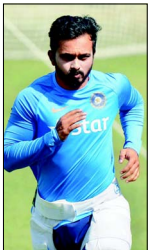


India vs Pakistan

'Control over emotions' imperative in high-voltage ICC Champions Trophy match : Kedar Jadhav

LONDON, MAY 30 /-/- While the cricket world has set eyes on a high-voltage India-Pakistan encounter in the Champions Trophy at Edgbaston on June 4, Kedar Jadhav wants his team to treat the much awaited match just like any other game and keep their emotions aside.



Kedar Jadhav holds a 2-1 lead over their fierce rivals and neighbours in the Champions Trophy, his India who have won 10 out of the 11 contests at the

World Cup and World T20 tournaments between the two sides. India won the last Champions Trophy in 2013 and headed into the marquee event as favourites after a hugely successful home season with 10 Test wins. The Men in Blue are number one in the Test rankings after series victories over New Zealand, England, Bangladesh and Australia, and would hope to carry that form into the Champions Trophy. The 32-year-old, who joined the team late due to visa issue, has played only 15 ODIs so far in his career and thus his excitement to play his first ICC event is all but natural. "It is my first ICC trophy. I am more excited than others. It is a great feeling to play in that tournament, like that," Jadhav said.

We need to forget that we are playing India: Haris Sohail

BIRMINGHAM, MAY 30 /-/- Pakistan do not need any added motivation for their Champions Trophy opener against India but batsman Haris Sohail insists his team has to forget about the opposition it is facing in the marquee clash on Sunday.



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Rain at Edgbaston curtailed Pakistan's final warm-up game before the start of the tournament, with Australia making 57 for one batting first in 10 overs on Monday. For Pakistan, the focus now shifts to taking on India on Sunday in the opening pool encounter at the stadium. The two sides' encounters usually provide a little extra spice. Haris urged his team not to get carried with the rivalry. And when Sunday rolls around, he said, "I am not playing India as a replacement for Umar Akmal, is confident Pakistan will have adjusted to the weather conditions, having had a fortnight on English soil. We have had good preparation, we have had a good couple of days. It is a huge game against India, a really big game. But it is just a game. We are preparing ourselves for all of the hard matches. Our strength is our bowling and fielding and we are working on all these

Team can take lots of positives from England series: Russell Domingo

JOHANNESBURG, MAY 30 /-/- Following South Africa's seven-wicket win over England in the third and final ODI of the series at Lord's, coach Russell Domingo feels his squad is heading in the right direction going into the Champions Trophy beginning June 1. Having already lost the three ODI series, the Proteas showed progressive improvement in the dead rubber which eventually can prove to be a big morale booster before their first Champions Trophy game against Sri Lanka at The Oval on Saturday. And Domingo hopes that his side take the positives from the series and go into the marquee event with lots of confidence.

"Every international game has importance," Sport24 quoted him as saying after Monday's match. "Whether we are two-nil up or two-nil down, we try to approach it with the same sort of intensity. There have been a lot of benefits and a lot of positives in the last two games that we can take through towards the Champions Trophy. I'm happy with the way things have panned out for us today," he added. The 42-year was also satisfied with the return of Morne Morkel, who, while was playing his first ODI in over a year, added strike power to a lethal pace attack led by Man of the Match Kagiso Rabada (3/29) and Wayne Parnell (3/43). "He (Morkel) only bowled four overs," he said. "If he catches a ball, having Morne might strengthen our bowling but it gives us a longer tail not having the three all-rounders. He hasn't played a one-day international in a while, it's good to have him back." He has had a long injury and a long lay-off and the players who have played in his absence have done really well. It will be fair to be fair to them to give them first bite.

Gianluigi Buffon knocking on Ballon d'Or door

LOMBARDY, MAY 30 /-/- As Juventus look to end a 21-year wait for the Champions League title, there are those who believe goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon can end a 54-year wait and be officially crowned the top spot-stopper in Europe. The rock of a team that recently embellished its growing pedigree with a record sixth consecutive title and record third successive league and Cup double, Buffon, many believe, is in firm contention for the Ballon d'Or.

Given the dominance in recent years of Cristiano Ronaldo, a key threat on Saturday when Juventus meet Real Madrid in Cardiff. And, Buffon, a namesake Lionel Messi, such an accolade is not to be underestimated. Especially when considering the only previous goalkeeper honoured was Russian legend Lev Yashin, in 1963. Many have come close, including Buffon, who in 2006 finished second to Italy teammate and Real Madrid defender Fabio Cannavaro. But to match the feats of Yashin, known as the 'Black Spider' for acrobatic goalkeeping feats that wowed the beautiful game in the 1960s, is going to take some doing. AC Milan legend Gianni Rivera, who finished second to Yashin in the 1963 vote, has echoed many in the game who believe Buffon, still in search of an evasive Champions League title, will only get close if Juve are crowned European champions. "It was a historical first, but it was right to give Yashin his award," Rivera recently said in an interview with Corriere della Sera. "I only found out later I'd come second."

DAV Chandigarh shines on 3rd day of Schools Regatta

KOLKATA, MAY 30 /-/- Displaying fine form DAV Public School from Chandigarh today reached closer to a berth in the knock-out stage for the senior boys category as they defeated city based Khalsa High School comfortably on the third day of the 45th KC Mahindra All India Invitation Schools Regatta. Chandigarh outfit that won their first hit on the inaugural day, produced another sparkling show winning their race without much struggle with a timing of 2 minutes 4 seconds. The best timing of the day, they completed the 500 metre course. In the senior boys event National High School and St

There was no need for BCCI to meet PCB: Goel



Vijay Goel said there was no need for the Indian board officials to meet their Pakistani counterparts when they knew the bilateral cricketing ties were subject to clearance from the government.

NEW DELHI, MAY 30 /-/- Sports Minister Vijay Goel said there was no need for the Indian board officials to meet their Pakistani counterparts when they knew the bilateral cricketing ties were subject to clearance from the government. "I would want to know why they went ahead with the meeting when they knew that the series was subject to government clearance. What I can say is that we cannot play bilateral series with Pakistan until it stops cross-border terrorism," Goel told PTI when asked about the meeting between BCCI and PCB in Dubai on Monday. The meeting between the two boards did not yield any decisive outcome and slim hopes of resumption of bilateral series in the near future were dashed with outright rejection from the Indian government. BCCI is represented by joint secretary Amitabh Choudhary along with CEO Rahul Johar and Chief (Cricket Operations) MV Sridhar, discussed the pressing issues including the USD 60 million compensation demanded by the PCB. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has sent a legal notice to BCCI claiming damages to the 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 2015-2023. Goel, Minister of Sports and Minister Lal Thanhawla at his residence on Tuesday and the two spoke about development of sports in north-eastern state. "We had already sanctioned a football field costing Rs 4.5 crore and we have now approved another synthetic football turf," added Goel.

Impressive Karthik makes his case, India score 324/7

LONDON, MAY 30 /-/- Dinesh Karthik made a strong case for a middle-order slot with a stylish 94 off 77 balls to propel India to a formidable 324 for seven against Bangladesh in their second ICC Champions Trophy warm-up game here today.



Dinesh Karthik in action during warm-up match against Bangladesh ahead ICC Champions Trophy at The Oval, in London.

Shikhar Dhawan (60) also set runs under the attack against quality Bangladesh comprising Mustafizur Rahman (1/53), Rubel Hossain (3/50) and Taskin Ahmed (0/45). Hardik Pandya showed his utility as an all-rounders with an equally impactful unbeaten 80 off 54 balls, which was laced with six boundaries and four huge sixes in the arc between mid-wicket and long-on. Courtesy of Hardik's big hits towards the end, India crossed 200-run mark. Skipper Virat Kohli and former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni did not bat, giving others an opportunity to get a good hit before the big-ticket Pakistan game. With Yuvraj Singh not coming out to bat, indicating that he was to get fit, Karthik, after his failure against New Zealand, grabbed the second opportunity. He hit eight boundaries and a six and, in the process, also sent the team to a 100-run lead during his innings under mostly overcast conditions. His first boundary was a cut

runs with Dhawan for the third wicket after Rohit Sharma (1) and Ajinkya Rahane's (11) lack of footwork saw them getting plied on. Rohit was dismissed by Rubel while Mustafizur got the better of Rahane. But Karthik showed composure during his innings under mostly overcast conditions. His first boundary was a cut

shot off Taskin followed by a superb straight drive off Mustafizur. He was severe on off-spinner Mossadek Hossain and left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam, cutting and pulling anything that was short. Sunzamul was pulled for a four and a six in one of the overs and he also ran the singles well. Dhawan hit seven fours --

mostly through off and cover and was more patient than Karthik, waiting for the loose balls. He faced 67 balls before being out at mid-wicket off Sunzamul, who went for 74 in his nine overs. Kedar Jadhav (31) also got some batting time while Ravindra Jadeja (32) chipped in with useful contribution. (PTI)

India can retain CT, pace attack has real firepower: Sangakkara

LONDON, MAY 30 /-/- Former Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara on Tuesday said defending champions India were capable of retaining the Champions Trophy title as they were a better balanced unit with "real firepower in their fast bowling".



Kumar Sangakkara on Tuesday said defending champions India were capable of retaining the Champions Trophy title as they were a better balanced unit with "real firepower in their fast bowling".

"This year we have four Asian teams in the tournament and clearly India is current the pack-leaders in the region. It won in 2013 and it has a team capable of winning this year too," Sangakkara wrote in his column in ICC's website. "In fact, the team is arguably stronger, better balanced with real firepower in its fast bowling. Its spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are excellent. Virat Kohli is going to be desperate to bounce back after a disappointing IPL," he added. The wicketkeeper-batsman, however, felt that India's selection was a "little conservative". "The only slight concern I have for India is that its selection was perhaps a little conservative, but it is still very strong," he said. The 39-year-old picked India as one of his favourite teams to make the semifinals of the upcoming tournament, starting on June 1. "I think picking finalists is too tough, but my favourites for the semi-finals would be Australia, England, India and South Africa," Sangakkara, who won the Champions Trophy 2002 and World Twenty20 2014 with Sri Lanka, said. Sangakkara, who quit international cricket

two years ago having scored a total of 28,016 international runs across all formats, said the competition was going to be very tough with 4-5 teams having the potential of making it to the final. "There was a time, not so long ago, when one or two countries dominated the format, but in the past few years we have seen several teams develop tremendously and now we have four to five teams who are very evenly matched, all with realistic ambitions of winning major tournaments."

Heaping praise on the hosts, Sangakkara said that England team has been a real revelation. "England ODI team's progress in the past two years has been a revelation. It used to trail behind other teams in terms of its strategy and approach, but now it is one of the most progressive teams." England is playing an aggressive and exciting brand of cricket that is and has some world-class players driving that," Sangakkara said. (PTI)

Ernesto Valverde as new manager at Camp Nou

BARCELONA, MAY 30 /-/- Spanish coach Ernesto Valverde is the man charged with reviving Barcelona's fortunes after being confirmed as the Catalan giants' new boss on Monday. Valverde has the ability, the judgement, the knowledge and the experience to lead the young players and he has a Barca way 'club president Josep Maria Bartomeu said. Valverde would be officially unveiled on Thursday. Valverde, 53, a former Barca player who left Athletic Bilbao after four years in charge last week, replaces Luis Enrique with the task of getting the most out of a star-studded squad containing Lionel Messi,

Neymar and Luis Suarez. Luis Enrique signed off his three seasons in charge with a ninth trophy of his reign on Saturday's Copa del Rey final against Alaves. However, the daily grind of the pressure at the Camp Nou forced him to announce back in March he would leave at the end of the campaign even before Barcelona's defeat on both La Liga and the Champions League this season. Despite not being a household name outside of Spain, Valverde has a wealth of coaching experience having taken charge of over 500 games. His only honours as a player came in a two-year spell at Barcelona under Johann Cruyff between 1988 and 1990 where he lifted the Cup Winners' Cup and the

Copa del Rey. However, Valverde has consistently got the best out of the resources at his disposal as a coach in two spells at both Athletic and Olympiakos and stints with Espanyol, Villarreal and Valencia. Indeed he inflicted Luis Enrique's sjoistheaviest defeat as Barca boss with a 4-0 thrashing of the then European champions on the way to winning the Spanish Super Cup with Athletic in 2015. And he also won three Greek titles in three seasons at Olympiakos. Moreover, Valverde's calm and composed nature was favoured by the Barca board over the more fiery approach of the other leading candidate Jorge Sampaoli, who is expected to leave Sevilla to take over as Argentina boss.

Advertisement for 45th KC Mahindra All India Invitation Schools' Regatta 2017. The ad features a group photo of students and text detailing the event dates (28th May - 3rd June 2017) and location (South Point Junior Girls team).