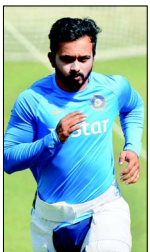


India vs Pakistan

'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.

"As professional cricketers, we don't involve our emotions. We need to play every game with the same amount of intensity," Jadhav told the reporters. "It's all about the crowd that creates this kind of environment. It's good to have people coming to see the match when it is an India-Pakistan game. But for us cricketers, it's always about treating every game with the same kind of intensity and treating every opponent with the same amount of respect," he said.



While Pakistan hold a 2-1 lead over their fierce rivals and neighbours in the Champions Trophy, it is 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 head 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.

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There was no need for BCCI to meet PCB: Goel



NEW DELHI, MAY 30 /-/- Sports Minister Vijay Goel on Tuesday 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 ICM (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 the quality Bangladesh attack comprising Mustafizur Rahman (1/53), Rubel Hossain (3/50) and Taskin Ahmed (0/45). Hardik Pandya showed his utility as an all-rounder 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 batsmen, 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

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 --

runners with Dhawan for the third wicket after Rohit Sharma (1) and Ajinkya Rahane's (11) lack of footwork saw them getting bowled out. 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

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)

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.



Haris Sohail insists his team has to forget about the opposition it is facing in the marquee clash on Sunday.

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, "We are preparing ourselves for all of the hard matches. Our strength is our bowling and fielding and we are working on all these aspects of our game. It is difficult for us but we have had good preparation to adapt to English conditions but we have been here for 10 days before our first game and we have five days more before our first game."

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 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.

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 Barcelona versus 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 of 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."

He added: "Buffon deserves to win it for what he's still doing on the pitch. If he wins the Champions League with Juventus, it will be the crowning glory of his career. It has been an extraordinary career." Now 39 and heading towards retirement following the 2018 World Cup in Russia, Buffon remains one of the world's best. In a season that has seen Juventus ditch a conservative 3-5-2 formation for a more inventive and attacking 4-2-3-1 in which defensive duties remain a priority, Buffon has been superb. Especially in Europe, where he defied his years and produced three remarkable stops on his way to seeing Juventus put one leg into the final with a precious 2-0 win over Monaco at the Stade Louis II last month. It is not for nothing that Buffon, who has seen Juventus through thick and thin - remaining with the club following their demotion to Serie B following the Calciopoli match-fixing scandal - is regarded, in parliamentary terms as the 'Speaker of the House'. At the head of the Juventus dressing room there are two, plush seats that resemble thrones. Buffon sits on the right, with notoriously media-shy but hugely-respected Croatian forward Mario Mandzukic to his left. From this Buffon commands the dressing room. Although the big keeper is the first to admit, "You have to make the saves. If I'm not making saves, then I can't start giving lessons."

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".



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".

"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 the ICC 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

Modi praises Germany's success in football, Bundesliga

BERLIN, MAY 30 /-/- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today praised Germany's investment in its youth and promoting a sporting culture in the country, pointing out that its football league Bundesliga has a huge following in India. Modi said India wants to enhance cooperation with Germany to replicate the success achieved by the key European nation.

"Very few people would know that Bundesliga has a widespread following in India," he said in his speech after India and Germany signed 12 MoUs and agreements covering diverse sectors, including youth development and vocational training. Germany's Bundesliga is one of the top association football leagues in Europe, and the football league with the highest average stadium attendance worldwide. Germany over the years has made immense investment in its youth system, producing some of the world's best football players. The country's focus on promoting a sporting culture has made the German national side one of the most successful teams in international footballing competitions. They have won a total of four World Cups - in 1954, 1974, 1990, 2014 - and three European Championships - in 1972, 1980, 1996. This year, the FIFA U-17 World Cup is scheduled in India in October and the final will be played in Kolkata. As hosts, India will feature in the 24-team event, which will be the first time an Indian team will participate in a FIFA tournament. (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 Tuesday.

Neymar and Luis Suarez Luis Enrique signed off his three seasons in charge with a ninth trophy of his reign in Saturday's Copa del Rey final against Alaves.

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 stoniest 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 European 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.

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 exit 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

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,

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 knockout stage for the senior boys category as they defeated city based Khalsa Public 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, however, came from the 500 metre course. In the senior boys event National High School and St

Thomas, both of whom are strong contenders for the title also proved their might and won their second hit against South Point and Patha Bhavan. In the Junior Girls section La Martiniere Kolkata "A" and South Point started their campaign winning their respective hits without much efforts. After rowing Ashok Hall, La Martiniere timed 2 minutes 4 seconds to beat G D Birla High School while South Point beat Gurbachan High School clocking 2 minutes 38.97 seconds. In the junior boys section St. Sebastian continued to shine with a timing of 2 minutes 47.35 seconds. They defeated Nava Nalanda High School with a timing of 2 minutes 47.35 seconds.



South Point Junior Girls team along with their Cox and Coach