

Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 7, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thecitizenstar.net

Pelted with toilet paper

Azerbaijan's national football team coach, German veteran Berti Vogts, was pelted with toilet paper at a news conference in Baku on Sunday by journalists angry about recent results. The journalists -- some of whom also gave Vogts a pitcher used for post-toilet washing in the mainly Muslim country -- demanded the German's resignation after the team's Euro 2012 qualifier defeat to Kazakhstan on Friday. Despite the insults, Vogts said he did not intend to quit ahead of ex-Soviet Azerbaijan's match with his native Germany on Tuesday, although local media reported that he intended to press charges against the perpetrators.

-AFP



Rhetoric becoming Kamal's specialty

Cricket

MOHAMMAD ISAM

When AHM Mustafa Kamal admonished the media on Saturday for publishing reports and photos of Vincent Barnes, none of those present were shocked at this reprisal; a few actually laughed under their breath.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board president said that during such negotiations, secrecy should be maintained as it hurts the individuals with whom deals are being thrashed out. From now on, none from the BCB will utter any names until a coach signs on those dotted lines, he stressed.

Sadly, it is a case of closing the stable door after the horse has bolted.

After Jamie Siddons left in April, reporters have been scouring for possible names but none of those who were authorised to deal with the matter revealed anything. After the CEO Manzur Ahmed left for vacation, it was assumed that any coach-related news would be available from June 7 and the media were left to speculate.

But Kamal didn't sit quiet. First, after the Women's Club Cup presentation ceremony on May 29, he said that the BCB are not going to take an Australian this time around.

Later that week, Kamal provided more fodder to the press. He surprised everyone by informing that Barnes was pursued and his appointment would be up for discussion during the consequent board meeting.

Of course it is anybody's guess what happened inside the board's conference room on Saturday evening, rumours are abound that some directors questioned the way Kamal kept "informing" the media. It was also learnt that the South African sent BCB a bitter riposte for using his name and hurting his coaching opportunities.

A source also revealed that Stuart Law, the other coaching candidate, was none too pleased with his name being thrown

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Sheikh Jamal striker Emmanuel Ayuk (L) is being poached off the ball by a Sheikh Russel player during their Grameenphone Bangladesh League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Mushfiqur unfazed by pressure

SPORTS REPORTER

Mushfiqur Rahim has long been considered one of the Tigers' most technically sound batsmen, but the wicketkeeper-batsman's performances thus far hardly reflects his potential.

Moreover, his ordinary performances behind the stumps have also raised questions about his ability to fulfill the demands of a wicketkeeper-batsman. Many believe that the chief reason behind him retaining his position in the national team is a lack of contenders who can push him hard for his spot.

But things seemed to have changed a bit with the return of Dhiman Ghosh and the arrival of young wicketkeeper-batsman Anamul Haque, whose impressive batting in the domestic competitions made many believe that he can be a threat to Mushfiqur.

Dhiman's batting and keeping in the National Cricket League has impressed the new selection committee

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Jayasuriya wants to return

ANI, London

41-year-old Sri Lankan all-rounder Sanath Jayasuriya is set to make a dramatic one-day comeback against England.

With opener Upul Tharanga unlikely to be considered for selection after being embroiled in an alleged doping scandal, Jayasuriya should be an automatic choice to open the innings for the forthcoming ODI and Twenty20 series against England.

England captain Andrew Strauss fell for a duck as the second Test against Sri Lanka entered into an intriguing one innings per side shoot-out at Lord's here on Monday.

England were 18 for one at tea on the fourth day, a lead of 25 runs after Sri Lanka had made 479 in reply to the hosts first innings 486.

Alastair Cook was 11 not out and Jonathan Trott five not out.

Strauss, on his Middlesex home ground, was plumb lbw on the backfoot to left-arm seamer Chanaka Welegedara off the second ball of the innings and his fruitless review left England none for one.

Rain, which had washed out all of Monday's morning session and more than half of Sunday's scheduled play, was still in the air.

But as England's innings and 14-run first Test victory in Cardiff -- where Sri Lanka were dismissed for 82 inside 25 overs -- showed there was time yet for either side to force a win in the second of this three-match series.

Earlier, Sri Lanka's Prasanna Jayawardene, who made 112 in Sri Lanka's first innings in Cardiff, frustrated England

with the bat yet again.

Sri Lanka lost two wickets for no runs in three balls with the departure of top-order duo Mahela Jayawardene and Thilan Samaraweera to be 409 for six.

But wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene (no relation), hit back with a stylish 40 featuring six and five fours.

Together with Rangana Herath, he put on 57 in a counter-attacking seventh wicket stand.

England's pace attack, wayward on Sunday in the absence of injured Ashes spearhead James Anderson, showed signs of early improvement Monday but a huge total of extras, including 23 byes, was a testament to a lack of accuracy.

Fast bowler Steven Finn, recalled in place of Anderson, took four for 108 on his Middlesex home ground while off-spinner Graeme Swann polished off the tail with three for eight in 16 balls.

Sri Lanka resumed on 372 for three with Mahela Jayawardene 40 not out and Samaraweera one not out.

They'd come together after Sri Lanka captain Tillakaratne

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England take lead

Cricket

AFP, London

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PHOTO: AFP

Peers vote for Gayle

PTI, Port of Spain

He might be a pariah in West Indies cricket right now but explosive batsman Chris Gayle was the toast of the annual Players Association awards, walking away with the 'Cricketer of the Year' trophy along with one another honour.

Gayle, who has been shunted out of the team after he accused the West Indies Cricket Board of leaving him in a lurch during recent injury problems, was named the 2010 West Indies Players Association (WIPA) Cricketer of the Year at last night's eighth annual awards at Queen's Hall, St Ann's.

Gayle edged out Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Darren Sammy and Dwayne Bravo for the top award.

Sk Jamal's questionable win

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone

Bangladesh League 2010

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club stretched the lead of the Grameenphone Bangladesh League to four points with a controversial 1-0 win over neighbours Sheikh Russel KC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

A 33rd minute header from Cameroonian striker Emanuel Ayuk proved to be the decider with the referee's decision to reverse a penalty awarded to Sheikh Russel being the bone of contention.

Referee Tayeb Hasan whistled for a spot-kick after a Moro Mohammad chip was handled by Sheikh Jamal defender Ariful Islam on the right side of the box in the 70th minute, but assistant referee Mahbubur Rahman raised his flag indicating that the connection was made outside the box. Referee Tayeb reversed his decision to a free-kick from outside the penalty box which forced the game to remain suspended for 15 minutes as players from both sides got into a scuffle and the officials of Sheikh Russel got in on the

act too.

Despite all their protests and pyrotechnics, there seemed to be little urgency during the match on the field from the Sheikh Russel players.

Sheikh Russel should have taken the lead inside 20 minutes but were denied by some superb saves from Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Aminul Haque. In contrast, it was his opposite number Mamun Khan's ineptitude that led to the deciding goal.

Right-back Nasir chipped the ball for Ayuk whose feeble header found the helping hand of Mamun on its way to the net.

Sheikh Jamal held on to the lead for the rest of the time to eke out a crucial victory that took them to 44 points from 19 matches, four ahead of Muktijoddha Sangsad who have a match in hand. Both coaches agreed that the match was fair enough.

"Those who are smelling foul play are probably not fully aware of the league standings as a win could have put Sheikh Russel level with Sheikh Jamal," Sheikh Jamal coach Packeer Ali said. "We have worked hard on the

pitch and won the game deservedly."

"We tried our best within our limitations. The cancellation of the penalty kick was what cost us dear, and it was not for any lack of effort," said Sheikh Russel coach Mahmudul Haq Liton who watched the match from the gallery due to his one-match suspension.

Sheikh Jamal will now have to face comparatively weaker sides in Rahmatganj MFS, a depleted Mohammedian and falling giants Brothers Union in their bid for the prestigious professional league title.

In the day's other matches, Farashganj SC defeated Brothers Union 2-1 at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium. Sohel Rana put Farashganj ahead in the 34th minute before Jewel Rana doubled the lead two minutes later. Kingsley reduced the margin for Brothers in the 57th minute.

Away at the Cox's Bazar Stadium, hosts Chittagong Mohammedan defeated Rahmatganj MFS by the same margin with Farhad and Jerry scoring the winners. Pushbon Mollah scored the lone goal for visitors Rahmatganj.

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Kirsten SA coach

AFP, Johannesburg

Gary Kirsten, will take charge of the South African cricket team in August, heading an almost completely new leadership group.

Kirsten's appointment as team director and head coach was announced by Cricket South Africa (CSA) Monday.

Kirsten will officially start a two-year contract on August 1 after what he described as a necessary "cooling off period" after his three-year stint as coach of India, which culminated in World Cup glory in April.

He will have two new lieutenants in assistant coach Russell Domingo and bowling coach Allan Donald and a new one-day and Twenty20 captain in AB de Villiers.

Graeme Smith will remain captain of the Test team, the only post that remains with the previous incumbent.

Shuttle business?

ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh Badminton Federation reportedly sold 450 dozens of shuttlecocks recently from its store at the open market, violating the government rule of floating tender before buying or selling of any such goods.

However, BBF's acting general secretary Zahidul Islam Kochi defended the decision of not floating a tender. Kochi said if they floated a tender to sell those shuttlecocks as per government rules, it would not have fetched the amount of money that they got from the Officers' Club as the market rate of those shuttlecocks was less than the rate at which the government bought shuttlecocks during the SA Games.

"As per the decision of the standing committee, we sold only 100 dozen shuttlecocks to the Officers' Club and the rest (350 dozens) were given to a federation member Zahir Uddin Swapon who owns three sports gear shops in condition of replacement and the federation will take those back when it needs to," said Kochi.

The BBF were given two thousand dozen Yonex shuttlecocks worth Tk 50

lakh during the SA Games and some 1600 dozen remained unused after the completion of the Games. Kochi claimed those shuttlecocks were sold only to save national currency.

"Those shuttlecocks would have lost their temper if we had left them unused for two years. They were handed out to the federation by the National Sports Council six months before the SA Games which was held in January 2010," said Kochi.

The BBF sold 100 dozen shuttlecocks at 2.25 lakh, some 2.75 lakh less than the buying rate and former BBF general secretary Jobair Rahman Rana and Kochi both believed the government then bought those shuttlecocks at a high rate through tender.

"At that time, per dozen Yonex shuttlecocks had a local market price of Tk 1400 to Tk 1500 and in China, they sold for Tk 900. But we heard the authority concerned had bought per dozen shuttlecock at Tk 2500, which sell for around Tk 1900 at the local market now," said Kochi adding that the amount they got from selling was deposited at the BBF account.