

Maharashtra honour for Tendulkar

PTI, Mumbai

Maharashtra government has decided to build a grand sports museum to honour iconic Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said.

"Sachin has made the state proud by his achievements in cricket. His contribution in the recent World Cup was immense," Chavan said, at a function here Monday evening to present the state government's Shiv Chhatrapati State Sports Awards.

The state government has decided to build a grand sports museum in Tendulkar's name and befitting his stature, the chief minister said.

The government plans a new youth and sports policy and there is a proposal to set up 54 sports complex at tehsil level, he said.

Chavan felicitated 44 sportspersons with the Shiv Chhatrapati Awards.



India's World Cup captain MS Dhoni poses with one of the gold-plated cricket bats awarded to all the Cup-winning cricketers during a function felicitating the 2011 champions in Mumbai yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Hussey, Morkel CSK stars

AFP, Chennai

Michael Hussey hit a half-century and Albie Morkel bagged three wickets to help Chennai Super Kings post 25-run win over Pune Warriors in an Indian Premier League match on Monday.

Australian Hussey made a 48-ball 61 and South African paceman Morkel took 3-29 as Chennai bowled and fielded impressively to restrict Pune to 117-9 after scoring 142-6 for their third win in six matches of the Twenty20 tournament.

Pune could never recover after being reduced to 40-4 in the opening six overs, with off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin and Morkel taking two wickets apiece. Australian paceman Doug Bollinger finished with 2-20.

Skipper Yuvraj Singh top-scored with 34 for Pune, who suffered their third defeat in five matches. His 43-ball knock ended when Shadab Jakati held a superb diving catch in the covers off Morkel in the penultimate over.

Mithun Manhas was the other main scorer for Pune with 20.

Hussey earlier hit one six and six fours in his half-century to help Chennai reach a

competitive total despite impressive bowling efforts from Pune pacemen Jerome Taylor (3-30) and Alfonso Thomas (2-29).

Put in to bat, Chennai made a solid start when Murali Vijay (31) and Hussey put on 64 for the opening wicket before Pune struck back with two quick wickets.

South African Thomas had Vijay caught by New Zealander Nathan McCullum at mid-wicket and then bowled Suresh Raina for two runs in the same over.

Hussey steadied the innings with a 52-run stand for the third wicket with skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (26) before West Indies paceman Taylor, playing his first IPL match, took three of the last four wickets.

Taylor struck in his third over when he removed Hussey, who fell to a well-judged catch at long-on boundary by Manish Pandey, before dismissing Morkel in the same over.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 142-6 in 20 overs (Hussey 61, Vijay 31, Dhoni 26; Taylor 3-30, Thomas 2-29)

PUNE WARRIORS: 117-9 in 20 overs (Yuvraj 34, Manhas 20; Morkel 3-29, Ashwin 2-19, Bollinger 2-20)

Result: Chennai Super Kings by 25 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Michael Hussey.

NATIONAL V'BALL Army meet Air Force in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army will take on Bangladesh Air Force in the men's final of the Walton National Volleyball Championship at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium today.

In the women's group, Bangladesh Ansar & VDP play against BJMC in the final at the same venue.

Bangladesh Army defeated Chittagong University by 25-8, 25-9, 25-15 points while Bangladesh Air Force outplayed Bangladesh Navy by 25-16, 25-22, 25-14 points in the semifinals yesterday.

In the women's semifinals yesterday, Ansar & VDP defeated Gazipur DSA 25-8, 25-7, 25-5 while BJMC beat Rajshahi DSA 25-11, 25-17, 25-12.

Another Clasico

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Against Barca.

"He (Kaka) had a fantastic game in a position I like a lot," said Mourinho. "It is fantastic for his confidence."

Mourinho rested key players such as Pepe, Marcelo, Xabi Alonso and Cristiano Ronaldo, who scored the winner in the Cup final, but will be handicapped by the absence of experienced centre-back Ricardo Carvalho through suspension.

German midfielder Sami Khedira is also out with a muscular injury so Frenchman Lass Diarra is set to deputise.

Malinga rejects money factor

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka paceman Lasith Malinga on Tuesday brushed aside criticism that he quit Test cricket to be able to make quick money from tournaments such as the Indian Premier League.

The injury-prone bowler invited controversy when he made himself unavailable for Tests during a forthcoming tour of England because of a knee injury, but continued to play in the lucrative Twenty20 competition in India.

Malinga announced his retirement from Tests last week, saying the injury prevented him from playing in the longest version of the game, and has since been under fire for picking club cricket over country.

"The Test retirement was never about money," Malinga, 27, told reporters in Colombo.

"I can't be a commentator, coach or umpire. But I can bowl well and get wickets. It's unfair to say money was the root cause of my decision," said the fast bowler, who is on a three-day return visit to Sri Lanka from India.

Malinga, the highest wicket-taker so far in the IPL with 16 scalps from six games, hoped his decision would allow him to play for at least four more years.

"My right knee is getting weaker each day. I have a long-standing degenerative condition that I need to carefully manage," he said.

"I love playing for Sri Lanka. It's my dream to play for my country. I'm not sure if my knee will inflame again."

Malinga said he was looking forward to playing the one-dayers and Twenty20s during Sri Lanka's tour of England, which starts next month.

Natore crush

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the 40th over. Pabna won against Lalmonirhat by 29 runs after they batted first and managed to score 222.

Chittagong lost to Brahminbaria in a thriller by one wicket at Comilla. Chittagong batted first and were bowled out for 164 with Arman scoring 81. Brahminbaria lost nine wickets to reach the target in the 43rd over. Fahad took four wickets for 34.

Jhalakothi won by four wickets against Barguna after they were given a small target of 100 runs to win.

Satkhira's Enamul took five for 22 to restrict Jhenaidaha to 135. Satkhira reached the target with five wickets in hand.

Chaudanga won by six wickets against Bagerhat, after Bagerhat batted first and scored 119.

Sylhet have won by seven wickets against Moulvibazar and reached the second round as the venue champion.

Narsingdi won by 48 runs against Sherpur, while Manikganj defeated Shariatpur by seven wickets.

IOA dismisses Kalmadi

AFP, New Delhi



The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) removed the organiser of the scandal-hit Delhi Commonwealth Games as its president on Tuesday, hours after a court ordered him held in custody on graft charges.

Suresh Kalmadi, known for his powerful political and sporting connections, is in police custody over his role in awarding a 31 million dollars contract for timekeeping equipment for the Commonwealth Games to a Swiss firm.

The Indian Olympic Association's senior vice-president Vijay Kumar Malhotra was named acting president in place of Kalmadi, who headed the organisation for 15 years.

"The senior vice president automatically takes over the duties when the president is not there," Malhotra told AFP. "In the event of a prolonged absence... the senior vice president eventually assumes charge."

India is considering bidding to host the 2020 Summer Olympics.

The move to replace Kalmadi came after a judge said the ruling Congress party lawmaker should be held in police custody for eight days for questioning.

Kalmadi, arrested on Monday by the federal Central Bureau of Investigation,

is accused of "wrongfully restricting and eliminating competition" from other would-be Games suppliers of timekeeping equipment.

Police allege the timekeeping contract was inflated by some 21 million dollars.

The Games were meant to showcase India's status as an emerging global power, but the sporting headlines were stolen by venue delays, shoddy construction and budget overruns in which the event's cost tripled to at least 6 billion dollars.

As Kalmadi, a target of popular scorn as the face of the Games organisational fiasco, which embarrassed India on the world stage, entered the court a proster hauled a slipper at him.

Kalmadi, 66, appeared unconcerned by the attack as police detained the man, identified by local media as a lawyer upset about India's rampant corruption.

Premier Manmohan Singh's government, buffeted by a string of scandals, has faced loud calls to show it intends to crack down on corruption, which has undermined the administration's popularity and sparked nationwide protests.

The CBI had sought 14 days' custody for Kalmadi, claiming he had been "evasive and non-co-operative" in his responses. However, the court gave the

police agency eight days to question Kalmadi in custody.

It also extended by another eight days the custody of two other accused in the case, Games secretary general, Lalit Bhambhani, and director general, VK Verma, who were arrested in February.

"They are not revealing the true facts and circumstances of the criminal conspiracy leading to the award of timing-scoring-result system contract to Swiss Timing in a wrong manner," the CBI alleged in its court submission.

Swiss Timing, the Swiss firm involved, has denied any wrongdoing.

The CBI said the trio were "deeply involved" in the awarding of the contract to the company at "exorbitant rates," thus causing a wrongful loss.

Kalmadi and the others have protested their innocence.

Kalmadi was dismissed in January as head of the Games organising committee as police probed charges that organisers had manipulated tenders.

India's anti-corruption watchdog, the Central Vigilance Commission, received complaints alleging up to 1.8 billion dollars of Games money was misused.

Kalmadi's arrest has coincided with charges being laid against the daughter of one of the coalition government's key allies over allegations of large kickbacks in the 2008 sale of mobile phone licences.

Kumar, Mahela follow suit?

AFP, Colombo

After the reports of Sri Lankan skipper Tillakaratne Dilshan leaving the Indian Premier League to join the England-bound national team got rife, it is learned that former captains Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene are also packing their bags for an early exit.

Sangakkara and Jayawardene, who are currently in charge of the Deccan Chargers and Kochi Tuskers Kerala respectively, will reportedly leave the Indian Premier League (IPL) early to start preparations for the first Test against England on May 26.

According to 'The Island', both the players are expected to be in Colombo by the May 16 and will leave the island a day later to join the squad for the second warm-up game scheduled for May 19 against England Lions at Derby.

The newspaper also reported that both players have received the necessary consent of their franchises to make an early exit.

WICB differs with Gayle

PTI, Kingston

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) on Tuesday dismissed Chris Gayle's claims that he was dropped without being told, insisting that it was the flamboyant batsman who made himself unavailable for selection before heading off to the lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL).

WICB chief Ernest Hilaire said the Board did all it could to contact Gayle, who suffered an abdominal strain during the World Cup.

Gayle was not picked for the ongoing series against Pakistan and the batsman went on to state that his Board left him with no choice but to join IPL by not reaching out to him.

But the WICB contradicted his claims.

"We can dispel all that Chris [Gayle] said by releasing the letters and emails," Hilaire told the Line and Length Network.

"But we should not do that. You communicate with a player, you ask for his opinions, you ask for him to account on certain statements he made, you ask him what's his position on certain things and you expect to be treated with a certain degree of confidence."

"...I'm not going to try to prove Chris Gayle is wrong. What's more important is to state that we're very disappointed in the way in Chris has decided to respond. I think he is being ill-advised. We've worked exceedingly hard to reach out to Chris," he said.

Hilaire said the WICB had no grudges against the player and it was proved by the No Objection Certificate he was handed for the IPL despite making himself unavailable for the series.

Bashar set

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tenure will finish at the end of this month.

In that meeting, the BCB president was given the responsibility of forming a five-member team comprising Board Members to select a new selection panel.

Abahani

FROM PAGE 16

federation yesterday.

The Sheikh Jamal coach Pakeer Ali too believes their loss against Sheikh Jamal was a lesson learnt but looking forward rather than dwelling in the past.

"We are preparing to face Abahani as it is a very vital match. Winning against Abahani will be a morale boosting start for us and we will try our level best," said Sheikh Jamal coach Pakeer.

Shehzad ton steers Pakistan

Cricket

AFP, Gros Islet

Opener Ahmed Shehzad struck his second one-day international hundred to anchor Pakistan to a confident seven-wicket victory over West Indies on Monday.

Shehzad hit seven fours and one six in his 102 from 148 balls as Pakistan successfully chased 221 for victory in the second ODI at the Beausejour Cricket Ground.

Umar Akmal carried the visitors over the threshold with 12 balls remaining when he lofted a delivery from Dwayne Bravo to long-off for the final boundary of the match.

The result means that Pakistan take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series after winning the first game by eight wickets on Saturday at the same ground.

Pakistan have now won their last seven ODIs against West Indies, a sequence spread over the last four years.

"We made a plan at our team meeting and our guys stuck to it and that was good," said Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi.

"Shehzad is a very talented guy and he showed that he is capable of performing. He took his time, but chasing a small total, he could afford to do that and we won the game."

"I think our bowlers are doing a great job, and the fielding has improved because it is a very important area for us. Our batting has shown responsibility and we hope to maintain this discipline right throughout the series."

The visitors' spin bowling trio of Saeed Ajmal, Mohammad Hafeez and Afridi had dominated on another docile pitch.

After Pakistan chose to field, West Indies were dismissed for 220 in their