

Mickelson wins Masters

AFP, Augusta

US star Phil Mickelson won his third Masters title and fourth major crown in dramatic fashion on Sunday while Tiger Woods could only ponder his mistakes and wonder what might have been.

Mickelson shot a bogey-free five-under par 67 to finish 72 holes on 16-under 272, defeating England's Lee Westwood by three strokes, in an emotional victory for wife Amy, who has been battling breast cancer for nearly a year.

"It has been an emotional year," Mickelson said. "I'm very proud of the fight and struggle she has been through. It has been very difficult and very emotional. To be on the other end and feel the jubilation is incredible."

Mickelson made a tearful embrace with Amy behind the 18th green. She had been unable to travel to events where he played until this week and had been bed-ridden until Sunday when she came to see him at Augusta National Golf Club.

"It means a lot to share some joy together," Mickelson said, his voice cracking, as he was presented the green jacket symbolic of Masters supremacy. "It's something we will remember the rest of our lives."

The contrast was stark between fan favorite Mickelson, who took time away from golf to be with his wife and mother

during their fight, and Woods, whose return this week from a five-month layoff came after a humiliating betrayal of wife Elin, with more than a dozen women claiming sexual affairs.

Woods, whose wife did not attend, struggled to a final-round 69, sharing fourth with South Korean K.J. Choi on 277, one stroke behind third-placed American Anthony Kim. Woods said he did not know when he might play again.

"I'm going to take a little time off and re-evaluate things," Woods said.

But when asked to judge the meaning of a week that began with Woods fearful of how fans might react to him, top-ranked Woods spoke only in golf terms, not about the path to redemption.

"I finished fourth. Not what I wanted," Woods said. "As the week went on, I kept hitting the ball worse. I only enter events to win. I didn't hit it good enough. Consequently I'm not there."

Mickelson claimed a share of fourth on the all-time Masters win list, half the record total of Jack Nicklaus and one shy of

Woods and Arnold Palmer.

Mickelson fired three birdies in four holes starting at the par-3 12th when he curled home a long putt. He then hit an epic approach at 13, his view of the green blocked by a tree.

Mickelson's ball had a path to the green but the shot left him standing behind a tree. Mickelson blasted the ball 205 yards off the pine needles and just three feet from the cup.

While he missed the eagle putt, the birdie put Mickelson two atop Kim and Westwood. Another birdie at the par-5 15th gave Mickelson a three-stroke edge.

"He hit some great shots on the back nine," Westwood said. "His second shot into 13 was incredible."

Westwood made a birdie at 17 to keep the pressure on until the final hole but Mickelson birdied the last to complete the emotional triumph, becoming the 19th winner in the past 20 Masters to play in the final pairing.

Westwood, trying to become the first Englishman to win a major since Nick Faldo won the 1996 Masters, suffered another

near-miss in his bid for a first major crown.

Westwood was third in last year's British Open and PGA Championship and third at the 2008 US Open.

"I just need to keep doing what I'm doing. One of these days the door is going to open for me," Westwood said.

"Whenever you come as close as I've come today, there's a tinge of disappointment. But it won't last too long. One of these days I will get the breaks and I will be a major champion."

Kim, who began the day seven strokes off the pace, fired a final-round 65 to put himself in the hunt, hitting back-to-back birdies at 13 and 14, making eagle at 15 and another birdie at 16.

Woods has never won a major when trailing after 54 holes, although the 14-time major champion made a mighty run.

Clad in his traditional last-round red shirt, Woods finished the front nine with back-to-back birdies to stand on nine-under, three off Mickelson's lead.



American Phil Mickelson celebrates after winning the Masters Tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia on Sunday.

Harmeet lifts

FROM PAGE 17 trapped Steyn in front of the wicket with second delivery to seal the fate of the match.

BRIEF SCORES

DECCAN CHARGERS: 151 for 6 (Rohit 51, Monish 41; Steyn 3-18)

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: 138 all out in 19.4 overs (Dravid 49, Uthappa 34; Harris 2-34, RP Singh 2-21, Ojha 2-22, Harmeet 2-24)

Result: Deccan Chargers won by 13 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Harmeet Singh

Rumana gives MSC win

SPORTS REPORTER

Rumana Ahmed turned in all-round performance to give Mohammedan an easy six-wicket victory over BKSP in the Women's Club Cup Cricket Tournament at the Gulshan Youth Club Ground yesterday.

Rumana took two wickets for twelve runs as BKSP were bowled out for 74 in 32.3 overs. Opener Rozina Akter was the top scorer with 18 while Sharmin Akter and Sumona Akter got 10 runs each. Rumana then scored unbeaten 31 runs to guide Mohammedan home in 22.5 overs for the loss of four wickets. Rumana's 31 runs came off 53 deliveries with six boundaries in the knock.

KL CHESS

Zia, Niaz finish poorly

SPORTS REPORTER

GM Ziaur Rahman and GM Niaz Murshed finished 11th and 14th respectively in the Kuala Lumpur Chess Championship at the close of the ninth and final round in Malaysia yesterday.

Both Zia and Niaz earned six points each playing nine matches. Zia drew against De Ramous Julius Joseph of Philippines while Niaz lost to GM Mikhail Mchedlishvili of Georgia in the final round.

Chinese GM Hou Yifan emerged champion.

DU inter-hall TT, badminton

SPORTS REPORTER

Surya Sen hall became champions in the men's section while Rokeya hall became champions in the women's section in the inter-hall badminton tournament of Dhaka University. Fazlul Haque hall and Kuwait Maitri hall became runners up respectively.

In the inter-hall table tennis tournament, Shahidullah hall beat Jagannath hall to become champions in the men's group while Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib hall became champions in the women's group defeating Kuwait Maitri hall. Eight male students' hall and four female students' hall took part in the competition.

MCC to sponsor Aus-Pak series



AFP, London

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) announced Monday that it would be sponsoring the Test and one-day series between Pakistan and Australia in England in July.

This will be the first time MCC, the owners of London Lord's Cricket Ground where the first of two Tests between Pakistan and Australia is due to start on July 13, has sponsored an international series in its 223-year history.

The series comes at a time when Pakistan, who will also be playing a Test and one-day series against England this English season, has become a no-go area for international cricket following a terror attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore last year.

MCC's Australian secretary, Keith Bradshaw, told a news conference in the Long Room of the Lord's Pavilion on Monday: "MCC is committed to the health of Test cricket, and by sponsoring the series and hosting the first Test, the club is supporting Pakistani cricket at a time when the country's Test calendar has been decimated."

"We often speak about Tests being the pinnacle of the game -- now we are acting to back up those words," the former Tasmania batsman added.

Bradshaw refused to divulge how much money MCC was putting into the series, which also features a Test at Yorkshire's Headingley ground in Leeds, citing "commercial confidentiality" but insisted it was a "not for profit exercise" as far as his club was concerned.

"We feel we are independent and to some extent the conscience of the game," Bradshaw said of MCC, which is still responsible for overseeing the game's Laws or rules.

"We are very thrilled Pakistan are coming here to play at the 'home of cricket'."

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director of cricket operations Zakir Khan said: "We thank the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) and Cricket Australia for helping us out and making this Test and T20 series in England happen."

"We are also very thankful to MCC. When you are not playing your home series at home, it's very difficult."

"Cricket is still very much at the same level, we have youngsters coming through. The passion is there, that will never die down," he added.

It is nearly a century since Lord's staged a neutral Test, during the 1912 triangular series involving England, Australia and South Africa.

Two Australian batsman, Warren Bardsley and Charlie Kelleway, scored Test centuries against South Africa at Lord's that year but their achievements were not marked on the ground's dressing room honours board.

That was rectified Monday with the unveiling of a new honours board specially created for neutral Tests.

MCC is keen to stage more such matches at Lord's, at a time when Test cricket outside of England is struggling to attract crowds, and Bradshaw said: "The last neutral Test was played here in 1912 and I hope we don't have to wait the best part of a century to play another one."

They're now

FROM PAGE 17 fitness. I am really satisfied with the way I bowled today and I even batted for a few runs as it was only my second competitive game after recovering from injury," said a delighted Mashrafe, who was also adjudged man of the match.

"I have at least four more matches in the tournament and I believe it will help me to get back my hundred percent confidence and rhythm. You know it's all about confidence which I need to achieve before the T20 World Cup," said the Narail Express.

Mashrafe also said that he had been eagerly waiting to play some matches before the World Cup in West Indies and that's why he came back to Dhaka from India.

"My association with the IPL side Kolkata Knight Riders was really fantastic because it's helped me lot to learn something as well as got back the confidence. I had Wasim Akram, Dav Whatmore as well as players like Shane Bond besides me," he said.

Before the divorce settlement, Siddiqui appeared on television news channels to denounce Malik as a cheat who dumped her because his teammates said she was overweight.

The couple, who are both Muslims, are thought likely to base themselves in Dubai.

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SA, Windies A teams due

SPORTS REPORTER

When Bangladesh's national cricketing team will be gearing up for the World Twenty20 in West Indies, the second string side will embark on a monthlong cricketing journey at home as they will play against South Africa A and West Indies A teams in the other formats of the game.

The extravaganza will kick-off with two four-day matches against the South Africans starting on the 22nd of April. Then they will be joined by West Indies A team and take part in a triangular one-day tournament which will start on May 4. In this tournament, all three teams will meet each other twice before the final which is scheduled for May 13. All the matches up to this will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. As the South Africans will leave, Bangladesh and West Indies will play two four-day matches, one in Bogra and one in BKSP. The second match is scheduled to end on May 25.

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Div II cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Bewtha Mukul Fouz got a 150-run victory over Bablu Babu Cricket Academy in the Khan Real Estate Second Division Cricket League at Manikganj Government Boys' High School play ground here yesterday.

Batting first, Bewtha Mukul Fouz scored 233 runs losing seven wickets in 25 overs. Mamun scored 104 from 67 balls and Liton added 37 runs from 38 balls. Zahid took three wickets while Rifad took two wickets for Bablu Babu Cricket Academy.

In reply, Bablu Babu Cricket Academy were bundled out for only 83 runs in 18.4 overs. Liton picked up four wickets while Robin and Sajjad took two wickets for Bewtha Mukul Fouz.

In another match, Retired XI (121-7) defeated Pouli Bulbul Club (120-10) by three wickets.

DIAMOND LEAGUE Bolt & Liu favourites

AFP, Paris

Jamaican sprint king Usain Bolt and Chinese star hurdler Liu Xiang will headline the Shanghai meet of the IAAF Diamond League circuit on May 23, organisers announced on Monday.

The outing will be the first on the newly-launched 14-meet Diamond League for Bolt, the world and Olympic 100m and 200m champion, and world record holder in each event (9.58 and 19.19sec respectively).

The track in Shanghai is already proven to be quick with 9.69 and 10.64sec the winning times in last year's men's and women's 100m sprints.

It will also be a first outdoor appearance for Liu, the 2004 Olympic and 2007 World champion at 110m hurdles.

T20s not a threat to Tests



AFP, New Delhi

Tests and 50-over games will remain popular despite the growing success of the Twenty20 format, International Cricket Council chief executive Haroon Lorgat said Monday.

"There is no question about the popularity of Twenty20 cricket," Lorgat told reporters after unveiling the World Twenty20 Trophy in New Delhi.

"Its popularity has gone beyond expectations but other formats are also popular. There was a lot of negativity around the other formats, but in the last 12-18 months we have seen some fascinating 50-over games."

"When [India's] Sachin Tendulkar scored 200 [against South Africa in Gwalior], most people were of the view that 50-overs cricket would definitely survive."

"We have also seen some great Test matches being played in this period. What is important is how we manage the formats."

The West Indies will host the Twenty20 Cup from April 30, the third edition in four years, but Lorgat said it was due to an "anomaly" in the calendar and it would remain a once every two year event.

"The fact that it is the third T20 World Cup in four years is a bit of an anomaly. We are trying to rectify the scheduling and set it right," he said.

Lorgat also brushed aside concerns that many players would arrive tired in the Caribbean after their participation in the Indian Premier



International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive officer Haroon Lorgat poses with the Twenty20 World Cup 2010 trophy at a press conference in New Delhi yesterday. The tournament is scheduled to take place in the West Indies in April and May.

League (IPL), which ends barely five days before the Twenty20 Cup.

"The World Cup in England last year came immediately after the IPL. But it was extremely successful. We saw a full house at all the venues. I think the IPL is a great forerunner to the World Cup," he said.

"Players are in the T20 mode and we are hopeful of an equally successful World Cup

this time around."

Lorgat, however, ruled out creating a separate window for the IPL in the Future Tours Programme (FTP).

"We don't envisage a separate window for a domestic event like the IPL," he said. "We cannot incorporate all domestic events into the FTP. It is just not possible as there would be implications for all other member boards."

PCB asks Kaneria to keep playing



AFP, London

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) indicated Monday that Danish Kaneria would be spared disciplinary action unless and until corruption charges against the leg-spinner were proven.

Reports in the British media have alleged the 29-year-old is one of two players at English county side Essex being probed by English police investigating "match irregularities" -- an accusation Kaneria himself told AFP last week was "baseless".

And PCB director of cricket operations Zakir Khan, speaking at Lord's here on Monday, knocked back suggestions Kaneria might be suspended from international cricket while under investigation.

"I think it's very important that first these allegations are proven," Zakir told reporters. "Then, of course, action will be taken."

Zakir was speaking at a Lord's press conference

unveiling the sponsorship by the ground's owners, Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), of the neutral Test and Twenty20 series between Pakistan and Australia in England in July.

"We wouldn't want to comment on some of the reports that have appeared in the press recently," said MCC's Australian secretary Keith Bradshaw.

"Those matters are being investigated."

The allegations contained in Friday's edition of the London Daily Telegraph centre around 'spot-fixing', whereby players conspire to stage a betting coup on a minor aspect of the game rather than fix the result of the match itself.

"It's a serious issue," Bradshaw said regarding 'spot-fixing' as a whole.

"I know the ICC [International Cricket Council] are putting a lot of their resources into it and that's probably all that needs to be said."

Kaneria, speaking to AFP in Lahore last week, said: "The story in the newspaper is

baseless. I have played my cricket for Pakistan as well as for Essex, with pride and honesty."

"For the last two years I have been Essex's best performer and have never done anything wrong."

He added: "No-one from Essex has contacted me, but I will be ready to undergo any investigation. I will also take legal advice on such baseless reports."

Kaneria has taken 254 wickets in 58 Tests since making his debut against England in 2000.

MSC

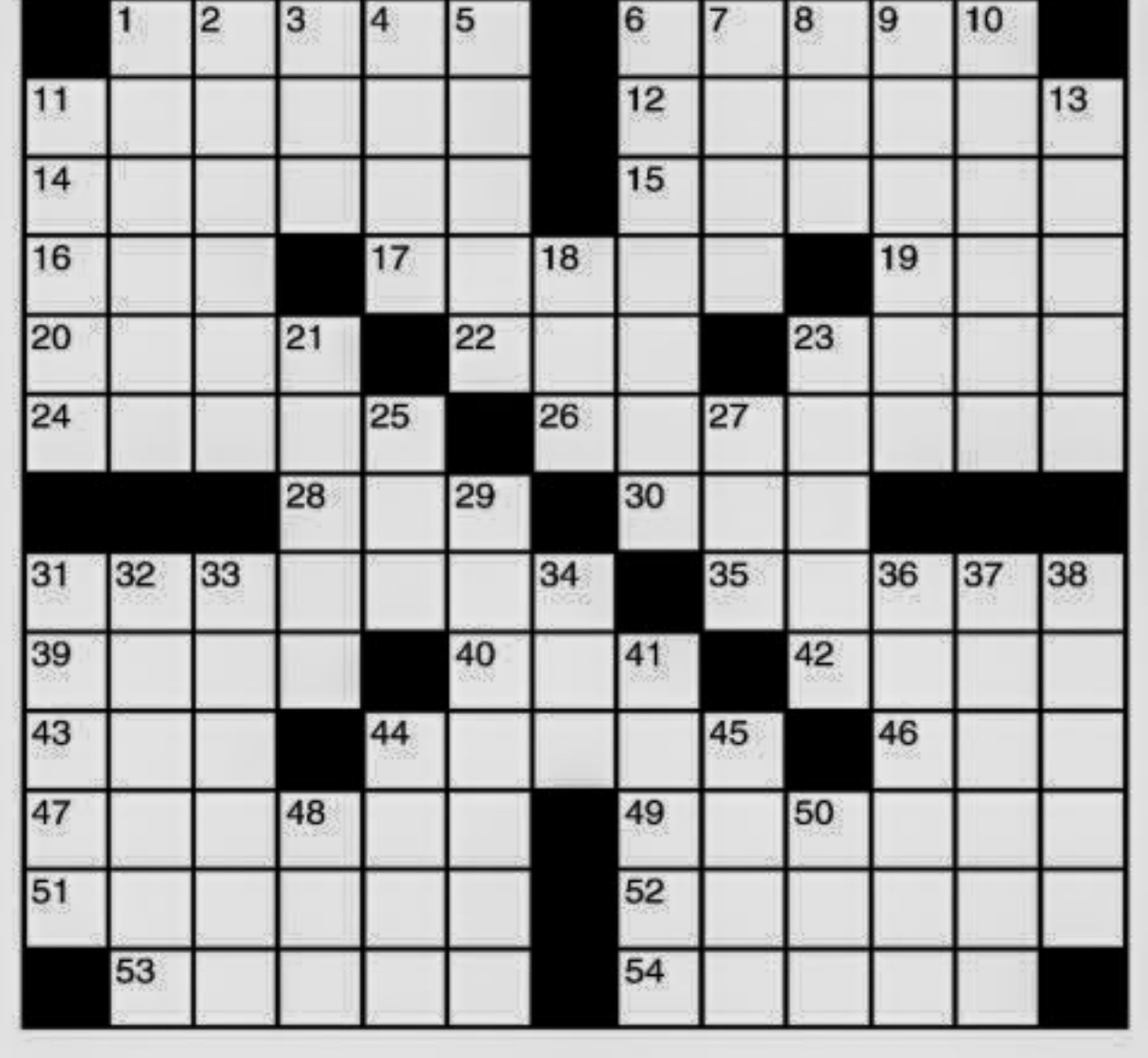
FROM PAGE 17 offence on Bankers' defender Irfan and the game was suspended for 10 minutes following Bankers' demand of a 'red card' on Sabbir.

With one man short, Mohammedan faced a wave of attacks and successfully survived all attacks and scored two more goals through counter attack with Jimmy and Rahul scoring one goal each.

Two minutes from time, Rimon pulled one goal back for the losers.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Beetle larvae 6 TV chef Deen 11 With acidity 12 Cockeyed 14 John of rock 15 John of TV comedy 16 "Monty Python" opener 17 Winter warmer 19 Flightless bird 20 Pal 22 — segno (sheet-music term) 23 Furnish with a lining 24 Military headgear 26 Interim government 28 Ill-lit 30 Moray, for one 31 Garb 35 Subway 39 Feathery neckwear 40 Fond du — 42 Brought up 43 Inseparable 44 Refugee 46 Skater Midori 47 John of literature 49 John of music 51 Have membership 52 Uses 53 Thorn in side 54 Kidney-related DOWN 1 "Faust" dramatist 2 Accumulates, as a tab 3 Coffee shop vessel 4 United nations 5 Church council 6 Ex-con 7 Largest of the seven 8 Last (Abbr.) 9 Mediterranean ship 10 Weak, in a sense 11 Oily trade-intra 13 Lionel Richie hit 18 Train component 21 Gold-finger? 23 Star 25 Round Table address 27 Jewel 29 Olio 31 Enola Gay's payload 32 Shetlands, e.g. 33 Rice recipe 34 Loo, for short 36 "Jeopardy!" stock-in-trade 37 Narrate anew 38 Bloodhound's clues 41 Moth repellent 44 — Kong 45 Actress Campbell 48 Craggy hill 50 A Bobsley twin



CRYPTOQUIP

DLPI NZGFTHQL ZBMHP CNH CZT MNL YLZ FAGX QZG AG QZGI HYF NZYYHCLLG-MNLQLF QHDA LT : TBZPI XPZGM . Yesterday's Cryptquip: A PEEVED SWEATER MAKER MARCHED IN AND YELLED TO HIS STUDENT "I HAVE A KNIT TO PICK WITH YOU!" Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals N