

Referee Azad suspended

SPORTS REPORTER

Referee Azad Rahman has been suspended for his faulty conduction of the Grameenphone Federation Cup final between Sheikh Russel KC and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club last month.

"Azad Rahman will remain suspended until the next decision regarding him is taken," said Bangladesh Football Federation acting general secretary Abu Nayem Shohag said.

"He will be served a show-cause notice asking why a penalty could not be taken against him for his mistakes during the Federation Cup final."

Azad Rahman ignored a penalty appeal from Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club on 61 minute and Sheikh Russel came from behind to beat Sheikh Jamal 2-1 in the final to win their first trophy.

The Referees' Committee yesterday sat to evaluate the performances of the referees at the Federation Cup and the decision was taken at the meeting. The meeting also decided to conduct a seminar for the referees before the start of the professional football league and send referees to participating clubs to make the officials aware about new rules of regulations of the game.

BFF Juniors take on Yeti today

SPORTS REPORTER

BFF Junior XI take on Yeti Himalayan Sherpa Club in the quarterfinal of the Safal Pokhara Cup at the Pokhara Stadium today.

The match is scheduled to start at 2:30pm Bangladesh time.

The BFF Junior XI were scheduled to play their quarterfinal on Tuesday but the delayed arrival of the Kolkata outfit Port Trust Club has forced the organisers to bring Bangladesh's ahead on Monday. Port Trust will face MMC on Tuesday.

Saiful Bari Titu, who is in charge of the BFF Junior XI, guided Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club to triumph in the last edition of the tournament.

Riyad's focus

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months, it wasn't an 'impossible task. "We didn't have a lot of time to play the longer version of the game due to a busy calendar. However, players like Tamim (Iqbal) and (Abdur) Razzaq have shown that it's possible to adjust quickly."

"Currently, I am losing my wicket early. But I am practising hard in the nets and I hope to make amends before the series," added the all-rounder.

Maruful takes

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will be given some tasks for another two weeks and then I will have to attend a three-week training and examination in June next for the final certificate of UEFA A-license," informed Maruful yesterday.

The former coach of Muktijoddha Sagnas and Mohannedan is expected to arrive here on November 16 after taking part in the seven-day preparatory course to guide his club in the upcoming professional football league.



New Zealand captain Ross Taylor pulls one on way to 72 in the second one-day international against Sri Lanka at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

SL win rain-hit match

Cricket

AFP, Pallekele

Sri Lanka posted a 14-run victory over New Zealand by Duckworth-Lewis (D/L) method in the rain-hit second one-day international on Sunday to gain a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The day-night match was keenly poised when play was called off due to rain in Pallekele as Sri Lanka were 118-3 off 22.5 overs chasing a 251-run target. They were ahead of the D/L parscore of 104 at that stage.

Skipper Ross Taylor and Bradley-John Watling earlier hit half-centuries to help New Zealand post a competitive total.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND

Nicol c Sangakkara b Perera	46
Jayawardene w a s	2
unbeaten on 43 with	
Angelo Mathews (seven	
not out). Tillakaratne	
Dilshan (37), Kumar	
Sangakkara (11) and Upul	
Tharanga (six) were the	
batsmen dismissed, while	

Total: (For six wkt in 50 overs) 250

Result: Sri Lanka won by 14 runs (D/L)

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-100, 3-130, 4-221, 5-242, 6-250.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Malinda	10	0	39	2
Kulasekara	10	1	50	1
Mathews	7	0	38	1
Perera	7	0	52	1
Herath	10	0	28	1
Mendis	6	0	34	0

SRI LANKA

Tharanga c Watling b Mills	6
Dilshan c Williamson b McCullum	37
Sangakkara c Nicol b Boult	11
Jayawardene not out	43
Mathews not out	7
Extras: (lb-8, w-6)	14
Total: (For 3 wkt in 22.5 overs)	118
Did not bat: Thirimanne, Mendis, Perera, Kulasekara, Herath, Malina	

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-39, 3-98.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	5	0	33	1
Boult	6	0	26	1
Southee	4	0	16	0
Franklin	3	0	16	0
McCullum	2.5	0	12	1
Ellis b Malinga	4	0	12	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, w-11)	20			
Nicol	2	0	7	0

Result: Sri Lanka won by 14 runs (D/L)

Windies touch down today

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saw the end of Shakib Al Hasan's captaincy.

The home side's preparation for this series hasn't been particularly great either. Oddly enough, the national players were busy preparing for the Twenty20 world cup for the last six months, a tournament which they ended up exiting in the first round. Furthermore, the national players will go into the series after having played just two rounds of the National Cricket League, a competition that was delayed due to various internal problems faced by the

As things stand now, the only bright aspect of this series, from the Bangladesh perspective, seems to be the crowning of the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna as the country's seventh Test venue. The second Test match of the two-match series will be played in Khulna on November 21.

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Having talked with the representatives of the clubs after the official press conference, it appeared that the clubs wanted their direct involvement in the activities of the professional football league committee and to take control of the referees from the referees' committee.

Besides, they wanted the football governing body to talk with the clubs before taking any decision such as the national football camp, finalising the schedules of professional football league, suspension or deferment of the league.

PFCA kicks off

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that the object of club association would also be to develop new footballers and take care of the players' interest.

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Tourists toil in Mumbai

AFP, Mumbai

England's bowlers got a taste of what may lie ahead in the Test series against India after they were made to toil hard for wickets in a practice match in Mumbai on Sunday.

The tourists struggled on the field as Mumbai A, replying to England's first innings score of 345-9, cruised to 232-4 by stumps on the second day of the three-day match at the DY Patil Stadium.

Cheteshwar Pujara, one of the non-Mumbai players in the home side, warmed up for the four-Test series with a polished 87 on an even-paced wicket that offered no assistance to the bowlers.

Pujara, the current number three batsman in the Indian Test team, hit 11 boundaries as he put on 163 for the third wicket with Hikmat Shah (84 not out) after Mumbai A had slipped to 47-2.

The tourists, who started the day on 338-6, lost three wickets for seven runs before standing in captain Stuart Broad declared 30 minutes after the start.

Mark Webber got off to a shocker and was immediately passed by the flying Raikkonen and Pastor Maldonado.

On the second lap Hamilton, who complained about the coldness of his tyres,

Vettel fights back

THE GUARDIAN



Sebastian Vettel produced one of the greatest drives of his young life on Sunday, starting last from the pit lane to finish third in the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix and retain his world championship lead over Fernando Alonso, who was second.

Kimi Raikkonen became the eighth race winner of the season, giving Lotus their first win since Ayrton Senna drove for them back in 1987. It was Raikkonen's 19th win of his career and his first since the Belgian Grand Prix of 2009.

But there was another desperate disappointment for McLaren's Lewis Hamilton, who had the race in his pocket when he retired with electrical problems on the 20th lap.

It was Vettel, followed by Alonso, who were the main talking points. Vettel overcame not one but two wing-damaging incidents to his Red Bull and also changed his tyres twice but still managed to get on the podium, passing Jenson Button in the closing stages of a superb race.

Abu Dhabi and Valencia do not have a reputation for providing great action but in an enthralling season they have been arguably the best contests.

Hamilton flew out of the blocks at the start, putting behind him not only the rest of the field but the memory of a number of poor starts in recent races.

Mark Webber got off to a shocker and was immediately passed by the flying Raikkonen and Pastor Maldonado.

On the second lap Hamilton, who complained about the coldness of his tyres,

appeared threatened by Raikkonen. But soon he would start to pull away.

By the fourth lap he had got enough heat into those tyres to extend his advantage to 2.3 seconds. A long way further back, meanwhile, Vettel had made light of his wing damage to move up to 14th. Then he went off the track to pass Romain Grosjean, before being told to let the Lotus driver back in front to avoid a penalty.

The introduction of the first safety car, after Nico Rosberg had crashed out in his Mercedes, hit Hamilton, because by then his lead was 3.8 seconds over Raikkonen.

But then a desperately disappointed Hamilton fell out of the race on the 20th lap, immediately after recording the fastest lap. The hugs from the McLaren team principal Martin Whitmarsh and the rest of the team when he returned to base was a very poor consolation for the 2008 world champion.

Meanwhile Webber was having one of the most eventful races of his career. He clashed with Maldonado when he squeezed the Williams driver as he overtook him – a dangerous thing to do because Maldonado is not one to yield.

Webber lost three places but five laps later, halfway through the race, he had another clash, this time with Felipe Massa. Both collisions were dismissed as racing incidents. However Webber's next clash, this time with his old crash-buddy Grosjean, proved terminal for the Australian's race.

But at the end it was not Webber but his Red Bull team-mate Vettel who was the taste of Abu Dhabi, and the German still holds a 10-point lead heading into the final two races.

Gibson targets No. 5

Cricket

CRICINFO, Port of Spain

Ottis Gibson, the West Indies coach, wants his side to build on their success in 2012 by making it to the top five in the ICC Test rankings in 12 months' time. West Indies are currently at No. 7, above New Zealand and bottom-placed Bangladesh, their opponents in the forthcoming two-Test tour starting November 13 in Mirpur.

West Indies lost the home series 2-0 against Australia before heading to England and conceding the Test series by the same margin. But they returned home and swept both Tests against a struggling New Zealand side, in addition to dominating the limited-overs matches. They carried forward their momentum to Sri Lanka where they lifted the World Twenty20 trophy.

"We have had a pretty solid 2012 so far so we want to finish on a winning note," Gibson said in Barbados before the team's departure for Bangladesh. "The aim is to find ways of moving up the [Test rankings] table. Because Bangladesh are below us, we will only be playing for two or three points. Our aim is to break into the top five in the next 12 months if possible."

West Indies suffered a setback when the fast bowler Kemar Roach suffered a knee injury during a club game in Barbados and had to pull out of the tour. He was replaced by Fidel Edwards. Gibson

conceded that this was a blow, but was confident that Edwards, Ravi Rampaul and Tino Best would shoulder the responsibility well in foreign conditions.

Gibson said Roach's example was an eye opener for cricket boards to take steps to manage the workloads of certain players by ensuring they