

# Cairns takes Modi to court

Cricket

AFP, London

Former New Zealand cricket captain Chris Cairns told the High Court in London on Monday that an accusation of match-fixing had reduced his career to "dust" and strained his marriage.

Cairns, 41, is suing Lalit Modi, the former chairman of Twenty20 tournament the Indian Premier League (IPL), for substantial libel damages over an "unequivocal allegation" made on Twitter.

His lawyer, Andrew Caldecott, told judge David Bean, who is hearing the case without a jury, that Modi's tweet sent in January 2010 was picked up by cricket website Cricinfo.

Cairns complained to Cricinfo and the website withdrew the report, paid damages and apologised.

However Modi declined to apologise and pleaded justification, maintaining that the charge was true.

Cairns alleges that the allegation was "wholly untrue" and a very grave libel.

He said that if it was left uncorrected, it would destroy all he had achieved over a 20-year career, in which he notched up the rare double of 200 wickets and 3,000 runs in 62 Tests.

In evidence, he said: "The defendant's allegations have also had a pro-

found effect on my personal and private life. It put a strain on my marriage. It hurts that my wife may think that I am not the man she thought I was.

"It hurts me too that friends, many of whom are former cricketing foes, will question my integrity as a man and a sportsman and that all I achieved in the great game of cricket is dust."

Caldecott said the all-rounder, who lived in England as a child when his father Lance played there and had himself played seven seasons for Nottinghamshire, was extremely concerned about his reputation in Britain.

At the time of the tweet, Modi was one of the most powerful men in cricket and any statement of his was likely to be taken seriously, the court was told.

Lawyers said that, in 2007 and 2008, Cairns captained the Chandigarh Lions in three competitions in the Indian Cricket League (ICL), which flourished briefly before the ascendancy of the IPL.

The allegation made by Modi related to the second and third of these competitions, between March and April 2008 and October and November that year.

Caldecott said that, in October 2008, Cairns was called to an ICL directors meeting at a hotel where, according to the cricketer, his denial of rumours of his alleged involvement in match-fixing appeared to be accepted.

"No specific charges of match-fixing

were ever put to Mr Cairns. No names of any accusers were mentioned.

"He was never informed after his departure that statements had been taken -- mainly later -- from Indian players alleging corrupt activity by various players including him."

Counsel said that Cairns was then effectively suspended for not declaring an ankle injury which had been exacerbated by a charity walk completed in memory of his late sister.

He returned to New Zealand for an operation, was never contacted with any complaint and, in 2009, was entered for the IPL auction.

Caldecott said that the initial publication of Modi's tweet in the jurisdiction was up to 95 people while the initial publication of the Cricinfo article was between 450 and 1,500.

"Of course these receivers are bound to be cricket fans -- it's the classic kind of allegation which runs and runs -- one fan to another to another -- match-fixing is a subject which is always topical.

"Be in no doubt that to everyone who hears it -- Mr Cairns's entire career is tainted."

He told the judge: "Preserving the integrity of any sport depends as much on vindicating the falsely accused as it does on convicting the guilty."

The hearing is expected to last two weeks.

## Mahela fined for dissent

AGENCIES, Adelaide

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene has been fined 10 per cent of his match fee after pleading guilty to a Level 1 breach of the ICC Code of Conduct during his side's win in the second CB Series final against Australia here on Tuesday.

Jayawardene was found to have breached Article 2.1.3 of the code of the code which relates to "showing dissent at an umpire's decision during an international match".

After Sri Lanka's eight-wicket victory, which has levelled the best-of-the-three final of the three-nation tournament, the opener admitted the offence and accepted the proposed sanction offered to him by match referee Chris Broad. There was no formal hearing.

"I think I was the culprit, dragging it for too long. I thought initially the umpire didn't make a call, and took too long," Jayawardene was quoted as saying by Cricinfo. "I had no issue with the no-ball. Waist high or whatever. But I felt that after Michael [Clarke] had spoken to him, that's when he had made the call. So I have been fined for that. That puts something in my report. That's all."

This was followed by Jayawardene expressing disappointment at being given out lbw off the bowling of James Pattinson. As he walked back, the Sri Lankan captain made a DRS signal to Kumar Sangakkara who was walking in to bat. Replays suggested the umpire had made the right call.

## Blatter

FROM PAGE 16 commented that football in Bangladesh was not only joyous it had also much excitement and had everything that it needed to prosper.

The inclusion of the images of Kazi Salahuddin's farewell match, Salam Murshedy's celebration of goals, the first AFC Challenge Cup inauguration by Blatter, all-time great French footballer Zinedine Zidane playing with children, the celebration of the magical Lionel Messi, memorable moments of women's football, the national team's moment of victory over Lebanon and Pakistan during the World Cup qualifiers lit up the exhibition.

After inaugurating the exhibition that was arranged to mark BSPA's golden jubilee celebration, Blatter said, "It is a historical exhibition of football and of the history of football and it is tremendous. I congratulate the sports journalists who took such initiatives and we hope to keep writing on football."

## 'Bangladesh on the right track'

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supremo had lost none of his charm from his last trip in 2006 despite numerous criticisms that have been levelled at him over the years. Perhaps the only thing that had changed are the men around him, with his entourage including the acting AFC president Zhang Jilong, and FIFA's development manager David Borja and development officer Shaji Prabhakaran for the region among others.

The BFF boss Kazi Salahuddin welcomed the FIFA supreme by saying, "Although it is sad that we have lost some of the popularity of the game, but now we are joyous that the FIFA president Sepp is here and now it is our job and your job to bring back the past glory of football."

Blatter though was as captivating as ever, brushing off an organisational gaffe with quick wit and humour.

The highlight was his dry humour in batting away a question about whether South Asia could host the World Cup in the near future with Bangladesh as a co-host.

"Not till 2030," said Blatter. "The hosts till 2022 are decided and in 2026 the World Cup can't come back to Asia, but maybe in 2030?"

On a more realistic note, Blatter urged Bangladesh to develop infrastructure citing that at least four international standard stadiums would be required to host any international FIFA tournament.

"Once you have the right infrastructure, you can ask for U-17 WC or maybe regional tournaments, be it country or club. But you have to look forward, and the sub-continent, I am sure, will one day have access to the World Cup," he said to much applause.

But as the questions petered out to less important details, the main message had already been passed. A key landmark had been achieved with the launching of the academy and if Blatter is to be taken at his word, FIFA look set to play an important role to develop the beautiful game in this part of the world. But only if we pursue it with our usual qualities of vigour and enthusiasm.

"Football is about passion," finished Blatter. "It's about emotion. So go on, go on."

## I like football

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who is also the father of the nation, was an avid footballer who also loved the game immensely."

This announcement was greeted with loud cheers and claps from the hundred or so present at the official dinner at the Sonargaon last night.

But if that statement elicited cheers, his whispered announcement of Sheikh Hasina's confession of her sport of choice raised the roof with deafening laughter.

Said Blatter, "During the meeting, the Prime Minister slowly leant over and told me 'I really like football' but then she also added with a smile, 'but don't tell this to the cricketers.'"

## Tamim fiasco fits

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a job in Bangladesh and being least concerned about the first-class structure.

A fine example of Kamal's modus operandi has to be the proposed launch of a television channel of the BCB. From the next day, not a word was heard about the project, which by all accounts was just a figment of his imagination.

On a serious note, the manner in which he has planned the eradication of professionalism -- replacing the CEO (chief executive officer) with COO (chief operating officer) and abolishing the CFO (chief financial officer), slashing executive power of the top official which means that the board activities will be run by amateurs instead of professionals in BCB -- is proof enough of why a lot of people blame Kamal for harming cricket rather than helping the game.

The mere chop of a cricketer's name from a squad list may not amount to much if Tamim is recalled after a fitness test or Akram & Co decide to stay put as selectors. But Kamal's intrusion into cricketing territory takes cricket back to the bad old days when club officials blatantly pushed cricketers for national selection.

So to pull together a conclusion, a question can easily be asked. Is Bangladesh cricket riding on the back of the late poet Shamsur Rahman's "peculiar camel"?

## SL equalise powerfully

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felt after Michael had spoken to them, that is when they made the call."

It was Sri Lanka's fourth win over Australia in the tri-series and gives them all the momentum heading into Thursday's decider.

Jayawardene had an early let-off when he was caught behind off a Clint McKay no ball while Dilshan was given not out on 77 with television replays showing him edging to wicketkeeper Matthew Wade from Shane Watson's bowling.

"If the ball is there I'm going to hit it. We've shown how good we are," Dilshan said

Australia have an injury concern ahead of the third final with skipper Clarke. "I have done something to my left hamstring, I don't know to what extent," he said. "But it's obviously not feeling good at the moment, that is for sure."

Clarke limped through the latter stages of his resolute innings of 117 from 91 balls and fielded until the 38th over of the Sri Lankan

run chase before leaving the ground for treatment.

He has a history of back-related hamstring injuries and only returned to the tri-series from a right hamstring strain last Sunday.

"Our bowling was poor, our fielding let us down," Clarke said. "On good wickets you need to maximise your powerplays, you need to make 300 on that wicket."

"The boys are working hard, we are just not executing against quality opposition. We've got to find a way." Warner reeled off his second consecutive century with 100 off 140 balls to set Sri Lanka what in the end proved a below-par target to level the series.

Sri Lanka did not help their chances, with sloppy outfielding and five dropped catches as Clarke and Warner shared in a 184-run stand for the third wicket after Wade (14) and Watson (15) fell cheaply.

### SCOREBOARD

#### AUSTRALIA

Wade b Dilshan	14
Warner c Dilshan b Malinga	100

Watson run out (Maharoor)	15			
Clarke run out (Herath)	117			
M Hussey b Malinga	6			
D Hussey b Malinga	7			
Christian not out	4			
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, w-2, nb-1)	8			
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs)	271			
Did not bat: Lee, Pattinson, Doherty, McKay				
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-56, 3-240, 4-256, 5-266, 6-271				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Dilshan	10	0	40	1
Kulasekara	10	0	57	0
Malinga	10	1	40	3
Maharoor	10	0	71	0
Herath	10	0	58	0

<b>SRILANKA</b>	
Jayawardene lbw b Pattinson	80
Dilshan c M Hussey b Lee	106
Sangakkara not out	51
Chandimal not out	17
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-9, nb-3)	20
Total: (For 2 wkts in 44.2 overs)	274
Did not bat: Thirimanne, Tharanga,	
Kapugedera, Maharoor, Kulasekara,	
Malinga, Herath	
Fall of wickets: 1-179, 2-234	



PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangladesh cricket team's captain Mushfiquur Rahim (L) reads from a book during a festival titled Read-Play organised by non-government organisation Room to Read at Rupa Governmnet Primary School in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

## Captain reads with kids

SPORTS REPORTER

Mushfiquur Rahim, the Bangladesh cricket captain, visited a Room to Read Classroom Library and participated in Read-Play festival with students of Rupa Governmnet Primary School in Brahmanbaria yesterday, said a press release from the organisation yesterday.

The festival, which is funded by International Cricket Council, provides the school children with access to appropriate books to enhance their reading skill and habit of reading.

The captain took part in different reading based games with the children of the school and underlined the need for concerted efforts to enhance the habit of reading and make reading enjoyable to students.

Room to Read is an international organisation working to promote literacy and gender equality in education, which is supporting 279 primary schools in Sirajganj and Brahmanbaria.

## Indian Wells from today

AFP, Indian Wells

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic and fourth-ranked Caroline Wozniacki will defend their titles at the 11-million-dollar Indian Wells ATP and WTA hardcourt event that begins on Wednesday.

## 'Kohli given reward'

Cricket

CRICINFO, New Delhi

Rahul Dravid has said the selectors' decision to appoint Virat Kohli as India's vice-captain for the Asia Cup is a just reward for the Delhi batsman, who was the only India player to hit a century on the tour to Australia -- he had scored one hundred apiece in the Test and one-day series.

At the same time, Dravid pointed out that Gautam Gambhir, who was earmarked as a future captain by the selectors in the past, should not be discouraged by Kohli's elevation.

"He [Kohli] has had a great tour of Australia. He has done incredibly well in the Tests and in the ODIs. The selectors have given him a bit of reward," Dravid said in Mumbai, at an event organised by his Indian Premier League franchise Rajasthan Royals.

"Having said that, Virat is the first to recognise that he has got to establish himself to go a step further. I think we know from the past that by just being the vice-captain, you are not going to be the next captain. [And so] I feel people like Gautam shouldn't feel left out. But at the moment Dhoni is doing a

good job, so you don't need to look anywhere else."

Dravid, who was a part of the two teams that suffered whitewashes in the Test series in Australia and before that in England, said that the poor results were "really tough" on the players, who always entered the field with just one thought: "to win". "First England and then Australia -- we suffered that string of losses on both the tours and believe me, we feel very deeply about it," Dravid said.

The lack of big innings from Sachin Tendulkar was not a concern, Dravid said. Tendulkar, for the first time in five tours to Australia, did not score a ton, leading to much speculation regarding the pressure on him as he continues to search for his 100th international century. He has now gone 32 innings without a hundred, the last time he got to the landmark being against South Africa in the World Cup a year ago.

"Having shared the dressing-room with Sachin, I don't think Sachin himself is thinking about it [scoring the 100th century]," Dravid said. "Every time, a batsman wants to go out and score a century to help the team win. It [the landmark] will happen."

## Brisk sale of Asia Cup tickets

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match most in demand was the marquee clash between arch-rivals India and Pakistan to be held on March 18, and the bank authorities at the Dhanmondi branch seem to have realised this during the initial stages.

"We saw that the first ten people in line were given only one ticket each for the India-Pakistan game (each person is entitled to two tickets per game), and two for the rest," informed Banna. "After some agitation from the queue, normal business was restored."

"Most eastern gallery tickets were sold out, while clubhouse and international gallery were still available when the gates

closed in the evening," he added

When contacted, BCB's ticket committee member Aynul Islam Tiash said, "All matches received very good response. The branches in the districts saw a lot of interest as well. We do not have the exact figures yet, but I can say that a lot of tickets were sold for all the matches."

The Bangladesh-India match on March 16 was also in high demand, as it will take place on a Friday and involves the home side against the world champions.

As many as nine branches in the capital and 21 in the districts will sell 13,881 tickets (out of 25,435) for each match day.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>44</b> Clear the tables	<b>5</b> It starts with "http" rival	<b>27</b> Harvard's
<b>1</b> \$ dispenser	<b>46</b> Hosiery material	<b>6</b> — Khan	<b>28</b> Ali —
<b>4</b> Two-way	<b>50</b> Result of a	<b>7</b> Ness or Lomond	<b>29</b> Spring-like
<b>8</b> Use a really old telephone	star's collapse	<b>8</b> Scattered odds and ends	<b>30</b> Commotions
<b>12</b> Payable	<b>55</b> Time of your life?	<b>9</b> Anger	<b>31</b> "Zounds!"
<b>13</b> Therefore	<b>56</b> Peru's capital	<b>10</b> Have a bug	<b>35</b> Landscapes
<b>14</b> A Great Lake	<b>57</b> Stench	<b>11</b> Allow	<b>38</b> Online video equipment
<b>15</b> "CSI" evidence	<b>58</b> Expert	<b>17</b> St. Bernard's load	<b>40</b> Singer Starr
<b>16</b> Karate level	<b>59</b> Squad	<b>19</b> Moment	<b>42</b> Diving bird
<b>18</b> Popular condition	<b>60</b> Nervous	<b>22</b> Arm or leg	<b>45</b> Old woman's home?
<b>20</b> That girl	<b>61</b> Corral	<b>23</b> Meat	<b>47</b> Reindeer herder, probably
<b>21</b> —	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>25</b> Ninny	<b>48</b> Shrek, for one
Stanley Gardner	<b>1</b> Tosses in	<b>26</b> Crucial time	<b>49</b> Night light
<b>24</b> Light-headed	<b>2</b> Albacore, e.g.		<b>50</b> Short-order sandwich
<b>28</b> Winter road hazard	<b>3</b> Repast		<b>51</b> Whopper
	<b>4</b> Goes ashore		<b>52</b> "I — Camera"

Solution time: 21 mins.

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M	I	N	I	A	L	U	M	O	A	R
P	O	S	T	H	A	S	T	E	S	K
L	I	M	O	A	C	T	E	D		
G	A	P	E	S	A	N	O	N		
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37													
41													
50	51	52											
56													
59													

### CRYPTOQUIP

A W M P R T M U P V A S B D N V R F Y E S  
M V S A E K B D W R V E R U D Y T B V  
V B N R V S D, X R Y T A L Z S D M X  
D Z B ' D M K M F X A U V M S A U L .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEING THAT THE OPTIMISTIC CHAP IS AN ENGLISHMAN, I RECKON HE TENDS TO LOOK ON THE BRIT SIDE.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals S