

Tauqir's turn to sermon ECB

RAWALPINDI, Nov 2: Pakistani Cricket Board chairman General Tariq Zia said Wednesday England must take seriously an Indian report into alleged match-fixing, reports AFP.

The report named five Indian and nine foreign players, including England's former captain Alec Stewart as well as Pakistan's Asif Iqbal and Salim Malik.

"I think that had the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) taken Chris Lewis' allegations against England players seriously we would have known this much earlier," Zia told this news agency.

Former England all-rounder Lewis had alleged in 1998 that some English players were also involved in match fixing but ECB did not take any action.

"I am shocked that so many foreign players are named in the report," the Pakistani cricket chief said.

"Now it's up to the England and Wales Cricket Board and others to reach the truth," he said.

Zia welcomed an ECB proposal that Sir Paul Condon, head of the International Cricket Council (ICC)'s anti-corruption unit, be asked, on behalf of all the Cricket Boards who have had players named in the Indian Government report, to investigate the claims further and see if there was any evidence to corroborate any of them.

"It's a welcome sign and the matter must be investigated thoroughly," he said.

Pakistan took the lead and cleaned up the mess and we are ready to cooperate at any stage to have a clean and fair cricket," he said, referring to Pakistan match fixing inquiry reported in May.

In a dig at the ECB he said: "They (ECB) did not realize that if they throw stones at any country the same thing may come back on them."

ECB Chairman Lord MacLaurin had demanded suspension of six Pakistani players, including Wasim Akram, after they were penalised in the Pakistan match fixing report. MacLaurin had later retracted his statement.

The 162-page Indian report is largely made up of testimony from Indian bookmakers as well as players and does not amount to the levelling of formal charges against any of those named.

England gain upper hand

RAWALPINDI, Nov 2: Captain Graham Hick led England's fightback against Patron's XI on the second day of their four-day side game at Pindi Stadium on Thursday, reports AFP.

SCORECARD

Scorecard on Day Two of the four-day cricket match between England and a Pakistani Patron's XI at Pindi Stadium on Thursday:

PATRON'S XI: (overnight

Naved c Nixon b Trescothick	29
1 Abbas c Hick b Hoggard	10
Kanuwan c Thorpe b Hoggard	15
M Wasim c Hick b Giles	29
Q Abbas lbw b Hoggard	71
Salman c White b Hoggard	17
Qdeen c Hoggard	2
Ansan & Atherton b Trescothick	8
Shafiq c Trescothick b Cork	32
M Akram c Thorpe b Cork	2
Sami not out	6
Extras: (b-4; lb-5; nb-7)	16
Total (All out in 102 1 overs)	237
Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-44, 3-85, 4-95, 5-162, 6-188, 7-189, 8-225, 9-229	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	27	11	62	5
Cork	15	4	42	2
Trescothick	8.1	2	12	2
White	16	3	46	0
Salisbury	14	4	32	0
Giles	18	6	25	1
Vaughan	3	1	5	0
Thorpe	1	0	4	0

ENGLAND

Atherton c Shafiq b Sami	22
Trescothick c/Abbas b Akram	8
Vaughan c Qadeer b Akram	3
Thorpe c Wasim b Q Abbas	88
Hick not out	77
White not out	6
Extras: (lb-2; nb-6)	8
Total (For 4 wkt in 60 overs)	212

To bat: P. Nixon, D. Cork, A. Giles, I. Salisbury, M. Hoggard

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-33, 3-52, 4-195

Bowler	O	M	R	W
M Akram	15	3	64	2
Sami	11	0	52	1
Shafiq	17	5	45	0
Salman	3	1	12	0
Ansan	9	1	25	0
Q Abbas	5	1	12	1

Mark to be

From page 13

"It's either a variation of the original allegation against Mark Waugh or a new allegation against Mark Waugh," he said Thursday.

Speed Thursday ordered both ACB special investigator Greg Mellick and the head of the ICC's anti-corruption unit Sir Paul Condon to investigate the allegation against Waugh.

The ACB chief also spoke to Waugh, who not only assured him the allegations were false but agreed to cooperate fully with investigators.

Speed said the allegations against Waugh needed to be "tested" to see if they were credible, insisting that in the meantime the 35-year-old right-hander would not be stood down from this month's home Test series against the West Indies.

It's very important we respect the players' rights, Speed said.

The player is entitled to the presumption of innocence,"



New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming plays defensively during the fifth one-day international against South Africa at Kingsmead on Wednesday.

Lara, WICB rubbish it

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Nov 2 (Reuters/Internet): Former West Indies captain Brian Lara has denied any involvement in match-fixing after Indian bookmaker named him in an official report as being paid to under-perform.

"I categorically deny taking money from a bookmaker or anyone else to under-perform," Lara said in a written statement on Wednesday.

"I have passed this matter to my lawyers to take appropriate action and I will be making no further comment," added the 32-year-old.

Meanwhile, the president of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) Pat Rousseau has dismissed the Indian match-fixing report as "rubbish."

Speaking on West Indian radio, Rousseau criticised the report for its lack of concrete evidence.

"From what we have seen and heard thus far, there is nothing in the report to incriminate anyone. It's a series of innuendoes and basically the word of bookmakers against the word of our cricketers," Rousseau said.

The WICB president, who in an interview published in a West Indian newspaper on Tuesday stated that the board would not be conducting any "witch hunt" of West Indies players and was firm in his support for Lara.

"Quite frankly I don't believe that Brian is involved in any so-called match-fixing. The evidence is not there, and there was no questioning of the overseas players whose names were called in the Indian report," he said.

The CBI in its report said that it had not conducted any in-depth inquiry into links between Indian bookies and overseas players had not been examined to verify the evidence.

Sixty-two calls a day

NEW DELHI, Nov 2: Indian cricketer Ajay Jadeja received 62 calls in one day from a known bookmaker during a Test match against New Zealand last year, according to a match-fixing report by federal investigators, reports AFP.

The print-outs of mobile phone bills of both Jadeja and Madras bookmaker Uttam Chand, secured by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), revealed an astonishing talking marathon during matches, the report said.

Almost all the calls were made by the bookmaker to the cricketer, beginning with two calls on the opening day of the first Test at Mohali on October 10 last year.

Uttam Chand made eight calls to Jadeja on the second day, 23 on the third, 46 on the fourth and one call on the fifth day of the Test which ended in a draw, the report said.

There were no calls during the second Test in Kanpur, but a deluge followed during the controversial third and final Test in Ahmedabad, during which India declined to enforce a follow-on despite a massive lead.

On the eve of the Test, Jadeja's mobile phone received 24 calls from Uttam Chand's number, the report said.

There were 13 calls from the bookmaker on the first day of the match, 62 on the second, 30 on the third, 50 on the fourth and 14 on the last day when New Zealand batted out a draw, according to the report.

The conversations went on during the subsequent one-day series.

When confronted by the CBI, Jadeja said he took Uttam Chand's calls to ward off bad luck, according to the report.

The report states: "On being asked whether he knew Uttam Chand, Jadeja said he did not know him."

"When confronted with Uttam Chand's cell phone printout, which disclosed very frequent telephonic contact between both of them just before or during matches, Jadeja stated he recognised Uttam Chand's cell phone number, but knew him only as Gupta."

"He did not know how Uttam Chand got his telephone number."

Jadeja said that Uttam Chand used to ring him up often and tell him he is his fan and if he did not talk to him, he would run into bad luck and because of superstition, he used to return his call," the report said.

Uttam Chand, the report added, had told CBI that he paid Jadeja 600,000 rupees (13,300 dollars) to "get information about the pitch, weather, team composition, probable result etc which Jadeja used to provide him."

All nine former captains from seven Test nations were mentioned in the report, which is largely made up of testimony from bookmakers and players and does not amount to the levelling of formal charges against any of those named.

Cairns to miss Test series

WELLINGTON, Nov 2 (Internet report): New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns will miss the three-test series against South Africa because of a knee injury, New Zealand Cricket said on Thursday.

Cairns has been plagued by the injury for the past three weeks and while it has not got worse, the extra demands of Test cricket meant it was deemed wise to cut short his tour of South Africa, NZC said in a statement.

SQUAD

Jimmy Adams (captain), Sherwin Campbell (vice-captain), Marlon Black, Courtney Browne, Shivarne Chandrapaul, Mervyn Dillon, Darren Ganga, Wavell Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Kerry Jeremy, Brian Lara, Nixon McLean, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Ramaresh Sarwan, Colin Stuart, Courtney Walsh.

Manager: Ricky Skerrit Coach: Roger Harper.

Anxious 'Chess Czar'

LONDON, Nov 2: The king of chess looks set to lose his crown. If his form over the last three weeks is a reliable indicator, Garry Kasparov will be toppled Thursday from his position as the world's number one, reports AFP.

As he prepares to take the stage once more at the Brain Games World Championship in London, it is clear that for the first time in 15 years the Russian Grand Master can smell defeat.

That opinion is shared by no less an expert than the Championship's match director, Raymond Keene.

"We are watching an absolutely astonishing defeat here," he told the Daily Telegraph. "Kasparov is going to lose, no doubt about it."

The contest, whose moves are being scrutinised by thousands of chess aficionados around the world, is remarkable in one other aspect.

Kasparov, whose aggressive style and single-minded focus have allowed him to dominate the game since 1985, might have been expected to fight to the death to keep his title.

Instead, he is on course to go out with a whimper, not a bang.

His challenger, Vladimir Kramnik, just 25 years old and Kasparov's one-time pupil, is leading by eight points to six in the 16-game championship.

Kramnik created an upset by winning the second game of the series, and then went on to clinch victory in the tenth. The remainder of the matches have ended in draws.

Hirsute, aggressive and domineering, Azerbaijan-born Kasparov was once labelled the "Beast of Baku." For a decade and a half, the beast seemed unbeatatable. One opponent lik-

GARY KASPAROV

He added: "It is very hard to work out what has gone wrong with him."

Kramnik created an upset by

winning the second game of the series, and then went on to clinch victory in the tenth. The remainder of the matches have ended in draws.

Hirsute, aggressive and domineering, Azerbaijan-born Kasparov was once labelled the "Beast of Baku." For a decade and a half, the beast seemed unbeatatable. One opponent lik-

GARY KASPAROV

He added: "It is very hard to work out what has gone wrong with him."

Kramnik created an upset by

winning the second game of the series, and then went on to clinch victory in the tenth. The remainder of the matches have ended in draws.

Hirsute, aggressive and domineering, Azerbaijan-born Kasparov was once labelled the "Beast of Baku." For a decade and a half, the beast seemed unbeatatable. One opponent lik-

GARY KASPAROV

He added: "It is very hard to work out what has gone wrong with him."

Kramnik created an upset by

winning the second game of the series, and then went on to clinch victory in the tenth. The remainder of the matches have ended in draws.

Hirsute, aggressive and domineering, Azerbaijan-born Kasparov was once labelled the "Beast of Baku." For a decade and a half, the beast seemed unbeatatable. One opponent lik-

GARY KASPAROV

He added: "It is very hard to work out what has gone wrong with him."

Kramnik created an upset by

winning the second game of the series, and then went on to clinch victory in the tenth. The remainder of the matches have ended in draws.

Hirsute, aggressive and domineering, Azerbaijan-born Kasparov was once labelled the "Beast of Baku." For a decade and a half, the beast seemed unbeatatable. One opponent lik-

GARY KASPAROV

He added: "It is very hard to work out what has gone wrong with him."

Kramnik created an upset by

winning the second game of the series, and then went on to clinch victory in the tenth. The remainder of the matches have ended in draws.

Hirsute, aggressive and domineering, Azerbaijan-born Kasparov was once labelled the "Beast of Baku." For a decade and a half, the beast seemed unbeatatable. One opponent lik-

GARY KASPAROV

He added: "It is very hard to work out what has gone wrong with him."

Kramnik created an upset by

winning the second game of the series, and then went on to clinch victory in the tenth. The remainder of the matches have ended in draws.

Hirsute, aggressive and domineering, Azerbaijan-born Kasparov was once labelled the "