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BCCI to protest inept umpiring

AFP, Sydney

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will lodge a formal complaint with the International Cricket Council over the 'incompetent' umpiring of the second Test against Australia, team management said Sunday.

Australia dramatically won the Test by 122 runs in the penultimate over of the final day at the Sydney Cricket Ground to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as holders with two matches left in the series.

"I have been informed by the BCCI that they are lodging a strong protest with the ICC, so that some of the incompetent umpires do not umpire in the rest of the series," team manager Chetan Chauhan said at the press conference.

"The way the umpiring was, the team is agitated and upset."

"A lot of decisions have gone against us. Of course, a few went against the Australians also. But it really affected us," he said.

"Had some of the decisions, I would say 50 per cent of the decisions, been received in our favour, the result would have been different."

"We're not saying this because we have lost the game. It was for everybody to see."

Sunrise hold Mohakhali

SPORTS REPORTER

After Saturday's brief meeting with a goal, the Senior Division Football League again plunged into the goal-drought as Mohakhali XI drew 0-0 with newcomers Sunrise KC at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

After an ordinary first half, both sides created late chances without any avail.

Mohakhali came close in the 70th minute but their effort came off the post while ten minutes later, the Mohakhali goalkeeper parried a rival shot on goal as the deadlock remained.

Two matches will be played from today at the same venue with Arambagh taking on Jatrabari at 1pm followed by the match between City Club and Badda Jagarani at 3pm.



Did U Know?

The first ever one-day international was played between England and Australia at Melbourne in 1971.



Paolo Maldini

(AC Milan defender)

"Ronaldinho is a more expressive guy and he is more positive from a human contact point of view than Dida, who is a reserved guy who prefers to deal with things by himself."



Nat'l Cricket League
(Round Ten, Day Four)
Dhaka v Rajshahi
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur
Khulna v Barisal
Venue: Khulna Divisional Stadium
Sylhet v Chittagong
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium



OUT OF JAIL: Australian cricketers chase down Michael Clarke (C), who removed the last three Indian wickets in five balls, on the final day of the second Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday.

Controversy, drama see Aussies home

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Part-time spinner Michael Clarke claimed three wickets in five balls of the penultimate over to clinch Australia a dramatic 122-run second Test victory against India and a record-equalling 16th straight Test win here on Sunday.

India had looked to be hanging on for a 'determined' draw, with skipper Anil Kumble leading the way with an unbeaten 45.

But he could only watch from the other end as the last three wickets tumbled in the second-last over to hand Australia an astonishing victory.

Clarke, with his left-arm off-spinners, claimed 3 for 5 off 11 balls to get Australia home and they will now shoot for a world record 17th straight win in the third Perth Test over January 16-20.

While Clarke may have won Australia a thrilling Test, all-rounder Andrew Symonds was judged man-of-the-match with his unbeaten 162 and 61 and 3-51 in the second innings.

The Australian team fought to the end and ringed the remaining Indian batsmen with six fielders to get a breakthrough after Kumble and Harbhajan Singh looked likely to bat out for the draw.

Clarke removed Harbhajan for seven with his first delivery, had RP Singh leg before wicket on the next ball, and then wrapped up an exciting win when Mike Hussey caught last man Ishant Sharma with the fifth ball.

Kumble remained unbeaten but his effort was scuppered at the death.

The Australians retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as holders with a 2-0 lead after a thumping 337-run win in last week's first Melbourne Test.

Ponting's team have been undefeated in Tests since beating South Africa by 184 runs at this ground two years ago.

India led from on the first innings after centuries by Sachin Tendulkar (154 not out) and VVS Laxman (109), but the Australians played their best cricket over the last two days to seize victory.

Symonds broke through with two wickets in four balls to put India on the slide after tea.

Rahul Dravid was the victim of a contentious decision by umpire Steve Bucknor who gave him out caught behind even though television replays showed the ball missing Dravid's bat.

Dravid, who had resisted for almost two and a half hours and 103 balls for 38, looked incredulous at Bucknor as he left the pitch.



WHEN I SAY IT'S OUT ... Australia captain Ricky Ponting provides umpire Mark Benson the decision to dismiss India batsman Sourav Ganguly during the final day controversy at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday. After Michael Clarke took the disputed catch off Ganguly, Ponting was seen gesturing towards the English umpire who did not consult his colleague in the middle or the third umpire either.

It's not cricket: Kumble

Cricket

REUTERS, Sydney

The fractured relationship between the Australian and Indian cricket teams reached a new low on Sunday after Australia staged an amazing comeback to win the second Test by 122 runs.

Part-time spinner Michael Clarke captured three wickets in the penultimate over to deny India a draw and ensure Australia retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and equalled their own world record of 16 successive victories.

But their incredible victory was overshadowed by a bitter outburst from the Indians, who accused the Australians of unsportsmanlike behaviour and called on the International Cricket Council (ICC) to sack the two umpires that handled the match.

"Only one team was playing with the spirit of the game," Indian captain Kumble said, borrowing a similar line to Bill Woodfull's immortal comment during the

1932-33 Bodyline series. The Indian team manager Chetan Chauhan said the tourists were so upset at the performances of the two on-field umpires, West Indian Steve Bucknor and England's Mark Benson that they planned to lodge an official protest at their handling of the match.

"I have been informed by the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) that they are lodging a strong protest with the ICC, so that some of the incompetent umpires do not umpire in the rest of the series," Chauhan said.

The tourists had been faced with the daunting challenge of batting through 72 overs to salvage a draw on a turning Sydney Cricket Ground pitch to keep the series alive but came up agonisingly short.

They made no attempt at chasing down the 333 they had been set to win but held out realistic hopes of hanging on for a draw when they started the second last over with three wickets in hand.

But Clarke, who had managed just one run with the bat in the match, manufactured an astonishing

comeback to seal Australia's win by dismissing Harbhajan Singh, RP Singh and Irfan Pathan in five balls. Ponting, who lodged a complaint about Harbhajan during the match for allegedly racially abusing Andrew Symonds, said Australia's win was among the best he had ever been involved in during his long career.

"My overall emotion and feeling at the end of the game was as good a feeling as I've ever had on a cricket field," he said.

"To win a Test like that, coming down to the last eight or 10 minutes on the fifth day is very special."

Australia were not even entertaining thoughts of winning when they trailed by 69 runs on the first innings but gave themselves a chance of victory when they piled on the runs in the second dig.

Mike Hussey made an unbeaten 145 and man of the match Symonds (61), allowing Ponting to declare before lunch on the last day and give his bowlers just over two sessions to manufacture a result.

India's hopes of saving the

at Bucknor as he left the pitch.

Yuvraj Singh continued his woeful series with a third-ball duck edging Symonds into Adam Gilchrist's gloves in the same over.

Ganguly fell in Lee's eighth over when he edged to second slip where Clarke took a low catch. Ganguly stood his ground but was sent on his way by umpire Mark Benson for 51.

Stuart Clark set the wheels in motion with the key wickets of VVS Laxman and Sachin Tendulkar before tea.

The seamer trapped Laxman leg before wicket for 20 playing back on to his stumps and struck again with the crucial scalp of Tendulkar in his fifth over for 12.

Tendulkar, who built his SCG average to a stunning 326 runs following his unbeaten 154 in the first innings, tried to get his bat out of the way only to deflect it on to his stumps.

Opener Wasim Jaffer continued his dismal run of scores with a four-ball duck to Lee in the first over of the innings.

Ponting called a halt to Australia's second innings at 401 for seven, leaving India with 72 overs to go after the runs.

Hussey remained unbeaten on 145 off 259 balls at the time of the declaration for his eighth Test hundred and boosted his average to 84.8 in 20 Tests.

Kumble finished with 4-148 off 40 overs and now has 599 Test wickets, while fellow spinner Harbhajan took 2-92 off 33 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the final day of the second Test between Australia and India at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 463 (Symonds 162 not out, Hogg 79; Kumble 4-106, RP Singh 4-124)
INDIA: First innings 532 (Tendulkar 154 not out, Laxman 109; Lee 5-119)
AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 282 for 4)
Jaques c Yuvraj b Kumble 42

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

'One of our best wins'

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia's amazing last-gasp victory over India in the second Test on Sunday would be remembered as one of the team's greatest ever wins, captain Ricky Ponting said.

The match seemed to be meandering towards a draw with Australia needing three wickets with only two overs to go when part-time spinner Michael Clarke produced an astonishing over that triggered joyous scenes at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Clarke dismissed Harbhajan Singh and RP Singh with his first two deliveries then Irfan Pathan with his fifth ball to hand Australia victory and retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, equalling their own world record of 16 successive victories.

"It's right up there as far as I'm concerned," Ponting told a news conference.

"My overall emotion and feeling at the end of the game was as good a feeling as I've ever had on a cricket field."

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Siddons urges patience

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Reflecting on Bangladesh's nine-wicket loss to New Zealand, coach Jamie Siddons pointed out the lack of patience in his middle-order batsmen.

A remarkable turnaround was expected on the third day after a brilliant comeback on the previous evening via new Test openers Tamim Iqbal and Zunaed Siddiqui, who shared a 148-run unbeaten stand. But after they were dismissed early yesterday, the Tigers' middle-order collapsed and were bowled out for 254 runs.

"Our middle-order needs to understand that Test cricket is all about patience. They can't hit the ball in the air too often and there are tough periods," Siddons was quoted as saying in TigerCricket.Com website during the post-match press briefing at the University Oval in Dunedin.

"We survive six overs without

scoring but we are not happy to (do so) for the seventh. We have to get through the tough periods. There's going to be a lot of tough periods," he added when asked about the trouble with the middle-order.

Siddons, in his first assignment with the Tigers, emphasised that batting inconsistency is still their biggest problem.

"I have not been with these guys long enough and I have been told that inconsistency is in their cricket and they play too many shots when it is not necessary in Tests and ODIs. Ashraful looks the best player out there but he is getting out and not scoring the runs he is used to getting," said Siddons.

He was annoyed with the early finish and said: "They have got to find it within themselves. There were two days left in this Test and they didn't need to go hard and just needed to wear them down."

But Siddons had praise for his openers Tamim and Zunaed, both of whom were playing their first Test match. Tamim struck two half-centuries and Zunaed, who missed

out in the first innings, eased to 74 before falling to Chris Martin.

"Tamim has been consistent all the way through this tour with his strokes. The New Zealand bowlers worked him out a little bit in the first innings but he was better in the second. I think he has definitely got a future," said Siddons.

While of Zunaed he said, "He is a really solid person and a solid player and he'll get better and better. He has got one area he needs to work on and he has addressed it pretty well in the second innings. It is very encouraging that a couple of openers come out of the blue and do that sort of a job. I think we can put those two aside now and worry about the next four," said the Australian coach.

After Daniel Vettori called the boundaries on one side of the ground as a 'farce', Siddons said, "The balls got to the boundary pretty quick when both teams were batting. A couple of top edges and cuts went flying over the boundary. I won't go as far as calling it a farce but I think they need to look at that

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Khulna or Rajshahi?

SPORTS REPORTER



Fortunes fluctuated heavily in the final round of the 9th National Cricket League yesterday as the fate of the title swung back Khulna's way with one day remaining in the four-day matches.

A dramatic finish on the final day of the all-important tenth round will decide the winners as the Rajshahi ship hit the bottom near the coast after dominating the first two days' proceedings against Dhaka.

Rajshahi, who began the final round one point behind contenders Khulna, faced a batting debacle but their title rivals fought back brilliantly in their second essay against Barisal to revive the hopes of clinching the first-class trophy.

After taking a 52-run first-innings lead, Rajshahi were reduced to 59 for seven in their second innings and another rescue act from two unbeaten batsmen Nayeem Islam and Mohammad Shahjada, the ton makers in the first innings, can only bring them back in contention.

Khulna improved their batting to set a stiff 302-run target for Barisal after the hosts made 325 in

the second innings at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman Stadium in Khulna. Barisal finished the day on 20 without loss.

At the Fatullah Stadium, the match was evenly poised as Chittagong will start chase of 237 runs for win in the second innings against Sylhet.

RAJSHAHI-DHAKA

Left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain snatched the advantage from Rajshahi after Nazmul Hossain Milon's brilliant 93 at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Mosharraf captured four wickets for nine runs in nine overs to further damage the Rajshahi second innings after new ball bowlers Mahbubul Alam and Mohammad Sharif started the carnage.

The visitors, who now have a 111-run overall lead, will definitely look to Nayeem and Shahjada, who had associated in a 172-run eighth wicket stand in the first innings.

Earlier, a 79-run eighth wicket stand between Milon and Mosharraf helped Dhaka to score 313 after resuming the day on 132-4. Nazmul for another occasion fell victim in the nervous nineties as the hard hitter scored 93 off 154 balls with the help of four bound-

aries and as many sixes. Mosharraf contributed 34 off 70 balls with five fours.

KHULNA-BARISAL

Khulna bounced back with solid middle order show as they amassed 325 -- a much better effort from their first innings total of 193 -- after resuming on 73-2.

Fariduddin top scored 61 off 136 balls which featured seven boundaries while captain Nahidul Haque added 52 off 80 deliveries with the help of eight fours and a six. Jamaluddin Babu chipped in with 140-ball 48.

Hannan was batting on five and Nasiruddin Faruque remained not out on 16 as Barisal batted five overs without any trouble.

SYLHET-CHITTAGONG

New ball pair Kamrul Islam and Tareq Aziz equally shared eight wickets to create an opportunity for Chittagong to finish the campaign with a high note.

But it could have been a much better story for Chittagong if Nabil Samad and Rashedur Rahman had not frustrated them during a 60-run stand for the last wicket as Sylhet recovered from 141-9 to 201 all out.

Nabil hit team highest 37 off 102

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Dhaka left-arm spinner Mosharraf Hossain (2nd from L) starts celebrating the fall of Rajshahi captain Khaled Mashud's (C) wicket during the visitors' second innings collapse in the final round National Cricket League match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

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