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Five ex-players of football club charged with bribery and fraud over match-fixing

2017-6-28

Five former players of a local football club have been charged by the ICAC today (June 28) with offering and accepting bribes of \$60,000 in total and fraud by contriving or attempting to contrive the results of three football matches of the Reserve Division League (RDL) organised by the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA).

Kwok Kin-pong, 30, Michael Cheng Lai-hin, 31, Lee Wai-lim, 36, Chan Pak-hang, 24, and Lee Ka-ho, 24, all former players of the Hong Kong Pegasus Football Club (Pegasus), face a total of seven charges.

Kwok and Cheng face a joint charge of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to Common Law. Cheng, Lee Wai-lim, Chan and Lee Ka-ho jointly face a similar charge, while Cheng Lai-hin, Lee Wai-lim and Chan Pak-hang face a similar joint charge.

Cheng and Chan each faces one charge of offering an advantage to an agent, contrary to Section 9(2)(a) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (POBO), while Lee Wai-lim and Lee Ka-ho each faces one charge of agent accepting an advantage, contrary to Section 9(1)(a) of the POBO.

The defendants will appear in the West Kowloon Magistracy on Friday (June 30) for transfer of the case to the District Court for plea.

In the football season of 2015/2016, nine football teams, including Pegasus, competed for the Hong Kong Premier League (HKPL) Championship organised by the HKFA. Each of the teams was required to maintain its own reserve team to participate in the RDL.

At the material time, Kwok, Cheng, Lee Wai-lim, Chan and Lee Ka-ho were registered HKPL football players of Pegasus for the football season. Lee Wai-lim was also a coach of the reserve team of Pegasus.

One of the charges alleges that between February 24 and 29, 2016, Kwok and Cheng conspired together and with other unknown persons to defraud Pegasus and the HKFA by dishonestly contriving or attempting to contrive the result of the football match of RDL between Pegasus and the Yuen Long Football Club on February 24, 2016.

Another charge alleges that on February 29, 2016, Cheng, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, offered \$10,000 to a then football player of Pegasus as a reward for contriving or attempting to contrive

the result of the above football match.

A third charge alleges that between March 23 and 31, 2016, Cheng, Lee Wai-lim, Chan and Lee Ka-ho conspired together and with a then football player of Biu Chun Rangers Football Club (Biu Chun Rangers) to defraud Pegasus and the HKFA by dishonestly contriving or attempting to contrive the result of another football match of RDL between Pegasus and Biu Chun Rangers on March 23, 2016.

A fourth charge alleges that on March 27, 2016, Chan, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, offered \$10,000 to the then football player of Pegasus as a reward for contriving or attempting to contrive the result of the above football match, while two other charges allege that between March 23 and 31, 2016, Lee Wai-lim and Lee Ka-ho, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, each accepted \$20,000 from Cheng for the same purpose.

The remaining charge alleges that between April 13 and May 13, 2016, Cheng, Lee Wai-lim and Chan conspired together and with the then football player of Biu Chun Rangers to defraud Pegasus and the HKFA by dishonestly contriving or attempting to contrive the result of a third football match of RDL between Pegasus and Biu Chun Rangers on April 13, 2016.

The HKFA and Pegasus have rendered full assistance to the ICAC in its investigation.

The defendants have been released on ICAC bail, pending their court appearance on Friday.

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新聞公佈

廉署起訴五名足球會前球員涉嫌貪污詐騙操控賽果

2017年6月28日

廉政公署今日(六月二十八日)落案起訴一個本地足球會五名前球員，控告他們涉嫌提供及收受共六萬元賄款，並串謀詐騙以操控或企圖操控由香港足球總會(足總)舉辦的預備組聯賽中三場比賽賽果。

被告為郭建邦，三十歲；鄭禮騫，三十一歲；李威廉，三十六歲；陳柏衡，二十四歲；及李家豪，二十四歲，同為香港飛馬足球會(飛馬)前球員，被控共七項罪名。

郭建邦及鄭禮騫同被控一項串謀詐騙罪名，違反普通法。鄭禮騫、李威廉、陳柏衡及李家豪同被控一項相類罪名，而鄭禮騫、李威廉及陳柏衡則同被控一項相類罪名。

鄭禮騫及陳柏衡各被控一項向代理人提供利益罪名，違反《防止賄賂條例》第9(2)(a)條，而李威廉及李家豪則各被控一項代理人接受利益罪名，違反《防止賄賂條例》第9(1)(a)條。

各被告將於星期五(六月三十日)在西九龍裁判法院應訊，以待案件轉介區域法院答辯。

在二〇一五/二〇一六年球季，包括飛馬在內共有九支球隊參與由足總舉辦的香港超級聯賽(港超聯)。每支球隊均須維持一支預備組球隊以參加預備組聯賽。

郭建邦、鄭禮騫、李威廉、陳柏衡及李家豪於案發時同註冊為飛馬在該球季的港超聯足球員。李威廉亦是飛馬預備組教練。

其中一項控罪指郭建邦及鄭禮騫涉嫌於二〇一六年二月二十四日至二十九日期間，一同串謀和與其他身分不詳的人士串謀詐騙飛馬及足總，即不誠實地操控或企圖操控於二〇一六年二月二十四日舉行由飛馬對元朗足球會的預備組聯賽足球比賽賽果。

另外一項控罪指鄭禮騫涉嫌於二〇一六年二月二十九日，無合法權限或合理辯解而向飛馬當時一名足球員提供一萬元，作為操控或企圖操控上述足球比賽賽果的報酬。

第三項控罪指鄭禮騫、李威廉、陳柏衡及李家豪涉嫌於二〇一六年三月二十三日至三十一日期間，一同串謀和與標準流浪足球會(標準流浪)當時一名足球員串謀詐騙飛馬及足總，即不誠實地操控或企圖操控另一場於二〇一六年三月二十三日舉行由飛馬對標準流浪的預備組聯賽足球比賽賽果。

第四項控罪指陳柏衡涉嫌於二〇一六年三月二十七日，無合法權限或合理辯解而向當時該名飛馬足

球員提供一萬元，作為操控或企圖操控上述足球比賽賽果的報酬。另外兩項控罪指李威廉及李家豪涉嫌於二〇一六年三月二十三日至三十一日期間，無合法權限或合理辯解以相同目的各自從鄭禮騫接受二萬元。

餘下控罪指鄭禮騫、李威廉及陳柏衡涉嫌於二〇一六年四月十三日至五月十三日期間，一同串謀和與當時該名標準流浪足球員串謀詐騙飛馬及足總，即不誠實地操控或企圖操控第三場於二〇一六年四月十三日舉行由飛馬對標準流浪的預備組聯賽足球比賽賽果。

足總及飛馬在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

五名被告已獲廉署准予保釋，以待星期五應訊。

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