

South Point, La Martiniere Kolkata dominate All India School Regatta

KOLKATA, MAY 29 /- South Point and La Martiniere Kolkata dominated the second day of the K C Mahindra All India Schools' Regatta 2017 as both the schools won a couple of hits each at 500-metre Lake Club course in Rabindra Sarovar here today. While South Point senior boys team beat St. Joseph and Mary their Junior boys side got the better of St. Sebastian "B". In the lone race for the junior girls which was held this morning, La Martiniere outwound Mallickpore High School after their Junior boys team beat St. Sebastian to keep their hope alive for berth in the next round. However, La Martiniere Senior boys team from Lucknow failed to repeat their Kolkata section's feat and lost both their races to St. Thomas and Hurlley High School from the city.

Women's WC training camp in Mumbai

MUMBAI, MAY 29 /- The Indian women's cricket team will undergo a preparatory camp from June 6-10 in Mumbai, ahead of the World Cup to be held in England and Wales from June 24. The team recently enjoyed an unbeaten streak of 16 matches, the second longest in women's ODIs. To boost the team's fielding, the BCCI has appointed Biju George as the fielding coach. The team will leave on June 11 and arrive in England a week prior to the official warm-up matches. They will train at Loughborough MCC University and play a practice match against England Women on June 13 before heading to Derbyshire for a camp. The team will be based in Derby and play two warm-up games against New Zealand Women (June 19) and Sri Lanka Women (June 21). India play their tournament opener against England on June 24. (PTT)

Under-bowled Hardik may not get new ball, feel experts

NEW DELHI, MAY 29 /- Hardik Pandya is a certainty in India's playing XI because of the balance he brings in as a seamer all-rounder but a lot of experts feel that the Baroda player may not be Virat Kohli's choice for the new ball. The general feeling is the length that he hits is not conducive for English conditions. Pandya, after his tour to Australia with the India A squad, has increased a few yards, if one looks at his bowling statistics, the only time he completed his quota of 10 overs in an ODI was against England at Kolkata where Eden Gardens offered seam movement. In the seven ODIs that he has played, Kohli has given Hardik something between 5 to 7 overs. More importantly, in 17 IPL matches this season for Mumbai Indians, their skipper Rohit Sharma used him in 29 overs, which is not even two overs per game. Ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy, he was

Govt says 'No to bilateral cricket with Pak'

NEW DELHI, MAY 29 /- Union sports minister Jayant Goel today made it clear that the Union government will not allow any bilateral cricket between India and Pakistan till the time "cross-border terrorism" does not stop. Goel's firm statement comes on a day the BCCI and the Pakistan Cricket Board are meeting in Dubai to discuss their bilateral ties, which have remained suspended since 2012 due to diplomatic tensions after terror attacks in India. "BCCI should speak to the government before giving any proposal to Pakistan. I have made it clear that bilateral cricket with Pakistan is not possible till the time there is cross-border terror. However, no say on multilateral events (ICC tournaments)," he told newsmen here. The

PCB has already sent a legal notice to BCCI claiming damages in tune of USD 60 million (Rs 387 crore approx) for allegedly not honouring the MoU that had stated five bilateral series in the cycle between 2015 and 2023. It is learnt that the BCCI officials led by joint secretary Amitabh Chaudhary will explain to their PCB counterparts that the series can't be held without government permission and would also request them to withdraw the case. If Pakistan refuses to budge, it is learnt that now way will BCCI pay any compensation in this case. The cash-strapped PCB's finances heavily depend on a series with India which would mean a financial windfall for the nation, where no international cricketing activity has taken place since terrorist attack on Sri Lankan cricket team. (PTT)



Rohit set to get some time at top against Bangladesh

LONDON, MAY 29 /- Rohit Sharma will back in his familiar opening position with an aim to get some quality batting practice when India take on Bangladesh in their final encounter before the Champions Trophy opener against Pakistan. After a convincing 45-run victory against New Zealand in a rain-curtailed opening warm-up match, Virat Kohli will pray that his batsmen get some more game time than the 26 overs they got the other day. For Rohit, it will be back to the opening slot, having batted down the order during the better part of the Indian Premier League. He missed out on the first game as personal commitments led to him joining the squad on Saturday evening. It will be like a complete new cycle for Rohit, whose limited over career was transformed by Mahendra Singh Dhoni's inspired decision to bat in the middle order during India's successful Champions Trophy campaign in 2013. One of the biggest reasons for India's success was the Shikhar Dhawan duo, which is again back to face the new ball in conditions, which will be pretty familiar to the batsmen who have played for India's success in the last 10 years. With Ajinkya Rahane failing as an opener in the first warm-up game, even the remotest thoughts of a change in the batting order at all, will not be entertained by the team management. Kohli, after a well-compiled half-century in the first game, would prefer another good hit out there in the middle along with Mahendra Singh Dhoni,



who looked impressive during his brief stint. It is still not clear if Yuvraj Singh, recovering from a bout of viral fever will be available tomorrow or not. The veteran also needs some batting practice ahead of the Pakistan game. The skipper would also like to give Kedar Jadhav a chance to get a decent hit out there in the middle. Bangladesh has been a very decent side in 50-overs cricket. A testimony to that was their quarter-final finish during the

2015 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. The pace of Mustafizur Rahman, Rubel Hossain, Taskin Ahmed and skipper Mashrafe Mortaza can prove to be more than a handful for any opposition on a given day. In fact, India lost an ODI away series against Bangladesh back in 2015 when Mustafizur was relatively new to international cricket. Pacing them in real match time will mean good preparation ahead of the marquee clash against Pakistan.

Ahead of marquee clash, famous Pak fan turns India supporter

NEW DELHI, MAY 29 /- Well-known Pakistan cricket fan 'Chacha Chicago' is equally well-known for his love for Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Now, with the gradual decline in Pakistan's performance, the Karachi-born Mohammad Bashir has shifted allegiance to the 'formidable' Indian team ahead of the marquee ICC Champions Trophy clash later this week. "Ab koi muqabala nahi hain India Pakistan ka (India-Pakistan match is not the contest it used to be). India bahut age nikal gaya (India are ages ahead of Pakistan)," says the Chicago-based Bashir, who is heartbroken that he would miss his first India-Pakistan clash in close to two years. Bashir has been a familiar figure in the stands whenever the two teams have met and always giving him company has been India's very own Sudhir Bhushwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravichandran Ashwin, Umesh Yadav, Dinesh Karthik, Ajinkya Rahane, Bangladesh's Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Soumya Sarkar, Sabbir Rahman, Mahmudullah Riyadh, Shakib al Hasan, Mashrafe Mortaza, Mustafizur Rahman, Hossain Ahmed, Mehedi Hassan, Mosaddek Hossain, Sunzamul Islam, Shaiful Islam. (PTT) Match Starts: 3 pm IST.



MS Dhoni (l) pictured here with Mohammad Bashir (r). Photo courtesy Mohammad Bashir

Facebook page "That I received during my first trip to Mohali in 2011 was overwhelming. I have come to a stage where I am going to India almost every year and hardly go to Pakistan. I feel much safer in India," says Bashir. Dhoni often gets him tickets to watch cricket matches and had once gifted Bashir, who came to a restaurant in Chicago, a cricket bat. Currently in Saudi Arabia, Bashir is struggling to find a television channel that shows cricket. "It is all about football here. I think I will watch it on the internet. I even wanted to watch India's warm-up against New Zealand but could not." "Ask him about to dissect the line-up of the current India and Pakistan squad. Bashir calls it a no-contest. 'Ek side par Dhoni, Kohli, Yuvraj aur Pakistan mein toh koi bada player hai nahi hain (there is no star player in Pakistan compared to the Indian line-up). 'Whatanera it was when the likes of Avaid Mianad, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis would play. Now I don't even know the names of most players. India should have it easy," he concludes. (PTT)

Stamped out stadium kills 4 fans, unborn fetus in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (HONDURAS), MAY 29 /- Thousands of soccer fans were trying to get away from a stadium for a championship match when police fired tear gas Sunday, and at least four people and an unborn fetus were killed in the crush and 25 others were injured, authorities said. A spokesman for University Teaching Hospital told The Associated Press that the victims died from suffocation and multiple broken bones from being trampled. The fetus died when its mother suffered severe injuries, spokesman Miguel Osorio said. The stamped event happened at Gate 11 of the National Stadium in Honduras as capital as fans tried to push their way into the stadium. A police statement said the match appeared to have been oversold. It said the stadium, which has a capacity of 30,000, was already full while crowds of fans were still outside brandishing tickets. People became angry when they couldn't enter and began forcing their way in, the statement said. About 600 police officers were guarding the stadium and used water cannon and tear gas trying to push back the crowds. Motagua club president Eduardo Atala tweeted afterward that "there is nothing to celebrate with what happened outside the stadium. (AP)

In English conditions, all-out aggression may not work: Kedar

LONDON, MAY 29 /- Kedar Jadhav is naturally excited about featuring in his first ICC event but is fully aware that his all-out aggressive approach won't work in English conditions. Jadhav did not get to bat in India's opening warm-up against New Zealand yesterday but still was able to learn a lot from the sidelines. "Yesterday, I could see the batsmen working hard for every run and did not look settled with the conditions changing frequently," said Jadhav ahead of India's second warm-up against Bangladesh tomorrow. India won the game comfortably with batsmen getting crucial time at the crease amid

changing weather conditions. "There was grass on the wicket and a change in weather conditions means that you are swinging. If it goes like this (in coming games), you could still be aggressive but technically you have to be like you are batting in a Test match or Ranji Trophy. Leave the good balls and score at every opportunity that you get," he said. Jadhav added that he has tightened up his game to counter the conditions. "In the nets, I am trying to play as close to the body as I can," he said. Jadhav further said the team's preparation has been good and personally, he is raring to go. "It is my first ICC trophy. I am more excited than others. It is

a great feeling to playing in a tournament like that," who joined the team late due to visa issues. "I have been so far has been satisfying. Hopefully, I will get to bat in the warm-up tomorrow and then we have four days to acclimatise in Birmingham." He was also asked to give his thoughts on India's tournament opener against Pakistan on Sunday. "I guess as a professional cricketers, we don't involve our emotions. We play all our opponents to accomplish the same intensity. It is the crowd who creates the environment. It is good to have people coming but we treat every opponent with respect," he said. (PTT)

