No security meeting with IPL boss?

CRICINFO, undated

Hardly two days after the Indian Premier League (IPL) organisers were told to reconsider dates a second time, the Indian government has said that the concerned states should not expect any help from central paramilitary forces during games. India's home ministry, which had initially wanted the tournament to be postponed, has also said that meetings were not held with IPL commissioner Lalit Modi, according to the Hindustan Times.

"States should give their clearance to the match dates if they can provide security on their own," a MHA (ministry of home affairs) official told the newspaper. "MHA will not be able to spare any personnel to supplement them in this regard.

P Chidambaram, India's home minister, recently vowed that security would be provided for IPL matches though the dates would have to be reworked to avoid direct clash with general elections in the country.

However, the Bangalore police have declined to provide security cover for the IPL until May 3 and advised the tournament organisers to hold off on hosting games in the city until after May 4. "Bangalore City police will not be in a position to give security for IPL matches until May 3 in view of our commitments regarding Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka on April 23 and April 30," police commissioner Shankar Bidari said. Bidari said security could be provided if games were played on May 4, 7, 10, 11, 14, 19 and

The IPL is in discussions with India's security officials to resolve the clash in dates amid growing anxiety among the league's foreign players over the security measures for the tournament following the terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore.

Amid the tension over rescheduling of games and alternate venues in the wake of the Lok Sabha elections, the Chhattisgarh State Cricket Association said it was ready to host league matches, reported PTI.

Uthappa eyes WC comeback

CRICINFO, undated

Robin Uthappa, the Indian batsman, has hopes of making a comeback to the national team for the World Twenty20 to be held in England in June. Uthappa was left out of the Indian team after a relatively disappointing run of performances where he managed just one half-century in his last ten innings and averaged 21.75. However, he has since struck form with a century for Karnataka in their Ranji Trophy match against Andhra Pradesh, and a couple of impressive knocks while representing South Zone in the Duleep Trophy.

"I would love to be part of the second edition of the Twenty20 World Cup," he told PTI. "It will be great to be again a part of the side that won the first Twenty20World Cup."

Uthappa, who is currently playing for South Zone in the Deodhar Trophy, is banking on his recent form to win him a place in the competition. He last played for India in the Asia Cup in July 2008.

Bolt back to track

AFP, Jamaica

Olympic champion Usain Bolt, the world's fastest man, ran his first 100 metres of the season here Saturday in a wind-aided 9.93 seconds in a meet at Foster College.

Bolt, who set world records to win the 100m and 200m at the Beijing Olympics last August, won with a tailwind of 2.3m/sec, edging his training partner Daniel Bailey of Antigua, who crossed in the same time.

Yohan Blake, Jamaica's national junior record holder, was third in 10.08, a personal best.

While it was the first 100 of the year for Bolt, it was far from the first race of the season for the Jamaican sprint star, who also helped Jamaica's 4x100 relay to a world record at Beijing.

Bolt had previously run two 400-meter races and ran as part of 4x100 and 4x400 relays. Last year, Bolt ran his first

100 of the season at this same meet and won in 10.03.



Swiss tennis superstar Roger Federer plays a backhand to Marc Gicquel of France at the Indian Wells tournament on Saturday.

Federer advances as women's seeds tumble

(Tennis

AFP, Indian Wells

Roger Federer shook off the rust of a six-week break on Saturday, his smooth progress into the third round at Indian Wells a marked contrast to turmoil in the women's draw.

Two of the top three women's seeds crashed out of the second round on Saturday - secondseeded Jelena Jankovic and third-seeded Elena Dementieva.

Pavlyuchenkova, ranked 42nd in the world, stunned Jankovic 6-4, 6-4. It was another setback for the Serbian, who and more practice.

finished 2008 ranked number one in the world but has now fallen to number three.

"I'm excited," said Pavlyuchenkova, a former junior world number one. "As long as you win you're happy. But I tried not to be very overexcited, because I still have to continue in this tournament."

Czech qualifier Petra Cetkovska ousted Dementieva 7-6 (7/2), 2-6, 6-1. The fourthranked Russian blamed fatigue, saying early season success that included titles at Sydney and Auckland and a semifinal appearance in set in the eighth game to serve for the match. the Australian Open had taken a toll.

make it out of the second round.

seed, avoided the trend, defeating Anastasiya Yakimova of Belarus 6-4, 6-3 to join top-seeded Russian Dinara Safina in the third round.

Seventh-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland also advanced, beating Australian Samantha Stosur 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Federer's decision to take a break, rest his 6-4, 6-4. ailing back and get in some quality practice paid dividends.

time since losing an emotional five-set final to and held on to claim the match. Rafael Nadal at the Australian Open, defeated France's Marc Gicquel 7-6 (7/4), 6-4.

"It was OK," Federer said. "I was happy. A bit rusty maybe, coming back from not having played. I'm happy I've won. That's always most

machine Emeka reached the

ball but was dispossessed by

Russel's only chance came

when Rachid cleared fellow

Moroccan striker Samir Omari

with a long pass from their own

half but the latter lost control

under challenge from Samad

Yussif, Abahani's defender

from Ghana, who recovered

Emily, who fluffed a chance

shortly afterwards, finally

scored his first goal of the meet

in the 68th minute when he

nodded the ball into the right

hand post of Russel's substi-

tute goalkeeper Titumeer after

a pinpoint centre from leftback

just 11 minutes from time

when referee Abdul Hannan

gave a straight marching order

to Prashanta for a clumsy

challenge on Zahed Parvez,

went further down in the 89th

goals in each of the previous

games -- dashed down the left

Russel, reduced to ten men

centre-back Aminul.

from behind.

Waly Faisal.

minute.

Sky Blues, Ctg MSC

Federer, who won three titles in a row here from 2004-06, didn't face a break point against the 52nd-ranked Frenchman, breaking him in the seventh game of the second set to seize the advan-

tage and finishing off the match with his 12th ace. Federer, seeded second behind Nadal, and ahead of defending champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia, said the time off after Melbourne had done him a world of good.

"I had to put in an incredible effort to get back to my level after being sick at the beginning of last year," said the Swiss, who was hampered in early 2008 by glandular fever and was toppled from the Russian 17-year-old Anastasia worldnumberonespotby Nadalin August.

"Then it was the Olympic Games in 2008, that didn't help either. I needed more of a break

"My back was killing me at the end of last year. I just had to take a rest, and this was the time to do it."

Fourth-seeded Briton Andy Murray also made a winning return to action after battling a virus that sidelined him in February. Murray, ranked fourth in the world, booked

a third-round berth with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Spain's Albert Montanes. Murray shook off an early break in the open-

ing set, and earned the lone break in the second

"I thought I moved great, best I had moved In all, 15 of the 32 seeded women failed to in quite a while," said Murray, who was forced to withdraw from the quarterfinals in Dubai Defending champion Ana Ivanovic, the fifth with a mystery virus that also caused him to miss Britain's Davis Cup tie against Ukraine.

"Ifeel fine," he said. "I didn't feel like I was too out of breath after long rallies. "I felt like I could have gone for at least another 45 minutes or so.

Eighth-seeded Gilles Simon of France advanced, downing Lu Yen-Hsun of Taiwan 5-7,

Lu broke to lead 4-2 in the third set, and led 30-0 before dropping his serve in the next The world number two, playing for the first game. Simon then broke Lu again for a 5-4 lead

Women's third-round matches begin Sunday, and men's second-round action continues as Nadal, who won the title here in 2007 takes on German qualifier Michael Berrer and Djokovic plays Argentina's Martin Vassallo Arguello.

Bordeaux

Tipu and volleyed into the back of the net from ten yards.

The Sky Blues, however, left the field with some discomfort as their holding midfielder Arif Khan Joy, who escaped a red card last time out, was booked for the second time in as many matches. He will miss the team's first-leg of the semifi-

Earlier, Chittagong Mohammedan ensured the port city's presence in the championship leg of the Tk 2crore tournament with yet another impressive performance.

Anthony Doe and skipper Kaiser forced fine saves by Rahmatganj keeper Himel before Guinean forward Raphael broke the deadlock in the 40th minute after a series of passes following a freekick by

Raphael struck again in the 75th minute when he chased a long ball from the middle and sneaked through the defensive Emeka -- who scored two wall to toe-poke the ball beyond an outrushing Himel for his fourth goal of the tourwing, exchanged a pass with nament.

FROM PAGE 20 the second half and been more

disciplined when we lost the ball. That didn't happen." Andre-Pierre Gignac scored

for Toulouse and Frederic Nimani equalised for Monaco to leave the match 1-1 at the break. Mauro Cetto put Toulouse ahead but goals from Francois Modesto and then Igor Lolo in the second minute of injury time earned Monacothewin.

Juve bounce

FROM PAGE 20 at his near post.

three minutes from time, poking the ball home at the near post at the second attempt before missing out on a last minute hattrick when crashing a shot against the bar. In the day's other game,

Ruben Olivera scored the only goal six minutes from time as Genoa won 1-0 at Cagliari, for whom Andrea Cossu was sent off in the first half.

The win moved Genoa up to fourth place in the final Champions League qualifying position.

Essien the difference

and, having been poised to join Chelsea last summer before City's British record 32million pound deadline day intervention, the Brazilian did nothing to give the London club cause to regret their failure to complete the deal.

Not that the playmaker was the only City player to underperform.

quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup Given's head. but they came out a poor secefforts of keeper Shay Given and defender Nedum Onuoha.

Chelsea had the ball in the tum and add to their tally. net after just 90 seconds when

lot better when he rose

certain to bring some reward, however, and that came in the eighteenth minute when Essien connected first time on the verge of reaching the freekick, looping the ball over. Onuoha halting Didier

ond in all areas of the field and more than stroke of luck but it would have suffered a much was no more than Chelsea's inside of the post. heavier defeat but for the vibrant opening deserved. The

only surprise was that they failed to maintain the momen- sent out a resounding mes

when he was brought down by Onuoha, but that apart, Then minutes later Ricardo Hiddink's side created little in Carvalho should have done a the way of genuine openings although Michael Ballack will unchallenged to meet wince when he sees replays of Lampard's left-wing corner his wayward 36th minute shot.

In a rare intervention, Robinho conjured a scuffed shot that was cleared off the line by Jose Bosingwa but City's threat was minimal.

The pattern was main-

sage that the title race is not

DIV I CRICKET

Baridhara & Wanderers

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Wanderers Club earned a five-wicket victory over Badda Ekota Sangha in a First Division Cricket League match at the Dhaka University ground yesterday.

Sent in to bat, Badda scored 183-9 in 50 overs with Sumon making 54 and Belal taking four wickets for 32 runs for Wanderers.

In reply, Wanderers easily scored the match-winning 184 runs in 43.1 overs for the loss of five wickets, with Rubel contributing 58 runs and Sirajul 50.

In the day's other two matches, Orient SC (182/6 in 45.3 overs) beat Motijheel T&T Club (181/10 in 48.4) by four wickets at Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Baridhara Dazzlers (176/3 in 29) defeated Lalmatia Club (173/10 n 48.2) by seven wickets at the City Club ground.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17 Club, Quamruzzaman Imran of Habiganj Chess Club and Giasuddin Mithu of Muktijoddha Sangsad KC, Nasim Hossain Bhuiyan, Salehin Sumon and Imrose Uddin are in the third position with 5.5 points each.

In the seventh round Siraj drew with Shamin.

NAT'L BANKV'BALL

Power Development Board (PDB) won a marathon five setter 3-2 against Titas Club in a National Bank Metropolis Premier Division Volleyball League match at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium.

The PDB spikers won the first two sets 25-20, 25-13 and then clinched the deciding fifth game 16-14.

In another Premier League match, Bangladesh Police defeated Water Development Board by 25-18, 25-26, 23-25, 25-21 points at the same venue.

In a First Division match, Bhai Bhai Sangha beat Dhaka Sporting Club by 25-14, 25-21 25-17 points at the same venue.

MUNSHIGANJ **FOOTBALL**

Sadar Upazilla blanked Gajaria Upazilla 3-0 in the opening match of the Munshiganj District Commissioner Football Tournament at the Munshiganj Stadium.

After a barren first-half Nigerian Patrick struck twice and his compatriot Dale netted the other goal for the winners.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner of Munshigan Biswas Afzal Hossain inaugu rated the meet that features six

upazillas. **DIVIII FOOTBALL**

Both the Super League matches of the CityCell Metropolis Third Division Football League ended in goalless draws at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium in Kamlapur.

Rampura KC shared points with BKSP in the day's first match while Dilkusha SC split points with Swadheenata KC in the other match.

Zahid pilots

not out on 55 off 63 deliveries, laced with seven fours and a

BRIEFSCORES

CCS: 276-7 in 50 overs (Uttam 22, Butt 43, Sunny 44

not out, extras 14; Rasel 2-51). Result: Biman won by four wickets.

7; Saikat 2-22, Tanvir 6-26). BSKP: 136-1 in 24.1 overs (Saikat 64, Sarker 55 not out, extras 9; Quamrul 1-25).

GAZI: 134 all out in 46 overs

Klose's season

wickets.

FROM PAGE 20 thick of the Bundesliga title race against Karlsruhe next weekend.

Germany coach Joachim Loew will also be anxious to find out the extent of Klose's injury.

against Liechtenstein and Wales next week and Klose is usually one of the first names on his list. The injury overshadowed Bayern's comfortable win

Berlin.

Wins for Orient, Waiting in the wings

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Bryce McGain is used to waiting for his opportunities. This is a man who spent so long in the workforce before becoming a full-time professional cricketer that he took not one but two batches of longservice leave. His banking career lasted 17 years so a couple of months here or there doesn't make a great difference to him.

McGain turns 37 in less only wonder what his own than a fortnight and for a player who is yet to wear the baggy green cap it's a birthday that could cause a flutter of panic. Will the chance ever arrive? His first tour with Australia was cut short in October when he was sent home from India with tendon damage in his armpit and on his second trip, to South Africa, he has been overlooked for the first two Tests.

The only member of the original touring party who now does not have a baggy green, McGain has been forced to watch on as debutants Marcus North, Phillip Hughes and Ben Hilfenhaus have thrived. It would have been easy for frustration to set in for the man who has been nominated as Australia's No. 1 spinner but he knows Australia's all-seam attack is being determined by conditions and that all he needs is patience.

"Of course I'd love to be playing -- that's what we all want to do and play our role on the field -- but if my role at the moment is running drinks around, that's okay, I'm happy to do it at the moment," McGain said. "As conditions change, the team make-up might change, Looking forward it's probably going to be hard to change a

winning combination, they're squad had doubted Australia's

doingso well." accepted that he may complete his first full tour without playing a Test, the chairman of following the press back home selectors Andrew Hilditch has but we understand now that given an indication that a there were some murmurings specialist spinner will be that maybe we were the worst strongly considered for group to go away," he said. "I Thursday's third Test in Cape know that there was a lot of Town. Hilditch's comments belief in the group before we came after Simon Katich's occasional wrist-spin picked up three key wickets in the second innings of the win in Durban, where McGain could



BRYCE McGAIN

achieved. "I'm rapt for him. I'm as excited as he is," McGain said of Katich. "I guess that's the way I am. If I don't get a chance, well, I don't get a chance. I can't control that. But I know that if I do get the chance I'm going to grab it with both hands and do the very best I can. I'll be mentally nice and clear in my mind what I need to do."

That has been the case for all the players, young and old, during Australia's tour. They have each known their roles and done what was asked of them and McGain said while many people outside the Australia. I've really loved it."

ability to win the series, the But while McGain has players had always believed in

themselves. "We haven't really been went and it's just a good bunch of cricketers. We've played against each other domestically for a long time. We knew everyone had the

talent to put it all together." If McGain doesn't make his debut at Newlands his next opportunity would be on the Ashes tour, where he deserves to be a certainty in the touring squad if not in the first Test. One of the biggest challenges of McGain's new travelling lifestyle is spending long periods away from his nineyear-old son Liam, who spends half his time living with his mother and half with McGain.

"I obviously miss him a lot, hanging out and all those things," McGain said. "But with technology these days like Skype, we keep in touch pretty regularly. He loves that and he's chatting away. It gives me a good lift when I do it, so I do it as often as I can. Most days, every other day, we're in touch and it's good to hear his voice and hear what he's doing day to day. It's just simple stuff but it's good having a chat."

Liam will perhaps be the only person in Australia more excited than his father if a Test debut arises. But for now, McGain is happy to be surrounded by other success stories.

"It's fantastic to be involved," he said. "There are a lot of worse things to be doing than being 12th man for

De Silva's dev plans

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The chairman of the new seven-member interim committee to run Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), former leg-spinner Somachandra De Silva, has outlined his plan for the next two years. De Silva pinpointed

the ICC World Twenty20, the

players full support.

"I am prepared to give the national cricketers everything they require to win these tournaments. I want them to be mentally and physically prepared for the challenge and I want them to be in a happy frame of mind," he said. "The other areas my committee and I will concentrate on are nego-Under-19 World Cup in 2010,

SL seniors' demand

rebels, who are now restricted

to a narrow strip of land in the island's northeast. The exposure to the conflict has also mentally toughened Sri Lankans, said

Despite "feeling scared" when bullets and grenades fell on the team bus, he wants to play at home and abroad. "You can't stop playing

Muralidaran, a Tamil.

cricket because of one incident. If we all stop playing, you give in to terrorists," he said. Sri Lanka's new cricket tionalcricket. chief Somachandra de Silva said his board will seek the foreign ministry's help to

ensure security is beefed up during future tours. "What happened in Lahore was unfortunate, but that is the reality of the world today,' de Silva, a former Test leg-

spinner said. Mahela Jayawardene as captain, said it will take time for the boys to get back into the

international cricket.

CROSSWORD

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"Physically they are fine. with ethnic Tamil Tigers But mentally they are yet to fully recover," he said. "Considering what we went through in the last two weeks there is a special significance and dimension to the responsibility as captain now."

> recovering well and appreciated the cricket board's efforts to give the players and their immediate families trauma counselling. Luckily, the players have

time on their hands to be

The skipper said he was

mentally ready for interna-Sri Lanka's next assign ment is the World Twenty20 championships in England in June, although most of the top players will be involved in the

Indian Premier League in April-May. "The boys are raring to go. think we are the only side that starts off with some of the Sangakkara, who replaced toughest countries (Australia and West Indies) in round

one," said Sangakkara. "If we can get through that, it will be a huge morale boosterforus," he said.

and the 2011 World Cup as tiating for more cricket tours targets for Sri Lanka and said for the senior, A and junior that he will give the country's teams, improving the standards of coaching and umpir-

> ing and promoting the provincial and club tournaments." De Silva, 66, who held the post of schools cricket development officer at SLC, was also the cricket advisor to the country's president, Mahindra Rajapakse. He said he was given the task of resurrecting Sri Lanka cricket by Rajapakse because of the faith, trust and confidence the

president had in him. "The president saw what I could do in the one year I functioned as schools development officer and as his adviser at SLC, where I have in a most professional and systematic manner helped develop virtually every cricket playing school in the country," said De Silva. De Silva also said he had visited all the provinces encompassing around 415 schools and helped them with cricket equipment and pitches and in some cases, enabled certain schools to revive cricket which they had been forced to

give up due to the lack of facilities and material. "In order to promote cricket at U-13, 15, 17 and 19 levels for the first time in the history of schools cricket I brought a rule that every school should have a qualified cricket coach," he said. "I also appointed qualified Level 1 coaches for every province and a national junior selection committee headed by Sunil Wickremanayake where each of the five selectors are from different provinces along with

two school representatives."

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: STANDING FAR ENOUGH AWAY TO AVOID THE PUGILIST'S PUNCHES, I'VE

PWZQZBZDA JNPWZQZBZDA

PLACED MYSELF OUT OF ARM'S WAY. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals O

Frank Lampard helped Deco's should have won a penalty FROM PAGE 17 from the comfort zone of the deflected shot past Given only City of Manchester stadium to be ruled offside.

and wastefully headed wide. The opening barrage was Mark Hughes's side may be with Lampard's drilled tained after the break with

Nicolas Anelka felt he yetover.

Drogba just as the Ivorian was The strike may have carried about to shoot and Juliano Belletti firing against the But while Chelsea couldn't afford to ease up, their victory

FROM PAGE 17 and two sixes while Sarker was He then wrapped things up

> Shuvagoto 75, Nazmul 58, extras 18; Mahbubul 2-43 Shahadat 2-65, Zahid 2-49). BIMAN: 280-6 in 49.1 overs (Zahurul 22, Javed 50, Zahid 117, Mushfiqur 36, Sajjad 28

(Anwar 75, Ashraful 11, extras Result: BKSP won by nine

He names his squad for the World Cup qualifying matches

which took them back up to second in the Bundesliga, four points behind leaders Hertha

right frame of mind to play By Eugene Sheffer 54 Jerry 20 1951 John Van across the son. Druten Pyrenees 55 ... and play 56 Bohemian 22 Hannibal's TV squad 24 Document 42 Drunkard 1 Faucet problem 25 Craze

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instrument 41 Blood line? 43 Tourney. often 45 Bloodhound's clue 46 Atomizer output 47 Go no farther 49 Zsa Zsa's

CRYPTOQUIP