

SPORT

SANDPAPER CONTAMINATION

WHAT THE HAVE I JUST WOKEN UP TO. Please tell me this is a bad dream.

-Former Australia captain Michael Clarke

Absolutely love cricket and love watching mens cricket, but after all that has been said and happened during this Test series - I am not a fan... this DOES NOT happen in Women's Cricket

-South Africa female cricketer Marizanne Kapp

Don't tell me this is happening for the first time, is it????? We might have to dig out some old footage.

-Former Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis

My 2cents worth - This will be Darren Lehmann's greatest test as a coach, cos I will struggle to believe that this was all Bancroft's idea.

-Former England batsman Kevin Pietersen

Bud you know nothing in professional sport is done without the consent of your captain and coach... Tough times ahead. #sandpapersaga

-South Africa pacer Dale Steyn, responding to Pietersen

Laws of cricket: "The major responsibility for fair play rests with the captains..." Smith has admitted not merely cheating, but planning to cheat. Everything else in that ill-tempered series is irrelevant to this. By his own actions, Smith's position as captain is untenable.

-Cricketer Jonathan Agnew

When a player cannot feed corn flakes to the lucky hamster he keeps in his joystick, what is cricket coming to?

-Comedian and cricket writer Andy Zaltzman

"In our tour group, I know there are a lot of people who didn't come today. The yellow t-shirts are nowhere near as prevalent. The vibe amongst the group is very much one of disgust and disappointment."

-Australia supporter Scott Keeley in South Africa

Contamination is the right word. It allows people to speculate on a lot of things now. It's not just that Australia cricket, which has a great deal of pride, is now the laughing stock of sporting world.

-Former Australia wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist



A South African fan holds a placard reading 'Sandpaper 4 woodwork + not 2 craft balls' in the aftermath of the ball tampering row as the Australian team leave for the changing room during the fourth day of the third Test at Newlands in Cape Town yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Proteas rout embattled Aus

AFP, Cape Town

Australian cricket's day of shame ended in a crushing 322-run defeat by South Africa on the fourth day of the third Test at Newlands on Sunday.

Set an unlikely 430 to win, Australia were bowled out for a paltry 107, with fast bowler Morne Morkel taking five for 23.

It was a fittingly dismal end to the match for Australia after they were caught up in a ball-tampering scandal on Saturday which sent shockwaves through the sport. Skipper Steve Smith was subsequently banned for one match by the ICC, just hours after he and vice-captain David Warner had stood down from their positions for the remainder of the match.

"It has been a horrible 24 hours," admitted stand-in captain Tim Paine. The Australians had already woken to bruising criticism from their own chief executive and prime minister, as well as condemnation from around the cricket world. It followed the admission by Smith and young batsman Cameron Bancroft that they had deliberately tried to change the condition of the ball on Saturday.

The day seldom got better. Paine and his bowlers could not stop South Africa from taking their second innings total to 373.

Embattled opening batsmen Bancroft and Warner weathered 70 minutes before tea at the start of their second innings before the run-out of Bancroft sparked a collapse in which all ten wickets fell for just 50 runs in 19.3 overs and 99 minutes.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 311 and 373 (Markram 84, De Villiers 63, De Kock 65, Philander 52 not out; Hazlewood 3-69, Cummins 3-67, Lyon 3-102)

AUSTRALIA: 255 and 107 (Warner 32; Morkel 5-23)
Result: South Africa won by 322 runs and lead the four-match series 2-1

Player-of-the-match: Morne Morkel

Law first, spirit second: Mashrafe

SPORTS REPORTER



The cricketing world is reeling from the shockwave caused when, on Saturday, an Australian cricketer was caught red-handed in the act of ball-tampering at Newlands in Cape Town and then captain Steve Smith succumbed from a 'brain fade' moment to a brain explosion by admitting that the leadership group conspired to tamper with the ball using a foreign object in the ongoing Test against South Africa.

The admission mocked the famous baggy green motto of playing 'hard but fair' cricket and voices have been raised that this evil practice should be stopped on grounds of 'ethical immorality'.

Cricketers around the world are deploring the incident - represented by the well-documented image of Cameron Bancroft shoving a sticky yellow tape (or sandpaper as popularly advertised) down his pants. It is quite natural that among those are not any of our cricketing heroes, whose voices are also important because it is not just an issue confronting Australia but cricket as a whole.

Bangladesh's inspirational ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza acknowledged that it is a grave issue. Bangladesh's finest ever pace bowler said however that he was always against the word 'morally ethical'.

"The ICC laws clearly define what we can do and what we can't. So, what happened in

South Africa was against the law first and then against the spirit of the game. It's a shame and Smith is certainly going through a tough time at the moment. But at the same time if you flaunt the law you will be punished," Mashrafe told The Daily Star last night.

Asked if it is also warning for others, including Bangladesh, in an age when even a needle is exposed to those electronic eyes, Mashrafe said: "I have been playing cricket for over two decades; I have always been fair. We now have two captains for three different formats and as far as my leadership is concerned I have always inspired my team to play within the laws of the game."

He also said that the nature of the wickets - mostly flat nowadays - is perhaps promoting that unlawful practice, especially for those teams who want to win at any cost.

The experienced Bangladesh campaigner however found little to be optimistic about the change of attitude towards the game in general. "People are creating a lot of noise at the moment. The culprits will be punished and after some time it will be business as usual," said the 34-year-old.

He however reiterated his firm stance of abiding by the law, something he believes can solve so many on-field problems.

"The ICC law not only bans any foreign objects or nails to tamper with the ball. It also states that you can't throw it hard on the ground to take undue advantage. I think if we follow the rules we can guarantee fair play," Mashrafe signed off.

Timeline of SHAME

STAR SPORT DESK



The tampering travesty begins after Australia's Cameron Bancroft is shown on television showing a yellow object into the pocket of his trousers after using it to rough up the ball on the third day of the third Test on Saturday.

However, the misdemeanor worsens as Australia coach Darren Lehmann apparently directs 12th man Peter Handscomb over walkie-talkie to let Bancroft know that he has been caught on tape. Handscomb does so, and Bancroft pulls the yellow object from his pockets and shoves it down his pants.

Bancroft is then, after a brief discussion between English officials Nigel Llong and Richard Illingworth, called over by the umpires - along with his captain Steve Smith and the episode takes another ugly turn. After the umpires presumably ask Bancroft what is going on, he turns his pockets inside out and pulls out a black cloth in a clear effort to conceal the truth.

That is the end of the drama on the field, but social media is already blowing up. And there will be a few more explosions off the field before the night is out.

DEFINITIVE FOOTAGE EMERGES; AUSSIES GO INTO LOCKDOWN

Host broadcaster SuperSport show footage from three different angles, including clear footage of Bancroft stuffing the object, at the time thought to be sandpaper, down his pants, which leads to widespread condemnation. Before the post-match press conference, Cricket Australia confirms that it has cancelled all interviews with TV and radio stations. Bancroft is charged with a Level 2 offence of attempting to alter the condition of the ball.

AUSTRALIANS COME CLEAN

At the post-match press conference Smith admits that 'the leadership group knew about it' and that the Australians came up with the play over the lunch break out of desperation.



ILLUSTRATION: DAVID ROWE/TWITTER

Bancroft clears the air about what the object was, saying: "I saw an opportunity to use some yellow tape and the granules from the rough patches to change the condition of the ball." Meanwhile, his captain admits to an error of judgment, adding that coach Darren Lehmann was in no way involved. However, Smith adds that he will not resign.

NO DECISION YET, SAYS SUTHERLAND; STARC, HAZLEWOOD REACT WITH SHOCK

Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland admits that they are 'shocked and disappointed' by the events, but adds that there will be no decision on Smith's captaincy until a clearer picture is formed by CA's integrity unit, which is dispatched to Cape Town. Later, Fairfax Media reports that senior players Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood are shocked by Smith's statements. The duo claim they had no knowledge of the plans.

AUSTRALIA PM BLASTS TEAM; SMITH, WARNER REMOVED FROM LEADERSHIP ROLES

Late Saturday, ICC chief executive David Richardson condemns Australia's actions while Australia Prime Minister Ross Turnbull blasts the cricket team, saying: "It seemed completely beyond belief that the Australian cricket team had been involved in cheating." Following Turnbull's statement, Sutherland says Steve Smith and David Warner will stand down as captain and vice-captain for rest of the Test.

ICC LEVIES PUNISHMENT

On Sunday, the ICC bans Smith for one match and fines him 100 per cent of his match fee while Bancroft is given three demerit points and fined 75 per cent of his match fee.

Tamim's reports sent to Australia

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national team physio Thihan Chandramohan travelled to Australia with Tamim Iqbal's scan reports yesterday to consult with surgeon David Young.

Tamim is currently in Bangkok, where he travelled to after playing one Pakistan Super League playoff match for Peshawar Zalmi on March 20, for tests on an injury to his left knee. The Bangladesh opening batsman previously incurred the same injury on the same leg and had to go under Dr. Young's knife in 2014.

Bangladesh Cricket Board's chief physician Debashish Chowdhury informed that the injury is nothing major and Tamim has time to rest and recuperate from the injury as there are no official assignments for the Tigers in the next two months. It is also understood that the southpaw is likely to be out of cricket for the next six weeks, which also includes recovery time.

"I cannot yet comment on the injury without having a look at the report. First I have to go through the reports and as far as I know he had issues with his meniscus previously, which was nothing major but still we have to go through the report," Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

Tamim was unable to field during the final of the Nidahas Trophy against India on March 18 and also did not field in the PSL game two days later.

According to sources, Tamim injured his knee while diving for a quick run during his first stint with Zalmi this season and suffered from pain throughout the Nidahas Trophy. The left-hander is expected to return to Bangladesh by tomorrow.



Ramanayake out to emulate first stint

SPORTS REPORTER



During his first tenure as the Tigers' fast bowling coach between 2008 to 2010, former Sri Lankan fast bowler Champaka Ramanayake was hailed for nurturing the natural abilities of the seamers in light of significant improvements made by the likes of Rubel Hossain and Shafiqul Islam.

The 53-year-old returned to Bangladesh last year after being roped in by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) as the bowling consultant for the High Performance Unit last year and he was busy submitting his new programme chart for the upcoming bowling camp at the Sher-e-Bangla National stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"We are going to start a junior camp for the fast bowlers, starting from March 28. There will be about 15-20 bowlers, all around 18 years of age. I am not really into changing the natural way of one's bowling. I believe in natural ability and enhancing that to become efficient," Ramanayake told The Daily Star.

"So I have these things in my mind going into the camp but first I have to see what they are capable of -- whether they have the pace or control over swing -- and select the best ones for the future," Ramanayake said, adding that there were a few who have the



potential to bowl around 140kph.

The Sri Lankan informed that he would start working with a new set of fast bowlers for the upcoming High Performance camp for fast bowlers, which is set to start around the end of May.

"I have worked with Taskin [Ahmed] and a few others earlier. Rubel bowled well in this tournament [Nidahas Trophy]. Unfortunately we could not win but I thought the boys played really well throughout," said Ramanayake when asked about his observations as interim bowling coach during the Nidahas Trophy. "It was home for me so I knew the conditions there and I shared that information with the bowlers. We played on good tracks and the pacers had chances to get wickets."

He also praised Soumya Sarkar's bowling skill and opined that Soumya was a smart thinker and possesses the ability to become a genuine all-rounder if he can work on his bowling fitness.

When asked about the ball tampering incident currently engulfing the Australian cricket team, Champaka said: "Looking after the ball is absolutely fine. You do not have to do illegal things for that. But to get early reverse people are doing these things. You have got to have patience. You do illegal things only if you are impatient but that is not acceptable."

Rashid fastest to 100 ODI wickets

Afghans win title beating WI in final

AFP, Harare



Mohammad Shahzad starred as Afghanistan laid down a marker ahead of next year's World Cup by romping to a seven-wicket thrashing of the West Indies in Sunday's qualifying final in Harare.

Leg-spin sensation Rashid Khan became the fastest bowler ever to reach 100 one-day international wickets as the Windies were bowled out for 204, before big-hitting opener Shahzad smashed 84 as Afghanistan knocked off the runs with 9.2 overs to spare.

Both Afghanistan and West Indies had already made sure of their places in the 2019 World Cup by topping the 10-team qualifying tournament in Zimbabwe.

Rashid, 19, dismissed Shai Hope to take his 100th ODI wicket in only his 44th game, beating the previous record held by Australia's Mitchell Starc by eight matches.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 204 all out in 46.5 overs (Lewis 27, Hetmyer 38, Powell 44, Nurse 26 not out; Mujeeb 4-43, Naib 2-28, Rashid 1-42)

AFGHANISTAN: 206 for 3 in 40.4 overs (Shahzad 84, Rahmat 51, Shenwari 20 not out, Nabi 27 not out; Gayle 2-38)
Result: Afghanistan won by 7 wickets.

FASTEST TO 100 WICKETS

Player	Mat	Opposition	Venue	Date
Rashid Khan (AFG)	44	West Indies	Harare	Mar 25, 2018
Mitchell Starc (AUS)	52	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Aug 21, 2016
Saqain Mushtaq (PAK)	53	Sri Lanka	Gwalior	May 12, 1997
Shane Bond (NZ)	54	England	Adelaide	Jan 23, 2007
Brett Lee (AUS)	55	England	Melbourne	Jan 25, 2003



Eng staring at defeat

AFP, Auckland

The fall of Joe Root's wicket on the last ball of day four Sunday left England calling for a hero to salvage a draw in the first Test against New Zealand in Auckland.

England's position at 132 for three, 237 in arrears, revived memories of the cliffhanger Test the last time the sides clashed here in Auckland five years ago, when the match went down to the final ball.

With Root out to a fired up Trent Boult late Sunday, England go into this final day with seven wickets available to avoid an innings defeat.

At stumps England were 132 for three after Root departed for 51 and Mark Stoneman was out for 55.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 58
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 427 for 8 decl (Williamson 102, Nicholls 145 not out, Watling 31, De Grandhomme 29, Southee 25; Anderson 3-87, Broad 3-78)

ENGLAND: Second innings 132 for 3 (Stoneman 55, Root 51, Malan 19 not out; Boult 2-24)