

Overthrow rule to be reviewed in September

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LONDON

The throw from the deep that ricocheted off Ben Stokes' bat to the boundary during the Cricket World Cup final will be reviewed in September, Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodians of the game's laws, said on Monday.

"The WCC (World Cricket Committee) discussed Law 19.8 in relation to overthrows, in the context of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Final. WCC felt that the Law was clear but the matter will be reviewed by the Laws sub-committee in September 2019," the MCC said in a statement.

Chaired by former England captain Mike Gatting, the MCC World Cricket Committee met at the Lord's on Sunday and Monday, but former India captain Sourav Ganguly, who is also part of the panel, skipped the meeting due to personal reasons.

India eases past Pakistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

India defeated Pakistan by eight wickets in the concluding round-robin league match to emerge the No. 1 team at the T20 physical disability world cricket series in England, organised by the ECB. The tournament also has England, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe in the fray.

India, chasing 151 for victory, romped home in the 18th over.

**The scores:** Pakistan 150 for seven in 20 overs (H. Hameed 30; Vikrant Keni two for 15) lost to India 151 for two in 17.1 overs (K. Phanase 55 n.o., W. Khan 69, M. Shahbaz two for 31).

Aishwarya wins FIM Bajas Cup

Becomes the first Indian rider to triumph in the women's category

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS BUREAU VARPALOTA (HUNGARY)

In a milestone moment for Indian motorsport, Aishwarya Pissay annexed the FIM World Cup in the Women's category at the end of the final round of the championship here.

The 23-year-old also finished second in the FIM Junior category.

In the Hungarian Baja, the final round, the Team Sherco TVS rider finished fourth and added 13 points to her tally.

At the end of the four rounds, Aishwarya finished with 65 points, ahead of Portugal's Rita Vieira (61 points), Sara Alvarez (56 pts), Rosa Romero (50 pts) and Margot Farre (13 pts).

Advantage

Aishwarya had an advantage over her rivals, as she was the only one among the five riders in her category to compete in all four rounds.



Doing India proud: Aishwarya ended with 65 points to finish on top. ■COURTESY TWITTER

A thrilled Aishwarya said, "It's absolutely overwhelming. I am out of words. After

what happened last year in my first international season, when I crashed in Spain

Without a doubt, the Hungarian Baja was one of my best races, even though I didn't win. It wasn't an easy race. Given the nature of the terrain, it was more of endurance than just pace.

Baja and suffered career-threatening injuries, to come out and win the championship is a great feeling.

"Without a doubt, the Hungarian Baja was one of my best races, even though I didn't win.

"It wasn't an easy race. Given the nature of the terrain, it was more of endurance than just pace.

"I was riding a smaller bike (250cc) as against the 450cc bikes the other girls were on.

Difference

"So, there was always a difference of 20-25 minutes between me and the other riders."

Cricket likely in 2028 Olympics, says Gatting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LONDON

Cricket could be part of the 2028 Olympics as the ICC is working towards getting the sport included in the roster for the Los Angeles Games, MCC World Cricket Committee chairman Mike Gatting said.

The BCCI, recently coming under the ambit of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), an affiliate of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), could be key to the final outcome as it is mandatory for all sporting federations' doping policy to be overseen by the premier body.

Former England batsman Gatting said ICC's new chief executive Manu Sawhney told the MCC's Cricket Committee that progress had been made to ensure the game's inclusion in the world's biggest sporting event. "He was very hopeful we can get cricket into the 2028 Olympics," Gatting was quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

Bengaluru Challenger moved to early 2020

Decision made purely from a scheduling standpoint

SPORTS REPORTER BENGALURU

The \$150,000 ATP Bengaluru Open will not be held this year. Asia's biggest Challenger, held for the past two years in November, is now slated for early 2020 as a lead-up to the Tata Open Maharashtra in Pune.

The Pune Open, India's lone ATP Tour event, was for long the season opener, but has now been pushed by a month (February 3-8), with the brand new 24-nation ATP Cup taking up the early January slot.

Helping Indian players

"We made the decision to club our Challenger with Pune so that participation rates are higher and it can help Indian players," confirmed Sunil Yajaman, the Tournament Director. "Since the Pune tournament has moved, it wouldn't be possible to hold one Challenger in

The Pune Open, India's lone ATP Tour event, was for long the season opener, but has now been pushed by a month (February 3-8), with the brand new 24-nation ATP Cup taking up the early January slot

November and then another before the ATP [event]."

Yajaman stated that the decision was made purely from a scheduling standpoint and that there were no sponsorship issues. "We will soon start raising the necessary funds. We are confident that it will remain a \$150,000 event," he said.

However, the \$50,000 Pune Challenger, usually conducted a week before or after the Bengaluru event, will retain its original place and is set to be organised for the sixth consecutive time later this year.

10 Indians in fray at chess World Cup

P.K. AJITH KUMAR KOZHIKODE

Ten Indians will compete at the chess World Cup, to be held in Khanty-Mansiysk (Russia) from September 4.

It could have been 11, but Viswanathan Anand has pulled out, preferring to play instead in the FIDE Grand Swiss tournament, which too is a qualifying event for the Candidates.

The winner of the Candidates tourney will earn the right to challenge champion Magnus Carlsen for the World title next year. From the World Cup, the two finalists will qualify for the Candi-

dates. There will be 128 players in the fray for the World Cup, a knock-out event, unlike most tournaments in chess.

P. Harikrishna, Vidit Gujrathi, B. Adhiban, S.S. Ganguly, S.P. Sethuraman, Karthikeyan Murali, Aravindh Chithambaram, Nihal Sarin, S.L. Narayanan and Abhijeet Gupta are the Indian qualifiers and Harikrishna is the highest seed, at No. 17. The tournament will be played over seven rounds. The first six will have two classical games, while the final will have four. Tie will be broken by rapid, blitz or sudden-death games.

Dhanush — a shooting star on the ascendant

The ace 10m air rifle talent has not let a hearing impairment affect his performance

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM HYDERABAD

He may not be able to hear the gunshots around him or even communicate properly. But, 16-year-old Dhanush Srikanth, who has a hearing problem, makes challengers stand up and take note thanks to his ever-improving skills in the 10m air rifle category.

The gifted shooter had stunned critics with an incredible score of 252.5 in the under-21 final of the Kumar Surendra Singh memorial shooting championship in Delhi some weeks back which was better than the World best of Russian Alex-

ander Dryagin's 251.2 in seniors and the 252.2 of Yuefeng Wang in the junior category.

Dhanush scripted another memorable feat in the Telangana State meet at SATS ranges here last weekend when he scored a perfect 400 to become the first shooter from the State to achieve the record in that event.

An achievement which would have made his gurusmentor and London Olympics bronze medallist Gagan Narang proud.

Dhanush's mother Asha Srikanth reminds that her son owes everything in

shooting to the all-out support of Gagan under the Project Leap Programme of Gun For Glory set up by the ace shooter and to coach Neha Chavan at Pune.

Gagan's fulsome praise

For someone who started serious shooting only three years ago, Dhanush is already tipped by Gagan as the one to watch out.

"He has abundance of talent, great focus, which should be his biggest asset, grit and determination," says Gagan.

Dhanush had also won gold in the Khelo India Games in the 10m air rifle

(under-21) category early this year.

Dhanush's mother says he is keen to replicate this consistency at the National and international level and his next big assignment will be the National-level selection trials next month.

Dhanush, who goes to a normal school and moves around on his own, is clearly enjoying the success and, with his father quitting the teaching profession to take care of him, he has every reason to carve a niche for himself in the world of shooting.

A star-in-waiting to emulate his guru? Only time will tell.



Dhanush... incredible talent. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Archer takes aim at Australian batsmen

Will not offer any easy pickings on Test debut, says the England pacer

THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

England pace bowler Jofra Archer warned Australian batsmen on Monday that he was not just a one-day cricketer and that he would try to "work miracles" if he faced them at Lord's in the Ashes this week.

The 24-year-old Barbados-born seamer, who starred for his adopted country in its World Cup triumph, missed the first Test defeat at Edgbaston because of a side strain.

But, with James Anderson ruled out with a calf injury, Archer is now in line to play the second Test which starts at Lord's on Wednesday.

Happy hunting

Archer proved his fitness playing for Sussex in a second XI match against Gloucestershire, taking six for 27 in the first innings and scoring 108.

He said the Australians



Raring to go: Jofra Archer is likely to get a tilt at Australia in the Lord's Test beginning on Wednesday. ■GETTY IMAGES

would be fooling themselves if they thought he would offer easy pickings on his Test

debut. "I've played a lot more red-ball cricket and it's my preferred format," Arch-

er said at a press conference on Monday.

"If you don't have a good 10 overs (in white-ball cricket) that's it. You've got to wait for the next game, but you've ample chances in Test cricket. I'm more ready than I've ever been.

"I bowled 50 overs in one game for Sussex and am the one usually bowling at the end. Test cricket is pretty much the same as First Class. Know what your strengths are and stick to them," he said.

Archer, whose father Frank is British, became eligible to play for England under the three-year residency rule earlier this year.

Miracle worker

He said Lord's brought back happy memories of England's victory over New Zealand in a thrilling World Cup final in July during which Archer was entrusted with bowling the Super Over which clinched the trophy.

"The first one (appearance) is always special, and

(to be) at Lord's where we had recent success will be comforting as well," said Archer. "It's a good ground to come back to, and hopefully keep our winning ways here. I'll try and work miracles but I can only give my best."

Australia coach Justin Langer said his batsmen would hopefully be able to weather the storm from his first spell and then score freely in his later sessions.

Up to individuals

"Hopefully our guys have got the answers whatever he (Archer) dishes up for us," Langer said at his press conference. Most of our guys have seen him in white-ball cricket. It's up to the individuals, not so much our game plan against him.

"Our batters will be organised in their minds how they are going to face him, and the rest of England's attack. It's the same for everyone in Test cricket, get them into their second, third and fourth spells," he said.

Jonathan — breaking the stereotype



Rongsen Jonathan. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CRICKET

ASHWIN ACHAL BENGALURU

Rongsen Jonathan says his home State of Nagaland is "obsessed with football". Jonathan, however, took a liking for cricket from a young age. Going off the beaten track has posed some challenges, but it has led to considerable success as well. The journey began when his father moved to Bengaluru in 1997 to pursue a PhD, when Jonathan was 12.

"I played cricket from a young age, but we didn't have best of facilities back

home in Nagaland. All that changed when I came to Bangalore and joined St. Joseph's Boys' HS," Jonathan says.

"I was lucky to have players like Robin Uthappa in the school team, and to play in big tournaments like the Cottonian Shield and Parle G Cup. I won the best batsman award in the Cottonian Shield, and then got picked for the Karnataka under-16 team.

In the Karnataka under-16 team, I was not nearly as good as guys like Robin, Gavurav Dhiman and Ryan Ninan, but I worked hard to catch up with them."

Jonathan found it tough off

the field as well. His parents had moved back to Dimapur, while he stayed back in Bengaluru in a paying guest accommodation to pursue his dreams of becoming a professional cricketer.

Jonathan refused to give up, and his perseverance eventually paid off.

He rose through the ranks to represent Karnataka, Railways and Nagaland on the senior domestic circuit. Most recently, the batsman was picked up by Bengaluru Blasters for ₹6 lakh in the Karnataka Premier League auction.

The 32-year-old explains that it was tough to break some stereotypes associated

with people from the northeast. "Being a northeast cricketer was difficult, as most people view us as footballers. There were people who made it tough for me, but I feel that if you are good at what you do, no one can stop you," Jonathan, the Bengaluru Bulls captain, says.

A blessing

It was a blessing when First Class cricket was introduced in the northeast, as Jonathan got the chance to play for Nagaland. "As a kid, I never imagined that the Ranji Trophy would come to my State. This is the biggest reward for us," he says.

Grand show



Scaling new heights: India put up an impressive display in the Asian men's u-23 volleyball championship in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, where it reached the final. The team's maiden entry into the quarterfinal ensured its berth for the next edition. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT