

No tax relief for BCCI

AFP, New Delhi

The Indian government has withdrawn tax relief for the national cricket board, a minister said on Tuesday, after tax officials termed its activities a "gimmick" to make money.

Junior finance minister S S Palaniappan told the upper house of parliament that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was now "primarily a commercial entity."

"The (tax) exemption was disallowed for the year 2007-08 as it was held that the BCCI is no longer promoting cricket as a charitable activity and is now primarily a commercial entity," the minister said.

The minister's action follows a report from the income tax department which ruled there was "no element of charity" in the affairs of the BCCI.

"Cricket is only incidental to its scheme of things," the department said in a statement. "It is more into prize money for every run or wicket, which is nothing short of a gimmick."

"The conduct of certain activities and receipt of income from these activities clearly show that these activities are totally commercial and there is no element of charity in the conduct of BCCI."

"It is evident that major income arises not from the game of cricket but from the business of cricket."

The BCCI, regarded as the richest cricket board in the world, earned 10 billion rupees (215 million dollars) in the financial year 2007-2008, up 65 million dollars from the previous year.

It also promotes the glitzy Indian Premier League Twenty20 tournament which features the world's top cricketers playing for eight franchises owned by India's wealthy businessmen and film stars.

London Tigers

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arriving here yesterday on a goodwill visit as well as playing a few friendly matches against the local sides.

After the meeting, Sadi said that the London Tigers officials expressed their wish to be a part of Bangladesh football development and wanted to extend their assistance in developing a football academy if given the opportunity.

The BFF general secretary also informed that they wanted to send their full-strength team to Bangladesh if the BFF would invite them in any competition.

London Tigers will play a friendly match against Mohammedan Veterans today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. They will face Narayanjan Shuktara Jubo Sangsad in Narayanjan tomorrow. Then they will travel to Sylhet to play their third match against Beanibazar SC on February 28 before playing their fourth and last match against Gazipur DSA on March 3.

India-SA

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World Cup is going to happen. We want to see how other players perform in these conditions. Rotation will be a policy on this tour.

Lee quits

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McGrath retired.

In series against Sri Lanka, India and West Indies in 2007 and 2008 he captured 58 wickets in nine matches but was unable to keep up the pace. He suffered with a serious stomach bug in India later that year, which robbed him of weight and impact in the Tests, and struggled in Australia's home campaign. He picked up the tenth and final five-wicket haul of his career against New Zealand in Adelaide but took only one wicket in two matches against South Africa before hobbling away, ultimately forever.

Lee will follow in the footsteps of Andrew Flintoff and Jacob Oram in becoming a limited-overs specialist. He has an IPL contract with Kings XI Punjab worth US\$900,000 a season and strong business and music interests in India. There is also another World Cup trophy to hope for.

England start tour

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Even though the side could only manage 258 runs chasing 371, with his own contribution being 12, the former national opener said that the good thing about this performance was they batted full fifty overs.

The winning captain, Alastair Cook, was satisfied with his team's effort too. "It was really a good performance first up. [Paul] Collingwood and Craig [Kieswetter] batted really well. I was impressed with the bowlers too, especially the way they acclimatised after coming straight from two



Australia's David Warner pulls one powerfully on the on-side during his 18-ball half-century against West Indies in the second and final T20 international in Sydney yesterday.

IPL will not move: Modi

BBC ONLINE, undated



Indian Premier League

Lalit Modi has insisted the tournament will not be moved, despite concerns raised by a report into security at the event.

Australia's players have refused to commit to the tournament until issues raised in the report are addressed.

But a bullish Modi told BBC Sport: "We are going to have the tournament in India. I can't see any reason why we should move it at this point in time."

"The media is reacting to every fringe group saying security is a problem."

Despite Modi's assurances, the Australian players intend to present a list of security demands to the IPL.

The independent report, written by British security expert Reg Dickason, raised "serious" concerns about safety at the IPL, according to the head of the Australian Cricketers' Association, Paul Marsh.

"From the outset it is important to reinforce that players want to play in this year's IPL," he said.

"However, the independent report has identified some serious concerns with aspects of the current security process."

"Specifically, these concerns relate to the reported direct threat against the event and the status and implementation of the IPL's security

plan."

Last Wednesday, Asia Times online published a message reported to be from the 313 Brigade, an operational arm of al-Qaeda, that threatened the IPL, Commonwealth Games and Hockey World Cup, all of which are being held in India.

This followed a threat against Australian players competing in the IPL from the right-wing Hindu group Shiv Sena.

Speaking from Mumbai, Modi insisted everything was being done to make the tournament secure, although he conceded: "Nobody in the world can safeguard the safety of the players in any tournament."

"All we have to do is ensure we are putting on the best security. Safety is paramount to us and we are working with the national and state governments to ensure we have good security in place."

"It is being discussed and upgraded on a daily basis with all the key stakeholders and we will continue to monitor that."

"At the end of the day we have to ensure the safety plans we put in place and the way we conduct them are absolutely top notch."

Modi, the IPL commissioner, warned that the tournament would not be unduly affected by the withdrawal of "one or two overseas players" though.

"The heavens aren't going to fall if that happens," he

commented. "This is an Indian tournament, we have the key Indian players and only a few international players."

"We have no worries at all. You have to understand that the market for us is India."

"The tournament is a huge success - we have a huge credibility, we have the top 200 players in the world. It's not only dependent on foreign players, although they are part of it."

The majority of the eight IPL franchises begin training next week.

Eight English players look set to compete in this season's competition which starts on 12 March.

Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood and Eoin Morgan, who miss the first three weeks of action because of England's tour of Bangladesh, will be joined by Graham Napier, Dimitri Mascarenhas, Owais Shah, Michael Lumb and Ravi Bopara, who will be there for the duration.

The IPL took place in South Africa last year following concerns that security might be stretched in India because of the national elections.

Essex all-rounder Napier issued a statement on his website saying he was waiting to see a security report.

He added: "Once I've digested that I will wait to see what the ECB recommends for its players. Obviously I hope it will be possible to play in the IPL come March, as planned."

big sixes of consecutive deliveries from spinner Graeme Swann. His third attempt ended up down the throat of long-on as the wily off-spinner ended with figures of four for 44 and finished a satisfying day for the tourists.

SCORES IN BRIEF ENGLAND: 370 for seven in 50 overs (Kieswetter 143, Collingwood 109, Cook 56; Tapash 3-72, Alauddin 2-85)

BCB XI: 258 for nine in 50 overs (Sharifullah 47, Rokibul 41, Nayeem 40, Ariful 22; Swann 4-44, Plunkett 2-57)

Result: England won by 112 runs.

Phelps YOG ambassador

AFP, Vancouver

Swimming legend Michael Phelps on Monday became the first official Ambassador of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG), which are held for the first time this year in Singapore.

The 16-time Olympic medalist, visiting Vancouver to catch some of the Winter Games action, will support the Youth Olympics by encouraging the involvement of young people around the world.

"Liam Plunkett and Graeme Swann were excellent too. Swann has been in fantastic form for the last couple of seasons. I would expect him to carry that form."

However, the rookie captain acknowledged much sterner test lies ahead that is when they take on the Bangladesh national side on the 28th.

"It is definitely not going to be an easy task. They [Bangladesh] are very good at their home conditions. So, we are not taking them lightly at all."

2ND T20 INT'L AGAINST WEST INDIES Aussies sweep series

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

David Warner hammered the second-fastest Twenty20 international half-century to hand Australia an eight-wicket win over West Indies and complete their dreams of an unbeaten summer.

Warner raced to fifty from 18 deliveries, beating his own 19-ball effort from last season, as Australia reeled in the target of 139 with a ridiculous 50 deliveries to spare.

West Indies' total looked semi-competitive until the first over of the chase when Warner and Shane Watson took 26 off Kumar Roach, who bowled too short and allowed Warner to swing through midwicket.

There were three sixes in the over - as many as the visitors hit in their entire innings - and the contest was all but decided.

By the time Warner had cleared the boundary off Darren Sammy in the second over, he had 33 from eight deliveries and Yuvraj Singh's 12-ball half-century in danger.

He struck seven sixes in total, all in the midwicket to long-on region and including at least one off each of the six bowlers he faced, before he holed out

for 67 from 29. At the other end, Watson was so good that he too entered the list of quickest fifties, when he reached the mark from 26 balls, but he was utterly cast into the shadows while Warner was at the crease.

Watson finished with an unbeaten 62 from 33 and after Brad Haddin fell with one run needed, the debutant Daniel Christian struck a four to complete the triumph.

The win ended the summer on a high for Australia, who since the introduction of ODIs in the 1970s had only had one other summer - 2000-01 - when they didn't lose a match.

Warner and Watson blazed home but the result was really set up by an outstanding effort in the field as they again caused problems for West Indies' top order.

The debutants Ryan Harris and Christian grabbed two early wickets each and Steven Smith was everywhere in the field, producing one of the most memorable catches of the summer.

The trouble started when Chris Gayle tried to flick Harris over square leg and top-edged to Smith at third man for 12.

Harris followed two balls later with Runako Morton, who edged to Cameron White

at second slip for a golden duck. White's catch was sharp but there was far better to come from Smith, who had impressed in the first game on Sunday with two athletic takes on the boundary.

He eclipsed those efforts with a leaping catch at deep midwicket to give Christian his maiden international wicket when Travis Dowlin's heave off middle stump looked to be sailing for six.

Dowlin was the man who appeared most likely to guide a West Indies recovery and he made an admirable 31 from 32 balls without ever truly finding perfect touch.

Dowlin needed more assistance from the middle order but Morton, Kieron Pollard, Wavell Hinds and Dwayne Smith at Nos. 3 to 6 all failed to reach double figures.

Hinds fell victim to Australia's slick fielding when he tried to get off the mark with a perilous single only to see White at point throw to Smith at the bowler's end where the batsman was short.

SCORES IN BRIEF WEST INDIES: 138-7 (Deonarine 36 n o; Harris 2-27)

AUSTRALIA: 142-2 (Warner 67, Watson 62 n o)

Result: Australia won by eight wickets.

Man-of-the-match: David Warner.

Ashraful's

FROM PAGE 17

demolished the Khulna top-order after they resumed the day on 11 for no loss. At one stage Khulna stumbled to 48 for five, but a 66-run sixth wicket stand between wicketkeeper-batsman Sahagir Hossain and Nizamuddin Ripon helped them rebuild their innings a bit.

Sahagir scored 41 off 77 balls with seven fours while Ripon made team highest 65 off 169 deliveries that contained four boundaries as Khulna posted 243 before being all out in 75.3 overs in reply to 269.

Syed Rasel was the other notable scorer with 33 off 34 balls that featured five boundaries.

Rajshahi extended their lead to 76 runs as they scored 50 for one wicket in their second innings before stumps were drawn for the day with Zahurul Islam batting on 42.

SCORES IN BRIEF RAJSHAHI v KHULNA RAJSHAHI: First innings 269 for 9 declared and second innings 50-1 in 13 overs (Zahurul 42 not out, Saqlain 0 not out, extra 1; Rasel 1-13)

KHULNA: First innings (overnight 11-0) 243 all out in 75.3 overs (Amit 15, Taposh 10, Sahagir 41, Ripon 65, Rasel 33, Dollar 27, extras 28; Shahajada 6-62, Roy 2-30)

CHITTAGONG v DHAKA CHITTAGONG: First innings (overnight 294-8) 312 all out in 100.2 overs (Salahuddin 72, Mamun 43, Sunny 26, Arman 4-81, Kamrul 4-55, Rubel 2-60)

DHAKA: First innings 239 all out in 75.4 overs (Uttam 20, Marshal 27, Mehrab 101, Nadif 24, Sharif 50, extras 7; Kamrul 4-31, Iqbal 2-59)

Waqar next Pak coach

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Waqar Younis has emerged as the favourite to take over the coaching role of the Pakistan side. A decision is expected to be announced soon, possibly within the week, but Cricinfo understands that the Pakistan board chairman is keen to have the former fast bowler take over from Intikhab Alam.

It is believed that Ijaz Butt and Waqar met in Dubai recently, after the second Twenty20 international between England and Pakistan, and that followed from a couple of meetings in Lahore the week before. A verbal offer has been made, and though Waqar is currently back in Sydney, where he resides, he is said to be essentially gearing up to return and take on the role, though only once all formalities have been resolved.

Waqar has had two coaching stints with

BCB to get

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"It has been proved time and again that our players have a lack of mental strength and that's why everyone is looking for a sports psychologist. Initially we will appoint a local expert but we may go for foreign recruit if needed," Yunus said.

The board had a very fruitful and cordial discussion with national captain Shakib Al Hasan and members of the team management and national selectors regarding the recent tour of New Zealand.

The board admitted that the team's performance suffered due to lack of practice matches and insufficient practice opportunities for acclimatisation at the start of the tour.

"We hope this kind of open discussion will make impact on the progress of the game in the country," said Yunus.

It was also decided that each player and team official of the 11th South Asian Games Gold medal winning Bangladesh team will receive Tk 50,000 from the board while the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy will award 30 scholarships this year based on merit.

The board has sanctioned Tk 100,000 to former national player Mushfiqur Rahman for treatment of his back injury.

Pakistan previously; the first was a successful one in 2006-07 though it ended on a bad note with the then administration. He was then appointed as a bowling and fielding coach for the recent tour of Australia, though the appointment was only for a single series.

Waqar had recently expressed an interest in taking on a broader role with the side. "If offered I would love to take on the role of coach," Waqar told Cricinfo recently. "Pakistan cricket remains my absolute passion and number one priority. I don't want to do it on an appointment or short-term basis though. I'd like to have time to work with the boys, to really be able to plan ahead."

The PCB has yet to even announce publicly the end of Intikhab's tenure, though it is widely acknowledged that they are looking for a new coach. The decision is likely to be taken once an inquiry committee, set up to look into the Australian tour whitewashes, releases its findings sometime this week.

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Maple Leaf International School team members, who won the 'Dekko War Against Nicotine' basketball tournament, party with the trophy after the presentation ceremony at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium on Monday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 — mater

5 Thither

8 Astro-nomical

12 Spring wind?

13 Praise in verse

14 Bosc, e.g.

15 Color quality

16 "A Streetcar Named Desire" surname

18 Captain

20 Gave as an example

21 Fellows

22 Fellows

23 Lifting apparatus

26 Soaking in the sun

30 Feedback morsel

31 "The ramparts ..."

32 Complete

33 "Tobacco Road" author

36 Blood-hound's clue

38 Suffix with robot bear

39 Dead heat

40 Super-market section

43 Providing traction

47 Like beauty, they say

49 Rescue

50 Baserunner's goal

51 Bikini half

52 Verve

53 Oklahoma city

54 Dickens pseudo-ny

55 Trans-mitted

Resolution time: 21 mins.

DOWN

1 Performances

2 Appearance

3 Revealing skirt

4 Hebrew letters

5 Burdens

6 For oxen

7 Stench

8 Telecom channel to a satellite

9 Repose

10 Benefit

11 Saharan

17 "Bullets" at the poker table

19 Favorite

22 Scratching tool

23 Weed

24 Rowing tool

25 "Monty Python" opener

26 Spelling contest

27 "I got it!"

28 Zero

29 Solidify

31 Switch positions

34 Baked, as pottery

35 On the rocks

36 Transgression

37 Disarrays

39 November birth-stone

40 Arthur of tennis

41 Object of worship (Var.)

42 California valley

43 Pianist

44 Hardy cabbage

45 Terrible guy?

46 Fender bender

48 Recede

Grid for crossword puzzle

Grid for crossword puzzle

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CRYPTOQUIP

AO WGELCX BNTCFZ'I JHNNPF

IN MOOL IRO WRGL HTCCX

WIJHHOF, WN AO ZOOFOF

IN EJMO WNEO BPOA BTIW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE BORN IN LATE FEBRUARY