

BPL FIXING

Both ICC, BCB to appeal verdict

SPORTS REPORTER



The International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) through a press release yesterday confirmed their intention to appeal the decision made by the BCB anti-corruption tribunal regarding the disciplinary procedures related to the 2013 Bangladesh Premier League.

Six out of the nine individuals charged with corruption during the BPL were cleared by the anti-corruption tribunal. Dhaka Gladiators owner Shihab Chowdhury, who was slapped with a 10-year ban, was the only one found guilty. The individuals who confessed to their wrongdoings -- Mohammad Ashraful, Kaushal Lokuarachchi and Lou Vincent -- were also banned for different periods of time last month by the tribunal.

Quoting an ICC spokesperson the press release stated, "The ICC and the

BCB can confirm that we have received the full written decision from the Anti-Corruption Tribunal. As previously indicated, we are extremely disappointed at the outcome of the proceedings, and seeing the reasons given by the Tribunal for its decision has done nothing to address our concerns.

"In the ICC's view, clear and compelling evidence of corruption by a number of individuals have not been taken into account properly. Having now had the opportunity to review the detailed decision in its entirety and taken advice on it, we believe that we have very strong grounds on which we can base our appeal.

"We do not believe that the sport would be sending the right message if it does not challenge what, in our opinion, are incorrect findings."

The BCB's Anti-Corruption Code, which governs these proceedings, provides for a two-stage appeal process. The first stage is an appeal to the chairman of the BCB's Disciplinary Panel. The second stage, if required, is an appeal to the Court of Arbitration

for Sport in Switzerland.

As per article 6A of the Anti-Corruption Code, appeal hearings, save where all parties agree or fairness requires, need to be commenced no later than forty days after the date of the reasoned decision being appealed.

In a separate press release the ICC sided with Dhaka Gladiators coach Ian Pont, whose role was questioned by the tribunal, in the BPL corruption issue.

According to the ICC, Pont complied at all times with his obligations under the BCB Anti-Corruption Code and promptly reported the corrupt approach that he had received from Shihab. He subsequently provided great assistance to the ICC Anti-Corruption and Security Unit in its investigation of the matter.

In February this year, bowlers Mosharraf Hossain and Mahbubul Alam and former national player Mohammad Rafique, Gladiators owner Salim Chowdhury, CEO Gaurav Rawat and English cricketer Darren Stevens were cleared of their charges.

Zia loses ground

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman suffered a defeat in the Group A match of the XVI Obert International Snt Marti 2014 during the fifth round held in Barcelona on Thursday.

Zia, who shared the second position at the close of the fourth round, lost to Spanish IM Lorenzo De La Riva Lazaro to slip from his previous position said a Bangladesh Chess Federation press release yesterday.

Grant targets improving Pak batting

AFP, Lahore

New Pakistan batting coach Grant Flower said improving the side's faltering hitters would be a "challenge" as he assumed the role Friday.

The 43-year-old joined on a two-year contract after a successful coaching stint with his native Zimbabwe, which ended in 2012.

His task is to improve Pakistan's fortunes at the crease which have flopped recently, most notably last year's 3-0 Test whitewash against South Africa when they were bowled out for just 49.

"We all know how talented the players are and I rate them high. But maybe sometime they don't get most of their talent out and I am here to coach them," Flower said.

The younger brother of accomplished Zimbabwean batsman Andy, who coached England until last year, said he would not have taken the job if he didn't think he could make a difference.

"The challenge of being in a different place brought me here," Grant said at his introductory press conference.

His stint starts in earnest on next month's tour of Sri Lanka when he teams up with new head coach Waqar Younis.

Flower played 67 Tests and 221 one-day internationals for Zimbabwe.


He said he was determined to get the most out of the batsmen at his disposal.

"I do know some of the players and know their constraints as well and some areas where I need to work on".

"Another best thing about Pakistan batting is their flare, I would never want to take it out from

Cook fails again as England tumble

AFP, London



England captain Alastair Cook suffered yet another failure with the bat as the top order collapsed against India on the second day of the second Test at Lord's on Friday.

Cook was out for 10, caught behind by opposing skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni off Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

Fast-medium bowler Kumar also dismissed Australia-born opener Sam Robson and Ian Bell, England's senior batsman, on his way to figures of three for 34 in 17 overs.

At tea, England were 125 for four in reply to India's first innings 295 -- a deficit of 170 runs.

Only Zimbabwe-born Gary Ballance, with an unbeaten 51, had held firm for any length of time.

Moeen Ali was six not out.

Cook's exit meant it was now 26 innings since the left-hander had scored the last of his England record 25 Test hundreds, with his tally for the calendar years standing at meagre 107 runs in eight Test innings.

The 29-year-old Essex batsman's poor run of form has also coincided with an England slump that has seen the team go nine Tests without a victory -- their worst winless streak for more than 20 years.

For most of his 29-ball innings spanning 40 minutes, Cook looked assured.

But, not moving his feet, Cook nicked a good length Kunmar ball outside off stump

that swung away through to India captain and wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

And it was not long before 22 for one became 31 for two in front of a capacity, sun-drenched crowd.

Robson, dropped in the slips on seven, squandered his reprieve by driving loosely at a ball wide of off stump, Dhoni making no mistake with the catch

Kumar had now taken two for four in 13 balls.

At lunch, England were 51 for two, with Ballance seven not out and Bell unbeaten on 11.

Bell too has been in something of a run drought, if not as prolonged as that of Cook.

Since the third of his three Ashes centuries at Chester-le-Street last year, Bell had completed only four fifties and no hundreds in 17 Test innings prior to Thursday's knock.

And Bell had made just 16 on Friday trying to the way of a short ball from gloved a catch to slip.

Root, fresh 154 not out at Trent facing yet m i s-

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings (overnight 290-9)

Vijay c Ballance b Plunkett	24			
Dhawan c Ballance b Anderson	7			
Pujara b Stokes	28			
Kohli c Prior b Anderson	25			
Rahane c and b Anderson	103			
Dhoni c Prior b Broad	1			
Jadeja lbw b Ali	3			
Binny lbw b Anderson	9			
Kumar b Broad	36			
Shami c Cook b Stokes	19			
Sharma not out	12			
Extras: (b-17, lb-10, nb-1)	28			
Total: (All out in 91.4 overs)	295			
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-48, 3-86, 4-113, 5-123, 6-128, 7-145, 8-23, 9-275.				
Anderson	23	7	60	4
Broad	22	5	79	2
Plunkett	15	5	51	1
Stokes	17.4	5	40	2

Ali 14-2-38-1

ENGLAND: First innings

Cook c Dhoni b Kumar	10			
Robson c Dhoni b Kumar	17			
Ballance not out	51			
Bell c Jadeja b Kumar	16			
Root lbw b Jadeja	13			
Ali not out	6			
Extras: (b-1, lb-9, w-1, nb-1)	12			
Total: (For 4 wickets in 53 overs)	125			
To bat: Prior, Stokes, Broad, Plunkett, Anderson.				
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-31, 3-70, 4-113.				
Kumar	17	7	34	3
Shami	11	4	25	0
Sharma	12	4	21	0
Binny	7	0	24	0



India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar is in his bowling stride on the second day of the second Test against England at Lord's yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



South Africa pacer Dale Steyn (R) jumps into the air in celebration after he dismissed Sri Lanka's Lahiru Thirimanne on the third day of the first Test at the Galle International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Steyn destroys SL

AFP, Galle



Speed bowler Dale Steyn took five wickets as South Africa seized control on the third day of the first Test against Sri Lanka on Friday.

Steyn, 31, unleashed some fiery bowling without much help from a dry and flat track to finish with figures of 5-50, his 23rd five-wicket haul in Tests.

At stumps, Sri Lanka were 283-9, still trailing the visitors by 172 runs with just one wicket in hand.

Sri Lankan skipper Angelo Mathews fought back valiantly with an 89-run knock before being bowled by leg-spinner Imran Tahir.

Mathews, who missed scoring his third Test ton on the trot, also shared 71 runs with Rangana Herath for the eighth wicket, the highest partnership of the innings.

His effort was especially commendable since Sri Lanka's two big hitters -- Mahela Jayawardene (three) and Kumar Sangakkara (24) -- failed with the bat.

Steyn struck early in the final session, removing Lahiru Thirimanne (38) with an away-moving delivery which the batsman edged behind to wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock.

The lanky fast bowler struck again soon to dismiss Dinesh Chandimal and Dilruwan Perera off his consecutive overs to cap a fiery three-wicket burst.

Chandimal (six) was caught at midwicket while Perera snicked to de Kock without opening his account.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 455-9 dcd (Elgar 103, Duminy 100 n o; Perera 4-162)

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 30 for no loss)

Silva c Philander b Steyn	8			
Tharanga st De Kock b Duminy	83			
Sangakkara b Morkel	24			
Jayawardene lbw b Steyn	3			
Thirimanne c De Kock b Steyn	38			
Mathews b Tahir	89			
Chandimal c Petersen b Steyn	6			
Perera c De Kock b Steyn	0			
Herath not out	12			
Lakmal c De Kock b Morkel	6			
Extras: (lb-7, b-4, w-2, nb-1)	14			
Total: (For 9 wickets in 100 overs)	283			
To bat: Eranga				
Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-98, 3-104, 4-136, 5-190, 6-200, 7-201, 8-272.				
Steyn	21	6	50	5
Philander	15	6	31	0
Morkel	17	9	45	2
Tahir	25	5	74	1

Sean guides Zim to easy victory

REUTERS, Bulawayo

A quick-fire 70 at more than a run a ball from Sean Williams lifted Zimbabwe to a comfortable six-wicket win over Afghanistan in the first one day international at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Friday.

Williams, who blasted eight fours and a six off his 65 balls, fell just before the target of 224 was reached by the home side as they raced to victory with 28 balls to spare in the first ever meeting between the two nations.

Zimbabwe won the toss and elected to field, restricting their tourists to 223 for nine in their 50 overs, with Samiullah Shenwari top-scoring for the visitors with a patient 65 from 85 balls.

Captain Mohammad Nabi (55) and opener Noor Ali Zadran (43) also made good contributions, but the Afghans were not helped by three run outs in their innings.

Pick of the home bowlers was seamer Tendai Chatara who collected two for 37 in his eight overs.

The second match is at the same venue on Sunday.

MONACO DIAMOND LEAGUE

Gay-Gatlin showdown

AFP, Monte Carlo



American sprinters Tyson Gay and Justin Gatlin bring their rivalry to the Monaco Diamond League meeting on Friday when they clash in the 200m.

Despite the withdrawal of Jamaica's world silver medallist Warren Weir, who leads this year's world lists with 19.82sec but is now concentrating on the impending Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Gay and Gatlin provide the star quality.

Gay returned to action earlier this month at Lausanne after a one-year doping ban but he was blitzed by former Olympic champion Gatlin who clocked 9.80sec in the 100m.

Former world champion Gay, 31, then won his second outing over 100m in the Paris suburb of Montreuil 10 days ago.

The American was banned in June 2013 after testing positive for a banned anabolic steroid in two out-of-competition tests.

His ban, which was reduced from two years by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) due to Gay's cooperation, ended on June 23.

The 200m will also feature Alonso Edward of Panama, who is the second-fastest man over the distance this season with a best of 19.84.

America's Curtis Mitchell, the world championship bronze medallist from last year, also lines up in the 200m as does France's European 100m champion Christophe Lemaître, and Nickel Ashmeade of Jamaica, who has a 2014 best of 19.95.

In the 110m hurdles, Olympic champion and world record holder Aries Merritt looks for a resurgence of form after a 2013 decimated by injury.

Merritt's best time this year is a modest 13.78sec -- way outside his world record of 12.80sec -- and he is not expecting a radical change of luck on Friday.

After running in London this Sunday, he will return to the United States to undergo a four-week training block.

C'WEALTH GAMES

Pak athletes cleared to participate

AFP, Karachi

A Pakistani court on Friday said a group of athletes picked to participate in next week's Commonwealth Games are free to attend the event following a long-standing tussle between two rival factions of the Pakistan Olympic Association.

The government reversed its backing to a faction opposed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) last week, paving the way for Friday's court order.

"A 62-member squad will leave for Scotland to feature in the Commonwealth Games on Monday and we got a final go ahead," Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) director general Akhtar Nawaz Ganjara told media.

The 20th Commonwealth Games are scheduled from July 23 to Aug 3 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Pakistan will participate in eight sports -- badminton, boxing, gymnastics, shooting, swimming, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling.

Pakistan's most successful sport in the Games has been wrestling where they won 37 medals, 20 of which have been gold.