The Sri Lanka Under-19 team will arrive in Dhaka today to play two fourdayers and five one-day matches against their Bangladesh counterparts.

The first four-day match will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from April 10, following which both teams will travel to Sylhet to play the second and final four-dayer, starting from April 16, and the first two one-dayers on April 21 and 23. The last three one-day matches will be held at Mirpur on

April 26, 27 and 29. The Bangladesh Under-19 team members are Sadman Islam Anik, Rahatul Ferdous Javed, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Nihad Uzzaman, Yasir Ali Chowdhury, Jubair Hossain, Musaddek Hossain Saikat, Abu Sayem Chowhury, Mohammad Sumon, Mustafizur Rahman, Saeed Sarkar, Mehede Hasan, Mehedy Hasan

### Latif urges Younis to retire

Miraz and Rifat Pradhan.

ANI, Lahore Former national captain

Younis Khan has been suggested to quit one-day cricket and take up coaching of the national side by former Pakistan wicketkeeper Rashid Latif.

According to Latif, it is high time for Khan to retire from international ODI games since his career looked to be over in this form of the game after his dropping from the Champions Trophy probables, the Dawn reports.

Stating that Younis should now concentrate on adopting a new role by taking up coaching of the national side, Latif acknowledged Younis's contributions as an ODI player and termed him a wonderful player who inspired the national team to success on many occasions.

According to Latif, Younis has the ability to be a wonderful coach, adding that there is no harm in appointing him as Pakistan's assistant coach who can take over after the retirement of foreign coach Dav Whatmore.

#### MacGill pulls for Ahmed

ANI, Sydney

Former Australian spinner Stuart MacGill said that refugee player Fawad Ahmed should be selected in captain Michael Clarke's Ashes squad if he is granted an Australian passport in time, adding that he is talented enough to face England in the series.

Under International Cricket Council regulations, Ahmed, a Pakistani asylum-seeker who was granted a permanent Australian visa late last year, will not be eligible to play for Australia until August 18 -- three days before the fifth and final Ashes Test at The Oval -unless he is granted a

#### passport prior to that date, news.com.au reports. Siddikur

FROM PAGE 16

rounds respectively.

The other Bangladeshi golfer in the event, Shakhawat Hossain Sohel, was on 63rd position after playing five-over-par-77 for a total of 10-over-par-226.

## Sisters clash in semis

Tennis

AFP, Charleston

SPORT

Serena and Venus Williams pulled doubleduty on Friday, winning two matches apiece at the rain-disrupted WTA claycourt event in Charleston to book a semifinal showdown.

The Williams sisters will face each other across the net for the first time since 2009. Both played twice on Friday, after a lengthy rain delay on Thursday saw four third-round matches postponed.

Top seed and defending champion Serena defeated American Mallory Burdette 6-4, 6-2 in the third round, then returned to beat sixth-seeded Czech Lucie Safarova 6-4, 6-1 in a rematch of last year's final here.

Williams rallied from a 2-4 deficit in the opening set, winning the last four games to finish off the frame and giving Safarova little opportunity in the second.

Venus Williams, seeded fifth, beat American Varvara Lepchenko 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals, and followed up with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Madison Keys. Although the scoreline against Keys

looked more routine, Williams had to rally from an early break down in each set.

Serena Williams said she was motivated by seeing her older sister come through both of her matches.

"I figured if she can win two matches, I have no excuse not to win my two 6-3. matches," Serena said. "It's actually not that bad to play two matches in one day --

it's not ideal, but I play doubles all the time, and so I looked at it like, 'Okay, I play singles and I play with Venus in doubles the same day.' So really that's how I looked

The Williams sisters haven't played each other since Serena triumphed over Venus in the final of the WTA Tour Championships at Doha in 2009. Serena beat her older sister in the Wimbledon final earlier that year.

They last met on clay in the 2002 French Open final won by Serena, who leads their career head-to-head 13-10.

"It definitely feels like a long time ago," Serena said. "But Venus is the toughest opponent I've ever played.

"I think she's beaten me the most out of any player. I know her game and she knows my game. I think it'll be a great match tomorrow."

Ninth-seeded Serbian Jelena Jankovic also secured a semifinal berth, with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Canadian Eugenie Bouchard.

Jankovic's victory was her 500th career match win, a statistic she wasn't aware of until after the contest.

"I had no idea how many wins I had," | Aravinda de Silva on she said. "But it's pretty nice. It's a great achievement to get my 500th win, and hopefully I can have many more."

Jankovic next faces Switzerland's Stefanie Voegele, who beat secondseeded Dane Caroline Wozniacki 3-6, 6-4,

Wozniacki was up a break at 3-2 in the third set but lost the last four games.

# Take Pakistanis in IPL, Wasim requests BCCI

PTI, Karachi



Former Pakistan captain PREMIER LEAGUE Wasim Akram has

requested the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to allow Pakistani players to participate in the cash-rich Indian Premier League (IPL).

Akram said Pakistani players would only help add colour to the Twenty20 tournament.

"I have always been a great believer that sports and politics should be kept apart and if our players take part in the IPL it will only raise the bar of the event," said Akram, who was the bowling consultant of current IPL champions Kolkata Knight Riders.Pakistani cricketers have not been allowed to take part in the lucrative IPL after the first edition due to varied reasons but mainly because of the diplomatic tensions

between the two countries.

Although Pakistani

umpires, commentators

the ongoing sixth edition of the IPL no cricketer has been invited for the event. The Pakistan team toured India for a short ODI series in December last year but

the way for the players from the neighbouring country to participate in the IPL. Last year the BCCI, however, for the first time allowed a Pakistani team to take part in the Champions

the BCCI still did not clear

South Africa. Akram also confirmed that he had signed a contract with the Pakistan Cricket Board to help groom young pace bowlers

in the country. He said he will be holding a 10-day specialised camp for the Pakistan team pacers and youngsters performing in domestic cricket in Karachi later this month.

"I am happy that now I will be able to play some role in Pakistan cricket because I want to give back what Pakistan cricket has given me. I want young bowlers to take advantage

and coaches will feature in of my expertise and experience," Akram said.

The former captain also said that he would be working in tandem with the national team bowling coach Muhammad Akram during Pakistan's training camp in Abbotabad ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy in England in June.

#### Russel cross

FROM PAGE 16

League Twenty20 held in floating corner was misjudged by Brothers goalkeeper Sobuj Das Roghu and Emily was at hand to head it in.

Zahid then gave Sheikh Russel the lead two minutes after the restart when he received a free kick from Mamunul before darting past two defenders into the box and firing it in to the back of the net.

Brothers upped the attack in search of an equaliser, and threatened into the opposition box a number of times towards the end, but Sheikh Russel's defence stood firm to snatch three valuable points.

CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE

#### Ctg Abahani thrash Agrani Bank

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Abahani thrashed Agrani Bank SC 3-0 in their match of the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League held at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. Ismail Jahed opened the scoring in the sixth minute for Abahani before Sohel Mia made it 2-0 in the 61st minute. Javed Khan sealed the victory scoring the third in the 87th minute.

#### De Silva being diplomatic

PTI, Colombo

Former Sri Lanka captain Saturday chose to react diplomatically over Sri Lankan cricketers' exclusion from the IPL matches in Chennai by stating that the players were grown up enough to take their own decisions in life.

"They're all grown up enough to decide what they want to do in life. They understand the situation well and I think those guys decided to go, de Silva said here.

The IPL's Governing Council has decided that the matches in Chennai will not feature any Sri Lankan cricketers or match officials, following growing political tensions, stemming from the anti-Sinhalese sentiments in the Indian southern city.

The 1996 World Cupwinning hero, however, said that sports should be kept away from politics.

"I think politics should be kept completely outside sport. Sport is something that bridges differences between various people. The best thing is to forget about politics and continue sport as sport," de Silva said on the sidelines of the Red Bull Campus Cricket World Series Finals being played at the R Premadasa stadium.

Asked about the comments by World Cupwinning captain Arjuna Ranatunga that the Lankan players should have boycotted the IPL due to their nonparticipation in Chennal games, de Silva said, "It's an individual decision. As I said, I don't believe in bringing politics into sport."

ACROSS

4 Present

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# Sehwag dropped

AFP, New Delhi



India's selectors on Saturday left out dashing batsman Virender Sehwag from a 30-man preliminary squad for the Champions Trophy

in England in June.

Seasoned off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and veteran seamer Zaheer Khan were also missing from the list, which has to be shortened to 15 players a month before the one-day tournament opens on June 5. Sehwag's 219 against the West Indies in

December 2011 is the highest individual score in one-day internationals and he is only the second batsman to score a double-century in the shorter format after compatriot Sachin Tendulkar. But he was dropped due to recent poor

The 34-year-old, who has scored 8,273 runs in 251 ODIs with 15 centuries, was also been left out of the last two Tests in the recent series against Australia, which India won 4-0.

Harbhajan, 32, last played an ODI two

years ago in the West Indies, while Zaheer, 34, missed the entire Australian series due to a calfinjury.

Uncapped off-spinner Parvez Rasool, 24, was included in the squad, making him the first cricketer from Jammu and

Kashmir to join the senior ranks. India are drawn with South Africa, Pakistan and the West Indies in group B of the Champions Trophy, from which the top two will qualify for the semifinals.

The other group comprises England, Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

#### PRELIMINARY SQUAD

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Murali Vijay, Shikhar Dhawan, Gautam Gambhir, Unmukt Chand, Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Rohit Sharma, Manoj Tiwary, Ajinkya Rahane, Ambati Rayudu, Kedar Jadhav, Wriddhiman Saha, Dinesh Karthik, Ravichandran Ashwin, Amit Mishra, Ravindra Jadeja, Jalaj Saxena, Parvez Rasool, Ishant Sharma, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ashok Dinda, Umesh Yadav, Shami Ahmed, Irfan Pathan, Vinay Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Ishwar Pandey, Sidharth Kaul.

## Mumbai, Rajasthan win

Rohit Sharma became the third wicket with the score on 41. Dinesh Karthik batted well for 37 and provided the initial impetus. His dismissal, trapped in front by Bravo, brought out Pollard. After Dwayne Smith and Ambati Rayudu's dismissals by the time Mumbai had reached 83 in 12 overs, Pollard found an able ally in Harbhajan. The duo were not separated till the close of the innings and put the Chennai bowlers to the sword, plundering 52 runs off the last five overs.

In the day's previous match, Kevon Cooper bowled a brilliant final over to guide Rajasthan Royals to a five-run victory. Chasing a victory target of 166, Delhi batsmen failed to get 17 runs off the final two overs to finish at 160 for six.

David Warner's smashing 77 went in vain as the home team lost their second match in a row, having been beaten by Kolkata Knight Riders in their tournament opener. Needing nine runs from the final over, Cooper bowled a tight line conceding only three runs as Delhi lost the wickets of Andre Russell and Johan Botha. The match, which seemed to have slipped out of the

hands of the Royals, was turned on its head by Australian Brad Hodge whose brilliant piece of fielding led to the dismissal of Warner, who hit nine fours and a six in his 56ball knock and looked like anchoring Delhi's chase to perfection. Delhi started their run chase cautiously as Warner shared an opening stand of 39 with promising opener Unmukt Chand. Mahela Jayawardene got out cheaply as Ajinkya Rahane pulled off a stunner at point off the bowling of pacer Rahul Shukla.

Earlier, the Royals rode on skipper Rahul Dravid's half century to post 165 for seven after opting to bat on a flat Kotla track. Dravid (65) was ably supported by allrounder Stuart Binny (40) with whom he stitched a 55run partnership in just 4.4 overs. Dravid's knock came off just 51 deliveries with six fours and two sixes while Binny took just 20 balls for his thrilling cameo. Rajasthan were looking set for a bigger total but their

march was halted by Delhi quicks Umesh Yadav and Ashish Nehra, who bowled well at the death giving away just six runs in the final two overs of the innings. Yadav took four wickets in as many overs giving away just 24 runs

**SCORES IN BRIEF** 

MUMBAI INDIANS: 148 for 6 (Pollard 57 not out, Karthik 37, Harbhajan 21 not out; Bravo 2-44, Nannes 1-18 Ashwin 1-21). CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 139 for 9 (Dhoni 51, Hussey 20; Patel 3-29, Ojha 2-16, Harbhajan 2-31). Result: Mumbai Indians won by 9 runs. Player-of-the-match: Kieron Pollard

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 165 for 7 (Dravid 65, Binny 40, Rahane 28; Yadav 4-24, Nehra 2-35). DELH DAREDEVILS: 160 for 6 (Warner 77, Chand 23, Juneja 20; Cooper 3-30). Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 5 runs. Player-of-the-match: Rahul Dravid.

12

53

### Alfaz hangs

**FROM PAGE 16** 

prolific striker. That was the same year when Alfaz wore the national jersey in the SAARC Football held in Sri Lanka.

Scoring a hatful of goals every season for the next seven years, Alfaz left Mohammedan in 2002 and joined Muktijoddha Sangsad. The veteran forward then played for a number of clubs including Abahani over the next eight years before returning to his old Black and Whites where he has spent his golden years. The club has also decided to give him the ideal send-off by naming him as a life-time member of the club and organising a dinner at the club tent tonight.

The veteran striker has already taken up his coaching kits as a member of Mohammedan's coaching staff, and wants to flourish in that job like he did during his playing days.

### Crucial game

Ardeshir. Mohammedan are on

fourth position with 20 points from 13 matches. But they are confident after a good show in the Independence Cup where they made it to the semis. Mohammedan coach Saiful Bari Titu said they would give Abahani a run for their money.

"Abahani no doubt are a strong side compared to us, but we will try to present a high quality match to the Black and Whites supporters and try to produce a positive

24

## BCB promises stellar T20 WC

will begin shortly on the new stadium at Cox's Bazar. Hopefully we will get the land for the Cox's Bazar Stadium tomorrow and our first focus will be on preparing the pitches. We need to work on floodlights, dressing room and media facilities in Sylhet and that will take two months to complete," said a confident Papon when asked about the slow progress.

"I can promise you that we will deliver an event that cricket can be proud of and most of all, it will be a tournament from which the people of Bangladesh can draw great pride," he added. Meanwhile, ICC's venue inspection team will visit the country on April 17.

There is no tradition of opening ceremonies for the T20 mega event, but Papon said that they may stage such an event the day before the start of the tournament. "As a Bangladeshi, I am delighted that

the ICC World Twenty20 is coming to my country for the first time. Bangladesh has a great record for delivering world-class events and I know that the ICC will work closely with my friends and former colleagues at the Bangladesh Cricket Board to make this event a success," Kamal said.

Both Kamal and Papon, also parliament members of the ruling party, said that they were not worried about the current political turmoil in the country, reminding everyone of the unifying powers of cricket in Bangladesh. "The atmosphere around the ICC

Cricket World Cup 2011 (which Bangladesh

co-hosted) was special but I am sure that the

ICC World Twenty20 will generate even

more excitement and passion among our

supporters. This event pushes Bangladesh cricket back onto the world stage and I am sure our players will rise to the occasion," said an excited Mushfigur.

"Playing as the host country in any event is a great honour and I think in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 and the Asia Cup 2012 we have shown that the Bangladesh team can raise their game and pull off some impressive victories. I am personally very excited and for me the ICCWorld Twenty20

cannot come soon enough," he added Jesy, who has missed the current Bangladesh women's team's tour to India, said: "Bangladesh were privileged to host the ICC Women's World Cup qualifiers and I think many of the opposition players were surprised at the size of the crowds, which regularly topped 10,000, for the event. When we played Pakistan and Sri Lanka in a tri-series in recent years the stadium in Mirpur was packed-to-capacity. You cannot help but be inspired by such crowds.

"This will be the first time the Bangladesh women will play in the ICC World Twenty 20 and I think we have shown in India that, despite the fact that we lost 3-0, the quality of our cricket is improving and will continue to do so over the next 12 months. I know that all the girls will relish the chance to play in this historic event for women's cricket in Bangladesh," she continued.

ICC head of media and communications Colin Gibson conducted the meet yesterday at Mirpur and later the ICC World Twenty20 2014 logo was unveiled at a gala event at a local hotel.

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**CRYPTOQUIP** 

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