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The Island Sports

Thursday 9th September, 2010

Dilhara in Anti-Corruption radar for past two years

Leading Sri Lanka fast bowler Dilhara Fernando has been in the International Cricket Council's Anti Corruption Unit radar for the last two years, *'The Island'* reliably learns.

'The Island' can confirm that the officers from ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit were in Colombo for an inquiry either early this year or late last year and Fernando had to be helped by a translator. A former Manager of the National cricket team had functioned as the translator helping the inquiry; cricket sources told *'The Island'*.

Although all the attention with regard to ICC investigations has been now diverted to a leading batsman in the side, we can confirm that Fernando was under ICC investigations for almost two years now.

Apart from the batsman mentioned above, a young all-rounder also has been under ICC investigations since the conclusion of last year's ICC T-20 World Cup in England, where Sri Lanka emerged runners-up losing a one-sided final to Pakistan at Lord's.



Dilhara Fernando

Fernando, 31, has been in and out of the Sri Lankan side since the emergence of Lasith Malinga and Nuwan

Kulasekara. He was part of the Sri Lankan side that drew the high scoring second Test Match against India at the

Sinhalese Sports Club ground last month where he picked up just one wicket. His last appearance in Sri Lankan colours however was in the recent tri-nation tournament match against India at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium.

Ever since former South African captain Hansie Cronje was found guilty of accepting money from an Indian bookmaker in the year 2000, several cricketers including three Test captains received life bans for their links with bookies.

In the year 2000, the ICC established the Anti-Corruption Unit under Sir Paul Condon to root out corruption from the game and it was widely accepted that match fixing had been taken out from the sport. But it raised its head again after British tabloid News of the World carried out an operation that named two Pakistani players for bowling no balls after it had been pre-arranged during a Test Match against England two weeks ago. Pakistan captain Salman Butt also was alleged to have been involved in the controversy and all three players have been since suspended.

Under-17 Division I cricket quarter-finals Trinity win thriller

By REEMUS FERNANDO

Trinity College tail-enders held their nerves against a desperately fighting Ananda College outfit to record a thrilling one-wicket victory in the Inter School Under-17 Division I quarter-final which produced a dramatic finish at CCC Ground yesterday.

Chasing 167 runs to win, Trinity lost seven wickets for 102 runs before a fighting eight wicket partnership between Janishka Premasinghe and Amrith Sivakulasingham raised them to 146 by the 40th over. With just 21 runs behind the victory target the partnership was broken by a brilliant direct hit from mid on by Danuka Madushan, which saw the back of Premasinghe. When Premasinghe was run out he had scored 46 runs facing as many as 83 balls. They went further down when Madushan Subandran was ruled out lbw to Tiran Wijesuriya.

Sivakulasingham then played a crucial role keeping the strike to himself most of the time to defy pacemen Venuka Ashen and Tiran Wijesuriya to record the victory under fading light. After reaching 163 runs with a boundary (in the 45th over with Duckworth Lewis target on their favour) batsmen appealed for bad light only to be turned down. On the very next ball a chance went waste to the greatest disappointment of Anandians as Ashen missed a caught and ball opportunity off danger man Sivakulasingham. Sivakulasingham put away the next delivery for runs, after a desperate second appeal for bad light was turned down, which ended the dig dong battle. They won with four overs to spare.

The match saw both skippers Thushara Samarakoon (Ananda) and Niroshan Dikwella (Trinity) scoring identical 38 runs respectively, while number seven batsmen Sisuru Samarasinghe (Ananda) and Premasinghe (Trinity) top scored with identical knocks (46 runs each). Interestingly, both batsmen were run out.

While all other batsmen (of both teams) struggled against spin, it was probably number nine batsman Sivakulasingham's unbeaten 25 runs that decided the semi finalists.

Now Trinity will meet the winners of today's quarter final match between De Mazenod and S. Thomas'.

Scores:

Ananda 166 all out in 48.3 overs (Thushara Samarakoon 38, Sisuru Samarasinghe 46; Alwin Fernando 2/23, Janishka Premasinghe 2/19, Sachithra Tennakoon 3/28)

Trinity 167 for 9 in 45.3 overs (Niroshan Dikwella 38, Janishka Premasinghe 46; Dishan Alwis 2/24, Thamalaka Athulathmudali 2/25)

Britain, India to talk about gambling legalization

LONDON (AP) - The British government's sports minister will attempt to persuade his Indian counterpart of the case for legalizing gambling when they meet at the Commonwealth Games next month.

Hugh Robertson has written to Indian Sports Minister MS Gill in the wake of the fixing scandal engulfing Pakistani cricket to express his view that legalization in India would make gambling easier to regulate.

Illegal betting hubs in India are accused of having insider information passed on to them by players and fixers to let them bet on a sure thing.

The International Cricket Council last month suspended three Pakistani players on fixing charges.

The sports ministers of the nations competing at the Commonwealth Games meet during the Oct. 3-14 event.

Pakistan bowler Kaneria cleared of fixing charges

LONDON (AP) - Pakistan bowler Danish Kaneria has been cleared of criminal charges on allegations that he was involved in spot-fixing in an English county match.

Essex police released Kaneria from his bail conditions without charge after four months of investigations into what they called "cricket-match irregularities."

The Pakistan spinner and Essex teammate Mervyn Westfield were arrested in May on suspicion of fixing in a match against Durham last year.

Kaneria was released from the touring Pakistan squad after defeat to England in the first test.

Kaneria played for Essex while under investigation. Three of his Pakistan teammates have been suspended by the ICC while they are investigated for fixing in the fourth test against England.

Abbas says a win can lift troubled Pakistan



Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi, second left, and his team react against England during their second international Twenty20 cricket match in Cardiff, Wales, Tuesday Sept. 7, 2010. (AP Photo/Tim Hales)

ISLAMABAD (AP) - Pakistan cricket fans and former players believe only winning will allow the team to overcome a match fixing scandal that has resulted in several players being suspended.

Zaheer Abbas - known as the Asian Bradman - said Wednesday that one win

could boost the morale of the team which lost back-to-back, Twenty20 internationals against England this week.

"Victory is the only solution to lift the morale of the team," Abbas told the Associated Press on Thursday.

England clinched the Twenty20

series 2-0 and the two teams will start a five match, one-day series Friday.

Most fans just want the investigation by the ICC and Scotland Yard to complete their investigation so the team can move forward. Until then, most fear that the team's performance will be overshadowed by the probe.

Carlton Cup 2010

Peterites beat Four Wings

Peterites BC posted an 83-56 win over Four Wings BC in a 'B' Division match in the ongoing Carlton Cup Basketball Tournament played at Police Park Basketball Courts on Tuesday. At half time the winners were ahead 30-24.

Jared Fernando (27) and Lakshan Samarasinghe (13) were the leading scorers for the winning team while K. Sameera netted 17 points for the losing team.

Red Cap beat Police "B"

After leading 28-22 at "lemons" Red Cap BC recorded a 62-47 victory over Police "B" BC in another 'B' Division match played at Police Basketball Courts on Tuesday. T. Dissanayake netted 20 points for the winning team while S. Jayawickrama scored 19 points for the losing team.

Old Cambrians thrash UOJ

After conceding a 26-36 lead at the

Moratuwa "B" defeat Don Bosco BC

In the second 'B' Division match played at Amal International, Moratuwa "B" BC registered a thumping 74-58 win over Don Bosco BC.

At half time the winning team was ahead 36-29.

Cristus Fernando scored 26 points being the top scorer for the winning team, while Dilshan Bharathi chipped in with 21 points for the losers. (MP)

SL 'A' -Pakistan 'A' match begins today

The Test series between Sri Lanka 'A' and Pakistan 'A' will commence today with the first unofficial four day Test match at the Galle International Stadium in Galle. The series will be followed by the second four day match, scheduled to get under way on September 18 in Hambantota.

After Sri Lanka and Pakistan displayed poor performances in the recently concluded Limited over tri-series tournament, both teams will look to come up with much improved performances. Sri Lanka 'A' will be captained by hard hitting batsman Thilina Kandamby while Pakistan 'A' will be led by Azeem Ghumman.

Teams:

Sri Lanka 'A': Thilina Kandamby (cap), Dinesh Chandimal, Janaka Gunaratne, Kosala Kulasekara, Jeevan Mendis, Dammika Prasad, Kaushal Silva, Shaminda Eranga, Dimuth Karunaratne, Suranga Lakmal, Nadeera Nawela, Seekkuge Prasanna, Lahiru Thirimanne, Sachithra Senanayake, Madura Lakmal
Pakistan 'A': Azeem Ghumman (cap), Abid Ali, Hammad Azam, Khurram Manzoor, Mohammad Talha, Naved Yasir, Tabish Khan, Zulfiqar Babar, Aamer Sajjad, Asad Shafiq, Junaid Khan, Mohammad Irfan, Naem Anjum, Sheharyar Ghani, Yasir Shah (RS)

Rooney's wife receives apology over sex scandal

LONDON (AP) - The parents of the woman at the centre of a sex scandal involving Wayne Rooney have apologized to the England striker's wife.

Several tabloid newspapers claimed Sunday that Rooney cheated

repeatedly on his pregnant wife Coleen last year with a 21-year-old prostitute identified as Jenny Thompson. The allegations have produced several days of front-page coverage in the tabloids.

