

## Dalmiya wins unopposed

AFP, New Delhi

Jagmohan Dalmiya, who turned India into cricket's financial powerhouse before being unceremoniously dumped by his peers, returned as board president Monday in place of the sport's scandal-hit global supremo.

Dalmiya was elected unopposed as president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as part of a deal which observers say will allow the embattled incumbent Narayanaswami Srinivasan to stay on as head of the International Cricket Council. "Jagmohan Dalmiya has been elected as the president of BCCI," Gokaraju Gangaraju, vice-president of the board told AFP by phone.

The election caps a remarkable comeback for Dalmiya, who helped bring about a massive expansion in the BCCI's financial muscle in the 1980s and 90s by negotiating mega television deals before being ousted a decade ago over allegations of misappropriation of funds.

His return was made possible after Srinivasan's camp mobilised to thwart another former BCCI president, Sharad Pawar.

Pawar had been angling for a return but failed to persuade any regional association to nominate him.

Srinivasan had been forced to stand aside after the Supreme Court found him guilty of a conflict of interest over his ownership of a team in the Indian Premier League, the BCCI's money-spinning Twenty20 tournament.

His position had become increasingly precarious ever since his son-in-law was accused of betting on matches involving the Chennai Super Kings.



EYE FOR AN EYE! Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese welcomes Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza at the city council in the Maori way yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

## Limited overs, unlimited runs

SMH, Sydney

The way to succeed in this World Cup is patent: bat first, make at least 300, or lose.

There have been 13 completed matches between Test nations. Nine times, batting first and making 300-plus has been more than enough. Once, it was not. The other variation is New Zealand, who twice have won after bowling first and skittling opponents for 150 or less. The exception to all these rules was the most recent match, in which 235-7 proved to be a winning score for Pakistan against struggling Zimbabwe.

Poor old England can tell you all the ways to lose: they have succumbed by failing to chase 300-plus, by failing to defend 300-plus, and by collapsing for 123. Fleet

Street is letting them know it.

The harvest of runs in this tournament has been considerably richer even than had been predicted. Not surprisingly, all these bumper winning scores have featured mighty individual blasts. Chris Gayle clubbed an astonishing double-century one day, AB de Villiers's 162 not out from 66 balls another. One day, the West Indies were labouring against Pakistan, until Andre Russell crashed 42 not out from 13 balls, and suddenly, they'd made 310-6.

There have been nine run-a-ball centuries or faster. Joe Root made one on Sunday -- and lost. The only wonder is that Brendon McCullum hasn't made one -- yet.

Just as one-day cricket livened up Test cricket, so the inflection of T20 on one-day cricket is clear to see in this tournament. It is not just

about big bats and little boundaries, but new shots and expanded horizons. It has been rugged for bowlers, but even their few successes have come in a clatter: seven wickets one day for Tim Southee, five another, six and five on the same day for Mitchell Starc and Trent Boult.

Every aspect of the game has been intensified. Even the game's most plebeian skill, fielding, is exercised with T20 élan. This is mostly taken for granted, until seen in the negative: the retro fielding of England and Sri Lanka, for instance.

It would be wrong to think that this is without precedent. Licence for the attacking bent, after all, was the founding idea of one-day cricket. In the last antipodean World Cup 23 years ago, Mark Greatbatch gave New Zealand a

series of startling starts. One day, still on nought, he charged Curtly Ambrose. The Kiwis were about to win their semifinal that year when a little-known Pakistani clobbered 60 from 37 balls to thwart them. Needless to report, Inzamamul Haq was run out.

Four years later on the subcontinent, Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluwitharana prefigured the McCullum method, founding ultimate triumph for Sri Lanka. One day against England (ever the fall guy), they were 113-2 after 10 overs. Later, there was Adam Gilchrist, the uncontrollable.

But Monday's lay day suggests that the ICC at least thinks there is such thing as too much of a good thing. In a tournament in which teams go a week without playing, what was the sense of a day when no-one plays at all?

## Loss to Lanka worse: Athers

REUTERS, London

England may have been utterly humiliated in their second World Cup pool match against co-hosts New Zealand but Sunday's nine-wicket defeat to Sri Lanka was much more damaging, according to former England captain Mike Atherton.

Tim Southee claimed 7-33 and skipper Brendon McCullum blasted the fastest half-century in tournament history as the Kiwis shot England out for 123 and romped home in the 13th over in a ridiculously one-sided match in Wellington.

By comparison, Eoin Morgan and his team put up a better batting display against Sri Lanka, posting 309-6, even though it was not enough to avert a nine-wicket defeat.

"In some ways, this was a more damaging defeat than the one against New Zealand," Atherton wrote in the Times newspaper.

"It was possible to park that match out of the mind: an aberration, a one-off calamity, and against one of the most fancied and confident teams in the tournament," the former opener said of the earlier defeat.

"This was worse. It lasted longer and therefore England's defects were plain to see, and against a team



who most would have said are slightly past their best and unfancied."

England, who registered their only win in four outings against lowly Scotland, can still progress to the quarterfinals of a tournament they have never won but the weaknesses are too glaring for Atherton.

"...[Paceman] James Anderson looks a shadow of his potent self, unable to swing the white Kookaburra as others have done. This looks, at the moment, like a one-day tournament too far for him," he said.

"Not that Stuart Broad is any more incisive: between them in almost 60 overs they have taken just four wickets at 92 runs apiece. And this was supposed to be England's strong suit."

Morgan and his team face Bangladesh in their next Pool A match on March 9 and Atherton, who played 115 Tests in the 1989-2001 period, advocated a top order re-jig.

"As England's World Cup hopes hang by a thread, doing nothing is not an option. If Australia and New Zealand gave us a glimpse of the future this weekend, it is past failings that are staring England in the face again."



Kulna's Mehdi Hasan struck a fine 140 against Dhaka Metro at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Five magic moments

AFP, Sydney

Five magic moments at the 2015 Cricket World Cup as the tournament takes its first rest day on Monday:

**Captain Morgan or invisible man?**

England captain Eoin Morgan was introduced as 'Eoin Rogers' by the mayor of Wellington when the team arrived in the New Zealand capital. Morgan, shrugged off the gaffe: "I've been called a lot worse. She got the hardest part right."

**Rambo inspires Afghanistan**

Afghanistan fast bowler Hamid Hassan has become a cult hero, charging in with bandanna strapped tightly around his head, with cheeks painted in the colours of the Afghan flag. He admits his hero is Rambo but unlike Sylvester Stallone's on-screen lone

wolf, he performs a nifty cartwheel when he takes a wicket.

**Gayle takes tweet revenge**

If West Indies Cricket Board President Dave Cameron was trying to get Chris Gayle fired up when he retweeted a call from a fan to pension off the star opener, it certainly did the trick.

Two days later, Gayle smashed the first ever World Cup double century in the win over Zimbabwe.

**Cameron apologised for his blunder**

**Joyce freed on bail**

Ireland's Ed Joyce had a lucky break when he survived the ball hitting the stumps while batting against the United Arab Emirates in Brisbane.

Amjad Javed thought he'd struck with his fourth ball when an inswinger beat

left-hander Joyce's defence and caused the LED lights on the bails to flash. But although the off-bail was disturbed, it landed back in its groove and Joyce, who stood his ground as seamer Javed celebrated prematurely, was not out.

**Afghanistan to win World Cup, says robot**

A New Zealand robot predicted World Cup glory for Afghanistan although even the machine's programmer said such an outcome was unlikely.

The University of Canterbury's robot Ikrum made the prediction using software developed by doctoral student Eduardo Sandoval.

When the flags of the 14 participating nations were placed in front of the robot it selected Afghanistan.

## Al-Amin back to business

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh pacer Al-Amin Hossain returned to competitive cricket yesterday following his departure from the national team in the World Cup as he was included by Khulna in their game against Dhaka Metro at the BKSP on the first day of the fifth round of the National Cricket League.

The pacer, who was sent back home from Australia due to disciplinary issues, didn't get a chance to come on the field yesterday as Abdur Razzak and company opted to bat first against Dhaka Metro.

Razzak's decision to bat first paid dividends as opener Mehedi Hasan scored a sublime 140 to take his side to a comfortable 299 for 5 by the end of the day yesterday. He was well supported by Tushar Imran, who scored 69.

At the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, Rakibul Hasan scored a century in a crucial clash between reigning champions Dhaka and league leaders Rangpur. Although both of Dhaka's in-form openers, Rony Talukdar and Abdul Majid, failed to get a move on, a 90 from Jony Talukdar

and an unbeaten 115 from Rakibul helped Dhaka finish the day on 294 for 6.

Meanwhile at Fatullah, Rajin Saleh posted a cautious 72 to help Sylhet reach 214 for 3 by the end of the day yesterday. A half-century from the bat of Shohag Gazi in ground number two at the BKSP saved Barisal's blushes as they were bundled out for just 235 yesterday. Had it not been for the former national player's effort, the side would have been in further pressure against Rajshahi yesterday. After the exchange, Rajshahi lost one wicket and scored 32 runs.

The NCL is headed for a close finish as the top three teams are separated by one point each at the moment. Rangpur top the league with 87 points. Khulna and Dhaka have 86 and 85 points respectively.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BARISAL:** 235 all out in 78 overs (Shohag 59, Saif 41; Saqlain 5-81) v **RAJSHAHI:** 32 for 1 (Mizanur 21; Kamrul 1-14)

**KHULNA:** 299 for 5 (Mehedi 140, Tushar 69; Sharif 2-82) v **DHAKA METRO**

**SYLHET:** 214 for 3 (Rajin 72, Imtiaaz 43; Moniruzzaman 2-30) v **CHITTAGONG**

**DHAKA:** 294 for 6 (Rakibul 115 not out, Jony 90; Shubashish 2-49, Sohrawardi 2-63) v **RANGPUR**

## Maxwell mocked!

AFP, Sydney

Australia's Glenn Maxwell was both mocked and praised Monday after video emerged of him making a 'choking' gesture just moments before Kane Williamson launched the giant six that won Saturday's World Cup clash for New Zealand.

Maxwell, a controversial batsman dubbed 'The Big Show' by Australian media, was fielding in the deep when he turned to a section of the 40,000 crowd at Auckland's Eden Park and jokingly placed his hands around his throat to suggest that the home side were about to fail chasing their modest 152-run target.

But the Kiwis had the last laugh and claimed a place in the quarterfinals when, with the last pair at the wicket, Williamson sent his match-winning six high into the stands.

The video clip was uploaded to Facebook by New Zealand fan Sam Holt and by Monday afternoon had attracted more than 173,000 views, liked by 65,000 people and shared 3,000 times.

"This was Maxwell just before Kane Williamson tonked that 6 to win it... How's that for crowd / player banter?" wrote Holt.

বাংলা ও ইংরেজি ভাষানে  
প্লে থেকে দ্বাদশ শ্রেণি পর্যন্ত  
অধ্যয়নের সুযোগ

Plot-2, Gulshan-2, Dhaka  
M: 01720557180/90

www.bsbbd.com

বিশ্বের উচ্চশিক্ষা

স্টুডেন্ট, স্পাউস  
ভিজিট ও বিজনেস ভিসা প্রসেস

Plot-22, Gulshan Circle-2, Dhaka  
M: 01720557104/67/18/13/18

## INFO ZONE

■ SOUTH AFRICA v IRELAND ■

### HEAD TO HEAD

LAST MEETING  
15th March 2011 at Eden Garden,  
Kolkata. South Africa won by 131 runs.

ALL  
ODI's  
3

WORLD  
CUPS  
2

**KEY PLAYERS**

AB DE VILLIERS	BAT AVG	KEVIN O'BRIEN
52.93	33.25	
175	78	
98.19	84.39	
7676	2228	
162*	142	
43	11	
20	2	
162*	50 & 2/61	