



Cricket in Bangladesh: Challenges of governance and match-fixing

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Examples of TI Research on Corruption

- **Corruption Perceptions Index** – International ranking of countries based on international surveys: <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2015>
- **Global Corruption Barometer** (GCB): Worldwide Survey of people's experience & perception of corruption: www.transparency.org/gcb2013/report
- **Bribe Payers Index** (BPI): Survey of corruption in international business - ranking of likelihood of firms from leading exporting countries to bribe abroad. <http://bpi.transparency.org/bpi2011/>
- **National Integrity System assessments** (NIS): Series of in-country qualitative research assessments of the strengths and weaknesses of the key institutions that promote good governance and prevent corruption.
<http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/nis>
- **Transparency In Corporate Reporting** (TRAC): analysis of the extent of disclosure and reporting on anti-corruption measures by the world's largest companies <http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/trac>
- **Global Corruption Report** (GCR): In-depth expert research on corruption and governance in a selected sector/issue <http://www.transparency.org/gcr>

Introducing GCR Sport

- The theme of GCR this year is Sport. Previous editions focused on: Education, Climate Change, Private Sector, Water, Health, Judicial Systems, Political Corruption, Access to Information, etc
- GCR Sport examines governance deficits, corruption and corruption risks across sport around the world
- It brings together contributions of over 60 researchers, practitioners, academics and over 150 peer reviewers and experts
- The objective is to advance global understanding and advocacy based on research, experience and expertise for promoting better governance and corruption control in sport

Contents

- **Sports governance:** autonomy principle in sport; obstacles to accountability in national and international sports governance; regional overviews of corruption and corruption risks
- **Major events:** influence of money and private interests; who bids and why; problems with major event impact assessments; the Olympic and World Cup bidding processes; national and regional lessons learned; financial transparency
- **Match-fixing:** where the global focus needs to be; the role of the betting industry; challenges and experiences of prevention
- **Stakeholder participation:** role of the International Olympic Committee; international sports organizations; multilateral agencies; sponsors; athletes; supporters; journalists; and the anti-corruption movement.



*Sport has the
power to change
the world.*

*It has the power to
inspire.*

*It has the power to
unite people in a
way that little else
does.*

**Governance and integrity of sport is indispensable
not only for the good of the game
but for the good of society as a whole**

GCR 2016: Highlights

- Sport is a multi-billion dollar business (more than US\$145 billion annually) engaging billions of people**
- Corruption in sport is nothing new, the recent pervasiveness of poor governance and corruption scandals threatens to undermine all the joy and hope that sport brings**
- Governance deficit and corruption exists in nearly all types and categories of sport - Football, Athletics, Tennis, Cricket, cycling, badminton, ice hockey, handball, etc.**
- Governance deficit and corruption at the international level extends to the regional and national level**
- GCR Sport makes a series of recommendations on governance with particular emphasis on transparency, accountability and participation**

Cricket in Bangladesh: challenges of governance and match-fixing

- The objective of this case study is to analyze two parallel sets of challenges – governance of the BCB and the problem of match-fixing with particular focus on BPL (season 1 in 2012 and season 2 in 2013)
- Data and information have been collected from primary and secondary sources.
 - ❖ Primary sources - interviews with former and current players, BCB officials, journalists and relevant experts
 - ❖ Secondary sources - websites, media reports and relevant documents including rules and regulations
- Data Collection period: September 2014-April 2015

Cricket in Bangladesh

- **Bangladesh – an increasingly important actor in global cricket**
- **Cricket is a symbol of national pride, hope, joy and unity in Bangladesh**
- **As with other cricket-playing nations, competitive matches in Bangladesh were played until recently in the form of test matches and one-day tournaments between national teams**
- **BPL emerged as a competition among franchisee-clubs or business enterprises and hence made profit-making a key factor in cricket**
- **It also expanded the scope of contamination by global trend of match-fixing, spot-fixing and illegal betting**
- **BCB's governance deficit added to the risks**

Scandals in Cricket – a global problem

Governance:

- **ICC influenced by money power; instead of complying with Governance Reform proposals of the Wolf Report it pushed ahead with discriminatory, disenfranchising, non-transparent initiatives, creating scope of abuse of power and corruption**

Match-fixing

- **Nothing new – started in 1998 with such big names as Shane Warne and Mark Waugh and followed through in South Africa (at least 4); India (5), Pakistan (6), New Zealand (1), West Indies (1), Sri Lanka (1), Kenya (1), Bangladesh (1)**

Global Cricketing Scandal – An overview

Sl	Country/Player	Allegation/Action taken
	Australia (2)	
1-2	Shane Warne Mark Waugh	“Secretly penalized” for accepting money from Indian bookmaker to reveal the pitch information in 1994-95. ACB was widely criticized for cover up
	Pakistan (6)	
3	Salim Malik	First cricketer to get jailed. Banned for life in 2000 for offering bribes. Overturned in 2008
4	Ata-ur-Rahman	Banned for life in 2000 for dealings with bookmakers. Lifted in 2006
5	Mohammad Amir	Banned for 5 years for delivering no-balls for cash against England in August 2010. Sentenced to six months in prison for conspiracy to cheat and accept corrupt payments.
6	Mohammad Asif	Banned for 7 years for delivering no-balls for cash against England in August 2010. Sentenced to 12 months in prison for conspiracy to cheat and accept corrupt payments.
7	Salman Butt	Banned for 10 years incl 5 years suspended for bowling no-balls against England in August 2010. Sentenced to 2.5 years in prison for conspiracy to cheat accept corrupt payments.

Global Cricketing Scandals – an overview

Sl	Country/Player	Allegation/Action taken
8	Danish Kaneria	Banned for life for “match irregularities” in England in 2010
	India (5)	
9	Mohammad Azharuddin	Banned for life in 2000 for associating with bookmakers and introducing Hansie Cronje to betting. Lifted in 2006
10	Ajay Sharma	Banned for life in 2000 for associating with bookmakers. Lifted in 2014
11	Manoj Prbhakar	Banned for 5 years in 2000. Tried to implicate Kapil Dev and others but backfired as he was found guilty himself.
12	Ajay Jadeja	Banned for 5 years for associating with bookmakers. Overturned in 2003.
13	Sreesanth	Banned for life for giving away 14 runs in an over for payment by bookies in an IPL match in 2013.
	South Africa (4)	
14	Hansie Cronje	Banned for life for accepting payment from bookmakers for forecasting matches.
15	Hershelle Gibbs	Banned for 6 months for initially agreeing to under-perform in an ODI, though later reneged and scored 74 off 53 balls.

Global Cricketing Scandals – an overview

Sl	Country/Player	Allegation/Action taken
16	Henry Williams	Banned for 6 months for initially agreeing to under-perform in an ODI game at Nagpur by could deliver for injury.
17	Gulam Bodi	Banned for 20 years for attempting to fix matches in 20-Twenty matches in South Africa
18	West Indies (1) Marlon Smuels	Banned for 2 years for passing on team information to an alleged bookmaker
19	Kenya (1) Maurice Odumbe	Banned for 5 years for receiving money from bookmakers
20	New Zealand (1) Lou Vincent	Banned for 3 years for failure to report an approach to fix a game in BPL. Later banned for life in English Domestic Cricket
21	Sri Lanka (1) Kaushal Lokrararachi	Banned for 18 months for failure to report an approach to fix a game in the BPL.
22	Bangladesh (1) Mohammad Ashraful	Banned for 8 years (later reduced to 5 years) for spot-fixing.

Cricket Governance and BCB

- ❑ The BCB is responsible for the operation and development of cricket in the country, which functions as an autonomous body affiliated with the NSCB within the MOYS
- ❑ The Parliamentary Standing Committee of the MOYS is also expected to oversee the operations of the BCB
- ❑ BCB is governed by its own constitution and is composed of 27 board directors, a board president and 20 operational committees
- ❑ BCB directors amended the BCB's constitution on 1 March 2012 aligned with International Cricket Council (ICC) guidelines so that government interference in cricket governance is minimal
- ❑ Following this, election to the Board was held for the first time (12 October 2013). The current President was elected unanimously

Cricket Governance and the BCB

- The BCB generates income from: TV rights, sponsorship, donations, income-sharing with the ICC and tournament fees, investments and government allocations

Domestic league and tournaments

- National School Cricket Tournament
- Young Tigers (U14, U16 and U18) National Cricket Tournament
- Women's First Division Cricket League
- Dhaka Premier Division Women's Cricket League
- Dhaka First Division Cricket League
- National Cricket League (NCL)
- National Cricket Championship (NCC)
- Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL)
- Bangladesh Premier League (BPL)
 - Season 1 (2012); Season 2 (2013); Season 3 (2015)

Anti-Corruption legal & policy framework

- The Bangladesh Penal Code (1860) and the Anti-Corruption Commission Act (2004) – applicable as for any other citizen
- The BCB has an Anti-Corruption Code consistent with the ICC Code. In case of complaint against players and relevant personnel, BCB will formulate
 - a provisional Disciplinary Panel (DP), headed by a chairman and
 - an Anti-Corruption Tribunal of three individuals who are independent of the parties and have had no prior involvement with the case
 - appeal provision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, based in Switzerland

Deficits in BCB Governance

- The BCB's corporate structure is ambiguous - neither a corporate body (ICC), nor registered as a society (India), nor a statutory body (Pakistan)
- There is no specific and formal mechanism to ensure BCB accountability - it operates on its own having practically no relationship of accountability with the Ministry, NSCB, or Parliamentary Standing Committee
- Although operates on it's own, BCB is practically subjected to government and partisan political influence, especially in terms of choice of leadership including election of board president and members
- Election has been introduced, but the scope of partisan interests has prevailed in the nomination process for the position of the president and directors

Deficits in BCB Governance

- ❑ Although the BCB constitution calls for representation from all over the country, most board members represent Dhaka-based clubs having links with the ruling party
- ❑ The BCB Constitution was allegedly amended to serve the interest of the current leadership
- ❑ The selection of certain match venues is also alleged to take place according to partisan interests
- ❑ There are allegations of conflicts of interest – a BCB director coached a franchisee team in the BPL
- ❑ Other than the BCB Anti-corruption Code, age-old penal code and ACC Act, no specific law exists to address corruption in sports in Bangladesh, nor any particular set of rules, regulations or protocols for the investigation of allegations of corruption in cricket

Constraints related to BPL

- BPL was introduced in 2012 in an ad hoc manner without proper policies and rules for the tournament**
- In keeping with global and regional trends, BPL also became a huge money-making mechanism, making the game vulnerable to corruption**
- The franchisees determined fees and rates of payment of players without following any well-defined criteria**
- The BCB and the franchisees failed to secure permission from the NBR and Bangladesh Bank for the income generating activities or for payments in foreign currency**
- Cash transactions created the scope of tax evasion**
- Some Franchisees were unable to pay some players' signing fees**

Money the spoiler

- Like it's parallels in other countries, BPL, played in the Twenty20 format came as a quick profit-making venture for cricketers, teams, organizers and other stakeholders
- The increased flow of money has exposed cricket to higher risk of bribery and other illegal practices, including match-fixing, spot fixing, illegal betting etc.
- Former national captain, who made history in 2001 to be the youngest player to score test century – was involved in spot-fixing in various matches, and was punished
- An umpire was also involved in match-fixing, who was banned by the BCB (2013) for ten years for allegedly agreeing to give decisions in exchange unauthorized payment

Money the spoiler

- A Pakistani citizen, suspected of match-fixing in BPL, was held while trying to enter the players' zone illegally,
- An Indian national was arrested three times for alleged involvement in illegal betting related to the T20 World Cup in 2014
- During BPL-2 one of the franchisees was involved in match-fixing. A tribunal formed by BCB found one of the owners of the team guilty while another faced the same fate upon appeal. Both were banned from cricket for 10 years
- Ironically, the role of ACSU of ICC was debatable as it did not exercise its authority to call off the match, and allowed it to go ahead despite knowing about risk of match-fixing in advance

Looking ahead

- Promoting cricket governance and preventing corruption in all forms including match-fixing are indispensable for sustaining the spirit and hope associated with the game
- The BCB has recently made efforts to strengthen its Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), by taking action such as international training of the relevant personnel and conducting orientation ahead of tournaments
- As a result of advocacy by TIB and thanks to BCB support the country's national cricket team took a pledge to 'Say No to Corruption' on the eve of the International Anti-Corruption Day 2013, demonstrating their public commitment to abstain from corruption

Recommendations

1. An independent Office of Ombudsman for Cricket should be set up, empowered to investigate and prosecute allegations of corruption and irregularities in the game
2. Specific legal provisions should be created to criminalize match-fixing, spot-fixing and other forms of cheating and corruption
3. The accountability framework of BCB must be streamlined, making it reportable to the MoYS and accountable to the Parliamentary Standing Committee
4. The ACU of BCB must be provided the necessary human and technical skills to address risks of corruption
5. The ACU should be transformed into Integrity and Anti-Corruption Unit (IACU), to strengthen its preventive and monitoring role consistent with the National Integrity Strategy

Recommendations

6. All stockholders involved in cricket matches and tournaments, especially the franchisees, managers, coaches, captains, players and media sponsors should formally sign a commitment to uphold the Anti-Corruption Code
7. Every income earner out of cricket as well as BCB Board members and officials should be encouraged to proactively disclose income and wealth statement and should be subjected to disciplinary action if income and wealth are disproportionate to legitimate earnings
8. Specific programmes of information, education and communication need to be undertaken for ethical enrichment of the young cricketers at all levels

Thank you