

Mahmud's 2nd offence

SPORTS REPORTER

DOHS all-rounder Khaled Mahmud was pulled up by the authorities for the second time this season after he abused umpires during the Premier League match against Sonargaon at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Match referee Hemayet Ahmed Siddiqui found Mahmud guilty of the charge made by on-field umpires Mahbub Ullah and Jahangir Alam and banned him from two league matches as well as fining him Tk 2,000.

During the match against Abahani on January 22, Mahmud was fined Tk 5,000 for showing temper and using 'abusive languages' with the umpires.

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Sharif, Aniruddha share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

Aniruddha Mazumder and Sharif Hossain are in joint lead after seven rounds of matches in the 27th National Sub-Junior Boys & Girls Chess Championship at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hallroom yesterday.

The boy from St Joseph School, with six points, drew with Abdullah Al Saif while Sharif beat Babu.

Saimon Siddiqui Rahman and Saif are in second position.

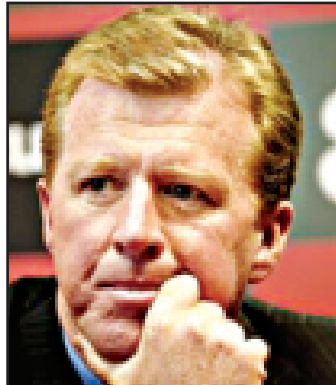


ESPN

English Premier Football League
Reading v Aston Villa
Live at 6:40 pm
Newcastle v Liverpool
Live at 8:55 pm

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Man United v Charlton Athletic
Live at 8:55 pm
Portsmouth v Man City
Live at 11:10 pm
Primera Liga
Real Sociedad v Real Madrid
Live at 1:30 am (Sunday)
Real Betis v Sevilla
Live at 3:00 am (Sunday)



Steve McClaren

(England football manager)
"It is disappointing to lose and I can understand the reaction. The fans don't like us losing football matches and especially this one being the last one at Old Trafford."

After their loss to Spain in a friendly international on Wednesday.



Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
Fourth ODI
Venue: Harare Sports Club
Premier Division Cricket League
Brothers Union v Kalabagan KC
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium
City Club v Abahani
Venue: BKSP
Biman v Indira Road KC
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Nat'l Stadium



PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh opener Shahriar Nafees sets off for a run during the third one-day international against Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

Tigers make it 2-1



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh survived a scare to defeat Zimbabwe by 14 runs in the tense third one-day international at Harare Sports Club yesterday to reach on the verge of winning their first series on Zimbabwean soil.

The Tigers, who have taken a 2-1 lead, will need to beat the hosts in today's final match to boost their morale ahead of the World Cup.

Bangladesh recovered from a poor start to post a respectable 228 for nine after being asked to bat in bowler-friendly conditions, thanks to a 100-run partnership between opener Shahriar Nafees and wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim for the fourth wicket.

They later contained Zimbabwe to 214 in 49.4 overs.

The Zimbabwe openers threatened a repeat of their eight-wicket victory in the second match when Vusi Sibanda (64) and Terrence Duffin (37) put on 91 runs despite a tidy spell by new ball bowler Mashrafe-bin Mortuza, who conceded just 12 runs in his first five overs.

The home side, who lost the first match by 45 runs, however, lost their momentum as the Tigers slow bowlers pinned them down with backing of tight fielding. Sakib Al Hasan, in particular, was very economic in his ten-over spell, taking 1-29 apart from effecting two run outs.

In a seesaw battle, Zimbabwe once again looked favourites when the middle-order repaired the damage and reached within 30 runs of victory with five wickets and as many overs remaining but as the pressure mounted on the tail, they lost the last five wickets in the space 12 runs.

Cricinfo adds: Still smarting from their drubbing on Tuesday, Bangladesh made three changes but their start was again poor.

Under grey skies, they had an immediate let off when Tamim Iqbal, making his international debut, was dropped by Sibanda at second slip off the first ball of the match. It was a brief reprieve as soon after Tamim, on five, top edged a wild slash to third man where Gary Brent, running far to his left, took brilliant diving catch.

The Tigers' reckless approach continued when Aftab Ahmed perished in a similar way, top edging an attempted hook only to be caught by Christopher Mpofu in the deep on one.

All that was needed was for Bangladesh to play with caution against the seaming ball and wait for one of the many bad deliveries to put away. However, they showed little inclination to do that.

At the toss Habibul Bashar pledged team would be circumspect for the first ten overs; his words sadly did seem to get through to his batsmen.

In the ninth over Chigumbura replaced Mpofu and straight away Sakib Al Hasan (11) drove loosely at one that moved away, and with little footwork all he managed was an edge to Brendan Taylor.

Unlike Tuesday's pathetic collapse, Nafees and Rahim dug in and after stopping the slide, they proceeded to open up as the gloom descended. The pair took the score to 136 in the 32nd over, but Zimbabwe struck back with three quick wickets, the slump set in motion when Rahim -- promoted to number five -- pulled Brent lamely to midwicket. He grafted 42 off 68 balls with help of four boundaries.

Left-handed Nafees, who had started slowly before opening up,

played some good drives but fell tamely, deceived by a slower flighted ball from Keith Dabengwa which he tried to turn to leg only to spoon a leading edge to mid-on. The vice-captain topscored with 69, laced with ten fours in 96 deliveries.

Bashar remained, maintaining a steady run-rate with a 54-ball 31 despite a short break when the drizzle became too heavy. With Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza, he added 51 for the seventh wicket. Mashrafe whacked two big sixes, the second of which lost the ball, before he played over a yorker which sent his middle stump cartwheeling. He also hit a boundary in a quickfire 29 off 24 balls.

Bashar was run-out soon after, but the tail wagged enough with Tapash Baisya also launching two sixes in his unbeaten 18 from 14 balls to make most of Zimbabwe's erratic bowling and poor fielding.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Harare Sport Club on Friday:

BANGLADESH	
Iqbal c Brent b Ireland	5
Nafees c Sibanda b Dabengwa	69
Aftab c Mpofu b Ireland	1
Sakibul c Taylor b Chigumbura	11
Rahim c Williams b Brent	42
Bashar run out	31
Ashrafur run out	3
Mortuza b Ireland	29
Sharif run out	6
Baisya not out	18
Razzak not out	2
Extras: (b-4, w-7)	11
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	228
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-10, 3-36, 4-136, 5-142, 6-149, 7-200, 8-203, 9-211.	

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Goals galore in JFA Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

North-Bengal sides Chapainawabganj and Gaibandha brushed aside their opponents to advance to the second round of the 3rd JFA Cup Under-15 football championship yesterday.

Chapainawabganj recorded the biggest win of the day when they thrashed Pabna 9-1 in the qualifier at Sirajganj with Ismail, Ashiquzzaman and Atique each slotting a brace.

Rabul Hossain slammed a hat-trick to help Gaibandha inflict a massive 7-1 defeat on Lalmonirhat at Natore while goals were in abundance at Comilla too, where Sylhet blanked neighbours Moulvibazar 3-0.

In other matches, Jhalakati beat Barguna 2-0 at Khulna, Kishoreganj edged Netrakona 2-1 at Mymensingh while Barisal beat Gopalganj by a solitary goal at Shariatpur.

Two matches went into penalty shootout with Magura beating Meherpur 4-1 after a 1-1 draw at Narail while Tangail defeated Gazipur 4-2 after a goalless draw in regulation time at Manikganj.

Rain stops play

SPORTS REPORTER

The third one-day international between South Africa and Pakistan was stopped due to rain after the visitors had scored 217 for eight after 47 overs at St Georges Park in Port Elizabeth yesterday evening.

Pakistan won the toss earlier and rode on run-machine Mohammad Yusuf's 79 but were pegged back by all-rounder Andrew Hall who took four wickets for 31 runs.

Sonargaon defy Akram ton

DOHS look to Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER



Despite a well-composed hundred by skipper Akram Khan, Old DOHS were under the threat of an ignominious exit from the Kai-Altech Premier Cricket League title race when the defending champions crashed to a five-wicket defeat to Sonargaon Cricketers in the last round of the first-leg at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The two-time champions' sixth defeat in eleven games has opened up a great opportunity for Kalabagan Kira Chakra to sneak into the Super League. All they need to make the last six is a win against bottom-table Brothers Union today because they have a better head-to-head record against contenders DOHS and

Young Pegasus.

All three teams have a chance to finish level on ten points and if Kalabagan -- on eight points with a match in hand -- fail to beat Brothers, DOHS will go through.

At Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Young Pegasus stunned Victoria Sporting Club, who had started the final round at second place, by two wickets but the youthful side's valiant effort would not be enough to advance further because they have lost to both DOHS and Kalabagan.

Mohammedan Sporting Club, meanwhile, rode on Zunaed Siddiquee's blazing hundred to hand Partex a 56-run defeat at BKSP and confirm finishing second in the table, hot on archrivals and leaders Abahani's heels.

Mohammedan improved their tally to 17 points, just one point shy of Abahani, who play City Club today.

SONARGAON-DOHS

In a crucial encounter Akram played his only significant knock of the league on the back of a poor season after being put into bat. But his century failed to put on a challenging total on a batting-friendly pitch as they managed 244-9 in the stipulated 50 overs.

The former national skipper, who scored 119 off 140 balls with ten fours and a six over midwicket before Sri Lankan bowler Jayantha ran to midwicket to take a high return catch, looked pale after the first session despite his first three-figure score in three seasons as he felt his side fell a few runs short of what would have been a defensible total.

Out-of-favour Al Shahriar and young prospect Marshall Ayub provided evidences in the chase why their opponents were anxious as Sonargaon thrived on their half

centuries to reach 247-5 with three overs to spare.

The elegant stroke-player Shahriar gave the side a brilliant start during his 84-run knock, featuring a classy extra-cover drive in the very first ball of their innings against Khaled Mahmud. His 104-ball innings was studded with spectacular drives and pull shots that brought him 13 boundaries. But it could have been a different story had wicketkeeper Mohammad Shahin not let him off the hook, missing an easy stumping off Mahmud.

At the other end, Marshall not only showed his temperament by sharing a 74-run third wicket stand with Shahriar but also executed some brilliant shots during a 72-ball 68 that featured nine fours and a six.

Left-handed Elias Sunny (32 off 40 balls) was also instrumental, having

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Afridi faces ban

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi faces World Cup misery if he's found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute after he was involved in a stormy exchange with a spectator.

Afridi was on Thursday charged by the International Cricket Council (ICC) with "conduct unbecoming... which could bring (players or officials) or the game of cricket into disrepute".

The charge was laid by ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed and relates to an incident which took place in the first one-day international against South Africa at Centurion on Sunday.

As Afridi walked the stairs after being dismissed he reacted angrily to something said by a fan by jabbing his bat in the direction of the supporter.

If found guilty, Afridi faces a ban of between two and four Test matches or between four and eight one-days.

Pakistan have three more one-day internationals left in South Africa before their World Cup campaign starts on March 13 against West Indies in Jamaica.

"The hearing, to be conducted by Chris Broad, a member of the elite panel of ICC match referees, will take place as soon as possible and details of its timing will be released in due course, as will the result," said an ICC statement.

"Until the hearing takes place, Afridi remains available to play for Pakistan.

"If a player is found guilty of a Level 2, 3 or 4 offence then he has a right of appeal. Such an appeal must be lodged in writing with the

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PHOTO: STAR

DOHS captain Akram Khan punches the ball on the off-side during his 119 as Sonargaon wicket-keeper Mohammad Salim looks on in the Kai-Altech Premier League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.



AFP, Melbourne

England shocked Australia by four wickets on Friday to move within sight of a fairytale ending to their disastrous tour.

Man-of-the-match Paul Collingwood hit an unbeaten century as England chased down the target of 253 with just three balls to spare to go 1-0 up in the best-of-three tri-series final.

England, ravaged by injury, without regular skipper Michael Vaughan and barely competitive less than two weeks ago, overcame disastrous starts with both bat and ball.

Collingwood, who starred in the field as Australia let slip a rampant start to fall for 252 all out, then hit 120 to take England to 253 for six in reply.

Victory in Sydney on Sunday would cap a remarkable turnaround for the tourists who were

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PHOTO: AFP

England batsman Paul Collingwood lifts the ball for a six off Australian pace-man Glenn McGrath (not in picture) in the first final of the Commonwealth Bank series at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.