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Al-Amin fined, Dilshan also

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh fast bowler Al-Amin Hossain has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for breaching the ICC code of conduct during the match against Australia in the World Twenty20 in Mirpur yesterday.

Al-Amin was found to have breached the code of conduct which relates to "using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive or insulting during an international match". The incident related to David Warner's dismissal in the 12th over.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka opener Tillakaratne Dilshan has also been fined 20 per cent of his match fee for some offence during the game against New Zealand in Chittagong on Monday.



Bangladesh players walk off the field dejected after losing their last ICC World T20 match against Australia at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Sammy, Bravo at it again

West Indies in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

The joys of Caribbean cricket held sway in the virtual quarterfinal of the World Twenty20 between Pakistan and West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday as skipper Darren Sammy and all-rounder Dwayne Bravo engineered an 84-run victory to take West Indies through to the semifinals.

Sammy and Bravo plundered 82 runs from the last five overs to take their side to a formidable 166 for six, which their spin duo of Sunil Narine and Samuel Badree ensured was unreachable.

Krishmar Santokie got West Indies to the best possible start by trapping opener Ahmed Shehzad, who scored a century in the previous game, in front off the first ball of the chase. Badree then got Kamran Akmal caught at mid off in the second over, before luring Umar Akmal out of his crease with a googly in the fourth. He completed his set of three by dismissing Shoaib Malik in his next over, also stumped. Pakistan's hopes were further dented when in the 11th over Mohammad Hafeez was caught off Andre Russell at 37 for five, even before Narine had a say. He came to the party in the next over, having Sohaib Maqsood stumped before getting two wickets in his fourth over -- Sohail Tanvir caught at midwicket and Shahid Afridi stumped -- to leave Pakistan at 75 for eight. Seven runs later it was all over as West Indies moved into their second successive World Twenty20 semifinal, and a step closer to becoming the first team to defend the title successfully. They will take on Sri Lanka in the first semifinal at the same venue tomorrow.

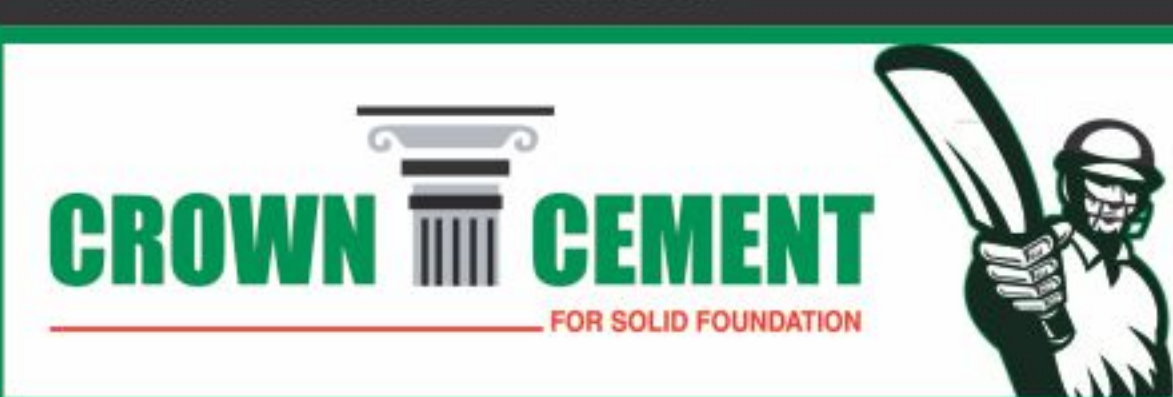
Earlier, it was an innings of two halves after Sammy won the toss and elected to bat. For a long while it seemed that West Indies would fall well short of a competitive total as their familiar weakness against spin reared its head. Chris Gayle was out off the first ball bowled by a spinner when Pakistan Hafeez had him stumped in the second over. Dwayne Smith followed, caught behind off pacer Tanvir and West Indies were at 22 for two after 3.5.

Marlon Samuels and Lendl Simmons built a 39-run partnership but took 6.2 overs to do so. Samuels bottom-edged a cut off Afridi to leave West Indies at 67 for four in the 11th.

Denesh Ramdin's wicket brought talismanic skipper Sammy to the crease. With the freedom that the end overs provide, Sammy and Bravo set Mirpur alight. Bravo put the innings into overdrive in the 18th over, hitting Umar Gul for two sixes -- over long on and midwicket -- and a four. Pakistan's spirit was broken in the next over when Bravo hit Ajmal for two sixes over midwicket before Sammy hit another and finished the over -- which cost 24 -- with a four.

Bravo was run out for a 26-ball 46, inclusive of two fours and four sixes, off the first ball of the last over but Sammy hit another four and another six off Tanvir to finish unbeaten on a 20-ball 42 with five fours and two sixes.

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NATHAN COULTER-NILE
Aussie fast bowler Nathan Coulter-Nile made sure there were no early fireworks from the Tigers. Bowling with pace and precision, the right-arm removed both Bangladesh openers Anamul Haque and Tamim Iqbal that effectively dashed the home side's hopes of

Photo Of The Day

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Mushfiqur doesn't know what the problems are

BISHWAJIT ROY

What Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim said after his side's seven-wicket defeat to Australia yesterday in their last game of the ICC World Twenty20 was nothing new from the little man regarding his team's dismal show in the tournament. But what Australia opener Aaron Finch had to say about debutant pacesman Taskin Ahmed was something that could encourage the Tigers.

"He [Taskin] took us by surprise a little bit as he was quite fast and bowled accurately and skidded on the wicket little faster than expected. No doubt he surprised us a bit when he was introduced after

six overs of spin consistently and to get back into 140 kilometres is a bit of a challenge, he was very impressive in the game tonight but I think the spin was much harder to hit," said Finch in his post-match reaction where he expressed sheer disappointment over his side's performance in the tournament.

Mushfiqur however did not have time to focus on the performance from a young pace bowler, he rather said that they needed to find out the problems behind their failure in the tournament. The wicketkeeper-batsman admitted that the momentum was lost after the match against Hong Kong in their last first round game.

"In the first round we started well

apart from the Hong Kong game. Unfortunately the momentum was lost when we lost against Hong Kong. It was a real shock for us. There were a few guys [Anamul Haque, Shakib Al Hasan, Al-Amin Hossain] who played well, but I think in a tournament like this when you want to beat some of the big boys, you have to have at least four or five guys playing well and play as a team. That did not happen to us and we have to come back after a couple of days' rest and sit and look at that and find out the problems, otherwise in the future we will have big trouble. We have a tour of the West Indies coming up and in November Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe will come here," said Mushfiqur.

Asked where did the problems

lie, Mushfiqur responded: "If we could identify the problems then we would have played better. We ourselves cannot understand where the problems lie."

Tamim Iqbal's performance was most frustrating but the Bangladesh skipper was not ready to go with the notion that the left-hander became a burden for the team and the vice-captaincy issue played any role behind his poor showing.

"I don't think it is time yet to take him as a burden. He is a very important player for us. I think we have many good players, but I don't think we have another Tamim. We have to try and see that he can regroup and return to his old form and play consistently."

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PARTNERS in crime

The Aussie opening pair of David Warner and Aaron Finch finally came to the party, albeit a bit late in a dead rubber against Bangladesh at Mirpur yesterday. The pair produced 98 runs in 11.2 overs before Warner departed for 48. Finch struck a swashbuckling 71 off 45 balls that contained seven fours

WI-PAK SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES	R	B	4s	6s
Smith c K Akmal b Tanvir	8	13	2	0
Gayle st K Akmal b Hafeez	5	4	1	0
Simmons run out	31	29	2	2
Samuels b Afridi	20	18	1	1
Bravo run out	46	26	2	4
Ramdin c U Akmal b Babar	5	10	0	0
Sammy not out	42	20	5	2
Russell not out	0	0	0	0
Extras: (lb-4, w-5)	9			
Total: (For 6 wickets in 20 overs)	166			
Did not bat: Narine, Badree, Santokie.				
Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-22, 3-61, 4-67, 5-81, 6-152.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hafeez	2	0	15	1
Tanvir	4	0	27	1
Babar	4	0	27	1
Afridi	4	0	23	1
Gul	2	0	29	0
Ajmal	4	0	41	0

PAKISTAN	R	B	4s	6s
Shehzad lbw b Santokie	0	1	0	0
K Akmal c Bravo b Badree	0	3	0	0
Hafeez c Gayle b Russell	19	32	0	0
U Akmal st Ramdin b Badree	1	5	0	0
Malik st Ramdin b Badree	2	6	0	0
Maqsood st Ramdin b Narine	18	22	1	1
Afridi st Ramdin b Narine	18	12	0	2
Tanvir c Sammy b Narine	14	12	1	1
Gul c Simmons b Santokie	4	7	0	0
Ajmal b Russell	1	3	0	0
Babar not out	3	4	0	0
Extras: (w-2)	2			
Total: (All out in 17.5 overs)	82			
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-1, 3-9, 4-13, 5-37, 6-42, 7-74, 8-75, 9-78.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Santokie	2.5	0	9	2
Badree	4	0	10	3
Samuels	3	0	21	0
Russell	3	0	15	2
Narine	4	0	16	3

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BD-AUS SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH	R	B	4s	6s	Bollinger	O	M	R	W
Tamim c Bollinger					Watson	4	0	25	1
b Coulter-Nile	5	11	0	0	Maxwell	3	0	32	0
Anamul c Watson					Christian	2	0	17	0
b Coulter-Nile	0	6	0	0	AUSTRALIA	R	B	4s	6s
Shakib c Maxwell					Warner b Al-Amin	48	35	5	3
b Bollinger	66	52	5	3	White not out	18	15	2	0
Mushfiqur c Maxwell					b Watson	47	36	5	1
b Watson	47	36	5	1	Maxwell b Taskin	5	3	1	0
Mahmudullah not out	6	7	0	0	Bailey not out	11	7	1	1
Nasir b Starc	14	10	2	0	Extras: (lb-3, w-2)	5			
Extras: (b-2, lb-4, w-7, nb-2)	15				Total: (For 3 wickets in 17.3 overs)	158			
Total: (For 5 wickets in 20 overs)	153				Did not bat: Watson, Christian, Haddin, Starc, Coulter-Nile, Bollinger.				
Did not bat: Mominul, Shohag, Razzak, Al-Amin, Taskin.					Fall of wickets: 1-98, 2-135, 3-147.				
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-12, 3-124, 4-133, 5-153.					Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bowler	O	M	R	W	Shohag	4	0	35	0
Starc	4	0	25	1	Al-Amin	3.3	0	30	2
Coulter-Nile	3	0	17	2	Shakib	3	0	36	0
					Taskin	4	0	24	1

End of a cycle?

SAKEB SUBHAN

There really should not be much hand-wringing about the black and white numbers in the wins and losses column as Bangladesh's ICC World Twenty20 campaign splutters to a halt with the finish line nowhere in sight. This is the end the more realistic of their fans would have expected -- they have rarely shown any signs that they appreciate the limited nuances of a game of bluster and brawn.

The expectation on Bangladesh, even the players themselves said as much, was to compete. But they have lost each match of the Super 10s by huge margins and they also lost to a motley group of admirably spirited but amateur cricketers from Hong Kong. So they have not competed, and therefore they have failed at upholding the minimum standard that they set themselves.

If the focus is widened beyond the scope of the T20 World Cup to take in their performances this year, there is the worrying trend of a steep fall. Bangladesh have lost 11 out of 14 matches across all formats -- two

wins came against Nepal and Afghanistan in the first round. This is especially disappointing when seen in the context of their performances in the previous two years at home -- starting from the 2012 Asia Cup runners-up performance and extending to beating West Indies 3-2 and New Zealand 3-0 in ODI series at home.

Those performances were not dependent on individual brilliance -- it will be unrealistic to say that Bangladesh can stand shoulder to shoulder with the best sides on their strength in talent alone. There were two pillars behind their success, it can be argued.

After the superstar culture that produced the alchemic brilliance of Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim's ascension to the hot seat -- and Shane Jurgensen's subsequent assumption of the head coach's role -- saw a trend of treating each player equally which empowered the lesser lights to take the stage and gave us Nasir Hossain, Shohag Gazi, Anamul Haque and Mominul Haque and increased the number of performers in the side. The philosophy also stressed on giving each player respect as international

cricketers. The second of these pillars was a mantra that Mushfiqur is very fond of espousing -- a focus on putting the right processes in place and a trust that results will naturally follow from there.

In other words, the right processes meant doing the basics right and being as well prepared mentally, physically and strategically before a match as possible. The first sign that these processes were not being followed was their gameplay against Hong Kong -- instead of giving them due respect it seemed the Tigers had come out trying to grind amateurs into the dust, and paid a dear price. It is much the same team now, but the results have done an about turn. It is not that they have routinely played terrible cricket this year.

They ran Sri Lanka close in many of their matches and Pakistan too in the Asia Cup. But losing close matches one after the other is itself a sign that something in a team is not working right. There is no easy answer to what that is, the following days will benefit from an abundance of questions searching for that answer.

In one of his excruciating press conferences following defeat in the World Twenty20, Mushfiqur was asked whether the processes were still being followed. He said that maybe the enjoyment had gone down and perhaps the importance of winning loomed too large in the players' minds, and maybe it would have been better had the players just enjoyed the challenge of such a big stage.

The enjoyment has gone down. Now all the talk is about lowering expectations, players feeling pressure and being insecure about their places. On the pressure front, it can conclusively be said that there is not a more loyal and patient fan base anywhere in the cricketing world. But it has been seen with England that the most robust of cricketing philosophies met its end with the 5-0 Ashes loss earlier this year. Seeing Bangladesh's steep fall over the last three months it has to be asked whether their philosophy -- not least the policy of what seems from the outside as a mollycoddling of underperforming players -- has passed its sell-by date.