

Boom Boom beats up fans

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi lashed out at fans at Karachi airport after his three-year-old daughter was hurt in a crush of autograph hunters, eye-witnesses and television reports said Friday.

The 32-year-old former captain lost his temper and hit fans who had descended on the airport to greet members of the Asia Cup winning national side, apparently after his daughter Ajwa was hurt.

"Afridi's reaction was natural as dozens of fans circled him and hurt his daughter. I still love him and he is just like my brother," fan Gul Rehman, who was hit several times by the all-rounder, later told media.

Television footage showed Afridi, wearing an orange t-shirt and jeans, striking Rehman and other fans.

Afridi later said he did not want to hurt anyone but lost his temper.

"There was no security for players and it's usual that fans come and seek autographs but this time they were out of control and hurt my daughter on which I lost my temper," Afridi told reporters.

Afridi and teammates Younis Khan, Saeed Ajmal, Asad Shafiq and Mohammad Hafeez returned home late Friday after Pakistan's two-run win against Bangladesh on Thursday which earned Pakistan their second Asia Cup title.

Afridi was declared man-of-the-match for his fiery 32 in Pakistan's 236 and took one wicket in Bangladesh's innings.

Captain Misbahul Haq and other players were due to return Lahore early Saturday.

BCB

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"We will go to Zimbabwe in August as per earlier scheduled, otherwise our domestic cricket will suffer," said Siraj.

As per schedule Bangladesh will play two T20Is, two Tests and three one-day matches in Zimbabwe but BCB is trying to add one more Test, which has been pending for long.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

An action from yesterday's match of the Plan Metropolis Women's School Football between Motijheel Govt Girls High School and Siddeswary Girls High School at the Motijheel Govt School ground.

Tigers played like Aussies: Afridi

Cricket

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan's flamboyant all-rounder Shahid Afridi paid rich tributes to Bangladesh, who lost by just two runs to his team in the Asia Cup finals, saying the minnows were as good as the mighty Australians in the clash.

"It seemed as if we were playing against Australia in the final. Bangladesh have matured a lot as a team and it felt good to win such a hard final," Afridi told reporters after reaching his hometown last night from Dhaka.

Mohammad Hafeez, Younis Khan, Saeed Ajmal, Sarfraz Ahmed and Asad Shafiq were the other members of the victorious Pakistan team to return from Dhaka.

Speaking loudly to make his voice audible to the media as hundreds of people gathered at the Karachi airport to give a warm welcome to their heroes, Afridi said Pakistan may have won the final but still needed to improve in many areas.

"We need improvement in some areas and we need to produce more players. I would urge the cricket authorities to lay lot of stress on our domestic cricket and implement a 10-year plan so that we can get maximum number of quality players," Afridi said.

The players were greeted by loud slogans and fans dancing to fast beats at the airport. Other members of the team will reach Lahore on Saturday.

Afridi said he was impressed by the performance put up by Bangladesh and felt the Bangladesh Premier League had helped them a lot.

"I think by holding the BPL they did well and their players fought hard. I think we also need to make our domestic cricket as competitive as possible. We can look at the examples of the IPL and BPL while counting the benefits of such events," Afridi said. Afridi said he felt happy that whenever he produced good bowling spells, the team did well.

"It feels good that whenever I bowl well we tend to win matches. I was struggling before the final and I worked hard in the nets so I am happy I could perform in the final and win the man of the match award," he said.

Afridi said it was up to the selectors to decide if there was need for changes in the team for one-day internationals and Twenty20 matches.

"T20 cricket is a totally different format of the game but yes I think that when players like Ahmed Shahzad, Nasir Jamshed and others have done well they should be given chances in T20 cricket," he said.

Asked if he would be ready to captain the side again if the board offered him the job for ODIs and T20s, Afridi at first ignored the question and then walked away after thanking the media.

Independence Day cricket teams named

SPORTS REPORTER

The traditional Independence Day exhibition match will be held on March 26.

Naeem Islam will lead a Bangladesh Red side that will play against Bangladesh Green led by Shahriar Nafees in a game that will be 40 overs per side.

Interestingly, it will be played with an orange ball and will start at 10:00am at either the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium or the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium in the capital.

TEAMS

Bangladesh Red: Naeem Islam (captain), Anamul Haque, Mohammad Ashraful, Imrul Kayes, Rokibul Hasan, Marshall Ayub, Asif Ahmed, Enamul Haque Jr, Arafat Sunny, Al-Amin Hossain, Forhad Reza, Kazi Kamrul Islam, Sohag Gazi, Mizanur Rahman, Mukhtar Ali.

Bangladesh Green: Shahriar Nafees (captain), Mithun Ali, Shuvogoto Hom Chowdhury, Mominul Haque, Alok Kapali, Ziaur Rahman, Junaed Siddiqui, Elias Sunny, Mosharraf Hossain, Alauddin Babu, Sohrwardi Shuvo, Abul Hasan, Robiul Islam, Nur Hossain, Nazmul Hossain Milon.

Tamim

FROM PAGE 16

Pakistan by two runs in the final.

About the two-run loss, Tamim added that though the Tigers didn't quite finish it as well as they'd have liked, he was still hoping that the support continued.

Proteas keep going

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

South Africa made light of the grim weather as they cruised to 246-2 on the second day of the weather-affected third and final Test against New Zealand on Saturday.

Alviro Peterson, who struggled for runs in the first two Tests, found the Basin Reserve pitch in Wellington to his liking as he moved to 96 not out and closed in on his third Test century, while JP Duminy was on 76.

The pair had put on 140 for the third wicket when bad light stopped play for the second consecutive day with only 79 of a possible 180 overs bowled in the first two days.

South Africa, who already have an unbeatable 1-0 lead in the three-Test series, were clearly intent on batting their way to an imposing total with the aim of dismissing New Zealand cheaply and enforcing the follow on.

The tourists resumed the second day at 136-2 and put on 110 runs without loss in the 37 overs available after rain wiped out the morning session.

The New Zealand bowlers

have been unable to benefit from the favourable fierce wind, overcast skies and a green-tinged wicket and the fielders were incapable of taking the few chances on offer as the batsmen dominated.

Petersen offered two edges through the vacant third slip position but Martin Guptill, diving from second slip, was unable to grasp either one.

Otherwise Petersen looked comfortable with senior bowler Chris Martin unable to generate significant swing or garner extreme pace from the tail wind.

Duminy had little trouble finding gaps in the New Zealand field, although he brought up his fourth half-century with a wayward shot that that was intended for square leg but went behind wicketkeeper Kruger van Wyk.

The only bad news for South Africa was the likelihood they have lost key batsman Hashim Amla for the rest of the match after undergoing emergency surgery on his groin area.

Amla was hit on the first day by an inside edge from a Martin delivery. He was able to bat on and progressed from 33 to 63 before he was

dismissed and then rushed to hospital.

"Hashim underwent emergency exploratory surgery resulting from blunt trauma sustained to his groin region," team manager Mohammed Moosajee said in a statement.

"He spent the night in hospital and was discharged this morning. The surgeon is satisfied with the outcome and expects Hashim to make a full recovery.

"However, it is unlikely that he will be able to take further part in the current Test match at the Basin Reserve."

South Africa are without star all-rounder Jacques Kallis for this Test after he was ruled out with a stiff neck.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings				
Smith c van Wyk b Bracewell	5			
Petersen not out	96			
Amla c van Wyk b Gillespie	63			
Duminy not out	76			
Extras: (b-2, w-2, nb-2)	6			
Total: (For 2 wkts in 79 overs)	246			
To bat: De Villiers, Rudolph, Boucher, Steyn, Philander, Morkel, de Lange				
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-106				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Martin	15	3	49	0
Bracewell	17	3	46	1
Gillespie	20	4	68	1
Vettori	20	6	49	0
Brownlie	2	0	20	0
Williamson	5	0	12	0

Venus, Rafa advance

Tennis

AFP, Miami

Venus Williams, in only her second WTA match after a long illness layoff, upset world number three Petra Kvitova on Friday to reach the third round of the WTA and ATP Miami hardcourt tournament.

World number two Rafael Nadal cruised in his opener and women's top seed Victoria Azarenka stretched her win streak to 24 matches at the 9.6-million-dollar event, but seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Williams stole the show.

"It's definitely a big step forward," Williams said after her 6-4, 4-6, 6-0 win. "To win these matches definitely a lot of it is mental, to get out there and believe you're going to win and execute."

Williams withdrew from last year's US Open with the auto-immune disorder Sjogren's syndrome, an illness that saps energy and causes joint pain. Her first tournament match since then was a first-round triumph on Wednesday.

That put Williams up against Czech third seed Kvitova, who fought to reach a third set only to be overpowered by Williams after two hours and 18 minutes.

Kvitova was impressed with how well Williams played after seven months away in booking a third-round match-up with Canadian wildcard Aleksandra Wozniak, who defeated Romania's Monica Niculescu 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Williams said she was playing with new enthusiasm.

Spanish second seed Nadal began his quest for a first-ever Miami title by ousting

Colombia's Santiago Giraldo 6-2, 6-0 in 69 minutes, saying it was not as easy a victory as he made it seem.

Nadal next has a third-round date with Czech Radek Stepanek, who ousted Germany's Tommy Haas 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.

Women's world number one Azarenka eliminated Dutch player Michaella Krajicek 6-3, 7-5. Azarenka broke as Krajicek served for the second set, then held and broke again to close out the match after one hour and 42 minutes.

Azarenka, from Belarus, stretched her season-long win streak to 24 matches. She has the best start to a WTA season since Martina Hingis won 37 in a row in 1997.

Top seed Azarenka, who already has four titles this year, will next face British wildcard Heather Watson, who defeated Czech Lucie Safarova 6-2, 6-1. Azarenka has won both their prior meetings.

World number four Andy Murray eased into the third round by dispatching Colombia's Alejandro Falla 6-2, 6-3, avoiding a repeat of an embarrassing early ouster in Indian Wells.

Murray, 24, will next face big-serving Canadian 26th seed Milos Raonic, who advanced over France's Arnaud Clement 7-6 (9/7), 6-2.

Serbian world number one Novak Djokovic, winner of the past three Grand Slam men's singles tournaments, will start the defence of his title on Saturday against Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus.

Russia's Alisa Kleybanova, a former top-20 player who has missed the past 10 months battling Hodgkin's lymphoma, was beaten in her second-round match by compatriot Maria Kirilenko 7-6 (7/1), 6-3.

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Border Guard Bangladesh beat Bangladesh Prisons by 39-30 points in the lone match of the Independence Day Kabaddi Competition at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh Police will take on Bangladesh Police in today's match.

Div-II football

Swadhinata Krira Sangha defeated Friends Social Welfare Organization by 2- 1 goals in a super league match of the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolis 2nd Division Football at the Birshrestha Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Mohammad Hafiz scored first for Swadhinata KS in the 12th minute while Shahidur Rahman restored the parity for Friends SWO in the 35th minute.

Mohammad Robin scored the match-winning goal for Swadhinata KS in the 56th minute.

Independence Day basketball

Border Guard Bangladesh registered a one-point victory over Dhumketu Club in an exciting encounter of the Citycell Independence Day Basketball Tournament at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

BGB won the match by 72-71 points after the first half was tied at 40-40. Morshed of BGB and Amit of Dhumketu caged highest 34 points each for their respective sides.

In the other match of the day, Bangladesh Army sealed a comfortable 93-64 point victory over Bangladesh Air Force after leading the first half by 43-28 points. Army's Mithun netted 18 points, but the highest 25 points were caged by Air Force's Lincoln.

Plan school football

Green Herald International School, Motijheel Govt. Girls High School, Post Office High School and Rajdhani High School registered victories in the Plan Metropolis Women's School Football Tournament at different venues of the city yesterday. Green Herald beat Heed International School 1-0, Motijheel beat Siddeswary Girls High School 2-0, Post Office beat Notun Kuri High School 1-0 while Rajdghani beat Dawn Grammer School 2-0. The other match between BRAC School and Summerfield International School and the one between B.A.F Shaheen School and B.A.F Shaheen English Medium School ended in draws.

Pollard punishes Aus

FROM PAGE 16 have made chasing a bit easier," he said.

Earlier, Pollard brought up his second ODI century in emphatic fashion with a huge six over midwicket in the final over off Lee.

West Indies clobbered 145 runs off the last 12 overs with veteran quick Lee finishing with figures of 2 for 72 -- 23 of those runs coming off his final over.

Australia won the first match in Kingstown by 64 runs before West Indies won by five wickets in a rain-affected second match on Sunday.

That win ended the West Indies' miserable run of 15 defeats in 16 one-dayers against Australia. The third ODI on Tuesday ended in a thrilling tie while the final match takes place here on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

WESTINDIES				
Charles c Lee b Doherty	37			
Barath c Wade b McKay	41			
Samuels c Wade b Lee	11			
Darren Bravo c D Hussey b Watson	25			
Dwayne Bravo lbw b Doherty	0			
K Pollard c M Hussey b Lee	102			
A Russell c Bailey b Watson	34			
Sammy not out	31			
Baugh not out	0			
Extras: (lb-3, w-10)	13			
Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs)	294			
Did not bat: Narine, Roach				
Fall of wickets: 1-56, 2-83, 3-106, 4-106, 5-146, 6-240, 7-278				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	10	0	72	2
Hillfenhaus	10	1	43	0
McKay	10	1	43	0
Watson	10	0	55	2
Doherty	10	1	64	2

AUSTRALIA				
Watson c Roach b Sammy	28			
Warner c Narine b Dwayne Bravo	1			
Forrest c Charles b Sammy	24			
Bailey c Baugh b Russell	25			
M Hussey c Baugh b Russell	26			
D Hussey b Roach	57			

Wade c Russell b Pollard	16			
Lee c sub b Roach	59			
McKay c Pollard b Dwayne Bravo	2			
Doherty c Sammy b Narine	1			
Hillfenhaus not out	0			
Extras: (lb-1, w-11, nb-2)	13			
Total: (All out in 46.3 overs)	252			
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-56, 3-62, 4-111, 5-112, 6-179, 7-196, 8-235, 9-250				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Roach	9.3	0	74	2
Dwayne Bravo	6	0	47	2
Narine	10	0	21	1
Sammy	9	0	42	2
Russell	7	0	34	2
Samuels	3	0	17	0
Pollard	2	0	16	1

Result: West Indies won by 42 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Kieron Pollard.
Series: West Indies lead 2-1; one match tied.

Ireland thru' to T20 WC

AFP, Dubai

Ireland will play in the World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka after hammering Namibia by nine wickets in the preliminary final of the qualifying tournament here on Saturday.

The Irish, who will join Afghanistan as the two sides to make it through as qualifiers, made short work of a Namibia side who failed to impress with the bat.

The west Africans made just 94-6 off their allotted 20 overs, Ian Opperman top scoring with 26 not out.

South African-born Max Sorensen took 2-8 and Australian-born Trent Johnson 2-19 as Ireland pinned back Namibia, who had beaten the Irish by four runs in group play.

Ireland saw captain William Porterfield dismissed for 20 in their innings but Paul Stirling took immediate control, hitting nine fours and a six in his 32-ball knock of 59 not out that saw his side reach 96-1 in just 10.1 overs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- After-hrs. bank
- Mop the decks
- Rope fiber
- Weep
- Zeus' consort
- Addict
- Nemean Lion
- Bellow
- Longs
- Id counterpart
- Biblical verb suffix
- "A Bell for Adano" author
- Reacts in horror
- Muppet master
- Poolroom prop
- Lotion additive
- Obese
- Jung or Yastrzemski
- Red or Black
- Poorly lit

DOWN

- Needling a rub-down
- Genealogy chart
-
- Breckinridge
- Railroad switches
- From Cardiff
- Is pluralized
- Single
- Any of the "12 Angry Men"
- GI entertainment grp.
- Afternoon social
- Blunder
- Thin pancake
- Jewel
- Cicatrix
- Continental coin
- Holler
- Long cut
- Sheltered
- Take to the skies
- Toast
- Chess legend
- Bobby
- Bay of Naples island
- Society newbie
- Oafish
- Labyrinths
- T.S. Eliot's "cruellest month"
- Titlle
- Break suddenly
- Email alternative
- Winter mo.
- Anger
- Sharp turn
- Prior to

Solution time: 25 mins.									
S	H	U	T	C	A	F	E	O	D
L	A	V	A	A	R	I	A	N	E
O	N	E	L	I	N	E	R	S	E
P	S	A	L	S	O	P	E	M	A
O	P	C	O	L	O	R			
S	H	O	W	Y	O	U	A	M	O
I	O	N	A	N	T	E	W	E	
D	E	E	P	R	E	S	A	D	E
H	E	A	D	Y	A	D			
P	R	O	W	L	F	L	O	R	A
O	A	R	O	N	E	U	P	P	I
G	I	S	H	O	R	N	T	O	N
O	D	E	A	W	E	D	S	T	A

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
18								19	20			
								21			23	24
26	27	28				29				30		
31						32				33		
34						35				36		
37				38				39				
				40				41		42	43	44
45	46	47				48	49					
50						51				52		
53						54				55		

CRYPTOQUIP

O E D I V J F C X H U F U V Y U D J
V W P R U C W N O W K H U R I M O P P R
A H D X M H U . O Y C H N N X M D X ' N
A O W X H U - D I X O K H N V E X A D U H .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THESE GLASS LAB VESSELS COME FROM BRITAIN, I THINK OF THEM AS NATIVE ENGLISH BEAKERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals T