

Imran votes for Afridi

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's legendary former captain Imran Khan spoke out in support of Shahid Afridi on Friday, saying the all-rounder should be given a long innings to stabilise a team hit by controversy.

"Afridi should be given a long run as Pakistan captain," Khan told AFP, saying that frequent rotations at the top destabilise the team.

"Since I retired in 1992, Australia has had only three captains while Pakistan has had more than two dozen and that is why there is a big difference between Pakistan and Australia."

Facing a captaincy crisis after Younus Khan stepped down and Mohammad Yousuf was sacked, Pakistan on Tuesday appointed Afridi captain for next month's Asia Cup and a subsequent tour of England.

Khan said Afridi, already leading Pakistan in the Twenty20 format since last year, was the only real choice.

"Who else if not Afridi?" said Khan, Pakistan's most successful captain with a World Cup triumph in 1992.

"I think if they had made anyone else captain, problems would surely have persisted, so I think Afridi was the best choice available."

"Afridi has been leading the team well in the Twenty20 format. A good captain should be brave, can handle pressure and should have the respect of the team, so let us give Afridi some time to settle and then judge him."

"You can never predict about him as a Test player and a captain until you give him a chance.

If he was not playing Tests and now he intends to play, then maybe with responsibility he performs better."

Afridi, who has not played a Test since 2006 because of family commitments, made himself available for the longer version of the game last week.

Khan said he does not agree with the idea of separate captains for different formats of the game.

"Cricket is the only sport where you need able leadership and if a captain is successful in one format he could be successful in all three," he said. Khan sympathised with former captain Younus Khan.

"Younus won Pakistan the World Twenty20 title," said Khan of Pakistan's triumph in England last year. "And then after one defeat in MP levelled allegations of match-fixing against him and that was very unfair on him."

Khan referred to allegations leveled by MP Jamsheed Dasti after Pakistan lost the semi-final of the Champions Trophy held in South Africa last October.

Khan said Pakistan will need Yousuf for Tests in England.

"Pakistan needs someone who can stay at the wicket for longer and Yousuf has that quality," said Khan. Yousuf retired in protest after the Pakistan Cricket Board banned him indefinitely over infighting in the team.

Pakistan will feature in the four-nation Asia Cup one-day tournament in Sri Lanka from June 15-24.

They then play two Twenty20 and two Tests against Australia and four Tests, two Twenty20 and five one-day games against England -- all in England.

Shakil picks up second IM norm

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Abu Sufian Shakil of Biman secured his second International Master norm from 2nd SCS International Open Grandmaster Chess Tournament after end of the ninth round in Bhubaneswar, India yesterday.

Shakil, who played with white pieces, drew with Indian International Master Satyapragyan Swayangsu to earn six points from nine games and got nine games International Master Norm. Shakil is now one norm away from getting International Master title.

FM Mohammad Javed also earned six points from nine games after beating Indian International Master Suvrajit Saha.

In the other ninth round games, Rajib lost against Vaibhav Suri of India, Paraglost against Anweh Upadhyaya of India, Sagar beat Minina Veronika of Russia, Debaraj drew with Diptayan Ghosh of India, Saif drew with Oza Rajesh and Chapal beat Sanjay Mishra.

Sr Div football

SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria SC returned to winning ways with a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Purbachal Parishad in the Basundhara Senior Division Football League match at Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Purbachal went ahead with a sixth-minute strike from Selim before Raju struck a brace in the 21st and 73rd minutes for Victoria that gave Purbachal their first defeat in the league.

Athletic turf damaged

SPORTS REPORTER

The athletic turf at the Bangabandhu National Stadium was slightly damaged due to the pressure of iron pipes that were kept on the turf.

These pipes were removed from the gallery following the renovation works ahead of the 2010 ICC World Cup inauguration at the Big Bowl.

Some 10 to 12 holes were seen during the opening day of the Junior Athletic Championship.

Bangladesh Athletics Federation general secretary Shah Alam said that they had informed the matter to the National Sports Council, who assured them that the damage would be taken care of before it gets worse.

Yousuf not coming back

CRICINFO

Mohammad Yousuf has closed the door on the prospect of coming out of retirement for Pakistan's upcoming tour of England, saying he was still disappointed with the way he was treated by the PCB.

Of the seven punished players, Yousuf was the only one to not file a formal appeal against the sanctions imposed by the PCB. On Tuesday, Pakistan announced the 35-member list of probable players for the Asia Cup and England tour. Five of the punished players, including former captains Younus Khan and Shoaib Malik who are currently serving bans that are due to be reviewed, were picked but Yousuf was not considered. On Thursday, Shahid Afridi, the newly-appointed captain, requested Yousuf to reconsider his decision since "we will certainly need his services in England", but Yousuf turned down the offer.

"I don't think I am mentally ready for international cricket at this stage. I do plan to play the next domestic season to see how it goes," he said.



Belgium's Justine Henin stretches to return the ball against Czech Klara Zakopalova during her French Open second round match at the Roland Garros Stadium in Paris yesterday. Henin won 6-3, 6-3.

Rainy parade for Serena, Henin

AFP, Paris



Top seed Serena Williams and four-time champion Justine Henin cruised into the French Open third round on Friday, as a packed women's schedule swollen by rain delays on the previous two days began.

Williams, the world number one, demolished German world number 77 Julia Goerges 6-1, 6-1 in just 55 minutes in a second-round match that had originally been scheduled to take place on Thursday. She will face Russian 29th seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova for a place in the last 16, while Henin could be set for a meeting with Maria Sharapova after finishing off a 6-3, 6-3 defeat of Czech Klara Zakopalova.

Asked what she could possibly learn from such a comfortable win, Williams replied: "I can learn a lot, like 'What am I doing today? Why aren't all my matches like this and what can I do to make them like that?'"

"Those are the questions I ask myself

and that I have to try to answer."

On a day when the sun returned to Roland Garros after two days of gloom, Williams demonstrated that she is well placed to end her eight-year wait for a second Roland Garros singles title.

She was playing Goerges, 21, for the first time and the American quickly established her authority by breaking to love for a 3-1 lead, before securing a double break and then serving out for the set.

Goerges managed to produce a selection of well-placed winners in the second set but she was unable to prevent herself falling to a heavy defeat as Williams made up for lost time in style.

Henin, who returned to the sport earlier this year after retiring in 2008, resumed her fight with Zakopalova at 6-3, 3-2 up following the match's curtailment on Thursday.

The Belgian broke her opponent in the first game before closing out a straightforward win that puts her on course for a clash with either former world number one Sharapova or Belgian Kirsten Flipkens,

whose second-round match resumes later with 12th seed Sharapova leading 6-3, 2-2.

"Playing again in front of the Paris crowd and all the Belgian supporters warms my heart," said Henin, whose last visit to Roland Garros in 2007 saw her claim her fourth title.

"I've missed it and the sensations are coming back bit by bit."

In other delayed second-round matches, Chinese 25th seed Zheng Jie was upset 6-4, 6-3 by Russian qualifier Anastasia Pivovarovna and 13th seed Marion Bartoli saw off fellow Frenchwoman Olivia Sanchez 7-5, 6-2.

Second seed Venus Williams was due to face Slovakian 26th seed Dominika Cibulkova in the third round later, while third seed Caroline Wozniacki takes on Romanian 31st seed Alexandra Dulgheru, who triumphed in Warsaw last week.

Defending champion Svetlana Kuznetsova and fellow Russian Elena Dementieva are also in third-round action, with Kuznetsova meeting number 30 seed Maria Kirilenko and fifth seed Dementieva tackling Canada's Aleksandra Wozniack.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Mohammad Abdul Malek and FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon are sharing the lead after ninth round of the Six Seasons International Chess tournament at the Narayanganj Club Limited convention hall yesterday.

Malek and Emon improved their tally to 5.5 points.

Indian FM Joydeep Dutta and Enkhtuul Altanzulzi of Mongolia bagged five points to share second place.

In the ninth round, Emon beat Liza, Malek drew with Enkhtuul and Sharmin Sultana Shirin drew with Mishraz Nida Siddiqui of Pakistan.

INDO-BANGLADESH SKATING

Bangladesh clinched the team event title of the 2nd India-Bangladesh Friendship Skating at the Handball Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh bagged 20 gold, 22 silver and 22 bronze medals to clinch the team event title while India bagged seven gold, six silver and five bronze medals.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar was the chief guest on the concluding day of the 4-day meet and distributed the prizes among the winners.

SCHOOL KABADDI

Jatrabari Ideal High School became champions in the Standard Chartered National School Kabaddi tournament beating Haider Ali High School 97-49 with five creditable "lona" in the

final at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

Earlier Jatrabari Ideal High School beat Ansar & VDP High School 69-65 with five creditable 'lona' in the first semifinal while and Haider Ali High School defeated Shaheed Nabi High School 59-51 with three creditable 'lona' in the second semis.

Head of legal compliance & assurance of the Standard Chartered Bank Chowdhury MAQ Sarwar was the chief guest in the final and distributed the prizes among the winners.

RUGBY COMPETITION

Rongargaon Nayapur Seven Star secured their second successive win in the lone match of the Cooline AC Rugby Competition crushing Seven Wanderers 15-0 points at the Outer Stadium.

The winners dominated the first half 10-0.

KARATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Electra fourth Division Karate Championship was held in Rajshahi divisional women's complex. A total of 13 district teams participated in this tournament in 11 categories.

Following are the results:
KATA (Women): Sharifa Khaton secured gold, Kumite (Women): -45kg kumite, Sharifa Khaton Rajshahi bagged gold, -53 kg kumite: Ruma Khaton secured gold, +60 kg: Amena Akter secured gold medal.

KATA (Men): Aslam Shaik secured gold, Kumite (Men): -50 kg Kumite, Rajshahi bagged gold, -55kg kumite: Al Amin Islam secured gold, -60kg kumite: Shahadat Hossain secured gold, -67kg kumite: Lito Ali bagged gold medal.

Trott in Lord's 200-club

AFP, London

Jonathan Trott became only the seventh England batsman to score a Test double century at Lord's when he reached the landmark against Bangladesh on the second day of the first Test here on Friday.

Trott was eventually dismissed for 226 after lunch on the second day.

The seven England batsman to have scored double centuries at Lord's:

Score	Player	Opposition	Year
333	Graham Gooch	IND	1990
240	Walter Hammond	AUS	1938
226	Jonathan Trott	BAN	2010
221	Robert Key	WIS	2004
211	Jack Hobbs	RSA	1924
208	Denis Compton	RSA	1947
205	Joe Hardstaff jr	IND	1946

Messi fears

FROM PAGE 17

one of the gods, so there's no problem.

"Maradona has always been very nice to me.

"Even before he was our coach and I took my first steps as a professional.

"Now that I have him as a manager, he's even closer and gives me a lot more confidence than he did before."

Argentina are in Group B in South Africa, alongside Nigeria, South Korea and Greece.

They open their campaign against Nigeria in Johannesburg on June 12.

Madan Mohan

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Mohan prevailed 4-2.

They were awarded Tk 25,000 as prize money and have qualified for the quarterfinals to be held in Dhaka from June 3.

In Chittagong, Pahartali College, BEPA Public School & College won their respective matches while the game between Government Haji Mohammed Mohsin College and Bangladesh Navy School & College was drawn.

The final of the Chittagong leg would be held between Shaheen School & College and Bangladesh Navy School & College.

India lose to Zim

FROM PAGE 17

First time Zimbabwe's run-rate crossed six, batting would only look easier in the upcoming few overs. Vinay got the worst treatment when Taylor hit the 10th over for two sixes and a four: a pull, a golf swing over long-on, and a square-cut.

Amit Mishra was the only bowler who challenged Zimbabwe, and in his second over he removed Masakadza with a googly. Taylor dropped anchor then, and while he and Greg Lamb added only 63 in 16.3 overs, Zimbabwe needed only 135 in more than 20 overs by the time they were separated.

That's when Ervine belied someone making debut. Even as Taylor slowed down, and then holed out to fine leg, Ervine kept scoring at almost a run a ball without taking undue risks. He picked up gaps well, and by the time he hit his first boundary he had already scored 30 off 38 balls. By that time Zimbabwe had lost Taylor, but Charles Coventry was in the middle of a cameo himself, and 72 were required off 52 with a batting Powerplay in hand.

The sort of time, then, when the minnow sides' mental strength is tested with the win in sight. Ervine, though, made mockery of such fears, and went after the fastest bowler on display, Yadav. That Elton Chigumbura moved to 20 off 15 with the winning hit will relieve the new captain after a horrible start to the match.

He conceded 26 runs in a

forgettable 12-delivery fourth over, 17 of them through extras, but India were not to be left behind when it came to generosity. In the ninth over, M Vijay was princely slow in sliding his bat back in after having taken two steps down the pitch for a non-existent second. Virat Kohli, in the next over, called for a single that wasn't there and was run out without having faced a delivery. Dinesh Karthik, two overs later, edged a short and wide drifter from Prosper Usteya.

Captain Suresh Raina and Rohit put their heads together and prevented it from becoming a procession of wickets, but Christopher Mpfu came back to end that 67-run partnership with a bouncer way outside off. India were 128 for 4 off 30 overs then, and Rohit -- 31 off 65 -- was the only specialist batsman left: India's 15-member squad consists of four specialist batsmen, two wicketkeeper-batsmen, three bits-and-pieces spinners, and bowlers.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 285 for 5 in 50 overs (Karthik 22, Sharma 114, Raina 67, Jadeja 61 not out; Mpfu 2-33)

ZIMBABWE: 289 for 4 in 48.2 overs (Hamilton 46, Taylor 81, Lamb 27, Ervine 67 not out, Coventry 32, Chigumbura 24 not out; Kumar 2-51)

Results: Zimbabwe won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Brendan Taylor.

Tamim leads the fightback

FROM PAGE 17

Shahadat behind and wicketkeeper Mushfiq Rahim held a good diving catch.

England gifted Bangladesh a sixth wicket on 400 when a mix-up between Trott and Matt Prior saw the wicketkeeper run out.

The normally methodical Trott had some nervous moments in the 90s but a controlled pull for two off Rubel Hossain took the 29-year-old Warwickshire batsman to 200.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the first Test between England and

Bangladesh at Lord's on Friday:
ENGLAND: First innings (over-night 362-4)

Strauss b Mahmudullah 83
Cook lbw b Shahadat 7
Trott c Kayes b Shahadat 226
Pietersen b Shakib 18
Bell b Rubel 17
Morgan c Mushfiqur b Shahadat 44
Prior run out 16
Bresnan c Junaid b Shahadat 25
Swann c Rubel b Shakib 22
Anderson b Shahadat 13
Finn not out 3
Extras: (lb-10, w-8, nb-13) 31
Total: (All out in 125 overs) 505

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-188, 3-227, 4-258, 5-370, 6-400, 7-463, 8-478, 9-498, 10-505.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahadat	28	3	98	5

Robuil 22 2 107 0
Shakib 27 3 109 2
Rubel 23 0 109 1
Mahmudullah 23 3 59 1
Ashraf 2 0 13 0

BANGLADESH: First innings

Tamim not out 42
Imrul not out 22
Extras: (w-2, nb-1) 3
Total: (For no loss in 18 overs) 67

To bat: Junaed, Jahurul, Ashraf, Shakib, Mahmudullah, Mushfiq, Robuil, Rubel, Shahadat.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	7	1	24	0
Bresnan	5	1	25	0
Finn	4	1	16	0
Swann	2	1	2	0

Athletics

AFP, Ostrava

Jamaica's former 100 metres world record holder Asafa Powell ran the fastest time over the distance this season here on Thursday in a sparkling 9.83 seconds.

The 27-year-old bettered the previous best of 9.86sec run by

compatriot and world recordholder Usain Bolt -- who has eclipsed Powell over the 100m in the past two years -- in Daegu, South Korea, earlier this month.

Bolt for his part made a good go of breaking Michael Johnson's world record in the rarely run 300m on the same record.

The 23-year-old -- who was admitted on Wednesday he was



Jamaica's Asafa Powell celebrates his 100 meters victory at the IAAF World Challenge Zlata Tretra (Golden Spike) athletic meeting in Ostrava on Thursday. Powell won ahead of his teammates Jerome Clarke and Dexter Lee.

3-star Mezbah

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"I first want to ensure a place to the national squad through the performance and then bring glory for the nation winning in international meets," said a dreamy-eyed Mezbah after winning his third gold.

He first won the long jump gold clearing 6.90m, just 0.10 meter less than silver medallist Ismail from Comilla while bagging the 200m sprint gold ahead of teammate Abu Hanif. Mezbah took 22.30 seconds while Hanif completed the finishing mark with a timing of 23 seconds.

Mezbah beat Khulna's Arman Gazi to win the high jump gold clearing 1.73m as Arman had to be content with an silver after clearing 1.71m.

BKSP's Papia Rani Sarkar also shone in the track winning 200m sprint gold with a timing of 26.5 seconds while her teammate Taslima Akter Mont took 26.6 seconds and burst into tear after losing her crown.

Papia from Netrokona, who bagged four gold in the 2008 meet and had to be content with one gold last season, is looking forward to winning three more gold in 100m sprint, 4X100 relay and 100m hurdle.

Other winners of the opening day are: Milon (boy's 800m run), Marzia Afrin (girl's 800m run), Mina Begum (girl's shot-put in U-15 group), Sheikh Ibad Ali (boy's high jump in U-15 group), Selina (girl's javelin throw), M Ibrahim (boy's shot-put) and Alangjir Hussain (boy's long jump in U-15 group).

Penalties

FROM PAGE 17

European champions Holland, meanwhile, had succumbed to their old folly of in-fighting and only just squeaked into the second round behind England and Republic of Ireland. In the knock-out stages, the Germans took their revenge on compatriot Vitezslav Vesely's 86.45m which he threw in the Czech city of Olomouc on May 8 and is the second best ever by a Czech javelin thrower, behind Zelezny, whose world record of 98.48m has stood for over 14 years.

There was joy for the home support as Czech Petr Frydrych -- coached by world recordholder Jan Zelezny -- set a best in the javelin for the season with a throw of 88.23 metres.

His mark was an improvement on compatriot Vitezslav Vesely's 86.45m which he threw in the Czech city of Olomouc on May 8 and is the second best ever by a Czech javelin thrower, behind Zelezny, whose world record of 98.48m has stood for over 14 years.

Ethiopia's 2009 women's 10,000m world champion silver medalist Meselech Melkamu also set the season's best time in the 10,000m with a time of 31min 04.52sec.

TO BE CONTINUED