

# SPORT

## ACSU report arrives tonight

ICC-BCB press conference tomorrow

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The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will finally get their hands on the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) much anticipated anti-corruption report on suspected match fixing in the country as delegates from the ICC are scheduled to arrive in the country tonight with the report.

The delegation, which is expected to consist of four to five members, may also include ICC's CEO Dave Richardson and communication manager Sami-Ul-Hasan. "The ICC's delegates are coming tomorrow night (Monday). The number of delegates is yet to be confirmed; it may be four or five," said BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury.

The ICC's delegates, along with the BCB, will then host a press conference tomorrow afternoon where they are expected to reveal the desired punishment for cricketer Mohammad Ashraful, who recently confessed to match-fixing, and also reveal the names of anyone else found to be involved in the same.

While it is still unsure whether anybody else apart from Ashraful is involved, a number of cricketers, former cricketers and officials of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) have been interrogated by the ICC's Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) on similar grounds. BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon had hinted at the possibility of other names cropping up in the report but none of Ashraful's stature.

The range of the punishment of those deemed guilty has been another point of speculation. The ICC's anti-corruption code has the scope to provide a lifetime ban on anyone who has been involved in corruption in cricket. With regards to Ashraful, however, there has been talk about the possibility of decreasing the intensity of the punishment for his apparent cooperation with the ICC's officials.

Speculations however will finally come to an end over the next two days. Ashraful is expected to know his fate before the scheduled press conference on Monday. "They have let me know that they are coming and they told me that they would talk to me on Monday and let me know the finer details," Ashraful told The Daily Star.



World's fastest man Jamaican Usain Bolt (C) leaves the chasing pack in his wake to win the blue riband men's 100 metres gold in the IAAF World Championships at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Pakistan not coming

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team's much-needed match against Pakistan ahead of the SAFF Championship has been cancelled.

The Pakistan Football Federation informed the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Saturday night of their decision not to send their team due to political unrest and upcoming strikes in Bangladesh, confirmed a BFF official.

"They have just informed us through e-mail last night (Saturday). This is unfortunate, but we have to respect their decision as they have expressed their concerns over the political unrest and the strikes," informed Abu Nayeem Shohag, general secretary of BFF yesterday.

The Pakistan national team were scheduled to arrive here today and play two matches -- the first one on August

13 against BFF XI and the second one against the Bangladesh national team on September 16. But in the wake of the nationwide strikes called on August 13 and 14 by Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, the PFF took the late decision according to the BFF official.

However, reporting from Karachi an Indian news channel on its website quoted an unnamed PFF official as saying that the BFF was unable to host the series due to unrest, a claim which was rubbished by the BFF.

Whatever the reason, the cancellation of Pakistan's tour means Bangladesh may have to embark on the SAFF Championship campaign without practice matches against any national side. Rene Koster, the assistant coach of the team who is overseeing the training camp on behalf of head coach Lodewijk de Kruij, termed the cancellation of Pakistan's tour as a 'terrible' thing.

"I am shocked at the news. We need to play against national sides. So Pakistan's tour cancellation is a terrible thing," said Koster yesterday before resuming the training after a two-day Eid break.

"The NTC (National Teams Committee) may meet and decide the next course of action, but given the number of working days left before Bangladesh leave for Nepal, it might be difficult to invite any other team to play here," informed Shohag, adding that they are trying to arrange a practice match within a couple of days against the foreign players of the Bangladesh Premier League who are currently here.

The head coach of the national side, Lodewijk de Kruij, is expected to arrive on August 13. The team will leave for Nepal on August 24 to acclimatise to the high-altitude conditions. The tournament kicks off on August 31 and Bangladesh will take on hosts Nepal at the Dashrath Stadium on the opening day.

## Moscow Bolt-struck

AFP, Moscow

Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt lifted track and field out of the doping doldrums as he reclaimed his world 100m title in emphatic style on Sunday.

Bolt clocked a season's best 9.77 seconds in heavy rain at the Luzhniki Stadium, with American Justin Gatlin claiming silver in 9.85sec and Nesta Carter, also of Jamaica, taking bronze in 9.95sec.

Athletics' credibility had again been called to account in recent weeks, notably after American sprint rival Tyson Gay and Asafa Powell tested positive for drugs.

Once again it was Bolt, the powerfully-built 26-year-old world record holder in both the 100 and 200m, who came to the rescue, at least in the short term.

The sole blot on the Jamaican's copybook since winning treble gold at

the 2008 Beijing Olympics was a false start two years ago in the Daegu world trials that saw now-injured teammate Yohan Blake take the blue riband title.

The race itself was "classic" Bolt in front of a Luzhniki Stadium that was far from being a sell-out in stormy weather.

Modestly, but safely, out of the blocks, Bolt's head and shoulders remained low as he drove into the opening metres.

While his reaction time might have been slower than all but one other in the field, he soon reeled in the opposition. Come the 50 metre mark and Bolt pushed his huge frame through his renowned transition phase, head coming up and long legs pumping, teeth gritted and eyes on the big screen beyond the finish line.

He moved past Gatlin on his left and had a brief look over at Carter on his right before putting on the after-burners.

In the build-up to the evening ses-

sion, the "Bolt effect" could be seen in the crowd, as one of sport's biggest names once again proved his worth as an athlete and main drawcard for a track and field meet.

The sparsely-populated stadium had filled out and excitement grew as the race approached.

With Bob Marley blazing over the tannoy, television cameras picked out each racer, but played on Bolt in lane six, dressed in black and green shorts and the yellow and black singlet of the Jamaican team.

To the delight of the crowd, he mimed getting out a portable umbrella as heavy rain started to fall, drawing laughter and applause.

As the starter called them to the blocks, Bolt put a finger to his lips to hush the crowd, briefly crossing himself and looking skywards as the television zoomed in and his picture was broadcast on the big stadium screen

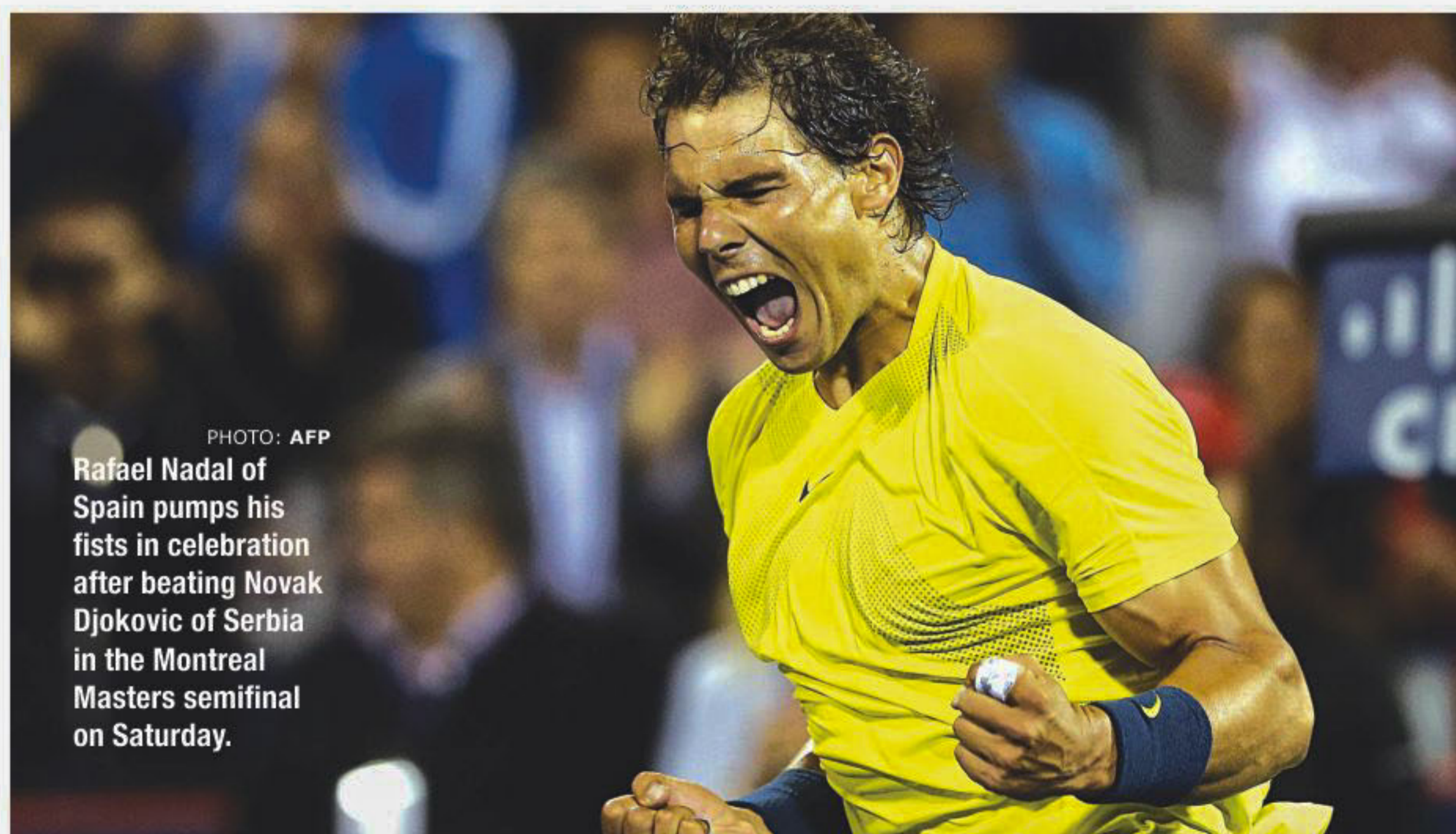
## Kalk for goalies

SPORTS REPORTER

The national football team's camp resumed yesterday after the Eid-ul-Fitr break, with the addition of a goalkeeping coach Kees Kalk from Netherlands. The 55-year-old UEFA B-licensed coach arrived in the early hours of Sunday and oversaw the practice session in the afternoon under coach Rene Koster. The former AZ Youth Academy (AZ Alkmaar of Netherlands) coach has initially been hired on a two-month assignment, especially for the SAFF Championship, and the term may be extended depending on his performance. The former AZ Youth Academy and AZ Women's team's goalkeeping coach said his job ahead of the SAFF Championship would be to inject tactical sense into goalkeepers and make them understand how they can work cohesively with defenders.

"The goalkeepers' performance depends not only on his own, but also on the team combination and the cohesiveness with his players. So it has to be a holistic effort," said Kalk after the practice session at the BFF Turf yesterday.

Fourth seed Nadal, champion in the event in 2005 and 2008, defeated



## Nadal fights past Djokovic

AFP, Montreal

Rafael Nadal held off Novak Djokovic in three tense sets Saturday and will now try and stop Canadian Milos Raonic from making more tennis history at the Montreal Masters on Monday.

Fourth seed Nadal, champion in the event in 2005 and 2008, defeated

top seed and two-time defending champion Djokovic 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7/2) to reach his 10th final of the season.

Raonic, meanwhile, became the first Canadian into the tournament's final since 1958, when Robert Bedard won it.

Raonic booked his place with a 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7/4) victory over compatriot Vasek Pospisil, and with the win ensured he'll be the first Canadian ever to reach the top 10 in the ATP

world rankings.

Raonic will have his work cut out against Nadal. The Spaniard has won all three of their prior encounters, including two on hardcourts.

Nadal's two-hour, 20-minute struggle with Djokovic was a tight affair, with small margins determining victory.

Nadal dominated the third-set tiebreaker, taking a 6-0 lead. Djokovic saved two match points before falling.

## Bell ton rescues Eng

AFP, Chester-le-Street

Ian Bell's third hundred of this Ashes series rescued England from another top-order collapse and left them well-placed at stumps on Sunday's third day of the fourth Test at Chester-le-Street.

England were 234 for five in their second innings, a lead of 202 runs, with Bell 105 not out and nightwatchman Tim Bresnan unbeaten on four.

They'd been in dire straits at 49 for three when Bell, who earlier in his Test career was criticised for not making runs when they were most needed, came to the crease following a treble strike by fast bowler Ryan Harris.

But a fourth-wicket partnership of 106 between Bell and Kevin Pietersen (44) checked Australia's advance. Bell then added 66 with Jonny Bairstow (28) before the Yorkshireman was out shortly before stumps, caught behind off spinner Nathan Lyon.

Having twice made 109 in England's victories at Trent Bridge and Lord's that left them 2-0 up ahead of the drawn third Test at Old Trafford that saw his side retain the Ashes, Bell's latest century gave the hosts hope

of securing a win in this match that would see them take the five-match series outright.

Harris took three England top-order wickets for 18 runs in 24 balls.

He first bowled Joe Root (two) with a superb seaming delivery that clipped the top of off stump.

And, with conditions still overcast, he had England captain Alastair Cook, on 22, nicking a loose drive to wicketkeeper Brad Haddin.

Jonathan Trott then gloved Harris and was well caught down the legside by a leaping Haddin for 23.

Earlier, England dismissed Australia for 270, the tourists held to a slender first innings lead of 32.

Australia resumed Sunday on 222 for five, with Rogers 101 not out following the 35-year-old left-handed opener's maiden Test hundred on Saturday, made in the face of excellent seam bowling from Stuart Broad, who finished the innings with five wickets for 71 runs.

Rogers had added just nine when, pushing forward defensively to off-spinner Graeme Swann, he was brilliantly caught off glove and pad for 110 by wicketkeeper Matt Prior, diving in front of the stumps, although England had to review umpire Tony Hill's original not out decision.

### SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First innings 238 (Cook 51; Lyon 4-42)				
AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 222-5)				
Rogers c Prior b Swann	110			
Warner b Broad	3			
Khawaja c Prior b Broad	0			
Clarke c Cook b Broad	6			
Smith c Prior b Bresnan	17			
Watson c Prior b Broad	68			
Haddin lbw b Swann	13			
Siddle c Cook b Anderson	5			
Harris lbw b Broad	28			
Lyon lbw b Anderson	4			
Bird not out	0			
Extras: (b-2, lb-11, w-1, nb-2)	16			
Total: (All out in 89.3 overs)	270			
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-12, 3-49, 4-76, 5-205, 6-224, 7-233, 8-245, 9-258.				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Anderson	25	8	65	2
Broad	24.3	7	71	5
Bresnan	19	3	63	1
Swann	18	5	48	2
Trott	3	0	10	0
ENGLAND: 2nd Innings				
Cook c Haddin b Harris	22			
Root b Harris	2			
Trott c Haddin b Harris	23			
Pietersen c Rogers b Lyon	44			
Bell not out	105			
Bairstow c Haddin b Lyon	28			
Bresnan not out	4			
Extras: (b4, lb2)	6			
Total: (For 5 wickets in 74 overs)	234			
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-42, 3-49, 4-155, 5-221				
To bat: Prior, Broad, Swann, Anderson				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Harris	20	1	74	3
Bird	17.3	5	45	0
Watson	6.3	1	22	0