

Dalmiya arrested, then released on bail

PTI, Mumbai

Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) chief Jagmohan Dalmiya was yesterday arrested on charges of misappropriation of over 2.90 crore rupees of the cricket body's funds...

Dalmiya was granted bail as per the provisions of a High Court order which granted him anticipatory bail over two years ago...

His secretary KM Chaudhury was also arrested and subsequently released on bail while a third accused, one Gautam Dutta, was earlier arrested and released on bail.

Dalmiya, who arrived at the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of the city police along with his lawyer, left for the Esplanade Court after being released on bail.

The EOW, which is investigating the case, is going to file a chargesheet against Dalmiya, his secretary Chaudhury and Dutta at the Esplanade court.

Acting on a case filed by the BCCI in March 2006 after the Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar took over as head of the body, the EOW found that Dalmiya diverted funds from the legal fees towards other expenses...

Sri Lanka revise India schedule

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka said Wednesday it had been forced to change the itinerary for India's tour of the island later this year because of a lack of hotel rooms due to a summit of South Asian leaders in Colombo.

The first Test, which was originally scheduled to be held in Galle, will now be played at the Sinhalese Sports Club in Colombo...

Galle will hold the second Test, while the third will be played at the Premadasa Stadium in the Sri Lankan capital.

Cricket officials said the change was necessary because the dates clashed with the annual summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

"All hotels in Colombo are booked from July 27 to August 4 because of the meetings and we can't find accommodation for the teams," SLC secretary K Mathivanan said.

India will also play five one-day internationals against the hosts after the Test series.

REVISED SCHEDULE

Table with 3 columns: Date, Test number, Location. Includes dates from July 18-20 to Aug 29.

Borrowed bat fired up him!

REUTERS, Napier

With the deciding third Test against England all but lost, New Zealand pace bowler Tim Southee provided the crowd with a little excitement before the visitors wrapped up a 121-run victory on Wednesday.

The 19-year-old debutant smashed 77 not out off just 40 balls, including nine sixes.

Southee's first Test half-century came off just 29 balls, a record for a New Zealander, and it was all done with a bat borrowed from teammate Stephen Fleming.

"Flem looked at my bats and asked what sort of sticks did GM (Gunn and Moore) give you?" Southee told reporters. "He looked at them and said 'try this one out' (and) gave me one of his."

"I went out there today with it. There's nothing wrong with mine. His were just another step up."

Southee was particularly brutal on left-arm spinner Monty Panesar, who had gone to lunch with figures of six for 85.

His three overs after the interval cost 41 runs, including 24 off one.

"He's bowled well throughout the series but I thought I'd have a swing and it came off," Southee added.

England to play

FROM PAGE 17 told reporters after a board meeting here.

Meanwhile, India will tour Bangladesh in June for a one-day tri-series also featuring Pakistan, Srinivasan said.

The Indians will then visit Pakistan at the end of June for the Asia Cup, before flying to Sri Lanka in mid-July for three Tests and five one-day internationals.

India will take part in the International Cricket Council's Champions Trophy in Pakistan from September 11-28 and cross the border again in January, 2009 for three Tests and five one-dayers against their archrivals.



PHOTO: AFP

West Indies stop-gap opener Dwayne Bravo lofts one for the maximum during the fourth day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at Providence in Georgetown on Tuesday.

Guyana Test wide open

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With three wickets for 59 runs from 20.5 overs, Vaas took three for 48 from 25 overs, and Muralidaran snared three for 112 from 40 overs.

When Sri Lanka batted a second time, they gained another stable foundation from Warnapura and fellow left-handed opener Michael Vandort.

Sri Lanka however, suffered a setback in the final half-hour before lunch, when Vandort was caught down the leg-side for 24 off West Indies captain Chris Gayle, bowling his uncomplicated off-spin.

After the interval, the hunt for quick runs continued, but the Sri Lankans lost wickets at regular intervals, and were 186 for five at tea.

Warnapura, one of two century-makers in the Sri Lanka first innings, continued in his rich vein of form, and reached his 50, when he edged Powell for the last of his five boundaries through the vacant slip region in the first half-hour after lunch.

But the left-handed opener was one of four Sri Lanka wickets which fell between lunch and tea.

Sri Lanka had suffered a setback early in the afternoon period, when Kumar Sangakkara was caught at mid-wicket off Bravo for 21, following a second wicket stand of 51 with Warnapura.

Mahela Jayawardene came to the crease to pair the two first innings century-makers, but Warnapura, growing increasingly adventurous, was caught behind off Bravo chasing his ill-directed 91st delivery to end his innings which lasted a little over two hours.

With the Sri Lankans looking to increase the tempo, their batsmen played a few ill-advised strokes, and Jayawardene perished, when

he was caught at mid-wicket for 33 top-edging a pull to become left-arm spin bowler Sulieman Benn's first Test wicket.

In the final half-hour before the break, Tillakaratne Dilshan was adjudged lbw to Taylor for four to leave Sri Lanka on 171 for five, and Samaraweera and Vaas to carry the visitors to tea.

After tea, Samaraweera led the charge for quick runs, and reached his 50, when he drove Benn to long-on for a single.

But Vaas was caught behind off Benn and Thushara was caught at long-off off the same bowler before the Sri Lankans felt they had enough.

Benn, playing his first Test, ended with three for 59 from 13 overs, and Bravo took two for 54 from 14 overs.

Sri Lanka are aiming to win their first Test match in the Caribbean having lost two and drawn two of their previous four here. The visitors are also eyeing a Test series victory for the first time in the Caribbean.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the fourth day of the opening Test between West Indies and Sri Lanka at the Guyana National Stadium on Tuesday.

SRI LANKA: First Innings 476 for 8 decl (M Jayawardene 136, Warnapura 120)

WEST INDIES: First Innings (over-night 269 for nine)

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Lists players like Dilshan, Taylor, Powell, etc.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Lists players like Taylor, Powell, M Jayawardene, etc.

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-46, 3-58, 4-99, 5-109, 6-162, 7-193, 8-236, 9-252.

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Dilshan, Vaas, Thushara, etc.

SRI LANKA: Second Innings Vandort c Ramdin b Bravo 24 Warnapura c Ramdin b Bravo 62 Sangakkara c (sub) Edwards b Bravo 21 M Jayawardene c Chanderpaul b Benn 33 Samaraweera not out 56 Dilshan lbw b Taylor 4 Vaas c Ramdin b Benn 13 Mirando c Taylor b Benn 14 P Jayawardene not out 5 Extras: (b-2, lb-1, nb-5) 8 Total: (For 7 wks decl in 57 overs) 240 Did not bat: Muralidaran, Herath.

Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-94, 3-133, 4-159, 5-171, 6-192, 7-224

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Powell, Taylor, Bravo, etc.

WEST INDIES: Second Innings D Smith c Mirando b Vaas 10 Sarwan not out 46 Warnapura not out 34 Extras: (b-5, nb-1) 6 Total: (For 1 wkt in 23 overs) 96 To bat: Gayle, Chanderpaul, Ramdin, Powell, Samuels, Hinds, Taylor, Benn.

Fall of wickets: 1-22

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Vaas, Mirando, Herath, Muralidaran.

King Khan v Mithun Dada

PTI, Kolkata

It will be Shahrukh Khan versus Mithun Chakraborty in cricket.

A fortnight after the gala launch of King Khan's Kolkata Knight Riders team for the multi-million dollar Indian Premier League (IPL), rival Zee-promoted Indian Cricket League has roped in 'Mithun Dada' to be the franchisee owner of one of its sides 'Kolkata Tigers'.

"Yes, I have said 'Yes' to ICL. I was always interested in floating a soccer or cricket side. Now I have an opportunity," said Mithun, who inked an agreement with ICL Tuesday night.

Cricketing circles feel the rebel league bosses opted for Mithun, who rose from the ranks in Kolkata to make it big in Mumbai films and still holds a huge fan following here, to counter the massive propaganda mileage the IPL got in the city and across the country after Shahrukh's Red Chillies Entertainment won the franchisee rights for the Kolkata Knight Riders.

Mithun's presence could also help in boosting the brand image of the Craig McMillan-led team, which has attracted little attention from the media or sports aficionados ever since it came into being last year.

Gavaskar meets Speed in Dubai

PTI, Dubai

Under-pressure to quit his post as Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee, former India captain Sunil Gavaskar yesterday met ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed here.

Confirming Gavaskar's meeting with Speed, the ICC said, "The meeting followed discussions by the ICC Board last week concerning the potential for a conflict of interest for a person chairing the cricket committee while, at the same time, working for a media outlet."

Despite being the chairman of the elite panel, Gavaskar had lambasted ICC Match Referee Mike Procter for the South African's allegedly poor handling of the racism row during India's tour of Australia earlier this year.

He had also termed some ICC member countries like England and Australia as "dinosaurs," alleging they could not stomach India's growing clout in the game.

His scathing criticism did not amuse some who felt there was a conflict of interest in his dual role as the head of the committee and a cricket commentator and columnist.

Media reports in London claimed ICC, in its recent executive meeting in Dubai, had unanimously decided to oust Gavaskar from the panel.

The ICC Cricket Committee is scheduled to meet on May 5 and 6 and the ICC Annual Conference week takes place between June 29 and July 4.

Proteas' fine

FROM PAGE 17

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Lists players like Sreesanth, Kumble, Harbhajan, etc.

INDIA: Sehwag, Jaffer, Dravid, Tendulkar, Ganguly, Laxman, Dhoni, Kumble, Harbhajan, RP Singh, Sreesanth.

Toss: South Africa. Umpires: Asad Rauf (PAK) and Tony Hill (NZL). TV umpire: Amiesha Saheba (IND). Match referee: Roshan Mahanama (SRI).

We can still win: Dyson

AFP, Providence

West Indies coach John Dyson believes a sensational come-from-behind victory is still a possibility for his side in the opening Test against Sri Lanka.

Chasing 437 from a minimum of 113 overs, West Indies reached 96 for one when stumps were drawn on the fourth day at the Guyana National Stadium.

"We'll just wait and see what happens in the morning and see how things pan out," he told reporters.

"History says it's possible to get a total like this, and it has been done in the West Indies before."

"You never put that total out of the question. These days, all teams look to win wherever possible, and if the opportunity to win comes along, then we will look to take it."

West Indies hold the world record for the highest successful run chase in Tests, when they scored 418 against Australia five years ago at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

But Dyson said he would not have any special instructions for the batsmen on his side on the way they should approach the challenge.

"I'm not one to have a team talk every night, and at the end of a day's play, it is time for the players

to do their cool downs, let their emotions cool down as well and reflect on what's happened in the day's play," he said.

"In the morning, we will have a quiet chat about what might happen throughout the day, and the instructions will be as always 'play every ball on its merit'. If they get a bad ball, put it away. If they get a good ball, defend."

Dyson explained the reasons behind the decision to promote Dwayne Bravo to open the batting for the first time in a Test instead of captain Chris Gayle.

Bravo was not out on 46 and Ramnaresh Sarwan was not out on 34, as they added 74 in an unbroken stand for the second wicket.

"Chris felt that it was a good chance to just have a change in this innings," Dyson said. "He feels that Bravo is a very positive player."

"The thought of having a right-hand, left-hand opening combination in this innings was something also worth considering."

"Chris discussed it with me and the vice-captain Sarwan, and we said, 'if you think that's the way to go we'll support you'. It has turned out to be a very good decision."

Dyson also gave his views on the pitch which has brought different opinions from the players on both sides, with Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene describing it as "difficult for batting", and the West Indies calling it "a batting

paradise". "We would expect a Test pitch in the first session of the first day to give a fast bowler, if he is a genuine fast bowler and is prepared to run in and bowl fast, if he bowls well, to get some help," he said. "I don't think the pitch gave the fast bowlers any help."

"We would then expect the pitch to lose some of its pace and become a batting paradise, where the ball comes on to the bat and scoring runs for 1-1/2 days is at its best, and then you expect it to start to turn."

"The ball gets older and as the game gets older and the pitch becomes more worn you expect it to turn even more and more."

Dyson contended that the pitch in the lead-up match between the visitors and a West Indies Select XI might not have been Jayawardene's ideal pace even though he got a hundred.

"But it has been pretty damn good to bat on, and I can tell you that Malinda Warnupura thinks it is a pretty good deck," Dyson said.

"There are a couple of their main batsmen who are still kicking themselves that they got out in the first innings."

Sri Lanka are aiming to win their first Test match in the Caribbean having lost two and drawn two of their previous four here.

The visitors are also eyeing a Test series victory for the first time in the Caribbean.

Sullivan misses WR

AFP, Sydney

Australian Eamon Sullivan missed French rival Alain Bernard's 100-metre freestyle world record by just two-hundredths of a second in qualifying for the Beijing Olympics here on Wednesday.

Australia's new premier sprinter was annoyed with himself at failing to set a new mark in the blue riband event, hitting the wall in 47.52 seconds at the national Olympic trials.

French sensation Bernard clocked 47.50 to win the 100m freestyle in Saturday's European

championship final, breaking his own mark of 47.60 seconds set in the semifinals on Friday.

Sullivan, after coming within 0.05 of a second of Bernard's record in Tuesday's semifinal, said it was a "kick in the guts" to come up short again.

"It is hard to get so close. I guess it has been playing on my mind the past 24 hours. It was hard to sleep, I was so excited and ready to race," Sullivan said.

"I was really hoping just to find a little bit more, it is a bit of a shame." Sullivan was looking at using the Australian Olympic trials as his perfect opportunity to respond to Bernard's record-breaking exploits

and their rivalry in the 50m and 100m in Beijing is looming as one of the highlights of the pool.

Sullivan is having an enormous influence on the men's sprint events at the trials with Matt Targett (48.36), Andrew Lauterstein (48.57) and Ashley Callus (48.58) all producing sizzling times.

The Australian men are on track to lay down a serious challenge to the US team's world record in the 4x100m in Beijing.

Sullivan is now aiming to erase Bernard's record time of 21.50 in the 50m freestyle when the heats get underway on Thursday.

Bernard broke the 50m freestyle world record on Sunday for his third world mark of the European Championships in Eindhoven.

The 24-year-old Bernard swam 21.50 seconds in his semifinal to beat Australian Eamon Sullivan's record of 21.56 set last month.

In the women's events, Jessicah Schipper believes a controversial new swimsuit robbed her of a new world record and blamed the space-age costume for her fading finish in the 200m butterfly final.

The new suit has delivered 13 of the past 14 world records worldwide since its release last month but Schipper said the drag-reducing suit apparently had the opposite effect when her tight-fitting garment filled with water.

Schipper was 1.34 seconds under world record pace at the 100m mark with an opening split of 58.77, but she slowed to clock 2:06.82 and finish more than a second off her best (2:05.40).

Schipper held on to stave off the fast-finishing teenage runner-up Samantha Hamill (2:07.61), who denied Athens Olympian Felicity Galvez (2:07.67) another trip to the Olympics.

Brenton Rickard (2:09.51) captured the men's 200m breaststroke title in a time that would have won the world title last year.

He hacked a full second off Jim Piper's Commonwealth mark as he ramped up his preparations to challenge heavyweights Brendan Hansen and Kosuke Kitajima in Beijing.

He is hoping to be on the world record time of Hansen (2:08.50) by the Olympics.



PHOTO: AFP

Australian swimmer Eamon Sullivan celebrates after winning the men's 100m freestyle at the Australian Swimming Championships in Sydney on Wednesday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes clues like 'Church service division', 'Down's noise?', 'Gill concealer', etc.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with a key at the bottom: NGVKCLG VFOGPIGEEG JKEG XKL HCLS NFCDXS PYKAGL, AGFAMG OJDXS VKMM SXGO VCYSJEL VCYSKJEL. Saturday's Cryptogram: IN CHINESE RESTAURANTS, DO YOU THINK MOST MALICIOUS, RECKLESS TYPES WOULD ORDER WANTON SOUP?

CRYPTOQUIP

Today's Cryptogram Clue: A equals P