

Dalmiya will let the cat out of the bag

PTI, Kolkata

Training his guns on the Sharad Pawar-led Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI), Jagmohan Dalmiya on Monday asserted that he would go all the way to expose those who considered the board as their personal property and bent rules to suit their own interests.

Bubbling with confidence after getting a stay from the Kolkata High Court on his expulsion from the BCCI, the former board chief said that he would carry on his battle if the board continued to harass him and tried to establish a rule of the jungle.

"I will continue my battle against them. They can come again and again, but I will take them on," Dalmiya said.

Cocking a snoop at the BCCI that expelled him last December, Dalmiya said that the way they went about it, it was as if they were trying to ban me not only in this life, but in the next birth as well.

"Is this democracy? It is the rule of the jungle. My battle has been based on truth. Now it has been proved." Within minutes of getting the relief from the Calcutta High Court, Dalmiya filed a perjury case against the BCCI President Sharad Pawar, Secretary Niranjan Shah, and Vice-Presidents Shashank Manohar and Chirayu Amin for allegedly placing forged document before the court.

Sania-Bethanie pair triumphs at Cincinnati

PTI, Cincinnati

Sania Mirza and Bethanie Mattek lived up to their top billing to clinch the doubles title after a nail-biting final at the 175,000-dollar Cincinnati Open tennis tournament on Sunday.

Sania and her American partner defeated Russian Alina Jidkova and Tatiana Poutchek of Belarus 7-6, 7-5 to romp home at the WTA Tier III event yesterday.

For Sania, it was her second Tour doubles title this year and overall fifth while Mattek won her second WTA title.

The two teams stayed close throughout the match, except for a small 3-1 second set lead for Jidkova and Poutchek, who could not stretch it further.

Sania said she was satisfied with her performance and gave the credit of the win to team effort.

"We played better matches this week, but we're still happy to win. I have to get along with somebody off the court to play with them; Bethanie and I are a good team," she said.

BNS Dockyard

FROM PAGE 17 was adjudged player of the five-day meet.

Commodore Superintendent Dockyard Commodore Jashim Uddin Bhuiyan distributed prizes as chief guest.

Real leave

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Real captain Raul said he did not know the reason for Cassano's absence.

"You'll have to ask the director of sport for more details. Cassano hasn't been at training, we players know little more than this," he said.

Brazil's Julio Baptista, Marcelo and Robinho and Argentina's Gago were also left out of the training camp as they are recovering after competing in the Copa America with their national sides, the club said.

Friendlies are planned in Hanover, Germany and Moscow with the team returning home on August 5.

Argentina win

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would pull back."

Agüero won the Golden Boot Award as tournament top scorer with six goals and also was voted the Golden Ball as top player, finishing ahead of Argentina's Maximiliano Morales and Mexico's Giovanni Dos Santos.

Agüero, who came on as a substitute in the 2005 final against Nigeria, became the second player to play on the winning side in two U-20 finals. Portugal's Joao Pinto did it in 1989 and 1991.

"Argentina is not a forgiving soccer country," Czech coach Miroslav Soukup said through an interpreter. "We made a few mistakes and we paid for it."

Lawyers

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invoke a buy-out clause has now expired. Had the Argentine stated his intent to pay up the remainder of his two-year contract, Ferguson could not have stopped him moving to Liverpool.

Liverpool, Fulham and Portsmouth are all taking part in the Asian Trophy pre-season tournament here which starts on Tuesday.



PHOTO: AFP

Russian Anna Chakvetadze shows off the winner's trophy of the Cincinnati Open after defeating Akiko Morigami of Japan in the final at the Lindner Family Tennis Center on Sunday.

Garcia laments cursed luck



Golf

AFP, Carnoustie

Sergio Garcia insisted he would bounce back from the trauma of throwing away his chance to claim his first major title at a British Open he had led from the opening day.

The petulant tenor of his remarks after losing out to Pdraig Harrington in a play-off on Sunday evening however suggest that this was an experience that could leave lasting scars on the 27-year-old's psyche.

Garcia had started the final round with a three shot lead over his nearest rival and six ahead of Harrington.

And despite a closing 73, he would still have won if he had been able to par the final hole after Harrington had twice found water on the 18th.

Instead, he opted for an iron off the tee, leaving himself with a three-iron second that he deposited into a greenside bunker before seeing his ten-foot par putt slip out.

But the Spaniard was still convinced he had scarcely put a foot wrong.

"I definitely struggled a little bit on the front nine -- I had my opportunities but I didn't convert them," he said.

"But then I felt like I played great on the back nine. I felt like when you

need to play well, I rarely missed a shot, and I just couldn't really make any putts."

Garcia also aimed a potshot at the Carnoustie groundstaff, claiming he had been made to wait an unnecessarily long time before playing his approach to the 72nd hole.

"Having to wait 15 minutes in the fairway doesn't help when you're trying to win the British Open," he moaned.

"When you're one shot in front, hitting a 3 iron into a green where there's danger everywhere, having to wait at least 15 minutes to hit your shot doesn't help. It doesn't help at all. I wasn't very happy about that."

"It seemed to take a long time, a very long time just to rake two bunkers."

Despite the increased pressure generated by the wait, Garcia had been confident he could still clinch victory without having to go into a play-off.

"I still don't know how that par putt missed," he said. "I'm still trying to ask myself. I thought it was there but it just moved a little left and lipped out."

Harrington claimed an ultimately decisive two-shot advantage at the first hole of the four-hole play-off when he produced a superb birdie while Garcia bogeyed after landing in a greenside bunker.

That fact appeared to have been

forgotten by the Spaniard when he claimed: "I should write a book on how to not miss a shot in the playoff and shoot one over."

Garcia's acute sense that he is uniquely cursed would have been encouraged by his experience of playing the second play-off hole, par three 16th, where his tee shot struck the pin and ricocheted to about 20 feet from the hole.

"It is funny some guys hit the pin and it goes in or goes to a foot away. Mine hit the pin and it ends up 20 feet away. The saddest thing is, I'm playing a lot of guys out there, not just the field."

"It seems to me that every time I get in this kind of position I have no room for error. I rarely get any good breaks."

His comments may suggest otherwise, but Garcia insisted he would be able to cope with an experience that is bound to result in much speculation about whether he ever will be able to claim the major title he has been expected to win since he finished second to Tiger Woods at the 1999 US PGA as a 19-year-old.

"I'm fine," he said. "I'm disappointed but the week is over. Pdraig played well, good enough to win. I've just got to get better, there is nothing else I can think about at the moment."

Chakvetadze wins Cincinnati crown

AFP, Cincinnati

Top-seeded Russian Anna Chakvetadze captured her fifth WTA Tour title Sunday with a straight-sets victory over Japan's Akiko Morigami in the final of this 175,000-dollar hardcourt event.

Chakvetadze, ranked eighth in the world, downed the seventh-seeded Morigami 6-1, 6-3, adding a third 2007 title to those she won in Hobart and 'S-Hertogenbosch.

The Russian had lost her previous three encounters against Morigami, who was seeking her second title of the year.

But she needed little time to get the better of her opponent this time, taking just under an hour to wrap up the final.

Chakvetadze overcame six double faults and broke Morigami's serve six times.

It had to be a disappointing finish to what had been a big week for Morigami, who also lost here in the final in 2005.

She had beaten second-seeded Patty Schnyder in the quarterfinals on Friday.

PCB hopes for the best

PTI, Karachi

With Australia and South Africa raising concerns over touring Pakistan in the wake of an escalation in violence, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Nasim Ashraf said the situation had not reached such levels where international teams cannot play.

Pakistan after playing in the Twenty20 World Cup hosts South Africa for two Tests and five one-day internationals from September 27 but doubts have emerged on the tour due to the unrest in the country.

The Australian A and under-19 teams will tour Pakistan in September-October while the senior side is scheduled for a trip in February-March next year to play three Tests and five one-day internationals.

An Australian security delegation visited Pakistan last week and expressed satisfaction with the arrangements for their A and under-19 teams that tour from September 1 but rejected Karachi and Peshawar as match venues.

Ashraf said he was confident the environment in Pakistan had not changed to the extent that international teams could not play.

"The situation is fine and we keep on getting updates from the government," Ashraf said.

Vinokourov

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year's race -- was brought to life by a thrilling duel involving Rasmussen and Spanish rival Contador.

Contador began the day in second overall at 2min 23sec behind the Dane, but on the final kilometres to the summit finish of the Col de Peyresourde, 12km from the finish, he launched attack after attack in a bid to close his deficit.

Rasmussen followed every single one, although Contador's offensive left plenty of damage in its wake.

Evans, who began the day third overall, ultimately failed to follow the Spaniard's first volley, and was left trailing for the final 2.5km of the climb.

Meanwhile Vinokourov, who had dramatically fallen out of yellow jersey contention on Sunday's stage -- which he finished at over 28 minutes in arrears -- surged onwards on his successful bid to secure a second stage success.

The Astana team leader had pulled away from a small group of leading riders on the 7.9km climb to the summit of the Col de Peyresourde.

Iran mocks

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next competition for a realistic chance of international success.

Three times at the post-match press conference Ghalenoei insisted he would take all responsibility for Iran's loss, with his future as coach looking grim judging by the tenor of questions directed at him by Iranian journalists.

"This is not the place to talk about my future plans. When I return to Tehran I can think about my future and discuss this matter," Ghalenoei said.

"But I take all responsibility for this result."

The 43-year-old Ghalenoei, has been in the job since July last year after the sacking of the Croatian Branko Ivankovic.

"The conservative thoughts of our coaching team meant that our players did not perform up to their ability," wrote Jam-e Jam newspaper.

"Once again Iranian football fans have to wait and the period of waiting is now 35 years," it said, referring to the last time Iran won the Asian Cup.

The Iranian team is due to return to Tehran on Monday.

KP will always be there



AFP, London

Cricket

Kevin Pietersen said there could be no question over his commitment to England following a hundred here Sunday which set up his side's bid for victory in the first Test against India at Lord's.

Pietersen's 134 was the cornerstone of England's second innings 282 which left India needing to chase down 380 -- the fourth highest fourth innings Test victory total in history -- to go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

They closed on 137 for three, needing a further 243 on Monday's final day for a dramatic win.

Earlier this month, Pietersen said he felt exhausted after being involved throughout England's Champions Trophy, Ashes and World Cup campaigns before this season's home Test and one-day series with West Indies.

But he was adamant it was wrong to interpret those comments as an unwillingness to play international cricket.

"What you guys (the press) should know is that every single time I turn up for a training session, every single time I turn up for an international, I'll never ever shy away from anything," said the 27-year-old after compiling his first Test hundred against India, his third this season alone, and ninth in 28 matches at this level.

"I'm committed to everything I do for this country, everything I do for this team, to win a Test match, to win a one-day game," the South Africa-born batsman insisted.

"I simply answered a simple

question which I was asked last week and it got blown up. I've never shied away from anything. I'll always turn up for England. I've never asked for a day off, ever, in terms of an international. As long as I'm asked to play for England I'll play, that's the bottom line."

Pietersen, often portrayed to his annoyance as a selfish loner, added: "I play to entertain, to enjoy myself, to express myself but the most important thing is setting the team up to win a Test match. That's why I gave my wicket away this afternoon trying to get a few more runs."

"If I was playing for myself, I could quite easily have been batting now. I definitely put the team first," said Pietersen, bowled hitting out by left-arm quick RP Singh, having faced 213 balls with one six and 14 fours.

Before the close England dismissed India captain Rahul Dravid and fellow star batsman Sachin Tendulkar with just nine and 16 respectively.

However, Sourav Ganguly -- dropped on 12 -- was still there on 36 with opener Dinesh Karthik on 56.

"We've got two real good wickets. But they've got good batsmen to come. Ganguly is still there, (VVS) Laxman is next in, (Mahendra) Dhoni and Karthik, who is playing quite well at the moment," Pietersen said.

Just after Sunday's close, Pietersen appeared to intervene as England captain Michael Vaughan and Ganguly exchanged cross-words.

But Pietersen said: "There was no peace-keeping at all. Cricket is a tough game played by tough competitors. He (Ganguly) is a tough

competitor, Michael's a tough competitor and this was just an exchange of words which happen all day every day on a sports field."

Pietersen's celebration of his hundred was as nothing compared to that of Monty Panesar, who sprinted towards the boundary, after dismissing his boyhood hero Tendulkar.

Panesar had been equally jubilant when snaring the 'Little Master' for his first Test wicket on debut in Nagpur last year and Pietersen said: "Monty's a fantastic bowler."

"Sachin is the man he looks up to, the man he's really admired since he was a little boy so for him to get out the bloke he admires most in this world is fantastic for Monty."

Pietersen also paid tribute to England's inexperienced seamers who, in the first innings, bowled India out for 201 with the recalled James Anderson taking a Test-best five for 42.

"Everybody has said this is a young attack. They've turned up and it looks as if they've been bowling in Test cricket for 10 years."

"Chris Tremlett deserves a real good mention for the way he's come into his first Test match," added Pietersen of his Hampshire team-mate, who on Sunday had Dravid lbw.

India's attack was led by 21-year-old Singh who, in his first Test outside the sub-continent, took a Test-best five for 59.

"RP bowled well," Pietersen said. "He's a nice good swing bowler. The Indian bowlers have got some good skill and as soon as it starts swinging and seaming they are a very good bowling attack."

Gibson takes ten all



AFP, London

Cricket

Former West Indies Test bowler Otis Gibson created a little piece of history on Sunday when he took 10 wickets in an innings in an English county championship match.

The 38-year-old veteran, playing for Durham, achieved the landmark by bowling out Hampshire for 115 in their first innings, finishing with figures of 10-47 off 17.3 overs.

Durham had made 252 in their first innings of the match being played at Chester-le-Street.

Gibson, who becomes the 79th bowler in first-class cricket history to achieve the feat, is the first since Debasish Mohanty in 2000-01, and first in county cricket since Richard Johnson took 10 for 45 for Middlesex in 1994.

He reached the mark when he

bowled James Bruce for a first-ball duck.

"I'm as pleased as punch, it was my day today. I knew I had to bowl well early on and everything just clicked into place," said Gibson who is playing for his third English county.

"It was definitely one of my more disciplined innings and it's nice to put in a performance that lifts the team."

However, Gibson, who played two Tests and 15 one-day internationals, said he was too experienced to get carried away by his achievement.

"This was a great day, but it doesn't mean I should play for four more years. I've been around long enough to know that next week I might not take any wickets, so I still won't look much further than tomorrow."

"In my young days I was quick and I still like to bowl fast and rough people up when I have the chance, but in conditions like this I know it's best just to run in and let the ball do the work. I got the wickets more through swing

than seam.

"I wasn't going to bowl after lunch, but the captain said I wasn't going to get many more chances to take all 10 at my age."

"It couldn't have worked out better for me because both times I started to feel tired I got a break, first for lunch then with the rain."

Miscommunication?

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showcasing the case of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's, who was ruled out from the match due to an ankle injury he had suffered during practice on Sunday.

"He might have contributed as a batsman but the fact was that Shahadat bowled well in the match. Actually our bowling was good but you can't stop a team like Sri Lanka with a small total," he added.

Coach states the obvious

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achieve that feat will have to work really hard and be lucky," observed the 38-year old dashing batsmen cum left-arm slow bowler.

"Some of my best bowling had been in the 1996 World Cup against England and against India in the semifinals. I went through a rather lean patch in my bowling and when I was in India the last time I got some help from Bruce Yardley which really worked," he informed.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Monday:

BANGLADESH

Nafees c Jayawardene b Malinga 6
Iqbal b Malinga 3
Imran b Maharoof 4
Rahim c Sangakkara b Malinga 0
Ashraf b Sangakkara b

Jayasuriya 29
Aftab c Jayawardene b Jayasuriya 47
Shakib b Bandara 15
Reza run out 2
Razaq c Mubarak b Jayasuriya 3
Shahadat not out 9
Rasel c Mubarak b Jayasuriya 3
Extras: (lb-1, lb-2, w-12, nb-1) 16
Total: (All out in 46.5 overs) 137
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-13, 3-13, 4-26, 5-87, 6-111, 7-117, 8-124, 9-128

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