

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

PTI, Kochi



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 25run mark for Kochi.

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

smashing van der Merwe for a six, taking 10 runs from the 17th over.

Vinay Kumar (11) hammered Agarkar for a six in the next over and Delhi players had their hearts pumping fast. But Agarkar did a big favour to his side by getting the danger man Jadeja out in the last ball of that over.

Kochi still needed 40 from 12 balls but van der Merwe took all three remaining wickets Ramesh Powar (0) and Sreesanth (0) and Vinay -- in space of five balls to seal the fate of the hosts.

Earlier, Sehwag played a true captain's knock as it came on a very difficult track and under difficult circumstances.

Yogesh Nagar (22) and Travis Birt (20) also supported Sehwag well as they shared 56 and 41 runs stand with their skipper for the fourth and fifth wickets respectively.

Sehwag got out in the 18th over when he attempted a big shot off Vinay Kumar, but not before hitting eight fours and five sixes.

Seamer S Sreesnath was most successful bowler for the hosts as he gave away just 10 runs in his four overs and scalped two top-

It was a horror start for Delhi after electing to bat as Sreesanth bowled David Warner (3) and trapped Naman Ojha (0) in his first over, second of the innings.

But both the batsmen were unlucky as both the balls kept low, specially the ball in which Ojha was declared lbw, was almost unplayable.

SCORES IN BRIEF

order batsmen.

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 157 for seven in 20 overs (Sehwag 80, Nagar 22; Sreesanth 2-10) KOCHI TUSKERS KERALA: 119 all out in 18.5 overs (Jadeja 31, Hodge 27; Morkel 3-18 Van der Merwe 3-20)

Result: Delhi Daredevils won by 38 runs. Man-of-the-match: Virender Sehwag.

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 allrounder 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 PREMIER LEAGUE 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. He added it was important to keep India "sweet", as that's where a significant part of the revenue for

several cricket boards lies. 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

Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro came from 4-

1 down in the second set to beat top seed

Robin Soderling 6-4, 7-5 here on Friday in the

Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay, who put out Brazil's

sixth seed Thomaz Bellucci 6-4, 6-2 on Saturday.

when heavy rain arrived to interrupt after-

noon play as he faced the Swede whom he had

Del Potro will play fellow South American

Del Potro led 6-4 but trailed in the second

After the storms passed, Del Potro -- who

saved five of six break points and served six

aces -- came back out in fading light and broke

quarterfinals of the ATP-WTA Estoril Open.

Tennis

AFP, Estoril

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."

Soderling twice to win after just under two

Kristina Barrois and Anabel Medina Garrigues

On the women's side, unseeded duo

The 29-year-old Barrois flew the flag for

Germany as she reached the second final of

beat Monica Niculescu of Romania, 6-1, 6-3.

Barrois, a quarterfinalist last week in

The German, ranked 71st, broke her Swed-

Stuttgart, said that her recent experiences in

playing big matches and top players is boost-

ish opponent six times in a contest lasting one

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

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

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

her career, defeating Swede Johanna Larsson Arambagh forwards made a meal of it. Barrois will aim to win her first title on Satur-Arambagh made it 2-0 in day against Spaniard Medina Garrigues, who

the 53rd minute when Subair teed up Bangoura for a oneon-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 GP-BCB 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,

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Messi's Bangladesh visit ground, spectator facilities or the ticketing **FROM PAGE 16**

Del Potro in semis

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of a nationwide Under-18 Championship that is scheduled to begin from next month. Beximco Group will be the sponsors for the Under-18 tournament, in addition to being sponsors of the Argentina-Nigeria friendly.

Salahuddin announced that they would do everything along with the sponsors to make sure the marquee match between two of the world's best sides is a grand success. However, he did not give out any details about the specifics of the match, such as which players will be available, fixing of ticket prices, accommodation of teams, and the financial and marketing aspects related to the match, as he said those were still works in progress and will likely be finalised within a month.

When asked about whether the Bangabandhu National Stadium can hold such a marquee match, Salahuddin said they would ensure everything is done according to international standards. Whether it is the

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system, he said they would follow the best in the business. Salahuddin divulged some of the details of

the Under-18 Championship which will start in May across all 64 districts and seven divisions. Champions of each division will come to Dhaka to compete in the final round. Meanwhile, twenty BFF development coaches will be scouting across the country to pick talented players for the Football Academy that is being constructed in Sylhet. Salahuddin said the Academy, which will have footballers at U-14, U-16, and U-18 levels, will work as a grooming centre for footballers for the national stage. Shayan F Rahman, the director of Beximco

Group, said the Under-18 championship will be a stepping stone for the overall development of football in the country which will ultimately deliver a competitive national side within the time they stay with this campaign over the next five years.

Chetty 50 not out, extras 12; Sanjamul 2-24). Result: South Africa Academy won by eight wickets. 13 17 19 20 24

'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

need to be worked out. Some infrastructural and technical issues. It should be up and running by September. DS: So would you say your

number of things there that

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 was very little interest from clubs as well. But the second edition is just around the corner. The latest will be

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 vac-

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 partici-

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 hattrick, I felt I could have Kamalapur and also there 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 four games.

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 wickettaker 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 Ashraful grabbed five wickets each in

the Apes" star 35 Stallone role

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals O

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skipperYuvraj Singh.

Earlier, Kohli smashed