

## BCCI's no to DRS yet again

CRICINFO, Kolkata

Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Anurag Thakur said there is no change in the board's position on opposing the Decision Review System (DRS).

"BCCI's [technical committee chairman] Anil Kumble and others had gone to the US to look at the system and see if we can improve it further," Thakur said. "I think there are areas where we can look at and improve it to the next level. If that is possible, the options are never closed."

Kumble, head of the ICC cricket committee, and Geoff Allardice, the ICC general manager, recently travelled to Massachusetts Institute of Technology and discussed the scheduled testing of the performance of all technologies being used in cricket.

The lack of DRS was a major factor during India's opening Test loss to Sri Lanka in Galle.

Stressing that the India players play a key role in the board's position on DRS, Thakur said the BCCI had decided to stick with the old regime's stance for now.

"It is not about an individual or an association to be against a system. I think we have to see why we don't have a 100 per cent system."

"If you look at the past few months, you will see that we have lost many matches and then we come back and say 'Oh, we have lost this match, let's look at the DRS'. I think it is not only when we lose a match [that] we should look at the system but we need to look at the overall feasibility of it, whether it is practical, whether it is close to 100 per cent, whether it will help the decision to be implemented. If that is there, we have never closed our mind to that."



Retiring Sri Lanka cricketer Kumar Sangakkara (C) walks through an 'archway of cricket bats' as he is welcomed onto the field with a guard of honour on the opening day of the second Test against India at the P Sara Oval in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Rahul ton steadies India

AFP, Colombo



Lokesh Rahul hit a century as India overcame early shocks to post 319 for 6 on the opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Thursday.

Rahul scored 108, his second Test century in four Tests, and shared a third-wicket stand of 164 with skipper Virat Kohli (78) after the tourists had slumped to 12 for 2 by the fifth over of the match.

Both batsmen fell on either side of the tea break, but Rohit Sharma boosted the total with a typically aggressive 79 that contained three sixes and five boundaries.

Sharma was leg-before to Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews off what became the last ball of the

day, leaving Wriddhiman Saha unbeaten on 19.

The 23-year-old Rahul, who hit a century against Australia in Sydney in only his second Test earlier this year, made amends for scores of seven and five in the first Test with delightful strokeplay.

Dropped at gully by Jehan Mubarak off Dushmantha Chameera when he was on 11, Rahul hit 13 boundaries and a six before a loose shot cost him his wicket after tea.

Rahul top-edged a hook off Chameera and the ball ballooned in the air before landing safely in the hands of wicketkeeper Dinesh Chandimal.

Some 6,000 home fans at the P Sara Oval applauded warmly when Sri Lanka's batting great Kumar Sangakkara was welcomed on to

the field in his last Test with a guard of honour by young children holding raised bats.

India, seeking a series-levelling win after losing the first Test in Galle by 63 runs, were in for a rude shock after Kohli won the toss and elected to bat on a moisture-laden pitch.

Opener Murali Vijay, who replaced the injured Shikhar Dhawan in one of the three changes made by India, was trapped leg-before by Dhammika Prasad off the fourth ball of the innings, before he had scored.

Prasad struck again in his third over when Ajinkya Rahane drove at a wide ball and edged an easy catch to Dimuth Karunaratne at third slip.

But Rahul and Kohli settled in to deny Sri Lanka another wicket till late in the afternoon session when the captain departed against

the run of play.

Kohli, who appeared set for a big score after hitting eight boundaries and a six, was caught low at first slip by his Sri Lankan counterpart Mathews as he went to cut Rangana Herath.

All-rounder Stuart Binny scratched around for 40 deliveries to make an unconvincing 10 when he attempted to loft Herath out of the ground and gave Chameera an easy catch at mid-off.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**INDIA:** First innings 319 for 6 (Rahul 108, Kohli 78, Sharma 79, Saha 19 not out; Prasad 2-72, Herath 2-73)

**SRI LANKA:** Mathews, Thirimanne, Silva, Karunaratne, Sangakkara, Chandimal, Mubarak, Herath, Kaushal, Prasad, Chameera.

## IN A NUTSHELL

### Education Ambassador Gilchrist

The Australian government appointed former cricketer Adam Gilchrist as the nation's inaugural education ambassador to India on Thursday.

"I am honoured to have been chosen to perform this important role in helping strengthen the education ties between our two countries," Gilchrist said.

"I have seen first-hand the vital role education plays in the development of India. Having spent so much of my cricketing career playing there, I understand the important bond Australia has with India."

### New India coach before October

The BCCI will take a final call on Team India's chief coach's post before the start of the South Africa series in October, reports indicate.

The official reason given for Anurag Thakur's visit to Sri Lanka is felicitating the retiring legend Kumar Sangakkara on behalf of BCCI but one of the main agenda of his visit will be to have a detailed discussion with Team Director Ravi Shastri.

And there is every possibility that Shastri's tenure and his future with the Indian cricket team might just come up for discussion.

### 'Sania inspires me'

Pakistan all-rounder Shoaib Malik has credited his wife Sania Mirza for reviving his career, saying she has driven him to make a comeback.

"I am lucky to have Sania. I know how hard she has worked for her success and it has driven me to do the same. That is why I was able to make a successful comeback to the Pakistan team which makes me very happy now," Malik said.



Dinesh Karthik wedded Dipika Pallikal in a lavish ceremony on Wednesday. Here, the couple walk down the aisle after the ceremony.

Compiled by Star Sport Desk



Australia captain Michael Clarke's penultimate Test innings ended for just 15 runs on the first day of the fifth Ashes Test against England at The Oval in London yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Future Oz leaders at work

AFP, London



Australia's future leadership team of Steven Smith and David Warner helped restore some pride for the tourists against England on Thursday's first day of the fifth and final Ashes Test at The Oval.

When bad flight forced an early close, Australia, who had lost the toss, were 287 for three -- a marked contrast to their 60 all out in the first innings of their series-losing defeat in the fourth Test at Nottingham's Trent Bridge.

Smith, who will take over as Australia's Test captain when Michael Clarke retires following this match, was 78 not out after future vice-captain Warner had made 85.

Adam Voges was unbeaten on 47, having helped Smith add an unbroken

101 for the fourth wicket.

Thursday saw Chris Rogers, also retiring from international duty after this match, and fellow left-handed opener Warner put on 110 for the first wicket as Australia proved they could bat responsibly in typically English conditions.

Clarke walked out to a standing ovation from the crowd as England's players formed a guard of honour in the middle for the Australia captain.

But the rousing reception did nothing to lift Clarke out of his prolonged run drought.

One of Australia's greatest batsmen, Clarke exited for 15 when he edged a delivery from all-rounder Ben Stokes that seamed off the pitch to wicketkeeper Jos Buttler, a review showed that Sri Lankan umpire Kumar Dharmasena had made the correct decision

Earlier, dozens of demonstrators gathered outside The Oval ahead of the start of the Test in protest against the way in which world cricket is now run.

The #changeprotest campaign protest was initiated by Sam Collins and Jarrod Kimber, the co-directors of 'Death of a Gentleman'.

Demonstrators, including Damian Collins, a lawmaker with Britain's governing Conservative Party, held a three minutes' silence -- a minute each for India, England and Australia -- outside the Hobbs Gates at The Oval.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 287 for 3 (Rogers 43, Warner 85, Smith 78 not out, Clarke 15, Voges 47 not out; Wood 1-41, Stokes 1-59, Ali 1-49)

**ENGLAND:** Lyth, Cook, Bell, Root, Bairstow, Stokes, Buttler, Ali, Broad, Wood, Finn

## Speed came to Nipu naturally



Sarwar Zaman Nipu, striker of the Bangladesh Under-16 team, drew the attention of the spectators as well as the media with his sparkling performances in the recently concluded SAFF U-16 Championship in Sylhet. Nipu played a vital role for the Bangladesh colts as they lifted the trophy, scoring a brace against

Sri Lanka and earning a penalty against India in the group stages. In recognition of his performances, Nipu was named the most valuable player of the tournament. The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman caught up with the mercurial talent for a chat yesterday and the excerpts are follows:

**Question:** How did your interest towards football develop?

**Sarwar Zaman Nipu:** From my childhood, I used to watch football matches which were held at the ground located in front of my house. One day in 2009, some foreign players came there to play a match. Since then I promised myself that I would become a football player. My family members also encouraged me to fulfill that dream.

**Q:** How did you get admitted to the Bhuiyan Football Academy in Kishoreganj?

**SZN:** When I went to my sister's house in Pulerghat, I came across some players practising at the academy. I asked them what the procedures were to get admitted there. Later my sister arranged my admission and with my family's consent I was admitted there in December 2013.

**Q:** How did you manage to train at the academy which was so far away from your home?

**SZN:** I practiced there for the first three months while staying at my sister's house. Afterwards I travelled 35km by train to attend the four-hour training session and came back home by auto. It usually cost Tk 50 everyday. Apart from my family, Harunur Rashid sir from the academy used to provide the cost of transportation.

**Q:** How were you been selected for the Bangladesh U-16 team?

**SZN:** I came to Dhaka to undergo a trial for the national



Under-19 team, but I was sent to the U-16's due to being underage. Since then I have been playing for the U-16 team.

**Q:** How do you feel after the SAFF Championship?

**SZN:** It is a very exciting feeling. I am receiving a lot of phone calls from my relatives and friends. Even some unknown people from Kishoreganj called me to express their delight.

**Q:** How did you develop your sudden burst of speed and powerful shots with both legs?

**SZN:** I have won the 100m sprint thrice in school competitions, so speed has come to me naturally. My left foot was not as strong as my favoured right, but I have developed it by practising every day. I take 50 shots in the morning sessions and 20 in the afternoons.

**Q:** What is the strongest aspect of your game?

**SZN:** Running is the strongest aspect of my game. I believe I can race past any defender in front of me if given a ball upfront.

**Q:** What is the weakest aspect of your game?

**SZN:** I am not that good when it comes to finishing. I am also weak in controlling the ball. I have to develop both of these if I want to go far. I think I can overcome these problems if I get a four-year scholarship at the BFF Academy.

**Q:** Who are your favourite players of the national team and from abroad?

**SZN:** I love the way Jamal Bhuiyan plays. Besides, I like Lionel Messi's dribbling and the finishing ability of Cristiano Ronaldo.

**Q:** What are your plans for the future?

**SZN:** First I want to perform well in the AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers on home soil next month and then prepare myself to fulfil my target of playing for the professional football league and securing a place on the national team.

## 'Benaud Box' at The Oval

AFP, London



Surrey honoured Australia great Richie Benaud on Thursday by re-naming one of the broadcasting booths at The Oval 'The Richie Benaud Commentary Box'.

The newly-named box was opened at the start of the final session of the first day of the fifth Ashes Test between England and Australia at The Oval by Benaud's widow, Daphne.

Benaud, who died aged 84 in April, was one of the most influential cricketers of his generation.

As a leg-spinner and aggressive lower order batsman, he was the first cricketer to reach the Test double of 2,000 runs and 200 wickets. His playing achievements also included an inspirational term as captain of Australia from 1958-64, with the team never losing a Test series under Benaud's leadership.

Off the field, he became equally well known as a cricket broadcaster during a career that spanned more than 40 years.