

Ronit, Prarthana clinch titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Indians Ronit Bisht and Prarthana Thombare clinched boys' and girls' titles respectively in the Prime Bank ATF under-14 tennis tournament at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

In the boys' final, Ronit beat Mohit Mayur 6-3, 7-5. The singles champion won the doubles crown earlier when he and brother Rohit beat Japan's Tachi Ryoto and Aashman Goghari of India 6-4, 6-4.

Prarthana also won both the singles and doubles crown. In the singles final, Prarthana crushed Riddhi Hegde 6-2, 6-0. Then she and Vaideshi Bhagwat beat another Indian pair Namita Bal and VKC Vishesh 6-1, 7-6.

Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) president AMM Nasiruddin was the chief guest at the closing function and distributed the prizes.

Managing director of tournament sponsor Prime Bank Limited M Shahjahan Bhuiyan was present at the function as special guest. BTF General Secretary M Sanaul Haque was also present.

Meanwhile, the BKSP ATF Under-14 tennis series begins today at BKSP in Savar.

Big win for Matuail

SPORTS REPORTER

Matuail Udayan Sangha thrashed Shantinagar Club 4-0 in yesterday's Third Division Football League at the Bir Shreshthha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

The winners got the lead one minute before halftime with Awal breaking the deadlock but the second session was rather one-sided with Sajal, Shailesh and Wahidur scoring a goal each.

Farhad and Farid struck either side of the break to help PWD register a 2-0 win against Mirpur Chalanitka at the same venue while Sohail Rana's second half goal gave Tongi KC full three points with a 1-0 defeat of Dilkusha at the Outer Stadium.

Yelena, Sandra share Golden League jackpot

AFF, Berlin

World champion pole-vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva and American 400 metres runner Sandra Richards will share a one million dollars jackpot after both registered their sixth consecutive Golden League wins of the season here on Sunday.

The 25-year-old Russian Isinbayeva cleared a height of 4.82 metres after compatriot Svetlana Feofanova failed at her third attempt.

And although the world champion failed at her three attempts to beat her own record of 5.01metres, she was all smiles having dominated the field and was never really under pressures.

Just moments before Richards had destroyed the 400 metres field to win in 49.27secs, the fastest time this year, well ahead of Britain's world champion Christine Ohuruogu time of 50.40seconds.

Having failed to win a 400metres place at Osaka's World Championships last month after losing out in the US trial, Richards said the money would go some way to null her pain of missing her chance to take world gold.

Bangla Games

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The players will be accommodated at the BFF Bhaban and adjacent club tents as the BKSP, the venue for residential camps of other disciplines, will be occupied till September 25.

After one week, the booters are likely to move to the sports institute in Savar.

The players have been asked to report to Hamiduzzaman Noman on September 19 at 5pm.

The squad: Nehal, Mostak, Sultan, Sabuj (goalkeeper), Russell Sr, Russell Jr, Johnny, Nurul, Saikat, Pintu, Mahfuz Babu, Robin, Kanak, Rezaul, Rimon (defenders), Emon Bazar, Raju, Rana, Mobarak, Shahed, Jewel, Manik, Ronny, Rashed Biplab and Bipul (midfield), Sabuj, Sabbir, Zahera, Biplab and Rashed (attack).

Standbys: Rahat, Kader (goalkeepers), Rocky (defender), Shahid, Shamil Rony (midfielder).

Real can do

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Valladolid.

Cameroon midfielder Daniel Kome put Valladolid ahead on ten minutes before Spanish international Fernando Montes equaled on 23 minutes.

A draw looked on the cards until de Silva popped up with a winner close to the end and Valencia climb to second, three points behind tabletoppers Real.

Valencia are also in action in midweek facing Schalke 04 in the Champions League on Tuesday.



Winners and participants of Prime Bank ATF under-14 tennis tournament pose at the end of the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Vettori gets India

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two sixes and McMillan a six and a four.

The pair plundered 19 runs in the 18th over sent down by Shanthakumaran Sreesanth and 21 in Ajit Agarkar's 19th.

The Kiwis had three run outs in the final over after Vettori, later named man of the match, was bowled off the first ball by Rudra Pratap.

New Zealand next play England on Tuesday and India take on England on Wednesday, both matches taking place at the Kingsmead in Durban.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Twenty20 World Championships Super Eights match between India and New Zealand at the Wanderers on Sunday:

NEW ZEALAND
McCullum c Gambhir b Harbhajan 45
Vincent c Karthick b RP Singh 3
Fulton lbw b Harbhajan 21
Taylor lbw b Yuvraj 11
Styris run out 2
McMillan run out 44
Oram c RP Singh b Sreesanth 35
Vettori b RP Singh 15
Bond run out 4
Gillespie not out 0
Patel run out 0
Extras: (lb-6, w-4) 10
Total: (All out in 20 overs) 190
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-69, 3-86, 4-89, 5-91, 6-164, 7-185, 8-189, 9-190.

Bowler
Sreesanth 3 0 37 1
RP Singh 4 0 29 2
Agarkar 4 0 40 0
Pathan 2 0 16 0
Harbhajan 4 0 24 2
Yuvraj 3 0 38 1

INDIA
Gambhir c McCullum b Vettori 51
Sehwag c Styris b Oram 40
Uthappa c & b Vettori 0

Dhoni run out 24
Yuvraj c Taylor b Patel 5
Karthick c Bond b Vettori 17
Pathan b Vettori 11
Agarkar run out 1
Harbhajan c Vettori b Bond 7
Sreesanth not out 19
RP Singh not out 1
Extras: (lb-2, w-2) 4
Total: (For nine wkts in 20 overs) 180
Fall of wickets: 1-76, 2-77, 3-104, 4-116, 5-128, 6-146, 7-151, 8-152, 9-163.

Bowler
Bond 4 0 39 1
Gillespie 4 0 42 0
Patel 3 0 38 1
Oram 2 0 14 1
Vettori 4 0 20 4
Styris 3 0 25 0

Result: New Zealand won by 10 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Daniel Vettori.
Toss: India
Umpires: Mark Benson (ENG) and Nigel Llong (ENG)
TV umpire: Daryl Harper (AUS)
Match referee: Chris Broad (ENG)

Waugh shocked

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"India has a tough season coming up with a home series against Pakistan and the tour to Australia. I cannot imagine what precipitated this announcement but something does seem amiss," he wrote in a newspaper column.

In Steve Waugh's view "it does not seem like something David would do".

The former Australian great notes that David was subject to "massive public scrutiny for his decision not to enforce the follow-on against England in the recent Test match at the Oval".

Rooney back for opener

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and it was outside the box but he was definitely caught by the Everton player.

"To get a yellow card for that was ridiculous. The referee thought he might have to give a penalty kick, so he booked Ronaldo instead, it was a bad decision."

Ferguson, who admitted that French defender Mikael Silvestre could be facing a prolonged spell on the sidelines after being stretched off with suspected knee ligament damage, paid tribute to Vidic's contribution at both ends of the pitch.

"We are delighted with the win because people will see a very improved Everton this season," he said. "Teams will find it very hard

coming here.

"But we stood up to Yakubu and Andrew Johnson, who will be helpful for anyone, and our defenders showed great determination.

"Nemanja Vidic is a marvellous defender but he can get a goal as well. It's a bit of a concern that we are not scoring as many goals as we want, but until we get everyone back we will play like this.

"We are determined, we have a good team ethic, we have got a good shape and we had good passing. We will work away and this is a very good result."

Everton are hoping to have first-choice keeper Tim Howard back for next Thursday's UEFA Cup first round first leg game with Metallist Kharkov of the Ukraine.

BANGLADESH-SOUTH AFRICA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Twenty20 match between South Africa and Bangladesh at Newlands on Saturday:

BANGLADESH
Iqbal c Smith b Pollock 8
Nazimuddin lbw b Ntini 0
Aftab b M Morkel 36
Ashraful c Smith b Pollock 10
Shakib run out (Duminy) 19
Kapali c De Villiers b M Morkel 14
Morazza c Duminy b Philander 12
Reza c Kemp b Philander 19
Rahim c Pollock b Van der Wath 4
Razzak not out 2
Rasel b Pollock 6
Extras: (lb-10, nb-1, w-3) 14
Total: (All out in 19.3 overs) 144
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-24, 3-34, 4-58, 5-77, 6-101, 7-119, 8-131, 9-134.

Bowler
Pollock 3.3 0 40 3
Ntini 2 0 31 1
M Morkel 4 0 21 2
Van der Wath 4 0 13 1
Philander 4 0 23 2
A Morkel 2 0 6 0

SOUTH AFRICA
Smith c Rahim b Shakib 41
Duminy lbw b Razzak 36
Morkel c Reza b Razzak 41
De Villiers not out 14
Kemp not out 12
Extras: (lb-1, w-1) 2
Total: (For 3 wkts in 18.5 overs) 146
Fall of wickets: 1-65, 2-108, 3-123.

Bowler
Morazza 3.5 0 33 0
Rasel 4 0 28 0
Razzak 4 0 26 2
Ashraful 2 0 17 0
Shakib 4 0 28 1
Reza 1 0 13 0

Did not bat: Boucher, Pollock, Philander, Van der Wath, M Morkel, Ntini.
Result: South Africa won by seven wickets.
Man-of-the-match: M Morkel.

He missed Saturday's game with a serious finger injury paving the way for German Stefan Wessels to make his debut.

The 28-year-old did not have a serious save to make before Vidic's winner.

"We didn't deserve to lose three points. It's very hard to take," said Everton boss David Moyes.

"A lapse of concentration has cost us. I'm always disappointed when we concede from set pieces."

"We had a go at them but our keeper hasn't had too many saves to make. The performance was good enough and we are improving.

"If we play like that then we'll win more than we lose."

Colin McRae dies in helicopter

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Love of Lanarkshire police said in the statement.

"Our officers are working closely with the Air Accident Investigation Team who are presently at the scene.

"Family Liaison Officers have been appointed and are with the families to help them through this distressing and difficult time."

"Although a post mortem has still to take place, the four involved are believed to be: Mr Colin McRae (39) of Jenriswood House and his son Johnny Gavin McRae, aged 5."

The two others were named as six-year-old Ben Porcelli, of Lanark, and Graeme Duncan, 37, who lived in France.

The crash wreckage, which was in thick woods, was so bad it was initially difficult to determine how many people were involved.

Colin Steele McRae was born in Lanark on August 5, 1968.

He had two children, Hollie and

Johnny, with his wife Alison.

David Richards, McRae's former boss at Subaru -- where he enjoyed much of his rallying success -- described his death as "a terrible loss."

"He had a competitive spirit like I've never seen," Richards told the BBC.

"He was one of those people who had an extraordinary spirit that you just can't define."

Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond, said McRae's death was a "great tragedy."

McRae competed in his first rally on the World Rally Championship circuit in Sweden in 1987, earning his first win in New Zealand in 1993.

Driving a Subaru Impreza 555, the Scot won the 1995 World Rally Championship in a nail-biting finish

on home soil and was the runner-up in 1996, 1997 and 2001.

He was made a MBE by Queen Elizabeth II in 1996.

The driving ace is also known for "Colin McRae Rally" -- a series of racing video games, played on many platforms, which have sold more than eight million copies worldwide.

The rally driver's official website, www.colinmcræe.com, was changed to a black screen on Sunday morning.

"I'm not really a fan of computers," McRae was quoted as saying on his website before it went offline.

He added: "When it comes to computers and electronics, give me 300 brake horsepower, a winding road -- and no brakes, and then you've got my attention!"

Jol vows

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51-year-old was speaking before his customary post-match meeting with Levy in the Tottenham boardroom and it is unlikely he will have emerged from the discussions with a spring in his step.

Jol might lay claim to being Tottenham's most successful coach since David Pleat, having engineered consecutive fifth-placed league finishes, but having established the club as one of the Premier League's biggest spenders, he needs to deliver palpable rewards.

Tellingly, Jol refused to claim that he retained the support of his employers. "I can only listen to what Daniel Levy is telling me," he insisted.

"But provided we play good football and get the results, there is no problem. If you don't get the results, you have to analyse what is going wrong. I can come up with solutions and if we do that, we can do what we did last season and get 60 points. For me there is no problem: we will get it right because they are talented players."

Pursuit

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would be remembered as one who had left the job with his "dignity intact."

"I'm not surprised because David is the kind of person who puts his heart and soul into any job he tackles," he wrote in his column on the Cricinfo website.

"When you do that, especially in a country where a billion people all think they can do the job better or at least as well, it can wear you down mentally.

"If you give the captaincy your all, there is a definite use-by date. David, an intense and thoughtful individual, has obviously reached the end of the line as captain."

David dropped hints of things to come during the recent tour of England when former England captain Michael Atherton asked him whether leading India was a burden.

"Burden is too strong a word and people say that because of how I look. I'm not naturally a cheery-looking soul on the field. I do enjoy it but there are aspects I find tough," the Hindu newspaper quoted him as saying.

"What I find hardest is the absolute lack of proportion. It makes it very hard to build a team when two or three bad games provoke such an extreme reaction. The media in India have been changing rapidly."

He is not the first Indian to quit captaincy for batting. Sachin Tendulkar did the same in 2000 when he stepped down after a two-Test home series against South Africa in order to concentrate on his game.

David took over from Sourav Ganguly in 2005 and had many firsts to his credit as a Test skipper.

He led India to their only Test win in South Africa and then to the first Test series victory in the West Indies in 35 years in 2006. Last month, India won their first Test series in England in two decades.

Under him, India won a record 17 successive one-day internationals chasing targets.

But his most disappointing moment came in the World Cup in the Caribbean early this year when India were knocked out in the first round after a shock defeat against Bangladesh.

"I enjoyed the captaincy. I loved it, but it can get tough after a while and some of the enjoyment can go away. So I thought it was the right time to step aside," said David, 34.

India will name a new captain on Tuesday for the upcoming home one-day series against Australia, with wicketkeeper-batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni tipped for the job.

ACA backs BCCI venture

CRICINFO, undated



The Australian Cricketers Association (ACA) has backed the proposed Champions Twenty20 League but voiced concerns over the league prompting an increase in the players' workload. "We see this competition as a terrific opportunity for state cricketers," Paul Marsh, the chief executive of the ACA, told The Age, a Melbourne daily.

"But it would be very difficult for us to support a situation where Australian players who have already got very, very hectic workloads would be obligated to play in this September-October event on top of their current workloads," he said.

The Champions League is an international Twenty20 competition featuring the top two domestic teams from India, England, Australia and South Africa. Modelled on the system of franchises used by the American NFL

and NBA, the league will be run by the boards of the four countries and the first tournament is scheduled for October 2008.

Each franchise will pay a fee to the BCCI, which will give it access to shared revenues and the right to exploit exclusive revenue. There will also be a draft, similar to the one used in the US, which will allow the buying and selling of players.

Marsh said the ACA, which had begun discussions with Cricket Australia about all aspects of the competition, wanted to find out more about trading of players and about Australian internationals who may play for their states in the tournament.

"We are not saying we are for or against it, we just want to find out more information. As it stands, those states (which qualify for the Champions League) could pull in their Australian players if they were available (for September-October 2008)," he said. "There is talk that they may have some international players in there as well, so the

states will be able to chase whoever it may be from another country to come and play for their state."

Meanwhile Tim May, the chief executive of the Federation of International Cricketers' Association, has welcomed the Indian Cricket League (ICL), which is also a Twenty20 league -- though not recognised by the ICC or the national boards -- backed by the Essel group in India.

May said the league was a challenge to the establishment. "What that means for players is that we've got a buyer in the market now. There's no longer a monopoly and a false market which used to be owned by authorities such as the ICC and the national bodies."

"The governing bodies -- and you can't blame them -- are trying to dissuade the players by legal means or otherwise, from joining the ICL," he said. "At the same time, they are looking at themselves and asking 'How can we make ourselves more competitive?' I don't think that's a bad thing."

Perils of Twenty20

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interest," he says.

Chappell says that Australia has stayed strong at Test cricket because it has understood the value of the four-day game at state level, but if the states are distracted by money on offer for Twenty20, the Test team will suffer.

"I think the idea of generating more money for domestic cricket is fantastic," he says.

"However the disparity between the potential to win \$2m playing Twenty20 and what you get to win the Pura Cup is going to affect the way people think about the game. "It will affect programming and so on and it needs to be cleverly thought through.

"The four-day game is a very important part of the development process in cricket and that needs to be understood and it needs to be protected as much as possible."

Another former Test captain, Kim Hughes, is of a similar mind.

"Lets face it, if you've got the chance to win \$128,000 compared with the chance to win \$2m, then there's no choice about what you do from a business point of view," Hughes says.

"I am of a strong view Twenty20 should be left at a state level or a county level, but I don't see any benefit of it for our

national team."

Like Chappell, Hughes believes the prize money and concentration on Twenty20 could add to the decline of Test skills. "We've seen the deterioration in standard in Test cricket (because of the one-day game)," he says. "Apart from Australia, there is probably only one other side interested in playing at the top level."

"The other nations are happy concentrating on the one-day game and it's their loss.

"One-day cricket is a sheltered game where you get flat wickets, the batsmen are protected, the bowlers can't bowl bouncers and ordinary blokes start to look pretty good."

"Look at the standard of Test cricket in the West Indies -- they are pathetic. Bangladesh and Zimbabwe are no good. England has fallen off the pace, India and Pakistan are ordinary."

"Players who can play good Test cricket can play all the other forms, but there are plenty who can play one-day games but they're not within a bull's roar of being Test cricketers. You need to get your priorities right and most nations don't."

Former national coach John Buchanan is a little more comfortable with the form. "The money is certainly a means of assisting

players who are new to the game or even those who have been around for a while without them having to go to rebel outfits or the English leagues," he says.

"If you were the Australian teams who make it to the next level (in the Champions League) the money would certainly be a huge boost to your organisation. Still, I would have thought if there is that potential pot of gold on offer as teams approach the domestic season here the Twenty20 tournament would take more significance than it now does."

All of these concerns fell on deaf ears in New Delhi early on Thursday, when McGrath and several other high-profile signings were paraded at the launch of the Twenty20 Champions League. India's Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly and Sachin Tendulkar and former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming were all there.

Later in the day Dravid, a prolific middle-order batsman, offered to step down as captain of India's Test side, a month after leading his team to a rare Test series victory in England.

Klose keeps Bayern atop

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really flowed and it could have been 2-0 at the break.

"The team played very well and we did well to take a point from Bayern."

Elsewhere on Saturday, defending Bundesliga champions VfB Stuttgart picked up a much-needed three points with a 3-0 win at home to Energie Cottbus.

Brazilian's Cacau and Ewerthon scored second-half goals before Germany's player of the year Mario Gomez came off the bench to score the third.

This was only Stuttgart's second win in five Bundesliga games and lifted them up to seventh.

Second-placed Arminia Bielefeld routed bottom-side Hansa Rostock 4-2 to keep the pressure on Bayern.

Bielefeld took the lead when midfielder Joerg Boehme crashed home his indirect free-kick which took a deflection off Rostock's Nigerian striker Victor Agali after 31

minutes.

Rostock equalised just after the break, but Bielefeld put the game beyond doubt with three goals in nine minutes as striker Christian Eigler scored twice along with Artur Wichniarek, who got his fourth goal of the season.

The guests grabbed a second goal late in the game, but it was too little, too late.

Bayern Leverkusen enjoyed a 2-0 win over ten-man VfL Bochum after French midfielder Marc Pfoertzel was sent off for a second yellow-card and Leverkusen's defender Karim Haggui grabbed their first goal with a header on 62 minutes.

German defender got the second goal two minutes from time and Bayer's win leaves them fifth, while Bochum crash down the table to ninth.

Hanover raced into a two-goal lead at Nuremberg when ex-Germany striker Mike Hanke

headed home two first-half goals, but the German Cup holders hit back to force a 2-2 draw as Hanover were reduced to ten men for the last ten minutes.

And Eintracht Frankfurt stay third after midfielder Alexander Meier scored both their goals in their 2-1 home win over Hamburg.

There was an upset on Friday night as Werder Bremen had their run of three wins broken when they were left reeling after conceding three goals in ten minutes as they were beaten 3-0 by Borussia Dortmund.

Swiss midfielder Mladen Petric led the charge with two goals and the win takes Dortmund up to fourth in the table.

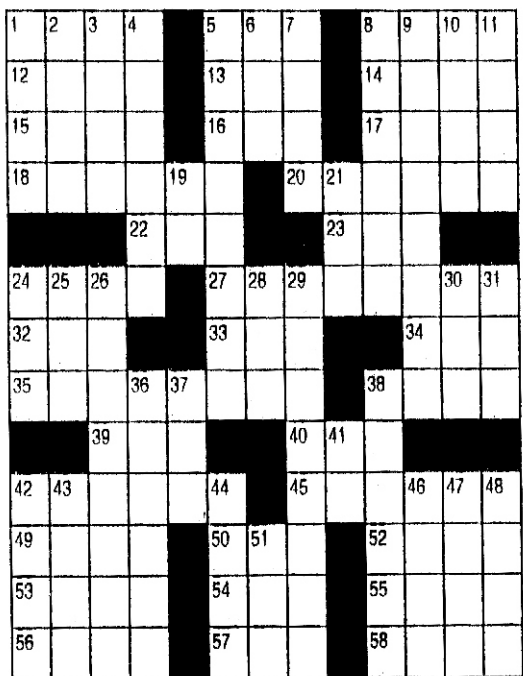
On Sunday, VfL Wolfsburg take on last season's second-division champions Karlsruhe and Duisburg host Hertha Berlin.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 En-grossed
5 A handful
8 Questionable
12 Earthenware
13 Parisian pal
14 Bargain event
15 Culture medium
16 Sister
17 Winter forecast
18 Enthusiast, and then some
20 Bandage materials
22 Aviate
23 Architect I.M.
24 Slap
27 Hellish
32 'Born in the —'
33 Teachers' org.
34 Lamb dam

35 Big brass con-tainer?
38 Gilligan's home
39 Play —
40 Pitch pot
42 Ornamental beetle
45 Parka
49 Sea flock
50 Donkey
52 Hub
53 "Mission aborted"
54 Main-lander's memento
55 Detail
56 Noah's passeng-ers
57 Meadow
Solution time: 25 mins.

DOWN
1 Wander
2 Plankton component
3 Blue-print
4 Import duty
5 Liking
6 Ostrich's cousin
7 Building extension
8 Distributor
9 Devotees' publica-tions
10 Huge chunk of ice
42 Faxed
43 Boast
44 'I Love Lucy' star
46 —'lat-lat
47 State with conviction
48 Dole's 1996 running mate
51 Witness



CRYPTOQUIP

QGTI LZZLHH ZVLMFLF
ZVT LTZFMIX ETHECT,
NNY QHYCP ZFFYWT LGZL
LGNT'VT ITTPCMIX LGTW.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR DEEJAY,
MISTAKENLY PLAYING A JOEY RAMONE SONG,
STOPPED IT AND SAID "NO PUNK INTENDED."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals I