

Jamil wants to find the truth

SPORTS REPORTER

Chairman of Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) Khondokar Jamiluddin showed his concerns over media reports suggesting 'foul play' during Wednesday's Premier Cricket League match between DOHS and Bangladesh Biman.

"The Biman batsmen were victims of 'biased' umpiring as they lost the match to DOHS although match referee Belayet Hossain found nothing unjust about the incidents."

"I have yet to receive the match referee's report but the media reports are a big concern," Jamiluddin told The Daily Star Sport over phone yesterday.

"I have already read what the match referee had said about the match. But I unless get the official report, I can not take any action. Everything depends on his reports and if it claims that the match was clean, what can I do?" asked the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board member.

"The ICC also has to depend on its match referees. However, I will not just sit and watch. I'll talk with concerned persons to find out what really happened."

When asked why top umpires or a more reputed match referee were not appointed for the game, Jamil said that his instructions had been clear on the issue.

"My instruction to the umpires' committee, who are responsible for appointing umpires and match referees, is to allot top umpires in important match. And only on the night before the match it is allowed to reveal names of the match officials. I will sit with the umpires' committee to discuss this because I always believe in being honest."

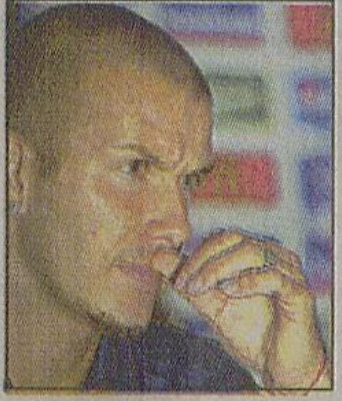
"Whatever the club or player, I have punished if found guilty. I have fined DOHS captain Akram Khan and Mohammedan Sporting

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Did U Know?

The first laws of soccer were drawn up at Cambridge University in 1848. Since then they have been rewritten and amended.



David Beckham

(Real Madrid's England star)
"I will always keep my house in London, but I will never hide the fact that I want to be here (Madrid) for the rest of my career. I want to continue here at Real and continue being England captain."



ESPN
Australia vs South Africa
Tenth ODI
Live at 9:15 am
Sportscentre
Live at 8:30 pm



Aktel Premier Div Cricket League
SUPER SIX
Old DOHS vs Victoria Sporting
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
Biman vs Sonargaon Cricketers
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium



THINK ABOUT US PLEASE: The national booters, who are demanding a date of transfer from the federation, had a meeting at the BFF Bhaban yesterday.

Booters boycott training

Demands immediate announcement of transfer

SPORTS REPORTER

The top footballers of the country skipped national camp's training yesterday in demand of a clear announcement of the season's players transfer from the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The national squad, preparing under Argentine coach Diego Cruciani for their Asian Cup qualifier against Uzbekistan on February 22, ignored trainer Ariel Colman's instructions and followed their own manuals in the morning.

They decided not to go the running session at Ramna Park in the afternoon.

"We hoped that the federation would give an announcement about the transfers in its yesterday's executive meeting," said national skipper Arif Khan Joy at the BFF Bhaban on Thursday.

"But we are really frustrated that nothing came out. The last transfer was held in October 2005 and it has been 16 months since. All the footballers in the country are worried about their future. We want an immediate action by the federation because it is the necessity of all the footballers."

"We don't want to boycott practice and want to join training on Saturday if the BFF gives us assurance about transfer," Joy added.

They had a talk with national team manager Sayeed Hassan Kanan later and it looked certain that the team will start training tomorrow.

"The players have a right to demand transfer," said Kanan, also member of the BFF and the National Team Management Committee (NTMC).

"I have discussed with NTMC chairman Kazi Salahuddin about the situation. He talked with the

senior players on phone and the booters now look satisfied," informed Kanan.

"Salahuddin bhai has promised them to give a solution by February 15 and has requested them to start training for the sake of the country because the match against Uzbekistan would be a tough one. The boys have showed faith in him and said they will return to practice on Saturday afternoon," added the former national goalkeeper.

Salahuddin, also a BFF vice-president, heads a five-member committee that has been formed to submit a report to the federation by February 15 about the Dhaka Premier League, the Professional League and transfer.

"I am not worried about what happened today. I think it would be okay," said coach Cruciani who clearly showed his sympathy to his charges.

Bangladesh U-19s warm up well

BNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh U-19 cricket team got the expected start they had wanted before the start of the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup yesterday when Tamim Iqbal's explosive century gave them a 10-wicket win over USA in Colombo, according to a message received in Dhaka.

The hard-hitting opener smashed 103 off 64 balls as Bangladesh raced to 146 without loss in reply to USA's 143 in the warm-up match at the Colts Cricket Club.

Tamim, younger brother of national opening batsman Nafees Iqbal, hit a dozen boundaries and five sixes during the unbroken opening stand that conquered the match in just 17.5 overs. Sirajullah Khadem was unbeaten on 28.

USA opted to bat first and were bundled out in 49.5 overs with Al Dodson making 29, Nathaniel with 27, NK Patel (23) and Timbawala (15) were the other notable scorers.

Rezaul Islam grabbed three wickets for 12 and Sohrawardi Shuvo took two wickets for 20.

Bangladesh who face New Zealand in their first match of the Youth World Cup on Sunday, will play their second warm-up match against Zimbabwe on Friday.

DOHS take on Victoria in last match

SPORTS REPORTER

Champions Old DOHS will take on Victoria Sporting Club in both sides' last match of the Aktel Premier Cricket League today at the Fatullah Stadium.

DOHS, who have clinched the title for the second successive season, have 26 points with 13 wins from 15 rounds while Victoria are joint third with 18 points.

Runners-up Sonargaon, the Premiership debutants, will face Bangladesh Biman in the day's other match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

The league will conclude with the Mohammedan-Brothers Union match tomorrow also at Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan name one-day squad

AFF, Karachi

Pakistan on Thursday named a 16-man squad for the first three games of the five-match one-day series against India starting next week.

The first three matches will be played in Peshawar on Monday (February 06), Rawalpindi (February 11) and Lahore (February 13) while the other two games will be played in Multan (Feb 16) and Karachi (Feb 19).

Pakistan won the Test series 1-0 on Wednesday with a 341-run victory in the third and final Test at the National stadium here.

Two players from the Test squad, Danish Kaneria and Mohammad Sami, have been replaced by Shoaib Malik and Yasir Arafat for the one-dayers.

SQUAD
Inzamamul Haq (capt), Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Abdul Razaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik, Kamran Akmal (wicketkeeper), Arshad Khan, Salman Butt, Rana Naved, Imran Farhat, Faisal Iqbal, Umar Gul, Mohammad Asif, Yasir Arafat.

Tendulkar under fire

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

Dismayed Indian fans launched a rare attack on their favourite player Sachin Tendulkar on Thursday, a day after India suffered a crushing defeat by Pakistan.

The hosts romped to victory by 341 runs with a day to spare, routing their traditional rivals for one run short of their worst ever defeat in runs to win the series.

The Indian batsmen's weakness against accurate pace bowling was exposed again by Mohammad Asif and Abdul Razaq, who helped rout the visitors for 238 and 265 chasing a massive fourth-innings target of 607 runs.

Players are normally under tremendous pressure to win due to the decades-old political animosity between the two nations. With tensions easing, the focus was solely on cricket.

Debates in the Indian media were aimed at the failure of the formidable batting line-up after the first two Tests in Lahore and Faisalabad

ended in high-scoring draws. Youngster Yuvraj Singh hit a defiant 122 in the second innings, but none of the other players managed fifty in the game.

"Tendulkar is over the hill. He should quit and other youngsters should take over," lawyer Sandeep George said.

"Tendulkar should go because he has lost his touch," engineer Vijay Ramaiah said. "The more he plays, he will become a liability to the country and himself."

The collapse only added to concerns that India's middle-order batsmen Tendulkar, captain Rahul Dravid, Saurav Ganguly and Vangipurappu Laxman were all past 30.

Before the series, it was Ganguly who faced criticism over his form and fitness, but the spotlight has turned to Tendulkar.

The Times of India daily ran a front-page article questioning whether the all-time great batsman was nearing the end of his illustrious career.

"Endulkar?" blared a caption on a photograph of Tendulkar doubled over with his off-stump sent flying by Asif.

Tendulkar made 23 and 26 in a disappointing return to Karachi where he made his test debut as a curly-haired 16 year old in 1989. Although he hit a world record 35th test hundred in December, Tendulkar has looked way below his attacking best since he underwent elbow surgery last year.

Tendulkar appeared tentative in Pakistan, hit on his helmet by a Shoaib Akhtar delivery in Karachi.

His dismissal in Faisalabad also raised eye-brows. He walked after gloving Shoaib behind the stumps, though television replays suggested he was not out because his hand was off the bat.

The Indian media also blamed the batting for the massive defeat. "COMPLETE HUMILIATION... Famed Indian batting comes a cropper," screamed a Times of India headline.

"CATASTROPHE... It wasn't just the loss, it was the way India surrendered," said the Hindustan Times.

"A much-celebrated batting line-up lay in tatters at the National Stadium (Karachi) after a performance bereft of character," said the Hindu.

'Incredible fightback'

Cricket

AFF, Karachi

The win was even more significant after Pakistan lost Inzamam with a back injury and had a dis-



BOB WOOLMER

trous start after being put in by Indian captain Rahul Dravid on a lively green pitch.

Pakistan were left reeling at 0-3 after Indian pacesman Irfan Pathan grabbed a hat-trick in the first over of the match and were then reduced to 39-6. The home team however led a remarkable recovery through centuryman Kamran Akmal and Razaq.

"After we lost captain Inzamamul Haq through injury, we had to select Razaq and it proved an inspired selection in the way he bowled and batted. He simply proved his critics wrong."

the strength of resilience." Woolmer praised Younis Khan's leadership skills. "I think Younis did a great job, communicating with me, Inzamam and each and every player. Inzamam was there at the ground all four days to support the players. It was great team spirit."

The series win, the first over arch rivals India since 1987, followed Pakistan's home series win against Ashes winning England a month ago.

Woolmer believes the win over India was "special" as it pleased the Pakistan public more.

"Pakistan public made me more conscious that winning against India was more special. I have realised how passionate the public and players are about a win over India," said Woolmer who took over as coach after Pakistan lost to India in 2004.

Woolmer praised the Karachi crowd saying he would suggest to the Pakistan Cricket Board to hold regular matches in Karachi.

"There were no problems of security and the crowd was simply the best in Karachi," said Woolmer about the city where teams had shown reluctance to play because of security fears.

Woolmer hoped Pakistan would carry the momentum from the Test victory through to the five-match one-day series which starts in Peshawar on February 6.



Barcelona playmaker Ronaldinho is bemused at being sent off in his side's Spanish King's Cup match against Zaragoza at the Nou Camp on Wednesday, a day of red cards across Europe that saw Manchester United's Rio Ferdinand and Juventus's Zlatan Ibrahimovic also receive marching orders.