

ITF events in Islamabad PTF Takes Sigh of Relief as Dharna Ends

The Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) officials have taken sigh of relief over amicable settlement of 'dharna' enabling them to give final touches to the three back-to-back ITF Future events that have already attracted international stars.

PTF President Salim Saifullah Khan when contacted said that he was the happiest person to see the amicable settlement of 'Dharna'.

"All my prayers and good wishes are for those who have played their role in amicable settlement of 'dharna'. We were worried about the international tournaments that we are to organize in December.

"Some leading international players have been drawn to compete in these events and there were fears that if the law and order situation in twin cities remain the same going into December, we may see some withdrawal. Thanks Almighty Allah the matter has been resolved," Saifullah said.

The PTF in collaboration with Benazir Bhutto, Kulsum Saifullah and Serena Hotel events' organizers are to pour in around Rs. 6 million to organize these back-to-back tournaments.

"Besides that it was a matter of country's pride. Now the PTF can go ahead with their preparations to hold the events in a befitting manner," Saifullah said.

World No 299 Russian Ivan Nedelko is the top seed for the Serena ITF Futures I with three Indians also finding their place in the main draw starting at the Dilawar Abbas Complex from December 4-10.

Anad Kumar, Paranveer Singh Bajwa and Jatan Daya are the three Indians so far have made it to the main round of the Future I that would be the first of three internationals PTF are organizing this December.

All 18 foreigners so far have made it to the main draw as no Pakistani player is among the direct qualifier. The PTF has yet to decide on the wild card entries as it has two vacancies available.

Serena Open will be followed by Kulsum Saifullah Tennis with Benazir Bhutto Future event being the last on the card.

Chief organizer of the Benazir Bhutto Future tournament, Fazale Subhan also expressed his delight over the development which ensured business getting to normal in and around Islamabad where these tournaments are to be played.