

Mithu fires Gazirchot

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace by Mithu gave Gazirchot SC a 3-0 win over Rahmatganj SC in yesterday's Third Division Football League at the Bir Shreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

After both sides failed to score in the first half, Mithu struck twice and Faruq the other goal to ensure three points for Gazirchot.

Shantinagar Club drew 2-2 with Government Printing Press at the same venue while City United Club held Friends Social Welfare 1-1 at the Outer Stadium.

The remaining match at the Outer Stadium between Jurain Janata Club and Dhaka Junior SC ended in a goalless draw.

Dhoni new

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for the country since the World Cup in the Caribbean earlier this year.

There was no place in the squad for hard-hitting opener Virender Sehwag, who played his last one-dayer in May.

"Irfan and Harbhajan both have done well in the ongoing Twenty20 World Championships in South Africa and they deserve it," said Vengsarkar.

SQUAD

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (capt), Yuvraj Singh, Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Dinesh Karthik, Gautam Gambhir, Robin Uthappa, Irfan Pathan, Ramesh Powar, Piyush Chawla, Rudra Pratap Singh, Zaheer Khan, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Harbhajan Singh.

No omelette

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Mourinho chose to remain bullish in the face of Kenyon's demands.

"We must win tomorrow. After this game I will say that the next game is the most important and then I will say we must win against Hull in the League Cup," said Mourinho.

"That is the way I approach my season, game after game, competition after competition, our objective in every game is to win.

"When we don't win we are not happy and that is the way we approach every season. Next week we are playing three competitions at the same time. In the second half of the season we will be playing four competitions at one time and I don't want to take risks on the players' motivation.

"At the moment their motivation is on the Champions League tie against Rosenborg. We respect our opponents but we think we are a better team."

Pakistan outplay

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Younis Khan c Lee b Clark 4
Malik not out 52
Misbahul not out 66
Extras: (lb-1, w-5, nb-1) 7
Total: (For four wkt in 19.1 overs) 165
Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-27, 3-35, 4-46.

Bowler O M R W
Lee 4 0 30 0
Bracken 4 0 35 0
Clark 4 0 27 3
Johnson 4 0 28 1
Symonds 2.1 0 27 0
Clarke 1 0 17 0
Result: Pakistan won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Misbahul Haq.

Toss: Pakistan

Umpires: Mark Benson (ENG) and Nigel Llong (ENG)

TV umpire: Daryl Harper (AUS)

Match referee: Chris Broad (ENG)

Will NCL get

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He also issued a warning to the national players. "Without any valid reason like national duty, injury or serious family problems, none of the national players would be allowed to keep away from the competition."

Initially, the competition will play at three venues -- Bogra, Rajshahi and Khulna -- but Selim Bhuiyan informed that they are contemplating to stage the inaugural match in Daka.

He also said that they are desperately trying to get a sponsor. "The last date of dropping tenders is September 23 and we are also talking with the different corporate houses individually," he added.

Jol challenges

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while Darren Bent came on and missed when sent through.

"Dimir Berbatov will do better next time and he has said that himself," Jol said. "He knows and Darren Bent knows that they are top players and, that being the case, they have to do better and I'm sure they will do."

Jol admits his side have to turn their season around starting with the clash against Cypriot side Famagusta. "Our start is the same as last year and to get back on track we need good team work and to cut out the errors sooner rather than later because we don't have the time," he said. "We have to combine our development as a team with getting the right results and that is what we will do."



PHOTO: AFP

Indian cricket's chief selector Dilip Vengsarkar (L) takes questions from reporters as cricket board secretary Niranjan Shah looks on during a press conference in Mumbai yesterday.

Paul's errors surface

CRICINFO, undated

ICC WORLD TWENTY20 SAUDI ARABIA 2007
This was a day when Paul Collingwood's mistakes caught up with him. Despite the brave face he put on the situation at the post-match press conference, there will be many questions asked about his judgment since England arrived in South Africa for this tournament.

Yes, England do retain a mathematical chance of joining New Zealand in the semi-finals, but their inability to win games that they have (if only briefly) dominated, means they do not deserve progress. Nor is it remotely likely, anyway. Beaten in their last three games by Australia, South Africa and now New Zealand, England are as good as out.

The errors came on and off the field. First, on the field. The startling mistake -- the word came to dominate the uncomfortable press briefing at Kingsmead -- was that Collingwood forgot to give his stand-out bowler, Andrew Flintoff, a fourth over.

With four overs remaining, Collingwood knew he was confused about how many had been bowled -- and checked with the umpire, Steve Taufel. But, in an insight into the pressures that lie heavily on the captain in this form of the game, the answer didn't sink in, despite the fact that the scoreboard would have provided the answer.

The plan was to give Flintoff the 18th and 20th overs, but Collingwood brought himself on for the 18th, believing it to be the 17th. As it happened, he conceded just six runs, but it left Flintoff, who bowled the penultimate over, with figures of 3-0-11-1.

Why no other senior player stepped in to query the decision is unanswered. The lapse had caused the press-box to scrutinise Flintoff's troublesome left ankle, believing that Collingwood had stepped in to

lighten his load. But there were other questionable moments: Kevin Pietersen appeared to step in to make fielding changes with Collingwood, at long off, uninvolving.

Much of the conference was taken up with another Collingwood "mistake". In the early hours of Saturday morning -- the Super Eight game v South Africa was on Sunday -- the English tabloid newspaper spotted him, The Sun, in a Cape Town lap-dancing bar. (In case its readers were unsure quite what happens at lap-dancing clubs, the paper provided a helpful, well-illustrated guide...)

Collingwood admitted his behaviour was unacceptable, though said that once he realised the nature of the bar, he finished his drink and left. He also revealed that his companions were "not massively close friends", giving rise to more speculation about who they might have been. David Graveney, the England chairman of selectors, later said that the matter was now in the hands of the ECB, and that they would decide on any disciplinary measures.

But back to matters on the field. Ironically, given the flak that England's choice of Twenty20 specialists has coppered, this was the day that they came good -- it was the established players, at least during the run-chase, who failed.

Darren Maddy replaced Jeremy Snape (who was hopelessly out of his depth in the South Africa game) and was unrecognisable from the opener who struggled to lay bat on ball against Australia. The confidence came from a stunning run-out. He ran in from deep midwicket, picked up deftly and hurled the ball at the stumps at the bowler's end.

England fielders have struggled for direct hits of late, but this smashed into the stumps, ending a magnificent 60-run stand between Scott Styris (run out for 42) and Craig McMillan. It was the partnership that cemented New Zealand's recovery from 31 for 4, and effected

tively brought them victory. But then came the surprise move: Collingwood -- in what was a genuine moment of inspiration -- brought Maddy on for the 17th over.

True New Zealand were five-down, but they bat deep, and two middle-order big hitters, McMillan and Jacob Oram, were more than capable of carrying on the recovery. By the end of the over, Maddy's military medium had removed both.

And then England's newest opening combination came good, too. The newly confident Maddy and Solanki, who looked as though he had been keeping wicket all his life, provided what should have been the perfect foundation. Had England won, few doubted Maddy would have won the match award for his fifty-over and two wickets.

But over-ambitious shot selection -- Pietersen fell attempting a reverse sweep -- and abysmal running meant that England choked, once again. Underlying it all, though, was yet another nerveless performance from New Zealand, who were delighted to exploit every one of England's mistakes.

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Rooney's timely

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woeful Champions League away form.

Ferguson's side, who are likely to be without the injured Owen Hargreaves again, have won only two of their last 14 awaydays in Europe's top club competition.

vidic knows United have to end that run if they are to have any hope of winning the Champions League 40 years after Sir Matt Busby first brought the European Cup to Old Trafford.

The Serbian defender is targeting a victory in Portugal as the perfect springboard for the rest of the group stage, which includes daunting assignments at Roma and Dynamo Kiev.

"It's really important that we get off to a good start in the Champions League," Vidic said. "We know Sporting Lisbon will be difficult to play against.

"They are technically very good

and they know how to keep possession of the ball, which makes it difficult." But we want to start the tournament well and get a good result."

United are firm favourites to win the group, although Sporting harbour realistic ambitions of joining Ferguson's side in the knockout stages.

Paul Bento's team went third in the league with a 2-0 win at Estrela Amadora on Sunday and United will have to beware. Brazilian striker Liedson, who was on target in that match, as well as midfield playmaker Joao Moutinho.

Sporting have never lost at home to an English opponent in five matches, although a repeat of the 5-0 thrashing they inflicted on United when they last met in 1964 would surely be beyond their wildest dreams.

Kiwis almost

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while Darren Bent came on and missed when sent through.

"There are a couple of things we need to tidy up, particularly our fielding, which we pride ourselves on," said Vettori. "But the bowling in the middle stages and at the death by Mark Gillespie was fantastic."

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Twenty20 World Super Eights match between New Zealand and England at Kingsmead, Durban on Tuesday:

NEW ZEALAND

Vincent c Solanki b Broad 13
McCullum c Solanki b Anderson 4
Fulton lbw b Flintoff 0
Taylor c Flintoff b Anderson 7
Styris run out (Maddy) 42
McMillan c M ascarenhas b Maddy 57
Maddy c M ascarenhas 8
Vettori not out 17

ENGLAND

Gillespie run out 2
Broad not out 7
Extras: (lb-3, w-4) 7
Total: (For 9 wkt in 20 overs) 164

Did not bat: C Martin
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-16, 3-25, 4-31, 5-91, 6-134, 7-138, 8-145, 9-164.

Bowler O M R W
Anderson 4 0 24 2
Broad 4 0 35 1
Flintoff 3 0 11 1
Mascarenhas 4 0 43 0
Collingwood 3 0 30 1
Schofield 1 0 12 0
Maddy 1 0 6 2

Result New Zealand won by 5 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Craig McMillan.

Toss: England

Umpires: BR Drocove (West Indies) and SJ Arafel (Australia)

TV umpire: SJ Davis (Australia)

Match referee: Chris Broad (ENG)

Match referee:</b