

# PCB announces filing of compensation case against BCCI before ICC Committee for bilateral series refusal

**KARACHI, MAR 31 /-** The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced that it would file a compensation case against the BCCI before the ICC Disputes Resolution Committee for India's refusal to play Pakistan in bilateral series.

PCB Chairman Shaharyar Khan said, after a meeting of the Board of Governors, that he had not been authorised to pursue the compensation case against India. He said a legal notice will be sent shortly to BCCI and after that the PCB will file a case before the ICC Disputes Resolution Committee. "We have now decided to pursue the legal course and we will be sending a notice to the BCCI after which we will

move forward to recoup our losses as we want to play cricket and we don't believe in this matter of government and politics not allowing India a media to play with us," he told a media conference in Lahore. "We see no chance of a Pakistan and India bilateral series. Political relations have also been tense in the past but we still had cricket series. But with the Modi government (in India) we don't think they (India) will play us in existing circumstances," he said. "India signed a proper MoU which is more off a contract between the two Boards to play six series out of which two have already been wasted while the third this year is also unlikely. As a result

we have suffered heavy losses of revenues," he added. Khan said if the ICC committee fails to resolve the issue and help Pakistan recoup its losses because of India's refusal to play Pakistan in bilateral series, then the Board would be filing a legal case in the courts against the BCCI.

"We are very hopeful as our case for compensation is very strong. But if we don't win there (at the ICC Disputes Resolution Committee), we are now prepared to file a legal case against the BCCI in court," Khan said. "We will go to the courts if the ICC Disputes Resolution Committee can't resolve our matter and help us recoup our losses,"

he said. Khan said this decision had been made after extensive discussions with the Board's legal team which said the PCB could go to court. He made the point that Pakistan had no option but to now pursue a legal course against the BCCI.

"We can't just sit around and wait for them (BCCI) to say yes. They have not played a full bilateral series with us since 2007. The PCB chief also confirmed that Pakistan would be pushing at the ICC meeting in April to get the draft of the new ICC constitution passed and end the Big Three governance and financial system which is supported by India. The draft of new constitution was prepared at the last ICC

meeting. India and Sri Lanka had opposed it while Zimbabwe abstained as they have some concerns with the new constitution as it put their Test status under scrutiny," Khan said. He said the ICC had asked for member Boards to submit their responses and observations to the new draft constitution and Pakistan has done that.

"From what we know BCCI has also sent a 11 page report and they are now trying to win the support of Zimbabwe as well to oppose the end of the Big Three governance system. But we are confident the new constitution of the ICC will be approved and passed at the annual June meeting," he said.



## Virat let emotions affect his batting against Oz: Ganguly

**DUBAI, MAR 31 /-** Virat Kohli's batting was affected by his emotional outbursts in the acrimonious Test series against Australia. Former captain Sourav Ganguly, who is hoping that the Indian skipper "cools down" to score big runs, observed that Kohli's desire to win at any cost as a captain led to his outbursts.

"Against Australia, probably he (Kohli) was so consumed by wanting to win as captain that he let his emotions affect his batting. This will also serve as a lesson for Virat. He's such a precocious talent. I hope he cools down and gets back to scoring big again," Ganguly wrote in an exclusive column for the ICC website.

India got the better of Australia 2-1 at home in one of the most intense and bitterly-fought series in 100 years. The contest was marred by one controversy after another with the two captains - Kohli and Steve Smith - continuously being in the eye of a storm. Kohli was in sublime form before this series, but he was the only man to slam double hundreds in four consecutive series. The 28-year-old amassed 1457 runs in 17 matches this season. But he had a horrendous outing with the bat in the series against Tests against Australia, totalling just 46 runs in five innings with scores of 0, 13, 12, 15 and 6 in three games. He had to sit out of the fourth and final Test because of a shoulder injury. Ganguly, regarded as one of India's most successful captains, rated Kohli as among of the finest in the world while describing him as a passionate skipper.



his delight at watching KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Umesh Yadav gain in confidence and match Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin. He tipped Cheteshwar Pujara as the batsman who will be most critical to India's success in the series. "More than the results, I enjoyed the journey, watching how players like KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Umesh Yadav gained in confidence and matched the two champions, Virat and Ravichandran Ashwin," Ganguly wrote.

"But the one who stood out was Cheteshwar Pujara. I remember when he was dropped for a Test in West Indies last year, I had said Pujara was a special batsman and shouldn't have been dropped. A small matter of 1,316 runs have come from his bat this season and Pujara will be the most critical player to win anywhere in the world. "And having watched the 13 home Tests, I hope Virat and his team really has the potential to win anywhere - in or outside India," he said. Talking about the Dharamsha Test, which according to him was the highlight of the season, Ganguly wrote: "I was sitting at home around lunchtime on Day Three when Australia began its second innings. "Over the next hour or so, I watched such a great piece of fast and hostile bowling by the two Indians, Umesh Yadav and Bhuvneshwar Kumar. The way they got the Australians hopping and succumb-

ing to the pace, I am so pleased for Virat. "The most memorable win came in conditions actually tailor-made for the Australians more than the Indians. The fact that India beat the Aussies at their own game will surely give another twist to Virat's captaincy." Ganguly also said chief coach Anil Kumble played a big role in India's success in the home season. "When the BCCI appointed a three-member panel that had Tendulkar, Laxman and me to help in the process of selecting a coach, Anil's vision was as decisive as his bowling used to be. He wanted India to win in India obviously, but outside of India too and while he knew it was easier said than done, his assessment of the situation was superb," he wrote.

With him, I hope the spinners, who generally always pick wickets by the bucket loads in India, contribute to the team's success when they travel abroad. Just like Anil and Bhajji (Harbhajan Singh) did. That would fit the last riddle in his jigsaw puzzle. "Virat and his team will hope to solve," Ganguly rated Steve Smith's century in the opening Test in Pune as one of the best he has seen from a visiting batsman. "Not because India didn't play well but because Australia's captain Steve Smith decided to make the transition from a good batsman to a great batsman during this series. The century he scored in Pune ranks amongst one of the best by a visiting batsman in India - and I have seen many," he wrote. (PTI)

## Mohun Bagan aim to revive title campaign

**KOLKATA, MAR 31 /-** Still smarting from their AFC Cup defeat, Mohun Bagan will look to return to winning ways and revive their I-League campaign when they face defending champions Bengaluru FC here on Saturday. Mohun Bagan squandered their lead to lose to Bengaluru FC 2-1 with second-half strikes from Sunil Chhetri and Sandesh Jhingan in their AFC Cup group match on March 14. The two heavyweights clash again tomorrow when the I-League resumes after a break. Bengaluru need a miracle to retain the title as they are fifth in the table with 18 points from 13 outings, while third-placed Mohun Bagan have 23 points with a match in hand. But Bengaluru coach Albert Roca said they would continue to carry the momentum forward. "We all know the importance of the match and how big a team Mohun Bagan is as everybody respects the club. So it's a big moment," he said. "It will be a test of character for us," coach Sanjoy Sen said. "I have discussed with the boys, we have our strategies. We have a fair idea about their strengths and weaknesses. We are confident we will play against them recently. We have to play according to our plan and try to snatch full points," he said. Meanwhile, it is turning out to be three-



way title race for the top spot in the standings led by Aizawl FC (30 from 14), followed by East Bengal (27 from 14). Asked about their defeat in the AFC Cup, Sen said: "I am not looking at the AFC Cup. The focus is on the league. We can lose on a given day. It's all part of the game. This is a different match." Mohun Bagan's ace Haitian forward Sony Norde has joined the team this morning. "He (Norde) is tired after a long flight. The good thing is he's match-fit and would be in my 18-member squad," Sen said.

## Sindhu beats Saina in clash of titans

**NEW DELHI, MAR 31 /-** In an exciting clash, Olympic silver medalist PV Sindhu today prevailed over compatriot Saina Nehwal in a hard-fought straight-game encounter to advance to the semifinals of the In Open Super Series here.

Sindhu emerged victorious over her senior pro 21-16 20-18 in the much-anticipated contest to set up a clash with second seeded Korea Sung Ji Hyun. Sindhu, who had won the match against Saina in an international competition -- at the 2014 Syed Modi International -- where Saina had won in straight games. They had played against each other in PBL 2013, where Sindhu had won an upper hand. They had also faced each other in the Indian Badminton League in 2013 when Saina emerged victorious. Earlier in the day, second seeded Katsen Sang Ji Hyun edged out defending champion Ratchanok Intanon, seeded fifth, 21-12 21-12 in an all-Japanese contest.

Sindhu's win in two time runners-up Viktor Axelsen of Denmark edged out a hard-fought 19-21 21-14 21-16 with Chinese Taipei's Tzu Wei Wang to reach the semifinals. (PTI)

## IPL-10: Ashwin, Rahul, Vijay out some rest for Umesh, Jadeja

**NEW DELHI, MARCH 31 /-** The Indian Premier League (IPL) was today robbed of some of its brightest stars as Ravichandran Ashwin and a host of top Indian players pulled out of the event's 10th edition beginning on April 5, owing to a grueling international season.

There were unconfirmed reports that Ashwin's left-arm 'cutter' mustafizur Rahman, who was instrumental in Sunrisers Hyderabad's triumph, may also skip the cash-rich event. Ashwin, who was to represent Rajasthan Royals, will be missing the tournament due to recurrence of sports hernia while Test team opener Murali Vijay (last year's captain of Kings XI Punjab) and Lokesh Rahul (RCB) are all set to miss the league due to imminent shoulder surgery. It was also learnt that Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma is also recovering from a knee injury and may miss a few games. Kolkata Knight Riders pacer Umesh Yadav and Gujarat Lions' biggest draw Ravindra Jadeja also need rest after an exacting home season. Umesh, Rohit and Jadeja are automatic selections in India's Champions Trophy squad. However, both Jadeja and Umesh will miss the bulk of the two matches but may be given some time to freshen up, when their respective franchises play the first few games. All this after skipper Virat Kohli, arguably the biggest draw of the glamor-



(From Left) KL Rahul, Ravichandran Ashwin and Murali Vijay can miss out IPL

ous event, is set to miss a few matches due to shoulder injury. A 100 per cent fit Ashwin is a must for India in the upcoming Champions Trophy in England from June 1 and playing 14 matches with little gap and lot of travelling would have only aggravated his problem. The 30-year-old all-rounder has featured in all the 13 home Test matches this season. He has had an unbelievable workload of bowling a staggering 738.2 overs in which he has taken an astounding 89 wickets.

It is the highest by any Indian bowler in a season, contributing handsomely in bulk of India's 10 Test victories. Jadeja, who is expected to be rested in a few IPL games, has also bowled no less than 717 overs, getting 71 wickets. Fast bowler Umesh has sent down 355.5 overs in 12 games with 30

wickets to his name. One has to take into account that Umesh's overs were bowled in Indian conditions where, save Kolkata and Dharamsha, the wickets were not exactly conducive to fast bowling. In case of Rahul and Vijay, both have had injury issues, especially shoulder, during the home season.

In fact, a source close to the team management had once revealed that whenever Rahul played a lofted shot, he would get a jerk on his shoulder and physio Patrick Farhat needed to come to his rescue. There were also reports that the Indian team management had a discussion with IPL authorities and accordingly the BCCI is trying to ensure that the players don't get jaded by the time Champions Trophy starts where Kohli's boys will be defend-



## Sachin Tendulkar Calls Cheteshwar 'Silent Warrior'

**MUMBAI, MAR 31 /-** Batting great Sachin Tendulkar has called Cheteshwar Pujara a "silent warrior" for the quiet manner in which he goes about his business of stroking long innings in a team full of grommeters. During the fourth and final Test against Australia in Dharamsha, Pujara created a new record by scoring the most runs in a Test season, breaking the previous mark set by Gautam Gambhir eight years ago.

Pujara has been a silent warrior, terrific temperament, and somebody again who (is) dedicated, disciplined and focused. I have seen him from close quarters and I was impressed with what I saw. I knew that this guy is there for long time," said Tendulkar. Pujara's knock of 202 in the Rancho Test against Australia turned out to be the longest innings by an Indian in the five-day format. Prior to that, a 92 in the second innings of the second Test in Bengaluru played a key role in India's win. Tendulkar heaped praise on fast bowler Umesh Yadav for showing up throughout a long home season. "The way guys have shown discipline and commitment, 13 Test matches in a row. I don't remember anything like that happening during series. And someone like Umesh (Yadav) have played 12 of them, so for a fast bowler it is really taxing, that shows that you are a true warrior," he said.

Tendulkar told reporters on Thursday. The veteran of 200 Tests added, "Umesh is a kind of a bowler who keeps on giving you a little bit more and more he bows the better he gets. And you could see that, the last innings of the season that he bowled was possibly the best he's ever bowled. He's a 10-year-old pacer from Vidarbha picked up 17 wickets in four Tests against Australia. Tendulkar said, "I think

somebody who bowls good reverse swing will always be effective in India. (The) surfaces, texture, there is reverse swing and it happened in Dharamsha as well. Umesh bowled a couple of damn good reverse swingers." Tendulkar also spoke highly of India's lower-order batsmen for capturing the "critical moments" which he felt played an important part in the team's successful home season. India won 10 of their 13 Tests in series involving New Zealand, England and Australia in a one-off game against Bangladesh. "The season has been tremendous for our team. There have been challenging moments when he felt played an important part in the time. Those were critical moments when the Test match could have gone either way, but you have taken away the match from the opposition," Tendulkar said. The batting maestro added, "When any team which has that kind of strength when bowlers



can go out and score those critical runs for you, a keeper can score hundred for you, you become a solid side. "So, obviously, first six batsmen and 7.8 can also contribute," Tendulkar said. People like Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara, who have contributed handsomely, scoring three centuries during the season, and Tendulkar described the wicketkeeper's feat as "incredible."

"These guys have really played well at crunch moments, which can decide the Test match and sometimes a series. I felt that was the difference and you can see it. "When both teams are going neck to neck and then suddenly one team starts pulling away, you can see the difference and that's what has happened," said Tendulkar. To start with, India swept aside New Zealand 3-0, then hammered England 4-0 in a five-match rubber, won the lone Test against Bangladesh and then notched up a 2-1 come-from-behind win against Australia.

## 'Kohli's friendship comments said in heat of moment'

**MELBOURNE, MAR 31 /-** Spin legend Shane Warne says he would be disappointed if Indian captain Virat Kohli did not rethink his "heat of the moment" comment on friendship with the Australian cricketers. At the end of one of the most bitterly-fought but intense Test series in recent times, Kohli had stated that he would no longer be friends with Australian cricketers, only to insist two days later that his comment was blown out of proportion. "Virat is a very likeable guy and I love the fact he plays with so much passion," Warne told 'news.com.au'. "But I am sure he's thinking now there are a few good Aussies out there that I'm friends with and I'd be disappointed if that wasn't the case." The second highest wicket-taker in Test cricket, Warne recalled that he also had his share of run-ins during his playing days.

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