



Mahmudullah Riyad is distraught as he walks away after surrendering his wicket with just two needed off two balls in their crucial match against India in Bangalore yesterday.

## Taskin ban upheld

SPORTS REPORTER



The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced yesterday that Bangladesh bowler Taskin Ahmed's suspension from bowling in international cricket was upheld following a review hearing conducted by a judicial commissioner.

The pacer had earlier exercised his right to request a review of his case by a judicial commissioner after an independent assessment at the ICC-accredited testing centre in Chennai on March 14 found that some of Taskin's deliveries exceeded the permissible level of elbow extension and, as such, his bowling action was found to be illegal. He was then suspended from bowling in international cricket with immediate effect.

According to a press release sent from the ICC, Michael Beloff QC conducted the hearing yesterday over a teleconference call that lasted several hours and in which numerous legal challenges were made on behalf of the player.

"Having carefully considered those arguments and the responses of the ICC, Mr Beloff has now notified all parties concerned of his decision that Taskin's suspension from bowling in international cricket shall be upheld and indicated that a written reasoned decision will be provided in due course," stated the press release.

As a result of the decision, Taskin will now have to apply for a reassessment of his bowling action following appropriate remedial work.



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appropriate remedial work. The second test will take place in the same way as the first.

"In the event of such re-assessment concluding that Taskin has remedied his bowling action and that his elbow extension is within the permissible level on all of his standard deliveries, his suspension shall be lifted and he shall be permitted to resume bowling in international cricket," stated the ICC press release.

Earlier, the ICC's decision to suspend Taskin led to an uproar amongst the cricket community of the country. Thousands of people had taken to the streets all over the country protesting the decision.

The decision was criticised by Bangladesh's coach Chandika Hathurusingha and captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, both of whom were not satisfied by the report that they had received from the ICC regarding Taskin's bowling action.

According to the report, the only delivery that the centre had a problem with was his bouncer. It was a delivery that he had not bowled against the Netherlands, the game after which he was reported by the umpires.

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## 'Not the end, we need to move on'

SPORTS REPORTER from Bangalore



There was a lot that Bangladesh did right in yesterday's nail-biting encounter against India in Bangalore, but unfortunately for the men in green, they failed to strike at the most crucial juncture of the game.

The captain, coach, in fact the entire Bangladeshi team management had done their homework well. From placing deep points for both Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan at the start of the game to setting up specialised field settings in order to curtail a flashy finish from MS Dhoni with the bat, almost everything went according to plan.

The smile on the face of Shikhar Al Hasan - who was very involved in setting the fields and executing plans discussed before

the match -- towards the end of the first innings suggested that their plan was working.

In fact, even when Bangladesh were doing well with the ball during the first 15 overs, there was an inherent fear among the fans that at one point of time the Tigers would just give it away with the ball, as they did in their last two matches against India in the Asia Cup.

However, that never happened and that is when the dreams of an upset -- beating India in India -- started churning. Unfortunately for the Tigers, the ending was the same as that of the last two games. With two needed off three balls and Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad set at the crease, Bangladesh lost three wickets and a match they seemed destined to win.

"I think we did everything we could in order to win the game.

Except for the last three balls, we played amazing cricket throughout," said an understandably dejected Mashrafe Bin Mortaza after the match.

"I am not blaming anyone. It's shocking. Not just for me, but it's frustrating for all of us here. Nobody loses this kind of a game. It's difficult to explain that right now, but it's just disappointing nevertheless," said Mashrafe.

"Had we taken one run we would have needed one run off two balls. If we would have thought of all those things at that point of time it would have been good. Unfortunately things did not go as planned," he added.

The question that will haunt the Tigers is why the two set batsmen could not take singles after bringing the equation down to two off three balls. "It can be one of two things. The situation was difficult even then [at the start of the over]

with 11 runs required off six balls. Hitting two fours in two balls brought the match in our favour," Mashrafe explained. "He [Mushfiqur] could have been more careful then, but you can take it either way. After hitting two fours, any batsman's confidence is bound to be boosted."

Another thing that will be remembered about this match is how much the partisan crowd were into the game, perhaps hinting at the burgeoning rivalry -- albeit one-sided in this format so far -- between the teams.

Despite the painful defeat, Mashrafe urged his teammates to move on. It's something that they have to do if they want to do well against the Black Caps in their last game of the World Cup.

"Bangladesh's cricket can't just end here. We have to come back and move on," he said.

## Moeen keeps Eng in the hunt

AFP, New Delhi



Moeen Ali's timely cameo helped England overcome a spirited Afghanistan by 15 runs but only after surviving a scare against the minnows at the World Twenty20 in New Delhi Wednesday.

Moeen's unbeaten 41 pulled England out of a tough spot to post 142 for seven after opting to bat and then the bowlers did their bit to restrict Afghanistan to 127 for nine.

The results means that confirms that Asghar Stanikzai's side is out of the hunt for a semifinal spot after three straight losses in the Super 10 stage.

An unbroken 57-run eighth wicket partnership between Ali and David Willey (20) made sure England kept their winning momentum going and keep their hopes alive for a place in the last four.

But the Afghan slow bowlers made England sweat on a hot and sunny afternoon in the Indian capital to reduce them to 85 for seven.

It was hard to imagine it was the same English batting team that had pulled off a record chase against South Africa last Friday.

Stanikzai gave the new ball to Amir Hamza and the left-arm spinner did not disappoint, snaring dashing opener Jason Roy in the third over.

James Vince, who came into the side in place of the injured Alex Hales, then tried to counter-attack along with in-form Joe Root with a 26-run second wicket partnership.

But Mohammad Nabi's introduction reaped immediate rewards as the veteran off-spinner soon had both danger men trudging back to the dugout.

Vince was caught and bowled while captain Eoin Morgan was out for a golden duck, putting Nabi on a hat-trick. Ben Stokes denied Nabi his third strike in as many balls.



England all-rounder Moeen Ali smacks one to the boundary during his unbeaten 41 which helped his side beat Afghanistan in a crunch Super 10 encounter in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Tigresses hope for a bright end

Last match against Pakistan today

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh national women's cricket team will end its ICC World Twenty20 campaign in Delhi today when they take on their Pakistani counterparts in Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla stadium.

The match will be a lot more important for Pakistan than Bangladesh as the Tigresses are already out of the competition. Pakistan, however, following their brilliant win against India, now have a chance to make it

through to the semifinals.

Pakistan have two points and a win against Bangladesh will place them on par with England and the West Indies. Therefore, it will not be a surprise if they make an attempt to hit big or try to finish the game early in a bid to up their run-rate.

For Bangladesh, this will be their last opportunity to capture the world's attention. They have beaten Pakistan in the past, but when it comes to measuring the odds, they are stacked against the Tigresses.

Jahanara Alam and Co did show glimpses of brilliance. They managed

to score more than 100 against England, a task they do not generally achieve and they also kept up with the West Indians for most parts of the game. It was only in the end that the women from the Caribbean took control of the match.

Prior to going to India, Jahanara stressed on the fact that they needed to play more international games and that they wanted to use the World Cup to show the world how much they have improved.

While they have not had too much luck so far, they will hope that they can at least end their campaign with a bang.

## Kotla passes security test

AFP, New Delhi

New Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla stadium has been confirmed as a semifinal host of the World Twenty20 after receiving the final green light from municipal authorities, a senior cricket official said Wednesday.

There had been growing fears that the first semifinal on March 30 would have to be shifted from the Indian capital over safety fears surrounding one of the stands.

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INDIA	R/B	4/6		
Sharma c Sabbir b Mustafizur	18/16	1/1		
Dhawan lbw b Shakib	23/22	2/1		
Kohli b Shuvagata	24/24	0/1		
Raina c Sabbir b Al-Amin	30/23	1/2		
Pandya c Soumya				
b Al-Amin	15/7	2/1		
Dhoni not out	13/12	1/0		
Yuvraj c Al-Amin b Mahmudullah	3/6	0/0		
Jadeja b Mustafizur	12/8	2/0		
Ashwin not out	5/2	1/0		
Extras: (lb-2, w-1)	3			
Total: (For 7 wickets in 20 overs)	146			
Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-45, 3-95, 4-112, 5-112, 6-117, 7-137.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mashrafe	4	0	22	0
Shuvagata	3	0	24	1
Al-Amin	4	0	37	2
Mustafizur	4	0	34	2
Shakib	4	0	23	1
Mahmudullah	1	0	4	1
BANGLADESH	R/B	4/6		
Tamim st Dhoni b Jadeja	35/32	5/0		
Mithun c Pandya				
b Ashwin	1/3	0/0		
Sabbir st Dhoni b Raina	26/15	3/1		
Shakib c Raina b Ashwin	22/15	0/2		
Mashrafe b Jadeja	6/5	0/1		
Mahmudullah c Jadeja				
b Pandya	18/22	1/0		
Soumya c Kohli b Nehra	21/21	1/1		
Mushfiqur c Dhawan b Pandya	11/6	2/0		
Shuvagata not out	0/1	0/0		
Mustafizur run out	0/0	0/0		
Extras: (lb-4, w-1)	5			
Total: (For 9 wickets in 20 overs)	145			
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-55, 3-69, 4-87, 5-95, 6-126, 7-145, 8-145, 9-145.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Nehra	4	0	29	1
Bumrah	4	0	32	0
Ashwin	4	0	20	2
Jadeja	4	0	22	2
Pandya	3	0	29	2
Raina	1	0	9	1
Result: India won by 1 run.				
Player-of-the-match: Ravichandran Ashwin.				

## 'Aus match may be my last'

PTI, Mohali

Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi on Tuesday gave clear indications that he would retire from the shortest format after his team's campaign ends in the ongoing ICC World T20.

After Pakistan's 22-run defeat to New Zealand in a crucial World T20 match, a dejected Afridi said the upcoming game against Australia could be his last.

"That (the match against Australia) could be my last," Afridi said at the post-match presentation ceremony.