Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club (QREC), renewed its sponsorship of the Qatar Goodwood Festival. The annual mega event has been held at the iconic racecourse for over 200 years.

The renewal of the sponsorship was announced during a meeting held between QREC Chairman Issa bin Mohammed al Mohannadi and the Duke of Richmond, owner of Goodwood racecourse, in presence of QREC CEO Nasser bin Sherida al Kaabi.

Under the renewed sponsorship contract, QREC will continue to sponsor the Festival up to 2024 as the initial sponsorship term will expire in early August this year with the fifth edition of the five-day Festival. The very first edition of the Qatar Goodwood Festival was launched in late July and early August 2015. The huge success of the Qatar-sponsored Festival over the last few years has motivated Goodwood racecourse to renew the sponsorship and continue the partnership with QREC.



QREC Chairman Issa bin Mohannadi (second left) and Charles Gordon-Lennox (second right), the 11th Duke of Richmond, owner of the Goodwood Racecourse, shake hands following the signing of the sponsorship renewal agreement.

in such a global event.

Main goal achieved

QREC Chairman Issa bin Mohammed al Mohannadi commented on the renewal of the sponsorship: "Based on our experience over five years at the Qatar Goodwood Festival, the agreement to renew Qatar's sponsorship realises one of the objectives of QREC that Qatar has its well-deserved standing worldwide. In fact, the outcome of this sponsorship over the last five years has benefited Qatar in general and Qatar's equestrian sport in particular because it promoted the name of Qatar in such international gatherings. "It has also helped foster our relations and cooperation with horse organisations in the United Kingdom. Besides, it enhances Qatar's commitment to purebred Arabian racing with top races run at the world's top level and at Goodwood as one of the most important and iconic racecourses worldwide. The Festival involves the first race or round of the Doha Triple Crown for pure Arabians, which is in line with the QREC's vision. "Goodwood racecourse officials realise that the Qatar sponsorship has contributed immensely to adding extra brilliance and thrill to the famed Festival. With top races run in presence of the world's top horse owners and breeders, it was not an easy matter

to enter into an agreement of this type with the organisers of an event that has been held for over 200 years. "However, the conviction that Qatar, represented in QREC, is fully committed to such investment has been the key to the renewal and continuation of the sponsorship up to 2024, which is a significant benefit to Qatar's equestrian sport," Mohannadi added.

It is worth mentioning that Qatar's sponsorship of the Qatar Goodwood Festival is the first of its kind for Qatar's equestrian sport and horseracing in the United Kingdom. The Qatar Goodwood Festival also features some of the top races for thoroughbreds, including the Qatar Goodwood Cup (Gr 1), the Qatar Sussex Stakes (Gr 1), the Qatar Nassau Stakes (Gr 1), the Qatar Lillie Langtry Stakes (Gr 2), the Qatar King George Stakes (Gr 2) and the Qatar Gordon Stakes (Gr 1).



A vibrant and colourful view of the Qatar Goodwood Festival.

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'Thriving' Kiwis wary of unpredictable Pak

REUTERS
EDGBASTON

ALL-ROUNDER Mitchell Santner believes New Zealand's unbeaten run at the World Cup has been a triumph of collective skill, but he said they will be tested by an unpredictable Pakistan side in their next match on Wednesday.

The Kiwis are currently at the top of the table with 11 points from six matches, with captain Kane Williamson winning plaudits for racking up 373 runs at an average of 186.50.



New Zealand's Mitchell Santner

But with only West Indies scoring more than 250 against New Zealand, and fast bowlers Lockie Ferguson and Trent Boult combining to take 22 wickets, Santner feels it has been an all-round effort with each member



Groundstaff work on a rain soaked pitch at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Tuesday, the eve of the ICC World Cup match between Pakistan and New Zealand. (AFP)

playing their part.

"You want everyone to step up at different times throughout the tournament, and I think that's what we've found so far," Santner told a news conference on Tuesday. "We haven't relied on a few guys to do the bulk of the work, but in saying that, being on the winning side in tight encounters gives the whole squad confidence."

New Zealand's campaign has been built on a string of close wins, having edged out Bangladesh, South Africa and

West Indies in tight finishes.

"You look at our side as a whole, we're quite a scrappy side, and we pride ourselves on winning those little moments, like I guess we have been, and saying that, we could have been on the other end of a couple of those games," Santner added.

A resurgent Pakistan side claimed a comfortable win over South Africa at Lord's on Sunday, and they must now beat the Kiwis at Edgbaston to keep alive their chances of qualifying for the semi-finals.

Santner said it was far from straightforward to prepare for a game against Pakistan, who also stunned pre-tournament favourites England earlier this month. "I guess we've seen early in this tournament they've taken down big sides. They took down England and took down South Africa the other day," Santner said. "When they're hot, they're really hot. We have to obviously find ways of trying to cool them down when they're like that."

Need to strike early blows to unsettle New Zealand, says bowling coach Mahmood

REUTERS
EDGBASTON

PAKISTAN must win their early battles against New Zealand if they are to overcome an in-form Kiwis unit in Wednesday's World Cup match at Edgbaston, according to bowling coach Azhar Mahmood.

After Sunday's comprehensive win over South Africa at Lord's, Pakistan know they still need three wins from their last three group-stage matches to have a chance at a semi-final spot.

The 2017 Champions Trophy winners showed signs of resurgence against the Proteas, with openers Fakhar Zaman and Babar Azam adding 81 for the first wicket and fast bowler Mohammad Amir taking his wickets tally to 15 for the tournament.

Mahmood was pleased with Pakistan's all-round display heading into the business end of the tournament but warned his players it will count for nothing if they do not take their chances in the opening powerplays against New Zealand.

"They are a very strong side and have won all their games," Mahmood told a news conference on Tuesday.

"They've got match winners in their side, so it's going to be crucial for us to take



Pakistan's Imad Wasim holds the ball as he takes part in a training session at Edgbaston in Birmingham on Tuesday. (AFP)

wickets with the new ball. And when we bat, we need to get runs up front.

"If we can get our discipline right like last game - in batting, bowling and fielding - then we can beat any side."

Amir's knack of picking up wickets with both the new and old ball has been key to Pakistan's qualification hopes.

Mahmood believes the 27-year-old's form after a difficult start to 2019 could be a reference point for other bowlers in the dressing room, especially fellow pacerman Hasan Ali.

Ali has come under heavy criticism after conceding 84

runs in nine overs in a defeat by India at Old Trafford and was subsequently dropped against South Africa.

"I think everyone in cricket, whether you're a batsman or bowler, goes through good and bad form," Mahmood added.

"So he's low on confidence. But he's running in, and working hard on and off the field. It's just a matter of getting wickets, and he'll be back."

"The same thing happened with Amir, you know. After the Champions Trophy, he was struggling - but still bowling well. Now you can see that he's having a good time."

Shakib keeps flag flying for World Cup all-rounders

AFP
MANCHESTER

ALL-ROUNDER Shakib Al Hasan is a rare talent who could command a place in the Bangladesh team as either a batsman or a bowler in an age of increasing specialisation in cricket.

The 32-year-old has others for company at the World Cup, including West Indies captain Jason Holder and England's Ben Stokes.

But today's all-rounders do not have the same profile as they did during a golden era in the 1980s when England's Ian Botham, Pakistan's Imran Khan, Kapil Dev of In-

dia and New Zealander Richard Hadlee vied for top-dog status in the global game.

Shakib, the world's top-rated all-rounder in one-day internationals, inspired Bangladesh to a convincing win over Afghanistan with his five wickets and 51 runs on Monday, matching Yuvraj Singh's feat for India at the 2011 World Cup.

Shakib has scored 476 runs with two centuries and three fifties in six games in England and Wales and has also picked up 10 wickets.

Stokes and New Zealand's Colin de Grandhomme have also caught the eye during the round-robin phase but Shak-

ib, a left-arm spinner and left-handed batsman, has been the standout all-rounder.

Former West Indies pacerman Ian Bishop said such players remained sought after.

"Everyone wants an Imran Khan (the current Pakistan prime minister who led his team to a 1992 World Cup triumph) or Shakib Al Hasan but they don't fall out of the trees," he said.

"Every team wants one of those (all-rounders). You don't go out and buy those. The core of the team is always built around the specialist but the all-rounder still has its place.

"If you look at New Zealand and Colin de Grandhomme chipping in England have a number of guys who are specialist bowlers but they can also bat and that is what makes them such a strong unit."



Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim celebrate taking an Afghanistan wicket in Southampton on Monday.

India have unearthed Hardik Pandya as a genuine all-rounder to follow in Kapil's footsteps but he is yet to fire fully at the World Cup.

England star Stokes made his presence felt in a losing cause against Sri Lanka when he hit an unbeaten 82 and bowled five overs for just 16 runs.

Former Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh believes all-rounders such as Pandya and

Stokes justify their places as batsmen or bowlers.

"Hardik Pandya fits any batting position, the kind of technique he has got. He can bat at three, four, five, six or seven in different moulds at all times as the situation demands and is a proper bowler," Harbhajan said.

"If you have all-rounders like him or Ben Stokes, they will fit in any squad, Test or one-day. They are specialists in both departments. They are not bits-and-pieces players."

"Hardik or Stokes can play just as a batsman because they are good enough and can play just as bowlers."

Lloyd wants players to apply themselves

AFP
LONDON

CLIVE Lloyd has called on the current crop of West Indies cricketers to add application to their talent after a disappointing World Cup campaign so far. They have won just one of their opening six games in England.

"West Indies could be one of the best teams around -- they have the talent," Lloyd said in a column for the International Cricket Council.

"Had the West Indies batsmen turned some of those 50s, 60s and 70s, 80s into hundreds they would have been in a better position in the points standing."