



PHOTO: STAR
The Bangladesh team celebrate their triumph after becoming undefeated Group B champions of Davis Cup Asia Oceania Zone by defeating Jordan 2-1 at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

PCB keen on India series

Cricket
PTI, Karachi

Desperate to revive the Indo-Pak bilateral cricket ties, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is trying hard to convince the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for a short one-day series this year in Pakistan or at a neutral venue.

The chief operating officer of PCB Subhan Ahmed told PTI that modalities of the short series would hopefully be worked out in a meeting with BCCI officials in June.

Subhan, however, admitted that due to the tight international schedule of the Indian team, it would be quite a task to squeeze out a week or a 10-day period for the series.

"It is not possible to play a full Test series this year that is obvious to us. But we are definitely keen on at least having a three match or five match series sometime this year in Pakistan or at a neutral venue to kick off the revival process," he said.

Immediately after the ongoing IPL, India is scheduled to tour the West Indies for four Tests and five ODIs, followed by a long tour of England in July-August.

England will then come to India for a one-day series in November and West Indies will follow for a three-Test and five ODI series. The Indians then travel to Australia for a high-profile series in December-January.

Pakistan is due to tour India in March-April 2012 for a full Test series under the ICC's Future Tours Programme but the PCB is keen to have

the bilateral series before that.

Cricket experts, however, were skeptical if the Indian players would be willing to take the risk of touring Pakistan.

No international team has travelled to strife-torn Pakistan after the attack on Sri Lankan players at Lahore in March 2009.

India suspended all direct cricket ties with Pakistan after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Subhan said Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gillani has given clearance to the PCB to start the process of reviving bilateral cricket with India.

Asked about the statements emanating from BCCI officials about the Indian government not having informed them about trying to revive bilateral cricket with Pakistan, Subhan said this was made very clear by the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at Mohali.

He recalled that during the World Cup semifinal match, when the Indian Premier met with the officials of the two Boards, Singh had stated that both countries should resume cricket ties.

"What we realise is that the Indian Board is tied up with the Indian Premier League and only after that is over would they be able to focus on the issue of reviving bilateral cricket ties with Pakistan," Subhan said.

"Our first priority is to convince the Indians to come to Pakistan for the short series but if that is not working out we have not ruled out the option of neutral venues," he said.

Subhan said the security situation in Pakistan remained a major issue even for the PCB.

"We know that foreign teams are not

willing to visit Pakistan and we can expect reservations from the Indians as well. But for that we will soon start work on a comprehensive security plan with the guidance and approval of the government to convince the Indians," he said.

"We will formalise the comprehensive security plan also in consultation with the International Cricket Council task force on Pakistan and their security experts. The idea is to prepare a airtight security plan that should satisfy not only the Indian Board and players but also other foreign teams," Subhan added.

Reminded that under the FTP, India still owed PCB a full Test series on Pakistan soil in lieu of the cancelled 2009 tour, the PCB official said everything would depend on the outcome of the talks in June.

"Our idea is that if the Indian Board agrees to the short series this year and then agrees to play the Tests of that 2009 tour at some other time then the 2012 tour would be viewed as a new series," he said.

"We have no issues undertaking that tour on schedule but obviously we are looking at hosting India before that tour to compensate for the 2009 cancelled tour and also to take the first practical step towards reviving regular bilateral ties," he said.

Subhan also said it was a wrong impression that Sri Lanka had refused to tour Pakistan later in the year for their full series.

"The factual position is that we have sent them a proposal to play some matches in Pakistan and we are awaiting their response," he added.

Heavy fine on Tendulkar for slow over rate

PTI, Mumbai

As if the loss to IPL debutants Kochi Tuskers Kerala was not enough, Mumbai Indians skipper Sachin Tendulkar was fined 20,000 dollars for maintaining a slow over-rate during the match here.

"The IPL today [Saturday] advised that the Mumbai Indians have been fined for maintaining a slow over rate during last night's IPL match against Kochi Tuskers Kerala in Mumbai," said a statement which did not specify the amount that the team has been docked.

"At the end of the match, Mumbai Indians were assessed to be one over behind the required rate after allowances were taken into consideration.

"Since it was Mumbai Indians first offence of the season, under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, the captain, Sachin Tendulkar, was fined USD 20,000," it added.

Mumbai went down by eight wickets against Kochi despite Tendulkar's maiden Twenty20 century last night.

Chennai make U-turn

FROM PAGE 16

Jakati enticed Kohli to come charging down the track and the batsman top-edged the ball to Anirudha at long-on.

Kohli's 35 came from 28 balls with the help of four boundaries and a six.

At 73 for four in the 11th over, it looked a tough task for Bangalore to overhaul the target but de Villiers, who had been ordinary in the tournament so far, kept RCB in for a chance with some lusty hits.

De Villiers also picked out Jakati as he hit the bowler for a six and a four to take 13 runs from the 14th over but the South African did not get much support from the other end.

Saurbh Tiwary departed in the 15th over, dismissed by Suraj Randiv leaving Bangalore to score 111 runs from 9.1 overs with five wickets intact.

The late heroics by de Villiers gave a ray of hope to Bangalore but the hiccups in the initial overs proved costly in the end.

Earlier, Hussey cashed in on two dropped chances to score unbeaten 83 to help Chennai score 183 for five.

The Australian was well supported by opener Murali Vijay (31 off 21) and Suresh Raina (29 off 16) while skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (22) provided late burst with some lusty hittings as the home side entertained the packed crowd.

For Bangalore, paceman Johan van der Wath (2/49

and off-spinner Ryan Ninan (2/31) were the most successful bowlers though both were quite expensive. Zaheer Khan also grabbed a wicket giving away 33 runs from his quota of four overs.

Openers Vijay and Hussey struggled to get off the blocks against the pace and spin combination of Zaheer Khan and Bangalore skipper Daniel Vettori, with the first four overs yielding just 18 runs.

Vettori introduced South African medium pacer van der Wath into the attack in the fifth over and he had almost accounted for Hussey's wicket on his second ball but Mohammad Kaif dropped a sitter at the mid-off region.

Vijay took van der Wath for special treatment in the same over as he hit him for two consecutive fours and a six to take 15 runs from the over.

Sri Lankan Tillakaratne Dilshan was not spared either as this time Hussey, playing in place of New Zealander Scott Styris, hit him for two consecutive fours in the sixth over.

Chennai reached the 50-run mark in 6.2 overs but immediately Vijay was dismissed by Ninan.

Next man in Suresh Raina (29) and Hussey put on a 45-run stand for the second wicket to take the Chennai total close to 100-run mark.

SCORES IN BRIEF
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 183-5 in 20 overs (Hussey 83 not out, Vijay 31, Raina 29, Dhoni 22; Ninan 2-31, Van der Wath 2-49)

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 162-7 in 20 overs (De Villiers 64, Kohli 35; Randiv 2-24, Morkel 2-34)
Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 21 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Mike Hussey.

Sk Russel

FROM PAGE 16

when their goalkeeper Mohammed Al Hasan left the pitch with a badly bruised knee.

After a quiet and insipid first-half, the second was given a stormy start as the nor'wester struck ten minutes after the restart. Floodlights went off, dugouts came out flying and the big glass panes of the press box too came under severe challenge to hold their own.

A downpour followed, forcing the handful of spectators take refuge under the stands after their verbal attack at the Bangladesh Football Federation.

After a 40-minute break, the match restarted and the tempo of the match picked ironically up on a soggy pitch. Both teams went for the kill, but it was Sakhnevich's goal that gave Sheikh Russel the lead. The ball had taken a deflection off a Mohammedan defender before going into the net, but the Russian won't have any complaints as it made sure his side won the battle of the big guns.

DAVIS CUP Bangladesh now in Level 3

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh advanced to the Level 3 of Davis Cup Asia Oceania Zone becoming undefeated champions from Group B. Bangladesh beat Jordan 2-1 in their last match at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Earlier in 2010, Bangladesh were relegated to Level 4 after doing badly in the last Davis Cup campaign. This time however they played superbly, winning all their matches and capping it off with yesterday's win.

Amol Roy gave Bangladesh a perfect start with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 victory in a tense encounter over Jordan's Ibrahim Al Hadid.

Compatriot Shibu Lal though lost his tie 4-6, 6-7 to put the hosts under pressure and putting them with a must-win situation ahead of the doubles match.

In the doubles though, Amol Roy and Ranjan Ram breezed past their counterparts with a 6-1, 6-2 victory to confirm Bangladesh's promotion.

In another match of the day, Kyrgyzstan beat Iraq 2-1 in Group A to advance along with Bangladesh to Level 3.

Schoeman lights up Fatullah

SPORTS REPORTER

Christiaan Schoeman hammered an unbeaten 179 as South Africa Cricket Academy dominated the opening day of their four-day game against the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy yesterday at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

The visitors ended the day on 401 for five from 90 overs after skipper Joshua Richards won the toss and decided to bat first.

Left-handed Schoeman, who came in to bat after they lost two for 68, struck 26 boundaries and a six during his 192-ball innings.

He first added 84 for the fourth wicket with wicketkeeper Lefa Mosen, who made just 29. Then came the 202-run fifth wicket stand between Schoeman and 21-year-old left-hander Patrick Botha, the latter hitting 93 off 117 balls with the help of 13 boundaries and two sixes.

For the hosts, part-timer Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury and left-arm spinner Shaker Ahmed picked up two wickets each while paceman Al Amin took one wicket, that of skipper Richards.

BRIEF SCORES
SOUTH AFRICA CRICKET ACADEMY: First innings 401-5 in 90 overs (Schoeman 179 not out, Botha 93; Shuvogoto 2-52, Shaker 2-114).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	32 Represented in words	DOWN	22 Investigate
1 Actor McBride		1 Helgenberger series	23 Got up
4 Church section	34 Microwave, e.g.	2 Attila, e.g.	25 Turn over
8 Taj Mahal city	35 Aspire	3 Bills	26 Sci-fi villains, often
12 Baltimore newspaper	36 Intelligent	4 —ski money	27 —do-well
13 Hammer-head part	37 Fix software	5 Mexican	28 Bloke
14 "Let's Make a Deal" option	40 In the thick of	6 Witness	30 Rum recipe
15 Opposites	41 Winged	7 Type measures	33 House of worship
17 Source	42 Party guests	8 Aimless	34 Leave out
18 Sandwich treat	46 Bath powder	9 Slip-up	36 Smug look
19 Moment	47 Swerve	10 Santa's runway	37 Information
20 Hearty drinks	48 Agt.	11 Pretentious	38 Verve
22 College VIP, for short	49 Pharaoh's symbol	16 Therefore	39 Pitcher's boo-boo
	50 Lancaster foe	19 British singer	40 State with certainty
	51 Firmament	20 Poker variety	42 Wall climber
	Solution time: 25 mins.	21 Aftermath	43 Keanu, in "The Matrix"
			44 Comic-strip squeal
			45 Bond, for one

GOOF

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Ferrer stops Melzer

Tennis
AFP, Monte Carlo

Fourth seed David Ferrer ended the upset run of Jurgen Melzer 6-3, 6-2 to reach the final of the Monte Carlo Masters on Saturday.

The scrambling Spaniard set up half of a potential countryman final as he awaits an opponent from six-time winner Rafael Nadal and the surprisingly on form Andy Murray, seeded third.

Ferrer doused cold water on Melzer's dream run after the Austrian had put out Roger Federer in the quarterfinals.

Ferrer was playing a Monte Carlo semifinal for the second straight year. Melzer, seventh on the ATP, was the first Austrian to reach the semis here since Thomas Muster won the title 15 years ago.

Melzer had won his last two meetings with Ferrer,

including at Roland Garros on clay.

The Austrian began strongly with a break but lost his way as Ferrer's steady game paid dividends to frustrate his opponent.



PHOTO: AFP
Spanish tennis star David Ferrer exults after winning the Monte-Carlo ATP Masters semifinal against Austria's Jurgen Melzer in Monaco yesterday.

Sachin's ton in vain Kochi post maiden IPL victory

AFP, Mumbai

robust half-centuries as Kochi Tuskers Kerala posted an eight-wicket win over Sachin Tendulkar's Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Friday.

Skipper Tendulkar hammered an unbeaten 100 off just 66 balls for his maiden IPL hundred to help his side reach 182-2 before Kochi achieved the stiff target with six balls to spare for their first win in three matches.

New Zealander McCullum cracked a 60-ball 81 while Sri Lankan Mahela Jayawardene hit 56 off 36 balls before being yorked by compatriot Lasith Malinga, but not before the pair had put on 128 for the opening wicket.

McCullum hit two sixes and 10 fours and Jayawardene nine fours.

Ravindra Jadeja (25 not out) finished the match with two successive sixes off left-arm spinner Ali Murtaza as Mumbai suffered their first defeat in three games.

Tendulkar, needing 10 runs off the last four deliveries of the innings to complete the century on his home ground in Mumbai, hit two fours and took two singles off seamer Vinay Kumar.

The Mumbai captain, who smashed three sixes and 12 fours, added 116 for the second wicket with

Ambati Rayudu, who hit four sixes in a 33-ball 53.

SCORES IN BRIEF
MUMBAI INDIANS: 182-2 in 20 overs (Tendulkar 100 not out, Rayudu 53; Gomez 1-29)
Kochi Tuskers Kerala: 184-2 in 19 overs (McCullum 81, Jayawardene 56, Jadeja 25 not out; Malinga 2-42)
Result: Kochi Tuskers Kerala won by eight wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Brendon McCullum.



PHOTO: AFP
Mumbai Indians captain Sachin Tendulkar pays tribute to his India captain MS Dhoni by launching into a 'Helicopter Shot' on way to scoring his maiden T20 100 during Friday's IPL match against Kochi Tuskers Kerala at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

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12				13					14			
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CRYPTOQUIP

VYLCYAMC EYS OYAMFYTD UKY
X Z U X D O U S H I M O
Y S V K M O I S X I H Y C O X Z Z F D
KHAOMZE: IKM ZYCM XSSXCLMS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE FILMING SESSION IS INCLUDING MANY CELEBRITIES, I'D SAY IT'S A SHOOT FOR THE STARS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals L