

Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY JUNE 13, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Surplus gossip

Cricket South Africa (CSA) on Sunday rejected allegations made in the national media that several senior members of staff "had effectively paid themselves bonuses". CSA CEO Gerald Majola explained that a meeting of the Human Resources and Remunerations Committee had been held where general salary increases, salary adjustments and annual bonus payments had been discussed. "As far as the bonuses were concerned it was decided that senior staff should be rewarded for the most exceptional year in the history of CSA in which revenue was increased from R497-million to R727-million. "All these facts have been well documented and the entire meeting has, in fact, been recorded on tape."

-- INTERNET



Their first match also under scanner

SPORTS REPORTER

The first leg match between Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Rahmatganj MFS in the Grameenphone Bangladesh League was brought under the microscope on June 9 due to allegations of match-fixing as the Bangladesh Football Federation recently formed a four-member committee to find out more of the claim.

The committee comprised of Harunur Rashid, Golam Rabbani Helal, Hasanuzzaman Khan and Fazlur Rahman and they will look into the Sheikh Jamal-Rahmatganj as well as the Arambagh-Farashganj matches from the first leg.

Bangladesh League manager Abu Nayeem said, "We suspected these two matches and we didn't have to read the newspapers to find out about them."

The second meeting between Sheikh Jamal and Rahmatganj had suspicions of match-fixing and the Bangladesh League committee chairman Salam

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Football is now played on the once mighty River Padma, which is bone dry these days, on the outskirts of Rajshahi town. The game's popularity has hardly waned but with match-fixing allegations again resurfacing, BFF must preserve the game's integrity so that these boys can dream of a future in the game.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Fixing ghosts return

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone Bangladesh League 2010

The ongoing Grameenphone Bangladesh League had been relatively free of match-fixing allegations initially, but since the 18th round it has been marred with the same accusations, tarnishing the league's image heavily.

The fourth edition of the professional football league with comparatively improved standards drew more attention because of fierce competition for the title as race was wide open after the first phase. At the start of the second phase, holders Abahani and leaders Muktiyoddha Sangsad lost vital games while star-studded Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club also dropped points.

But the way Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra and Rahmatganj lost to new-

comers Sheikh Jamal, the current league leaders, raised a lot of questions among the spectators who booed Sheikh Jamal off after their 5-2 come-from-behind win against Rahmatganj on Friday.

The match-fixing allegations have dogged local football for a long time but there has hardly been any noticeable effort from Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to curb this plague. The football's governing body was given notice on many occasions about the allegations and though they pledged verbally to take action, there is no instance from them to punish any club after looking into the matter.

So far they have only requested the police to thwart match-fixing and urged footballers to protest to the club officials. But they have never asked the officials themselves to stop this prac-

tice nor launched any probe committee to investigate the allegations.

"The federation is to blame for the allegations of match-fixing. They never took any initiatives that could make club officials think again, leaving the officials inspired to indulge in this sort of activities year after year," said Muktiyoddha coach Maruful Haque, whose side led the points table for most of the season but have been pushed behind by Sheikh Jamal later in the league.

Haque also claimed that his former club Mohammedan, despite losing 10 out of a maximum of 72 points in 2009, could not clinch the professional football league title last season due to this curse.

The table-toppers are not the only guilty party.

Mid-table teams are also blamed of such ill practice as they play a vital role

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Rain spoils another Royals' tie

SPORTS REPORTER

Rain ruined Worcestershire Royals' Friends Life T20 game against Lancashire Lightning at the New Road ground yesterday.

The match was abandoned within 30 minutes of play by umpires Jeff Evans and David Millns.

They will take on Derbyshire on June 15.

In the Royals' last game, they defeated Northamptonshire by six wickets. Shakib Al Hasan took three wickets but fell for a duck, continuing his poor form in the shortest format of the game.

T20 luck not on Tamim's side



SPORTS REPORTER

In his short international career, Tamim Iqbal has already passed one test. In the span of five seasons, he has shed the 'one-hit wonder' tag to build himself as a Test opener and last year, he blossomed against two top bowling attacks.

He was primed for the World Cup but he ended the campaign with just a single half-century and two starts. Admittedly disheartened, it has taken him the best part of the last three months to come to terms with the disappointing performance.

"I dreamed of firing big time in the World Cup but I came up short. I made runs but I

wanted to make an impact. I think that maybe my goal was too big," Tamim said from the fitness camp in BKSP yesterday where the Tigers' will spend a few days.

After the three-match series against Australia, Tamim took a break from cricket, even in his mind. "I didn't want to talk or think of cricket. I was trying to get out of the frustration and I think that has been a major lesson out of this season; how to deal with failure."

"It's good that I have to deal with such things so early in my career," said Tamim.

His hundreds at Lord's and Manchester last year gave a glimpse of his cavalier approach, a point not missed by Twenty20 teams across the world.

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Anderson back for 3rd Test



AFP, London

James Anderson is set for an England return after being named Sunday in a 12-man squad for the third and final Test against Sri Lanka at the Rose Bowl starting on Thursday, June 16.

However, England's premier strike bowler -- who missed the drawn second Test at Lord's with a side strain -- must first prove his fitness playing for Lancashire in a Twenty20 match against Worcestershire later Sunday.

Anderson replaces the uncapped Jade Dernbach, who was drafted into the squad in his absence.

"Jimmy Anderson is the leader of our bowling attack so clearly he will be a significant inclusion should he get through Lancashire's Friends Life T20 match against Worcestershire unscathed," said Geoff Miller, England's national selector, after announcing the squad on Sunday.

England's four-man attack struggled for accuracy without Anderson at Lord's.

Either Steven Finn, who took the swing specialist's place in England's XI at Lord's, or the under-performing Stuart Broad would appear to be in line to make way if Anderson plays in what will be the first Test ever staged at the home ground of southern county Hampshire.

England lead this three-match series 1-0 after an innings and 14-run win in the first Test in Cardiff.

Rohit secures series



AFP, North Sound

Rohit Sharma's resolute 86 not out topped Andre Russell's brutal, unbeaten 92 to lead India to a series-clinching, three-wicket victory over West Indies in the third one-day international on Saturday.

Sharma struck five fours and two sixes from 91 balls, and put on a crucial 88 for the seventh wicket with Harbhajan Singh to the put India on course to successfully chase 226 for victory, with 22 balls remaining.

The 24-year-old Sharma smoked a no-ball from Kemar Roach to the long-on boundary to usher the visitors over the line at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground, after they too, had run into trouble on 92 for six in the 23rd over.

The result gave the world champions an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

"Our shot selection was wrong -- I too, played a bad shot -- but credit must go to Rohit and Harbhajan because they had a good partnership that set things up," said India captain Suresh Raina.

"Rohit has been especially consistent over the last two years. He is batting really well at the moment, and I hope he does well for us in the next two games as well."

Russell smashed eight fours and five sixes from 64 balls in a dazzling display, finishing with the highest innings by a West Indies batsman at the VRCG, and helping the home team reach a respectable 225 for eight from

their allocation of 50 overs.

His efforts with the bat, which helped earn him the man-of-the-match award, came after leg-spinner Amit Mishra followed-up on his career-best bowling in the second one-dayer with three for 28 from his 10 overs, and Munaf Patel supported with three for 60 from his 10 overs.

Mishra and Munaf prospered, as the West Indies' frontline batting suffered another crisis of confidence, and the hosts were tottering on 96 for seven in the 30th over.

India, choosing to field, met token resistance from the West Indies top-order before all-rounder Russell, one of three changes to his side's line-up, transformed the complexion of the innings.

India seized firm control of the game, following a second-wicket stand of 65 between Lendl Simmons -- with 45 off 68 balls -- and Ramnaresh Sarwan -- 28 off 38 balls.

Mishra triggered another inexplicable West Indies collapse, after Sarwan was run out in the 15th over, six wickets falling for 31 between the 15th and 30th overs.

India's grip was severely loosened when Russell entered and dominated the next two partnerships -- 78 from 96 balls for the eighth wicket with compatriot Carlton Baugh, and 51 -- unbroken -- from the last 28 balls of the innings for the ninth wicket with Kemar Roach.

India then also found themselves scrambling when four wickets fell for 32 between the 16th and 23rd overs.

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India batsman Rohit Sharma raises his arm in celebration after hitting the winning runs in the 3rd ODI against the West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP