

## 'Annoyed' Warner wants more DRS transparency

REUTERS

Australia batter David Warner has called for players to be given more transparency over the workings of the Decision Review System (DRS) after falling foul of a line-ball dismissal at the World Cup in India.

Warner was furious after being dismissed lbw for 11 in the win over Sri Lanka on Monday, with ball-tracking technology upholding umpire Joel Wilson's out decision.

The lefthanded opener smashed his bat against his pad and yelled in the direction of Wilson as he exited.

Warner complained that players were in the dark over the workings of Hawk-Eye, the ball-tracking technology used at the World Cup and other International Cricket Council events.

"I've never had Hawk-Eye come in and explain to us how the technology actually works, it's just for the TV," the 36-year-old told a Cricket Australia website.

"If they could come in and explain to us how it works, then sometimes we might (choose) not to refer or to refer."

Hawk-Eye showed the ball hitting leg stump during Warner's lbw dismissal against the Sri Lankans, returning an 'umpire's call' verdict.

Warner said that did not match what he saw on the replay shown on the big screen at the Lucknow stadium.

"(Wilson) said the ball was swinging back so to his credit, if he thinks that then that's why he's given a decision. But then when you see the replay of how it unfolded you get a bit annoyed, (but) that's out of our control. I just sprayed out loud in frustration pretty much just (to) myself."



When Australia take on Pakistan today at the presumably batting-friendly M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, David Warner and the rest of the Aussies' top order will hope to come to the party, especially after dismal showings in the first three matches, while Pakistan will hope for their pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi to help them bounce back in the World Cup after a loss to archrivals India.

PHOTO: AFP/PCB

## Bowlers enjoy a field day

SPORTS REPORTER

Bowlers held sway over batters in yesterday's proceedings as the second-round matches of the National Cricket League (NCL) kicked off across the country.

As many as 17 wickets fell at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla as Rangpur Division were bundled out for 119 by Dhaka Metro in the tier-1 game. Pacers Shohidul Islam and Abu Haider Rony bagged four and two wickets, respectively.

In reply, Marshal Ayub's 45 and Rony Talukdar's 31-ball 35 saw Dhaka Metro reach 161 for seven at stumps.

Pacer Sumon Khan's five-wicket haul for 47 for Dhaka was the highlight at Bogra's Shaheed Chandu Stadium in the other tier-1 game. Sylhet were bowled out for 212 despite opener Zakir Hasan's gritty 85 off 158 balls. Dhaka, in reply, reached 24 without loss at stumps.

At Rajshahi's Shaheed AHM Kamruzzaman Stadium, Barishal's left-arm spinner Tanvir Islam bagged a five for in a tier 2 game against Rajshahi. Sabbir Rahman's 57 and Meherob Hasan's 65 were the saving grace as Rajshahi managed 209 all out. Barishal reached 34 for one at day's end.

Elsewhere, at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, Mominul Haque managed 46 while Shamim Hossain struck 50 as Chattogram were bundled out for 242. Soumya Sarkar and Nahidul Islam scalped two each while the former disappointed with the bat before Khulna reached 20 for one at close of play.

# Pak, Aus await a run-fest?

REUTERS, Bengaluru

Australia's top order are working hard to set things right at the World Cup and a batting friendly wicket like Bengaluru should provide the right platform to score plenty of runs when they play Pakistan, skipper Pat Cummins said on Thursday.

Australia lost their first two matches without crossing 200 runs but won their last game against Sri Lanka to move up to seventh in the standings. However, their top order has failed to get going despite some promising starts.

Marnus Labuschagne is the only Australia batter to score more than 100 runs in the tournament so far and Cummins said it was important they stepped up in Bengaluru, where the team batting first has averaged 335 in the last three ODIs.

"Especially at a venue like here in Bangalore, I dare say it's going to be high-scoring, smaller field. The pitch is always really good here," Cummins told reporters ahead of Friday's game.

"Batting is super important. I think the way the guys started the last game really set the tone, Mitchell (Marsh) and Davey (Warner) up front from the first over taking the game on."

"That's what we want from our players and they're working really hard, they're doing all the right things. I'm sure plenty of runs are around the corner."

Pakistan started the tournament with two wins before losing to India and they sit fourth in the standings.

Cummins said the Asian side are "well-structured", identifying Mohammad Rizwan and captain Babar Azam as their biggest batting threats while Hasan Ali has

been the pick of Pakistan's fast bowlers with seven wickets.

"They have some really good quick bowlers who can do some damage, some spin bowlers that can bowl 20 of their overs," Cummins said.

"Rizwan's the leading run-scorer, Babar Azam's always good, a couple of other batters that have scored a lot in ODIs lately. So they're a really strong side pretty much in all facets."

Cummins also thanked the Netherlands on Thursday for throwing the five-time champions a shock World Cup lifeline with their surprise victory over South Africa.

"Yeah, I mean it's good, I won't lie. I think it just evens all the teams out really," said Cummins.

The Dutch stunned South Africa by 38 runs in Dharamsala on Tuesday.

It was South Africa's first loss of the tournament and prevented them from taking their record to a perfect three wins in three.

Instead, they are only two points ahead of Australia in what is expected to be a tight battle for the top four places which will decide the semifinal line-up.

Sri Lanka and South Africa had century opening stands against Australia and when asked if Cummins would take the new ball going forward, the 30-year-old said Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood would continue to open the bowling.

"We look back at the last couple of games and, yeah, we haven't got the wickets. But there's probably been three chances in each of the first 10 overs that we just haven't got -- LBW, missed by millimetres, or play and misses," Cummins said. "We've been really happy with the guys up front."

- Australia have dominated ODIs against Pakistan, winning 69 of the 107 played between the two sides. Pakistan claimed wins in 34 matches while three games yielded no result and one ended in a tie.
- Even though Australia still lead proceedings in the World Cup, things are a bit more even in the mega event. Pakistan and Australia played each other 10 times in the World Cup, with the Aussies winning on six occasions and Pakistan getting wins in the rest four.
- Pakistan and Australia came across each other twice in the 1999 World Cup. While Pakistan won the group game, the Aussies went on to humiliate them in the final just about a month later at Lord's.
- Australia bundled out Pakistan for just 132 in 39 overs in that final – the lowest-ever total recorded in a World Cup final. Australia won the game by eight wickets and 179 balls remaining – the largest margin win in terms of both wickets and balls remaining in a World Cup final.
- Australia enjoyed a freak 34-match unbeaten run in World Cups between 1999-2011, winning the trophy thrice during that period. Interestingly, the Aussies' massive winning streak started with a win against Pakistan in the final in 1999 and ended with a defeat against the same side in the group stage in 2011.

## Promoted Gopalganj SC withdraw from BPL

SPORTS REPORTER

Newly promoted Gopalganj Sporting Club have withdrawn from the forthcoming season of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) citing plans to further develop their infrastructure before making the jump to top flight.

Gopalganj SC earned promotion to the top-flight after finishing as runners up in the second-tier Bangladesh Championship League (BCL) in the previous season.

However, the club officially informed the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) of their inability to take part in the top-tier league on the last day of the transfer window on Wednesday.

"There were two reasons [to withdraw from BPL]. The first reason was the financial problem and the second one was the club's decision to play second-tier BCL and use the funds that would be required if we played in the BPL to develop the club's infrastructure in Dhaka," the club's manager SM Mamunur Rashid told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We needed at least Tk 8 crore to form the BPL squad but now we have to spend just Tk one crore to form a BCL squad," he added.

The withdrawal of Gopalganj SC means only 10 teams will compete in the 15th edition of the BPL. This is not the first time a promoted club has pulled out of the top flight as earlier Cox City SC, Youngmen's Fakirerpool Club and Arambagh KS had withdrawn from the BPL in 2012, 2017 and 2019 respectively.

Meanwhile, defending champions Bashundhara Kings have once again formed a star-studded squad for the 2023-24 season.

The four-time champions have roped in 11 out of the 23-member Bangladesh squad that recently defeated the Maldives 3-2 on aggregate in the preliminary round of World Cup Qualifiers.

Tapu Barman, Anisur Rahman Zico and Sheikh Morsalin, who have recently been penalised by the club on disciplinary grounds, will be a part of the Kings squad for the upcoming season. Kings will be trying to clinch their fifth successive title in the BPL.

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