



PHOTO: AFP

Delhi Daredevils captain Virender Sehwag bludgeons the ball through the off-side during his brilliant 47-ball 80 against the Kochi Tuskers Kerala on a difficult pitch at the Nehru Stadium in Kochi yesterday.

Veeru seals Delhi win

Virender Sehwag hit a rollicking half-century as Delhi Daredevils scored a 38-run win over Kochi Tuskers Kerala to keep their play-offs hopes alive in the Indian Premier League in Kochi on Saturday.

Sehwag blazed his way to a 47-ball 80 to lead his side to a competitive 157 for seven after electing to bat on a very difficult track, which had uneven bounce.

Delhi were gasping 37 for three at one stage but Sehwag played sensibly as he first guarded his wicket when his teammates were vanishing from the other end and then played his usual aggressive self.

The visitors then bowled out the hosts for 119 in 18.5 overs to record a much-needed win as they were languishing at the bottom of the points table, coming into this contest.

It was Delhi's third win in eight matches while Kochi now have suffered third defeat in a row.

With this win Delhi have jumped to seventh spot from 10th while Kochi are now second from last.

Batting was a big challenge on the Nehru Stadium wicket for both the sides as some balls did not bounce above the ankles and some zoomed up to the chin level.

The Delhi pace trio of Morne Morkel (3-18), Ajit Agarkar (2-23) and Irfan Pathan (2-27) shared seven wickets among them and played a crucial role in scripting their side's win.

Spinner Roelof van der Merwe (3-20) ran through the Kochi tail, taking three wickets in five balls in the 19th over, to contribute in win.

Ravindra Jadeja (31) and Brad Hodge (27) were the only batsmen who went past the 25-run mark for Kochi.

Kochi needed 59 runs off the last four overs and Jadeja kept their hopes alive by

Mymensing beat Faridpur

SPORTS REPORTER

Mymensing defeated Faridpur by three wickets at BKSP in the Inter District Cricket Championship yesterday.

Faridpur batted first and managed to gather 135 runs losing six wickets in 43 overs. Arif took three wickets for 21.

Mymensing reached 129 for seven in the 34th over, which was the revised target after rain interrupted the match earlier.

Boucher in place of Haddin

PTI, Kolkata

Kolkata Knight Riders Saturday named South African wicketkeeper Mark Boucher as a replacement for the injured Brad Haddin in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL).

Boucher, who represented Royal Challengers Bangalore earlier, will be available for the Knight Riders ahead of their clash against Deccan Chargers on May 3.

"We are fortunate to have someone like Mark Boucher as Brad's replacement. He comes with a lot of experience and a terrific track record in all forms of the game," Knight Riders CEO and MD, Venky Mysore said.

Aussie wicketkeeper Haddin's IPL campaign was cut short after a fracture was detected in his finger. An MRI in Delhi on Thursday revealed that the injury he sustained during Australia's series in Bangladesh had not healed.

He will return home and undergo a surgery.

Elton quits Zimbabwe captaincy

AP, Harare

Elton Chigumbura has resigned as Zimbabwe cricket captain to focus on improving his own form.

The 25-year-old all-rounder was appointed captain in May last year as replacement for spinner Prosper Utseya, but his own performances have suffered under the pressure of the captaincy.

He was sharply criticized after the team's disappointing results at the recent World Cup.

Chigumbura told local newspaper Newsday yesterday that "I have thought long and hard about the job since my return from the World Cup and I have consulted my family and friends about it.

'IPL lure too tempting'

CRICINFO, Melbourne



Stuart Law, Sri Lanka's interim coach, has expressed sympathy with Lasith Malinga's decision to quit Test cricket due to a knee condition, but has also acknowledged that the lure of the Indian Premier League (IPL) -- with its bumper signings and opportunities to secure oneself financially in quick time -- makes it difficult for players to continue playing international cricket.

Malinga made himself unavailable for Sri Lanka's upcoming tour of England and announced his decision to quit Tests because of a "long-standing degenerative condition in the right knee". While the condition made it difficult for him to play in the longest format, he intends to continue playing limited-overs cricket, and is currently the leading wicket-taker in the IPL, where he represents Mumbai Indians.

"It's disappointing that he doesn't want to play [the] longer [format cricket] but you can't make [force] a guy who goes through hell every time he bowls a cricket ball," Law told the Age. "I can sympathise with him. I would love him to play every game for us but that's impossible, no one does that these days.

"It's a tough one for the players because we're not talking about 10,000 dollars here and there. We're talking about a million dollars and Malinga, when he bowls, he puts his body through hell, so ... two more years of IPL cricket and he can put his feet up and not go through that pain again."

Apart from Malinga, there are three other prominent Sri Lanka players participating in the IPL -- Tillakaratne Dilshan, Mahela

Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara. The tour of England clashes with the latter stages of the IPL, and there's been confusion in Dilshan's case about when he'll join the Sri Lanka squad. He had said he wanted to join as early as May 10, ahead of the first warm-up game, but the BCCI and the Sri Lanka board are negotiating his release date.

Sangakkara and Jayawardene, meanwhile, will join their squad ahead of the second warm-up fixture.

"The IPL situation -- we've got to be smart with that," Law said. "India, they are big brother, we've got to look after them, we don't want to upset them. It's where a lot of the world cricket boards make a lot of their money, so we've got to keep India sweet."

The financial incentive of the IPL was a major temptation for players, Law said. "You want the best for your players and the best Sri Lanka can supply to the players at this stage is nowhere near what other international players are getting.

"I think [better pay] will arrive one day but right now it is difficult to attract the players to continue to play international cricket when they can go to the IPL for six weeks and earn five years' money."

Sri Lanka have undergone a change in leadership since finishing runners-up in the 2011 World Cup, with Sangakkara and Jayawardene stepping down as captain and vice-captain respectively -- decisions Law could "totally respect and understand" -- and their selection committee resigning.

Dilshan has been named the new captain and Law has taken over from Trevor Bayliss, who he worked with as assistant coach.

"Sri Lanka will go through a rebuilding phase now," Law said. "But the amount of talent that is yet to play international cricket at this stage is amazing."

Kohli stars in RCB win

INTERNET, Bangalore

Royal Challengers Bangalore rode on Virat Kohli's whirlwind half-century and Chris Gayle's blitzkrieg to notch up a comfortable 26-run win over Pune Warriors in the Indian Premier League (IPL) here on Friday.

Put into bat, Kohli smashed 67 off 42 balls after Gayle laid the foundation with 49 off a mere 26 deliveries, to lead the home team's challenge at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

In reply, Pune could not manage more than 155 for five in their stipulated 20 overs, despite a fighting fifty from Jesse Ryder and a quick-fire 23-ball 41 from skipper Yuvraj Singh.

Ryder hit four fours and two sixes while Yuvraj's knock included two fours and three sixes.

Earlier, Kohli smashed four boundaries and as many sixes during his stay at the crease while Gayle found the ropes three times and cleared it the same number of times.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 181 for 5 in 20 overs (Kohli 67, Gayle 49, de Villiers 26; Thomas 2-23, Sharma 2-27)

PUNE WARRIORS INDIA: 155 for 5 in 20 overs (Ryder 51, Yuvraj 41, Uthappa 23 not out; Vettori 1-23, Gayle 1-8, Mohammad 1-26)

Result: Royal Challengers Bangalore won by 26 runs. Man-of-the-match: Virat Kohli.

Bangoura

FROM PAGE 16 kept getting stretched but the Arambagh forwards made a meal of it.

Arambagh made it 2-0 in the 13rd minute when Subair teed up Bangoura for a one-on-one with the goalie and the Guinean striker made no mistake this time.

Bangoura put his side 3-0 up on the 63rd minute with a curling shot from top of the box, while six minutes later he completed the Rahmatganj rout with his treble by converting a penalty kick he earned.

Tourists

FROM PAGE 16 the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and two T20 matches at the same venue.

BRIEF SCORES G P - C B C NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY: 150 all out in 40.4 overs (Mominul 53, Asif 15, Babu 36, extras 20; Viljeon 2-26, Lange 5-33, Hume 2-23).

SOUTH AFRICA ACADEMY: 153 for two wickets in 33.2 overs (Wyk 48, Richards 19, Chetty 50 not out, extras 12; Sanjamul 2-24). Result: South Africa Academy won by eight wickets.

'I am a technician, not a magician'

FROM PAGE 16 DS: And there are questions too about the Sylhet academy, which despite permission from the government has not yet been made active...

KS: True, but there are a number of things there that need to be worked out. Some infrastructural and technical issues. It should be up and running by September.

DS: So would you say your work in strengthening structure has not been completely satisfactory?

KS: I see half a glass of water. So is the glass half-full or half-empty? You tell me. Personally, I think it is half-full and that is the way I have always looked at things.

DS: One thing that has happened in your tenure is that the Bangladesh League and Federation Cup have been held regularly. Would you define that as success?

KS: Absolutely. We have regularised football and made it year-round. Players are now earning more money and clubs are being rewarded like never before. I personally made sure that clubs get appearance money for tournaments as well as gate money from their 'home' matches in the Bangladesh

League. This is an unprecedented step in Bangladesh football and I think it should incentivise the clubs to move forward, because we do feel that a club structure is necessary to make progress.

DS: What about the Super Cup. It stopped after that money-spinning first edition.

KS: Where did it stop? [DS: ...it hasn't happened after the first edition?] KS: That is due to the fact that the sponsors backed out initially. I still brokered another deal but then we had issues with the Bangabandhu stadium. No sponsor was interested to host the tournament at Kamalapur and also there was very little interest from clubs as well. But the second edition is just around the corner. The latest will be June.

DS: That aside, there is still a problem with structure related to the league. What happens to clubs like Beanibazar who get relegated? They fall into a vacuum.

KS: True, but plans are underway to get an 8 team second tier league going. We will have teams like Beanibazar and Shukhtara

playing in that league along with the First Division Champions, and the Under 18 team we are in the process of creating. I have also sent out invitations for a few more clubs to come forward to participate.

DS: So would you personally define your time as BFF supremo a success?

KS: (laughs)... is that not for you to decide? Give me a rating and I will accept it. Personally though I am a greedy person; greedy for success. I am my biggest critic. I have been like this ever since I played football, when even if I had scored a hatrick, I felt I could have done more. It is the same here. Things have been done, many positive things. But wholesale change needs more time and dedicated sponsors. As I have said, I am a technician, not a magician.

DS: ...and do you feel you have had adequate support in your endeavours from your committees?

KS: I will just say that in many regards, the coordination between committees could have been much better.

DS: What does the future hold for Kazi Salahuddin?

KS: I will definitely run for

another term for president. Provided the voters want me, I will try to come in and complete the reforms that I have started. At this stage, I feel like we have laid the groundwork to show young people that football is a viable career alternative. There is more money in the game than ever before as well. Now comes the sweeping changes in the grassroots. I feel that I can give football a platform from where it can pick itself up and move forward.

Tour ends

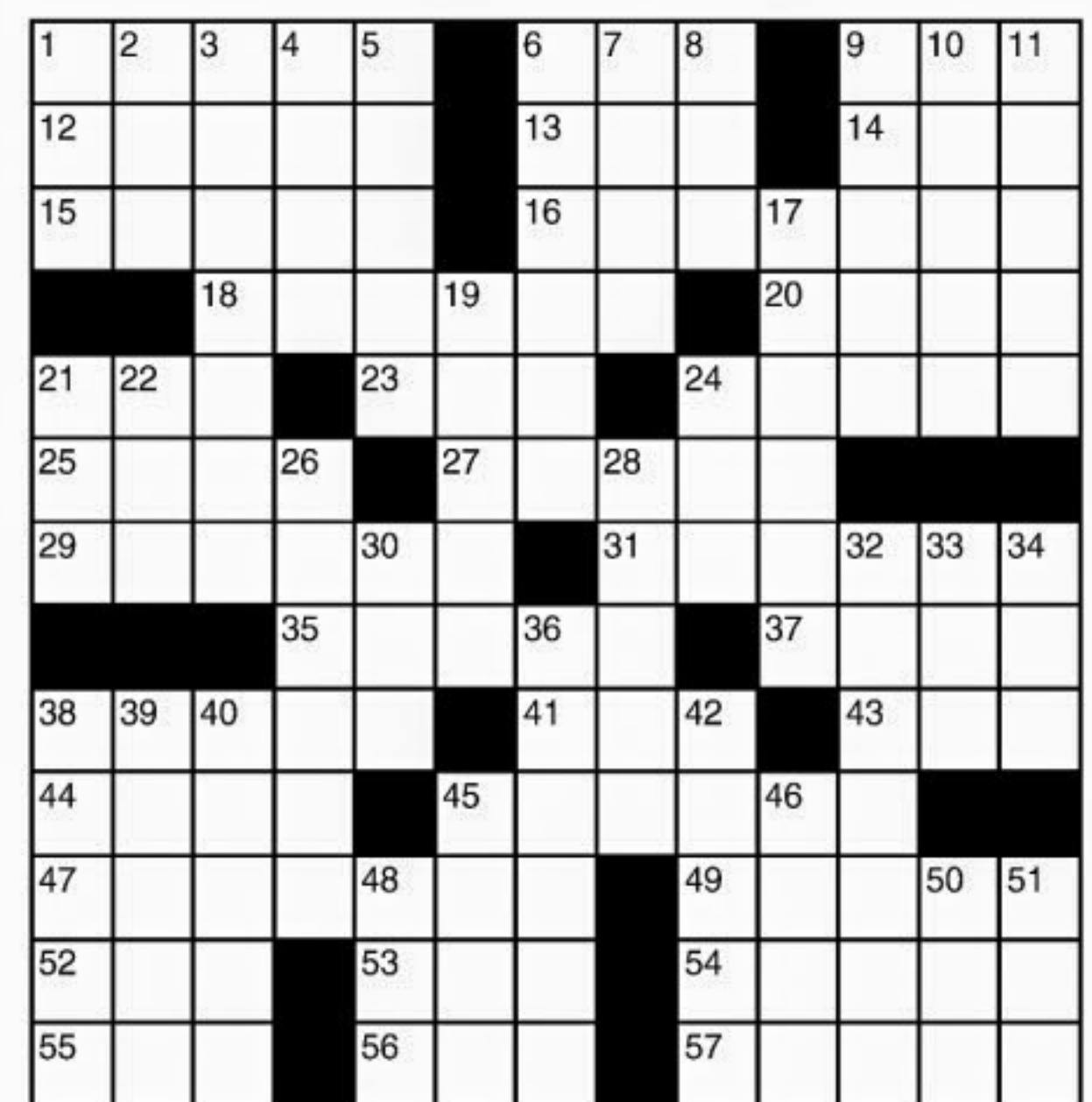
FROM PAGE 16 Nadif was the top scorer for Bangladesh A in the four-day series with 89 runs in two matches while pacer Robiul Islam was the highest wicket-taker with five wickets.

In the one-day series, Junaed Siddiqui showed some consistency in an otherwise brittle batting performance as the left-hander piled up 212 runs in four games at the average of 53 to become the top scorer in the series.

Elias Sunny, Farhad Reza and Mohammad Ashraf grabbed five wickets each in four games.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 A to Z 6 Vitamin stat 9 Foolish one 12 Marble type 13 Chic no more 14 Pi follower 15 Water softener 16 Level of achievement 18 Vegas wedding site 20 Angel's prop 21 Brewery product 23 — Lanka 24 Soft and smooth 25 Pod dwellers 27 Bury 29 Map-Quest offerings 31 "Planet of the Apes" star 35 Stallone role 37 You 38 Fantastic 41 Conclusion 43 Scrap 44 Capri, e.g. 45 Leopard's cousin 47 Hat 49 Scrub 52 Writer Kelsey 53 Torched 54 Humiliate 55 Tramcar load 56 Aviate 57 Hosiery shade DOWN 1 Talk on and on 2 Have — at (try) 3 Mime extraordinary 4 Hexagonal state 5 — hold 'em 6 Entice 7 Boring 8 — glance 9 "This Was — Nice Clam-bake" 10 "Jaws" villain 11 Something what melted, as ice cream 17 Desire for a drink Solution time: 25 mins. D I S C H A A F A R I N T O O U R B I L E S C A R M E T A S I F H A N S O M Y A C H T S E K E C A B D E B T D U S T B O W L A G O I L K W O O B O W L G A M E F L E X L O N L E O C O O P U P E N L I S T R S V P A F T D O T E A L E E C O O E W E S W O R D K E N R A P T



CRYPTOQUIP

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