



West Indies all-rounder Sulieman Benn takes a sharp catch during a practice session in Providence yesterday.

Miandad's suggestion

PTI, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad is not surprised by the mess the Indian Premier League (IPL) finds itself in and wants the International Cricket Council (ICC) to 'supervise' its organisation in future.

Miandad said keeping in mind the huge stakes involved in the so called domestic event of the BCCI, the world governing body of the game must intervene.

"Just to say the IPL is a domestic event does not work. IPL has too much foreign participation and interest at stake. ICC must supervise its organisation from now on," he said.

Miandad, who is director general of cricket in the Pakistan Cricket Board, said that he was not surprised at the turn of events in the IPL or the suspension of its commissioner Lalit Modi.

"It is not surprising because when you allow a private enterprise to deal directly with players bypassing the boards there is always bound to be trouble.

'Stand up Schumi'

INTERNET, undated

Mercedes will switch Michael Schumacher's car for next week's Spanish Grand Prix to try and get the seven-times Formula One champion back up to speed.

"It's not a new chassis per se, it's a chassis we used in testing," team principal Ross Brawn told Reuters.

"The one he had (before) got damaged during the first few races and we repaired it as best we could at the races. But now we are back at base we are going to re-introduce the test chassis and he will be using that in Barcelona."

Brawn said the wheelbase would also be changed to improve weight distribution, and Mercedes are also planning a major aerodynamic revamp for the first race of the European season after four in the Middle and Far East.

Schumacher, a winner at Benetton and Ferrari with Brawn as technical director, is making his Formula One comeback at the age of 41 and after retiring at the end of 2006 with a record 91 race wins.

The German has been out-qualified and beaten in all four races to date by teammate and compatriot Nico Rosberg, with concern mounting that Schumacher is finding it hard to replicate his form of old.

TT players

FROM PAGE 17

Manosh, a table-tennis player who was supposed to take part in the World Cup, was very disappointed with the decision of the federation and questioned why the players would suffer as they were not responsible for the controversy.

He and other players including Shahed, Ripon, Tuhin and Rimon have vowed not to take part in the season's curtain-raising tournament, the Federation Cup.

Manosh, Hamlet and Mahub were scheduled to leave here for Moscow on May 21.

Pak hearing from Friday

Cricket AFP, Karachi

A retired high court judge has summoned six Pakistan cricketers to appear before a one-man tribunal on Friday to start an appeals process against catastrophic bans and fines.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) last week appointed Irfan Qadir to hear appeals of players who were punished for discipline breaches during recent tours of Australia, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates.

"I have issued notices to the players to appear on Friday for a preliminary proceeding on their appeals and they will be given all basic rights under the law," Qadir told AFP on Tuesday.

"If some of the players demand specific reasons for their punishment, we will provide them with that as well, as this is their right."

The PCB last month indefinitely banned captains Younus Khan and Mohammad Yousuf for "infighting which let the team down".

Shoaib Malik, who recently married Indian tennis star Sania Malik, and all-rounder Navedul Hasan were banned for one year and fined two million rupees each (24,000 dollars).

Twenty20 captain Shahid Afridi was fined

three million rupees (35,000 dollars) for ball-tampering in a one-day match against Australia in February and was kept under a six-month probation.

Brothers Kamran and Umar Akmal were fined three and two million rupees respectively for discipline breaches and were given six months' probation.

Yousuf resigned in protest, but the six other players appealed.

The PCB imposed the penalties after a committee investigated Pakistan's dismal performance on tour of Australia from December-February when the team lost all three Tests, five one-dayers and a Twenty20 international.

Qadir said lawyers could attend the preliminary proceedings if players were not available.

"If some of the players are not available they can be represented by their lawyers and we can decide whether the proceedings be held in camera or not with their consent. I am dealing with the matter with an open mind," said Qadir.

Afridi and the Akmal brothers are in Pakistan's team for the World Twenty20 tournament, which starts in the West Indies on Friday.

Malik is due to leave for India on Wednesday. Naved is playing for Sussex in England. Younus is in Pakistan and may attend the hearing.

Gul absence may hurt us: Younus

PTI, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Younus Khan, who led Pakistan to a memorable title triumph in the ICC World Twenty20 in England last year, believes the absence of injured pace spearhead Umar Gul can affect the team in West Indies next month.

The third edition of ICC World Twenty20 begins in the Caribbean April 30.

"It's a huge setback for us that Gul has been ruled out as he has proved to be very successful for us in T20. He was one of the key players in helping Pakistan reach the last two ICC World Twenty20 finals," Younus told Pakpassion.net Monday.

However, Younis said Pakistan still has plenty of weapons in its arsenal. "I still feel we can work our way through. We have good bowlers like Amer, Asif, Ajmal and Afridi. We are still capable of reaching the semis and after

ECB seeks CL clarity

CRICINFO, undated

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is still awaiting communication from the organisers of the Champions League (CL) Twenty20 over the participation of teams from England for the tournament to be held in South Africa over September 10-26.

The participation of teams from England had been put in doubt after it emerged that the schedule, announced in February, would clash with crucial fixtures at the end of the English season which runs until September 16. England will be playing Pakistan in an ODI series at the time, the final two rounds of the county championship will be on as well as the semifinals and final of the ECB40 competition.

"It is extremely improbable that any English county will be taking part in the Champions League. The sanctity of the domestic season is of the utmost importance, as all the clubs agree," David Collier, the chief executive of the ECB, was quoted as saying in the Independent.

"We are awaiting a response from the BCCI on a number of proposals. One of them is for the winners and runners up of the Champions League to play our winners and runners-up. Now that the IPL is over we hope to hear from them soon."

Sussex and Somerset took part in the inaugural tournament last year in India, but further English participation this season has been in doubt since Lalit Modi, who was the league's commissioner, tweeted that two invites had been sent to the ECB. The ECB was quick to state that the offer was not official. Cricinfo had subsequently understood that the ECB had failed to accept the invitation within the stipulated deadline. The Champions League's governing council meeting in March had failed to yield a decision on English participation, but in the wake of the recent announcement that this year's edition will be held in September, the organisers have said venues and competing teams would be announced in the near future.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17 sets. The other match between Titas Club and BDR was still on when this report was being filed. There are three more games in the league today.

DIVIBASKETBALL Flame Boys beat Bakshi Bazar by 66-47 points in the Premier Bank First Division Basketball league at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

The losing team dominated the second half after trailing the first half 54-24. Morshed and Zunaed scored twenty points each for Flame Boys.

Hornets SC defeated Mohammadpur Basketball Club 69-53 in another match after leading the first half 29-20. Inos scored 23 points for the winners while Auvi scored 29 points for the losing team.

In the other match of the day, Europa Youth Club beat Rangers Club 77-42.

MANIKGANJ DIV I CRICKET

Our Correspondent: Bandhu XI got a 30-run win over Bangladesh Cricket Academy in the opening match of the Colonel (retired) Malek Smriti First Division Cricket League at Shaheed Miraz-Tapan Stadium yesterday.

Bandhu XI batted first and were all out for 216 runs in 38 overs. Lal top-scored with 44 runs from 30 balls while Manik scored 36, Shahin added 31 and Raju added 23. Sujon picked up three wickets for Bangladesh Cricket Academy.

In reply, Bangladesh Cricket Academy were all out for 186 runs in 36.2 overs. Johnny scored highest 49 runs from 46 balls while Sujon added 32 and Sajal 25. Zamil picked up three wickets. Eight teams are taking part in the league.

Please stop it, begs Malik

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan's former cricket captain Shoaib Malik has pleaded with the media to stop the hype surrounding his marriage with Indian tennis star Sania Mirza and allow them to live like a normal couple.

Malik and Sania appeared together for the first time on a Pakistani channel last night and the former said he was fed up with the hype over his marriage.

"I am pleased to know that people are happy with our marriage but I think now it is time to stop this hype and let us live like a normal couple. I would request the media to leave alone both families," he said.

Malik said since he and Sania had reached Pakistan he had spent most of his time being her personal bodyguard rather than her husband.

"Two people from different countries got married and it should only be treated as a marriage nothing more," Malik told Ary News.

Vital IPL docs not with BCCI

CRICINFO, undated

Ratnakar Shetty, the chief administrative officer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has said the board does not have the original documents relating to several important Indian Premier League (IPL) contracts that are now being sought by income-tax officers.

These include the three losing bids in the 2008 auction where the eight franchises were bought, and the agreement with Multi Screen Media (MSM), which holds the rights to broadcast the tournament.

Shetty, who has been entrusted by the BCCI president, Shashank Manohar, to look into the missing documents, says he has been told the papers are with Lalit Modi, the league's suspended chairman.

"The tax authorities and Enforcement Directorate officials are seeking a lot of papers connected with the IPL and in some cases we don't have the original documents. We have only xerox copies, which they feel is not proper," Shetty told CNN-IBN, an English news channel. "According to [IPL CEO] Sundar Raman the original documents are with Lalit Modi. My job is to put up a list of documents that were supposed to be with IPL and original documents obtained in each case."

"In January 2008 there were 11 bidders (to own the franchises) and only the original documents relating to the eight winning bidders are with BCCI. We don't have the original documents of the three losing bidders, we have only xerox copies. Those documents should be with Modi."

Shetty echoed the words of Shashank Manohar, the BCCI president, that the MSM-WSG issue was not discussed in IPL Governing Council. "It was reported at the BCCI Working Committee meeting that there has been a fresh agreement entered into between BCCI and Sony Max, the amount for which was negotiated. Nothing beyond that," he said.

Life after Modi

AFP, New Delhi



The Indian Premier League (IPL) has a long and profitable future ahead of it but the suspension of tournament chief Lalit Modi must lead to reform, experts say.

"There is no choice, the IPL is too valuable to be dumped," leading sports analyst Ayaz Memon told AFP. "But first, trust has to be restored and that is not going to be easy."

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday suspended Modi pending an internal probe into allegations of corruption, tax evasion and money-laundering that have sparked a tax investigation by the government.

Modi, 46, was also removed as a BCCI vice-president and as chairman of the T20 Champions League, a separate club tournament organised jointly by India, Australia and South Africa.

The IPL -- based on the shortened, made-for-TV Twenty20 format and modelled partly on English football's Premier League -- has attracted the sport's top international stars.

Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said the IPL was a very good event but conceded that allegations of match-fixing that have surfaced in the controversy were particularly damaging.

"The IPL is here to stay," Dhoni told NDTV ahead of the Indian team's departure later Tuesday for the World Twenty20 in the Caribbean, before adding that match-fixing was "one of the biggest and worst allegations against a cricketer".

"If there is a suspicion then it should be handled in a very careful way," he said. "If there is something happening, then the cricketer should be punished in the harshest way possible."

Modi ran the IPL like a one-man show from its inception three years ago, raising fears that without him the multi-billion-dollar tournament could suffer from lack of direction.

Gulbis downs Baghdatis

Tennis AFP, Rome

Latvia's Ernests Gulbis took little more than an hour to dispose of Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis 6-2, 6-2 at the Rome Masters here Monday to set up a second round clash with world number one Roger Federer.

The Swiss master had a first round bye and the big serving Gulbis took only 69 minutes to secure his bid for what he hopes will be an early tournament upset.

Gulbis is ranked only 40th in the world but the 21-year-old has no qualms about his next challenge having taken a set off Federer in Doha earlier this year.

"It's really good that I played him in Doha because the first match against a player like that is the toughest mentally," he said.

"In Doha in the warm-up I was pretty scared but now I know I can play with him, I won a set, it's his first match on clay (this year) so I'm not going to think about it."

"I'll go on court, play my best and whatever happens is okay. If I lose 6-2, 6-1 I'll just go on."

"There's no need to think about it, thinking about it won't help you. You have to throw away thoughts about it and you'll be okay."



World number two Serbian Novak Djokovic plays a forehand return against Frenchman Jeremy Chardy in the Rome Masters yesterday. Djokovic won 6-1, 6-1.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Advertising award 5 Watch chains 9 Task 12 Antler 13 Archipelago component 14 Mentalist Geller 15 Last writes? 16 Decelerate 17 Marino of football 18 Victoria Beckham, a.k.a. 19 Intimidate 20 Brazen 21 Auto ad abbr. 23 Work with 25 Open declaration 28 Club on the green 32 Lattice strips 33 Broadway platform 34 Sans omission 36 One with remarkable skill 37 Author Knight's title 39 Wise-crack 42 Phippen 44 Flock 48 Literary collection 49 Provo's location 50 Largest of the seven 51 Unfriendly 52 Provo's location 53 Whip a.k.a. 54 Durocher or Tolstoy 55 "Pretty Woman" actor Solution time: 27 mins.

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-31 and letters in some cells.

CRYPTOQUIP

US Y SYF SCDQ V PVFPQ WYB PIPMKDYHHR KYLPM DZ ZWCKCAQYZWR, JCDHB WP WYIP FPPM Y JHUJL FPKHP?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU WOULD THINK THE MERCHANDISE SOLD BY A HOSIER SHOULD REALLY BE KNOWN AS HIS SOCK-IN-TRADE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals H