

Millions in damages sought

Fight fans sue Pacquiao for concealing 'injury'

LOS ANGELES, May 6, (AFP): Two Nevada men filed a class-action lawsuit against Manny Pacquiao on Tuesday, seeking millions in damages because they say he fraudulently concealed a shoulder injury before his defeat to Floyd Mayweather.

It is just the latest fallout from Mayweather's victory in Las Vegas on Saturday in a unanimous decision, with Pacquiao saying afterwards that the shoulder complaint hampered his performance in the welterweight world title showdown.

The plaintiffs argue that by failing to go public with the injury before the feverishly anticipated bout, the Philippine icon and his camp violated the Nevada Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

The suit filed in a US District Court in Las Vegas names Pacquiao, his manager Michael Koncz, promotional company Top Rank and Top Rank chairman Bob Arum and president Todd duBoef.

According to court documents available online, the lawsuit claims that when plaintiffs Stephane Vanel and Kami

Rahbaran — who bought tickets, forked out pay per view fees or bet on the fight — the defendants "knew and had full knowledge and information that defendant Pacquiao had been seriously injured and was suffering from a torn rotator cuff."



Mayweather

"Defendants further know that such injury would severely affect his performance," the lawsuit says.

"None of the defendants informed or apprised the public or even the Nevada Athletic Commission about the injury to defendant Pacquiao."

The clash between Pacquiao and Mayweather at the MGM Grand Garden Arena was billed as the "Fight of the Century."

It's certainly set to go down as the most lucrative bout in history, with possible revenue of \$400 million.

That could include as many as three million pay-per-view purchases, at about \$100 each.

The bout went the full scheduled 12 rounds, Mayweather easily winning on the judges' scorecards to take his perfect record to 48-0.

After the fight, Pacquiao and Top Rank revealed the 36-year-old had been injured in training camp some three weeks earlier.

BOXING

They said he'd been cleared by doctors to fight, although they had expected him to be able to take an anti-inflammatory injection on fight night, but the Nevada State Athletic Commission ultimately denied him.

Pacquiao attorney Daniel Petrocelli told The Los Angeles Times that he expects the lawsuit to be dismissed.

"It claims Pacquiao was injured (immediately) before the bout and that's not true — he was injured (nearly a month) before the bout, was examined by



In this May 2 photo, trainer Freddie Roach (left), listens as Manny Pacquiao answers questions during a press conference following his welterweight title fight against Floyd Mayweather Jr in Las Vegas. (AP)

doctors and cleared to fight," Petrocelli said. "And he was examined by the commission right before he fought."

Earlier, Floyd Mayweather has said he is willing to grant Manny Pacquiao a rematch following the Filipino boxer's

disclosure that a shoulder injury hampered his performance in last weekend's world title showdown, ESPN reported Tuesday.

ESPN reported that Mayweather told journalist Stephen A. Smith in a text message that he was ready to don gloves once again after Pacquiao recovers from surgery to repair a rotator cuff.

"I will fight him in a year after his surgery," Mayweather said in the text message, according to ESPN.

Mayweather's apparent readiness to step into the ring with Pacquiao once more appears to contradict remarks he made in the aftermath of his victory in Las Vegas on Saturday, when he insisted he planned to retire after one more fight in September.

"My last fight is in September, and then it's time for me to hang it up," said Mayweather after his unanimous decision victory.

The 38-year-old, who is just one win away from matching Rocky Marciano's 49-0 record, has previously said he has no desire to move past the heavyweight's revered unbeaten benchmark.

'It feels good'

Mirza seeking to inspire girls across subcontinent

NEW DELHI, May 6, (RTRS): Outside Bollywood films, Sania Mirza might be the only Indian success welcomed as warmly in neighbouring Pakistan and the 28-year-old expects her doubles feats to inspire girls on both sides of the border to pick up a tennis racquet.

Mirza has long been the face of the women's game in India and her high-profile cross-border wedding to Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik five years ago placed her in a unique position.

Her rise to the top ranking in WTA doubles was hailed in both countries, though they remain suspicious of each after fighting three wars since independence in 1947.



Mirza

Malik's international career has stalled since his last one-day match two years ago, but Mirza last month became the first Indian to climb to the top after winning the Family Circle Cup in Charleston, South Carolina, her third successive title partnered with Martina Hingis.

"It feels good," Mirza told Reuters in an interview.

"Me and my husband, we live in a kind of extraordinary situation because we both are professional athletes from different countries who still represent their own country after marriage and I don't think that happens very often.

"We both are very active, still playing and it's great if it can inspire not just people in India and Pakistan but hopefully girls can pick up tennis racquets in the whole subcontinent, really think that sports can be a career option."

TENNIS

"That does not come first to the head of any girl or parent ... Whether it's India, Pakistan or anywhere in the subcontinent, I'd like to believe people hopefully will get a little inspired by this and hopefully things change."

Once a top 30 singles player with a potent forehand, Mirza was the first Indian to win a WTA singles title in 2005, but after battling knee and wrist injuries, feels her switch to doubles has been vindicated.

"I ended my singles career solely for the reason that my body was not just able to take it anymore," said Mirza, calling it a "surreal feeling" to top the doubles rankings.

"I had three surgeries in seven-eight years and in those years ... it was either playing doubles or not playing tennis at all. I love tennis too much to have given up on it so soon."

Finally at peace, Mirza has set herself a couple of goals.

"It would be great to try and get records on how long I stay there and definitely try and win a women's doubles grand slam which has not happened. (I) have come close so many times even though (I) won mixed grand slams. Hopefully try and end the year at one, if not this year, next year."



KGL was the Platinum Sponsor of the 14th Annual ABCK Golf Tournament. Toufic Jawhara receives KGL Sponsor Appreciation Plaque from the US Ambassador, the Honorable Douglas A. Silliman.

Cricket Roundup

Pair avoid jail time: Two New Zealand men who were involved in a bar fight that left former Black Cap Jesse Ryder in an induced coma were handed non-custodial sentences on Wednesday, reports said.

Ryder was injured after an altercation outside a Christchurch pub in March 2013, spending six days in hospital before eventually resuming his cricket career seven months later.

Craig O'Neill was fined NZ\$3,000 (\$2,250) and sentenced to 250 hours community work, while his nephew Dylan O'Neill was fined NZ\$250, the New Zealand Herald reported.

It said Craig O'Neill, 39, pleaded guilty to assault with intent to injure, with Dylan O'Neill, 22, admitting a charge of common assault.

Fairfax New Zealand reported that the fight occurred after Ryder accepted several rounds of drinks from bar patrons and was taunted for not buying any in return.

The batsman, now 30, said in a victim impact statement that he had "moved on" from the incident.

Ryder's international career appears to have stalled after struggling with form, fitness and off-field issues. (AFP)

Edgar steps down: New Zealand's national selection manager Bruce Edgar, who was one of the men behind the team's recent strong performances, is stepping down because his role is being restructured.

The former Test opening batsman, along with New Zealand coach Mike Hesson and captain Brendon McCullum, were credited as the keys to New Zealand's recent rise in one-day and Test cricket. New Zealand's runner-up finish at the World Cup lifted it to third in the one-day rankings.

New Zealand Cricket is changing Edgar's position from a part-time to a full-time talent identification role to capitalize on the World Cup success. (AP)

Sangakkara signs up: Sri Lankan batting great Kumar Sangakkara has given Australia's domestic Twenty20 league a major shot in the arm by signing up to play for the Hobart Hurricanes from next season.

Sangakkara, who retired from limited-overs internationals after the recent World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, will be based at the picturesque Bellerive Oval for the next two editions of the Big Bash.

"I have always loved Hobart when visiting with the Sri Lankan team, the people are friendly, the scenery is beautiful and I am looking forward to spending more time there and getting to see more of it," the 37-year-old said in a statement. (RTRS)

Younis and Azhar hit tons to hammer luckless Bangladesh



Pakistan cricketer Younis Khan (left), plays a shot as Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim (center), and fielder Mohammad Mahmudullah (right), look on during the first day of the second cricket Test match between Bangladesh and Pakistan at The Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka on May 6. (AFP)

Batsmen lucky

DHAKA, May 6, (AFP): Younis Khan and Azhar Ali hit centuries as Pakistan capitalised on Bangladesh's misfortune to post a commanding 323 for three on the opening day of the second and final Test on Wednesday.

Younis made 148 and Azhar was unbeaten on 127, the pair having shared a third-wicket stand of 250 to rescue the tourists from 58-2 after Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim won the toss and elected to field in Dhaka.

Both batsmen were lucky to reach three figures after being reprieved by no-balls even as Bangladesh struggled to overcome the loss of strike bowler Shahadat Hossain in the day's first over. Shahadat, who replaced the injured Rubel Hossain for the decisive Test, collapsed on his follow through after sending down the first ball and hobbled off the field after his second delivery.

Shahadat returned after the morning drinks break, and even though he did not bowl for the rest of the session, he took a catch in the deep to dismiss Sami Aslam.

However, Shahadat succumbed to injury again while training during the lunch break and had to be lifted away on a stretcher.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed said the 28-year-old seamer had injured his right knee and was unlikely to take any further part in the match.

Left with a depleted attack, Bangladesh used nine bowlers to try to contain the run flow, with Rahim and Tamim Iqbal the only ones who did not turn their arms over.

Part-time seamer Soumya Sarkar would have dismissed Younis on 78, caught in the covers from a mistimed drive, but TV replays showed the bowler had overstepped to concede a no-ball.

Similarly, Azhar escaped on 18 when he was caught in the slips off Mohammad Shahid, only to see TV umpire Ranmore

Campbell hopes int'l cricket is revived in Pakistan

Zimbabwe confident in Pakistan security

LAHORE, Pakistan, May 6, (Agencies): A Zimbabwe Cricket delegation expressed confidence Wednesday in security measures taken by Pakistan before the African country's tour, the first by any Test-playing team for six years.

The mini-series of two Twenty20s and three one-day internationals will be held in Lahore between May 22-31.

No Test-playing team has toured Pakistan since militants attacked the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in March 2009, leaving eight people dead and seven visiting players injured.

Zimbabwe Cricket managing director Alistair Campbell, heading the security delegation, thanked Pakistan for "for all the security arrangements involved to make sure that we will be safe and cricket will be the ultimate winner at the end of the day".

Martinez confirm a no-ball.

Azhar's dismissal at the stage would have reduced Pakistan to 38-2 after Bangladesh had removed both openers cheaply.

Mohammad Hafeez, who hit a double-century in the drawn first Test in Khulna, was caught behind off Shahid for eight.

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam had Sami Aslam caught by Shahadat on the mid-wicket boundary for 19, but Younis and Azhar settled in to tame the depleted attack.

CRICKET

"I love to score for my team," said Younis, the 37-year-old veteran of 98 Tests, who hit 11 boundaries and three sixes in his 29th Test century.

"When the team is under pressure and needs me, it feels nice to get a century because it is good both for me and the team.

"Partnerships are always the key. Azhar and I got together and had a big

The former batsman, who played 60 Tests and 188 one-day internationals for Zimbabwe, said he had always felt safe in Pakistan when touring as a player.

"I had played many times in Pakistan on five or six tours and had the opportunity of playing in the whole of the country and it was secure," he said.

After making a start in Lahore, "hopefully, in the years to come we will come again and play in the rest of the country and resume normal relations with Pakistan," he added.

Zimbabwe's tour of Pakistan could help the sport return to the country, Zimbabwe Cricket managing director Alistair Campbell said Wednesday.

"We're very excited to be embarking on this adventure, I would call it," Campbell said after visiting Gaddafi Stadium, which will host all the matches. "We're very excited to see what's

ahead ... and then look forward to (the) Zimbabwe cricket team arriving here on (the) 19th."

Zimbabwe will be the first test-playing nation to tour Pakistan since 2009, when gunmen attacked a Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore, killing six police officials, a van driver and wounding several Sri Lankan cricketers.

Since then, international cricket in Pakistan has been suspended because of security concerns of foreign teams, with the country hosting only minor teams like Kenya and Afghanistan.

"I've played many times here in Pakistan, five-six tours," Campbell said. "(I) was fortunate to tour the whole country ... but this is the start, we start here in Lahore and hopefully in years to come we'll come back and play in (the) rest of the country and resume normal relations with Pakistan."

the pitch, there was movement and we were getting a lot out of it. "I wish Shahadat was around to bowl. Hopefully things will work out better for us tomorrow."

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN 1st innings:
 Mohammad Hafeez c Rahim b Shahid...8
 Sami Aslam c Shahadat b Taijul...19
 Azhar Ali not out...127
 Younis Khan c Shuvagata b Shahid...148
 Misbah-ul Haq not out...9
 Extras (lb6, w1, nb5)...12
 Total (for three wickets, 90 overs)...323
 Fall of wickets: 1-9 (Hafeez), 2-58 (Aslam), 3-308 (Younis).
 To bat: Asad Shafiq, Sarfraz Ahmed, Wahab Riaz, Yasir Shah, Junaid Khan, Imran Khan.
 Bowling: Shahadat 0.2-0-4-0, Soumya 11.4-1-32-0 (2nb), Shahid 21-6-43-2 (3nb, 1w), Taijul 30-2-102-1, Shuvagata 8-0-47-0, Shakib 14-0-68-0, Mominul 2-0-8-0, Mahmudullah 2-0-12-0, Imrul 1-0-1-0.
 Toss: Bangladesh
 Umpires: Nigel Long (ENG) and Paul Reiffel (AUS)
 TV umpire: Ranmore Martinez (SRI)
 Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)



Ali

the outcome may have been different if he had been bowling at the other end. "This is definitely a pace bowler's wicket," he said. "There was grass on