

Rooney sorry for accident

Wayne Rooney has apologised to a nine-year-old Manchester United supporter after the striker accidentally broke the boy's wrist with a stray shot before his side's 5-0 win at Wolves on Sunday.

Rooney was taking shots at goal during the pre-match warm-up and one wild effort from the United star flew into the crowd and struck Jamie Thomas on the wrist as he tried to block the ball.

Thomas managed to watch the first half of the Premier League match, but was taken into the first aid tent after his arm "ballooned" at half time. -AFP



Tigers upset, but looking forward

SPORTS REPORTER

Micromax asia cup 2012

Without any doubt, the two-run loss in the Asia Cup final will haunt the Tigers as well as millions of cricket fans in the country for a long time. But the day after the epic event, all of the players were united in the sentiment that there is no scope for them to look back after such an enthralling performance in the region's biggest cricket competition.

True, the cricket-mad people have been gripped in sadness but they were praising the Tigers for their brave and consistent fight in the tournament which was something new in the country's cricketing history. The fans were touched by the emotional pictures, which were run by different newspapers in the country, of Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim who were completely distraught at the defeat. But for a true professional, there is no room to attach oneself with such emotions for a long time and that's the reason Shakib, the strong man who too lost his control on Thursday night, looked calm and quiet the following morning as he was focusing on the bright sides of the Tigers' performance.

"In my opinion, the biggest thing we have achieved in the tournament is that we have realised our strength and what we are capable of doing. True, we made few mistakes and missed a rare opportunity by a whisker but we have achieved



(L) Bangladesh's ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan takes a book on the War of Independence as he leaves the hotel on Friday morning while paceman Mashrafe Bin Mortaza talks to the media on his way out.

lot of positive things in the tournament," said Shakib, who continued to hog the spotlight of world cricket by being adjudged the man-of-the-tournament.

Inspirational Mashrafe Bin Mortaza however still could not get away from the pain of the two-run defeat but said that this is a turning point for Bangladesh cricket from where the Tigers can only go ahead.

"Honestly speaking, it now hurts more to think of the defeat as time passes by. The realisation that we could not achieve our

biggest success for just two runs is really hard to take in. Lots of small things are coming into my mind, such as what would have happened if I had not made that crucial overthrow," said the pace spearhead Mashrafe, who made an impressive comeback to international cricket after an eleven-month break due to injury.

"But we have to accept it and look forward and must take all the positives from the tournament to continue consistent performance in international



(R) Bangladesh's ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan takes a book on the War of Independence as he leaves the hotel on Friday morning while paceman Mashrafe Bin Mortaza talks to the media on his way out.

cricket," he added.

"I feel that it's a turning point for our cricket. We have proved that we can execute the plans and we must continue the consistency to get more success in international cricket. I think it's a milestone achievement for our cricket. Even though I feel pain for those fateful two runs, we have a lot of positive things as well," Mashrafe explained.

The "Brave Heart" cricketer also pointed out the team effort behind the success

while praising Shakib highly. "He (Shakib) is simply outstanding. Tamim made a brilliant comeback, Nasir (Hossain) was the real find of our cricket. Mushi (Mushfiqur Rahim) showed his maturity as a captain and the other guys also contributed greatly. I'm really proud to be part of this team," said an excited Mashrafe.

On the other hand, left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal, who has been a part of this team for the last five years, said he

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Nazmul adds to casualty list

SPORTS REPORTER

Nazmul Hossain is the latest injury victim after the right-arm paceman twisted his ankle as he tried to deliver a slower ball during the Asia Cup final against Pakistan on Thursday.

"It was an ankle strain but we are not yet sure about the seriousness of his injury. There has been swelling on his ankle and also he has been suffering from pain, so we are guessing ligament damage in his ankle but everything will be cleared after the scan," informed BCB physician Dr Debashish Chowdhury.

Debashish also said that he will send the MRI reports of injured pacers Rubel Hossain and Shaiful Islam to a South African surgeon within a very short time and after getting the feedback they will take final decisions against the two pacemen.

"We are almost confirmed that the operation will be needed for Rubel but conservative treatment may be okay for Shaiful," he said.

Shaiful had suffered an injury on his right shoulder during the match against India while Rubel was out since the BPL with a shoulder injury.

People's champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Micromax asia cup 2012

The Asia Cup final took cricket fans by storm with Bangladesh winning hearts of millions across the world including the high and mighty.

Minutes after Pakistan pulled off the heist, their second title in the tournament's history, tweets and Facebook posts poured into the internet.

Top of the pile has to be Indian film legend Amitabh Bachchan who tweeted immediately after the nail-biting affair ended at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

In a string of messages, the iconic hero of Bollywood expressed his excitement of watching the Tigers in action and praised the team.

"Pakistan win Asia Cup... Congratulations! But what a game Bangladesh played... Well done! Nail-biting, prayer invoking finish!"

"For Bangladesh, one of the more recent entries into international cricket... You have shown immense quality and guts and talent!!"

"Two runs!! Could be either way... One winner eventu-

ally... Heartbreaking for Bangladeshis... Never mind, you were a plucky loser!"

One of the greatest batsmen in cricket history, Brian Lara, said in his Facebook page status that he got emotional watching the players shed tears: "I felt very sad seeing the people and the players crying. Could be either ways. Bangladesh lost, but won the hearts of million people, in fact they won everything except the Cup! Be aware world, Bangladesh is the new terror!"



T 691 - Pakistan win Asia Cup .. Congratulations ! But what a game Bangla desh played .. well done ! nail biting, prayer invoking finish . .

Editor of The Cricketer magazine Andrew Miller, who is among the leading cricket writers and a self-confessed fan of Bangladesh cricket, constantly followed the game and at one stage tweeted a classic: "I think I can hear Mirpur from Long Eaton Station".

Dileep Premachandran, editor-in-chief of Wisden India, wondered what might have been.

"Congratulations to Pakistan. Much to be proud of for Stuart Law and his boys. If Shakib had stayed..."

Even Lalit Modi, the exiled cricket organiser, felt that Bangladesh deserved the most wishes: "Sad for Bangladesh. But they deserve the biggest congratulations. Great game."

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Radio-bomb kills soldier, son listening to final

AP, Dera Ismail Khan

Intelligence officials said a bomb hidden inside a radio exploded on a military base in northwest Pakistan, killing a paramilitary soldier and his 10-year-old son.

The officials said the soldier and his son were listening to the Asia Cup final between Pakistan and Bangladesh on Thursday night when the bomb went off. Three other children were wounded.

Authorities are investigating how the bomb was planted in the radio. The attack occurred at a base in Wana, the main town in the South Waziristan tribal area, a key Pakistani Taliban stronghold.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity Friday because they were not authorised to talk to reporters.

Asia Cup by the numbers

Cricket

FARAZ IHTESHAM

Despite being the top scorer of the just-concluded Asia Cup, Virat Kohli was unable to take India to the finals.

Averaging an unbelievable 119, Kohli scored a sensational 183 against arch-nemesis Pakistan and shared a mammoth 205-run second wicket partnership with Gautam Gambhir against Sri Lanka.

Runners-up Bangladesh's opening batsman Tamim Iqbal scored four consecutive half-centuries and was the tournament's second-best batsman with 253 runs at an average of 63. Mohammad Hafeez was the champions Pakistan's best run-getter and the third best. Hafeez scored 245 runs and shared a record 224-run opening wicket partnership with Nasir Jamshed.

Man-of-the-tournament and local hero Shakib Al Hasan joined the party with 237 runs that had three fifties. He was also Bangladesh's joint highest wicket-taker with six wickets.

Pakistan dominated the bowling charts with pacers Umar Gul and Aizaz Cheema taking nine and eight wickets respectively. Off-

spinner Saeed Ajmal also took eight scalps.

For Bangladesh pacer Mashrafe Mortaza made an excellent comeback with six wickets while left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak finished the tournament with six wickets at a stunning economy

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ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Winner
1983/84	India
1985/86	Sri Lanka
1988/89	India
1990/91	India
1994/95	India
1997	Sri Lanka
2000	Pakistan
2004	Sri Lanka
2008	Sri Lanka
2010	India
2011/12	Pakistan

TOP SCORER

Player	M	R	HS	Ave	100	50
V Kohli (Ind)	3	357	183	119	2	1
Tamim Iqbal (Ban)	4	253	70	63	0	4
M Hafeez (Pak)	4	245	105	61	1	1
Shakib Al Hasan (Ban)	4	237	68	59	0	3
Nasir Jamshed (Pak)	4	193	112	48	1	1

MOST WICKETS

Player	M	M	W	Best	Ave	Econ
Umar Gul (Pak)	4	3	9	3/58	23	5.77
Saeed Ajmal (Pak)	4	3	8	3/27	20	4.27
Aizaz Cheema (Pak)	4	0	8	4/43	25	5.93
Abdur Razzak (Ban)	4	2	6	2/26	26	3.85
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (Ban)	4	2	6	2/44	30	4.44
Shakib Al Hasan (Ban)	4	2	6	2/39	33	4.97

Ashrafal proud of Shakib

SPORTS REPORTER

It was hard to tell whether Syed Ashrafal Huq was more proud of Shakib Al Hasan's performance or the overall organising of the Asia Cup.

The Asian Cricket Council CEO waxed lyrical about both yesterday, calling the eleventh edition of the regional event as it's most successful in terms of the cricket played as well as the crowd presence.

"It was very good, very successful," he told The Daily Star Sport. "We have held this tournament in Sri Lanka, UAE, India and Pakistan, so it is hard to single out which is the best in organising but the organisers here are proven, not only potentially proven."

"In terms of the cricket played, it was the most successful. There were no mismatches this time. In the previous tournaments, there were only three teams that were title aspirants but Bangladesh matches this time were all equal contests," said the former BCB general secretary.

"The crowd have also made this tournament a success; five out of seven games were sold outs while

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Finally a worthy final

SPORTS REPORTER



Crushed under the sorrow of a heartbreaking defeat is a classic one-day final.

The Bangladesh-Pakistan contest has been one of the best of this format, though one would find it hard to remember any such finals from the recent years.

Interestingly, it is the Bangladesh-Sri Lanka final of a tri-nation tournament in 2009 that was the last time a final match was this pulsating, though that was more because the favourites suffered a spectacular collapse at the top of the batting order. After the Tigers made a modest 152, the visitors lost their first five wickets for just six runs in eight overs. It was mayhem at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium but the cool Kumar Sangakkara and some mad hitting by Muttiah Muralidaran at the end saved the Lankans from a huge upset.

The other final, from the last five years, that comes to mind is the India-Pakistan clash to decide the inaugural ICC World Twenty20s. At the Bull Ring in Johannesburg, Pakistan fell just five runs short of India's 157-5 with Misbah-Ul-Haq famously mistiming a scoop into Sreesanth's hands at short fine-leg.

The uniqueness of the final held on Thursday was the ebb and flow of cricket during the game. Pakistan fell into trouble quickly when they lost six wickets before staging a recovery through wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed and some bit parts played by Shahid Afridi and Hammad Azam. Bangladesh finished poorly due to the foolhardiness of Shahadat Hossain but still, 236 remained a gettable target.

The Tigers started off well at one end with Tamim Iqbal hitting boundaries at will but Pakistan kept Nazimuddin, Jahurul Islam and Nasir Hossain on a tight leash. Shakib Al Hasan regained the momentum but his dismissal and that of skipper Mushfiqur Rahim made it all but over for the Tigers. Instead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza provided the sting in the tail, leaving nine required from the last six balls, to be dealt with by Mahmudullah Riyad and Abdur Razzak.

The pair failed to take Aizaz Cheema to the cleaners and

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INDEPENDENCE CUP HOCKEY

Usha, Air Force in semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra emerged group B champions to qualify for the semifinals of Dhaka Bank Independence Cup Hockey Tournament by defeating Bangladesh Air Force 3-1 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

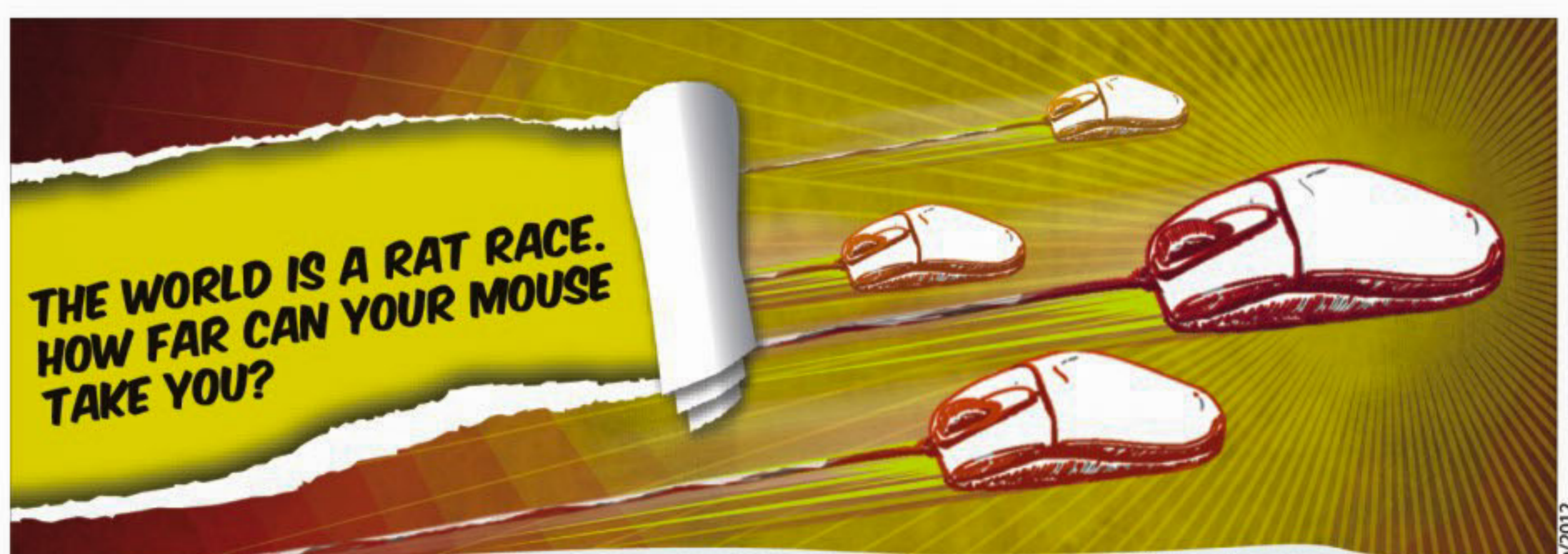
Despite the loss, Bangladesh Air Force too qualified as they became runners-up and will take on the winners of today's Group A match between Mohammedan SC and Bangladesh Army.

Rabbi put Usha KC ahead in the 14th minute through a field goal before Rummon Ali cancelled the lead in the 29th minute as the first half ended 1-1. But Usha came in strongly in the second half to score two more goals with Khorshedur Rahman and Iqbal Nadir Prince scoring one goal apiece to confirm Usha's semifinal berth.

Meanwhile, Usha KC brought on Pakistani coach Rana Zahir for the third time after the Old Dhaka outfit twice emerged league champions in 2006 and 2008 under his guidance.

"The coach will remain

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