

Rana guides Swadhinata

SPORTS REPORTER

Swadhinata Sangha rode on a brace by Masud Rana to collect full three points in the Citycell 3rd Division Football League with a 2-1 win against Jirabo SC yesterday.

Rana, who opened the scoring in the 37th minute at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur, added the match winner five minutes after Tarek's 71st minute equaliser for Jirabo.

Muslim Institute and Dilkusha shared points in the day's other match, which ended 1-1.

Russel put Muslim ahead from a penalty after 49 minutes but their lead lived short as Dilkusha pulled back the equaliser two minutes later through Al Amin.



PHOTO: STAR
Action from yesterday's Citycell National Women's Football Championship match between Tangail and Madaripur at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

India's record run

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

India marched to their longest winning streak - nine matches - with a comprehensive win that pushed Sri Lanka further towards their first 5-0 ODI whitewash. The victory was set up by left-handed opener Gautam Gambhir, who smashed a career-best 150 off 147 balls to help his side score a challenging 332-5. He hit one six and 14 fours in his sixth hundred in one-dayers.

Sri Lanka never seriously threatened India's total and were bowled out for 265 in the day-night match, which was held up for nearly 20 minutes after Indian fielder Pragnan Ojha was hit by an object thrown from the stands.

The hosts got off to a blazing start when Tillakaratne Dilshan (38) and Sanath Jayasuriya (27) added 55 for the opening wicket off just 7.2 overs, but the run-rate declined after their dismissals.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Kumar Sangakkara top-scored with 56 for his second successive half-century, while Nuwan Kulasekara (39 not out), skipper Mahela Jayawardene (28) and Farveez Maharoof (28) were the other

main run-getters.

India, who now lead 4-0 in the five-match series, also improved upon their record of eight successive one-day wins. They had beaten England 5-0 at home last year.

Off-spin genius Muralitharan, the world's leading bowler in Test cricket, became the highest wicket-taker in one-dayers when he dismissed Gambhir for his 503rd victim.

The 36-year-old Sri Lankan surpassed former Pakistan paceman Wasim Akram's one-day record when he had the opener caught by Sangakkara in his 10th and last over. He also holds the world record in Tests with 769 wickets.

Muralitharan dedicated the record to his family, saying they had stood by him through "good and bad times".

"I am happy to have achieved the record. It is also a great achievement for a small cricket nation like Sri Lanka to hold two bowling records."

Gambhir and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni (94) earlier dominated the Sri Lankan attack with a wide range of attacking shots, adding 188 for the second wicket after the third-over dismissal of in-form Virender Sehwag (five).

Sri Lanka then had to wait

for more than 30 overs for their next success as Gambhir and Dhoni made the most of a mediocre attack on a slow pitch. The hosts' fielding also left a lot to be desired under pressure.

Gambhir was the first to reach his half-century, hoisting seamer Angelo Mathews over long-on for a six. Dhoni also completed his fifty in style, swinging Muralitharan over mid-wicket for a six.

Dhoni, who promoted himself in the batting order, fell six short of his fifth hundred in one-dayers when he mistimed a shot off left-arm spinner Sanath Jayasuriya, with Dilhara Fernando taking a one-handed catch at point.

The Indian skipper hit two sixes and four boundaries in his 96-ball knock.

Paceman Nuwan Kulasekara then bowled Yuvraj Singh for five and Yusuf Pathan for no score off successive deliveries to emerge the most successful bowler with 3-63.

There was no stopping Gambhir, who reached his century with a lofted four over covers off Kulasekara. He hit one six and 14 fours before being the fifth man out.

Gambhir added 103 for the

fifth wicket with Suresh Raina, who remained unbeaten with a 37-ball 49.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between Sri Lanka and India at R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Thursday:

INDIA: 332 (Gambhir 150, Dhoni 94, Raina 49 not out; Kulasekara SRILANKA

Dilshan c Yuvraj b Kumar 38
Jayasuriya c R Sharma b Pathan 27
Sangakkara c Gambhir b Sehwag 56
Jayawardene c Dhoni b Sehwag 28
Kandamby lbw b Y Pathan 10
Kapugedera b Ojha 16
Mathews c Dhoni b Yuvraj 6
Maharoof c R Sharma b Pathan 28
Kulasekara not out 39
Muralidaran c Raina b Pathan 0
Fernando b Kumar 9
Extras: (lb-3, w-5) 8
Total: (All out in 48 overs) 265
Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-79, 3-140, 4-163, 5-174, 6-183, 7-207, 8-220, 9-220, 10-265.

Bowler O M R W
Kumar 9 0 38 2
Pathan 7 0 58 3
I Sharma 5 0 39 0
Ojha 10 0 34 1
Sehwag 9 0 43 2
Y Pathan 3 0 13 1
Yuvraj 5 0 37 1
Result: India won by 67 runs and lead 5-match series 4-0.
Man-of-the-match: Gautam Gambhir.

Kiwis surge to 2-0 lead

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Clarke's 98 could not stop his unthinkable series loss from coming a step closer after Grant Elliott kept a cool head to complete a six-wicket victory for New Zealand, who were solid without being spectacular. Despite making hard work of a less than imposing chase of 226, New Zealand got home with seven balls to spare to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

On a day when the glitzy IPL auction caught the attention of much of the cricketing world, Australia and New Zealand combined to produce a distinctly unglamorous match that was hardly the best advertisement for the 50-over format. It was a throwback to the 1980s, when 220 was considered a good target and top-order men like Geoff Marsh and John Wright were commended for compiling 50 off 90 balls.

The lack of prettiness did not worry New Zealand, who gave their countrymen another reason to celebrate Waitangi Day when Elliott brought up the win with a pull for four off Ben Hilfenhaus. He finished unbeaten on 61 from 75 balls, which was his highest ODI score, and he was the only New Zealand batsman who looked like truly imposing himself on the match. But as a group they did enough to outshine Australia, who had relied entirely on Clarke and Michael Hussey to post 5 for 225.

It continued Australia's strange trend of losing the next match after the Allan Border Medal ceremony. Not since 2004-05 have they followed the awards night with a win, which is hardly surprising for an event that should really be a season-ending party. In the

field Australia were sloppy and with the bat uninspired.

Hussey and Clarke both put down chances - Clarke's a very tough one - an easy run-out opportunity was missed and there were fumbles and overthrows that must have left the fielding coach Mike Young shaking his head. The mid-dling target meant New Zealand's batsmen didn't quite know how aggressive to be - Brendon McCullum's 43 from 75 balls gave them a base but he was uncharacteristically quiet.

Ross Taylor's 47 featured three fours and when he edged behind late in the chase it gave Australia a sniff. But Elliott was superbly calm and his second ODI half-century, along with some excellent support from Neil Broom, ensured that New Zealand did not let the required run-rate balloon beyond control.

The result was terrific for a New Zealand side that enjoys chasing and made the most of the chance to send Australia in. Kyle Mills and Daniel Vettori were the most economical of the bowlers and Iain O'Brien chipped in with the two important wickets of Clarke and Hussey. Importantly, the visitors were sharp in the field.

Vettori's direct hit from mid-off ended the innings of David Hussey (10), who had been promoted to No. 4, and it was one of several alterations to Australia's order. Without the injured Shaun Marsh and the resting Ricky Ponting, they promoted Brad Haddin to No. 3 and after walking to the crease to a mixture of cheers and jeers after the Perth controversy, Haddin departed off stump against Tim Southee and was caught behind.

The only change that did work for Australia was the decision to open with Clarke.

After David Warner went early, skying an attempted slog off Mills, Clarke took a cautious approach, conscious of the way the middle order had struggled throughout the summer. He and Michael Hussey combined for a 133-run fifth-wicket stand that steadied Australia but their lack of urgency was a concern.

When they did try to lift the rate in the late overs, O'Brien removed them both and added to the hurt by striking Clarke on the toe with a painful yorker. Two balls later Clarke was bowled for a 133-ball 98 that showed he was not distracted by stories about his dressing-room scuffle with Simon Katich.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Australia and New Zealand at Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday:

AUSTRALIA
Warner c Vettori b Mills 2
M Clarke b O'Brien 98
Haddin c McCullum b Southee 12
D Hussey run out (Vettori) 10
M Hussey c Vettori b O'Brien 75
White not out 17
Ferguson not out 6
Extras: (lb-2, w-3) 5
Total: (For 5 wks in 50 overs) 225
Did not bat: Hopes, Johnson, Bracken, Hilfenhaus.
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-35, 3-63, 4-196, 5-206.

Bowler O M R W
Mills 10 1 37 1
Southee 10 0 57 1
O'Brien 10 0 48 2
Vettori 10 0 35 0
Patel 8 0 38 0
Elliott 2 0 8 0
NEW ZEALAND
McCullum c M Hussey b Hopes 43
b Hopes 8
Guptill c White b Bracken 8
Fulton c Haddin b Hopes 21
Taylor c Haddin b Johnson 47
Elliott not out 61
Broom not out 26

Extras: (lb-8, w-12) 20
Total: (For 4 wks in 48.5 overs) 226
Did not bat: Mills, Vettori, Patel, Southee, O'Brien
Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-62, 3-104, 4-176.

Bowler O M R W
Bracken 9 1 34 1
Hilfenhaus 9.5 1 58 0
Johnson 10 0 43 1
Clarke 5 0 21 0
Hopes 10 1 30 2
White 3 0 18 0
Hussey 2 0 14 0
Result: New Zealand won by 6 wickets and lead 5-match series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Michael Clarke.

Toss: New Zealand.

Umpires: SA Bucknor (West Indies) and PR Reiffel

Match referee: RS Mahanama (Sri Lanka)

Gaibandha cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Russel Smrity Sangsad defeated Munshipara Tarun Sangha by two wickets while Nabarun Krira Chakra beat Nutan Bangla Club by six wickets in the Gaibandha Second Division Cricket League at Gaibandha Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Munshipara scored 108 runs for the loss of five wickets in their allotted twenty overs, which was successfully chased by Russel in 19.5 overs losing eight of their wickets.

In the other match, Nutan Bangla made 126 runs losing nine wickets and in reply Nabarun chased their winning target fruitfully in 18.5 overs for the loss of four wickets.

Bowler O M R W
Taylor 20 4 74 3
Edwards 14 1 58 0
Powell 20 5 54 2
Benn 44.2 14 77 4
Gayle 24 9 40 1

WEST INDIES: First innings
Gayle not out 71
Smith lbw b Flintoff 6
Sarwan not out 74
Extras: (b-5, lb-4) 9
Total: (For 1 wkt in 54 overs) 160

To bat: Marshall, Chandern, Nash, Ramdin, Taylor, Benn, Powell, Edwards.
Fall of wickets: 1-18.

Bowler O M R W
Sidebottom 9 2 12 0
Flintoff 11 4 24 1
Harmison 7 0 20 0
Broad 8 1 36 0
Panesar 15 4 44 0
Pietersen 4 1 15 0

Komol

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home fixture -- in Chittagong but the venue was shifted to the capital following both sides' agreement on the switch.

After a goalless draw in the first-leg, The Dhaka giants began the second battle brighter although they were without Egyptian Hazem Mahmoud, centre-back Saikat and injured striker Robin.

The first chance, however, fell to the port city side but Moussa Fontaine's effort narrowly missed the target after seven minutes.

Maruf, Bukola and Komol fluffed easy chances for Mohammedan as the first half ended in a deadlock. Visiting goalkeeper Mamun Khan, who was replaced in the second half due to an injury, parried Maruf's shot before denying Nigerian striker Bukola, who fired a straight-forward shot to the shotstopper. Komol's backheel from close was also saved by Mamun on the stroke of halftime.

Maruf Haque's men finally sealed the victory from a freekick. Kamal centred the ball from the right and Komol's first-time volley spilled from substitute keeper Uttam's gloves into the net.

Mohammedan will play Khulna Abahani at home in the next round and end their campaign with an away match against Chittagong Abahani.

TEAMS
Mohammedan: Aminul, Kamal, Emmanuelle, Rajani, Ripon (Munna), Nasir, Sharif, Arman Aziz (Hazem), Maruf, Komol and Bukola.

Chittagong Mohammedan: Mamun (Uttam), Sharif, Shawkat, Dhiman, Pradip, Kaiser (Daulat), Camara, Doe, Towhid (Chowmrin), Ridon and Fontaine.
Referee: Mizanur Rahman.

Players sold

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Jesse Ryder (NZL) - Bangalore Royal Challengers 160,000 dollars

Fidel Edwards (WIS) - Deccan Chargers, Kyle Mills (NZL) - Mumbai Indians,

Jerome Taylor (WIS) - Kings XI Punjab 150,000 dollars

Thilan Thushara (SRI) - Chennai Super Kings 140,000 dollars

Dwayne Smith (WIS) - Deccan Chargers 100,000 dollars

Mohammad Ashraf (BAN) - Mumbai Indians 75,000 dollars

George Bailey (AUS) - Chennai Super Kings 50,000 dollars

Bangladesh

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Bogra, Urooj added, "Crowd was absolutely magnificent and I think I have never played in front of such a crowd; there were thousands of people who are very gentle and they supported both the teams which I told to my mates, I am really grateful and thank the Bangladeshi crowd for coming and out and supporting women's cricket."

Pakistan will play their second match against Sri Lanka tomorrow (Saturday) at the same venue today.

BRIEF SCORES:

BANGLADESH - 109 for all in 46.1 overs (Shathira 16, Ayesha 4, Salma 16, Lata 26, Shohely 22, extras 20; Javeria 3/20, Qanita 2/17, Almas 1/5)

PAKISTAN - 110 for 3 in 33.4 overs (Abidi 65, Bismah 12, Sajida 17 extras 16; Shuklara 1/6, Champa 1/12)



Did U Know?

Wilfred Benitez of Puerto Rico is the youngest man to ever win a boxing world title when at the age of 17 years and 3 months he won the junior welterweight title.

Unbelievable!

FROM PAGE 17

The focus was all on star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan but surprisingly the man in form, who is now the world's number one ranked all-rounder in one-dayers, did not find a buyer. Dashing opener Tamim Iqbal also faced the same fate but another good news for Bangladesh was that Tigers skipper Mohammad Ashraf was also made his way.

Ace batsman Ashraf was purchased by Mumbai Indians at his base price of US\$ 75,000 in the second round after most teams had done in their 10-player quota of foreign players.

It was however Mashrafe who took the center-stage as his purchase sparked a buzz in the auction room. Mashrafe's bidding had started with a base price of US\$ 50,000 but his figures kept climbing steadily with the Kings XI Punjab hot on the heels of the Knight Riders before the Kolkata side roped him for 12 times his starting price.

"I am just thrilled the way my bidding was completed. I feel this is a result of all the hard work I have put in over the years and also a reward for being consistent this season. I would have been a lot happier if Shakib (Al Hasan) had got a team because he truly deserved it for his sensational form with the bat and ball," said Mashrafe.

\$6000000 Mashrafe

FROM PAGE 17

further at \$550,000. The atmosphere in the room grew quieter as the bids rose and the auctioneer attempted to speed up the process. Kolkata was the first to bid \$600,000 for Mortaza at which point Punjab bowed out of the race. It was the longest lot in the auction, almost as long as a short chess game. Mashrafe's \$600,000 tag was 12 times his base price - the highest jump made so far beating Delhi leg-spinner Manoj Tiwary's rise from \$100,000 to \$675,000 in last year's auction.

Bangladesh skipper and flamboyant batsman Mohammad Ashraf made it to Sachin Tendulkar's Mumbai Indians, owned by industrialist Mukesh Ambani for 75,000 dollars. Ashraf will join the likes of Jayasuriya, Dwayne Bravo, Shaun Pollock and Harbhajan Singh in India's commercial and entertainment centre Mumbai.

The Mumbai Indians also bagged Young South African Jean-Paul Duminy for 950,000 dollars, confirming his rising stature in international cricket. Duminy is the second South African to be auctioned in Goa.

Ashraf was also disappointed with Shakib's absence but was delighted with his deputy's achievement and said that having two representatives from Bangladesh through an intense bidding was an encouraging sign for cricket in this country.

"Shakib missing out was a bit of a shock because he is one player who has dominated in both forms of international cricket this season. But I guess luck is also a factor in auctions. Nevertheless I am very happy for Mash (Mortaza) as he has been outstanding day in and day out for us. It is also positive for our cricket that two of us have been chosen amid stiff competition," observed the Bangladesh skipper.

The signing for Mumbai Indians also would allow the Tigers skipper to realise a childhood dream: "It's no secret that Sachin Tendulkar has been an idol for me and as a youngster I dreamt of playing alongside Sachin some day and now we are in the same team. And it's a great opportunity for me to learn."

The staple of every cricketer plying his trade - dreams & big money - are now a reality for Mashrafe and Ashraf. However, the challenges for the Tigers now just got a whole lot bigger.

Rajasthan Royals, partly owned by Bollywood actress and British reality TV star Shilpa Shetty, created a stir when they picked up ageing South African Tyron Henderson for a whopping 650,000 dollars. All-rounder Henderson, 34, has played just one international match -- a Twenty20 game against India in 2006 -- but has turned out consistent performances for his English county Middlesex.

As many as 50 players threw their hat in the ring for the 17 slots available to the franchisees, but the unlucky ones could still make the grade at a later date to replace the absent Pakistan cricketers.

IPL franchises terminated the contracts of six Pakistanis and put on hold four others after the Pakistan government refused them permission to play in India for security reasons.

No Indian player featured in the auction since they were already snapped up last year.

The second edition of the tournament, featuring the eight teams owned by tycoons, film stars and leading business houses will be played across India in April-May.

Gayle, Sarwan shine

Cricket

AFP, Kingston

West Indies' second wicket pair of Chris Gayle and his former deputy Ramnaresh Sarwan batted England into the ground with a hundred-run partnership in the opening Test at Sabina Park on Thursday.

England's bowlers lacked penetration, as Sarwan, undefeated on 74, and Gayle, 71 not out, carried West Indies to 160 for one, replying to England's first innings total of 318, when stumps were drawn on the second day.

The closest England came to separating the two batsmen came when they asked for an lbw decision be referred to the video umpire with Sarwan on two from the bowling of Andrew Flintoff, and then umpire Tony Hill's lbw verdict from the bowling of Steve Harmison was overruled by video umpire Daryl Harper when the same batsman was five.

After this, England could not find a way through either batsmen, as they both stroked the ball with crisp assurance.

Monty Panesar, whose left-arm spin was expected to trouble the West Indies batsmen, failed to make an impact, and Gayle slapped him through square cover for three to reach his 50 from 70 balls.

Steve Harmison, who has fond memories of the ground, following his best bowling in Tests of seven wickets for 12 runs, also looked way below his best, and Sarwan nursed him behind square for two to reach his 50 from 111 balls.

England's only success came prior to tea, when they claimed the scalp of Devon Smith for six, when he was adjudged lbw, after he completely missed the flight path of a delivery from Flintoff, and was struck on his left boot.

Umpire Hill initially gave "not-out", but under the new decision review system, the batsman was dismissed after referral to the video umpire.

But two other referrals to the video umpire went against the visitors and they were eventually docked one of the two reviews allowed to the fielding team in each innings.

The first of the two confirmed that Sarwan was clearly not-out, when Flintoff appealed for an lbw verdict for a delivery that was clearly heading down the leg-side.

The second saved Sarwan from being dismissed, when

he was struck playing back to an off-cutter from Harmison, and Hill adjudged him lbw.

But England's bowlers were not as consistent as they would have liked, and the two West Indies batsmen reeled off an array of exciting strokes.

England's first innings was terminated about 20 minutes after lunch, when Harmison and Panesar fell lbw with both batsmen unsuccessfully challenging their dismissals.

Sulieam Benn was West Indies' most successful bowler with four wickets for 77 runs from 44.2 overs, Jerome Taylor took three for 74 from 20 overs, and Daren Powell grabbed two for 54 from 20 overs.

Before lunch, Matt Prior completed a purposeful half-century that helped England reach 311 for eight at the interval.

England suffered an early setback, after they continued from their overnight total of 236 for five, when Flintoff was caught at backward point for 43 off Powell chasing a short, wide, rising ball.

The visitors then stumbled to 256 for seven, when Broad was caught at gully for four slicing a drive off Taylor.

For the next 45 minutes, Prior and Ryan Sidebottom stemmed the fall of wickets with a stand of 32 for the eighth wicket.

Prior reached his 50, when

he edged a big drive at a delivery from Powell and the ball flew just wide of the second slip fielder Smith on its way to the third man boundary for the fifth of his seven fours.

But Prior paid for his petulance, when he tried to launch an attack on beapole left-arm spin bowler Benn and was caught and bowled about 45 minutes before the interval to fully expose the England tail.

The series continues with Tests in Antigua (February 13-17), Barbados (February 26-March 2), and Trinidad (March 2-6).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between West Indies and England at Sabina Park on Thursday:

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 236 for 5)
Strauss c Ramdin b Taylor 7
Cook c Sarwan b Powell 4
Bell c D Smith b Gayle 28
Pietersen c Ramdin b Benn 97
Collingwood lbw b Benn 16
Flintoff c Nash b Powell 43
Prior c b Benn 64
Broad c Benn b Taylor 4
Sidebottom not out 26
Harmison lbw b Taylor 7
Panesar lbw b Benn 0
Extras: (b-7, lb-8, nb-7) 22
Total: (All out in 122.2 overs) 318
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-31, 3-71, 4-96, 5-180, 6-240, 7-256, 8-288, 9-313.



PHOTO: AFP
West Indies captain Chris Gayle (L) and teammate Ramnaresh Sarwan take a single during their solid stand of 142 on the second day of the first Test against England at Sabina Park in Kingston on Thursday.