

Clues gathered against Dalmiya

PTI, Kolkata

A Mumbai police team hinted on Wednesday at having gathered clues against former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Jagmohan Dalmiya and two other former top board officials after another round of grilling of the trio here yesterday in connection in the alleged misappropriation of 2.174 million rupees from the 1996 World Cup cricket account.

"The investigation is going in the right direction," Sudhir Mahadik, who is heading the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) team from Mumbai police said after two hours of interrogation of Dalmiya, Kishore Rungta and Jyoti Bajpai, both former treasurers of BCCI.

To a specific query whether they had found any clue against the former board officials, he said, "We are getting them (clues). But we cannot disclose details now." The initial round of interrogations were conducted at the West Bengal Police CID headquarters, after which the Mumbai Police headed for the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) headquarters located at the Eden Gardens to continue their investigations.

Two more officials from Mumbai joined the EOW team during the day. The interrogation would continue till tomorrow.

The EOW team earlier rejected the request from Dalmiya's lawyer, Tamal Mukherjee, to be present during interrogation.

The interrogation of the former BCCI officials was being conducted as per a directive of the Mumbai High Court.

Inter fined for racist chants

REUTERS, Milan

Inter Milan have been fined 25,000 euros (30,470 dollars) after their fans targeted Messina's African defender Marc Zoro with racist abuse during Saturday's Serie A match.

Ivory Coast-born Zoro, who threatened to walk off the field after suffering taunts from Inter Milan fans earlier this season, was the target of whistles and jeers again when the two teams met in Milan on Saturday.

The Italian Football League's disciplinary commission said on Tuesday the scale of their punishment reflected the fact that a large number of Inter fans vocally objected to the racism.

Zoro's treatment by Inter fans in the game at Messina on November 27 prompted a nationwide debate on racism in Italian soccer and led to a day of anti-racist demonstrations at stadiums across the country.

David wants

ability to cope with the heat. We showed that in Goa."

India suffered a scare Wednesday when all-rounder Yuvraj Singh, who cracked a match-winning century in Goa, had to undergo a scan after he complained of pain in the lower neck. He was later declared fit.

The Indian captain's immediate worry is the poor form of star opener Virender Sehwag. "For us it is critical to try and get him back into form and we will do whatever it takes to get him back to form," said David.

England's wicketkeeper Geraint Jones defended his skipper Andrew Flintoff who has faced calls from the British media to skip the rest of the series.

"It is tough because he does so much anyway," said Jones. "Fred is fully capable of this. I think he is thriving on it anyway."

"Freddie does boost spirits. It is not something he has made an extra effort to do. The spirit of the boys is pretty good."

"It has been a long tough tour and we had new guys coming into the one-day squad. But the fact is we have not performed the way we should have," said Jones.

England received a boost ahead of Thursday's game against India in Kochi when batsman Kevin Pietersen was passed fit to play.

Pietersen missed Monday's 49-run defeat at Goa because of a stomach bug.



PHOTO: AFP
Villarreal's Juan Roman Riquelme (R) shields the ball from Inter Milan's Luis Figo during their Champions League second-leg quarterfinal at El Madrigal on Tuesday.

Yellow submarine sink Inter



AFP, Villarreal

Villarreal added a new chapter to their European fairytale here Tuesday after a 1-0 win over Inter Milan carried them into the semifinals of the Champions League.

A headed goal from Argentine defender Rodolfo Arruabarrena 13 minutes into the second half sealed a narrow win on the night and a 2-2 aggregate score.

The plucky Spaniards, competing in the Champions League for the very first time, advanced to the last four on the away goals rule, having scored in the 2-1 first leg defeat in Milan.

Inter's chief tormentor was Argentine playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme, whose wizardry in midfield left the Italian giants spell-bound.

Villarreal, who have enjoyed phenomenal success given their limited resources and have already claimed the scalps of Manchester United and Rangers during this campaign, will meet either Juventus or Arsenal in the last four.

Italian midfielder Alessio Tacchinardi, who is on loan at Villarreal from Juventus after spending 11 years with the Turin club, insisted his team deserved to reach the semis.

"We showed heart and soul and a greater desire to reach the semis," he said.

"I'm proud to be part of this group. I had lost some of my motivation at Juve and I've rediscovered

ered it in Spain."

Inter coach Roberto Mancini was livid with his team for their lapse in concentration that allowed Arruabarrena to nod home.

"It was stupid," he said. "I changed the entire match and meant that from a position of control, we had to come out and attack."

"That played into Villarreal's hands and they were able to enjoy more space."

Inter, European champions in 1964 and 1965, made two changes from the team that started the first leg.

Portuguese winger Luis Figo recovered from a calf muscle injury and replaced Brazilian Cesar, while central defender Marco Materazzi came in for Pierre Wome.

Uruguayan striker Alvaro Recoba was preferred to Obafemi Martins as an attacking partner for Adriano.

Villarreal, who hail from a small industrial town of around 50,000 people in the south of Spain, welcomed back Arruabarrena and Alessio Tacchinardi, who were both suspended for the first leg.

Inter enjoyed the early possession, but Villarreal were the first to threaten.

Javi Venta beat Cordoba on the right and his deep cross to the back post found Jose Mari whose towering header sailed over the bar.

Villarreal had claims for a penalty turned down in the 22nd minute.

Juan Pablo Sorin went down after a forceful but fair challenge by Materazzi and referee Kyros Vassaras waved play on.

Arruabarrena's soft header was

comfortably saved by Francesco Toldo as the home side increased the tempo, before Riquelme wasted a robust run to the edge of Inter's 18-yard box by firing wide.

Riquelme was proving harder to trap than mercury, and his dribbling skills began to mesmerise an Inter defence that had little to do in the first 20 minutes.

Tacchinardi had a gilt-edged chance to level the tie on aggregate three minutes before the break, but when presented with a free header he completely missed the target.

Toldo came to Inter's rescue two minutes after the restart.

Esteban Cambiasso lost possession to Marcos Senne whose cutback found Jose Mari, and his right-footed drive was tipped over the bar by Inter's veteran keeper.

Figo was booked for tugging back the elusive Riquelme as the visitors' frustration grew and their mood darkened in the 58th minute when Villarreal took the lead.

A free-kick was tapped short to Riquelme who crossed into the box, and Arruabarrena rose unmarked to flick a header past Toldo.

Diego Forlan and Riquelme went close to doubling the hosts' lead, before Villarreal were given a scare in stoppage time.

Dejan Stankovic was given space in the box and his goalbound effort was superbly saved by Sebastian Viera.

A booking for Viera, which means he will miss the first leg of the semifinals, took a little gloss off Villarreal's historic night.

Bench pleases

FROM PAGE 12
Sabbah admitted that his opponents played a very good game.

"Bangladeshi players' fitness level is better. Our players seemed tired because of high humidity and we had problems in substitutions due to a few injuries. I had only 15 players fit for today's game and I used 14," said Sabbah.

"The conditions were difficult and it affected our performance today. But I am looking forward to our next matches."

The Aussies

FROM PAGE 12
The injured trio of Justin Langer (concussion), Shaun Tait and Michael Kasprowicz (both with back injuries) will be rested after helping Australia to a 3-0 Test series whitewash in South Africa.

New Zealand's own bowling spearhead, Shane Bond, is fully fit, while the Kiwis have paid extra attention to their top-order batting, expecting autumnal pitches in South Africa to be similar to home conditions.

New Zealand playing conditions are often green seamers so there are not too many guys volunteering to bat up top. So the top-order batting has been a problem going back a long time to John Wright and Bruce Edgar," coach John Bracewell explained.

"But that's why we've chosen two specialist openers and a specialist number three for this tour, guys who want the job in Michael Papps, Jamie MacGill, Mitchell Johnson, Stuart Clark, Jason Gillespie.

Sheva sets new scoring record

REUTERS, London

AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko became the leading scorer in the history of the European Cup with his goal in Tuesday's 3-1 quarterfinal second leg victory over Olympique Lyon.

The Ukraine striker pounced three minutes into stoppage time at the San Siro to score his 52nd goal in Europe's premier club competition, one more than Real Madrid striker Raúl.

Shevchenko scored 19 of his goals for former club Dynamo Kiev and 33 for Milan. Former Real Madrid player Alfredo di Stefano lies third in the list with 49 goals, followed by Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy (47) and former Benfica and Portugal striker Eusebio (46).

Mancini's Inter future in doubt

INTERNET, undated

Roberto Mancini is sweating on his job after taking "full responsibility" for Internazionale's Champions League exit.

Inter crashed out on away goals to Villarreal following Tuesday night's 1-0 quarterfinal second-leg defeat at El Madrigal.

"At this moment, I am still the Inter coach," said Mancini. "No one has said otherwise."

"We will see what happens."

"I am extremely disappointed but as a coach it is something that happens and we have to overcome it."

Mancini did not attempt to shift the blame for his team's poor performance in Spain admitting his substitution of Luis Figo for Sinisa Mihajlovic may have been a mistake.

"Sometimes the choices you make are good and other times it goes the other way," Mancini said.

"I take full responsibility as coach."

Inter president Giacinto Facchetti felt let down by his players in what was the most important game of their season.

"We've shown no character, no determination or confidence," he said.

Facchetti has not revealed whether or not Mancini will continue in charge next summer.

"We are extremely disappointed with the result and we will talk in the next few days," he said.

"But I don't think it would be wise to make any changes."

Police, BDR keep firing

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police and Bangladesh Rifles won in straight sets in their respective matches against Sonali Bank and Fire Service Civil Defence in the United Commercial Bank Premier Division Volleyball League at the volleyball stadium yesterday.

In other matches, Bangladesh Water Development Board and Titas Club won their matches.

Pak confirm

FROM PAGE 12
freak accident, has also been named in the side.

India defeated Pakistan 4-1 in Pakistan in the recently concluded one-day series in Pakistan and lead England 3-0 in the ongoing series in India.

The likely 14-man squad: Inzamamul Haq (captain), Younis Khan (vice-captain), Salman Butt, Imran Farhat, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Yousuf, Kamran Akmal, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq, Rana Navedul Hasan, Mohammad Asif, Riaz Iftikhar Anjum, Danish Kaneria and Abdul Rehman.

Woolmer

FROM PAGE 12

Pakistan cruised to 183 for two in 43.2 overs to win the match and the series after the first Test was drawn.

Woolmer believes Asif, named man of the series, is a major find. "It is very exciting for Pakistan that he has bowled as well as he has done here," said Woolmer.

"Asif is one of those McGrath-like bowlers who bowl really tight line and lengths and just get the ball to go in and out a little," Woolmer said.

"He moves the ball, is difficult for batsman to read and he is not slow. He is the sort of bowler that Pakistan has not had for some time and we know need to look after him."

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene agreed Asif had stolen the momentum from the hosts.

"The last hour last night cost us the match and the series," said Jayawardene. "It's all about momentum and that shifted to them."

"You can't take anything away from him - Asif bowled really well here and at the SSC (in Colombo)."

"There was something still there for the quick bowlers this morning but we could not get those early breakthroughs that we needed defending just 182."

"We were confident at the start of play but they started batting well and then got away from us."

Inzaghi hitting form at the right time



AFP, Milan

extremely difficult to ignore a reborn 'SuperPippo', who since returning to action in October has scored 10 goals in Serie A and four in five Champions League matches.

Inzaghi made no excuses for his manic celebrations that followed his all-important second goal.

"I think I've earned the right to do what I've earned the right to do," he said after Milan clinched a place in the last four, where they will meet either Benfica or Barcelona.

"The most reassuring thing is that I have improved with every game. I can't help but be happy having scored so many goals after such bad injuries. It's great to be fit again."

Asked if he thought he was doing enough to earn a recall to the Italian national team, he said: "All I can do is try to stay fit and maintain this form, even though it won't be easy."

"I haven't felt any pain since I came back in October, and that's very encouraging."

Independence Day judo from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The ntv Independence Day judo competition starts at the National Sports Council gymnasium today. The two-day tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Judo Federation, hosts thirteen teams with 92 men and 37 women participants.

Pires heading for Villareal?

AFP, Madrid

Arsenal's French midfielder Robert Pires is set to sign for Spanish side Villareal in the next two weeks, the sports daily AS reported Wednesday.

The 32-year-old Pires is said to have agreed a two-year deal with Villareal who have just qualified for the Champions League semifinals by beating Inter Milan of Italy.

Pires sees his current contract with Arsenal expire at the end of the season and as yet he has not signed a new deal.

with around 15 minutes remaining as Serginho, whose wonderful talent has not been enough to get him into the Brazil side because of Roberto Carlos, made a scintillating run down the left flank into the Lyon box but it was cleared for a corner.

Wiltord saved his side's blushes from the resulting corner,