

BCCI's no to Woolf report

Cricket

CRICINFO, New Delhi

The Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) working committee has rejected the key recommendations of the Woolf report concerning the restructuring of the ICC, Indian board president N Srinivasan has said.

This is the first formal response from any national board to the recommendations -- made public ten days ago -- and, given the BCCI's dominant position in world cricket, could render the report a non-starter for all practical purposes.

"The working committee discussed all the main recommendations of the report submitted to the ICC [International Cricket Council] by a committee headed by Lord Woolf. The working committee was of the opinion that these recommendations were not acceptable and rejected it," Srinivasan said after the meeting in Chennai.

"The working committee was in particular not agreeable to the changes in the structure of the management of ICC that had been proposed."

Srinivasan, however, did not specify

which of the several recommendations of the Woolf report the BCCI was opposed to.

The suggestions of the review are not binding on the ICC, which will examine it at the next board meeting in April.

The ICC's independent governance review, headed by Lord Woolf, had called for sweeping changes in the administration of cricket and the functioning of its governing body. It recommended a restructuring of the ICC's executive board to make it more independent and less dominated by the bigger countries and also a re-examination of the rights and benefits of the Test-playing Full Member nations, calling for measures to increase transparency in dealings by the ICC and its members.

The most important recommendation concerned revamping the ICC's executive board, its top decision-making body, to reduce the numerical strength of the Full Members and to offset their influence by bringing in independent directors, in keeping with best corporate governance practices.

The board currently comprises the

heads of all Full Member nations, three representatives from the Associates and Affiliates and the ICC's president, vice-president and chief executive. Woolf's plan incorporated five independent directors -- three from within the game and two from outside to bring in diversity of opinion and experience -- with voting rights and the additional stipulation that they should not be in a minority. It suggested that the Full Member nations eventually have four representatives, and the Associates two, with the chairman, president and chief executive making up the desired dozen.

It also suggests that an ICC director should not concurrently hold any leadership or executive post with their home boards. For example, N Srinivasan is currently both an ICC director and president of the Indian board but, if the recommendations are accepted, he can't retain both posts. As for independent directors, they must not have recently held positions of authority on any member board or any commercial body that has had significant contractual relationships with the ICC.



England captain Alastair Cook plays the ball behind square on the off side during his innings of 137 in the first ODI against Pakistan at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Mashrafe

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the statements to the government's investigation authorities but still, the board will punish those in the wrong.

"We have already said that we will not tolerate spot-fixing. If the information is correct, we will make an example out of them," said Alamgir, before adding: "In the same vein, Mashrafe will be rewarded for letting out this matter. But if he's wrong, he will be punished."

The spot-fixing allegations have obviously become the sole talking point and with every odd occurrence during the BPL matches, the doubt becomes stronger that certain individuals could well be involved in spot-fixing by spread-betting. If the accuser and that too someone of Mashrafe's stature had taken the proper route by going to the ACSU officials directly, the investigation could have gone deeper into this mess.

Rajshahi

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quite different from his wicket-taking form over the years.

"We are lacking in confidence, something that is important in Twenty20s. We haven't also found the right combination. Let's see how we do in the next game," he added.

Rajshahi take on another winless outfit, Sylhet Royals, in today's first game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Khulna halt

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find a fielder at fine leg.

Smith also entertained the small crowd as the right-hander clobbered four sixes -- one against Gayle to finish the game in style -- and three boundaries while Chanderpaul chipped in with a 26-ball 27 that saw two sixes and a boundary.

The defeat raised the question of whether Barisal was overly dependent on one Chris Gayle but captain Shahriar Nafees dismissed the notion.

"Khulna is the most balanced side in the tournament and they bowled brilliantly to restrict us to only 125 runs. Gayle played his part in the first two games but that doesn't mean we totally depend on him. I think this defeat will help us to play better cricket in the next matches," said Nafees.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BARISAL: 125 all out in 20 overs (Hodge 12, Mustard 25, Arafat 10, Mominul 42, Nazmul 10; Shafiq 2-7, Shakib 2-19, Jayasuriya 2-17)
KHULNA: 131-3 in 17.2 overs (Chanderpaul 27, Gibbs 11, Smith 58 not out, Jayasuriya 23; Shuvo 2-20)
RESULT: Khulna Royal Bengals won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Dwayne Smith

Football rules discussed

SPORTS REPORTER

Questions have been raised too often about the on-field performance of referees in the ongoing Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League and the club officials and coaches regularly point finger at referees and assistant referees for their defeats or draws.

Only 120 matches of the league has been completed, but already two or three matches have been marred by poor refereeing. A coach even blamed that the referee made them lose the match.

Considering such incessant allegations against the referees, the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday held a coordination meeting titled 'Laws of the Game' with participation of the referees and coaches, assistant coaches and managers of Bangladesh Premier League and Bangladesh Championship League clubs.

"We informed them of the laws regarding the game through video presentation and showed in which situation the referee takes the decision, why the referee orders the retake of penalty, rules out a goal, ignores the handling of the ball or give off-side decision etc," said deputy chairman of Referees Committee Monirul Islam, who conducted the meeting.

Monirul said that they presented video footages of the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League matches and explained the referees' decisions about which a few coaches had raised questions.

"I think they (coaches) are now convinced about those on-field decisions and I hope the club officials will behave properly in the remaining matches," said Monirul adding that they would compile the discussions to make a report for both parties.

The coaches also urged the referees to take care of their quality players who are often dangerously tackled and also prevent negative play by reducing time waste.

"Definitely, it will help both parties and improve the standard of overall play," said Farashgnaj SC coach Kamal Babu.

Sheikh Russel KC coach Maruful Haque however believes the outcome of the meeting will succeed if the referees blow their whistle correctly.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Premier League resumes today after a two-day gap with Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club taking on Soccer Club of Feni at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

RU, IU in Inter-Uni T20 final

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) and Islamic University (IU) will face off in the final of the Inter University T20 competition titled 'Fourth Bangladesh University games-2012' at the Rajshahi Central Stadium today.

RU vice chancellor professor Abdus Sobhan will distribute prizes as chief guest after the final.

In the semifinals yesterday, Rajshahi University beat Chittagong University by 25 runs while Islamic University defeated Jahangirnagar University by six wickets.

The games started on February 7 with twelve public universities participating in the T20 format competition.

Bolt ill?

AFP, Kingston

World 100-metre record holder Usain Bolt has sparked health worries by not running in a hometown meet where he had planned to race after being sighted in Germany instead.

Bolt did not run at Saturday's Camperdown Classic at Jamaica's national stadium after a statement three days earlier in which he said he was "happy to be healthy", "excited to begin my season" and "looking forward to a good performance."

Kumar plays mind games

Sri Lanka take on India today

Cricket

PTI, Adelaide

Desperate to win their first match of the tournament, senior Sri Lanka batsman Kumar Sangakkara put up a brave front ahead of his team's match against India in the ODI tri-series, here on Tuesday.

"Our strength has always been playing India away from India. India are always strong in India, with the smaller grounds and conditions they are used to. But away from home, we have always done very well against them," Sangakkara was trying to play a few mind games knowing well that he can't back his statements with facts which state otherwise.

In Australia, India have lost only one out of six matches against Sri Lanka. In England, it's again a solitary loss from five games. The only time they met in South Africa, India prevailed handsomely.

Yes, India did lose to Sri Lanka by 69 runs in the 2007 World Cup group league match and they suffer by 19-26 win-loss ratio in Sri Lanka but overall they have had a superior presence than their island neighbours in 50-ver format.

Even in Sri Lanka, in the last 17 matches, India have emerged victors in 10 matches. In India, of course they enjoy a 29-11 win-loss record. Overall, India have won 69 and lost 50 matches with no-result in 11 matches.

Still, Sangakkara was right on his money, when he stressed his team needed to win at least four of the remaining six league matches.

"You have got to win a minimum of four games to have any chance of qualifying for the finals. Tomorrow is another opportunity."

Sri Lanka has so far played two matches and lost both though they could have easily ended up as winners in one of those games.

"Yeah, I think so. We should have been one-up by now. Unfortunately, we aren't. As soon as we get a game right with batsmen batting a lot better than they did and having more partnerships, we stand a very good chance."

Sangakkara's oblique reference was to their last game against Australia in Perth, when they failed to chase down a small target of 232 under lights at WACA.

Gladiators powered

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opening partnership between Nasir Jamshed and Jahurul Islam and a stroke-filled innings from Dwayne Bravo, the number six batsman who smashed two sixes and three boundaries during his 31-ball 43.

The in-form Jamshed however was not at his best as he played 32 balls to score just 27 runs with only two fours while his opening partner Jahurul Islam struck four boundaries to make 24 off 18 balls.

Left-arm spinner Elias Sunny made the early damages, picking up three wickets conceding 17 runs in his allotted four overs.

BRIEF SCORES
CHITTAGONG: 153-6 in 20 overs (Jamshed 27, Jahurul 24, Roy 18, Bravo 43, Ziaur 14 not out; Sunny 3-17).

DHAKA: 156-4 in 19 overs (Imran 22, Ashraf 28, Stevens 43 not out, Pollard 50 not out; Arafat 2-12).
Result: Dhaka Gladiators won by six wickets.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

PWD Sporting Club and Bangladesh Police AC won their respective matches of the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolis 2nd Division Football League yesterday.

PWD defeated Mutual Udoyan Sangshad by 2-0 goals at the Bishreshtha Shahid Mostafa Kamal Stadium, with goals from Salauddin Rubel and Humayun Kabir.

In the other match, Police eased past Prantic KC 3-0. Kabirul Islam, Kamrul Hasan scored for Police with the other being an own goal.

Women's handball

Mohammedan SC earned their second consecutive victory in the Cute Metropolis First Division Women's Handball Super League beating RN Sports Home by 23-17 goals at the National Handball Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan SC led the first half by 9-8 goals. Tripti scored nine goals and Dalia netted six for the winners while Khaleda netted 10 and Nisu four for the losing side.

MSC hockey committee

Mohammedan Sporting Club Ltd formed a 17-member hockey committee for 2011-2012 season with Safiullah Al Monir and Abu Sayem Shahin elected chairman and secretary respectively.

Mizanur Rahman and Syed Moinul Islam were named vice presidents while 13 other including former national hockey players Ariful Haq Prince, Moududur Rahman Shuvo were named members.

School Hockey

Fatullah Pilot High School recorded a 3-2 win over Suvadya High School in the Shah Sports 2nd Dhaka Metropolis School Hockey Tournament at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Suvadya High School led the first half 2-1 but Fatullah bounced back in the second half to level the margin through Faruk, who also struck the winner. The other goal was scored by Pappu while Sohail and Rabbi netted for the losing side.

School Football

Five more schools moved into the next round of the National School Football Islami Bank Tournament after emerging champions in their respective Upazilas yesterday.

Purupadi Rajbihari High School defeated Madhukhali Pilot High School 3-2 to become Modhukhali Upazila champions, Hidadanga High School blanked Maulanabad High School 4-0 to emerge Jhenaidah Sadar champions, Kailashganj High School beat Chalna KC High School 4-3 in tiebreaker to clinch Dacope Upazila champions, Hat Bakoil School thrashed Nachol Rajbari School 2-0 to become Nachol champions and Laxmiganj High School defeated Datta High School in tiebreaker to become Netrokona Sadar Upazila champions.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 52-Across part

1 Bum somewhat

5 Vacationing

8 Former Gls

12 Peevishness

13 Commotion

14 "American"

15 Curved saber

17 Ireland

18 Blond shade

19 Desired

21 Curtain material

24 Primary

25 Apollo landing site

26 Herb used in Béarnaise sauce

30 Actress

31 Rotten

32 Regret

33 Venetian fleet

35 Schnozz

36 Whirlpool

37 Backpacker on a trail

2 Toper's sound

3 "The Greatest"

4 Stay

5 Inauguration

6 Rx

7 Guards' team-mates

8 Austria's capital

9 Tend

10 Ripped

11 Coaster

16 Doctrine

20 Ethereal

21 Overconfident

22 Crooner

23 Reddish horse

24 Asia's

26 Fibbed

27 Understand, slangily

28 English river

29 --do-well

31 Fashion capital

35 Octogenarian's next milestone

23 Reddish horse

24 Asia's

26 Fibbed

27 Understand, slangily

28 English river

29 --do-well

31 Fashion capital

35 Octogenarian's next milestone

37 Carpool-lane abbr.

38 Robbers' foes

39 Exam format

40 Clinton Cabinet member

41 Capri or Wight

44 --Khan

45 Workout site

46 Curved line

47 Vast expanse

Solution time: 21 mins.

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EARTH ISAAC TEL
ARTICHOKE REL
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BEAKER ROTC
OAR REG TOUGH
ORTS DOC PLEA
KNITS DOG AMT
LYES COARSE
BOLERO ALL
APE ARTIFACTS
TAR PENNE OAK
SLY ESTER OBI

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CRYPTOQUIP

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L D G H P W G Q H P W N I D W L D E . F P

W L G W W L D Z E F W F P L F Q B D E P F N Q ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER I CONSUMED A PORTION OF THOSE PROTEIN-RICH SEEDS, I HAD TO USE SOME LENTIL FLOSS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T