



The conversations between Shakib and Aggarwal

STAR SPORT DESK

NOVEMBER 2017: BEGGININGS IN THE BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE
While Shakib was playing for Dhaka Dynamites in November 2017, he was aware that his phone number had been given to a man named Deepak Aggarwal by an acquaintance. Aggarwal had asked the acquaintance to provide contacts of Bangladesh Premier League players.

In mid-November, Aggarwal began messaging Shakib on WhatsApp and sought to meet him.

JANUARY 2018: CONTACT MADE DURING TIGERS' TRI-SERIES

In January, 2018, Shakib was selected for the tri-series featuring Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka. During the series, he and Aggarwal engaged in further WhatsApp conversations.

On 19 January, 2018, he received a message from Aggarwal congratulating him for being named man of the match in that day's game.

Aggarwal followed this message with a message saying "do we work in this or I wait til the IPL". This was the first request for inside information and Shakib did not report it.

On 23 January, 2018, he received another WhatsApp message and Aggarwal made another approach to provide inside information, saying "Bro anything in this series?"

Shakib confirmed this message related to Aggarwal's request to provide inside information in relation to the ongoing tri-series. Shakib did not report this request.

APRIL 2018: TALK ABOUT BANK ACCOUNTS DURING IPL

On April 26, 2018, Shakib was playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad against Kings XI Punjab in the Indian Premier League, when Aggarwal messaged him to ask whether a particular player was going to be play, i.e. again asking for inside information.

That conversation continued with Aggarwal talking about bitcoins and dollar accounts and asking Shakib for his dollar account details. During the conversation, Shakib told Aggarwal that he wanted to meet him "first".

The messages on 26 April, 2018 included a number of deleted messages. Shakib said the deleted messages contained requests from Aggarwal for inside information.

He also said that he had concerns over Aggarwal, feeling he was a bit "dodgy", and that, following their conversations, he had the feeling Aggarwal was a bookie. However, Shakib still did not report the contact to any anti-corruption authority, although he did tell the ACU that he did not accept any money or reward from Aggarwal nor comply with his requests for information.



Following Shakib Al Hasan's (2nd from R) suspension from all cricketing activities for the next year, which was levied by the ICC, the premier all-rounder and Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan (2nd from L) briefed the media in Mirpur about the situation yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Sad, shocked but mostly puzzled

BISHWAJIT ROY



"I cannot imagine what I am dealing with. I can only say that it's not normal."

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan told The Daily Star the other day while reflecting on what he had been dealing with just a few days ahead of the Tigers tour of India.

After all the speculation and guessing, when the International Cricket Council (ICC), via a media release, revealed that it had banned Bangladesh Test and T20I captain Shakib Al Hasan from all forms of cricket for two years, with one year of that suspended, it appeared the revelation surrounding the premier all-rounder was actually not normal.

True, it is never normal to find a player in this kind of situation and it was no exception when Bangladesh's first cricketing superstar Mohammad Ashraful had been banned from all cricketing activities. But still it was probably on everyone's lips: "Shakib, you too? How could

you be trapped in it?"

If the ban was shocking, then the findings in the ICC's press release were a real surprise for everybody. Shakib may know the truth, but for the common people it would be very hard to tag the case with any words like 'happened out of ignorance, out of callousness or out of arrogance'. It will remain a mystery how it happened with a player who was not only praised for his outstanding all-round performance, but also maintaining the highest standard of professionalism.

How could he not be aware of the consequences of this kind of mistake (If you want to call it a mistake)? Had he not been informed about what cricket has been going through in regards to corruption? Was he not smart enough to understand the dark side of the game? As a fan of one of cricket's best all-rounders, we can only throw such questions because we cannot get relief by saying that he was a victim of ignorance, thereby exonerating him to some extent. If we could have reached such a conclusion, then it would have been only

pain rather than the puzzle.

When you had raised your fingers towards corruption in lower-tier domestic cricket in the country, we found a new hope and were impressed by your consciousness over corrupt practices in cricket. So, it's hard to accept what has happened and it's really difficult to find an answer. There was not a single indication in your characteristics from where we could find an answer for such happenings.

When you, and Tamim Iqbal, were approached by a bookie in 2010, you immediately reached out and reported the incident.

You have name and fame and yes, you have had also some blunders in terms of discipline in your career. But what was revealed on the 29th October, 2019 will remain the subject of bemusement.

Should we all say that all human makes mistake? Not sure at all. But we hope you will make a strong comeback as you promised yesterday, not only as one of the world's best all-rounders, but also as an exemplary person who will be remembered for learning from his mistake.

We did not know about it before: Hassan

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan said that the board was extremely shocked after Test and T20I skipper Shakib Al Hasan was handed a two-year ban from all forms of cricket, with one year of that suspended, and reiterated that it was an incredible setback for Bangladesh ahead of the important series against India.

"I have always said that we don't have substitutes for two players - Mashrafe as a captain and Shakib as a player. He is one of the best players in the world. Him not being able to play is a real shock," the BCB boss began as he addressed the media in Mirpur with Shakib standing by his side.

"We have a very important series in front of us. We are playing our first full series in India and ICC Test Championship is beginning. The planning behind everything was done with Shakib in mind.

"I don't deny that I was angry at him for not reporting the issue but at the same time we are pleased that he has cooperated fully with the ICC's ACU (Anti-Corruption Unit) and has pledged his commitment to

its education programme."

Hassan also expressly stated their none of the top brass at the BCB were aware of the investigation prior to a few days ago.

"I want to state something clearly and that is that neither I nor anyone from the BCB knew anything about the investigation, which has been going on from January. The ACU, an independent body, communicated with Shakib. He [Shakib] informed me two or three days ago following the meeting with the players regarding the strike."

The BCB president said that they would extend 'full support' to Shakib so that the all-rounder could return to cricket swiftly.

"The BCB is shocked and extremely disappointed that an experienced player like Shakib failed to report a corrupt approach on three occasions," a BCB press release quoted Nazmul as saying earlier.

"We hope he will come back as a better and wiser cricketer and serve Bangladesh for many more years when his sanction will be over. During the suspension the BCB will continue to support his efforts at returning to cricket."

"The BCB respects the ICC's decision and shares similar sentiments against corruption in cricket," the statement concluded.



WHAT THEY SAID

Legends don't become legends overnight. They have to go through storms, many ups-and-downs. Tough times will come but they embrace it with a strong mind and we know how strong Shakib Al Hasan is! This is a beginning of a new start. He will come back stronger than ever in no time. He has been away from cricket due to injuries and we saw how strongly he came back in the World Cup. This is just a matter of time. We are overwhelmed by all the love and support you have shown us. That's the unity we need as a nation!

--SAKIB UMMEY AL HASAN

No player, let alone as high profile a cricketer as Shakib, can afford to be ignorant of the

ICC's Anti-Corruption Code. Even young players in age-group cricket are advised to report approaches. To let three such approaches go by is very strange.

--HARSHA BHOGLE

One year is suspended? Why? Bye bye for two years minimum

--SCOTT STYRIS

So Shakib Al Hasan's ban has a lesson for all sports lovers and sportsmen: if you disregard the game and try to become bigger than the game by sidetracking the laid rules and protocols then be ready for a fantastic fall! Sad.

--RAMIZ RAJA

Shakib's Suspension



Shakib Al Hasan has been handed a two-year ban, one of which is suspended, for not reporting three approaches by a bookmaker named Deepak Aggarwal

To return to international cricket from October 29, 2019 he must not commit any offence under the code (or the anti-corruption codes of any national cricket federation) during the first year and must participate in any anti-corruption education and/or rehabilitation programmes specified by the ICC

Two of the approaches were made during the tri-series involving Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in January 2018, with the third coming in April 2018 before the IPL match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kings XI Punjab. He was first contacted by Aggarwal during the BPL in November 2017.

His position as captain, an experienced cricketer, and having repeatedly communicated over several months with Aggarwal, whose intentions were clear were seen as aggravating factors in his sanction.

Shakib's prompt and voluntary admission of his breaches, cooperation with the anti-corruption unit (ACU), previous good disciplinary record and the fact that his offences did not affect the outcome of the relevant matches were mitigating factors.

Shakib revealed in 2010 that he had reported an approach by a bookmaker before the March 2008 ODI series against Zimbabwe. Shakib said he was offered 'sponsorship' in return for underperformance, and that he had reported it immediately to the BCB and the ICC.

Shakib is the second Bangladesh player to be sanctioned under the anti-corruption code after Mohammad Ashraful in 2013. Ashraful, however, admitted to actively fixing matches and was banned for eight years.

Shakib will miss the upcoming tour of India, a tour of Pakistan (January 2019), home series against Australia (February 2020) and Zimbabwe (March 2020), tours of Ireland (May 2020) and Sri Lanka (July 2020), the Asia Cup (September 2020) and home series against New Zealand (October 2020).

Others suspended

The chief pitch curator at the Maharashtra Cricket Stadium in Pune, Pandurang Salgaonkar, was handed a six-month ban for breaching Code Article 2.4.4 of the ICC's Anti-Corruption Code. He was given a reduced ban for his cooperation.

A trio of UAE cricketers, including captain Naveed Ahmed, were provisionally suspended earlier this month for breach of numerous codes, including 2.4.4.

The Pakistan Cricket Board charged Mohammad Irfan under their anti-corruption code's article 2.4.4, which is similar to the ICC's code but requires disclosure of approaches to its own anti-corruption body. Irfan pleaded guilty and was suspended for one-year, with six months to be shaved off if he assisted in investigations.

A painful transformation

MAZHAR UDDIN



Over 13 years, the world has probably seen an emotionally distraught Shakib Al Hasan just once - when the ace all-rounder cried his heart out with his teammates after a heart-breaking defeat to Pakistan in the final of the 2012 Asia Cup.

Shakib has since grown in stature both on and off the field. To most who have followed the champion all-rounder closely, he became a more mature, smarter and most importantly less emotional character.

Very rarely has Shakib shown outward emotion, instead maintaining a steely personality who was guided by pragmatism and came across as a strong individual, and of course a world-class cricketer.

The cameras constantly try to capture the image of the star cricketer wherever he goes. Yesterday, however, the scenario was a totally different one.

The poster boy of Bangladesh cricket was about to arrive at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur at around 8:00 pm. In the hours leading up to that moment, millions of cricket lovers of the country and around the world were shocked by news that the International Cricket Council had banned Shakib from all cricket for

two years, with one of those years suspended, after he accepted the three charges of failing to report the approaches from a bookie.

The white BMW sedan was supposed to enter Gate 2 of the home of cricket in Mirpur, where



around 50 to 60 fans were protesting the suspension of Shakib, but the cricketer decided to come in from the other end of the stadium.

The strong body language that the 32-year-old has been known to project in public and during his heroics on the field had changed drastically as a blank-faced Shakib walked towards the elevator. Once again, there was a massive number of cameras focused at him but it was not the same Shakib who just

a few days ago took a leading and outspoken role in the players' strike.

Mostly, Shakib tried to keep his head down and while entering the elevator he even tried to hide from the cameras, but there were too many there tracking his every move

and expression closely.

As he stepped out, he strolled past another crowd and walked towards BCB President Nazmul Hassan's office, and after a short meeting Shakib was about to face the media.

The cameras were back with redoubled force as Shakib stood alongside Hassan and two other board directors, Jalal Yunus and Enayet Hossain Siraj. As the media were preparing before the start of