

SA finish seventh England, Pakistan & India win

CRICINFO, undated



South Africa crushed Sri Lanka by nine wickets to take seventh place in a battle between the two teams without a win in the ICC Women's World Cup at the North Sydney Oval yesterday. Only two Lankan batswomen made it to double-digits as their side folded for 75, a total South Africa sauntered past with more than 21 overs to spare.

After choosing to bat, Sri Lanka were tied down by the South African new-ball bowlers. Opener Chamari Pongampola was bowled in the first over, and only 18 runs came off the next 11. Charlize van der Westhuizen then struck twice in successive overs, before a run-out and a wicket for Alicia Smith left Sri Lanka reeling at 35 for 5. Suwini de Alwis resisted with a 24 but fifteen-year-old leg-spinner Dane van Niekerk's blows and some more poor running from Sri Lanka meant South Africa had a modest target to chase.

There was an early hiccup for South Africa when opener Yolandi van der Westhuizen was bowled for a duck. However Trisha Chetty and Cri-zelda Brits, South Africa's highest run-getters in the tournament, put on an unbroken 72-run stand to end their side's run of eight games without a win.

South Africa had finished in seventh place in the 2005 World Cup as well, and Sri Lanka had been sixth.

Meanwhile at the Drummoyne Oval in Sydney, a brisk 43 from Armaan Khan helped Pakistan (134 for 6) prevail over West Indies (132 for 9) in a low-scoring Super Six encounter by four wickets. In a match in which almost everyone else struggled to score fluently, Armaan slammed two sixes and three fours in a 48-ball innings to

guide Pakistan to the target with 2.1 overs to spare.

Pakistan's chase was faltering at the 30-over mark -- they had plodded to 55 for 5 -- before Armaan and captain Urooj Mumtaz cobbled together a 61-run stand to revive their team's chances. The final touches were provided by Qanita Jilil, who hit a 13-ball 15.

Left-arm medium-fast bowler Almas Akram had sparked a collapse earlier in the match when West Indies were sent in. She dismissed Pamela Lavine, Cordel Jack and Stacy-Ann King in quick succession to leave the opposition reeling at 24 for 4, and finished with impressive figures of 3 for 7 in seven overs.

Opener Stafanie Taylor top scored with a measured 55, but with only one other batsman making it past 12, West Indies could only muster an inadequate 132.

Pakistan's next match will be against Australia on Monday, while West Indies have a tough game against an in-form England on Tuesday.

During the second World War, a secret bunker in Bankstown was used as the base for Australia's air-force operations. At the nearby Bankstown Oval on Saturday, Charlotte Edwards' England (201 for 5) forced New Zealand (170) to take shelter as they charged to a 31-run victory and further towards the final.

The sides had headed into the first round of the Super Sixes unbeaten, and so began the process of wresting the momentum from each other. It was a display replete with quality in all disciplines for each team, but ultimately England held the hard edge, and all seven catches.

Still, it was the England batsmen who had to batten down the hatches in the early stages, when they were in trouble on 4 for 96, on a true pitch under a golden sun.

Australia's defence of the World Cup is virtually over after they were out-played by

a well-rounded India in their opening Super Six game at North Sydney Oval. Anjum Chopra's 76 guided the visitors to a 16-run victory before they crashed 73 in the final seven overs to finish with 234 for 5 and the hosts scraped 218 for 7 in their second defeat of the tournament.

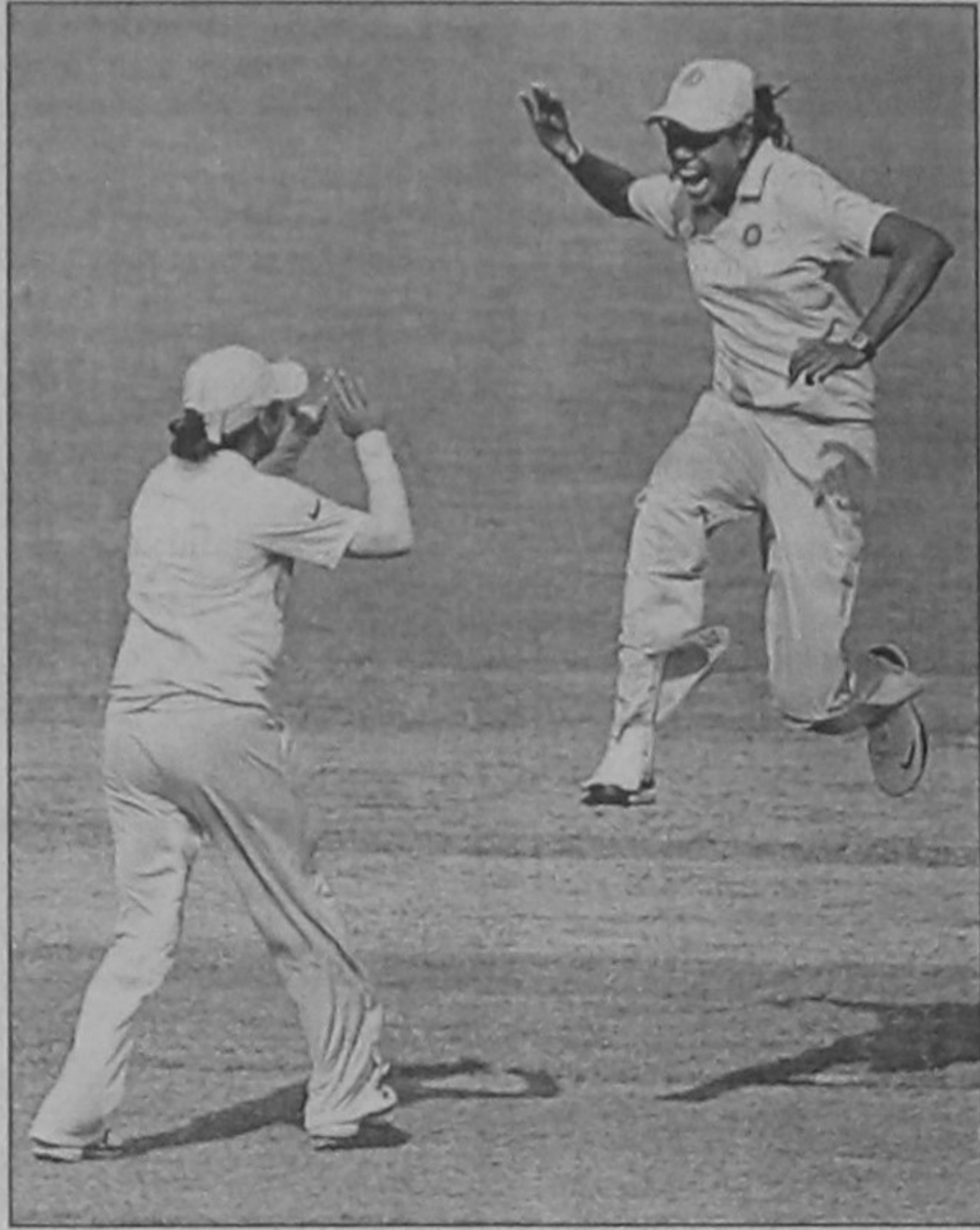
The result leaves Australia on two points with a couple of Super Six matches to go and they must win both and hope that two of England (6), New Zealand (4) and India (4) stumble. There are no semi-finals and Australia will be out of the competition if eight points are needed to reach next Sunday's decider.

Australia never recovered from India's late burst with the bat and were in severe trouble when they lost their three big names by the 15th over. Shelley Nitschke was the first

to go after being bowled by a superb Jhulan Goswami delivery that clipped the top of off stump and Australia's troubles quickly worsened as Karen Rolton and Lisa Sthalekar departed.

Chopra set up India's excellent total by playing the anchor role around Anagha Deshpande and Mithali Raj, whose class stood out in a delightful 44 off 50. However, the real acceleration came through Amita Sharma at the end as Australia's target went from comfortable to out of reach.

Sharma opened with a couple of fours from Ellyse Perry and sprinted to 31 from 22 balls in a display that was copied by Harmanpreet Kaur, who blasted 19 from eight deliveries. India were 161 for 3 after 43 overs when the fireworks started and the Australian bowlers were treated like novices.



India's Reema Malhotra (L) celebrates the fall of an Australian wicket with teammate Jhulan Goswami during their Women's World Cup match at North Sydney Oval yesterday.

PHOTO: AP

Dhaka derby

FROM PAGE 17

world so there is every reason to fear him, but we will try our hearts out to contest above level terms with Mohammedan.

Mohammedan are also nursing three injuries in their camp ahead of today's encounter.

Opening batsman Nasiruddin Faruk is down with a groin injury while bowler Emon has hurt his shoulder when fielding against Biman in Mohammedan's last match and Shamsur Rahman Shuvo is recovering from fever.

Abahani's foreign reserve has also suffered after Indian procure Venugopal Rao flew back home. They have, however, drafted in Orissan batsman Rashmi Ranjan Parida in Rao's place.

For Mohammedan, a victory will not only confirm their place in the Super Six but also enable them to reduce the gap with the leaders.

The injuries in the camp could lead to the inclusion of batsman Farhad Hossain and opening bowler Sajidul Hasan in the side.

In other matches of the Premier Cricket League, Biman play Cricket Coaching School at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium and BKSP meet Gazi Tank at BKSP.

Capello

FROM PAGE 20

many stoppages and too often in favour of players who simulate and throw themselves to the ground, something which is hampering our game from flowing," he added.

"The referees need to let the game flow and this pattern of playing football based on blocking is why British football has a quicker more fluid rhythm to it."

Ranieri

FROM PAGE 20

thigh in training on Friday.

The former Palermo striker's injury comes at a bad time as Trezeguet has also been ruled out for the weekend visit of Bologna.

It leaves Juve with only evergreen veteran Del Piero and Vincenzo Iaquinta as attacking options at a crucial stage of the season.

The Turin giants are also without Italy midfielder Mauro Camoranesi, Malian Mohamed Sissoko, Czech veteran Pavel Nedved and centre-back Nicola Legrottaglie.

They sit second in Serie A with a seven-point deficit to leaders and champions Inter Milan.

Kiwis pull one back

FROM PAGE 17

He belted Kyle Mills for six over the cover boundary from the second ball he faced, and the fifth ball he received from Mills received similar treatment.

But the New Zealand new-ball bowler refused to be intimidated and he had the slow-scoring Gautam Gambhir caught behind for five, leaving India one down for 30 in the fifth over.

Sehwag continued in cavalier fashion and in one over from Iain O'Brien he went four, six, four in consecutive balls before being dropped at first slip by Taylor.

India had reason to sense another big score was looming, but the game changed with the introduction of Jacob Oram into the attack.

He claimed Suresh Raina for eight with his fourth ball and in his second over took the prized wicket of Sehwag.

When he saw the batsman charging down the wicket he quickly shortened the length, finding a top edge, which McCullum held at point.

Sehwag scored 40 in his 27-ball innings, including three fours and three sixes.

With India at three for 65, it was Ryder's turn to step up with his deceptive medium pacers and in the space of six overs India lost three wickets

for only 23 runs.

His first victim was Yuvraj Singh, who gave Peter McGlashan his second catch behind the stumps and walked for 11.

Dhoni was bowled by Ryder for nine and Yusuf Pathan lasted four balls before he played on without scoring, and India were reeling at 111 for six after 25 overs.

Their tail never threatened to stabilise the innings.

Rohit Sharma, who ended up as top scorer with an unbeaten 43, called Harbhajan Singh for a second run that was never on and Harbhajan was run out for one.

Zaheer Khan was run out for five and O'Brien came back to clean up Praveen Kumar and Ishant Sharma.

The teams now move to Hamilton for the first of three Tests starting on Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between New Zealand and India at Eden Park in Auckland on Saturday:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|--|--|--|--|
| INDIA | | | | | |
| Gambhir c McGlashan b Mills | 5 | | | | |
| Sehwag c McCullum b Oram | 40 | | | | |
| Raina c Styris b Oram | 8 | | | | |
| R Sharma not out | 43 | | | | |
| Yuvraj c McGlashan b Ryder | 11 | | | | |
| Dhoni b Ryder | 9 | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|--|--|--|--|
| Y Pathan b Ryder | 0 | | | | |
| Harbhajan run out | 5 | | | | |
| Zaheer run out | 5 | | | | |
| Kumar c McGlashan b O'Brien | 6 | | | | |
| I Sharma c Taylor b O'Brien | 3 | | | | |
| Extras: (lb-9, w-9) | 18 | | | | |
| Total: (All out in 36.3 overs) | 149 | | | | |
| Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-65, 3-69, 4-88, 5-110, 6-111, 7-116, 8-131, 9-143, 10-149. | | | | | |

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|---------|-----|---|----|---|
| Mills | 7 | 0 | 27 | 1 |
| O'Brien | 7.3 | 0 | 43 | 2 |
| Oram | 9 | 0 | 22 | 2 |
| Ryder | 9 | 0 | 29 | 3 |
| Vettori | 4 | 0 | 19 | 0 |

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|--|-----|---|----|---|
| Kumar | 4 | 0 | 22 | 1 |
| Zaheer | 8 | 1 | 51 | 0 |
| Sharma | 7.2 | 1 | 63 | 1 |
| Harbhajan | 4 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Result: New Zealand won by eight wickets. | | | | |
| Man-of-the-match: Jesse Ryder. | | | | |
| India clinched series 3-1. | | | | |
| Toss: India | | | | |
| Umpires: Gary Baxter (NZL) and Rudi Koertzen (RSA) | | | | |
| Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI) | | | | |

MSC 1st in semis

FROM PAGE 17

freelick four minutes after resumption but there was no escape as Sharif doubled the lead five minutes later.

Bukola dodged past his compatriot Emeka Lucky at the left flank and cut the ball back near the goalmouth where Ramjan delayed to clear for Sharif to pounce home.

It was 3-0 in the 78th minute. After a combined attack, Nasir, playing with a bandage on his injured right hand, rolled the ball towards right for Sharif -- who was on the run -- to rifle an angular shot into the far post off a deflection of Mamun.

Aziz then sealed the win deep in the stoppage time when he bent a freelick past the wall from the top of the box and into the net.

Brothers, who came to their second match on the back of a 0-0 draw against Farashganj, survived a close call when Chittagong Abahani striker Rony mistimed a header after Mithun's clever

Shakib

FROM PAGE 17

England this June as the injury has been detected in its earlier stage.

As a result of the timely detection the healing process will be accelerated.

Shakib had an MRI on March 7, and the radiologist has suggested another scan exactly four weeks later to assess his progress.

Meanwhile, the all-rounder is under a rehabilitation programme concentrating on stretching and strengthening of the groin muscles and lower back.

Ghanaian striker Henry found the net in the 43rd minute with a placing shot after an Arup pass and the port city side's chances all but evaporated when Liberian player Othello was sent off in the first half injury time for an off-the-ball foul on Rikto.

Brothers enjoyed superior ball possession but managed just one more goal when Tapu toe-poked home from close after a corner by Shakib in the 63rd minute.

Grafite sinks

FROM PAGE 20

Although the Schalke defence scrambled back, the Germany Under-21 star tried a shot and Grafite was on hand to make sure the ball crossed the line on 84 minutes to claim his third of the night.

With time running out, former Germany striker Kevin Kuranyi hit a final consolation goal deep in injury time.

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FROM PAGE 17

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IPL discloses players' lists

CRICINFO, undated

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has released the final squad lists of the eight franchises even as doubts persist over the staging of the league's second season. A total of 263 players have been picked -- 73 more than in the first year -- indicating that the franchises have cast their net wider this time.

The teams have had more time to scout for talent this year compared to the last-minute exercise the first time around. They have also got to pick as many players as they want since the IPL imposed no limits. Even so, most teams number around 25, except Kolkata Knight Riders which has submitted a staggering 56 names -- more than double that of Delhi Daredevils, who have the smallest squad at 24 players. But Kolkata are waiting for their coach John Buchanan to arrive on March 17 and prune the squad to 25.

If the inaugural edition of the IPL was a grand success, this year it has attracted contracted revenues of more than 10,000 crore rupees -- 1,725 crore rupees more than last year -- thus beating the recessionary trends across the globe. Likewise, the teams have increased their expenditure and roped in more players from abroad as well as India -- there are 80 overseas players compared to 66 in 2008 while there are 59 more Indians than the 124 who played last year.

Being a domestic tournament, one of the IPL's objectives has been to focus on local talent. In this regard, most teams decided to leverage the potential by organising talent-scouting camps around the country which threw up some unique talent.

One such case is Sanju Samson, probably the youngest player in the tournament at 14-and-a-half. A wicketkeeper-batsman from Kerala, Samson impressed the Kolkata scouts with his "giant" potential. And even if he eventually fails to make final squad, the team wants to provide Samson exposure to the big league.

CK denies pay row

CRICINFO, undated

Cricket Kenya (CK) chairman Samir Inamdar has dismissed claims in the Nation newspaper that national team members boycotted training in a dispute over pay as they prepare to leave for South Africa.

Inamdar told Cricinfo that there had been ongoing discussions about remuneration packages and that these had now concluded. He added that suggestions there had been any serious dispute, let alone a boycott, was simply not true.

While all the players are on professional contracts, much depends on how they get on in South Africa. "If they qualify for the World Cup they will get more [money]," Inamdar said.

"If they don't finish in the top six, they will get less." However, if Kenya fail to do even that, it is almost inevitable that the players will lose their full-time contracts and be forced to accept pay-as-you-play deals because of the drastic reduction in ICC funding that would result.

The squad will all attend a gala dinner at Parklands Sports Club on Friday before heading to Pretoria on Saturday.

Nishat hammers double ton

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Reazul Islam Nishat hammered a double century to shape a 62-run win for Akua AC Krira Chakra against Neel Kamal Krira Chakra in the first division cricket league at the Circuit House ground here yesterday.

Winning the toss, Akua batted first and scored 331 from 40 overs losing three wickets. Nishat's unbeaten 203 off 127 balls with 10 sixes and 21 fours set the Circuit House ground ablaze.

In reply, Neel Kamal were all out for 269 for nine. Rony top scored with 48 for the losers.

Collingwood doubtful Only T20I against WI today

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, Port of Spain

England's Paul Collingwood is doubtful for Sunday's Twenty20 international against West Indies in Trinidad, after he contracted a bacterial infection.

The all-rounder was unable to train with the rest of the squad on Friday.

West Indies captain Chris Gayle has already been ruled out by the groin injury he sustained in the final Test.

Wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin will stand in as skipper, while all-rounder Dwayne Bravo is available after being out for six months with an ankle problem.

Bravo underwent surgery in New York last August but is named in the 13-man squad and is expected to play.

Gayle pulled a muscle running for the single that gave him his ton in the first innings, but returned to bravely bat for 42 balls in the second.

Andre Fletcher, Kieron Pollard and Darren Sammy -- all part of the Windies side that won the Stanford Super Series trophy in November -- are the other players to have been included from outside the squad that won the Test series 1-0.

Daren Powell, Ryan Hinds and Brendan Nash drop out.

England's original one-day squad has already seen three players withdraw -- Ryan Sidebottom and Graeme Swann through injury, while Samit Patel was dropped for fitness reasons, while seamer Amjad Khan will stay with the squad after making his England debut in the final Test.

Captain Andrew Strauss is in line to play his first one-day game for England since the 2007 World Cup, and will be boosted by the return of

key all-rounder Andrew Flintoff who missed the final Test.

One-day specialist Dimitri Mascarenhas will hope to make his first England appearance since June -- having just helped Otago win New Zealand's domestic Twenty20 competition.

Mascarenhas, the first English player to play in the Indian Premier League, hit Indian spinner Yuvraj Singh for five successive sixes in an ODI at The Oval in 2007 -- and recently repeated the feat against ex-New Zealand seamer Daryl Tuffey on a much smaller venue in Auckland.

"Everyone is different in the way they approach batting -- at the death it's a little bit different because all you're looking to do is hit it out of the park, but all I want to do is hit sixes," the Hampshire skipper said.

"I'm in a no-lose situation -- if I get out then it's because I have to go for runs."

"I try and practice hitting sixes and I suppose there's a little bit of technique but it's one of those things where some people can do it and some people can't."

"Like Kevin Pietersen said, the Indians are hitting more and more and more sixes. It might be down to the boundaries and the wickets, but they are still doing it."

TEAMS

WEST INDIES (from): Denesh Ramdin (captain), Lionel Baker, Suleman Benn, Dwayne Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Fidel Edwards, Andre Fletcher, Kieron Pollard, Darren Sammy, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Lendl Simmons, Devon Smith, Jerome Taylor.

ENGLAND (from): Andrew Strauss (captain), James Anderson, Ian Bell, Ravi Bopara, Stuart Broad, Paul Collingwood, Steve Davies, Andrew Flintoff, Steve Harmison, Amjad Khan, Dimitri Mascarenhas, Kevin Pietersen, Matt Prior, Adil Rashid, Owais Shah.

L'pool massacre

FROM PAGE 20

area, the Spaniard found his progress blocked by his marker's arms in a manner that almost certainly merited a penalty.

Referee Alan Wiley declined but he was left with no option four minutes before the break when Patrice Evra clipped Gerrard's ankle.

Van der Sar was booked for his diversionary antics before the penalty could be taken but Gerrard was not unnerved, finding the bottom corner before celebrating by kissing the lens of a television camera.

In between the Liverpool goals, United had been in the ascendant; with Reina needing two attempts to smother a Ronaldo freekick and Michael Carrick going close with a 25-yarder.

Ferguson's side re-established their territorial dominance after the break but an hour had elapsed before they generated a real chance, courtesy of a Michael Carrick chip that found Tevez deep in

the box, albeit with his back to goal.

The flag stayed down. Tevez's control with his chest and turn were exemplary but the shot that followed was scuffed wide.

Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Berbatov were all thrown into the fray but United's hopes of a comeback when Vidic, having offered Gerrard a clear run at goal, grappled the Liverpool captain to the turf.

A straight red card was the only option for Wiley and Aurelio ensured the maximum sanction was applied by dipping the resulting freekick into the corner.

There was still time for Gerrard to blast high into the Stretford End from 12 yards but Liverpool were not to be denied their fourth.

With a four-point lead and a game in hand, United still look likely to go on to claim the title, but Liverpool fans will savour the considerable bragging rights attached to this win.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17

Vander, Habibur Rahman Sohoh of Pritam Prism Chess Club, Quamruzzaman Imran of Habiganj Chess Club and Giasuddin Mithu of Muktiyoddha SKC were sharing the third position with 5 points each.

In the day's matches, Siraj beat Shahin, Shamim overcame Badrul Alam, Ibrahim defeated Abdul Momin, Sohoh checkmated Amirul Islam Chowdhury, Imran outplayed Karol Chowdhury and Mithu conquered Golam Sarwar.

The seventh round matches will be held today at 3:30 pm at the same venue.

NATIONAL BANK VOLLEYBALL

Power Development Board (PDB) and Water Development Board (WDB) won their respective Premier League matches in the National Bank Dhaka Metropolis Volleyball League at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

PDB outplayed East End Boys 3-0 (25-15, 25-15, 25-6) while WDB defeated Titus Club by 3-2 (26-28, 25-11, 25-16, 23-25, 15-7) in a keenly contested match.

In the First Division matches, Nabajagarani Sangha blanked Dhaka Sabuj Club 3-0 (25-16, 15-17, 25-7) while Azad SC defeated Madartek Mitali Sangha 3-1 (23-25, 25-14, 25-22, 25-12) at the same venue.

3RD DIV SOCCER

The Citycell 3rd Division Football Super League will begin today with two matches on the opening day in Group B.

Rampura KC take on BKSP in the first match at the Shaheed Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur and Dilkusha face Swadhinata KC later at the same venue.