

> YUKI BHAMBRI, whose win sent India through to the Davis Cup World Group playoffs

shortstories



Prosper Utseya

UTSEYA ACCUSES CAMPBELL OF RACISM

HARARE: Zimbabwe off-spinner Prosper Utseya has claimed that he is a victim of racism and has levelled a string of allegations against former captain and ZC's managing director Alistair Campbell. In a letter to Zimbabwe Cricket chairman, Wilson Manase, the 30-year-old spinner said Campbell has a "personal agenda against him which influenced his non-selection (in the playing XI) at the recent World Cup". According to a report in 'ESPNcricinfo.com', Utseya alleged that Campbell "appointed white coaches and administrators during his 2010-2012 stint as chairman of the cricket committee in order to take control of cricket". "(Campbell) had a conflict of interest in setting up Dominus Sport, the company that ran ZC's marketing affairs during his time as cricket committee chairman, and his actions had an impact on ZC's funds," Utseya said in the letter. Utseya confirmed that he had written the letter after the World Cup and prior to Zimbabwe's tour of Pakistan. Campbell said he was unable to comment as the matter was pending legal disciplinary action.

Bangladesh can beat any team, feels Tamim Iqbal

CHITTAGONG: Bangladesh batsman Tamim Iqbal has said beating the mighty South African cricket team to a series-win was a massive achievement for his team. The aggressive opener believes they are capable of beating any major team in international cricket. Chasing 170, Bangladesh created history with a resounding nine-wicket win here on Wednesday to clinch their first-ever One-Day International (ODI) series against the game's big boys 2-1. Earlier, after easily losing the first ODI by eight wickets, the hosts fought back convincingly in the second ODI to level the series. "Beating South Africa... this is a huge moment for Bangladesh cricket. This Bangladesh team has the ability to beat any team of the world," said Tamim.

Proteas bring Mandela spirit to fans in Chittagong

JOHANNESBURG: In a sporting gesture, the South African cricket team interacted with young patients at a hospital in Bangladesh on International Nelson Mandela Day during their ongoing tour of the country. The programme was organised by International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN). The youngsters from Chittagong Medical Hospital, all born with life-limiting conditions, were treated yesterday to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of spending the afternoon with the Proteas in celebration of Mandela Day, the Cricket South Africa said in a statement on Sunday. "We knew that back home most South Africans would be spending 67 minutes doing good deeds in Nelson Mandela's memory and we felt we wanted to share that Madiba legacy with the people of Chittagong," said Proteas assistant coach Adrian Birrell.

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TOUR DE FRANCE
7:20pm, day 16, live on Ten Sports.
- KABADDI**
PRO LEAGUE
7:50pm, Pune v Hyderabad
9:00pm, Mumbai v Patna, live on Star Sports 2, 3, HD2 & HD3.

SC sword dangling, IPL to name group for way forward

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MUMBAI: Forced into action following the hammer blow dealt by the Supreme Court-appointed panel, the Indian Premier League's Governing Council members got together on Sunday to decide on the course of action following the two-year suspensions of the Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals owners. In all probability, the IPL will have two new teams for the next edition of the tournament, in place of CSK and RR. That is the view which emerged from the GC meeting held here. Even though some members batted in support of the two

beleaguered outfits in the meeting which lasted more than an hour, from all indications it looks like a lost cause, at least for the next two seasons. The BCCI statement after the meeting clearly stated that it will adhere to the SC panel's verdict in totality. "BCCI respects the verdict of the Lodha Commission and will abide by their decisions, in toto. The members recognised that there is an urgent need to understand the impact of this decision and the wider ramifications for BCCI in detail, so as to uphold the paramountcy of the game in our country," the statement said, borrowing a legal term used by Justice Lodha while explaining his panel's order on July 14.

STAYING AFLOAT

The biggest challenge for CSK and RR is to save themselves from being terminated, and going by the proceedings in the meeting there are members gunning for it. According to Board sources, its former treasurer and a GC member, Ajay Shirke, in attendance via video conference, raised that topic, citing the clause of bringing disrepute to the league. He suggested completing the process of two new teams and then deciding the fate of CSK and RR. There were voices against such an extreme step, including Ravi Shastri, also on video conference, and a senior Board office-bearer from the North. The argument against the

IN A NUTSHELL

The IPL Governing Council decided to implement the Justice RM Lodha panel's order in full and set up a working group to plan the modalities. The group will be given six weeks to submit its recommendations. IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla will constitute the working group and the Board will announce the names of the members on Monday. The recommendations of the group will be sent to the GC, which will deliberate and share its views with the BCCI working committee.

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him that earlier he had himself conducted a 10-team tournament when Kochi and Pune teams were part of the IPL. The 2019 World Cup will be hosted by England and Wales, from May 30 to July 15.

AUTONOMY FEARS

BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur is known to have observed that action will have to be taken after the SC verdict while Sourav Ganguly seems to have played neutral, restricting his inputs to the need of having eight teams. There will be no shortage of buyers. "The valuation may be comparatively down but there are many interested parties ready to bid for the IPL franchisee", said a senior BCCI member.

The Board is under pressure and the judgement everyone is nervous about is the third one where the Lodha committee will focus on the functioning and structure of the Board. If the Board doesn't take any measures, they are afraid the court's hammer may come down on them harder and go on to curb their autonomy. Even putting them under the Right to Information Act will be a big blow. The members of the working group will be announced on Monday and are likely to comprise IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla, Thakur, GC members Shirke and Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Usha Nath Bannerjee, the Board's legal counsel.

Reverse sweep sees India through

TURNAROUND Somdev, Yuki win singles to take team into World Group playoffs

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CHRISTCHURCH: India claimed both reverse singles to snatch a dramatic 3-2 victory over New Zealand in their Davis Cup tie on Sunday.

Victory in the Asia-Oceania second round tie qualifies India for the World Group playoffs in September.

New Zealand went into the final day in Christchurch with a 2-1 lead only to find themselves totally outplayed, with the two reverse singles settled in straight sets.

Somdev Devvarman, who lost his first singles game on Friday in five sets, made amends in his second outing when he saw off Marcus Daniell 6-4, 6-4 sending the tie into a decisive fifth and final match.

Daniell, a doubles specialist who won Saturday with partner Artem Sitak, was a late change for the singles after Kiwi number one Rubin Statham pulled out of the reverse singles with influenza.

Yuki Bhambri then closed out the tie, taking just one hour 49 minutes to complete a 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 win over New Zealand hope Michael Venus who had earlier beaten Devvarman.

Venus had a break point to go ahead 4-2 in the third set but could not convert and then had two break point chances to equalise at 4-4.

India now face a team from the first round of the World Group from earlier in the year, while New Zealand will remain in the Asia-Oceania Group One in 2016.

'NO BETTER FEELING'

Yuki is relishing the fact that his was a decisive win in the fifth rubber which took them to World Group Playoffs.

"I have been working hard. I worked the last two weeks in the Delhi heat to be ready if I had to play long matches and I've been trying to improve my game so just happy that I could do my bit for the country and the team. There is no better feeling than to win the last rubber," said Yuki.

The 23-year-old said the Kiwi players may be lower-ranked but they were no pushovers.

"Believe me we are happy that we pulled this off. Don't forget we were very close to losing and I don't think India has come back from 2-1 down to win 3-2 on too many occasions," he said.

Yuki is keen to carry forward his good form into the ATP circuit. "Yes I would love to keep it going. I have a busy schedule in the States so hopefully can win a few matches before the US Open," he said.

Asked if he has made any changes to his training, Yuki said, "Nothing new, the usual, just trying to work on my fitness and endurance so trying to do a lot of running."



The demons of his loss in the fifth rubber against Serbia last year did not come back to haunt him on Sunday, when Yuki Bhambri won the decider to send India to the Davis Cup World Group playoffs.

MURRAY SETS UP BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA SHOWDOWN

PARIS: Exhausted Andy Murray set up a potentially epic Davis Cup semi-final against Lleyton Hewitt's Australia on Sunday when he spearheaded Great Britain's 3-1 quarter-final win over France.

World No 3 Murray clinched his country's first semi-final berth for 34 years with a 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, 6-0 win over Gilles Simon, sealing the tie 3-1 after playing three days

in succession at Queen's Club in London. The 28-year-old's 23rd win from 25 Davis Cup singles matches secured a first victory over old rivals France since 1978 and took Britain back to the last four for the first time since 1981.

Murray who won both singles matches and the doubles with brother Jamie, said: "It feels unbelievable to get through. I used up my last

ounces of energy. "It wasn't looking good in the second set. I was making too many mistakes but I didn't care how I played. I just wanted to win.

Britain haven't won the Davis Cup since 1936 and their last final appearance came in 1978. They will host Australia in the last four in September while Belgium and Argentina meet in the other semi-final.

FIGHT TO FINISH

Trailing 1-2, India made a phenomenal comeback against New Zealand to win 3-2 and qualify for the World Group playoffs on Sunday. Here's a look at the previous five instances when India fought back from the brink of defeat in Davis Cup:



Somdev Devvarman (second from left), whose win levelled the tie before Yuki Bhambri (fourth from left) won for India, credited Rohan Bopanna (third from left) and captain Anand Amritraj (fourth from right) with boosting the team's morale ahead of the final day.

COMEBACKS

India bt Brazil 3-2, Chennai
2010, World Group playoff

Having lost the first two singles ties, Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes kept India in the hunt winning their doubles match in straight sets. Somdev Devvarman and Rohan Bopanna made amends to win their reverse singles matches as India edged past Brazil 3-2.

India bt Netherlands 3-2, Jaipur
1996, World Group 1st Round

Leander Paes failed to win his singles and doubles tie partnering Mahesh Bhupathi. But the latter's victory in his singles match kept India alive. Paes then made amends to level the scores 2-2 before Bhupathi made it 3-2 in favour of India.

WINNING IT IN THE FIFTH RUBBER

India bt Uzbekistan, New Delhi
2008, Group I Asia/Oceania 1st round

With the scores level 2-2, India opted to play Prakash Amritraj in the final singles match instead of Somdev Devvarman, who had lost earlier on. The gamble paid off as Amritraj won in four sets to hand India a 3-2 win.

India bt Kazakhstan 3-2, Almaty
2007, Group I Asia/Oceania Relegation playoff

Rohan Bopanna won his singles and doubles match with Paes but failed to seal India's fate as he lost a five-setter to Alexey Kedryuk. Paes came to the fore, in place of singles specialist Karan Rastogi, and steered India to victory.

India bt Pakistan 3-2, Mumbai
2006, Group I Asia/Oceania Relegation playoff

This India-Pakistan match also lived up to its hype as the encounter went to the decider. Leander Paes was sent to play the final match ahead of other singles specialists and he won a five-setter against Aqeel Khan to see India home.

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The most important thing of the day was how Yuki played. He put a lot of pressure on Venus right away. Venus did not have many chances on Yuki's serve. Yuki always put Venus on the defence and attacked throughout.

It was definitely a big win for us as it gives us another shot at a place in the world group. If we lost this tie then playing China in China was not something any of us were looking forward to.

SOMDEV DEVVARMAN

ZEESHAN ALI, India coach

Sarfraz, Yasir star in Pakistan's big win

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COLOMBO: Sarfraz Ahmed scored 77 and Yasir Shah grabbed four wickets as Pakistan thrashed Sri Lanka by 135 runs in the violence-hit third one-day international in Colombo on Sunday.

All-rounder Md Hafeez made up for a year-long ban on bowling due to a suspect action with a polished 54 as Pakistan piled up 316-4 after electing to bat in the day-night match. Leg-spinner Yasir then shone with the ball as Sri Lanka were bundled out for 181 in 41.1 overs on a slow pitch at the Premadasa stadium. The match was interrupted for

30 minutes in the second session with Sri Lanka on 158-7 when stones thrown apparently from outside the stadium landed on the field near a Pakistani fielder.

Match referee Jagavallu Srinath of India immediately ordered the players off the field as anti-riot police squads evacuated spectators from two blocks of stands near the giant scoreboard.

The match, which was witnessed by Pakistan batting great Zaheer Abbas — the current president of the ICC — resumed after the short break and Pakistan completed a facile win to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. **BRIEF SCORES** Pak 316/4 (Sarfraz 77, Hafeez 54, Azhar 49) Sri Lanka 181.

Zimbabwe beat India by 10 runs for 1-1 draw in T20 series



Chamu Chibhabha's career-best 67 and an improved fielding performance inspired Zimbabwe to a consolation win.

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HARARE: Zimbabwe beat India by 10 runs on Sunday to draw the T20 series 1-1 and prevent a clean sweep of their limited-overs tour by a young Indian side.

India, who won all three ODIs and the first T20, couldn't chase down Zimbabwe's relatively modest 145-7 in the final match of the tour at Harare Sports Club.

The under-strength India team, which toured without a string of top stars including MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli, finished on 135-9. Robin Uthappa top scored with 42.

Legspinner Graeme Cremer took 3-18 for Zimbabwe, the best bowling performance of the game.

Earlier, opening batsman Chamu Chibhabha maintained his run of form with 67 from 51 balls with nine fours to hold together Zimbabwe's innings.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohit Sharma had two wickets each for India and Zimbabwe didn't offer much else apart from Chibhabha's half-century, which was ultimately enough. Fellow opener Hamilton Masakadza made 19 and only one other Zimbabwean, Sean Williams, reached double figures.

India's batsmen struggled even more on the low, slow pitch to lose their first game in five in Zimbabwe.

In the end, the Indians needed 19 off the last over before Bhuvneshwar was run out with three balls left.

scorecard

ZIMBABWE	INDIA
H Masakadza c Uthappa b Sandeep	A Rahane run out
C Chibhabha b Bhuvneshwar	M Vijay b Cremer
S Raza c Samson b Mohit	R Uthappa c & b Williams
S Williams c & b Patel	M Pandey lbw b Cremer
C Coventry lbw b Binny	K Jadhav run out
C Ervine b Bhuvneshwar	S Binny c Chibhabha b Cremer
M Waller not out	S Samson c Waller b Mpofo
P Utseya c Patel b Mohit	A Patel c Williams b Muzarabani
G Cremer not out	Bhuvneshwar run out
	Mohit not out
	Sandeep not out
Extras (b 5, lb 1, w 9, nb 1)	Extras (b 1, w 1)
Total (for 7 wickets in 20 overs)	Total (for 9 wickets in 20 overs)
FoW: 1-28, 2-48, 3-85, 4-113, 5-132, 6-139, 7-142.	FoW: 1-4, 2-57, 3-57, 4-61, 5-69, 6-105, 7-117, 8-124, 9-131.
Bowling: Bhuvneshwar 4-0-26-2, Sandeep 4-0-39-1, Binny 2-0-14-1, Mohit 4-0-28-2, Vijay 2-0-9-0, Patel 4-0-23-1	Bowling: Utseya 3-0-18-0, Muzarabani 3-0-23-1, Mpofo 3-0-26-1, Chibhabha 1-0-9-0, Williams 4-0-31-1, Cremer 4-0-18-3, Raza 2-0-9-0