

Probe against Srinivasan

AFP, Mumbai

India's top financial policing agency is probing world cricket boss Narayanaswami Srinivasan and others over an alleged 69-million-dollar "facilitation fee" paid over broadcast rights for the Indian Premier League, an official said Tuesday.

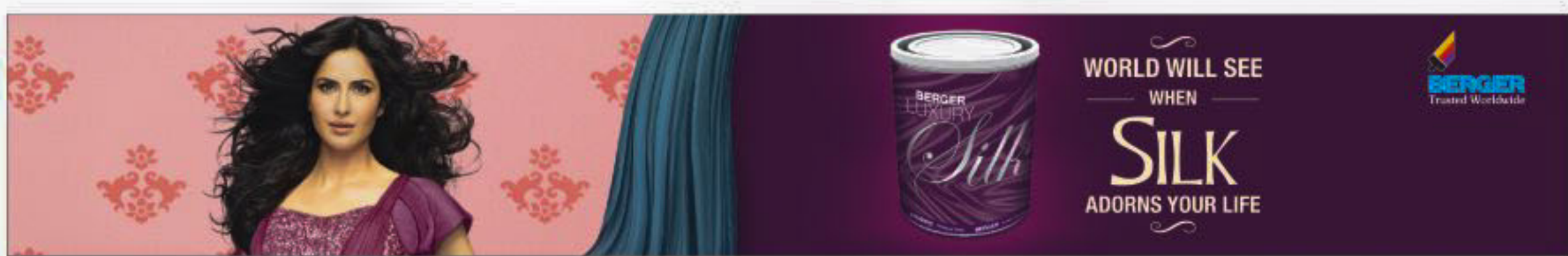
The Enforcement Directorate has issued "show cause notices" to Srinivasan, disgraced former Indian Premier League (IPL) chief Lalit Modi, the country's cricket board and foreign media companies over the fee for the 2009 tournament, the official said.

Part of the fee was allegedly siphoned off to unknown individuals, sparking the probe into the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) of which both Srinivasan and Modi were senior members, according to local media reports Tuesday.



There were plenty of supports for Scotland in Dunedin yesterday. Here two pipers play the bagpipes during their match against hosts New Zealand at the University Oval.

PHOTO: AFP



'Clarke will be welcomed back'

REUTERS, Brisbane

The return of regular Australia captain Michael Clarke for the second World Cup match against Bangladesh has the team's "full support" even if it will be tough to change a winning side, fast bowler Mitchell Johnson said on Tuesday.

On the comeback from hamstring surgery, Clarke is expected to pad up for Saturday's match in Brisbane, meeting the deadline to prove his fitness or sit out the World Cup entirely.

Clarke's return is likely to mean stand-in skipper George Bailey is tipped from the side after leading them to a 111-run demolition of England in the opener in Melbourne and scoring a useful half-century.

"I love the captaincy that he [Clarke] brings," Johnson told reporters in Brisbane on Tuesday.

"He has got so much experience and George does as well. But Michael Clarke has been the captain for a number of years now."

"I know he has the boys' full support."

Clarke played his first match with the team in two months last week, top-scoring with a 64 in a warm-up match against United Arab Emirates. That prompted pundits to question why he was rested for England.



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Coach Darren Lehmann said Clarke needed to do more tests this week, particularly in the field, to prove himself ready.

Clarke's race to be fit has been something of a soap opera in Australia and an unsourced report by Fairfax media last month alleged a rift between the 33-year-old, his players and the country's cricket board.

'Proteas no Pakistan' Windies not Holding

AFP, New Delhi

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar has issued a warning to triumphant India about their upcoming World Cup match against South Africa, saying the Proteas were "far, far superior" to archrivals Pakistan.

Batting superstar Tendulkar helped India win the World Cup four years ago with victory over Sri Lanka at his Wankhede Stadium home ground in Mumbai and also played in six World Cups before retiring from international cricket in 2013.

India started the defence of their title with a convincing 76-run win over Pakistan in Adelaide last Sunday, with Virat Kohli -- the new idol of his country's adoring fans in Tendulkar's absence -- making a brilliant 107.

However, Tendulkar said India

would need a strong opening partnership and careful running between the wickets to beat South Africa, one of the pre-tournament favourites, in this coming Sunday's clash at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"It won't be so easy to pick singles," Tendulkar told Headlines Today TV on Monday.

"They [South Africa] are much faster, their throwing arm is more powerful and their outfielding ... they cover the area much better than Pakistan."

Tendulkar singled out South Africa's spearhead Dale Steyn as the man India's batsmen needed to fear.

"Without any doubt he's their strike bowler. He's bowled unbelievably well," he said.

"You can't pre-decide how to play Steyn, he could also have a bad day, you have to decide in the moment but

you have to respect Dale Steyn, you need to be watchful upfront but take your opportunities."

Tendulkar also backed India opener Rohit Sharma to come good at the World Cup, despite managing just 15 runs against Pakistan, along with captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni who recently led the side on a miserable three-month tour of Australia.

"I wouldn't put any pressure on Rohit. Next time you'll get it right," said Tendulkar.

"The Little Master" also insisted India could retain the World Cup trophy, saying "definitely we can match up" to the standards of co-hosts Australia and South Africa.

"[But] to win the World Cup the whole team will have to play consistently play well... It's not just about a couple of individuals."

AFP, Sydney

West Indies great Michael Holding has slammed the side's four-wicket loss to Ireland in their World Cup opener as a "little bit pathetic".

The Caribbean team collapsed to 87 for five in Nelson on Monday before Lendl Simmons (102) and Darren Sammy (89) guided them to a total of 304 for seven.

But as far as fast bowling legend Holding and many other observers were concerned that was merely a "parscore".

Certainly it was one Ireland, defeating a Test side for the third successive World Cup, had few problems chasing down as they made 307 for six with 25 balls to spare at Saxton Oval.

"It was a little bit pathetic to be honest," said Holding.

"I've been saying since this World Cup started that 300 on a good pitch here in New Zealand or Australia is just a par score, irrespective of who you're playing against," he added.

"The West Indies, I do not understand how they could ever think that just over 300 runs that they would just automatically win," insisted Holding, a member of the West Indies side that won the 1979 World Cup final.

Holding said an inability to adjust to match circumstances had hurt the West Indies.

"They cannot take things for granted," the 61-year-old Jamaican told Wisden India.

"You should be able to think for yourself, 'OK we got a reasonable score but we still have a fight on our hands and we still have to go out there and perform'."

However, Holding was far more complimentary about Ireland, indicating the International Cricket Council ought to grant them Test status in a bid to stop the other players from following the example of Irish-born Eoin Morgan, England's captain at the World Cup, in switching allegiance.

"If they [Ireland] continue to linger around the lower regions of world cricket they'll continue to lose good cricketers," Holdings said.

"Morgan left Ireland to play for England because he saw brighter prospects. England are a Test playing nation and are a world-renowned team."

"Ireland need to be recognised now. They are playing good cricket and it's about time they get the recognition otherwise they'll keep losing cricketers."

Run-fest goes on

SPORTS REPORTER



The National Cricket League may be taking place miles away from Australia and New Zealand and might be receiving one-tenth of the attention compared to that of the World Cup, however, it's all happening in the league.

From double-centuries, which were previously as rare as pearls from oysters, being scored at a freakish rate and the former national cricketers pounding in the runs to Mohammad Shahid doing an Abul Hossain by scoring a century at number ten, the fourth round of the NCL has spiced up a notch after the second day.

For the first time in the competition, league leaders Dhaka ended the first innings of a match on the backfoot after they were reduced to 53 for 2 at the end of play yesterday. Former national cricketers Rajin Saleh (181) and Alok Kapali (175) shared a 348-run stand for the fourth wicket to bamboozle the league leaders. While both of them missed out on their double centuries, Tushar Imran cashed in on the opportunity. The former national batsman, who had earlier posted a



MOHAMMAD SHAHID...102

patient 177 in the league, played out a patient, unbeaten 203 for Khulna at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium at Mirpur. He was accompanied well by Ziaur Rahman's 164, who joined in the fun with seven sixes. The pair shared a 295-run stand for the sixth wicket to catapult Khulna to 560 for 6 before declaring. They took complete control of the game by chipping in with two wickets to reduce Rajshahi to 63 for 2.

Runs were scored in the other parts of the country as well, as Rangpur buoyed by Naeem Islam's patient 147 posted

518 at the BKSP. Their bowlers too managed to take two of Barisal's wickets before the end of play.

There was special praise reserved for Dhaka Metro's pacer Mohammad Shahid at the BKSP' ground number 2, who hammered a century at number ten and help Metro rise from 382 for 9 to 496. The last wicket stand was worth 114.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SYLHET: 500 all out in 161.1 overs (Rajin 181, Alok 175; Mosharraf 5-109, Sharif 2-85) v **DHAKA:** 53 for 2 (Abdul 33 not out; Nazmul 1-18)

RANGPUR: 518 for 9 dec (Liton 175, Naeem 147; Shohag 4-137, Nasum 4-144) v **BARISAL:** 62 for 2 (Fazle 28; Shubashish 1-16)

DHAKA METRO: 496 all out in 143.2 overs (Marshall 113, Shahid 102; Nur 6-150) v **CHITTAGONG:** 98 for 5 (Tasamul 43; Elias 2-23, Saykat 2-21)

KHULNA: 560 for 6 dec (Tushar 203 not out, Ziaur 164; Saqlain 3-164) v

RAJSHAH: 63 for 2 (Habibur 28; Mustafizur 1-13, Razzak 1-28)



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HEAD TO HEAD IN WORLD CUPS								
M	W	L			M	W	L	
Never Played Before					Never Played Before			
IN ALL ODIS								
M	W	L			M	W	L	
1	0	1			1	1	0	
Last Meeting : 1 st March 2014 at Fatullah. Afghanistan won by 32 runs.								
KEY PLAYERS								
		SHAKIB AL HASAN					MOHAMMAD NABI	
34.58		AVERAGE			31.44			
79.41		STRIKE RATE			89.60			
4.26		ECO RATE			4.19			
26		50'S			7			
6		100'S			0			
134*		HIGHEST SCORE			77			
3977		TOTAL RUNS			1069			
182		TOTAL WICKETS			42			

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(Above) A Tigers fan is all geared up at his workplace. (R) Four young Kiwi fans and an elderly Scottish lady show their support.



Sridhar ganti : ICC's blanket ban on sledging is surely robbing the World Cup of some fun.

shadab ahmed: Chasing 143, NewZealans had a scare. Finally they

made it. Don't underestimate the 'minnows'.

Couch Tomato: Its scary to even think what AB De Villiers is capable of doing to our bowling attack in the next match! #IndvsSA