

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 Nirjan 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 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 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

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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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weight down.

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."

Aguero 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 Moralez and Mexico's Giovani Dos Santos.

Aguero, 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 Jaoa 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 major from the opening day.

The petulant tenor of his remarks after losing out to Padraig 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 final 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. Padraig played well, good enough to win. I've just got to get better, there is nothing else I can think about at the moment."

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Bad light holds up hosts

FROM PAGE 17
But it was Panesar, the son of Indian parents but born in Luton, north of London, who struck next by clean bowling a perplexed Rudra Pratap Singh.

However, the light worsened and the match was halted with England on the brink of victory.

India started the final day on 137 for three. Opener Dinesh Karthik was 56 not out and Sourav Ganguly, dropped on 12, unbeaten on 36.

An overcast sky made conditions helpful for swing bowling and, in the fourth over of the day, Sidebottom had left-hander Ganguly lbw for 40.

James Anderson, recalled for his first home Test since 2004, had taken a Test-test five for 42 as India were bowled out for 201 in their first innings despite England missing 137-3.

Jaffer c Pietersen b Anderson 8
Karthik c Collingwood b Anderson 60
Davidon lbw b Tremlett 9
Tendulkar lbw b Panesar 16
Ganguly lbw b Sidebottom 40
Laxman b Tremlett 39
Dhoni not out 76
Kumble lbw b Sidebottom 3
Zaheer c Prior b Tremlett 0
RP Singh b Panesar 2
Sreesanth not out 4
Extras: (b-13, lb-5, w-6, nb-1) 25
Total: (For 9 wkt in 96 overs) 282

Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-55, 3-84, 4-143, 5-145, 6-231, 7-247, 8-254, 9-263

Bowler O M R W
Sidebottom 19 4 42 2
Anderson 25 4 83 2
Tremlett 21 5 52 3
Panesar 26 7 63 2
Collingwood 1 0 6 0
Vaughan 4 0 18 0

Injured pace bowlers Stephen Harmison, Matthew Hoggard and Andrew Flintoff.

Anderson was again rewarded for his accuracy when Karthik, who'd otherwise cover-driven well during his 60, edged to second slip Paul Collingwood.

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