

ACC rejects Bangladesh complaint

AFP, Karachi

Cricket's governing body in Asia on Monday rejected a complaint from Bangladesh that one of their batsmen was obstructed by a Pakistani bowler in their recent Asia Cup final defeat. The complaint was rejected on the grounds that it was not reported by on-field umpires, an official said. Ashraf Hui, chief executive of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), said Bangladesh officially complained about the last over of the final, which Bangladesh narrowly lost.

"We had received Bangladesh's complaint but since the incident was not reported by the on-field umpires nothing can be done," Ashraf told AFP from Kuala Lumpur.

Bangladesh had appealed to the ACC to review the final over, accusing Pakistani paceman Aizaz Cheema of deliberately blocking batsman Mahmudullah Riyad from taking a second run.

Pakistan beat Bangladesh by two runs to lift the four-nation Asia Cup after a thrilling final on Thursday.

The Pakistan Cricket Board had expressed disappointment over Bangladesh's complaint, calling it an "after thought" after defeat.

Ashraf, who also hailed from Bangladesh, said the International Cricket Council (ICC) had also turned down the complaint.

"It could have happened then and there, in the final but since umpires and match-referee did not take any action then, so the matter is closed," said Ashraf.

"I think the Bangladesh team played so well in the whole tournament, beating India and Sri Lanka -- World Cup 2011 finalists -- was no mean achievement and although they lost the final, the Bangladesh team won millions of hearts."

Nat'l school cricket final today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Dhaka Metro Zone final of the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket will take place at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today.

Willes Little Flower School & College will take on Mirpur Bangla High School in the final.

Weightlifters shine in Nepal

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh won two gold medals in the First South Asian Weightlifting Championship that concluded on Sunday in Nepal, said a press release yesterday.

Mollah Sabira Sultana and Shahria Sultana did their country proud to hoist the national flag twice in Nepal as Sabira won the gold medal in the 48kg category while Shahria won the gold medal in the 75kg category.

Apart from the two golds, Bangladesh also won three silver medals and four bronze medals in the tournament where a total of six

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Shakib regains No 1 position

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan has returned as the No 1 ranked all-rounder in the latest Reliance ICC ODI Championship table after his tremendous performance in the Asia Cup which concluded last Thursday.

He earned 27 ratings points for his player-of-the-tournament performance and regained the position from Australia all-rounder Shane Watson, who had leapfrogged the former Bangladesh captain after the CB series, which finished on March 8 in Adelaide.

The 25-year-old began the Asia Cup with a valiant half-century and two wickets in the opening match against Pakistan before his momentum-shifting 49 in the win against world champions India. The short burst was enough to ignite a good start into a final flourish that helped the Tigers win the game in dramatic fashion. Shakib continued his good work with 56 in the Sri Lanka win before his final performance, against Pakistan, that saw him take two cheap wickets and later scoring 68 that almost won the Tigers the title.

The left-hander's 237 runs with the

bat put him in a career-best 12th position (up by 14 places) in the batsmen's rankings. Though he has slipped one place to eighth in the bowlers' list after his six wickets, the combination of two has meant he has moved ahead of Watson in the all-rounders' category.

It has been a tremendous few months for Shakib. After hitting a century and taking five wickets in the second Test against Pakistan, he elevated himself to the top of the Test all-rounders' rankings ahead of the South African great Jacques Kallis. In February, Shakib was adjudged the man-of-the-tournament in the inaugural edition of the Bangladesh Premier League before his spurt of runs in the Asia Cup.

Interestingly, Shakib missed out on hitting four consecutive half-centuries after falling just one run short of a fifty in the India game.

But during a week when he celebrated his 25th birthday (on March 24), Shakib would settle for one less accolade.

THE ALL-ROUNDER IN ASIA CUP		
Performance	Opponents	Date
2-39, 68	Pakistan	Mar 22
2-56, 56	Sri Lanka	Mar 10
0-63, 49	India	Mar 16
2-41, 64	Pakistan	Mar 11

INDEPENDENCE DAY EXHIBITION CRICKET MATCH

Green triumph over Red

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Green posted a nine-run victory against Bangladesh Red in the Independence Day Exhibition cricket match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Young wicketkeeper-batsman Anamul Haque, who was in the Asia Cup squad but didn't make his international debut, was adjudged man-of-the-match for his 103-ball 77 that featured seven fours and a six, but his effort went in vain as Bangladesh Red finished their 40-over quota on 209-7 in

reply to Green's 218 all out.

Marshal Ayub was the other notable scorer for Red with a 71-ball 68 that contained five fours and a six besides opener Mizanur Rahman's 35-ball 33 that saw six boundaries.

Elias Sunny picked up three wickets for 32 runs in 8 overs.

Earlier Arafat Sunny captured five wickets for 39 runs as Green were all out for 218 runs in the stipulated 40 overs.

Number six batsman Mominul Haque made 44 off 46 balls with six fours while Alok Kapali added 37 off 54

balls with three fours and a six.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH GREEN: 218 all out in 40 overs (Junaed 9, Mithun 11, Nafees 25, Kapali 37, Shuvagato 17, Mominul 44, Ziaur 24, Shuvo 31, Sunny 4, Abul 6; Reza 3-45, Sunny 5-39, Sohag 1-37) **BANGLADESH RED:** 209-7 in 40 overs (Mizanur 33, Anamul 77, Rokibul 0, Marshal 68, Asif 10, Nazmul 4, Reza 3 not out, Sohag 2, Qamrul 2 not out; Sunny 3-32, Shuvo 2-25, Mominul 1-36)

Result: Bangladesh Green won by nine runs.



Action from yesterday's Independence Day Hockey Tournament semifinal between Usha KC and Bangladesh Army at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium.

PHOTO: STAR

Mahela rules in ruins

Cricket

AFP, Galle

Skipper Mahela Jayawardene crafted a classy century to steer Sri Lanka out of trouble on the opening day of the first Test against England in Galle on Monday.

Jayawardene hit an unbeaten 168 as the hosts recovered from a disastrous 15-3 by the fourth over to move to 289-8 by stumps at a Galle International Stadium packed with some 8,000 English supporters.

Fast bowler James Anderson claimed two wickets off successive balls in his second over and new-ball partner Stuart Broad chipped in with the third after Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bat.

Jayawardene retrieved the situation by adding 52 for the fourth wicket with Thilan Samaraweera (20) and 61 for the fifth with young batsman Dinesh Chandimal (27).



PHOTO: AFP

ALL CAN ONLY APPLAUD: Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene raises his bat upon completing his 30th Test century during the first day of the first Test against England at Galle yesterday.

BFF polls on schedule

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The election of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will take place on schedule on April 28 with anyone related to football eligible to compete in the coming polls.

The BFF seemingly made a U-turn yesterday after they hinted on Sunday that the polls might be deferred by a couple of months in a bid to settle the issue regarding the candidature, even though the matter is clearly mentioned in the statute.

"We all are convinced that a person, who is not a councillor of BFF but is a football

related person, can compete in the election but he must be proposed by a BFF affiliated body and supported by another affiliated body," said BFF member Anwarul Haque Helal after attending the adjourned meeting of the BFF executive committee.

"Actually there is no ambiguity regarding the candidature in the statute as the matter was incorporated in the statute in 2008 but it no one noticed before the polls at that time," said Helal. "If a person, who is not related to football, comes to compete in the election, he will lose his eligibility if others bring objection against him."

The meeting also appointed government

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Usha to face MSC in final

Hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Usha Krira Chakra moved into the final of the Dhaka Bank Independence Cup Hockey Tournament with a 3-1 win over Bangladesh Army at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Usha KC will now face the star-studded Mohammedan Sporting Club in Wednesday's final at the same venue.

The result might give the false impression that Usha, who this season formed their squad roping in BKSP students along with a few veteran players, easily overcame the challenge posed by the national champions, but the reality is that Bangladesh Army gave Usha a run for their money before going down.

Three-time premier league champions Usha took 15 minutes to seize the lead when national striker Iqbal Nadir Prince found the back of the Army net through a field goal.

Both sides created chances in the intense battle but they

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Pune after Clarke too

AFP, Sydney

Australia captain Michael Clarke has confirmed he is in talks to join Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Pune Warriors, reports said Monday.

Clarke told reporters before leaving Sunday to join the Australian team in the West Indies that his management was negotiating with Pune to play in the IPL.

The Australia skipper stayed behind and missed the one-day series in the Caribbean to treat a hamstring injury.

"That opportunity has been presented to my management company and I," Clarke was quoted in newspapers Monday.

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