

Sreesanth caught

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Three Indian cricketers, including Test bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, were arrested on the charge of accepting money for spot-fixing in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL).

Eleven bookmakers were also arrested in this connection, said Delhi Police Commissioner Neeraj Kumar, as he gave details of three games in the IPL.

Kumar told a news conference that more bookmakers are likely to be arrested as part of the inquiry which has already seen the accused players suspended by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Sreesanth, who has played 27 Tests for India, is alleged to have been paid 40 lakh rupees to give away around 14 runs in an over while playing for Rajasthan Royals against the Kings XI Punjab on May 9.

His teammate Akeet Chavan had also allegedly agreed to give away as many runs in a match on Wednesday night against Mumbai Indians in exchange of 60 lakh rupees, police said.

A third Royals player, Ajit Chandila, was believed to have been paid 2 million rupees for giving away a set number of runs in a match against Pune Warriors, police said.

"This much money has changed hands. This money was given to them by the bookies," Kumar said.

"The modus operandi included asking the bowlers to give pre-decided signals with the help of their accessories like watches, wrist bands, neck chains and towels.

"The bowlers were asked to concede at least a given number of runs in a pre-determined and mutually decided over. After receiving the signal from the bowler, the bookies would bet heavily and make huge profits."

Kumar said the fixing was organised by members of the Mumbai mafia, adding that the overall mastermind was 'sitting abroad'.

"There is definite proof that the underworld is involved but it would be wrong to take names. There is no concrete evidence on the basis of which I can name any member of the underworld," he said.

Sreesanth, 30, and his two teammates, who are yet to play for India, were arrested by Delhi police in Mumbai after Wednesday night's match and were brought to the Indian capital for questioning, Kumar said.

Angry fans burnt posters of the players during a protest in the southern city of Bangalore.

The Rajasthan Royals said they would cooperate fully with police in the investigation.

"We are completely taken by surprise... we will fully cooperate with the authorities

to ensure a thorough investigation," said a statement.

"The management at Rajasthan Royals has zero tolerance approach to anything that is against the spirit of the game."

Indian Sports Minister Jitendra Singh described the arrests as "unfortunate" and asked the authorities to take strict action against the players if they are found guilty.

"A mechanism must be put in place to prevent such unethical activities and ensure clean sports in the country," he said.

The BCCI suspended the players from the IPL and referred the matter to its Disciplinary Committee for further action. Board presi-



Demonstrators in Bangalore hold posters and shout slogans against India cricketer S Sreesanth and two other domestic Twenty20 players who were arrested by Delhi police on Wednesday night for their alleged involvement in spot-fixing.

PHOTO: AFP



S Sreesanth



Ajit Chadila



Akeet Chavan

SPOT FIXING

3 Rajasthan Royals players arrested by special cell of Delhi police in Mumbai

Charges	Action	Evidences	Bookies arrested
Sections 420 (cheating) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of IPC	Players suspended by BCCI	Messages passed through BBM and Whatapp besides telephone records	7 in Mumbai 3 in Delhi Look out for 2 more in Delhi

Sreesanth took Rs 40 lakh to give away 14 runs in an over

Chavan was also paid Rs 60 lakh for 14 runs in an over

BCCI calls the trio 'bad eggs'

Royals will cooperate with the police for investigation

Tait's denial

NEWS.COM.AU

South Australian cricketer Shaun Tait was named on social media as the Australian cricketer found with thousands of dollars in bundles of cash in a hotel room after Indian cricket authorities suspended three players -- including Test paceman S Sreesanth -- for spot-fixing during the ongoing IPL.

Tait was quickly ruled out as a suspect by Delhi police but his father Phil was furious after speaking to his son.

"It's absolute rubbish. It's all rumour which is wrong..." said Tait's father.

dent N Srinivasan said a few "bad eggs" would not be allowed to sully the game and the punishment handed down to them would be 'sufficient deterrent' for others.

"I am shocked, the BCCI never expected it. It was a bolt from the blue. We will see whatever is there to be done is done. The sport is clean. We are running it clean and one or two bad eggs cannot sully the game," Srinivasan told reporters.

MSC's no to Super Cup

SPORTS REPORTER



The fate of this season's

money spinning Super Cup

hangs in the balance after giants Mohammedan SC high official said that they won't take part, citing lack

of a playing squad.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, on

Wednesday, announced that the Super Cup would be held in June following dialogue with the clubs. But Mohammedan's decision has now seemingly thrown the tournament in a quandary.

"We are not going to take part in the Super Cup as we have already released all of our players at the end of the Premier League. The decision was taken at the meeting of the team man-

agement," said Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, director in charge of Mohammedan SC Ltd.

"For us, it will be tough to reassemble the players, as a few of them had already promised to join other clubs in the upcoming season, so we think the Super Cup would be a hotchpotch tournament," said Bhuiyan.

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club are also in hesitant about taking part.

"I can't give you any comments regarding Sheikh Jamal's participation in the Super Cup as six to seven local players have been suffering from injuries," said Sheikh Jamal DC president Manjur Kader.

One positive for the BFF is that other clubs like Abahani, Sheikh Russel KC, Team BJMC, Feni Soccer are ready to take part in the tournament as soon as the BFF declares the schedule officially.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Kings stay alive

CRICINFO, Punjab

Kings XI Punjab kept themselves in contention for the fourth and final playoff spot with a nervy seven-run win over Delhi Daredevils, who suffered their 12th defeat of the season.

Sent into bat on a greenish pitch at Dharamsala, the home side blazed away at the start, and despite slowing down during the middle, pulled away again at the death to post 171. Adam Glichrst (42 off 26 balls) and Shaun Marsh (45 off 44 balls) laid the foundation before player of the match David Miller finished with flourish, hammering an unbeaten 44 off 22 balls that contained four massive sixes. It was Kings' seventh win from 15 games.

It looked to be a par score for the small ground and true pitch but Kings XI's swing bowlers dealt too many blows at the start of the chase. Some late hitting got Daredevils close, but they had lost too much ground after being reduced to 4-61 with half the overs consumed.

SCORES IN BRIEF
KINGS XI PUNJAB: 171 for 4 (Marsh 45, Miller 44 not out, Gilchrist 42)
DELHI DAREDEVILS: 164 for 7 (Rohrer 49, Mahela 39; Sandeep 3-23)
Result: Kings XI Punjab won by seven runs.
Player-of-the-match: David Miller

WORLD TT C'SHIP

Meek exit for Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh were eliminated from all three events in the preliminary round of the World Table Tennis Championships being held in Paris.

The Manash Chowdhury and Sonam Sultana Soma pair came from two sets down (5-11, 6-11) to equal the margin (11-9, 11-7) before losing the deciding set (3-11) against the Indonesian pair of Trion Poiyo and Mira Fitri.

In men's doubles, Mahbub Billah and Manash pair won the first set 11-7 but then they lost remaining three sets (11-8, 11-8 and 11-4) against Bahrain pair Juma Hasan and Saleh Mohamed while Sonam and Moumita Alam Rumi pair lost to Rvelo Gremilis and Montero Winberly of Vietnam by 11-7, 11-8 and 11-5 sets.

Niaz, Sharmin leave for the East

SPORTS REPORTER

National champion GM Niaz Murshed and national women champion Sharmin Sultana Shirin left here yesterday for Manila, Philippines to take part in the Asian Continental Chess Championship.

Niaz will participate in the Open championship section while Shirin will take part in Women's Championship as the games will start from May 18, said a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release.

Shane looking ahead

With three tours in six months, Shane Jurgensen of late has been a busy man ever since he was appointed the head coach of the Bangladesh cricket team. The Australian left here on Wednesday for a three-week break. He aims to make lunches, dinners at home and wants to spend some rare family time. He also hopes to exchange coaching views with the Brisbane Broncos, a rugby team. Before leaving, Jurgensen spoke to The Daily Star's Naimul Karim on the team's upcoming plans and his 'head coach experience'.

DAILY STAR SPORT (DSS): How has working as a 'head coach' been thus far?

SHANE JURGENSEN (SJ): For me there's nothing really negative, it's just that we need to constantly make improvements. For instance, in Zimbabwe we had to overcome off-field obstacles. With the tours so close to each other, we probably missed out on a few things. One thing that I want to improve on for the future tours is that everything is 100 per cent right in place. Even if it means that we have to be a bit more professional, go to Zimbabwe a month or two before, check out the conditions; where we will be training, what net bowlers we get, what the hotels are like and everything that supports the comfort of the players. We need to give our team the respect that it

deserves in terms of how good a team it can be and continue learning about what the team's needs.

For instance, the fact that the board flew us from Hambantota to Kandy in a helicopter helped us avoid an eight hour journey. That small investment really I think changed the series for us. The guys had more time to rest. Little things like these matter.

DSS: How do you plan to avoid the pacers' injury problem before the New Zealand series in October?

SJ: We need to have key periods during the year when our fast bowlers can have breaks

from domestic cricket and really build up for the series. They need to work on stuff technically and get physically confident. You need to build them up for the series. And that's what Robiul (Islam) did. He did not play the BPL; he trained under Stuart and myself and remained fit for the series. That is an example.

DSS: Going back to the Zimbabwe tour, what effect did the captain's resignation have on the players?

SJ: I actually think it had a positive effect on the team. Not that it was a positive move, but I felt that it brought the guys together.



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