

Prarthana clinch U-14 title

SPORTS REPORTER

Indian Prarthana Thombare clinched the girls' singles title of the Prime Bank ATF Under-14 Tennis Tournament with an impressive 6-2, 6-0 victory over compatriot Ridhi Hegde at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

In the all-India boys' semifinals, Mohit Mayur beat Rohit Bishit 6-3, 6-0 and Rishit Bisht defeated Rakshay Thakkar 6-2, 7-5 to reach the final.

The boys' singles and doubles and the girls' doubles finals will be held today, the closing day of the meet.

CSA promised full security

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan on Saturday assured a South African delegation it would provide full security during their cricket team's tour of the country starting later this month.

South Africa are due to play two Tests and five one-day internationals in a month-long stay in the violence-hit country. They will open the tour with a warm-up three-day match in Karachi from September 27.

Security fears have surged in Pakistan after a spate of militant violence, including more than two dozen suicide attacks in the past two months. Around 270 people, most of them security officials, have been killed in these attacks.

The country's military ruler Pervez Musharraf is also struggling to keep his hold on power amid a deepening political crisis.

The home secretary of Sindh province Saturday briefed a two-member delegation from the Cricket South Africa (CSA) on the security situation in provincial capital Karachi, officials said.

"I have no doubts that Pakistan will provide us with the needed security and, God willing, everything will be alright," head of the delegation Goolam Raaja told reporters.

Raja and CSA member Sean Gallaher are touring Pakistan to assess security arrangements.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has changed the venues of two one-day matches against South Africa from Peshawar and Rawalpindi to Lahore and Karachi. But it denied the CSA had asked it to do so for security reasons.

Peshawar has been an unacceptable venue for foreign teams because of its close proximity to the war-ravaged Afghanistan.

Raja said a final report on security would be submitted to the CSA.

"It is difficult to say about our final assessments now but we will submit a report to CSA and hope everything will be in place for the tour," said Raja.

Australia's A team are currently touring Pakistan and have faced no security problems.

But security fears and political instability forced the International Hockey Federation to move the annual Champions Trophy tournament from Lahore where it was due to be held in December.

PCB director operations Zakir Khan said he was confident that decision would not affect the cricket tour.

"A professional security plan has been put in place for the South Africans and they were briefed. We hope everything will take place accordingly and we hope to have a good cricket series," said Khan.

The first of two Tests starts here from October 1 and will be followed by the second Test in Lahore and the five one-day matches.

Heavy penalty

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Vietnam won 1-0.

Six other players, including a 22-year-old star striker Pham Van Quyen, are now serving suspended terms.

Football betting and other forms of gambling, and match fixing, are illegal but widespread in the communist nation where police and the VFF's officials are trying to clean up Vietnamese football.

In July, nine Vietnamese referees and football officials were given jail terms of up to seven years after being found guilty of taking and giving bribes to fix matches in Vietnam's domestic V-League season 2004-2005.

PCB announces

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can be obtained for a fees. The six teams will also be franchised by corporate," he said.

Ashraf said the Premier league would be managed by former Pakistani players and the eventual idea was to allow players to benefit monetarily.

He denied the Indians had launched the Champions League concept and its franchised versions to counter a looming threat from the rebel Indian Cricket League launched by the Essel group in India.

"No this concept of the Champions League franchise was in the pipeline by the Indian Board for the last one year and was discussed by the participating boards. It will be an official event and it will allow players to play for their countries as well as earn from playing in the Twenty20 leagues," he added.



PHOTO: TIGERCRICKET.COM

Bangladesh women's national cricket team players jog during a training session at the Ansar & VDP Academy in Shafipur. The training camp that began on September 8 will conclude on September 21.

Colly owns up to defeat

BBC ONLINE, undated



England captain Paul Collingwood turned his attentions to South Africa after admitting they were roundly outplayed by Australia in Cape Town on Friday.

England were thrashed by eight wickets in the World Twenty20 but have still qualified for the Super Eight phase.

"Quite a lot of batsmen got in and didn't go on to make that big total."

"It was always going to be hard to defend a total like that on a pitch like that against a side like Australia who played fantastically well."

England, having beaten Zimbabwe on Thursday, acted as extra motivation for his side.

Pietersen initially said it would be "nice to send Australia home early," before attempting to play down the severity of his remarks.

"A lot of the guys in this side have been playing cricket a long time and unless you can back up comments they don't mean anything," Ponting added.

"They had their chance to do what he (Pietersen) said they wanted to do, which was to try to humiliate us, and if anything they were the ones who walked off humiliated."

Collingwood was a paragon of diplomacy and said: "Kevin's obviously Kevin. We just wanted to go and win the game."

"We bowled pretty well and did the job with the bat so it was pretty satisfying."

"We can play better than that, we realise that, but we're still learning."

"We didn't get enough runs on the board and if we're going to progress in that I think we're going to have to be a little bit braver in our strokeplay."

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Pakistan forgot about it

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felt the Indian batsmen should have taken a more circumspect approach as the wicket was helping the Pakistan bowlers initially.

India's next engagement is their Super Eights match against New Zealand on Sunday at Johannesburg. Pakistan play Sri Lanka at the same venue on the following day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Twenty20 World Championships match between India and Pakistan at Kingsmead on Friday:

INDIA

Gambhir & b Asif	0
Sohwag Asif	5
Uthappa & Akmal b Tanvir	50
Yuvraj & Malik b Asif	1
Karthick b Asif	11
Dhoni & Younis b Arafat	33
Pathan b Afridi	20
Harbhajan b Afridi	1
Afridi	14
Sreesanth not out	1
Extras: (b-2, w-3)	5
Total: (For nine wickets in 20 overs) 141	
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-9, 3-19, 4-36, 5-82, 6-116, 7-123, 8-139, 9-141.	
Bowler	O M R W
B. Gambhir	4 0 18 4
S. Sohwag	4 0 27 0
A. Uthappa	4 0 39 1

Result: Match tied. India won bowl-out 3-0.

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Asif.

Toss: Pakistan

Umpire: Billy Drotro (WIS) and Simon Taufu (AUS)

TV umpire: Steve Davis (AUS)

Match referee: Mike Procter (RSA)

Jamaican Asafa Powell remained upbeat after unfavourable conditions compromised his bid to break his world 100 metres record at the fifth leg of the Golden League meeting here on Friday.

Powell posted a winning time of 9.84sec to finish ahead of Norwegian Jaysuma Saidy Ndure and Jamaican Michael Frater, the field racing in a headwind of 0.3m/s in temperatures of 17 degrees celsius.

Powell had set a new 100m world record of 9.74sec in Italy last Sunday and said he could go faster, possibly as fast 9.68sec.

But the combination of a false start, and the unfavourable conditions conspired against him.

"I was unsettled by the false start, and the weather really wasn't very favourable. Given the circumstances 9.84sec is a great time," said Powell.

American sprinter Sanya Richards clocked a world's best this year of 49.29secs on her way to victory in the 400 metres and improving her previous best of 49.36.

"I'm going to have to recover well because Berlin (the last round of the Golden League) is on Sunday. That won't be easy because the season has been long," said Richards.

Victories by Richards and Russian pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva kept the pair on course for a share of the Golden League's million-dollar jackpot, for which they will have to compete in the Stuttgart finals on September 22 and 23.

Isinbayeva is the only other athlete who remains unbeaten in the Golden League this year.

The Russian won with a modest effort, by her standards, of 4.80m to defeat her compatriot Svetlana Feofanova.

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"You don't expect something like this to happen at any level of football, never mind after an international."

qualifying for the 2008 European Championships.

IFA chief Kennedy told the Belfast Telegraph newspaper: "We will deal with this incident very quickly and I expect to speak to Nigel Worthington about it first thing."

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Gillespie apologetic

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as far as I am concerned, again. I apologise to the management, staff and the fans because it is something that shouldn't have happened. Unfortunately it did.

"Hopefully we can put this to bed and get on with playing football."

"It was really just a misunderstanding over a lost passport," he explained.

"George and I had words and there was a coming together but the whole incident was finished within two to three seconds."

"I've texted George and have told him no hard feelings," he added.

Gillespie scored a last minute own goal to hand Iceland victory. Four days earlier, Northern Ireland lost 1-0 in Latvia. The results dented the unfancied side's chances of

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