

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 outqualified 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.

Schumacher finished 10th in the latest race in China while Rosberg was third after leading early on.

TT players

FROM PAGE 1/ and only three players.

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 winners while Auvi scored the Federation Cup. 29 points for the losing team. Manosh, Hamlet and In the other match of the day, Mahbub were scheduled to leave Europa Youth Club beat herefor Moscowon May 21. Rangers Club 77-42.

Pak hearing from Friday

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

PTI, 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

Former

Pakistan

captain

Younus Khan,

WEST INDIES 2010 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

World Twenty20 begins in the

that Gul has been ruled out as

he has proved to be very suc-

cessful for us in T20. He was

one of the key players in help-

ing Pakistan reach the last two

ICC World Twenty20 finals,"

Younus told Pakpassion.net

Pakistan still has plenty of

weapons in its arsenal. "I still

feel we can work our way

through. We have good bowl-

ers like Amer, Asif, Ajmal and

Afridi. We are still capable of

reaching the semis and after

sets. The other match between

Titas Club and BDR was still

on when this report was being

filed. There are three more

Flame Boys beat Bakshi Bazar

by 66-47 points in the Premier

Bank First Division Basketball

league at the Dhanmondi

Basketball Gymnasium yes-

terday. The losing team domi-

nated the second half after

trailing the first half 54-24.

Morshed and Zunaed scored

twenty points each for Flame

Club 69-53 in another match

after leading the first half 29-

20. Inos scored 23 points for

Hornets SC defeated

Mohammadpur Basketball Academy.

games in the league today.

DIVIBASKETBALL

However, Younis said

The third edition of ICC

"It's a huge setback for us

Indies next month.

Carribean April 30.

Monday.

FROM PAGE 17

Boys.

three million rupees (35,000 dollars) for balltampering 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 prelimi-

nary 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 **ECB** seeks **CL** clarity hurt us: Younus

that you just need a bit of

Mohammad Sami and left-

arm spinner Abdul Rehman,

who were included in

Pakistan's squad at the last

minute, have the capability to

good choices as both of them

have done well in domestic

matches," he said but added

"although Sami has received

many opportunities in the

past without being successful,

he did well in Australia and has

also been giving a good show-

for rookie fast bowler

Mohammad Irfan who nar-

rowly missed making his

"I have batted against

Arafat before a backflip from

the Pakistan Cricket Board

robbed him of his spot on the

MANIKGANJ DIV

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

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

In reply, Bangladesh Cricket

for Bangladesh Cricket

Academy were all out for 186

runs in 36.2 overs. Johny 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.

Bandhu XI batted first and

plane to the West Indies.

Younus was also all praise

ing in domestic cricket."

World Twenty 20.

good bowler."

CRICKET

vesterday.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

"Sami and Rehman are

do well in the West Indies.

Younus said fast bowler

luck," he said.

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 international debut in the ICC taking part in the Champions League. The sanctity of the domestic season is of the Mohammad Irfan and he is a utmost importance, as all the clubs agree," David Collier, the chief executive of the ECB, was Irfan was initially selected quoted as saying in the as replacement for the injured 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 compet-

ing teams would be

announced in the near future.

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 then 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 offi-

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 ÎPL 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.

ACROSS

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Please stop it, begs Malik 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

"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 vicepresident 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.

The BCCI, which owns the IPL and handed Modi his suspension order soon after the event's final in Mumbai on Sunday night, moved quickly

to try to ensure continuity. Businessman Chirayu Amin, one of five BCCI vice-presidents and a veteran cricket administrator, was appointed to head the tournament's

governing council as interim chief. Former national captains Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri -- all members of the governing council -- were put in charge of looking after future editions of the

tournament. The furore comes as two more franchises are to be added to the existing eight teams from next year, and a fresh auction of cricketers is due later this year.

"The immediate task is to clean up the IPL. That is the priority right now," said Amin. "We will then start planning for next year." With the fourth edition of the tournament 12

months away, the BCCI has time on its side to take control of the event's complex organisation. Memon said it would not be easy to replicate the hype of the past three years, in which a spec-

tacular mix of sport and Bollywood glamour made the IPL a massive success. "It remains to be seen how the [BCCI] board

handles the IPL," he said. "There is bound to be a dent in perception and some apprehension on how it can be sustained.

"But the structure is in place, as are the players, the franchises, the sponsors, the venues." A leading Indian advertising figure predicted

continued support for the IPL -- with or without "The brand's been made, it will stay," Piyush Pandey, creative director of Ogilvy and Mather,

told the Times of India. "I've worked with brands for 28 years and no brand was made in three years like the IPL was.

"They don't go to watch Modi. They go to watch [cricketers] Dhoni and Tendulkar."

People are forgiving if they love the brand.

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

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

the 21-year-old has no qualms about his next

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."

That sort of attitude is typical of the Latvian who admitted that he is no fan of training and has no intention of forging the type of long and dominant career of his next opponent.

"I don't like practising or spending a lot of hours on court, that's just not me," he added.

"I just want to win a Grand Slam, only one and I'll finish my career." Federer warmed up for his clash with Gulbis

on Tuesday with a run-out in the doubles where

he and compatriot Yves Allegro beat Johan

Brunstrom and Jean-Julien Rojer 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) to progress to the second round. Reigning champion and world number three Rafael Nadal also found out his second round opponent as German Philipp

Kohlschreiber edged Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay in a tight three-setter 6-7(1/7), 6-1, 6-4. With none of the top stars in action on Monday, the highest profile player to take to the

courts early on was former world number one and French Open winner Juan Carlos Ferrero. But the Spanish clay court specialist, who dealt Nadal his sole defeat here two years ago,

showed just how far his star has dipped as he was humiliated by Colombian qualifier Santiago Giraldo 6-0, 6-3 in under an hour. Czech 10th seed Tomas Berdych had a com-

fortable opener as he beat qualifier Marcel Granollers of Spain 6-3, 6-3.



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

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THE MERCHANDISE SOLD BY A HOSIER SHOULD REALLY BE KNOWN AS HIS SOCK-IN-TRADE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals H