

# Full-strength squads for Asian Games

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday officially announced their best possible T20 squad, sans captain Mushfiqur Rahim and all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, for the 17th Asian Games due to take place at Incheon, South Korea this year.

Mushfiqur was excused for his wedding due on September 27 while Shakib is serving a suspension.

This means that the national players will be taking part in three international assignments in as many months and are not scheduled to get much of a break. The Tigers have already reached Grenada to begin their tour of the West Indies with the first ODI on August 20. The Caribbean tour ends on September 17. The Tigers will then have to go to Korea to take part in the T20 tournament of the Games which begins from September 19 and ends on October 4. Following that the Tigers will play three Tests and five ODIs at home against the Zimbabweans; who arrive on October 17.

Mohammad Ashraful led the Tigers to gold in the last Asian Games in 2010.

The squad has four changes from the Bangladesh team that is currently in the West Indies to play three one-day internationals and a Twenty20 International.

Apart from skipper Mushfiqur, the selectors have overlooked Mominul Haque, Abdur Razzak and Rubel Hossain.

All-rounders Sabbir Rahman, Shuvagoto Hom, Muktar Ali and left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny took their places.

A captain is yet to be announced for the team officially, but according to BCB insiders Mashrafe is expected to lead the side.

"As per the policy of the board we have fielded the best possible T20 team. We are the defending champions and we should be able to keep that title. Muktar Ali has performed well in the past so we gave him a go. On the whole it's a balanced side," said chief selector Faruque Ahmed.

Sri Lanka is the only other Test nation to participate in the men's cricket event. They will also be sending a team for the women's event. Pakistan will be sending only their women's team. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided not to send any team to the event.

According to the Asian Cricket Council website, South Korea, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka have made their entries so far in men's cricket.

The squad for the Bangladesh women's team which won silver last year, losing to Pakistan in the finals, was also announced yesterday with five changes from the team that played the last Games.

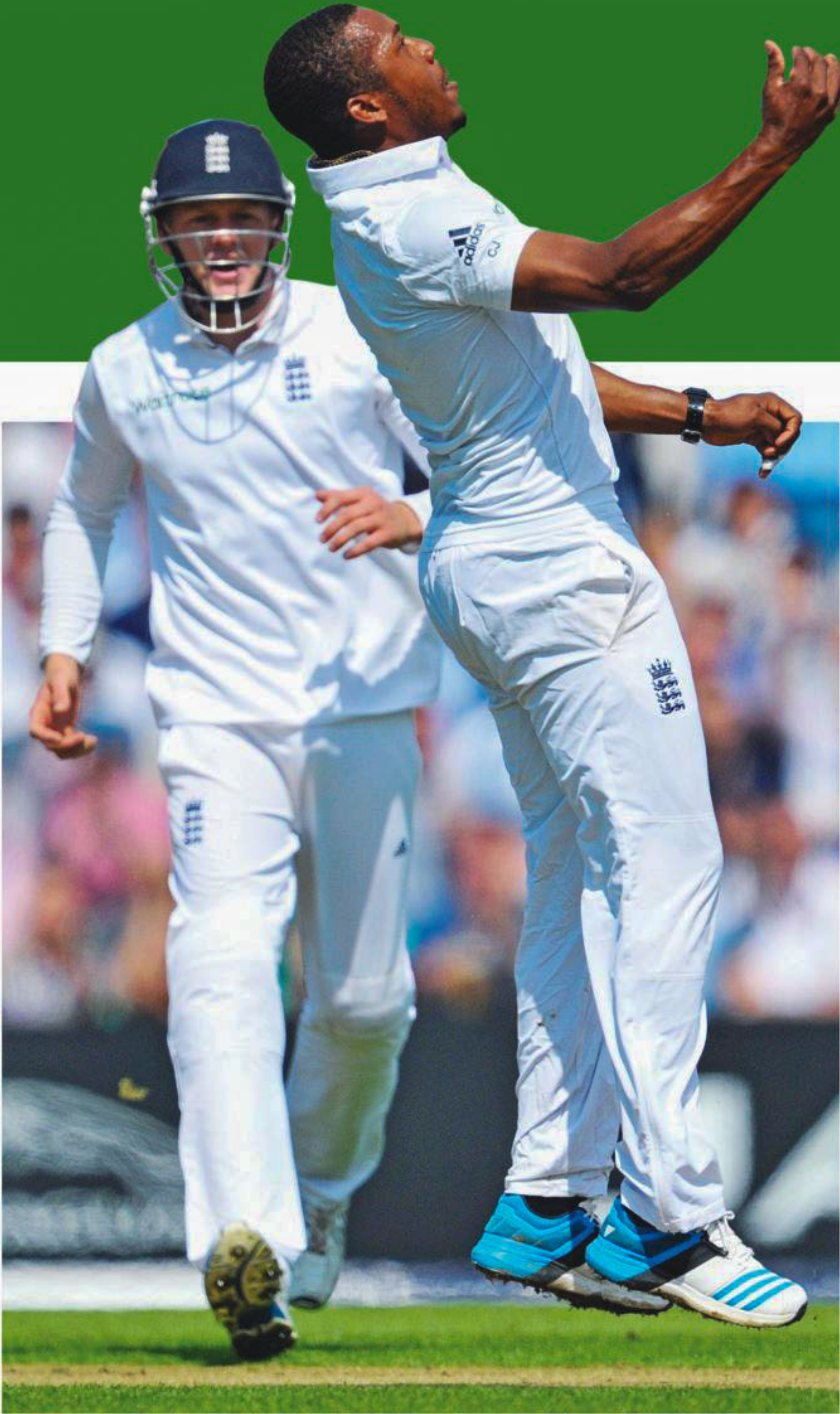
The format of the tournament is yet to be decided.

## MEN'S SQUAD

Tamim Iqbal, Anamul Hoque Bijoy, Imrul Kayes, Mohammad Mithun, Shamsur Rahman, Shuvagata Hom Chowdhury, Sabbir Rahaman, Mahmudullah Riyad, Nasir Hossain, Shohag Gazi, Arafat Sunny, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Muktar Ali, Al-Amin Hossain, Taskin Ahmed

## WOMEN'S SQUAD

Rumana Ahmed, Shaila Sharmin, Lata Mondol, Khadiza-Tul Kubra, Fargana H. Pinky, Salma Khatun, Panna Ghosh, Nuzhat Tasnia, Jahanara Alam, Ayasha Rahman, Fahima Khatun, Sanjida Islam, Sharmin Akter Supta, Shohaly Akther, Shahnaz Parvin



England fast bowler Chris Jordan throws the ball up in the air in delight after inducing India batsman Ajinkya Rahane to offer a return catch on the first day of the fifth and final Test at The Oval yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Tigers reach sans luggage

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The Bangladesh cricket team reached Grenada on Thursday night as scheduled. They however faced a slight logistical problem as the national team reached their destination without 12 pieces of luggage.

Manager Habibul Bashar informed the board that there was a delay in the national team's flight from Dubai to Gatwick. The flight authorities at Gatwick waited for the team for close to an hour after which they left for Grenada with the players but without their luggage.

It was however learnt that the players reached Grenada on time and that there were no other hassles.

The Tigers will play a warm-up one-day game on Sunday at Progress Park. The first two ODIs will take place at the National Stadium on August 20 and 22.

The players then travel to St Kitts, where they will play the third ODI and the only T20I on August 25 and 27.

## Athlete loses gold for stripping

INTERNET

Mahiedine Mekhiss-Benabbad, a French athlete of Algerian origin, competing in the 3000m steepchase at the European Championships, took his shirt off in celebration before he even finished his race, and was then disqualified. The incident happened on Thursday in Zurich, Switzerland where the event is taking place.

The officials failed to see the funny side and the 29-year-old was shown a yellow card for his troubles. Worse was to come for the Frenchman, though, as he was then disqualified completely.

Spain then protested that Mekhiss-Benabbad should be disqualified from the race, citing rules on 'clothing, shoes and bibs'.



5-STAR RANGANA: Sri Lanka spinner Rangana Herath (R) exults after snaffling Pakistan batsman Asad Shafiq (not pictured) during the second day of the second and final Test in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Same old jittery India

AFP, London



India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni stood alone as the tourists suffered yet another batting collapse to hand England the advantage on the first day of the fifth and final Test at The Oval on Friday.

England were 62 without loss in reply to India's meagre 148 all out, a deficit of 86 runs.

England captain Alastair Cook was 24 not out and Australia-born Sam Robson, driving well after a run of low scores, 33 not out as the hosts looked to extend their 2-1 series lead.

Earlier, Dhoni made 82 in an innings where only Murali Vijay (18) and Ravichandran Ashwin (13) also got into double figures.

Seam-bowling all-rounders Chris Woakes and Chris Jordan took three wickets apiece after James Anderson and Stuart Broad, who had two each, quickly justified Cook's decision to field first in overcast conditions on a green-tinged pitch.

Anderson, who started this match seven wickets shy of Ian Botham's England record of 383 Test wickets, had opener Gautam Gambhir, trying to withdraw his bat, caught behind for a golden duck off the fourth ball of the match.

Broad, passed fit despite suffering a broken

SCOREBOARD				
<b>INDIA:</b> First innings				
Vijay c Root b Woakes				18
Gambhir c Buttler b Anderson				0
Pujara b Broad				4
Kohli lbw b Jordan				6
Rahane c & b Jordan				0
Dhoni c Woakes b Broad				82
Binny c Cook b Anderson				5
Ashwin c Root b Woakes				13
Kumar c Buttler b Jordan				5
Aaron c & b Woakes				1
Sharma not out				7
Extras: (b-6, lb-1)				7
<b>Total:</b> (All out in 61.1 overs)				148
<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-3, 2-10, 3-26, 4-28, 5-36, 6-44, 7-68, 8-79, 9-90, 10-148				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Anderson	17	4	51	2
Broad	15.1	4	27	2
Jordan	14	7	32	3
Woakes	14	7	30	3
Moeen	1	0	1	0
<b>ENGLAND:</b> First innings				
Cook not out				24
Robson not out				33
Extras: (b-4, w-1)				5
<b>Total:</b> (For 0 wkt in 19 overs)				62
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Kumar	7	1	25	0
Sharma	7	2	12	0
Aaron	3	0	14	0
Binny	2	0	7	0
<b>Toss:</b> England				

nose while batting in Manchester, then dismissed Cheteshwar Pujara (four) when the ball deflected onto his stumps via pad and arm.

Virat Kohli's miserable series continued when, playing no stroke, he was leg-before to Chris Jordan for six. Jordan then caught and bowled Ajinkya Rahane for the first duck of his Test career. Vijay survived for more than 90 minutes but he fell when edging Woakes to Joe Root at fourth slip. India were now 36 for five inside 19 overs and went to lunch at 43 for five, with Dhoni six not out.

That soon became 44 for six when recalled all-rounder Stuart Binny edged a full length Anderson delivery that swung late to Cook at first slip. Wickets continued to fall as the floodlights pierced the gloom and India should have been out for 95, but Ian Bell dropped last man Ishant Sharma in the slips.

Dhoni's defiant knock -- which featured 66 runs in boundaries (15 fours and a six) -- ended when the number six pulled Broad straight to Woakes at long leg.

England got through to the close with few alarms although Cook had a fortunate escape, on nine, when Bhuvneshwar Kumar appealed for leg-before against the left-hander.

However, Paul Reiffel ruled not out. Replays showed the ball had pitched in line and would have hit the stumps.

# Herath stymies Pakistan

AFP, Colombo



Test cricket's top-ranked spinner Rangana Herath skittled Pakistan's top order on way to surpassing the 250-wicket mark to put Sri Lanka on top in the second

Test in Colombo on Friday.

The 36-year-old left-arm bowler grabbed five wickets as Pakistan, replying to Sri Lanka's first innings total of 320, were reduced to 140-5 after tea on the second day at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

The sixth-wicket pair of Asad Shafiq and Sarfraz Ahmed stemmed the rot with a 93-run stand that lifted the tourists to 244-6 by stumps, still trailing by 76 runs with four wickets in hand.

Shafiq became Herath's 251st victim, bowled for 42 just before stumps, but Sarfraz remained unbeaten on a fighting 66 in a match the tourists must win to level the two-match series.

Herath, playing his 57th Test, is only the third Sri Lankan bowler to reach the 250-wicket mark after world record holder Muttiah Muralitharan (800) and Chaminda Vaas (355).

Opener Ahmed Shehzad anchored the innings with 58, but his dismissal just before tea turned the tide in Sri Lanka's favour as Pakistan lost four wickets in the space of 30

runs.

Shehzad had put on 47 for the first wicket with Khurram Manzoor and 63 for the second with Azhar Ali to lift the total to 110-1 before the collapse on either side of tea.

Earlier, Sri Lanka's last two wickets added 59 useful runs to the overnight score of 261-8 before the hosts were all out 45 minutes before lunch.

Number 11 batsman Chanaka Welegedara returned unbeaten on 27 after adding 36 for the last wicket with Herath (17).

Left-arm seamer Junaid Khan finished with five for 87, with all his five career five-wicket hauls coming against Sri Lanka.

Fellow seamer Wahab Riaz claimed three for 88. Herath broke the opening partnership two deliveries before lunch when he had Manzoor caught behind by wicket-keeper Niroshan Dickwella for 23.

Ali looked settled while making 32 when he stepped out against Herath, mistimed the shot and gave Angelo Mathews an easy catch at short mid-wicket.

Shehzad fell soon after, edging a pull off Dilruwan Perera to be caught down the leg-side by the wicket-keeper.

Shehzad was on 37 when he was reprieved by the Decision Review System (DRS) after being given out leg-before off Herath by English umpire Richard Illingworth.

SCOREBOARD				
<b>SRI LANKA:</b> First innings (overnight 261-8)				
Tharanga c Azhar b Riaz				92
Silva c Sarfraz b Junaid				41
Sangakkara b Riaz				22
Jayawardene lbw b Ajmal				4
Mathews c Sarfraz b Riaz				39
Thirimanne c Sarfraz b Junaid				20
Dickwella lbw b Junaid				24
Perera lbw b Junaid				0
Prasad lbw b Junaid				13
Herath c Younis b Rehman				17
Welegedara not out				27
Extras: (b-8, lb-7, nb-6)				21
<b>Total:</b> (All out in 99.3 overs)				320
<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-79, 2-144, 3-167, 4-177, 5-215, 6-249, 7-249, 8-261, 9-284				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Junaid	27	6	87	5
Riaz	20	3	88	3
Rehman	19.3	4	53	1
Ajmal	33	5	77	1
<b>PAKISTAN:</b> First innings				
Manzoor c Dickwella b Herath				23
Shehzad c Dickwella b Perera				58
Azhar c Mathews b Herath				32
Younis c Dickwella b Herath				13
Misbah c Dickwella b Herath				5
Shafiq b Herath				42
Sarfraz not out				66
Rehman not out				1
Extras: (lb-3, nb-1)				4
<b>Total:</b> (For 6 wks 70 overs)				244
To bat: Ajmal, Riaz, Junaid				
<b>Fall of wickets:</b> 1-47, 2-110, 3-122, 4-131, 5-140, 6-233				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Prasad	9	2	27	0
Welegedara	15	2	51	0
Herath	25	3	98	5

# Robredo stuns Djokovic

AFP, Cincinnati



Tommy Robredo shocked world number one Novak Djokovic Thursday at the Cincinnati Masters, but Roger Federer avoided an upset against Frenchman Gael Monfils.

Spain's Robredo, seeded 16th in the US Open tune-up, sent top-seeded Djokovic packing 7-6 (8/6), 7-5, the defeat coming a week after the world number one Serb was beaten in the third round at Toronto.

The Wimbledon champion now goes into the US Open, the final Grand Slam of the year which starts on August 25, well short of matches and confidence.

Second-seeded Federer, a five-time Cincinnati champion, held off Monfils 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

He booked a tough quarterfinal against eighth-seeded Scot Andy Murray, who battled more than two hours against the huge serve of John Isner, finally dispatching the American 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/2).

Robredo was thrilled to win only his second match in eight encounters with a world number one player. He beat then-top ranked Lleyton Hewitt at Roland Garros 11 years ago.

"It's amazing to be here playing and to beat the number one, I'm more than happy," said the 32-year-old Robredo, who next faces sixth-seeded compatriot David Ferrer -- a 7-5, 6-0 winner over Mikhail Youzhny.

Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka, the third seed, rallied to beat Croatian Marin Cilic 3-6, 6-0, 6-1.

He'll play France's Julien Benneteau, who beat Jerzy Janowicz 7-5, 6-1.

Fifth seed Milos Raonic made amends with his 30th ace on match point after earlier double-faulting three times while serving for victory.

# Feds feel helpless

SPORTS REPORTER



The decision of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) to drastically trim the number of disciplines from the Asian Games squad has garnered mixed reactions from national federations' high-ups, with most of them seeing it as an crippling decision as they feel it is not the lack of effort or quality of the athletes, rather the poor infrastructure and training facilities which is to blame for the poor performance of athletes in international events.

The BOA on Wednesday chopped down nine disciplines -- athletics, boxing, swimming, table tennis, wrestling gymnastics and weightlifting -- from the Asian Games squad, after analysing poor performance of the Bangladesh squad in the recently concluded Commonwealth Games.

The BOA also warned that the disciplines to be participated in by Bangladesh athletes in the Asian Games in Korea in September -- shooting, cricket, football, hockey, kabaddi, karate, ushu, taekwondo, shooting, archery, beach volleyball, fencing and golf -- would face same consequences if they fail to produce good result in the Games.

The decision has, for the time being, closed the door on many athletes from taking part in multinational sporting events, and the onus is now on those respective federations to earn back their rights by increasing the standard of their athletes. But the question is whether the federations capable of increasing the facilities for the athletes?

Most of the high-ups of the federations think they can do little to improve the facilities without help from the BOA and the government.

"It is not possible to provide modern facilities

ties to swimmers on our own," feels Bangladesh Swimming Federation's general secretary Rafiz Uddin. "We can only provide with local coaches and a pool which are not good enough to improve the standard of the swimmers. We can't do much without the help of the BOA and the government."

Bangladesh Badminton Federation's general secretary Jobaidur Rahman Rana criticised BOA's decision and labelled the decision-makers as 'non-technical personnel'.

"We will not be able to meet the BOA conditions in terms of medals even in the next 50 years because we don't have good enough infrastructure. The floor of the gymnasium where our players practice is a damaged one. How will the shuttlers produce good results in international events without a good practice venue and training facilities?" asked Rana.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, general secretary of Bangladesh Weightlifting Federation, feels that the performance of the weightlifters have improved in the last few decades, even though the improvement has been somewhat stifled by the obsolescence of gymnasium and equipment.

"Notwithstanding the improvement the weightlifters made, it is difficult for us to increase the facilities without proper assistance from the government and the BOA," said Mohiuddin.

However, some Federation chiefs saw this decision as a wake-up call and a positive one for the organisers.

"I am taking this decision as a message," said Bangladesh Boxing Federation general secretary MA Kuddus Khan. "It is federation's responsibility to ensure long-term training with proper facilities. If we can ensure that, it is possible to win medals at international events, which our boxers proved during the South Asian Games in 2010."