

BCB

statement

Bangladesh pace bowler Al Amin Hossain has been found to have breached team rules and will take no further part in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015. Following consultation with the Board, the Bangladesh Team Management for the World Cup has decided to send the player home immediately.

The Board will conduct its own inquiry into the breach after receiving the manager's report at the end of the team's World Cup campaign.

At this stage the BCB or the team management will not release any further information or make any comment on this matter.



A grim Al-Amin Hossain (2nd from L) travelled with other members of the Bangladesh team from Brisbane to Melbourne yesterday. It was the pace bowler's last World Cup flight with the Tigers as the BCB has decided to withdraw him on disciplinary ground.

PHOTO: BCB

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BCB withdraws Al-Amin from WC

The bowler punished for violating team rules

BISHWAJIT ROY from Melbourne

A well-tuned Bangladesh team that arrived in Melbourne yesterday from Brisbane to play their third group match in the ICC World Cup against Sri Lanka were served with a notice that one of the members of the team would have to take a long flight back home for breaking the team rules.

The player in question is pace bowler Al-Amin Hossain, whom the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) decided to withdraw for staying outside the Brisbane team hotel after 10pm local time on February 19.

"Al-Amin stayed outside the hotel in Brisbane after the 10pm deadline on February 19 without the team management's permission. BCB always shows zero

tolerance against any indiscipline from players and that's why he will go back home as soon as possible," said team manager Khaled Mahmud, while confirming Al-Amin's World Cup fate on Sunday.

Mahmud also said that they have already requested the ICC for a replacement, who is likely to be another pacer, Shafiqul Islam.

Asked how the team management knew about Al-Amin's night-endeavour, Mahmud said that the ICC's anti-corruption and security unit (ACSU) informed them of the matter.

Al-Amin has played 11 ODIs for Bangladesh since his debut last

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year. The 25-year-old has not featured in Bangladesh's opening World Cup match against Afghanistan and was also not in the probable list of 11 for the game against Australia which was washed out.

And if the ICC approves his replacement, Al-Amin will be the first player in this World Cup and probably the second in the game's flagship event to be removed for

non-cricketing reasons after Australian great Shane Warne, who was sent back home a day before the start of the World Cup in 2003 after failing a drug test.

However, Al-Amin is not the first player to have broken the team curfew in this World Cup. Earlier, nine Pakistani players including Shaheed Afridi were warned by their team management for staying out long into the night.

WHAT OTHER SOURCES SAID

While a general perception is that this kind of offence deserves financial punishment coupled with match-ban, the stern measure,

according to a source close to the Bangladesh team management, was not just because of the pacer's decision to stay out late at night.

It was learnt the activities revolving Al-Amin for the last few days in Australia and New Zealand were 'interesting'.

The source, wishing not to be named, confirmed that ACSU first told the Bangladesh team management in Canberra that they wanted to quiz a player. The team management were surprised to learn that they wanted to question Al-Amin.

It was also gathered that ACSU officials asked the bowler whether he met someone in Chennai, when he went through a bowling test at an ICC accredited centre on October 20 last year.

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CLEAR

NOTHING TO HIDE

TODAY'S MATCH

England v Scotland

Time: 4:00am

Venue: Christchurch

TUESDAY'S MATCH

West Indies v Zimbabwe

Time: 9:30am

Men of Steel

MAHELA JAYAWARDENE

When in doubt Sri Lanka have frequently turned to one of the two pillars in their side and yesterday was Mahela Jayawardene's opportunity.

Crumbling at 51 for 4, many reckoned that the Afghans would be able to achieve their first ever World Cup win at Dunedin yesterday. Unfortunately for the newbies, they were denied by a brilliant century under pressure from the maestro. His 100 may have come at a slow pace when compared to the other centuries in the tournament, but it was a much-needed calculated knock that saved Sri Lanka's blushes.

SHIKHAR DHAWAN

The Indian opener has so far represented that much-hated student, who frequently talks about skipping chapters before every exam but ends up acing the finals. Dhawan's change in form, from the pre-World Cup series' has given India a much required boost at the top. They no longer have to depend solely on Virat Kohli. His emphatic 137 off 146 balls put pressure on the South Africans early. While he held up one end, Ajinkya Rahane smashed the Proteas out of the park from the other. It may still be early days in the World Cup, but Dhawan seems to have peaked at the right time.

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KABIR STEEL SINCE 1984

When the less fancied dominate

NAIMUL KARIM

With most of the channels, including the Bangladeshi ones, broadcasting the India versus South Africa fixture yesterday, it initially felt like a hassle to flip through the numbers trying to pin-point the other game early in the morning.

Now in an ideal world this wouldn't have happened. After all you had two super-star teams facing off at a packed Melbourne Cricket Ground; the Afghanistan-Sri Lanka fixture, in comparison, was like peanuts next to that and shouldn't have even bothered viewers.

However, towards the end of the day it seemed like the South Asian clash received a lot more interest amongst the cricketing fraternity in Dhaka. And why wouldn't it?

The Afghans, especially their pacers, played like there was no tomorrow. It didn't matter to them that they were up against players who have already been termed legends of the game; all they did was trust their raw, brute force and that was enough to scare the brains out of a number of Sri Lankan fans.

Outside the island, there must have been quivery times in Khulshi, Gulshan

and Baridhara DOHS; completely different to the magical moments that the Lankan fans celebrated during the Asia Cup and the bilateral series against Bangladesh early last year.

While a Mahela Jayawardene century and a late blitz from Thisara Perera ended up winning the match for the Lions, it left many sporting pundits in Bangladesh with a reason to smile.

It is quite evident that the Tigers had put up a much more professional performance against the Afghans. The way the Lankans struggled against the newbies yesterday, only went on to strengthen the belief instilled amongst Bangladesh's fans.

Now it would be naïve to think that the Tigers have an edge over the Lankans. Few can forget the bashings that we have received in their hands. However, their string of defeats and susceptible top order combined with Bangladesh's extremely positive start to the tour has suddenly seemed to have lifted expectations.

Whether the Tigers will be able to create history in Melbourne this Thursday is a question that many must

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SCAN CEMENT

HEIDELBERG CEMENT

Dhoni elated

AFP, Melbourne

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said his team was on the right track at the World Cup after hammering South Africa by 130 runs at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday.

The win followed the 76-run win over arch-rivals Pakistan in Adelaide last Sunday and left Dhoni's men needing a win over unfancied United Arab Emirates in Perth on Saturday to advance to the quarterfinals.

"It is very satisfying to have back-to-back wins and especially the way we have won both games," a delighted Dhoni said.

"Both Pakistan and South Africa games were important for us. Against Pakistan it was a complete batting performance and this game too I felt we did really well with the batting.

"A total of 307 was definitely a par-plus score on this wicket and when we turned up with the ball, I think we bowled in the right areas and we made it tough for the opposition to score."

Dhoni agreed with South African skipper AB de Villiers that the pitch was two-paced in the second session which made batting difficult, but praised his bowlers and the team's fielding.

"I felt the mix of pace was good from our bowlers, but what was really crucial was the use of the bouncer," he said.

"The two run outs in the middle overs (of AB de Villiers and David Miller) from the deep really changed the game for us."

Dhoni heaped lavish praise on his fast bowlers, Mohit Sharma and Mohammad Shami, who claimed two wickets each to back up off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's three wickets.

"It was definitely a fantastic performance by them," he said. "Maybe the wicket also helped us a bit, but still it was important to hit the right areas. They quickly assessed what was the right length to bowl. They never gave any extra width to the batsmen."

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SCOREBOARD

INDIA V SOUTH AFRICA

INDIA	R/B	4/6
R Sharma run out	0/6	0/0
Dhawan c Amla b Parnell	137/146	16/2
Kohli c Du Plessis b Tahir	46/60	3/0
Rahane lbw b Steyn	79/60	7/3
Raina c sub Rossouw b Morkel	6/5	1/0
Dhoni c De Kock b Morkel	18/11	3/0
Jadeja run out	2/4	0/0
Ashwin not out	5/5	0/0
Shami not out	4/5	1/0
Extras: (lb-2, w-6, nb-2)	10	
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs)	307	
Did not bat: Yadav, M Sharma.		
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-136, 3-261, 4-269, 5-278, 6-284, 7-302.		

Bowler

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Steyn	10	1	55	1
Philander	4	1	19	0
Duminy	7	0	39	0
M Morkel	10	0	59	2
Tahir	10	0	48	1
Parnell	9	0	85	1

SOUTH AFRICA

R/B

4/6

Amla c Shami b M Sharma	22/28	2/0
De Kock c Kohli b Shami	7/15	1/0
Du Plessis c Dhawan b M Sharma	55/71	5/0
De Villiers run out	30/38	3/0
Miller run out	22/23	2/0
Duminy c Raina b Ashwin	6/15	0/0
Parnell not out	17/28	1/0
Philander lbw b Ashwin	0/2	0/0
Steyn c Dhawan b Shami	1/7	0/0
M Morkel b Ashwin	2/5	0/0
Tahir lbw b Jadeja	8/10	1/0
Extras: (lb-1, w-6)	7	
Total: (All out in 40.2 overs)	177	
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-40, 3-108, 4-133, 5-147, 6-153, 7-153, 8-158, 9-161.		

Bowler

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Yadav	6	0	34	0
Shami	8	1	30	2
M Sharma	7	0	31	2
Jadeja	8.2	0	37	1
Ashwin	10	0	41	3
Raina	1	0	3	0

Result: India won by 130 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Shikhar Dhawan.

Toss: India

AFGHANISTAN V SRI LANKA

AFGHANISTAN

R/B

4/6

Ahmadi c Herath b Lakmal	24/23	4/0
Mangal c Thirimanne b Mathews	10/30	1/0
Stanikzai c Mendis b Herath	54/57	5/1
Shenwari c Mathews b Perera	38/70	5/0
Nabi b Malinga	21/27	2/1
N Zadrán c Perera b Lakmal	10/15	0/1
Zazai c Herath b Malinga	19/38	1/0
Ashraf c Lakmal b Malinga	28/32	1/2
D Zadrán b Mathews	4/5	1/0
Hassan c Mendis b Mathews	0/1	0/0
S Zadrán not out	1/1	0/0
Extras: (lb-6, w-16, nb-1)	23	
Total: (All out in 49.4 overs)	232	
Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-40, 3-128, 4-157, 5-169, 6-175, 7-221, 8-227, 9-227.		

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Malinga	9.4	1	41	3
Lakmal	10	1	36	2
Mathews	7	0	41	3
Perera	10	0	54	1
Herath	10	0	41	1
Mendis	3	0	13	0

SRI LANKA

R/B

4/6

Thirimanne lbw b D Zadrán	0/1	0/0
Dilshan c Zazai b S Zadrán	0/1	0/0
Sangakkara b Hassan	7/13	1/0
Kanunaratne c Mangal b Hassan	23/32	3/0
Jayawardene c Mangal b Hassan	100/120	8/0
Mathews run out	44/81	2/1
Mendis not out	9/17	0/0
Perera not out	47/26	6/1
Extras: (lb-2, w-3, nb-1)	6	
Total: (For 6 wks in 48.2 overs)	236	
Did not bat: Herath, Malinga, Lakmal.		
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-2, 3-18, 4-51, 5-177, 6-178.		

Bowler

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D Zadrán	9	0	44	1
S Zadrán	10	1	48	1
Hassan	9	0	45	3
Ashraf	8.1	0	31	0
Nabi	5.2	0	28	0
Stanikzai	0.5	0	6	0
Shenwari	6	0	32	0

Result: Sri Lanka won by 4 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Mahela Jayawardene.

Toss: Sri Lanka

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