

Sport

Busta Cup Spinners bring Jamaica back

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Feb 28: Spin bowlers Nehemiah Perry and Brian Murphy led a spirited rally that kept Jamaica in contention in the West Indies Busta Cup semifinal against Barbados Saturday, reports AP.

Off-spinner Perry took five wickets for 64 from 40.2 overs and leg-spinner Murphy two for 58 from 30 overs to trigger a Barbados first innings collapse after lunch on the second day in which the last six wickets fell for 41.

It limited Barbados' lead to 63 as they were bowled out for 269, replying to Jamaica's first innings 206. Jamaica's deficit was reduced to 33 by close of play as it finished 30 for one in their second innings.

Barbados went ahead with only three wickets down as captain Roland Holder and left-hander Floyd Reifer added 90 for the fourth wicket. But once Reifer was caught at slip off Perry for 40 and Holder was caught by wicketkeeper Matthew Sinclair for 62, the collapse commenced.

Prior to the stand between Holder and Reifer, overnight batsmen Sherwin Campbell and left-hander Adrian Griffith were both dismissed before lunch. Griffith was the first to go, caught by Sinclair off fast bowler Dwight Mais for 40, and Campbell followed for the top score of 66 to a slip catch off Murphy.

The winners of this match will meet Trinidad and Tobago in the final March 20-23.

SCORES

Jamaica 206 (Ricardo Powell 114 not out; Corey Collimore four for 60; Hendy Bryan three for 74) and 30 for one.

Barbados 269 (Sherwin Campbell 66; Roland Holder 62; Adrian Griffith 47; Floyd Reifer 40; Nehemiah Perry five for 64).

Parma beat Perugia

ROME, Feb 28 (Reuters/Internet): Italy's Enrico Chiesa scored twice on Saturday as Parma beat Perugia 3-1 to move within one point of Serie A leaders Lazio.

Chiesa struck from the penalty spot in the 31st minute and made it 2-0 just before halftime with a fine one-time volley from a Paolo Vanoli cross.

Substitute Cristian Bucchi pulled one back for Perugia in the 60th minute but Argentine Hernan Crespo sealed the win eight minutes from time.

Parma moved to 44 points, one better than Fiorentina who can regain second place with a win at Salernitana on Sunday. Lazio can extend their lead with a victory at Vicenza.

Inter Milan and Juventus, virtually out of the title race but still alive in the European Cup, finished 0-0.

AS Roma did city rivals Lazio a favour, beating title challengers AC Milan 1-0 with a goal from Brazilian Paulo Sergio.

Piacenza routed Bologna 5-0 with Simone Inzaghi - younger brother of Juve's Filippo - hitting his first Serie A hat-trick, two of them penalties.

Cameroon qualify for U-19 WC

ACCRA, Feb 28 (Reuters/Internet): Cameroon qualified for the world under-20 championships on Saturday when they reached the semifinals of the African Nations' Youth Cup.

Cameroon held hosts Ghana to a 1-1 draw in Accra to join Nigeria, Zambia and Ghana in the semifinals of the African competition.

The top four teams in the Youth Cup go through to the world under-20 championships but as hosts Nigeria qualify automatically there is one more African slot available.

Mali, who defeated Angola 3-1 earlier in the day to finish third in group A of the African competition, will play the team which finishes third in Group B.

Guinea and Malawi, both without a win in the competition, play for that honour in Kumasi on Sunday. Nigeria and Zambia play each other to decide the winners of Group B.

African U-20 soccer

Mali beat Angola

ACCRA, Ghana, Feb 28: Seydou Keita scored a pair of goals and Mali beat Angola 3-1 Saturday to earn a second chance at qualifying for the World Youth Championship, reports AP.

The victory finished Mali third in Group A at the African Under-20 Championship and sent them to a playoff with the third-placed team from Group B, either Guinea or Malawi who play Sunday.

Africa gets five of the 28 berths in the April 3-24 competition, including hosts Nigeria. Reaching the semifinals at the African U-20 Championship earns a place in the World U20 finals, but with Nigeria having qualified for the final four of the African U20s, a March 3 playoff will be used to determine the fifth representative.

Keita scored within the first minute and, after Paulo Zanga Pedro equalised in the 15th, again gave Mali the lead in the 52nd.

Mahamadou Dissa added an insurance goal in the 86th.

In the other Group A game Saturday, Ghana and Cameroon drew 1-1, sending Ghana to the semifinals as the Group A winners and Cameroon as the runner-up.

WI President's XI bow to MacGill



POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, Feb 28: Leg-spinner Stuart MacGill took six cheap wickets to slice through the West Indies President's XI batting as Australia seized the initiative on the opening day of their four-day match at Guayra Park on Saturday, reports AP.

At the close, the visitors had raced to 73 for one in reply to the President's XI 177 all out. MacGill, who celebrated his 28th birthday on Thursday, captured six wickets for 45 runs off 18.5 overs.

But it was MacGill's New South Wales teammate, fast bowler Glenn McGrath, who made the initial inroads for Australia after the hosts batted after winning the toss.

The experienced McGrath first had opener Suruj Ragoonath caught behind for eight, then dismissed Denis Ramersad to a second slip catch by Mark Waugh for a duck to leave the President's XI struggling at 14 for two.

The batting team received another setback three runs later when Test batsman Daren Ganga was forced to retire because of back spasms.

But Lincoln Roberts and Dave Joseph repaired the damage in an enterprising third-wicket partnership of 79, the highest of the innings.

Roberts, one of five Trinidadians in the team, made 38 before he was McGrath's third victim, bowled off stump driving at the 29-year-old's second ball of a new spell.

Joseph carried on to a half century, which included 10 fours and spanned 89 balls, but was a MacGill victim, caught at silly point off bat and pad. The

hard-hitting Antiguan led with 64 runs.

Captain Keith Arthurton had earlier been MacGill's first victim, bowled for nine. Wicketkeeper Wayne Phillip provided the same bowler with a return catch as the innings faded.

Ganga returned at the fall of Phillip and went on to make 15, one of only three double figure contributions in the innings. But when he was caught behind driving at MacGill, it sparked a collapse in which the last four



MacGill ... 6-wkt haul

wickets fell for three runs. Nixon McLean lasted just two balls before he missed a big swing at MacGill to be bowled for zero. Rawl Lewis gave leg spinner Shane Warne his only wicket through a catch to mid off and last man Marlon Black was stumped off MacGill.

McGrath took three for 33 off 13 overs and Warne one for 49 off 16 overs.

The Australians made a flying reply, rushing to 73 off just 15 overs before bad light caused an early halt to play with nine overs still due to be bowled.

Left-handed opener Matthew Elliott was the only wicket to fall, caught behind off fast bowler Nixon McLean for 22. Michael Slater was undefeated on 35 and Justin Langer 11 at the close.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the four-day match between West Indies President's XI and Australia at Guayra Park on Saturday:

WEST INDIES PRESIDENT'S XI: First innings

S Ragoonath c Healy b McGrath	8
D Ganga c Healy b MacGill	15
D Ramersad c M Waugh b McGrath	0
L Roberts b McGrath	38
D Joseph c Langer b MacGill	64
K Arthurton b MacGill	9
W Phillip c b MacGill	6
R Lewis c McGrath b Warne	8
N McLean b MacGill	0
R King not out	0
M Black st Healy b MacGill	3
Extras: (b-3, lb-5, nb-18)	26
Total:	177

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-14; 3-96; 4-129; 5-141; 6-157; 7-174; 8-174; 9-174.

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
McGill	13	3	33	3
Gillespie	12	4	27	0
Blewett	5	0	14	0
Warne	16	2	50	1
MacGill	18.5	5	45	6

AUSTRALIA: First innings

Elliott c Phillip b McLean	22
Slater not out	11
Extras: (lb-2, nb-3)	5
Total: (For one wkt)	73

Fall of wkt: 1-45.

To bat: Steve Waugh, Greg Blewett, Mark Waugh, Ian Healy, Shane Warne, Jason Gillespie, Stuart MacGill, Glenn McGrath.

Bowler (to date):	O	M	R	W
McLean	7	1	31	1
King	4	1	19	0
Black	3	0	16	0
Lewis	1	0	5	0



'THE COBRA'S ABOUT TO BITE': Valencia's Romanian superstar Adrian Ilie (R) - nicknamed the 'Cobra' - about to unleash a shot past Barcelona's Dutch international Ronald de Boer to open the scoring in their 4-2 Primera Liga win at the Nou Camp on February 27.

Spanish armadas rocked

MADRID, Feb 28 (Reuters/Internet): Spanish soccer giants Barcelona and Real Madrid were defeated on Saturday.

Leaders Barcelona lost 4-2 at home to Valencia while Real Madrid, playing their first game under new coach John Toshack, went down 3-2 at Real Betis.

Ito Alvarez's thunderous strike three minutes into injury time meant Toshack's second title spell as Real Madrid coach began badly.

"I wish the game had lasted exactly 90 minutes," Toshack lamented.

"We had so many opportunities... clear chances - and we should have got at least three or four of them."

The Welshman, sitting in the stands rather than on the bench, might have had a hunch that things were not going to go his way within the first 15 minutes.

Defender Aitor Karanka limped off with a hamstring problem after just eight minutes and shortly afterwards Fernando Morientes blasted the ball wide with the Betis goal gaping open.

After just 11 minutes Fernando Sanchez put Betis ahead. A neat move down the left was started by Finidi George. No one had the pace to challenge Benjamin Zaranonda down the wing and the Spanish under-21 international crossed for Sanchez to score.

Real Madrid did not lose their cool despite the early setbacks.

Raul Gonzalez was credited with their equalising after 28 minutes, scrambling the ball home following a Clarence Seedorf corner.

Sending Ito into the fray early in the second half proved to be an inspired move by Betis coach Javier Clemente. Almost immediately he sent a looping shot just over the bar.

Betis went back in front in the 66th minute, Sanchez feeding the ball into the penalty area for Juan Canas to score.

Esteghlal in last four

KUWAIT, Feb 28: Iranian champions Esteghlal clinched a place in the semi-finals of the Asian Club Championship after a keenly fought 1-0 win over hosts Al Ain of United Arab Emirates on Saturday, reports Xinhua.

China's Dalian Wanda and Jubilo Iwata from Japan have already qualified from the Eastern Group.

Real were back on terms within seven minutes when Fernando Morientes shot through Betis goalkeeper Toni Prats's legs.

Ito denied Morientes with a goal-line clearance on the stroke of full time and quickly showed he was adept at both ends.

His 25-metre strike deep into injury time screamed past goalkeeper Bodo Illgner - his first goal of the season.

"It was impossible to come back after that. There was too little time," said Toshack.

He was left to ponder how to remedy Real Madrid's all too apparent faults before Wednesday's European Cup quarter-final first leg against Dynamo Kiev.

Seventh-placed Real Madrid stayed seven points adrift of Barcelona, who stayed top despite suffering their first defeat in nine league games.

But only goal difference could separate Barcelona from

Mallorca if they beat struggling Tenerife on Sunday.

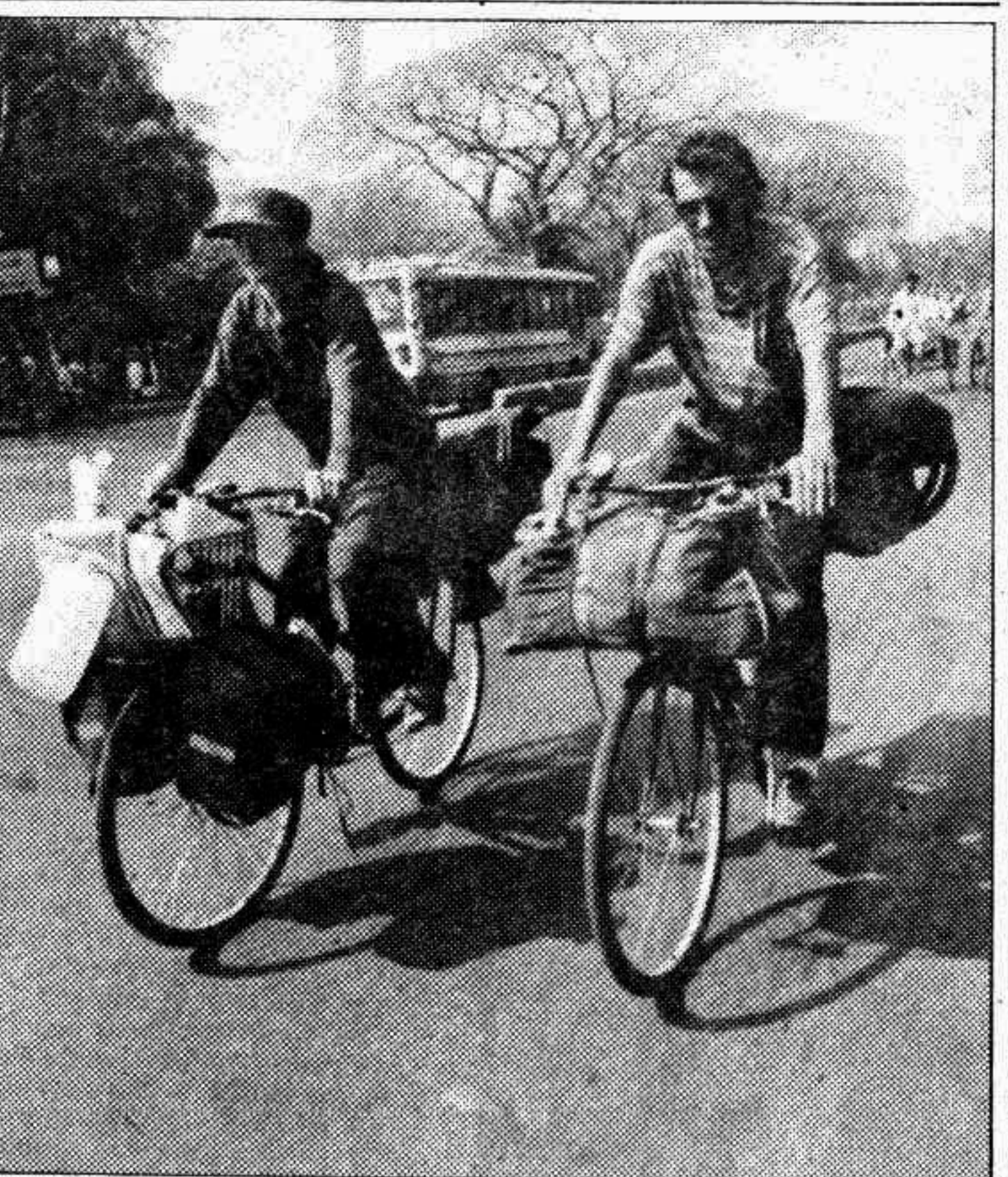
Valencia's Romanian striker Adrian Ilie - aptly nicknamed The Cobra - took a quick bite out of Barcelona's confidence with a goal hit home from the edge of the box just four minutes into the game.

Patrick Kluevert equalised after 30 minutes only for Claudio Lopez to quickly put Valencia back in front.

Kluevert again brought Barcelona back into the game with 11 minutes to go but defensive errors as time ran out cost the Catalan club dearly.

Lopez used his pace to exploit the holes in the Barcelona back line and although Frank de Boer managed to sweep the ball against the bar, Miguel Angel Angulo was on hand to stab the ball home.

Lopez collected his second goal just three minutes before time when he blasted past a stunned Barcelona goalkeeper Rudi Hesp.



Portuguese nationals Goncalo (33) and Valerie Fonseca (32), husband and wife, travelled 5200-km from Switzerland to reach Dhaka on February 19. Goncalo, a maths teacher in college, and Valerie, an artist, met in Turkey while travelling. They have been to 18 countries and expect their round the world trip to take them eight years. They leave Dhaka next week for the South East Asian countries, Australia, South America and so on. They love cycling because it is environment friendly, simple and cheap.



Belarus Grand Master Yuri Shulman (L) makes a move against Bangladesh International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib during the tenth round at the fourth United Insurance Grand Masters' tournament yesterday.

Inter full of confidence

MILAN, Feb 28: Inter Milan coach Mircea Lucescu has warned Manchester United that his men are ready for battle in their European Champions League quarter-final next week, reports AFP.

Inter drew 0-0 with reigning champions Juventus here on Saturday night in a match which confirmed Inter's strength in midfield but left question marks over their abilities up front without injured Brazilian ace Ronaldo.

Lucescu is confident, though, that Inter are ready for the test at Old Trafford, where the visitors will have their eyes on scoring an away goal or two.

"Everybody knows that Manchester United were the best team in the qualifying phase, so we know it's going to be a difficult match," said the Romanian coach who replaced Gigi Simoni last December.

"But I'm happy because the lads showed that they are physically ready for it. Juventus had more of the ball in the first half and we became a bit ill-tempered."

"But we dominated and controlled the game in the second half and if it had been a boxing match, we would have won on points."

"We knew that this game would tell us exactly how good we really are at the moment and I can now say that with four days to go before the Champions League both Inter and Juve are ready."

"This draw will help us and will be a comfort," he added. Inter striker Nicola Ventola is, meanwhile, hoping for divine intervention at Old Trafford after the 20-year-old sub missed his team's best scoring chance after a superb through-ball from Roberto Baggio.

"Perhaps on the way to Manchester, I'll stop off for a moment at Lourdes," he quipped. "Perhaps I should have got to the ball quicker, but when I looked up, (Angelo) Peruzzi was already there in front of me."

Inter goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca, who had to cope with a laser light being shined in his eyes on Saturday night, is equally clear about Inter's objective on Wednesday.

"We need to put on a great performance," he said. "And score at least one goal."

Bayern make Bundesliga history

BONN, Feb 28 (Reuters/Internet): Brazilian Elber struck twice as German leaders Bayern Munich crushed Hansa Rostock 4-0 away to make Bundesliga history on Saturday.

Bayern became the first club since the top division started 36 years ago to record five successive league wins without conceding a goal.

Elber scored in the 69th and 87th minutes. The other goals came from striker Carsten Jancker in the 80th minute and veteran Lothar Matthaus one minute from time.

The comfortable victory allowed Bayern to move 12 points clear of second-placed Bayer Leverkusen, who could only manage a goalless draw at Hamburg SV.

The Bavarians could not have had better preparation for the home leg of their all-German European Cup quarter-final against Kaiserslautern on Wednesday.

German champions Kaiserslautern had to be content with a 1-1 draw at home to VfB Stuttgart on Friday.

Surprisingly, Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was not too happy.

"I'm not particularly pleased with what I saw today," he said. "Even in the second half we didn't play that well. It's still a long road to the title. It would be a mistake to think we have it made because we're 12 points clear."

Bourse Dortmund relied on second-half goals from German playmaker Andreas Moller. Swiss striker Stephanie Chapuisat and Russian midfielder Vladimir But to beat lowly Nuremberg 3-0.

The 1997 European champions climbed one place to fifth and stayed in the hunt for places in Europe.

Troubled Borussia Moenchengladbach moved closer to the second division with a goalless draw at fellow strugglers Eintracht Frankfurt.

Rakib holds leader Shulman

Sports Reporter

Belarus Grand Master Yuri Shulman and England Grand Master Nigel Short were jointly leading the 4th United Insurance Grand Masters' Chess Tournament at the end of round ten held yesterday at the NSC conference room.

Shulman, after a day-off, was held to a draw by Bangladesh International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib in the round. Playing with black pieces, Rakib played quite confidently against his powerful counterpart for the more than five hours before the match concluded in a draw after 50 moves.

With the draw, Shulman raised his tally to seven points from nine games, equal to that of Short, who has played one game more.

After a defeat and a draw in the previous two rounds, Short, the tall former challenger of World Champion Garry Kasparov, returned to his winning form defeating Polish Grand Master Aleksander Wojtkiewicz.

Playing with whites, Short,

whose second love is cricket and is a keen fan of Lancashire County, overcame the Sicilian defence of Wojtkiewicz after 48 moves.

Estonian Grand Master Jaan

Reefat-bin-Sattar beat FIDE Master Enamul Hossain Rajib while the other two games - Grand Master Niaz Murshed against Hungarian Grand Master Peter Szkeley, and International Master Ziaur Rahman against Indian International Master Neelotpal Das - ended in dull draws.

The eleventh round will begin at the same venue today at 2 pm.

Standings (all have played nine games except otherwise mentioned): 7 points - Shulman and Short (10 games), 6.5 points - Elhvest, 6 points - Wojtkiewicz and Zagrebely 5 points - Zia, 4.5 points - Kunte, 4 points - Rakib (10 games), 3.5 points - Niaz, 3 points - Reefat, Szkeley, Neelotpal, 2 points - Rajib.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rest: Abdullah Al-Rakib Rajib v Shulman Kunte v Reefat Neelotpal v Zagrebely Niaz v Zia Wojtkiewicz v Szkeley Elhvest v Short

Playing with whites, Short,

Chelsea stay in the chase

LONDON, Feb 28 (Reuters/Internet): Chelsea and Manchester United scored contrasting 2-1 victories on Saturday to put light between themselves and the Premier league chasing pack.

United maintained their four-point lead thanks to late goals from Roy Keane and Dwight Yorke. Matt Le Tissier scored a last-minute consolation goal.

But Chelsea, who have a game in hand on Alex Ferguson's side, stayed snapping at

their heels as they outclassed Liverpool, taking the lead through a Frank Leboeuf penalty and Bjarne Goldback's third goal in two games.

Michael Owen got one back for ragged Liverpool.

United have 57 points from 28 games and Chelsea 53 from 27.

Only Arsenal, who are third on 49 points but with two games in hand on United, look capable of providing a challenge for the leading pair. They will look to get back in the race with victory over Newcastle on Sunday.

Aston Villa failed to resurrect their title hopes as they

were thumped 4-1 by neighbours Coventry. John Aloisi and George Boateng each scored twice.

Victory for Gordon Strachan's side moves them out of the relegation zone.

Blackburn slipped down to third from bottom after a 2-0 defeat by West Ham.

Nottingham Forest managed to snatch a point against Charlton but remain anchored in bottom place, six points behind Southampton.

Although United and Chelsea took two-goal leads and conceded late goals, the respective styles in which they went about winning could not have been different.

While United, with one eye on their European Cup quarter-final against Inter Milan on Wednesday, turned in a workmanlike display to beat struggling Southampton, Chelsea were at their ebullient best for much of their game against Liverpool.

Tore Andre Flo, back in the starting line-up, caused a patched up Liverpool defence constant trouble and it was his persistence that led to the opening goal on seven minutes.

Flo, fighting for a high ball into the area, hustled Phil Sabin, who needlessly brushed the ball away with his hand.

Frank Leboeuf thumped home the ensuing penalty.

Liverpool were at sixes and sevens for the remainder of the first half and fell 2-0 behind on 38 minutes after another glaring defensive mix-up.

A drifting cross from the right found Bjarne Goldback in space on the right and the Dane cheerfully finished home.

Liverpool had a couple of chances but Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler both shot weakly when well placed and Chelsea should have made it three on half-time as Petrescu smacked a shot against the post.

Reaction

Eden and cricket

Syed Zainul Akmal Al-Mahmood

Syed Mahub Murshed's piece 'No more cricket at Eden, please' has drawn predictable reaction from two persons.

(Daily Star Sport, Feb 28): Both of them have chosen to attack Mr. Murshed personally and by doing so they have avoided the main issues: should any more high profile cricket matches be played in the Eden Gardens in the near future? What lessons can be drawn from the Eden Gardens debacle? One of the writers, Mr. Goel, took the opportunity to brag about the high quality of Indian journalism. Let me remind the gentleman that the Indian press reports were indirectly responsible for the ugly scenes at the Eden Gardens during the recently concluded Indo-Pak cricket match. Instead of appealing for reason and sportsmanship, the Indian journalists chose to go into a rabble-rousing act. With their writing

and petulant demands to the effect that Fendulkr should have been given a second lease of life, they certainly fanned the flames of misguided nationalism. Calcutta's own Jagmohan Dalnaya did not mince his words when he condemned the actions of the unruly spectators. Let us remember that for two days running, these hooligans systematically tried to wreck the match. And this was not the first such offence, either. This is a disease that could spread and the ICC must be ready to deal with it. In the world of football, clubs and national sides have to take responsibility for the behaviour of their fans. Let it be so with cricket also. We do not want cricket to be held hostage by unruly home crowds.

(The DS is not responsible for the comments. The writer is one of our readers.)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	Downs	adorable	Being - 7'
1 du	33 Put an	3 Process-	10 Pub
4 Liebert	end to 13	sion	potation
4 Rotten	Across	vehicles	12 Rid of
7 Pivot	8 The ends	4 Paycheck	12 time
of the	36 Ribbed	premium	14 Faxed
earth?	37 Go via	5 Father-	15 Albanian