

# SPORT

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## Eto'o loses appeal

Inter Milan striker Samuel Eto'o has lost his appeal against a three-match Serie A ban for headbutting but a 30,000 euro (\$39,570) fine has been dropped, the Italian soccer federation said in the statement on Thursday. The Cameroonian, top scorer for last season's treble winners this term, headbutted Chievo defender Cesar in the chest during Inter's 2-1 defeat last month in similar fashion to Zinedine Zidane's assault on Marco Materazzi in the 2006 World Cup final. Eto'o has already served the first game of the ban, the 5-2 win over Parma on Sunday.



## Razzak bowls into history

MOHAMMAD ISAM



Probably the expectation of fending off the hat-trick ball got to Christopher Mpofu. The tall strapping paceman from the small town of Plumtree in southern Zimbabwe looked ill at ease wearing pads and helmet as he traipsed to the middle. The noise at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium was a deafening cacophony as skipper Shakib Al Hasan moved Junaed Siddiqui to first slip and Rokibul Hasan under the helmet at silly mid-off. The No 11 took strike, unusually wearing bowling boots rather than the half-spiked options for the batsmen.

Prosper Utseya and Ray Price with Keegan Meth in between had just fallen in the space of eight deliveries late in the Zimbabwe innings. Shakib Al Hasan took one and Abdur Razzak grabbed two in consecutive deliveries -- Utseya skied one to Naeem Islam at long-off, a typical slog over dismissal, and off the first delivery of the 47th over, Price was found in front of the stumps for a first-ball duck.

Razzak, unlike Mpofu, looked confident without going over the top and took an extra second to think about the delivery. Most bowlers get into this situation to only mess it up with an overenthusiastic attempted yorker that usually gets defended or left well alone. Razzak trotted in, fired it through and though not the best yorker, it was full enough to beat Mpofu's best efforts to

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### ODI HATTRICKS BY SPINNERS

Player	Opposition	Venue	Year
Abdur Razzak	Zimbabwe	Dhaka	2010
Saqain Mushtaq	Zimbabwe	London	1999
Saqain Mushtaq	Zimbabwe	Peshawar	1996

### HATTRICKS BY TIGERS

Player	Format	Opposition	Venue	Year
Abdur Razzak	ODI	Zimbabwe	Dhaka	2010
Shahadat Hossain	ODI	Zimbabwe	Harare	2006
Alok Kapali	Test	Pakistan	Peshawar	2003

Bangladesh's left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak (L) just saw the umpire raise the finger to complete his first international hat-trick as his victim Chris Mpofu looks befuddled in the second ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP HISTORY

### Cornered tigers roar

The 1992 World Cup, held in Australia and New Zealand, saw many innovations that had appeared in the intervening period between the last tournament and the current one. Most of the 39 matches were day-night affairs, with players wearing coloured uniforms that had the players' names emblazoned on the back. For the first time, the balls used were white, and unlike today, there was a separate ball for each end to guard against the ball becoming too dirty and dark to spot in the night sky. Rules for the thirty yard fielding circle, introduced in the previous World Cup were refined; now only two fielders were allowed outside the circle during the first fifteen overs. After the fifteen overs, the old rule of four fielders inside the ring at all times applied.

Team-wise, the big change was that South Africa were allowed back to international after having been exiled for more than twenty years because of apartheid. That made nine teams in all, with Zimbabwe as the minnow. The format had also been tweaked; no groups, instead a league style playoff between the nine participating teams with the top four going through to the semis.

**Champions: Pakistan**  
Pakistan's victory was possibly the most dramatic one of all Cup victories. This was not because they were underdogs -- they were one of the stronger teams in the tournament -- but that they seemed out of the tournament after losing four of their first five matches, having to rely on Australia beating West Indies in the later stages of the preliminary round to progress. At some stages, Pakistan's triumph seemed to be divinely ordained, like when rain saved them from certain elimination after being bowled out by England for 74.

As poorly as they started, Pakistan played aggressive and eye-catching cricket to lift the Cup, gaining momentum during the latter stages of the tournament. The turning point was Imran Khan rousing his team's inner fire by urging them to take on the stance and response of the cornered tiger.

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## Comfortable all around

BISHWAJIT ROY



With two changes to the team Bangladesh bounced back strongly in the series by securing a convincing six-wicket victory in the second game thanks to the batsmen who didn't let down the bowlers' efforts as in the first game.

Captain Shakib Al Hasan was much calmer and more restrained in the post-match briefing, unlike the first game, and he paid tribute to the team's 'positive cricket.'

"We were cautious, especially the batsmen, in the first game but everybody played their normal cricket today," stated Shakib.

"I think everybody realized after the defeat that they must do their job properly regardless of opponents. It is simple that the opponents will put pressure if they get any chance," was the explanation from the young skipper, who took the center stage after the nine-run defeat because of an outburst relating to team selections that ultimately saw Mohammad Ashraful left out from the eleven along with Mahmudullah Riyad.

The left-arm spin duo Abdur Razzak, the hat-trick man, and Shakib claimed nine wickets between them to set an easy task for the batsmen as Zimbabwe were bundled out for 191 runs. The fielding effort from Bangladesh was

also much improved.

As expected the spinners spun a web around Zimbabwe to do their job for the second consecutive match but the biggest relief came when the top order batsmen applied themselves to the chase of a paltry total. The Tigers overtook the total with 62 balls to spare.

Tamim Iqbal was his usual flamboyant self as he gave the home team a confident start although the left-hander missed a deserved half-century by just six runs. Junaed Siddiqui brilliantly capitalised on his early life to return amongst the runs with a fifty and an atypical Rokibul Hasan made no mistake to cash in on his opportunity. All in all it was a good batting scenario for the team indeed.

It might be too early to say that the team got an answer to a long-time problem but it was definitely refreshing to watch the number three (Junaed) and four (Rokibul) batsmen click to allay a lengthy headache for the team management.

The way Rokibul, who hit 65 off 78 balls with six fours and a six, displayed his shot-making ability after settling in the middle not only delighted the crowd but also his captain.

"We know he is capable of making shots. It was nice to see the way he accelerated after settling down in the middle but he must finish the game," said Shakib.

The outcome apparently pleased the skipper, who was to-the-point in his response to questions at the post-match briefing. Shakib restated the views expressed by his Zimbabwean counterpart Elton Chigumbura by indicating that the poor batting from the visitors was a key cause for the Bangladesh victory.

"I don't think they are easy opponents. My observation is that they didn't bat well in the first two games. We depend on our spin attack but they can do well against us at any time," warned Shakib adding that it would have been fantastic for him if they could win the match by eight wickets.

"We did not bat well, we gave our wickets away. We have to correct the mistakes we have still three more games left and we are looking forward to them," was the explanation from Chigumbura.

Both the captains also had the same sentiment about the pitch, as both believed that there was no malice in the track despite the low scores.

In the end everything however was almost perfect for Shakib Al Hasan; from winning the toss to winning the match to celebrating his hundredth ODI match. "The 100th match was not important to me. I'm happy because we won the match and I contributed something," said Shakib finishing in his style.



Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan (L) exacts revenge by dismissing his opposite number Elton Chigumbura two deliveries after being hit for a boundary in the second ODI in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Batsman Rokibul Hasan drives one handsomely through the covers for four during his 65-run innings against Zimbabwe in the second ODI yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Five to get AFC awards

SPORTS REPORTER

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has decided to reward five Bangladeshi football organisers with gold and silver awards for their contribution to the game and their long association with the Bangladesh Football Federation.

Former BFF general secretary and current member Harun-ur-Rashid, BFF vice presidents Manzur Hossain Malu and Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir have been named for gold award for 30-year association with the federation, confirmed a BFF official yesterday.

"I just learnt the news today (Friday). It is a great honor for me," said Malu adding that they the gold award recipients would receive their awards on the eve of AFC Congress on January 6 in Doha.

BFF's executive committee members Anwarul Haq Helal and Sirajul Islam Bachchu

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## Anderson swings England to top

Cricket

CRICINFO

James Anderson reduced Australia to their worst start to a Test innings in 60 years and despite a stirring fightback from Michael Hussey, England remained well on top after the opening day in Adelaide. Few venues in the world are kinder to batsmen than Adelaide Oval, and after winning the toss on a 34-degree day, for Australia to be dismissed for 245 before stumps was not only sub-par, it was potentially ruinous.

Anderson and Graeme Swann bowled superbly on the flat surface at a ground that holds four-year-old nightmares for some of the England players. It was the Australians who were suffering from frightening visions early on this occasion, although it could have been even worse for Ricky Ponting's men after they were 3 for 2 in the third over.

Hussey's second counterattacking innings of the series dragged the hosts back to a vague level of respectability, but they wanted his 93 to be another big century. There was also a late half-century from Brad Haddin but an England attack led by Anderson, who thoroughly

deserved his 4 for 51, ensured Australia's worst first-innings total at Adelaide Oval since 1992-93. England faced an over before stumps, and the openers enjoyed a more sedate start than had Australia.

The chaos began with the fourth delivery of the Test, which ran away to square leg off Shane Watson's pad. There was a leg bye on offer but Watson later admitted his call was too quiet for his partner Simon Katich, who hesitated, then took off and was denied the chance to face even one delivery when he was caught short by Jonathan Trott's brilliant throw.

If a diamond duck in the first over was an embarrassing start for Australia, it was only to get worse. Ponting, who looked so fluent in his second-innings half-century at the Gabba, was greeted first ball by a great ball from Anderson, who angled it in and then moved it away from Ponting, whose thick edge was snapped up by Swann low to his left at second slip.

The match was five balls old, Australia were 2 for 0, and the spectators who hadn't yet made it through security at the Adelaide Oval had missed one of the most memorable starts to an Ashes Test. It quickly got even better for England in Anderson's next over, when he sent down

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