

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 Gohari of India 6-4, 6-4.

Prarthana also won both the singles and doubles crown. In the singles final, Prarthana crushed Ridhi Hegde 6-2, 6-0. Then she and Vaideshi Bhagat 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 Sanau 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 Shreshtha 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 Chalantika at the same venue while Sohel 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

AFP, 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 5.01 metres, she was all smiles having dominated the field and was never really under pressure.

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

FROM PAGE 17

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 Babu, Raju, Rana, Mobarak, Shahed, Jewel, Manik, Ronny, Rashed Biplob and Bipul (midfield), Sabuj, Sabbir, Zaheer, Biplob and Rashed (attack).

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

Real can do

FROM PAGE 20

Cameroon midfielder Daniel Kome put Valladolid ahead on ten minutes before Spanish international Fernando Morentes equalised in 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 table-toppers 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.

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 obliged 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

FROM PAGE 17

national team."

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. "Let's 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

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."

"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

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

FROM PAGE 20

minutes.

Rostock equalised just after the break, but Bielefeld put the game 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	35	Big brass	58	Complain	11	Evergreen	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	En-	grossed	12	repeatedly	13	14							
5	A handful		15	container?	16	17							
8	Questionable		18	38 Gilligan's home	19	20	21						
12	Earthenware		22	Play —	23								
14	Bargain		24	40 Pitch	25	Work with							
15	Culture		26	42 Ornamental	27	Lively							
16	Sister		28	45 Parka	29	Spanish							
17	Winter forecast		30	49 Sea	31	dance							
18	Enthusiast		32	50 Donkey	33	aborted							
20	Bandage		34	52 Hub	35	7. Building							
22	Aviate		36	53 Mission	37	extension							
23	Architect		38	54 Meadow	39	31 Shelter							
41			40	55 Detail	41	36 Trunks							
42			41	56 Noah's	42	37 Discoverer's cry							
49			43	57 Meadow	43	38 O. Henry-esque							
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CRYPTOQUIP

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Z V T L T Z F M I X E T H E C T ,
N H Y Q H Y C P Z F F Y W T L G Z L
I G T N V T I T T P C M I X L G T W .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR DEEJAY,
MISTAKENLY PLAYING A JOEY RAMONE SONG,
STOPPED IT AND SAID "NO PUNK INTENDED".

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

Rooney back for opener

FROM PAGE 20

coming here.

"But we stood up to Yakubu and Andrew Johnson, who will be hand 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."

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".

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